

The Davis Community Awards

1944-2012

*The C. A. Covell for Citizen of the Year
&
The A. G. Brinley for Special Merit*



The C. A. Covell Trophy, 1945

Judy James Wydic

2013

The Davis Community Awards, 1944–2012
Judy James Wydick
Printed at Kinkos, Davis, California, March 2013

The photos throughout this book came mostly from *The Davis Enterprise*, taken at the time people received the award. A few are from *The Davis Daily Democrat*, published in Woodland for the Davis community, and the Davis Enterprise's *Those Who Make Memories*. Family members contributed some photos when no others were available.

Photographs and text remain either with Judy Wydick or the current chair of the Community Awards. Wydick can be contacted at jjwydick@dcn.org.

The picture on the cover was taken by the *Davis Daily Democrat* in November 1982 when publicity was being done to announce the winners. From the left are Sharon Rose (Brinley Award), Peggy Hoyt (chair of the awards) and Joyce Wisner (Covell Award). *[Article on p. 37.]*

*This book is dedicated to Peggy Hoyt
in appreciation of the
many years she devoted to
the Davis Community Awards*

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1944 C. A. Covell	1967 Ernest F. Hartz	1990 Lea Rosenberg
1945 Flora McDonald	1968 John Brinley	1991 Nancy Keltner
1946 C. A. Maghetti	1969 Christine Blanchard	1992 Robert & Rachel Hagan
1947 Ben D. Moses	1970 William Lotter	1993 Foy S. McNaughton
1948 Richard Barlow	1971 Kathleen Green	1994 Doug Arnold
1949 Helen Perry	1972 Warren A. Westgate	1995 Cass Sylvia
1950 Gray Rowe	1973 Robert Oliver	1996 Dean & Janice Labadie
1951 L. N. Irwin	1974 <i>[Not presented this year]</i>	1997 Dick Frost
1952 B. A. Madson	1975 James F. Wilson	1998 Jay Gerber
1953 Vernard B. Hickey	1976 Herb & Hanna Bauer	1999 Judy Moores
1954 Leonard F. Smith	1977 Dair Rausch	2000 Ted Puntillo
1955 Edgar H. Markham	1978 Dick & Lois Grau	2001 Donna Lott
1956 Helen M. Heitman	1979 Fred Foerster	2002 Paul Hart
1957 Edward B. Roessler	1980 Betsy Truffini	2003 Renée Liston
1958 Joe J. Truffini	1981 Peggy Epstein	2004 Debbie Davis
1959 Percy E. Symens	1982 Joyce D. Wisner	2005 Ray & Verena Borton
1960 A. Vern Ihrig	1983 Barbara Kado	2006 Betty Berteaux
1961 Harry J. Whitcombe	1984 Thomas H. Frankel	2007 Carol Lee Coss
1962 J. Price Gittinger	1985 Judy Wydick	2008 Mary Philip
1963 Kathryn T. Chiles	1986 Vic & Camille Lim	2009 Shirley Aldous Goldman
1964 A. Doyle Reed	1987 Bill & Nancy Roe	2010 Jim Becket
1965 Craig Armstrong	1988 Richard & Barbara Lindholtz	2011 Adam & Jan Bridge
1966 Herbert H. Rourke	1989 Ruth Asmundson	2012 Rick Gonzales

