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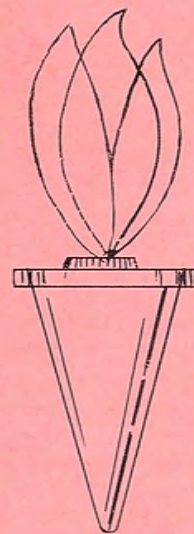
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SPRING VALLEY

# 8th Annual Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Dinner Dance



SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1981

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### DINNER PROGRAM

Call to Order and Welcome . . . . . Chairlady E. Doller  
Pledge of Allegiance . . . . . Chairlady E. Doller  
Invocation . . . . . Rev. Farrell Hopkins  
Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Leon Pesner

### COMMITTEES

Dinner . . . . . Leon Pesner – A. Bogitsh  
Program Book . . . . . Harry Jackson  
Publicity . . . . . Rich Mattern  
Scholarship . . . . . J. Grasso  
Screening . . . . . Jim Brown  
Shrine . . . . . F. McGarvey  
Trophy . . . . . A. Bogitsh

### NEW INDUCTEES

Arthur Hopper	Lester Lepori
Frank Horan	Walter Ostrom
Howard Johnson	Victor Shankey
William Yuda	

Concluding Remarks and Thanks . . . . . Leon Pesner  
Benediction . . . . . Rev. Farrell Hopkins

Music for Dancing

Flowers donated by Al Dykstra

## ENSHRINEMENT REQUIREMENT

The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame was established to honor outstanding professional and amateur sportsmen, living and deceased, who have gained prominence while residing in Rockland County. To be considered for nomination to the Sports Hall of Fame, a prospective candidate must meet the following criteria:

- A. Attain prominence in either professional or amateur sports as a player, coach, manager, official, owner, writer or broadcaster.
- B. Have been a resident of Rockland County at the time of his or her prominence.
- C. Be a person of integrity and good character.
- D. A period of 5 years shall have elapsed since he or she gained prominence.

Nominations for consideration by the Hall of Fame Committee are solicited from the general public. Nominees are reviewed by the screening committee and then voted upon for enshrinement by the entire committee.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OFFICERS)

Ethel Doller . . . . .	Chairlady
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Joe Holland – Chairman Emeritus  
Hale DeChelfin – Honorary Chairman

In Loving Memory of Miss Emma Perini  
of Thiells, New York, who was one of our most ardent  
supporters since the very inception of  
The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame.  
May she forever rest in Peace.

## SPORTS HALL OF FAME PAST RECIPIENTS

1974

Charles (Chuck) Aleno  
Henry (Peck) Artopee  
Dr. Daniel (Danny) Fortman  
Joseph (Jo-Jo) Mackey  
Howard (Howie) Pierson

1978

James (Jim) Brown  
Harold (Hale) DeChelfin  
James (Jim) Faulk  
James A. Schnaars  
Nicholas (Nick) Mottola  
Ira Shuttleworth

1975

Roger Brown  
Joe D'Auria  
Bill Drescher  
Bill Hogan  
Donald 'Pop' Sherwood

1979

Bob Bacheller  
Frank Cosentino  
Harry Dea Dembnicki  
Jerry Hoahan  
Bob Grossman  
E. J. Maurers  
Bruno Ablondi

1976

H. Parker Talman  
John Koster  
Jim Ridlon  
Pete D'Auria  
Gloria Callan Hones

1980

Dr. Jeffrey Munson  
Arthur Orlando  
Britain Patterson  
Nickolas Ryder  
Horace Tyrus  
Emil Willis  
Mickey Wittman

1977

August Bradley Chapman  
Nick Gamboli  
Ed Greene  
Harry Jackson  
Richard (Gus) Shankey  
Paul Toscano



**ARTHUR D. HOPPER**  
(Athlete)

Arthur D. Hopper, a lifetime Pearl River resident, was active in more than a dozen organizations there.

He was a Journal-News writer for 14 years.

Hopper was born in Pearl River in 1908 and died while still a resident there in 1974. He was a descendant of two prominent Orangetown families, Hopper and Decker, both of which dated from before the Revolutionary War. He lived for the past several years at 25 Hilltop Drive.

He attended Pearl River schools, where he became a star in baseball, tennis and other sports despite an arm partially paralyzed by a childhood case of polio.

