

ANDREW PETE HOWELL

PROFESSOR A.P. HOWELL, A PIONEER IN THE WALKER COUNTY AREA, WAS BORN IN

Aberdeen, Mississippi, to Andrew and Mary Howell. Around the age of 10, he moved to Jasper with an older sister due to the untimely death of his parents. He attended school in Jasper at the Walker County Training School and then furthered his education at Alabama A&M University where he received a B.S. Degree. He taught and coached in the Walker County School System over 30 years.



A.P. directed the Southside Pool in the Coke-Oven community as he worked with Coach James Fowler with the intramural sports program at the Jasper City Auditorium. In his early coaching career, he taught at Corona (Patton Junction), Flattcreek, and Sipsey. He taught biology, coached varsity football and B-team basketball at Walker County Training School from 1943 to 1968. His best football season was 1967 when his team recorded a 10-0 record. He coached in spite of meager equipment for his players and lack of finances. After they left the Training School, many of his players went on to excell in sports and other notable careers. During the summers of the late fifties and early sixties, Howell worked under Alabama A&M Football Coach Cruz. With the coming of integration in 1969, Coach Howell accepted a position as Driver's Education teacher and B-team basketball coach at Curry High School and later Oakman High School where he remained until his retirement.

One of his greatest accomplishments was his leadership and the motivation of his football team and parents to clear an area of trees and stumps to create a football field and baseball field that was to be used by the Walker County Training School athletic programs. This field was later named in his honor and is presently known as A.P. Howell Park. Before this project was completed, they played their games on Saturday at Walker County High School's Kiro Field.

Coach Howell was Director of the Southside Park and Pool, Director of the NYC, and provided many programs at the Frisco Community Center (Percy Goode Community Center) for the low income children. A.P. was a WWII veteran serving in the U.S. Navy. He was a long time member of Greater Shiloh Baptist Church where he was a deacon and church clerk.

A.P. Howell was married to Almeta Baldwin and they had 4 children; A.P. Jr., Sharon Howell Brandon, Sybil Howell Ingram and Sonya Howell Matthews.