

## OLD TIMERS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, STAMFORD

# History of the Association 1944 - 1975

- Behind the Old Timers' Athletic Association is an inspiration and a spirit — the memory of Harry Mertz. For Harry Mertz, one of the greatest and most loved ball players Stamford has ever produced, a man who stood out for his warmth of character not only with his family but others, was and will continue to be the guiding light of the Old Timers' Athletic Association. It was while paying their last respects in the winter of 1943, his friends talk about him, his good humor, and brilliant baseball play, suggested that something should be done to honor the old time athletes still living.

- Eddie Hunt sent out a call for a group to get together to discuss the formation of an association and arrange for a dinner. The association was formed on a temporary basis and Jimmy Giblin was selected to be the first old time athlete to be honored.

This dinner was held March 1, 1944. It was a well attended affair, and was the forerunner of annual dinners and clambakes. This was an all-local affair with no out-of-town personalities at the head table. The question prominently asked during the evening was, "Which section of Stamford produced the most and best athletes?" E. Gaynor Brennan presided as toastmaster.

- Shortly after the above, a group of ten to fifteen enthusiastic boosters met and elected Eddie Hunt as president for 1944-1945; Jim Balmer, vice-president; Carter Dodd, secretary, and John Connolly, treasurer. It was agreed anyone could join, the membership fee to be \$1.00 for life, and the area athletes to be honored would be selected within the territory from Port Chester to Norwalk and New Canaan.

The first clambake held was at Mitchell Field, July 30, 1944, at which Joe Chimbole, fighter and boxing promoter; Jim Balmer, basketball manager, promoter and referee, and Bill Williams, lover of horses and horse racer, were honored. The events of the day brought together a group of old time ball players in a softball game against the Nutmegs, girls softball team, the girls winning; the remnants of the old St. Mary's and Sound Beach teams played a softball game with no one keeping score.

Thirteen months later the Association grew to a membership of 200. At the Second Annual Dinner, held March 6, 1945, George Smith a national figure in basketball; Matt Kenealy, High School football player at the turn of the century, and Bill Swappach, old time pitcher, were honored. Top basketball luminaries were in attendance.

- Joseph Sanger, the old Sound Beach catcher, was elected president for the next year 1945-1946. It was decided that honor recipients in the future be 55 years of age and over instead of the minimum age of 50. Once a year an award will be made to a Stamford High School athlete.

Norwalk's enthusiasm was high to defeat Stamford in softball at the Second Annual Clambake, held at Mitchell Field, July 29, 1945. Two old time outfielders, Maurice "Dutch" Clark and Steve "Copper" Callery, along with Ray Bliss, manager of boxers and promoter, were honored. Norwalk took a licking; boxing bouts were put on under the supervision of Harry Peatt.

At the Third Annual Dinner on March 5, 1946, the honored guests were Harry Cartwright, old time ball player before the turn of the century; Terry Connors, ball player, boxer, and skating champion, and Ed Cronin, pitcher of the 1900s and 1890s, in memoriam. Ed died a few weeks before the dinner. Ed Walsh, ex-major league pitcher; Judge William Ludy of Meriden, old time pitching star and well known in Stamford, were the guests.

- At the annual election of officers for the year 1946-1947, Chester Kowalski, an old time catcher in Bridgeport and these parts, was elected president. The group voted to lower the age limit on membership to 35. This was designed to bring into the association everybody interested in sports.

The Third Annual Clambake, July 28, 1946, drew a large crowd when Paul Kuczo, a great Stamford High and Villanova College athlete and coach at the High School; Charley Swenson, old time basketball player and bike rider; Joe Dest, Norwalk's contribution to the Eastern League, and Don Hardiman, captain of the 1945-46 basketball team, were honored. Norwalk made another unsuccessful effort to defeat Stamford in a softball game.

A highly enthusiastic crowd attended the Fourth Annual Dinner, February 18, 1947, at the Piccadilly to honor Walter Eddy, old time boxer; "Whitey" Czescik, star athlete at Stamford High and Villanova College; "Hotel" Reilly, prominent pool player, and Pat Giordano, Greenwich High School football star of 1946. Colonel Eddie Eagan and Tommy Loughran of boxing fame were guest speakers. Jackie Farrell, an Old Timers Dinner commuter, made his first appearance and stole the show with his speech. Chief of Police in Greenwich, John B. Gleason, was the toastmaster.

- The following month, Edward McGuinness, who played baseball with many teams after the turn of the century, was elected president for 1947-1948. Ed requested an all-out effort be made to enlarge the membership of the organization.

On July 27, 1947, the old timers gathered at Mitchell Field for the Fourth Annual Clambake, to honor Mort Lindsey, original member of bowling's Hall of Fame; "Buckey" Thomas, great ball player and manager of an early era; Paul Smithson, old basketball player, and Don Butkovsky, Stamford High athlete. The Madden group from New York City took on a Stamford team of softballers with a resulting hilarious time not only for the players but the spectators as well — grapefruits painted like softballs (a la Williams) exploded and hits were plastered all over the lot.

This association which was dedicated to the honoring of old timers, selected Dr. Fred McGourty, old time High School football and semi-pro baseball player; "Whitey" Michelson, old time marathoner and "Shorty" Schumann, pitching stand-out in the 1890s, to be honored at the Fifth Annual Dinner, February 17, 1948. Sam Pryor, who was toastmaster, secured Frank Frisch, Rev. Benedict Dudley of the New York Franciscan Missions; Tommy Holmes, hard hitting Boston Braves outfielder, as guest speakers; Jackie Farrell was again the top humorist of the evening.

- With John Franchina, former football player at Stamford

High, being elected the Association's fourth president, 1948-1949, it was agreed to continue the policy of sending flowers to the families of deceased members and baskets of fruit to hospitalized members.

Three athletes who placed their names in the record books of Stamford, through outstanding performances, were selected to be honored at the Fifth Annual Clambake on August 1, 1948, at Mitchell Field. Herb Hendrie, baseball, basketball and pool artist of the early days; Clarence Brooks of pugilistic fame; Harry Junger, old time football, baseball and track star, and Danny Morelli, High School athlete, were guests of honor.

The Sixth Annual Dinner, held February 16, 1949, at the Piccadilly, topped all previous efforts for attendance, when an overflow crowd attended. The award recipients were: Sam Pryor, vice-president of Pan-American Airways and former boxer at Yale; Harry Peatt, one of Stamford's boxing stars, and Frank Cahill, old time ball player and sports enthusiast. The array of guests included Earl Torgeson, Colonel Eddie Eagan, Frank Coniff and Nat Fleischer; Jackie Farrell went to work on some of the Old Timers present with his brand of satire.

● In April, 1949, Ralph "Nippy" Williams, a great infielder in his day, was automatically moved up to the presidency from vice-president of the Association for 1949-1950.

On July 31, 1949, the Sixth Annual Summer Outing was held at Mitchell Field honoring Ex-Mayor Ed Gonnoud, former prize fighter and promoter; Bert Humphries, ex-athlete and coach; Abe Tarlov, old time baseball and football player in Norwalk, and Eddie Gardella, High School athlete. The Norwalkers tried their luck at hardball in an effort to beat Stamford; the hits were too hot to handle for them.

To join the growing ranks of veterans already honored, Dr. Samuel Wolfson of Port Chester, former Stamford High athlete and semi-pro baseball player; Nick Bologna, manager of baseball teams in the Greenwich area, were the award recipients at the Seventh Annual Dinner, February 8, 1950, at the Piccadilly. "Chuck" Giblin, former ball player and skating champion, who died a month before the dinner, was honored in memoriam. For this affair the guests included Roger Douless, Norwalk High ex-athlete and semi-pro ball player; Willie Pep; Arch McDonald, radio broadcaster; Lou Effrat, New York Times sports writer, and Jackie Farrell finishing off the program with his anecdotes about major league baseball.

