



# Vision of Founder Becomes Industry Reality



Gene Horvath, Founder (1935-1996)

**Flo King** isn't your ordinary filter system developed by the average pump manufacturer. It was conceived by metal finishers for metal finishers. The developers of this unique "vacuum-side" in-tank system were actually practitioners who recognized shortcomings with equipment then available in the filtration marketplace. They personally experienced the leaky seals, the failed clamps, the hose mishaps, the solution losses, the labor and time required for filter changes...

Gene Horvath was one of those practitioners—a technician at Martin Marietta's (now Lockheed Martin's) Engineering Prototype Laboratory, where he developed unique electroplated and electroformed precision aerospace components. He was so enthusiastic about this novel product that he decided to patent and commercialize it. He introduced the **Flo King** system to the marketplace in 1980 through his product development company, Custom Masters Inc.

The availability of the original BX1200 met with steady success and, in the years that followed, was succeeded by a wide range of products for laboratory-size beakers to large production tanks. All operating with the signature **Flo King** vacuum-side approach.

Gene was also a proponent of materials conservation and developed the Magnum reusable filter and, later, a reusable carbon bag and canister. He insisted on a comprehensive factory repair program. And in addition to process baths for metal finishing, he advocated filtration of cleaners, rinses, and other pre- and post-treatment tanks. His goal was to extend bath life, reduce chemical consumption, and lower waste-treatment requirements.

As founder of the company, Gene's objective was to manufacture a product that was easy to use, environmentally sound, relatively low in cost, and high in quality. His vision then is a reality in our industry today.