



Society for American Baseball Research

San Diego Ted Williams Chapter

NEWSLETTER

June 2021

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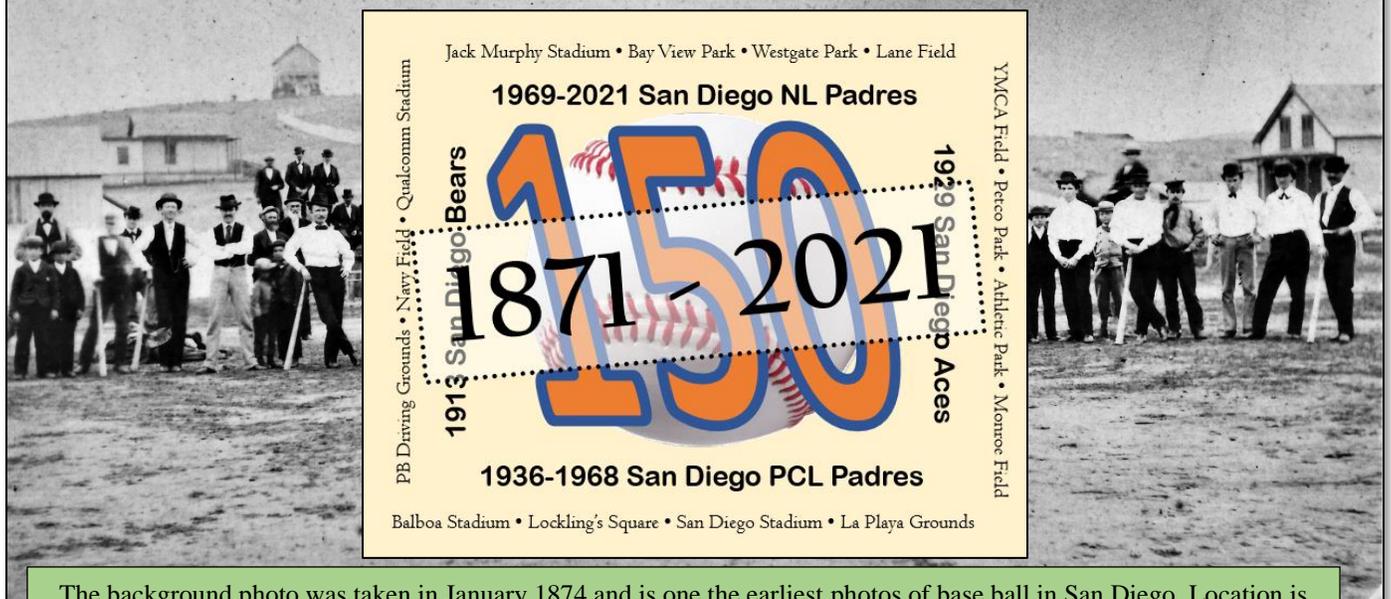
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1

CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF “BASE BALL” IN SAN DIEGO

by Carlos Bauer and Tom Larwin



The background photo was taken in January 1874 and is one the earliest photos of base ball in San Diego. Location is “Lockling’s Square” (block bordered by current 6th Ave., 7th Ave., C St., and Broadway). Source: San Diego Historical Society

Thanks to our local baseball historian and friend, Bill Swank, we recently learned that in 1847, at Mission San Luis Rey on the east side of present-day Oceanside, Azariah Smith, a private in the Mormon Battalion recorded in his diary that they played “ball” in their free time. About that same time Alexander Cartwright, as a member of the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club of New York, helped develop the first rules of the game that became known as “Base Ball.”

By 1871 a National Association of Base-Ball Players had formed and the basic rules of the sport had been further defined.

At this same time San Diego county’s population was approximately 5,000. About half of those residents were concentrated in what would become the city of San Diego. There is evidence that Base Ball was played in San Diego earlier than 1871, as the first public mention of the sport that has been found was in the *San Diego Union* on September 8, 1870. It read as follows:

“BASE BALL A gentleman asks whether there is such an institution as a base ball club in San Diego. He thinks there are active young men enough here to put the thing through. We haven’t any club here now, but, as he says, there are men enough, and there is plenty of room.”

Here, below, is the story of those first “base ball” games that took place in San Diego. The period was May-July 1871.

MAY 27, 1871: SAN DIEGO’S FIRST BASE BALL GAME



On May 4, 1871, the *San Diego Union* published the following note:

“BASE BALL There is, we are told, a movement on foot for the organization of a base ball club in our town. Here, where the weather will allow practice during eleven months a year, base ball ought to be a favorite game. Those who feel inclined to take a hand now, are requested to place themselves in communication with Mr. Dan Ullman, at the store of I. Matthias of F street, near Culverwell’s wharf.”

Over the next few weeks there were several efforts that were publicly reported as underway to organize a Base Ball game.

On May 27 it was announced in the *Union* that the New Town Club accepted the challenge for a “Base Ball Championship” game to be played that day on the school playground (that was located at the present location of 6th and B Streets). Two clubs would meet in a “Base Ball Championship”:

New Town Base Ball Club (“new town” represented what is now central San Diego)

The Extempore Club of Old Town (this was a club composed of “young gentlemen who have had more or less experience in the game”)

This game can be considered as the first organized game of baseball in San Diego—at least, the first reported game.

The *San Diego Union* had a game story in the next day’s paper along with a listing of the lineups and runs scored by inning. New San Diego won by a score reported to be 48-35. The article is retyped below and the lineups and scores shown to the right.

“BASE BALL CHAMPIONSHIP The match game yesterday, between the Extempore B. B. C., of Old Town, and the New San Diego B. B. C., was witnessed by a very large number of spectators, ladies and gentlemen. Owing to the high wind prevailing during the afternoon, the playing was not remarkable. We append the names of the “nines,” noting here that to offset the deficiency of two players in the Extempore nine, the last inning of the New San Diegos was not counted:”

EXTEMPORE.	NEW SAN DIEGO.
Aguerre, 1 b.	Russell, c.
Solomon, p.	McKean, p.
White, c.	Gregg, 1 b.
Zarnach, 2 b.	Parsons, 2 b.
Levy, 3 b.	Stewart, 3 b.
Hersford, 1 f.	Winslow, s. s.
Cooper, s. s.	Grant, 1 f.
	Ullman, r. f.
	Buttrick, c. f.
SCORE:	
Extempore—3, 2, 4, 3, 4, 3, 8, 4, 4—45.	
New San Diego—3, 4, 7, 5, 5, 14, 5, 5, 0—48.	
Umpire—E. Harris. Scorers—for Extempore, Barry Hyde; for New San Diego, M. C. Maher.	

