

Enstrom

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and will always be considered the master candy maker of Enstrom candies," said Doug Simons, who married Enstrom's granddaughter and is currently president of Enstrom's Candies.

"In the later years he would come down and help with the Christmas specialties," Simons said. "He always had a real love for the art of candy making."

Enstrom was born in Woodhull, Ill., to Swedish immigrant parents.

He attended high school in Colorado Springs and apprenticed at the age of 14 in the ice cream department of a caterer.

Later he moved to Barthel's confectionary, where, according to Simons, he worked in the ice-cream department and spent off hours in the candy department, working and learning.

He moved to Grand Junction in 1929, and founded the Jones-Enstrom Ice Cream Co., which produced Velvet Ice Cream. In 1958 he bought out his partner, Harry

Jones, then sold the company two years later to Clymer's Dairy.

Throughout those business years, Enstrom continued to make candy on his own, and perfected the recipe that would become his world-famous toffee, often making it for family and friends, Simons said.

"It's the end of an era for Enstrom's," Simons said. "Chet came from an era when business was done on a handshake and with honesty. Chet lived his life in that fashion and instilled those values

in everyone he touched."

Enstrom launched the business with \$85 worth of equipment and beamed with pride in 1989 when the company celebrated the opening of a \$1.5 million factory at 200 S. Seventh St.

He sold the business to his son, Emil, in the early 1970s.

His public service began early in Grand Junction, and involved many organizations.

He was a city councilman from 1935 to 1939 and served one term as mayor. He was chairman of the

Mesa County Republican Party for six years, and in 1966 was appointed to fill a vacancy in the state Senate.

In addition to successfully carrying the legislation to make Mesa College first a part of the state junior college system and later a four-year college, Enstrom carried important legislation in other areas, Bishop said.

"Chet was concerned about the environment," Bishop said. "He introduced one of our first air-pollution control bills." Nearly 20

years ahead of the current demands, Enstrom also introduced some of the first recycling bills in the state, Bishop said.

He also sponsored bills to establish the Western Regional Mental Health Center in Grand Junction, and to create and recognize area vocational schools as part of the state system.

Enstrom served as chairman of the Senate Education Committee and was a member of the agriculture, finance, game and fish, urban affairs and water committees as well as the Joint Budget Committee.

He served eight years on the State Board of Agriculture, which governs Colorado State University and Fort Lewis College. He was a director of the Region 7 Comprehensive Health Planning Organization and of the Colorado Arthritis Foundation.

Locally, he served as head of the United Fund and as a director of the Chamber of Commerce, which named him citizen of the year in 1977.

He was a past president of the Lion's Club and was Lion of the Year in 1956. He was also a 33rd Degree Mason, a Shriner and an Elk.

He served as a director and chairman of the board of Valley Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Professionally, he was a member and a director of the International Association of Ice Cream Manufacturers. He served two years as president of the Colorado Dairy Products Association and represented the United States at the World Dairy Congress in Rome in 1956.