

1992 La Salle Club Baseball Hall Of Fame

BOB De La VERGUE

BOB STASSI

JULIAN CISNEROS

CHUCK LOTTA

JOHN ERES

WILLIAM ROBERTSON

GEORGE VERNATCHI

LEROY WINTER

RON KING CB

LOENARD KEENE

GENE HARRIS

There were very few outfielders with more skills than De La Vergne,
He not only was a consistent player but he was there with longevity,
performing in competitive baseball for over 25 years and in soft ball
for 17 years.

His was
His first attraction/~~was~~ performing for the Sacramento High School
being a member of two championship clubs, 1939 and 1940.

He played for Dales in the Sacramento Winter League for 11 years and
with Klumpps and Monte Carlo for a lesser period. While still in his
prime in 1944, he signed, briefly, with the Sacramento Solons.

While with Dales in 1956 in the Sacramento Rural League he was chosen
the Most Valuable Player award.

In the Placer-Nevada League he performed for Roseville.
~~Turned~~ Became
~~Turned~~ manager for one year as head of Dales in 1956...Turned in a
championship effort.

Has the reputation of being one of the top soft ball players in the
area.

PROFESSIONAL OR OTHER:

TEAM	POSITION	WHEN
<u>Roseville (Placer Nevada League)</u>	<u>Outfield</u>	<u>1942 to 1947</u>
<u>Dales (Winter League Rural League)</u>	<u>Outfield</u>	<u>1956 to 1967</u>
<u>Klumpps</u>	<u>Outfield</u>	<u>1945 1948</u>
<u>Monte Carlo (Winter League)</u>	<u>Outfield</u>	<u>Date unclear</u>

LIST OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF CAREER (Dates, Places, Organizations)

Signed with Sacramento Solons 1944
Manager 1 year Dales 1956 - won league
Sacramento High School 1939 1940 - Champions both years

HONORS RECEIVED FOR SPORTS ACTIVITIES (Letters, Awards, Citations, etc.)

MVP Rural League 1958 (Dales)
State Trophy for Winter League 1956
1958
1962

(8)

BOB STASSI

Born in Sacramento, raised in Marysville. Attended and graduated from Marysville High School.

Played High School basketball and baseball.

Played baseball for Sacramento City College one year and College of Pacific in Stockton for two years. Position was catcher. Signed with the Hollywood Stars of the Pacific Coast League and played with Albuquerque and Hollywood in 1946, and with Las Vegas and Hollywood in 1947. Because of arm trouble had to quit, came home to Marysville and signed with the Marysville Braves in the Far West League.

Also played semi-pro in the Winter League in Sacramento during off seasons with Muir Athletic Club, Julius Clothes, Golden State and Argonaut Liquors.

Bob played Sacramento Valley League ball with Grass Valley, Oroville, Yuba City and Marysville. He was the youngest catcher ever at 16 playing in the Valley League.

He finished his career playing in the Placer-Nevada League for Lincoln in 1948 and 1949, and led the league in 1948.

He is preceeded int the NCOTSA "Hall of Fame" by his brother Sam Stassi Jr. and his father Sam Stassi Sr.

Bob is also the father of Jim Stassi well known professional baseball player and now assistant baseball coach at Yuba College.

Bob is the owner manager of Stassi's Fourth Ward Tavern.

Julian Cisneros---La Salle Hall of Fame

Hailing from Brawley, California, Julian spent his teen years in Sacramento starting at Washington Elementary School through Sacramento High School. Basketball and Soccer were the big things at Junior High. Julius did play some baseball at Sac High under Coach Ed Combatalade. During his entire career he was a pitcher and that is the position he played after high school when he pitched ~~for~~ five years with the Mexican A. C. In 1942 World War 1 beckoned and Julius did his basic training and pitching at Ft. Warren in Cheyenne Wyoming. He was shipped overseas in the latter part of 1942 and served until 1946.

He again took up with Mexican A. C. for another five years. baseball

He then joined Bill Avila's Old Timers to round out his/career.

