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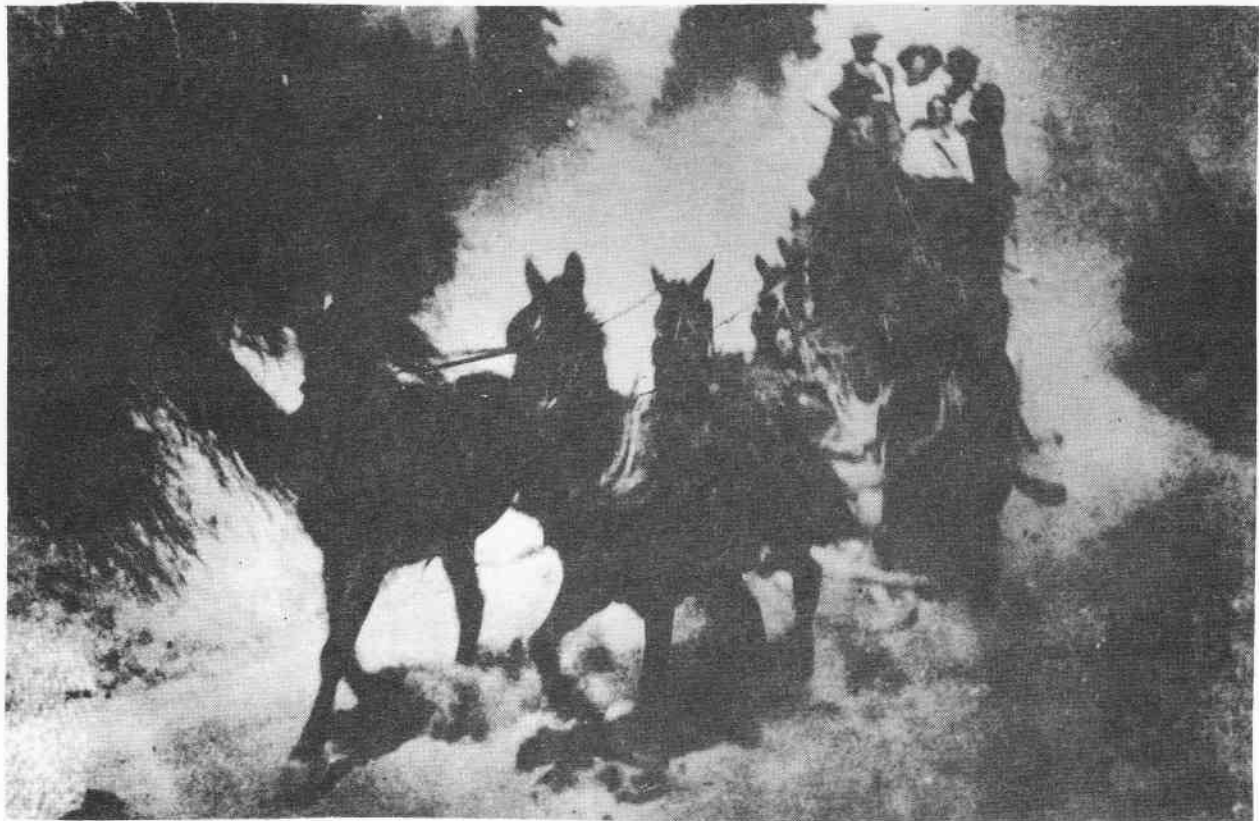
SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. XVII NO. 4

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95991

OCTOBER 1978



PICTURE—COURTESY OF MARY AARON MUSEUM

THIS PICTURE SHOWS THE STAGE WHICH TRAVELED DAILY FROM CAMPTONVILLE TO DOWNIEVILLE VIA SLEIGHVILLE HOUSE, MOUNTAIN HOUSE, GOODYEARS BAR IN THE GOLD RUSH DAYS 1880-1910. THE STAGE CARRIED PASSENGERS, MAIL AND SOME FREIGHT.

IN THIS ISSUE:

CALIFORNIA STAGE COMPANY BY WILBUR HOFFMAN
RECOLLECTIONS BY VERA McLEAN SEXTON

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. XVII, No. 4

October, 1978

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The NEWS BULLETIN is published quarterly by the Society at Yuba City, California 95991. The annual membership dues includes receiving the NEWS BULLETIN. JANUARY, 1978 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.

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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: IN THE JANUARY ISSUE, 1979, AN ARTICLE ON PROHIBITION IN THIS AREA BY EUGENE L. GRAY AND RECOLLECTIONS OF EARY RICE HARVESTING BY G. A. GIBBONS, MARYSVILLE.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

We were very much pleased to receive favorable notices in the Appeal Democrat and the Morning Herald praising our recent issues which contained accounts of baseball, East Indians, Mormon Church, pioneer families, and Recollections by some of our senior members.

Complimentary notices of this kind encourage us to continue our plan to present "people" history in addition to more formal and documentary accounts of political and economic conditions of the past.

Friends of Professor Fontana will be interested to learn that he, in collaboration with a colleague, Daniel S. Matson, has edited a rare historical manuscript entitled "Reports to the Kings." Their edition was published this year by the University of Arizona Press at Tucson.

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM ANNUAL REPORT
August 1, 1977 - July 31, 1978

During its third year of operation, tourists from 14 cities in 10 foreign countries as far away as China, Australia, and Iran; from 99 different cities in 32 of the United States and from 130 different cities in California were among the 6902 people who visited the Community Memorial Museum. In three years 21,303 visitors, coming from 44 different states, the District of Columbia, and from 26 foreign countries were logged by the museum.