May 28, 1871, *San Diego Union*, p.3

**JULY 4, 1871: SAN DIEGO’S SECOND BASE BALL GAME
... and FIRST BOX SCORE**



Both of the above clubs dissolved after the May 27 game, but two new clubs almost immediately formed to take their places, Lone Star and Old San Diego. The two clubs played a fourth of July match at La Playa, a recreation area on Point Loma, the ship *Vaquero* transporting the spectators to the game.

Lone Star beat Old San Diego, 51-8. Shown on the right is the first primitive box score that appeared in a San Diego newspaper. For each player, shown in the box are their position on defense, number of outs made, and number of runs scored. The notation is similar to that used by cricket, which was the style in California newspapers until the 1880 season, when the regular box score began to appear here.

BASE BALL.—The “Lone Star” and “Old San Diego,” Base Ball Clubs played a match game of ball on the Fourth of July, which was witnessed by a large number of townspeople, and resulted in a victory for the “Lone Star.” The following is the score:

LONE STAR. o r	OLD SAN DIEGO. o r
Courtney, r f.....3..7	Ullman, 2 b.....3..2
A. Gregg, c.....3..3	A. Aguerre, 1 b.....3..2
Russell, 1 b.....1..9	Collins, s s.....2..2
Buttrick, 2 b.....3..6	Hases, 3 b.....2..1
W. Gregg, s s.....1..6	M. Aguerre, 1 f.....5..0
Grant, 1 f.....6..4	Choate, c.....4..0
McKean, p.....1..6	Donahue, p.....3..0
Parsons, c f.....3..5	Smith r f.....3..0
Harris, 3 b.....4..5	Eaton, c f.....2..1

“Lone Star,”—2, 1, 8, 8, 7, 9, 7—51.
“Old San Diego,”—2, 0, 0, 0, 4, 2, 0, 0—8.
Umpire—Mr. Spencer. Scorers—For the “Lone Star,” N. C. Maher; for the “Old San Diego,” E. O. Wheeler. Fly catches, “Lone Star,” 6; “Old San Diego,” 8.

July 6, 1871, *San Diego Union*, p. 3

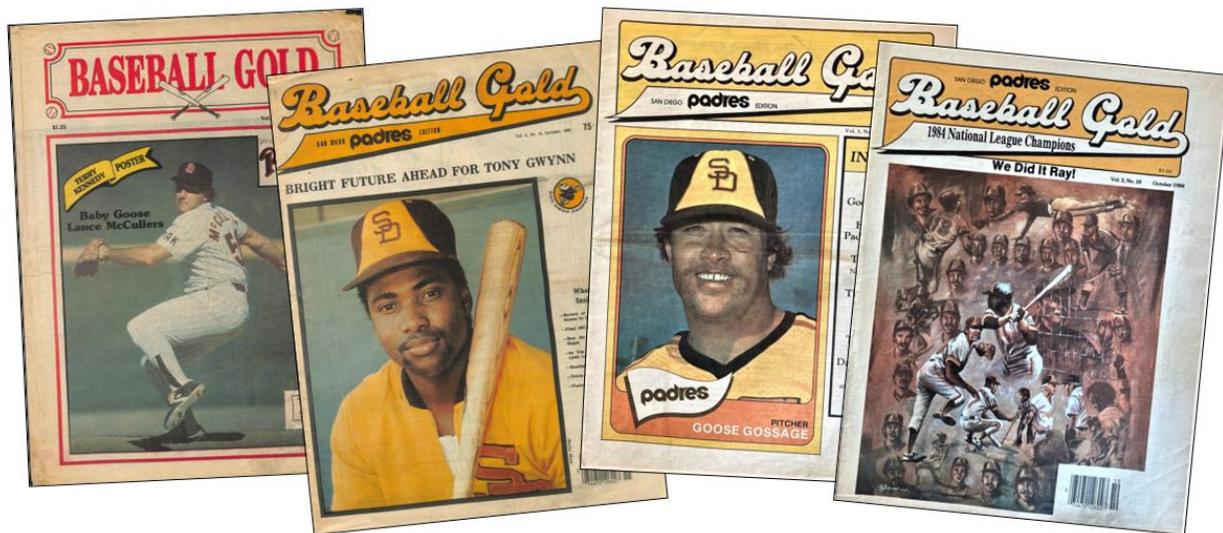
It would take another 65 years until San Diego would have its first successful minor-league team in the Pacific Coast League, and 98 years until our National League San Diego Padres would play. Oh, and of course, it was 100 years before a group of 16 men met in Cooperstown to form the Society for American Baseball Research!



2

BASEBALL GOLD**Now in San Diego's Sullivan Baseball Research Center***by Fred Rodgers*

Baseball Gold now is in SABR's possession at the San Diego Public Library's Sullivan Baseball Research Center.



The only known complete collection of the San Diego Padres' Official Newspaper, *Baseball Gold*, has been turned over to the San Diego Ted Williams Chapter of SABR for posterity. What is *Baseball Gold*? Why would SABR be interested in its preservation? To answer those questions we have to go back to the summer of 1959, when a young Freddy Rodgers was getting interested in The National Game.

My dad came home to our house in Waterloo, NY, one day after work with a copy of *The Sporting News* (TSN) just after the completion of the 1959 World Series in which the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Chicago White Sox in six games for their first West Coast Championship.

I had watched every game enthusiastically with my dad and was especially enamored with Dodgers second baseman Charlie Neal, who hit two home runs in one game. I read the TSN issue from cover to cover and was hooked. I then had my dad purchase TSN whenever he could, and I voraciously read every word in it.

In 1961 we moved to Los Angeles and I more or less just read *The Los Angeles Times* every day. In 1963 Pete Rose was a rookie and I devoured every box score he appeared in. After watching his first year in pro ball at Geneva, NY (12 miles from Waterloo), he was my new hero.

Over the next decade I would read TSN occasionally.

In August of 1976, while lying on the beach in San Diego with my new issue of TSN, I spotted an ad for a complete collection of *The Sporting News* for sale consisting of all issues from January 1960 to the current issue. I had to have it.

