

Volume 5, Issue 3

October, 2008

Wilson Bridge Road



A LINWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY

Linworth Historical Society Newsletter

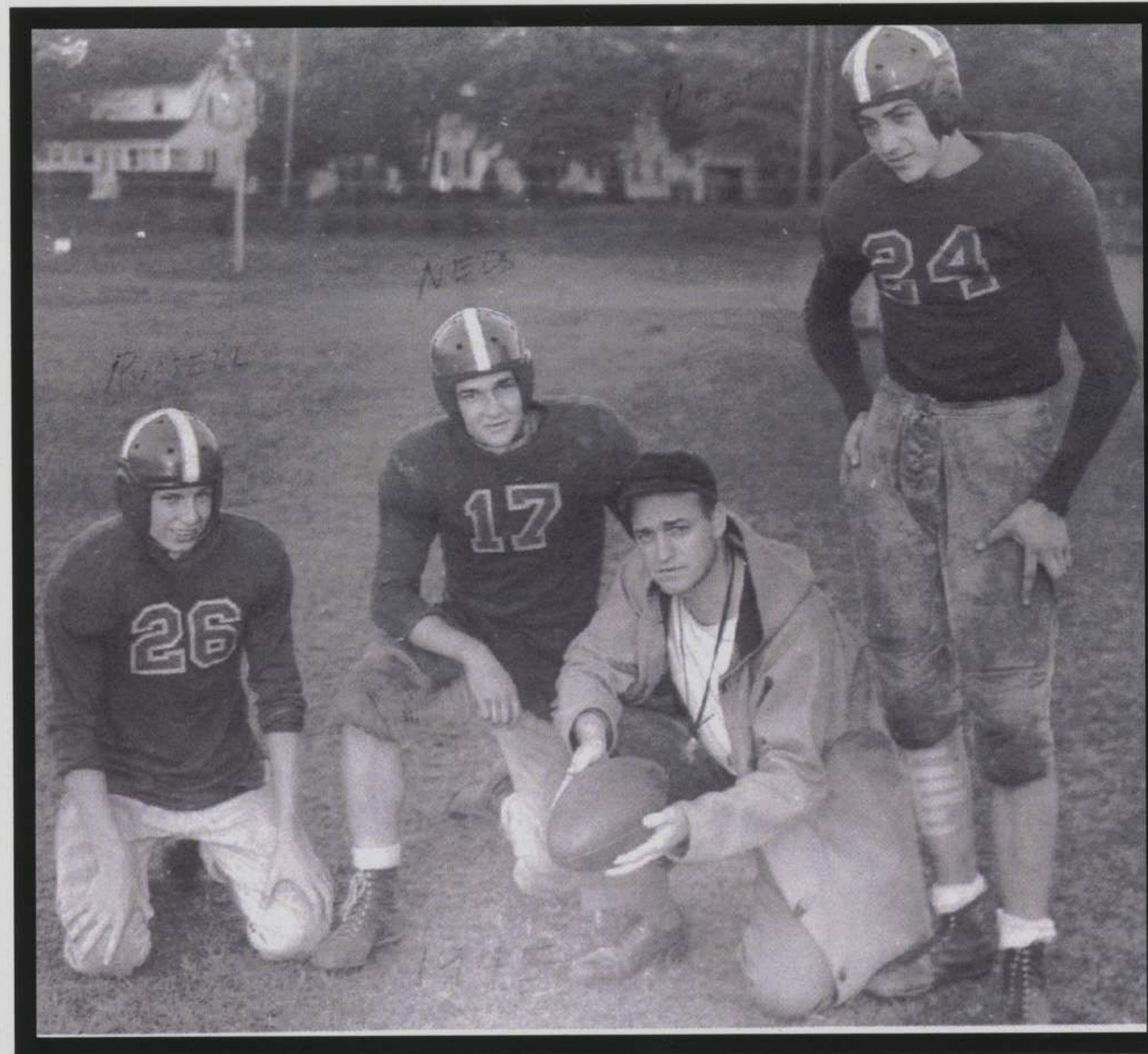
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Our Coach, Our Teacher, Our Friend Dow Nelson

