



The history of the Möwe pasta factory

*Can pasta really make you happy?
Yes! Nutrition scientists have discovered that
complex carbohydrates have a positive impact
on our mood. Meaning pasta can
literally make you happier.*

In 1952, the potato flake factory that had been established way back in 1913 was converted into the pasta factory „MeTeWa“ (Mecklenburger Teigwarenwerk Waren), a Publicly Owned Enterprise (POE).

Back in 1940, several years before the MeTeWa came into existence, the factory had completely burned to the ground. Gertrud Westphal, who had been born in Waren in 1914, was accused of „negligent arson“.

She had been secretly smoking in the factory drying loft on a night shift and was arrested the same night, 10 January 1940, and taken to the Berlin-Plötensee prison as an „enemy of the people“. She was beheaded there just a day later.

As a memorial to the victims of national socialism, a „Stolperstein“ was laid for Gertrud Westphal at Große Mauerstraße 1, Waren (Müritz). The Stolpersteine in the Town of Waren (Müritz) are intended to act as reminders of the tragic fates of all groups.

Unfortunately, the factory was unable to stay afloat during the difficult post-war period and the building was quickly turned into accommodation for refugees. Between 1945 and 1952, up to 1,000 refugees were housed here temporarily. The production of pasta products only restarted in 1952 when MeTeWa was established.

The factory has been run as an owner-led company since 2011, employing 45 people and producing 10-12 thousand tonnes every year. The pasta factory was given its current name of „Möwe“ (lit. seagull) in 1956 and is the northernmost factory of its kind in Germany. In 2012, it celebrated its 60th birthday. Pasta products of all qualities and in around 70 different shapes, certified according to IFS (the International Food Standard is an important and highly regarded accolade), Bio-Standard, and Energieaudit, highlight the company's sustainable and regional standards.

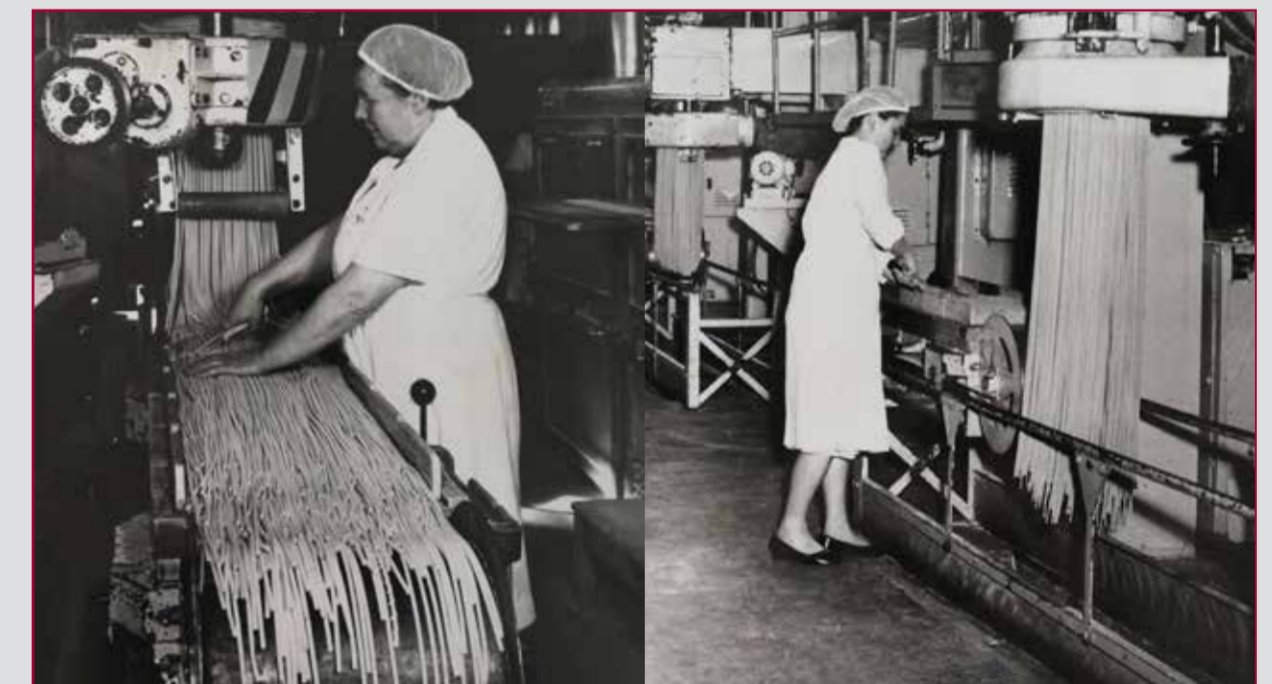
Today, „Möwe“ produces pasta, organic products and baby foods which are delivered to every corner of Germany. Specially tailored product ranges are also still delivered to Scandinavian countries, like Finland and Sweden, the Baltic region, Indonesia, and even African and Middle Eastern countries.