● Tony Marrucco, former outfielder and basketball star, assumed the office of president after serving as vice-president for one year, 1950-1951.

In a change of location, the Seventh Annual Clambake was put on, Sunday, July 30, 1950, at Vine Road. Amid the clams, lobsters, etc., awards were presented to Ed McGuinness, ex-prexy of the OTAA, well-known baseball and basketball player, and Bill (Smokey) Smith of Norwalk, long time boxing referee and ex-manager. In a special softball game the New Haven Railroaders defeated a team from the New York Central, 14-13.

In the fall of 1950, the Stamford High football team won the State of Connecticut championship. The Old Timers spearheaded a drive to organize High School fans to honor the Black Knights. Tony Marrucco, Old Timers' president, was selected general chairman of the Testimonial dinner, which was held January 30, 1951, at Vonderlieth Hall, Pitney-Bowes.

The result was 600 admiring fans turned out to heap honors on the squad and coaches. It was an extensive program, in-

cluding talks by college mentors and the presentation of gifts as a reward to the footballers.

Area sportsmen enjoyed a sparkling program when they attended the Eighth Annual Dinner, February 6, 1951, at the Piccadilly. Honored were Bill Brennan, Stamford High's great football player and captain and coach of semi-pro football teams in this area; Charlie White, old time three sports star at High School and semi-pro baseball player, and Paddy Lione, old time catcher and boxer. Guests included Roger Douless, Hank Greenberg, Joe Trimble, James Patterson and Sam Pryor, Jr.

● The officers elected for the year 1951-1952 were: Dave Nelson, who excelled as a soccer player in Scotland and this country, president; Joseph Czesick, vice-president, and John Connolly, treasurer.

Continuing its yearly custom of paying respects to stars of the past, the award recipients at the Eighth Annual Clambake held July 29, 1951, at Vince Road, were Andy Thomas, ex-long distance runner; Charlie Maher of Darien, star miler of the old days; James "Red" Kelley of New Canaan, old time basketball player, and Fred Dugan, High School athlete. The "grapefruit" softball appeared during the game between New Haven Railroaders and an Old Timers team.

To whip up interest for the Ninth Annual Dinner, February 5, 1952, at the Jewish Center, a display of old time pictures was put in the window of Hendrie & Lovatt. The three "old timers" honored were Rev. James J. McGuane, Darien's Connie Mack of baseball; J. Walter Madigan, three sports performer at High School, and Fred Hollander, all-round track performer and basketball star. With the exception of toastmaster Jackie Farrell, the speakers on the dais were Nutmeggers, such as Gene Tunney, Chico Vegar, Ron Northey and Andy Robustelli.

● The Association elected Joseph Czesick, president for the year 1952-1953. It was decided to change the dues to \$1.00 annually instead of the \$1.00 for life, due to expenses incurred yearly.

Honored at the Ninth Annual Clambake, July 27, 1952, at Vine Road were Eddie Mack, former New England bantam-weight boxing champion; Jim Dombroski, former baseball player, skater and runner of the earlier days; Bill Redway of Norwalk, old time baseball star with teams in the Clam Town, and John Gross, High School athlete. Rain for the first time curtailed the athletic activities of the day.

Approximately 300 sports fans attended the Tenth Annual Dinner on February 3, 1953, at the Piccadilly to honor Ed Halligan, former star athlete at Greenwich High and semi-pro baseball player; Dave Nelson, ex-president of the OTAA and top soccer player, and Dan Hickey, ex-athlete and yachtsman. Notables seated at the head table included Andy Robustelli, Lank Leonard, Mike Sandlock, "Ducky" Pond and Hans Lobert. J. Walter Kennedy was the toastmaster for the evening.

● Paddy Moruke was elected the ninth president of the Association for 1953-1954. With an opening in the Little Bigger League, a team was entered under our sponsorship.

On July 26, 1953, at the Tenth Annual Bake, held at Dzamba's Farm, Lou Tarlov, native of Norwalk and ex-Stamford High athlete, Peter Burke, old time catcher with many area teams; Fred Cumming, ex-High School athlete and semi-pro baseball player in the earlier days, and Bobby Scalzi, High School athlete, received the annual awards.

Prior to the next dinner, it was decided to change the usual procedure of honoring three area athletes, to include an outsider of national prominence as a fourth recipient.

Tribute was paid by a large gathering to four former athletes at the Eleventh Annual Dinner, February 1, 1954, at the Half-Way House. Awards were made to Roger Doullens, ex-athlete back in the late 1920s in Norwalk; Bill Traux, former Syracuse University and semi-pro pitching star; Felix LiVolsi, famous athlete and promoter in Stamford, and James "Sunny" Gordon, star athlete at Port Chester High, Fordham University and semi-pro basketball. In a memory-full evening the gathering enjoyed an interesting program with talks by former Commissioner of Baseball, Albert B. (Happy) Chandler, Rev. Benedict J. Dudley, Lee Howell, and Mel Allen. Don Dunphy was the toastmaster of the evening.

● The 1954-55 season opened with a buffet meeting at the Elks Clubhouse when new officers were installed, with Arthur Reardon as president. The group agreed to continue to sponsor a baseball nine in the Babe Ruth League.

Old friends got together not only to rehash the "good old days", but to honor Stephen Tucker, well known area baseball player; John Broderick, old miler of outstanding ability; Rudolph Lang, Stamford's great old time catcher, and Charlie Pike, High School athlete. The awards to the above were given at the Eleventh Annual Clambake held at Dzamba's Farm, July 25, 1954.

Before the largest gathering ever to attend a dinner, three area athletes were honored for their athletic prowess in the past. At the Twelfth Annual Dinner, held February 1, 1955, at the Half-Way House, awards were made to Eddie Hunt, Stamford's great all-around athlete; Carl Schmehl of East Port Chester, remembered for his baseball ability; Otto Schmidt, New Canaan's all-around sportsman. The fourth to be honored was Jackie Farrell, assistant director of press promotions for the New York Yankees.

On the speaking program were Red Smith, Rev. Robert Keating, well known figure in sports circles in the State; Mayor Thomas F. J. Quigley, Robert Fishel, and William O. DeWitt of the Yankees. "Buddy" Vanderheyden was the toastmaster.

● Art Reardon, retiring president, turned the gavel over to President Felix LiVolsi for the 1955-56 year. During the past year Reardon brought the by-laws up to date to incorporate all changes.

The Twelfth Annual Clambake was held July 26, 1955, at Dzamba's Farm, drawing a large crowd to witness the awards bestowed upon ex-athletes and a High School athlete. Those honored were Jules Burnes, former Cos Cob ball player; Frank Burke, who excelled in football at High School at the turn of the century; Joseph Tooher, ex-basketball player and manager, and Fred Padgett, the High School player.

A large group of former award recipients were in attendance and were introduced to the gathering. Under the guidance of "Legger" Bellos an interesting athletic program was carried out.

As we flit through the years and glance back at these banquets, the various ones are remembered for outstanding features or incidents — the first dinner, spaghetti and meat balls, given for Stamford's top baseball player, the late Jimmy Giblin, for instance; the many Clambakes when the "youngsters" had to revert to the game of softball.

But the one the old-timers in the Association will never forget was the 13th annual, held February 6, 1956, at Hugo's.

The largest crowd of sports fans (534) ever to attend our affairs, gathered that night to witness the presentation of awards to four men who made names in sports some years ago.

