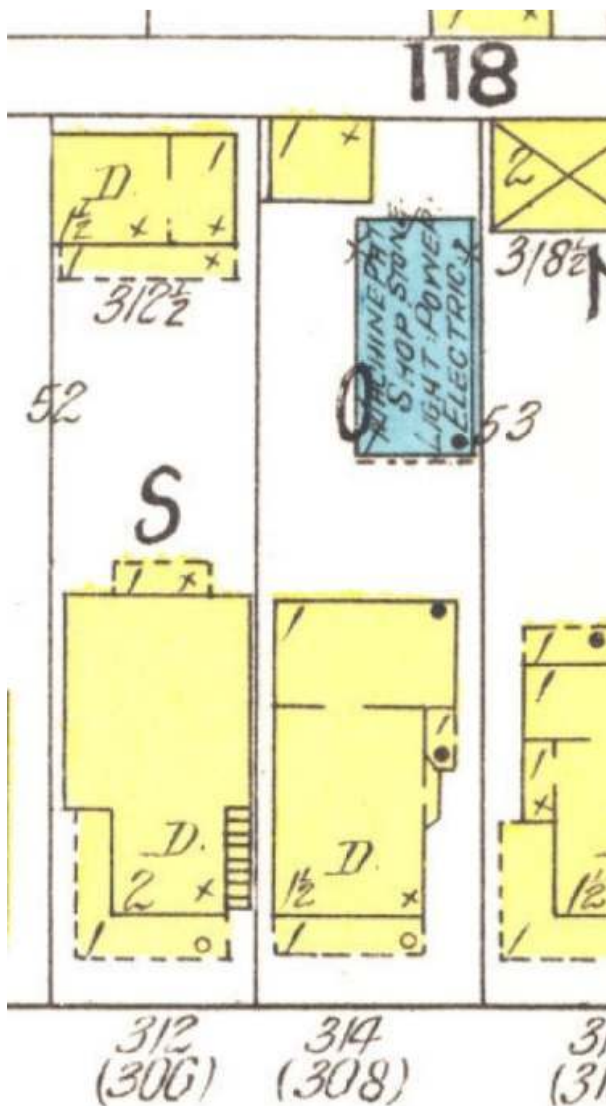


E. K. Blessing Band Instrument Co.

Elkhart, Indiana

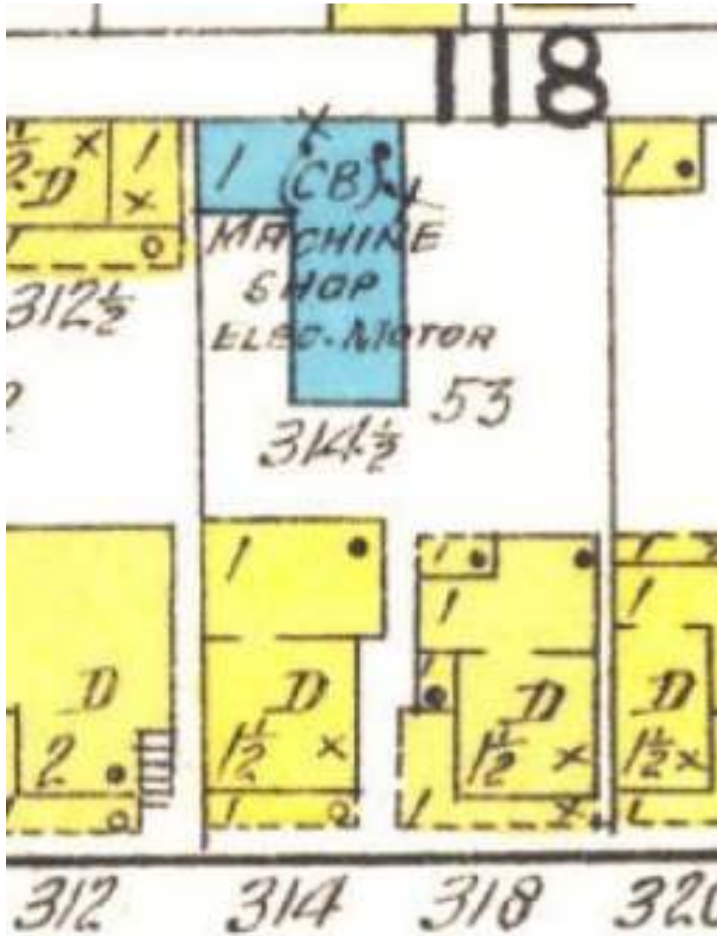
- 1896 Emil Karl Blessing (1880-1954) emigrates to the US from Germany (census)
- 1900 Emil Blessing, type setter (for Mennonite Publishing house), boarder at #207 Middlebury St., Elkhart (census)
- 1903 on payroll sheet for Holton in Chicago
- 1906 son Carl Albert Blessing (1906-1982) is born on December 20th in Chicago so possibly still working for Holton
- 1907 moves back to Elkhart and starts making brass instruments in a shop behind his house (company history says 1906); son Frederick is born in Elk. (1908-1994)
- 1910 his machine shop is located at #314-1/2 Middlebury St. behind his residence (Sanborn map below); it's a one-story block building added since the 1901 map



1910 Blessing is living at #314 Middlebury St, band instrument manufacturer & owner; brother Carl Blessing (b.1885) is living with them, apprentice machinist (census)

1917 Emil, horn manufacturer, #314 Middlebury (residence & business), E.K. Blessing Co. (draft)

1917 the shop has been expanded since 1910 (Sanborn map)



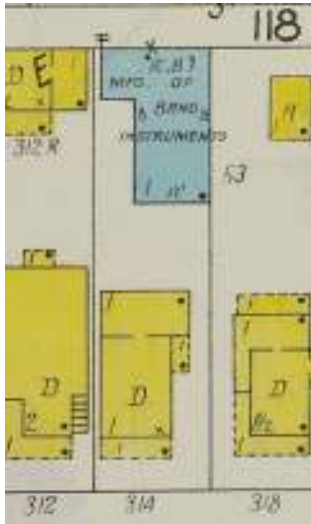
The shop is shown in this family photo from c.1910



Probably Emil in the center with brother Carl to his right and wife Hilda with the two young sons

1920 still at #314, brother Carl gone; now have daughter Lillian born in 1911 (census)

1927 Sanborn map shows the same shop still used



1930 Blessing family now at #1715 Jackson Blvd., Emil is sole factory owner, oldest son now going by Emil Karl Jr is a salesman; son Frederick is a bookkeeper (census)

1936 now named E.K. Blessing Band Instrument Co.; Emil's wife Hilda dies

1940 new factory built at #1301 W. Beardsley (photos at right); Emil Sr living with Lillian at #1715 Jackson (census)

1942 now E.K. Blessing Inc.; Emil Sr living at #2 St. Joseph's Manor; son Emil Jr at #1801 E. Jackson, band factory vice-president; Fred is secretary (draft & census)

1943 Emil Sr marries Edna

1949 Lillian's husband Merle Johnson (bottom photo) starts working for Blessing

1954 Emil Sr dies and Emil Jr now takes over

1961 Blessing is merged with Martin under RMC

1964 Merle Johnson buys Blessing after RMC folds

1986 Merle is president and son Randy is in marketing

2009 Randy Johnson sells Blessing to Verne Powell Flutes

2010 Blessing relocates to #2995 Paul Dr.

2015 Powell sells Blessing to St. Louis Music

2017 #2995 Paul Dr. is now a woodworking factory so probably no brass left in Elkhart



Instrument photos from Horn-u-copia.net unless noted