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Wayne Hardin*

NINTH ANNUAL

ATHLETE OF THE  
  
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Wednesday, January 30, 1963

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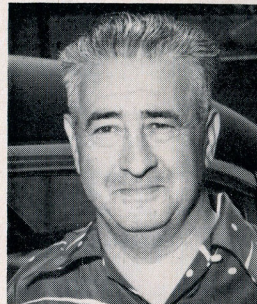
In Stockton Call Frank Rauzi HO 5-8724

## A SALUTE TO SOL KLEIN



The Stockton Jesters Club is dedicating its 1963 Awards Dinner to Sol Klein and they couldn't have named a person more deserving.

Through the years Sol has been one of the best friends of sports-minded boys and young men the community has ever had.



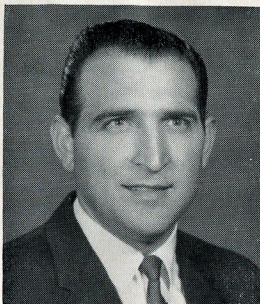
Time after time he has opened his purse to assist some worthy cause in furtherance of amateur athletics.

Whenever a group has needed help to finance a trip, purchase uniforms or buy equipment, Klein has not been one to turn it away empty-handed. When they asked for \$50 he gave \$100. When they mentioned a hundred he gave them two.

Sol was also a bulwark in support of the Stockton Ports in the California League a dozen years back when he was a director and, later, president of the local ball club. Largely through his enthusiasm and energy, the Ports were able to sell \$40,000 worth of seats per season during those early years in the late 40s.

That's why the Jesters do themselves credit when they honor him at this year's Awards event.

(reprint from Peri-graphs)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is my privilege as President of the Jesters Club to extend to each of you a warm welcome to our 9th Annual Award Banquet.

Your very presence speaks so highly of the enthusiasm and cooperation that exists in the community toward our Award Dinner. Without this support it would be impossible to honor the athletes as we are prepared to do tonight.

Each finalist, whether or not he be proclaimed Stockton Athlete of the year for 1962, will have the memory of this night indelibly inked in his mind as a most momentous occasion.

Our congratulations to all of the athletes honored here tonight, may they carry forth the name of Stockton, and may their fame as outstanding young men accompany them wherever their destinies may lead.

—Ray Gerlomes

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The City of Stockton extends congratulations to the athlete of the year and to those who were unsuccessful contenders. Unfortunately only one can receive the "Amateur Athlete of the Year" award.

However, the contestants with the high standard of sportsmanship to gain final consideration have established themselves as substantial citizens of our community.

May I extend the best wishes of the community to the Jesters Club for sponsoring this ninth annual event which furthers the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. Thanks also to those who, by their presence tonight, insure the continuation of this fine event.

—Elmer R. Boss

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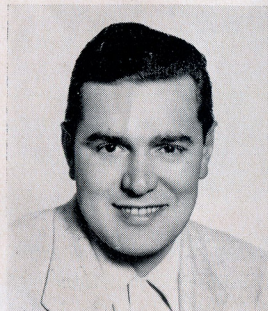
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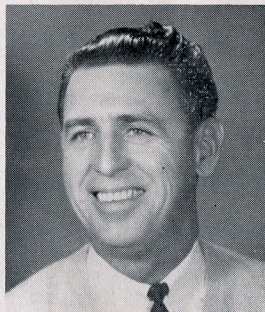
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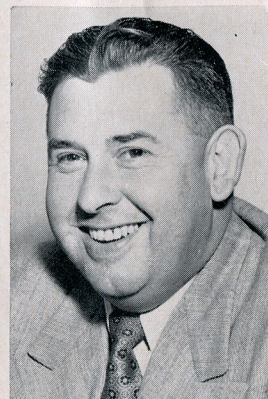
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**JACK O'KEEFE . . .**

Being master of ceremonies for a Jester Club Banquet is just one of the many jobs that Jack O'Keefe does well. Jovial Jack is highly praised as Stockton's chief of police, works with many civic groups, and directs the operation of the Babe Ruth junior boys baseball program throughout the western part of the United States. He is a Vice President of the National Organization.

A former athletic standout at St. Mary's College, O'Keefe had a promising baseball career cut short by an arm injury. He kept close to the game, however, and served as president of the Stockton Ports during the team's hey-day. He also knows a good majority of the baseball scouts in the United States, who come to Jack for his opinion about local players.



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### CANDIDATES FOR TONIGHT'S AWARDS



#### Bob Rosso

Unanimous selection of coaches in CCC in basketball last season, Bob playing at guard for Franklin High School was leading scorer in Camellia City Tournament of Basketball Champions with 70 points in 7 games. In CCC play he tied the record with 207 points for an average of 17.3 points per game. He scored a total of 391 points in 23 games and set a single game scoring record of 32 points. He played on championship teams in baseball and football as well as basketball.