Tributes were paid to two former Stamford athletes, former City Court Judge E. Gaynor Brennan, three sports star at Stamford High and later at Rutgers University, where he was mentioned for All-American grid honors; William "Billy" Giblin, outstanding outfielder with Stamford teams at the turn of the century.

Also honored were Dr. J. Francis Gargan of Greenwich, one of Fordham's great football players, former head coach of Georgetown, Fordham and New York University; Frankie Frisch, the Fordham Flash, New York Giants baseball great, all-time Major League player as an infielder, and elected to the Hall of Fame.

A great array of interesting and entertaining speakers sparked the program. In the speakers' lineup were: Mayor Thomas F. J. Quigley; John S. Schwarz, director of the New York Giants farm system; Walter "Red" Smith, sports columnist of the New York Journal-American; Harry Costello, star quarterback at Georgetown under Dr. Gargan, and Russ Hodges, sportscaster for the baseball Giants.

● On April 9, 1956, Felix LiVolsi turned the gavel over to Nick Bologna of Cos Cob, as president, at the installation of officers for the 1956-1957 team. It was agreed to again sponsor a team in the American Babe Ruth League.

At the 13th Annual Clambake, on Sunday, July 29, 1956, at Dzamba's Farm, Charles Taylor of Norwalk, known as Battling Kunz three decades ago; Martin Gordon, baseball star, and Robert Horan, outstanding High School athlete of the year, received the annual awards.

At a victory dinner held December 14, 1956, the players of the Old Timers American Babe Ruth League team were honored for winning the championship of the 1956 season. Coached by Al Judge, the champs won the first half and second half of play. The players received watches as gifts of the Association and Coach Judge accepted the Ed & Andy's Sport Shop Trophy, as emblematic of the championship.

Another large turnout was on hand for the 14th Annual Dinner, held at Hugo's, Tuesday, February 5, 1957. Three former area athletes, George Giblin, star outfielder; Steve Blazey, stellar catcher, and Sal Sava, pitcher of renown with the R.B. & W. Club of Port Chester and Bridgeport in the Eastern League, were honored. Another award recipient was Col. Eddie Eagan, Rhodes Scholar and Olympic heavyweight boxing champion.

A surprise and welcomed treat was the appearance of Manager Casey Stengel and General Manager George Weiss of the New York Yankees. Both men spoke on some of the highlights of the Yankees during the past season; in addition, Casey reminisced about his experiences in the major and minor leagues.

Others who spoke briefly included Mayor Thomas F. J. Quigley; Coach Jim Lee Howell of the New York Football Giants; Frank Genovese, New York Giants baseball scout; William Heinz, boxing writer, and Harry Costello, former All-American quarterback of Georgetown University.

A plaque was presented to Andy Robustelli, great defensive end of the New York Football Giants, for his outstanding contribution to sports over a period of years.

Don Russell, prominent radio and television personality,

was the toastmaster.

- At the Annual Buffet Supper, held April 9, 1957, at Lazy's Restaurant, the officers for 1957-1958 were installed: John A. Scalzi, Jr., president; Michael Bellos, vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary, and John Connolly, treasurer.

Although the Old Timers team finished second in the regular season play in the American Babe Ruth League of 1957, six members of that team were selected on the All-Star club, representing Stamford in the national playoff at Ann Arbor, Michigan. In the finals, Stamford lost to Pensacola, Florida. Al Judge and "Hack" Wolfson, both Old Timers, were the coaches of the Stamford team.

Under the guidance of co-chairmen Stanley Paulnak and Louis Montagnino, a large attendance enjoyed the 14th Annual Clambake at Dzamba's Farm, Sunday, August 4, 1957. The veteran sportsmen honored were: Vito Longo, pitcher, Bill Meyer, basketball player and coach; Fernando Re of New Canaan, brilliant catcher. An award also was given to Gregory (Chick) Clark, a nine-letter winner with Stamford High School teams.

Despite occasional showers (the second in fourteen years) the group enjoyed games supervised by vice-president Michael Bellos.

Paul Kuczo, an Old Timer, was the recipient of the Connecticut Sportswriters Alliance Gold Key award at Hartford, January 27, 1958. Paul, for 30 years, a Stamford High School coach, retired to assume the duties of Athletic Director of the institution.

At the 15th Annual Banquet, January 27, 1958 at Hugo's, tributes were paid to three area athletes of the past: John Connolly, High School and Villanova College athlete; Frank "Lank" Leonard, Port Chester athlete, promoter and cartoonist; Anthony (Moruke) Marrucco, semi-pro baseball and basketball player; John Quinn, Milwaukee Braves vice-president and general manager, and to Walter "Red" Smith, syndicated sports columnist.

The array of guests included Rep. Albert P. Morano, W. C. (Bill) Heinz, boxing writer; Wynn Elliott, radio announcer, and J. Walter Kennedy, sports columnist and public relations man, regaled the gathering with stories. Don Dunphy, the boxing broadcaster, was the toastmaster.

- Vice-President Michael Bellos received the gavel from President John Scalzi at the Annual Buffet Supper, April 14, 1958, held at the Elks Club, to assume the presidency for the 1958-1959 term. Other officers installed were: Louis Montagnino, vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary, and John Connolly, treasurer.

A challenge went out to Norwalk, as in the past, to send a representative softball team to play Stamford at the 14th Annual Clambake, Sunday, July 27, 1958, at Dzamba's Farm. The team appeared, the game played, but they stopped counting the Stamford runs.

At this affair the recipients of the annual award were Charles Howard, baseball player and track star of the real old days; Tony Manero, U.S. Open Golf Champion; Nathan Martin, former High School athlete and sponsor of athletic teams. Richard Conetta, Stamford High School athlete, also received an award.

President Michael Bellos welcomed a large attendance to the 16th Annual Dinner, Monday, February 2, 1959 at the Half-Way House. Honored were Stephen Kelly, veteran boxing trainer; Ira Miner, golfing instructor and professional; Edward

Splan, sports manager of Norwalk, in memoriam; Frank Leahy, former Boston College and Notre Dame football coach.

Speakers included Roger Doulens, executive vice-president of Pan-American Airways; Ralph Branca, ex-major league pitcher; John "Buddy" Hassett, former major leaguer; Andy Robustelli, star defense end of the New York grid Giants; Al Helfer, Philadelphia Phils broadcaster. Postmaster Paul Pavia was the toastmaster while Rev. Harry L. Hale of St. Mary's Church, gave the invocation.

Many friends and ex-athletes of Fairfield County who played under Coach Leahy were on hand to pay tribute to the former mentor.

Mayor Webster C. Givens officially proclaimed Monday, February 2, 1959, as OLD TIMERS DAY in honor of the 15th Anniversary of the founding of the Association.

March 31, 1959, the Association honored the members of its Babe Ruth baseball team at the Annual Buffet at the Elks Club.

- New leaders for the 1959-1960 team were installed when Michael Bellos turned the gavel over to Louis Montagnino, president; Alfred Judge, vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Connolly, treasurer; and Philip Wolfson, sergeant-at-arms.

This Association is grateful to Moe Magliola, Sports Editor of the Stamford Advocate, for the series of articles with pictures which ran in the paper, on the history of the OTAA, since its organization in 1944.

A group with mustachios and toppers went into secret practice sessions to take on the Bridgeport Old Timers in a softball game at the 16th Annual Clambake, Sunday, July 26, 1959, at Dzamba's Farm. The Bridgeport "iron-men" defeated Stamford's "two-platoon" players. Later in the day, honors were bestowed upon Charles Moore, baseball player in the old days; Loren Keyes, for over 25 years coach of New Canaan High School teams; Herb Whitehead, outstanding amateur golfer of the early '30s, and Billy O'Connor, Stamford High's all-around sports star.

