

Lee Rymer among four Wall of Fame inductees

Oconto County Board Chairman Lee Rymer was among four inducted into the Oconto Falls High School Wall of Fame on Sept. 19.

Besides Rymer, the others were Michael Bauman, LaVern Mayer and Herb Bramschreiber.

All are Oconto Falls graduates who have experienced vast amounts of success in their personal, family and business lives.

Leland (Lee) Rymer grew up in Morgan and spent his early years on the farm with his parents, Morris and Norine. As an only child, he was quite involved with his grandfather and uncle, who also lived on the farm, but spent a great deal of time working with his father, who was an auctioneer.

The family moved to Oconto Falls when Lee entered high school. Lee was a two sport guy in the spring, sometimes running a track event in his baseball uniform when the schedule was tight.

After graduating with the OFHS Class of '55, he majored in business at Marquette. At Marquette he earned a track varsity letter in the 100 yard dash. In 1959, with

a fresh degree in hand, he entered the business world of high finance, first in Elkhorn, then Green Bay and Gillett before finally becoming a full-time, self-employed real estate broker in 1973. He also took up auctioneering, following in the footsteps of his father, who also worked in real estate. Along the way he married Judy, and their children, Jill and Michael, were instilled with Lee's love of life and enthusiasm for sports. They grew to see him not only as a father, but as a coach and one of their greatest fans.

Still another area in which he followed the path blazed by his father had to do with public service. He had a 38-year record of serving on the Oconto County Board, 17 of those years as chairman.

Lee was elected to the Oconto Falls School Board in 1973 and served for nine years. In 1986, he successfully ran for the Oconto County Board and became chairman in 1998.

The modeling his father provided and many years of using an auctioneer's microphone have given him the skill to be successful working with people in public office. He has taken

this beyond the county level with the Wisconsin Counties Association where he has provided leadership at the state level. No person from Oconto County had ever held an office in the WCA.

In 2007, Rymer was elected president of the Wisconsin Counties Association and in 2009 was elected president of the Wisconsin Counties Mutual Insurance corporation.

For 15 years, Lee combined his love for sports and gift at using the microphone by providing play by play color commentary for football, basketball and baseball games on cable television.

Lee is a charter member of the Oconto Falls Lions Club and held many offices in the organization. He served on the NWTC Board, the River Island Golf Club, the Oconto Falls Businessmen's Association, and both the Green Bay and Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

Very active with St. Anthony Church, he served on the finance committee for 30 years.

With grandchildren, Julian, Sophia, Ella and Haley now on the scene,

there will be many more games to watch and events that Lee and Judy look forward to attending.



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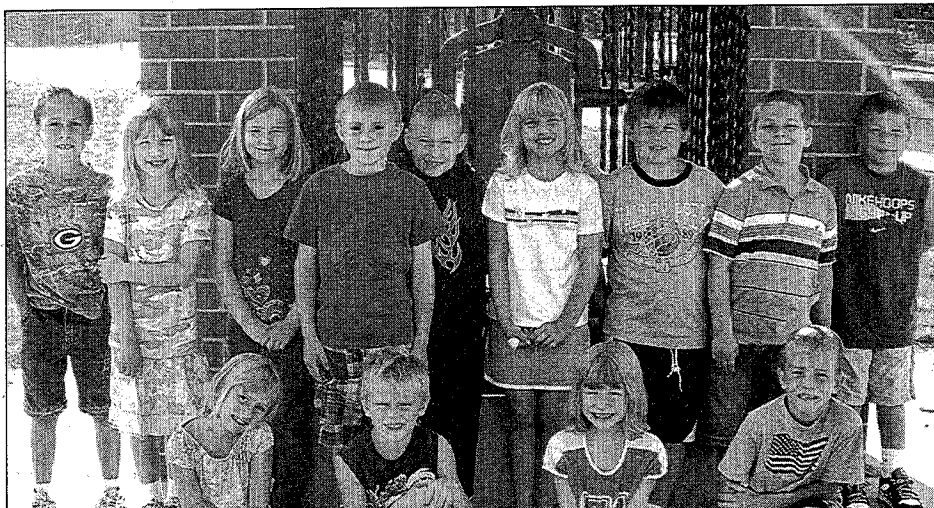
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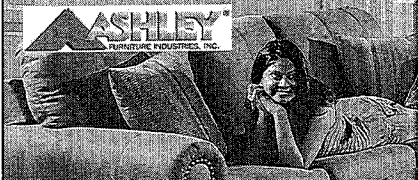
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