

McLean Trucking Company ^[1]

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Malcolm Mclean,
founder of Mclean
Trucking Co. Image

by Robert E. Ireland, 2006available from PBS. ^[2]



McLean Trucking
Company Patch. Image
available from NC

Historic Sites.

^[3]In 1931, when [Malcolm P. McLean](#) ^[4] began working at a service station, North Carolina was rapidly becoming a major east-west transport route. Recognizing the potential for motor freight carrying, the Maxton native bought his first truck in 1934 and began hauling dirt for [WPA](#) ^[5] road construction projects. Later, he transported textiles to New York. By the mid-1960s, the McLean Trucking Company had become the fifth-largest trucking company in America, with a fleet of 5,000 trucks and trailers and 65 terminals scattered throughout 20 states. The [Winston-Salem](#) ^[6] terminal was considered the largest in the world when it was constructed in 1954.

McLean (who died in 2001 at age 87) sold his company in 1955 for \$6 million and bought a small tanker firm, which he renamed [Sea-Land](#) ^[7]. After becoming a pioneer in container shipping, he cashed in those shares for \$160 million in 1969.

Reference:

Thomas C. Parramore, *Express Lanes and Country Roads: The Way We Lived in North Carolina, 1920-1970*(1983).

Additional Resources:

Article in Chicago Tribune: http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1986-01-11/business/8601030755_1_mclean-employees-trucking-filing ^[8]

[North Carolina Digital Collections](#) ^[9] search results for McLean Trucking Company

Image Credit:

Malcolm Mclean, founder of Mclean Trucking Co. Image availabl from PBS. Available from http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/theymadeamerica/whomade/mclean_hi.html ^[2] (accessed June 18, 2012).

McLean Trucking Company Patch. Image available from NC Historic Sites. Available from <http://collections.ncdcr.gov> ^[3](accessed June 19, 2012).

Subjects:

[Great Depression \(1929-1941\)](#) ^[10]

[World War II \(1941-1945\)](#) ^[11]

[Post War 20th Century \(1946-2000\)](#) ^[12]

[Businesses](#) ^[13]

[Transportation](#) ^[14]

[UNC Press](#) ^[15]

Authors:

Ireland, Robert E. ^[16]

Origin - location:

Winston-Salem ^[17]

From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. ^[18]

1 January 2006 | Ireland, Robert E.

Source URL: <https://ncpedia.org/mclean-trucking-company>

Links

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[4] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/mclean-malcolm>

[5] <https://ncpedia.org/history/20th-Century/wpa>

[6] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/winston-salem>

[7] http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthemove/collection/object_969.html

[8] http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1986-01-11/business/8601030755_1_mclean-employees-trucking-filing

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