



Dick Fry  
Class of 2023

Dick graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1940 and played basketball as a sophomore, junior and senior, tennis as a senior and was a member Block O. He was in the journalism class his last two years and Sports Editor of Tiger Mirror Sports his senior year. He was class vice-president as a junior and a member of the class executive committee, sang in the glee club for three years and played in the band.

During his senior year, Dick wrote sports for the Oroville Mercury- Register and was paid 10 cents an inch for his stories. Being left-handed and “scrawling” Dick says ***“I’ve been typing everything for about 84 years now since Miss Humphrey’s class at dear ol’ OUHS!”***

Following graduation Dick enrolled at San Jose State College and in 1943, was drafted into the United States Army Air Corps. He served two years as Air Traffic Controller in The China-Burma-India Theater. The Theater, also known as the Forgotten Theater, was a U.S. Military designation in World War II, where aircrafts unattached to the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force Flying Tigers commonly transported gasoline and supplies. He was honorably discharged as a sergeant in 1946. He then returned to San Jose State and earned his degree in journalism in 1947.

Dick’s professional career in journalism was launched in 1947, when he began working as a reporter at United Press International (UPI) in Reno, NV. He was there for a year and then served as manager of the UPI Bureau in Olympia, WA where he remained for four years.

He moved to Pullman, WA in 1952 when he became editor for Washington State College alumni magazine. He was editor of the magazine until 1957 when he became Sports Information Director at newly named Washington State University (WSU), a position he held for the next 13 years. In 1970 he became Manager for the WSU News Bureau, where he remained for 15 years, retiring in 1985 from a storied career at WSU. One year prior to his retirement, the university bestowed on him its Honorary Degree.

In 1989, Dick authored his first book, one of three centennial histories, for WSU – **“The Crimson and The Gray – 100 years with the Cougars”**. This book is considered The Bible on WSU athletics! The 368-page book sold 4,339 copies and known as one of the most accurate summaries of WSU athletics ever assembled.

Following his retirement, untold numbers of honors and awards came to Dick. He was inducted into the Island Northwest Sports Hall of Fame in 1993, the WSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009, and the Pullman Walk of Fame in 2017. He served two stints as a member of WSU’s Hall of Fame Council, including the inaugural council in 1978.

On February 12, 2023, the mayor of Pullman declared the **City of Pullman Dick Fry Day: WHEREAS, Richard “Dick” Fry - a certifiable legend in Pullman and throughout the Washington State University Cougar nation – will be 100 years old on February 12, 2023 and is a living example that ink in one’s veins has sustaining power.** (The first WHEREAS of the proclamation)

Dick is a Senior Active member of Rotary International. He was chair of the Group Study exchange in 1974 in which six Australians visited the Pullman Rotary District. In 1975, he chaired the Pullman Rotary group that went to Australia, though he did not make the trip himself. He established the Bea Fry Memorial Scholarship in memory of his late wife, annually awarding it to a student in WSU’s College of Communications.

Emily Pearce writes in her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday story on Dick, ***Writing is Dick's passion, he said he's always gotten a kick out of it and "if you have fun, you keep doing it." Currently he's working on "101 Old Re-Fried Cougar Tales," as well as "World War II History Around the World, 1,112 days by Trains and Planes."***

From COUGAR.COM: ***"Dick Fry never completed a pass for Washington State. Never made a basket. Never hit a baseball. Never coached. Never ran the athletic department. That said, it may not be far off to say Fry is one of the most memorable – and important people to ever come through Washington State's sports scene."***

Dick was born on February 12, 1923 and makes his home in Pullman, WA. His sister, Beryl Fry, was a legendary kindergarten teacher in Oroville for many years. He has two sons Kevin and Jim and a daughter Chris. He states, ***"I'm just so grateful for the life I've had. I had such a wonderful family that took care of me in so many different ways and was blessed with dumb luck that kept me around for so long."***