

When Italy Sent Airplane Roma Here

By ED CLARKE

Ask Ray Sharp how he broke into aviation and he'll tell you, "That's a funny story."

But the "joke" was on aviation for today, after 20 years in the field, Edward Raymond Sharp is one of the nation's key men in making our fighters and bombers higher and faster flyers than those of the Axis.

As administrative officer of the Government's new NACA airplane engine research laboratory now rising at a rapid pace on the 200-acre site on the west side of Cleveland Airport, it was his job not only to design and build the center but to see that it was advanced far enough to solve the problems of airplane research tomorrow—the day of the rocket ship and the 600-mile-an-hour speeds in stratosphere.

As the story goes, he literally flew into American aviation aboard the Italian airship Roma, which the Government accepted from Italy in 1922 as a payment on the Italian war debt.

The ship was brought to America in parts by boat and taken directly to Langley Field, Va., for rebuilding. Having just finished work in a southern shipyard and being at Langley Field, Mr. Sharp was hired by the Army to take charge of assembling the airship.

That he did his job well, there is little doubt, for upon completion the Army recommended him for employment at Langley Field. And in spite of the fact that his services were refused several times in the past, he became the NACA's 54th employee.

In three years time he rose from hangar boss to administrative officer of the field and later was appointed construction administrator for NACA when they expanded to Moffett Field, Cal., and Cleveland.

Born on a farm in Elizabeth City County, Va., in 1894, he was the oldest of seven children. He spent the early days of his business career working in shipyards along the eastern seaboard from Norfolk, Va. to Tampa, Fla. The two things he liked most were boats and the ocean and during the first World War he lots little time in enlisting in the Navy.

Serving aboard the U. S. S. Sacramento, a gunboat based at Gibraltar, he spent 16 months in the war convoy shipping service and never saw a submarine, never lost a ship, nor was any ship in his convoy attacked.

After the war he was assigned to the Naval Reserve as a chief petty officer and later commissioned. He retired only recently with the rank of lieutenant commander.

Shortly after his employment at Langley Field, he attended evening courses at William and Mary Law School and in 1924 was graduated with an LL.B. degree. Today he is a member of the Virginia bar.

His chief hobby, he says, is symphonic music and operas. His other hobbies include work, which he does



Ray Sharp

from 12 to 16 hours a day, and fishing for ocean crabs. One of his prize possessions is a huge Capehart console with lots of attachments for radio reception and for playing of symphonic music.

He's extremely fond of oysters and already has ordered several barrels to be sent up from Norfolk, Va., now that they are in season.

One of his pet projects, he related, was to get the U. S. Civil Service Commission, after two years of continuous work, to recognize the abilities of youthful model aircraft builders and hire them at Langley Field and other NACA centers as model makers to build the planes used in

experimental work in the laboratories' wind tunnels.

When he talks he always nervously folds, refolds and unfolds, a slip of paper and he usually has a lighted cigarette on his ash tray. He'd rather have his fellow workers—over 500 in all—think of him as an adviser than the boss and, he says, his greatest feeling of pride comes from knowing that he helped plan and place every stick and stone in this new laboratory.

Berea is where he now lives with his wife and three children, Robert Richard, 15 months; Elinor Ray, 4, and Edward G., 22, who has just enlisted as a naval aviation cadet.

ANYTHING

By J. W. RAPER

A WORD FROM JOSH WISE

Running' up against a stone wall ain't so bad if you ain't runnin' fast.



"I know a lot of appeasers in the United States," postcards C. "They are the post office workers who are trying to appease the creditors with the Model T salaries."

Kansas City dispatch says there wasn't a single fight on the floor during the American Legion convention. What's the matter with the A. L. members? Getting old and wiser—or just older?

Governor Bricker intends to ask the Legislature in January to scrap the iron fence that was built around the state house many years ago to keep out the pigs. It might just as well be scrapped. It never kept out any pigs. They used the gate.

We have a peeve and we believe you will agree we have a good right to one, for it's based upon the lack of fairness, upon which we—and probably you, too—have been treated. It's this: We gathered every ounce of scrap that was in our garage and basement and gave it to somebody we can't remember who it was. The Government or its steel company. We didn't get a penny for our scrap. And now we read that Joe Louis and Billy Conn are to receive \$135,451 for their scrap.

