

1980 LA SALLE CLUB

1979 BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

La Salle Club Members, Old Timers and
Friends are invited to attend the

29TH ANNUAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME
BANQUET

ON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1st

Social Hour - 6:00 P.M.

Steak Dinner and Awards - 7:30 P.M.

(Christian Brothers High School
Cafeteria at 4315 Sacramento Blvd.)

\$7.00 per person

ELECTED TO THE 1980 HALL OF FAME

LOU HEINZER
VICTOR PITTS
GEORGE TERRA
ROBERT DUGGAN

LOU VEZILICH
ELTON ROGERS
BILL SVILICH
TONY DUTRA

La Salle Club Hall of Fame Committee:

Vincent F. Stanich
Lou Bordisso
Bill Svilich
Bill Avila
Bill Morebeck
Pete Perich
Elmer Enos
Herry Knight
Vern Hodge
Henry Wittpen
Jim Burich

RSVP BY JANUARY 25TH

LA SALLE CLUB BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

ROSTER

- 1953 *John "Buddy" Ryan
 1955 The Knezovich brothers, Al, Al, Mel,
 *Paul, Ray and *Don
 1957 Al Heist
 1958 *Brick Eldred, living members of
 the Rooney O'Neil family
 1959 *Earl McNeely
 1960 Joe Marty
 1961 *Elwood "Kettle" Wirts
 1962 *Joe Williams, *Cliff Darringer,
 *Fred Pearl, *Mel French
 1963 Horace Smith, *Harry Lilly, *Ralph
 Stroud, the 1934-35 Julius Style
 Shop baseball club, *Julius
 Anapolsky
 1964 *Walter Mails, *Henry Clark, *Dan
 Donovan, *Fred Murphy
 1965 *Big Bill James, *Jimmy Lane,
 *Manuel Petralli, *Capt. Bill Ryan
 1966 *Parker Sheehan, Eddie Manger,
 Dewey Elliott, Verne Hodge,
 *Bob Schang
 1967 *Jack Dooley, Frank Osborn, *Frank
 Bacon, *Arthur Luddy, *Tommy Dunk
 1968 *Franz Rooney, Francis "Hira" Hall,
 *Edwin Grove, Lloyd Snook, *Fred
 Bottaro
 1969 Ray Rohwer, *Pete Hepting, Jim
 Gorman, *Steve Marietta, *Bill Shick
 1970 *Ted Zackney, Tony Freitas, Albert
 Westlake, *Alfred Felix, *Morvin
 Neves
 1971 Frank Raton, *Dick Deterding,
 George Lial, Eggert Rohwer,
 *Harry Hooper
 1972 *Clyde "Tub" Perry, Lenny Backer,
 Joe Rooney, *John Silvey, *John
 Corato, Ralph Young
 1973 *Paul Genshlea, *James R. Kelly,
 Tom Pendergast, John B. Costa,
 G.W. "Mick" Hall Jr., Frank Judy
- 1974 Allan Byrne, *Clarence Murphy,
 John "Chick" Casali, Joe Lima,
 Elmer Congdon, Hank Ness,
 Jack Hoagland, Roscoe Kimble
 1975 Tony Zupo, *Dick Lamb, James A.
 "Lefty" Cooke, Larry Williams,
 Wallace Canfield, *Fred Belluomin
 Mike Visintainer
 1976 Frank Armstrong, Mike Separovich,
 *Elwood J. Keema, George "Butter"
 Cole, Phil McGee, Larry Gillick,
 Steve George, Elmer Enos
 1977 Alex Kampouris, Earl Eberlein,
 *Peter Mitchell, Dave Rodrick,
 *Dr. Alfred A. Oliver, Joe Smith,
 Bill Avila, Mike Page
 1978 Earl Wagner, Lloyd Wagner, Jack
 Stassi, Herb Forsch, Manuel Salvo
 Clement "Boo" Coyle, Gus Kortstei
 William Peccole,
 Harold "Sam" Sperbeck
 1979 Lou Bordisso, Ned Carbone, Joe
 Duarte, N.G. Culjis, Lloyd Toomey
 Percy Gassoway, Karl Reimer,
 Mike Bakarich

*Denotes deceased members

LA SALLE CLUB 1980 BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

LOU HEINZER

VICTOR PITTS

GEORGE TERRA

ROBERT DUGGAN

LOU VEZILICH

ELTON ROGERS

BILL SVILICH; Do not have information at this time.

