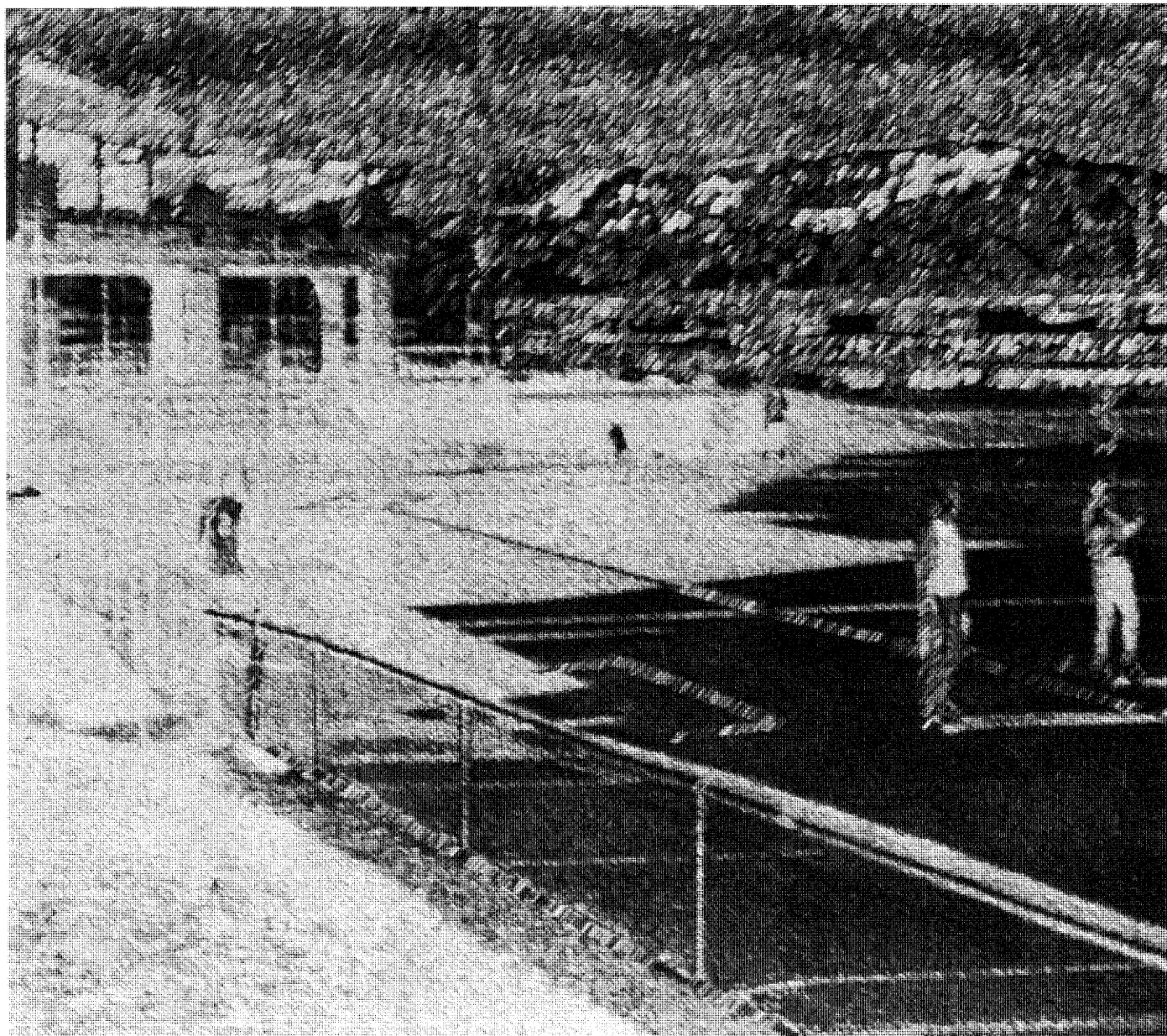
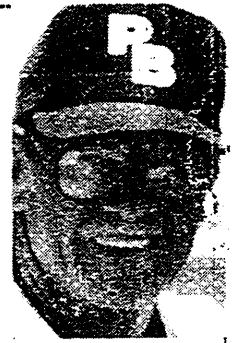


# North County Senior Softball



**Silver Anniversary**  
**1982 - 2007**

# Senior Softball



by Vince Petreoevich

## NORTH COUNTY SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

ROGER KELLER: COMMISSIONER

The NCSS league is a not for profit self governing organization providing a physical outlet for the senior who desires a competitive environment. We offer the opportunity to interact with other players in a fair and ethical manner. Our goal is to create an atmosphere for team play, which fosters respect for the individual and the game

The age of our players begins at fifty (50). We have approximately 55 full time athletes. Nine inning games are played each and every Tuesday/ Thursday morning weather permitting. The playing rules follow the Written rules published by the SSWC Organization. Any exception to the rules is developed as a means for protection of an injury to our players and voted on by all league members. The leagues organizational structure consists of a commissioner, a player representative and a manager from each team



They come from all walks of life  
Grab glove and bat and wave to their wife

Doctors and teachers and policemen alike  
Come in by car or truck or even by bike

Arrive at the field all ready to play  
Ready for anything, this is their day

Getting out on the field and going back in time  
Reliving those days when they were eight or nine

Some played pro ball way back when,  
They still have their moves they had then

Others never played a game before  
When they were young to them it was a bore

Some rant and rave at the ump's every call  
They're also the guys that could empty a hall

Then there are those, the salt of the earth  
You can't put a price on what they are worth

We take them in stride and put up with them all  
We're in charge 'til the Lord gives 'em a call

Whatever the reason, they're here for the fun  
Of running and hitting and a day in the sun

They hit the ball as hard as they can  
And when they hit a good one, man-o-man

They run the bases as proud as can be  
Some are fast and some as slow as you and me

There are times when they don't hit real good  
At least not as good as they think they should

They forget how fast the years fly by  
They're fifty-five plus and living high

With the good Lord's help they'll finish the game  
Unless they pull a muscle and come up lame

Enjoy the game, the losing and winning  
Even when you blow it in the very last inning

So, if you're feeling down and really solemn  
Cheer up my friend, you're not in the obit. column

## A BRIEF HISTORY

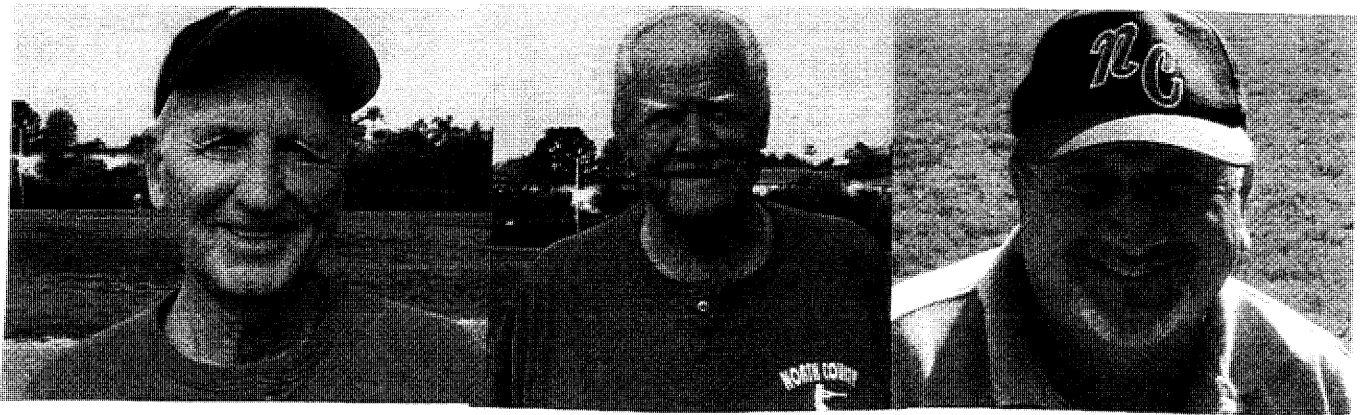
By Max Gritzmaker

As we celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the North County Senior Softball League I have assembled the following pictures, newspaper clippings, accomplishments of some of its players and other information that chronicles the history of the league. I joined the league twenty years ago. The league was five years old at that time and had been taken over by the Carlsbad Parks and Recreation Dept. to provide schedules and playing fields. The league had been started in Vista five years previously. You will see a copy of the original flyer on a following page inviting all interested parties to play softball. I understand that their first games were played on Sunday afternoons in a coed church league. A short time after I joined the league we asked the Carlsbad Parks and Recreation Dept. to let us administer our own league. They agreed and we proceeded to do our own scheduling. It was an eight team league that rapidly grew to ten and eventually twelve teams. We had teams in Carlsbad, Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos and Escondido that involved over 160 players. Six elected commissioners ran the league. An attempt to establish parity was difficult and right next to impossible. Players wanted to play with their friends and did not want to change teams. One team in the league only allowed men 70 years of age or older on their team. Consequently some teams became disgruntled at seeing 3 or 4 teams dominate the league. The commissioners conducted an all player survey in 1992. As a result of the survey, it was decided to split the league into an eight team recreation league and a four team competitive league. As Chairman of the Commissioners I tried to devise a schedule of limited inter-league play in order to maintain social contact and the camaraderie we had enjoyed. That was overwhelmingly rejected. As a result we have been separate ever since. Previous to splitting we had large Christmas parties, picnics on the beach at Camp Pendleton, All Star games and field days competing in home run contests, throwing and running matches. I am sorry that was lost due to a few disgruntled players. Our Competitive League eventually resorted to one Commissioner who worked with the four managers. I held that dubious honor three years and was succeeded by Vince Petricevich who as you can imagine ran a tight ship and was respected for his contributions to the league. Vince had to return to Detroit because of the health of his wife. I then inherited the job for one more year. In the early years things were much simpler. There were no worries over insurance or paying for the use of playing fields. We have been lucky to have very competent Commissioners over the years. I have given them space on the following page. I hope I have not left anyone out. If so I apologize. I hope you enjoy what we have put together. While the early years are sketchy we should not forget the contributions of men like Blackie Cahill, Bill Allen, Harvey Nelson, Jack Welsh, Bill Hornecke and many others. A few of us remember them but most of you will not. A special thanks to Al McGee for his printing work and Joe Raffa for his photography work. As an observer of Senior Softball for all these years Coach John Woodens' words have a special meaning for me.

