

## **Chapter Newsletter**

April 2020

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to date on chapter

### **ON DECK!**

To our members!

We hope that this finds you  
and your family well.

Until further notice we will  
not have any chapter "Talkin'  
Baseball" lunches or Regional  
Meetings.

In the meantime, please  
enjoy our latest newsletter!



### **AN INVITATION**

Are YOU conducting baseball research?

If so, consider writing an article about your research to  
be published in a future Chapter newsletter. Please  
submit articles to Geoff Young via email at  
[gyoung858@yahoo.com](mailto:gyoung858@yahoo.com)



### **RECAP: JANUARY 25, 2020, REGIONAL MEETING**

1. 1949: Bucky Harris, The Surprise Padres' Pilot – A Stalled Career Meets A Struggling Franchise
2. A Chat with Broderick Perkins
3. Professional Baseball in California Before 1957

Our regional meeting was held at the North University Community Library on Saturday, January 25. Following are summaries of the three presentations.

#### **1. 1949: Bucky Harris, The Surprise Padres' Pilot – A Stalled Career Meets A Struggling Franchise**

Presented by Bob Hicks

After winning the World Series in his first year as the Yankees skipper in 1947, future Hall of Fame manager [Bucky Harris](#) was fired at the conclusion of the 1948 season. His crime was finishing a mere 2.5 games out of first place despite navigating the Bronx Bombers through an injury-ridden season. Chapter member Bob Hicks covered the fascinating career of “Boy Wonder” Bucky Harris and how he found respite in sunny San Diego by managing the 1949 PCL Padres.

Harris spent most of his playing career with Washington Senators as a second baseman. He played 12 seasons and had 1,295 hits and a .274 batting average. In 1924, at age 27, he became the Senators’ playing manager. In that first year of managing the Senators won the World Series. He ended his major-league managing career in 1956 having won 2,518 games, three pennants and two World Series.

In a managing career that spanned 1924-1956, [San Diego in 1949](#) was a one-year minor-league stop for Harris. By 1949 he had already managed in the majors for 22 seasons.

As one can imagine, his hiring by the Padres garnered a lot of attention in the media and in the community. The 1948 Padres finished in seventh place with a record of 83-105. With Harris at the helm, there were high expectations. As a farm club of the Cleveland Indians, the 1949 team had some promising players, like Luke Easter, Minnie Minoso, and Al Rosen.



The team ended with a record of 95-92 and finished in a tie for fourth place with the Seattle Rainiers. To settle which team would go into the Governor’s Cup playoffs, the two teams had a one-game playoff. Down 6-4 entering the ninth inning the Padres scored five runs and won, 9-6.

Next, the Padres played the Oakland Oaks in a best-of-seven series. The Padres won the series with a convincing 18-2 win in game seven.

The championship series had the Padres going up against the Hollywood Stars, who had polished off the Sacramento Solons. The Stars finished in first place with a regular-season record of 109-78. The Padres won the first two games of the finals but then lost four in a row, and their season was over.

At the same time as the Governor’s Cup was being played the Washington Senators canned their manager, [Joe Kuhel](#). Soon after the Padres lost, Bucky Harris was announced as the Senators’ new manager for the 1950 season.

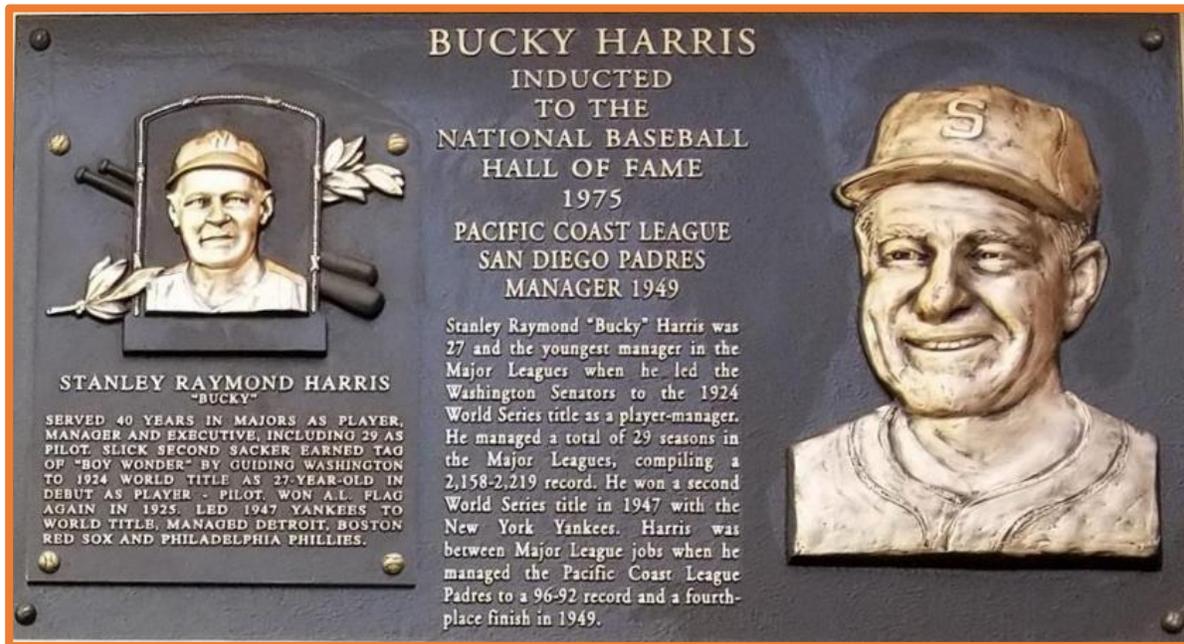
Harris was inducted into National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1975 as a manager. Hicks was active in communicating with the Padres about the merits of Harris being on the wall of Hall of Famers at Petco Park given his year managing the PCL Padres. On Opening Day 2019, Hicks’ efforts came to fruition when Bucky Harris had his plaque added to the group of former PCL and NL Padres who are in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.<sup>1</sup>



Bob Hicks pointing to the plaque at Petco Park recognizing Bucky Harris

<sup>1</sup> Other PCL Padres in the National Baseball Hall of Fame are [Bobby Doerr](#), [Bob Lemon](#), [Tony Perez](#), and [Ted Williams](#).

