

Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame

October 29, 1987

Sponsored by
The Ohio Department of Aging
50 W. Broad St./9th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0501

Richard F. Celeste, GOVERNOR
Joyce F. Chapple, DIRECTOR
OHIO...*the heart of it all!*

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The History of the Hall of Fame

The Ohio Senior Citizens
Hall of Fame was established to fulfill a two-fold purpose: to emphasize
the vital role played by men and women, 60 years of age and older, in
their communities, state and nation and to promote the productivity and
enjoyment that should be a part of every person's retirement years.

This year 11 individuals
join the distinguished ranks of the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Their selection
is based on contributions they have made for the benefit of mankind after age
60 or for a continuation of efforts begun before that age.

Each of those enshrined
receives a plaque with his or her portrait and a brief biography, and a lapel
pin engraved with the Hall of Fame symbol. An identical plaque is on
permanent display in the Janis Senior Center, Ohio State Fairgrounds,
Columbus.

Nominees for the Hall
of Fame must be native-born Ohioans or residents of Ohio for at least
10 years. Any individual or organization may submit a nomination
by completing an application and returning it to The Ohio
Department of Aging, Special Events Section, 50 W.
Broad St./9th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43266-0501,
by June 1 of each year. Induction ceremonies
are held annually in the fall.

A
Message
from
Governor
Richard F. Celeste

Each year, the inductees to the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame add new chapters to our state's legacy of civic responsibility, community endeavor and personal integrity. I am very pleased to be part of the ceremony recognizing this group of people.

As we publicly note the outstanding accomplishments of the 11 Ohioans honored here, we should be inspired to rededicate our full potentials by following their examples in life.

After all, our successes are built on the achievements of those generations before us. The torch eventually is passed to everyone over time.

To the families, friends and neighbors of the inductees as well, Dagmar and I extend our best wishes to you. You have, to an appreciable degree, contributed to and benefited from the life's work of the individuals we honor this year.

To the inductees, you have my congratulations and deepest thanks as an Ohioan who is working to follow in your footsteps.

A
Message
from
Director
Joyce F. Chapple

As the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame program concludes each year, I often wonder how next year's inductees can compare with the high quality biographies of those people we have just enshrined. But as each year comes and goes, I am never disappointed.

The most difficult task in sponsoring the Hall of Fame is screening the dozens of excellent nominations which come from across Ohio. This year's task was no less difficult.

By looking at how many wonderful individuals we have as Ohioans, it is easy to see why Ohio has achieved so much as a state. We are rich in our personal and cultural heritage.

My warmest congratulations go out to all 11 inductees to the 1987 Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

The Program

Musical Prelude

Richard Bell, Cello • Mary Farrington, Viola • Eliza McGowan,
Violin • Jim McCullough, Violin

Master of Ceremonies

Hugh DeMoss, Columbus

Invocation

The Reverend Kathleen Richter, Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbus

Welcome

Joyce F. Chapple, Director, Ohio Department of Aging

Recognition of Past Inductees

Kenneth Mahan, Assistant Director, Ohio Department of Aging

Presentation of Inductee Awards

Joyce F. Chapple

Recognition of Past Members, Ohio Council for the Aging

Kenneth Mahan

Reception

Janis Center Lobby, Music by Golden Trio

Inductees

1987



Alma Cahill

Professionally and as a volunteer, Alma Cahill has served the young and old of Franklinton throughout the last five decades.

While raising five children, Mrs. Cahill became involved with the Sunshine Recreation Center and Gladden Community House, serving on their boards for many years.

Helping youngsters is a cause that has always been dear to her heart, and while employed by the Columbus Metropolitan Area Community Action Organization, she started four preschools in the Franklinton area.

Her love of children next led her to the Diocesan Child Guidance Center Day Treatment Program, where for 16 years she worked with emotionally disturbed youths.

Growing older did nothing but increase her involvement in community activities. Concerned about the safety of the elderly, Mrs. Cahill spearheaded the deadbolt lock program for senior citizens, a project which raised money, purchased and installed locks for area seniors. She received a special award from the Columbus Police Department for this work.

The organizations and boards she belongs to include: East Franklinton Area Council, Franklinton Health Center Advisory Board, Franklinton Area Commission and Franklinton Planning Committee. She also finds time to perform with the McDowell Senior Citizens Center Tap Dance Group.

