

0 77

YCHS LIBRARY

\$1.00

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

VOL XVI, NO. 4

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95991

OCTOBER, 1977



ORIGINATORS OF THE EAST-WEST GAMES

L.—R. Carl Syvertsen, Tom Ryan, Jim Barrett, Jack Barrett

IN THIS ISSUE —— Fifty Years Of Baseball By H.J. (Sam) Sperbeck
RECOLLECTIONS On Preparing Assessments By Myrtle Newcomb

* * * * *
 *
 * TO: Sutter County Historical Society
 * P. O. Box 1004
 * Yuba City, California 95991
 *
 *
 * _____ Please renew my/our membership
 *
 * _____ Please enroll me as a member
 *
 * _____ Please find enclosed my/our check for
 *
 *
 * _____ \$50 for a life membership
 *
 * _____ \$10 for our firm/lodge/club membership
 *
 * _____ \$ 5 for our family membership
 *
 * _____ \$ 3 for my single membership/library/school
 *
 * _____ No charge if 90 years of age and born in
 * Sutter County
 *
 *
 * Signed _____
 *
 * Firm/lodge/club/school _____
 *
 * Address _____
 *
 * City _____
 *
 * State _____ Zip _____
 *
 *
 * * * * *

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. XVI, No. 4

October, 1977

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Mrs. Thomas E. Nason, President
Donald E. Beilby, Vice President

Mrs. John W. Cary, Secretary
Mrs. C.W. Rankin, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Mrs. Dick Brandt
Donald Beilby
Mrs. Ida Doty
Mrs. Walter Ettl
Mrs. John Cary

John Heenan
William Greene, Jr.
Mrs. David Lamon
Mrs. C. W. Rankin
Mrs. Claire Stevenson

NEWS BULLETIN EDITORIAL STAFF

William Dawson, Chairman
Jessica Bird
Winifred Greene
Earl Ramey
Lonnie Wheeler, Lithographer

Helen Schepman
Randolph Schnabel
Avis Strawn
Sarah Swinney
Peggy Schnabel, Typist
Alice Dawson, Secretary

The NEWS BULLETIN is published quarterly by the Society at Yuba City, California 95991. The annual membership dues includes receiving the NEWS BULLETIN. JANUARY 1977 dues are payable now. Your remittance should be sent to Sutter County Historical Society, P. O. Box 1004, Yuba City, California 95991. To insure delivery of your NEWS BULLETIN please notify the Treasurer of any change of address. Dues are \$3.00 per person, \$5.00 per family.

The NEWS BULLETIN is not copyrighted. Use of the material is invited unless copyrighted by others. Mention of the source will be appreciated.

An index and file of all the past issues of the NEWS BULLETIN may be found in the Sutter County Library and in the Marysville City-County Library.

NOTE: THE JANUARY, 1978 ISSUE WILL INCLUDE AN ARTICLE ON DUCKS AND DUCK CLUBS IN SUTTER COUNTY BY MARGIT AND DICK EPPERSON, AND RECOLLECTIONS: A LETTER FROM BERNARD FONTANA TO HAROLD ROCKHOLT.

* * * * *
 *
 * THE OCTOBER MEETING *
 *
 * The Meeting will be held on October 18, 1977 at 7:30 p.m. *
 * at the Community Memorial Museum on Butte House Road, Yuba *
 * City. A speaker from the Sacramento area, State Department *
 * of Parks and Recreation will present the program of the *
 * evening. *
 *
 * * * * *

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the incoming President of the Sutter County Historical Society, it gives me much pleasure to greet you - the READER. When this publication first came into my hands, about twenty years ago, I very much enjoyed reading every page. My enjoyment today is just as strong. However, now I am more aware of the need to help preserve history, and to support this preservation is why this Society began.

With the completion of our Museum and the reprinting of the 1879 History of Sutter County, the Society is now in a position for a new project. We have discussed a few subjects at our Board Meetings, and we would like to hear from you. Whether you have a future project to suggest, or just feel a need to express an opinion, please do so by phone - in a note to the President - or by appearing at our meetings. Your response is needed and will be greatly appreciated by all of us.

INDRA NASON
 President

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Records of the lives and careers of the pioneers of America, not only in this part of California but all over the Nation, appear to be of increasing interest.

The BULLETIN is proud of its achievement in presenting through this quarterly, many accounts of early-day families in Sutter and nearby counties. With the growing interest in area history and through the suggestions and cooperation of our readers, we hope to continue such articles in future issues of the BULLETIN.

Genealogical records are being sought out increasingly by interested persons.

Mrs. Thomas E. Nason of Sutter, president of the Sutter County Historical Society, is very active in the Yuba-Sutter Genealogical Society. She was one of the founders of that group and served as its president last year.

Indra Nason came to this area over 40 years ago and graduated from the Gridley High School. After a few years of work and several years of college, graduating from Sacramento State with an A.B. in History, she married Thomas E. Nason in 1950. His mother's family came to Sutter County in 1864. Seventeen years ago the Tom Nasons moved to Sutter where a family of four children, nearly grown, and many community activities have kept them very busy.

* * * * *

The Sutter County Historical Society in the past few years has given free honorary memberships to natives of Sutter County who attain the age of 90 years. Recently added to the honored list is Mrs. Alice Wood Summy of Meridian. She was born June 12, 1887 in that early-day community and still makes her home there.

* * * * *

We want to commend Carol Withington of the Independent-Herald for the excellent biographical sketches of Sutter County pioneers which she has presented recently. This series has included names in Sutter County history with which we are familiar but whose personal history has not been brought to our attention in one series. The pioneers are Wilcoxon, Van Arsdale, Brittan, Harter, Chandler, McMurtry, Tarke, Ohleyer and others. She has also prepared articles on some pioneer institutions including the Butte House Road watering trough, Bogue Club, Meridian Bridge, Feather River bridges and early Chinese residents. We recommend to our readers that they preserve these articles and others appearing in local newspapers and keep them in a folder because some day they will be a useful reference. We hope that Mrs. Carol Withington continues to add to the recorded history of our County.

SUTTERANA

The writer of a letter to the Editor, one Frank Blunt, offers an explanation of the depressed business condition in California at the time -- 1854. He contends that uncertain land titles are responsible because they prevent settlement by producers and cites this example:

"The pioneer or the venerable Sutter, who first led the immigrant to the Pacific shore, and by whose courage and intrepidity the savage man was made to bow to the laws of civilization, although rewarded by Mexico in munificent grants, has been robbed by the jumpers of nearly the entire domain, and every foot of land that they have left him is encumbered by debts created to maintain a generous hospitality to all who have visited his domicile and leaves him now at the mercy of his creditors; and very many of the original grantees and their vendors are similarly situated, having contracted debts in view of their rightful claims, have been prevented from selling or disposing of them by the possessions of the jumper taken in violation of all right. Thus the most enterprising are deprived of their possession; agriculture checked; business almost at a standstill and hope crushed..."
Sacramento Union, February 16, 1854.

Sutter Claim. -- A telegraphic message was received by Mayor Johnson yesterday from Captain Sutter in San Francisco announcing that all his claims against the United States had been allowed. Not thinking he had any other than land claims, the conclusion followed that his land grants were confirmed, and the news flew about town with great rapidity. However, Mayor Johnson thought the dispatch so indefinite that he sent a message asking an explanation; the answer was, claims against the United States allowed; California claims will be settled in a few days.

Quite an excitement prevailed until it was ascertained that the claim alluded to was one before Congress for some \$30,000 -- which was allowed. It comes in good time, and we heartily congratulate the gallant old General upon the receipt of a sum which will, in part, compensate him for losses and sacrifices caused by the war, and by the annexation of California to the United States, and which will render him independent for the remainder of his life.
Sacramento Union, May 23, 1854.

