

SHERMAN CENTRAL SCHOOL

Wall of Fame

JACK DEAN

Inducted 2016



At age 15, Jack Dean was the youngest person to graduate from Sherman Central, and went on to run his own dairy business in Mina. After WWII, he taught business and dairy farming skills to returning Vets at JCC. He became a pilot and flew his own plane during the 1950s.

Jack and four other men started Peek'n Peak Ski Resort over a kitchen table. He started 12 other companies, and was chosen to *INC Magazine's* Top 500 List. He owned a grape juice company known for buying grapes from small farmers. For 30 years, he and his wife, Virginia, operated a store in Chautauqua, and raised four children together.

As a historian, he gives talks on local history. He's been a member of the Findley Lake-Mina Historical Society, Yorkers, and Chautauqua County Historical Society. Jack has worked relentlessly to solve the mystery of two local 1750s era French log buildings. He also helped to found the Landmark Society of WNY to preserve historic houses.

Jack's love for history and sailing came together while crewing on historic ships for 14 years. He was helmsman on the Sea Lion for 7 years. He was well known for being the oldest crewmember on the U.S. Brig Niagara, climbing 50' aloft to unfurl the heavy sails, and was one of the helmsmen sailing on Lake Erie every week for 7 years.

He has served on many boards: Milk for Health, Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, Farmers Mill, Pennsylvania Inventors Association, Chautauqua Lake Historic Vessels, Sea Lion Preservation, and Rotary. Jack has perfect weekly attendance at Rotary for 50 years, and his enthusiasm for service projects earned him recognition in the U.S. and Canada. At 95, he is working to keep the French Creek Watershed clean.