

Circleville High School

Alumni Association

Proudly Presents

The Inaugural Achievement Hall of Fame

May 10, 2010

Volume 1

~~~2010 Charter Honorees~~~

REX HAECKER

TED LEWIS

RICHARD BOYD

WILLIAM "BILL" RICHARDS

RALPH STARKEY

DWIGHT RADCLIFF

W. W. HIGGINS

GEORGE KERR

JOHN MAXWELL

WARREN SNEED



Rex Haecker Class of 1930, Rex is the oldest living alumnus of Circleville High School. Since graduating 80 years ago, he has served in the military, for the state of Ohio, and has been a great supporter of our local community. Rex served as a Captain in WWII in both theaters (intelligence).

He has served as Auditor of the State of Ohio, and as a special assistant to Governor James Rhodes. He was the driving force of the new location of the Ohio Historical Society and has served as its president.

Rex contributed generously for the iron fence at High Street Cemetery, the Carillon Bells, and the fountain at Hitler Ludwig Cemetery. The Pickaway County Genealogical Library has reaped benefits from Rex's generosity, also.



Theodore Friedman, better known as Ted Lewis, attended Circleville High School for three years, from 1905 to 1907. His parents, who owned a lady's apparel shop in Circleville, enrolled him in a Columbus business college, but the stage-struck youth ended up in New York City. He formed the "Ted Lewis Nut Band" and soon headlined at three Broadway night spots at the same time. He recorded for several record labels and received royalties from popular songs including *When My Baby Smiles at Me*, *St. Louis Blues*, *Sunny Side of the Street*, and "Me and My Shadow". His 1926 recording of *Tiger Rag* sold 5 ½ million copies.

He has received several awards throughout the years including the 1967 Annual Achievement award for his 50 years of outstanding service and dedication by the Ohio Association of Broadcasters. The award was presented by Columbus Mayor M. E. Sensenbrenner, a Circleville graduate.

The hometown fans remember when he appeared on television in front of a live audience, he would always ask "Is anyone here from Circleville, Ohio?" The world remembers his famous salutation, "Is Everybody Happy?"

Ted stayed true to his hometown by visiting most Pumpkin Shows, donating to Berger Hospital, contributing to Berger Hospital and founding Ted Lewis Park. He passed away at age 81 at his Central Park home in 1971. His wife Adah Becker Lewis continued Ted's legacy by dedicating a museum in his honor in 1977. Polly Miller oversees The Ted Lewis Museum along with a dedicated volunteer board.



Richard Boyd graduated from Coshocton High School in 1945, then obtained his bachelor's degree from Capital University in 1951. He was a teacher and coach at three high schools including Circleville where he had a knack for keeping students in school and bringing home sports championships. He moved to school administration positions in 1963.

Throughout his career in Ohio then Mississippi culminating as Superintendent of the Mississippi Department of Education from 1984-89, Richard authored 12 publications. He returned to Ohio as executive director of the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation in Cleveland. He thought he would retire in 1995. Instead, though, he accepted the position of Deputy State Superintendent for the Cleveland Public Schools until 1997 to fulfill federal court ordered requirements.

Richard's resume shows community and professional involvement wherever he was working. He has three pages of professional organizations, a full page of honors and awards, a couple pages of church and community service before launching into the three pages of the 800 professional speeches he performed through his lifetime.

Richard is married to Marye (Mickey) and has four children Lynne, Julie, Mike and Stephanie.



William "Bill" Richards, a member of the CHS Class of 1949, is a farmer and an early pioneer in conservation tillage and planting. Bill is known for researching and designing farming equipment when none was available for the job at hand. A graduate of The Ohio State University, College of Agriculture, he continues to advise and provide leadership to many farm and conservation groups as well as the Alpha Gamma Rho Ag Fraternity. He was named Ohio's Outstanding Young Farmer, then became one of four to receive the honor nationally. He was named to the Ohio Agriculture Hall of Fame, and served as Chief of the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

Bill helped start the conservation tillage and "no till" planting movement that has spread across the nation and world. Today, he is national co-chair of the 25 by 25 initiative which promotes the movement for the nation to have 25% of its energy come from renewable resources by 2025. He assisted the Pickaway County Historical Society to clean up and restore the Ohio & Erie Canal southeast of Circleville and serves on the Pickaway County Park Board. He is a member of the Circleville Presbyterian Church and Rotary.

He and his wife Grace are gracious hosts to many local, national and international events at their hospitable home on the farm, which overlooks the canal. Events include the annual "50 plus" reunion for Circleville graduates. They are the parents of William (Steve) '72, Bruce (Rich) '73 and Elmon '76.



Ralph Starkey This spring, 10 committees and about 300 workers are combining forces to continue Ralph's most recent mission at the Mary Virginia Crites Hannan Park in Circleville. This was his last community contribution in his long lifetime of service, but definitely not his first.

