

## *Gene Seymour*



Gene Seymour is best known for his exploits as a defenseman for Norwalk hockey teams during the 1930s and 1940s, but his greatest satisfaction came from the years when he supervised the Norwalk Recreational Youth Hockey program.

From 1958 until 1973 he taught skating and hockey basics to Norwalk youth. Conceived by Joe Andrews, then Norwalk Recreation commissioner, the youth hockey program taught Norwalk youngsters of junior high school age what hockey was all about. Assisted by Michael L'Hommedieu and Danny Doolittle, and augmented by Ed Bonello and Chris Lysobey of the Rec Commission, the program developed skaters for both Norwalk High and Brien McMahon.

Gene played football with the Shamrocks of New Canaan and the Catholic Club of Norwalk in the early '30s as an end. He was an infielder with the Texas Lunch baseball team in

the '30s, playing at the old Battenhouse Field in Darien. But hockey was Gene's forte.

He was a member of the Old Norwalk Hockey Club from 1932 through 1935 with Leo Skidd, Chet Buttery, Fred Peterson, Fred Bassler, and Steve Scallon, among others.

In 1936 Seymour took over the Norwalk Cubs Hockey team as player manager, playing against such teams as the Rowayton Hose, New Canaan, and Home Oil. The Cubs took part in the State Amateur League with teams like Winsted, Mossberg Rifles of New Haven, Hamden, and Stamford. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, Gene plied his defensive prowess with the Crystal Rink All Stars until his entry into the Seabees in 1944.

The All Stars did considerable traveling, including games in Providence and at Madison Square Garden. The All Stars played games on Saturday afternoons at the Garden.

Gene had little opportunity to play hockey during his stint with the Seabees in the Pacific in 1944 and 1945. He returned from Iwo Jima to become a fireman in Norwalk and rose through the ranks to become chief in 1973, a position he held until his retirement in 1979.

Seymour is vice chairman of the Norwalk Planning Commission and has been involved in this authority since the separation from the Zoning Commission in 1988.

He is married to the former Lois Benjamin. They have six children, 21 grandchildren, and 31 great grandchildren.