

## **MR. JOHN DEN BOER**

John den Boer's accomplishments are diverse and extensive. He attended the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy at Rolla, MO (now Missouri University of Science and Technology) where he received a B.S. degree in Metallurgical Engineering in 1948. World War II interrupted his studies from 1944 to 1945 when he studied Advanced Civil Engineering in the U.S. Army Specialized Training Program at West Virginia University. Later in 1971, he earned a M.S. in Engineering Management from Vanderbilt University.

After college, John worked for Reynolds Metals, primarily at Listerhill. He was a Metallurgical Supervisor in 1958 when he played a key role in the establishment of a "first in the industry" laboratory. In 1973, he was promoted to Reynolds' headquartering Richmond, VA. He stayed with Reynolds Metals until his retirement.

He was president of the Sheffield Kiwanis Club in 1960. He was once the sectional captain of the Colbert County United Funds and the president of the Sheffield chapter of the American Field Service. He also attended Toastmasters.

John collected over 500 minerals which were once on display at the Sheffield Library. Most of these have been donated to the University of North Alabama and can be viewed on the second floor of their new Science and Technology building.

While working at Reynolds, John conducted a picture framing business in the basement of his house. He also built three harpsichords, two macramé screens, a telescope, and a 12-foot sailboat. He made a coffee table with a working HO-gauge electric train and two end tables with a beach theme—sand, sea shells, and fluorescent blue light.

While John did not graduate from Sheffield High School, his two daughters did—Linda Lee (class of 1968) and Lisa Wetzel (class of 1974), as did his late wife, Evelyn Reeburgh den Boer. He opened his home for numerous SHS occasions ranging from social club to service club events. Lisa played oboe in Sheffield school bands for six years, so John's ties to Sheffield's music program began years ago.

John had an early appreciation of music. In his high school band he played the trombone, clarinet, baritone, and was drum major. Because of his love of music, his connection with SHS, and his appreciation for the help SHS students gave him in recent years, he donated a grand piano to SHS and money to the SHS band for new uniforms and some new instruments.