Ralph graduated from Circleville in 1949, played football at West Virginia University before playing professionally with the New York Giants. He was a US Army veteran. He served on four advisory boards for youth and corrections centers and five local community service organizations. He was the recipient of five awards for service both on the local and state level.

During his careers in juvenile probation, the welfare department, Ohio Department of Youth Services and the City of Circleville, he was instrumental in founding the clothing center, the MRDD adult workshop, and the Circleville Youth Center which includes the Ralph Starkey High School. With the development of the Pickaway County Community Foundation, Ralph continued to give through his Fund for Youth and the memorial donations to the Park Fund.

Ralph passed away unexpectedly on January 24, 2010. He did not know that he was chosen for this award at the January 6, 2010, alumni board meeting. Ralph and Margaret are the parents of Beth Starkey Hill and Brad.



Dwight Radcliff A member of the graduating class of 1950, Dwight has the distinguished status of being the longest serving Sheriff in the United States. He has held the position for 45 years, serving 12 consecutive terms in office. At age 21, he was first sworn in as deputy sheriff for his father, the late Charles H. Radcliff. In 1965, Dwight started with nine employees in the 100-year-old building on Franklin Street which also doubled as his

home. The current Law Enforcement Complex houses the Administrative Offices and a 110-bed jail facility. He now has a staff of 91 employees serving the county.

Internet articles list some fascinating facts about his life and the world around him. For instance, when he was first elected, Lyndon Johnson was president and postage stamps were a nickel. That was 1964. Most articles state “tough but humane” tactics during his four decades in office.

Sheriff Radcliff served as president of the Buckeye State Sheriff’s Association and was chosen Ohio Sheriff of the Year in 1975. After holding all offices in the National Sheriff’s Association, he was elected president in 1987 overseeing 26,000 members. Dwight attended the F.B.I. National Academy in Washington DC and Quantico, Va. Radcliff was named "Sheriff of the Year" by the State Fraternal Order of the Eagles. He has also been honored by the Circleville Jaycees, Knights of Columbus, Boy Scouts of America, Sons of the American Revolution, Circleville Noon Rotary as well as several state agencies.

Dwight is still an active member of the Buckeye State Sheriffs’ Association and serves on several law enforcement committees. He is presently the Corporate Representative for the National Sheriff’s’ Association. He has received the 33rd Masonic Degree in Washington DC and is a 50-year member of several local community organizations.

Dwight is married to Betty L. Bircher Radcliff ‘51 and they have three children, Vicki ‘74, Dwight (Dug) ‘76 and Robert ‘80.



W. W. Higgins graduated from Shawnee High School in 1948. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Ohio University. He spent 16 months in Korea before starting his teaching career in Chillicothe. He then taught World History at Circleville from 1955 until he retired in 1985.

Throughout his career, he has contributed to "Plugs and Dottles", a Sherlock Holmes publication, served the local teachers' organization as President and head of the negotiating team, was advisor and/or coach for the "In the Know" team and was junior class advisor. He was recently recognized by past students on the Alumni "Tribute" Board.

Wally is a founding member and former president of the Pickaway County Historical Society where he served as guide, volunteer and "Quarterly" writer for many years. He is a founding member and still active with "Roundtown Players", a founding member of Roundtown Conservancy, and he has served on the board of the Brooks Yates Center for developmental disabilities.

He is an ordained Elder and Deacon in the Circleville Presbyterian Church which prompted him to write a history of Presbyterianism in Circleville in 1972, revised in 1998. He wrote a collection of Circleville songs and sonnets and a book of religious verses in 2003. He collaborated with Ned Harden on the book "Roundtown Reminiscences" for the state's Bicentennial. Wally has also created oil and watercolor artwork including murals at the Presbyterian Church and posters highlighting the Roundtown Players productions.

He is married to Carol and they have two children, Kathleen Kahn '80 and Mitchell.



George Kerr graduated from CHS in 1956, then worked at G.E. for two years and attended night school at OU Chillicothe. He entered Morehead State as a full time student in 1958 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1962. He has post graduate degrees in physics from North Carolina State University and the University of Tennessee.

In 1964, George was hired as a health physicist by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he worked for the next 36 years. While employed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, he received an appointment as a U.S. consultant to the Radiation Effects Research Foundation in Japan and spent the last 35 years assisting part time in studies of the health effects of radiation on survivors of the atomic bomb blasts at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

