

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

<http://sandiego.sabr.org>

**February 20, 2005 e-NEWS, Issue No. 24**

- **Recap of Regional Meeting Held on Saturday, February 5, 2005 at Petco Park**
- **19<sup>th</sup> Century Baseball and High Tech High School**
- **Newsletters: SABR Ballparks and Baseball Biography Committees**

## **SUMMARY of FEBRUARY 5, 2005 WINTER REGIONAL MEETING**

Our traditional Super Bowl Saturday Regional Meeting was held at Petco Park, courtesy of the San Diego Padres. **Dan Boyle** chaired the meeting and got things rolling introducing **Jim Vitti**, winner of the 'Sporting News-SABR Baseball Research Award,' who gave a presentation on his outstanding book [The Cubs on Catalina](#). Jim also discussed other books he has in the works, primarily one on the Dodgers in Cuba.

We also had two team representatives from San Diego's new professional team in the independent Golden Baseball League which is beginning its initial season and will play their home games at SDSU's Tony Gwynn Stadium. **Darren Munk** introduced Ian Cohen and Mike Stevens who told us about what's going on with the start-up, and the league's hope to have 18-20 teams within three years. They will play 90 games and their season will run between May and September. Ticket prices will range between \$10 and \$6 a game, and season tickets are available by calling (619) 282-HITS or at [www.goldenbaseball.com](http://www.goldenbaseball.com).

We had three presentations from members. First, **John Green** provided a first-hand account of 'My Day as Baseball Hall of Fame's President.' John started out with some stories of his youth, including working the scoreboard in old Lane Field. He said the Hall of Fame experience started with a memorable Padres game which resulted in John submitting an entry into the Hall of Fame's "My Favorite Baseball Experience" contest. Lo and behold he was selected and won a wonderful opportunity to visit the Hall of Fame and see how it works behind the scenes. Following up on John's Hall of Fame experience was our Chapter's liaison with the San Diego Library, **Vic Cardell**. Vic gave a slide show on his two-day visit to Cooperstown on behalf of the Chapter. He said he got to touch the \$25,000 check that was the basis for New York's

acquisition of Babe Ruth, and noted that the Hall has over 3 million items and 500,000 photo images in its holdings. He concluded with a report on our chapter's efforts to acquire unique research materials from the Baseball Hall of Fame. Our last presentation was from emeritus member **Bob Boynton** with an interesting statistical summary of his research on 'Win Shares and the Parabolic Course of Baseball Lives.'

**Jay Walker** came up with a virtually stat-free trivia contest that was won by "Ringer" **Dick Beverage**. By the way, do you know the answer to question #7? Who is the only member of Baseball's Hall of Fame that fought in the Civil War? (answer is at the end of the e-News)

## 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY BASEBALL AND HIGH TECH HIGH SCHOOL

Chapter members **David Kinney**, **Tom Larwin**, **Jim Smith** and **Andy Strasberg** participated with 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and staff from the Baseball Hall of Fame at a February 11, 2005, event held at San Diego's High Tech High School. **Vic Cardell** contributed a guide for students on how to use the resources available at the San Diego Library's SABR Baseball Research Center.

By way of background, the Baseball Hall of Fame (HoF) selected High Tech High as host for its annual e-field trip. This is a program conducted annually by the HoF and is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year. In from Cooperstown were HoF staff members Jeff Arnett and **Tom Shieber** who coordinated with school officials.

The objective of the field trip is to help prepare students for eventual production of two April 90-minute nationwide broadcasts with schools across the U.S. The High Tech High class will be responsible for developing the broadcast. A team of students from this class will then travel to Cooperstown for purposes of hosting the live April broadcast which they have developed.

Our chapter members met with teams of students who were armed with many good questions about 19<sup>th</sup> century baseball:

- Spalding's worldwide baseball tour of 1888
- The myths surrounding the origin of baseball
- The life of a 19<sup>th</sup> century baseball player
- 19<sup>th</sup> century teams
- Baseball's first hundred years
- Making money from the game

On the afternoon of the 11<sup>th</sup> the HoF's Education Ambassador, Ozzie Smith, and HoF Director Dale Petroskey, both joined in and met with students. In addition to the historical research some of the students were conducting physics projects that compared and contrasted the properties of a replica 19<sup>th</sup> Century ball and a contemporary ball (results are not available yet). After his talk to the whole group Ozzie visited each classroom to see what they were working on. This was followed by a short baseball game played using 19<sup>th</sup> Century rules with Ozzie pitching a couple of innings. In spite of a slight drizzle the kids were very excited about playing baseball somewhat according to 19<sup>th</sup> Century rules (underhand pitching, fair/foul rule, one bounce rule. no gloves, etc.). They used replica 19<sup>th</sup> century balls and bats.

## SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

**Bob Bluthardt**, Chair of SABR's Ballparks Committee, has announced that the February 2005 Ballparks Newsletter is available. Click on the pdf file below for a copy.



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## SABR BASEBALL BIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

SABR's Baseball Biography Project is well underway under **Mark Armour's** leadership and at last report had 208 biographies on the web site. The Committee's first ever newsletter can be seen by clicking on the pdf file below or going to the SABR web site. If you want to contribute a bio or have any bio ideas, contact Mark at [markjane@comcast.net](mailto:markjane@comcast.net) or **Mike Cooney**, the newsletter editor, who can be reached at [mwc@hotmail.com](mailto:mwc@hotmail.com). Two bios have come from our chapter member **Bob Boynton**.



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Answer to trivia quiz question: **Morgan Gardner Bulkeley.** Born: December 26, 1837, East Haddam, Conn., Died: November 6, 1922, Hartford, Conn. He volunteered and served as a private for the Union Army during the Civil War. He was active in the banking business and as an elected official he served as Mayor of Hartford, Governor of Connecticut, and in the U.S. Senate. His baseball you ask? He was the first President of the National League and also was one of the seven members of the infamous Mills Commission in 1907 which formulated the Doubleday-Cooperstown myth of the game's origin.