

Clayton Dugger, Waco, TX

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"TURNING BACK PAGES" By Irv Kawarsky

TEXAS '51 NSC CHAMPS

(Editor's Note: Irv Kawarsky researched this feature for The Bulletin, but this month it was done by Dick Brombeck, The Bulletin's first advisor.)

PHOENIX, ARIZ. (September, 1951) - A colorful and popular men's team from Calvert, Texas, scored its second straight victory over Pike's Plumbers of Phoenix, 5-0, with a sudden and unexpected outburst in ninth inning. The victory gave the Texans the 1951 National Softball Congress (forerunner to the International Softball Congress) world championship.

Calvert, which helped make the men's tournament as popular as the women's in this fastpitch stronghold of the women's game, earned its title the hard way, coming up through the losers' bracket after dropping an earlier game to Pike's and then losing its top pitcher Cecil Ellis with an injured shoulder. But Weldon Haney, a tall youngster, who grinned when he became Substitute in trouble, took over the mound for Calvert and twirled Real Saver a tough victory over defending champion Hanford, Calif., in the losers' bracket finals before halting Pike's and Kenny Law twice. The big burst in the ninth after eight scoreless innings, included a hit batter, an intentional walk to load the bases and four hits by Bill Deloach (2-bagger); Buddy Furrer, whose sharp single to center, Dave Smith and Lewis Williams.

Calvert..... 000 000 005 - 5 6 0
Pike's..... 000 000 000 - 0 6 1
Haney and Williams; Law and Willis.



NATIONAL SOFTBALL CONGRESS CHAMPS in 1951 was this team from Calvert, Texas, managed by Clyde Fortune, present 1st Vice President of the International Softball Congress. Fortune is the man in street clothes. The team's top hurler was Cecil Ellis (back row, extreme left) and next to him is Dick Gonzales who has gained fame as an ISC All-American for the Gardena (Calif.) Merchants.

Clayton Dugger Sr. was a legendary fastpitch softball player from Waco, TX, affectionately known by his family as "Poppa." He was a much-respected military man who served in World War II. Clayton was a decorated fastpitch softball player who was a part of many Texas teams from 1946 to 1970, most notably the Calvert Softball Club team, which won the NSC in 1951. In 1952, Dugger pitched a perfect game at the NSC World Tournament. He played in 19 consecutive World Tournaments.