

Little League

(Continued From Page 2)

with their work with the youngsters, the original group formed a committee to explore the choice of officers. At the same time they studied almost every possible phase that seemed necessary: coaching personnel, playing field availability, sponsor interest, player sources and the steps necessary to become a part of the national program.

The committee, after thorough study, selected a group which they thought would be "natural" to lead their cause. The group included Gene Favell, Frank Rickey, Doris Abernathy, Mildred Binney, Dr. Robinson, Gary Robertson, Wendy Ruettli, Harry Molatore, William Graham and Bob Ballard.

Each of the persons named, upon being approached by the commit-

tee and asked to serve as the initial Little League officers, agreed, and the first concrete step had been reached.

For the most part, members of the original committee and the first group of officers are still active in the program, some still in official capacities, some as coaches and others at least in advisory roles.

It is interesting to note that, while the original motivating force for their participation in this work was the fact that many of these people had children in age groups that would become eligible to play, many of them are still active although these youngsters have long since become ineligible.

In the first year the Klamath Falls Little League, Inc., was led by president Gene Favell, vice president Frank Rickey, secretary Mildred Binney, treasurer Doris Abernathy and directors, Robinson,

Robertson, Graham, Molatore and Ballard.

The 1959 officers include Favell, president, Rickey, vice president, Mrs. Binney, treasurer and Mrs. Jerry Cole, secretary, while Charles Bailey, Wayne Scott, Bill Graham, Charlie Bane, Huettli and Robertson serve on the board of directors.

Upon being granted a charter by Little League Baseball, Inc., the national organization, which begins its 20th year this season, the local league got underway.

Forming the first league, six teams of 15 boys each, were those sponsored by Hal's Sport Shop, Johns - Manville, Weyerhaeuser - Don's Men Store, Park Cabinet-Moyina Heights Bldg., Car-Ad-Co and Bob's Union Service.

As coaches directing these boys in the first season were George Sprague (Hal's), Ray Coffman (Park-Moyina), Bud Adkins, (Car-Ad-Co), B. M. Antle (Weyerhaeuser-Don's), Marvin Cunningham (Bob's Union) and Clayton Han- nison (Johns-Manville).

Making up the 1959 version of the Klamath Falls Little League, Inc., are the following teams and managers: Car-Ad-Co, Louis Natale; Park Cabinet-Moyina Heights, Ray Coffman; Weyerhaeuser-Don's Men Store, B. M. Antle; Johns-Manville, Ernie Bishop; Hal's Sport Shop, George Sprague; and Bend-Portland, coached by Bud Patzke. In each case there is at least one coach who serves with the manager.

The league, through the courtesy of Klamath Union High School, played its 1958 league games, two at a time, three nights a week, on Modoc Field, and enjoyed a highly successful 15 game opening season.

At the close of league play, which was won by the Johns-Manville team, the group culminated the first year with an all-star game, two teams of 12-year-olds, in a grand finale at Gem Stadium. During the first season the interest, both from an adult and player standpoint, swelled.

In July, the thought was expressed that, because of the fact that the Little Leaguers played on a field smaller than the regulation diamond under modified playing rules, it would be sensible and fitting that work be started to procure the league, or leagues, a park suited to their needs.

In less than a year, although the park is not actually a reality at this time, commitments of land, money and labor have been made thus guaranteeing two new diamonds suitable for Little League play before the 1959 summer is over.

It follows that this type of interest would naturally produce more players and the need for more coaches and sponsors in the 1959 season.

National regulations prohibiting more than six teams in any one league, it was only a natural step to the forming of a new one, and although enough youngsters answered the call for players to fill four new leagues, it was sensibly decided that the formation of one new league at a time was the proper way to progress.

Prior to opening the new season it was necessary to fill the vacancies existing on the original teams because of the "graduation" of the 12-year-olds to the Babe Ruth League. This was accomplished by holding tryouts for all youngsters 10 through 12 who wished to try for positions.

After viewing the tryouts, coaches participated in a player "auction" in which they were allotted a certain number of points according to the number of vacancies on their squads, and then proceeded to compete with their fellows for the right to sign the boys to their team.

In the formation of the brand new league, the South Suburban Little League, the same system was used, although entire teams were selected rather than just vacancies on existing teams.

In the formation of the Little Leagues, players once chosen to a team, stay with it, until ineligible or unless released for reasons beyond control, such as moving from the community or because of injuries.

