A SHORT
NARRATIVE HISTORY OF S. OPPENHEIMER & COMPANY
ITS RISE TO EMINENCE - ITS FALL
FROM GRACE

BY
LAWRENCE C. STIX JR.
PART ONE

One day before I was in my teens I asked my Grandfather, Julius Oppenheimer, what motivated him to migrate to America. His reply revealed not only his humor, but the restrictions and persecution to which his family, and he, were subjected.

"It was early on a Sunday morning" he said. "And my mother called me aside and said "Julius, the Crown Prince is visiting our village today and if you will get dressed in your best clothes he may give you a kiss."

"But instead of getting all dressed up for the Crown Prince, I made the irrevocable decision to go to America the land of opportunity and freedom."

My grandmother was one of four brothers. Born in Mannheim, Germany. There was Sigmund, born in 1850 who died in 1903; Louis who passed away in the 1920's and Zacharias whose statistics are too difficult for me to decipher.

My grandfather, born in 1857, was preceded by his three brothers in their migration to the United States. So when he left Mannheim in 1869 at the age of twelve he had set out on a journey which over the years was to bring him wealth and prestige.

It must have been a heart rending departure from his mother and father of whom he was very fond. However, they insisted he go to the "new country" as there was no future for him in Germany.

For as long as their parents lived Julius and his brothers sent them funds regularly. But no amount of persuasion could get them to come to
America which their sons would have liked them to do.

Sigmund Oppenheimer founded the firm of S. Oppenheimer & Company in 1868. Its first location was 2700 Wabash Avenue, Chicago and its purpose was to profitably sell animal casings to sausage manufacturers.

Sausage casings were derived from a variety of animals: sheep, cattle, hogs, goats. They came in a multitude of sizes and lengths and depending on the type and size of the sausage a specific casing was available.

Sources of supply were unlimited and varied on a worldwide basis. New Zealand, known for its wool, had a sheep and lamb population in excess of one hundred million. Australia was a close second with its sheep and lamb population large but limited to grazing lands along the coastal areas as inland consisted of desert not suitable for grazing. Cattle and hogs were also raised and their casings used.

The list of countries is inexhaustible: China, Russia, Morocco, Tasmania, Persia (Iran), Ireland, South America, England, France, United States, Egypt. All raised animals of various types. But equally important is the quality and color of the casing each type of animal produced. It was dependent on its environment--i.e. rainfall, geographic area and the ages of the animals themselves. More on this later.

The use of sausage casings pre-dates the era of Christopher Columbus. Woodcuts from that time portray butchers making sausage, their workrooms cluttered with carcasses of sheep, cattle, and hogs which had been dismembered and their intestines being placed on stuffing horns through which the meat was extruded into the casing. Sausage was an economical method of supplying meat to people who could ill afford a hind quarter of beef which included bone and muscle.
William Shakespeare even included the following phrase in one of his plays: "Sheeps' guts hail the souls from men's bodies. A horn for my money."

Sigmund, Louis and Julius Oppenheimer had ample evidence and incentive for their dream of making S. Oppenheimer & Company the largest sausage casing merchants in the world.

The opening of the Chicago office and warehouse in 1868 was a propitious move. Chicago was rapidly becoming the livestock center of the United States and sources of supply for casings were expanding. Swift, Cudahy, Armour, Wilson all centered their slaughtering operations in Chicago and numerous smaller concerns were starting to grow.

Likewise, New York City and New England were starting to compete with Chicago so S. Oppenheimer and Company in 1869 opened a warehouse and office on Pearl Street in Lower Manhattan. Eventually it would become a three building complex five stories high whose address 96-98-100 Pearl Street was well known in the casing industry worldwide. It is here my grandfather first worked. Albeit it had not attained the size of later years.

Louis Oppenheimer went to London in 1869 to start a branch of the business on St. John Street near Smithfield Market.

In 1871 S. Oppenheimer opened an office in Wellington, New Zealand. Max Eichelbaum, a boyhood friend of the three brothers developed an enviable reputation among the Abattoir owners and for many years he received for S. Oppenheimer the preponderance of the New Zealand casings from the local packers.

He was succeeded by his son Siegfried who was a barrister by profession and the husband of the daughter of the chief justice of New
Zealand. Siegfried Eichelbaum carried on his father's tradition being well liked and trusted. And like his father never losing a supplier.