General Sutter. -- This veteran pioneer of our State was in town yesterday and honored us with a visit. We never have seen him in the enjoyment of apparently better health, although he is enduring great mental anxiety arising from the postponement of action by the Land Commissioners on his land claim. Sacramento Union, June 17, 1854.

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM
OF SUTTER COUNTY
ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST 5, 1976 -- JULY 31, 1977

During its second year of operation tourists from 14 cities in 12 foreign countries as far away as Iran, Chile, Japan and Italy; from 95 cities in 39 of the United States and from 117 cities in California were among the 6,327 people who visited the Community Memorial Museum. In two years 14,401 visitors, coming from 44 different states, the District of Columbia, and from 25 foreign countries were logged by the museum.

Celebrating its second anniversary on August 5, 1977, the museum gave a total of 73 one-hour group tours to 1,625 people in its second year. Of these tours, 40 were to public and private school classes (1,041 individuals) with an age range of pre-school through junior college. Special school groups served were five classes of educationally handicapped children, one class of physically handicapped children and two classes of children from the Migrant Education summer school. Seventeen youth groups (220 individuals) from Camp Fire Girls, Girl and Boy Scouts, and church groups, and 16 adult groups (365 individuals) also toured the museum. In two years 4,513 individuals in 216 groups took advantage of the museum's special tour.

The 1976 "Performing Arts in 1776" series of concerts, done as a celebration of the Bicentennial, proved so popular that the continuing "Museum Concerts 1977" series was established under the direction of Mrs. Jane Roberts. Ten free Sunday afternoon concerts were held in the museum during the period covered by this Annual Report with a total attendance of 890.

In addition to the permanent displays in the museum eleven temporary exhibits, loaned by local residents, were shown in the museum from August, 1976 through July, 1977. August, "Geodes" loaned by Cecil Howard and "Political Buttons" from Walter Pierce; September and October featured "Old School Books" loaned by Lottie and Bob Workman and Steven Kirchner; November "Kitchen Utensils" from Ray Frye; December's Christmas display was "Toys of Old" loaned by Anita Laney, Mary Poole and Norma Harter. January and February featured "Swing Equipment and Old Buttons" from Lottie Workman; March, "Old Family Dishes" loaned by museum auxiliary members, Pat Del Pero, Betty Ruth Crane, Eunice Menthe, Winnie Greene, Mary Poole, Aileen Jones and Jean Gustin. An Easter feature was Rev. Earl Morris' showing of "Crosses From Around the World;" May, an exhibit of "Vistoriana;" June, "Memorabilia from the Northern Electric and Sacramento Northern Railways" supplied by Gene Kuhn; and our Summer exhibit of "Exotic Seashells of the South Pacific" loaned by the Lt. Col. Robert Connet family.

A total of 651 individual gift items from 86 donors were added in twelve months to the museum's collection. Added to the 1,983 items received the prior year and the over 1,000 items moved from the old museum, the museum has over 3,500 separate items, all items accessioned and cataloged.

Museum hours still continue nine to five during the week and one to four on Saturday afternoons. The museum is open by special arrangement for groups. The museum was also open four county holidays during the year.

Since the formation of the Community Memorial Museum Auxiliary in September, 1975, 6,285 1/2 hours of time have been given by auxiliary members, men and women museum volunteers. Three thousand one hundred twenty three hours were served during the period covered by this annual report. Through the scheduling of auxiliary chairman, Caroline Ringler, volunteers act as docents and hostesses, accession and catalog gift items, prepare items for display and work with museum director, Jean Gustin. In addition to individual auxiliary members, two community groups, the Live Oak Women's Club and Delta Kappa Gamma staff the museum on their special days during the month.

The sixteen member Community Memorial Museum Commission was formed by the Sutter County Board of Supervisors in November, 1975. Chaired by its president, David Berg, members are drawn from each of the Supervisorial Districts, from the Sutter County Historical Society, and from the museum auxiliary. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Harter and Mrs. Jean Gustin are also members of this advisory board. During the past year the museum commission has inaugurated a series of limited edition plates featuring historic scenes of Sutter County. Three plates, "The Sutter Buttes," "The Sutter County Hall of Records," and "The Meridian Bridge" have been issued. A series of twelve historic plates is anticipated.

The Community Memorial Museum Trust Fund was established October 1, 1973 when Howard and Norma Harter gave to the County of Sutter the equivalent of \$100,000 in stocks to build a museum to be dedicated to the pioneers and veterans of the area. To this sum has been added all the additional gifts from many in the community. The museum was built as a result. It was formally dedicated and given to the county October 19, 1975. As of this date money still needs to be raised to meet the building costs which ran over the amount originally estimated.

* * * * *

Smart -- By the law in Nebraska a single man or woman can pre-empt 160 acres of land. A married couple procured a divorce, and each one promptly pre-empted 160 acres. They married again the next day, 160 acres better off than if they had not been separated. Marysville Appeal, July 22, 1860.

List of Donors to the Community Memorial
Museum Trust Fund - Continued
From the July, 1977 Bulletin

| | |
|--|--|
| Mrs. Ruth Ottney | in memory of Ruth S. Tarke |
| | in memory of Leonard Clyma |
| | in memory of Florence Straub |
| | in memory of Gerald F. Raub |
| Caroline S. Ringler | in memory of Ora P. Epperson |
| Chipman & Renfrow | in memory of Florence Straub |
| Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Epperson | in memory of Ora P. Epperson |
| Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Schnabel | in memory of Ora P. Epperson |
| Mr. and Mrs. George Kylling | in memory of Carl Hoffman |
| Evelyn Nims | in memory of Cora Manford |
| Meridian Farm Women | outright gift |
| Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Greene Jr. | in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lemos |
| Lawrence and Min Harris | in memory of Alice and Pete Lemos |
| Mr. and Mrs. Harry N. Wilson | in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Lemos and Sally Eslick |
| Mrs. Mary Carnegie | in memory of Alice and Pete Lemos |
| Mr. and Mrs. Jesse H. Simmons | in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Lemos and Sally Eslick |
| Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ettl | in memory of Pete and Alice Lemos and Sally Eslick |
| Violet E. Miller | in memory of Edward and Alice Lemos |
| Meridian Fire Association | in memory of Edward and Alice Lemos |
| American Association of University Women | outright gift |
| Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reische | in memory of Pete and Alice Lemos |
| Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Reische | in memory of Pete and Alice Lemos |
| Mrs. Claudine Rolufs | in memory of Mary A. Peter |
| Jean Gustin | in memory of Betty Ruth Crane |
| Phydellia Wagner | in memory of Elsy M. Fraiser |
| Bud and Eunice Menth | in memory of Betty Ruth Crane |
| Caroline S. Ringler | in memory of Barbara Kline |
| Caroline S. Ringler | in memory of Betty Ruth Crane |
| Howard and Norma Harter | in memory of Betty Ruth Crane |
| John and Irminna Palmer | in memory of Barbara Barr Kline |
| Mr. and Mrs. Dick Brandt | in memory of Betty Ruth Crane |
| Elsie Walton and Carolyn and Cole Williams | in memory of Barbara Barr Kline |
| Beverly and Elizabeth Epperson, Cassius and Laurretta Epperson and Jordan and Rhona Epperson | in memory of Cassius and Ann Epperson, Thomas and Elizabeth Percy and Cassius and Ora Epperson |
| Anthony, Howard and Ruth | in memory of Ruth Landis |
| Mr. and Mrs. Claire Stevenson | in memory of Pete and Alice Lemos and Sally Eslick |
| Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Miller | in memory of Mr. E. A. Steadman |
| Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Schnabel | in memory of William R. Flynn |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| David and Sylvia Lamon | in honor of the birth of their daughter, Olivia Braithwaite Lamon on December 12, 1976 |
| Howard and Norma Harter | in memory of Edith S. Mosburg |
| Maude K. Roberts | in memory of Robert Francis Wright |
| Gordon and Hazel Sterud | in memory of Johannah Meier |
| Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Frye | in memory of Johannah Meier |
| Mrs. Reginald Estep | in memory of Johannah Meier |
| Ray and Lena Frye | in memory of Johannah Meier |
| Mr. and Mrs. R. Epperson | in memory of Ben Lemenager |
| Mr. and Mrs. Frank Welter | in memory of Ben Lemenager |
| Mrs. Beatrice O. McKeehan | in memory of Atwood McKeehan |

* * * * *

R E C O L L E C T I O N S

PREPARING SUTTER COUNTY ASSESSMENT ROLLS
IN THE LAST 50 YEARS
by
MYRTLE NEWCOMB

It has been my pleasure to have played a small part in the making of history of Sutter County records in the early part of the last half century, which has prompted me to write this short story after some research of the old records.

