



Paul Miken
Clackamas County Master
Gardener 1984 - 2012

The Clackamas County Master Gardeners are honoring one of their long-time members, Paul Miken. Many people have said that the chapter is what it is today because of members such as Paul, who gave the chapter his volunteer time, his experience as a leader and his knowledge of gardening.

But, one would never suspect that Paul had a very interesting life before Master Gardeners!

Paul's family came from Lithuania to the Bosky Dell area, as did 3 other families. They probably all knew each other from Lithuania, and after the first family came over, the others followed. "Word gets around," Paul said. Paul's family were dairy and chicken farmers. As a boy, Paul became interested in boxing and he boxed in high school. In 1948, Paul won the Golden Gloves of Oregon amateur tournament. Olin Pepper, a friend of Paul's since West Linn High School days, said, "Paul and I played football for West Linn and you always had to keep your eye on him when we were playing because he was stronger than a bull. When you ran into him it was like hitting a brick wall."

Paul and his wife Rose married in 1951 and have four children. They grew raspberries which they sold to Wizer's grocery store in Lake Oswego. They also raised cattle and grew holly. Paul started working for Crown Zellerbach in 1946. He was the superintendent of the saw mill for 20 years, retiring in 1983. His first job at Crown Zellerbach was parking cars and he also worked as a gardener. Later on, he was a guide taking people through the mill. Paul was a volunteer fireman for 30 years at the mill.

Jean McCabe, Paul's daughter, said her father was always in agriculture, even when he worked at Crown Zellerbach. She remembers Paul reading the latest magazines for information about agriculture. "Becoming a Master Gardener was just a natural progression," Jean said.

Paul joined the Master Gardeners in 1983. He had seen the little blurb in *The Oregonian* about Master Gardeners at the Clackamas Community College. Paul says, "I don't teach; I coordinate the new classes." Paul was the first person new Master Gardeners met in the classes, and he excelled in making everyone feel welcome. He made sure there was coffee and tea for the classes as well as for our chapter meetings. And this from someone who doesn't drink coffee!

Paul has done so much more for Clackamas County Master Gardeners than coordinate the new classes. He served on the Advisory Board of our chapter for many years. Paul chaired the Hospitality Committee of our Spring Garden Fair for years. Paul and his crew of pink-vested volunteers made sure each person coming to the fair was greeted and given a fair brochure. Darlene Sanman remembers how Paul would ride his bike around the fair checking on his crew and that everything went smoothly. At workshops or on his farm conducting pruning classes, Paul always had a big smile for everyone and a gift for friendship.

Susie Douglas-Matlock met Paul for the first time just after they moved into their house on Miken Lane in 1986, when she attended the Master Gardener's short course held that year on the OSU campus. Paul got the biggest kick out of watching her husband prune three really old pear trees in their pasture. He mentioned to her later that he had never seen anybody prune a pear tree with a chainsaw before, and was quite impressed with that technique.

Susie says that Paul and Rose are the kind of neighbors that everyone wishes they had. When her husband had his accident they were the first to help out, and she will never forget their kindness, compassion and friendship. Paul and Rose are the cornerstone of their neighborhood.

Susie says of Paul: “Paul is a great reference source for any gardening question that I had or ever thought to have. His knowledge base is just outstanding and I have always appreciated his willingness to share it with me. And every year, the same question to me was – when are you going to sign up for the Master Gardener’s course? We have had a deal for a number of years, whereby he cuts my pasture for me and he gets the hay if he needs it. He does such a great job and it always looks so nice when he is done. When I have visited them in the summertime, they always send me home with paper bags full of their homegrown produce, vegetables and fruit. Somehow I feel I got the better end of the deal.”

Norrene Thompson remembers Paul in the early years of our chapter and his support of the Master Gardener program. He started the tradition of giving door prizes at the conclusion of our meetings, and the annual picnics were held at his farm. Paul always invited the students in the Master Gardener classes to the Oregon City Elks for lunch.

While chapter treasurer from 1984 to 1987, Paul promoted the scholarship program and the chapter began funding horticultural scholarships at Clackamas Community Center in 1989. This became an endowment program in 1999 which has since funded more than 40 individual scholarships. Paul chaired the Scholarship Committee for many years and set the standard for scholarship applicants. Norrene says this shows Paul’s forward thinking and support of Clackamas Community College.

During graduation ceremonies June 15, 2012 Dr. Joanne Truesdell, President of Clackamas Community College, presented a Distinguished Friend of the College plaque to the Clackamas County Master Gardeners Chapter for their continued support of the college scholarship program, begun by Paul. Frank Wille, Chapter President said, “We can all be proud of the scholarships provided from Chapter activities and how many students they have helped.”