The museum gave a total of 85 one-hour group tours to 1853 people in this year. Of these 49 were to public and private school classes (1222 individuals.) Special groups served were three classes of educationally handicapped children, two classes of physically handicapped children, groups from Gateway Projects and from the Mental Health Day Care Center. Eighteen youth groups (247 individuals) from Camp Fire Girls, Girl and Boy Scouts, and 16 adult groups (345 individuals) also toured the museum. In three years 6366 individuals in 301 groups took advantage of the museum's special tour.

The Museum Concert Series under the direction of Jane Roberts is in its third year of presenting programs featuring local artists. Nine Sunday afternoon concerts were held in the museum during the period covered by this Annual Report with a total attendance of 981.

In addition to the museum's permanent displays, eleven special loan exhibits were featured. August: "Exotic Seashells of the South Pacific" loaned by the Robert Connet family. September and October featured "North American Indian Artifacts" loaned by Harold Moore. November: "Depression Glass" loaned by Karen Varney. December: "Christmas and Calendar Plates" loaned by Rev. Earl H. Morris. January: "Dr. Jacobs, Meridian Country Doctor" loaned by

the William Hankins family. February: "Hummel Figurines" loaned by Adah Pullen. March: "Things Made of Wood" loaned by Lottie and Bob Workman. April: "Old Glass and Crystal" loaned by members of the museum's Auxiliary. May: "Northern California Indian Arrowheads" loaned by Cliff Morehouse. June: "M'Lady's Powder Boxes" loaned by Shirley Murphy. July: "Cast Iron Still Banks" loaned by Olga Messick.

A total of 913 individual gifts of artifacts from 91 donors were added in the twelve months to the museum collection. Added to the 2837 items received the prior two years and the over 1000 items moved from the old museum, the collection numbers over 4700 items.

The museum is open 43 hours per week, nine to five weekdays and one to four on Saturdays, and is open at other times by special arrangement for groups and events. The museum was also open four county holidays during the year.

Since the formation of the Community Memorial Museum Auxiliary in September, 1975, 9335 hours of time have been given by the volunteer Auxiliary members. 3050 hours were served during the period covered by this annual report. Through the scheduling of Auxiliary Chairman, Caroline Ringler, volunteers act as docents, accession and catalog gift items, prepare items for display, and work with museum director, Jean Gustin. In addition to individual 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 seventeen member Community Memorial Museum Commission was formed by the Sutter County Board of Supervisors in November, 1975. Chaired by its president, Frances Gentry, members are drawn from each of the Supervisorial Districts, the Sutter County Historical Society, the Museum Auxiliary, and from the business community. Howard and Norma Harter and Jean Gustin are also members of this advisory board.

The Community Memorial Trust Fund was established in 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 additional gifts from many in the community. The museum was formally dedicated and given to the County of Sutter on October 19, 1975. Interest from the Community Memorial Trust fund is used for museum development.

Additional fund raising efforts were begun in 1978. The museum Expansion Fund was established in April to provide for future enlargement of the museum to house its ever-growing collection. In August a program of annual Museum Memberships was begun to provide the museum's operating and exhibit expenses.

JEAN GUSTIN

LIST OF DONORS TO THE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM TRUST FUND
Continued from the July, 1978 BULLETIN

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in memory of Floyd E. Smith
in memory of Thakar Singh Johl
in memory of H. Laverne Stafford
in memory of Bard Anderson
in memory of Lyle Johnson
outright gift
in memory of Joseph M. Snipes
in memory of John C. Dooley
in memory of Bard Anderson
in memory of Stina Trimble
in memory of Katherine Hansen
in memory of Katherine Hansen
in memory of Katherine Hansen
in honor of Norma & Howard Harter
58th wedding Anniversary
June 1, 1978.
in memory of Robert Stohlman
in memory of Catherine Hansen
in memory of C. A. Emery
in memory of Ben Emery
in memory of Clive B. Kelly
in memory of Mrs. Felix Daoust
in memory of Mrs. Felix Daoust
in memory of Clive B. Kelly
in memory of Clive B. Kelly
in memory of Arthur H. Allread
in memory of Nick Scandalis
in memory of C. Fred Holmes
in memory of Floyd E. Smith
in memory of Jessie Wadsworth
in memory of Jessie Wadsworth
in memory of Monroe Dedker
in memory of Monroe Dedker
in memory of Jennie B. Hassel
in memory of Jessica Wadsworth
in memory of Ferman T. Wolfe Sr.
in memory of Monroe B. Dedker
in memory of Jessie Wadsworth
in memory of Ferman T. Wolfe
in memory of Helen McLaughlin
in memory of Sadie A. Davies
in memory of Bertha P. Walton
in memory of Mark R. Walton
in memory of Ernest Hauck
in memory of Clive B. Kelly
in memory of Helen McLaughlin
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in memory of Betty Brandt
in memory of Ferman T. Wolfe
in memory of Margaret Ann and
Albert W. Graves

SUTTERANA

In 1841 the Russians decided to abandon their outposts in California. They offered for sale all of their property and livestock at Bodega and Fort Ross. John Sutter saw an opportunity to acquire needed items for the development of New Helvetia and began to bargain for the purchase. Other individuals including territorial officials were also interested. The Russians were willing to sell to anyone who would accept their terms and pay their price. There arose the question whether the government would allow a private sale. Several California officials -- Alvarado, Castro, Vallejo -- were already jealous and suspicious of Sutter as a result of his ambitious plans for New Helvetia. It was assumed by many persons that the government might not allow Sutter to purchase the Russian property. Sutter wrote the letter which we quote here to Jacob Leese at Sonoma knowing that General Vallejo and other officials would read it. Sutter was the high bidder and was allowed to make the purchase; but a pertinent debate by students of California history might be on the question whether this letter was wise diplomacy on Sutter's part and whether the letter had any influence on the officials.

