

03-25-1998

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1998

SERVING GREATER GROVE CITY SINCE 1927

50¢

Inventor Stanley Meyer dies

By GREGG RETTIG
and KATHY EVANS
Record Staff Writers

Stanley Meyer spent the last two decades of his life working on a formula that would enable a combustion engine to run on water, as opposed to gasoline.

Although Meyer, who believed he was close to perfecting the formula, died Saturday, his water fuel cell technology is expected to be carried on by his twin brother, Stephen.

Stanley Meyer, 57, was pronounced dead at 8:20 p.m. Saturday at Mt. Carmel West Medical Center after suffering what investigators believe was a brain aneurysm. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance shortly after becoming ill at a local restaurant where he was having dinner with Stephen and two other people, his brother said.

Grove City police have cordoned off Meyer's home and lab on Broadway.

"Given what he did for a living, there are certain circumstances that we need to look at," GCPD Capt. Dennis Deskins said. "It's the coroner's belief that a brain aneurysm occurred, but he's waiting until

the results of the toxicology test come back before making a final ruling.

"Officially, we're terming it as a questionable death. It has not been 100-percent determined how he died. That being the case, we're not going to wait three weeks for the toxicology test results to come back before we start investigating. We don't want any possible evidence to escape, and we feel that we need to cover all the bases."

A spokeswoman at the Franklin County Coroner's Office said Monday that an autopsy had been done on Meyer's body. Results of the tests are expected in about three weeks.

In December, Stanley Meyer presented plans for the Water Fuel Cell Development Center at Seeds Road and Enterprise Parkway. The 56-acre campus is expected to house more than 12 buildings, including a 20,000-square-foot operations center, a 20,000-square-foot VIP center, plus 10 buildings of 13,200 square feet each for research and development.

Meyer estimated the total cost for the phased-in project, which he said should take five to seven years to complete, would be about \$36-million.

He said in December that he already had secured

\$20-million to start the project, although he declined to say who his investors were. Ground has been broken at the site after city council signed off on the plan in February.

Meyer said he never wavered in his faith that the water fuel cell technology would work. In layman's terms, the water fuel cell uses electrical energy to divide a water atom under a controlled means, creating energy through the electrical stress across the molecule. The hydrogen gas produced from the process actually is the energy that is used to drive the machinery. He said the cell could be retrofitted to existing engines.

Meyer also said he had been threatened several times and offered billions of dollars for his patented technology.

"How could I live with myself knowing I had all that money in the bank and knowing that I sold the technology that could save the United States. We wouldn't be reliant on other nations for oil anymore, and we'd be saving the environment by using the water fuel cell," Meyer said as to his reason for not selling.



Record file photo

Local inventor Stanley Meyer, who was developing a method to run combustion engines with water, died unexpectedly Saturday night.

See MEYER, page 2

MEYER

Continued from page 1

Barbara Ferret, Meyer's sister, said her brother had finally achieved his life's work before his death.

At the time of his death, "they (Stanley and Stephen) were celebrating because they had knocked down some final roadblock," she said.

"His twin brother is an engineer and he's been working with Stan," Ferret said. "He lives in Minnesota and he comes in every two weeks. He will stick with (the Water Fuel Cell Development Center) to bring it to fruition."

Ferret said she is aware that police have cordoned off Meyer's Broadway home, but she does not know why.

"I suppose it's very hush-hush," she said. "All of his patents are in there."

Ferret said she is "shocked" at her brother's sudden death.

"I just didn't plan on burying a sibling," she said.

Stephen Meyer, who has an engineering degree from Franklin University, said once police allow him into his brother's Broadway lab, he will have a better idea

of the direction Stanley planned to take the development center.

"Sure we talked about it, but I also want to see his notes," Stephen said. "We were working on a heat resonator and we planned to test the first model within the next five weeks, and we planned to have the first building at the development center ready in the next three to four months."

Mayor Cheryl Grossman said she got to know Stanley Meyer personally "to some degree" as his plans for the Water Fuel Cell Development Center were discussed by the Grove City Planning Commission, of which she is a member.

"I think a lot of people were very excited about the possibility of a whole new era being opened up as far as the research he had done," she said. "I'm not certain how that will be affected. I don't know the status of his research and the other parties involved."

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn.

Funeral arrangements are being handled through the Evans Funeral Home, 4171 E. Livingston Ave. Friends may call beginning at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, with a memorial service at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.