Coached El Camino Little League from 1962 to 1970.

Was voted outstanding athlete at Washington Jr. High in 1932.

Got his litter in baseball at Sac High in 1933.

TEAM	POSITION	WHEN
Mexican A.C.	Pitcher	1935 - 1940
El Camino Little League	Coach	1962 - 1970
Mexican A.C.	Pitcher	1946 - 1951
Bill Avila Old Timers	Pitcher	1951 - 1956

LIST OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF CAREER (Titles, Places, Organizations)

Outstanding Athlete at Washington Jr. High 1932

Chuck Lotta---La Salle Hall of Fame...

Like four other candidates being inducted tonight, Lotta was also a catcher..He was a long ball hitter ala Pete Mikacich..Additionally he had a gun for an arm and enjoyed many fine afternoons in taking the pitcher out of the hole.

While playing with Cope Buick in Sacramento Winter League, catching Dan Ahtipis who pitched a no-hitter against Matts..Caught Hal Perry when he struck out 23 batters against the Roseville Royals...

In Golf...14 holes in one...Has course record at Cordova, shot a 56.. Cordova Golf Club champion four times...

Took Julius team to play in the 1955 semi-pro baseball tournament in Atwater...not successful...Went back the following year to win a State Championship for Bob & Les...

Inducted into the Softball Hall of Fame in 1978..Wife inducted in 1968..Only husband and wife to be in it ~~in~~ ^{from} Sacramento

Winter League campaigning...With Sacramento Sporting Goods, 1940..

La Fiestas, championship, played four years...Silver Dollar, 1951

Cope Buick, 1957, 1958..Cannery Union (Mexican American League, 1968-7

Championship five years in succession...County League..Carmichael Fir men, Elk Grove.

In spring of 1948, went to Anaheim to try out with the Sacramento Solons..Was married with a son 2 years old and a baby due in the summer. But a leg injury from the War cut his baseball career short.

Mercy Guild Hole-in-one winner 1982 and 1987.

Mrs. Stinky's Bowling - Championship 1959
Sacramento Baseball Winter League
Mrs. - Sacramento Spring Machine Championship 1955
Mrs. - Trio Club - Championship 1961

In Spring of 1948, I went to Anaheim to try out for the Sacramento Solons. I was married, had a son 2 years old and a

John Eres---La Salle Hall of Fame

Although Johnny Eres^{played}/all sports, nemely, soccer,Golf, and indoor softball, it was in baseball that he treasured the one year that he performed with the Thomas Black Cats in 1932.

The person who put the Black Cats together that year in the National Division certainly knew baseball talent.

The talent that Eres was a part of could have easily been an all-star club and Johnny will never forget that group. Even the two mascots were top quality. They were the two Stassi brothers, Sam, Jr., and Bobb. Their dad, Sam Jr., ~~was~~ was in hisn prime that year, along with our own Eddie Manger, who is the oldest living La Salle Hall of Famer. Then there were Mark Separovich and Sonny Davey, George Nicolaus, Tom Sugar, Emerson Wallace, ~~Gene~~ Gene McCaffrey and Joe Marty.

Eres, who was a second sacker, played with Folsom and Franklin in the Sacramento County League and with Perkins in the Sacramento Rural League

Most of his working years were spent as a custodial employee at Sacramento High School. He played on the Sacramento High School Faculty club. In all, Eres spent 35 years as a custodial employee retiring in 1973.

YEAR	<u>Perkins Rural League</u>	POSITION	<u>2nd Base</u>	WHEN	_____
YEAR	<u>Black Cats - General Green</u>	POSITION	<u>2nd Base</u>	WHEN	_____
YEAR	<u>Winter League</u>	POSITION	<u>2nd Base</u>	WHEN	_____
YEAR	_____	POSITION	_____	WHEN	_____

LIST OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF CAREER (Date) _____

Bill Robertson almost spent an entire life time Grant Elementary and high School, graduating in 1936, whereon he became an employe in the Grant District from 1936 to 1975 (a total of 39 years (27 years transportation and 12 years general maintenance. However there was an intervening period spent in the service, 1943 to 1945. Following the war Bill joined the Reserve Seabee/Retired. Retired June 1983, 23 years as a chief.

