

Prologue

In 1997 the San Diego Padres and San Diego Baseball Historical Society (SDBHS), published the first two volumes of a trilogy about the Pacific Coast League (PCL) San Diego Padres. They were known as the Lane Field Years: 1936-1946 (Volume I) and 1947-1957 (Volume II.)

Remarkably, these books became expensive collectors items.

Volume III, the Westgate Years (1958-1968), was completed in 1998, but never published. The primary author and founder of the SDBHS, Ray Brandes, died in 2014. The Society had expired years earlier.

The manuscript, photographs and disks were in the possession of SDBHS' last president, Dave Rossi, who realized Volume III would never be published.

Since the SDBHS no longer exists, Dave donated this material to me in 2022.

My goal as a baseball historian is to preserve the history of baseball in San Diego and 1958 through 1968 represented a gap in the Padres timeline.

To complicate the project, Zip 100 disks were state-of-the-art technology in 1998, but they are incompatible with modern computers.



Carlos Bauer and Tom Larwin are highly respected local historians. When I told them about “the Westgate Years,” they immediately offered to scan the printed manuscript and re-size the photos to create a digitalized version of the book.

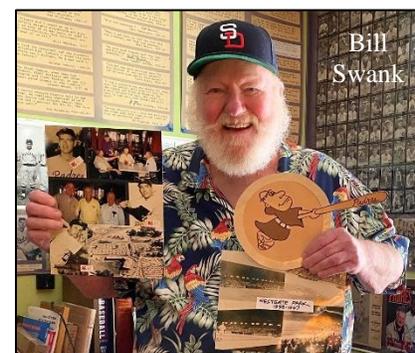
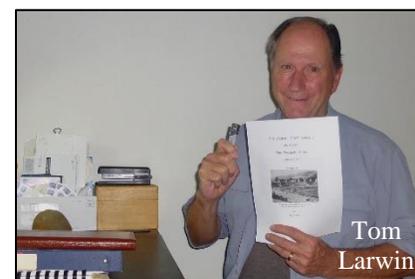
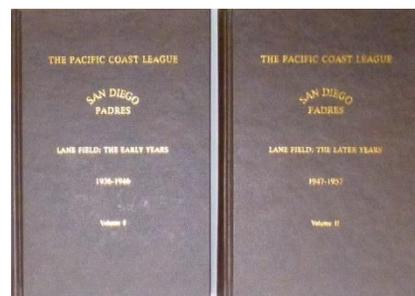
Several pictures were missing or misidentified for placement in the book. Fortunately, I had collected most of the Westgate Park photos and was able to replace 33 of the missing 41.

Since our primary purpose was publication, a lengthy editing process for errors and omissions was not attempted.

Ironically, and most unexpectedly, this was an opportunity to complete a project that I helped start almost 30 years ago.

So—thanks to Dave Rossi, Carlos Bauer, Tom Larwin, and the San Diego Ted Williams Chapter of SABR—here is the history of “the Westgate Years” ... as told by Ray Brandes.

Bill Swank, Compiler (2022)



THE PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE

PADRES:

The Westgate Years

1958-1968

Volume III



Westgate Park as it appeared on invitations
from the team at Christmas time.

By

Ray Brandes

This book is Volume III of a Trilogy on the
Pacific Coast League San Diego Padres
that covers the seasons played at
Westgate Park*

1958-1968

Dedication
to those Padres and
their families

This book's availability is the result of a
donation to the
San Diego Ted Williams Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR)
from William Swank

Volumes I and II of the Trilogy are recognized by
Library of Congress Control Number 96070200

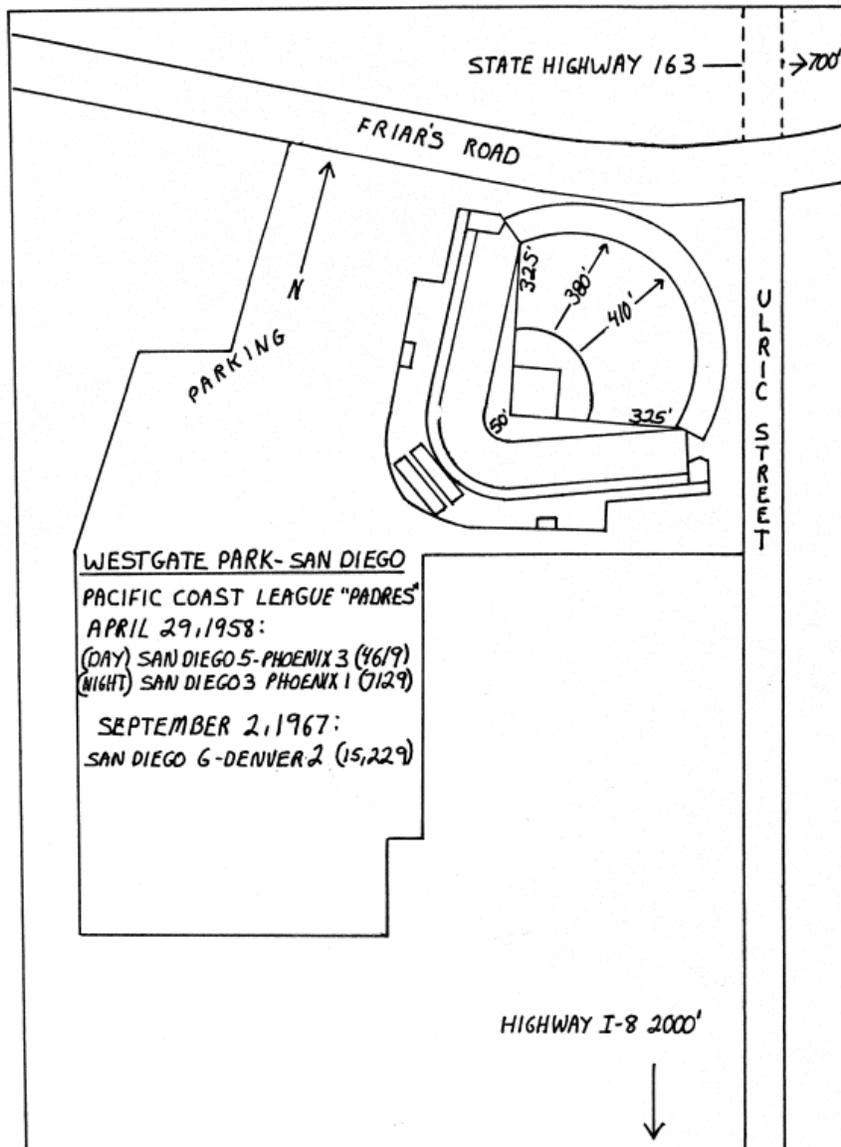
2022

* Note: the 1968 season was played at San Diego Stadium.

WESTGATE PARK, SAN DIEGO

The ballpark was located at the southwest corner of Friars Road and Ulric Street, about seven hundred feet west of Highway 163 (Cabrillo Freeway) and about two thousand feet north of the I-8 Freeway (then called Highway 80). The park featured a single decked grandstand which stretched from foul pole to foul pole and was almost completely roofed.

The field was natural grass with a symmetrical outfield fence. From 1958 to 1965, the dimensions were 320-410-320. In 1966, the foul line distance was stretched to 325. The initial listed capacity of the park was 10,000 but in 1960, the club lowered that figure to 8,500. After that, the listed capacity fluctuated between 8250 and 8625, changing every year except one.



Courtesy of Larry Zuckerman



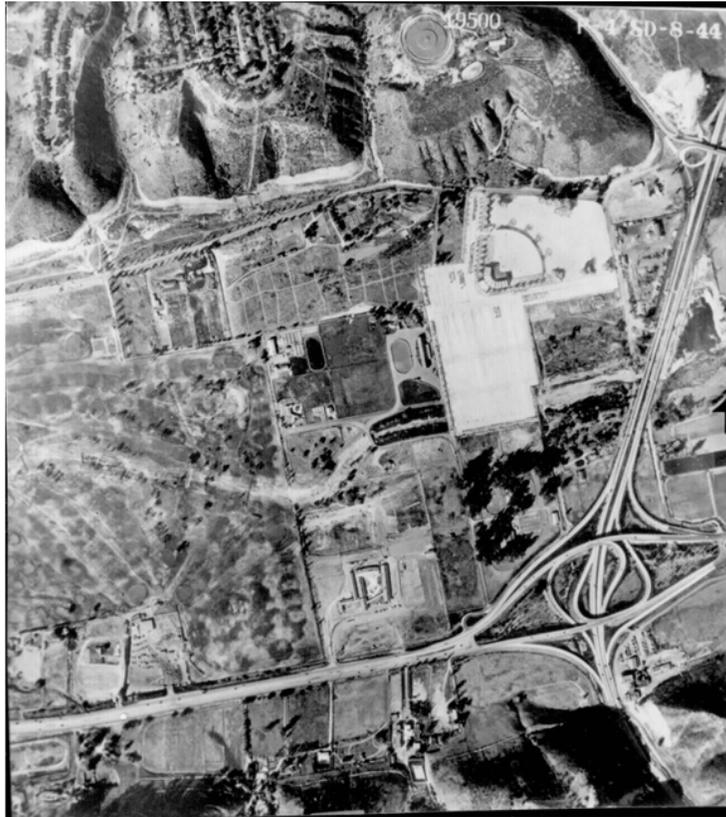
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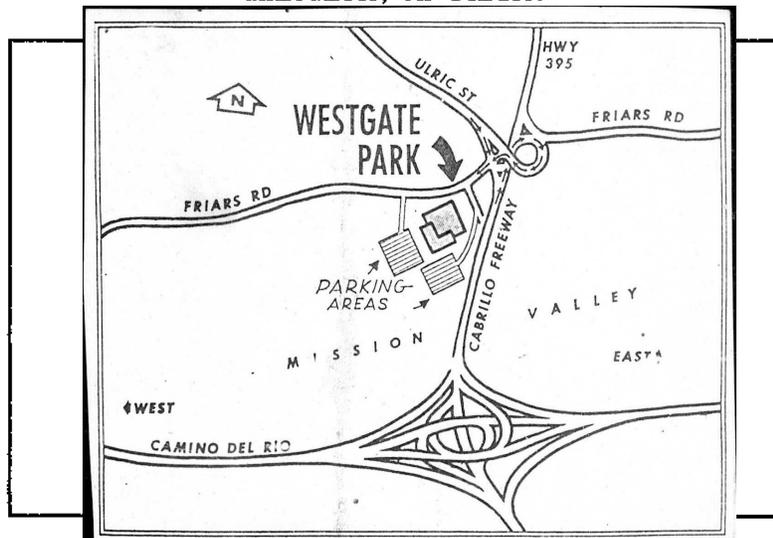
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Aerial view of Westgate Park in what was then called Mission Valley (now Fashion Valley).

The west to east view is through the courtesy of Valerie Schuss Foster, daughter of long-time play-by-play announcer, Al Schuss.



How to get to Westgate Park!

Introduction

In 1936, Bill Lane brought the Hollywood Stars of the Pacific Coast League to San Diego. Here the ball park named for him was built next to the "Harbor of the Sun," at the foot of Broadway and Harbor Drive. After his death in 1938, his trustees tinkled while trying to sell the club.

In 1945, former Padre catcher and clear-visioned developer Bill Starr purchased the team. When the time came for the Padres to leave Lane Field, the structure had lost its charm. With over twenty years of year-round use the home of San Diego's first professional baseball team was finished. The termites had won. The dream for Starr had been a new ballpark, and he strove as much as anyone to fulfill that vision.

The dissipation of Centre City had heightened by the mid-1950s. Political decisions driven by financial considerations called for a relocation of the core of the City. The real "Little Italy," "Barrio Logan," and other ethnic cultural enclaves were dissected as freeways knifed through these areas of the city. The climate of the "City Father's" grey matter became transparent as the City Council, hell bent on abandoning the worn-out Centre City, became sold on the use of San Diego's environmental jewel, Mission Valley, and caved in to the entrepreneurs. The major "downtown" businesses, so important to save the infrastructure, fled the center of the city to a short-lived rural haven. Before long -- the green belt called the "Valley of the Mission" became shorn of its oak trees, the several golf courses, the riding stables, the areas of wildlife and greenery -- replaced with hotels, motels, condos and shopping malls.

The Lane Field site had offered all of the requisites for a new baseball park. Imaginative and creative planning, coupled with adaptive reuse of properties, some street closures--matched with relocation of properties in the area should have become a site put to use by visionary planners.

By 1955, C. Arnholt Smith and his Westgate-California Tuna Packing Corporation had acquired the necessary grasslands and bought controlling interest in the Padres.

The feeling for Lane Field did not disappear despite Bill Starr's vigorous renovations of the park year after year. The bay, the cool breezes off the water, the views, and easy access to the park from all parts of the county, contributed to the romanticism and beauty of the locale.

Over a period of 40 years, few, if any, plans have been suggested for the old Lane Field space, but none ever came to light. The site has lain fallow for 40 years--"for parking only."

Smith understood the threat of the major league interests which sought their "manifest opportunity" after a 20 year struggle with the PCL. The Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Francisco Giants would make the first such moves in 1958. Not a man to be deterred, Smith had the funds, the connections, and the property. That part of the Valley today called "Fashion Valley" became a new home for San Diego's PCL team, after 22 seasons. The ground breaking ceremonies for Westgate Park were held on February 27, 1957. As for Westgate, how could one not have appreciated the scenery which still surrounded the Park at that moment in time, before the plans for the major shopping centers erupted?

Environmentalists with justifiable pride described Westgate Park, as "out in the country" because it represented one of the region's last extraordinary outdoor settings. Major Leaguers would later proclaim Westgate as one of the best parks in which they had ever played. Fourteen months would pass before the Park was finished and the team could take the field. Surrounding the park were Eucalyptus trees, \$20,000 worth of shrubs, and an abundance of flowers and grass which beautified the grounds in, and outside the park where picnicking was permitted.

By the Spring of 1958, the removal of Lane Field had been completed. The historical marker for San Diego's first professional baseball park became an asphalt parking lot.

Westgate appeared the best for the times. The new park in Mission Valley stood readied for the club to play in the 1958 season. Permanent seating held 8,248 spectators, and in the outfield many people enjoyed the game from a raised grassy area beyond the outfield fence, which stood down the foul lines 310 feet and in center field 410 feet. Certainly James Mulvaney, James B. Lane and C. Arnholt Smith had done everything they could to bring about the dream of Bill Starr. Smith and Starr had been friends since the day they first met, when Smith closed the deal for Starr to purchase the Padres. Now their roles had reversed.

Starr had worked for a new ballpark and for major league status. That passion had rubbed off on Smith. The majors would come, but by that time Westgate Park had become the location for a shopping mall. The San Diego Stadium and Mission Valley Mall were built to the East in Mission Valley. Jack Murphy, the *San Diego Union-Tribune* Sports Editor believed Westgate Park would be the major reason for baseball's success in San Diego, and that it represented the ultimate in minor league parks. He had an abundance of support from Buzzie Bavasi, Dr. Al Anderson, Frank Alessio, Al Hartunian, Richard Silberman, Bill Elser, Paul Carter, Bert Richey, Norman Foster, Carl Hartnack, Bill Black, and every sportswriter for the San Diego newspapers.

They would, within a decade, help to complete the dream as the San Diego Padres became a National League team to remain in San Diego. Westgate Park, too, would be dismantled, and its sections became part and parcel of other playing fields in the West!

Acknowledgements

During the Fall 1995 semester, twenty-some graduate students in the field of Public or Applied History, enrolled at the University of San Diego, met each Thursday evening at Jack Murphy Stadium. During each week, the graduates undertook research at regional libraries and various baseball archives to be able to help to provide data for this volume.

Under writing guidelines, each graduate prepared a report on the Westgate Padres covering a 6 month period. In that fashion the period from 1958-1968 was documented. Each graduate then, in a round-table seminar, presented a paper to his or her colleagues. The results are found in this Volume III, *The PCL Westgate Padres, 1958-1968* which follows the first two works on the *PCL Lane Field Padres*, Volume I: *1936-1946* and *PCL Lane Field Padres*, Volume II: *1947-1957*.

This professor has always subscribed to the ethic that his students who create a work with him should share appropriate credit. That belief is borne out here by the citation of their names in this work as contributors. With twenty-some writers, however, the natural differences in writing styles reflected some hammer and saw marks and, therefore, the need to smooth out the work to read as a whole. The Public or Applied History program at the University of San Diego has led to the writing of half a dozen biographies of earlier ballplayers which became Master's Theses.

We all give thanks overdue to our friends Dr. Charles Steinberg, Claudia Valenzuela, Kate Rummer, Dayle Tedrow, and John Schlegel, who made the arrangements for the seminar, for the Lane Field players reunion, and in other ways who have helped us so much.

I would be remiss did I not thank President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Lucchino, General Counsel Allan Ostfield, Margaret Woodrum, and Linda Barron who smoothed out some difficulties along the way, and proved supportive of the idea of chronicling the franchise history.

John Bowman, former Public Address announcer for the Padres, was the key to finding a number of the Westgate players and staff he had known. Greg Falzon again provided the support in production because of his remarkable computer adroitness -- with patience, and gave a great deal of his time to help format this work. Jacquelyn Landis and Molly Bowman served as superb editors; they punctuated the work with their knowledge of the game.

This crew pulled the text together, tackled the interviews, found the photographs, double-checked the statistics, and designed the layout for the book.

Among the individuals who provided photographs to the San Diego Baseball Historical Society from their collections were Al Hogan, Clinton D. McKinnon, Johnny McDonald, Al Sund, Bob Dreher, Jay Leishman, Whitey Wietelmann, Billy Cowan, Autumn Durst Keltner, Bobby Klaus, Bob Shumake, and all of the Westgate players who were interviewed.

Editor Karin E. Winner, and Readers Representative Gina Lubrano, of the *San Diego Union* -gave valuable and appreciated assistance in making this volume possible.

The San Diego Baseball Historical Society thanks its board members Dr. Bob Robertson M.D., Scott Moomjian, J.D., John Bowman, Greg Falzon, Mike Austin, Barbara McCurtis, Mike Schlei, Molly Bowman, Maria Cervantes, C.P.A., Carl Boals, Michael Haskins, David Rossi, Jacquelyn Landis, former Padre Rod Graber, and VP for NL Player Alumni Mitchel Taylor for their assistance on a number of matters. They subscribe to the belief that we can encourage the heritage of our National Pastime in this region, and in particular, enlist strong public support for the San Diego Padres Baseball Club in every way.

The experience of meeting or speaking with a number of the Westgate Padres proved truly rewarding. I am especially indebted to Larry Colton, a spirited writer who has that gift of authors who strive to use the King's English; to Bobby Knoop for his sense of time and place over coffee; to Jake Striker and his wife who took time out during a tragic time to speak with me; and to Mike and Mrs. Hershberger who managed to get material to me even as Mike was away from home coaching in the Majors. Mr. and Mrs. Bobby were most gracious at their home filled with visual and oral memories of his player-manager days. The players are proof that when they leave the game there is a new life, but that the *brotherhood* of their baseball careers later served them well. What captured my mind was their appreciation for the fans, and the love and memories of the game they retain with such verve.

This volume was meant to serve as a tome which encompassed more than the ballpark, the fans, the players, managers and coaches. Those persons who worked to help the team should be remembered; the sportswriters, announcers, groundskeepers, batboys and the various officers who managed team operations are included whenever we could find them.

We are a nation with a mobile population. We could not locate some players; others have passed away. Some Westgate players are coaching, or managing in the majors and were traveling--too difficult to reach. Our regrets to these players, but we've tried to remember them somewhere in this work.

Indeed, most of all, unqualified gratitude is due to the team of John Moores, Chairman of the Board of the San Diego Padres, and to his wife Becky Moores. Through their Foundation these volumes became a reality. The Moores' unconditional and rare sensitivity to this community are unmatched in the evidence around us today. Proof of their love for the Padres has been their desire to chronicle the history of the franchise after sixty-four years.

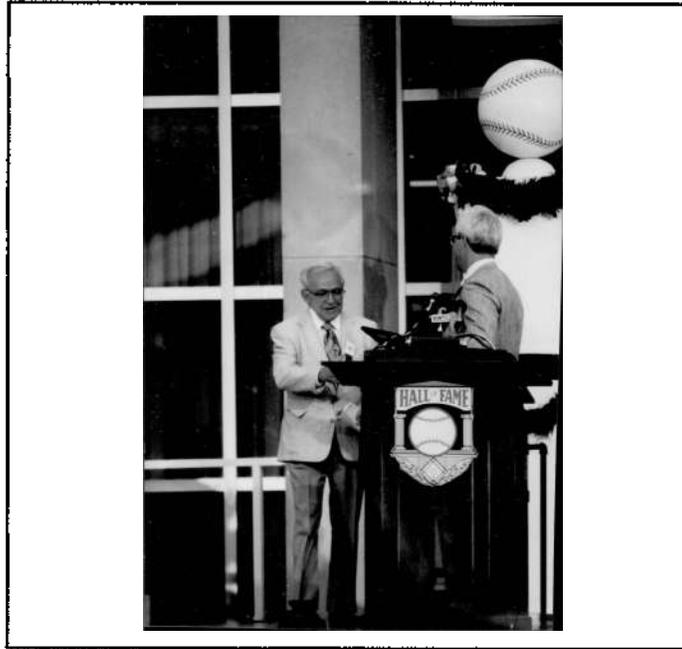
1998—Ray Brandes



Westgate Park (aerial view) Photo courtesy Al Hogan.



*Westgate Park, a view from the grandstand, Southwest to Northeast.
Photo San Diego Historical Society Collection.*



In 1992, Phil Collier received the J.G. Taylor Spink Award at Cooperstown, voted annually by the Baseball Writers of America, recognized in the "Scribes and Mikemen" exhibit in the National Baseball Hall of Fame, for meritorious contributions to baseball writing. Kit Stier, then National President of the Baseball Writers Association of America, was the presenter.

*Phil Collier on Lane Field:
"The Charming Little Facility."*

Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend the Padres' Pacific Coast League games at Lane Field will never forget the charming little facility. Bordered on the west by San Diego Bay and on the East by Pacific Coast Highway, the park at the foot of Broadway was one of the most picturesque in all baseball.

The Padres played at Lane Field before a late 1950's population explosion forced residents into San Diego's suburbs and started a gradual erosion of the downtown area.

There was little or no public parking at Lane Field. The home and visiting players' clubhouse opened onto the sidewalks.

After becoming the Padres' home in 1936, Lane Field eventually became termite ridden, especially the press box. The only access to the press box was a narrow, rather steep ladder that required more than a bit of athleticism to navigate.

The press box would sway and creak in the wind and there was a certain concern for what might happen if a fire broke out underneath the box.

Humorously, the press box restroom was located behind a broadcast booth. At times, listeners could hear the toilet flushing.

Westerly winds made this a haven for left-hand power hitters, who would scatter Pacific Coast Highway traffic with drives that cleared the right field fence. Luke Easter was once said to have hit a 126-mile home run, his smash landing in the bed of a truck that was headed for Los Angeles.

My first weekend of regular season Pacific Coast League reporting came in April of 1953, about two months after the late Jack Murphy, sports editor of the *Union*, hired me

away from the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*.

That first Saturday, Hollywood's Ted Breard tied a professional record by hitting four home runs in a Saturday afternoon game at Lane Field.

The next afternoon, Padres left fielder Herb Gorman hit doubles his first two times at bat. After the second one, he went to take his defensive position, collapsed and was carried from the field on a stretcher. Shortly afterward, he died in the clubhouse, the victim of a heart attack, though he was only 27.

Some remarkable things happened at Lane Field. His first year with the Padres, right-hander Jim (Mudcat) Grant, a Cleveland property, once struck out the side on nine pitches. On another occasion, eventual big league outfielder Rocky Colavito put on a throwing exhibition by standing at home plate and hurling balls over the center field fence. Rocky failed one day in his bid to break the distance throwing record Chattanooga outfielder Don Grate set with a throw of 443' 3-1/2" at Chattanooga on August 23, 1953. Colavito's best effort was 435' 10" on June 30, 1956.

I remember a game when Los Angeles center fielder Gail (Windy) Wade crashed into the low center field fence, chasing a line drive. Wade's leap caused him to tumble over the fence.

The instant the ball was hit, heady Angels second baseman Gene Mauch, who was to become famous as a big league manager, began sprinting toward center. From my high perch in the press box, I watched Mauch vault over the fence, retrieve the ball and put it back in Wade's glove.

Wade had knocked himself unconscious, but Mauch's more immediate concern was to try and get the umpires to rule Windy had registered an out.

One of my fondest memories of Lane Field concerns a suspicion I developed after a couple of years of attending games there. One morning, during the off-season, I measured the distance from home plate to first base and found it was short of 89 feet, rather than the regulation 90. I had fun writing the story.

Of course, Lane Field's finest moment came in 1954, when the Padres tied for first place, forcing a one-game playoff here against Hollywood.

I remember that my home phone began ringing about 5 o'clock that morning. So many people called, wanting tickets for that night's game, that I had to take my phone off the hook.

The Padres won the title game. It was the last game ever for San Diegan Bob Elliott and was particularly memorable because the former Pittsburgh third baseman

clouted two home runs to support the strong nine-hit pitching of lefthander Bob Kerrigan.

The championship wouldn't have been possible except for a brilliant off-season trade made by Padres owner Bill Starr, who had been best known for being the only player ever to pinch hit for Ted Williams.

After the 1953 season, Starr traded lefthander Memo Luna and first baseman Tom Alston to the Cardinals for four players--pitcher Eddie Erault, left fielder Harry Elliott, catcher Dick Aylward and first baseman Dick Sisler. Luna injured his arm that winter and faded into obscurity. Within a few years, Alston was confined to a mental facility.

The Padres finished their 21st and final season at Lane Field on September 8, 1957. It was torn down after banker C. Arnholt Smith bought the team from Bill Starr and constructed a new stadium, Westgate Park, that opened in Mission Valley in 1958.



Honoring Phil Collier at Cooperstown

Some thoughts about
our Hall of Famer
Phil Collier

Mention baseball in San Diego, and the name Phil Collier is the cream at the top of the old milk bottle. Over the years he blanketed every kind of a story with an insightful style that mirrored his love of baseball and the people in the game. His legions of players and fans became his friends.

Born December 7, 1925, Collier served with a U.S. Army antitank company in the European Theatre of Operations during WWII. He attended Texas Christian University and worked at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, where another cub reporter named Jack Murphy joined the staff five days after he did. Murphy became sports editor-columnist of the *San Diego Union* newspaper in 1951, and in early 1953 called his old friend to become his baseball writer. "He didn't have to ask twice," Collier said.

Phil Collier joined the *San Diego Union* in 1953. He began covering PCL baseball that season and shifted to major leagues when Dodgers moved to LA in 1958. Collier covered the Padres on a full-time basis from their inception in 1969 thru the 1986 season.

Bob Chandler said that, "his writing back then was brilliant. He came up with a different story every day." Barry Bloom wrote that Collier didn't believe he missed a game from the Padres inception as a National League entry in April 1969, until August 1983, a string of approximately 2,200 consecutive games.

Bloom figured out that Collier had spent more than 3-1/2 years of his life in Yuma [during spring training]. Chandler recalled a typical Collier work day, circa 1969-1973. He covered the Padres for both the *Union* and the *Sporting News*. He was official scorer for all the home games at San Diego at Jack Murphy Stadium, and had to handle all the required paperwork.

He kept Padres official stats on a daily basis, a two-hour task Chandler inherited when he was hired by the club as a broadcaster in 1973. Phil was one of the official scorers for the 1980 World Series.

He left the beat in 1986, and within months of his new assignment, penned one of the better notes columns and reported on various Dodgers and Angels games for the *Union*.

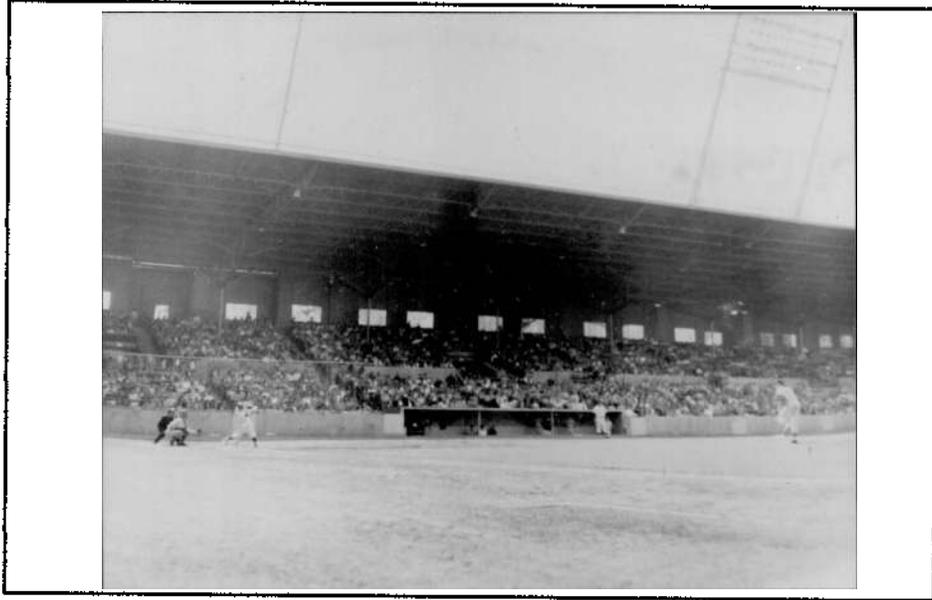
Barry Bloom of the *San Diego Tribune* wrote on July 20, 1991, "Tomorrow at Cooperstown the man lovingly called 'The Phantom' was to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame." Collier had covered baseball on the

West Coast for 38 years, all for *San Diego Union*. The first person Phil called was his old publisher Fred Hartman of *Baytown Sun* —and thanked him for giving him his start in business when he was 13 years old, where he compiled statistics and filed reports on Texas League and semi-pro games.

Sportswriter Barry Lorge wrote that “Collier and Gaylord Perry went into Hall of Fame at the same time. Perry won 314 major league games, and one of his two Cy Young Awards pitching for the Padres.” He called them “kindrid spirits.” Johnny Podres nicknamed him “The Phantom” in the 50s and Phil said nobody knew why. “He always seemed to show up just in time to get the story. He knew everybody at the ballpark: generations of players, managers, coaches, scouts, executives. He knew Duke Snider, Don Drysdale, and Sandy Koufax. Bo Belinsky said that Phil Collier was one of the best and fairest writers he had ever known.”

In volume 96, No.8 of the *Padres Magazine*, Phil Collier wrote a spellbinding piece titled, “Jack Murphy: The Man Behind the Stadium.” In this testament, Phil wrote about his long-time friend, whom he called “The Father of Professional Sports in San Diego,” reaching the “inescapable conclusion that there might be no San Diego Chargers, no major-league Padres ...if it hadn’t been for...[Murphy].” That may well be the case, but it was the Hall-of-Famer Phil Collier, who has left the indelible imprint about local sports history of the many characters and events as only he could. Phil always shared everything including credits.

Phil may well be the only remaining still-active link who has carried the script from Lane Field to Westgate Park to the San Diego-Jack Murphy-Qualcomm Stadium, a first-class triple player.



*Westgate Park during game.
Photo from Al Hogan.*



*Westgate Park night game from the left field bank.
Photo courtesy of the Hall of Champions.*

CHAPTER I

SAN DIEGO PADRES, 1958

"WESTGATE IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PARK

I HAVE EVER PLAYED IN."



1958 Team Photo,
Ralph Kiner front row, center,

Nineteen fifty-eight would be a pivotal year for the San Diego Padres. Their major American League link, the Cleveland Indians, would likely shift players about among their several minor league partners and their own team during the season.

To add to Padre concerns, General Manager Ralph Kiner would have differences of opinions with General Manager Frank Lane of the Indians throughout the year. Lane was reported as having an insatiable thirst for making player deals, some of which might deprive San Diego from becoming a Pacific Coast League title contender.

Early in 1958, the Padres signed Sam Turner, a 3rd baseman. He had been the sensation of Cleveland's spring training camp in 1957, but had broken his leg just before that season started. Infielder Billy Moran, pitcher Gene Lary, and rookie infielder Freddie Frickie accepted Padre terms. As early as mid-February, Kiner concentrated on signing the "big ones" as the Padres received signed contracts from first baseman Preston Ward, pitcher Dick Brodowski, Rudy Regalado, Charles Drummond, Bud Podbielan and Stu Locklin.

Vic Lombardi, infielder-outfielder, Ed Kazak, Dick Stigman, and Carl Thomas all mailed in their contracts. General Manager Ralph Kiner and Manager George Metkovich went to Tucson to visit the Cleveland camp.

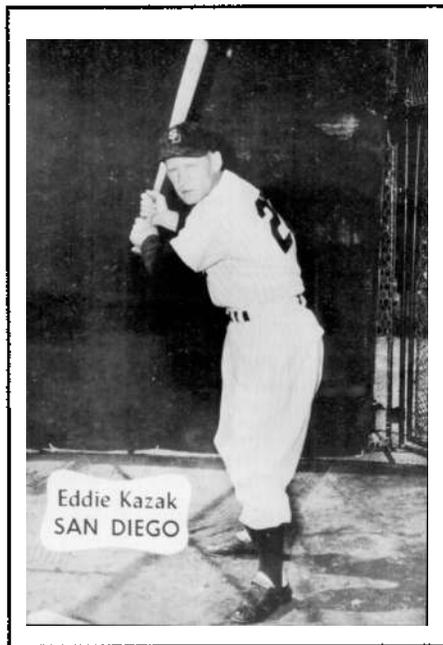
Carl Thomas, an all-Ameri-



C. Arnholt Smith (back row third from left) team possibly Imperial Beach. Photo courtesy of Al Hogan.

can selection at the University of Arizona, worked with the Padres in spring training at Ontario in 1957, before going to Mobile where he won 17 and lost 11. Bill Werle signed on March 8, reducing the holdouts to twelve players. He reported to Daytona Beach, Florida on March 10 to begin spring training with the team.

The league had changed its makeup again as Phoenix replaced San Francisco, Salt Lake City replaced Hollywood, and Spokane replaced Los Angeles. This would be the first time the Padres worked out on the East Coast. Kiner kept an eye on the camp, but felt quite uneasy about the construction of Westgate Park



Ed Kazak

which was ahead of schedule but threatened by rains.

Centerfielder Floyd Robinson, a 21-year-old veteran of two years in the Pacific Coast League, looked to a big year. A graduate of San Diego High, he had batted .301 with Salem of the Northwest League in 1955, hit .252 in 100 games with the Padres the following year, and .279 last summer in San Diego. Meanwhile the Polish third baseman-outfielder, Ed Kazak, nearing the age of 37, had considered leaving baseball in 1957 to take a civil service job, but his wife felt he should give baseball one more year. He had been riddled with shrapnel in combat during WWII, causing a permanent defect in the right elbow, to his throwing arm. He suffered another setback when he broke an ankle with the Cardinals in 1949. Even at age 37, he endured the drills much better than the rookies.

Training began for the 23rd season of the Padres in the PCL. The Padres liked the Cleveland system of training. Each day's workout schedule was handed to Padre coach Jimmie Reese and to Mike McNally head of Cleveland's minor league farm system. Advantages to working with the major club became readily apparent to the other Cleveland farm Clubs. George Metkovich was assured by McNally, that the Pads could have their pick of the Indians' minor league talent. A new addition was Bud Podbielan, a big right-hander, whom

Metkovich felt would be a superb reliever.

An early blow hit the teams hopes when management learned that Robinson would be inducted into the Army on March 27. The signing of Rod Graber, who had played for Buffalo in the International League batting .276 in 1957, offset the loss. Then Ed Gasque told the Padres he was leaving baseball to devote his time to his nursery. He declared the contract Kiner had offered him was unsatisfactory.

Manager George Metkovich tagged Bill Werle as the No. 1 relief pitcher for the club. Werle reported for work on March 6, with Bill Glynn.

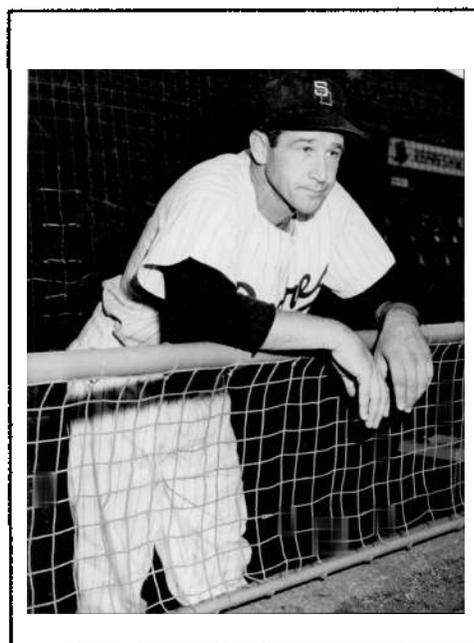
Vic Lombardi had "Mike" the mechanical pitcher throwing spitters in the batting cage. Lombardi would wet each ball before he placed it into "Iron Mike's" paw.

In an opening exhibition against Mobile, at Daytona Beach the Padres lost 5-3. They played Rochester of the International League the next day with Vic Lombardi, Walt Seward and Charles Kolakowski working three innings each. Some of the Padre pitchers who worked with Cleveland at Tucson included Jim Grant, Dick Brodowski, Gene Lary, Bill Bailey, Carl Thomas and Wilbur "Jake" Striker.

On March 19, the newspapers reported that Earl Averill had reported to the Padres on option from Cleveland. The catcher, who



Bill Glynn



George Metkovich



*Aerial photo of Westgate Park, April 26, 1958.
Photo by George Eacobellis, courtesy Riha Construction Company.*

had batted .273, slammed 19 homers and drove in 67 runs for San Diego in 1957, was to report to the team again. He would prove to fill a big hole in the Padre lineup. John Pope, who had held out until the 18th of March, became very disgruntled at the pay he had been offered, but did report to spring training. He said, "there was nothing else he could do but, that this will be my last year of baseball. I had a good year last season and I have to take a pay cut. That doesn't give a fellow much incentive does it?" The last holdout however, became pitcher Ed Gasque.

On March 19, an unusual move occurred when George Metkovich and his athletes went indoors and canceled their scheduled exhibition game against Phoenix at

nearby Sanford. Wind and rainstorms had made life outdoors impossible.

The parent Cleveland club, according to *San Diego Union* sports writer Phil Collier had a surplus of proven Triple A ballplayers in camp.

Lane had promised the Padres help in wholesale lots. Metkovich and the Pads feared Lane would take one or two top players and give the Padres a group of players of lesser quality. Apparently there were similar cries of anguish among other clubs as Lane made deals in wholesale lots elsewhere in order to win quick National League pennants.

After five pre-season games, the Padres still waited for a home run from one of its players. In a fit of remorse, George Metkovich vowed he would not be thrown out of a game all season. On the 24th of

March, while sitting on the bench, a ball rolled by him. The umpire told him to pick it up. Metkovich told him "Get it yourself. You're nearer to it than I am." George said he wasn't about to shag balls for an 18-year-old boy. He was quickly thumbed out by an 18 year old rookie umpire.

Day-by-day, the team expected to see players arrive from the Cleveland camp, and on the 24th rookie left-hander Wilbur "Jake" Striker and catcher Allen Jones arrived. Then the next day, the Padres landed three more players from Cleveland: pitchers Gary Bell, short-stop Larry Raines, and outfielder Dave Mann. The team now had 38 players on the roster and would have

to prune 10 more by April 15.

On the last day of April, Gene Lary and Dick Brodowski were assigned by Cleveland after Brodowski resolved his salary differences, and two days before a suspension hung over his head. Some unpredictable trades were made by Cleveland to other teams for players whom the Padres had hoped to get. The one player whom Ralph Kiner and George Metkovich seemed most pleased with turned out to be first baseman Bill Glynn, who had started pulling the ball. His hitting had been consistent and climbed during spring training.

Construction of Westgate Park fell 15 days behind schedule for the opening game of the regular



*Pitchers Hal Woodeshick, Bob Alexander and Bob Lemon
Photo courtesy Bob Dreher.*

season at home on April 29, due primarily to heavy rains. George Riha, President of the RIHA Construction Company, however, reassured fans that the park and access roads would be ready on time. A photo in the *San Diego Union* showed President Jim Mulvaney in the stands at Westgate Park, trying to find the location of home plate hidden under a pond of water.

The season opener, however, took place in Phoenix on the 15th of April where PCL baseball would have a home team for the first time. In a raging windstorm the Padres trailed the Giants 8-0, and then whipped Phoenix 10-9 as Dave Pope hit two home runs.

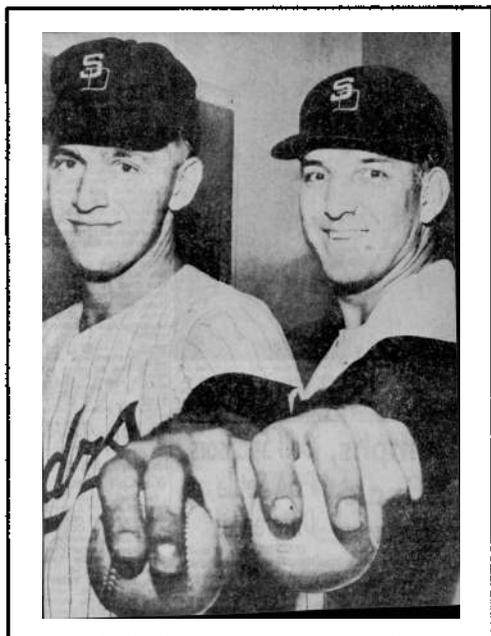
After losing the series to

Phoenix 3 games to 2, the Padres moved on to Portland, with three of the games postponed because of rain. The Padres had left a 94 degree temperature in Phoenix to fly to a dripping 42 degree arena before 1,282 fans in Portland.

A few days before the opening game in San Diego, Cleveland assigned its veteran 20 game winner Bob Lemon to San Diego. Lane felt this would give Lemon a chance to regain his former pitching prowess, and to act as a coach for young pitchers. Then, without an explanation, Commissioner Ford Frick ruled Lemon would be placed on the disabled list and not be allowed to report to San Diego.

The 1958 season at home opened with a Padre luncheon at the Westgate Hotel on April 28 featuring comedian Joe E. Brown, who introduced a long list of guests. Publicity chairman Al Schuss introduced Manager George Metkovich, General Manager Ralph Kiner and Padre President Jim Mulvaney. That occasion officially marked the demise of the Lane Field Padres.

The new park was to be dedicated prior to the opening game of a day-night doubleheader. The park, located at Friars Road west of U.S. Highway 395, provided parking facilities for 3,000 cars. Seating capac-



Pitchers Jack Spring and Bill Werle.



*Earl Averill, Bud Podbelian
(opening day battery, 1958), and George Metkovich.*

ity was 8,268, made up of 5,732 box seats and 2,536 grandstand seats. Westgate Park had no bleachers, but those could be added later if needed on the embankment behind the outfield.

All seats in the park were the theater, arm-rest type. A roof covered the entire grandstand and box seat areas except for a small section in deep right and left field. Twelve hundred fans applauded the Padres as the announcer introduced them in their new white pin-stripe uniforms. Movie actor-comedian Joe E. Brown the founder and staunch supporter of Pony League ball said,

The park should be:
dedicated to a boy.
These players who are
going to play here
are boys just a few years
later, boys who had the

resolve to make themselves good ball players.

You have to be a man
to be a big leaguer but
you have to have something
of a little boy in
you, too.

The team opened on April 29 against the Phoenix Giants in a day-night doubleheader before 4,619 fans at 2:00 p.m. and 7,725 in the 8:00 evening game. The day began with colorfully costumed Mexican musicians serenading the fans as they passed through the turnstiles. Lt. Governor Harold "Butch" Powers, a former Sacramento Solons player, threw out the first pitch. Television cowboy "Sugar Foot" Hutchings hit the ball and was put out at first base by Powers. Allen Jones entertained the team in the dugout when he



Fred Frickle gets first base tips from Manager George Metkovich.

pretended to interview the players with a bat used as a microphone. The Padres took two from Phoenix that opening day and night.

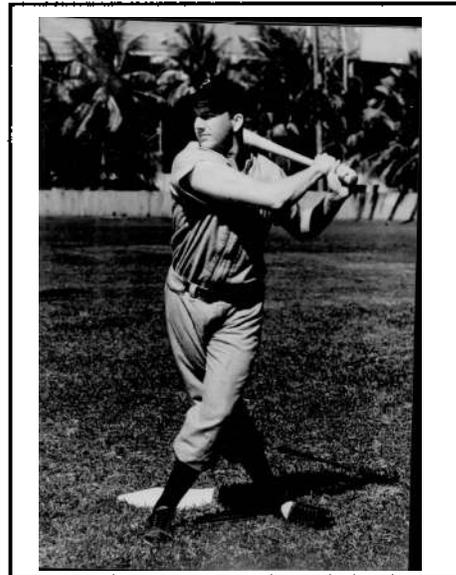
By the end of the first week, 24,000 people had attended the games. Dusty Rhodes earned the distinction of clouting the first home run ball for an opposing team in the new stadium. On May 2, shortstop Larry Raines hit the first Padre home run in the new ballpark.

During the first month of the new season, 104,570 fans went to see their team. Then attendance slowed. Kiner blamed the downturn on the perfect San Diego weather. He said that people went to the beaches when the weather allowed. Kiner also felt that part of the blame could be put on the housewives. "After being cooped up throughout the week, they wanted to go to the beach or the

mountains, not a ballpark." Kiner continued, "I'm liable to be shot for saying it, but my idea of a perfect weekend is overcast skies. When it's clear and beautiful, our business suffers."

On May 10 the Padres stood in 6th place, two-and-a-half games behind the division leader, Vancouver, but the entire league was bunched at no more than four games out. The loss of four one-run games to Sacramento aggravated Metkovich, who went into a rage and took out his wrath on a baseball cap, ripping it into small pieces.

His frustration lay in part with the "open classification" system, which allowed players to move from the minors to the majors and back again, providing a good assort-



General Manager Ralph Kiner. Photo credit Hall of Champions.

ment of players for both leagues. Metkovich, however, considered the minor league teams as growing new crops of great players for the majors.

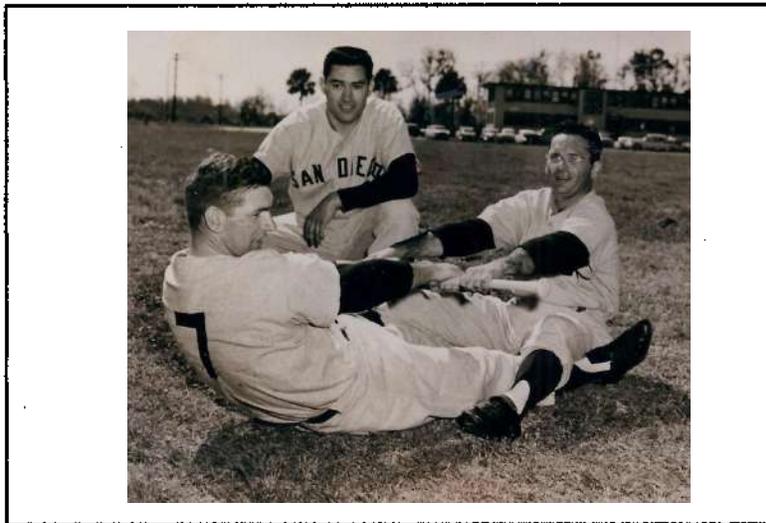
The Cleveland Indians, however, had shifted players back and forth in order to provide the parent team with the best players. In May, pitcher Steve Ridzik came to the Pads; the locals then optioned pitcher Julio Guerra to Reading, and pitcher Carl Thomas to Indianapolis. On May 14, Cleveland optioned catcher Hal Naragon as Kenny Kuhn an infielder was sent to Dallas.

On May 17th, San Diego purchased two infielders, Dick Smith from Salt Lake City and Fred Hatfield from Cincinnati. They sent Dick Stigman to Mobile. Other changes helped to strengthen the team as they rose to 4th place, only three

games out late in the month.

Vic Lombardi was sold to Portland, while the Bevos sent Ray Bauer and some cash to San Diego. Bauer took free agency and left. Then on the 30th of May, the Indians called up Gary Bell. Metkovich could only grimace at the thought of losing Bell, who had a 1.56 ERA. He was the "jump-starter" the Padres needed now that they were in 4th place and five games out.

San Diegans showed their enthusiasm for the new park when they honored the Padres with "Westgate Park Week," proclaimed by Mayor Charles C. Dail in June. The week-long celebration began with a parade through downtown San Diego, which featured Padre players accompanied by several Miss Universe contestants, a good home game



*Bill Glynn, Rudy Regalado and Vic Lombardi
"muscle bending" 1958.*

series, and concluded with the Miss Universe Pageant held at the Stadium June 10, 11 and 12.

While the females were featured in contests, sportswriters Jerry Magee wrote about San Diego's prototype of the All-American boy: handsome, clean in habits and quiet of manner. George Metkovich echoed those sentiments.

Graber is the only malted milk drinker in baseball I've seen that I would want on my club, and he knows how to play baseball.

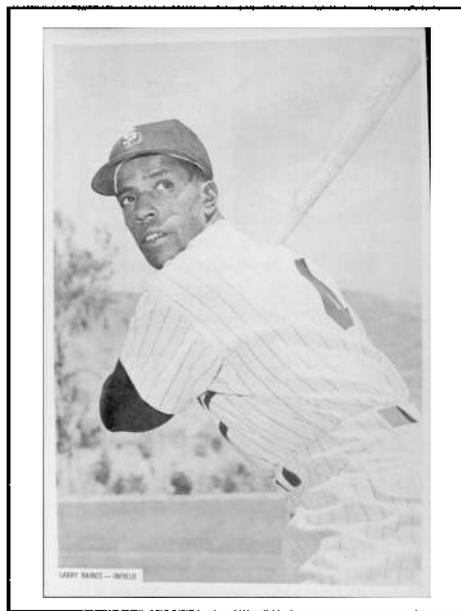
The native Ohioan majored in math at Baldwin-Wallace, but said baseball was his "first love." Metkovich said that he might prefer a player more in the Pepper Martin image, but the soft-spoken Graber's performance spoke for itself.

On the early road trip in June, the Pads had come from Seattle and Spokane, but had earlier made an excursion to Phoenix, Portland and Sacramento. By June 16, the Pads had a string of victories at nine after beating Sacramento in a double-header. They had scored 45 runs at Spokane, largely on the hitting of Dave Pope, Rod Graber, Earl Averill, Larry Raines and Bill Glynn.

Metkovich also was headed for a record. Fined \$100 for an altercation with umpire Al Somers, Metkovich learned the next fracas would cost him a six day suspension.

Dodger scouts came to San Diego to watch Earl Averill at Westgate in the series against Spokane. Averill's spectacular role in helping the Padres win 13 out of the last 15 games had been the subject of great interest. They also should have been watching Eddie Kazak, who had been pounding the ball and when called on to pinch hit in the 18th against Spokane responded with a single to stretch a Padre win streak to ten games.

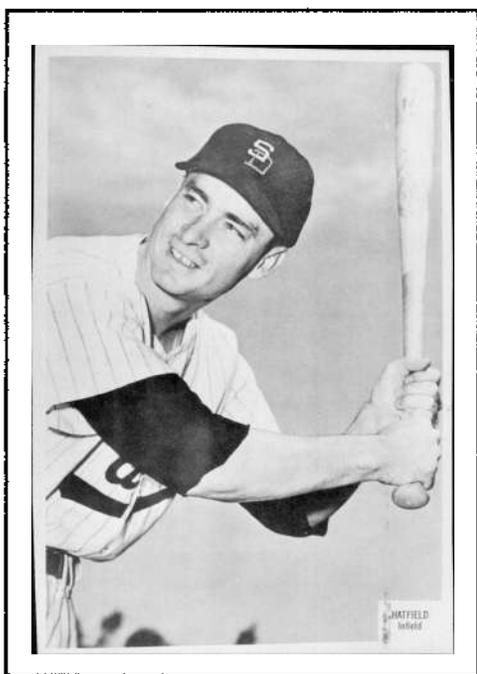
During a pre-game ceremony on June 20, the Padres honored Raquel Tejada (Welch) as the Miss Fairest of the Fair. In a ceremony the next day, as San Diego took Spokane 6-5 on a bases-loaded,



Larry Raines

tie-breaking single in the ninth inning by catcher Hal Naragon, the club honored Floyd Robinson, ex-Padre centerfielder, who had been called into the Marines. Floyd had been named to the All-American field team in 1957, and had made only one error the previous year with the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, where he had hit "about .360."

By June 22, the Padres had taken Spokane 4-0 and 3-0 and moved up to one-and-a-half games out of first place, just behind Vancouver as Earl Averill hit his 15th homer.



Fred Hatfield.

Jack Murphy wrote that George Metkovich & Co. had not been merely good at the moment, but were sensational.

As a result of their superb month of action, five Padres were named to play for the South in the annual Coast League All-Star game on June 30th at Vancouver in Capilano Stadium. The Padres' pick selections included pitchers Bill Werle and Hal Woodeshick, catcher Earl Averill, third baseman Ed Kazak and outfielder Dave Pope.

Earl Averill had been a hot man with the bat. On June 22 he helped stifle Spokane in both ends of a double header as he hit his 15th homer to drive in three in the opener.

Hal Woodeshick had been a huge help in the Padres' climb toward the pennant. By June 24 he had a six game winning streak going for him; he had already told Metkovich that he would give him seven straight wins no matter what, and he did just that on June 27th.

Bob Lemon, who had been with San Diego a short time as a coach, came back as a player on the second of July. The seven time 20 game winner for Cleveland would wear a minor league uniform for the first time since 1941. He still had hopes of recovering from an arm operation. He took uniform No. 21, his trademark for many years in Cleveland. Lemon earned the distinction as the outstanding Ameri-

can League pitcher in 1948, 1950 and 1954.

Lemon was a first class player and man. He wanted to play ball, and said he was not going to impose on his friendship with George Metkovich, and Ralph Kiner. Lemon reiterated, "I want to help the San Diego club."

On the night of July second the Pads, one game out of first place, trailed Salt Lake City by one game. Playing at Westgate and behind 8-4, Earl Averill pole-axed a pitch over the centerfield fence for a grand-slam homer in the 8th inning. Then in the 16th inning Salt Lake City pushed across three runs. A homer by Rudy Regalado, with two on tied the game. Stu Locklin later singled with the bases loaded to win the battle.

On Independence Day San Diego's Padres stood tied for second place with Vancouver and 1/2 game behind Phoenix. With fireworks, the locals took the first game and lost the second in the afternoon double-header before 6,300 fans, the second largest crowd at Westgate.

On July 9th, the Padres took Vancouver 6-3 to stretch their league lead to one-and-a-half games. Earl Averill continued to lead the PCL in hitting and Woodeshick took his ninth win.

In a July 11 editorial, Jack Murphy and Ralph Kiner praised Metkovich for his genuine humility,

and filled a conversation with praise for his ballplayers. Metkovich superlatives described Rod Graber, Earl Averill, Eddie Kazak, Dave Pope, Larry Raines, Bill Glynn, Dick Brodowski and Hal Woodeshick. They felt the "Catfish" deserved praise for handling the situation as he stepped in as manager when Bob Elliott was being replaced. He had handled the situation with grace and good humor.

Meanwhile, major league scouts charted the players at the Park: Hollis Thurston of the White Sox, Doc Jones of the Yankees and Dutch Reuther of the Giants looked on as Rod Graber hit a 13th inning homer to win over the Vancouver Mounties. But a number of the Padres held their attention. While scouts were in the stands, for the first time the Padre management sold out of general admission tickets on the 11th. Some fans watched from the terrace outside the left field fence.

To liven up fan interest, baseball comedian Max Patkin drove around the outfield in a jeep catching flies hit to him, standing on his head while driving the jeep and performing other rare and astounding feats. On the 13th, Bob Lemon had his first opportunity to pitch, and for five innings he looked like the great right-hander of old. Two scratch hits and he was relieved as Vancouver took the second game of the double-header while the younger

Woodeshick took victory number ten.

The July 14th issue of the *San Diego Union* featured an article and photos revealing that the "Players Wives Never Talk About the Score When Home Team Loses at Westgate Park." The story featured the wives of the players and photographs of Mmes. Dick Smith, Fred Hatfield and Bill Werle emphasizing the support of the players by the wives and children.

Earl Averill, who had hit his stride, was suddenly recalled to the Indians. He and pitcher Hal Woodeshick left at a time when the Padres needed them badly, but so did the Tribe. Averill said, "I hate to leave, it's been wonderful here. This has been the happiest year of my life." The moves were the essence of the Cleveland-San Diego arrangement. The move carved the heart out of the league leaders. Kiner made an effort to keep the men who had muscled the Padres out of a possible first pennant since 1954, but to no avail. Averill said that Metkovich had done a lot for him running a happy club — not a beef had flared up on the team since the first week of the season. Cleveland optioned Carroll Hardy to the Pads. Given a selection of Cleveland rookies, Kiner said he would have taken Hardy, who not incidentally, had just had an appendicitis operation.

Kiner kept the bench moving as the team purchased pitcher

Jack Spring from Minneapolis and sold outfielder Stu Locklin. By July 20th, the Pads had lost the league lead, humiliated in a doubleheader with the Bees. In the second game, the Bees pushed across 14 runs in the second inning to win 19-5.

On July 29, as the team played before 1,282 fans, the smallest crowd to occupy Westgate Park, Dave Pope hit the longest home run ever struck there. He had powered it over the 410 foot sign in centerfield and halfway up the terrace. When the Padres topped Portland 4-1, Bob Lemon started in left field to help as the other left fielders were ailing. The next night against the Portland Beavers, Lemon got three hits and Metkovich penciled him in to pitch the following night.

In an interesting twist, Larry Jansen, Portland manager, named Larry Jansen, Portland pitcher, to work against the Padres on the last evening in July. He was as sharp as when he had won 20 games in the PCL 18 years before. He gave up only eight hits to win 3-2. Del Webb, who had a number of real estate holdings in the San Diego area, said he had come out to the park to scout Jansen. He praised Westgate Park as one of the most beautiful parks he had seen.

Spencer Harris, former Padre, now Spokane GM, liked Westgate Park so well he intended to incorporate some features of the San Diego Stadium into his park.

On August 3, Bill Glynn hit home runs in three consecutive plate appearances as the Padres took Sacramento at Westgate in a double-header. After a series in San Diego, the team headed for Portland on August 3-4. Their flight was an hour late leaving San Diego. Before the plane arrived in Portland nine hours later they had landed in San Francisco three times—first on their regular hop and twice more when the plane had to turn back because of mechanical trouble. The bus arrived at the field with a police escort but too late to take batting practice.

By August 5 the Padres had been involved in an exciting three team race when Kiner, in a festive mood, reported to the team that Earl Averill had been returned to the Padres, which he felt might bring back the club's morale and a renewed shot at the pennant. What Kiner didn't know was that Averill had a hairline fracture in his ankle. The general feeling appeared that Frank Lane, however, did know of the injury and by optioning Averill to the minors had clearly violated baseball law. As Averill would have it, he chose San Diego over a return to Cleveland for the remainder of the season, but wanted Lane to trade him to another club the next season.

At the same time, Eddie Kazak had a number of injuries, particularly an eye infection. Metkovich apparently believed Kazak was ma-

lingering, and suspended him at Portland, sending him home. "As far as I'm concerned, he is finished for the season." An impatient Metkovich suspended the 38-year-old infielder. Metkovich then proceeded to name nearly every player on the team who had an injury and wanted to play. In San Diego, a physician discovered Kazak, now suspended from the team, had an ulcer on his eyelid. Kazak who had been wounded in action during WWII, was not at all refusing to play without good cause. He had been at bat 186 times and was hitting .349, hardly symptomatic of a loafer. After the suspension on August 13, Kazak was sold to Seattle.

Metkovich, who had promised early in the season to soften his temper, was fined \$75 by the PCL for bumping an umpire and using abusive language in Portland. His fines for the season totaled \$350.00.

During a break in the schedule, the Chicago Cubs played an exhibition game with the Pads at San Diego on August 11, before 7,576 fans. Chicago, using Alvin Dark, Ernie Banks and other name players, bested the jittery locals 8-0.

Against Spokane on August 17th, Dave Pope hit a grand-slam homer to lead the Padres to win their seventh in a row, positioning them two games behind Phoenix, the league leader. Jack Murphy, Metkovich and Kiner all praised Dave Pope as the glue that had held the team together

after Averill and Woodeshick moved up to Cleveland. Pope was regarded as a fine example for the other players because of his workouts and play when hurt. Writer Jack Murphy pushed Pope for the Most Valuable Player from this point on until the end of the season.

Attendance had risen above 250,000, the first season since 1955 that attendance had showed real serious fan interest in the club and the new park. On August 22, with Earl Averill back in the lineup and Fred Hatfield on a hitting streak, the Pads topped the Bees 6-5. Rudy Regalado, now called "The Red Hot Ripper," was also delivering at the right times. On 21 August 154 fans watched the Padres lose to the Bees 5-2. Sadly, it was "Kids Night".

The last games of the '58 season were held at Westgate Park on August 29, as the pennant winner had still not been settled. The Padres remained two games out for several weeks. That would be decided in Phoenix in early September, when the Padres and Phoenix would come to grips in the final series. Other PCL managers predicted Phoenix would take the pennant, even though at the end of August the Padres were only one game out.

The news of players moving to the majors began to come as Rod Graber and Dick Brodowski were sold to Cleveland for the next season.

At Vancouver and Seattle,

the Padres won and lost with regularity, still remaining a game behind Phoenix.

Phoenix had the home field advantage. Phoenix had too many home run hitters; the loss of Averill and Woodeshick in mid-season had taken the pennant away at that time, and the loss of Kazak was regarded as a major factor because he had been hurting every other team in the league with his hitting. On the last day of August the locals were one game out of the league lead.

They arrived in the desert community on September 1 with a jittery defense, but the Giants had lost six of their last eight games. Both teams returned to Phoenix dog tired after exhausting trips from the Pacific Northwest. In Seattle, the Rainiers dealt the Padres a blow by taking a double header from the Padres. Once again, a poor move of a sound and popular player over a tiff cost the locals a game, as Ed Kazak drove in a winning run.

The Padres flew all night from Seattle to arrive at 10 a.m. The Giants didn't arrive until 5:30 p.m. and passed up batting practice in the 106-degree weather.

At Phoenix, on the clutch power hitting of Earl Averill, the Padres beat the Giants to cut the Phoenix league lead to one-and-one-half games. So critical to fans was the five game series for the pennant that the *San Diego Union* printed a play-

by-play description of the game. Phoenix took game two 7-1, in a 107 degree heat, and game three (of the doubleheader) went to Phoenix 8-7, despite Dave Pope's 18th homer, Regalado's seventh, and Jone's tenth before 4, 086 fans, the largest Phoenix crowd of the season.

Phoenix secured the flag on September 4th, taking the Pads 2-1 on the 4th, and sealing it with a 8-7 win the next day. While the Padres moved on to Salt Lake City and put on their greatest display of hitting and run-making in the 1958 PCL season, the 16-4 victory over the Bees did not prevent them from being eliminated from the pennant race.

The team closed out the 1958 PCL season splitting a doubleheader. In summation, Kiner thought that despite finishing second, the season had been successful in all respects.

The club expected to turn a profit on the new ballpark by leasing the facilities for other attractions, including "The California Story," and the Ringling Brothers Circus. What had shocked Kiner was that the club had received less than \$40,000 as their share of road receipts that summer. During Starr's time, the receipts averaged between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

Jack Murphy wrote,

One of baseball's most astute executives, Bill [Starr] foresaw a lot of the difficulties which

currently beset the minors and wisely sold his holdings.

Now he's dealing in real estate, a more predictable commodity, and getting along famously.

Murphy spoke of the day as apparently gone when a minor league team could live on its baseball earnings alone, a problem common to the American Association and Texas League organizations. Despite their contentious situation with Cleveland, the Padres renewed their working agreement for 1959.

On September 20th, Earl Averill, the Padres' jack-of-all trades, was named the PCL's Most Valuable Player for 1958 by the field managers. On the 13th of October, however, Dave Pope and Larry Raines were swept away when the Cleveland Indians sent them to Toronto for Bob Tiefenauer a relief pitcher.

Ever optimistic, Kiner believed that the Indians would send the Padres players equally as good!

Bob Lemon had tried to help the Padres in the last two months of the season, but the idea hadn't been to make Lemon a big winner in the minors. Once a regular, he was released and promised a tryout in the Cleveland spring training camp. Then Locklin was repurchased from Minneapolis.

Among-off season PCL business were discussions of a league

expansion to ten teams, the retention of Leslie O'Connor, and an agreement to support Spencer Harris, General Manager of the Spokane Indians, as minor league executive of the year.

Of interest in November came the report that the majors were ready to admit that the cannibalism of minor league players was destroying the game, a move surprising enough led by Frank Lane. He espoused an unrestricted draft, exposing every player in the minors to draft after one year.

Jack Murphy explained that this would (1) reduce the number of players controlled by such powerful organizations as the Yankees and Braves; (2) curtail, to some extent the frantic bidding for bonus players; (3) level competition, especially in the American League, and (4) encourage minor league teams to sign and develop young ballplayers. The basic feature would be the exposure of every player in the minors to purchase by the majors for \$15,000.

Murphy pointed out that the Yankees and Braves, which had huge investments in farm clubs and minor league players, opposed the idea and gave an illustration of the majors who lavished \$6 million on fuzzy-cheeked schoolboys, many of whom paled at the sight of a curve ball.

George Metkovich signed his new pact, and Jimmie Reese signed his new one year contract with a

raise in pay. While Metkovich spoke of what he needed in his third year of managerialship, Kiner said he would shop when he attended the annual major-minor league convention in D.C, on December 1. He had already expected big things of Wilbur (Jake) Striker, Dick Stigman, Don Schaeffer and Dave Dillard of the Southern Association.

Spring training would begin about March 16, 1959, and the first league game held on April 17, 1959. League owners agreed upon an entire season of split-weeks with each team playing two rivals within a week's time. For San Diego, however, the schedule had to be revamped, since in late July and early August, the "California Story," a pageant about the history of California was

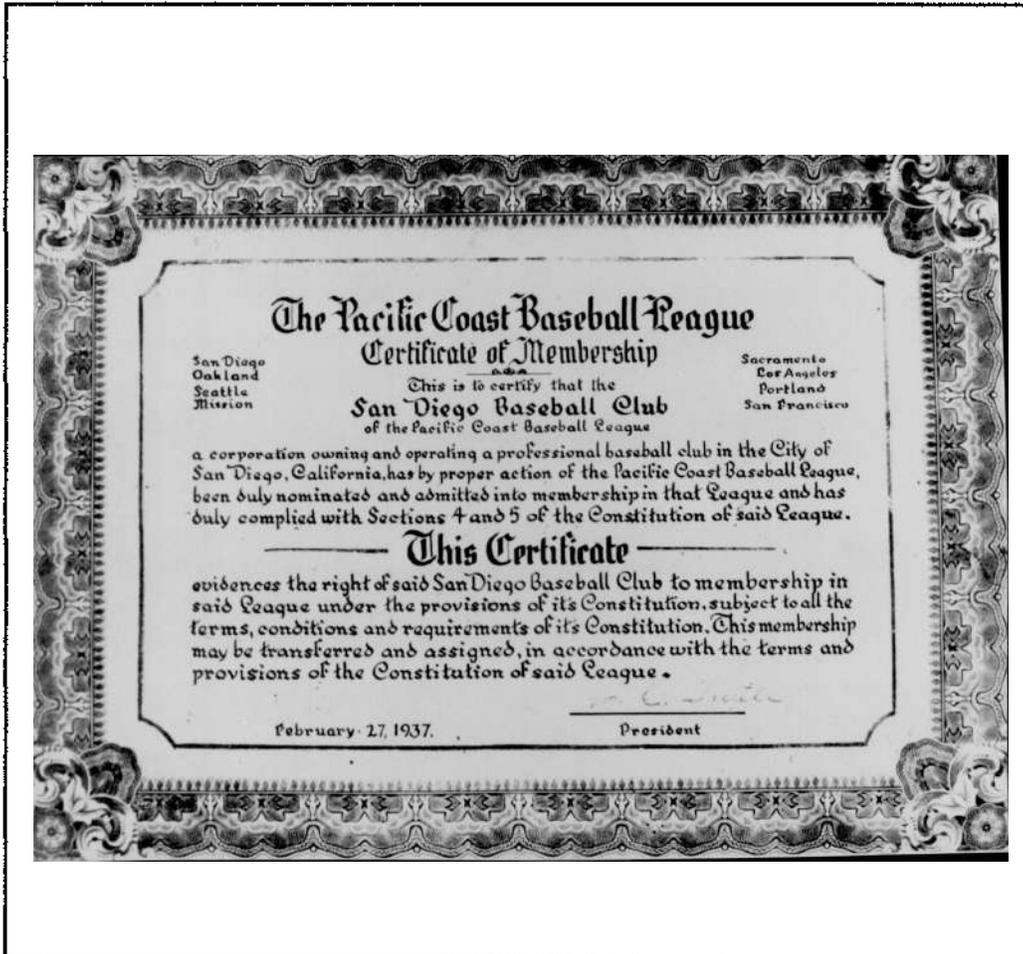
scheduled to be held in Westgate Park.

Attendance for the first season at Westgate Park was 291,712.

FINAL PCL STANDINGS: 1958

	W	L	GB
Phoenix	89	65	
San Diego	84	69	4-1/2
Vancouver	79	73	9
Portland	78	76	11
Salt Lake City	77	77	12
Sacramento	71	83	18
Spokane	68	85	20-1/2
Seattle	68	86	21

There were no Playoffs for the 1958 season.



*A flashback to the past.
The Pacific Coast Baseball League Certificate of Membership for the
San Diego Baseball Club dated February 27, 1937,
signed by then President of the League Wilbur Coleman Tuttle.
Copy courtesy the San Diego Hall of Champions.*

VOICES FROM WESTGATE PARK

Some BILL STARR Philosophy

In many ways, Bill Starr best summed up the earlier times when he looked back on PCL baseball. In a newspaper article and in 1990, during several interviews with this author, Bill Starr, often called the "Architect of the Golden Age of Baseball," spoke about the differences in the game from the time he made the decision to sell the ball club and 1972.

He looked back on his several decades in baseball and said, "the athlete is not better today. I say the talent in baseball was better 30 years ago."

"The strength ratio used to compare basketball and football athletes of today and previous generations cannot be used for baseball. Baseball players don't rely on



Bill Starr, former catcher and owner of San Diego Padres in his Washington uniform, 1935.

strength and size. You wouldn't call Hank Aaron strong would you? It's more a matter of reflexes and dedication.

I've heard managers, not just Don Zimmer, complain that players don't know the fundamentals. That was unheard of in the major leagues 30 years ago, and even in the Pacific Coast League. Very few players would reach the Coast League without several years in the lower minors, where they learned the fundamentals. Today [1990] there are an appalling lack of good hitters. They strike out too much and they don't seem embarrassed about it. Players have switched to a lighter bat, one that is easier to handle. This makes for more home runs but the home run swing means more strikeouts, too.

I'm always surprised when I read that some star believes he's had a great year by hitting .280 with 25 home runs and 80-90 runs batted in even though he's struck out 125-150 times. It used to be a cardinal sin to strike out, particularly in a jam. A strikeout destroys the momentum of a batting rally. Another sin was not driving in a run from third base with less than two outs. It's hardly done now.

A ballplayer will practice when he's in a slump. Hank Greenberg once told me that when he would go one game without a hit, he took an hour's extra batting practice the next morning. In the days before night ball, when most games were at 2 p.m., major league clubs practiced in the mornings. Ball players today have all day to practice before a night game but it's rarely done."



Ad

EDDIE KAZAK

An infielder, started playing in 1940 for Valdosta, Georgia in 1941; he played for Albany, Georgia and in 1942 for Houston. Eddie played for twenty years, most in the Minor Leagues. Between 1943 and 1945, he served in the military and was badly wounded in action in the European Theatre of Operations.

On his return he played for Columbus, Rochester, Omaha, and Rochester in the International League, going up to St. Louis in the National League where he played from 1948 through mid-1951. Eddie played in the All-Star game in 1949, a highlight for him even though the Nationals lost. He broke an ankle after the All-Star game in Brooklyn, New York the next day. They removed bone chips in his ankle but it didn't come around.

In mid-season 1951, Kazak went to Houston and in 1952, was with St. Louis and Cincinnati in the National League. He spent from mid-season 1952-1953 with Buffalo, then to Beaumont, Texas in 1954, and from 1955-1957 with San Diego. In mid-season 1958, he went with Seattle, and then in 1959 to Miami and back to the PCL with Sacramento.

*An interview with
EDDIE KAZAK by
DaVina J. Hoyt.*

In 1955, '56, '57, and part of 1958, I played for the San Diego Padres when they started off at Lane Field by the water. They built a new park, Westgate. I liked the weather there, it was beautiful. I was contacted by someone out there to come to San Diego. I played for a Texas league. When I was with St. Louis, I heard about the Padres. We played a doubleheader on Sundays and every Monday we were off. We would go into a town and play a team for a week. Every Monday was the day with the family! I went to San Diego in 1955.

I don't know if I was re-

cruited. I got an offer. I asked a man in Texas and he knew somebody. I don't know if money was involved.

I heard a lot about the PCL. They had nice weather and a nice setup. A lot of major leaguers went out there. It was one of the top, if not the top leagues in that time.

I was born July 18, 1920 in Steubenville, Ohio. I had three brothers and two sisters; my parents were Joseph and Sophia Kazak. They were from Poland on the Russian border; they spoke Russian. We did not live long in Ohio. Dad worked in different coal mines. We moved to Pennsylvania after I was in the first grade. I got interested in baseball in a coal mining camp where they played baseball. I ran around chasing foul balls! Coal miners did not make a lot of money. We'd gather string from bags and got black tape, melted it down to make a ball—we played in the cow patches and fields. We were just kids.

I played baseball in high school because my father would not let me play football. I went to Cecil Township High School. I played for some semi-pro league. Muse Town had a team and we played other little towns. I got four or five dollars a day to play for the team while in high school.

I played infield, second, third and shortstop. I graduated in 1938; don't really remember that much.

In 1940, I played for Georgia/Florida Team. It was a pro team. Someone from St. Louis came to my house and I was interviewed. I think Sisler recruited me. I went to Albany and I got one hundred dollars a month and twenty-five dollars to drive a station wagon. We had a couple of station wagons and came back after every game. My parents couldn't understand English too well. I worked for the coal mines and I was glad to get out of there! Every year I got banged up!

Then I went into the service. I was there in 1943, '44, '45 ... I was in the Air Corps, a paratrooper in the infantry, and most of the time in the infantry.



Ed Kazak checks blister on Stu Locklin's foot.

STUART LOCKLIN

I played for the Padres from 1955 to 1958, and I stayed in Mission Beach a couple of years. One year I stayed with a doctor, and his house looked down on San Diego by a famous hotel with an elevator by Mission Beach. I think his name was Dr. Adams. I played in an All Star Game in St. Louis and hit over .300 in the All Star Game. I have a watch from the Pacific Coast League in 1956, in Oregon, with a bronze baseball guy.

I played for an International team, National Team, Texas Leagues for 20 years. I didn't have a number because every game I got a different number, unless you were an outstanding star, then you got the same number every game.

I have five children, four girls and one boy. He is an assistant vice-president with a bank, he's a professional banker. I wanted him to play at the University of Texas. He received the highest honors in his class.

Stu Locklin was born in 1928, and was a player who would be with the Padres during the Fifties. He played in both Lane Field and Westgate Park. He was born in Appleton, Wisconsin and continues to live in his home town where he is a teacher, coach, and guidance counselor. He has been actively involved in youth baseball for years.

Locklin first signed a Padre contract in 1949, when they were in a working agreement with the Cleveland Indians. He went to spring training with them at the Old Gabriel Park in Ontario and spent his first season at Dayton, Ohio in Class "A" Ball. He hit .311 as they won the pennant. The next season he played with Oklahoma City of the Texas League, where he hit .298. The next year, 1951, he played half a season with the Padres and then Hank Greenberg encouraged him to enlist in the Air Force. From 1952-1955, he was stationed at Lockbourne Air Force Base in Ohio. He was able to stay with the Cleveland Indians on the National Defense List in 1955, since major league clubs could carry 25 players, plus any service player. But that time probably cost him a chance to become a steady ballplayer.

*Interview with
STUART LOCKLIN
by Ray Brandes*

In 1956, I started at Cleveland and took turns with Roger Maris and Rocky Colavito in the outfield. I pulled a leg muscle and after Memorial Day was optioned to Indianapolis where I hit .306, and we took the pennant and the Little World Series beating Rochester, New York in four straight games.

That winter in 1956, I played with Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico with Joe Brovia and Earl Averill, who were some of the stars on our team and we won the pennant.

In 1957 I joined the Padres again and had a good spring training, but they were looking for some power hitters.

In 1957 I was optioned to Mobile of the Southern Association-- sent down despite my .310 batting average because the Cleveland Indians wanted me to play regularly which had not happened in San Diego. [See the volumes on *PCL Padres: The Lane Field Years* for the story of Stu's first years with the team.] I was sent to Miami for the last half of the season and ended up playing with Satchel Paige and getting into the playoffs against Rochester, New York.

The next year, 1958, I joined the Padres again in spring training at Daytona Beach which was my first opportunity to play in the new ball park at Westgate. I had a real good spring training, but again Ralph Kiner was looking for some power hitters, so I stayed around for about half the season and was optioned to Minneapolis where I finished the season hitting about .280. We won the Little World Series against Buffalo that year, who represented the International League.

Again I went to spring training with San Diego in 1959 and was optioned to Minneapolis to finish the season, getting into the play-offs and losing to Havana four games to three in the Little World Series. We had a good ball club with Gene Mauch



Stu Locklin

Photo courtesy of Mr. Locklin

as our manager and Carl Yastrzemski as our leading hitter.

I enjoyed playing at Westgate. I thought it was one of the most beautiful minor league parks I ever played in. My first son was born at Mercy Hospital in San Diego. I got the news from the front office while I was taking batting practice on July 6, 1958. Two weeks later, I joined Minneapolis. In the winter of 1959, I was traded to Boston for Chuck Tanner. Boston wanted me to become a player-coach with their new Triple A farm team in Seattle, at the beginning of the 1961 season. I had been hired, however, for a teaching-coaching job in Appleton, Wisconsin--my home town. Late in 1961, Boston called me to be a player-manager of their college amateur league, then in Sturgis, S.D., the next two summers when I wasn't teaching. After this, I supervised the summer recreation baseball for 25 years.

When I played at Westgate, I remember living in the Clairemont Apartments with the Earl Averill family and Rod Graber and his wife. My wife and my two year old daughter sat next to the comedian Joe E. Brown at Opening Day at the new ballpark, and Joe E. was able to stop her from crying with that big smile of his.

[A six column article in the *Appleton Post - Crescent*, July 30,

1967, carried a story which featured Stu Appleton's work with youngsters between the age of 7 and 12. In a series of photos he is shown wearing a *Minneapolis Millers* cap, the team where he finished out more than a decade of pro ball. Stu and John Gurholt not only worked out with the Leagues for the youngsters for the Recreation Department at Appleton, Wisconsin, but offered baseball clinics at different schools. When not working he was President of the Babe Ruth League.

Following his baseball career, and while teaching, he earned his Master's Degree and became a guidance counselor. He is the father of six children, three boys, three girls and one foster child. Stu recently lost his wife Judy, his constant companion, who cared for the children as they traveled, no matter where he went during his career.]

HAL NARAGON

Interview with HAL NARAGON by Ray Brandes

I was born in Zanesville, Ohio, living there until 1941, then moving to Barberton, Ohio where I still maintain my home.

Baseball has always been a part of my life. I played from an early age anywhere and anytime I could.

I played sandlot, high school, American Legion and in other local leagues.

I was signed by the Cleveland Indians after graduation in 1947 and assigned to the Pittsfield, Mass., Class "C" team. In the succeeding years, I played for Harrisburg, Pa., and Watertown, N.Y., in 1948, Harrisburg in 1949, and Oklahoma City in 1950.

After the 1950 season, I was added to the Cleveland Indians ros-



*Hal Naragon.
Photo courtesy Mr. Naragon.*

ter. I spent the 1951 spring training with the Indians and then was optioned to San Diego for the 1951 season. I was recalled by Cleveland at the end of the Coast League season. I then spent two years in the Marine Corps, until December 1953. I played winter ball in Panama, went to spring training with the Indians in 1954 and made the club, playing my first full year in the majors. That year the Indians set a record 111 wins and won the American League pennant, but lost to the New York Giants in the world Series. I played winter ball again in Panama.

I stayed with the Indians until being optioned to San Diego in May 1958, returning to Cleveland after the Coast League season ended. In May 1959 I was traded to the Washington Senators and remained with that organization until the end of the 1966 season. During that time,

the Senators moved their organization to Minneapolis-St. Paul, becoming the Minnesota Twins. My active playing career ended after the 1962 season. I then became a coach with the Twins. In 1965, the Twins won the American League pennant but lost the World Series in seven games to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

From 1967 through 1969, I coached with the Detroit Tigers along with my good friend John Sain. The Tigers won the pennant in 1968 and went on to beat the St. Louis Cardinals in a seven game series. This was the last World Series before expansion and the playoff format began.

Following my baseball career, which ended after the 1969 season, I owned and operated "Hal Naragon's Barberton Sporting Goods" until July 1990, when I sold the business. I have been enjoying retirement since then.

My wife Joanne and I will be married 49 years October 10, 1997. We have a daughter, Pam, and two grandsons, Chad and Evan. I was optioned to the San Diego Padres twice by the Cleveland Indians. In 1951, I played the entire Pacific Coast League season, and again in 1958, from late May until the end of the Pacific Coast League Season.

San Diego was a wonderful place to play. In 1951 we lived in Mission Beach and in 1958 we lived in Pacific Beach.

I played with and against some great baseball players. I heard many players say that if you can't play in the majors the Pacific Coast League is the place to play.

Our 1958 club was made up of real good people. We enjoyed being together on and off the field. George Metkovich was great to play for. I liked his style. I am told that Whitey Wietelmann and I attended the same grade school in Zanesville, Ohio. Jimmy Reese was a real gentleman and the best fungo hitter I ever saw. Les Cook, the trainer, was al-

ways a source of encouragement.

My most memorable and unusual play in the Coast League: San Diego vs Hollywood Stars in Hollywood, 1951.

The right-handed batter, swinging at an inside pitch and more or less falling somewhat backward in doing so, hit a slow, twisting, bouncing ball off the end of his bat toward first base. Jack Graham, our first baseman, moved to his right to knock the ball down. I had hustled down the line to cover first base—beating the runner. Graham tossed the ball to me in time for the put-out. Our manager, Del Baker, said that in 40 years of baseball, he had never seen a play like that.

I did not play golf during those years. After my major league career ended, however, it became a very enjoyable avocation for both my wife and myself, and now with our grandsons.

EARL AVERILL

Versatile Earl Averill was the Most Valuable Player in the Pacific Coast League for 1958. He started off his baseball honors by being selected to the Collegiate All-American first team as a sophomore at the University of Oregon for his performance during the 1951 baseball season. After signing his first professional contract with the Cleveland Indians, he served his first two campaigns in Reading, Pennsylvania of the Class "A" Eastern League. He participated in the All-Star Game during the second year of his career. He was loaned to Nashville in 1955. During one game, he managed to establish a league record for total bases in one game at 16. This included three home runs and two doubles. This event happened in "Sulfur Dell", famous for its short right field. However, all the home runs went over the score board in left field and the two doubles were hit high off the same scoreboard.

When I rounded third base after the third home run a fan threw a large dress hat onto the field to symbolize the "hat trick". I played in the Southern Association All-Star Game, held in Memphis that year.

*Interview with EARL AVERILL
by Ray Brandes*

During the 1937 campaign for the 1937 San Diego Padres, this represented the final year in operation of Lane Field. The home opening series was against the visiting Hollywood Stars, a Pittsburgh Pirate farm club. During the first four games, Dick Stuart hit five home runs off our staff and was called up to the big leagues, never to return. Not only did he display his power but put on a show for the fans by clicking his heels upon crossing home plate. An oddity happened during our first inning at bat. Our second hitter, Ben Davidson (I believe) was batting with a runner on first base. He hit a soft-liner that the second baseman, Spider Jacobson, and the shortstop, Dick Smith, had a collision trying to catch the ball. Both were knocked to the ground and one remained unconscious and the other woozy while the batter proceeded to second base on a ball that never left the infield. The shortest double in baseball history to my knowledge.

As I recall, there were actually three Pacific Coast League parks that were never again played in after 1957. I think I played in the final game in two of those, Wrigley Field in Los Angeles and Lane Field in Diego. Also, I may have played the final game in Crosley (I think) Field in Hollywood. During one game against the Hollywood Stars, I managed a home run to left field. After the game, I was presented with a \$100 check for hitting the ball over a marked sign. However, the ball missed that sign by 50 feet from my

view. The left fielder, Ben Daniel, notified the authority at the end of the inning that the ball traveled over the sign and I subsequently got \$100 bucks for something that I did not think was earned. I spent the check.

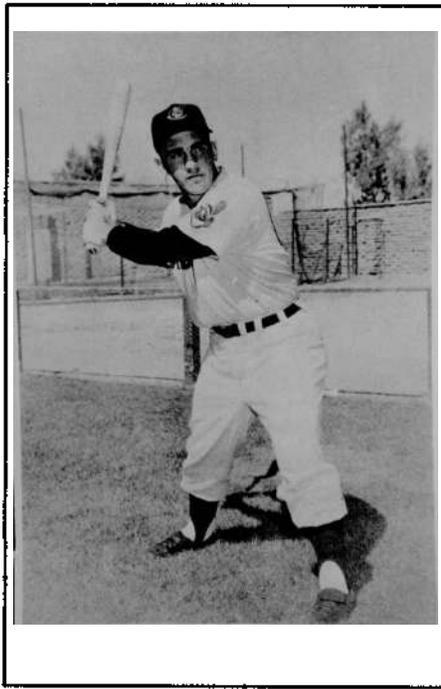
Tommy Holmes was managing Sacramento in 1957. During each game of a double header in Lane Field, they were beating us by at least a couple of runs. Harry Bright was playing third for them and late in each game he made at least one error which allowed us to score runs and go into the lead. After it happened in the second game, Tommy went into the clubhouse, as he could take no more. When Ralph Kiner talked with him after the game Tommy was trying to work up a trade for Harry. His offer was to trade Harry for a pencil. He kept saying, "Anybody got a pencil?"

Strange plays seemed to be a part of Lane Field. I remember a July game during which the first two batters each singled on the first pitch. I swung at the next pitch and hit a nice one hopper to the third baseman who stepped on the bag, fired to second and then on to first for a triple play. Three pitches. Three outs.

When Westgate Park was opened in 1958, the opening day ceremonies were preceded by a luncheon. In attendance and on the dais was comedian Joe E. Brown. While someone was trying to make a speech, there was a noisy commotion in the press box that was causing a disturbance. Joe E., in his ever so gentle voice, yelled out, "Get a paint brush!" The crowd roared.

The manager during my years with the Padres was Bob Elliott. He was replaced my second year, as George Metkovich was named after we got off to a poor start. Bob had a couple of ball players' friends who attended to everything around the park. During spring training Whitey Wietelmann and Del Ballinger acted as groundskeepers, clubhouse attendants and ticket takers. The three, Bob, Whitey and Del were virtually

inseparable. Dell was quite funny and a great storyteller. Del had been a catcher and told this very entertaining-story about trying to hit the pitches offered by Roy Helser. Roy was a left-handed pitcher for Portland and Del was a left-handed hitting catcher. Del said he not only could not hit Helser, but also would throw his bat at the ball during every at bat. Del decided that in jest he would tape the bat to his wrist and thus, as he swung the bat, would not leave his proximity. As it turned out, Del got a hit and described himself in all his foolishness parading toward first base with the bat dangling from his wrist.



Earl Averill.
Photo courtesy Mr. Averill.

When the 1958 season opened in Phoenix, I was not in the starting lineup. Late in that game, I

was called upon to pinch-hit against Max Surkout. I hit the first pitch over the left field fence for a game winning hit and never missed another inning of play until I was called up the Indians in early July. Our second baseman sustained an injury and I had to learn a new position. I played several games at first base. I played a bunch of games at third base and filled in at times in the outfield. I caught a number of games. Sundays were my favorite. I don't think I failed to get less than five hits in any double header that year. When I was called up, I had 19 or 20 home runs and had driven in 80 runs. This I did while hitting either in front of or behind Dave Pope, who had like numbers. I appeared in a few games with the Indians and sustained an injury that caused them to place me on the injured list. While on that list, I was subsequently returned to the San Diego club. The then-commissioner of baseball, Ford Frick, called me while I was with the ball club in Spokane and highlighted the fact that what Cleveland had done was not legal in baseball terms. He offered me the option of returning to the Indians. At the time, I was somewhat hurt by that fact and opted to suggest to the commissioner but he, in turn, expressed my wish to be traded by the Indians. They did trade me to the Chicago Cubs after the end of the 1958 season. I played a year and a half with the Cubs before joining the Braves organization on loan to Louisville. There I played with Bob Uecker. I really enjoyed Bob as he kept the entire club in stitches.

The White Sox purchased me after the September first acquisition date by Bill Veeck. Bill must have known something was going to happen regarding expansion, as he paid \$20,000 for me in September and when I was chosen in the expansion draft by the Los Angeles Angels, they paid \$85,000. I did not see any of the difference.

My only consistent chance

to play came during the 1961 year. I hit 21 home runs in slightly over 300 at bats. I was credited with 17 game winning hits. Not much attention was given to this category, but it was one category I am quite proud of. We were picked by the scribes to win 40 games and I believe we won 78. It was a number of years before the Angels won that many games.

I have many fond memories of events that happened to me during my short career. None is more inspiring than that which happened during my first trip into Fenway Park in Boston. During pre-game warm ups, Ted Williams walked out of the dugout and approached me near first base. He introduced himself to me and said he had played with my father and thus wished me all the success in the world. What a thrill that was to me. I have, in recent years, written to Ted and told him of that chance meeting and thanked him for the gesture. I hope he got the letter.

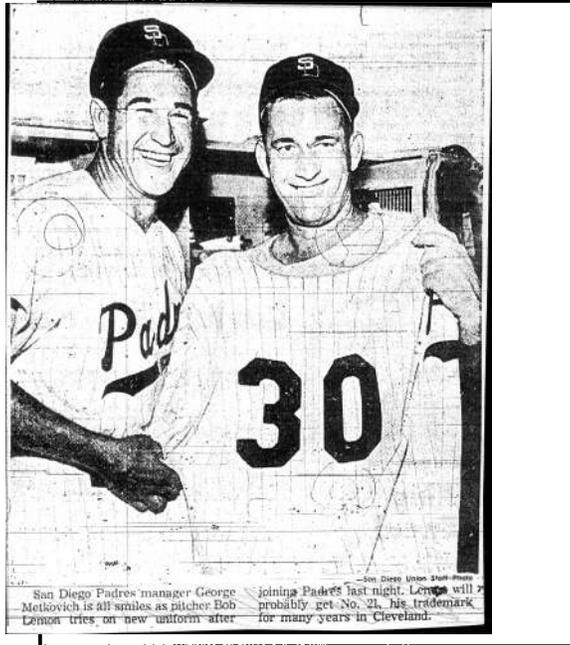
During baseball times, my wife of 46 years and I traveled quite a bit. Fortunately, Pat kept records of our houses we rented and the rents we paid. These addresses came

in handy when I later applied for a security clearance with the government. I needed the clearance to do work for the company with whom I was employed. It was then that we realized that we had been in 39 homes during our first 13 years of marriage. Our oldest son, Michael had been in 13 different schools by the time he got out of the third grade. We had been to three South American countries to play baseball.

I have fond memories of every place we went. These memories grow as time passes. I still remember most of the stories my father related about his ball-playing career. I cherish his stories as much or more than my own. I realize now that his passing was as much due to the realization that all of his buddies were gone as it was to pneumonia. He had lost his will to live after returning from a celebration of the 50th All-Star Game, held in Chicago in 1983. There were only five remaining members of the original 1933 All Star team.



Dave Pope, Jack Waters, Stu Locklin, Rod Graber, and Dave Mann (outfielders) 1958.



Manager George Metkovich was all smiles as pitcher Bob Lemon tried on new uniform after joining the Padres. He would get No. 21, his trademark for many years in Cleveland.



(Lt. to Rt.) Manager George Metkovich wished "Good Luck, Boys" to Hal Woodeshick and Earl Averill, who were recalled by Cleveland.



A GENUINE GENE LARY AUTOGRAPH

San Diego Union Photo by Al Sund

Tony Pulli, 7, eagerly awaits the penciled signature of Gene Lary, San Diego Padre pitcher, at

Westgate Park before yesterday's doubleheader with Salt Lake City. Padres split with Bees.

A Genuine Gene Lary Autograph.
Tony Pulli, 7, eagerly awaits the penciled signature of Gene Lary, San Diego Padre pitcher, at Westgate Park before a doubleheader with Salt Lake City. The photo, taken in 1958, is provided through the courtesy of the photographer Al Sund.

1958 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	PCT.
Alexander, Bob	30	54	--	4	--	--	--	--	.074
Averill, Earl	112	401	84	139	16	7	24	87	.347
Bell, Gary	9	26		5					.192
Brodowski, Dick	54	36	1	6				4	.167
Dailey, William	6	-							.000
Glynn, William	142	437	48	118	24	2	8	57	.270
Graber, Rodney	148	574	104	173	27	9	10	46	.301
Guerra, Julio	1								.000
Hardy, Carroll	57	153	24	36	2	1	2	11	.235
Hatfield, Fred	106	374	55	101	17	5	10	37	.270
Jones, Allen	113	365	33	92	13	2	10	48	.252
Kazak, Edward*	91	287	43	96	18	1	7	50	.334
Kuhn, Kenneth	13	34	2	5	2				.147
Lary, Gene	46	62	7	16	1	1	2	7	.258
Lemon, Robert	32	69	2	18	4			7	.261
Locklin, Stuart	63	185	19	42	5	2		20	.227
Lombardi, Victor*	33	50	11	18	2			5	.320
Naragon, Harold	67	186	18	64	31			23	.344
Podbielan, Bud	29	63	4	11	2			1	.175
Pope, David	142	545	88	172	31	7	19	96	.316
Raines, Larry	144	532	78	161	32	9	5	65	.303
Regalado, Rudy	104	325	40	90	11	5	8	42	.277
Ridzik, Stephen	27	46	3	11	2			6	.239
Smith, Richard*	114	365	43	97	14	1	3	32	.266
Spring, Jack	10	16							.000
Stigman, Richard	4	9		3					.333
Thomas, Carl	5	8		1					.125
Waters, John	29	53	8	10	1			6	.189
Werle, William	29	61	1	11				3	.175
Wojey, Peter	47	18		3				1	.167
Woodeshick, Hal	20	30	2	7		1		4	.233

*Kazak: 64 San Diego-27 Seattle,
 Lombardi: 8 San Diego-25 Portland,
 Smith: 17 Salt Lake City-97 San Diego.

1958 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	IP	W	L	PCT	SO	BB	ERA
Alexander, Bob	30	160	10	5	.667	75	70	3.71
Bell, Gary	9	75	6	2	.750	60	23	1.56
Brodowski, Dick	53	139	10	10	.500	100	55	3.30
Dailey, William	6	--	--	--	.000	--	--	--
Guerra, Julio	5	--	2	--	1.000	--	--	--
Lary, Gene	31	159	9	9	.500	76	59	3.96
Lemon, Robert	12	56	2	5	.286	19	22	4.34
Lombardi, Victor*	29	142	11	6	.647	71	42	3.87
Poblielan, Bud	28	170	10	9	.526	81	30	4.08
Ridzik, Stephen	21	111	4	6	.400	68	49	5.03
Spring, Jack	9	48	2	1	.667	22	10	3.00
Stigman, Richard	4	--	2	2	.500	--	--	--
Thomas, Carl	4	--	1	2	.333	--	--	--
Werle, William	28	171	10	8	.556	65	34	3.11
Wojey, Peter	47	84	5	8	.385	74	44	3.43
Woodeshick, Hal	20	92	10	2	.833	49	36	2.54

* Lombardi: 6S San Diego, 23 Port land.

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Photos: All photographs listed appeared in the *San Diego Union* unless otherwise noted:

		April 29	Diego Padres Home Opener
February 25	Preston Ward:		Bill Werle, George Metkovich and Dick Stigman
March 9	Herb Score (not yet a Padre)	April 29	Rudy Regalado, Jack Waters, Dave Pope, Earl Averill, Eddie Kazak, Larry Raines, Bill Glynn, Allen Jones and Dick Stigman
March 13	Vic Lombardi, Clarence (Bud) Podbielan and Bill Glynn		Joe E. Brown signs autographs for children; Earl Averill.
March 14	Westgate Park under construction	April 29	Westgate Park at night; fan waving ; PCL prexy Leslie O'Connor and actor William Powell
March 15	Stu Locklin, George Metkovich		Action, Willie McCovey, Bill Dailey, pitcher Wojey
March 15	Bill Werle		Larry Raines, bat boy Scotty Van Buskirk, Pete Wojey, Dick Stigman, and Mulvaney helping in parking lot.
March 17	Les Cook and Stan Turner	April 30	Gene Lary, Allen Jones, Dick Brodowski and Earl Averill
March 19	Jimmy Reese and Kenny Kuhn		Action Earl Averill
March 19	Earl Averill		Steve Ridzik
March 27	Down with the old park and up with the new Padre Park: photos of both parks.	April 30	Bill Glynn in action shot
March 31	Gene Lary	April 30	Rod Graber in action shot, Dave Pope in photo
April 4	Jim Mulvaney at Westgate		LaGene and Al Lary (2 of 7 Lary brothers)
April 6	Earl Averill		Rod Graber out against Portland
April 8	Bud Podbielan, Gary Bell, Bob Alexander, Dick Stigman and Bill Werle	May 4	Earl Averill with children Carol and Mike.
		May 5	Hal Naragon, Fred Hatfield
April 12	Dick Brodowski		Gary Bell
April 13	Bill Glynn		
April 14	Rod Graber	May 5	
April 14	Sketch of Player standing on both sides of country. page 6b2	May 6	
		May 15	
April 15	Dick Brodowski, Rod Graber, Ed Kazak	May 19	
April 15	Clarence Bud Podbielan	May 21	
April 17	Carl Thomas and Bill Dailey	May 23	
April 25	Bob Lemon		
April 26	Modern Westgate Park awaits Padres' Home Opener	May 26	
April 28	Joe E. Brown helps greet Padres	May 27	
April 29	Sketch, page b2 San	May 30	

June 6	Dick Brodowski	July 16	Carroll Hardy
June 10	Bud Podbielan, Gay Cowie, Steve Ridzik and Jean Estes, Miss California and Miss Universe contestants	July 20	Carroll Hardy and George Metkovich
June 11	Hal Woodeschick, Gene Lary, Dave Pope and Rod Graber	July 25	Metkovich in two mood photo
June 15	Pete Wojey and Dick Brodowski	August 1	Bill Werle and Jack Spring
June 15	Fred Hatfield to Larry Raines	August 3	Rod Graber forced at second.
June 16	Pete Mesa, Sacramento tagged out by Bill Glynn, Hal Naragon Padre	August 4	Bob Lemon tagged, Umpire Emmett Ashford
June 22	Earl Averill	August 5	Earl Averill
June 21	Floyd Robinson in Marine Corps uniform for presentation of trophy at Westgate.	August 6	George Metkovich
June 24	Hal Woodeshick	August 6	Ed Kazak
July 3	Bob Lemon	August 9	Earl Averill and George Metkovich
July 5	Bob Lemon	August 13	Floyd Robinson HR with Marine Corps Recruit Depot team.
July 6	Double play Raines to Dick Smith, Umpire Mel Steiner	August 14	Earl Averill
July 8	Allen Jones and Hal Woodeshick	August 16	Earl Averill, Bill Werle, Allen Jones
July 9	George Metkovich and Bob Lemon	August 21	Dave Pope
July 11	George Metkovich	August 21	Westgate Park at night
July 13	Rod Graber	August 24	Portland Double play, Larry Raines, Rudy Regalado
July 14	Mmes Dick Smith, Fred Hatfield and Bill Werle	September 3	Bob Lemon and Phoenix Dusty Rhodes
July 14	Bob Lemon in 3 photo pitch	September 14	Dave Pope, Larry Raines.
July 15	Earl Averill	September 19	Ralph Kiner
		September 20	Earl Averill
		September 24	Allen Jones
		September 24	Ex Pad Sad Sam Jones
		October 14	Frank Lane of Cleveland

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*Sportswriter Gene Gregson, Padre Vice-President
Carol Smith Shannon, Padre Owner C. Arnholt Smith,
Sportswriter Earl Keller, Sportswriter Johnny McDonald and
Mrs. Gene Gregson.
Photo courtesy Johnny McDonald.*

CHAPTER II

SAN DIEGO PADRES, 1959

The Cleveland Indians' Last Year in San Diego.



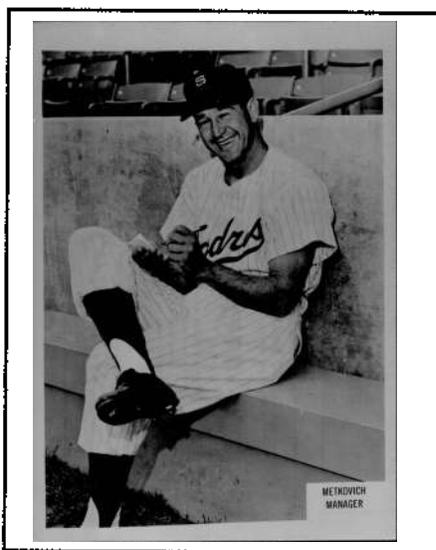
1959 Team Photo

At a special meeting of the Pacific Coast League Directors in Phoenix, January 24-25, 1959, discussion of the future of the wobbly Sacramento Solons did not turn out to be the only topic of discussion. Up for consideration was the presidency of the PCL. Some PCL owners favored Leslie O'Connor the incumbent who would retain his job, while others had preferred Dewey Soriano, former General Manager of the Seattle Rainiers. The owners weighed the importance of the opening of the 57th campaign of the PCL.

At the general meeting of PCL executives, Ralph Kiner listened as they adopted a 154 game schedule to start April 17 and end September 13. The All-Star game would be held July 20 in San Diego. The Padres looked at their split-week schedule with 21 exhibition games scheduled. The team would begin spring training in the Imperial Valley at Indio, on March 11. The Padres had constructed the Indio ballfield at the beginning of this year at a cost of \$18,000. Temporary bleachers provided adequate seating. According to the *Sporting News* of April 1, 1959, the left field fence stood 444 feet

from home plate.

On January 15 the Hot Stove League's pre-season dinner fans heard Fresco Thompson, Vice-President in charge of the Los Angeles Dodgers farm system. Guests included Fred Haney, the principal speaker, Hank Sauer, Don Larsen, Bob Boone, Bob Skinner, George Metkovich, Jimmie Reese and President Jim Mulvaney of the San Diego Padres.



George Metkovich, Manager.

In other matters, Rocky Colavito, former San Diego Padre was named "Man of the Year" in Cleveland and signed with the Indians for \$29,000. In San Diego, Clarence Podbielan, one of the PCL's most celebrated espionage victims, became the first of the Padres to sign his 1959 contract. A mystery surrounding the 34 year-old former

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Watching a game at Westgate Park from third base.

National League right-hander was solved in mid-season last year, when the Cubs revealed they had stolen his pitches in an exhibition game at Westgate Park. That explained why Podbielan, a spring training sensation had been batted all over the parks during the first three months of the season. The Cubs could tell whether a fast ball or a curve was coming by the way Podbielan gripped the ball.

Spring training opened on March 11 at Indio, when pitchers and catchers reported. A week later, the rest of the squad came in to camp. George Metkovich said his players would not work six hours a day during spring training as they had in Florida, but the three hours

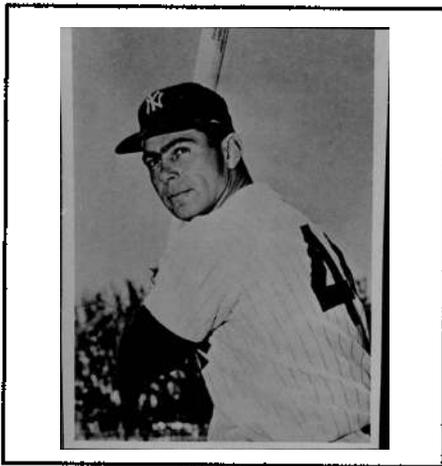
scheduled would be real labor. The year before Cleveland officials had taken charge of the drills; Metkovich would be in charge at Indio.

Those who signed contracts early were Bill Glynn, Rudy Regalado and Gordon Coleman a power hitting rookie—all vying for first base position. Steve Jankowski also would be on hand for the early workouts. Metkovich had to worry about injuries right away—Dick Stigman, the fast-balling left-hander, had lost all feeling in his left hand.

Dewey Soriano, the heir apparent to the Presidency of the PCL, spoke to the press about the lack of Ford Fricks' movement to do anything to protect minor league territories from being saturated with

major league broadcasts and telecasts. In San Diego he spoke of the improvements at Sacramento and of C. Arnholt Smith and Westgate Park.

"Smith didn't build this beautiful park because he expected to make money... he just hopes to break even. He built it for the community. It's the same way with the people who are supporting baseball in Sacramento. They're doing it because

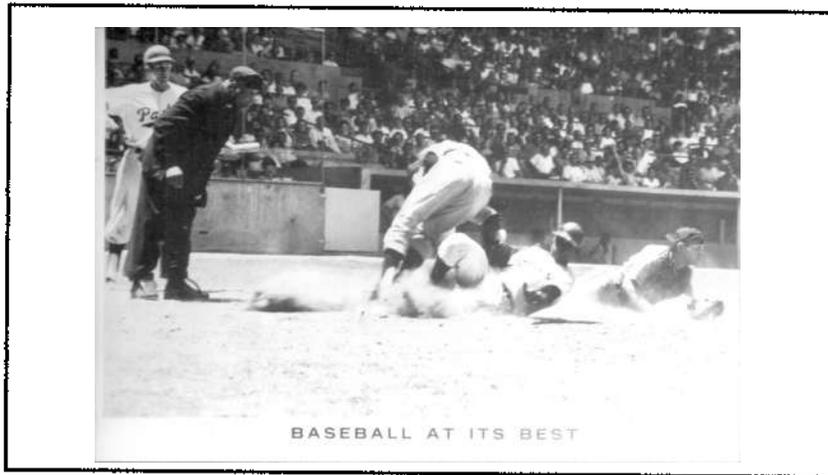


Outfielder Kenneth L. Hunt

they love the game and they want to keep it."

Herbert Hoover said "that next to religion, baseball has more influence on our civilization than anything else. Baseball owes more respect to the public. If it is the national game, it has got to give something."

Soriano, the executive-president of the PCL, a man of Spanish and Danish descent, held a master's license, piloted craft on Puget Sound and came from a seafaring family. The former GM of the Rainiers had been called to resolve the financial disaster which nearly cost Sacramento its franchise. He turned the Sacramento franchise into a solvent, enthusiastic operation. He spent three weeks in the capital city while the fund drive, which saved the Solons, was in progress. One of San Diego's favored athletes, Bob Elliott, was selected to pilot the Solons.



"Baseball at Its Best"

At training camp, Les Cook showed off the new uniforms of the Padres to the press. The new white uniforms cost \$56.00, with a blue warm-up jacket costing \$24.00, and a windbreaker worth \$10.00. Padres would throw 800 dozen baseballs, selling at \$17.80 a dozen. He predicted they would swing 700 bats, costing \$37.00 a dozen. Les Cook, or "Cookie," was the team doctor, lawyer, Indian chief, a tailor, carpenter, accountant, mechanic, psychologist and traveling secretary. The lettering "San Diego" arced on the front of the shirts and jackets.

George Metkovich said he wanted youth on his team—eight pitchers: four for starters, two for early-inning relief and two for late-inning relief. He hoped to keep two catchers, six or seven infielders and four outfielders.

As if he didn't have enough to think about on the field, Metkovich opened the newspaper to read that Cleveland's Frank Lane had criticized him, stating that the Padre Manager urged newsmen to rap Lane for his treatment of Earl Averill, that he misused the Indians' young players, and that he told reporters Lane once used an umbrella in showing him how to hit.

Metkovich denied all of the charges with the retort that, "It sounds to me as if Lane is after my job. Maybe he doesn't like the way I put my clothes on." A caustic Frank



Pitcher Carl Thomas



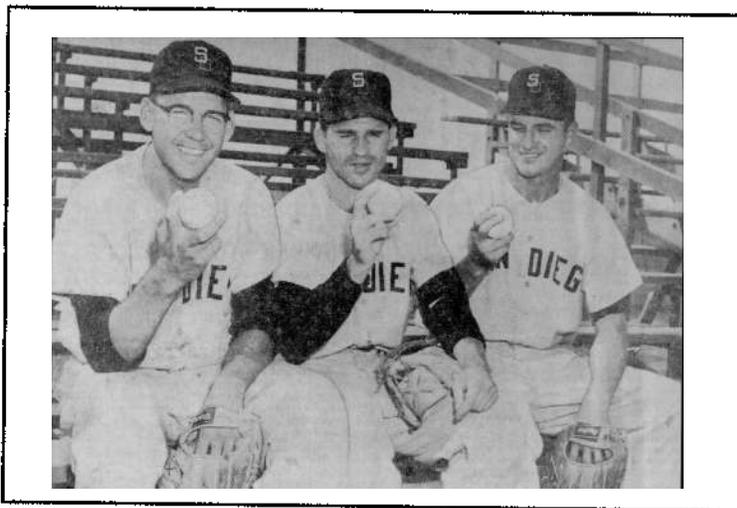
Gene Leek

Lane spoke of terminating the Padre-Cleveland working agreement. Kiner, however, flew to Tucson from Phoenix to meet with Lane and agreed that they could work together harmoniously. Lane, unable to restrain himself, told the press, "If I wanted to get rid of Metkovich, you can be sure he wouldn't be the manager right now. I would have told Ralph Kiner to get another manager or I'd break the working agreement. As everybody knows, Metkovich isn't one of my favorite managers. But I agreed with Kiner that he deserved to be rehired this year after the fine job he did last season."