The letter of November 8, 1841 was in part as follows:

"It is too late now to drive me out of the country, the first step they do against me is that I will make a declaration of Independence and proclaim California for a Republique independent of Mexico. I am strong now, one of my best friends a German gentleman came from the Columbia River with plenty people, an other party is close by from Missouri... I am strong enough to hold me till the couriers go to the Waillamet for raise about 60 or 70 good men, an other party I would dispatch to the Mountains and call the hunters and Shawnees and Delawares with which I am very well acquainted the same party have to go to Missouri and raise about 200 or 300 men more. That is my intention, Sir, if they let me not alone. If they will give me satisfaction and pay the expenses what I had to do for my security here, I will be a faithful Mexican; but when this rascle of Castro should come here a very warm and harty welcome is prepared forhim. 10 guns have well mounted for protect the fortress and two field pieces. I have also about fifty faithful Indians which shot their musquet very quick. The wole day and night we are under arms, and you know that foreigners are very expensive, and for

this trouble I will be paid when a French fregate come here. I wish you to tell the commandant general that I wish to be his friend, and that I am very much obliged to him for his kindness when my people passed Sonoma. If he would join us in such a case I would like it very much. But all is out question so long they let me alone, and trouble me not but I want security from the government for that."

From Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo
By George Tays
Quarterly, California Historical Society, Vol 17, p. 69.

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

REMEMBRANCES OF WAY BACK WHEN Verna McLean Sexton

I remember in 1914, I taught Juana Hawley (Roland and Ethel Hawley's daughter,) in the first grade at Sutter. About forty years later, Juana (then) - later Mrs. Matt Phillips, and I taught first and second grades in adjoining rooms in the new addition to the Lincoln School. Juana is now deceased.

I remember the old round barn on our ranch at the foot of North Butte. The posts holding up the roof at the outer edge were about 18 feet apart and the diameter of the barn was about 180 feet. Oldtimers told me that whenever newcomers or tourists came to Sutter County they were always told to be sure to go to the south foot of North Butte to see the big round barn. We were never able in our research to find the builder's name.

On warm summer evenings we used to sit outdoors, as there was a refreshing breeze coming down the canyon. Without fail, we watched thousands of bats fly from the mow. They looked like a

big cloud of dust. We wondered where they went every night. We never saw them return.

One morning we were awakened by a peculiar sound. Instantly my husband said, "that's the end of the round barn." The next morning we walked up to where the barn was. It looked like a big giant foot had stepped on the roof which was covered with a heavy layer of moss.

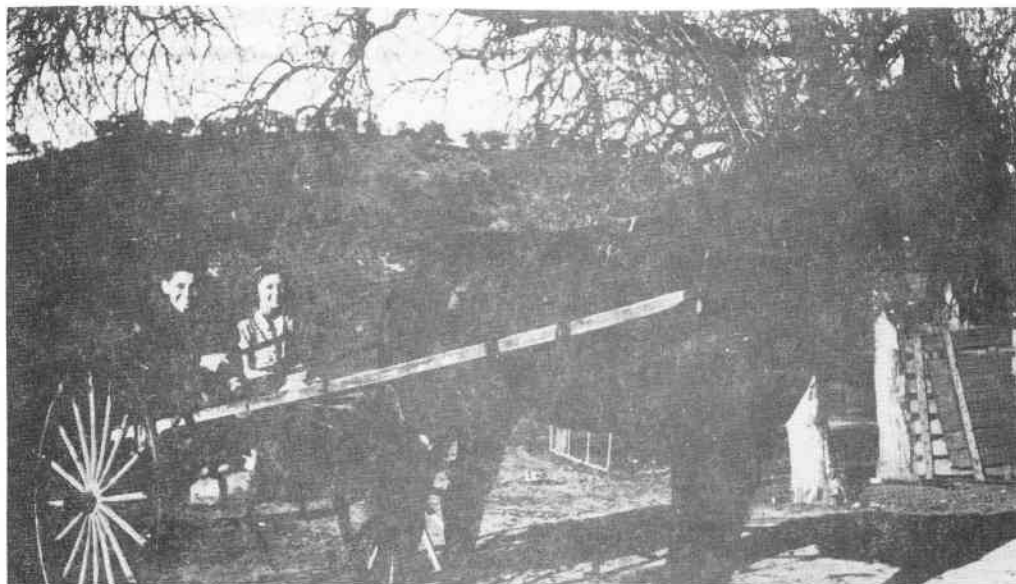
Near the house was an old round brick tank house. The building was so old we never used the tank. There was a small diagonal crack in the bricks from top to the ground. My husband piped water from a spring up the canyon for the garden and for a watering trough in the barnyard. This spring was near a group of eucalyptus trees planted by George Sexton, Sr. The rock was about three feet high and four feet in diameter and was filled with mortar holes on the level top. These were made by the Indians used for grinding corn. We found several old rocks worth keeping. At present I keep one on the sill of my kitchen window. It is about the size of a large Irish potato and the color of a potato which had been sliced in half. Another one I gave to my daughter-in-law. It is a shiny brown one about four inches long and almost the shape of a dumbbell. It evidently was wedged between two other rocks in the spring for many ages and gradually became its present form.

While writing this article, I stopped to phone Mr. M. J. (Monte) Justeson of Gridley -- the present owner of our ranch property -- to get information about the tank house. He informed



OLD ROUND BARN ON SEXTON RANCH AT FOOT-OF NORTH BUTTE OF SUTTER BUTTES.