At Grant High Robertson was a catcher in baseball as well as playing basketball and football. He graduated in 1936 and immediately joined the semi-pro teams in performing as a catcher. In the Sacramento Winter League he played with Chinn-Beretta, Teamsters, Painters and Hoyt's Doughnuts.

Bill was good enough to play in the Placer-Nevada League with Lincoln Potters and North Sacramento Merchants just prior to the war. He continued on after the war by rejoining North Sacramento until 1945

Playing in the Twilight, Summer, ~~Winter~~ and Spring Leagues took about 15 years of his time.

When he graduated in 1936, Robertson received outstanding Athletic Award...Received 10 Block Letters, a record for an ~~athlete~~ athlete at Grant up to that period. Playing golf, brought Bill some joy in his life as he scored a hole in one. Also Bill coached three seasons in the Town & Country Litt League. He was chosen to coach 1966 All Star team.

George Vernatchi---La Salle Hall of Fame

Vernatchi was a Sacramentan through and through. He ran the gamut of the local school system starting with Crocker Elementery, California Junior High School, C. K. McClatchy High School, Sacramento City College and Sacramento State College, graduating from the last school 1950, where he was adjudged the most valuable player in baseball.

At 15 years of age he played for McClatchy and in rapid succession he filled in at City College and State College.

Although he was noted as an outstanding outfielder, he did put in nine years as a pitcher, mostly in high school. (Check one or more)

Branching out in the semi pro leagues he continued his baseball career as an outfielder with Placerville Lumber Company, Colusa in the Sacramento Valley League and four years in the Sacramento County League.

George was an outstanding educator, holding forth in the north area schools. After his baseball career came to an end, George coached

Little League and Babe Ruth League. He is active Rio Linda High School Booster Club, as well as the Over the Hill Gang. Just recently

Vernatchi was inducted into the Northern California Hall of Fame, by virtue of his great career with Colusa.

Leroy Winter---La Salle Hall of Fame.

Leroy did not commence his baseball career until he completed a very active career in the war.

Served in the U. S. Air Force, 1941 to 1947 as a pilot. Was shot on a bombing raid over Foggio, Italy in August 1943..Spent approximately 25 days in the Prisoner of War Camp. Escaped and walked 250 miles to be free for Christmas, 1943. Was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Air Medal, 3 oak Leaf Clusters. Participated in 23 Combat Missions and was shot down on his 23rd mission.

Leroy was a catcher and plying his trade in the Sacramento Winter League in 1947 and then got in an ambitious baseball career as a pro with Wenatchee, Western International League, Grand Rapids, Central League; Great Falls, Montana, Idaho Falls, Pioneer League and with Sacramento in the Pacific Coast League. He concluded his baseball career and then joined the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department where he spent 21 years. Leroy was photographer for Special Olympics, Northern California Peace Officers Assn, Association of Professional baseball players.

When he was no longer a good baseball player, Leroy took up golf. In 1987 he won the Sacramento City Senior golf championship with a score of 143, one under par for a two day tournament. As a member of Sirs #93 golf club, he was the club championship four times.

Ron King...La Salle Hall of Fame

Ron was born in Sacramento April 16, 1928, everyone considered Ron a baseball "nut". From the time he starting walking he carried his catcher's glove and a baseball in case there was a game.

When Ron was 10 he went to work for the Sacramento Solons baseball team (AAA) as the visitors Bat Boy. He kept this job for four years moving next to scoreboard then Clubhouse Boy.

He was the youngest player (15) to ever play in the national League of the Sacramento Winter League.

