

# Al Cass

## Milford, MA

1923 Alfred S. Cascianelli (later changed to Cassinelli) is born in Milford, MA on September 7<sup>th</sup> (Stephen Cass).

late 1930s Al learns the trumpet and forms his own orchestra to play locally (SC).

1941 Al enlists in the war and ends up with the Special Services in Europe entertaining the troops (SC).

1950s After touring with his orchestra (photo 1), Al returns to Milford and starts developing his mouthpieces in the garage at #12 Short St (photo 2) with financial assistance from his sister Mary (SC).

1959 Al is granted patent #2,917,964 on 12/22 for mouthpieces that can play in multiple instruments.

c1960 Roy Eldridge gives Dizzy Gillespie an Al Cass mouthpiece which he throws in his case and doesn't use until one night when he lost his regular mouthpiece down a sink drain. He then becomes an Al Cass convert, using a total of 56 mouthpieces over time (SC).

1962 Al starts producing his "Fast" valve oil following a suggestion by Dizzy and 18 months of development (SC).

c.1966-68 Al Cass mouthpieces are licensed to Boosey & Hawkes for production while Al makes the oil. They are marked "Made in England". This ends with a lawsuit due to lack of payments due to Al.

1980 Most mouthpiece production ends with Al's diagnosis of liver problems and the oil business is taken up by his son Stephen (b.1968) at age 12 (SC).

c1983 The original oil bottles with glass dropper develop a crack so the design is changed to the oval shape still used today (SC).

1989 Al transfers ownership of the business to his sister Mary on April 19<sup>th</sup> after finding out his wife Vera (whom he didn't get along with) puts her name on his tax documents in an attempt to establish ownership before Al dies (transfer document). Al dies on August 23<sup>rd</sup> without a will or ever establishing a corporation. His sister Mary, who started developing Alzheimer's soon after, doesn't make her ownership known to anyone and her transfer document is not found until 2011. Mary gives the remaining mouthpieces to nephew Stephen (SC).



1990 Vera incorporates as All Cass, Inc. on January 30.

1997 Son Stephen is forced to leave the company and forms Steve Cass Inc. making his own "Steve Cass Ultra Fast" valve oil using the same supplier. He later lost the business due to Vera at Al Cass taking him to court. A new facility is built at #25 Depot St., Milford (below).



2010 Zig Kanstul starts making new Al Cass mouthpieces for a short time.

2020 Stephen Cassinelli is working with Pickett Brass to produce the mouthpieces.

Trumpet mouthpieces are in series 1 to 4.

In the 1 & 2 series, the second number is for the bore.

In the 3x and 4x series, the second number is for the cup depth with the lower number (3x1) indicating a deeper cup going up to a very shallow 3x5. The 4x series are the symphony models with the 4x1 and 4x2 being close to a Bach 3C and 5C.