When asked for comments about Paul Miken, Ray and Jan McNeilan, who managed the state and local programs for a total of 29 out of its 36 years of existence, said the following:

Paul was a dedicated, dependable friend, proud of the MG program and what it stands for. The Oregon City class was always in trustworthy and good hands. He ran it like a well-oiled machine while "having fun"! We especially appreciated his willingness to drive to the VFW hall at 5:30 am to help us make the decision by 6:30 am whether or not to hold classes in bad weather. There were lots of years of early morning conversations.

We remember the pruning workshops at his home and the dozens of sandwiches Rose made for the attendees and how hard it was to surprise him and get his family to Corvallis so that we could honor him with the Master Gardener of the Year award in 1990.

Congratulations on your retirement, Paul. Your dedication is what helped make the program in Clackamas County and throughout the state what it is today!

Mr. Hospitality - Paul Miken, Clackamas County Master Gardener: 1984 to 2012

Chapter Treasurer, 1984 to 1987

Spring Garden Fair and Chapter Hospitality Committee Chair 1984 to 2012

Chapter OMGA Representative, 1987, 1988, 1991

OMGA Ray Clayton Award winner 1988 (*awarded to an outstanding Master Gardener in the Portland Metro area; recognized for excellence, dependability, versatility, and generosity in giving of time to the Master Gardener Program*)

Clackamas Community College Scholarship Chair 1989 to 2012

OSU Master Gardener Training Coordinator: Oregon City through 2011

OMGA State Master Gardener of the Year 1990 (*the highest award of the OMGA given for outstanding and unusual service beyond the job requirements and benefitting the State Master Gardener Association*)

Clackamas County Master Gardener of the Year 1991 and 2012 (*awarded to the outstanding chapter member for enthusiasm and service to the County's Extension Home Horticulture Program*)

Advisory Board 1998 to 1999

OMGA "One of the Good Guys" award 2001

OMGA Behind the Scenes Winner 2002 (*given to one Master Gardener in the state who has a distinguished record of community and Chapter activity*)

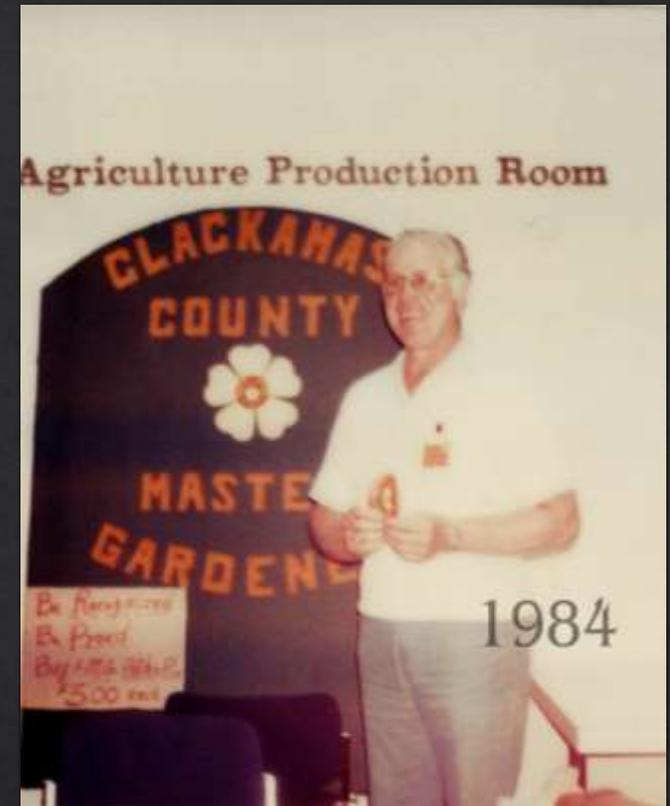
CCMG Green Glove Award 2005

CCMG Golden Trowel Award 2008

Paul also held seats in the following committees in service to the Clackamas County Chapter: Budget, Finance, Awards, and Nominations