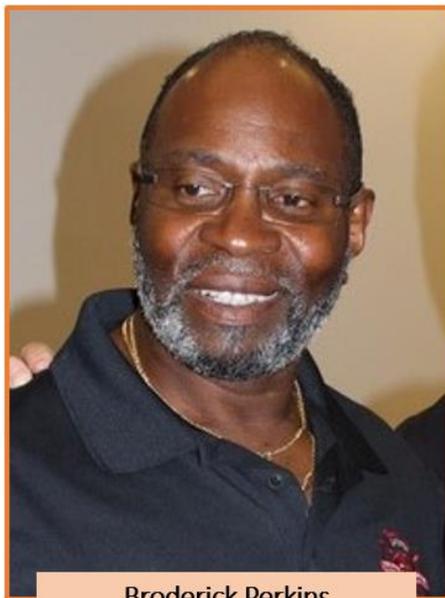




## 2. A Chat with Broderick Perkins

First baseman [Broderick Perkins](#) played in the major leagues for seven seasons, 1978-1984. Selected by the Padres in the 1976 draft, he played for two major-league teams, the Padres (1978-1982) and Cleveland Indians (1983-1984). In November 1982 Perkins and [Juan Eichelberger](#) were traded to the Indians for pitcher [Ed Whitson](#).

The personable Perkins spent nearly 45 minutes covering various facets of his baseball career and responding to questions.



Broderick Perkins

He started off by recounting his unusual path to the major leagues. Perkins grew up in Pittsburg, California, northeast of Oakland. He played for his high school team, but in his senior year Perkins went to the plate just two times: one at-bat ended with a walk and in the other, he was hit by a pitch!

He made his junior college team as a “walk-on” and finally got a start when the player ahead of him was hurt. He finished his college career at St. Mary’s College and was drafted by the Padres in the [15th round of the 1976 draft](#).

Perkins proceeded through the Padres’ minor-league system, beginning in 1976 at [Walla Walla](#) (Class A), where he hit .355. In July 1978 he was with [Hawaii](#) (Class AAA) when he got called up to the Padres. Perkins finished the 1978 season with the Padres and then had split seasons in 1979 and 1980 between Hawaii and the Padres. At the end of those three years as a part-time player with the Padres his cumulative batting average was .277 in 404 at-bats.

In 1981, at age 26, Perkins was finally up to stay with the Padres. It was to be his most memorable season for several reasons.

First, Perkins was one of the National League's top 10 batters during May and June. To start the season [Randy Bass](#) was getting the starts at first base, but his average had hovered around .200. On April 29 Perkins got the start in place of Bass and went 3-for-4. Then, from May 1 through May 16 he had a 15-game hitting streak during which he batted .431. After the streak was over he still was able to maintain an average that kept his name in the top 10 list through early June.

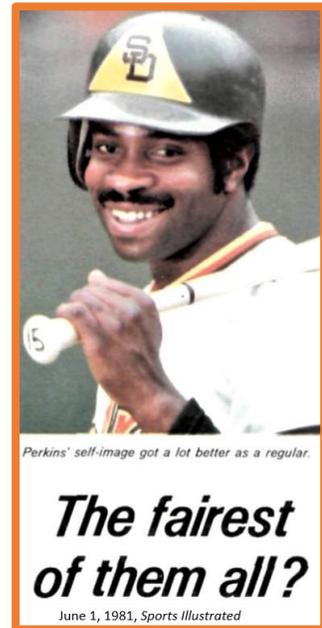
In the meantime, in late May, his first child was born. Yes, it was a memorable event, but his wife was in San Diego while he was playing in Atlanta. So, after a day game he flew from Atlanta to San Diego on a Sunday night and was able to be with his wife when she gave birth. On Monday, after only a few hours' sleep, Perkins was on a plane to Houston where he was able to take his place at first base for a night game against the Astros.

Perkins' arrival at the top of the National League batting averages also caught received national attention. An article on Perkins entitled "The fairest of them all?" appeared in the June 1 issue of *Sports Illustrated*.<sup>2</sup>

On June 12 a players' strike was called and play of MLB games was halted. When the strike ended on August 9, Perkins' average was at .315. However, he cooled off in the second half of the season, going .234 from August 10 on, but still finished with a respectable .280 average.

In his five seasons with the Padres he played under four different managers with four widely different personalities: [Roger Craig](#), [Jerry Coleman](#), [Frank Howard](#), and [Dick Williams](#). But, he cheerfully admitted that he enjoyed it all. Perkins finished his career with the Cleveland Indians in 1983-1984 and retired with a career .271 average.

After baseball Perkins enjoyed another career, as a Captain with the City of San Diego Fire Department, from which he retired in 2015 after 23 years.



