

Walt Tucker
Rotary Presentation
August 15, 2005

Walt was born 95 years ago in the town of Huntsburg, Ohio.

Huntsburg is located about 50 miles Northeast from Wooster, near Chardon.

He was born in the same house that his father was born in. Walt's father was a farmer, post office mail carrier, and a custodian at a local school. His mother was a home maker who cooked three meals a day for nine people.

Walt Graduated from Huntsburg High School in 1929.

There were only 6 students in his graduating class: 5 girls and 1 boy, Walt.

Walt dated the same girl all the way through high school until the very last day of school his senior year. At the school picnic, Walt left his long term girl friend for another girl. He decided to take the new girl home to mom and dad and he eventually married the German girl named Margaret.

Because Margaret was only being 19 years old and Walt 20, both of their parents had to sign for the two minors to marry. Margaret and Walt were together for the next 60 years until the unfortunate death of his wife 14 years ago.

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Margaret received her college degree in elementary education in 1956 from the University of Toledo and she later received her master's degree from there, too. Margaret was the first in her family to graduate from college. Because of Margaret's German background, her first job was teaching a small group of Amish children in a one room school house. While teaching school, Margaret boarded across the street with an Amish family. She taught school for the next 30 years.

Walt graduated from The O.S.U. in 1933.

He also, was the first in his family to attend & graduate from college. Walt received his undergraduate degree in Dairy Tech (a.k.a. Food Science) allowing him to specialize in everything dealing with milk, butter & cheese.

Walt's first job was with the **Borden Company** supervising the ice cream side of the operation. He continued to work for the Borden Company for the next 10 years.

Walt left the **Borden Co.** and went to work for the **Franklin Ice Cream Company** where he was in charge of manufacturing. While there, Walt invented a formula for diabetic ice cream. At the time, this ice cream was sold throughout northern Ohio.

Eventually, Walt left the Franklin Co. and finished his career in sales at the **Orrville Milk Company**.

Walt's success was due in part to his continual attention to detail. Walt has been able to keep his mind sharp by keeping an 8 1/2 x 11 piece of paper he carries in his wallet and uses for reference. The paper lists, in chronological order beginning in the 1930's, special events that have happened throughout his life time. The paper also lists important contacts. And, because Walt feels the importance of remembering people's names, he lists names of those he has difficulty remembering.

Walt and Margaret loved to travel. Together they traveled the world visiting 28 countries.

Walt also lists each destination on this sheet of paper including the year & month that they traveled and the cost of each trip.

Together, Walt and Margaret had 4 children: 2 boys and 2 girls. Unfortunately, both girls previously passed away at an early age.

One son, Tom, retired a very successful optometrist. Tom is now living in North Carolina with his wife, Karol.

Walt's other son, Bill, lives in Wooster with his wife Janet and son Michael. Bill moved from Alaska to Wooster in 2001. Both Bill and Janet work at the Wooster hospital where Bill is an x-ray tech. and his wife is a nurse.

Walt has a total of 3 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Walt is an avid sports fan. Up until last year, Walt, at 94 years old, continued to play golf on a league at the college each week. He says he would still be playing if he were allowed to have a chair at each hole to rest.

Walt also enjoys following College of Wooster basketball and football. Walt was awarded the distinction of honorary captain of the basketball team for being such a loyal fan.

Walt has been a member of Rotary for over 50 years, and at one point, had perfect attendance for 10 straight years.

In 1962 Walt was the president of the Sylvania, Ohio Rotary club. At the time of his presidency, there were approximately 125 members. Walt is a charter member of the Sylvania club. Unknown to Walt, his name, along with the other charter members, has been sandblasted into a brick paver in a fountain sculpture on the main corner of Sylvania. The Sylvania Rotary Foundation donated the fountain and arch sculpture in honor of the RI 100th Anniversary.

Walt has been a wonderful member of our Wooster Rotary, **always willing to go beyond the call of duty.**

It has been a real pleasure for me to get to know you better while putting together this presentation.