THE A.G. BRINLEY—Awards of Special Merit beginning on p. 27

1969 Joann Leach Larkey	1984 Dorothy Laben	1998 Pat Hutchinson
1970 Bill D. Bartholomew	1985 Wesley Wooden	1999 Jane Pomeroy
1971 Max D. Rothe	1986 Bob Dunning	2000 Shirley Kreissman
1972 Sam DeMasi	1987 Anne Hance & Evelyn Buddenhagen	2001 Charles Russell
1973 Kathleen M. Murphy	1988 David Burmester	2002 Judy Gabor
1974 <i>[Not presented this year]</i>	1989 Frederick Lange	2003 Vicki Plutchok
1975 John H. Jones	1990 Mimi Cariño Sen	2004 Russell K. Kusama
1976 Ronald E. Whitehead	1991 Steven Cavagnolo	2005 Katherine F. Mawdsley
1977 Patricia P. Allen	1992 Barbara Jackson	2006 Martha Dickman
1978 Donald P. Kessler	1993 Paul E. Hart	2007 Nancy Crosby & Pat Miller
1979 Red Steffler	1994 Pat Williams	2008 Janet Berry
1980 Richard Brunelle	1995 Mary Ellen Dolcini	2009 Helen Cole
1981 Joan Snodgrass Callaway	1996 Ruth Shumway	2010 Dorothy Peterson
1982 Sharon D. Rose	1997 Ernst & Hannah Biberstein	2011 Joe DeUlloa
1983 Marinka Phaff		2012 Janet Boulware

ALL WINNERS ALPHABETICALLY (from both categories, with page where located)

Allen, Pat	1977	35	Gittinger, Price	1962	23	McNaughton, Foy	1993	42
Armstrong, Craig	1965	25	Goldman, Shirley	2009	51	Miller, Pat	2007	50
Asmundson, Ruth	1989	41	Gonzales, Rick	2012	52	Moores, Judy	1999	46
Barlow, Richard	1948	17	Grau, Dick	1978	35	Moses, Ben	1947	16
Bartholomew, Bill	1970	29	Grau, Lois	1978	35	Murphy, Kathleen	1973	31
Bauer, Hanna	1976	34	Green, Kathleen	1971	30	Oliver, Robert	1973	31
Bauer, Herb	1976	34	Hagan, Bob	1992	42	Perry, Helen	1949	17
Becket, Jim	2010	51	Hagan, Rae	1992	42	Peterson, Dorothy	2010	51
Berry, Janet	2008	50	Hance, Anne	1987	40	Phaff, Marinka	1983	38
Berteaux, Betty	2006	49	Hart, Paul (Brinley)	1993	43	Philip, Mary	2008	50
Biberstein, Ernie	1997	45	Hart, Paul (Covell)	2002	47	Plutchok, Vicki	2003	48
Biberstein, Hannah	1997	45	Hartz, Ernie	1967	26	Pomeroy, Jane	1999	46
Blanchard, Chris	1969	27	Heitman, Helen	1956	20	Puntillo, Ted	2000	46
Borton, Ray	2005	49	Hickey, Vern	1953	19	Rausch, Dair	1977	35
Borton, Verena	2005	49	Hoyt, Peggy	2003	48, 5	Reed, Doyle	1964	24
Boulware, Janet	2012	52	Hutchinson, Pat	1998	45	Roe, Bill	1987	40
Bridge, Adam	2011	52	Ihrig, Vern	1960	22	Roe, Nancy	1987	40
Bridge, Jan	2011	52	Irwin, Lynn	1951	18, 3	Roessler, Ed	1957	21
Brinley, John	1968	26	Jackson, Barbara	1992	42	Rose, Sharon	1982	37
Brunelle, Dick	1980	36	Jones, John	1975	33	Rosenberg, Lea	1990	41
Buddenhagen, Evelyn	1987	40	Kado, Barbara	1983	39	Rothe, Max	1971	30
Burmester, Dave	1988	40	Keltner, Nancy	1991	42	Rourke, Herb	1966	25
Callaway, Joan	1981	37	Kessler, Don	1978	35	Rowe, Gray	1950	18
Cavagnolo, Steve	1991	42	Kreissman, Shirley	2000	46	Russell, Charlie	2001	47
Chiles, Kathryn	1963	24	Kusama, Russ	2004	48	Sen, Mimi	1990	41
Cole, Helen	2009	51	Labadie, Dean	1996	44	Shumway, Ruth	1996	44
Coss, Carol Lee	2007	50	Labadie, Janice	1996	44	Smith, Leonard	1954	20
Covell, Cal	1944	15, 3	Laben, Dorothy	1984	39	Steffler, Red	1979	36
Crosby, Nancy	2007	50	Lange, Fred	1989	41	Sylvia, Cass	1995	44
Davis, Debbie	2004	48	Larkey, Joann	1969	27	Symens, Percy	1959	22
DeMasi, Sam	1972	31	Lim, Camille	1986	39	Truffini, Betsy	1980	36
DeUlloa, Joe	2011	52	Lim, Vic	1986	39	Truffini, Joe	1958	21
Dickman, Martha	2006	49	Lindholtz, Barbara	1988	40	Westgate, Warren	1972	31
Dolcini, Mary Ellen	1995	44	Lindholtz, Richard	1988	40	Whitcombe, Harry	1961	23
Dunning, Bob	1986	39	Liston, Renée	2003	48	Whitehead, Ron	1976	34
Epstein, Peggy	1981	37	Lott, Donna	2001	47	Williams, Pat	1994	43
Foerster, Fred	1979	36	Lotter, Will	1970	29	Wilson, Jim	1975	33, 3
Frankel, Tom	1984	39	Madson, Ben	1952	19	Wisner, Joyce	1982	37
Frost, Dick	1997	45	Maghetti, Chelso	1946	16	Wooden, Wes	1985	39
Frost, Linda	1990	41	Markham, Ed	1955	20	Wydick, Judy	1985	39
Gabor, Judy	2000	47	Mawdsley, Kate	2005	49			
Gerber, Jay	1998	45	McDonald, Flora	1945	16			