The banter aside, spring training started with the players quartered at the Hacienda Motel, an improvement over the abandoned Navy barracks at Daytona Beach, Florida the previous year. Mitchell June, pitcher John Carmichael, Stu

Locklin and Pete Wojey showed up early to camp. Gene Leek, Hoover High School and University of Arizona graduate, was placed on the spring training San Diego roster. Kiner hoped the Padres would receive Billy Moran, George Strickland or Leek from Cleveland. The deal called for a bonus of between \$30,000 and \$10,000. Stan Turner, Stan Pitula, Steve Ridzik and Bud Podbielan encouraged Metkovich with their early workouts.

On March 25, Cleveland optioned Rod Graber, Gene Lary, Charles Kolakowski and Frank Biskup to the Padres. Relief pitcher Russ Heman, a sinker-ball right-hander, also came to the Pads. The injured Dick Stigman, who had been expected to remain with Cleveland, was also optioned on a 24-hour recall! As the exhibition games played out at Yuma, Indio and at Westgate Park, Larry



Pitchers Russ Heman, Bobby Locke, and Charles Kolakowski.

Locke, a right-hander, got a look from Kiner. Billy Moran, optioned to the Padres, would meet the double-play combination that Metkovich wanted as he moved Billy Hunter to second base.

As Bud Podbielan worked well against Portland on April 4, Cleveland optioned Wilbur Jake Striker, a 17-11 winner with the Southern Association the previous year, and Don Hunt, a power hitter from the New York Yankees. On March 28, the Indians sent Graber, Lary, and Kolakowski to San Diego but took back catcher Frank Biskup. Then came pitcher Russ Heman, and while Cleveland was giving the Padres lots of picks, any of them could be returned at a moments call from the Tribe. The Padres would likewise

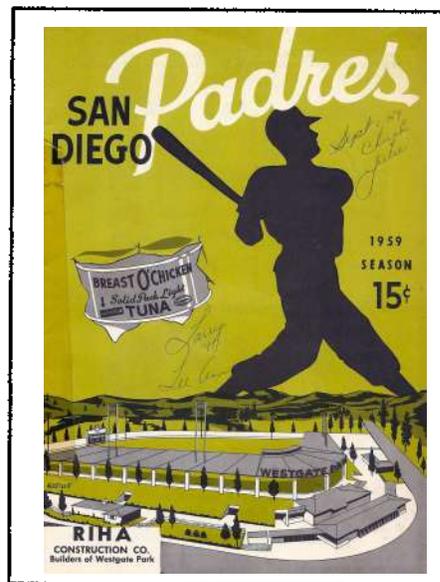
need to cut the roster down before the season began and did so by giving Robinson and Kolakowski their releases.

PCL sportscasters cast 54 votes for San Diego to take the PCL flag, with Phoenix named as a close runner-up. Kiner picked his club to wind up first. Metkovich, who had held his aggressive frame of mind in check all during spring training, did not commit himself to the pennant winner, but lost his temper in the last game against Seattle. Although the Padres had a record of 17-1 in exhibitions, the spirit of Metkovich echoed 1957, when he paid \$1,000 in fines for run-ins with the umpires.

Wilbur Striker, a left-hander, came to the Padres in early April. A 17-11 winner at Mobile of the South-



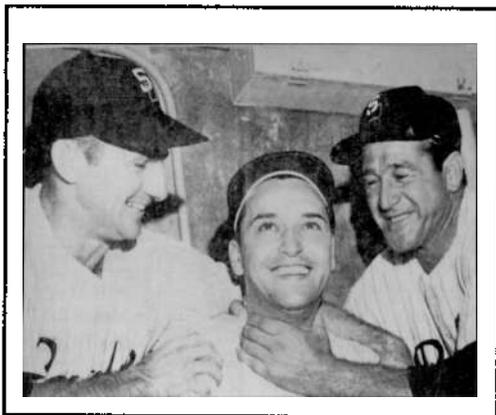
Bud Podbielan



Padres Program, 1959



Padre Manager Metkovich discusses prospect for season with former Padre Manager Bob Elliott during spring training.



"Happy Days" Rod Graber, is squeezed and hugged by Dick Smith and Manager Metkovich after his pinch home run won the opener with Sacramento, 3-2.

ern Association the previous season, he completed the port side of the Padre pitching staff. Cleveland continued to send players; Carl Thomas, a 6'5" 240 pound pitcher, arrived in camp and Ken Hunt, a power hitter, was acquired from the Yankees.

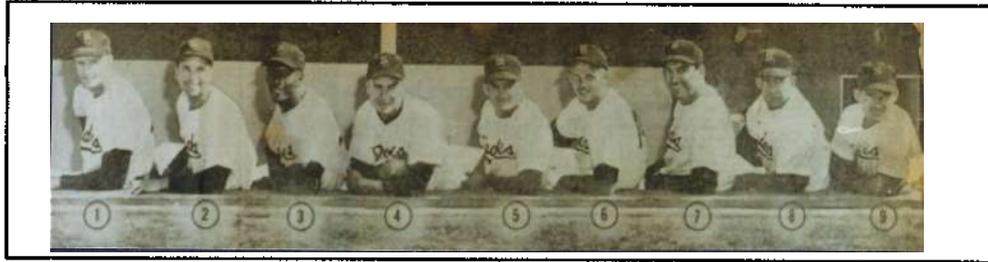
April 17 had been selected as the time for the day-night double-header at Westgate Park to open the 57th PCL season against Portland. Kiner expected 4,000 fans in the 3:00 afternoon game and 6,500 at the 8:00 nightcap.

Fans who had made advance reservations received box luncheons from the Chamber of Commerce, and the 10 finalists in the Miss San Diego contest paraded before the contest.

Kiner's estimates fell short when only 6,644 fans saw Portland take San Diego 4-1 and 3-2. Captain Hans Dominik of the German Navy, who had never seen a baseball game, tossed out the first ball.

Announced was the sale of Bill Glynn to Mobile, and the option of Paul Robinson to Mobile. The deal for Glynn was voided; Glynn had asked for a few days in order to see his visiting family. Kiner then wanted Glynn to join Birmingham. As matters worked out, Glynn retired from baseball and went into business for himself.

On April 21 Spokane ripped the Padres 7-3 before a crowd of 1,251, one of the smallest ever to see



*1959 Opening Day lineup: (1) Stu Locklin-*rf*; (2) Rod Graber-*cf*;(3) Mitch June-*lf*;(4) Fred Hatfield-*3b*;(5) Billy Moran-*ss*; (6) Billy Hunter-*2b*; (7) Rudy Regalado-*1b*; (8) Al Jones-*c*; (9) Bobby Locke-*P*.*

a PCL game in Westgate Park. The paid attendance was consistently below 2,000. Ironically, the club was in first place and already Mitchell June had a hitting streak of 22 spring games and 5 in the young season. After a somewhat tepid series of games since the opener on April 17th, the Pads and Seattle played to an 18 inning, 1-1 tie, halted by the PCL curfew at 12:58 a.m. The game would have to be replayed in its entirety. A record low 1,220 attendance witnessed the game at the

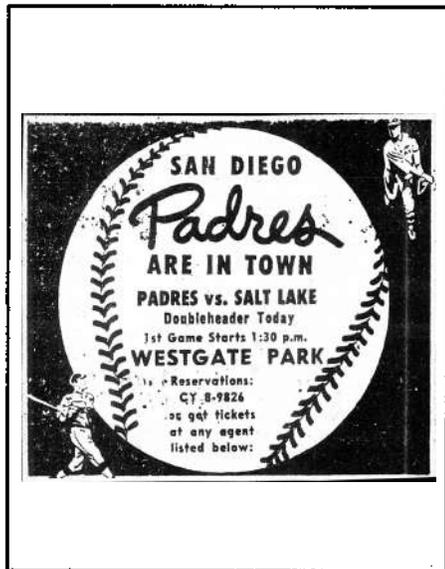
start, but fewer stayed until the end. Metkovich was not around after the sixth inning, having been banished by plate umpire Pat Orr in that round. At the end of April, the Padres were in second place, but one game behind leading Sacramento.

The Padres, playing in comparative privacy in Westgate Park, expected to see crowds between 25,000 and 30,000 in Multnomah Stadium, with games at 3:00 and 9 p.m. on the first of May. The actual figures were 5,778 and 6,233, de-



Russ Heman celebrating his no-hitter against Vancouver. Photo from Russ Heman.

spite rain showers. A highlight of the early season came on May 7th, when right-hander Russ Heman pitched the first nine-inning no-hitter in the PCL since 1954, as the Padres defeated Vancouver, 2-0 before 2,325 fans. The 6 foot 200 pound native of Olive, California allowed only two Mounties to reach first base, one on a walk, the other on an error. This was Heman's third straight win. Catcher Retzer said Heman used a fork ball, a pitch which broke somewhat like a knuckleball on almost 50 percent of the throws. "I was nervous, too" said Retzer. "I didn't know what to call after the fifth inning." After the game, Steve Ridzik was sold to Fort Worth and Cleveland optioned John Briggs to the Pads.



When the Padres arrived in Spokane, it was 28 degrees and snowing as the plane landed at 2 p.m. Rain, snow and cold postponed the first game; Steve Ridzik, sold to Fort Worth of The American Association, left for the warm climes as fast as he could.

In Seattle on the 8th of May Freddy Hutchinson watched his team play a five hour, 26 minute game as the Rainiers outlasted Phoenix 6-5. It was the longest contest in Seattle's baseball history. The Rainiers served free coffee to the fans still present at the start of the 21st inning. Before the game the next night, Freddie Hutchinson carried a lunch pail to the coaches' box just in case. At Seattle the next night, the Padres scored eight runs in a single inning before Seattle could retire a batsman, then could score only two in a 13 inning second game. The next night, just 746 fans saw Clarence "Bud" Podbielan, PCL's premier pitcher, win 3-0 over Seattle.

In Sacramento, former Padre Bob Elliott said that every game was a thrill for him as the Solons clung to the PCL lead and the Padres were still one game back. At home newcomers John Briggs, R.W. "Riverboat" Smith and Russ Heman couldn't hold Phoenix down, and the next night, Bill Werle, Bobby Locke, Dick Stigman and Russ Heman all usual San Diego starters, lost the fourth straight.

Then Podbielan and Striker checked the Giants in a doubleheader 3-0 and 5-3 at Westgate Park.

By May 20, with the Padres in Salt Lake City, native San Diego Gene Leek was added to the roster as the regular third baseman. Snow, sleet and hail, however, halted the game which was being played in honor of members of the U.S. Weather Bureau. At the same moment Bud Podbielan, at 34-years-of-age, was purchased by Cleveland. So sure had he been that he would remain permanently out on the Coast, where he would finish the season and retire, that he moved his family and all of their belongings to the West Coast. This was for him, however, a new life in the majors as he headed for Cleveland's municipal stadium.

Meanwhile Gene Lary, the Padre who had been sent to Miami three weeks earlier, and waiting to see service, wrote to say, "Miami has three good teams: one here, one coming and one going."

Bob Elliott brought his Solons to San Diego for the first appearance since being replaced as manager of the Padres in mid-May 1957. Ralph Kiner hoped for an attendance of 16,000 for the four-game series. San Diegans hadn't yet shown much enthusiasm over the local team, despite the splendid ballpark and their position in the standings. To lighten fans up, Kiner purchased outfielder Bill Renna, re-

garded as a powerful hitter, from the Bosox.

Elliott's homecoming on May 22 was marked by a seasonal high 5,971 fans but the Padres whipped his Solons 6-4. The contest, in a lively way, was between Bob Elliott and George Metkovich. Some 250 members of the Elliott fan club sat near third base and cheered their former Padre manager for his every move. On the 23rd, the Pads took the Solons in 12 innings, 7-6. The next day, May 24th, 6,285 fans saw Sacramento's Daryl Imple hit a two out, ninth inning grand slam to shut the door on the Pads. The locals still stood at three games out of first place. Behind them were Phoenix and Portland, each six games back of Sacramento. "Gene Leek is almost too good to be true," San Diego general manager Ralph Kiner thought. "I keep waiting for the bubble to burst. Leek is the best looking young player I've seen in a long time."

Another great game was played out at Westgate on May 27, when Dick Stigman no-hit the Salt Lake City Bees for 10-2/3 innings and then gave way to a reliever. In the 15th inning Billy Moran squeezed a bunt with the bases loaded for a Padre win before 1,608 fans. Pete Wojey picked up the win.

At Seattle on May 27, George Metkovich was ejected from the game for bumping Umpire Jackie Tobin. The \$25.00 fine and three days sus-

pension came after Dewey Soriano executive Vice President of the PCL said he had warned Metkovich a week earlier about his behavior. He had watched Metkovich for several years and the bumping episode was but one of habits. "I had given him fair warning. I'm not trying to make a spectacle of George. He's a good manager. But you can't push umpires around," said Soriano. At the end of May, the Padres had cut Sacramento's lead to a game and a half.

As the month of June rolled along, the Padres could not gain on Sacramento and Portland pounded them as they did on the third of June 10-0. Jake Striker pitched well, and Rudy Regalado helped the Pads with his hitting, as did Bobby Locke's pitching. Even on June 12, as Seattle topped the Pads twice, they still remained off the lead by only 3 games back of Sacramento.

The *Sporting News* of June 17 reported that "The Padres began televising Saturday home games last week, with General Manager Ralph Kiner handling the microphone." Then almost as suddenly as he had been called to the major leagues, Bud Podbielan was reclaimed by the Padres. Cleveland, however, took back Bobby Locke, San Diego's leading pitcher.

Now in third place behind Sacramento and Vancouver, Russ Heman and some timely hitting hung

up his fifth decision against four defeats to beat Portland on the 21st. A few wins in a row on the arm of Dick Stigman and Podbielan, brought the Pads back to second place and 2-1/2 games out. Despite the 7th win in a row by Podbielan at the end of June, the Padres remained in third place five games behind the Sacramento Solons, the surprise of the season.

On the last day of the month Dairy Night was celebrated at Westgate Park and 9,979 people saw Phoenix cream the Padres 11-5. San Diego hit a downslide which brought GM Kiner to decide to trade San Diego's leading hitter, Rudy Regalado, to Seattle in return for Dee Fondy, whom Kiner felt would give the team more defense and speed. Fondy was hitting but .254.



Les "Cookie" Cook

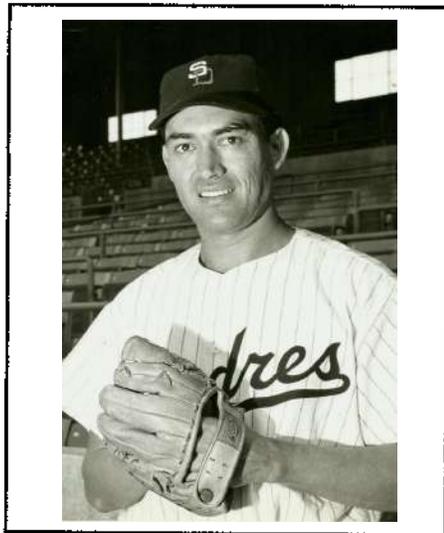
The change, Kiner believed, would help both of the players and the teams. The slide continued and the Padres dropped to fifth place. They were, however, only back five games, and a half game out of third. They had not won a series since May and had lost 16 out of their last 25 games.

In early July, Metkovich, Kiner and Lane had settled their tiff and were speaking of ways to get the Padres more power. In fourth place at this point and only four and a half games behind first place Sacramento, the locals began to hear discussions of the rising cost of living in baseball. Kiner put a \$150,000 price tag on Willie McCovey, Phoenix' first baseman. Giant manager Red Davis judged, "It'd be \$200,000 if he had a little more ambition." White Sox scout

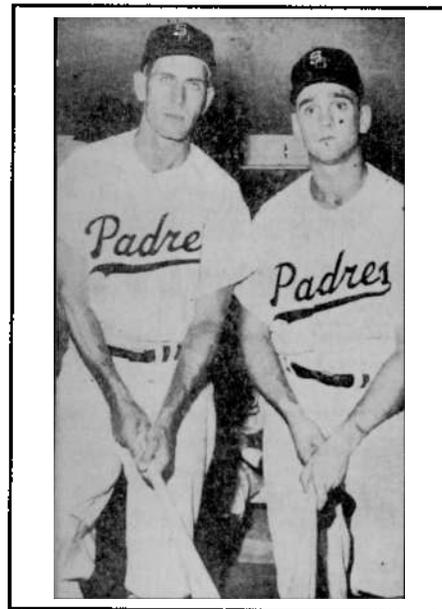
Hollis Thurston said that, "Proof of the high cost of living in baseball was when you mention \$150,000 to a young player these days, and the player demands, What do you want, a batboy?"

While the Padres dropped in the standings during July, rumors had Frank Lane dissatisfied with the Cleveland-Padres agreement. He squashed the rumbling when he said he was well pleased and hadn't given any thought to ending the agreement.

At Sacramento Metkovich and coach Jimmy Reese spent the afternoon making out the report they had to submit to the Cleveland Indians by July 10, on every player in the



Rudy Regalado



*Dee Fondy and Ken Kraynak
Photo from Bob Dreher.*

league. They had reports on two teams finished to this time!

On July 10th, Salt Lake City dropped the Padres into the second division as the Pads lost their 18th out of the previous 28 games.

Winning on July 12th, they averted their longest losing streak of the season. Metkovich rearranged his lineup, putting newly acquired from Cleveland Kenneth Kraynak's power and Mitchell June's speed into the batting order. While they were in sixth place, they stood only six games behind Sacramento. The leader, Seattle, in last place was only eight games out at this time.

A grand slam home run by Billy Moran and a superb stint by R.W. Smith over Sacramento kept the Padres close to the first division. The game awoke Cleveland as they then purchased 'Riverboat' Smith and sent the Padres pitcher Carl Thomas. The Tribe then announced it was sending Gene Leek to Mobile. Frank Lane praised the players he was sending down, being orally adroit as he took away the strong Padre pitcher. Lane told Kiner that Thomas was the best pitcher in the American Association.

After a string of losses Phoenix dropped the Padres to seventh place at Phoenix, on July 16th. Striker allowed only two runs as he took his sixth loss against five wins.

The Pacific Coast League All-Star game, held in Westgate Park on

Monday night the 20th of July, helped to temper the view of the Padres as pitcher Jake Striker, catcher Allen Jones, second baseman Billy Hunter, John Briggs, Don Dillard and Jimmie Reese, coach of the Padres, were named to the South's squad. Vancouver manager, Charlie Metro, had charge of the North Stars. Metkovich would head up the Southern team. Carlos Bernier, Salt Lake's speedster and Steve Bilko, Spokane's strongman, were expected to provide fireworks. The South took the 17th annual classic 5-2 as Phoenix' Willie McCovey blasted two hits before 4,683 fans at the Westgate extravaganza.

The annual PCL director's meeting, held at the Kona Kai club in San Diego, coincided with the 21st All-Star game. Topics discussed on the agenda focused on whether Phoenix would remain in the PCL. The combination of a poorly located park, blazing summer heat and competition from major league exhibitions in the spring caused Phoenix to play before average crowds of only 1,557 during 1958.

Several PCL directors expressed the notion that the PCL could only have one more year to live. The blame was put on the major leagues' television policies and bonus payments to rookies. Other directors, including James Mulvaney of San Diego, saw a more optimistic future for the PCL. He felt there was a good

future for Coast League baseball tied in with youth development. The minors' need is not for altered television policies but for more good ball players," Ralph Kiner said.

While Metkovich hoped an extra day's rest would help his team, they returned to their schedule to lose 18-0 to Phoenix.

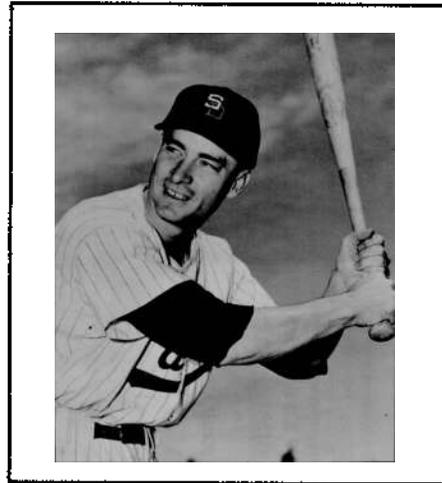
On July 23rd Jack Murphy put forth an editorial about the vote of confidence that Ralph Kiner, GM of the Padres, had given to his field leader Metkovich. Both men had been quite puzzled over the decline of the Padres, the team which had been jinxed when it was picked to win the pennant. Kiner laid all of the blame on personnel. Metkovich, the tireless workhorse, had to do what he could with the players he had. The leading hitter was Billy Moran, with 34 RBIs and hitting .249.

Dave Pope and Bill Renna had not come through in hitting; Gene Leek, a superb fielder had apparently come along too fast to be helpful at the plate and was gone; Fred Hatfield was dispatched to Spokane. Some credited Frank Lane, Cleveland's General Manager with trying to help by sending pitchers Johnny Briggs, Carl Thomas, Don Schaeffer and outfielders Don Dillard and Ken Kraynak. The parts were still missing and for Metkovich the season now stood uneasy.

With the locals in last place late in July, the sports editors began

their editorials with a 'vote of "confidence" for manager Metkovich, according to Murphy tantamount to advising a manager to start packing.

The fans had booed Catfish, especially during the All-Star game for the team's decline and having



Fred Hatfield



Stephen Jankowski

lost every series since May 28th, a month earlier. Murphy observed that morale was low, attendance dropping, and general interest in the team negligible.

Harassed and somewhat desperate, Kiner showed signs of discouragement. The team had been in a slump for one month and 27 games. What seemed to puzzle the pundits, however, was that even as they stood in seventh place, the Padres stood but eight games out from the leader. Three teams were only one game behind the leader. A good streak could have brought them back into contention, yet the sports writers became the prophets of gloom.

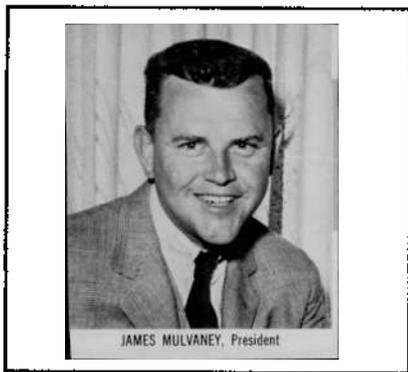
Perhaps the climb back up the ladder began on July 27 when the Padres took a doubleheader from Portland. The win coincided with the first statements to the community about his team. C. Arnholt Smith asked for community support for the team. He liked the idea of a third big league and believed San Diego

had the population and resources to support a major league club. The financier believed the initiative should come from the city and county governments:

San Diego should take the lead, the way it was done in Los Angeles and San Francisco. I haven't heard a word from the City Council or the mayor's office. So far as I know, the Chamber of Commerce is doing nothing. I've done a lot of thinking about this. I'd like to see big league baseball in San Diego. But I don't see how I can do it as one individual. Nobody is offering anything in the way of concrete support.

Smith spoke eloquently of the efforts of the team and of his lone campaign to keep baseball alive in San Diego. He blamed no one. He was convinced that financing for a major league team could be obtained without much difficulty. He admitted he could not put together the money needed to enlarge Westgate Park and money for player personnel. Raising it would be tough, yet he watched motels springing up which cost that much all over town.

Mayor of San Diego, Charles C. Dail, said major league baseball would be a wonderful thing for San Diego and he would be inclined to help the city obtain a franchise in



James Mulvaney, President.

the third league. Jack Murphy observed, "It's a golden opportunity for any politician. I don't see how Mayor Dail and the City Councilmen can resist it." Ralph Kiner let the community know that unless a major league team here could get players under the current rules, there would be little cooperation of other major league teams. He also pointed out that to go major league would take a real community spirit and draw up to a million persons a year.

James Mulvaney, Padre President, said that the team was still interested in a third league and wanted the aggressors to be the people of San Diego. The next step came as the San Diego Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee to investigate the possibilities of major league baseball in San Diego, with Dr. Al Anderson, chairman.

By August 3rd, the Pads were on a roll, winning nine straight games and moving to within three and a half games of the leader — still lagging behind Elliott's Solons. A major gift to the Padres came on August 2nd when the Chicago White Sox optioned veteran outfielder Larry Doby to the Padres. He would be performing in a minor league for the first time since he joined the Cleveland Indians in 1947, as the first Negro to play in the American League.

By the fourth of August the Pads had taken nine straight games. A few days later, Doby revealed he

had a back injury and had not played since June 7. Doby had thought about going to the minors, but did it because he liked Bill Veeck. Nonetheless Larry Doby was in the lineup within a few days.

On August 6, Stigman beat the Bevos 6-1, keeping the Padres 3-1/2 games out of first place. The same night Billy Moran, Padre infielder, was called back to Cleveland after Billy Martin suffered a broken jaw when struck by a pitch. Despite a series of losses to Spokane the locals were still pushing Sacramento. What had made the race so interesting was the very large coverage giving praise for the fantastic job Bob Elliott had been doing for Sacramento and the reasons for the early renewal of his contract for next year. His loss from San Diego would not be easily forgotten.

A run of losses in mid-August did not set back the Padres; the leaders were all losing. San Diego snapped Seattle's victory string at 11 and took a few other games but gained nothing on first place. The PCL teams tightened their belts for a flag drive. Phoenix, which had done so well earlier, had lost Willie McCovey when San Francisco called him and shortstop José Pagan up.

San Diego now coming off a 15 game road trip looked forward to a great opportunity to move up in the final drive. The ups and downs of all the teams — player losses, inju-

ries. Teams suddenly made the season a real horse race.

On August 18, the Phoenix Giants, plagued for two seasons by poor attendance, announced their intention to move their Pacific Coast League franchise to Tacoma in 1960.

The Tacoma, Washington City Council and Pierce County Commissioners opened the door to the Giants by approving a \$590,000 bond issue for construction of a stadium. There had been little opposition.

On August 19, Jake Striker, southpaw with San Diego, retired 27 consecutive batters — the equivalent of a perfect game — in pitching a ten-inning, one-hit, 1-0 victory over Phoenix in a PCL contest. A clean single to right field by Bob Speake in the second inning kept Striker from no-hit fame. Speake's safety followed a walk to Owen Friend to start the second inning. Striker then mowed down, in order, the 27 remaining Phoenix batters. The only other Giant to reach base was Bill Wilson, who walked with two out in the first inning. Striker struck out an even dozen Phoenix batters.

As the Padres began to hit the win column, Larry Doby suffered a broken left ankle on August 23. Despite his loss, San Diego's hopes remained high.

The announcement that three Pads: John Briggs, Dave Dillard and Carroll Hardy would go up to the Cleveland Indians at the end of the

Pacific Coast League season did not dim the possibility of a pennant at Westgate Park. To add some speed, Mike de la Hoz, a 19-year-old short-stop, was called up from Reading. San Diego lost two in a row to the Bees, which put them five games off the pace.

The Pad team pounded the Bees, twice to draw within three games of the leaders, as Salt Lake City and Vancouver tied for first.

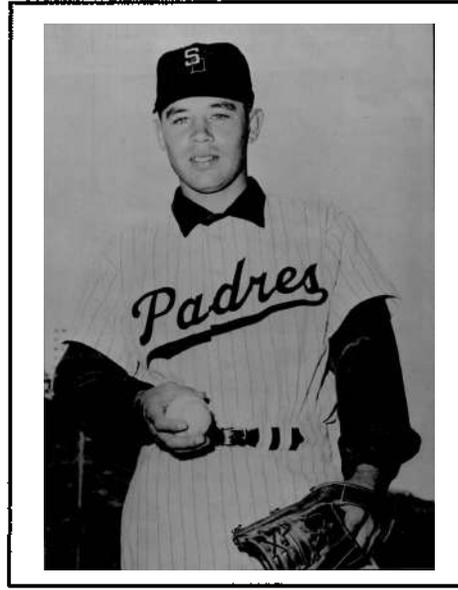
Striker checked a Salt Lake City rally in the ninth inning on August 28th to keep the Pads close to the league leading Bees. Then San Diego lost a game but subsequently pounded the Bees twice.

Between games with Sacramento on September 1, a three-inning, old-timers game was held at Westgate. Fans took pictures of all of the Padres. Miss Lorrie Lee, Miss San Diego Padres, tossed out the first ball for the former Padres. Cedric Durst and Howard Craghead stood in as managers of the two teams,

Playing in the "old-timers" game were Max West, Bill Glynn, Pete Coscarart, Steve Mesner, Swede Jensen and Harry Elliott. On hand were Buster Adams, Ed Barr, Tony Criscola, Dick Faber, Hal Patchett, Del Ballinger, Frank Kerr, Red Mathis, Al Olsen and Ed Vitalich. Other players included George Metkovich, Jimmie Reese, Bob Elliott, Whitey Wietelmann, Les Cook, Al Zarilla, Milt Smith, Eddie Kazak, Dick Aylward,



Paul Runge gets tip from his father, American League Umpire Ed. Runge. (San Diegans).



Pitcher John Briggs



*Jake Striker and John Briggs, June 6, 1959.
Photo San Diego Historical Society Collection.*

Harold Doerr, Bob Kerrigan and Eddie Erault. The Padre management hosted the old-timers at a party following the game.

That night, a wild loss shoved San Diego four back as Roger Osenbaugh silenced a five minute crescendo of boos from the crowd of 7,035 at Westgate Park in an uproarious ninth inning 3-2 win. Arguments with umpires riled the crowds, and even the mild-mannered Jimmie Reese was ejected from the field. Sacramento belted the Pads 12-6 the next night to put the locals in danger of dropping out of the first division.

Shortstop Dick Smith received the Murray Goodrich trophy and \$150 as San Diego's most valuable player between games of the Padre-Sacramento doubleheader. Catcher Allen Jones was awarded a set of tires for being chosen by fans as their Most Popular Padre. While they took the doubleheader 3-2 and 5-2, the wins were not enough to erase the deficit to take the pennant.

The team was formally eliminated on September 7 by the Bees 6-5 at Salt Lake City. Even before the season had ended, some of the players called up to Cleveland had begun to leave. While the Padres had climbed to third place, Salt Lake City had clinched the pennant one-and-a-half games ahead of Vancouver. News reached the players that ex- Padre Ken Hunt had been sold to the Yankees, purchased from Richmond

— he had been with the Padres briefly this season. Jake Striker was chosen to pitch the closing game on September 13, which he won 12-8, and then reported to Cleveland.

Jack Murphy analyzed the season by suggesting that Kiner saw a bright future for the PCL, and Kiner picked George Metkovich for his nomination as manager of the year. The Padre GM announced he would work on an arrangement with a major league club for next year. While he spoke of the good working relationship with Frank Lane and Cleveland, only two days later the Padres became the Chicago White Sox Farm Club, which came as a result of Kiner's relationship with Hank Greenberg, White Sox vice-president, and Bill Veeck, president of the Chisox. The change virtually assured Metkovich he would come back as manager in 1960.

One can assume that the Frank Lane style of management had finally taken its toll on the Padre organization. The recall of key players Dave Pope, Larry Raines, and Bobby Locke had disenchanted the Padres considerably. Most sports-writers felt that had those three players stayed in San Diego, the Padres would have taken the pennant. Other franchises, however, had experienced similar probable causes through their close ties to major clubs.

The Indians rapidly reas-

signed 13 Padre players, cleaning out most of the Cleveland-Padre roster while the Chicago White Sox sent San Diego 24 players. All of the players and brief sketches appeared in the *San Diego Union* of October 16, 1959.

In season ending news, Dewey Soriano was named PCL President at the annual meeting of the directors, and these leaders approved the move of the Phoenix franchise to Tacoma. They also voted to explore the possibility of competing with teams from Japan, the Philippine Islands, Hawaii and other Pacific Ocean areas. While little came of the discussion by a Los Angeles syndicate, much talk focused on the creation of a proposed International League with a San Diego franchise.

At home, Kiner announced that spring training would begin March 15 and that they would hold the workouts in the Indio camp. In a strange change, no Saturday home games would be played due to lack of attendance. Instead, doubleheaders would be held on Fridays and Sundays with a Monday game. The team also would return to bus trips between certain cities rather than traveling by airplane. The season would open April 15, 1960, in San Diego.

Of special significance was the announcement that left-handed pitcher Wilbur (Jake) Striker was designated to the Pacific Coast League Baseball Writers' All Star team. His

12-8 record with eight complete games, and an 2.83 ERA was earned after he had come down from the Indians after the start of the PCL season. He went back up at the end of the PCL season and won a victory for them. The season attendance for 1959 was 203,000.

FINAL PCL STANDINGS: 1959

	W	L	GB
Salt Lake City	85	69	
Vancouver	82	69	1-1/2
San Diego	78	75	6-1/2
Sacramento	78	76	7
Spokane	77	77	8
Portland	75	77	9
Seattle	74	80	11
Phoenix	64	90	21



Gene Leek.
Photo courtesy Mr. Leek.

VOICES FROM WESTGATE PARK

ROD GRABER

In a telephone interview, Rod Graber, an outstanding minor league outfielder recipient in 1959 of a Silver Glove award presented annually to the best centerfielder in all of the Nation's Minor leaguers, recounted his days spent as a minor league Padre during the early years at Westgate Park. He was twice the Most Valuable Player for a Pacific Coast League team: San Diego in 1958, and Spokane in 1961.

He holds the all-time record for the best fielding average for center fielders for the PCL Padres during one season--in 1959: one error with 367 putouts, a .9973 average.

*Interview with ROD GRABER
with John Bowman
and Ray Brandes*

Westgate Park was the nicest minor league park I had ever seen. I was so impressed by San Diego and its environs that I rented a house from Padre catcher, Al Jones, during Jones' winter ball stints in 1956-1959. I later purchased a house in San Diego only after Dodger General Manager Buzzie Bavasi had assured the lenders that I would be employed the next season.

In those days, when you signed a contract, you made good on it, unlike today when most contracts are hardly worth the paper upon which they are written. So it came as a complete surprise to me when Padre GM Ralph Kiner, a former big league power-hitter himself called stating that there was a revised contract, with a clause calling for a \$200.00 per month raise, awaiting my signature.

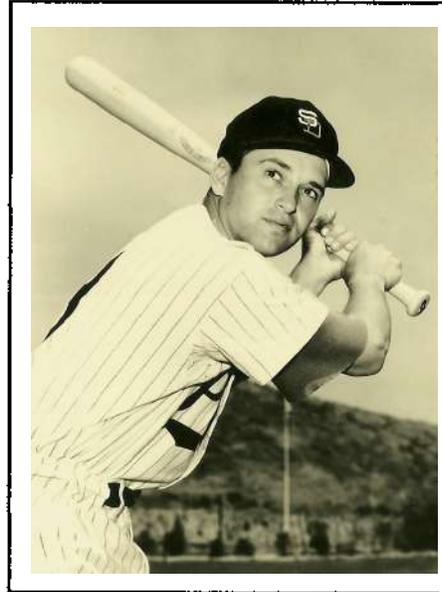
In 1958, I was the top draft choice of the Philadelphia Phillies. In

a couple of weeks I had a major league contract which meant not as much to me as being afforded the opportunity to play ball.

Although I received some praise for my work in the outfield from the *Cleveland (press) Plain Dealer*, I was traded to the Dodgers at the conclusion of the 1959 season. That was not a good year for me. I tore a muscle in my arm, which made it impossible for me to throw more than fifty feet. I could still hit, however, and was used as a pinch-hitter by Padre manager George Metkovich, who said he felt I was a better ball player than Mickey Mantle.

[Graber was quick to insist that it was Metkovich not he, who made the statement in his own words, "Mickey Mantle was great!"]

I am still a San Diego resident and my main interest is golf. Call me at home in the morning and I will likely be out on the links.



Rod Graber

DICK STIGMAN

Richard Lewis Stigman was born January 24, 1936 at Nimrod, Mississippi. In 1960, he went to Cleveland and played for that team through 1961. The following years, '62 through '64 he played with Minnesota in the American League and in 1966 with the Boston Red Sox. The southpaw, who batted right-handed, was an imposing 6' 1-1/2" at 180 pounds.

*An interview with
DICK STIGMAN,
by Ray Brandes and Dave Flynt.*

I began to play baseball as early as seven or eight years old. My father was the manager of the Nimrod Town team (population 135) so my older brother (1 year) and I had access to the baseball equipment. Being in a small town with very few playmates, we did not have the advantage of playing on a team, but learned the rules by watching the older men.

By the time we were 13 or 14, we were both on the town team. We played American Legion and High School ball also. In 1954, I played in the high school tournament and pitched well against some much better competition and caught the eye of a bird dog scout from Brainerd, Minnesota, a much larger town, probably 5,000 population at that time.

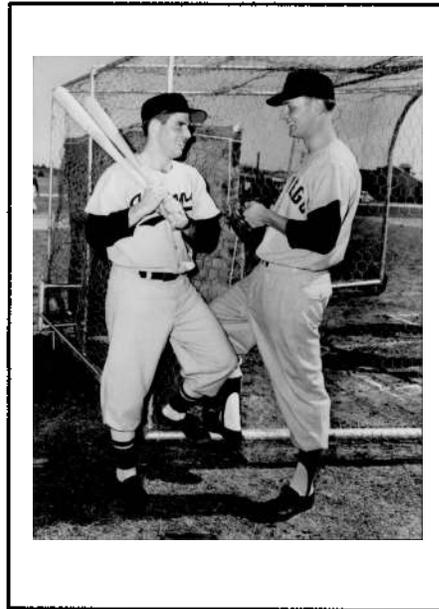
Unbeknown to me, he had recommended me to a major league scout, who worked out of Iowa --- Cy Slapnicka. His list of signees included Bob Feller, Herb Score, Jim Hegan, Gordy Coleman, and more. He approached me three days after I had graduated from high school. Evidently he had seen me pitch against a team in western Minnesota where I struck out 21 batters in seven innings. I was offered \$200 a month plus a \$200 bonus for each month I "survived".

My first pro team was Fargo-Morehead, Northern League. I stayed there about one month and finished the season in Tifton, Georgia (Georgia-Florida League). My season's record was 0-6.

The following year, 1955, after a lower back injury I was sent home at the end of spring training and told that I might not be able to play again. I went to a chiropractor on my own and was as good as new in three weeks. I reported to "Olean" New York in the Pony League. The team had no major league affiliation but was a mixture of so called "misfits. My record there was 5-12.

In 1956, I was sent to Vidalia, Georgia in the Georgia State League. Mark Wylie was my manager there. He was a former pitcher and really got me going in the right direction. My season's record was 17-9 with a 1.41 ERA, 263K's in 213 innings. I also won 2 playoff games.

The following year, 1957 I jumped from Class 'D' to "AA" Mobile, Alabama in the Southern Asso-



*Rookie Ken Kuhn chats with
rookie Dick Stigman.
Photo from Al Hogan.*

ciation. I spent two years there, 1957-1958 finishing with records of 8-14 and 15-7. With the 1958 All Star Team I played against Killebrew, Allison, Jim O'Toole, Claude Osteen, Don Nottebart, Dick Stuart and George Thomas.

My first experience with San Diego came after my 1958 season in the spring of 1959. I spent spring training with the Cleveland Indians. I joined them in Indio, California and won my first game in Phoenix and started and won the first game ever in Westgate Park. I was only there a short time and spent the rest of the '58 season with Mobile.

In 1959, again I was in training with the Indians and played the whole season with the Padres. Having been there for a short time, I felt right at home. Next to Minnesota, I would choose San Diego as my favorite locale. The weather, people, economy are all great. It has grown immensely since I was there, of course.

I roomed with Don Schaffer, Don Dillard; can't recall them all. Bill Renna, Dee Fondy, Will Werle, George Metkovich. We played a lot of golf close to the ball park in Mission Valley, Torrey Pines, El Cajon. My nickname was Stig, for obvious reasons.

For the past 30 years, I have worked as a salesman and am now President of a small manufacturing firm called Continental Loose Leaf in Minneapolis. (all 30 years at this company). We manufacture custom loose leaf binders, index tabs, and various related items.

My wife, Patti, and I have raised nine children, ages now 33 to 21 years old. We had 5 biological, four girls and one boy, and later adopted four, two boys and two girls. All with the exception of our youngest, were older children, three and a half to 9-1/2 to 9, and "hard to place."

My wife and I enjoy golf,

swimming, reading, gardening. Much of our life is involved with our eight grandchildren and our church family.

My wife and I lead a newlywed class of around 20 couples. We're both involved in ministries to the mentally and physically handicapped and intercity churches.

As you may already know I spent seven years in the major leagues (Cleveland 2, Minnesota 4 and Boston 1). My most memorable moment in baseball came while I was with San Diego in 1959, when I pitched a no-hitter for 10-2/3 innings against Salt Lake (the same day Harvey Haddix (Pittsburg NL) did almost the same feat. He eventually lost his game, while I had no decision after pitching 12 innings and striking out 15!

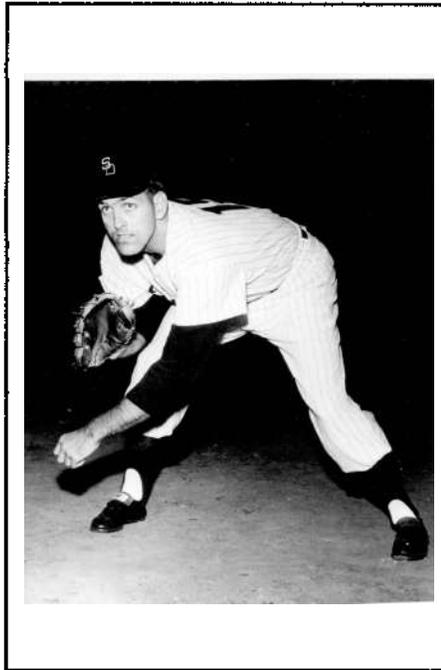
WILBUR SCOTT (JAKE) STRIKER

was born October 23, 1933 in New Washington, Ohio. Jake pitched and batted left-handed, and at 6' 2" and 200 pounds was an imposing figure on the mound. In 1959, he was with Cleveland in the American League and in 1960, with Chicago in the American League. After an apprenticeship in the Minor Leagues he went to the San Diego Padres in 1959, via the Cleveland chain a team affiliation with the Padres at that time.

Interview with Jake Striker by Ray Brandes

I came to San Diego in '59 with hopes that it would be my last stepping stone to the majors. I made it but only too short lived.

I had come off a very good year in '58 at Mobile, 17-11, and looked forward to continuing in '59. I got off to a slow start but improved



Jake Striker

as the season rolled on. By All-Star time, I had improved enough to make the All-Star team. I was 5-6 at the break, but it went better the second half, as I ended up 12-8. I guess the excellent San Diego weather got to me.

I had one great game in August when I beat Phoenix 1-0 in 10 innings. I retired 27 in a row after a lead off single in the second inning. Larry Doby drove in the winning run.

Willie McCovey was the toughest hitter that I faced that year and fortunately he was called up before the year's end. Frank Howard was also in the League that year, but I had pretty good luck against him.

I ended the season pitching very well and was voted the top left handed pitcher in the league for the season.

During the off-season, I was traded to the White Sox in the Miñoso trade. After a brief stay with the

White Sox at the start of the '60 season, I was sent back to San Diego along with Don Ferrarese.

The season did not go as well as I had hoped, as I struggled along around .500 during my stay in 1960. I thought we had a good team, but I just didn't perform as well. I was six and seven when I was sent to Minneapolis later in the season.

I came back again in 1961, but again did not perform well, and in mid-June, I was sent to Chattanooga and finished out the season. This time I cannot tell you what my record was during my short stay in '61.

My favorite coach and manager through all the years in ball was Jimmie Reese. He was a very kind and compassionate person. I caught many fly balls off the famous fungo bat that he used, or I should say, one-half a regular bat. We had stayed in contact through all the years until his death in '94. I visited with him last in the spring of '94 during spring training.

My wife, Sharon, and our daughter, Dawn were with me all the times I came to San Diego. We enjoyed the city and area more than any other city I played in. The weather was by far the best and there was so much to see and do. We visited the zoo often as our daughter was 15-months-old the first year there.

Our favorite restaurant was the Bali Hai. We used to eat there every Monday when we were in town. We lived in La Mesa during our stay there and the Ferrarese's were also our neighbors in 1960.

I played through the 1962 season and then decided to go to work for a living.

We stayed in our home town of Buyrus, Ohio and I went to work for the Timken Company in Buyrus, Ohio. After 30 years I retired and in the Fall of '93 we moved here to Prescott. We like it here as it doesn't

get too hot or too cold. Our daughter passed away March 11, 1997 due to cancer. She was 39. We have a son, Scott, who is 35, and he lives in Salem, Oregon.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be included in the new book. [The author thanks a most gracious couple for their help at a difficult personal time].

RUSS HEMAN

was born in Olive, California, February 10, 1933. He signed his first professional baseball contract in 1962, with the Chicago White Sox, when he was 19-years-old. He played the last month of that season with their farm club in Wisconsin Rapids, Class "D" ball. He would play in the majors with Cleveland and Los Angeles in the American League. Russ batted and threw right-handed, stood 6' 4" and weighed 200 pounds.

Interview with RUSS HEMAN by Ray Brandes

The two years after signing my contract with the White Sox, I served in the U.S. Marine Corps. I played for the special service team out of San Diego, then in Japan. In 1965, upon my release from the Marines, I was sent to Waterloo, Iowa and played for the White Sox farm team there. The catcher there was John Romano. In 1956, I played for Colorado Springs. I pitched a two-hitter against Bennie Daniels, who threw a no-hitter and lost the ballgame 1-0. The next year, I played with the Chattanooga team, where my teammates were Bob Allison and a guy named Harmon Killebrew. In 1957, I played for the Vancouver club in the old Pacific Coast League.

It was in 1959 that I was traded to the Cleveland Indians and went to San Diego to play with the Padres.

Westgate Park was one of the

finest minor league parks that I played in, in my 12 years in professional ball.

My most memorable event with the Padres was a no-hitter. I pitched against the Vancouver Mounties. This was the team I had played for the year before, which made it even more memorable. The catcher for that game was Ken Retzer.

The Padres had a great coaching staff, with George Metkovich and Jimmie Reese. As you know Jimmie was one of the finest men you could ever meet.

Being a native Californian, born in the small town of Olive, which was located between Orange and Anaheim, I thought San Diego was the greatest place I could have played ball in.

I played with Toronto, of the International League in 1960, where we won the League and played in the Little World Series. My teammates there were Sparky Anderson and Billy Moran. In 1961, I was traded to the new club in Los Angeles called the Angels. We played at Wrigley Field. Later that year, I was sent back to Toronto for Billy Moran and I played out my career with them, and finished in Denver in 1963.

LAWRENCE DONALD R. (Bobby) LOCKE

was born March 3, 1934 in Rowe's Run, Pennsylvania.

While playing baseball in high school, he was selected to play in the Hearst U.S. All Star Game in 1951, at the Polo Grounds. His teammate was named Tony Kubek. During his major league career, he played for the Cleveland Indians 1959 to 1961, then in 1962 with St Louis in the National League.

During 1963 and 1964, he moved to Philadelphia in the National League, in 1965 to Cincinnati

in the National League and in 1967 and 1968, with the California Angels. Bobby was right-handed, batted right, stood 5' 11" and weighed 185 during his playing days.

*Interview with BOBBY LOCKE
by Ray Brandes*

I came to the San Diego Padres in 1959 through the Cleveland organization. Ralph Kiner was the general manager and George "Catfish" Metkovich was the manager. Westgate was a baseball park that many cities would be proud of. San Diego is a beautiful region and the climate excellent for baseball.

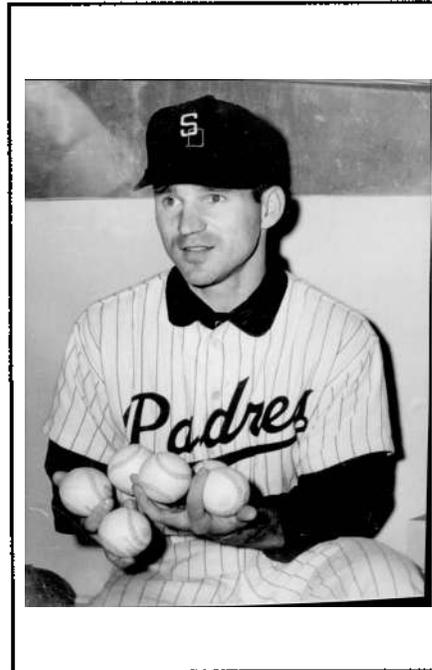
Jimmy Reese was a great coach and a fantastic "fungo" hitter. Don Heffner was my manager in Class "A" ball and in my opinion, Don Heffner should have been a major league manager.

My roommate at San Diego was Howie Goss and at Cleveland, Jimmy Perry, Bob Hale and "River Boat" Smith. I was single while playing for San Diego, and I played very little golf.

After retiring from major league baseball, I worked as a route salesman for Frito-Lay, Inc., and retired from the company in 1996.

Currently, I am enjoying my retired life. I have been married to my beautiful wife, Carma, for 37 years and I also enjoy playing with my grandchildren. A few of my favorite hobbies are archery, hunting, fishing, cutting firewood and the stock market.

My big retirement activity occurred in October of 1997, when I made a moose hunting trip to Canada.



*Bobby Locke.
Photo courtesy Mr. Locke.*



1959 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	PCT.
Alexander, Bob	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Biskup, Frank	4	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Briggs, John	26	56	5	11	--	--	1	6	.196
de la Hoz, Miguel	11	29	2	9	1	2	--	2	.310
Dillard, D. Donald	95	357	41	101	20	6	9	55	.283
Doby, Larwence	9	27	--	6	--	--	--	--	.222
Fondy, Dee*	140	498	51	128	18	2	2	46	.257
Graber, Rodney	146	521	83	144	22	6	2	31	.276
Hatfield, Fred*	130	421	58	95	16	2	8	49	.226
Heman, Russell	41	31	--	2	--	--	--	2	.065
Hunt, Kenneth	26	77	8	14	--	--	1	5	.182
Hunter, Billy	136	465	51	116	23	3	8	47	.249
Jankowski, Steve	120	385	39	95	15	2	12	46	.247
Jones, Allen	106	345	37	87	17	--	15	44	.252
June, Mitchell	112	322	52	77	10	7	6	33	.239
Kraynak, Kenneth	44	116	9	27	4	1	--	11	.233
Lary, Gene	2	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Leek, Gene	40	133	--	29	6	2	3	15	.218
Locke, Lawrence	14	33	15	10	3	1	1	4	.303
Locklin, Stuart	58	145	17	32	7	--	3	10	.221
Moran, William	102	365	32	90	18	2	5	35	.247
Pitula, Stanley	11	9	2	4	1	--	--	--	.444
Podbielan, Bud	26	51	2	12	1	--	1	3	.235
Regalado, Rudy*	133	461	54	134	25	--	16	58	.291
Renna, William	92	299	27	70	19	3	5	34	.234
Retzer, Kenneth	88	224	24	63	12	1	3	28	.281
Ridzik, Stephen	2	4	--	2	--	--	--	--	.500
Schaeffer, Donald	12	8	--	1	--	--	--	--	.125
Smith, Richard	106	296	45	112	14	5	1	24	.287
Smith, Robert	11	28	2	6	--	--	--	4	.214
Stigman, Richard	45	56	--	7	--	1	--	6	.125
Striker, Wilbur	34	69	3	6	1	--	--	3	.087
Thomas, Carl	25	16	1	3	1	--	--	1	.188
Werle, William	33	38	1	4	1	--	1	3	.105
Wojey, Peter	46	9	1	1	--	--	--	--	.111

*Fondy: 71 Seattle-69 San Diego,

Hatfield: 27 San Diego-103 Spokane,

Regalado: 70 San Diego-63 Seattle.



CARL'S

BASEBALL INN

WHERE BASEBALL FANS GATHER

BEFORE AND AFTER THE GAME

469 SIXTEENTH STREET

1959 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	IP	W	L	PCT	SO	BB	ERA
Alexander, Bob	2	--	--	--	.000	--	--	--
Briggs, John	24	166	14	6	.700	97	51	2.60
Heman, Russell	41	129	6	12	.333	81	65	4.26
Lary, Gene	1	--	--	--	.000	--	--	--
Locke, Lawrence	13	105	6	4	.600	73	33	1.63
Pitula, Stanley	9	30	--	1	.000	16	8	5.10
Podbielan, Bud	24	144	11	5	.688	52	26	3.00
Ridzik, Stephen	2	--	1	--	1.000	--	--	--
Schaeffer, Donald	12	39	1	--	1.000	16	18	4.38
Smith, Robert	11	71	4	4	.500	59	25	3.04
Stigman, Richard	45	191	9	17	.346	181	100	4.01
Striker, Wilbur	34	191	12	8	.600	123	68	2.83
Thomas, Carl	25	66	4	5	.444	48	36	7.23
Werle, William	32	128	5	8	.385	47	29	4.36
Wojey, Peter	46	79	5	5	.500	65	28	2.85



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Photos

All photographs appeared in the *San Diego Union* unless otherwise noted.

1959:

January 20:	Frank Lane, Cleveland GM and Rocky Colavito	April 7:	Stu Locklin, Rod Graber and Mitchell June
January 28:	Former Padre Bob Usher	April 13:	Ken Hunt
February 15:	Paul Runge, SD High star and father Ed, American League Umpire.	April 17:	Fred Hatfield, Dick Smith, Bud Podbielan and Allen Jones
February 22:	Former Padre Bob Elliott	April 17:	Dick Stigman, Bobby Locke
March 1:	Les Cook, with new uniforms.	April 18:	Allen Jones, Bob DiPetro
March 8:	Former Padre Earl Averill	April 18:	George Metkovich, Ken Hunt
March 8:	Former Padre Ted Williams—2 photos	April 18:	Steve Ridzik and three young fans
March 11:	Clarence Podbielan and Pete Wojey	April 18:	Allen Jones and Capt. Hans Dominik
March 12:	George Metkovich	April 19:	Padre Usher Arthur Wilson and young fan Melody Martin.
March 17:	John Carmichael and George Metkovich, Mitchell June, Stu Locklin and Pete Wojey.	April 20:	Ken Hunt and Portland Beaver
March 18:	Cartoon sketch of George Metkovich	April 20:	George Freese
March 18:	Rudy Regalado and Les Cook	April 23:	Ken Retzer and Mitchell June
March 21:	Stan Pitula	April 26:	Plate umpire Pat Orr, Vancouver Mountie Marin Breeding, and Ken Retzer
March 22:	Dick Smith	April 26:	Umpire Bob St. Clair, Vancouver Mountie Marin Breeding, and Allen Jones
March 27:	Bill Glynn, Rudy Regalado, and Fred Hatfield	May 8:	Russ Heman
March 28:	Dick Stigman	May 13:	Mark Fujimoto, Earl Averill, former Pad.
March 29:	Stan Turner	May 17:	Russ Heman, John Briggs; R.W. Smith
March 30:	Billy Hunter	May 18:	Billy Hunter and Phoenix catcher Al Stieglitz
April 1:	(<i>Sporting News</i>) Bing Crosby, Ralph Kiner and George Metkovich.	May 20:	Bud, Ronnie, and Mark Podbielan
April 1:	Bill Glynn, Don Saner, and Gordon Coleman	May 22:	Bill Renna
April 2:	Billy Hunter	May 23:	Gene Leek and Don Dillard
April 3:	Russ Heman	May 23:	Whitey Wietelmann
		May 24:	Bob Elliott
			Sacramento pitcher Winston Brown,

May 27: Ump. Dick Phillips and Billy Moran.
 May 27: Dick Stigman
 June 2: Bill Renna
 June 2: Bill Glynn on new job.
 June 4: George Metkovich and Pete Wojey
 June 8: Al Jones and Spokane players Steve Bilko, Don Dmenichelli
 June 15: Ken Retzer and Seattle player Jay Hook
 June 16: Bobby Locke
 June 22: Bud Podbielan
 July 1: Allen Jones and comedian Jackie Price
 July 5: Ken Retzer
 July 6: George Metkovich; Ump Emmett Ashford
 July 10: Ken Kraynak
 July 14: Ken Kraynak
 July 12: Carl Thomas, Ken Kraynak
 July 20: Padres on All-Star team
 July 23: George Metkovich
 July 27: Clarence (Bud) Podbielan
 July 27: Rod Graber beats throw, swipes 2nd.
 July 28: C. Arnholt Smith
 July 30: Rudy Regalado, with former Padres now playing with Rainiers.
 August 2: Larry Doby
 August 2: Rod Graber into second base
 August 3: Bill Werle
 August 7: Billy Martin
 August 18: Bud Podbielan
 August 21: Dick Stigman and Jake Striker
 August 28: Mike de la Hoz and Dick Smith
 August 30: Miss Lee
 August 30: Dick Smith
 September 2: Old-Timers game

September 2: Pete Coscarart, Lorrie Lee and Max West; Del Ballinger, Hal Patchett
 September 4: Bill Renna, Dee Fondy
 September 5: Dick Smith, Allen Jones, Murray Goodrich
 October 23: Jake Striker

WHITEY RETURNS



Whitey Wietelmann returns to San Diego this season for his second tour of duty as a coach.

The affable native of Zanesville, Ohio is no stranger in San Diego where he played with the Padres from 1949 through 1952 and served as a coach from 1960 until 1966 when he left to assist Dave Bristol with the Cincinnati Reds in the National League.

Whitey's career in baseball dates back more than 30 years when he began his professional career with Beaver Falls in the old Pennsylvania State League.

He spent portions of several seasons with the Boston Braves in the National League and became a full-time player in 1943. He played shortstop, second and even caught during his four years with the Braves and another year with the Pittsburgh Pirates. His best batting mark was .271 with the Braves in 1945.

He left the Major Leagues to play with Sacramento in the Pacific Coast League in 1948 and then came to San Diego in 1949.

He entered the managerial field in 1953 and guided Wichita Falls to a championship in the Big State League. The following year he managed Lincoln in the Western League, and in 1955 and 1956 was manager of Yuma in the Arizona-Mexico League.

He was out of baseball for several years and then accepted a call from the Padres to become a coach in 1960.

Whitey will be working with Manager Bob Skinner for the first time and will basically be concerned with the pitching staff, in taking over the job handled the last two years by Ray Rippelmeier.

WHITEY WIETELMANN
 Coach, San Diego Padres

*"A TRIBUTE TO WHITEY
 WIETELMANN,"
 from the Padres Program.*



*General Manager Eddie Leishman, San Diego Padres
1961-1968.*

If a vote were taken of the players and staff of the San Diego Padres for the man of the decade, there is no question that Eddie Leishman would take those honors hands down. The many persons interviewed and spoken to in preparation of this book, to a person, had words such as these to say about him:

"Eddie was the finest, most helpful and most considerate man I have ever met."

Photo courtesy of his son, Jay Leishman.

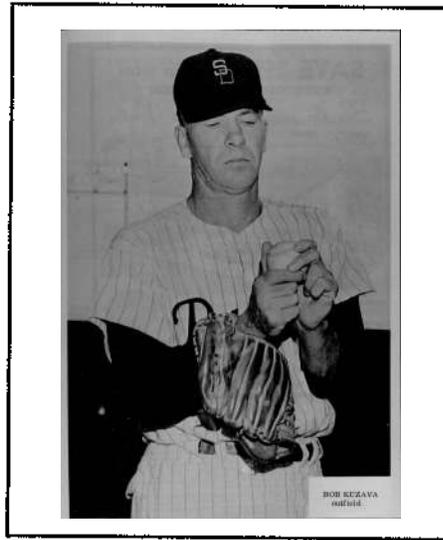
CHAPTER III
SAN DIEGO PADRES, 1960
THE CHICAGO WHITE SOX CONNECTION:
LEISHMAN AT THE HELM



1960 Team Photo

A dedicated San Diego Hot Stove League held its annual pre-season dinner on January 27, 1960, with 700 fans who met in the Palm Room of the Grant Hotel. Kent Parker, perennial booster, was the secretary and arrangements committee chairman. Ushers included Dick Aylward, Steve Mesner, Bud Podbielan, Tony Criscola, Pete Coscarart, Dain Clay, Bill Glynn and Del Ballinger. Phil Harris appeared on the program and Fresco Thompson, head of the Los Angeles Dodgers farm system, was the featured speaker. Major leaguers such as Bob Elliott, new Kansas City manager; Duke Snider, Jack Harshman, Bob Skinner, Ray Boone, Don Larsen and Ed Runge attended. Al Schuss and Frank Alessio emceed the program which included Del Webb, co-owner of the Yankees, Jim Mulvaney, Ralph Kiner, George Metkovich and Jerry Priddy.

The Padres opened spring training in Indio and San Diego just eight days after the full squad reported. Metkovich and Reese arrived ahead of the players headquartered at the Hacienda Motel in Indio. Some of the Chisox bonus babies joined the Padres in training, including Tom



Bob Kuzava

Qualters and Jim Derrington.

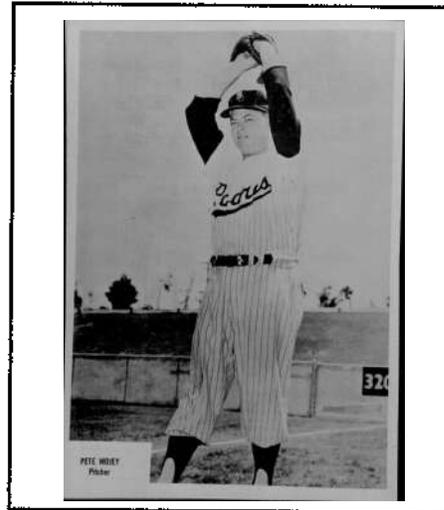
The Pads signed 10 new pitchers including Fred Talbot, Jim McDonald, Bob Kuzava and Bob Werle. Others expected were Willie Calvin, Robert House, Bud Podbielan, Paul Robinson, Glen Rosenbaum, Hal Trosky, and Pete Wojey. Other players were expected from the ChiSox. Jim Baxes, bought from Cleveland, was expected to hit at least 25 home runs during the season.

Due to the change of their major league partner—a switch from Cleveland to the Chisox — Metkovich and Kiner looked at virtually a whole new team and relief from the barbs of Frank Lane. In early exhibitions, the home run hitters came out early. Floyd Robinson, Jim McAnany, Harry Simpson, J.C. Martin and Jim Baxes all powered home runs in the first

three exhibition games. Kiner expected the 15 hurlers on the roster to face a tough fight for a spot. One of the pitchers, attempting to show the San Diego Padres that he could make the team, was 23 year old Hal Trosky the son of the immortal first baseman Harold Arthur Trosky Sr., of Cleveland and Cincinnati fame. Hal hoped he could make the jump from AA to AAA ball.

A bright spot in club's roster was filled when Floyd Robinson, former San Diego High School player, returned to the Padres after a tour of duty in the Marines. At Indio, the stick work of Deacon Jones surprised Jimmie Reese while several of the other players were still struggling in camp. Metkovich predicted his team would be very strong in pitching, a guess based not just on the players in camp but on the prospects expected from Chicago.

While Les Moss hit very well in several exhibitions, Hal Trosky Jr. was wild, walking several and issuing two straight wild pitches, which allowed runs to score in a game against Portland. While the ChiSox were in Sacramento, on March 25,



Pete Wojey

TOMORROW 9:00 A.M.
TICKETS ON SALE AT ALL PADRE AGENCIES
FOR ALL PADRE GAMES

Atlas Travel Agency	8174 16th	Chico Vista
Atlas Travel Agency	818 E. 1937th	Northeast Cir.
Alan's Music Center	6420 La. 10th	La. Mesa
La Jolla Travel	925 Prospect	La Jolla
Candyland	3328 Grand	Escondido
Dan Morris Clothier	7120 University	North Park
Uncle Geo. Toy Dept.	100 N. Main	St. Cloud
Save-On Drugs	8718 Newport	Escondido Beach
Personal Service	2700 15th	San Marcos
Theoria's Music	620 Broadway	San Marcos

AND

WESTGATE PARK
 Friars Road & Highway 395
 CY 8-9326

OPENING DAY-NIGHT DOUBLE-HEADER
FRI. APRIL 15

Box Seats			
Adults	\$2.00	AFTERNOON GAME	3:00 P.M.
Junior	1.75	NIGHT GAME	8:00 P.M.
Children	1.25		

Opening Day-Night Double Header Ad.



Joseph C. Martin.



James McAnany

Metkovich and Kiner were yelling for reinforcements. A year ago, the Padres had received a number of players from Cleveland. This year, however, Chicago had sent down players, mostly from the lower minors. Kiner believed the replacements would come around April 1.

Camilio Carreon, whom the Padres had expected would be their number one catcher to come from Chicago, had been expected out of the army. But the team learned he would not be released until May 6. He had hit .311 with Indianapolis the previous year. From Chicago came word that Harry Simpson and Larry Doby would be happier to play in San Diego than anywhere else if they didn't make it in Chicago.

Veteran pitchers Pete Wojey

and Bill Werle were in good shape and expected to see considerable play after the season started on April 15. Metkovich threatened to banish San Diegan Floyd Robinson to the lower minor leagues unless the young Padre ceased what the manager called his listless play. The date was March 28 and opening day a short time away. Robinson, just out of the Marines, had not been ready for full-time workouts. To show Metkovich he was ready to play, he sparked the Pads in a 12-10 win over San Antonio. He was, in fact, batting .500 during spring training.

In the meantime, the White Sox were trading players to the Washington Senators, whom the Padres had hoped to get. Kiner kept knocking on doors everywhere to get play-

ers, while the White Sox sent messages that help was on the way.

As GMs are wont to do, Kiner supposed on the first of April, of all days, that he could field Harry "Suitcase" Simpson at first, Jim Baxes at second, Dick Smith at shortstop, and J.C. Martin at third. In the outfield he would put McAnany, Stan Johnson, Floyd Robinson or Don Buford and catching veteran Les Moss or Joe Napier. He still hoped for the return of Camilo Carreon. He hedged on the pitchers. Trosky Jr., returned to Hollywood, Florida for reassignment.

On the day the Padres were to get help from Chicago, they were snubbed; Metkovich snapped angrily at Hollis Thurston, the White Sox head scout, on the West Coast as they left the park. The other teams in the PCL with major league affiliates already had their stock in trade. Cincinnati had helped Seattle, Los Angeles had helped Spokane, Tacoma supplied San Francisco, Sacramento profited from Milwaukee, and Salt Lake City abetted through their working agreement with Pittsburgh. Only Vancouver, hooked to Baltimore and the Padres, to Chicago, had been left without any help. Metkovich said, "We could be right in there, but Spokane is the team-to-beat."

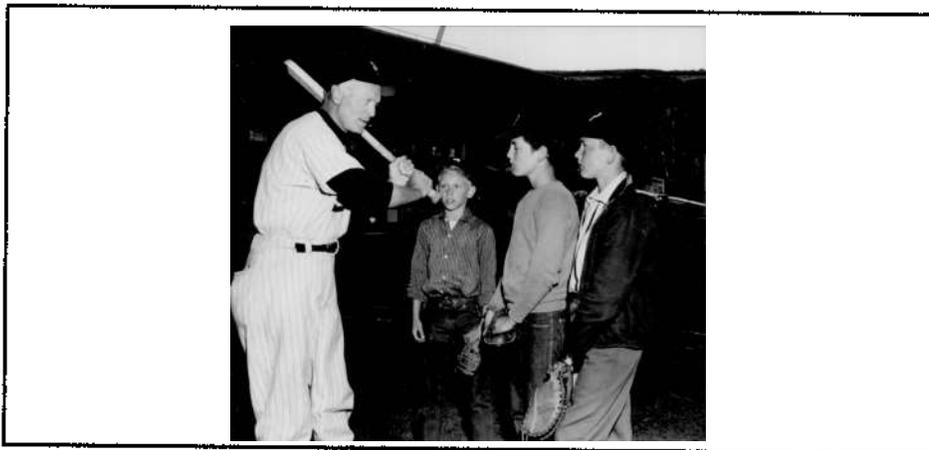
On April 6, after Veeck and Greenberg huddled, they sent J.C. Martin, an infielder, and pitcher Gary Peters to San Diego. Kiner emphasized that more players were ex-

pected. On April 7, two Chisox hurlers showed at Indio: Ken McBride and Ed Hobaugh. San Diego now had Gary Peters, Glen Rosenbaum, Paul Robinson and Jim Derrington, with the experienced Bud Podbielan, Bill Werle, Pete Wojey, Tom Qualters and Bob Kuzava.

Only a week after he was promised to San Diego, Chicago sent Jim McAnany to Sarasota, Florida. Hershberger had already been sent back to Chicago. In a surprise move, Kiner rejected Larry Doby, offered to San Diego because Doby had been hobbled by a series of injuries. Metkovich said they needed a catcher. They had veteran Les Moss who was unable to throw and young Al Schrader who could not hit; Chicago sent Jim Napier a thrower-catcher.

As the team packed to return home for the opener, Metkovich, ever the realist, picked San Diego in their present form to finish fourth while others chose Spokane to take the pennant. Jack Murphy more rightly put it this way: "The San Diego Padres, for example, are now the serfs of the Chicago White Sox after freeing themselves from the bondage of the Cleveland Indians."

Friday April 15, marked opening day for the Padres 25th PCL season. Seattle came for the afternoon game at 3:00 p.m., and a night game at 8:00 p.m. Rear Admiral Dale Harris, 11th Naval District comman-



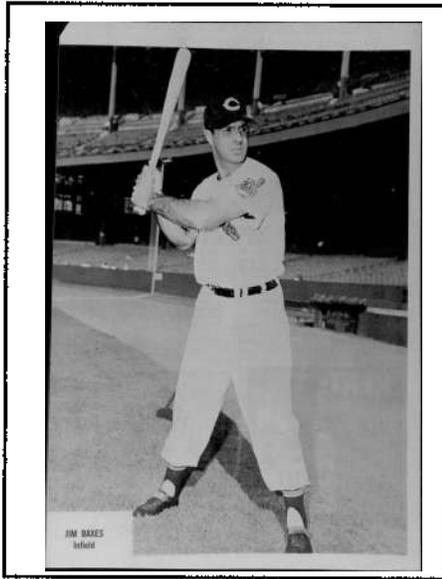
Jimmy Reese teaching Little Leaguers to hit with his Fungo bat at Westgate

dant, and Major General Victor Krulak, Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, handled the pre-game ceremonies. Mayor Charles C. Dail opened the ceremonies with a pitch that sailed about half-way between third base and home plate. A second chance put the ball toward home plate on the bounce. The Pads took the twin bill 7-2 and 7-6 with the second game going 11 innings. Dick Smith hit a bases-loaded single to give the Pads a sweep of the day-night double-header.

On the 18th of April, the Padres got the catcher they had hoped for, Camilo Carreon. With him came "Suitcase" Harry Simpson and pitcher Rodolfo Arias, from Chicago. Kiner tabbed both men for the starting lineup. With help from Carreon and Ed Hobaugh pitching a 7 hitter,

the Pads took Portland on April 23 and moved within a game of the PCL lead. Les Moss, longtime American League catcher, was given his unconditional release because of a severe back injury. Carreon began to prove his worth when he hit a pinch two run single to beat Spokane.

A matter perhaps of much more import was taking place at Westgate Park, however. Water seeping in from an unknown source softened the turf. As fast as it could be pumped out, it came back to flood the dugouts and turn an area near the rightfield fence into a quagmire. Dammed up creek beds in Mission Valley were causing the seepage in the opinion of Bob McGiveron, groundskeeper. "We had a later rainy season this year than in past seasons," McGiveron said. "The late rains, combined with the dammed



Jim Baxes

up areas, puts us below the water level table. As fast as we pump out the water, it comes back in." On April 15, the right field was completely under water. Three pumps were still going 24-hours a day pumping the water directly into a sewer, but the water still got ahead of the crew.

McGiveron felt sure it was sewer water because he could smell it. Padres officials believed there was a leak in a water main near the park. Attendant problems came in the form of frogs and mosquitoes breeding in the wet spots. Without being able to water beyond the outfield fence, the grass was turning yellow. McGiveron said fans should not worry, "When the ice show comes in May, we'll just stop the pumps and freeze the thing."

On April 28, the ironic happened. The Padres were rained out for the first time in history at Westgate Park. A storm left two inches of water standing on first base and the right field portion of the field, forcing postponement of the scheduled finale with Vancouver. Kiner observed that "if you had a rowboat yesterday at Westgate Park, you could use it"

Johnny Bucha was acquired from Miami of the International League; the Padres gave up right-hander Jim McDonald, who had been a holdout. On the last day of April San Diego stood in third place, two games behind Spokane, but the first five teams were bunched together.

In an effort to get winning combinations, Paul Robinson was optioned to Nashville, waivers were asked on pitcher Pete Wojey. Jim Derrington and Jim Napier were assigned to Charleston of the Sally League. On May 5, Hector Rodríguez, purchased as a utility player, remained as a San Diego infield regular and Dick Smith the Padres' leading hitter and most valuable performer a year ago, was benched. The team was still two players over the limit allowed. Don Buford was next to go - to Lincoln of the Three I Eye League. Then the Padres purchased second baseman Foster Castleman from Miami to help with the double-play problem the Padres seemed to

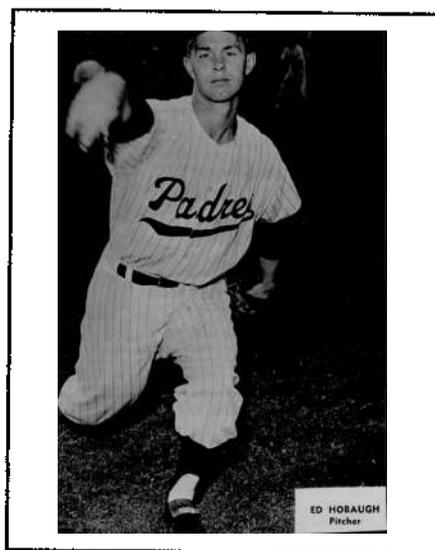
be having.

During May, the fielding was outstanding, but in a number of games, for example that of May 13, the Padre pitchers gave up 17 hits. Padre troubles could have been settled if the players had begun to hit. On May 15, Metkovich's temper got him kicked out in the first inning of the game. The next day, only a crowd of 811 stalwart fans came out to Westgate Park as a Tacoma win put the visitors in first place.

On May 18th, Jim Napier, Jim McAnany, Jake Striker and Don Ferrarese arrived at which time Kiner had said "I think we're as good as any team in the league now. We can win it if we get any kind of hitting at all from our good hitters." The series of the week of May 23, with Salt Lake City, ended with the Bees clouting six homers in a 14-6 win and a clean sweep. Not only that, but Bob McGiveron had not been joking about Westgate being iced for the Ice Follies. On May 22, while the Padres were on a road trip the Ice Capades held its show at Westgate Park.

San Diego was in the cellar five and one-half games out of first; Tacoma still led the league. Metkovich was allegedly consulting an ouija board to come up with a "stopper" in an attempt to stop the downslide. The mound staff had been tagged for 40 runs in losing the four-game series.

Then the Padres lost six



Ed Hobaugh

games in a row to push them to the bottom of the standings, six and one-half games back of Tacoma. The final day of May they still stood in last place. They briefly arose from the cellar and pushed Salt Lake City into the basement at Westgate Park. The weak hitting and fair pitching had attracted small crowds to date. Metkovich benched Harry Simpson and Jim Baxes. Floyd Robinson, who had carried the Pads to this point, was then felled with a pulled leg muscle and Don Ferrarese had to leave a game when he was hit on the left wrist by a ball he had tried to knock down.

On June 2 Jake Striker held the Bees to no hits for six and one-half innings before giving up enough runs to lose the game. With the locals sinking deeper into the cellar, the

marketing department tried any number of ideas to get people to the park. A "Bicycle Rodeo Night" admitted anyone free if they rode a bicycle to the Park. The American Youth Hostellers of La Jolla club did trick and group riding, and comedian Jackie Price performed for the fans.

Still, despite a marketing frenzy on June 6, only 835 patrons attended the game. As the team continued to mount losses, the fans became unruly and restless. For the first time Metkovich began to hear the catcalls and boos from the stands.

The ninth loss in a row came from Spokane on June 8th, despite Jim Baxes' two homers. Jim Mulvaney, President of the Padres, called manager George Metkovich "one of the best technicians in minor league baseball." He said he had learned from his contacts on the club that there was no morale problem among the Padres.

The Padres lost one day and won the next, yet were bunched at fourth place with three other teams, now only three games behind Sacramento. The standing scenario was strange. So many losses for a team, yet the Padres were not out of the race for the pennant—far from that.

Kiner hustled for deals and obtained catcher Valmy Thomas from Baltimore and sent pitcher Rodolfo Arias to Miami. Jim Greengrass, an outfielder from the Beavers, came on waivers; he had hit

27 homers for Portland the previous year; this year three to date, but Metkovich regarded him as a big power-swinging left hander.

The Vancouver Mounties dumped the Pads 8-4 with a four run tenth inning on June 14, slipping them nearer the cellar. Frank Barnes, (0-2) started for San Diego and was relieved by Clarence (Bud) Podbielan. Wade (0-1) could not hold off the rally.

A move that would stand the Padres in good shape for a number of years to come took place on June 16. Whitey Wietelmann was added to the coaching staff. A longtime San Diego resident and a popular baseball figure locally, Wietelmann had coached for Bob Elliott's Sacramento team a year ago and helped coach the Padres in spring training this season. He joined Reese as a second aide to George Metkovich. Kiner said, "We want Whitey more as a pitching coach than anything. We feel he might give our young players a little extra help. He'd be an asset to any club." Wietelmann, 41, was a veteran of 16 seasons of professional play. As a manager, he produced pennant winners at Yuma, Arizona before joining Sacramento as coach.

A bright spot shone on June 16 when 19 Padre hits smashed the Mounties 15-1. Harry Simpson hit a grand slam, and Grover Deacon Jones smashed two more two-run home runs to drive in eight runs between

them. Who could predict fan turnout? On the 19th in Seattle, the Rainiers took San Diego 11-1 before the largest crowd of the season, 5,228.

On June 22, Robert Sadowski came to the Padres in a deal involving the Chisox, who sent catcher Dick Brown to Miami. The Marlins, in turn, were to ship a pitcher to Rochester where Sadowski had been. During June, Metkovich had been ejected from several games because of his temper and on June 23, the cause he said, was that "the team was hurting for punch at the plate and did not have the batsmen to drive the team into the first division."

Gary Peters, the 23 year old left-hander, beat Vancouver 4-1 on for their sixth straight loss. Portland dropped them into the cellar on 24 June, 11-3, but then beat Portland 5-3 as a harassed Metkovich was again ejected. When he wouldn't go into the clubhouse, Umpire Orr halted the game until Metkovich could be run inside.

Five wins in a row coming before the end of June did little to improve the Padres place in the standings. The team stood 10-1/2 games out from Spokane, the leader. On the 27th Don Ferrarese provided the Padres with a 1-0 victory over Spokane.

A signal of what might come appeared in a column by Jerry Magee in the *San Diego Union* of June 28. James Mulvaney, Padre president,

said that the next four games might depend on the future of the manager. The Padre management had held two major conferences over whether or not to retain Metkovich, whose team had been in and out of the PCL cellar twice in recent weeks. Mulvaney answered other rumors being circulated straightforward and dismissed them as pure lies.

The Padres tried to liberate themselves from the cellar but remained prisoners of the second division. Thirty-eight year old Ben Wade pitched superbly to beat the Solons on July 2. On the third they throttled Sacramento 4-1 and 3-2 to slip into sixth place. Bud Podbielan and Ed Hobaugh spun wins while Greengrass hit a homer, his first since coming from Portland. Back in San Diego on fireworks day, Sacramento tripped the Pads in a doubleheader moving them back to seventh place and 13 games out. Bob Sadowski, the infielder who had been acquired nearly two weeks earlier, had finally been found. He was in St. Louis and driving to San Diego.

Jake Striker beat Tacoma 4-3 on the 5th of July. Bill Werle, who had pitched for the Padres and then was traded to Tacoma, came back as trades often did to trounce the Padres in a 4-2 victory on July 6th. Continuing to make trades, the Padres sent Dick Smith to Dallas in the American Association, and pitcher Howie Reed was received on option

from the same club. On July 7, the Pads beat Tacoma 5-4 to the beat of tom toms by the YMCA Indian Guides at Westgate Park. Camilo Carreon was installed as an honorary chief of the Indian Guides before the game. He got three hits.

On July 11, the PCL stars of seven PCL teams faced Spokane, the team which led the league on July 4 in a game at their home park. Two Padres supported the All-Star pitcher. Floyd Robinson opened in the outfield, with J.C. Martin to fill a utility role as an infielder.

The PCL team executives met at Spokane as the All-Star game was held and the break in the regular schedule. The next day Jim Mulvaney spoke to a proposal for tighter umpire control of a game's playing time and to discuss the 1961 schedule, advocating a return to full-week series.

While the schedule in 1961 called for starting on April 21 and ending September 17, the decision on ending split-week schedules was to draw up a plan for consideration. Travel costs were the reason. Progress was reported on the proposed post-season playoff between the champions of Japan and the PCL pennant winners.

Obviously very unhappy with player performance in Portland, the Padres, last in the league, traded one of their most idolized players, George Freese, for Jim Baxes.

Neither expressed happiness at being sent to another team where the other player had been so popular. Freese had been a PCL All-star for five straight years and Baxes consistently had been among the league's home run leaders.

At Sacramento again, on the 13th of July, Metkovich was ejected by plate umpire Mel Steiner over calls on balls and strikes. At his current pace, he might likely set a new PCL record for being tossed from games. Ken McBride came out of the doghouse briefly, shading the Solons, 4-3 while holding the record for the most pitching losses during the season at 16.

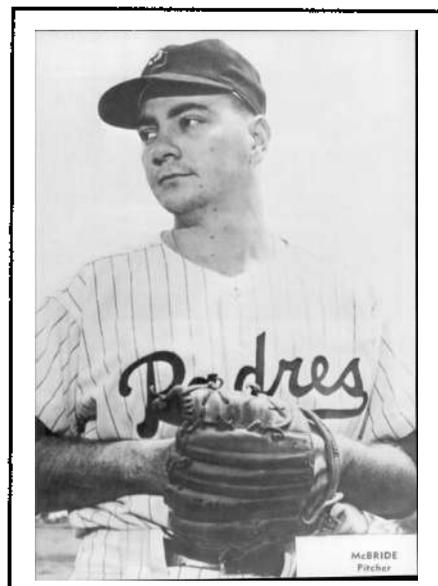
On July 17, all hell broke loose as the *San Diego Union*, in a major editorial uninitiated by Jack Murphy, and a headline story by Jerry Magee reported that mild-mannered and quiet spoken Clarence (Bud) Podbielan blamed manager George Metkovich for the Padres' dismal season. In a statement over the telephone to reporter Jerry Magee, Podbielan allegedly said that the blame for San Diego's poor showing could be put on Metkovich for misusing the Padre pitching staff and that the San Diego club had been attempting to cover up his failures through frequent player trades.

Murphy said Podbielan was normally the quietest and least likely candidate to make such a move. Podbielan committed the worst of all

baseball sins in publicly airing his grievances. Murphy predicted Bud would be in the doghouse when he returned home. What he had done was very likely to have insured that Metkovich would retain his managerialship for the rest of the season. Managers of baseball teams aren't supposed to win popularity contests. "Players either loved him or hated him" said the Padre coaches. As San Diego returned home on July 21, entertainment at the Park included The San Diego Serenaders and the Four Beaus as featured singers, probably in the hope of cheering up a flotilla of downcast fans and their children. In the game against Tacoma, Floyd Robinson hit a grand slam to help take the game 8-6.



Richard H. (Dick) Smith



Kenneth McBride

Then when Podbielan was traded to Buffalo, he balked and said he did not know if he would report to them or not. Kiner said that "Podbielan wants to be a starter and we feel he is not capable of starting." In the trade, the Padres received pitcher Don Erickson.

The San Diego Union of July 24, 1960 carried a 1-3/4" headline that read "METKOVICH RESIGNS; Manager to Stay with Pads until Successor Named." He had resigned, but agreed to continue in the role on an interim basis until a successor would be named. GM Kiner reluctantly accepted the resignation and said he 'definitely' would appoint a new field leader before the current home stand ended on August 8. Podbielan's only comment was "good deal."

The Catfish said that he had

not been influenced by the comments of the former pitcher, and Kiner said he had nothing but the greatest esteem for Metkovich. "George has been battling long odds...He has gone through hell."

The next day, Bob Lemon, legendary Cleveland pitcher who had worked in the outfield for the Padres in 1958, had been hinted as a replacement manager. San Diego's baseball team had lost a very fine gentleman; his wife Peggy supported him to the "nth degree". Jim Mulvaney, Ralph Kiner and the coaching staff felt Metkovich had done the very best he could with the players he had been given. Now a new pilot would take his place. A photo of George Metkovich and Les Cook showed them holding a plaque with the names of the 11 previous managers of the Padres.

The Padres continued their losing streak and Metkovich allowed Wietelmann to present the lineup and he had coach Reese making the pitching changes. Metkovich said, "If I had wanted to stay here, I would not have resigned." To make matters perhaps a bit worse, Erickson did not want to relocate to the Padres this late in the season, so Buffalo sent San Diego cash instead. Kiner was in an almost impossible position of finding a manager this late in the season.

Jack Murphy began to point out that the Padres were reluctantly eyeing Jimmie Reese as manager for

the rest of the year. Reese said he had been in baseball so many years that he enjoyed being in the second position and did not envy his many friends who managed. The seeds were planted, however, in the column.

On July 31, the Padres were in seventh place, 14-1/2 games behind Spokane. A hesitant Jimmie Reese replaced George Metkovich on the last day of July. George Metkovich made a farewell address to the Padres before the game at Westgate Park. Then the silver-haired kindly Reese, coach under seven different San Diego managers since 1948, sent out Jake Striker (4-6) and Ken McBride (6-11) to face the Spokane batters.

Reese made it clear he was not anxious to fill in as manager, declaring, "I have never been and I will never be, but I guess I can survive for the next six weeks." Spokane quickly took a doubleheader.

By the first of August a small group of San Diego civic leaders began to map out a plan to bring major league baseball to the city, in light of the news that the National and American Leagues were going to expand.

On August 17, the San Diego Chamber of Commerce Major League Baseball Committee announced that the City had mapped a five-year Major League Plan with 7,750,000 attendance envisioned.

Jim Mulvaney, President of the Padres, was described as a con-

servative young lawyer whose Padres would be pressed to draw 230,000 this year. Dr. Al Anderson was named chairman of the feasibility committee, which would study various aspects of what it would take for a franchise and what that could mean to the city. The belief was that it would take five years for such a change to occur.

In matters closer to the park, Floyd Robinson became a major leaguer as he was purchased by the Chicago White Sox. His value to the Padres had been listed as high as \$100,000. Robinson had been outstanding for the Padres this year and the Sox assigned outfielder Joe Hicks to replace him in San Diego.

On August ninth, the team began their last and longest road trip of the season. They were to visit all seven of the other cities in the league on this tour, and return to San Diego September 1 to meet Sacramento in their final home stand, one which closed the season.

With the City and the major organizations interested in building San Diego, Ralph Kiner put an end, once and for all, to rumors he would be quitting as General Manager of the Padres to work for the Chisox. Kiner had met with Veeck and Greenberg; a rumor existed that Metkovich had gone with him, but those stories were not true. Frankly he said, "I'd rather stay here than be general manager of a lot of major

league clubs. This is the finest place in the world to live.

The team had been entirely unpredictable. Even as they looked at their position in sixth place, seventeen games out, the City of San Diego mapped out a five-year plan to bring major league to the City.

The Chamber of Commerce elected Bob Breitbard to line up the two to four million dollars they believed it would take to get a major league team to San Diego. Dr. Al Anderson and Jim Mulvaney looked more closely at the possibility of enlarging Westgate Park and believed that it would be at least five years before San Diego could expect major league ball.

The team, still on the road, slugged 22 hits on August 20 to take Spokane after losing the opener. The standings remained much the same as they entered the dog days of the

DON'T MISS THIS!

TONIGHT ONLY
Jackie
PRICE
IN PERSON
WORLD-FAMOUS
BASEBALL
CLOWN & ACROBAT

The
PADRES
are in town
Baseball Tonight

SPOKANE vs. SAN DIEGO
The Two Nights 7:30

WESTGATE PARK
1100 N. 4th St. Spokane, WY
PHONE CY 8-7826

TOMORROW'S OPTIMIST NIGHT

PCL season, which was that enemy of all professional baseball players in August, when sheer and utter boredom set in. Wade and Striker continued to pitch very well despite the fact that the starting pitchers had been overworked.

Back home after the extended 23 game, 24 day road tour of the other seven PCL cities, they met Salt Lake City again and blanked them 5-0 as McBride got the win homering to help his cause. The team moved to within one game out of fifth place when Wade again stopped Sacramento.

The annual PCL old-timers met at Westgate Park before the 2 p.m. encounter on September 4. Reese managed the Los Angeles-Hollywood outfit while Ced Durst piloted the former Padres. Durst would have Max West, Jack Graham, Dick Aylward, Frank Kerr, Pete Coscarart, Bill Glynn, Whitey Wietelmann, Steve Mesner, Buddy Peterson and Murray Franklin. He also claimed Bob Usher, Tony Criscola, Ed Barr, Harry Elliott and Dain Clay and pitchers Bob Kerrigan, Jesse Flores and Ed Vitalich.

Jimmie Reese had Cliff Dapper, Les Cook, Art Lilly, Lou Stringer, Bob Sturgeon, George Freese and Bill Schuster. Reese's squad also included Gus Zernial, Clarence Maddern, Ed Stewart, Clint Conatser, Jim Bolger and pitchers Jack Salvesson, Red Adams, Eddie Chandler and Ben Wade. Padre old-timers took the

shortened game 4-3.

With Reese at the helm of the regular Padre team, they took a 14-10 win on September 5, over Sacramento before a 2,906 fans. Reese moved players about like chessmen, employing a catcher at third, a pitcher in left field, and substituting freely as the need arose to win. While the team looked good at times, they were 1 1/2 games back in fifth place, just about where they had stood two months earlier. They rolled on, winning over Tacoma for seven in a row, with McBride pitching.

Taking the eighth game under Reese, Ed Hobaugh led his mates, giving up five hits. They took number nine 9-3 over Tacoma behind Howie Reed's seven hit pitching. The "little magician" Reese then led his team to take two from the Bees running the streak to eleven wins 10-3 and 4-3 before a Convair night crowd of 3,670. A home run by Jim Greengrass in the seventh inning nailed down the first game. Now they stood in fifth place just a game and a half out of fourth on September 9.

What had been a crazy season for the Padres would end shortly, but not before the Chisox called up Stan Johnson, J.C. Martin, Gary Peters, Camilo Carreon, Joe Hicks and Ken McBride. Valmy Thomas was bound for Baltimore, Howie Reed for Kansas City and Bob Sadowski for St. Louis.

In a testimonial to Jimmie

Reese, the Padres won their 13th straight and wound up in a tie for fourth as they took two from Salt Lake City 4-0 and 2-1 on August 31.

Speculation had C. Arnholt Smith and Hank Greenberg bringing a major league team to San Diego. Both men, however, spoke only to the question of a new working agreement with one another.

In a sort of season wrap up, Jack Murphy addressed the big question as to whether C. Arnholt Smith would drop the Padre baseball franchise. Smith had not been happy about the losses and Jim Mulvaney, not being too specific, noted the dollar losses for the year had been in six figures, and that Smith was very discouraged with the baseball situation here. The belief was that Smith had sought to reduce expenses by asking the Sox to take on Kiner's salary. It was that request that gave rise to the thought that Kiner was being given his walking papers. Mulvaney conceded that he had spoken with Eddie Leishman and Danny Menendez about the job, but that if Kiner left, it would be the result of Kiner's own decision.

Stan Johnson was awarded the Murray Goodrich Most Valuable Player Trophy on September 11, between the doubleheader which propelled the Padres into fourth place.

A jolting story on the sports pages of the *Union* of October 28,

1960, reported that C. Arnholt Smith owner of the Padres was investing heavily in a new American League franchise in Los Angeles as a stepping stone toward eventually bringing major league baseball here. The story related that Hank Greenberg would have been willing to bring his team to San Diego, if a suitable park had been available.

Smith said he would be willing to sell Westgate Park, the three-year-old home of the Padres, to the City of San Diego without one cent profit if some public funds could be voted to expand the 8,500 seat stadium to major league standards. Hank Greenberg came to San Diego to assure the Padres of their position, and to discuss club operations with Kiner and Smith.

The statements by Smith riled Mayor Charles C. Dail, who said that San Diego government officials had not pressed for a major league franchise for the City because they had not been asked to do so by Padre representatives. Smith had cited apathy of City and County officials as a major reason why San Diego's chances of landing in the majors were not stronger. Smith unloaded on the City, citing all of the bureaucratic delays and costs he had endured in just getting Westgate built: matters which had to do with permits, committee meetings and stalemates which required incessant promotions and public relations to have

an ordinance changed so that they could build the Park on their own land with their own money. There were also other ludicrous fees, permits and other costs that other communities such as Orange County did not put on to an owner who wanted to invest heavily in his own community Smith declared.

Dr. Anderson and his Chamber of Commerce Committee agreed with Smith that City officials should lend their support to the drive to build a suitable major league stadium. As that fire burned, a new one kindled under Jimmie Reese, who would begin a new career at age 54. He signed a two year contract to manage the Padres, with Whitey Wietelmann to return as coach.

Reese gave the opportunity a lot of thought and as the weeks rolled on, he felt he wanted to give it a try. The way the team played at the end of the season led him to conclude he would do so if asked. He could have managed the club as long ago as 1948, when Jimmie Collins was fired by Bill Starr, who told him, "You're the new manager." Reese said, "Not me." After a brilliant career as a player, he had coached under Collins, Brillheart, Baker, Harris, O'Doul, Elliott and Metkovich.

In an unusual turn of events, construction plans for the proposed 10,000 seat multipurpose San Diego Stadium were announced by Western America Sports Enterprises. The

proposal called for a new stadium on 40 acres of land off Clairemont Mesa Boulevard and near Highway 395. The facility which would be the home of major auto racing, motorcycle races, football, rodeos, circuses and trade shows, Frank Guthrie director of the organization said.

On October 31, the Padre front office named Ralph Kiner as a vice president of the club. The club management hired Edwin "Eddie" Leishman a 49-year-old graduate of the New York Yankee farm system, as General Manager. Leishman was the ideal fit for San Diego. His first statement was:

Anyone who works for a club and isn't courteous at all times doesn't belong there. We don't want to say or do anything to keep that fan away from the park.

His diagnosis of Reese's success with the Padres in the last weeks of the season was:

The team relaxed under him. The Padres got off to a terrible start, got tight as they kept losing and tried harder to win. Reese got them relaxed and got their potential out of them. Then they began winning and there's no tonic like winning.

Leishman brought his wife Phyllis, seventeen year old son Jay and 14 year old daughter Susie with him as he took over his new position. He had been a minor league infielder in the Yankee chain for nine years. He played with Hollywood in 1930, El Paso in 1931, Erie in 1932, Binghamton in 1933, St. Paul in 1934, Newark in 1935, played with the PCL Missions in 1935, Oakland in 1937, and Seattle in 1938. Leishman managed Twin Falls to the Pioneer League pennant in 1939, and Spokane to the Western International League title in 1940.

Frozen to a defense job during W.W.II, he was the Yankees western farm director from 1946 until 1951, when he purchased the Salt Lake franchise in the Class "C" Pioneer League.

Kiner, who had held the job since 1955, had hoped to be a part owner and executive of the new American League team in Los Angeles joining Greenberg and Smith. Greenberg had withdrawn from the Los Angeles, proposal and Smith's venture was still not clear. Leishman, had been general manager at Salt Lake City and turned down an offer to direct a proposed new PCL team in Honolulu.

While the Los Angeles situation was being pondered and the likelihood that Greenberg and Smith would drop out, San Diego's major league committee considered Mis-

sion Bay and El Cajon as sites for a park, should it receive assurances that this city's chances for a major league franchise were strong. As late as November 26, the "Committee" was pondering a site for a new park—one which could be leased on county owned property known as Gillespie Field, with Westgate Park a consideration.

In a late November surprise at Louisville Minor League meetings, the Padres shelled out an estimated \$45,000 which included \$12,000 for each of three first-year players, third baseman Ed Barberic, shortstop Vincent Lentini and southpaw Fred McClaskey. Dick Barone went for \$9,000. Meanwhile, Vice President Kiner and Manager Leishman bought two players from Pittsburgh, pitchers Dave Jiminez and Dick Lines.

Still searching for a site for a baseball park, Balboa Stadium was studied by the City of San Diego, which continued to study the potential site for a ballpark *ad infinitum*, chafing over locations, parking, voting by the populace and attendance questions. The Chamber of Commerce subcommittee believed strongly the people of San Diego would support a bond issue for an all-purpose stadium, one that could accommodate American League baseball, pro football and other civic events.

Dr. Anderson figured the plan this way:

The average person interested in having a major league team here thinks the taxpayers would be burdening themselves by voting a bond issue for an all-purpose sports stadium, and they're reluctant to do a thing like that for a private concern.

What they don't realize is that public stadiums in other cities have made money at such a rapid clip that they've been paid off much too soon to suit the companies underwriting the construction.

We're big enough for major league baseball and we'll get a team, eventually, if we go about this thing automatically.

The San Diego season had ended with an attendance figure of 162,101.

FINAL PCL STANDINGS: 1960

	W	L	GB
Spokane	92	61	
Tacoma	81	73	11-1/2
Salt Lake City	80	73	12
San Diego	77	75	14-1/2
Seattle	77	75	14-1/2
Sacramento	73	81	19-1/2
Vancouver	68	84	23-1/2
Portland	64	90	28-1/2



Pitcher Gary Peters



Hector Rodriguez. ss, 3b.



Mgr. Jimmie Reese helps Stan Johnson hold Murray Goodrich, MVP Trophy.

VOICES FROM WESTGATE PARK

*Interview with
JAMES "JIM" GREENGRASS
by Gail Boire-Hoffman*

I was born in Adison, New York on October 24, 1927. I always loved the game. Ever since I was five years old, I wanted to be a baseball player. There was a fellow who used to come around the school a lot and he liked to play pepper with the kids. His name was Paul Wing Wildric. Unfortunately, he suffered from cerebral palsy. Anyway, he wrote a letter to the New York Yankees about me and the Yankees sent a scout to Adison. I was only sixteen at the time and needed permission from the school and my parents in order to play. I begged my mom to let me play. Finally, she let me—on the condition that I graduate the same time the rest of my class was to graduate. I graduated in 1945 with my class.

The New York Yankees were the first team I played with. They were called the Wellsville Yankees then. My wage was \$110 a month with a \$1.50 a day meal allowance. That was a lot of money! From 1944 to 1951, I played for New York, then from 1952-1954, I played for Cincinnati; in 1955 I was with Philadelphia, 1957 Sacramento, Portland in 1958 and 1959 and San Diego in 1960 and 1961. After that I retired.

I liked George "Catfish" Metkovich as a manager. He was a nice guy. He knew the game well and was a good manager. [Gail Boire-Hoffman] I am surprised to hear that. The newspapers did not make him appear to be a nice person. [Greengrass] Well, sports writers sometimes ask foolish questions or ask the same question over and over. This gets on your nerves.

I experienced an earthquake in San Diego. I got up one morning, went outside, got the newspaper and sat down to have my coffee; when everything started to shake. I didn't even realize what had happened until a buddy of mine phoned me and said "Did you feel that?" I told him, yes, I did feel a lot of shaking. He said that was a tremor from an earthquake.

[Gail Boire-Hoffman] How do you feel about your baseball experience over- all?

[Greengrass] Great! I feel very lucky to have had my dream of becoming a baseball player, come true. Baseball opened up a lot of doors for me in my life. Since baseball has been so good to me, I try to give something back whenever I can. I have answered every piece of fan mail that has been sent to me.



Jim Greengrass, outfielder.

*Interview with DONALD
FERRARESE
by Maria Froehle*

Since I was six or seven, I wanted to be a ball player. I started playing when I was ten. In 1947, while I was a senior in high school, I participated in the Hearst newspaper All-Star game. One player from every major city from across the United States was invited. The All-Star games were played in Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds in New York City. Eleven boys who played went to the Majors. Don Ferrarese was unanimously voted to win the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award. Mrs. Gehrig presented me with the trophy.

Of those eleven boys who made the majors, there was Rudy Regalado (played for the Padres) Dick Groat, Bob Grimm, Bill Skowron, Bill Harrell, Gino Cimoli, Harry Aganis and Don Ferrarese. [The other two I can't recall].

All 16 Major League teams made me offers. But, my parents were immigrants from Italy who valued education. I promised to go to college and did not accept any of the offers. I went to St. Mary's College in Moraga, California for one year. Then I decided I wanted to play baseball. Casey Stengel signed me to the PCL team in Oakland.

First, I went to Stockton in the California State League. I set a record for walks which still exists, 225 at the Western International League in Wenatchee, Washington in 1950. I went from the heights with my award to the lowest place in the league and found humility. In one game, I struck out 17 batters in seven innings and was about to set the league record of 18 strikeouts, when I suffered an appendicitis attack and was taken to the hospital for emergency surgery.

I worked my way to the Major Leagues, playing for the Balti-

more Orioles from '55 to '57. In '58 and '59 I played for the Cleveland Indians. In '59 on May 11, I was 5-2, leading the American League in strikeouts and ERA, and hurt my shoulder. During that era, with little or no money invested in the players and 15-20 men waiting to take their place, I was sent to the Minor Leagues by the White Sox to San Diego where I did very little pitching because of the shoulder injury. It would never be the same again.

During one series in Seattle, I went to a high school friend's house for dinner. At this time, I was one year short of my pension. I got tickets for my friends to come see the game. I had been complaining about my arm and the fact that I couldn't pitch the way I used to and that maybe my career was about to end.

During that game, I struck out 13 men and won the game in 12 innings. When the game was over, my friends were scratching their heads. How could someone with a bad arm do so well? I reverted back to the soreness of my shoulder, however, and pitched very little the rest of the year.

I went back to the Majors with the Philadelphia Phillies and the St. Louis Cardinals the last two years of my 15 professional career and was able to get my major league pension.

One day, when the Padre players were lounging on the sloping grass in right field at Westgate, a rabbit ran by the players. Gary Peters, being a farm boy from the South threw a baseball at the rabbit and stunned it. Gary ran over and picked up the rabbit by the neck and twirled it around to put it out of its misery. Frank Barnes saw this and almost got sick. The next day Gary brought a plate of fried food cut up into little pieces and gave a piece to Frank. As he was munching on the piece, Gary told Frank it was the rabbit he'd killed the day before and Frank al-

most got sick again.

Jimmie Reese took over as manager and I started to act as an unofficial coach. I would evaluate players that Jimmie would then present to the management. I recommended Deacon Jones as a hitter and he went on to the Majors. Everyone loved Jimmie Reese. They used to throw pebbles at him when he was coaching the bases. He was goosey and would jump every time. But, he could hit anything with a fungo bat. Jimmie Reese's fungo bat was cut in half and then taped. His accuracy with the fungo bat is legendary. He didn't actually room with Babe Ruth, but rather with his suitcase because Babe was out all of the time chasing women.

Modern day athletes have far superior bodies than the men who played in the PCL; however, the lack of dedication and professionalism in today's players is sadly lacking. In my opinion, the caliber of major league baseball today is the same as the old PCL was then.

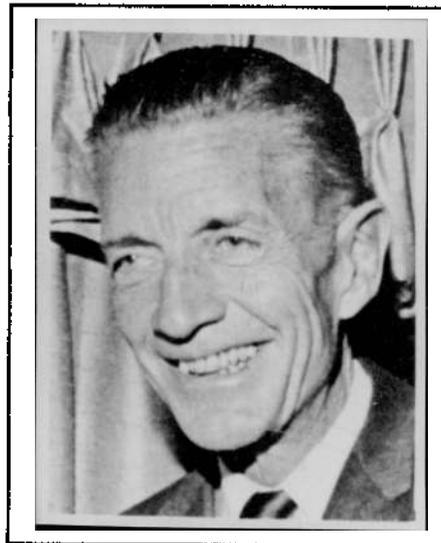
I have four children. The bulk of my home movies from 47 years of marriage were taken at the San Diego Zoo, even though I only lived there for a year. In San Diego, I lived with J.C. Martin, Eddie Hobaugh and Jake Striker and enjoyed myself a great deal.

Ben Wade "Virgil" had a hearing aid. When he didn't want to heard he turned it off. He just retired from the Dodgers as Scouting Supervisor. George Metkovich just died of Alzheimer's Disease.

I stayed with baseball, since retiring in 1962, in every phase of the game, from Little League, high school and college coaching to presently part-time scouting for Kansas City.

EDDIE LEISHMAN

Eddie Leishman was a minor league infielder in the Yankee system for nine years. He played with the Hollywood Stars in 1930. In that year, he suffered an injury when he caught his spikes in a sprinkler and his head struck the ground during a game in Oakland. He played with El Paso in 1931-32. After a good start with Binghamton in 1933, in the New York-Pennsylvania League, where he was being groomed to replace Tony Lazzeri as the Yankee's second baseman, Eddie was beamed. His jaw was paralyzed by the blow and he was fed through straws for nearly a month. He couldn't return to the lineup. He went to St. Paul in 1934, Newark in 1935. He then came to the PCL with the Missions in 1936, Oakland in 1937 and Seattle in 1938. He managed Twin Falls to the Pioneer League pennant in 1939 and Spokane to the Western International League title in 1940. He coached Oakland in 1945, before moving to Idaho Falls to handle Yankee and Oakland farmhands.



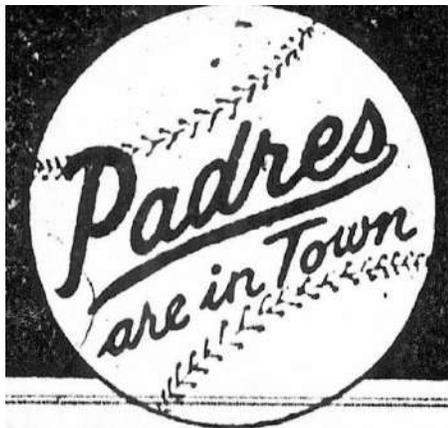
Eddie Leishman

He held clinics for the Yankees and one of the Yanks he discovered was Jerry Coleman, later a star for the Bronx Bombers and now an announcer for the San Diego Padres. Frozen to a defense job during World War II, he was the Yankees' western farm director from 1946 until 1951. In 1948, he was named general manager of the Yankee California League team at Ventura and handled that position for two years, when he purchased the Salt Lake City Bees franchise in the Class "C" Pioneer League. The team won the pennant twice and finished in the first division five out of seven years. Salt Lake City topped the league in attendance in 1951, 1954 and 1956. George Weiss rated Leishman as one of the best men who had ever worked for New York.

Leishman, 49 years old was a graduate of the New York Yankee farm system and his first observation struck home: "Anyone who works for a club and isn't courteous at all times doesn't belong there. We don't want to say or do anything to keep that fan away from the park."

Eddie was named Baseball Executive of the Pioneer League in 1951, 1953 and 1956, Pacific Coast League Executive of the Year in 1959, 1962 and 1964, and Baseball Executive of all Minor Leagues for 1959 and 1964, and named King of Baseball in 1964.

Jay Leishman assisted considerably in the completion of this volume by providing access to his father's papers and scrapbooks.



RODOLFO MARTINEZ ARIAS

was born in Cuba on June 6, 1931 at Las Villas, Cuba. He played in Cuba for awhile and in 1952, came to the United States to play some games in Detroit, Michigan. He was with the *League Popular de Cuba*, and won two games in a row that day. He was only supposed to stay for two days, but stayed for 16 instead. Rudy signed a contract with the White Sox for \$3,000 while he was here and went straight to the minors. He was a little guy. He weighed only 147 pounds. He had a good curveball and good fastball.

His first year in the minors was 1953. He played in Kentucky. He won 16 games his first year and struck out 260 something batters in 220 innings. In 1959 he went to the White Sox.

Interview with RODOLFO MARTINEZ ARIAS by William Bowers

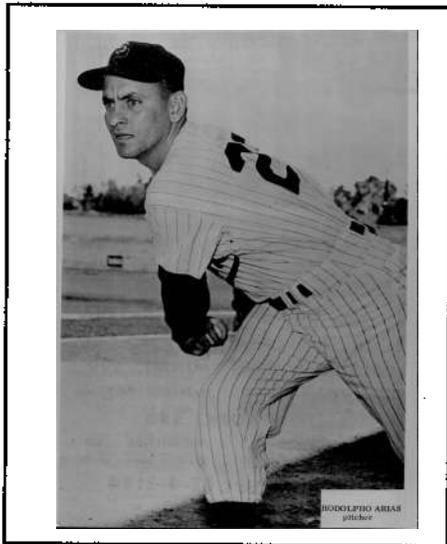
In 1960 I went to the Padres in the Pacific Coast League. Later in 1960, I was traded to Miami for a catcher. In 1961, I played for the Cubans. I played in the *League de Popular de Cuba*. In 1961, we all played for the Cubans. Castro came in and said no professional baseball; everyone had to work. I came back to Cincinnati in 1962, but my arm was real bad. I had Cuban money, but it was no good in the United States. I went to play in Georgia, then in Mexico City. I retired. Now, I see Cuba no more.

Some of the men I played with, and who were good friends, were Chico Ruiz, and Hector Rodríguez. I played a lot of years with Hector. Louis Aparicio was my

roommate and best friend. When I played in the PCL, there were teams in Seattle, Spokane, Oakland, Sacramento, ^{um} let's see, Hawaii came after I left.

We used to travel a lot on trains. We took trains everywhere, except when we went to Seattle. Then we took the plane. When I was with the Padres Ralph Kiner was GM. On May 28, he sent me to Miami. I don't know why he did that. When I was with San Diego, I won four games and lost only one! And they sent me to Miami. I still don't know why he sent me to Miami. I think it was because they needed a catcher or something.

Westgate Park was a good park. I don't know if it was a hitter's or a pitcher's park. I see on TV now that they have a big stadium there.



Rodolfo Martinez Arias.

That's really nice.

Before Castro, 200 Cubans were in professional baseball. Now it's the Dominicans. You don't see Cubans no more. Joe Cambria used to sign everyone from Cuba. He signed them all up on the Washington Senators. Joe Cambria told me that I should sign before I went to the United States to play those games. I told him that I would wait and sign when I got back. But I never got the chance because the White Sox signed me right away. Joe Cambria sent a lot of stars to the U.S. He was a Cuban scout who used to send ballplayers to the U.S. for \$75 dollars a month.

I retired in 1965. They sent me to Mexico City for two years, but my arm was no good. I couldn't throw anymore.