In late 1923, when I arrived in Yuba City, my first position was as chief deputy for Fred H. Heiken, Sutter County Treasurer and Tax Collector. At that time, the assessment rolls were all hand written by County Assessor C. E. McQuaid and his brother-in-law S. E. Wilcoxon. (Much to my surprise, in looking at the old records, I found that the delinquent roll for 1923 was handwritten by me as the assessment roll sheets were too wide to fit in an ordinary typewriter).

One of my duties was to type the tax bills on a regular typewriter from these hand written rolls and then prove the figures on an adding machine.

In 1926, the Tax Collector's Office was the first in Sutter County to purchase a newly invented Remington bookkeeping machine on which I then typed the tax bills. This machine was equipped with a very wide carriage and small totalizers -- in fact, small adding machines. Each one could be placed in the column where figures were typed and they could be set to add or subtract -- added across, as well as down -- which made the work much easier and less time consuming.

In 1928, upon the death of Mr. Wilcoxon, I became chief deputy assessor in the office of C. E. McQuaid, which position I held for seven years. A Remington bookkeeping machine was then purchased for that office which brought about another first for me as I prepared the very first typewritten assessment roll for Sutter County. I also prepared one for the City of Yuba City in

that year for C. C. Kline, the city clerk at that time.

Mr. McQuaid was very concerned that it was simply not possible for me to complete the rolls in two months, which I said I could do as that was the time needed to type the tax bills on this new machine. It took the two of them at least six months to write the rolls with pen and ink, in beautiful penmanship, and it is hard for one to realize how they could have done it in that length of time as all descriptions in those days were fully written and some were extremely long. There were very few subdivisions in those days -- mostly in the towns of Yuba City, Live Oak, Meridian, Nicolaus, and Sutter. Otherwise, the properties were large ranch holdings.

The approximate boundaries of Yuba City in the 1920's were: Clark Avenue on the West, Colusa Avenue and Del Norte Avenue on the North, and Franklin Avenue from Clark Avenue to Garden Highway on the South -- with peach and prune orchards bordering on all three sides. The main business district was Second Street and the lower part of Bridge Street where the Post Office and the only bank in town were located.

In 1957, a parcel system was instituted giving each piece of property and lot a designated number, which takes the place of the full legal description on the assessment rolls and the tax bills. Maps are kept up to date by the County Assessor showing these parcel numbers and records of the full descriptions and ownerships are also constantly changed. The same parcel number is used until a portion thereof is sold. Then, the old number is cancelled and the new numbers assigned to the changed descriptions.

The assessment rolls were typed on the Remington bookkeeping machine until the year 1963 when an Addressograph system was used until the year 1965. With the arrival of the computer age, a system of data processing was established and the first county assessment roll using this method was prepared for the year 1965-66. With the very rapid growth of Sutter County and numerous new subdivisions, this system was a great help in saving time. The Assessor's office from its records furnishes the information needed to prepare the assessment rolls; such as, ownerships, addresses, parcel numbers, acres, and valuations of land and improvements. The 1976-77 county assessment rolls show a total of 20,366 assessments, which means there are that many parcel numbers. This same method is in use at this date.

To realize this advancement in office equipment and methods of preparing assessment rolls in the past 50 years, we need only to remember as comparison the advancement in communications systems in that period. In the 1920's, electronic communication was an infant industry -- radio was to fill the communications gap and television was not thought to be entirely feasible. It was in 1927, that the Bell Telephone Company invented the first television and it was just a very small picture in black and white.

A lot of changes have occurred in the last half century which we have taken more or less for granted as each change occurs; but it is interesting to take a glance into the past and realize the immense progress made in that period of time in so many fields.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Having lived in Sutter County since 1923, I consider myself somewhat of a native and I would not live anywhere else. In 1924, I married Ralph Newcomb and we lived a full life having been active in boating, fishing and skiing -- we were the first to have skis in the Yuba-Sutter area. We never felt the need to travel to far away places since all of the things in which we were interested were right here in the valley and surrounding mountains.

We pioneered two subdivisions -- "King Tract" in 1926 and the "Allen E. Gray Tract" in 1941 -- where we built the first home in each subdivision. I have been a widow since March, 1976 and my only ambition at age 75 is to keep as long as I possibly can the four lots, comprising one acre planted to walnuts, and the comfortable home on Villa Vista Avenue which we built in 1941.

After my eleven years of employment with the County of Sutter I worked for Hattie Ware at the Sutter County Title Company until 1967. Because of my previous experience, one of my duties was to search all Sutter County taxes for the title insurance policies.

My home hobbies are so many I don't know which to turn to first; however, my first love is music which has given me much pleasure since the age of twelve. I play Hammond organ and piano and am fortunate to be able to read music which enables me to enjoy my large library accumulated through the years.

MYRTLE NEWCOMB

An Editorial About the Weather. Here we are in the middle of July when according to established order of seasons the surface of the earth should be parched and dusty. Yet only five days ago a heavy rain dashed the dust from the fields of grain, and made the air cool. This delightful and seems almost like an answer to the wish of every Californian -- "Oh if this country could only have the summer rains of our old homes, what a perfect paradise it would be!"

Marysville Appeal, July 15, 1860.

All Big League Gates Today Go To War Relief

Baseball goes after its third \$500,000 war relief goal tonight. Across the boards in all four western parks of the national league, gate receipts go directly into war funds. The situation will be reversed in the eastern parks.

Appeal Democrat

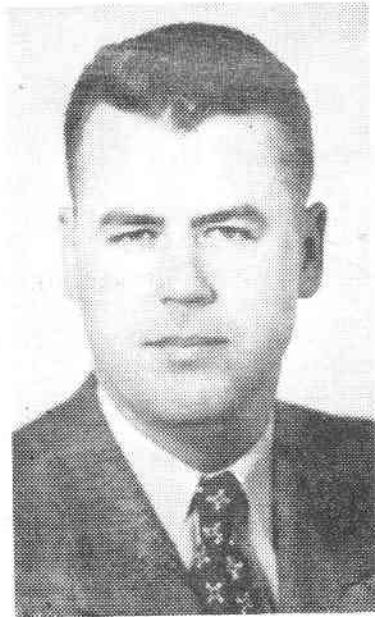
Marysville and Yuba City, California

Sport Spot

Harold J. "Sam" Sperbeck, Sports Editor

Wednesday, June 28, 1944

PAGE 5



FIFTY YEARS OF BASEBALL
by
HAROLD J. (Sam) SPERBECK

(In the following article the author recalls the last 50 years and his participation in the sports popular in the Sutter-Yuba and neighboring counties. Sperbeck, now a Yuba County supervisor and a former Marysville Mayor, was born in Browns Valley, a third generation member of a Yuba County pioneer family. He graduated in 1928 from the Marysville High School. Sperbeck played football in high school and was sports editor of the MUHSETTE, the school newspaper.)

