Newsworthy

SECRETARY

HALLOFFAME

Over more than five decades, R. Glenn Adams has helped several municipalities run smoothly, including South Pymatuning Township in Mercer County. More than once, he willingly stepped forward to clean up a municipal mess and even after all these years, remains active in helping his community and church.

The busy guy

R. Glenn Adams

South Pymatuning Township, Mercer County
55 years of service

BY BRENDA WILT / ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It has often been said that if you want something to get done, ask a busy person. R. Glenn Adams, long-time secretary of South Pymatuning Township in Mercer County, is the living embodiment of that axiom. The 86-year-old has not only done more in his lifetime for his community than most people but is also showing no signs of slowing down.

Adams' involvement with South Pymatuning Township began when the municipality had a spot of trouble in 1959.

"All three supervisors and the secretary-treasurer resigned," he says. "They couldn't find anyone in the township to take charge so they looked outside the township and came to me."

Adams' background in banking made him the perfect person to get the township's books in order. He accepted the challenge and has been at the township ever since, although he now has more of a consulting role, he says.

"Things have changed so much that I don't know if I could do the bookkeeping or not today," he says.

Adams did such a good job in South Pymatuning that it wasn't long before neighboring municipalities came a-knocking.

"Sometime after I became secretary of South Pymatuning, the secretary for Pymatuning Township passed away," Adams recalls. "They had no one to close out the books at the end of the year so I went to work at that township, too. I worked there for six months until I got a girl trained to take over."

"The same thing happened in Jefferson Township along the way," he continues. "The secretary passed away, so I worked for that township until I trained someone to do the books."

Clark Borough also tapped Adams when it experienced some bookkeeping problems. He began working for the municipality and stayed for 13 years.

Adams' own township of Otter Creek turned to him when a supervisor resigned, and he filled the vacancy for two years. He has also been the township’s auditor since 1984, winning the position by a coin toss.

"I got one write-in vote and so did another woman," he recalls. "They were the only votes. We went to the county election board and flipped a coin, and I won."

Adams was also involved with the Boy Scouts for a time, eventually serving on the county Scouting board and helping obtain a Scout camp in Crawford County.

PSATS has also benefited from his wisdom. He served in the elected secretary position at one point and still serves on the Secretary-Manager standing committee. Adams has also been treasurer of the Mercer County Association of Township Officials for 50 years.

Not ready to take it easy

One would think that after working for so many years for so many municipalities, all while enjoying a lengthy career in banking, Adams would be...
Will 2015 be the year that Glenn Adams finally decides to take it easy? Don’t bet on it.

“I’m not ready to slow down,” he says. “I have too many bridges to cross yet.”

Despite his busy schedule of township work and community involvement, Adams finds time to enjoy hunting and fishing. (Photos courtesy of Kristen Adams Faler.)