# 1977 LA SALLE CLUB 26TH ANNUAL BASEBALL HALL OFF FAME

BILL AVILA

EARL EBERTAIN

ALEX KAMPOURIS

PETER MITCHELL

CB

DR. ALFRED OLIVER

MIKE PAGE

DAVE RODERICK

JOE SMITH

Bill Avila, just turned 65, has been active in baseball since he was a teenager at Sacramento High School under Coach Ed Combatalade. Avila gate up active participation in the dimond sport early in his career to coach and manage young players.

In this particular field, Avila has been singularly successful since the timer of the Police Juniors in the early 30th to the championship clubs of Al's Clothiers.

Additionally, Avila has been identified with Legion ball. His biggie was the Mahnart Legion club in 1935 which almost went all the way to a National Championship.

Avila was instrumental in the formation of the County League after World War 11. He even had a hand in heading up with Rural League which was in direct competition of the County League in the 50's and 60'.

A lla butered the professional field by accepting a job as the general manager of the anaheim team, a farm club of the Solons. Later Avila came back to scout for the Solons and more recently joining the Phillies as a regional scout. Avila is considered to be a very talente ivory hunter. Among his discoveries are Larry Bowa and more recently Randy Lerch. Both are with the Phillies. Avila is also a member of the La Saile Hall of Fame Committee, but he was not embarrassed when Jobn B" he was nominated for a Hall of Fame Spot.

## DR. ALFRED A OLIVER

Another if the Hall of Fame candidates who is scouting the local area for baseball talent is Dr. Alfred A. Oliver. "Doc" as he is affectionately known by his close friends, has been active in the Land Park Pony-Colt League since the inception of the league in 1956. He has also been identified in the winter league in during the same period. In both leagues Doc's teams were perennial/winners. In the Boy's winter league his young Dodgers have won the title in seven out of the last 10 years.

### MIKE PAGE

MIKE PAGE, WHO WILL BE 80 YEARS OF AGE IN JULY, WAS BORN IN MISSOURI. HE
PLAYED HIS HIGH SCHOOL BALL IN KIRKWOOD, MISSOURI, BEFORE MOVING TO
SACRAMENTO IN 1914. PAGE IMMEDIATELY BEGAN PLAYING ON THE LOCAL BUSH
FRONT UPON HIS ARRIVAL. THE FIRST CLUB WITH WHOM PAGE WAS ASSOCIATED WAS
THE POWERHOUSE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS RED SOX.

PAGE PLAYED LEFT FIELD, SECOND BASE AND SHORT STOP, BUT CHIEFLY HE WAS A THIRD SACKER.

JUST WHEN HE BEGAN TO SHOW CONSIDERABLE PROMISE IN BASEBALL HE HAD TO WAIT UNTIL HIS ARMY COMMITMENTS WERE OVER. HE SERVED 19 MONTHS OVERSEAS IN WORLD WAR I. WHEN HE RETURNED IN 1919, HE BEGAN TO PERFORM IN SACRAMENTO WINTER LEAGUE, PLAYING WITH KIMBALL-UPSONS, MARSTON-NEWBERT, HEESEMANS, CLARK-LOBNER AND THOMSON DIGGS. IN THE SPRING LEAGUE HE WAS ALWAYS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RED SOX. HE DID PLAY SOME WITH YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE UNDER FREDDIE MURPHY.

PAGE ALSO PLAYED WITH SEVERAL OUT OF TOWN CLUBS, NAMELY, VACAVILLE, LINCOLN, AND WEED. HE HUNG UP HIS SPIKES IN 1928.

MIKE WAS MARRIED TO MARY EGAN IN 1920 AND THEY ARE THE PARENTS OF TWO BOYS, BOTH GOLFERS AND GOOD ONES. THEY ARE PENDLETON AND BRYANT.

