

# Biographies



1997 - 2006

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The Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation, Inc. was established on August 17, 1957. The purpose of the organization shall be "The collection, administration, and investment of funds donated by any person(s), firm(s), or corporation(s), wishing: (1) to recognize various groups and/or organizations, (2) to honor members of the dairy and allied industries (living or deceased) who have performed distinguished services for the dairy industry of Michigan, (3) to provide scholarships for specific financial aid to worthy undergraduates desiring to acquire technical and/or academic training in the fields of dairy science, and/or processing or manufacturing of dairy products through regular four-year college courses, short courses, and/or such technical training as dairy plant engineering or such other courses as the Board of Directors deems advisable, and (4) to support specific educational programs enhancing the curriculum for students with a dairy interest."

The Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Fund is the largest scholarship program in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.



## **CLARENCE "CLANCY" AERTS**

Clarence (Clancy) Aerts was born and raised in the small western Michigan town of Hart. As a young lad he began working on his uncle's dairy farm which contributed to his interest in dairying. Upon graduation from high school he enrolled at Michigan State University and was graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1958.

Following his graduation he served in the U. S. Army. Some time later, he and Rita Wenser married. They have five children and ten grandchildren.

In 1960, he began work at the office of the federal Milk Marketing Administrator. In 1963, he was transferred to the audit section spending eighteen years in that assignment. In 1984, he was appointed the Assistant Milk Market Administrator of the Michigan Order, a position he held until his retirement in 1997.

Upon retirement he and his wife returned to Hart where he was always s interested in community service and activities. He served seven years as councilman and is currently the Hart city mayor.

Other activities include serving as the Oceana County Fair president and grounds manager for the most recent six years.

In 1998 Clancy was the recipient of the Michigan Dairy Leader Award. In 2003 the Oceana County Dairy Committee presented him with the Friend of the Dairy Industry Award.



## **LAWRENCE RICHARD ANGOTT**

Larry Angott was born and raised in the Detroit, MI area, the third of seven children born to Samuel and Myrtle Angott. Samuel was the founder of the original family business, the Detroit Pure Milk Company. Larry, along with his brother Thomas, continue daily oversight of this family milk business and are looking forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of family in the business.

Larry is the third Angott mentioned as a named honoree, a program of recognition begun with the inception of the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Program in 1957.

Larry graduated from the U of D Jesuit High School, attended the University of Detroit, and Michigan State University.

Currently, he is Chairman/CEO of C.F. Burger, Twin Pines Dairy, Detroit. He has held numerous senior management assignments from 1945, when he entered the family business. He continues to work seven days a week and vows that he will never retire.

For many years, Larry has been active in numerous professional and charitable organizations including International Dairy Foods Association, Michigan Dairy Foods, Detroit Dairy Tech, and the Allied Ice Cream Association of Michigan. As an avid golfer, he has been a board member of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions, P.I.M.E., a Golf Day Benefit, for over 50 years. This single-day event attracts over 1400 golfers and raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for the worldwide missions. In 2000, Larry was named as honoree by P.I.M.E. for his many years of service. A chapel was built and dedicated in his name in the Amazon region of Brazil.

From date of inception, and because he was a member of and understood the inner workings under which the McDonald Corporation Dairy Council operated, he was a mover in the very successful Chuck Bagans Endowed Scholarship established some years ago in the G. Malcolm Trout Memorial Fund.

Larry's love of good music made him an accomplished chromatic harmonica player and when younger, he played the sax in a band. He carried a high bowling average and competed in many bowling tournaments nationwide.

Larry and his wife Rosemary have been married for 51 years. They had 3 children, two daughters surviving and have been blessed with 11 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

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The lifelong involvement of Lawrence R. Angott, and his numerous contributions to the dairy industry amply qualify him as a named honoree of both the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Foundation and the G. Malcolm Trout Memorial at Michigan State University.



## **KIRKWOOD G. ARNOLD**

Kirkwood G. "Kirk" Arnold was well-known and respected for his many contributions to the dairy industry. He was born and raised with a dairy farm background in Pennsylvania. He attended Delaware College of Science and Agriculture after which he served aboard ship with the U.S. Navy.

He worked in the Michigan dairy industry for over 25 years with several companies, including the Sealtest Division of National Dairy Products Corporation (later to become a division of the Kraft Corporation), and the Detroit Pure Milk Division of Borman Foods. He worked with the Ira Wilson and Sons Dairy Company and became its President in the mid 1970's. He was named Vice President and General Manager of the Embest subsidiary of Country Fresh Inc. in 1991. Kirk Arnold also served as the Vice-President and later as President of the Dairy Council of Michigan. He was a member of the Detroit Rotary Club and an elder, deacon and choir member at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, Michigan.

Kirk passed away in 1996 of cancer and was survived by his wife Barbara, two of their three children and his father, mother and sister.



## ***SHEILA M. BURKHARDT***

Sheila (Nugent) Burkhardt grew up on a dairy farm in Lowell, Michigan located in northeast Kent County. Her family still operates the 200 cow farm today. While in high school, Sheila was active in 4-H and FFA. Both organizations played a significant role in leading her to a career in agriculture.

Sheila graduated from Lowell High School in 1983 and later received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1993. She went on to pursue a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural and Natural Resources Communications from Michigan State University. While in college, Sheila was active in the MSU Dairy Science Club where she received both the outstanding first year award and the outstanding senior member award.

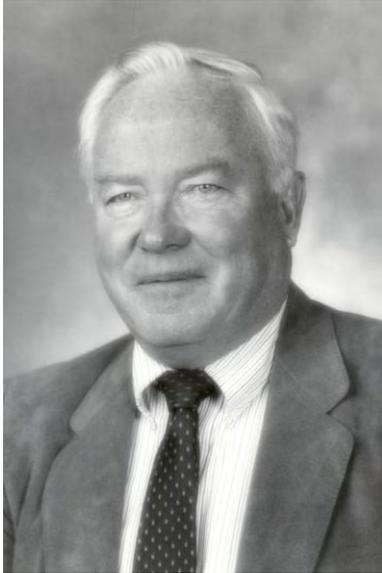
She was also involved with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Student Senate at the time serving as Vice President for Student Activities. In addition, Sheila was a member of the 1986 MSU Dairy Judging Team and served as an ANR Ambassador for the college. Sheila was a recipient of the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship during college which greatly helped with tuition expenses.

After graduating from MSU in 1987, Sheila went on to work for MABC-Select Sires (now known as NorthStar Cooperative) for a brief time as Communications Assistant. In February 1988, Sheila was employed by Michigan Milk Producers Association as the Director of Member Relations and Public Affairs, a position she has held since then. In her capacity, Sheila is responsible for developing and implementing various educational and informational programs for members, young farmers, youth and promotional groups. In 2002, Sheila was named Outstanding Communicator of the Year by the National Milk Producers Federation.

She became involved with the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation in 1996, serving as president from 2000-2002 and currently serves as Promotions Committee chairperson. She also served on the Board of Directors for the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association, serving as president from 1997-1998.

Sheila is actively involved in 4-H activities serving for many years on the 4-H Dairy Programming Committee and currently on the State 4-H Animal Science Priority Program Team. In 2005, Sheila was elected to the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees.

In 1991, Sheila married Conrad Burkhardt. They currently reside in Fowlerville, Michigan and have two children: Tyler who is 9 and Kristen, age 6.



## **JAMES M. DAY**

A contribution to the Dairy Memorial Scholarship Foundation has been made in the name of James M. Day, Mason, Michigan by Curt Miller and Clint Meadows. Jim is being honored for his commitment and tremendous impact on Michigan's dairy industry through his work in the Artificial Insemination (A.I.) Industry.

Many of us are aware of Jim's work as Dairy Programs Coordinator at NorthStar-Select Sires, Lansing, Michigan where he worked for the past 32 years. In his position, Jim worked closely with Select Mating Service (SMS) and the Program for Genetic Advancement (PGA.)

Through the years at NorthStar, Jim helped establish NorthStar-Select Sires as a leader in the A.I. industry. In fact, Jim is responsible for the very 1<sup>st</sup> dairy mating program with the Select Sires Federation. With Jim's guidance NorthStar (then MABC) began offering a dairy mating service in



## **JOHN DILLAND**

For over three decades the Michigan dairy industry has benefited from the steadfast, dedicated and efficient work of John Dilland.

