

**CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION (CIF)**

#143 Historical “tidbit.”  
Dr. John S. Dahlem



**“JOSEPH THURMAN HILL”**

**CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF DEAF BERKELEY**  
**CIF STATE SHOT PUT CHAMPION 1936**

**1936 Track Weight Star**

**April 7, 1915 – March 5, 1962 46 Years Old**

**“HERO OF THE EASTBAY”**

**Californian Golden Grove Heavyweight Boxing Champion**

**Fought under the title “Silent Joe”**

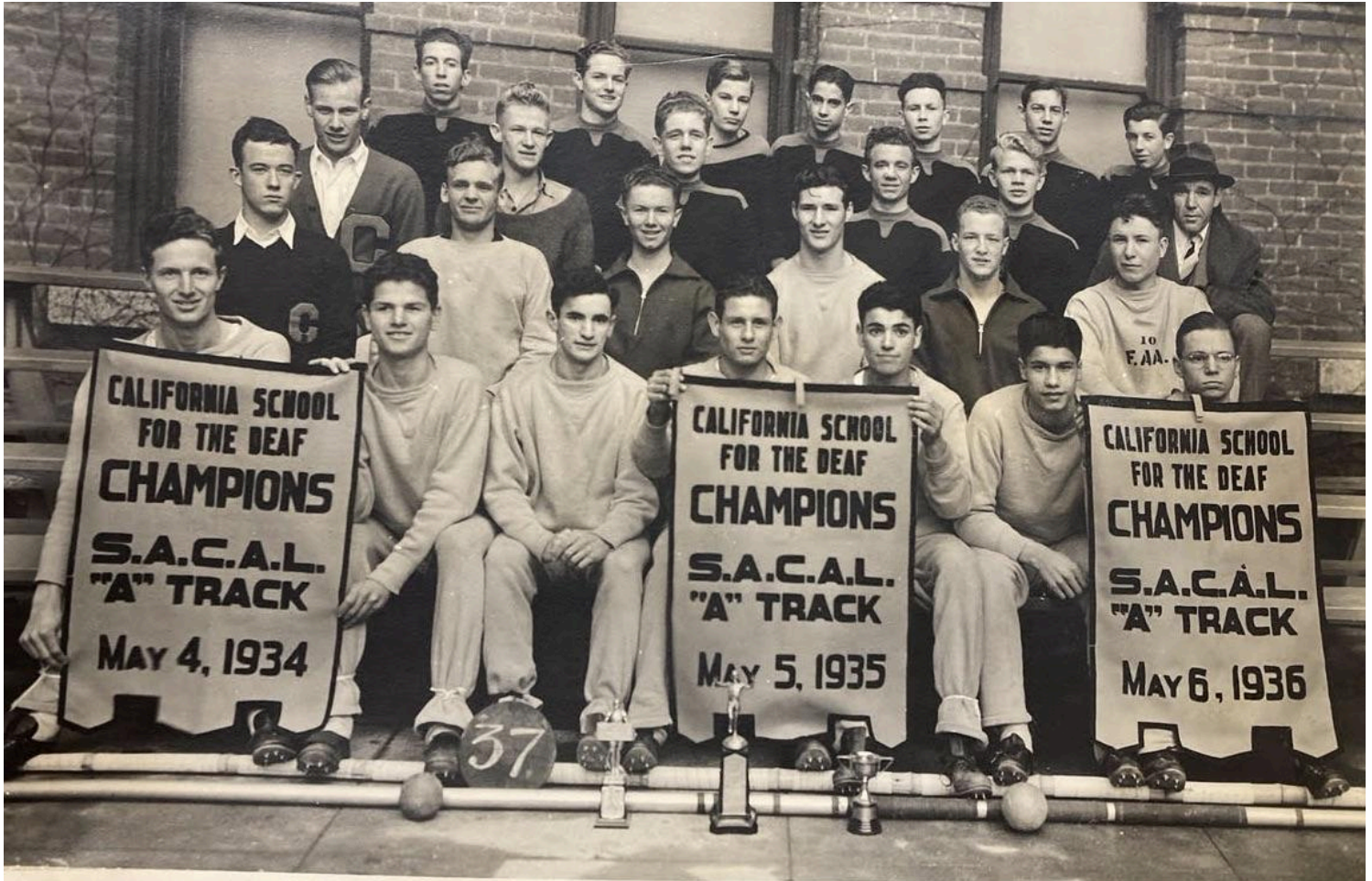


Joe Fox...front row right Champion in 12 lb. and 16 lb. shot put...team 10<sup>th</sup> place