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PREFACE & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is about the two Davis awards presented to individuals who have contributed in major ways to the community—the C. A. Covell and the A. G. Brinley. These awards, the oldest given by the community, have been around so long that their history—at least that of the Covell—had become somewhat cloudy, and I wanted to make it less so.

I never intended to put much effort into this project. I was about to complete eight years as chair of the steering committee that handles these awards. Knowing how little I knew initially about the background of the process, I thought having a brief writeup about it would help my successors.

So that December I decided to go through the files to understand better how the community awards evolved. As tends to happen as the weeks passed, the more I learned, the more I wanted to know.

The current files for the Community Awards reside in a 12" x 15" box. They have, since 1976, been kept in such a box by Margaret “Peggy” Hoyt, who was asked to be in charge of the process that year. Previous to that time—for the first 32 years—the awards had been handled entirely by the Davis Chamber of Commerce, and it is highly likely (I realize now) that most of the materials relating to the awards during that early period were retained by the Chamber, with those in charge of the awards having perhaps only a binder containing essentials.

Therefore, most of the *early* information about the awards was missing. The Citizen of the Year Award (the Covell) has been presented for 68 years—since 1944. Yet all that remained from the first 20 years were a 1959 letter from Chairman Ed Markham to his selection committee; two yellowed 1962 newspaper articles in which Markham gave a bit of history about the award and requested nominations; and a 1963 article requesting nominations. Files from the next few years contained a few notes about procedure—starting in 1964 with Chairman Don Derbyshire’s typed news releases and reports to the Davis Chamber of Commerce describing the process and his committee.

Not until 1970 did materials exist in the folders to tell *why* the Citizen of the Year was selected, why *s/he* was deemed worthy—rather than just information on the *process* of selecting. I later discovered that the *why* information had regularly been included in the newspaper reports of the event, but they had not been saved. Those who knew the recipients did not need the information. But most in that generation are now gone; and those of us relatively new to

Davis are clueless.

Maybe things changed at this point because the highly-talented Chris Blanchard became the chair. Perhaps she recognized the importance of saving such information. Or maybe Peggy Hoyt retrieved what she could. Whatever the reason, that is when our records began.

Except in 1974, when there were no awards. The next year the Chamber appointed as chair Roger Gambates, and his detailed report remains. And thank goodness longtime chair Hoyt, who followed him in 1976, saved copies of most of the materials she created over the 26 years that she was in charge of the process.

