Leo J. Wahl, a longtime resident of Sterling, Illinois, founded the Wahl Clipper Corporation, the world’s largest manufacturer of electric hair clippers. While still attending high school, Leo began to develop an electromagnetic motor. Several years later, as an engineering student at the University of Illinois, he used the motor to design a portable hair clipper which he marketed directly to barbers. The Wahl Company was formed.

Leo and his wife, Verna, had six children: Warren, Bob, Raymond, Jane Marie, Jack, and Mary Jane—five of whom have been involved with the Wahl Clipper Corporation. It was through their efforts that the Leo and Verna Wahl Library Endowment in Engineering was established at Notre Dame, in honor of their parents.

The Wahl Endowment in Engineering has provided critical support toward building a collection of journals in engineering without which substantive research could not take place. Over the years, this endowment has provided researchers with a broad selection of journals in aerospace, mechanical, civil, and chemical engineering, and the geological and computer sciences. Representative titles acquired through the Wahl Endowment include *Advances in Engineering Software, Materials Science and Engineering, Superconductor Science & Technology, Research in Engineering Design*, and *Solid State Ionics*. 