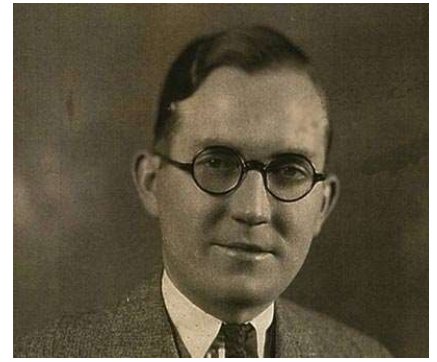


Getzen

Elkhorn, WI

- 1894 Anthony J. Gietzen is born in Grand Rapids to German immigrant parents Peter & Martha (birth record).
- 1900 The Gietzen family is living in Grand Rapids (census).
- 1910 The family is still in Grand Rapids (census).
- 1913 Anthony begins an apprenticeship with JW York in Grand Rapids (Ron Berendt).
- 1917 Anthony (photo 1) is living in Chicago with brother Philip (1887-1961) and working as brass instrument maker for Lyon & Healy (draft). He joins the Army until mid-1919 when he begins working for Lyon & Healy (Berendt).
- 1920 Anthony is in Chicago; musical inst. assembler & brother Phillip is foreman for L&H (census).
- 1922 Getzen moves to Elkhorn to work for Holton (Getzen[G]).
- 1926 #429 E. Park St., Elkhorn, instrument maker (military).
- 1929 Anthony becomes head of the sax department at Holton (G).
- 1930 #429 E. Park St., band factory super (census).
- 1937 Anthony (TJ) leaves Holton in the fall, resigning as plant superintendent (Brett Getzen [BG]).
- 1939 TJ starts his own instrument repair shop in a barn behind his house at 329 E. Geneva (photo 2)(BG).
- 1940 TJ is a band instrument repair shop owner and brother Philip is now a band inst. superintendent in Elkhart (census).
- 1942 Getzen, #439 E. Geneva St., self-employed (draft).
- 1946 Getzen starts making student-grade trombones by the Spring and produces about 1,000 the first year. They could not start production earlier due to material shortages from the war (BG).
- 1947 Getzen starts making trumpets and cornets (G).
- 1949 Start of making piston bugles. Son James Robert Getzen (1926-2003) (photo 3) is the new plant super after 10 years working there.
- 1950 Philip Getzen is now a hotel owner in Eureka, MI (census).
- 1958 Getzen is now up to 80 workers (G).



- 1959 Robert (Bob) resigns as plant superintendent at Getzen and starts Allied Music Co., #530 South Hwy H (BG)(photo 4, page 1).
- 1960 Getzen purchases the Hoosier Band Instrument Company in Elkhart in June. This is later sold to Knowlton. It is not known what the purpose of this was (*Groves Dictionary of Music & BG*). [This is an unknown company. The only Hoosier instruments found are from the Pedler Co.]
- 1960 Getzen is sold to Harold M. Knowlton (1920-2005) (photo 5, page 1) in October, who moves the business to #211 W. Centralia St (G). John W. Dadmun (1918-2009) was the owner of AC Supply Co in Milwaukee and also VP of Getzen (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* obituary, 2009).
- 1962 Getzen introduces a complete professional line of brass and begins a partnership with Doc Severinsen. Early Eterna bells were made by Kiefer Mfg in Elkhart (BG).
- 1963 The factory is destroyed by a fire on October 14 (BG)(photo below). Instruments were made at Holton and Allied Music until the new factory started (BG).



- 1964 The rebuilt factory is fully running by March (BG). In the factory opening photo below, the front row suits are Don Getzen, Harold Knowlton, Doc, & possibly business partner John Dadmun.



