Royce Hyde was born August 31, 1930 in Flint, Michigan.  His parents were Raymond & Leof Hyde who came to Fenton in 1926, bought the land on Hartland Road and started Hyde’s Orchard. This later became Hyde’s Hilltop Orchard. This was a busy spot to be because Hartland Road was the original route to Ann Arbor, or old US 23.

Royce’s grandparents also came to Fenton and owned a home on Leroy Street, just north of the Fenton Hotel.

Royce attended kindergarten, elementary and high school in Fenton.  He graduated from Fenton High School in 1948.

After high school he ventured out on a bus to Hollywood, Florida and spent a winter working at the Hollywood Beach Hotel.  Royce had intended to attend a school in Florida but when he got there, he discovered it wasn’t offering what he wanted. During that stay he met a car dealer from the Flint area who asked him to drive his family back to Michigan in the spring.

He was back in Michigan and in 1950 attended classes in horticulture at Michigan State University.  Soon after he finished there, he began running the orchard and cider mill on Hartland Road.

Royce married Deloris Finger on October 8, 1955 at the Fenton First Presbyterian Church.  They met during their high school years, but didn’t start dating until after high school.  Deloris was teaching piano lessons at Howard’s Music Studio in Fenton, which belonged to her brother, Howard Finger.  Deloris also played piano locally with a few bands in the area and Royce reconnected with her when he met her playing at Twin Gardens, which is now Snapper’s on Lobdell Lake. Together they had two daughters,

Deanna and Nancy. Nancy lives in Lennon, MI with her husband, Terry and Deanna lives in Tyrone Township with her husband Dean. Royce also has been blessed with six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Royce was a member of the Fenton Jaycees and when decorating city streets for the holidays after Thanksgiving, he would bring his tractor with a platform on the front to elevate members so they could more easily attach decorations.  He is also a lifetime member of the Masonic Order: Royal Arch Masons, Knights Templar, Shrine, Order of the Eastern Star and a Past Grand Patron of Michigan.

Royce served a year on the Tyrone Township Board and then went on to serve as supervisor for 27 years.  His father, Raymond Hyde also served on the Tyrone Township Board.

When Royce was on the board, he served with many through those years including Gwen Lyons, Carroll Becker, Harold Hill, Connie Riddell and Dick Schumacher.  This position was great for Royce because he always has enjoyed people and conversation.  In the 1948 class yearbook, the Fentonian, under Royce’s picture was the following statement, “Just give me a listener and I’ll do the talking”.

In an article written in the TC Times in 2001, it was said, “Hyde never plans to leave Tyrone, his roots are strong”.  Twenty-one years later, Royce is still here.  He has said before, “from West Branch, south to Fenton the country side is flat, then you reach the rolling hills of Tyrone and this terrain continues to Ann Arbor.  This is a beautiful place to live”.

Royce has spent his entire life, 92 years, in Tyrone Township at his home on the orchard on Hartland Road.

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|  | **Deanna Cypher, CIC** |