### National League Average

TEAM	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Pct
Philadelphia	871	127	243	16	115	.279
New York	772	72	202	14	70	.262
Cincinnati	823	106	215	16	100	.258
St.Louis	702	103	181	13	96	.258
Montreal	804	110	207	21	96	.257
Pittsburgh	723	88	186	12	85	.254
Los Angeles	905	96	239	18	93	.252
Atlanta	903	109	226	14	101	.251
San Francisco	975	102	229	12	99	.235
San Diego	745	83	219	11	77	.232
Houston	900	72	204	16	66	.227
Chicago	793	61	176	7	58	.222

INDIVIDUAL BATTING	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Pct
Perkins SD	52	10	20	1	12	.385
Wesley Hill	91	20	35	2	8	.384
Collins Cin	17	22	36	2	8	.371
Rose Phi	107	17	39	0	6	.364
Madlock Pgh	67	8	24	1	8	.358
Younger NY	56	8	20	7	7	.357
Herridon SF	104	13	36	0	12	.346
Altoe Hm	96	9	33	2	4	.344
Easley Pgh	67	8	23	1	12	.343
Lacy Pgh	38	10	13	0	7	.342
Flynn NY	79	11	27	1	10	.342
Mathews Phi	82	12	28	1	14	.341
Brooks NY	75	9	25	0	9	.333

FINANCIAL NEWS      **The San Diego Union**      SPORTS

11300 YEAR      SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 13, 1981      PAGE C-1

## Padres' Perkins Does It All In 3-0 Victory

By PHIL ORLANSKI

Broderick Perkins, who has won two straight games dominating the absolute performance, scored three times for the third out with two catches in scoring position in the seventh inning. Signed at only 23, he played with the ease and confidence of a veteran.

The seven games through this image showing the five games, the last "The Day, 3-0, 1-0, 1-0, 1-0, 1-0."

Perkins' arrival at the top of the National League batting averages also caught received national attention. An article on Perkins entitled "The fairest of them all?" appeared in the June 1 issue of Sports Illustrated.

## PERKINS:

### In Life, As In Baseball, You Have To Wait On Good Pitch

By WAYNE LOCKWOOD  
Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

The fundamentals of hitting are pretty much like the fundamentals of life.

San Diego Union, May 14, 1981.

## Padres Swing To Perkins' Beat 10-6

San Diego Union, May 15, 1981

<sup>2</sup> Here is a link to the article: Bruce Newman, "[The Fairest of them all?](#)" *Sports Illustrated*, June 1, 1981, pp.56-58.

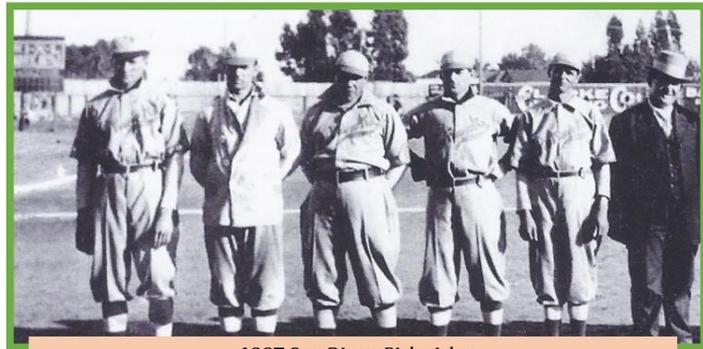
### 3. Professional Baseball in California before 1957

Presented by Carlos Bauer and Bill Swank

The final spot on our January program was a joint presentation by local baseball historians and experts, Carlos Bauer and Bill Swank. They treated us to an informative—and fun—look back at the rich history of professional baseball in California and, in particular, San Diego. Their encyclopedic knowledge was on display as they covered teams and players from 1847 through 1957 (the latter being the year that MLB and the Dodgers and Giants came west).

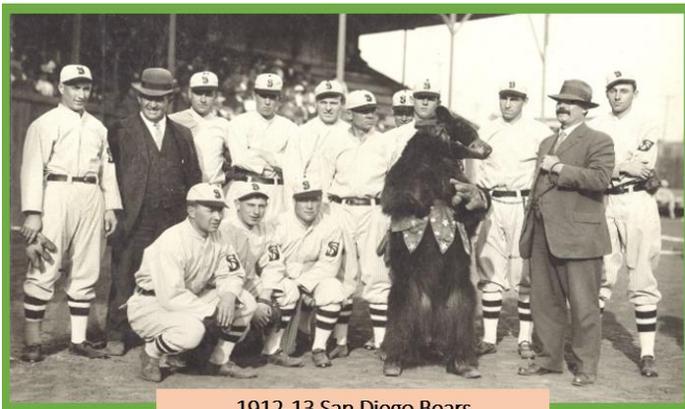


1899 San Diegos

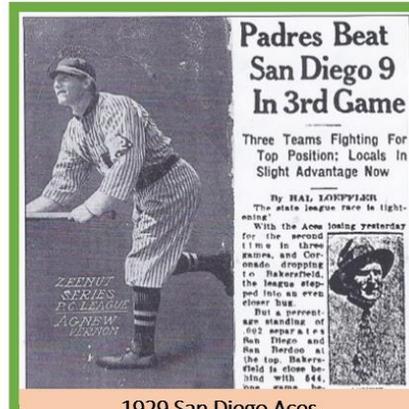


1907 San Diego Pickwick

Walter "Big Train" Johnson (far left) and "Chief" Meyers (3rd from left)



1912-13 San Diego Bears  
(Was the bear real? See last page!)



1929 San Diego Aces

Sam Agnew was the team's player-manager (on left). The Padres? They were the team from San Bernardino.

Swank's focus was on San Diego's history, while Bauer presented a broader look at all of California. With an ample supply of rare photographs, Swank started off and described organized teams that represented San Diego from as early as 1889. A sampling of the photos are shown above.

In the second part of his presentation, Swank introduced photographs of nearly 50 players who have represented San Diego professional teams since as early as 1889 through to 1957. Below are a few photos he shared and his roster of players.