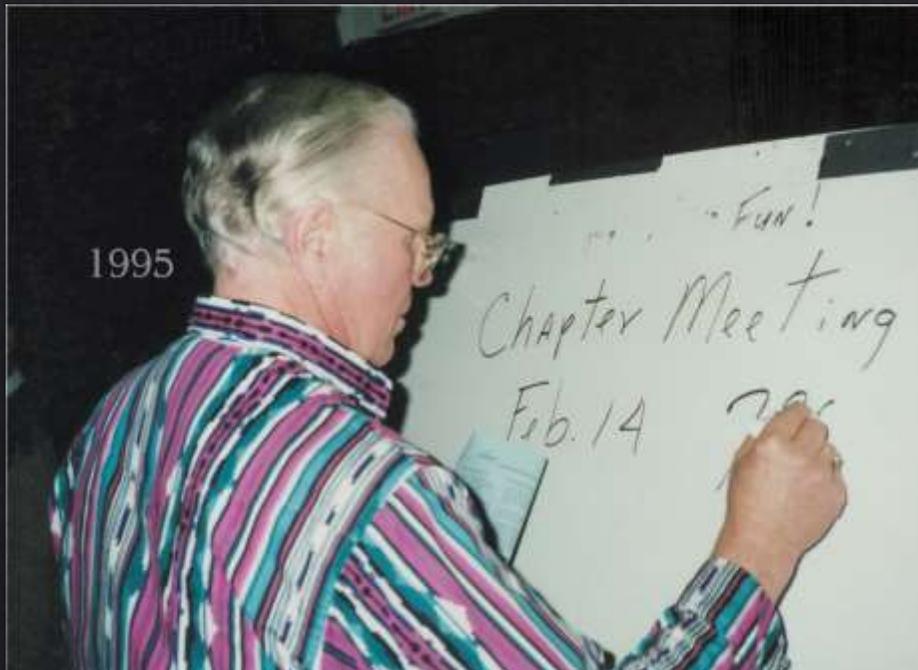
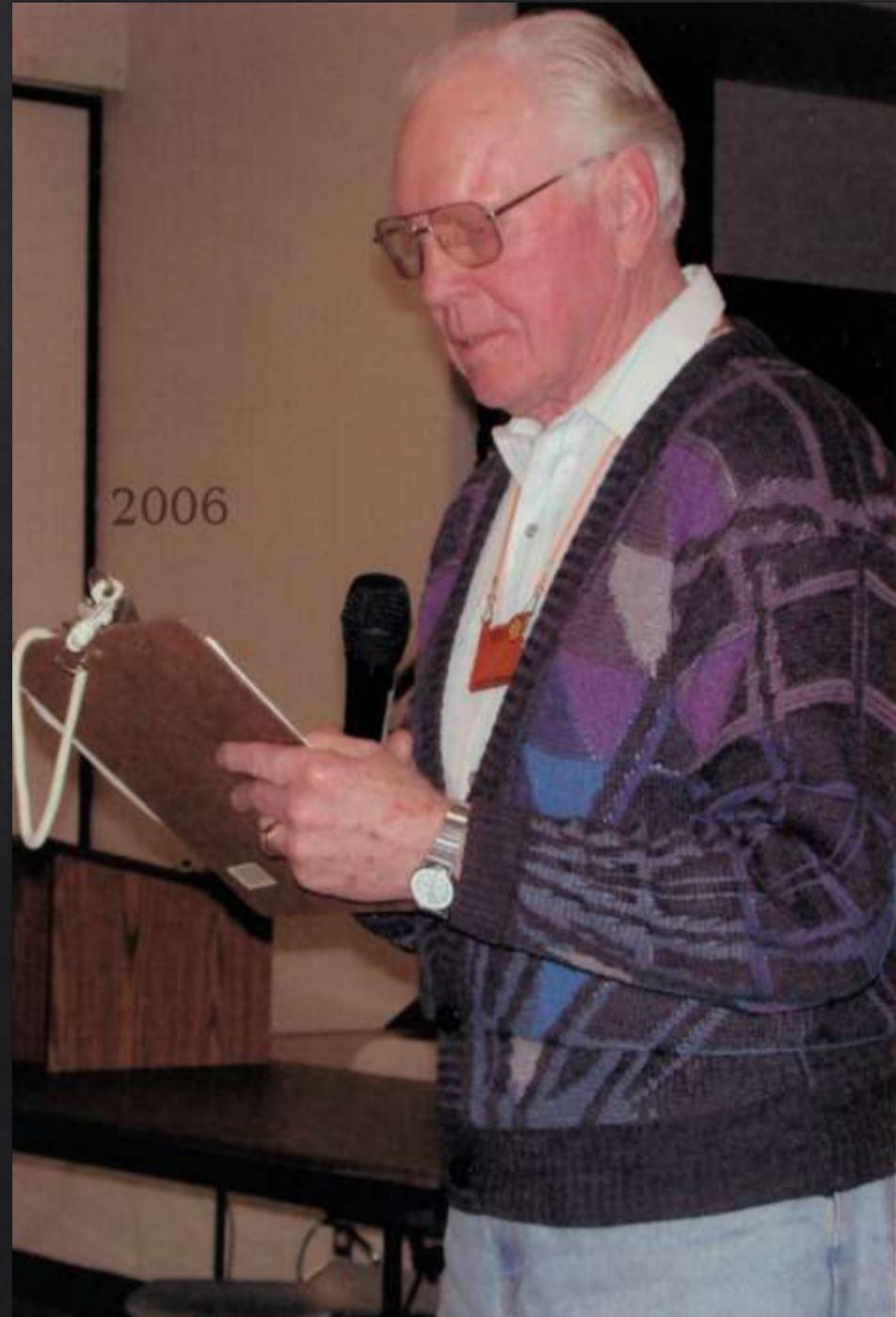
Photos from the early years