John's roots are firmly planted in agriculture. He grew up on a livestock and cash crop farm near Tioga, in the northwestern part of North Dakota. John's interest in agriculture led him to pursue a degree in animal science with a minor in agronomy at North Dakota State University. After serving two years in the Army, he returned to college where he earned a Masters of Business Administration degree from Ohio State University. Upon graduation, John was a loan officer for the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives. He began his employment with MMPA in 1975 as Controller. One of his early challenges was to correct the adverse debt to equity structure that existed in MMPA's balance sheet. He converted the cooperative's debt-laden revolving fund program to an equity retain program. That modification significantly changed MMPA's debt to equity relationship, adding nearly \$24 million in equity to MMPA's balance sheet over a 10-year period.

John was promoted to MMPA's Director of Finance in June of 1980 and served in that position until he was named General Manager in 2003.

During his time at MMPA, John has been involved in a number of significant events, including the merger with the Constantine Cooperative Creamery, the merger with Michigan Producers Dairy Cooperative and the acquisition of the sale of the McDonald Cooperative assets. He helped to lead the transition from the fluid market into a high-quality line of value added dairy ingredients. He was also part of the negotiating team for MMPA that helped craft one of the first dairy cooperative partnerships with the Leprino Foods Company, an agreement that has proven to be very beneficial for MMPA.

John's ability to project long-range goals in a turbulent business environment has allowed the cooperative to take advantage of changing market trends without sacrificing the cooperative's mission to market the member's milk to the greatest advantage possible. As the "numbers" man behind the cooperative, John has worked to make MMPA one of the most financially strong cooperatives in the nation.

His leadership abilities have also been tapped by national organizations. He serves in leadership capacities for the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and National Milk Producers Federation. John serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan FFA foundation and the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation. John's previously served in a variety of positions with the Great Lakes Chapter of the National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives and on the Legal, Tax and Accounting Committee of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

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John has served as a committee and council member and officer of his church, St. Johns Lutheran Church of Farmington Hills, Michigan. John and his wife, Barbara, have three sons, Erik, Steven and David. John and Barbara reside in Farmington Hills, Michigan.



## **KEN GASPER**

Kenneth Lewis Gasper was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on December 15, 1948. He attended Blending High School and graduated in 1967. During 1968 and 1969, he was employed as a sub-milk hauler and attended college. In 1969, he finished a two-year agricultural technology degree from Michigan State University. After graduation, he worked for Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative as a sub-technician. He then returned to the home farm, Lew-Max Holsteins, in Belding, Michigan to manage the 60-cow registered Holstein herd with his father, Lewis Gasper. In 1972, he married Jane Majinska, and they had four children, Nikki, Aaron, Maddie, and Jamie.

In 1988, Ken, his wife Jane, and their four children ran the operation with Lewis Gasper remaining as financial consultant. In 2001, Aaron Gasper became the fifth generation partner for Lew-Max Holsteins, LLC with his father.

Ken and his son, Aaron, are currently milking 250 cows and farming 1,000 acres. The rolling herd average is currently 31,252 milk, 982 fat and 947 protein. The herd's classification average is 102.3 BAA. From 1991 to 2004, Ken has received the Progressive Genetics Award from the Holstein Association. Among his efforts to improve his herd's genetics included the use of embryo transfer. In addition, the herd is involved in Select Sires Young Sire Program and SMS. Ken received the "Dairy Farmer of the Year" in 1992 from MSU department of Animal Science and Michigan Dairy Industry.

Ken is very active in the community with past and present position on the St. Joseph's School Board, St. Mary's Holy Name Society, St. Joseph's Home and School Board, and Township Planning Committee.

In addition, he has served the agricultural industry in numerous capacities including: Ionia County Cooperative Extension Advisory Committee; 4-H Dairy Club Leader; Ionia County Farm Bureau; Michigan Farm Bureau, State Policy Development Committee; Michigan Milk Producers Association local district; DHIA County board member; Belding FFA Advisory Council; MSU Animal Science Advisory Committee; and Ken has also served on the NorthStar Board of directors since 1983 and served as president for 11 years. Ken has served on NorthStar Cooperative's Pension Committee, Investment Committee, Compensation Committee, and currently serves on the Long Range Planning Committee and the AntelBio board of directors. Ken also represents NorthStar on the Select Sires board of directors since 1990 and is chairman of the Select Sires Farm Committee.

As you have heard, Ken has been and continues to be very active in his community and specifically in Michigan's agriculture industry. His involvement with agriculture

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organizations is a testament to his commitment to have a positive influence on Michigan's Dairy Industry.



## ***MICHAEL J. GEORGE***

Michael J. (Mike) George was born and raised in the Detroit, Michigan area. He was the fourth child in a family of five children born to Tom and Naima George. He attended Catholic Central High School, graduating in 1950. For three years he worked in his father's grocery business. It was here that he learned a work ethic second to none. He was summoned to the United States Army for service during the Korean conflict in 1953.

Mike had learned that there was a difference between the cost of product at the dock versus at the store. Using his father's store volume as his base, he slowly added customers from a single truck operation adding vehicles as the need arose. Mike's philosophy was service and it was his belief that even small customers could be serviced profitably.

Under Mike's leadership, a business enterprise, Melody Farms, LLC, distributors of dairy products was started in the early 1960's. Initially started in the Detroit Market, it eventually included all of southern Michigan and parts of northern Ohio when the Company acquired ownership of a processing plant and eventually an ice cream operation. That business was sold to Dean Foods in the summer of 2003.

Mr. George was, and still is, deeply involved in many other business opportunities in addition to the dairy operations. He is a true entrepreneur. His attention to detail in businesses is incredible. His work ethic came to the forefront and subordinates were hard pressed to justify any effort less than what he demonstrated. Long hours, in all sorts of weather, whenever, he was about his operations.

Probably he would tell you, if asked, that his most successful venture was his marriage to Najat. From that union six children (all sons) were born. The Georges have ten grandchildren. Casual observers would assume when Michael is in the presence of family that there is nothing more important. They would be correct.

The unending support to advanced education, particularly for the Michigan Dairy Memorial and the G. Malcolm Trout Memorial, and his support to the dairy industry in total amply qualify the name of Michael J. George for addition to the rolls of distinction of these two scholarship programs at Michigan State University.



## **G.C. GRAF**

G.C. Graf was born in Louisville, Kentucky on January 23, 1911. His parents came to the United States in 1907 from Switzerland and settled in Kentucky. The family moved to Stockbridge, Michigan when he was seven years old and purchased a dairy farm. G.C. spent three years as an active 4-H club member earning a trip to Chicago to speak on the radio station WLS and discuss his club activities. He also became interested in essay writing contests and received top honors in one state and one national contest. Two Michigan State University 4-H scholarships finalized his decision to attend college.

G.C. enrolled in the Dairy Science Department, Michigan State University, in 1930 and graduated in 1934. To pay expenses he worked in the university dairy barns four years and lived in the dairy barn three years. His first position after graduation was as vocational agricultural instructor in the Bay Port, Michigan high school. After his experience working in a university herd and with his education G.C. felt that the perfect job for him was that of herdsman with a university dairy herd. Here he would be involved in important projects and meet interesting people. Such a position became available at the University of Connecticut. G.C. applied for the position and gratefully accepted when it was offered to him. Two of the prominent persons he met in the dairy barn were First Lady Mrs. Roosevelt and J.C. Penny who were interested in several of the projects that were carrying on at the time.

In 1940, feeling the need for more education G.C. enrolled in the University of Minnesota graduate school and received his Master of Science degree. Upon his return to the University of Connecticut he was invited to teach in the two year agricultural program just established. Later he joined the extension staff to assist in the development of an artificial breeding program for dairy cattle.

In 1948 G.C. accepted a position with the Virginia Tech extension service to set up a state-wide dairy cattle artificial breeding program, a position he held until 1950 when he returned to the University of Minnesota for a Ph. D degree. After attaining the degree G.C. returned to Virginia Tech as a member of the research and teaching faculty. In 1952 G.C. was asked to serve as chair of the department, and position he held until 1962 when he gave up the position and continued his research and teaming duties. G.C. retired in 1972 and moved into a retirement complex in Frankenmuth, Michigan in 1986.

In 1938 he married an elementary school teacher and shared his life with her until her death in a nursing home in 1999. For the past eight years G.C. volunteered in the same nursing home in a variety of ways. Now G.C. is sharing his life with a former adult education teacher whom he married in 1999.



## **IRENE WARREN GRAF**

Irene Warren Graf was born in the delightful village of Greensboro, Vermont in 1915. She attended public schools of Greensboro and graduated from high school in 1934. Irene was always a busy girl and while going to high school was in charge of feeding and milking the family's herd of 45 registered Jerseys. Then after graduating from high school she was employed by the New England Telephone Company as "Number Please Operator" for eight years.

