

1976 La Salle Club Baseball hall of Fame

FRANK ARMSTRONG:

CB

EARL "BUTTER" COLE; No information available.

ELMER ENOS.

STEVE GEORGE;

LARRY GILLICK;

ELWOOD J. KEEMA;

PHIL MCGEE;

MIKE SEPAROVICH;

CB

LA SALLE CLUB

Christian Brothers High School
4315 SACRAMENTO BLVD.
SACRAMENTO, CA. 95820

January 27, 1976

Dear Old Timer and LaSalle Club Members:

The 25th Annual LaSalle Club Old Timers Night will be at the:

Christian Brothers High School Cafeteria

Friday, February 7, 1976

Refreshments at 6:30 P.M.

Steak Dinner at 8:00 P.M.

Price for the Dinner is \$5.00

Eight new members will be inducted into the LaSalle Hall of Fame.

They are: George "Butter" Cole, Elwood "Bud" Keema, Steve George, Elmer "Speedy" Enos, Mike Separovich, Frank Armstrong, Phil McGee, and Larry Gillick.

Constituents from Marysville, Oroville, Chico and Stockton will be on hand for the occasion.

Don't forget the date, Saturday, February 7 at 6:30.

Hope to see you there.

Respectfully,

LaSalle Hall of Fame Committee
Henry Wittpen, Lou Boridosso,
Bill Avila, Harry Knight, Vern
Hodge, Babe Thomas, Bill
Svilich, Bill Morebeck, Peter
Perich, Elmer Enos.

FRANK ARMSTRONG....

Frank was born in Grass Valley, May 13, 1899...He spent his grammar school and high school days here...attending Christian Brothers High School. In the early 20's he played in the Winter League and was signed by the Salt Lake Bee in the Pacific Coast League in 1922 and was in their spring training camp in Fresno. After his release Armstrong did not come back to Sacramento...Instead he played in the San Joaquin Valley League; with Fresno in 1923; Visalia in 1924 and then in Coalinga in 1925 to 1928 and then the next two years with Fresno. ~~Armstrong came back to Sacramento and played with Julius when they won the pennant in 1932.~~

He started to umpire in 1936 in the Fresno area and then in 1938 he came back to Sacramento to umpire in the High School and semi pro ranks. He worked in the Placer Nevada League in 1940 and 1941.

Armstrong recommended Frenchy Bordagary and Monte Pearson to the professional scouts...Both, subsequently, became major league stars.

Armstrong, like his contemporaries Vern Hodge and Larry Williams did some boxing at the old L Street arena. At the age of 17, Armstrong engaged in five bouts...He won three, one draw and lost one...However, Frank is a winner tonight as he will now be inducted in the La Salle Hall of Fame...

Jan 27, 1976
Frank Gonsky
Yountville Calif
94599
TBx 1051

Vincent Staniska
P. O. Box 160668
Sacramento, Calif.

Friend Vince:

Rec'd your letter and here in my
biography.

I was born in Grass Valley Calif.
May 13, 1899, I attended school at Christian
Brother and Hawthorn Grammar school in
Sac'to. at 10th and Pattee

I was signed out of the Sac'to Wine
League in 1922 by the Salt Lake Beer
the Pacific Coast League. I was with Thomp
Digger team when we played Leo Sobura
for the Championship at Morning Field, this
was the first game at Morning Field, we lost

Salt Lake had three string teams
at Fresno, I was also with them. In the
next year for a tryout. I played for the
Fresno in 1923 Visalia in 1924. I went
to Coalinga in 1925 to 28 and played there
Back to Fresno with tigers until 1931

I was with Julius when to won
the Championship in 32 or 33.

1976
1899
77

Umpire 1936

San Joaquin Valley League and
College and High School games in Fresno

Sacto Winter League & your College and
High School games in Sacto.

Worked in Placer Nevada, Western
International, and Arizona Leagues, and
in the Coast League a week,

I recommended Greeky Bondargary
and Monie Pearson to the Pacific
League and were signed.

Hoping this meets with your
approval.

