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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Sports Hall Of Fame Reminder Is Given

By NEIL A. MATHESON

I WANT to talk about the Prince Edward Island Sports Hall of Fame today and to tell you that the deadline for nominations is June 21, 1969. The directors of the Hall of Fame are to meet here in this office on June 21 to consider nominations so the letters of nomination should be in our hands not later than that day.

The directors are Pete Milburn, Murray River and Aquinas Ryan, St. Peter's for Kings; John MacNeil, Journal-Pioneer sports columnist, Summerside and Wesley Hardy for Alberton for Prince County; and J. Pius Callaghan and John Squarebriggs, both of Charlottetown for Queens. I am the chairman.

Technically the nominations should be mailed to Mr. McNeill – he is the secretary-treasurer – or to myself. But I shall accept nominations placed in the hands of any of the directors if that is more convenient.

The nominations must be submitted in writing, with as much information on the performances of your individual choices as is possible. At a meeting of the directors it was decided that anyone nominated who performed in the period prior to 1900, should have their performances particularly clearly explained, and with as much proof of the performance as is possible.

Nominated By Public

THE RULES and regulations of the Hall of Fame specify that only those whose names are nominated by the general public can be considered. In other words neither the directors nor myself have the privilege of nominating choices.

Our job will be to select as carefully as possible the most worthy candidates from the many names we expect will be submitted.

Only three will be chosen each year, so the directors shall have to select three from among the many candidates that will be mailed in.

I am not suggesting any nominations, but the name of Bill Halpenny of Charlottetown came to mind when I read recently a paper-back book, "The Olympic Games" by David Chester.

It has summaries and some commentary, on all of the Olympiads, from the first one at Athens, Greece in 1896 to the Winter Games in Grenoble, France in 1968.

Bill Halpenny competed in the Olympiad at Stockholm in 1912 and I was amazed to read this reference to the Charlottetown man who died here a few years ago.

"The pole vault provided one of the closest contests at Stockholm, with Marc Wright of Dartmouth and Frank Nelson of Yale tied for second behind Harry Babcock of Columbia and Bill Happendy (their spelling) of Canada.

Flattering To Islander

THIS REFERENCE is flattering to the former local man but unfortunately it is not correct; Halpenny arrived without his pole and it did not arrive in time for the event. So he finished out of the first three I was always told.

The summary of the event in the handbook shows Babcock of the U.S.A. finishing first, F. Nelson and N. Wright of the same country tied for third.

But my information on Bill Halpenny has always been that the following year he competed against the Americans at events in the United States and beat them consistently.

Bill was a member of the Montreal police force at the time and he competed under the colors of the old MAAA (Montreal Amateur Athletic Association).

Just for the record Phil MacDonald, Charlottetown was a member of Canada's Olympic team in 1924; he competed in the 400-metre hurdles but did not place.

To bring that record up to date Rev. William Hare of Breadalbane competed at the Olympic Games in Mexico last year in small arms firing competition. I do not have the details.

Many Deserving Islanders

THERE ARE many other Islanders who would be deserving of consideration; I mentioned the above only because of the reference to Bill Halpenny in the Olympic Handbook which got my mind on that train of thought.

I understand that those who have been unusually prominent in directing, or in the administrative side of athletics may also be considered.

However, your job will be to think of someone you feel deserves consideration for the P.E.I. Sports Hall of Fame.

Our job will be to select three names from that number, and what a job that will be.

Nominations have begun to come in already and the first one comes from His Worship Mayor C. Ross MacKenzie, Summerside. Thank Your Worship for starting the parade.

Unusual Stories – Ghost?

I FOUND this week a few sheets of notes I took several years ago from Norman Matheson, Forest Hill on ghost stories and forerunners he had heard of – he saw several of them.

Most of them I have used previously in this column, but there are one or two which I don't believe I have used.

He told me: "My sisters were going to the Post Office one evening and they were nearing the place where a culvert crossed the road, when a woman came out of the dusk and walked along a short piece ahead of them.

But the woman disappeared suddenly when she reached the spot where the culvert or little bridge was. "It was hard to get my sisters to go to the post office after that," Norman told me.

And that reminds me that in the many ghost stories I have heard it always developed that visitors from the spirit world were always afraid of crossing water. Indeed I believe the stories always did indicate that the ghostly visitors would not cross water.

Here is an unusual story: A Forest Hill man was coming home from St. Peter's one night and he could see a large (?) behind him all the way. Norman told me the man was travelling by horse and sleigh. I do not have any more . . . (?) was not explained.