“SPORTS DO NOT BUILD CHARACTER - THEY REVEAL IT”

I can't help but love you all. “You are the greatest friends one could have.”

# Competitive League Commissioners Past and Present



Max Gritzmaker

Vince Petricevich

Joe Raffa



Dick Ellison

Roger Keller

Chuck Enger and Tom Turpin also served as commissioners but no longer play in our league. The duties of the Commissioner are many. They include providing leadership in enforcing rules of play, striving for team parity, providing safe playing conditions, and balancing the budget.

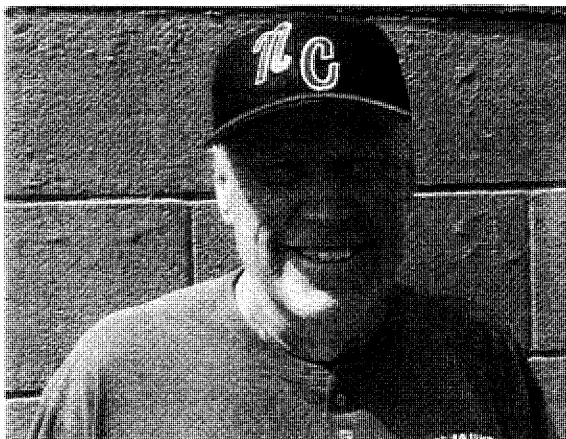
## Competitive League Hall of Famers



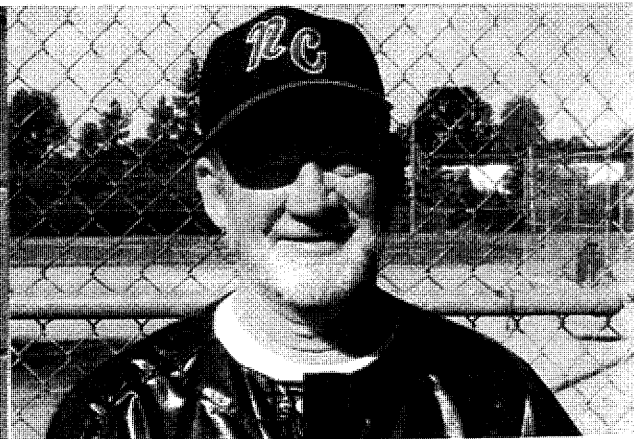
Carl Hutzler



John Odell



Brad Merrill



Bob Kaump

These players have made us proud by being inducted into the Senior Softball Slow Pitch Hall Of Fame. They have been on many Senior Softball World Series Championship teams. They have demonstrated their excellence on the fields of play in many parts of the USA. Collectively they have enough rings and awards to open a jewelry store. Our congratulations go out to them. Many players in the league also sport World Championship rings but have not reached the level of Hall Of Famers. I feel the future will find that we will have more players from our league in the Hall Of Fame.

**NINETEEN**

**EIGHTIES**

1982

VISTA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION  
OF A . . .

# SENIOR CITIZEN SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

# HEAR YE! HEAR YE!



FOR PERSONS 55 YEARS AND OLDER

FOR -- FUN, FITNESS AND RECREATION

MODIFIED RULES: No sliding, No bunting, No stealing,  
No collisions, Can overrun any base.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:

724-2962, between 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
758-7570, between 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

## Play Ball!

Please detach form below and return  
to the Vista Parks and Recreation  
Dept. at City Hall, or Community Center  
at 160 Recreation Drive or the Brengle  
Terrace Recreation Center by May 15, 1982.

I am interested in playing in or assisting the Senior Citizen softball team.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to play: \_\_\_\_\_ coed team \_\_\_\_\_ men's team \_\_\_\_\_ women's team

I will help organize a league \_\_\_\_\_ I will be a scorekeeper \_\_\_\_\_

I will be an umpire \_\_\_\_\_

3/31/82

*COPY OF FLYER BY VISTA PARKS AND RECREATION  
RESULTING IN FORMATION OF FIRST NORTH COUNTRY TEAM*

# SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Los Angeles Times

Monday, October 3, 1983

## Softball Over 60

### Seniors Have Some Good Innings Left

By DAVID SMOLLAR,  
Times Staff Writer

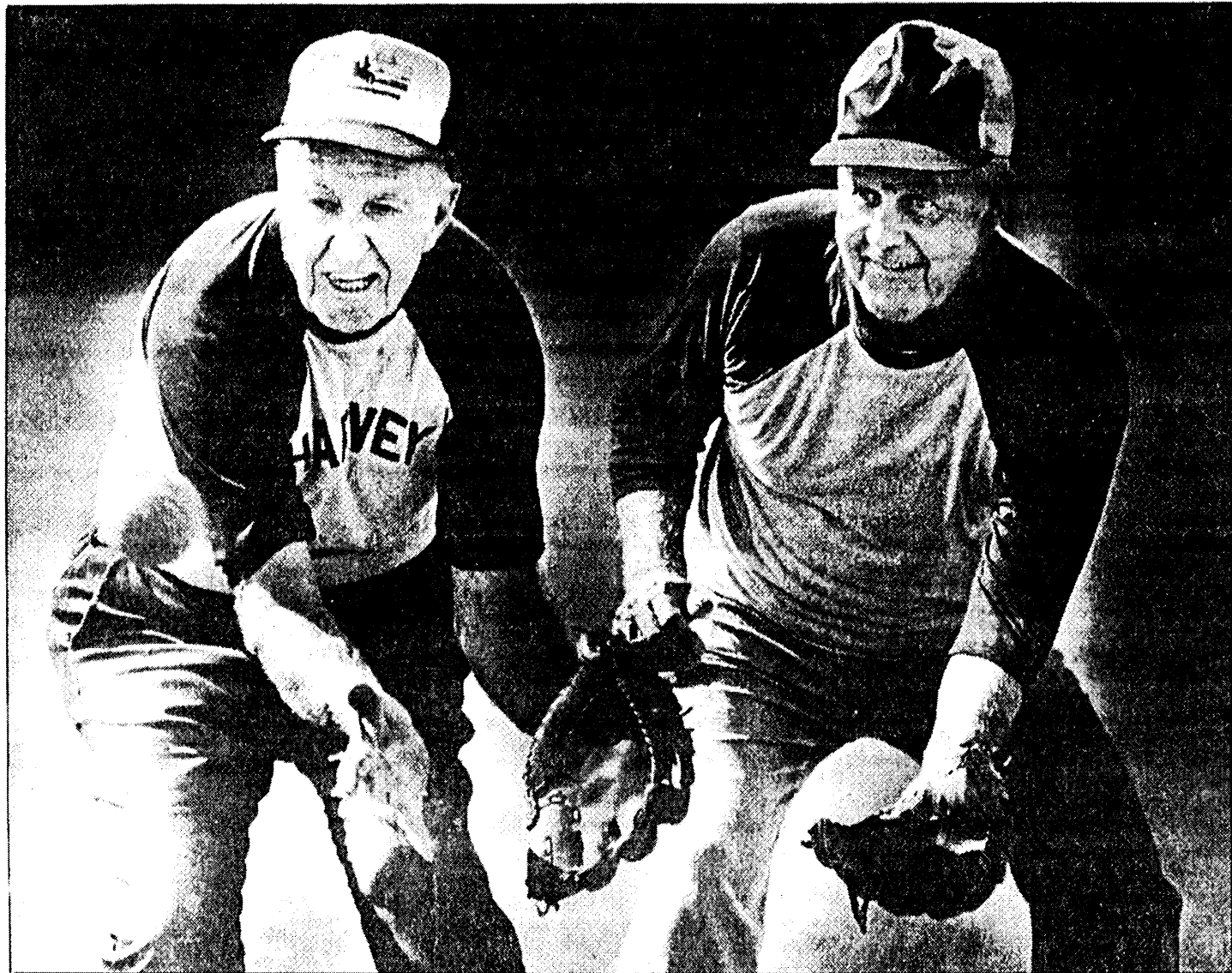
VISTA—Senior-citizen power these days encompasses more than protests at mobile home parks or agitation for higher Medicare payments. It includes three-run triples that split the alley in left center, round-the-horn double plays and running catches in right field.

Just ask Harvey Nelson or Bill Allen or Roy Phillips in Vista, or Fred Hart or Jessie Hopkinson in La Mesa. They're among the hundreds of senior citizens who have flocked to slo-pitch softball in the past five years. Leagues have been formed and the city of Las Vegas this past week hosted the fifth annual national tournament with 24 teams from nine states.

"It gets us away from just watching television," laughed Nelson, the coach of the Vista team in north San Diego County, as he and his teammates went through a spirited two-hour practice here last week.

"We stagger around, fall down, laugh at each other and have a ball of fun," added Bill Bradford, a retired civil engineer who handles a mean glove at third base and still sports a powerful batting stroke at the plate. "There are guys out here who've had open-heart surgery or

Please see SLO-PITCH, Page 5



JOEL ZWINK

Harvey Nelson, left, reaches for the ball in front of Bill Hornke during a Vista seniors' slo-pitch practice session.



# SLO-PITCH: Vista Seniors Get on the Ball

Continued from First Page

with scars all over them who are playing their hearts out."

The popularity of the game for seniors has spread by word of mouth as would-be participants discover slo-pitch, where the ball is lobbed by the pitcher so that, if not swung at, it will land on the home plate area.

Clancy Phillips, who helped organize the Santa Oldtimers, one of the nation's first teams, said that few if any of his contemporaries today would play the fast-pitch version popular during their youth. "You've got to remember that we don't have the reflexes to get out of the way all that quickly any more."

Players on senior teams must be 55 and older, with the average age about 63, give or take a year, according to coaches and recreation directors. Softball rules are slightly modified to prohibit sliding and allow over-running of second and third bases as long as the player does not try to advance to the next base.

