

SAN DIEGO TED WILLIAMS SABR CHAPTER

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**BASEBALL WILL BE BACK IN SAN DIEGO
IN A BIG WAY ON
MARCH 29-31, 2003!**

First off, we have our regional meeting set for Saturday, March 29, 2003 that will focus on "The Kid"! (More on that below.) Then, on Sunday, March 30th we will unveil our Lane Field historical plaque. (More on that later, too!) Finally, to cap off events, there is Opening Day for the Padres on Monday, March 31st. (OK...we don't have anything to do with Opening Day but it sure is a nice way to cap off the weekend of baseball in San Diego!)

Our Next Regional Meeting
**" 'THE KID' FROM SAN DIEGO:
A CELEBRATION OF TED WILLIAMS"**

MARCH 29th

- Date: Saturday, March 29, 2003
- Place: The San Diego Hall of Champions in Balboa Park, lower level theater
- Time: 9:00 a.m. doors open and 9:30 a.m. program starts...the multi-faceted program will go into the afternoon and tentatively end around 3:00 p.m. There will be a break for lunch and it will be on your own. You can eat at the Hall's cafeteria or bring your own "brown bag" and make use of the Park's picnic facilities.
- Admission: SABR and Hall of Champions members will be admitted free of charge. No RSVPs are required but Hall members are requested to bring their Member ID cards. All others will pay the standard \$6.00 daily fee to enter the Hall.

The program is taking shape and will be one you don't want to miss. Relatives, former ballplayers, friends, neighborhood pals, researchers, and authors will all be part of the program. Contributors already on tap for the program include: **Dan Boyle**, **Dennis Donley**, **Roger Engle**, **Frank Myers**, **Bill Nowlin**, **Fred Rodgers**, **James D. Smith III**, **Andy Strasberg**, **Bill Swank**, and **Jay Walker**.

We are still interested in hearing from any member with an interest in contributing a paper and/or presentation. Let **Tom Larwin** know if you have any interest at Lar.11@cox.net.

PCL PADRES LANE FIELD HISTORICAL MARKER PROJECT UNVEILING MARCH 30th

- Date: Sunday, March 30, 2003
- Place: Northwest corner of Broadway and Pacific Highway in Centre City San Diego (adjacent to where the Lane Field right field corner was located)
- Time: 12 noon

Through the efforts of **Ron Andreassi** the plaque is in manufacture. And, thanks to the Unified Port District and its Executive Director, Bruce Hollingsworth, we have their approval for use of a small piece of property for its installation. The first game played by the Pacific Coast League (PCL) Padres was on March 31, 1936, so we will have the plaque in place for the 67th anniversary of that first professional ballgame in San Diego.

Be sure and place this date and time on your calendar and join us for the unveiling and a recollection of baseball history. Light refreshments will also be served.

In our last e-News we mentioned that we were \$850 away from our goal of being able to afford the manufacture of the plaque. Subsequently we have received several more donations and are now \$538 short. We could still use your help...if you would like to add your personal contribution to help complete this project then send your donation (any amount will help) payable to "SD SABR" and mail to:

San Diego Ted Williams SABR, 3104 Fourth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103

CHAPTER WEB SITE GOES ON-LINE

<http://sandiego.sabr.org>

Through the efforts of **Vic Cardell** we have initiated a chapter web site: <http://sandiego.sabr.org>. Use the web site for keeping up with Chapter activities, past projects, and upcoming events. We will also continue to provide some useful links to other baseball research and information sites. All of our Chapter's *e-News* are on the site. For improvements and updates, **Darren Munk** (darrenmunk@hotmail.com) has agreed to serve as our Chapter's webmaster. So, here is another way to receive your baseball "fix" during the off season. Try it out, and let us know of any other ideas you have for improvements!