In 1946 he signed with the Cleveland Indians and played professional as catcher until he entered the U. S. Army (1951-1952) In 1951 he married Betty and they have two children, Toni and Jim. After leaving the service Ron played and coached in Reading, Pennsylvania, catching such pitchers as Herb Score. They won 106 out of 140 games breaking Eastern League record. Thirteen of the twenty-one players ending up in the big leagues. In 1954 he played with the Sacramento Solons, (AAA) ^{from} 1955 to 1957 he was the player-coach manager for Salem in the Northwest league with a 7-1 record as a pitcher, in 1957 a slip disc put an end to his career.

Ron started scouting for the Chicago Cubs in 1959, the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1960 until September, 1974 and from then until ~~two~~ ^{two} years ago with the ^{Los Angeles Dodgers} Philadelphia Phillies. Since then King has ^{Scout for the Phillies and then} ~~gone back~~ to his first love, the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Of all of the discoveries Ronnie has made the one who stands out is ~~Steve Sax~~ Steve Sax the young millionaire from nearby Loomis. That phenomenon now being counted upon to help the White Sox win a pennant. During interim Ronnie ~~is~~ is a very important scout for a pennant

~~containing~~ ^{containing} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~White Sox~~ ^{White Sox} Pirates
Ronnie received his early training as a real gentleman as a Christ Brothers student, graduating in 1946.

Ron King

Northern California Scouting Supervisor

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Ron started scouting for the Chicago Cubs in 1959, the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1960 until September, 1974 and from then until the present time with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Ron is extremely proud and lucky to be a part of what he believes to be the greatest organization in baseball. He feels that he is fortunate because he thoroughly enjoys his job.

however, his greatest satisfaction is working with and watching the progress of the young men that he scouts and signs. Ron was promoted last fall and his new title is the **Northern California / Northwest Area Scouting Supervisor and Special Assignment Scout.**

At the present time seven of the players he signed are in the Big Leagues and two are on the Major League roster.

Steve Sax	Los Angeles Dodgers
David Sax	Los Angeles Dodgers
Richard Rodas	Los Angeles Dodgers
Rod Scurry	Pittsburgh Pirates
Mike Howard	N.Y. Mets
Rudy Law	Chicago White Sox
Brian Clark	Seattle Mariners
Fred Breining	S.F. Giants



Good
Luck
To The
Lodi Dodgers!



King----La Salle Hall of Fame

King---Winter League Championships:

Muir A. C, 1946, 1947; Julius 50, 51; Cannery Union, 51, 52; Julius

55, 56.... *TURKEY PITCHER - EXCEPTIONAL FAST BALL*

~~1955~~ 1946, 1947---Winter League All-Star Team

1955, 1956, Winter League Most Valuable Player

All Star Game, Pioneer League, 1948; All Star Game, Central League

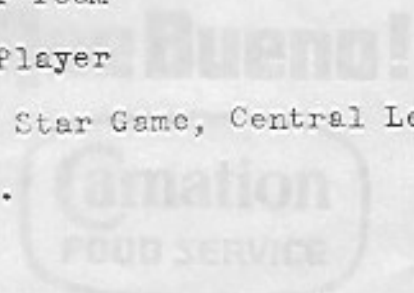
1949; All Star Team, Eastern League 1953.

Scout, Pittsburg, 1965 to 1974

National Cross Checker, Doger, 1974 to 1987

West Coast Supervisor, Dodgers, 1988-1991.

Western Coordinator, 1992, Pittsburg



Lenny Keene----La Salle Hall of Fame

NAME
ADDRESS
PLACE
SCHOOL

NICKNAME

Lenny Keene's great speed kept him on the track team at Sacramento High School ^{during his four years} thru to graduation. However when the shackles were off Lenny immediately began to show great poise at the plate ^{IN BASEBALL} that he made it to the Redding team in the Class D League with a batting average well over .400. Lenny worked up to Bakersfield in the California State League when he left pro ball and began to use his blazing speed in the local leagues.

Allen Simas grabbed up the youngster and used him at first base with his Cope Buick club in the winter league and with Elk Grove in the ~~Pleasant Nevada~~ ^{SACRAMENTO COUNTY} League.