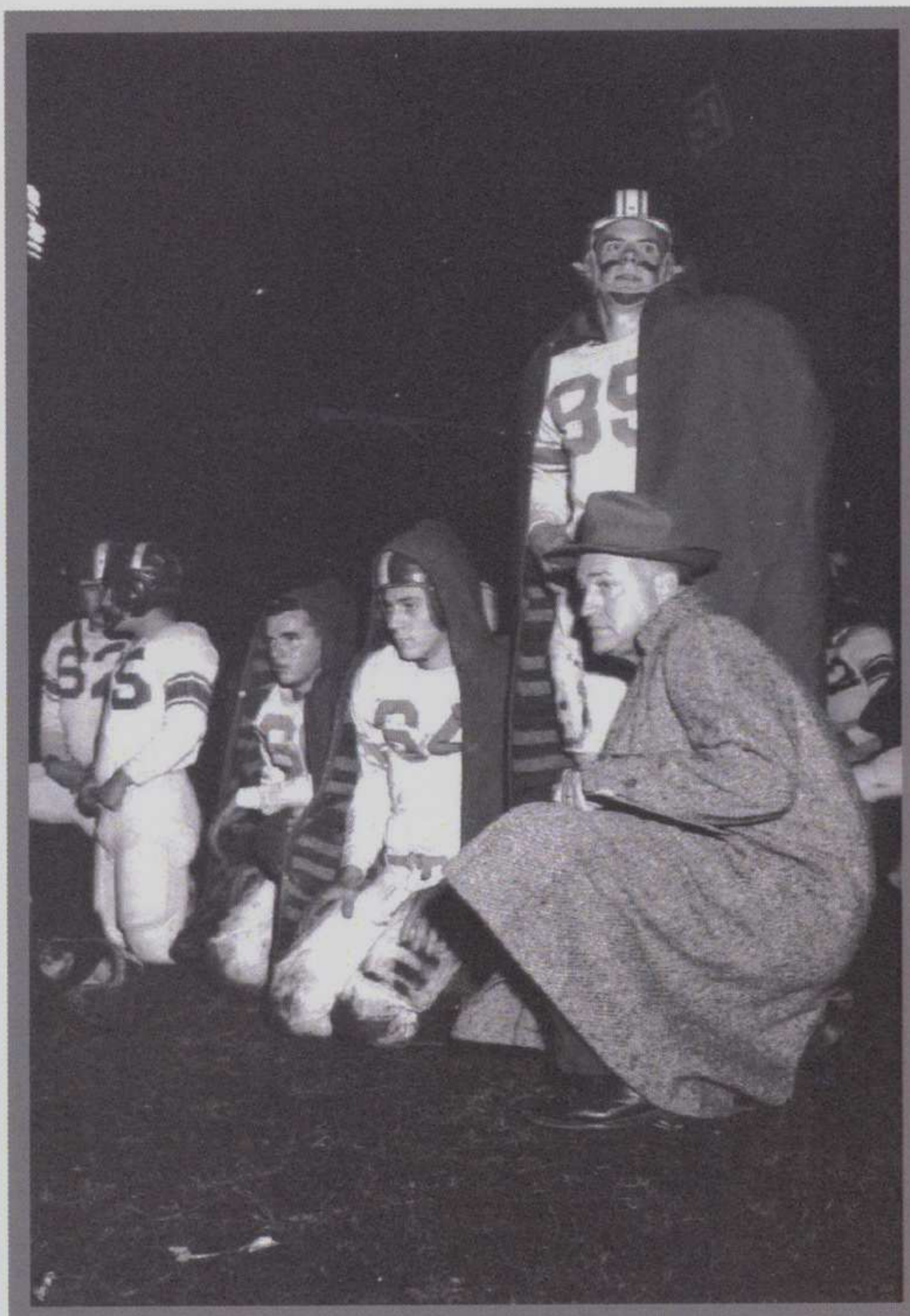
Thanks to Dow Nelson's daughter, Linda Mrukowski, for her assistance in the following tribute.

During the autumn months in central Ohio, many of us turn our thoughts to the sport of football. Cheering for the Ohio State Buckeyes, as well as other colleges and high school teams has been a tradition. We have a long history of memorable teams and coaches. Today's edition of the Linworth Historical Society's Newsletter remembers a coach that touched many lives in the Worthington/Linworth area years ago.

If you happen by the Thomas Worthington High School football stadium on a home game Friday night, you just might hear the PA announcer say, "Welcome to Dow Nelson Field". Newer community members do not know the name as



Pictured at Worthington practice in 1945 is Coach Nelson and three of his players. #17 is Joe Neds, long time member of Linworth UM Church.



Football Friday Night, 1954, undefeated and untied League Champions. Ranked 11th in the State.

he passed away in 1965, but many former players, students, and residents have fond memories of Dow Nelson.

His career at Worthington High School started in 1943 thanks to H.C. McCord, then Superintendent. Dow had been teaching and coaching at Cuyahoga Falls after his graduation from Ohio University. During the summer he trained as a Marine and was close to going into World War II. However, Mr. McCord successfully convinced the powers that be that teachers were desperately needed on the home front. Thus Dow took over several teaching subjects and head coaching positions at the original high school (now the new Peggy McConnell Arts Center). Worthington High School and the village of Worthington would be his permanent home for the rest of his life. So in 1943, Dow, his wife Millie and one-year-old daughter Linda began a long and happy career in Worthington. No one loved that high school more than Dow Nelson.

He taught biology and health classes and was the head football and baseball coach, as well as the reserve basketball coach. He also enjoyed being the advisor for the boys Hi-Y organization. His football teams produced several league championships and an undefeated season in 1954. (Tribute continued on the back.)

(Continued from front page)



The community of Worthington was grateful for Dow Nelson's dedication to its young people and honored him with a "This Is Your Life" Night in 1958.

Left to Right: Dow's parents, Dr. L.D. and Helen Nelson, Dow Nelson, wife Millie and daughter Linda

That year was especially rewarding, as the championship game was played at London. They had an outstanding player named Dick LeBeau, who went on to star at OSU, and for the Detroit Lions, and who is currently coaching for the Pittsburg Steelers.

