



Shown above are the officials and team representatives of the Western North Carolina Industrial Baseball League at the first organizational meeting of the 1949 season.

Left to right, sitting: R. Hipps, retiring president; B. Shaney, Berkeley Mills; W. Ayers of Enka, League secretary; G. Adams and E. White,

Martel Mills, and unidentified Clearwater representative.

Left to right, standing: J. Alexander, Ecusta; G. Bischoff, Hazelwood; C. C. Poindexter, Canton; A. Yount, Hazelwood; D. Crowder, Clearwater; unidentified; W. Spence, Canton; C. Hipps, Beacon; S. Patton, Enka; and G. Bailey of Beacon.

BASEBALL SEASON OPENS APRIL 16—

The first organizational meeting of the Western North Carolina Industrial Baseball League was held at Enka on Tuesday night, March 8, to make plans for the 1949 season.

The league directors voted to continue the one game a week schedule with the opening date set for Saturday, April 16. The league schedule is to be drawn up and presented to the league for approval at the next director's meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 22. The outcome of the meeting is not available at this writing, and more complete details of our Ecusta teams schedule will be carried in the April issue of THE ECHO.

Bill Lewis of the Asheville School for Boys was elected to the presidency of the League for the 1949 season, replacing Bobby Hipps of Asheville, who resigned because of business commitments. Jimmie Williamson of Canton was elected vice president and Wilson Ayers of Enka was re-elected as the secretary and treasurer of the League.

Canton was accepted as the eighth team of the League to replace the Sayles Bleacheries. The remaining seven clubs are: Enka, Ecusta, Beacon,

Clearwater, Hazelwood, Berkeley Mills and Martel.

A new feature, the Shaugnessey play-off system, was adopted and included in this year's schedule. This addition was accepted in order to add more interest to the last few weeks of the season. The schedule of 21 games will end on August 20th and on the following week the Shaugnessey play-off will begin with the first and third; the second and fourth teams meeting in a 'sudden death' one game battle.

The winners of this game will then play a two best out of three series for the play-off championship.

The Ecusta baseball squad will report for initial practice on Monday, March 28, at 3:00 P. M. From all reports most of last year's roster will be on hand to give us a good hustling ball club. At the present writing there are question marks after two of last year's regulars. Rick Orr of the Machine Room is still doubtful in his decision about reporting this year. Ray Byrd of Inspection finds himself in about the same situation. Since Ray will be relieved of his catching

Continued on page 23