



GRINDSTONE AWARD



1986

Russell J. Hill

Service to the community is the foundation of the Grindstone Award; “making a difference” by their service is what characterizes the winners of this award.

The twenty-first winner, and Citizen of the Year 1986, was Russell J. Hill, whose credentials are best summed up by the word “doer.” And a “doer” he has been for the benefit of all the citizens of Berea, a city he loves, and chose to live in.

A highly creative person, Russ worked in the field of advertising art in the Detroit area, following military service. He moved to Berea in 1956, set up his own marketing and advertising business here in 1974, and became even more active and involved in business and community affairs.

It is typical of Russ, the “doer”, that he sees a need and seeks to do something about it.

In 1963, he created and distributed a “Congressional Action Kit” to encourage citizens to write their elected officials in Congress. For this, he was awarded the prestigious Freedom Foundation Award.

After Russ started his business in Berea, he designed and pub-

lished a small monthly magazine called “Our Town” so that Bereans could become familiar with and be better informed about the community’s many organizations and activities.

His leadership in Discover Berea Chamber of Commerce was evidenced when he served two terms as president, two terms as chairman of the board and was an active member on nearly every committee.

Russ was a moving force behind the consolidation of the Chamber and Discover Berea. The Community Bulletin Board on the Triangle and other Chamber projects, such as street fairs, Fourth of July fireworks and Home Days are ideas Russ either fathered or nurtured.

He is a past president of the Berea Chapter of Toastmasters, International, and has been active in scouting, the BHS Boosters Club and the First Congregational United Church of Christ.

Russ and his wife, Jean, who is a very active and involved Berean herself, live on Westbridge Drive, and have four grown children.

The quality of life in Berea certainly has been greatly enriched by the selfless community service of Russell J. Hill.

Presented March 26, 1987

Baldwin-Wallace College Union