



**Society for American Baseball Research**

**San Diego Ted Williams Chapter**

## **July 14, 2001 San Diego Ted Williams SABR Chapter Regional Meeting**

### ***SECOND BEST TO BEING AT A BALL GAME...IS "TALKING" BASEBALL!***

...and talking about 1936 in San Diego...1945-51 in Oakland...and 2001  
in Class A...with:

- **Joe Villarino**...3rd baseman from the 1936 Hoover High School team...and a teammate of Ted Williams on that team. What was it like to play 3rd with Ted pitching? Find out!
- **Chuck Symonds**...bat boy with the PCL Oakland Oaks from 1945-51. Casey Stengel, Chuck Dressen, Mel Ott were Oaks' managers during this period...how do they compare?
- one of our up and coming young Padres...a player from the LAKE ELSINORE STORM. Hopes and aspirations of a young player in Class A...what's it like for him?

**WHEN: Saturday, July 14, 2001** -- we will begin at **9:30 a.m.**, and conclude around 12:30 p.m.+/-

**WHERE: Qualcomm Stadium Press Box** -- enter Gate A and proceed to the Press Level, behind home plate. It will take you 5+ minutes to get from the gate to the Press Box from Gate A.

We will also have a Raffle and Trivia Contest. We hope you can join us to talk some baseball!

## **San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center Comes Alive!**

Our chapter's new Baseball Research Center is up and running at the downtown San Diego Library. With the help of member donations, a grant from SABR, and a matching fund from the City of San Diego Library, rare articles and records covering baseball history going back to the 1850s are now available through **119 reels of new microfilm**:

- Ball Players Chronicle, Henry Chadwick, Editor, 1867 (1 reel)
- New England Base Ballist, 1868 (1 reel)
- New York Clipper, 1857-1884 (7 reels)
- Official Baseball Record, 1885-1886 (1 reel)
- The Sporting Life, 1883-1917 (29 reels)
- The Sporting News, 1886-1969 (79 reels)
- Baseball Scrapbooks, 1853-1882 (1 reel) -- thanks to **Brenda Wegener**, Art, Music, & Recreation Librarian (and SABR member)...she inventoried this reel and found the following:
  1. Baseball column from unidentified newspaper dated Jan. 21, 1871-1881.
  2. Baseball news, box scores and team standings clipped from various newspapers including the St. Louis Globe, Chicago Tribune, and Cincinnati Enquirer from 1875-1879. These are not daily clippings, but intermittent.
  3. Box scores from unidentified newspaper 1870-1877.
  4. Baseball news from Philadelphia papers from 1901-1905. No box scores.
  5. Box scores from unidentified newspapers from 1879-1882 plus several baseball articles from The Sporting News 1889, Cincinnati Enquirer 1885 and Cincinnati Times 1896.
  6. Baseball column from unidentified newspaper - 1857-1878. No box scores.
  7. Baseball news and box scores from unidentified newspapers 1853-1858.

If you want to examine any of these reels, check in at the library's Call Desk on the 1st floor and give the clerk your list, then find a microfilm reader (usually found in the 2nd floor newspaper room). Paper copies of any pages are 15 cents each, and nickels are required. Questions while you are there? Go to the Art, Music, & Recreation Department on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

## Thanks Received from Cunningham and Harvey, and Relatives of Durst and Cravath, for Being Honored by Chapter

We have heard from several individuals who were selected to be on our list of the 26 most influential individuals in baseball in San Diego during the 1900-1999 period of time. (A copy of our report is enclosed.)

**Gavy Cravath's** granddaughter, **Virginia McMillan** and family, sent a card with the handwritten note:

*"Thank you so much. What a nice wonderful honor."*

Retired USD Baseball Coach **John Cunningham** wrote:

*"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the members of the San Diego Ted Williams Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research for honoring me as one of the Top 26 Most influential Individuals in San Diego Baseball during the 1900s."*

*Needless to say, I am humbled by this selection and consider it a most prestigious honor. It gives meaning to the countless hours and years spent coaching and counseling the many outstanding young men during their formative years of playing summer collegiate baseball in the San Diego area. Obviously, I got paid for my work coaching baseball at USD but the many years of coaching summer ball was done on a volunteer basis. With this honor I will now consider myself 'well paid'.*

*Please pass along my 'thanks' to all your members. Sincerely, **John Cunningham**"*

Retired National League Umpire **Doug Harvey** wrote the following:

*"I'm sorry I have taken this long to answer your letter of May 14th. It arrived at our house when I was in Tennessee on a speaking engagement. When I arrived home, I called, but you were out, so I left word with your secretary. We left the next morning for two weeks in Alaska. The past week I have been in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara. It has been hectic!"*

