



Rodney Mahler

BUSINESSMAN AND PUBLIC SERVANT

FHS Class of 1949

Rodney “Rod” Mahler is deserving of the Alumni Award not only due to his career as a successful businessman, but more due to his life-long service to the Faribault community.

Mr. Mahler was an active student and athlete. He participated in band, choir and orchestra. Rod served as the sports editor for the school newspaper. His column was called “Locker Room Lingo By Rod”.

Following graduation from Faribault Senior High, Rod attended Hamline University. He was involved in a full range of activities while attending Hamline: student government, music, and athletics. He served as the student Senior Class Vice President. Continuing his interest in music, he was a drummer in the Hamline band. He played tennis and earned 4 letters, serving as a player/coach for three of those years.

After his college career, Rod enlisted in the United States Army and served three years active duty. After completing his military service, Rod served another two years in active reserve and another two years in inactive duty.

Returning to Faribault, Rod joined his family in managing their hardware and appliance store for 27 years. Our Own Hardware was a pillar of the Faribault community for decades. Rod did memorable demonstrations for the new Weber grill. In fact, one year Rod cooked a whole hog in front of the store.

Rod was an active member of the community. He was on numerous boards and committees including The Faribault Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Council, United Way, Faribault Rotary (67 years), Paradise Center For the Arts, and the YMCA building committee.

One of Rod’s special interests was big game hunting. Reflecting this passion, customers were thrilled to see trophies of Rod’s hunting expeditions. A full-size mounted Kodiak Brown Bear was an especially unforgettable attraction.

Mr. Mahler eventually decided to leave the retail hardware trade. He went into sales and investments. Then for 20 years, he and his wife Jean, listed and sold homes in the Faribault area. Their slogan was “Two For the Price of One.”