



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



JOHN EDWARD THATCHER

December 28, 1919 - January 7, 1987

Stillwater High School Class of 1938

4th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 2, 1999

John Edward Thatcher was born December 28, 1919 to Edward T. and Kate Duck Thatcher in Stillwater. He was set to graduate from Stillwater High School in 1937 along with his twin sister Jane. The school and coach decided to hold John back for one more year of athletics (primarily football). He graduated in 1938 from Stillwater High School, lettering for 4 years in wrestling, and 3 years in baseball. Due to his outstanding performance at center of the Pioneer football team, he was named to the first All-State football team in 1938.

He married Norma Lee Bulman on July 24, 1938.

John's experience in team playing, didn't end with high school sports. He worked part time at Roy T. Hoke Lumber Co. while in high school, and spent the next 50 years, with the exception of John's active duty time in the Navy, working as assistant manager, then manager of the lumber yard for the last 23 years of his life.

He served in the U.S. Navy (Seabees, Construction Oil Battalion) in Point Barrow, Alaska during World War II.

He was past president of the Lions Club and Oklahoma Lumberman's Association. He was a member of the Hanner-Sharp American Legion Post #129, the Chamber of Commerce, and was active in local and state Boy Scout work, in Little League Baseball for 15 years and was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

For almost 20 years John set up the Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt. Working closely with Leroy Horton, he would get up at 5:00 a.m., go to the site and start staking out the lanes, stringing, and finally throwing out the candy. He recruited people to help, usually his son, and when his grandson got too old to participate, he helped with the hunt.

John's dedication and love to his friends, community, and job came second only to his family. Family always came first. That family included Roy T. Hoke, Sr. Every Christmas morning before the Thatcher clan could open presents, he would pick up Mr. Hoke, take him to breakfast, then come home to spend the rest of the day with his wife, son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren, Heather and Scott.

He instilled being a team player in his son, just as he had learned being a contributing member of team sports at Stillwater High School. He was proud to be a PIONEER!!

John E. Thatcher - A team player, devoted family man, community leader, good friend, and most important, a man of his word.

*Presenter
Joe Atkins
Stillwater High School, Class of 1938*