

Don C. Horsman, former steel mill superintendent, is dead

Donald C. Horsman, 64, former vice president - operations of Continental Steel Corporation, died Sunday, Aug. 28, 1977, at 10:30 a.m. at his home, 235 Magnolia Dr., following a short illness.

He had retired Dec. 31, 1972, after 37 years with Continental and in the past several years had been director of the professional practice program at Indiana University-Kokomo, retiring from that post last June 30.



Donald C. Horsman

He began at Continental Steel (now Penn-Dixie Steel Corporation) in 1935 as a metallurgist observer in the open hearth department, after receiving his degree in chemical engineering at Purdue University.

In 1942 he was placed in charge of the rod department, was made superintendent of rolling mills in 1946 and superintendent of the steel division in 1950. Four years later he was named assistant general superintendent, then plant superintendent in 1956 and manager of operations in 1964. He was elected a vice president of the company in 1965, and became a member of the board of directors of Enterprise Wire Company, a Continental subsidiary, in 1971.

He was born in Kokomo Nov. 9, 1912, the son of Charles and Mary Shaffer Horsman. On March 19, 1971, he was married to Naomi M. Knarr, who survives with his mother, Mrs. Mary Horsman of Franklin; and three sons, David, Chattanooga, Tenn., Charles, Bloomington, and Bruce, New Castle.

Also surviving are three step-daughters: Mrs. Barbara Lucas and Mrs. Melody Calvin, Seymour, and Mrs. Connie Gilmore, Houston, Tex.; 14 grandchildren; and a brother, Ernest C. Horsman, Greenwood.

He was a 1931 graduate of Kokomo High School, where he played varsity football, basketball, tennis and track. In the early 1950s he designed the rod mill at Continental and was instrumental in its installation. At the time it was one of the most automated mills in the United States.

At Purdue he was graduated with distinction and was a member of Tau Beta Pi honorary engineering fraternity, Sigma Xi honorary scientific and research society, Phi Lambda Upsilon honorary chemical engineering fraternity, and Theta Tau social fraternity. He played freshman and varsity football at Purdue and was a member of the student section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

He held memberships in the American Iron and Steel Institute, the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers, the American Institute of Mining Engineers and the Wire Association.

His civic activities were many. He was a life member, past treasurer, past president and past board chairman of the Kokomo Management Club and a director from Indiana on the board of the National Association of Foremen; an honorary life member and former president of the Kokomo YMCA; a past director and vice president of Kokomo Good Will Industries; a member and former director of the Kokomo Rotary Club.

Also he had served as a director of the Kokomo Chamber of Commerce; a director of the Howard-Tipton County Red Cross chapter; a trustee of the Kokomo School Building Corporation (in 1967), and a director of the Howard County Legal Aid Society.

In 1964-69 he was on the board of the Sangrealea Valley Boys Home and was general chairman of its capital fund drive. He received the Distinguished Service Award of the Kokomo Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1944 as Kokomo's outstanding young man, and the YMCA's Service to Youth Award.

He was a member of the Kokomo Masonic Lodge and the First Congregational Christian Church, the Kokomo Elks Lodge, Kokomo Country Club and the Indiana Sheriffs Association.

In his church affiliation he had taught a Sunday School class, had been Sunday School superintendent, a member of the Board of Religious Education, chairman of the Diaconate Board, chairman of the athletic committee, and moderator of the congregation.

The body is at the Fenn Funeral Home, where friends may call Tuesday from 2 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Calling hours also will be from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesday at the First Congregational Christian Church, where services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday. The Rev. John Staton, pastor of the church, will officiate. Entombment will be in the mausoleum at Sunset Memory Gardens.

The family has suggested that memorials be in the form of contributions to the Heart Fund, the Cancer Fund, or the Memorial Committee of the First Congregational Christian Church.