

My Dad, John Parkin, loved Marshfield and he worked endlessly to serve the town and its residents. From the time he arrived here he engaged in community activities, and his efforts earned him the well-deserved reputation of getting things done and always acting in the best interest of the community.

After my parents married in September 1938, they came to Marshfield so John could assist his father, Wilbur Parkin, with the Parkin Dairy business. Three years later he became its president and manager.

Under his leadership, Parkin Dairy was the first in the state of Wisconsin to obtain 100 percent of its milk from farmers using bulk tank trucks, and the first in the area to be certified Grade-A. It also was the first company in the area to process and distribute solely in single-service paper containers.



While leading Parkin Dairy, John also served as president of the Wisconsin Independent Dairy Association from 1956 – 1963, and vice-president of the National Independent Dairy Association from 1957 – 1958.

In 1966 John sold Parkin Dairy to the Morning Glory Division of Consolidated Badger Cooperative of Shawano. He continued as operations manager of Parkin facilities in Marshfield and Medford for a time, and later worked as director of sales for the Nelson-Jameson Corporation.

A scouting enthusiast, John is credited with having started the cub scouting program in Marshfield in 1940. He served as cubmaster for six years (1940 – 1944, and 1954 – 1955) and scout master for eleven years (1944 – 1954).

He also served the Samoset Council, Boy Scouts of America as district commissioner from 1942 – 1945; as North Wood County District Samoset chairman from 1951 – 1953; Samoset camping chairman from 1955 – 1956; and vice-president of the Samoset Council from 1957 – 1958.

The Samoset Council honored John for his efforts on behalf of the local scouting programs in 1945 with the Silver Beaver Award, the highest tribute given to a scouter. At the time, he was the youngest recipient of this award.

During these years, John was also active in the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce, where he served as vice-president from 1956 – 1957, and as president from 1958 – 1960.

John was active in local and state government too. In 1963 he was appointed to fill a fifth district supervisor vacancy on the Wood County Board by Mayor Wendt. He went on to win election to full two-year terms on the board in 1964, 1966, 1968, 1970, and 1972. He did not seek reelection in 1974.

As a member of the Wood County Board John served both as board chairman and vice-chairman. He served on thirteen different committees over the years, chairing the Finance and Budget Committee, Emergency Government Committee and Emergency and Traffic Committee.

In 1968 John was also elected to a two-year term as the first district representative to the Wisconsin Assembly. He served as vice-chairman of the Municipalities Committee, Third Reading Committee and Welfare Payments Task Force, as well as secretary while holding this office.

Locally, John was at one time a director of the Central Wisconsin State Fair Association and of Greater Marshfield. He also served as a member of the Wood County Industrial Development Corporation, the Wood County Alcohol and Drug Council Inc., the Rehabilitation Workshop, and on the Advisory Board of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing.

John also worked on behalf of many Marshfield service clubs. He was a former member, director, and president of the Rotary Club, a past member and esquire of Elks Club Lodge 665, and past member, director and president of the North Wood County Historical Society.

He also served on the Wood County 1956 Centennial Committee. In 1961, he chaired the state Alice in Dairyland Contest.

A hometown leader in his adopted community John was recognized by contemporaries for all that he accomplished within and for the community with Rotary's Service Above Self Award in 1974. At the award presentation, former Senator Ray Heinzen, praised him as an "asset to the community, county and state." He truly was that and more.

Following his retirement, John, with his wife Clyde, moved to Cedar Park, a neighborhood in Atlanta, Georgia to be nearer their children, Susan (Parkin) TeStrake and Todd Parkin and their families.

John Wilbur Parkin died June 4, 2003, in Atlanta.