

2020 ISD 88 Hall of Fame Bios

Theodore Fritsche – Class of 1924

A 1924 graduate of New Ulm High School, Ted was involved in the theater and athletics, including gymnastics. He continued this in college, eventually becoming the team captain. He was also chosen by President Coolidge to be among the "President's 100" top marksmen in the country. After graduation, he attended the University of Minnesota. Following in his father's footsteps, he graduated from the Medical School in 1930. In 1935, Dr. Ted (as he would come to be known) returned to New Ulm, where he practiced as an Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat doctor before focusing solely on Ophthalmology later in his career. He was president of the Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology and a 20-year chairman of the Committee of Ophthalmology. In 1967, Ted was the recipient of the prestigious Harold S. Diehl award of the University of Minnesota Medical School. In addition to his professional successes, Ted was involved in the New Ulm community. He was elected as Mayor in 1962 and served two terms. He was also a member of the Junior Pioneers, Chamber of Commerce, and the Lions Club. Many in New Ulm also fondly remember him as the owner of an apple orchard, which is now New Ulm's "Orchard Addition" neighborhood.