

Ralph Hamlin, Pioneer Auto Dealer, Dies at 93

Ralph Hamlin, a pioneer Los Angeles auto dealer and racing buff, died Friday at UCLA Medical Center of complications from a stroke. He was 93.

Mr. Hamlin, a widower, maintained a private museum at his home in Brentwood that included three early model Franklin automobiles and a vast collection of trophies, photographs and antique license plates.

Born in San Francisco, Mr. Hamlin began his career as a bicycle dealer before the turn of the century, later switching to motorcycles and then cars. In 1905, he became the Los Angeles distributor for

Franklin cars, selling them until the manufacturer went out of business during the Depression.

He drove the first automobile up Mt. Wilson. But his fondest accomplishment, he once told an interviewer, was winning a 1900 bicycle race from East Los Angeles to Corona and back. He covered the route in 6 hours and 11 minutes.

He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Garnet Rainey, also of Brentwood.

Funeral services will be 12:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Little Church of the Flowers, Forest Lawn Memorial-Park, Glendale. Interment will follow.