The Vista team is typical of the style of play by seniors and was formed as San Diego County's first team a year ago after several seniors heard from Los Angeles-area friends about the fun they were having.

## Hoping for a League

"We put a little ad in the paper and got six guys to turn out," Bill Allen, a retired moving company employee, said. "Now we've got more than 20, and we're looking for guys in other cities to organize and we'll put together a league."

Some players are retired, some semi-retired and a few still work. Most played fast-pitch softball as youngsters, with several continuing to participate in sandlot or industrial-league games as young adults. Jack Pocock shagged fly balls for Ford Motor Co. in Detroit and Nelson did similar duty for the Chrysler Corp. But the new slo-pitch game



Roy Phillips has trouble with a fly ball.

represents the first time in more than a quarter-century that the men have taken the field. They said that, after they passed 40, they became too slow for regular softball.

"Gosh, it's 35 years since I last played," Allen said. But, attired in his gray team jersey with blue shoulder trim, Allen defended the

plate like a mature-looking Terry Kennedy of the Padres.

"You know, it's not that we can't bat or throw the ball well," said Mike Ordman, a retired butcher who at 69 years is the oldest team member. "The real problem is the legs. We just can't hustle around the bases like we used to."

## Keep Eye on Vegas

Some of the more-established Orange County teams have joined together into four leagues based on ability. The A- and B-division teams vie for tournament berths at Las Vegas annually and take the sport most seriously. Santa Ana even holds tryouts for new players because, as coach Phillips said of his team, where the average age is 66, "they're getting old."

Yet even teams like Santa Ana and Tustin play as much for fellowship as for competition. "There's a real feeling of camaraderie among 70-year-old men with a cause. We're a bunch of old guys who like to play ball," said Clancy.

But it's not just older men. A new team in La Mesa includes women as well. "Why not?" asked Fred Hart, a parks and recreation commissioner in La Mesa who, at 75 years, decided to form the team. "It's a psychological lift for old people to get off their duffs and have the fun they have."

Hart has organized a series of games with Vista, the first of which was held on Father's Day earlier this year. Hart, who also has an amateur jazz band, arranged for the band, together with welcoming banners and streamers, to appear at the ball field. Because Vista has no women players, La Mesa loaned half of its women to Vista for the game.

"We gave Vista an autographed ball and even raised \$56 from volunteers for the program," Hart said. "All we have to do next time is win!"

## Vista Seniors drop game again; still tied for lead with Carlsbad

EL CAJON — For the second straight time, the Vista Seniors slow-pitch softball team was defeated Tuesday in the San Diego County softball league for men 55 and older.

the second of four rounds

Vista won the first round with an 8-2 victory over El Cajon.

## Softball title goes to Vista

### Vista Seniors perfect after win over El Cajon

The Vista Seniors ended the first round of the San Diego County softball league for men 55 and older with a perfect 5-0 record.

Bill Aiken, Bill Manor (catcher), Bill Welch

CARLSBAD — The Vista Seniors' slow-pitch men's softball team became champion Tuesday of the San Diego County league for men 55 and older.

## Vista senior softball club wins again

LA MESA — The Vista senior men's softball

## Vista Seniors handed first defeat this season

CARLSBAD Seniors lost their first softball game Tuesday at the hands of the Cardiac Kids, 36-8. Both teams played the second round and the Cardiac Kids won 11-10.

### Vista seniors win

It was another one-run ballgame for Vista's "Cardiac Kids," who play in the San Diego County softball league for men 55 and older. Vista beat Pacific Beach 11-10 Tuesday at Brengle Terrace to open up the second round of the season. Vista was 5-0 in the first round.



Front Row - Left to Right

KEN REID - AL TREE - HERMAN FRIEDMAN - BILL HORNKE - JOE BRADFORD - RALPH MERCED

Back Row - Left to Right

BLACKIE CABILL - JOHN SCHUETER - HARVEY NELSON - BILL BRADFORD - BILL ALLEN - ELEANOR ALLEN - FRANK SMITH - ROY PHILLIPS - BUD STEWART - BRAX SPAXTON - CHARLES TRIES

1984

# North County SENIOR SOFTBALL



This newsletter is dedicated to Seniors 55 years young and over. They comprise the membership of a North County league of 10 softball teams that play each Tuesday and Thursday for fun and exercise.

## Carlsbad Inn

EARLY PICTURE OF FIRST CARLSBAD TEAM. PROBABLY 1984



Rear row left to right: Bill Degher, Quent Garman, Monte Morales, Al Lallo, Ed Grondon, Don Swezey, Howard Harmon, Henry King, "Doc" Jansen, Harry Eisenbrown, Vince Barnes, Bob Morris.  
Front row left to right: Sam Caito, Pat Bridges, Joe Miskov, Tom McCarthy, George Slavik, Walter Wykoff, Dan Gilman, Jack Estes, Dan McLane, Jack Pezzoni.

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Rear Row Left to Right-Al Hainke, Bud Hardin, Bill Prunty, Quent Garman, Jack Pezzoni, Jack Estes, Chuck Schmaltzer, Lorin Goodin.  
Front Row Left to Right-Lloyd (Mac) McDaniel, Bob Schellhaus, Walter (Walt) Wychoff, Eldon Naffziger, Henry King, Joe Miskov.  
TEAM MEMBERS NOT SHOWN IN PHOTO-Hal Calcagno, Romeo Fontana, Tony Tyler.

# North County SENIOR SOFTBALL



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ENCINITAS  
ELKS  
CLUB  
1988

B-LEAGUE  
CHAMPS



Back Row - L-R: Van Staats, Dan McLane, Art Albanese, Al Lallo, Dave Moomaw, Bob Slyder, Frank Stanley, Bob Goldey, Vern Ockander, Bruce Gilbert.

Front Row - L-R: Bob Connell, Roy Marabella, Bob Miller, Max Gritzmaker, Russ Murico, Carl Hansey, Bill Tincup.

# North County **SENIOR** **SOFTBALL**



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ESCONDIDO  
SENIORS  
1988

Left to Right Rear Row  
Carl Hutzler, Paul Martin, Mike Sedor, Bernard Olinger, Bob Agnew

Left to Right Front Row  
John Cammarata, Carl Oderbirk, Jim Bradley, Pete Poelero, Adrian Davila

VI

88

# North County SENIOR SOFTBALL



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LEISURE  
VILLAGE  
OCEAN  
HILLS  
1988

Front Row - L to R - Murray Rose, Joe Antal, Joe Weiner,  
Dick Eubendorf, Leo Gardarian.  
Second Row - L to R. - Harold Klein, Harry Stanoff, Nat Cohen,  
Jay Jewell, Jim Ryan, Arnold Hyman.  
Back Row - L to R. - Sam Davidson, Dick Jacobsen, Iggy Hornsleth,  
Phil Erbsen, Ed Bermingham.

NEWS RELEASE  
Jim Bradshaw  
City of Carlsbad  
(619) 434-2841

1988

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

S.D.C.S.S.A.

For more than 4 years now, gentlemen and women throughout San Diego County have been participating in "55 and better" softball at area parks. In the North County, Bill Allen of Oceanside, and Bob Morris of the Carlsbad team were some of the pioneers in organizing the original group of men to play. The North County league now encompasses 10 teams from 5 different cities, with more than 150 participants. An additional dozen teams play in the San Diego area and throughout the South County.

Throughout the short history of the S.D.C.S.S.A., players have often reiterated their desires in playing the game. Most often heard is the desires for comraderie, wholesome workout, and the return to a form of the game that so many of us have grown up with and enjoyed as young men. The league continues to grow and prosper. All men and women from throughout the area are invited to participate, to recapture the love of this great game. For any additional information on the S.D.C.S.S.A., please call 434-2841. Teams are always looking for players!



WESTERN FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION



**DON LARSON**

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT/MANAGER

**SPONSOR**

**SUPER SENIORS SOFTBALL TEAM**

2625 VISTA WAY  
OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92054-6342  
(619) 721-3732



**Carlsbad Inn**  
BEACH & TENNIS RESORT

**Eric M. Siegel**

General Manager

3001 Carlsbad Boulevard Carlsbad, California 92008  
(619) 434-7020



Carlsbad Inn	George Slavik	753-7914
Vista Sportabout	Bob Adelson	726-4462
All About Travel Srs.	Adiran DaSilva	741-3232
Oceanside Pizza Place	Bill Allen	726-3352
Encinitas Elks	Max Gritzmacker	431-0112
Bank of La Costa Srs.	Syd Shipman	433-0219
Leisure Village	Leo Gardarian	726-7240
Oceanside Coasters	Red Davis	439-3577
Carlsbad Jays	Maynard Waxenberg	438-5343
Super 70's	Jack Estes	722-0558

Duke Snyder, Hall of Famer and ex-Dodger, likes to tell this story, and we can't testify that it's true.

When the Dodgers were in Brooklyn, they had some local Catholic Sisters that were great Dodger fans. One in particular, her name being Sister Mary, she was really a great fan. As the story goes, a little while after the team left for Los Angeles, Sister Mary died, and some of the players went to her funeral, and on the headstone, it read:

Sister Mary  
 Greatest Dodger Fan  
 Born a virgin  
 Lived a virgin  
 Died a virgin  
 No hits - no runs - no errors

The North County Senior Softball is always looking for handsome rich and professional ballplayers (don't we wish) to come and join us in having fun every Tuesday and Thursday morning. We enjoy good health and fun. The league is always having picnics and parties, so get your glove out of storage and join us. Above is a list of the team and team managers. Give them a call. They will be glad to answer your questions and invite you out to play.

The original Carlsbad Softball Team began early in 1984. Bob Morris, Howard Harmon, Bob Thomas, Joe Misko, George Slavik, Walt Wyckoff, Monty Morales, Sam Caito and Harvey Eisenbrown were some of the first team members. Later, Gene Hargett, Dan McLane, Jack Estes, Ned Janad, Jack Pezzoni and Don Sweet joined the group. Games were played at Chase field. The Carlsbad Seniors played Vista Seniors, La Mesa Seniors, El Cajon Seniors and Pacific Beach Seniors. Carlsbad won very few games.

