



A Look Back . . .

Bushnell, IL 1854-2004

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Rolled Oats Process Invented in Bushnell



The Nagel Brothers of Bushnell were the first to invent a process of making rolled oats without having to steam the oats. Up until this time, the oats were first steamed to separate the groat from the hull. The patent for this new process was later sold to the Quaker Company.

What are rolled oats?

According to the Quaker Oats web site, rolled oats are whole oat groats that are rolled to flatten them into an oat flake. The oat is called a groat after the hull has been removed. Old Fashioned Quaker Oats, Quick Quaker Oats and Instant Quaker Oats are all rolled oats. The oat flakes that are made to cook faster are rolled thinner and cut into smaller pieces.



These artifacts from the old mills are on display in the Heritage Room at the Recreation Center.



The Nagel Roller Mills was founded in the early 1900s by John and Henry Nagel, who were born in Germany. The new rolled oats were first manufactured in this Nagel Roller Mills building (located where the FS Feed Mill and warehouse is now).

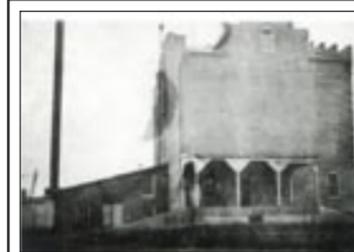
Just for fun we are including this rolled oats recipe, taken from *Health-For-Victory Club: Meal Planning Guide*, Home Economics Institute, Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., Mansfield, OH, June 1943.

The preface to the recipe referred to the challenges faced by cooks during World War II, when rationing and scarcity made it difficult to cook appealing meals on a regular basis.

"We're in for a hard fight. Meal planning was never an easy job but now that food is scarce, more than ever we'll have to use all our wits, all our knowledge--and all our ration points--to give our families health-building meals. . ."

Fried Rolled Oats and Bacon

Place leftover rolled oats in a greased mold. When cold, slice 1/2-inch thick. Dredge in flour and dip in beaten egg which has been thinned with 1 tablespoon water. Fry 6 slices o bacon until crisp, remove from fat and drain. Fry oatmeal slices in all the bacon fat until brown on both sides. Serve with bacon slices.



Built 1910

The first mill burned in 1910. It was rebuilt but struck by lightning and burned again in 1914. It was rebuilt in 1915.



Built 1915



This picture was the rebuilding of Nagel Mills after the second fire. The people identified are, "Mr. Ervin, one of the first boys to come to Bushnell, third from left; John Paul, fifth from left; Carl Nagel, Harry Nagel, John Nagel, Sr., Mrs. McGinney, and Henry Nagel."



The grist wheel from Nagel Roller Mills (circa 1910) was donated by Arthur and Leona Waller and erected in front of the Recreation Center in 1982.