Thank you to Metal Medal, Lisa Nunez, Julie Bella, and Mel Pedersen for their help in searching the library resources at the School for the Deaf in Fremont



*The 1937 TRACK TEAM*



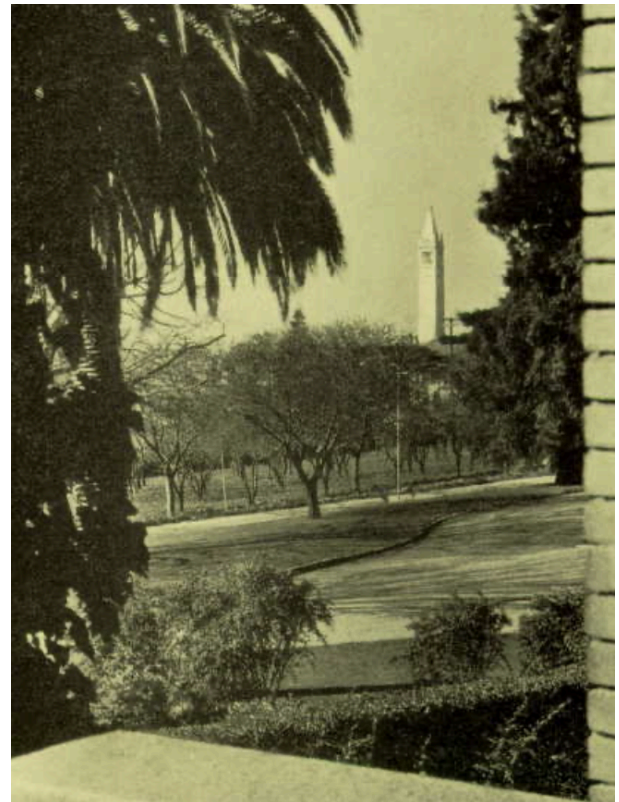
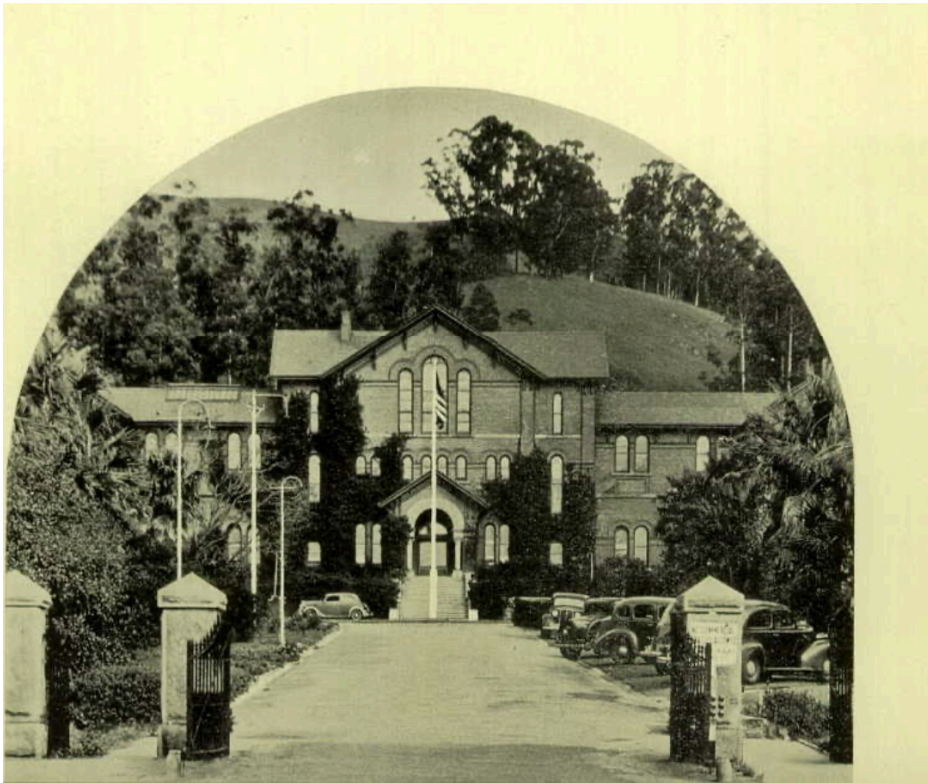
C. I. F. STATE HIGH SCHOOL Track and Field Meet STEPHENS FIELD WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL Saturday, May 22, 1937	
<b>Officials</b>	
Host.....	Harry J. Moore, Prin. W. Wilson
Manager.....	Seth F. Van Patten, Com. of Athletics C. I. F., Southern Section
Referee.....	C. L. Greer
Starter.....	Kinter Hamilton
Asst. Mgr in Charge of Field and Equip. ....	Roland Davis
Asst. Mgr in Charge of Officials.....	Arthur Badenoch
<b>JUDGES OF FINISH</b>	
Clarence Barnes—Head	Elmer Kell
James C. Reinhard	Dick Cline
H. B. Dolton	D. P. Hennes
Dave Lewis	
Will French	<b>POLE VAULT</b>
Wayne Elgin	A. M. Archer
Frank Lord	Jack Atkins
C. G. Sedwick	<b>SHOT PUT</b>
H. C. Ublis	Robert Triggs
<b>TYMERS</b>	John Ward
Larry Houston—Head	Leon Sherman
Stanley Cundiff	<b>BROAD JUMP</b>
D. B. Swan	J. W. McCleery
Normal Hayburst	Paul Smith
Ed Laurensou	Fred Betts
<b>INSPECTORS</b>	<b>FOOTBALL THROW</b>
Gerald Ayres	Lloyd Walter
John Bushler	Charles Brown
W. A. Kearns	



