



HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

VALLEY OF THE GIANTS



O. B. "BEN" REEMELIN

1881 - 1975

Oscar Benjamin Reemelin was born in suburban Cincinnati in 1881, and graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1904 with a Civil Engineering degree. He joined the Dayton Power & Light Company in 1905 during the emergence from "the good old horse-and-buggy days," when vast improvements were required to keep pace with demands made upon the local electric generating company.

In 1907, Mr. Reemelin installed the turbine foundation for DP&L's Fourth Street Station; from 1906 - 1913, he was Superintendent of Underground, and in 1916, was named General Superintendent. From 1917 - 1926, he was also Manager of the Steam Heating Division, and from 1926 to 1932 he took on the management of the Electrical Division in addition to being named Vice President, as well as a Director of DP&L; positions which he held until his retirement in 1962—after 57 years of continuous employment!

In the early '50s, the Miami Valley was facing an increasing problem of river pollution and lowering of ground water levels. Mr. Reemelin headed a Chamber of Commerce team that was addressing these problems, and, like Col. Deeds, who was the primary force that created the Miami Conservancy District, Ben Reemelin was the primary influence that created the Water Conservation Sub-district of the Miami Conser-

vancy District. This resulted in the construction of two wastewater treatment plants and the development of groundwater monitoring system.

He headed up a group that established the four-acre park at the corner of Schantz Avenue and Patterson Road as the East Oakwood Club (now, Shafor Park and Oakwood Community Center). During WWII, he was Chairman of the War Housing Group, which added 21,000 housing units in Montgomery County.

In addition, Mr. Reemelin was one of the first 100 members of the Engineers Club (was its President in 1935-36), and was an active member for 61 years. He was a 50-year member of Dayton's YMCA, a long-time member and former president of Dayton Kiwanis Club, and was very active in the Area Boy Scout Council (awarded the Silver Beaver—Scouting's highest honor). He was long-associated with Dayton Chamber of Commerce, active in the Antioch Shrine, member of Oakwood School Board and a member of First Lutheran Church.

O. B. Reemelin's son, Robert E. Reemelin, is a recently-retired executive of the Miami Conservancy District, and an active member of the Engineers Club.

The Club is most fortunate in having Oscar B. Reemelin's name as a Giant enrolled in our beloved VALLEY OF THE GIANTS!