



HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

VALLEY OF THE GIANTS



ERVIN J. NUTTER

When Ervin Nutter joined the Engineer Club in 1970, few members realized the important contributions that he and his Elano Corporation were providing to our Miami Valley, and to our Nation.

Much of the information presented herein was first made known to Club members recently, on Founder's Night, April 24th, when the name of Ervin J. Nutter was added to the Club's roll of FELLOWS.

Erv was born June 26, 1914, in Hamilton, Ohio. His father had been raised in Wyoming and trained as a cowboy, but later, had moved to Ohio to accept a position with MacGregor Golf Equipment Company, eventually becoming its Chief Engineer. Erv's mother was one of the first women to receive a teaching degree from the University of Kentucky.

Before graduating from Hamilton High School, Erv was building crystal

radio sets, radio antennas and bird baths. He entered University of Kentucky in 1933, earning his way as an electrician for two years, then dropped out of college to work as Assistant Chief Engineer for Hooven-Owens-Rentschler Company in Hamilton. He later returned to University of Kentucky and received a BSME Degree in 1943.

He then accepted a civilian engineering position at Wright Field, where he worked at designing and building laboratory equipment and developing and producing special products. One of his projects was developing and producing special insecticide spraying equipment for use in jungle combat areas. This led to his appointment as Branch Chief and his involvement with the testing of jet engines.

Following the end of WWII, Erv and a long-time Wright Field friend started a small engineering development business which they called "Agricultural Aviation Company", which was soon producing agricultural spray nozzles, television antennas and kitchen sink swing spouts. It was the technical developments in swing spout production that led to jet engine tubing contracts with General Electric Co., and the formation of Elano Corporation in 1951. For ten years, Elano struggled; but finally, annual sales began to rise rapidly, requiring expansion of facilities and purchase of Acme Screw Products Co. in 1966. Elano East was founded in 1966 near Boston, Mass. Enzo Realty was established to own and maintain all land and buildings of the Elano family of companies.

The 1200-acre KBJ Ranch is currently engaged in advanced cattle-breeding techniques and crop development, as well as experimental work for Ohio State University.

Erv sold Elano in 1985 and retired from much of his business activities. He became a world traveler and a big game hunter. As a staunch conservationist, he hunted only game that was surplus to the areas visited (he was nearly crushed by a charging elephant while helping a park ranger apply monitoring devices to members of the herd). His big game jaunts took him into the jungles of Africa, India, South America, Asia and the Arctic.

Having met his wife, Zoe Dell, dur-

ing his early years at Wright Field, it is no small wonder that both of them hold multi-engine pilot's licenses. Zoe Dell was one of the few women pilots at the time, at Wright Field. They now own three airplanes. They have three sons, Kenneth, Joseph and Robert.

The spectacular life story of Ervin J. Nutter would fill volumes; therefore, we will conclude this writing by listing a few of his many accomplishments, organizational activities, honors and awards, as follows:

Founder of Elano Corporation, Elano East, Enlo, Inc., Nutter Enterprises, Enzo Realty, and KBJ Ranch. Purchased and greatly expanded Acme Screw Products Company.

Served on the Boards of UK Fellows Club, Air Force Museum, WSU Trustees, Society Bank NA Advisory, National Aviation Hall of Fame, Defense Orientation Conference Assn., Shikar Safari International, Shikar Safari Foundation, Game Conservation International, and the International Center for the Preservation of Wild Animals.

In addition the Engineers Club of Dayton, he has been, and in most cases, still is member of: Professional Engineering Societies of Ohio and Kentucky, FAA Aircraft Commercial Pilots, President's Clubs of UK, WSU, UD and OSU, Alumni Assn. of UK, UK Development Council, OSU Gamma Sigma Delta Fraternity, UK Tau Beta Pi and Triangle Fraternities, Chambers of Commerce of US, Ohio, Beavercreek and Xenia, Ducks Unlimited, African Wildlife Society, Masonic Lodge, Rotary International, Shrine Club, YMCA, Explorer Club of New York, US Navy League, Bonnette Hunting and Fishing Club of Florida, Lost Tree Club of Florida, Old Port Yacht Club of Florida, Ohio Commodore, UK Faculty Club and Walnut Grove Country Club.

It is the technical persistence and vision of those few like Ervin J. Nutter, that continue to make our Valley of the Giants known and appreciated throughout the civilized world. The Engineers Club of Dayton is proud to honor him as a FELLOW Member!