I am uncertain when S. Oppenheimer first ventured into Australia but it was through a purchase of a small casing business--the British-American By Products Proprietary Limited in Melbourne. However our entry via the B.A.B.P. as it was called, opened an entirely new vista. Through the enhancement of our sources for sheep, beef and hog casing.

Simultaneously Berthold Levi, the founder of Berth, Levi and Company, and a friend of the Oppenheimer brothers, decided to open the Australian Casing Company, PTY Ltd. in Sidney, Australia.

With this move it became rapidly apparent that competition between S.O.& Co. and B.L. for supplies would be ruinous as it would give the brothers the golden opportunity to play one against the other. Therefore a joint venture was established in Australia where it was legal to do so. Thus B.L. & Co. and S.O. & Co. found themselves in a position of dividing between themselves the output of productions in leading large and medium abattoirs in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and West Australia. A similar arrangement was arrived at for New Zealand's North Island Abattoirs. This arrangement combined with Australia were profitable for many years.

The contracts between B.A.B.P. and A.C.C. and its suppliers were on an annual basis with price reviews quarterly. Thus supplier and purchaser continually achieved market prices and loss of a contract was held to a minimum. In fact I do not recall this happening. They were happy with us and our supply remained uninterrupted. In fact when conditions warranted we paid them a bonus.
In 1920 S.O. & Co. opened an office in Peking, China. William Forsythe, a Canadian who was until that time a salesman and the General Manager for S.O. & Co. in Toronto was sent to China to take charge of that venture with the explicit purpose of contracting for sheep and hog casings. This venture was successful and growing until Japan's incursion of China in the 1930's. The office was closed in 1937 or 1938.

The 1920's were a wild time in China as warring bands roamed the land. On one of his trips to New York in 1927 Bill Forsythe told me that he would leave Peking in his car to visit the farmers who supplied us with sheep and hog casings, with an American flag flying from a staff on the left front fender of his car. Soon bullets would be whizzing past. Hastily he would stop the car, jump out and substitute a Union Jack for the American flag and the shooting would stop. It was equally possible to have the reverse happen.

Office and warehousing facilities were established in Hamburg and Berlin in the early 1890's. These and the London branch did business throughout Europe and were major factors in the industry until Hitler's rise to power necessitating the closing of the German office in 1935.

Simultaneously J. Horn Ltd. was started in London with Jacob Hornstein as its head and Leonard Dunnett as his assistant. This came about because of the following set of circumstances.

In 1934 William Kempner, manager of S. Oppenheimer, London, decided he wanted to go in business for himself and arranged to purchase the English Company from my father who was delighted. My father asked only that William Kempner not use the name S. Oppenheimer as it was solidly entrenched and recognized as the leading casing house in England.
As William's brother, Adolph, had been long associated with S. Oppenheimer in New York, and was the son-in-law of Sigmund Oppenheimer the firm's founder, my father felt a formal agreement was unnecessary and that this presented an opportunity to spin off the English Company which was loaded with overhead in the depths of the Depression. The transfer was effected and all went well except that William Kempner continued to use the S. Oppenheimer name.

This infuriated my father who promptly went to Germany, met with Jacob Hornstein who was a man 35 years of age, of Russian birth who had escaped Russia in 1919 at the time of the Russian Revolution. He escaped to Turkey, found his way to Germany and became employed by a casing company.

My father invested ten thousands pounds (fifty thousands dollars) to start J. Horn Limited and told Hornstein that was all he was putting into it. If Hornstein lost it the venture was finished. Hornstein succeeded admirably and remained a part of our worldwide organization until 1957 when, on my father's death he purchased J. Horn Ltd.

On this side of both oceans the years brought changes. In New York, the building (all connected) at 96-98-100 Pearl Street were showing signs of age and were replaced with a seven story building covering one half a city block at 466 Washington Street, the corner of Washington and Canal Streets. S. Oppenheimer & company occupied it from 1924-1950. It is now a condominium apartment building.

The years following World War One were lucrative for the casing industry. The meat trade was growing and sausage makers proliferating. S. Oppenheimer looked to the west coast where they had one salesman since 1904, and decided to buy the Los Angeles Casing Company, Ltd. which owned a
factory at 2602 East 25th Street.