Your Truly
Frank Thompson

P.S. Bobin

I had five bouts in 1917
three in Woodland and two in
Sacto at L street arena.

Joe Perry won 2 Draw lost 1

When you write this send me
a copy, and I will pay you
at the Hall.

Thanks

MEMORANDUM

Date January 9, 1976

To Mr. Frank Armstrong

From: RAINBOW LIQUOR CO., INC.
P. O. Box 2471
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Frank: It is my pleasure to inform you that you have been elected to the La Salle Hall of Fame...You and seven other candidates will be inducted at Christian Brothers High School, Saturday, February 7, 1976....

It is important that you inform me whether or not you will accept the honor...In addition, please furnish me with a biography for publicity purposes....

V. F. Stanich
P. O. Box 160668
Sacramento, California.

Since
1926 - I played shortstop for (Chico Potts)
1928 - Babe Ruth in Fresno.
I forgot to write them in the Biography

Elmer Enos

1954

Sacramento Winter League 1926-1954 1926
Eagle Printers Won 11 Lost 1 Got a tryout with ²⁸
the San Francisco Seals, 1928

Walsh ~~5th~~ Station in The Rural League Won 11
none. 1929

Went To San Francisco and played in the Golden
Gate Valley League Got a tryout with the
Oakland Oaks. got Farmed home

Teams played with in National Division of the
Sacramento Winter League

Roma Wine 1 year

Painters Union 2 years

Als Clothiers 2 years

Argonaut Liquor Co 5 years

South Side Legion 1 year

Played For Angles Camp in the central
California ~~the~~ League Won 11-Lost 4 and Hit For
an average .580 1939

Played For the Carmichael Fireman 1946
Coached South Side Junior Legion For six
years.

STEVE GEORGE

Our candidate was born in Butte, Montana, June 8, 1902. Graduated from University of Montana and found work immediately as a newspaper man on the Montana Standard, Butte. He was called to San Francisco in early 1925 to work on the old SF Illustrated Herald, the first tabloid to hit the west, and was owned by the famed Cornelius Vanderbilt. Mort Donoghue, who was the managing editor was also Butte born, ~~made~~ made it possible for Steve to leave the cold climates of Montana. Eight months later, Donoghue came to the ^{Sacramento} ~~Union~~ Union, He again sent for Steve, bringing our hero to the Sacramento in November, 1925....50 years ago, and Steve has been here ever since.

Our point is that Steve made a definite contribution to the local sports scene, whether it be ~~fx~~ professional or semi-pro baseball, boxing, bowling and golf...Steve was a man of all seasons.

Steve spent 18 years with the Sacramento Union, 16 of them as sports editor...As a sports editor, Steve hired ~~Beth~~ Hightower, who is still the golf editor...He also hired Kirt MacBride and Herb Caen, at 18 dollars a week...Later he ~~hire~~ hire Bill Conlin, a recent graduate from Stanford. Caen was stolen from the Union when they offered him \$65 a week back in 1936...Conlin has since become sports editor and MacBride, a columnist. Although Steve did not conceive the idea of Behold the Bushers, he did expand upon the coverage of bush sports and it is being continued up until this very day.

Steve started the first Union Golf Tournament; The Unions Diamond Medal Bowling tournament with the Orselli, which still exists...He annually promoted the Union Christmas Boxing Show, with proceeds going to needy families...He became an expert in the field of boxing, picking many ~~winners~~ winners in the championship ranks...Called the exact round, the 11th, Max Baer Knockout of Primo Carnora.

In promoting fights, Steve had the uncanny knack of getting name referees to officiate for free...The following answer Steve's call

STEVE GEORGE

-----2-----

Jack Dempsey, Jim Jeffries, Jess Willard, Max and Buddy Baer, Young Stribling and Young Corbett to mention a few.

During the war Steve was Director Sports at McClellan Field for four years. In 1946, Steve took over the Sacramento Sporting News and kept it going until he put KGMS on the air in 1951 with Jack Matranga, and Irv Schwartz. The group sold the station in 1961, but Steve has continued on as an employe... Steve is proud of another accomplishment. He has broadcast the race results from the State Fair for 40 years and still does... Tonight we recognize Steve's achievements, and tender him this trophy which is symbolic of his induction as a member of the La Salle Hall of Fame...