*I am honored to have been voted one of the 'Top 26 Most Influential Individuals in San Diego Baseball, 1900-1999'! God only knows, I gave my honored profession every thing I had for 48 years. Actually, 47 years in organized sports -- from ages 16 until 62. Softball, Little League, Pony League, High School, College, Semi-pro, military, minor league, and major league! It's been a great life -- not for everyone!*

*Thank you, and all those that voted -- I am thrilled! Regards, **Doug Harvey**"*

From **Autumn Durst Keltner**, **Cedric Durst's** daughter, we received the following letter:

*"Thank you so very much for your letter of May 14, 2001, informing me of the Society for American Baseball Research's recognition of my father, Cedric Durst as one of the top 26 influential individuals in San Diego baseball during the period of 1900-1999. How proud he would have been of this recognition, to have been selected with many of the men he most admired in baseball."*

*My father loved baseball and spent the major part of his life either playing it, coaching/managing it, or promoting it. On the first page of your enclosure it states that 'the purpose wasn't necessarily to choose the best players, or the most popular, or those of the current rage, but rather to engage in an historically-based research effort leading to the selection of those felt to have most influenced the course of San Diego baseball -- its feelings, the passion, its past and present -- over the last 100 years.' Dad personified these feelings and passions.*

*Dad liked nothing better than to help young boys and men (unfortunately, in his time, this sport was almost inaccessible to girls and women) work at improving their baseball skills. He freely gave of his time to assist coaches of Little League teams, American legion teams, even San Diego State University team. His consistent message to the 'kids' was always play hard, do your best, and hustle. He never liked to see a ballplayer of any age **walk** onto or off of the field of play.*

*Whenever he was asked, Dad accepted invitations to speak on the radio, and at schools, clinics, camps, and meetings of service organizations to promote the game of baseball. I think he enjoyed his winters managing the Junior Padres as much or more than he did the Pacific Coast League Padres. These young men 'on their way up' were so highly-motivated and eager to learn, that he felt it was a privilege to work with them.*

*After moving here in 1938, my father remained in San Diego to raise his family and even assisted grandsons as they learned to play the game. He instilled a love of baseball in all of the members of his family, not just the boys. Most of the family have remained in San Diego and continue to support baseball here wherever it is played. They will all enjoy receiving copies of your letter and enclosures that I have made for them.*

*Thank you again for sharing this recognition of my father with all of us. Sincerely, **Autumn Durst Keltner** (Mrs. Russell H.)"*

## **Allan Roth Chapter Meeting on August 4th in Long Beach**

The Allan Roth Chapter (So Cal) will be meeting Saturday, August 4, 2001 at 2:00 P.M. at Blair Field, home of the Long Beach Breakers of the Western League. Ted Williams Chapter member **John Curtis** is Pitching Coach for the Breakers.

The meeting will be followed by a barbecue dinner at the park, and then the 6:30 P.M. game between the Breakers and St. George Pioneerzz. They will likely have time for a presentation or two, and expect to have a speaker or two from the team.

They need to give a reasonably firm head-count by July 1, so please let them know by then if you want to come. Guests (spouses, kids, friends) are welcome. The cost will be \$6 for the game and \$6 for dinner, for a total of \$12 per person. Contact **Stephen Roney**, President, Allan Roth SABR Chapter, by mail, phone, or e-mail:

19 Pleasanton Lane, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694  
949/481-7633, [sronney@acm.org](mailto:sronney@acm.org)

## **NYC Chapter Book Discussion Meetings Coming Up!**

If you are going to be in New York City this summer you might want to schedule one of these upcoming meetings at the Union Square branch (33 East 17th Street, 4th floor) of Barnes and Noble. The program begins at 5:30 P.M.. with the author discussing their book(s), answering questions, and then dining with the group afterward. Future meetings include:

- June 23 -- **Tom Stanton**, author of The Final Season: Fathers, Sons, and the Last Year in Tiger Stadium
- July 21 --- **Marty Appel**, author of Now Pitching for the Yankees: Spinning The News for Mickey, Billy and George
- Aug. 18 --- **Cliff Blau, Mike Frank**, and **John Vorperian** will discuss The Hot Stove League (by Lee Allen), Baseball:100 years of the Modern Era (by The Sporting News), and How to Do Baseball Research (by SABR)
- Sept. 8 --- **Tom Keegan**, co-author (with Elden Auker) of Sleeper Cars and Flannel Uniforms: A Lifetime Of Memories From Striking Out The Babe To Teeing It Up With the President.