

a baseball field. Joe's father, Herman, brought in loads of dirt for the original field in Farming!

Joseph Bernard Schleper died on May 8, 1998, and was buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis.



The Schleper brothers played baseball in Farming, Minnesota. Urban, Joe, Eddie, Elmer, and Paul Schleper all played baseball after their chores.



A celebration of The Schleper Field in Farming, Minnesota was held in 2017, named for the five Schleper brothers who played here: Urban, Eddie, Elmer, Paul, and Joe Schleper. This is the second ball field named after Joe Schleper Sr., after the Joe Schleper Stadium which was dedicated in Shakopee on May 21, 2000. Former Twins great Tony Oliva was part of the festivities. A lot of baseball fans were there to celebrate Joe's life and the new stadium.



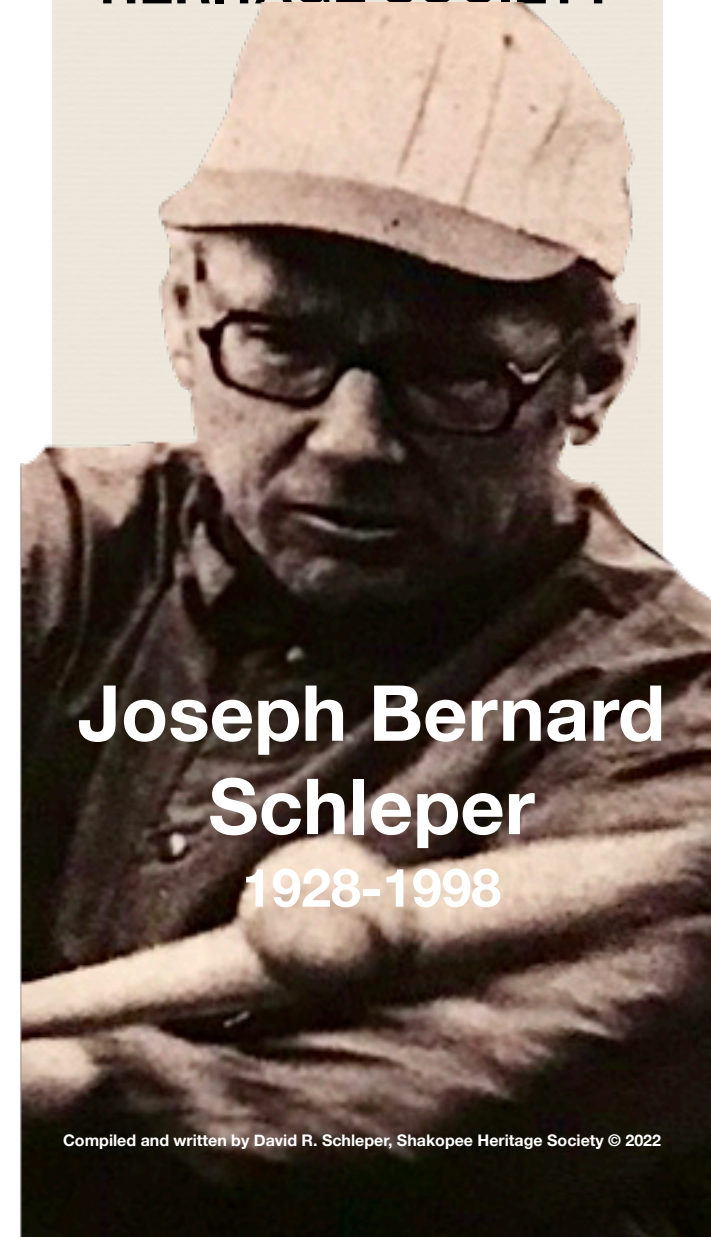
SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY  
2109 Boulder Pointe, Shakopee, MN 55379

952-693-3865

[shakopeeheritage.org](http://shakopeeheritage.org)



## SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



Joseph Bernard  
Schleper  
1928-1998



Joseph Bernard Schleper was born on April 11, 1928 outside of Farming, Minnesota, at a farm! He was the youngest of 9 children of Herman and Mary Dingmann Schleper. After chores, Joe used to practice baseball with his six brothers and his father.

He graduated from Albany High School in 1946 and enrolled at St John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota.

Joe was drafted as a pitcher by the Detroit Tigers and played minor league baseball for one year before returning to finish his college education at St Cloud State University where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in 1951. He was drafted into the US Marines and served his country during the Korean War from January 18, 1952 until January 17, 1954.



1963: First Row: Russ Case, Tom Rein, Mike Bungert; Second Row: Bill Wermerskirchen, Tom Trost, Leroy Sexton, Milo Stephens, Dennis Lebens, Kevin Lynch.



Joseph Bernard Schleper moved to Shakopee in 1962. Joe and his wife, Rose Marie Weidner Schleper had eight children: Joey Jr., Linda, Tommy, Gary, and in the front Billy, David, and Jeanne. On right is Jenny with Joe.

The Schleper family played a lot of whiffle ball in the backyard at 7th and Main Street with neighborhood kids. When Mom would tell them to move across the street to play baseball at Hiawatha Park, Joe would chime in by saying "We're not raising grass. We're raising boys" — which was a line Harmon Killebrew's dad used to use as well. And Harmon was Joe's favorite Minnesota Twin!



He married Rose Marie Weidner on August 16, 1954 in Regal, Minnesota. Together they had 8 children: Joseph Herman, Linda Marie, Jeanne Patrice, David Robert, William John, Gary Michael, Thomas Patrick, and Jennifer Anne.

Joe began his teaching career in Belgrade. After eight years he accepted a teaching and coaching position at the Shakopee High School in Shakopee in 1962. In 1966 Joe became the high school's Athletic Director while continuing to teach sophomore history and coach varsity baseball. He served as President of the Minnesota State Baseball Coaches Association from 1972 to 1973. Joe retired as the Shakopee High School baseball coach in 1976, and as a teacher in 1989.

In 1996, Joe High School Hall of Fame, a member of the Albany High School Athletic Hall of Fame and the Minnesota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame, Joe was a past president of the Minnesota State High School Baseball Coaches Association.

He received the Dick Siebert Award in appreciation for contributions towards high school baseball in 1980. In 1990 he retired as the Shakopee High School Athletic Director, was elected into the Minnesota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame, and became the executive secretary of the Minnesota Conference, a position he held until his death. Joseph was a charter member of the Albany High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996, and he received the Jim Dimmick Retired Baseball Coach Award in 1997.

He was inducted into the Shakopee High School Athletic Hall of Fame on May 31, 1998, just a few weeks after he died. Also after his death, the baseball stadium at Tahpah Park in Shakopee was named the Joe Schleper Stadium. A few years ago, a second ballpark was named after Joe and his brothers in Farming, Minnesota. The Schleper Brothers Field was named in 2017 and has been the home of the Stearns County League Farming Flames since 1946. Herman Schleper convincing the church in Farming to build a

