

He was born in Merrill Michigan. He is the second oldest of ten children. After graduating from Flushing High School in 1954, he went to work at Compton Ford in Flushing. At that time he also attended Ford Marketing Institute in Dearborn, MI.

At the age of 21 he purchased Compton Ford of Imlay City MI. When he first brought the dealership in 1958 sales totaled 78 cars and trucks for the year. By 1973 he was selling over 3300 units annually.

At its peak, the dealership employed 52 people.

He was presented the Distinguished Achievement Dealer Award from Ford Motor Company for thirteen (13) consecutive years. He also served on the Ford Dealer Council Board for six (6) years.

In 1963 he opened a Mobile Home Sales, selling new and used Mobile Homes and Motor Homes. He opened facilities in Mesa, Arizona, and Orlando, Florida.

He was characterized as "The Thumb's Top Trader." After selling these businesses in 1975 his goal was to farm his property in Imlay City and remain semi-active in other dealerships he was interested in.

Then an opportunity came along to buy an Aquatic Application Business. He thought that this would be a good way to utilize his farm employees. The more they were involved with the aquatic business the more he and they liked it.

After a period of time they found it difficult to obtain legal products for applications, so they decided to go after distributorships for those products. Thus putting them in the chemical distribution business.

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After a period of time they sold off the application part of the business to family and employees. This enabled them to concentrate on growing the distribution side of the company.

He has served on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources committee for Aquatics and the Michigan Dept of Ag. committee for re-writing the manuals and workbooks for aquatic applicator training in Michigan.

He was also one of the original members of the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society twice serving as President. He has also been a board member for many years.

He is a 36 year member of the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS). Serving as President, Finance Committee Chair, and Board Member for many years.

He is one of the founders of Aquatic Eco Restoration Foundation, past President and standing Treasurer.

He is a founding member of the Michigan Aquatic Managers Association and serving as its Presidents for several years.

The Society is pleased to bestow "Honorary Member" status to Richard Hinterman!