



Henry Stifel Schrader - *Philanthropy*

Henry Stifel Schrader was a man of intelligence, wit and generosity.

Generous with his time and money during his lifetime, his bequests benefiting several local organizations make him one of the leading philanthropists in Wheeling's history.

Schrader's bequest to Oglebay Institute is the largest single gift the institute has received in its 68-year history, according to Dr. Frederick A. Lambert, president. The bulk of the bequest, now valued at \$4.2 million, will be used to finance construction of a new environmental education center at Oglebay Park to replace the aging nature center building; conversion of the garage at the Stifel Fine Arts Center on National Road in Wheeling into a state-of-the-art dance studio and art studio; and purchase of equipment for Towngate Theatre. The rest will go into the Oglebay Institute endowment fund to help pay for maintenance of existing programs and facilities and development of new programs. In recognition of his bequest and of his life-long support of Oglebay Institute, the new facility at Oglebay is being named the Henry Stifel Schrader Environmental Education Center.

Schrader was born in Wheeling on Sept. 18, 1909, the son of Louis E. and Alberta Prince Schrader. He died on Aug. 8, 1996.

After graduating from public schools in Wheeling, Schrader attended West Virginia University where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1931 and his law degree in 1934. He took further post-graduate courses at New York University and Harvard Law School.

A bachelor, Schrader began his practice of law in Wheeling in 1934. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and then returned to law practice in Wheeling. In 1989, he retired as senior partner in the Wheeling law firm of Schrader, Byrd, Companion and Gurley.

Schrader was a member and past president of the Ohio County Bar Association and a member of the West Virginia State Bar and the American Bar Association.

That he was willing during his lifetime to give freely of his time and efforts to further the aims of Wheeling area religious, public and charitable organizations is evident. A member of Wheeling's St. Matthew's Episcopal Church where he served as trustee and vestryman, Schrader also was a trustee of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia. He was a member of the Wheeling Traffic Commission, Wheeling Smoke Abatement Commission and the Wheeling Fire Department Civil Service Commission. He was a founding member and director of the Tri-State Tax Institute and a member and past president of the Altenheim Home, the

Wheeling Rotary Club and the Fort Henry Chapter of the Reserve Officers Association

By his actions during his lifetime and by the provisions of his Last Will and Testament, Schrader made it clear that his favorite charity and the principal object of his bounty was Oglebay Institute. A member of Oglebay Institute for almost 60 years until his death in 1996, he served on its board of trustees for 17 years, seven of which he served as chairman of the board.

Schrader's other major bequest was to Wheeling Jesuit University, which used the funds - now valued at \$1.2 million - to undertake a massive renovation project to the college's Troy Theater in Swint Hall. The new theater represents the first permanent home for performing arts on the WJU campus.

Attorney Schrader also remembered his church and his alma mater with bequests, leaving close to \$500,000 to the trustees of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church of Wheeling and \$250,000 to the West Virginia University Foundation for the benefit of the WVU College of Law. Seven other specific charitable bequests Schrader made also benefited local non-profit agencies.

"Henry Stifel Schrader was a model attorney and friend who was universally revered for his quiet wisdom, deep Christian faith and resolute integrity," the Rev. Thomas S. Acker, S.J., Wheeling Jesuit president, said of Schrader. "He loved deeply the Episcopal church, his friends, world travel and his chosen profession of law. In every endeavor, he excelled in service and loyalty."