GEORGE SEXTON WITH WIFE LUCKY AND DAUGHTER, 1922.



JACQUE AND JOYCE SEXTON COMING HOME FROM HEDGER SCHOOL PASSED THROUGH FIVE OR SIX GATES.

me that the tank house is no longer there. Somone, knowing the value of brick had taken them all and the tank was sitting on the ground. He also had removed the 12 inch wide boards that formed the ceiling in the living room. My father-in-law informed me that the boards came around the Horn at tip of South America, up the Pacific Coast to San Francisco Bay.

The intruder also took the lumber from three large cupboards in the kitchen. All three went from floor to ceiling. The last one had a fine screen ventilator on the floor level and ceiling level. In this cupboard was kept the milk. One shelf for fresh milk and the other milk left to clabber. When clabbered, we used a table knife to carefully cut the clabber into large squares and left on the range at very low temperature until the whey was all separated -- then it was put into a fine cheese cloth bag, tied at the top and hung up to drain. We then made the cottage cheese by stirring and pressing the curds, salting it and mixing in thick sweet cream to the right consistancy. If you have never tasted home made cottage cheese with thick cream, you don't know what good cottage cheese is.

I remember one time, when Lester Wilbur drove over from West Butte and we took a ride down the Forty Mile Road out of Marysville. On the way home, Mt. Lassen was erupting. The big mushroom-shaped cloud grew larger and larger. It looked like some of the bomb tests the government makes.

Lastly, I remember the old saying, "One is really getting old when one reminisces so much -- and AM I GETTING THERE!!

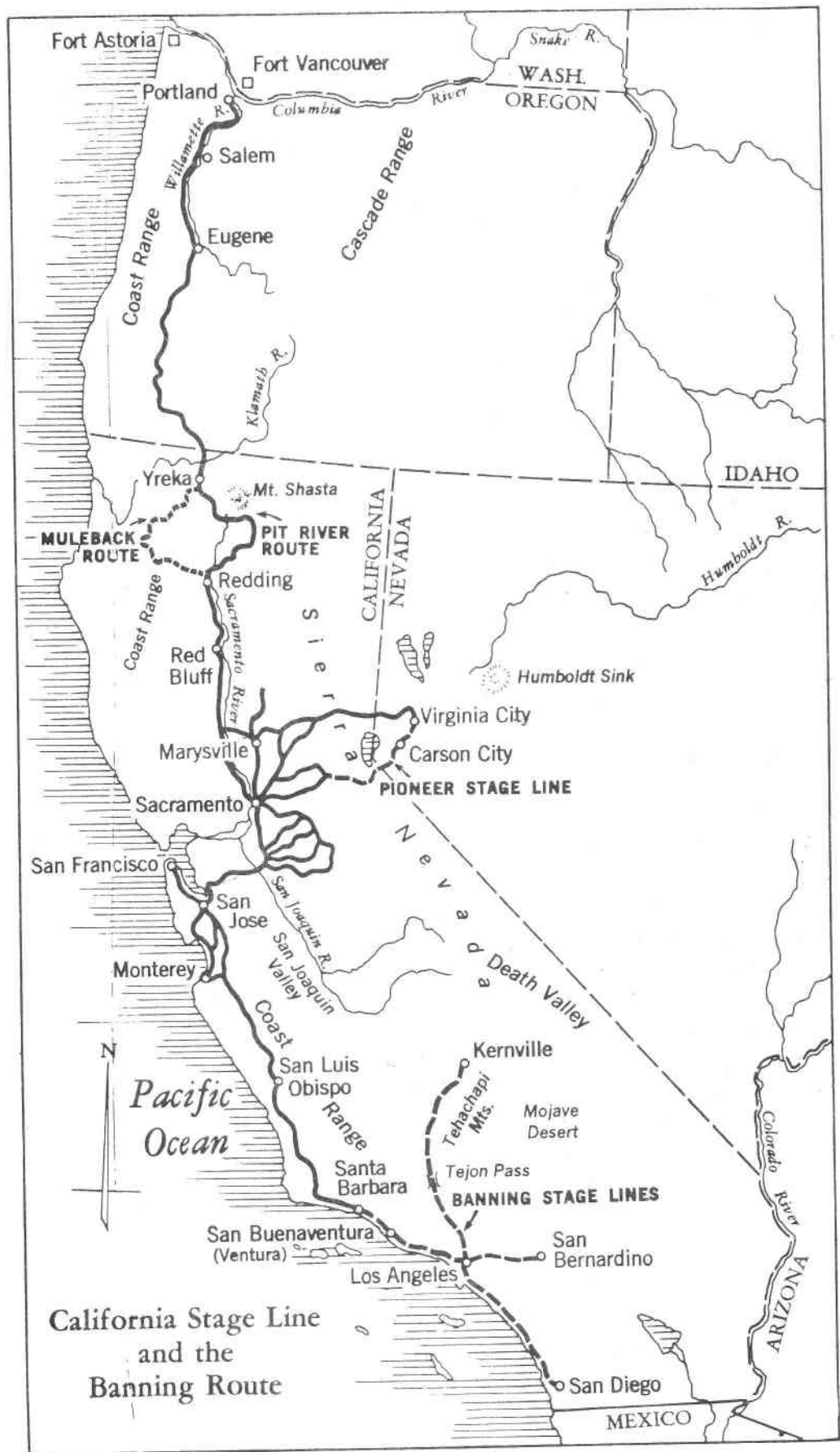
THE AUTHOR

Presently residing in Yuba City, Verna McLean Sexton (b. 1893) has lived nearly all her life in the area South of the Sutter Buttes. Her father, Duncan James (D. J.) McLean brought his young family to Sutter City in 1896 when she was 3 years old. He and his wife made over the old Sutter Hotel and operated stores in the downtown area. In 1898 he was made postmaster. After Mrs. Sexton attended normal school she taught in Sutter and married a Sutter Buttes rancher, the late Kirk Sexton. Some may remember the couple for their venture into the raising of chinchillas in the Tierra Buena area. They have a son, Jacque and daughter, Joyce Kirkpatrick and nine grandchildren.