January 12, 1976

My dear friend Vince, it is a pleasure for me to be inducted into the La Salle Club, "Hall Of Fame."

But I can't for the life of me see where I've been active in sports, other than my newspaper years as a writer and my radio years as a broadcaster of sorts,---mostly sports.

Anyway, the pleasure is all mine. So here goes:

I was born in Butte, Montana June 8, 1902.

Graduated from University of Montana and found work immediately upon graduation---the next day---- on the Montana Standard, of Butte.

Called to San Francisco in early 1925 to work on the SF Illustrated/Here the first daily tabloid to hit the west, owned by Cornelius Vanderbilt. Mort Dpnogue, who was managing editor, was also Butte born and he brought me to SF. Eight months later he took over The Sacramento Union and here I came in November 1925-----50 years ago. I stayed til 1943---18 years---16 of them Sports Editor. Four at McClellan Field as Director of Sports and Recreation for the Civilian army of 22,000. Organized Baseball, softball, bowling and other leagues as well as handling entertainment on and off the field for the workers. It was great fun, especially when I was in the draft. In 1946 I took the Sacramento Sporting News from Mike Pobar and kept it going til I put KGMS on the air in 1951 with Jack Matranga and Irv Schwartz. I'm still here---an employe. Sold the station in 1961.

I HIRED PON/INTOO - FORT

What did I do for Sports in Sacramento? As Sports Editor, I hired you--
[redacted] Beth Hightower too. But both MacBride and Herb Caen got \$18. a week out of me when they started. I extended the BEA "THE BUSHERS" column after you came. The idea tho was Budley Burrows' who was sports editor for a short period between 1926-27. I started the first Union golf tournament, The Union's Diamond Medal bowling tournament and the Orselli, which still exists. I used to promote The Sacramento Union Christmas Fight for charity---topnotch maine venters allX---. Followed the Solons from 1928 thru the pennant year of Pepper Martin in '42. I still hear from some of them. I helped Tom Lo Pres'i get the first PRO tournament here; helped Solon rookies make the Majors, helped 4 round preliminary boys become headliners at L Street arena and Auditorium and followed Max Baer to the world's title--Picking the exact round--- 11---- in his KO of Carnera. I broadcast race results from the State Fair for nearly 40 years non-stop and still do. AND FINALLY AFTER LOU MOREING BATTERED ME A BIT UNDER THE GRANDSTAND IN 1929---I PROMOTED A SOLON-BIG LEAGUE EXHIBITION GAME FOR HIS WIDOW XM AND GAVE HER UPWARDS OF \$4000. CASH TO LIVE ON. LOU DIED A YEAR OR SO PREVIOUS AND HE LEFT HER PENNILESS. THIS WAS THE BEST THING I EVER DID--AND REMEMBER, HE KICKED ME OUT OF THE BALL PARK THAT YEAR AND I (The Union) paid my admission and I covered the games from the grandstand. BUT HIS WIFE NEVER STOPPED SMILING AND TALKING TO ME. I

See back page

forgot

xxx her name, unfortunately. Had a great lineup of big leaguers. Ernie Bonham came home from the world's Series and pitched for me. We charged \$1. admission and Mrs Moreing got it all.

I hope I haven't bored you with details but in the final analysis, you probably know more about me than I of myself. I'm sure there are many other high points in my Sacramento life I have forgotten.

Thanx for the privilege, Vince. Save the letter. It could serve as an ob

Respectfully sub-mitted as you requested.

Your sincere friend

(*) I musn't forget to recognize the referees at these fights, FREE, like Jack Dempsey, Jim Jeffries, Jess Willard, Max and Buddy Baer, Young Stribling, Young Corbett, etc.

STEVE GEORGE

Recent pictures I don't have. This is from my Lions Club booklet. maybe

Or xxx the Serra Club .

LARRY GILLICK....

