

A. L. Kiefer Manufacturing Co.

Elkhart, Indiana

- 1901 Austin Levi Kiefer is born in Elkhart (census).
- 1920 Kiefer is listed as a bell maker in Elkhart (census).
[Probably for Blessing.]
- 1930 Kiefer is now a foreman in a horn factory (census).
- 1932 Son Robert T. Kiefer is born in Elkhart.
- 1939 Son Edward A. Kiefer is born. The *New Langwill Index* lists him as possibly starting this year as a manufacturer.
- 1940 Kiefer is now an owner of a metal trade business (census).
- 1941 His occupation is given as “spinner” in his daughter’s marriage license record.
- 1942 Kiefer is owner of A. L. Kiefer Manufacturing Co. in Elkhart (draft record & marriage record). His home is at #2201 Morehouse Ave in Elkhart (photo 1).
- 1944 A.L. Kiefer Mfg Co is at #316 Middlebury St in Elkhart (phone book).
- 1947 Kiefer is listed as a manufacturer (marriage record).
- 1950 He is listed as the owner of a band instrument metal spinning business (census).
- 1964 Early Getzen Eterna 900 trumpets had bells made by Kiefer (Tony Scodwell on Trumpet Herald & confirmed by Brett Getzen).
- 1970 Kiefer Manufacturing Co was created on 11/24/70 by Robert T. Kiefer (1932-2021, photo 2). The address is #3515 Bent Oak Trail (photo 4) in Elkhart (Indiana-Company.com).
- 1971 The old manufacturing site at #316 Middlebury St is replaced by an apartment complex.
- 1985 Austin Kiefer dies in Elkhart (death cert.).
- 1989 Kiefer is purchased by Allied Music and moves their tooling and equipment to start a bell department at Allied. Kiefer had been making bells for Allied Music and replacement bells for Allied Supply (Brett Getzen). [The date is approximate. It was announced in the Fall 1990 Allied Music Newsletter.]
- 1998 Kiefer Mfg Co is inactive by 9/25/98 (Indiana-Company.com).



2015 Edward Kiefer dies (photo 3, page 1). He is said to have worked in his father's business for 30 years (perhaps 1960-1990) then later retired from E. K. Blessing (about 2001) (obit.).

2021 The obituary for Robert says that he was the owner of Kiefer Mfg Co, which made trumpet bells and truck air horns. [It was said that he obtained a patent for them, but I didn't find record of one.]

Other notes related to Kiefer:

19?? Schilke beryllium-bronze bells were originally made by Kiefer and later by Anderson Plating. Beryllium proved too toxic to use so later bells were all copper (Schilke Loyalist).

I read somewhere that the Kiefer truck horns became the Getzen piccolo trumpet bells, but Brett Getzen says that they were not related at all. The bell flair and thickness were completely different.