More information may be found by reading Mrs. Sexton's article, Memoirs of Sutter - Its People and Places, in the October issue 1972 of the Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin.

Marysville Appeal March 5, 1861

Inauguration Day -- The day which was marked by the accession to the presidential rule of Abraham Lincoln was not marked in Marysville by any special demonstration other than the hoisting of the stars and stripes upon the Appeal office flagstaff which was all we could do under the circumstances, but that did not keep us from feeling extremely good all day, as did all of the patriotic people whom we met, and who rejoice that the four years of misrule has at length been brought to an end.



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

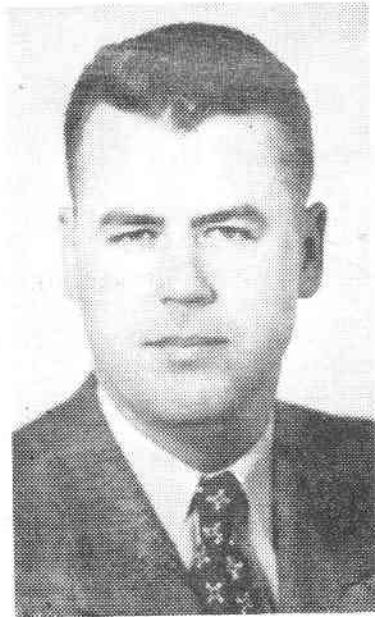
Marysville and Yuba City, California

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.

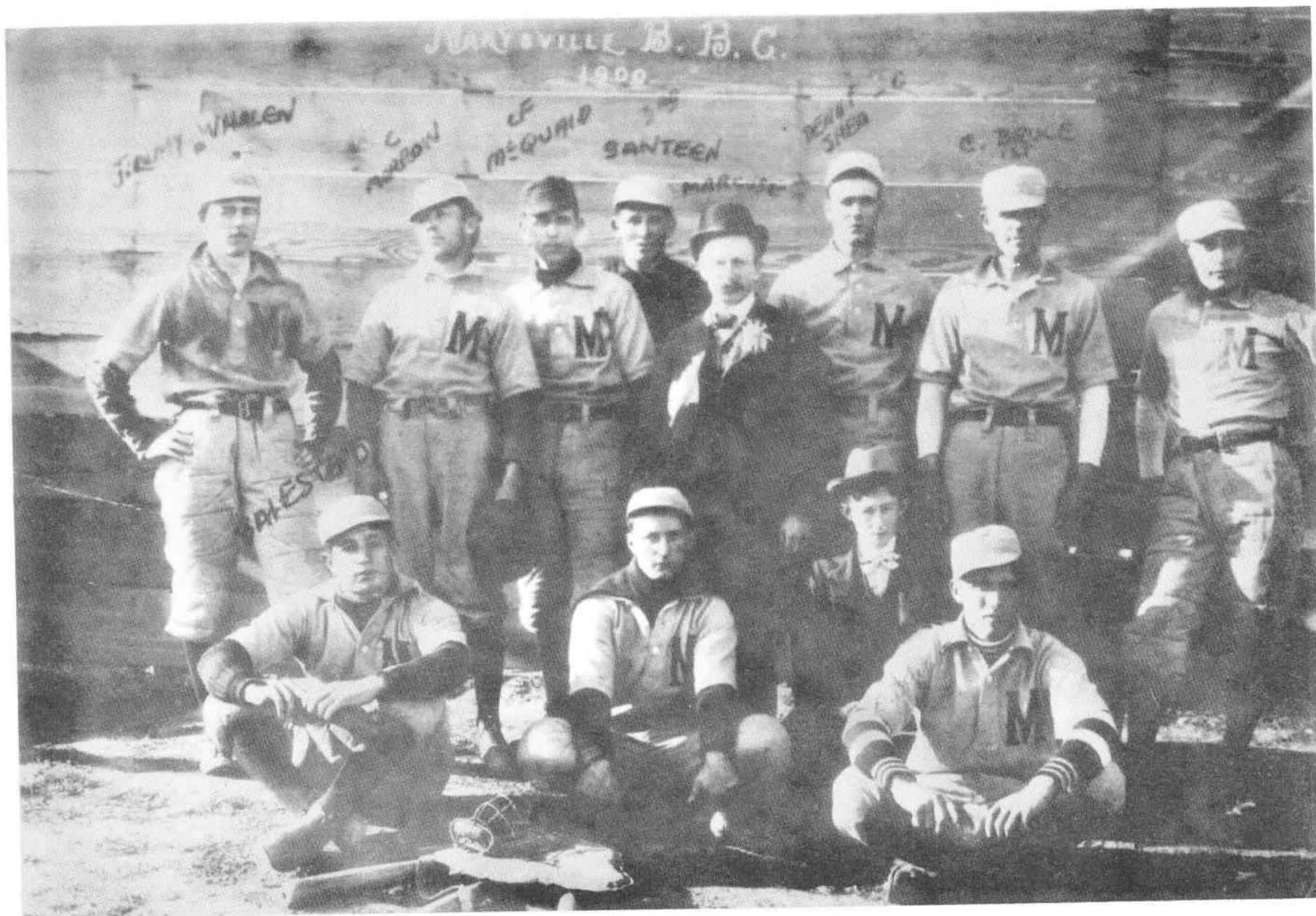
Getting back to the Trolley League for a moment, the late Charley Hust was enticed to come to Marysville to catch for the Giants. He was employed by the J. R. Garrett Company and later became the founder of Hust Bros. auto equipment store and built it into one of the largest of its kind in Northern California.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