Photos of PCL Padres from the 1936 and 1949 teams

PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS FOR SAN DIEGO TEAMS (prior to 1958)					
Some Notable Players from around the Turn of the 20th Century					
Cal McVay	1889	Sammy Dungan	1889	Gavy Cravath	1900, 11
Lester "Dummy" Taylor	1901	"Turkey Mike" Donlin	1901	Rube Waddell	1902
Kid Mohler	1904	Judge McCredie	1904	Al "Soldier" Carson	1906, 07
Walter "Big Train" Johnson	1907	"Chief" Meyers	1907, 09, 10		
Some Notable PCL Padres from 1936 through 1957					
Vince DiMaggio	1936	Ted Williams	1936, 37	Cedric Durst	1936-43
Bobby Doerr	1936	Jim "Tiny" Chaplin	1937, 38	Wally "Preacher" Hebert	1936-42
Manny Salvo	1936-38, 46-48	Dick Ward	1936-39	Shanty Hogan	1938
Pete Coscarart	1936-9	Yank Terry	1941	Max West	1947, 49-50
Jack Graham	1948, 1950-52	Del Baker	1950-51	Harry "Suitcase" Simpson	1950, 60-61
George Zuverink	1950	Sam "Toothpick" Jones	1951	Memo Luna	1952-53
Ed Erault	1954-57	Bill Wight	1954	Earl Rapp	1953-57
Minnie Minoso	1949-50	Jesse Flores	1948-49	Al Rosen	1949
Luke Easter	1949, 54	Dick Sisler	1954-56	Bob Elliott	1954-57
Floyd Robinson	1954-57, 60	J.C. Martin	1960	Rocky Colavito	1956
Jim "Mudcat" Grant	1957	Gary Bell	1957-58	Earl Averill	1957-58
Eddie Kazak	1955-58	Stu Locklin	1951, 57-59	Rudy Regalado	1957-59
Bill Glynn	1957-58	Vic Lombardi	1956-58		

In his presentation, Bauer went through a detailed summary of professional baseball that existed in California starting in 1878. Based on his extensive research over the past 30 years he has concluded that the history of California baseball is "spectacular and forgotten."

Bauer noted that when it came to baseball, California was really its own "ecosystem." From a transportation point of view the state was basically cut off from the rest of the country. "As late as 1936 even Route 66 was not fully paved."

Beginning with the formation of the "Baseball League of the Pacific Coast" in 1878 Bauer has so far identified 137 different leagues that have existed between that date and 1968. A summary of the results of his research is shown in the table below.

<b>INDEPENDENT LEAGUES IN CALIFORNIA: HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT</b>	
<b>By the Numbers</b>	
<b>137</b>	Different leagues in California between 1878 and 1968
<b>293</b>	Cities/towns that had clubs
<b>45</b>	Counties that had clubs (of the 58 counties in California)
<b>8,964</b>	Players who played in these leagues
<b>The Best Leagues</b>	
California State League	1903-1914
Humboldt County/Redwood League	1879-1957 (not inclusive)
Mission League	1914-1946 (not inclusive)
Sacramento Valley League	1912-1956 (not inclusive)
San Joaquin Valley League	1888-1946 (not inclusive)
<b>Hall of Famers who Played in Independent California Leagues</b>	
<i>Major League Hall of Fame</i>	Frank Chance
	Harry Heilmann
	Harry Hopper
<i>Pacific Coast League Hall of Fame</i>	Spider Baum
	Truck Eagan
	Brick Elred
	Charlie Graham
	Cack Henley
	Kid Mohler
	Frank Shellenback
	Ossie Vitt
	Jimmy Whalen

*Courtesy of Carlos Bauer*

Bauer concluded his presentation by offering his views on the best PCL teams for each of the California-based cities as summarized in the table below.

<b>BEST PCL TEAMS IN EACH CALIFORNIA CITY (through 1957)</b>						
<b>Team</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Pct.</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Best Batter</b>	<b>Best Pitcher</b>
Fresno Raisin Eaters	1906*	64-120	.348	6th	Harry Wolter	Jack Fitzgerald
Hollywood Stars	1949	109-78	.583	1st	Irv Noren	Pinky Woods
Los Angeles Angels	1934	137-50	.733	1st	Frank Demaree	Fay Thomas
Mission Reds	1929	123-78	.612	1st	Ike Boone	Bert Cole
Oakland Oaks	1948	114-74	.606	1st	Nick Etten	Charlie Gassaway
Sacramento Solons	1937	102-76	.573	1st	Art Garibaldi	Tont Freitas
San Diego Padres	1954	102-67	.604	1st	Harry Elliott	Bill Wight
San Francisco Seals	1925	128-71	.643	1st	Paul Waner	Doug McSweeney
Vernon Tigers	1919	111-72	.613	1st	Bob Muesel	Wheezzer Dell

\* Until 1998, 1906 was Fresno's only season in the PCL.

*Courtesy of Carlos Bauer*



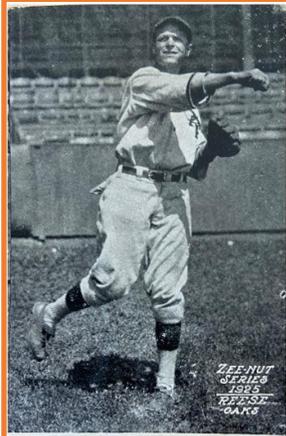
## PADRES' NOTABLE OPENING DAY GAMES

The 2020 MLB season will be memorable for events still to happen (...we hope!), but there has been one for sure that will top the list: NO OPENING DAY! Local member Greg Funk has attended every one of the Padres 51 home openers. So, with his help we developed a list of the Padres' 10 most notable Opening Day games over the team's 51 years (including those away).<sup>3</sup>

