



Biographies of Past Presidents

Charles Henry Loomis 44th President 1971-72

C. Henry Loomis, or Hank as he liked to be called was born on July 9th 1907 in Scotch Ridge, Ohio, a small town close to Bowling Green. Henry's ancestors came from Scotland in 1640 and settled in the town of Windsor, Connecticut. He lived in his birth town until he was age 12, at which time his family moved to Perry, Michigan. All of the family possessions were placed in two railroad box cars; one loaded with four horses and several cows at one end and farm machinery at the other. In between was a pile of hay and blankets where Henry and his dad road for three days caring for the livestock. The second car occupied the rest of their possessions. As was the case with lots of families in those early days, his parents were professional farmers although his father did teach school for one year, but didn't like the teaching profession. Henry's mother went to Hiram College for 2 years. Hank's description of his youth recalls a period most of us know only from stories. He said that a local gas well on the farm provided light and heat, and shoes were shed for the summer. Henry graduated from the Perry High School as Valedictorian in his class of twelve students. He went on to higher education at Hiram College and graduated with an AB Degree in Mathematics. He married his college sweetheart in the year 1932. After graduation, he entered the SS Kresge training program (Note: SS Kresge Company was the predecessor of today's K Mart), was transferred to several stores including Niagara Falls, New York as store manager. In the midst of his early years of his new vocation, the war (WWII) broke out and Henry served the US Navy as a Lieutenant with most of his service time spent in and around New Orleans. In 1954, Henry came to Avon Lake, Ohio to start up his own new Ben Franklin store. Henry's wife, Ada Marie died of cancer about 1955. In 1959, Hank married his late wife's best friend, Ruth McMahon. In 1961, he saw the chance to buy the Ben Franklin Franchise in Vermilion, Ohio. By this time he new the business, disposed of the store in Avon Lake and opened the one in Vermilion. They soon made their home in this fair city not too far from the store location. Henry Retired and closed the store in 1972. Hank has one daughter, Donzy Brinkert who blessed him with two grand children. Henry became a Rotarian soon after moving to Vermilion. He was instrumental in starting the Presbyterian Church in Avon Lake. While living in Vermilion, Hank very active in the community, such as, president of the Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the festival of Fish day, Member of City Council, sang tenor in the Vermilion vocal chorus, and President of the Vermilion Rotary Club. Henry had the distinction of being a Paul Harris Fellow in Rotary, R.I. Henry passed away in January 2004.

Sources: his wife, Ruth; the late John Mosley, Bob Kyle