With the coming of TV, better roads and highways, major league to the Northern California area and the several little league programs, semi-pro baseball is dead in the Yuba-Sutter area. The Marysville city dads, not too long ago saw fit to tear down the not-too-old Bryant field grandstand and facilities and now use it for little league games and other recreational uses. Many of the

real baseball fans remember when the park, stands, etc. were dedicated to the late and long-time Mayor Dan Bryant. It was built in the Roosevelt days under WPA. It was a beautiful park and a real asset to the community. However, with no semi-pro teams and the high schools and Yuba College having their own facilities, there was really no use to continue its existence. Yuba City, too, had a good field and facilities but it is no longer used for baseball. There were many local diamonds throughout the bi-county area as most every community had a ball club which they supported well.

The town of Hammonton, which had quite a few residents and business houses had one of the better local fields. This was largely due to and with cooperation of neighbors of the late Emmett Schofield (a former pro player and a true lover of the game). He managed and coached the team which produced many well-known names in baseball both as semi-pro and professionals. They include Gene Bocker, later with the San Francisco Seals; Harold "Goldie" McFarland, who went to the San Francisco Missions; Ray Bocker was also in line for a pro contract but a war injury cut his career short as a pro.

Others who made the name well respected in Valley League play included "Wild Bill" Monahan, Vint Spencer, Elmer and Frank Newman, Joe Colt, Bill McFarland, Bill O'Brien, Al Goss, Jr., Garland Bachman and no doubt more that do not come to mind for the moment.

Hammonton played in the Foothill League with such competitors as Wheatland, Linda, Browns Valley, Dobbins, District Ten, Rackerby,

Smartsville and usually a team from Marysville including the Marysville Foresters. This was managed by the late Elmer Arnoldy, who later umpired in the Valley League and Beach Brothers. All these were not in the league at the same time. The fields for play were not all in the same class as Hammonton. Some often needed a detail to clear the cow-paddies off the diamond prior to game time. Anyway, some real baseball was played and the spirits ran high. Usually there was a fight or two among the fans before the game ended.

Just about the same situation existed in the old Peach League with teams such as Sutter, Barry, Live Oak, Nicolaus, Gridley and a Yuba City entry. The Peach League was fortunate in that most of its team had level ground to train and play on. Some greats were developed in the Sutter County League. Remember Lefty Gomez, of the Yanks? He pitched at one time for Barry. Then there was the fiery, umpire-baiting Dick Griffith, from Sutter, Red Graham, from Sutter, Andy Schmidt, from the Barry area, Red Adam, Yuba City, "Dazzleball" Scotten, Yuba City, Fireman Flynn, who was associated with several clubs at different times. Chub Ohylar and the beloved late Clyde "Tub" Perry, Bobby Gallagher, Nicolaus-Rio Oso area, who caught at one time for the St. Marys College varsity. Perry, after pitching for the great Sutter High teams, played a short period of semi-pro ball then went with the San Francisco Seals but for personal reasons quit pro ball and came home to pitch for the Marysville Giants in the Valley League. "Butter" Cole, who ran a good Gridley team as a player-manager later made his name well known in Sacramento semi-pro ball.

Speaking of the Sutter High team, it was usually a play-off for the area title between Marysville High and Sutter. Those days high school ball had much more support from students and fans than nowadays.

I recall my dad bringing me down from the gold acres of the foothills, Browns Valley, to watch the Sutter-Marysville game at the old Third Street baseball park. The game matched Clifford Gottwals, a truly great chucker, against "Tub" Perry, of Sutter. It was Dick Griffith catching for Sutter and Logan Franklin catching for Marysville. It was a whale of a game with the Indians winning, as I recall, by a single run. The winners played Sacramento High but lost in a tight game at Sacramento.

Gottwals, later pitched for Santa Clara University. His backup man, and a great one, who took over the starting role on the mound for the Marysville Indians was Edgar "Nuts" Brown, a truly great lefthander. Brown, due to the unfortunate, and never-should-have-been "color rule," was a sure shot for the majors. His favorite catcher was Sandy Hatton, also a black and a very colorful performer on the diamond.

There were several good ball clubs in the local area in the early days. The first was probably Mack's Colored Giants, and Independent club, which was not afraid of any club, anywhere at any time. Just to mention a few were the Brown Boys, the Churchill Brothers and Clarence Pogue. The late Henry "Bunk" Logan was one of the leaders of this club and later for many years was the main ground keeper for the Marysville Giants in the old Trolley and Valley Leagues. "Bunk" never missed a game and all agreed,

nobody, not even Jack Dooley, could "fix" an infield like Henry.

Then there was the Marysville Japanese Community team. It, too, was an independent but one of the better playing outfits ever to be developed in the bi-county area. They had their own field in the thirties in East Marysville. It is now covered by homes. I had the honor, and the chance to make a buck, to umpire their home games. Having done a bit of umpiring in the area this was the finest club or school I ever worked for. No umpire baiting and the "ump" was the boss. Speaking of umpiring, I was working a game for the local Negro team one Sunday afternoon and my good friend, Clarence Pogue, now deceased, gave me too much lip over a call and I sent him to the showers. He never forgot it, over the many later years and during our long friendship.

As my editor wanted early baseball history of our community, we may as well start in 1908 when the Hub City team played under the name of the Hub City Merchants. Included on this squad were Elmer Booth, "Tuffy" Spillman, Jack Wallace, Lou Harris, George Saunders, Frank M. Booth, Sr., father of Frank Jr., who made his mark in later years as a basketball star at Marysville High, Santa Clara University, and now a prominent local businessman and civic leader; Russ Kane, Bill Spillman, Manager, Jim Russell and Clarence Hopkins. This was a good team according to Hedley "Pot" Hall, who was crooning in big-time show business as well as attempting to keep up with his brothers, Francis, Mick, Bob and Edwin. The latter two have since passed on.

After this team carried the hub banner for several years, the Trolley League was organized in 1913. The league was named after the old Sacramento Northern Railroad which operated passenger service between Marysville, Yuba City, Woodland, Colusa, Chico and Oroville. The fans would charter a car on Sundays to travel to the games. The late Andy Galligan is reported to have been the MC on the Marysville delegation and is said to have been a real showman in those days. The latter information was given by the late Phil Divver, Jr.

Teams comprising the first Trolley League were Woodland, Willows, Oroville, Chico, Marysville, and Colusa. The late beloved and brilliant Marysville attorney, Richard Belcher, was the first president. Others who served as head of the league were Jack Dooley, "Mr. Baseball" for years in Northern California, Jack Kelly, and W. P. Rich.

Just to mention a few who performed in this circuit, were Harry Hooper, Boston team, who won a world series with two home runs and was later inducted into the baseball hall of fame. Hooper was a member of the famous Boston outfield of Hooper, Speaker and Lewis. Dewitt Lebrouteau went with the Philadelphia team.

One of the greats in this league was Francis "Hira" Hall, now a local real estate broker. Hall, a hub native, played local ball and then went to Santa Clara University where he played varsity ball as a catcher. Francis had a season's batting average in 1916 of .385. His brother Mick, also a local businessman, beat out Hira in home runs but could not match the latter's batting

average. Francis later played a hitch with the San Francisco Seals of the Coast League. Mick also played pro ball with Salt Lake, of the same league.

The Trolley League folded in 1917 when the President went to service in World War I. That was Major Jack Dooley.

