

#### JAMES MAURICE SPAIN

Born and raised in Loretto, Tennessee, James M. Spain was called to essentially found the Florence Park and Recreation Department. Jim obtained his undergraduate degree at UNA, then Florence State Teachers College and later earned a Masters at Peabody, Nashville. After military service during World War II, he coached football at Loretto High School. Lee Cathey, Chairman of the Park and Recreation Board, then convinced him that his place was in Florence and the city's great program began in 1951.

By 1985, Jim administered the entire Park and Recreation program for Florence, Alabama, with an annual budget over \$1.2 million and more than 40 employees. The programs, planning, operations and management are considered superior, and Spain has been sought after as an excellent speaker and participant in national and regional seminars in connection with recreation.

Jim has served on the Board of Directors of the Florence Chamber of Commerce, the Florence-Lauderdale Red Cross, RSVP, and the Alabama District Exchange Club. He was president of the Alabama Recreation and Park Society in 1956 and of the Florence Exchange Club in 1972-73. He also served on the National Park and Recreation Board of Trustees. In 1973 he received the first Outstanding Park and Recreation Professional Award for the State of Alabama. He was honored with the Outstanding Professional Park and Recreation Award for ten southeastern states and also with the Distinguished Fellow Award from the National Park and Recreation Society in 1974.

Jim Spain retired from his position as Director of the Park and Recreation Department in April, 1985. He and his wife, the former Arlene Clark, live in Florence. They have two sons, Mike and Don, and one daughter, Susan. The Spains are members of Northwood Methodist Church.