By giving of herself so freely, Alma Cahill has improved the quality of life for many of her fellow citizens.



Phil Chelnick

While fighting for his beliefs, Phil Chelnick has made an impact on the lives of hundreds of senior citizens in his community and throughout the nation.

For 25 years, the Cleveland Heights resident channeled his extraordinary amounts of enthusiasm and energy into efforts on behalf of the elderly.

To improve the lives of older Ohioans, Mr. Chelnick testified before Congressional and state legislative committees on nutrition, public utilities, transportation, medical assistance and low-cost housing for the elderly.

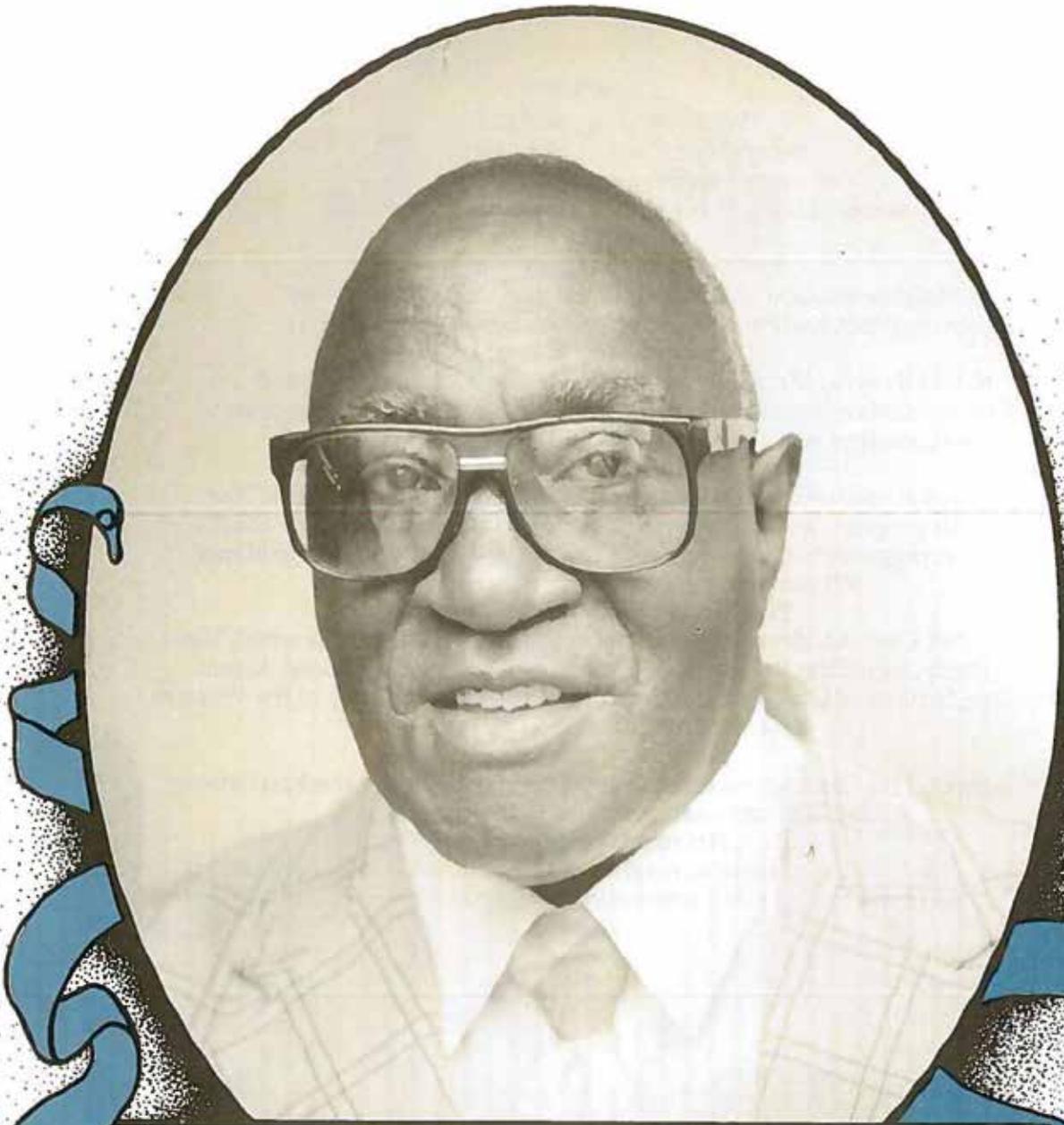
The Three Generation

Vote Registration campaign was a special project for Phil Chelnick. The aim of the program was to have every senior adult—and the senior adult's children and grandchildren—registered to vote in 1982. Under his guidance, 500 new voters were registered that year.

