

INDUCTEE

JAMES M. DYSART

Graduated. . . .1934
Married.Olive McKellar
ChildrenJean, Carol, David,
Resides.Gahanna

Jim has been a lifelong resident of the Gahanna School District graduating from the high school in 1934. He attended Franklin University and Ohio State University's School of Engineering.

Shortly before the outbreak of World War II, Jim was employed by Ranco, Inc., a major producer of airplane controls and binoculars for the military during World War II. He was in management, designing and supervising in the binocular production and devoted a total of 40 years to Ranco.

He moved his family into the village of Gahanna in 1950 and began to involve himself in the growth and development of his "city." By 1952 he was a member of the Gahanna City Council and remained on that board for 18 years serving 3 years as President. As Chairman of the Safety Committee he was instrumental in organizing the first Gahanna Police Department and bringing in the first police cruiser. He served on the zoning committee, was involved in selecting the site for the present City Complex on Hamilton Road and worked on locating I-270 in the Gahanna area.

When Discovery Park was dedicated in 1993, Jim Dysart donated the old Big Walnut Bridge Bollard to be included with the other bridge ornamentation and he received a resolution from the City of Gahanna proclaiming that "James Dysart is honored and commended for his service as a member of Gahanna Council beginning in 1952 and continuing through 1959...one of the longest continuous terms of public service by a Gahanna resident."

In 1999 then mayor, Jim McGregor added his thanks to Jim's contributions to the city's development in a personal letter remarking about the 1966 city development plan Jim Dysart was so much a part of. "What a far-sighted document... The citizens of Gahanna are so indebted to you.... Looking at the goals stated in the introduction, all have been accomplished. The growth area you envisioned is complete to the outerbelt, Morse Road, and the railroad.... The industrial base you envisioned is thriving and the infrastructure...in place and working excellently.... The City has been through some hard times. Through it all, the plan you set before us prevailed."

Jim's devotion to duty has been seen elsewhere in the community: in the way he has served Mifflin Presbyterian Church (trustee, deacon, elder) and his Lodge involvement: Magnolia Lodge F and AM, Scottish Rite, Aladdin Shrine.

To this day, he avidly follows the progress of the City. The City and its progress is a validation of the rewards for hard work. Jim Dysart's name will forever be linked to the growth and development of the City of Gahanna.