



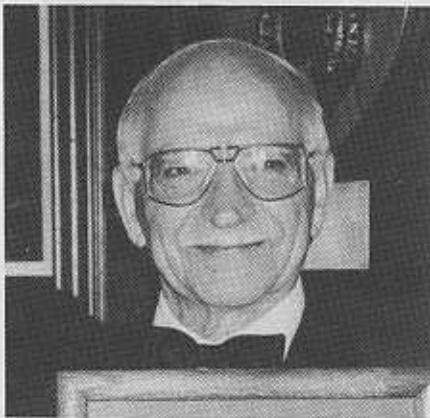
HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

VALLEY OF THE GIANTS

"When I want to understand what is happening today or try to decide what will happen tomorrow, I LOOK BACK."

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

WILSON A. CHARBONNEAUX



Wilson A. Charbonneau, born on a farm in southeastern Iowa on November 27, 1912, received his first name from Woodrow Wilson, who had just been elected president. His family name goes back to 1659, when ancestors came from France to Canada, to fight Indians. One uncle was Toussaint, who, with his young wife, Sacajawea, and tiny son, accompanied Lewis and Clark on their famous expedition which opened up the Great Northwest in 1804.

Tenth in a family of six boys and six girls, Wilson spent his early life on the farm, was active in Lone Scouts, Boy Scouts, was a Scoutmaster, Cubmaster, Committeeman, Councilman, and achieved the Eagle rank.

He was second highest in Iowa for overall Scouting achievement. He was a four-letter man in high school athletics, and earned a scholarship at Iowa Wesleyan College, where he and James Van Allen were laboratory assistants to Thomas Poulter, head of the Physics Department.

Dr. Poulter later became Second in Command of Admiral Richard Byrd's South Pole Expedition, and was credited with saving the Admiral's life. Van Allen is a renowned physicist, for whom the Earth's radiation belt is named. Charbonneau completed his engineering education at the University of Iowa in 1935, and promptly married his childhood sweetheart, Elaine. Shortly thereafter, he accepted a 25-cents-per-hour job, as there were no engineering jobs available; but soon afterwards he accepted a designing job in the Brown Boveri Division of Allis Chalmers in Milwaukee.

A year later, he was back in Burlington, Iowa, where he organized Burlington Instrument Corp., a manufacturer of voltage regulators, relays, and a full line of electrical panel meters for industry and government. He later volunteered for service in the Navy and was slated for Lt. Commander, but his company's essential war effort would not permit him to leave his position as manager of a key industry.

Shortly after World War II, Wilson resigned from BIC, and moved to Bedford, Indiana, where he organized Ace Electric Company, to manufacture a line of fractional horsepower motors. He built the building, bought all of the machinery, and reached a production rate of 200 motors daily, which was not enough for the primary customer. He sold the plant to his customer and moved to Dayton, Ohio, where George H. Leland had offered him a position as Plant Manager of G.H. Leland, Inc. (now Ledex). With a downturn in business, Wilson transferred to Leland Electric Company as Special Projects Engineer, where he assisted in the development of DC to AC aircraft inverters, and in securing government approval. Leland became the prime source for such inverters, and this division became known as Leland Airborne.

Wilson organized Wac Engineering Co. in 1950 to produce various Air

Force electronic devices, such as radar target indicators, radar dummy loads, motorized variable capacitors, etc. Later, the company was incorporated under the name WacLine, Inc., and began to expand rapidly, producing a wide variety of aviation and industrial instruments, controls, and related equipment. Twenty-seven WacLine instruments were on the Boeing 707, along with a special RPM tachometer generator. When WacLine was later sold, in 1967, to Simmonds Precision Products, Tarrytown, New York, WacLine had 425 employees.

In 1968, Wilson decided not to retire, but established a small company to market patents and promote invention. He named it Pro International Corp., with trade name "ProCorp" (it spells the same, forward and backward). Dr. Kai Setala of Helsinki, Finland, one of the inventors represented, had numerous patents in the health field, one of which is now manufactured and sold in large quantities throughout the world under the name "New Generation Hair Treatment" (to retard hair loss). No American manufacturers were interested in it in 1970. Although engaged to sell some 3000 patented ideas, during 1968 and the several years that followed, manufacturers were not interested in getting into new products, so Wilson went into the sale of companies, and later, into general Real Estate. He then sold ProCorp in 1980, and Pro Realty in 1985. He remains a licensed broker.

Wilson has been personally granted 17 patents, and assisted in many more. He has been member of both the Engineers Club and Executives Club since coming to Dayton in 1947. He has been a past member of Lions International and the Dayton Chamber of Commerce. He is an active member of Grafton Hill Association, Discussion Club, World Future Society (of which he is founder of the local chapter), Dayton Art Institute, Northminster Church, and the Club's own Barn Gang, which he helped to organize.

Among the WacLine employees who have since made good on their own in Dayton are the familiar names of William Winger, President of Hyde Park Electronics; Ron Underwood, President of Circuit Center, Inc.; and Patsy Sherman, Dayton's most outstanding real estate saleslady.