Hopper attended Perkeomin Prep School and graduated from Clark University, and was active in several sports at both. At Pearl River he became the first cheerleader in Rockland County.

He had been president of the Pearl River Little League for the past 11 years. The clubhouse at the league's Anderson Field in Nauraushaun is named in his honor. He founded the Pearl River League the largest little league in Rockland – and he served it in almost every position. Hopper had been a Little League official on the county and district level as well.

Although originally a partner with his father LaForest Hopper, in a contracting business in Pearl River, he switched to journalism early in his career and was a reporter and editor for 45 years.

In the 1930s Hopper worked for the Arizona Democrat. Later worked on Pearl River weekly newspapers and in 1941 began publishing his own weekly, the Orangetown Free Press. He then became editor of the Orangetown Telegram, and remained there until 1958, when he began a 14-year reporting career with The Journal-News. He retired from the Journal-News in 1973 and began working for the Rockland Leader-Independent, a Nanuet weekly.

Hopper was a founding member and two-term immediate past president of the Stony Point Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, which named him Rockland County Man of the Year in 1969.

He was also on the Pearl River Centennial and the Orangetown Bicentennial group's book on the history of Pearl River.

A member of the executive council of the Rockland County Boy Scout Council for many years, he helped run its Camp Bullowa in Stony Point.

Hopper was the founder of the Pearl River Board of Trade in 1940 and a co-founder of the Rockland County Soap Box Derby in 1949. He has been a derby committee member since then. He was also an officer of the Naurashank Masonic Lodge of Pearl River and its Fellowcraft Club and had been active with the Rockland County Wing of the Civil Air Patrol.

He belonged to the Pearl River Hook and Ladder Fire Co., the Pearl River Fire Police, and the Pearl River Civic Association, the Pearl River Republican Club and several school advisory groups.

He was married to the former Grace Mehrhoff, and had two sons, Steven and William.



**FRANK HORAN**  
(All-Round Athlete)

Currently head coach at St. Joseph's High School, Montvale, Frank has been coaching youth Hockey in the area for over 15 years and has been on the staff at Sport-O-Rama for the past 4 years.

#### High School Achievements:

Played JV and Varsity baseball (graduated in June 1953)  
Ran Cross Country, placed 2nd in state meet  
In wrestling, 2nd in county, 118 lb. class  
Played varsity basketball  
Ran the mile and polevault in track  
Made All-County in baseball

#### Upon Graduation

Played with St. Peters Holy Name baseball teams and was in game against the Dodger Rookies in Spring Valley, that was Rockland County All-Star team.  
Voted best pitcher in New Jersey/New York League.  
Signed with Milwaukee Braves after high school and went to spring training in Way Cross, Georgia.  
Played in Wellsville New York Pony league (Won 6 – Lost 9) (ERA under 3) Headed league with strikeouts – played 69 games, 20 saves.  
Went to 2nd year with Eau Claire Braves (10 and 4) (ERA under 3), 67 games, start and reliever, about 5 saves.  
Signed with Atlanta then injured arm  
Layed off one year with injury (arm was partially severed in a chain saw accident – was told he'd never pitch again)  
Pitched for County Welders – 2 years, the 2nd year was voted Best Pitcher (13 and 1) (ERA .044)  
Pitched with Garfield, New Jersey  
Mastromarino Lumbermen  
Kingston Braves  
Meridan Merchants  
Lenox AC, Bridgeport, Conn.  
Emerson-Westwood Merchants  
Taught baseball in Vernon Junes Baseball Camp, Maryland, New York  
Umpired PSAL Baseball and Softball 1957-70  
While with Emerson-Westwood – won the NJ League Championship and went to Wichita, Kansas for the NBC Championship

Retired from ball, was offered another contract with the Cleveland Indians and Chicago White Sox that year.

Coached Connie Mack Team to win the New York State Championships. 1958

- 1963 Organized Squirt Hockey in Low Tor, Haverstraw, up to 10 years old, that was the organization of the Low Tor Cubs Hockey Association.
- 1964 Organized Low Tor Mosquitoes, the real little fella (5-7 years old)  
Ran clinics and hockey camps at Low Tor from 1964-1973.
- 1973 Organized the Rockland Ice Arena hockey program, ran clinics and hockey camps for two years, was the chief instructor. One such camp was with Bill O'Flarety from Clarkson University.
- 1975 Coached and taught hockey at the Englewood Field Club for three All-Star and house league teams.
- 1978 Chosen New Jersey Club All-Star Squirt Coach and coached the game at Rockefeller Center in NYC.  
EFC PeeWee team he coached won two Pascack Valley Hockey tournaments.  
Bantams won the 1978 Club league championship.

