

# ***SAN DIEGO TED WILLIAMS SABR CHAPTER***

<http://sandiego.sabr.org>

**September 3, 2003 e-NEWS, Issue No. 13**

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- *Summer Regional Meeting Highlights*
- *Baldassaro Provides Added Treat*
- *Baseball Reliquary Visits SABR*
- *New Resources at Downtown Library/BRC*
- *"Integration of the PCL"...Research Assistance Requested*
- *More Research Help Requested: "Late Ending and Long Games"*
- *New Book by Local Member, John Nunes: DreamCatcher Games*
- *Retrosheet Keeps Expanding*
- *Photographs and Websites: News from SABR's Pictorial History Committee*
- *Trivia: Weirdest "Walkoffs"*
- *SABR33 in Denver: Convention Highlights*

## **SUMMER REGIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

In what was likely our last meeting at Qualcomm/Jack Murphy/San Diego Stadium, our July 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting was attended by 30 members and guests.

Our first item on the meeting agenda was the presentation of the 2003 Boynton Research Award to **Nathan Hicks** from Ramona High School. His winning paper was entitled "If They Build It Will They Come?" We have his paper available on our Chapter's web site for your reading pleasure. We were pleased to welcome Nathan and his proud father, Bob, to the meeting, and to SABR. They made a special effort to come from a camping trip to attend our meeting.

We also had two outstanding presentations. First up was **Kerry Yo Nakagawa** who is author of a book entitled *Through a Diamond, 100 Years of Japanese American Baseball*. He writes on the importance that baseball had to the Japanese-American internees in the camps during WWII. If you are interested in his book, or just want a fascinating look into this unique but important aspect of baseball history...plus links to Japanese baseball subjects...then check out his website at <http://www.niseibaseball.com>.

Our second author on the program was Josh Suchon, who covers the San Francisco Giants for the *Oakland Tribune*. He authored a book titled, *This Gracious Season: Barry Bonds & The Greatest Year In Baseball*. Josh provided an entertaining review of how he came to write the book finally deciding in September 2001 that history was in the making. The book is an

interesting read of the month-by-month HR chase by Bonds. You can find out more information about the book at [www.winterpublications.com](http://www.winterpublications.com).

A postscript to the meeting...from Bob Hicks:

Hi Tom,

This is Bob, Nathan's father. I'm sure Nathan will contact you soon but I wanted to let you and the other SABR folks know how much I appreciate your annual Boynton Research Award. Nathan loved doing the paper, and was excited to win and especially to be invited to attend the July 5th meeting. We both had a great time on Saturday and we will definitely return to future meetings. (I just ordered a membership from the SABR homesite). Also, I applaud you on the local website. It looks great, is informational as well as being a great place for Nathan and I to "catch-up". Finally, the pictures you sent will save me from my wife's "doghouse" - as I left the camera in the car during the meeting!

Again, thank you!

Sincerely,  
Bob Hicks

## **BALDASSARO PROVIDES ADDED TREAT FOR MEMBERS**

In addition to our regional program in July, we were fortunate to have **Larry Baldassaro** join us on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

A SABR member, he joined us in our mini-regional to talk about his new book, *Ted Williams: Reflections on a Splendid Life* (edited by Larry with a Foreword by Dom DiMaggio). Larry kept the interest of members and guests with stories of his meetings with Ted Williams. This recently released volume collects some of the best writing about Williams, together with some classic photos, providing a panorama of Ted's career and complex personality, from his rookie year in 1939 to memorial tributes following his death in 2002. It features 35 articles by such writers as Ed Linn, Red Smith, Stephen Jay Gould, John Updike, David Halberstam, and Peter Gammons. Taken together, they offer a vivid mosaic of a San Diegan, and a true American hero who is admired and respected as much by today's ballplayers and fans as those of his own generation.

## BASEBALL RELIQUARY VISITS SABR and DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

Capping an active summer for regional members, Terry Cannon, head of the Baseball Reliquary ([www.baseballreliquary.org](http://www.baseballreliquary.org)), treated us to an exhibit of baseball artifacts and memorabilia from the Reliquary's permanent collection during August.

All of the Library's display cases were used to display the many items from the Reliquary, along with a few items from our local SABR members. The Reliquary is the home of the "Shrine of the Eternals," honoring great names from the past who have made a significant cultural contribution to baseball.

On Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> members and guests were treated to a special program at the Library on "The People's Hall of Fame: Inside the Baseball Reliquary." Terry gave a slide show and video tape of unique baseball items and past Reliquary events. His presentation was followed by Anne Oncken entertaining the group by performing old-time baseball songs on the piano. The musical history lesson given by Anne proved to be a unique baseball research program.

## NEW RESOURCES at DOWNTOWN LIBRARY/SABR BASEBALL RESEARCH CENTER (BRC)

Here is a list of new acquisitions in the Central Library and Branches, April-June 2003, compiled by **Vic Cardell**, Art, Music & Recreation Section.

*All holdings are at Central Library and Branches unless noted otherwise.*

### BOOKS

*All-Star Game Media Guide*. [United States.: n.p.], 1978.

Call Number: **796.357/COOK** (Central only)

*Baseball Guide*. St. Louis, Mo.: Sporting News, 2003. Call Number: **R 796.357/BASEBALL**

*Baseball Register*. St. Louis, Mo.: Sporting News, 2003. Call Number: **R 796.357/BASEBALL**

*The Best of By the Numbers*. Cleveland, OH: The Society for American Baseball Research, 2003. Call Number: **795.357/BEST**

Cluck, Bob. *Think Better Baseball: Secrets from Major League Coaches and Players for Mastering the Mental Game*. Chicago: Contemporary Books, 2002. Call Number: **796.35701/CLUCK**

Halberstam, David. *The Teammates: A Portrait of a Friendship*. New York: Hyperion, 2003.

Call Number: **796.357/HALBERSTAM**

House, Tom. *The Jock's Itch: The Fast-Track Private World of the Professional Ballplayer*. Chicago: Contemporary Books, 1989. Call Number: **796.35701/HOUSE**

Marcano Guevara, Arturo J. and David P. Fidle. *Stealing Lives: The Globalization of Baseball and the Tragic Story of Alexis Quiroz*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2002. Call Number: **796.357/MARCANO**

#### VIDEO

*Bull Durham*. Los Angeles: Orion Home Video, 1989. Call Number: **VC 791.4372/BULL**

#### CALIFORNIA ROOM

*The Reach Official American League Baseball Guide*. Philadelphia: A.J. Reach, 1883-1939. 57 vols. on 5 microfilm reels. Call Number: **RCC 796.357/MICROFORM**

Vic also writes:

"I thought you'd like to know that the Art, Music & Recreation Section at San Diego Public Library has increased the number of baseball reference books at the BRC display from 67 to 245 volumes. The additional 178 volumes are shelved on top of the picture file cabinets in back of the original BRC wooden shelving unit. (Until the recent opening of the Media Center, the same cabinet tops were used to shelve media materials.) They consist primarily of the baseball reference books that were previously in the Art & Music office, including the most recent Baseball Guide and Baseball Register. Also included are most of the more recent baseball reference books that were in Basement Storage, except for older runs of serials, like back issues of Baseball Register, Baseball Guide, Red Book, Green Book, Baseball America Directory, etc.

I hope that SABR members and the public at large will enjoy having these books more readily available."

## "INTEGRATION OF THE PCL" ... RESEARCH ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

Member **Amy Essington** writes:

"It has been awhile since we have communicated, but I am beginning to research my dissertation which will be on the integration of the PCL. I am interested in making contact with members of your group who may be able to help me with this research. I am interested in possibly coming down and presenting at one of your meetings this Fall to get feedback and suggestions from your group. I know I am too late to meet John Ritchey, but I am interested in any other contacts you may have for me.

Thank you. Amy"

We hope to have Amy at our winter regional meeting; in the meantime, we hope some of you can contribute research help on this worthy subject. If you have any ideas or information that you think she could use then please contact Amy directly at [AEssington@aol.com](mailto:AEssington@aol.com)

## MORE RESEARCH HELP REQUESTED: "LATE ENDING AND LONG GAMES"

We recently heard from former chapter member now living in Minnesota, **Phil Lowry**, ([PLowry1176@aol.com](mailto:PLowry1176@aol.com)).

"I am updating my article published in *Baseball Research Journal* in 1985, listing all 91 games which ended after 1 AM. Would it be possible for you to let me know via e-mail at [plowry1176@aol.com](mailto:plowry1176@aol.com) if you know of any Padres or California League games since 1985 which have ended after 1 AM, whether because of extra innings or rain delays or other types of delays?