In 1941 the Valley League was formed with almost the same clubs with some changes during its existence including teams from Sacramento and Gridley for several years. Some of the players were Charley Clark of Sacramento, Attorney Albert Sheets also of Sacramento, and the late Felix Daoust of Marysville. This league also was responsible for several boys going to pro ball including Gene Bocker, a Marysville civic leader; Ken Brock, also a catcher, to Sacramento for a brief period; Clyde "Tub" Perry, to San Francisco; Hank Demaree, an outfielder from Marysville went to the Sacramento Solons and soon after to the Chicago Cubs, where he was a standout for several years. Harold "Goldie" McFarland, from Hammonton, played pro ball for the old San Francisco Missions. This team, during its period of operations, trained in Marysville at the old Third Street park.

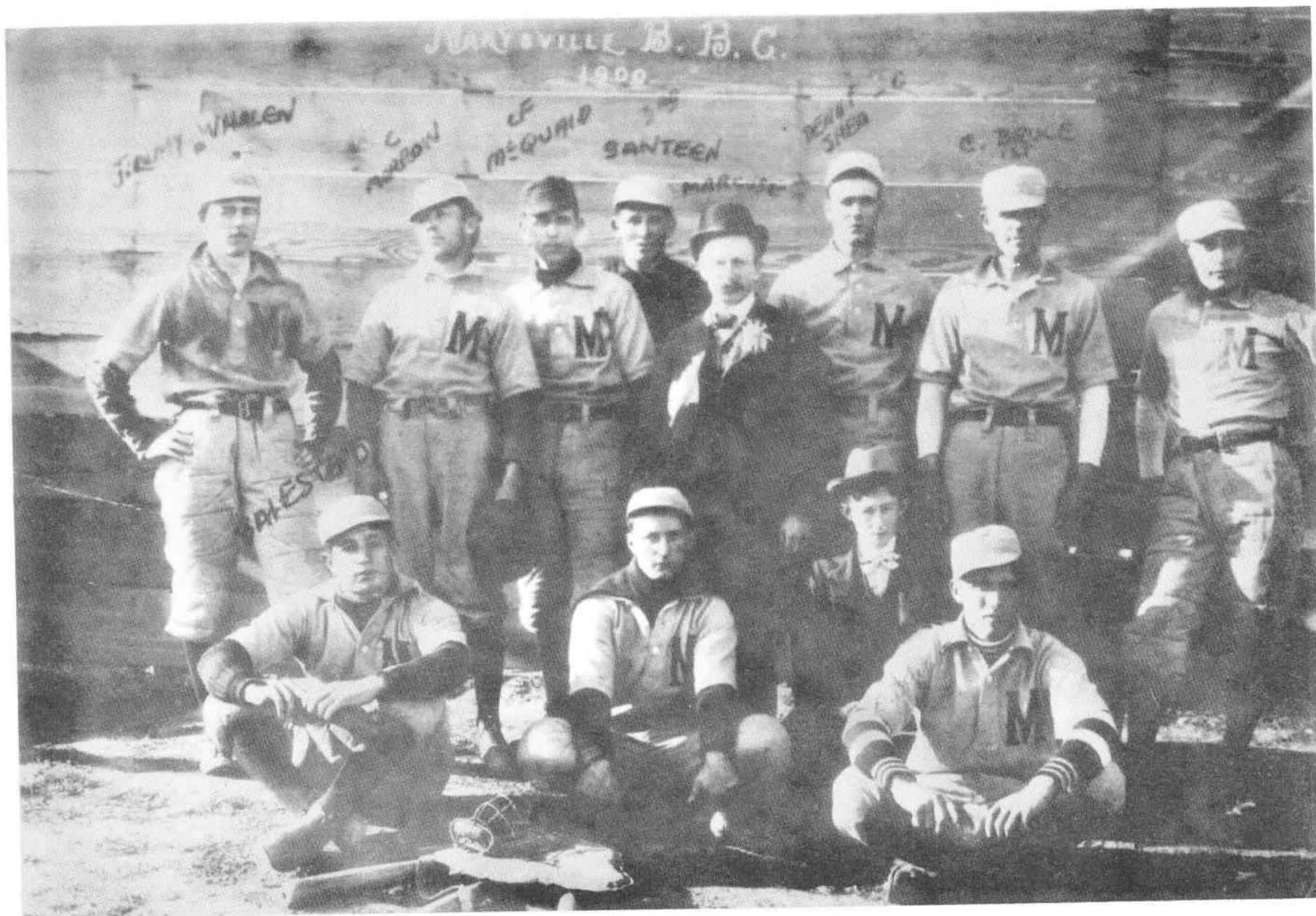
Getting back to the Trolley League for a moment, the late Charley Hust was enticed to come to Marysville to catch for the Giants. He was employed by the J. R. Garrett Company and later became the founder of Hust Bros. auto equipment store and built it into one of the largest of its kind in Northern California. Charley was a true civic leader and was mayor of the city at one time.

A number of players of the Valley League either became or were ex-law enforcement people. They included Dick Hoskins,

later Sheriff of Nevada County; Percy Gassoway, Police Chief of North Sacramento; Joe Rooney later Chief of Police of Sacramento; "Fat" Anfinson, later Chief of Police of Colusa; Larry Gillick, later, still is, and probably will be as long as he wants to, Sheriff of Butte County; Arch Yelle, Woodland Police Chief; Art Kohler, who managed Redding and also caught, later became Chief of Police in Redding; John Couch, Marysville pitcher, became a member of the California Highway Patrol and Ed Anthohny, later became a Marysville Fire Department Captain. Chauncey Tramutolo, who Marysville brought up from Santa Clara University, later became U.S. Attorney in San Francisco.

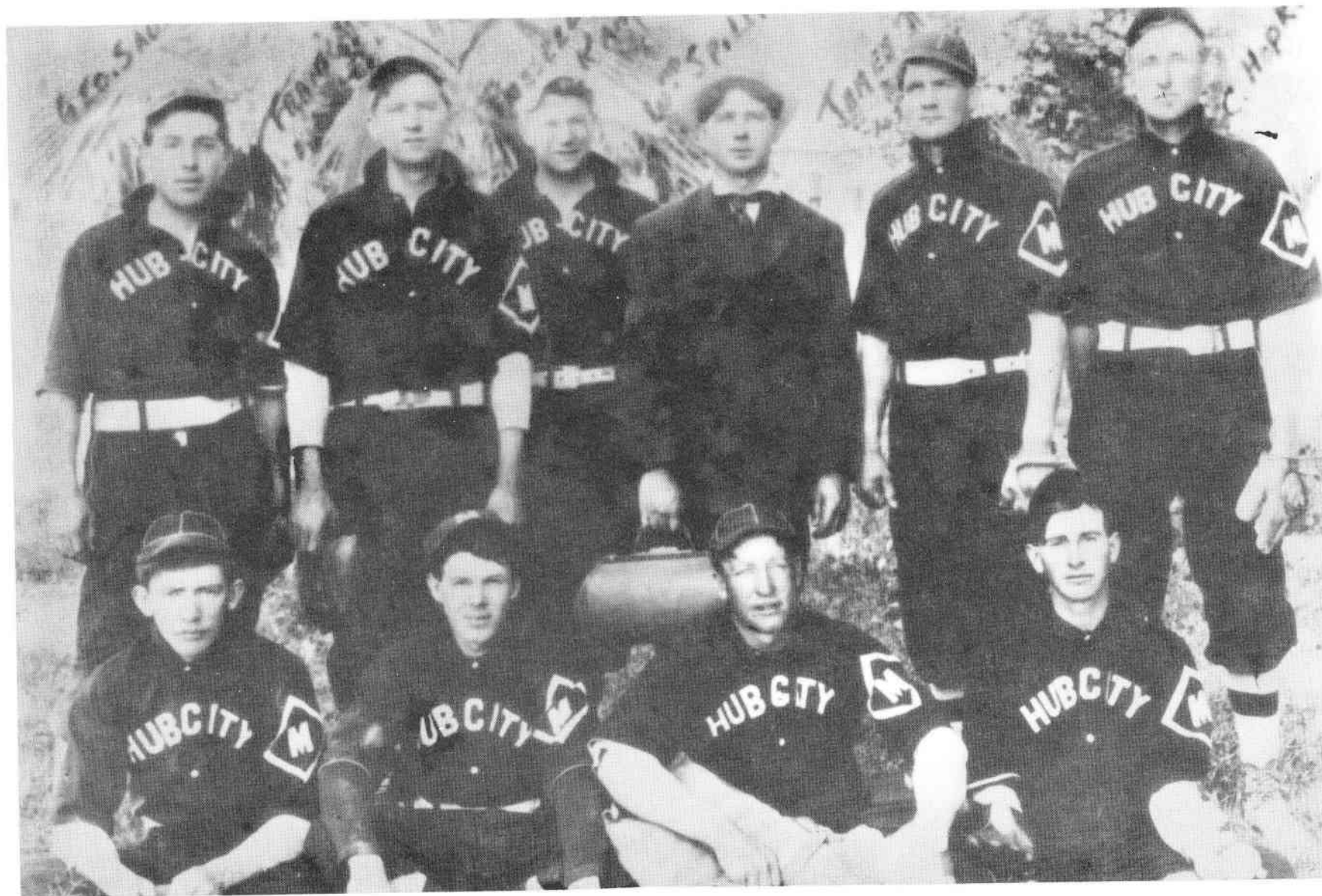
The official scorer for Marysville was the late Charley Redman, who had the record of never missing a game. He was later succeeded by the late Ed Burt, a Marysville sports writer and Bill Conlin, now with the Bee, was Burt's alternate. Other well-known names who helped make the league a success were Warren Davidson, Wick Straub, Joe Sauer, Arch Davidson, Jack Fredricks, the later Harry Hughes, Lou Anthony, a great ball player and later "king of the umpires" the immortal Sam Stassi, Sr. and no doubt many more and too numerous to mention in this brief story covering a great era in the hearts of old timers of the Yuba-Sutter community.