Many members of the OTAA served on various committees in assisting Mayor J. Walter Kennedy in honoring Stamford High School's 1958 and 1959 State Championship football teams at a civic testimonial dinner Tuesday, December 29, 1959 at Vonderleith Hall.

The 17th annual sports dinner at Hugo's Restaurant in February, 1960, was the most successful in the history of the Old Timers' events. The sale of tickets was closed two days prior to the affair.

The distinguished men honored that night were John Campbell, Prep school athlete and wrestler; Dr. Dave Sloman, collegiate boxing champion; Ralph "Nippy" Williams, one of Stamford's top infielders and skater; and Branch Rickey, one of baseball's most famous managers and organizers.

Branch Rickey, at 78, when told he could sit down and discourse as he pleased, held the audience spellbound. Speakers included such prominent people as Jackie Robinson, former Dodgers baseball player, who presented the award to Mr. Rickey; Mayor J. Walter Kennedy; Horace McMahon, TV and movie star; Ron Northey, White Sox scout; Walter "Red" Smith, syndicated sports columnist; Ted Blair, All-American at Yale; Bill Heinz, boxing writer; Ralph Branca, former Dodgers pitcher; and Carl Erskine, L.A. Dodgers pitcher.

Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkranz gave the invocation, and the well-

known WABC sportscaster Howard Cosell served as toastmaster.

● At the annual buffet April 11, 1960, at the Elks Club, Lou Montagnino turned over the gavel to Alfred Judge, club president for the 1960-1961 term. Other officers elected were Dr. Joseph Connolly, vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Connolly, treasurer; Philip Wolfson, sergeant-at-arms.

Members of the Old Timers' championship team of the American Babe Ruth League for the 1959 season were lined and awarded trophies at the Elks Club on May 1, 1960. Frank Chicatell was the chairman of the buffet and awards night program.

A trio of stars of yester-years and a present day outstanding athlete of the SHS graduating class received the Old Timers' sports awards at the 17th annual Clambake and Outing held Sunday, July 31, 1960 at Dzamba's Farm. The recipients of engraved watches were Ed Denning, bowler, auto speed racer and pitcher; Walt Mitchell, basketball, track and field performer; Fire Chief Thomas "Toggy" Richardson, top-notch first baseman and handball star; and Rolly Wahl, SHS all-around athlete.

The well-planned bake was well attended. New and old friends enjoyed a full day under a sunny sky and left the grounds with a great deal of satisfaction after a relaxed day of good food, fun and good fellowship. The bake was under the chairmanship of Frank Chicatell, with Stan Paulnak as co-chairman.

At a meeting held September 12, 1960 at the Elks Club, the Old Timers agreed to sponsor a team in the newly organized Stamford Pop Warner Boys' Football League for the 1960 season. The four-team loop played doubleheaders in Woodside Park. The other three teams included Pitney-Bowes, Police Department, and Jaycee-Ed-Andy's Sport Shop.

An outstanding group of sports notables accepted invitations to attend the 18th Annual Dinner, Monday, January 30, 1961 at Hugo's Restaurant.

Area old timers honored were Tommy Alfano, semi-pro infielder; Bill Haggerty, outfielder, and "Young" Angelo Pace, semi-pro and professional boxer. The fourth to be honored was the World's Heavyweight Boxing Champion, Floyd Patterson. His remarks and answers to questions from the floor won him a host of friends.

Guests and speakers included Horace McMahon, TV and movie actor; Andy Robustelli, star defensive end of the New York Giants; Fred Dugan, end with the Washington Redskins; Ted Blair, All-American at Yale; George Weiss, president of the Mets; Jackie Farrell, New York Yankees public relations staff; Ralph Branca, former Dodgers pitcher; Mike Sandlock, ex-big leaguer; Bob Pauley, ABC radio; Bill Heinz, magazine writer; Bill Fugazy, president of Feature Sports, Inc. Rev. John Filip pronounced the invocation, while Howard Cosell, ABC radio sportscaster, was the toastmaster.

Those of you who have contributed to the success of this organization over these many years know fully well the soul-satisfying pleasure the old-time athletes derive when they are brought, front and center, to be honored at our affairs. It is gratifying to note also, following the long-time success of our group, that similar organizations have come into being, *i.e.*, The Greater Bridgeport Old Timers A.A. (1957), the Darien and Greenwich Old Timers A.A. (1961), Old Timers of Fairfield, and the Sportsmen of Westport (1961). To them we extend our congratulations to join in paying tribute to athletic

standouts of other eras.

● At the annual buffet, Monday, April 10, 1961, at the Elks Club, Dr. Joseph Connolly received the gavel from outgoing President Alfred Judge for the 1961-1962 term. Other officers were James Holahan, vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Connolly, treasurer; and Sam D'Andrea, sergeant-at-arms.

Fond memories of the earlier days echoed at the 18th Annual Clambake, Sunday, July 30, 1961, at Dzamba's Farm, when "Beef" Carlson, old time basketball star; "Packey" Tierney, old time fighter; Allan Ungemack, stellar infielder of yester-years, and Pete Ballo, all-around SHS athlete, were honored. Vice-President James "Hap" Holahan served as emcee.

On August 21, 1961, Dr. Joseph Connolly, President, presented plaques to John Goings and Mike Ginolfi, Stamford High; Bob Muchinsky and Ted Coppola, Catholic High gridders with the West squad in the annual Nutmeg Bowl football game, on behalf of the Old Timers.

A committee headed by Tony Marrucco brought the By-Laws of the Old Timers up to date, effective November 11, 1961.

With some of the "great names" in the world of sports on hand to grace the head table, those honored at the 19th Annual Dinner at Hugo's January 29, 1962 were: Al Koproski, for his contributions to sports over the years; Fred Lione, for his exploits on the gridiron in yester-years; Walter Wheeler, Jr., many-time sailing winner with his *Cotton Blossom IV*; Allie Sherman, New York Football Giants coach, winner of the Eastern Division football title, his first as head coach.

The guest list included Mayor J. Walter Kennedy, Andy Robustelli, Kyle Rote, Joe Walton and Allan Webb of the New York Football Giants; Walter "Red" Smith, New York Herald Tribune; Horace McMahon, movie and TV actor; George Weiss, President, New York Mets; Tom Meany, Lindsay Nelson and Bob Murphy of the Mets; Herb Kopf, former collegiate and NFL coach; Bill Heinz, boxing writer; Chuck Arnold, auto racing driver; Frank Robotti of the Boston Patriots; and Fred Dugan, Washington Redskins.

The invocation was pronounced by the Rev. John R. Brennan of Villanova University, while Howard Cosell, WABC sportscaster, was the master of ceremonies.

● The following officers were installed at the annual buffet at the Elks Club April 9, 1962 for the 1962-1963 term: James Holahan, president; Michael Beluk, first vice-president; John Ballo, second vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Connolly, treasurer; Felix LiVolsi, sergeant-at-arms.

Another milestone in the history of the Old Timers was passed when a large group attended the 19th Annual Clambake Sunday, July 29, 1962 at Dzamba's Farm. Honored were: Mike Cantillo, SHS football center, 1915-1916, and semi-pro player; Paul Rosa, SHS football halfback and captain, 1917; Johnny Walsh, "Old St. Mary's" and local baseball and bowling star; Len Rogers, outstanding Stamford High athlete. John "Red" Ballo and Stanley Paulnak were co-chairmen for the Bake.

As at many of these gatherings, there are the veteran sportsmen in recalling feats of their athletic achievements, have improved over the years with an exaggerated memory of ability at these "hot-stove sessions."

The tragic death of Johnny Scalzi, September 27, 1962, former President of the Old Timers, is not only a grievous

loss to our Association, but also as a public servant to the City of Stamford. Johnny, a long-time member of the Stamford Old Timers, was one of the hardest working of the group.