NOTABLE PADRES OPENING DAYS							
	Home/ Date		Away		Opponent	Score	What was Notable
1969	April 8	Home			vs Houston	W 2-1	Franchise's first game, and a win.
1974	April 9	Home			vs Houston	L 9-5	Padres owner Ray Kroc throws a tirade
1978	April 7	Away			at San Francisco	W 3-2	The Padres were down 2-0 at Candlestick Park, then scored one in the 7th inning and two in the 8th inning to pull out the victory en route to their first ever winning season. Dave Winfield tied the game with a leadoff homer in the 8th and Mike Champion drove in the game winner with a bases-loaded walk. Rollie Fingers got the six-out save in relief of Gaylord Perry and Mickey Lolich.
1983	April 5	Away			at San Francisco	W 16-13	Notable for Steve Garvey's first game as a Padre
1987	April 13	Home			vs San Francisco	L 13-6	Notable for Marvell Wynne, Tony Gwynn, and John Kruk leading off the 1st inning with consecutive HRs
1992	April 6	Away			at Cincinnati	W 4-3	Darrin Jackson led off the top of the 9th inning with a homer against the Reds' Jose Rijo to break a 3-3 tie, then Randy Myers sealed the deal at Cincinnati against his former team.
1997	April 1	Home			vs New York Mets	W 12-5	Notable due to an 11-run 6th inning. There were 3 straight HR's to start the inning [Chris Gomez, Rickey Henderson (PH), Quilvio Veras] and two hits for Tony Gwynn in the inning. The Padres were down 4-0 at the time and won 12-5.
2004	April 8	Home			vs San Francisco	W 4-3, 10 innings	First MLB game in Petco Park. Ray Durham doubles home 2 off Trevor Hoffman with 2 out in the 9th inning to ruin a 1-0 victory. Sean Burroughs has 3 RBI singles in game: 3rd inning, 9th inning to tie, and 10th inning to win. Marquis Grissom hit HR for Giants in top of the 10th inning to put Giants ahead 3-2. Padres scored both runs in 10th with 2 outs for the walk-off win.
2007	April 3	Away			at San Francisco	W 7-0	The game was decided four batters in, so not a lot of drama, but it's one of the more lopsided opening victories in franchise history and launched what should have been a great season.
2011	March 31	Away			at St. Louis	W 5-3, 11 innings	The Padres trailed the Cardinals 3-2 when Cameron Maybin knocked a solo homer with two outs in the ninth. Maybin then drove in the game winner in the 11th inning. This game was notable because the Padres were down to their last out in the bottom of the 9th.



<sup>3</sup> Note: Read about Ray Kroc's tirade during the April 9, 1974 game by clicking [here](#).



1925 ZeeNut Card  
Reese, Oaks

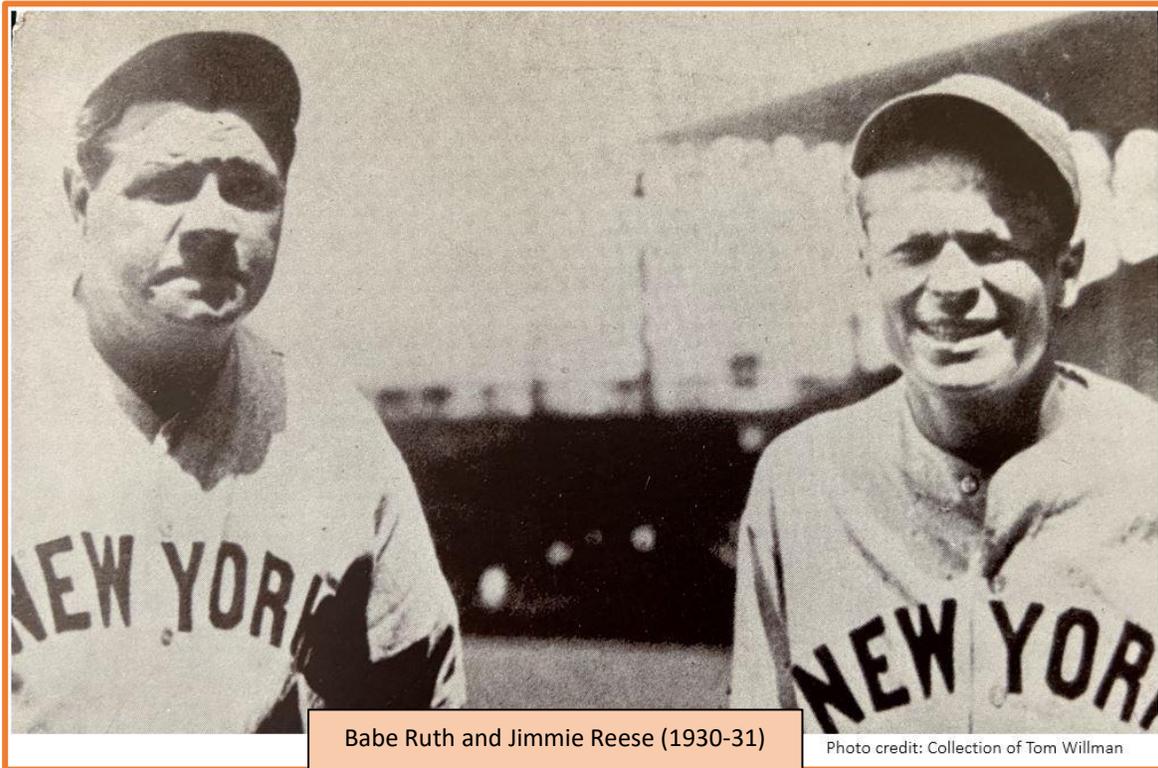
Photo credit: Collection of Tom Willman

## JIMMIE REESE: BASEBALL MEMORIES OF SPRING

By Tom Willman

There should be baseball in the springtime. In the spring, the game renews itself with graceful leisure and tradition is served: The memories—of other players, other days—come back.

In 1994, [Jimmie Reese](#) was in the last springtime of his life. But at nearly 93, he was still swinging his trademark fungo bat for the California Angels. He was a living link to bygone times. He had been in baseball since his World War I-era batboy days with the Pacific Coast League (PCL) Angels of [Frank Chance](#). He had been a PCL star with Oakland in the '20s, a Yankee teammate of [Babe Ruth](#) and [Lou Gehrig](#), a star with the great [1934 PCL Angels](#).