It was solidly built, completely equipped for cleaning and storing of casings under then modern refrigeration. Further, it was in a growing packinghouse area and sausage makers there and throughout the eleven western states could be serviced more economically than shipping casings from Australia and New Zealand to the Port of Los Angeles (Wilmington) then to New York then overland to California and other western states.

So Carl Graf, an Austrian by birth and a sausage maker by trade who had gone into the casing business because casing salesmen appeared prosperous, sold the Los Angeles Casing Company, Ltd. and S. Oppenheimer put in charge their west coast salesman, Harry Friedlander. The year: 1927.

The years starting with December 7, 1941 and through 1945 were busy years for the casing industry. Immediately following the bombing of Pearl Harbor the War Department contacted every casing dealer in the United States. Their Purpose: to acquire the narrow end of sheep intestines which are used to produce surgical sutures.

Our response was prompt: Assign two destroyers, one to Australia, one to New Zealand. Have them proceed full speed to Wellington, New Zealand and Melbourne, Australia and suture material would be awaiting them on the docks.

Both vessels made it to their respective destination in about a week. The journey back to California took about nine days. Engines on both vessels were burned out and had to be replaced but the mission was accomplished. The War Department had suture material sufficient for two years.

The casing industry, too, was busy with pre-emptive buying of all casing they could locate in any country in the world to which they had
access. The prime purpose of this government request: starve the axis powers into submission.

It worked!!!! Seventeen years after the war, Erich Hornlein of Hamburg told me that some of the chemists serving in the Wehrmacht were given discharges and told they were to develop an artificial sausage casing as the German sausage industry was grinding to a halt for lack of that product.

Along with the purchase of the Los Angeles Casing Company, S. Oppenheimer had eyed a small, but profitable casing concern which controlled a desireable source for sheep casings in New Zealand.

I will never forget the night in October 1924 Mr. Augustus Bechstein, sole owner of Bechstein and Company, New York City came to our house at 11 West 87th Street, New York City as my father's guest.

"Gus" as they called him when he was out of earshot, was a tall, thin wasp of German background, handsome in an aristocratic way and sported a Hindenburg haircut plus and impressive goatee.

When we sat down to dinner my father placed before "Gus" one pint of Haig and Haig Punch Bottle scotch whiskey. Without any help "Gus" went through the whole thing between soup and desert and before the coffee was served he had been supplied with a second. At which point I was excused.

The following morning at breakfast I learned that by the time Mr. Augustus Bechstein had finished the second bottle he had sold Bechstein Company, gotten into a cab and gone home.
PART TWO

It was considered judicious to never contract on an annual basis for more than one half of the sausage casings you estimated you could sell. the remaining fifty percent you bought anywhere in the world you could negotiate the most advantageous purchases, quality of product and reliability of supplier considered.

The preponderance of casing dealers had to make payment for imported merchandise prior to shipment or cash against documents. S. Oppenheimer & Company had established an enviable reputation of integrity and we never had to remit until we had received and examined the casings.

So in the course of time we built up a network of casing agents in many countries. They were owners of their own businesses and received commissions from the vendors--they were casing brokers. Business was done by cable and mail. Our purchases were always made in the U.S. dollars as we lived on dollars. That also eliminated the risk of dealing in foreign exchange which on occasion had wild fluctuations. And to top it off, buying and selling exclusively in dollars (U.S.) was a one hundred percent insurance against the vagaries of temperament among Moroccan and Persian Arabs with whom we did a large business. They used to be agricultural countries before the advent of technology finally made an impression on them and they discovered that oil made the world go around.

Persian sheep casings were formed for shipment in the shape of small rings. The size of a ring would equate four fingers of a human hand. Each
ring would measure 20 meters in length and 500 of these would be packed in a 25 gallon wooden barrel called a "Tierce." They were usually made of white oak, had great longevity and could be re-used many times. An agent in Tehran, Mr. Pondeleides, was an expert in Persian rings--what to buy and from who and had many friends among the small sheep graziers. Persian rings were regarded as the "cream of the crop" in the middle east. Persia had the best grazing land, the right amount of moisture (rainfall) so the intestines were not spongy from too much water nor did they have perforations brought about by the sheep ingesting an excessive amount of sand. And they were strong.

South America was an abundant producer of all types of casings from Tierra Del Fuego at the southern tip to Venezuela in the north. But the principal suppliers of beef and sheep casings originated in Argentina with Brazil a close second.