The autobeography of Marchall alexander Sage BEHER M. a "Mite" Sage Doan: July 18, 1897 -Dixleplace: Terquen Missouri. Taxlis: Sendletey Wage Mother: Leila Gale Family: 2 Diskers - 3 Drothers. Naive to Cacrimento (a)xer 5 presiones tripo) on august 1, 1914. Slayed Caseball for the Kirkwood Stigh Dansol and the Town Team of Kerkwood, Mo - 1912, 1913 - 6205 & 1914. Our or about August 7 1914 Dienel up to play withe the Christian Brokers Cours "Red Pous" there at 12 " of S Drotter Commeds was the Manager and Hugh & Ford, at 13 TR Ducks - My frist game with OBL was me a Tatasday afterwood at Courteside Fack. Whilewith los Irolayed outfield, 2" Bus - Theort Dop but chiefly 3rd Base. Attent the www media of these days will seveal I held my own so a fielder, head and excellent aren and wasker average liettes. Thom 1914 to 1928, excepting from august 1917 Herest Replante 1919 - Army Days - World War 1 - Hat 19 mouths of overse permes Splayed Wester League - Joing League and Dumen Teague ball I played Wenter Teague with Kemball- Ups Masson Newbert Decoencau Start Tobuer aul Thompson Auges to Daine the opening I played with the CBC "Red Dons" and the young Mens Sund the latter mide the lovable dedicated traciball runt I banker Ful Klurghe

Down of the det formers I played with were High duffy Mick Layle Wellie Shick, Sen & aley, Tow Kelly, Tem Eller Juy Vorman, File Death, Suy Canadas and the Gellespee Brs at Arbuckle - June Ologneel, Earl M. Neely, Eddis Grove and Bourse all of the old Farmy & Speel Class Sayed Denday own pro Callwith Townie Rent at Cut 4th July with a pickup teau under Fred Menglings warned . That's where I must our long departed friend and a real Contribution to any aport - Charles Davan -- Hung up the old glove, but and shoes in 1928 since Jourdout Deculdux mour around as fast as Luse to the bridthwas coming in short pants and & also had assumed family abligations so Itost up golf so a pasticul. We have 2 pour - Tendleton & Boyant & Beth Coup went to Dacto He I Facto tety Vollege - They did not Take to hard ball like Their old dad But beth were above average as golfers and football players - The boys are I pleasure during the att 25 years with Edward bulden I Hus wids a midicer basiball corner but our Hour and enjoy looking back upon Apr Micke Lage

#### DAVE RODRICK

FOR THE FIRST TIMEI IN ITS 25 YEARS OF EXISTENCE THE LA SALLE HALL OF FAME
COMMITTEE CHOSE A ROSEVILLE OLD TIMER. HE IS DAVE RODRICK, NOW 70 YEARS OF
AGE, WHO WAS A CRAFTY SOUTH PAW DURING HIS 30 YEAR CAREER.
RODRICK SHOWED REAL PROMISE AS A PITCHER WHEN HE WAS ONLY 16 YEARS OF
AGE, BEGINNING HIS CAREER IN THE OLD PLACER-NEVADA LEAGUE. AT THE AGE OF 21
HE WAS CONSIDERED GOOD ENOUGH TO RECEIVE A TRYOUT WITH THE SAN
FRANCISCO SEALS WHEN THEY TRAINED IN MONTEREY. DAVE DID NOT MAKE IT IN FAST
COMPANY, BUT HIS SERVICES WERE VERY MUCH IN DEMAND BY ALL THE CLUBS IN THE
SEMI-PRO RANKS.

ALTHOUGH MOST OF HIS CAREER WAS SPENT IN THE PLACER NEVADA LEAGUE HE DID PERFORM IN THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY LEAGUE, PLAYING WITH ROSEVILLE, YUBA CITY AND WOODLAND. HE SPENT THE BALANCE OF HIS CAREER PITCHING FOR WOLF AND ROYER IN THE P-N LEAGUE BEFORE RETIRING FROM ACTIVE PLAYING IN 1958 WHEN HE WAS 50 YEARS OF AGE.