I inquired about purchasing it and 30 minutes later I was driving up the freeway to Los Angeles to receive my first collection intact.

Over the next couple of decades I purchased from various sources (including SABR) issues from 1912 to 1959. My collection was complete.

I then used my Apple II to index approximately 40,000 references throughout 1943-1982. Why?

So that I could get published with my own personal library at my hand. My wife asked me who I was going to write for and I had no idea. She asked if the Padres had their own newspaper and I said I would find out.

Through fellow SABR member Andy Strasberg, who was working for the Padres at the time, I got a meeting with President Ballard Smith and asked if they would like me to publish a newspaper for them. Ballard said I was free to try it out with a sample issue on Ray Kroc Day, the last day of the 1982 season in San Diego. "But we aren't going to give you any money!" said Ballard. I replied, "Fine, but if you approve of *Baseball Gold* then I would like a copy of the current season ticket holder list." He agreed and off I went to gather advertiser money from any business I was doing business with.

That is how the first eight-page issue was printed. My partner was Dick Brocious, who owned a taxi business. The plan was to have *Baseball Gold* in every cab for free for clients and also mail them to all the season ticket holders. The first issue of 10,000 copies was handed out, copy by copy, by 12 friends/co-workers at the gates to Jack Murphy Stadium.

The next week I went to see Ballard Smith and he wholeheartedly gave approval for us to continue with the project. I was ecstatic that I could now write baseball stories as long as I wanted to. The challenge for me was that now I had to round up some writing talent. In retrospect, when I look back at the articles, I am amazed at the talent I collected. For example...

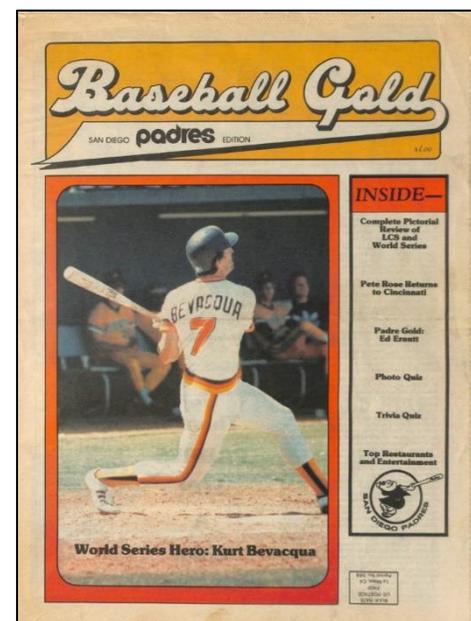
Local newspaper writers such as Steve Dolan, Dave Hatz, and Gary Hyvonen were consistently giving me great articles about the current Padres team. Padres employees like Andy Strasberg and Jim Geschke gave great insight into more pertinent aspects of the team and baseball. Then local celebrities like announcers Ted Leitner and Dave Campbell came aboard. Then The Famous San Diego Chicken started writing a column. I coaxed Earl Keller into writing a "Padres Gold" article in every issue regarding the PCL Padres. Earl was the first sportswriter of the *San Diego Union* to cover the Padres (i.e., the PCL version in 1936). I then went national by garnering the likes of MLB umpire Joe West, San Francisco Bay Area legend Jack McDonald, and Brooklyn historian Tom Knight. Wayne Stewart, from Ohio, and Dan Schossberg, from Atlanta joined our crew. Local SABR members like Joe Naiman and Victor Buckel pitched in with great articles. And many more provided great memories for the fans. (The writer Brock Richards was me using a pseudonym so that Fred Rodgers didn't write too many articles!)

Two months after printing the first issue my partner Dick Brocious was bought out by Padres player Kurt Bevacqua, who immediately opened more doors for us to expand the reading base. In 1984 I put Kurt on the cover and it became a controversy, as a lot of readers thought that Kurt put himself on the cover. But the truth is I did ALL THE EDITING. Kurt's homer in Game 2 of the 1984 World Series won the only game the Padres have ever won in a World Series so I think it is a moot point.

In January of 1986 I bowed out as part owner, as I did not want to throw more money in the business to expand to other cities. To me this was a labor of love, and if I could, I would have done it for free. Kurt paid me monthly to be the editor, which was fine. I was sorry when production was halted after the June 1986 issue. It was a fun ride.

Over the years great friendships still remain with those that were involved with producing *Baseball Gold*. (By the way, the name came from mining golden nuggets of information from the archives of *The Sporting News*!)

I would have to shout out thanks to Kurt Bevacqua, Andy Strasberg, Jim Geschke, Tim Flannery, Bruce



Bochy, Ted Giannoulas, Joe West, my ex-wife Janet, my daughters Amber and Jessica, and all the family and friends that helped get it printed and distributed. And a special thanks to all the members of the San Diego Ted Williams chapter of SABR for making it possible that this collection will not be lost in an attic somewhere.

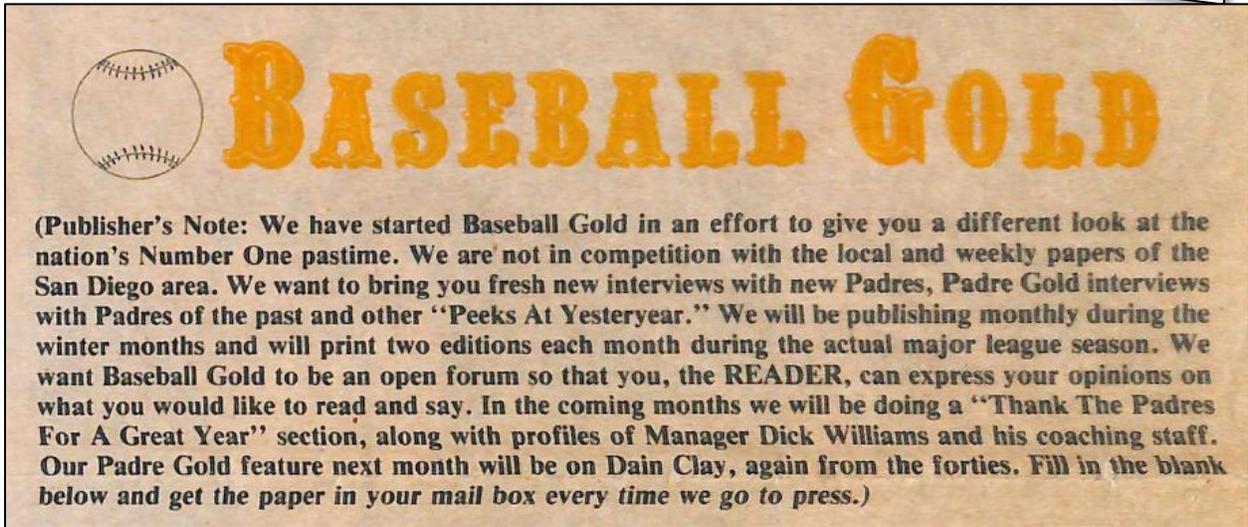
If anyone wants a flash drive with every issue of *Baseball Gold* on it (pdf), send \$20 to Fred Rodgers, 937 5th St., San Leon, TX, 77539 to receive one. I hope everyone gets a chance to look back through these issues at a special time for the San Diego Padres and their first World Series competition.