Babe Ruth and Jimmie Reese (1930-31)

Photo credit: Collection of Tom Willman

In San Diego, he had an entire career, as a player (and teammate of young [Ted Williams](#) in 1937) and subsequently as a coach. "They used to say Reese came with the San Diego franchise," wrote *San Diego Union* sports editor and columnist Jack Murphy.<sup>4</sup> "Managers arrived and departed, but Reese, the quiet

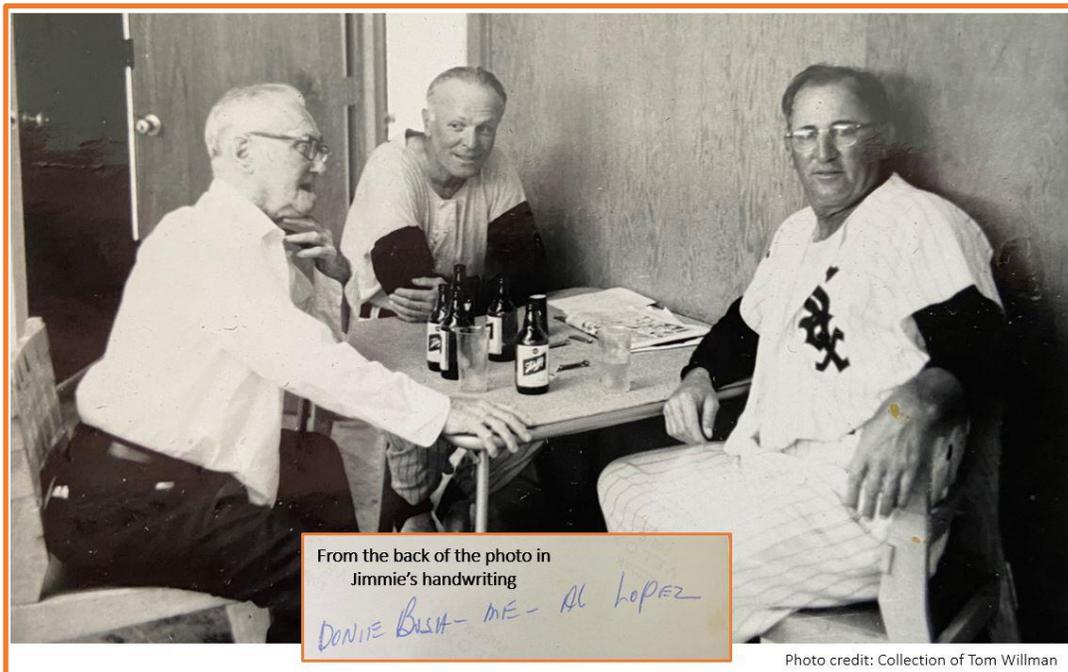
<sup>4</sup>: Jack Murphy, *San Diego Union*, May 26, 1963 p.154.

one, stayed for another 14 years.” That ended in 1961 when Jimmie had a stint as manager. He and the team parted ways in the midst of a fourth-place season.

Jimmie coached for a succession of PCL teams before being invited in 1972 to the California Angels’ spring camp (where he became fast friends with teammate [Nolan Ryan](#)). With that, Jimmie Reese embarked on his last coaching career, which would span another full generation.

All this made Jimmie Reese a venerated keeper of nearly a century of baseball lore, and an obligatory interview for every baseball writer passing through spring camp, every year. Mostly they wanted to hear about Babe. Jimmie, ever humble and accommodating, dutifully brought the legend to life year after year. But Jimmie’s memory was crisp, and his catalogue of baseball tales was long and rich. In the shadow of the Babe, so many of the stories he could tell never got their due.

Just one glimpse: from Jimmie’s personal shoebox archive, a simple black-and-white drugstore snapshot, date-stamped February 1961. It’s a classic tableau of three baseball men, sitting around a card table in a corner of the White Sox’ Sarasota, Fla., spring training clubhouse. At the table are a half-dozen bottles of Schlitz, a bottle opener, a sports page, a score book, and 130 years of baseball experience. [Al Lopez](#), the ‘30s National League catcher and the Sox manager in 1961, lounges with jersey untucked, looking at the camera. Across from him, in sleeves and sanitaries, is Jimmie Reese. Jimmie was in Florida scouting for Padre talent in this topsy-turvy expansion year. In this moment, he leans forward to listen to an elderly gent on his right. The gent is [Donie Bush](#), who had started as an American League rookie player in 1908 and starred at shortstop with Ty Cobb’s Tigers for 14 seasons. He had later become a manager, scout, and minor-league club owner.



Thanks to John P. Carmichael, the great Chicago sports editor and columnist (and originator of the “My Greatest Day in Baseball” interviews), we can almost listen in on this clubhouse conversation. Just weeks before, in his column, “The Barber Shop,” Carmichael had touted Donie Bush as a legitimate

candidate for the Hall of Fame's Veterans' Committee.<sup>5</sup> And this very week, Carmichael seems to have wandered into the Sox camp and gotten Lopez talking about his years as a catcher, and the most memorable players he had seen. "[Paul Waner](#) was the best hitter for a little man," Lopez mused. "He used to turn around to me when he was at bat and grin and say: 'Señor, who would you like for me to present this ball to? . . . ' and then he'd just aim it at some spot without waiting for an answer.' "

That reminiscence echoes straight out of this snapshot. Donie Bush had managed Waner in Pittsburgh, when the Pirates were swept in the Series by the '27 Yankees. And Jimmie had played with Paul Waner in spring camp with the San Francisco Seals in 1924.<sup>6</sup> In '25, Jimmie was with the cross-Bay rival Oakland Oaks and so had a front-row seat for Waner's truly great San Francisco year: 174 games, 699 at-bats, 280 hits and a .401 average, with a PCL championship in the bargain. At this table, everybody could tell Paul Waner stories.<sup>7</sup> And much more.