Which reminds us that Dodger fans carried 65 tons of scrap to Ebbetts Field in Brooklyn. They had to do it. Couldn't get the team to contribute any.

A Lincoln (Neb.) editor has filed with the secretary of state petitions signed by 15,000 voters asking that the name of Senator George W. Norris be placed on the ballot as an independent candidate and the senator, who has expressed many times a desire to retire, says he may run. And that's what we'd call encouraging news to everybody but the Robert Tafts.

The National Inventors' Council expects to receive today the 100,000th suggestion submitted in the past two years by Americans who think they have the right plan for defeating the Axis. It would be interesting to know if any of them mentioned the airplane.

A Ft. Bliss, Tex., dispatch says that while a coast artillery battery was standing at attention for roll call one of the men in the ranks collapsed. Other members of the battery hurriedly went to his aid and were much astonished to find the man asleep. What do you suppose that private thinks he is? A general?

We learn something new every day.

Opposes Expulsion of Lakewood High School Pupils

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1942

Clarence F. Ross

Lab Chief Flew Into U. S. Aviation When Italy Sent Airplane Roma Here

DR. SHARP COMPLETES 30 EVENTFUL YEARS WITH NACA STAFF MEMBERS OFFER GOOD WISHES AT HANGAR CEREMONY

Victory Predicts Great Future For Graduates

"You have a challenging and unlimited opportunity to render a lifetime of useful work to your country," Dr. John F. Victory, NACA's Executive Secretary, told the graduating class of 23 trades apprentices at ceremonies Mon., Feb. 4 in the auditorium.

In emphasizing the importance of skilled craftsmen's work to the NACA's research effort, Dr. Victory asserted, "Unless we have superiority in the air, I don't concede our great country a chance to survive an all-out war."

The apprentices were also fortunate in hearing a short speech by Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, NACA Director, whose busy schedule permitted him to be at the Laboratory. In his remarks Dr. Dryden observed that, "The great virtue of the NACA is that we have people who try out ideas." There is great opportunity and satisfaction that comes with the ability to take ideas on paper and create something that takes shape before your eyes in the shops. He concluded his statements by asserting that everyone in the NACA should be pushed to his limit in an effort to reach our research goals.

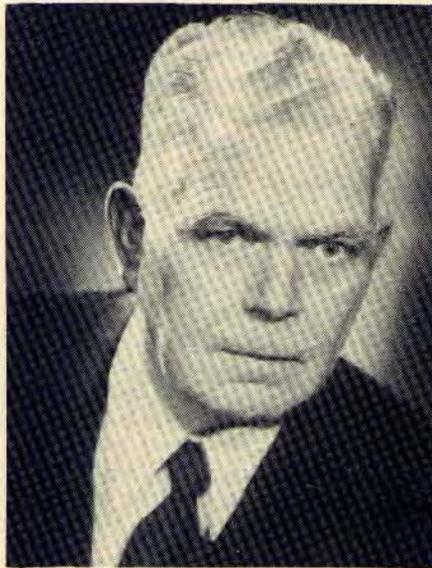
Dr. Sharp, acting as chairman for the exercises, stressed the vital role of the journeyman in various trades. He introduced the other speakers including Abe Silverstein and Paul Vanta, class president.

Mr. Silverstein speaking on the relation of the mechanical staff to research objectives offered the graduates these three goals to guide them in

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At official ceremonies on February 3, 1952, marking the 30th anniversary of his service with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, over 2500 employees and guests paid warm and spontaneous tributes to the creative leadership of Dr. Edward R. Sharp for his part in building the research facilities and staff.

Dr. H.J.E. Reid, Director of the Langley Laboratory where Dr. Sharp began his NACA service, presided over the ceremonies in the Flight Research Building of the Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory. Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, NACA Director, presented to Dr. Sharp the 30 year service award.



DR. SHARP PLEASSED BY CEREMONIES

May I take this means of expressing to all of you who attended the ceremonies on Sunday, February 3, as well as to all of my other friends throughout the organization, my deepest appreciation of your expressions of good will and friendship on the occasion of my thirtieth anniversary with the NACA.

I also wish particularly to thank all of you who gave time and thought to the many arrangements which made this such a pleasant and memorable occasion for me.

Sincerely,

Edward R. Sharp

Dr. John F. Victory, NACA Executive Secretary, paid personal tribute to his friend and on behalf of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics presented to Dr. Sharp an illuminated scroll, "In appreciation of thirty years of effective and unstinting service in positions of high trust and responsibility at the Langley, Ames and Lewis Laboratories of the NACA, who join in extending congratulations and best wishes for continued success."

Fitting reminder of Dr. Sharp's ability to select an enduring, supporting organization was given by Mr. S.J. DeFrance, Ames Director, who presented him with a scroll signed by the 36 remaining members of the original staff of 44 which Dr. Sharp brought together nearly 12 years ago when he started building the Ames Laboratory.

Speaking for the Lewis staff, Mr. Abe Silverstein, Chief of Research, expressed gratitude for Dr. Sharp's leadership and pledged continuing support.

Dr. Sharp's response showed how deeply he appreciated the warm tribute of his many friends and the generous support and effort of his associates throughout his career.

The hangar was appropriately decorated for the occasion by employees who worked evenings and Saturdays. The NACA Choral Club and the NACA Band presented musical selections prior to the formal ceremonies. The Choral Club, under the direction of Mr. James C. McCollum, put on an impressive demonstration of their prowess, and the band, under the direction of Howard Douglass, making its first public appearance, amazed

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Camera Views Dr. Sharp's Service Celebration



The Laboratory staff and guests attended the 30th anniversary celebration.....



.....as did Dr. Sharp's daughter, Elinor Ray, Mrs. Sharp, and his mother, Mrs. E.T. Sharp.....



.....as well as some employees who have been associated with him for many years.



NACA Choral Club in action while the NACA Band takes time out.



Abe Silverstein expressed the congratulations of the Lewis staff.....



.....and Dr. Dryden presented the NACA 30-year service emblem to Dr. Sharp.



The staff and guests extended their personal good wishes to Dr. Sharp and were introduced to Dr. Dryden and other distinguished visitors.



After top level discussion among the NACA pilots..



.....the Sharps prepare for take off.

SHARP CEREMONIES

those present with the excellence of its performance, considering the short time that they have been organized. The girls of the staff vied with each other in producing a generous buffet of attractive cakes, cookies and refreshments for the attending guests.

Following the formal ceremonies, during which honored guests and members of Dr. Sharp's family were introduced by Dr. Reid, Dr. Sharp and other NACA officials held a reception in the Administration Building auditorium where employees and friends were given an opportunity to extend their personal congratulations.

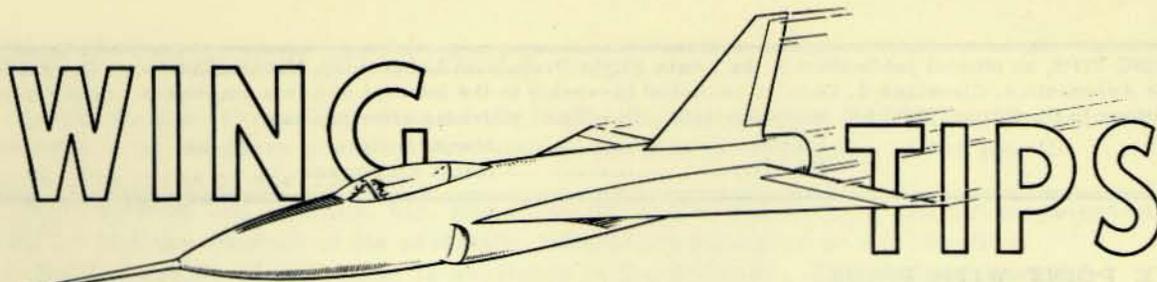
Dr. Sharp joined the Langley Laboratory as an airplane mechanic on February 1, 1922 and in 1925 was promoted to Chief Clerk and Property Officer. In 1936 he was appointed Administrative Officer and in 1941, in recognition of outstanding service was made Senior Administrative Officer. As the NACA expanded and branched out from the parent laboratory at Langley, Dr. Sharp was sent to Moffett Field in 1940 to supervise construction of the Ames Aeronautical Laboratory. He was later recalled to Langley to make plans for our own Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory. Early in 1942 he was appointed Construction Administrator and later made Director.