- ❖ 1984 - Mini College
- ❖ 1986 - Spring Garden Fair Silent Auction
- ❖ 1987 - Kid's at Risk project in
- ❖ 1989 - Delivering hospitality bags for the National Master Gardeners Conference in Portland.



As Mr. Hospitality for the monthly chapter meetings

- ❖ 1994 – prizes were given at each meeting
- ❖ 1996 – Paul reads the names of each guest at the chapter meeting
- ❖ 1995 – Posting the coming chapter meeting



Paul was involved with the Spring Garden Fair from the very beginning

- ❖ 1996 - Spring Garden Fair committee (Pat Smith, Kent Cushman and Norrene Thompson)
- ❖ 1994 - Greeting a fair-goer with Carol Zinsli
- ❖ 2006 - Welcoming the public to the Fair



During the Fair he would use his bicycle to check on the Hospitality staff at all the gates.



In 2001 Plant check was along the fence, open to the weather.

20 year Spring Garden Fair Anniversary August 9, 2004

The Master Gardeners involved in starting the Spring Garden Fair were Ray McNeilan, our State Master Gardener leader, Gayl Ratigan, Art Allen, Art Olsen, Gloria Anderson, Stan Peach, Harry Rhodes, and Paul Miken.

These Master Gardeners were outstanding, dedicated people who put many, many hours planning and dreaming for a successful fair. We had great ideas. We also had great support from the community. They donated free advertisements in the local newspaper. We also received from the nurseries donations of shrubs, trees, and plants for prizes.

We invited many officials, the President of O.S.U., our Senators, Representatives, and County Commissioners. Dale Harlan, our County Commissioner, cut the ribbon to open the first Spring Garden Fair.

The 20 vendors sold out their plants and were looking forward to the next year's fair.

We had over 1,000 people attending that year. The Canby Garden Club has been a vendor for 20 years.

Our greatest accomplishment through the years has been supporting 19 Horticulture students to Clackamas Community College with a full year Scholarship.

Paul Miken



Art Allen, Paul Miken, Gayl Ratigan are recognized for being a part of the original committee that started the Spring Garden Fair

Spring Garden Fair reaches
Twenty Years!