TONY DUTRA

LOUIS J. (LOU) HEINZER (Baseball career)

A native Sacramentan, was a winning pitcher and an over 300 hitter during a career which ran from 1928 thru 1934. Pitched for Florin, Fruitridge and Sloughhouse in the old Sacramento County League, winning the championship for Sloughhouse in 1928. Among other teams, was an outstanding pitcher for the Nevis-Newman, Dante Club and Kimball-Upson teams in the National Division of the Sacramento Winter League. In 1929 and 1930, was first string pitcher for Sacramento Junior College in the California Coast Conference. In 1930, pitched the Panthers to a 4-3 victory over the Sacramento Pacific Coast League team while collecting 3 hits.

Pitched the Kimball-Upson team to consecutive Sacramento Winter League Championships in 1933 and 1934. It was the first time in many years that a National Division club had gone through a 7 game schedule undefeated.

From 1931 thru 1934 was a winning pitcher for the Sacramento Realtors and the Dante Club in the Sacramento Valley League, with the Dante Club finishing one year in second place, the highest spot any Sacramento team had finished in many seasons. Won first three starts and hit 409 one season.

In 1934, pitched the Van Tassell Sport Shop all-stars to a 4-3 win over the Sacramento Senators of the Pacific Coast League. Was approached by several Coast League Clubs including the Sacramento Solons, S. F. Seals and Missions, but retired from baseball to practice law.

LOU HEINZER

Lou Heinzer, who retired recently as an attorney, was one of the top semi-pro pitchers in the early thirties. He was always a winning pitcher and a better than .300 batter to boot. First pitched for Florin, Fruitridge and Sloughhouse in the old Sacramento County League. He was also an outstanding moundsman for Newie-Newman, Dante Club and Kimball-Upson in the National Division of the Winter League.

In 1929 and 1930 was first string pitcher for Sacramento Junior College. In 1930, pitched the Panthers to a 4-3 victory over the Sacramento Pacific Coast League team.

Pitched KU's to consecutive Winter League champions in 1933 and 1934.

He was approached by several Coast League teams, but retired from

baseball to study law.

Victor Pitts—Unforgotten Baseballer

By VINCENT F. STANICH

Sam Sperbeck, supervisor of Yuba County, did many fine things for his constituents over the years, but the biggest service he performed for his community was discovering Victor Pitts.

Pitts, now a successful businessman in Marysville, was originally a Sacramentan. He attended Christian Brothers Grammar School, Stanford Junior High before he entered Sacramento High School where he blossomed into a baseball star.

It was back in 1936 that Sperbeck came down to Sacramento to see one of the fine Julius Haberdashery clubs in action. Sam, strictly a baseball fan, but a red hot Marysville Giant booster, was on the prowl for a shortstop that was a weak spot on the Marysville ball club at that time. Pitts, playing shortstop for Julius caught his eye and immediately after the game, the extroverted Sam did not waste any time in singling out Pitts to get his reaction about playing for the Marysville club as an outside player.

Pitts held off giving an answer because he was still interested in a career as a professional player. He had already received tryouts from the Sacramento Solons and the San Francisco Seals in the Pacific Coast League and had played part of a season with the Modesto club in the California State League.

Sam was a man of few words and the popular Marysville politician countered with a generous offer that Pitts could not turn down. So Victor traveled to Marysville each Sunday to play with the club in the summer of 1937. Needless to say Pitts

was an instant hit with the Twin City fans and he appeared to be a fixture at shortstop at the tender age of 20.

Pitts liked the Julius club and he came back to play the winter of 1937-38. On that famous club were the greatest aggregation of ball players to ever perform on a Sacramento winter league team. On the pitching staff were Norman Coad; Wally Cole and Harry Hampton, lefthanders; and the late Albert J. Lazzarone, a righthander, who performed for Grass Valley Miners in the summer. George Lial was the manager and No. 1 catcher. He was assisted by Ted Jamieson. In the infield were Jack Costa, Miki Visintainer, Syl Gregory, Pitts and Curt Schmidt. In the outfield were Bill Bettencourt, Bill Svllich and the late Johnny Kiser. They were the 14 players who played the entire season and were rarely beaten. Costa, not only played first base, but also pitched on occasion and played right field. Hampton and Cole, although they were carried as pitchers, also performed in the outfield and used as pinch hitters.

Pitts signed again in 1938 to play for the Giants, but Sperbeck was not satisfied with the arrangement of having Pitts still live in Sacramento. He then went to work and secured a job for Pitts as a bartender for Mat Sapunar, who owned the popular California Cafe. This made Pitts a bona fide resident of Marysville, which removed any doubt as to where he would be playing baseball each year.

