

## McLean Trucking Company <sup>[1]</sup>

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Malcolm Mclean,  
founder of Mclean  
Trucking Co. Image

by Robert E. Ireland, 2006available from PBS. <sup>[2]</sup>



McLean Trucking  
Company Patch. Image  
available from NC

Historic Sites.

<sup>[3]</sup>In 1931, when [Malcolm P. McLean](#) <sup>[4]</sup> 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](#) <sup>[5]</sup> 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](#) <sup>[6]</sup> 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](#) <sup>[7]</sup>. 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](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1986-01-11/business/8601030755_1_mclean-employees-trucking-filing) <sup>[8]</sup>

[North Carolina Digital Collections](#) <sup>[9]</sup> 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](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/theymadeamerica/whomade/mclean_hi.html) <sup>[2]</sup> (accessed June 18, 2012).

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

### Subjects:

[Great Depression \(1929-1941\)](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

[World War II \(1941-1945\)](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

[Post War 20th Century \(1946-2000\)](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

[Businesses](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

[Transportation](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

[UNC Press](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

**Authors:**

Ireland, Robert E. <sup>[16]</sup>

**Origin - location:**

Winston-Salem <sup>[17]</sup>

**From:**

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. <sup>[18]</sup>

1 January 2006 | Ireland, Robert E.

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**Source URL:** <https://ncpedia.org/mclean-trucking-company?page=2>

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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](http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthemove/collection/object_969.html)

[8] [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1986-01-11/business/8601030755\\_1\\_mclean-employees-trucking-filing](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1986-01-11/business/8601030755_1_mclean-employees-trucking-filing)

[9] <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm4/results.php?>

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