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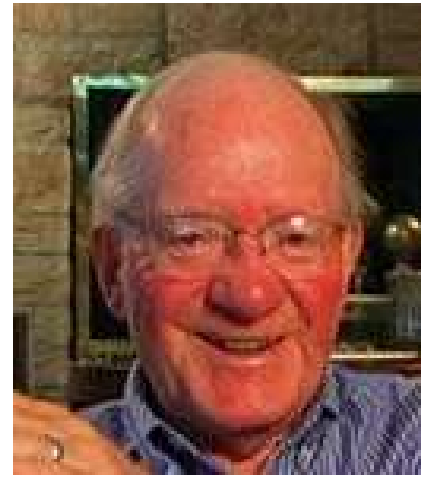
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- 1965 Son Donald E. Getzen (1928-2017) (photo 1) resigns as executive vp to start DEG Music Products in Lake Geneva (G). Late 1960s Caravelle flugelhorns were made by EMO in Germany then later switched to stencils made by Blessing (Trumpet Herald).
- 1966 Allied Music starts producing piston bugles for DEG (BG).
- 1967 Allied Supply is started to supply the repair industry and the Allied Music Repair School is started to train future repair technicians (BG).
- 1968 Anthony J (Tony) Getzen passes away on June 8 (FAG).
- 1969 Getzen offers the 300 series student level brass, Capri middle level, and Eterna professional level.
- 1970 The Getzen catalog includes Elkhorn series Baritone and French Horn models. These were stencils imported from Europe (BG). The Getzen model series are Eterna, Capri, and 300.
- 1972 Allied Music begins production of trumpets, cornets, trombones, and marching brass for DEG (G). DEG never made their own instruments (BG).
- 1972 High demand for the model 900 Eterna Severinsen trumpet (photo 2) made Getzen purchase a second factory in Marengo, Illinois from Yarger Hydraulics. This facility was plagued with problems and didn't last long (BG & *Groves Dictionary of Music*).
- 1973 Getzen is still owned by Knowlton and is selling the Eterna, Severinsen, Capri, Tone Choir, & Elkhorn models.
- The Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources inspects Getzen and informs them that the disposal of chemical waste into a lagoon on the property was not an acceptable method (2004 court records).
- Getzen is a distributor for Meinl-Weston tubas and maker of the Getzen Titleist bugles (William & Mary Gazette).
- 1974 Allied Supply (photo 4) is sold to Bob's sons Thomas (photo 5) & Edward (photo 2 next page on R) (G). A fire at the factory halts production for about a month (Allied).
- 1978 The Severinsen collaboration ends.
- 1980 The Dept of Natural Resources orders Getzen to close and clean up the waste lagoon. They had been ignoring this request for many years. It is estimated that 700-800 gallons per day were dumped into the lagoon for the past 20 years (2004 court records).
- 1985 Knowlton sells Getzen to Charles Andrews. The Eterna II trumpet is introduced (G). David Ference was also a part owner (2004 court records).



- 1988 Allied Music is sold to Tom & Ed Getzen (G).
- 1989 Tom and Ed start the Edwards Band Inst. Co. to make trombones. Its name came from Orenthal Edward Thayer, the inventor of the axial flow valve (BG).

Allied Music purchases the Kiefer Mfg Co. in Elkhart and transfers their tooling and machinery for bell making to Elkhorn (BG).

- 1990 Allied starts making the Canadian Brass instruments (G).
- 1991 An inspection of the 211 W. Centralia site by the Department of Natural Resources found wastewater flowing over concrete and down a hill (DNR).

Getzen is sold in bankruptcy to Allied Music and production is moved to Allied's location (G). Photo 2 is in front of the Knowlton factory after the sale. Allied bought the name and contents but not the property (BG).

The Getzen Co is made the parent and Allied Music a subsidiary. An 1,800 sf addition is made to the Allied factory to accommodate Getzen production (G). (photo 1 is from 2023)

- 1993 Allied Repair school ends (Allied).
- 1995 Allied Music is ended, and brass repairs are stopped (Allied).
- 1999 Tom becomes the sole owner of Getzen.
- 2001 Doc Severinsen rejoins Getzen until 2003.
- 2003 Harold Knowlton and John Dadmun were given a proposed settlement charge of \$65,580.05 to the Hazardous Substance Superfund due to the cleanup involved at the 211 Centralia St site (Federal Register Vol.68, Issue 217).
- 2005 The Getzen series include Genesis, Custom, Eterna, 700, Capri, 300, and 400 (catalog).
- 2009 Don sells DEG to former partner Mark Schaffer (Tony Scodwell).
- 2013 Tom Getzen sells the majority ownership of Getzen Co to sons Brett (photo 3) and Adam (photo 4) while retaining ownership of Allied Supply (Allied) (photo 4). Brett oversees sales and marketing while Adam handles production (G).
- 2019 DEG closes (Scodwell).
- 2022 The original factory barn burns down (BG).



c1956 Getzen Power Bore Trumpet model 90PB (author's photos)

#73967 is in unrestored, original condition.