ONE OF RODRICK'S GREAT PITCHING ACHIEVEMENTS CAME WHEN HE WAS 39 YEARS

OF AGE BACK IN 1946. HE WAS CHOSEN TO PITCH FOR THE CARMICHAEL FIREMEN

WHEN THEY WENT TO WICHITA TO COMPETE IN THE NATIONAL SEMI-PRO TOURNAMENT.

DAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION IN PITCHING THE CLUB TO AN

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. HIS SON, LT. GENE RODRICK, PLACER COUNTY

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, ALSO A PITCHER, WAS A MEMBER OF THE SAME CLUB WITH

HIS DAD BACK IN 1958. DAVE RETIRED FROM THE PG&E AFTER WORKING FOR THAT

ORGANIZATION FOR 43 YEARS.

#### OLIVER

Oliver is a practicing podatrise in Sacramento, a profession he has been engaged in for the past 40 years. Many of his close, personal friends are not aware that he was initally a pharmacist, right after he graduated from high school. Oliver later conducted a refresher course for those asprring to take the pharmacy examistion. His many graduates are part of the community this very day.

Oliver is currently a scout for the Los Angeles Dodgers working under the direction of his cousing, Ronnie King. Doc is proud of sacker his discovery, Jerry Royster, who is currently the third XXXXX for the Atlanta Braves.

#### ALEX KAMPOURIS

The local fans did not savor the greatness of M Kampouris for too long as he was grabbed off by the Cincinnati Reds after he played by two years at the local bil orchard.

Alex did not bring much of a xnxm oum to Lew Moreing, Solon owner, as 1933 was the year of the great depression. On today's market the flashy Greek would attract \$200,000 from any big league ball club.

His overall record in 1933 which promptly prompted a bid from a big league ball club was phenomenal.

Here is his record: Batted .300; scored over 100 runs; collected 200 hits; hit 40 doubles; led the club in triples with 11. That is not all. He hit 18 home runs; led the club in total bases with 366 He batted in 123 runs to lead the club in that department. Alex alled the club in stolen bases with 47. He joined the meds in 1934.

## JOE SMITH

ANOTHER ONE OF THE HALL OF FAME IS JOE SMITH, WHO ALSO SERVED IN FRANCE DURING WORLD WAR I. WHILE IN THE BATTLE ZONE, SMITH FILLED IN AS A CATCHER FOR A TOURING ALL-STAR TEAM, WHO HAD LOST THEIR RECEIVER WHO SUFFERED A BROKEN LEG. SMITH DID THE CATCHING FOR THE BALANCE OF THE TOUR. THE PITCHER FOR THE ALL-STARS WAS THE IMMORTAL GROVER CLEVELAND ALEXANDER. SMITH MOVED TO SACRAMENTO FROM CANTON, OHIO IN 1940 AND IMMEDIATELY BECAME A PART OF THE LOCAL BASEBALL SETUP.

HE BECAME PLAYER, MANAGER FOR THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC CLUB IN 1942.

THE FOLLOWING YEAR HE FORMED THE MCCLELLAN AIR DEPOT CLUB, WHO BECAME
CHAMPIONS IN THE AMERICAN DIVISION OF THE SACRAMENTO WINTER LEAGUE. SMITH
DEVELOPED PITCHER FRED EHRMANN, WHO WAS GRABBED UP BY THE SAN
FRANCISCO SEALS.

SMITH ORGANIZED THE KLUMPPS CLUB IN 1944 AND PROMPTLY LED THEM TO A PENNANT THAT YEAR AND AGAIN IN 1945. IN 1946, HE ENTERED THE CLUB IN THE NEWLY FORMED SUPERIOR CALIFORNIA LEAGUE.

HE LATER MANAGED KLUMPPS RIO LINDA CLUB AND THEN FOR A 6 YEAR PERIOD, HE MANAGED MONTE CARLO IN THE WINTER LEAGUE. IN 1951 HE COACHED GLENN'S MARKET CLUB AND THEN LATER LED THE OASIS CLUB OLD TIMERS. HE WAS ALSO IDENTIFIED WITH DALE'S TIRE SHOP, CANNERY UNION AND MATTS FATHERS AND SONS CLUB. HE RETIRED AT THE END OF THE 1961 SEASON.