#### Eddie Simas

His record breaking time of 9.6 seconds in the 100 yard dash while attending Franklin High School was acclaimed as one of the top sports stories of the year. This feat was the fastest time ever recorded in a Stockton prepster and was achieved on three separate occasions. He won the sectional 100 and 220 yard dashes in record breaking times and his time of 21.2 in the 220 yard dash set a city and school record. Eddie's selection on the All-America High School; all conference; all city football teams is indicative of his athletic prowess. He currently is attending University of the Pacific.

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#### Al Traverso

Leading bowler in Stockton Bowling Association with an average of 206. Achieved "hall of fame" distinction by bowling two perfect games of 300 during 1961-1962 season. His accomplishments included series of 749 and 753; 67 games of 200 or over; and 28 games of 600 series. Selected on Stockton Bowling Association Championship Team and was a finalist at California State Masters Bowling Tournament.



#### Dan Wong

A seventeen year old senior at Stagg High School, Dan was selected as first string back on all Northern California Football Team. He was also honored by his selection on the all CCC and all city football teams. He made football history by setting a new rushing record in carrying the ball 141 times gaining 1167 yards for an average of 8.2 yards per carry. Not only did this break the CCC record but also set a mark for rushing for a single season in the history of Stockton schools including colleges. He scored ten touchdowns during the season and performed yeoman duty on the defensive team as a linebacker. Named back of the year by a leading northern California newspaper.

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## HISTORY OF PREVIOUS DINNERS

1955 The First Annual event was held at Bruno and Lena's with 250 in attendance. Oscar Vitt, former Cleveland Indian manager entertained those present as Bert Swenson, dean of Stockton Recreation, proclaimed Burgess Windsor, Stockton Athlete of the Year, 1954.



1956 Tommy Harmon, former Michigan All-American and noted sportscaster, discussed college football and the Wes Santee case as more than 300 people jammed Risso's. Vernon S. Dander accepted the award from Jack Myers in behalf of his son, Vernon A., who was unable to leave his studies at the United States Naval Academy.



1957 A record sports banquet crowd of 800 watched as Dizzy Dean and Jack Myers presented the 1956 award to John Nisby. Among those in attendance were Hugh McElhenny, John Brodie, Clyde Conner, Paul Wiggin, and Walter Mails. The affair was held in the new Exhibition Building of the San Joaquin County Fair Grounds.

Congratulations To

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## HISTORY OF PREVIOUS DINNERS

1958 Rocky Marciano attracted 900 to the Civic Auditorium as Herman Marquez and Dick Garibaldi were named co-winners of 1957. Max Baer, Charlie Goldman and Russ Hodges entertained the audience with many humorous stories associated with their careers.



1959 Duane Isetti, St. Mary's High School halfback, received the top award from Eddie Erdelatz, U.S. Naval Academy football coach. All-American awards were presented to C.O.P.'s Dick Bass and Cal's Joe Kapp. Lon Simmons previewed the San Francisco Giants 1959 season.



1960 Former Olympic Champion Bob Mathias presented the major award to Stagg High School's top athlete, Bob Garibaldi. Bert Swenson, director of Recreation for the City of Stockton for 36 years, was the recipient of a special award for his "continual devotion to the youth of the community."

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**HISTORY OF PREVIOUS DINNERS**

1961 Pete Newell, Director of Athletics at the University of California and Basketball Coach of the 1960 Olympic Team was guest speaker and presented the major award for 1961 to Bill Simoni, outstanding state, regional and world softball player.



1962 Ni Orsi, Jr., 17 year old skiing sensation was named Stockton's outstanding athlete for 1962 at the Eighth Annual Jesters Sports Spectacular before approximately 600 persons at the Scottish Rite Temple. Among the noted guest speakers in attendance were Willie Mays, Red Hickey, Peter De Paolo, Joe Allen, Doug Hayden and Donna DeVarona.

**FORMER AWARD WINNERS****1954 — BURGESS WINDSOR**

The handicap of the loss of one arm did not prevent Burgess from becoming one of the areas finest golfers. A second place finish in the National Amputees Golf Championship helped proclaim Burgess as Stockton's 1st Athlete of the Year. Burgess has continued building his golfing skill and reputation in 1962 won the National One Arm Amputee Championship.

**1955 — VERNON DANDER**

A first team guard on the U.S. Naval Academy football team. A member of Navy's 1953 team which defeated Mississippi in the Sugar Bowl and ranked fifth in the nation. Academically Vernon was near the top of his entire class. Vernon is now a Captain in the United States Air Force and is stationed in Boston, Mass.

**1956 — JOHN NISBY**

One of College of the Pacific's all-time best linemen. An All-Coast and Honorable Mention All-American. Outstanding player on 1955 Tiger eleven and East-West Shrine game player. John is now playing Professional Football with the Washington Redskins and this month was a member of the East All-Pro Team.

