Thank you!

100th ANNIVERSARY of the "Bell Clothes" brand in the Shenandoah Valley

Bell Clothes and the Shendow Family extend our sincere gratitude to our client friends — and to their forefathers — for their many years of patronage. The 100th Anniversary of the Bell Clothes brand in the Shenandoah Valley is today — thanks to you, the dedication of our wonderful professional staff through the years, and the creativity and collaboration of our valued manufacturers. Thank you all for being an enduring part of our story. Without ***ALL OF YOU***, the 100th Anniversary of the Bell Clothes brand in the Shenandoah Valley would simply not be possible. A brand founded by two tailors in Washington, D.C., in 1917.

Samuel Gilbert Shendow, who left Greensburg, Pennsylvania after graduating from high school, made his way to Washington, D.C., by 1919 — following stops in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Richmond. Soon after his arrival in the Capital, he was hired by The Bell Clothes Shop and its ever-expanding franchise, which at the time boasted two stores in Washington, D.C.; two in New York City; and one each in Baltimore, Norfolk, Chattanooga, and Pittsburgh.

By 1925, Samuel Gilbert Shendow set out on his own, chartering a new business with the encouragement and support of the original founders. The Bell Clothes brand made its Shenandoah Valley debut on October 31, 1925, in Front Royal, Virginia. On the eve of the grand opening, Samuel celebrated in style — hosting an orchestra in front of the new store. For several years, the Front Royal location commanded his full attention until the Great Depression struck. Forced to adapt, he shifted focus northward to the larger city of Winchester in 1931.

The hard times and humble beginnings were met — and ultimately overcome — by his grit, vision, and tenacity. Now, one hundred years later, we joyfully celebrate this monumental day — the day Bell Clothes first entered the Shenandoah Valley.

One day at a time. One client at a time. One hundred years later, we simply can't say thank you enough.

1925

Front Royal Store Opens

1930

Strasburg Store Opens (Closes 2 months later)

1931

Winchester Store Opens

1932

Front Royal Store Closes (Reopens 1937, Sold in 1951)

1933

Repurchased Winchester Store from Assignees

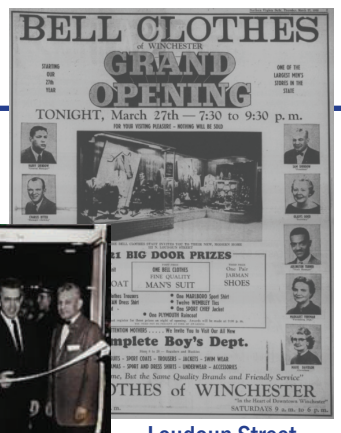
1934

Martinsburg, WV Store Opens (Closes after 9 months)

1945

Sponsor Frederick Douglass Football

1958

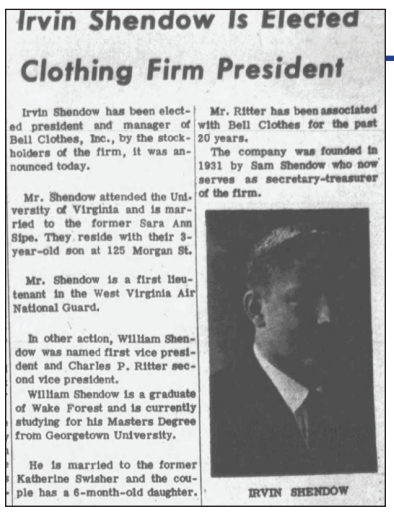


Loudoun Street Store Opens

1960

Sarah Shendow Opens Ladies' Sportswear Corner

1964



Irvin Shendow Is Elected Clothing Firm President

Irvin Shendow has been elected president and manager of Bell Clothes, Inc., by the stockholders of the firm, it was announced today.

Mr. Shendow attended the University of Virginia and is married to the former Sara Ann Sipe. They reside with their 3-year-old son at 125 Morgan St.

Mr. Shendow is a first lieutenant in the West Virginia Air National Guard.

In other action, William Shendow was named first vice president and Charles P. Ritter second vice president.

William Shendow is a graduate of Wake Forest and is currently studying for his Masters Degree from Georgetown University.

He is married to the former Katherine Swisher and the couple has a 6-month-old daughter.

Mr. Ritter has been associated with Bell Clothes for the past 20 years.

The company was founded in 1931 by Sam Shendow who now serves as secretary-treasurer of the firm.

IRVIN SHENDOW

Irvin Shendow Elected President of Bell Clothes

1969

Boys Varsity Shop Opens

Bells' Ladies Expands Next Door

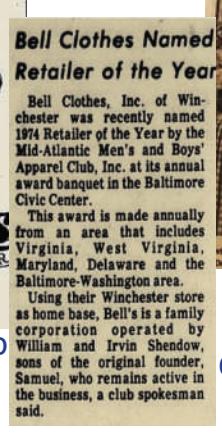
Staunton, VA Store Opens

1972

Frederick, MD Store Opens

Hagerstown, MD Store Opens

1974



Bell Clothes Named Retailer of the Year

Bell Clothes, Inc. of Winchester was recently named 1974 Retailer of the Year by the Mid-Atlantic Men's and Boys' Apparel Club, Inc. at its annual award banquet in the Baltimore Civic Center.

This award is made annually from an area that includes Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the Baltimore-Washington area.

Using their Winchester store as home base, Bell's is a family corporation operated by William and Irvin Shendow, sons of the original founder, Samuel, who remains active in the business, a club spokesman said.

Mid-Atlantic Retailer of the Year

Loudoun Street Mall Opens Irvin Shendow Committee Chairman

1975

Sam's Jean Shop Opens

1980

Harrisonburg, VA Store Opens

1984

Scott Shendow Joins as Store Manager

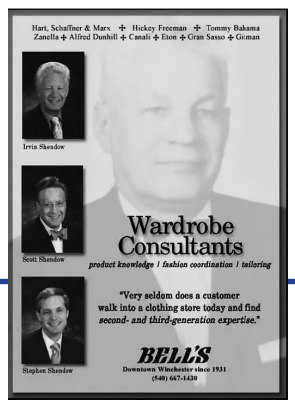
1986

Stephen Shendow Joins as Harrisonburg Store Manager

1997

First Annual Bell's Christmas Card

2005



Celebrating Three Generations

2016

Ribbon Cutting for Store Remodel

2022

And The Beat Goes On ....

BELL'S

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