

Memories of

Rulof C. W. van der Heyde

By William C. Elrod

Rulof was a dear friend and long time active member in the ASME Dayton Section and the ASME Ohio Council. He joined ASME in 1977 and served the Dayton Section in various capacities including Section Chairman and Public Affairs Director and served as Chairman of the Ohio Council. The Ohio Council which included representatives from all Ohio ASME Sections studied various technical matters and provided written summaries to the Ohio legislature for their use relative to the matters being considered for pending legislation. He was instrumental in planning and carrying out two ASME Regional Administrative Conference meetings held at Dayton. Also, he represented the Dayton Section in the Affiliate Societies Council of Dayton (ASC). For the Council he participated in the ASC Career Exploration Weekend program for several years and later in the ASC TechFest program until his health began to fail about a year ago. The ASC is made up of about fifty professional societies with one of its main activities being related to education in Montgomery and Greene Counties of Ohio.

Rulof was very helpful in organizing the annual ASC Career Exploration Weekend and TechFest programs which consisted of hands-on exhibits provided by companies, universities, government organizations and professional societies. The exhibits, designed to illustrate some aspect of a profession, were intended to introduce the profession to young people. They were manned by professionals to interact with the young people and encourage them to consider science, math and engineering for their career. Rulof loved to personally interact with the youngsters at the ASME exhibits on heat transfer, fluid mechanics and propulsion.

Another activity that Rulof enjoyed was judging science projects at high school, Montgomery County, Ohio West District, and Ohio State Science Day programs every year for more than twenty years. He and I formed a judging team and selected outstanding projects for awards provided by the ASME Dayton Section and the ASC.

My wife, Carolyn, and I greatly enjoyed a friendship with Rulof and Mrs. van der Heyde primarily related to ASME activities. Over the years Rulof and I traveled as representatives of the Dayton Section to a number of ASME meetings around Ohio.