

# ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

## Gene Shields



Gene Shields, a 1940 graduate of Yakima Junior College, has been named Distinguished Alumnus of 1990 for Yakima Valley Community College.

Since the days of trading printing for tuition, Shields has expanded a business begun by his father into the tenth largest private employer in Yakima with an annual payroll of over \$10 million. That certainly meets one of the criteria for YVCC Distinguished Alum which states "must have distinguished themselves in a positive manner."

Today, Gene employs 400 full-time employees. "For the past 32 years, Shields Bag and Printing Co. has been an established leader in the polyethylene industry manufacturing a variety of flexible packaging products shipped nationally and to certain foreign markets.

"The Printing Division, which employs 54 workers, has state of the art equipment making production more efficient and cost effective.

"The company continues to grow and is currently constructing a 33,000 square foot storage/manufacturing building adjoining the existing plant at 1009 Rock Avenue for the polyethylene operation," states an article in the "Chamber Update."

He served 11 years on the Board of Directors for Pacificorp (PP&L), Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital board of directors as chair, and currently sits on the Board of Directors for New Vision and Pioneer National Bank.