

Arnold H. Gerberding

1900 - 1977



After working for the Schafer Company, a wholesale hardware firm, Arnold Gerberding conceived the idea of grouping hardware and building material dealers into an organization which would enable them to compete with large chain stores and discount operations.

Hardware Wholesalers, Inc. was born in Fort Wayne in 1945 with 75 members. Gerberding served as Executive Vice President and General Manager until his retirement in 1967. Gerberding was actively supportive of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Concordia High School and the United Way.