

MotorWeek

OBITUARY

Harold Nockolds



WITHIN THE space of only a few months, *Motor* has lost two of its former Editors, for the death of Christopher Jennings last July has now been followed by the passing of the man who succeeded him, Harold Nockolds, who died on November 1 after a long illness, at the age of 75. He was born in Norbury in 1907.

Harold Nockolds came to *Motor* in 1960 with an immense reputation as a motoring journalist — a career he had decided on while still at school, and began by joining the staff of *Motor Sport*, of which he became Editor in the 1930s. It was, however, as *The Times* Motoring Correspondent that Harold Nockolds really achieved recognition as one of the very top flight of motoring journalists. He joined the paper in 1938, and returned in 1946 after a distinguished war career. In those post-war years he reported both the rebirth of the motor industry world wide and also the return of motor racing, but whether covering a motor show or sitting in the Press box reporting a Grand Prix, Harold was always impeccably dressed. He was indeed everyone's idea of a *Times* man, and at that time most foreigners' concept of an English gentleman. Which, indeed, Harold was, with his urbane manner and his civilised appreciation of the good things of life.

Beneath it however, lurked both an immense enthusiasm for motoring in all its form and a great sense of humour — often expressed in a wry self-mockery of his own pomposity. Harold's tale of his adventures when he competed in an Alpine Trial with the late Tommy Wisdom in an Aston Martin, is typical of the man. With a polite *Excusez moi, Madame!* he whipped the wire fence from a French garden under the startled gaze of its elderly lady owner sitting in her garden, knitting! Wire being required to lash into place the Aston Martin's sagging exhaust system.

His great enthusiasm for motoring he shared with his two talented younger brothers — Roy Nockolds, who achieved fame for his paintings of both motor racing and aircraft, and Conrad Nockolds, the photographer, who was

among the first to employ captive balloons for low-altitude photography.

Harold himself pioneered the writing of marque histories which are now so popular, for when his Rolls-Royce history, "The Magic of a Name", appeared in 1938 it was indeed unique. That it contained so much inside information that could have come only from Rolls-Royce was another tribute to the great esteem in which Harold was already held in the motor industry.

From editing *Motor*, Harold Nockolds played an increasingly important part on the management side, becoming managing editor, editorial director, then deputy managing director and, finally, managing director of Temple Press. When IPC Transport Press was formed, Harold Nockolds continued to play an important part in its management, retiring as deputy chairman in 1972. Since then, he had written the comprehensive history of the Lucas Group and other works.

Among his many distinctions, Harold Nockolds was Chairman of the Guild of Motoring Writers in 1952, 1957, and 1963, and was later honoured by being elected a Vice-President. He was also on the main committee of the Royal Automobile Club, and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers.

MR HAROLD NOCKOLDS

Mr Harold Nockolds, who was motoring and motor racing correspondent of *The Times* from 1946 to 1960 and editor of the magazine *Motor* from 1960 to 1962, died yesterday at the age of 75. During his last few years at *The Times*, Nockolds was also editor of its special supplements.

Nockolds was born on June 28, 1907, and educated at Whitgift School and the City of London School. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps during the Second world War from 1940 until 1945, being mentioned in despatches and reaching the rank of major. He subsequently wrote a history of the RASC in the North African and Italian campaigns for the War Office.

He joined *The Times* part time in December, 1945, and in the following summer was appointed motoring, road transport and motor racing correspondent.

He was the author of a number of books on motoring and cognate subjects. Perhaps the best known of these books was a history of the Rolls Royce company entitled *The Magic of a Name*. Among his other publications were a history of the Lucas Company, *Lucas the first 100 years*, and a history of the Coachbuilders Company.

From the editorship of *Motor*, Nockolds moved to become deputy managing director and then deputy chairman of IPC Transport Press. A distinguished career in motoring journalism began on the magazine, *Motor Sport*. Nockolds was chairman of the Guild of Motoring Writers in 1952, 1957 and 1963, and he served on a number of RAC committees.

He was the last surviving member of a family well known in the world of motoring, his brother, Roy, being a motoring and aviation artist of distinction and his brother, Conrad, a noted photographer.

He leaves a widow - Moyra - two daughters, and four grandchildren.

HAROLD NOCKOLDS

Harold Nockolds, who has died aged 75, was motoring correspondent of the *Times* from 1946 to 1960 and editor of the magazine *Motor* from 1960 to 1962. He then joined IPC Transport Press as deputy managing director and was later deputy chairman.

He was the author of several books on motoring including "The Magic of a Name", a history of Rolls-Royce, and a chronicle of the first 100 years of Lucas.

His career began on the magazine *Motor Sport* and he was chairman of the Guild of Motoring Writers in 1952, 1957 and 1963. His late brothers Roy and Conrad were both noted in the motoring world, Roy as an artist and Conrad as a photographer.