



Dolly Roach-Fisher 1896-1968

LifeStory

Dolly Roach was born in 1896 in Paw Paw, Michigan, the daughter of John. She married Lawrence Peter Fisher in Gogebic, Michigan.

No known children



Birth

Dolly Roach was born in 1896 in Paw Paw, Michigan, to John Roach.
abt 1896 • PAWPAW, Michigan

Marriage

Dolly Roach married Lawrence Peter Fisher in Watersmeet, Michigan, on July 3, 1950, when she was 54 years old.



Lawrence Peter Fisher
1888-1961

3 Jul 1950 • Watersmeet, Gogebic, Michigan, USA

Marriage

Dolly Roach married Lawrence Peter Fisher in Gogebic, Michigan.



Lawrence Peter Fisher
1888-1961

Gogebic

Residence

Dolly Roach lived in Watersmeet, Michigan.

WATERSMEET, Michigan

Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867-1952

Name Dorothy Roach

Gender Female

Race White

Age 54

Birth Year 1896

Birth Place PAWPAW, Michigan

License County Gogebic

Marriage Date 3 Jul 1950

Marriage Place Watersmeet, Gogebic, Michigan, USA

Residence Place WATERSMEET, Michigan

Father John Roach

Mother Mary Broughton

Spouse Laurence Fisher

County File Number 18826

State File Number 27 7710

Household Members

Ancestry.com records show Dolly Roach as being born in the year 1896, however she graduated from Paw Paw High School in 1899 as can be attested by articles from the Paw Paw *True Northerner*. A more realistic date can be found by subtracting her age (90) from the year she passed away (1968) which would make her born around the year 1878.

Newspaper society pages show Lawrence and Dolly's relationship going back at least to 1935 or earlier, however they were not married until 1950. The following excerpt from the September 1994 issue of the *Washtenaw County Historical Society Newsletter* explains why. (Dates in the article have been corrected):

"He married Dolly Roach, his wife to be, in 1950, at the age of 63. He had wanted to marry movie star Jean Harlow, but she died at a very young age and he had many associations along the line.

He met Dolly Roach when he was in downtown Detroit buying lingerie for one of his many girl friends. He wanted to marry her but there was a problem--Dolly was Lutheran and the Fishers were Catholic.

His mother objected, but Lawrence Fisher, being stubborn, said, 'I'll marry her after you've departed,' not realizing that his mother would live to be over 90.

They married in 1950. The marriage lasted 11 years. Most of her married life, Dolly spent in her own living room next door to her bedroom, the reason being she had suffered a stroke previous to the marriage.

Mr. Fisher died suddenly in 1961 in California from a heart attack. His wife followed in a space of 7 years."

Excerpt from early list of Paw Paw High School graduates, Class of 1899:

Dollie Roach Fisher

Whittier Hotel
E. Jefferson
Detroit

The Whittier Hotel was a high-class apartment/hotel building along the Detroit River. During its history, it hosted many famous people, from Frank Sinatra to the Beatles.

Click on the Hotel for a link to a photo collection of the Hotel today:



Traverse City Record-Eagle (Traverse City, Michigan)
19 Feb 1951

Married Secretly Since July 3



A secret so well kept that not even a rumor circulated through Detroit's social circles is revealed when Lawrence P. Fisher, 63, announced he has been secretly married since last July 3 to the former Dolly Roach of Norwalk, O. Fisher is one of the famous brothers who amassed a fortune in the automobile industry and has been known as one of the nation's most eligible bachelors. (International Soundphoto)

Detroit American (Detroit, Michigan) • 9 Jul 1968

OBITUARIES

Mrs. Fisher Dies; Widow of Tycoon

Services for Mrs. Lawrence P. Fisher, widow of one of the seven Fisher brothers, will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St Martin Church, 13100 St Averhill Court, Detroit. Burial will be in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Rosary for Mrs. Fisher, 90, who died Sunday at her home, Grayhaven, at 383 Lenox, will be at 8 p.m. Tuesday at the home. The body will lie in state at Grayhaven.

Mrs. Fisher had been ill for some time. There are no immediate survivors.

MR. FISHER, who died Sept. 3, 1961, and his broth-

ers played important roles in the development of the automobile industry through their Fisher Body Corp., which was formed in 1908.

General Motors purchased a part interest in Fisher body in 1924. The following year the Fisher Body Corp. joined GM and Lawrence Fisher was made a vice president of General Motors and was placed in charge of Cadillac Motor Car operations as president and general manager.

Mr. Fisher also was a director of GM and a member of the corporation's Executive Committee. He left GM at the end of August, 1944, but remained a director.

Battle Creek Enquirer (Battle Creek, Michigan)
16 Feb 1951

One of Famed Fisher Brothers Is Married

DETROIT — (AP) — The marriage last July 3 of bachelor Lawrence P. Fisher, of the fabulous automotive family, and Mrs. Dolly Roach, of Monroe, was revealed at an announcement dinner at Fisher's fashionable home here last night.

It was the first marriage for the 62-year-old Fisher, fourth of the seven brothers of Fisher body fame.

Fisher and Mrs. Roach were married in a Catholic ceremony in Wisconsin, near his summer home at Watersmeet, Mich.

Only one of the brothers, Alfred J., attended the dinner, but all the others sent congratulatory messages. All but Lawrence P. and Alfred J. were out of Detroit.

Many of the automotive industries most prominent families were guests at the dinner.

Lawrence Fisher became president of the Cadillac division of the General Motors Corp., after Cadillac was incorporated with GM. He was on the board of the Fisher Body division of GM, but, with the rest of his brothers, severed all connections with GM in 1944.

The Holland Evening Sentinel (Holland, Michigan)
31 Oct 1961

Fisher's Widow Will Receive Half of Estate

DETROIT (UPI) — Mrs. Dolly Mae Fisher, widow of the late automotive pioneer Lawrence P. Fisher, will receive half of his estimated \$5 million estate.

Fisher, one of the brothers who founded the famed "Body by Fisher" firm, died without a will, and Probate Judge Thomas Murphy ruled Monday that the widow should get half the estate.

The remainder will go to Fisher's four brothers, three sisters and the children of a deceased brother.