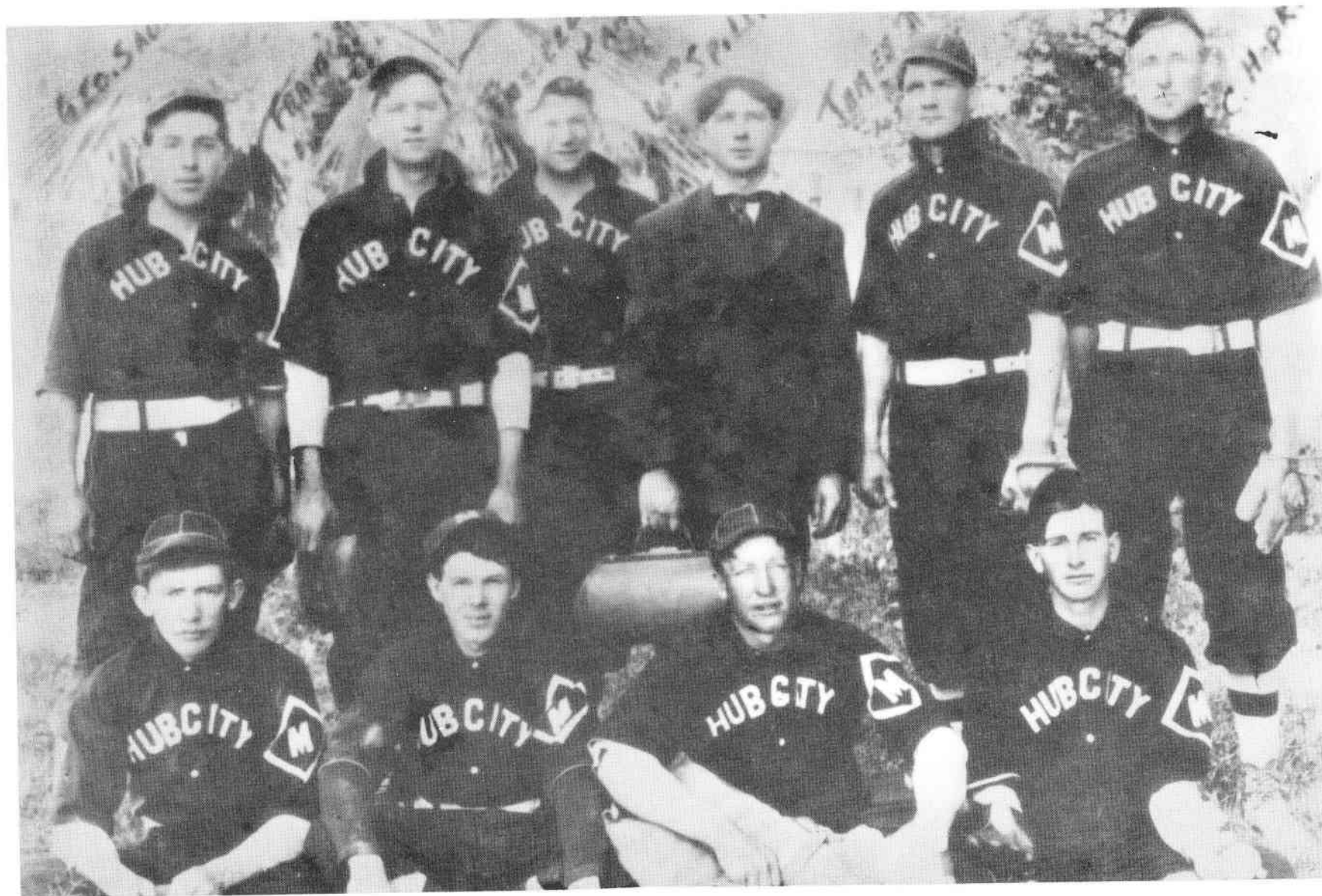
The official scorer for Marysville was the late Charley Redman, who had the record of never missing a game. He was later succeeded by the late Ed Burt, a Marysville sports writer and Bill Conlin, now with the Bee, was Burt's alternate. Other well-known names who helped make the league a success were 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



