

Personality Profile

By Anthony Williams

Mr. Eugene S. Martin, 38, has been general manager of the Area Development Council (ADC) of the Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce since Feb. 1, 1957. The ADC represents 13 communities included within a 15-mile radius of Portland in the field of industrial development and is supported in part, by these communities.

Native of Portland and graduate of local schools, Mr. Martin describes himself as "basically a hometown boy with a strong personal interest in the community and its future." He welcomed the opportunity to head the newly formed Area Development Council in 1957 because he felt the job offered "a challenge to work in and for this area."

Mr. Martin says the job "still has the same appeal."

His formal education included a year's post-graduate study at Governor Dummer Academy in South Byfield, Mass. He was awarded a B.S. degree in economics on graduating from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania in 1948. Following graduation, he was employed for three years by the Scott Paper Co.; first in its Boston office and later as District Sales Manager at Worcester, Mass. Mr. Martin left the firm to return to Portland and become associated with his father's office equipment firm, the Harry E. Martin Co., located at 56 Exchange St. He remained there until accepting the post with the ADC.

During its early formative years, Mr. Martin said the ADC confined itself to collecting and publishing statistical information on the Greater Portland Area. After a study of similar projects in neighboring states, the ADC launched a program of constructing speculative industrial buildings to encourage new industry to locate in the area. This venture was financed by forming the ADC Building Fund, Inc., and selling \$250,000 worth of stock within the local business community.

The ADC purchased 150-acres of land adjacent to the Municipal Airport in South Portland and erected a 48,000 square-foot structure on a 20-acre plot in the newly christened Airport Industrial Park. Some 18 months after completion the building was sold to Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp. for use by its semi-conductor division.

A second, 25,600 square-foot, speculative industrial building has been constructed in the 120-acre Riverside Industrial Park in Portland and is awaiting a tenant. Mr. Martin says he feels the ADC has been particularly successful because of the full backing given to it by the community.

Mr. Martin and his wife, Anna, reside in Cape Elizabeth and have three children: Garrett, 13; Rianne, 9; and Timothy, 8. They enjoy skiing in the winter months on slopes within easy commuting distance of Portland and go boating during the summer on Casco Bay. A past-president of the Industrial Development Council of Maine, Mr. Martin is a charter member of the Northeastern Industrial Developers Association, serves on the Industrial Development Committee of the New England Council and is a member of the American Industrial Council.

A 32nd degree Mason and former president of the Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce, he is a member of the town planning board in Cape Elizabeth, the Portland Rotary Club and several other social clubs and organizations.

