

Farm Team

50 Years of Wilton Baseball

May 12, 2017 – October 1, 2017



Wilton Historical Society

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Baseball has been a part of America's identity for over a century. The sport has remained the country's "National Pastime" from its first organized games in the 1840's to the 21st Century. Today, baseball is seemingly everywhere. The game is played by players from across the globe, from the Americas to Asia. Fans, through television and the internet, can watch any team, anytime, anywhere.

However, before the days of television and mass media, baseball had more local roots. Passionate fans in small towns across the nation turned not to Yankees, Dodgers, or Red Sox for their baseball fix, but to their local semi-pro or minor league teams. One of these teams, the **Wilton Farmers**, played right here in Wilton. Founded in 1921, the Farmers quickly became one of the most popular attractions in town. Crowds could reach up to 1,000 people, or roughly half the population of Wilton at the time. The Farmers played teams from as far away as Poughkeepsie, New York and their games were front page news in *The Wilton Bulletin*.

There would have been no Farmers team without Charlie Orem, owner of Orem's Dairy and later Orem's Diner. Orem, along with Johnny Knapp and Charlie Myers, founded the team as a way to bring in customers for Orem's businesses. Orem built a baseball diamond on a piece of his farm land, soon named Orem's Field, where the team would play its home games. Fans in attendance were encouraged to buy concessions from the dairy and diner located next to the field. The team, sensibly named the Farmers after their founder and home field, remained in Wilton, in one form or another, until 1970, with only a small break during World War II. The Farmers were the quintessential small town baseball team, playing in front of a small, but passionate fan base that brought a healthy dose of local pride to their love of the game.

Sunday, August 10, 1941

AT
OREM'S FIELD

NEW YORK CITY NEWBURGHHS
VS.
WILTON FARMERS

LINEUPS:

NEWBURGHHS	FARMERS
RF Tscherne	3B Impy
2B Jesmajian	2B Sciavdone
LF Froelich	1B Russell
3B Priato	CF Jacksonice
SS Grady	C Buschbaum
1B Oberman	SS Dudas
C Was	LF J. edge
P Popprani	RF D'amato
CF Caputo	P Mills

**NEXT SUNDAY, 3:15,
VS. HAMDEN TOWNIES,
AT OREM'S FIELD**

Everything you need in Hardware will be found here.
It'll Pay to Come In and Look Around
Keeler
Hardware Store
Wilton Telephone 189

Wholesome Food
CAREFULLY PREPARED and QUICKLY SERVED
that's
OREM'S DINER
The Village Meeting Place
Wilton, Conn. Telephone 12