



## 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



WALTER ERNST

Walter Ernst passed away on September 12, 1989, in Dayton, Ohio. Born in Berlin-Schoeneberg, Germany, on January 12, 1901, he came to the United States after graduation from the Technical University Dresden in 1923 with only the \$25 required by the immigration authorities.

After initial work as a machinist and draftsman, Mr. Ernst joined the Hydraulic Press Manufacturing Co., Mt. Gilead, Ohio, in 1926, and was put in charge of the company engineering department in 1938. Together with Howard F. MacMillin, the late president of HPM, Ernst developed the pumps, controls, and circuits that powered the company's main product line: high-speed hydraulic presses. Over 200 patents were obtained in his name alone.

In 1944, he headed the engineering activities of a design and development firm in Dayton, Ohio, which had major contracts with the U.S. Navy and Army Air Corps.

In 1949, he published the first edition of his book, *Oil Hydraulic Power & Its Industrial Applications*. This textbook became an industry classic and, for many years, the standard of the fluid power technology. A second edition appeared in 1960. He also authored many technical articles on hydraulics, many

of which appeared in *Hydraulics & Pneumatics* magazine.

In 1965, he started his own company, Ernst & Associates, to provide consulting services to industry in the field of hydrostatic energy transmission.

Ernst was a life member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and a co-founder, past president, and Fellow of the Fluid Power Society. He was a member of the Engineers Club of Dayton, as was Orville Wright, whom Ernst knew personally.

Walter Ernst received many honors. In 1963, the National Fluid Power Association selected Walt Ernst for its *Outstanding Achievement Award*. In 1970, he received the *Outstanding Achievement Award* from the Engineering & Science Institute of Dayton, Ohio. In 1976, the Fluid Power Society honored Walter with its *Distinguished Services Award*. He retired from his active consulting practice in 1975.

Mr. Ernst is survived by his wife, Cornelia Apelt, from Breman, Germany, four children born in Mt. Gilead, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Our beloved **Valley of the Giants** is proud, indeed, to add the name of **Walter Ernst** to its membership roll.