

La Salle Club 1975 Baseball Hall Of Fame

FRED BELLUOMINI No information at this time, CB

WALLACE CANFIELD

RALPH DOWNES No information at this time.

JAMES 'LEFTY' COOKE

DICK LAMB

MIKE VISINTAINER

LARRY WILLIAMS No information at this time.

TONY ZUPO

Jan. 8 1975.

Dear Vince:

Here is a bit of information from my High School days etc.

I graduated from Ohio High in 1924 and joined the Solons in June of that year along with my brother, Carroll who came down in 1921.

I was with them from then till 1928 being sent to Twin Falls in the old Utah Idaho League for a couple months in 1927.

I was cut off by Sacto. in 1928 and played with Boise that year in the Utah-Idaho League.

In the fall of 1938
I went back to the farm
in Ohio and played some
years in the old Feds. Valley
League and moved to
Sacramento in 1937.

That is about it
Thank you very much
for asking me.

Sincerely
Wally Langford

1/10/75

Dear Renee:

After talking to you yesterday I found myself thinking about the years I played baseball in this area. As you know, I was born here in Sacramento and attended City Schools and I started playing in the Winter League in 1920. My first year in the National League was 1923 or 1924 - I am not sure which. The teams I played for at that time were the Hippodrome Theatre, Julius, P.S.E.A., Eastern Outfitting, Central Outfitting, Henis and Carney, Ed Hill's Stars, and Gene Hughes. I also played on Semi-Pro teams in Northern California until I joined the

City Fire Department in 1931.
That was the end of my ball
playing career.

This is rather a brief synopsis,
but after all, Wince, I am a
brief one, too.

Sincerely,

James "Lefty" Cooper

DEC. 16, 1974.

DEAR VINCE.

FIRST I WANT TO THANK YOU AND THE REST OF THE BOARD MEMBERS FOR NAMING ME TO THE LA SALLE HALL OF FAME. IT IS AN HONOR I WILL NEVER FORGET. I WAS BORN IN BENICIA CALIF. AUGUST 26, 1904. WENT TO THE BENICIA GRAMMER SCHOOL LEFT SCHOOL AFTER FINISHING THE 7 GRADE TO GO TO WORK TO HELP THE FAMILY. THERE WAS 5 OF US KIDS 4 SISTERS AND ME. I WENT TO WORK AT THE MARE ISLAND SHIP YARDS IN VALEJO. WORKED THERE TILL WE MOVED TO SACRAMENTO JULY 8, 1920. I WORKED AT A LOT OF ODD JOBS AND IN 1932 I WENT TO WORK AS A BAR TENDER AT OKANS CAFE ON RIVERSIDE BLVD. WORKED THERE TILL JUNE 1940 WHEN I WENT INTO THE BEER DRIVING BUSINESS WORKED ONE YEAR AS A BEER DRIVER THEN WAS APPOINTED BUSINESS AGENT AND SECRETARY OF THE BEER DRIVERS AND SALESMEN UNION IN SACRAMENTO. I STARTED MY UMPIRING CAREER IN THE WINTER OF 1929. AND RETIRED IN 1958. I UMPIRED MY FIRST GAME IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF THE WINTER LEAGUE AT WILLIAM LAND PARK. I UMPIRED FOR 15 YEARS IN THE LEAGUE. I UMPIRED IN THE AMERICAN LEGION LEAGUE. I ALSO WORKED IN THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY LEAGUE PLACER NEVADA LEAGUE AND THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY LEAGUE. I UMPIRED FOR 29 YEARS IN AND AROUND SACRAMENTO RETIRING FROM THE GAME IN 1958. I RETIRED FROM MY JOB IN THE BEER DRIVERS UNION IN JULY 1965, AND MOVED TO BROWNS VALLEY WHERE I STILL LIVE.

yours Truly

Richard Lamb

Behold the Bushers

Mike Visintainer Still Too Young

By VINCENT F. STANICH

Although he is too young to be considered for the La Salle Hall of Fame, Mike Visintainer will really qualify when he reaches his three score and ten. He has a long wait as he is only 61.

When he was in his prime in the middle twenties, Mike was considered one of the hardest right handed hitters in the business. What made him more valuable was his ability to play the infield and how many of that breed can you find today that would average \$40 over a 15 year period.

