BELFORD G. ROYAL DIES AT WENONAH

Former Victor Official Was Early Associate of Eldridge R. Johnson

Stricken with a heart ailment a week ago, Belford G. Royal, 68, formerly vice president and general manager of the Victor Talking Machine Company, died yesterday at his home.

He was one of the orginal group of workers in Eldridge R. Johnson's shop where the talking machine was perfected. Mr. Royal purchased a motor-driven talking machine in a Filbert street shop in Philadelphia when he first entered the employment of Mr. Johnson. When Mr. Royal, then a young man took the machine to the shop, Mr. Johnson seized upon the idea of manufacturing machines along those lines. He invented the disc record and made several improvements to the machine with the aid of Mr. Royal.

From this small beginning grew the Victor Talking Machine Company now the RCA Victor Company. Mr. Royal became vice president and general manager of the company and remained in that capacity until the merger of the RCA and Victor. He was still chairman of the board of directors of the old company at the time of his death.

Mr. Royal was sent to London in 1897 to become manager of the Gramophone Company, Ltd., of London. While he was there Mr. Johnson purchased the patent rights of th of the famous trade mark, "His Master's Voice."

Mr. Royal's death follows closely that of Walter J. Staats, vice president and treasurer of the company for a number of years.

Born in Paulsboro October 18, 1864, Mr. Royal moved to Camden when a young man. He resided for years on Cooper street near Sixth. He moved to Wenonah when his house was taken for the opening of Broadway from Market to the Bridge plaza.

He manifested keen interest in the Camden Home for Friendless Children, and was a member of the board of managers. His wife, who died six years ago, was president of the board for years.

Mr. Royal is survived by two daughters, Mrs. D. Clifford Ruth, of Wayne, Pa., and Mrs. Romain Hasbrick, of Overbrook, Pa., and a sister, Mrs. Jane V. Griffith, of Wenonah.

The funeral will be held at 2 p. m., Wednesday. Burial will be private.

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