

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



With his wife, Gloria, by his side for the last 66 years, long-time township secretary Glenn Adams used his background in banking to help several townships and one borough get their bookkeeping in order. While working for multiple municipalities at once, Adams has also made time to volunteer for his church and community organizations.

Pymatuning that it wasn't long before neighboring municipalities came 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 gal trained to take over.

"The same thing happened in Jeffer-

son 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

ready to take it easy. Not this guy.

Rather than sitting back and just enjoying life on his small farm in Otter Creek Township, Adams remains active in his community and church. He serves on the board of the Mercer County Affordable Housing Committee and the Mercer County Area Agency on Aging and is president of the Greenville Rotary Club.

Local residents look to the experienced banker to prepare their taxes each year.

"They are mostly older people who won't do e-filing or anything on the computer," he says. "They want things done by hand."

Adams taught Sunday school and served for many years as the treasurer for the Greenville Pentecostal Holiness Church, a role he now fills at the Abundant Life Fellowship Church in Franklin, where his son, Alan, is pastor. Adams is also on the church board and became an ordained minister himself in 2012.

"I performed my first wedding last December when my grandson got married," he says proudly.

Adams and his wife of 66 years, Gloria,

also have two daughters, 17 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

A valuable asset

Although he serves as an adviser more than a hands-on employee at South Pymatuning Township — he continues to take the board meeting minutes, though — Adams is still seen as a valuable asset to the municipality.

"He is very knowledgeable, and if anyone has questions about anything that happened years ago, he has the answer," treasurer Karen Presley says. "He comes to all meetings; he is very conscientious about that and always calls if he can't make it. He always wants to go to training classes and the PSATS Conference so he can keep up with things."

And just in case he runs out of things to do, Adams remains an avid hunter and angler, who has bagged a moose, an elk, a buffalo, and a few wild pigs over the years.

He and his wife took a cruise last January, which was a gift from their children for their 65th wedding anniversary in 2013. The couple celebrated their 66th year of marriage last June.



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

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." ♦

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