Unlike many of the other old time bushers in this area, Mike was not born here. He is a native Minersville, Pennsylvania. He was a star in high school and was good enough to get a tryout in the New York-Pennsylvania league at the age of 17. However, that phase of his life was interrupted as Mr. and Mrs. Leo Visintainer took their hood to Sacramento to live. The balance of the family was comprised of brothers Joe and Leo and sister Lena.

Mike took up his baseball career locally and soon was in demand by all of the clubs in the Sacramento Winter League. He spread his action, playing with Mapes-Mordacci, Van Tassel's, Al's Haberdashers, Edlins' *NEWS - GARY*

The Bowling Scene

Gene Hughes and Julius Haberdashers all top clubs in the National Division.

In 1931, when he was 23 years of age he was signed for a tryout with the San Francisco Seals and spent a week at Menlorey. He apparently won the eye of management and was assigned to their farm club in Globe, Arizona. But, Mike elected not to go and came back here to stay in Sacramento and play summer ball in the Sacramento Valley League with Woodland. Later he played in the Placer-Nevada League with Roseville, Loomis and Placerville.

He finally settled on one outside team and made a weekly trip to play with the Reno Garage team, who employed only the best talent available. Mike stayed with the Garage team for five years and could have stayed longer, had he continued to travel. While up in Reno he hit one of the longest home runs in the city's history. That record still stands.

Aside from his own baseball career, Mike was also interested in his younger brother Leo, who became an established pitcher in the valley. After Mike retired from baseball, Leo kept up his winning efforts, even after he returned from the service. A saddened Visintainer family mourned the passing of Leo last year, after a lengthy illness.

Mike retired from the Globe Mills, Inc. at 12 and C Street when the plant closed down in 1961. He spent 30 years with that firm. He is now working for his brother, Joe, managing the A & M Bottle Shop in North Sacramento.

In 1941, Mike coached the Perrinall Tigers in the American A Division. They were undefeated the first year with 14 wins. They won the championship again in 1942 with a record of 13 wins and one loss. Some of the players for that group were: Hualo Vesca, Stan Dixon, Hank Paschane, Ruby Rodness, Del Bandy, George Vernaska, Don McKenzie, Carl Zemei, Stan Patterson, Larry Bow, Mac Wilson, Gil Urbano, Paul Kereotis and Sammy Latino. Mike often said that was about the best collection of ball players with whom he has been associated.

Spokane
In March, 1905, he married Irma Piaggiola and their daughter, Marlene, was born in May, 1908. He is the proud grandfather of three.

KAG S 1973
Mike attends the La Salle Old Timers Night each year knowing that some year his turn will come. The sooner the better for hard hitting Mike.

Lena Visintainer

MAR 20 1973

MAR 14 1968
68 10 1976

John
Dec. 24th 40

Friend Vince

Here's a little sketch of myself as far as I can remember.

I was born in Trinidad Colorado on January 7th 1906. The family moved to California (Vacaville) 1910 when I was 4 years old.

I played my first baseball for the Crockett Club (Crockett Club) in 1925 and then played on the Vacaville Junior team in 1926. Played with Milton & Marjorie in the Sacramento Valley League in 1927 & 1928. Played in the San Francisco Winter League with the S. F. Y. M. C. Club. Frank Chasotti was our 3rd Baseman on the Y. M. C. team he was just out of the School.

In 1929 I helped organize the Vacaville Athletic Club. I managed the Club for 11 years from 1929 to 1939 playing many Sacramento Clubs. In 1940 I moved to Kodi where I (with Bert Handeland Ed DeBenedetti) help

Organize the Lodi Graded Wrenmaster
Baseball Team, ^{in 1946} and have been manager
of the Club for 29 years.

In 29 years my club has been in
the Sacto Rural League 26 years.
Have won the Rural League Champion
15 times, finished 2nd 7 times, finished 3rd
2 times, and was Co-Champion 2 times.

I am a member of the Lodi Cops Lodge
Girton Club
N.C.A. South
Sacto Bushers

I have 2 boys & a girl, plus
6 Grand children

Lived in Lodi 35 years

That's all I can think of
yours

Tommy Guff

I've been
working for All State Packers
in the packing & shipping of fruit & vegetables since
1932. In Superintendent of operations of shipping
and loading (over)

I played my last game of Baseball in
1960. Got a base hit 1st time up and
took myself out of the game for good.

I played the Outfield when I played
Baseball.