

[Lovejoy, Frank W.]

Frank W. Lovejoy, Head of Kodak, Succumbs at 73

Frank W. Lovejoy, chairman of the board of the Eastman Kodak Company, died of a heart ailment yesterday at Strong Memorial Hospital. He was 73.

A career man with Kodak, Mr. Lovejoy first became associated with the company in 1898 at a time when Kodak Park, only six years old, comprised 14 small buildings huddled in farm-surrounded 10 acres.

Under the watchful eye of the late George Eastman, his rise kept pace with the growth of the company. At the time of his death, Kodak Park, largest of the Eastman plants, included 100 large buildings on 400 acres.

A vigorous and active man through most of his life, with numerous diverse interests, Mr. Lovejoy was forced to limit his activities after he suffered a heart attack in July, 1944. He had not been in good health since and was taken to the hospital a week ago.

Funeral Wednesday

Funeral services will be held in the First Universalist Church at 2 o'clock Wednesday. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery. The body will lie in state at the church from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday.

The Rev. William Wallace Rose, formerly minister of the First Unitarian [should read Universalist] Church here, now of Lynn, Mass., will come to Rochester to speak at the funeral service.

Born in Concord, N.H. Dec. 11, 1871, son of George L. and Caroline Neal Lovejoy, the future Kodak head received grammar and high school education in Concord and was graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1894.

His first job after graduation was with the Cinclore Central factory, a sugar-refining concern, in Baton Rouge, La. Six months later, receiving a better offer, the young chemical engineer joined Curtis, Davis & Co., Cambridgeport, Mass., soap manufacturers and nucleus of the present large plant of Lever Bros.

Second Opportunity

At Cambridgeport, he received and turned down his first offer from Kodak. The young photographic business had introduced flexible film to the world a few years earlier and Darragh De Lancey, a fellow Tech graduate and manager of the new Kodak Park Works in Rochester, needed a superintendent of his celluloid department. Young Lovejoy enjoyed his work with the soap company and knew nothing of film or photography.

Opportunity knocked a second time when De Lancey, in Boston on a holiday weekend, signed up young Lovejoy after a day's persuasion. The new executive was to receive \$18 a week, which was \$3 more than he received at the soap plant.

Space in all the Kodak Park buildings was at a premium, and Lovejoy shared a desk with the plant chemist. Even this arrangement was relatively luxurious, for most of the men worked either at common kitchen tables or small wooden boxes with hinged tops.

The new department superintendent found himself catapulted into a series of new tasks and responsibilities. Not only did he have to familiarize himself with the operations under his charge, but he also needed to learn the elements of picture-

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taking. For his spare time, which was not extensive, he was assigned to conduct a series of experiments for the manager, as he was the only technical school graduate at the plant.

Mr. Lovejoy had not been working long at Kodak when George Eastman wrote his early partner, Col. Henry Alvah Strong, "Mr. Lovejoy is taking hold fully as well as I expected. He may turn out to be a very valuable manager."

Made Plant Manager

This opinion was given practical effect with his promotion to assistant manager of Kodak Park Works, just two years after he came to Rochester. A year later he was plant manager. That was only the beginning. In 1906, "graduating" from Kodak Park, he became general manager of manufacturing departments for the whole company as well as one of its directors.

His subsequent stages of elevation in the management of the business were election to a vice-presidency in 1919; appointment as general manager in 1925; election as president in 1934, continuing as general manager, and election as chairman of the board of directors in 1941.

The year 1900 was one of far-reaching significance in the photographic industry. That year, under Mr. Lovejoy's direction, Kodak began the manufacture of film base in continuous strips several feet wide on huge, slowly-revolving wheels. Previously film had been made in comparatively short pieces on glass-topped tables.

The transition to manufacture in continuous strips meant greater uniformity, new quality standards, new economics through quality production, and provision for enough film to meet the tremendous demands of the modern age, including those of the motion picture industry.

Cuts Unemployment

Mr. Lovejoy's ability also produced administrative achievements of permanent value. One of his first was the reduction of seasonal instability of unemployment. Because of the plan he worked out, the evil of seasonal unemployment was virtually eliminated in spite of the highly seasonal nature of sales of some of the most important Eastman products.

When Mr. Lovejoy in 1941 relinquished the heavy duties of general manager, he was able to select company activities with which he desired to concern himself. Foremost among these interests was the welfare of the company employees and their relations with the company.

Besides his Kodak connections, Mr. Lovejoy was a life member of the corporation of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Through his good offices, a meeting took place between Mr. Eastman and the MIT president which paved the way to the founder's gift of more than \$20,000,000 to the Massachusetts institution.

Mr. Lovejoy was also a trustee of the University of Rochester, a former director and former vice-president of the National Association of Manufacturers, member of the executive committee of the National Industrial Conference Board and formerly chairman of its board of directors; a trustee of the Chamber of Commerce; a director and executive committee member of the Security Trust Company, and an early president of the Rochester City Club.

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Honors received included the honorary degree of doctor of laws from Colby College and from St. Lawrence University; an honorary doctorate of science from Lawrence College; the civic medal of the Rochester Museum and the annual civic award of the Rochester Rotary Club.

Gifts to Causes

Mr. Lovejoy had been a large contributor to various Rochester causes, especially the Community Chest and the Civic Music Association.

For many years he had a farm in Henrietta, which was his summer home and outside interest. When he had time, he enjoyed shotgun shooting, both skeet and pheasants. He was a member of a gun club, members of which are from all walks of life, and one fellow member with whom Mr. Lovejoy seemed especially to enjoy himself was a steam-shovel operator.

The Kodak executive was also a member of the American Chemical Society, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Rochester Engineering Society, Phi Beta Epsilon and the Masons. His club memberships included the University, Rochester, Genesee Valley, Country Club, Monroe Golf Club, Technology Club, and Engineers' Club of New York City. Mr. Lovejoy was an active member of the Fortnightly Club, a discussion group which held monthly meetings at homes of members.

Surviving near relatives are the widow, the former Florence I. Fuller whom he married in 1907; two sons, Lt. Frank W. Lovejoy Jr., a physician serving with the Navy, and Frederic Fuller Lovejoy, a technician fifth class, doing photographic work in the army. A son, George L. Lovejoy and a daughter, Harriet Fuller Lovejoy, are deceased.

Democrat & Chronicle, Rochester, NY, Mon. 17 Sep 1945

Kodak Plants to Close In Tribute to Lovejoy

With the exception of a few continuous-processing departments at Kodak Park, Eastman Kodak Company's three local plants and office buildings will be closed tomorrow. Flags on the company's buildings yesterday were at half staff. Closing at midnight today, the plants will remain closed until midnight tomorrow.

Funeral services for Mr. Lovejoy, who died Sunday (Sept. 16, 1945) will be held at 2 p.m. tomorrow in the First Universalist Church, Clinton Avenue South and Court Street [of which he was a long-time member]. Because of the limited accommodations in the church, Mr. Lovejoy's body will lie in state there tomorrow from 9 a.m. until noon. The period of 9 to 11 is being reserved for Kodak employees and their families. Mr. Lovejoy will be buried in Riverside Cemetery.

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Transcribed on 12 May 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY