



GRINDSTONE AWARD



1970

Arthur C. Gohlke

When Art Gohlke was born in 1898, Berea's population increased by one in numbers but the community received a giant boost toward the modern era with the birth of Berea's fourth Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

Educated at Berea High School and Baldwin-Wallace College, Art received his electrical engineering degree from Purdue and joined Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company a year later. It was at Baldwin-Wallace that he met his wife, Freda.

Art worked for CEI for 40 years, and, following his retirement in 1963, immediately turned his talent to Berea civic and governmental affairs. Already a member of the Planning Commission, he became president of the Berea Chamber of Commerce, and, in 1964, was appointed to fill a vacancy on Berea City Council as councilman-at-large.

Art was appointed President of Council in 1965, a post to which he was later elected 3 times. During his tenure as council president, Berea accomplished many major

improvements, such as the new city hall, police and fire stations, new Center Street bridge, relocation of Route 237 through town, beautification of the north end of Front Street, new shopping centers, new industries, major developments at Baldwin-Wallace and the initial steps toward Town Center. In the process, this native Berean saw the town grow from 2500 to over 20,000 population.

When he first ran for public office, Art stated that, being a native, he was "proud of Berea's past and interested in its future," and that he would "strive to provide the legislative leadership it deserves." That he did provide this leadership, with complete integrity and with warm, human understanding, is a matter of public record.

Art Gohlke has served First Congregational and Heritage Churches in many official capacities, has been on the board of the Berea YMCA, and is a member and former director of Berea Rotary Club.

Art and Freda have two children and five grandchildren. The Gohlkes live on Beeler Drive.

Presented October 6, 1970

Strosacker Hall, Baldwin-Wallace College