



Jack Andrews Class of 2011

Jack Andrews was born on July 24, 1916, and was a fourth generation native of Oroville. He graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1934 and played football, basketball and baseball. He pitched on the varsity baseball team that won the league championship. A quote from the coach said, "Andrews' left-handed pitches left the opponents blindsided." It was said that when Jack realized he was left-handed, he wanted to play baseball. He played in his first organized baseball game when he was sixteen years old.

Following his graduation from OHS, Jack went to the University of California at Berkeley (UC). He played frosh baseball at Cal, and during his freshman season, he was drafted by the Cleveland Indians of the American League. He was offered a \$1,000 bonus and played in the minor leagues for the next six seasons. During his first year playing Class D ball in Fargo, North Dakota, he won eleven games and lost seven. Arm trouble then caused his release from Cleveland, and he was signed by the New York Yankees and played Class B ball in Washington. He was then sold to Oakland and bounced from there to Salt Lake City and Spokane.

His career statistics for those six years were 61 wins and 56 losses, with an earned run average, (ERA), of 2.57. He pitched in 167 games. A quote from Jack stated, "I was in the minors for six years and I didn't foresee a livable career, so I quit."

Jack returned to Oroville in 1941, and for the next nine years, he pitched for the semi-professional Oroville Olives of the Sacramento Valley League (SVL), where he had a no-hitter to his credit. He was one of the original members of the Olives and pitched in the very first game at Mitchell Field. The game was against Chico, and Jack faced Larry Gillick, who pitched for several years in the AAA Pacific Coast League and later served as Butte County Sheriff for thirty-two years.

From 1942 to 1944, Jack served his country in the United States Navy during World War II, earning the rank of Specialist 2nd Class.

An accomplished self-taught musician playing tenor saxophone, Jack excelled by the fact that he was blessed with perfect pitch and a great ear for music. He could play in any standard key without music and, of course, reading music was second nature to him. He played for many years on Saturday nights with the local Dixieland Mudcats band.

As a hunter, he was an excellent marksman, and he was also an accomplished fisherman. Former OHS coaches, Joe Felipe and Hugh Harrison, recalled many a fishing trip with Jack and added that he was also a very good golfer. He was also known and respected as a dedicated conservationist, who believed in the conscientious utilization of our natural resources.

Jack was employed by PG&E from 1941 to 1950, and then went to work as an agent for the New York Life Insurance Company where he retired in 1980 after thirty years of service. While at New York Life, he earned the National Quality Award -- one of the highest awards in the industry -- and was a member of the President's Council and New York Life Insurance Club.

Jack had a long and distinguished career in public service and civic activities. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Feather River Park & Recreation District, the Oroville Union High School District, and a member of the Oroville City Council. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge No. 103 York Rite bodies, the Ben Ali Temple of the Shrine, and a life member of the Butte County Historical Society.

He was inducted into the Halls of Fame of the Northern California Sports Association and the LaSalle Club of Sacramento. He was a member of the founding group of Table Mountain Golf Course, a member of the Oroville Rotary Club and the National Association of Life Underwriters.

“Jack said he was born and raised here, and he was going to die here. He was a mighty fine man.” said OUHSD Hall of Fame Coach, Hugh Harrison.

Jack passed away on August 22, 1992.