

## #A - Jake Wade, Morehead Notes from Joe (Boy) Willis 6-24-2008

---

❖ Jake's Spouse- Miss Rosalie Watson Wade.

❖ Jake Wades' parents names -

Father – Jacob Fields Wade, Sr.

Mother: Love Styron Wade

❖ His fathers' occupation -

Whaler and Ship builder that moved to Carteret County from Massachusetts in the late 1800s

❖ Siblings Names –

There were eleven children four (4) brothers – Rupert ( around 70 years old) the oldest that was killed when he was bitten by what some thing was a shark attack, off shore Atlantic Beach; Winfield (better known as "Croaker"); Jacob Fields Wade, Jr. and Ben Wade. There were eight (8) girls – Carita; Maidie; Eudora; Duella; Eleanor; Hazel and Josephine

❖ The names of schools he attended. Grade School -

Charles S. Wallace School from 1918-1929 (Elementary and High School)

❖ College career at NC State – (Source: Bill Wade, Jake's son; James Webbs-Family History book Vol I & II)

Attended State College in Raleigh, N.C. – 1929-1931. He started out playing 1st base but quickly moved to pitching so he could be on the first string; however, in that position he quickly became a starting pitcher.

The oldest of the brothers, Winfield, about 10 years older than Jake, was better known as "Croaker" ("Croaker" came from him staying around his father's fish house – he loved fishing) was followed by Jake to State College. There Wink (as the family called him) was the first to move to a professional organization playing in the minors with Detroit Tigers System and had a short time with the major League team. He moved to Beaumont, Texas to work as an engineer.

Jake would follow Wink to the Detroit organization. By 1931 Jake had left college and was transferred to Evansville, Indiana (a team owned by Detroit). Wink was in Seattle. Wink guided Jake to State College and guided him in signing with Detroit. Jake would do the same for brother, Ben starting in 1939 when Ben finished High School.

❖ His baseball career in local sandlots – youth baseball -

Jake, and the Wade Brothers, began their baseball careers in the sandy soil of Carteret County, which has a long history and lineage of some of the best and most competitive baseball in the Country. Boys grew up tough and scrappy. Jake had that going for him and from all accounts he was smart and an extremely hard worker.

As an example in Morehead City starting in 1891 when the "Ov's" were formed and coached by Ed Cartwright of the Washington, D. C., club of the National League, played together for three years and were never defeated. Their play was not restricted to local competition, but they defeated many teams from larger cities including Wilson, Goldsboro and New Bern. Members of this team were: Fred Royal, Nathan Finer, Will Rowland, John Wade, Fred Fulford, Bill Jackson, Joe Wheel Wallace, Gib Arthur, George Finer and Will Webb. Many of these players would go on to be community leaders, mentors and teachers for Jake and many others.

There were other teams like the one in Morehead City about the same time as the "Ov's". This team was called the "Feasters." Although this team lacked the all-around ability of the "Ov's", they did not lack for spirit and love of the game. Every community had their own community based team, and they would play each other, and in many cases if the team felt they were taken advantage of, then fights would break out. In many instances, it didn't take much – especially if you were losing.

As a high school players Jake starting out as a First Baseman, quickly moved to become a dominant pitcher who was hard to beat. Even though the competitors hated to play against him; however, they love to talk about his curve and sinkers balls, and maybe how he may have put a little foreign substance on the ball to get it to move so much.

## Game Pitched Locally May 6, 1951

Jake Wade pitched on May 6, 1951, at the ball park named after him - Wade Brothers Memorial Park, for Newport in the powerful Tidewater League (TWL)(1947-1951), against a local town hero, James Webb, from Morehead and playing for the Morehead Town Team. Morehead was dominating the league and James Webb known for his control and for never throwing with the same motion to the same batter, had won more than 39% of the Games Morehead had played since 1947. Both Jake and Webb threw curve balls, sinkers from many different positions with pin point control.

May 6, 1951 was going to be a great day, the crowds were standing only, and they didn't get disappointed. The background setting - Jake had a catcher he had not work with, and Webb's catcher, Harry Salter missed his ride to the game, had a fill in that wasn't used to Webb's pitches.

For the first five innings, with Jakes' dipping and slanted deliveries, and with his ability to paint the black, made him almost un-hittable though a little wild. Webb, the Local Hero, even though giving up 12 hits, had eight strikeouts and proved why he had won more than 39% of the Morehead's games over the last four years.

The game was won by Jake, who after the fifth got mad and through a sinker that they still talk about today. After that Jake settled down, he showed why he was a Pro Baseball player.

### ❖ Other stories -

With all of the accomplishments of Jakes' career, everyone talks about how he always thought of himself, not as a celebrity, but a man that was lucky to have the talent to be able to play baseball, a game he loved; however, to Carteret County, he, and his brothers, have been a source of inspiration and encouragement to many a boy that have grown up in the same sandlot and baseball fields that they played.

Morehead City's named the Park behind the Charles S. Wallace School in honor of the Wade Bothers on August 14, 1947. The ball park was named Wade Brothers Memorial Park. There were more than 800 people on hand to witness the dedication.

The best story I have heard is the one Bill Wade told me. He said, "Jake had thrown a runner out at first on a close play, and the player said something to the umpire and the umpire threw the player out. Jake asked the umpire why he threw him out, and the umpire said that he had called him a 'S-O-B' – Jake said aren't you? The umpire threw Jake out too.

### ❖ Was he known as a scrappy guy?

Jake Grew up smart, talented and scrappy, which was part of his heritage and many from Carteret County – Winning wasn't everything, but we, in Carteret County would prefer to win.

### ❖ February 1, 2006 – Jake worked in electronic/loran and navigation systems at Cherry point from 1950-1975

Jacob Fields Wade, Jr. died at the age of 93 at his residence.

At time of death he was the oldest living former player of Chicago White Sox

He had suffered a stroke about four years earlier.

At the time of his death, he lived in the Newport Community of Wildwood, NC

He was a member of Wildwood Presbyterian Church

Buried at Bayview Cemetary

Survived by two sons:

Jacob Fields Wade III of Houston, Texas

William Albert Wade of Atlanta, GA

Survived by two daughters:

Rebecca Wade Davis of Bowie, Maryland

Sara Wade Wallace of New Orleans, LA

Eight Grandchildren

Five Great-Grandchildren

Proceeded in death by his wife, Rosalie Watson Wade – died in 2005

Proceeded in death by a daughter Jo Ann Wade Eaves