Spring Garden Fair

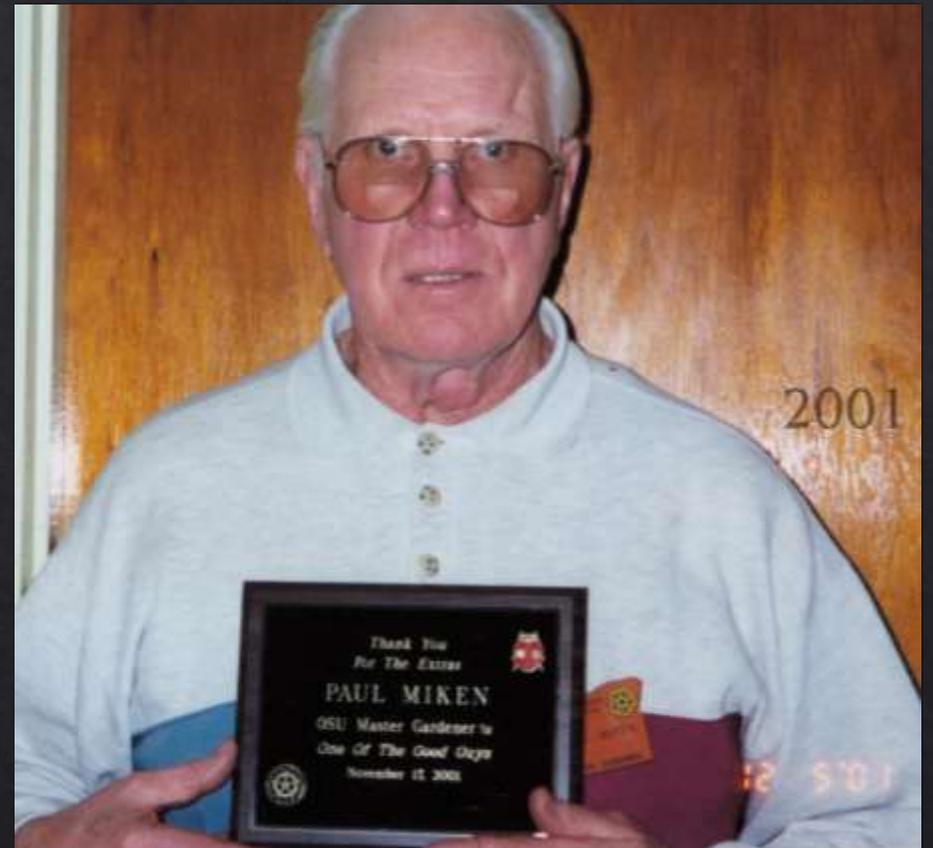
- ◆ 2010 -Hospitality co-chair Darlene Sanman
- ◆ 2011- Lending a helping hand to Kathy Long during set-up
- ◆ 2010 - still riding that bicycle in 2010!



Very generous with his time, Paul has been honored many times over for his hours of service. Pictured on the next few pages are some of his awards



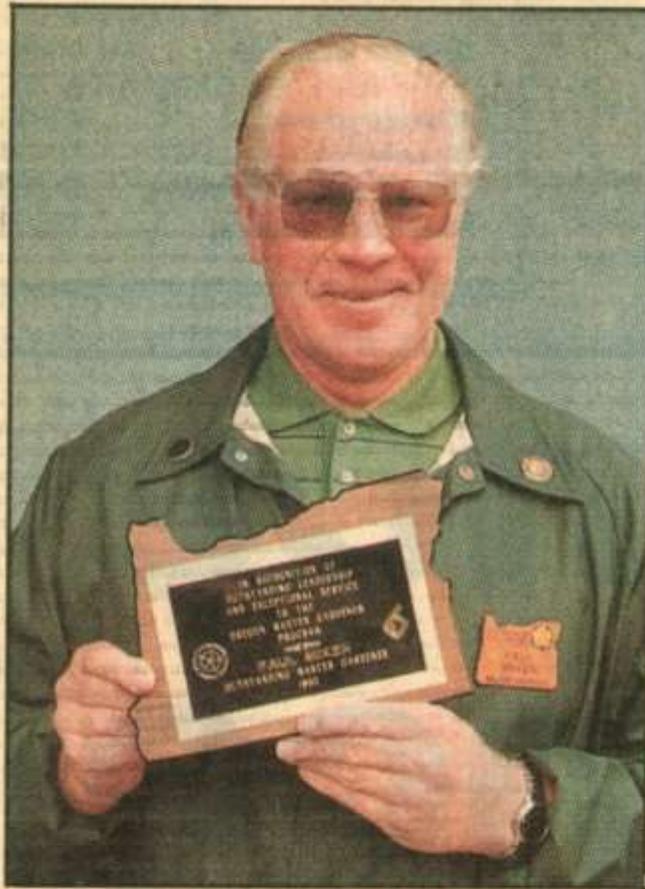
Appreciation for 17 years as a Master Gardener, pictured with Jordis Yost



"One of the Good Guys" Tri-county award given for all of Paul's service



In 1990 Paul was honored by the OMGA as the Master Gardener of the Year at Mini College. Pictured with his wife Rose, & accepting the award.



Paul Miken: Named top Master Gardener for 1990

WEST LINN — Paul Miken, 63, of West Linn, has been named Outstanding Master Gardener for 1990 by the Oregon Master Gardener Program.

He was recognized for outstanding leadership and exceptional service on Aug. 17 at Oregon State University.

The Master Gardener Program, founded in 1972, is a volunteer organization under the wings of the Oregon State University Extension Service.

The purpose of the organization, which includes more than 2,500 members statewide, is to help the extension service devote more time to home gardeners.

Master gardeners receive 70 hours of training, volunteer to answer questions from home gardeners who call their county's branch of the extension service, and offer clinics for home gardeners.