In 1942 she married A.B. Warren, the son of a prominent physician, and shortly afterwards moved to Manistee, Michigan. Here she found employment in a local hospital preparing equipment for the operating room.

Over the next few years during which Irene gave birth to one daughter and two sons she acquired a number of titles such as den mother, Boy Scout leader, band booster, PTA member, etc. Since loved by children, she became a companion of the neighborhood children while their mothers worked, taking them to ball games, museums, tours, or just playing in the neighborhood.

The family moved to Bridgeport, Michigan in 1951. As the children were growing up Irene enrolled in courses in adult education and qualified to teach sewing and tailoring in the Bridgeport High School- a position she held for a number of years until the illness of her husband required her full attention.

Shortly after the death of her husband Irene moved into a retirement home, Independence Village of Frankenmuth, Michigan. Irene works as a volunteer in a Saginaw, Michigan hospital one day a week in the reception area and one day a month in the pediatrics' area. Irene soon became a member of the Helping Hands group of the Village who sew, knit and crochet articles of clothing and distribute hundreds of items among a number of needy charities in Saginaw each year. She has been in charge of the group for several years. In 1999 she married a fellow resident, G.C. Graf and continues to live in the Village.



## **MAX IRVIN GRAYBIEL**

Max was born in Capac, Michigan, December 4, 1923. His farm at 15630 Bowers Road is where he was born and is also where he died on July 25, 1997. He graduated as valedictorian of Capac Community High School and attended Michigan State College. He graduated from the Agricultural Short Course in March 1942.

Max worked the 240 acre family farm, and later purchased it from his father, Irvin. The farm had two homesteads, and was named Grabell Farms. The entire 240 acres was tilled and worked. Max also worked an additional 60 acres. Max milked an average of 50 dairy cows, all registered Holsteins. His farm also included sheep and chickens for many years. Besides corn, alfalfa, wheat, and oats, Max also grew other crops such as soybeans and sugar beets. Max married Helen Keller on January 27, 1945. Their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary party was a very special event. Max and Helen were married 52 years when he passed away. They had 5 daughters, Kelann, Karlene, Kathleen, Karen, and Kristine. Max was the 4-H Dairy Leader for all of his daughters. All the family worked and helped on the farm.

Besides his love of his family, farm and cows, Max was very active. His involvement and leadership activities included local, state, and national activities and extended beyond agriculture. Some of which were: State of Michigan Boundaries Commission (under Governors Glanchard and Engler), St. Clair County Commissioner (14 years) and chair of the County Commission (2 years), Chair of the Michigan Association of Counties, MMPA (Director at-Large and Market Committee, 20 years) and NMPA Board of Directors, MSU Dairy Advisory Board, Director American Dairy Association of Michigan, SEMCOG member and Transportation Committee vice-chairman, 4-H leader (35 years), County Extension Advisory Board, Dairy Council, Farm Bureau (40 years) and Dairy Advisory Legislative Committee, Michigan Holstein Association and National Holstein-Friesian Association member, secretary/treasurer for the Blue Water Area Holstein Sales, Lynn Township Zoning Board (20 years), Hastings Mutual Insurance Director, Yale Community Hospital Board Director (24 years), and an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church council member, soloist and choir member. He sang in a men's chorus and a quartet that traveled to area churches. He played baritone. He was active in Free Masonry and Past Worshipful Master of the Capac Lodge.

Max loved MSU and really enjoyed watching Spartan Football. Besides family, farming, community involvement, and music, he followed sports, especially the Detroit Tigers and Lions. He particularly enjoyed playing golf and euchre. Max enjoyed life, sincerely loved people, and was a friend to all. He was very proud to be a farmer and a Spartan.



## **SEYMOUR GREENSTEIN**

Seymour Greenstein was born and raised in the Detroit area, the youngest of three children and only son of Harry and Minnie Greenstein. Sisters are Shirley and Jeanette Greenstein.

Seymour attended and graduated from the Detroit Public Schools and Wayne State University. He taught social studies and English at Central High School in Detroit from 1963 to 1965.

Following the death of his father, in June 1965, he started in the family milk business, Golden Valley Dairy located on Wyoming Avenue in the city of Detroit. At the time, the plant was processing in the area of 1000 gallons of finished product daily. The plant was closed and Golden Valley Dairy became a milk distributor of United Dairies in 1968. Golden Valley added Land O Lakes butter for delivery to theatres in the Detroit area for use on popcorn in 1971. At a trade show, Mr. Greenstein ran into a product called Hagen-Dazs, a premium label ice cream which he began bringing into the southeast Michigan market in 1974. He began an association with Sealtest with fluid milk products in 1976, and added Breyers ice cream in 1978.

Golden Valley began an association with Edy's, and was to become a major ice cream and frozen novelty supplier in the Michigan market in 1989. They serviced all types of outlets with major brand premium frozen dairy products, including Edy's, Hagen-Dazs, Ben and Jerry's, Land O Lakes, Healthy Choice, Dove and Skinny Cow novelties.

Golden Valley Dairy prospered under the leadership of Seymour Greenstein's belief that quality was far more important than price and with that philosophy became one of the leading distributors of frozen desserts in the Midwest. His control of branded, highly sought-after labels gained his company entry into all types of outlets.

Seymour married Penny Gotlieb, in March 1965. They enjoy frequent visits with their three children and eleven grandchildren. He enjoys classical music and travel that gets him to various opera houses. He also writes music and officiates as Cantor in his Synagogue.

He has been and continues to be active in many charitable organizations. He has served on the boards of food banks and organizations supporting people with developmental disabilities. He is also a jogger!

We are pleased to present the name of Seymour Greenstein for inclusion on the rolls of distinction within two scholarship programs: the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation and the G. Malcolm Trout Memorial Scholarship at Michigan State University, in East Lansing, Michigan.

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## **MAYNARD G. HOGBERG**

Maynard Hogberg was born in Red Oak, Iowa and graduated from Iowa State University. After earning his B.S. degree in Agricultural Education in 1966, he taught Vocational Agriculture in Ida Grove, Iowa. He returned to Iowa State University to earn his M.S. and Ph. D. degrees in Animal Nutrition. In 1976, he joined the Animal Husbandry faculty at Michigan State University and began a career of teaching, research and extension programming in swine nutrition management. His major interests include growth and development, livestock manure management and integrated livestock production systems. He served as Chairperson of the Department of Animal Science from 1984 to 2002. During this time he provided leadership for the Animal Initiative, which renovated facilities and expanded teaching, research and outreach programs in animal agriculture at MSU. Undergraduate student enrollment in Animal Science doubled and the Dairy Associates Program, an experiential learning program for undergraduate students with a dairy interest, was initiated during the time he served as department chairperson.

Maynard has been active in the American Society of Animal Science, having served on the Board of Directors. He has been honored with the National ASAS Industry Service Award and the Midwest Young Animal Scientist Extension Award. He has served on the Board of Directors of the National Swine Improvement Federation and the American Yorkshire Club. He was instrumental in the creation of the National Swine Registry and chaired the strategic planning and the implementation committee for NSR. He has served as chair of the GAAMPs committee, which sets guidelines for agriculture manure management practices in Michigan.

Maynard and his wife Anne are the parents of Michael and Emily, both MSU students. Both Maynard and Anne are active in their church plus volunteer youth livestock and leadership programs in the community.



## **FRANCIS E. JOHNSON**

Francis was born and raised on a farm in Cass County and graduated from Cassopolis high School.

After graduating from high school Francis became a DHIA tester and also tested for HIR and A.R. in the designated herds.

Like most of his generation, World War II changed his life and his plans. Francis enlisted in the Marine Corps and served there for 44 months.

While in the Marines Francis attended Quidental College and the University of Southern California. At Southern California he played football and was a member of the USC 1945 Rose Bowl

Team.

From Southern California Francis' next stop was the Southern Pacific. Upon receiving his Marine Corps discharge Francis enrolled at Michigan State College to study Dairy Manufacturing and received his bachelor's degree in 1949.

Francis had worked part time at Heatherwood Dairy while in school, so upon graduation he began working there full-time before accepting a position at Truemoor Farm Dairy in Novi.

After a short stay there he began working as a Laboratory Assistant at the Imlay City plant of Michigan Milk Producers Association. He worked for MMPA for 34 years and in that period was plant manager at Elsie, Imlay City and Ovid. During his tenure at Ovid that plant was rebuild and became Michigan's largest Milk processing plant. Francis finished his career on the MMPA staff coordinating the membership services and information operations.

Francis had a reputation as an excellent plant manager with superb people skills. He always seemed to bring out the best in his employees.

He is married, he and his wife, Marlene reside in Brighton, having raised three daughters and one son who have made them grandparents of 8.



