

# Nuss Manufacturing Co.

## Harrisburg, PA

- 1874 Twins Anton Henry Nuss and Carl (Charles) William Nuss are born in Dalenburg, Germany on October 26.
- 1886 Their father Anton Nuss Jr. emigrates to the US (census).
- 1887 The twins & mother Charlotta em. to Williamsport, PA.
- 1890 Anton & Carl start working for Henry Distin at 16.
- c1893 Carl moves to Philadelphia, learning the plating business under John Meadows, a silver-plater at #20 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St.
- c1894 Anton works two years for J. W. Dyer, learning the band instrument trade (*History of Dauphin County, 1907*).
- c1895 Carl returns to Distin for a short period (*HDC*).
- c1896 Carl moves to Harrisburg to take charge of the Harrisburg Plating & Manufacturing Co., #1315 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St (*HDC*).
- 1897 Carl establishes his own plating company in Harrisburg.
- 1902 Charles Nuss & Co., electro-plating, #320 Market St. Charles buys out his stockholders and brother Anton joins him (in 1903) to add the band instrument business (*HDC*).
- 1903 Nuss Plating Co. has a factory inspection.
- 1905 Nuss Plating Co. claims 12 years of experience (1893).
- 1908 Nuss Plating Co., #320 Market St, Patriot building.
- 1909 Charles & Anton receive pat. #912,404 for a drum beater.
- 1911 A new factory is built at S. Cameron & Mulberry Streets.
- 1913 An addition is built to their 3-story factory. Charles is in charge of the plating and Anton is in charge of instruments. They use a satin finish on the instruments with a gold wash inside the bells (news article).
- 1916 They are making bayonets for the PA National Guard.
- 1922 Ad for Nuss Supreme Trombones; makers, repairers and platers of band instruments; 11<sup>th</sup> & Mulberry St.
- 1922 In September, it is announced that Nuss Mfg. Co. is to make the Ross Hickernell solo trumpet (patent #1,509,104) (see more information at bottom).
- 1923 Nuss announces they are to open a complete department for the repair of band instruments. They also make a complete line of saxophones and bells (news article).



- 1930 Karl Nuss is a bookkeeper (census).
- 1931 Selling "Nuss Supreme" straight mutes; 11<sup>th</sup> & Mulberry.
- 1940 Charles is the owner and son Karl is a bookkeeper. Anton is also listed as a plating factory owner (census).
- 1945 Charles and Karl both still working at the factory (draft).
- 1947 Anton Nuss is a retired member of the Nuss Mfg. Co.
- 1948 Charles Nuss is honored at a banquet for his 74<sup>th</sup> birthday and 50 years in the plating business; Anton is present.
- c1950 Karl is doing strictly metal plating now.
- 1971 Karl retires and sells the business to Sterling McKittrick.
- 1973 Karl Nuss Jr. (b.1905) dies in Harrisburg.

Trade names on band instruments include "Supreme" and "Liberty".

Bottom left photo is from a 1929 Sanborn map showing the original 3 story building from 1911 at 27' x 32' and the 2 story back addition from 1913 at 22' x 70'. This area is now a parking lot.

Ad below is from 1905.

Photos are from Horn-u-copia.net.



**WE MAKE A SPECIALTY** of Plating Tableware, Musical Instruments, Bicycles, Small Machine Trimmings and H-use Furnishing Goods. Polishing, Refinishing. Oxidizing, Bronzing, Brassing and Lacquering of Chandelier and Ornamental Work. Special attention given to Silver Plating and Gilding. **Twelve Years' Practical Experience.**

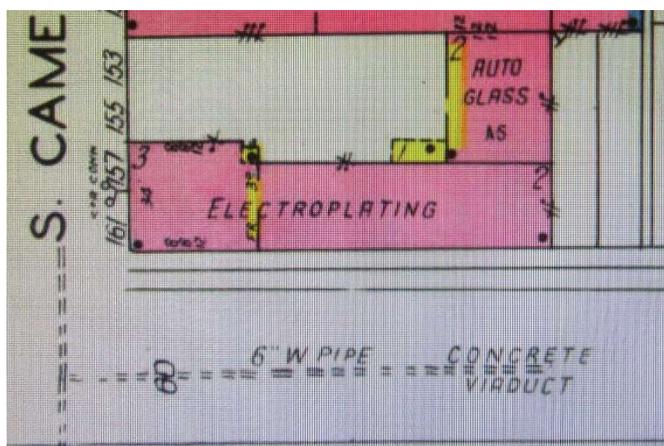
## **NUSS PLATING CO.**

**C. W. NUSS, Manager.**

## **PRACTICAL ELECTRO PLATERS IN ALL BRANCHES**

**ALSO MANUFACTURERS OF BAND INSTRUMENTS.**

**No. 320 Market Street, Patriot Building, - Harrisburg, Pa.**



## Nuss Musical Instruments:

1903 The band instrument part of the business starts with the return of brother Anton. He had spent the last two years with the J. W. Dyer music business in St Paul where his son Hamilton was born on November 17, 1903. His wife died the day after, so he probably left soon after to join Carl.

Cornet #478 (below; Horn-u-copia.net) looks like an Austrian-made copy of the York Perfec-Tone with the Nuss stencil added. Since all of Dyer's instruments were Austrian stencils, this would fit with what Anton had learned. Photos 1 & 2 at right show the same design made by B&F.



1922 Ross Hickernell contracted with Nuss to make his Solo trumpet design. The two earliest examples found are a copy of the Nuss Supreme model (#5019 below matches Hickernell #24, photos 3-5 at right; auction photos). Photo 6 is a close-up of the Nuss valves. The valves appear to have been made by Blessing and carry his patent mark.

