

Elmer and Merna Wilber started to sponsor the team in 1974 and called it Wilber Lime because they owned and operated a crushed rock quarry in Centerville, WI called Wilber Lime. The team played in the Centerville league for a number of years and gradually started playing bigger Tournaments and winning. They played all the way from New York to New Mexico. Wilber Lime got a reputation of being a good ball club because of excellent pitching and hitting. They never paid a pitcher or any player except for room and gas money. In bigger tournaments they often played against teams that did pay some of their ball players and were able to hold their own against them. Elmer and Merna attended many of these games and tournaments no matter how far they would have to travel. A ball team is not a profitable way to advertise. You have to like fast pitch and the young men that are playing for your team.

Then a tragedy struck in the midst of everything, Elmer was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Merna stepped in and said we are going to keep the team going and keep it going she did with the help of her family.

She still went to all the games she could, and backed her team at all times. Wilber Lime never stopped winning and the boys never stopped respecting Merna. Merna's daughter Arlene also travels to many of the games with her mother, and enjoys being with the team as much as Merna always has. After a tournament is over, whether Wilber Lime won or lost Merna is always there to treat the boys. She was so proud of them both on and off the field. A lot of different young men have played for Wilber Lime over the years, over 250 different players, and there has never been a fight or even a heated argument. This is one of the reasons why Wilber Lime has been so successful. 2004 was a big year for Wilbers. They won the NAFA - AA world tournament, and I believe was the first Wisconsin NAFA - AA team to do this. They have finished third twice since winning in 2004.

Softball people from all over the country know Merna and wish

her all the best. The last two or three years Wilber's have started to play more of a limited schedule having played only four tournaments this year thus far, winning two and finishing third in another. Elmer and Mena will long be remembered for their generosity over the years, as well as their love and commitment to softball.