



## 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

### DR. FRITZ J. RUSS



Born in Jackson County, Ohio, Fritz Russ attended a small country school, then graduated from Jackson High School in 1938. He hunted and trapped furs, wired houses, sold appliances and worked summers for Ohio Power Company to help meet expenses and college tuition. He graduated

from Ohio University with BSEE degree in 1942, and promptly accepted an engineering position with the Naval Research Laboratories in Washington, D.C., and also married his sweetheart since 1939, Dolores Houser.

While at NRL, he worked in the development of servo-mechanisms and radio direction finders. He headed up a team of researchers that went to Bikini Atoll in 1946 to perform experiments in the development of instruments for measuring forces relating to atomic bomb blasts. Shortly thereafter, Fritz became the Director of Industrial Research Labs in Baltimore, Maryland, where he developed a frequency regulator for large diesel generator sets.

He came to Wright Patterson AFB in 1948, where he was responsible for the development of a "Firing Error indicator" for the pilotless aircraft PQ14. He became the "Guidance and Control" Engineer for Air Technical Intelligence in 1950, which required him to travel to missile centers throughout the world (including the USSR).

In July of 1950, he resigned his Air Force position and started his own company, Systems Research Laboratories (in suburban Knollwood), with Dolores in charge of the office and Fritz handling engineering and sales. His first contract was the development of one of his own ideas into a product for Burroughs.

Later he contracted to maintain and operate ORAC computers, and his research facilities developed a number of inventions including "PFL", a Pulmonary Function Lab enabling physicians to do in 10 minutes what would normally require 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours! This product was manufactured and sold by SRL to over 60% of U.S. hospitals. This part of SRL was sold to Gould in 1981.

SRL's Environmental Systems

Division, "Systec", developed an EPA-approved method for disposing of cement wastes. This division was sold shortly thereafter.

Other SRL products included: data controls, high-resolution display systems, temperature and pressure transducers, electronic filters, jet aircraft silencers, and many other products.

In 32 years, SRL has grown to employ a staff of more than 1000, with over one-third possessing advanced professional degrees. Its research facilities cover 195,000 square feet under roof on 30 acres of land on a hill north of Indian Ripple Road near Xenia. In 1987 the business, except for real estate, was sold to Calspan Corp. of Buffalo, New York, a division of Arvin Industries in Columbus, Indiana, and Fritz formed a new corporation which he appropriately named Russ Venture Group in order to handle his real estate management, to further development of some of his own ideas, and to work with a number of small companies.

Since the merger of 1987, Fritz and Dolores have made major contributions to Ohio University, Cedarville College and Wright State University. Because of these, plus time and energies provided, WSU's new 4-story, 173,000-square-foot Engineering and Computer Science building was named the "Russ Engineering Center" which was formally dedicated on September 11, 1992.

Fritz has done post-graduate work in engineering at both Johns Hopkins and George Washington Universities, and was awarded "Honorary Doctor of Engineering" degree in 1975 by Ohio University. He was named a "Fellow" in the Engineers Club of Dayton in February 1990, Executive of the Year in 1981 by Dayton Executives Club, and Outstanding Engineer and

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Scientist by the Affiliate Societies Council, and is listed in "Who's Who in Engineering." He is a Senior Member in IEEE, a Registered Professional Engineer, a 35-year Member of Dayton Engineers Club, Eta Kappa Nu Association, the Masonic Fraternities, Association of Ohio Commodores, Tau Beta Pi Association, and a member of the Board of Trustees for Engineering and Science Foundation of Dayton, Board of Visitors, Ohio University, Wright State Planning, Wright State Foundation, MiamiBank (Fairborn), Pikeco Park (Waverly), Crysteco (Wilmington) and Autometrix, Inc. (Dayton).

The Russ's live on Kemp Road in Dayton. They spend their Winter months in Florida, formerly on Marco island, but in Naples since 1987. They commute by plane, as Fritz has been a licensed pilot since 1962.

When a long-time friend of Fritz was asked recently, "Why has Fritz Russ been so successful?", the friend replied, "Fritz is healthy, friendly, inquisitive, innovative, venturesome, multi-talented, cooperative, tenacious, thrifty, trustworthy, brave, clean and reverent—and so is his wife! With their high degree of these talents, they couldn't miss!"

Fritz J. Russ has truly earned his rightful role in this great VALLEY OF THE GIANTS!

## Attention Writers

The Dayton Engineer is soliciting articles for publication in this monthly newsletter. The articles can be on any subject including business, humor, technology, science, poems and all related subjects.

Please call the Club at 228-2148 if you are interested. Ask for Dennis.

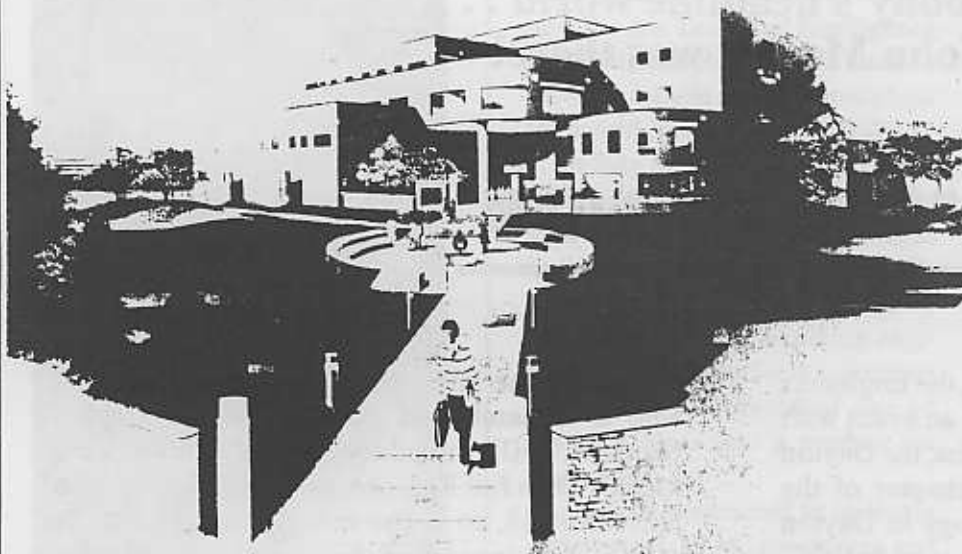
## Call for Luncheon Speakers

The Technical Education Committee is planning the fall and winter luncheon speaker program. Presentations are 30 to 45 minutes in length.

Previous topics include: Superconductivity, Cold Fusion, Quality in Manufacturing, Wright Stepp: Engineering Education, National Aero-Space Program.

The presentations have been well received with 20 to 80 attendees at each luncheon.

To discuss possible subjects and flexible dates, call Committee Chairman Harvey R. Tuck at 274-5853.



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