Gillick, a Butte County Sheriff for the past 25 years, is more at home here than he is at his home base in Oroville...Gillick, is actually a Sacramento boy, although he was born in nearby ^{Sutter Creek} [redacted]..

He spent his high school years here, but he did not compete much in the prep ranks, because at the tender age of 15, he was already a bona fide pitcher with Zemanskys in the National Division of the Winter League.

Reams of copy could be written about this youngster, who was a member of the Sacramento Solons ^{pitching} [redacted] staff...Like so many potential major leaguers Gillick was plagued with a sore arm...After he had served his usefulness here, he went on to the Oakland Oaks and actually had an unblemished 3-0 record when he obtained his release.

Gillick did not stay out of action too long...He went up to pitching for the Chico Colts and later became their manager...He joined the police force and in 1936 and in 1942 he was appointed under sheriff, but he did not serve in position too long...as he joined the Marine Corps in 1942 and did not return to his job until 1946.

In 1951 Larry Gillick was elected sheriff, beating the incumbent by a 3 to 1 majority...He has served in that post ever since...

Gillick was already [redacted] inducted in the Sacramento Valley League Hall of Fame, but he had to await his honors for the La Salle Hall of Fame because he would not qualify until he was 65...That time has now arrived and he is hereby duly inducted...

ELWOOD J. KEEMA

Elwood J. Keema, an educator, served the Grant Union High School district for a period of 25 years. It is the longest tenure of any superintendent of a large high school district in California.

What motivated Keema in his zeal to do a great job in his chosen field was the fear of starvation. If you can recall the [redacted] economic ills we [redacted] suffered in the early 30's, you can understand Keema's dilemma.

Keema, who possessed great baseball skills as a catcher, could not make a living in the bus leagues in pro baseball, which prompted him to enter a field with much more financial stability.

Making that choice did not deter Elwood from performing on the baseball lots as an extra-curricular activity.

Well equipped with much experience as a college catcher at Sacramento Junior College and later at the [redacted] Oregon State University where he obtained his master's degree in education, Elwood did not have much trouble in lining up a job in the local semi-pro leagues.

He kept active on the bush front with Kimball Upson, Gene Hughes, and with Julius Haberdashers when that club won the championship in 1939. Earlier in his career he played with the Marysville Giants.

In 1940 he played with Roma Wine Company in the California State League and his career ended suddenly in April, 1941, when he injured his throwing arm in a collision with the Modesto catcher.

He then entered the service as a gunnery officer in the Navy. After the war, Keema continued on in education and he has made some significant contributions to our local culture...Keema championed the cause of the Christian Brothers High School when they were denied competition in the CIF...History will tell us that there has been a [redacted] turn around and the local school is very much a party of the [redacted] establishment...Keema's selection as the greatest outfielders with whom he has been [redacted] associated is: Jack Hoagland, Hank Demaree and Joe Marty...

Elwood J. "Bud" Keema was born in Sacramento County. A graduate of Elk Grove High School he participated in basketball, track, football and was the catcher on the school baseball team for four years. After high school, during the summer of 1928, he was a catcher in the rural league for Florin where he was the leading home run hitter. He hit a grand slam home run on May 27 and ended the day by getting two home runs and two singles in seven attempts, driving in seven runs against Robla. Amelio Frasinetti was the Florin pitcher. During this season, catching Larry Gillick, he, together with Gillick, hit successive home runs against Marysville. Following are the years he played and the teams he played with.

1928-Winter and spring Sacramento Junior College
 1929-Summer Sloughouse, Sacramento County League Won championship.
 Fall and spring Kimball Upson, Sacramento Winter League
 1930-Spring Sacramento Junior College under Hack Applequist
 Spring and summer Marysville Giants
 Dante Club Sacramento Valley League
 Kimball Upson Winter League
 1931- Oregon State University
 1932- " " "
 1933- " " " (Captain)
 1934 Graduate student Oregon State University
 1934-1935- Kimball Upson
 1936-Summer Graduate student Oregon State University
 1936-1937- Kimball Upson Winter League
 1937 July 4--played with Chinn-Beretta.All Stars where Bud Waters won by a score of 9-7.
 1937-1938 Gene Hughes
 1938-1939 Julius (won city championship)
 1939-1940 Julius
 1940-1941 California State League Roma Wine Company Winter League
 1941 April Baseball career ended with injured arm due to collision with Modesto catcher.

