



## Chase H. Hammond

Chase Hammond took a community, desperately in need of recreational facilities, and led it to a position of eminence in the realm of leisure activity. He came to Muskegon in 1945 from Waterloo, Iowa, where he had been Recreation Superintendent and, before that, in a similar capacity at Albion, Michigan. Chase received his bachelor's degree from Ohio Wesleyan University and his master's degree from New York University with graduate work at both Columbia University and Albion College.

Chase developed a system of parks, playgrounds, waterfront installations, recreational programs and activities for young and old alike, which became the envy of other communities. The scope of activities embraced every aspect of recreation and every age level. He was a firm believer in outdoor recreation and cultural pursuits as well as athletic activities. He was instrumental in the development of Walker Arena, the Hartshorn Marina, the Wickham Music Bowl, and several park facilities throughout the city.

Chase held numerous leadership positions in the Recreation Association of Michigan (now MRPA) and was awarded the *Fellowship Award* for his fierce dedication and success in the 'cause of recreation'. He held various offices in RAM including that of President and chaired several committees. On the national level, Chase held memberships in the NRPA (featured speaker at National Congress), the American Recreation Society, and the American Institute of Park Executives.

In spite of his busy schedule, he took on civic responsibilities as well. He served twice as President of the YMCA, was a director of the Muskegon County Museum, President of the Seaway Festival Steering Committee, a member of the County Youth Commission, and the Muskegon County Geriatrics Council. He also held several leadership positions in Muskegon's Central Methodist Church.

The Optimist Club presented Chase the *Outstanding Service to Youth* award. The Community Council and Community Fund honored him for *Outstanding Service to the Community*. But probably the most significant tribute to Chase was never officially bestowed -- the deep affection in which he was held by everyone who knew him.

Following his untimely death from a heart attack at age 57, the community and City Commission felt he should be remembered by a significant and lasting memorial for his service and foresight. They deemed it was proper and fitting to name the new golf course under construction in his honor.

**Chase H. Hammond was a highly respected professional known for his belief that recreation programming and park services are vital to a community, contributing immeasurably to the quality of life for residents.**



## Roger L. Kowalski

Roger Kowalski received his B.S. degree from Michigan State University and M.A. degree in Parks and Recreation Administration from Central Michigan University. He started working part-time as Athletic Supervisor for the City of Lansing, became the Director of Parks and Recreation in St. Johns, MI, then moved on to become Director in Ferndale, MI. He concluded his illustrious 34-year career as Director of Parks and Recreation in Troy, Michigan (26½ years).

Roger was the second full-time Director for the City of Troy. He developed the first Master Parks Plan and increased the budget from \$600,000 to \$3 million. He built Troy's Parks and Recreation Department from a staff of seven to thirty; he increased the parks system from three parks in 1970 to over 900 acres in 1997. With foresight and perseverance, Roger led the way to a full-service department as the driving force behind the establishment of a community center, golf course, nature center, and aquatic center. With the Troy school system, he fostered cooperative development of facilities and shared maintenance.

Roger was very active in MRPA. He served as First Vice President, Treasurer, Board Member and served on several committees. As Treasurer, he totally revamped the purchasing and reporting process that led to a much-needed change in procedure. He also served as President of the Northwest Parks and Recreation Association.

Roger made several presentations on various topics at MRPA conferences. He traveled to other states presenting seminars concerning Labor and Management relations. He was also very knowledgeable regarding cable television; he presented several seminars on franchising. Roger chaired the Inter-Governmental Cable Authority for 10 years.

Among his honors were the MRPA *Fellowship Award*, Troy Jaycees *Outstanding Young Man of the Year*, Central Michigan University *Professional Service Award*, and the Park Maintenance Magazine *Park Maintenance Idea Award*.

**Roger L. Kowalski led with firmness, integrity, fiscal responsibility, and progressiveness. His leadership and direction are the reasons the residents of the City of Troy enjoy a comprehensive parks and recreation system today.**

## Charles Lewis



Charles "Chuck" Lewis believed that anyone could accomplish anything once there was a commitment. His philosophy of life had a tremendous impact on many young recreation professionals.

