

Waltman, Harold

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Lake Orion Review
February 1, 1995

Many long-time residents of Lake Orion and Oxford remember spending hours in Waltman's Bakery drinking coffee and munching on donuts. It was the place to find out what was going on in the small towns.

Owner Harold Waltman spent 30 years of his life in business in Lake Orion and almost a decade in Oxford before retiring in 1975. He died in Naples, Florida on Jan. 17, 1995 at the age of 76.

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Waltman, whose family was in the baking business, moved to Lake Orion in 1953 and opened a bakery/restaurant on South Washington in Oxford. His son Carl said his father felt there was a market for French donuts in this area but soon found out his customers preferred plain donuts.

Waltman opened his bakery/restaurant at 28 South Broadway after spending seven years in Oxford. His specialty was health breads made from whole wheat.

In those days a Waltman customer could buy three loaves of white bread for 49 cents.

Waltman was also quite a cake decorator and won prizes at bakery shows.

Business increased and another bakery opened in Redford. Seventeen small health stores opened around the state and in Ohio and Indiana. Small satellite bakeries were established in convenience stores such as Richardson's.

Waltman supplied health food and bread to two hospitals in Pontiac and was involved in other businesses in the area.

After selling the bakery but getting the building back when the new owners failed, Waltman opened the Polish Princess/Downtown Lounge in 1984. He retired to Naples five years ago.

Waltman was a Lions Club member, A Deputy Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, a member of the Elks and Rotary Clubs and president of the merchants' organization.

Governor William Milliken in 1976 presented Waltman with a special tribute honoring his service to the community.

Harold Waltman

Longtime Lake Orion resident Harold Waltman, of Naples, died on Jan. 17, 1995 at the age of 76.

He is survived by Martha, his wife of 55 years.

His is also survived by his children, Carl (Peggy) of Lake Orion and Joanna (Bill) Stachu of Rochester; his grandchildren, Jeff, Jim and Joe; his great grandchildren, Kaitlin and Kirsten; and his step grandchildren, George, Krista and Lorina.

Private funeral services took place in Naples.

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