In Keema's early days he caught some great pitchers in Sacramento, to name a few: Larry Traversi, Horace Dunning, Larry Gillick, Vic and Chet Crump, Lou Heinzer, Dewey Elliott, Auggie Lippert, Clarence Murphy, Fir Galli, Joe Rooney, Al Budman, Wally Cole and Francis Milsap. During and after 1934, Al Merkley, Dooley Bertolani, Chet Coyle, Malcolm Silva, Wild Bill Kelly, Don Elton, Phil McGee, Sonny Davey, Leo Visinainer, Bud Waters, Fred Kienle, Normal Coad, Fred Kirtlan, Charles Schanz Al Lazzaroni and Sonny Valine.

KEEMA ALL-STAR SELECTIONS

Catcher - George Lial (Not forgetting Bruce Edwards and Bill Salkeld)
 Pitcher - Norman Coad, Larry Gillick, Auggie Lippert
 1st Base - Mike Backarich, Jack Costa
 2nd Base - Alex Kamporis
 3rd Base - Stan Hack, Shorty Jorgensen
 Left Field - Jack Hoagland
 Center Field - Bill Svilich, John ~~Ukavitch~~ UKAVICH
 Right Field - Vern Hodge, Cal Lahman
 Hitting coach - Bill Avila
 Hardest-to-get-out - Lou Bordisso

Manager - John McNamara

Umpires - Patcho Valerio, Horace Smith, ^{FRANK} "Chi Chi" Ratoní

Caught Johnny Couch with Marysville in 1930. Couch was a great major league pitcher with Cincinnati and others. Also hit against Joe Oeschger who pitched the longest game in the history of baseball, 26 innings. Also hit against Frank ~~Lundey~~^{JUNEY} one of the great pitchers in the valley league in 1930 and before. Not included are many that Keema played with in Oregon, Washington and Idaho in 1931-1933.

The lifetime outfield that Keema had the good fortune to play with consisted of Jack Hoaglund, Frank Demaree, and Joe Marty. Demaree and Marty were World Series heroes and Hoaglund could have been, according to Keema.



PHIL MCGEE

A baseball career, which spanned 20 years, mostly on the local lots was enjoyed by Phil McGee, who could not be with us tonight...Instead, his nephew, Jim McCulligan is standing in for him...Phil had had a bout with the flu for the past week and he hasn't been able to lick it.

McGee, mostly at home as a first scker, was considered a better than average hitter. He started playing baseball in the 20's in the Oak Park Rookie League...Later he joined Elmer Congdon in the Muny Boys League.

During the summer he did get in some plying with Folsom in the Sacramento County League.

Here are the clubs with which McGee was affiliated during his career...Rankin Motors, Alhambra Theater, Senator Theater, Barrell Tavern, Kamball Upson, Painters Union and Celtic A. C... While pitching for the McCulligan All-Stars at Folsom prison back in August, 1928, he essayed a no-hitter. McGee later played with the Reno Garage club for several years...He was one of the triumvirate comprised of Leo and Mike Visintainer, who traveled to Reno each Sunday.

Vince

MRS. PHILIP H. MCGEE
73 TAYLOR WAY
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Started playing Baseball in Oak Park,
at the Probery Park.

Played with Elmer Congdon in the Muni
Base League.

Played County league ball with ~~the~~ Folsom
County.

Wrote League teams as follows:

Rankin Motor - Alhambra + Seneca
Theater.

Barrell Lauer

Kimball Upson

Painters Union

Collier Athletic Club

August

1928

Pitched no little Folsom Prison for
Mrs Culligan's All Stars

Played for Reno ^{Bay} ~~League~~ ~~with~~ with
Mike + Leo Vicentare

Phil McGee



MIKE SEPAROVICH

Mike Separovich, also a youngish candidate at 68, could not display his unusual baseball talents in the upper division of the local bush leagues as he was very much in demand as a soccer player.