## **GROVER J. LAURIE**

Born in 1912, Grover J. Laurie graduated valedictorian of his senior high school class and began farming soon after with four cows in a small tool shed in rural Tuscola County.

Today, Laurie Acres milks over 500 cows under the direction of second and third generation members of Grover's family- his son Jack and two grandsons Doug and David.

Grover was extremely active in the Michigan Milk Producers Association, having served on that organization's Milk Marketing Advisory Committee for many years. He also became a prestigious 35 year member in the organization in the spring of 1981. He was very active in community activities and served on the Tuscola County Road Commission for 36 years. He also served on numerous committees as well as chairman of the board for the Gagetown United Methodist church.

According to his family, Grover had a love for life and a love for farming and truly dedicated himself to agriculture.

Grover passed on October 12, 2000, at his residence in Cass City. Surviving are a son, Jack Laurie and his wife, Betty, of Cass City; grandchildren Doug Laurie and his wife, Tammy of Cass City, Dana Bennett and her husband, Garald, of Gagetown, and David Laurie and his wife, Stephanie, of Cass City; great-grandchildren, Gurthy and Evan Laurie, Jonathan, Rebecca and Lauren Bennett, and Maegan and Whitney Laurie; a brother Tom Laurie and his wife, Millie of Cass City; and a sister, Janet Martin and her husband, Don of Gagetown.



## **JACK LAURIE**

Jack Laurie, a Tuscola County, Michigan, dairy and cash crop farmer, was elected president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization in 1986 and served in that role until December, 2000. He has been a member of the organization's board of directors since 1966 and served as that board's vice president from 1977 to 1986.

Most recently, Jack was elected vice president of the American Farm Bureau Federation's board of directors, representing more than 4.7 million families nationwide. Jack was originally elected to the American Farm Bureau Federation board of directors in 1989, representing the Midwest Region and was appointed to serve as a member of the AFBF executive committee. Jack is also serving on the AFBF Farm Policy Committee, which drafted the AgRecovery Action Plan in 1999.

The Laurie family operates a 1600 acre farm near Cass City, Michigan, producing feed grains, alfalfa, and soybeans. They also have a 650-cow dairy herd. His sons are the third generation to operate the family-owned and managed farm

Jack graduated from Michigan State University in 1962 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics. He was a member of the first class of the Kellogg Farms Study Program in 1966. He has served as a member of various industry organizations and associations including the Michigan Milk Producers Association, the Michigan Livestock Exchange, the Michigan Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and his local farmers' cooperative elevator.

Michigan Governor John Engler appointed Jack Laurie in 1991 as chairman of the Michigan State Fair Council; again in 1993 as a member of the Michigan International Trade Coalition; and again in 1994 as a member of the Task Force on Michigan Farmland and Agriculture Development.

Jack has won numerous awards, including most recently being named 1999 Dairy Farmer of the Year by the Michigan State University Department of Animal Sciences. In December of 1999 he was also awarded an Honorary Doctor of Agriculture Degree from Michigan State University, the nation's first land-grant university.

On the national level, Jack has served as a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Federal Reserve Agricultural Advisory Council, and was appointed by the secretary of agriculture to serve on the National Commission on Dairy Policy and the Commission for the Improvement of Federal Crop Insurance Program.

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Jack and his wife, Betty, have three children, Doug, David and Dana, seven grandchildren, and are active in local church and community affairs.



## **ROBERT McDOWELL**

Bob McDowell born the second of five sons to John A. McDowell and Marian E. (Goodemoot) McDowell on May 01, 1941 was a farmer from the time of his earliest memories. On their dairy farm where he first learned to help, they also raised a few hogs and chickens, so gathering the eggs, feeding the calves, and watering the hogs were some of his early chores. He loved working with animals of every sort, but later in his young life dairy cattle became his specialty.

In addition to being second of five boys, Bob was also fifth of fifty-two first cousins in his mother's large family who all farmed together with his dad in the Lake Odessa, Michigan area. The experience of farming with grandparents, parents, siblings, and cousins was wonderful. Bob's Grandpa Jim McDowell also helped out when he had free time from his City Service station and farm delivery business.

After graduating from Lake Odessa High School (1959) Bob attended Michigan State College for a year and then bought into the dairy operation becoming the herdsman. That same year Bob was fortunate enough to marry his high school sweetheart Rosalee Curtis. Rosie was also raised on a dairy farm and had known Bob since the third grade. They set up housekeeping and in two years (1962) their first son Curt was born.

Economic times were tough. By 1965 Bob and Rosie were forced to divest themselves of their portion of the farming operation and went back to East Lansing to finish Bob's schooling at MSU. Bob was fortunate to receive a scholarship from the Dairy Memorial Scholarship Foundation, without which higher education would have been impossible. He majored in Dairy Science with a minor in Food Science, graduating with honors in 1968. During school Bob worked at Heatherwood All Star Dairy summers, nights, and weekends to support his family, and Rosie babysat for working mothers in the complex of Spartan Village, generating 50% of the family's income by doing so.

Following graduation Bob worked for a short while as a county dairy agent in Ingham County. While in Mason, George Cope, President and Founder of Grocers Cooperative Dairy, contacted Bob and made him an offer too good to pass up. He and Rosie moved their young family to Grand Rapids and took up the position of Plant Superintendent in September of 1968.

Bob worked for Grocers Cooperative Dairy (Country Fresh, Inc.), an aggressive growth company from 1968 through 1982, holding several ascending positions culminating in Vice President of Operations in 1978. During this time Bob and Rosie were blessed with two more children, Colleen and Clint.

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After leaving Country Fresh Bob formed his own company dealing with computer-controlled refrigeration and process control for dairy, meat, and other food plants to help them improve control and save electrical costs. The company did many successful projects and operated for ten years before closing.

Bob joined Bareman Dairy in 1987 when Stan Bareman offered a position to assist House of Flavors Ice Cream in their turn-around effort. He spent 18 long hard months there and was successful in seeing them reestablished by the fall of 1989.

At this time Bob accepted Stan Bareman's offer to take over the production and quality responsibilities at their Holland operation. Bob took on this responsibility and spent the remaining 16 years of his working career there. These years were the best of his entire career. He grew to know the Bareman family over this period of time, and has warm regards for each and every one of them. They have done amazing things growing their family dairy from four million pounds of milk per month processed to nearly thirty million pounds per month during the time Bob was with them.

Now in retirement Bob and Rosie plan to relax, pursue hobbies, travel, and spend even more time with their eight adorable grandchildren.



## **LON MCGILLIARD**

Dr. Lon McGilliard was a professor of Dairy Science at Michigan State University for 38 years, a former editor of the *Journal of Dairy Science*, and a devoted paddleball player. He died June 7, 2002 at the age of 80.

He was born August 9, 1921, in Manhattan, KS, the eldest of four children of P.C. and Laura McGilliard. Lon grew up in Stillwater, OK, and received a B.S. degree from Oklahoma State University (then Oklahoma A & M) where he was a member of Farm House Fraternity. Following service in WWII as a Staff Sergeant in the 183<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion with the U.S. Army in Europe, he earned a M.S. from MSU with Earl Weaver and a Ph. D from Iowa State University with Jay Lush. Lon served for four years on the dairy faculty at ISU where he also coached the dairy cattle judging team.

During his tenure as a professor at MSU, Lon specialized in dairy cattle genetics, and was a long-time participant in the NC-2 regional research committee that quantified the effects of A.I. sire selection. For years he maintained a unique inbred Jersey herd for research. He advised numerous graduate students, and teamed with Clint Meadows to lead a respected program in research, instruction, and extension. A steadfast supporter of student activities, Lon enjoyed many years as coach of the MSU dairy cattle judging team. He was an excellent judge, and held the rare distinction of being high individual at both the National 4-H Contest in 1938 and the National Collegiate Contest in 1941, representing Oklahoma State.

Lon served as Editor of the *Journal of Dairy Science* for 11 years, during which he oversaw the review process and edited more than 3,500 scientific manuscripts in the walk-in closet he set up across the hall from the main office. He received in 1986 the Award of Honor from the American Dairy Science Association, and later was inducted into the first class of Fellows of the Association.

While at MSU, Lon was a fixture in noon faculty paddleball games, running to the I.M. building and back to Anthony Hall, rain or shine. He was skilled enough to have once won the Michigan Senior Doubles Championship. Golf was another activity he enjoyed until a WWII knee injury made it difficult to walk the course.

Colleagues remember Lon as an unassuming and friendly person who listened intently. He often favored the underdog and did not mind being a little stubborn. Through all phases of his career he maintained an admirable dedication to his family.