BEN WADE

was born in 1922 in Morehead City, North Carolina. A 6'3" pitcher, he became an imposing pitcher as he stood on the mound. His brother Jake also played ball in the majors. In 1948, he played with Chicago in the National League; 1950-1953 with Brooklyn. In 1953 he pitched in the World Series. In 1954, with Brooklyn and then he went to St. Louis in the Nationals. In 1955, he played with Pittsburgh in the Nationals, went to Hollywood, and to Salt Lake City, Vancouver, Spokane and then to San Diego.

An Interview with BEN WADE by Ray Brandes

Westgate Park in San Diego was the most beautiful park I had ever seen. I stayed at the Stardust Hotel in Mission Valley and that was great because I could walk across the Valley to the ball park. I recall going up into the stands and every seat in the park had a good view. It was a fair

park for the hitter and a fair park for the pitcher.

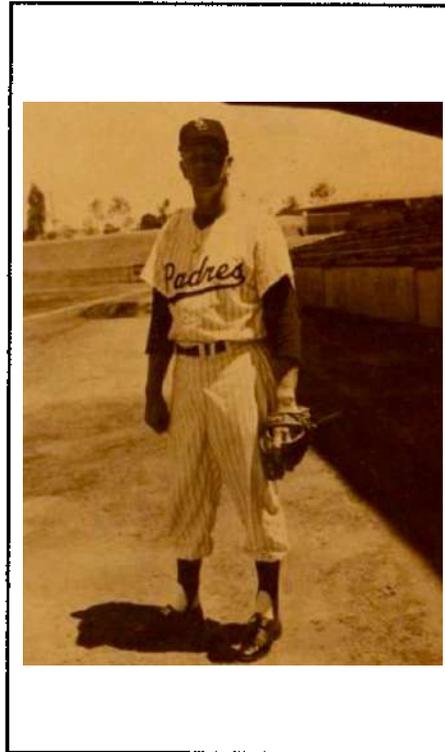
In 1960-1961, I was a pitcher and pitching coach. George Metkovich was with the team and Jimmy Reese was too. They were good friends. All the pitchers with the team that year I remember, and they were all good, especially Ken McBride, Gary Peters, and Joe Hoener

It was not a real good club until later on. I recall Don Ferrarese very well — he went on to the big leagues.

The coaches were good men on the field, but didn't associate with the players off the field. They couldn't do that and keep discipline. I remember C. Arnholt Smith, although I didn't meet him but a few times. The best friend I ever had was Eddie Leishman, the General Manager, in 1961. I had always known him, going back to when I played for Salt Lake City with Leishman and on the Hollywood Club.

Another player I knew well was Floyd Robinson. You know I came to the park one day. Eddie answered the phone and said, "George, I can't think of anyone to fill the job, but if I do I'll call you back." Then as he sat down to talk again Eddie Leishman said to me, "Ben, how long have you been playing?" I told him, "As long as guys have been playing." Leishman said George Weiss, the new Manager of the New York Mets, is looking for scouts in the PCL and designated players. I told Leishman I didn't want to scout, but he said I had a good eye for players — I knew them. Eddie said, "Call Weiss." The next day I did and I was hired.

Oh! I remember McAnaly, Hershberger, J.C. Martin and Whitey Wietelmann—he was a good coach. He took care of baseballs. Did you know he washed them in milk? As for Jimmie Reese, he was the greatest fungo hitter I had ever seen.



Pitcher Ben Wade

1960 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	PCT.
Arias, Rodolfo	14	16	1	4	--	--	--	--	.250
Barnes, Frank	24	41	3	8	--	--	--	4	.195
Baxes,Dimitrios*	113	398	56	96	24	5	9	46	.241
Brantley, Ollie	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Bucha, John	4	3	--	3	--	--	--	--	1.000
Buford, Donald	18	41	6	11	1	--	--	5	.268
Carreon,Camilo	109	376	53	105	16	4	4	62	.279
Castleman,Foster	39	116	11	25	5	--	--	9	.216
Derrington,C.Jame	6	7	--	1	--	--	--	--	.143
Ferrarese,Donald	26	29	2	4	--	--	--	1	.138
Freese, George*	127	451	68	115	11	1	25	87	.255
Greengrass,Jim*	98	308	31	83	18	2	6	46	.269
Hicks,W. Joseph	32	109	17	33	3	4	4	13	.303
Hobaugh,Edward	44	54	11	13	4	1	1	8	.241
Johnson, Stanley	138	517	72	172	31	11	8	62	.333
Jones, Grover	80	144	25	43	2	4	5	27	.299
Kuzava, Robert	12	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Martin, Joseph C.	142	513	71	146	20	4	13	73	.285
McAnany, James	92	338	42	77	12	4	7	44	.228
McBride, Kenneth	33	63	2	9	--	--	1	4	.143
Moss, J. Lester	3	3	--	1	--	--	--	--	.333
Napier, James	14	41	5	8	1	--	--	2	.195
Peters, Gary	36	71	10	18	3	2	--	8	.254
Podbielan, Bud	20	21	2	3	--	--	--	1	.143
Qualters, Thomas	10	4	--	1	--	--	--	--	.250
Reed, Howard	11	27	--	3	--	--	--	2	.111
Robinson, Floyd	101	374	60	119	20	6	13	48	.318
Robinson, Paul	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Rodriguez,Hector	134	446	52	117	9	3	--	42	.262
Rosenbaum, Glen	8	4	--	2	--	--	--	--	.500
Sadowski, Robert	64	244	44	83	14	6	8	32	.340
Simpson, Harry	95	284	38	63	11	5	8	40	.222
Smith, Richard	61	194	23	45-	8	2	--	12	.232
Snyder, James	9	9	--	-	--	--	--	--	.000
Striker, Wilbur	21	41	5	3	1	--	--	--	.073
Thomas, Valmy	67	240	34	73	11	3	3	38	.304
Wade, Benjamin	48	32	2	7	1	--	--	--	.219
Werle, William*	27	36	3	4	--	--	1	1	.111
Wojey, Peter	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000

*Baxes: 88SD-25Port

Freese: 76Port-51SD

Greengrass:46Port-52SD

Werle: 6SD-21Tac

1960 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	IP	W	L	PCT	SO	BB	ERA
Arias, Rodolfo	14	53	3	1	.750	19	18	3.91
Barnes, Frank	24	122	5	10	.333	92	49	3.25
Brantley, Ollie	3	--	--	--	.000	--	--	--
Ferrarese, Donald	21	94	6	5	.545	70	47	4.40
Hobaugh, Edward	39	174	11	11	.500	119	49	4.29
Kuzava, Robert	12	15	--	3	.000	14	8	4.20
McBride, Kenneth	33	198	11	14	.440	131	66	3.23
Peters, Gary	33	172	12	9	.571	127	49	4.34
Podbielan, Bud	20	96	6	2	.750	28	20	4.79
Qualters, Thomas	10	19	2	1	.667	2	8	4.26
Reed, Howard	11	75	5	3	.625	39	38	3.48
Robinson, Paul	7	--	--	--	.000	--	--	--
Rosenbaum, Glen	6	--	--	2	.000	--	--	--
Striker, Wilbur	21	126	6	8	.429	76	55	4.57
Wade, Benjamin	48	115	8	3	.727	91	45	4.23
Werle, William*	26	134	7	8	.467	66	17	4.10
Wojey, Peter	4	--	-1	-	1.000	--	--	--

(*Werle: 6SD-20Tac)



*Westgate Park from atop the grandstand roof.
Photo courtesy Al Hogan*

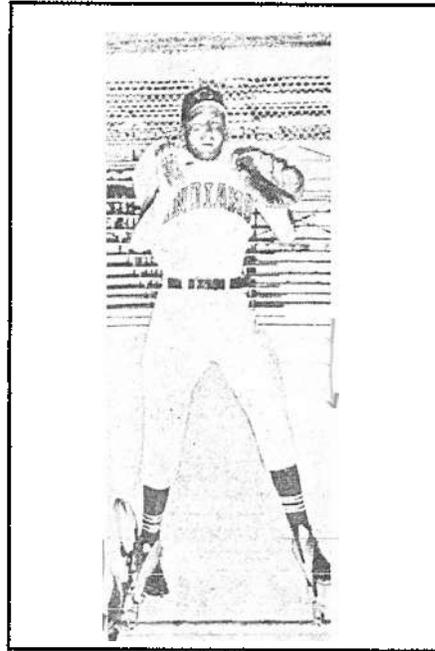
Photos:

All photos were printed in the *San Diego Union* unless otherwise indicated:

January 24: Former Padre, San Diegan Bob Elliott
February 21: Steve Ridzik
March 6: Jim Derrington, Tom Qualters
March 15: Padre team photo, pitching staff.
March 15: George (Catfish) Metkovich, Jimmie Reese, Harry Lowery, Paul Robinson, Grover (Deacon) Jones
March 17: Glen Rosenbaum
March 18: Floyd Robinson
March 19: Jim Derrington
March 24: Les Moss
March 29: Pete Wojey, Bill Werle, Floyd Robinson
April 2: George Metkovich, Camilo Carreon
April 6: Paul Robinson
April 7: Gary Peters, J.C. Martin
April 14: Ex Padres with Seattle: Rudy Regalado and manager Dick Sisler
April 15: Padre Team: Don Buford, Dick Smith, Floyd Robinson, Jim Baxes, Joe Martin, Stan Johnson, Hector Rodriguez, Jim Napier, Clarence Podbielan and Gary Peters.
April 16: Bud Podbielan, George Metkovich, Mayor C.C. Dail
April 17: Jim Napier, George Metkovich
April 18: J.C. Martin
April 19: Camilo Carreon, Harry Simpson
April 22: George Metkovich, Camilo Carreon

April 24: Ken McBride
April 25: Harry Simpson, Don Buford, and bat boy
April 26: Jim Baxes, and brother Mike Baxes
April 30: Camilo Carreon
May 15: Buddy Peterson of Sacramento, Floyd Robinson
May 16: Camilo Carreon, Hector Rodriguez
May 18: Ed Hobough and Miss Hopkins of Ice Capades
June 1: Floyd Robinson, Jim McAnany
June 6: Stan Johnson, Hector Rodriguez
June 7: Baseball comedian Jackie Price
June 9: George Metkovich, four poses.
June 13: Jim Baxes, and brother Mike of Vancouver
June 13: J.C. Martin, George Freese and Willie Causion of Portland.
June 15: Jim Greengrass, Valmy Thomas
June 16: Whitey Wietelmann
June 23: Robert Sadowski
July 4: William (Whitey) Wietelmann
July 8: Camilo Carreon
July 14: George Freese and Jim Baxes
July 23: Bob Sadowski and George Freese
July 24: Don Ferrarese
July 25: Mrs. George Metkovich
July 25: Bob Lemon
July 25: Lester Cook & George Metkovich
July 29: Jimmie Reese
August 1: Jimmie Reese, Ralph Kiner, Whitey Wietelmann
August 1: Charlie Smith and J.C. Martin
August 5: Stan Johnson & Bob Sadowski

August 7: Grover Jones
 September 3: Joe Hicks, Ollie Brantley
 September 5: Stan Johnson
 September 11: Valmy Thomas, Howie Reed, Bob Sadowski, Stan Johnson, Joe Hicks, Camilo Carreon, Ken McBride.
 September 12: Jimmie Reese and Stan Johnson
 September 30: Ray Boone
 October 28: Ralph Kiner, C. Arnholt Smith, Jim Mulvaney
 October 6: Eddie Hurley, grandson of Umpire Ed Hurley
 November 2: C. Arnholt Smith & Ralph Kiner
 November 10: Jimmie Reese, Ralph Kiner, Whitey Wietelmann



One of baseball stuntman Jackie Price's favorite tricks was to catch a baseball while hanging from his heels.



*San Diego Friar shaking out players sent to Padres by parent Chicago White Sox club:
 Joe Martin, Ed Roebuck, Gary Peters and Ken McBride.
 Sketch by Bob Fassett. Courtesy San Diego Union-Tribune.*

**HEAR
ALL
THE 1960
SEASON**



JACK VISSARS



LUTE MASON

**San Diego PADRES
GAMES**

on

KFMB

540

SAN DIEGO

**Enjoy the Game More
by Keeping Score**

Half the fun at a ball game is keeping your own score. It's easy, if you follow a few simple rules.

Number each player as follows: (This has nothing to do with his uniform number, which appears BEFORE his name on the score card.)

Pitcher 1	Third Baseman 5
Catcher 2	Shortstop 6
First Baseman 3	Left Fielder 7
Second Baseman 4	Center Fielder 8
	Right Fielder 9

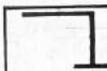
Learn and use these abbreviations for plays: BB—base on balls; H—base hit; Sac—sacrifice fly; F—fly ball; FI—foul fly; K—strike out; HP—hit by pitched ball; WP—wild pitch; PB—passed ball; E—error; SB—stolen base; FC—fielder's choice; FO—force out; BK—balk.

Examples: F-8—batter flies out to center field; E-5—batter reaches first on error by third baseman; 6-3—batter is thrown out at first by shortstop.

In scoring, consider each square in the scorebook as a miniature baseball diamond. The lower right corner represents first base. The upper right is second; upper left third, and lower left is home plate. Now, to indicate a base hit, draw a short horizontal line in the lower right corner. If it goes to right field, place a short vertical line at the RIGHT end of this line; if to left field, place the vertical line at the LEFT of the horizontal line; and if hit to center, place it at the CENTER of the line. If the ball is hit to an infielder, place the position number of the infielder at the end of the vertical line. For example, a single through second base is shown by making a horizontal line with a short vertical line at the right of it, and a "4" marked at its end.

For a two-bagger, extend your vertical line all the way up to second; for a triple, run it over to third. And for a home run, make it all the way around the square and place an "X" in the center. Illustration shows a 3-base hit into center field.

When the third man has been put out, draw a heavy black line across the bottom of this square to indicate the end of the inning.





This original version of the "Carlos Hadaway Friar" in water color was painted in 1961.

The original is owned by John Bowman, Board Member, San Diego Baseball Historical Society, and former Padres Public Address announcer at Westgate Park. In this portrayal the Friar wears a baseball cap in lieu of the halo.

This chapter contains a recap of the history of the "Swinging Friar" and provides samples of variations used over the years.

CHAPTER IV
 SAN DIEGO PADRES, 1961
 THE YEAR OF REESE, NORMAN AND HEFFNER



1961 Team Photo

The San Diego Padres had reason to be optimistic about the 1961 baseball season. The club had shown strength at the end of the 1960 season. Baseball's 2,400 mile home run from the mainland to Hawaii became official on January 11, as Nick Morgan Jr., of Salt Lake City, signed a contract with the Honolulu Stadium, guaranteeing the operation there of a Pacific Coast League franchise. The annual PCL meeting was called to recognize Honolulu as a new member, replacing Sacramento.

Many of the best-known baseball names were on hand in the San Diego area on February 4, for the annual Hot Stove pre-season dinner in the Palm Room of the U.S. Grant Hotel. Present to hear Joe Garagiola were Bob Elliott, Jack Harshman, Bob Skinner, Duke Snider, Deron Johnson, Jimmie Reese, Ray Boone, Don Larson, Dick Aylward, Cedric Durst, Whitey Wietelmann, Dain Clay, Pete Coscarart and Steve Mesner. Others were Hal Patchett, Floyd Robinson, Al Jones, Rod Graber, Bob Kerrigan, Howard Craghead, Tony Criscola, Del Ballinger and Lou Ortiz, Ed Barr, and Charlie Smith.

News arrived in January

1961, that the Los Angeles Chargers planned to move to San Diego. Sports writers such as Jack Murphy, of the *San Diego Union*, fired up their columns for what the city really wanted, a major league baseball franchise. Prominent visitors, including George Kirksey, Gene Autry, Bob Reynolds, Del Webb and Joe Garagiola fueled this sentiment with their ideas. San Diego organizations had committees who were doing studies in the belief that professional baseball would come to town given the right conditions.

Reese had not spent all of his time at the roast beef and potato circuit talking about the coming season and the players. He went to Florida inspecting camps for a good second baseman. Leishman was kept busy attending meetings while Whitey Wietelmann worked with try-



*Jim Mulvaney and
Eddie Leishman*



Mike Hershberger

out camps at Westgate Park.

Ralph Kiner, vice president of the Padres, had been silent. On February 10, he was reported meeting with Hank Greenberg of the Chicago White Sox to consider Radio-TV broadcast offers he had received. President Jim Mulvaney confirmed Kiner's departure—the exact date depending on his job choice. The man who had led the majors in home runs for seven consecutive years commanded a salary estimated as \$90,000. Kiner had the personality, the voice, and the background for a radio or TV announcing stint and so he left, much happier among the celebrities in the majors, but there can be little doubt that the change had been in the mill from the time Jimmie Reese had been hired as the GM and Kiner went upstairs.

Mike Hershberger had

proved himself a prospective Triple A ball player when he batted .283 at Charleston, S.C. The 21 year old outfielder played with the Chicago White Sox during early spring training in Hollywood, Florida, went to Ohio to get his wife, and then drove out to join the AAA Padres in Indio. Jimmie Reese said on February 10, "He has good potentiality. He throws well, hits the ball sharply and has better than average speed." Al Lopez had high praise for the youngster too. "Mike has improved a lot in a year, so much so he could be your centerfielder at San Diego next season." The 5'10" 175 pound athlete proved to be a good defensive player with a very a fine arm.

In San Diego Bob Skinner, Jack Harshman, Whitey Wietelmann, Tony Criscola, Rod Graber, Bob Elliott, Cedric Durst, Ed Runge, Howard Craghead, Earl Brucker, and Les Cook held Saturday morning clinics for different Little League districts. Leishman kept busy and desired an exhibition game in the spring or in the regular season at Tijuana's Juarez baseball park.

Signed contracts dribbled into the front office. Ben Wade and Grover Deacon Jones returned their papers promptly. Wade, a 38 year old veteran received praise from Leishman, and would see plenty of bullpen service for the Padres this season. The 6-3 right-hander, had compiled an 8-3 record the previous



Ken Retzer

season while working in 115 innings. The likable Irishman was in his 19th season in baseball. During this period, he pitched for the Chicago Cubs, Brooklyn, St. Louis and Pittsburgh. A fine hitting pitcher, he once hit two homers off Warren Spahn of Milwaukee in a single game. Sports fans stuck to their dream of major league baseball in San Diego.

George Kirksey, who worked 10 years to get Houston into major league sports, spoke to an organizational meeting of the Greater San Diego Sports Association at the Town and Country Hotel. He had ramrodded passage of a \$22 million bond issue in Houston for construction of the all-weather stadium. He explained that the path would be fraught with disappointment. He

said, however:

This stuff is dream stuff. Somebody must dream a dream and make this thing come true. Otherwise it's just plain talk. You're going to have to reach for a star and you may not get it. But you won't wind up with a handful of mud either.

One of the playing considerations for the PCL directors was whether or not to initiate a radical rule change which would permit club managers to say before each game whether his pitcher would hit, or would have another player take the pitcher's turns at bat.

On April 13, in a game at Galvin Park, the Padres smashed 22 hits and blasted Hawaii, 13-4. Mike Hershberger bashed a double, triple and single, while Bobby Knoop and Ken Retzer collected doubles. On the 16th, they launched a 22 hit attack on the Mounties 19-5. Of his performances at San Diego, Reese said as often as he could, he would play young Mike Hershberger, "a brilliant centerfielder, once he appears ready to carry a bigger bat. Mike is a major league caliber outfielder, once he can improve his hitting." Reese penciled Mike in the Padre Roster on opening day April 21, 1961.

In Seattle on March 4, the PCL voted to try out the so-called "wild card" rule in 1961, giving its managers the right to name a substi-

tute to hit for a pitcher. "The concept was to make the game more entertaining," said Dewey Soriano, PCL President. Within a few days the Los Angeles Dodgers filed an official protest against the PCL over the proposal. The protest was filed on behalf of the Spokane team, which was owned by the Dodgers.

With tongue in cheek, Jack Murphy wrote that, "Even [a] great hitter like [Bob] Kerrigan sees merit in the Coast League plan. While a great pitcher, Kerrigan usually had four or five hits a season except for one year when he didn't get a hit at all." Murphy thought that sagging attendance was the prime reason why the Coast League is tinkering with the rules. "The major leaguers have risen to the bait by denouncing the plan in strong terms and there

hasn't been so much life in years." At least the rule encouraged people to talk about baseball and the PCL again.

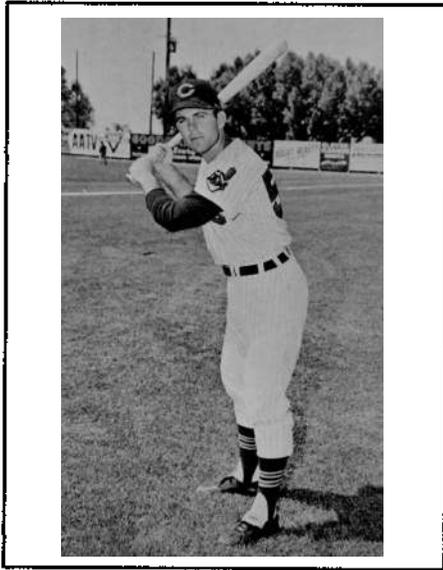
Perhaps no other manager in the PCL knew the players of the entire league as well as Leishman. He said that it was apparent to him that the step was quite short from the Coast League to the major leagues. "Sixty-six players on last year's major league rosters had performed in the Coast League the season before, and all of last year's Coast League All-Star team should stick in the majors this season," Leishman predicted.

The team opened their 26th annual spring training session at Indio. Leishman and Reese spoke of their players. Jim Bolger was one of the important acquisitions this year.

The ex-major leaguer batted



*Padre relievers Al Brice, Don Williams, Glen Rosenbaum, Dick Lines.
Photo from Jay Leishman*



Gene Leek

.279 in 1960 for Sacramento, an average that included 30 doubles, nine triples and eight home runs. The 29-year-old Cincinnati resident had his best season with Los Angeles in 1956, when he hit .326, blasted 28 homers and drove in 147 runs. He led the league in double plays for an outfielder with four the previous season.

Bobby Knoop was a second baseman being tried at third base. The 6'-1", 170-pound infielder from Montebello hit the ball solidly. The 22-year-old Knoop batted .280 for Austin the previous season. He drilled 17 doubles and had five home runs. He played briefly with Louisville.

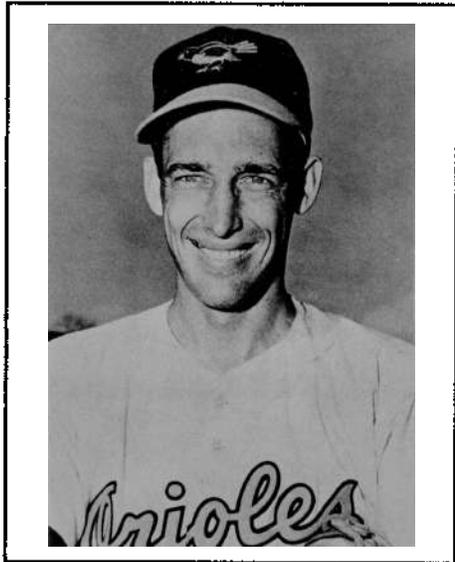
Dick Barone and Bob Sagers spoke of Jim Napier, Bob Roselli and Camilo Carreon as getting ready for the opener against Seattle at Westgate Park on April 21. In an early trade,

the Padres made another move in the transition from a "popgun" to a "shotgun" offense when they acquired outfielder Joe Taylor 6'-1", 187-pound outfielder who could be the key to San Diego's hopes this season. Taylor acquired in a trade for Rodolfo Arias, represented some of the power the Padres had needed. At Seattle in 1960, he hit 30 home runs and drove in 94, while batting .291. Reese felt Taylor represented a lot of runs, but the Padres would have to check his off hours. Leishman said, "It is true he likes to wander from the reservation once in a while."

Dick Barone batted only .204 the previous season with Columbus but he represented a fine inves



Eddie Leishman, Jimmie Reese, Archie Moore at Bat, Whitey Wietelmann catching.



Jack Harshman

ment at shortstop. He had quick reflexes and could get the ball away in a hurry. The 28-year-old infielder was from San Jose, California. He would be starting his ninth season.

In the bigger picture, Cubans who had planned to come to the States to play could no longer do so because Fidel Castro had become angry at President Dwight D. Eisenhower's breakup of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The San Diego squad had two Cubans who could be affected, Hector Rodríguez and Dave Jiminez.

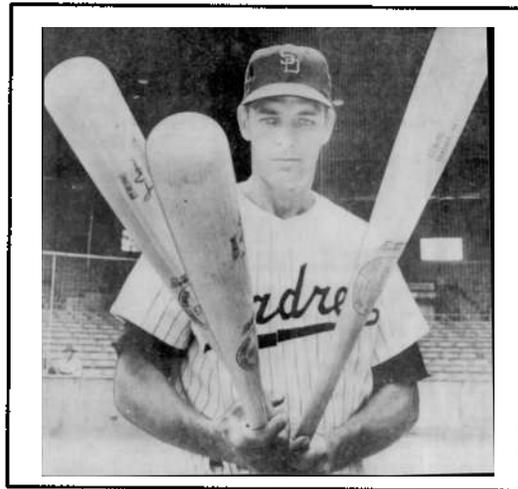
Reliable, dependable "Iron Mike" dealt the Padres a blow in a freakish accident, when Bobby Sagers severely cut his wrist with a sharp blade of The Machine's throwing arm and was rushed from Indio to Mercy Hospital, in San Diego. Sagers was



Bobby Sagers

feeding balls into the machine, when he reached across its sharp blade. He would be out for several months—the first accident ever incurred with the machine.

Dick Lines, a 6-1 left-hander, had been with Salt Lake City the previous year where he had a 9-7 record. This was his fifth season and



Tony Roig



he was well above the .500 average, with 40 victories against 28 defeats. The 22 year-old hurler from Hallandale, Florida came within one pitch of tossing a perfect no-hitter while at Clinton in the Midwest League, in 1957. Leishman counted on Lines for a full season as a starter.

At Indio in camp, in late March, Don Ferrarese and Gene Leek were given the newsprint for well-played ball in the exhibitions with

Los Angeles.. Leek the ex-Hoover high star, appeared set with the Angels, as did Ted Kluszewski, "the big boy with the telephone arms."

At Indio, Leishman, Les Cook and Whitey Wietelmann talked about feeding the players, their habits and those whose appetite was "gluttonous." The cost to feed the team in spring training was \$5,000. As far as Wietelmann was concerned, former Padre Shanty Hogan was the champion eater of all time:

He ate just like a horse, I've seen him eat five full course steak dinners at one meal and if the other players hadn't told him he was going to bust I think he would have gone for No. 6.

Les Cook said,

I never saw Hogan eat in a dining room. The big guy always had his meals brought to his room, but I know it took at least two waiters to carry the load.



Padres Complimentary Pass, 1961 from Bud Relyea

Eddie Leishman recalled Art Hunt former Seattle outfielder, as the biggest eater he had seen.

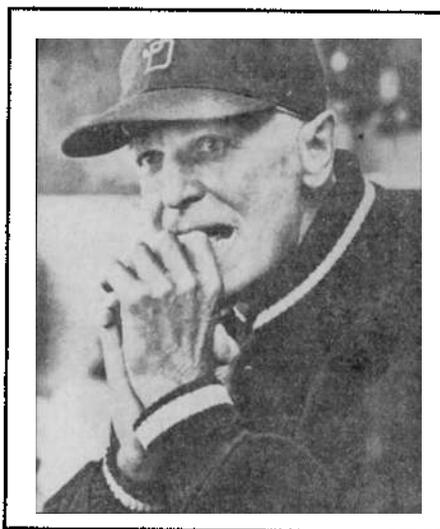
He could eat and eat. He put away two steaks without any effort at all. Hunt liked to cut the ties of the late Seattle club owner in half. One time Klepper had half of a tie ground up and placed in Hunt's

omelet. Hunt ate it all without knowing the difference.

They liked the players meals stipend to stay around \$5 a day. Umpire Emmet Ashford, always a big favorite with fans and players participated in the Padre camp at Indio, working exhibitions and eating with the Padres. In a game against Vancouver on March 29, Grover (Deacon) Jones, batting for the pitcher under the proposed new Coast League rule, collected two doubles.

On April 1 the news broke that the Baseball Rules Committee meeting in Tampa Bay, Florida rejected a "radical proposal" in the PCL that would permit a pitcher in the game after a pinch-hitter had batted for him. Dewey Soriano, PCL President had sponsored the proposal. Of the eight man committee, Hank Greenberg of the Chisox was the only one who voted for passage. None of the proposals submitted to the rules committee by the minors was accepted; all were rejected with the notation that the rejections applied to all teams, not just the league making the recommendation.

On March 28, Manager Leishman flew to Chicago to meet with the parent Chisox and with the Pirates for badly needed players. Leishman proved successful as he helped sign native San Diegan southpaw Jack Harshman, a former Chicago White Sox twirler. Harshman



*A nervous
Manager Jimmie Reese*

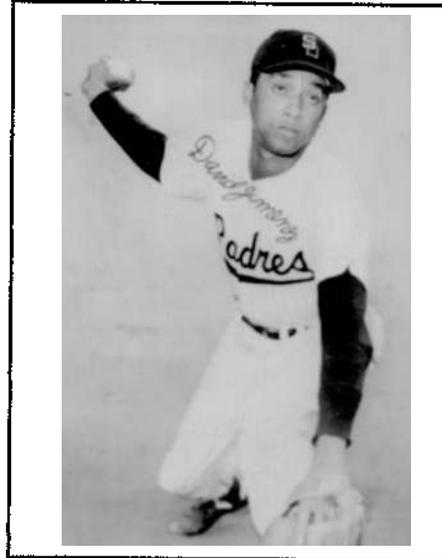
had signed as a free agent with the Angels, after his release from Cleveland. He had also pitched for Baltimore, Boston and the New York Giants. Harshman spent eight seasons in the majors, where he had impressive strikeout records. He won 14 and lost eight with the White Sox in 1954, fanning 134 and acquiring an earned run average of 2.95. The 33-year-old hurlers' best ERA with Baltimore in 1958, where he recorded 2.90 and fanned 161 batters. The 6-2 left-hander, also was a fine pinch-hitter.

Nearing the opening season date on April 5, the Chisox sent down pitcher Frank Barnes a 33-year-old right-hander who had his first losing season with the Padres in 1960, but was effective enough to get another look by the White Sox this spring. His

overall record was 99 victories against 74 defeats. The 6-foot, 185-pounder was 5-10 the previous season with a 3.225 ERA for the Padres. In 1957, he led American Association pitchers when his earned run average was 2.41 and he led the league in shutouts with six.

Jake Striker, who had been with the Padres in 1960, also came down from the Chisox. At almost the same time, the Phillies bought Don Ferrarese. The locals, however, were not sure of what they would receive for the sale, hoping for an infielder. The Chicago parent team then announced they were sending down Tony Roig and Stan Johnson, two solid infielders. They added Gary Peters and Alan Brice pitchers, lefty Ed Drapcho and outfielder Stan Johnson.

Tony Roig could play any position in the infield or outfield but would be at third base with the Padres. Roig 6'-2" and 185-pounds, was a consistent hitter. While at Spokane the past three seasons, he hit .282, .281, and .279. He was eighth in the league for most number of RBIs, with 90. This would be Roig's 12th season in baseball. Stan Johnson, a promising major league prospect, was returned by the White Sox for another year of seasoning with the Padres. He was second best hitter in the Coast League the previous year with .333. The 5'-10", 180 pound San Franciscan would be in



David Jimenez, pitcher

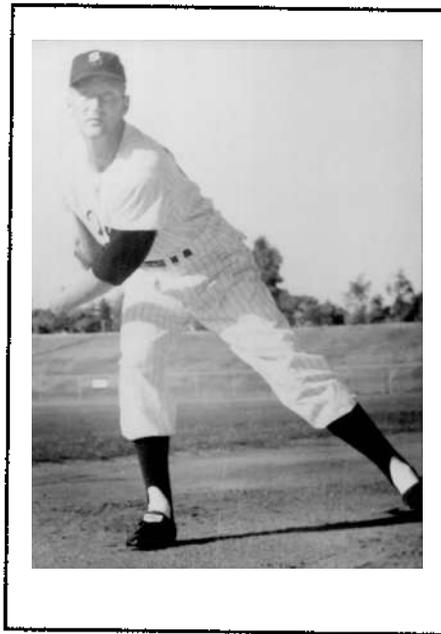
left field A left-handed batter, Stan collected 31 doubles, 11 triples and eight homers. The 24-year-old outfielder had been selected to play with the Coast League All-Star team.

Gary Peters, who was just 21 likely would be groomed for one of the starting assignments. The 6'2" left-hander compiled a 12-9 record with the Padres last year and an ERA of 4.34. He worked in 172 innings, struck out 127 batters and completed 11 of 24 games he started.

Alan Brice, who twirled for Lincoln and Charleston the previous year, would be the tallest Padre at 6'5". He had a 2.12 ERA in 25 games for Lincoln. Brice, considered a bright prospect, was with the Chicago White Sox during the American League club's spring training at Sarasota, Florida. He had a 10-7 record at Lincoln and 1-2 at Charleston.

Ed Drapcho, a 25-year-old left-hander, had a fine 2.90 earned run average the prior year at Mobile while compiling a 6-2 record. The 25 year old hurler, who was 5'11" and 175 pounds, was with the Chicago White Sox at Sarasota, Florida earlier this spring. He probably would see service in relief for the Padres this year.

The Padres clearly lacked something as they dropped eight exhibition games in a row. At home in a two-game exhibition series against the Los Angeles Dodgers, the first game was called by curfew after the 14th inning with a 7-7 tie. In the second game on April 9, the Dodgers took the game 2-1 with Duke Snider, the "Fallbrook Flash," pinch-hitting with Norm Sherry on first. Duke walloped one over the right field fence, 320-feet away. Gilliam, Howard, Hodges, Koufax and other

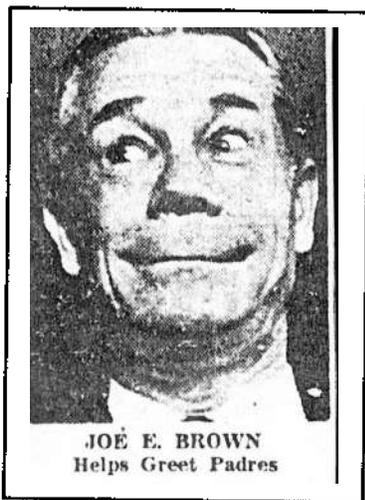


*Herb Score. Photo courtesy
The Hall of Champions*

familiar names took the field for the Dodgers.

At Riverside on a players' day off, GM Eddie Leishman still looked for players and acquired first baseman Kent Hadley from the Yankees and Glen Rosenbaum, a middle-inning relief pitcher from Cleveland. These acquisitions and player moves did not always get applause from fans, but the sportswriters supported Eddie Leishman's every move.

Kent Hadley, 26, a strong hitting first baseman, was one of the last acquisitions by the Padres. The 6'2-1/2", 190 pounder had played with the New York Yankees and Richmond last year. He also had played for the Kansas City Athletics. Twice while at Little Rock, he hit three



JOE E. BROWN
Helps Greet Padres

Joe E. Brown

homers in one game and hit two against Detroit in one game.

Glen Rosenbaum, a 24 year old right-hander, returned to the Padres where he was expected to handle the middle inning relief chores. He had worked in 49 games for Mobile in 1960, (48 in relief) and compiled a flossy 2.68 ERA. He hurled in 90 innings and gave up only 27 earned runs. The 5'-11", 170 pounder had an overall record of 69 victories and only 27 losses in six seasons.

Jack Murphy devoted an entire April 13 column about how the GM had been busy reselling the Padres to San Diego. He and Jimmie Reese both had said that despite television and two big league teams



*Herb Score and Les Cook.
Photo San Diego Historical
Society Collection.*



Manager Jimmie Reese give instructions to Dick Barone and Jim Bolger.

in the area, the Padres had a substantial and loyal following. The new marketing plan included 35 "special nights," which had already helped to sell out games in mid-season. Season ticket sales had surpassed the 1960 figure and many new business firms and industry signed up for special group rates.

Leishman made himself available to the general public, and while a game was in progress he'd look into the pressbox to check the flavor of the coffee, and then circulate with the fans. "Busy Ed" was not tied to a desk. He made himself available to complaints, or to discuss the prospects of his club. Leishman's value came in is ability to gather talent around him through his friendships and contacts with various people.

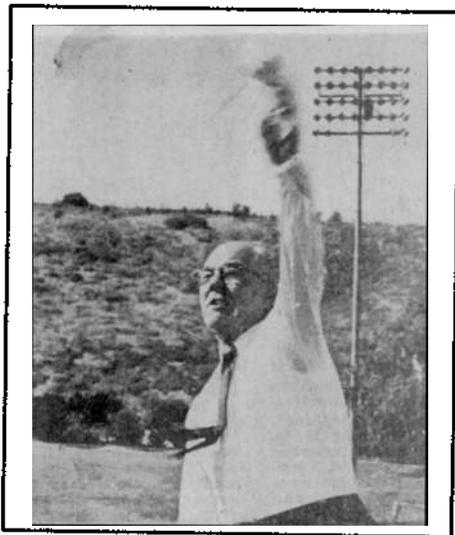
At Ontario, California on April 13, the Padres blasted Hawaii

13-4 on 22 hits; their bats finally coming to life at Galvin Park. They then edged the Mounties 12-11 at San Bernardino on Perris Field. On the 16th, they ripped the Mounties again, 19-5 on a 22 hit attack. In another game at Galvin Park against Vancouver, Mike Hershberger hit a 450-foot home run inside the park with pinch runner Harry Simpson on board.

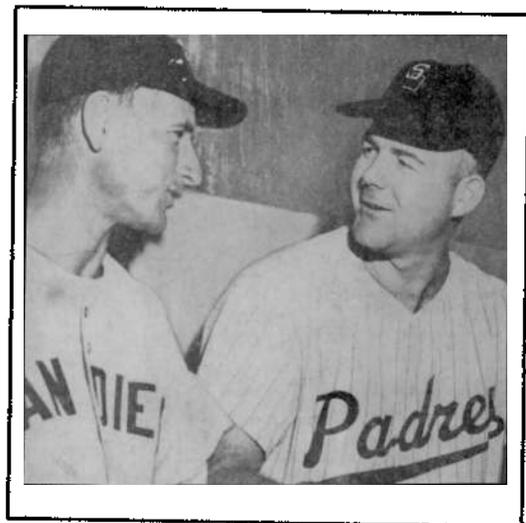
Pre-opening day matters had to do with predicting the winner of the coast loop. Johnny McDonald picked San Diego a 2-1 odds favorite. The Hot Stove League gave the team and fans a luncheon at the U.S. Grant Hotel, with Frank Alessio the Master of Ceremonies. Lefty Gómez was the featured speaker. At a luncheon with the Chamber of Commerce providing the entertainment Gómez again was the speaker. Present were C.

Arnholt Smith, James Mulvaney, Johnny Pesky of Seattle, and Mayor Charles C. Dail. Jimmie Reese introduced the 24 players who would open against Seattle in a daylight double-header on April 21. Dr. Al Anderson chairman of the chamber's sports committee, was master of ceremonies for the luncheon.

On April 22, 1961, the highlight of the evening for fans was the man on the mound throwing out the pitch with the same old spirit. Cedric Durst, ex-Padre pilot, found the plate with the honorary first pitch. Fireballer Dave Jimenez outdueled Seattle's Erv Palica, thanks to Tony Roig's homer, as they took the evening game 1-0 before 5,029 fans at Westgate. The Suds, who clobbered three homers, however, had taken the afternoon opener 5-4. That day, Bob Knoop was featured as the



Cedric Durst throws out first pitch on opening day.



Al Olsen discusses Al Worthington 4 hitter.



Eddie Leishman welcomes new manager Bill Norman.

second baseman being tried at third base.

The next day, the Padres lost one game to Seattle and then took a doubleheader over Seattle, to seize the PCL lead at Westgate before 4,817 customers. The major hitting had come from Harry Simpson, a fellow with a wealth of major league experience, having played for Cleveland, Kansas City, New York Yankees and the Chicago White Sox. The 35-year-old outfielder-first baseman had come on strong in the Padres' 13 game win streak the previous year. He hit well in spring games. The 6'2", 177- pounder played in the All Star game in 1956, and was in the World Series in '57 with the Yankees. He had spent eight of twelve seasons in the majors.

On April 26, Noel Mickelsen, a San Diego State College graduate who called Spring Valley home,

pitched for the Vancouver Mounties to take a win which moved the early league leading Padres out of first place. This early in the season, the Padres losing to Vancouver four straight, brought Jimmie Reese to quickly switch his lineup around.

The Padres lost successive series to Vancouver, Spokane, and Portland. San Diego fans watched in early May as the Beavers trotted out former Padres Bud Podbielan, Jim Baxes and Clarence Moore. The Beavers drove the Padres into fifth place. Attendance registered each game between 1,200 and 2,000, dependent on the night or a doubleheader. Jimmie Reese told reporter Johnny McDonald, "Don't sell us short. I think we're ready to roll now and should prove it on this road trip." These were parting remarks as the 24-man Padre squad left for a day-night doubleheader against Seattle. He summarized the slow start as one which had left too many runners stranded on base.

At Seattle on 6 May, 9,218 fans showed for a doubleheader which the Rainiers won. After losing 3-2 in 13 innings, Reese decided it had come time for the entire squad to spend extra time in a batting drill. Then rained out for several days, Reese ordered indoor workouts to get his men out of seventh place. After two games were rained out, the team split a doubleheader with Vancouver, ending their six game

run of losses.

The locals finally got what they had been looking for on May 14: two well-pitched games and timely hitting for a 2-1 and 4-1 wins over Portland. Jimenez and Horlen tossed the wins while Simpson and Rodríguez drove the runs across. The team was still up and down, however, winning one, losing one and occasionally exploding, as on May 20 when they lost a two-run advantage in the ninth against the Bees, and came back with six runs in the 11th to win 12-8.

The coaches saw Hector Rodríguez, although crowding 41 (born June 13, 1920), as valuable as a utility infielder and hitter. He batted .282 for the Padres in the 1960 season while at bat 446 times. The 5'8" 165 pounder was from Havana. He spent some eight years playing winter league baseball in the Mexican outlaw league in the 40s. He was "Rookie of the Year" in the International League in 1951, and named to that league's all-star teams in 1954 and 1955, when with Toronto.

The team returned home to wait for Tacoma and made plans to help with tickets for the Clairemont Mesa Little League Night to raise money for a new field in Northeast Clairemont.

Never downcast but a disappointed Eddie Leishman held out few hopes for the addition of strength to the pitching staff. With a twin bill

and a third game rained out at Vancouver, he had the team purchase tennis shoes and work out at the YMCA. On May 15 with a 12-run burst they took Spokane 18-9.

On May 23, Gary Peters pitched a 9-1 win over his opposing pitcher, the incredible (and much later Padre) Gaylord Perry. The win moved the club up in the standings to fifth place, nine games out, but Tacoma took a twin bill. Manny Mota starred for Tacoma as Perry again pitched for the Giants.

Then on May 27, Herb Score, the ex-White Sox southpaw was sent down by the Chisox on a 24-hour option. Score had achieved fame with Cleveland during the mid-1950s. Six-foot-two and weighing 180 pounds, the left-hander was expected to help the Pads, although the White Sox were undergoing a shakeup because of their early season start, and Score was really being sent down to be able to pitch regularly and work on control. [See the interview with Jim Mulvaney.] Score had a long list of achievements during his 10 years in baseball. He was named American League Rookie of the Year in 1955, when he won 16 and lost 10 with Cleveland, led the league in strikeouts—245—and had an excellent 2.85 ERA. He struck out 16 White Sox players in one game that year, the first nine in succession. In 1956, he led the American League in shutouts, with five, and strikeouts with

263. He was a 20-game winner in 1956, losing only nine while hurling 249 innings.

Leishman wasted no time. As soon as Score arrived, he put him on the card to face Salt Lake City in the second game of a doubleheader at Westgate on May 28, as the largest crowd of the season 5,846 were on hand to see the new pitcher. Score lost the opener 3-2, but San Diego took a win in the second game on Roig's blow 5-3. Don Williams-of Columbus and Alan Worthington-two other firemen were to report to the Padres within a day or two.

In Hawaii on Memorial Day, it sounded more like the Fourth of July as the Padres swept the Islanders 6-3 and 8-0 when the Padres erupted with eight homers. The next night, San Diego took Hawaii 9-4 on 16 hits. While the Pads were not winning many games, they were tagging homers and by June 5, had home runs in 16 straight contests. The Islanders Park was a nightmare for pitchers because the right field fence was only 302 feet down the line, while the left field side was 322 feet.

The Hawaiian Islanders came into Westgate Park on June 6, as Julius 'Swampfire' Grant, brother of Cleveland mound ace "Mudcat" Grant, took the Padres 4-1. The 23-year-old pitcher had been the victim of six solo homers when he faced the same Padres in the small Honolulu

Stadium on Memorial Day. The same day, Milt Smith, Hawaii second baseman, was arrested at Westgate Park on 17 warrants for traffic violations in 1959 and 1960. Sixteen of these had come from Sacramento while one was for a violation in Chula Vista.

June 7, on Optimist night at the Park, ageless Bill Werle won over the Padres, 3-2, as 4,679 fans watched. The San Diegans lost four in a row before beating Hawaii 8-0 on June 8, as Gary Peters threw a nifty four hitter. The club saw the results of their losses before the game began, as only 1,064 fans turned out.

With Seattle at San Diego and winning an extra-inning game 6-4 on June 9, writer Johnny McDonald remembered that when Seattle manager Johnny Pesky spoke to the Hot Stove League luncheon he predicted the Padres would win the pennant. "Apparently, he used the material as a good pep talk for his ball players, who have lead the PCL since May 4. The Rainiers have been on top ever since." On June 11 the Padres were in fourth place, 11 games back. Manager Jimmie Reese was trying desperately to come up with the winning combination.

Herb Score, who had done poorly to date with wildness and booming hits, nonetheless was a drawing card for fans. On the 16th of June he drew 5,502 strong to see if

the one-time strikeout whiz could furnish some excitement. He did just that, whiffing 10 batters, and giving up only three hits to push the Padres to their third straight victory. For the first time that year he finished the game. The Pads shaved another game off the league leaders, with a win the next night, reaching the .500 mark. McDonald wrote, "Score, by the way, has attracted a total of 24,634 in the five games he has pitched for the Padres."

Joe Horlen took the next game 4-1. The 23-year-old right-hander started 12 of 26 games he pitched for Charleston, S.C. the previous year and compiled a 7-3 record, with a ERA of 2.93. As soon as this 6' 170-pounder acquired a change up pitch, Leishman felt he could be an asset to the Padres mound corps. He



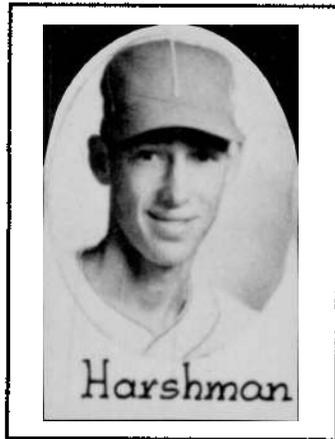
Harry "Suitcase" Simpson accepts 1961 Padres Most Valuable Player Award

had struck out 77 and walked 46 last season.

Reese, Leishman and the sports writers perked up as the Padres took a doubleheader from Portland and made up ground on the league leaders. At the same time,



Old-Timer's Game. Back Row Emil Patrick, Jack Harshman, Eddie Olsen, Lou Ortiz, Don Larsen, Dick Aylward, Pete Coscarart. Front Row: Cedric Durst, Steve Mesner, Rod Graber, Kent Parker, Bob Kerrigan, Bud Podbelian, Ed Barr. Photo courtesy Autumn Durst-Keltner.



Jack Harshman

Portland bought Padre hurler Frank Barnes. The pieces appeared to be falling in place.

In one week they had gone from 12 games off the pace to only seven back. Credit was given to Joe Taylor, who began to find the fences, to Bobby Sagers, for hitting and running, and to Hector Rodríguez for his timely hits and great fielding. Hector won the seventh in a row with a bloop single in the sixth inning against the Bevos.

During the month of June, Eddie Leishman, desiring a logo for the team, met with Carlos Hadaway, a San Diego lad in the U.S. Navy working as a cartoonist, for *The Hoist*, a newspaper published at the Naval Training Center. "The Friar" was designed at this time. [See *Voices from Westgate Park* at the end of this chapter for the story of the evolution of the Padre logo].

Al Worthington went the dis-

tance as the Pads edged the Bevos for the seventh in a row on the 20th of June. The eighth in a row came as Herb Score appeared to return to his fast ball as he threw a two hitter at Portland. A fine Convair Night crowd of 4,851 was treated to Score's best mound performance of the season for the Padres. They took nine in a row as Horlen pitched a three hitter over Portland.

His teammates called him the Padres lucky charm. Bobby Sagers had returned to the lineup on June 17, and since that time, the Padres hadn't lost a game. Reese said that "Bobby's outstanding play plus the return to form of Joe Taylor are the big reasons we have been rolling as well." Reese jinxed the team. The skein ended at 10.

They lost two in a row to the Mounties as Noel Mickelsen, assistant basketball coach at San Diego State during the winter months, pitched Vancouver to the second win, 5-0. On June 26, the Pads lost a doubleheader at Vancouver as 6,868 fans showed up to see Herb Score, who pitched and lost the opener.

Losing another on the 26th, the Pads remained in fourth place, yet only 6-1/2 games behind the leading Rainiers. On the last day of June the San Diego Padres stood 5th in the standings, 8 games behind the perennial leader Seattle.

On the 29th day of June, the Seattle Suds tripped the Padres 6-2.

Herb Score lasted but two innings. The highlight was a powerful homer by Mike Hershberger, his eighth homer of the season.

Since Seattle stood in first place on that date, the PCL All-Star game would be held there on July 10. The four Padres chosen to the All-Star team were catcher Ken Retzger, third baseman Tony Roig, outfielders Harry Simpson and Jim Bolger.

On July 2, the *San Diego Union* carried the story that GM Leishman said he was not contemplating a change in San Diego Padre manager Jimmie Reese. "It has been a season of hot and cold play by all teams except Salt Lake City," Leishman said. "We had a hot streak, then we cooled off. Some of our players have been in slumps, but when they snap out of, it we should start winning again."

Almost as suddenly as he had come to the Padres as their field manager Jimmie Reese, announced his resignation. He had never believed in harshness with his players and felt that it was a good idea to turn the other cheek once in a while. The feeling among the players existed that some were taking advantage of his good nature, and didn't give him the respect he deserved. The depth of their standing, at this time in the season, was not that severe. Plenty of time remained to move up in the standings. The resignation, therefore, had to do more

with orders from the parent club, the Chicago White Sox.

Rumors already hit Jack Murphy's column that Willis W. (Bill) Norman, a troubleshooting scout for the Chisox, would replace Jimmie. Norman was not a man who turned the other cheek. Norman had the reputation as a nice fellow who got along with the ballplayers but he did not stand for monkey business. If the team lost a few ballgames, the players would know he was around, because he would jump right down one's throat if he figured the club kicked away a game it should have won.

As an interim field director, Whitey Wietelmann took over. Reese had coached the Padres for 13 years before taking over, succeeding George Metkovich July 31, 1960 as an interim manager. Reese would say that as manager he had died every day because he blamed himself for every loss, but had no other comments other than that his "resignation" was best for the team. There would be, however, very strong feelings about Jimmie Reese, one of the most popular coaches in the National Pastime. He had a particularly strong following among players, managers and owners in the PCL. [See *Voices from Westgate Park* in this section for additional comments *in re* the Reese departure].

When pilot Norman arrived he took over a team standing 13

games out. His hiring was highly questioned in baseball circles; his record with other teams had been extremely tenuous. The White Sox management, however, felt that by supplying a man from their own organization as manager, they might get a better line on the younger outstanding players on the club.

At home on July 12, the Padres looked forward to a 28-home game stand after the All-Star break. While Norman insisted on driving the 1,700 miles west in two days, the case of Jimmie Reese became puzzling and worrisome.

The loss of the great Jimmie Reese did not, however, raise the team in the standings. They continued to lose here and there, but the sun shone on the playing of Mike Hershberger and Harry "Suitcase" Simpson, or Joe Taylor who, to this point, had slammed 30 home runs. Dave Jimenez, a fire-baller, had compiled a 11-7 record with Salt Lake City in 1960. The 30-year-old, 6'-3" right-hander from Managua, Nicaragua, last year fanned 113 batters in 153 innings he pitched. In 1954, with Clinton, he led the Mississippi Ohio Valley league pitchers in strikeouts with 249. He started 15 games for the Bees in 1960.

One of Norman's first actions was to suspend Dave Jimenez without pay for his behavior in a game at Tacoma. The team continued to drop in the standings, and by July 24, had

fallen to seventh and 19 games out. The Padre hitters included four players barely over .300 and only player, Don Williams, a winner at 7-3; all others, including the hopefuls such as Herb Score, ran out of gas with more losses than wins.

A wonderful luncheon was held at the Kona Kai Club on Shelter Island in San Diego on July 17 to help make the visit of publisher J.G. Taylor Spink of *The Sporting News* an enjoyable one. He was fascinated with the growth of San Diego, noting that Westgate could easily be converted into a major league facility with its beautiful surroundings. A story related the strength of Smith's strong interest in seeing a major league club in San Diego.

In a month, San Diego had won only 10 of 32 games and dropped from five games out to 19 out. Norman had tried new men at every position in his short tenure to try to turn the team around. Chicago long ago had given up on optioning players, or in making trades, so the Padres had to go it alone.

Just in time to give the Padres' season end a boost, *The Sporting News* broke a story that "Padres Leishman Hailed as Top Prospect for Big-Time in G.M. Post." The story touted Eddie as ready, with full support of the Padre ownership, to manage a major league team should San Diego get that chance.

At home, Art (Pop) Billings,

veteran scout and manager of the Ryan Aircraft team in semipro play for many years, felt that baseball appeared to be in trouble. He felt the game needed more men who “really want to play and have the desire and drive and want to play the game...I don't think most of them are hungry any more.” In the August 15, 1961 issue of the *San Diego Union* Earl Keller carried a lengthy article on the former PCL players in which he and Billings applauded their desire to play the game, citing many outstanding reminiscences and pointing to the old-timers game held on August 27 at Westgate Park. Billings said, “Bring back the Padres of old. I liked them.”

Clearly unhappy, according to sportswriters, with their ties to the White Sox, the Padres were looking to a working agreement with the Philadelphia Phillies. While some fans were looking at the National League standings and saying, “Oh no” Earl Keller was reminded that some major league teams, in the depths of their league, had outstanding minor league teams with some youthful and great players on their way up. Yet discussions about affiliations with the Padres continued with Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and the Phillies.

While that discussion was writ in the newspapers, Hank Greenberg paid a visit to San Diego and said he could see nothing wrong with the pitching and hitting. He had

come on a good night, however: August 22nd, as Joe Taylor hit a home run—his 24th, Hershberger hit a three bagger, and Al Worthington gave up only four hits to Hawaii a team in fourth place 24 games behind the leader. The next day the Padres blanked Hawaii behind Al Worthington's second straight sparkling shutout performance, 3-0 before 3,809 fans at Westgate Park. He was helped by some rifle-like throws by centerfielder Mike Hershberger, to throw out runners at home plate.

Greenberg was in San Diego for another matter; this was merely a layover—he had his eyes on a stadium in Orange County for a major league franchise. He did not want Chavez Ravine. In his attempt to make a point the White Sox GM said he felt that the Angels would not make it in Los Angeles and pointed to the football team which went from Los Angeles to San Diego. Hershberger would be a short-timer with the Padres, however, because he and Joe Horlen, who had made great strides during the season were informed they would be reporting to the parent Chicago White Sox in early September.

A landmark was passed on August 26, when Al Worthington hurled the first no-hit, no-run game in Westgate Park, over the Hawaiian Islanders, 5-0. A double play ended the game. The right-hander walked four and struck out four. This game

was made more remarkable by the fact that he had now pitched 27 scoreless innings and said, "My fast-ball was working real well and the curve was breaking just right." The ex-major league twirler had a natural slider with his fast pitch, which made him effective against either a right or left-hand hitter.

The crowd of 3,505 grew tense as the 6' 2", 205-pound hurler came out for the ninth inning and breathed a sign of relief when rightfielder Jim Bolger made a leaping catch of a sinking fly, and veteran first sacker Harry Simpson grabbed a liner for a game-ending unassisted double play.

The win was their fifth straight triumph and moved them to within a game and a half of fourth place. The distance, however, to first place was 26-1/2 games and they were glued in that position with two other teams.

They became a comeback team of sorts when they took their seventh straight, moved into fourth place and no longer appeared as a fade-out team in the closing weeks. Before the final game, Harry Simpson was named the Most Valuable Player and awarded the Murray Goodrich trophy and \$150. Voted the most popular player for 1961 by the fans, he also was awarded a suit.

A photograph appeared in the *San Diego Union* of August 28 with Worthington, Larry French and

Bob Kerrigan. French and Kerrigan had played in the oldtimers game the day before and wore the uniforms with the lettering "San Diego," and Worthington wore a pin stripe uniform with the lettering "Padres," reflecting the changing concepts in team appearance.

For the old-timers game, Cedric Durst managed a club of former Padres which included Kerrigan, Harshman, Vitalich, Ballinger, Graham, Wietelmann and a number of other popular players, including Mesner, Clay, Patchett, Criscola, Usher, Faber and Clay.

For the Coast Leaguers handled by Earle Brucker Sr., the team included French, Patrick, Olsen, Brucker Jr. Ritchey, Glynn, Coscarart, Schuster, Boone, Regalado, Harry Elliott and Ed Barr.

Bill Norman would return to Chicago at the end of the season for further assignment by the White Sox. He had not indicated he wished to manage the Padres next season. He burned over schedules with Hawaii which called for the team to fly five hours to the Islands and play a doubleheader the first day and the last day of the season.

Reportedly coming to town for a luncheon was Charles S. (Chub) Feeney. He was due in San Diego to discuss with a Chamber of Commerce Committee, led by Dr. Al Anderson, San Diego's potential as a major league site. Feeney would say that he

would like to see a major league team in San Diego—the Dodgers. The city, however, would need a stadium.

The season played out as Tacoma ran far ahead of the other teams. San Diego slipped into fourth place after sweeping the last series in Honolulu. When they returned home, Bill Norman slipped out of town for Chicago. He had done what he was sent to do, get the team into a good position in the standings and try to hold to a .500 average. He had done that, but rumors flew that he drove his men and had given them a good tongue lashing at times. With his return to the Windy City, the Padres' ties to the Chisox also ended. No new pact was expected.

As early as August 29, Johnny McDonald made a safe prediction that the Padres would be seeking a working agreement with a new major league team next season, now that Hank Greenberg had resigned as Chicago White Sox general manager. There seemed no question that the Padre management had been displeased with the lack of personnel in the White Sox organization. The failure of the White Sox to furnish additional players during the current Coast League campaign was a major factor in the Padres poor showing.

Leishman reported on a number of players whom the White Sox had expected be returned to Chicago even before the end of the

current season and he appealed that this was a major reason the Padres had not had a winning season. He was, in fact, disappointed that Gary Peters and centerfielder Mike Hershberger would be sent back up soon and that Harry Simpson would go up at the end of the PCL season.

When Norman left, his praise for Leishman was high. Hopes for a renewal of any type of agreement with the Chisox were scotched, however, near the end of September, when they severed their relationship by mutual agreement. The Chisox preferred Indianapolis; the Padres preferred a major league team that would give them help from time-to-time.

On October 11, an *Evening-Tribune* story noted that the Padres would be the Cincinnati Reds' lone Triple A Farm Club. This also would be the first time the Pads had a working agreement with a National League club. Freddie Hutchinson, Reds pilot, and Eddie Leishman were good friends. The relationship also suggested the Pads would not train in Indio but travel to Tampa in tandem with the Reds.

In San Diego, Bill DeWitt, Cincinnati's G.M., met with Jim Mulvaney and Eddie Leishman to get acquainted with Westgate Park and San Diego.

After a five-hour meeting overlooking Westgate park, discussing player personnel and preparing



Larry French, Bob Kerrigan discuss no-hitter with Al Worthington.

spring training plans, DeWitt and C. Arnholt Smith pursued Smith's hopes for a jump to the majors. DeWitt told Smith, "You have major league facilities at Westgate Park ... I have figures and data which would be most helpful to you ... [I] will help you in every possible way to speed major league baseball for this city."

Locally, the Hot Stove League honored the El Cajon-La Mesa Little League Team National Champions. They had captured the Little League World Series at Williamsport, Pa. Ed Runge, popular American League umpire from San Diego, was honored by Del Webb, co-owner of the Yankees and Frank Alessio, President of the Hot Stove League.

The Padres lost three proven pitchers in the annual major league

draft: Don Rudolph, Ray Rippelmeyer and John Moorhead for \$25,000 each. Those expected losses were but one of the problems that would face Don Heffner, a Detroit Coach, as he signed his contract to become the next Padre field manager.

What had made the season so fascinating came through with the Padres taking the Gate Trophy. Their attendance had risen 43%, more than any other AAA league club during the season. Perhaps more significantly came the news that the Padres had a substantive working agreement with Cincinnati the next season.

Heffner announced immediately that he would retain Wietelmann as a coach, after Heffner went down a list of 10 finalists, con-

sidering Whitey one of the hardest working coaches in the business. As for selection of Heffner as field manager, Ted Williams said, "You couldn't have made a better choice." Meanwhile Leishman turned down offers to go to both Kansas City in the American League and to the Athletics, and to Houston a National League club in the same position, but he rejected all three offers.

Heffner looked over the Padre facilities after he and Leishman returned from the major league meetings in Miami Beach. They were pleased that San Diego had been awarded the 1963 minor league convention and planned their spring training to start at Tampa, Florida on March 12, 1962. Padre management, however, had already begun the hunt for players.

They purchased Zach Monroe, Charles Rabe and catcher Don Kravitz from Jersey City. Cincinnati optioned former Philly star Harry Anderson, an outfielder first-sacker, to San Diego. Also obtained were Johnny Briggs a right-handed pitcher, and Hal Bevan a catcher-first baseman. Earl Keller wrote on December 27 that the Redlegs' farms

bulged with all-stars by the dozens.

FINAL PCL STANDINGS: 1961

	W	L	GB
Tacoma	97	57	...
Vancouver	87	67	10
Seattle	86	68	11
San Diego	72	82	25
Portland	71	83	26
Hawaii	68	86	29
Spokane	68	86	29
Salt Lake City	67	87	30



*New Manager Don Heffner and
Play-by-Play Announcer Al
Schuss.*

*Photo courtesy Valerie Schuss
Foster*

VOICES FROM WESTGATE PARK

THE STORY OF THE SWINGING FRIAR

The first news of the "Swinging Friar" appeared in the [*San Diego*] *Sentinel* newspaper of April 20, 1961, with an advertisement for an upcoming game featuring "The Friar," designed by Carlos Hadaway, a graduate of San Diego High School who had joined the Navy and worked on the Naval Training Center newspaper, *The Hoist*.

The *San Diego Evening-Tribune* carried another story on June 17, 1961 which explained how Eddie Leishman had desired an animated emblem for the team, which led the cartoonist to do his sketch. Hadaway did several versions, one of which is reproduced in this Volume, the gift to the San Diego Baseball Society by John Bowman.

Jack Broward of Encinitas wrote an article in *The Beach*, April 18, 1996 titled: "The Second Half: Young Seaman was the 'Father of Padres' Friar," which detailed the origins for the Padres' "Friar".

Interview with BOB SHUMAKE by Mike Schlei

I used to meet with the Barnes Chase Advertising people every Monday morning to go over activities for the week. They had the Padres account, and their offices were right upstairs from mine in the First National Bank building. The original Friar was leaning on a bat and later had a bat on his shoulder.

Eddie Leishman came to me, and said he wanted more action. We decided swinging the bat would show more action, and that was the start of the Padres' Swinging Friar. I think the Friar was created in 1961 and we made him swinging the bat in 1962.

The Swinging Padre appeared in various forms over the years, but was retired after the 1984 National League champion Padres appeared in the World Series. The replacement was an impersonal circular baseball-looking design that marketers call a "corporate" logo.

But the fans never quit on the Padre, as the DiZinno Thompson agency discovered when it began planning a one-year marketing program for the team.

"Focus groups showed up wearing merchandise with the Padre logo. That meant the shirts were a decade old, and either they had not been showing up at the ballpark or they liked the old padre," said Tom DiZinno.

Barbara Thompson and agency artist David Fielding worked out a new design, giving the Padre a more rounded head and a bigger smile. They also changed the color of his robe from brown to plum.

His career comeback began with appearances in print and broadcast advertising, on programs and merchandise and on the big screen at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium. Sometimes the old Padre had a halo, sometimes not. Sometimes he batted left, sometimes right. The new version switch hit, as necessary, for design requirements.

Information from Jack Broward

Jack Broward of Encinitas, who wrote the article in *The Beach*, April 18, 1996 titled: "The Second Half: Young Seaman was the Father of Padres' Friar," detailed the origins for the Padres' Friar, for Ray Brandes and led this author to Mr. Carlos Hadaway who currently lives in Fountain Hills, Arizona. Michael Scharnow,

Editor of *The Times* detailed the amazing career of Carlos "The Kid," Hadaway after he left San Diego. Leaving the mountain hills of Flagstaff he and his wife moved to a place they call Rancho Montana where he has adjusted to his new life in the desert and spends hours each day painting away in his home studio with a wonderful collection of Western Americana.

Carlos put brush to canvas and began to work at western paintings--cowboys in action, portraits of cowboys in action and portraits of mountain men, Native-Americans and Arizona landscapes. He has participated in top shows throughout the western states and one of his paintings hangs in the Arizona State Capitol, presented to the State by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

The story of his life is a remarkable one in that when he determined to join the Navy, his eyesight was so bad there was no way he could pass the physicals. With a buddy, they switched paperwork around and he was in the Navy.

Since that time, he has had six eye operations paid for by the March of Dimes and the Crippled Children's Society. Carlos said:

A lot of ordinary people dropped their quarters into those little cans so that I can see today ... I feel obligated to the public for giving me my sight.

That is his way of saying thanks by offering quality, affordable western art.

What follows are some of the sketches of the various poses in which the San Diego Padres Friar has appeared, beginning with that portraying Eddie Leishman and Carlos Hadaway in the article titled, "Navy

Man's Cartoon Clicks. Carlos Hadaway displays his drawing that won contest June 18, 1961."

The other sketches are labeled. These are some of the variations of the logo which the San Diego Padres have changed from time-to-time until that of today--"The Swinging Friar--" who "Keeps The Faith."



"Navy Man's Cartoon Clicks" Carlos Hadaway displays his drawing that won contest, June 18, 1961. Eddie Leishman and Carlos Hadaway. Photo courtesy Jack Broward.



Carlos Hadaway and the first Padres "Friar."



Advertisement, June 17, 1961.

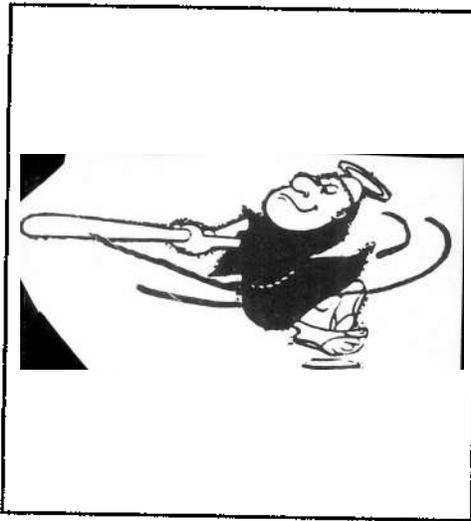


The PCL Never Had A Prayer

The 1962 PCL version with baseball cap and crown, and no halo or bat, drawn by Bob Fassett for the San Diego Union. The Friar wears the Crown.



Another version of the 1962 PCL Champs Friar



A 1963 version of the Friar with a halo, swinging a bat left-handed, facing left.



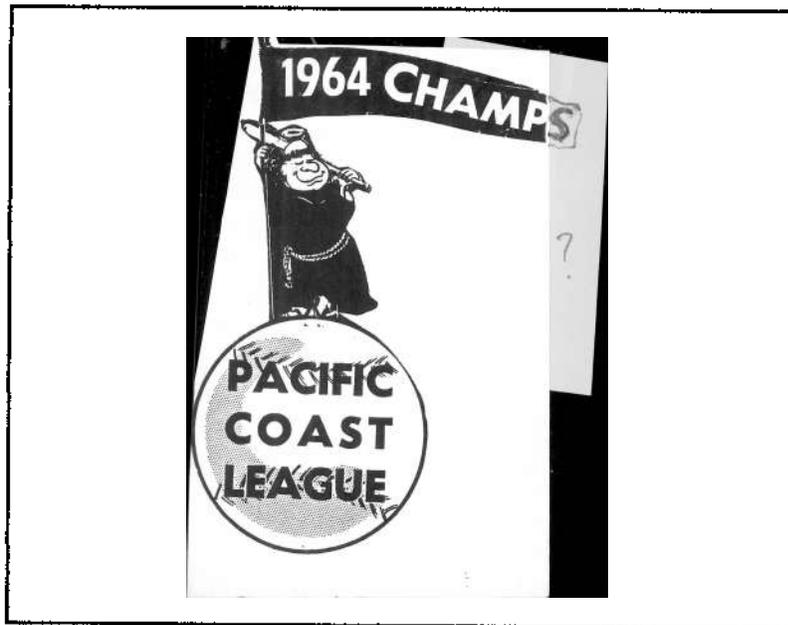
The Friar comes with a bag of hot peanuts.



The Friar slides head first into second base.



The Friar slides feet first into hird base.



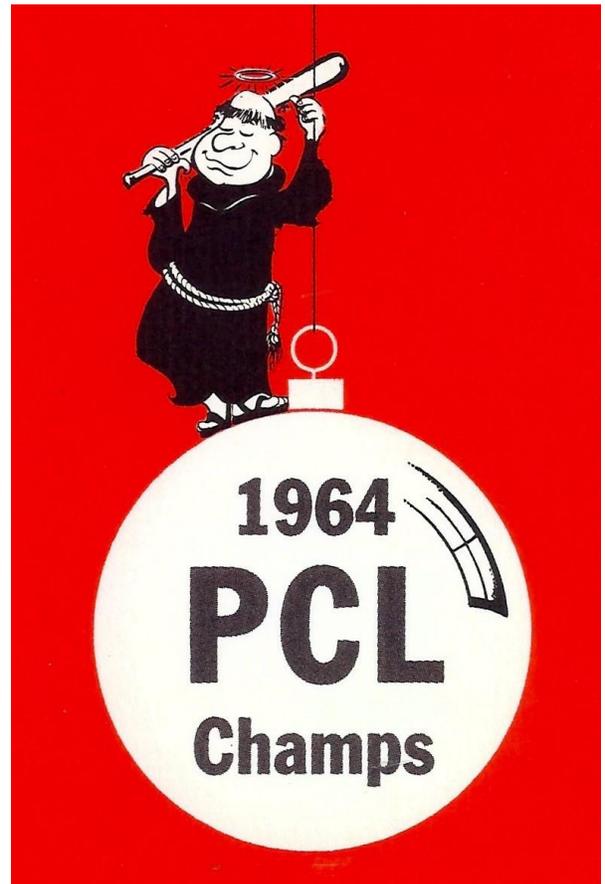
A 1964 PCL Champions version with halo. The Friar proudly holds the "Champs" Staff.

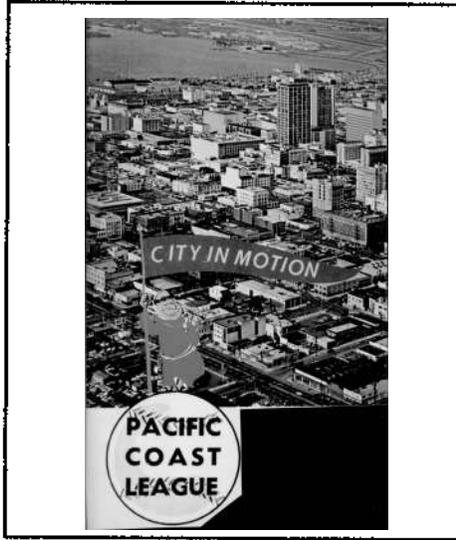


The hot dog version: Friar has halo and swinging bat right-handed.

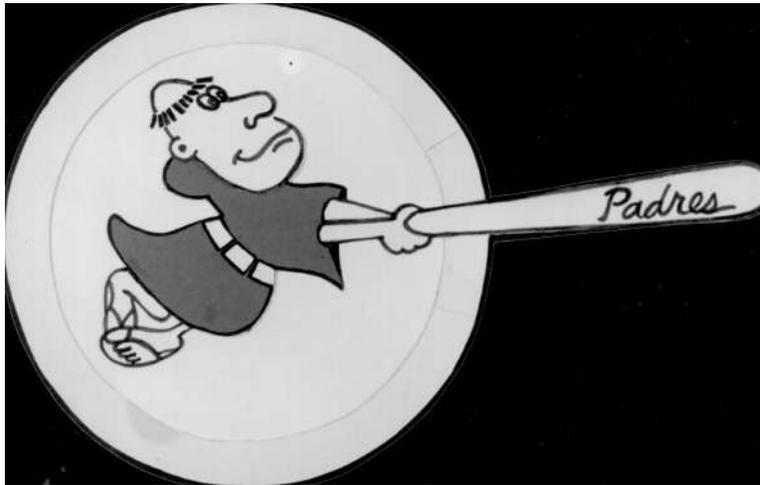


The fleet-footed outfielder Friar.





1962 "City in Motion" Friar (without the halo)
(from a Padre Program, in color).



AN ENIGMATIC TALE ABOUT JIMMIE REESE

When he resigned as Manager of the Padres while on the road, Jimmie Reese locked himself in a Tacoma hotel room and refused to talk to anybody but trainer Les Cook. He left town without saying goodbye to the ballplayers and the Padre management did not see him afterwards. Instead of returning to San Diego for his possessions, Reese got off a plane at Los Angeles. His clothing was shipped to his home in Hollywood, but he hadn't been answering his phone. Padre executives Jim Mulvaney and Eddie Leishman, whom Jimmie regarded as his closest friends for over a decade, couldn't reach him.

A month later Phil Collier of the *Evening-Tribune* decided to look further into the loss of Jimmie Reese, a beloved figure in baseball, to determine the true story of why Reese had left the Padres. Reese said he had never thought of quitting and traced the events leading up to the announcement of his resignation on July 7.

It all started when a writer came to me in Tacoma and said he had just filed a story predicting I would resign.

I said, [to Earl Keller] 'Why would you write a thing like that?' He said, 'Well the team isn't winning and I thought it would be logical for you to step out.'

I got a call from Eddie Leishman the next day. Eddie said, 'What's this about you quitting?'

I told him how the story

got started. I don't want to quit. I've got a one year contract and I intend to honor it.

Leishman said,

Well it's not worth it Jimmie if you're going to ruin your health. I'll check on your contract and call you back. He called the next day and said they would pay me for the rest of the season. That's how it happened.

Phil Collier wrote that Reese, a proud, sensitive man, locked himself in his Tacoma hotel room and even refused to open the door to trainer Les Cook an associate for 13 years. Reese said of his dismissal, "It nearly killed me." ... Reese slipped quietly into San Diego early one morning, picked up his car and his other belongings and then vanished. Hundreds of his friends tried to contact him at his North Hollywood home. Collier wrote that he might still be in hiding if it weren't for the persistency of his long-time friend and former employer, Bill Starr, one-time owner of the Padres.

"Bill is a wonderful and dear friend," said Reese. "He had just driven all over the United States with his son, but he said he wanted to get to see me".

Starr said,

"Jimmie, you are not the greatest manager in the world and you're not the first one to lose his job. You have a rich reservoir of friends and you are not being fair to them by refusing to see them. He is right and we went

to see the Angels play Detroit Wednesday night and it was good to see baseball again. It's a shock when you've been part of a game 13 years and then have to leave it. Hank Greenberg called the people next door and said he wanted to talk to me about a job and Fred Haney made the same offer. I'll talk to them now. I would like to get back into baseball."

Other *San Diego Union* reporters challenged Reese's veracity, suggesting a reporter (whom Jack Murphy of the *Union* called a golf match reporter) as writing a story which had little significance and who had berated Reese's inability to make life miserable for the players.

Murphy praised Smith, Mulvaney, and Leishman for their work with Reese.

On May 26, 1963, Jack Murphy told Johnny McDonald's story of the return of Reese to Westgate, the story of how Reese had been encouraged to return to the game by Bill Starr, and of the wonderful reception of fans when they saw Reese on the third base line coaching for Hawaii!

HENRY WILLIS
PATRICK (BILL) NORMAN

Bill was born July 16, 1910, at St. Louis, Missouri.

The St. Louis Cardinals first signed Norman to a contract out of St. Louis University in 1929, and he made his baseball debut with Laurel in the Cotton States League.

In 1931 and 1932, he played for the White Sox. He compiled .293 and .260 batting averages for Holly-

wood in his two years in the PCL. He played in the American Association for part of the 1932 through 1937 mainly with St. Paul. He continued his career as an outfielder with the old Hollywood Stars in 1938 and 1939, to Oklahoma city, Syracuse, Montreal, Knoxville and Elmira, in four different Leagues, in 1940.

Bill went to Houston in 1942 and played with Milwaukee, in the American Association, from 1942 through part of the year 1945, when he moved on to Toronto. He last played for Toronto in the International League in 1946, taking over as manager of that club in June of that year. The team was sixth when he took the reins and finished in the same position.

Norman managed Wilkes-Barre in the Eastern League from 1947 through 1951 leading the Cleveland farm nine to pennants in his last two seasons there. The next two years, he coached for the old St. Louis Browns. Named Manager of Little Rock in 1954, Norman was released in July, and went to scouting for Detroit the rest of that campaign and all of 1955. He piloted Augusta of the Sally League in 1956, and then took over Charleston, W.Va., in the American Association in July of the next season.

With Detroit last and a 21-28 record on June 10, 1958, he replaced Jack Tighe as skipper of the Tigers and did bring them to fifth as he paced them to 56-49. When the Tigers dropped 15 of the first 17 contests the next year, Norman drew his walking papers and Jimmy Dykes succeeded him. Norman had been with the Chisox since 1960 scouting majors and American Association teams. He came to San Diego in July 1961 and at the end of the season was back with the Chisox. Bill Norman passed away April 21, 1962 at Milwaukee.

JOHN J. BOWMAN

was born on October 26, 1922 in San Diego, California. Between 1941 and 1944 he attended no fewer than five high schools before dropping out in his junior year at age 17. He entered the service in late 1944, serving in the USAAF until his discharge in 1948. Admitted to the University of San Diego in 1956, he was granted a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1960 and a Master's degree in 1973. He taught high school English in local high schools until his retirement in 1993, and is presently retained by USD's School of Education as a field supervisor of student teachers.

*Interview with
JOHN J. BOWMAN Public
Address Announcer,
Westgate Park, 1961-1968*

My fondest memories of Westgate Park concern the friendships I made with various members of the staff: radio announcer Al Schuss and publicist Bob King, Scoreboard operators Ed Chipp and Jack Garret, bat boys Tom Graciano and Steve Chipp. But perhaps my fondest memories are of General Manager Edward "Eddie" Leishman, one of the finest men for whom I have worked and the man who, through a fortunate twist of fate, was responsible for my having been hired as Westgate Park's public address announcer.

It was early in the 1961 season. The Pacific Coast League "Padres" were playing out of town and in their absence, the University of San Diego took a game with Notre Dame's varsity which was on a swing through the West. A teaching assistant at Grossmont High School, I had invited one of my students to attend the game with me. Arriving at the park, I was asked to do the public address work by USD's Sports Information Director Bob King, for whom



John Bowman, 1961

I had worked during my senior year at USD handling the public address duties for all of the University's athletic events. I gladly accepted (good seat and free food).

It was at the top of the sixth inning when I sensed someone standing behind me. Turning in my seat my eyes were met by a very lean, well-dressed gentleman, cigarette in hand, seemingly very interested in what I was doing. "Don't let me bother you son," he whispered. "Go on with what you're doing," and reaching over my shoulder, he handed me a business card which I promptly shoved into my shirt pocket, returning at once to announce the next scheduled batter. The gentleman stayed for another half inning, after which he bid everyone a pleasant good evening. But before he exited the press coop, he again stepped behind me and whispered, "Call me tomorrow afternoon, young man."

It was only after my return home that night that I bothered to examine the business card which read: Edward Leishman, General Manager, The San Diego Baseball Club. The rest, as the saying goes, is history. The next day, as requested, I called Mr. Leishman who offered me the public address position at Westgate Park. I spent the next few

years in happy association with an outstanding minor league baseball operation but more importantly I was afforded a wonderful working relationship with Eddie Leishman, one of organized baseball's originals, a man whose like organized baseball may never again see.

*JOHNNY MCDONALD
Baseball Sportswriter,
1961-1965, San Diego Union.*

McDonald joined the newspaper in August 1950, upon graduation from San Diego State. While at State he was editor of the *Aztec*.

Prior to his baseball coverage, he served the usual apprenticeship with a prep beat, but soon began coverage of service sports and covered major auto races, championship fights, including those involving Archie Moore, and was a horse race handicapper at Caliente.

Each baseball season meant a trip to the spring training sites and trading off road trips with the *Tribune's* Earl Keller. After the 1965 campaign John was assigned the motor sports beat and covered 11 Indianapolis races. He authored a book on motorsports titled: *Under the Green: A Complete Guide to Auto Racing*.

He and wife, Maxine, live in Allied Gardens, have sons Steve and Doug; daughters Linda Hite and Terri Houdyshel, and 5 grandchildren.

*Interview with
JOHNNY MCDONALD
by Ray Brandes*

From a minor league standpoint, I believe the 1961-1965 San Diego Padres' era provided as much excitement as the days of Luke Easter, Max West and Jack Graham. The working tie with Cincinnati and its vast minor league system produced many major league stars, including Tommy Harper, Sammy Ellis, Art Shamsky, Deron Johnson, Tommy

Helms and Tony Perez. The 1961 team, made up of Cleveland, Chicago White Sox and Pittsburgh farm hands, proved to be the end of the road for pitchers Ben Wade and Herb Score, and outfielders Harry "Suitcase" Simpson and Joe Taylor.

Quick success was unfortunate for likable Jimmy Reese, who took over for manager George Metkovich late in the season. As an interim pilot, he finished with a 29-16 record, and the club placed fourth.

A mild man, happiest with a fungo bat and not a lineup card, Reese disappointed new general manager Eddie Leishman early. When it came time to tell a player he was to be released or sent down, Reese begged off and gave the assignment to Leishman. He was eventually replaced by Bill Norman.

Two players--Don Buford and Grover Jones--were informed they were being shipped to the Southern League. It came as a blow for the two black athletes because each had been raised in Southern California and not prepared to play in an area where segregation was a factor. After a long conversation with Leishman they elected to go. Buford would go on to star for the White Sox, and Jones, who lacked fielding skills, would become a prominent batting coach.

Spring training was interesting, entertaining and productive. It was a great time to gather story material. At other times, you'd sit around in the stands with old ballplayers who had become scouts. The favorite expression was the "good old days." Probably because of this attitude and resistance to change, young Pete Rose, later known as Charlie Hustle, failed to make the Padres in 1962.

We were sitting in the stands at Al López Field in Tampa with Eddie Leishman and scouts Dutch Reuther, Sloppy Thurston and Marv Owen, all pretty fair ballplayers in their day. I had one year of covering



*Johnny McDonald in 1989,
at "retirement party".*

a baseball team, so Eddie thought he'd test my judgment on playing talent, so he asked me to pick the team we should take back to San Diego for opening day. I went down the list and came to Rose. I said I liked the way he hustled, particularly when he ran full speed to first after getting a walk.

"That jumping jack ... you can have him ... we'll take Bobby Klaus," he answered. This is not to take anything away from Leishman, whom I regarded as an excellent judge of players, but it indicated to me that he felt Rose was trying to show off. And, then, the old-timers didn't take kindly to that attitude.

In those days, sportswriters were more tolerant and helped players whenever they could, rather than search their past or report unfavorable outside activity. More than likely, a writer would protect rather than harm. An interesting side-note on spring training in 1962, when Manager Don Heffner warned his players about spending time in the bar of Tampa's Hillsborough Hotel, where the team was staying. It was also where visiting major clubs stayed when they played the Reds, Mets, Phillies, Tigers and Cards. This particular warning came when the Yankees were staying there and Whitey Ford, Mickey Mantle and Hank Bauer were regulars at the bar. It could be

little rough in there, Heffner warned. Each season the team seemed to offer something special for the fans. Al Worthington pitched a 5-0 no-hit, no-run game against Hawaii. Fans got a play-by-play account from the broadcasting team of Al Schuss and Al Couppee if they stayed up beyond 11 p.m.

Another highpoint was a no-hitter tossed by Sammy Ellis against Tacoma. Ellis, who later became a 20-game winner in the majors and a pitching coach in the majors, was astonished by his performance that night.

Jesse Gonder was named minor league player of the year in 1962. He won the PCL batting crown (.342), the second catcher in PCL history to do this, and became the first catcher ever in the circuit's history to pace the league in RBIs (116) and was the league's Most Valuable Player. Unfortunately, he had been a teammate at McClymond High in Oakland with Vada Pinson and Frank Robinson, who were Reds regulars. Manager Freddie Hutchinson believed Gonder was a bad influence on the other two so the catcher was traded to the New York Mets. He never reached what many thought would be his potential.

Manager Dave Bristol (1963-1964) won many minor league awards as a player and manager but never made the grade for a cup of coffee in the majors. He taught school in the off-season and his hobby was reading books on history.

Tommy Helms, Perez, Art Shamsky and Oscar Tovar plus pitchers Ray Rippelmeyer, Ted Wills, Teddy Davidson, Jim Coates and Dan Neville, took the club to the title over a Frank Lucchesi managed team in 1964. Perez the star of the team should eventually be a Hall of Famer. The likable and quiet Cuban was named Most Valuable Player in the PCL and polled more votes than anyone else for the league's all-star game.

AL WORTHINGTON

went from Nashville where he broke into baseball in 1951 to Minneapolis. He joined the New York Giant ball club in 1953, spent a split season and 1955 with Minneapolis, then returned to the majors for a four-year stint with the Giants. In 1959, the Giants traded him to Boston. Boston sold him 28 days later to Minneapolis. The White Sox bought him in September 1960, and he became the property of the Padres after signing a pact with the local club on the condition that he would finish school at Howard College, in Birmingham, first. While in San Diego, he and his family lived in Clairemont. His no hit, no-run performance against Hawaii in a 5-0 win while with the Padres was one of the greatest thrills he experienced while in professional baseball.

*Interview with
AL WORTHINGTON
by Ray Brandes*

In May 1961, I arrived in San Diego with a wife, three children and a dog. We lived in an apartment in Clairemont, with a pool in the middle of the apartments. We loved the neighborhood. I was five minutes to Westgate Park. It was wonderful to arrive at the Park so quick. We drove right up to our club house. So convenient. I do not ever remember going into the stands or going into Mr. Eddie Leishman's office. In fact, I never went any place except the club house, and we would walk out of there onto the field. I was 32-years-old and this was the nicest place I had played to this point after my 21 years in pro ball. San Diego was the greatest place to play baseball.

It has been a long time, but I believe it was Eddie or Eddy's Airline out of Salt Lake City that we chartered our airplane. Before we could take off, all of us had to sit up front

for the plane to take off. This was my first time to play in a city for seven days. This was wonderful. Playing in the different cities in the Coast League was a real treat for a boy from Alabama. I will always be grateful for that experience.

We did not have a very good team in 1961, and I think some of that was because we had baseball players from different organizations, and that wasn't good for us.

The highlight of the season happened in our last series in Hawaii. We had a skeleton squad. The White Sox had taken up some pitchers, one catcher and others. We only had one catcher, and I believe not more than fifteen players. Anyway, we had a chance to finish fourth for the season if we won the majority of the games in Hawaii. I forgot how many we had to win. Finishing fourth would mean about \$50.00 to each of us around Christmas time. One fellow said I could buy my child a bicycle with that \$50.00. Four or five of us got together and decided to finish fourth. I think we had to beat



Al Worthington

out Portland for fourth place. Our starting pitcher that game came through the lobby of the hotel as we were about ready to take the bus to the ball park. He had on his bathing suit and he had been laying out in the sun.

When I saw him, I said, 'you are pitching tonight'. This is a no for a pitcher to swim or lay out in the sun—period. He gave me some answer, which meant he did not care. Hawaii took the lead and we took the pitcher out and put in one of the pitchers who wanted the \$50.00 extra dollars. The pitcher had not pitched in over a month, did a great job and we won the game.

I have forgotten all the details but I was so proud of a group of men who were determined to win. We finished fourth and I think the check was \$52.00. That was a great reward and we all needed the \$52.00.

My family and I enjoyed the fine restaurants you had at that time in San Diego. I have been there many times since and I think San Diego is a special town. Maybe the Number one City in America.

BOBBY KNOOP

Knoop was born in Sioux City, Iowa on October 18, 1938. Within several years his parents moved to San Bernardino, California and then to East Los Angeles, in 1947. Bob was not a typical baseball youngster because the game was not played in the area in which he lived. He played baseball with Montebello High as a shortstop. Jim Reed, former Minor League "bird dog scout," saw him play with an American Legion Post team, and convinced him to play semipro ball in the winter months which Bob did for several years. In his junior year in high school, Bob and his teammates were the CIF

champions. In his senior year they were beaten in the semi-finals in the national series.

Interview with BOBBY KNOOP by Ray Brandes

Jim Reed and John Moore, Head Scout for the Milwaukee Braves, signed me with the Milwaukee Braves in July 1956, and I went to Florida to play about a month and a half. My first spring training took place in 1957, with Milwaukee at Waycross, Georgia, at an old military installation where the barracks still stood. I drove there in my car. The first man I met was Roland Heman, Assistant Farm Director for the Braves. We are still good friends. He is Vice President of the Diamondbacks and legendary baseball executive. I next drove to Lawton, Oklahoma, where I played under Manager Travis Jackson.

I had expected to see a fantastic ball park. A young ballplayer going to his first real park! When I got there, I saw it was a broken down ball park, it had rained and the grounds were in terrible shape. We played an exhibition game against the Fort Sill Army Base team. We youngsters all thought we could beat those soldiers, but they turned out to be first class ballplayers and trounced us.

In 1958 I went to Cedar Rapids in the Three I League. Alex Monchak was the Manager. Of all my coaches, he had the most influence on me as a second baseman. In 1959 I played in Austin, Texas for Ernie White. Our club, although good were not the Texas League Champions, but in a playoff system with the Mexican League we won the Pan American championship. 1960 was started in Louisville AA, but by June first I was back in Austin again with Manager Monchak. I batted .280 with

Austin, had 17 doubles and five home runs. I was only 22-years-old. We played some games in Mexico and won the playoffs.

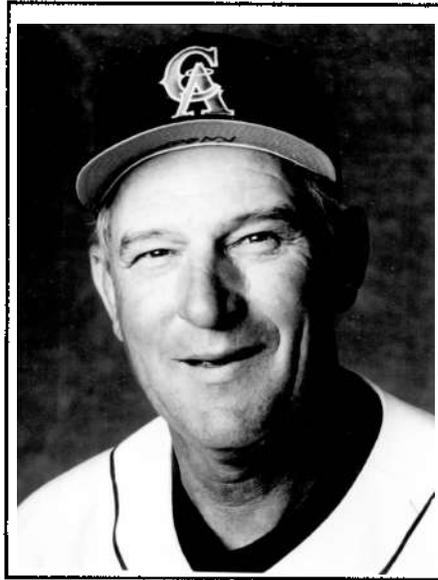
In 1961, I was out of the Braves and I came to San Diego which took its spring training at Indio. Eddie Leishman was a great General Manager. My dearest friend was Jimmie Reese, the manager. Part of the club was from the White Sox—players owned directly by the Sox. I was still with the Braves organization. This was the same year the Angels had spring training at Palm Springs. I played third base when Sagers was hurt by “Iron Mike” the pitching machine and so the coaches moved me to third. Les Cook was a wonderful man, our father confessor.

We had some great players who went up to the majors, Horner, Horlen, Peters, and Hadly.

Westgate was a beautiful park. The clubhouse was in right field and at such time as a player had to go that way, he would have to pass by the fans in right field—fans who were not always happy with the player. My wife, daughter and I lived in La Mesa in an apartment.

We did not get to experience much that San Diego had to offer because I was assigned to Vancouver in August. However, we did get to visit San Diego’s famous zoo and enjoy the great weather. I did not, at that time have any hobbies but I had just started to play golf. I always felt it was kind of a status symbol to be out on the course, but now I understand golf represented a special relationship developed on the field, a camaraderie among the players which brought them together off the field, and so the golfing was one way to keep those friendships, especially in the off season, when by the way, we all had to find outside jobs.

In my time with San Diego we were typical ball players--kids--but not disruptive characters. Joe



Bobby Knoop

Horlen, Gary Peters, and Kent Hadley, who had been a roommate of mine, would all go to the majors and we took the game seriously.

In 1962 again I changed clubs. I was assigned to the Toronto Maple Leafs of the International League, but in June I was on my way to Hawaii, back in the PCL.

I did not realize it at the time, but this move was probably the most significant of my career. It paved the way to my being drafted by the Los Angeles Angels in the December Draft of 1963.

1964 and 1965 were spent in Los Angeles and then our move to Anaheim, thus the California Angels. In May of 1969, I was traded to the Chicago White Sox where by 1971, I had worn my welcome thin. A trade to the Kansas City Royals allowed me to play through the 1972 season.

My playing career finished, I began managing (in the Minors and a Major coaching career 1977. That would last almost 20 years. I had a great run, more than I deserved.

MIKE HERSHBERGER

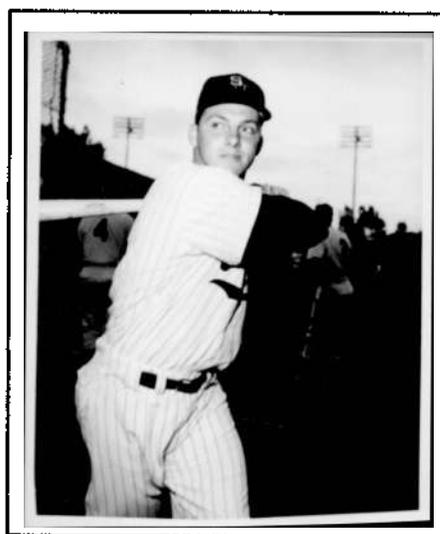
was born at Massillon, Ohio on October 9, 1939. He played baseball, batting .520 as a senior, and played football in high school. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1959. He was voted the most valuable freshman football player. He was signed out of college in 1959 by the Chicago White Sox. They farmed him to Lincoln, Nebraska in that year. In 1960 he was with Charleston, South Carolina, and in 1961 came to the Padres. Hitting .310 with 13 homers and 70 RBIs he was called up with the White Sox in September. He had outstanding seasons in 1961, through 1964 with the Chisox. He then went to the Kansas City A's where he played from 1965-1967 then became involved in a trade on January 20, in a three-team deal involving eight players. The A's gave up outfielder Rocky Colavito to get Hershberger, Jim Landis and Fred Talbot from the Chisox who sent Colavito and catcher Camilio Carreon to Cleveland for catcher John Romano, pitcher Tommy John and Tommie Agee.

In 1965 Hershberger led the league in assists and double plays for outfielders. In 1967, he led the league in assists. He went with the Oakland A's in 1968-1969, to the Milwaukee Brewers in 1970 and back to the White Sox in 1971. In 11 seasons in the majors he compiled a .252 batting average.

Mike, 5' 10" and 175 pounds was brought up to the Chicago White Sox at the tail end of 1961, after ripping apart the Pacific Coast League.

An Interview with MIKE HERSHBERGER by Ray Brandes

After that '61 season, I had been at spring training in Hollywood Florida, when the Chicago White Sox



Mike Hershberger

sent me to the Padres. I went home to Massillon to get my wife and we drove from there I was 21-years-old at the time. When I came to San Diego, I played with a wonderful mix of former major leaguers and young players on their way up. There were a lot of young players who went up to the majors from the PCL.

I knew a lot of Salt Lake City players who went to the Indians, and who went up from Tacoma to the Giants, for example. Westgate Park was a nice ballpark, and a good place to play because of the good weather. On the '61 Padres we had veterans like Jim Bolger, Herb Score and Harry Simpson. I liked Jimmie Reese who was a great guy and wonderful with the fungo bat. Whitey Wietelmann was a very fine coach and Bill Norman was always good to me. I remember Eddie Leishman as a man that everyone liked because he cared about the players and helped many of them in Diego. We loved San Diego and figured that at some time we might return there. We visited Tijuana once, and another time went grunion hunt-

ing with Anton Roig, which was quite an experience. We visited the San Diego Zoo and even tried deep sea fishing several times.

Nineteen sixty-one was a good year for me batting .310, the second best in the PCL that year. We returned to San Diego when San Diego won the division championship in 1984. We noticed how much San Diego had grown and changed in the years since we had left.

JOSEPH [E]VAN BROWN

Joseph Evan Brown was born July 28, 1892, in Holgate, Ohio. He passed away July 6, 1973, at Brentwood, Ohio. Although he was never on the Padre roster, Joe E. Brown attended many PCL and major league games.

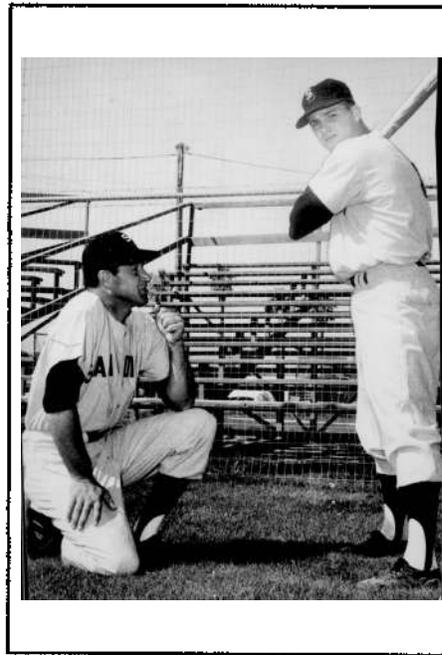
Joe was best known as a famous comic in vaudeville and film. He starred in popular baseball films mainly in the 1930s and 1940s. He is best known in baseball circles as the man who began the PONY Leagues in this country. During World War II he lost his son in combat, and for him baseball was the solace he needed to carry on.

Joe E. Brown played in the Hollywood Stars final game, striking out the old songwriter Harry Ruby.

His record was:

1935 Missions IP:1 SO: 1 ERA: 0.00

He appeared at Westgate Park on numerous occasions and always added to the fun at the park. He is honored for his role in bringing young people and baseball together. Joe was a minority owner of the Padres for a short time.



*Mike Hershberger.
Photo courtesy Mr. Hershberger.*

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1961 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	PCT.
Barnes, Frank*	30	30	5	2	--	--	--	--	.067
Barone, Richard	134	490	66	113	26	4	4	57	.231
Bolger, James	125	422	67	132	18	7	7	56	.313
Brice, Alan	31	36	3	2	1	--	--	2	.056
Drapcho, Edward	12	2	--	1	--	--	--	--	.500
Hadley, Kent	113	339	47	79	15	2	11	48	.233
Harshman, Jack	7	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Hershberger, Mike	142	510	77	158	26	6	13	70	.310
Hoerner, Joseph	4	4	--	1	--	--	--	--	.250
Horlen, Joel	31	78	5	9	2	1	--	6	.115
Jimenez, David	24	32	3	--	--	--	--	1	.000
Johnson, Stanley*	129	465	78	128	16	6	6	53	.275
Knoop, Robert*	114	290	27	58	14	2	4	23	.200
Lines, Richard	36	43	5	13	2	--	--	2	.302
Lovenguth, Lynn*	33	35	3	4	--	--	--	1	.114
Napier, James	81	219	20	47	6	--	6	23	.215
Peters, Gary	37	82	8	27	5	--	3	17	.329
Retzer, Kenneth	100	309	38	87	13	1	7	42	.282
Rodriguez, Hector	100	300	33	88	15	3	--	33	.293
Roig, Anton	143	502	88	128	19	2	19	70	.255
Rosenbaum, Glen	46	36	9	13	4	--	--	4	.361
Sagers, Robert	66	200	24	64	5	--	4	21	.235
Score, Herbert	24	42	6	9	1	--	3	5	.214
Simpson, Harry	146	515	82	156	23	6	24	105	.303
Striker, Wilbur	5	2	--	--	--	--	--	0	.000
Taylor, Joseph	132	441	69	118	22	4	26	74	.268
Teunis, Ronald	3	3	--	1	--	--	--	--	.333
Wade, Benjamin	8	4	--	2	--	--	--	--	.500
Williams, Don	41	16	1	3	--	--	1	1	.188
Worthington, Allan	28	34	2	2	--	--	--	1	.059

*Barnes: 6 San Diego-24Portland,

Johnson: 43 San Diego-86Hawaii,

Knoop: 88 San DiegoD-26 Vancouver,

Lovenguth: 18 Tacoma-15San Diego.

1961 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	IP	W	L	PCT	SO	BB	ERA
Barnes, Frank*	30	114	8	7	.533	86	53	4.74
Brice, Alan	31	113	4	6	.400	81	71	4.22
Drapcho, Edward	12	17	1	--	1.000	13	9	3.71
Harshman, Jack	4	--	--	1	.000	--	--	--
Hoerner, Joseph	4	--	--	--	.000	--	--	--
Horlen, Joel	30	197	12	9	.571	137	94	2.51
Jimenez, David	19	104	5	9	.357	80	82	3.72
Lines, Richard	34	128	5	9	.357	65	57	4.22
Lovenguth, Lynn*	29	125	4	11	.267	65	34	4.18
Peters, Gary	28	198	13	10	.565	127	77	3.59
Rosenbaum, Glen	39	112	5	8	.385	69	42	4.98
Score, Herbert	24	134	7	6	.538	105	136	5.10
Striker, Wilbur	5	--	--	--	.000	--	--	--
Teunis, Ronald	3	--	--	--	.000	--	--	--
Wade, Benjamin	8	--	1	--	1.000	--	--	--
Williams, Don	41	75	8	5	.615	36	34	4.32
Worthington, Allan	23	109	9	10	.474	74	49	3.55

*Barnes: 6 San Diego-24 Portland,
 Lovenguth: 14 Tacoma-15 San Diego.



Pitcher Herb Score, 1961. Photo courtesy Jay Leishman

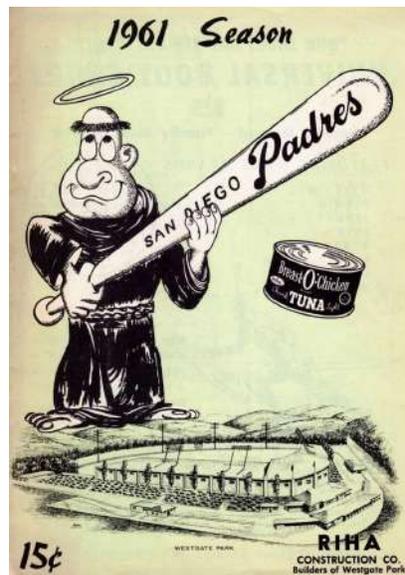
Photos:

All photos appeared in the *San Diego Union* unless otherwise noted:
SET= *San Diego Evening-Tribune*

January 31:	Frank Alessio and Eddie Leishman SET	March 21:	Joe Taylor and Jim Bolger, Bobby Sagers
February 3:	Cedric Durst, John M. Athaide, George Bryans and Kent Parker, Hot Stove League SET	March 21:	Ben Wade SET
February 5:	Leishman, Joe Gariagola, Jimmie Reese SET	March 23:	Bobby Case and Dick Barone SET
February 10:	Ralph Kiner and Hank Greenberg	March 24:	Jimmie Reese, Whitey Weitelman, Ed Barberie, Bobby Case, Dick Barone SET
February 13:	Ralph Kiner	March 25:	Mike Hershberger, SET
February 16:	Ralph Kiner	March 27:	Bobby Sagers SET
February 17:	Drover (Deacon) Jones	March 29:	Harry Simpson
February 19:	San Diegan Deron Johnson in Major league camp	March 30:	Jack Harshman
February 23:	Jack Harshman	April 1:	Not Padres but a terrific picture to look at. Joe DiMaggio and his son Joe Jr., 19, a Freshman at Yale University.
March 1:	Eddie Leishman	April 2:	Close play on field, players not named.
March 7:	Bob Kerrigan	April 3:	Joe Taylor SET
March 14:	Bob Elliott and Gene Leek (with L.A. Angels)	April 5:	Linda Kennedy, Judy Arnsen, Pidge Browne, Dick Barone, Jimmie Reese, Stan Johnson SET
March 15:	Whitey Weitelmann, Prentice (Pidge) Browne and Ben Wade	April 8:	Jimmie Reese
March 15:	Whitey Wietelmann, Prentice (Pidge) Browne, Ben Wade, SET	April 8:	Kent Handley SET
March 15; circa:	Joe Taylor, Umpire Cecil Carlucci SET	April 9:	Jimmie Reese SET
circa:	Eddie Leishman, Archie Moore, Jimmie Reese, and Umpire Norman Foster. SET	April 10:	Don Buford, out on attempted steal
March 16:	Prentice (Pidge) Browne	April 12:	Harry Simpson SET
March 20:	Jimmie Reese, Dick Barone, Jim Bolger SET	April 13:	Kent Handley SET
		April 13:	Eddie Leishman
		April 13:	Jimmie Reese, Eddie Leishman SET
		April 16:	Jack Harshman, Stan Johnson
		April 17:	Ken Retzer, Dick Barone
		April 18:	Dave Jiminez, Mike Hershberger
		April 18:	Jimmie Reese, Whitey Wietelmann
		April 19:	Whitey Wietelmann, Vernon (Lefty) Gomez, Kent Hadley, and Dick Lines
		April 19:	Joe Herner, Joel

April 20:	Horlen Carlos Hadaway, cre- ator of the 'Swinging <i>Friar</i> ' <i>The Sentinel</i>	May 27:	Herb Score, 3 photos SET
April 20:	Bobby Knoop, Jim Napier, Eddie Leishman, Mayor C.C Dail and Vernon (Lefty) Gomez	May 30: June 1: June 8: June 6: June 9: June 16:	Bobby Knoop SET Tony Roig SET Herb Score Don Williams Gary Peters Harry Malmberg and Johnny Pesky of Se attle
April 20:	Hector Rodriguez, Joe Taylor	June 18:	Eddie Leishman with Carlos Hadaway and 'The Swinging Friar' SET
April 21	Portraits of all 24 members of 1961 Padres SET	June 19:	Dave Jimenez and Joe Taylor
April 21:	Jimmie Reese, Dave Jiminez and Dick Lines	June 20: June 20:	Joe Taylor Bobby Sagers and children Bobby Jr., Tommy and Pammy SET
April 21:	Tony Roig, Joe Bolger	June 22:	Herb Score
April 22:	Kent Hadley	June 23:	Al Brice, Glen Rosenbaum, Don Williams, and Dick Lines
April 22:	Dick Lines and Jim Napier, Umpire Jack Tobin, Jimmie Reese	June 23: June 24: June 28:	Joel Horlen, SET Bobby Sagers Joel Horlen, Gary Peters, Mike Hershberger; Al Brice, Don Williams, Glen Rosenbaum, Dick Lines SET Al Brice, SET Jimmie Reese, Whitey Wietelmann, Bill Norman SET Bill Norman SET Eddie Leishman, Bill Norman SET Mike Hershberger SET
April 22:	Bobby Knoop, Gary Peters.	July 1: July 7:	Jimmie Reese, Whitey Wietelmann, Bill Norman SET
April 22:	Kent Hadley and Umpire Tom Umphlett SET	July 11: July 13:	Bill Norman SET Eddie Leishman, Bill Norman SET
April 23:	Glen Rosenbaum, Alan Brice	July 18:	Mike Hershberger SET
April 23:	Cyd Durst throwing out ball; Jimmie Reese	July 20: July 21: July 26:	Dave Jimenez Max Patkin C. Arnholt Smith, <i>The Sporting News</i> J.G. Taylor Spink honored at luncheon meeting in San Di ego; Leishman, Mulvaney, Gregston,
April 24:	Jimmie Reese, Glen Rosenbaum, and Jim Bolger	July 26:	
April 24:	Ben Wade, Harry Simpson		
April 25:	Harry Simpson		
April 25:	Dick Lines, Frank Barnes		
April 26:	Kent Hadley, Ed Drapcho		
April 26:	Stan Johnson SET		
April 27:	Jimmie Reese, Whitey Wietelmann		
May 9:	Jimmie Reese		
May 16:	Don Williams SET		
May 23:	Gary Peters		
May 25:	Harry Simpson		
May 26:	Tony Roig		
May 27:	Herb Score		

July 28	Murphy Breitbart, Elser, Todd, McDonald, Thurston, Norman and Keller. <i>The Sporting News</i> . Mike Hershberger, SET	November 13:	Mulvaney, Eddie Leishman SET GM Bill DeWitt, Cincinnati Reds, Leishman SET
July 29:	Reese SET	November 17:	Westgate Park, jammed with fans. SET.
August 2:	Eddie Leishman, <i>The Sporting News</i>	November 29:	Don Heffner, Bill DeWitt, Jim Mulvaney, Don Heffner SET
August 5:	Herb Score, Don Newcombe, SET	November 30:	Leishman, George Trautman SET
August 17:	Joel Horlen SET	November 30:	Eddie Leishman, Ted Williams, Don Heffner SET
August 27:	Al Worthington SET	December 14:	Don Heffner, Eddie Leishman SET
August 28:	Harry Simpson, Murray Goodrich SET	December 14:	Don Heffner, Whitey Wietelmann and Les Cook SET
August 28:	Al Olsen, Al Worthington SET	December 16:	Harry Anderson, SET
August 28:	Al Worthington, Larry French, Bob Kerrigan SET	December 16:	Zack Monroe SET
October 7:	Gene Gregston SET	December 29:	Don Heffner, three poses SET
October 25:	Cliff Cook SET		
November 7:	Ed Runge, Frank Alessio, Del Webb SET		
November 13	Bill DeWitt, Jim		





Westgate Park, 1962

CHAPTER V
SAN DIEGO PADRES, 1962
THE PENNANT FLIES HIGH



1962 Team Photo

The year 1961 had turned out to be a major disappointment when the Padres finished so far back of the leader. That had given strong cause to ask whether baseball managers should be nice guys or tough leaders. With the year behind them, however, the Padres and the community rallied back to push for a major league team.

