

The Henry C. Ulen File...

...historical anecdotes, incidents, and attributes of Henry C. Ulen, founder of Ulen Country Club and the Town of Ulen, presented by The Henry C. Ulen Foundation.



Mr. Ulen and the Donaldson Family

Long before Ulen members George and Bob Donaldson's family became widely known for their successful Lebanon chocolate company, the Donaldson name was closely associated with the Henry C. Ulen Company in the building of homes in the Town of Ulen.

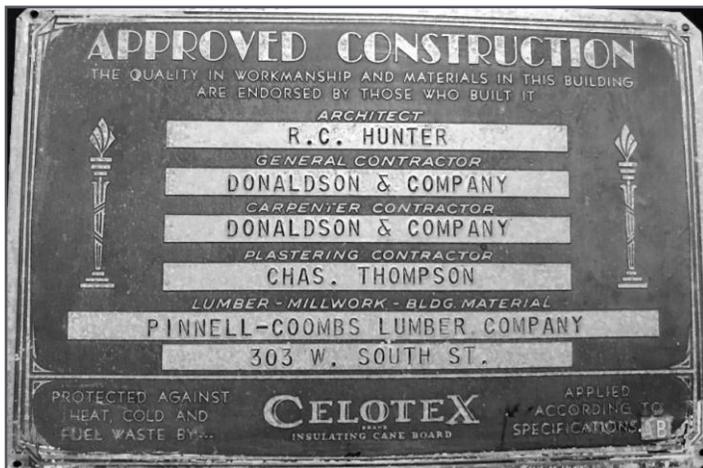
Having chosen to relocate his world-wide contracting company headquarter to Lebanon in 1928, Mr. Ulen wanted to develop a community where his company's executives could relocate to be close to the company. The new country club, built in 1924, may not have been enough incentive to make his top executives and board of directors happy about the move, so Mr. Ulen wanted to build them a town full of high-end homes right next to the country club to sweeten his persuasion.

In 1929 Mr. Ulen enlisted George Donaldson's father, Fred Donaldson, to be the primary builder for many of the early Town of Ulen Homes, creating the firm of Donaldson & Company as a Ulen & Company subsidiary. Donaldson & Company was charged with the sale of land and the construction of homes in the newly incorporated town and shared a downtown Lebanon office with Ulen & Co. Fred Donaldson had been connected to the Pinnell-Coombs Lumber Company through his wife's family, so the construction transition to Donaldson & Company was linked to that relationship.

Eventually, Donaldson & Company built 22 homes in the Town of Ulen, according to the company's advertising. The styles were varied, but Tudor Revival was probably the most common style between 1925 and 1939. Fred Donaldson's own house at 141 Ulen Boulevard was built in 1930 for \$10,000. Ulen members Steve and Helen Million live there today.

George Donaldson has fond memories of growing up in the Donaldson family house with his brothers and of playing all over the Town of Ulen with children of the Vogel, McKenzie, and Clay Ulen families. He remembers that his father and and Henry Ulen were good friends with a strong working relationship. George also recalls Mr. Ulen's cordiality to the Donaldson family whenever they were at country club events.

Fred Donaldson had stressed to George how precise, punctual, and organized Mr. Ulen was in business, traits which also were present in his private life. If you were invited to Mr. Ulen's home for dinner, you were expected to arrive promptly; dinner was never held for late arriving guests.



Ulen residents Scott and Lisa Hutcheson still possess a Donaldson & Co. plaque installed when their home at 227 East Drive was constructed.



The Henry C. Ulen Foundation ...preserving the past. shining light on the

The Henry C. Ulen Foundation, named for the founder and benefactor of Ulen Country Club and the Town of Ulen, was incorporated in the state of Indiana as a charitable, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) entity on September 22, 2010. It is a separate and distinct legal entity from Ulen Country Club and the Town of Ulen and is governed by its own Board of Directors with its own set of Bylaws. The Foundation's primary purpose is to preserve, maintain and enhance the historical integrity and significance of Ulen Country Club, its historic clubhouse and golf course and/or the Town of Ulen all listed on the National Register of