In 1954 he hit .563 with Elk Grove, which was second best in the league. In the winter league he played with Paul's ^{SOLON ROKIES, HALLIDAY - CANNETT} and later with Cannery Union and ^{COOPERS} ~~COOPERS~~.

Lenny finally made it with the Yuba City Bears in the Sacramento Valley league. In his 10 years of baseball, Keene never did hit less than

.300. ^{(IN ADDITION TO BEING NAMED TO THE LA SALLE HALL OF FAME THIS EVENING - Lennie HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO THE NORTHERN CALIF HALL OF FAME FROM 1968 TO 1983, Lenny coached in Pacific Little League with great success. He was named outstanding ^{MANAGER} ~~player~~ of the year in 1982...}

Coached Pacific All-Stars (11-12 yr olds) to World Series.

* IN ADDITION TO BEING NAMED TO THE LA SALLE HALL OF FAME THIS EVENING, LENNIE HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HALL OF FAME IN MARYSVILLE

443-5642

Gene Harris, a left hander all the way, peaked out early in his baseball career, but not without cashing in on a pennant with his high flying Argonaut Liquor team by winning a pennant in 1942-43.

But fate was not kind to Gene as he entered the service the following year and never did regain his old time form.

As a prelim to entering the fast paced winter league, Gene spent some time with Sacramento High School and then with Post 61 in the Junior Legion.

In managing the Argonaut club he showed a great deal of skill in hand picking a group of ball players that were tops during that era.

The Argonauts culminated a great period of local baseball history by clinching the pennant winning game against McClellan Field by a 3-1 score.

Those ~~in~~ who collaborated with Harris to bring about a championship were Malcolm Silva, Harold Paulson, Charles Schanz, Ned Sheehan, Joe Martinez, Albert ~~Harris~~ Lazzarone, Bruce Edwards, Bobby Schanz, Jr. Ben "aviotta, Joe Duarte and M Johnny Parino.

Harris entered the professional ranks just briefly by playing with Tacoma in the Western International League. *GENERAL MANAGER WAS FRANK CLAVINO*

Following the war, Harris entered a lucrative body and fender business and never did ^{and} play baseball competitively, although he ^{did} partake in the softball phase just to keep in shape. His manager was Bryant Page who was more noted for his golfing ability than any other sport.