Bob Morris was the manager, and Howard Harmon was the team captain. Most of these players are still playing. The Carlsbad team is still a contender, as you all know.

APRIL 8, 1984  
BLADE-TALBOT

# Under 70? Forget about playing for swinging seniors

By CAROL MASCIOLA

Staff Writer

CARLSBAD — Jack Estes eyed the hot softball field through the chainlink fence, his white hair poking out of his baseball hat. His maroon jersey read "70+" — because that's how old you're supposed to be to play on his team.

"This team here should beat us because they're so much younger. They have some sluggers," Estes said, pointing his finger at the opposing Bank of La Costa team — a group of hungry-looking 60-year-olds warming up on the diamond. "Just remember, this is one of the best teams in the league."

The juniors had a big edge. Estes claimed, because a player's speed dwindles and his reflexes dull a little with each passing year.

Good thing the sense of humor doesn't.

"Ha! He can't run. He's just like a deadwood out there," laughed Lorin Goodin, 70ish, watching one of his teammates as the game got under way. He shook his head.

Goodin believes the middle-aged guys should give the 70+ers a couple of free runs for being so old. But because nobody can figure out how many runs is the right number, nobody — not even Methuselah — gets any.

Goodin mumbled that he can't even get opponents to give him the age difference in pins when he goes bowling.

Others in the stands added their comments as the game progressed: "You run like a truck ... He's stuck to the mound ... He's a clown umpire; he doesn't know the first thing about nothin' ... He'll never get that ball. He got it! Nice going!"

Luckily, there's more than competition to North County Senior Softball.

There's also the cold beer at the pizza place with friends after the Tuesday and Thursday games, and the occasional beach party featuring pit-barbecued beef and coleslaw.

There's enjoying retirement — which some say can be a struggle against boredom, and reflecting on past youth.

"There's a fellowship. You know everybody," said Quent Garman, a retired Navy chaplain who has played softball for 52 consecutive years. "I'm 70. When you get to be 70, sedentary habits move in on you. This team is kind of a boon for our age group. Most of 'em would be staying home and watching TV. It maintains interest and gives 'em something

"You don't sit down all day and look at TV and die within six months after retirement," said Tony Tyler, 72, a retired facilities engineer who used to pitch in semi-pro baseball.

"Many of us tried out for the majors when we were really good. In our younger days many of us have been coaches, we've organized teams, helped the young ones get started in sandlot baseball. Now that we're older, if we're able to bend down and stop a ball or hit well enough to win a few games, we're happy. We all love the game and maybe we're trying to bring back our youth. We still think we're young."

Five years ago Estes and seven other 55-plus men made up the seniors' league here. Friends told friends and one by one, softballers put down their beer cans and clicked off the TV. Today 140 players make up the 10-team North County league — including a couple of women who are "pretty good, considering," as one of the male players put it.

It was the bottom of the sixth and the younger blue shirts were ahead by three runs.

William "Bud" Hardin, out with a hurt leg, watched from the stands, looking like he wished he was well. Hardin, a San Marcos resident, played on professional baseball teams for 14 years, including half a season as a shortstop with the Chicago Cubs and a half-season with the then-Triple A Padres in 1957.

With the Cubs, his annual salary was \$7,000.

After baseball Hardin worked as a grip in Hollywood.

"I worked some with Elvis. He was great. Elvis was a really nice person," Hardin reminisced as the game progressed. The sun beat down. "Let's see, I worked on "CHIPS" for three years. I enjoyed that. There was a lot of action on that show ... And with Burt Reynolds on 'The Man Who Loved Cat Dancing' ... I liked working with Burt. Burt was one of the boys."

Rich histories sparkled all over the diamond.

Al Hainke waited for his turn at bat, chatting about his days as an illustrator with the Chicago Daily News. "I started when Capone was running around," Hainke said, flashing the press ID he still keeps in his wallet. "Back then the best newspapermen in the world didn't go to college and they were the worst drunks in the world."

Nearby, Garman bossed his teammates like he was still a Navy chaplain. He served as pastor of Christ Lutheran

► See Softball. Page B-4

► From Page B-1

Church in Pacific Beach for 35 years and now travels the country raising money to build new Lutheran churches in the West.

Frank "Cal" Calgano flew sorties in B-24s out of Italy during World War II. He doesn't fly bombers anymore, but his teammates said he still "runs like a rabbit."

Many of the players moved away from old friends in other parts of the country to retire or fight the ailments of age in the warmth of Southern California.

"A lot of the men have wives who are sick or they have had cancer themselves, but they come right back out here and play," said Gloria Rithaler, who moved with her husband Ron from the Boston area six years ago. "You see the scars on their legs and yet they run around those bases. The doctor says it's the best thing for them."

Ron, who spent his life as a road musician and played with Guy Lombardo, now plays for the La Costa Bank team. When he can't make the team's social events, his teammates insist that Gloria come anyway.

"If it weren't for the ball team my life wouldn't be complete," said Gloria as the game came to an end. The score: 8-7. The victors: 70+.

On to the pizza place.

"They should have been able to beat us. We were just too good for 'em today," said player Bob Shellhouse. He smiled.



Quent Garman, at left, and Bill Prunty shout encouragement to their teammates, above.



Below left, Henry King at bat, and at right, handshakes all around after the game.

NINETEEN

NINETIES

# Grand Deli are champs

OCTOBER 18, 1990

A host of individual athletes and athletic teams from Carlsbad and surrounding North County have been gaining a lot of respect in their own particular interests lately.

The North County over-55 senior softball league held its final summer championship series to determine an overall winner.

At Calavera Hills Community Center, the Carlsbad Grand Deli repeated as champions by sweeping two games from La Costa Bank, 14-2 and 14-3.

In front of a large crowd, Carlsbad put together a stunning defensive effort, keyed by short-stop Carl Hutzler and second bagger John Sarina.

Carlsbad's defense was backed up by timely power hitting from Hutzler, who helped his own cause with two home runs. Rookie Bob Beard blasted five hits in the doubleheader, including a home run.

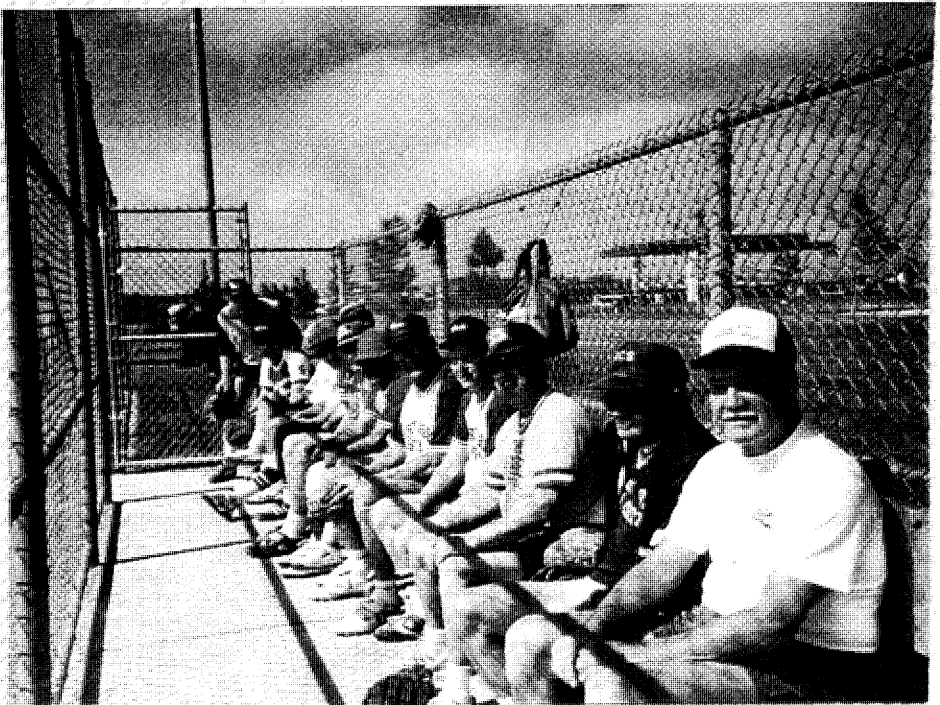
Carlsbad pitcher Stan Katz pitched both games. Katz had a shutout going into the final inning of the second game, but it was broken up when La Costa lashed a two-out hit.

The first senior All-Star game will be played today at noon at Calavera Hills. The Grand Deli team will play a team composed of the top players from the balance of the senior league.

Also, prospective senior players who are interested in joining the league in the future are invited to the weekly workouts held each Monday at 10 a.m. at Calavera Hills fields. League games are played throughout the North County area on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. For more information, contact Bob Morris, 439-6414.



FRONT ROW L-R, BOB BEARD, JOHN ELLIOTT, STAN KATZ, STEVE BRIDGE  
 BACK ROW, CARL HUTZLER, BOB STRAWBRIDGE, BERNIE SILVERMAN, JOHN SARINA, PRESTON GRIFFING, MIKE SERDAR. BOB MORRIS



THE ALL-STAR TEAM: BOB BEARD, JOHN ELLIOTT, STAN KATZ, STEVE BRIDGE, CARL HUTZLER, BOB STRAWBRIDGE, BERNIE SILVERMAN, JOHN SARINA, PRESTON GRIFFING, MIKE SERDAR.

**PLAY BALL** 10-18-90  
 The best old-timers' game in town happens Thursday when the San Diego North County Senior Softball Association throws its 1990 summer season all-star game at Calaveras Community Park, 2997 Glasgow Drive.  
 Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. Game time is noon.