The Berkeley School for the Deaf was founded in San Francisco in 1860, the school moved to Berkeley in 1869. The new site, constructed in 1869 at 2601 Warring St., Berkeley, CA, adjacent to the campus of the University of California, Berkeley, served as the school for the deaf until the late 1970s, when the University of California successfully petitioned for it to be condemned as seismically unsafe, forcing the school to move. A *Daily Cal* article on November 29, 1979, reported that the university administration had "coveted the Deaf and Blind School land for 57 years." Half of the school's land went to UC Berkeley, while the other half went to the city.

*The school opened in a new facility in Fremont, California in Fall 1980.*

*(Berkeley 1936)*





**CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP 1936 GRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

**Shot Put - 12lb Varsity - Finals**

1. 12 Joe Hill 54-05.25 PR California School for th...
2. 12 Nello Del Porto NM Santa Maria
3. 12 Dick Snyder NM Taft Union
4. 12 Frank Orloff NM Taft Union
5. 12 Chuck Crowell NM Excelsior (Closed 1981)

**Shot Put - 16lb Varsity Exhibition - Finals**

1. 12 Joe Hill 44-07.75 SR California School for th...
2. 12 Dick Snyder NM Taft Union
3. 12 Chuck Crowell NM Excelsior (Closed 1981)
4. 12 Nello Del Porto NM Santa Maria
5. 12 Frank Orloff NM Taft Union

15 Thompson	Modesto	167 Snyder	Taft
10 Packwood	Lassen	168 Orloff	Taft
22 Anderson	Rio Vista	149 Lauton	Fresno
7 Gagle	Stockton	169 Dykes	Taft
76 Dal Porta	Santa Maria	106 Hill	Calif. Sch. Deaf
51 Crowell	Excelsior	92 Bierwith	Alameda
85 Standlee	W. Wilson	131 Stahhberg	Vallejo
75 Sohn	San Diego	112 Roth	Palo Alto



Drew Trophy named after Frank C. Drew back in 1914 to honor the top weight thrower at the State Meet

15 Thompson	Modesto	106 Hill	Calif. Deaf
10 Packwood	Lassen	92 Bierwith	Alameda
23 Anderson	Rio Visto	131 Stahhberg	Vallejo
30 Gagle	Stockton	112 Roth	Palo Alto
76 Dal Porta	Santa Maria	167 Snyder	Taft
51 Crowell	Excelsior	168 Orloff	Taft
85 Standlee	W. Wilson	149 Lauton	Fresno
75 Sohn	San Diego	169 Dykes	Taft



**Joe Hill**, shotputter from the California School for the **Deaf**, won his event with the distance of 44 feet 7¾ inches, with the 16-pound ball. With the 12-pound ball, Hill tossed it 54 feet 5¼ inches. He proved outstanding.