It wasn't long before Pitts became manager of the Giants and he was a very popular leader until he entered the service in 1944. He led the club to a pennant in 1941. In 1946, Pitts came back and rejoined the Giants and continued to play and man-

age the club until 1960, when he retired as an active player.

By this time, Pitts was so well entrenched in business in Marysville that he has continued to call it his home.

Although small, Pitts was quite a basketball star when he was attending the local Dragon institution. He also performed on the local soccer front in the junior league circuit. He played for the championship Hesser's Pharmacy and the Western Pacific Juniors. He also performed for Julius when the Street merchant got involved in soccer.

Pitts has always been identified with a winner. His partnership with Gene Brocker in the tavern business was another success story. Brocker, a catcher of note, with the Giants and briefly with the Sacramento Solons.

Pitts credits Ed Combatalade for his early success in baseball, as Ed was the baseball coach at the Sacramento High School when Victor matriculated there in 1932. Combatalade also assisted in the development of Alex Kampouris and Bill Svllich. Kampouris was an instant success in baseball going to the majors in 1933. Svllich was going great with the Seals until he was beaten out of the center field job by Joe Dimaggio.

COMING EVENTS — The 35th anniversary party of the famous Manhattan Legion club will be held at the Sierra Room of the Sacramento Inn Saturday night, March 23. . . . Invitations to the members of that club will be mailed next week. . . "Butter" Cole will be tendered a testimonial dinner in the Martinique Room of the Sacramento Inn Saturday, April 4.

GEORGE TERRA

Terra was equally at home on the baseball diamond as he was on the soccer field. During his athletic days he divided his skills amonth to two sports. He first started in soccer in 1926 for the Garibaldi club and stayed with that club six years. During the same period, he did not neglect the game of baseball, playing in the 9 o'clock division.

For the next 10 years he was a star in the top division: In 1933, 1934, 1935 with Julius; 36 and 37 with Kimball Upson; 38, 39 and 40 with Chinn-Beretta and 1941 and 1942 with Carpenters.

In 1933 after the winter league season was over he played soccer with the Dante, Juniors, which won the California State Championship. In 1934 with Hesserts, who also won the state championship. One great accomplishment in his spiritual ~~life~~ life, something to be proud of...he is the father of a Catholic Priest, Rev. Russell Terra, who is with us tonight...

Dec 22, 1979

Vince:

George

I will accept the honor of being chosen
to the La Salle Hall of Fame

Here is a brief outline of my soccer and
baseball days and years.

~~1926~~ 1926 played soccer for the Lassibaldi club.
I played 6 years for them. I also played
9 AM Winter ball for various teams

1933, 1934, 1935 Julius

1936, 1937 Kimbal Upsons

1938, 1939, 1940 Quinn Beretta

1941, 1942 Carpenters Union

In 1933 after winter baseball was over I
played soccer for the Dante Jr which won
the Calif state championship.

1934 played soccer for Bussers pharmacy
that also won the Calif State championship.

as was
George

2601 La Grange Dr.
Carmichael Calif.

95608

487-8173

RESUME

Harold Joseph (Bob) Duggan

Harold Joseph Duggan (Bob)

Sister called me Bubby as a baby and from this came Bobby. Have been known as Bob all my life and prefer to be called Bob.

Born June 20, 1911 in Woodland, California

Played right field in Woodland Grammar School in 7th & 8th grades. Played 2nd Base three years at Woodland High School. There was no baseball team so played intramural (class against class.)

Played 1st Base Senior Year at Benicia High School, Also played basketball on was on Track team. Played with Benicia Town team 1930 & 1931. Manuel Salvo was the pitcher when we played at Yountville.

Played 1st base for Santa Rosa Jr. College in 1932 & 33. Also played basketball there.

Played with Guerneville Odd Fellows Team in 1932 & 1933.

Was offered try out with Seattle, but refused because wanted to pursue my education.

In 1934 suffered an injury to my hand and had to give up playing baseball.

Was out of baseball until 1949 when my brother Lee asked me to manage the Woodland Acorns in the West Side League. Managed in the Central Calif. League and in the Sacramento Rural League. Larry Williams was president at the time of the Rural League. Was President of the Calif. Central League and also manager at the same time.