Possessing strong leadership qualities, Phil Chelnick devoted many hours to local organizations which serve the elderly, including the Jewish Community Center Adult Social Action Committee, Seniors of Ohio and the County Advisory Committee to the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging.

For his caring and involvement, Phil Chelnick received many awards, including the Kronenberg Award for outstanding service to the community.

His many years of service and devotion to friends, neighbors and associates have earned Phil Chelnick the love and admiration of Ohioans everywhere.



Ocie Hill

Ocie Hill has been in the limelight so long that newspaper stories about his life and public tributes to his career are nothing unusual for him. Even so, he still appreciates the kind words of recognition.

Mansfield's Ocie Hill was that city's first black elected official. In the 25 continuous years since elected to city council, his fourth ward constituents have benefited, and are still benefiting, from his tenacity toward serving the public interest.

In a career of firsts, Ocie Hill became the first black elected to a leadership role in Local 17 of the United Rubber Workers at the Mansfield Tire & Rubber Company.

As might be expected, leadership has been part of Mr. Hill's legacy as well. He was a founding member of the Black Elected Democrats of Ohio. While on city council, he has led efforts to establish senior citizen centers across the community. He has served on numerous senior citizen advisory boards.

Given his achievements and the times during which he has been active, Ocie Hill has written his own chapter in America's civil rights movement. He served with the all-black 368th Army Infantry Unit during World War II, and can clearly recall the racism he experienced in the 1940s.

While there are plenty of stories of racial injustice in Ocie Hill's past, he remains philosophic in his outlook on life. "I always used to say, 'I can make it.' But over the years, I changed that to 'we all can make it!'"

Indeed, both Ocie Hill and the people of Mansfield have made it together.



Alice Hoffman

When she took in her first foster child in 1938, little did Alice Hoffman know she was establishing a 50-year legacy of love and caring for homeless children in north central Ohio.

Over the course of the last five decades, Alice Hoffman, of Crestline, has been mother to more than 200 foster children. Many of those youngsters have been disabled or hard-to-place teenagers.

Even today at the age of 80, Mrs. Hoffman has three foster children in her home.