Bodkin, Inglewood polevaulter, cleared the bar at 12 feet 11 inches. Arnold of Muir Tech won the broad jump with a leap of 23 feet 1¾ inches, while Spears of Palo Alto placed first in the high jump. Height, 6 feet 3¾ inches.

Following is how the other cinder teams finished: Woodrow Wilson, Long Beach, 13; Sacramento, 12; Gridley and **Berkeley**, 9; Santa Monica and Inglewood, 8; Glendale, 6; Long Beach, 5½; Placer, Palo Alto, California School for the **Deaf**, Taft, Pittsburg, Tamalpais and Fillmore, 5; Hollister, 4 1-3; Montebello, Lodi, Claremont, Santa Maria, Stockton, Galt and Whittier, 4; Paso Robles, Woodland, Fullerton, Alameda, Compton, Analy, Carpinteria and San Diego, 3; Madera, 2½; Merced, Yuba City and Valencia, 2; Hayward, Lemoore, Fresno, high, Excelsior, Edison Tech of Fresno and Shasta, 1; Westwood, 1-3.

## AMATEURS ON AT EL CERRITO

Sammy Candelario of the Oakland Moose Club and George Ciri-melli, San Francisco C. Y. O., will headline the amateur fight program at the El Cerrito Madison Square Garden tonight. The boys will weigh in at 130 pounds and will go four rounds. The card is to start at 8:30 o'clock.

The second main event will be a re-match of Charles Felix, Pittsburg, and George Clifford, West Oakland, at 130. Other bouts on the program are:

Semi-final — Walt Ramus, Oakland, vs. "Cowboy" Potter, San Francisco, at 150 pounds. Special event — **Joe Hill, Berkeley Deaf** and Dumb School, vs. Al Thoman, San Jose, heavyweights.

## JOE HILL LOOMS ON NATIONAL HORIZON

ANOTHER Bakersfield athlete has focused the attention of the nation on the "biggest little sport center in the world" when **Silent Joe Hill**, rapid rising **deaf** and **blind** fighter from Bakersfield, was heralded from the Atlantic to the Pacific in a three-page layout in a national picture magazine ("Pic").

Hill, who lived on a farm in Rose-dale, is remembered by all boxing fans here who saw him start out on an amateuristic career in Bakersfield and finally turn to professional ranks. He earned letters in four school sports and some say he could have played professional football if he had been able to hear signals and hear coaches' instructions.

Hill graduated from the School for **Deaf** in **Berkeley** and turned to the oil fields for work as a welder but his first love—sports—soon came back and he entered amateur boxing ranks where he kayoed Lou Nova and other ranking amateurs. Pic asserts. Bakersfield fans recall the time **Silent Joe** pounded his way to the heavyweight championship of the Pacific coast in the Golden Gloves tournament.

Joe then went east for the Diamond Belts tourney and reached the finals against Eddie Lubin. He thought the bout was to go four rounds instead of three and mistaken timing cost him the decision.

Walter Friedman, known as "Good Time Charlie," the man who discovered Primo Carnera and brought the huge ex-champion to America, became interested in the Rose-dale Rapper and soon was managing Joe as a pro.

Friedman learned sign language and started getting his fighter matches throughout the country. His last important fight was with Pat Comiskey, the slugging young heavyweight title contender. **Silent Joe** lost that fight on a technical knockout in the eight and last round.

He wants a return match with Comiskey and sincerely believes he will be able to take on Champion Joe Louis some day.



## Deaf Mute Reaches Gloves Semi-Finals

LOS ANGELES, (AP)—Joe Hill of Taft, who never hears the cheers that acclaim his athletic prowess, tonight boxes Mickey McNamara, local amateur, in a semi-final heavyweight bout of the Golden Gloves tournament. Despite an accident in infancy which left him a deaf mute, Hill has starred in football, baseball and track for his home town high school.

