



## **Nell Donnelly REED**

Nell Donnelly Reed (1889-1991) was a women's clothing designer and entrepreneur who founded the multimillion-dollar Donnelly Garment Company. After moving to Kansas City in 1906, she noticed a lack of stylish and affordable dresses and began sewing her own. Her first stock of retail dresses sold out at a downtown shop within a few hours. By 1931, her business had grown to 1,000 employees and was worth \$3.5 million. The Donnelly Garment Company survived the Great Depression and continued to thrive until Nell's retirement in 1956. It was said that one in seven American women wore a Nelly Don dress.