



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



RICHARD M. CARSON

Richard Carson joined the Engineers' Club in 1936.

He was born in 1912 and attended a rural two-room school near his Montgomery County farm home, but received his high school training at Chaminade in Dayton where he was a member of the second graduating class of the school's history.

He enrolled at the University of Dayton in the college of Chemical Engineering and was

greatly influenced by the inspirational teacher, Dr. William J. Wohlleben. His assigned laboratory partner, Reuben Saeks, became a life-long friend and business associate. They graduated in 1934, which was in the very heart of the great depression. Carson finally found a job as an analytical chemist at The Dayton Malleable Iron Co.

When the Research Department was established at Dayton Malleable, he joined Lester Crome, an outstanding metallurgist, in a search for an improved ferrous casting material to replace malleable iron. It was a metal which was very brittle when cast, and required a time-consuming annealing process, which was quite expensive. This effort culminated in the discovery of "Nodular" or "Ductile" Iron.

Carson and his friend Saeks formed Carson-Saeks, Inc. in 1940, with the intention of developing several ideas which they had discussed many times. In those years many physicians conducted clinical testing in their own labs. Carson & Saeks developed reagents and put together kits for certain of the most frequently used tests. Among these were patented chemical tests for pregnancy, blood sugar, urine sugar, albuminuria, etc. These were licensed to pharmaceutical firms for manufacture and sale.

Later, branching into perfumery, they founded Karen Carson Creations to manufacture a patented assortment of scented closet accessories. The lead item was Polyfab, an elegant scented lining for dresser drawers. Millions were manufactured and sold, and the item continues to be

the leader in the field. A clientele of more than 12,000 accounts was built up ranging from gift shops, to large distributors such as Marshall Field & Co., Saks Fifth Ave., and J.C. Penney Co.

Carson has 7 patents in his name and has assisted in developing a number of other inventions.

Carson and Saeks sold this operation to The Stearns and Foster Co., who was major supplier in 1979. The present owner is Bill Smith, another long-time member of The Engineers' Club.

After so many years of pleasant association, Carson & Saeks did not want to retire completely, and so they organized Carson & Saeks Consulting Associations, Inc. to serve a few selected clients. Reuben Saeks died in 1992, thus terminating an unusually close friendship and business association of more than sixty years.

Carson's Wife Martha passed away in 1978. They had two daughters, Joan Roderer and Linda McCartan, and six grandchildren. A grandson is a recently-graduated mechanical engineer.

Carson continues in business; however, his 3 greatest interests are in the following order: family, a small growing manufacturing business in Hillsboro, and a partnership in three two-year old thoroughbreds, who, to date, have no record, but hold HIGH HOPES!

