

DR. ROBERT E. REIHELD

By DARLENE CROSKEY

Orrville High School Sports Hall of Fame inductee Dr. Robert E. Reiheld was the OHS team doctor more than 30 years.

The late Dr. Reiheld came to Orrville in 1945, after 46 months of World War II military service as a medical officer, during which he saw action in Italy and North Africa (Casablanca).

His undergraduate studies and medical training were done at Ohio State, where he finished second in his medical school class. He interned at Akron City Hospital prior to his time in the military.

Reiheld was raised in Loudonville and had commented many times that he wanted to be a "family doctor." That is exactly what he became when he established his practice in Orrville and he was active in this endeavor for nearly 40 years.

For more than 30 years, Reiheld took it upon himself to serve as team doctor for all the teams at Orrville High School.

Former Red Rider head football coach Mo Tipton estimated that Reiheld gave about 394 free physicals each year in the Orrville school system.

This was before girls' sports were recognized in the program. When they came into play, Reiheld added that many more free physicals to his schedule. It is estimated that he gave well over 10,000 free physicals to Orrville athletes.

He could always be seen on the sidelines of the football games and would be the first one on the field if someone got injured, whether it was a Red Rider player or an opponent.



DR. ROBERT E. REIHELD

He attended many special classes pertaining to sports medicine at his own expense to keep himself as current as possible in this field.

Reiheld and his wife, Phyllis, who taught several years in the Orrville school system, raised seven children.

For his dedication to the community of Orrville, Reiheld was named Citizen of the Year in 1974, receiving the Paul L. Powell award.

He died in 1984, after a brief illness. He was inducted into the Wayne County Sports Hall of Fame in 1986.