Miken has volunteered 200 hours each year since he joined the organization eight years ago, and he is the class coordinator in Clackamas County for the basic training program that qualifies master gardeners.



2008- Golden Trowel chapter honor
presented by Bill Bradly

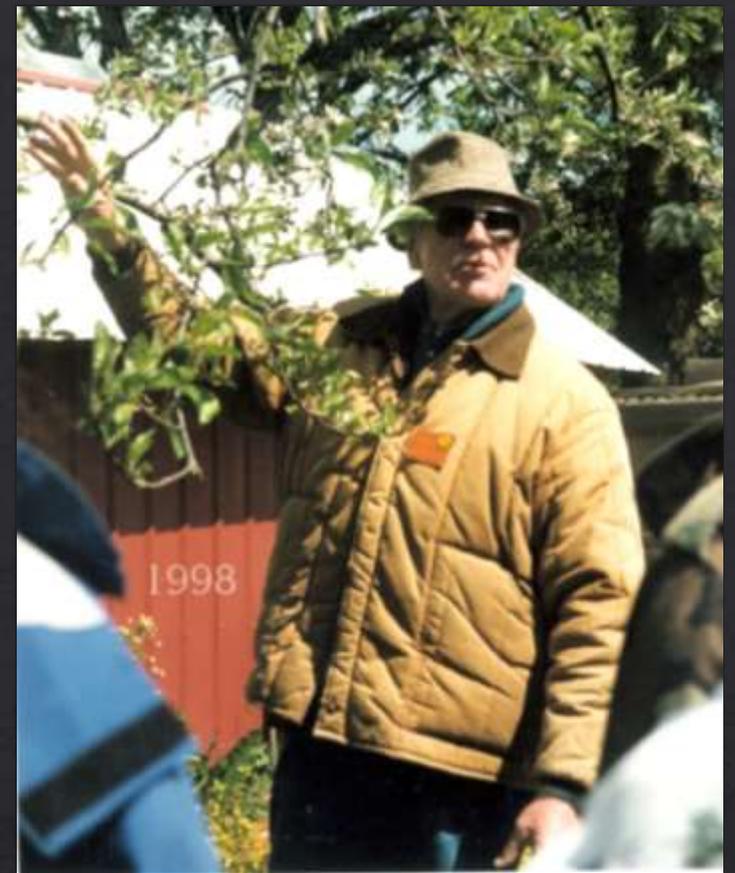
2010 - His Hospitality Committee received
the Golden Flamingo award presented by
Sherry Sheng (pictured with Paul – Kathy
Long, Sherry Sheng, Darlene Sanman,
Buzz Oerding





2011- Paul was honored with many others for contributing more than 500 hours of service
*pictured top row L to R: Sharon Andrews, Sherry Sheng, Ken Lister, Herb Davis middle row L to R:
Jane Collier, Darlene Sanman, Dottie Alberg , Laura Eyer, Maryanne Kahl, Pam Garten, Paul
Miken, Terry Crandall, Ellen Hanley, Rob Kappa bottom row L to R: Will Hughes, Rodger Sanman*

Paul participated in the annual Pruning clinic every year.