The latest documented Padres game is 4:40 AM --- 7/2/93 doubleheader with three rain delays at Phils. The latest documented Padres home game is 2:29 AM --- 9/24/71 doubleheader vs. Astros at the Murph, first game went 21 innings, second game began at one minute past Midnight, with a 14-minute delay due to fog in the bottom of the 9th.

Thank you very much for your help. And best wishes as the Padres move into your new ballpark next Spring. Phil"

## NEW BOOK BY LOCAL MEMBER, John Nunes: *DREAMCATCHER GAMES*

Local member **John Nunes** recently published a book, *DreamCatcher Games*, that toys with certain trends in baseball:

- \* The MLB's collision course with disaster, due to their business practices.
- \* The rise in sports wagering on baseball
- \* The inevitability of teaming a professional baseball stadium with an American Indian casino.
- \* The increasing popularity of fantasy baseball, the original fantasy sport.

He also completed a piece on Ted Williams that was published in the Fall 2002 edition of *Elysian Fields Quarterly*.

John indicates the book is available on your favorite book web sites, or e-mail/call him at [johnlnunes2001@yahoo.com](mailto:johnlnunes2001@yahoo.com).....619-388-2759 (w)...858-571-7442.

## RETROSHEET KEEPS EXPANDING

**David Smith** has informed us that a new game has just been added to the Retrosheet web site. It is the very first Major League game ever played, a National Association game in 1871 between Cleveland and Ft. Wayne. The full details are available via a link on the front page of the Retrosheet web site ([www.retrosheet.org](http://www.retrosheet.org)).

## PHOTOGRAPHS and WEBSITES: NEWS FROM SABR's PICTORIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

We are fortunate to have an active Pictorial History Committee with members associated with impressive collections of photos which are available for display and/or purchase on the Internet. A few of these websites follow:

**Tom Shieber**, founder of this Committee, has a website which focusses on 19th century players. Its address is <http://www.19cbb.com/>

**Mark Rucker**, the previous chair of this Committee, heads Transcental Graphics, a firm which specializes in providing baseball photos. The address of his website is <http://www.ruckerarchive.com/>

**Pat Kelly** heads the photo department of the National Baseball Library at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The address for the photo department website is <http://www.baseballhalloffame.org/library/photos.htm>

**Steve Gietschier** is Director of Research at The Sporting News. His organization has an archive of photos which are for sale to the public. The following webpage will get you started on your way into the baseball section of "The Vault," which is The Sporting News archive of photos and other goodies:  
<http://www.sportingnews.com/archives/baseball.html>

**Shawn Murray** heads the photo enterprise known as the Bruce Murray collection, named after the noted photographer in his family. The website address is <http://www.brucemurray.com/>

Although Mary Brace is not a Committee member, she has been very helpful to many of us in our searches for baseball photos. Therefore, I'm going to include the website of Brace Photo in this section. It can be found at <http://www.bracephoto.com/>

## TRIVIA: WEIRDEST "WALKOFFS"

This trivia is courtesy of Retrosheet's **David Smith**, [dwsmith@UDEL.EDU](mailto:dwsmith@UDEL.EDU), who provided a summary of data on "walkoffs" from 1972 through June 30, 2003. Here are the "non-batter events" that ended games in that span:

Wild pitch:	102
Passed Ball:	13
Balk:	7
Pickoff Error:	15
Steal and error:	5
Steal of Home:	3
Other:	1
Total:	146

In addition, there were 22 cases of game-ending hit batters.

The "other" was a play that occurred on August 12, 1995 in Los Angeles when Pittsburgh catcher, Angelo Encarnacion committed the following error:

The pitch rolled a foot away from the plate. Encarnacion picked up the ball in the dirt with his mask. It was ruled an error, and the runner scored to end the game.

Encarnacion caught 73 games in the majors from 1995 to 1997 with the Pirates and Angels. In 1995 he caught 55 games and this was his 26th of the year.

## SABR 33 in DENVER: CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Portland member **Rob Neyer** has a review of sorts of the Denver convention on ESPN.com. [http://msn.espn.go.com/mlb/columns/neyer\\_rob/1580648.html](http://msn.espn.go.com/mlb/columns/neyer_rob/1580648.html)