

## Joe Andrews



It's only fitting Joe Andrews be part of the first class of *Old Timers* to be honored posthumously. After all, he was actually one of the founders of the Norwalk Old Timers Athletic Association in 1963.

But **Joseph F. Andrews, Sr.** is probably best remembered for the role he played in physical education and recreation in the city of Norwalk.

Andrews began his career in 1927 as a physical education instructor and coach at the city's two junior high schools. He transferred to Norwalk High School in 1937 and taught PE while serving as a head coach in soccer and cross country, and an assistant in baseball, basketball, and track during his time there. Then in 1947 Andrews became the first director of Health and Physical Education in the Norwalk school system.

Meanwhile, in 1930 he was appointed head of the Norwalk Summer Playgrounds by the city's Parks and Recreation Department, a job he did during the summer when not teaching. When he was named the city's

first fulltime director of Parks and Recreations in 1962, he retired from his Health and PE position in 1963.

He continued as director of Parks and Rec until his retirement in 1971 after 40 years of public service with the department. When Andrews began in 1930 there were only five playgrounds in the city with 1,800 children registered. Under his watch, those numbers grew to 23 playgrounds and 6,000 children.

In 1978, the city dedicated "Joe Andrews Field" on County Street, where Norwalk High played football and lacrosse for years, in his memory.

Joe Andrews passed away in August 1993 at the age of 87.