The files themselves have evolved over recent years. When Hoyt was preparing to retire as chair of the awards, she talked with Ruth Asmundson—who had not only received the Covell Award herself (‘89), but was the current Davis mayor. Chamber member Deborah Dunham was interested in becoming the new chair. But Asmundson wanted to learn the background, so Hoyt gave her the files that she had accumulated. Asmundson organized them in keeping with her affinity for putting things in order. In addition, she compiled an Excel list of all the people who had participated on a Selection Committee, starting in 1976 when Hoyt had begun keeping such records.

Also, recognizing how big the job had become over the years, Asmundson asked several people to serve as a steering committee to make the job less onerous for the chair. In the end, she asked me to chair the committee, and the Steering Committee voted on it in February.

When Ruth brought me the file box in 2004, it was clear that a lawyer (Hoyt) had been involved (and Ruth was married to one as well). The file folders—and many of the notes—were legal sized, stored in a letter-sized container, curving their way through the box.

Ah, those lawyers. Being married to one, I know only too well how they were trained to use over-sized materials in a regular-sized world; and when the two meet, it isn’t pleasant. So of course one lost weekend, I replaced the files with normal-sized folders, trimming or folding documents as necessary, eliminating many duplicates. Little did I know that this revised set of files would later come in very handy.

In any case, in December 2011, anticipating that I would be turning over the position, I put together about 30 pages of information from the files, including five pages on an overview of the process. But the gap before the 1970s was huge and—until 1975—sparse. If this were truly to be an overview,

obviously much more research was needed.

Having worked on the history of University Farm Circle, I had made some early-Davis contacts. Elaine Perry Revell, daughter of UFC president Helen Perry (Covell '49), gave me more information about her mother. Elaine also described what it was like when the award was presented during the 4th of July festivities at Central Park, before the days of the giant fireworks in Community Park.

Nancy Whitcombe Roe (Covell '87), who filled me in on her father Harry Whitcombe ('61), connected me with Barbara and Ed Symens, who not only had a good picture of his father Percy Symens ('59), but also the article on Vern Ihrig ('60). Nancy also connected me with the Truffini daughters, Phoebe and Georgia. Ah, such excitement!

But a great deal of information was still missing. Roger Gambatase in 1975 mentioned giving the nomination letters to Chamber Manager Derald Gibson, which is why I suspect they had all been placed in the Chamber's archives.

Kemble Pope, current executive director of the Davis Chamber, thought he might be able to find the old files. Those before 1970 weren't at the Chamber office, but something nearly as good was: on the meeting room wall were pictures of Covell Award winners who had served as Chamber president, e.g., Ben Madson (Covell '52), Ed Markham ('55), Joe Truffini ('58), Harry Whitcombe ('61), and Herb Rourke ('66). Later in the Chamber's storage unit we found some pictures going back to the '70s, including the installation of the Graus ('78) and Don Kessler (Brinley, '78). But the early files are still missing.

Then I stopped at Davis's Hattie Weber Museum—to discover that in recent years the directors have filed information about early citizens under family names. Executive Director Dennis Dingemans was very helpful. There I found several pictures and even newspaper articles about early Covell recipients Percy Symens ('59) and Kathryn Chiles ('63).

Joann Larkey had some good information on the Covell Award, but her book, *Davisville '68—the History and Heritage of the City of Davis*, focuses more on the development of the city itself and the pioneer families.

Another source that proved invaluable was *Those Who Make Memories*, produced by the *Davis Enterprise* in 1998 to celebrate their centennial year. There I found information

on C.A. Maghetti ('46), Dick Barlow ('48), L.N. Irwin ('51), John Brinley ('68), the Bauers ('76), Chris Blanchard ('71), Dick Brunelle (Brinley '80), Ed Roessler ('57), Joe Truffini ('58), Ernie Hartz ('67) and John Jones (Brinley '75).

