

Johnny Johns



Johnny Johns, a popular member of the Norwalk YMCA staff for many years, then a physical education instructor and athletic coach at West Rocks Middle School, and later employed at the South Norwalk office of *The Hour* until his recent retirement, says shaking hands with the late Warren G. Harding, President of the United States, in 1923 was the biggest thrill.

Born in Seymour on July 31, 1902, he graduated from high school in that town and then from Springfield College in 1928 where he was a member of the wrestling team.

He joined the local 'Y' as a member of the original staff as youth director and was active in community affairs for many years serving on the board of directors of the Rotary Club as well as treasurer of the Rotary Football Committee. He was promoted to the post of

youth director in 1932, resigning to join the school system in 1943 as a physical education director and sports coach, dividing his time between Roger Ludlowe and Center Middle Schools. He also worked as a playground director summers for the Recreation Commission. He retired from the schools in 1957 for health reasons. Following a period of recuperation he joined *The Norwalk Hour*.

John married Ellen Wiley, a member of the secretarial staff of the YMCA, in 1942. They have one daughter, Ellen, a former skater of the Ice Follies and Ice Capades, who is currently an instructor at the Terry Connors Rink in Stamford. Mr. & Mrs. Johns reside at 4 Honeysuckle Drive.