Oakland Tribune  
Fri, Apr 03, 1936 ·Page 36

## HILL WINS FOUR

At the California School for the Deaf Hill, who was the sensation of last year's prep season with his attempts on the National 12-pound prep shotput record, came through with victories in the shot, discus and the high and low hurdles.

Hill won the 100-yard high hurdles in 14.8, the 95-yard lows in 11.2, the shotput at 51 feet 4½ inches and the discus at 103 feet.

The Oakland Post Enquirer  
Mon, May 25, 1936 ·Page 17

Joe Hill, shotputter from the California School for the Deaf, won his event with the distance of 44 feet 7¾ inches, with the 16-pound ball. With the 12-pound ball, Hill tossed it 54 feet 5¼ inches. He proved outstanding.

Oakland Tribune  
Sun, May 24, 1936 ·Page 67

## HILL TAKES SHOT

Joe Hill of the California School for the Deaf at Berkeley might be called the Eastbay's outstanding hero, for he won the 12-pound shot with a great heave of 54 ft. 5¼ in. and copped the 16-pound exhibition event for the Drew Trophy with an excellent mark of 44 ft. 7¾ in.

Oakland Tribune  
Tue, May 08, 1934 ·Page 26

## Deaf Athletes Win Track Meet

With a point total of 60, California School for the Deaf won a track meet at Centerville, the other contestants being Livermore and Washington of Centerville. Livermore finished second with 50, while Washington was third with 33.

Summary:

880-yard Gagner (C), Crabhead (L), Habenecht (W). Time, 2 minutes 12.2 seconds.

100-yard dash—Carlson (C), Brown (L), Andrade (W). Time, 16.3 seconds.

120-yard high hurdles—Hill (C), Deck (L), Keough (W). Time, 18 seconds.

440-yard dash—Warren (L), Baker (C), Fischer (W). Time, 55.2 seconds.

220-yard dash—Carlson (C), Pitt (L), Brown (L). Time, 23.1 seconds.

220-yard low hurdles—Deck (L), Keough (W), Lightfoot (L). Time, 28.8 seconds.

Mile run—Kanihin (C), Garner (C), Cesari (W). Time, 5 minutes 17.2 seconds.

Shot—Hill (C), Sinclair (W), Pitt (L). Distance, 51 feet 11 inches.

Pole vault—Fales (L), Donnel (C), Ramos (W). 11 feet 3 inches.

Broad jump—Warren (L), Williams (C), Pitt (L). 19 feet 7½ inches.

Discus—Hill (C), Sinclair (W), Lazzarini (C). 108 feet 4¼ inches.

High jump—Myrick (W), Fales and Warren (L) tied, 5 feet 9 inches.

Relay—Baker, Bock, Lewis and Carlson (C). Time, 1 minute 37 seconds.



# County Preps Start Season

The Southern Alameda County Athletic League composed of the high schools at Livermore, Center-ville, Pleasanton, Emeryville and the California School for the Deaf at Berkeley, opens its football season tomorrow.

Emeryville High School of Emeryville has beaten Technical High School reserves 7-0, Antioch High School 19-7, lost to Lick-Wilmerding 0-7, and St. Helena 6-13. George Righter, a Stanford man, is coach.

California School for the Deaf

## Oakland Tribune (Oakland, California)

1966 > June > 1

Ken may be only the second CSD athlete ever to compete in the State Meet. Joe Hill won the shot put in 1936.

"It's an all-time high for us," noted Dave Fraley, who is in his 18th year as coach of the school's major sports. "We've never even had a kid qualify for the North Coast meet until now."

Oakland Tribune

Thu, Mar 07, 1935 -Page 21

The following was written by Eric Malzkuhn, one of Golden People of CSD:

"When I first entered CSD [in 1934] I was placed in Moss Hall with the 'Big Boys' because I was in the 8th grade. Not then able to sign, I got into some ludicrous situations. The first week I was at CSD was miserable, kids all teasing me or ignoring me. One evening Joe Hill, a huge student, approached me and asked me to help with his English homework. I did that and next time Joe Hill saw a kid abusing me, he picked him up by his belt and said: 'Finish!' So I was left in peace until Hill left CSD [in 1936], but by that time I was big enough to take care of myself."

