

REMEMBERING JAY LEONARD

By: Jim Neal (#973)

It was thought appropriate to supplement the funeral home's obituary with a few remembrances from an old Reo Club member. Jay was member number 107. He was Vice President in 1975, the second year of the Club, and President for 3 years: 1976, 1977, and 1978. Jay and Amy attended the 1974 and 1975 meets in Lansing, and thus had the opportunity to view the Diamond Reo plant when it was operating or standing. Jay served many years on the Club's Board of Directors. He received the Fran Silky Award in 1987. At best as can be determined, Jay was the 1927 – 1931 Flying Cloud Technical Advisor from 1981 to 2018. While Jay was very involved in East Coast AACA activities, it is safe to say his principal interest was in Reo and in the Reo Club.

Rather than try to describe Jay as an engineer, expert, and Reo enthusiast, it is easier to let his writing describe the breadth of his knowledge. Printed herewith is a letter dated January 17, 2000, from Jay to "Wes." The attachments to the letter are not included. We're assuming, but are not certain, that the addressee was Club member Wesley Tarr of Oregon. The first two paragraphs well describe Jay as we all remember him. The balance of the letter demonstrate Jay's intellect as a practicing (and practical) engineer.

We'll close with some thoughts that will occur to all of us: Our Club will probably never again have a Reo expert the equal to Jay Leonard, and our Club was lucky and fortunate to have had his advice all these many years.

FINAL
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