



HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

# VALLEY OF THE GIANTS

*"When I want to understand what is happening today or try to decide what will happen tomorrow, I LOOK BACK."*

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

## EDWARD L. KOHNLE



*The initial "Valley of the Giants" column was created with the story of Charles F. Kettering in the September 1985 issue of the Dayton Engineer, following a series of historical episodes beginning with the September 1984 issue, shortly after the arrival of Club Manager, Bud Vogt.*

*This column was discontinued with March 1986 issue following Vogt's retirement and return to the West Coast, and was re-instated by Editor*

*Charles A. Dempsey with his first issue in September 1989, and discontinued in July 1991, following his retirement as Editor.*

*With the establishment of the Club's new "Barn Gang" and an active Archives Committee therein, the "Barn Gang" has agreed to be responsible for submitting monthly "Valley of the Giants" material to the Editor of the Dayton Engineer.*

*Many current and past Club members are deserving of this type of editorial acknowledgment, and it is an aim of the Barn Gang to have a sufficient number of such stories provided in advance, to insure the Editor of reliable continuity of "The Valley of the Giants" in future years.*

One outstanding historical club member was Edward L. Kohnle, who, with his father, Fred Kohnle, joined the club on March 11, 1918, and continued his membership for 69 years (up to the time of his death on March 2, 1987 at age of 95).

Born in Dayton on February 26, 1892, Edward Kohnle attended both Miami Jacobs College and the University of Pennsylvania; and in June of 1912, joined his father and brother in the Monarch Marking Systems Company of Dayton. Edward married Esther Bridge of Franklin, Ohio in June of 1916 and raised two children, John Edward and Phyllis Ann. Their home was in Oakwood until moving into Friendship Village, where Esther passed away in 1982.

Ed Kohnle became Secretary-Treasurer of Monarch in 1926 and later became its President and Board chairman, continuing in this capacity until his retirement in 1968.

Ed served his country in World War I as a First Lieutenant in the Coast Guard, at Fort Monroe in Virginia.

He served the Dayton community actively in many ways during his lifetime. He joined the YMCA in 1923, became a trustee in 1930, and was its President in 1936-40. In

1960, he chaired the YMCA fund campaign.

In the Boy Scouts, his contributions were also outstanding. He was chairman of Troop 51 in 1928, council President, 1964-65, and a Life member of the National Executive Board in 1962. He received the Silver Beaver Award in 1938, the Silver Antelope Award in 1946, and the Silver Buffalo (national) Award in 1958. He was chairman of the Million Dollar Campaign for the new Woodland Trails Boy Scout Camp in 1958.

He was President of Dayton Chamber of Commerce in 1935-36, Chairman of Community Chest Campaign in 1939, President of Community Chest (now, United Way) 1940-41, and President of Dayton Rotary Club 1950-51.

He served as Board Member of Merchants National Bank (now First National Bank), the Dayton Power and Light Co., Junior Achievement of Dayton, Dayton Automobile Club, Philharmonic Orchestra Association, Miami Valley Hospital (1941-56), Wilmington College (1956-59), Committee for Kettering Hospital (1959), First Baptist Church, and he was member of the Antioch Shrine and a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason.

He was active in the Engineers Club over his 69 years of membership, working with various committees, and lending his financial support and expertise.

Following his wife's death in 1982, Mr. Kohnle moved to Montana, to live with his daughter, Phyllis Castor.

It is this remarkable dedication of one of our Club members, over a period of 69 years, to serve such a broad cross-section of our community in so many different ways, that has earned Edward L. Kohnle a respected place in our Valley of the Giants.