Refereed PSAL hockey games for about 15 years.

Helped organize the Suffern High School hockey teams.

While at Roc-Ice Arena he ran a referee school with NHL officials – Ron Wicks and John D'Amico.

Now employed at Sport-O-Rama, 18 College Road, Monsey as Director of Hockey. Runs hockey clinics with wife, Barbara – has run three hockey camps, helped organize the Mite program (8 and under)

Ran a benefit game for the Nyack School Bus accident, Camp Jawanio and the Special Olympics.

#### Personal:

Married, August 76 to Barbara.

Children – Denise Antelo 21, Thomas 18 (by a previous marriage), Susan Budrock 20, Chris Ann Budrock 17, Edward Budrock, 11 (wife's children from a pervious marriage.)

Grandchildren – Jaime Antelo, 4; Randy Antelo, 2; Kevin Antelo, 6 months.

While refereeing hockey games, Frank was also the person usually called upon to look after any injured player and his judgement was always highly respected.



**HOWARD JOHNSON**  
(Athlete)

Listed below, to the best of my distant memory are those things of an athletic nature which I did while in Suffern High School.

- Four years Varsity Football (1937-40)  
All-County Quarterback in last one or two years
- Three years Varsity Basketball (1937-40)  
All-County Forward last two years
- Three years Varsity Baseball (1937-40)  
All-County Second Baseman two or three years
- 100-Yard and 220-Yard County Dash Champion (1939-40)

In high school, I had a relatively high Regents average, in the 90's, and was Salutatorian of the 1940 Graduating Class from Suffern High School.

While studying to take the U.S. Naval Academy entrance examination, I returned to high school during the fall semester and was admitted to the Naval Academy in July, 1941, with the Class of 1945. While in the Naval Academy in a three-year class, graduating in June, 1944, with a B.S., I was not active in varsity athletics. This stemmed largely from physical difficulties which I had starting with a ruptured appendix while out for plebe football which required six weeks' stay in the hospital at that time, and then was followed later by a similar stay for a hernia operation. Additional surgery during either my second or third year plagued me and I never did get into the athletic swing during my three-year stay. However, I did compete in many intramural sports in that time and between recuperative periods.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy, I remained in the Navy approximately eight years, two and one-half of which were spent in Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, in post-graduate classes. Degrees earned were a B.C.E. and M.C.E.

My most recent 23 years have been with Avon Products where I have served in many capacities including Vice President-Engineering and Vice President-Manufacturing, which latter job I continue to hold.

My athletic interests are still very high and I participate in snow skiing, both downhill and cross-country, water skiing, golf and tennis.



**LESTER LEPORI**  
(County Athlete)

Taken from The Rockland County Journal-News, April 18, 1963:

Whether gathered round the cracker-barrel at the country general store or thinking out the strategy of a complicated move in chess and checkers, it makes no difference to old-timers in Rockland County.

At the drop of a hat they will stop whatever they are doing to speak with deep respect concerning the athletic prowess of Hillburn's present mayor, Lester Lepori, whenever his name is mentioned, especially in the baseball season.

Lepori was a classic example of the athlete during Spring Valley's fabulous "golden-age" of P.S.A.L. sports and is believed to be the only contestant to ever garner 16 varsity letters in four years of high school competition. (in 4 sports)

His shot-put mark of 43 feet, 1½ inches, made early in the 1930's, was not broken until just after country entered the second World War.

Lepori, a huge man, was called by many related nicknames, including the Human Appenine, Lepori, the Altitudinous, the Schoolboy Speedball King, Mr. Lepori the Eminent Speedball Merchant, and the Monsey Man Mountain.

Lepori had a well-controlled curve, speed to burn, a slowball, and reportedly had more smoke than a Pittsburgh foundry.

It was said of the six footer that he always had a baseball in hand, flipping it against his glove. Remembered, too, is the onyx black baseball cap which was at all times an integral part of his dress, in season and out, morning, noon, and night.

To this day, Lepori is considered to be the greatest athlete ever to graduate from Tigertown.

For three years he was an outstanding lineman in football and during his last year of competition was shifted to the backfield, where he continued to shine.

