

# Leslie Wilkin

Dr. Leslie E. Wilkin was an optometrist in Greenfield who began selling glasses by mail order. He changed his product to hosiery, a product much easier to ship. The Wilknit Company was started in the 1920s.

Dr. Wilkin sold sales kits to salesmen who ordered the product through him. The company grew through the 1930s. Materials were difficult to come by during the war years, but the company survived to continue to grow after the war.

By the 1950s the company employed over 200 with 7,000 sales agents and did over one million dollars in business. It had its own dying factory in Greenfield with its shipping facilities in the nearby town of Leesburg.

The company sold a full line of men's women's and children's hosiery, buying the product, dying it in the company factory and shipping all over the country. The Wilknit Company is credited with both Greenfield and Leesburg post offices becoming first class category post offices. The postage bill in 1939 was \$162,000. 22 million letters were handled in 1958.

Included in the company's customers were many Hollywood stars. Eleanor Roosevelt was a reported customer.

After the war the company held an annual trip to Coney Island, an amusement park near Cincinnati. The company chartered busses to drive the employees. A trip for disadvantaged youth was also held.

The company closed its doors in 1963.