

## Cleveland Dodge



Cleveland E. Dodge Jr. was born in New York City on March 7, 1922. He graduated from Princeton University in 1943 with a B.S.E. degree in Mechanical Engineering. After serving as commanding officer of a motor torpedo boat during World War II, Dodge joined the General Electric Company in Schenectady, New York.

In 1951, while searching for a company that could manufacture wire for guided missiles that could withstand high temperatures, Dodge came across the Warren Wire Company of Pownal, Vermont. He created a Teflon coated wire suitable for use in high-temperature applications and went on to invent other applications for Teflon coated wires.

Dodge soon realized that Teflon coatings had enormous potential, and in 1955 he founded Dodge Fibers Corporation in Hoosick Falls. Dodge and his research team developed numerous applications, and within a few years they were one of the leaders of the industry and orders were pouring in from the large aerospace companies.

The original plant was located on Lower John Street where they developed a large range of products. Several divisions sprouted up with associated production plants that worked with fluorocarbons and laminates.

In 1962, the Dodge Machine and Tool Company was started to produce machinery used in the insulation of wire and cable and machinery for printing on packaging and with the printing on and decorating of packages. The workforce grew considerably and had plants in Rhode Island and was associated with factories in France, England, and Japan.

Dodge Industries was sold to Oak Electronics Inc. in 1967. Though Dodge expected to remain in control of his own division after the sale, he was soon squeezed out by management people in Oak's headquarters in Illinois. When Oak divested Dodge's machine tool operation, he left Oak and took over Dodge Machine Company, which produced safety equipment used by window washers on high-rise buildings.

Dodge provided jobs for many people in this area over the course of the last 45 years. He was largely responsible for the economic rebirth of the Village of Hoosick Falls from the 1950s into the 1980s. Dodge died of cancer in 2007.