Instrumental to success would have to be the leadership of Eddie Leishman, the General Manager for the Padres. Due to the efforts of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, Padre owner C. Arnholt Smith, and General Manager Eddie Leishman, the club parted ways with their major league affiliate the Chicago White Sox. The Padres now linked with the National League champions, the Cincinnati Reds. Jack Murphy gave credit to Leishman, who had scored a 10-strike in switching the Padres' allegiance from the White Sox to the Reds. Even Smith began to feel the pulse of a winner as he said that baseball was more fun and more profitable than banking.

An abundant pool of Cincinnati squad talent gave the Padre brass much hope for players they



*Don Heffner, Manager
1962-1963*

might receive. Freddie Hutchinson, the GM of the Reds, hinted that the Padres would receive every player that fit into the plans for the 1962 PCL pennant chase. Murphy, of the *San Diego Union* could not recall when a situation looked so favorable at this stage of the year. Spurring fan attendance became essential.

Despite the rocky 1961 season, ticket sales rose as loyal fans hoped for a major league club. Box tickets were had for \$109.00 for the full season of 77 home games and \$55.00 for the half season. Grandstand tickets could be reserved for \$87.50 for the full season and \$45.00 for the half season. There were 976 upper boxes and 3,785 lower box seats. Al Schuss and John Parker were back again as the KOGO broadcasting team.

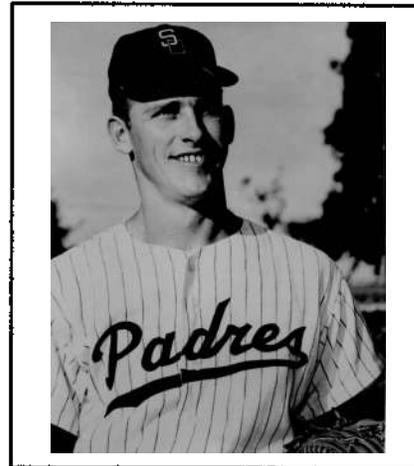
Don Heffner, the new field boss and a welcome addition to the *the*



*Hal Bevan. Photo
San Diego Historical Society
Collections.*

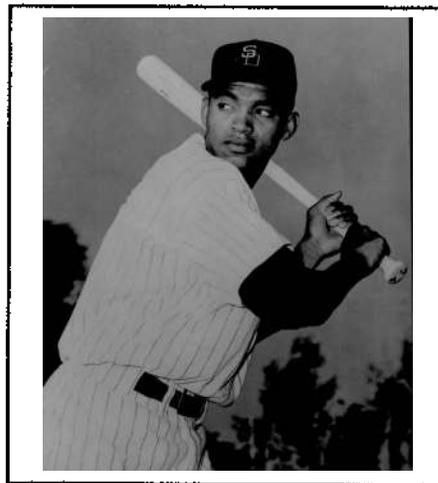
to the successful Padre management team, arrived early in March. Although firm, Heffner had a notorious reputation for leading teams with encouragement rather than fear. His philosophy that kind words go much farther than harsh words with ball players was affirmed in his impressive record as a manager, which included two pennants and six previous division titles. Right after the first of the year, the Padres acquired Hal Bevan from the Portland Beavers. Heffner took a particular liking to Bevan because he could play nearly every position. In February the Reds purchased outfielder Ken Walters from the Phillies and assigned him to the Padres.

The push for a major league team by the San Diego baseball community showed brightly as having tremendous importance. On March 17, the Chamber of Commerce

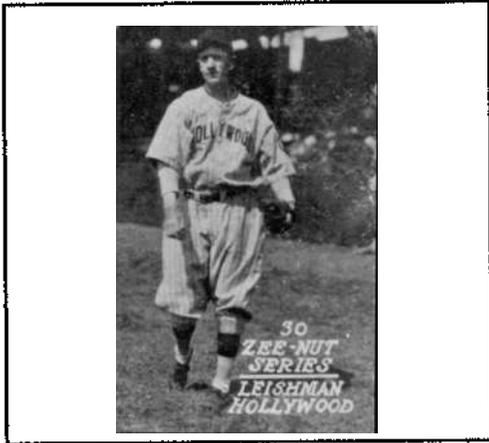


Pitcher George McWilliams

flew its "delegation of 21" to Phoenix to court the executives of six major league teams. Their view was to convince the executives that San Diego was serious in its drive for a major league team within the next few seasons and that they desired "Big-Time" ball in 1963. The San Diego committee focused on three major areas: first the accessible financing for an adequate ball park along with avail-



Chico Ruiz



Eddie Leishman when he played for Hollywood.

ability of persons ready to finance top flight baseball in San Diego; second, the more than 4,500,000 residents within a 90 minute drive of Westgate Park; and third, that San Diego had proven its readiness for major league baseball status through support for the Chargers and professional football. Had the truth surfaced when reporters began to ask if the Padres would become the San Diego Reds?

The recent acquisitions in Padre management signaled promise for a major league team in San Diego. Leishman and Heffner opted to work their way up within the Padres organization, as opposed to moving on to a pre-existing big league team. Leishman turned down major league positions when he made it clear that the majors would come to him in San Diego.

Heffner penciled in an early lineup with Gene Freese at third (who

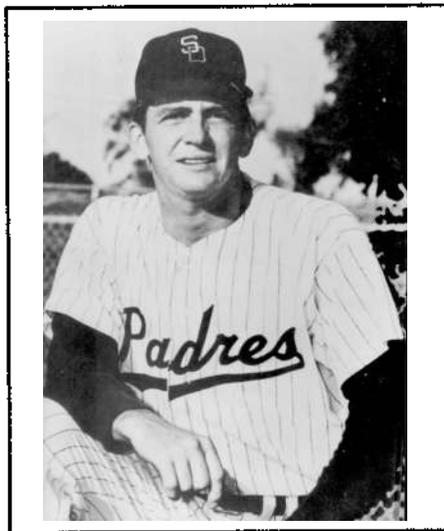
would soon break his ankle); Chico Ruiz, "Rookie of the Year," in the American Association at shortstop, and Tom Harper, Most Valuable Player at Topeka, at second. The outfield looked like Gaines, Ken Walters, Dan Dobbek, and Teo Acosta.

Johnny McDonald had been assigned by the *San Diego Union* to be with the team during training season and to travel with them as he reported daily on their progress. Dan Dobbek, 6 foot, 190 pound outfielder from Ontonagon, Michigan was acquired from the Minnesota Twins in exchange for catcher Jerry Zimmerman. Dobbek 28, a lefthanded batter, played two seasons with Washington and part of the previous year with Minnesota when the franchise moved. He finished last season with Syracuse in the International League where he batted .243. On April 22, 1960, he tied a major league record by receiving three intentional walks in a game.

The Greater San Diego Sports Association adopted the title "Push the Padres" to represent a renewed spirit for not only a divisional pennant, but a potential major league team as well. That group proved to be the strongest coalition for the Padres and their future. They believed that as people flocked to San Diego, sports would follow. C. Arnholt Smith was honored for envisioning and building Westgate Park in 1958, when the majority of minor league

owners had just scraped by financially. He had been responsible for keeping professional baseball alive in the face of various obstacles in San Diego. Smith needed the people of San Diego to support the Pads, and support to convince him that major league ball was a real desire. He would be willing to fund the enlargement of Westgate Park to hold a capacity of 35,000 or more.

The Padres opened spring training at the home practice field of their major league affiliate in Tampa, Florida. There, Cincinnati had three outstanding fields at their disposal, one alone for infield practice. Having farm hands in one area enabled the management to teach all the players the same style of ball. The Reds, more than most clubs, stressed the basics of baseball. The Padres



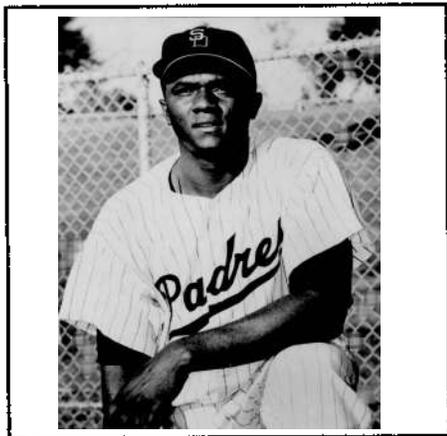
Pitcher John Tsitouris

followed suit. When opening day came on April 17, Leishman wanted one of the best trained teams when it came to fundamentals.

Leishman and Heffner workouts lasted from 10 a.m. to 3. p.m. each day. The team began with calisthenics, followed by a solid practice in the field and plenty of bats. When the rain fell, particularly in mid-April, Heffner studied the character of his new team. Many players used those days to perform personal workouts. Although Leishman had some concern about Heffner's working so hard and urged him to move at a slower and safer speed, he could see the Pads had a good blend of experienced leadership and aggressive youth. Clearly Heffner was a hit and run field general.

Dewey Soriano, PCL Prexy, began to lay down some laws to help move games along. His first action was to award stop watches to the 3rd base umpires with a statement that once a pitcher had the ball, he had 20 seconds to fire it at the batter. If a pitcher failed to do so, a ball would be called. Batters had to take their positions promptly.

The 1962 Pads promised to provide action and excitement for the fans. Heffner had a reputation for the play of wide open ball with the interest of the fans in mind. A plentiful supply of swift players aided Heffner in his philosophy of smart and aggressive baseball. Their



Borrego Alvarez

strength would lie on the shoulders of a formidable staff of pitchers. Veteran Jim Maloney led the list of pitchers. A strong defense and some leading hitters rounded out the plan for success.

February 7 marked the unofficial start of the season when the Hot Stove League met to toast the linkage with the Cincinnati Reds. Dewey Soriano and Freddie Hutchinson, Beans Reardon, Jocko Conlan, Ed Runge, C. Arnholt Smith, Jim Mulvaney and Kent Parker were among those present. Dr. Al Anderson was the master of ceremonies at the International Room of the El Cortez Hotel. President Frank Alessio hoped that this, the 13th annual banquet, would be the best.

On March 16, the town turned out for "Padre Day." The festivities began with Mayor Charles C. Dail giving an official greeting. A motorcade of pre-1915 antique cars

rolled through downtown San Diego, while players tossed autographed balls to the excited fans. After the parade the Padres were guests at the 13th annual Chamber of Commerce baseball kickoff luncheon. At the luncheon, the players sat at tables among fans. Leishman concluded that San Diego could be proud of their team.

Most of the cuts had come and the players needing more work before moving up to a higher classification were sent out. They included Art Shamsky, Mel Queen (the son) Larry Hines, John Keller. First baseman Fred Hopke was sent to Syracuse.

The starting staff of Jim Maloney, 6'4" George McWilliams, John Briggs, Zack Monroe, and John Tsitouris appeared solid but tentative. The Reds shipped sensational



*Tommy Harper, Frank Alessio,
Joe Nuxall*



Pitcher Bob Risenhoover

rookie third baseman Tommy Harper to the Padres on 24-hour recall. He had been named Most Valuable Player in the Three Eye loop the past year.

Maloney, a starter with the Reds the past two years was a 6-2, 200 pound Fresno right-hander. He had a 6-7 record for the Reds in 1961. Pitching for Fresno State, Maloney, 21, once compiled a stretch of 19 consecutive no-run, no-hit innings. In 1960, prior to his call-up by the Reds, Jim compiled a fine 14-5 record for Nashville in 22 games, whiffing 162 batters in 161 frames and posting a 2.79 ERA.

George McWilliams, a right-hand thrower from Anguilla, Mississippi played on three consecutive state baseball championships teams at his home town high school. The 6-

5, 205 pound athlete compiled 8-8 and 3.20 era records at Columbia of the Sally League in 1961. He was but 24 years old.

Johnny Briggs, from Orangevale, California, a right-hander, was 5-10 and 170 pounds. He hurled for San Diego in 1959 when he compiled a 14-6 record with a 2.00 ERA, third lowest in the PCL. He had pitched for the Chicago Cubs, Cleveland and Kansas City. An arm operation sidelined the 28 year old moundsman most of last year. He came back to compile a 3-1 record.

Monroe, a 30-year-old righthander pitched for the New York Yankees in the 1958 World Series. The 6 foot 190 pound pitcher had won 10 or more games six times during his career. He had a 4.2 record and 3.26 ERA with the Yanks in '58. The Bartonville, Ill, thrower compiled an 11-13 record and a 3.71 ERA mark at Jersey City in 1961.

John Tsitorous, 25, was injured and out for part of 1960. The 6 foot 180 pound right-hander had pitched for Detroit and Kansas City. He set the Sally League record for lowest ERA (1.51) in 1958. The Monroe, N.C. resident had a 9-8 record with Indianapolis. He once pitched four consecutive no hitters in amateur baseball, and had a 2.91 ERA with Indianapolis.

Harper, a 21-year-old third baseman making the jump from the Three Eye league almost got the job



*Larry Rancourt, George McWilliams & Jesse Gonder.
Photo San Diego Historical Society Collection.*

with Cincinnati this year. Harper, who stood 5'9" at 165 pounds led the league in four departments and was named Most Valuable Player in 1961. He topped the league in hits (131), triples (11) stolen bases (31) and walks (136).

The Padres had an infield with a Latino flavor. They had Cubans at shortstop, third base and on the pitching staff (Ruiz, Arias and Alvarez) plus a Venezuelan, Teo Acosta, in centerfield. Heffner said the shortstop needed five minutes just to give his name, Señor Hiraldo Anacieto Teodora Mateo Sablon Ruiz. Fortunately he was also known as "Chico," while Rogelio Alvarez preferred to be called "Borrego." The catcher appeared to be Jesse Gonder, who had attended McClymonds High School in Oakland, not incidentally where Floyd Robinson and Curt Flood

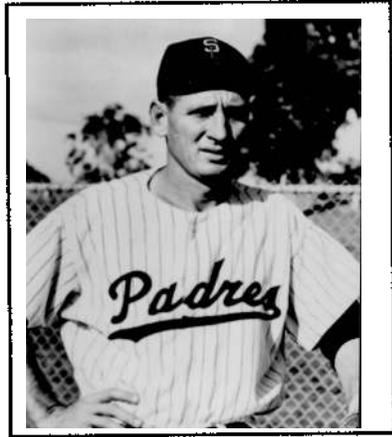
had gone to school. The Reds had signed him in 1955, and in 1958, he had played for Seattle.

At Indianapolis last year Ruiz was named "Rookie of the Year" and was selected on the All-Star team. He had led three leagues in stolen bases, pilfering 44 the previous year. The 22 year old Cuban batted .272. Chico, a 6'-1", 175-pounder was an all-star and Most Valuable Player selection with Columbia in the Sally League in 1960.

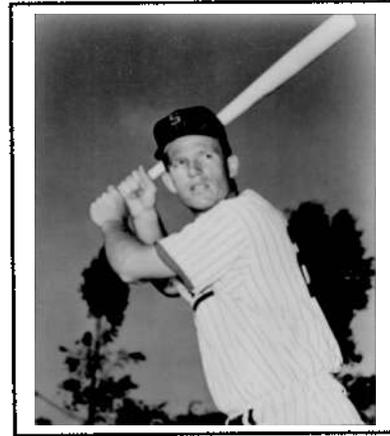
Arias, a Cuban who played with San Diego part of 1960, was a reliever. At Jersey City last season, the 5'11", 170 pound left-hander compiled an 8-9 and 3.38 ERA record. He pitched 34 games in relief for the Chicago White Sox in 1959. The 29 year old flinger chalked up a no-hit, no-run game for Havana against



Sluggers win 11 on Record Breaking Trip. Zach Monroe, Chico Ruiz, Harry Anderson, Sammy Ellis, Greg Jancich.



Ron Samford

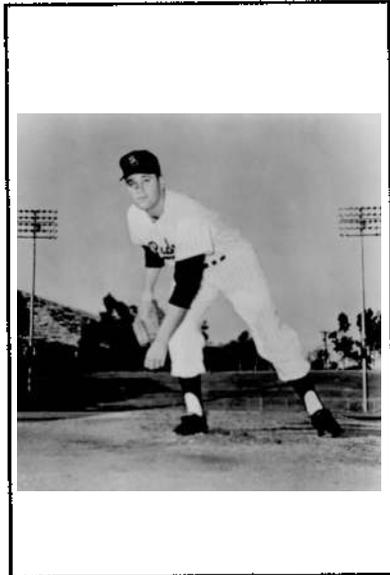


Marvin "John" Schultz

Rochester in 1958. He was traded to the Reds in 1962.

Acosta, the Venezuelan shorty (5'7"), led two leagues in batting and was named to three all-star teams in the four years he had played in organized baseball. He topped the Pioneer League in 1960 with a .369

batting average while with Billings-Missoula and headed the Sally League with .3443 while with Columbia. He stole 40 bases in 1961. He played the year round and batted .324 in the Venezuelan Winter League. The 24-year-old leadoff hitter played any field position.



John Flavin

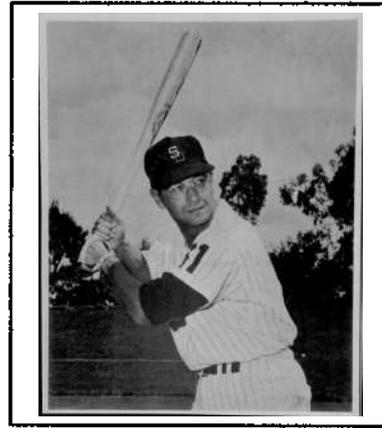


Mrs. Carl Thomas, Mrs. Harry Anderson and Mrs. Ken Walters. Photo from San Diego Historical Society Collection.

Alvarez, the 28-year-old Cuban first baseman, hit tape measure home runs on occasion. The 5'11", 175 pounder belted the longest home run ever hit, in a professional game in Cuba. On June 6, 1959, the ball traveled 532 feet in Gran Stadium in Havana Stadium. In 1958, he set a Havana club record for home runs (25), and was named International League's "Rookie with the Greatest Batting Potential." Alvarez hit over 20 homers in three different seasons.

The Chamber of Commerce planned a ceremony before the opening game, which included a pre-1915 parade of the Horseless Carriage Club of La Jolla, and a motorcade half way around downtown to the El Cortez Hotel. A luncheon, barber shop quartet music and the band from Mickey Finn's all took part in the festivities.

The Padre opener included pre-game entertainment supplied by Coady's Marching Band, Bert



Ken Walters

Hazlett's Dixielanders and Al Schuss as Master of Ceremonies. Al made the announcement that the sale of Padre season tickets had already doubled over last year.

Bob Elliott threw out the first ball. A record breaking crowd of 7,152 filled the stands to cheer the orange and brown. The locals lost the opener 2-1 on a tight pitching duel; Jim Maloney tired in the fifth and was relieved by Risenhoover and Monroe. Hal Bevan earned \$25 for his homer in the fourth inning and Chico Ruiz picked up \$10 for the first Padre hit. The locals took the second game 8-1 before 2,108 fans at Westgate, on the pitching of Ken Hunt last year's "Cincinnati "Rookie of the Year," but Tacoma took the series with a 6-1 decision.

Bobby Risenhoover, an Oklahoma City left-hander, pitched relief for Indianapolis and Jersey City in 1961. The 6'-2", 190 pound player entered 43 games for Indianapolis, compiling 5-7 and 3.52 ERA marks.



*Rogelio Alvarez,
Tommy Harper (2), Jesse Gonder.*



Joe Nuxhall

In his first year with Geneva, N.Y. in 1958 he had a 20-8 record. Risenhoover helped Columbia with a pennant in 1960, with 13-9 and 2.75 marks.

Ken Hunt, 23, compiled a 9-10 and 3.97 ERA record with Cincinnati in 1961. The 6'-5", 232-pound right-hander from Ogden, Utah was on the Indianapolis roster in the spring, but made such tremendous gains that the Reds kept him. The *Sporting News* selected him as "National League Rookie Pitcher of the Year." Being sent to the Padres to work on control in 1960, he led the Sally League in wins (16), innings pitched (222) and strikeouts (221). Hunt's 30 starts tied him for the league lead.

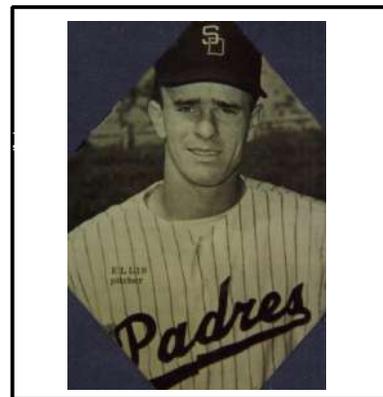
Spokane was due next in town with former Padres Stan Johnson, Rod Graber, and Manager Preston Gómez in Indians uniforms. San Di-



Ray Rippelmeyer

ego took the first game 5-4 on an error in the 12th. Chico Ruiz collected two hits in each of the four games played to date. The *San Diego Union* provided four columns and a photo of Hiraldo Ancieto Teodoro Mateo Sablon Ruiz in the April 21st issue.

On April 20, the sad news came that Bill Norman, former Padre

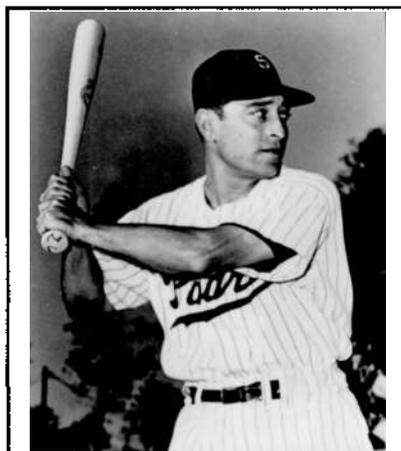


Sammy Ellis

manager, had died of a heart attack at age 51, in Milwaukee; he had been a White Sox scout at the time. Norman had driven himself to excel as a player and manager.

In late April, a baseball summit meeting in Los Angeles triggered new expansion gossip. Influential Angeleños pushed for a major league franchise in San Diego. What some wanted, however, was to try to keep two American league teams out of Los Angeles and put a National League in San Diego, hence help receipts in both cities. As the comedian Joe E. Brown had said, "This sounds like the chap who decided to give up drinking because he was beginning to see the handwriting--on the floor."

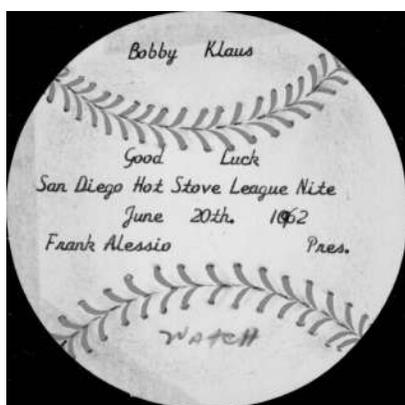
Consecutive series with Salt Lake City, and Tacoma were a push as the Padres lay in fifth place on May 1st, four games out. The Bees led the PCL. On May 9th, the Reds optioned Sammy Ellis, a right-hander (1-1) to the Padres. Off the plane late



Jim Pisoni. Photo courtesy Bob Dreher.

one night, he pitched the next evening and took the Portland Bevos 3-0. Ellis had been in organized baseball less than a year.

Team hitting streaks were sporadic. Bobby Klaus triggered a temporary Padre revival with his hitting and fielding. The pitching had been rough the first month, but McWilliams found his forkball, which broke away from right-handed hitters and the Padres took a couple on his arm. On May 16, at Salt Lake City the Padres bombed Salt Lake 14-4 with 13 hits. The Padres were fifth in the standings, eight games out, but they thumped Hawaii at Westgate Park as reliever George McWilliams chalked up his fifth win. By May 21, the locals had won five in a row as Zack Monroe and George McWilliams took a doubleheader. The streak brought them to third place and four and a half games back of the Bees and Seattle.



Hot Stove League invitation, June 20, 1962, from Bobby Klaus.

*pls
enlarge*



San Diego PCL championship, 1962 Flag.

Don Heffner awaited the arrival of outfielder Harry Anderson, as the season settled down. Anderson played five years in the majors with Philadelphia and Cincinnati. The 6'3" 205 pound first baseman-outfielder from Wilmington, Del., was named the National League's "Sophomore of the Year" in 1958. Anderson a graduate of West Chester State College, played for Jersey City and Indianapolis the previous year. He hit 23 homers for the Phils in 1958, and drove in 97 runs.

At Spokane on May 26, the Padres crashed 16 hits on righthander John Tsitouris' first victory to win 10-4. Jesse Gonder, Ken Walters and Bobby Klaus ignited the hitting. Ron Samford, a 32 year old infielder, had been with three major league clubs: the New York Giants, Detroit and Washington. He led three leagues in most putouts. With Miami he led the International league second basemen in putouts with .331 in 1960. The Dallas resident stood 5'10" and weighed 160 pounds. Samford's best year at the plate was with Charleston in '58, when he hit .301

in the American Association.

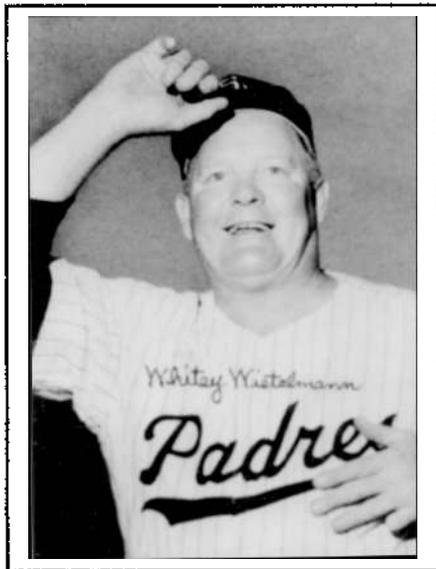
In a wild night in the same series, Ron Samford and Tommy Harper were beamed and Marv Schultz pulled a leg muscle; all were out for a few days. Monroe and Flavin paced a win over Portland and on Memorial Day, 7-4; Maloney and Nuxhall hurled the Pads to twin victories over the Bevos on May 30. Four straight and a sweep of the Portland series put San Diego three and one-half off the pace, as Risenhoover now 2-2 looked impressive As they turned back Salt Lake City twice, they tied mathematically



"Padres Clinch Pennant: Beat Vancouver Twice."

for the league lead. Schultz a 22-year-outfielder stood 6'1", at 195 pounds. The Detroit player batted .304 for Columbia of the Sally League in 1961, the fifth highest in the loop. He was signed off the Central Michigan University campus in 1958.

Lefty John Flavin posted his first PCL victory on June 3, over the Islanders 9-2, following Sam Ellis' win the night before. Both were helped considerably by the hitting. Leishman sensing success, boldly predicted the PCL flag was in reach. In April, he had quietly described the Padres as a good example of America's youth, industrious, dedicated--and uncomplaining. By early June, he had seen all the clubs and now took the posture that his team had a good shot at the pennant. He



Coach Whitey Wietelmann

had the pitching and Leishman said, "that's what baseball is essentially about."

What had helped the Padres was that the parent Cincinnati Reds were also winning and had not found it necessary to move their players up and down between their club and the Padres. As long as the Reds were doing well, they were not likely to send an SOS to the Padres. The Padres road trip had been the best in more than two years. On June 5, Joe Nuxhall spun a four hitter to stop Hawaii 8-2.

At home they won their fifth in a row on a two hitter by John Tsitouris over Spokane, 4-0. On June 6, Heffner, known to demonstrate his ire at what he regarded as improper umpire calls, was ejected from the game when Marv Schultz was hit over the left eye by Spokane's Thad Tillotson. This was supposed to be a fun Optimist Night, whereby funds acquired from tickets sold by City and County Optimist Clubs would help send the Optimist Boys Club band to the Seattle World's Fair, on June 26.

Heffner, reflecting on the spirit of the team, said that when you start winning everything seems to work right. His second base combination of Bobby Klaus and Chico Ruiz had become a hard-hitting, smooth-fielding combination. Nuxhall and Tsitouris pitched sharply as they took two over Tacoma on June 10, and moved into second place.



Commissioner William Eckert, Eddie Leishman, General Manager of the San Diego Padres, and C. Arnholt Smith, owner of the San Diego Padres. Photo from Jay Leishman.



*Hal Bevan and Bobby Klaus.
Photo San Diego Historical Society Collection.*

moved into second place.

On June 13, Padre pitcher Tsitouris was ejected from the game by Umpire Engel after the Padre pitcher threw his mitt in the air after a ball four call. Tsitouris ran from the mound and gave the umpire a hard shove. That meant an automatic fine and suspension.

Third baseman Tommy Harper who had been receiving as much ink as a future Major Leaguer All-Star, bashed a 390-foot home run in the 12th inning on June 14, to top Salt Lake City and put the Pads in first place. Heffner, elated over the fine performance of his aggressive athletes, said he was extremely pleased with his pitching staff. Then the Bees took four in a row from San Diego pushing San Diego into third place.



On June 20, 3,559 loyal Hot Stove Leaguers helped bombard Vancouver 13-5. Harper and Gonder had the big bats. Before the game Frank Alessio, President of the Hot Stovers, presented wrist watches to each of the Padres on behalf of that organization before game time.

On June 23, the locals had won their sixth in a row beating Portland 14-3 before 7,045 fans, with a fine hurling performance by right-hander John Tsitouris. of the *Union* had been the staff writer for this period. His stories were upbeat and optimistic even when the Pads dropped out of first or had a poor series. The players and the team management had good words for him.

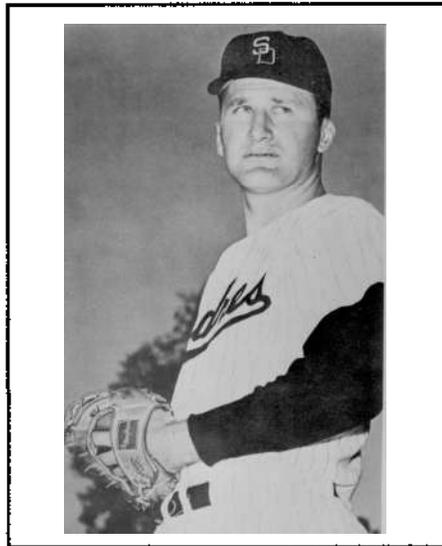
Tommy Harper led the PCL batting race, boosting his batting average 31 points in a week and leading at .337. On June 28, he drove in four runs as 18 hits crushed Vancouver in a 12-4 victory. Harper again paced the Padre attack with his 15th homer and a single on the 29th. On the last day of June, at 44-29, the Padres stood atop the league by a full game, followed by Salt Lake City and Tacoma.

The pitching was hot. Joe Nuxhall tossed a one-hitter over Tacoma on the last day of June. The next day the Pads won 24 -6 in the first game of a doubleheader, and then blew the nightcap. Earl Keller of the *Union-Tribune* gave an early col-

umn present to Don Heffner by his observations that the Padre manager should be declared PCL Manager of the Year. His ability came from knowing how to handle men. He had the older players come out early every night to hit and pitch and work with the younger players.

Howard Craghead, a former Padre pitcher and a San Diego Gas and Electric Company executive affirmed Keller's observation, stating, that "He and his wife liked to watch the Padres this season because Heffner plays such interesting ball and he has the players hustling all the time."

On July 7 the lineups for the PCL All-Stars had been chosen to play July 11th at Portland. The Padres would be represented by Sammy Ellis, Jesse Gonder, Rogelio Alvarez,



Greg Jancich

Tommy Harper and Ken Walters. On that night, the PCL All-Stars beat the Los Angeles Angels 6-5

The team continued winning games with wild hitting before growing numbers of fans. On a road trip that brought them home on the 10th of July, they had 193 hits, 123 runs, and 11 victories in 16 games. In the game on July 11th, Tommy Harper drove in five runs with his 19th and 20th home runs to lead the Padres to a 8-1 victory over the Hawaiian Islanders. The Padres stretched their lead to six games by July 15, on the hitting of Tommy Harper and Bobby Klaus. The slightly conservative Leishman spoke of a possible run-away.

Then the first of the unexpected options was taken by the Reds when Joe Nuxall who compiled a 9-2 record with the Pads went to Cincinnati. On the road trip the last part of July, the team hammered out the home runs. On July 22, they clobbered Bevo pitchers with five homers; the next night Jesse Gonder hit two and Walters one.

On July 25, Les Cook was honored by some 212 fans and friends and baseball personalities in the U.S. Grant Hotel to celebrate his 50th anniversary in America's favorite pastime. "This is the greatest day of my life ... I didn't realize so many people would turn out." He was admitted to the PCL Hall of Fame and received cash and gifts from

fans, players, and community organizations up and down the state. Gene Gregson of the *Evening-Tribune*, did a July 26 double column editorial on Al Couppee and Al Schuss along with the story of Les Cook's life; an incredibly wonderful story.

July 31st was the deadline for ballplayers to be called up to the majors. Many fans were fearful that Tommy Harper would be gone. Jack Murphy, Eddie Leishman and Don Heffner felt confident that he was not yet ready for the Majors. He needed more time to develop. On the 26th, however, Ray Rippelmeyer was returned to Cincinnati by Washington and on the road to join the Padres. Joe Nuxhall, who had suddenly come to life with the Padres went back to the Redlegs. At the end of July, the Padres stood seven and a half games ahead of second place Salt Lake City.

The Padres now hoped to steamroll the league the next month. Heffner said he would be satisfied if they won 90 games this year, but 100 would be much better and quite possible!

Despite a rough start on the road in August the first two weeks, the locals managed to hold on to their lead. Sammy Ellis and the pitching staff worked strongly and veteran Hal Bevan continued to hit well.

Jack Murphy said it best when he reminisced that the combination of agreeable climate and a

winning team after a run of bad luck for seven years had renewed the pleasure of PCL baseball.

Murphy hedged a bit on saying this was the finest collection of talent ever assembled, because many revered the memory of Luke Easter, Minnie Miñoso, and Jack Graham. Which of these players had a chance to move up to the big leagues? Leishman chose Tommy Harper, Jesse Gonder, Bobby Klaus, Rogelio Alvarez, and pitchers Sammy Ellis, John Tsitorius and George McWilliams, allowing that the team continued on their winning track.

Even as Murphy wrote, Sammy Ellis hurled a no-hit 4-0 victory over Tacoma on August 14, before 9,124 people. The young pitcher was emotionless as he walked off the mound before the hometown crowd until Jesse Gonder roared out from behind home plate to pick him up. Ellis gave the fans a show, the first no-hitter in the PCL this season.

That stimulated the Pads to pour it on with a doubleheader win over Hawaii to lead the league by 12. Harry Anderson and Jim Pisoni powered San Diego to another win over the Islanders, while Bobby Klaus again drove in two doubles and his 12th homer. Jesse Gonder was leading the PCL batters at this time hitting .345. All of the hitters were on track as Rogelio Alvarez belted two homers and Harper smacked his 25th round tripper on August 25 against

Hawaii. They played as if each game meant the PCL pennant. On an evening after a game in which he had made several errors, Tommy Harper sat disconsolate in a hotel lobby. The Pads were out in front by 13-1/2 games yet not playing like major leaguers.

Taking six in a row, they led the rest of the league by 18. The team played steady and by August 30, clinched the Pacific Coast League title. They took the doubleheader over Vancouver on the 30th. Clearly they had been the class of the league, 13 games ahead of second place Salt Lake City. Johnny McDonald aptly recapped the history of each season the Padres had won the pennant, beginning with the asterisk in the 1937 season.

Padre game attendance had risen to 45,000, more than in 1961, reaching more than 181,000 to this date, a signal which went along with the number of individuals already picking the best manager, the Most Valuable Player and any other honor that could be attributed to a Padre.

Don Heffner, who had led three teams to pennants in 11 years as a manager, was carried into a shower for a wet reception. He thanked everyone for a wonderful job. C. Arnholt Smith commented "he was as happy as Don Heffner and his boys. The success of this season is a credit in our entire organization." This was the first time in 26 years

that the flag had flown over the Padre grandstand. Soon enough the predictions were that seven of the Padres would be called up to the majors for 1963: Gonder, Harper, Ellis, Klaus, Alvarez, Tsitouris, and McWilliams.

The closeness of the baseball fraternity became evident in the congratulations received from former Padre players: Tony Criscola, Pete Coscarart, Bob Kerrigan, Swede Jensen, Ernie Holman, Dain Clay, Max West, Jack Graham, Cedric Durst and Jack Harshman. All felt very good and congratulated Don Heffner, Eddie Leishman and the players.

There seemed little question that Cincinnati had held a major key to the Padre success. Leishman held that DeWitt, the Cincinnati Club owner, and Seghi reflected enough confidence in Heffner to put him with the club to produce a winner. While the season played out, the games were anti-climactic and the final standings showed San Diego had won by 13 games.

Jesse Gonder was named the Most Valuable Player. The selection had been a difficult choice due to the fact that the championship had many stars: Tommy Harper, George McWilliams, Ken Walters, Sammy Ellis, Chico Ruiz, John Flavin, John Tsitouris and others. Gonder received a check for \$150 and the Murray Goodrich trophy. He was to leave shortly to join the Reds as a pinch-

hitter on a team that continued its bid to repeat the National League title chase. John Tsitouris received his award as the most valuable pitcher for the PCL champs. Twenty-six years old, Gonder also won the Topps National Association Player of the Year Award.

The Reds purchased Walters and McWilliams in October, and late in November, Eddie Leishman announced that Heffner had accepted terms to run the club in 1963. Voted Manager of the Year in the PCL and leading candidate for minor league honors, he proved to be such an asset in the Reds organization that he was asked to work with the young players at the Tampa Florida instructional camp in the winter.

At the end of the 1962 season, Vancouver withdrew from the PCL. At the same time, the American Association decided they had to suspend operations. This left only the Pacific Coast League and the International League in class AAA. The 20 major league teams each needed a Triple AAA affiliate. Both AAA Leagues now grew to 10 teams to meet that major league need.

In 1963, the PCL for the first time, became an inter-club league. The PCL added Denver, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Oklahoma City from the American Association.

The total attendance for the season was 252,196



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FINAL PCL STANDINGS: 1962

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>GB</u>
San Diego	93	61	
Salt Lake City	81	73	13
Tacoma	81	73	13
Seattle	76	74	15
Hawaii	77	76	15-1/2
Portland	74	80	19
Vancouver	72	79	19-1/2
Spokane	58	96	35

VOICES FROM WESTGATE PARK

Biographical data for HAL BEVAN from San Diego Union

Hal Bevan was regarded as the team leader. An ankle injury in 1952 ruined what might have been a promising major league career. Originally a shortstop, Bevan reverted to the catching position because of the injury. With Portland in 1959, he hit .322, blasted 13 homers and drove in 55 runs. He had another good season in 1960. The 30-year-old athlete batted over .300 nine times in his career, the last being at Indianapolis in 1961. Bevan, who could still play third, first and the outfield was named All-Star Catcher in the Pacific Coast League in 1959-60, while with Seattle. In 1960, he was chosen by a poll of PCL managers as the Best Two-Strike Hitter in the league. He was born in New Orleans. Nineteen sixty-two was his 15th season in baseball. He made his debut with Rehoboth, in the Eastern State League in 1948. Hal spent the 1949 season with Modesto. He and his wife had five children.

Interview with the mother of HAL BEVAN. 1996

Hal's mother said that Hal had died at the age of 30 of kidney failure. He was survived by his wife and five children. His mother also noted that Hal was an esteemed player who batted over .300 nine times in his career. Due to ankle injury in 1952, he never made it to the majors. He was named All-Star catcher in the Pacific Coast League in 1959-1960.

LESTER 'COOKIE' COOK

Nineteen sixty-three would be a special year for Padre trainer, Les Cook, for he was about to enter his 50th season in baseball—a Golden Anniversary. He broke into baseball as a catcher with the old Vernon Club in the Coast League, and had linked with the Padres in 1936. His best season at the plate was 1924, when he hit .301 with Salt Lake City. From 1928 to 1933 in a dual role, Cook caught, coached and was the team trainer. He took off his uniform in 1933 when his salary was cut by \$1,200, saying, "I am not about to catch too". He returned in '39 when Cedric Durst asked him to come out of retirement when both Padre catchers were injured and he caught about a week.

Cook would spend 55 seasons with a PCL team, 38 years with this same franchise. "Cookie," as he was called by the ball players after Salt Lake City, moved along with them to Hollywood in '26, and came to San Diego in 1936. During that span, he has been a catcher, coach, trainer and traveling secretary.

"I wanted to protect the .300 batting average that year, so I refused to catch the second game. I had gone 0-for-3 in the morning game."



Les Cook

In '43 Cookie spent considerable time on the coaching line when George Detore handled the club. Other than batting .301, two other highlights stand out in Les' memory: "I hit a homer off Lefty Gómez in 1930 and hold a record for five games by hitting 10 two-base hits, three singles and a home run back in 1924. Les said he had it in his scrapbook to prove it."

During the many years when he performed many chores, Cook worked on several valuable arms and legs. As for the best ball player he has ever seen in the league, Cook came up quickly with the name of Buzz Arlett. "He was a great spitballer, a great Oakland player. He won 25 or more games several seasons and later he went to the outfield to become a hitting star."

When Lester Cook passed away closest friend Whitey Wietelmann represented the Padres at his funeral because the team was traveling on the road.

ROBERT "BOB" SPENCE

a native San Diegan, received his early education at St. Jude's Academy and Saint Augustine's High School in San Diego. While at Saints, he was a two-year all CIF selection in basketball and baseball. Accepting a baseball scholarship to Santa Clara University, he was an All-America first baseman on the "Broncos" varsity. He was the Chicago first-pick in the 1967 draft.

After one year in the minors, he was called up by the White Sox, spending the next two-and-a-half years with that organization, ending his career with the Philadelphia Phillies. He is presently on the teaching staff at Saint Augustine's High School.

Interview with ROBERT (BOB) SPENCE by John Bowman

It was like going on a sacred pilgrimage and although I had been there many times (more than half of every summer vacation had been spent at Westgate Park--single games on Saturday afternoons, doubleheaders on Sundays) this visit was different.

General Manager Eddie Leishman, who I just knew was related to some spiritually superior power, was affording a few San Diego County high school baseball players a workout at Westgate prior to a Padre game. I was one of the chosen few. A 14-year-old sophomore from Saint Augustine, I just knew I didn't belong in this sacrosanct setting, in the company of Padre players, individuals possessed of Olympian qualities; however, my romantic notions concerning baseball players were quickly and traumatically shattered by the conversation between two of my "heroes," whose names for obvious reasons will remain anonymous.

Although many of the words that spilled effortlessly from their lips were foreign to me, I, a young man reared in a Catholic household and schooled by nuns and priests, heard the First Commandment broken enough times to guarantee the two malefactors a special place in Hell!!! It seemed my idols had feet of clay. All, however, was not lost. During batting practice, I managed to drive two balls onto the clubhouse roof.

Despite my seven years in major league ball, it never seemed as important as the time spent at Westgate Park in the late 50s and early 60s. Westgate Park was home - - comfortable and friendly. It was school--a place for learning what was good and what was bad about organized baseball. It was a special gath

ering place where I saw my friends, my teachers, and, with the exception of the two aforementioned masters of scatology, my heroes. It was at Westgate Park that I met some of baseball's creme de la creme. George Metkovich, Whitey Wietelmann, Al Schuss, for many seasons the Voice of the Padres, and Mr. Eddie Leishman. I loved it, blemishes and all ... I truly loved every blessed minute of it.

JESSE GONDER

came from a baseball family. His father played with semi-pro barnstormers. He turned down an offer from the Kansas City Monarchs because he didn't want to leave home. Jesse played ball as long as he could remember. He went to McClymonds High School with Curtis Flood, Vada Pinson and Frank Robinson.

Born January 20, 1936 at Monticello, Arkansas. Jesse batted left, and threw right. He was 5'10" tall and weighed 180 pounds when he was signed by Bob Maddox with Cincinnati. In the summer of 1962, Jesse had one of the hottest months of his career in August and the newspaper ink flowed about his play. He drove in his 71st run; on the 18th of July, he hit a home run 420 feet, 22 feet over the fence at Spokane, the first time that had happened in that park.

On the 5th of August, he smashed his 17th home run. Leishman said "the way he can swing a bat, Jesse belongs in the majors right now." By the 22nd, the Padre catcher led the Pacific Coast League with a percentage basis of .342 and in RBIs at 124. At the end of the month all of the newspapers on the Coast had tabbed him early as the potential Most Valuable Player player for the PCL. In 1962 the San Diego catcher won the batting crown (.342) and the Most Valuable Player award,

the only catcher in PCL history to take both honors. Jesse was also the minor league "Player of the Year."

Interview with JESSE GONDER by Ray Brandes

My career was a long one and I paid my dues in the minors long before I went up. In 1955, I was with Ogden, Utah, in 1956, Wausau, Wisconsin and then in 1957, first with Clovis, New Mexico (a team that folded), went to Wenatchee and then to Temple all in that year. In 1958, I was with the Seattle Mariners in the PCL, went to Monterrey, Mexico and then back to San Antonio, Texas.

In 1959, it was to the Havana Sugar Teams in Cuba. In 1960, to Richmond, Virginia, in 1961, I started with the Yankees and after two months (hitting .333) was optioned to Richmond. In 1962, I came out to Cincinnati and was sent to San Diego, went to Cincinnati in 1963 and was traded to the New York Mets in 1964 when I hit (.304) and stayed with them in 1965, went to the Milwaukee Braves that year, to the Pirates in 1966 and was with them through 1967. In 1968, I played for Columbus in the International League and then to Seattle. In 1969, I came back to the San Diego Padres, a new team in the major leagues and played one month before I went to the PCL Phoenix team. At that point I went out of baseball.

San Diego was a place we ballplayers really enjoyed. My wife stayed at our home in Oakland and came down on weekends. Conditions in the Minor League for traveling were not good; there was no way my wife could have been dragged around with both daughters. Westgate Park was a beautiful park.

We enjoyed San Diego period. The General Manager Eddie Leishman, Whitey Wietelmann were real nice and everyone liked Les Cook.

I had bounced around in

baseball. In 1961, I hit pretty close to (.300) and then went home. My high school coach was George Powles who sent lots of players to the minor leagues and the majors. Between he and Eddie Leishman, they convinced me to play for the Padres.

My roommate in San Diego was Tommy Harper, but Cuban Chico Ruiz, killed in an auto accident, Borrego Alvarez, Sammy Ellis and John Flavin were good friends. And Jim Pisoni and I had played together at Richmond, Virginia. The year I was there we won the championship. As for things to do in San Diego. I didn't fish and didn't play golf like some of the players. But I knew some of the San Diego Chargers, like Earl Faison. I lived at a hotel next to old Horton Plaza above the movie houses, across the street from the U.S. Grant Hotel. I suppose that has all changed today.

Being Black, one had to enjoy the game. Money was not good at all—it was a business, much like it is today. In 1990, I was invited to Atlantic City with the 1961 Yankees for an autograph party, but everyone there was out to make money off the players.

After I retired from baseball, I worked for 23 years for the Golden Gate Bridge Transit Bus Company. Now I am retired again and loving every day of retirement.



Chico Ruiz

THE "NEW" PCL of 1963.
By Dewey Soriano, President PCL

"As the proud Pacific Coast League plays its sixty-first season, its fans are being treated to a completely new formula—a two-division, ten-team circuit with an interlocking schedule.

Not only has the number of clubs been expanded, but the geographic boundaries of the League, too. At one time, only two franchises existed outside California; today, only one—here in San Diego—remains in the Golden State. With eight states now represented on the PCL roster, the intersectional rivalry should be hot and heavy. This is how the two divisions line up:

Southern Division	Northern Division
San Diego Padres	Hawaii Islanders
Dallas-Ft.Worth Rangers	Portland Beavers
Denver Bears	Seattle Rainiers
Oklahoma City 89ers	Spokane Indians
Salt Lake City Bees	Tacoma Giants

During regular season play, each club will play twenty-two games with each of the other four teams in its own division; fourteen games with each of the five teams in the other division.

To cap the 158 game schedule, the Northern and Southern Division winners will meet in a seven-game series to determine the 1963 PCL Champion.

Who will be the stars of 1963? Will any of the long-standing records be broken? For example:

- Tony Lazzeri's 60 home runs in 1925?
- Joe DiMaggio's 61-game hitting streak in 1933?
- Oscar Eckhardt's .414 batting average in 1933?
- Harry Vicker's and Eustace Newton's 39-15 and 39-17 pitching records in 1906 and 1904 respectively?

1962 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	PCT.
Acosta, Teolindo	13	29	6	8	1	2	--	3	.276
Alvarez, Rogelio	132	481	88	153	27	5	18	73	.318
Anderson, Harry	115	348	46	90	19	--	14	61	.259
Arias, Rodolfo	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Bevan, J. Harold	102	280	33	86	13	--	12	52	.307
Briggs, John	16	24	--	1	--	--	--	--	.042
Dobbek, Daniel	29	68	7	16	3	1	--	5	.235
Ellis, Samuel	38	59	12	9	1	2	--	4	.153
Flavin, John	22	57	6	12	3	--	--	4	.211
Gonder, Jesse	136	491	76	168	31	1	21	116	.342
Harper, Tommy	144	499	120	166	24	8	26	84	.333
Hunt, Kenneth	6	6	2	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Jancich, Gregory	28	36	2	4	1	--	--	--	.111
Klaus, Robert	150	508	78	130	24	3	13	73	.256
Krop, Robert	4	4	--	2	--	--	--	--	.500
Maloney, James	13	18	3	5	--	--	1	1	.278
McWilliams, George	48	30	--	1	--	--	--	1	.033
Monroe, Zackie	41	20	2	4	--	--	--	1	.200
Nunn, Howard	25	25	1	1	--	--	--	1	.040
Nuxhall, Joseph	21	41	6	11	4	--	2	5	.268
Pisoni, James	132	442	55	104	16	3	17	69	.235
Rancourt, Lawrence	19	34	5	6	1	--	3	4	.176
Rippelmeyer, Ray	12	30	--	4	1	--	--	1	.133
Risenhoover, Robert	27	20	2	5	2	--	--	1	.250
Ruiz, Hiraldo	144	621	108	176	20	6	5	43	.283
Samford, Ronald	71	158	24	50	3	3	8	23	.316
Schultz, J. Marvin	91	206	26	51	5	2	--	13	.248
Tsitouris, John	30	73	5	15	1	--	--	4	.205
Thomas, Carl	7	5	--	1	--	--	--	1	.200
Walters, Kenneth	152	583	87	175	43	6	22	96	.300

PADRE CONCESSION PRICES			
Beer	Hot Chocolate 15c	Peanuts 15c	
Lucky Lager 40c	Hot Dogs 25c	Popcorn 15c	
Schlitz 50c		Potato Chips 15c	
Soft Drinks	Ice Cream	Programs 20c	
Large 25c	Sandwiches 15c	Pencils 05c	
Small 15c	Bars 15c	Cushion Rental 25c	
Coffee 15c	Cigars 15c		

1962 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	IP	W	L	PCT	SO	BB	ERA
Arias, Teolindo	5	5	--	--	.000	1	3	1.80
Briggs, John	16	78	4	4	.500	40	16	3.69
Ellis, Samuel	27	129	12	6	.667	162	98	3.53
Flavin, John	22	141	12	2	.857	75	45	3.45
Hunt, Kenneth	6	26	1	2	.333	16	29	3.46
Jancich, Gregory	28	122	6	6	.500	85	65	2.58
Krop, Robert	4	11	--	1	.000	4	3	4.09
Maloney, James	7	45	4	1	.800	37	31	2.20
McWilliams, George	48	123	12	7	.632	87	57	3.59
Monroe, Zackie	41	98	8	6	.571	41	34	5.51
Nunn, Howard	25	76	5	5	.500	37	27	4.74
Nuxhall, Joseph	15	84	9	2	.818	71	22	3.21
Rippelmeyer, Ray	12	75	3	5	.375	30	10	3.73
Risenhoover, Robert	27	60	3	5	.375	25	26	4.80
Thomas, Carl	6	14	1	1	.500	12	4	8.36
Tsitouris, John	29	200	13	8	.619	107	54	2.93



Full House at Westgate Park night game.

Photos:
Those listed here appeared in the *San Diego Union* unless otherwise noted. SET= *San Diego Evening-Tribune*.

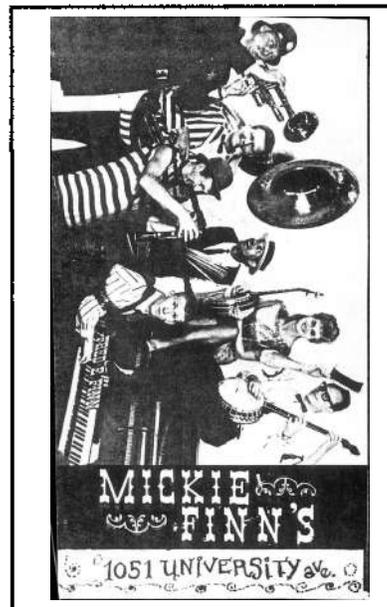
January 16:	Dick Reed, D.J. Marrow, Art Billings, Al Jones SET	February 19:	Eddie Leishman
January 18:	Hal Bevan SET	February 20:	Fred Hutchinson, Don Heffner, Eddie Leishman
January 29:	Bill DeWitt, C. Arnholt Smith SET	February 27:	Jesse Gonder, SET
February 1:	C. Arnholt Smith, Gene Gregson SET	February 28:	Chico Ruiz, SET
February 1:	Jerry Doggett, Don Heffner, Fresco Thompson, Jack Kearns. SET	March 6:	Jack Casslini, Harry Anderson, SET
February 1:	Buzzie Bavasi, C. Arnholt Smith, Gene Autry and Bob Reynolds.	March 9:	Fred Hutchinson, Ken Walters, Don Heffner, SET
February 1:	Dick Grihalva, Gene Autry, Buzzi Bavasi, SET	March 10:	John Briggs, SET
February 6:	Don Heffner, SET	March 11:	Sportswriter, John McDonald
February 6:	Les Cook cartoon; Don Heffner, SET	March 12:	Eddie Leishman, Phil Seghi, Jim Turner, SET
February 7:	Fred Hutchinson, Jocko Conlan, SET	March 15:	Phil Seghi
February 8:	Fred Hutchinson, Don Heffner, Eddie Leishman, SET	March 16:	George McWilliams and Don Heffner
February 8:	Jocko Conlan, Fred Hutchinson, Beans Reardon, Don Heffner, SET	March 16:	Mrs. Carl Davis of the Padres staff SET
February 8:	Dewey Soriano, Jocko Conlan, Beans Reardon	March 19:	Dr. A.L. Anderson, Curt Gowdy, Charles Metro, Bob Sexton, SET
February 8:	John McQuilken & Eddie Leishman	March 19:	Don Heffner, Bobby Klaus, SET
February 15:	Earl Keller, Eddie Leishman, C. Arn- holt Smith, Fred Hutchinson, Jim Mulvaney, <i>The Sporting News</i> .	March 20:	Dan Dobbek, Jim Bailey, SET
February 9:	Ken Walters SET	March 20:	John Keller, Jim Bailey, Don Metz
February 12:	Gene Autry, Dick Grihalva and Buzzie Bavasi, <i>The Sporti- ng News</i> .	March 20:	Dan Dobbek, Fred Hopke
February 17:	Jim Pisoni, SET	March 20:	Fred Hopke
		March 21:	Teo Acosta, Bill Shepherd, SET
		March 21:	Heffner, Rabe Briggs, Bevan
		March 21:	John Keller, Jim Bailey, Bob Metz, Dan Dobbek, SET
		March 21:	Charlie Rabe, Don Gross SET
		March 22:	Harry Anderson, Zach Monroe, John Tsitouris SET
		March 22:	John Tsitouris
		March 23:	Harry (The Horse) Anderson, SET
		March 28:	Tony Asaro, Tony Pisoni, Zach Mon- roe, Larry Helms
		April 1:	Ken Hunt, Zach Monroe
		April 1:	Zack Monroe, SET
		April 2:	Hal Bevan, SET
		April 3:	

April 5:	Don Heffner: 4 portraits, SET		out 1st pitch, Hal Bevan SET
April 9:	Fans at Westgate Park, 2 photos, SET	April 21:	Rogelio Alvarez
April 10:	Harry Simpson, Harry Anderson SET	April 22:	Jesse Gonder SET
April 14:	John Tsitouris, Jim Maloney; Sara Hunter, Ron Samford, Teo Acosta, Tom Dotterer, Team alighting from plane. SET	April 23:	Hal Bevan SET
April 14:	Jim and Carolyn Maloney; Harry and Gail Anderson SET	April 23:	Chico Ruiz
April 15:	Dan Dobbeck, Harry Anderson, Jim Pisoni SET	April 25:	John Briggs, SET
April 16:	Tommy Harper	April 26:	Floyd Robinson in Chisox uniform.
April 16:	Jim Maloney, Dusty Rhodes, SET	May 3:	John Pesky SET
April 17:	Don Heffner, Chico Ruiz, Teo Acosta, Jim Pisoni, Rogelio Alvarez, Ken Walters, Hal Bevan, Harry Anderson, Bobby Klaus, Jim Maloney	May 5:	Larry Rancourt, Jesse Gonder, George McWilliams
April 17:	Chico Ruiz	May 7:	Don Heffner, Ted Howe SET
April 17:	Ken Hunt, Rogelio Alvarez, Zack Monroe, Don Heffner, Chico Ruiz, John Briggs, John Tsitouris, Larry Rancourt, Harry Anderson, Tom Dotterer, Hal Bevan, Ron Samford	May 8:	Herb Score, Ken Walters
April 17:	Jim Maloney, Harry Anderson, Greg Jancich, Rudy Arais, George McWilliams, Bobby Knop, Bobby Risenhoover, Ken Walters, Jim Pisoni, Teo Acosta, Dan Dobbek, Marv Schultz.	May 11:	Dave Morehead SET
April 17:	Jim Maloney SET	May 14:	George McWilliams SET
April 19:	Bob Elliott throws	May 16:	Former Padre Minnie Miñoso and wife Edilia in hospital.
		May 19:	Sammy Ellis, Les Cook
		May 20:	Julie Deane, Jesse Gonder
		May 21:	Bobby Klaus SET
		May 22:	Zack Monroe, George McWilliams SET
		May 26:	James Maloney SET
		May 29:	Joe Nuxhall SET
		June 3:	John Tsitouris
		June 4:	Bo Belinky, LA Angels (later a Padre) with singer Keely Smith, Henry Fonda and Dean Martin.
		June 5:	Tommy Harper, Freddie Hutchinson SET
		June 6:	Zack Monroe, Ken Walters, John Flavin
		June 9:	Bobby Klaus, Chico Ruiz, Jim Maloney, Tommy Harper
		June 9:	Bobby Klaus, Chico Ruiz SET
		June 10:	Tommy Harper
		June 11:	Joe Nuxhall SET
		June 11:	Tommy Harper, Faye Throneberry
		June 12:	John Briggs SET

June 14:	Later to be Padre Bo Belinsky, Dean Martin, Keeley Smith and Henry Fonda.	July 16:	Chico Ruiz
June 15:	Tommy Harper SET	July 20:	Jim Pisoni
June 15:	Don Heffner SET	July 21:	Jesse Gonder, <i>The Sporting News</i>
June 15:	Don Heffner	July 24:	Jesse Gonder, Ken Walters
June 21:	Jessie Gonder, Ray Mendoza	July 24:	G. McWilliams SET
June 21:	SET Tommy Harper	July 26:	Bob Elliott
June 22:	Hal Bevan, Hal Morgan	July 26:	Les Cook and group of men at his 50th anniversary.
June 23:	Tim Davidson, Frank Madrid	July 27:	Tommy Harper
June 25:	Rogelio Alvarez, Gordon MacKenzie	July 28:	John Flavin SET
June 15:	Don Heffner SET	July 28:	Lefty Gomez,; Les Cook, Jack Graham SET
June 23:	Young Padre fans Tim Davidson and Frank Madrid	July 31:	Ken Walters, SET
June 25:	Rogelio Alvarez, SET	August 7:	Jim Pisoni SET
June 26:	George McWilliams SET	August 10:	Jim Pisoni SET
June 26:	Tommy Harper	August 11:	Sammy Ellis
June 27:	Howie Nunn	August 13:	Tommy Harper
June 28:	John Flavin, SET	August 14:	Don Heffner, Eddie Leishman
July 3:	John Tsitouris, Don Heffner	August 15:	Sammy Ellis, Bob Risenhoover, Jesse Gonder, Tommy Harper
July 6:	Sammy Ellis	August 15:	Big Crowd, Big Game, Westgate Park SET
July 7:	Zach Monroe, Chico Ruiz, Harry Ander son, Sammy Ellis and Greg Jancich SET	August 16:	Sammy Ellis
July 10:	Phil Seghi, Don Heffner, Harry Anderson, Bobby Klaus SET	August 17:	Chico Ruiz SET
July 11:	Bobby Klaus and son; Tommy Harper	August 17:	Hal Bevan SET
July 11:	Dads with sons: Ken Walters, Carl Thomas,, Joe Nuxhall; Tommy Harper, Bobby Klaus, Jim Pisoni homers, Phil Seghi, Ron Samford, Jim Pisoni. Rogelio Alvarez, Tommy Harper, Jesse Gonder	August 18:	Bobby Klaus, Dewey Soriano. <i>The Sporting News.</i>
July 13:	Rogelio Alvarez	August 19:	John Tsitouris, Sammy Ellis, George McWilliams, John Flavin
July 13:	Joe Nuxhall, SET	August 20:	Max West, Jack Graham, Jesse Gonder, Tommy Harper
		August 20:	Cedric Durst, Max West, Dain Clay SET
		August 25:	Fred Hutchinson and son, <i>The Sport- ing News</i>
		August 29:	Greg Jancich SET
		August 31:	The PCL Champi ons, 1962-- team.SET
		August 31:	Alvarez, Tsitouris, Gonder, Heffner SET

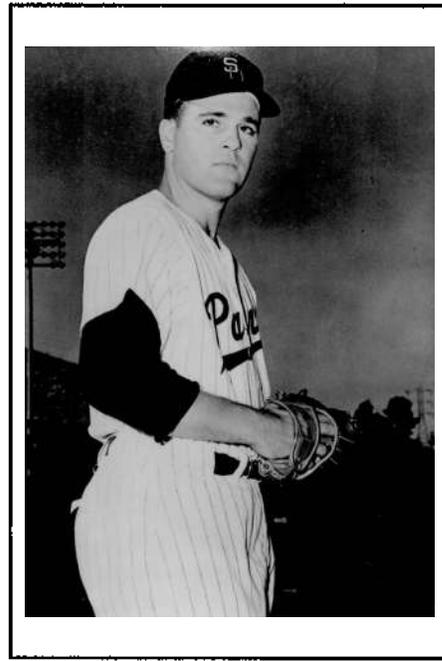
- | | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------|--|
| August 31: | Heffner, Jancich,
Risenhoover and
Pisoni SET | September 5 | Tommy Harper,
Jesse Gonder |
| August 31: | Jim Mulvaney,
Eddie Leishman, C.
Arnholt Smith SET | September 9: | Ken Walters, Chico
Ruiz |
| August 31: | Heffner, Tsitouris,
Ruiz and Gonder
SET | September 10: | Murray Goodrich
trophy to Jesse
Gonder |
| September 1: | Bob Kerrigan, Bob
Elliott, Leishman,
Heffner SET | September 15: | Team photo in <i>The
Sporting News</i> . |
| September 1: | Sammy Ellis <i>The
Sporting News</i> | October 7: | Jesse Gonder |
| September 2: | Phil Seghi | October 10, | Ken Walters,
George McWilliams. |
| September 4: | Heffner, Leishman,
Wietelmann, Ellis,
Nunn, Tsitouris SET | November 7: | Hot Stove League:
Pop Billings, Eddie
Leishman, Bob
Skinner SET |
| | | November 30: | Floyd Robinson |
| | | December 18: | Marion Zipf |

AFTER...
 the game...
 buzz up to Mickie Finn's
 San Diego's No. 1 speak-
 easy 10th & University.
 Party going on Tuesday
 thru Saturday 8-til-2!
 Best Roaring 20's
 Dixie, rinky-dink, bar/hoorah
 music what! am!
 Wednesday - Nickel beer
 for da ladies - Tuesday -
 10:30pm. raid and New
 Years Party - cy 7-1920





J. Harold Bevan, catcher.



John Flavin, pitcher.



Westgate Park. Photo courtesy Jay Leishman.



Westgate Park. Photo courtesy Jay Leishman.

DEAR FRIENDS OF BASEBALL:

It is with genuine nostalgia that I look back on ten years of baseball in Westgate Park, one of the finest facilities in the Minor Leagues.

The San Diego Padres will be moving on to the new San Diego Stadium a few miles down the road, but memories of beautiful Westgate Park will linger on.

I can remember the first game in Westgate on April 29, 1958 when the Padres swept a doubleheader from the Phoenix Giants, and I can recall many other games played through the years. Our championship teams of 1962 and 1964, and now our Eastern Division champions of this year, the last team to call Westgate Park "home."

But progress is inevitable and the new replaces the old and so the Padres move on to a new location, the third since 1936.

The years in Westgate Park provided great baseball entertainment in a wonderful atmosphere with fans who have been just the "best anywhere."

It is my hope that we can continue to give San Diegans the finest in baseball as we move into the 50,000 seat San Diego Stadium, which is the last word in multi-purpose Stadiums.



JAMES MULVANEY
President

Sincerely

JAMES MULVANEY
President, San Diego Padres

Letter from Jim Mulvaney to Padre fans.

CHAPTER VI
SAN DIEGO PADRES, 1963
"WE WUZ ROBBED"



1963 Team Photo

As the 1963 season dawned, the Padres appeared poised to repeat the runaway success the team enjoyed the previous year. Manager Don Heffner returned for another season at the helm. The second year of the ballclub's association with the major-league Cincinnati Reds provided a bumper crop of talented pitchers and players from the Reds' minor-league system.

Don Heffner, born February 8, 1911 in Rouzerville, Pennsylvania, played second base for the Yankees during the 1930s. He had lived in Arcadia, California since 1930. Heffner's major league career extended from 1934 to 1944, when as an infielder, he played for the Yankees, the old St. Louis Browns, the Philadelphia A's and the Detroit Tigers. He managed Aberdeen, Globe-Miami, Elmira, San Antonio, Baltimore, Reading and Mobile. At the major league level, Heffner coached the Kansas City Athletics and the Detroit Tigers in 1961. He managed the Padres during 1962 and 1963. Following his Padre stint, Heffner coached for the New York Mets and California Angels. He managed the Reds for 83 games in 1966, winning

37 and losing 46. He succeeded Dick Sisler in the position. He was nicknamed "Jeep" because he jumped around a lot when playing. The Heffners had one daughter who graduated from Stanford. Don Heffner died in Pasadena on August 1, 1989.

Sportswriters throughout Pacific Coast League cities picked the Padres to repeat as league champions, and the team began the year with more than enough skilled players to replace those from the 1962 team called up to the majors.

The 1963 season began with high expectations for the Pacific Coast League as well. The Vancouver Mounties dropped out of the league, but three new teams — the Denver Bears, the Dallas-Fort Worth Rangers, and the Oklahoma City 89ers — came to the PCL from the American Association, a AAA league that disbanded after the 1962 season. With the addition of the new teams, the 10-team PCL split into a Northern and Southern Division. For the first time since 1954, the league planned a divisional playoff at the end of the season.

Louisville Slugger Bats



BOTH TEAMS
USE THEM

HILLERICH & BRADSBY CO., Louisville, Ky.

PCL Working Agreements — 1963

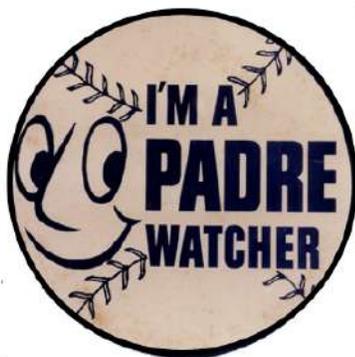
<u>PCL Team</u>	<u>Major League Affiliate</u>
San Diego Padres	Cincinnati Reds (N.L.)
Salt Lake City Bees	Chicago Cubs (N.L.)
Denver Bears	Milwaukee Braves (N.L.)
Oklahoma City 89ers	Houston Colts (N.L.)
Dallas-Fort Worth Rangers	Minnesota Twins (A.L.)
Tacoma Giants	San Francisco Giants (N.L.)
Seattle Rainiers	Boston Red Sox (A.L.)
Portland Beavers	Kansas City Athletics (A.L.)
Hawaii Islanders	Los Angeles Angels (A.L.)
Spokane Indians	Los Angeles Dodgers (N.L.)

Cincinnati Minor League Affiliations

<u>Club</u>	<u>League</u>	<u>Class</u>
San Diego	Pacific Coast League	AAA
Macon	Sally League	AA
Cedar Rapids	Midwest League	A
Rocky Mount	Carolina League	A
Tampa	Florida State League	A

The PCL leaders agreed on a 158-game schedule and decided against meeting the International League representative in a best of seven game Junior World Series. The season was to open April 13 and close September 8, with a best of seven game series between the two division leaders to follow. Six of the PCL managers during the 1963 seasons were newcomers.

The first sign of good fortune came when the Reds moved the Padres, along with the rest of the club's minor league affiliates, into a new spring training facility adjacent to the Reds' López Field in Tampa, Florida. In addition to the new field, the Padres reaped another benefit from their association with the Reds, as the major-league club kept its AAA team well-stocked with quality players.



Sticker created in 1963 season.

Early in February, Bob McGiveron, head groundskeeper at Westgate Park, had laid 12,800 square feet of new sod; the first shipment from a firm in L.A. had failed to grow, so 2,560 rolls were brought in at a cost of \$5,000. The infield was to be raised seven inches in order to locate the grass away from the high water level.

Drills opened March 10 at Tampa. Les Cook had liniment ready by the gallon, and bandages by the

yards, stored away as he began his 51st season in organized baseball. Coach Wietelmann, handy with the wrench, hammer, sewing needle, and rake, a fungo and glove also served as caretaker of the new field.

Not much had been written about the players getting to the golf links. Whitey Wietelmann, however, spent much of one day receiving congratulations in the bowling division. On March 20, for the first time in eight years, Whitey rolled games of 208 and 212 for the playoff with Phil Cavarretta, former Chicago Cub and Detroit coach. The contest had quite an audience since the game was televised. Whitey won a trophy and \$200 by beating Cavaretta 213-167.

In 1963 the Reds called up two of the standouts from the 1962 Padres championship team, catcher Jesse Gonder, and outfielder Ken Walters. The Reds replaced Gonder with a solid hitter and catcher, Deron Johnson to counter the loss of Walters, who played in 34 games for Cincinnati in 1962. Camp participant Pete Rose was fully expected to be assigned to the Padre roster.

Johnny McDonald of the *Union* reported on April 8, 1963, that Padre manager Don Heffner hoped to see Pavletich in a Padre uniform for the 1963 season. When Cincinnati optioned Pavletich to San Diego on April 10, McDonald wrote that the catcher ended up the seventh best hitter in the American As-

sociation in 1961, where he batted .295 with 22 home runs and 78 RBI. In 1962, Pavletich played in only 34 games for the Reds, but the team called him up again in 1963.

The baseball preview supplements in the April 12, 1963, *San Diego Union* and *San Diego Evening-Tribune* note that the Reds' South Atlantic League team in Macon, Ga., provided the Padres with a number of talents in 1963, including outfielders Mel Queen, Art Shamsky and Braxton Bailey, infielder Tommy Helms and pitchers Ted Davidson and Marv Fodor. The Padres missed out on Pete Rose — at the time nicknamed "Pistol Pete"— who was expected to move up from Macon to San Diego in 1963. Instead, the second baseman, who would go on to become one of baseball's greatest players, skipped the PCL and went straight to the Reds, where he won National League Rookie of the Year honors.

The Reds considered Tommy Helms, born May 5, 1941, in Charlotte, North Carolina, one of the top prospects in their farm system. Although Helms played shortstop in the majority of appearances he made for the Padres in 1963, he broke into the Reds major league club as a third baseman. Eight pitchers and four catchers joined the Padres a week later. Holdouts were very few—the competition within the Red organization was too steep for individuals

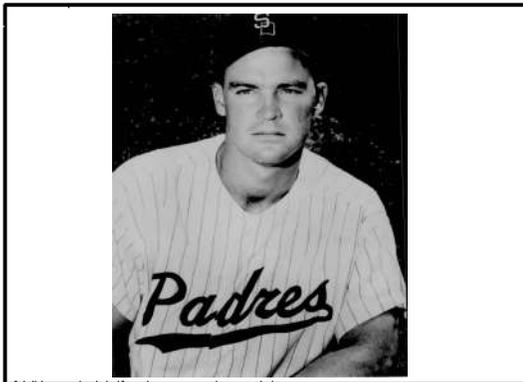
to be missing spring training.

The Reds sent Harold Scott Breeden a 23 year old righthander who had a 12-14 record in the American Association in 1962 to the Padres. Breeden played in the American Association in 1962 and came to the Padres when the Reds traded pitcher Don Zimmer to the Dodgers. Breeden had a 9-10 record for the Padres in 1963, with 120 strikeouts and a 3.48 ERA. The 26-year-old right-hander worked his way up from Atlanta in 1960, to Omaha in 1961, and 1962, before he joined the Padres for the 1963 season. McDonald reported in the *Union* on Jan. 25 that Breeden was born in Hamilton, Ohio, the same town as Padre left-hander Joe Nuxhall. Born September 11, 1937, he never pitched in the majors, but did coach from 1986-1989 with the Reds.

The Reds sent Sammy Ellis on option to the Pads, and John Flavin, Marv Fodor, Ken Hunt, Larry Himes and Chico Ruiz rounded out an opening day infield that later sent all four starters to the major leagues.

Deron Johnson, born in San Diego, Calif., on July 17, 1938, is a member of the city's sports Hall of Fame. Johnson excelled at both football and baseball in high school and could have played professionally in either sport.. Johnson accepted a contract with the New York Yankees after high school, but never cracked the team's outfield. The Yankees

traded him to the Kansas City A's in 1961, after he played in only 19 games for the team. He spent most of 1962 in the military. In 1963, the Reds purchased him from the Kansas City farm team, the Portland Beavers, and assigned him to San Diego, where he led the league in home runs with 33. His son, Dominick, also joined the Angels as a rookie pitcher. Johnson, however, weakened from a year-long battle with lung cancer, never made it to the Angels' camp. He died on April 23 of the same year.



Deron Johnson. Photo Courtesy San Diego Hall of Champions.

The Reds and Padres split the \$22,000 price tag and purchased Johnson from the Kansas City A's on April 5, just in time for the start of the season. The acquisition of Johnson, who had an excellent spring for the PCL Portland Beavers, caused the biggest stir of the preseason. In 1963, Johnson bolstered the team's power at the plate and replaced Walters' bat. The hometown hero brought a veteran presence to an



Borrego Alvarez return from Cuba. Gordon Windhorn, Mel Queen, Alvarez and Barry Chetrone.

outfield rounded out by rookies Mel Queen and Art Shamsky.

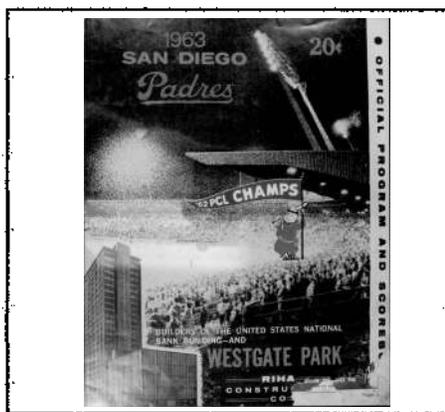
Melvin Douglas Queen, a Johnson City, N.Y., native born in 1942, batted .275 with 11 HR and 96 RBI for the Reds' Macon, Ga., affiliate in 1962, good enough to earn the 21-year-old a spot on the Padres roster in 1963. His father, Mel, pitched in the major leagues for the Yankees and Pirates, and Mel Jr. would follow suit.

The strongest aspect of the 1963 Padres was the pitching staff, led by right-handed fireballer Sammy Ellis. Ellis tossed a no-hitter in 1962, and PCL managers selected him as the best pitching prospect in an end-of-season poll and named him the pitcher with the best fastball and the best curveball. Ellis remembered:

It was quite an honor to be voted the best pitcher by the opposing managers, but even though I had good stuff and a good curveball, I had

some trouble getting the curve over the plate. Being with the Padres for another season helped me, because I ended up developing a slider that year. I could throw the slider for strikes and get it over the plate to get batters out. I ended up using it to set up the fastball or even when I was behind in the count to come back and throw a strike.

Other standout pitchers included left-handed veteran Ted Wills. Although the Padres were loaded with up-and-coming rookie pitchers in 1963, Ted (Theodore Carl) Wills, born Feb. 9, 1934, was in Fresno, California; a pitcher on his way out of the majors. Wills pitched for the Red Sox from 1959 to 1962. He came to Cincinnati in 1962, and manager Don Heffner doubted that Wills would return to the Padres in 1963.

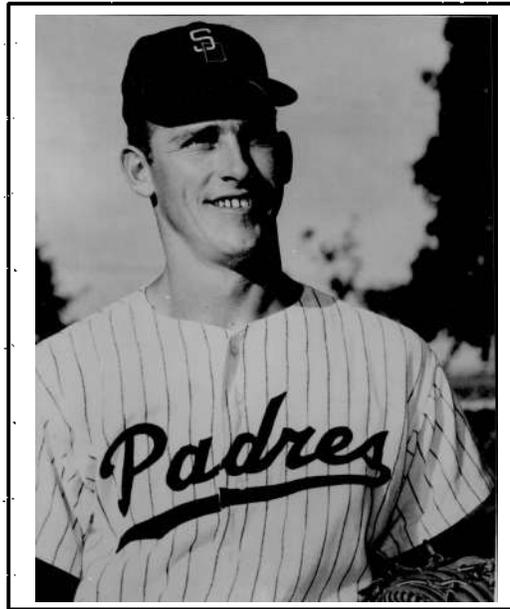


*Westgate Park
Padre Program, 1963.*

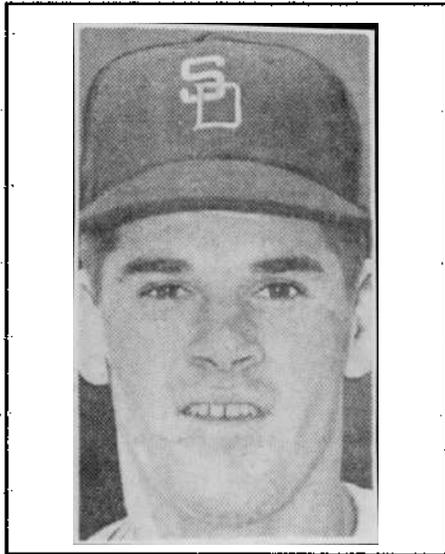
Manager Don Heffner had all but given up on seeing the lefty veteran in 1963, and noted Wills might stay in his Fresno, Calif., hometown, where he sold cars in the off season. Wills decided to return to the Padres. The Fresno, California native surprised sportswriters and the team by returning to have an excellent season, with a 15-10 record and a 3.38 ERA

Ted (Thomas Eugene) Davidson, a left-hander, born Oct. 4, 1939, in Las Vegas, Nevada compiled a 9-4 record and 2.17 ERA at Macon, Ga., in 1962, this despite missing the first half of the season after a knee operation. Davidson, might have come up to the Padres in 1963. He reported on March 24, 1963, but stayed with the AA team at Macon as they battled for the pennant. Although Davidson pitched the spring training opener for the Padres in 1963, he did not win a spot on the Padres final roster, however, and the Reds sent him down for another season at Macon, Ga., the Reds affiliate in the AA South Atlantic League.

Dan Dobbek, an outfielder who played with the Washington Senators and Minnesota Twins from 1959 to 1961, reported to training camp early in an effort to win a spot on the roster. Dobbek suffered a neck injury when he crashed into a outfield fence in 1961. After an operation to correct the injury, he played with the Padres for a short time in 1962. He spent most of the



Pitcher George McWilliams.



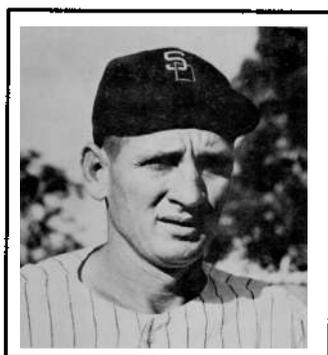
Pete Rose, while scheduled, never quite made it to the Padres.



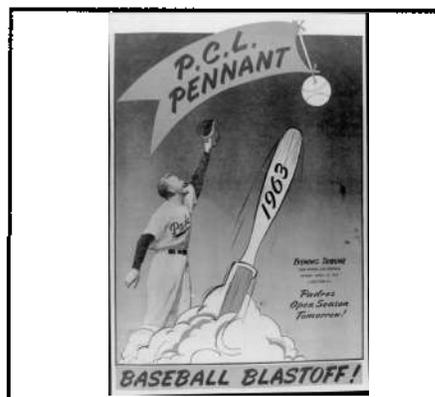
Tommy Helms.

season with the AA team at Macon, Ga. He faltered, however, at the plate. The return of Dobbek's hitting power in early 1963 earned him a place on the Padres' roster, but his comeback was short-lived, as his failure to hit well after spring training — and the stiff competition for outfield berths on the 1963 team — left him with a paltry 13 appearances in a Padre uniform for the season.

Arthur Lewis Shamsky, born Oct. 14, 1941, in St. Louis, was another hot 21-year-old prospect for the Padres in 1963, batting .289 with 16 HR and 61 RBI in 1962 for Macon, although he missed seven weeks of the season because of injury. McDonald reported in the March 27, 1963. Manager Don Heffner had doubts about the young outfielder because of his casual attitude on the field, but the rookie impressed Heffner with his hitting and hustle in spring training. Heffner's confidence was well-founded, as Shamsky became one of the mainstays in the San Diego outfield in 1963, playing in 150 games and batting .267 with 18



Ron Samford, 2b, 3b, ss..



PCL Pennant Blaster.

HR and 68 RBL.

The Padres returned to San Diego after spring training on April 11 to find fans totally expecting a repeat of 1962's successful season. The city greeted the team with a motorcade and a civic luncheon attended by city dignitaries and more than 300 fans. All predictors of a pennant champion chose San Diego to repeat. Even the city government caught Padre fever, calling for an opening day victory by the team. Sports editor Jack Murphy described the hoopla in the *San Diego Union*: The City Council passed a resolution urging them;

[the Padres] to win and you can't beat city hall; everybody knows that. The resolution was introduced by Mrs. Helen Cobb, a baseball fan, and presented by Mayor Charles Dail, also a baseball fan. Now Dail knows why baseball is such a great game. The mayor said it was the first time all day the council had been able to agree on anything.



Art Shamsky and Deron Johnson.

When Heffner was asked why he wasn't back in the big leagues after such a successful 1962 season, he said, "As far as I was concerned, I was in the big leagues ... San Diego is a big league town in every way and I'm happy to be back "

C.C. Johnson Spink, the southpaw newspaper publisher of *The Sporting News*, threw out the first pitch somewhere near home plate and then found his way perfectly into the stands where he joined eight finalists in the Miss San Diego contest.

The Padres responded with a 15 hit 5-4 win over Tacoma in the April 13, twelve inning home opener, with Ellis on the mound and Don Pavletich behind the plate. The lineup was rounded out by Johnson at first base, Bobby Klaus at second, Tommy Helm at shortstop and Chico Ruiz at third base. Dobbek played right field, minor league mainstay, Bill Lajoie, played center and rookie Art

Shamsky handled left field. After 18 hits in the 12-inning contest — including a 420-foot homer by Johnson — Tommy Helms' sacrifice fly in the 12th brought in Bobby Klaus to end the game with the deciding run to thrill many of the fans who stayed for the finish. Relief pitcher George McWilliams, a hero of the 1962 season, closed out the game and received credit for the victory.

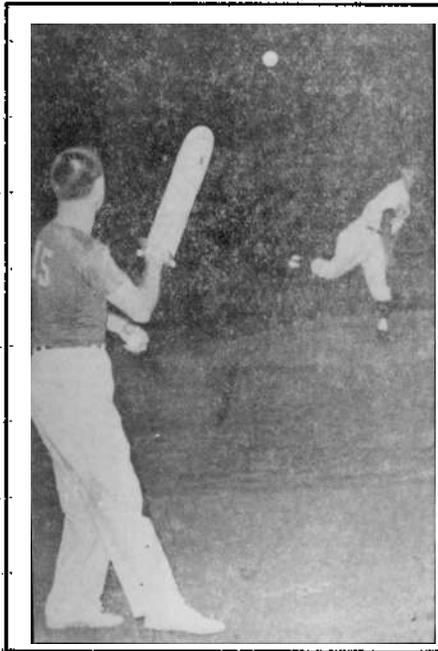
Bobby (Robert Francis) Klaus was one of the keys to the Padres pennant-winning season in 1962. Klaus stood out as a solid second baseman again in 1963, and did not have to battle Pete Rose, who went straight from Macon to the Reds, for the position. Klaus — born Dec. 27, 1937, in Spring Grove, Ill. — continued his steady ways for the Padres in 1963, batting .288 with nine HR and 62 RBI. He boasted a .986 fielding percentage, the third highest for a second baseman in the league.

The Padres rode the victory to an 8-3 record in the first two weeks of the season, and their first road trip to Hawaii to play against the Islanders showcased the hitting talent of the team. Johnson and Shamsky emerged as the heavy hitters in the early going, as the sportswriters had predicted. Shamsky batted .313 and hit a pair of homers in one game on the trip, and Johnson batted an impressive .417 early in the season.

When the team returned



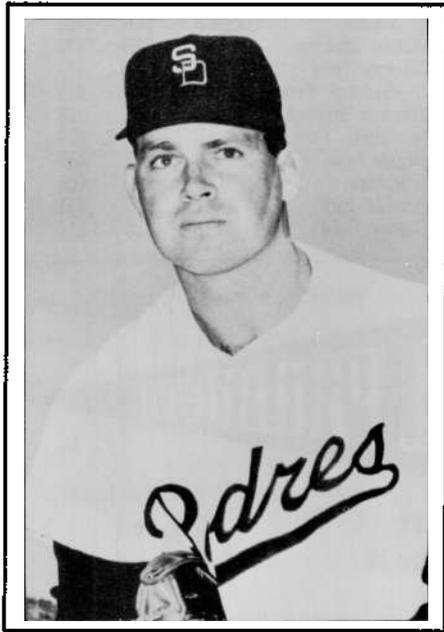
Infielder Miles McWilliams.



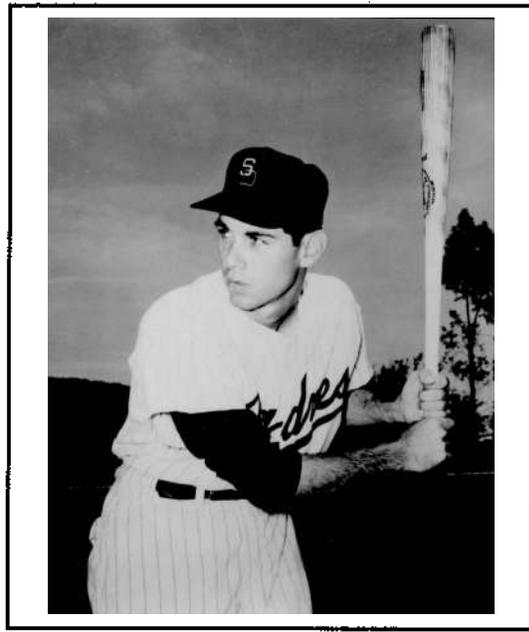
Jai Alai player Elorde "Fields" ball thrown by George McWilliams on "Mexico Night," May 27, 1963.



"Pad newcomers welcomed" by Manager Don Heffner, (center) Micky Mattiace, Jim Coates.



*Pitcher Scott Breeden.
Photo courtesy Bob Shumake.*



*Art Shamsky, outfielder.
Courtesy Hall of Champions.*



*Padres vs. Ensenada All-Stars, May 27, 1963.
Photo courtesy Johnny McDonald and Bobby Klaus.*

home, however, things turned sour. The Padres dropped five in a row at Westgate Park to the Salt Lake City Bees, and finished the month of April with seven straight losses and a 9-10 record. Although the team put together a winning streak of five games in May, the struggle to maintain at least an even win-loss record would typify the rest of the first half of the season, as would the team's tendency to run hot and cold.

On a road trip to Salt Lake City, the Padres, on May 1, took a win to halt their skid. Rookie outfielder Mel Queen made his first appearance of the season on May 1, where the team sat tied for first place in their southern division. He helped snap the team's seven-game losing streak when he belted the three run, inside the park home run to push the Padres to a 5-3 win over Salt Lake City. Queen suffered a damaged wrist tendon in the spring and came to the plate with his arm heavily bandaged and making his debut in style.

The next night, after Heffner was ejected for arguing, his players scored a record 18 runs in one game to win 18-5, then followed up two nights later by racking up 19 runs against Denver, in a rout of the Bears, as Pavletich hit a grand-slam homer over the left-center barrier. The Padres then dropped a doubleheader to Denver by scores of 11-3 and 3-0.

Queen's performance matched up with his fellow outfield-

ers. Rookie Art Shamsky continued to hit consistently around the .300 mark, and Deron Johnson spearheaded the Padres' offense. On May 8, Ray Rippelmeyer and three Padre homers jarred the Denver Bears 7-4 before 786 fans at Bears Stadium. In the May 9 game at Denver, Deron Johnson smacked three home runs and collected six RBI in one game. He also played an excellent defensive game at third base, one of several defensive positions where the power hitter felt comfortable.

The month of May marked the return of local favorite "Borrogo" Alvarez. Alvarez hit .318 with 18 home runs and 73 runs batted in for the Padres in 1962, and the Washington Senators signed him for the 1963 season. When Alvarez could not get out of Cuba in time for the start of the 1963 campaign, the Senators placed him on waivers and the Padres repurchased him for \$20,000.

In his return to a Padre uniform on May 12, Alvarez crushed a one-strike pitch over the left field fence for a pinch-hit grand slam home run in his first at bat, and was buffeted by a huge roar of approval from the crowd. At home, the team drew crowds of over 2,000 with regularity, as they stood in first place with the Bees.

The Padres lost a key player when Cincinnati called up Don Pavletich on May 15. Bespectacled catcher Jim Saul replaced Pavletich,

and pitcher Scott Breeden called Saul “no different than Don Pavletich. Both are great receivers in my book.”

The Padre pitchers joined the team’s hitters in putting together impressive statistics in the early going. The team’s standout pitcher, Sammy Ellis, continued to baffle hitters in 1963. On May 14, Ellis capped his league-leading strikeout performance when he fanned 10 batters in a five-hit performance against Seattle. There 1,374 fans supported their second place team! Ellis topped that showing only 11 days later on May 25, when he struck out fifteen batters — seven in a row at one point — in a 2-1 win over Hawaii at Westgate Park.

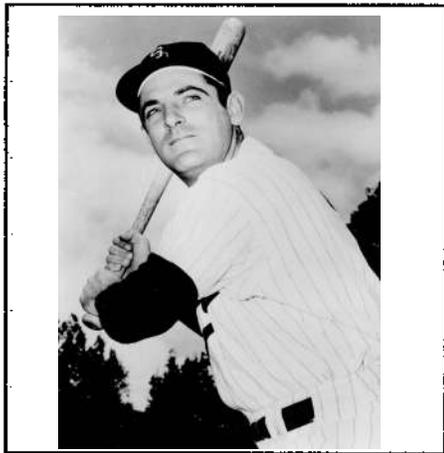
San Diego *Union* sportswriter Johnny McDonald said Ellis’ pitching “probably even surpassed his no-run, no-hit performance here last

year against Tacoma.” Help had come as well from Gene Freese who returned to the team after full recovery of a fractured ankle in 1962. In an auspicious debut against Portland, on May 22, he clobbered two home runs.

After Ellis’ superb game, the Padres took a break to play an exhibition contest against the Enseñada, Mexico, All-Stars, the first time a PCL team played in Baja, California in the Antonio Palacio Park. All 3,000 tickets to the game sold out, and the Mexican team earmarked the funds raised to provide lights for the Enseñada ballpark. All of the seats were occupied and youngsters, playing hookey from school, sat on every inch of the stone wall in the outfield.

The town mayor declared the day a holiday and honored the team with a parade and civic greeting. Marv Fodor, who had been on the disabled list hurled a no-hit, no-run game until the eighth inning. The San Diego team won the game, 8-5, and *San Diego Union* sports editor Jack Murphy noted:

This was a contest of such compelling interest that one fisherman spent the equivalent of a week’s pay and traveled 200 miles from an island off the peninsula to see the Coast League champions. To Enseñada, this was the World Series.



*Gene Freese, (3b, 2b, of)
Photo from Hall of Champions.*

Ellis' game on the 25th also put the Padres back on top in the PCL's Southern Division, with a 26-20 record, just one game ahead of the Dallas-Fort Worth Rangers. The Padres traded the first-place berth with Dallas-Fort Worth over the next few days, then traveled to the Texas team's hometown to challenge their divisional rivals for the lead. The trip proved disastrous for the Padres, as the Rangers held them scoreless at one point for 16 straight innings and knocked the Padres down to two and one-half games out of the lead.

On the last day of the month the Padres stood second in the division, one and one-half games back of Dallas-Fort Worth.

The poor luck continued when the Padres returned home to face the Oklahoma City 89ers in a five-game series. Oklahoma, the third-place team, moved within a game of the Padres by taking the series, three games to two.

That was probably better than the night during Dairy Month when Padres participated in a milking contest on June 10th. Then came the night which might have been more challenging when members of the two teams pushed sailboats on wheels across the grassy outfield at Westgate. Whenever marketing offered something free or an interesting evening, the fans came in droves.

On June 11, Don Heffner

pulled Sammy Ellis from a game in the second inning after the 89ers tagged Ellis for six hits and two runs. After a heated argument with Heffner on the mound, Ellis stalked off the field. On Heffner's recommendation, the PCL suspended the 21-year-old Ellis indefinitely the next day for insubordination, and Heffner declared to reporters, "If Ellis is a member of the San Diego ballclub, then Don Heffner isn't a member." Ellis later recalled the incident vividly:

I was a hot-headed young kid and a fiery competitor, but I was throwing that night with an arm that was really bothering me. If you had an arm problem in those days, you didn't tell anyone and you didn't complain.

When the manager came to take me out of the game he accused

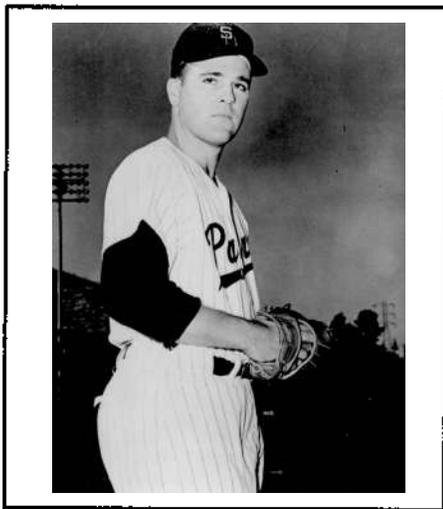


Sammy Ellis after suspension, looking out at teammates. Photo San Diego Historical Society Collection.

me of not giving 100 percent, and I went ballistic. But the suspension was actually a blessing because I missed a start, and that allowed me the time to recover. After that I came back and pitched well the rest of the season.

Heffner and Ellis, both known for their volatile tempers, backed down almost immediately. Ellis apologized in public for his outburst on the field, and Heffner reconsidered his ultimatum that either he or Ellis leave the club. Just three days after the suspension, Ellis returned to pitch against the Dallas-Fort Worth Rangers. He tossed a four-hitter and struck out 12 to beat the first place team, 2-1.

After Ellis' victory, the Padres came alive against the Rangers.



Pitcher John Flavin.

The San Diegans swept a Father's Day doubleheader against the Dallas-Fort Worth team on June 16, to bring them within one game of the division leaders. Despite a severe cold, 29-year-old veteran Ted Wills struck out 10 batters enroute to a 6-0 shutout in the first game. In the second game, Wills came off the bench to collect a pinch-hit single, and Sammy Ellis, who substituted as a pinch runner for Wills, came in with the deciding run in a 6-5 victory.

The Padres stayed close to first place for the remainder of June, but could not put together more than two wins in row against Tacoma or Spokane in a swing through the Northwest. After losing two in a row to open a series at Denver, the Padres dropped into third place in the Southern Division behind Dallas-Fort Worth and Oklahoma City. The Padres finished the first half of 1963 with 40 wins and 40 losses, a fitting record at the halfway mark for a team characterized by occasional brilliance but an inability to take control of the league as they had the previous year. They were, however, but two and one-half games out of first in the five-team southern division of the PCL.

Of interest, however, was the position and play of Cincinnati the parent club. Joe Nuxhall, the youngest player ever to play in the major leagues, took his 100th pitching vic-

tory 19 years after his debut. Marty Keough hit a home run and several other former Padres were helping the Reds high in the National League standings.

At the end of June, the Pads were in third place but only three games out. They thought they got help from the Redspitcher Jim Coates and Mickey Mattiace, but they had to send big Greg Jancich outright to Macon in the Sally League. Next, the Reds called up Gene Freese, who had been sent to the Pads on May 21. Within the month, the Reds had called Coates back!

On July 1, Billy Cowan drove in five runs in the last two innings to personally wipe out a three run-San Diego lead and give the Salt Lake City Bees a come-from-behind, 7-5 ten-inning victory over the slipping Padres. The Pads lost five in a row before they came in to beat Denver.

Then they took five in a row.

The schedule was broken by the PCL All-Star game with Spokane on July 9. San Diego was represented in the All Stars by Deron Johnson, Chico Ruiz and Gene Lary.

Chico Ruiz was happy to be a speedster, but would be happier if he were also a power hitter. He told Earl Keller, *Union-Tribune* sports-writer:

Running the bases shortens ones career. When you are speedy like I am, you have to put out a little extra all the time. It's expected of you. The only way I can use my speed is to beat out bunt take extra bases when a hit goes between two outfielders and steal bases. All a power hitter has to do is race around the bases.



Chico Ruiz steals 2nd base.



Pitcher Ray Rippelmeyer.

He loved the fans in San Diego, and they loved him, but he thought when they yelled "Go! Go! Chico!" they aided the opposing pitcher and gave him a better chance of picking him off. Other times he'd be ignored.

The defending champions trailed the Dallas-Fort Worth Rangers. As July progressed, the team fared even worse. A record of 13 wins and 21 losses for July gave the team little hope of retaining its title.

Promotions meant to fill Westgate were kept up in the last half of the season. These included an exhibition sailboat race on July 8. A team of Padres players and a team of Bees players pulled rival sailboats on wheels across the field at Westgate Park. A *Union* writer quipped, "needless to report, nobody drowned." The staff and patients from Balboa Naval Hospital had been invited to attend.

Ray Rippelmeyer threw a two-hit shutout to win 3-0, which gave him a 7-0 for the year and extended a Padre winning streak to five games. Rippelmeyer, born July 9, 1933, in Valmeyer, Illinois, pitched in 18 major league games for the Washington Senators in 1962. Thirty-one years old, he owned a 525 acre farm in Valmeyer, Illinois and received a B.S. degree in agriculture at Southern Illinois University.

The right-handed pitcher appeared to be washed up at the end of the 1962 season. Rippelmeyer had



Deron Johnson, Gene Freese, Mel Queen and Borrego Alvarez.

suffered injuries to his arm. He held a 3-5 record for 75 innings and posted a 3.72 ERA. Leishman said, "You can write him off your list. I'm afraid Rip can't make it."

Sammy Ellis' sore elbow forced him to leave a July 4 game and he did not pitch again until July 26. The others in the starting rotation were Ted Wills and Scott Breeden. On July 16 they had an unimpressive 12-14 record. As the Pads embarked on a 19 game road trip beginning July 17, Heffner knew he had a problem. They were four and one-half games out of first place.

In an about face, the Padres won five in a row, won a few, lost in another streak. By July 31, they still lay in fourth place but ten and one-half games in back of the Dallas-Fort Worth leader in the Southern Divi-

sion. They walloped the Rangers 17-4 on August 2 with a homer binge. That trip ended on August 1, with the Padres positioned at ten and one-half games behind the Oklahoma City 89ers. The team's record for the trip had been an abysmal 6-13, but the trip ended on a positive note with two impressive victories over the Salt Lake City Bees.

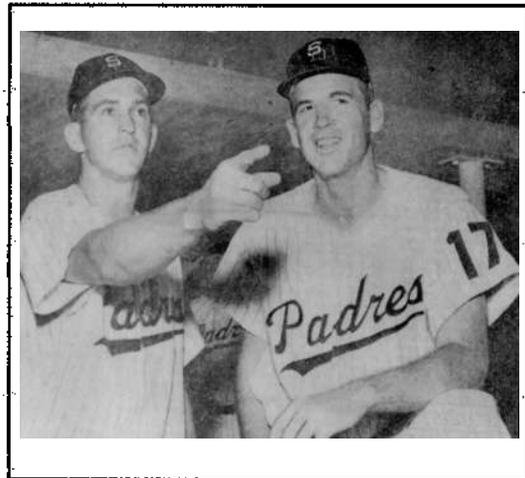
On August 6, Deron Johnson hit his 30th homer of the year to spark a win over the Beavers and Art Shamsky hit another. Johnson was the first Padre to achieve the feat since Earl Rapp in 1955.

On August 7, as the Padres hosted "Music Appreciation Night," the ball club offered awards to the fans who brought the "largest, smallest and most unusual musical instruments" to the ball park. A crowd of 3,161 people came to the ball park that night not only to see the Padres play the Beavers, but also to play and display a variety of musical artifacts. The final night of the series brought fans with all types of musical instruments to the park for "musical depreciation" night, but the cacophony of horns, drums and organs did not distract the 89ers, who garnered a 7-0 victory.

Ted Schroeder, writing for the *San Diego & Point Magazine* issue of April 1964, asked Bob Shumake of the Padres issue about promotions :

Then there's musical instrument night, a promotion wherein anyone bringing a musical instrument to the park is admitted free. When I brought it up, Shumake covered his ears in mock horror at the ordeal which would face him. Last year the fans showed up with everything from a piccolo to larger instruments, like say a piano and an organ. The din was awful. All of us were so shaken that around the office the two weeks or so following, we kept saying to each other, 'Stop the music.' But the crowd showed up, and that's what we had in mind.

Sportswriter Gene Gregson wrote that fans had been told that



"That Way" Tommy Helm points to closest way to home run over left field fence to newcomer and former Padre Bat Boy, Eddie Sada.

any youngster who brought a musical instrument to the park would be admitted free. A boy lugging along a tuba would be given two seats free, preferably in the outfield. If anybody brought a piano, the whole family got in free. Even a kid with a comb and a piece of paper got a free ducat. Shelly Berman performed, as did The Salmas Brothers. Art Shamsky hit his 13th homer of the year and Deron Johnson hit his 30th in a 6-3 win over Portland.

Bill McCool, the young 19 year old phenom, made his debut and soon became a fan favorite. He defeated Hawaii and the celebrated Hawaiian Islander hurler Bo Belinsky. Leishman had received a call from Tampa saying McCool was on his way to join the Padres. McCool arrived so suddenly he didn't even have a uniform; he borrowed one from Ellis.

McCool had shown up at Portland and introduced himself to Heffner. Bill McCool born July 14,



Borrego Alvarez, Infielder.

1944 in Batesville, Indiana was 19 years old when he came to the Padres. He joined them in Portland during their lost weekend of August 17 and 18. McCool quickly carved his own niche in San Diego. Heffner compared the left-hander McCool to Whitey Ford.

Center fielder Mel Queen hit his 20th home run on August 10; he would end the season with 25. Johnson suffered a broken hand and Alvarez a broken ankle; the team turned to rely on Bobby Klaus, Tommy Helms and Chico Ruiz, all of whom improved in August.

When the team returned home, the pitching staff, led by Rippelmeyer and rejoined by Sammy Ellis, showed signs of improvement. The pitching and hitting coalesced for the August stretch run. Home runs by Deron Johnson, Chico Ruiz and Rogelio Alvarez led a 17-run Padre attack over the Rangers.

The San Diego team responded with a 23-10 record for the rest of the season with a .697 winning percentage. On a road trip in mid-August the rigors of the travel took a further toll. The club embarked from Seattle for a critical series in Portland. They traveled by bus on the morning of August 16 from Seattle to Portland. After a night game against the Beavers, both teams flew to Vancouver, British Columbia for a night game on August 17.

On the 17th of August,

Rogelio Alvarez and Chico Ruiz did not make the trip into Canada with the club; they lacked the proper papers to make the border crossing.

At Portland it was a rough, rainy day for the Pads in dampish Multnomah Stadium. Portland took a 2-1 victory when a heavy downpour washed out a 3-2 advantage the Padres had gained in the seventh inning. Groundskeepers worked one hour and fifty-nine minutes to prepare the field, but plate umpire Ted Howe finally conceded the playing surface was unplayable. Washed away were Johnson's 31st homer, a possible victory for Dave Sisler and the second game.

Manager Don Heffner protested the game to Umpire Howe on the grounds that the Portland club had arrived late at the ball park, delaying the start, and that a nylon infield cover was never put into use to check the rain damage.

The teams returned from Vancouver to Portland for a Sunday doubleheader on August 18. On August 20th, PCL President Dewey Soriano, notified the Padres that he would allow their game protest and rule out Portland's victory. The game, now canceled, couldn't be made up because the game marked the final meeting this year between the two clubs. His decision was based on: (1) Portland made no provisions for player transportation from the airfield after the Vancouver trip, and

many straggled in after the scheduled 1:30 p.m. starting time; (2) No effort was made to place a tarpaulin over the infield when it rained; (3) The groundskeeper made no effort to rake the infield, only tossing sand on the wet, soft soil. Writer Johnny MacDonald described the two days in Vancouver and Portland as the "Lost Weekend."

On the 19th, Ray Rippelmeyer stopped Spokane with a one-hitter at Spokane 4-0. When they returned home to a large crowd at Westgate the pitching and hitting clicked again and had the Padres already determined to make a strong surge to win their division. Ray Rippelmeyer handled the northern division-leading Spokane Indians, 4-0, in a one hitter on the August 20th.

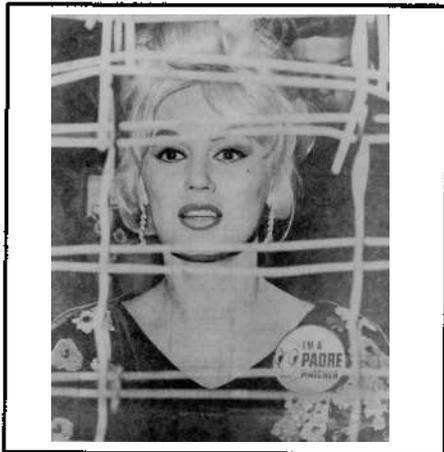
In an evening of special significance, the Reds came back to Westgate to face the Pads two nights later, when they brought with them a whole string of former players who had in a sense, started at Westgate. Bob Skinner, a product of San Diego sandlots; Don Pavletich, Al Worthington, and John Tsitouris, were but a few of the former Pads. Before 8,335 the Pads beat their big brother 6-2.

The appearance of the Cincinnati Reds on August 22, turned out a large crowd of 8,355 people, who flocked to the park to see the Reds. Enhanced by the use of promotions, strengthened by the appear-

ance of major leaguers, and encouraged by the championship of 1962, attendance held steady at Westgate Park. Don Heffner remarked to the *San Diego Union*:

I'd say the people in San Diego are the best you would want to find. I have not heard any criticism from the stands despite the way we have been going this year. I think it is a credit to the fans who can back a team that is not doing as well as the previous year. I would have to say San Diego is a big league town.

Mexico Night, held on August 27, had the mayor of Tijuana, Ildefonso Vasquez "presented with a gold plated lifetime Padre pass," while a jai alai demonstration took place on the field. A crowd of 3,601 heard



Mamie Van Doren at Westgate to watch her beau "Bo" Belinsky of the Hawaiian Islanders pitch. Photo from Bob Shumake.



Chico Ruiz scores on pass^{ed} ball; Bo Belinsky missed throw from catcher Bob Roselli.

the lineups announced in both Spanish and English. There were scheduled 36 special nights at Westgate Park between June 28 and September 4, including a Talent Show night.

Rumors began that the PCL would become a 12-team league. Omaha, Sacramento and other cities began to show an interest and discussions were held among owners about reworking the old American Association with the PCL. Eddie Leishman was one of the leaders opposed to more shuffling of the minor league teams. He felt there were already more teams than talented players.

The Pads concluded August with a 73-71 record, two and one-half games behind Oklahoma City. The turnout for the game on September 5 featured the "The Richard Bur-

ton of baseball," Bo Belinsky, and as such predictions were that the fan turnout would beat the 10,000 fans who had come the other night when the Padres held a drawing for a pony. Crowds totaling 40,000 had watched Belinsky in his first four starts as a minor leaguer, and the count was 16,000 in Honolulu when the Islanders played their final game at home.

A huge crowd at Westgate Park gave the Padres their largest crowd who saw Belinsky's celebrated girlfriend, Hollywood starlet Mamie Van Doren, arrive for the game, which the Pads won. The win moved the Padres one-half game ahead of Oklahoma City with four games to play.

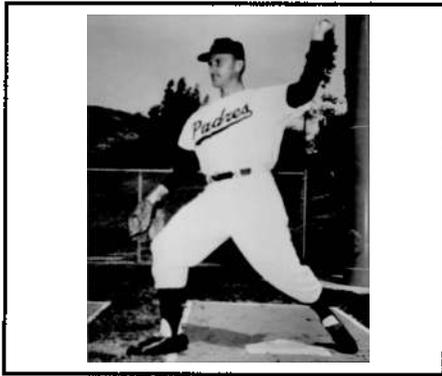
The Kansas City's Athletics, on behalf of their Portland farm club, appealed the Padre-Beaver game cancellation to the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues. GM



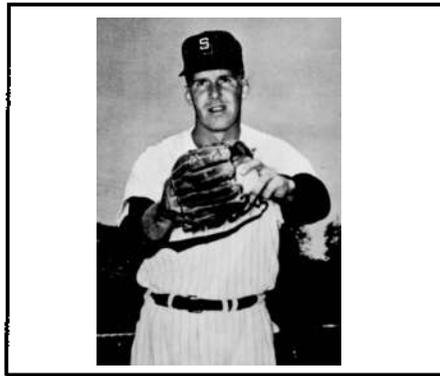
Catcher Jim Saul



Bobby Klaus waiting to tag runner sliding into second base.



Pitcher Ted Wills.



Pitcher Dick Luebke.



Don Heffner, Manager 1962-1963 (C)



National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues Conference in San Diego. Cleveland GM Gabe Paul, Baseball Commissioner Ford Frick, White Sox GM Ed Short. Photo from Jay Leishman.

