Reuben Klamer was a small town guy with big ideas who rose to set new standards for the game and toy industry.

Reuben Klamer is a renowned toy and game inventor whose signature creation, "The Game of Life" celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2010 and is part of the permanent Archives of Family Life at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Klamer was inducted into the Toy Industry Association's Hall of Fame in 2005. He was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Toy and Game Inventor Expo, the toy industry association of creative artists in 2009. He was inducted into the Hasbro Inventor's Hall of Fame in 2000. He was named a Citizen of Honor in his native state of Ohio.

Reuben Klamer was born to Romanian immigrants in Canton, Ohio in 1922 into a depression era middle class family.

He excelled in school. He studied ancient and modern history at George Washington University, and received a B.S. degree from Ohio State University. He studied engineering at the University of Michigan. Klamer graduated from the U.S. Navy Midshipman School at Northwestern University in 1943. As an officer in the United States Navy, he distinguished himself during combat in the amphibious landing forces in the South Pacific in WWII.

Following the war, he started his own advertising agency, went to work for Ideal Toy Company, and then became an executive in Eldon Industries where he pioneered in the use of unbreakable polyethylene plastic toys.

During a brief hiatus in the 1970's, Mr. Klamer developed and taught a course in Creative Technology for the University of Hawaii at his Creative Development Center in Kona.

In a remarkable career spanning six decades, he is credited with more than 200 products, including the classic Fisher-Price Preschool Trainer Skates, introduced in 1984. Hasbro/Milton Bradley, Mattel/Fisher-Price, Tupperware, Coca-Cola and Sears Roebuck & Co. are among Mr. Klamer's many current and former partners.