Rose Miken treats us all to a homemade lunch



PRUNING CLINIC

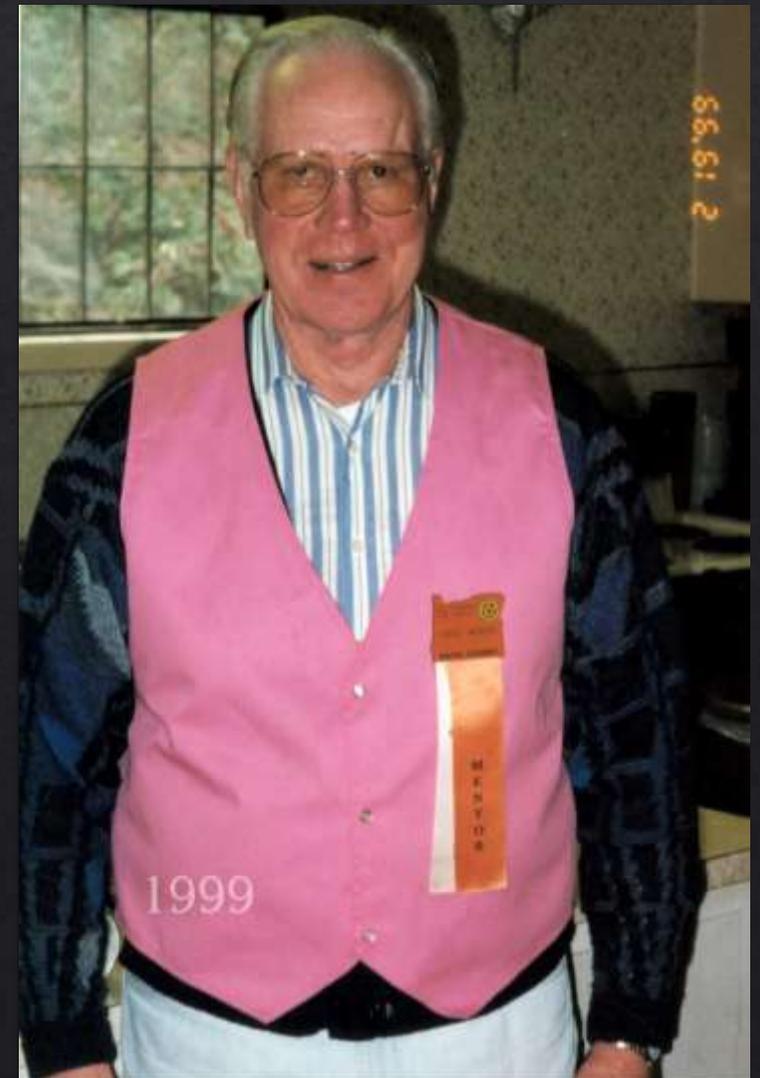
Every February since 1996, Paul Miken has offered his farm for new (and experienced) Master Gardeners to come and learn more about pruning. Topics include berry and grapes, fruit trees, ladder safety, and other garden activities. Guest speakers include Extension agents and Master Gardeners. Coffee and donuts start the day (rain or shine) and the activities end with homemade sandwiches, prepared by Mrs. Rose Miken.



excerpt from 2001 to 2005 History
photos taken in 2002



Paul took the assignment of class coordinator for Master Gardener training each year in Oregon City. Photos of Paul with the signature pink vest of his committee appear in each year the Chapter has kept a history.



The Annual Potluck Picnic, with barbecued chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs & soda pop provided by the Chapter, was a well-attended and gala event



1997

Co-Chairs, Doris Eyman in the picnic tent and Don Eyman showing Paul Miken the fine art of horseshoes

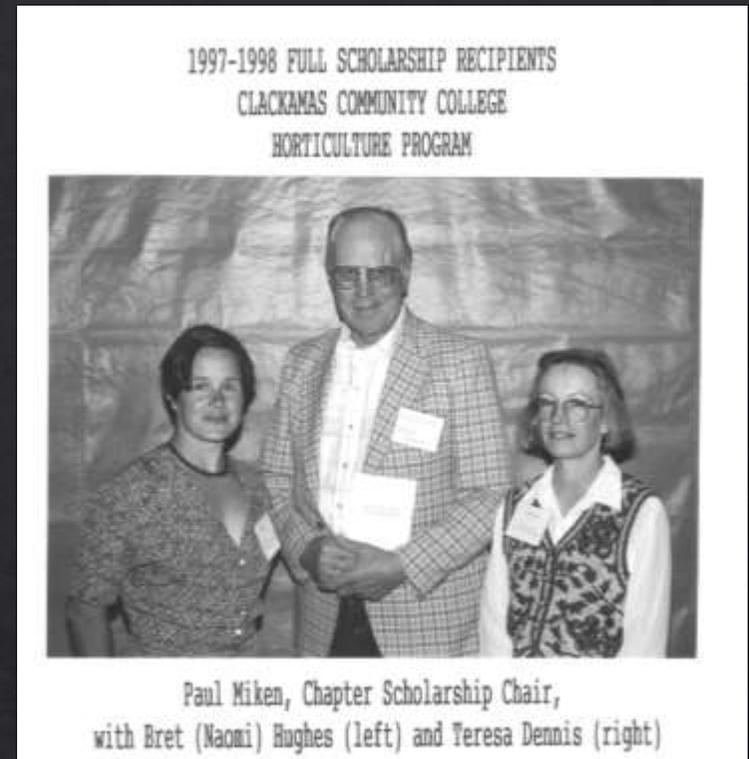
- ◇ 1997 – a page from the 1997 Historians Scrapbook.
- ◇ 1989 & 2005 - The Clackamas County Fair clinic booth is staffed by Clackamas County Master Gardeners during the fair every August. Pictured here, Paul does some summertime volunteering.