Upon obtaining his B.S. degree from Langston University, Chuck began his career in parks and recreation as a Jr. Recreation Instructor for the City of Detroit. Even though he was promoted many times, he left the department on occasion to undertake other career opportunities. Along the way, he attained a Master's Degree in Recreation and Park Services from Wayne State University and a second Masters' from Michigan State University in Business Administration.

For 10 years, Chuck was an Associate Professor in the Parks and Recreation Department at Wayne State University where he developed unique programs for both undergraduate and graduate students. He imparted to each student the fundamental influence recreation leaders could have in their community and the impact they could have by making a difference in people's lives.

Chuck returned to the Detroit Parks and Recreation Department to serve as the Superintendent. He and staff developed more than 150 programs such as summer camps, senior sports, after-school leisure activities-- many of these for delinquent youth and substance abusers. Chuck was a visionary who had the ability to dream big and pursue that dream.

Chuck promoted the recreation profession in many creative venues. He hosted television and radio shows and wrote leisure articles for newspapers. Through an NRPA grant, he aired TV commercials "Life Be In It" using city residents and recreation programs. He was a prolific writer and speaker making many presentations on crime as a negative leisure time experience.

He was active on the national level by serving on the NRPA Program Committee and the Ethnic Minority Society. Chuck received the *MRPA Fellowship Award*, and the *Ernest T. Atwell Award* from the NRPEMS.

Following retirement, Chuck continued to serve his community and the recreation field. He was a member of the Skillman Foundation board and the Detroit Commission on Recreation.

**Charles Lewis is remembered for his love of the recreation profession.  
He truly understands how recreation contributes to quality of life within a community.**

## Betty J. Lloyd



Betty Lloyd, during the 1950's, was the catalyst that led to the City of Detroit having one of the best Recreation Departments in the country. She traveled to college campuses recruiting recreation graduates who she felt demonstrated leadership and upheld a sound recreation philosophy. Betty conducted weekly in-service training sessions for staff that emphasized developing their leadership skills and increasing their knowledge of programs and activities that would be helpful throughout the careers of these young professionals.

Betty's career with the Detroit Recreation Department began in 1940. She served as a Camp Director, Recreation Supervisor-Special Activities, Recreation Supervisor II-Staff Development, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator, and finally as Superintendent of Recreation. In

addition to her service with Detroit's Recreation Department, she taught Recreation courses at Wayne State University -- the same university from which she received her B.A. and M.Ed. degrees.

Betty was an active member in MRPA and NRPA. Her expertise became evident early on in her career. She served on the MRPA Board of Directors, as Vice President, chaired several committees, and represented MRPA on the Great Lakes District Council serving as Chairperson. She also represented our profession well as a member of the NRPA Steering Committee-- Board of Trustees, serving on several NRPA committees and making numerous presentations at conferences. Additionally, Betty imparted her wisdom while serving on the American Park and Recreation Society- Board of Directors. She was a Charter member of the American Academy of Parks and Recreation Administrators.

Betty was a dedicated professional and contributed to the recreation profession for 37 years. Other agencies also profited from her talents: Civil Service Commission- Special Examiner; Detroit Joint Recreation Committee; Wayne County Master Plan Committee; American Red Cross- Training Instructor; American Youth Hostel- Honorary Council Member; Young Women's Christian Association; Michigan Society of Gerontology; and American Society for Training and Development.

Betty received the MRPA *Fellowship Award*, and the *Distinguished Fellow Award* from the American Park & Recreation Society (NRPA).

**Betty J. Lloyd was the consummate recreation professional, the one you looked up to and strove to be like.**

## **Olga M. Madar**



Olga Madar achieved several firsts for women in a career that spanned 55 years. In 1941, she traded her physical education teaching position for a better paying job at the Willow Run bomber plant. She joined the union and organized its first community recreation programs. Olga was so successful that UAW Local 50 hired her as Director of Recreation, Social Services and Women's Activities. In 1947 she was appointed Director of the International Union's Recreation Department.

