

EARL JOHNSMEYER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Earl was born in a farm home in Riley County, Kansas. In the early 20's, the family moved to a farm in Shawnee County, southeast of Topeka, Kansas. He graduated from the Lyons (one room) grade school and Berryton High School. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Emporia State Teachers College with a major in business and minors in math and P.E. He also received a Master's degree from Emporia State in both administration and counseling.

He is a World War II veteran with 3 years of overseas service (October 1942 to October 1945) in Africa and Italy. He taught and coached at Glendale and Prescott, Kansas prior to World War II, and at Winchester and Lansing after the war.

Earl and his wife, Irene, joined the Lansing Rural High School faculty in 1948, when Lansing had 65 total students, grades 9 through 12. There were 25 boys and 40 girls. Mr. Johnsmeyer taught the business classes, boys P.E., and coached all sports without an assistant coach. The school sports included: hard pitch softball, basketball, and track. The girls did not play sports. In 1951, Mr. Johnsmeyer started 6 man football. The teams Lansing played were Basehor, Easton, Edgerton, Lecompton, Linwood, Ozawkie, Piper, and Stanley.

Mr. Johnsmeyer's basketball teams won the league tournament at least once each place he coached. From 1949 through 1958, Lansing won the Tri- County League basketball tournament 10 straight years, averaging 20 wins and 4 losses a season. The 1950 team took 2nd place in the State Tournament with a 29-1 record. In that 10 year period, Lansing went to the state tournament 4 times. In the 50's, the state had 2 classes, A and B. The odds of going to state were 1 in 32.

Mr. Johnsmeyer also served as Guidance Counselor at Lansing High for 10 years. He was on the Lansing High School faculty 29 years, retiring in 1977. In 1987, Mr. and Mrs. Johnsmeyer founded the "Lansing Kansas Scholarship Fund, Inc.", a not for profit corporation providing scholarships for Lansing High School graduates. Mr. Johnsmeyer left this legacy of scholarships for Lansing graduates, when he passed on July 29, 2002.

- 1. Applicant must be a member of the National Honor Society at Lansing High School**
- 2. Be active in the same extra-curricular activities their junior and senior year.**
- 3. A completed application, an essay of 250 words or less and TWO teacher evaluations with counselor section is required.**