Argentina was blessed with vast areas of treeless grasslands on which thousands of head of cattle were raised, the beef finding its way to every market in the world. And the cattle casings too, were in much demand.

The two people who were the key to that source of supply were William Ragals and Ardash Barsamian.

Ragals was Brooklyn born, of razor sharp intellect, who was fluent in Spanish and got along well with the Argentines whether they were owners of Frigerifcos (packing houses) or government officials. It was a very complex society, extremely money conscious at all levels. Bill Ragals did a very fine job for Berth Levi and Company by whom he was employed. They were our partners in the Argentina.

Ardash Barsamian was Czechoslovakian by birth who, with his brothers,
started a casing business in Buenos Aires and Apres La Guerre came to the United States to start a branch in New York City. He supplied us with both Argentine and Brazilian sheep and beef casings. In one year he supplied us with 500,000 dollars worth of sheep casings which in 1948 prices equated over 600 tierces of sheep casings. Beef casings were in addition.

Italy was a unique situation. In 1920 a man named Luigi Ronca appeared at my father's office on Pearl Street in Lower Manhattan. Ronca spoke no English. He had just arrived from Italy and gone directly to S. Oppenheimer seeking a job as salesman.

He told my father he knew nothing about the casing trade but he had heard there was an Italian section of New York City where they made a lot of sausage.

My father, who spoke fluent Italian, told Ronca to find a room, gave him some money for a suit and food and told him to return the next day. Then my father handed him a price list and an order book and told him to go out and sell.

Ronca said that was fine, that he would work for S. Oppenheimer for two years to learn the casing trade then return to Italy and start his own business and begin by being agent for S. Oppenheimer and Company.

That was the start of a lifelong friendship between the two men. Ronca would walk the length of each avenue east of Park between the Battery and the Bronx stepping in each pork store en route, on the east side of the avenue going north and on the west side of the avenue going south. In each store he would hand the proprietor his price list and order book. The customer would consult the price list and fill out the order blank detailing the items he needed. It took Ronca three months to complete avenue
"A" to Lexington Avenue.

In 1922 Ronca returned to Italy and started a casing business in Tortona, a city halfway between Milan and Genoa. S. Oppenheimer and Company was his first client.

As the years unfolded Ronca became increasingly successful and S. Oppenheimer benefited.

Another country very good for us was South Africa. We had an agent in Johannesburg who was established with both dealers in casings and with sausage factories.

South Africa was a tremendous user of extra wide hog casings and through this agent we did a large and steady volume with this product. Some of these extra wide hog casings we imported into New York from Denmark then sold them in South Africa. Some of the products came to us from American Meat Packers who would sell us their surplus—packers such as Wilson, Armour, Cudahy, Swift and smaller concerns as well.

We did not try to compete in the sheep and beef casing business in South Africa as they had casings of inferior quality at unattractive prices. If they were not satisfactory to the South African customer we had no place to go with them.

Then there was Russia. As a supplier of sheep casings they were among the top three countries in the world. Vast numbers of sheep were raised annually for the wool. The casings were a by-product.

Twice a year the Russian Trade Commission (The AmJorg) arrived in New York and United States dealers would make appointments to negotiate with them for Russian rings for the following six months.

They were very hard negotiators but once a price and quantity were
agreed on they lived up to it and everything arrived on time and in good order.

I could go on country by country highlighting the agents supplying us or we selling through them, however there is a better way by detailing in part three, the varying qualities of the casings and their being bought and shipped to countries whose usage matched these qualities. It was known as "putting square pegs into round holes."

PART THREE

Sheep and lamb casing productions varied from country to country. In some instances the comparisons could be most dramatic and matching casing productions with local sausage maker demands worldwide required an intimate knowledge of both. At times you could match casing productions with local requirements because you had the product. If you didn't, you would supply the next best which might fulfill the need.

If a sausagemaker in Connecticut made a blood sausage in a wide sheep casing you knew his manufacturing method was to mix the blood with spices and while the mixture was hot to extrude it into the casing after which he would twist the casing every four inches then place the finished product in a cooler where it would solidify.

