

Hop's Place, Inc. Serving Families and Servicing Cars Since 1922

Hop's Place, founded in 1922, has remained a family owned and operated full service automotive parts and paint supply store, an automotive glass repair and replacement facility, and an auto machine shop and auto repair shop all rolled into one corporation. Hop's Place has maintained its reputation for quality of merchandise and excellence of personal service for 95 years due to the company's experienced and dedicated associates. **The strength of Hop's Place has always been its employees.**



The History of Hop's Place

In 1922, G. Chandler Hopkins, a former Fleischmann's Yeast route salesman, and George S. Tyree, his brother-in-law, began Hop's Place on Queen Street in a corner of the Brittingham Furniture Company building, which was diagonally across from St. John's Church in downtown Hampton, Virginia. Hop's Place, during the early years, sold automotive parts, tires, and accessories.

In 1925, a devastating fire destroyed the four-story Brittingham Furniture Company building. Fortunately, Mr. Chandler Hopkins and Mr. George Tyree had recently moved their business. The Newport News Times-Herald reported January 12, 1925, that Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Tyree "recently completed a large and imposing filling station and supply store on 17 and 19 Armistead Avenue where they started business this morning".

Hop's Place, a Gulf gasoline distributor for a short time, was primarily an Amoco (American Oil Company) gasoline distributor and was supplied by the Hornsby Oil Company. In addition to automotive parts, tires, accessories and gasoline, Hop's Place began to offer other products and services such as tire retreading, Exide automobile batteries, complete lubrication, automobile washing and simonizing, vulcanizing and general auto repair. Hop's Place began selling the Ditzler brand of automotive paint after World War II. The Ditzler name eventually changed to PPG and now Hop's Place is a Platinum Distributor for PPG Paint. Factory colors can be matched back to the 1920's.

Hop's Place Inc. Co-Founders



G. Chandler Hopkins



George Tyree



Hop's Place had an additional location, for a short time, on Bridge Street in the general vicinity of the Virginia Air and Space Center. The purpose for the additional site was to attract the business that was missed by the location on Armistead Avenue. However, the primary location from 1925 until May of 1969 was on Armistead Avenue. The original building, started before the fire, became the service station in the central courtyard of a U-shaped building, which enlarged the property and changed the address from 17-19 Armistead, in 1925, to 17-23 Armistead in 1969.



Hop's Place also acquired Johnson's Hardware, which was across the street from the Armistead Avenue location and this building served as the repair, machine and glass shop for many years, until Hop's Place moved in 1969.

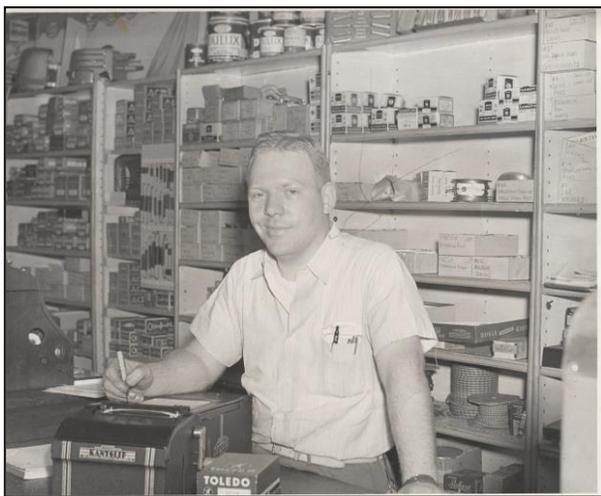
After Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Tyree passed in the 1940's, their sons, Charles S. Hopkins and George S. Tyree, were brought into the business. The business has provided employment for many family members over the years.

The Hopkins family bought Mr. George S. Tyree's half of the business in 1962. Hop's Place then came under the ownership of the children of Chandler Hopkins and the business remains in the Hopkins family today.

In 1969, due to the redevelopment of downtown Hampton, Hop's Place moved to 320 W. Pembroke Avenue, its current location, which was a former Rambler dealership. Hop's Place added on to the original building and built a 7 bay garage onto the garage in front of the original 7 bays.



Hop's Place continues to serve the 757 area providing wholesale automobile parts, automobile service, automobile glass repair and windshield replacement, machine shop services and PPG automobile paint and paint supplies.



Charles S. Hopkins, who passed away in 2006, often remarked during his more than 60 years at Hop's Place, that if Hop's Place has had any success at all, it is because of its employees and its loyal customers.



Ken and Esther (Hopkins) Barnes and Charles S. Hopkins Jr., 3rd generation owners of Hop's Place, Inc., agree that personal service to the community and to customers has been the hallmark of Hop's Place since its formation in 1922.