

## EDWARD R. BARBER

South Dakota School for the Deaf has produced many outstanding athletes in the sports of basketball and track and field. One of those individuals who stood out in the track and field was the school's premier student-athlete, Edward R. Barber, whose achievements in the sprint categories still compare most favorably with any of the best nowadays. His personal motto, quoted from the 1950 Pheasant yearbook, "Nothing is impossible to a willing mind," reflects his greatness both as a student and as an athlete.



Affectionately known as "Ed" by his peers, he was born in a hospital on December 22, 1931 in Pierre, South Dakota, an easy distance from his Fairbank ranch home near the village of Okobojo. After four unproductive years in the Pierre public school system, his family transferred him in 1942 to the least restrictive and most appropriate total educational environment — South Dakota School for the Deaf in Sioux Falls. These eight years, according to his notes in the Pheasant yearbook, were "the best years of my life never to be had again!" SDSD, like any good school or program for the deaf, champions the "whole student" approach to education which addresses the five essential areas of learning and becoming — Social, Physical, Intellectual, Communicative, and Emotional domains of the student's total growth (SPICE as an acronym). Just as Ed was fortunate to have had the benefit of this opportunity for total development so was SDSD fortunate to have an outstanding individual of Ed's caliber — a "win-win" situation for all concerned.

Ed was actively involved in a wide spectrum of after-school activities such as Boy Scouts, Christian Endeavor, Hobby Club, Literary Society, YMCA Club, basketball and track and field. He served as either president or secretary of practically all of the student organizations. He was especially noted, however, for his stellar performances on the cinders with times in the following events: 100-yard dash: 10.5; 220-yard dash: 25.0; 440-yard dash: 49.9; and 880-yard relay: 1:36.6 at the South Dakota Relays. His collection of medals totaled 75 and he participated in the state championships five straight years — an amazing record for one who had no choice but to practice on a field with primitive conditions for a runner — the uneven grounds in back of Primary Hall. The SDSD track facility was built in 1951, the year after Ed departed with his diploma to pursue his education at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C..

Ed graduated from Gallaudet in 1957 and was employed as a guidance counselor at the California School for the Deaf in Fremont until his retirement a few years ago. We are delighted to have him and his attractive wife, Helen, here with us tonight.