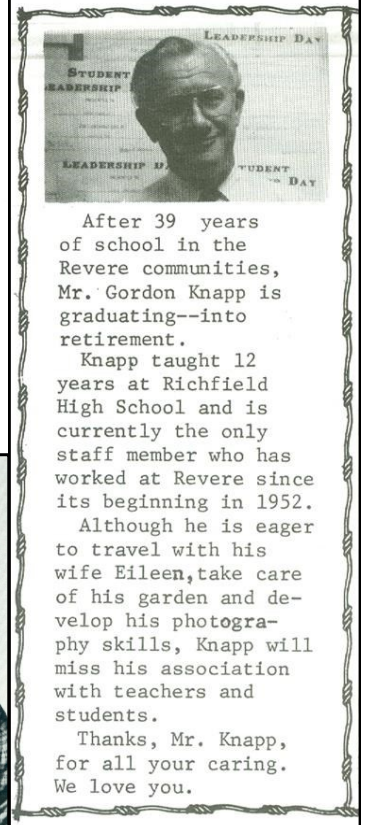


Gordon E. Knapp

Mr. Gordon Knapp taught in the Revere Schools for 39 years (1941-1980). He graduated from Kent State and then taught at Richfield for 12 years before the consolidation. He taught a number of subjects including Economics, World History, Physical Education, and Typing. He was also a basketball coach—Revere's first basketball coach after previously coaching the Richfield Rockets. Mr. Knapp eventually got into administration and served as the Assistant Principal for a number of years. He had planned to retire at the end of the 1980 school year—The day before Mr. Knapp officially retired, he was involved in a fatal car crash on his way home and passed away on [June 11, 1980](#) and is buried at Saint Joseph Cemetery along with his wife Eileen. He was later recognized with the [Distinguished Educator Award](#) given by the Revere Alumni Association. The High School's 1982 addition (auditorium, locker rooms, etc.) is named in his honor.



May 30, 1980 The Lantern



Lantern February 24, 1997

Plaque commemorates life of teacher, coach, principal, and friend

by Laura Johnston

Perhaps a Revere visitor or an RHS student has wondered about the black and bronze memorial plaque near the doors of the main gym. Or maybe, no one has ever noticed it. The large plaque almost blends into the red brick wall behind it and is certainly overshadowed by the newer, brighter athletic plaques that hang in the hallway. Still, the plaque represents an important part of RHS history.

It commemorates the life of Gordon E. Knapp, the "teacher, coach, principal, and friend" whose work at Revere spanned five decades. The RHS student council dedicated the new auditorium and main gym area to Knapp in 1981, a year after his death.

Many students may wonder why this is important enough to put in the *Lantern*, and why they should care. However, the story behind the plaque and dedication is definitely worth telling.

According to RHS history teacher Ed Engler, Knapp began as a new teacher at the old Richfield High School in 1941, actually before the Japanese dropped a bomb on Pearl

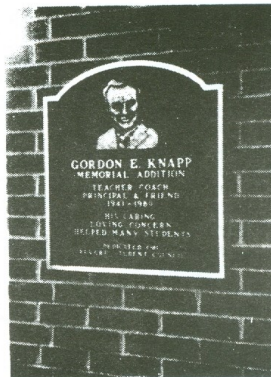
Harbor. He coached the Richfield Rockets men's basketball team and when he moved to the new Revere High School, he became the first coach of the Revere Minutemen men's basketball team and the business teacher.

In fact, Knapp suggested the name of the new merged Bath and Richfield school district. He thought up the name of Revere because the new school was to be built on Revere Road, and the name of the school mascot became the Minutemen.

According to RHS English teacher Barbara Almes, Knapp was a very interesting man. During the summers, he and his wife who taught school at Tallmadge would travel extensively. According to Engler, he had been practically everywhere in the 48 states. Knapp was also the assistant principal for a number of years.

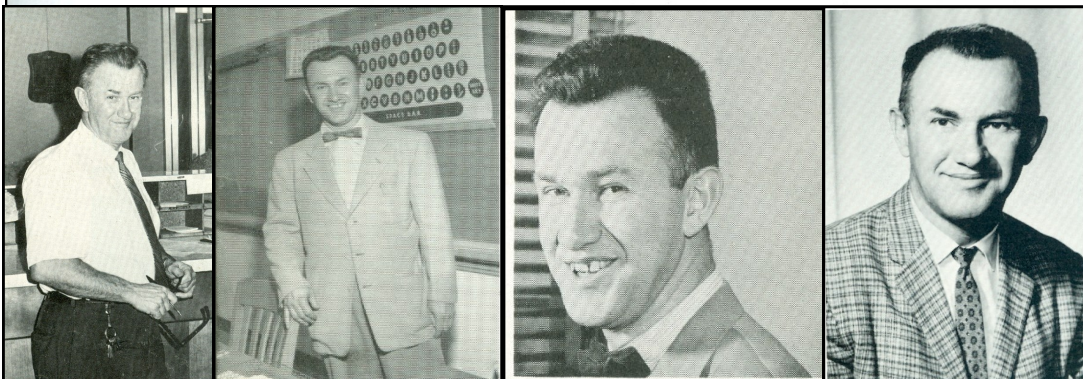
But alas, the story comes to an end. Knapp planned to retire at the end of the 1979-1980 school year. However, on the last day of school for students, he was driving home to Ravenna when he fell asleep at the wheel. His car crashed, and he died, without ever really retiring from RHS.