1990 ALL-STARS

L-R

FERGUSON  
GRITZNAKER  
COHEN  
BICE  
WOODING  
STANLEY  
CALAGNO



# NORTH COUNTY SENIOR SOFTBALL

MEMORANDUM  
3-30-92

TO: COMMISSIONERS AND PLAYERS OF SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE  
FROM: LEAGUE COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE TEAM BALANCE  
SUBJECT: RESULTS OF LEAGUE SURVEY (106 FORMS RETURNED)

*Results of a survey which resulted in splitting of the league*

QUESTION #1: Are you satisfied with present alignment?  
YES 21 NO 83 = 80% NO

QUESTION #2: Do you approve of splitting league into two divisions?  
YES 78 NO 26 = 75% YES

QUESTION #3: Would you accept assignment to a different team?  
YES 46 NO 57 = 55% NO

QUESTION #4: Do you approve of handicapping teams?  
YES 41 NO 52 = 56% NO

QUESTION #5: Should new players be assigned to weaker teams?  
YES 56 NO 47 = 54% YES

QUESTION #6: Are you in favor of lowering eligibility age?  
YES 18 NO 85 = 83% NO

QUESTION #7: Would you accept change of playing days?  
YES 56 NO 46 = 55% YES

## CONCLUSIONS:

As you see, only questions 1, 2 and 6 received results that prompted the committee to move forward. Particularly questions 1 and 2. The other questions were inconclusive and **NO ACTION** is being considered at this time. Question 6 received a definite NO.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

In view of the above, the committee recommends that the league be split into TWO divisions. A COMPETITIVE Division consisting of 4 teams (GRAND DELI, VISTA, ROSSI'S and THAT PIZZA PLACE) and a RECREATIONAL Division composed of the remaining 6 teams. A schedule is being submitted that allows limited inter-division play. There were concerns that a complete split of the league would result in a loss of contact and camaraderie with the other teams. The proposed schedule calls for the Competitive Division to play about 66% of its games within their division. The Recreational Division will play 75% of its games within their division. The schedule would be as follows:

COMPETITIVE DIVISION  
Play each other 7 games each = 21  
Play other 6 teams 2 games each = 12  
TOTAL GAMES = 33

RECREATIONAL DIVISION  
Play each other 5 games each = 25  
Play other 4 teams 2 games each = 8  
TOTAL GAMES = 33

*THIS SCHEDULE AS SUGGESTED WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO RECREATIONAL DIVISION. THEY CHOOSE A COMPLETE SEPARATION OF THE 2 DIVISIONS*

All games count in the standings and separate standings for each division will be recorded. While it's not a major concern of the committee, the Competitive Division might want to adopt some rule changes.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS:

The committee wishes to stay active to explore ways to strengthen teams. We will be conferring with the Managers hoping to come up with some answers. Forty six players indicated that they would be willing to be reassigned. Lower teams in each division will need strengthening. It is the committees hope that we can help facilitate VOLUNTARY movement of players. If any of those 46 players are interested, please call any of the committee members listed below. Thanks for your participation and remarks.

COMMITTEE:

John Cammerata	746-8408	Bill Parkinson	946-9685
Max Gritzmaker	431-0112	Bob Slyder	944-0998
Bob McDonald	792-6358	Tony Tyler	729-4374
Bob Morris	439-6414		



# Vista upsets Grand Deli in Senior Softball finals

Vince Petricevich has helped pitch Vista Sportabout to a two-games-to-one win in the North County Senior Softball League championship series.

An Encinitas resident, Petricevich displayed good control as Vista

edged Carlsbad Grand Deli, 6-5, in the third nine-inning slow-pitch game of the series.

Carlsbad, which split with Vista in the first two contests of the finals, had dominated the league during the past few years.

Stan Katz pitched well for Carlsbad, and Bob Strawbrige blatted a three-run homer in a losing cause.

Bill Parkinson led all Vista hitters, banging out three hits, including one triple, in four at-bats, while Carlsbad shortstop Carl Hutzler made many strong defensive plays.

MAY 1992



Vista Sportabout upset Carlsbad Grand Deli in the Senior Softball championship. CARLSBAD JOURNAL Submitted photo

FRONT ROW: L-R JOHN O'DELL, MANNY MAGANA, TONY ALTEIRI, LOU GUEVARA, MAX CRITZBAKER, TOM HURT, JACK UNDERWOOD.  
 BACK ROW: FRANK HUCKLINGER, BILL PARKINSON, FRANK TAYLOR, FRANK WILHELM, BILL RUALES, VINCE PRTRICEVICH, TOM BICE, OTIS ROWLAND, MGR.

# Pitcher Petricevich helps seniors to softball title

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An Encinitas resident, Petricevich displayed good control as Vista

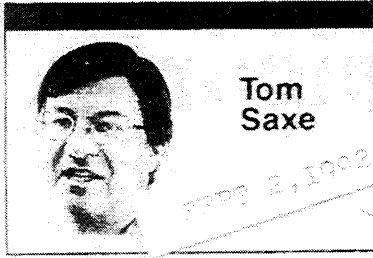
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ENCINITAS COAST DISPATCH MAY 92



Vista Sportabout defeated Carlsbad Grand Deli to capture the North County Senior Softball League championship. Submitted photo



Tom Saxe

## Speaking of Odell, Paopao, Moi and more

### Notes to you:

In John Odell's fastpitch softball days with the Vista Bombers, he was not unlike every pitcher who has ever donned a cap and spikes.

He wanted to hit.

Not that the late Slick Davis granted his wish very often. But Odell always maintained that, given the chance, he'd hit the cover off the ball.

Now sponsoring his own 55-and-over team, F&J Cabinets, Odell is getting plenty of chances to hit and he's taking advantage of them.

"It may be slow-pitch, but he's hitting the heck out of the ball," team manager Otis Rowland said after the F&J team swept unbeaten through the Boys of Summer Tournament to take home the first place trophy late last month at Brengle Terrace Park.

Odell, who plays the outfield for the F&J team, went 9-for-17 in the tournament.

He was named the tourney's most valuable player.

Bill Parkinson and Frank Wilhelm the local umpire, also had big tournaments with their bats.

Lee Boudreaux, Vince Petricevich, Dick Tasker, Tom Bice, Tony Altieri, Jack Underwood, Max Gritzmaker and Manny Magana made up the remainder of the champion F&J team.

F&J defeated Mixed Company 20-2 the Trawlers 5-4, the Sundowners 11-1, Chino 10-4 and Jack's 5-0 to reach the finals.

In the championship game, F&J turned back Grohe Faucets 4-3 to finish the tournament with a 6-0 record.

"It was a team effort," Rowland said. "You can't go 6-0 without a lot of guys giving it their all."

The tourney drew teams from San Diego to Chino.

UNION TRIBUNE

September 28, 1992

A10 — Thursday, September 3, 1992 Carlsbad Journal

# Sports

## Grand Deli, That Pizza Place shine in senior softball play

18 Carlsbad Grand Deli 18, Rossi's

Grand Deli continued its hold on first place in the upper division with the help of Bob Beard and Mike Sedar. Each had four hits in the game. Dick Hammerie added a towering home run for the Deli.

Carlsbad Grand Deli 9, Rossi's 7 In the rematch, John Prokop's three hits and dazzling fielding helped Carlsbad edge out a determined Rossi's club. Steve Bridges and Bob Strawbridge each pitched in with two hits.

That Pizza Place 12, Jack's Team 5

Trailing 5-0 after two innings, Pizza Place scored 12 unanswered runs for the win. Bill Klason, Tom Zack and Vince

Maiorano had three hits each while Chuck Stanley and Ray Hamel recorded home runs.

Vista Sportabout 27, That Pizza Place 8.

In a slugfest, Vista outhomered Pizza Place 7-3 on its way to a 19-run victory. Sportabout's big hitters were Otis Rowland (3 homers), Tom Bice (2), Frank Taylor (1) and Jack Underwood (1). Vince Maiorano (2) and Tom Zack (1) had homers for That Pizza Place.

Vista Sportabout 3, Carlsbad Grand Deli 2

A RBI-triple by Tom Bice gave Vista a share of the lead in the

upper division of the Senior Softball circuit. The two teams are now tied with 16 wins each.

Carlsbad Grand Deli 11, Brengle Tigers 10.

Trailing, 10-8, in the ninth, Grand Deli staged a dramatic three-run rally to win. John Elliott, Jack Givens, and Carl Hutzler each had three hits for Grand Deli.

That Pizza Place 18, Cam's Crew 13

A perfect day for Vince Maiorano (4-for-4, two home runs) gave That Pizza Place the victory and put it one game behind Cam's Crew in the lower-division standings.

# Senior Softball

The senior softball playoffs ended with upsets in both divisions.

In the upper (competitive) division, Vista Sportabout turned the tables on Carlsbad Grand Deli, 11-2 and 12-6, to win the best-of-three series. It was the second time in as many seasons Vista has taken the crown away from Grand Deli, who won the regular season title.

In the lower division, That Pizza

Place of Carlsbad stung Cam's Crew, 14-10, to claim its first title. Solid hitting led the way as Tom Zack went five-for-five with a home run. Ray Hamel had four hits and Irwin Galter had three, including a homer.

Playoff teams from both divisions will compete in an All-Star game at 10:30 a.m. today at Calavera Community Park, 2997 Glasgow.



A12 - Saturday-Sunday, December 19-20, 1992

The Vista Press



## Senior softball champs — again

Sport About of Vista has repeated as North County Senior Slowpitch champions. First row, from left: Dick Tasker, Frank Hecklinger, Max Gritzmaker, Lou Guevara, Blakie Cahill, Frank Wilhelm. Second row, Tom Bice, Bill Parkinson, Otis Rowland, Vinnie Petreicevich, John Odell, Jack Underwood, Larry Mason. Sport About won the first two games of a best-of-three series with Carlsbad 10-2 and 12-6 last month to win the summer-fall championship. Wilhelm (7-for-8), Gritzmaker (6-for-8 with two

doubles) and Tasker (4-for-8 with two homers and a triple) were leading hitters in the series. Petricevich pitched both games, shutting down Carlsbad except for a long homer over the centerfield fence by Paul Martin. Odell is the former Vista Bombers pitcher. Martin pitched in big leagues for the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1955. For information about the 55-and-over league — which also includes teams from San Marcos, Oceanside, Escondido and Encinitas — phone Warren Chetley (729-9326).

