



GRINDSTONE AWARD



1978

Robert L. Purdy

Berea has been singularly fortunate that, in its nearly a century and a half of existence, dedicated people with many diverse talents have come to the fore, giving of themselves to make our community the outstanding one that it is.

Such a person is Bob Purdy, 1978's Outstanding Citizen of the Year and winner of the Grindstone Award.

A native Ohioan, Bob received his bachelors degree from Findlay College and his MA from Columbia. His chosen field was education, with emphasis on athletics.

The Purdys moved to Berea in 1949, where Bob started as a teacher at Berea High, where he was also head track coach and assistant varsity basketball coach. His purposeful attitude toward educating youth, his persuasive personality and his leadership qualities earned him promotion to Berea High Athletic Director in 1958 and Athletic Director for the Berea School District four years later. He has held the latter position for 18 years, to the present.

Bob's talent for organization and innovation manifested itself in such widely known athletic events as the "Berea Relays" and the Berea Elementary School Track and Field Meet. His skills in directing public school athletic programs became known, not only in the Cleveland area, but in state and national circles as well, and he has attained a high degree of prominence in his field. In 1973, Bob was among the first to be named to the Ohio High School Athletic Directors Hall of Fame. In that same year he was chosen Athletic Director of the Year, a distinction he won again in 1976. He has won many other local and civic honors. He also has authored articles and books on athletic programs.

While achieving acclaim in his profession, Bob Purdy was also making important contributions to community life. He has been a leader in his church, in school programs, in Kiwanis and as a counselor in scouting. A strong family tie has made all the Purdys - Bob, his wife Dorothy and their children David and Chris - active and involved participants in Berea's life. Dorothy's beautiful poetry, for example, is well known to many Bereans. The Purdys have three grandchildren and live on Baker Street, Holiday Inn, Strongsville

Presented February 27, 1979

Holiday Inn, Strongsville, Ohio