This manufacturing procedure on the part of the sausagemaker required an exceptionally matching sheep casing. The ideal was a sheep casing from china. The Chinese sheep casing was the strongest available on a worldwide basis and satisfied every requirement for this type of sausage.
Pork sausage was a product uncooked and though it was usually a coarsely ground meat, was extruded into the casing enough to fill it and give a plump appearance yet not tightly. As it was unsmoked in 90% of productions a lamb casing was used. This casing was tender and enabled the consumer to eat the sausage without having the meat pop out of both ends as would happen with a casing which was stronger and was able to withstand the expansion produced by the heat of cooking and smoking. New Zealand and Australian lamb casings were perfect for pork sausage production.

Frankfurter production required sheep casings which were of greater tensile strength and able to withstand the cooking and smoking temperatures which produced expansion of the meat, requiring the casing be of sufficient strength to avoid breakage during this phase of manufacture.

The last example I will cite is polish sausage. It is an extremely coarse ground product, cooked and smoked. The casing required must be exceptionally strong and it was usually extruded into a narrow hog casing calibrating 28-32 millimeters.

The challenge to the casing dealer was a continuous and sometimes aggravating matter but indigenous to the trade. It was a matter, many times of "fitting square pegs into round holes." For if the product shipped was unsatisfactory it would be returned.

The fact that sausage casings were subject to the whims of nature was in a large part responsible for these problems when they arose. If there was too much rainfall sheep and lamb would ingest grass oversoaked with moisture and the intestines would become spongy and break when meat was extruded into them. If a drought took place the sheep and lambs ingested a lot of sand with the dry grass and the intestines became perforated. And
we took the casings--good or bad--and had to find a market for them. Fortunately the good and bad seasons balanced themselves and did not occur on a worldwide basis.

All of our production of extra narrow sheep and lamb casings (14-16 millimeters) were saved for use as surgical sutures and tennis racket strings. These casings were unsuitable for sausage production, being very weak and containing many perforations. The principle markets for these casings were Germany, England, United States and Australia. The factories in these countries were an excellent outlet for an otherwise unuseable product. These casings were called "nine yard ends." And that is just what they were. The last nine yards of intestine which bore the brunt of the animals natural functions, thereby putting a tremendous strain on the intestine with the resultant slow but certain deterioration.

PART FOUR

Over the years S. Oppenheimer had established casing factories in various countries where receipts of raw material warranted an investment. These plants put up the casings in the most saleable manner they knew, creating refinements on a gradual basis. These refinements were dictated by the requirements of the sausage producers.

In the beginning, sausagemakers used the entire length of intestine. As the sausage business became more competitive so did the manufacture of casings.

Instead of running the entire diameter of 14 to 32 millimeters the
casing was flooded with water and cut off at the first 50 feet, for a New Zealand sheep casing, so the diameter produced was 22 millimeters and over. The second 25 feet produced 19-23 millimeters and the third end produced 18 millimeters plus.

Each country produced casings having their own characteristics which included tensile strength, diameters, color and quality. Quality related to an intestine minus holes and pin holes and of good strength down to one with holes, pinholes, tender, spongy and porous. And sections of a country yielded varieties of these characteristics. There was no way of altering them. They were a natural product and responded to heat, drought, excessive rainfall, flood, famine, climate. We had to be aware of these factors and match the products with our customers requirements. At times it was not an easy task.

The same basics applied to hog, cattle, goat and horse casings. The only difference being in the size of the casing.

To allay your curiosity, horse casings were used extensively in Europe.

As casing manufacturing became more refined with advances in the marketing of sausage S. Oppenheimer underwent gradual changes in production procedure and technique.

Where we once had manufacturing plants in Hamburg, Berlin, London, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Sydney, Wellington, Auckland, Timaru, Gisborne, Rotorua, Reyjavik, and some places I have overlooked or knew nothing about, we began to feel the effects of this as our intensive business or costs were rising.

The rise was imperceptible at first. Labor costs as well as the costs
of casings were advancing worldwide. In the United States the butchers and packing house workers union was achieving consistent increases in salaries which made labor higher than in Australia and New Zealand. In 1947 we ceased manufacturing operations in the U.S. and commenced the selecting of all sheep casings at the source.

New Zealand and Australian plants fortunately had experience in selecting all types of casings so it was no problem for them to use the specifications given them from New York. Their work was excellent and sheep and lamb casings arrived in New York, and other destinations ready for sale. No longer were the U.S. plants required to work up the products received from these sources. It did mean discharging 110 selectors in Chicago, 120 in New York, and 30 in Los Angeles. The savings were enormous, however.

