

1982

5308-Lst
Sacramento, Ca. 95819
12-18-79

Dear Vince:

Sam Bordinso called me before last Hall of Fame Committee meeting and told me I was going to be elected next Feb. 1980 - But before they passed me by - It was very disappointing to say the least, to be ignored again. I would like you to tell me Vince why they are passing me by? I was never one to brag or blow my own horn but I know I was a better ball player than many of those players chosen by the Committee the past 3 dinner parties since I reach 65 years of age - I was 67 years old last Dec. 1st 1979

One day when I talked to you a year or two back, you told me the reason I hadn't been nominated was because the Committee was picking older fellows before they died off. You told me this when I was 65 or 66 yrs old & eligible - However this has not been the case - I am older than Marty, Bordinso, Swickel, Bacharich and probably ^{the Committee} others you have picked the past two years, by at least a year.

I cannot understand why Enos, Anila, Morebeck, Bordinso and the others most of them old friends of mine have passed me by -

Is it because there is some personal grudge against me? Maybe because I may have stepped on some toes when doing my job as a Fish & Game warden? This is supposed to be picking out good ball players who played Bush league as well as profession baseball, not penalizing a man because of his chosen life work or profession - Verne Hodge was older than me and played ball w my brother Jay Jr. I remember years ago Verne came out and told me face to face I was not as good a ball player as my brother. Even if he felt that way, he should have kept these feelings to himself as I have remembered it all these years. Why he said it I will never know - but he may have some grudge against me which I have never known about. I told Verne I was a better hitter than Jay and being left handed sticker gave me a great advantage to have a better average, I know I was bigger and had more power than my brother. Believe I told you Vince that

it is a shame that the La Salle Committee doesn't recognize the Hughes family's great donation to City of Sacramento history in baseball - all three of us represented Sacramento baseball history for over 50 years - My Dad Jay Sr. beat the Baltimore Orioles (John M. Snow, Willy Keeler & Co.) at Snow Flake park - 28th & R^{so} in 1897 - The only loss they had as world champions on their barnstorming tour of the U.S. The Rubstalle Gilb Edges made history that Jay & put Sacramento on the map so to say. My Dad only played 4 years in the Majors but as you mentioned in your writeup he is still the best pitcher to come out of Sacto. area yet and the record still stands (most wins) after over 80 years - I believe he should be the first and only Sacto hall of famer (posthumously) elected but so far no soap, tho I have told you this years ago. He has received no recognition for his 80 wins in but 4 yrs with Baltimore and Brooklyn - Brother Jay took up the reins in the teens and 1920's - I came along as he was quitting the sport and my last year at age 36 I still batted cleanup, 4th spot for Carmichael firemen in 1947 my last year in baseball.

But remember my Dad Jay Sr. was playing bush ball & Semi pro before 1897 - I would say he was playing since 1890 for sure - All three of us were born in Sacramento; I am the last of the Hughes's and the Committee is even picking a out of towners like Lou Vezielich over me. Lou and I played together on the 1936 Solon team and he is a good friend of mine also was a good ball player - But I feel that the Committee should have picked me over Lou and some of the others - I feel the Hughes family should have been represented by picking me the last of the Hughes's before its too late - I feel the Hughes family represented the City of Sacramento comparable to the Di Maggio family to City of ~~Sacramento~~ ^{San Francisco}. Can you imagine ~~it~~ leaving any of them off, if San Francisco had

a City Hall of fame in baseball history? its unbelievable and certainly impassible. Now I must blow my own horn a bit.

For my own baseball history I believe you know it quite well Vince - you have through the years given me many fine writeups in Behall the Busters - Reelers in Legion ball - Great ball club at C. B. S. Marty, Kaiser, Sperovich et al. We beat hell out of most ball clubs, including Sacto. Hi, and 4 yr. Colleges such as Davis Aggies - Chico State & others.

I was with Van Tassell (Morehead team at Albert Elkus 9th yr. where I was leading league (National Div.) in 1934, I was hitting .611 at the time when Al Putnam & Charlie Graham^{3rd} signed me with the S.F. Seals - I had about 10 1st basemen to beat out at Seals Stadium in spring training, but I did, hitting well from the South Paw side - I asked for my release just before being sent to Muskogee, Okla, because I had been contacted by Carl Zamlock (former catcher) who was Cleveland scout. I never told Charlie Graham this of course - told him I wanted to return to my Fish & Game job. (He gave me my release but had his friend Ray Cobb talk to me first trying to get me to stay with S.F.) Charles never forgave me for this after I signed a much better contract with Cleveland Indians - Billy Evans General manager signed me after Zamlock did the ground work - I was in 7th heaven as I took the S.P. Overland limited and departed for Cleveland, Ohio.

I was with Cleveland a month - Walter Johnson was manager he had me come to the office and told me I had a great future. which made me feel good, Willy Hamm then 3rd baseman was one of my strongest supporters as was 1st baseman Hal Trosky whose job I was after, but he was too good, batted Cleanup and hit many home runs - tremendous power - Monte Pearson & Thornton Lee were two others I palled around with, great fellows.