AFTERWORD

Baseball Gold was published from October 1982 until June 1986. There were 48 issues in all. The issues were generally 20-24 pages in length. This four-year period surrounded the Padres' first World Series appearance in 1984.

Fred served as President of our Ted Williams SABR Chapter in the early 1990s. He lives in the Houston area now and admits to split loyalties between the Padres and the Astros.

Fred approached us in April 2021 with his generous offer to donate the full set of Baseball Gold issues to our chapter. The set of 48 issues are now preserved in the Sullivan Family Baseball Research Center.



The "Publisher's Note" from the First Issue of *Baseball Gold*, October 1982, p. 5



3

An Informal Q&A with Andy Strasberg About His New Book *MY 1961*



Released in May 2021, Andy's latest book is basically an autobiography of what his life was like being a 13-year-old in 1961 living in White Plains, New York, a suburb of New York City. You can order a copy from the publisher at this website: <https://www.augustpublications.com/products/my-1961>.

Below you can read his answers to a few questions about the book and ... *his 1961*.

Q: *For the benefit of those who have not yet read your book, what's it all about?*

A: "My 1961" is 30% about my experiences as a 13-year-old from January 1 through December 31, 1961 (e.g., school, girls, rock n 'roll, JFK, astronauts, my parents, TV, comic books, plus specific events of the world) and 70% about the Yankees with an immense focus on Roger Maris.

Q: *You're obviously a good-looking stud of a kid at 13; however, what other ideas did you consider for the cover of your book?*

A: The pathetic photo-booth picture of me from 1961 wanting to see what I'd look like if I ever had my photo taken with Maris was the first and only idea for the cover.

Q: *Is Miss Cramer, your English teacher, really the inspiration for this book, and not Roger Maris?*

A: Miss Cramer gets the credit because if I hadn't been assigned to do the autobiography, I doubt I would have done it on my own and probably never start taking notes of my life experiences.

Q: *What made you decide to keep notes on a regular basis after 1961?*

A: I was and still am a checklist guy. I enjoyed documenting things that occurred in my life plus I wanted to see if there was a pattern of good things and not good happening to me. It got to the point that for awhile I was writing down when I would get a cold or headache.

When I traveled around North America looking for a job in baseball I also kept notes. So, by the time I began working for the Padres in 1975 I was making notes on my desk calendar for each day that something unusual or unique happened.

Q: Presumably you feel that Roger Maris should be inducted as a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. What are your reasons for these feelings??

A: I can't be objective when that question comes up BUT Maris was an impact player during his career. The testament to that was the fact that for the 12 years he played in the big leagues he was on seven pennant winners. And those teams pointed out that Maris made the difference in making them winners.

Q: Other than Roger Maris hitting HR #61, what are your two favorite memories of him in 1961?

A: (1) The June 11 doubleheader at Yankee Stadium against the Angels. Rog hit 2 homers in one game and made 2 home run robbing circus catches in the other. It was the catches that "caught" my attention. (2) I was also mesmerized by game #154, September 20, because Maris had 58 homers, it was Frick's imposed deadline to beat Ruth, the Yanks were trying to win the pennant that game in Ruth's childhood home town, the weather was horrible and Mantle was not in the lineup so Rog was playing centerfield. And he still managed to hit his 59th homer.

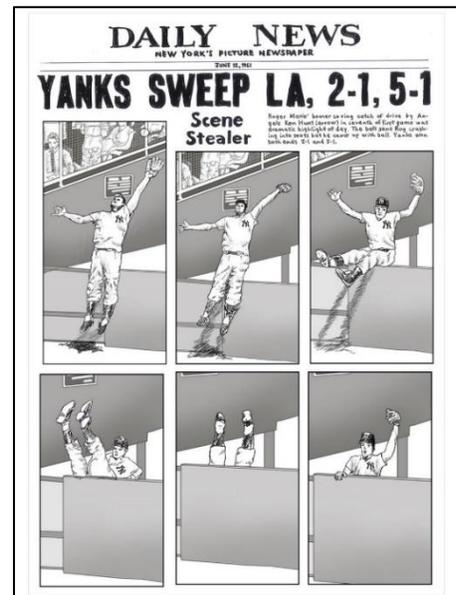
Q: Was there ever a "#2 Roger Maris fan"?

A: At least a couple hundred and I think I've met most of them because they introduce themselves as, "If you're Maris' number one fan then I'm number 2."

Q: Was there ever a "Maris fan club"?

A: Yes. Jeanette Belle who lived at 1328 North Ave., Elizabeth NJ, was the president of the Maris fan club and I was a member in good standing. Currently there are number of websites that are for Roger Maris fans.

Q: What's the first thing that comes to mind when you see an *?



Artwork by Russ Updahl

A: It's a three-way tie for what comes to mind first. (1) I think of baseball commissioner Ford Frick and I mean Frick and (2) his imposed 154-game deadline. (3) I think of New York sports writer Dick Young who came up with the idea of an asterisk, and contrary to many fans beliefs there was never an asterisk in the record book. It was a double entry - Ruth for 154 games and Maris for 162 games.

Q: *Will there be a sequel?*

A: Yes. I am writing in detail about the five "home run derby" exhibitions that took place in North Carolina a week after the 1961 World Series ended. Maris faced Jim Gentile and Harmon Killebrew. These five 1961 home run exhibitions are an almost forgotten footnote in baseball history. I have gathered specifics from each event, received information from Jack McKeon who was one of the pitchers, and recently talked with Jim Gentile about what he remembers. In addition, I have uncovered photos taken at the events that have never been published.



