



Ferd Fleckenstein was a well-known Fort Loramie native who spent many years serving his community and the surrounding area. Ferd graduated with the first graduating class from Fort Loramie High school in 1932. He was valedictorian of his class and while in high school was manager of the basketball team. He attended The Ohio State University for one year and was a member of ROTC. He was a lifetime farmer.

Ferd served four years on the Fort Loramie Board of Education and four years on the (Darke County) Tri-County Joint Vocational School. In 1977, Ferd was named to the All Ohio Southwest Region School Board.

He also served twenty-four years on the Shelby County Board of Education, having served as the first President of this board during part of his tenure. In 1980, he was recognized by the 113th Ohio General Assembly for his years of service to this board. The resolution from the General Assembly says, he has “seen many changes both in educational philosophy and in the growth of Shelby County. Under his leadership and influence, the board has accommodated the school system in necessary change, selecting only those changes which were beneficial to Shelby County school children.”

He also was a frequent delegate to the Ohio School Board Association. Another interest of his was the Auglaize and Shelby County Council for Retarded Children and Adults, he worked as secretary of this group. Ferd was Fort Loramie School Board Treasurer for fourteen years. For fifty-three years, he served as recorder for the Miami Conservancy District.

Ferd was active in the Fort Loramie Parent-Teacher Association, having served as president and secretary, and the Fort Loramie Alumni Association of which he was president. He was a charter member and former president and secretary of the Fort Loramie Kiwanis Club. He also was a 4H advisor for several years.

In 1985, Ferd was Grand Marshall of the Fort Loramie Fourth of July parade.

In 1997, Ferd was honored by The Treaty Lands Chapter of Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio for his “gracious hospitality for the use of his farm and land in observance of the 200th anniversary of the Greenville Treaty Line”.

He was a member of St. Michael Catholic Church, the Knights of St. John and the St. Joseph’s Men Society. He also served on the Parish Hall Building Committee.

Ferd was a member of the Fort Loramie Historical Society and had a lifelong interest in local history. He lived on the site of Peter Loramie’s trading post and Anthony Wayne’s Fort Loramie. He was always willing to share his knowledge with any and all who showed an interest; he would visit schools, and host student field trips and visits by scouting groups. This idea of sharing is the hallmark of his life.

Ferd was married to Marie (Kuether) and they had eight children.