

M. F. Bates' Widow Dies

Husband Invented First Gasoline Engine Used By Olds

(Special to The State Journal)

BATH, Dec. 11—Mrs. Celesta L. Bates, 81, widow of the late M. F. Bates, turn-of-the-century automotive pioneer, died Friday at the home of a daughter here.

Mr. Bates, prominent in the beginning of the industry that was to "put the world on wheels", went to work as an apprentice mechanic at the Olds Works of Lansing, and later invented the first gasoline engine used by that company.

In 1899, the Bates-Edmonds Motor company was organized and soon became a power in the industry that was fast capturing the imagination of the country's industrialists. The venture, like so many of the pioneer attempts, was doomed to failure.

However, in 1902, the Bates Automobile company was formed and production got under way in the old "Armory" building in the 300 block on S. Capitol ave. on the site of what is now the Oldsmobile agency. The plant first made a single cylinder runabout and later turned to production of a two-seater with four cylinders under the hood. In all, about 25 cars were rolled off the infant assembly line before this enterprise too folded.

Married in 1896, Mrs. Bates was the former Celesta Thomas of Lansing.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Viva Cushman, Bath, and Mrs. Louise Lane, Homer; two sons, Harold, Williamston, and Ralph, Clyde, N. Y., four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The body is at the Vincent funeral home, DeWitt, where services will be held Monday at 2 p. m., Rev. Gerald Salisbury of the Bath Methodist church, officiating. Burial will be in Mt. Hope cemetery, Lansing.

Mrs. R. J. Bosworth

Mrs. Rose Jane Bosworth, 79, of R.F.D. Charlotte, died Tuesday night, at the Wells Convalescent Home, near Vermontville, after 2½ years of illness. She was born March 22, 1875, the daughter of Robert and Anna Gregg, in the Sunfield area.

Her husband, Edwin Bosworth, died in 1936. Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Bernice Gorham, of Jackson, and Mrs. Almira Dooling, of Vermontville; two sons, Bret Bosworth, of Charlotte, and Donald Bosworth, Grand Ledge; 8 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Bosworth had spent her entire lifetime in this area.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p. m. Saturday, at the Mapes funeral home, Sunfield. Rev. Cherry, of the Sunfield United Brethren church, officiated, with burial in Sunfield cemetery.

Pall bearers were: Jim Walker, Albert Gregg, Charles Gregg, Roy Pumfrey, Fay Gregg, and Leon Haddix.

Mary J. Ward

Mary J. Ward, daughter of Rufus and Sarah M. Haner, was born in Vermontville township, on February 22, 1860. She was married to Frank L. Ward, on November 7, 1878, and to this union was born five children, the eldest, Edith Shaw, passing away two years ago. Winnifred of Charlotte, Worth of Vermontville, Gladys Morgan, of Vermontville, and Graydon of Dowling. Mrs. Ward had been in ailing health for the past two years, and passed away November 13, 1954, and was laid to rest in the Bosworth cemetery in Walton township. She leaves to mourn her loss, four children, 10 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren. Services were held Tuesday, at the Pray funeral home, with Rev. H. B. Loomis of the First Congregational church officiating. Burial in Bosworth cemetery, Walton township.