He played baseball for four years, alternating at first and pitching. Lepori developed into one of the best basketball players in the county. In track, his specialty was the shot-put and he was unbeaten in this event during his last two years at school.

After high school, Lepori played basketball and baseball with the Spring Valley Alumni teams and was the big gun in the first half championship drive of the "A's" during the 1932 baseball season, which ultimately lead to winning of the Hudson Valley Baseball League title.

At one phase of his baseball career, in 1934, a rheumatic ailment threatened to cut short his athletic cavorting. Fortunately, the pain relegated itself to the port of missing aches and Lepori was back in action.

In September of 1935 Lepori entered Cornell University, Ithaca. Injured during football practice, he left the university. Upon returning home, he registered at Mechanics Institute, New York City, and was graduated from there in 1938 as a mechanical draftsman.

He continued his studies, first at the Bergen Junior College, Teaneck, now Fairleigh Dickinson University, and later on at New York University where he remained until Pearl Harbor.

In 1941, Lepori who resided in Monsey, married the former Virginia Genovino of Hillburn, where they presently reside. The Leporis have a daughter, Virginia Celeste, who attends Sacred Heart School in Suffern.

Lepori was inducted into the United States Army, Quartermaster Corps., in May of 1943, and received his basic training at Camp Lee, Va. and Camp Chenango, Sharon, Pa. His point of embarkation was

Camp Shanks, Orangeburg. His division was among the first of the troops to pass through Camp Shanks.

He was one of 22,000 troops sent overseas on the Queen Mary. Lepori remembers the trip well – he was on "K.P." all the way from Camp Shanks to Scotland, England, Paris, and Versailles. He was overseas just short of three years.

While overseas, he received *two armed forces certificates of merit and was discharged honorably* as a master sergeant. Upon his return to the states he went to work for Avon Products, Suffern, and has been with the company for the past 22 years. His title is *senior draftsman*.

#### **Achievements:**

##### **Track – High School – Shot Put:**

1929	Second Prize
1930	First Prize
1931	First Prize
1932	First Prize (set new mark of 43'1½", mark held until 1941 or 1942)

##### **Football – High School**

1929-30	All County Tackle
1931	All County Fullback

##### **Basketball – High School**

Placed on second team as all county center.  
Made all-star center position and led in scoring the most points in at least one or two years.

##### **Baseball – High School**

Picked as best pitcher the last three years.  
After High School, played on various community teams and excelled as a pitcher and as a hitter, having about a 300 batting average.

**WALTER OSTROM**  
(Marksman)  
(Trap Shooter)



1952 Amateur Champion of North America 199 x 200 High overall Champion of New York State – taking singles, doubles and handicap events.

Top ranking gunner of entire state, average of 96.42  
New York Athletic Club at Travers Island.

1953 Class A Champion 199 x 200 – Grand American Class AA 200 Straight – at Vandalia, Ohio.

1955 High overall Champion of New York State – held at DeWitt Fish and Game Club, Syracuse, New York.

Eastern Zone Champion 199 x 200 held at Hopewell Junction, New York.

High out of State – Connecticut State Shoot.

1956 New York State Champion 198 x 200 Rochester, New York.  
Champion of North America, New York Athletic Club, Travers Island.

487 of a possible 500 to win 500 bird marathon – Thomas H. Lawrence memorial trap shoot at New York Athletic Club, Travers Island. Trophy presented by Happy Felton.

1956 All American Trap Team – Sports Afield Magazine.  
Retains Eastern Zone Champion – Pine Valley Gun Club, Clementon, New Jersey.

Howard Kemp Trophy for high overall. 500 targets, Rochester, New York.

Runner-up in New York State doubles – Rochester, New York.

A.T.A. Trophy for high individual honors in 200 bird – at 16 yds. 198 x 200 Rochester, New York.

