

The following was presented by Board Member, Ken Lab, at the Hall of Distinction Ceremony of the Dover Historical Society on Sunday, May 1, 2022

Arthur J. Krantz

Arthur J. Krantz was born in Dover, Ohio in 1874. In 1891 he went to work for Jeremiah and Jabez Reeves in the old Reeves Mill. He was 17. His affiliation with Reeves Steel would last for 69years, until his death in 1960.

AJ, as he was known, became secretary of the new Reeves Manufacturing Company when the original mill was sold to US Steel. He remained with the Reeves family and the new Reeves Manufacturing Company was established by Sam Reeves Sr. The year was 1900 and he was 26.

After Sam's passing, AJ was made Secretary/Treasurer in addition to being the General Manager. By 1952 he would be President of the Board of Reeves Steel and Manufacturing, and ultimately, at the time of his death, Chairman of the Board of the Empire Reeves division of Universal Cyclops Corporation.

In 1903, at age 29, AJ was one of the first Vice Presidents of Reeves Banking and Trust and became President after Jeremiah Reeve's death in 1948. He was serving as Chairman of the Board in 1960 at his passing. In 1908, he and James Rees, who was inducted into our Hall of Distinction at our last meeting, formed the Dover Forge and Iron Company. AJ Krantz was President. He was also Secretary of the Rees' Union Lumber Company. In 1920, AJ Krantz and Jeremiah Reeves incorporated the Daily Reporter in Dover.

AJ Krantz's endeavors went beyond business and heavy industry. In 1930 he was made President of the Union Hospital Association, of which he was a member of the board. He served as Director of the Dover Chamber of Commerce during 1933 and AJ was on the Board of Trustees of Union Country Club, including 2 years as it President. He was a member of the Dover Masonic Lodge, the Dover Elks, and Grace Lutheran Church.

In March of 1960, AJ suffered a stroke while wintering in St. Petersburg, Florida. He was flown back to Dover and died on May 17, 1960 in Union Hospital. His ashes were interred at Maple Grove Cemetery. He was 86 years old.

The trust and responsibility's bestowed on Mr. Krantz by successful businessmen many years his senior like Jeremiah Reeves and James Rees,

before he was even 30 years old certainly speaks volumes of the distinct man he must have been.

AJ Krantz was survived by his wife, the former Adelaide Deis, an adult daughter, Majorie Dodds, who resided in Palo Alto, California with her two sons. A glimpse of AJ Krantz the person can perhaps best be gleaned from the excerpts from an article published in the Daily Reporter the day after his death, a paper he admittedly helped establish.

The article is titled: Dover Has Lost a Friend

The death of Arthur J. Krantz takes from Dover a citizen whose unobtrusive contribution to industrial and civic forwardness is immeasurable. Through his 86 years he devoted his time and energy to the Reeves Steel and those community endeavors which he considered vital to its welfare.

AJ Krantz was an industrialist who was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He came up through the ranks of a steel industry that, for years, was Dover's lifeline. He earned for himself a reputation as a hard bargainer, but he was also respected for his sympathetic understanding and trustworthiness.

"A.J." abhorred the limelight. Years ago he declined the annual Chamber of Commerce civic award. Although no recipient had a better right to such a salute. He preferred that it go to some other deserving individual. This was also true in respect to the man's generosity. He financially supported many community undertakings and he likewise helped many individuals but also insisted upon anonymity.

A.J. Krantz was synonymous with an era of American industry which saw it struggle to the foremost position in the world. His passing comes at a time when automation is making giant strides as manufacturers try to combat foreign competition.

The story concludes, Without such industrialists and individualists, such as A.J. Krantz, American industry would have never reached the pinnacle of world envy. Dover, indeed, has lost a friend and fellow citizen whose place can never be taken by another.

I find the tone of this article from 1960 to be quite contrary to the seemingly prevalent attitudes of today- where industry is vilified and we attempt to tear down any individual of achievement or success. A man such as A.J. Krantz was presented as someone to be looked to as an example of what to strive for, what to emulate, what to respect. Because of the man that he was, seemingly

without effort, he is today inducted into the Dover Historical Society's Hall of Distinction.