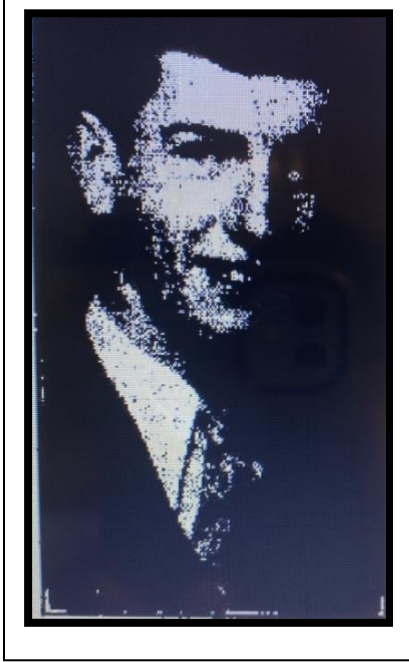


HOLTON DIAMOND



Holton Diamond was the son of Walter and Ethel Diamond. He was born in Lawrence County, Kentucky in 1915.

His father taught school in Kentucky but decided to move to Ohio when Holton was young. By age five, he and his parents and older sister, Louise, were living on Scioto Trail. Many in Lucasville remember Walter Diamond. He worked at Moulton's Store and was the caretaker of the cemetery for 48 years. Walter was most known for his wonderful arrow head collection which many men remember getting a chance to see when they were youngsters.

By 1923, the family purchased their home on West Street, and Holton began attending Valley Local Schools. He was the valedictorian of the class of 1932. He graduated from Wilmington College in 1936 with a major in chemistry. His fraternity, Phi Beta Chi, conferred upon him the Grand Chapter Award for outstanding scholarship, research ability and service. Diamond was the president of the chapter and well as president of the YMCA. He was also active on the annual staff, the college band and varsity tennis.

In a Historical Society publication called Lucasville's Past – Bits and Pieces (2019) articles were quoted from the Wilmington College newsletter reported that Diamond added to his brilliant scholastic record by “being the first freshman to make a perfect grade in the state-wide English examination. Diamond also held national, state, and county scholarship awards in Latin, French, chemistry and English. Another article reported that he was the first entering freshman in the 60 year history of the college to score 100% on the timed entrance exam.

From 1943-45 he attended Wayne State University for advanced study in polymers, dyes and biochemistry. Throughout his career he worked on the uses of soybean oil coffee cream and ice cream. Also in 1943 he got his first job as chief chemist at the George Washington Carver Laboratory established by Henry Ford. Ford for some reason did not consume dairy products and asked Holton to produce non-dairy products that could be substituted. During his work at the lab, Diamond acquired two patents, one for a soluble compound of chlorophyll and synthesis and the other for toppings for salads and desserts.

After Ford's death in 1946, the Carver Laboratory closed, and Holton was off to start his own business Vegetable Products, Inc. He was selling his invention of the forerunner to Redi-whip. He called it Wonder Whip. But by 1949, competition forced him to close out his investment. It was during this time that he married Florence Jean Barbieri in 1947.

He took a job as chemist with the American Maize Products in Roby, Indiana. He continued his work with aerated desserts and holds another patent from this time.

In 1955 he took a job with Rich Products in Buffalo, New York as a chemist. But by 1957 he was promoted to Vice President and Director of Research. One of the first products he helped create was a frozen non-dairy whipped topping which had a long shelf life and Coffee Rich, a non-dairy creamer. It is Holton Diamond's work on a non-dairy creamer that is first mentioned in scientific literature and cited on Wikipedia.

After returning from a trip to London as a consultant with a report of his experiences, there developed a difference of opinion, and the relationship began to deteriorate. Diamond realized this and hired a lawyer to try to prevent a disastrous fallout. But he was terminated, and a court case followed. He received a monetary settlement, but Rich Products kept his patents.

His nickname was Rex. So when he next began a consulting company, he called it Rex Diamond Laboratories doing work for various companies. He was living in Tennessee and had traveled back to Dearborn for business when he died on October 21, 1971 at age 56. He was cremated, and his ashes are buried in the Myrtle Chapel Cemetery in Lawrence County, Kentucky, where he was born.

His extensive papers, which take up six feet of storage space, were donated to the Benson Ford Research Center by his widow, Florence Diamond.