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY SAN DIEGO SABR BASEBALL RESEARCH CENTER (BRC) -- NEW ACQUISITIONS

The BRC has acquired a research treasure: on a CD-ROM are nearly 200 pages of what is generally acknowledged to be the first historical baseball reference on baseball that was ever

published. The book, entitled *American Pastimes*, was published in 1866 and authored by Charles Peeverly. Past President **Fred Rodgers** has a copy of the book and donated the CD-ROM to the BRC for our research use. In the book, the history of baseball's earliest organized clubs is documented, including a listing of all team officers and the results of games played from the date of their inception through 1866. The early rules and field layouts are also described.

WHITEY WIETELMANN PADRES BOX SCORE SCRAPBOOK PROJECT ***COMPLETE!***

On January 14, 2003, 34 Whitey Wietelmann Padres Box Score Scrapbooks were officially transmitted to the San Diego Public Library and our San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center (BRC). A big thanks goes out to **Bill Swank** who laminated all the pages and made new covers for the collection. **Bob Dreher** provided most of the Padres programs used for the covers. Other members pitched in to help Bill with box scores from 1994 through 2000: **Bob Boynton, Andy Aguinardo, Art Kaliel and Phil White**. Bill prepared this summary of the event at the Library on the 14th.

Doc Mattei, Jerry Gross, Broderick Perkins and Randy Jones all appeared and were in rare form. I t couldn't have gone better had it been scripted. Off the cuff and hilarious. They had 'em rolling on the floor!

I explained the collection and thanked those SABR members who helped with the missing years (1994-2000) and the players who contributed financially to offset the cost of lamination.

The players began sharing memories of Whitey. My wife was right when she observed there had never been a funeral or service for Whitey. This was their way of paying tribute to their grouchy old coach and friend.

Randy described Whitey's ball cleaning machine and told how the hitters complained about the "dead balls" during BP. He credited Whitey with being one of the first to chart pitches and where balls went after they were hit. Whitey was a great innovator.

He explained that Wednesdays were always Chili Day and the other team would try to visit the Padres clubhouse. Whitey would never give Randy the recipe.

Broderick thinks the secret ingredient was Whitey's sweat! Perk and Randy swapped humorous comments about Jerry Coleman's tenure as the Padres skipper.

Doc said he couldn't believe that Randy would show up at any event. Randy came back saying he wouldn't have missed this presentation because he remembers watching Whitey painstakingly cut and tape box scores every day in the clubhouse. Doc told about flying back to Philadelphia to tape Randy's toe for the 1976 All-Star Game. He was constantly giving the needle as the players were talking. It was hilarious.

I would estimate 40 people were in attendance which was quite surprising considering the lack of publicity the event received. Apparently Padres fans, at the library for other reasons, heard about the event and wandered in.

Randy teased Doc about rubbing down his right arm before his first game. Doc admitted to wrapping a ballplayer's leg with tape. When the player went to get up, his leg was taped to the leg extension from the table.

Jerry told the story about how Whitey had his pinky almost knocked off while throwing batting practice for the Braves. Before the doctor arrived, Whitey had cut it off with a scissors. He was a tough old bird! Jerry also talked about the thrill of broadcasting the early Padres games with his hero, Duke Snyder. He made a similar scrapbook of Brooklyn Dodger box scores when he was a boy. I was appreciative of his kind words about my efforts to save and preserve the collection.

We all expressed our fondness for Whitey. I told how I'd take my son when I'd go to see him because Whitey was always good to kids.

Tim Scheidt, the founder of Fantasy Baseball, a math program at the Hall of Champions, said that Bob Birdsell, a teacher at Juarez-Lincoln Elementary School in Chula Vista will have his students make the 2003 Box Score Scrapbook. How fitting it will be for kids to maintain the Wietelmann collection. Whitey would have liked that. However, we all agreed that even if Whitey was alive, he wouldn't have attended today's event. He would be happy knowing that kids will keep his project alive.

The Library's Director, Anna Tatar, enthusiastically accepted the collection. Even my wife agreed the books looked good. She stays out of my stuff and had only seen 34 black and white spines on the book shelf.

The front and back covers are from Padre programs and baseball cards. They are very colorful and the library had them all on display standing on their sides. Hey, I was impressed! I had never seen them on display either.

Thanks to those SABR who helped. I couldn't have done it without you...