In 1966 she was the first woman to take a seat on the UAW International Executive Board as a Member-at-Large. In 1970, she was elected to the first of two terms as Vice-President. Olga was given the responsibility of directing the Departments of Conservation and Resource Development, Recreation and

Leisure-Time Activities and Consumer Affairs. She also serviced the technical, office, and professional workers' locals. She retired as an officer of the union in 1974 but remained active in retiree affairs until 1995.

Through service with countless civic organizations she sought to increase citizen participation in decision-making in recreation, education, health care and other areas. Olga was instrumental in launching the Michigan Women's Political Caucus and the Network for Economic Rights in 1971, which pushed for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and for gender equity in the workplace.

Olga served on the Detroit Recreation Commission from 1958-1966; she was also active with MRPA and NRPA. She served with several organizations to improve parks and recreation and areas of conservation. These included: Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority Commission, 1957-91; Girl Scouts, 1973-80; Detroit Public Schools Citizens Advisory Committee on Health, Physical Education and Physical Fitness, 1958-61; Riverfront Recreation Opportunities Panel, 1976-77; Detroit Senior Citizen Commission, 1972-78; Wayne County Commission on Aging, 1975-1980.

Some of her notable achievements and awards include: dedication of the Olga Madar Senior Center, 1995; Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, 1989; Michigan Amateur Sports Hall of Fame, 1974; WJR Radio Tribute—"Women are Great", 1970; Honorary Degree from Eastern Michigan University and Honorary Degree from Shaw College at Detroit.

**Olga M. Madar worked tirelessly on issues of concern for women, senior citizens and other community groups. She fought for conservation projects, and the availability of leisure services for people of any ethnicity and economic level.**



## Curt Shaneour

Curt Shaneour began his career as a banker, having graduated with degrees from Western Michigan University and the University of Michigan. He left the banking profession after six years and devoted the rest of his career assisting with the development of high quality playground equipment.

He worked six years with Game Time, Inc. who developed many new and unique playground equipment designs. Curt then became part owner of the Jennings Sales Organization. In 1974, He established Quality Industries, Inc. where emphasis was on quality playground equipment, and extensive participation in developing safety guidelines for the Consumer Products Safety Commission. The company name was changed to Recreation Creations to

better describe their effort in being an innovative leader in the design of safe and distinctive playground equipment. Curt also formed a holding company, The Shane Group, that comprises subsidiaries Site and Park Amenities, Athletic & Recreation Products, and Qualite, Inc.

Curt has been a strong advocate in our field, unafraid to speak publicly about parks and recreation being 'under-appreciated' and the significance these services make in people's lives. He has been very generous in supporting the future of the parks and recreation profession. In 1995, he instituted the Rob Nagle Scholarship Award for students majoring in Parks and Recreation. More recently, Curt established the Herb Jennings Memorial Scholarship that provides educational scholarships for children of park and recreation professionals. In addition, he has consistently supported the efforts of the MRPA with contributions for conferences and Fall Retreat at Mackinac Island. He also provided financial support for the construction of the NRPA headquarters.

Curt has taken on civic responsibilities by serving as Mayor of the City of Hillsdale, Trustee for Hillsdale College, founding Board Member of Hillsdale County Community Foundation, and serving with distinction on the NRPA Board of Trustees.

Although Curt is not one to seek celebrity for his volunteer work and generosity, numerous organizations have shown their appreciation by bestowing several awards: Hillsdale College Board of Trustees- *Resolution of Appreciation*; Hillsdale College Athletic Department- *Charger Award*; City of Hillsdale- *Community Service Award*; Western Michigan University- *Honored Alumni*; Hillsdale County National Bank- *Resolution of Appreciation*; 1999 MRPA *Presidential Award*; State of Michigan- *Special Tribute*.

