



HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

VALLEY OF THE GIANTS



Benjamin G. Danis Jr.
(1922 - 1992)

Benjamin G. Danis Jr., known as both "Ben" and "Tom" by his business associates and friends, was born in Dayton in 1922. He graduated from Chaminade High School in 1940 and attended Cornell University. Before joining the Army during World War II, he had built a successful construction equipment rental business in the Dayton area. After World War II, he returned to Dayton and joined his father's construction company, B.G. Danis Co., Inc., along with his brother, Charles W. Danis Sr.

The two brothers began shaping the modern day family-owned company, The Danis Companies, through both internal growth and acquisitions. The Danis Companies today has interests in building construction, water and waste-water treatment plant construction, real estate development and landfills. Though best known in the Dayton area for constructing such landmarks as Kettering Tower, University of Dayton Arena, Sinclair Community College and Victoria Theatre, the company that Ben and his brother,

Charles, built operates today in over twelve states throughout the Eastern half of the United States.

Ben served The Danis Companies and its many subsidiaries in various capacities over the years. In 1977, he took over from his brother, Charles, as Chairman of the Board. In the mid-1980s, he retired from the daily activities of the business and turned the operation over to family members of the next generation.

Ben was a member of the Engineers Club of Dayton for most of his working life. He served as its President and experienced many an enjoyable noontime at the "Round Table" in the corner. The spirited debate and embellished stories overheard from the Round Table group were a brief pause in an otherwise hard-working day.

B.G. Danis Jr. was a friend to all who came in contact with him and it is through all that he gave to others that we are proud to count him in our Valley of the Giants!

Phil Bouchard Will Be Missed

Dr. M. Scott Peck states in his book, "The Road Less Traveled," everything is temporary. I am not sure members of the board of the Foundation always agree. Most of the members seem to have been part of either the Board of Governors or the Foundation for a long time. Well, it must be true because as of May 31, 1996, Phil Bouchard no longer is a member of the ECDF Board of Trustees.

His second term has ended and regrettably the board had to bid him farewell. Phil has always added that critical thinking element which makes a good board better. Phil was never bashful about expressing an opinion even if he was in the minority. His thinking was sure-footed and always welcomed.

Phil will be spending some time with his wife and family which includes some grandchildren. He will be casting that fishing line and who knows what Phil may come up with next. The entire Club membership expresses a great appreciation for his many years of service to both the Board of Governors and the Foundation. Phil Bouchard will be missed.

Buff ... *Continued from page 1*

DON'T BE LATE ... OR EARLY

The huge bomber turned toward the night's target: an Iraqi air base with hardened concrete fighter shelters, now only twenty miles distant. The pilot pushed up the speed to make sure the bomber would arrive at exactly the planned time. To be off by a few seconds, early or late, could mean a collision with another B-52. Ahead the crew saw a spectacular eruption of anti-aircraft fire. Then a spotlight lit up the lead bomber as he released his load of CBU-89 Gator mines. The number-two aircraft dropped down to avoid early detection. Then came a twenty-second climb, so that his three-dozen 1,000 lb. bombs would nose over and not bounce off the runway. Seconds later the third B-52 dropped its load on the other end of the runway, putting the airfield out of commission. This air field attack was followed by a seven-aircraft sortie carrying AGM-86C Cruise Missiles which blew in the steel hanger doors and destroyed the aircraft inside.

B-52s hit 440 Iraqi Army and Republican Guard units plus Iraqi armor and artillery. The psychological impact was confirmed by many of the Iraqi soldiers who deserted during the air campaign. When the ground war began, Iraqi soldiers surrendered en masse. They had clearly had enough of BUFF! As for BUFF, it has reverted back to its nuclear roll and is scheduled to be with us until the year 2030.