Of course, one memory would lead to another. Jimmie Reese had been the second-baseman on [Oakland's PCL championship team](#), in 1927. And on the storied Angels championship teams of the mid-1930s. And with [San Diego's first champs](#), in 1937; and he had coached their [second championship squad](#) in 1954.

In 1957, as the old league was fading away, he was honored as the All-Time PCL Second Baseman. In the *1965 PCL Record Book*, he is cited for most lifetime chances accepted, putouts and assists at second base.<sup>8</sup> Jimmie was more than a witness to history. He had a long highlight reel of his own.

Back in '24, as a youngster in camp with the Seals, Jimmie was widely admired for his attitude and hustle. " 'Gosh!' he told one reporter. 'I don't care where they send me or what position they tell me to play. All I want is to play ball.' " <sup>9</sup> When he died, 70 years later, the game had given him his wish, and memories enough to last a lifetime.

### MORE TO READ ON JIMMIE REESE

Here are links to two additional articles on Jimmie Reese that we think you would enjoy reading:

- Tom Willman, "[Jimmie Reese: The Career and the Man](#)," 2011 *The National Pastime*.
- Ralph Berger, "[Jimmie Reese](#)," SABR BioProject.



"JIMMIE REESE" All-Time  
PCL Second Baseman  
(Helms Athletic Foundation)

<sup>5</sup> John P. Carmichael, "The Barber Shop," *Chicago Daily News*, January 14, 1961, p.33.

<sup>6</sup> Unlabeled clipping, "Seals to Take 50 Players to Spring Camp," with roster of Seals 1924 Baseball Club including Jimmie as "Recruit" Shortstop and Waner among outfielders.

<sup>7</sup> John P. Carmichael, "The Barber Shop," *Chicago Daily News*, February 22, 1961, p.34.

<sup>8</sup> Sam Balter, "One for the Book," *Los Angeles Herald & Express*, August 17, 1957, p.12.

<sup>9</sup> Unlabeled clipping, "Reese a Hustler," no byline, in Jimmie Reese scrapbook.

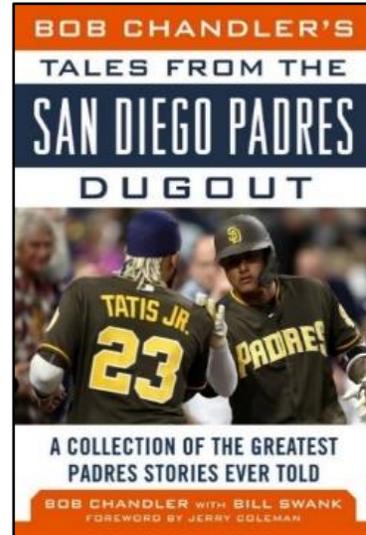
## BOB CHANDLER'S<sup>10</sup> "TALES" CONTINUE

The 2020 updated version of *Bob Chandler's Tales from the San Diego Padres Dugout* is now available online and in local bookstores.

This is the fourth update of Chandler's popular 2006 book which contains inside stories from his 30-plus seasons broadcasting and covering Padres games.

Chandler, a SABR member since 1978 (our most senior chapter member!), and his partner, baseball historian Bill Swank, added several pages of new material since the 2012 update.

Be certain that the book you are buying has Fernando Tatis, Jr. and Manny Machado on the front cover wearing brown Padres uniforms.



## SAN DIEGO PADRES AIR TRAVEL ... R.I.P.

By Andy Strasberg

For a few years in the late 1970s and early 1980s, thanks to the business generosity and savvy of Ray Kroc, the Padres owned a corporate jet. Instead of the team flying commercial charters as most teams did, they had the luxury of a jet at their disposal. Naturally, the stripe on the jet was the Padres' colors of brown and gold.

Padres Air Travel was the name given to this new business enterprise.

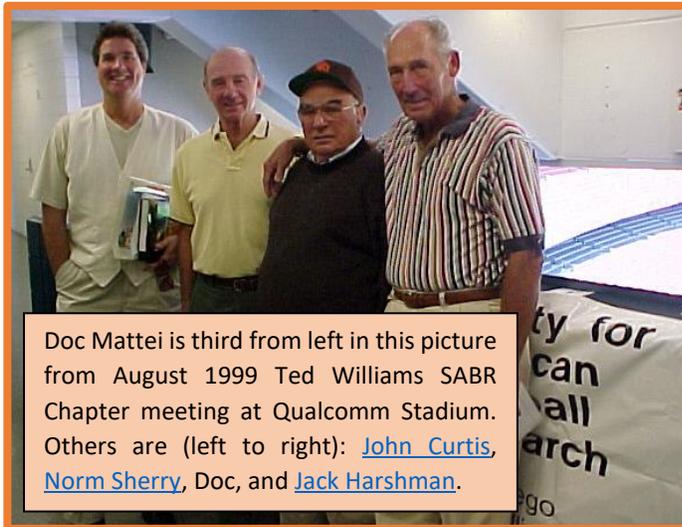
**San Diego Padres Air Travel**  
9449 Friars Road  
San Diego, CA 92120  
TWX 910-335-1503



In compliance with the Federal Aviation Administration, the aircraft had to have trained and certified flight attendants on board.

The Padres' traveling secretary, Doc Mattei, who had been working in baseball since the 1950s in the minor leagues and was schooled as a podiatrist, and Ray Peralta, the team equipment manager, were selected to be trained as stewards.

<sup>10</sup> [Bob Chandler's](#) biography is included in this book: *San Diego Padres: The First Half Century*, (SABR, 2019).