A baseball field in Woodside Park has been designated "the John A. Scalzi, Jr. Field" for his many contributions to sports.

Before a large gathering of sports fans, one of the outstanding groups of sports celebrities attended the 20th Annual Dinner, Tuesday, January 29, 1963, at Laddins Terrace.

Tributes were paid to honored old time Stamford athletes, Joe (Buck) Leonard, Stamford High and semi-pro footballer; (Sailor) Bill Murphy, lightweight boxer in the 20's; Paddy Moruke, basketballer, manager and promoter. In addition, Howard Cosell, ABC Sports caster and Del Shofner N.Y. Football Giants offense end, were also honored.

Guests and speakers included: Mayor J. Walter Kennedy; George Weiss, William Shea, Tom Meany and Johnny Murphy of the Mets; Horace McMahon, TV and movie actor; Bobby Bragan, Milwaukee Braves; Bob Fishel and Jack White of the N.Y. Yankees; Allan Webb, Joe Walter, Dick Lynch, Sam Huff and Allie Sherman, N.Y. Football Giants; Tommy Richardson, President International League; Mickey Walker, Ex-Middleweight Boxing Champion; Carl Yastrzmski, Boston Red Sox; Walter (Red) Smith, sports columnist, Andy Robustelli, All-Pro end, N.Y. Giants, was the toastmaster.

The initial Johnny Scalzi Memorial Award was made to Len Rogers.

The invocation and benediction were pronounced by the Rev. Robert F. Keating, Pastor of St. Judes Church, Derby, Connecticut.

● At the annual buffet Monday, April 15, 1963 at the Elks Club, Michael Beluk was elevated to the presidency for the 1963-1964 term. Other officers were: John Ballo, first vice-president; Frank Chicatell, second vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Connolly, treasurer; and John Franchina, sergeant-at-arms. Members heard reports on the association's contributions and sponsorship of the Babe Ruth baseball and Pop Warner football teams.

A capacity crowd attended the 20th Annual Clambake on Sunday, July 28, 1963 at Dzamba's Farm to honor Pete Hamernick, star semi-pro catcher; Jim Broderick, quarter miler; T. Carter Dodd, former Advocate sports editor. Walter Wuchiski, Catholic High, all-round athlete, received the award as the "schoolboy athlete of the year."

John (Red) Ballo, first vice-president served as toastmaster.

The program of the 21st Annual Dinner held at Laddins Terrace, February 3, 1964, stands as one of the highlights in the long succession of award programs of the Old Timers. The presentations to Bernard (Rube) Malarkey, former minor league and local pitcher; Alfred (Red) Abbazzia, ex-professional basketballer; James (Hap) Halohan, Darien High School coach, were heart-warming incidents. The night looked like a tribute to the Yankees, with General Manager Ralph Houk and Manager Yogi Berra and MVP Elston Howard the national figure recipients.

Sports notables present included: Whitey Ford, Yankee pitcher; Tom Gorman, National League umpire; Jimmy Piersall, Los Angeles Angels; Pat Summerall, ex-Giant footballer; Dan Topping, Jr., Jack White and Bob Fishel, N.Y. Yankees; Mike Sandlock, ex-national League catcher; Fred Dugan, Washington Redskins and Horace McMahon, TV and movie actor.

The Rev. John R. Brennan, Villanova University gave the

invocation and benediction.

The Johnny Scalzi Memorial Award was presented to Don Cavaliero, star halfback at Stamford High School.

Howard Cosell, ABC-Radio sportscaster, was the emcee.

● John Ballo was elevated to the office of President for the 1964-1965 term, at the Annual Buffet, held April 14, 1964, at the Elks Club. The new slate of officers comprise Frank Chicatell, first vice-president; Joseph DeLeo, second vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Connolly, treasurer; John Franchina, sergeant-at-arms. Those in attendance heard a report on the Pop Warner Football League by Dick Walter, the Warner loop president.

Paul Kuczo, all-around athlete at Stamford High and Villanova College, a successful coach and athletic director of the Stamford High schools, was inducted into the Fairfield County Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame at the 2nd Annual Dinner in Bridgeport, May 26, 1964.

The untimely passing of Maurice (Moe) Magliola, Advocate sports editor, July 18, 1964, took from our midst, one who was closely associated with sports in this area and who always took an interest in the Old Timers' A.A.

The 21st chapter in the OTAA's clambake series, held July 26, 1964, at the Frank Altschul Estate, was highlighted by numerous sports activities and the presentation of the annual "schoolboy athlete of the year" to Dave Thomas, Rippowam High athlete. Second vice-president Joseph (Jake) DeLeo was the toastmaster.

Stamford sportsmen numbering close to 600 were on hand at Laddins Terrace, Monday, February 1, 1965 for the 22nd Annual Dinner, as they saluted three local old time athletes, Dr. Bill Connelly, All-State end at Stamford High and prominent golfer; John (Yosh) Byczajka, outfielder and basketballer; John Franchina, footballer and baseball official along with the three national figures in sports. Johnny Keane, Yankee pilot; Bob Fishel, Yankee vice-president and publicity director and William Shea, for whom Shea Stadium was named.

Guest speaker, Tommy Richardson, related humorous incidents connected with his years in baseball; other speakers were, Joe Garagiola, Yankee broadcaster; Mayor Thomas Mayers; Andy Robustelli, ex-Giant end and TV-Movie star, Horace McMahon. Others present included, Ralph Branca, Alex Lukachik, Jackie Farrell, Cliff Montgomery, Benny Borgmann, Fred Dugan, Mike Sandlock and Joe Walton.

Rev. George P. Poulos, Pastor, Church of the Archangels, offered the invocation and benediction, while Ann Williams McAuliffe sang the Star Spangled Banner. Toastmaster for the evening was Howard Cosell, ABC TV-Radio Sportsmaster.

● At the Holy Name A.C., Monday, April 19, 1965, retiring President John Ballo turned the gavel over to Frank Chicatell for the 1965-1966 term of office. Others installed were, Joseph DeLeo, first vice-president; Andrew Thorpe, second vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Connolly, treasurer, and John Franchina, sergeant-at-arms. A buffet was held prior to the installation.

The Old Timers gathered for their 22nd Annual Clambake, Sunday, July 25, 1965 at the Frank Altschul Estate with 150 in attendance. A program of special events under the direction of Lou Montagnino, kept the oldsters busy, until the ceremonies started. Due to the absence of Danny DeVito, the Old Timers schoolboy selection of the year, his father John DeVito accepted the award for the Stamford High baseball

star. Andrew Thorpe, second vice-president, was the emcee for the day.

For the first time in its 23 year history, a fourth area sports figure was honored at the Annual Dinner held January 31, 1966 at Laddins Terrace. The recipients were, Jack Birmingham, Stamford High and Villanova all-around athlete; Mike Drotar, organizer and manager of area baseball teams; Frank Koproski, star semi-pro pitcher; Frank LiVolsi, Stamford High athlete. The nationally-prominent honored comprised, Ex-Mayor J. Walter Kennedy, National Basketball Association Commissioner; Joe Lapchick, renowned basketball player and coach; Tommy Richardson, Ex-President International Baseball League.

Among the head table guests sat, Mayor Thomas Mayers, Andy Robustelli, Mike Sandlock, Carl Lindemann, Jr., Bob Fishel, Cliff Montgomery, Bill Greeves, Fred Dugan, Dick Stuart, Toots Shor and Mel Allen.

The Star Spangled Banner was sung by Ann Williams McAuliffe and the Rev. Edward Surwilo, Assistant Pastor, St. Leo's Church recited the invocation and benediction. Howard Cosell, again, was the master of ceremonies.