In the late 20's he turned down many National Division offers in order ~~in~~ that he could play soccer on Sundays...He was a member of the strong Dante Club Juniors the two years that they won state championships. However, he did get in some licks as a baseball player, performing in the Twilight League...He was on a Kimball Upson championship club and also with Julius when they won two successive championships. Mike did play for Isleton in the Sacramento County League when they won the championship at old Moreing Field in 1926. Separovich knocked in the winning run.

Mike retired from competitive sports in 1934 after spending a year with a year with the Western Pacific soccer team which was ~~eliminated~~ in the state cup ties semi-final game against the strong Olympic Club team of San Francisco.

Mike has two younger ~~brothers~~ brothers, Mark and Tony, who were top pitchers in the Sacramento Valley League. Tony pitched for the Chico Colts while Mark performed in a similar capacity with Colusa for several years. Both youngsters pitched and graduated from Christain Brothers High School

NEXT MCGEE...

1/18/76

Dear Vince:

As you have requested, I am sending you a brief history of my achievements in sports. I am a 66 yrs. resident of Sacto. & born in Yugoslavia. I grew up with the Recreation Dept. system playing baseball & soccer in the grammar school leagues. I pitched & played the outfield & was considered a good ~~hit~~ hitter, also a good soccer player.

At the age of 14 I began playing in the Winter League with Hagginwood of the Coast Div., the only teen-ager on the club and their leading hitter.

The following years I played with the Sacto. Bee in the Coast Div. & Greys Pharmacy in the American Div. always with a high batting average.

In 1926 in a practice game against Isleton, I starred in the field and was 4 for 4 against Harry (Lefty) Hampton. After the game I was signed & played centerfield with Isleton. We defeated the strong Courtland club at Morning's field 1 to 0 for the championship of the County League. It was a mound duel between Hampton & Ted Shirley. I got one of the two hits off Shirley & scoring on Bill Hickey's triple.

Had numerous offers to play in the National Division which I turned down in order to play soccer on Sunday afternoon. Was a two year member of the strong Dante Club for, winning 2 State Championships in a row.

(over)

While playing soccer I did not quit baseball, I played for the Varnum's Typewriter in the American division winning 2 championships.

In 1929 after the soccer season was over, playing ball at South Side park with many other Winter League & semi-pro players one Sunday morning I was approached ~~by~~ along with "Chick" Coselli by Al Hughson manager of the Heesman's Cloathers in the Valley League. I accepted his offer & finished ^{out} the season with his club.

I again turned down the opportunity to play in the National Div., this time Jimmie Lane manager of Julius making the offer which I declined in order to continue soccer.

I also played in the twilight league with Kimball & Upson's when we won the city championship also with Julius when we won 2 ~~to~~ city twilight championships under the co-management of Henry Clark & the (Late) Geo. Dom.

In 1933 my last ~~year~~ year in competition I played soccer with Western Pacific & were defeated in the semi-finals of the State Cup Ties by the Olympic Club in the second game, the first ending in a 1-1 tie.

On March 3, 1934 I married a wonderful Italian girl, Mary Manessero.

Fearful of being injured & creating a hardship I decided to quit all sports. We are the proud parents of 3 wonderful boys, Rich, Bob & Jim. While at C.B.S. Rich & Bob starred in base ball & basketball. Rich, making All-City in baseball. Rich also played 4 yrs varsity at Secto. State and made the All For Western Conference team. He also starred in the National Division of the Winter League, Secto. County League & also was a star Legion bill player with Southside Legions. Bob also played Legion ball with Southside & City College. While with the U.S. Army he played bill & basketball in Korea & France.

I also have 2 younger brothers, Mark and Tony who were star pitchers for the C.B.S. also in the Winter Leagues & Secto. Valley League.

Vince, to the best of my knowledge, this is a brief history of my achievements. I know there may be a lot of things that I have forgotten to mention, Be free to call if you want more information Phone #446-0636

Hope to see you Saturday at Marysville.
"Mike"

P.S. Hope this snapshot is what you want.