Leishman asked Frank Shaughnessy, President of the National Association to forfeit both games of the scheduled doubleheader because the Portland club violated rules 3.11 and 4.16.

Then the Houston Colts, acting in behalf of their Oklahoma City farm club, threatened to take legal action to reverse PCL Soriano's decision that gave the Padres an edge in its Southern Division pennant race.

In the contested Portland game in August, which had been protested by San Diego, the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues reversed its decision and denied the Padres' protest, giving a victory for Portland. The reversal put another one-half game in the loss column for San Diego. Mulvaney was not at a loss for words in expressing his opinion of the decision. "From a baseball standpoint, a business standpoint and a legal standpoint, it stinks, ... it is a lousy decision."

Soriano appealed, but the reversal plea was denied. As the pennant race would run out, GM Eddie Leishman, Reds owner Bill DeWitt and PCL President Soriano protested the development to Baseball Commissioner Ford Frick. Frick rejected their appeals. He agreed that the judgment calls of an umpire could not be reversed.

As the teams entered the final day of play on Sunday, September 8, the PCL Southern Division

pennant remained in question. The Padres needed to win against the Bees and get help from the Dallas-Fort Worth Rangers to win the pennant. The Rangers played two games against Oklahoma City. Oklahoma City needed only to win one game to clinch the division title and the chance to play Spokane in the PCL championship series.

The Rangers won the first game. Ray Rippelmeyer went to the mound for the Padres against the Bees. Only two days before, Rippelmeyer received recognition as the Padres' top pitcher for 1963. Trainer Les Cook administered a novocaine shot to Rippelmeyer's right hand before the game. He had injured his hand on August 29, when struck by a line drive. The Padres scored a run in the second inning on first baseman Les Peden's home run. When Rippelmeyer allowed two runs in the bottom of the fifth, Heffner called McCool out of the bullpen.

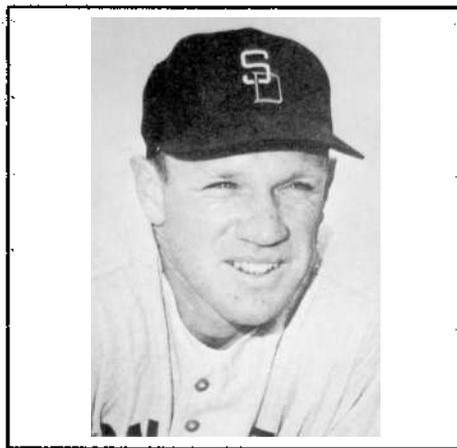
McCool retired the side in the fifth. With two outs in the sixth Bobby Klaus, who shared Most Valuable Player honors for 1963 with Chico Ruiz, drew a walk. Tony Perez launched a two-run homer over the left field fence to give the Padres a 3-2 lead. McCool gave up a run in the bottom of the inning to tie the game 3-3. When Les Peden hit his second home run in the top of the 9th, San Diego secured some insurance. In the top of the 9th, McCool gave up a

one out single. Heffner called on Scott Breeden to nail down the victory. Breeden did just that.

The Padres returned to their hotel to await the results of the 89ers game with the Rangers. Oklahoma City scored four runs in the first inning to win 4-3. The Padres lost the pennant by one-half a game.

Jack Murphy summed up the season with the headline "Common Sense Takes Holiday as Padres Lose on a Technicality." The Padres had lost the pennant because they were not allowed to make up a rained out game. The three man executive committee of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues had ruled that a judgment call by an umpire could not be reversed. Frick concurred and declined to hear an appeal.

The hot topic in mid-September, however, was the effort by C. Arnholt Smith to get the Milwau-



Dave Bristol.

kee Braves to San Diego. Fans were told if they wanted to see Hank Aaron, Warren Spahn, Eddie Matthews and Del Crand, all they should send a message to the President of the Braves telling him that San Diegans were ready now for a major league franchise. Jack Murphy wrote:

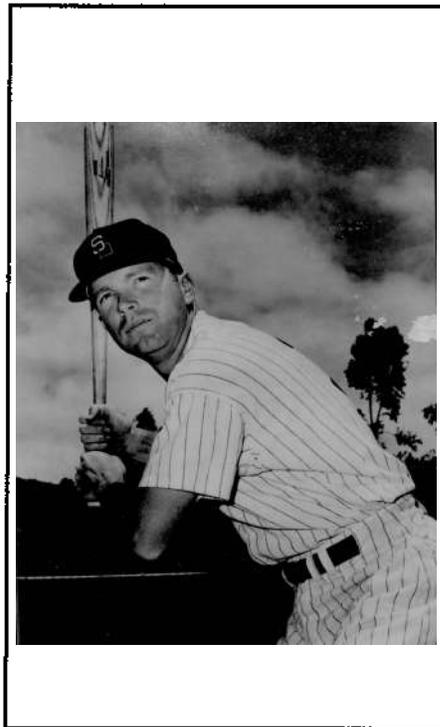
It matters not at all that San Diego hasn't voted stadium bonds, organized citizens committees, or sent delegations to baseball meetings this summer. Thanks to one man—banker, sportsman C. Arnholt Smith—San Diego needn't bother with those things ... Smith will build a ballpark of major league specifications and he'll pay the price of a franchise up to \$1 million—possibly by dipping into his petty cash fund. He already owns the baseball territorial rights here, and he has a prime location in Mission Valley ... The owner has an abiding faith in the future of San Diego.

The Mets plucked Don Heffner to join their coaching staff on October 14, 1963. He had won the pennant in 1962 and missed a second by only a half game in 1963. Heffner remarked on September 6 that Padre "pitching during the last month is better than any club I have been associated with."

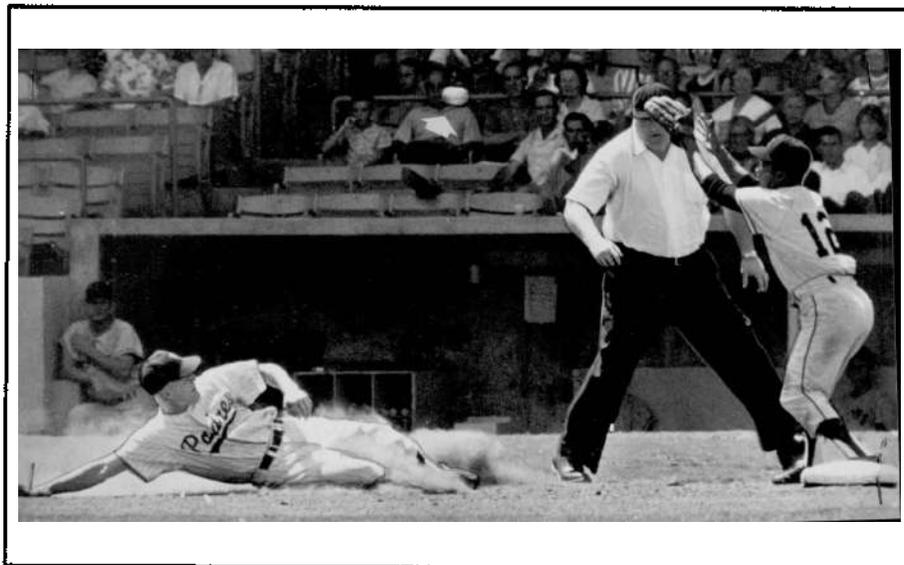
Heffner's ability to manage the Padres' mixture of veteran and rookie pitchers in 1963 turned a disastrous season to the Padres fa-



*Tommy Helms.
Photo from Jay Leishman.*



*Padre Outfielder
Gordon Windhorn.*



*One of Bobby Klaus' spectacular slides.
Note ball headed for the third baseman.*

vor. It also made Heffner a big league commodity.

Leishman had two leading candidates to replace Heffner, John Davis, the former manager of Tacoma and Dave Bristol, a thirty year old vet of the Cincinnati farm system. Bristol offered an approach and temperament similar to that of Heffner. Leishman commented, "If we want a manager who comes closest to filling Don Heffner's shoes, the best man for the job is Dave Bristol."

The Reds renewed their working pact with the Pads because as Bill DeWitt put it, "The relationship with the Padres has been very pleasant. It always is nice to work with a club so financially stable as San Diego and also to have good facilities for our players."

Dave Bristol had never played in a major league game. He was born June 2, 1933 in Macon Georgia. The 30-year-old infielder, who took over as Padre manager on November 20, 1963, later managed the Reds, Brewers, Braves, and Giants in the major leagues.

In a final purchase of the year, the Chicago Cubs sold infielder Steve Boros to San Diego.

The team scattered as only two Padres stayed in San Diego: Bobby Klaus and Dick Luebke. Alvarez sought clearance to return to Cuba. Eight players were to perform in the winter leagues. Tommy Helms was expected to enter the Marines' six-

month training program. Gordon Windhorn said he would retire and go into the clothing business. Dave Sisler worked for a stocks and bonds company in St. Louis, near where Ray Rippelmeyer had his farm. But changes were on the horizon.

The *San Diego Union* of December 3, 1963 reported the PCL had expanded to 12 clubs, to include Indianapolis and Little Rock. The final attendance figure for 1963 at Westgate Park was 202,765. The division would be as follows:

Coast League:

Western:

San Diego, Spokane, Tacoma, Portland, Seattle and Hawaii

Eastern:

Oklahoma City, Denver, Dallas, Indianapolis, Arkansas (Little Rock) and Salt Lake City. Each team would play 158 games. The season open April 17 and close September 13.

PCL STANDINGS FOR 1963

	W	L	GB
<u>Northern Division</u>			
Spokane	98	60	
Hawaii	81	77	17
Tacoma	79	79	19
Portland	73	84	24-1/2
Seattle	68	90	30
<u>Southern Division</u>			
Oklahoma City*	84	74	
San Diego	83	84	1/2
Dallas-Fort Worth	79	79	5
Salt Lake City	73	85	11
Denver	71	87	13

*Playoff winner

VOICES FROM WESTGATE PARK

SAMUEL JOSEPH ELLIS

Samuel Joseph Ellis was born Feb. 11, 1941, in Youngstown, Ohio, and became the talk of the Pacific Coast League in 1962, when he pitched that no-hitter against Tacoma. He led the league in winning percentage with a 12-6 (.667) record and tied for league leadership in shutouts with four. Ellis continued to dazzle the batters in 1963, and ended up with a 2.62 ERA for the season, the lowest in the league, and a 12-10 record with 192 strikeouts. Ellis, a fastball pitcher, also had an excellent curveball.

Interview with SAMMY ELLIS by Michael Haskins

Probably I broke into baseball like any other kid did, and grew up playing baseball. My dream was to play in the big leagues some day. After my sophomore year in 1961, Mississippi State gave me a baseball scholarship and then I signed with the Reds playing half a season in 1961 in Columbia, S.C. That was a good year, so after spring training in 1962, they brought me up to Cincinnati. I wasn't ready for the big leagues then, so they sent me back to San Diego, where I played in '62 and '63. To be lucky to be talented enough not to have to go through the bus leagues or any of the Midwest or South leagues, was great. They sent me right up to AAA.

We had a great ballclub at San Diego in both years I was there. We really demolished the league in '62, but there weren't any playoffs that year. In 1963, they changed the league so there were two divisions, but we ended up getting beat out of a chance to win the league. We didn't

get into the playoffs that year because we ended up a half game back, and there was a lot of controversy over a game that was a rainout that we never got to play. But the Cincinnati clubs, both AAA and AA, were very powerful and there were a lot of young prospects, guys that could really play.

Every young kid thinks he's ready to go to the majors, and I thought I was ready to go up to the majors, but really wasn't so it was back for another year. It was quite an honor to be voted the best pitcher by the opposing managers. But even with good stuff and a good curveball, I had some trouble getting the curve over the plate. Being with the Padres for another season helped me, because I ended up developing a slider that year and was able to throw the slider for strikes and get it over the plate to get batters out. I ended up using it to set up the fastball or even when behind in the count to come back and throw a strike.

The manager suspended me during the 1963 season because I was a hot-headed young kid and a fiery competitor, but he had me throwing one night with an arm that was really bothering me. If you had an arm problem in those days, you didn't tell anyone and you didn't complain. When the manager came out to take me out of the game, he accused me of not giving 100 percent, and causing me to go ballistic. The suspension was actually a blessing because I missed a start, and that allowed me the time to recover. After that, I came back and pitched well the rest of the season.

Westgate Park was the best park in the league as far as the condition of the field and the setting. As a 21 or 22-year-old kid right out of Alabama and Mississippi and never

having been anywhere, I thought this was the major leagues. The park was beautiful, with the scoreboard out in center and the eucalyptus trees out in the hills beyond the park. I loved the city and stayed there in the winter of 1964, thinking that San Diego could be my home. But my wife was from Tampa and we moved there the next winter and have been in Florida ever since.

Some of the players who stood out in my mind included John Flavin, who roomed with me for both years that I was in San Diego. He was another pitcher, a left-hander. There were a lot of good guys and good players on the team. Jesse Gonder was the Minor League Player of the year in 1962, and we had the power hitters like Borrego Alvarez and Deron Johnson and guys like Chico Ruiz, who stole a lot of bases for the team.

As far as travel was concerned, I liked Hawaii a lot, obviously, and when we went there, we'd go for six or seven games and stay for a week. But we traveled commercial in those days on most flights, not on chartered 727s, so we'd be on these DC-6 four-engine prop planes.

After my playing career with the Reds, I was out of baseball for four years, but then came back as a pitching coach in 1977 with the Yankees until 1986. I spent parts of four seasons on the major league level. Then the White Sox hired me as a major league pitching coach from 1987 to 1991, and a bullpen coach for the Cubs in 1992. In 1993 and 1994, I was in Seattle with Lou Pinella, and now am the minor league pitching instructor for the Boston Red Sox.

There is no difference between the players now and when I played—young ballplayers are no different. They have a dream and they work as hard as they can to make it to the big leagues. Now they have better coaching and condition-

ing, which we never had. I developed my slider on my own, or some of the older players like George McWilliams helped me and showed me how to do things. We just didn't have the amenities that the young players have now, and it does make a difference for them. When I was pitching, if you had an arm or shoulder problem, you either worked your way through it or that was it for you. Now if you have a shoulder problem, you can have an operation and they fix you right up.

Of my fondest memories with the Padres: the no-hitter I pitched stands out, especially because there was such a big crowd that night. The fans came out for some kind of promotion, but the place was almost full, and that was quite a thrill. But even more than that, was the great team we had in 1962. That was by far the best team I ever played on, at the level we were playing at we were so dominant that it was like men playing against boys. It was such a great team and that was my first full year in baseball, so it really was great to be a part of that.

Pitcher Sammy Ellis (1962-1963). Photo from Bob Dreher.

BOB SHUMAKE
Publicity Director

Bob Shumake is a native San Diegan. He inherited his love of baseball from his father and remembers Easter Sunday as a special family day at Lane Field. Other times, "We used to sneak into Lane Field when we couldn't get tickets. We used to get free tickets sometimes from the old American Cleaners. They gave free tickets to kids." Bob attended San Diego State, and graduated following a break for a tour in the Air Force Special Forces. After graduation, Bob went to work for Foster and Kleiser Outdoor Advertising. A couple of years later, he was hired by Fred Finn to manage and promote Mickey Finn's on University Avenue in North Park, one of San Diego's most popular nightclubs at that time.

Interview with BOB SHUMAKE
by Mike Schlei

In 1962, I happened to meet Jim Mulvaney, President of the Padres, and he asked if I would be interested in managing promotions for the Padres. After giving it some thought, Mulvaney invited me to a meeting in his office downtown in the First National Bank building. Subsequent to that meeting, I was hired as Director of Promotions for the Padres.

One of the ideas I presented during my initial interview with Mulvaney, was the "I'm a Padre Watcher" adhesive sticker, which I loved to affix on the unsuspecting. The most famous example of this occurred the night Miss Mamie Van Doren came to see Bo Belinsky pitch at Westgate Park. According to the *San Diego Evening-Tribune*, Mamie was surprised to find herself promoting the opposition. "This fellow was laying in wait for me at the park, and I was plunked down in this box,"

she said, "All of a sudden I looked down and there was this sticky thing on me. I didn't even know what it was."

Bo Belinsky had a big year in 1962 for the Angels. He had pitched their first no-hitter ever. The next year, he had some problems, and got sent down to the Angel's AAA farm club, the Islanders, in Hawaii. The Islanders came in to play the Padres at Westgate Park, and Bo was scheduled to pitch. He was undefeated at the time, 4-0 I think.

I got the idea since Belinsky had such a reputation as a playboy, to hire some models to do a promo shot. I think we hired 10 models. That's when I got the idea to get Mamie Van Doren, who was dating Belinsky, down here from Hollywood.

I talked to her agent, and she finally agreed to come after I promised a lot of publicity. I put her up at the U.S. Grant Hotel, under another name. Regis Philbin, who was with TV 10, and Harold Keen from Channel 8, both wanted exclusives with her. I got Regis up to her room and then had to quick get him out of there before Keen showed up.

The game was a sellout. We had to rope off part of the outfield for the overflow. Anything hit into the crowd was a ground rule double that night. About 30 minutes before the game, I was up in the press box.

I got a call from Mamie. She'd decided not to come out to the game. I panicked! I said, "Mamie, don't let me down! All the press in San Diego is out here." As it turned out, she just didn't want to come out there alone. Finally she said, "Bob, I'll come if you'll pick me up." I said, "I can't do that, it's 30 minutes before the game." Eventually I talked her into taking a cab. I met the cab at the gate, and escorted her to her seat. That's when I put the "Padre Watcher" sticker on her chest. I told her it was a good luck badge for Bo. This picture was in the



Bob Shumake and Jayne Mansfield.

Evening-Tribune, which made C. Arnholt Smith very happy.

After the game, Bo, Mamie, Carol Shannon Smith (a vice-president of the Padres), George Pernicano, my wife and I, all went out to the Gaslamp Theatre at the Midway Chuckwagon on El Cajon Boulevard. Freddie Bell was playing there, and he was a friend of Bo's. About 1:30, George said, "Come on, I got my chef out of bed. We're going over to DiBaffi's Restaurant for some food." We had pork chops and spaghetti. Best pork chops I ever had. There weren't any waiters or waitresses, so when we were done, my wife and Mamie cleared the table and stacked the dishes. What a great night! We were all taken back that Mamie was so domestic. Earlier, she was "on stage," but that evening she became a real person. What a great night! Mamie wore a Padre sticker and the Padres beat Bo, 3-0.

We had some other great promotions. We had a Disney night. I got all the characters to come down from Disneyland. We had Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Goofy, all of them. Once, to promote Dairy Month, we had a milking contest. Ray Rippelmeyer and Chico Ruiz milked a cow out on the field. One night, the Padres played a two-inning game against their wives before the real game. I remember Les Peden. In the photo Mrs. Rippelmeyer and Mrs. Al Worthington flanked Les. Chico Ruiz was a great guy, everyone liked Chico. He was always ready to help out, going to luncheons whenever you needed him.

Once we had a Music Appreciation Night where any youngster who bought a musical instrument got in free. One family brought a piano. We let them all in free. That was a quite a night. The noise was unbelievable.

C. Arnholt Smith was very interested in building a relationship with baseball fans in Mexico, so we

had a "Night for the Citizens of Mexico" [August 28, 1963]. I met with the media on both sides of the border; we got a lot of media coverage. We had specially priced tickets, and 3,601 fans from across the border came by special busses that night. Smith even attended, which he rarely did.

DAVID SISLER

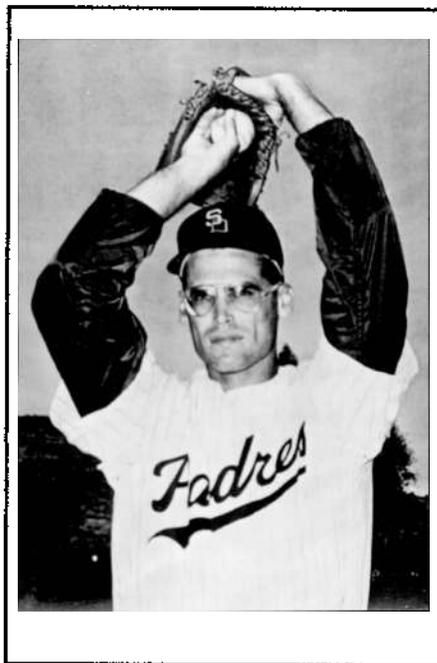
*Interview with
DAVID M. SISLER with Ray
Brandes and John Bowman*

David Sisler was associated with the San Diego Baseball Club for only a short time—the summer of 1963. I had been a right-handed pitcher who had about sixty wins and saves over a seven-year major league career. My brother Dick, a coach with Cincinnati, had been given the nasty job of telling his little brother that he was going to the minor leagues—optioned outright to San Diego—on the last day of spring training.

My year started well, but, when no call up came, the days became longer, as I was 32 years old and I knew that San Diego was my last stop.

I do remember the good people: Whitey Wietelmann, who worked his butt-off; Doc Greene, who could do his magic on and off the field with his famous "vibrator"; Ray Rippelmeyer; Johnny Flavin; Jim Owens, and others.

In summary, I doubt if the San Diego management would place David Sisler, the pitcher, in their Hall of Fame. But I still hold that year to be the enjoyable, necessary one of transition where I then had to get on with my life. Subsequent years were kinder. I retired in 1995 as Executive Vice-President and Vice-Chairman of A.G. Edwards and Sons—an investment company with over 10,000 employees.



*David Sisler.
Photo courtesy Bob Dreher.*



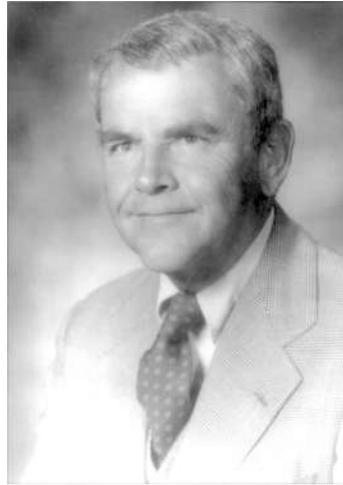
AL SCHUSS says:
Vote for your favorite
Padre player and help
him win an ALAN JOHN
KOOLAIRE suit.

MY FAVORITE PADRE PLAYER IS ...

MY NAME _____

MY ADDRESS _____

JAMES MULVANEY
*Interview by Ray Brandes
and Mike Schlei*



C. Arnholt Smith, in 1955, owned a number of businesses, and properties, principal among them the U.S. National Bank, which he had acquired in 1933, at a time when it was close to insolvency. He built up the bank, and it became a 62 branch bank and one of the largest banks in the United States. I did serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer at that bank in its latter days.

At the time that Smith bought the baseball team, he also owned the National Steel and Shipbuilding Corporation, the largest fleet of tunaboats in the U.S., Westgate California Corporation and Breast of Chicken Tuna, extensive real estate holdings, Air California, and a number of other investments.

In addition, Smith owned Radio Station KSDO. The station carried Padre baseball games in those days and Smith's office was on the same floor of the bank building in which the radio station was located. On many nights Smith, a late worker, would go by the radio station and watch Al Schuss, announcer for the Padres, do re-creations of the games when the team was on the road. In

those days the team did not take announcers with them. Smith got a big kick out of watching Al work and as a result, developed a greater interest in the Padres. In addition to the fact that KSDO had Padre games he got his Breast of Chicken Tuna broadcasting advertising.

Bill Starr who had been a catcher with Padres in pre-WWII and after the War was majority owner of the Pads. Starr determined to sell out in 1955. Smith was the logical buyer and at that time did buy the club.

At the same time I had just come to San Diego to work for Smith. I had been practicing law in Chicago; Smith learned I had worked for the Chicago Cubs in 1940-1941, and as a result indicated to me as soon as I arrived I was the only one with baseball experience, and I was to become President of the Padres. At that point after the 1955 season I took over presidency, and knew I did not have sufficient knowledge to run PCL club and looked around for logical help. I was approached by Lefty O'Doul, who had managed the club before, one of the great hitters in the major leagues in his salad days. Lefty wanted to be general manager; we decided we didn't want to go that way.

Instead I got in touch with Ralph Kiner. I knew he was at about the end of his career. So I invited Kiner to San Diego to take on the General Managership. We did hire Kiner and Ralph moved to San Diego from Palm Springs, where he and Nancy Chaffee Kiner lived. She was a world class tennis player in those days, and a fun person to have in your camp. Kiner, while a good GM, was perhaps not as interested in the job as I thought he might be, but nonetheless, he did proceed to serve in that capacity for a few years.

The first year, we had no working agreement with a major league club. But in the second year, Ralph got us one with the Chisox,

which Greenberg and Billy Veeck had acquired and we had a presentable team. Whitey Wietelmann was at the end of his playing days, but stayed with the club; Jimmie Reese was our one coach. Bob Elliott was manager the first year but he and Kiner had a falling out. They had been friends in playing days; Kiner felt Elliott was not managing properly and sacked him and put Metkovich in his place.

Unfortunately, both Jack Murphy sports editor of the *San Diego Union* and George Herrick, sports editor of the *San Diego Evening-Tribune*, were close friends of Elliott and were irate with Kiner's action and we caught a lot of bad press. Another player was Rudy Regalado, who had been with Greenberg, and the world championship Cleveland Indians. He was one of our mainstays in 1954, and had an illustrious career in TV in San Diego after he quit playing. We had Rocky Colavito on his way up to the Indians. I harken to one day at Lane Field where we played the first three seasons. Rocky stood at home plate and threw the ball over center field fence a distance of 420, 430 feet. He had a tremendous arm, was a good bat, went to the big leagues, where he had a good career.

Many people in the mid-50s were not aware the PCL was a sort of super AAA league. There were significant restrictions on major leagues delving into minor league teams in the attempt to build it up to a point where it would be the third major league. I remember talking about major league baseball in San Diego from the time I arrived in San Diego. I remember Herb Caen [San Francisco columnist] took me on in a column when he described me as a naive young man riding a white charger in the hope of bringing major league to a "Navy Burg" to San Diego. I just swallowed hard, and said no more but continued to try to get a Major league club in the city.

Smith was a delightful gentleman. I worked for him for a number of years, and knew him as much as most. I found him a sincere, conscientious, likeable guy who had great rapport with all of his employees. He made you feel you were working with him and not for him. Just a great guy, perhaps a little too much of a gambler, which before might have been perfectly alright if done by John Jacob Astor, or the Morgans or people of that sort.

Arnholt Smith was very active in Republican politics, which suited some people, but not others. He was a personal friend of many many senior politicians, but his best friend was then-Senator Richard Nixon, and supported Nixon from the time he first ran for the U.S. Congress. On a number of occasions, we had dinner with Nixon and small groups at the Kona Kai Club when Nixon was in town, and we entertained him.

Bill Starr, in addition to being a very knowledgeable baseball man, was a successful businessman and had other than baseball holdings, and a number of real estate developments. He was a good person to work with. Bill stayed with us in an advisory capacity the first year and helped whenever Ralph or I needed help. Smith knew Lane Field was nearing a place at the end of its usefulness. A park located in downtown, no transportation then, in or out, relatively little parking available, and with dampness in the Spring and Fall. I remember games down there when lights covered the field with a fog bank. You couldn't see a ball when it came down in the fog in the outfield on several occasions.

We decided we couldn't continue playing there. Smith owned all of the property that is today's Fashion Valley Shopping Center. He took property that was Valley Lane Farms and converted it into a minor league park, probably the nicest minor

league park for its size in the nation, and it held short of 13,000 people.

The park was built of concrete on a sand base that was San Diego River at that point. The roof was cantilevered with no support pillars and no upper deck, just one deck. There were short distances between the stands and foul lines on a lot fewer pop outs to the catcher or third baseman; on the other hand, the park was delightfully located, close to the geographic population center at Hwy 395 and Friars Road, had good freeway access in and out. Smith built this park with no public help at all.

I do recall an interesting incident in connection with building the stadium where it was. I, James Francis Mulvaney, was attorney for Smith, in addition to being President of the Padres, and the principal opponent to Westgate Park in that location arose was Bishop Francis J. Buddy, Catholic Bishop of the San Diego Diocese, and then living at the University of San Diego, at the top of the hill down toward present State Highway 5. He hired Norman Seltzer, who became a very close friend of mine, to oppose the location of Westgate Park, arguing that noise and lights would disturb the students. Actually they were 1-1/2 miles away and no disturbance was possible, but when the Bishop had an idea you couldn't shake him on it, and we ended up, I, James F. Mulvaney, and Doug Giddings, appearing before the City Council against the Catholic Bishop, represented by Norm Seltzer, chagrined by the fact he was representing the Bishop and I was on the other side. Nevertheless, we did finally convince the City Council to let us build the park and that proved out to be an excellent decision because the Westgate Park regularly led the Minor League in total attendance.

About that time Kiner real

ized perhaps being General Manager in baseball was something he was really interested in and broadcasting, and went to the broadcast booth on occasion with Al Schuss and Al Couppee, [Schuss color man]. Kiner took turns doing play-by-play. Jack Murphy helped him into that because his brother Bob, was the broadcaster with the Baltimore club and later the Mets and he helped Ralph move into big league broadcasting business. We parted company with Ralph in a mutually agreeable way.

I then went out to find a substitute and found out that Eddie Leishman was running the Salt Lake City franchise in the then Western League and might be available. He enjoyed an excellent reputation as a baseball man and I was fortunate enough to be able to hire him. Hiring Leishman proved to be one of the smarter things I have done in my life. He was just a great guy, a fellow highly respected in the profession and one could not help but like him. He had a great rapport with players of all types: hot dogs, up and coming stars, over the hill ballplayers. Eddie got a great deal out of our talent. He had a close relationship with Bill DeWitt, GM and principal owner of the Cincinnati RedLegs. As soon as Leishman became GM, he started on a campaign to get an working agreement with DeWitt and Phil Seghi. This was at a time when DeWitt, Seghi and Hemus were building the Big Red machine, and as a result we were fortunate in getting a number of ballplayers from them. Shortly after Eddie arrived, we won the PCL for the first time since 1954 and in addition, won several times after. I know that in 64-65 Leishman was crowned King of Baseball of the Minor Leagues, the first time that had happened in a number of years.

He was both feted for attendance records in the minor leagues, and for having a team of good pros

pects and stars. We had Pete Rose on our roster, but he was pulled up before he ever played for us as was Johnny Bench. Tommy Helms, Chico Ruiz, Tony Perez, and a couple of good pitchers were in that group of ball players.

I recall Bob Lemon was manager with us in the latter Kiner days. He helped us in big draws. Herb Score was sent to us after a dreadful accident in which he almost lost an eye when hit by a line drive, I think from Gil McDougall.

Score came down to us and many thought he had lost it and he had a number of bad outings with us after being one of the real hot prospects in baseball. Herb had an incredible fastball, good changeup, looked like a future Lefty Grove, or other great pitchers before him. Finally, it was decided Herb's trouble was that he was so anxious he went out to the bullpen before every game he was to start — and warmed up for a half hour or 45 minutes, and so he left the best part of the game in the bullpen. We changed that procedure.

By this time, we had ambitions for a major league club for San Diego which meant tremendous things for the city—the internal respect and also appearance in eyes of tourists, visitors and people looking around the country for San Diego, to be a major city. When I came here, San Diego was 20th in size in the U.S. By the time we got a major league franchise we were eighth or ninth.

Many people were most helpful and one person especially was Jack Murphy. I say that, because it was Murphy that told me after we had put on parties, shows, and events for major league owners trying to convince them of our wish, but it was suggested Buzzi Bavasi might willing to become a partner with Arnholt Smith. Bavasi would have some support of Walter O'Malley, owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers, and would get

good support from Chub Feeney and Horace Stoneham owner of the San Francisco Giants.

I knew both Walter O'Malley, Horace and Chub quite well because I had been the person charged by the Pacific Coast League to go negotiate with them. We were trying to get money for the injuries they would inflict on the PCL by moving to the West Coast. They did pay substantial money for moving to the West Coast. Locally, Al Anderson who died not too long ago, was also a big help as was Mayor Frank Curran, Members of the Chamber of Commerce, many people supported the move. But especially Jack Murphy and Gene Gregson, of the *Evening-Tribune*, were the greatest of help in getting the major league franchise.

We continued to put on a full court press for a major league expansion team, and I recall going to New York to meet with John Galbraith of the Pirates, one of five members of the Expansion Committee of the National League, and had warm receptions while visiting Roy

One of our toughest assignments was to convince Judge Roy Hofheinz, owner of the Houston Travelers. He was not easy. Buzzie and I visited with Roy Hofheinz. The day we were to meet with him was the day after Martin Luther King was assassinated. As a result, all games on that day were not played. Hofheinz talked both of the clubs into playing an exhibition game, with no crowd, no broadcast, or no attendance at the game. We approached him at the beginning of the third inning in the opulent owners box, in the overdone Astrodome. It was not a monstrosity, but not done in good taste, especially the skyboxes, the hotel rooms in the outfield area. Nonetheless, we walked into Hofheinz' box. He didn't greet us but just said, "Sit down and watch—you are looking at the only game ever played for one person—

me." I thought "What an ingratiating person." We did come away with the franchise, however.

When Smith owned the club, Buzzie was saddled with a very low budget, could not make a lot of deals he wanted and we had a difficult time. By then we were out of Westgate and into the stadium. The Pads limped along and did not move up in standings for some time.

I continued as Vice President and counsel for the Padres working for Buzzie after the sale to Roy Kroc in 1973, when Smith was in significant financial difficulties, and the club was going to Washington, D.C. Kroc heard about that and wanted to keep the club and in San Diego because he had an affection for the city

and he outbid the Washington persons. I represented Buzzie in the sale of his interest in the club to Kroc and continued to work for the club when Ray took over. He was a great guy to work with: charming, very definite in opinions, maybe knew little more about baseball than Smith, but a quick learn and also a guy that was extremely knowledgeable in marketing and business techniques. Ray Kroc was a fan! He did a great job and was willing to spend money; brought in his son-in-law Ballard Smith, who turned out to be a very quick learn and well respected in the baseball world. That is pretty much my story as I see it.



Old-Timers Game.

Back row: Bob Skinner, Buck Rodgers, Dick Aylward, Tommy Yost, Dave Morehead, Rudy Regalado, Cedric Durst.

Front Row: Jim Fregosi, Rod Graber, Bobby Klaus, unknown, Kent Parker, Señor Bustamante, unknown.

Photograph courtesy Autumn Durst Keltner.

1963 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	PCT.
Alvarez, Rogelio	103	367	51	95	19	2	15	63	.259
Bailey, Braxton	17	25	4	5	1	--	--	--	.200
Breeden, H.Scott	35	56	5	7	1	--	1	1	.125
Coates, James	11	11	-	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Dobbek, Daniel	13	43	3	7	1	--	1	5	.163
Ellis, Samuel	37	61	6	9	--	--	--	--	.148
Flavin, John	27	44	--	4	--	--	--	1	.091
Fodor, Marvin	29	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Freese, Gene	54	196	32	55	9	--	12	34	.281
Helms, Tommy	138	471	40	106	21	--	2	39	.225
Hunt, Kenneth R.	2	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Jancich, Gregory	15	23	--	2	--	--	--	1	.087
Johnson, Deron	129	481	85	133	22	--	33	91	.277
Klaus, Robert	140	493	68	142	30	--	9	62	.288
Lajoie, William*	42	107	10	25	4	3	1	4	.234
Luebke, Richard	36	7	--	--	--	5	--	--	.000
Mattiace, Michael	5	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
McCool, William	4	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
McWilliams,George	45	22	1	3	1	--	--	1	.136
McWilliams, Miles	15	45	2	8	--	--	2	8	.178
Nash, C.Gregory	14	24	1	1	--	--	--	--	.042
Owens, James	8	22	--	1	--	--	--	--	.045
Pavletich, Donald	30	121	19	35	5	--	6	19	.289
Peden, Leslie*	50	76	6	19	4	2	4	15	.250
Perez, Atanasio	8	29	4	11	3	1	1	5	.379
Queen, Melvin	134	504	70	131	26	1	25	78	.260
Rippelmeyer, Ray	37	45	6	10	--	3	1	3	.222
Risenhoover,Robert	6	2	--	1	--	--	--	--	.500
Ruiz,Hirald(Chico)	144	617	83	184	20	--	11	46	.298
Samford, Ronald*	101	284	28	82	13	4	5	26	.289
Saul, James*	140	451	59	113	19	2	12	52	.251
Shamsky, Arthur	150	494	64	132	21	3	18	68	.267
Shetrone, Barry	7	25	4	5	1	6	--	4	.200
Sisler, David	35	24	--	--	--	1	--	--	.000
Wills, Theodore	40	80	4	19	5	--	2	16	.238
Windhorn, David*	106	259	33	64	18	--	3	17	.247
Zipfel, Marion	38	101	16	24	7	1	2	4	.238

1

*Lajoie: 9San Diego-33 Dallas/Fort Worth,
Peden: 3 Portland-47 San Diego,
Samford: 7 San Diego-94 Hawaii,
Saul: 14 Portland-126 San Diego,
Windhorn: 8 Hawaii-98 San Diego.

1963 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	IP	W	L	PCT	SO	BB	ERA
Breeden, H.Scott	34	186	9	10	.474	120	37	3.48
Coates, James	6	33	3	2	.600	17	7	4.91
Ellis, Samuel	27	192	12	10	.545	192	101	2.62
Flavin, John	26	137	8	10	.444	85	68	4.99
Fodor, Marvin	29	76	2	4	.333	63	32	5.57
Hunt, Kenneth R.	2	5	1	1	.500	3	8	7.20
Jancich, Gregory	15	69	2	4	.333	46	31	3.78
Luebke, Richard	36	55	4	2	.667	38	14	3.60
Mattiace, Michael	5	8	—	2	.000	7	9	15.75
McCool, William	4	26	4	1	.000	14	8	1.04
McWilliams, George	45	88	2	6	.250	63	21	3.78
Owens, James	8	57	4	2	.667	53	13	2.21
Rippelmeyer, Ray	36	145	11	2	.846	62	29	2.61
Risenhoover, Robert	6	15	—	—	.000	9	5	1.80
Sisler, David	35	90	6	9	.400	64	36	3.40
Wills, Theodore	28	184	15	10	.600	175	55	3.38



Jim Saul's Home Run. Mel Queen extends his hand, Art Shamsky holding bat. Photo courtesy Jay Leishman.

Photos:

All photographs are from the *San Diego Union* unless otherwise noted. SET= *San Diego Evening-Tribune*.

January 8:	Opening work, blading of San Diego Stadium	March 24:	Gene Gregston, Eddie Leishman, SET
January 20:	Joe E. Brown SET	March 25:	Ted Davidson
January 21:	C.Arnholt Smith, Joe E. Brown and Don Heffner SET	March 25:	Ex-Hoover High star Larry Elliot in Red-Pirate game
January 22:	Rod Graber, Martha Maness and Ken Retzer SET	March 27:	Miles McWilliams
January 22:	Art Shamsky SET	March 27:	Ron Samford, Ray Rippelmeyer, Ted Wills SET
January 25:	Scott Breeden (head shot)	March 28:	Ted Wills, Ted Davidson
January 31:	Fred Haney, Don Heffner, Joe E. Brown and Eddie Leishman SET	March 28:	Ron Samford SET
January 31:	Frank Alessio, Bob Skinner, Dave Morehead, Pete Jernigan SET	March 29:	Art Shamsky
February 1:	Work progressing on San Diego Stadium.	March 29:	Ed Leishman, Red Davis SET
February 15:	Eddie Leishman and Bob McGiveron SET	March 29:	Art Shamsky SET
March 10:	Jesse Gonder (in Cincinnati uniform)	March 30:	Tommy Helms
March 11:	Bobby Klaus, Eddie Leishman, Sammy Ellis; Floyd Robinson, Frank Robinson, Tommy Harper. SET	March 30:	Billy and Bobby Klaus SET
March 14:	Allan Worthington and Sammy Ellis (in Cincinnati uniforms)	April 4:	Dick Sisler SET
March 18:	Bill Lajoie, Braxton Bailey, Bud Zipfel SET	April 4:	Art Shamsky (3 shots) SET
March 19:	Dick Luebke SET	April 6:	Deron Johnson
March 20:	Bobby Krop, Howie Nunn, Rob Risenhoover	April 7:	Don Heffner, Deron Johnson
March 21:	Dan Dobbek	April 11:	Scott Breeden, Marv Fodor, Dave Sisler, Dick Leubke and Ted Wills
March 21:	Farris Bryant, Freddie Hutchinson, Earl Keller,	April 11:	Sammy Ellis SET
		April 11:	Scott Breeden, Marv Fodor, Dick Luebke; Ted Wills SET
		April 12:	Deron Johnson
		April 12:	County Supervisor Frank Gibson, Don Heffner, Eddie Leishman, Mayor Charles Dail
		April 12:	Sammy Ellis, George McWilliams, Braxton Bailey
		April 12:	Nine opening day players with Padres 1962 PCL flag: Chico Ruiz, Tommy Helms, Art Shamsky, Deron Johnson, Don Pavletich, Bill LaJoie, Bobby Klaus, Dan Dobbek,

	Sammy Ellis and Don Heffner. Championship banner.	April 30:	first slide into second. Al Schuss, Al Coupee SET
April 12:	San Diego Union baseball preview pullout section with head shots of Don Heffner, Deron Johnson, Ted Wills, Ray Rippelmeyer, Ken Hunt, Tommy Helms, Dan Dobbek Sammy Ellis, Bud Zipfel, Art Shamsky, Eddie Leishman, Bobby Klaus, Marv Fodor, Chico Ruiz, Bob Risenhoover	May 6: May 9: May 10: May 11:	Barry Shetrone SET Rogelio (Borrego) Alvarez Deron Johnson wields big bat SET Rogelio (Borrego) Alvarez, Gordon Windhorn, Mel Queen, Barry Shetrone
April 12:	Special baseball pullout section with portraits of Deron Johnson, Sammy Ellis, George McWilliams, Braxton Bailey, Dave Sisler, Ken Hunt, Tommy Helms, Bill Lajoie, Ted Wills, Bud Zipfel, Dan Dobbek, Marv Fodor, Bob Risenhoover, Dick Luebke, Ray Rippelmeyer, Greg Jancich SET	May 11: May 13: May 15: May 16: May 20: May 21: May 25: May 27: May 28: May 28: May 29: May 31:	Mel Queen Art Shamsky Deron Johnson, Bud Zipfel Jim Saul Scott Breeden and daughter SET Chico Ruiz, Bo Belinsky Deron Johnson, Mel Queen, Gene Freese, Borrego Alvarez SET Jim Saul, Art Shamsky, and Mel Queen. Jim Saul SET Bobby Klaus Art Shamsky Rogelio Alvarez and Deron Johnson
April 13:	Opening day battery: Sammy Ellis and Don Pavletich	May 31 June 7:	Gordon Windhorn Art Shamsky, Mel Queen SET
April 13:	Art Shamsky and Deron Johnson	June 8: June 9: June 10:	Mel Queen homers SET Rogelio Alvarez Jack Stagge and Allan Dellerman with musical instruments. SET
April 14:	Tacoma catcher Bob Barton tags Art Shamsky	June 10:	Ray Rippelmeyer, Gene Freese, Chico Ruiz participate in a cow milking contest between games of a Dairy Week.
April 14:	Chico Ruiz sliding into second		
April 15:	Shamsky trying to score; Umpire Ralph DeLeonardis		
April 16:	Al Hogan with concessions at Westgate Park SET	June 11: June 11:	Sammy Ellis The suspended Sammy Ellis watched as team
April 19:	Ken Hunt		
April 29:	Don Pavletich head		

June 12:	mates work out. Sammy Ellis in street clothes in stands after suspen sion. SET	August 20: August 20:	Tommy Harper, Ex Pads SET Bob Skinner Former Pads Frank Robinson, Tommy Harper
June 13:	Rogelio Alvarez, Don Heffner	August 22:	Bill DeWitt, Carol Shannon (C. Arnholt Smith's daughter) Eddie Leishman
June 14:	Don Heffner		Vada Pinson SET
June 14:	George McWilliams SET	August 21: August 22:	Joey Jay, Leo Cardenas, Tommy Harper of Reds SET
June 15:	Sammy Ellis	August 22:	Rogelio Alvarez, Frank Robinson, Vada Pinson, Jim Saul SET
June 17:	Tommy Helms		C. Arnholt Smith, Bill DeWitt SET
June 18:	John Flavin SET	August 22:	Bill DeWitt, rs. Carol S. Shannon, Eddie Leishman SET
June 23:	Tommy Helms	August 23:	Former Pads now with Reds: Don Pavletich, Tommy Harper, John Tsitouris, Ken Walters, Jim Coates, Jim Maloney, Gene Freese, Joe Nuxhall.
June 24:	Dewey Soriano PCL Prexy SET		Bill McCool, Jim Saul
June 27:	Ray Rippelmeyer, <i>The Independent</i>	August 24:	Ex Pads in Cincin nati uniforms at Westgate Park: Don Pavletich, Tommy Harper, John Tsitouris, Ken Walters, Jim Coates, Tom Maloney, Gene Freese, Joe Nuxhall. SET
June 29:	Ray Rippelmeyer, backup catcher Les Peden	August 24:	Ted Wills, Bill McCool, Bill McCool and Jim Saul SET
July 1:	Chico Ruiz; Dave Sisler, Chico Ruiz, Tommy Helms SET;	August 26:	Bill McCool, Jim Saul, Jesus Alou
July 3:	Tommy Helms, Gordon Windhorn, Chico Ruiz, Bobby Klaus; Jim Saul	August 26:	Bobby Klaus slides into second. SET (series of 3 action shots.
July 6:	Don Heffner, Mickey Mattiace, Jim Coates	August 27: August 27:	Miles McWilliams George McWilliams;
July 9:	Jim Mulvaney, SET		
July 9:	Dewey Soriano, PCL President SET		
July 12:	Borrego Alvarez, Bobby Klaus, Chico Ruiz		
July 14:	Borrego Alvarez		
July 16:	Chico Ruiz		
July 19:	Ted Wills		
August 1:	Sammy Ellis		
August 2:	Larry Himes; Deron Johnson		
August 3:	Deron Johnson, Mel Queen		
August 8:	Wives Night: Mrs. Ray Rippelmeyer and Mrs. Scott Breedon and in drag, Les Peden SET		
August 8:	Manager Don Heffner		
August 13:	Sammy Ellis, Ted Wills SET		
August 18:	Frank Robinson,		

- Mike McWilliams
SET
- August 27: Two Tijuana players take turns with Jai Alai catching McWilliams pitch and sending it over centerfield. SET
- August 28: George McWilliams
- August 31: Gordon Windhorn
- August 31: Bo Belinsky SET
- September 2: Jim Saul, Rac Slider
- September 3: Tony Perez, Deron Johnson, Rogelio Alvarez
- September 3: Les Peden SET
- September 3: Chico Ruiz, Tony Perez, Sammy Ellis SET
- September 6: Bo Belinsky
- September 6: Don Heffner, Bill McCool and Scott Breeden SET
- September 6: Mamie Van Doren, Bo Belinsky at Westgate pitching, Bo Belinsky and Chico Ruiz, Crowd at Westgate Park SET
- September 7: Bobby Klaus, Chico Ruiz, Ray Rippelmeyer
- September 10: Dewey Soriano
- October 15: Don Heffner
- November 14: Umpire Doug Harvey SET
- November 20: Dave Bristol SET
- November 21: Dave Bristol
- November 21: Don Heffner
- November 21: Eddie Leishman, Mrs. Helen King preparing for National Assn., Baseball and Minor League Officials SET
- November 30: Ex Pad Gary Peters.
- December 3: C. Arnholt Smith, Greg Gregston, Jim Mulvaney, Warren Giles SET
- December 3: Many photos of players and managers in San Diego for
- Baseball Convention.
- December 4: Many photos of players and managers in San Diego for Baseball Convention
- December 7: The U.S. National Bank Building at night. *The Sporting News*.
- December 7: C. Arnholt Smith and Jim Mulvaney, *The Sporting News*
- December 14: Meeting in San Diego, *The Sporting News*.
- December 19: Don Pavletich; Ted Davidson, SET
- Photos in scrapbooks, undated, newspaper not identified, but all in 1963:
- Good Ship San Diego being pushed across Westgate Park.
- Les Cook checking blister on John Flavin's pitching hand.
- Ted Wills and Miles McWilliams.
- Tommy Helms and Jim Saul in rundown
- Padres and Umpire Emmett Ashford disagree.
- Ray Rippelmeyer and family
- Gordon. Windhorn out at first.
- Tommy Helms in double play breakup.
- Bo Belinsky checking out six San Diego models.
- Art Shamsky and Mel Queen in double play.



*June 10, 1963. Musical instrument night.
Photo San Diego Historical Society Collections.*

James David Bristol known as "Dave," became the Padres new manager in 1964. He came from Macon, Georgia, where he worked for two seasons prior to his move to San Diego. Spring training for the Padres season began on March 15, 1964, at López Field at the Tampa, Florida headquarters of their parent team, the Cincinnati Reds, with 16 exhibition games. Padres manager Bristol, started workouts for all team players on March 16, 1964.

This schedule differed from past seasons when the pitchers reported five days earlier than the rest of the team. GM Leishman expressed popular sentiment and indicated that Bristol meant business when he stated, "The majority of these players represent the nucleus of what should be a well-balanced Padre club with a fine blend of veterans and youngsters." Jack Murphy called the team "The Big Leaguers without the Label. That's the 1964 Padres." Bristol believed in a stringent 20-minute calisthenics program. Players reported to Bristol at 8:00 a.m. and some days trained as late as 9:00 p.m. He led players through the mandatory calisthenic exercises, and



*Al Schuss and Al Couppee,
"Voices of the Padres"*

if a player's physical condition matched that of the manager, he was considered ready for the ball field. Players admitted this time often left them "huffin and puffin." Eddie Leishman, the Padres GM, believed that 30 year old David Bristol gave the team "power, speed, pitching and defensive ability." Bristol's major goal for the Padres centered on the 1964 pennant, and he wanted to move up the baseball management ladder to the major leagues.

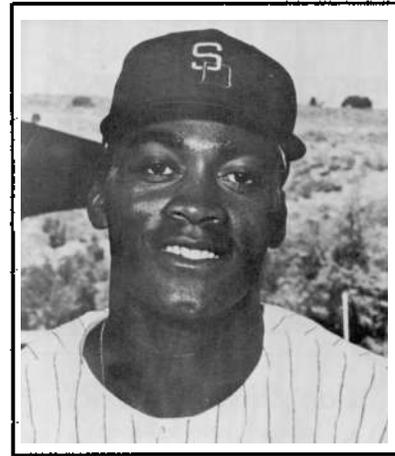
The Padres' new manager developed a reputation as a strict and fair leader. His only notable downfall focused on his somewhat volatile temper. For instance, he once ripped a hole in a wall and in an effort at humor, an unknown party scrawled, "Bristol was here" beneath the hole. Bristol explained that, "I'd gotten mad at the umpires one night and everything else had gone wrong, so I just hauled off and took it out on the wall. Lucky I didn't hit a two-by-four when I went through."



Art Shamsky

Pitcher Ken Hunt told the *San Diego Union* sportswriter, Johnny McDonald, about an incident that took place between Bristol and a catcher in Macon, Georgia, in 1962. "The catcher's mask inflicted a deep cut over Bristol's eye and he was bleeding from the mouth. Then he asked the other guy, "You had enough?"

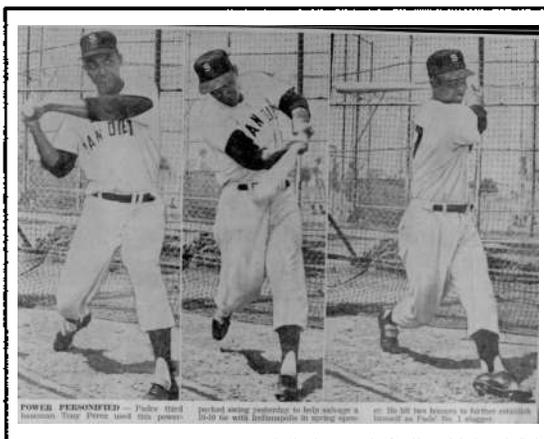
Padres Tony Perez, Art Shamsky, Cesar Tovar, Tommy Helms



Cesar Tovar.

and Jim Campbell received the title "Cincinnati Reds of the Future." Baseball enthusiasts remarked in surprise that players of their caliber ended up on a team like the Padres, with a minor league classification.

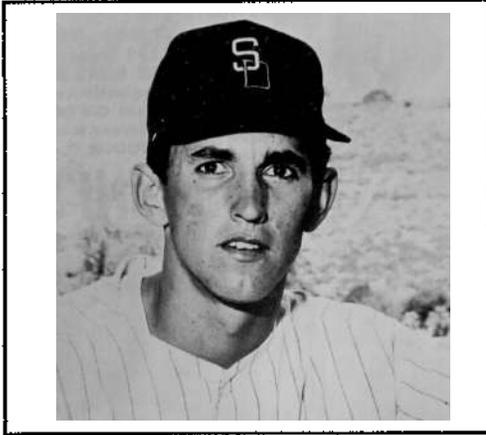
Tony Atanasio Perez (Rigal), played as an infielder for the Padres. Born in Ciego de Avilla Camaguey, Cuba, on May 14, 1942, Tony Perez signed his first contract with the Cincinnati Reds. In the off-season,



Tony Perez " Mr. Power"



Chico Ruiz



Terry Banderas.

Perez lived in Charlotte, N.C. In 1960, he tied for the New York-Pennsylvania League lead in sacrifice hits (11). In 1961, led the New York-Pennsylvania League in averages at bat (.348), RBI's (132) and hits (160); third in home runs (27), led third basemen in assists (232), chances accepted (339), and errors (42); and he was named to the league All-Star team in 1961. In 1962, he led the Carolina League third basemen in fielding (.917), and double plays (23), and once again was named to the league All-Star team. He also had been named to the South Atlantic League as All-Star third baseman in 1963, although he remained unable to report from Cuba until June.

Cesar Leonardo Tovar, a versatile player in the outfield often switched to third base, second and shortstop. Tovar's confident prediction that he would steal 100 bases by the end of the season astounded many critics and gave the fans something to anticipate. Born in Caracas,

Venezuela, on July 3, 1940, his home in the off season was in Caracas. Cesar signed his first contract with Reds in 1962. Named to the League's All Star team and National Association Class "B" All Star team, in 1963 he also played on PCL All Star Team and for Dallas-Ft.. Worth before his move to the Padres.

Born in Charlotte, N.C., on May 5, 1942, Thomas Vann Helms played mainly shortstop for the Padres. Helms signed his first contract with the Cincinnati Reds. He had been named All-North Carolina prep shortstop in his senior year at West Mecklenburg High School, in Charlotte. Helms had also been named to the PCL All-Star team in 1964.

One of the doubtfuls at this point was Chico Ruiz who, in the fall of 1963, had been offered a contract with Santurce in Puerto Rico, and a job at the U.S. National Bank by C. Arnholt Smith in San Diego. He returned to San Diego with his wife and



Steve Boros.



*Carol Smith Shannon,
Chairman of the Board and
Executive Vice President of the
Padres.*

new daughter and readied himself for Tampa.

The pre-season outlook for the Padres appeared to be a bright one. The ballplayers and fans held a common belief that centered on the

strong nucleus of the team. The Padres needed 21 positions filled and 38 players competed for them. The team's roster ended up as follows: Don Pavletich, Sammy Taylor, and Jim Campbell as infielders. Miles McHouston McWilliams, who would play first base for the Pads, was born in Anguilla, Mississippi on November 12, 1940. He was the younger brother of Padre pitcher George McWilliams.

Other members of this strong team included Gus Gil, just out of the Marine Corps, and Frank Obregon; outfielders Ken Walters, Terry Banderas, Dom Zanni, Rip Rippelmeyer, Scott Breeden, and Ted Davidson. The Padres assigned left-handers Ted Wills and Wayne Carlander and right-handers Jim Coates, Wally Wolf, Dan Neville and Larry Dovel as starting pitchers.



*Starting lineup for 1964: (Lt. to Rt.) Ken Walters, Terry Banderas, Art Shamsky (Middle) Tony Perez, Cesar Tovar, Gus Gil, Don Pavletich (Front) Jim Coates, Jim Campbell.
Photo from Jay Leishman.*

Raymond Roy Rippelmeyer, Padres pitcher was born in Valmeyer, Illinois on July 9, 1933. Rippelmeyer signed his first contract with Dewey Giggs of the Milwaukee Braves. He had been a farmer in Valmeyer, Illinois during the off-season. In 1960, he led the PCL in complete games (17) and also had been named to the All-Star team. Rippelmeyer had the third lowest ERA (2.71) that year and in 1961, had tied for the American Association lead in shutouts (3). He started as a player for the Pads in the 1962 season.

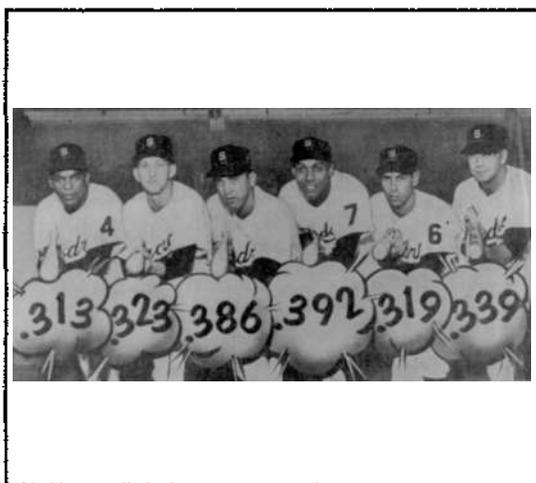
Daniel Anthony Neville born in Covington, Kentucky, on April 6, 1941, signed his first contract with Clifford Polking and Ralph Buzz Boyle of the Cincinnati Reds. In 1961 he had the lowest ERA. (1.94) in the Florida State League. He pitched for Cincinnati in the Florida Instructional League, where he had an ERA of

(2.74). Before he joined the Padres, Neville pitched for Valencia, in the Venezuelan Winter League.

Dominick Thomas Zanni was born in Bronx, New York on January 3, 1933. The Padre hurler signed his first contract with George Mack, of the New York Giants. In 1952, he led the Sooner State League in hit batsmen (14), and came in second in number of wins (20), and shutouts (5). In 1953, he led the Western Association in games pitched (55), and hit batsmen (14), and had been voted Most Valuable Player by the Muskogee club. On June 5, 1954, Zanni pitched a no-hit, no-run game for Sioux City against Denver in the Western League. Zanni also played for Phoenix and Tacoma, as well as San Diego. In 1963, he played for Cincinnati in the National League.

Theodore Carl Wills, Jr., was born in Fresno on February 9, 1934, and signed his first contract with Tom Downey of the BoSox. He graduated from Fresno State University with BA in merchandising. Wills played varsity baseball there while he earned his degree. Ted was named to California League All-Star team in 1955.

Manager Bristol referred to Steve Boros as, "the type of guy who bows his neck when things get rough. I think he will be the leader of the club." Boros graduated from the University of Michigan and played third base. He had come from the



"Big Bat Explosions" Gus Gil, Tommy Helms, Don Pavletich, Tony Perez, Art Shamsky, Ken Walters.



*"Ladies Night," (George Pernicano),
May 28, 1964.*

Detroit Tigers as a former bonus player. He also spent a few seasons with the Chicago Cubs.

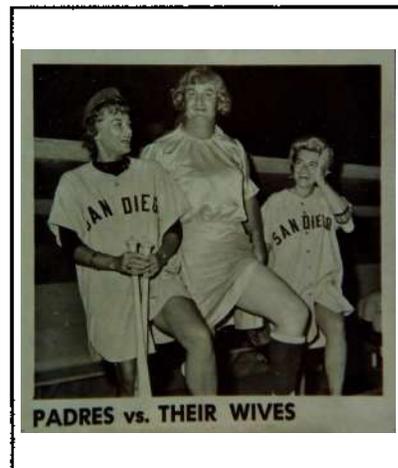
Thomas Gustavo Gil (Guillen) played as an infielder for the Pads. Born in Caracas, Venezuela on April 19, 1939, he signed his first contract with the Reds. In 1962, he played for the South Atlantic League as a third baseman and in 1963, a second baseman. He also played in the Leagues' All-Star game. In the winter of 1963 Gil played for Valencia in the Venezuelan League.

Born in Farnham, Virginia on August 4, 1932, James Alton Coates pitched for the Padres. The New York Yankees signed him to his first contract. Coates led the PONY league in strikeouts, and was named to the leagues' All-Star team in 1952. In his first Major League All-Star Game in 1960, he pitched two shut-out innings. Coates pitched in both

the 1960 and 1961 World Series for New York. San Diego fans, when reading about these players, could scarcely remember such a club being so ready to open the season.

On March 20 local baseball fans opened their newspapers to read that Arthur S. "Pop" Billings Sr., had passed away. "Pop" had been a long time major league scout for a number of teams and was President of the San Diego Baseball Association. While in the U.S. Navy between the wars, "Pop" was stationed locally. He had managed and coached a number of U. S. Navy and M. C. R. D. teams to local championships when service clubs made up the majority of local ball playing. For some 18 years, he managed the Ryan Aeronautical Industrial League team from which a number of Pacific Coast League and major league players would emerge.

With the new season about



*Padres vs their Wives:
Mrs. Ray Rippelmeyer, Les
Peden and Mrs. Al Worthington.
June 2, 1964*

to begin, The San Diego Chamber of Commerce and the Advertising and Sales Club joined forces in a pre-season salute to the Padres. The players were guests of honor at a luncheon at the Palm Room of the Grant Hotel, arriving there in a motorcade from the Civic Center to the hotel.

On April 11, fans were pleased to hear that Tommy Helms had finished his six month compulsory military reserve training in the Marines and would be returning to the Padres as soon as he could change from the flannels to his field uniform.

The season opened Friday, April 17, at 8:00 p.m. and featured the Padres versus the Denver Bears in a four game series. Sportswriter Johnny McDonald declared, "The teams must battle through 158 games to reach their goal but the Padres appear as the best on paper in the Western sector and the Bears are the



Bob Shumake and Casey Stengel.

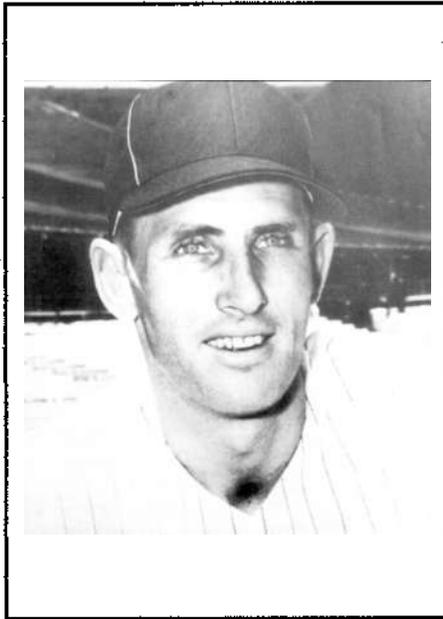
power of the Eastern Division."

To celebrate opening night, 6,128 fans showed at Westgate Park and Coady's Frontier Band assembled on the field and played the National Anthem. The Marine color guard marched into center field and waved Old Glory as the Star Spangled Banner played. Major Scotty Harris of the U.S. Marine Corps threw out the first ball. All of this ceremony and good faith, however, failed to bring the Padres any luck as Denver took the Pads 8-3.

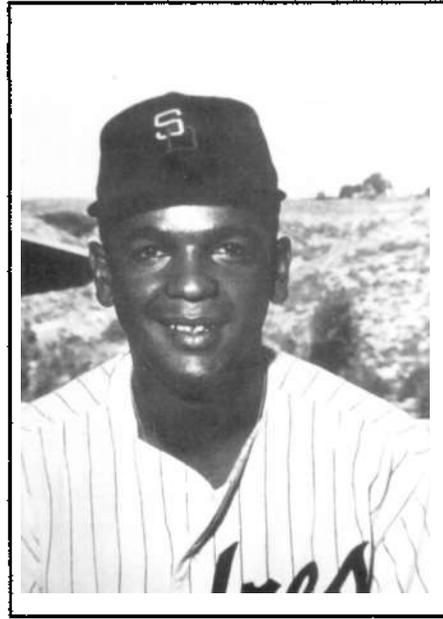
Early in April, the publicity division moved in full swing. In celebration of a game against Salt Lake City, all blondes would be admitted free, and they named their mascot, a Basset hound, "Popup." In celebration of the game and "blondes night," the *San Diego Union* ran a picture of three blonde girls with three ballplayers and the caption, "Nothing like a "Blonde Dame."

In an April 26, 1964 game, Padres fan Jerry Stafford of Miramar Naval Air Station, sat in the fourth row of the box seats just beyond the visitors' dugout. He received an unusual surprise when Tony Perez' bat slipped out of his hands and flew into the spectator's lap. Mr. Stafford gave the bat back but, in a show of good sportsmanship, the Padre management awarded him with another.

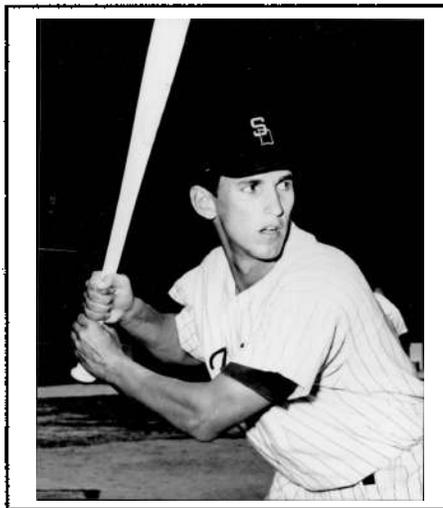
Hiraldo Sablon Ruiz, was playing as an infielder and a switch-hitter. Nicknamed "Chico," Ruiz had been born in Santo Domingo Las



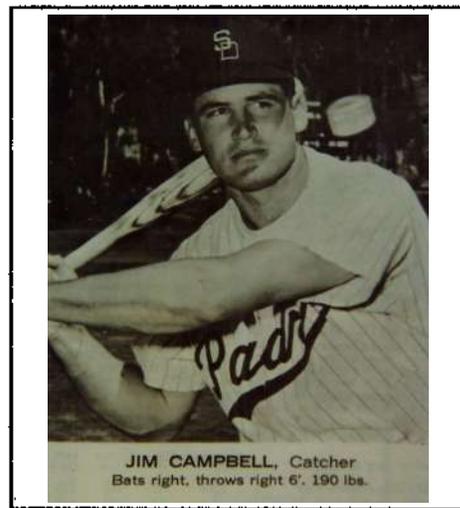
Pitcher Jim Coates.



Gus Gil, infielder.



Terry Banderas.



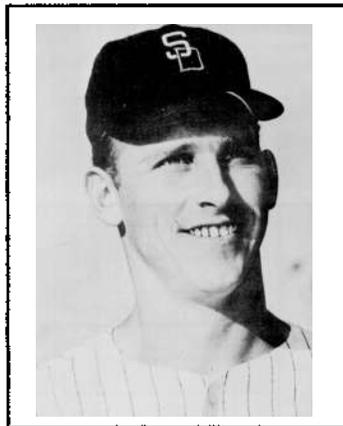
Catcher Jim Campbell.



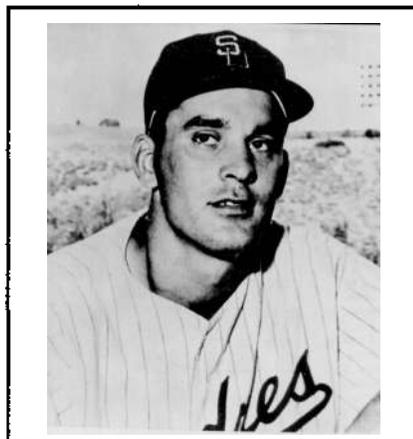
Pitcher Jim Dickson.



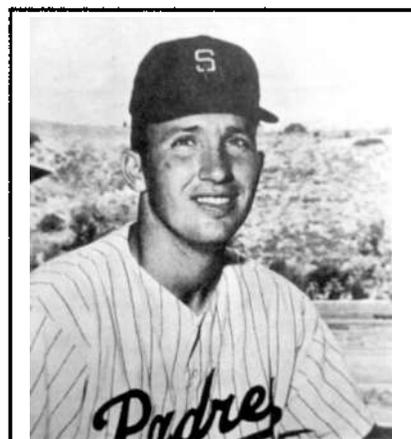
Catcher Jim Saul.



Pitcher George McWilliams.



Pitcher Larry Dovel.



Infielder Miles McWilliams.

Villas, Cuba on December 12, 1938. Ruiz signed his first contract with Tony Pacheco, of the Cincinnati Reds, and in 1960, led the South Atlantic League in stolen bases (55); led short-stops in putouts (248), double plays (93), and errors (61). He also had been named to the All-Star team and tied for honors as the league's Most Valuable Player.

In 1961 Ruiz led the American Association in stolen bases (44) and was voted league's Rookie of the Year. In 1963, he led the Pacific Coast League in stolen bases (50) and fewest times grounded into double plays (1). Named the All-Star third baseman, he also became co-winner of the club's Most Valuable Player award. In the winter of 1963, he played for the Santurce Puerto Rican League. Ruiz began the 1964 season as a player with the Cincinnati Reds.

At the end of April, the Padres were in fourth place in the Western Division of the PCL, but just one-and a-half games out of first place. The league was well balanced since last place Hawaii was but two games out of the lead. Manager Dave Bristol was pleased with his team's play. On May 6th an unusual thing happened in San Diego—the fourth time since 1958. Westgate Park had to hang out a sign reading: "No game tonight because of rain."

During the season, the Reds recalled "their" players from time-

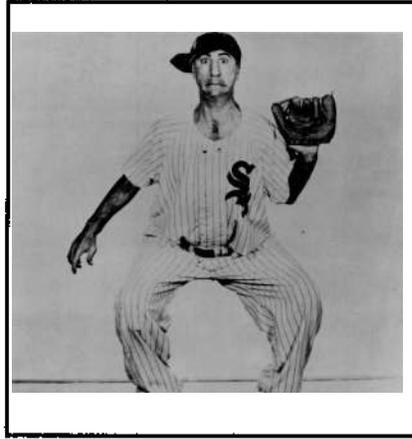
to-time. Third baseman Steve Boros went up after 26 games on May 11. In return, however, the Reds sent right-handers Jim Dickson and Al Worthington to their "farm club," San Diego. A week later, Scott Breeden and George McWilliams were obtained by Dallas and Frank Obregon was sent to Macon.

In May, Eddie Leishman was already at work in the community. Later that month he spoke at Cal-Western University on Point Loma to honor its athletes and coaches. He stressed that so many of the athletes from the Padres were now in the majors—fifteen to be exact. He stressed the quality of the men, their maturity, their intellect, which had in large part come from their having completed college educations. While there, he spoke of the need to break the 1 million in attendance and what a major league franchise would do for San Diego.

Uniformly the community respected Leishman for his class as an individual and his concerns for the players and the town. As talk of a new major league stadium continued, Jack Murphy commented that "The stadium was urgently needed but that the city was drifting aimlessly in carrying out the project." Mayor Frank Curran commented that he was "disappointed that a stadium study committee was not making faster progress, but added that members must compile massive amounts



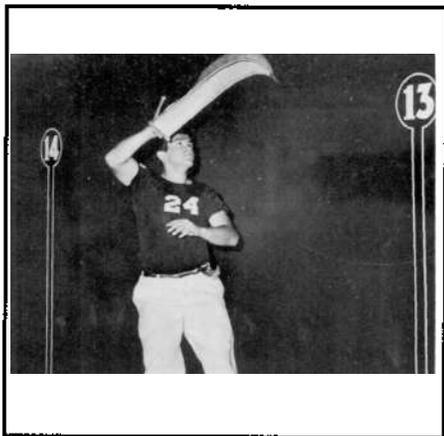
*Musical Instrument Night
August 10, 1964.*



*Max Patkin [baseball clown]
Night, July 21, 1964*



*Cow milking contest June 7. Dairy Maids
Chico Ruiz, Jeri Lynne Bessie, Ray
Rippelmeyer, Regis Philbin.*



*Jai Alai during Mexico night,
August 18, 1964.*



*Mickey Finn All-Stars Night,
July 23, 1964.*

of technical material." He commented "that San Diego was in competition with other cities for the big sports dollar, noting that Anaheim was our biggest competitor right now."

At the end of May Portland led the league with Luis Tiant and Sad Sam McDowell posting 7-0 and 8-0 records between them. San Diego was only three games out. At Westgate Park on June 7, the Padres were beaten by the Tacoma Giants in a doubleheader highlighted by two bruising brawls in each game. Tommy Helms seemed to have come out the worst with a bruised knee and a split lip, all handed him by Dick Dietz of Tacoma. He cracked his left arm when he slipped on the steps, as he started to run out on the field to give Chico Ruiz a hand in his brawl. Their six game winning streak ended 7-5 and 7-2.

The next day, the Padres traveled to Enseñada for an exhibition game and a more pleasant day. The game was hosted by Baja California civic and government officials at a dinner in the Bahia Hotel following the contest. The game raised \$2,000 for the Child Welfare Institute.

The big gun for the Padres in the season to date was Tony Perez, who had, by late June, clobbered 22 home runs and had 72 RBI's. Tony was being eyed by the Reds because his power was needed in the Nationals. The 22-year-old, 6'2", 193 pound infielder hit a home run in Salt Lake

City that traveled more than 500-feet. Bristol said the ball sailed over a house about 50 feet beyond the 420-foot fence in centerfield at Derks Field. Whitey Wietelmann said if that ball had been hit in San Diego, it would have landed over the bank. At the end of June the Pads were just three-and-a-half games out of first place, still hanging close to the Portland Beavers.

The end of the first half of the season culminated in the Padres' final losses to the Arkansas Travelers and the Indianapolis Indians. The Padres grossed 42 wins and 29 losses to that time. The next few months promised to pave the way for many changes within the structure of the team itself and a deeper concentration on the efforts of the pitchers. The Cincinnati Reds earmarked Tony Perez as their big weapon in their



*Chico Ruiz in a mouse trap on Disneyland night, July 14, 1964
Photo from Jay Leishman.*

future and his loss promised to cause a stir among San Diego's baseball fans.

After a loss of five straight games, the Padres came out of their slump at the start of July. They beat Portland in a finish of 11-4, in front of 4,506 disappointed Beaver fans. Even with the Padre victory, the Beavers still led the Western Division by three-and-a-half games. The San Diego team then traveled to Seattle to play the Rainiers.

Padre right-hander Jim Coates led a 10-hit attack to stop the Rainiers. Shortstop Tommy Helm proved to be instrumental in leading the Padres to victory as well. He caught a grounder in the fifth, which robbed Felix Maldonado of a hit. The Padres beat the Rainiers 6-1.

The next night, the Padres created their own fireworks on the field, as they defeated the Rainiers 4-0, and 6-4, in a Fourth of July double-header. The Padres still remained in second place behind number one, Portland. The Padres, able to relish their four-game win streak, returned home to Westgate Park to play a nine-game series against Hawaii.

The Padres took seven straight games against a weak Hawaii team, with two games lost to the Islanders. Fantastic plays by right-hander Jim Coates helped the Padres win with a victory of 5-2, over the Islanders.

One of his fantastic wins,

however, resulted in a court case and an injury to pitcher Danny Rivas of the Islanders. Coates hit Rivas in the right hand with a pitch. Rivas rushed to the mound, accompanied by his teammates. Rivas then struck Coates in the jaw, which resulted in Rivas breaking a bone in his pitching hand. While he would be able to draw his salary the rest of the year, Rivas also claimed he should be able to draw workmen's compensation. According to Drew McPhillips of the *Honolulu Advertiser* the conclusion of the case remained unknown, since the judge had to take the matter under consideration.

Even this finish over Hawaii would not be enough to topple Portland's Western Division lead. The Padres still trailed the Beavers by three-and-a-half games. San Diego did get some help from the Spokane Indians, who played Portland while San Diego played Hawaii. Spokane beat the Western Division leader, Portland, 2-1, and 10-7, to place the San Diego Padres only two-and-a-half games behind Portland. The Padres 6-5 victory over Hawaii on July 10, and Portland's 4-1 loss to Spokane, moved the Padres to only one-and-a-half games behind the Portland Beavers in the Western Division race.

On the 14th, Hawaii topped the Padres in the 12th inning 8-6, as fists flew before 3,038 Disneyland Nightspectators. Two Islanders went

to Sharp Hospital, the result of the fracas.

On July 17, the Padres lost 8-3, to Spokane. San Diego's team lost a perfect opportunity to advance to the number one position in the PCL Western Division race, since Portland had lost to Seattle. San Diego won their second game against Spokane, while in Washington. Tony Perez hit a fly ball in the 10th inning, with the bases loaded, which led the Padres to a 4-3 victory. San Diego returned to Westgate Park to play a four-game series against Portland. Perez did it again as he hit his 29th home run before 6,613 fans. The Padres swept the series, moving them into first place in the Western Division race.

Despite the recall of two of their best players, Tony Perez and Chico Ruiz, the undermanned team beat the Rainiers, 8-4, and 2-1 on July 26. Perez and Ruiz were recalled by the Padres major league parent team, the Cincinnati Reds. Their loss came at a crucial time for the team, as they had just gained a three-and-a-half game advantage over Portland.

No sooner had he left then Tony Perez returned to the Padres on August 23, after an unsuccessful spell with the Reds. The 21 year old Perez had a .312 average at bat, 29 home runs, and 93 RBI's before being recalled to the Cincinnati team on August 23, 1964. The timing could

not have been better for the Padres, as they headed into the final stretch of the PCL Western Division race for the championship.

The Padres had lost four games in a row before being told that Perez would be returned to the club. Reds president, Bill DeWitt, contacted Padres general manager Eddie Leishman, to tell him that the Reds had purchased catcher Jim Coker from Denver, and that Perez would be free to report to the Padres.

The Padres won the opener against Tacoma 8-2, behind the five-hit pitching of rookie Neville. Cheney Stadium, in Tacoma, was chilly and only 534 fans braved the elements to watch the game. San Diego lost to Tacoma, 2-0. The Padres let a golden opportunity slip by in the race for the lead in the Western Division. The leader, Portland, sat idle the previ-



MVP trophy. Tommy Helms and MVP Ray Rippelmeyer.



*"Padres Clinch Pennant"
Ted Wills is cooled with "Baseball Championship
Beer" after 6-3 victory. Ray Rippelmeyer won opener 5-4.*



*Jimmie Reese relaxing after playoff win.
Photo from San Diego Historical Society Collections.*



*Jim Mulvaney presenting Eddie Leishman with trophy for selection as
Manager of the Year. Photo courtesy Jim Mulvaney.*

ous night, as their opponents, the Spokane Indians, remained stuck in Hawaii, unable to leave because of the Pan-American airline strike. As a result, the game in Portland had to be postponed. Had the Padres defeated Tacoma, they would have moved into first place in the Western Division race on August 24, 1964.

The Padres went on to play the Tacoma Giants. They took the series opener 8-2, thanks to rookie pitcher Dan Neville. Perez drove in three runs, with a 425-foot triple. Tacoma came back in the second game to beat San Diego 2-0.

The Padres continued their 16-game road trip in Spokane. The Indians knocked San Diego out of first place in the Western Division. Spokane beat the Padres 5-0, and 5-4, in a double-header. The double loss, and Portland's easy victory over Tacoma, moved the Beavers back in first place, by a mere one-half game. After four straight losses, the Padres came from behind, and beat Spokane, 8-4.

The Padres took to the road again to play against Seattle. The Padres beat the Rainiers 4-3, to move into the Western Division lead, by a one-half game. San Diego took advantage of several Rainiers errors, and an extra inning to seal their victory. Tommy Helms, Tony Perez, and Ray Rippelmeyer all led the Padres to their four-game victory, and moved on to Portland, and a four-

game series.

San Diego next took the Portland series, which extended their lead to two-and-a-half games, in the Western Division. The Padres returned to Westgate Park to play the next nine games at home. They led the Western Division by two-and-a-half games over second place Portland, in the final stretch of the Western Division race, after they beat the Indians 5-1.

On September 10th, Jack Murphy gave over a full column to Eddie Sada titled, "Aspiring Attorney on Third Gives Padres a boost." The article told of Sada's identification with two long-time families. He had yearned to play for the Padres, but the Pittsburgh Pirates owned his contract and, as a bonus player, they



"King" Eddie Leishman

sent him elsewhere for several seasons. He returned to San Diego to go to law school when Leishman called him to see if he would help the team out when Gus Gil was injured. Leishman had two weeks in the season and needed help badly. With permission from law school, and as long as he kept his classes and work up, he would play, maintaining a tough schedule. His cheering section at the ballpark was his wife, Bonnie, his infant son Lance, a pretty fair wing shot named Dick Grihalva, his father-in-law, and his dad Athos Sada, the deputy Chief of Police. Now he would have his chance to help his home town team win the pennant.

The Padres beat Tacoma, 3-2, in a very close game on September 12. Pinch-hitter Gus Gil singled home a run in the 10th inning, to give San Diego the win despite the fact that he had sprained an ankle the game the night before.

Much to the enjoyment of 4,247 fans at Westgate Park, the victory allowed the Padres to retain their one-game lead over the second place Portland Beavers. San Diego had to win both of its next two games in order to capture the Western Division, or face a single game playoff with Portland to determine a winner in the Pacific Coast League Western Division championship.

The Padres played the Indians again on September 11, at Westgate Park. San Diego defeated

Spokane, 4-2, but lost two of its best players to injuries, by the end of the night. The Padres suffered a major blow, when pitcher Dom Zanni, suffered a twisted ankle, as he dove to catch a hit from Indians pitcher John Purdin. Padres shortstop Tommy Helms had to leave the game in the sixth inning, due to back pain.

The Padres closed the season with a 12-0 advantage over Spokane. They defeated the Indians 9-2, in San Diego. The defeat eliminated Spokane from the Western Division finals, since they trailed by four games.

On September 13, 1964 the Padres emerged victorious! Their dream had come true. They had taken the Western Division title in the Pacific Coast League, and would go to the playoffs against the Eastern Division winner, the Arkansas Travelers. The Padres won the Western Division championship of the Pacific Coast League with a hard fought doubleheader victory over Tacoma, in front of a crowd of 6,023 fans, at Westgate Park. Cesar Tovar helped the Padres win the opener 5-4, with a single in the 10th inning which sealed the Padres victory. Ted Wills came to life in the second game, leading the Padres to a victory of 6-3, over Tacoma. Great pitches by Ray Rippelmeyer also helped the Padres to defeat the Giants. Rippelmeyer said:

I knew our bullpen was dead tired and I just had to do the job. I felt much stronger around the fifth and sixth innings but knew I had just about had it after the 10th inning.

Rippelmeyer went on to say that 1964 had been his best season, since he first entered baseball in Evansville, Illinois. He described the 1964 season as being "most gratifying." The team had won the pennant on the last day, in the last inning, on the last out.

Shortstop Tommy Helms was named the team's most valuable player by San Diego fans, and general manager Eddie Leishman concurred. Helms also tied with Perez, for the Padres batting title with a .309 average. The Western Division win must have been even more meaningful for Helms, who had his share of personal problems during the season.

Some people believed that luck had helped the Padres win the Western Division championship. The spread between the top four teams in the race for the Western Division championship was two-and-a-half games.

When a wishbone arrived in the mail for Phyllis Leishman, wife of Padre general manager, Eddie Leishman, everything seemed to turn in favor of the Padres. Phyllis Leishman carried the wishbone with her to the final games of the Pacific

Coast League Western Division. The good luck charm was a present from former Padre manager, Don Heffner, with the instructions to "put it to work."

Phyllis Leishman had presented the trinket to Heffner two years before, and the Padres won the pennant by 12 games. Heffner left the Padres, for a position as coach of the New York Mets. He sent the talisman back to Phyllis, since the Mets needed players and not luck. Phyllis had hold of her wishbone for the last stretch of the race, as the Padres faced the Eastern Division winners, the Arkansas Travelers.

Padres general manager Eddie Leishman, and manager Dave Bristol had been ecstatic with the results. Bristol called the San Diego win "most gratifying," after a season full of frustration and injuries. Leishman went on to say:

I can't say enough about this club. The odds were stacked against them, but somehow they did the job.

Tony Perez and Eddie Leishman both received high honors from the Pacific Coast League baseball writers and broadcasters association. Leishman won the General Manager of the year award, for the second time in three seasons. Tony Perez had also been named the most valuable player in the league. Perez had hit 34 home runs, and his power

hits had driven in 107 runs for the Padres.

The Padres went on to begin the first game in a series against Arkansas at Westgate Park. Jim Coates, a pitcher with World Series experience, pitched as though he had returned to those World Series days. Cesar Tovar, who was some what of an underrated player in the PCL, played well for the Padres in their opening game against Arkansas. In the 1964 season, Tovar played third, short, second, as well as outfield positions, to fill in for absent players. Tovar's skills proved to be invaluable. He managed to hit a home run in the third inning to keep the Padre momentum going. The final score, a Padre victory of 2-1, over the Arkansas Travelers.

The second game in the play-off series against Arkansas gave the Padres a 1-0 victory over the Travelers. Heroes of the game included Cesar Leonardo Tovar, who hit a home run in the eighth inning, and Ted Wills, who struck out nine hitters, without a player walked. The 4,583 fans at Westgate Park were exhilarated with the Padre win. The 2-0 series lead ended the season at Westgate Park on a high.

The Padres moved on to Little Rock, to face the Travelers on their home field. The Travelers stopped the Padres in their tracks during the first game, and defeating the Padres 4-3.

The following night, September 19, the Padres moved to within one game of a pennant victory. The Padres beat the Arkansas Travelers, 5-1, in front of 2,871 Arkansas fans. The game increased the Padre lead to two games over the Travelers. The Pads lost the game on the 20th by a score of 2-0. The seventh game, on September 21, would be the game that decided who would play in the PCL playoffs. The winner would be the Pacific Coast League champion.

The Padres won the seventh and final game with a score of 11-5. The Padres came alive in the first inning with five runs. Great plays by Cesar Tovar and Tony Perez in the first inning helped lead the Padres to victory. The Pacific Coast League pennant victory marked the second time in three years that San Diego had captured the title. This had been a remarkable feat when one considers how far the Padres had been able to come with the number of setbacks that occurred during the season. Almost speechless, Padres manager Dave Bristol had this to say about the win:

This has got to be it. This was the finest ... the finest. I've won some championships but this has got to be the greatest team I have ever had. Everybody did a wonderful job. I told them before the game; do the best you know how and let's get what we went after last April.

The season would continue to be talked about for months to come. Although the baseball season was over by November, there was still a lot of talk about the Padres and the Pacific Coast League. The Pacific Coast League pennant winners placed three of their best players, Tony Perez, Tommy Helms, and Gus Gil, on the PCL Western Class AAA All-Star team. There would also be a reorganization of some of the teams that made up the Pacific Coast League. On November 7, the Dallas Rangers received permission to withdraw from the 12-team Pacific Coast League. The Rangers had been suffering from poor attendance, and decided to return to the Texas League. Dallas had planned to combine forces with Fort Worth in the construction

of a new stadium in Arlington, located between the two cities. They hoped that the new stadium would attract a major league team.

Vancouver had been predicted to re-enter the Pacific Coast League as a result of Dallas' withdrawal. PCL president Dewey Soriano, traveled to Vancouver to hold a series of meetings to discuss the possible re-entry of the team in the Pacific Coast League.

One matter that kept the Vancouver team from being readmitted was the lack of a working agreement between Vancouver and a major league team. On December 2, 1964, thanks to a link with the Kansas City Athletics, Vancouver once again became a member of the Pacific Coast League.

The PCL also resolved a territorial problem, when the Los Angeles Angels, announced that they would buy the Seattle Rainiers, which allowed the Rainiers to remain as members of the Pacific Coast League. Seattle faced a problem when their parent team, the Boston Red Sox, announced the transfer of Seattle's work agreement to Toronto, which played in the International League. The Angels bought the franchise; that allowed Los Angeles to continue a working agreement with Hawaii.

In late November, Eddie Leishman was voted top Executive of the year in AAA baseball, the second time in a row. The executives of



various leagues awarded honors were chosen by ballots cast by baseball executives within their respective leagues.

Talk of a new sports stadium thoroughly consumed the thoughts of sports writers and fans alike in San Diego at the close of 1964. In early November, the San Diego Board of Supervisors proclaimed November 16-22, "I Want A Stadium Week." A feasibility study report would be announced at a public hearing on November 16. The study found the new stadium to be feasible, would increase San Diego's likelihood of gaining a major league baseball team, and be very good for the local economy.

The study, conducted by Western Management Consultants of Phoenix, found that a new stadium would not only be viable, but also vital to the future of San Diego. Dr. Al Gobar, an economist for Western Management Consultants, predicted a 25-1 return on every dollar spent to build a new stadium. He went on to say that San Diego had the capability to support major league sports, and that the proposed new stadium would be a sound investment.

The study focused on whether or not San Diego had both the population and the money to attract a major league team, and determine if the \$22-26 million dollar stadium would be justified. The conclusion—a very enthusiastic yes!

Dr. Gobar further reported that San Diego had the opportunity to make a very farsighted decision because a stadium would serve to increase San Diego's potential for recreation. He stressed that there was a direct correlation between recreation, and industry, and an increased economy.

Dr. Gobar suggested that the stadium be financed through a non-profit corporation leaseback agreement. This method had already been successful in both Anaheim and Oakland. The proposed stadium would also require a government subsidy, and would not operate at a profit until at least 1985.

The benefits a new stadium brought to San Diego would far outweigh the construction costs. The new stadium would act as the home of the Chargers and the Padres. The city had high hopes that with a new stadium, San Diego would be recognized as a major city with a major league franchise baseball team.

Eddie Leishman, the San Diego Padres general manager said that a new stadium was a must if San Diego hoped to ever acquire a major league baseball team. Without a stadium, San Diego could not expect to ever acquire a franchise. He added that all cities where stadiums have been built have been able to attract major league teams.

Dr. Gobar's study also suggested different sites for the stadium, as well as some innovative

designs. The study looked at several different locations in San Diego County. Westgate Park, home of the Padres, had been considered the most marketable location, since it sat in the center of a large population area. The study had considered an enlargement of Westgate Park, at an estimated cost of \$16,490,000, plus a land cost of \$4,550,000. Westgate would have been fine for baseball, but presented too many problems to be used for football, as well. Even after it had been remodeled, Westgate would still lack 16,500 seats between the goal lines, a mere 20 percent improvement over Balboa Stadium.

A stadium that floated had been another possibility considered. Mission Bay had been considered a good site if a buoyant stadium were built. The buoyant stadium had been estimated to cost about \$1 million more, but the costs of day-to-day operation would be less than a conventional stadium. The Mission Bay site also looked like a good possibility, because the city already owned the land. Mission Bay would also be adaptable to a variety of activities if such a stadium were to be constructed.

The study found that recreation seemed to be a better investment for San Diego than the manufacturing industry. The recreation industry, appeared to have a faster growth rate and it seemed only natural that San Diego should capitalize

on its natural advantages. The effect on the community's economy would be well served by the recreation industry. That would attract other industry to San Diego by the areas improved appeal.

A stadium also would employ some 1,500 people, more than most factories. The site would be used not only for sports events, but also for public service activities that would bring the community together. It also would serve to foster community pride in San Diego's future, and would enjoy national recognition of major league teams.

As 1964 came to a close, baseball fans in San Diego looked forward to the 1965 Padre season in the hopes that their team could claim yet another Pennant victory. They would continue to dream of a brand new stadium, a major league team, and hoped that 1965 would be the year construction would begin.

At the meetings in Houston, major league owners voted unanimously in favor of a free agent draft of high school and college players. Three drafts a year would be held. The first two, involving high school and college students, would take place in January and June, while the third would be held in August and involve only American Legion players. The article carried a subtitle: "Big Bonus Days Over."

The season attendance totaled 212,000.

PCL Final Standings 1964:

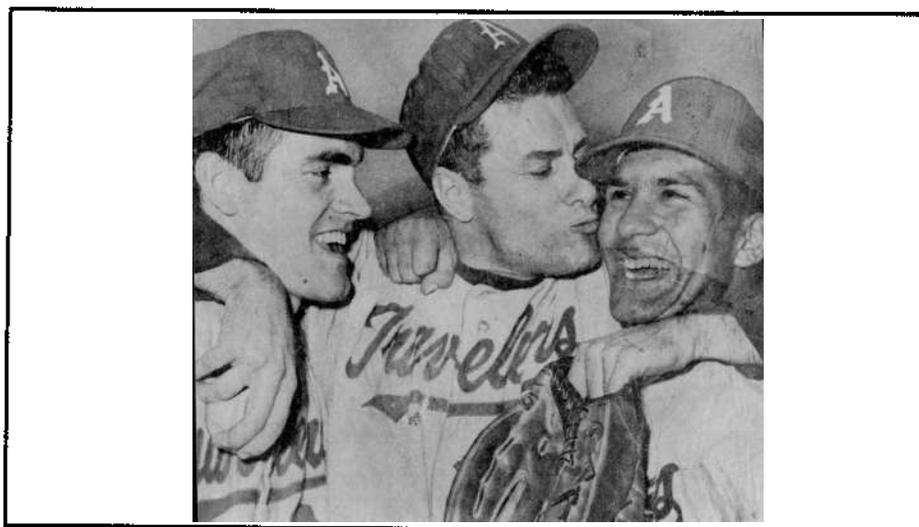
Western Division

	W	L	GB
San Diego	91	67	
Portland	90	68	1
Spokane	85	73	6
Seattle	81	75	9
Tacoma	73	82	16-1/2
Hawaii	60	98	21

Eastern Division

Arkansas	95	61	
Indianapolis	89	69	7
Oklahoma City	88	70	8
Denver	80	78	16
Salt Lake City	58	98	27
Dallas	53	104	42-1/2

San Diego defeated Arkansas 4 games to 3 in the Playoffs.



"Travelin' Men" -- Dallas Green wins first game of Playoffs 4-0 over Padres. Left: Bill Sorrell; Right: Pat Corrales, September 6, 1964.

VOICES FROM WESTGATE PARK

KEN WALTERS

was born in Fresno, California, November 11, 1933. He now lives in San Ramon, California. As a youngster, he loved baseball from as early as he could remember. He played for several youth teams, such as the American Legion and the Police Athletic teams, as he was growing up. He was small for his age, but until his first year in high school, it never held him back. The coaches at Fremont High did not let him play as a tenth grader, because he was "too small." Fortunately, during that year he had a sizeable growth spurt, and the following year made the team. He subsequently made All-City for each of his junior and senior years. He was 6'1" and weighed 180 pounds at graduation.

Interview with KEN WALTERS by Ray Brandes

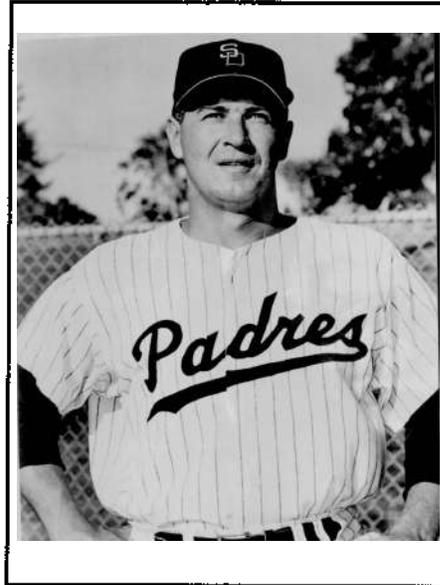
I was scouted and signed by Bernie De Viveros, of the Detroit Tigers, in 1951. My first year, 1952, I went to Jamestown, New York in the PONY League. I was there for the 1953 season also. I then went into the U.S. Army, serving at Fort Ord, California, in 1954 and 1955. All the while the contracts kept going higher and higher, and after military service in 1956, I went to Charleston, West Virginia, of the American Association, and split the season going to Augusta, Georgia in the Sally League, a Class "A" League in mid season.

I then went to Birmingham, Alabama in the Southern Association in 1957, and back to Charleston in 1958. In 1959, I was traded in a swap to Fort Worth, Texas, also of the American Association. I had a good

year there, hitting 290.

During the winter of 1959-60, I was traded by Detroit to the Philadelphia Phillies, where I played the '60 and '61 seasons. In 1962, I was traded to the Cincinnati Reds, who optioned me to the San Diego Padres. The 1962 season with the Padres was my best year in baseball. I led the league in doubles with 43, and led the team with 296 total bases. I was named to the Pacific Coast League All-Star team. I was recalled to the Reds for the 1963 season. I rarely played that year, and after the season, I was again sent to San Diego for 1964.

Nineteen sixty-four was a great year in which we took the division championship by just one game over Portland, and it was a thrill to be with some great players such as Jim Coates, Tony Perez and Tommy Helms.



*Ken Walters. Photo from
Mr. Walters.*

I retired from baseball after the 1965 season. Eddie Leishman was the greatest guy. When I decided to retire, he called his brother in Oakland, California (my hometown), who got me a job in the trucking industry. I still remember Whitey Wietelmann and our traveling secretary and all around man, Les Cook—he was liked by everyone. That was a great club and the championship years 1962 and 1964 were great.

ED CHIPP

was born in San Pedro, California in 1948. The son of Mel Chipp, News Director for the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, Ed operated the scoreboard at Westgate Park and assisted the media by answering the press box phone and delivering scores from the Western Union ticket; on occasion he filled in as public address announcer. In 1964, he was honored as Padre employee of the year. A graduate of Saint Augustine High School, he continued his education at the University of San Francisco, graduating in 1970. He is presently employed in one of San Diego's high-tech industries. He is married and the father of two sons.

Interview with ED CHIPP by John Bowman

At age 16, I operated the scoreboard from the pressbox and assisted the media by answering the phone, and delivering scores from the Western Union ticker. This dream-come-true job proved to be a thrill beyond comparison. My enthusiasm reflected in my performance and General Manager Eddie Leishman recognized me as Padre employee of the year in 1964. He presented me with a ring in recognition. My stay with the Padres lasted two summers before I moved on to college.

Working with the Padre organization was downright entertaining. The impact of a hard-working and fun-loving staff drove me out of a nerdy shyness I had as a child and provided me an early passage into adulthood. I was rewarded with a treasure of memories I can still vividly recall.

I remember the night I got overly zealous operating the siren I normally sounded for Padre home runs. "How neat," I thought, "for the fans one time to hear the siren starting not when the ball disappeared over the fence, but as soon as the ball began its downward arc." A Padre laid into a fastball, and the crack of the bat told me it would be a home run. My finger went to the switch and I flipped on the siren as the ball reached its zenith. To my astonishment, I looked down to see the fielder move in a few steps from medium-deep right to catch it for an out. Somehow the ball had hung in the damp night air. All I did next was wistfully stare at the right field fence, but then I had my attention distracted by a group of Padre players getting up from the dugout and extending congratulatory handshakes to the batter. My own outbreak of laughter soothed the razzing I was to receive from the pressbox crew.

One of my regular duties was to relay scores of other Coast League games by phone to the grounds keeper stationed inside the scoreboard beyond the left-centerfield fence. In turn, he would rise from his chair behind the Padre line score and descend a ladder to manually slide the metal numbers into the slots beside the team names. He was not always in a hurry to execute this maneuver after working up a sweat dragging the infield, and several innings would sometimes pass before he stirred himself into action. His wakeup call came hard and fast one night. Eddie Leishman had been told of the tardy scoreboard

updates by a visitor in the guest booth. Eddie stormed over to me and demanded an explanation. "Why haven't those scores out there been updated," he sternly asked. I replied that I had phoned him with the changes almost an hour ago. "Give me the phone number out there," he bristled? "Yes, sir," I answered. Biting my tongue in hopes of not breaking a smile, I listened as the boss left his mark. "This is Eddie Leishman calling! You change those scores now! Don't ever let this happen again!" As he slammed the receiver down, a flurry of activity never before seen in the scoreboard began. All numbers were taken down and replaced with those of the updated scores in the course of a minute. The gentleman's attitude had picked up from that moment forward.

Public address announcer John Bowman and I teamed up to have ongoing episodes of frivolity at the ballpark. Before a game one day, we were listening to some tapes of Spike Jones, the satirical bandleader of the postwar era. After we played "Cocktails for Two," The pressbox phone rang. It was a Padre player calling from the dugout wanting to know what that mayhem was, and if we could please play more. Happy to oblige, I held the tape recorder closer to the screen which jutted out over the area behind home plate and in front of our work area. I cranked up the volume. Players looked back and up at us, laughing and dancing spasmodically while taking their swings in the batting cage. I had redefined the term "loosening up."

I was determined to devise more ways to make my job more enjoyable. John was experiencing a lull behind the microphone one evening. "Scores, Ed, I need to announce some minor league scores!" he barked at me with that patented diabolical grin. His manner told me that he needed a little challenge. I ripped some scores off the ticket and

wrote them on a tablet in backwards cursive, a talent I once perfected in grade school. I slapped the paper on John's desk while he was busy on an announcement, and rushed back to my chair to watch the fun. John got his way out of it. Lacking the mirror required to decipher the scores, he leaned back to speak into the paper he held backwards and above his head in front of the ceiling light. The crowd heard John's usual golden delivery, albeit in a somewhat deliberate fashion.

Occasionally I pinch hit for John. Eddie Leishman shook my hand in appreciation. My spirits lifted as Eddie reminded me of the ruts everyone encounters on the road to success. I entered college that fall with some on-the-job training behind me, assured that my entry into the business world would be eased by my experiences as a Padre employee.

RAYMOND ROY RIPPELMEYER

played as a pitcher for the San Diego Padres. Born in Valmeyer, Ill., on July 9, 1933, Rippelmeyer signed his first contract with Dewey Griggs, of the Milwaukee Braves. He had been a farmer in Valmeyer, Ill. during the off-season. In 1960 he led the Pacific Coast League in complete games (17), and has also been named to the All-Star team. Rippelmeyer had the third lowest ERA. (2.71) that year, and in 1961, had tied for the American Association lead in shutouts (3). He started as a player for the Padres in the 1962 season.

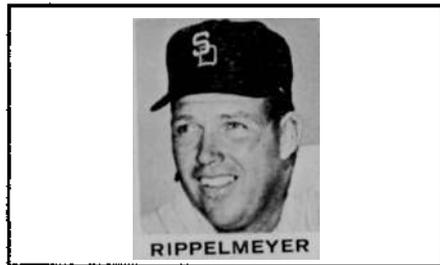
Interview with RAY RIPPELMEYER by Ray Brandes

I first played in San Diego at Westgate Park in 1960 as a member of the Seattle Rainiers. I returned to San Diego at the end of 1962 from

the Washington Senators. I had injured my arm in Washington. I had two outstanding seasons for San Diego in 1963 and 1964, being named most valuable pitcher of the staff both years. We won the championship in 1964.

I injured a finger on my pitching hand in winter of 1964 and had to retire from pitching in 1965. I managed for the 1965 season at Aberdeen, South Dakota, and then returned to San Diego as a pitching coach in 1966 and 1967. I then became a roving pitching coach for Philadelphia to finish out the year of Westgate Park. In 1970, I became major league pitching coach for the Phillies.

San Diego was like a second home to me. My family would join me. My children went to school there and we really enjoyed it. I have said many, many, times, if I ever left my home, I would move to San Diego. It was a second home that we really enjoyed.



Ray Rippelmeyer.

My career is a very long one, but San Diego is a highlight in it. I won 13 games in a row my first year and one more in the playoffs in 1954 for 17 wins. I went to AA and was 9-11 and then had to go into the service. I came out and went to AAA on a pennant winner and was 2-3 in the bullpen. The next two years, I was between AA and AAA winning something like 14 games each year.

I got to the Coast League by being drafted by Cincy and played

in Seattle, where I won 16 games and made the All-Star game. I then spent a year at Indianapolis where I won 13 games and one in the playoffs.

I was drafted by Washington and stayed until August. After injuring my arm two times, I was almost unable to pitch. Cincy reclaimed me and that is how I arrived at Westgate Park, and mainly because of one of the best men in baseball—Eddie Leishman. He was my biggest backer and a great General Manager. He's responsible for me getting into managing and coaching and I'm still doing it in 1997.

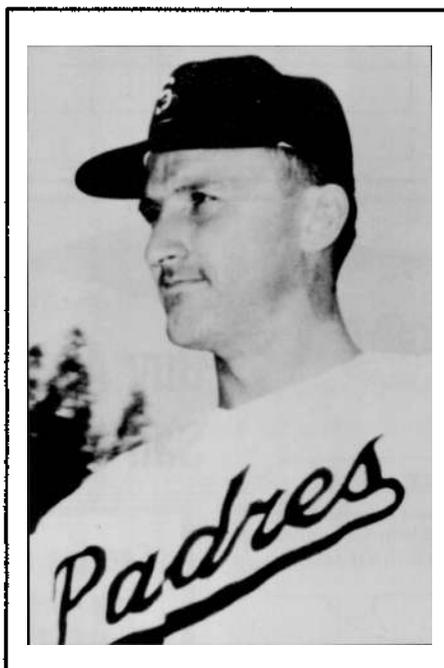
San Diego is a very special place in my life and my heart. I live in Waterloo, Illinois where I have many pictures and memories of those years, but I'm in Florida now as a pitching coach for the New York Mets' Norfolk Club.

TED WILLS

was born February 9, 1934 at Fresno, California. My father Ted Wills Sr., started me out playing baseball in the Cub Scouts when I was nine years old. I pitched to him almost every day and played batter up with the neighbor kids to learn to hit. In high school I pitched and played outfield. I pitched a no hitter and many one hitters while at Fresno High School

At Fresno State College (graduated in 1956) I played in 1952, 1953 and 1954 under coach Pete Beiden. Fresno State College played all the large schools and won most of the time. Summer ball was played in Canada (3) years. In 1954 I was 17 and 3 pitching, led the league in batting average and home runs with the "Sasskattoon Gems."

Mr. Glenn Wright, Boston Red Sox scout signed me in 1955. BIG BONUS, a glove and pair of shoes. \$200.00 per month. I made \$1,500.00 a month in Canada. BIG STAR!



Ted Wills

*Interview with TED WILLS by
Ray Brandes*

In 1959 and 1960, I was with the Boston Red Sox. Ted Williams was my left fielder. All but two players were in their last year of ball: Frank Malzone, Sam White, Vic Worts, Ted Williams—defense was just a little slow. After several seasons there, I went with the Cincinnati Reds, who bought me in 1962 and in 1964, I came to the San Diego Padres. The Chicago White Sox took me up in 1965, where I pitched very good. I took Wilhelm's place while he was laid up—when he got well, I sat.

Nineteen sixty-four was a year where we had a great team and bunch of guys who won the PCL championship -- with good coaches too! That was an ideal year. San Diego, as a region, was the best, with good fans. In those years, Westgate Park was also one of the best parks I had played in.

Carol, my wife, by my first marriage and three daughters, Carla, Lila and Jayna, lived at the beach real close to the water. It was cool and there was great swimming.

Many of the players played golf. I didn't. I fished almost every morning on the Seaforth Boats. (Ticket for Tickets!) The owner loved baseball and tickets to the games.

The management of Eddie Leishman, Jimmie Reese and Whitey Wietelmann knew how to work hard and have fun also—they all liked to win! The whole team—the whole bunch were "Loose, Loose" mainly because they were all very good. Most of the time I spent with Tommy Helms and Deron Johnson. The fans should have hit "Cosmos" on, I think 5th Avenue, a bar and restaurant in those years. The beer was cold, a lot of laughs and the P.S.A. girls all lived

My minor league travels took me to:

1955:	San Jose Red Sox	15-8
1956:	Albany, New York and Greensboro, N.C.	4-0 11-4
1957:	Oklahoma City	15-9
1958:	Chattanooga, Tn	15-10
1959:	Boston and Minneapolis	2-6 9-10
1960:	Minneapolis and Boston	7-2 1-1
1961:	Boston and Seattle, Wa.	3-2 4-4
1962:	Boston and Cincinnati Reds	0-0 0-2
1963:	San Diego Padres	15-10
	with 3.38 ERA	
1964:	San Diego Padres	12-7
	+3 in Championship Series	
1965:	Chicago White Sox	3-2
	and Portland. 1 in League Championship	

At that point in time I quit, tired of travel and no money!!



The Padres after their last out of 1964 championship game. Photograph courtesy Mr. Wills.

close by for the single guys, mainly Tommy Helms. Stewardesses that only looks counted--remember??

Today I fish in Baja California at Punta Abriotos, at my place, and hunt and fish in Alaska. I'm a float pilot. My second and last wife, Michelle Wills, lives with me in Clovis, California. My daughter Mary Ashley-Wills-Presson became a world champion OT Horse Rider at working Hunter at age 16, she was Pacific Coast All Around Champion (Western and English) at ages 13, 14 and 15. At age 16, she competed at the World Shows in Columbus and Oklahoma City, winning many seconds, thirds and the first place in Working Hunter, out of 180 riders. All had to qualify just to get there. They were entered from each state and each country.

I have been in the Financial Services for some 35 years and doing

okay. Annuities are going good today! I work with life insurance, financial advising, estate analysis, tax free plans and general insurance.

DOMINICK ZANNI

was born March 1, 1932 in the Bronx, New York. He began playing during his days in the big schoolyard of P.S. 66, and later continued at Crootona Park, where Rocky Colavito also played. He attended James Monroe High School. In the late 1970s, he was inducted into the school's Baseball Hall of Fame, along with fellow alumni Hank Greenberg and Ed Kranepool. But they had always played stick ball and softball in the streets. Dom always had in mind being a ball player. He played for almost 20 different teams between 1951 and 1967. He first signed with the Giants with George Mack. He recalls he was a bonus ballplayer and got \$150.00. His career began with the traveling in school buses,

overnight stays in small towns, when all of the games were played at night. The early years were tough, so to overcome the boring times the players played hearts, pinochle and other card games every minute.

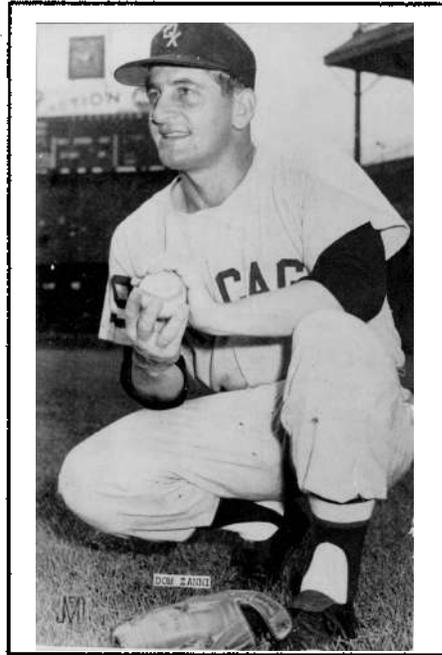
In the majors, the righthander threw 111 games and 148 strikeouts in 182 innings for the Giants, White Sox and Reds. After finishing his career in the minors with San Diego and Buffalo, Don Zanni entered the insurance business and today is employed by the Jardine Group Services Company.

