

HARLEY PEDERICK

Statement by Member for Roe

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [3.07 pm]: The Wagin and wider community are mourning the loss of a true legend of WA engineering who passed away on 13 July. Born in 1932, Harley Pederick made a significant contribution to the region as the CEO of Wagin's Pederick Engineering. He was also an avid car racer and an invaluable community member. As the CEO from 1973 to 1993, Mr Pederick grew Pederick Engineering to be one of the biggest employers outside Perth, with nearly 100 employees in its heyday. Established in 1928, the company is one of the oldest rural agricultural engineering business names in Western Australia. In its early days, Pederick Engineering built gas producers during the war and developed the only foundry in the great southern. Harley Pederick invented agricultural machinery that changed the face of agriculture, such as the Pederick pasture topper, the sidewinder rake and root rippers.

Aside from his successful engineering business, Mr Pederick was a champion sedan car racer, winning state titles in 1963 and 1964, and winning the six-hour Le Mans at Caversham in 1964 in his famed Jaguar E-Type. On the Wagin shire council for 20 years, four of them as shire president, Mr Pederick was also a justice of the peace, serving the Wagin community for 40 years. Once he retired, Mr Pederick wrote a book about the history of Pederick Engineering, a fascinating look at agriculture in WA from the 1930s onwards. A celebration of Harley Pederick's life will be held on Saturday, 12 August in Wagin.