

Sooner Home Furnishings

INTRODUCTION

A trusted business providing a wide range of merchandise, Sooner Home Furnishings celebrates its 70th anniversary this month as one of the oldest retailers in town.

Its story reads like an American history of appliances, electronics and more – as well as a testament to quality service after the sale.

It started as a technician's repair shop for the new invention called television in 1953.

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.... From there, Harry Thompson, founder of the store, created a family legacy that continues to provide Pauls Valley and Garvin County residents the latest in appliances and electronics.

First his wife, Ardith, joined the business and when they were grown, his son, Mark Thompson, and daughter, Amy Thompson Brown, signed on. Mark, Amy and Amy's husband Mickey Brown own and run the store today.

The entrepreneurial spirit was there from the beginning. The original Sooner TV & Appliance ventured into a number of trending areas like dishwashers, microwave ovens, VCRs and mobile phones.

The family-owned business prided itself on "Made in the U.S.A." merchandise. After color TVs became all the rage, Whirlpool appliances were first rolled out in 1967. Living room and bedroom furniture was added starting in 1977.

The store's location was originally in the space where The Daisy Patch is today. When the space across the street -- 103 E. Paul Ave. -- became available, the family purchased it and began slowly adding store space by buying surrounding buildings, and opening up doorways between them, resulting in the square footage visited by customers today.

The original 1903 National Bank of Commerce building at the corner of Paul Avenue and Chickasaw Street is the visual representation of the store today.

In 1980, the Thompson family signed on to become a franchise retailer carrying popular Radio Shack electronics. "Our diversification has always been a blessing," Amy says. "Pauls Valley has been very good to us and we didn't get to where we are now without attention to our customers."

The Radio Shack years were an amazing time of business and personal growth. The store won several awards and the family members enjoyed many business and leisure trips under the Radio Shack banner in those days.

Thanks to that affiliation, Sooner Home Furnishings offered one of the largest collections of electronic merchandise -- and even though the parent company Radio Shack has been shuttered, the Pauls Valley store still carries a wide array of merchandise for a range of technology needs.

Sooner Home Furnishings continues to offer a large variety of quality furniture, appliances and merchandise. Equally popular with customers is the other services that proves the store cares for its customers. Additional services include installation, repair, carpet cleaning, and home and storage space rental.

Sooner Home Furnishings, 101 E. Paul Ave., is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call (405) 238-3334 or visit SoonerHome.net.



October Business Spotlight

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