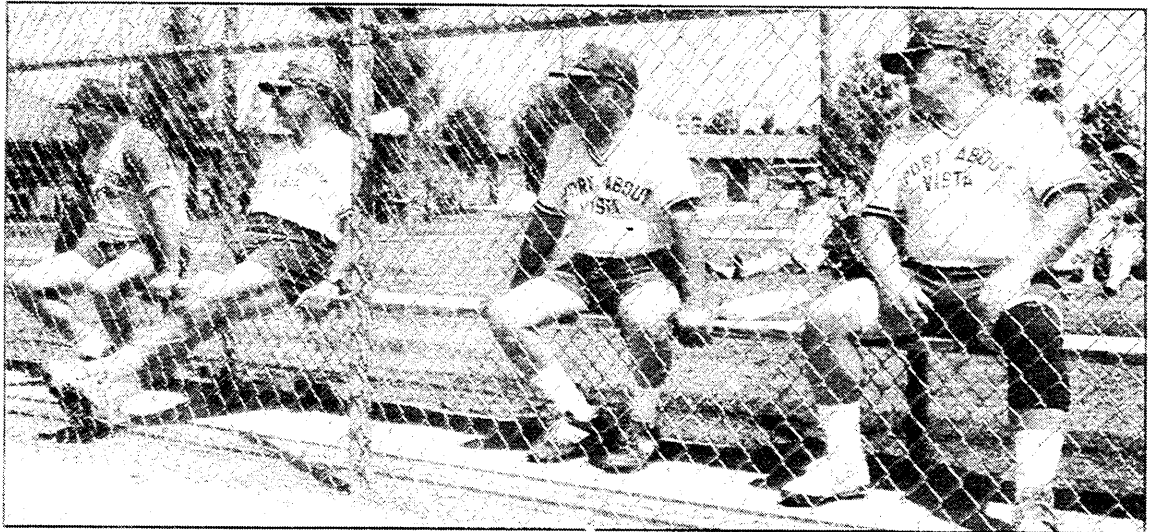
TIMES  
ADVOCATE

# NORTH COUNTY REPORT

B1

SANDLOT SENIORS

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1988



Tony Altieri, Lou Guevera, Jack Underwood and Frank Wilhelm offer encouragement to their teammates.

# Never too old to be the boys of summer

RANCHO BERNARDO — The San Diego Senior Sports Festival's Senior Olympics kicked off Sunday with a softball tournament and carnival at Rancho Bernardo Community Park.

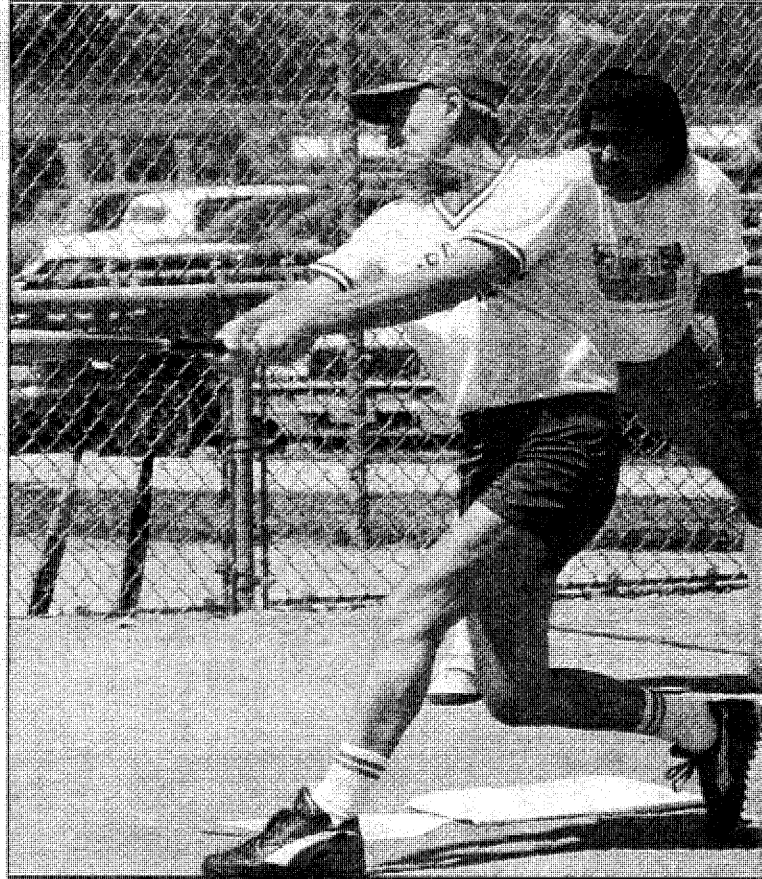
Besides the softball games, the event featured celebrities, music, puppet shows, clowns, an antique car parade and an ice cream social.

It was the first time that North and South County senior softball teams were pitted against each other. The games ran from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, and were set to continue at 9 a.m. this morning. Tuesday's games will be determined by who wins Sunday and Monday.

Unlike regular baseball rules, the seniors play a modified game that prohibits pickle plays, leading off and arguments with umpires. All games are seven innings or 75 minutes, whichever comes first.

Dubbed the "Buzzie and Jack Show," the day was made possible by E.J. "Buzzie" Bavasi, the tournament's director, and State Softball Commissioner Jack Leonard. Bavasi is former president and general manager of the San Diego Padres, the California Angels and Los Angeles Dodgers. Leonard is a former executive with *Time*, *Life* and *Sports Illustrated* magazines.

Photography by Lillian Zossacoff



Max Gritzmaker of the Sport About Team of Vista takes a good cut.



Frank Wilhelm gets a high five from a teammate after a home run.



DON BOOMER / NORTH COUNTY TIMES

Sport About's Bob Kaump tracks down a fly ball as teammate Bill Rath backs him up.

COMMUNITY SPORTS

# Seniors find their fountain of youth in softball league

GLAE THIEN  
NORTH COUNTY TIMES

1996

SENIOR SOFTBALL

VISTA — They followed the game by lining up like youth teams do for a series of congratulatory high fives. It didn't matter that the high five was popularized well after their days as youths.

The senior softball players in the North County Competitive League gladly enter their second childhood when they step on the field for games at Brengle Terrace Park in Vista.

"We're just kids, you know, grown-up kids," Escondido's Hank Mason said. "And everybody sure plays hard."

In a way, they also defy the aging process.

Carlsbad's Vinnie Petricevich just qualified for the 70-plus age group, but he stays in the 65-plus division.

"I'm in better shape than I ever was all because of this," said Petricevich, who doubles as the league's commissioner. "A year and a half ago, I joined a fitness club to keep up in softball. Also, I walk twice a day."

Carlsbad's Bob Morris helped launch what's evolved into the current league in 1983, and just like the league, he's still going strong.

"I hit a triple today," he said after a mid-May game. "That's not bad for someone who's 73."

This isn't the super slow-

■ **What:** North County Competitive League.

■ **Who:** Players age 55 and over, divided into two leagues according to ability.

■ **When:** Year-round with occasional breaks, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

■ **Where:** Brengle Terrace Park in Vista.

■ **Information:** Call Max Gritzmaker at 431-0211 or Hank Mason at 747-0867.

■ **Practice Games:** Most Mondays, Calaveras Park in Carlsbad.

■ **Cost:** \$5 per session to defray equipment expenses.

motion senior softball that's been shown on some national TV reports either. About 25 players from the North County league also play on tournament teams, which are like all-star squads, traveling to regional and national competition.

"We don't run as fast as we once did, or throw as hard, and that all compensates for itself," Mason acknowledged. "But everyone swings the bat just as hard, and the ball travels just as fast."

In an equipment bag near one dugout, the contents included Ben-Gay ointment. But then major leaguers have the benefit

## ► SOFTBALL

Continued from C1

of a full training room.

There are some bumps and bruises from the games, the players say, yet major injuries are avoided.

Besides, these guys are a hardy bunch. At a recent game, the pitcher for one team had open-heart surgery less than one year ago, and the third baseman on other side was playing one day before a scheduled hernia operation.

The North County league schedules games on Tuesdays and Thursday most of the year. Toss in tournaments for some players and just extra pick-up games for others, and the number of games can rise quickly.

Petricevich figured that he had played in more than 90 games in under five months this year. It's a number that gives him delight since he couldn't play near that many in the cold of Detroit, his former hometown.

To drive this point home, Petricevich quizzed another one-time Michigan resident, Bob Kaump.

"How many games would we have played by this time back there?" Petricevich asked.

"Oh," Kaump replied, "probably about two."

The league is a bit of a melting pot bringing together long-time residents and those who moved to the North County for the weather following retirement.

That's resulted in a social side as important as softball itself to the league.

"It's a good way for people from all over the country to meet others and make new friends," Morris said. "That's what it is all about."

The majority of the league members played youth softball, and many continued in service ball, recreational leagues or other competitive outlets.

But come middle age, they yielded to younger adults in better shape. And that led to a break since there haven't been leagues expressly for players in their 40s and 50s.

So the senior league, which



DON BOOMER / NORTH COUNTY TIMES

**Pitcher Vinny Petricevich of Sport About tosses one to the plate.**

starts with players 55 and over, has also represented a sports rebirth for them.

Local teams tend to mix age, and organize, according to ability. There were three competitive teams and eight recreational squads early this year, but starting with a new schedule Thursday, there will be six teams on the competitive level.

The rules for senior softball include a few revisions from the usual game. Players can overrun second and third base without being out. Also, there's an alternative spot behind the plate for runners to score, and there are force plays only at home. This is all done to avoid collisions.

On another front, to keep games from getting out of hand, the team that's ahead is limited to a maximum of five runs per inning.

# Vista team back with world title

**CHAMPIONS:** The Sport About team of Vista returns from World Series with the gold.

By JOHN STREY  
The Vista Press Staff

Members of the Vista Sport About senior slowpitch softball team are sporting new world championship rings.

Composed of players between the ages of 58 and 65, the Vista team surprised the field of 12 teams in the Senior World Series tournament at Kansas City by winning nine of 11 games.

The idea to organize the team along the lines of a 1992 lineup which had captured the local Brengel Terrace tournament came from longtime Vista player John Odell, a former star pitcher for the now-defunct Vista Bombers mens open fastpitch team.

