



*Washington County Community Foundation
Philanthropist of the Year Award*

1999 Recipient- Wilfred R. "Pete" Cameron

Philanthropist, business leader, family man, and Washington County native- Wilfred R. "Pete" Cameron was a remarkable man. He was mourned by many in the community in October of 1999. Just before his passing, the Washington County Community Foundation (WCCF) selected Pete as its first annual *Philanthropist of the Year* award. The award was presented to the Cameron family posthumously at a WCCF-sponsored Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra concert at Trinity High School.

Pete was the President of Cameron Coca-Cola, a multi-generation family business in Washington, from 1971 until shortly before his death in 1999.

Pete was born into the Coca-Cola business on February 22, 1925, the son of Wilfred Peter Cameron Sr. and Genevieve Riley Cameron. After graduating from East Washington High School in 1942, he served for two years in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a flight engineer. Pete graduated in 1949 from Denison University, where he studied Business Management and Economics.



WCCF Chairman, Frank Tracanna, second from right, presenting award to Pete Cameron's children, Wendy, Peter, and Gen.

Racehorses, according to his widow, Nan, were one of Pete's passions. Pete was so passionate that he built a third-mile training track on the Cameron family property. He was experienced in breeding, training, and driving horses and frequented The Meadows to watch them compete.

Friends of Pete remember his warm personality. Jack Piatt Sr., a fellow horse owner and long-time friend of the Camerons told the *Observer Reporter*, "We're really going to miss him. Pete was always such a gentleman. He was a good friend."

Pete was very active in his community and embodied the true sense of the word "philanthropy." He was a board member of the National Soft Drink Association and Past President of the PA Soft Drink Association. He also served as a Board Member of the Washington County Council for Economic Development and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Washington.

Perhaps his name is most known for an impressive donation he made several months before his death. In the summer of 1999 he and his wife made a record-breaking contribution to The Washington Hospital- \$5 million. The donation was used for the construction of the Wilfred R. Cameron Wellness Center, a center of the Hospital.

In addition to receiving the *Philanthropist of the Year Award*, each year's recipient receives a fund named in his or her honor. Created in Pete's honor was the *Diabetes Education Fund*, which will support diabetes education at the Wilfred R. Cameron Wellness Center of the Washington Hospital. This fund will keep Pete's memory alive within the Washington County community.