Getting back to pros who performed in the two leagues the names of Big Bill James, Sailor Stroud, Bill Wright should have been included as well as Merlyn Anthony, who later became an American League umpire as did the late Dick Lamb, who worked in the Coast League. And now we have Jim Quick of Yuba City, working



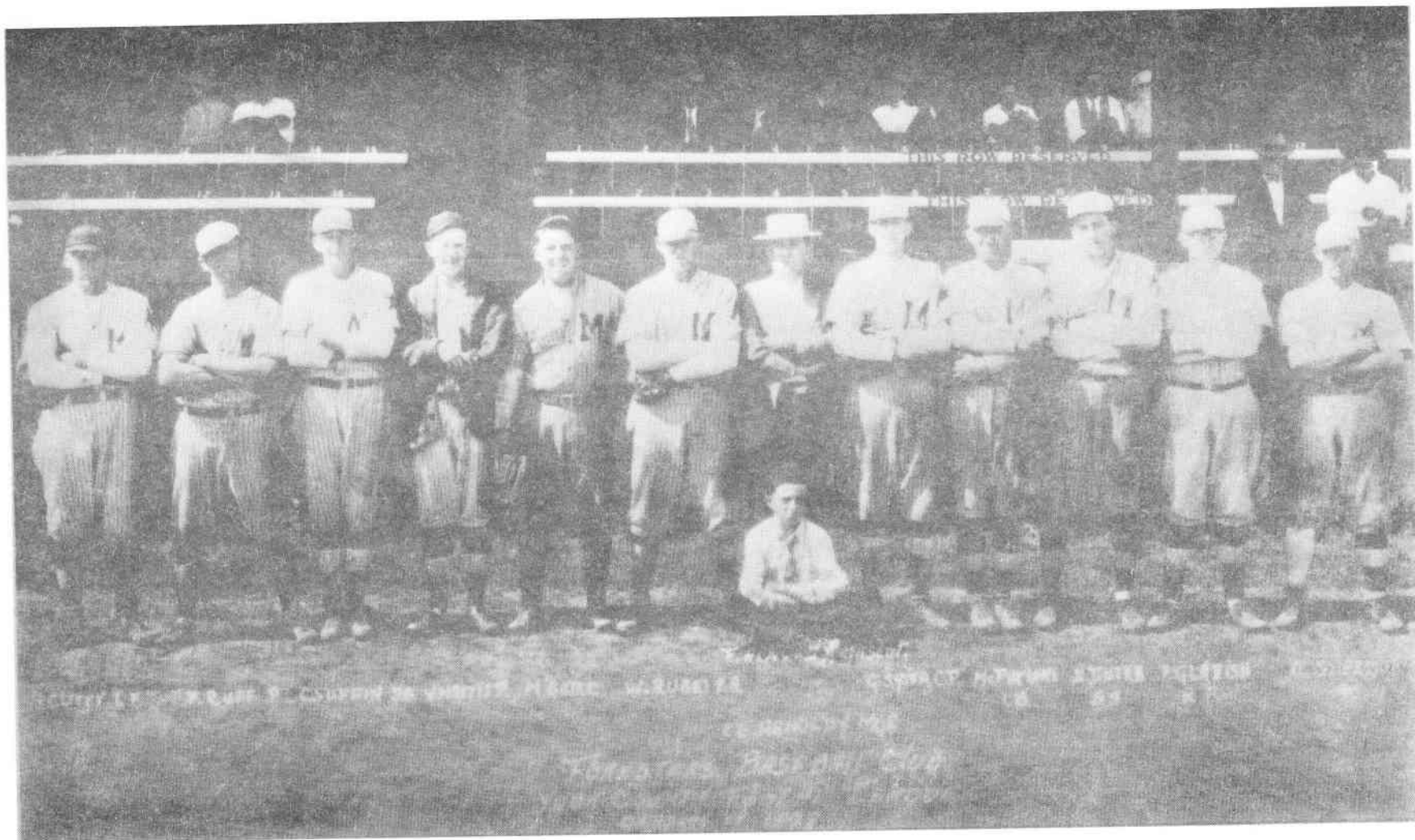
TOP ROW. Jimmy Whalen, C. Morrow, C. McQuaid, Jake Marcuse mgr., Joe Santeen
 FRONT ROW. Ed Balestero, Ed Leake Mike Morgan mascot, and Ed Bruce
 (Courtesy Francis "Hira" Hall)

MARYSVILLE BASEBALL CLUB PLAYED INDEPENDENT BALL
 (Early 1900's)



BACK L.-R. George Aunders, Frank Booth Sr., Wm. Spillman mgr., Jimmy Russell, Clarence Hopkins
 FRONT L.-R. Elmer "Brick" Booth, Harvy Spillman, Jack Wallace, Loui Harris

