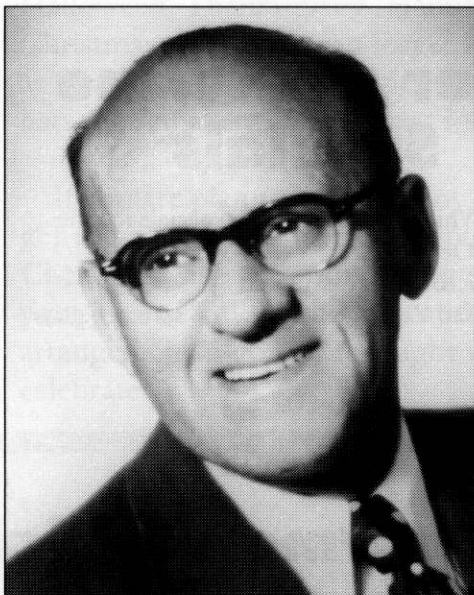


Historical Achievements

# Valley of the Giants

**Daniel W. Mikesell**  
**1883 – 1965**



*Daniel W. Mikesell*

Daniel W. Mikesell was born in 1883 near Pleasant Hill in Miami County, Ohio. He moved to Dayton, Ohio, in 1906, and after working in a dry goods store, started his own business in his home on West Fifth Street near Williams Street. He marketed sausage and sliced, dried beef, and made deliveries by bicycle. He would take his bicycle to the Wright Cycle Shop on West Third Street, and became friends with Orville and Wilbur Wright.

His business soon began to grow, and he purchased equipment for slicing potatoes into "Saratoga Chips." He and his wife Martha worked 12 hours per day, six days per week, and the business kept growing. In 1913, they purchased a Ford panelled delivery truck—the first one in Dayton! They sold delicious "Saratoga Chips" at public gatherings, state and county fairs, as well as the local stores.

The Great Flood of 1913 temporarily put the Mikesells out of business, but they built a larger plant on South

Williams Street, began to use area grocery stores for distribution of their products, and the business grew rapidly. In 1939, Mikesell purchased the first automated potato chip fryer, which made the business grow faster.

In 1955, Mikesell bought a new plant and offices at 333 Leo Street. His company more than doubled in size by 1985, when production required 100 tons of potatoes daily to meet customer requirements in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia. Potatoes are purchased from the states of Ohio, Michigan, South Dakota, Alabama, Florida and the Carolinas. Mikesell's superior flavor and method of packaging keeps their product in great demand.

Daniel Mikesell was not only a hard worker, but also active in civic affairs. He was Shiloh Church's choir director for more than 20 years, a character member of Dayton Lions Club, president of the Choirmasters Club, and a director of the Chanters of Antioch Shrine. He was also a member of The Dayton Engineers Club from 1951 – 1965.

His daughter, Mary Mae Mikesell Mapp, remains an active member of Mikesell's board of directors, and his son-in-law, Leslie C. Mapp, is chief executive officer.

Daniel W. Mikesell was another innovator from the early Dayton industrial era, and along with the Wrights, Pattersons, Ketterings and Deeds, has earned the right to have his name on the roll of our beloved VALLEY OF THE GIANTS!