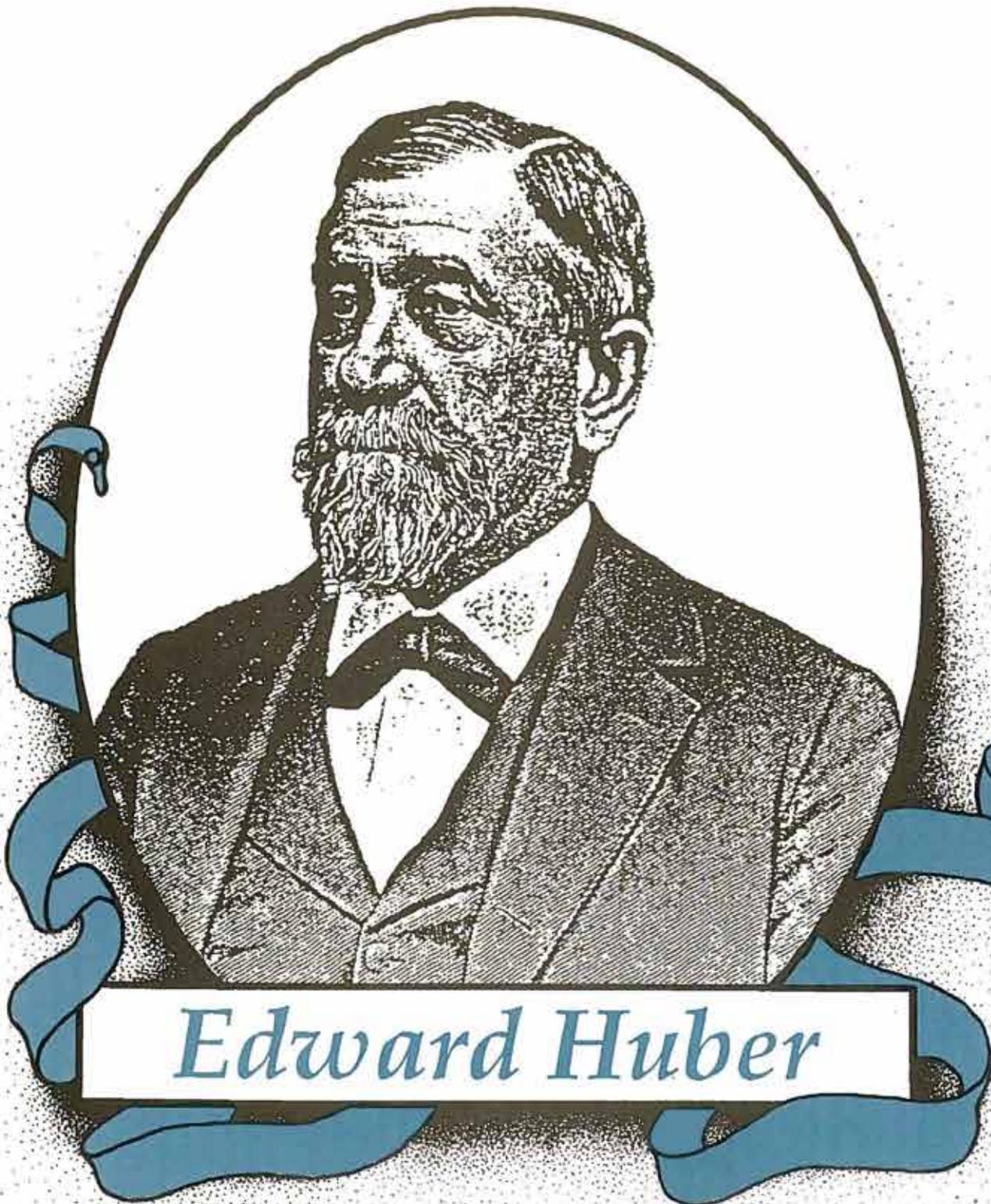
For most of her life, Alice Hoffman shared her role as foster parent with her late husband, George. From the first year of their marriage through George's 100th birthday celebration, the Hoffmans opened their household to children referred to them from Crawford County Children's Services, juvenile authorities and others.

There has been no lack of local recognition and thanks for Alice Hoffman's work. She was named Foster Mother of the Year in 1977 by the Crawford County Children's Services Board and Woman of the Year by the *Mansfield News Journal* in 1979. She has also been the recipient of the Knights of Columbus Good Neighbor Award.

A member of the Crestline Church of Christ, Mrs. Hoffman credits her work to her personal experiences as a foster child.

"I made up my mind that I would devote my life to children," Alice Hoffman says.

Two hundred foster children are testimony to that commitment.



Edward Huber

An inventor, manufacturer, entrepreneur and philanthropist, Edward Huber shared his knowledge while giving financial support to many worthwhile endeavors in Marion and Marion County.

After inventing the revolving hay rake in 1863, he came to Marion to manufacture the product because of the abundance of ash and hickory in the area.

Edward Huber's inventions and patents were many and had a great impact on agriculture and industry throughout the world.

His devices included one of the first steam farm engines; a steam traction engine, one of which is on display in the Smithsonian Museum; the first gas farm tractor; and a revolving road scraper.

In 1874, he founded the Huber Manufacturing Company, which became the world's largest producer of steam engines and grain separators. Making farm and road machinery with the Huber name provided employment in Marion for more than 100 years.

Shovels produced by Mr. Huber's Marion Steam Shovel Company were used to dig the Panama Canal. The company also made the crawler used to transport the space shuttle to the launching pad to send a man to the moon.

A dedicated family man, Mr. Huber was actively involved in the community, founding the Marion Electric Light Company, Marion Street Railway and Marion Public Library.

Because of his intelligence, vision and love of mankind, Edward Huber enhanced the lives of many throughout the state and nation.



