

SANDVIK ALL AROUND YOU

Saws

Saws became an integral part of Sandvik when Göran Fredrik Göransson's workers used them to clear the "gravel-strewn, forest-covered" tract of land where the company was founded. Saw makers throughout Russia and Europe turned to Sandvik for top-quality steel, and other customers bought Sandvik's own finely crafted saws. Little wonder, then, that Sandvik's first display in the US featured a circular saw blade. Its literature for the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia proudly noted that Sandvik manufactured saws "from ore to finished product."

When agent Henry Belcher landed Philadelphia-based Henry

Disston & Sons as a customer in 1887, he sparked a productive and long-standing relationship. Disston was regarded as America's premier hand saw maker. (Sandvik would acquire and divest Disston almost a century later.) Other major US saw makers, such as Brooklyn's Joshua Oldham & Sons, also relied on Sandvik as its chief steel provider. These saw makers could barely keep up with the demand during the late 1800s, when forests gave way to farms and towns, and almost every man knew how to do woodworking.

For much of its history, Sandvik didn't just supply saws to industry but made and sold them directly at

retail. The company was famed as a master maker of virtually every kind of saw: bow saws, crosscut saws, gang saws, miter saws, rip saws, tenon saws, timber saws, and two-man crosscut saws. When electricity ushered in the age of mechanically powered saws, Sandvik made blades for power saws and experienced even more saw-related business than before.

The sale of the Saws and Tools division in 1999 marked the end of a long era, but many builders, woodworkers, and hobbyists still do their work with Sandvik saws. ■



An antique saw and a sampling of 1990s products