

# WABASH VALLEY

P R O F I L E S

*A series of tributes to hometown people and events that have shaped our history.*

## Ted Fehring



**A**t the time Theodore “Ted” Fehring became Wiley High School’s head football coach in 1937, the school had never won a city series over rivals Garfield and Gerstmeyer.

In the eight years Fehring steered Wiley’s gridiron program, the Red Streaks never lost to a Terre Haute opponent. His legendary career included the unblemished 1943 season when Wiley finished 8–0, the first undefeated-untied football team in school history.

A native of Columbus, Ind. — where his parents Lynn and Ivy Rae Fehring owned a buggy business — Ted and brother William “Dutch” were outstanding athletes. In the late 1920s, Lynn Fehring accepted the opportunity to own and manage Terre Haute Heavy Hardware, now Hardware Supply Co., at 940 Chestnut St. Until the Fehring boys graduated from high school, Lynn commuted by interurban train to Columbus each weekend. The family relocated to Terre Haute in 1931. The Fehring boys, including oldest brother Ray, were Purdue graduates. Ted received a bachelor’s degree in 1936 and spent a year assisting athletic staffs at his alma mater before accepting the Wiley post. He earned a master’s degree from Purdue in 1939.

Ted and his wife, the former Marie Grote, a native of Vancouver, British Columbia, first visited Carmel, Cal., on their honeymoon. After Garfield Coach Willard Kehrt told Fehring about a coaching job there, Fehring applied. Crediting an endorsement from Indiana University basketball coach Everett Dean, Fehring was hired by Carmel High School to guide all sports during the 1945-46 school year. When the Fehrings — including daughters Janet, Jean and Joy, all natives of Terre Haute — headed west, they envisioned returning when the regular high school coach was discharged from the military. As might have been expected, Ted’s efforts there were triumphant. The school realized its first conference basketball title ever that season.

Instead of returning to Indiana in 1946, Ted went to work for a title insurance company in Carmel. Daughters Julie and Joanne were born in California.

Soon, his brothers also moved to California. Purdue’s baseball coach prior to World War II, Dutch coached football at Oklahoma University under Bud Wilkinson and at UCLA (where he recommended John Wooden for the basketball coaching job) before becoming baseball coach at Stanford. Now 88, Dutch lives in Menlo Park, Cal. Ray, now 86, resides in Santa Ana where he owned a furnace business. Ted, now 84, and Marie reside in Carmel.

Ted began a new career in the savings and loan industry in 1958. He was vice president and director of Monterey Savings & Loan Association at his retirement in 1977. Until 1986 he was part owner of Cypress Mortgage Co.

While spending abundant time with their children and grandchildren after retiring from Hardware Supply Co., Ivy Rae and Lynn Fehring maintained their Terre Haute residence at 338 S. 22nd St. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary before their deaths in 1965 and 1966 respectively. The family sold the company after Lynn’s death.

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