UC Davis and Davis Wiki have digital files on the internet of UCD faculty and staff like Ben Madsen ('52), Vern Hickey ('53), Ed Roessler ('57), and Price Gittinger ('62). And the UCD Alumni Association has most of the early campus yearbooks, which included pictures of winners like Ben Moses ('47), Ben Madsen ('52), Vern Hickey ('53), Ed Roessler ('57) and Price Gittinger ('62). But it was still difficult finding why many were selected when they were. (Incidentally, in my early research, I did not record where I found all my information, and later I often could not find the source. I apologize for that, but the project simply grew!)

All this time I had been avoiding going to UC Davis's Shields Library to look at their copies of *The Davis Enterprise* on microfilm. After becoming quite nauseated reading 15 years of the *Enterprise* (1910–25) for my Farm Circle book (and having to copy all the quotes by hand), I'd sworn never to do that again. But with only 10 individuals on whom I had nothing, I finally gave in. It simply didn't seem right not to cover everyone. To my delight, using the microfilm machine not only is not as stomach-turning as six years ago, but it is now possible to scan sections to a computer and ostensibly send the scanned pages to my computer at home.

"Ostensibly," I say, because *none* of the 30 documents I sent on the first day arrived. So upon my return the next day, after checking with my husband to see if three I resent had arrived on his UCD-connected email (they did), I then sent them all again, slowly as instructed, very slowly, one at a time, to both his and my email address, only to find upon returning home that we had each received 30 copies of *one* document. *Miserable equipment!* (And two weeks later, the same scanned duplicates poured into both our computers—nearly 1,000 to my husband's. A call to the library stopped that, but it was more than a little disconcerting. This is probably due to my not signing out properly or not erasing my materials, but that is beside the point!)

Fortunately, I'd also transferred them all to a flash drive,

Citizen of the Year recipients attending the 1957 award ceremony



Madson '52 Covell '44 Hickey '53 Roessler '57 Markham '55 Barlow '48 Rowe '50 Maghetti '46
Heitman '56 McDonald '45

This picture was scanned directly from the *Davis Enterprise* of Thursday, July 11, 1957. Pictured are nine of the previous Covell recipients attending the July 4 Citizen of the Year ceremony with the newly-selected Ed Roessler. Missing are only Moses ('47, deceased), Perry ('49, transferred to UCLA in 1953), Irwin ('51, ill), and Smith ('54, couldn't attend) If only this could have been a sharp, clear picture! Not even the negative is retrievable, as all negatives were burned in a fire at the *Enterprise* in the late 1960s.

most of which arrived intact, so I was able to fill in many of the missing and incomplete years before 1975.

I also looked for information on some of the people whom I'd covered from other sources, usually finding even more. (And, of course, in the process I noticed all kinds of information about Davis over the years. It is all too easy to get off track in a library.)

I now have something for each year of the awards and have put most of that information in the files.

The *Enterprise* also had taken many pictures, but the quality of those pictures in the early years—as captured on microfilm—was poor. Still, I often included poor-quality pictures in this review of the awards because they hinted at what had taken place. Perhaps the one I would have wished the most to be clear is of ten of those early winners (*see previous page*). It would have been priceless. Now it is helpful only to see how many of the previous winners came to the 1957 ceremony.

I have also learned that some of my original assumptions were incorrect. For example, I thought that no awards were given in 1974 because the Chamber committee had waited too long to get started that year. It was a much simpler reason. Such points called for much rewriting.

I must make clear that in no way did I try to write in detail about each person. Nor is the list of their accomplishments complete.

For example, I did *not* try to find every *Enterprise* article on the award ceremony from the early years. Where I had already acquired information on an award winner from the UC or Yolo County obituaries, or the *Enterprise's* "Memories," that seemed adequate in most cases.

This has meant that information acquired only from the *Enterprise* post-event articles is limited to the reasons why the recipient received the award, i.e., information on the individuals' activities *only until the date of the award*. On the other hand, when the information came from later on in (or at the end of) their lives, I wasn't able to ascertain for the most part what had happened only before each received the award.