Scenes of the ceremonies are shown in photographs on Pages 3 and 4.



A fine string of wall-eyed pike are proudly displayed by (l. to r.) Henry Meltzer (Fabrication), Mrs. Sharp and Dr. Sharp. The trio landed their catch off Avon by trolling on a reef and using spinners. According to Dr. Sharp, his catch is down at the small end of the string. Henry caught the big ones. The largest measured 28 inches and weighed 8 3/4 pounds.

WING TIPS



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Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory, NACA
Cleveland, Ohio, February 1, 1956

No. 3

DR. SHARP RECEIVES STANDING OVATION AT I.A.S. INSTALLATION

At the Honors Night Dinner Monday, January 23, 1956, Dr. Edward R. Sharp was installed as President of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences for 1956.

Following the dinner at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Sheraton Astor in New York City, was the presentation of Fellowships and six other awards. One of these, the Sylvanus Albert Reed Award, was presented to H. Julian Allen of Ames Laboratory for his contributions in solving problems in the design of supersonic airplanes and missiles.

CONGRATULATIONS

I am very proud to reproduce the following letter received from Dr. Dryden.

Dear Doctor Sharp:

The National Safety Council has advised that, under the provisions of the Plan for Recognizing Good Industrial Safety Records, adopted by the Industrial Conference of the National Safety Council on January 14, 1952, the Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory has qualified for the Council's highest award, the "Award of Honor". A copy of the official announcement is enclosed for your information.

Official records show that the Lewis Laboratory has qualified for the "Award of Honor" twice within a period of eighteen consecutive months, the maximum number possible. In addition the records show that during this same period of time the Laboratory received a first place award in the Aeronautical Industries Safety Contest sponsored by the National Safety Council. This achievement points up that work of an extreme hazardous nature can be accomplished in an efficient manner with a minimum number of disabling injuries to NACA employees and only minor damage to Government property.

These facts will be officially reported to the Committee. On behalf of the NACA congratulations are extended to you, Mr. Eugene Manganiello, Chairman of the Executive Safety Board, Mr. Alois Krsek, Safety Engineer, and to the entire staff.

The award plaque is not yet ready for presentation, but will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,
Signed Hugh L. Dryden, Director

The accomplishment would not be possible without the teamwork and cooperation of all units and levels of our laboratory. I congratulate each employee for doing his part in earning this recognition and I know that we will continue to regard safety as one of the most important elements in our efforts. /s/ Edward R. Sharp

NASA Medal Given to Dr. Edward Sharp

Dr. Edward R. Sharp, director emeritus of the Lewis Research Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at Cleveland Hopkins Airport, has received the NASA's medal for "outstanding leadership."

The presentation, made over the weekend here, was by Dr. Hugh L. Dryden of Washington, deputy administrator of NASA, and Dr. Abe Silverstein of Washington, director of space flight programs for NASA and former associate director of the laboratory here.

Presented at Hospital

Presentation of the award was at Southwest Community Hospital in Berea. Dr. Sharp has been ill there.

Dr. Sharp lives at 17877 Lake Avenue, Lakewood.

He was responsible for establishing the Ames Research Center in San Francisco and also for setting up the center here in 1941. He had been director of the center until he left in January. He has been in federal service nearly 45 years.

This was the first time the NASA medal was awarded.

Member of Bar

A native of Virginia, Dr. Sharp, who is 66, is a member of the bar in that state. He is



Dr. Edward R. Sharp

a graduate of the College of William and Mary.

In 1947 President Truman awarded him the U.S. Medal for Merit.

He holds honorary degrees from Case Institute of Technology (1948) and Fenn College (1958). He received the distinguished service award of the Cleveland Technical Societies Council in 1958.

Dr. Sharp is a member of the Royal Aeronautical Society of England, the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, and the Ohio Society of New York.

Dr. Sharp, 67, Ex-Chief at Lewis, Dies

Dr. Edward R. Sharp, whose visionary insights into the nuclear-space age were vindicated by history, died of cancer yesterday in his home at 17877 Lake Road, Lakewood. He was 67.

Dr. Sharp had retired last January as director of the Lewis Research Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration here.

