

CHARLES NASH,
AUTO INDUSTRY
PIONEER, DIES

Beverly Hills, Cal. (UP)—Messages of sympathy came from across the nation today to the family of Charles W. Nash, 84, who rose in the American tradition from farm boy to a leader of industry.

Nash was one of the pioneers in the automotive industry. He died yesterday of a heart ailment, less than 10 months after the death of his wife, Mrs. Jessie Hallock Nash. Mrs. Nash died August 19, 1947, at the age of 62.

Nash's condition at that time took a turn for the worse and doctors feared the shock would prove fatal.

Funeral arrangements still were incomplete today.

Nash left two daughters, Mrs. Elsie Brenton, Beverly Hills, and Mrs. C. Haxdall Bliss, Detroit, Mich. A third daughter, Mrs. James T. Wilson, died in 1944 at Kenosha, Wis.

Born In Illinois

He was born in the Kalb County, Ill., January 28, 1864, where he was a farmer until 1891. Then he went to work in Flint, Mich., as a trimmer in the Flint Road Cart Company.

After advancing to superintendent of the Road Cart Company, Nash became vice-president and general superintendent of the Durant-Dort-Carrage Company.

While making carriages, the automobile pioneer invented the straight line belt conveyor system, still standard in assembly line operations.

Nash entered the automobile business with William C. Durant and David D. Buick. In 1910 he was appointed president of the Buick Motor Company and in four years advanced its yearly profits from \$800,000 to \$12,000,000.

Hired Chrysler

While Buick president, Nash hired Walter P. Chrysler, later head of the Chrysler Corporation, as Buick works manager.

Within two years after entering the automobile industry, Nash headed Buick, the Oakland Motor Company, Olds Motor Works and the General Motors Truck Company. In 1917 he was elected head of General Motors.

Nash bought the Thomas B. Jeffrey Company, of Kenosha, Wis., in 1916 and a year later produced the first Nash automobile.

In 1930 Nash retired as president of his company but continued in active management as chairman of the board. He merged with the Kelvinator Corporation and retained George W. Mason, Kelvinator president, as head of the new company.

After the merger, Nash left the details of the business to Mason and spent much of his time in Beverly Hills.

Nash obit



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