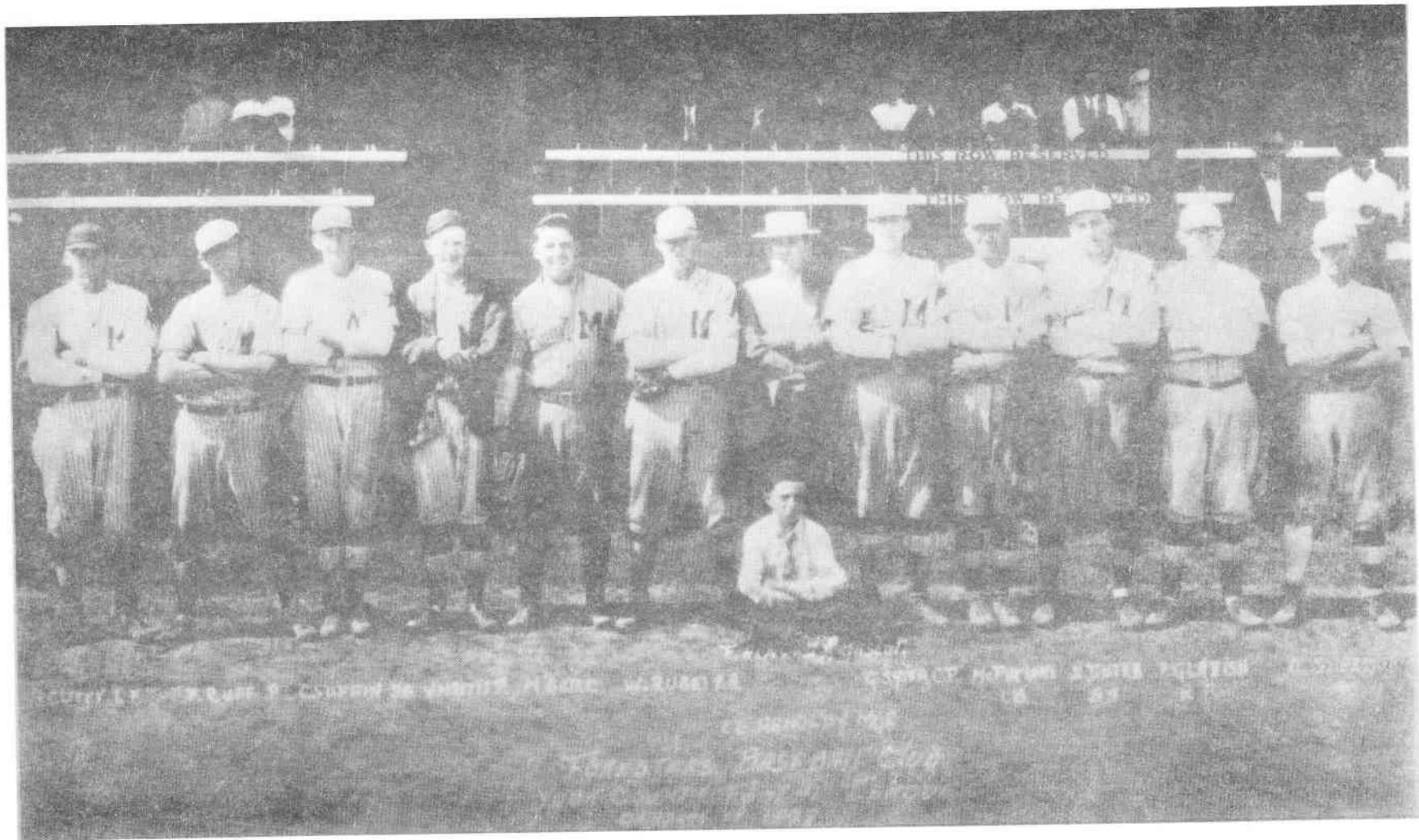
TOP ROW. Jimmy Whalen, C. Morrow, C. McQuaid, Jake Marcuse mgr., Joe Santeen
 FRONT ROW. Ed Balestero, Ed Leake Mike Morgan mascot, and Ed Bruce
 (Courtesy Francis "Hira" Hall)

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



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

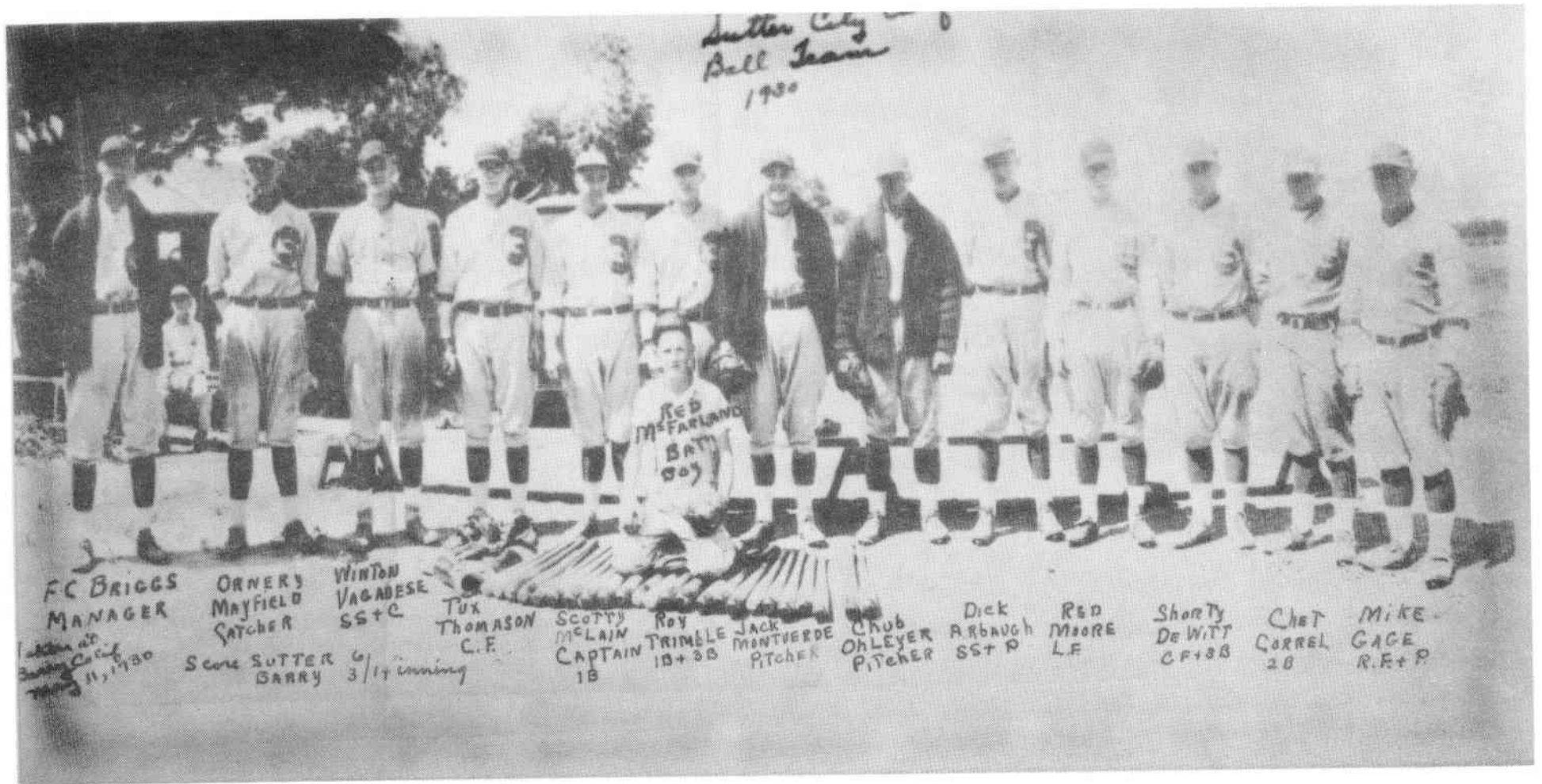
HUB CITY MERCHANTS PLAYED INDEPENDENT BALL AT WESTSIDE PARK (1908-9)
 Park was built by Fred Cooper next to his dairy on Bridge St.



