

W. R. PERSONS



1927 Graduate of Thomas W. Harvey High School:

Awarded Eight Varsity Letters while at Harvey
Returned as Coach 1933-34

1931 Graduate Case Institute - Bachelor of Science Degree

1932 Master of Science Degree - Society of The Sigma Xi

Fortune Magazine - Elected to U.S. Business Hall of Fame, 1989 Living Legend

Industrialist in St. Louis for over 30 years, with a record of public service and interests in a wide range of civic and "people oriented" activities. In electrical industry for 42 years. (Twenty years with Lincoln Electric in Cleveland as General Sales Manager, then Vice President-Marketing; and Director; -- famous for incentive management.)

Presently Emeritus Chairman of Emerson Electric Co., St. Louis, Mo., a large technical and electronic manufacturer. Joined Emerson Electric Co. in January, 1954 as President and Chief Executive Officer. Became Chairman, continuing as Chief Executive Officer of Emerson Electric Co., its subsidiaries and divisions until 1974.

Appointed - Member of the Missouri - St. Louis Airport Authority by the Missouri Governor 1972-1990.

President of National Electrical Manufacturers Association - 1963-64. Developed and installed a code of ethics for that industry after the Philadelphia Anti-Trust Suits of 1960-62. Member for 20 years.

President of St. Louis Civic Progress - 1957-67. Began Dialogue Program with inner city leaders that continues today. Member for 20 years.

Trustee of Barnes Hospital in St. Louis for 15 years and Chairman of Barnes Medical Center.

Founder of the St. Louis Research Council which is presently Regional Industrial Development Corporation (RIDC).

Founder of BYU, a job placement plan involving the Urban League, YMCA, and Businessmen of St. Louis in Inner City Jobs. Placed 5,300 inner city people with a retention rate of 80%, 1968-70. Awarded Special Citation by the Urban League in 1969. Awarded Distinguished Service Award by Roy Wilkins of NAACP in 1971.

President of Reinhardt Mural Foundation - 1979 Dedication of Mural depicting History of Flight in 1982.

Published a writing in "Management Handbook" by Peter Mali

**Inducted:
Member of The Harvey Alumni Association
Distinguished Graduates
May 31, 1990**