

The Helen and Ware Edgar Scholarship

Helen and Ware Edgar were two very dedicated, accomplished citizens of the Starke County community. They complemented one another well, each of them taking interest in various aspects of the newspaper business.

Ware was born in Missouri in 1914, and Helen was born in 1913 in Wheatfield, Indiana. Ware entered the journalism world as managing editor of a small weekly paper before moving to Indiana in 1936.

Helen and Ware were married on December 10, 1939 and moved to New Paris, Indiana on Dec. 26, Helen's birthday. In 1948, they moved to Knox after buying the *Starke County Democrat*. There, they formed the Knox Publishing Company in 1950 and also acquired *The News*.



Ware was a publisher of Starke County newspapers and an immensely influential man in Starke County and in the Indiana newspaper business. Helen was a prominent Starke County journalist, publisher, and community leader. The expansive list of organizations the two were involved in reflects their passion for the newspaper industry and service to their community.

Ware worked in Valparaiso, La Porte, and New Paris as a printer and was the President of the Central Labor Union in La Porte for two years. In New Paris, he organized the county's first Boy Scout troop and served as Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and as a special deputy sheriff for two years.

During World War II, Ware worked as both the Mechanical Superintendent of Exchange Publishing Corporation and Superintendent of the Milford Mall at Milford.

Among his many other accomplishments, Ware also served two terms on the Board of the Hoosier State Press Association and served as President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice President at some point during his reign at the Democratic Editorial Association. He also was the Freedom of Information Chairman for the National Editorial Association. In Starke County, he was a board member and Chairman of the Starke County Board of Health, a member of the County Tax Adjustment Board, and one of the organizers of the Starke County Development Corporation.

In Knox, Ware served eight years on the Knox Community School Board, of which he was President for three years. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation and a director for the Starke County Historical Association.

In 1972, Helen and Ware sold all of their papers to SCPI. Helen had a passion for writing, and she continued writing as a correspondent for *The Tribune* and other newspapers until 1992.

She was also the historian of the county for *The Knox Leader* for many years. She worked with the Knox Chamber of Commerce, the Starke County Historical Society, and both the Henry F. Schricker and North Judson-Wayne Township Libraries to build a Starke County history collection.

She was a historian for fourteen years, and helped spearhead the drive to acquire the home of Henry F. Schricker as a permanent museum for the Starke County Historical Society.

Helen also was a member of the Knox City Council for four years. Before moving to Knox, she worked at Exchange Publishing Co. as head of the advertising department of the Farmers Exchange, and she promoted and produced rural directories for Elkhart, St. Joseph, and Kosciusko Counties.

The Edgars were active in the Indiana State Press Club and Hoosier State Press Association, and Helen organized two separate tours of Indiana for the National Press Women's Convention. She also was an officer of many Starke County organizations, including the Starke County Fine Arts Commission and the Greater Knox Chamber of Commerce.

In recognition of their many years of commitment and service to the Starke County Community, Ware and Helen Edgar were awarded the first Henry F. Schricker Award, Starke County's most prestigious lifetime service award.

Helen passed away on April 3, 1997, at 83 years of age, and Ware followed her in 2000. Their inspiring legacy lives on through the Helen and Ware Edgar scholarship, which benefits graduating seniors in Starke County who plan to pursue a career in journalism.