

The Dodge Brothers



This story begins as John and Horace Dodge establish a small machine shop in Detroit in 1900. The brothers, born four years apart, were noted for their engineering prowess.

In the beginning the brothers were known for creating a Bicycle that featured a sealed ball bearing, marketed under the name of Evans and Dodge.

A few years later they began producing Transmissions for the Olds Motor Works. Soon they began producing parts for other Automobile manufacturers and would abandon Bicycle production.

Henry Ford offered the brothers an interest in the Ford Motor Company with the provision that they would only build parts for Ford. You can still find some early Ford castings that have the letters "DB" cast into them.

The Dodge Brothers machine works grew and prospered as Ford began setting records in automotive sales. In 1914 the Dodge Brothers left Ford and took their company public.

The Dodge Model 30 made its debut in November of 1914. It featured a number of features that were well ahead of their time. The car had a 12 Volt electrical system, all steel construction, sliding gear transmission and a 35 horsepower engine, all for around \$800. A year later the Dodge Brothers found themselves firmly in place as the nations number two automobile manufacturer.

Their success was short lived as both of the brothers passed away within months of each other. One could speculate their demise was due to the Pandemic of 1918 however since the field of diagnostic medicine was not as sophisticated as it is today, that would remain a question.

Without the leadership and vision of the brothers, the company suffered and sales declined. In 1928 Walter P. Chrysler would purchase the company for \$170 Million Dollars.