Many members of the OTAA have been in the spotlight in their time, as competing athletes; they fought it out on the diamond, the court and the gridiron, now they sit down to an evening of fellowship, brightening hearts as their younger days pass in review.

Anthony (Moruke) Marrucco, former President of the Old Timers (1950) and prominent baseball and basketball player with area teams, was honored by the Port Chester (N.Y.) Old Timers at their 12th Annual Dinner in Larchmont, N.Y.

● At its annual buffet, Monday, April 11, 1966 at the Holy Name A.C., the OTAA installed officers for the 1966-1967 team, Joseph DeLeo, president; Andrew Thorpe, first vice-president; Paul Kuzco, second vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Ballo, treasurer and John Franchina, sergeant-at-arms.

Tribute was paid to Terry Mahn, four-spot star at Rippowan High School, at the 23rd Annual Clambake, held at Rosa Hartmann Park, July 31, 1966. A full program of athletic events, directed by Lou Montagnino, was enjoyed by many. Andrew Thorpe was toastmaster for the affair.

Over 500 witnessed the usual awards to four local old time athletes and three national sports figures at the 24th Annual Dinner, January 31, 1967, at the Summerset Restaurant.

Congratulated for their contributions to sports were, Frank Daley, prominent golfer and track star; John Dora, Stamford High and Villanova College football star; Emile Morin, basketball standout; Aurelio Rich, baseball and softball performer, while the national awards went to Weeb Ewbank, N.Y. Jets Football Coach; Lee McPhail, Jr., Vice-President, N.Y. Yankees; Ken Strong, ex-Giant football star.

The traditional gathering of dais guests included Mayor Thomas Mayers, Andy Robustelli, Cliff Montgomery, Mike Sandlock, Rudy Redmont, Vaughn (Bing) Devine, J. Walter Kennedy, principal speaker, Bill Stein, Charlie Gehringer, Hal Goodenough, Bob Fishel and Chick Meehan.

Ann Williams McAuliffe sang the Star Spangled Banner with Rev. Edward Surwilo, Assistant Pastor, St. Leo's Church, pronouncing the invocation and benediction. Tommy Richardson, "Baseball's Good Will Ambassador," was the emcee.

● To guide the Old OTAA during the 1967-1968 period, Andrew Thorpe assumed the presidency; Paul Kuzco, first

vice-president; John Connolly, second vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Ballo, treasurer and John Franchina, sergeant-at-arms. The installation took place at the annual buffet at the Elks Club, April 10, 1967.

Over 400 guests paid tribute to Deputy Sheriff Patrick Moruke at a testimonial dinner, June 26, 1967, at the Half-Way House, for his 25 years of service to Fairfield County. Paddy a former president (1953) of the OTAA was also honored at their 20th Annual Dinner, January 29, 1963.

For 23 years the Old Timers held an annual clambake, honored three local old time athletes and the top city scholar-athlete, with 300 sportsmen in attendance. In recent years there was a decline in the turnout for the affair, the price of lobster increased, which had to be eliminated, difficulty in finding a location, with a resultant loss of money each year. The net effect that the few who struggled with the arrangements finally had to abandon the outing, and so a gala sporting event was discontinued.

Clambakes used to be a big thing around these parts in the old days; the Old Timers' bakes were a throw back to those good days. Recall the usual bull sessions in which old timers tried to out-lie each other of past exploits; the baseball and softball games when surprised batters would hit a painted orange or grapefruit (a la Nippy Williams) for the fences much to their splattered surprise; the muscles were gone but the wonderful memories remained as former athletes saw each other at these affairs.

The Old Timers who have honored student-athletes since 1946, paid tribute to Charles (Dick) McRedmond stellar Catholic High baseball and basketball player, at a buffet held at the Elks Club, Monday, September 11, 1967. Dr. Joseph Connolly, chairman of the selection committee, made the presentation.

The Silver Anniversary Dinner held January 30, 1968 at Laddin's Terrace, has been termed the finest ever. An eloquent and distinguished cast of speakers made the evening the most memorable for the 575 in attendance.

Honored for their local sports contributions were James Mulreed, noted grid and track star; William Hagan, three-sport athlete at Stamford High and semi-pro football; Joseph Cavalier, stellar shortstop and Martin Donohue, manager of successful high school teams and Cove A.C.

Those receiving the national awards were Governor John Dempsey (Conn.) who was presented with the OTAA's Special Gold Medal and an honorary membership; Michael Burke, N.Y. Yankee President; K.O. Morgan, former Stamford boxer; Cliff Montgomery, ex-Columbia footballer and Nat Holman, former coach of CCNY basketball teams.

Among the speakers, along with the recipients, were Andy Robustelli, Football Hall of Fame; Johnny Murphy and Hal Goodenough of the N.Y. Mets and Rev. Robert Keating, Pastor St. Jude's Church, Derby. The national honorees spoke of their past association in the field of sports. Other guests in attendance were both Stamford and nationally known sports figures.

Rev. Edward Surwilo, St. Leo's Church, pronounced the invocation and benediction. Tommy Richardson, President of the Eastern Baseball League was the Master of Ceremonies.

Bobby Valentine and Paul Kuzco, Sr., were in the limelight Monday evening, June 10, 1968, at the annual buffet-meeting at the Allison Scott Hotel.

Valentine, Rippowan High All-American football player and

a draft pick of the Los Angeles Dodgers was saluted as the scholar-athlete selection of the year.

The Old Timers unanimously voted to sponsor a testimonial dinner for Kuczo, the retiring Stamford and Rippowam High Schools' athletic director and also endorsed the move to name the new Stamford High gym in his honor.

● Kuczo was installed as the OTAA's president for the 1968-1969 term along with John Connolly, first vice-president; Sam Kotos, second vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Ballo, treasurer and John Franchina, sergeant-at-arms.

Over 500 friends of Paul Kuczo, Sr., attended the civic testimonial dinner in honor of the retired athletic director of the Stamford High Schools, September 28, 1968 at Vonderleith Hall, Pitney Bowes. The affair was sponsored by the Old Timers and many civic friends of Kuczo, with Andy Thorpe as Chairman and Felix LiVolsi and Joseph Czescik as Co-Chairman. Toastmaster for the evening was NBA Commissioner J. Walter Kennedy.

Felix LiVolsi, all-around athlete and track star died November 29, 1968. He was active in community athletic affairs; it was his suggestion "that something should be done to honor the old time athletes" while friends paying their last respects to Harry Mertz in 1943. He was one of the pioneers in the Old Timers' movement, honored at the 11th Annual Dinner, February, 1954 and the 12th president of the group.

● A shade over 500 attended the 26th Annual Dinner February 1, 1969 at Laddin's Terrace, where the OTAA began their second quarter century.

Cited for their contributions to the national sports scene were Charlie Gehringer, the unforgettable Detroit second baseman and Hall of Famer; renowned ex-Yankee pitcher Lefty Gomez and Dr. William Williams, member of the International Board of Babe Ruth Baseball.

The local honorees were Joseph Caporizzo, baseball authority; Sam Kotos, outfielder and baseball coach; Louis Montagnino, Stamford High all-around athlete and semi-pro infielder; Raymond O'Toole, Stamford High football and baseball, NYU football.

Pinch-hitting for main speaker Tom Gorman who was taken ill at the last moment, was umpiring colleague Bill Williams.

Other speakers were Andy Robustelli, Pro Football Hall of Fame; Whitey Herzog, Mets Player Personnel Director and Bill Robinson, Yankee outfielder. Other guests introduced were Mel Allen, Joe Walton, Bob Scheffing, Joe MacDonald, Bob Costello, Bob Fishel and George Weiss. Sportscaster Jerry Coleman, ex-Yankee infielder, was the toastmaster for the affair.

