

Dean Russell



Dean Russell brought big-time basketball back to Norwalk right after World War II, following a lapse of many years. He brought in members of the famous Newfields of Bridgeport and used a few local players for his semi-pro team, which played at the armory. The games drew big crowds and eventually Duke Cozza, owner of the Newfields, took over the local club.

In addition, Dean, who came here as a youngster of nine years from his native Middletown, has been a sponsor of baseball teams in the Cranbury Community League and the Senior Babe Ruth League.

After attending local schools, Dean worked at gas stations and then for 16 years was a hatter with the F. Berg and Co., and Hodshon-Berg before going to Danbury with the Disney Hat firm and F. H. Lee Co.

In 1947, Dean and his brother John, who is now living in Maine, opened their tire sales and service company on Main Avenue just above the Merritt Parkway. He took over the business when John went to Maine with Edwards & Co.

Russell sponsored radio coverage of the basketball games Calvin Murphy played in his sensational senior year and also Cal's appearance in the Dapper Dan tourney in Pittsburgh, PA, and in Allentown, PA, tourney.

He was a member of Norwalk local American Federation of Music. He played both the saxophone and the clarinet with Pete Vaast's orchestra and with his own band.

Dean married Verna Pollard in 1937 and they have two children: Dean, Jr., who is associated with his father in Russell's Inc., and Martha, who is married to Chris Whitney. Dean and his wife had five grandchildren, all girls.

Fraternally, Dean is a 50-year member of St. John's Lodge, F. and A.M. He is also a past master of the lodge.

Mr. & Mrs. Russell reside near the water in Rowayton at 43 Yarmouth Road.