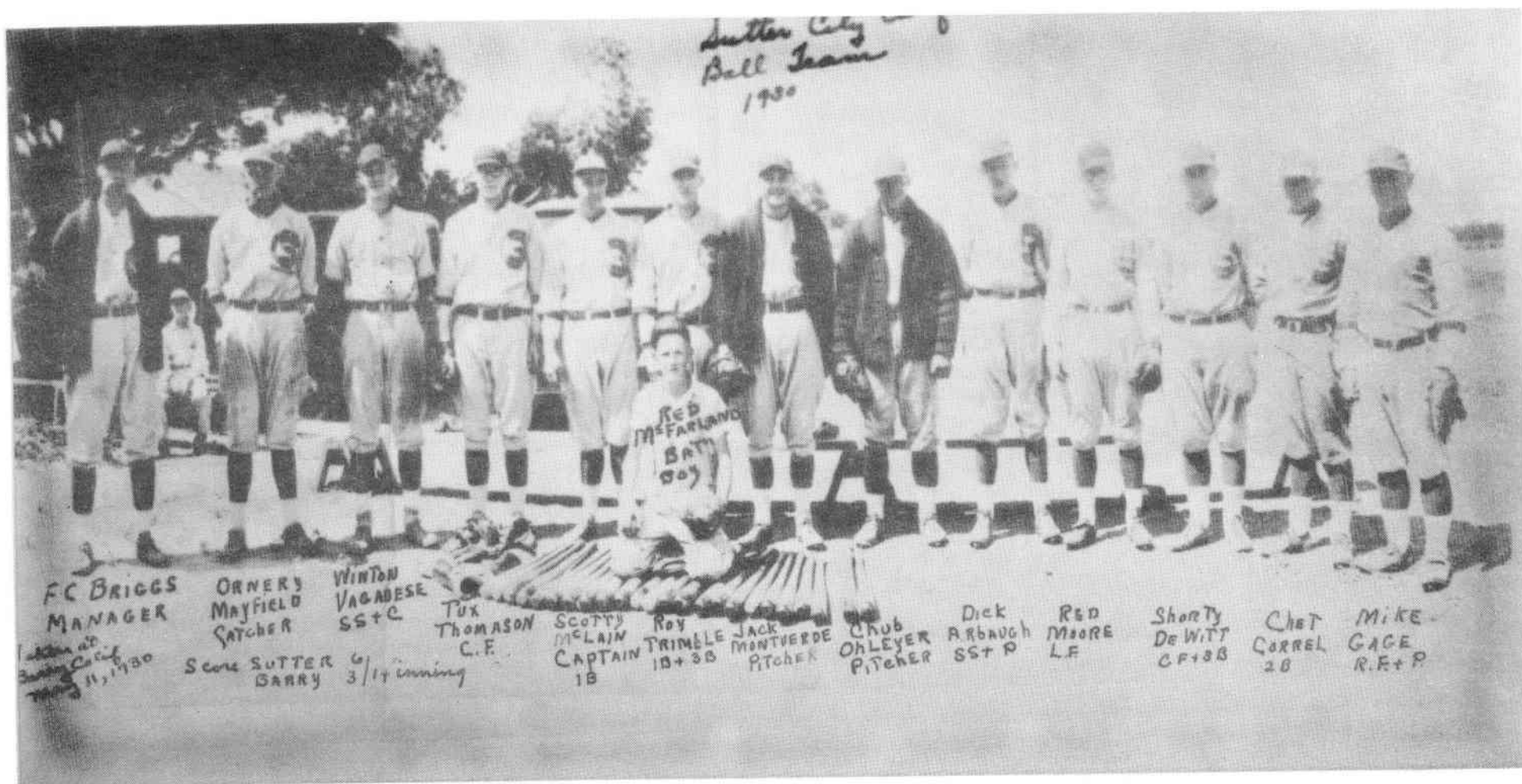
HUB CITY MERCHANTS PLAYED INDEPENDENT BALL AT WESTSIDE PARK (1908-9)
 Park was built by Fred Cooper next to his dairy on Bridge St.



L.-R. Steve Curry, Fritz Ruff, Charley Sutfin, Voil Harris, Mike Gore, Bill Rubel, Elmer Arnoldy mgr.,
George Silva, Bill McFarland, Don Dutra, Pete Gladish, Chas Sherman. Bat Boy Francis Arnoldy

MARYSVILLE FORESTERS CLUB, YUBA COUNTY FOOTHILL LEAGUE (Season of 1928)

(Courtesy of Francis "Hira" Hall)

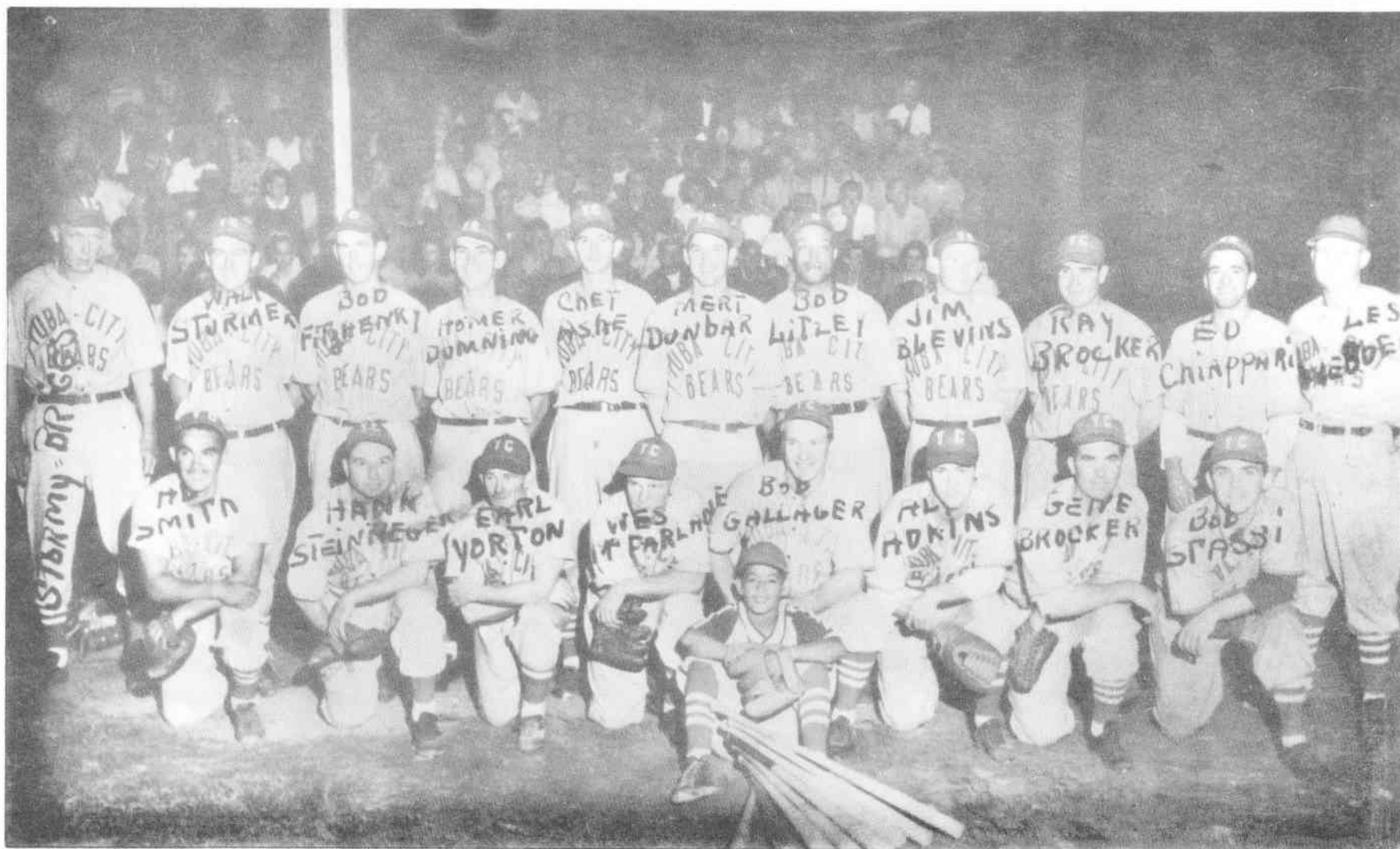


SUTTER CITY BALL TEAM AT BARRY, CALIFORNIA, MAY 11, 1930
 Score: Sutter 6, Barry 3, 14 innings
 (Courtesy of Fred Briggs)



BACK ROW L.-R. E. Schofield, Mgr., Carl Spencer, P; Ray Cameron, OF; Joe Colt, P; Frank Newman, P;
 Elmer Newman, P; Dave Nelson, OF; Bill Monahan, 1st B; Sam Sperbeck, President, Foothill League.
 FRONT ROW L.-R. Vinton Spencer, OF & 1st B; Gene Bocker, 3rd B; Harold McFarlane, C;
 Don Aaronson, 2nd B; Bob Spencer, SS; Ray Bocker, Bat Boy. (Courtesy of Clarks Camera Shop)

HAMMONTON BASEBALL TEAM, ABOUT 1935



L.-R. "Stormy" Briggs, Walt Sturme, Bob Fitzhenry, Homer Dunning, Chet Ashe, Mert Dunbar, Bob Litzey, Jim Blevins, Ray Brocker, Ed Chiapparil, Les Webber. BOTTOM L.-R. Al Smith, Hank Steinneger, Earl Yorton, Wes McFarlane, Bob Galleger, Al Adkins, Gene Brocker, Bob Stassi, Ricky Smith, Bat Boy.
(Courtesy of Fred Briggs, Sutter, Calif. Manager of the Team)

YUBA CITY - 5
vs
MARYSVILLE - 1

BRYANT PARK FIRST OPENING UNDER LIGHTS, 9-25-47

in the American League.

