

In Memoriam
JAMES H. HADER
1923-2003

Jim Hader was a Cheviot-Westwood Kiwanis institution. His 56-year membership was the longest span of active membership ever recorded by a Cheviot-Westwood Kiwanian, and he had perfect attendance for the majority of those years. Jim died October 8, 2003, after a several year bout of severe Alzheimer's Disease. Several of us chauffeured Jim to and from Kiwanis meetings when he was no longer permitted to drive during the early stages of his disease. He didn't want to miss Kiwanis.

Jim graduated from Western Hills High School in 1941 and attended Ohio Wesleyan University (Delta Tau Delta member) until he was called to serve in the U.S. Army for three and one-half years during World War II, and he was awarded a bronze star. He entered the family business, The Hader Hardware, in Cheviot, at the age of 23. When his father, Henry, died six months later, Jim was forced into the ownership and presidency of the business prematurely.

Hader Hardware was a three-generation business, founded in Westwood on Harrison and Higbee Avenues by John Hader in 1888. Jim's dad, Henry, took over the store in 1914 when it was located in the brick building on Harrison at North Bend. Jim was President and Treasurer, and when his older brother (and Kiwanian) Milt joined the business, Milt became Vice President and served for 32 years before retiring in 1979. During Jim's leadership, a larger store was built in Westwood, the Flagship store was moved to Winton Road in Finneytown, 14 stores were created with an employment of 250, and a slogan established that we'll always remember from Jim's TV commercials: "When your name's on the store, you care a lot more." Gary Sullivan, who did "Around the House" on Channel 9, WCPO-TV, was a long time employee who added even more class to the institution, and when Jim retired and sold the family business in 1994, Gary was one of the new owners along with Richard Suder.

Jim served as Chairman of the Ohio Hardware Association and of the Hardware Wholesalers, Inc., and he served on the Board of Cincinnati Savings & Loan where he was Chairman for 24 years.

Jim's close friend and Kiwanian, Russ Witte, reports: "He's the reason I'm in Kiwanis." When Jim's father died six months after Jim joined the family business, Al Huneke (Western Hills Press) told Jim, "You need to take your father's place in Kiwanis, too." When Jim went to the club meeting and saw all the older community fathers that he still called "Mr.," Jim told Russ, "You've got to go to Kiwanis with me so there's somebody I can call by their first name." Jim joined in December, 1946, and Russ in January, 1947. (Russ, too, is a 56-year member and still attends regularly when not in Florida.)

Jim Hader was President of Kiwanis in 1960-1961, following Russ's presidency in 1959-1960. Henry Hader was the 7th president of Cheviot-Westwood in 1944-1945, and the Henry-Jim duo remains the only father-son presidents of our club! Every Harvest Home Fair Jim put in his 16 hours over the French fry grill by the kitchen. I'll never forget the time when he gave a most inspiring program for our club in the form of a book report "Tell No Man" by Adele Rogers St. John, based on scripture. He was emotionally touched by that book, and we were blessed when he shared it with us. Jim was an avid reader, an etymologist (fancier of words), and I make note of the West High Annual stating that Jim Hader had "elegant language" vocabulary. He was also a golfer, and Jim, Jack Geiler, George Ballew, and Russ Witte took up golf on Wednesday afternoons, when stores only worked in the morning, at different city and county golf courses until they all joined Western Hills Country Club to continue their game. Jim was a conscientious note writer, eager to let a friend know they did a good job or gave a good program. Remember the many years after Jim found out that Wain Bolton had the same August 25 birthday that Jim had (exactly 24 years older than Jim), that he would sponsor a birthday cake and Graeter's Ice Cream dessert for the whole club on the Tuesday closest to their birthday?

Jim and Evelyn married in 1945 and have three daughters, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Cheviot-Westwood extends our heartfelt sympathy to them and our appreciation for letting us share in the unique life of our fellow Kiwanian for so many of Jim's eighty years.