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Garret Morgan

Garrett Morgan was famously known as an inventor and businessman from Cleveland

Who is best known for inventing a device called the Morgan safety hood and smoke protector in

1914. Morgan was the son of former slaves; Garrett Morgan was born in Paris, Kentucky on

March 4, 1877. His early childhood was spent attending school and working on the family farm with his brothers and sisters. While still a teenager, he left Kentucky and moved north to Cincinnati, Ohio in search of opportunity.

Garret Morgan never had more education the elementary but he did hire a tutor while living in Cincinnati and continued his studies. In 1885 Morgan took up a job as a sewing machine repair man. News spread quickly of his skills in repairing sewing machines which led to various job opportunities.

In 1907 Morgan opened up his own sewing equipment and repair shop. It was the first of several businesses he would establish. In 1909, he expanded the enterprise to include a tailoring shop that employed 32 employees. The new company made coats, suits and dresses, all sewn with equipment that Garrett Morgan made himself. In 1920, Garrett Morgan moved into the newspaper business when he established the Cleveland Call. As the years went on, he became a wealthy and widely respected business man, and he was able to purchase a home and a car. Indeed it was Morgan's experience while driving along the streets of Cleveland that inspired him to invent an improvement to traffic signals.

Gas Masks

During the summer of 1916 Morgan made national news for using a gas mask

To rescue 32 men trapped in an underground tunnel during an explosion 250 feet below ground. After the rescue Morgan received many request from fire departments across the nation for his new gas masks. The Morgan gas mask was later renewed for use by U.S. Army during World War I. In 1914, Garrett Morgan was awarded a patent for a Safety Hood and Smoke Protector. Two years later, a renewed model of his early gas mask won a gold medal at the International Exposition of Sanitation and Safety, and another gold medal from the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

The Morgan Traffic Signal

In the early years of the 20th century it was not uncommon for bicycles, animal-powered wagons, and new gasoline-powered motor vehicles to share the same streets and roadways with pedestrians. Accidents were frequent. After witnessing a collision between an automobile and a horse-drawn carriage, Garrett Morgan took his turn at inventing a traffic signal. Other inventors had experimented with, marketed, and even patented traffic signals, however, Garrett Morgan was one of the first to apply for and acquire a US patent for an inexpensive way to produce traffic signal. The patent was granted on November 20, 1923.

The Morgan traffic signal was a T-shaped pole unit that featured three positions: Stop, Go and an all-directional stop position. This third position stopped traffic in all directions to allow pedestrians to cross streets more safely.

Garrett Morgan's hand-cranked Device traffic management device was in use throughout North America until all manual traffic signals were replaced by the automatic red, yellow, and green-light traffic signals currently used around the world. The inventor sold the rights to his traffic signal to the General Electric Corporation for $40,000.

Death

In 1943 Garret Morgan developed Glaucoma and nearly lost all of his sight Garret Morgan would live for a few more years until 1963 when he passed.

Even though Garret Morgan created many life saving tools to help people He was also a very active member in the NAACP. My reason for choosing to do Garret Morgan on an MLA report was due to my belief that without many of his inventions such as the traffic signals many people would have lost their lifes.Likewise without his gas mask America may have lost WWI. Therefore that is why I choose Garret Morgan

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