Nick Wright, Rippowam High's outstanding three sport star was presented the annual schoolboy athlete of the year award at the annual buffet held June 9, 1969, at the Allison Scott Hotel. Wright was chosen by a committee headed by Dr. Joe Connolly.

● John Connolly, former treasurer who retired in 1965, was elevated to the office of President for the 1969-1970 term, with John "Sam" Kotos as first vice-president; Joseph Caporizzo, second vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Ballo, treasurer and John Franchina, sergeant-at-arms.

The OTAA, considered tops of our present-day preservers of athletic heirloom deeds, gathered for its 27th Annual Dinner, February 2, 1970, at Laddin's Terrace.

Tributes were paid to former prominent local athletes,

Frank Chicatell, all-around athlete; Joe Sanger, semi-pro star catcher; Willard Yost, prominent local and national bowler; Joseph LiVolsi, long time affiliation with local sports as organizer and manager. Also honored nationally were Joe Walton, End Coach of the N.Y. Giants and Sportscaster Mel Allen.

Speakers, in addition to the recipients, included Sparky Lyle, Boston Red Sox pitcher; Roy White, Yankee outfielder and Ken Singleton, Met minor leaguer.

Other guests included Mayor Julius Wilensky, Jack Stroud, Robert Fishel, Lou Niss and Bob Costello. William LiVolsi made special presentations to Les Biederman, Allen and Walton in memory of his father, the late Felix LiVolsi, a pioneer of the Old Timers movement that spread to Bridgeport, Danbury, Darien, Greenwich and Norwalk.

The Very Rev. George Poulos, Church of Archangels, said the invocation and benediction. Serving as master of ceremonies was Les Biederman, former major league baseball writer of the Pittsburgh Press and now a resident of Newtown, Conn.

Toastmaster Joseph "Whitey" Czescik, presented the OTAA award to Brian Usher, all-state guard on the 1969 Stamford High football team, selected by the committee as the city schoolboy athlete of the year, at the annual buffet, June 8, 1970, at the Ponus Yacht Club.

● The officers elected for the 1970-1971 term were, John "Sam" Kotos, president; Joseph Caporizzo, first vice-president; Charles Annunziato, second vice-president; Paul Viola, Secretary; John Ballo, treasurer and John Franchina, sergeant-at-arms.

Stamford lost one of its sports pioneers in the death of Paul Kuczo, Sr., coach of Stamford High School teams, later supervisor of interscholastic sports in the public school system, December 4, 1970.

He gained many honors as an athlete at Stamford High and Villanova College, an enviable record as coach of the Black Knights and as a semi-pro pitcher. Paul was honored by the OTAA at the Third Annual Clambake, July 28, 1946 and was its 25th president.

Again a capacity crowd turned out for the 28th Annual Dinner, held at Laddin's Terrace, February 1, 1971, to honor Edward Bella, former area and NYU athlete; Jack Loughery, County Conference High School Commissioner, former referee and ball player; Tony Mammone, golf luminary and Frank Benevelli, former baseball manager and league president.

Stamford's own Andy Robustelli, ex-Giant stalwart, along with a pair of former baseball luminaries, Yankee hurler Frank "Spec" Shea and home run star Ralph Kiner were the national honorees.

Other guests on the dais included Mel Allen, Horace McMahon, Johnny Pesky, Bots Nekola, Neil Mahoney, Kyle Rote, Joe MacDonald, Lee McPhail, Allen Webb, Joe Walton, Gene Michaels, Bob Fishel, Keith Durant and Art DeFilippis.

Rev. Thomas Mancini, St. Clements Church, represented the clergy with J. Walter Kennedy, NBA Commissioner serving as master of ceremonies.

A sports arena for skating and other activities drew a complete and enthusiastic endorsement at a meeting of the OTAA, March 8, 1971. The sub-committee headed by Andrew Thorpe wrote to Mayor Julius Wilensky of its support of the Parks Department's request for funds.



The recipient of the annual city-wide outstanding scholar-athlete award went to Bob Augustyn, Stamford High's all state end and co-captain of the baseball team, at the buffet held June 2, 1971 at the Ponus Yacht Club. Sixteen of the twenty seven past presents of the OTAA were in attendance at the evening get together.

● At the buffet Joseph Caporizzo was elected president; Charles Annunziato, first vice-president; William LiVolsi, second vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Ballo, treasurer and John Franchina, sergeant-at-arms, for the 1971-1972 term.

Again the OTAA continues to bring old times back to life when three area athletes, another as sportsman of the year. Charles (Manley) Annunziato, well known boxer; Harry Weaver, baseball standout; John "Sharkey" Lauren, baseball and basketball player, Babe Ruth baseball coach and manager; Edward Connell, for his contributions to sport, were honored at the 29th Annual Dinner, January 31, 1972 at Laddin's Terrace. The national figures in sports to receive the awards included Billy Martin, Detroit Tigers' manager; Dick Young, N.Y. Daily News sports columnist and Ed Danowski, star quarterback at Fordham and N.Y. Football Giants.

The speakers-guest list included Tom Dowd, Boston Red Sox public relations director; Bobby Valentine, Los Angeles Dodgers infielder; Gene Michaels, N.Y. Yankee infielder; Joe Walton, assistant coach N.Y. Giants; Andy Robustelli, Pro-football Hall of Fame; Mel Allen; Hank Soar, major league umpire; Benny Borgmann, oldtime basketball standout.

J. Walter Kennedy, NBA Commissioner, was master of ceremonies.

The late Michael Drotar, who was honored at the 23rd Annual Dinner, January 31, 1966, was honored again when a flagpole donated by the group, was dedicated at the park in Springdale that bears his name, May 7, 1972. The presentation of the facility was made by President Joseph Caporizzo.

At the traditional buffet at the Ponus Yacht Club, June 15, 1972, John Darling received the annual schoolboy athlete of the year award.

● Retiring President Joseph Caporizzo turned the gavel over to Charles Annunziato for the 1972-1973 term of office. Others installed were William LiVolsi, first vice-president; Frank Kucharski, second vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Ballo, treasurer and John Franchina, sergeant-at-arms.

The First Annual Golf Tournament of the OTAA, held in memory of the late golfing great, Terry Connors, took place at Hubbard Heights Golf Club, July 12, 1972. Over 80 players participated with Dr. Joe Connolly, the winner. Tony Mammone was the tournament director.

Many Stamford Old Timers attended the testimonial dinner, August 7, 1972, honoring Williard Williams, executive sports editor of the Norwalk Hour, at the Continental Manor, Norwalk, for his 50 years of writing sports. Over the years, Williams was very close to the local OTAA with his stories and attendance at the dinners and clambakes. Dr. Joe Connolly made the presentation to Mr. Williams in behalf of the local Old Timers. NBA Commissioner J. Walter Kennedy was the keynote speaker.

Under the guidance of Dinner Chairman William LiVolsi and his committee, the 30th Annual Dinner held January 29, 1973 at Laddin's Terrace, was another sellout.

As always that special feeling of "camaraderie" and sincere friendship was a natural part of the gathering, when the local

and national honorees, although speaking briefly, wanted the crowd to know what this evening meant to each one.

The local honorees were John Collom, three-sport star at Stamford High and Villanova College; Canio Jenner, longtime baseball manager; Thomas "Buddy" Ryan, bowler, baseball standout and Carl O'Grady, minor league and semi-pro baseball pitcher.

Billy Martin, Detroit Tigers Manager; Walter Dropo, ex-major leaguer; Hank Soar, former pro footballer and major league umpire and Art Rooney (John Dockery, Steeler defensive back accepted the award for Mr. Rooney) were the national figures so honored.

