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FAME: Maria Shriver discusses the displays honoring new inductees to the California Hall of Fame on Wednesday.

Star power in Hall of Fame

The governor and first lady honor achievers including Tiger Woods and Elizabeth Taylor.

BY LAURA KURTZMAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO • From the high art of Ansel Adams and John Steinbeck to the vaudeville comedy of Milton Berle, a new crop of achievers is being inducted into the hall of fame started by First Lady Maria Shriver to honor the leaders, inventors, sports figures and – of course – celebrities who have shaped California.

Among the big names chosen this year by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger are actresses Elizabeth Taylor and Rita Moreno, golf star Tiger Woods and baseball great Willie Mays.

Jackie Robinson, who broke baseball's color barrier and Western star John Wayne, were honored posthumously.

Wednesday's ceremony opened a year-



Taylor



Moreno

long exhibit of memorabilia from the honorees, their families and other museums.

The museum features a well-worn pair of Wayne's boots, along with the saddle he used in several Westerns; Adams' ubiquitous hat, a favored camera and an iconic shot of Half Dome; and Steinbeck's journal chronicling his sometimes arduous writing process in "The Grapes of Wrath."

"This must be a good book. It simply must. I haven't any choice," he writes, adding later, "Don't know who will publish my book. Don't know at all."

Amanda Meeker, who curated the exhibit, says her favorite display item is a vial of the original polio vaccine that Jonas

Salk developed in 1954.

"People think, 'Oh it must be red food dye,' but it's not," she said, commending the scientist for remembering to save the vaccine for posterity.

The California Hall of Fame began last year with the induction of Ronald Reagan, Cesar Chavez, Walt Disney, Clint Eastwood, Billie Jean King and others.

Some of this year's honorees have only tangential ties to the state. Salk developed his polio vaccine in Pennsylvania, a decade before he moved to California to found the Salk Institute in San Diego.

Others played major roles in the state's history. Earl Warren was the only California governor to be elected three times.

The San Francisco-born Adams took wilderness photographs of such arresting beauty that they helped move Congress to create national parks in California.

Steve Jobs played an important role in the creation of Silicon Valley as the co-founder of Apple computers.

Robert Mondavi pioneered winemaking techniques in California and the export of its fine wine.