He was recognized internationally for his leadership in the fields of aeronautics, propulsion and space technology. Under his direction the Lewis Research Center began planning nuclear research before America dropped its first nuclear bomb on Japan.

He and other directors of NASA's predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, foresaw man-in-space projects long before NASA was created.

45 Years of Service

The title of director emeritus of Lewis Research Center was given Dr. Sharp on March 31, 1961. His retirement four months earlier closed a career of almost 45 years' service to the nation in the Navy, NACA and NASA.

As director of the \$125 million research plant, he supervised a staff of 2,700. Yet he had no formal training as a

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the jungles of Laos, a war in which all the advantages of geography would be on the side of the Communists?

"Even more perplexing than the question of how to win a 'total victory' is the problem of what we would do with it once it was won. Would we undertake a military occupation of Russia and China and launch a massive program to 're-educate' 200 million Russians and 600 million Chinese in the ways of Western democracy?"



Dr. Edward R. Sharp

Dr. Sharp, 67, Ex-Chief at Lewis, Dies

★ From First Page

scientist or engineer. He was educated as a lawyer and was a member of the bar in his native Virginia.

His role was described as that of a catalyst. An associate once explained: "He sets the environment for others to do the job and to work happily."

Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, deputy administrator of NASA, said yesterday in Washington:

"On behalf of the NASA headquarters staff, the administrator and myself, I wish to pay tribute to our valued friend, able associate and trusted counselor of many years' standing who has passed from our midst. For nearly half a century he was active in guiding the course of scientific research by the NACA and its successor, the NASA.

"He was a man of high purpose, and an unerring sense of values and devotion to the causes in which he believed. Although not trained as a scientist, he demonstrated an unusual ability for directing the careers and talents of many of our most gifted men into the right channels for the benefit of the individual and the nation.

"We view his passing with profound regret. Our sympathy goes to his wife, his children and grandchildren, and to the many thousands of his admiring friends and associates."

"Gifted Leader"

Dr. Abe Silverstein, director of NASA's Office of Space Flight Programs, who formerly served here as associate director under Dr. Sharp, said:

"It was my singular privilege to have an intimate business association with Ray Sharp for more than 30 years. That experience provided a most rewarding insight into his great character, devotion to duty, and genuine interest in all persons who worked under his direction. He was a gifted leader and I am grateful for having known and worked for and learned so much from him.

"To his wife, his daughter, his two sons and his grandchildren, I extend my deepest sympathy."

Dr. Sharp had recently received NASA's medal for "outstanding leadership."

Dr. Sharp was born at Elizabeth City County, Va., on March 9, 1894, of an old southern family.

In Submarine Zones

In World War I Dr. Sharp served aboard a naval gunboat on escort duty in the submarine zones of the North Atlantic and Mediterranean. He attained the rank of lieutenant junior grade on active service. When he retired from the Naval Reserve in 1941, he was a lieutenant commander.

It's the first time since the war and despite the many crises of the past decade that the Berlin threat appears to

LEWIS NEWS

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Tree Dedicated to Dr. Sharp

Dedication of a tree planted in memory of the late Dr. Edward R. Sharp, former Director of the Lewis Research Center, took place last week.

Mrs. Sharp and Dr. Abe Silverstein participated in the dedication ceremonies, which were attended by a number of Lewis staff members.

The tree -- a flowering crabtree -- is planted along the walk to the Cafeteria's main entrance. A bronze plaque implanted on a rock in front of the tree reads in part:

"This tree is planted in fond memory of Dr. Edward R. Sharp, Director, 1940-1961, who did so much to beautify these grounds."

Another memorial to the late Director -- the Edward R. Sharp Medical Library at Southwest Community Hospital in Berea -- will mark its first anniversary on June 12. The library is used in the training and instruction of medical technologists at the hospital.

Dr. Sharp, who died in 1961 after nearly 45 years service to the nation, was instrumental in establishing Lewis and the Ames Research Center in California. Dr. Sharp retired from government service in 1961 and shortly thereafter was named Director Emeritus of Lewis.

Dr. Sharp was renowned internationally for his work and association with aeronautical research. He frequently represented the U. S. at professional meetings in many European countries.

