

90 year history of

castle building centres Bishop's Do-it center.

The late John Bishop of Water Street, Bay Roberts, opened his sawmill in May 1912, to cut logs for local house constructions. The original sales book and payroll records from that first sawmill are currently on display at the Bay Roberts Heritage Museum. Many familiar names of our forefathers are recorded there, showing the prices paid for lumber back then and the long hours they had to work to earn a week's wage.

During the 1920s-1940s, Mr. Bishop built and expanded his business into a full line of hardware and building supplies. In 1949, he changed his business from a sole proprietorship to a limited liability company named John Bishop Ltd.

Mr. Bishop, 89, kept operating the business until his death April 21, 1962.

That same year, the Spencer family bought all outstanding shares from Mr. Bishop's estate and continued to operate the business under the John Bishop Ltd. name.

David Badcock of Shearstown was hired as operations manager as soon as the Spencer family acquired the company.

During the 1960s and early 1970s, John Bishop Ltd. grew by expanding its local consumer base to all Conception and Trinity Bays and new product lines were introduced and a warehouse built.

A change in ownership occurred in the early 1970s when George Spencer

acquired controlling shares from other members of the Spencer family.

The year 1977, was a milestone year for John Bishop Ltd. The company acquired a Pro Hardware franchise and started a second operation in the former Wescal building, main highway, Bay Roberts. The move was timely.

Most retail businesses in Bay Roberts were now moving from the downtown area to the main highway as evidenced by the opening of two malls in 1976.

Ed Fradsham was appointed store manager (1977), and held the position until 1983, when he became town manager for the town of Bay Roberts.

A young and able Roy Mercer was appointed store manager.

John Bishop Ltd. continued a retail sales operation from two locations until 1987.

April 30, 1987 marked another milestone as Bishop's decided to acquire a Do-It franchise which focused on lumber & building supplies rather than hardware. At this time, the company changed its name from John Bishop's Ltd. to the present day "Bishop's Do-it-Center Ltd." Bishop's also decided to move the sales operation from the highway store and use the downtown location for delivery and storage. David Badcock, Bishop's original operations manager for 25 years, retired with the closing of the Water Street sales office.

Another change was on the horizon for Bishop's-Do-it-Center Ltd. In 1987 the company decided to become a member of the *Castle Buying Group* for lumber and building supply dealers. Teaming with the *Castle Buying Group* (the best buying group in Canada) Bishop's has grown practically every year for the past 15 years. Because of Castle's buying power, all Bishop's customers are ensured Bishop's can buy as good - or better than - any other retailer in Canada - including the big "box stores".

The company was saddened with the passing of Mr. George Spencer in 1990 - the owner of Bishop's since the 1970s.

Transition and estate planning were already in place and ownership transfer to son Calvin Spencer took place rather seamlessly. Calvin and family continue as owner/operators to this day.

Throughout the years, the management and staff attributed a lot of success to some very simple and basic principles of any successful operation.

1. Bishop's takes "exceptional" care of its customers.
2. Bishop's treats all staff fairly and gives them an opportunity to grow.
3. All Bishop's staff always make shopping and working fun.
4. Honesty and integrity is all a part of what we do at Bishop's, whether dealing with government, vendors or consumers. We believe that honesty and integrity will

mean continued success.

5. Bishop's recognizes its role in the community by constantly donating to: goodwill, schools, scholarships, sports, organizations and health care.

Bishop's believes, "we receive back the donations many times over from our thankful consumers".

The Future

The future has never looked brighter. Bishop's management has invested for the future with up-to-date computer systems, and a fleet of trucks and forklifts as current as possible. You'll find at Bishop's Do-it-Center, our young, eager-to-learn associates work well with our experienced long-term staff.

Come meet the Bishop's Do-it-Center staff this week and have a chance to win prizes, enter contests and help celebrate 90 years of business - we're still growing.



Mayor Wilbur Sparkes (left) and the late George Spencer saw through a piece of 2' x 4' to mark the official opening of Bishop's Do-It Center on April 30, 1987.

Meet the Management Team



Roy Mercer
Manager



Calvin Spencer
Owner



John Mercer
Assistant Manager



Wanda Bradbury
Office/Credit Manager



Barb Stone
Accounting Supervisor



DO-IT-CENTER STAFF - The knowledgeable staff at Bishop's Do-it-Center, Bay Roberts, are at your finger tips to assure your customer satisfaction and the right supplies for the job. Front row, from left: Kelly Mugford (cashier), Cherie Hussey (ordering/receiving), Barb Stone (acct. supervisor), Paula Hynes (office support), and Wanda Bradbury (office/credit manager), Centre row: Roy Mercer (manager), John Mercer (asst. manager), Brian Thompson (sales assoc. building), Raymond Clarke (sales assoc. building), Jeremy Rowsell (student sales assoc.), Allan Mercer (plumbing, paints, electrical assoc.) Junior Bullen (sales assoc. hardware), and Cal Spencer (owner). Back row: Lorne Snow (delivery), Vince Power (delivery), Henry Richards (yard foreman), Craig Dawe (delivery), Perry Butler (delivery) and Mike Dohey (hardware sales assoc.). Unavailable for photo: Marjorie Bishop (cashier) and Gary Butler (plumbing, paints, electrical assoc.).