Memorial Services for Lon were held at Eastminister Presbyterian Church in East Lansing, where he was a charter member for 45 years. He was also instrumental in the

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great establishment of the Okemos Presbyterian Church in the early 1960's. He drew great strength from his faith.

Lon was preceded in death by his brother, A. Dare McGilliard (Ph.D. from MSU in Dairy Nutrition with Shorty Huffman). Survivors include his wife, Nancy (Dobson) McGilliard; sisters Jean Schuetz and Faye Morris of Tulsa, OK; his children, Mike (Jan) McGillard of Blacksburg, VA; Scott (Jean Galbraith) McGilliard of Ypsilanti, MI; Kip (Carol) McGilliard of Charleston, IL; Tricia (Terry) Hedin of Eugene, OR; Anne (Pete) Morgan of Tucson, AZ; Abbie (Barry) VanDenGerg of Orlando, FL; Sarah (Jeff) Gates of Midland, MI; and 16 grandchildren.

The Dairy Memorial Foundation and Eastminister Presbyterian Church have received contributions in memory of Lon.



## ***PAUL R. MEREDITH***

Paul Meredith was born in Hillsboro, Ohio on May 13, 1930 to Edward and Annie Meredith. They rented farms in Southern Ohio until they purchased their own in 1944. He attended Fall Creek Friends church until he was 36. Most of his daylight hours were spent milking cows, raising sheep, hogs and crops, and working for the neighbors. He was a member of the first and second year National FFA Band. During high school he was involved with 4-H and FFA, and continued farming with his parents after high school.

Paul attended Edward Lee McClain High School in Greenfield Ohio, and graduated after four years in 1948. He went on to take some college classes at Ohio State University, Ohio University, Michigan State University, and the University of Missouri.

He got into the dairy business in 1952 when he was employed by the Central Ohio Breeders Association (COBA) as an Artificial Inseminator in Highland County. He married Nora E. Florea, Highland County Extension, Home Demonstration Agent on March 28, 1953 in Hillsboro Ohio.

After his seven years with COBA Paul got a job at a local John Deere for DeLaval Dairy Equipment as a salesman. That began his contact with DeLaval, and he worked exclusively for them for the next 30 years. During that time he served in Ohio and Michigan as a Territory Representative and then a sales manager for Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Next he was promoted to National Distribution Manager of DeLaval Dairy Equipment nation wide. He then designed, developed and started the first DeLaval Training School in Kansas City, MO.

Paul retired from DeLaval as a Sales Representative in 1992. Since then he has accomplished more great things. He is currently serving as Kinderhook Township Supervisor, Chairman of the Branch County Supervisors Association, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He is on the Board of Public Works in Branch County. He is a great Director of the Branch County Fair.

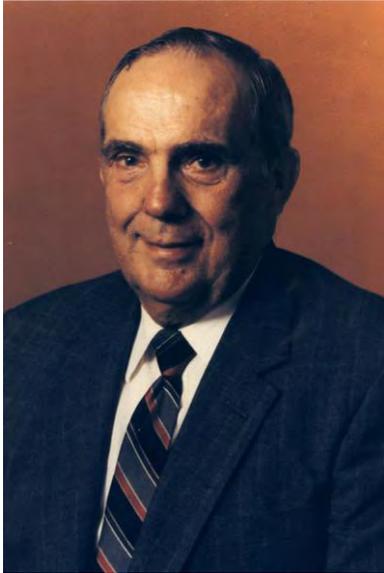
He has received numerous awards. He was a member of the DeLaval General Advisory Board several times, and received an award for outstanding performance. He also served as president of this Advisory Board, a position given to the top sales representative. The Michigan Dairy Industry presented him with an Industry Service Award in 1992. He also headed the Branch County Fair Exhibit, and the exhibit, painted by volunteers, still remains. He is also very supportive of and involved with the Little Red Barn, a dairy booth at the Branch County Fair.

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Paul and his wife Nora attended the Coldwater United Methodist Church where Paul is Chairman of the Board of Trustees. They have four children, Steve, David, Beth Griggs, and Tom; and eight grandchildren. They bought their home in Coldwater in 1974, and although Paul took a job in Kansas City in 1979, they held on to ownership of the home. They returned in 1983 and still reside there.

He also continues to support the dairy industry by drinking 2 glasses of milk a day, using butter, and putting half-and-half on his cereal. Not to mention the ice cream consumed by his grandchildren.

Paul Meredith is a hard working man who is loved by many and respected by even more. "He's a worker," Nora said, "But more than that he enjoys people. He wanted to help them make money, and believed in the DeLaval equipment. He wanted to make their lives easier. He was committed to doing the best he could."



## **FRANK MERRIMAN**

Frank Merriman was born April 15, 1920 in the same home that he now resides in with his wife, Myrtle. They have been married 65 years. They have one son, Phil. It was listed as a Centennial Farm in 1992. He attended a rural school through eighth grade and then graduated from Deckerville High School in 1938. He was elected Secretary of the state FFA in 1939 and was elected president of the state FFA in 1940.

In 1939 he went to the Michigan State College and took a short course in dairy production. His plan was to continue, however, the Second World War made this impossible. He had a brother who was 2 years younger who enlisted in the Marine Corp. He was killed at the Battle of the Bulge in 1945. With his brother's enlistment, it left only Frank to help his aging parents on the dairy farm.

While he was working on the farm, he was elected president of the Sanilac County Farm Bureau and helped to develop the Deckerville Community Schools Consolidation which was made up of 19 rural schools. He served as secretary and then president of the Board of Education for some time.

In 1949-50 he was elected by a state wide election as a trustee at Michigan State College. Shortly after that, the name was changed from Michigan State College to Michigan State University. Frank served for 15 years. During this time, Dr. John Hannah was president and there was tremendous growth in the school. Serving the University with Dr. Hannah was an experience he will never forget.

He continued farming and developed a registered dairy herd and was elected to the board of Michigan Animal Breeders. The board was a co-op on the university campus. He worked with Dr. Clint Meadows and the dairy department became what is known as the Animal Science department today. Dairy development made great progress in Michigan during this time. The Michigan co-op worked with other co-ops from Virginia to the state of Washington to form what is known as Select Sires and he served as their first president. He also served on the State of Michigan Veterinary Board as the lay member.

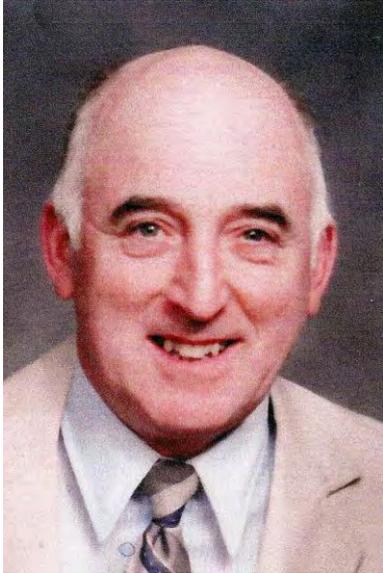
During President Eisenhower's administration, a People to People program was established in the hopes of preventing further wars by allowing people to see and understand various cultures. Frank had the privilege and the pleasure of being able, at his own expense, to travel to Russia, Germany, Japan, the Philippines, Red China, and Nigeria as part of this program. These trips were planned by the state department and it was very enlightening being able to learn about the people on other continents.

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In 1975 he was elected as a member of the board of Detroit Edison. He served for 17 years. During this time, he witnessed the building of a large nuclear power plant that produced power cheaper and cleaner than other methods available. He also found time to serve many years on the Deckerville Hospital Board of Directors, the final 10 years being the Board Chairman.

In the end, Frank always chose to come home to a good herd of dairy cattle from the time of raising his first pure bred heifer calf in 4-H up until the later years when he had his own small herd. He developed 18 or 19 cows that were classified as excellent in the Holstein breed. This was topped by having a 19 year old cow being re-classified as being excellent.

A tireless pioneer for community improvement; if you want to meet Frank, just call a meeting. You will find him serving as an elder in his church or as a staunch supporter of the local hospital and any other cause that will benefit his fellow man.



## **WELDON ROWE POLLARD**

Weldon was born in Norway, Michigan in 1930, the son of John and Mabel Pollard. He was indoctrinated at the very young age into the dairy business along with his brothers and continued to work as there was little help available with the advent of World War II. Weldon worked for his father milking cows and delivering milk to stores on his way to school, graduating in 1948.

While in high school, he met his future wife, and they were married in 1950, shortly before Weldon left for the army. During the Korean Conflict, Weldon spent fifteen months in Korea as part of the 937<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Unit, returning safely to his family in 1950. Once back in the states, he and his wife Donna began to make plans for him to attend college and pursue his interest in engineering. His father talked to him about joining him at Pollard Dairy, and the decision was made to stay.