He and his wife Jean, live on Long Island and have three daughters. In the *Sport Collectors Digest* of December 2, 1994, Chuck McAnulls, a Long Island writer chronicled the career of Don Zanni through the experiences of this man who, when playing for the San Francisco Giants was chosen as *Sporting News* Rookie Star of 1959.

*Interview with DOM ZANNI
by Ray Brandes*

In 1951, I was sent to Jenkins, Kentucky. When I got off the bus on a dirt road, there was only one building in town, a hotel. I couldn't stand the food and I couldn't understand the people. The women wore bonnets, smoked corn cob pipes. I played third base, pitched, got on the bus and went home. I had a time believing what I had seen. My brothers grabbed me and put me on the bus and made me go back to play.

The Jenkins team only had a dozen players, so I played third and pitched. I was sent to Johnston, Pennsylvania. My odyssey began then in 1951, still a "kid" which you had to be in those days. A player had to age and pay his dues before going to the big show. In 1952 I played for Pauls Valley, Oklahoma; in 1953, with Muskogee, Oklahoma. There I won



Dom Zanni

23 games and was voted Most Valuable Player. In 1954, I went with Sioux City, Iowa, where I pitched a no-hitter and on that team was Bill White, who would become a major league all-star, broadcaster and National League president. In 1955, I went to Nashville, a "AA" team, and in 1956 to Louisville, Kentucky.

By 1958, I was with San Francisco in the National League and in 1959, went to Phoenix and from there until 1962, when I was sold to the Chicago White Sox. In 1963, I played part of the season with the Sox and then went to Cincinnati Reds.

I opened the 1964 season at San Diego and played there the rest of the '64. During 1965 and 1966 I played with the Reds.

My wife and I liked San Diego very much and wanted to stay there, but we went to visit our folks back east and never came back to the coast. We stayed in Mission Valley. We loved Westgate Park and went to

the zoo, met many good people and even went down to Tijuana. All of our games were at night and so I rested days when we didn't go somewhere. I didn't play golf.

Four or five of the players and I went tuna fishing. We'd go early in the morning, come home, take a nap and then go to the park to play ball. Since the owner of the club owned the tuna cannery, he would have our tuna and barracuda canned and we would send cases of fish to our relatives. At the end of the year 1964, Mr. Smith offered me a job at the bank, but I chose to pack and go back to the Bronx.

During that wonderful odyssey, Dom played baseball with some of the greatest players of his time: Joe DiMaggio, Al Worthington, Willie Mays, Willie McCovey, Juan Marichal, the Alou brothers, Don Larsen, Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris, Sherman Lollar, Nellie Fox, Johnny Bench and such managers as Al Lopez, Earl Weaver, and Freddie Hutchinson.

JAMES DAVID (DAVE) BRISTOL

Dave Bristol was born June 23, 1933 at Macon, Georgia and at the time he became Manager of the Padres lived at Andrews, N.C. The 5'11" 175 pound player was an infielder his entire career. He graduated from Baylor School in Chattanooga in 1951. He attended the University of North Carolina, teaching and coaching in the off-season. Dave who played American Legion ball, was originally signed for the Cincinnati Reds by Paul Florence.

Interview with Dave Bristol.

My managerial career began in 1957 with Hornell, NY-Penna league; in 1958 with Geneva in the



Dave Bristol.

same league, finishing second and winning the playoffs. In 1959, I went to Visalia California in a league that had a split season. In 1960, I traveled back to Palatka, Florida State, where again in a split season our team finished second in the first half, and first in the second half. In 1961, my travels took me to Topeka, Illinois, where I led the team to take the championship as a player-manager.

In 1962, I coached and played for Macon in the Sally League, finishing third, but winning the playoff; in 1963, with the same team in a split season, my club took second in each half of the season but winning the playoff.

I was hired by the Padres, succeeding Don Heffner, who left the club to accept a coaching job with the New York Mets. Eddie Leishman said, "We have been impressed with Dave Bristol's ability as a manager and feel that he is the right man to replace Don Heffner. We studied all the applications but honestly feel that this young manager comes as close as anyone could to Heffner in so many ways."

Through the 1961 season, I had been a playing manager. Last spring, I served as a coach with the

big club and directed the Reds' physical fitness program.

When the Padres hired me, Freddie Hutchinson, manager of the Reds said, "He has been impressed with Bristol's methods and found him a very 'studious baseball man with sound ideas."

During my career among the players who received early professional training from me were Sammy Ellis, John Flavin, Tommy Helms, Bobby Klaus, Chico Ruiz, Pete Rose, Tommy Harper, Mel Queen and Art Shamsky.

The full year I managed the Padres, it took first place in the Western Division. The following spring I went back up with the parent club. At the conclusion of the season I felt, "This has got to be it. This was the finest ... the finest. I've won some championships, but this has got to be the best -- be the greatest team I have ever had. Everybody did a wonderful job. I told them before the game: do the best you know how and let's get what we went after last April."

One of the most impressive aspects of the Padre organization in 1964 was the front office, run by Eddie Leishman and his crew. It was strictly big league all the way. Players loved to come play for San Diego because it was a great set up—park, club house, etc.

Eddie Leishman was so respected throughout baseball, and this man helped me so much. You could talk baseball with him for hours, or about personal matters, or any problem you might have. This held true for the players also. The good direction he gave me was so helpful, and I always felt that he wanted me to succeed and be a good big league manager. After I got to Cincy as a coach and later as a manager he stayed in touch with me. I loved him!!!

I loved the City of San Diego. It was great for my kids—we lived in Tower Palisades—close to Park, to Balboa Park, the Zoo, etc., The fans were so supportive the few years I spent there. We had good teams who competed. We gave them good solid baseball. I was very fortunate to have the privilege to manage the best young players in the Reds organization, many who went on to big league stardom.

Helms, Shamsky, Queen, Tovar, Ruiz, Perez, Boros, Lee May, Pavletich, Hal Smith, Rippelmeyer, Breeden, Zanni, John Flavin, Gus Gil, Ted Wills, Ken Walters, Al Worthington, Ed Sada, John Flavin. Burright, Harkness had been in major leagues before, but they brought great attitudes and leadership to the Padre club. I will always feel that I was very fortunate to be able to manage in such a great place as San Diego. [Dave Bristol still lives in Andrews, North Carolina.]

1964 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	PCT.
Banderas, Terry	130	313	44	65	13	3	7	36	.208
Boros, Stephen	26	100	18	30	8	--	3	15	.300
Breeden, H. Scott*	36	46	2	9	1	--	--	2	.196
Burright, Lawrence	48	174	18	33	5	1	1	12	.190
Campbell, James	71	185	23	43	7	--	7	22	.232
Carlander, Wayne	15	20	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Coates, James	33	66	2	3	--	--	1	4	.045
Davidson, Thomas	56	13	1	1	--	--	--	--	.077
Dickson, James	46	15	1	2	--	--	--	--	.133
Dovel, Larry	34	45	3	5	--	--	--	2	.111
Gil, Gustavo	125	400	57	122	26	2	1	45	.305
Harkness, Thomas	31	101	13	28	3	--	6	19	.277
Helms, Tommy	142	543	57	168	25	9	7	69	.309
Hernandez, Rudolph*	29	17	2	1	--	--	--	--	.059
McWilliams, George*	52	11	1	1	--	--	--	--	.091
McWilliams, Miles	108	270	35	64	15	2	11	49	.237
Neville, Daniel	41	80	8	18	4	--	--	5	.225
Obregon, Francisco	8	4	2	1	--	--	--	--	.250
Osteen, M. Darrell	9	2	1	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Pavletich, Donald	71	235	51	71	15	2	12	40	.302
Perez, Atanasio	124	479	96	148	20	8	34	107	.309
Rippelmeyer, Ray	38	58	7	10	2	--	1	7	.172
Ruiz, Hiraldo (Chico)	72	293	47	92	17	3	3	28	.314
Sada, Edward	11	36	5	7	2	1	2	6	.194
Saul, James	189	22	47	7	2	4	18	--	.249
Shamsky, Arthur	145	507	82	138	21	2	25	69	.272
Smith, Harold	11	23	3	4	--	--	2	3	.174
Taylor, Samuel	8	7	--	1	--	--	--	--	.143
Tovar, Cesar	564	94	155	26	6	7	52	--	.275
Walters, Kenneth	137	464	59	122	17	2	16	62	.263
Wills, Theodore	30	67	2	11	1	--	1	10	.164
Wolf, Walter	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Worthington, Allan	10	10	--	3	--	--	--	2	.300
Zanni, Dominick	34	17	2	2	--	--	1	2	.118

*Breeden: 10 San Diego-15 Dallas-11 San Diego,
Hernandez: 11 Dallas-13 Portland-5 San Diego,
McWilliams: 13 San Diego-39 Dallas.

1964 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	IP	W	L	PCT	SO	BB	ERA
Breeden, H.Scott*	36	159	8	9	.471	122	47	3.74
Carlander, Wayne	15	63	2	4	.333	32	28	5.43
Coates, James	32	217	12	12	.500	150	33	3.36
Davidson, Thomas	56	96	7	7	.500	78	22	3.00
Dickson, James	45	90	9	3	.750	84	32	4.00
Dovel, Larry	32	137	7	7	.500	110	89	5.26
Hernandez,Rudolph*	29	75	3	5	.375	56	40	5.64
McWilliams,George*	52	81	3	4	.429	55	42	3.11
Neville, Daniel	36	208	14	11	.560	140	82	3.81
Osteen, M. Darrell	8	16	1	--	1.000	11	12	6.75
Rippelmeyer, Ray	36	169	14	7	.667	72	31	3.41
Wills, Theodore	28	182	12	7	.632	154	51	3.71
Wolf, Walter	1	1	--	--	.000	--	2	36.00
Worthington, Allan	10	34	4	1	.800	30	8	3.18
Zanni, Dominick	34	85	6	2	.750	87	39	2.65

*Breeden: 10 San Diego-15 Dallas-11 San Diego

Hernandez: 11 Dallas-13 Portland-5 San Diego

McWilliams: 13 San Diego-39 Dallas

PLAY BALL!
 THE PADRES OPEN THE SEASON TOMORROW NIGHT!
8:00 P.M. FRIDAY
 SAN DIEGO PADRES vs. DENVER BEARS
 Don't miss the pre-game opening ceremonies starting
 at 7:30 p.m. with dixieland and marching bands.
 PHONE 298-9826 for reservations
 WESTGATE PARK/MISSION VALLEY

Opening night Padres vs Denver Bears.

Photos:

All photographs are found in the San Diego Union unless otherwise noted.

SET= San Diego Evening Tribune

February 4:	Chico Ruiz	April 15:	C. Arnholt Smith, Dave Bristol and Jim Mulvaney SET
February 13:	Bob Shumake SET	April 15:	Dave Bristol, Tony Perez, Don Pavletich, Ken Walters, Art Shamsky SET
February 27:	Don Pavletich SET	April 15:	Jim Coates SET
March 3:	Ray Rippelmeyer SET	April 16:	Chico Ruiz in attempted pickoff SET
March 10:	Cesar Tovar SET	April 16:	Cincinnati Reds team picture: All former Padres Jim Maloney, John Tsitouris, Deron Johnson, Bill McCool, Mel Queen, Chico Ruiz, Bobby Klaus, Sammy Ellis, Tommy Harper, Freddie Hutchinson.
March 11:	Dave Bristol SET	April 16:	Padre catcher Don Pavletich
March 13:	Deron Johnson SET	April 16:	David Bristol
March 14:	Sammy Taylor: SET	April 16:	Advertisement for Padres-Denver Bears game
March 17:	Rogelio Alvarez	April 16:	Dave Bristol, Jim Coates, Sammy Taylor, <i>The Sentinel</i>
March 20:	Gus Gil SET	April 17:	Ken Walters, Terry Banderas, Art Shamsky, Tony Perez, Cesar Tovar, Gus Gil, Don Pavletich, Jim Coates, Jim Campbell.
March 21:	Art Billings	April 18:	Padres Mascot. A Basset hound held by Dave Bristol with Bill Adair.
March 23:	Scott Breeden SET	April 18:	Tony Perez greeted by Gus Gil and Cesar Tovar crossing home plate for the first home run of the game.
March 24:	Manager David Bristol and GM Leishman	April 19:	Tony Perez, Gus Gil, Cesar Tovar SET
March 26:	Don Pavletich	April 19:	Don Zanni, Ray
March 27:	Gus Gil SET		
March 29:	Advertisement for game		
March 30:	Tony Perez SET		
March 31:	Ken Hunt		
April 4:	Don Pavletich SET		
April 5:	Cesar Tovar		
April 6:	Art Shamsky		
April 7:	Art Shamsky		
April 8:	Jim Coates		
April 10:	Tommy Helms		
April 11:	Tommy Helms		
April 12:	Tony Perez		
April 13:	Mike McWilliams and his two children		
April 14:	Jim Coates and Dave Bristol		
April 14:	Chico Ruiz, Bob Aspromonte of Houston and Jim Maloney of Reds		
April 14:	Jim Campbell, Dave Bristol, Jim Coates, Ken Walters SET		
April 15:	C. Arnholt Smith, Art Shamsky, Dan Neville and Ken Walters at Hot Stove League banquet.		

April 19:	Rippelmeyer SET Small Ad for Padres doubleheader	May 29:	and Jim Dickson Chico Ruiz
April 20:	Unsuccessful slide into 3rd by Frank Obregon.	May 30:	Portland Beavers Luis Tiant and Sam McDowell
April 20:	Larry Dovel, Frank Obregon, Jim Campbell SET	June 2:	Spokane Indian Nate Oliver, Padres first baseman Tony Perez, Padres pitcher Larry Dovel and Umpire Emil Lombardi.
April 21:	George Pernicano masquerading as a blonde smoking a cigar SET	June 4:	Ted Wills SET
April 21:	Jim Campbell SET	June 8:	Padres and Tacoma Giants in brawl at June 7, 1964 game Former Pads with Cincinnati, Joe Nuxhall and Billy McCool
April 22:	Art Shamsky, Ken Walters and Steve Boros welcomed Christina Price, Marilyn Stover and Janet Burgreen on "blondes night"	June 8:	Tommy Helms SET Don Pavletich, Tony Perez and Ken Walter
April 27:	Ken Walters tagged out by 89er Ernie Fazio—5 frames	June 9:	Arkansas Travelers' pitcher Joel Gibson felled by a drive off the bat of Gus Gil
April 27:	Dave Bristol argues with umpire Merlyn Anthony	June 23:	Ken Walters SET Indianapolis' Len Johnston's unsuccessful attempt to catch Tommy Helms' home run ball.
April 28:	David Bristol flashed signals to hitters and base- runners, four frames.	June 24:	Gus Gill in attempt to make tag at 2nd. SET
April 28:	Don Neville	June 27:	Larry Dovel SET Group shot, Jim Saul, Chico Ruiz, Cesar Tovar, and Tommy Helms Gus Gil
April 30:	Tony Perez, Gus Gil and Padre batboy Bob Lemon of Hawaii Islanders	June 29:	Chico Ruiz caught in a Mouse Trap. Disney Night at Westgate Park. Chico Ruiz SET Tony Perez gets congratulated after hitting his 29th homer.
May 7:	Ray Rippelmeyer, Ted Wills...SET	June 30:	Max Patkin, Teddy
May 8:	Gus Gil, Tommy Helms, Don Pavletich, Tony Perez, Art Shamsky and Ken Walters	July 7:	
May 12:	Al Worthington, Steve Boros, Chico Ruiz SET	July 9:	
May 19:	Ray Rippelmeyer SET	July 14:	
May 22:	Deron Johnson SET	July 17:	
May 27:	Cesar Tovar, Terry Banderas and Chico Ruiz entitled Padres Crimes Corps.	July 18:	
May 28:	Alan Worthington	July 22:	

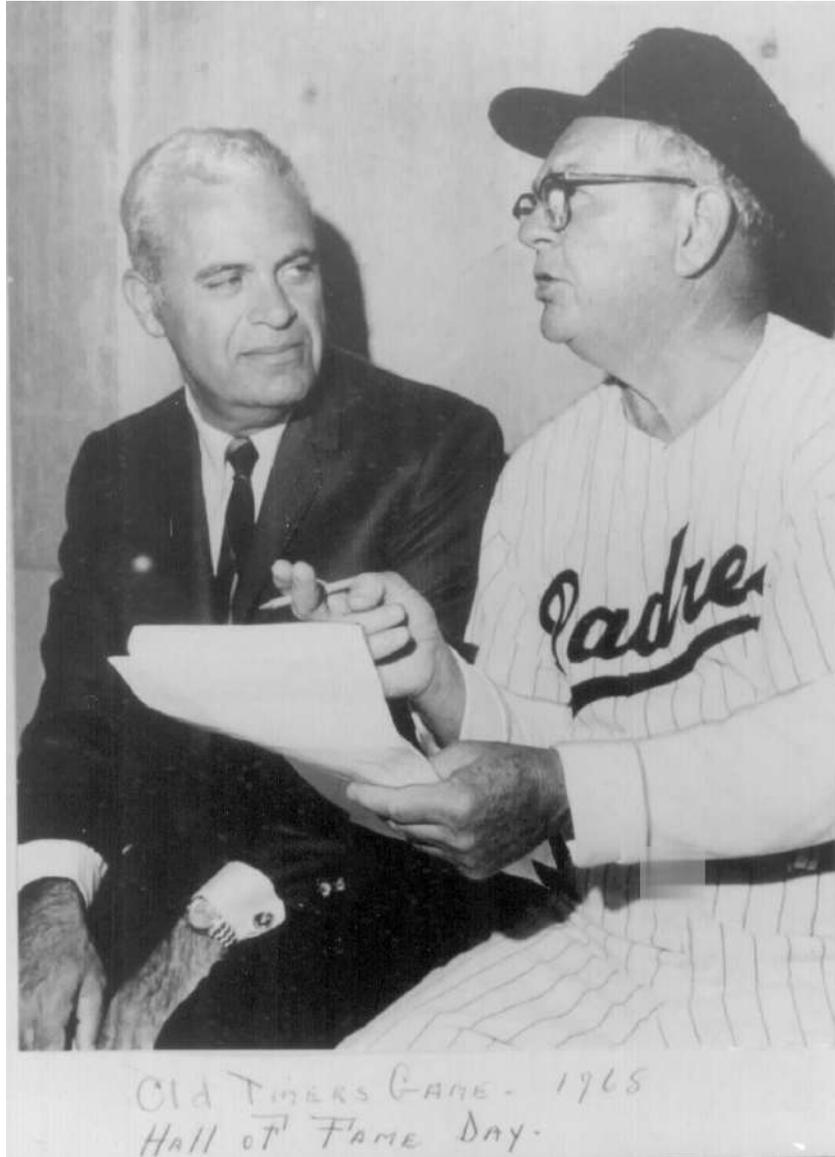
July 22:	Davidson, Ray Rippelmeyer SET Lori Harvey, Dottie Pavkovich and Ray Rippelmeyer on Mickey Finn exhibition game night. SET	September 15:	Art Shamsky, Ted Wills, Terry Banderas and Tony Perez SET
July 25:	Tony Perez	September 15:	Tommy Helms and Ray Rippelmeyer SET
July 28:	Dave Bristol	September 15:	Ted Wills and teammate get champagne shower SET
July 28:	Gus Gil, Tommy Helms	September 15	Art Shamsky of Pads; Frank Lucchesi, Joel Gibson, Morrie Stevens and Dallas Green of Arkansas SET Travelers SET
August 4:	Jim Coates SET	September 15:	Frank Lucchesi SET
August 13:	Tommy Helms SET	September 17:	Cesar Tovar, Art Shamsky, batboy Al Salmon SET
August 18:	Ray Rippelmeyer, Ted Wills	September 19:	Art Shamsky, Tony Perez SET
August 26:	Tommy Helms	September 22	Dave Bristol and Whitey Wietelman get a traditional shower from the Padre team, after the Padres had won the Pacific Coast League Pennant.
August 24:	Tony Perez	November 11	Paul Carter of the All-Star Stadium Committee, Dr. Alfred Gobar, and Mayor Frank Curran compare notes on the San Diego Stadium study, after it was presented by Gobar.
September 1:	Ken Walters; Don Heffner SET	December 5:	Sketch of Eddie Lieishman execut- ive of the year, <i>The Sporting News</i> .
September 4:	Jim Saul SET	December 29	San Diego Sports Hits Top In 1964, year in sports, type of recap. Dave Bristol, Padre manager is pictured on the far right hand side.
September 8:	Eddie Sada and Hal Smith suit up for their home debut at Westgate Park.		
September 8:	Eddie Sada and Tommy Helms SET		
September 9:	Ted Wills, Art Shamsky SET		
September 10:	Eddie Sada (called The Young Attor- ney) SET		
September 11	Dom Zanni being examined by trainer Les Cook, after he suffered a twisted ankle.		
September 11:	Dan Neville SET		
September 12	Ken Walters is congratulated in the dugout after hitting his 16th homer of the season.		
September 14	Ted Wills is cooled off by a teammate, who poured beer on him, in the midst of celebration in the Padres club- house after they had won the PCL Western Division Championship.		
September 15:	Tony Perez		



*Dave Bristol, Eddie Leishman, Carol Smith Shannon, Harry Douglas and Whitey Wietelmann following the championship series, 1964.
Photo courtesy Jay Leishman.*



San Diego Padre Pacific Coast League champions celebrate by dousing Manager Dave Bristol and Coach Whitey Wietelmann.



Bill Starr and Cedric Durst at the Hall of Fame Day, and Old-Timers Game, 1965. Courtesy Autumn Durst-Keltner.

CHAPTER VIII

SAN DIEGO PADRES, 1965

THE CITY COUNCIL PUTS A STADIUM ON THE BALLOT AS AN
ADVISORY ACTION, IT'S THE REDS OUT AND THE PHILLIES IN,
AND THE SAN DIEGO BASEBALL CLUB HALL OF
FAME IS INAUGURATED



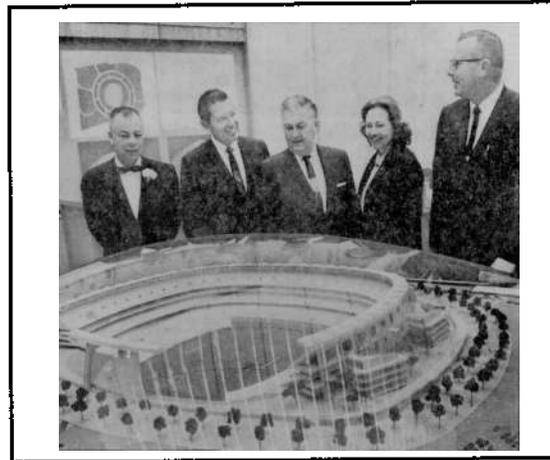
1965 Team Photo.

The champions of the 1964 pennant season opened the new year and believed they could do it again. The Coast League baseball schedule would open on April 17, bound for a 147 game schedule, with the season ending September 6.

Unlike other seasons, the Padres engaged in longer series of 6 and 7 game sets, with what appeared to be the stronger Eastern Division. That included San Diego, Salt Lake City, Indianapolis, Oklahoma City, Denver, and Arkansas. Otherwise, series would be broken into 3 and 4 game stands. A new change would include four Sunday single games at home; some team owners felt that the doubleheaders were too long. In the western sector, Portland, Seattle, Hawaii, Vancouver, Spokane and Tacoma were the competitors.

The PCL's reorganization not only plagued the Padres but so did the new draft agreement. Sports editor Jack Murphy opposed the draft and believed it to be a denial of individual rights for it would deprive baseball players of their right to negotiate. He called the draft "The most brazen example of child-snatching since the Lindbergh case."

Eddie Leishman, Padre GM, however, favored the draft and concluded it would benefit the minor leagues particularly because it would expand farm systems, increase the number of minor leagues, and develop hundreds of players. The emphasis would be on finding new players, rather than taking ones whom some other club had already discovered. Murphy, on the other hand, believed the new draft operated to curb bonus payments, and would not stimulate new players into the league. In the end, Murphy contended the minor leagues would be cut, and the majors would still obtain the best ball players.



City Councilmembers view proposed new Stadium. Allen Hitch, Ivor deKirby, Mayor Frank Curran, Helen Cobb and Harry Scheidle.

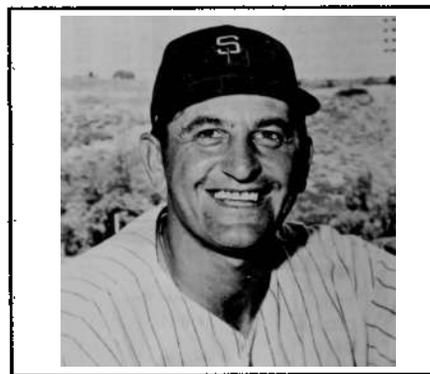


The San Diego Padres, 1965. Photo from Jay Leishman.

The proposed stadium was being wrestled through the community, in the press, at the City Council and on every street corner. Murphy wrote of the indoor-outdoor plan proposed by a floating stadium architect. Murphy editorialized extensively about the concept in the *San Diego Union* of February 2, 1965, for this idea which might be placed in Mission Bay or in a lake in Mission Valley. The blueprints were hardly finished when "experts" torpedoed the concept on the drawing board. This had been the first new idea in stadium-building since the domed stadium in Houston. Barron Hilton of hotel and football history was enthralled by the idea and made speeches on its behalf, but the "All-America Stadium Committee" concentrated on another type of stadium and another locale. Jack Murphy's column of March 10, 1965 in the *San Diego Union* is a most

compelling commentary on the benefits of stadiums to a community.

Eddie Leishman began to plant the seeds for his field of excellent ball players. On February 13, however, he entered Sharp's Medical Hospital with double pneumonia. He remained in the hospital for ten days, but hoped to move ahead on negotiations with his athletes. They had already signed veteran right-handers Ray Rippelmeyer and reliever Dom Zanni. Leishman ex-



Pitcher Dom Zanni .

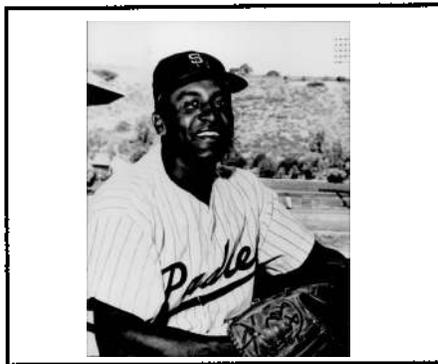


Al Lopez, center, manager of the American League-leading Chicago White Sox, chats with White Sox San Diego Padre alumni, left to right, Floyd Robinson, Ted Wills, Don Buford and J. C. Martin, last night before exhibition game with the Padres at Westgate Park. Chicago won 5-0.

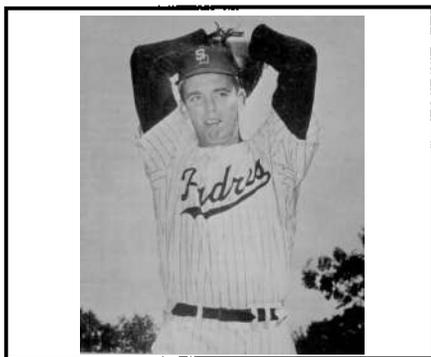
Padre alumni chat before exhibition game at Westgate. (White Sox won 5-0) (Lt. to Rt.) Floyd Robinson, Ted Wills, Manager Al Lopez, Don Buford, J.C. Martin.



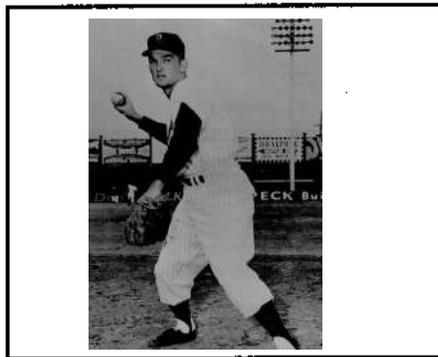
Tommy Helms, 2b-ss.



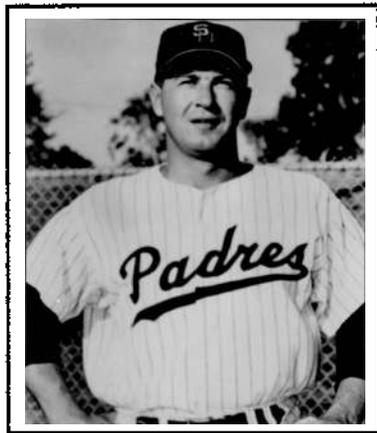
Frank Obregon 1b-ss-3b.



Danny Neville, pitcher.



Billy Moran 2b-ss.



*Outfielder Ken Walters,
1962, 1964-1965.*

pected right-handers Danny Neville and Scott Breendon to sign quickly. As Leishman chose his athletes from the hospital room, the Cincinnati Reds began to select the coaches. On March 15, the Reds sent Whitey Wietelmann back to coach the Padres for another year. He received the unwanted news on his 46th birthday. He did not mask his anger because he did not believe the Reds had given him a fair chance with the majors. Dave Bristol also dropped down to manage the Padres. Both Wietelmann and Bristol had helped the Reds since March 1, but they would begin another year in the Padre camp.

Les Cook, who had seen players come and go for twenty years, said: "the ball players of today had to be prodded. They don't give out like they did 20, 30 or 40 years ago." Seeing young players clowning around on the bench instead of

watching the game all the time, so they can learn, is what peeved Cook more than anything. He gave an example in Fred Haney, who "would study pitchers through a little hole in his baseball cap. Then when he got on base, he knew just what the pitcher was going to do. That helped him become the truly outstanding base runner that he was. He wasn't too fast, but he knew how to run."

He related other examples of men who should have been studied to know how to improve as players. Jim Rudolph was, however, one who did his homework. "He stood on the steps of the dugout and watched the umpires and noted if they had wide strike zones, high or low, or what that umpires line of vision was. In that way, he would know how to work the zone when that umpire was working his games."

San Diegans were saddened to hear of the death of former San Diego Padre manager, John Leonard "Pepper" Martin, at the age of 61, at his ranch near McAlester, Oklahoma. He had managed the Padres during the '45 and '46 campaigns.

On March 24, Tom Tischinski was named as one of the 15 players the Reds had dispatched to camps. John Davis, manager of the Reds' Nashville camp, described Tischinski's bad habits. He listened to music and wrote letters until about 5 a.m., got up at 3 p.m. ate one meal, and then played a game. While his



Gus Gil

problems of sleepless nights and an improper diet plagued him, Tischinski had a very powerful arm and made the All-Star game two years in a row.

Bristol expected Lee May, Len Boehmer, Darrell Osteen, Jim Coates, Ken Widman and Lacy West to report to the Padres.

They were followed by Venezuelan Gus Gil. Known as "The Silent Captain" and a powerhitter, he had helped the Padres to win the pennant in '64. Gil always had a toothpick in his mouth, a quiet man on the club, but a presence on the field that spelled leadership.

Other Padres fused education with baseball: Jerry Merz and Eddie Sada, two new Padres, completed their final college exams in June. Merz obtained a BA in Physical Education, and Sada studied pre-law at the University of San Diego. Steve

Boros enrolled in the fall semester at the University of Chicago. In Mid-May, hurler John Papa was assigned to San Diego.

While the news from training camp touted a number of players, the uncertainty of who might be sent down to the Padres would be carried on right up to the time the teams came out of the starting gate. Sportswriters Gene Gregson and Earl Keller pointed out the strengths and weaknesses of the team in each position as early as March 10. Stories featured Gus Gil, Cesar Tovar, Chico Ruiz and Ray Rippelmeyer.

Johnny McDonald, *Union* sportswriter, had been assigned to be with the team and provided daily updated bio sketches of all the players in camp as he, too, awaited the season opener on April 17 against Salt Lake City. On the 11th, he provided a complete rundown on each player as the local fans prepared for the weekend exhibition double-header between the San Francisco Giants and the Cleveland Indians for April 11-12; the game, however, was rained out.

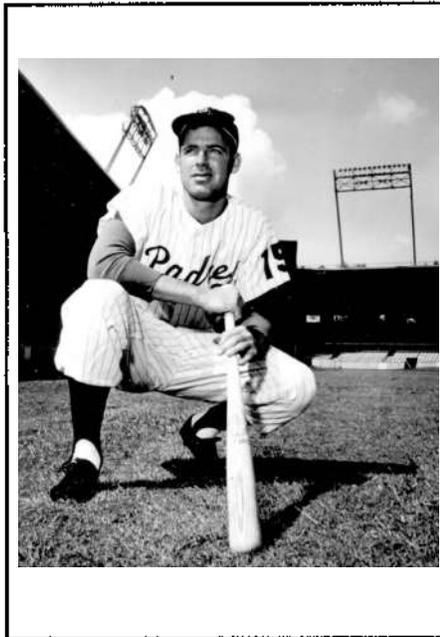
Johnny McDonald wrote that:

Much like a disjointed wagon train, the San Diego Padres are slowly assembling in the southwestern corner of the United States. Station wagons full of household utensils, baggage, wives and children started rolling through

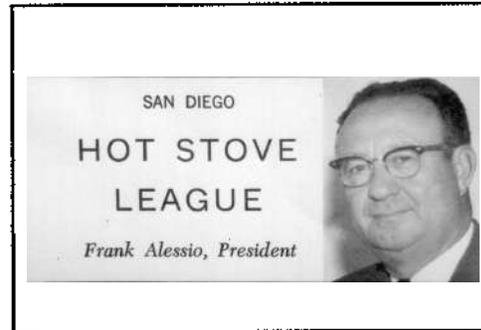
the Westgate Park gate Sunday with the last contingent due in sometime tonight. One of the modern 'schooners' was damaged on the Arizona prairie....

On the 15th of April, the Pads made a short road trip to Tijuana for an exhibition game with a Mexican All-Star team, to be played for Tijuana sportswriters and sportscasters youth fund.

The Padres added Larry Elliott and Al Moran from the Mets. In 1964, Elliot had played for the Mets, but at the end of the season, he received his contract. He notified the Mets he would be available for baseball after the school term ended in June. He



*Outfielder Larry Elliott.
Photo San Diego Historical
Society Collections.*

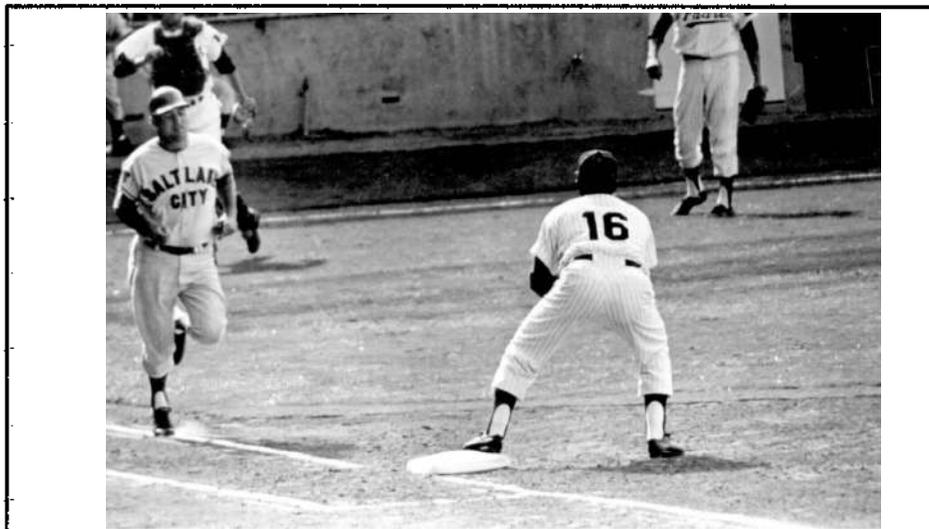


planned to concentrate on his studies at San Diego State University. Eddie Leishman provided a happy solution and persuaded the Mets to sell Elliot to San Diego so he could combine baseball and education.

The San Diego Chamber of Commerce and the Hot Stove League held their annual Padre luncheon in the Palm room of the U.S. Grant hotel on April 15. There, Pat Downs, 28, was introduced as assistant to the GM of the San Diego Padres. Dr. Al Anderson the Master of Ceremonies, introduced Frank Alessio to present the Pop Billings Memorial award.

For the opener against the Salt Lake City Bees, Councilwoman Helen Cobb was picked to throw out the first ball at Westgate Park at 1:45 p.m. Harry Douglas was to make a





Opening Day. Padres vs Salt Lake City, April 14, 1965.

formal presentation of the championship PCL trophy to Mrs. Carol Smith Shannon of the board and Manager Dave Bristol.

The Padres took the opener of the 63rd PCL season 4-3, on a ninth inning two-out homer by Len Boehmer before 5,292 fans. To finish off a fantastic opening, they swept the Bees 5-4 and 4-0.

In Denver the Bears massacred the Padres 14-0 with a barrage of home runs on April 24, on 19 hits. The next night they smashed 16 hits to further embarrass the Pads. Oklahoma City would be next and then a 17 day trip would take them to Little Rock, Indianapolis, Oklahoma City, Denver and Salt Lake City.

On April 25th, however, the Padres engaged in their 5,000th PCL battle and officially kicked off their 30th anniversary. Eddie Leishman

announced that the anniversary celebration would not take place until July when a Padre Hall of Fame, still in the planning stage, was ready.

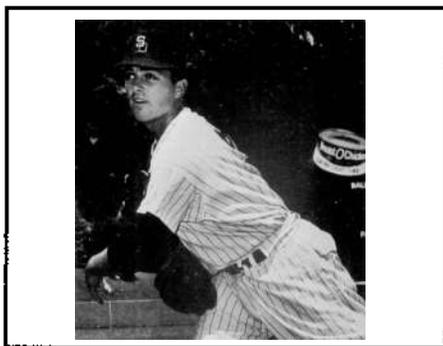
Not all baseball was taking place on the field. The San Diego City Council had to make it formal—no floating baseball field because of exorbitant construction and dredging expenses. Murphy, on the attack pointed out that:

Any lingering doubt regarding San Diego's determination to build a multi-purpose athletic facility was effectively dispelled in the City Council chambers yesterday... There was a decisive, let's get on-with-it air as the Council unanimously approved Allen Hitch's motion to negotiate with Barron Hilton for a long-term lease binding the Chargers to the new stadium. City Manager

Tom Fletcher was hopeful of persuading C. Arnholt Smith to move the San Diego's professional baseball team from Westgate Park to the new stadium, beginning with the 1967 season. Hilton predicted San Diego would have a major league baseball commitment even before the stadium was completed.

Before the lengthy road trip the 89ers had swept a four game series to drop the Padres to five and one-half games back of league leading Oklahoma City. They halted a six game skid by a win over Arkansas 6-5 on the pitching of lefty Teddy Davidson, on May second. At Indianapolis, Johnny McDonald noticed that Larry Elliot spent much of his time in the hotel lobby reading college text books. Elliot was enrolled at San Diego State College and attended classes when the team was home.

At Oklahoma City in a 13-8 win on 'Kid's Night,' Rippelmeyer



Pitcher Ted Davidson.

and Don Rudolph took the win in a nightmarish game. Their equipment arrived late and they had only a few minutes to dress and take the field. Nonetheless Lee May, Gus Gil, Mel Queen and Len Boehmer continued to hit well.

The Padres' infielding defense was remedied by Cincinnati as they sent down Tommy Helms, 1964 All-Star shortstop, and outright optioned infielder-outfielder Steve Boros. Eddie Leishman was shocked because he had felt that Helms would become a fixture in the majors. At home on the 18th of May, Portland handed the Padres a 6-4 setback on a pair of early home runs. The Padres were hosts to 50 new citizens of the U. S. who were sworn in May 7. Among them, were Padre head groundskeeper, Bob McGiveron, and his family.

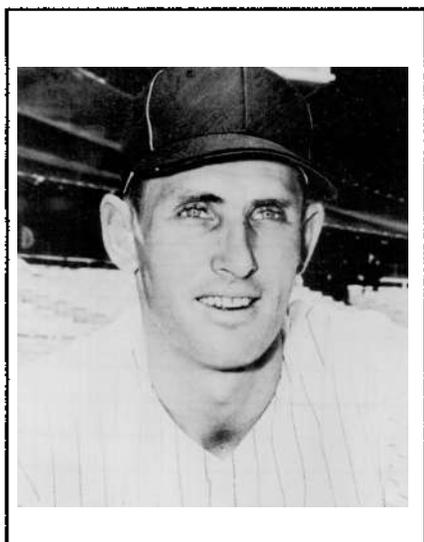
In a game at Westgate Park, before 1,230 fans on the 19th, Larry Elliot hit his third homer, had a double and two singles to drive in three runs and single-handedly beat the Bevos. His teammates had nicknamed him "Gabby" because of his silent manner.

On May 20th, in an unusual doubleheader the Chicago White Sox defeated the Padres 2-0 in an exhibition game. That was followed by a Portland victory over San Diego, 5-0, in the second game of the unique twin bill. Near the end of May, familiar ills plagued the Padres as the

pitching staff couldn't keep the balls in the park, and hitters could not come up with clutch hits. On the 24th of April, they remained in fourth place, eight games out.

Frustrated as the season progressed, the players at times became downright unruly. On the 29th of May, Tommy Helms was thrown out of the game in the ninth by umpire Rusty Goets after he protested a called third strike. The Padre bench tossed batting helmets and towels onto the field after Helms' exit.

In an effort to get the club moving, the Padres activated pitcher Jerry Merz and infielder Eddie Sada. Merz had just completed his B.A. in physical education, while Sada was still taking undergraduate work in



Pitcher Jim Coates 



Luke Easter and Whitey Wietelmann 

pre-law at USD.

To make room for them, Rogelio Alvarez was sent to Cincinnati and pitcher John Papa returned to Baltimore. Dick Egan, the 28 year old left-hander acquired from Jacksonville, joined the club. Dom Zanni fanned 11 in a win over Seattle at Westgate Park on June 2nd. Their record at Westgate to date in the season was 12 victories and 17 losses.

The Padres stopped their tail-spin long enough to wreck two Portland win streaks on the 6th of June before 12,125 fans. They first beat the "Beavers" with a win over the previously unbeaten Kelley who had a string of 11 triumphs. They also ended the Beavers' win streak at seven.

On the 18th of June, the Padres named Ray Rippelmeyer as the new Aberdeen Pilot, a team in the

Northern Rookie League. With the veteran closing his career with the Padres, the team took Dave Galligan, a 17-8 right-hander, to try to help bring the team back into the season. During June here and there, the locals took a game like the one on June 22 at Vancouver, B.C. as they rapped the Mounties 8-0 on 16 hits. Eddie Sada, who had up to this time one hit in 15 previous trips, led the San Diego barrage with a home run, a double and a single, and batted in four runs in five trips to the plate.

On the last day of June, the Padres were in fifth place, 15 games out from the eastern division Denver lead. They were to return to San Diego on July 1 to face the Tacoma Giants.

Periodically the Padre bats boomed out as May hit two homers to lead San Diego over the Bees 5-4; Len Boehmer hit two to garner a win for the Pads 2-1 over Tacoma on the fourth of July. John McDonald pointed out that this was the 13th decision by a one-run margin; the Pads had dropped 15 of them, and what a difference those wins would have made in the standings. To help rest his case, the Pads beat Indianapolis in a 14-inner 2-1, over Indianapolis which pushed the Pads into fourth place.

On July 14, Eddie Leishman announced that a "Hall of Fame" instituted by the San Diego Padres would honor those former San Diego

Padres who had contributed to the success of professional baseball in the area. Until 1965 no official recognition had been given former Padres. That year, however, the San Diego Baseball Club did establish a Baseball Hall of Fame to honor players who had performed well for San Diego's baseball fans. A second category was established, whereby managers, coaches, trainers and club officials also could be eligible.

Current Padres and management weren't thinking about the Hall of Fame, but their place in the standings. Don Rudolph took a 2-0 win over Indianapolis; Dick Egan pitched a 4-2 triumph over the same team and Teddy Davidson did the same to the Indians 7-0 to take three in a row. The team moved on to Little Rock, where Danny Neville came through in a relief effort 6-3. A sixth win and



Pitcher Larry Loughlin.

then Rudolph hurled again as the Pads streak ran out.

In the 6-3 game of July 19th, Tommy Helms made one of the most spectacular infield throws of the season. He raced in for a bouncer and changed the course of his throw in mid-air to nip a runner at the plate. Their streak ended at six wins in a row, however. Helms again starred in a win over Indianapolis ,6-5, on the 23rd of July, this time with his third homer, a 342-foot poke against a sign high atop the left field wall. He drove in two runs and later a double to push in the winning run.

Lee May entered a series with Arkansas in early August with a hitting streak of eight games. This season, he had others for 12, 13, and 14 games. Steve Boros and Tommy Helms also had hot streaks. The streaks weren't enough, however, for the team was making too many er-



Lee May 1b-of.

rors in the infield and losing ground in the standings.

Jack Murphy wrote in his column on August 2 that, "the city was girding itself for an election campaign that would be decisive in shaping the city's future in the area of major athletics." On November 2, the voters would be asked to approve a charter amendment empowering the city to enter a joint powers agreement for a 50,564 seat facility in Mission Valley—the electoral equivalent of a "sudden death" playoff. If the stadium project were to be defeated, professional football would go down the drain in San Diego. The visibility of major league baseball would be zero. Murphy received the bulk of the credit for bringing the issue before the public, and candidly said that if the city voted down the plan, Hilton would take his club to Anaheim, the little city with big ideas.

Los Angeles reporters were chiding the San Diego City Council for not having enough courage to forge ahead and make a decision the voters had given them the right to make. They were elected to give approval to the stadium; they chose to put the matter to a vote. The Council, therefore, were a bunch of people without common sense.

Ivor de Kirby said:

It is implied in the city charter that the people

of San Diego would like to express themselves on major expenditures.... we don't want it said that we by-passed the people. I'm confident they will approve. We're not shirking our duties in calling for a vote—we're giving the people a chance to demonstrate their support.

Murphy wrote, "The decision to put the stadium on the...ballot came after an intriguing dialogue in which the councilmen (and woman) examined the philosophies of representative government and government by referendum."

A bit later, still putting the issue before the public, the City Council had a task force of Deputy Mayor Tom Hom, City Auditor Fred Lawrence, City Attorney Ed Butler and City Manager Fletcher to adopt the city's plans for a \$27 million multi-purpose sports facility financed from unallocated funds. Fletcher said, "It is buildable, bondable and saleable." Murphy stressed the boon to San Diego's economy and pointed out that Fletcher said, "The City could make no better investment." One of the most interesting ideas came up when the recommendation was made by the City Parks and Recreation Board to name the stadium "Mission Stadium" which would memorialize the heritage of San Diego as the birthplace of California.

The Padres continued on a

lengthy road trip, being lambasted by the 89ers, the Arkansas Travelers, but jarring Denver a couple of times where crowds of over 7,000 watched the second-place team come back on August 12 to rip 19 hits and route the Padres 15-8

Meanwhile, the team struggled with Salt Lake City in mid-August. Oklahoma City had the lead; Denver was back seven games, but San Diego appeared clearly out of the race 23 games behind the league leader even though they were in third place.

The special Hall of Fame day was scheduled for August 22, at which time those elected would be inducted. In many instances, the club has had players who went on to make names for themselves after leaving the Padres. Leishman said, "What we are endeavoring to determine are those players who have proved themselves valuable while with the Padres. And, endeavoring to determine are those players who went on to make names for themselves after leaving the Padres." Voting members of the committee included Jack Murphy Sports Editor of the *San Diego Union*, Earl Keller Sports Writer for the *San Diego Evening Tribune*, broadcaster Al Schuss the Padres broadcaster for 16 years, Wes Sharp Chief of Police, Harry Douglas, San Diego businessman and Mel Chipp.

In the 1965 selections, the five former Padres elected as charter

members included the late Jim "Tiny" Chaplin (P.1937-1938); Dominic Dallessandro (OF: 1938-1939); Luke Easter (1B: 1949, 1954); Jack Graham (1B-OF: 1948-50-51-52; and Max West (1B-OF: 1947-49-50). Easter, now 54-years-of-age, came all the way from Rochester, New York, having been out of baseball only one year. Jack Graham and Max West arrived from southern California to attend the ceremonies. Dom Dallessandro was unable to attend, so former outfielder Johnny Jensen accepted the award in his behalf. Jim "Tiny" Chaplin had been killed years earlier; his former manager Cedric Durst accepted the award in behalf of Chaplin's widow. Easter, then a bank security guard, would be killed in a bank holdup within a short time. Johnny McDonald chronicled their careers and comments in the *San Diego Union* of September 23, 1965.

The Old-Timers game was also played for the Sunday reunion. Dain Clay and Bud Podbielan accepted invitations to play on Hall of Fame day. Other former players who came to play were Pete Coscarart, Steve Mesner, Rudy Regalado, Frank Kerr and Dick Aylward. From San Diego were former players Hal Patchett, Tony Criscola, Buster Adams, Bob Kerrigan, Al Olsen, Bob Kerrigan, Jack Harshman, Jesse Flores, Dick Luebke and Ed Vitalich.

That same day, reserved for

former home run kings was only part of the show. Eddie Sada and Lee May blasted three-run homers to beat the 89ers 9-3. Sada apparently had been spurred on by his dad's slashing single in the Old Timers contest.

Tommy Helms was called, back to the Reds, while southpaw Gerry Arrigo was sent down to get some work and regain his control, winning his first game on August 25 over the Bees 6-1. Just as suddenly, Arrigo was recalled by the parent Reds; so was Teddy Davidson and Lee May played his final game on August 31, as he too returned to the Reds.

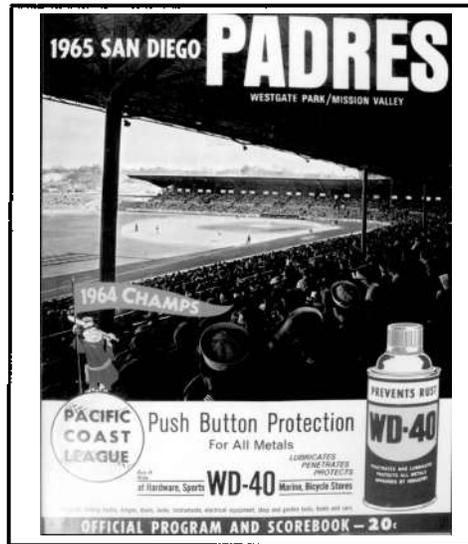
In the season finale, the Denver Bears took the Padres 6-5 at Grand Junction, Colorado. Clearly



Lee May and Tommy Helms.



"Records of San Diego Padres, 1936-1945," Eddie Leishman, C. Arnholt Smith and Jim Mulvaney check records in the San Diego Evening Tribune book to be given to fans.



Padres Program near end of 1965 season.

the Padres faced a rebuilding job. While they had ended up in third place in their division, they were 22-1/2 games out and experienced the depression that comes being a dethroned champion. The front office expressed much concern, and doubt existed that the relationship with the Reds would be forthcoming or even beneficial in the coming year.

On an interesting note, American League President, Joe Cronin, announced the purchase of the contract of minor league umpire Emmett L. Ashford, who would become major league baseball's first Negro arbiter. A veteran of 15 seasons, a Los Angeles resident, a graduate of Chapman College, he was well known to San Diegans.

While that news was pleasing, official notice came that the Padres and Cincinnati would end their farm tie-up after four years by mutual agreement. Without delay, the Padres signed a pact with the Phillies for 1966.

The rumble was that Frank Lucchesi, Arkansas pilot for the past two years, would handle the Padres next season. He had been named Manager of the Year four times during his colorful career. Coach Whitey Wietelmann and veteran trainer Les Cook were assured of another season with the Padres.

With the season officially over, the matter of the new stadium came to the forefront. Jack Murphy

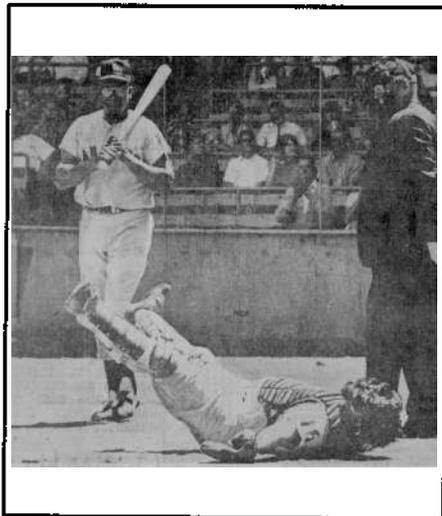
used his column as the *Union Sports Editor* to provide all the information and suggestions he could to help the voters understand the benefits of the stadium. Al Hartunian Jr. served as Chairman of a strong, well-financed campaign designed to convince the electorate that a multi-purpose stadium was vital to San Diego's growth. The Greater San Diego Sports Association voted a \$10,000 contribution. A Stadium Information Center in the Mission Valley Stadium appeared in a busy place to acquaint shoppers and voters with what the election meant.

The City Council decided to place the stadium on the ballot as an advisory action. Legally, they had the authority to build the facility without calling for a vote. They felt that the electorate, however, should have an opportunity to express itself on an investment of this magnitude. Carl Ritter, *San Diego Union's* Financial Editor and a large number of civic leaders strongly supported the stadium as a forge for prosperity.

On November 2, the voters of San Diego decisively approved a multi-purpose, major league facility for Mission Valley. Nobody savored the triumph more than Al Hartunian, Jr. who had devoted his waking moments to the stadium project. He had headed a terrific campaign, persuading 1,200 workers to join him in the cause. San Diego would no longer be a second class city. Fifty-nine



Old Timers Game: Front (Lt. to Rt.) Emil Patrick, Rocky Jones, Dick Aylward, Bud Podbellan. Back (Lt. to Rt.) Cedric Durst, Don Larsen, Bill Glynn, Rod Graber, Lou Ortiz, Bob Kerrigan, Kent Parker, Jim Coates.



Old Timers Game, 1965. Luke Easter and Del Ballinger. Photo from Larry Elliott.



Luke Easter & Al Schuss (with microphone) at Lane Field. Photo from Valerie Schuss-Foster.

SAN DIEGO BASEBALL HALL OF FAME



Dom Dallassandro
1965

The history of the San Diego Padres is filled with outstanding performances of hundreds of greats of the game, including a large number who went on from the Pacific Coast League to careers in the major leagues.

Since 1936, when the Padres began competition in the PCL at Lane Field and later in Westgate Park, reams of copy have been written about the accomplishments of players wearing the San Diego uniform.

Up until 1965, no official recognition was given former Padres. That year, however, the San Diego Baseball Club established a Baseball Hall of Fame to honor players who have performed well for San Diego's baseball fans.



Luke Easter
1965

A six-man committee, made up of local sports enthusiasts, was formed to make the selections. Rules and regulations were set down to the effect that only players not now connected with organized baseball in a playing capacity would be eligible. A second category was established whereby managers, coaches, trainers and club officials could be eligible also.

Members of the selection committee include chairman Mil Chipp, Wesley Sharp, Harry Douglas, Earl Keller, Al Schuss and Jack Murphy.

Five former Padres were elected as charter members in 1965. They included the late Jim (Tiny) Chaplin (P: 1937-38); Dom Dallassandro (OF: 1938-39); Luke Easter (1B: 1949, 1954); Jack Graham (1B-OF: 1948-50-51-52); and Max West (1B-OF: 1947-49-50).



Jim Chaplin
1965

In 1966, four more were added including the present Padres trainer Les Cook who has been with San Diego since 1936. Others named included Bobby Doerr (2B: 1936); Steve Mesner (INF: 1940-48-49); and Ted Williams (OF: 1937).

Last season, two other greats were selected including Minnie Minoso (OF:) and Rupert Thompson (OF:) bringing the Hall of Fame membership to 11.

The presentations are made during the annual Hall of Fame-Old-timers Game held in late summer.



Max West
1965



Jack Graham
1965



Ted Williams
1966



Bobby Doerr
1966



Les Cook
1966



Rupert Thompson
1967



Minnie Minoso
1967



Steve Mesner
1966

First Inductees into San Diego Baseball Hall of Fame.

percent, or 100,725 voters, endorsed the proposition. The turnout and the overwhelming support showed that the city demonstrated new maturity. The mandate of 59% reflected the people cared about the city, the employment possibilities and the future of professional sports in the region.

True to the rumor mill, Frank Joseph Lucchesi would manage the 1966 Padres. He had been chosen as the 1964 PCL Manager of the Year. Eddie Leishman was extremely pleased with Lucchesi who had received this honor on four different occasions. The 39-year-old San Franciscan had been associated with Leishman when the two worked together at Salt Lake City in 1956. Leishman stated that a coach would also be named to the Padre staff to replace Whitey Wietelmann, who joined Heffner at Cincinnati.

FINAL PCL STANDINGS 1965:

Eastern Division

	W	L	GB
Oklahoma City*	91	54	
Denver	83	62	4
San Diego	70	78	22-1/2
Indianapolis	70	78	22-1/2
Arkansas	67	79	24
Salt Lake City	56	91	36

Western Division

Portland	81	67	
Seattle	79	69	2
Vancouver	77	69	3
Hawaii	75	72	5-1/2
Tacoma	75	72	5-1/2
Spokane	57	90	23-1/2

*In the playoffs Oklahoma City defeated Portland 4 games to 1.



Arguing a call with Umpire Emmett Ashford.

VOICES FROM WESTGATE PARK

PAT DOWNS

I joined the San Diego Padres in 1964. I first heard about the job opportunity from my brother, Mike, who was the Vice President of Marketing at Sea World. He informed me that the Padres were looking for a kind of Business Manager, Promotion Manager, Ticket Manager, etc., and so I arranged to meet Eddie Leishman, the General Manager, for an interview. Eddie had a reputation for being prompt, which I did not know; however, when I went to the meeting, I was about forty-five minutes late, and got started off on the wrong foot with Eddie, but fortunately we had a great discussion, and hit it off right away.

During the meeting Eddie made it very clear to me that he was hired to position the San Diego Padres and the city of San Diego to apply for a Major League franchise. Eddie was hired by Jim Mulvaney, who was President of the Padres, and by C. Arnholt Smith, the Owner and Chairman of the team.

At the time, Mr. Smith was one of the most influential and certainly one of the most financially sound people in San Diego. He had a great many financial holdings, including the Westgate California Corporation.

Their goal was to attract a Major League franchise to San Diego, and Eddie Leishman was brought in as the "Baseball Man" to help get the Minor League Padres more or less on the map in anticipation of our applying for a Major League franchise, preferably in the National Baseball League.

Eddie and I met about three times, and at the end of the third meeting, he offered me the job. In February, 1964, my wife and I moved



Pat Downs 

our family of four children from Bakersfield. I was excited about the opportunity and was grateful that Eddie Leishman had taken a chance on me, basically a rookie in many respects in that I never worked for a baseball franchise. I was a marketing type and a promotional type, and the goal was to attract as many people as we could to Westgate Park.

One thing I remember about Westgate Park is that it was a great place to watch a baseball game, and from the outset, Eddie and I tried to create or instill an attitude that we were a Major League baseball city and that we were going to accomplish great things in the future, starting with the Triple A Padres.

Needless to say, we promoted constantly, always with an attitude that we wanted to show baseball in its best light, increase attendance of

course, expose our baseball product, and create a Major League atmosphere, which we hoped would eventually translate into the awarding of a Major League franchise to San Diego.

Eddie was a traditional Baseball Man, and I was reluctant to propose some of the promotions that I conjured up. But I was surprised to discover that Eddie was more flexible than I had imagined, and he allowed me somewhat a free hand not only in the promotions, but since I was responsible for the sale of radio and TV rights, producing the broadcast, and everything in that regard from a promotional marketing point of view.

One of the things I remember about Westgate Park was that in those days, the announcers did not travel with the teams, and when the teams were away from Westgate, we would do a re-creation of the game from a wire-service teletype (Western Union) to make it sound like the announcers were actually in the ballpark of the other team. It was kind of an open secret, but not really one anybody talked about, so one of the promotions we came up with was to invite all of our season ticket holders over to KOGO Radio so that they could sit in bleacher seats, eat free popcorn and free hot dogs, and watch the re-creation of the baseball game. People got a real kick out of it.

We were always trying to entice more season ticket holders. We even had a Press Box Night for each of our season ticket holders. If interested, they were allowed to make reservations, and we would take them up in the Press Box, Mr. Smith's private box, and they would have a private party in his box. That was really unheard of because that was very sacrosanct territory, but Mr. Smith's box was next to the working Press Box, and it gave people a behind-the-scenes look.

One of the other things I re-

member about Westgate Park the most was that Eddie Leishman was not only known as a "Baseball Man," but he was known to be very good with young players or prospects who were on their way up. He also had a real knack for dealing with older players on the way down, and it was a very good balance. His opinion was respected by everyone in terms of his ability to spot talent. One of the other things Eddie was very good at was handling young managers. We had three very good managers when I was there. Frank Lucchessi, Dave Bristol and Bob Skinner, and we also had affiliations with the Philadelphia Phillies and the Cincinnati Reds. So we had a lot of very good players go through Westgate Park.

One of the other opportunities that we recognized early on in terms of being able to promote San Diego, was the fact that Eddie was always good with all the scouts, who used to come through Westgate Park scouting the Triple A PCL. One of the reasons the scouts liked San Diego was the fact that not only because we had a great ballpark, but Eddie was a very knowledgeable baseball guy, and he knew most of them. It was a great chance after the games to sit in Eddie's office with any number of scouts and talk about players and baseball gossip, etc. Those scouts would go on to the next city and the next city and the next city, and they would tell how well San Diego was doing as a PCL franchise and about how well the operation was being conducted -- just all of the good things you would want from word of mouth. We capitalized on that to a great degree by being very, very conscious of the scouts, and Eddie always treated them very well so they carried a very positive message for us, which helped us a great deal in baseball circles.

During this period of time toward the end of 1967, whatever, we were very much involved in the

promotion of the selling of the stadium, not only to the public, but also to Major League baseball. We traveled a great deal around the country to various conventions taking a big mockup of San Diego Stadium. One of the things everybody kept saying to us was, "Wasn't it a shame to lose Westgate Park because it was such a great spot to watch baseball." But we used every opportunity to sell San Diego Stadium, San Diego, and certainly our ownership as the people who should have the franchise. Interestingly enough, even though Mr. Smith had a lot of financial wherewithal and we always tried to present a Major League image, we still were a Minor League team. It was an uphill battle. We had a budget and just didn't have unlimited funds.

One of the classic promotions we had was called the "Last Hurrah," the title of which I got from a novel I was reading at the time about an Irish politician's last hurrah in a political campaign in Boston. We knew we had to make a break in everybody's mind to leave Westgate Park and to go to San Diego Stadium, but more importantly to make the break from Minor League to Major League baseball. So we had the Last Hurrah as the final break. It was basically a last hurrah to Westgate Park, and we had a fan farewell to Westgate by offering ten-cent hot dogs and beer. We had an overflow crowd where people were actually standing just on the other side of the outfield fence. There was a berm there, and it was covered with standing room only. It was a terrific evening.

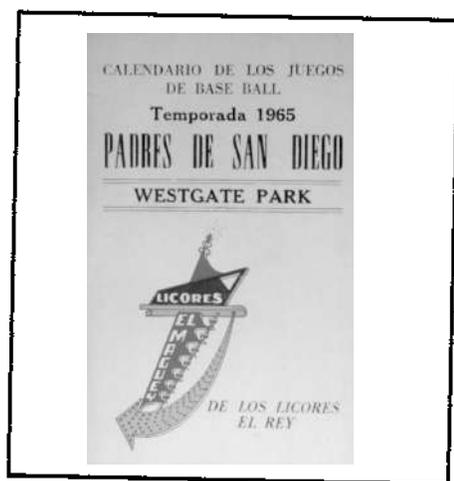
I think some of the things that I recall about Westgate park and that era is (1) that we were very fortunate to have C. Arnholt Smith as the Owner and Jim Mulvaney as President of the team; (2) we were very fortunate to have Leishman as the Baseball Man because Eddie really positioned us properly in base-

ball circles as a potential Major League city, certainly with Mr. Smith's financial wherewithal behind us; and (3) thank God we live in San Diego, climatewise and otherwise, because people loved to come to the ballpark. Interestingly enough, I think C. Arnholt Smith, Jim Mulvaney and Eddie Leishman certainly positioned San Diego to even be able to discuss the potential of San Diego as a Major League franchise with the powers that be, but I think it needs to be said that Buzzie Bavasi was the catalyst that helped us to obtain the franchise. If it hadn't been for Buzzie's many years of service with the Dodgers, and Walter O'Malley's feeling that he owed a debt to Buzzie for that, he also wanted to open a door for Peter O'Malley to have the opportunity to become President of the Dodgers. I am sure that was a part of it, it wouldn't have been all. By allowing Buzzie to be an owner of the Padres as a reward, I think that says good things about Walter O'Malley. Because of that relationship with Buzzie, we got O'Malley's vote and eventually we got Horace Stoneman's vote from the San Francisco Giants, and we certainly had no opposition organized against us because it was win-win for everybody, but Eddie positioned the team, and I think Buzzie Bavasi was the catalyst that allowed us to get the team. There was no question that without Buzzie, we probably would not have Major League baseball in San Diego.

One of the things I think of that was very, very interesting is that we had a Minor League team with a Major League attitude in terms of the organization and the people who worked there during that period of time--there were really very dedicated people. When I came there, never having been involved in a franchise per se before, I felt very fortunate, and certainly a lot of the people there taught me a lot, and they were just a wonderful group of people,

working very hard to bring baseball to San Diego.

One of the things we did was to try to create a tradition that could carry over into the Major Leagues, so we began the Padres Hall of Fame by going back by having the fans vote for the favorite Padres of old, the Lane Field days, etc. It was a very big success, and it was a chance for us to give some recognition to the earlier Padres hoping that that tradition would carry on into the Major Leagues. So that these days would not have been forgotten, I am obviously very pleased that this history is taking place and being written. There were a lot of hardworking people that put a lot of effort into convincing Major League baseball that San Diego was ready to become a Major League franchise, and fortunately we were able to do that. I really enjoyed my time there, I learned a great deal, and Eddie Leishman gave me a break which I really appreciated. If anything, Westgate Park should be remembered as a wonderful place to watch baseball and truly was a big, big asset as a showcase of Minor League baseball to help us obtain a Major League franchise.



1965 pocket schedule

An Interview with EDDIE SADA by Allison Palmer

It was my father who inspired me to play baseball. He played in a number of different leagues around the country. I remember, he played for the Pacific Coast League for awhile.

I played in the Canadian Summer League in 1957, and I signed with Columbus of the International League in 1957. Nineteen fifty-eight was the first year I played. As for players I knew—there were quite a few from the Cincinnati farm club. Lee May was an outstanding player, really great. He played with Houston and Baltimore. Tommy Helms was also quite an outstanding player, I remember, and Tony Perez was awesome.

I remember some of the highlights of 1965, which was much like 1964, a very unusual year. I was a first year law student. So I started in June, without attending training, or anything. When you talk about highlights, it was really just the joy of playing. I mean, it was a way of growing up, without actually having to grow up. We traveled a lot. You have to remember that we were playing half of the games as home stands, and half on the road. So there was quite a bit of traveling. For some of the longer trips, we would be gone about 12 or 15 days. Tacoma, Salt Lake, Portland—places like that, they all had teams.

The general manager at that time, Eddie Leishman, was the finest human being I ever met. I'd met him my first year 1958, and we just got to be really good friends.

AL SCHUSS

Al Schuss, the "Voice of the Padres," and his partner, Al Couppee, were the most listened to sports announcers of the 1950s and 1960s in San Diego. They carried the Padres home baseball games live from Lane Field and Westgate Park, and read the away-from-home games via the Western Union Telegraph. A ticker tape carried each play and in the earlier years, the "Telegraph Girls" helped them by passing on the information at the station. Always behind the action when the team was in Sacramento or Portland, Al and Al were in San Diego reading the tape and then ad libbing what they had read using sound effects. They used a terrific imagination, a couple of sticks of wood for the hit of the bat, along with the background cheers and periodically some "boo" dubbed.

As radio carried the games directly, their banter and background knowledge of the National Pastime endeared them to the fans. Everyone hoped not only for the home run, but for the recognizable voice of Al Schuss that echoed the words "There It Goes!"

An interview with VALERIE SCHUSS FOSTER with Ray Brandes

My father, Al Schuss, was born in Richfield Park, New Jersey, in 1904. He played sports in high school, and when the family moved to Chehalis, Washington when he was 17 years of age. His father was in the grocery business and that brought several moves, since business was so uncertain, especially during the Depression.

He attended the University of Washington and was an All Coast forward on the basketball team in 1926-1927. He graduated in 1928 with his law degree. "There weren't too many jobs for lawyers then, or jobs for anyone so he went into radio. The pay wasn't too good so on the side he worked as an assistant coach at the University of Washington, and at the O'Dey High when

the government took it over for living quarters. He had thought he would find a position in an office, but soon discovered he was on call 24 hours, a routine that lasted two or



*Al Schuss and Al Couppee in the booth.
Photo courtesy Valerie Schuss Foster.*

three days at a time.

After his service with the FBI, my dad broadcast sports with WBBM in Chicago, then in Milwaukee from 1936-1941. He read the news on the radio and even took singing lessons because he wanted to be a singer. In 1942, dad moved to Long Island where they lived, while broadcasting for Brooklyn. They stayed there until 1943 or 1944 and then moved back to Seattle for a couple of years, and then moved to Portland to do broadcasting with Rollie Triutt. Next he went to Salem, Oregon, to manage a little radio station.

In 1949, he interviewed for the position as radio announcer for the Padres, along with others. Then as now, the club picked the announcers. So dad was the announcer at Lane Field and for Smith and Mulvaney at Westgate. My family knew Eddie and Mrs. Leishman as friends, as they were also with Mr. and Mrs. George Herrick, and with Earl Keller. George had written baseball and later for sportsfishing.

My dad worked days because the radio announcing didn't pay all the bills. After dinner he and I did the statistics, then went to the ballpark. We usually went at 6:00, with a game at 8:00. He was still there long after the game was over, usually working with a sportswriter until as late as 10:00. Mom and I, when we went to the game, usually left to get home early to bed.

While I was not as much into baseball and sports as many children of the athletes, I did enjoy the game and the time dad spent with me. My friends loved all the free trips to the games and all the old baseballs that were donated to the neighborhood team.

When he and Al Couppee had to leave as sportscasters of the Padres, they were very sad, perhaps very unhappy at their termination by the new owners. They had been loved by the fans and had been a

wonderful addition to the people who listened to them, particularly the shut-ins and those who could not afford to go to the games.

*An interview with
sportscaster
AL COUPPEE
by Ray Brandes.*

I began a career in broadcasting in Des Moines, Iowa, after a four-year tour in the U.S. Navy and fourteen seasons of football behind me, including high school, Iowa, service teams and the Redskins. I broadcast Big Ten and Big Eight sports events, some golf and boxing, and Western League (Class A) baseball. I did some weekend major league games via the Western Union Re-creation system.

In 1961, the Los Angeles Chargers moved to become the San



*Al Couppee and Al Schuss in
the Westgate press box.
Photo courtesy Pat Downs.*

Diego Chargers in Balboa Stadium. I was hired to be the first Charger broadcaster, and my first game was at old Balboa Stadium. The city had just begun renovation of the stadium, increasing its seating capacity from something like ten thousand to 30 thousand. It meant putting a new deck on the old seats, and the job was only about half-done when the Chargers opened their San Diego presence. I worked on top of all the bubble on the west side, with the sun beating down on my back and dust flying all over hell. Things got a lot better later on.

KOGO radio was my employer, and that radio station was also the San Diego Padre station. I was the sports director of the station, so things were arranged for me to join Al Schuss on the baseball broadcasts. Al had been "Mr. Baseball" for more than 20 years, and I think he resented me coming in like that, although he never showed it to me. After a few outings, we got along great. I only worked a couple of innings and filled in with comment during his play-by-play, and everybody was happy.

It was during that period I met and got to know Eddie Leishman, who was the general manager of the Padres and who ran the show at the new Westgate Park baseball stadium. C. Arnholt Smith had bought the club to keep it from moving to Washington, D.C., but Smith allowed Leishman all the freedom to handle the baseball. Smith had some problems and there were some San Diegans who were pretty much enemies of Smith, but I found him to be a good boss and very concerned with all things San Diegan. Leishman proved to be what I consider the finest sports administrator I have ever run across in some 45 years of involvement with a large number of sports executives.

The one thing I deeply resented when major league baseball

moved into San Diego was Smith's failure to back Schuss as the number one broadcaster for the Padres. In fact, Schuss and his more than 20-years of Mr. Baseball in San Diego, was completely ignored.

I went in to see Smith and expressed my indignation at the way Schuss was treated, but Smith had already brought in Buzzie Bavasi from the Dodgers, and Buzzie busily put his own people to work for him.

Buzzie brought in Jerry Gross, and a mistake was made by relegating Leishman to secondary status. I couldn't blame Buzzie for that; he had had a good career at the top level with the Dodgers, and just naturally took over all major decisions with the Padres. Smith brought Bavasi in as "President" of the club because he, Smith, thought Buzzie would provide the needed major league presence for the fledgling Padres in the National League. However, Smith's dumping Leishman, I think, broke Eddie's baseball heart.

During my brief period as a Padre broadcaster (1962-1967) I got great pleasure out of working in Westgate Park. Except for the difference in sheer size, it was as fine a place to play and watch baseball as any major league ballpark in the United States. It simply felt like a "ballpark," like baseball should be played in its confines. There was no advertising on outfield fences and no permanent seats behind the fence around the outfield and identifying the playing area. It was all green grass except for the scoreboard, and there was only a large clock on the top of that scoreboard. Whatta great park to play in and particularly to hit in. Not a bad seat in the place, and fans were close to the action all over the place.

Leishman, as I have pointed up, was the best front office leader I have ever seen. He had great relationships with many major league leaders, and they favored him often

in the acquisition of ballplayers for his Triple-A ball club, the Padres. San Diego always had a winning team under Leishman, and he returned the favor to baseball. Eddie brought several "washed up" ballplayers from around the minors to his club in San Diego, and some of them revived and earned their way back to their major leagues, where they continued play for several years. One who rings the bell for me was Joe Nuxhall. Joe had been the youngest player ever to pitch in a major league game when the Reds signed him right out of Cincinnati and put him to work at 17 years (I believe) in the big leagues. It was far too much to expect from the youngster, and he washed out soon. The Reds dumped Joe, and he hooked on with the Hawaii team of the PCL. Leishman got some close looks at Nuxhall, and he bought Joe from Hawaii and immediately put him to work for the Padres. Well, Joe, with Leishman's guidance and steady support, was an immediate success in the PCL and put together an outstanding series of pitching performances (9-2) and Cincinnati brought him back where he finished a fairly decent career with several more major league years. Leishman did the same thing with others; a fine catcher named Jesse Gonder comes to mind. Eddie had great connections in baseball. I was told he once roomed with Babe Ruth during a short stint with the Yankees.

Schuss was a fine man, and once he and I hit it up, we made a good team. I had no intention of ever easing him out, and he knew it. We did all road games for the Padres in the KOGO studio, right in San Diego.

I remember doing those games played in Hawaii. We never got on the air until about 11 p.m., difference in time something like three hours, and those games drone on and on. Schuss, a true baseball man, worked those Western Union re-creations for everything he could

get out of them. He's the only baseball announcer I ever ran across who enjoyed broadcasting those damn boring wire games. While Schuss was drawing his broadcasts out, describing every pitch and every delay, I was always getting two quick strikes on the hitter and getting him out of there on the third pitch. Nobody ever delayed the game while I was getting my two or three innings in. Schuss gave the fans their money's worth on that radio and made the game come alive for them. When I did it, I cut a three-hour game down to two. We couldn't do that, of course, with the Hawaii games, the time difference dragging out those fiascos to 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning, Pacific Coast Time.

Things were generally quite sociable in and around the press box, and the baseball area. I enjoyed the company of most of the players and managers. We did have one jerk in the press box. He worked for the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. Most of those writers wanted you to know that they were special characters. This one in the baseball's press box was constantly pontificating and making an ass of himself. Leishman kept the peace, telling everybody knew what kind of a joker he was and just to ignore the punk. So I did!

While at KOGO in the first season of football, Don Coryell moved into San Diego as head football coach, and the two of us became fast friends. Don did a helluva job in his first year, 1961, winding up with something like 6-2-1 after the school had gone through miserable years on the gridiron. Nobody paid much attention, despite the great job done by Coryell and his assistants. Coryell suggested to me that it would help if the Aztecs' games were broadcast, and we took on that supposition. I talked the KOGO people into trying the broadcasts on Saturday afternoons and nights, traditionally bad revenue times for radio in the face of big

TV shows on Saturdays. So, I went out and sold the broadcast of the first San Diego State football game ever to the College Grove Shopping Center for five hundred dollars. I didn't get paid anything; we cut expenses to the bone, had to deal with the union and paid the radio engineers.

For some 36 years, now I have written a weekly column for the *San Diego Navy Dispatch*. It's a labor of love for me. The guy who hired me in 1961 was a retired Navy Captain, with a considerable chestful of ribbons earned during World War II, earned in the same theatre of war where I got initiated. We had much in common, and when Jerry died a few years ago, his daughter, Sara took over and continues to put my column in her paper.

The *Dispatch* is the best service newspaper I've ever seen, and is privately owned and operated. For me, it's a labor of love.



Al Hogan, when he played for a Civilian Conservation Corps team sponsored by a local company.

AL HOGAN

Al Hogan came to San Diego in 1933, and worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps, like many Americans during the Great Depression. While living at the camp at Lake Otay,

In 1934, he moved to the camp at Crater Lake and then on to Oregon Caves. Al spoke of the remarkable athletes in the CCC and on the team he played for. In high school, he had been a pitcher and then played with the CCC team. While in Oregon in 1935, the Director of the National Park Service, a graduate of Stanford, had a team which challenged the camp team in Oregon. In the Fall of 1935, he was offered a scholarship at Washington State College including room and board, at a fraternity—a great way to get an education while playing baseball and basketball.

“Mr. Fechner, National Director of the CCC, when Franklin D. Roosevelt was President, came to my CCC camp at Crater National Park in 1934 and presented me with a Gold Medal as the top 1st Sergeant in the camps in the Western U.S. I worked under a remarkable man, Captain John P. Merrill, a hero of WWI.”

*An interview with AL HOGAN
by Ray Brandes.*

I played for the Klamath Falls Red Sox in 1936-37, a Northern California-Southern Oregon League. We played off a season tie at Grants Pass, Oregon. I pitched and we won 1-0, as I gave up two hits. Jake Gipe was the manager, the pitcher for the other teams, a former great pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies.

When I left CCC, I worked for Lockheed at Glendale, California on the first order from Great Britain of Lockheed Hudson bombers, then on to Seattle to help build the first Boeing

Flying fortresses. My wife and I were married there.

After working at Boeing, I came to San Diego and Consolidated Aircraft, building the B-14 bombers. While there, I met Gary Ball and his wife, who ran the food concessions at Lane Field. While attending a ball game with a very good friend, Del Meredith, Gary suggested we try and so we sold hot dogs for two years at night to pick up extra change.

I then switched my job at Convair to the Concessions. Ball retired at Lane Field and Dave Starr, Bill Starr's brother, ran the concessions operation for a time. Then when C. Arnholt Smith bought the club, and Eddie Leishman took over from Ralph Kiner, I interviewed for the job to head the concessions as manager.

I began, therefore, a rather long run at the baseball parks. I had been at Lane Field from 1947 to 1957, then went to Westgate Park in 1958, and I would remain with the Padres through 1981.

When Westgate was begun Smith had a big hand in planning for everything. He told me what he wanted, pointed out where everything should go, and even provided a sumptuous warehouse where peanuts could be kept hot until sold—the only park in the country where these were sold hot to the fans. We did so well with our hot dogs for example that a number of housewives called to see how we got the flavor into the dogs. They used the same brand, but we had a special formula which the manufacturer made only for Westgate—not for the general public.

I was asked to go to a number of functions and to other major league facilities (remember we were still PCL for a time) to explain our operations because everything ran so smoothly and the food was prepared so well. I had visited Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington. I had

also gone to see what was happening in other parks.

The year Eddie Leishman won the title of "King of Baseball" (1969), he received that honor not just for the team, but every section of the park was included in the award. The groundskeeper, the sellers, the foodmakers were a part of the award. I have my plaque for the food service, but it was Smith and Leishman who were the tops in management.

I enjoyed my time with the Padres with a lot of good men. Eddie Leishman was a first class gentleman. He had a way to chew someone out, yet not hurt their feelings. The players and staff all thought he was a great man.

My memories go back to Lane Field, where I first met Lefty O'Doul who taught me to play golf—he was one of the best 10 left-handed golfers in the game. He spent hours with me and paid sailors to shag balls for me. I played golf with Ralph Kiner, and in five years, Ralph never beat me. We played at the Star Dust in Mission Valley and Caliente. Other friends were Max West, a fine fellow, and Jack Graham, such a gentleman.

Les Cook was the road secretary; he carried the money in a satchel when we traveled. No one got near



Al Hogan with his special machine where peanuts could be kept hot..

the bag. He went out of his way to help people. Whitey Wietelmann was another man I liked very much.

He saved thousands of dollars by inventing a machine to clean baseballs to be used over and over again. I knew his work because I often threw batting practice. My memories of the good heartedness of these men at Lane Field and Westgate Park still remain with me.

When the Stadium was built, I was still with the club but was never given instructions in what I was to do by the new owner. I was interviewed and I wanted to know what they wanted me to do for they wanted me to increase the profit margin, never a problem with Starr or Smith. I was asked to put out the program for the new major league team for opening day, and it was almost a disaster because I only had a week to do so. I believe that when Eddie Leishman

passed away things went astray.

After my retirement from baseball with the Padres in 1981, I went to work with the National Association of Home Builders and am still with them. I live in Solana Beach. My wife passed away a few years ago.

I must mention Mr. C. A. Smith who appointed Jim Mulvaney President of the San Diego Padres, when he acquired the club from Bill Starr in the early 50s. A brilliant young attorney, it was his leadership that convinced Eddie Leishman to join the Padre organization as General Manager--and the success of a baseball/business organization that has set an example for any business that wishes to succeed.

Perhaps I had been with the Padres (1947-1981) longer than any other employee. It was a great career for me with memories that will live forever.



August 1966. The Padre concession staff received awards for their role as the outstanding such group in the Minor Leagues. Front row: Elva Smiley, Al Hogan, Rose Baker. Back Row: Bill Smith, Vernon Durham, Alvis Douglas, Herman McIntosh, Leonard Sellers.

1965 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

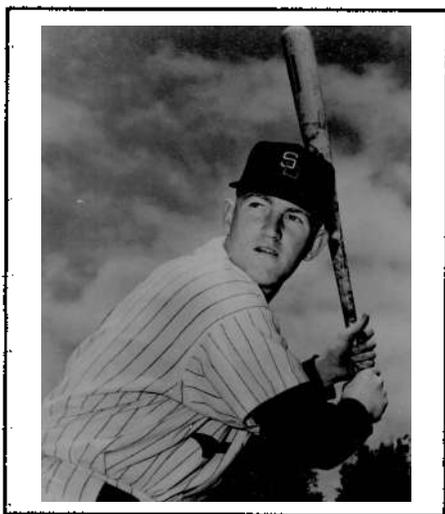
NAME	GAMES	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	PCT.
Alex, Harvey	11	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Alvarez, Rogelio	31	67	2	14	1	--	2	8	.209
Arrigo, Gerald	10	25	2	4	1	--	1	3	.160
Boehmer, Leonard	136	489	58	119	19	2	9	53	.243
Boros, Stephen	117	420	73	113	28	6	12	30	.269
Coates, James*	30	60	2	2	--	--	--	2	.033
Davidson, Thomas	35	18	--	1	--	--	--	--	.056
Duffalo, James	10	18	1	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Egan, Richard	33	42	3	7	3	--	--	6	.167
Elliot, Lawrence	137	442	55	109	26	3	14	48	.247
Galligan, David	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Gil, Gustavo	145	519	61	133	26	3	4	46	.256
Helms, Tommy	96	382	48	122	23	3	6	51	.319
May, Lee	143	558	83	179	32	7	34	103	.321
Merz, Gerald	31	28	1	1	--	--	--	0	.036
Moran, R. Alan	7	8	1	1	1	--	--	1	.125
Neville, Daniel	38	24	2	4	2	--	--	1	.167
Obregon, Francisco	27	108	11	22	4	--	--	4	.204
Olson, Robert*	36	29	2	2	--	--	--	1	.069
Osteen, M. Darrell	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Papa, John	10	11	--	2	--	--	--	1	.182
Queen, Melvin	139	491	60	135	15	2	14	49	.275
Reimer, Gerald	3	11	1	3	1	--	--	0	.273
Rippelmeyer, Ray	13	6	1	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Rudolph, F. Donald	43	56	1	7	--	--	--	4	.125
Sada, Edward	61	132	11	25	3	--	7	24	.189
Saul, James	237	22	52	5	--	--	3	20	.219
Tischinski, Thomas	94	269	11	49	10	--	2	22	.182
Walters, Kenneth	122	392	38	89	13	2	9	39	.227
West, Lacy	46	34	7	9	1	--	--	3	.265
Widman, Kenneth	5	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Zanni, Dominick	41	50	3	14	2	--	--	2	.280

*Coates: 25 San Diego-5 Seattle,
Olson: 20 San Diego-16 Hawaii.

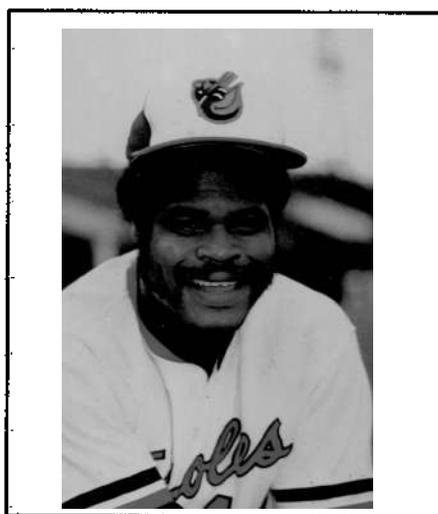
1965 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	IP	W	L	PCT	SO	BB	ERA
Alex, Harvey	11	17	--	1	.000	6	9	6.88
Arrigo, Gerald	9	72	4	2	.667	68	24	2.13
Coates, James*	26	175	11	9	.550	132	74	2.78
Davidson, Thomas	35	92	6	5	.545	62	35	3.62
Duffalo, James	10	49	4	3	.571	37	38	4.41
Egan, Richard	30	129	7	9	.438	104	53	3.14
Galligan, David	2	2	--	--	.000	2	1	13.50
Merz, Gerald	31	107	8	5	.615	55	46	3.87
Neville, Daniel	36	74	4	3	.571	55	57	3.65
Olson, Robert*	34	109	6	7	.462	57	43	3.96
Osteen, M. Darrell	4	5	--	2	.000	6	5	16.20
Papa, John	10	45	2	1	.667	35	34	4.40
Rippelmeyer, Ray	13	26	1	3	.250	18	8	7.96
Rudolph, F. Donald	43	195	9	15	.375	100	49	3.46
West, Lacy	41	118	5	8	.385	86	43	3.89
Widman, Kenneth	4	17	--	2	.000	10	3	6.35
Zanni, Dominick	39	154	9	6	.600	119	66	2.22

*Coates: 23 San Diego-3 Seattle,
Olson: 20 San Diego-14Hawaii



Outfielder Mel Queen.



Lee May.

Photos:

All Photographs are from the *San Diego Union* unless otherwise noted SET= *San Diego Evening Tribune*

February 24:	O'Toole, Edwards, Ellis, Neville and McCool	April 17:	Ken Widman, Shortstop Al Moran. Rogelio Alvarez, Jim Coates, Dave Bristol, Gus Gil, Larry Elliot and Jim Saul.
March 4:	Eddie Leishman	April 17:	Ken Walters and Jim Coates SET
March 6:	Former manager Pepper Martin	April 18:	Len Boehmer, Frank Obregon, Umpire Bob Engel.
March 14:	Dave Bristol	April 18:	Councilwoman Helen Cobb
March 15:	Whitey Wietelmann	April 18:	Bob Freitas presents plaque to Earl Keller, retiring president of National Association of Baseball Writers. SET
March 18:	Will Oplinger, Jerry Kushner, Don Zanni	April 19:	Len Boehmer, Rogelio in action shots.
March 20:	Gus Gil	April 20:	Stan Hack, Dave Bristol and Dr. Al Anderson.
March 20:	Jim Coates; ex-Padres with Reds: Jim O'Toole, John Edwards, Dan Neville, Bill McCool SET	April 23:	Lee May, Mel Queen (uniform number 3/4) and Al Salmon, batboy
March 25:	Dom Zanni	April 28:	Barron Hilton
March 26:	Les Cook and Larry Banderas	April 28:	Tommy Helms SET
April 4:	John Papa and Wally Wolf.	May 8:	Eddie Leishman, Bob McGiveron, and wife and son Brian. SET
April 5:	Cesar Tovar	May 12:	Earl Keller SET
April 10:	Eddie Leishman at rain-soaked field	May 12:	Tommy Helms
April 11:	Tommy Helms	May 14:	Tommy Helms SET
April 11:	Jim Coates, Ray Rippelmeyer, Kenny Walters and Tom Tischinski	May 18:	Steve Boros, Don Rudolph and Tommy Helms.
April 12:	Tony Perez	May 19:	Model of new stadium; Allen Hitch, Ivor deKirby, Mayor Frank Curran, Council woman Helen Cobb, Harry Scheidle. Map of location.
April 14:	Larry Elliot and Lee May.		
April 15:	Dewey Soriano		
April 15:	Pat Downs		
April 15:	Harry Douglas, SD businessman and Padre fan with PCL 1964 trophy, Mrs. Carol Shannon and Dave Bristol.		
April 16:	Larry Elliot, Tom Tischinski, John Papa, Bob Olson, Len Boehmer and Lee May; Lacy West,		

May 20:	Lacy West, Larry Elliot, Tommy Helms.		Easter, Chaplin, West and Graham SET
May 21:	Ex Padre Floyd Robinson, Ted Wills, Don Buford, J.C. Martin and Al Lopez	July 23: July 24:	Don Rudolph SET Publication on Padres: Leishman, Smith and Mulvaney SET
May 22:	Mel Queen SET	July 26:	Tommy Helms and Lee May
May 25:	Larry Elliot; Jim Coates SET	July 26:	Max Patkin; Jim Duffalo SET
May 24:	Ken Walters into 2nd base.	July 27:	Deron Johnson
May 26:	Dom Zanni, SET	July 29:	Eddie Leishman, Earl Keller SET
June 1:	Mel Queen watch ing home run off Seattle bat.	July 30: July 31:	Whitey Weitelmann Whitey Weitelmann Berneice Smith, J.C. Edmonds
June 1,	Ken Walters and Gus Gil SET	August 4:	Lee May SET
June 3:	Rogelio Alvarez SET	August 10:	Luke Easter
June 5:	Eddie Sada	August 14:	Earl Keller, Eddie Leishman, Major Bruno Hochmuth, <i>The Sporting News</i> ,
June 6:	Bob Lemon		Lee May, Dave Roberts SET
June 16:	Eddie Leishman	August 19,	Frank Alessio, Dave Bristol SET
June 16:	Jim Coates; Lee May SET	August 19:	Luke Easter, Max West SET
June 17:	Ray Rippelmeyer	August 19:	Luke Easter, Jack Graham, Max West
June 25	Dick Egan SET	August 22:	Luke Easter, Del Ballinger, Umpire Bob O'Regan, Emil Patrick SET
July 3:	Dick Egan, Dave Galligan, Eddie Sada	August 25:	Steve Boros, Lee May, Dr. Herbert O. Pfeiffer, SDSU SET
July 5:	Ken Walters; Tom Tischinski.	August 26:	Tommy Helms, Lee May
June 11:	Dave Bristol	August 31:	Eddie Sada; Lee May SET
June 14:	Ted Davidson	September 1:	Gus Gil SET
June 29:	Lee May	September 1:	Larry Elliot
July 2:	Eddie Sada SET	September 1:	Tommy Helms, Deron Johnson
July 2:	Tony Perez SET	September 1:	Dick Egan, Tom Tischinski and Len Boehmer
July 8:	Dick Egan, Steve Boros SET	September 16:	Emmet Ashford SET
July 9:	Tommy Helms, Jim Coates		
July 11:	Padre/Indianapolis action		
July 12:	Action photo of Padre/Indian series		
July 17:	Senator George Murphy, Eddie Leishman, John Mabee		
July 21:	George Sisler SE		
July 22,	SD Hall of Fame: Dallessandro,		

<p><u>undated photos:</u> Lee May, Dave Bristol, Tommy Helms, Steve Boros Tom Tishinsky. Steve Boros, Don Rudolph, Tommy Helms</p> <p>October 26: <u>undated</u></p> <p>November 1:</p>	<p>Don Heffner Whitey Wietelmann picked with Heffner Whitey Wietelmann</p>	<p>& wife; Don Heffner and wife</p> <p>November 3: Whitey Wietelmann SET</p> <p>November 17: Frank Lucchesi, interim manager</p> <p>December 16: Frank Lucchesi, Padre Manager SET</p> <p>December 19: Starting stadium construction with a blast.</p>
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Al Schuss. Photo from his daughter Valerie Schuss Foster.



Photo taken in 1966 at the PONY League World Series held at Westgate Park. From left to right Joe E. Brown, famous motion picture comedian, PONY League Commissioner and Padres minority owner, with San Diego Padre public address announcer, John J. Bowman.

CHAPTER IX

SAN DIEGO PADRES, 1966

FRANK LUCCHESI AND THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES.

1966 SAN DIEGO PADRES

PRESENTED BY The San Diego Union | EVENING TRIBUNE



Top row: Bob Malkmus, Bob Del Greco, Jim McKnight, Bill Wilson, Grant Jackson, Gary Sutherland, Steve Ridzik, Jim Shaffer, Bobby Klaus
 Middle row: Club House Attendant — Ray Peralta, Cal Emery, Bill Sorrell, John Morris, Bo Belinsky, Bruce Brubaker, Joe Cherry, Joe Verbanic, Billy Cowan, Trainer — Les Cook
 Bottom row: Bat Boy — George Radovich, Bat Boy — Tommy Graciano, Len Clendenin, Dallas Green, Manager — Frank Lucchesi, Coach — Ray Rippelmeyer, Cotton Nash, Gary Wagner, John Boozer,
 Bat Boy — Tony Salmon, Bat Boy — Joe Radovich

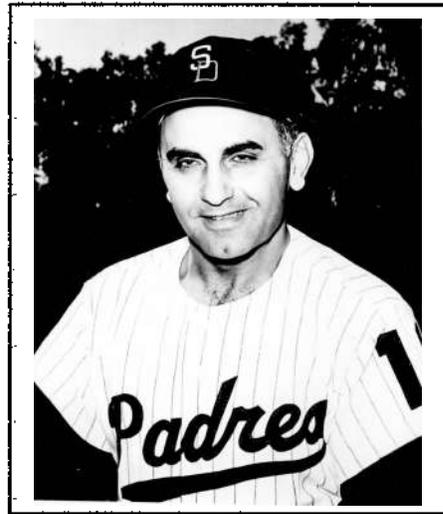
Ray Peralta, Cal Emery, Bill Sorrell, John Morris, Bo Belinsky, Bruce Brubaker, Joe Cherry, Joe Verbanic, Billy Cowan, Les Cook, Tony Salmon, George Radovich, Tommy Graciano, Len Clendenin, Dallas Green, Frank Lucchesi, Ray Rippelmeyer, Cotton Nash, Gary Wagner, John Boozer, Joe Radovich

1966 Team Photo.

The 1966 Padres would be a new baseball organization with a new season, a new manager, a new parent team, and a ground-breaking ceremony for a brand new stadium.

Frank Lucchesi became the team's new manager. The Philadelphia Phillies took the lead as the Padres' parent team. Buffalo would be the new AAA entry of the Cincinnati Reds, San Diego's previous major league affiliate, which automatically meant a huge change in player personnel. Lucchesi, the 39-year-old colorful San Franciscan who had just spent three and one-half years as manager of the *Caguas* baseball team in Puerto Rico, readied himself for spring training in Dunedin, Florida. The sportswriter covering the team during the spring camp was Wayne Lockwood.

At San Diego, Hoover High School students initiated a fund-raising campaign to build a baseball field on campus to honor Ted Williams. A 1937 Herbert Hoover High School graduate, Williams had entered Baseball's Hall of Fame, January 20, 1966. Confident they could reach their goal of \$24,000 by June 6, students and school officials



Manager Frank Lucchesi.

planned a "Hoover Night" tribute for June 15, at Westgate Park to be highlighted by a personal appearance of the school's most famous ballplayer.

As the Padres prepared to go into spring training on March 12, at Dunedin, Florida, Wisconsin Judge Elmer Roller slapped the Milwaukee Braves with an anti-trust lawsuit in February, stating the team could not move to Atlanta in spite of declining attendance at their home park. Baseball managers entered the fracas, warning that if the Braves didn't have the right to go where they pleased, the end of baseball was near. This broo-ha-ha would affect the future of the San Diego Padres when their turn came to apply for major league status.

When the Milwaukee Braves appealed to Judge Roller to dismiss

the anti-trust suit brought against their team by the state of Wisconsin, National League bosses spoke out in their support. "I think we should go into federal court, if necessary, and fight this battle to the bitter end," said Los Angeles Dodgers General Manager Buzzie Bavasi. Against expansion, Bavasi (who would become president of the new major league San Diego Padres in 1968), suggested the National League Braves be allowed to go to Atlanta, and that the American League be able to send a team into Milwaukee. Dodgers manager Walter O'Malley concurred. "Expansion ... impossible!" he bellowed. Dodgers' farm clubs had dwindled from twenty-eight to four, with the Vietnam War draft a continuing drain on new player potential.

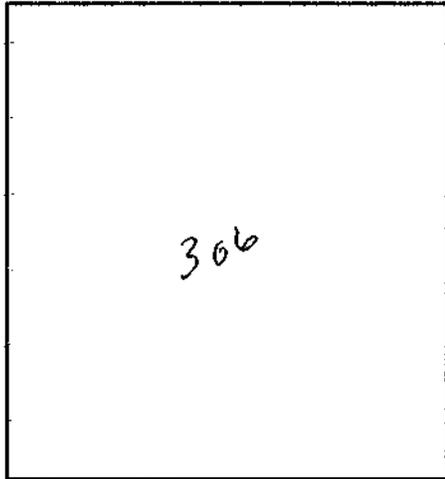
While Don Drysdale and Sandy Koufax, in a precedent-setting move, hired lawyers to sue baseball management for higher salaries. The Padres played ball, looking for the right chemistry to work together as a winning team.

Born in 1926, Frank Lucchesi had first begun as a manager in the minors at age twenty-three. He had started his career at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, where meal money for his athletes was \$2.50 per day and his salary for the season was \$3,800. In 1955, he took over a team at Pocatello, Idaho, which consisted of only four players. The owner gave him a power of attorney and told

him to find bodies to fit the uniforms. After nineteen years, he received his first major league assignment with the Phillies, in 1970. He later managed the Rangers from mid-1975 until mid-1977, and ten years later, finished the 1987 season as interim manager of the Cubs. The 5' 7-1/2" Lucchesi led other teams to four pennants and was named Manager of the Year in his last six assignments.

Early in the season, the roster showed strength in pitching and infielding, but revealed a need for catchers, outfielders and strong batters. Right-handed pitchers Dallas Green (12-7) and Joe Verbanic (6-3 with a 1.88 in relief), and left-hander Morrie Steevens (7-5) showed promise and would be joined later on by four more up-and-coming prospects. Twenty-nine-year-old first baseman Cal Emery signed with the Padres February 9. On February 23, the Phillies returned Bobby Klaus to San Diego, and sent catcher Jim Schaffer and infielder Wayne Graham to the Padres. Some 45 players reported for the Padres first workout at Grant Field.

During exhibition season, the signs of the team's lack of power hitters patently showed. Lucchesi prophetically said more power would be needed if the Padres wanted to be in the pack near the end of the regular season. Eddie Leishman went to New York to discuss player devel-



Bobby Klaus.

Photo from Autumn Durst Keltner.

opment, trades and other matters related to the clubs. In New York, he tried to have the opening day roster number for AAA clubs increased to 24, with a 30 day cutback to 21. That would give the teams a better chance to sift through players and evaluate their ability.

On March 18, the Phillies sent 21 players to the Padres which were, in effect Phillie cuts, but included the best players the AAA Padres would get at this time of the year. These were largely infielders while the remaining surplus talent would consist mostly of starting pitchers and outfielders.

Bulldozers cleared the ground in Mission Valley for the new sports stadium to be located off Friars Road and planners targeted August 1967 as the completion date. Leishman became construction adviser for the new stadium, and Pat

Downs moved up to the position of assistant general manager. The City Council had been most active in pursuit of the new stadium, even going so far as to rejecting steel made in Japan for the foundation of the multi-purpose stadium. The mound of dirt moved when construction was finished would cover a whole city block 112 stories high, reflecting the amount of leveling necessary.

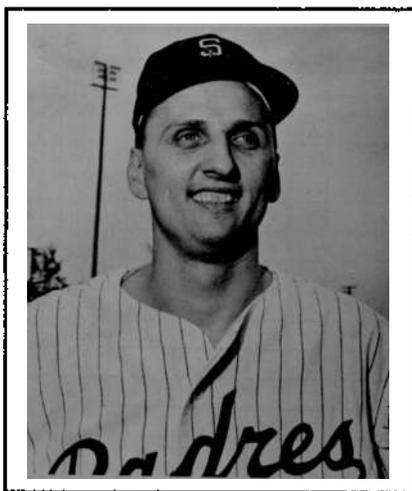
The club had gained Frank Lucchesi, whose reputation as a hot-headed, however colorful manager had preceded him. In a press conference, he admitted tossing an umpire's cap into the infield and tossing his mask up against the backstop. When ordered from the field, Lucchesi tried to hide in the dugout, but was forced to watch the rest of the game from the bleachers after a fan spotted him. Another time, after being sent off the field, Lucchesi climbed an eighty-foot high flagpole outside the park and watched the game from his new vantage point until the police ordered him to climb down.

As opening day neared, pitchers Dallas Green, Bruce Brubaker, Rick Wise, Joe Verbanic and Ed Roebuck arrived from the parent club. Lucchesi said, "In one move, we've gone from a pitching staff of maybe below average ability to one of good or maybe exceptional ability." Ironically, on the last day of spring training, one-half of the 22 player list were slated to work on the

mound. Lucchesi, however, still did not have the hitters he needed.

He counted on an opening day infield of Cal Emery at first, Bobby Klaus at second, rookie Gary Sutherland at shortstop, and Wayne Graham at third. In the outfield, he penciled in Norman Philip Gignon, veteran Bobby del Greco, and rookie Leroy Reams

Twenty-eight year old Bobby Klaus from Fox Lake, Illinois, had graduated from the University of Illinois, and was signed in 1959 by Cincinnati. The brother of former major leaguer Billy Klaus, he played with San Diego in 1962 and 1963; was named Padre Most Valuable Player in '63, and named to the all-PCL team and all AAA West team. He played with the Reds and the Mets in 1964, and with the Mets all of 1965. Now regarded as the key veteran on



*Bob Malkmus,
photo from Bob Dreher.*

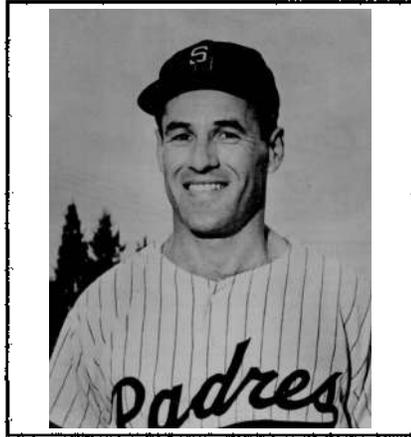
the team, Klaus was expected to lead the team into the opening guns of the season.

Emery, a graduate of Penn State with a Master's degree in education, was named Most Valuable Player in the 1957 College World Series as pitcher. He was signed by the Phillies in 1958 and sent to Bakersfield; he would play for Des Moines, Arkansas and Hawaii in 1964, Emery started the 1965 season with Seattle and then joined Arkansas.

Third baseman-outfielder Gignon was either a candidate for a Ph.D. in history at the University of Rhode Island, or a law school student. He had played soccer, baseball and basketball at Colby College, played on four pennant winners in his seven years of pro ball and with Arkansas the last three seasons.

On April 1 (April Fool's Day) for 20 minutes, the name of Billy Sorrell appeared on the San Diego roster. Before the opening game, Philadelphia sent down Billy Sorrell, a two-year experienced outfielder, a left-handed hitter and a possible leadoff man. For a few moments, Sorrell, appeared and was badly needed in the Padre outfield, but the Phillies quickly withdrew his name.

The *San Diego Union* continued to provide portraits and "lifetime" records of each of the Padres. Bobby Malkmus, an infielder, had been signed by the Boston Braves in 1951. He served in the Army for two



*Wayne Graham
photo from Bob Dreher.*

years, then went to Evansville in 1954, where he was named the club's Most Valuable Player. In the majors, he played with Milwaukee, Washington, and Philadelphia for full seasons in 1958-60-61. He worked as a player-coach with Arkansas in 1964 and 1965.

Gary Sutherland, out of Glendale High School and the University of Southern California in 1964, was signed by the Phillies in 1964, and played for Chattanooga in 1965. His father, Ralph, played with the Cards; his brother Darrell was with the Mets as a pitcher at this time.

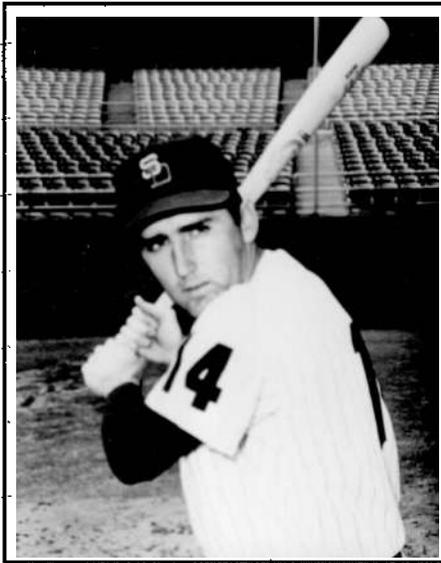
As spring training neared an end, Leishman made it quite clear that this season, the Padres would rely on base hits and speed on the bases rather than the big bombs. As the eve of the opening game arrived Wayne Lockwood of the *San Diego Union* gave details of five hurlers added to the Padres staff: Dallas Green, Bruce Brubaker, Rick Wise,

Joe Verbanic and Ed Roebuck, all pitchers of demonstrated AAA or better ability.

Of particular interest was the return of Rick Wise, who had been in the army for just over six months. From a cocky young player, he returned a mature young man. A bonus baby at 18-years-old, he landed on the Philadelphia roster. He had gone to Arkansas and there, under Lucchesi, he had a good year, but found out the going in Triple A was a little more difficult than he had supposed. In the off-season, he took his six months of reserve training in the Army. When he returned, he had shed 25 pounds, and gone was the luxuriant growth of hair which had irritated those around him—to some of the other players a symbol of his casual attitude. When he returned he wanted to make



*Bobby del Greco
photo from Al Hogan.*



*Billy Cowan,
Photo courtesy Mr. Cowan.*

amends, to know what it meant to be a big league player and to appreciate it.

After two false, starts the Phils sent down two-year veteran of Triple AAA ball Billy Sorrell who gave the Padres another proven outfielder, was a left-handed hitter and probable leadoff man. Sorrell jopined the Padres with two good years with Arkansas under his belt.

Wayne Graham a third baseman-outfielder called his home Houston, Texas. He played three years at the University of Texas and was signed by the Phillies in 1957. An All-Star third baseman in the Southern Association with Chattanooga in 1961, his biggest baseball thrill was to play with Chattanooga's pennant winner in 1961.

Robert del Greco, a 33 year

old outfielder, from Pittsburgh, was married with seven children. He was first signed by Pittsburgh in 1950. His biggest baseball thrill was hitting two home runs in one game off Harvey Haddix (Phillies) while del Greco was with Pittsburgh. He also played with St. Louis, Chicago Cubs, New York Yankees, Phillies, and Kansas City in the majors. He was named to the PCL All-Star team in 1955, while with Hollywood.

Gary Sutherland, at age 21 was 6-feet tall and had come out of Los Angeles, where he played at Glendale High. He was named All American shortstop at the University of Southern California in 1964, and later named semi-pro All-American team while with Fairbanks Alaska team. He led the U.S. All-Star team in batting (.350) on tour to Hawaii and the Far East in 1964. Signed by the Phillies in 1964, he batted .285 with Chattanooga in 1965, his first season in pro ball.

Morrie Steevens hailed from San Antonio, Texas. In the off season Morrie was a Deputy Sheriff and County Tax Appraiser in San Antonio. He played Little League, Babe Ruth League and American Legion ball. He was signed by the Cubs in 1958. Stevens had two no-hit, no-run games in his career in 1960, for Arkansas against Dallas, to clinch the PCL Eastern Division title for the Travelers. He played with the Cubs in 1962 and the Phillies in 1964-

1965.

Billy Wilson graduated from Pomeroy, Ohio High School. As a pitcher he received an offer from the Phillies. Cleveland had wanted him as a third baseman, but he turned to pitching, and went to Macon of the Southern League. The 6'2" righthander was very happy as a relief pitcher. He thought he was much better off in relief, and believed this was the best way for him to reach the majors.

John Dee Griffin, a catcher, called Little Rock, Arkansas home. A graduate of Emmitt Scott High in Tyler, Texas, he was a three-sport letterman. He graduated from Southern University, and was signed by the Baltimore Orioles in 1959.

America's Olympic hero Billy Mills, threw out the first ball to officially open the season. On opening night, April 15, Morrie Steevens pitched his only win for the Padres as they pasted Indianapolis 6-5 before 6,254 fans at Westgate Park. Norman Gigon, who was at second for Bobby Klaus (out with the flu), blasted a three-run homer. Cal Emery hit a pair of doubles and Wayne Graham got a double and two singles to power the Padres to the convincing victory. Klaus came back to the clubhouse within two days and said, "Gigon is the best doctor I could have had."

Near the end of the month the San Diegans lost another series

to Oklahoma City. They had not won a series from that team since the 89ers entered the league in 1963.