**Curt Shaneour has been a 'rock' for the park and recreation movement. He is widely recognized as being innovative, dependable, and a man of integrity.**



## Susan S. Wedley

Susan Wedley was the ultimate recreation professional, using her innovative and creative skills to establish a variety of recreation programs throughout her career, many of which were adopted by other communities. In 1971, she initiated the Royal Oak Outdoor Art Fair drawing artists from throughout the United States. In the late 1970's, she led the development of a full service, award-winning Senior Citizen's Program. Other outstanding programs Susan established were Royal Oak Summer Expo (recreational and educational classes for K-8<sup>th</sup> graders), Youth Theatre, Haunted Forest, Summer Centers, and several girls and women's athletic activities.

As a junior in high school, Susan began her recreation career working part-time in Lansing. She received her B.S. degree from Michigan State University and M.S. degree from Central Michigan University. She worked one year in Ferndale before moving on to the City of Royal Oak for 31 years, becoming Superintendent of Recreation in 1978.

Susan was very active with MRPA. She held the offices of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, and Board Member. She served on numerous committees over the years, most notable the initial Registration and Certification committee that developed and implemented the present certification program. She also served on the committee that established the central office in Lansing and hired the first Executive Director.

The NRPA and North Carolina State University recognized Susan's talents by appointing her to their School of Sports Management Board of Regents in 1981-83. Susan served her community on a wider scale as a member of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority-Advisory Committee; Northwest Parks & Recreation Association (Vice President/Treasurer/ Secretary); Metropolitan Youth Fitness Committee (Secretary); Royal Oak Inter-Club Council; Royal Oak Arts Council; Soroptimist Club (President).

With the support of co-workers, some noteworthy awards Susan received include the following: MRPA Fellowship Award; State of Michigan Project Independence Award; Michigan Municipal League Municipal Achievement Award; President George H.W. Bush 904<sup>th</sup> Point of Light Award; NRPA National Gold Medal finalist; Royal Oak Jaycees Distinguished Service Award. Susan was also inducted into the Lansing Eastern High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Susan S. Wedley led by example, setting high standards for herself and her employees. She empowered her staff, always emphasizing their strengths and contributions.**



## Margaret A. Whitehead

Margaret Whitehead recognized the importance for women and girls to participate in a variety of recreation activities. In the 1950's through the 1970's this was no small undertaking. She needed perseverance and she delivered.

In addition to initiating several new activities for women and girls, Margaret established the first senior centers in the City of Lansing. She traveled throughout Michigan assisting staff in other cities to organize senior citizen programs and establish senior centers in their communities. In 1967, she founded the *MRPA Annual Senior Citizen Get-Together* at the Grand Hotel on

Mackinac Island. There were 25 seniors attending the first year. Now, 42 years later, more than 4,500 seniors annually enjoy the trip.

During her 25-year career, she mentored many budding park and recreation professionals. She was a taskmaster with a large heart. She liked things to be done "right". Fourteen-hour days were common for Margaret – planning programs during regular business hours, and then attending them in the evening to ensure that they came off without a hitch.

Margaret was a staunch supporter of MRPA. She served as Vice President and Board Member and chaired six different committees over the years. Margaret was a key member of the Women of MRPA (a little known splinter group that formed in 1967). Their mission was two-fold: to bring about equality for female recreation professionals and to expand recreational opportunities for women and girls.

In 1964, Margaret received the MRPA *Fellowship Award*. Because of her involvement and commitment to seniors, the *MRPA Margaret Whitehead Senior of the Year Award* was initiated in 1978 and continues to be presented each year to outstanding senior citizens for leadership and service. Prior to Margaret's retirement, Lansing's mayor proclaimed November 19, 1972 as *Margaret A. Whitehead Day* in Lansing.

**Margaret A. Whitehead undertook the task of developing equal opportunities in recreation for women and girls. She was innovative, responsible, and a woman of tremendous integrity.**