Thaddeus Hurd

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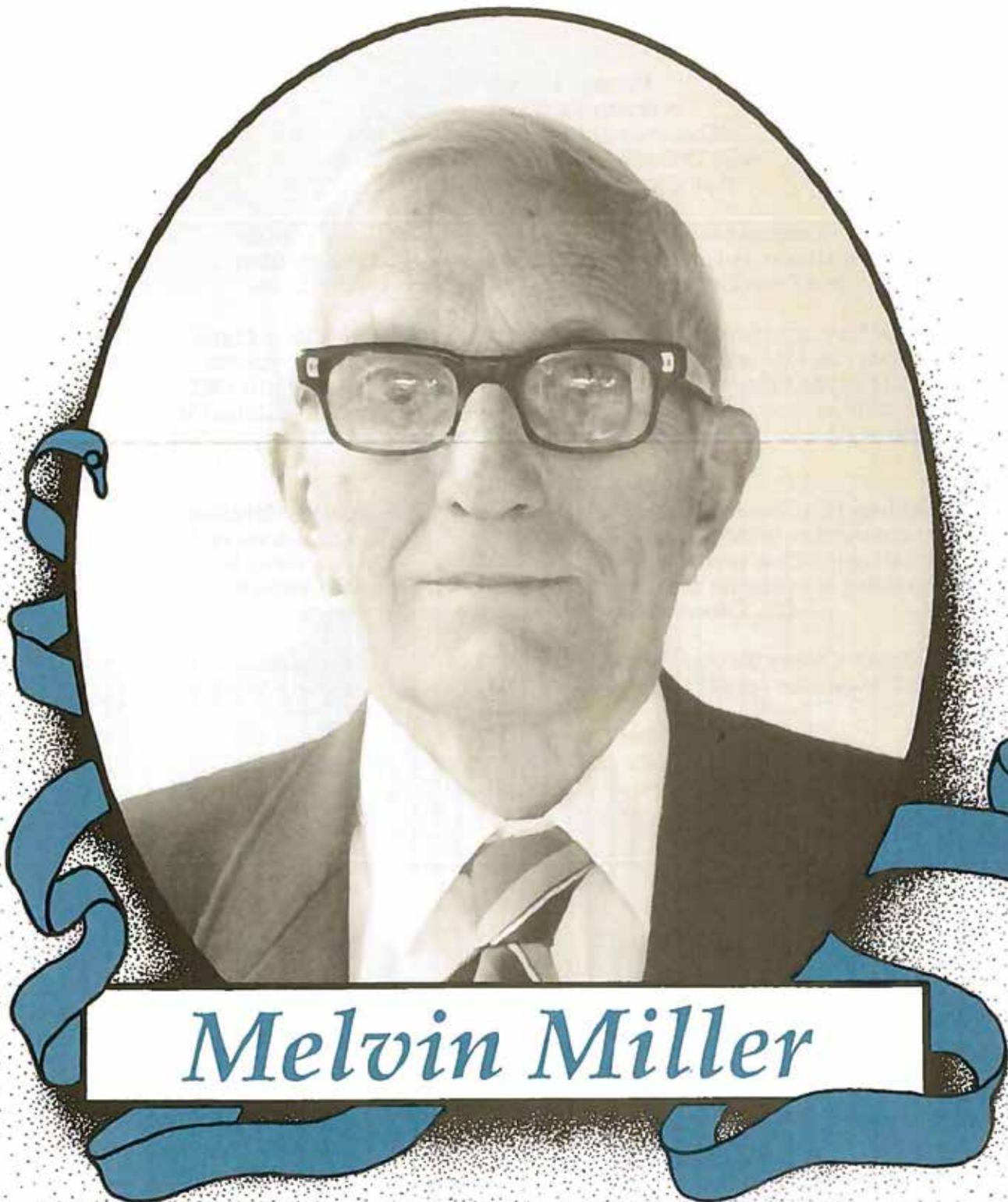
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Melvin Miller

Community service is a description which could easily be defined by Melvin Miller's lifetime achievements in and around the city of Urbana and Champaign County.

Starting out as a milkman in Shelby County, Mr. Miller soon moved to Urbana where he and his wife opened a restaurant and put down their roots. The people of Urbana have been the recipients of his community-spirited generosity ever since.

