



Mike Orland Collins

Kiwanis Club of Royal Oak

International Club
No. 1669
Michigan
Division 7



- Founded 1927 -

P.O. Box 427, Royal Oak, MI 48068

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Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation
P.O. Box 159
Tecumseh, Michigan 49286

Gentlemen:

"Mike" (Orland) Collins was born October 26, 1901. His parent's farm was on the northwest corner of Eleven Mile and Campbell. From their twenty acres, Mike helped his Dad haul hay to Detroit. They would go to Rochester to buy the hay and sell it the next day in Detroit. This was done with a horse and wagon.

Mike's schooling started at the Union School which was located at Washington and Lincoln in Royal Oak. He played football and baseball at Royal Oak High School where he graduated in 1920. From there he went to Detroit Business Institute for eighteen months.

In 1922 Mike started working for the City of Royal Oak as a police dispatcher, working 12-hour days, seven days a week. He received pay of \$120 per month. His next job was that of a meter reader, repairing meters and servicing customers. He did this for eight years.

It was in 1929 when Mike became superintendent of the water department, serving our community in that position until retirement in 1966. He served the City of Royal Oak for 44 years and eight months.

Besides working for the city, Mike delivered the Detroit Free Press for twelve years. He got up at 3:30 a.m. and distributed papers to 210 customers. His route was located north of Square Lake, east of Wabeek Farms, south of St. Joseph Hospital, and east of Adams Road. He made as much money delivering newspapers as he did working for the city.

On November 1, 1924, Mike married Ona. They made their home in Royal Oak where they have lived all of their married lives. Their first home was built on Woodcrest, and then they moved to Bloomfield. They have two children, Marilyn Kirkpatrick and Edward Collins, both of Royal Oak. There are seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

The Kiwanis became a part of Mike's life in 1933. He served as president of the Royal Oak Kiwanis Club in 1949. Mike was active in helping the Royal Oak Kiwanis Club sponsor clubs in Rochester and Ferndale. During his years with Kiwanis, Mike had 34 years of perfect attendance.

Sincerely,

James H. Paine
President