The student council dedicated the



(photo by Laura Johnston) The famous plaque dedicated to Gordon Knapp sits idly on the wall near the main gym.

"Gordon E. Knapp Memorial Addition" the next year, and that is why there is a plaque near the doors of the main gym.



Gordon E. Knapp

D8 Akron Beacon Journal Thursday, June 12, 1980

OBITUARIES

Revere official dies in car-truck smashup

An assistant principal at Revere High School was killed Wednesday when his car ran off the road and crashed into a parked tractor-trailer truck.

Dead is Gordon E. Knapp, 62, of 6572 Peck Road, Ravenna Township, Portage County. The Akron native had lived in Ravenna for the past 10 years.

Knapp was eastbound on Interstate 76 in Brimfield Township when the accident occurred. He was pronounced dead at Robinson Memorial Hospital.

A spokesman for the Ohio Highway Patrol said it was not

clear why Knapp's car left the highway.

The driver of the parked truck, Francis J. Sullen, 27, of Toledo, was charged with failing to display safety equipment and failing to have registration for the tractor. Sullen was not injured.

Knapp is survived by his wife, Eileen, and one sister, Mrs. Robert Cherry of Ravenna. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Shorts Funeral Home in Ravenna. Friends may call Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

Gordon E. Knapp

RAVENNA — Gordon Elwood Knapp, 62, of 6572 Peck rd., Ravenna, died June 11, in an auto accident on Rt. 76.

He was born May 19, 1918 in Mogadore. He was formerly of Akron and lived in Ravenna the past ten years. He was the Assistant Principal at Revere High School, Bath-Richfield District.

He is survived by wife, Eileen; sister, Mrs. Robert (Joyce) Cherry of Ravenna.

Funeral services, Shorts Funeral Home, Ravenna Chapel, Saturday, 11 a.m. Friends may call Friday 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, in St. Joe's. Donations may be made to the Scholarship Fund of Revere High School. (Shorts, Ravenna, 626-4966.)

Monday, November 3, 1980 Akron Beacon Journal D3

CITY AND REGION

Revere students show love for a friend

By Betsy Lammerding
Beacon Journal staff writer

The late Gordon E. Knapp is remembered as a smiling man who cared about the students of Revere High School.

The students and the staff also cared deeply about him and plan to dedicate the athletic complex now under construction in his memory.

Knapp, 62, died in a traffic accident June 11, the day before he was to be showered with gifts and tributes at his retirement party.

He started at the old Richfield High School in 1941 after his graduation from

Kent State University. That was when Bath and Richfield had their own school districts.

KNAPP IS credited with providing the name Revere for the high school. The name was later adopted when the two school districts merged.

The student council has asked the school board to dedicate the building to Knapp. The board has unofficially approved the dedication and formal action is expected this month.

The council is buying a \$750 bronze plaque for the building.

Knapp was the high school's first basketball coach. He taught bookkeeping and typing before he was named assistant principal 15 years ago.

But he is best remembered as a

friend to the students, particularly those who were considered problem students.

HIS DEATH left a void that has still not been filled, according to Revere High principal Jim Wilkens.

"Gordon dealt with many of the disciplinary problems," Wilkens said. "He was really responsible for helping a lot of kids stay in school. He helped them in so many ways, even lending some money."

"His uniqueness was his love of life. He paddled his share of students. But he had a knack of knowing which ones it would work on. The kids accepted and respected him. He had a special, old-fashioned, firm, fair and friendly rapport with the kids. They always went to him for advice. He's sorely missed."

Knapp and his wife, Eileen, had no children, but a memorial page in the latest Revere yearbook refers to Knapp as "a father" and contains tributes from "your children."

At the request of the students, Mrs. Knapp served as grand marshal of Revere's homecoming ceremonies.

"I'M STILL getting calls and letters from people I never heard of," Mrs. Knapp said. "He seems to have touched people all over. Naming the addition for him is a great honor. I'm sure he's happy. He always had a soft spot for athletics. People are still reaching out to him. It seems that they still want to show their love."

A memorial fund has been established and a campaign is in progress to

fill its coffers. Mrs. Knapp prepared a philosophy of how the fund will be administered.

It is not a prestigious scholarship award. It is designed, according to the philosophy, to continue Knapp's work by "granting assistance to any student who has an opportunity to better himself or herself but lacks some essential requirement, such as tools, equipment, tuition, clothing, etc., for which the student or his family is unable to provide at the time."

Recipients will be asked to donate to the fund when they are able to do so.

Anyone who wishes to contribute should write to the Gordon E. Knapp Memorial Fund, Revere High School, 3420 Everett Road, Richfield 44286.



Knapp