ELLI DAUCHEA LF - FEB, 1993

11 players to enter Hall of Fame

By Vince Stanich

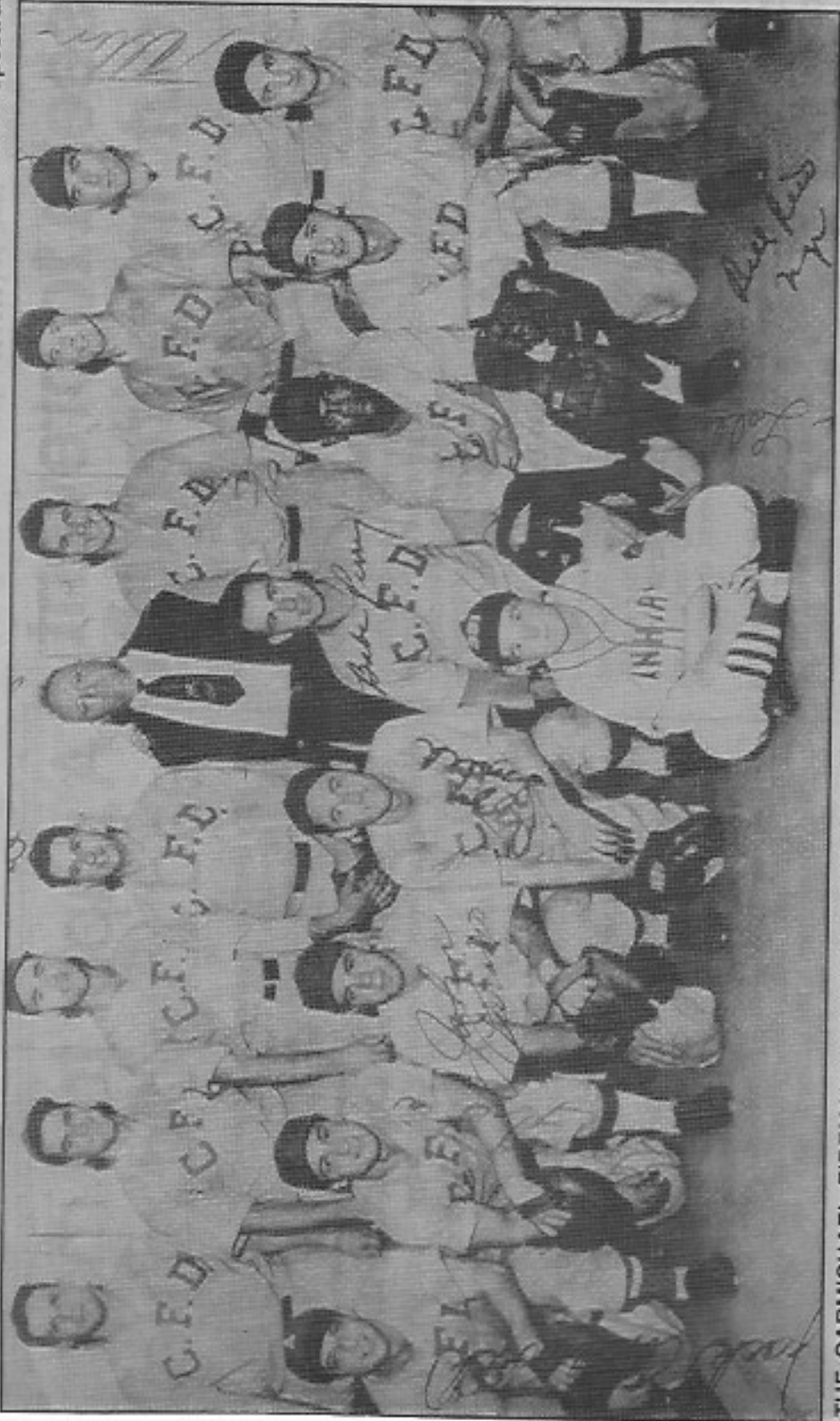
Eleven old-time baseball players will be inducted into the La Salle Hall of Fame on April 10 at Christian Brothers High School.

It will be the 41st annual induction ceremonies sponsored by the group which helps underwrite the athletic expenses of the Christian Brothers High School clubs which compete in area competition.

Those who will be inducted are Julian Cisneros, Gene Harris, Bob De La Vergne, John Eres, Lenny Keene, Chuck Lotta, Bill Robertson, George Vernatchi, Leroy Winter, Ronald King and Bob Strassi.

King, a former Sacramento Solon catcher, is still active in baseball as a scout with the Pittsburgh Pirates, joining that club after serving a stint with the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Philadelphia Phillies. King's claim to scouting fame is his discovery of Steve Sax, star second-basemen for the Dodgers, New York Yankees and now the Chicago White Sox.

Support The Red Cross



THE CARMICHAEL FIREMAN in Wichita in 1946: Kneeling from left to right, Jack Androvich, Tommy Torchia, John Parino, Isadore Smith, Babe Perry, Les Lollis, Rico, Spider Zutiz; standing from left to right, Marz Dutra, Glenn Dufour, Wayne Hanson, Elmer Enos, Dan Donovan, Sonny Davey, Art Quadros and Dave Rodrick. Front, Billy Rider, mascot.