And, thank you Bill, for running with the idea and completing this wonderful, lasting tribute to Whitey.

BASEBALL RELIQUARY EXHIBIT SET FOR AUGUST 2003

Jay Walker has been working with Terry Cannon, head of the Baseball Reliquary (www.baseballreliquary.org), to set up an exhibit of baseball artifacts and memorabilia from the Reliquary's permanent collection. The date has been set for August 3-29, 2003 at the Central San Diego Public Library (where incidentally our San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center is housed). All of the Library's display cases will be 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.

As a special feature, on Sunday, August 17, 2003, at 2:30 p.m. the Reliquary will put on a 1-hour special program at the Library that will include:

- A slide show and video tape of unique baseball items and past Reliquary events, and
- Anne Oncken performing old-time baseball songs on the piano.

Flyers for the August Library exhibit will be distributed at our regional chapter meeting on March 29th. If you're unable to attend but would like to receive an exhibit flyer anyway, please respond by return e-mail.

2nd ANNUAL BOYNTON BASEBALL RESEARCH AWARDS -- PAPERS INVITED

Do you know of some high school student with an interest in baseball? Perhaps you have a high school student in your family?

Named after one of our Chapter's founding members, **Bob Boynton**, San Diego County high school students (grades 9-12) are invited to submit baseball research essays for the 2003 Boynton Baseball Research Awards. The first prize award is a cash honorarium of **\$250**. A \$100 cash honorarium will be awarded for second prize. The award is sponsored by our Chapter and seeks to recognize excellence in academic research on the subject of baseball.

The research may cover any topic on the subject of baseball using a wide variety of research methods. Some possible approaches are:

- o Historical - research/discussion of baseball in a particular time period or place
- o Biographical - the life of a particular player, manager or an executive and the impact they had
- o Point of View - discussion or defense of a particular opinion, topic or theme with supporting arguments
- o Statistical - development and analysis of measures to evaluate player or team performance
- o Game strategy - theory, analysis or evaluation of how the game is played

Topics may include, but are certainly not limited to the following:

- o The Business Side of Baseball
- o Specific Time Periods
- o Specific Teams/Cities
- o Minor Leagues
- o Umpires and Rules
- o Baseball and the Arts
- o Ballparks
- o Specific Leagues
- o International Baseball
- o Statistical Analysis
- o Women and Baseball

Examples of appropriate research sources are:

- o Primary sources: original documentation such as correspondence, telephone conversations, eyewitness accounts, oral testimonies, official documents
- o Secondary sources: books, magazines, encyclopedias, Internet sites, audio recordings, video recordings
- o Interviews using first-hand and/or second-hand information

The judging criteria for awarding the first and second prizes are:

- o Depth of research and documentation
- o Well-written presentation with clarity of thought
- o Factual accuracy, organization
- o New contributions, innovations or insights to the body of knowledge of baseball or baseball statistics
- o Spelling and grammar

It is suggested that a high school teacher or administrator supervise the research. The prize winner will be invited to present their research at one of our regional chapter meetings.

The academic research shall be completed and the report submitted to the Awards Committee by **April 10, 2003**. The suggested length for the report should be 1500 to 3000 words, excluding notes and bibliography. It must be submitted in hard copy, double-spaced in 12-point font on 8.5" x 11" plain white paper. The report should also be submitted on a 3.5-inch disk.

For additional questions and mailing information, contact:

A Newton, e-mail address: twfdbaseball@yahoo.com

INTERESTED IN "STEERING" CHAPTER ACTIVITIES?

On an annual basis we put out a call for members who might have an interest in becoming more active with the chapter and participating in our various projects and events. If you have questions or want to be considered please call or e-mail **Tom Larwin** at (619) 287-6474 or Lar.11@cox.net. Your chapter is guided by a Steering Committee and this year's members are the following:

**Ron Andreassi, Andy Aguinaldo, Bob Boynton, Vic Cardell, Kathy Larwin,
Tom Larwin, Frank Myers, Anna Newton, Andy Strasberg, Jay Walker**