A member of the local United Methodist Church, he served as chairperson of the building committee for the construction of the church's Parish Hall. He currently serves on Urbana's City Planning and Zoning Board, and previously served on the local Board of Education, the Urbana Park Board and the Recreation Board. He was instrumental in the development of the Urbana Community Park.

One of Melvin Miller's prized achievements was leading the Urbana Rotary Club's development of Rotary Manor, a 40-unit apartment building for senior citizens and the disabled.

Another major accomplishment for Mr. Miller was serving as president of Champaign Memorial Home, Inc. Under his direction, fund-raising for equipment and furniture purchases has kept this 150-bed nursing home an attractive asset to the community.

Melvin Miller and his wife, Selma, are currently building a new home in Urbana. So for Melvin Miller, his life of serving and building continues.



Edwardina Riggans

Most working women
have little time for volunteer work.
But Edwardina Riggans never let work
stand in the way of community service.

Amazingly, Mrs. Riggans
did factory or domestic work to support herself until age
81. She has also found the time to distinguish herself for
more than 20 years as one of Ohio's outstanding supporters
of service programs for older adults.

The voice of the
Cleveland native has been heard throughout her community, the State
of Ohio and our nation's capital advocating seniors' concerns.

A former president
of Seniors of Ohio, Mrs. Riggans has received many awards saluting her
volunteer service. These include a United States Congress Achievement
Award as the 1986 Volunteer of the Year of Ohio's chapter of the National
Association of Social Workers.

That Mrs. Riggans
generously gives of her time and wisdom to help others is also evident from the
volunteer positions she has held. These include serving as a delegate to the 1981
White House Conference on Aging, a vice chairperson of the Council on Older
Persons of the Federation for Community Planning, a member of the
Cuyahoga County Advisory Board Council and a member of the Ohio Council
for the Aging.

Seniors nationwide can
rest assured that as long as Edwardina Riggans sees a need for better services
to seniors, she will make those needs a reality.



Robert Secrest

Few men have devoted as much time and effort to helping fellow members of the community, state and nation as Cambridge's Robert Secrest.

A dedicated educator, Mr. Secrest began his career teaching in a one-room school. He also taught junior high and high school before becoming a superintendent of schools in Murray City. Later he lectured about military government, international law and anti-trust law at 15 universities, including Harvard and The Washington College of Law.

As a loyal public servant, Robert Secrest served in the Ohio House of Representatives and the Senate, 10 terms in the U.S. Congress, as the Ohio Director of Commerce and on the Federal Trade Commission under President Eisenhower.

In 1942, Mr. Secrest resigned from Congress to join the U.S. Navy, earning the rank of Commander. He served in England, Africa, Italy and the Pacific.

His efforts on behalf of veterans are legend in Ohio. More than 30 awards have been bestowed upon Robert Secrest for helping America's servicemen, including the Silver Medal of Merit from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Also in his honor, a Robert Secrest statue was erected on the lawn of the Guernsey County Court House.

Whether fighting for conservation, education for Ohio's youth or health care for the state's rural population, Robert Secrest has done a great deal to make this world a better place for all to live in.



Georgina Silliman

As a teacher and an involved member of the Oxford community, Georgina Silliman has devoted her time and energy to making life more pleasant for many Ohioans.

Professionally she was well-known throughout southwestern Ohio as Miami University's top educator in the field of student teaching.

When it came to civic affairs, Georgina Silliman always found the time to participate.

As president of Des Fleurs Garden Club, she assisted in a civic beautification project in which over 1,000 trees were distributed.

Miss Silliman was instrumental in starting the area Art and Craft Fair at Hueston Woods State Park, now attended by thousands annually.

Retirement did not lessen her enthusiasm for helping others. Through the American Association of Retired Persons she has strived to improve the quality of life for all older persons.

In 1977 she was one of 10 women honored by *The Cincinnati Enquirer* for varied community service. Her involvement in the organizations of which she is a member are too numerous to list.

A caring, warm-hearted person, Georgina Silliman finds time to remember friends and shut-ins on birthdays and special occasions.

In serving her fellow man, Georgina Silliman has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of persons of all ages.



Alice Weston

In the 1980s, female
broadcasters are common. It is
not extraordinary to see women delivering
the news or hosting talk shows.