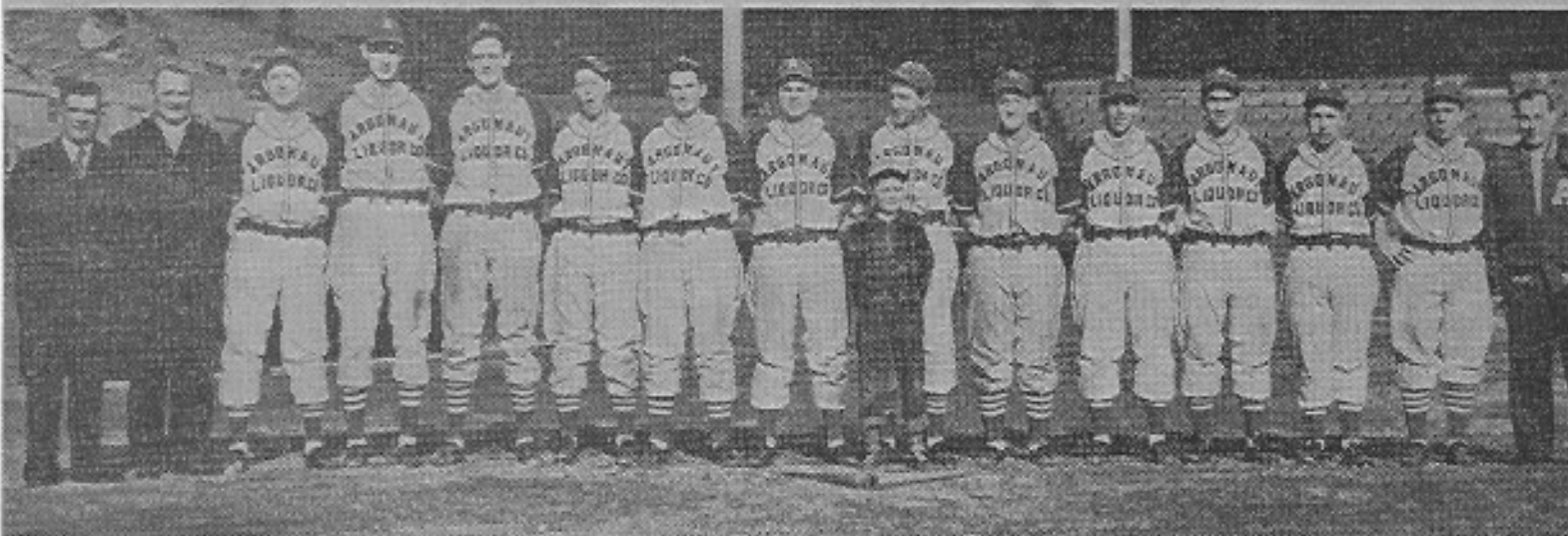
Firemen's 9 placed 12 in Hall of Fame

One of the greatest groups of local semi-pro ball players ever gathered together were the Carmichael Firemen who won the international semi-pro championship in Wichita, Kan., back in 1946.

Dan Donovan, Carmichael's first fire chief, selected Bill Rico as the club's manager. Rico, not

only led the club to an international championship, but he also held a winning record unparalleled in local baseball history. Of the 16 members on the 1946 club, 12 of them were subsequently inducted into the La Salle Hall of Fame. — By Vince Stanich





THE BEST IN 1942 — In the National Division of the City Winter Baseball League championship game 23 years ago the Argonauts, shown in a team photo above, beat McClellan Field and former Sacramento Solon hurler Bill Schmidt 3-1 for the title. On the Argonauts' club are, left to right, sponsors Charlie and Domenic Lazzarone, Malcolm Silva, Harold Paulson, Charlie Schanz, Ned Sheehan, Joe Martinez, Manager Gene Harris, Albert Lazzarone, Bruce Edwards, Bobby Schang, Jr., Ben Raviotta, Joe Duarte, John Parino and Frank Glaviano. The batboy in front is Joe Sheehan. Missing from the picture are Tommy Glaviano and Al Lazzarone.

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
Recreation Department

Award

Presented to GENE HARRIS, MANAGER

Argonaut Liquor Company Champions of the National

Division of the Sacramento Winter Baseball League. 1942

F. J. [Signature]
R.D. F9
Supervisor

Emel [Signature]
Superintendent of Recreation