

THE PLAIN DEALER

Dorothy Lawrence, developed products for roofing, waterproofing **• Obituary**

Saturday, February 23, 2008

Alana Baranick

Plain Dealer Reporter

Aurora- Dorothy M. Lawrence, who died Tuesday at age 83, developed many products used in roofing and waterproofing projects over the last 62 years.

In 1946, she created Glasfab, a woven glass fabric for roofing and waterproofing applications. She later designed and developed the first hot bitumen roofing tankers and systems for pumping and handling hot asphalt and coal tar pitch.

Lawrence also developed the design for the original insulation fastener, known as the Lexsuco Clip.

At 16, the Cleveland native began working summers in the accounting department of Industrial Roofing and Sheet Metal Inc., a Cleveland company owned by her father, Perry Miller.

She often ventured outside the office to work in other portions of the business. She helped load trucks, assembled materials and equipment for projects, and sometimes got up on the roof to see what the roofers did. She used that experience to become a project manager.

The Cleveland Heights High School graduate received a bachelor's degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1946. In the 1950s, she took classes in chemistry and geology at what is now Case Western Reserve University.

She and her husband, Jack C., formed the Twinsburg-Miller Corp. roofing and waterproofing company around 1950.

After they sold Dorothy's Glasfab technology to Koppers Co. in 1966, Jack accepted a position with Koppers. Dorothy formed Laurent Corp., which manufactures Laurengo waterproofing and roofing systems.

Jack died in 1971.

Lawrence was a longtime member of ASTM International, originally known as the American Society for Testing and Materials, one of the largest voluntary standards-development organizations in the world. The organization represents a diverse range of industries.

In 1972, Lawrence became the first female member of ASTM Committee D08 on Roofing and Waterproofing. She later received ASTM International's highest honor: the Award of Merit.

She also belonged to the American Concrete Institute.

Lawrence worked on such projects as Arthur Ashe Stadium in Flushing Meadows, N.Y, and Cobo Center, a Detroit convention facility.

Her waterproofing materials also were applied on the Guggenheim Museum and Empire State Building, both in New York City, John Hancock Building in Chicago and many nuclear power plants.

Lawrence continued visiting job sites into her 80s.

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Dorothy M.

Lawrence

1924-2008

Survivors: Son, Jonathan of Hudson; daughter, Caroline of Aurora; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services: 11 a.m. Monday, Charles R. Blessing Funeral Home, 8592 Darrow Road, Twinsburg.

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