SMITH ALSO UMPIRED FOR SEVERAL YEARS IN THE AMERICAN A DIVISION.

#### KAMPOURIS

Alex played with the Reds 1934 to 1938 and then was sold to the New York Giants. He finished the 1939 season with the Giants and then was sold to the Newark club of the International League. Here again, in the minors, Alex came into his own. He collected 46 home runs in 1940, hitting home runs in every park.

In Syracuse he hit homers over the left field, center field and right field walls, an accomplishment seldom duplicated by a visiting phayer. With that kind of a record, they were bidding for Alex's services. This time a bid of \$40,000 from the Brooklyn Dogers brought Alex back to the majors. Alex played parts of the 1941; 1942 and 1943 seasons with the Dodgers, along with Dolph Camilli, who was the most popular ball players on the Dodger ball club. The following year he was sold to the Washington Senators, before he entered the service.

After the War Alex came back to the Solons to conclude his career where it all started. Alex later joined the County Marshal's office, retiring from that position three years ago.

## PETER MITCHELL

After many years of dedication to the Christian Brothers cause, the Hall of Fame Committee; unanimously voted Peter Mitchell into the La Salle Hall of Fame.

Mitchell was no terror on the paseball diamond. He was not a ramming fullback on the football squad, but he had other attributes which made him a big leaguer.

Graduting from the Christian Brothers High School, then located at 12t and Kay Street, Peter attended college at St. Maryani Marya which was then localted on Broadway in Oakland. Runingains After his graudation he came back to teach part time at the local high school. Additionall he became the first football coach at the school. His knowledge of the sport was aquired by Peter when his saw Slip Madigan in action at

#### MITCHELL

St. Marys.

Mitchell xxxxx entered the automotive business in the early 20's but his forensic skills aroused the local constituency to a point that he was elected to the local city council. He served in that post from 1939 to 1949.

At that point he was named as Commissioner of the California EmGovernor Earl Warren
ployment Commssion, serving on a full time basis. Later he was appointed to the Public Utility Commision. He served with distinction
for a period of 20 years. He was reappointed to that post by Governor
Goodwin J. Knightm and then by Governor Edmund G. Brown. Commissioner
Mitchell is the first commissioner in the history of the Public Entitl
Utility Commission to be appointed by three different Governors.

In November, 1953, His Holiness, Pope Pius the 12th, conferred the honor of Knight Commander of the Order, Knighthood of Saint Gregory the Great.

FEE Peter ixxxxx has a xximerix brother, Brendan Mitchell, who is Catholic a/priest and a sister, Sister Mary Peter, who is a num, with the Sisters of Mercy order.

Mitchell now lives in retirement in San Rafael with his wife, Marie He has two children, a daughter, Mary Louise, and a son, Peter E. Mitchell, Jr.

# Behold the bushers

# La Salle honors Roseville old timer

By VINCENT F. STANICH

FOR THE first time in its 25 years of existence the La Salle Hall of Fame Committee chose a Roseville old timer. He is Dave Rodrick, now 70 years of age, who was a crafty southpaw, during his 30 year career. Rodrick and seven other old timers will be inducted into the La Salle Hall of Fame next Friday evening at the Christian Brothers High School. The festivities will get under way at 6:30 p.m. with dinner served at 7:30 p.m.

Rodrick showed real promise as a pitcher when he was only 16 years of age, beginning his career in the old Placer-Nevada League. At the age of 21 he was considered good enough to receive a tryout with the San Francisco Seals when they trained at Monterey. Davie did not make it in fast company, but his services were very much in demand by all of the clubs in the semi-pro ranks.