Sportswriter Phil Collier wrote about Milwaukee's anti-trust suit against the Braves. Although lawyers representing baseball pledged to win a reversal of the suit, major league managers felt they would have to give Milwaukee an expansion team in 1967 to save face with the public. "What's more, big league owners," Collier said, "wouldn't dare risk another franchise shift."

Teams like the Kansas City Athletics would have to remain where they were. Down the line, a second expansion would be in order, with Oakland the most likely candidate. "It only stood to reason," wrote Collier, "that after another year or two, the National League would then expand to 12 teams. San Diego's new stadium would be ready by then."

While the stadium was being constructed ahead of time, the team had not done as well. At the end of April, the Padres stood in next to last place in the Eastern Division, but Dallas Green went the distance against the Denver Bears on April 30, and thanks to a pair of two run homers hit by Norm Gigon, the fourth place Padres won a 6-4 victory over Denver. The team did not move in the standings. The sports writers weren't sure they wanted their team to come home for a six game series

because the team had opened the season in the supposedly friendly atmosphere of Westgate Park and promptly lost eight of their first 12 starts.

The month of May opened on a sad note as Bob Elliott, one of the most popular players ever to grace the playing fields of San Diego, passed away at the age of 49 in San Diego. The former manager, player and hero of the pennant-winning team in 1954 was first reported in Mercy Hospital on May 3, with internal hemorrhaging. He passed away on May 4. Elliott had begun his major league career with the Pirates in 1938, and was traded to the Braves in 1946. In 1952, he was released by the New York Giants and played his final major league season with the White Sox. He had been named to the All-Star team seven times. He was best remembered when, in his last professional game as a player, he hit two home runs to propel the Padres to a 7-2 victory over Hollywood in a playoff for the PCL pennant. But he was perhaps more remembered as a ball player's friend.

In fifth place with a 6-9 record compared to Denver's 6-8, the Padres moved to Indianapolis with Bruce Brubaker to pitch the opening game. In spite of Padre improvement in pitching and hitting while on the road, they lost the first three games to the Indians. Indianapolis pitcher Fred Klages blanked

12 men in a row, after giving up three hits in the first two innings of the third game, then struck out five and allowed only two sixth-inning walks, squelching the Padres to their lowest hit total of the season. Bobby del Greco threw his batting helmet at plate umpire Dick Gustavo after a dispute over a called third strike and was thumbed from the game when the helmet hit the ump in the foot. With 12 losses in 18 games, the Padres slid into the cellar, two-and-a-half games behind Indianapolis.

After losing four in a row to Indianapolis, Lucchesi could only say about the slump, "Never in 14 years have I had a team get in a cycle as bad as this one," Only 32 hitters went to the plate, as 35 year old Bill Fischer, a veteran relief pitcher making his first start for the Indians, retired most of the Padre batters with quick sliders and bullseye control.

In the next loss of the series, the Padres came alive with 11 hits, yet lost because of a total of five

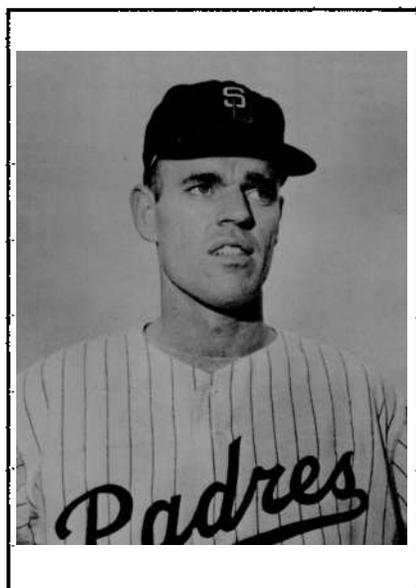


Pitcher Dick Thoenen

errors. In the last game of the series, they lost 4-3 in the 14th inning. Dallas Green held to his strong pitching, but inadequate hitting left 15 men on base. Three errors in the second inning gave the Indians their first three runs. In overtime, Padre catcher Joe Cherry threw wild into center field when Josephson tried to steal second and allowed Voss on third to score. Klaus' throw from center field hit Josephson on his way to third, bounced into the Indian dugout, and gave Indianapolis their sixth straight victory.

At Oklahoma City on the 10th of May, the Padres had their first postponement of the season when cold weather and high winds and the threat of rain scrubbed the game.

Wayne Lockwood, of the *San*



Cal Emery

Diego Union commented that the team had not yet exhausted their search for new ways to lose. The team fooled him as the Padres won the next three games. Bill Sorrell's two run homer made the difference May 13, and relief pitcher Bill Wilson protected Dallas Green's win, striking out Ossie Virgil in a two-on, one-out situation in the seventh.

In a third game against Phoenix, Rick Wise went the route for a 5-2 victory, thanks to pitching control and timely hitting. Writers felt he was steadily emerging as the strongest pitcher on the staff. On May 16, the Padres opened a 16 game home-stand at Westgate Park.

Out of the cellar, they beat Vancouver 7-6 in a melee of two hits, four errors, two hit batters, a wild pitch, a passed ball and a balk. After a good series against Vancouver, Lucchesi traded pitcher Morrie Steevens to Phoenix, in exchange for third baseman Jim McKnight, a 30-year-old-veteran Triple A performer. The Phillies, finally sensing San Diego needed help, sent down Steve Ridzik and John Boozer to help the Padres, whose pitching some writers said was coming to be regarded as one of the strongest in the league.

The Padres took a 2-1 victory over Vancouver with Cotton Nash crashing a one-out home run in the ninth inning," to give the Padres their seventh straight. They took their eighth over Tacoma, 7-1,



*Bo Belinsky at Beauty Pageant,
San Diego*

on 17 hits, including home runs by Cal Emery, Joe Cherry and newcomer Jim McKnight. On the 21st, McKnight committed four errors, a number matched only by Seattle's Hal Bevan in 1960.

With that strong hitting against the Tacoma Cubs, the team took a doubleheader on the 22nd, reached .500 and boosted themselves into third place in the Eastern Division, five and a half games behind Tulsa, and two-and-a-half away from Indianapolis. Delighted were 3,218 fans when San Diego took two games over Tacoma to regain their .500 mark.

On May 25 against Tulsa, the Texans complained that Padre pitcher John Boozer was throwing a spit ball. Tulsa had two men ejected and failed in a running argument with umpires, but Tulsa won the game despite the complaints.

In this period, plans for a

Ted Williams night at Westgate Park on June 8 moved ahead. Elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in January 1966, he won on 282 of 302 ballots, one of the highest vote totals in the history of Hall of Fame balloting. Williams insisted that the majority of sports writers had always been with him and he downplayed the feuds between himself and the Baseball Writers' Association of America (BWAA).

At Westgate on 28 May, 3,324 Little Leaguers showed up for an hour-long baseball clinic sponsored by the Padres and Alpha Beta Markets, prior to a game with Indianapolis, and received first hand coaching from the players. The Padres ended a three-game losing streak and routed the Indianapolis Indians 14-1 on a 17 hit barrage, to the delight of the 2,110 audience at Westgate Park.

Back on the road against the

Tacoma Cubs, in a 16 inning marathon game played in cold, drizzling rain, former Dodger Eddie Roebuck, pitching a superb game held the Cubs from the ninth to the sixteenth inning until Jim Schaeffer finally singled in Gary Sutherland with the winning run, for a score of 3-1. The game played out for four hours and thirteen minutes, the longest game in Cheney Stadium history.

Later in the month Eddie Roebuck moved up to the Phillies in exchange for Bo Belinsky, who had issued a "pitch me or trade me" ultimatum to the Philadelphia Club. Manager Frank Lucchesi first learned of the impending trade from 71 year old trainer Les Cook, who read about it in a Spokane newspaper. "I knew there was a possibility we might get Belinsky," said Lucchesi, "but I knew nothing about his optioning when I left San Diego."

On June 15, Williams received his San Diego Padre Hall of Fame plaque from Hoover High student body president Bill Finley in a 7:30 p.m. ceremony that preceded the Padres' game against Spokane. Although Cal Emery and Jim McKnight (whose 10 year old son received Ted Williams' autograph before the game) homered in the sixth inning, Spokane's pitcher Bill Singer held the Padres before a crowd of 5,205 for a final score of 6-3. Among those present to welcome Williams were Rod Luscomb, who

had coached Ted on the San Diego playground; Herb Benninghoven, who had signed Ted to his first contract in 1936, and a number of his former Hoover teammates.

Back on the road, fans looked forward to Bo Belinsky's debut. Traded to Philadelphia by the Los Angeles, Belinsky had a disappointing season with the Phillies in 1965, with a 4.83 earned run average. In 1966, he was 0 for 2 with Philadelphia and had a 3.00 era. Before a record "Kid's Night" crowd of 13,803 at Sick's stadium in Seattle, Belinsky shut out the Angels for six innings and then allowed two earned runs, leaving the mound to relief pitcher Steve Ridzik, who gave up four unearned runs in the eighth inning.

The Hawaiian Islanders took the Padres in the first game over the Padres 4-3 before a crowd of 9,631 who had come out to see Belinsky. Joe Verbanic shut out the Islanders for the first five innings of the second game, and the Padres went on to win. They lost three of their four games with the Islanders and Lucchesi's prophetic words at the end of spring training had rung true. The hitting never materialized.

The first half of 1966 foreshadowed a mediocre season. The city had rallied behind the construction of a new stadium and the dream for a major league team promised a hope for the near future. Perhaps this was their brightest mo-

ment as they stood in fourth place.

In the summer of 1966, fifteen of the twenty-six men on the Padres roster had been up to the majors. Of the nine who had not, only three never would make it to the big cities. The team ranged in age from 21 year old Gary Sutherland to 37 year old Steve Ridzik. Shortstop Sutherland with 23 year old pitchers Joe Verbanic and Grant Jackson, represented the young prospects. Pitcher Dallas Green and third baseman Bobby Malkmus, both in their thirties, with relief pitcher Steve Ridzik, represented those nearing the end of their careers.

The majority, players like outfielder Jim McKnight catcher Jimmie Schaffer, all had their moments in the show but could not make them last. Then in mid-season, came Bo Belinsky, a man with a show all his own.

Bo pitched for six years in the minors on eight different teams before he made it up to the California Angels in 1962. On May 5, 1962, columnist Walter Winchell went to Anaheim Stadium in search of a story. Bo Belinsky, the dark and handsome ballplayer gave him one. Belinsky pitched the first no-hit, no-run game in history by a rookie left-handed pitcher.

Befriended by men like Winchell, Hugh Hefner, Frank Sinatra and J. Edgar Hoover, Belinsky grabbed headlines. Belinsky dated

Hollywood actresses Ann Margret, Tina Louise, a Dupont heiress and a queen, among many others. He became linked most often with Mamie Van Doren, the perhaps heir to the Marilyn Monroe crown. Still, for all his off-field acclaim, he faltered on the pitcher's mound and once admitted, "I think I have gotten more publicity for doing less than any player who ever lived."

Phillies manager Gene Mauch agreed and sent Bo Belinsky to the Padres. Bo accepted the move as a means to prove himself. He told Jack Murphy, "sometimes you have to change directions a few times to get where you're going." Like his new Padre teammates, Belinsky came to San Diego with a hope but told Murphy upon arrival, "I know I'm expendable."

The Padres then traded Norm Gigon for Billy Cowan and cash. Belinsky lost to Hawaii in the opener of a four game series before 9,631 at Honolulu Stadium. On June 24, Bo was still losing, but the following was still there. In Honolulu, he was back in Hawaii and loving every minute of it. Before Bo could make his first pitch, three little native girls rushed to the mound and dropped leis around his neck. The public address announcer said, "Welcome to Honolulu, Bo. It's good to have you back!" On the 29th of June, Belinsky and the Pads nipped the Portland Bevos 4-3 on Bobby Klaus' two run homer



*Business Card for
Frank Lucchesi, 1997.*

in the second inning. Bo pitched for eight innings.

As July opened San Diego was tied for last place with Denver in the Eastern Division, 11-1/2 games back of the leader, Indianapolis. Catcher Jimmie Schaffer and centerfielder Billy Cowan each blasted a home run in the eighth inning to gave the Padres a victory over Portland.

Cowan, known as a fleet runner, had played baseball, basketball, and football in college. An all-around athlete, he led the team in stolen bases and batted clean-up because of his ability as a slugger. Jimmie Schaffer, also a power hitter, became most respected for his defensive prowess. Both men traveled back and forth between the major and minor leagues for over a decade. Neither could manage to remain in the promised land.

The young prospects,

Sutherland, Jackson and Verbanic embodied a kind of hope. Verbanic, the 23-year-old from Pennsylvania made it to the very end of spring training with the Phillies as a relief pitcher, before they sent him down to San Diego. Lucchesi moved him into the rotation as a starter. The move launched Verbanic on a streak that made him the hottest pitcher in the league. Lucchesi said, "I know Joe wants to relieve, but I told him there's no way I can take him out of the rotation when he's pitching the way he is now. Meanwhile Grant Jackson the Padre pitcher with the strongest arm, nursed a sore elbow.

Late in a game on July 2 against Phoenix with the Padres down four to three, Sutherland, the young prospect, came to bat. The run that could have tied the game stood on third base and the go-ahead on second. At this key point, the Phoenix manager called for a relief pitcher to face the former collegiate all-American. To the mound came no ordinary man.

In a survey in which baseball fans listed the most memorable moments in the entire history of the game, the accomplishment of the man who came to the mound was listed third. His memorable moment stood ahead of Babe Ruth's fabled "called home run in the '32 world series," ahead of Joe DiMaggio's 56 game hitting streak, and just behind Hank Aaron's 715th home run.

Gary Sutherland knew of Don Larsen, the man who had pitched a no-hit, no-run, no-man-to-reach-first-base game in a World Series. Sutherland had just turned twelve when Larsen pitched his perfect game for the Yankees.

Now at twenty-one Sutherland stepped to the plate, took a ball and a strike from the legend, and ripped the third pitch for a double that drove in two runs and gave the Padres the victory. Don Larsen watched from the twilight of his career, as Gary Sutherland ran toward a bright future.

On July 9, Bo Belinsky took the win over Hawaii, 10-1, as his teammates had 12 hits and Max Patkin did his baseball comedy routine. The next day, Joe Verbanic won his eighth game in nine starts. A few days later, he packed his bags for his home in Pennsylvania. Joe was back within a few days, rested up and on July 11, won his fifth straight

The Padres had veterans whose better days had passed. In the 1940s, an 8 year old named Dallas Green, the hotshot power hitter on his Sunday school team, dreamed that one day he would become a big league player like his idol, Ted Williams. His dreams turned to hope when his arm, not his bat, brought him to professional baseball. The 6' 5", 210 pound Green possessed one of the best fastballs in the game, until an arm injury slowed his ca-

reer. On July 14, Green pitched a shutout and recorded his 10th win to make him the Padre pitcher with the most runs.

On July 18, Joe Verbanic who had been pitching so well, and John Morris, a standout reliever, were called up by the parent Phillies. In the run for the pennant the Phillies called the tough competitors to the major leagues. In return, the Pads got pitchers Larry Loughlin and Dick Thoenen.

On July 20, Grant Jackson came off the disabled list to pitch a one-hitter, the best performance by a Padre pitcher all season as Bobby del Greco hit a homer in the ninth.

The Padres welcomed Jackson's return, because on July 22, the New York Mets purchased Dallas Green. Jackson continued to pitch well through the end of July aided by Bo Belinsky, who had recovered from an ankle injury. Near the end of July, Eddie Roebuck rejoined the club after his release by the Phillies and after he had done so well for Pads.

On July 30, with the team in fifth place and 17-1/2 games back, manager Lucchesi, banned from the dugout, got an opportunity to sit in the stands and watch Belinsky pitch. Pacific Coast League president Dewey Soriano suspended Lucchesi for three games and fined him \$100 for his argument on July 30 with Bob Thomson. The colorful skipper

kicked a pile of dirt on home plate after Thomson ejected him from the game. Padres' coach, Ray Rippelmeyer, restrained Lucchesi after he threw the umpire's cap and mask to the ground. Rippelmeyer managed the team in Lucchesi's absence.

The San Diego Baseball Hall of Fame, which had its origins with the San Diego Padres in 1965, added new members to the place of honor on August 7, 1966. The honors for Robert (Bobby) Doerr, Ted Williams, Steve Mesner, and trainer Les Cook were placed along those nominated in 1965. Hal Doerr, Bobby's brother, accepted the award in place of the former Bosox star.

By August 10th, the Padres



Les Cook, Bobby Doerr, and Steve Mesner inducted into the San Diego Padre Hall of Fame. Hal Doerr, Bobby's brother accepted the award in place of the former Bosox Star.

had not moved in the standings and swapped Bobby del Greco to the Indianapolis Indians for a player to be named later.

On returning from his banishment, Lucchesi brought the team from nineteen games out of first place, to ten games back late in the month and then Lucchesi saw the role of luck on the field of hope and dreams. A battering of the Oilers and seven straight wins by the Padres were stopped first by an early afternoon cloudburst, which dumped an inch and a third of rain on Oiler Park. Only did the 89ers stop the Padre streak at nine on August 24, as the locals stood at 12-1/2 games behind the league leader Tulsa. But they were still in fifth place.

Lucchesi had placed all the starter's names in a hat and drew them out, one at a time, to set the order of batters. Only Jim McKnight kept his original place in the batting order. McKnight, however, amassed eighteen consecutive games with a hit, the team's longest streak. McKnight and Malkmus despite their strong performances did not make it back to the majors, last having been up in 1962. At the end of August, in the road trip finale, San Diego crushed Oklahoma City 15-5.

On September 1, Steve Ridzik, the oldest Padre, made his last appearance of the season. He came on in relief in the ninth inning and shut out Phoenix to save a 4-3 win for the

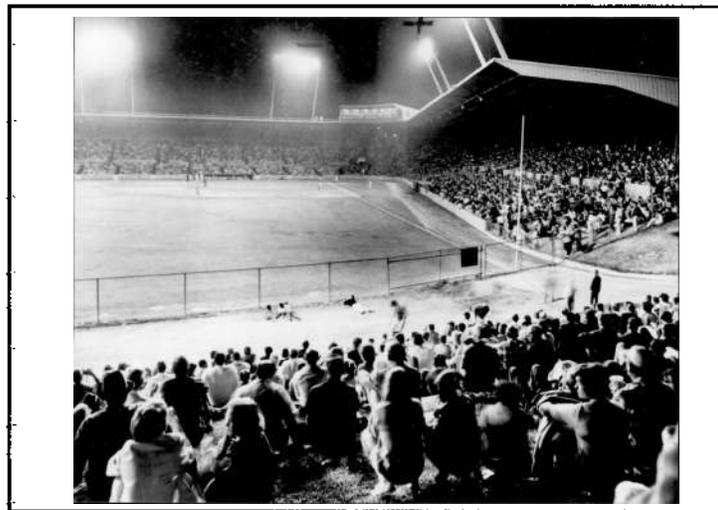
Padres. The 37-year-old Ridzik, after 22 years in professional ball and 180 recorded victories said, "This may be my last season....I have to leave the game, but I'll hang it up after this season," but hesitating said, "unless I get another chance at the majors." That did not come.

Before the game actor Preston Foster, a minor Padre stockholder, and comedian Jimmy Durante were named to umpire a softball game pitting the San Diego City Council against a team drawn from the City Councils of other County communities. Preston Foster had written the words and music for the Padres, "The Official Song of the San Diego Padres," titled "Let's Go Padres."

A string of wins, with the help of Dallas Green, making his first

start since rejoining the Padres from the Mets, helped. The Mets did not pitch Dallas Green and ordered him to their minor league team in Jacksonville. Green refused to go and instead rejoined San Diego. On September 1, he won his fourteenth game for the Padres to become their most successful pitcher. Don Larsen got even for his earlier loss in Phoenix as he downed the Padres on September 4, 6-2, with a tantalizing wide assortment of breaking pitches. He was 8-5 for the season.

Sutherland the former lead-off hitter for the 1964 Olympic baseball team, aided Green when he smashed four hits in what would be his final game with the Padres. Gary Sutherland made his last appearance before moving up to the parent Phillies. where he began a successful



*Westgate Park (Night Game from Left Field Bank).
Photo courtesy Al Hogan.*

fourteen year career in the majors. Jimmie Schaffer joined Sutherland with the Phillies and played in only four major league games that season. The Padres voted Schaffer their most valuable player for 1966, but the Phillies would return him to San Diego in 1967. Grant Jackson surpassed all the 1966 Padres with a remarkable eighteen-year career in the majors.

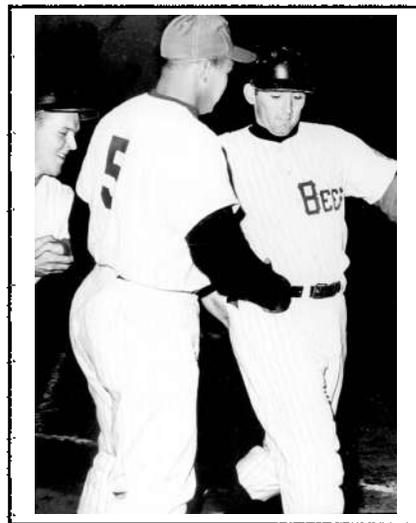
When Sutherland left, an unknown 20-year-old named Larry Bowa came up from the Western Carolinas league to replace him at shortstop. Bowa, a small, gutsy kid from Sacramento, did not even make his high school team. His father, Paul, played several years in the minors. In an effort to temper the hope of his son, which the senior Bowa knew all too well, he set before him the rigors of minor league baseball and cautioned that the big break might never come. Larry told his father he would make it. At 5'6" and 140-pounds, he did not fit into any Padre uniforms. Lucchesi remembered how funny Bowa looked in his long and baggy uniform. In his first game, on September 3, Bowa hit a triple. Bowa said, "I don't think size had anything to do with it...the kid just wanted to play." Bowa ended the season with the highest at bat average on the Padres, who finished in fifth place, with seventy-two wins and seventy-five losses.

On the 6th of September, in

between-game ceremonies, Jim Schaffer was honored as the Padres' MVP for 1966. Pitcher John Booser accepted for Schaffer, who was now with the Phillies. Also cited were Klaus (most popular) and Malkmus (most inspirational).

On November 5, the Hot Stove League spent a full day for their golf tournament. The night before, they had gathered at the Kona Kai Club for dinner. The Guest Speaker was Emmett Ashford, American League Umpire. Presentation of awards went to Dave Duncan, Bobby Klaus and Deron Johnson.

In the minor league draft held on November 28, the Houston Astros paid \$25,000 for Bo Belinsky. He had had a weak season for the Padres, did not pitch a complete game and Lucchesi pulled him in the



*Billy Cowan,
Photo from Mr. Cowan.*

first inning of his last two starts. Belinsky had somewhat of a difference of opinion with broadcaster Al Coupee, and general manager Eddie Leishman suspended him for the final two games of the season. "Belinsky was going," Leishman said, "no matter what." The Houston Astros gave Belinsky another chance when they selected the 30 year old bad boy left-hander on the first round of the player draft.

In contrast to Belinsky, Bowa epitomized the overachiever. Despite his tireless effort, Bowa said he owed it all to manager Frank Lucchesi. In November, Lucchesi lost his job with the Padres. The Phillies sent him to another of their farm clubs, the AA Reading team in the Eastern League, and Bob Skinner became the new Padre skipper. Wherever Lucchesi went throughout the next four years, Larry Bowa followed, until 1970 when Lucchesi, then manager of the Phillies, brought Bowa with him to the majors. Bowa was criticized for his poor hitting, but Lucchesi took the criticism. In the end, Larry Bowa's perseverance proved Lucchesi wise, for Bowa emerged to become a brilliant player. He recorded the highest lifetime fielding average of any man ever to play shortstop in the history of major league baseball. He played in more games at shortstop than any player in National League history. He won two Gold Gloves and one World Series. Bowa credited Lucchesi

for his success; Lucchesi said Bowa made his own way. In 1985, Bowa would be released from his major league career and would come back to wear a San Diego uniform as manager of the team.

In mid-October, after talks between Mayor Frank Curran and Dr. Albert L. Anderson, Chairman of the future team's committee of the San Diego Stadium Authority, the decision was made to flatly reject an invitation to become a part of a proposed third major league that would operate outside the jurisdiction of organized baseball.

Jay Leishman, the 23-year-old son of San Diego Padre General Manager Eddie Leishman, was appointed Business Manager for the Phoenix Giants. He had worked with the Padres in various jobs, graduated from Point Loma High School and attended San Diego City and Mesa Colleges.

The locals also rehired Ray Rippelmeyer, who would return as a coach for 1967, and bought pitcher Johnny Morris from the Phillies. In a fitting tribute, the late Bob Elliott, former Padre manager and the National League's Most Valuable Player

**FRIDAY NIGHT IS
FAMILY NIGHT**



KIDS (12 years or under)
ADMITTED FREE when
accompanied by an adult.

in 1947, would be inducted into the San Diego County Hall of Fame on January 11, 1967. He would be the 24th member of the Hall, joining three other local baseball stars: Ted Williams, Earle Brucker and Don Larsen in the Hall of Champions picture gallery. This Hall of Fame was different than that of the Padres Baseball of Fame. The season attendance stood at 173,607, an increase of 9,350 over the previous year.

Pacific Coast League

Final Standings 1966:

Eastern Division

	W	L	GB
Tulsa	85	62	
Phoenix	81	67	4-1/2
Indianapolis	80	68	5-1/2
Denver	79	68	6
San Diego	72	75	13
Oklahoma City	59	89	26-1/2

Western Division

Seattle*	83	65	
Vancouver	77	71	6
Spokane	75	73	8
Portland	69	79	14
Hawaii	63	84	19-1/2
Tacoma	63	85	20

*In the playoffs Seattle defeated Tulsa 4 games to 3.

CONCESSION PRICES

HOT DOGS.....	\$.40
PEANUTS.....	.20
POPCORN.....	.25
CARMEL CORN.....	.25
BEER.....	.50
SOFT DRINKS.....	.15 & .25
COFFEE.....	.15 & .25
CRACKER JACK.....	.20
POTATO CHIPS.....	.15
CANDY.....	.15



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	STEAKS CHOPS SEAFOOD <small>MERCHANT'S LUNCH DAILY 11:30-2:00</small>	4 BIG BANQUET ROOMS <small>CV-6-3850</small>	MUSIC NITELY COCKTAILS	"BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!"
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VOICES FROM WESTGATE PARK

*An Interview with
ED ROEBUCK
by James S. Baarman*

Ed Roebuck began playing baseball in high school and American Legion baseball in East Millsboro, Pennsylvania.

"It was a very rural farming community and I played for a coal mining team there. A scout for the Brooklyn Dodgers spotted me there and asked me to come try out for W. Branch Rickey in New York. I was 17-years-old and did not know what to think. My brother advised me to go for it, so I went. The Dodgers signed me in 1949, and sent me to their minor league team in Newport News.

It was quite a jump up for a youngster. After six years in the minors, I made it up to Brooklyn in 1955 and I led the Dodgers in saves in 1955. They made it to the World Series my first two seasons in the majors, which was a special thrill.

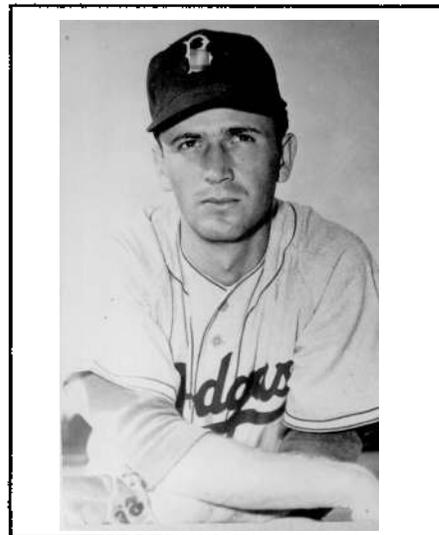
I moved to Los Angeles with the Dodgers in the winter of 1957, and around that time began having some problems with my arm. In 1959, I went back to the minors and played a season in St. Paul. I returned to Los Angeles in 1960 and had a great year with the Dodgers. I appeared in 80 consecutive games without a loss, in 1961-62. In 1963, Gene Mauch brought me to Philadelphia. The Phillies sent me to San Diego in 1966.

Frank Lucchesi was an outstanding manager, one of the best people I had known in my baseball career. I recalled a particularly hard game I pitched in pouring rain against Tacoma. The hard fought game lasted all the way into the 12th inning when a Tacoma player got a hit off me and the Padres lost. I felt bad afterward and Frank Lucchesi came up to me and gave me \$15 and told

me to go get a steak dinner. Lucchesi told me I pitched well and deserved it. I enjoyed my time in San Diego.

I played for the Padres again in 1967, and San Diego was a wonderful place to end my playing career. I particularly enjoyed 1967, when Bob Skinner led the team to a championship. I enjoyed the company of my fellow Padres. I belonged to a golfing group that included Bobby Klaus, Marty Keough, John Tsitouris and Bob Skinner. We had some great times.

I had a good year in 1967, and Eddie Leishman wanted me to come back in 1968, but I decided instead to take a job as a scout. I had played 19 years and thought it was time to hang it up. Eddie Leishman was a great general manager who put together a fine bunch of players



*Ed Roebuck.
Photo courtesy Mr. Roebuck.*

and I liked working for him.

I remember that Westgate Field was a really nice place to play ball. The one drawback I remembered were the skunks that always seemed to hang around the bullpen, where I spent my time during the games. I recalled that I would take my young son with me to Westgate. My son used to go fishing during the games and would meet me afterward with a "big catch." I remember Grant Jackson and John Boozer as the Padres' best young pitchers. I went on to scout for several major league organizations and am still a scout to this day. I am 64 years old and reside in Lakewood, California.

Interview with Robert Ralph Skinner by Cynthia Hanna

I was born in La Jolla, California, October 3, 1931. Growing up in San Diego, I played on sandlot teams at the Pacific Beach Recreation Center. I was not really interested in baseball until I went to school in La Jolla. Even then, I did not start to play until my sophomore year. As a junior is when I started to excel. San Diego City College is where I matured and things began to really happen for me. I did two years with the Marines, playing for them. I got out of the service in 1953. In 1954, I tried out at spring training for the Pittsburgh Pirates and they sent me directly to the Majors! I was lucky.

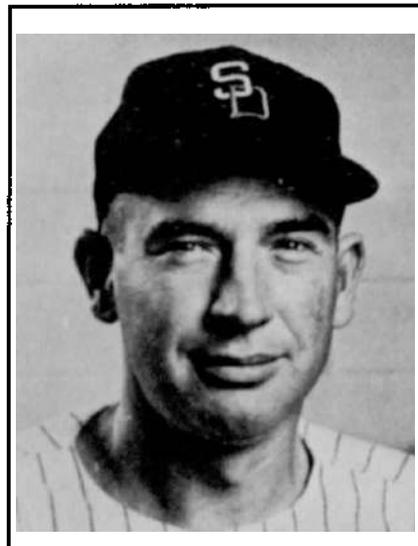
I was a fortunate player. "Pop" Billings was a highly placed official at Ryan Aeronautical. They sponsored an Industrial League team. "Pop" ran the Sunday team. He was able to give me some really good tips on hitting and fielding. He taught me the fundamentals of the game.

I started out with the Pittsburgh Pirates. In 1960, we won the World Series. In 1963, I played one year with Cincinnati. By 1964, I was with St. Louis. We came away with

the World Series that year. In 1979, I coached the Pirates and I won my third World Series ring with them.

Nineteen sixty-six was my last year and I played for the Cardinals. I then was released so I came home. I was out playing golf one day in Mission Valley with Al Couppee. He was a well-known local sports announcer. He suggested that I apply for an opening as manager with the Padres. I really liked the idea. Straight from the golf game, I went to visit Eddie Leishman. They had not even advertised for the position yet. Eddie was very supportive. Both he and I knew there was a risk because I had never coached, but after talking with him, I felt he knew what kind of person I was. Then one night he called me and said to buy a bottle of champagne, because the official call was coming the next day.

A few of the obvious highlights were that we had a team that no one gave any hope of winning. But we were right on with the players we had. They were all good. Many of the players had been around, but



Robert Ralph Skinner, signed in late 1966 to manage Padres in 1967.

none had done much of anything alone. Together, we had one of the best teams I have ever coached.

We traveled by air. The Pacific Coast League had teams as far away as Indianapolis and Hawaii. I imposed a curfew on my players only twice all year long. Once was in Hawaii. We just could not win there. I thought maybe they were playing Beach Boys a little too much. It didn't work.

The managers and owners of the team were a great group of people! Eddie Leishman was a special person in my heart. He supported me fully in everything. It was great to go into a season and know you are backed. Smith was the owner, but we hardly ever heard from him. I saw him when we won the Championship, at his bank building. He threw a party for us.

Westgate Park was like a family picnics area. Westgate was a beautiful park. It was a great place to play and wonderful for the fans.

TOM GRACIANO

Tom was born to Frank and Bernice Graciano on April 14, 1950, in San Diego's Mercy Hospital. He has two terrific sisters, Virginia (Price) and Susie (Richardson). He dropped in for a little education at Blessed Sacrament School, St. Augustine High School., Miramar College and San Diego State University. Tom worked for the Padres from 1966 through 1975 season. His duties included batboy for Frank Lucchesi in 1966, pressbox attendant in 1967 and 1968, and scoreboard operator at the Murph. Tom's favorite Padre ever, was Eddie Leishman. He got lucky when he met and married Sue Elzey in 1974. They have two beautiful daughters, Alicia and Jenna.

Interview with TOM GRACIANO by John Bowman

Milt Chipp, the news director for *the Union-Tribune*, arranged a meeting/interview with Padres GM for me. From the moment we shook hands, I knew that every aspect of Padre baseball, even the position of bat boy was important to him. Not long after our meeting, I received a letter from Frank Lucchesi, the new manager of the Padres. He wrote that we would both be Padre rookies that year and it was important for us to have a good season. We met for the first time behind the batting cage at Westgate Park with a firm handshake and a smile. In Leishman-like fashion, he directed me in the specifics of my duties and responsibilities to the team. Little did I know that the *San Diego Union's* Jack Murphy was at the cage during my indoctrination. In a column on Lucchesi, Murphy immortalized this birth of a bat boy with a summary of the incident.

My dream job began when the major leagues came to town. In a pre-season game on April 7, 1966, the Dodgers played the Indians. A record crowd of 12,123 showed up including an estimated 3,500 die-hards who sat beyond the outfield fences on the grassy slopes. We were all treated to the likes of Claude Osteen, Willie Davis, Ron Fairley, Wes Parker, Jim Lefebvre and John Roseboro. Vic Davalillo and Rocky Colavito helped the Indians out score the Dodgers, 7 to 5. I'm not sure my cleats ever touched the turf that night, but before it was over, my Rocky Colavito autographed glove was signed by the man himself.

The Padres opened the '66 season at Westgate Park on April 15th. Lucchesi selected Stevens to pitch against Indianapolis, and was rewarded as San Diego won, 6-1. Lost in the excitement and hoopla was

the fact that the complexion of the team would change constantly during the entire season. If you were to play a little trivia and name the starting day lineup, don't look at the team picture for help as four of the starters are not in the photo.

Frank Joseph Lucchesi brought 15 years of minor league managerial success to the Padres. Jack Murphy described the 39-year-old San Franciscan "Lucchesi as part Italian and part baseball, a highly combustible combination." On a cool Westgate evening Frank gave new definition to Murphy's description. Enraged by a call at home plate, he ejected his 5' 7-1/2" frame from his dugout seat and raced screaming to the plate. On his toes, he went face to face with the umpire, achieving no joy. He dropped to his knees scraping, clawing at the damp turf and covered the plate. His Italian jaw never went silent and when he finished he rose up and kicked the mound he'd just created and headed for the showers; his night was over.

Each pitcher had to chart the game before his next starting assignment. He would sit in the dugout with a clipboard and record every pitch thrown: type, location, ball or strike etc.

At Westgate Park the concrete roofs of the dugouts had a few metal support columns in front of the bench that were painted white. John Boozer, a 27-year-old country boy from South Carolina, had a slap stick sense of humor to go along with his southern drawl. He could be just plain goofy and always had a hunk of tobacco between his cheek and gum. John would always place himself right behind one of the white columns when charting a game. Before the night was over that column would go through a color change from about three inches down. Tobacco stained saliva would be drooling down the innocent column. A most disgusting habit.

Billy Cowan, the 1963 PCL player of the year, was described in the *Union* "once one of the brightest prospects in the Chicago Cubs chain." But in '65, he was traded to the Mets, played for the Braves and finished up with Buffalo of the International league. In '66 the revolving door was no different for Billy. He started the season in Richmond, was sent to Tacoma before joining the Padres in late June.

On a sunny afternoon, Billy was relaxing in the dugout when he called for me to join him. I think he just wanted to be sure I was going to learn something that day and he was going to be the teacher. With my best interest his only concern, he lectured me on the fine art of respecting girls. Before he finished, I believe he realized that a lot of what he was telling me was going right over my head; no matter how many "uh-uhs," "oks," and "sounds good" that came from the hollows of my inexperience. As I thanked him and ran off to share with the other bat boys, I could hear him laughing.

"Baseballs Bad Boy" made his San Diego debut on June 29th. Bo Belinsky pitched the Padres to a 4-3 win over the Portland Beavers. The former Angel, who pitched a no hitter against the Orioles in '62, was traded to the Phillies in 1965. In '66 according to Bo, he hurt his ribs in spring training, but Phillies manager Gene Mauch wouldn't acknowledge the injury. Belinsky finally, on his own, had the ribs x-rayed and discovered that they were broken. Mauch thought he hurt them surfing; who knows for sure? It is this kind of controversy that makes for good baseball lore. Personalities like Bo, are part of what gives this great game life.

Mauch must have disagreed, because he used Bo sparingly in the first few months of the season. A frustrated Belinsky pleaded to be used or sent to San Diego. He got his

wish, as the Phillies dispatched him to the Padres in the middle of June. Shortly after his arrival, he asked to play catch. Why he asked me, I have no idea. Few words were spoken as we warmed up in the outfield. Belinsky was one of those fellas not afraid to test himself. He was also not afraid to test others, as I was about to find out. Having loosened up, he started signaling the kind of pitches he would throw. First it was curve balls, each preceded by a signal. I appreciated the signal, as his curve was sharp breaking. Then the test, his curve signals, came screwballs, which were equally sharp breaking. The signals finally meant nothing. At length, he waved me off, he'd had enough. It was a proud moment; I passed his test.

Not long after, Bo may have bit off a little more than he could handle. It was another gorgeous Westgate Sunday. Out in the right field bullpen, Belinsky confronted Padre announcer, Al Couppee. Bo was obviously upset about something and was giving Al an earful. The madder Bo, got the harder he was jabbing his index finger into Couppee's chest. Al was on his heels, headed toward center field. Now Al was no small man, a former collegiate football player, he finally had enough. He dug in and stood his ground. It was Al's turn to get angry and it was his finger that was punishing Bo's chest. Bo now did the backpedaling and at some point Couppee's rage was too much and Bo spun around and sprinted for safe ground. Relieved that nothing serious happened except the wounded ego, the crowd of players that gathered to watch, lost themselves in laughter. Just more baseball lore.

The revolving Padre door brought smiles to Joe Verbanic, Dallas Green, Bobby del Greco, Grant Jackson, Gary Wagner, and Bo Belinsky, Gary Sutherland, Jim Schaffer and Bobby Klaus. Bobby

Malkmus didn't win any awards, except the respect of this bat boy, and all those who worked with him. Anything that Lucchesi asked of him was done. A great team player, he was a coach on the field. With the season over, it was time to clean and pack up. Bobby came up to me and handed me some cash. Not knowing what to say, except to ask what it was for, he simply stated, "Thanks for the good season and all your hard work." A humble thank you was all I could utter. What I should have said was, "Thank you for the memories, they'll last a lifetime," and so they have.

BILLY LEE SORRELL

Billy Lee Sorrell was born October 14, 1940, at Morehead, Kentucky. Baseball came natural to Lee who was raised on a farm where he picked and pitched apples. Without a baseball or anyone else to throw to, he threw a few of the apples against trees. He attended Ypsilanti High School in Michigan, and in 1959, lettered in baseball, football and swimming. He was given a swimming scholarship for diving while at Michigan, and took second in that water sport two years in a row. Johnny Lucadello a scout for the Phillies, however, signed him to a baseball contract, and he decided to go to his first spring training.

An interview with BILLY LEE SORRELL by Ray Brandes

When Lucadello called me to go to the Phillies camp, I had to leave the very next day. I remember very well as I took the train to Florida, which stopped frequently to pick up other men going to spring training. These were "Big Kids", 6'3" or 6'4," while I was almost 6' at that time. I

was awestruck at how tall and heavy the players appeared to me. For a time, I wanted to change my mind and chose another sport. I almost got off the train after seeing those huge fellows, but went to camp anyway. But I found my way and accustomed myself to the differences among players.

My first season was in the Rookie League—Johnson City, Texas in 1961, and I led the league in stolen bases with 43. I was chosen to play in the league All Star Game. Subsequently, I went to Williamsport where my most unusual baseball experience came in 1962, when I argued with an umpire in a game and to my surprise, the umpire threw me out. It happened the umpire was a friend of mine named Engle. Then to my surprise, he changed his decision.

I next went to Chattanooga, and was second in the Eastern League in stolen bases, with 23. Then to Little Rock in the International League, a Phillies club, and then to San Diego, where I played for Bob Skinner in the Pacific Coast League. I did well in that year, batting .264 and hitting 20 home runs. I was drafted in 1965 by San Francisco part way into the 1966 season with the Pads, and in 1970 went with Kansas City in the American League.

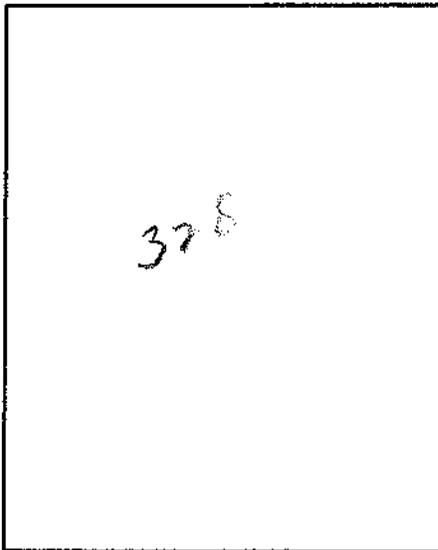
I had the determination to move back up into the majors in 1966, and knew it was then or never for me. I compared ballplayers to “slaves in bondage” in those days, a fact that arose from players being “property” of owners and not having a say-so as to where we wanted to go or what team we wanted to play for. There was no free agent system in those days.

In 1970, I got a call from Jerry Adair of Oakland, who had been playing in Japan and who wanted to come home. He asked me to come to Japan to play there. I

asked my wife what she thought and she said that would be alright, after all, we had moved fifty-six times. I played there for two years and played against the Japanese star “Oh” and the Giants in the Little World Series.

After Japan, I thought about coaching, but went into real estate for awhile and got into real estate tax exchanges and then into the mortgage business eight or nine years ago. We have lived in Rancho Bernardo for 20 years. My wife and I have been married for 32 years. We met in Bakersfield. Our older son is a golfer and is considering turning pro. I had taught my younger son to switch-hit and he considered becoming a Bosox player, when he was drafted by Ray Boone for the Boston Red Sox, but chose to go to college. He now he is in the computer science industry. He got turned off of baseball because of the way the game had become.

Mrs. Sorrell spoke with the interviewer first and gave a few side-lights about the wives of baseball



*Lee Sorrell.
Photo courtesy Al Hogan.*

players.

The wives stayed together in a closely knit group because nobody else in the neighborhood kept the strange hours required of ballplayers' wives because of games at night and traveling schedules. My husband and I moved fifty-six times during the fifteen years Billy Lee played baseball. It was worth it because we saw parts of the United States we might never have even visited.

Then, Billy Lee said that, "Westgate was one of the best parks I ever played in. Bob Skinner, Frank Lucchesi, Eddie Leishman and Les Cook were great guys. My fondest memories come from the fellowship I experienced with team members, the practical jokes they played on each other, the comments they made in the locker room".

Maybe the difficult part of the game was traveling. I hated the planes and the DC3s weren't all that wonderful, especially flying through the Rockies. As for memories of playing: My first home run was in the 14th inning at San Francisco in Shea Stadium—a blow which won the ball game. I had just picked up a bat, but didn't know whose it was. It belonged to Johnny Calligan, an outfielder, who was with the Phillies at the time. The bat broke and was he mad! Later, he came up to me and congratulated me on the homer. My friends included (Dick) Rickey Allen who played both infield and outfield for Philadelphia in the National League. A very good friend and my roommate for four years was Pat Corrales, first base coach with Atlanta, Lee Elia a shortstop with the Phillies, Lou Pinella of Seattle, and Dallas Green a long-time Phillie, right-handed pitcher who batted left handed and was 6'5". I recall when the new San Diego Stadium was being built, Don Larsen, the great Yankee pitcher, and I worked on a construction crew there. That camaraderie among ballplayers reflects how they stay in

contact sometimes long after their playing days are over.

Today I am a professional mortgage broker in San Diego, but consider myself lucky to have played professional baseball for as long as I did.

ROBERT "BO" BELINSKY

Bo Belinsky was born December 7, 1936 in New York City. He did not play baseball in high school; there were no little leagues nor American Legion teams in the areas where he went to school. His dad was a pitcher in an Industrial League. Bo played some with city recreation teams, but his early practice came from throwing rocks for practice. Six months out of high school, at the age of eighteen, he made his debut in pro baseball.

Interview with "BO" BELINSKY Ray Brandes

I went to Brunswick, Georgia, a team in a "D" League in 1957 and then in the same year to Pensacola in the Florida League. In 1958, I moved to Baltimore and then to Knoxville, an "A" League team in the Sally League and to Aberdeen, South Dakota. In 1959, I moved on to Amarillo.

My career took a different turn when I went into the U.S. Army in 1960, but did play three months with Vancouver in the PCL, a triple A League. There scouts saw me, and in 1961, I went to Arkansas, played some winter ball. In that winter I was drafted by the Los Angeles Angels of the American League, where I pitched from the '61 through '64 seasons. I went 10-11 with the Angels in 1962.

In 1965 and 1966, I went to Philadelphia in the National League from Los Angeles, and in June of 1966, came to play with the San

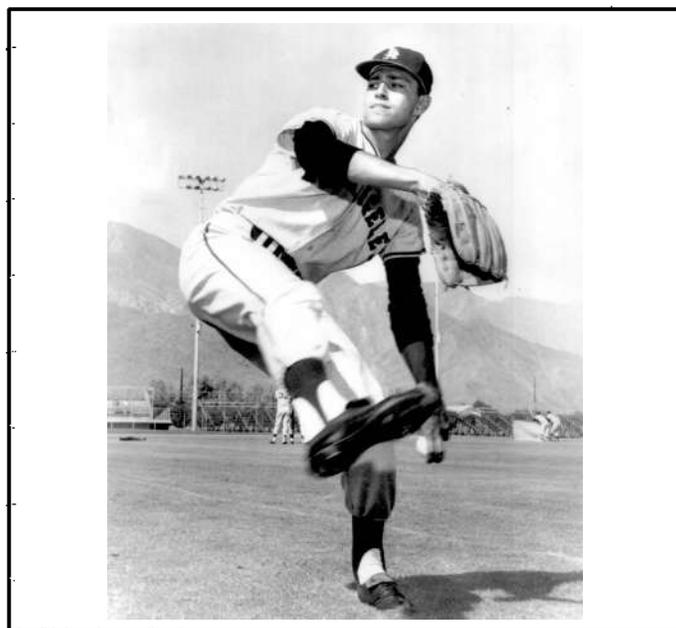
1966, came to play with the San Diego Padres in a trade for Ed Roebuck. In November 1966, the Houston Astros paid \$28,000 for him in the first round of the player draft. He then went to Hawaii in 1967 in a period when he twirled a one-hitter and struck out 181 PCL batters in 176 innings. In the next year, he was the league's percentage leader (12-5). In 1969, Bo played for Pittsburgh in the National League, and in 1970 played for Cincinnati Reds with Sparky Anderson, who was in his first year with that club.

Bo's career has been written in a great deal of print. For example, the book by Maury Allen, *Bo: Pitching and Wooing* published by the Dial Press, 1973-1974. An article by Pat Jordan titled "Once He Was an Angel," appeared in *Sports Illustrated* March 28, 1994. *The Sporting News* of May 16, 1962 related some details of his career.

Many stories have been told of Bo's flamboyant style off the field.

He stood 6'2", weighed 191, threw and batted left. He has been described as a man who knew Walter Winchell, Frank Sinatra, Hugh Hefner and J. Edgar Hoover. While he dated a number of prominent ladies at different times, he was engaged to Mamie Van Doren at the time he came to the Padres. His play on the field, however, was often of greater interest to the fans. He had played with six teams in the minors and on eight different clubs before the time he went to the Angels. He had served his minor league apprenticeship much like the majority of the ballplayers of that time.

When Bo Belinsky arrived at San Diego, he brought his boxer dog with him, and stayed at the Town and Country in Mission Valley. He thought Westgate to be one of the prettiest places in the whole area. The town and the people he said were delightful. San Diego, however, was a little boring, not like Los Angeles. He came to know George Perni-



Bo Belinsky in an Los Angeles Angels uniform.

and ate at the Casa di Baffi in Hillcrest with friends who would come from the L.A. area to spend time with him.

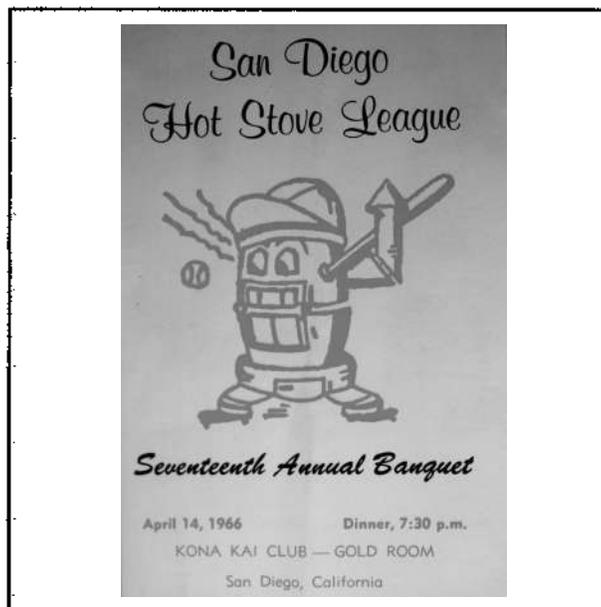
He met C. Arnholt Smith and said he was a good man. Bo remembered Frank Lucchesi with whom there had been differences of opinion which led to his sale, but he had much praise for sportswriter Phil Collier whom Bo said, "was one of the best and fairest sports writers I have known."

At Westgate Park when Bo was to pitch there were sell out crowds who had come to see the "dark, and handsome," southpaw. People were sitting on the banks to see the flashy southpaw who had become front page news since 1962. Bo said he had the ability to pitch but never gave the game his 100%. He said he believed that the crowds had often come out to see Mamie Van Doren, to whom he was engaged. The marketing division for the Padres had played that angle to get her to the park. The

printed press helped to play up her presence. Everywhere the team went, especially to Hawaii to play the Islanders of the PCL, the fans greeted him with much affection.

Despite his protests to the contrary, Bo Belinsky worked hard at the game. Without pursuing his off the field activities in this interview, no one who serves as many years in the minors living on buses and in poor hotels could not but love the game. When asked about the \$28,000 the Astros got for him, Bo said he never saw that kind of money, and never made more than \$20,000 in his career.

Bo recalls his life, the game of baseball and the spotlight with *mucho gusto* (even after a recent serious operation), and he has enjoyed his long-time position as a Quality Control Manager for Saturn of West Las Vegas, Nevada.



San Diego Hot Stove League Program and menu for Seventeenth Annual Banquet, April 14, 1966, at the Kona Kai Club -- Gold Room, Shelter Island, San Diego, California.

FRANK JOSEPH LUCCHESI
Manager, 1966.

was born April 24, 1927, at San Francisco, California. He was born four blocks from the DiMaggios, in the North Beach area of San Francisco. Frank was raised at the north beach area, near Fisherman's Wharf and attended Galileo High School, where, not incidentally, Joe DiMaggio, O.J. Simpson, Dr. Bobby Brown, "No Neck" Williams went to school. He played ball with American Legion teams and played for the State Championship in Sacramento. Right out of high school, he began professional ball in San Francisco. Frank signed his first pro contract with Portland, a PCL club in 1945 at the age of 18.

He started managing as a player-manager in 1951, at Medford, Oregon, in the Far West League when the New York Yankees started him managing at the age of 23, the youngest manager in professional baseball. In his professional managing years, he was ejected 61 times by ump. He was in professional baseball for over 45 years.

He managed three major league teams (Philadelphia Phillies, Texas Rangers, and Chicago Cubs) and was a third base coach for Billy Martin. He was also an advance scout for the Los Angeles Dodgers and a special assignment scout for the Cleveland Indians.

Frank spent 19 years in the minor leagues as a manager, where his teams won seven pennants. Frank was voted "Manager" five times in the minor leagues. Eleven players who played under Frank ended up managing a big league club within the past 12 years.

Interview with
FRANK JOSEPH LUCCHESI
by Ray Brandes

Scout Joe Devine signed me in 1951 at Medford, Oregon where I became a player-manager. I was the youngest manager in pro ball when the Yankees Devine signed me in 1951. It would not be possible for me to say enough good things about Eddie Leishman; he was partly responsible for recommending me to Joe Devine.

My odyssey included playing or managing these teams::

1952:	Thomasville, Player-manager
1953-4:	Pine Bluff, Player-manager
1955:	Pocatello, Player-manager
1956:	Salt Lake City, Player-manager
1957-58:	High Point- Thomasville
1959-60:	Williamsport
1963-65:	Arkansas (PCL)
1966:	San Diego (PCL)
1967-68:	Reading
1969:	Eugene (PCL)
1970-72:	Philadelphia (NL) Manager
1973:	Oklahoma City
1974-77:	Texas (AL)
1979-80:	Texas (AL) Third base coach
1981:	Charleston
1982-84:	Cleveland (AL) Scout
1985-86:	Los Angeles (NL) Advance Scout
1987:	Chicago (NL) Coach and manager
1988-89:	Nashville

I came to San Diego out of the Phillies and remember some of the players at Westgate very well. Bobby del Greco, Wayne Graham, the third baseman, and Lee Sorrell, who played with me at Little Rock and San Diego were outstanding players and individuals. Ray Rippelmeyer was my coach at Philadelphia.

Westgate was one of the better minor league parks, especially with the area around the ballpark and the San Diego River flowing through it. My family lived in an apartment complex in Mission Hills. At the time my wife and I had three children, so we naturally took in the world-famous San Diego Zoo and other sights.

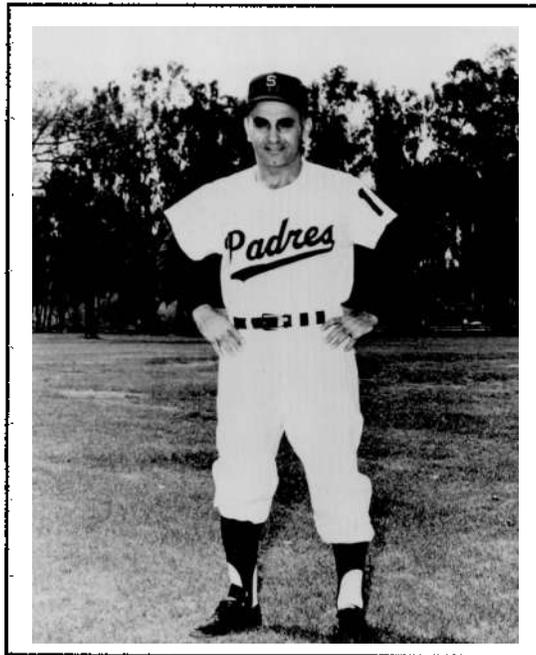
I learned a great deal from Eddie Leishman about being good to the kids. There was no ego involved; I followed his lead because he had a special way with youngsters.

You know, he was the West Coast farm director for the Yankees and General Manager of the Ventura

Class "C" club in the 1940s. I was there two years as a centerfielder. In one interesting game, the catcher, Eddie Kearse, was ejected. The team didn't have another catcher, so I put on the catcher's tools and finished the game. Leishman called me after the game and said, "Get in the Office." He opened up the desk drawer, pulled out my contract and tore it up. I thought he was going to fire me on the spot. Then he said, "I'm giving you a \$25.00 a month raise." That was a lot of money in those days.

I've had a wonderful career. I was fortunate enough to manage five Hall of Famers: Ferguson Jenkins, Gaylord Perry, Steve Carleton, Robin Roberts and Jim Bunning. I don't think I ever managed a better hitter than Dick Allen. Larry Bowa was my pride and joy.

I am semi-retired now and I speak to groups about baseball for the Texas Rangers. My wife and I live in Colleyville, Texas.



Manager Frank Lucchesi.

1966 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	PCT.
Belinski, Robert (Bo)	13	19	--	0	--	--	--	1	.000
Boozer, John	23	31	--	6	--	--	--	--	.194
Bowa, Lawrence	5	19	--	6	--	1	--	1	.316
Brubaker, Bruce	30	58	4	7	2	--	--	2	.121
Cherry, Joe	76	208	24	51	10	2	2	16	.245
Clendenin, Leonard	3	--	--	0	--	--	--	--	.000
Cowan, Billy*	121	459	67	125	24	5	14	69	.272
Coward, Stirling	2	7	1	1	--	--	--	--	.143
Del Greco, Robert*	138	387	56	96	19	3	7	46	.248
Emery, Calvin	137	470	65	138	23	2	13	72	.294
Gigon, Norman*	108	392	54	106	13	3	13	44	.270
Graham, Wayne	27	103	11	25	4	--	1	8	.243
Green, G. Dallas	27	62	6	12	1	2	--	8	.194
Jackson, Grant	36	49	5	8	1	--	--	5	.163
James, Jeffrey	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Klaus, Robert	141	473	99	118	22	3	15	54	.249
Loughlin, Larry	13	12	1	3	1	--	--	0	.250
Malkmus, Robert	106	370	58	111	26	2	6	36	.293
McKnight, James*	117	393	48	111	19	4	13	49	.282
Messerly, Jerry	5	7	--	1	--	--	--	--	.143
Morris, John	29	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Nash, Charles*	95	297	31	62	6	1	15	53	.209
Reams, Leroy	12	25	--	6	2	--	--	2	.240
Ridzik, Stephen	29	13	2	1	--	--	--	--	.077
Roebuck, Edward	35	15	--	1	--	--	--	1	.067
Schaffer, Jimmie	111	356	51	98	24	3	12	57	.275
Sorrell, Bill	136	503	74	133	18	3	20	80	.264
Steevens, Morris*	46	43	3	7	1	--	--	1	.163
Sutherland, Gary	140	532	57	135	27	1	4	54	.254
Thoenen, Richard	15	4	0	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Verbanic, Joseph	23	34	1	8	--	--	--	2	.235
Wagner, Gary	24	30	3	5	1	--	--	1	.167
Walters, Ferdinand	26	58	10	15	4	--	2	11	.259
Wilson, William	39	23	3	5	1	--	--	3	.217
Wise, Richard	12	15	--	2	--	--	--	--	.133

*Cowan: 41 Tacoma-80 San Diego,
 Del Greco: 107 San Diego-31 Indianapolis,
 Gigon: 36 San Diego-72 Tacoma,
 McKnight: 19 Phoenix-98 San Diego,
 Nash: 9 Sea-86 San Diego,
 Steevens: 8 San Diego-38 Phoenix.

1966 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	IP	W	L	PCT	SO	BB	ERA
Belinsky,Robert(Bo)	13	54	2	4	.333	54	32	4.83
Boozer, John	23	90	4	9	.308	75	27	5.40
Brubaker, Bruce	29	170	8	13	.381	116	54	3.97
Clendenin,Leonard	3	3	--	--	.000	--	3	12.00
Green, G. Dallas	26	184	14	9	.609	90	28	3.82
Jackson, Grant	23	134	10	8	.556	132	58	3.96
James, Jeffrey	1	2	--	1	.000	2	3	13.50
Loughlin, Larry	13	40	1	--	1.000	22	22	3.60
Messerly, Jerry	4	15	1	1	.500	8	15	7.20
Morris, John	29	30	3	2	.600	21	14	2.70
Ridzik, Stephen	29	67	2	5	.286	45	21	3.63
Roebuck, Edward	33	66	2	6	.250	33	24	3.68
Steevens, Morris*	44	126	4	11	.267	82	38	4.29
Thoenen, Richard	15	30	1	--	1.000	14	10	2.10
Verbanic, Joseph	22	91	8	1	.889	53	23	2.67
Wagner, Gary	24	109	6	5	.545	79	20	2.64
Wilson, William	39	93	6	5	.545	95	34	3.10
Wise, Richard	12	55	3	1	.750	26	9	2.29

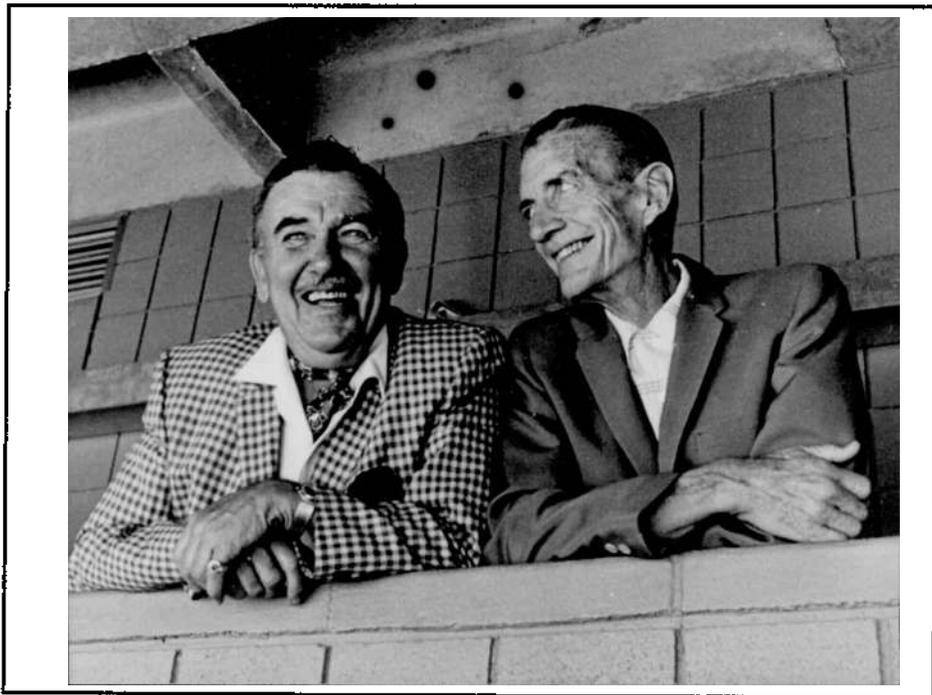
*Steevens: 8 San Diego-36 Phoenix.

PHOTOS

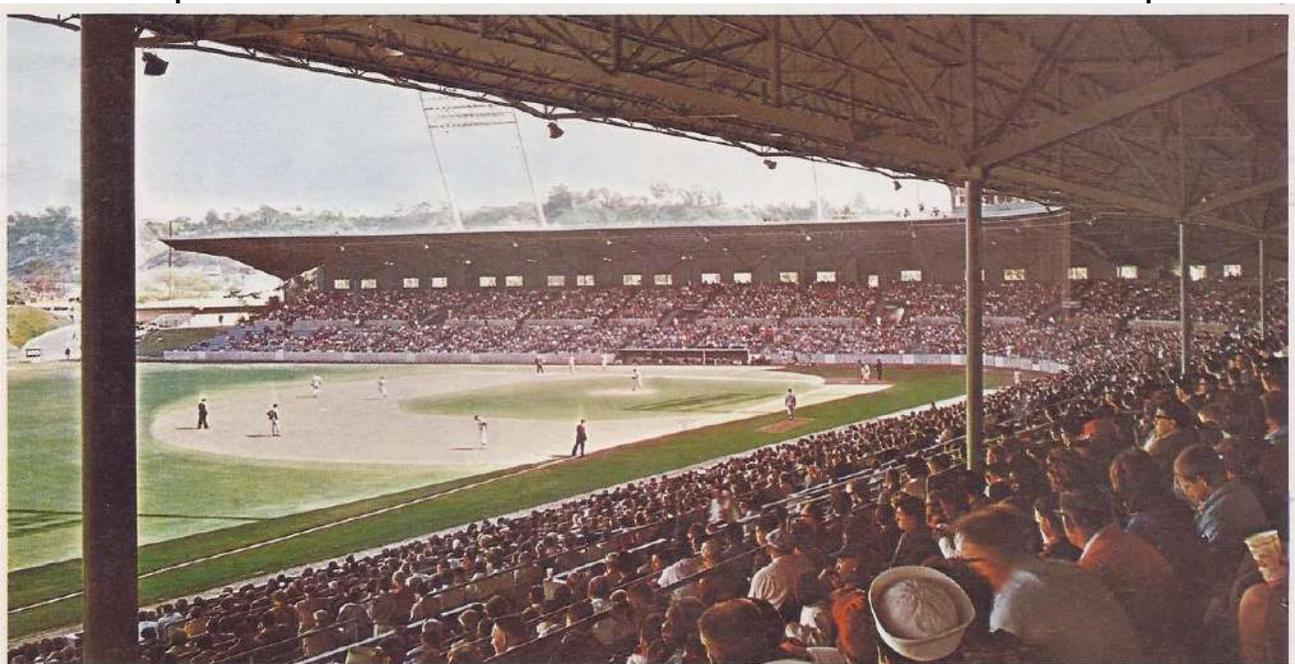
All photographs appeared in the *San Diego Union* unless otherwise shown:

January 8:	Site preparation for San Diego Stadium.	March 20:	Wayne Graham.
January 21:	Ted Williams, series of photos; some early S.D.	March 22:	Leroy Reams
February 3:	Buzzie Bavasi		Les Cassie with model of Hoover High baseball field to be named for Ted Williams. Also shown are Bob Breitbard, John Grantham and Bill Finley.
February 4:	Eddie Leishman		
February 6:	Bob Skinner, Deron Johnson, Crystal Richards.	March 31:	Calvin Wayne Emery, Leonard Harvey Clendenin, Norman Philip Gigon. (lifetime records).
February 10:	Grading at the stadium site in Mission Valley.		
February 14:	Frank Lucchesi	April 1:	Wayne Graham, Bobby Malkmus (lifetime records).
February 23:	Bobby Klaus	April 2:	Robert del Greco, John Dee Griffin (lifetime
February 24:	Frank Lucchesi, Eddie Leishman, Pat Down.		
March 18:	Frank Lucchesi, Bobby Malkmus,		

	records).	May 30:	Jimmy Schaffer, Marvin Staehle.
April 4:	Billy Wilson	June 4:	Councilwoman Helen Cobb, Bill Finley, Les Cassie.
April 5:	Bobby Malkmus	June 9:	Ted Williams, Jim McKnight Jr., Bill Finley.
April 5:	Gary Sutherland, Morrie Steevens (lifetime records).	June 13:	Fred Walters
April 11:	Leroy Reams, Bobby Klaus (lifetime records)	June 14:	Bo Belinsky
April 12:	Leroy Reams, Frank Lucchesi, John Morris, BobbyKlaus.	June 29:	Billy Cowan, Bo Belinsky
April 13:	John Morris, Bobby del Greco.	June 30:	Bobby Klaus
April 15:	Bobby Klaus, Gary Sutherland, Wayne Graham, Cal Emery, Jim Schaffer, Bobby del Greco, Norm Gigon, LeroyReams, Morrie Steevens.	July 4:	Gary Sutherland
April 15:	Jim Schaffer, Morrie Steevens	July 4:	Bo Belinsky
April 16:	Billy Mills, Buddy Bradford, Wayne Graham, Cal Emery.	July 5:	Bobby Klaus and Bill Sorrell
April 18:	Billy Sorrell, Duane Josephson.	July 11:	Bobby Klaus
April 25:	Rich Renick, Bobby del Greco.	July 19:	John Morris and Joe Verbanic
May 4:	Bob Elliott	July 26:	Photo of Baseball Hall of Fame plaques for Casey Stengel and Ted Williams.
May 5:	Bob Elliott	August 2:	Frank Lucchesi in the stands at Westgate Park.
May 17:	Gary Wagner, Frank Lucchesi, Cotton Nash.	August 7:	Bobby Doerr
May 24:	Rick Wise	August 8:	Les Cook, Bobby Doerr and Steve Mesner
May 29:	John Boozer, youngsters Kevin Geielfeldt, Frank Addington.	September 9:	Bobby Malkmus
		November 12:	Jack Murphy Stadium under construction.
		December 5:	Eddie Leishman
		December 8:	Bob Skinner and family
		December 16:	Ray Rippelmeyer



Preston Foster and Eddie Leishman at Westgate Park.



WESTGATE PARK — MISSION VALLEY — HOME OF THE PADRES

Westgate Park, from 1967 Program. The original is in color.

CHAPTER X

SAN DIEGO PADRES, 1967

BOB SKINNER AND THE PENNANT



1967 Team Photo.

The Padres looked to turn themselves around from the 1966 campaign. Bob Skinner, new manager would have to manage and help with the acquisition of players to replace those now gone to the parent club. His motto for the year, "A team in motion for a city in motion," characterized the Padres.

Skinner had replaced Frank Lucchesi to become manager of the Philadelphia's AA team, Reading. Skinner, direct in his approach, had



*Manager Bob Skinner
(1967-1968)*

asked Eddie Leishman for the position. When showed the list of potentials the team had considered, Skinner saw his name. Leishman took a risk with Skinner, who had never before managed a team. Skinner showed confidence in a man who had leadership qualities.

The new manager realized he had not been in the minors and that he could not be too critical, nor expect too much. He looked at some of "these kids" and wondered what they were even doing in uniforms.

Bob Skinner was born and raised in San Diego. His father had been a language teacher at La Jolla High School, where Bob was a .220 hitter, when the late Pop Billings saw something special about him and led him to a contract with the Pirates.

With the change in parent clubs to the Phillies, the Padres had a new spring training facility and looked to 18 games during Spring training. The designer, Phillies farm director Paul Owens, built the camp, named Carpenter Field, in Clearwater, Florida. The facility was named in honor of Phillies owner Bob Carpenter. Designed around a central clubhouse, it cost more than a quarter-of-a-million dollars. The facility boasted four full diamonds and it also included four bullpens, a sprinting track, a throwing wall, and four batting cages.

The locker room could expand to include 300 players. An in-

novation made at the facility involved catwalks extended from the roof of the clubhouse to within fifty feet of any of the four diamonds. In this manner, one could watch any of the games played on the fields. Owens indicated that in the past, the normal practice had been to watch from a tower that could be as much as 500 feet away from the game.

The relationship between the Phillies and the Padres sounded familiar. The Padres would receive most of their players from the cadre, which would start practice with the Phillies. The natural assumption was that every player wanted a shot at the majors. Before the season had ended, many of those in spring training would play either for the parent club, the AAA club or both. Joe Cherry a catcher, Jim Schaffer, a veteran catcher, Jim Gentile, another first baseman, and Larry Loughlin a pitcher came into the Clearwater complex early.

Before the end of the season, the team would look very differ-



*Dewey Soriano,
Pacific Coast League President.*



Padre Program, 1967.

ent from the one which Skinner would start. Ricardo Joseph, a first baseman, switched to third. He didn't care where they played him. Bobby Klaus, called the "Walking Man" because of his 154 walks in the 1966 PCL season at second. The slick-fielding Dominican . Roberto Peña, played shortstop. and Marty Richardson, sent to the Phillies from the Detroit organization became a utility infielder for the Padres. Jim Schaffer and Joe Cherry would fight for the catcher's position. Outfielders Marty Keough and Billy Cowan, became the last players to be signed.

Several positions remained unfilled and the Padres would have

to get them in some other way than from the Phillies.

As for the bullpen, they received John Boozer, Larry Loughlin, and rookie right-hander Frank Polard. Pitching coach Ray Rippelmeyer looked over Ed Roebuck the 18 season veteran sinkballer, 13 of those years in the majors. Among the pitchers Rippelmeyer appeared to like were left-hander John Morris, Al Raffo, and Dick Thoenen.

Early in April Jim Gentile was assigned to San Diego by the Phillies. The 32-year-old first baseman left Clearwater, Florida for a drive home to Castro Valley, California. He wanted to go on playing baseball, and liked the Padres, but not the salary which had grown considerably while he was with four major league organizations during eight seasons. By the time he and his car reached Dallas he had resolved his problems, and intended to cast his lot with the Padres. His desire to play baseball, and ability to return to the Major leagues, would have to come through a good season with San Diego.

On April 8 the "Turk" made his rounds at the minor league training complex of the Phillies. In the folklore of professional sports, the Turk is the mysterious figure who appears at cutdown time, wielding the knife that trims rosters. Among the Pads to go were Darrell Peters, Mike Wegener, and Al Raffo. The

next day Cal Emery went to the Buffalo Bisons in exchange for pitcher John Tsitouris. The 31-year-old right-hander, was a veteran of 13 professional seasons, eight of which were in the majors.

During this period Wayne Lockwood and Jerry Magee were covering the Padres for the *San Diego Union*. While Jack Murphy editorialized, the men on the field with the players, covered most of the events. Not all of the early period revolved around spring training.

The traditional Hot Stove League 18th annual banquet, "Welcome Padre Night," was held April 13 at the Kona Kai Club on Shelter Island and arranged by Secretary Eddie Miller and Frank Alessio, HSL president. Mayor Frank Curran and other local city Mayors were on hand to welcome the team. Bob Skinner introduced Whitey Lockman, manager of the Tacoma club team and the players. Entertainment was provided by Preston and Shelia Foster. Then on April 20, the 19th annual San Diego Padres baseball luncheon was held by the Elks Club in El Cajon by Kiwanis Club at the Elks Club where Al Schuss, radio broadcaster would be Master of Ceremonies.

In the Phillies final cut, the Padres received Jim Gentile at first, Jim Schaffer as the number one catcher, and relief pitcher Terry Fix. Finally added were Gene Hareson, Larry Colton, Jeff James, and Jerry

Messerly, a 24-year-old right-hander. Cal Emery signed his contract, and then as an extra first-baseman, found himself traded for a fifth startup pitcher John Tsitouris. Rich Barry, outfield prospect, and Dave Watkins vied for the final outfield position. Watkins, the ballplayer who was studying to be a doctor, began to figure he would spend much of his time tending to the medical needs of the ballplayers.

Each spring he turned into a one-man epidemic during spring training. In 1964 he had the mumps; the next year he was hit on the thumb by a pitch, in 1966, he had an attack of the boils twice, and then blood poisoning developed in his leg. He figured that 1967, would change, but his right hand was stepped on in a rundown drill breaking a finger bone, and opening a gash. Then he developed muscle spasms in his throwing arm.

On a day off, March 15, the Padres went to Enseñada to play in



Outfielder Rich Barry

its annual benefit exhibition with the "Baja California All-Stars." The Padres won the game 25-1, with five homers. The game provided a boost, as the team returned home for a two-week homestand. The team finished the exhibition season at 9 and 7.

Even as the season would begin, Eddie Leishman met with baseball Commissioner William Eckert, Warren Giles, and Joe Cronin, presidents of the National and American Leagues, respectively. Leishman and C. Arnholt Smith held a March 2 press conference to announce the intention of San Diego to bid for a major league team. With the San Diego Stadium close to completion, Smith felt this an opportune time to bring San Diego baseball into the majors.

Douglas Giddings, legal counsel, told Jack Murphy that C. Arnholt Smith and his associates had been in contact with Commissioner Eckert, and he had told them the time was right. The local group visualized a total investment of \$7 million, with about \$3 million of that amount a franchise fee.

Both Major Leagues planned to add a total of four new teams, but the timetable for the additions seemed uncertain because of the Vietnam war. Some of the Major League bosses felt that expansion should not take place when the manpower situation remained doubtful and risky. The idea that Leishman



*Gary Wagner and Bob Skinner.
Photo San Diego Historical
Society Collection.*

had was to just name the four teams in advance, and then permit them to join the majors at a later date. The teams chosen would need time to pick managers, new players, and start a farm system, so an advantage could be achieved with a couple of years to prepare.

The Padres then played an exhibition match with the Cincinnati Reds, which had a roster that included 17 former Padres including their former manager Dave Bristol, their former coach Whitey Wietelmann, and such other players as Don Pavletich, Chico Ruiz, Deron Johnson, and Sammy Ellis.

For the first game at home of the 65th Pacific Coast League season, Don Coryell, the San Diego State University football coach, threw out

the first ball of the season at Westgate Park on April 14.

In the home opener the Padres fell to the Tacoma club 2-1 before 5,172 fans at Westgate Park. Tacoma took the Padres 6-4 in the second game before 1,162 chilled fans. The following day, in the first game of the doubleheader the Cubs won on the six hit pitching of Billy Connors 7-0 to make off with three victories in the four-game, season-opening series. In the nightcap, Bobby Klaus and Billy Cowan drove in the runs as left-hander Larry Loughlin, a Tacoma high school product, turned on his hometown team, to pitch the Padres to the 4-2 victory before 3,144 fans.

As an added incentive to bring fans out, the Cincinnati Reds played the Pads on the 17th in an exhibition game which the Redlegs won 2-1. The Pads, however, exhibited the pitching that Bob Skinner had been looking for. Before 3,112 chilly fans, Skinner felt his team had done very well against the usually formidable National Leaguers, holding them to five hits. After that game, three tilts with the Indianapolis Indians were rained out. The Padre management tried to dry out the field, but Leishman said, "We just can't get it dry. We worked since 6 a.m., even put in two extra pumps, but the water is coming up through the ground as fast as we pump it out."

Moving on to Tulsa to play

the Oilers, the Padres lost their first two games on April 22 and 23. In the third game they won 7-3, with the help of their first two homers of the season, by Joseph and Gentile. Gentile and Skinner were ejected from the game later on. The player cuts began with pitcher Frank Pollard sent back to the Phillies. In the next series the Padres lost 2 of 3 to the 89ers.

Tornado warnings had been put up for the night, keeping the crowds down to under 600 each night. Gentile was again ejected in the third game after he protested a strike. When he left for the clubhouse, he kicked dirt on the plate, a standard procedure after being removed from a game. In a series against the Bears, one game was can-



*Billy Cowan crossing the plate.
Photo courtesy Mr. Cowan.*

celed due to 30 degree weather. Since the team had not been doing well, Skinner kept the team out for batting practice. The next two games were played in cold, rainy weather. The Padres returned home still ensconced in the cellar:

Against the 89ers, the visitors drubbed the Padres 14-5, on April 28, with 16 hits in an error filled contest, before 593 at All-Sports Stadium in Oklahoma City. At Indianapolis, they blew a series; at Denver with one game postponed by cold weather, the Padres lost two games. In the last game of the series, while San Diego belted six homers, they lost 12-10, on a cold, rainy evening with only 387 fans braving the elements.

At Oklahoma City, a weak defense and an inability to hit with men on base, Bob Skinner attributed to the club's slow start. In the next game of the series, while they stood in last place in the Eastern Division at 5-12, seven games back of Oklahoma City, John Boozer struck out 16 players, which beat the Padre record that had stood since 1944, at Westgate Park where the turnout was 2,449 fans. Loughlin then two-hit the 89ers, to give the Pads a 4-1 win largely with his breaking pitches. Before leaving on a seven-day road trip to Phoenix on May 9, six of the Padres: Dave Watkins, Rich Barry, Ricardo Joseph, John Tsitouris, Jerry

Messerly and Jim Schaffer, posed as male models, for the second annual fashion show, of the Hemophilia Chapter of San Diego at the Stardust Hotel.

While the Padres were trouncing Phoenix, the Phillies had cut their roster to 25 players, and the Padres acquired outfielder Lou Clinton a purchase from the Yankees: Gary Wagner, on option. They also acquired catcher Dick Bertell, from the Cubs, but the Padres had to release a player on the roster. Dave Watkins went to Reading; Messerly went back to the Phillies, and Gene Harbeson to Portsmouth. A fifth straight win, with Boozer pitching a 2 hitter, moved the Padres out of the cellar.

When they went to the park the next night, May 14, to meet the Bears, the game was canceled due to bad weather Dick Bertell said:

The weather made it hard because of all those makeup games ... It was also hard because most of the games that were canceled were canceled right before we played, at which point we had already blown the whole day.

The bad weather made it more difficult for the team, because they played twice as hard later in the year when they had to make up the games with a whole series of doubleheaders. They did, however, make

up the game on May 15, playing a doubleheader, sweeping the Bears 9-3 and 3-1. By May 17, on the work of John Tsitouris, San Diego beat Phoenix 7-2, and moved within one game of first place. The elusive .500 mark was lost when Phoenix topped the Padres in the 11th the next day.

On the 19th, while the Padres got only 1 hit, they triumphed over Phoenix 1-0. Larry Loughlin pitched 5 hit ball, as Phoenix lost on infield errors. Jeff James took Phoenix, and then Larry Colton hurled a 4 hitter at Westgate Park.

On May 22, the locals nipped Tulsa, managed by Warren Spahn, 3-2 moving the Padres into first place, having climbed there in 16 days.

Since May 5 they had won 12 of 14 to vault to the front.

Not all going on at Westgate had to do with baseball or football. Padre fans and players were amused by proposed plans of hippies to hold a series of "love-ins" at Westgate Park the coming summer, which failed to materialize.

Six straight losses, including several doubleheaders, dropped the Padres again to 5th place, two-and-a-half games out of first place, in the very close Eastern Division. A few changes in the Padre roster included pitcher Bill Spanswick, from Seattle, replacing Darrell Peter while he was on weekend military duty in Arkansas.

Early in June, the Padres and

the city neared agreement on the use of the San Diego Stadium. The Chargers would begin to play in the 50,000 seat stadium August 20, but wanted additional end-zone seating for young football fans: about 5,000 bleacher seats to be sold for \$1.00.

Frank Hope Jr., stadium architect, said bleachers would detract from the appearance of the \$28 million structure, but that it would be possible to extend a level of seats across the stadium's open end for about \$210,000. Board members said funds were not available, but showed interest in installing some permanent seats at the open end of the horseshoe shaped stadium. A number of stadium policies and arrangements were outlined in a lengthy report in the *San Diego Union* of June 6, 1967.

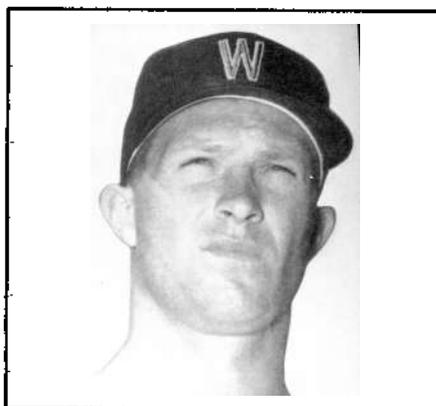
During the month of June the team hung in the race, losing a few and then taking a doubleheader over Portland on June 11. On June 13, they slammed five homers to beat Vancouver. Clinton, Keough, Cowan, Joseph, Gentile powered the homers. Skinner tried to protect his players so much, that he had been "thumbed out" of four games by June. He centered his efforts around the creation of a well-conditioned club. Conditioning kept the players strong in the final innings of the games. When Billy Cowan was called up to the Phillies, he said, "I can't say enough about Bob Skinner. He's the

reason a lot of the people on this club are having such good seasons."

On June 15, the team took first place again, with eight in a row over Vancouver at Westgate Park, as Larry Colton did the pitching, and hitting to take the win.

All the teams had to learn to deal with the weekend reserve duties required of the young players. Peters, Messerly and other Padres would often miss a rotation or a chance to come in relief. The veterans, therefore, often carried the team as on June 17, when a Jim Gentile grand slam beat Denver 6-2. Again on the 20th the Padres seven homers buried Seattle, as they took the Angels in a 13-4 victory at Westgate Park. Gentile had two home runs.

While the Padres played at the Westgate Park, Jack Murphy drooled over the new San Diego Stadium in a full two-column wide description on June 25. There is no question, however, that the stadium



Marty Keough.

was specifically designed for the Chargers, and "the Jefferson Airplane group." Jack Murphy called it a "posh pit." He spoke in terms of a 50,277 seating capacity for football, 18,036 directional signs obtained at a cost of \$92,000, 200 special liquid amber trees inside the plaza level, for a total of 600 trees. One does not read of the use as a multi-purpose stadium. One could have erroneously concluded that the arena was for the benefit of one major sport.

As Skinner had well-known, he would lose good players during the season, and send his best up to the Phillies, as they needed them. Billy Cowan, John Boozer and Larry Loughlin had been summoned, but Skinner did not panic; he had known that the parent club could give, and they could also take away.

Making up canceled games the Padres split doubleheaders on two nights running with the Denver Bears. Even so, the Padres retained their three game lead in the Eastern Division.

Their success in the first half, despite what appeared to be a series of ups and downs, now came with a stronger defense and the long ball. They pulled themselves from fourth place to first, leading by three games in June. Even when they lost some of their best players to the Phillies, they held firm.

Jack Murphy summed it up: "Whatever the geography, it's good

baseball and good fun." Radio's Ernie Myers had the idea, "Let's support the Padres. Any team with a ballplayer named Boozer can't be all bad. I'll drink to that." The triumvirate of *San Diego Union* sports writers Jack Murphy in charge, Johnny McDonald, and Phil Collier delivered the news and the editorials. They offered the shafts of light even when the team was down. The spearhead of the *San Diego Evening-Tribune* was sportswriter Earl Keller.

As July began the Padres had just beaten Phoenix. On fireworks day, the Padres whipped the Tulsa Oilers 7-3, before 6,093 fans with servicemen getting to see a free game at Westgate Park.

John Tsitouris pitched a four-

TICKET PRICES			
Westgate Park Box Office			
Phone 298-9826			
	Adults	Students	Children under 13
Box Seats	\$2.00	\$1.50	\$1.25
Reserved Grandstand	1.65	1.15	.90
General Admission	1.25	.75	.50
FAMILY NIGHT (Fridays)			
Free general admission for children under 13.			
SERVICEMEN			
Only \$.75 general admission with "membership card"; inquire at box office.			
SENIOR CITIZENS			
General admission only 50c for those 65 years of age and older.			
GROUPS			
Contact Jean Davis, Ticket Manager at the Padre office for special arrangements.			

hitter. That gave them four in a row, 23 out of 29 starts, and put them four-and-a-half games in the league division lead. They bounced Tulsa 7-3, took their sixth straight over Tulsa, as Rich Barry crashed a grand slam home run, to spur the streaking Padres to a 6-1 victory. Number seven came as Ricardo Joseph, got 4 RBIs against Oklahoma City at their park. On July 8, the Padres gave a beating to the 89ers 1-0 and 2-0 as John Tsitouris and Gary Wagner pitched seven inning shutouts. The streak had reached nine.

The locals moved on to edge Tulsa and the Oilers, as Jeff James pitched a sterling four-hitter. With a game rained out, the Pads were to play a doubleheader on July 13. The date hexed them as they split the twin bill.

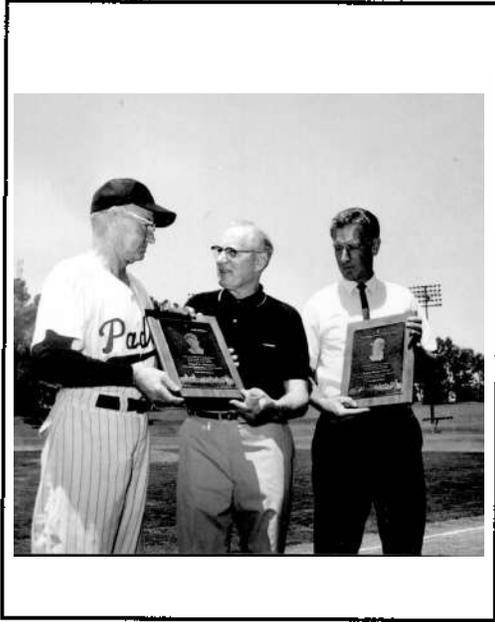
Early in the season Skinner and Leishman had responded to what their pitchers would do by relying on Ray Rippelmeyer. He had successfully turned around several players who had poor years previously. John Tsitouris had contemplated leaving the game; Jeff James had nearly ended up somewhere else. The pitchers responded, and the team benefited by the ability of the coaches, and manager, to be patient with their charges. By mid-July San Diego stood on top of the Eastern Division four games in the lead.

The Vietnam war came closer to home as five of the young pitchers

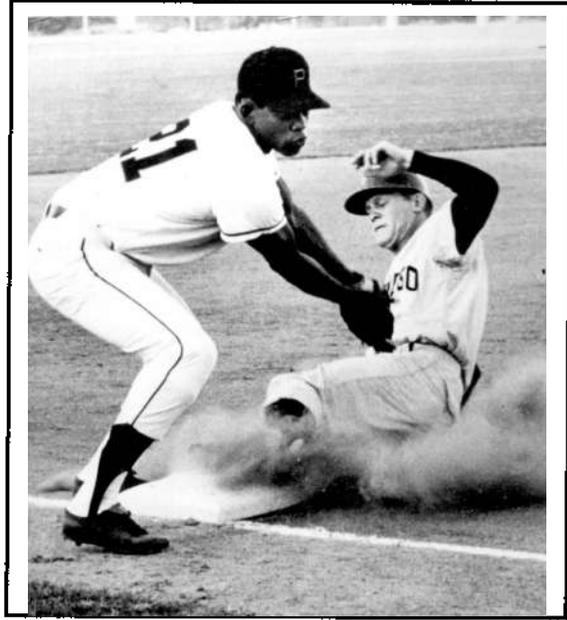
were called up for brief terms of active duty in the reserve training programs, and Jeff James was inducted into the army. Three important starters, John Tsitouris, Larry Colton, and Gary Wagner, could not be called for service. The complexion of the Padres, with only the pitchers called up, emphasized that the youth was in the pitching staff. At the same time Major League scouts came often to watch John Tsitouris, the 31-year-old veteran right-hander who had fashioned a 13-2 record, taking nine in a row. Skinner felt that Tsitouris had stabilized the club, and that John had enjoyed playing with the Padres, but to his disappointment, he would stay the rest of the season.

The matter of Major League status and the new multi-purpose stadium in Mission Valley intrigued Baseball Commissioner William Eckert, who made a trip to San Diego on July 13. While San Diego hoped for a spot in the expansion, the speculation had Kansas City as the city which would be awarded the new franchise. Included, however, in the running were Dallas-Fort Worth, Milwaukee, and San Diego.

Many big league club owners, however, did not want to consider expansion while the Vietnam War continued. Too many players had gone into the service, and many others remained in school to protect their immunity from the draft.



*Rupert Thompson, and Al Olsen
presented plaques by Al Schuss,
July 30, 1967.
Photo from San Diego Historical
Society Collections.*



Bobby Klaus steals third base.



*Old-timers game, July 31 1967. Dunbar, Sada, Boone, Regalado,
Mesner, Glynn, Kerr, Harshman, Patchett, Durst.
Photo San Diego Historical Society Collection. ,*

Eckert was complimentary and careful in his statements noting that San Diego would be given consideration with every other city seeking a major league franchise.

Even as they lost games during a hot July, many of the games were lost by one or two runs. Yet the Padres managed to hang on to, and even extend their lead. As the sports writers told the stories of each game, they filled in for Murphy on vacation, or carried tidbits of information for baseball aficionados, such as the story in the *Union* on July 24, reflecting insight into what made Bobby Klaus tick and what he felt about his future in the game.

On July 31, the annual Old Timers game was held at Westgate Park. Cedric Durst and Earle Brucker Jr. were the coaches for the Padre and PCL old-timers. At least 25 men representing each of the two teams came to play in the three inning game. Following that game two former Padres, Minnie Miñoso and Tommy Thompson, were inducted into the San Diego Padre Hall of Fame. A crowd of 3,326 watched the annual context with nostalgia. Among those in the lineup were Carl Dumler, Athos Sada, Ray Boone, Rudy Regalado, Steve Mesner, Bill Glynn, Frank Kerr, Jack Harshman, Hal Patchett and their manager Cedric Durst.

The Padres had held on to their league lead going into August,

but suffered two difficult losses before a turnout of 5,560 in Westgate Park. The Padres, still in first place, were now only three-and-a-half games ahead of Sacramento. On August 4, a 2-1 defeat at the hands of the Phoenix Giants put the Padres down in the PCL eastern division to just two games over Oklahoma City. Jim Gentile pulled a muscle, just after the big first baseman had smashed three home runs and a double which brought the Padres to victory in the last two games at Indianapolis. He left soon thereafter with the injury that would one day bring his career to a close.

Marty Keough would move to fill Gentile's shoes, and helped with a two-run double to lift the Padres to a 4-3 victory over the Phoenix Giants. That was a must win to save a one-and-a-half game lead, despite a doubleheader victory by second place Oklahoma City. In the hectic PCL pennant race the Padres came to prize the chemistry of Jeff James. The strong-armed rookie earned the club's admiration for his knack of winning. The 26-year-old rookie took his 7th straight win, and his tenth of the season, against three losses on August 7, to garner a 3-2 win over the Vancouver Mounties. Coincidence or not, the Club dropped 13 of 24 games while James was out to fulfill his service commitment, and took five of seven when he returned to the starting rotation.

Games between San Diego and Vancouver figured to be well-played since both led their divisions in the PCL. The games went all one way: San Diego's way. The Padres rolled to their 6th straight triumph over the Mounties on August 8, behind a 16 hit attack over the Canadians, 12-2 before 2,248 fans at Capilano Stadium. Three straight wins and six in eight games moved the Padre's division lead to two full games over Oklahoma City. On August 12, a five-homer assault and seventeen hits battered Spokane 14-5.

On August 15, Jack Murphy continued his editorializing about the quality of the stadium. The thrust of his story was that:

when one sets about building a \$27.5 million municipal stadium it's a pretty good idea to have the public interest protected by men of unquestioned integrity and sound business judgement....Under the general supervision of chairman Bill Elser and his associates the stadium has been completed on a tight 15-month schedule.

When the [Stadium] Authority was created by the City Council and Board of Supervisors on November 11, 1945, it had a choice of two courses. It could be a strong, active agency with a

vital role in all major policy decisions. Or it could merely tag along as a puppet body, rubber stamping the actions of the City Council...Anybody who knows the make of the Stadium Authority could guess the direction it would take. These are men accustomed to thinking and speaking for themselves.

The nine men who worked for the Stadium consistently were: Bill Elser, Al Hartunian Jr. Paul Carter, Richard Silberman, Carl Hartnack, Bert Ritchey, Dr. Albert Anderson, Bill Black and Norman Foster.

The group worked closely with City Council members, their own counsel or other individuals with excellent rapport. On August 20, 45,988 saw the San Diego Chargers professional football team open the San Diego Stadium.

Skinner's baseball team turned a tight Eastern Division race into a rout. They continued the wins through August 17, with a win over Indianapolis, 4-1, in the final game of a busy six-game series at Westgate Park. A very happy crowd of 3,378 moved the club's season attendance beyond the 200,000 mark. John Tsitouris scored the win.

Sparked by the pitching of Jeff James and Dick Stigman, and the power hitting of Ricardo Joseph, the Padres staged an appropriate finish to a homestand sweep as they smoth-



*Ricardo Joseph,
Most Valuable Player, 1967.*

ered the hopes of Indianapolis and the 89ers. The Padres, who had won 15 of their last 18, now led the second-place Oklahoma City by 11 full games with but 16 left in the season.

The first-place San Diego Padres left Lindbergh Field August 21 to begin their next to last road trip of the season. They took eight games in a row and on the 21st spotted the Oilers six runs and came back to win 9-7 with five homers. Seven days later, they returned as the Eastern Division champions.

They sewed up the PCL Eastern Division Championship on August 27, with a win over Oklahoma City, 11-3, in the final game of the week-long road trip. The win erased any mathematical chances of the other challengers. The road trip insured the rookie manager, Bob Skinner, a pennant in his first try out. This would be the third PCL division title in six years for the Padres.

This was the team that had won but four of its first sixteen games, and then went on a June tear, winning 26 of 31 games. They slumped for a time, but came back steadily to increase their lead by the end of the season. Amazingly, the pitchers had completed 54 games. The bullpen had come through when needed, with a great deal of help from Coach Ray Rippelmeyer.

Bob Skinner ranked number one on just about any poll which covered "Manager of the Year" candidates. He took an outfit that finished fifth in 1966, and fashioned the most successful team in the PCL. Most gratified was General Manager Eddie Leishman, the man upon whom had rested final responsibility to name Skinner to replace Frank Lucchesi.

James Gentile remarked during an interview on October 20, 1996:

Skinner was the best manager I've ever played for. He had the knack of being able to help you, but not over doing it. If you're doing something wrong, he told you about it. But he left you alone otherwise. He was a ball player's manager.

On September 2, a record 15,299 fans came out to pay respects to the team at Westgate Park. The last regular season performance brought the Padres to celebrate a

decisive win over Denver, 6-2.

In an appropriate last hurrah, nostalgia and 10-cent hot dogs permeated the park. The largest crowd in Padre history came together for the windup of 10 years of Pacific Coast League play in the Mission Valley arena. The Padres gave the fans a powerful demonstration of solid hitting and strong pitching, which had carried them to a run-away Eastern Division Championship.

The most surprised man in the ballpark was Eddie Leishman, General Manager of the club, who was presented with a new Cadillac, recognizing him as the architect of three pennant-winning teams in the last six seasons. Mayor Frank Curran had declared this "Eddie Leishman Day."

The Padres proved themselves the best team in the Pacific Coast League over a 148-game span.

On September 6, they took up their final challenge—the Spokane Indians. The occasion would be the 1967 PCL playoffs, a best-of-seven game competition between the Eastern Division champion and Western Division winner to decide the league's overall title. The first seven innings of the opener before 4,093 patrons at Westgate Park, left no room for doubt. In one turn of the bat, the San Diego Padres overwhelmed the Indians with a display of the muscle that brought them the

best regular season record in Triple A baseball. Lou Clinton ripped a grand slam home run, followed by Roberto Peña with a three run shot, as the Padres surged for eight runs in the eighth inning to whip Spokane, 10-4.

The San Diego Padres then took a 6-2 victory at Westgate Park, and with the momentum, took Spokane again 6-0, on the 8th to move within one game of the pennant. To the enthusiastic approval of 8,122 fans, Jeff James pitched a strong five innings, and Bill Sorrell added a bases-loaded single in the eighth inning to close out the Padres' 10 year Westgate Park history.

The action moved to Spokane on September 9. There, the Indians avoided a four game sweep to take the Padres in the fourth and fifth games, the wins in both cases coming on unearned runs.

Tuesday, September 12, 1967, six months to the day since they had opened spring training the San Diego Padres made it official—they clinched the number one spot. Skinner's men took the Spokane Indians 5-3, to win the best of seven PCL championship playoffs, four games to two. Roberto Peña and Jim Schaffer each drove in two runs, and Rich Barry cracked a home run, as the Eastern Division winners brought home the league championship when they scored four times in the sixth inning.

greeted their decisive victory with characteristic composure. They staged a brief celebration around relief pitcher Dick Theonen after the final out. The team returned to the club house to savor the moment. The *Union* quoted Bob Skinner:

This season has meant more to me than anything I've ever done in this game. There's been more personal satisfaction in watching this team come along the way it has. It's the biggest thrill I've ever had.

Skinner had spent 12 years in the major leagues, two of them on World Championship teams. On November 15, Bob Skinner, the hometown boy who continued to make good, was rehired as manager of the San Diego Padres. By November 15 he would ink his contract for the 1968 campaign, rewarded with a nice salary increase

Ricardo Joseph was voted the PCL's Most Valuable Player, picked by the sportswriters and broadcasters. Only last winter, the Padres had shelled out \$12,000 to draft Ricardo Joseph from Mobile, in the Southern League.

Expansion and the hope for a Major League franchise topped the agenda for the rest of the year. The chances for a decision by the end of the year seemed impossible. The National League continued to be reluctant to address itself on the sub-

ject of expansion. The National League club owners considered expansion for no earlier than the 1971 season. The slow pace took a quick turn when American League owners approved a move of the Athletics from Kansas City, to Oakland, to begin operations in 1968, and awarded franchises to Seattle and a new group in Kansas City by 1969. Commissioner "Spike" Eckert ordered the National League to accelerate its expansion program and insisted the two leagues expand together.

The City Council approved the use of the Stadium by the Padres as soon as the PCL playoffs had been completed. The details of their use of the Stadium were outlined in local papers, including the note that a shopping center [Fashion Valley] had been planned for the site of Westgate Park.

The baseball annual winter meeting held in Mexico City, November 28 – December 2, put expansion at the top of the agenda. Before the meeting even began, however, the National League said it would entertain no franchise applications. The San Diego group went to Mexico City anyway to plead its case.

The very persuasive general manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Emil J. "Buzzie" Bavasi was chief advocate for the San Diego group. Bavasi planned to become a major stockholder in the San Diego team if the

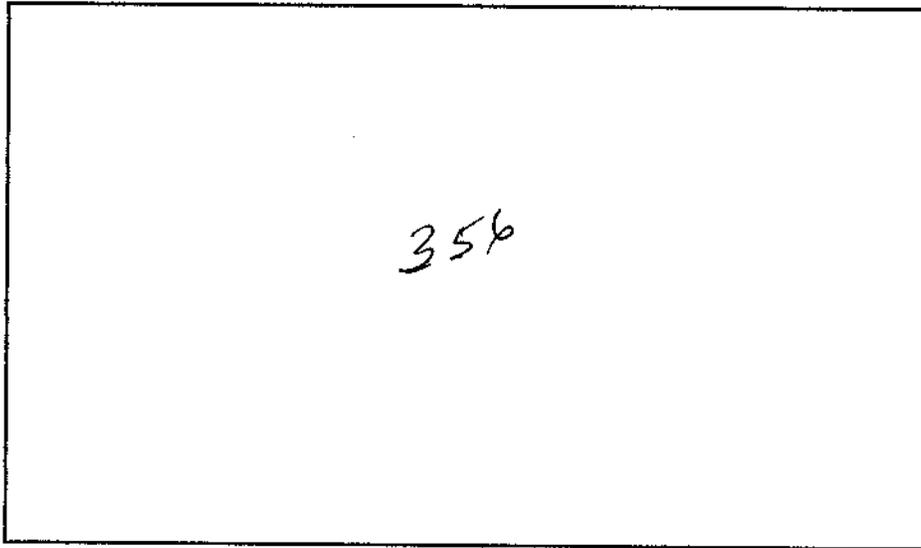
city received a franchise by the National League.

The majority of attendees at the winter meeting believed that San Diego's proposal came away as the best presented to the conference. Bavasi's 17 years as General Manager of the Dodgers strengthened his credibility among the National League owners and executives. Participation by Bavasi as a principal owner, along with C. Arnholt Smith, played a key role in the League's consideration of San Diego as the most eligible of all the cities who sought a franchise.

Bavasi was eager to join San Diego in its quest for major league status; he had the blessing of Walter O'Malley and he scooped up the invitation from C. Arnholt Smith. Jim Mulvaney attended all of the ses-

sions with the parties involved and served as spokesman for the group. From all appearances, the expected date for a move into the National League would be in the 1969 season. Bavasi warned that a lot of ground had to be covered and the word "if" used in everything said. He did not want the mistake made that everything was all wrapped up. Now it was a matter of politicking and a wait and see approach.

If the team were to move into the new San Diego Stadium, just a few miles to the east up Mission Valley, what would become of Westgate Park, called by everyone who played or watched a game there the best park they had ever seen? The Padre season attendance stood at 250,217.



*Padre staff taking a seventh inning stretch.
Bob Chandler (frontright) Photo courtesy Pat Down.*

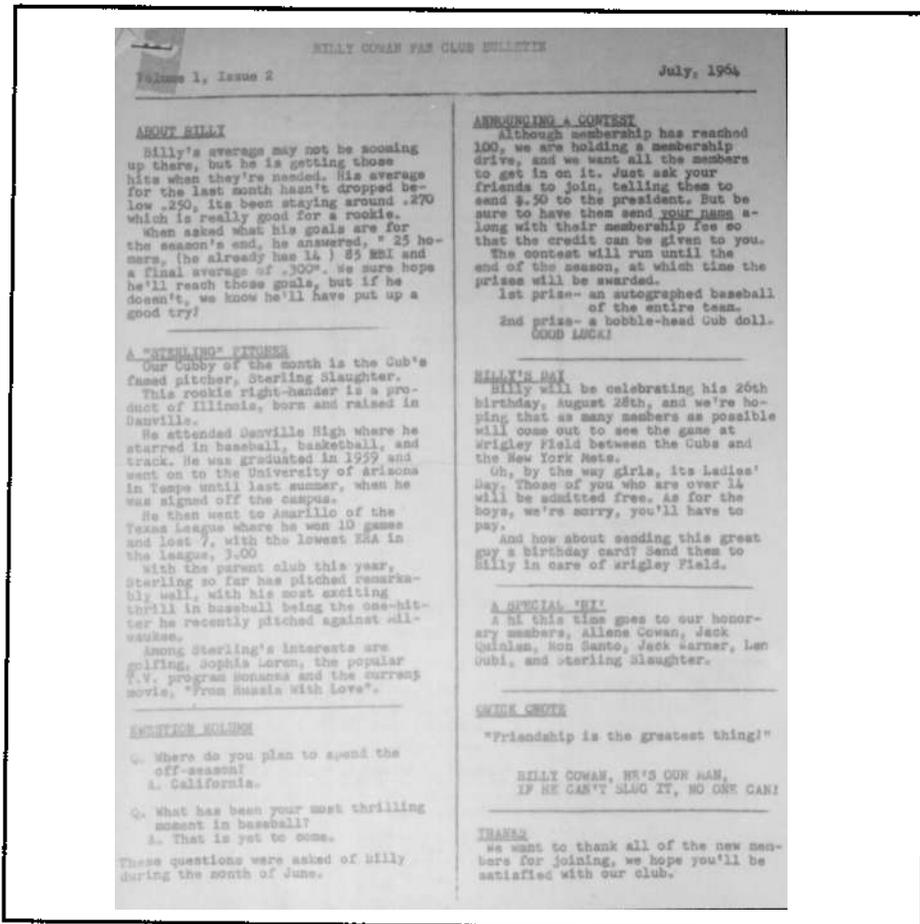
FINAL STANDINGS
PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE; 1967
Eastern Division

	W	L	GB
San Diego	85	63	
Indianapolis	76	71	8-1/2
Phoenix	75	72	9-1/2
Oklahoma City	74	74	11
Denver	69	76	14-1/2
Tulsa	65	79	18

Western Division

	W	L	GB
Portland	80	68*	
Spokane	80	68*	
Vancouver	79	69	1-1/2
Tacoma	73	75	4-1/2
Seattle	69	79	10-1/2
Hawaii	60	87	19

Spokane beat Portland 6-1 in the playoffs. In the post-season playoffs San Diego took Spokane 4 games to 2.



A Billy Cowan fan newsletter, Volume 1, Issue No. 2, July 1964.

VOICES FROM WESTGATE PARK

BILLY COWAN

*An Interview with
BILLY COWAN by
Ray Brandes*

I was born August 28, 1938 at Calhoun City, Mississippi, and grew up in Bakersfield, California. Growing up in those days was so simple—no T.V. and little money for entertainment. We just played sports all year round because it didn't cost anything. In high school, I played basketball and baseball, played basketball in junior college and then basketball and baseball at the University of Utah.

In 1961, I signed with the Chicago Cubs and played my first year in St. Cloud, Minnesota as an outfielder alongside Lou Brock. Nineteen sixty-two was split between Wenatchee in the Northwest League and San Antonio in the Texas League. In 1963 I was at Salt Lake City in the Pacific Coast League and played my first games in Westgate Park, at the time, the finest minor league park and baseball operation in baseball. After being named Minor League Player of the Year, I joined the Cubs at the end of the 1963 season.

My biggest thrill in baseball came when, on my first at-bat as a pinch hitter, I singled off Curt Simmons on the first pitch he threw. Ten days later, I hit my first big league home run, a two-run blow to beat Pittsburgh, 2-1, in the ninth inning.

Ten days later, a game was tied in the ninth. I hit a home run. That year, in '64, I was at Chicago, where I hit 19 homers, but was traded to the Mets at the end of the year.

In 1964, I played with the Cubs and hit 10 home runs with 50 RBI's. That got me traded to the Mets and Casey Stengel. From there, my odyssey began and I ended up in San Diego, in June of 1966

Nineteen sixty-seven was split between San Diego and Philadelphia. Back to the Padres for 1968 when we opened the new stadium. I had the honor and distinction of hitting the first home run in the new stadium. I spent 1969 to 1972 back in the majors, first with the Yankees and then three years with the Angels.

Westgate was like a big league park in those days, and Eddie Leishman ran the club and treated everyone first-class. During night games you might look behind you in the outfield and see a skunk next to you taking in the game.

The river bottom had heavy air and the ball didn't travel well. The outfield would get very wet and soggy because of the high water table beneath it. My memories of San Diego and Westgate are all good. Dewey Soriano, the PCL Commissioner, was a player's man. We had a great clubhouse man, Ray Peralta, and a real character and legend, Les Cook - (Cookie), the trainer. Yes, the unforgettable Whitey Wietelmann was there as a coach, cook, batting practice pitcher, etc. Cookie never missed a chance to get us on the earliest flight leaving town. I roomed with an old Cub buddy, Doug Clemens, as well as Bobby Klaus, who became manager when Bob Skinner was called to manage the Phillies in 1968. Many of my best baseball memories are of my times in San Diego and Westgate Park.

DICK BERTELL

*Interview with DICK BERTELL
by Jennifer Kilcoyne*

The 1967 season was fun. It was not a high-profile way to become a millionaire like today. Most of the players were on the way up or the way down. It was a hell of a season.

I signed as a free agent with the Padres. The body, it was starting to deteriorate. I was playing for the Cubs when I decided to play for the Padres. The club did as well as I thought they could—I could tell they had a good ball club.

As for traveling near the end, it loses its mystique. You get a scenario of boredom. In the minor leagues, you didn't get to the big cities like New York. You went to Tacoma or Phoenix. We didn't take our golf clubs around with us, so it was hard to find things to do. The games were usually at night so we had to find something to do for most of the day.

I hung around with Klaus, the second baseman, some. I also spent time with Clinton, Ed Roebuck and Loughlin. Most of the time, we just had to worry where to eat. You don't want to eat a big meal before the game, and we didn't finish until 11:00 p.m., most of the time. It was hard to find places that were open. Also, we only got \$8.00 for meal money, so it wasn't like we were living high on the hog.

