



We dedicate this issue to the memory of Peter Harben: 1913-1994.

PETER HARBEN - A SHORT HISTORY

As mentioned in the first issue this year, Lillian Harben sent a 35-page "autobiography" of Peter. It is far too long to include here but if any of you wish to read (and see - there are some very good pictures) it, JUST LET ME KNOW. Meanwhile, a very short version.

Peter was born in 1913 in an area of Russia close to Poland. Within a year Peter's family was caught up in World War I. They elected to flee the German army by going east further into Russia. (Actually Russia then controlled the area where the Hrebien family lived, although it was predominantly Catholic while most of Russian territory was Orthodox.) Eventually Peter's family was forced to return and life was quite hard.

After the war their village came under harsh Polish rule. When Peter was 14 his family emigrated to the USA - Detroit, Michigan, and ran smack into the depression. Still, Peter managed to get a degree from Wayne State University. Family problems included a mother with asthma and a father with alcohol problems. After World War II (Peter was a machinist and also a little "over the

hill") Peter wound up as a foreign patent specialist for General Motors Corporation, and married Lillian - a mechanical engineer! Soon after they changed their family name to (the easier) Harben; and produced Philip, with whom Peter took many wonderful worldwide trips (much later, of course).

(I appologize for the picture to the left. It was computer generated and the Xerox machine doesn't much like it. The version on the original book is excellent.)

Both Harbens retired (Lillian worked for Eaton Corporation) in 1977 and moved from Michigan to Sun City Arizona. Before that, however:

"Being in charge of the patent

