

# Charles Abramovitz

*Family man, civic leader, take-charge businessman*

Charles Abramovitz, a past President of our Club, has been a resident of Dayton since 1950, when the City of Dayton hired him to head the Comprehensive Study of its sanitary and storm sewer systems. During his 5 years with the City's Bureau of Sewers he also served as Chief Engineer.

In 1955, Ralph Woolpert asked him to join the Engineering firm bearing his name to take charge of planning and engineering for the proposed Huber Heights subdivision. At that time, the area was little more than farmland, today it is an incorporated city of more than 40,000 people.

In 1960, Mr. Abramovitz became a partner in the firm and by then had assumed responsibility for residential, commercial and industrial development in Washington Township and Centerville.

During 1977, following Mr. Woolpert's retirement from the firm, he was named Managing Partner of Woolpert Consultants. The change in the firm's name reflected its growth in size and scope; in the type of professional services it presently provides and in the geographic range in which it operates.

Traditionally, heavily involved in surveying, engineering and private development, the firm has greatly expanded its staff and services into disciplines such as aerial photography and photogrammetry, urban and regional planning, landscape architecture, interactive computer graphics and architecture.

Under Mr. Abramovitz's management, the firm has expanded from a local firm, employing 80 people to a national firm of nearly 250 people with offices in Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus and Portsmouth, Ohio; Indianapolis, Indiana; Ashland, Kentucky; Charlotte, N.C.; and Mobile, Ala. The firm also has done

## Meeting Members



Charles Abramovitz

extensive work in Florida and elsewhere, as well as in Central America working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Last year, Engineering News Record called Woolpert "one of the fastest risers" in the nation's design industry. The firm jumped to the position of 197th in ENR's 1984 listing of the top 500 design firms, a dramatic growth from being ranked No. 242 the previous year.

In all these years, Mr. Abramovitz has always made time to be an active participant in professional organizations and in a variety of community organizations. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and of ASCE's Dayton Section. He holds membership in the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Urban Land Institute, American Public Works Association, American Water Works Association, American Society for Engineering Education and American Planning Association. He continues to serve on several committees at our Club.

Mr. Abramovitz's on-going concern for the welfare of the community has been expressed through an on-going involvement with the United Way, serving as the organization's President in 1973 and 1974. Currently he is chairing the committee on Priorities. In 1968-1970 he served as President of the Health and Welfare Council and was instrumental in the merger of the organization with United Way. In the years 1978-80 he chaired the Ohio Citizens Council.

Starting in 1983, he took over as President of the Jewish Federation of Dayton, his term of office ending this year.

A native of Norristown, Pa., Mr. Abramovitz became interested in engineering during his youth because "he wanted to see something that I designed." He is a graduate of Drexel

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University, Philadelphia, Pa., with a B.S. in Civil Engineering.

He and his family have lived in Upper Dayton View for the past 28 years. His wife, Helen, is a child and family therapist at Good Samaritan Center for Youth Resources. They are the parents of 3 married daughters and grandparents to two boys and a girl. Debra, the couple's oldest daughter lives with her husband and young son on a farm in Herman, Mich., where they produce maple syrup. Debra just became the youngest member of the L'anse School Board. Middle daughter, Beth is an urban planner who lives with her family of husband, son and daughter in Jerusalem, Israel. Sara, the youngest, and husband live in the Boston area, and her field is early childhood education.

The couple travels extensively and regularly, usually to keep in touch with their widespread family. A photo hanging in his office shows a wild-flower growing from a rock overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

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