Left to right: Roger Maris, Harmon Killebrew, and Jim Gentile, signing autographs at one of their 1961 Home Run Derby exhibitions



We found the article below in the first issue of Baseball Gold from October 1982. In a column written by Fred Rodgers he treats us to some interesting background on Andy and his connection with Roger Maris.

The Golden Era
Touching By Fred Rodgers
The Bases

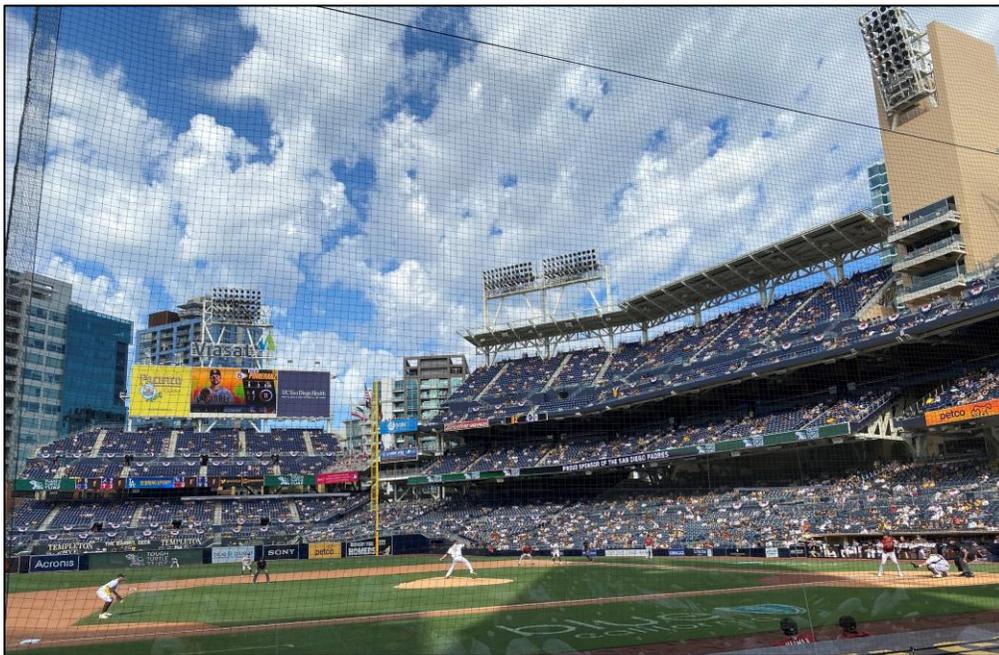
Padres official, Andy Strasberg, is the proud owner of one of the largest authentic baseball memorabilia collections in the world. His Roger Maris collection is regarded as one of the most comprehensive ever found on one player. Andy is truly a Roger Maris fan. In Dec. 1966, Maris was traded by the New York Yankees to the St. Louis Cardinals. At that time Andy was going to college in Ohio. When the visiting Cards came to Pittsburgh early in 1967, Andy traveled east to see Maris play. Since Maris wore uniform number 9, Andy bought a ticket in the right field bleachers, Row 9, Seat 9, for good luck. Sure enough Roger hit his first N.L. homerun off Pirates pitcher Woody Fryman. Guess who caught the ball? Right! Andy sure is glad he had five witnesses with him.

4

OPENING DAY 2021 – UNLIKE ANY OTHER*by Gregory Funk*

Opening Day 2021. Thursday April 1. For the second year in a row, not the usual. Due to a 20% capacity restriction, a “crowd” of 10,350 attended. But it was 10,350 more than last year.¹

Not all was unusual. This was home opener number 53, and I was there, as usual. Last year had me scrambling to keep my never-missing-the-opener streak alive. I watched a portion of the 2020 game on a phone while standing on the grounds of Petco Park. The 2021 season is my 50th as a season ticket holder, giving me high priority rights to some nice seats near third base for the opener. (Most people did not get access to their regular seats.) These had an unobstructed view of the game, thanks to being surrounded by empty seats. It was, however, my first Opening Day seat that was not directly behind home plate since 1971.



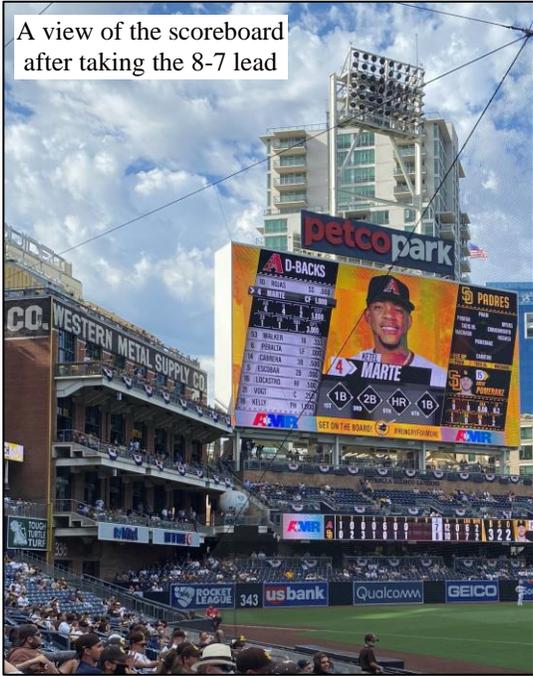
A view from our seats with distanced seating

Some of the differences this time included app-only ticket entry, app-only food and drink purchasing, mask requirements, and limitations to what you could bring into the park.

I found the game itself quite entertaining. A blown 6-1 lead, then falling behind, but ultimately beating the Diamondbacks, 8-7. Yu Darvish, acquired in a trade along with his personal catcher, Victor Caratini, started, and through 4½ innings scattering six hits along with no walks and six strikeouts, led 6-1. Meanwhile, Caratini drove in the first, second, and fifth runs of the season, while Eric Hosmer and Wil Myers provided back-to-back home runs, bringing back memories of three-in-a-row, and optimism that Jake Cronenworth could match it. In 1987, Marvell Wynne, Tony Gwynn, and John Kruk opened the home season with three straight homers, and in 1997, Chris Gomez, Rickey Henderson, and Quilvio Veras equaled that during an 11-run comeback outburst. In this instance, though, Cronenworth walked, one of four consecutive times he reached base.

