

HARTMAN AWARD COPY – by Fred B. Hartman

The Fred Hartman Excellence in Sportswriting Award was established after his death in 1991 by his son Bill Hartman, daughter Mary Hartman Brown and wife Betty.

Fred Hartman began his newspaper career as a sportswriter and realized he had ink in his veins. Thanks to opportunities afforded him by Carmage Walls, he became an editor and publisher, and eventually a newspaper owner. His lifelong association and friendship with Mr. Walls was something he treasured.

Fred Hartman was a man for all seasons: football season, basketball season and baseball season. He had a passion for sports.

As a youngster, he admired legendary sportswriters Grantland Rice and Damon Runyon, and how they could make an athletic event come to life. This gave him a lifelong appreciation of fine sports writing and sports reporting.

Fred Hartman grew up in Marlin, Texas, then the spring training camp of the New York Giants, and earned bachelor and masters degrees from Baylor University, where he was a diehard booster of his beloved Bears.

After college, while working at the *Goose Creek Sun* – which later became the *Baytown Sun* – high school sports had a special place in his heart. He championed the Robert E. Lee Ganders football team coached by Dan Stallworth.

However, if the truth be known, baseball was his favorite sport. The old Houston Buffs, Houston Colt .45s and eventually the Houston Astros had no bigger fan. On occasion, he was known to break Major League Baseball's rule about not cheering in the press box.

Fred Hartman also served as TDNA president in 1965 and received the Pat Taggart Award in 1978 for Texas Newspaper Leader of the Year. He loved the newspaper business and TDNA. He also thought his good friend John Murphy could do no wrong.

The Hartman family thought a sportswriting award would be the perfect tribute to his memory. In fact, if Fred Hartman was still alive, he probably would want to enter the contest.

Always use this copy for Hartman Award presentation