## PREP BETTERS U. S. MARK IN PRACTICE

By CULVER LEWIS

Joe Hill, 18-year-old junior at the California School for the Deaf, and the school's outstanding track star, is out to set a new National Interscholastic record in the 12-pound shot this year. For already in practice he has sent the shot out nearly 60 feet, over a foot better than the present record of 58 feet 10 inches.

Roy Parks, track mentor at the Deaf School, expects Hill to set a new record at one of the early meets this Spring, and plans to have the necessary officials on hand to confirm the mark when made.

### TOSES, DISCUS, ALSO

Hill is also a discus thrower of ability and holds the S. A. C. A. L. record of 135 feet in the event. A team mate, Henry Elmore, is expected to break this record soon, however, and take second to Hill in the shot with tosses ranging around 50 feet.



## Oakland Tribune

Fri, Apr 03, 1936 ·Page 36

Meanwhile at the California School for the **Deaf** a team of **Berkeley** High reserves were defeating the home team 65 $\frac{2}{3}$  to 48 $\frac{1}{3}$  in a meet featured by the sensational performances of the **deaf** school's weight and hurdle star, **Joe Hill**.

## Oakland Tribune

Sun, May 24, 1936 ·Page 67

### HILL TAKES SHOT

**Joe Hill** of the California School for the **Deaf** at **Berkeley** might be called the Eastbay's outstanding hero, for he won the 12-pound shot with a great heave of 34 ft. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  in. and copped the 16-pound exhibition event for the Drew Trophy with an excellent mark of 44 ft. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  in.

## Oakland Tribune

Fri, Apr 19, 1935 ·Page 30

The **Deaf** School, with plenty of power in some events, may be expected to figure. **Joe Hill**, husky shot-putter, will be favorite in the 12-pound shot, for although he has slipped in form and cannot approach the 60 feet he was touted to hit, he is still several feet better than his rivals.

Walt Otto, Alameda low hurdler, should grasp first place. If ready, Otto can better 25 seconds over the 220 route. Horace Carlson, **Deaf** sprinter, with best marks of 10 flat and 21.9 in the century and furlong, should also be in the front rank.

## Oakland Tribune

Fri, May 22, 1936 ·Page 38

### LOCAL MARKS TOPS

Another local school that can be figured as somewhere near the top is the California School for the **Deaf** of **Berkeley**. **Joe Hill**, shot-putter, won't have to play second fiddle to any man entered in this event, and he may come through with a point or two in the discus.

Few marks turned in in the State this year have been better than those made locally and the two local schools have high hopes of helping to turn the tide in favor of Northern California. Last year the winning Southern team had a total of 13 points, gained through two first places and a third.



**Joe Hill**, the now prominent deaf star, who was to try for the National interscholastic record in the shot-put this morning at Edwards Field, proved to be the individual hero of the day with wins in the shot-put, broad jump and high hurdles, and a third in the low hurdles, not to mention a conceded victory in the discus.

Oakland Tribune  
Fri, Apr 19, 1935 ·Page 30

Oakland Tribune  
Fri, Mar 29, 1935 ·Page 34

## PREP STAR TO ATTACK SHOT RECORD

By CULVER LEWIS

Outstanding track stars from the Alameda County Athletic League, the Contra Costa County schools, and from the California School for the Deaf are set to gather tomorrow morning at Edwards Field to pool their efforts in an attempt to defeat the California freshmen. The meet starts at 10 a. m.

**Joe Hill**, weight man from the California School for the Deaf, and Jim Kitts of the frosh should put up a great performance in the shot put. Hill has several times broken the National Intercollegiate record of 58 feet 11 inches in the 12-pound shot, though none of his efforts have had official verification. Officials will be on hand tomorrow to check his performances.

The Deaf School, with plenty of power in some events, may be expected to figure. **Joe Hill**, husky shot-putter, will be favorite in the 12-pound shot, for although he has slipped in form and cannot approach the 60 feet he was touted to hit, he is still several feet better than his rivals.

