**Shelbert L. Smith, Ph.D.**

A native of Springfield, Illinois, Dr. Smith received his early education in the elementary and secondary schools of Springfield. He continued his education at the University of Illinois which was interrupted by thee years of service in the United States Army serving as a medic at Fitz-Simmons Army Hospital and in the Asian-pacific Theater during World War III. Upon his discharge from the service, he enrolled at Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois, where he earned a B.S. Degree in Chemistry and Physics. While employed at Quaker Oats Research Laboratory he enrolled in graduate school at Illinois Institute of Technology where he earned a Masters degree in Organic Chemistry. He continued his study and earned a Ph.D. degree in Organic Chemistry. He remained at Quaker Oats for 12 years as a Research Chemist and Group Leader. Later he joined Stepan Chemical Company, a major producer of chemicals for the detergent industry.

Dr. Smith, had many publications in refereed scientific journals and several patents in the field of furan chemistry, nitrogen chemistry and carbine chemistry. Some of his research interests included synthesis of compounds for treatment of Sickle Cell Anemia and Chemiluminescence. He co-authored books on Furan Chemistry and Experiential Chemistry.

In 1957 he accepted a position as Associate Professor in the Chemistry Department at Central State University, where he remained fro thirty-tow years, retiring as professor emeritus. During the Central State years Dr. Smith secured many highly funded grants t support the Central State Chemistry Department, Faculty and students.

During his tenure at Central State, Dr. Smith was given a two year leave of absence to work in Washington, D.C. with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) as an Associate Secretary. The assignment was the direct result of his concern for governance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, (HBCUs).

Shelbert’s active involvement in the Yellow Springs community began in the 1960s with t he Civil Rights in the Village, picketing the Gegner’s Barbershop. In the 70s he filled an unexpired term on the Yellow Springs board of education and was then elected to the Board and served for six years. Upon his retirement from Central State University he became a member of the After School Tutoring Program in the High School, as well as the In School tutoring program at Mills Lawn Elementary School. He served as a Board member and President of the Yellow Springs Senior Center, Board member of the Committee of Wright State University Medical School; he was a Board member of the National Science Foundation; member of Board of Review of Choice; Fellow of American Institute of Science and an Emeritus member American Chemical Society.

His honors included membership in Sigma Xi Lambda Upsilon, Beta Kappa chi Honor Society, Recognized as an Outstanding Scientist of Dayton area by the Dayton Area Science and Engineering Council. He held membership in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, the Genealogy Group and The Couples Club.

Shelbert married Frances Beal Smith in 1958 and moved to Yellow Springs, into the second house completed on Omar Circle.

*Frances Beal Smith*