

# made in the yadkin valley



Top: A production line fills bottles of Texas Pete inside the Winston-Salem plant. Middle: It would be hard to lose this truck in the grocery store parking lot. Lower: A postcard from 1954 sent to announce the renovations of Garner's Indiana Avenue offices and plant.

Texas Pete is as common a condiment on the southern eating table as salt and pepper. Its roots to the Garner family and the Yadkin Valley go back to a small town named Crutchfield. There were seven Sam Garner children in all. Son Thad bought a barbecue stand at the age of 16. A recipe for barbecue sauce came in the deal. So began the food producing business that at times took over the family kitchen with father Sam, "Mother Jane" and brothers Ralph and Harold. Today Sam's grandchildren Ann, Harold (Hal), Frank, Ralph (Reg) and great-grandson, Glenn, keep the sauces and jellies coming.

In the 1920s when customers wanted a spicier sauce, the Garners added a hot sauce to their growing product line. To keep the new sauce's name American, they combined Harold's nickname "Pete" with a state renowned for hot, spicy foods: Texas.

When they were asked to supply jams, jellies and preserves for the troops and their families at Fort Bragg during World War II, the Garners added those delicious treats to their product line.

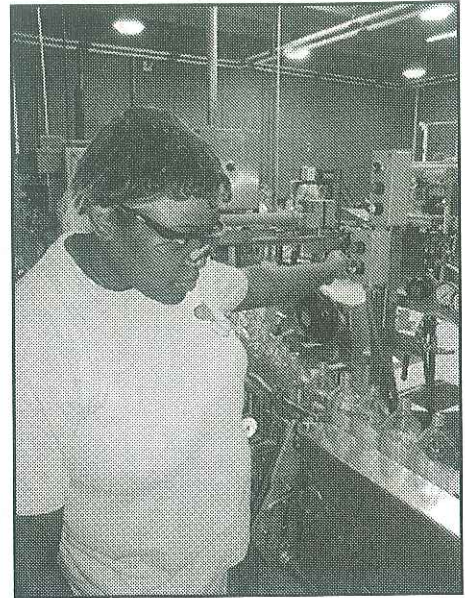
First producer of a canned chili sauce in the 1950s, the TW Garner Food Company has continued to latch onto new trends. Currently one of their hottest selling products (excuse the pun) is buffalo wing sauce.

This legendary company has grown from Mother Jane managing a boarding house during the tobacco sales season and her wooden kitchen stove where she made barbecue sauce for Thad to sell from restaurant door to restaurant door, to a manufacturing facility of 65 employees complete with offices, laboratory area, test kitchen, shipping and receiving docks and over-the-road trucks.

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In a photo taken in 1949, all four Garners are sporting beards for a Winston-Salem city celebration. Left to right: Harold H. Garner, Sr. (brother), Samuel W. Garner (father), Thad W. Garner (brother) and Ralph C. Garner (brother). Right: Mary Holmes keeps a close eye on the spotlessly clean production line as bottles speed by on their way to be filled with Texas Pete Hot Sauce.



"Our decisions are all of one accord," says Ralph E. (Reg) Garner, a third generation of the Garner family and president of the TW Garner Food Company. Harold (Hal) testifies to sessions of spirited debate on business concerns but the family always agrees on what is best for the company. Everyone comes to Christmas dinner together.

One of the area's pioneers in television advertising with cowboy Fred Kirby and home economist Betty Feezor, the Garner relatives are ready to fight in the arena of future business. Sitting around the Garners' conference table, all the family members admit a passion for their work but it was another unanimous vote that no one was planning to work into their 80s as their uncles Thad and Ralph had done.

After 72 years, TW Garner Food Company still holds dear to the principles of honest values and a dedication to producing the very best—a tradition of which the citizens of Yadkin Valley can be proud.

The company offers a wide variety of gift boxes featuring Garner products. Call (800) 476-PETE to order or visit [www.texaspete.com](http://www.texaspete.com) for a look. The website also hosts an assortment of recipes using your favorite Garner products.

