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Former owner of dairy was village's Mr. Fix It

Arnold H. Page, 84, an owner and vice president of the former Page Dairy who after the company's demise used his engineering skills to dismantle other closed dairies, died Sunday in the Ottawa Hills home of his son Thomas.

He had been in deteriorating health the last six months and had dementia, said his son, with whom he lived the last three months.

A longtime resident of Pembroke Road in Ottawa Hills, he later lived at The Woodlands and at Sunset House on Indian Road.

When Page Dairy Co. closed in 1975, it was the second oldest dairy in the city. The business had operated at Wade and Knapp streets since it was founded 62 years earlier by his father, Henry A. Page, Sr.

Mr. Page and his brother, Henry, took over after their father died in 1950. Mr. Page was a vice president and took charge of operations. His brother was president and was in charge of sales and the business side.

Mr. Page was a mechanical engineer, a graduate of the college of engineering at Cornell University, and was working on his master's degree when he returned home because his father was ill.

"He invented many things at the Page Dairy Co. and many processes for the dairy business," his son said. "He worked long hours. He spent many hours down there and would come home and work at night trying to figure something out and would actually go back to the dairy many nights to work. He was very challenged by everything that was going on."

The dairy by the mid-1970s was coping with increased costs, limits on what it could charge retailers for milk, and a steady drop nationwide of milk consumption.

The final blow was a decision by A&P to close more than half its stores in the Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana areas served by Page.

For about five years afterward, Mr. Page worked under contract for a Columbus firm. He used his mechanical engineering expertise to dismantle out-of-business dairies around the country and salvage their equipment.

Mr. Page was a former member of the Lucas County Safety Council.

He liked to build and fix things. And people in his neighborhood had home repair needs. For years, he'd stop by and

make those repairs. Neighbors once got together and gave him a humanitarian award for his service. "That's all he loved doing," his son said. "He really cared about people. He was a very proper gentleman."

Mr. Page was an amateur photographer and, for years, his family spent weekends on the boat he kept near Marblehead, Ohio. He grew up on Brookside Road and was a graduate of the Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

He and his wife, Ann, married June 11, 1948. She died Oct. 6, 1989.

His brother, Henry Page, Jr., died April 26, 2007, at age 91.

Surviving are his sons, Arnold, Jr., and Thomas; daughters, Deborah Page and Susan Culver, and five grandchildren.

There will be no visitation. Memorial services will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Hope Lutheran Church, of which he was a member. Arrangements are by the J. Jeffrey Fretti Funeral Home. The family suggests tributes to the Toledo Animal Shelter; the church, or Hospice of Northwest Ohio.
