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Atchison Pioneer Passes Away

Late last week, the community of Atchison lost a leader of a small business that is now well-known nationally.

Part of one of the pioneering business families of Atchison, Dick Mize died January 11th at the age of 93.

Mize's bloodline reaches great lengths in Atchison business.

Dick joined Blish-Mize in 1940, a popular hardware chain that was co-founded by his grandfather, Edward, as a salesman after graduating from the University of Kansas, eventually earning the title of CEO before retiring in 1982.

He was also active as a civic leader, serving as a president of the Atchison YMCA and Chair of the Atchison United Way as well as being on the board of directors of the Exchange National Bank.

He also served on the board of directors of the National Wholesale Hardware Association and PRO Hardware.

Longtime family friend Violet Lehman describes Mize as a renaissance man.

LEHMAN RT: :11 OC: "...a gentleman."

His daughter, Sally Mize Garrett agrees and says he played a key role in the company's expansion.

Garrett RT: :10 OC: "...have failed."

Mize was also a second cousin to former U.S. Congressman Chester Mize.

Last year, Dick celebrated 70 years of marriage to his wife Betty.

She passed away in October.

He leaves behind two other children in addition to Sally, six grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

The company is now in its fifth generation of management.