



Portland Public Library

Elwood HAYNES, who universally is recognized as a pioneer of the great automobile industry, is one of the native sons of Jay county who has written his name high on the walls of the hall of fame and who has done much to promote the cause of human progress. Though his industrial activities long ago called him away from the scenes of his youth here, the place wherein he had his "day of small things," Mr. HAYNES never has ceased to hold in most affectionate regard the scenes and the associations of those earlier days and it is but fitting and proper that in this definite history of his old home county there should be carried, for the information of future generations, some brief account of his active and useful career.

Elwood HAYNES was born at Portland, the county seat of Jay county, October 14, 1857, and is a son; of the Hon. Jacob M. and Hilinda S. (HAINES) HAYNES, concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this volume, together with interesting details regarding Judge HAYNES's long life of valuable public service in this community. Reared in the city of his birth, Mr. HAYNES left the Portland high school at the end of the second year of his attendance there and in 1878 entered Worcester Technical Institute at Worcester, Mass., from which institution he was graduated in 1881. Upon his return home he entered the ranks of Jay county's teaching force and in the following winter taught a term of district school in this county. In the next year he was called to accept the principalship of the Portland high school and in this important capacity served for two years, or until in 1884, when he returned East and entered Johns Hopkins University, at Baltimore for a thorough post-graduate course in chemistry and biology. This was during the period of greatest activity of the old Eastern Indiana Normal School at Portland and upon his return from Johns Hopkins Mr. HAYNES was given charge of the chemistry department of the normal, school and he was serving thus when the opening of the natural gas field in eastern Indiana marked the beginning of a new era in the development of the industrial activities of this section. Mr. HAYNES technical training gave great value to his services in connection with the development of the natural gas field and in 1886 he was made the manager of the Portland Natural Gas and Oil Company. This may be said to have been the beginning of Mr. HAYNES extraordinary business career, although, of course, the opportunity to enter the door thus opened would not have been afforded him had it not been for the exact and painstaking and studious care with which he had laid the groundwork for his later technical and scientific attainments, of which this was but the beginning. He continued as the manager of the local gas plant at Portland until 1890, when he was made the field superintendent of the Indiana Natural Gas and Oil Company, with headquarters at Greentown, and in 1892 he moved to Kokomo [Howard Co.] which since has been his home. It was during his service as superintendent of the great field operations of the Indiana Natural Gas and Oil Company that Mr. HAYNES conceived the idea of a "horseless" means of conveyance, this idea being born of the long and irksome trips along the pipe lines, and upon his removal to Kokomo he began to formulate in that connection the plans that had for two or three years been running in his mind.

The story of Elwood HAYNES' development of the first practical automobile and of his manner of patiently overcoming the difficulties that confronted him at nearly every step of his progress in that direction has often been told and is so familiar that it need not be repeated here, only to say that on July 4, 1894, his first "horseless carriage," a machine of about 800 pounds weight, successfully responded to the test he imposed upon it on a highway three miles out of Kokomo, the machine then developing a speed of about eight miles an hour. That pioneer machine is now preserved in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, one of the Government's most cherished treasures. In the next year, 1895, an improved machine worked out under the direction of Mr. HAYNES was awarded the Chicago Times-Herald prize for the best balanced engine, and in 1899 Mr. HAYNES made the first 1,000 mile journey, from Kokomo to New York, in a "horseless carriage." In 1898 when the HAYNES Automobile Company was organized at Kokomo he was made president of the same and has so continued. In the meantime Mr. HAYNES had been pursuing his scientific experiments and in 1910 announced the practical application of the first of that remarkable series of demonstrations in metal alloys which culminated in the eventual development of his wonderful "stellite" and "stainless steel," and the establishment at Kokomo in 1912 of the HAYNES Stellite Works, which was incorporated in 1915, Mr. HAYNES becoming president. Mr. HAYNES continued as the field superintendent of the Indiana Natural Gas and Oil Company until 1901, and since then has devoted himself to his extensive manufacturing interests and to a continuation of his laboratory work. He is a member of the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain, the American Chemical Society, the International Congress of Applied Chemistry, the Society of Automotive Engineers, the American Institute of Metals and various other technical and scientific societies, and has just been awarded the Scott Prize and Medal for metallurgical discoveries. His certainly has been a life of service to mankind, the initiator of a new system in general social development. And it all came about so naturally. Others also had conceived the idea of a "horseless carriage." He had the vision to see the practical way out and his dream came true. But of the amazing development of the automobile industry that was to follow even he apparently had no adequate conception. As he wrote along this line, some years ago: "Frankly, I did not realize on that Fourth of July, when I took the first ride in America's first car, that a score of years' later every street and highway in America would echo the sound of the horn and the report of the exhaust. I am gratified, too, that it has been my good fortune to witness the automobile's entrenchment in the world's business life. Just as my first horseless carriage was designed with a view to facilitating my duties, so is the automobile today contributing, beyond all power to realize, to our every-day business life."

Under the auspices of the Kokomo Chamber of Commerce the Hoosier State Automobile Association has erected on the highway near the city of Kokomo a "marker" commemorating the spot where Mr. HAYNES' little "horseless carriage," America's first automobile, was given its successful trial trip on that Fourth of July day back in 1894. This marker carries an inscription, "On this road America's first automobile, designed and invented by Elwood HAYNES, of Kokomo, made its initial trip in 1894," and is designed simply as a temporary marker to designate this historic spot against the consummation of the plan now being worked out ultimately to mark the spot with a granite shaft.

Mr. HAYNES is a Presbyterian. He has ever consistently and earnestly advocated the cause of the Prohibition party and has for years been one of the chief supporters of that party in Indiana. On October 21, 1887, at Portland, Elwood HAYNES was united in marriage to Bertha Beatrice LANTERMAN, of that city, and to this union two children have been born, a son, March HAYNES, and a daughter, Bernice, both of whom have long been valued assistants to their father in his extensive laboratory researches.

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