Approximately 1950, the wind blew the fence down at Clark Field and our City Manager, John Ferns suggested at a council meeting that Clark Field be sold. I and my brother Lee appeared before the council at the next meeting and protested the sale. It was postponed and we led the fight through a petition, the newspaper (Woodland Democrat) and the sale did not take place and Clark Field was saved. It is still there and tournaments are played there.

1951

In ~~XXXX~~ ¹⁹⁵¹, my wife Helen suggested if I wanted Woodland to become baseball conscious I should start with the young boys and Little League. Woodland was strictly a football town with very little interest in Baseball. I appeared before the Council with an idea of promoting Little League in Woodland and what assistance they would offer. It was ~~was~~ ^{SMILE} ~~was~~ ~~was~~ ~~was~~. I then went to Kenny Leake who was the editor of the Woodland Democrat and told him my ideas. He was interested in baseball and a Dodger Fan. Wrote an editorial about it and asked people to write to the paper if they were interested. I went from door to door talking to people about baseball for the kids and Little League. ^{PEOPLE} spoke at the Elks, Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis and they all offered support. Mr. George James was the exalted leader of the Elks and thought it was a terrific idea and got behind me 100%. Kenny Leake, George James and I founded Little League in Woodland. I managed the Detroit Tigers two years and we were the overall champions both years. I was president of the Little League and Chairman of the Finance Committee to build the ball park. Worked long hours and many years for all this to happen but with the help primarily of Kenny Leake and George James my dream became a reality.

LIST (over)

It was a tough hard struggle because of so much opposition but the land was given to us by the City of Woodland, P.G. & EE and Pac. Tel. and Tel gave us poles, Motroni Lumber and Diamond National gave us lumber for fences, backstop, snack bar, and a booth for our P.A. System and our announcing. ~~By~~ Our labor was all donated by the many citizens of Woodland, the prisoners ~~fr~~ from the farm kept up our diamonds and our field. It became truly a Community Effort with many, many people involved, countless hours of their time and lots of dollars. I am very proud of my hometown and its citizens for the mighty effort extended to make this project the huge success it became. They have a fine field with lights and many tournaments have been played there.

In the period from 1950 I was President of Central Calif. League two terms, President of the Woodland Little League, Manager of the Woodland Acorns, and was on the Board of ~~DIRECTOR~~ Directors of the Rural League. Managed the Detroit Tigers Little League Team two years, Chairman of the Finance Committee for raising funds to build the Ball Park, Board of Directors of Little League, helped start the Pony League and managed, helped start the Babe Ruth League. Helped bring Fred Matts team to play one season in Woodland. Chairman of Woodland Night at Edmonds Field and over 800 Woodland people attended. Joe Marty was the Manager then.

Helped promote fights with Al Martinez at the Legion in Woodland and Joey Lopes was an amateur then.

Coached a boys basketball team for a couple of seasons.

Was A Little League manager again for our youngest son Robert, this time in Sacramento in the Mission Little League. Managed for three years and my ~~two~~ two older sons were my coaches, Jim and Frank. Frank was also president of the Mission Little League. Retired in 1970 when my son had reached the age limit.

Played last active game in 1950 at the age of 39.

Since 1970 have just gone to Legion, High School, and some Semi Pro Games. Have and still am running about eight to ten bus trips a year to Candlestick to see the San Francisco Giants.

We are a baseball family, my three sons all played in Little League, Pony League, Babe Ruth League, Legion and at College. Frank played for Jerry Tresca and the Cannery Union for several seasons. My wife kept score, was Head Scorekeeper for the teams and our sons helped their younger brother in Little League. All of us love baseball and always will.

Harold Joseph (Bob) Duggan
2601 La France Dr.
Corning, Calif.
95608
484-8173

PLAYED RIGHT FIELD - THE WOODLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL TEAM.

PLAYED 2ND BASE - WOODLAND HIGH SCHOOL (CLASS TEAM)

WOODLAND DIDN'T HAVE A SCHOOL TEAM THEN.

PLAYED BASKETBALL W.H.S.

PLAYED 1ST BASE BENICIA HIGH SCHOOL 1930 → PLAYED BASKETBALL

PLAYED WITH BENICIA TOWN TEAM 1930-31 TRUCK + JOINTVILLE

MANUAL SALVO WAS PITCHER WHEN WE PLAYED JOINTVILLE

PLAYED FIRST BASE SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE 1932-33

PLAYED BASKETBALL S.R.J.C.

PLAYED BASEBALL GUERNOVILLE ODD FELLOWS 32-33

OFFERED TRYOUT WITH SEATTLE DIDN'T

~~WANT~~ TAKE IT BECAUSE I WANTED TO GO TO SCHOOL.