Dow's baseball teams produced several league championships also. In 1959, he became Worthington's first Athletic Director, and retired from his coaching duties.

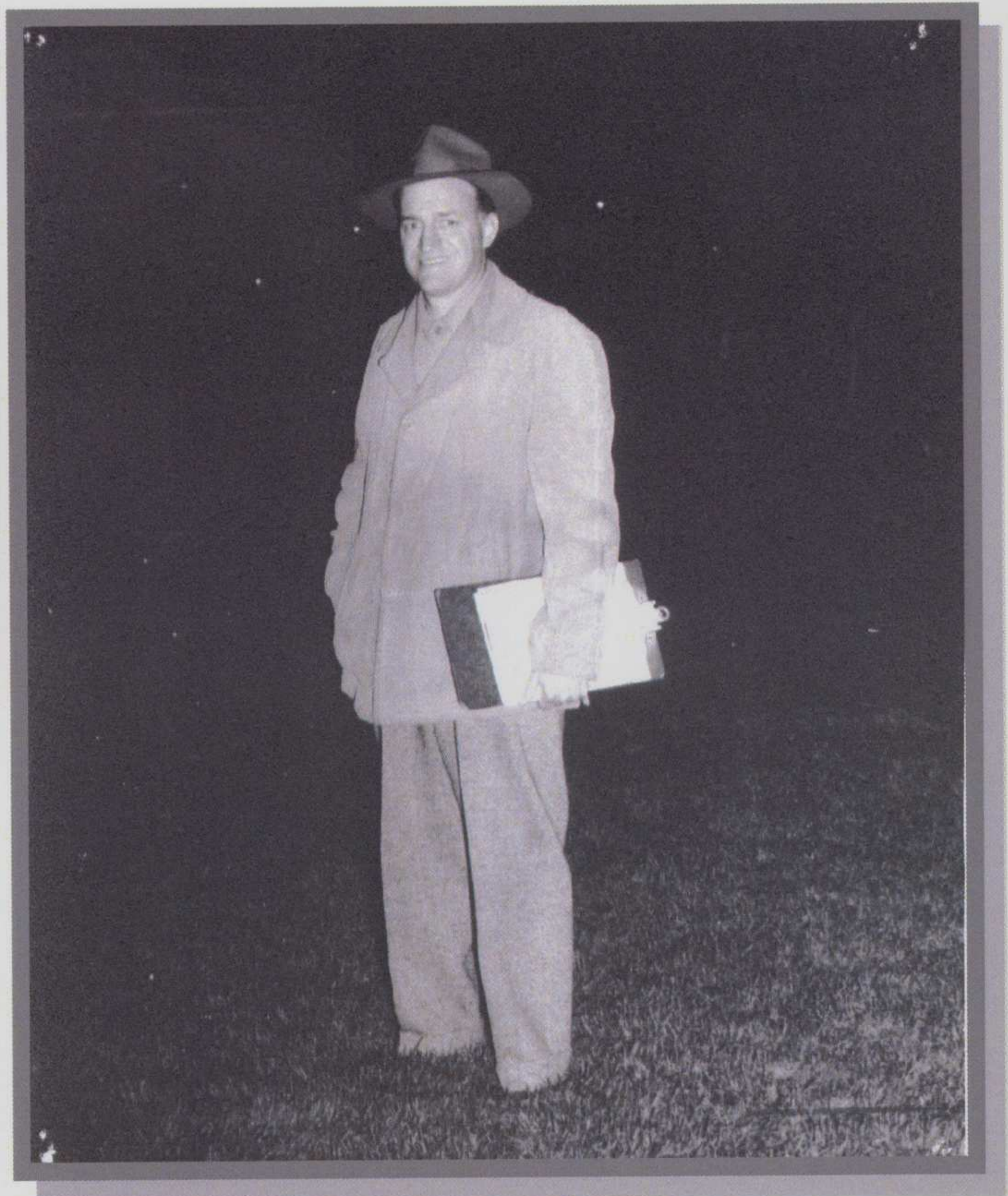
Although teaching and coaching consumed much of his life, he still found time to contribute to the community. He was one of the original five men who founded the Cardinal Boosters (now called the Worthington Youth Boosters) for the younger athletes. He also was the very first manager of Swiminc, Worthington's first and only community swimming pool. He valued the youth of Worthington and wanted them to have every opportunity to succeed on the playing field and in the classroom.

Linworth UMC gave tribute to Coach Nelson in the Heritage Gathering Room from August 18, 2008 through October 19, 2008.



*Dow Nelson Field
Thomas Worthington High School
2008*

On November 9, 1965, while speaking at the high school during the varsity football banquet, Dow Nelson died of a massive heart attack at age 52. His memory lives on today, on those cool evenings in the fall, as the PA announcer says, "Welcome to Dow Nelson Field".



Dow Nelson

**The mission of Linworth United Methodist Church is to make Disciples for Jesus Christ by:
Creating Community, Growing in Christ, Serving the World.**