1 in 4 packets of pasta in former East Germany was „Möwe“ brand



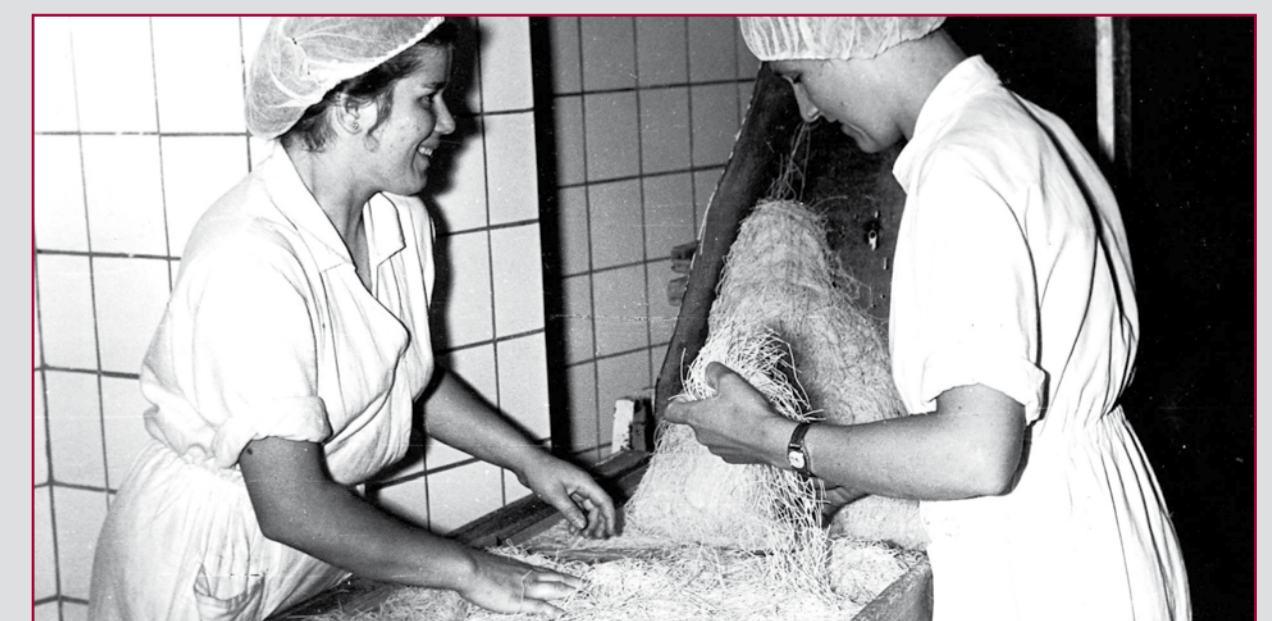
Potato flake factory around 1935 before the fire



Spaghetti production before 1968



Despite the on-going war, the factory managed to rebuild within a year of the fire, complete with the most modern technology



Workers producing pasting during the East German period