

# First from the past — 'Richie' Adams opened New Year of 1945

By Patricia Brown

Richard Ames Adams — better known to Yakima as "Richie" of drive-in fame — came into the world on the crest of a promotion.

The fourth and last child born to George and Evelyn Adams, he was the first baby to welcome the new year of 1945 in Rice County, Minnesota. In its January 5 edition, the Faribault (MN) Daily News proclaimed him the "undisputed winner of the 18th annual local 'Baby Derby,' sponsored by local business firms."

With the singular honor of having been born at 12:10 on the morning of January 1 in St. Lucas Hospital came a page full of prizes for the new baby and his parents. "RICHARD AMES ARRIVES AT 12:10 TO WIN," the headline proclaimed in banner-sized letters. Underneath were the promotion's supportive adds from local merchants along with their respective "presents" for little Richie. Two dollars in milk tickets from Voegel's Creamery, one free case of Fleck's soda pop, a Handcraft food warmer from Poirier

(formerly Coughlin's) Drug, a pipe and a pound of tobacco for the proud father from the Hurryback, flowers from Clarine Bros. for the mother, and a baby book from Ochs Bros. were among the gifts.

Ironically, this was the first and last "birthday party" Dick Adams was to have until he was well into his teens. Coming in as he did on the tail end of a family and at the close of the holiday season, he became used to celebrating a conversation piece birthday with little more than a quick trot around the living room to greet the last of their holiday guests and then off to bed.

Not until Adams' brother moved out of the house — leaving him the last child at home — did Richie find his place to shine at birthday time.

The Adams family had left Faribault, a small town about 50 miles south of Minneapolis, when Richie was just six months old. They moved to Yakima where all four children finished their growing up years.

Although his two brothers and a sister have



THIS YEAR Adams was guest of honor at three birthday parties, making up for some of the years he went without.

since moved to other cities, Dick Adams still lives in Yakima as does his father. (Evelyn Adams died 18 years ago.)

not one but three parties hosted by friends and family celebrated Richard Ames Adams' Happy New Year birthday. After all, the popular drive-in at Ninth and Summitview is closed Sundays.

And this year, as if to make up for times past,



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