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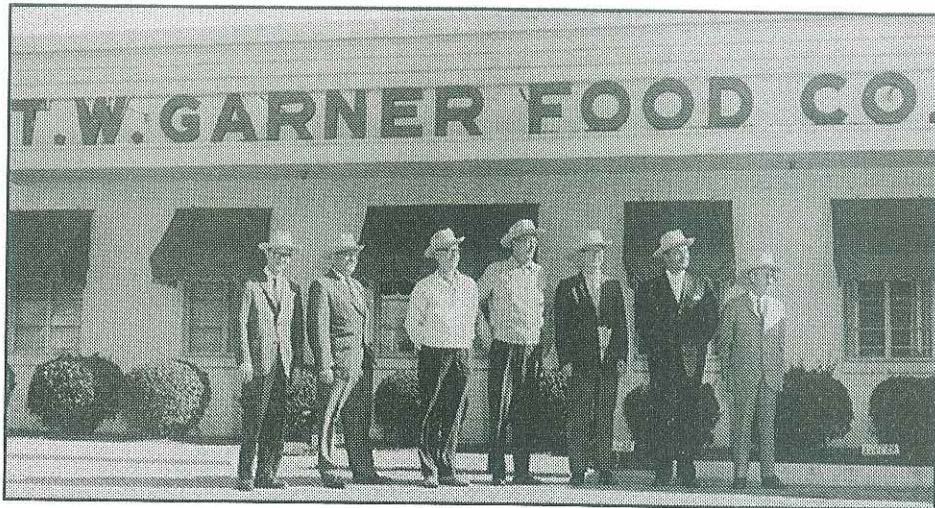
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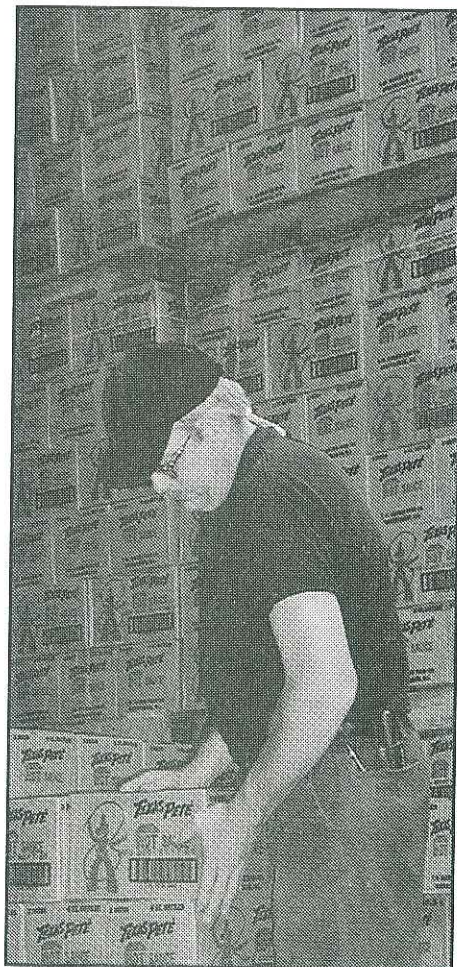


Above: Autumn 1965. The middle three gentlemen are Harold, Thad and Ralph Garner.



Left: Angie Southern stands in front of a wall full of T.W. Garner memorabilia at the Applebee's Restaurant on University Parkway in Winston-Salem, a delicious way to learn more about Garners.

Below: In the warehouse Terry Cline is surrounded by hundreds of cases destined for a grocery store or restaurant near you.



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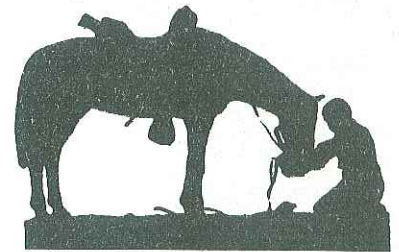
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