

Clyle Parkin

Nominated by Sue (Parkin) TeStrake

My mom, Clyle Parkin, was a driving influence for good within the community during the forty plus years she called Marshfield home. She was a tireless worker for local service clubs and social causes. She served on various local, state and national committees. She also initiated programs that benefited people in the community she loved.

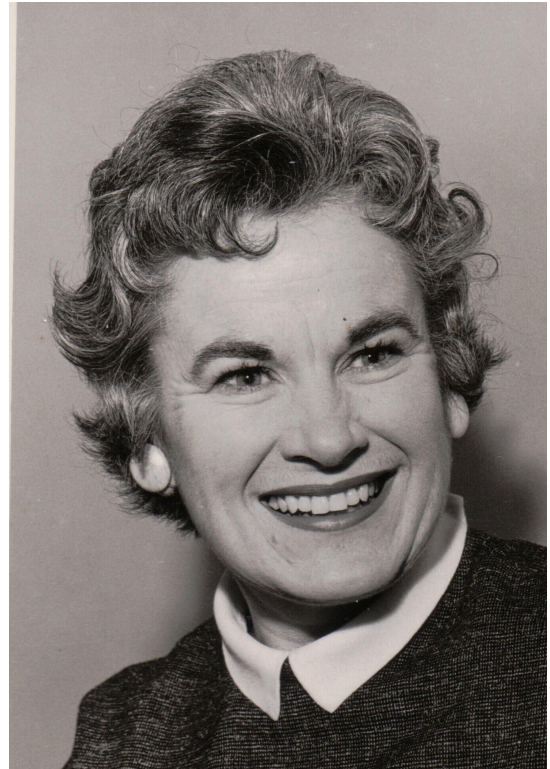
Shortly after arriving in Marshfield in 1938, even before my brother and I were born, Dad was promoting a local Cub Scout program and Mom was sharing leadership duties of Girl Scout Troop No. 6 at the First Presbyterian Church. For close to twenty years, even when I was too busy for Scouts, she participated in scouting activities including cookie sales, parades, caroling, sleigh rides, and more. She was there for them all.

During January 1950, a “new” Marshfield Parent Teachers Association was established. At an earlier time, a previous organization had disbanded. Betty Abbott was elected the new association’s first president, and Clyle Parkin was appointed as the association’s representative to attend the monthly Board of Education meetings.

In 1957, Clyle started serving as an advisor to Marshfield teenagers at the community’s youth center. Four years later, when the Marshfield Youth-Parent Group was established, she became a member of that group as well. Activities of the group were planned and executed by the youth as much as possible without adult leadership. The group’s purpose was to teach self-government and participation in community affairs, hoping to prepare youths to be responsible active citizens of tomorrow.

While serving as advisor and committee member, Clyle saw the new youth center on South Maple Street completed in 1966, replacing the one located in the old Adler Theater building, which was demolished as part of a downtown building project during 1965. More than 600 Marshfield teenagers were members of the youth center at that time.

Because of her commitment to programs benefiting the youth of central Wisconsin, Clyle was named to the Governor’s Committee on Children and Youth from 1960 to 1970. She was a state delegate from Wisconsin to the first White House Conference on Children and Youth in 1960



and then again in 1970. She was proud to say that she had been sent by both Republican and Democratic governors.

During 1973, Clyde was the guiding force in establishing the local FISH program. FISH was a simple story of people helping people through the development of a telephone answering service and recruitment of a corps of volunteers. Based on the concept of the community helping itself by people helping one another, FISH served as Marshfield's referral source prior to the organization of the Crisis Intervention and Referral Service ten years later.

In 1979, Clyde was elected to the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood Association of Wisconsin Inc. The non-profit organization, supported largely by contributions from community individuals and organizations, provided education and counseling on family planning and medical services. It also conducted educational programs for health care professionals in areas related to sexuality and reproduction. Two years later, she was elected vice-president of the Advisory Board of Planned Parenthood of Central Wisconsin.

Besides the organizations mentioned Clyde actively participated in such groups as the Marshfield Women's Republican Club, Marshfield Women's Club, Marshfield's Beta Sigma Phi Chapter, New Visions Gallery Board of Directors, and others.

She participated over the years in many fund drives. Whether for the Youth Council, Community Chest, United Way, Cancer Research, or others, the drives Clyde was a part of typically met or exceeded their goals. Clyde always acknowledged the community's generous gifts of time, talents, and monetary gifts for that success.

During 1974, the community acknowledged her efforts. First in April, the Marshfield Rotarians awarded both Clyde and her husband John with the Service Above Self Award. This award recognized them both for their record of outstanding service to the community, county, and state as a husband and wife team.

At the presentation, Mary Julia Denton, social service specialist with the Division of Family Services, state Department of Health and Social Services, said three words to describe Clyde and her activities. "The words," she said, are "commitment, service and sharing."

Then during November, for her life of giving to the community, to favorite causes, to her church, and to her family, Clyde was honored by the Marshfield Woman's Club as "Clubwoman of the Year."

In 1987, John and Clyde Parkin moved to Cedar Park, a neighborhood in Atlanta, Georgia to be nearer their children, Susan (Parkin) TeStrake and Todd Parkin and their families.

Clyde Parkin died February 12, 2003, in Atlanta.