

# Made in America

05-14-2012 by Harry Zirkelbach

In the 1920s, the Beaver River in western Pennsylvania had city after city spotted with local, small pottery factories and brickyards for plenty of clay was available, and dirt, as is said, is cheap. Distribution was limited.

Alas, these pottery factories were early victims of the depression as pottery imports from Asia were less pricy. And , with the depression building halted, reducing demand for both brick and well as local pottery.

When our family moved from a small town along the Beaver River, to the country slightly east, we continued to attend school in town, daily walking past the remnants of both pottery factories and brickyards, the nearby ground sprinkled generously with shards of never tarnishing white pottery, mixed with pieces of broken bricks, various color and finish. Without being told, my sister and I realized this was not an omen for good, for those empty buildings and their windows, some fenced off for protection, were constant target for idle youth with nothing to do, and rocks everywhere.

Our neighbors without employment, bought little, heard the barrage of comment of buying things locally. That slogan mattered little to the unemployed.

At that same time it was rumored, there was a city in Japan with the real name, Usa. It was alleged the Japanese had cleverly decided to use that city to manufacture inexpensive items to flood into the United States. Not wholly true. Usa was a small center, noted in Japan as a Shrine city on the Southern island of Kyushu with insignificant commercial properties.

Made in America will always be a cry especially in any economic downturn.  
It remains subject to manipulation.

And the words are complex.

American is very large. It covers the two continents on the lands mass from near the North to the South Poles.

Canadians, Argentineans, in fact all natives from these Continents fit that description. And generally these too are just as proud to called Americans as are the Citizens of the United States of America.

We buy fresh fruits in winter from Central and South America, reasonable priced,  
and in no way are discriminating from the farmers of the United States.

And European and Asian autos are often made wholly made or assembled  
in these United States, employing our citizens,  
adding taxes to our Treasury and Social Security.

Complex for certain. And the source for shouting matches between friends who  
will continually debate the debasing of the United States middle class. A point of  
irony, corporations received Tax incentives for transferring complete  
manufacturing plants, and those United States jobs, to foreign countries.

In restructuring the United States Auto industry after its collapse in 2007/8,  
Ford, General Motors and Chrysler made several significant decisions,  
primarily to make a less expensive, more reliable vehicle,  
with immense improvement in mileage.

Visually, the Big Three vehicles do not stand out from the foreign made.  
But they are not inferior.

Every Ford, General Motors, and most Chrysler are manufactured in these  
United States, are as attractive and economic to operate as any in the world.

I for one will be in the market for a new automobile in 2013.  
We will “Buy American” when the lease expires on the Toyota we drive.  
With input from our next generation families,  
we are determined to buy those wheels from one of the Big Three.

We will consider all suggestions.