In large part, women
in the broadcasting field today owe their career
opportunities to females who blazed the trail for them
decades ago. In Ohio, Alice Weston is one of those broadcast
pioneers.

Alice Weston, of Elyria,
and a 48-year resident of Lorain County, got her start during the
earliest days of television broadcasting. In 1948, she hosted "Alice
Weston's Kitchen Clinic" and was a colleague with all of those connected
to early television from Cleveland.

Television and radio
eventually saw Alice Weston with assignments overseas, especially Rome
and Athens. She has remained active in the northern Ohio television com-
munity and currently host's "Lorain Conversations" on WUAB-TV.

In between radio and
television work, Alice Weston also worked in related areas. Her career in public
relations brought her into the company of people like Charles De Gaulle and
David Ben Gurion.

Residents of Elyria, and
everyone throughout Lorain County, have a special, hometown attachment to
Alice Weston. Much of this is due to her hard work in community issues and
fund-raising campaigns, such as the March of Dimes and Easter Seals.

Northern Ohio television
viewers have grown up listening and watching Alice Weston.

Women in the broadcast
industry continue to follow in her footsteps.

Members

Charter

Muriel M. Allen Bertsch • *Ernest J. Bohn • Anna V. Brown • Milton Caniff • W. Fred Cottrell • Nelson H. Cruikshank • Arthur S. Flemming • Zelma Watson George • *Richard Gosser • Leslie Townes (Bob) Hope • Martin Janis • James C. (Jesse) Owens • Sidney L. Pressey • Albert B. Sabin, M.D. • Louis B. Seltzer • Dr. Julius & Mrs. Helen Weil • Aaron M. Weisen

1978

I. W. Abel • John W. Bricker • B. Bernard Caplan, M.D. • John W. Galbreath • Wayne W. (Woody) Hayes • Frank J. Lausche • Rose L. Papier • Theodosia Sochasky • Ella P. Stewart • Lowell Thomas

1979

Paul E. Brown • Phyllis Diller • Gertrude W. Donahey • Joseph W. Fichter • Lillian Gish • Edwin C. Heinke • Sister M. Henrietta, C.S.A. • William O. Walker • Stella Walsh • Floyd E. Wenger

1980

James T. Flood • Sherman L. (Jack) Frost • Edward D. Kuekes • Edward C. Haaf • Dominick Labino • Helen G. McClelland • The Mills Brothers (Herbert, Harry, Donald) • Elijah Pierce • William Presser • Donald B. Robinson • David Rubinoff • Murtis H. Taylor-Mills

1981

Alfred A. Antenucci • Jessie Z. Bartlett • Anthony J. Celebrezze • Beulah Fawcett • Carl F. Graf • Walter E. Havighurst • Charles D. Hill • Charles Y. Lazarus • Larry W. Pelton • *(Russell) Games Slayter

1982

Walter E. Alston • *Clarence H. Borgelt • *John B. Conard • Helen W. Evans • Dorothy Fuldheim • Ruth Lyons • C. Stanley Mechem • Capt. H. Mowrey • Norman Vincent Peale • William A. Pepper • James A. Rhodes

1983

Lucille Chenault • Avis W. Cullen • Ethel Straw Guthrie • David Leahy • *Irvin H. Ryan • James E. Saunders • Myrl H. Shoemaker • Sidney Spector • C. Umhau Wolf • Johann J. Zabka

1984

Ora McCain Barrett • Charles Blakeslee • Frank P. Celeste • Orland C. Duke • Catherine Gillie • David N. Myers • *Wesley (Branch) Rickey • Vernal G. Riffe, Sr. • Dorothy V. Ryan • Carl E. Smith

1985

Ronald Brown • Lucille & Fred Grumley • Howard L. Hofacre • Helen E. Landry • Charles W. Peckham • John G. Pfund • Ralph H. Romig • Helen H. Santmyer • Loretta Yoder

1986

Anna Bishop • Lois Filipic • Jack Halbeisen • Helen Hawley • Ruth Kane • David Lusk • Kenneth Miller • Durwood Neff • Erie Sauder

1987

Alma Cahill • Phil Chelnick • Ocie Hill • Alice Hoffman • *Edward Huber • Thaddeus Hurd • Melvin Miller • Edwardina Riggans • Robert Secrest • Georgina Silliman • Alice Weston

* Posthumous