

# Tuscola Kiwanis club earns award

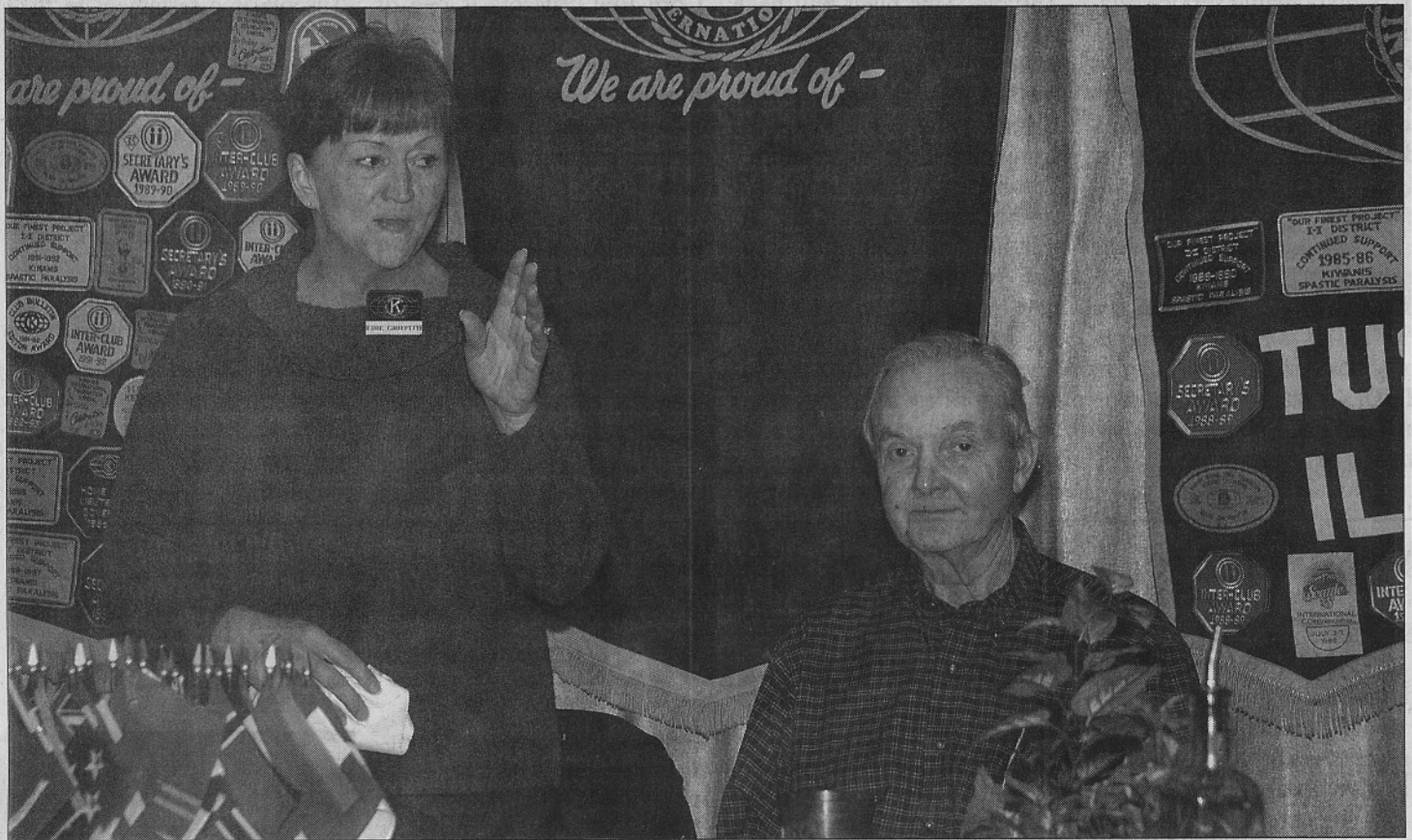


Photo submitted by Dave Butler

Tuscola Kiwanis member Edie Griffith introduces guest speaker Jim Young of Newman at the Jan. 22 Kiwanis meeting. Young spoke of his recent trip to South Africa.

## By Colleen Lehmann

Kudos to the Tuscola Kiwanis Club, which has been recognized as a 2005-06 Distinguished Club by District Governor Amron Buchanan.

"I am sincerely grateful for the service and dedication to membership growth exemplified by the members of this club. Each member's willingness to participate and

tremendous dedication to the Kiwanis organization contributed to this club honor," said Buchanan.

The Tuscola club was one of 77 clubs in the Illinois/Iowa district out of 285 to earn the coveted distinction, which it just so happens came the same year the club hit its 20th birthday. That anniversary milestone was

reached March 25, 2006.

Officers who were in place during the 2005-06 year in which the club was judged were Carol Burwash, president; Darrel Helm, vice president; Candy Hudson, treasurer; and Wayne Ward, secretary.

The criteria for designation as a Distinguished Club included fulfilling responsibilities to a sponsored organization or program--in this case, the K-Kids program involving fourth graders at North Ward Elementary; contributing a minimum of \$100 to the Kiwanis International Foundation (Tuscola gave \$275); participation in the Young Children Priority One program--which the club contributed \$600 to and sponsors the Bringing Up Grades program at East Prairie.

Additionally, the met the education requirements of providing all new members with orientation, had representation at the mid-year conference and district convention, and representation at

required Club Leadership Education training sessions.

Having a net growth in membership was an area the club easily met the guidelines. Currently, the Tuscola Kiwanis Club has 51 members, who meet weekly at noon on Mondays at Tuscany Restaurant.

Tuscola Kiwanis member Mike Damler, who also happens to serve as the lieutenant governor for Kiwanis District 27, will be among a small contingent going to the Kiwanis II District Mid-Winter conference in Burlington, Iowa next month. There the club will be honored for its achievement. Also planning to attend are current Tuscola Kiwanis president Darrel Helm, and secretary Wayne Ward and his wife.

Damler noted that past president Carol Burwash has a family obligation and so will be unable to attend the conference, "but it should be noted that she was very much an integral role player in the club receiving this honor."