At different times in the Valley League, Grass Valley and Yuba City were members. The Bears from Yuba City, were managed by the colorful, energetic and very vocal Fred "Stormy" Briggs, a Sutter businessmar. Fred would make Charley Finley, of Oakland, sould like a very mild man who seldom changes his mind. He personally financed high-paid ball players to the Bear camp. Needless to say the Marysville-Yuba City game was challenged only by the rivalry of the two high schools. Fred's theory was win or get out. Stanley "Scotty" McLean was the field boss of the Bears.

In 1927 the Babe Ruth-Lou Gehrig barnstorming combination came to Marysville and played an all-star group of players. I remember it well because our good principal the late Curtis Warren, dismissed school for the game.

As I recall Glenn Potter, the Hall Brothers, Sam Betty, Babe Burdick, Tub Perry, Sam Stassi, Sr., Ted Zackney, Wiz Pappa, the colorful and lovable Stanley "Scotty" McLean, the pride of Sutter, all took part in the contest which was a real treat to ball fans of this area. This game was arranged and made possible by Joe Sauer, Wick Straub, Jack Dooley and local businessmen.

Speaking of Dooley, who came to Marysville from Oroville, he ran the Giants when they were in the league for years and also when they played independent ball. Dooley and "Bunk" Logan, would get to the Park early to fix the diamond and often to clean up glass, etc. after a carnival. Dooley no doubt has contributed more to the success of the national pasttime than any other person in Northern California.

One of the longest games in old-time history was the Marysville-

Hammonton game played some 40 years ago that went to 21 innings with Marysville finally winning. Jim Wiggs pitched for Hammonton and Fred Mariot, for the Miners.

Two men who assisted Dooley and others with the Giants were Bert and Harry Collins. Vince Fasano was Jack's batboy and years later was one of the best infielders in the Valley. He gave Dooley all of the credit for his success.

Fred Basano of Lincoln pitched for the Marysville Giants in 1942 and went from here to Oakland, of the Coast League, and did quite well. His son Fred Jr., will play quarterback at U.C. Berkeley this fall.

I might include that Marysville was represented for a short period in the Far West Class D League in 1947. The team, the Chiefs, played good ball but the "gate" did not justify them to continue.

At the start of World War II, the Valley circuit folded and the Giants played independent ball before overflowing crowds. Vic Pitts was the team manager, Harold W. Keeley, secretary-treasurer and yours truly was the business manager. Later the team was run by John Patrick McGowan, the sage of Linda, and following McGowan, Earl Yortin directed for a year or two and then it folded. But that is not "old times" so we will not elaborate on those activities at this time.

No doubt many names and happenings are being omitted but it covers a long period and quite a number of years. One great baseball series created in Marysville was the annual East - West old timers' game. Funds received raised around \$5000.00 for Boy Scout uses such as camp improvement and sending needy and deserving

boys to scout camp. Nick Scandalis, long time Marysville political boss, was the commissioner of the game and sold most of the tickets. The West team was headed by Jim Barrett, Sr. and Tom Ryan while the East team was run by Jack Barrett, Sr. and the long-time levee boss Carl T. "Red" Syvertsen. D Street was supposed to have been the dividing line but they came from as far away as Sutter and Wheatland.

It was a lot of fun and for a good cause. The game started in 1930 and ran for about 10 years.

* * * * *

The writer wishes to thank the following nice people for providing some information on this subject; namely, Jack Dooley, his wife, Dora, for her patience; Vic Pitts, who spent all the time allocated talking about his batting average (life time) 184; Hira Hall, who did not forget his 1916 season's average of 385; Gene Brocker, who wanted to say more about his trip with the San Francisco Seals to Japan, but he was warned this concerned the Yuba-Sutter area only.

MORE ABOUT THE AUTHOR

While in High School H. J. Sam Sperbeck assisted Glenn Potter, the fine Marysville coach, who turned out those great teams of the late twenties. Sam was the student team manager. He almost lost that job when he did not have a supply of shoestrings in his equipment kit and Charley Baird, now retired from the Internal Revenue Department, broke his shoestring in a title playoff game. Potter cooled off and retained the student manager. At the next

game for the Northern California title there was an ample supply of shoestrings for the Marysville Indians!

Sperbeck later organized the Browns Valley Cubs baseball team which won the Yuba County Foothill League title and played the Sutter City team. This team had won the Peach League title in the "Little World's Series" played on a neutral diamond at Barry. Fred "Stormy" Briggs, managed the Sutter team. That was back in 1928. Sperbeck later was president of the Foothill League following the several terms of the late Harvey D. Eich, who did a good job. Eich was treasurer-tax collector of Yuba County and Fred Heiken, also now deceased, held the same job in Sutter County and was president of the Peach League. Linda and Wheatland had teams for a short while, too.

Drafted by the late Joe Sauer, top man with the Marysville Giants, the author served as vice chairman of the Foothill Club. Quite a few years later, while serving as the sports editor of the Marysville Appeal Democrat, he joined up with Vic Pitts and Harold Keeley and took over the Giants when the league folded at the start of World War II. The team played to standing room only at the old Bryant Field. The club played independent ball.

Sperbeck managed the Pi Delta Koppa basketball team which had the top record in Northern California in non-scholastic competition. The team played tough independent clubs and also teams including St. Mary's College, University of Santa Clara, Oakland Athens Club, Chico State, Yuba College and many more.

Later Sperbeck managed Company F, Marysville baseball unit

of the California National Guard to the State championship, which the "hub" team won in the final series with Los Angeles in that City.

Sperbeck is a past president of the Northern California old timer baseball association and last fall was voted into the association's hall of fame for his contribution to athletics and sports, through his efforts as a team manager, promoter and sports writer.

The author has been active and still is in many civic and public affairs of his home community. A few include past president local chamber of commerce, past president Marysville Exchange Club, past grand knight of the Knights of Columbus, past president of Northern California League of Cities, past president of Sacramento-Mother Lode 14-county supervisors' Association. He first went on the Yuba County Board of Supervisors in 1949 and has served as chairman a number of times. Sperbeck and his wife Betty have eight children and 15 grandchildren. Under former Governor Edmund G. Brown, he served as civil defense and disaster coordinator in Northern California.

* * * * *

A Notice in an Ohio Newspaper.

"Notice is hereby given to all gentlemen (and those who are not) not to insult me by word, look or action on the streets or elsewhere. If they do, I will kill them, as I always go armed."

. Mrs. A. C. Tilton
Marysville Appeal, July 22, 1860.

Curled Leaf -- The State Agricultural Society offer a premium of fifty dollars for the best essay on the causes and cure of the curled leaf in peach trees.

Appeal, July 15, 1860.