

Stucco and Leaded Glass Charmer on Highland Ave

CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE FARRELLY, MONTCLAIR TOWN HISTORIAN, PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW WANDER



Charles grew up in Ithaca, MI. His mother was crippled by rheumatism when he was a teenager. She sat in a wheelchair near the stove and taught him to cook. He studied chemistry at the University of Oklahoma. He wanted to take part in a search for oil in North Dakota and Montana funded by the US Geological Survey and the Oklahoma Geological Survey. They were not interested in him

THIS TUDOR MASTERPIECE on the west side of Highland Ave. was designed by noted Montclair architect, Francis A. Nelson, who lived nearby. Construction was started in 1929. The first occupants: Charles W. and Irene Lucile (Stroup) Hamilton took up residence in July of 1930. Charles used his wife's middle name when referring to her. In case there was any doubt as to who lived there, Charles had his initials, "C.W.H" placed over the front door lintel. Charles was a longtime oil man. Lucile was a member of many Montclair organizations.

as a chemistry major undergrad. He was persistent, but they were equally adamant about rejecting him. Finally, after badgering them for weeks about taking him along, he was told that they didn't need chemists, but, if he was a cook they could use him. He broke into a smile and told them that he was a pretty fair cook. They hired him as a cook. He graduated in 1912 and found a job as a geologist for a Mexican oil company.

He went to grad school at the University of Chicago and took a job as a geologist for the Roma Oil Company based in Tulsa.

In 1916, at the age of 26, he became the chief geologist for the Gypsy Oil Company, a subsidiary of Gulf Oil. In 1921 he became the general manager for Gulf Oil in Mexico. He and Lucile lived in Tampico, Mexico for eight years. They moved to Montclair on their return to the United States; living first on Essex Ave. In 1940 Gulf promoted him to VP of foreign production. He traveled all over the world, especially the Mideast.

In 1954 he became the chairman of the newly formed Gulf Eastern Co. with offices in London. He and Lucile spent two years there. Gulf Eastern became one of the leading American companies to drill for oil in the Mideast. He was very involved with negotiations between Gulf Oil and oil producing concerns in Iran and Kuwait. His skill as a cook served him well because he often invited foreign dignitaries to meals at the house on Highland Ave. In 1950 he hosted Fahad al Salim al-Sabah, the brother of Abdulla al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait. In 1953 he hosted two of Abdullah's nephews. He retired in 1957.

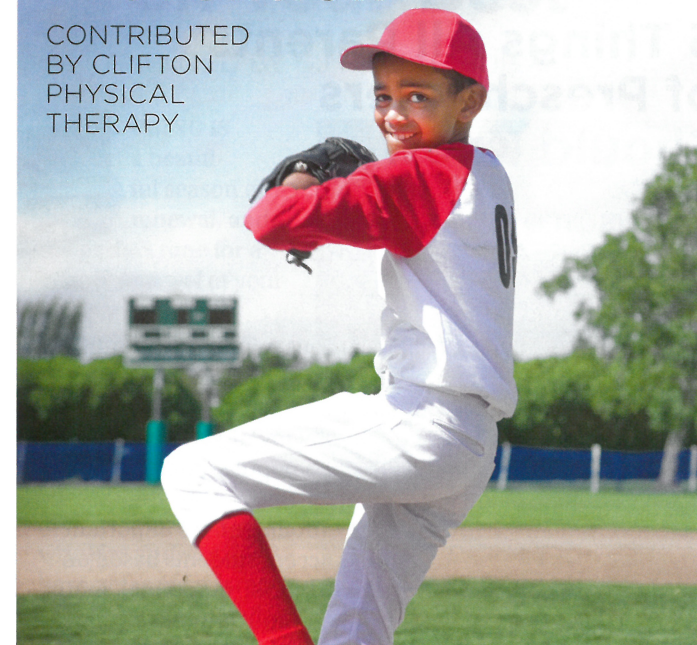
In 1962 he wrote a book about American involvement in Mid-Eastern oil production: *Americans and Oil in the Middle East*. The book was introduced by Herbert Hoover Jr. who was an engineer involved in the development of searching for oil using radio waves. He became an Undersecretary of State during the Eisenhower administration. Hamilton's book was fact filled; technically, historically, and culturally detailed. Ruth Tuby of the Montclair Public Library reviewed it in the Nov. 8, 1962 issue of the Montclair Times. She ended with the statement that, "Montclair should be proud to have an author and oil expert of such distinction as a citizen." Hamilton was a trustee of Union Congregational. He was a member of the Montclair Housing Authority. Mayor Harold Osborne (1961-64) named him the chair of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Public Improvement. He was on the Board of Managers of the Montclair Savings Bank and VP of the Montclair YMCA; having organized Ys in Mexico and Venezuela. Lucile was a graduate of the University of Michigan. She was a member: of the College Women's Club, the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair, the Garden Club, The Cosmopolitan Club, the Art Museum and a host of other Montclair organizations. The Hamiltons moved to Crestmont Road just before his death in 1972. Lucile passed away in 1979.

In the late 1970s this house became the home of Gerald M. and Ruth (Paucher) Richardson. Gerald was the northeastern manager for Fabric Tree International, a large textile and sewing supply chain. They had a store in the Willowbrook Mall for a while. He was based in New York. Ruth was the Eastern United States Manager for Bowring, a large Canadian company that sold furniture, home décor and gifts. They had a store in Paramus. Bowring was sold to the Benix Corporation. Benix recently filed for bankruptcy and has closed all their Bowring and Bombay outlets. In June of 1978 the Richardsons told Jean Noyes of the Montclair Times how much they loved living here. In Jean's column *Who's New In Montclair* the Richardsons explained that they loved the Montclair school system despite the problems it was having at the time (racial integration). They explained that they loved gardening and that this house gave them an opportunity to do both outdoor and indoor gardening. ■

If you'd like to see more images of Montclair homes, they are featured in the book, *Stately Homes of Montclair*, which can be found at Montclair Booksellers, several local libraries and the [Stately Homes of Montclair Facebook page](#).

Baseball & Softball Pitcher Injury Prevention

CONTRIBUTED BY CLIFTON PHYSICAL THERAPY



PARENTS OF ATHLETE will invest a lot of time and money in teaching their child how to throw a baseball but the best baseball coach can't assess a child's poor body mechanics. Injuries among young athletes are on the rise, especially elbow and shoulder injuries. Proper body mechanics are an integral part of avoiding or preventing injuries.

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