

1973 P/M Pioneer Award
Presentation to John Haller

Fourth International Powder Metallurgy Conference
Toronto, Canada

Introduction by William Reich

John Haller came to America from Germany in 1926 at the tender age of 21 on borrowed passage, and he had \$25 dollars in his pocket and it was borrowed also. It occurred to me that when I read that John, you might be interested to know that this suit, this monkey suit that I'm wearing is also borrowed. However, despite this lack of worldly wealth, John brought with him some things that were infinitely more precious; a sound background of education and experience in tool and die making and machine tool manufacture, a restless energy, an inquiring, inventive mind, and a great store of hope and confidence in the future.

He became an employee of the Landis Machine Company in St. Louis, surveyed the situation after 6 months, and made perhaps the wisest and most fruitful of all the decisions that he ever made in his career - he sent for Frieda and she came from Germany to join him as Mrs. John Haller

A lure of the blossoming automobile industry drew him to Detroit in 1928, where he worked for Chevrolet and Ford until 1933 in the design and building of tooling and new manufacturing equipment. In '33 he launched his own J. H. Tool and Machine Works. In retrospect, his ability to hold a job during the deep depression, was sure testimony to his capability and the decision to go into business in 1933, was even stronger testimony of his confidence and courage.

Simply supporting the manufacture of industrial components with tools and equipment was not completely satisfying to him. He saw much progress to be made and it came too slow. So he launched into the manufacture of automotive parts, using his own advanced ideas of tooling and equipment, some of which persist in use to this day. Powder metallurgy came to his attention when his services were enlisted by