It all began more that 100 years ago in a small Swiss Alpine Village. Henri Nestlé collaborated with a neighbor, Daniel Peter, in the development of the world’s first milk chocolate. In 1900, the first American Nestlé manufacturing facility was opened in Fulton, New York near Syracuse. The plant was established to manufacture Nestlé’s Sweetened Condensed Milk, but in 1907, management switched to the production of Nestlé Milk Chocolate.

Nestlé’s Burlington, Wisconsin plant, set on six acres of attractively landscaped grounds, is one-of-four Nestle Chocolate manufacturing facilities in the United States. California Architects, John A. Blume & Associates, designed the Burlington plant for ease of expansion. Nelson, a general contractor from Racine, Wisconsin, constructed it in 16 months. The grand opening ceremonies were held in August of 1966.

In 1969, a cocoa bean warehouse was added to hold approximately ten varieties of beans. Over the years, the plant has expanded to meet increased production needs.

Prior to choosing the Burlington site, Nestlé spent two years studying chocolate consumption, distribution, and marketing trends to determine how much additional capacity would be needed and where the new facility should be located. The town of Burlington offered abundant resources. Being 65 miles from Chicago, it is centrally located, offers excellent transportation of goods by both rail and truck, and serves as a vital source for the plant’s critical fresh milk supply.

Indeed, Burlington and Nestlé enjoyed a special relationship prior to the plants arrival. For 40 years, until 1959, Nestlé operated a canning factory in the area and produced condensed milk for the community.

Nestlé’s Burlington facility employs approximately 500 employees and produces a variety of chocolate products including such popular brand names as Nestlé Chocolate Quik®, Toll House® Semi-Sweet Morsels®, Fun-Size Nestlé Crunch®, 100 Grand®, Oh Henry®, Raisinets®, Goobers®, Nestlé Buncha Crunch® and a variety of Bulk Chocolates and Ice Cream Bar Coatings. The plant is one of the most progressive Nestlé manufacturing facilities in the U.S. and reflects the pride and quality consciousness of its employees.

In addition to producing quality, great tasting chocolate, Nestlé Burlington works with the city each year to plan the Chocolate City Festival. Thousands of people take part in the festivities from throughout Wisconsin and the surrounding states. Together, we all share in one of America’s favorite taste bud tantalizers -- CHOCOLATE!

For well over a century, Nestlé has been making the very best food and beverage products for families around the world. In the U.S., Nestlé’s well known brands include: Nestlé®, Carnation®, Stouffer’s®, Hills Bros., Libby’s®, Buiton®, Contadina®, Nestea®, Taster’s Choice®, Ortega®, and Nestlé® Toll House®.

Nestlé is one of the largest chocolate manufacturers in the U.S. with such brands as Nestlé® Crunch®, Nestlé® Baby Ruth®, 100 Grand®, Oh Henry®, Goobers®, Raisinets®, and more! Nestlé U.S.A., headquartered in Glendale, Calif., employs 19,500 employees around the country. The company boasts more than $7.8 billion in sales and is part of Swiss-based Nestlé S.A. -- the world’s largest food company.