**Murray J. Fox: A Retrospect of Remembrance and Commemoration**

**Life & Early Career**

Murray J. Fox passed away on January 17, 2018 at the age of 93 years old in north Grosvenordale, CT. He lived a long life of service and business; after he was honorably discharged from the US Navy, he went on to have multiple successful enterprises related to sustainable materials management. His initial project, Fox Engineering Company, was founded in Brooklyn, NY in 1945. Fox Engineering's first major project was constructing automated car wash systems. This overwhelming engineering success was followed by innovative triumphs in smelting furnaces and casting equipment for the aluminum extrusion industry. In 1952, Murray Fox co-founded the Triplex Aluminum Company of Brooklyn, NY to manufacture aluminum storm windows and doors. A 1968 U.S. Government mandate for use of safety glass in door applications presented new opportunities. A year later, seizing these opportunities, Mr. Fox liquidated Triplex, and he then entered the manufacturing world of insulated and tempered safety glass by purchasing shares of Air Space Inc. of Worcester, Massachusetts.

By 1970, Murray Fox, along with several Air Space associates, had constructed a 60,000-square-foot building for 30 employees in Webster, Massachusetts. This facility housed the newly founded Glass Guard Industries, Inc. Within five years, the exploding success of manufactured safety glass led to expansion of that facility to 170,000 square feet with 300 employees. One of the waste by-products of manufactured safety glass was broken glass (cullet). Unwilling to just dump this into the waste stream, Mr. Fox established additional markets for the recycling and reuse of these by-products. Glass Guard Industries was sold to Guardian Industries in 1974.

**Recycling Career**

Mr. Fox's next project after Glass Guard Industries started by gaining a controlling interest in Recycling Service Corporation in 1974 and changing its name to Recycling Enterprises, Inc. (REI). Murray Fox expanded this small, one-truck operation, into a business large enough to accommodate greater volumes of post-consumer glass. He tactically moved the business from its location in Worcester, MA to an industrial site in North Oxford, Massachusetts. At the new location, he created an automated system for cleaning and pulverizing the glass and began to collect waste glass using roll-off containers. REI thus became the first intermediate glass processing facility in the Northeast portion of the United States. By the fall of 1976, Recycling Enterprises was processing 1,800 tons of glass per month. This was a 1,500% increase over the 125 tons per month that was processed when Mr. Fox acquired the company just two short years before.

By 1978, REI outgrew the North Oxford location. Murray Fox then purchased eight acres of land in Oxford, MA. and constructed a 40,000 sq. ft. building complete with executive offices and two glass processing lines. By 1980, due to the additional glass collected from the Connecticut bottle deposit law, REI's volume reached 3,200 tons per month. At that time, Mr. Fox bought the remaining shares of the company and became sole owner of Recycling Enterprises, Inc. Within a matter of months, REI expanded operations and opened its Berlin, New Jersey plant followed by a third facility in Hillside, northern New Jersey in October of 1981.

Utilizing his mechanical ability and vast experience, Mr. Fox, with his crew at Recycling Enterprises, engineered and manufactured the equipment used to construct all the recycling plants. In

July of 1982, shortly after the state of New York passed its bottle law, Murray Fox entered into a partnership with Simon Sinnreich forming REI Distributors, Inc., which specialized as a glass brokerage company. As an outgrowth of the glass brokerage activity, two additional ventures took shape. The first, Recycling Enterprises of New York, Inc. that housed two processing lines at a plant in Elmira, NY. The second, Distributors Recycling, Inc, which housed a 60,000 sq. ft. facility with three de-casing and processing lines, storage tanks with a 270-ton capacity for cullet operations, can-counting machinery, three balers, and a re-casing line for reclaiming refillable bottles. This Newark, NJ facility became known as the largest intermediate processing facility in the U.S.

In 1991, REI Distributors, Inc., with annual sales of $16M, acquired and merged with a publicly traded company called Pure Tech International, which had annual sales of $3.5M. This combined venture subsequently acquired Plastic Specialties & Technologies Inc in 1995. Mr. Fox held positions as Officer and Director of the Corporation. In 1998, Tekni-Plex Corporation purchased the 22-plant worldwide Pure Tech International whose sales had grown to $345M annually.

Having moved from recycling aluminum to recycling glass (in the Triplex operations), followed by plastic beverage containers (REI and Pure Tech), and still very much a believer in recycling, Murray Fox next became involved with a special form of plastic recycling. He came upon a process which reclaims and reuses waste plastics of all kinds called I-ROCKâ, and acquired all patents of the process. The I-ROCKâ process, which co-mingles all seven types of waste stream plastics and cold extrudes them into new products, is now being processed at a plant in Brighton, Michigan. Mr. Fox currently holds the position of CEO and President of I-Rock® Industries, Inc., headquartered in Webster, Massachusetts.

