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Henry A. Page Founder Of Midwest Dairy Firm

Family Identified Long Time With Industry; Plants Operated In 8 Cities And 3 States

Henry A. Page, founder and president of the Page Dairy Co., who died this morning, was a member of a family identified since Civil War days with the dairy industry.

His firm is one of the largest independent midwestern producers of ice cream and dairy products, operating plants in Toledo, Mansfield, Bellefontaine, Whitehouse, Findlay and Bluffton, O.; Weston, Mich., and Angola, Ind.

The first plant was opened for business on Wade St. Jan. 1, 1914, and operations were confined to the manufacture of butter. In five years, this plant was doubled in size and again doubled in 1923. Original capitalization, when Mr. Page left the Ohio Dairy Co. and founded his own firm, was \$100,000.

Born In Illinois Town

Expansion of the firm outside Toledo started in 1917, when a plant was opened in Whitehouse, then continued with plants in Bluffton, 1919; Mansfield, 1921; Weston, 1922; Findlay, 1929; Bellefontaine, 1942, and Angola, 1944.

Mr. Page was born in Dixon, Ill., where he was graduated from high school after having spent several years in school in Switzerland, where his father was representative for Swiss dairy firms. Before entering the dairy business himself, Mr. Page attended a commercial school in Chicago.

Page Stadium at DeVilbiss High School was named for Mr. Page because of the contributions he made to high school bands and athletics. He outfitted each high school band with uniforms and, for about 10 years, gave an annual dinner at which high school football players were able to hear leading authorities discuss the sport.

Honored By Concert

In 1929, a concert by the Waite, Scott, Libbey and Woodward high school bands was given to honor Mr. Page. At that time, he said that he enjoyed giving the uniforms because he was sure they were appreciated by the pupils.

Merritt Nauts, principal at DeVilbiss High School, recalled that in 1931 when the school opened, he was contacted and told that Mr. Page wished to have the band members measured for uniforms.



HENRY A. PAGE
Founded dairy in 1914

Mr. Page expanded this type of contribution to the University of Toledo, where he purchased uniforms and supported the band when it started. For several years, Mr. Page also invited the University of Toledo football team to a dinner.

Charitable Gifts

For 10 years, Mr. Page furnished milk and ice cream for the annual nutrition camp sponsored by the Toledo Public Health Association, first at Presque Isle, then in Trilby. Through the Toledo Exchange Club, Mr. Page gave ice cream Santa Clauses for about 20 years for the annual Christmas party of the club.

He also provided milk for 29 years for the nutrition program in the public schools of the Toledo Exchange Club and the Toledo District Nurses' Association. In addition, he provided

many charitable organizations with dairy products.

As he often told his associates and sons, Mr. Page was a joiner. In Toledo he served as chairman of the Food Industries Council of Lucas County during World War II and as chairman of a membership campaign for the Toledo Convention Bureau. He was general vice chairman to raise \$200,000 for completion of interior decoration of Rosary Cathedral, at which time Mr. Page, a non-Catholic, said all citizens should welcome an opportunity to share in a civic movement.

Organizations Are Listed

Organizations to which he belonged included Zenobia Shrine, of which he was past potentate; Toledo Commandery, Knights Templar; Toledo Chapter, RAM; the Elks; Moose; Jesters; Chamber of Commerce; Toledo Exchange Club, of which he was the only president to serve two terms; Toledo Club, and Sylvania and Inverness Country Clubs.

Mr. Page gave his son, Henry, Jr., most of the credit for the outstanding stamp collection they had. When his son was 8 years old, the father suggested stamp collecting as an interesting and profitable hobby. They gathered more than 25,000 stamps, including air mail stamps, from all over the world.

The elder Mr. Page was an honorary member of the Toledo Philatelic Society and a member of the American Philatelic Society.

He was really born in Chippingham, England