



Historical Achievements

Valley of the Giants

The Requarth Family

1836 - 1998+

This Valley of the Giants differs from prior reports, in that it highlights a family tree from which a lumber products industry has grown for 138 years in this city.

The founder of this family industry was Frederick August Requarth, born in 1836 in Germany, who came to Ohio in 1848 and opened a woodworking shop at Fourth and Wayne Avenue in Dayton in 1860. He incorporated the business in 1890, as the F.A. Requarth Company, and moved to the present location at 447 E. Monument Avenue in 1895. He died in 1910, and his son, Henry W., carried on the family business. Henry died in 1933, and Henry's son, Earl, managed the business until his death in 1974, at which time Earl's son, Harold W. Requarth, took over the leadership of the company. Harold is the current CEO with Alan Pippenger as the president of the corporation. Alan's mother, Louise, is the great granddaughter of the founder.

Pippenger's interest in joint family businesses stirred the interest of John Heitman at the University of Dayton who wrote a book on the subject. The book shows that less than one percent of United States family businesses survive four family generations! The Requarths have continued their business for 138 years, 103 years at the

current address!

The Requarth Company has survived three major catastrophes: a fire in 1894, which wiped out its inventory; the 1913 flood; and a second major fire that consumed half its lumberyard in 1972!

After opening three Lumber Mart retail stores in the 1960s, Requarth sold them shortly thereafter to Wolohan Lumber Co., but maintains a subsidiary outlet to provide an extra level of service to homebuilders. It's called Farco Building Solutions.

Harold Requarth has been an Engineers Club member since 1952, and daily holds a luncheon meeting at the same table with seven or eight associates at the Club. This is reminiscent of the days when Kettering and Deeds, as well as Delco, DP&L, Master, Leland, and other major area organizations, would meet for business luncheons at special tables in the Club dining room!

Harold's wife, Cherriann, in 1985 became the first woman to be president of the Engineers Club. She is still active in several volunteer community organizations.

The Requarth Family, as an historic local business group, has earned its special place of honor in our precious Valley of the Giants.

For 12 years the Dayton Engineer has published Valley of the Giants, describing 80 of the Dayton area's outstanding engineers and scientists who have been associated with the Engineers Club. In order that newer Club members have the opportunity to read about the "Giants," our library now has a book containing each of their stories. Listings are alphabetical and are followed by the date the column appeared in The Engineer. Valley of the Giants will continue to be published monthly, and we will put the additions in the library. We also plan to consolidate the fascinating "I Was There" series.

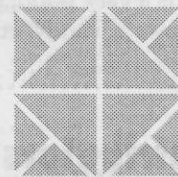


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