

Article from 1972
when owned by
George Derner

Sparta Factory Unique in Area

By SHEILA BENTON
Herald Staff Writer

Are you tired of buying the same old gift items at the same old department stores? Then why not browse through a little out of the way place that handles everything from hot pants to throw rugs.

Osmo Tanning, the Ranred Corp., located on Water Street Extension in Spartansburg, sells sheepskin coats, leather hot pants, mittens, hats, vests, boots car wash mitts and "anything else that can be made from hides," according to George Derner, owner.

"We will custom make anything if someone brings in a pattern, regardless of what it is or what size," Derner added.

The little building which is located just past the school is crammed full of hides, including goat, pig, deer, sheep and even beef hides.

Osmo tanning is a trade name for a particular type of tanning which has been around for more than 40 years. Ranred is the owner's name spelled backwards. Derner has been in the business for about eight years now.

The business got it's start in about 1931 when Oscar Most and his wife of Spartansburg designed various sheepskin and woolen items.

Now the plant receives orders from all over the United States, including Alaska. Orders will be sent anywhere in the country, Derner emphasized.

Plush throw rugs are priced from \$7 to \$15, depending on the size, sheepskin coats sell for \$45, with maxi's or mini's available, scuffs cost only \$1.50 and leather pants are \$30.

Custom deer hide or sheep hide tanning, with or without hair, can be done at the plant.

Derner said that the hides are purchased from slaughter houses in Pittsburgh, Buffalo,

and Akron and Cleveland.

The number of employes ranges from three to 13, depending on the time of the year, and right now "we are pushing," he noted. The clothes are stitched on custom sewing machines which cost about \$1,600 each.

Colored sheepskin, from which the hats and slippers are crafted, gives a wide variety in color selection.

Natural white leather and skin color is achieved through a tanning process called straight crome.

Red leather and golden fur shades are made possible by using quebracho in the tanning process. Quebracho is the bark from a South American tree.

Other color effects on vests and purses can be created by use of paints and even leopard imprints can be fashioned.

This unique plant is open six days a week: from noon to 3 p.m. Monday, 9 a.m. till noon Tuesday through Friday and 9 to 4 p.m. Saturday.

**OSMO
TANNING**
Ranred Corporation
SPARTANSBURG, PA

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