All in all, baseball diamonds throughout Klamath County will

echo this year to the sounds of happy youngsters busily engaged in our national pastime, intensely interested in the quest of a win during the ball game, dismayed at the thought of a possible loss only so far as the bottom of a double-

decker ice cream cone at the end of the game when the eagerness for the next practice session and the next ball game becomes the big issue of the day.

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New Groups Added To KF Little League Association

By WAYNE SCOTT

The growing population in the south suburban area of Klamath Falls and the increasing interest in the Little League baseball program made it necessary for the formation of a brand new branch of Little League activity in our area.

The activation of Kingsley Field and the subsequent Capehart housing project for service personnel, added to the more immediate suburban area, provided the impetus for a decision to be reached for a line designating where youngsters of Little League age could conveniently participate.

Study revealed that the line should be drawn along those marking the boundaries of the Klamath Falls city school system with the exception of the area known as Stewart-Lenox. Although the Stewart-Lenox area in reality belongs to the county system its geographic location made it seem feasible to include the youngsters from this area within the Klamath Falls Little League structure.

Little League Ball Big Aid For Youth

The feeling, mutually expressed by Klamath Falls Little League president Gene Favell and South Suburban League president Major William Harris, that, "Emphasis in Little League activities is not placed on individual performances of players nor on the value of a win as compared to a loss but rather on the benefit to the boys from the standpoint of training and preparation for years to come," is the key to the continued success and popularity of Little Leagues the world over.

Major General Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Jr., former U.S. ambassador to Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Greece and France and guest of honor at the 1958 World Series Dinner stated it thusly:

"Little League is a cradle of clean sportsmanship—the kind of sportsmanship which reaches across international boundaries and forms the basis of mutual understanding and lasting friendships . . . You may take satisfaction in the firm knowledge that while what you are giving to the boys of this nation and of neighboring countries may be intangible, it is nonetheless something which each one of them will treasure throughout his lifetime . . ."

4 IRON MEN OF '58

NEW YORK (UPI)—Only four major leaguers played in every game during the 1958 season. They were Ernie Banks of the Chicago Cubs, Frank Malzone of the Boston Red Sox, Frank Bolling of the Detroit Tigers and Nellie Fox of the Chicago White Sox.

Boys outside the city school confines would then participate in the new South Suburban Little League, with limits arbitrarily set to the south by the new league officials.

Chosen to lead the new league on its initial venture in the program were Major William Harris, Kingsley Field, president, vice president, Sam E. Moss, secretary treasurer, Captain William Hill and a board of directors composed of Charles Bonney, M. Sgt. Duane Fletcher, S. Sgt. Harry Augsburger, Walt Schwegert, Neal Mayfield, Mel Hollin, Ralph Ross, George Kirkpatrick and T. Sgt. Delbert Sutton.

In getting the groundwork laid for the new league a financial committee headed by Mrs. Sam Moss was formed, charged with securing sponsors and money to begin the program.

After calling for players and registering better than 300 league aspirants, the league formed six "major" league teams and is making plans for a "minor" system to provide for the overflow of boys.

The six teams, their sponsors and coaches are: Teamsters Local 911, Dave Fowler; Kingsley, T. Sgt. D. Sutton; DARCO, Airman Lingo; Oregon Food, W. J. Stokes; House of Discount, Bob Lohrey; and the Metler Bros., Neal Mayfield.

The new league, which has applied for a franchise, will follow the path of the older league, thus avoiding some of the problems but, naturally, as is the case of the formation of any new group, will encounter special problems. In any case, the leagues will cooperate between themselves, with the assistance of the Klamath Falls Park and Recreation Department in scheduling of available facilities, and in the ironing out of inherent difficulties.

Kickoff For Leagues Set

The 1959 summer baseball season for Klamath area youngsters age 10 through 12 gets underway Tuesday night when the Klamath Falls Little League, Inc. opens its second year with a gigantic jamboree at Gem Stadium. Every boy on each of the six teams will get an opportunity to play as each of the teams plays the other in two inning sessions. The after-dark program is the only one of the Little League season, the balance of league play to feature daylight games.

The South Suburban Little League plans to initiate its season on Friday, June 12, with a like jamboree.

The South Suburban group is entering its first year of competition, and, as was the case with the first group, the Klamath Falls Little League, will not be eligible for tournament competition on a national level until the completion of a complete calendar year.

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