

Irv "Lefty" Geddes



Irv "Lefty" Geddes was one of Norwalk's most prolific pitchers during a career that spanned three decades. He started as a 15-year-old pitcher for the White Eagle AC in the Norwalk Twilight League in 1927 and, before his career ended, played with many of Norwalk's better baseball clubs.

Irv was born in Norwalk and grew up in the Ward Street area of Winnipauk, where he attended local schools and stood his young classmates on their collective ears with his fast ball.

He was good enough as a teenager to be invited to pitch in the Norwalk Twilight League with the White Eagle Club, for whom he pitched for many years. During this period, Fred C. Riedell, long time president of the Twilight League, arranged a tryout for Geddes with the New York Yankees, in Waterbury. He was invited back the next day, but transportation was a problem and he never did get the 'second look' the Yankees had requested.

After his stint with the White Eagles, he moved to several other clubs, including the Winnipauk AC, Connecticut Lace, Pastimes, Rangers, and finally the Wanderers of Westport.

Many of his contemporaries of this period have already been named to the Norwalk Old Timers, including such outstanding players as Joe Beres, Benny Whone, Johnny Ingram, Steve Kravarik, Joe Kulscar, Tommy Price, and Bobby Edge.

Geddes was to become much more intimately involved with Benny Whone after his playing days ended, serving for 35 years as an umpire for the Benny Whone National Little League. He is now an official of the same league.

Irv has found great enjoyment in working with the youngsters in the little leagues, a satisfaction that many old timers share as they recall that, in their youth, there were no such organized leagues or adult leaders.

Retired as a foreman from the former H.D. Catty Corporation, Irv lives at 108 New Canaan Avenue, in Norwalk, with his wife, Dorothea.