He explains that the term health physicist dates back to the Manhattan Project in the early 1940s and is applied to a specialist in the field of radiation protection with a background in physics.

Through the years, he has authored or co-authored over 200 book chapters, technical reports, and open literature publications for technical journals in the subject of physics and radiation. George is recognized both nationally and internationally for his work in the field of physics and radiation protection.

George was selected by the University of Tennessee for lifetime membership in Sigma Pi Sigma, the official honor society of the physics profession. He was also inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame at Morehead State University for achieving professional prominence. He and his wife Sarah currently reside in Knoxville, Tennessee.



John C. Maxwell After graduating with the CHS class of 1965, John attended college at a small Christian university tucked into a beautiful little town in Central Ohio. That was the Circleville Bible College founded by his father, which is now called Ohio Christian University and has tripled in size and enrollment since those early days. In 1989 he received his Master of Divinity from Azusa Pacific University and in 1993 he received his Doctor of Ministry from *Fuller* Theological Seminary.

John pastored churches in Indiana, Ohio and California for 30 years before devoting himself full time to speaking and writing. He is an internationally respected leadership expert, speaker, and author who has sold more than 18 million books. Dr. Maxwell is the founder of EQUIP, a non-profit organization that has trained more than 5 million leaders in 126 countries worldwide. Each year he speaks to the leaders of diverse organizations, such as Fortune 500 companies, foreign governments, National Football League, United States Military Academy at West Point, and the United Nations.

Although he was born in Michigan, John doesn't forget his Central Ohio connections as he regularly visits and speaks at OCU and Ohio State University. John's evangelical messages are broadcast worldwide on the "Hour of Power" TV program when he guest preaches at the Crystal Cathedral in Orange County, California. He is also a teaching pastor at Christ Fellowship Church in Palm Beach, Florida. He lives in South Florida with his wife Margaret. Their children Joel and Lis Maxwell and Elizabeth and Steve Miller and grandchildren also reside in South Florida.



Warren Sneed moved to Circleville with his brother and parents when he was in seventh grade. According to one of his teachers, he effortlessly joined the Everts Middle School family. "He was a typical all-American youngster of his day who studied diligently, played hard in his athletic pursuits, enjoyed the company of his family and friends, and maintained a natural respect for all people." In high school, he played football, basketball and track, gained recognition as All Mid State League and Scholar Athlete, received the Columbus Dispatch Scholar Athletic Award and the National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete Award.

He was a member of the National Honor Society and was an officer in Key Club. He received the Annette G. Will Award, and the James P. Shea Award. He was class valedictorian of the 1991 graduation class and received appointments to both the Air Force Academy and the United States Military Academy.

He attained his life-long dream of serving his country by flying jets in the United States Air Force. His last assignments included Misawa AFB in Japan, 1998 and Operation Southern Watch in Iraq during 1999 and 2000. He flew over 70 combat sorties.

Then, in November, 2000, Warren's young life was taken from this nation's service, his family and his friends in a mid-air collision of his F-16 fighter jet during a combined training mission with the Japanese Defense Forces. Warren and his fighter were lost in the Sea of Japan and were never recovered.

Warren's parents are Bob and Jennifer. He is also survived by his brother Drake '88 and widow Nancy (Peters) Sneed.

Circleville High School Alumni Association
2010 Board and Hall of Fame Committee

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Treasurer Jeff Harr '72

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Ace Elsea '59

Rick Bumgarner '74

Terry Frazier '71

Warren Gentzel '58

Pete Hartinger '59

Rodger Southward '56

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Rick Bumgarner '74

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Sheri Bowling Theis '84

Julie Kazmierczak Scherer '78

Ace Elsea '59

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CHS Alumni Association Scholarship Winners and Honoree Escorts

JENNY SCHERER '06

BEN WINNER '06

JUSTIN STYERS '07

KARA VALENTINE '07

KORY HARTINGER '08

ELIZABETH SCUDDER '08

RACHAEL SPANGLER '08

JILL TRUEX '08

BEN ANKROM '09

ALEX GREENLEE '09

JENNIFER KELLER '09

LYNDSEY YOUNG '09

Special thanks and appreciation to the Circleville City Schools Board of Education and Administration for allowing us to use the high school for tonight's celebration. The school's personnel have been supportive of all of our projects and endeavors.

Kirk McMahon, Superintendent Jonathan Kuehnle, H.S. Principal

Board of Education

Dan Bradhurst, Chris Williams, Amy DeLong, Todd Stevens and Michael Whitten