ALTHOUGH MOST of his career was spent in the Placer Nevada League he did perform in the Sacramento Valley League, playing with Roseville, Yuba City and Woodland. He spent the balance of his career pitching for Wolf & Boyer in the P-N League before retiring from active playing in 1958 when he was 50 years of

age.

One of Rodrick's great pitching achievements came when he was 39 years of age back in 1946. He was chosen to pitch for the Carmichael Firemen when they went to Wichita to compete in the National Semi-Pro Tournament. Dave made a significant contribution in pitching the club to an International Championship, His son, Lt. Gene Rodrick, Placer County Sheriff's Department, also a pitcher, was a member of the same club with his dad back in 1958. Dave retired from the PG&E after working for that organization for 43 years.

M. A. MIKE PAGE, who will be 80

years of age in July, was born in Missouri. He played his high school ball in Kirkwood, Missouri, before moving to Sacramento in 1914. Page immediately began playing on the local bush front upon his arrival. The first club with whom Page was associated was the powerhouse Christian Brothers Red Sox.

Page played left field, second base and shortstop, but chiefly he was a third sack-

er.

Just when he began to show considerable promise in baseball he had to wait until his army commitments were over. He served 19 months overseas in World War I. When he returned in 1919, he began to perform in the Sacramento Winter League, playing with Kimball-Upsons, Marston-Newbert, Heesemans, Clark-Lobner and Thomson Diggs. In the spring league he was always associated with the Red Sox. He did play some with the Young blen's Institute under Freddie Morphy.

Page also played with several out of town clubs, namely, Vacaville, Lincoln and Weed, He hung up the spikes in 1928.

Mike was married to Mary Egan in 1900 and they are the parents of two-boys, both golfers and good ones. They are Pendleton and Bryant.

EARL EBERLEIN, like Page, served in World War I, which delayed his baseball career somewhat. He did not begin to assert himself until 1920 when he was identified with Rio Linda Woodman of the World Lodge. The team was entered in the Farm Bureau League and promptly won the championship.

Earl finally managed a club in the National Division of the Sacramento Winter League in 1930, when he led the Mapes-Mordecai club.

Earl was a playing manager for that same club when they won the Orange League, winning 14-successive games. His protege, Joe Marty, batted 462 with

eight homers, four triples and seven doubles. Tom Plummer and "Leity" Ramband were the pitchers. After be retired from active competition in 1903. Earl organized the Haggin Grant Post team in Rio Linda coaching that club for 20 years except for the 24s years he spent in the Navy during World War II.

Eberlein served as American League Junior Baseball Commissioner for two

years.

ANOTHER ONE of the Hall of Fame candidates is Joe Smith, who also served in France during World War I. While in the battle zone, Smith filled in as a catcher for a touring all-star team, who had lost their receiver who suffered a broken leg. Smith-did the catching for the balance of the tour. The pitcher for the all-stars was the immortal Grover Cleveland Alexander.

Smith moved to Sacramento from Canton, Obio in 1940 and immediately became a part of the local baseball setup.

He became player, manager for the Southern Pacific club in 1912.

The following year he formed the McClellan Air Depot club, who became

champions in the American Division of the Sacramento Winter League. Smith developed pitcher Floyd Ehrmann, who was grabbed up by the San Francisco Seals.

SMITH ORGANIZED the Klumpps club in 1914 and promptly led them to a pennant that year and again in 1945. In 1946, he entered the club in the newly, formed Superior California League.

He later managed Klumpp's Rio Lindal club and then for a six year period, he managed Monte Carlo in the Winter League. In 1951 he coached Glenn's Marhet club and then later led the Dasis Club Old Timers. He was also identified with Dale's Tire Shop, Cannery Union and Matts Fathers and Sons club. He retired at the end of the 1961 season.

Smith also umpired for several years in the American A Division.

The La Salle Old Timers Night is open to the public.

The four other old timers who will be inducted into the La Salle Hall of Fame on that evening are Alex Kampouris, Dr. Alfred A. Oliver, Bill Avila and Peter Mitchell.

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