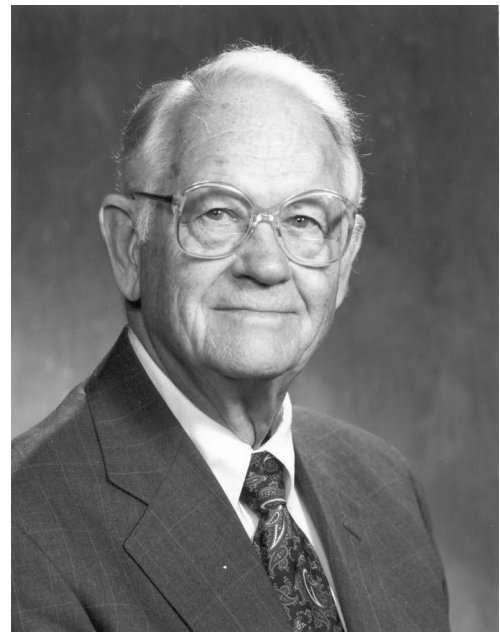


G. Stanley Custer  
Nominated by Shirley Mook

G. Stanley Custer, better known as Stan, was born in Madison, WI on February 4, 1915. After graduating from high school, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the Great Depression. His mother saved his pay so he was able to enter UW Madison. He entered medical school in 1941. In the fourth quarter of his last year, he developed tuberculosis. He was able to take a verbal exam and graduate with his class. After nine months, the TB was inactive and he began to ambulate. In April of 1943, he was ready for work and it was highly recommended that he should come to Marshfield where the hospital badly needed an intern.

He was welcomed with open arms. He compiled histories, performed physicals, and delivered babies. His TB resurfaced three times but by that point streptomycin had been discovered allowing him to recover and return to work.



In 1950, he was appointed to the Marshfield Clinic Board of Directors which he remained a member of until 1983. Custer also served on the Executive Committee from 1960-1965, was Vice President from 1961-1962, and President from 1963-1965. He served on the National Advisory Council under Presidents Richard Nixon and Lyndon Johnson. He became heavily involved in the American Group Practice Association in the early 1970's and would fly to Alexandria, Virginia three days a week. He served as President in 1970-71 and acting Executive Director in 1972. He recognized his practice in Marshfield was suffering and thus resigned. Stan loved patients and often commented that he had made house calls on almost every house in town and that he had his favorites. He also made house calls to farm families.

His other associations and services are far too numerous to list here. His greatest legacy, however, was his writing of the history of the Marshfield Clinic. He had interviewed original Marshfield Clinic founders. He acquired diaries and minutes from Board of Directors meetings. He had not quite finished the history at the time of his death.

There was also another side of his life that was equally important. :

Violet Kohl moved to Marshfield in 1942 where she managed the Marshfield Clinic Laboratories. Stan began pursuing her and they were married in April 1944. When it was time to begin a family, Violet made a commitment that she would be a homemaker and raise the children so that Stan could be involved in the affairs of the community.

In 1950, Stan became the choral director of the St. Joseph's School of Nursing. The 40 voice choir would perform programs throughout the community. In 1950, Stan became involved with the arrangements for the first Palm Sunday concert and prepared the School of Nursing to participate. He was dedicated to the Palm Sunday Concert and was the General Chairman for 16 years. He selected the guest conductor each year. With his great love of music, he sang with the Central Chamber Chorale and directed the First Presbyterian Church Choir from 1968-1982.

In 1956, he was elected to the Marshfield Free Library Board of Directors and served until 1960, serving as president in 1958. In 1980, he served as United Way Fund Drive Chairman. Serving with youth, he was involved with the Cub Scout Program. He and Violet served on the Lincoln Elementary School PTO.

In 1988, Stan joined the Citizens for City Hall effort to save Old City Hall from being demolished. The attempt was successful. When the Historic Preservation Association was formed in 1989, Stan and Violet became charter members. When the Common Council began discussing the destruction of the old steam engine that stood at the entrance to Wildwood Park. "We saw this thing rotting and rusting. I figured it should either be taken to Shapiro's (salvage yard) or given to Clyde Wynia for one of his creations." This was Stan's first reaction to the condition of engine 2442. However, he had a soft spot in his heart for trains and HPA was looking for a project to undertake. A fund drive was launched for \$25,000 and became known as the "Friends of the 2442." Stan was a "mover and shaker" and used his persuasive tongue to convince colleagues and friends to give generously.

On May 4, 1995, Dr. G. Stanley Custer, wearing a conductor hat and red bandana, blew the whistle at the groundbreaking for the restoration of the deteriorating engine. September 14, 1996 he stood as master of ceremonies at the rededication of the 2442.

G. Stanley Custer contributed much to this community. This was all possible because of the commitment Violet had made. Stan's comment was that she finished "summa cum laude." When he retired, he made the commitment to give his life to Violet and he did. It was not uncommon to see them walking hand in hand wherever they went.