In 1954 their first child was born, a son David. He was followed by a daughter, Renee in 1956 and a second son, Greg in 1960. Their last child, a daughter Marybeth, was born in 1962. Each of the children worked along side Weldon on the farm as they grew, instilling in each a strong work ethic. Weldon and Donna had active leadership roles in the Dickinson County 4-H and Teen Leadership programs with each of their children. Throughout this time Donna pursued her teaching career which continued through 1994. David and Renee continued their education at Michigan State University graduating in 1974 and 1978 respectively. A nephew, Mark Pollard, was a recipient of the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship as he attended MSU from 1972-1976.

In 1983, Weldon and his brother Denton were of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dickinson County Farmer of the Year award, and award their father had been presented in 1965. They were recognized as “highly dedicated in their efforts to provide the area with the highest quality milk products at the lowest possible prices.” Their efforts were further described as a “shining example of dairy farming in the Upper Peninsula” and “one of a small number of dairy farms that run a farm-to-home delivery operation in the state.”

At this time Weldon and his son David operate Pollard Dairy which is still one of the very few family owned dairies in Michigan. His son Greg and several grandchildren continue the tradition of hard work which now spans four generations.



## ***NOEL P. (Pat) RALSTON***

In 1949 he came to a leading “Dairy” state to teach and research dairy cattle breeding, judging, and had oversight of the MSU campus and Kellogg Farm Dairy herds. With excellent cooperation within and between Departments, progress was achieved in computerizing Dairy Herd Improvement Association member testing records to build a data base for dairy cattle genetics, reproduction, health and management for teaching, research, and extension. The MSU herds provided an excellent opportunity through departmental coordination to do teaching and research in new dairy cattle housing, feeding and milking systems (pipe line, walk through, etc.) and bulk milk handling.

He was made Head of the Department in 1955. A new Animal Science Building provided space and laboratories in dairy products development, technologies (Chemistry, Bacteriology, etc.) and dairy plant management offerings. New space was provided for more staff in genetics, nutrition and feeding, physiology of reproduction, health and lactation. The department was very productive.

Strong relations were continued via a strong Extension staff with the Michigan dairy industry and pertinent national organizations. The department developed and coordinated new programs and activities to meet the needs of the Michigan dairy industry and their organizations.

The Dean required that Pat serve as a coordinator for food technologies of the College of Agriculture. In 1958 he recommended a new “Food Technology Department” be established. The Dairy Manufacturing Products and Technology was to be included. This was done in 1960.

Pat served on numerous committees of the American Dairy Science Association, the Society of Animal Science and Production, University, and regional research committees.

In February 1959 he was appointed Assistant Dean and Director of the Cooperative Extension Service of the College of Agriculture.



## **REMUS RIGG**

If cows came in green and white, this man would certainly own a whole herd, simply because they would represent two things he enjoys dedicating his time to: the dairy industry and Michigan State University.

Over the past several years Remus Rigg has dedicated countless hours helping improve both the dairy industry and Michigan State University. His ability to look forward and prepare for future challenges, while at the same time remaining mindful of the past, has made him a well-respected leader in Michigan.

Remus and his wife, Ruth, started dairy farming in the Coldwater area in 1954, working for Willard Sanford. In 1958, Remus and Ruth rented their own farm with 50 cows. In 1966, they moved to their present farm milking 100 cows and farming 364 acres. The farm currently consists of 1000 acres and 350 cows. Many things have changed for the Riggs during their 45 years in the dairy business, yet Remus never seems to forget how the generosity and support of another farmer helped him get started in the dairy business.

Remus became involved in agricultural organizations soon after he started farming. One of his first involvements was with the Branch County Farm Bureau, serving as president from 1967-1971. In 1976 he joined the Dairy Council of Michigan Board of Directors and helped bring about the consolidation of the American Dairy Association of Michigan and Dairy Council to form the United Dairy Industry of Michigan. He served as president for UDIM from 1993-1997.

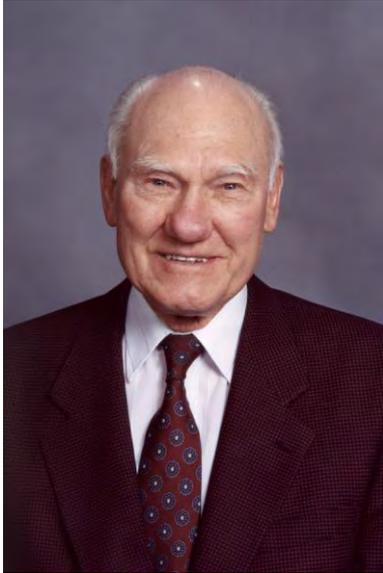
Remus was elected to the Michigan Milk Producers Association board of directors in 1985 and continues to serve as the vice-president for the association. He has also represented his fellow Michigan Dairy farmers on the National Milk Producers Federation Board of Directors and the United Dairy Industry Association Board of Directors.

Remus' avid support for Michigan State University began when he attended the MSU Ag technology course in 1954. He currently serves on the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Foundation board and the MSU Dairy Advisory Committee. In 1990 he was named Dairy Farmer of the Year by Michigan State University's Department of Animal Science.

Remus has also been involved in his local community serving on the Branch County Intermediate school board for 12 years, the Batavia Township Planning Committee and as Mondater at the First Baptist Church.

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Remus and Ruth Rigg have been married 45 years and have three grown children:  
Steven, Catherine, and Lisa, and five grandchildren.



## ***ALVIN L. RIPPEN***

Alvin Rippen was born on a farm near Campbell, Nebraska. He went to high school on horseback and graduated in 1935 at a time of severe dust storms. The Great Depression made it necessary for him to work his way through the University of Nebraska. The University Creamery and summer jobs with Beatrice Creamery and Isaly's provided valuable experience for a career in the dairy industry. Aided by an assistantship, he received a Masters Degree from Ohio State University in 1941.

After a brief period with Creamery Package Manufacturing Company in Chicago, Illinois, Al served three years in the U.S. Navy as an aviator. He married Leona Munch during WWII. Following the war he returned to his job as sales engineer in Chicago.

For seven years Rippen worked for Kegle Dairy and Lansing Dairy in Lansing, Michigan. In addition to supervising processing operations, he spend a considerable amount of time with fieldmen and farmers in converting from cans to bulk milk handling. In 1957 he became an Extension Specialist in Agricultural Engineering at Michigan State University. He was transferred to the new Food Science Department in 1960. Al enjoyed working with dairies on a broad range of processing problems. He appreciated the opportunity to conduct educational workshops for dairy plant workers. Discussing ways to improve energy utilization in processing plants was important to him. He also taught in classrooms and counseled graduate students. Rippen has received awards from several organizations including the Extension Specialist Award from Michigan State University, an Alumni Award from Ohio State University, DeLaval Award from the American Dairy Science Association and from dairy industry groups in Michigan.

Since his retirement in 1980, Al volunteers in church work and as an emergency blood delivery driver for the American Red Cross. He enjoys travel and camping trips with his family.



## **GEORGE ROBB**

George Robb's interest in dairy farming started in his teen years on his father's farm in Fowlerville, Michigan. He participated in FFA and was very active in 4-H activities, especially the county and state fairs and judging teams. In 1940 he was a member of the Michigan 4-H Judging team that won in Harrisburg. Later George judged many local and 4-H dairy shows.

While raising a family of 8 children, George bred and developed a herd of registered Holstein cattle under the Rustic prefix. To help with that project, he started DHIA testing in 1940, HIR in 1944 and participated for the first time in herd classification in 1949. Some achievements of which he was proud include the following:

1. Bred and/or developed 8 bulls that went to AI service, 4 of which received Gold Medal status.
2. Bred and developed 5 Gold Medal Dams of which 3 were the first group of Holstein Gold Medal full sisters.
3. Bred and developed 10 excellent cows.
4. Received the Progressive Breeders Award from the Holstein Friesian Association for 8 consecutive years.

At the first herd dispersal in 1967 the herd had a 16,000 pound milk average and 600 pounds of butterfat average for the 10 years prior to the sale.

Though he was usually found working hard at home in all facets of the dairy farm operation, he loved to attend the National Holstein conventions throughout the United States and he loved to "drop in" and visit farmers. (If he sold them a bull, even better!) In his later years, he enjoyed attending national, state and local cattle shows, sales, and farm-related banquets. During this time he was especially active with the Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Corp. meetings and conferences.

