

James Y. Hughes

(- 4 Jun 1962)

Hughes, James Y. On Monday, June 4, 1962 at St. Elizabeths Hospital, James Y. Hughes of 4314 12th st. ne., husband of the late Mary W. Hughes and father of Mrs. Margaret Gore. Friends may call at the Lee Funeral Home, 4th st. and Massachusetts ave. ne., until 9 a.m. Thursday, June 7. Mass will be offered at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 2d and C sts. ne., at 9:30 a.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

Hughes, James Y. Washington Lodge No. 15, B.P.O. Elks will assemble at Lee Funeral Home, 4th and Massachusetts ave. ne., Wednesday, June 6, 1962 at 7:30 p.m. To exemplify the Ritual of the Order, in memory of our late Brother James H. Hughes. By order of:

Milton F. McMahon, Exalted Ruler

Attest: R.T. Pickrel, Secretary

The Evening Star, June 5, 1962, p. B2

Shorty Hughes Dies at 84, Longtime Baseball Figure

James Y. (Shorty) Hughes, who devoted almost 80 years of his life as a baseball player, umpire, coach and fan, will be buried Thursday at Congressional Cemetery alongside his wife, Winifred, who passed away five years ago.

Mr. Hughes died yesterday at age 84 while undergoing an operation at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. The body will be at Lee Funeral Home, Fourth street and Massachusetts avenue, N.E., until the requiem mass at 9:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Joseph's Church, 313 Second street, N.E.

Shorty was born in 1878 in a house where now stands the Eastern Branch of the Boys Club of Greater Washington, and barely five years later started playing baseball. In 1903 he got a tryout with the Philadelphia Athletics, as an infielder but a charley horse killed his chances.

After starring for several sandlot teams around Washington, Hughes turned to umpiring, coaching baseball and basketball at Catholic University in the 1930s, then scouting for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

In 1940 he was retired by the Naval Gun Factory, where he was a supervisor in the supply department, because of eye trouble, Clark Griffith, owner of the old Washington Senators, hired him as a ticket taker until his sight failed almost completely, then moved him to the press box as custodian.

"When the Senators moved to Minnesota, that was the end of him," said his daughter and only survivor, Mrs. Ernest N. Gore of 4314 Twelfth street N.E.

Hughes had four sisters and two brothers and is survived outside the immediate family by about 300 nieces and nephews, according to Mrs. Gore. Many of the relatives attended the Hughes' golden wedding anniversary in 1950.

The Washington Post, June 5, 1962, p. A22

Pioneer Sandlotter

Shorty Hughes Dies at 84

James Y. (Shorty) Hughes, pioneer sandlot baseball player and former big league scout and college coach, died yesterday at St. Elizabeth's Hospital while undergoing an operation. He was 84.

The body is at the Lee Funeral Home, 4th and Massachusetts ave. ne. A requiem mass will be offered at St. Joseph's Church, 313 2d st. ne. at 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

A life-long resident of Washington, Shorty appropriately was born in a house where the Southeast Branch of the Washington Boys Club now stands.

A fine infielder, he starred with several sandlot teams including the Eastern Stars, the Shamrocks of Swampoodle and the Rock Creek Stars. He had a tryout with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1903 but hurt his arm in spring training.

He became a baseball and basketball coach at Catholic University. He scouted for the old Brooklyn Dodgers in addition to working as an umpire. He umpired baseball games at the Naval Academy for over 25 years and was the founder of what later became the Metropolitan Umpires Association.

Hughes worked at the Naval Gun Factory supply department for 42 years, retiring as superintendent in 1940. A long-time friend of the late Clark Griffith, Shorty was the Griffith Stadium press-box custodian until the move to D.C. Stadium.

He was a member of the Home Plate Club, the Elks and the Metropolitan Umpires Association who honored him with the No. 1 card. -- Bob Addie