

## Remembering Jack Barnes: A Leader in Michigan Milk Marketing



**J**ack Barnes, a dairy industry leader who helped shaped modern milk marketing in this region, died in February. Jack, a retired general manager of MMPA worked for the dairy farmers of MMPA for 39 years, the last 26 as their general manager. He was 89 years old at the time of his death.

Jack's first encounter with the Michigan Milk Producers was as a Branch County 4-H member in 1934 when he attended the MMPA 4-H milk marketing tour. His employment with the cooperative began in 1946 as a fieldman in the southwestern part of the state. Shortly after being hired he was promoted to the director of field services and began working at the Detroit office. In 1959 he became the general manager. He served as general manager until his retirement in 1985.

Jack served the dairy farmers of this state during a time of great transition and modernization of the dairy industry. He was instrumental in establishing premiums paid to farmers for their milk. He also streamlined the milk marketing system by consolidating small cooperatives into the statewide association. He also guided farmers from a time of milk cans to bulk tanks on their dairy farms.

In 1996, Jack chronicled his years with MMPA. In his writings he says, "a major accomplishment I view with pride was the complete organizational overhaul effected in 1961.

This complete restructuring enabled MMPA to survive and lead the industry through the major changes of that period and into the future."

Jack took pride in leading the cooperative through difficult times with a positive, results-oriented managerial style. His career was molded by his firm belief in the concepts of farmer cooperatives and family farms. He continued his commitment to dairy farmers his entire life.

"Although Jack had been retired from MMPA for 25 years, he never lost interest in the people and the current issues at MMPA and in the dairy industry," says current MMPA General Manager John Dilland. "He had a very strong interest in MSU and its educational foundations and was one of its most

active recruiters. His involvement, his enthusiasm, and his positive outlook will be missed."

Jack's leadership in the cooperative led to involvement in other agricultural organizations including the Dairy Council of Michigan, the Michigan 4-H Foundation and the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation. He received numerous awards and honors from the organizations he served and from MSU. His recognitions include: the MSU Distinguished Service to Agriculture and Distinguished Alumnus awards, Michigan 4-H Distinguished Service and Emerald Clover Society, Honorary State Farmer for the FFA and Distinguished Service to Agriculture by the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Throughout all of Jack's involvement in industry and organizations, his wife Betty was by his side. They shared 65 years together and raised two sons, Jim and Ron and have two grandsons, Jeffrey and Scott. Ron preceded Jack in death.

Jack's presence at MMPA and industry activities will be missed.

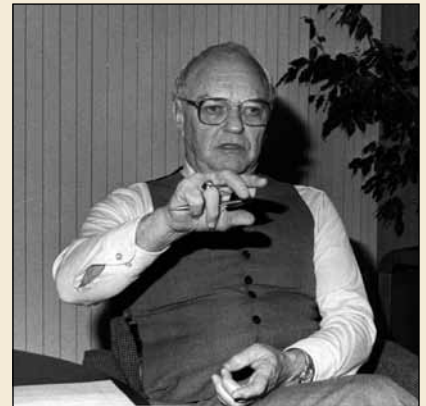
Contributions in honor of Jack Barnes can be made to: the Michigan 4-H Foundation, 240 Spartan Way, East Lansing, MI 48824; University Lutheran Church, 1020 S Harrison Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823; the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation, 1290 Anthony Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824; Burcham Hills Foundation, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823 or Heartland Hospice 865 S. Cedar St, Mason, MI 48854.

# Tributes to Jack Barnes

## Michigan 4-H Foundation

Cheryl Howell, Executive Director

"Jack's lifelong commitment to 4-H began when he was a youth 4-H member in Branch County. As an adult, he became an incredible advocate for positive youth development, leading the Michigan 4-H Foundation as president from 1978 to 1980, ushering in a key transitional and growth period in the foundation's history. He and his wife Betty remained strong supporters of 4-H as major donors supporting the growth of the 4-H inclusive programming for youth with disabilities, supporting the development and ongoing programs of the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens and of course supporting and advocating for strong 4-H dairy science programs. He was honored as trustee emeritus by the trustees of the Michigan 4-H Foundation and could be counted on to provide very helpful advice and advocacy when called upon. He will be greatly missed!"



## MMPA Leaders

Ken Nobis, MMPA President

"When Jack retired from MMPA in 1985, he left a legacy of service to the dairy farmers he served. He never lost sight of the Association's goals. He worked hard for guaranteed markets at fair prices. His dedication to the dairy industry continued in his retirement years. I always admired Jack for his professional manner, integrity and for his service to MMPA members."

## Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation

Russ Erickson, retired MSU Professor



*Jack Barnes recognizes Randy BeVier as an MDMSF Honoree at the 2009 MDMSF Annual Meeting*

"Jack contributed to the Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation for over 30 years. He was very instrumental in developing the G.Malcolm Trout Fund. The Fund was started with financial input and leadership from Jack and other dairy leaders. Jack will be remembered for his enthusiasm and hard working dedication to helping provide scholarships to students interested in the Dairy Industry. Jack had a vast array of friends and knew many dairymen and others related to the Dairy Industry. This made Jack very unique and special, when it came to honoring Dairymen. Jack was responsible for nominating the largest number of MDMSF Honorees. Jack can be credited with always attending the meetings, serving on scholarship selection committees or wherever his expertise could be utilized. Jack and Betty Barnes also funded a traveling scholarship to defray costs to agriculture students studying abroad."