A standing ovation greeted Joe DiMaggio as he made his way to the head table on another surprise visit. Another surprise to the diners was the appearance of Nick Buoniconti, Miami Dolphins middle linebacker.

Other guests included Antonio Rocca, pro wrestler; Ed Danowski, Fordham and N.Y. Giants griddier; Bob Costello, N.Y. Mets; Andy Robustelli, Football Hall of Fame; Fred Dugan, ex-Redskins football; Mike Ballo, Woodway Golf Pro and other Stamford dignitaries.

The Rev. Edwin Burke, St. Joseph Hospital, said the invocation and the benediction. Jack Sterling of radio and TV fame was the toastmaster.

Stamford High's Curt Kole, all-around athlete and Catholic High's Terry Moriarity, basketball and baseball were the co-winners of the Outstanding Senior Scholar-Athlete awards at the last sports function of the year. The affair was held at the Ponus Yacht Club, June 12, 1973.

● The officers selected to guide the association for the year 1973-1974 were William LiVolsi, president; Frank Kucharski, first vice-president; Emile "Hip" Morin, second vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Ballo, treasurer and John Franchina, sergeant-at-arms.

The Second Annual Golf Tournament held at Hubbard Heights, July 11, 1973 was won by Mike Nomack on a match of cards with Phil Brown. Eighty players teed off in the tourney and a dinner followed that honored Frank Daley, a prominent golfer of long standing. Tony Mammone was the director of the affair.

A capacity crowd of nearly 2000 spectators listened to City dignitaries, Sunday, November 5, 1973, at the dedication program of the Terry Connors Ice Skating Rink. Terry Connors, Jr., thanked those who were instrumental in having the rink named for his father, especially the OTAA who spearheaded such a movement. A plaque, donated by the Old Timers, indicates his 'love for skating and all sports'. Dick Button, former Olympic Games and World figure skating champion attended the opening.

An all-time high local group of six were honored at the 31st Annual Dinner, January 28, 1974, at Laddin's Terrace. Edward Duffy, Fordham Prep and Villanova College football player; Lou Altman, former Stamford High athlete; Edward Monjo, all-around athlete at Williams College; Joe Yeager, prominent baseball, football player and umpire; Aaron "Yoodle" Gladstone, former baseball and basketball player; Frank DeVito, local baseball, basketball player and umpire.

Baseball Hall of Fame, Monte Irwin, ex-N.Y. Giants Baseball team and Antonio Rocca, retired wrestling great, were the national honorees.

Gracing the dais were, Bobby Valentine, California Angels; Joe Walton, Washington Redskins Assistant Coach; Tal Smith,

N.Y. Yankee Vice-President; Mel Allen; Ted Younglin, former Duke and Delaware University football coach; Alex Maislin, part owner of the Montreal Hockey Club; Andy Robustelli; Allie Reynolds, ex-Yankee pitcher star; Lou Niss and Bob Costello, N.Y. Mets.

Lou Altman speaking for all the local honorees complimented the OTAA for the fine job of honoring the oldsters. "We are all grateful for this in the closing years of our lives," he said.

The invocation and benediction was offered by Rev. John Filip, St. Benedicts Church. The toastmaster for the evening was Jack Sterling.

Four outstanding City athletes were named as Senior Athletes of the Year and were so honored at the annual buffet, June 10, 1974, at the Ponus Yacht Club. A top athlete was named from each of the four high schools; Westhill, Steve Tosches, football and baseball; Stamford, Paul Murphy, all-around track performer; Rippowam, Anthony Smith, football and track; Catholic, Mike O'Leary, football and baseball.

● New officers elected for the 1974-1975 term were, Frank Kucharski, president; Emile "Hip" Morin, first vice-president; George Cohen, second vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; John Ballo, treasurer and John Franchina, sergeant-at-arms.

Mike Nomack and Mike Petito won the prizes at the Third Annual Golf Tournament, September 18, 1974, at Hubbard Heights. At the dinner held in the evening at the Ocean View Beach Club, Jim Connors received an award for his long time interest in the game. Tony Mammone was the tournament director.

Eddie Hunt, one of the chapter members and first president of the OTAA, died September 19, 1974. He was one of Stamford's finest all-around athletes. Superintendent of the Board of Recreation, instrumental in founding the Stamford Little League, the Babe Ruth League and the Twilight League. He was honored by the Old Timers at the 12th Annual Dinner, February 1, 1955.

A record nine former local athletes and sportsman were honored at the 32nd Annual Dinner, January 24, 1974, at the Italian Center, before a record crowd of 650. The affair was held on a Friday night, marking the first shift from the customary Monday night.

Area honorees were, Joseph Franchina, Stamford High footballer and former superintendent of schools; Matthew Scinto, ex-Stamford High and Boston University football player; Izzy Cohen, former New Canaan boxer; Sammy "Manley" Annunziata, prominent local boxer; John Catino, local and national duckpin champion; Denny Duda, leading semi-pro baseball player; Tom Ritchie, ex-baseball and basketball player; Kenneth Lawson, former all-around athlete at Stamford High; Stanley Mrus, baseball manager and sports-

man of the year.

The national honoree, Captain Otto Graham, great name in college and pro football, presently coach at the Coast Guard Academy remarked, "I have never been one to believe in this win at all costs thing; that is why I went to the academy."

Other guests included, Andy Robustelli, Pro-Football Hall of Fame; Alan Webb defense coach, N.Y. Giants; Randy Rasmussen, offensive guard, N.Y. Jets; George Steinbrenner, owner N.Y. Yankees; Bob Costello and Lauren Matthews, N.Y. Mets; Barry Lerch, St. Louis Cardinal pitcher; Bobby Valentine, California Angels; Tex Brown, president Oklahoma Hall of Fame; Bob Fishel, assistant to President Lee McPahil, American League; Ray Boe, owner N.Y. Nets and Islanders Hockey Club; Tal Smith and Marv Appel, N.Y. Yankees.

Rev. Donald Campbell, First Presbyterian Church, pronounced the invocation and benediction. J. Walter Kennedy, NBA Commissioner, was the toastmaster.

Three top scholar-athletes were honored at the annual buffet, June 9, 1975, at the Ponus Yacht Club. The recipients were, Dan Nuzzo, Westhill High, soccer, track and swim teams; Dave Elliott, Stamford Catholic, football and baseball; James Camacho, Rippowam, wrestling champion, 112 lb. division.

● To guide the OTAA for 1975-1976 the officers are, Emile "Hip" Morin, president; George Cohen, first vice-president; Alexander Koproski, second vice-president; Paul Viola, secretary; Frank Kucharski, treasurer and John Franchina, sergeant-at-arms.

The fourth annual golf tournament was held August 6, 1975 at the Sterling Farms Golf Course, with Mike Petito the overall winner, while Dr. Joe Connolly, Charles DeLuca and George Compo won age group titles. Over 100 turned out for the outing and the buffet dinner that followed at the Ponus Yacht Club. President Emile Morin presented Tony Marrucco with the blue jacket as an outstanding golfer and first chairman of the Hubbard Heights Golf Commission in 1948.

The present crop of sports fans, vaguely aware of the exploits of former athletes, have become acquainted with their careers through their receiving tributes at the hands of the Old Timers.

The OTAA appreciates the friendship and support of the area sports writers and radio sportscasters over these many years. We owe much of our success to them.

In a successful organization such as ours it is impossible in a brief history to name all the men who have made outstanding contributions to its success. To name one may mean the slighting of many.

We who have played a part of it look to younger men to carry on with an enthusiasm and efficiency that will make them and those to follow as happy at the 40th and 50th anniversary banquets as we are at the 33rd annual.