WILLIS CARRIER AWARD



Dr. Willis H. Carrier was born in Angola, New York in 1876. He received his elementary education in district schools of Erie County and graduated from Central High School, Buffalo, New York. He received a degree in mechanical engineering from Cornell University in 1901 and his doctorate was conferred upon him at Lehigh University in 1935. He also received his doctor of science degree from Alfred University in 1942. Known widely as “The Father of Air Conditioning,” it is said he installed the world's first scientifically designed air conditioning system in 1902.

Dr. Carrier was employed by Buffalo Forge Company as a project engineer from 1901 until 1906. During this period he devised a solution to a major temperature and humidity problem occurring during summer at the Sackett-Wilhelms Lithographing and Publishing Company in Brooklyn, New York. This solution led to the invention of the spray type dehumidifier which later became a standard in controlling space temperature and humidity.

In 1907, Dr. Carrier and a group of his colleagues formed Carrier Air Conditioning Company of America as a subsidiary of Buffalo Forge Company. After the company became independent in 1915, he served as President until 1931, at which time he became Chairman of the Board.

Dr. Carrier was associated with all the “firsts” during the infant stages of air conditioning. He is credited with the design of the centrifugal refrigeration machine. Dr Carrier provided the first air conditioning not only in the printing and textile fields, but also made some of the first installations in paper mills, rubber, chemical, pharmaceutical, rayon, candy, aircraft, electrical and motion picture manufacturing plants.

Some of his notable accomplishments are: received Gold Achievement Medal as member of ASME; served as President of both ASRE and ASHVE; holder of many patents and author of numerous publications; Member of ASRE Advisory Board and edited the first publication of Refrigerating Data Book; Published “Fan Engineering” in 1914; presented paper to ASRE entitled “Rational Psychometric Formulae” which set in place the science of air conditioning; received the F. Paul Anderson Award in 1932; presented paper in 1915 to ASRE entitled “Centrifugal Compression as Applied to Refrigeration” which described his work leading to the development of centrifugal refrigeration machines; inducted into National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1985, joining a list of distinguished inventors such as Thomas A. Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Charles Goodyear and George Eastman.

Dr. Willis Haviland Carrier died in 1950 at the age of 74. He was inducted into the ASHRAE Hall of Fame on June 25, 1994 at the Society's 1994 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

The Willis H. Carrier Award was established in 1960. It is sponsored by the Carrier Corporation and is awarded for the best published paper of outstanding quality presented at a Society meeting by a member of any grade who was 32 years of age or less at the time of presentation of the paper. The award consists of a $500 honorarium and a plaque.