



HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

## VALLEY OF THE GIANTS



**LESTER BUECHLER**

Although a relative newcomer to the Engineers Club, Lester W. Buechler is very active in the Club's "Barn Gang", and he has proven himself to be the kind of engineer and successful entrepreneur to be eligible for inclusion in our "Valley of the Giants".

Following graduation in 1932 from Boone, Iowa, High School, he attended Iowa State College of Engineering, and graduated in 1937 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He went on to additional graduate courses at Northwestern, Washington, George Washington, Wisconsin and Wright State Universities.

After temporary employment at Des Moines Power & Light Co. and Sears Roebuck, he became a design engineer for Birtman Electric Co. 1938-41, served in U.S. Navy 1941-49, was Chief Engineer for Vickers Electric Co.

1950-62, with Allis-Chalmers 1962-65, and with Systems Research Laboratories 1966-76. He then, established his own Company, Ohio Electronic Engravers in 1976, of which he currently remains Chairman of the Board.

Ohio Electronic Engravers produces a superior electro-mechanical engraver in which electronic torque motors accurately position precision diamond cutters to produce quality images on huge copper cylinders for gravure printing of large quantities of colored newspaper supplements, product packaging, cereal packaging, detergent boxes, etc.

During WWII, Buechler was a Naval engineer whose responsibility was the degaussing of ships and the production of special Navy equipment. This was his primary start in magnetics, but it was education in motor design at Iowa State that gave him the basic background required for his electronic engraving achievements. Also, as Chief Engineer for Vickers, he developed electric torque motors for operating valves at speeds up to 300 cycles per second – and this helped him increase torque motor speeds to the 4500 CPS required for the gravure printing process engraving.

When Buechler was unable to convince his company, SRL, to support him in developing gravure printing improvements, he resigned, and set up a small shop in his garage, where, after two years of diligent effort, he was successful in building his first machine, which soon attracted many customers. His business has grown rapidly, with 75% of output going to overseas outlets in China, Indo China, Japan, Europe, and South America.

Lester's wife, Delilah, is also a graduate of Iowa State, of College of Family and Consumer Sciences. Says Lester, "Lilah has put up with a lot, over the past 15 years while I have been setting up this company – including serving as secretary/treasurer for several

years!" The Buechlers have two daughters.

Among Lester Buechler's many accomplishments are the following:

Set up procedures and wrote book for Naval ship degaussment. Wrote books "Magnetic Amplifiers" & "Shockproofing Naval Equipment".

Designed and built electronic engraving machinery and equipment, including 15 patents granted in fields of frequency control, magnetic amplifiers, high-pressure electrolysis and electronic engravers.

Founded Ohio Electronic Engravers – which grew at rate of +50% per year (to \$6 million in 8 years), making it #242 in 1985's INC 500 fastest growing companies.

Ohio Electronic Engravers was awarded DATN's 1992 Achievement Award.

In addition to becoming a member of Dayton Engineers Club, Buechler is a Senior Life Member of IEEE, serving on both GAA Cylinder and Magnetic Amplifier Committees. He is a registered Professional Engineer. He serves on Advisory Council of Wright State University's Engineering School. He is a past Deacon and Elder of the Presbyterian Church. He is recipient of Navy's Meritorious Service Award, and was Named "Man of the Year for 1993" by the American Gravure Association.

This past year, Lester and Delilah presented Iowa State University with an "Endowment for Engineering Excellence", an annual award to a student having a grade average over 3.00 and be in the upper 10% of class, have a special aptitude for entrepreneurship, and be active in extra-curricular activities. This award is named "The Lester and Delilah Buechler Scholarship".

It is such scientific dedication and achievement that earns for Lester W. Buechler his place on the roll of our VALLEY OF THE GIANTS.