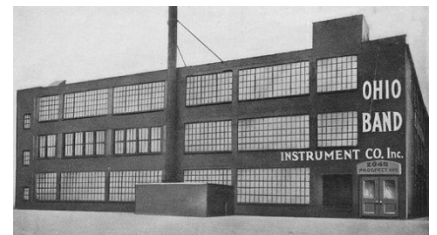


# F. A. Reynolds Co., Inc.

## Cleveland, Ohio

- 1883 Foster Allen Reynolds is born in Medina, Ohio
- 1892 Harper A. Reynolds (1892-1975) born in Medina
- 1903 Foster marries Francis in Elkhart, Indiana, Oct 28
- 1904 daughter Florence is born in Grand Rapids, MI, Sept 3 (death record); Foster probably working for J.W. York by this time; an article in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* in 1936 says that he had 32 years of experience in brass making
- 1906 first listing in the Cleveland city directory from August; toolmaker, rooms #125 Chestnut Ave (now working for H. N. White)
- 1908 foreman (dir)
- 1910 factory cornet maker (census); foreman in directory
- 1918 Foster is factory Superintendent for White; brother Harper now joins him as machinist (WWI draft)
- 1920 Foster is superintendent; Harper is machinist (census)
- 1930 Foster is factory manager; Harper is foreman (census)
- 1935 Foster leaves White later this year and incorporates as the Foster A. Reynolds Co., #2837-2853 Prospect Ave SE, with a ten year lease on a modern brick factory (photo 2); the Ohio Band Instrument Co, a subsidiary, will operate in the same location; production starts in early 1936 with twenty workers (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*); Foster divorces Francis this year and by 1936 married Myrtle (19 years younger)
- 1936 F. A. Reynolds Co Inc, incorporated 1935, #2845 Prospect Ave SE, Foster president, Harper treasurer (directory)
- 1938 F. A. Reynolds Co, Foster pres, E. H. Roth vp, Max Scherl sec, Harper treasurer (dir); early cornets copy the King Master model design (photo 3, auction sale)
- 1940 now 80 workers (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*)
- 1946 Foster sells his shares to Max Scherl and retires then later works as a consultant & manager for Olds
- 1947 Reynolds and Ohio brands are merged with the Regent line being replaced by the Roth models for students; the Emperor name first used in Nov (trademark registration) for intermediate models with Reynolds the top model (photo 5 from 1946 trumpet w/sterling silver bell, auction photo)



- 1949 the Contempora name is first used (trademark registration) for their new premium horns (photo 2 from auction) and the top Reynolds models became the "Professional" series (photo 3 author's collection)
- 1952 "Roth-Reynolds" is now used on the instruments
- 1955 Max Scherl retires, Heinrich Roth now president; start of Contempora Leonard Smith model cornet & trumpet and the Hi-Fi model cornet (photo 4 from auction)
- 1956 Trombone #42393 is purchased new
- 1959 start of the Hi-Fi trumpet & trombone and the Argenta model horns made from nickel silver
- 1960 Foster Reynolds dies of a heart attack at work in the Olds / Reynolds factory
- 1961 Reynolds purchased by Richards Music Corp; the Medalist student models replace the Roth
- 1964 Reynolds sold to CMI who also owns Olds; production is moved to Fullerton and a new factory at #5520 N 1<sup>st</sup> St in Abilene, Texas (photo 5 from catalog)
- 1969 Reynolds is sold to ECL which becomes Norlin Ind.
- 1970 all instruments are made in Fullerton and the Abilene plant is sold to Conn; models now are Contempora, Emperor and Medalist (catalog)
- 1979 Reynolds is closed in July and all the contents are auctioned off (news article); the name is purchased by P.J. Laplaca Associates Ltd