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)

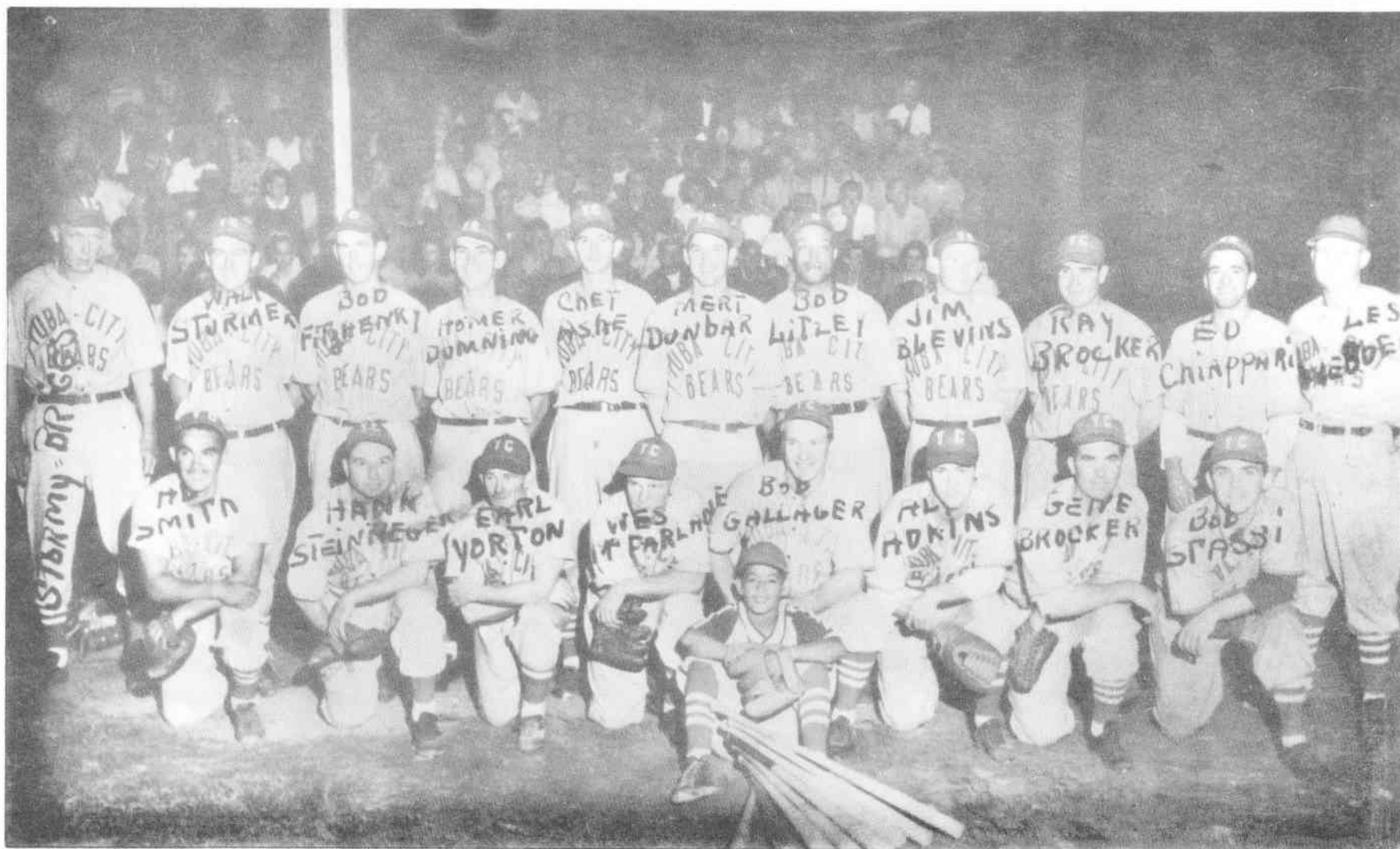


SUTTER CITY BALL TEAM AT BARRY, CALIFORNIA, MAY 11, 1930
 Score: Sutter 6, Barry 3, 14 innings
 (Courtesy of Fred Briggs)



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.

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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.

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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.