Growth Shown In The Lafayette Hardware Store

Another long-established family institution which has grown with the city is the Lafayette Hardware store, 125 W. Vermilion street.

Established in 1915 by Leonard L. Dugas, the firm started with three employes. At that time, the establishment occupied only the first floor of their present building. The upper floor was occupied by the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph company.

The firm now occupies both floors and a large warehouse in the back and employs a total of 12 persons.

Original payrolls were about $2,300 dollars a year, as “ contrasted with $23,000 now. The original employees are all deceased, but the store is now owned by Dugas’ nephew by marriage, J. V. Angelle, remaining in the same family throughout its existence.

The grape juice industry was founded by Dr. Thomas Branwell Welch in 1900.