This transfer of manufacturing to Australia and New Zealand had an enormously beneficial effect on our sales nationwide.

Instead of making a hank (100 yards) of 20/22 millimeter sheep casings with 16-18 strands we could now make a hank with 12 pieces of 25 feet each. The result was a uniform hank containing the same number of pieces (strands) whether a sausagemaker bought 100 hands or 10,000.

Our price lists changed character as well. The New Zealand first cut lamb calibrating 20-23 millimeters appeared thusly: NFL 20 + a glossary appended here to will give complete descriptions of all casings.

The South American plants of Berth-Levi and the Ardash Importing Company conformed to our manufacturing methods which worked well both in manufacturing and marketing.
PART FIVE

During the early 1920's Erwin Freund conceived the idea an artificial casing could be produced at a low enough cost which would enable him to sell it to sausage makers at half the cost per pound when filled with meat than the natural casings. The container cost per pound in 1927 for the natural sheep casings was five cents per pound. The cost of Erwin Freund's casing came to two and one half cents per pound. The Visking Corporation was formed.

The casing could be made in any size requirement. It was a cellulose derivative and extruded without interruption 24 hours a day seven days a week. It gradually brought improvements in the sausage industry which Erwin Freund was instrumental in introducing.

He was well suited to this endeavor. Not only was he a chemist but his father had been one of the heads of S. Oppenheimer. Erwin was first employed July 1903 at three dollars per week. His employment record may be found on page 98 of the large ledger. At the time of his original employment he lived at 4416 Michigan Avenue. His phone number: Oakland 81.

About 1920 he left S. Oppenheimer and Company and went to China for the Independent Casing Corporation. On his return to the U.S. the idea of an artificial casing had become deep-seated. It was on the way.
PART SIX

Changes were taking place in the casing industry as outside forces made themselves felt. S. Oppenheimer and Company was no exception.

During the early 1930's the interstate highway system was beginning to emerge. It would be a prime factor in change within the sausage and meatpacking industries. Example: Boston to Fall River, Massachusetts is about 50 miles. Prior to the construction of a super highway there were 5 sausagemakers in Fall River. They each made a good living. A year after the advent of the highway there was one. Why?

It took only an hour for large meatpackers and sausagemakers in Boston to traverse the distance to Fall River and outsell the local people. Traveling on the antiquated roads took over two hours.

All over the nation the story was the same. The sausage industry was becoming concentrated in fewer hands. There was an actual attrition among the sausagemakers and meatpackers in small and medium size towns and cities.

As an example, Hartford, Connecticut had seven sausagemakers. Large meatpackers located miles away shipped products by truck to the area served by Hartford sausagemakers, eventually reducing their number to one.

As salesmen retired or died they were not replaced. S. Oppenheimer sold its plant at 624 Root Street, Chicago and combined its office and warehouse in a small building they leased in South Water Market.

The Los Angeles Casing Company was sold to E. J. Leist and Roland
Johnston, its general manager and salesman.

Combined with reduction in number of sausagemakers was the fact that the Visking Corporation and Teepak Incorporated had between them ninety percent of the sausage casing business. The artificial casing had replaced the natural. In a way this was ironic for Tepak was a subsidiary of the Oppenheimer Casing company. The latter had no connection with S. Oppenheimer and Company although its founder, Harry Oppenheimer was the son of Sigmund Oppenheimer. The relationships will be continued in subsequent pages.

In the late 1950s Johnson & Johnson came out with an edible artificial casing which had been in the development stage for about 15 years.

One of the chemists in their Ethicon Division which made surgical surtasures was scraping a lamb casing and found the residue consisted in part of a membrane. In figuring out what to do with this he hit upon the idea of combining it with seaweed. The result was the collagen casing. It was edible and today has a place in the casing market--albeit an artificial casing market.

PART SEVEN

By 1955 the natural casing industry was practically extinct in the United States. Where the Manhattan classified phone directories had listed at least seventy casing dealers in the 1938 directories by 1955 they listed only 5 or 6.

In Europe and England a similar change was taking place. It was time
to call a halt. So in 1963 all of S. Oppenheimer and Company was sold to the Hygrade Food Products Corporation of Detroit who were in a position to use the New Zealand and Australian sheep and lamb casings in their own sausage factories.

