



TRUMAN OWENS –

Truman Owens believes deeply in service. He was on Clinton City Council for 41 years, and Mayor Pro Tem for 20, and, as amazing as it may seem, that was almost the least of it.

Like his brother Sam, Truman made a full-time job of officiating high school sports while dedicating a similar amount of time to his community. Like Sam, he has been honored in dozens of ways for both his public service and his dedication to the South Carolina High School League and tens of thousands of young athletes whose

exploits he monitored and regulated.

“We enjoyed every minute of it,” Truman said. “He and I worked together about all our days. Between officiating sporting events and serving the local community, that’s about all we ever did. I think we both did it because we loved it. It’s what we loved. I guess it was how we were raised.”

Sam and Truman were the first brothers to be inducted into the National High School Federation Hall of Fame. Truman was National Official of the Year in both football and basketball. His longevity as an official was incredible: 57 years of basketball, 50 of football, 46 of baseball and 26 of softball. Truman was district director of officiating associations of three sports for a combined total of 85 years. He served as state president in both football and basketball.

Along with his brother, Truman officiated college football in the South Atlantic Conference, not to mention semi-professional football for 10 years.

Now 86 years old, Truman refereed his final basketball game three years ago. He umpired softball last year.

In Clinton, few civic achievements have ever been accomplished without Truman’s contributions. He has prominently served city government, the Clinton Family YMCA, the Clinton-Newberry Natural Gas Authority. He coached textile and American Legion baseball and was one of the coaches who took a Clinton team all the way to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa., in 1950.

Not just in South Carolina, but nationally, Truman Owens’ career as a high school official is unsurpassed.