#### SUMMARY

New York State Champion 1952, 1956 and 1959

High Overall Champion of New York State 1952 and 1955

Eastern Zone Champion 1955, 1956 and 1961

Champion of North America 1952, 1956, 1957 and 1962

All American Trap Team 1956 and 1958 (Sports Afield Magazine)

200 Straight 1953 and 1957 at Grand American, Vandalia, Ohio.

1949 to 1963 – Shot at 42,975 targets  
Broke 41,441  
Average 96.43



**VICTOR JEROME SHANKEY**  
(Baseball)

Victor Jerome Shankey was born in Haverstraw, New York, March 6, 1882, the son of John F. and Annastasia Shankey, one of fifteen of their children. He attended the Haverstraw Public School and graduated therefrom, circa 1900. It should be here pointed out that back in those days there were no organized school baseball teams as such. It is to be presumed then that Vic played a sandlot ball with the rest of the kids in the neighborhood. After a lapse of time he entered Fordham University, circa 1908. During his stay at Fordham he teamed up with a brother, Joe Shankey, to form a battery. Joe had also registered at Fordham. There is no evidence of how he performed there. Whether or not he mowed the opposition with clock-like precision is not known for sure. However, he did come to the attention of the New York Yankees (previously known as the New York Highlanders) and they sent him to their then Spring training camp in Bermuda. Apparently he was not then considered Big League material for he was farmed out to one of their Class A Minor League teams. My records show him to have been with Springfield, Perth Amboy and Troy of the New York-Pennsylvania League. However he was no longer a pitcher. Because of his batting prowess he was developed into a first baseman. As a young fellow I can recall a group of us Haverstrawites travelling to Newburgh, which was then "in the League" to see him play. Circa 1915.

Along came World War I and that ended Vic's professional baseball career when he entered the Armed Forces of the United States, 1917-1918.

A combination of things became a natural for his choice by the Democratic party for the office of Supervisor. He was elected in a landslide, circa 1927 and held the office for over a quarter of a century. During that tenure he also served as Chairman of the Rockland County Board of Supervisors.



**WILLIAM A. YUDA**  
(Football)



**Football Record: High School, College and Professional**

- 1924**  
Pearl River High School  
Member of the first Football team in the history of Pearl River High School.  
Position played: Varsity Football Fullback and was Pearl River High School 1924 Football letter man.
- 1925**  
Pearl River High School  
Position played: Varsity Football Fullback and was Pearl River High School 1925 Football letter man.
- 1926**  
Pearl River High School  
Position played: Varsity Football Fullback and was Pearl River High School 1926 Football letter man – Also Captain of Pearl River High School Football team. Selected as ALL COUNTY BACK for 1926.
- 1927**  
Manhattan College  
Position played: Varsity Football Guard and/or Tackle and was Manhattan College 1927 Football letter man.
- 1928**  
Manhattan College  
Did not play College Football this season due to injury received (broken leg) while at Football training camp.
- 1929**  
Manhattan College  
Position played: Varsity Football Guard and/or Tackle and was Manhattan College 1929 Football letter man.
- 1930**  
Manhattan College  
Position played: Varsity Football Guard and/or Tackle and was Manhattan College 1930 Football letter man.

- 1931**  
Manhattan College  
Position played: Varsity Football Guard and was Manhattan College 1931 Football letter man.
- 1932**  
Paterson Night Hawks  
Professional Football – played regular Guard on team.
- 1933 and 1934**  
Philadelphia Eagles  
Professional Football – played in latter part of the 1934 season as Guard. Retired because of an injury received during the game.

**Football Officiating Record:**

- 1932 to 1970**  
Active Football Official  
(New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania)  
Officiated High School, Prep School and Professional Football games through these years. Member of the Hudson Valley Football Officials Association. Helped organize the Hudson Valley Football Officials Association.

**Football Coaching Record:**

- (Football)  
Assisted Coach I. Shuttleworth with the Pearl River High School Football Team one season while at College.
- (Football)  
Coached Pearl River Alumni Team one season.
- (Football)  
*Played* with the Pearl River Alumni Team a couple of years.
- Other Sports:**  
Also starred in Basketball, Baseball and Track at Pearl River High School.

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County Clerk

Clarkstown Legislators

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HON. EUGENE GROGAN

HON. CATHERINE McDOUGALL

HON. THOMAS MORAHAN, Minority Leader

HON. DAVID WAGNER

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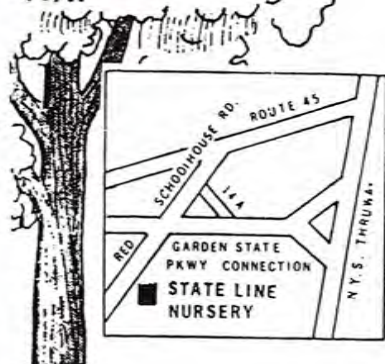
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