

KIWANIS CLUB OF JACKSON

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Mr. Gene Cole
P. O. Box 187
Spring Arbor, Michigan 49283

Re: Lew Hamilton

Dear Gene:

The following is a brief outline of the life of Lew Hamilton, as you requested:

Lewis J. Hamilton liked to be called Lew by everyone he ever met. And if you had met Lew you would be much richer for it. Lew had a zest for life that kept him going 96 years, with over 60 of those years in Kiwanis!

Lew was past president of the Kalamazoo Kiwanis Club, which he joined in 1927. Ten years later he came of Jackson where he was employed by the Consumers Power Company. Jackson became his home and Lew rarely missed a Friday Kiwanis luncheon at the Jackson Downtown Club.

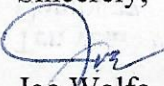
"He cut quite a figure," remembers Ken Hickey, another long-time Jackson club member who can picture the tall slender fellow with a broad smile and a rather large cigar perched between his teeth. "Lew had the greatest sense of humor of anyone I ever met," Hickey recalls, "and his eyes would sparkle just before he started telling you one of his famous stories." Lew was often singled out at a meeting by one of the members trying to get Lew into a precarious situation -- but Lew was too sharp and usually reversed the tables and made the other member look rather foolish....all in good Kiwanis fun and fellowship!

Projects were important to Lew who, as a young lad at the turn of the century lived on a farm with his family and was used to hard work at an early age. Throughout his Kiwanis history, Lew probably worked on every Kiwanis project the Jackson club had -- from the annual Newspaper Sale to raise money for shoes and boots for needy children to the Victory Gardens following World War II to the bicycle repairs the club did in the 1950's, and many, many more.

Lew's compassion for others made him one of the most likeable members to ever grace the Jackson club. His passion for golf made for good conversations -- his theory was that it was cheaper to pay for a round of golf than to spend it on doctor bills -- his motto was "hit the pill, don't take it!"

Lew Hamilton passed away in 1989 at the age of 96. He will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Sincerely,


Joe Wolfe, Secretary
KIWANIS CLUB OF JACKSON