

# Robert H. Studebaker (1911-1999)

Educator, inventor, industrialist, and civic-minded all describe Robert Studebaker.

Robert Hersberger Studebaker graduated from Bethel High School in 1928. He earned a B.S. in Education from Ohio State University in 1933.

From 1934 to 1939 Bob was the Industrial Arts teacher at Northridge High School. With few resources available, he expanded the program to include a wood shop, sheet metal shop, foundry, welding, machine shop, drawing, pattern-making, photography, and forging.

In 1939 Bob began working at Aero Products, testing steel propellers for the P-39, P-51, and P-63. After the war he worked 25 years as vice-president of Process Equipment Co., solving industrial problems for such clients as the Atomic Energy Commission, GM, Caterpillar Tractor, and the Air Force.

From 1965 to 1976 he was the founder, president, and CEO of LaserPlane Corporation, where he invented the Laserplane, a technology that revolutionized earth grading in the agricultural and construction industries. He holds twelve U.S. and ten foreign patents for his innovations in this field.

Bob served on the Wayne Township (Huber Heights) Board of Education from 1950 to 1970 and was honored by having his name on the Robert H. Studebaker Junior High School.

Other honors include the following:

*His prototype design of the Laserplane is housed in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.*

*He was inducted after his death into the Construction Equipment Industry Hall of Fame*