

Joe Morrison



Joe Morrison was one of the hockey players who helped put Norwalk on the map in the days before and after World War II. A long-time member of the Rowayton Fire Department team, he played with his brother Doug, an earlier honoree of the Norwalk Old Timers, as well as other hockey stalwarts who have won the Old Timers' distinction.

Morrison played football as a youngster with the New Canaan Redskins in independent play as well as in league play, but he did not play Norwalk High School football. Instead, he played independent games with pickup clubs as well as New Canaan. With New Canaan, he played with Dom Andronica, Mike Discenza, Skeeter DePalma, John Calitri, Johnny Benco, Steve Lengyel, and Gene Doshier.

His first love was hockey, however, and he started with the Rowayton Fire Department team as a defenseman in 1939.

Among his teammates was a litany of hockey stars of the period, when hockey was important in Norwalk. Players like Ed Raymond, Mac Bossone, Frank Raymond, George Cronk, John and Bob Dowling, Johnny von Dwinklow, Harry Oakes, Mike Daddona, Julius and George Herman, and goalies Carl Blee and Chet Buttery.

Morrison was conscripted into the U.S. Army early in 1941, drawing number six in the national draft. He was one of the first inductees from Norwalk and he spent more than 40 months in the service.

Home from the service, he spent four more years with Rowayton, playing in the Fairfield–Westchester League against teams from New Canaan, Westport, Westchester County, as well as the Norwalk Cubs, which, in that period, included Leo Skidd, Gene Seymour, Ken Knapp, and others.

In the 1950s, Morrison joined the Home Oil Club, where he played with his brother Doug, Dave Young, Carl Marino, Johnny Theil, Bruce Wragg, Bobby Davis, and the Dowling brothers. This club played independent hockey against teams from Lake Placid, the Esties of Boston (a former National Championship team), and others.

A tough, hard-checking defenseman, Joe made a name for himself on the ice in the entire tri-state area.

Morrison is a former chief of the Rowayton Volunteer Fire Department, and has served as president of the Big 8 as a member of the Norwalk Volunteer Fireman's Association. A carpenter by trade, he was for many years a construction foreman for Olsen Wood of Darien. He has been retired for many years and spends much of his time in Maine, where he maintains a summer home.