

## **John W. Parkin Family**

John Parkin married his wife, Clyde, on September 21, 1938 in the “Little Brown Church in the Vale” at Nashua, Iowa. They became the parents of two children, Sue and Todd.

Sue Parkin was born in Marshfield on December 14, 1942. She attended and received her BS degree from Agnes Scott College at Atlanta, Georgia and her MSW degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. On June 24, 1967, Sue married Bernard TeStrake at the First Presbyterian Church in Marshfield. They have one daughter, Rebecca TeStrake, born July 28, 1973.

Todd Thomas Parkin was born in Marshfield on July 3, 1946. On December 27, 1968, Todd married Maralee Rithamel at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Delevan, Wisconsin. Todd and Maralee have three sons: Jonathon Tait, born February 21, 1975; and twins, Christopher Chad and Thomas Tyler, born May 23, 1979.

Between 1938 and January 1987, John and Clyde Parkin made Marshfield their home. In 1938 John moved to Marshfield to work for the Parkin Ice Cream and Dairy Company, a plant owned and operated by his father, Wilber L. Parkin. Three years later, he became president and manager of the company. Under his control, the plant, facilities and products were continually expanded and improved. A few years after the sale of his company in 1966, John joined the Nelson-Jameson Company. He retired 17 years later and John and Clyde moved to Atlanta, Georgia to be closer to their daughter and her family.

While in Marshfield, John and Clyde played key roles in many local civic and social affairs. They were recognized for their “outstanding service to the community, county and state as a husband and wife team,” on April 15, 1974, when the Marshfield Rotary Club presented them with the “Service Above Self” award. The Marshfield New-Herald, April 16, 1974 reported some of John and Clyde’s many achievements and contributions to the community this way.

“Mrs. Parkin has long been active in youth work in Marshfield, the county and state. She was an organizer of the first youth center in Marshfield. In 1960, she was appointed to the governor’s conference on children and youth and acted as an advisor to the Marshfield Youth Council as well as the state council.

“Clyde served for over ten years on the governor’s committee on children and youth under both Republican and Democrat governors and served in many capacities, the speaker noted. In 1960 she was also a Wisconsin delegate to the White House Conference on Children and Youth.

“A member of the Marshfield Women’s Club for more than 30 years, Mrs. Parkin is currently vice president and treasurer of the club.

“Her work and dedication to the needs of the mentally retarded was recognized when Mrs. Parkin was appointed honorary membership chairman of the 1973 membership campaign for the South Wood County Association for Retarded Children.

“An organizer and active member of the local FISH organization has been the latest activity in which she has been of service to the community.”

With regard to Mr. Parkin the story continued, “A Scouting enthusiast most of his life, John formed the first Cub Scout pack in Marshfield in 1940. He headed local Boy Scout and Cub Scout units in Marshfield during the early forties, and in 1945 received the Silver Beaver Award, highest tribute that can be given a scouter.

“He served as district commissioner of the Samoset Council from 1942-1945, as North Wood County District Samoset chairman from 1951-1953, Samoset camping chairman from 1955-1956 and vice president of the Samoset Council from 1957-1958.

“In 1961, Parkin chaired the state Alice in Dairyland Contest, and in 1962 he received an Honorary Future Farmer Award.

“Active in the Junior Chamber of Commerce from 1939-1941, Parkin later joined the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce, serving as vice president from 1956-1957 and president from 1958-1960.

“He is past director and president of the Rotary Club, member and former esquire of Elks Club Lodge 665 and past chairman of the North Wood County Historical Society. He served on the Wood County Centennial Committee in 1956.

“Presently a member of the Wood County Industrial Development Corporation, Parkin is a past director of Greater Marshfield, Inc., the Wood County Alcohol and Drug Council, Inc., and the Rehabilitation Workshop.

“He is currently a director of the Central Wisconsin State Fair Association and a member of the Advisory Board of St. Joseph’s Hospital School of Nursing.

“He was president of the Wisconsin Independent Dairy Association from 1956-1963 and vice president of the National Independent Dairy Association from 1957-1958.

“Parkin has been active in local and state government since being appointed Fifth District supervisor to fill a Wood County Board vacancy in 1963. He went on to win election to full terms on the board in 1964, 1968, 1970 and 1972. He did not seek re-election this year.

“Elected to a two-year term as First District Representative to the Wisconsin Assembly in 1968, Parkin served as vice chairman of the Municipalities Committee, Third Reading Committee and Welfare Payments Task Force, as well as secretary of the State Licensing Laws Committee. He became chairman of the Department of Social Service Standards Committee in 1969.”

The “Service Above Self” award was a fitting tribute to John and Clyde for their selfless contributions to the community. They will always be remembered for their commitment to making this community a better place.

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