¹ 10,350 is the official number of tickets that were reported sold. However, MLB.com (AJ Cassavell, April 1, 2021) and the *San Diego Union-Tribune* (Kevin Acee, April 2, 2021, p.d-1) both had game stories that noted actual attendance in the seats was 8,773.

A view of the scoreboard after taking the 8-7 lead



Ironically, there was a home run record set: The Diamondbacks hit four in the fifth, two off Darvish, and two off Tim Hill to take the lead, 7-6. Helping out was an error by Fernando Tatis, Jr., to keep the inning alive after the first two homers, and Hill not getting the call after taking four steps off the mound thinking he had struck out Stephen Vogt on a half-swing. Vogt hit homer number four on the next pitch, setting a one-inning record for an opening day.

Hosmer, who had doubled home the sixth run in the fourth, singled home the seventh run in the sixth to tie the game. Then, in the seventh inning, Cronenworth in his at-bat following the aforementioned walk, came within a foot of hitting it out, but the resulting triple was followed by a tie-breaking sacrifice fly by Jurickson Profar. The game was rather ordinary after that, with no batter for either team reaching base after Cronenworth except for a lone hit by the D-backs' pinch-hitter Carson Kelly.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Arizona Diamondbacks	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	7	12	0
San Diego Padres	0	2	3	1	0	1	1	0	X	8	10	1

WP: Emilio Pagan (1-0) • LP: Alex Young (0-1) • SV: Mark Melancon (1)

A Few Tidbits

- It was the first Padres one-run Opening Day victory since 1992.
- It was the first time the Padres ever squandered a lead of more than three runs on any Opening Day.
- The seven runs allowed was the second most ever in an Opening Day win (16-13 in 1983 vs. SF).



Greg and son Kenny with masks lowered to smile for the camera



5

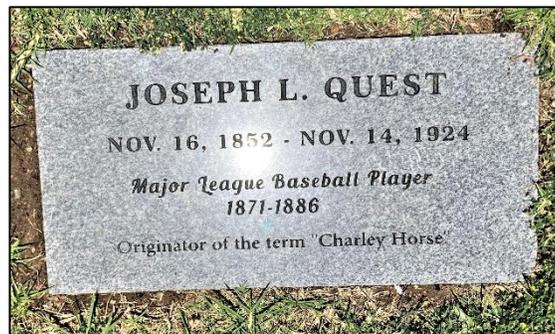
Chapter Project GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: A GRAVE MARKER for JOE QUEST

by Tom Larwin

One of our chapter projects has been to install plaques or markers to represent places or people that are part of San Diego's baseball history. Our first notable marker was the one that currently rests at the corner of Broadway and Pacific Highway. It marks the site of Lane Field that served as the ballpark for our original San Diego PCL Padres from 1936 to 1957.

In early 2021 we embarked on another marker. Through the lead of our vice president, Andy Strasberg, we set about to identify former major league ball players who have died in San Diego and are resting in a local cemetery but are without any grave stone. Also, research on major league player burials in San Diego by Fred Worth was consulted.² The effort culminated in a project approved by our chapter's Steering Committee to proceed with a grave marker for former major league player Joseph Lewis Quest. The costs for the project were paid from chapter funds available from cash contributions received for chapter projects.

Below is shown the gravestone for Quest that was recently installed at San Diego's Mount Hope Cemetery (entrance is located on Market Street at Horton Avenue, which is approximately 3800 East).

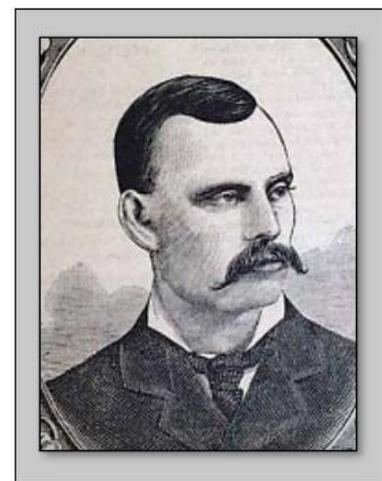


Who was Joseph Lewis Quest?

He was born in 1852 in New Castle, Pennsylvania, a city then of a few thousand population located northwest of Pittsburgh and near the Ohio border.

As a teenager, Quest played on local teams in the New Castle and Oil City area and caught the attention of the 1871 Cleveland Forest Citys team of the National Association (NA). The 1871 NA season is considered to be the first year of major league baseball. Quest joined the team on August 30, 1871; he became a member of the first major league rookie class and was the 109th player to debut as a major league player.³

In all, his major league career covered 10 seasons: 1871 and 1878-1886. Physically, Quest was not too imposing; his height was 5'6" and weight, 150 pounds. His primary position was second base. He played in 596 games and hit



² Fred Worth, "Baseball Burials in San Diego," *The National Pastime: Pacific Ghosts*, SABR, 2019.

³ To put this number in perspective, in a game on May 21, 2021, here in San Diego, the Seattle Mariners' José Godoy became Major League Baseball's 20,000th player.

for a .217 average, with only one home run in 2,402 plate appearances.⁴ The home run by Quest came on June 27, 1881, and was hit off Hall of Fame pitcher John Montgomery Ward.

After playing 42 games with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1886, Quest was released in late July. For the remainder of 1886 and into the 1887 season he was a National League umpire for a total of 69 games.

As an umpire he participated in an unusual experiment in a couple of October 1886 games where there was a three-party umpire-referee that would be in charge of umpiring the game. There were two umpires, with one appointed by each team. Then there was a neutral referee added, as a third party, who would be called upon if the two umpires had a disagreement. Not surprisingly, this three-party umpiring system died a quick death.⁵

Between 1887 and 1892 Quest concluded his playing career with minor league teams in Eau Claire (Northwestern League), Lowell (New England), Toledo (International), and Ispeming (Wisconsin-Michigan). His last on-field experience was as an umpire in the San Diego City League in 1916.

Records indicate that before moving to San Diego at age 58 in 1911⁶ Quest mainly resided in Chicago after leaving professional baseball. As noted above, in San Diego he remained active in local sandlot baseball as an umpire.

