

Sokol and Company

HISTORICAL TIMELINE



Sokol Grocery Founded

1895

Expands to 3 large retail grocery stores ; Coffee plantation

1902



Sokol and Company established

1904



Sokol and Company a growing success as one of largest importers

1907

John A. Sokol opens first Sokol Grocery Store in Chicago at 654 Polk Street on November 4, 1895.

John A. Sokol travels to Mexico with intentions to educate himself in the planting, harvesting and shipping of coffee.

John A. Sokol returns to Chicago to sell Sokol Grocery and establish Sokol and Company, a wholesale coffee, tea and spice business on 118 W. Randolph Street in Chicago. A variety of products are offered and sold under the Shield Brand by Sokol.

Sokol and Company begins to import food specialties and selling these items to wholesalers throughout the US. Dried mushrooms, saffron, sultan fig, tubed garlic and cocoa were all added to the product line. Sokol moves to 42 South Water Street.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE



Sokol relocates to own manufacturing facility

1915

Sokol and Company occupies 5 floors at 241 E. Illinois for manufacturing, custom grinding, blending, packing of spices, and warehouse space.

Solo Products Co. founded; Solo Brand introduced

1925

Solo Products Co., a subsidiary of Sokol and Company, is founded under which the Solo Brand items are sold. Solo Brand begins to retail products such as mushrooms, currants, and introduces cake and pastry fillings in poppy and prune flavors.



Solo Cake and Pastry Fillings; broker relationships developed

1930

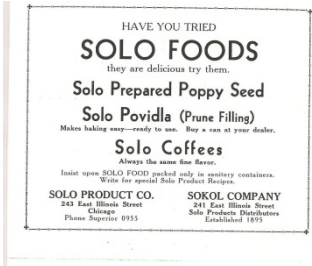
Solo Cake and Pastry Fillings take off in poppy and prune flavors. Sokol begins to travel extensively to establish direct sources for importation of seeds and spices.



1935-1942

Sokol and Company establishes a vegetable dehydration department and begins to serve as an agency for sending war relief packages to Europe; Florida Dehydration Company is founded.

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John F. Novak, President of Sokol and Company

1943

John A. Sokol passes at age 68, and is succeeded as president by John F. Novak, his son-in-law.



Solo Brand retail items expand

1945

Solo Brand retail items expand into 6 flavors of Solo Cake and Pastry Fillings, as Sokol and Company establishes a solid network of brokers nationwide.



Teresa Sokol Novak, President of Sokol and Company

1955

John F. Novak passes at age 61, and is succeeded as president by his wife, Teresa Sokol Novak, only child of John A. Sokol.



Re-emphasis on international spice activities and dehydrated foods

1957

Solo Brand expansion continues with grandson of John A. Sokol, John Sokol Novak (Jack). Jack works to re-establish the dehydrated vegetables and spice business.

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Sokol and Company builds new 35,000 sq. ft. facility in Countryside, IL.

1969

Sokol and Company moves from Chicago to new 35,000 sq. ft. facility in Countryside, IL. All aspects of the business are housed in the new building. In addition to Solo Raisin Sauce, Solo Dry Poppy Seed and Solo Anchovy Paste, Solo Brand Cake and Pastry Fillings continue to thrive in all 12 flavors,



Jack Novak, President of Sokol and Company. Baker & Bohemian Kitchen Brands acquired.

1975-1985

As Jack Novak assumes position of President of Sokol and Company, Baker Brand and Bohemian Kitchen Brand product lines are acquired by Sokol and Company. Solo Almond Paste and Marzipan are added to customer favorites.



Sokol continues expansion by adding Simon Fisher Brand

1988



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John S. Novak Jr, President of Sokol and Company. New building addition, spices & dehydrated foods phased out.



Emphasis on custom manufacturing, anchovy products; Solo Frozen Kolacky introduced; R&D/Q&A expanded.

1989-1995

John S. Novak Jr, great-grandson of founder is elected President of Sokol and Company. Sokol facility welcomes a 15,000 sq. ft. addition. Sokol's activities in spices & dehydrated foods are phased out for major emphasis on retail brand lines. Anchovy paste and products move into the production spotlight. Sokol is 100!



1996

Focus is brought to contract, custom and food service manufacturing, increasing Sokol's capabilities and growth. R&D and Q&A programs are strengthened and highlighted as the backbone for future success as Sokol enters its second century as a family owned business.



Solo Marshmallow
Creme; Solo
Fruit Glazes
and Solo
Crunch
Topping
launched

Chuns Brand
added to
Sokol line-up;
facility
undergoes
another
addition

1998

2004 - 2006

Solo Marshmallow Creme becomes available nationwide. Solo Glazes are offered in Blueberry, Peach and Strawberry, as well as sugar free variations. Solo Crunch Topping is introduced for a nutty, crunchy finish to your favorite ice cream.



Chuns Brand of Asian dipping sauces and marinades are added to the Sokol line of diverse products. The facility expands from 40,000 sq. ft. to more than 100,000 sq. ft. to maintain all manufacturing from its Countryside, IL headquarters. The expanded facility opens new doors for Sokol with packaging capabilities.

Sokol and Company

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Sokol named to INC 5000 List



Solo S'mores Stuff



Solo Toasted Marshmallow Creme



Industry leader in processing and packaging custom food products & own retail brands



2007- 2009

Sokol and Company experiences a 63.2% growth and is recognized by INC 5000 as one of the fastest growing private companies.



Category leaders in the baking, dairy, confectionary and savory product industries rely on Sokol and Company to manufacture their key ingredients because of our commitment to quality and total customization. Sokol and Company continues to grow and acquire new capabilities in processing and packaging. Sokol maintains retail sales under its own brands, making up about one-third of the company's business, and the remaining two-thirds from supplying product to other firms through private labeling and custom ingredients. Food and Drink Magazine honors Sokol and Company with a feature story.



Sokol acquires
Borden® EggNog



Sokol launches
Solo® Whoopie Do!
Line of whoopie pie
baking mixes



Sokol launches
Borden® EggNog Single Serve



Sokol and Company
named to INC. 5000
for 2nd time

2010

2011

Sokol joins Share Our
Strength's No Kid Hungry™
Campaign as corporate
sponsor of Great American
Bake Sale