"Some of the guys got to talk-

## Senior slowpitch

ing about it and decided it would be fun to get the same guys back on the diamond and see what we could to qualify and play in the national competition," said Vince Petricevich.

Team members included Odell, Jack Underwood, Otis Rowland, Tom Bice, Frank Wilhelm, Max Gritzmacher, Frank Ferguson, Manny Magana, Bill Parkinson, Petricevich and coach Tony Altieri.

Petricevich said Odell, Wilhelm and Gritzmacher had super games in the tournament.

Several Sport About players, including Petricevich, are joining manager Bob Ross' San Marcos Chiefs team for a four-day world championship tournament to be played this weekend at four different

diamonds in Palm Springs.

A total of 137 teams have registered for the tournament which runs from Saturday through Tuesday.

"For a bunch of old guys, this group is extremely healthy and we hope to stay that way," Petricevich said. "But the bottom line is that we're all having fun, win or lose.

Petricevich said he played 22 games in nine days two months ago and came out with a sore or

gimpy leg.

"I played with the 60s group in Menafee and then went over to the 65s tournament. Then it was the 55s in Vista and 65s in Anaheim. I had a great time."

Apparently, some of the seniors will play until they drop, and according to Petricevich, that is what happened to a player in one of his tournaments. He had a heart attack running from first to third and died on the diamond.

VISTA PRESS OCT 4, 1995

SEE NEXT PAGE →



1996



**CHAMPIONS:** The  
Sport About team of  
Vista

Front row, from left: Manny Magana (age 58), Frank Ferguson (65), John Odell (61), Tony Altieri (59), Max Gritzmaker (66). Back row: Jack Underwood (62), Nick Kotas (65), Otis Rowland (59),

Vinnie Petricevich (69), Doc Jeffries (59), Tom Bice (65), Frank Wilhelm (58). Not in picture: Dick Tasker (61), Bill Parkinson (58). Odell is the former Vista Bombers pitcher.



San Diego Senior Olympics Champs

Back: Larry Mason, Don Gaffey, Monty Morales, Everritt, Papa Bear, Dick Tasker, Stan Katz. --- Front: Pat Rodriguez, John Torres, Paul Hodgkins, Jim Canty. -----1996 Nice Uniforms.

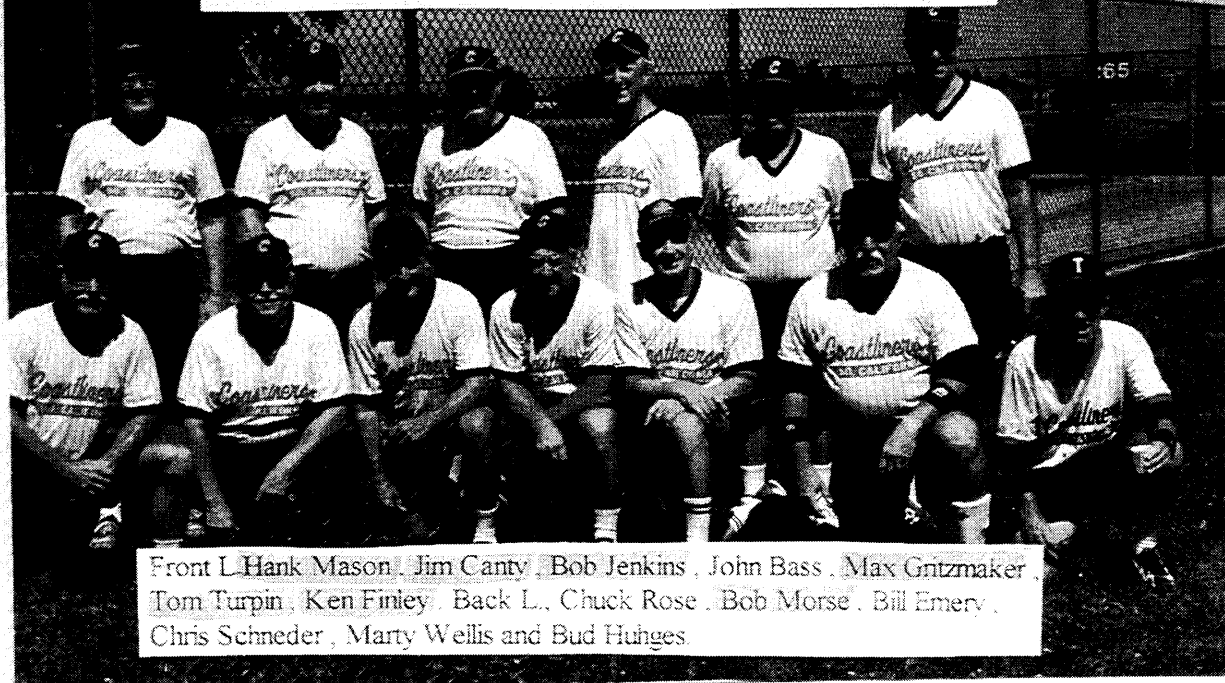
Another Picture

1998



Left to Right: Dick Tasker, Pat Rodriguez, Gary Bottenfield, Ray Hartzell, Bruce Roelofs, John Martinez, George Mantor, Frank Fraccalvieri, Who's That? --- Front "JT"

## Coastliners post 9-1 record in winning World Championships



Front L Hank Mason, Jim Canty, Bob Jenkins, John Bass, Max Gritzmaker, Tom Turpin, Ken Finley, Back L., Chuck Rose, Bob Morse, Bill Emery, Chris Schneder, Marty Wellis and Bud Huhges.

## Coastliners post 9-1 record in winning World Championships

NORTH COUNTY TIMES

The Solana Beach-based Coastliners 60-and-over softball team was near perfect in taking the AA World Championships title last month in Aurora, Colo. While advancing through the three-day tournament, the Coastliners posted a 6-0 record in round-robin play before winning three of four in the double elimination playoffs.

In advancing to the championship game, the Coastliners suffered an early setback in the playoff round, dropping their opening game to XL Sports from Burm, Md. by a score of 8-7.

This proved to be the Coastliners' lone loss of the tournament as they went on to down the Port Charlotte Raves (16-5) before defeating the XL Sports two

straight times (7-6, 9-2) to seal the championship.

To start the tournament off, the Coastliners battled back from behind in five of six contests in round-robin play. The team registered wins over the Ravens (11-7), Rhode Island Reds (11-3), Prescott Scorpions (15-9), Oklahoma City Royals (20-16), Santa Paula Gold Coast (15-12) and Albuquerque, N.M. (18-1).

Seven of the Coastliners' 13 players batted over .600 for the tournament, led by Bill Emery's .675 showing. The Coastliners' team average ended up at an impressive .569.

Team members of the AA world champion Coastliners include Jim Canty, Bob Morse, John Bass, Emery, Ken Finley, Bud Hughes, Max Gritzmaker, Bob Jenkins, Hank Mason, Marty Wellis, Chuck Rose, Chris Schneder and Tom Turpin.

*AUG. 15-18-98*

*SOME NORTH  
COUNTY PLAYERS  
WERE PART OF  
THIS FUN  
TIME IN  
AURORA, COLO.*

# The boys of winter

9/99  
*50-and-older softballers keep playing for love of the game*

**T**hey show up just about every Tuesday and Thursday morning at Vista's Brenle Terrace Park. They park their Cadillacs and Buicks, open the trunk and pull out their Easton and Louisville Slugger bat bags. They proudly sling them over their shoulders, walk to a nearby dugout and get ready to play softball.

Knee wraps, elbow wraps and shin guards for some pitchers are as much a part of their uniforms as cleats. Those who still have hair show more gray than a National City shipyard.

"I don't think there's a player in this league that doesn't have an ache or a cut or an operation someplace," said Bob Kaump, 62, a member of the Senior Softball Hall of Fame.

To be eligible for the San Diego North County Senior Softball League, you must have turned 50 by this year. Estimated average age of the players after a glance: early 60s. Frank Hecklinger, 78, still plays a spry first base. Of Hecklinger, another player said, "He's our hero. We want to be like Frank when we grow up."

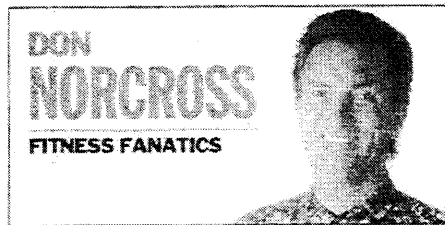
The slow-pitch league is comprised of 12 teams, eight recreational, four competitive. There are no umpires. The players make their own calls, which occasionally leads to rhubarbs but saves money for pizza and beer.

The competitive players take the game seriously. Many of them use the North County league to hone their skills for national tournament play. By his count, league commissioner Max Gritzmaker played 190 games last year. A retired veterinarian, Gritzmaker blew out 70 candles on his last birthday.

Most of the seniors play the game for the same reason. The camaraderie is nice, what with the needling about age and waistlines, and the serious conversations about prostate cancer. The exercise is good, soaking that jersey on a humid September morning.

But most of them play for the pure love of the game. They played baseball as kids. Some were fortunate enough to be signed by a major league team and spent some time bouncing around in the minors. A few made it to The Show.

But for anyone who has ever played baseball or softball, the romance is the same. Is there any better feel than slipping a mitt on your bare hand and hearing the pop when ball meets leather? Is there any better sound than cracking a base hit? Is there any better sense of accomplishment than making a great defensive play and legally robbing someone?



For Carl Hutzler, the game fills a void. Hutzler is 66. He was a high school coach in Corvallis, Ore. Chargers head coach Mike Riley played for Hutzler. So did Phoenix Suns coach Danny Ainge. So did ESPN analyst Harold Reynolds.

Hutzler has been divorced for 20 years. He asks a stranger if marriage is really better the second time around.

"This is a perfect deal for a guy like me," said Hutzler.

When he plays, Hutzler wears dark goggles that make him look like softball's Horace Grant. At 5-foot-10, 180 pounds, he's in excellent shape, particularly his legs. When the competitive teams met for pizza and beer last Thursday, Hutzler passed on the beverage of choice. He was sipping water. When he eats meat, it's lean. He cuts back on his carbohydrates.

