Haskel McInturf was born in 1928, in Protem, Missouri and moved to Oroville when he was eight years old. He attended Morris Ravine, a one room school near Table Mountain, and graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1945. He was a member of the Honor Society as a sophomore, junior and senior. He also participated in track during his junior year and boxed as a junior and a senior. He earned his Associate Arts degree from Yuba College in 1947, and his Bachelor’s Degree from Chico State College in 1951.

Hack, as he was best known, taught in the Oroville Union High School District (OUHSD) for thirty-two years, teaching shop, math, geography, mechanical drawing and driver education. He started the OHS cross country program during the 1950’s and also coached junior varsity baseball, track and field and rambler basketball. His cross country teams went on to win championships in 1956 and 1957, and his JV baseball team won a B Division title in 1958. His city league softball team won three consecutive championships.

While teaching, Hack managed to find time to serve as Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America and was a YMCA group leader. He also gave presentations to the local historical society.

Hack was a lifelong educator who dedicated his life to public service in the community and region he loved. “Hack spent his whole life helping people,” said former Butte County Sheriff Perry Reniff. “He was very much a giver.”

In the early 60’s after being asked by his young son Jeff why Ishi did not have a monument, Hack designed and built the Ishi monument on Oro Quincy Highway, where Ishi was found. In 1996, along with his brother Leo, he also designed and built a monument to his alma mater, Morris Ravine School, and was the recipient of the Award of Merit from the California Historical Society.

Hack was a member of the section council of the California Teachers Association and served as secretary of the International Woodworkers of America.

Writing was also a passion of Hack’s, and he published a book entitled, “Once Upon a Depression”. Over the years, he also published several other articles and wrote numerous poems for family and friends.

He served on the Oroville Wyandotte Irrigation District Board of Directors for ten years, acting as president for five of those years. He was the driving force behind the Oroville Wyandotte Irrigation District (OWID) bond measure passing for the completion of the water treatment plant near Kelley Ridge.

In 1984, Hack was elected to the Butte County Board of Supervisors, representing the people of District 1. He served two terms and was appointed chairman in 1988. As a supervisor, he supported and facilitated the construction of the new Butte County jail and was the driving force behind the nine year project to get the Oroville-Quincy Highway to Buck’s Lake paved.
Butte County District Attorney, Mike Ramsey, who was a student at Oroville High school when Hack was a teacher there, said, “Hack served during some of the toughest economic times for the county, and it was a result of his extraordinary common sense, integrity, honesty, and humor that Butte County made it through those times.” He also said that he found Hack to be one of the most honest, charming and downright good guys in county government. Longtime supervisor, Jane Dolan of Chico, called Hack one of the finest “gentlemen” she had ever known and the best supervisor with whom she had served.

Throughout his life, Hack served his community well as student, graduate, teacher, counselor, author, and public servant.

Hack passed away on April 28, 2005.