Doc Mattei is third from left in this picture from August 1999 Ted Williams SABR Chapter meeting at Qualcomm Stadium. Others are (left to right): [John Curtis](#), [Norm Sherry](#), Doc, and [Jack Harshman](#).

Doc was a Runyonesque character sprung full-blown from a bygone era. At 50-something, always unshaven with a minimum of three days of beard growth, he was short and stocky, always wearing a ruffled and food stained shirt. He didn't quite fit the image of the flight attendants most of us were used to seeing on commercial flights.

For me, the highlight of every flight was when Doc recited the pre-flight safety instructions.

Having grown up in Massachusetts with a heavy New England accent, gruff-sounding monotone voice, and unlit cigar in the corner of his mouth, he began the safety

spiel. A few veteran players took advantage of the opportunity to interrupt Doc and toss insults in his direction. So Doc began:

"Uhhhh, laaadies and gentlemen, the Caaaaptain has turned on the Faaasten Seat Belt sign. That means everyone, except you, [Fingers](#)."

If you haaaaven't already done so, please stow your caaarry-on luggage underneath the seat in front of you or in an overhead bin."

Uhhhh, please take your seat and fasten your seatbelt. And also make sure your seat baaaack and folding trays are in their full upright position."

If you are seated next to an emergency exit, or somebody whose batting average is below .225, please read caaaarefully the special instructions caaard located by your seat. If you do not wish to perform the functions described in the event of an emergency, please aask a flight attendant to reseat you."

Or you may be traaaaded."

We remind you that this is a non-smoking flight. Smoking is prohibited on the entire aircraft, including the laaaavatories. Tampering with, disabling or destroying the laaaavatory smoke detectors is prohibited by law."

Looking at [Gene Tenace](#), who had been chirping away at Doc, he said, "Tenace, give it a rest, will ya. I'm workin' here." Doc concluded: "If you have any questions about our flight today, please don't hesitate to ask one of our flight attendants. Thank you."



In compliance with FAA regulations the Padres had to fly their team plane, a 727-100, serial number N105RK, at least one hour every 10 days.

Unbeknownst to me, the team was very cleverly seeking travel opportunities to comply with those regulations while at the same time promoting the Padres and jet rental.

One of the Padres' more famous passengers was a 23-year-old living in the Colorado Springs area. His name was Abraham but he went by Abe. He stood 5'7" and tipped the scales at 375 pounds.

Here's the back story: At that time, the San Diego Zoo was trying to play matchmaker with 30-year-old Bouba, a lowland female gorilla that weighed 200 pounds and who, according to the zookeepers, had the reputation of being a virgin.

I know, I know... Bouba is seven years older than Abe, but please don't anyone start thinking "gorilla cougar."

It was noted that years earlier Abe had endured a bad experience traveling a long distance by truck. The only other transportation alternative was for him to fly from Colorado to California.

The Padres got wind of the story and with aeronautic generosity on January 12, 1979, Abe was transported from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoological Park to the San Diego Zoo on the Padres plane.

I'm told that the standard practice for breeding gorillas is that the male is brought into the female's environment. In other words, her place, not mine.

Understandably, a bunch of seats had to be taken out of the Padres plane's cabin for Abe's metal cage with welded seams to fit in the plane.

Not to miss an additional promotional opportunity, also aboard for this trip was an invited group of 32 high-profile, community-minded Padres fans who were along for the historic round-trip flights.

Once Abe deplaned in San Diego, he left behind an awful smell that might be compared to 500 pairs of dirty sweaty socks. That locker room odor lasted for a couple of weeks, much to the chagrin of the guests on the Padres' next few flights.

According to California State laws, which zookeepers abided by, on touch down Abe needed to be quarantined 33 days before his hopeful romantic rendezvous with Bouba began.

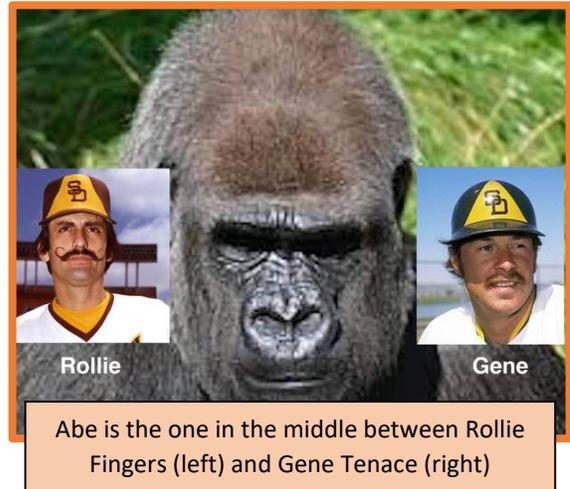
All those involved in this match-making process knew that March 8 was the date of Abe and Bouba's first date. But, unfortunately, simian romance didn't exactly ensue. Seems Bouba slugged him in the face and their relationship went downhill from there.

Unfortunately, this led to a sad ending, which I dubbed "the apes of wrath."

By June 23, 1981, as a result of a failed courtship between Abe and Bouba, it was reported that the forced pre-arranged hook-up skills initiated by zookeepers was a dismal failure. Sadly, it was time for both gorillas to move on and start playing the field as limited as it was caged up in a zoo.

Abe's next destination was a zoo in Erie, Pennsylvania. Bouba would soon relocate to a zoo in Houston, Texas.

What more can be said of this tragic ending other than: "For never was a sad story of a gorilla's babe...than this of Bouba and her handsome Abe."



As for the answer to the “bear mystery” on page 5 here it is:

### The bear mystery!



There has been no confirmation that the muzzled bear was real ... however, we do know this about the bear: it is right-handed judging by the glove on its left paw ... plus, prefers to wear shoes on its rear feet!