1934 HURT MY HAND AND HAD TO QUIT BASEBALL

OUT OF BASEBALL ANKLE.

1949 - AND FOR ^{SEVERAL} ~~SEVERAL~~ YEARS - MANAGER OF

WOODLAND CORNS IN WESTSIDE LEAGUE -

RURAL LEAGUE (LARRY WILLIAMS PRES)

PRESIDENT - CENTRAL CALIF LEAGUE 2 YEARS

PRESIDENT - WOODLAND LITTLE LEAGUE 1953

MANAGER - DETROIT TIGERS WOODLAND LITTLE LEAGUE

2 YEARS

CHAIRMAN - FINANCE COMMITTEE WOODLAND LITTLE

LEAGUE COMMITTEE TO BUILD PARK.

1ST CHAIRMAN FOR LITTLE LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN - WOODLAND NIGHT FOR SOLONS AT

EDMONDS FIELD. APPROX 800 PEOPLE FROM WOODLAND

JOE MARTY WAS MANAGER OF SOLONS.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - CENTRAL CAL LEAGUE

SACRAMENTO RURAL LEAGUE

WOODLAND LITTLE LEAGUE

MISSION LITTLE LEAGUE

WOODLAND PONY LEAGUE

MANAGER - WOODLAND PONY LEAGUE

MANAGER PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES - MISSION LITTLE

LEAGUE SACRAMENTO - 2-3 YRS.

1970 (RETIRED FROM BASEBALL)

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LOU VEZILICH

Lou Vezilich, an Alameda High School lad, which spawned such major leaguers as Dick Bartell and Johnny Vergez, first came to Sacramento in 1936 when he was farmed out by the St. Louis Cardinals. He was an instant hit with the local fans with his speed afoot and his potent bat. Additionally, he possessed a better than average throwing arm. The records books can attest to that as he is listed as holding the record for one game with six outfield assists back in 1937.

He played left field for the two years which he spent with the club. He was drafted by St. Louis in 1938, but they never did use him as a major leaguer. While here he batted over .300. In 1937 the local Jugoslavian colony honored him with a night in his honor. Among the many gifts was a \$110 Hamilton wristwatch which still adorns his left wrist.

Before retiring Lou played with San Diego, Fort Worth, Rochester. He also managed a team in the Far West League. One of the players on the club was Bert Bonomi. Lou now lives in Oakland.

ELTON "LEFTY" ROGERS

Lefty served his apprenticeship in the 9 o'clock and 11 o'clock leagues before he hit the big time the National Division of the Sacramento Winter League.

He played for Gene Hughes, both as a pitcher and an outfielder; as a pitcher for Dante Club and an all-purpose player with Dick Grabb Painters Union, then to his greatest glory with Lou Bordisso and his Matts club for a 10 year period.

While in the service for 39 months Rogers played in the European Theater with 84th Division.

In 1934 he was on the Sacramento Junior College baseball squad as the only left handed pitcher on a staff of 10 slabsters.

Rogers spent most of adult life as a policeman and a detective on the Sacramento Police Force.

I was born at 2117-E St. January 15, 1911 and started to play baseball at a very early age. You could always find me on the baseball diamond at 21st & C, 28 & C, or McKind Park when I was not at home.

My first break came when I went out for the Sacramento High School baseball team in 1927. I made the team and played 2 years, until I graduated in 1929.

My first team in the Sacramento Winter League was the Central Outfitters in the American A. division. We won the title in that league.

I then played with Tomball Upson, Ed Dell, Albert Elkus, Rankins and two years for Gene Hughes.

During the summer months I played some out of town games with the Cities and with the Y.M.I. in the Twilight League.

I played part of the season with Victor in the San Joaquin League.

My second big break came when Frank Demoree, who was playing center field for the Marysville Giants in the Sacramento Valley

Do you

League, signed to play with the Sacramento Solons in the coast league Jack Hoagland took me up there and I played two years for them.

I then went over to Yuba City and played for them in the East Side Valley League and the Pacer Nevada League for three years.

Finally after I injured my knee and quit baseball for eleven years, Bill Giannatiaso who was managing the Argonaut Liquor team in the Sacramento Winter League, and was having a hard time getting players to finish the season prevailed upon me to return, and I finished the season with them playing five games.

I played one more game with Bill Avilas @ Ed Timers at the Folsom Prison and then hung up my spikes for good.

Anthony "Tony" Dutra