



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

EDWARD A. HOBART



Troy industrialist and philanthropist Edward Alvah Hobart died July 26, 1985, at the age of 96. He was a member of this Engineers Club for 70 years.

Mr. Hobart was born on Christmas Day, 1888, in Middletown to Charles Clarence and Lou Eila (Jones) Hobart. He lived there until he was nine, when his family moved to Troy.

He attended Troy schools and graduated from Troy High School in

1908. He then entered The Ohio State University College of Engineering, graduating in 1912.

His interest in electricity and electrical products began in high school when he and his brother, William, bought a discarded electric automobile and learned to rebuild its batteries.

After graduation he began experimenting with battery chargers, and designed and built his own, which were marketed by his brother.

In 1917, Mr. Hobart, his brother, William, and their father, C.C., founded the Hobart Brothers Co. The company's first products were battery chargers, but largely through the efforts of Mr. Hobart and his brother, the firm became a multi-national leader in the welding and power-generating industry.

Mr. Hobart was named to the board of directors of the First National Bank in 1929, and in 1931 he was named a director of the Troy Sunshade Co.

Upon the death of his father in 1932, Mr. Hobart became president of Hobart Brothers Co.

In memory of their father, Mr. Hobart and his brothers, William and Charles, established in 1942 the C. C. Hobart Foundation, a charitable foundation which has been responsible for numerous civic improvements, including the construction of Hobart Arena, Troy Memorial Stadium, Miami Shores Golf Course and the purchase and restoration of Overfield Tavern.

Through the efforts of Mr. Hobart, the city of Troy received the Treasure Island recreational facilities, and he made many anonymous contributions to various organizations and individuals.

Mr. Hobart was appointed a director of the Miami Conservancy District in 1953, and the following year was elected to the executive board of the Miami Valley Council of Boy Scouts.

He was elected vice president of the First National Bank and Trust Co. in 1958, and in 1963 was made a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

He was named one of the Dayton

area's top 10 engineers for 1963, and in 1969 his alma mater, Ohio State University, conferred on him the degree of Honorary Doctor of Science.

He was named Outstanding Citizen of the year for 1969 by the Troy Chamber of Commerce and in 1972, he became chairman of the board of Hobart Brothers. In 1980 he was the recipient of the Ohio Governor's Award.

In addition to his other duties, Mr. Hobart also served as vice president of Welding Products Co., and was a director of Florida Minerals and Continental Minerals.

He was a member of the Tau Beta Pi Honorary Engineering Society, Eta Kappa Nu Fraternity, the American Welding Society, the National Welding Supply Association, the American Ordinance Association, the Newcomen Society and the Dayton Engineers Club.

He was a member and trustee of the First Presbyterian Church of Troy and also a member of the building committee.

He served as chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Committee which supervised preliminary planning for a \$2 million addition to the old municipal power plant. He also served on the City Planning Commission and a committee which investigated means of improving the city's storm sewers; was vice president of the Miami County Committee on the Ohio Sesquicentennial in 1953; and was a member of the Advisory Committee for the city's \$450,000 recreation building program.

Mr. Hobart was a rare man, who could not only come up with ideas, but could organize and carry them out as well. Everyone didn't always agree with Mr. Hobart's plans and projects (which may not have worked out as was intended), but he had the courage and resources to leave a lasting mark on the Troy community and upon his chosen profession. He has left his community a valuable legacy, and he has more than earned his rightful place in this, our "Valley of the Giants."