During more than four decades of service to the U. S., Dr. Sharp received many awards and honors. In 1947 he received the U. S. Medal for Merit; in 1948 he was awarded an honorary doctorate of science degree by Case Institute of Technology; in 1958 the Distinguished Service Award from Cleveland Technical Societies Council; doctor of engineering degree from Fenn College in 1958; and in 1961 he received NASA's Medal for Outstanding Leadership.



Photo by Paul Riedel

MEMORIAL TREE is admired by Dr. Abe Silverstein and Mrs. Edward R. Sharp.

Sculpture Study Of Dr. Sharp Completed

A bust of the late Dr. Edward R. Sharp has been cast recently and will soon be placed in a prominent location at the Center in memory of the former Lewis Director.

The life-size sculpture study is the work of Louise Fergus. She is a retired member of the Illustration Section of Lewis' Technical Information Division and now lives in Virginia.

The bust of the late Dr. Sharp has been cast in "hydrostone" and mounted on a walnut base. Dick Schulke, Chief of the Graphics Branch, Technical Information, is designing a pedestal. A suitable location is being studied.

Mrs. Fergus was well-known for her sculpture abilities during her nearly 20 years at Lewis. She handled all assignments in sculpture for many years.

Among other works, she created bas-reliefs of the late Dr. George W. Lewis and Dr. John F. Victory for plaques. She also did considerable work on the model of the Lab housed in the Ad Building foyer.

Dr. Sharp died in 1961. He had retired earlier that year after nearly 40 years service to the nation in a distinguished career with NACA-NASA.

Director of Lewis from 1940 until 1961, he was named Director Emeritus shortly after retirement.

After service in the U. S. Navy for five years, Dr. Sharp began his career with NACA at the Langley Aeronautical Laboratory in 1922. His advancement in the agency was rapid.

He was instrumental in establishing the Ames Research Center in California and later the Lewis Research Center. He directed important World War II and post-war aeronautical and space research at this Center.

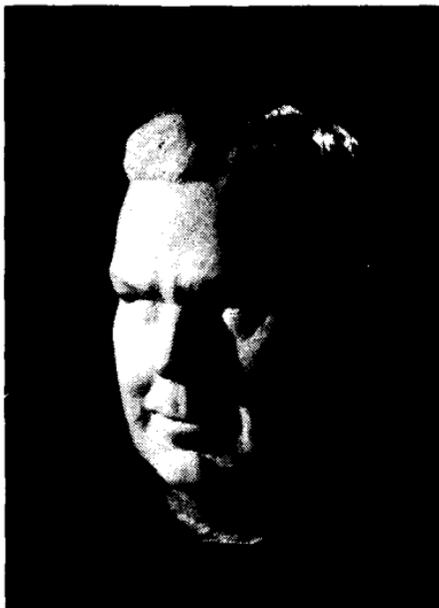
Dr. Sharp was renowned internationally for his work and association with aeronautical research. He frequently represented the United States at professional meetings in many European countries.

His honors were many. In 1947 he received the U. S. Medal for Merit; 1948, an honorary doctorate of science from Case Institute of Technology; 1958, the Distinguished Service Award from the Cleveland Technical Societies Council; 1958, honorary doctor of engineering degree from Fenn College; 1961, NASA's Medal for outstanding Leadership, among others.

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But they don't have one of Lewis?

Sharp Sculpture



THE BUST of the late Dr. Edward R. Sharp, former Lewis Director.

(Continued from Page 1)

Dr. Sharp was active in Cleveland affairs, serving with the American Red Cross, Community Fund, Chamber of Commerce, Mayor's Airport and Harbor Commission, and advisory councils of Case, Western Reserve University, and Baldwin-Wallace College.

Two memorials to Dr. Sharp have been dedicated within the last two years.

One — here at Lewis — is the memorial tree and plaque located along the walk to the main cafeteria. These tributes to Dr. Sharp for his unceasing efforts to beautify the Lewis grounds were dedicated last May.

The Edward R. Sharp Medical Library at Southwest Community Hospital in Berea was established in 1963. The library is used in the training and instruction of medical technologists.



MRS. EDWARD R. SHARP and Dr. Abe Silverstein with bust of the late Dr. Sharp, former Lewis Director. The bust was done by Louise Fergus, retired member of the Technical Information Division, and the base by Dick Schulke, Graphics Branch Chief. It has been placed in the Honors Room, Administration Building.