After ninety five years technology had taken over.

PART EIGHT

In compiling their price lists S. Oppenheimer and Company used the following nomenclature:

End selected:

N.F.S. = New Zealand 1st cut sheep, 12 strands, 25 feet each
N.M.S. = New Zealand mid section sheep, 12 strands, 25 feet each
N.F.L. = New Zealand 1st cut lamb, 12 strands, 25 feet each
N.M.L. = New Zealand mid section lamb, 12 strands, 25 feet each

111-X. = New Zealand 1st cut sheep 6 strands, 50 feet each
111-W. = New Zealand 1st section sheep, 6 strands, 50 feet each
111-M. = New Zealand mid section lamb, 6 strands, 50 feet each
112 = New Zealand 2nd cut lamb, 9 strands, 35 feet each

241 = New Zealand 1st cut lamb, 7 strands, 50 feet each
242 = New Zealand 2nd cut lamb, 15 strands, 25 feet each
End selected:

A.F.S. = New Zealand 1st cut sheep, 12 strands, 25 feet each
A.M.S. = New Zealand mid section sheep, 12 strands, 25 feet each
A.F.S. = New Zealand 1st cut lamb, 12 strands, 25 feet each
A.M.L. = New Zealand mid section lamb, 12 strands, 25 feet each

241 = New Zealand 1st cut lamb, 7 strands 50 feet each
242 = New Zealand 2nd cut lamb, 15 strands, 25 feet each

Hog Casings

0/28 millimeters
28/32 millimeters
32/35 millimeters
35/38 millimeters
38/42 millimeters
41/0 millimeters
3/5 shorts
6/10 shorts

Beef Casings

Beef Middles:
1 1/2" - 2"
2" - 2 1/4"
2 1/4" - 2 1/2"
0/2 1/2"
Beef Rounds
0/1 3/8"
1 3/8 - 2"
2" - 2 1/4"
0/2 1/4"

Beef Bungs
0/4"
4"-4 1/2"
4-5"
0/5"

Weasands
#1 (1 1/2"-2")
#2 (2"/0)
#3 (Broken-No size indicated)

Hog Bungs
Small Prime
Medium Prime
Large Prime

Sewed Hog Bungs
2 1/2"-3" x 32" long
3" - 3 1/2" x 32" long
3 1/2"/0 x 32" long
GLOSSARY

Sheep and Lamb Casing: 72 feet of intestines used in the manufacture of frankfurter, pork sausage and medical sutures.

Sheep and Lamb Bung Caps: Used in the manufacture (Appendix with one end of condoms closed)

Hog Casings: 50 feet of intestines used in the manufacture of large frankfurters, large pork sausage, polish sausage.

Hog Bungs: 3 feet (rectum) of intestine used in manufacture of liver sausage and bologna

Sewed Hog Bungs: Two hog bung section together and used in the manufacture of liver sausage

Beef Middles: 57 feet of large intestines used in the manufacture of bologna, salami, genoa salami.

Beef Round: 103 feet of small intestine used in the manufacture of ring bologna, ring liver sausage.

Beef Bungs: A beef appendix usually one half length of full beef bung being cut at the nipple of full length bung. Used in manufacture of bologna and mortadella.

Open End Beef Bung: Produced when severing beef bung caps resulting in product open at both ends.

Beef Weasands: Beef esophagus usually 18-26 inches in length. Used in manufacture of liver sausage and bologna.
PRINCIPLE OFFICERS OF S. OPPENHEIMER AND COMPANY

Sigmund Oppenheimer:  Born: Mannheim, Germany - April 18, 1850
                        Died: Chicago, Illinois - August 31, 1903
                        Son-In-Law: Adolph Kempner, New York City.

Louis Oppenheimer:    Born: Mannheim, Germany
                        Died: Chicago, Illinois, 1924
                        Son-In-Law: Robert M. Altman, Chicago.

Julius Oppenheimer:   Born: Mannheim, Germany, 1857
                        Arrived New York City, 1869

Oscar Aberle:         President of Company only a short period
                        before his death.

Gustave Freund:       Chicago, Illinois
                        Son: Erwin Freund.

Lawrence C. Stix:     Born: New York City, September 16, 1886
                        Died: New York City, November 11, 1957.