**Community and Industrial Impact**

Murray J. Fox impacted the recycling industry's community in an unprecedented way, laying down the foundations for the industry and inspiring young people to carry on his mission of sustainable materials management into the future. There is a piece written by Neil Seldman that attempts to put this impact into words, and refers to Fox as the "Johnny Appleseed of Recycling." In the piece Seldman writes:

"In my career of five decades of working in the recycling field for ILSR there is only one person I consider a true "Johnny Appleseed of Recycling" in the U.S. His name is Murray J. Fox and he remains a sage of recycling, whose own history provides insight into today's policies and issues. He never failed to teach others about the configuration of the equipment, the technologies to be employed and the problems to be solved. In the 1970s, Fox provided guided tours to beginning community recyclers of his ingeniously designed beneficiation plants with modern equipment and expandable walls along concrete pads. These were the people who subsequently became national leaders in the emerging U.S. recycling movement…

Throughout his career, Fox was a public interest businessman and was active at the local, regional, and national recycling levels. He was an early supporter of the nascent National Recycling Coalition (NRC). He shared his knowledge with anyone who asked, especially young people. To this day his philanthropy impacts new recruits to the recycling industry through several endowments for scholarships through the NRC and the Iowa Recycling Association. He has also made generous donations to ILSR's Waste to Wealth Initiative."

A longtime advocate and member of the NRC, he created the Murray J. Fox Scholarship Fund back in 1994 to provide scholarships to college students interested in recycling. Since then, the trust fund has endowed over $112,000 in scholarships to 66 college students. The recipients of the scholarship in 2017 were all granted a $1,500 scholarship to assist with their education, complimentary admission to the 2017 Resource Recycling Conference in Minneapolis, and a one-year membership to the National

Recycling Coalition. NRC's Campus Council evaluated the applications and made recommendations for the award to the scholarship fund board.

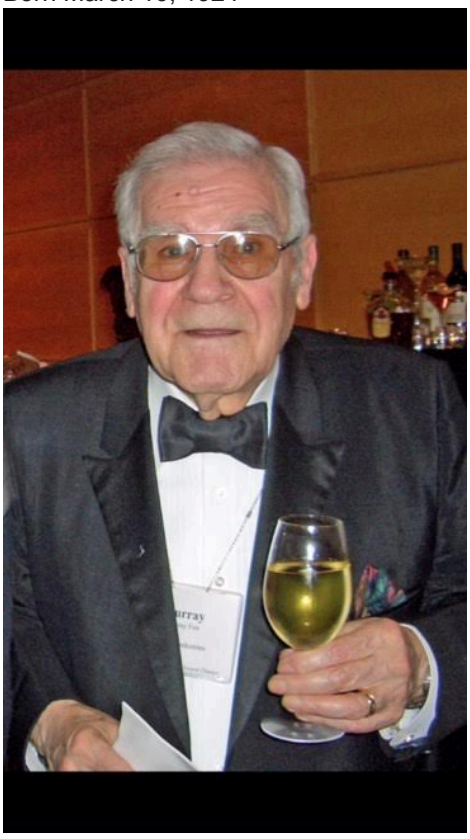
**Affiliations, Awards, & Recognition**

Murray J. Fox was an active member of the community. Mr. Fox was one of the founding fathers and a charter member of the NRC. He served as both vice president and a member of the board of directors. In 1994 Mr. Fox launched the RECYCLING TRUST FUND to promote education in the recycling field. He was most currently a Life Member of the NRC and named Honorary Director. He was also a lifetime member of the Iowa Recycling Association; an executive board member of the Webster-Dudley-Oxford (MA) Chamber of Commerce from 1977-1986; a member of the Recycling Task Force in Pennsylvania from 1979-1983; and served as a Scoutmaster and other leading positions as a member of Boy Scouts of America from 1955-1970.

Mr. Fox received several awards and honors during the duration of his life. Some of these honors include: New Jersey Departments of Energy and Environmental Protection: "Outstanding Achievement in Recycling" 1980; Environmental Action Coalition of New York: Outstanding Contribution for his "Defusing the Garbage Time Bomb" conferences; The National Recycling Coalition "Lifetime Achievement and Recycler of the Year" award received in 2007; and The Houston Corporate Recycling Council has initiated the "Murray J. Fox Innovative Recycling Award."

**Obituary**

Murray Fox
Born March 16, 1924



Murray Fox - age 93 of North Grosvenordale, CT passed away of Wednesday, January 17, 2018. Murray is survived by his beloved wife Beatrice, his loving children Ed and Jill, and his adored family and friends. May his memory be eternal. Funeral services will be held at IJ Morris Dix Hills on Monday, January 22, 2018 commencing at 1:30pm with interment to immediately follow at The New Montefiore Cemetery in West Babylon, NY. Immediately following services there will be a banquet of repast in Murray's honor at 1 Morton Street. Farmingdale, NY 11735 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm.

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2018

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