



In 1969, the McLeans sold Sea-Land to RJ Reynolds. Clara, at age 58, decided the time was right to retire as executive vice president of Sea-Land Services. When Malcom heard the news, he simply said, "How are we going to handle everything without her?"

After retiring, Clara continued to live in her home in Llewellyn Park, New Jersey. She returned to North Carolina in 1975, when she moved into a suite of rooms in the East Wing of the Carolina Hotel in Pinehurst. In her final years, she purchased Shadowlawn, the historic home in the Village of Pinehurst, where she lived until her death at the age of 100.



Clara Lee McLean  
June 19, 1910 - August 1, 2010

*"In giving, you are throwing a bridge across the chasm of your solitude."*

Many organizations benefited from Clara McLean's extraordinary philanthropy, including the Boy Scouts, the American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity of the North Carolina Sandhills, St. Andrews Presbyterian College, the Village Arboretum and the Town of Maxton. In 1986, she gave the first of her many generous gifts to The Foundation of FirstHealth—each made with the provision that she receive no public recognition. Clara cared deeply about the many hurdles facing patients, such as transportation and access to care. She felt strongly that a hospitality house

**For where your treasure is, There your heart will be also.**

*Matthew 6:21*

and its supportive programs would provide much needed assistance for patients and their families seeking treatment at Moore Regional Hospital. In recognition of her longtime support, the Foundation leadership approached her about naming the facility in her honor. Clara saw no need to put her name on the building, but she eventually agreed with the understanding that there would be no announcement until after her death. The Clara McLean House is now affectionately known as "Clara's House."



## CLARA MCLEAN HOUSE

*Kindness with a front porch*

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[www.claramcleanhouse.org](http://www.claramcleanhouse.org)

Generous support from our community fully sustains the Clara McLean House through The Foundation of FirstHealth



## CLARA MCLEAN HOUSE

*Kindness with a front porch*





## CLARA LEE McLEAN

Clara was a highly intelligent, successful, no-nonsense business woman who was as guarded about her personal life as she was passionate about helping others through her philanthropy. She and her younger brothers became partners in two hugely successful businesses, McLean Trucking and Sea-Land Service, which literally changed the world of global trade.

Clara was born in 1910, the second of eight children. Her father, a farmer, and her mother were



Clara in striped skirt

descendants of a long line of hardy Highland Scots who settled in the town of Maxton in very rural and very poor Robeson County, North Carolina. The McLean siblings fully embraced their parents' values: belief in God, devotion to family and community, respect for learning, self-discipline, and a willingness to work hard.

At the time Clara entered North Carolina College for Women in Greensboro in 1928, career choices for women were limited to schoolteacher, nurse or secretary. After graduating as a Home Economics major in 1931, she returned to Maxton to live with her parents, and worked three jobs at Carolina Power and Light, Maxton Feed and Supply, and Maxton Presbyterian Church.

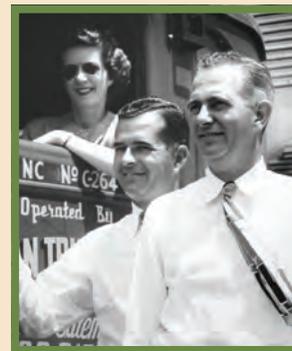


In 1937, Malcom McLean asked Clara and their brother, Jim, to help him save his fledgling business, McLean Trucking.



With their mother's blessing, Clara quit her jobs and moved to Fayetteville to manage the office. In just three years, McLean Trucking had 30 trucks on the road and was earning nearly a quarter of a million dollars a year.

In October 1949, *Life Magazine* featured the three siblings in a photo essay, "The New South," by Margaret Bourke-White. "Clara, Jim and Malcom are Big Wheels in Trucking Line," the caption read. Within a few years, McLean Trucking, which had moved to Winston-Salem, had become the second largest trucking company in the United States. As a corporate officer and co-owner, Clara was responsible for personnel, training, administration and developing "McLean U," one of the first formal management training programs in American business.



Clara, Jim, Malcom

By the mid-1950s, the outlook for the continued expansion of the trucking industry was poor. Malcom knew that coastal shipping could be a more cost-effective way to transport freight, but it would require an entirely new way of handling it. With the support of his siblings, he made what the world considered an impractical idea a proven reality – containerization.



The McLeans left the trucking business and, in the first leveraged buyout in U.S. history, bought Pan-Atlantic Steamship Corporation and its parent company, the Waterman Steamship Corporation, in Mobile, Alabama, the largest privately owned steamship company in the world. In 1957, they launched the world's first fully containerized ship.



Malcom



The next year, Clara and Malcom moved from Mobile to New York City to open Pan-Atlantic's new headquarters in New Jersey's Port Newark. Sea-Land, as the company was renamed in 1960, reflected Malcom's vision and Clara's practicality.

"Miss Clara," as Sea-Land employees called her, knew every aspect of the company and was totally involved in running the business. She was an orderly, effective administrator; a no-nonsense enforcer of office rules; and a stickler for perfection who instilled the discipline to focus on the details that would make Sea-Land a success. By the end of the 1960s, the McLeans had built the largest cargo-shipping business in the world. Today, 90 percent of the world's shipping is containerized with tens of millions of containers in use.