- ◇ 2006 – Paul and Rose at 2006 Gardeners Mini College
- ◇ 2008 - a Chapter outing with Darlene & Rodger Sanman and Nikki Mantei
- ◇ 2011 - at a Chapter workshop



- ❖ Paul has long supported the Horticulture program at Clackamas Community College. As a chapter, Clackamas County Master Gardeners supported the construction of the Horticultural Center, dedicated in 1998. The scholarship program for horticultural students began in 1989.
- ❖ 1998 – Paul represented the Chapter at the Horticulture Center opening
- ❖ 2011 - Clackamas County Master Gardeners were honored as a Distinguished Friend of the College. Paul was on hand to attend graduation ceremonies and receive this prestigious honor



Paul, thank you for your service to the Master Gardener community, and your generous gift of time.



2010

In creating this tribute to Paul we asked for comments from some of those he has worked with over the years. Some of those comments are included here.

Comments from Buzz Oerding:

As a member of Paul's Hospitality committee, over the years I had tried to beat Paul to the many CCMG functions. I beat him there only once. Paul was always there getting things ready for the rest of us to enjoy.

His greeting was always the same: a huge smile, a hand offered, a word of encouraging greeting to everyone he met. Working with Paul was never a chore. His only requirement was to enjoy the task and have fun doing it. That is the reason members would ask "Where's Paul?" if on rare occasions he was absent. It is only now that I can arrive at functions ahead of Paul!

Dear Paul,

I want you to know how much I have enjoyed working with you in the Master Gardener Program all these years. I remember my first day in class with you as Class Coordinator. You were so friendly and kind to all of us trainees that I knew from the very start this was the group I wanted to be involved with. You always made us feel welcome and I learned very quickly why they called you "Mr. Hospitality".

I was so fortunate to be able to become a class coordinator and work under your leadership. Whenever I would find myself getting grumpy or impatient, I would think of you and quickly change my attitude. You were and still are a great role model.

One of my fondest activities with the Master Gardeners was attending the Pruning Workshops at your home every year. You and your lovely wife Rose allowed all of us to wander around your property and attack all your plants with our tools and enthusiasm. When you asked me to help teach the blueberry pruning I was thrilled, and appreciative that you would ask me to help. When you decided to turn over the Pruning Workshop to someone else I knew I wanted to take over and try to make it as fun and enjoyable as you had made it all those years.

I will miss not being able to work beside you and continue to learn from your knowledge. But you will always be on my mind and I will try to make the Master Gardener Program as enjoyable for all the new MGs as you have made it for me.

Thank you for all your kindness and support.

Always,

Jane Collier

As a teacher for Master Gardener classes for more than twenty years, it has certainly been a gift to be greeted by so many dedicated students at each class, but arriving at Clackamas County MG classes, being greeted by Paul Miken, is a teachers dream!

There he'd be, clad in his pink vest, his unmissable gleaming smile and shock of white hair, but it wasn't that he stood so tall above the crowd that made him such a standout, but rather that each and every time he'd lean down and so quietly say "Need any help?, What can I do for you? Are you hungry?" - this kindness from Paul, always shared, would ease a nervous teacher into a great time spent with students attending the class. Paul Miken brought out the best in everyone.

What Clackamas County MG's may not know, is that it is because of Paul, and his pals in pink, ever attentive at the back of every class having supported each teacher, with such kindness and encouragement that CCMG students got a little more from each teacher as he has a way of bringing out the best in all of us. His humor, work ethic, welcoming manner, and encouragement are a hallmark of the Clackamas Chapter.

I was filled with pride that Clackamas Community College recognized Paul Miken as an Outstanding Friend of the College and member of the Community at our 2012 Graduation Ceremony - I am confident that his story, shared by President Truesdale at that ceremony, inspired young graduates to give to their community and reach out and help others.

Paul helped to change lives of scholarship recipients, and brighten the days of every one of us. It has been an honor to work with Paul Miken, certainly a highlight of my horticultural career. I look forward to our continued friendship.

Thankful,

Elizabeth Howley

Mr. Hospitality

Paul Miken, Clackamas County Master Gardener

1984 to 2012

Special thanks to Darlene Sanman, Jean McCable, Norrene Thompson, Herb Davis, Laura Eyer, Ray and Jan McNeilan, Rick and Gregory Breuner, Sharon Andrews, Suzie Douglas-Matlock, Will Hughes and the Clackamas county Chapter Historians for the wonderful records they created.

Historical Sources:

\$1.09 an Hour and Glad to Have It by Sandra Hickson Carter

Bosky Dell By Alison Miller Wallis.

**Compiled by Sharon Andrews, Chapter historian 2012*