Quest passed away in San Diego in 1924 two days shy of his 72nd birthday.

However...there is another story associated with Joe Quest.

Who was Charley?

While he was a popular player in the 1880s Quest never achieved notoriety as a star. Yet, some 130 years later his name commonly appears in baseball trivia. It all has to do with the term “charley horse.” You see, Joe Quest is the one credited with coming up with the name.

Here’s Merriam-Webster’s modern definition of the term:

charley horse is a muscular pain, cramping, or stiffness especially of the quadriceps that results from a strain or bruise.

One of the earliest public uses of the term was in 1886, when it described a player with a leg ailment who had “...what is known by ball players as ‘Charley Horse.’ Which is lameness in the thigh, caused by straining the cord.”⁷

As for Quest’s role in the story, this was reported in 1886: “Several years ago, says the Chicago Tribune, Joe Quest, now of the Athletics, gave the name of ‘Charlie Horse’ to a peculiar contraction and hardening of the muscles and tendons of the thigh which base ball players are especially liable from the sudden starting and stopping in chasing balls, as well as the frequent slides in base running.”⁸ “One of the

Chicago					Browns						
	R	B	P	A	E		R	B	P	A	E
Gore, c. f. . .	0	2	0	0	0	Latham, 3b. .	1	0	2	1	0
Kelly, c. ss. 1b	0	0	7	4	2	Carruthers, p. .	2	2	0	5	2
Anson, 1b, c. .	0	0	5	2	0	O'Neil, l. f. . .	2	3	1	0	0
Pfeffer, 2b. . .	0	0	7	3	1	Gleason, ss. .	1	1	0	1	0
Will'n, ss, c. .	0	0	2	1	1	Comisky, 1b. .	0	2	8	0	2
Burns, 3b. . . .	0	0	1	2	4	Welch, c. f. . .	2	1	0	0	0
Ryan, r. f. . . .	0	0	1	0	0	Foutz, r. f. . .	2	2	3	0	0
Dal'ple, l. f. .	0	0	1	1	2	Robinson, 2b	1	1	1	5	0
McCorm'k, d .	0	0	0	4	3	Bushong, c. . .	1	1	9	0	1
Totals.	0	2	24	17	13	Totals.	12	15	24	12	5

Innings— 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
 Chicago.....0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0
 Browns.....2 0 0 2 3 0 5 0—12
 Runs earned—Chicago, 0; Browns, 2. Home runs—O'Neil, 2. Three-base hits—Foutz, Carruthers. Two-base hits—Bushong, Carruthers. Total bases—Chicago, 2; Browns, 2. Base stolen—Welch. First base on errors—Chicago, 2; Browns, 7. On called balls—Anson, Williamson, Latham, O'Neil, Welch. Left on bases—Chicago, 4; Browns, 5. Passed balls—Kelly, 0; Bushong, 1. Wild pitches—McCormick, 2; Carruthers, 0. Struck out—By McCormick, 4; by Carruthers, 1. Double plays—Dalrymple, Kelly. Fielder's choice—Williamson. Time of game—2 hours. Referee—Kelly. Umpires—For Chicago, Quest; for Browns, McQuade.

This is the box score from the game played on October 19, 1886, between the Chicago White Stockings and St. Louis Browns that lists the two umpires and referee in the summary. (October 20, 1886, Chicago Tribune, p.2.)



⁴ This ranks Quest 12th on the list of players with the most plate appearances and only one home run. The “leader” is Davy Force, who played in 1871-1886, and had 4,406 plate appearance and one home run.

⁵ More on this experiment can be found in Morris, A Game of Inches, p.253.

⁶ In a *San Diego Union* article dated November 9, 1913, it was reported that Quest had been a resident of San Diego for two years.

⁷ March 21, 1886, *The Courier-Journal* (Louisville, Kentucky), p.10.

⁸ July 18, 1886, *Cleveland Leader*, p.3.

Chicago players had just pulled up with a bad strain. Joe remarked that the player in question ‘hobbles like an old Charley horse.’”⁹

There were different versions of the origin of Quest’s story line. Here is one version, dating from 1898, as described by the editor of Quest’s hometown *New Castle Daily News* (Pennsylvania):

*“Joe was employed in the establishment of Quest & Shaw, this city, learning the machinist’s trade, the senior member of the firm being his father. An old white horse named Charley was used by the firm in a wagon utilized for hauling machinery around the works. Charley had drawn so many heavy loads and was so advanced in years that he had a peculiarly wobbly gait, occasioned by his strained tendons. When Joe noticed the ball players limping around Charley’s walk was recalled in his mind and he named the condition of the players after the old horse at his father’s works.”*¹⁰

Here’s another version of the term’s origin, also from 1898, and one that seems to be the most accepted. It was originally told by Hugh Nicol, who played alongside Quest on the 1882 Chicago White Stockings:

“Joe Quest coined the phrase a way back in 1882, in Chicago...It’s a racehorse story and it happened this way. Chicago was having a off day. Our schedule called for some eighty odd games in those seasons and we had more spare time than the big leaguers have now. There was racing down on the south side and some of the boys took great interest in it...The tip had gone out the night before that a horse named ‘Charley’ was a sure winner that afternoon...we were all in with the exception of Joe Quest. No amount of argument could induce him to bet a copper on that horse...In the last turn Charley stumbled went lame in his right hind leg, and the field closed up. Quest threw a fit: ‘Look, look!’ he shouted as the first horse passed Charley. ‘Look at your Charley horse now.’ And he kept it up. Charley finished outside the money and we didn’t hear the last of ‘our old Charley horse’ the rest of the day.”

*It was during a game Chicago played the next day with Chicago’s George Gore on base and attempting a steal and about half way down Gore stepped into a pocket and sprung a strain, just the way the pony had done the day before and Quest sang out: ‘There’s your old Charley horse—he’d made it all right if it hadn’t been for that old Charley horse.’”*¹¹

* * *

Now you know who Joe Quest and Charley were!

Interesting family (and, San Diego baseball history) trivia concern the two Quest children.

They both married two children from another family in San Diego. Quest’s son, Joseph J., married Elsa Evert. Quest’s daughter, Helen, married Elsa’s brother, Elmer Evert.

In limited action as an emergency catcher, Elmer Evert would go on to play for the 1936 San Diego Padres (PCL, AA). He played in only two games; however, one game was particularly notable in San Diego baseball history, as it involved Ted Williams’ first game as a professional baseball player on June 27, 1936.

