

January 2010

Dear Mr. Graham,

I read with interest your piece in the Midland Mirror about the power outage in November.

Some thoughts:

When Paul Squibb established Midland in 1932 there was no "power." So the deal was kerosene ("roundwick") lanterns. That was the creme-de-la-creme. If you had to get by you went with flat wicks.

Some time probably around 1940 the Rural Electrification Program went through and electricity was available. Some "old grads" complained, "That's not the Midland way! Stick with kerosene lanterns!"

Paul Squibb's response was, "That's disingenuous. If electricity is available, don't shun it -- go with it!"

It's the same way now.

There's now this bit about "sustainable growth" and growing your own food etc. which never existed when I was there. But I am positive it's something Paul Squibb would have supported and so do I.

When I last visited Midland, there was a computer room, and students were learning on it. I was glad to see it. It's important today. We can't be stuck in the past.

All the best, William J. ("Barney") Curren, III, Midland 1963