

WABASH VALLEY

P R O F I L E S

A series of tributes to hometown heroes who have made a difference.

Edward E. Hylton

Upon retiring as principal in 1946, Edward Everett Hylton was characterized by successor James Conover as “The Soul of Garfield High School.”

A native of Crawfordsville, Ind., Hylton was born Aug. 30, 1882, and educated in elementary and secondary schools in Montgomery and Clinton counties, graduating from Avery High School. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Indiana State Normal School (now Indiana State University) at age 19 in 1902 and commenced teaching at a one-room schoolhouse in Clinton County. In 1909 Hylton accepted a teaching position with the Terre Haute Public Schools and was assigned to teach mathematics at Wiley High School. Upon earning a master’s degree from Indiana State in 1912, he accepted a position as head of the mathematics department at Garfield when the school first opened in September 1912.



During the ensuing 34 years, Hylton served in several capacities at the north-side high school, frequently rejecting offers of more lucrative administrative positions inside and outside the Terre Haute school corporation. “He was first, last and always, a teacher,” Conover said. When Garfield principal Thomas W. Records secured a temporary leave of absence in 1918 to work in France and Russia with the Young Men’s Christian Association during World War I, Hylton became the temporary principal. In 1921 he was appointed the first dean of boys at the high school, a position he retained until the untimely death of principal Charles Zimmerman in 1938. He succeeded Zimmerman as the school’s fourth principal, serving eight years. So revered was Hylton that, in 1953, the Garfield Alumni Association broke tradition and selected him its “distinguished alumnus.” He also was the guest of honor at Garfield’s Golden Anniversary celebration at the Terre Haute House in 1952.

Hylton and his wife, the former Jennie Arrie, raised two sons, Herschel and Herbert, while residing at 2637 N. 12th St. They were active in Central Christian Church. Both Hylton boys graduated from Rose Polytechnic Institute (now Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology). Herschel E. Hylton, a 1925 Garfield graduate, completed a degree in mechanical engineering at Rose in 1929 and eventually became vice president of Ohio Edison, an electric utility company headquartered in Akron, Ohio. Herbert E. Hylton, who graduated from Garfield in 1929 and Rose Poly in 1933, excelled in football and basketball at both institutions. After earning a degree in mechanical engineering, Herb remained in Terre Haute as a professional engineer with Commercial Solvents. In retirement Ed and Jennie Hylton resided at 7420 Dixie Bee Road. Ed remained involved in school affairs into the 1960s.

Edward E. Hylton died at age 86 at St. Anthony’s Hospital on Dec. 27, 1968. Jennie died at her residence in Riley on Aug. 9, 1979, at age 93. The couple is interred at Oak Hill Cemetery in Riley Township.



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