Anyway Johnson then told me I had two farms I could go to - Fargo N.D. or Butler Pa. in Penn. State Assoc.

I batted cleanup for Butler after eliminating a bunch more first baseman for the position.

Evans sent me to New Orleans in 1936 Clevelands main farm club triple A. Club in Southern Assoc. ^{my} Gilbert was manager then - Trained with Jeff Heath Tommy Heinrich Eddie Fernandez and Mike McCormick - Jeff and I got to be real friends - Heinrich like Joe Di Maggio was rather a quiet type, more or less a loner in New Orleans - (he was declared a free agent later and of course made history as all reliable with the yankees - Jeff Heath and I were alternating as clean up hitter under Larry Gilbert in spring training, my arm (elbow) kept getting worse & worse from everyday throwing & hitting, and when I returned to Sacto. I made $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen trips to Boyes Springs, ^{Sioma Co} and had Denny Doyle (former Detroit Tigers trainer) work on my arm - waste of money as he finally told me he could do nothing for me as it was a nerve problem in the joint - Next had X Rays taken by Dr. Hal Sacto Orthopedic Dr. he told me I had better quit baseball, said he could operate but it might not be successful and would leave my elbow joint permanently stiff in those days (1936) They did not have the techniques they do now - Benicenty of the Oakland team called me about this time and wanted me to play 1st Base, but I turned him down - It was a terrible blow to me to have to quit baseball Vince ^{Earl} Shely signed me to play 1st base in 1942 I believe or maybe 1943 for the Solons but after going into spring training for awhile decided to stay with my permanent warden position in Dixon. I was also 1A in the draft and expected a call anytime. That about it for now. Hope you tell the members of the Committee if you see them about my disappointment and would appreciate it if you could find out why I haven't been picked, kindly let me know. Anyway have a nice Xmas.

Sincerely Ed. Hughes

1982 12-15-72

Vince: I will retire Dec. 31st of this year. I have number one badge as senior warden in the whole state. I will have 39 years in. Counting time I worked in the hatcheries in 1929 when I was still going to Christian Brothers. I was only 16¹⁷ yrs old when I worked summers in the fish hatcheries in the Sierras. Then I finished hi school and ^{Sacto} Junior College - didn't go back to Fish & Game until April of 1934 - have worked for F. & G. continuously since that year. Someone sent me the "Saga of Jay Hughes" you write in the Union and I wish to thank you for your continued mentioning the Hughes's as baseball players. I have always liked your column behold the Bushes. If Bill Corlin wishes to mention my retirement after 38+ yrs on the Editor. I will be glad to bring in some pictures etc. and give them a good story on early day patrol especially around the Sacto area where I was for 25 years. The Los Angeles Times contacted me a week ago and are running a story on the No 1 warden which is me. Believe it will be in Sunday's Times - Dec. 17, 1972

My family are all gone of the Hughes's I am only one left. Lost 2 sisters in 1969 within a month of each other.

TO WISH YOU

Drop me a line Vince if you have the time.

HAPPINESS

THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

AND IN THE NEW YEAR

"Big" Ed Hughes

Dear Vince; Long time no see, I hope to look you up next time I am in Sacto. I live only a block from ocean, own a nice home here and see Lloyd Womble a lot. former Sacto druggist he lives near me. We hang out at Malio Stagnara fish restaurant a lot. I like the old Pier Stagnara boat etc.

— ANNOUNCEMENT —

F. & G. WARDEN J.E. "ED" HUGHES RETIRES



COME TO THE PARTY!



Time: Feb. 23, 1973

In Sacramento

Place: Sacramento Inn

Comstock Room

Happy Hour 6:30 PM

Dinner 8:00 P.M.

Cost: \$5.50 (including tax and gratuity)

Menu: Cross Rib of Beef
au Jus

(plus: mixed green salad,
Baked potato, Green beans,
Dessert, and coffee, rolls, etc.)

LET'S JOIN TOGETHER

FOR AN EVENING OF FUN AND WELL WISHES

FOR AN OLD TIMER!

Dancing too

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Warden John Edward Hughes

1931 - 1973

Holder of No. 1. Badge (at time of retirement December 31, 1972)

Ed started his career with the old Division of Fish and Game as a Bureau of Fish Culture Assistant in 1931 at Lake Almanor, Plumas County. Then, baseball and other sports lured him away from Fish and Game for several years. He played ball for the Sacramento Solons in the Pacific Coast League for a couple of seasons and went east with the Chicago Cubs for a season, then returned to Fish and Game to round out his life's career of 38 years of conservation law enforcement. He fought crime, poachers, duckleggers, commercial fishermen, poison oak, and freight trains. This will be revealed at the dinner!

Please send this reservation slip and check made payable to Inspector Ken Hooker, Department Fish and Game, P. O. Box 19176, Sacramento 95819 before February 6, 1973.

OLD

No. 1



Number of reservations _____ (@ \$5.50)

Names _____

If you wish to contribute towards a gift please include the amount here

Total _____