



INDUSTRY NEWS

Robert Johnson of Johnson's Auto Literature Dead at 62

Robert "Bob" Edmund Johnson Jr., 62, the well-known owner of Johnson's Auto Literature in Framingham, Massachusetts, died, May 29, at the Framingham Union Hospital.

A Framingham native, Bob at age two was stricken with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis, which left him disabled. His disability made it difficult for him to find work, but, always an entrepreneur, Bob started buying and selling old car parts in the mid-1980s, and got into literature on a suggestion from an acquaintance. That side business turned into a full-fledged livelihood in 1986, when he bought the entire Nat Adelstein literature collection and moved 60 tons of paper to an old factory building in his hometown of Framingham, Massachusetts.

Johnson's Auto Literature, Inc. grew to 10 employees and added so much more literature to its inventory that the weight of it began to bend 12-inch wooden floor beams, forcing the company to move to an old foundry in Framingham.

Buying and selling antique automobile literature at flea markets, in *Hemmings Motor News* and on the Internet, Johnson's Auto Literature developed a worldwide clientele. The company's booths at Carlisle and Hershey were well attended and proved quite profitable. A lover of antiquity, Bob also enjoyed collecting early American antiques and prints, as well as rebuilding antique cars and trucks.

While Bob is survived by a sister, cousins, nieces, and a nephew, he had no wife or children to pass on Johnson's Auto Literature to, so according to a company spokesperson, the literature business will go through his estate and likely close down in the near future, though no time frame has been set.