

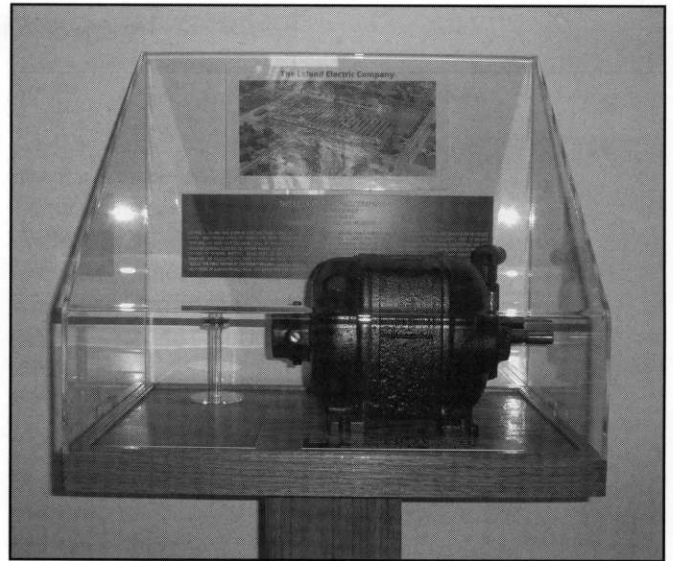
Leland display added to Club exhibits

The little black motor, no bigger than a volleyball, doesn't look all that revolutionary in the new exhibit case in the foyer outside the Engineers Club auditorium. But this product of The Leland Electric Company, at 1501 Webster Street in the 1920s, facilitated the expansion of automobile travel in the United States.

The display is the gift of **Harriet Leland** and her husband **Harold Leland**, a 57-year member of the Club until his passing in 2005. Harold was the son of **George F. Leland**, whose local and global accomplishments were featured in the Fall 2005 issue of the Engineers Club News. One of the plaques in the display summarizes the story of George F. Leland and the motor:

"George H. Leland was born in 1887 and raised on a farm. He attended Argos, Indiana public schools and graduated with the highest marks ever recorded there. Immediately after, he passed the state teachers' exam and taught Latin at Argos High School the very next year. The following year he became principal. He soon left educating. Since he was self-taught, he learned advanced math, knew the laws of physics and electrical and mechanical engineering, and was hired by General Electric Co. in Ft. Wayne.

"He was a bright star in complex unwinding machine design, and he was coaxed to a GE competitor,



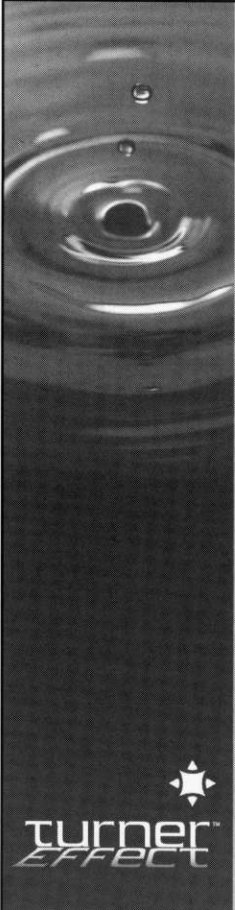
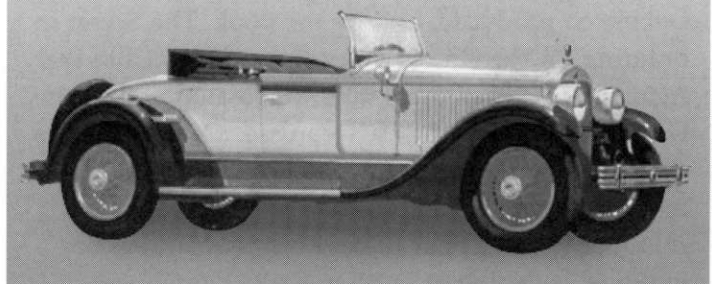
Spark-proof motor.

Delco Products division of General Motors. Being restless and independent, he soon raised capital for building fractional horsepower motors and started his own company.

"He developed the first electric motor approved by the Underwriters Laboratories as explosion proof and safe for driving gasoline pumps. He tested the first motor at his father-in-law's filling station. Up to then, gasoline was pumped by hand. Automobiles were the new rage and these new motors soon were in demand worldwide. The spark-proof motors saved the company during the Great Depression."

Of the motor, the display says: "After an exhaustive search for a clue to finding an original spark-proof motor, this one was found in a heap of scrap metal on a farm outside Sidney, Ohio. Though worse for wear, the Leland label is still legible."

William R. Harris, a friend and neighbor of Harold and Harriet, spearheaded the development of the exhibit. A plaque also credits **John Bosch** for making the oak stand, **Walt Hoy** for making the display case, and **Ben Graham**, former President of Board of Governors, for his leadership in seeing the exhibit through to completion.



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