Elmer and Helen Evert had two children, one was a boy, Robert, born in 1930. Robert Evert attended Hoover High and was a catcher who played in the minor leagues between 1949 and 1954. Grandfather Joe would have been proud.



⁹ April 17, 1898, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, p.19.

¹⁰ November 8, 1898, *Buffalo Times*, p.6.

¹¹ April 16, 1906, *Lincoln Star* (Lincoln, Nebraska), p. 7.

CHECK THIS OUT!

SDPL Podcast Re: Joseph Murphy Baseball Autograph Collection

This week's episode of [Listeners' Advisory: The San Diego Public Library Podcast](#) will feature the new [Joseph Murphy Baseball Autograph Collection!](#)

Host Bob Surratt speaks with Steve Murphy (son of Joseph Murphy), Ted Williams' Chapter President Tom Larwin, and Sullivan Family Baseball Research Center Manager, Pete Miesner, about the newly added autograph collection and the story of how it came to be.

Find Listeners' Advisory [here](#) or wherever you get your podcasts. Episode airs **beginning June 9th**.



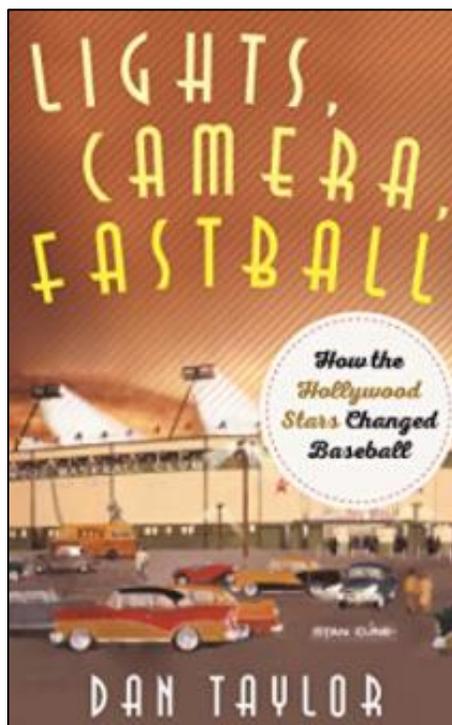
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LIGHTS, CAMERA, FASTBALL – How the Hollywood Stars Changed Baseball

A New Book by Dan Taylor

A new book has placed the Pacific Coast League in the spotlight, specifically the Hollywood Stars.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, FASTBALL – How the Hollywood Stars Changed Baseball is the latest work by author, researcher, and historian Dan Taylor. A SABR member from Fresno, Taylor not only focuses on the history of the Hollywood Stars but also brings to light the many innovations the club brought to professional baseball.



While many will recall the Stars introduced short pants back in 1950, they are also responsible for the in-game intermission during which the grounds crew re-grooms the infield. Taylor further shares that Hollywood was the first minor league club to air games on television and the first to travel to away games by air.

At the instigation of the Stars, owners of the other five California-based Pacific Coast League clubs launched the California League, which continues to thrive to this day. Hollywood was also responsible for creation of the Billings Mustangs, who have since played in the Pioneer League for more than six decades.

The book depicts the unique connection between the Stars and the San Diego Padres. Bill Lane's Padres previously played as the Hollywood Stars before their move to San Diego. Both clubs engaged in a fierce fight for the 1949 Pacific Coast League pennant, which is discussed in depth, as are Ted Beard's four-homer game in a 1953 Stars-Padres game and the tragic death of Herb Gorman, also in 1953.

The Hollywood Stars, of course, are most noted as the team supported by the biggest names in the motion picture industry. Not only were celebrities fans of the team, but part owners. Cecil B. DeMille, Bing Crosby, Barbara Stanwyck, and Gene Autry were just some of the stars who invested in the Stars. Moreover, each was an active participant in the activities of the club, handing out bats on bat day, hosting parties,

and inviting players to dinners. Their involvement with the club led to roles in motion pictures for Hollywood Stars players and for movies to be shot at the club's park, Gilmore Field.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, FASTBALL – How the Hollywood Stars Changed Baseball captures the glory and the glamour of the greatest era in Pacific Coast League history. The author's research also brings to light the many innovations the Hollywood Stars brought to the game of baseball, many of which have become staples and continue to be visible decades later. You can order a copy on Amazon.com.



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1962: BASEBALL AND AMERICA IN THE TIME OF JFK

A New Book by David Krell

SABR Northern NJ chair David Krell tackles unexplored topics in baseball, cultural, and history scholarship in his latest book, *1962: Baseball and America in the Time of JFK*, published by University of Nebraska Press.

In the watershed year of 1962, events and people came together to reshape baseball like never before. The season saw five no-hitters, a rare National League playoff between the Giants and the Dodgers, and a thrilling seven-game World Series where the Yankees, led by Mickey Mantle, won their 20th title, beating the San Francisco Giants, led by Willie Mays, in their first appearance since leaving New York.

Baseball was expanding with the Houston Colt .45s and the New York Mets, who tried to fill the National League void in New York but finished with 120 losses and the worst winning percentage since 1900. Despite their record, the '62 Mets revived National League baseball in a city thirsty for an alternative to the Yankees. As the team struggled through a disastrous first year, manager Casey Stengel famously asked, "Can't anybody here play this game?"

Earlier that year in Los Angeles, Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley launched Dodger Stadium, a state-of-the-art ballpark in Chavez Ravine and a new icon for the city. For the Dodgers, Sandy Koufax pitched his first of four career no-hitters, Maury Wills set a record for stolen bases in a season, and Don Drysdale won 25 games.

Beyond baseball, 1962 was also a momentous year in American history: Mary Early became the first Black graduate of the University of Georgia, First Lady Jackie Kennedy revealed the secrets of the White House in a television special, John Glenn became the first astronaut to orbit Earth, and JFK stared down Russia during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Rachel Carson illustrated the dangers of pesticides on the food supply in *Silent Spring*, Ken Kesey chronicled the impact of mental illness in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and Jack Lemmon and Lee Remick displayed the realities of alcoholism in *Days of Wine and Roses*.

Weaving the 1962 baseball season within the social fabric of this era, David Krell delivers a fascinating book as epochal as its subject. You can order your copy on Amazon.com.

