



Tolstoi "Tolly" Steinert

Tolly often has been called one of Rice Lake's all time top athletic sports boosters. He was one of the primary founders of the current Boys Church Softball League of Rice Lake in 1958 and served as the first president for 17 years. Following that, he served the organization as a board member. Rice Lake's very active youth and adult softball programs are due largely in part to Tolly. The Youth Softball League has provided summer recreation for over a thousand ball players since its inception. It was because of his involvement with the softball movement in Rice Lake and his support of the program that resulted in one of the two new fields at Tate Park being named in his honor on June 10, 1983.

Tolly was born in and graduated from high school in Clarkfield, Minnesota in 1925. In 1926, he moved to Rice Lake with his family when his father became pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rice Lake. Since then, he served as Rice Lake's deputy clerk-treasurer for 45 years under 8 mayors and 4 city clerks before retiring in 1973.

During the 1930's he helped organize and played on an adult hockey team in Rice Lake that competed with teams from the surrounding area. He was an accomplished boxer in his youth and he enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson in the 1930's and '40's. He was very active in the church promoting church dart ball and he loved to swim, go canoeing and skiing. Another of his favorite pastimes was walking, evidence was that he walked 8 blocks to and from work including his lunch hour everyday for 45 years. He rarely missed a home Warrior football or basketball game. He was a sports historian who could be relied upon for accurate information regarding local athletes.

In October of 1979, Tolly was instrumental in organizing and promoting the dedication of 'Pug' Lund Field in Rice Lake, honoring one of Rice Lake's greatest athletes.

Tolly died on December 17, 1994, one day before his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday, December 18, 1997.