Therefore, when a writeup says that someone is "currently" involved in a particular activity (and the person is obviously dead), the chances are that the information is from the *Enterprise* or *Democrat* that came out immediately after the award was presented.

I also did not look up information in the *Davis Daily Democrat* archives, though the Woodland paper also reported on the awards from 1972–1986 (some articles of which

survive in our files). Their reporter might well have included information that the *Enterprise* reporter did not, but I simply could not devote the time to this project to check them all.

Though many people have assisted in this project (many mentioned here), I want to recognize and thank my three proofers. Judy Gabor ('02 Brinley) offered to go through everything and did, and my husband Richard Wydick, who had much better things to do, did it anyway. Between them they caught not only the usual typos and misspellings, but also duplications or points that did not agree from one place to the other.

Then, very unexpectedly after I was "finished," Davis historian John Lofland looked at the manuscript cold and provided excellent advice throughout. He expertly spotted the kinds of omissions we didn't see, being too familiar with the subject. (Then again, because I refuse to ask the first two for a final proofing, I may have made new errors. I regret that.) He later also produced pictures of the only recipient whose picture I'd been unable to find—Flora McDonald ('45)—and of the trophy that year.

One reason some points that I recorded did not agree is that often articles used as sources did not agree, especially in the early years. For example, when Ben Madsen came to Davis in 1914, he spelled his last name with an *e*. By the 1950s it is spelled *Madson*. He probably decided it was easier to change the spelling than to correct people.

Therefore, should any readers notice outright errors, please contact the chair of the Community Awards Steering Committee to make the corrections. Further, if family members have good pictures of any of the awardees, please send a scanned copy to either the Awards chair or the Hattie Weber Museum, which will have a copy of this book.

I did not always double-check everything written or told to me, but assume it is generally correct. This was assembled primarily for the benefit of the Awards chair and steering committee so they can understand the process through the years. Anyone can get a relatively quick concept of how things unfolded over the years, or a snapshot of a winner, then check the files, the original source or other sources if other information is needed.

Oh yes, my husband suggested two names for this book: *Citizens Who Cared* (that's an inside joke for people from Davis) and *Ask Not What Your City Can Do for You . . .* I was tempted.

Judy Wydick, February 2013
Chair, Community Awards, 2004–13
Citizen of the Year, 1985

SOURCES

- Community Awards files, beginning in 1959—whatever had been accumulated over the years in one box.
- Davis Chamber of Commerce, Kemble Pope, executive director—pictures of some past Chamber presidents, and snapshots from the 1970s.
- Davis Wikipedia on the internet—information on a few individuals.
- El Rodeo* (UC Davis yearbooks), Cal Aggie Alumni Association, Buehler Alumni Center—pictures of some recipients who were professors. Referred to under pictures as “*Rodeo*.”
- Hattie Weber Museum, Dennis Dingemans, executive director—some pictures and articles about the awards.
- In Memoriam*, University of California, on the internet—obituaries of some recipients who were University professors.
- Larkey, Joann Leach. *Davisville '68: The History and Heritage of the City of Davis*. Davis Historical and Landmarks Commission, 1969. An overview of the first Covell Award and information about Cal Covell and C. A. Maghetti.
- Ryerson, Knowles A. *The World is My Campus*. UC Davis: Shields Library, Oral History Program, 1977. A sentence about Flora McDonald is the only reference to her I found outside the *Enterprise* articles.
- Those Who Make Memories: 100 Years of The Davis Enterprise; A Century of the Best in Community Coverage*, 1998. Information on several of the recipients. Referred to in text as “*Memories*.”
- The Davis Daily Democrat*. Articles in files. And yes, that was the name of the Davis edition of the Woodland paper. [I did not search the *Daily Democrat* files at Shields Library.]
- The Davis Enterprise*, 1944–2012—many articles on the presentations from newspapers after the event.
- The Sacramento Bee*—a few pictures in the files following the presentations.