



Decatur Central High School Honorary Alumnus Award
Member DCHS Class 1933—First Graduating Class

Nominee Information:

Last Name Baldwin First Name Paul (Pete)

Maiden Name _____

Marital Status married Spouse's Name Jane

Names and Ages of Children Peter 1960 James 1963 John 1964 from
DCHS Paula 1974 Jo Anne 1976 Patricia 1977 from Our Lady of
Grace

High School Attended/Graduation Year DCHS/ 1933

College Attended/Graduation Year Butler University—Received his pilot license while
@ B.U.

Employment Information:

Occupation Maywood Oil Company Job Title owner

Employer _____

Professional Societies, Club Activities Independent Oil Mens Association,
Columbia Club, Decatur Lions, West Newton Masonic Lodge, Indianapolis Scottish Rite,
Murat Shrine, Friends of White River, Marion County Soil and Water Conservation
District,

Church Affiliation, address _____

Biographical Summary of Nominee:**How has the Nominee shown exceptional interest, dedication, and/or service to Decatur Central High School?**

Pete & Mary Ellen (Rand) Rink are the last living members of the first DCHS graduating class—1933. Their memories/stories of that time will enhance the history of DCHS and serve to remind graduates of how times change, yet human nature remains the same.

Pete came to the area as a young teen during the Great Depression. The community was small and close. He married and brought his wife here and started business buying a truck to deliver fuel oil. When WWII came, he served as a Sergeant in the Army Corp of Engineers and was deployed in the Pacific for two years. When he finished, he came back to West Newton, to the community that he had moved to as a teen and yet had grown to feel was his home.

Many a young man in Decatur Township had his first job at the Maywood Oil Company. Pete was very helpful in starting their careers. Growing up, he felt the effects of the depression and never forgot how hard it is to make your way. He scraped together the money to attend college by sleeping in the parking garage where he worked. He was never able to obtain his degree, but believed in higher education and provided donations to such groups as Dollars for Scholars. Through the years, many have asked his advice on building a business or investing in their future and Pete took care to not tell them what to do, but to help them see their dreams and ideas in a logical and sensible light.

His farm provided jobs for neighbor boys as well as his own sons. As he ran his business, he partnered with neighboring farmers to manage his land and herds adding to their livelihood. It is still a working farm today and the cropland and livestock brings economic well-being to three other farm families. His interest in caring for the land keeps it productive while providing the benefits of cleaner air and water, improved wildlife habitat, and open space to a growing community.

As an avid fisherman, Pete fished in many U.S. states, Canada, and Mexico. Canada was so calling that he purchased an island to travel for fishing expeditions. Over the years, several friends and family members accompanied him there. Hunting and fishing were a way of life as he grew up and these led to a deep appreciation of the need for us all to be good stewards of the land. Conservation practices on his farm and donations of time and money to conservation groups help insure a better future here in this township and across Central Indiana.