



VALLEY OF THE GIANTS

by *Elwyn Treat*



Ralph C. Lenz

Mr. Lenz authored *Technological Forecasting*, one of the earliest publications in this discipline and the first to define and use the specific term "technological forecasting." This report was widely distributed in the United States and several foreign countries. He lectured internationally on methods of technological forecasting, has published several articles on this topic, and his original works are often cited by other specialists in forecasting. He has worked intensively on the application of technological forecasting in telecommunications, including cellular radio.

Mr. Lenz has done technological forecasting and consulting for several industrial clients, including Ameritech, GTE, Kodak, 3M, DuPont, IBM, Martin-Marietta, NYNEX, New York Telephone, Owens Corning Fiberglas, Southwestern Bell, U.S. West, and Westinghouse. Forecasts and research have been done for, or supported by, many government agencies, including the National Science Foundation, the Air Force Flight Dynamics Laboratory, the Air Force Aeronautical Systems Division, the Army Research Institute, the International Telecommunications Union, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Mr. Lenz was responsible for technology planning and forecasting studies at the University of Dayton Research Institute (UDRI) from 1975 to 1987. While serving as Senior Research Scientist at UDRI, he was Principal Investigator on the following research projects:

1. A study on the diffusion of innovations.
2. A survey of innovative concepts for new aircraft.
3. A projection of developments in satellite broadcast communications.
4. Forecasts of developments in flight vehicle technology.
5. A forecast of the R&D required to support future developments in Army Aviation training.
6. A study of productivity growth resulting from research and development.
7. Several proprietary forecasts for industrial clients.

He has been a Senior Associate with Technology Futures, Inc., Austin, Texas, a consulting research and industrial education firm specializing in technology forecasting and advanced technology management techniques from 1987 to 1993.

Prior to the above Mr. Lenz served as Assistant Deputy for Development Planning at the

Aeronautical Systems Division, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and in other positions involving aerospace technology planning from 1954 to 1974.

This planning involved not only a projection of future needs, but detail time-phased schedules for the research necessary for assuring success of complete Weapon Systems.

From 1945 to 1953 he was involved with the instrumentation of aircraft structures for flight testing, including atomic bomb tests in Nevada and the Pacific Island testing. He is one of a few persons who witnessed an atomic bomb explosion from right over the blast.

Mr. Lenz was awarded a Sloan Fellowship at MIT in 1958 and National Honorary Membership in Triangle Fraternity on 1976. He is an Associate Fellow in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and is a member of Sigma Xi and the International Institute of Forecasters. His academic background includes the following:

B.S., Aeronautical Engineering, University of Cincinnati in 1943
M.S., Industrial Management, MIT, 1959

Senior Executive Course, Federal Executive Institute, 1970

Mr. Lenz served in the Air Force from 1945 to 1946 and attained the rank of Corporal.

Mr. Lenz was active in the World Future Society and was President in 1991. His talks about human values emphasized his concern for social and economic, as well as technical problems in the United States and the world.

On February 5, 1945 Ralph married Mary Stone. They have two daughters, Linda and Lois, and two grandchildren, Julie and Ryan.

Mr. Lenz's contributions to the U.S. government, industry, academia and society are outstanding and have earned him his rightful place in our VALLEY OF THE GIANTS!