Over the years he was very civic-minded. He was a director of the Michigan Holstein Association, President of the Fowlerville local of MMPA, Chairperson of the Michigan District 6 DHIA, President of Livingston County Farm Bureau, President of the Livingston County 4-H Council, 4-H leader for 25 years, and Secretary and Treasurer of the NW Livingston County Soil Conservation district. He was also a member for 20 years on the Michigan Democratic Agricultural Committee, lay member of the Michigan Board of Veterinary Medicine, member of the Livingston County Farmers Home Administration Board, board member of the Michigan FFA Foundation and Vice-president of the Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Corp.

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Over the years, 2 of George and Jean Robb's children were on the MSU Dairy Judging team and 2 grandchildren also participated on the team. In fact, 5 of George and Jean's children attended Michigan State University and at one time 7 grandchildren were attending MSU!



## **JACK LAMBERT SCHUT**

Jack Schut was involved in a wide variety of agricultural activities throughout his life. He served as FFA State Sentinel in 97-98 and was an active member of the MSU dairy club while here at MSU. He received a certificate of completion from the Ag-Tech program in Agri-business and had just started working toward his bachelor's degree in Agri-Science. Jack was also a recipient of the Dairy Memorial Scholarship in 1998 and 1999.

Besides going to school, Jack worked for Michigan DHIA as a part time herd tester. Jack had a love for all aspects of the dairy industry whether it was helping his friends out on the farms or talking to farmers about new things happening in the industry.

Jack had a lot of friends throughout his life. Many of them were farm oriented, some were not. He loved all of them. Jack had a flare for life that was unrivaled through the hardships he overcame. He had a purpose for everything he did. Always looking ahead and never looking back. He lived life, loved life and touched so many people with his life. Thank you, Jack, for all the wonderful memories. You'll not be forgotten.



## **ED SMILEY**

Ed Smiley, herdsman, MSC-MSU, dairy herd from the mid 1920's until 1960. Ed was a veteran of World War I and a staunch supporting member of the American Legion.

In his 35 year span at Michigan State he hired hundreds of students to work in the barns, a job most of them needed if they were to stay in school. His career started in the dairy barn on Farm Lane just north of the Red Cedar River. The milk could easily be taken north on Farm Lane to the Dairy building and plant, built in 1912 for processing. This area is now (1999) a parking area between Agriculture Hall and Natural Science Building.

In 1926 Kedzie Chemistry building was built across from Agriculture Hall and the Dairy Building. The campus was expanding, so a new dairy barn was built across the river where the planetarium now stands.

Ed moved, with the cows, to the new barn in 1930 and continued his career at that barn which was used until 1961.

During his long career, although he put the fear of God in all new student employees, Ed typically became very caring, nurturing, defensive of and very proud "his boys". He followed their careers long after they left his charge. Every former student employee has a "Smiley story" and all look back, with great fondness to their experiences at the barns.

In truth Ed was a mentor and teacher, contributing much in a very positive way to the total educational experience of so many Spartans.



## **MERTON B. SOWERBY**

This now internationally known Dairy Farm Manager, Dairy Cattle Judge, and Classifier was born and raised on a farm in Kent County. Mert was certainly the best dairy cattle judge ever to come out of Michigan State College (MSC).

Mert's education began in a one-room school. While in high school, one of his 4-H demonstration projects earned him a trip to the Michigan State Fair and the National 4-H Congress. As a high school senior, he was high individual in the State FFA Dairy Cattle Judging Contest and high individual in Jerseys in the National Contest in Kansas City.

At Michigan State College, Mert, like so many other farm boys, always had a job or jobs in order to fund his education. While there, Mert's interest in purebred dairy cattle grew. He traveled around the Midwest state fairs with the Oakland show herd and became acquainted with many outstanding owners and herdsman. In 1942, Mert was on the MSC Dairy Cattle Judging Team that competed at the National Dairy Cattle Show in Waterloo, Iowa.

Mert left school in 1942 to become herdsman for the Oaklands, a dominant Jersey farm near Ann Arbor. Mert began judging county and 4-H fairs in 1943, thus beginning a career in judging dairy cattle that took Mert first all over Michigan, then the United States and the world. In 1946, Mert became Guernsey Herd Manager for Bray's Island Plantation in South Carolina, one of the most outstanding Guernsey herds in the country. In 1949, while showing at the National Guernsey Show in Waterloo, Iowa, he became a charter member of the National Dairy Shrine. In 1953, Mert won the highly coveted Klussendorf Award, an award based on ability, endeavor, and sportsmanship as selected by his peers among owners, managers and herdsman from the United States and Canada.

In 1955, Mert moved to Wood Acres near Princeton, New Jersey and took over another outstanding Guernsey herd. During his tenure at Wood Acres he began serving on the breed's type committee. He showed the Grand Champion cow at the National Guernsey Show four times, Junior Champion female six times and the National Futurity winner five times. He also showed the only five-time All-American Aged cow of any breed.

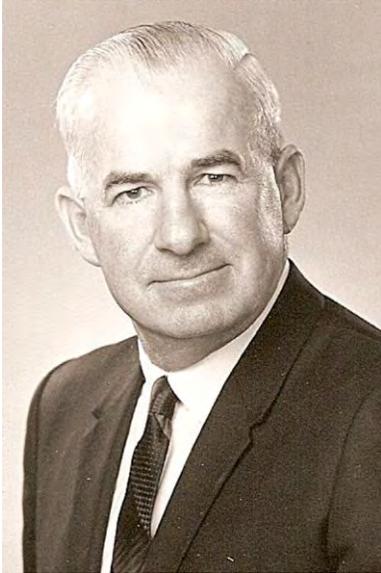
When the Wood Acres herd was dispersed in 1971, Mert continued his long career as a judge. Mert became an official classifier, first for Guernsey, soon for Jerseys, Ayrshires, Milking Shorthorns, and Brown Swiss, and unofficially Holsteins in Costa Rica. His classifying and judging took Mert to all parts of the United States and many foreign countries. During his career Mert officially classified 194, 000 dairy cattle. In 1984 the American Guernsey Cattle Club awarded Mert its Distinguished Award.

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Along the way Mert met Frances Morgan. They were married in 1944 and have two children and two grandchildren.

Mert had left MSC short of his degree and while at Wood Acres met the requirements for his degree in 1962 with courses at Rutgers University.

While in retirement, Mert chronicled many of his life experiences in a book "Always Have Your Cattle Ready". Mert and Frances live in Grand Rapids near where Mert spent his childhood.



## ***RICHARD STOUT***

Richard (Dee) K. Stout had a distinguished career serving the dairy industry, the local community, the state of Michigan, and the country.

He was born on November 28, 1916 in Marshall, Michigan and was married to Helen Kraushaar of Marshall on February 23, 1940. They had two children who also became involved in the dairy industry. Richard remarried in 1968 to Marilyn Jean Kelly who is currently serving as a Michigan Supreme Court Judge. Richard passed away on May 10, 1995.

Richard attended Marshall High School where he was active in sports and was captain of the basketball team. Later, he attended and graduated from Albion College.

During his early years, he was a Jersey dairy farmer. Both he and his Jersey dairy herd won many awards, his dairy cattle for outstanding production records and he as a leader. He was recognized as a Jersey leader in his own area and at the national level for several decades.

He was the spearhead of the All-Jersey Program in Michigan and served three years as a Director of the American Jersey Cattle Club. In recognition for his service to the board, he was elected vice-president. While on this national board he served on many key committees dealing with dairy issues across the country. In Michigan he served as President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Director of the Michigan Jersey Cattle Club.

The Richard Stout family was named the Outstanding Michigan Jersey Family in 1949 and Richard was named Michigan's Outstanding Jersey Breeder in 1959. He served as President of the Michigan Purebred Dairy Cattle Association, Director of the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation, and was active as a 4-H leader. For these many activities he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the American Jersey Cattle Club.

In addition to his dairy farming activities, Richard was active in local and state politics.

He was President of the Marshall Democratic Club, served as Township Supervisor, was the Calhoun County Planning Commission, and became the Democratic County Chairman of Calhoun County. In 1968 he ran for Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee of Michigan.

Richard also held important elected and appointed state positions. In 1961 he was elected as the representative of the Calhoun Country District to the Michigan Constitutional Convention.

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He was appointed to serve on the State of Michigan Commission of Agriculture from 1961 to 1965. He was also appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to the Agriculture Stabilization Committee in 1965.

In 1970 Richard became the Assistant Secretary of State. He served for seven years in this position, working with the Michigan Secretary of State, Richard H. Austin.

During the PBB accidental poisoning of cattle feed, Richard came out of retirement to work as a special consultant to the Michigan Department of Agriculture, where he coordinated communication and publication of information during a very trying time for the Dairy Industry.