The Fresno Bee  
Tue, Dec 30, 1941 ·Page 4

### Filomena Ferrara Is Guest Of Honor At Prenuptial Shower

Miss Filomena Ferrara, the fiancée of Joseph T. Hill, was the guest of honor recently at a surprise miscellaneous shower given by her sisters, Misses Giovina and Yolanda Ferrara.

The evening was spent in playing games, and prizes were awarded to the winning competitors. The bride elect was presented with a shower of gifts.

The Christmas theme was carried out in the decorations.

The guests with Miss Ferrara were Mesdames Mildred Zanetti, Leopoldine Lo Forti, Geraldine Fittjie, Mari Pearl Lo Forti, Doria Compolongo, Angela Burt, Rose Lo Forti, Geraldine Nielsen, Jane Rayner and Elvira Ferrara and Misses Tanzi Kalasich, Lorraine Kalasich, Alice Costales, Elsie Costales, Cynthia Rabaloli, Lucy Zanetti, Virginia Parret, Elsie Corsini, Ruth Hicks, Clara Panero, Marguerite Lo Forti and Eleanor McClain.



# SILENT JOE HILL

**I**F Joe Hill hadn't tumbled from his crib when a baby, he might now be America's greatest athlete. For, despite the fact that he has not heard a sound since the childhood accident, and has only lately learned to speak in monosyllables, he earned letters in four school sports and could have played on any pro-football team in the country had he been able to hear signals and listen to coaches' instructions. When Joe graduated from a school for the deaf and dumb in Berkeley, California, he became a welder and worked in the oil fields. But his love of athletics turned him to boxing, where muteness handicapped him little. He K.O.ed Lou Nova and other ranking amateurs and entered and won the heavyweight division of the Pacific Golden Gloves Tourney.

## Oakland Tribune Sports <sup>15</sup>

VOL. CXL OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1944 NO. 5



Bob Blevins, local heavy paired with Silent **Joe Hill** on tonight's fight card, autographs a glove for pretty Gloria Stark, Sacramento girl singing with Gary Nottingham's dance band here. Miss Stark first saw Blevins boxing amateur in Woodland and is one of Bob's most ardent boosters. Harold Blackshear and Al Jordan top tonight's ring show.—Tribune photo.



SERIAL NUMBER <b>2952</b>		1. NAME (Print) <b>Joe Thurman Hill</b> <small>(First) (Middle) (Last)</small>			ORDER NUMBER <b>121214</b>
2. ADDRESS (Print) <b>Rt 1, Box 443 Visalia Tulare Calif.</b> <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>					
3. TELEPHONE <b>None</b> <small>(Exchange) (Number)</small>		4. AGE IN YEARS <b>25</b> <small>DATE OF BIRTH</small> <b>AUG 7, 1915</b> <small>(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)</small>		5. PLACE OF BIRTH <b>De Soto</b> <small>(Town or county)</small> <b>Illinois</b> <small>(State or country)</small>	
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS <b>MRS. FRANK. BILLY HILL</b> <small>(Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)</small>				6. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON <b>Mother</b> <small>(State)</small>	
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON <b>Rt, 3, Box 157 BAKERSFIELD Kern Calif.</b> <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>					
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME <b>JAKE MULLER WALNUT &amp; GRAPE RANCH</b>					
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS <b>Rt 1, Box 443 Visalia Tulare Calif.</b> <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>					
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.					
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1 <small>(over)</small>				16-17105 <b>Joe Hill</b> <small>(Registrant's signature)</small>	

Note reference to "Can not hear."

REGISTRAR'S REPORT					
DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT					
RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION		
White	<b>6'1"</b>	<b>180</b>	Sallow		
	EYES	HAIR	Light	<b>X</b>	
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Ruddy		
	Gray	Red	Dark		
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Freckled		
	Brown	Black	Light brown		
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown		
		Bald	Black		
Filipino					

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification:  
**Can not hear.**

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Registrar for: **Ella Beeder**  
(Signature of registrar)  
**Cameron**  
(Precinct) (Ward) (City or county) (State)

Date of registration: **10/16/40**

131

LOCAL BOARD NO. 131  
Court House

(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the white space below.)





