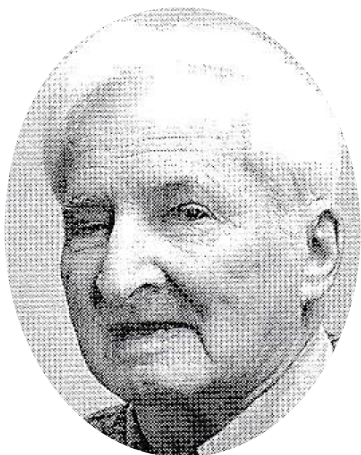


## *Ed Fahan*



**E**d Fahan, who went on to become a pretty successful illustrator in the advertising world, couldn't have drawn up a better baseball career than the one he enjoyed growing up in Norwalk.

Born in 1920, the Norwalk native lived on Cross Street and attended Center Junior High and the old Norwalk High School on West Avenue. But he was forced to leave school early and take a factory job to help support his family during the Depression.

Fahan still found time to play baseball, however, and made the local American Legion team, where he played two years and earned a reputation as a slick fielding second baseman with a good bat during the 1930s. He also played in the Twilight League back then, and regularly patrolled second base at Amusement Park with the Old Well team while on Sundays he played with the Wilton Farmers.

Playing all that baseball, Fahan's talent on the diamond caught the eye of the Cincinnati Reds, who signed him to a professional contract and had him report to their spring training camp for minor leaguers in Georgia. Fahan hung around for 30 days, but was eventually cut.

He was quickly picked up, however, by a team called Americus in the Georgia-Florida League, and, following several workouts, made the team as an infielder. Fahan also got to show his hitting talents batting second in the lineup and raising his average to as high as .354 by mid-season. He would end up hitting just under .300 in his only season with the team as the draft board summoned him and he returned to Norwalk to join the Navy for four years.

Fahan traveled the country during that time, from Chicago to the Great Lakes, from Dearborn, MI to Norfolk, VA, and from California to the Pacific. He eventually returned to the States and finished his time of service at an air base in Florida.

After his discharge, however, Fahan returned to California and went back to school to earn his high school diploma by attending night school in Oakland. From there, he applied to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn under the GI Bill and studied illustration. Fahan graduated in 1950, and one of his first jobs was drawing for Harvey Comic Books.

That led to a position with the prestigious advertising agency, BBDO, on Madison Avenue in New York, where he worked for 14 years in the television advertising department. When the long daily commute from Redding every day got to be too much, Fahan left the job in the city and began freelancing throughout Fairfield County.

He has since picked up painting as a successful pastime, and has sold many of his pictures of landscapes and portraits. Fahan still lives in Redding with his wife, proud parents of five boys and a girl.

During his athletic career, Fahan also played football with the Spring Hill Tigers, semi-professional ice hockey, basketball with some local teams, was a diving champion, and also skied and played tennis.

But baseball was always his number one love.