



## **Marshall E. Rinker Sr.**

The Marshall E. Rinker Sr. Center for International Programs was dedicated on Oct. 23, 2006, honoring the philanthropist and founder of Rinker Materials Corp.

Marshall Edison "Doc" Rinker was born in Cowan, Indiana (located 7.5 miles south of Muncie) in 1904 and attended Ball State 20 years later when it was named Ball State Teachers College.

Rinker arrived in Palm Beach County from Indiana in 1925 driving a Model T Ford. He bought a dump truck with borrowed money and started a hauling and cement company that barely managed to stay afloat during the Depression. His reputation for hard work, integrity and willingness to take risks made him a legend in the building industry and one of the nation's wealthiest men. Mr. Rinker was Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Rinker Materials Corporation from 1926 to 1988. Much of Florida is built on foundations poured by Rinker Materials Corporation, including Disney World and Epcot, military bases, myriad shopping malls, towering office buildings and condominiums.

Rinker was a leader of many state and national organizations in his industry and his community, including the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, American Red Cross, YMCA, and Rotary International. During World War II, Rinker was a member of the Civil Air Patrol, which flew private planes out of West Palm Beach and Lantana in search of German submarines along the Florida coast.

By 1988 Rinker Materials was the largest producer of ready-mix concrete and block in Florida. Rinker sold it to CSR Limited, an Australian company for \$515 million, but how he used his wealth sets Marshall E. Rinker Sr. apart from many other wealthy men.

Mr. Rinker chose to use a substantial portion of his money to make a difference in the lives of others and always said, **“Money was only a thing to make the world better.”** He established the M.E. Rinker, Sr. Foundation in 1988 after selling Rinker Materials Corp. He was the recipient of the Free Enterprise Medal from Palm Beach Atlantic College in 1985, and named the John D. MacArthur Business Leader of the Year, 1985. He often quoted the Bible and philosophers, including Ben Franklin: “A man of tolerable abilities may work great changes, if he first forms a good plan and makes the execution of that same plan his whole study and business.”

Travel as an educational experience was always an important part of Doc’s life. He and his wife travelled to more than 100 places around the globe-to all the continents except Antarctica. The Ball State University experience left a strong impression on his life, so before he died in 1996, the M.E. Rinker Sr. Foundation endowed a scholarship program to benefit students who want to study abroad in one of Ball State’s international programs and the Marshall E. Rinker Sr. Center for International Programs came to be.

The Rinker family's generosity and legacy help our students to see the world, expand their minds, and dedicate themselves to incorporating the world’s best ideas and practices into their careers and their daily lives.

Adapted from the following materials:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/110592515/marshall-edison-rinker>

<http://www.pbhistoryonline.org/page/marshall-edison-doc-rinker-sr>

<http://historicpalmbeach.blog.palmbeachpost.com/1999/12/19/hard-work-soft-heartmarshall-e-doc-rinker-dec-8-1904-april-11-1996/>

<https://www.stetson.edu/today/2016/09/7m-rinker-welcome-center-readies-for-grandopening/>