When asked, he also distributed to needy Michigan farm families funds that had been raised by Willie Nelson at his Farm Aid concerts.

Richard (Dee) K. Stout was a leader and advocate for the dairy industry and justly deserves to be listed among our Honorees.



## **J. GORDON TOPPING**

### ***A Memorial Tribute***

J. Gordon Topping was born October 6, 1929 in Stockbridge, Michigan, son of Norman and Margaret (Lamb) Topping. Norman Topping started Hickory Ridge Farms in 1928 and Hickory Ridge Farm Dairy in 1938.

Gordon graduated high school from Stockbridge High School and went on to attend Michigan State University taking a two-year short course in Dairy Manufacturing. After graduating from Michigan State he joined his father in partnership in both the farm and dairy businesses. Shortly after returning home he married his wife Joanna L. Miller in 1949 and they had four children: Linda (Topping) Hanson, Judy (Topping) Gorrell, Gary Topping, and Marie (Topping) Hensley. Gordon's major responsibility was running the retail bottling and delivery dairy business. The well-known slogan of our bottled milk was "Fresh as the Morning Dew, Direct from Farm to You." One of his most enjoyable times was giving farm and dairy tours to local school and camp children in the area. Schools from all over came for his tours.

After 1970's when most mothers were joining the work force and grocery stores began selling milk as a loss leader, home delivery became a thing of the past. In 1979 we decided to discontinue the dairy processing retail delivery portion of the partnership and continue the farm operation. We began selling our milk to Michigan Milk Producers Association.

In 1983 we became a feed dealership with Purina Mills, Inc. and began a retail store selling feed, utilizing the old retail dairy-bottling store. Gordon waited on many of the walk-in trade until we lost him on August 18, 2002. Dad will always be remembered for his love of the dairy business and his love of people.

Gordon will be remembered for his service to the community, serving on the MMPA, Farm Credit, Michigan Professional Dairy Farmers, Michigan Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers boards, he was a member of the Masonic Lodge of Stockbridge, the Lions Club, the Stockbridge Presbyterian Church and served on the Livingston County Road Commission.

The history of Dad's dairy career was written as a loving memorial tribute to him from his family.



## **H. ALLEN "TUCK" TUCKER**

After 38 years as a lactation physiologist at MSU, Dr. H. Allen Tucker has retired. In describing Tuck, a colleague wrote: "Some faculty have graduate students in order to conduct research. In contrast, Dr. Tucker does research in order to train graduate students." Tuck always strived to be informed and energetic as a teacher. His concern about the quality of his performance was motivated by his pride and commitment to provide the best information to his audience. Whether the venue was classroom, office, group meeting, or large auditorium, Tuck's chief motivation to teach was because he loved to share his knowledge and to see other learn. As evidence of this desire, Dr. Tucker co-authored a Textbook, "Dairy Cattle: Principles, Practices, Problems, Profits", that is still the best available. It was also common practice for Dr. Tucker to give presentation to farmers or industry groups. Finally, when the idea for Michigan Dairy Review was proposed in 1995, Dr. Tucker immediately offered to serve as its editor. A large measure of the vitality, diversity of topics, excitement of authors to contribute, and the quality of the final articles is due to Tuck's influence.

Dr. Tucker served on many guidance committees for graduate students, academic governance, selection committees to hire new faculty, and various advisory groups. He also served on editorial boards in various roles for several scientific journals and he served on federal panels to review grant applications for research. Through these efforts, Tuck helped sustain and enhance the quality and quantity of research to benefit the dairy industry, the Department of Animal Science, and the image of MSU.

Dr. Tucker also participated in activities for youth. These activities included judging 4-H Science Projects and especially the 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl. We estimate that in the 26 year history of the 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl at MSU, Tuck has been a moderator or judge at least 23 years.

Much of the success of young and seasoned faculty, especially in research, was due to guidance and advice from Dr. Tucker about logic, writing, critical thought, and understanding the significance of the research. Dr. Tucker is known and respected internationally as a basic scientist who has increased our understanding of how milk secretion from the mammary glands is regulated. His research philosophy was to study basic biological events to generate new knowledge that would further enhance performance of dairy cows.

The following are some examples of the many minor contributions Tuck made to MSU, to dairy science, and to the dairy industry: a) author or co-author of more than 355 scientific articles; b) major advisor for 45 graduate students, post-doctoral trainees, and visiting professors; c) awarded over \$4.5 million for competitive grants to conduct research; d) received MSU's Distinguished Faculty Award; e) received numerous major

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national awards from the American Dairy Science Association and the American Society of Animal Science including the Casida Award for excellence in graduate training, and the Morrison Award, the Borden Award, the Upjohn Physiology Award, and the Cyanamid Animal Physiology & Endocrinology award for excellence in research and contributions to these professional societies. In addition to professional success, Tuck has been married to Ann for over 40 years! Their three sons were all Eagle Scouts and now have their own very successful careers.

Despite all of aforementioned accomplishments, Tuck will be most remembered and appreciated for his unflagging attention to the growth, development and success of others. He set the standard for the next generation of faculty at MSU.



## **JACK VAN HOVEN**

Jack Van Hoven was born March 2, 1908 in Zeeland, Michigan where he grew up and attended school. Jack became interested in genetics at an early age. His first experiment with progeny testing, “proving” a sire was done soon after high school. It involved testing four roosters. One of the roosters was the son of the world record laying hen. In this test, the pullets from the son of the world record laying hen produced far fewer eggs than the pullets from the other three roosters. This clearly demonstrated that “like does not beget like,” a statement he would use repeatedly over the years in meetings and seminars with Michigan Dairymen.

In 1939 Jack founded the Zeeland Artificial Breeding Association, which was the first successful A.I. program available to Michigan Dairymen. From the beginning he used only progeny tested bulls. He inseminated his first cow on November 1, 1939 at the farm of Dick Posthuma of Coopersville. She was bred to Mount Regis Sir Inka Lassie, a proven sire who sired strong, growthy, aggressive calves, disproving the commonly held belief of the time that calves resulting from A.I. would be weak and unthrifty.

During his first year in business, Jack averaged 2.34 services per conception, a figure most would love to duplicate today. Jack was the first to use antibiotics in semen as disease prevention.

Two bulls used in the early years were Rainbow Sir Bess Rose, leased from Robin Carr, Fowlerville, Michigan and Lakefield King Venter Forbes, leased from Jay Bolby, Ovid, Michigan. These two bulls were certainly the best available to dairymen anywhere at that time.

Jack’s wife, Mildred was a great help to him during these years, taking thousand of phone calls and keeping countless records. She was very popular with the customers.

In early 1947 a fire destroyed the bull barn and lab. The bulls were all saved. The barn and Lab soon was rebuilt. Later in 1947, Jack leased or sold most of his bulls to Rock Prentiss, founder of ABS, the only other A.I. business in the U.S., using proven bulls exclusively. He became the Michigan distributor for ABS. At the time he was the only semen distributor in the U.S. At this time he changed the business name to Wolverine Proved Sire Service.

During his years as a ABS distributor, he served in a number of capacities: Member of Rock Prentice’s Policy Setting Committee. He was the only non-employee on this committee; Bull buyer, buying such greats as Shiawa Mutual Paul 17<sup>th</sup> and Rainbow Captain Bold 12<sup>th</sup>. (Jack had developed a system to determine if a bull’s proof increase was due to environment or heredity, he never bought a poor bull); President of the ABS

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International Distributors Association; Consultant to Rock Prentice's writing of "Utility is Beauty".

Jack was quite close to Rock Prentice and believed him to be the most idealistic and honest man he had ever met. When Rock became ill and control of ABS fell into the hands of others, Jack became disillusioned with the direction ABS was taking in sire selection and marketing techniques and ultimately canceled his ABS distributorship. He then formed General Genetics, an independent distributor, at this time writing his Pledge to Michigan Dairymen:

#### OUR PLEDGE TO DAIRYMEN

1. A program for the man who milks cows for a living.
2. Sires selected for their genetic value established by the best scientific means
3. Priced on the basis of genetic worth for profit potential
4. Reject use of misleading advertising, stunts and sales tricks and gimmicks.

In 1960 Jack started the first Custom Semen Collection and Processing service available to Michigan dairymen. Over the years he collected hundreds of bulls in Michigan and Indiana. He was widely known for his quality work.

A deeply religious man, Jack was very active in the local church and Gideon's. Jack's company, General Genetics, continues today as a distributor for NOBA/Cr. Also offering Semen Collection service and other dairy related products. It is still in the family, being run by his son, Dick and daughter-in-law Betty and their son, Jack Allen.