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### **FORMER AWARD WINNERS**



#### **1957 — DICK GARIBALDI**

A standout in 3 sports at Stockton College in his prep days, Dick enrolled at Santa Clara University where he starred for three years on the Bronco Varsity. A member of Santa Clara's 1952 Western Championship Club, Dick returned to school after a 2-year service hitch to captain the 1957 squad. Dick is the Head Basketball Coach at Santa Clara University.



#### **1957 — HERMAN MARQUEZ**

Stockton's first National A.A.U. Boxing Champion since 1932. After only 9 bouts, Herman captured his Bantamweight Title in 1957 finals held at Boston, Mass. Married and the father of 7 children, Herman attained the highest goal possible in his first year of competition. He was a contender for the Bantamweight title of the World in Feb., 1962. Herman is presently retired from the Ring and is living in Stockton.



#### **1958 — DUANE ISETTI**

Rushing for a total of 949 yards and scoring 17 touchdowns, Duane Isetti completed his senior year at St. Mary's High by being named "Athlete of the Year." Averaging better than 8 yards each time he carried the ball, Duane was a standout performer on the Ram baseball and basketball teams. Duane is playing on the University of Pacific Varsity.

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### **FORMER AWARD WINNERS**



#### **1959 — BOB GARIBALDI**

Bob Garibaldi earned his award by being selected on the Central California Conference all-league basketball, football, and baseball teams. Bob was a first team selection on the All-Northern California Basketball Squad, and was also named to the All-American Prep Football Team. In 1962, Bob was the most sought after young baseball star by numerous major league teams. He is presently a member of the San Francisco Giants.



#### **1960 — BILL SIMONI**

Outstanding softball player, Bill Simoni, received the 1961 award as the most valuable player in the World Softball Tournament and the most valuable player in state and regional play. He has competed in the World Softball Tournament for the last two years.



#### **1961 — NI ORSI, JR.**

Ni Orsi, Jr. received his award as an outstanding water and snow skier. He is the only youngster ever to win both the National Junior Skiing and Water Skiing Championships in one year (1961). Ni is presently trying out for the next United States Olympic skiing team.



## APPRECIATION



The Jesters Club is proud to present the Ninth Annual Athlete of the Year Award Banquet.

In the short span of 9 years this activity has grown from a modest beginning to the stature of the largest function of its kind in California. Its past success has been accomplished by the tireless efforts of all the committees and Jesters members and the wholehearted support of the Community.

We wish to gratefully acknowledge Jack O'Keefe and Mike Canlis, whose interest and efforts on our behalf have been invaluable to us. Also, we wish to gratefully acknowledge our honored guests, the Stockton Record, KJOY, KSTN, KWG, Channel 3, Channel 10 and San Francisco Floral.

The Banquet Committees who are commended for their assistance are:

Al Prato and Al Pereira — Selection Committee

Frank Bevilaqua — Publicity

Jim Moradian and Al Prato — Tickets

Ray Gerlomes — Food and Banquet

Frank Rauzi and Al Trotter — Program

Tony Domench — Trophies and Caricatures

John Gainza and Lou Shoneff  
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## HISTORY OF THE JESTERS CLUB



Back in 1950 a group of former athletes gathered in the home of Johnny Gainza every other Friday night. Their High School and College days over, these fellows played cards and rehearsed the sporting scene of past and present. Rarely did a night pass that there wasn't a major disagreement over the winner of a prizefight, a quarterback's call or an umpires decision. With all the bickering going on it was decided the only way law and order could be restored was to form a club.

The club name of Jesters was derived from all the joking and horse-play that took place. A constitution was drawn up, officers were elected, and regular monthly meetings were held.

As the membership increased, the Jesters found themselves able to undertake small projects and to help support local athletics. As the treasury grew they were able to financially help the Little Leagues, now in its infancy.

With the growth of the Stockton school department and the city without a major Athletic Award the idea of having a Sports Banquet to honor the city's Outstanding Athlete was born. With the success of the first event in 1955 it was decided to continue the project on an annual basis. With the help of the entire community the Awards Dinner has now blossomed into the largest affair of its type in the entire state.

The success of this program has allowed the Jesters to increase their support of other worthwhile projects. In the past the Jesters have contributed to Little League and Babe Ruth League Baseball, Jr. Golf, Stockton College and Stagg High School Football Dinners, The Quarterback Club, Childrens Home, Widows and Orphans Fund, Junior Band and numerous contributions to individual needs.

Each year new members are brought into the Club, but before acceptance a member must be found willing to support the Club's projects.

In no other way can an organization hope to continue with its objectives.

It is with sincere hope and heartfelt thanks to the people of Stockton and surrounding communities that the Jesters Club may continue to serve its purpose.