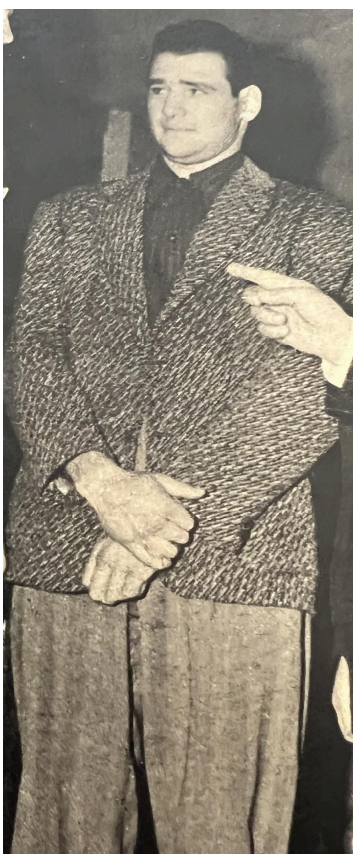
# "PIC" BROADWAY

# "C" HOLLYWOOD

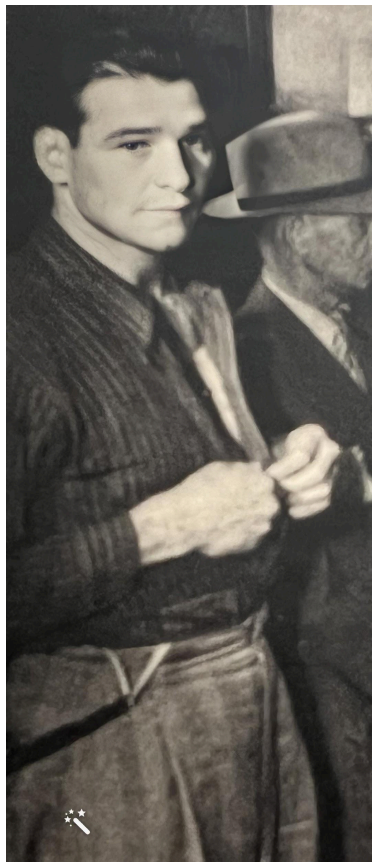
# "C" SPORT

DEC. 12.

3 MAGAZINES IN ONE - - COVERING THE ENTIRE FIELD OF ENTERTAINMENT

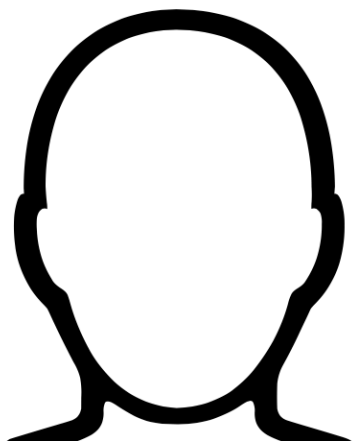


**JOE CAME TO BOSTON** for the Diamond Belts tournament and was matched in the finals against Eddie Lubin. Joe thought the bout was to go four rounds instead of three, and because of mistaken timing lost to Lubin. Shortly afterward he signed with Walter Friedman (right)





# Silent Joe Hill



- Box-pro
- Box-am**
- All Bouts

**division** heavy **ID#** 050844  
**status** inactive **sex** ♂ male  
**bouts** 4 **nationality** 🇺🇸 USA  
**rounds** 13 **residence** 🇺🇸 Fresno, California, USA  
**KOs** 0% **wiki** [W](#)  
**career** 1937-1937  
**debut** 1937-11-22

date	opponent	w-l-d	last 6	venue	result
1937-12-13	Joe Lubin	3 0 0	●●●	🇺🇸 Boston Garden, Boston	L-PTS
Heavyweight Final of Hearst All-American Diamond Belt and Golden Glove Tournament (Syracuse Journal).					
1937-11-29	Hal Lackshire	debut		🇺🇸 Olympic Auditorium, Los Angeles	W-PTS
California State Amateur Championships - heavyweight - Final					
1937-11-22	Mickey McNamara	debut		🇺🇸 Olympic Auditorium, Los Angeles	W-PTS
Los Angeles Golden Gloves - heavyweight - Semi-final					
1937-11-22	Johnny O'Tarris	1 0 0	●	🇺🇸 Olympic Auditorium, Los Angeles	W-PTS
Los Angeles Golden Gloves - heavyweight - Final					