I go along very well with Jim Schaeffer the other catcher on the team. We had played together for a year in Chicago. Catchers stick together. With all the injuries you get playing baseball, especially in that position, you know you'll get your playing time.

I got married in 1965, and

we had a daughter. It made traveling just that much more tiresome.

In 1967, there was a lot of bad weather and we were rained out in two home games, and snowed out in Denver, but you should take a look sometime at how many games we had to play together. The weather made it hard because of all those make-up games. We only had five or six planned off days in the whole season. We played a lot. It was also hard, because most of the games that were canceled ~~were canceled~~ right before we played, at which point we had already blown the whole day. ok

Sometimes games that were called off, the opposing coach called it off from an hour to 45 minutes before the game was going to start. The other team had their field until the umpires walked on. They could call off the game whenever they wanted to before that. They were supposed to have a good excuse, like the weather, but sometimes, if their pitcher was bad, then suddenly the sky would be threatening rain and they would call off the game.

What I like most about playing pro-baseball was that it was a dream come true. There wasn't any young boy at that time that didn't want to play baseball. It's the only sport where size isn't an issue. You don't have to be tall, like in the NBA, or big, like in football.

I liked traveling and being away, but the weather in San Diego was great. We almost always got to play our games.

We decided to say in San Diego because my wife was from here and we knew we wanted to stay on the West Coast. In the off season, the difference back then from baseball now was that no matter if played in the majors or minors, you had to get a job in the off season. Baseball was not a twelve month a year job, and you couldn't live without a paycheck when the season was over. You didn't have the money to spend the

off-season building up your size, or working at batting practice. Good gravy, I did just about everything. I worked for the post office, I sold steel, I was a dispatcher. We had to join what we termed the "lunch bucket brigade."

The salary of a minor league ballplayer—to put it in perspective—my wife and I bought a station wagon, in 1966, for \$4,200. The same thing would cost about \$24,000 today. The salary was \$9,000 then, so multiplied times six, it would be about \$54,000 today.

As far as baseball today, I don't blame the player. He has to get as much as he can, as quick as he can. The tenure for any pro-sport is very short, so they have to make enough money for after they're gone. The proliferation of injury is very high, and you get kicked out as quick as you start losing it. Most retire at 32 or 33.

After I retired from the game, I went to work for Vanier Graphics for four years, then I moved up to Los Angeles, where I went to work for Willamette Industries. I sell computer paper today.

I was the All-American at Iowa State University. There was no draft pick then. There were some scouts there, and so I chose to go to Chicago, who I thought were short on catchers. That's how I got into the pro game.

Fond memories. I met a lot of nice people. Now baseball players are very competitive, so you like some people, but not others. The problem with the minor leagues are the personnel changes. It's not like in the big leagues, where you can play together for years. In the minors, they may have a 90% turnover from one year to the next. One person I stayed good friends with was Dick Ellsworth. I played with him for six years; he was at my wedding.

The problem with baseball memories are that we players have a

ribald sense of humor, and it can get pretty gross. For instance, Don Zimmer was a tobacco chewer. He got to first, made it to second on an overthrown ball, made it to third on an overthrown ball, and on his way home he swallowed his cud. He immediately started retching. Everyone was laying on the ground laughing. Most women don't think this to be very funny.

*Interview with
JAMES EDWARD GENTILE
by Cynthia Hanna*

I was born in San Francisco, California, June 3, 1934. My home was Castro Valley, California. I graduated from Sacred Heart High in San Francisco in 1952, where I played baseball. The high school coach was a gentleman named Dick Murry, who was a "bird dog" for the Dodgers. He did a lot of recruiting for the organization in those years.

I was picked up in 1952. I signed to my first contract by Bill Brenzel, Brooklyn Dodgers. At that time, they had 16 farm teams. I played AA and AAA clubs from 1952 to 1957. In 1952 I was with Santa Barbara; in 1953, at Pueblo, and 1954, Pueblo and Mobile through the year 1955. In 1956, I went to Fort Worth. And the first part of 1957, I played for Montreal and then I was back up to the majors in the latter part of 1957 playing for Brooklyn.

My numbers were good in the minors—in 1953, I led the Western League in home runs (34); was named to league All-Star team. Tied for Southern Association lead in RBI (109) in 1955. I led the Pacific Coast League first baseman in assists (100) in 1958 with Spokane and then to the majors with Los Angeles (NL). In 1959, I went to St. Paul and from 1960 through 1963, I played with Baltimore, 1964 and 1965 with Kan-

sas City in the American League.

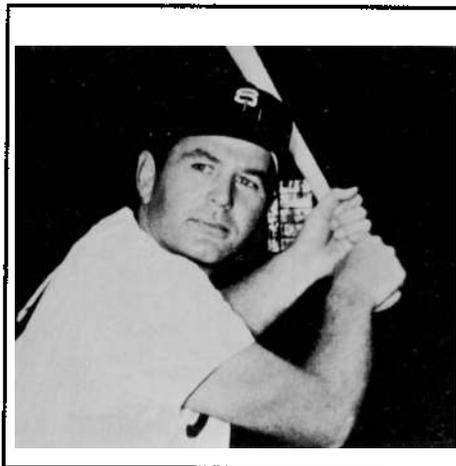
I then went to Houston for part of 1965 and all of 1966 and then went back to Cleveland in the American League and to Oklahoma City. But, looking back those seven years that I was in the Dodger's system, their infield (Majors) never changed. They had all the "greats" playing for Brooklyn over those years, and unless someone moved down, I could not move up.

I played four years for Baltimore, two years for Kansas and a year and a half for Houston. I got in a bit of trouble in Houston and was "labeled." I accidentally hit an umpire with a bat. I met him at the plate and we argued about how I reacted to a third strike call. I grabbed a bat off a player and threw it down. It hit the plate instead of the dirt and it bounced right back up and hit the umpire. I was suspended for a week without pay. Houston was not pleased; they sent me down to the minors. It really was unfair. I did not intentionally do it.

I then played for San Diego in 1967 and 1968. I had many friends—great guys on the Padres. Let's see: there was the catcher, Schaffer; Peña played short, Billy Cowan, Richard Barry, Bobby Klaus, all of the Dodger pitchers, such as Ed Roebuck. We had a hell-of-a-ball club.

My remembrances or highlights included winning the Pacific Coast League championship. We had good managers, great players and the fans were with us. Did you know we set an attendance record? Over 15,000 [15,229] fans turned out at Westgate Park for our final regular season game. It was a great! The crowds loved to watch us play—they filled the park. For most games it was standing room only and that's what made our season! We just kept winning.

Traveling was not that hard. We were all a little older and experienced with being on the road. We



Jim Gentile

went to places like Phoenix, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Indianapolis, Seattle, Portland, Denver, etc. It was part of the game.

I liked the Padre management and managers. We did not have much contact with Jim Mulvaney or C. Arnholt Smith, but the GM Eddie Leishman was a great guy—one of the nicest guys you would want to meet. They don't get much better! And Skinner (Mgr.) was a good man. He was a hell-of-a-ballplayer. He was a ball player's manager. He could talk to us when things were going bad. But, he had never had to talk to us very much; we had all played for so many years. We were all mature.

JOHN TSITOURIS

John Tsitouris was born in Monroe, North Carolina, May 4, 1936. He was one of six children born of his Greek father and American mother. He grew up in the 1940s, loving the games he could watch and play. They did not have little league at that time, but he played high school ball and, in his senior year, was scouted and signed in 1954 with Detroit. John batted and threw right handed. He was 6-foot-tall and weighed 175 pounds.

*Interview with
JOHN TSITOURIS by Ray
Brandes*

After signing with Detroit in 1954 I played in the minors until I went up in 1957, and was traded in 1958, to Kansas City where I pitched for them through 1960, and then to Cincinnati where I played for eight years. I went to San Diego in 1962 and I spent one of the most enjoyable years of my career. I had the chance to play with some of the finest players in the game at that time. We took the pennant that year and I went back up later; talk about a thrill. At the end of the year, after I got home I received a letter from Eddie Leishman. He sent me nine \$100 bills. Eddie must have done that for all 25 of the players. We had never heard of such a thing. But then Leishman was a player's General Manager. He had surrounded himself with people like Whitey Wietelmann and Les Cook, who was also quite a fellow, and a lot of fun to be around. I went back up to Cincinnati, where I stayed until my return to the coast.

I came back to San Diego in 1967, and we took the pennant again. What another thrill. I played with some great ballplayers: Tommy Harper, Chico Ruiz, Bobby Klaus, Billy Cowan, Jim Schaeffer, Sammy Ellis, Jim Maloney and Joe Nuxhall. In that season I was 13-2, and at one point had nine wins in a row. I met C. Arnholt Smith and his family, who went with us on one of the trips we made to Hawaii. I truly enjoyed pitching at Westgate Park. It was a wonderful little place to play. I remember Earl Keller very well; he and his wife had taken a vacation trip one year back here and he called on me. I am sorry to learn of his passing. If you see Bobby Klaus or Bob Skinner please tell them I asked about them.

This should be omitted 362

LARRY COLTON

Larry Colton is a gifted author, who resides in Portland, Oregon. He was born in Los Angeles, California June 8, 1942. He played a lot of baseball and, on one occasion, at Lane Field at the age of 14. He grew up in the Los Angeles area near Loyola University. His dad, who played ball in high school, took him to the games at Gilmore Field and Wrigley, which fostered his interest in the game. He encouraged Larry to become a short-stop in high school. In his senior year, Larry switched to pitching and played American Legion, Babe Ruth, Colt and semi-pro ball in the Los Angeles area. He batted left and threw right, stood 6'3" and weighed 200 pounds.

*Interview with LARRY COLTON
by Ray Brandes*

When I went to rookie camp with the pros, there was real competition. I felt that California had produced the best players. We played in camp with the Dodger rookies and Tommy Lasorda. Five men from that crop went to the majors. After college, I was signed by the Phillies head scout Paul Owens, who later became manager and general manager of the Phillies.

I had already had my BA in Communications and Public Policy from the University of California at Berkeley, so the college work was completed and I needed to move on. I played first with the Eugene Emeralds, an "A" team in the Northwest League. The second year, I went with Macon in the Southern League, an "AA" team and, in the third year (1967) with the "AAA" San Diego Padres in the Pacific Coast League, when my record was 14-14.

It was easy for a pitcher to go out on days off with the pleasant weather, the temperature so good, and the beautiful park, which drew

well. The 1967 team was an incredible bunch of players. Most were ex-big leaguers; I was the youngest man on the team, and we all worked well with Bob Skinner and Eddie Leishman. My Dad, still a rabid fan, came down from Los Angeles to see every game at Westgate Park.

We played a lot of golf at the Stardust Country Club, Torrey Pines, Singing Hills and there were always between 12-16 players who golfed.

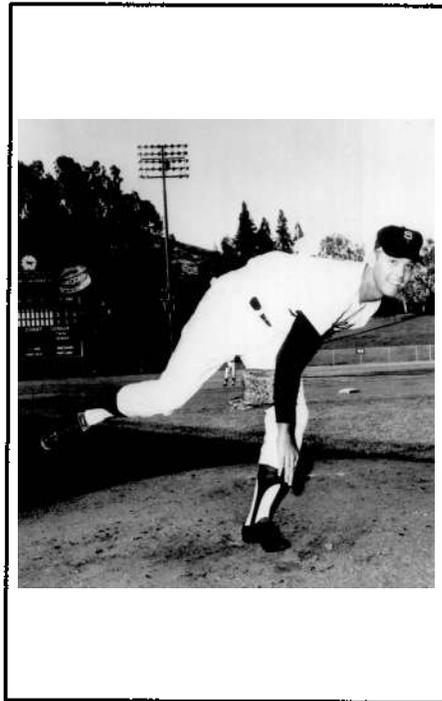
I played in the last game at Westgate Park and started the first game, in 1968, at the new stadium so on opening day I had the honor of throwing out the first pitch in the new stadium.

I can recall just about where everybody played in the big leagues at the same time. This was a high level, mature team with a lot of good camaraderie. The team held a big party in Oklahoma City, but won the championship in Spokane. The rough part of the season had been the long road trips. After the 14 wins, I lost the last three games in which I pitched 1-0, 1-0 and 2-1.

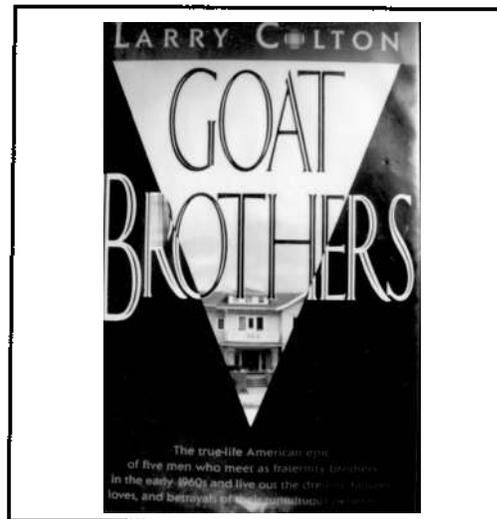
I had led the league in games started and finished with 15 complete games. That year I pitched 400+ innings. 201 for the Padres, 75 for the Instructional League and 100 or so for Puerto Rico. In 1968 I had a shot at the majors with the Phillies, based on my 1967 record with the championship Padre team.

San Diego was where I always wanted to stay, and I have great memories of Westgate Park, with all the trees, the grass beyond the fence in the outfield and the open valley where there were still horse stables, some golfing and other outdoor activities.

When I left the game I began to take advantage of my college education and wrote some articles and then literally drove myself to write a book about the lives of four fraternity brothers, myself and three other men titled *The Goat Brothers*, pub-



Larry Colton. Photo courtesy Mr. Colton.



Dust jacket from work authored by Larry Colton titled: Goat Brothers, published by Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group Inc., 1993

lished in 1993 by Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group Inc. Articles I've written have appeared in the *New York Times Sunday*, *Esquire*, *Ladies Home Journal*, the *Boston Globe* and *Sports Illustrated*. Ironically my teammates had given me the nicknames "The Professor," and "Red," because I read a lot of books.

I have not long ago returned to Portland from the Crow Indian Reservation where I spent 15 months living with "The First Americans," and am working on a volume about the Crow way-of-life. I am also teaching English, with a focus on grammar, punctuation and the finesse of King's English, to young students in the Portland area, on a teaching grant.

JEFF JAMES

Jeff James was born in Indianapolis on September 29, 1941. Today, he lives at Lake Oswego, Oregon. His father and uncle played softball regularly, and Jeff went with his dad to the games as a batboy. He took to softball in the sixth and seventh grades. His dad was a catcher and his uncle is in the Softball Hall of Fame.

He first took up baseball in a field behind a General Motors Company building, in a pickup game. Jeff pitched for George Washington High School in Indianapolis. He then played for the All Amateur Baseball Association (east of the Mississippi River) and played in tournaments at Johnstown, Pennsylvania in his senior year in high school. Jeff pitched three games in three days and pitched all 27 innings.

He played at Indiana State University in his Freshman year. Jeff went to college and played with the Phillies. It took him 12 years (1959-1972) to get his Bachelors Degree,

going to college only in the spring semesters. He was the first major sport participant to graduate from Indiana State University. Larry Byrd was the second.

Interview with JEFF JAMES by Ray Brandes

Bruce Conatser signed me with the Phillies. The first year, I played with Elmira, the second year Miami, then Twin Falls, Chattanooga, and the fifth and sixth years with Macon.

I first met Larry Colton in 1965. He always threw hard. In 1967, we had a good spring training. Bob Skinner took me under his wing and helped me a lot. Ray Rippelmeyer the pitching coach also gave me a boost. This was a great team, although we started off losing the first four games. Pollard and I got off to a rocky start. I had a good exhibition game against the Reds. At Phoenix, in a relief, I went four or five innings and then hit a double. Three extra runs by the Pads helped me relax and I took the win, 3-2. At that point, I began an 11 game win streak. I felt I could throw against anyone. We won the playoffs that year.

Eddie Leishman was our leader and we had help from Whitey Wietelmann. Ed Roebuck and I stayed at his apartment, located over a night club. The team had a very good mix of veterans and young players. Ed Roebuck was a very good teacher, and my mentor.

On August 7th, I won my tenth game over the Vancouver Mounties. Then I went to make my military commitment and while I was out the Pads dropped 13 of 24 games. It could have been coincidence but when I got back I took 5 of 7 in the starting rotation.

In the playoffs at Westgate Park, in one of the games with Spokane, I pitched a strong five innings

to take one of the series 6-0. We beat them four games to two. I also pitched in the last game at Westgate Park, which we took 6-0 over Spokane.

Nineteen sixty-seven was a great year. Before that year, the young players didn't set goals. Younger players never talked about pitching, or how to pitch, but in that year, the coaches really began to work with us on fundamentals. I always thought San Diego was the best park in which to pitch. In our division that year we were 85-43 and eight-and one-half games over second-place Indianapolis.

The San Diego Padres then took a 6-2 victory at Westgate Park, and with the momentum took Spokane again 6-0 to move within one game of the pennant. To the enthusiastic approval of 8,122 fans, I pitched a strong five innings, and Bill Sorrell added a bases-loaded single in the eighth inning to close out the Padres' ten year Westgate Park history. In 1968 and 1969, I was with the Phillies.

DEAR BASEBALL FANS:

Playing the final game in Westgate Park today is like saying goodbye to a friend you will never see again.

This is a ball park that holds many memories dear to me and associations I will cherish all my life.

I have experienced the joy of being associated with two Pacific Coast League championship teams and there is a good possibility that the present club which already has won the Eastern Division crown, could make it No. 3 before we leave Westgate Park. Today's game closes an era that covered ten years of residency for the Padres in Westgate Park.

Eight different managers handled the team beginning with George Metkovich in 1958 to Bob Skinner, present skipper. In between there was Jimmie Reese, Whitey Wietelmann, Bill Norman, Don Heffner, Dave Bristol and Frank Lucchesi.

I know I speak for all the managers when I say, 'There are no better baseball fans anywhere than right here in San Diego. They're the greatest and we hope to continue to provide the type baseball to deserve their support.' With Gratitude

EDDIE LEISHMAN,
General Manager,
San Diego Padres.

Thanks To Baseball's Greatest Fans



AL HOGAN
Concession Mgr.

It has always been our desire to offer the highest quality in service and food so that you may better enjoy your stay in Westgate Park.

During the past ten seasons the Padres have played in this beautiful Park, it has been my privilege to personally meet many thousands of fans of Pacific Coast League baseball and I have enjoyed the acquaintance of each and everyone.

Today, we feel that in lowering our prices for "The Last Hurrah," it is just a small way of thanking you for your patronage these ten great years we have spent here.

So enjoy yourselves today; root the Padres on to victory in their final home game; and come visit us next year in our new home.

Thank you.

AL HOGAN, Concessions Mgr.

Hogan Statement 

1967 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	PCT.
Barry, Richard	141	490	68	130	22	2	22	73	.265
Bertell, Richard	37	93	6	18	2	1	1	9	.194
Boozer, John	10	23	1	3	--	--	--	--	.130
Clinton, Luciean	110	360	46	90	16	2	13	35	.250
Colton, Lawrence	34	79	5	18	4	0	--	8	.228
Cowan, Billy	63	244	36	65	10	2	13	36	.266
Fox, Terrence	32	8	3	1	1	--	--	1	.125
Gentile, James	99	297	47	70	13	1	21	54	.236
Harbeson, C. Eugene	9	9	2	1	--	--	--	--	.111
James, Jeffrey	28	57	7	12	2	1	1	6	.211
Joseph, Ricardo	140	520	68	156	18	2	24	96	.300
Keough, Martin	128	429	54	115	20	2	13	49	.268
Klaus, Robert	144	494	74	121	34	--	2	39	.245
Loughlin, Larry	24	43	2	6	--	--	--	1	.140
Messerly, Jerry	20	6	1	3	--	--	--	--	.500
Morris, John	33	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Pena, Roberto	146	526	60	123	20	4	6	55	.234
Peters, Darrell	15	26	--	7	1	0	--	1	.269
Pollard, Francis	1	1	--	--	--	0	--	--	.000
Richardson, Martin	80	130	14	29	7	2	3	10	.223
Roebuck, Edward	36	9	2	3	2	--	--	1	.333
Schaffer, Jimmie	127	408	46	89	14	1	13	47	.218
Sorrell, Bill	78	277	37	69	16	1	--	25	.249
Spanswick, William*	4	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	.000
Stigman, Richard	2	3	--	1	1	--	--	1	.333
Thoenen, Richard	35	19	5	4	2	--	1	3	.211
Tsitouris, John	28	70	7	11	1	--	--	3	.157
Wagner, Gary	24	59	6	8	2	--	1	4	.136
Watkins, David	18	41	4	8	--	--	--	5	.195

*Spanswick: 1 Seattle-2 Hawaii-1 San Diego.



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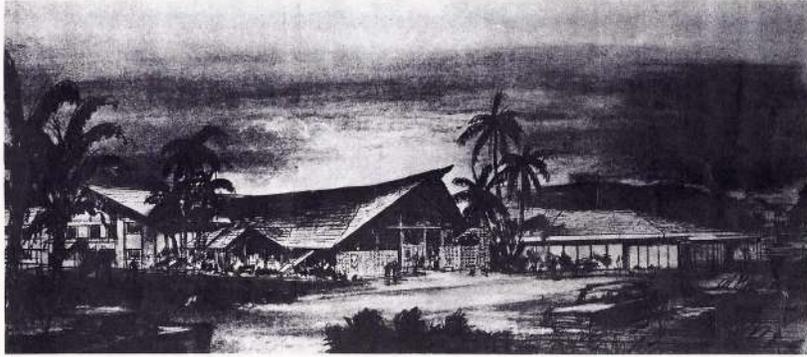
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1967 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	IP	W	L	PCT	SO	ERA
Boozer, John	10	66	3	4	.429	54	2.59
Colton, Lawrence	31	201	14	14	.500	106	3.09
Fox, Terrence	28	43	3	--	1.000	24	5.23
James, Jeffrey	27	159	13	5	.722	150	2.77
Loughlin, Larry	23	126	7	9	.438	95	3.71
Messerly, Jerry	20	32	0	1	.000	23	3.66
Morris, John	33	41	3	0	1.000	31	1.54
Peters, Darrell	15	84	3	8	.273	39	2.79
Pollard, Francis	1	5	--	--	1.000	3	10.80
Roebuck, Edward	36	56	3	6	.333	36	2.73
Spanswick, William*	4	6	--	2	.000	3	7.50
Stigman, Richard	2	8	1	1	.500	8	5.63
Thoenen, Richard	35	81	6	2	.750	47	1.67
Tsitouris, John	28	195	17	7	.708	126	2.58
Wagner, Gary	23	165	12	4	.750	114	2.45

*Spanswick: 1 Seattle-2 Hawaii-1 San Diego.



KONA KAI CLUB

RIHA CONSTRUCTION CO. was honored to be selected as general contractor on this fabulous expansion, to create an attractive facility in which to extend San Diego's hospitality.

RIHA CONSTRUCTION CO. 
 9191 CENTER STREET • LA MESA • 92041

Kona Kai Club. The Contractor was Riha Construction Company which also built the San Diego Stadium.

Photos

Photographs listed are from the *San Diego Union* unless otherwise noted.

January 24:	The Sorrell family	June 27:	McCovey
February 2:	Bobby Klaus	July 1:	Larry Loughlin
February 24:	Jim Schaeffer	July 1:	Bob Skinner, Larry Colton, Jeff James, John Tsitouris
March 2:	C. Arnholt Smith	July 5:	Bobby Klaus
March 5:	Bob Skinner and Gene Mauch of Phillies	July 14:	Baseball Commissioner William D. Eckert, Eddie Leishman, C. Arnholt Smith
March 8:	Billy Cowan	July 17:	Jim Schaeffer
March 10:	Ted Davidson	July 31:	Padres' Oldtimers Contest: Carl Dumler, Athos Sada, Ray Boone, Rudy Regalado, Steve Mesner, Bill Glynn, Frank Kerr, Jack Harshman, Hal Patchett and manager Cedric Durst.
March 15:	Bob Skinner	August 18:	John Tsitouris
April 1:	Don Heffner	August 21:	San Diego Stadium
April 13:	Larry Loughlin, Larry Colton, John Boozer and Frank Pollard	August 29:	Bob Skinner, Bill Sorrell, Lou Clinton, Dick Bertel
April 14:	Bobby Klaus, Marty Keough, Richardo Joseph, Jim Gentile, Rich Barry, Jim Schaeffer, Billy Cowan, Robert Peña and John Boozer.	September 6:	John Tsiitouris, Jim Schaeffer
April 17:	Jim Gentile	September 7:	Jim Gentile
April 17:	Martin and Ricardo Joseph in action.	September 8:	Roberto Peña
April 15:	Don Coryell throws out 1st pitch	September 9:	Crowd at Westgate Park
April 18:	Les Cassie, Floyd Robinson and Deron Johnson	September 14:	Mayor Frank Curran, Bob Skinner, Eddie Leishman, Ray Rippelmeyer, Larry Loughlin, Gary Wagner
April 24:	Jim Gentile and Ricardo Joseph	September 16:	Ricardo Joseph
May 8:	Larry Loughlin	November 10:	Bob Skinner, Eddie Leishman, Pat Downs
May 8:	Jimmie Schaeffer	November 21:	Buzzie Bavasi, Jim Mulvaney, Pat Downs
May 16:	Gary Wagner, Lou Clinton		
May 23:	Lou Clinton, Umpire Dick Vollmer, Roberto Peña		
May 9:	Roberto Peña		
June 10:	Rich Barry		
June 12:	Lou Clinton		
June 13:	Larry Elliott		
June 22:	Billy Cowan, Jim Gentile and Ricardo Joseph		
June 26:	Bob Skinner, Willie		

The demise of Westgate Park: A series of photographs reproduced through the courtesy of Clinton D. McKinnon.

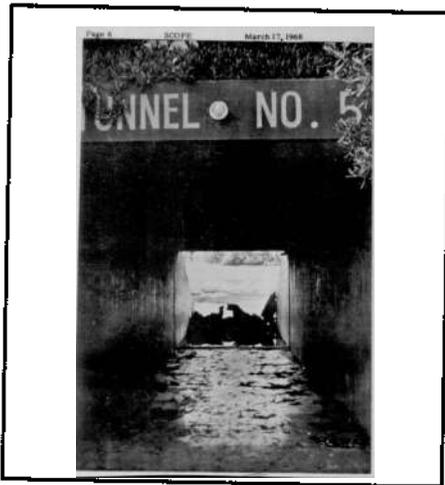


Looking toward home plate from the outfield.



A view from home plate toward the left field stands.

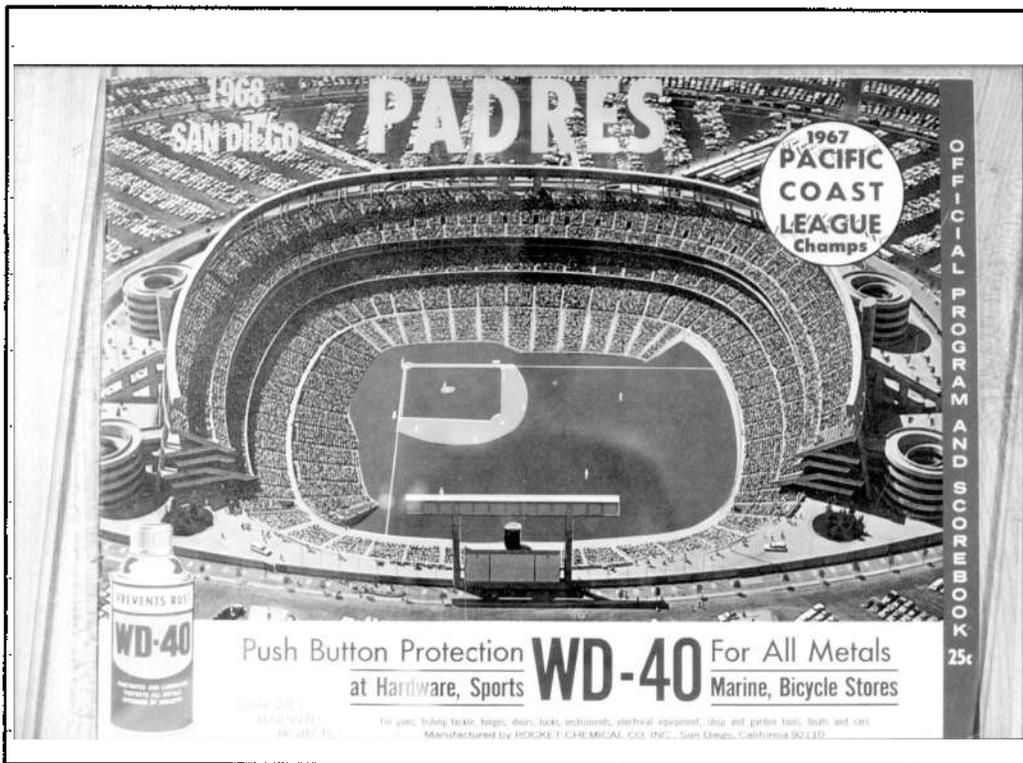
The Demolition of Westgate Park. Permission to utilize photos from Mr. Clinton D. McKinnon, then owner of the The Sentinel; FOCUS, March 17, 1968.



A view through one of the entrances into the stands.



Bulldozer removing the left field stands.

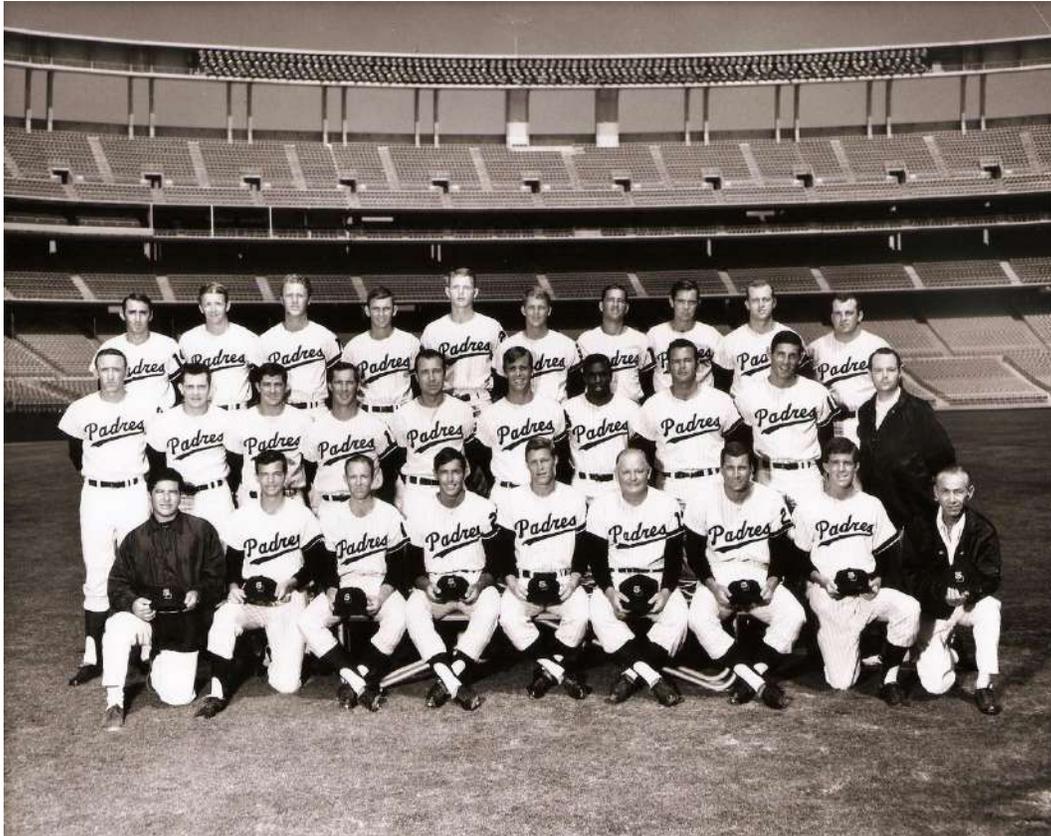


The new San Diego Stadium, where the Padres would play their last season as a Pacific Coast League AAA team. The Stadium would later be named for the sportswriter, Jack Murphy, one of the men who championed the new arena.

CHAPTER XI

SAN DIEGO PADRES, 1968

GETTING READY FOR THE NATIONAL LEAGUE FRANCHISE



1968 Team Photo

The 1968 season can best be described as the year after the Padres won the Pacific Coast League Championship.

This was also the year before the inaugural season of the National League San Diego Padres. The year had more plays in the boardroom than on the field. In the first half of 1968, San Diego acquired a new stadium, a new manager, and a new coach.

In November 1967, officials of the National League had met in Mexico City and decided to expand to accommodate two new franchises.



Bobby Klaus, Cedric Durst, Eddie Leishmann, Don Money, Billy Cowan, accepting 1967 Championship Plaque. Photo courtesy Hall of Champions.

By January 1968, C. Arnholt Smith, owner of the Pacific Coast League's San Diego Padres had, since 1956, considered a purchase. The \$300,000 sum he paid for a minor league team, however, had grown with the inflation of twenty years. The price of a major league team had matured to at least five million dollars .

The real obstacle in the acquisition of an expansion team lay in the mandatory unanimous decision needed by each and every owner in the National League. One owner, Walter O'Malley of the Los Angeles Dodgers, approved of San Diego as a major league ball club.

Since the new team would be within 150 miles of the Dodgers, and a potential threat to attendance and support of the team, speculation began. Two theories for O'Malley's encouragement surfaced. Both centered not on a San Diegan, but instead, on a member of the Los Angeles team. Buzzie Bavasi, after sixteen years of success with the Dodgers, deserved a reward for his loyalty and service. Without Bavasi, O'Malley's groomed son, Peter, would have an unrestricted path to ownership.

Although the National League had not committed itself to expansion "by the 1971 season," Bavasi believed the biggest obstacle, O'Malley, had already hurdled.

Others estimated that the American League's decision for an

established price of \$175,000 dollars per player, or 5.3 to 5.6 million dollars per team, as the real barrier.

According to the *San Diego Union* of January 2, 1968, Bavasi had another hindrance: he wanted 51 percent ownership, or ten years of free reign as General Manager.

C. Arnholt Smith, certainly not expected to give up a majority ownership, would give Bavasi 49 percent, at best. And every ball club had to have at least one actor to start a club in California. San Diego would have Preston Foster, who with his wife Sheila wrote, published and copyrighted "Let's Go Padres," the official Song of the Padres.

The American League decided earlier to expand its ten teams, to twelve, for the 1969 season. In this, the league would be split into two divisions of six teams. If the National League did not have the same amount of teams, the end of the season stood to be delayed while the American League conducted "play-offs" between the two divisions, to decide the contender for the World Series.

To make matters worse for the major league owners in either league, negotiations with the players came to an impasse. Since August, the proposed concerns, namely wages and minimum salaries, had been left on the negotiating table. As a result, on January 20, the Player's Association requested a federal me-

diator to get some progress.

Although the owners denied a purposeful stall, many believed that it was a direct result of the uneven amount of teams within the respective leagues. The minimum salary of \$10,000 dollars per player was not the problem between the two parties, asserted John Gaherin, representative of the club owners, but rather the last-minute demands by the players.

Although the minimum salary and the reserve clause commanded importance for the players and owners alike, the San Diego team gave more weight to the announcement of the plan established by the National League. In the event that a team lost seven or more players, every other team would present a team roster with 13 of the 25 active players, and thereby subsidize the damaged team. Each team would lose two players.

Bavasi labeled this plan as impractical with respect to expansion teams, for they would be particularly weak. Further, he maintained, the damaged team would be ineffective with all new players and instead, the farm teams should be utilized.

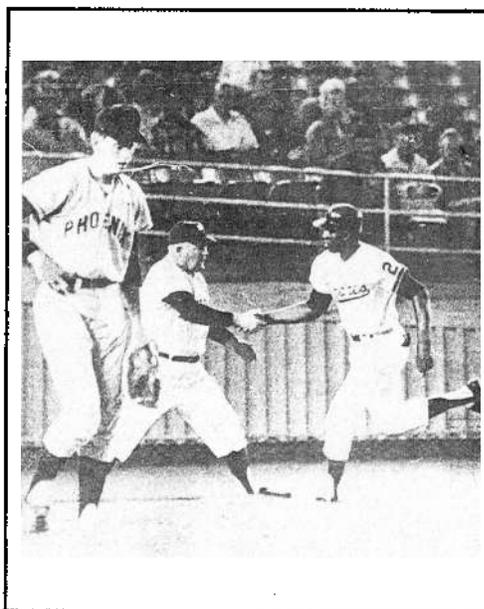
For the San Diego Padres these concerns had to be left to the next season or the next, or even the next. Instead, the team desperately needed to replenish their pitching component. Only three members of

the 1967 league championship team returned. San Diego shuffled its coaches.

After two successful seasons as coach with the Padres, Ray Rippelmeyer left San Diego on January 25, promoted to the parent team, the Philadelphia Phillies, as the minor league instructor for pitchers. Veteran San Diegan and Padre player Whitey Wietelmann^x replaced Rippelmeyer.

Wietelmann had been with the Reds as a coach for two years. He played for the Padres from 1949 through 1952 and returned later to serve as coach from 1959 through 1965. He played professionally for 20 years, seeing major league service with the Boston Braves and Pittsburgh Pirates. With that experience, both minor and major leagues, as a player and as a coach, Wietelmann's move seemed a perfect fit.

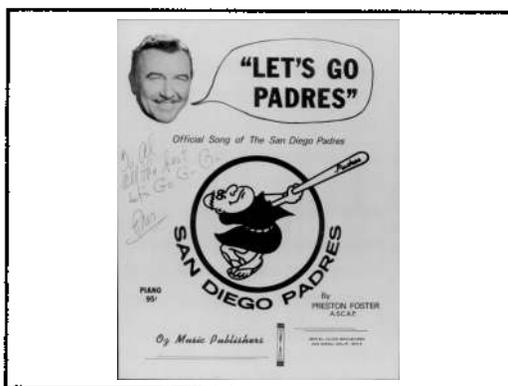
At the beginning April, National League owners met to decide



Whitey Wietelmann congratulates Johnny Lewis after he had hit a homer to drive in Bobby Klaus.

the date for the expansion franchises, and in turn, which cities would receive them. Both San Diego and Milwaukee had the advantage of a stadium, Dallas-Fort Worth's venue, however, had a finish date of April 1969. Buffalo and Montreal had little chance for the 1969 season, as neither team had a facility and would not have one for at least another year or two. In addition to the stadium, San Diego also felt confident because of the influence with which Walter O'Malley had blessed them. Most owners desperately wanted to expand in the 1969 season so as not to give the American League an advantage.

Center Stage in the home of the Padres stood the opening of San



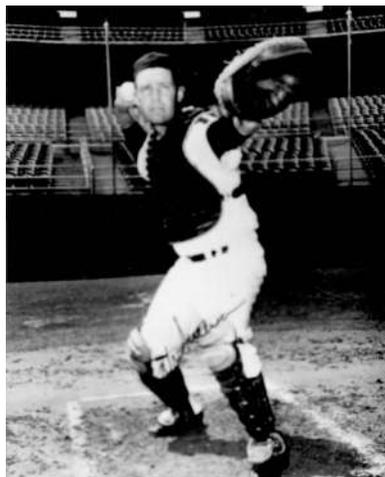
"Let's Go Padres," Official Song of the San Diego Padres composed by Preston and Sheila Foster. A.S.C.A.P. Minority Padre owners.

Diego Stadium. The structure, nominated in January for the American Society of Civil Engineers "Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award" for 1968, accommodated 50,000 fans. Padre officials hoped the new stadium would spur the acquisition of a major league team. Initial estimates for home attendance numbered 150,000 for the season, including a season ticket sale of 3,500, if accurate, an improvement of 300 percent.

At Lakeland, Florida, the pitching staff of the 1968 Padres began to take shape without concern for what was happening in the politics of the game. Lowell Palmer and Jerry Johnson appeared to be two of the strongest candidates as starters. Harold Clem and Jerry Messerly also pitched well. Sent down on April 5 were Roberto Peña, Larry Bowa, catcher John Sullivan and pitchers Larry Colton and Dick Thoenen, and Jim Gentile.

Billy Cowan, Rich Barry and Ron Allen were outstanding in pre-season games.

In the first of three pre-season skirmishes, to be held at the Stadium, Cleveland met San Francisco on April 5. Mayor Frank Curran delivered the traditional pitch in the presence of 14 young ladies, who would be coming back to the Stadium on May 25, with the Bob Hope USO show. There was deal of interest in fans watching Juan Marichal,



Catcher John Sullivan



Billy Cowan

Willie Mays, Willie McCovey, Don Drysdale and other major leaguers.

Pat Downs hoped that the opening crowd would be as large as "20,000, 30,000 or even reach 35,000." The field had been covered during recent rains; the San Diego Transit corporation had arranged for direct-to-the-stadium transportation.

The first pitch was thrown out by Maj. Gen. Lowell English, MCRD Commanding General. The Bob Hope girls, a group of mini-skirted misses, appeared as Manager Bob Skinner formally took possession of the Padres' 1967 Championship trophy and his own *Sporting News* award as Minor League Manager of the Year. Even as the weekend opened the season, Jerry Johnson, Barry Lersch and Mike Wegener were called away for two days for military reserve commitments.

On April 16, the Padres opened against the Indianapolis Indians. Bobby Klaus, the team's second baseman was selected as the team captain. Their debut before 10,196 fans was somewhat less than had been predicted and they lost, 2-1. Manager Bob Skinner started the lineup with Bobby Klaus, Roberto Cesar "Baby" Peña, Johnny Joe Lewis, Richard Donovan Barry, Jim "Diamond Jim" Gentile, John "Peaches" Werhas, Billy Rowland Cowan, John Sullivan and Lawrence Robert Colton.

An even bigger game took place three days later, in Chicago. After five hours, the National League owners unanimously agreed to expand the 1969 season. The fortunate two of the five contenders, San Diego, Milwaukee, Dallas-Fort Worth, Buffalo and Montreal, would play a 156 game season within one of two six-team divisions. The National League expansion committee was unanimous with the move to enlarge the league.

After the initial series with the Spokane Indians, the Padres faced the Oklahoma City 89ers. On April 26, after losing that series, outfielder Larry Hisle and shortstop Don Money came from the Phillies to bring some relief, but the parent club took back Roberto Peña and pitcher Larry Cohen. At the end of April, the Padres stood in fourth place, three-and-one-half games back of Oklahoma City with but 14 games into the season. Again on the weekend, military reserve duty took two more players, Lowell Palmer and Derrell Peters.

In May the National League asserted a \$10 million dollar price tag for an expansion team, twice as much as an American League team. Six million went towards the thirty players, at \$200,000 a player, as well as four million to own the franchise itself. The owners justified the extraordinary sum with the contention that there would be a larger share of



Pitcher Al Raffo



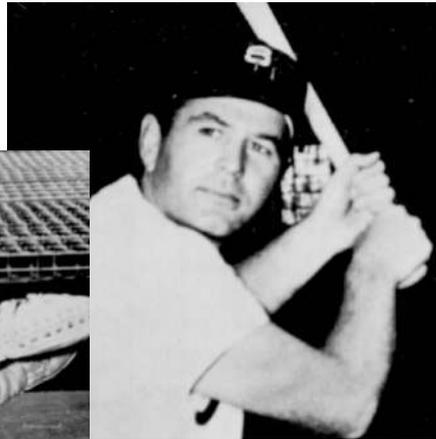
Outfielder Larry Hisle.



Billy Cowan, No. 14, sliding safely into second base..



Catcher Doc Edwards



1b Jim Gentile.



Don Money



April 18, 1968. Padre catcher waits with ball to tag out Popovich who tried to score on infield grounder in seventh inning.
Photo San Diego Historical Society Collection.

television revenue. Further, a 2.5 million dollar "usable escrow" and \$700,000 up front amount stipulated by the National League created more controversy.

The team had not seemed to stir from a mediocre season to date. On May 12, they came home to face a six game homestand. The stadium felt like home as the Padres enjoyed their third straight victory, the fifth of six at the new stadium, with a 5-4 win over Tulsa, as Wietelmann prepared a feast for the team. Manager Bob Skinner praised the efforts of rookies Larry Hisle and Don Money, John Werhas, Billy Cowan and Jim Gentile.

The excitement was even greater in the clubhouse because Whitey Wietelmann had said he would cook his famous chili the first time the team took three straight! Actually the team had won five of its last six games and began to show the spirit they had last year.

On May 27, the National League owners gathered once again in Chicago, this time to choose the two expansion teams for the 1969 season. Although San Diego could have been assumed a winner, given it already had a stadium, the ten million dollars, and the blessings of Walter O'Malley, the day proved testy for the five prospective teams.

League President Warren Giles amended the financial plans for a third time. For tax purposes,

the entire ten million dollars paid would be for the franchise only. This way, the entire sum could be written off. The two teams selected, San Diego and Montreal, did not have a problem with any changes the owners could make.

The next day, the American League club owners met and established an official 156 game schedule with two six-team divisions for the 1969 season. The National League countered in its own announcement to consider a 162 game, no division schedule. At an impasse, Commissioner William Eckert allowed each league to operate as they saw fit for 1969, and scheduled an evaluation to determine the 1970 playing season.

Meanwhile, the disgruntled cities which lost the rights to expansion complained. For example, Representative Earle Cabell, a Democrat from Texas (Dallas-Ft. Worth, an expansion loser), called on the House of Representatives to reopen the investigation on monopoly in baseball.

Other discussions came from the San Diego Chargers establishment with respect to the rental fees for San Diego Stadium. The Padres requested a seven-year deferment and a lowered cost per year. The Chargers, likewise, desired a relief in rent, and pointed out that unlike the future major league Padres, the Chargers came to San Diego an es-

established team with more earning potential.

By the first week of June, the Padres had climbed into first place within the eastern division of the PCL without fanfare. Robert Francis Klaus, the 5' 10" infielder in leadoff position, was getting on base and the team was winning on hits and runs, rather than the long ball. Still, on another weekend in June, four of the Padres went off on military duty. On June 2, John Werhas' hitting halted a Padre slump as they took Phoenix, 8-2. And while they had taken only one of three games, their pitchers -- Wegener, Lersch and Palmer--all went the distance.

On June 2 had been Pacific Beach day at the stadium with nearly 1,000 residents of that area attending. On June 5, the Padres had a free swinging seventh inning as they



Third baseman, John Werhas.

bombed the Cubs 11-1 on 12 hits. Billy Cowan paced the assault with two doubles and his sixth home run of the year. Don Money also homered.

On that same day, the *San Diego Union* carried the story that Buzzi Bavasi had left the Dodgers to become part owner of the new San Diego expansion club. Veteran Dodger Executive Fresco Thompson replaced him as General Manager.

Wayne Lockwood, veteran sports writer for the *Union*, reported that after squandering 19 fruitless innings the night before, the Padres played more to the point on June 7, with a 5-3 win over Tacoma. The win came while a turnout of 1,484 fans probably reflected a Pacific Coast League expectancy.

On June 7th, the Padres stood at 27 wins and 22 losses, but two-and-a-half games behind the Eastern Division leader Oklahoma City.

Third baseman John Werhas increased his overall average to .341 and led the league in RBI's at thirty-nine in only forty-five games. When asked if he considered what this meant to his chances to play for the major league Padres, he humbly replied:

I try not to think about that too much right now, I do of course. Everybody in this [dressing] room does. But I try to play from day to day as much as I can.

On June 8, pitcher Steve

the \$105,000 bonus pitcher, came to the Padres from the Phillies. Arlin, born September 25, 1945, in Seattle, had gone to Ohio State College and hurled his team to the championship with a three-hit and two-hit victories over USC. Purchased by the Phillies, Arlin had been used sparingly, spending most of his time with Philadelphia in college, pursuing a degree in dentistry. Skinner hoped for his quick arrival because the staff had been riddled by military reserve training commitments.

On the 15th of June, when Gene Mauch was released as the Manager of Philadelphia, Bob Skinner became the new Phillie manager. In the interim, Whitey Wietelmann would coach and Bobby Klaus served as captain of the Padres. Quick speculation had the new manager as Ray Rippelmeyer.

At this time, the Padres were in third place but only three-and-a-half games out of first. Then, without fanfare, the paper listed a "New manager had nominated Jerry Johnson and Barry Lersch for two seven-inning contests," to make up for a rained out double header. Billy Cowan continued to swing the hottest bat on the road and Arlin stepped in to give the pitching a needed boost.

On June 10, the Padres' homers brought a 6-0 win over Tacoma. Doug Clemens hit a pair to drive in four runs and Billy Cowan smashed

his seventh to drive home the other two. On the 18th of June, the Pads stood four games out behind Tulsa and Phoenix.

Near the end of June, Wayne Lockwood devoted a double column to Buzzi Bavasi's thoughts on the concept of "Friendship, Patience Handy in Building Expansion Team." Bavasi was extremely cautious in his response when the question was posed about the name of the new club. Bavasi:

hint[s] that if Padres it is, Padres it should stay. If that name was good for 33 years, it ought to be good for 33 more ... But it hasn't been decided yet. We may ask the fans to decide or may do it ourselves.

Lockwood responded, "Baseball, by any other name, would seem a little strange in Mission Valley."

They returned home after an extended, eventful and generally successful 16 game visit to the Pacific Northwest on June 25, in third place, five-and-one-half games out and on the night Bobby Klaus would make his home managerial debut.

To wrap up the month, Al Raffo pitched a 1-0 one hitter over Denver; Don Money homered to spark the Pads in a 4-2 win over the Bears, but Steve Arlin's home debut was spoiled by Spokane, 3-1.

After the game, fans continued to complain that the City had

not yet erected a legitimate screen behind home plate after several more fans were injured. Billy Cowan knocked in the winning run in each game with a single in the former and a three run homer in the latter.

Pitcher Jerry Johnson took top billing as his ERA became 1.94 and the top among the starters of San Diego. This exceptional performance did not prevent him from his tour with the military reserves. One day later, he left for service.

On July 1st, the Padres endured the most serious loss yet when long time trainer, Les Cook, died of a heart seizure. Affectionately known as "Mr. Padre," he had been a Padre since the first pitch was thrown at Lane Field in 1936. He journeyed through baseball for fifty-three years, nineteen managers, three owners, and three ballparks. He had started in baseball at age 17, when in 1913, he joined the PCL as a catcher for Vernon. His sudden death left the players and management shaken. The Padre press book observed, "It would be strange indeed to attend and not see Les Cook there, dressed in his white shirt and pants, baseball cap on his head, lugging around a satchel full of first aid supplies."

Since June 15, the club had to roll with the loss of its manager, trainer, top pitcher, No. 1 catcher and Rookie of the Year candidate outfielder due to reasons ranging from promotions, to hepatitis, to a

heart seizure. In late June, the Padres lost Larry Hisle for the season with hepatitis. After a brief scare in which several of the more suggestible Padres became convinced they too had the disease, all players received a clean bill of health. Missing over the same period, for up to two weeks at a stretch had been five more pitchers, the standout shortstop, the third baseman and the utility infielder, all with military reserve commitments and or injuries.

Cook's services were sorely missed when a riddled Padre squad opened a ten-day road trip, short by eight players. Star outfielder Johnny Lewis and five Padre hurlers had military reserve commitments to fulfill, and two others had suffered minor injuries. Whitey Wietelmann took on the additional duties as trainer and road secretary without a word, but with sadness, caused by the loss of his close and long-time friend.

The team missed a flight to Indianapolis and scurried to find an alternate. They arrived at the Indian's stadium on July 1, to discover that it was "Zoo Night." The team stood and gawked for 45 minutes while a ten foot python slithered across the infield. When the game was over, the Pads probably wished they could have watched the snake some more. They gave up five doubles, a triple and two homers to lose the game, 7-2.

The next night they fared even worse. The Padre's shortage of pitchers grew so severe that first baseman, "Diamond Jim" Gentile, was called upon to pitch in the seventh inning. Gentile, a thirty-four year-old veteran, who hadn't pitched since high school, managed to retire the side and get through two-thirds of the eighth before he gave up a broken-bat single. Gentile's valiant effort aside, the Pads lost 10-1. On July 4th, the Padres found themselves in fourth place, eight-and-a-half games behind division leader, Tulsa.

Major League owners met to determine the next season's baseball schedule. They agreed to split their twelve teams into two divisions, the American League and the National League. All teams would play 162 games. Teams in the same division would play each other eighteen times, and meet teams of the other division twelve times. A few owners opposed this arrangement because some historic rivals, like the White Sox and Tigers, would meet less often than in the past. The owners worried this could mean reduced attendance and ticket sales.

Buzzie Bavasi, C. Arnholt Smith and the other expansion team owners attended the conference, but were not invited to the closed door meetings. Bavasi, who had just paid a substantial sum to acquire a major league franchise, felt he should be

allowed to take part in decisions that directly affected his team. To the press, Bavasi quipped, "We learned the ten million dollars doesn't include lunch."

The minor league Padres, meanwhile, made a run for the pennant. On July 9th, they moved past Indianapolis into third place on the strength of a Billy Cowan homer. A few nights later, Johnny Lewis rocked Indian pitcher Rollie Sheldon for the longest roundtripper of the season. Johnny, born August 10, 1939, in Greenwich, Alabama, played right-field.

After the game, Padre captain Doc Edwards noted, "The only way I could get a ball into that section is to stand on top of the scoreboard and hit it down." Doc, born Howard Rodney Edwards on December 10, 1937, in Varney, West Virginia, was valued more than his batting average—that shone through when the other players made him team captain.

Things began to go the Pads' way. They won their next five games to pull within 5-1/2 of the Tulsa Oilers. Fans and members of the team, began to talk about a repeat of the 1967 championship season.

The reason likely was Billy Cowan, about whom Wayne Lockwood devoted a double column in the *San Diego Union* on July 8. In 1963, in the employ of Salt Lake City, the Bakersfield native led the PCL in

nearly every offensive department, while winning Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year. His record this season had been remarkable and he said that he wouldn't still be in the game if he didn't think he'd be back in the majors. With his impressive record to date, 12 "Gamer" home runs [ones which won games] 18 stolen bases, having hit safely in 56 games of the 78 in which he played, he had set an example for the team.

With the players still spending weekends on military duty, and some for as long as two weeks at a stretch, a few were fortunate enough to be at Camp Pendleton, allowing them to get to the ball park for some of the games.

Bob Skinner had shown his appreciation for pitcher Jerry Johnson, when Skinner had charge



Billy and Mrs. Cowan and son.



Bobby Klaus, Player-Manager, June 24, 1968. July 8, 1968.

of the team in San Diego. Skinner, now Phillies manager, called up Johnson to help out his Phillies who had moved into third place in the National League. Even with the loss of Johnson the Padres took five straight in mid-July. This was a tribute to Bobby Klaus, player-manager.

In some locker room gossip a local sportswriter told readers that Don Drysdale's friends said he would rather be pitching coach for San Diego's National League team next season than earn \$150,000 playing for the L.A. Dodgers. This was a rather strange story when pitching coaches, at this time, earned between \$15,000 and \$20,000 and Drysdale still had a few more years in his arm.

On the 19th of July, the Padres took a 14-inning duel at Phoenix 2-0, when Rich Barry singled across Don Money. Barry, born Sep-

tember 12, 1940 in Berkeley, only played in the majors for 20 games. Don Money was born in July 7, 1947, in Washington, D.C. On July 20, a steamy 100-degree night in Phoenix, something strange to the San Diegans loomed on the horizon. A storm swept into town, and brought with it more than just rain. The gale washed out that night's game, and started the Padres on a tailspin that would see the team blow one opportunity after another.

Disappointed San Diegans watched as the division lead slipped further and further beyond their team's grasp. The locals went on to lose five straight to Portland, to end their skid where they had started—ten games behind Tulsa.

In the first game of the series, on July 26, Padre bats carried the day in a ten-inning slugfest. The Pads hit five home runs and twelve other hits to defeat the Oilers, 11-10. In the second game, rookie shortstop Don Money, hit two home runs in a 7-0 Padre romp. By the 28th, the Padres had swept Tulsa and picked up three games on first place. Padre fans began to wonder about their schizophrenic team.

Wayne Lockwood, who spent a great deal of time with individual ballplayers, did a wide column story on Bobby Klaus titled "The Odyssey of Bobby Klaus, or Why Managers Gray at 30." Lockwood did a quick, but excellent study of how Klaus



Pitcher Barry Lerisch

turned from playing second base to managing a club with such rapidity, despite all of the unfortunate incidents which had hit the team in the several months he was in charge.

Despite their position in third place, seven-and-half games out of first place, on July 31st, Klaus still liked their chances in the Eastern Division of the PCL with 45 games to go. To prove they wanted to get the flag, they pounded out 17 hits in an 11-4 rout of Oklahoma City on the last day of August.

While the streaky Padres played to the alternate disgust and delight of their fans, Bavasi went on with the business of creating a major league team in San Diego. On August 1st, the major league Padres drafted a local talent by the name of Dave Robinson with the help of Duke Snider, now a Padre scout. Robinson had attended La Jolla High School and San Diego State University, where

he was named Most Valuable Player for two seasons.

On August 1, Bavasi signed a contract with KOGO radio to air all Padre games for the next three seasons. The amount of the contract was undisclosed, but Bavasi stated that it compared favorably with most other major league contracts. The most significant contract of all, however, got held up in negotiations.

The Padres and the San Diego City Council could not agree on the terms of a stadium lease. The conflict arose over the nine week period when professional football and baseball seasons overlapped. The Padres wanted guaranteed rights to four of the nine weekends in question, but the Chargers contract gave them first choice of game dates. The point of contention would not be resolved for some weeks.

As Bavasi built for the future, the Pads showed signs of life. They swept Tulsa and Oklahoma. On August 2, Billy Cowan rattled a line drive off the left field wall and slid into third for what appeared to be a triple. The hit drove Stirling Coward home from first, but the Denver Bears appealed that Coward never touched the bag at third. The umpire agreed and Coward was called out at third. A run that would have tied the game instead became an out to end the inning. The Padres lost the game, 3-1.

Then Lockwood summed up

the Padre chances. "As matters now stand, it will require the baseball equivalent of a heart transplant for the San Diego Padres to successfully defend their PCL Championship. Unfortunately, they began the project last night by falling off the operating table."

As if to prove Lockwood correct, the Padres dropped all four games of the Denver series. His brief attempt at ballistic humor, however, reached the eyes and ears of the players wives at home, who let him know they had not appreciated his lack of loyalty and optimism.

The Padres loss streak went to seven games. When asked his strategy for the next game with Hawaii, player-manager Bobby Klaus said simply, "Don't lose eight." The team took his advice and on the strength of Don Money's bases-loaded double, the Padres won 5-1 on the eighth of August.

Sportswriters were spell-bound by Al Raffo, who stood six foot five even before climbing the pitcher's mound. His 8-4 record with a 1.72 ERA made him the most effective pitcher in the PCL. Not since 1954 and Bill Wight's ERA of 1.93 had anyone registered that ERA. The lowest mark since the PCL hurlers threw out the first ball in 1903 was not out of sight either. It was 1.56 and belonged to Slim Love of the 1914 Los Angeles Angels.

Periodically, the Padres

swept a pair of games as those against the Vancouver Mounties on the 10th of August. They remained, however, mired at 13 games back of first place. Cowan hit two homers on August 12, but they were wasted. Only against Warren Spahn's Oklahomans did the Padres have a hex. They had taken the Spahners 10 wins against three losses.

The Padres held to about a .500 average during the balance of August. With the Padres thirteen games behind the Oilers, the fans no longer held any illusions about chances for a repeat championship.

Some good news came on August 14 when the City Council and the Padres agreed to a stadium pact. The thorny issue of who would get first pick of weekend games was left undecided as the contract simply called for cooperation between the Padres and Charges. If an irreconcilable overlap caused the Padres to miss a game, the city fathers agreed to reimburse the team for any lost ticket sales.

On August 19, a homer by Rich Barry helped the Pads split a double header, but San Diegan Graig Nettles drove in five runs in the final two innings to lead Denver to a 9-3 romp in the opener. On August 20, in the fifth inning of a tied game in Indianapolis, Indians catcher Jim Schaffer hit a line drive into left field. Padre outfielder, Rich Barry, chased the ball until it rolled under

an exit gate. Barry waved his arms at the umpire while Schaffer ran the bases for an in-the-park homer. When the umpire arrived on the scene, he reached under the gate and retrieved the ball. He called the ball fair and in-play because it was within Barry's grasp. The home run decided the game in the Indians favor, 7-5. After the game, Barry admitted he had shoved the ball under the fence. He had hoped the umpire would call the ball a ground rule double and hold Schaffer to second base.

A few nights later, against Tulsa, the Padres eked out a sloppy 10-6 victory. The game featured 16 walks, five errors, twenty-five runners left on base, a hit batter and a wild pitch. It took the contestants three hours and twenty-six minutes to accumulate so many mistakes. The poor play prompted a fan to remark that hopefully no Little Leaguers watched the game.

Don Money had held the attention of his peers on the field. Billy Cowan said that Money could play with any shortstop in the National League. Whitey Wietelmann said he couldn't remember a shortstop since Vern Stephens who could hit the ball as hard as Money. Yet with the praise for the outstanding Padres, they still dropped in the standings.

In an early Christmas present, the Padres announced that Jerry Gross, Frank Sims and Duke Snider would be their radio/televi-

sion broadcasters when the team entered the National League next season.

E.J. "Buzzie" Bavasi revealed that a vote of 4,940 to 177 had convinced the management to retain the nickname "Padres". He hadn't really liked the name "Padres" when the question went to a public vote. He felt that a new era deserved a major league name. When he opened the first ballot, however, with the word "Padres," and he saw who it was from he saw the logic—the ballot was signed by C. Arnholt Smith. General admission prices were to be \$1.50, box seats \$3.50 and club boxes \$5.00.

On August 29, the Padres named Preston Gómez to manage the 1969 National League Team. The Dodger coach, age 43, was hired by Bavasi to a one-year contract. Walter Alston said that Gómez was the best coach he had ever had. A native Cuban and World War II infielder with the Washington Senators, he was a successful manager in Mexico, Havana, Spokane and Richmond before joining the Dodgers as third base coach in 1963.

He reported to San Diego the next morning, at 9:30 a.m., to meet with Leishman and Bavasi, to get a better look at the park and to watch his new team in an extra practice they needed, as they stood at 15 games out of first place. On the fourth of September they closed their road

season with a 4-2 loss to Tulsa and 19-1/2 games out. They did, however, focus strong attention on second place, where Phoenix stood but one-and-a-half games above them and their next twin bill was against that team.

On September 6, a crowd of 2,796 San Diegans watched their team win the series opener 3-1. The next night, the Pads swept a doubleheader with the clutch hits of Don Money and the arm of rookie pitcher Steve Arlin. These victories put the Padres just one-half game behind Phoenix, and set up the final, climactic game for the Padres as a team in the Pacific Coast League.

Over 10,000 fans came out to watch the PCL Padres' last game, despite the whining of the San Diego sportswriters about what might have been. After a three-inning old-timers game, the last members to be inducted into the San Diego Baseball Hall of Fame were announced. A committee composed of broadcaster Al Schuss, *Union* sports editor Jack Murphy, *San Diego Tribune* sportswriter Earl Keller, Wesley Sharp and Harry Douglas chose the nominees.

Those selected were Frank V. Shellenback (Shelly), Player-Manager (1936-1938); Cedric M. Durst (Syd), Outfielder-Manager (1936-1943); Harry Leon (Suitcase) Simpson, Outfielder, (1950, 1960-1961); and Earl W. Rapp, Outfielder (1953-1957).

In the category of club offi-

cials, all three owners and the winningest general manager in Padres history were named to the Hall of Fame. They included owners William (Bill) Lane, owner (1936-1938); William V. (Bill) Starr, Owner (1945-1956); C. Arnholt Smith, Owner (1956-1968); and Eddie Leishman, General Manager (1961-1968).

Because the San Diego Padres would be playing as a member of the National League in 1969, and thereafter, the San Diego Baseball Hall of Fame, as it was known then, would no longer exist after the 1968 season! This was a decision hard for many baseball fans of the Padres to fathom at that time.

Of all the nostalgia and farewells to the PCL, Jack Murphy paid a high tribute to Bill Starr and C. Arnholt Smith, who had truly brought the National Pastime to San Diego.

Bobby Klaus took the Sportsmanship Award, Don Money was voted Most Popular, and Billy Cowan the Most Valuable Player of the team. To add to their laurels, Don Money and Billy Cowan were named to the first team on the Pacific Coast League All-Star team.

As far as the 1968 team was concerned, they finished their PCL days with an 8-7 win over Phoenix to wind up in second place before 10,061 fans. The visitors had jumped out to an early 1-0 lead in the first. The home team struck back with three runs in the bottom of the first.

The lead changed hands several times, but the Pads trailed 7-6 late in the game. The fan's hopes peaked in the eighth when the home team loaded the bases with only one out.

As so often in the past, however, the Pads left runners on base and came away empty handed. Many disappointed fans had given up hope, when in the bottom of the ninth, Stirling Coward chopped a short single to drive John Werhas home and tie the game. The Padres scored again in the tenth inning, to clinch victory and a second place finish in the PCL for the season, not all that far behind Tulsa.

While San Diego celebrated, Smith and Bavasi spent the remainder of the year in their efforts to assemble a new Padre baseball team. For the next several weeks, Bavasi and his staff prepared their selections for the October 14 draft. Each expansion team would be allowed to draft thirty players from both major and minor league squads. In order to protect their best players, each major league team chose fifteen players to remove from the eligible draft list. This restriction left the expansion teams with little real talent from which to choose.

In mid-September, Bavasi had gone to work. He had acquired Roger Craig to supervise the Padre hurlers. Craig who had managed Albuquerque in 1968, joined Wally Moon and Whitey Wietelmann on



Pitcher Mike Wegener.



Pitcher Bill Wilson.



Bobby Klaus completes the double play.

the San Diego staff. Bob Fontaine, a veteran of 20 years as a major league scout, was named director of scouting for the Padres National League team, and George Lee "Sparky" Anderson was named as third base coach.

When the draft came, Bavasi's picks surprised baseball gurus. He passed over several big name players in order to select youthful unknowns. Bavasi decided to go with youth and speed, to build for the future, rather than draft older players who could offer only a few years service to the team. In the first round the Padres chose Ollie Brown, a 24-year-old outfielder from San Francisco. Brown born February 11, 1944 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, had hit .267 with 13 home runs in his first season with San Francisco.

Next, the Padres selected pitcher Dave Giusti who came from Houston and was born November 27, 1939 in Seneca Falls, New York. Dick Selma came from the Mets, where he had pitched from 1965-1969, and later for the Phillies 1970-1974. A native of Santa Ana, California Selma was born November 4, 1943.

Then came José Arcia, Bobby Peña and Al Santorini. When the draft ended, the Padres claimed thirty promising young players, many of whom would require several years in the minors to mature. The one player Bavasi wanted, but didn't get, was

Manny Mota.

In December, the major league owners decided baseball also needed to mature. The owners asked for, and received the resignation of Commissioner William Eckert. The owners became unhappy with Eckert's indecisive leadership in the face of a threatened players strike. When Buzzie Bavasi's name came up as a possible replacement candidate, Bavasi eliminated himself from consideration with one caustic remark:

I'd rather be a service station attendant than the commissioner of baseball. At least some of the customers would thank me when I cleaned their windshields.

The owners failed to elect a new commissioner before the end of the year, but they did agree on some rule changes for baseball. In order to add more excitement to the game, and to give slumping batters a better chance, the owners decided to shrink the strike zone and lower the pitchers mound from fifteen to ten inches. They hoped this would pick up the pace of baseball, and allow it to better compete with other professional sports.

In the supplemental draft, Bobby Klaus made the jump to the major league Padres. Also selected for the \$25,000 price tag was Billy

Cowan, plucked from the Phillie system by the New York Yankees.

Then Dave Giusti was sent to the Cardinals in exchange for Ed Spiezio outfielder, Ron Davis, catcher Danny Breeden and pitcher Phil Knuckles. Bavasi swung the transaction, saying "We probably wrapped up the pennant for St. Louis, but it's a great trade for us." The Pads had given up a veteran for four younger players.

The end of 1968 represented more to San Diego than just the end of another season. The players and fans enjoyed an exciting finish to an otherwise dismal minor league season, their joy tempered by the knowledge that an era had passed. They witnessed the future Padres take shape, and major league baseball grow to accommodate the new team. When the new year rang in, San Diegans had much to be thankful

for, and looked forward to even more.

FINAL PCL STANDINGS: 1968

Eastern Division

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>GB</u>
Tulsa*	95	53	
San Diego	76	70	18
Phoenix	76	71	18-1/2
Denver	73	72	20-1/2
Indianapolis	66	78	27
Oklahoma	61	84	32-1/2

Western Division

Spokane	85	60	
Hawaii	78	69	8
Portland	72	72	12-1/2
Seattle	71	76	16
Tacoma	65	83	21-1/2
Vancouver	58	88	27-1/2

*In the playoffs Tulsa defeated Spokane 4 games to 1.



Rich Barry, Johnny Lewis, Billy Cowan, Padre outfielders.



Cover of the San Diego Padres 1968 Season Ticket Coloring Book.



Page from the San Diego Padres 1968 Season Ticket Coloring Book.

VOICES FROM WESTGATE PARK AND THE SAN DIEGO STADIUM

The end of an Era.

With the construction of the San Diego Stadium later to become known as Jack Murphy Stadium and in 1997, as Qualcomm Stadium, Westgate Park would have to be removed. From Highway 395 on the East and Friars Road on the North, the land west and southwestward was cleared for a shopping mall, in an area to be named Fashion Valley.

By 1997, the horse farms, the riding stables, the dairies, and the golf courses would be replaced by residential and commercial activity. By 1997, from Linda Vista Road on the West to Mission Gorge on the East, Fashion Valley and Mission Valley shopping malls and pavement sprawled over the valley divided by the San Diego Trolley Line and Highway 805.

Westgate Park is fondly remembered by ballplayers and fans alike, for it was a park meant for baseball. The park had been built for them. When it was taken down, the lights were lifted and utilized at a local high school football field. The stands were removed and put on a barge to be taken to Eugene, Oregon. Always remembered fondly were the special seats.

Former sportswriter Johnny McDonald told this author that while many people thought Westgate had been demolished, what had in fact happened was a different story. Westgate had been taken apart and moved to Eugene, Oregon with parts to be used there for a ballpark.

In an interview with Bob Beban GM of the Eugene Emeralds, he recalled that a group of citizens in that area had planned to utilize as much of Westgate as possible for a new park at Eugene, and had acquired the land to do so. Then, dis-

covering the property lay within the boundaries of the airport flight pattern, they gave up that location.

When their park was built nearby, it came from some new construction materials. Prized were the Westgate seats. Some were utilized in the new park for the Emeralds; others were sold to Oregon State University, where they were put in an area for patrons.

Westgate Park lives. In the minds of the fans and players there had been no finer park in that decade in which to play or spend quality time. Intimacy, uniqueness, and special attention was given to the construction of the park by RIHA Construction Company. Ironically, enough the individuals who had designed the park were not architects, but certainly men who understood what fans liked in their parks. They likely had played baseball somewhere at some time and recalled the older parks. They were designers and men with creative thinking. [A search for the plans by Mr. Riha in 1996-1997 did not turn up any sets of blueprints.]

Verified by several individuals was the knowledge that C. Arnholt Smith had himself been the person who wanted the bank outside the park, around the seating area, covered with earth, and planted with attractive growth.

BOBBY KLAUS

Bobby Klaus was born December 27, 1937 at Waukegan, Illinois. His brother Billy, nine years older, was also a ballplayer and in the majors between 1955 and 1963

with Boston, Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia. Their father had been a dairyman and farmer at Spring Grove, Illinois and then went to work for a railroad, the Milwaukee Road.

Their dad hit and caught for Bob and Bill as youngsters. In high school, his team coach was Paul Lewis, who steered Bobby into college, as both a college counselor in coursework as well as in the game. Bob graduated from Grant Community High School in 1955. He took his BA studies at the University of Illinois, graduating with a degree in Physical Education and played on the varsity. Bobby was an All Conference player in '57, '58 and '59, and an All-American in 1959. He was signed by Phil Seghi and the Cincinnati Reds. There was no draft; he worked out, scouts saw him; he tried out with the Cards, Milwaukee, the Reds made him offers but there were no agents. He settled with Cincinnati.

*Interview with BOBBY KLAUS
by Ray Brandes and
Tasha Wahl.*

In 1959 I went to Nashville in the Southern Association for a month and then to Topeka; in 1960-1961, was with Columbia, South Carolina, an "A" league, and then to Triple A with the San Diego Padres in 1962, and 1963. In the winter of 1962 I did play winter ball for Minatitlan in Vera Cruz, Mexico. In 1964, the Reds traded me to New York and in July of that year I went to the Mets, spent the year 1965 with the Mets and in '66 the Phillies sent me to Buffalo and then back to San Diego where Frank Lucchesi was manager. I played during 1966, all of '67, when Bob Skinner was manager. In 1967 I was awarded a silver glove for the highest fielding average by a second baseman in the PCL. In and through part of '68, I had a role as a player; then in July, I became the player and

manager. The newspapers pointed out that as a player, I had walked 184 times in 1966 and 110 times in 1967, and my last "At Bat" in 1968 ball was a double off the wall, and is now in the Hall of Champions in Balboa Park, because it was the last hit in the last PCL game for the San Diego Padres in the San Diego Stadium.

Westgate Park was a beautiful park, the best in AAA ball. There were such class players with the Padres, Billy Cowan, Bill Sorrell, Bob Skinner, Steve Arlin, Doug Clemens and Ray Rippelmeyer—just to name a few. As for Eddie Leishman, he was for most of the players a "Dad away from home."

My scrapbooks recap most of my career, and here is a letter in January 1968 when John Galbraith, Chancellor, UCSD sent me a note saying, "Thanks for the autographed baseball which Mr. Hogan delivered to me today. Now I can start spring training."

On June 21, 1968 as a 30-year-old second baseman and Captain of the San Diego's defending PCL champions, I was named manager of the Padres to succeed Bob Skinner, who was named manager of the Phillies. The papers reported I was the 19th manager of the PCL Padres since their 33-year-old entrance into the league in 1936.

3/4

A 1968 FAN CLUB letter from Tom Ahrens to Bobby Klaus (1968).

One of my prize possessions is found with this interview, a letter from a young man congratulating me on my new job. A few days later, I received a letter from PCL President Wm. B. McKechnie, Jr., giving me some advice on my role as a player-manager at the same time. (That is reproduced here because it is so unusual). Note that on the stationery Eddie Leishman penned some sage advice.

One of the most hair-raising adventures I experienced as a player-manager was recapped by sportswriter Wayne Lockwood in *the Evening-Tribune*, but I remember it well. This had to do with a July 2-7, 1968 trip to Indianapolis and Denver. The trip had begun on a sad note, the death of Les Cook the night before. Les had virtual sole responsibility for all the details of traveling.

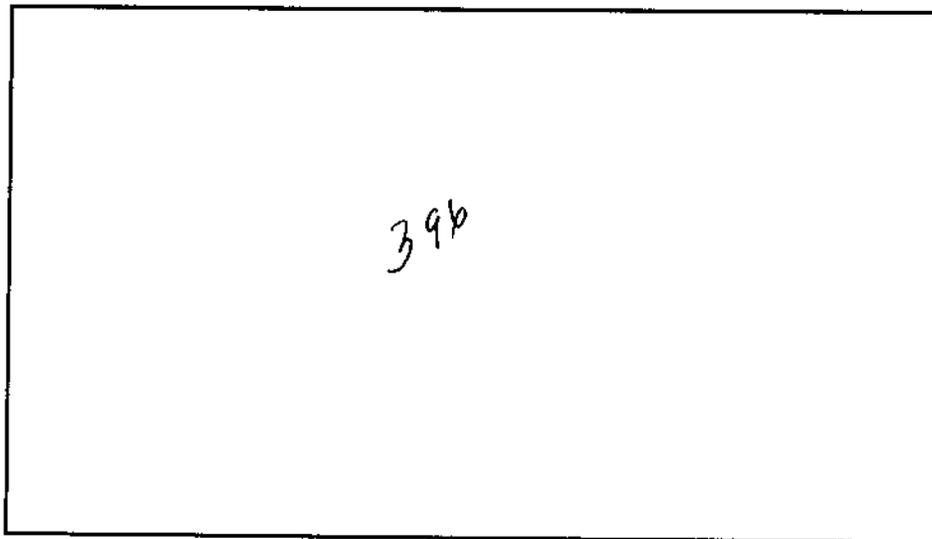
Since Whitey Wietelmann remained to attend the funeral, I had to attend not only to my managerial duties but everything else.

A service commitment had taken two of our men. John Werhas

and Sterling Coward were outpatients with broken bones. Our prize short-stop Don Money and five pitchers were missing. As we got ready to leave the departure hour grew nearer, but tickets and meal money to be delivered to me did not arrive.

Some frantic telephoning brought them. While we were changing planes in Los Angeles, Larry Hisle was ailing with, as it developed Hepatitis. Some more calls and medical help came to drag Hisle off the plane ready to go to Indianapolis. I asked the pilot to use his radio to be sure Hisle had been taken care of. When we arrived in Indianapolis, we got the news that Hisle had a very special infectious and debilitating illness. I got the team together, gave the report and outlined the symptoms the players should look for.

Rich Barry and Lowell Palmer were highly responsive to suggestion. Both decided they had the disease, which triggered another 24-hour crisis. Then we got to Indianapolis Park and discovered it was Zoo Night and stood around because



*Bobby Klaus, July 18, 1968.
Photo courtesy Mr. Klaus.*

the game was delayed 45 minutes to let a python slither across the infield. The Indians beat us 7-2. The next night they took us 10-1 and matters became so grim that I had to call on Jim Gentile to pitch. We swept both ends of a July 4 twin bill that took until 1:30 a.m. to finish. We arrived at the airport 45 minutes before takeoff time for Denver, we thought. We saw an airplane take off. The airline clerk said, "Your plane left 15 minutes ago." I reticketed the entire party.

That two-hour delay brought misery to the games in Denver as I went 2 for 15 and got hit in the back by a pitch in the finale. Denver wasn't an improvement. Three players I hoped would show did not. Mike Wegener caught a piece of glass in his eye when a soft drink bottle shattered in the clubhouse. Hisle called to say he would be lost for the season. The Padres dropped two of three games, and got rained on in the process.

Now it's possible to look back on that odyssey with some questionable humor, but at the time it was sheer misery and the fans at home must have been wondering what the heck kind of luck had struck us.

My wife Mickey, and I have four children and 9 grandchildren and we would not want to live anywhere else than here in San Diego. I have worked for Gen-Probe now for six-and-one-half years, and we take vacations to Chicago and Vancouver, B.C. My hobbies are golf and bowling.

PADRE CONCESSION PRICES	
Hot Dogs	25c
Hamburgers	50c
Pepsi-Cola, Orange, 7-Up	Lg. 25c Sm. 15c
Hamm's Beer	40c
Waldech Beer	55c
Ice Cream Sandwiches	15c
Peanuts	15c
Popcorn	15c
Potato Chips	15c
Coffee	15c
Hot Chocolate	15c
Cigars	15c and 25c
Baseball Caps	\$1.50
Programs	20c
Pencils	05c
Cushion Rental	25c

STEVE CHIPP

Steve Chipp served as PCL Padres ballboy during the '64-'68 seasons at Westgate Park after which he operated the pressbox scoreboard from 1966 through 1968. He attended Saint Augustine High School in San Diego, where he pitched on the Saints' varsity baseball team. Graduating from Santa Clara University in 1972, with a degree in Business Administration, he briefly played professional baseball for the Seattle Rainiers of the Class A Northwest League. Following his brief playing career, he served as general manager for two minor league clubs, the Class A Reno Silver Sox of the California League in '73 and the Alexandria Aces in the Class AA Texas League. He is presently the business manager of Saint Augustine High School, a position he has held since 1977. He and his wife, Karen, have two daughters, Melissa and Michelle.

Interview with STEVE CHIPP by John Bowman

My time with the Padres, 1964-65 as ballboy, 1966-68 pressbox assistant/scoreboard operator.

Some Westgate Park memories: Joining overflow crowds on the outfield embankment and racing other kids to the bottom by rolling down the slope ... picnics and touch football games with family and friends on the large grassed area by the Padre offices ... wearing Padres uniform number 1/2 as a ballboy ... gentleman second baseman, Gus Gil, never being without a toothpick in his mouth ... an out of shape and noticeably heavier Rogelio (Borrego) Alvarez's pinch-hit, game-winning home run in the bottom of the last inning in his first at bat of a mid-season return to the Padres ... coach Whitey Wietelmann asking to bring

him balls deemed unfit for play by umpires. After his inspection, if some dirt or stains could be wiped off or a nick smoothed out, he'd have me return them to the bag of game balls to be recycled into the game a few innings later. Rarely did an umpire catch on ... manager Dave Bristol, taking his familiar stance on the dugout steps intensely focused on the game in front of him and unaware of the bench players behind him taking target practice with their tobacco juice on his exposed white sanitary socks ... players making matchstick rockets by wrapping a piece of foil from chewing gum wrappers around the head of a paper match then, using a folded matchbook-propped on the dugout bench as a launch, firing them at the opposing team's first base coach by heating the foil-wrapped head. There were competitions for accuracy and distance with the coach deciding the winner after he'd caught on to the game ... the feeling of being accepted as a member of the team when I, along with fellow batboy Al Salmon, was voted to a 1/4 share (\$77.14!) of the 1964 PCL championship fund ... headhunter Jim Coates instigating a bench clearing brawl by beaming a hitter and getting chewed out by Bristol for not taking part in the fight he started ... Coates unlimited vocabulary and creative use of four letter words ... the sinking feeling that I had lost my job when Al and I walked out of General Manager Eddie Leishman's office in shame after asking if he would consider sending us on an away trip with the team. We had gone to his office in full uniform about 30 minutes before game time and he did not hesitate to give us a loud, stern lecture that wearing uniforms off the field was prohibited especially with fans in the park ... the feeling of elation the next day when Leishman informed us we'd be making the Oklahoma City/Denver trip ... the night the worker in the

scoreboard refused to change the scores of the other games being played around the league (they were displayed under the Padre line score) because his access was blocked by the presence of a skunk in the lower level of the board ... the night a visiting manager was ejected and threw bats from the dugout bat rack onto the field then, after reaching the showers, emptied the contents of the clubhouse bat rack into right field. The day Leishman allowed me to realize a fantasy by sitting in for Al Schuss to do play-by-play on KOGO radio with Al Couppee for a half inning during the second game of a Sunday doubleheader. In anticipation I was nervously hoping for a big inning for maximum air time. The Pads went 1-2-3. I was 13 years old ... the rainy night when home plate umpire Emmitt Ashford had me towel-wipe home plate (his pocket brush was rendered useless) and took a little more time than usual between innings to have me clean the mud from his shoes ... players using Al and me as deliverers of notes to their female admirers in the stands...

BOB KING

While he was employed as the Public Relations Director with the Padres of the Triple-A Pacific Coast League from 1964 through 1968, he had lived in San Diego, off and on since 1949.

Born and raised in the Hawaiian Islands, he entered the U.S. Army after graduation from Punahou Academy in 1946 and after his discharge in 1948, attended the University of Hawaii for three semesters. In September of 1949, Bob decided to attend San Diego State College to continue his studies. He spent a year there and then returned to the Islands. The Korean War started in June 1950, and he decided to remain home. After a year in Hawaii, he

returned to San Diego to continue his education.

After graduation in 1956 (preceded by marriage in 1954), Bob took advantage of his degree in mathematics and the boom in the ballistics missile industry in San Diego, and took a job as a research engineer with Convair-Aeronautics. While living in San Diego in the fifties, he attended many Padre games at Lane Field.

*An interview with BOB KING
by John Bowman*

The PCL had many great former major leaguers as well as young players on their way up and always played an exciting brand of baseball. As chance would have it, I was offered a job as Sports Editor of the *San Diego Independent*, a weekly paper, which decided to publish three times a week. I was able to continue my present occupation while doing

this on the side. This was 1959 and sports were starting to blossom in San Diego. One of my main emphases was on the Padres, and I gave them quite a bit of coverage.

Ralph Kiner was general manager and George Metkovich was field manager. The media did not care for Metkovich but I became good friends with him as well as Kiner. Both treated me as well as they did the writers from the *San Diego Union and Tribune*.

In 1964, two years after Eddie Leishman took over as General Manager, he offered me the PR job with the Padres. Eddie and I had become good friends and he had brought in a young guy named Pat Downs as his assistant. Pat and I also became fast friends.

Things were heating up in the San Diego sports scene in the early Sixties. The Chargers of the American Football League had moved from Los Angeles south in 1961. The Padres' franchise had started the sports boom by building the best



Newspaper photographer, Jimmie Reese and Publicity Director Bob King in Padre locker room.

baseball complex in the nation, outside of the majors, unveiling it in 1958 and added Leishman in 1962. Eddie was one of the top baseball men in both talent and promotions, major or minor leagues.

Westgate Park was what today's marketing experts would have termed "user friendly." Set in a meadow in Mission Valley, it was a beautiful setting to watch a baseball game and there could not have been a more convenient place to spend a Sunday afternoon or a warm San Diego summer's evening. It was also a great place to work. Eddie always had outstanding young talent on the club, meshed with well-known former major leaguers, to provide San Diegans with exciting and competitive baseball.

Eddie always set the fans first, above everything. And he had the backing of the best ownership in baseball with C. Arnholt Smith and club president Jim Mulvaney. The entire operation was first-class and the media responded very favorably.

While this was the beginning of the turbulent Sixties in the world around us, Westgate Park seemed to be a haven from all that was about to happen.

One of my earliest reminiscences was sitting on the hillside overlooking right field, just outside of the clubhouse. It was Sunday morning and Harry "Suitcase" Simpson was holding court with the media prior to the afternoon doubleheader. Harry had just joined the Padres from Cleveland and enjoyed telling stories of his years in the majors and we were eager listeners. Most players who spent time in the big leagues were always willing to spend time talking about the old days. Life was much simpler then. We were youngish, naivish and wanting to learn everything about baseball. How the times have changed.

One amusing incident hap-

pened during the 1965 season. Dave Bristol was in his second season as manager of the Padres. In his first year, he led the Padres to the Pacific Coast League championship, winning in seven games in the finals over Arkansas.

The team was not doing too well in his second season and attendance was dropping. Something had to be done. Bristol, born and reared in Georgia and a real Southern gentleman, was not the fiery type manager and was very polite and soft-spoken.

As was the custom, during the season, Pat Downs and I would go to one of the Mission Valley restaurants for dinner and libations after the Saturday night game. Bristol would usually accompany us and we would replay the game. Also on hand were three or four members of the media. This one Saturday evening, we convened at the Islander Restaurant after the game (which we had lost) and talk got around to what we should do to arouse the crowd.

We all decided that Dave was too much of a gentleman and that he should react more vociferously even to the point of getting ejected. We were playing a doubleheader the next afternoon (Sunday) and it would seem like an appropriate time to test our theory. Especially since Emmitt Ashford was one of the umpires. Ashford was on his way to the majors and was a most colorful personality.

Bristol didn't buy our promotion. But we figured if he got ejected in the first game, the crowd would really react to his presence when he strolled to the third base coach's box in the second game. He thought about it but wasn't too keen on the idea.

Pat and I were in the press box, along with our media buddies, for the first game. As chance would have it, Ashford was the umpire at second; we were losing and Chico Ruiz was at second. Ruiz attempted to steal third and Ashford called him

out on a very close and controversial play.

The timing was perfect. There was Bristol in his third base coach's box and the entire press box was waiting for the explosion. Ashford had returned to his position behind second to await the barrage of insults. Bristol ran onto the field toward Ashford, flailing his arms and shouting. The crowd was going wild.

Bristol got up to Ashford in his face and we were going to see an ejection, according to plans formulated over a late night brew. This was perfect.

Then all of a sudden, Bristol went silent, his arms dropped to his sides and Ashford stopped talking to him and looked embarrassed just staring at him. No ejection. After what seemed like minutes, Bristol returned to his coach's box, the crowd was hushed and play continued.

After the game, we asked Dave why he didn't continue the banter since it was the perfect scenario.

Bristol, when the call at third base was made, had decided to follow the plan and rushed on to the field. Ashford would probably have seen through the ploy and, actor that he was, would go along with it.

But as fate would have it, in the excitement, Bristol swallowed the chaw of tobacco in his mouth. His eyes were watering; he was choking and he couldn't talk. Ashford just stared at him, helpless. Bristol finally got back his faculties but the promotion was over.

The following season, Dave went up to the parent Cincinnati Reds Club and, at mid-season, replaced Don Heffner as manager.

Dave Bristol always remained at the top of my list of favorite good guys of baseball. He was a delight to talk to and always a gentleman's gentleman despite his shortcomings in promotions.

DOUG CLEMENS

Following high school Douglas attended Syracuse University on a football scholarship and switched to baseball after two knee operations. After his junior year, he played in The Basin (South Dakota) League and turned pro-signed with the St. Louis Cards in 1960. He was four years in the Cards organization, traded in the Lou Brock swap to the Cubs in 1964. He was next traded to the Phillies in 1966 for Wes Covington. He played for the Padres in 1968, in San Diego Stadium. He returned to the Phillies in August 1968, and retired at the end of the season with five years, 29 days in the Majors out of the eight-and-a-half total. Doug completed his BS and MS degrees in education during the off seasons and is currently a Vice President of Sales and Marketing for a noted Company (30+ years) General Machine Products Co., Inc. in Trevoze, Pennsylvania. His family includes two sons, Ted and Greg, daughter Shari and two grandchildren, Clayton and Cheyenne.

Interview by correspondence DOUG CLEMENS with Ray Brandes

In the 1968 season Bob Skinner was the Manager. Spring Training was like boot camp! I remember Jim Gentile nearly passing out as he tried to finish a one mile-run. I had shin splints for a few weeks.

My roommates in Spring Training were Bill Cowan and Bob Klaus. We had a great time. I also roomed with Bill during the season and we continue to be great friends today—seeing each other and wives about two times a year.

We had a veteran team. I played outfield, first base and tried third base. Klaus became Manager after Skinner replaced Mauch with

the Phillies.

It was a relaxing year for me.

My memories include Rich Barry being followed onto our plane as we left Hawaii by a young lady! Skinner was hot!

Les Cook died during the season—very sad. The wives attended the funeral as we had to travel. They played, “Take me out to the Ball Game” and according to my wife, Ginny, it was very tearful. Cookie was a long time-trainer!

Tulsa was in the league that ‘68 year, so I was able to return to the place where Ginny and I were married on June 24, 1961. Great memories. I had a team party that summer. Everyone was there—good beer, dancing, minor altercations—an interesting evening!! Next day’s cleanup included hosing down the patio of the rental unit a nice home on Regulus. I took the paint finish off the concrete patio.

A local Chevrolet dealer gave me a car for the summer. Great and appreciated! I had three small kids that joined me with Ginny early that season.

We had a veteran team—Bill Wilson, John Werhas, Bill Cowan, Bob Klaus, Jim Gentile, John Lewis, Larry Loughlin, etc.

STEPHEN RALPH ARLIN

Steve Arlin was born in Seattle, Washington, on September 25, 1945. He played briefly with the San Diego Padres in 1969 and 1970, since he had already determined to finish dental school and did so, receiving his D.D.S. in 1970.

With the long-range security of that professional goal in hand, he joined the Padres, then a new team in the National League, and played with the Padres until 1974, when he went to Cleveland.

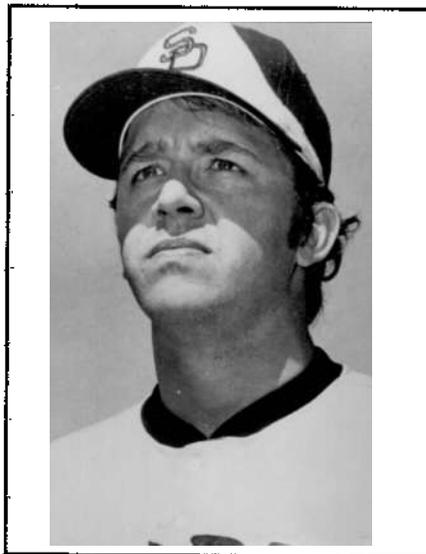
Interview with STEVE ARLIN by Andrew Carlstrom

The greatest influence on me came from my father. He coached me all the way through high school and college. I was an All-American at Ohio State for two years, 1965 and 1966. The Padres had seen me play. I was one of the first Padres drafted and on their original 40 man roster. I wasn’t ready to commit to a full year of baseball until I completed dental school.

In 1966, I began dental school, graduating in 1970. I went straight to spring training with the Padres and that was my bonus for having finished my professional education.

Buzzie Bavasi was out here behind the scenes in the late 60s, working with Arnholt Smith to get major league status for the team. Apparently, he liked what he saw when I played for the month-and-a-half I was there with the AAA Phillies.

Don Money was my roommate in 1968, and Al Raffo, the



*Steve Arlin,
Photo courtesy Dr. Arlin.*

pitcher, was a good friend of mine. In fact, I just ran into Bobby Klaus the other day at a golf tournament. He took over managing when Bob Skinner went to the Phillies. Bobby Klaus and Bob Skinner are both still living in the San Diego area.

Just the other day, Bobby Klaus reminded me of the time when I went into his office and told him I had to go back to school. He said to me "No ... you can't, we're in the middle of the playoffs..," but I had to go. School came first. Finishing school was very important to my family. Some people wanted me to quit school and start playing right away. I wasn't about to do that. The next thing you know, you get injured and your career becomes an uncertainty.

In the minor leagues, traveling was pretty tedious. In Triple A the players fly, but I played a month in the California league, Class A, and we traveled by bus. That kind of travel, from town-to-town, is rough. In 1969 I was with Salt Lake City. They were the new farm team for the Padres.

There were some interesting characters in the 1968 season. "Diamond" Jim Gentile was such a person. After 1968, no one picked him up, so he played in Japan. In his first at bat, he hit a home run. He was running around the bases, getting all the accolades, when his knee went out rounding third base. He had to crawl across home plate. He was out for the rest of the season. He got the name "Diamond Jim" because of all the jewelry he wore. He was a big-timer. Jim had some good years with the Orioles before 1968, but later he had some physical problems.

In my opinion, Buzzie Bavasi held down the early Padres because he wouldn't fork over enough money. The reason he did this is because C. Arnholt Smith gave him 10% ownership in the club to run it. Consequently, every aspect of management suffered, especially public re-

lations. Bavasi made a big thing to me personally about showing how much money he could save on contracts with players.

As for Arnholt Smith, I think if one had put a baseball and a football in front of him, he wouldn't have known the difference. I doubt that he ever came to a game. He had other things to worry about.

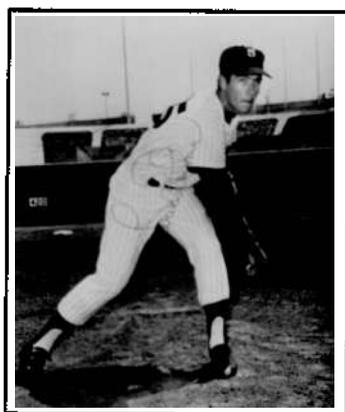
Bobby Klaus was great, the kind of guy the players really liked. I knew Les Cook, Padre trainer, who was a great guy. The team reacted to his loss in this way—it is an interesting story. The team was about to take off for a game somewhere and Les Cook had died the night before. Jim Gentile showed up late, and hadn't seen the paper with the news that Les died. He asked if anyone had seen his buddy "Cookie." Someone then walked up to "Gentle Jim" and gave him the newspaper. You've never seen a guy that big just melt.  It was very emotional for the entire team.

My family came to games. My grandfather was the world's first baseball announcer for a radio station in Pittsburgh, KDKA. His name was Harold Arlin. Sometimes he would just show up at my road games. Someone would come into the locker room and say "Hey, your grandfather is here." St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia. They let him announce an inning with Bob Prince in Pittsburgh, at a game in which I was pitching. For me that was a real thrill, and it was very special for him.

1968 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	PCT.
Arlin, Stephen	12	18	1	5	—	1	—	2	.278
Barry, Richard	130	441	55	129	21	4	9	59	.293
Clemens, Douglas	104	343	53	85	12	6	12	55	.248
Colton, Lawrence	17	39	2	10	2	1	—	3	.256
Cowan, Billy	143	564	90	158	24	6	19	73	.280
Coward, Stirling	82	223	13	54	5	1	—	24	.242
Edgerton, William*	37	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	.125
Edwards, Howard	83	270	17	70	6	—	—	20	.259
Gentile, James	78	178	18	33	2	—	8	22	.185
Hisle, Larry	69	267	37	81	10	5	6	26	.303
Johnson, Jerry	11	25	4	5	—	—	1	2	.200
Klaus, Robert	138	492	74	114	23	2	2	34	.232
Lersch, Barry	30	60	7	12	2	—	—	3	.200
Lewis, Johnny	123	423	61	114	17	9	16	57	.270
Loughlin, Larry	33	23	1	1	—	—	—	1	.043
Merrill, Carl	4	11	1	1	—	—	—	1	.091
Messerly, Jerry	24	18	2	3	—	—	—	—	.167
Money, Donald	127	482	63	146	26	4	9	59	.303
Palmer, Lowell	36	78	7	12	4	—	—	3	.154
Pena, Roberto	8	32	3	7	3	—	—	—	.219
Peters, Darrell	24	21	—	2	—	—	—	2	.095
Raffo, Albert	41	48	3	4	—	—	—	2	.083
Rounsaville, Virle	2	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	.250
Sullivan, John	83	256	18	63	11	—	1	23	.246
Thoenen, Richard	36	14	3	4	1	—	1	2	.286
Wegener, Michael	23	49	4	9	1	—	—	—	.184
Werhas, John	122	426	54	122	24	4	8	65	.286
Wilson, William	46	15	1	3	—	—	—	—	.200

*Edgerton: 21 Seattle-16 San Diego.

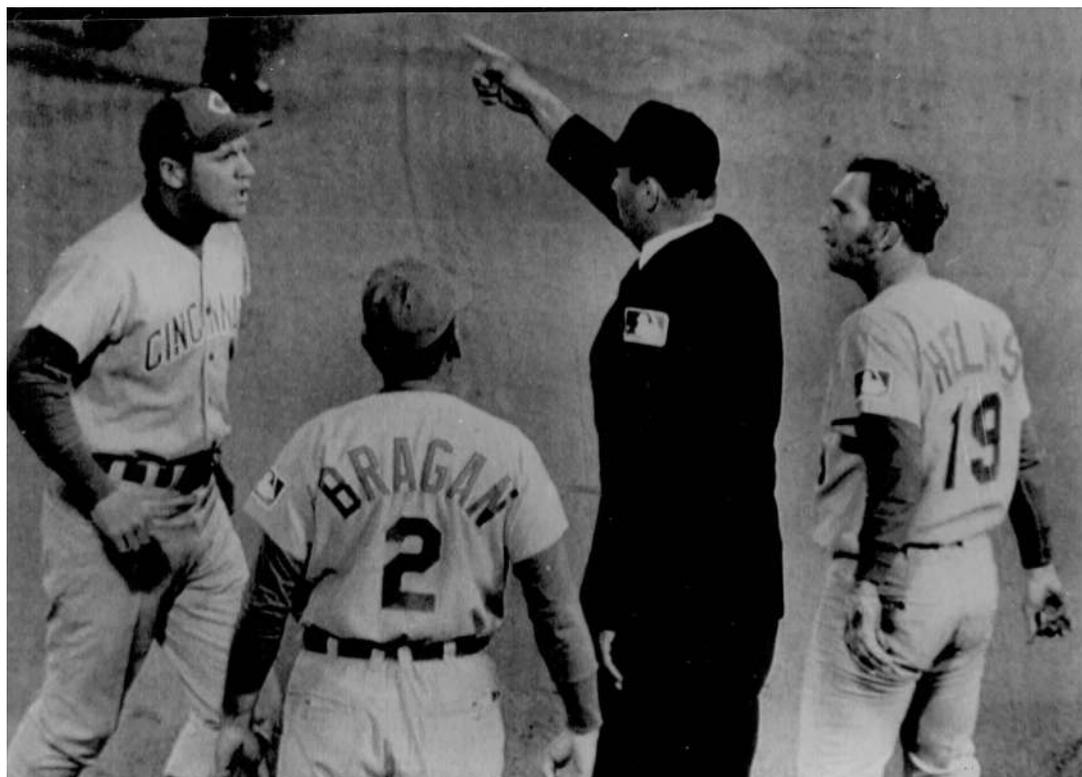


Lowell Palmer, Padre Pitcher.

1968 SAN DIEGO PADRES STATISTICS

NAME	GAMES	IP	W	L	PCT	SO	BB	ERA
Arlin, Stephen	12	53	3	6	.333	36	40	3.06
Colton, Lawrence	15	99	5	7	.417	52	24	3.45
Edgerton, William*	36	52	1	5	.167	36	25	3.98
Gentile, James	1	2	--	--	.000	--	2	9.00
Johnson, Jerry	10	74	7	1	.875	51	11	1.95
Lersch, Barry	26	174	11	8	.579	114	38	2.84
Loughlin, Larry	33	86	3	7	.300	63	34	5.34
Messerly, Jerry	24	58	6	2	.750	28	9	2.95
Palmer, Lowell	31	204	13	8	.619	191	114	3.44
Peters, Darrell	23	64	3	1	.750	32	24	3.94
Raffo, Albert	34	148	11	7	.611	86	49	2.68
Rounsaville, Virle	2	12	--	1	.000	5	2	3.75
Thoenen, Richard	36	71	1	3	.250	40	31	2.41
Wegener, Michael	23	141	4	12	.250	105	54	3.51
Wilson, William	46	68	8	6	.571	56	38	3.44

*Edgerton: 20 Seattle-16 San Diego.

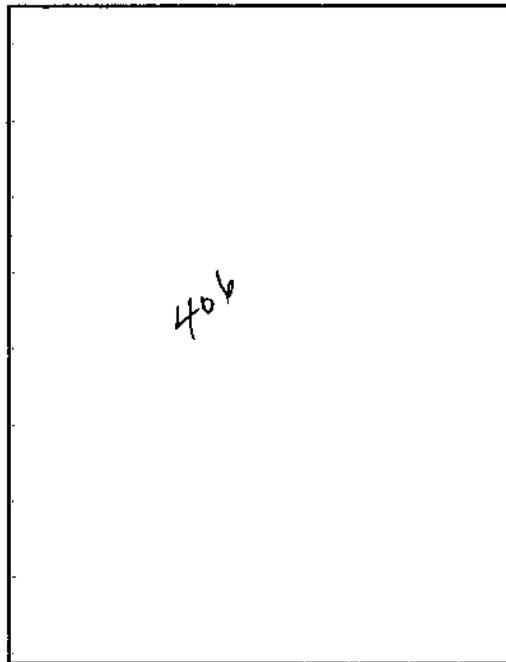


April 12, 1969. Cincy manager Dave Bristol, Coach Jim Bragan and Tommy Van Helms protesting a call. The former Padres had not lost their zest for protest when they moved to the Reds camp.

Photos
are from the *San Diego Union* unless
otherwise noted.

January 1, 1968: Buzzie Bavasi
January 25: Whitey Wietelmann
and Ray Rippel-
meyer
April 2: Eddie Leishman
April 5: San Diego Stadium
April 16: San Diego Padre
team picture
April 16: Jim Gentile, Billy
Cowan and Rich
Barry
April 17: Roberto Peña and
Bobby Klaus
May 7: Larry Hisle, Bob
Skinner and Don
Money
June 3: Don Money and
John Sullivan
June 9: Lou Hernandez,
1st draftee of 1969-
Padres.
June 10: Billy Cowan crash
ing into Portland
bullpen gate.
June 16: Bob Skinner
June 17: Bob Skinner
June 26: Don Money and
Bobby Klaus
June 29: Don Money
July 1: Jerry Johnson, Don
Money, Bart Shirley
July 2: Les Cook
July 8: Billy Cowan
July 9: Bobby Klaus, Don
Money, Larry
Colton
July 12: Buzzie Bavasi
July 17: Whitey Wietel-
mann, Johnny
Lewis
July 27: Bobby Klaus
August 1: Dave Robinson,
Duke Snider
August 6: Rich Barry, Johnny
Lewis, Billy Cowan
August 7: Buzzie Bavasi
August 10: Al Raffo
August 16: Buzzie Bavasi,
Warren Giles

August 21: Don Money
August 30: Preston Gómez,
Eddie Leishman
September 9: Cedric Durst, Eddie
Leishman, Bobby
Klaus, Don Money,
Bill Cowan, Bob
Kerrigan, Dick
Aylward, Al Zarilla,
Bob O'Reagan
September 29: Buzzie Bavasi
October 15: Ollie Brown, Dick
Selma, Dave Giusti,
José Arcia, Bobby
Peña, Al Santorini,
Al Ferrrara, Ivan
Murrell, Al McBean,
Dick Kelley, Tony
Gonzalez, Billy
McCool.
October 23: Buzzie Bavasi
October 32: Johnny Podres
December 7: William Eckert



*Bobby Klaus,
Larry Colton and Don Money.*

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in the three volume trilogy.

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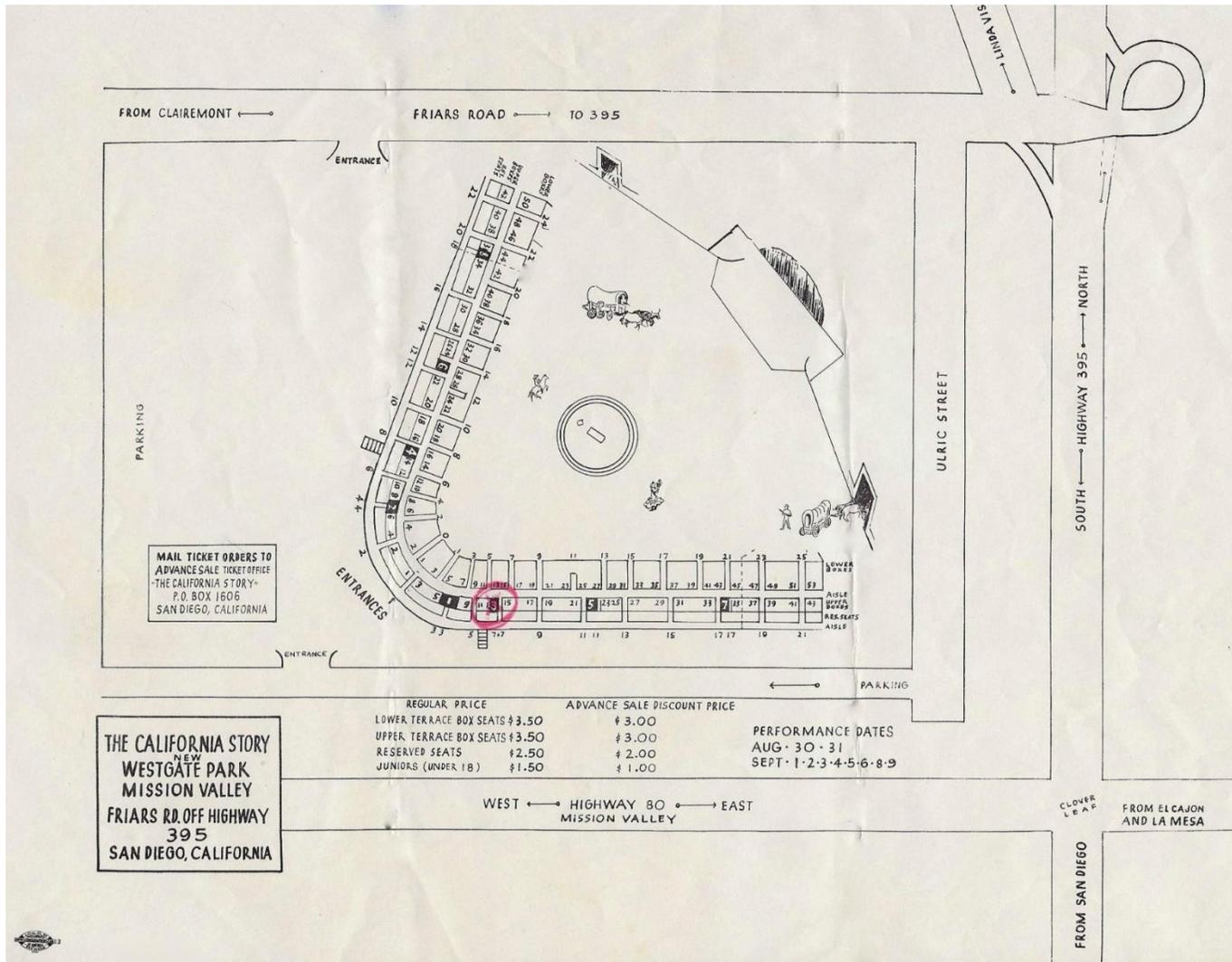
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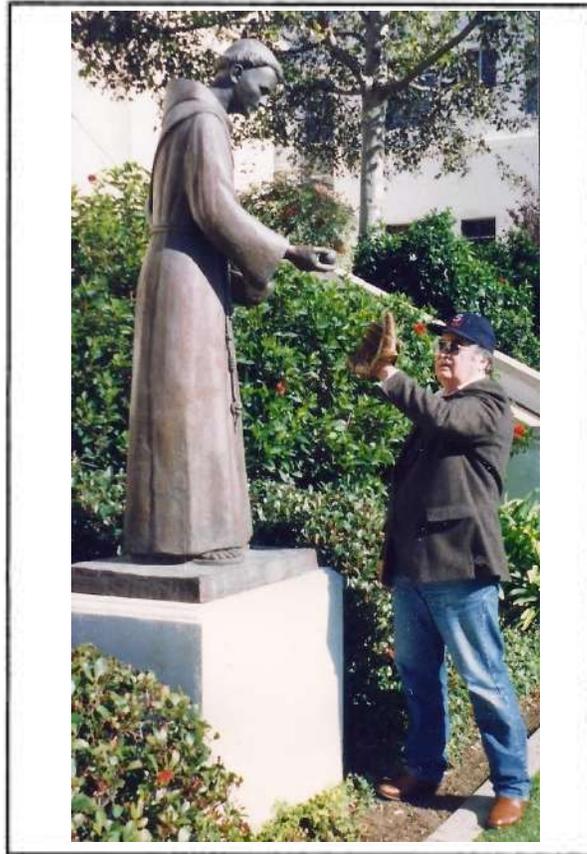
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