



They cater to independent supermarkets and convenience stores in six states: Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio and Michigan.

## J. Winkler and Sons from horse-drawn deliveries to fleet of delivery trucks

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they were selling over 1,000,000 gallons per month. When Winkler purchased the old Wallace Milling buildings, he took over the railroad switch and used it for the shipment of poultry, feeds and produce. Winkler informed the press his daily expenses for the operation of his business fell between \$115 to \$125 a day. In May of 1934, J. Winkler and Sons leased part of their building to The Rosen Produce Company of New York who took over the

poultry business. The exponential growth of the business led to one of the biggest robberies in Dale in 1935. More than \$700 worth of merchandise, mostly cigarettes, disappeared from Winkler and Sons.

After WWII, Elmer's three sons joined the business. And in 1955 Elmer retired and turned the business over to them. In 1957 the company moved one more time to its current location on the east side of Dale. They again added a 15,000 square foot addition to the north side of the building in 1961, and four

years later raised the roof on the existing building by twenty feet. Their next expansion came in 1973, at which time they added to the east side of the building, bringing it to its current size of 120,000 square feet. Winkler's entire facility provided a full line of groceries to its 800 customers, including 450 meat and deli items, 350 dairy items, 700 frozen items, 6,500 general grocery items, 210 generic items and a large variety of repack items such as candy and cigarettes. In 1982, J. Winkler & Sons added a frozen food and fresh meat

facility on the north side of Dale along I-64. Continuing to answer demand, Winkler completed a 17,000 square foot freezer and fresh meat cooler in 1983.

In 1989 Tom Winkler (son of Lloyd) and Lynn Winkler (daughter of Jack) took over as the company's fourth-generation owners. Tom and his family became the sole owners in 2009. While still the owner, Tom Winkler's children have taken over daily operations

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