



Historical Achievements

Valley of the Giants

Everett P. Larsh 1886 – 1976

This story brings out, rather dramatically, the need to keep better records relative to those persons who have done a great part in making better lives for those who follow. The first portion of this story is all that is available from the current records of the Main County Library (with only a change in tense, as Mr. Larsh was living at the time it was written).

Everett P. Larsh. Richly endowed with the qualities of initiative and resource, concentration and enthusiasm, and with various communities as the setting for his ambitions, he had achieved repeated accomplishments, and he had been firmly established in the manufacturing business of Burnett-Larsh Company. He was born in Richmond, Indiana, June 16, 1886, a son of John H. Larsh, who came to Dayton in 1916 as an expert in the heat treatment of steel. Everett attended grade and high schools in Indiana, and developed a positive genius for electrical work. He was but 16 years of age when he was employed by Remy Electric Company in Anderson, as a machinist. His rise was rapid, with advancements to the position of chief inspector, a position in which most youths his age would still be unsettled in their minds as to what career to follow. In the meantime, while instructing others, he applied himself assiduously to the study of electrical engineering. He next accepted a position as a draftsman in the motive power division of the Indiana Union Traction Company, and a short time later, a position as a designing engineer for Standard Machine Company of Bowling Green, Ohio. His next activity was in the Navy in January 1907, where he enlisted and specialized in wireless work at Brooklyn Navy Yard. He soon perfected himself in this difficult branch of electricity and was sent to Key West, Florida, to take charge of that wireless station as chief electrician. Upon receiving his honorary discharge from the Navy, he became inspector and supervisor of final tests and inspection for the M. Rumely Company of LaPorte, Indiana. His next connection was with Vaile-Kimes Company as superintendent, followed in 1915 with

C.E. Burnett, the founding of Burnett-Larsh Company, with Larsh as vice-president and general manager.

On March 1, 1919, he left Burnett-Larsh and designed a line of automatic electric pumps, and sold the license to manufacture them to Monarch Engineering Company. He became a consulting engineer for Monarch, as well as the factory manager for Dayton Fan and Motor in August of 1919. His career has been remarkable in many degrees, and he had a wide acquaintance among many engineers and business executives who respected him for his many talents and personal popularity. He belonged to the Masonic Blue Lodge, the Dayton Engineers Club, the YMCA, and the Greater Dayton Association. He was married to Mable Wilcox of Richmond, Indiana.

The above provided but a small description of E.P. Larsh's accomplishments, as in 1920 he founded the Master Electric Company, which grew to an employment of over 600 and shipped motors of every size and shape throughout the world. He was its chief executive officer until his retirement and sale of the company to Reliance Electric Company in 1963. Upon his retirement, he purchased a vacant home on the first lot east of the Engineers Club, where he continued as a consultant until he sold the property to the Club in the 1960s (and was later taken over by Wright State University to build the Kettering Center).

A copy of his obituary, obtained from Memorial Park Cemetery, states, "Everett P. Larsh, age 90, passed away in Miami, Florida, 17 November 1976. He was a retired industrialist and inventor. He was chairman of the board of Master Electric Company until its merger with Reliance Electric Company in 1958. He was a Fellow in IEEE, an inventor with over 60 patents in his name. He was a member of the First Lutheran Church, and funeral services were held at the Masonic Temple. ..."

A 50-year member of the Engineers Club, we can be justly proud to include the name of Everett P. Larsh in our VALLEY OF THE GIANTS!