Hutzler moves with an athlete's grace. He played for 10 years in the Boston Red Sox organization. He's another member of the Senior Softball Hall of Fame. He can model nine national championship rings.

"Basically," said Hutzler, "I'm in love with baseball and softball. I just can't help myself. I'm hooked. It's like a drug. I can't keep from playing."

Befitting a man with soft hands who does not so much move in the infield as glide, Hutzler derives the most pleasure from making a nice defensive play.

"I feel I should catch everything that's hit," said Hutzler, who plays second base and shortstop. "If I don't, I'm usually kicking myself."

Hecklinger, the 78-year-old first baseman, was raised on Long Island and had a Yankee Stadium tryout at 16. He went into the Navy and played military ball with Johnny Vander Meer, Pee Wee Reese, Bill Dickey and Schoolboy Rowe. Hugh Casey won 75 games in the majors. Hecklinger smacked two homers off Casey one day during their military stints.

Hecklinger never reached the majors. After learning to surf in Hawaii, where he was stationed in the Navy, Hecklinger moved to Carlsbad to continue chasing waves. He did

carpentry, making cabinets and surfboards professionally.

He last surfed a year ago. As for softball, he said, "I want to play at least until I'm 80."

Gritzmaker, the 70-year-old commissioner, suffered a torn rotator cuff a couple of years ago. He refused to have surgery, electing to rehabilitate the shoulder through exercise.

"At my age, I don't want to take six months off," he said. "I don't have that many years left."

Gritzmaker has seen two players suffer fatal heart attacks playing senior softball.

Said Temecula's Bob Ross, 70, who pitched 47 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings in the majors with the Senators and Phillies: "I'm sure both guys would tell you, if you could ask them, there's no better way to go."

Leg injuries are common in the league, which uses a lot of pinch runners. To avoid sliding, players are allowed to run past second and third. When runners attempt to score, home is about 12 feet to the side of the actual plate to avoid collisions.

The mood is normally light during senior games, but even seniors practice their irreverent banter. When a player took two straight strikes, the opposing first baseman barked, "Nice-looking bat!"

Men being men, there has even been a fight or two on the senior diamond. Ross remembers there was a real meticulous guy in his 70s who liked to run his mouth. An opponent didn't care for the digs one day and called the older man out.

"They came together like two billy goats," said Ross. "The next thing you know they were on the ground."

There was another time when a player pushing 80 was pitching against some younger seniors. The opposing team razzed him, continually yelling out, "Hey, old man!"

The pitcher didn't roll with the punches. Paid umpires were working that game, and the pitcher pleaded with the ump, saying, "Hey, blue, make them stop calling me an old man."

The umpire looked around and replied, "That's all I see around here."

There are three senior softball leagues in San Diego County. For the North County, phone (760) 431-0112. In the South Bay, phone (619) 479-1223. In San Diego, phone (619) 462-3828.

Don Norcross can be reached at (619) 293-1803 or don.norcross@uniontrib.com

ALL LEAGUE  
MEETING  
9-23-99



MAX GRITZMAKER  
COMMISSIONER

I am totally and completely frazzled. When I look in the mirror I hardly recognize myself. I think its mostly old age.

Standings through Sept 21st : Deja Vu 14 - 7, Coastliners 11- 8, Bicknell Travel 10-11, Vista SA 5- 14

Vista and the Coastliners have 3 make up games. Deja Vu and Bicknell Tvl have 1 make up game. Our final scheduled game is on Tues. at Bradley. Make up games can be scheduled if the managers want to do so, let me know and we will make it happen.

At this time the league has more people with more talent and skills than ever before. We have evolved into a very competitive league. Winning is important even though there are no prizes. I must admit that I love to win. However, survival and the continuation of this league has been my number one priority. I know this feeling is shared by many of you and we will do well. I have been playing in this league for 12 plus years and the problems we have now are the same as we had 12 years ago. These problems will continue because it is not a perfect world. I think we have done well with scheduling, rosters, and assigning new players in an attempt to achieve parity.

We have a new parity committee: Mike Baker, Carl Hutzler, Bruce Roeloff, and Bill Rath. I am asking that they meet with the 4 managers and work on the rosters for next season. I am anticipating that the season will run from Oct. 12th through Dec. 23rd.

Another concern is attendance. The following are reasons for absenteeism: 1. Injuries 2. Work : some of the relief teachers may miss more games now. 3. Family obligations 4. Indifference 5. Tournaments: these are year around happenings. ie. Phoenix in Oct, Las Vegas in Oct., Menefee in Jan., Sun city Az, Mesa etc. in Mar. it goes on and on. By my last head count 2/3 of players play tournaments. What can we do? 1. Continue as is by filling in for each other and making games happen. 2. go to a 3 team league. 3. Have no schedule. Show up and choose up sides and have practice games. Some players have indicated to me that this is only to keep them tuned up for tournaments. This accounts for the indifference and lack of commitment to a team or the league.

Next year the league will need a new Commissioner and at least 2 new mangers. Please step up and volunteer. REMEMBER ; " BE KIND TO EACH OTHER, AT THIS AGE WE DESERVE EACH OTHERS RESPECT JUST FOR SHOWING UP"

*Max*

2000's

# Senior Softball League up to bat in No. County

NORTH COUNTY TIMES

Chuck Enger of Vista has been named new commissioner for the North County Competitive Senior Softball League, succeeding Max Grits-maker.

Enger recently met with team managers, including Brad Merrill (Vista Sport About), Hank Mason (Bicknell Travel), Bob Morse (Coastliners) and John Maples (Deja Vu), to choose new teams. League play began Jan. 18 and will continue a 20-game schedule through March 23.

Games are alternated weekly between Bradley Park in San Marcos and Brengle Terrace Park in Vista. Games are played on Tuesdays and Thursdays



Chuck Enger

from 9-11:45 a.m.

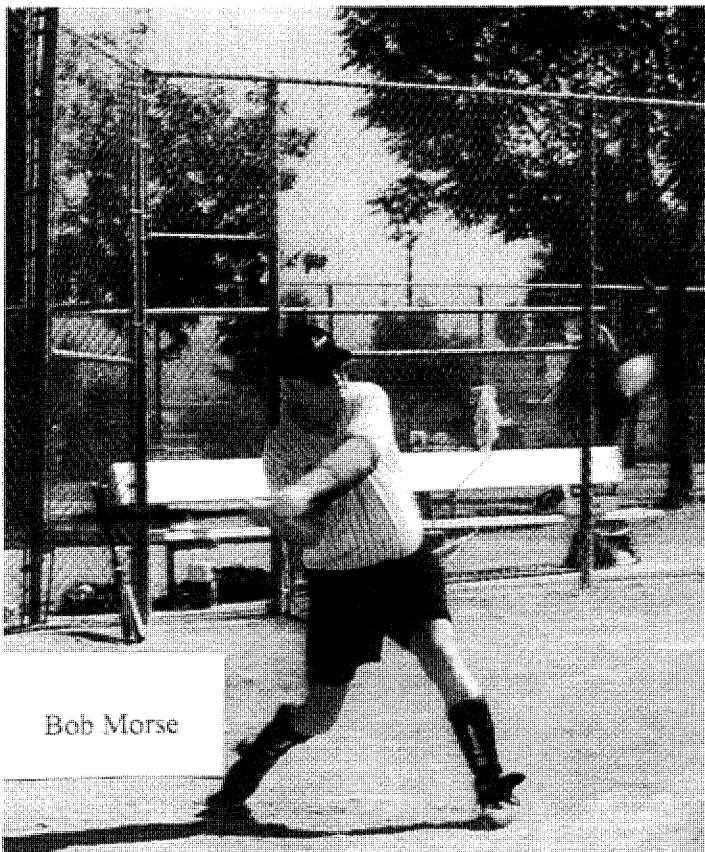
Any players ages 50-80 interested in playing competitive slow-pitch softball can contact Enger at (760) 941-1937 or Bob Morse at (760) 741-1736.



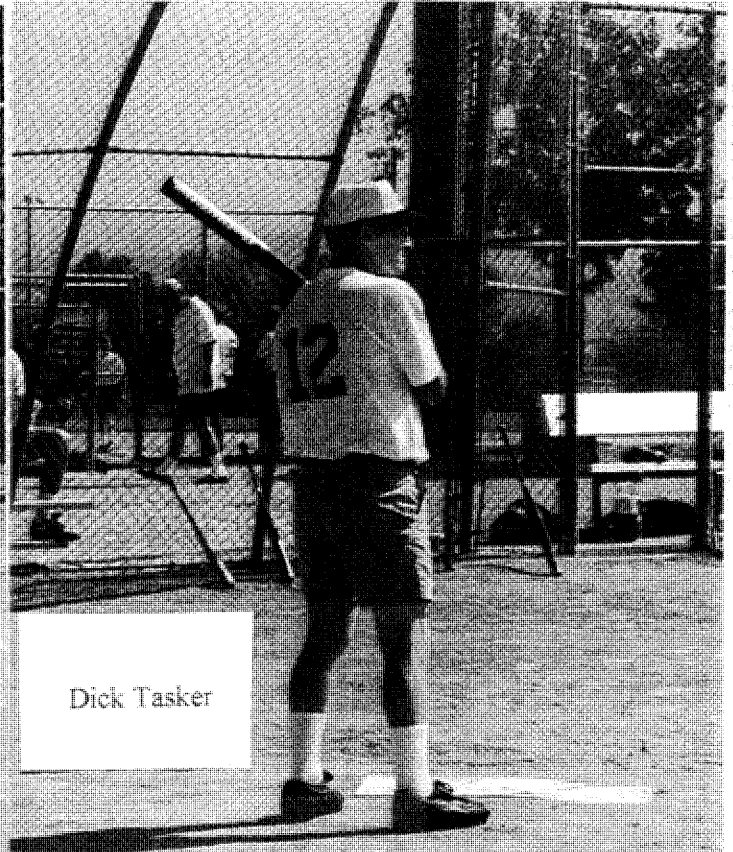
2000

NCSS Summer Season Champs

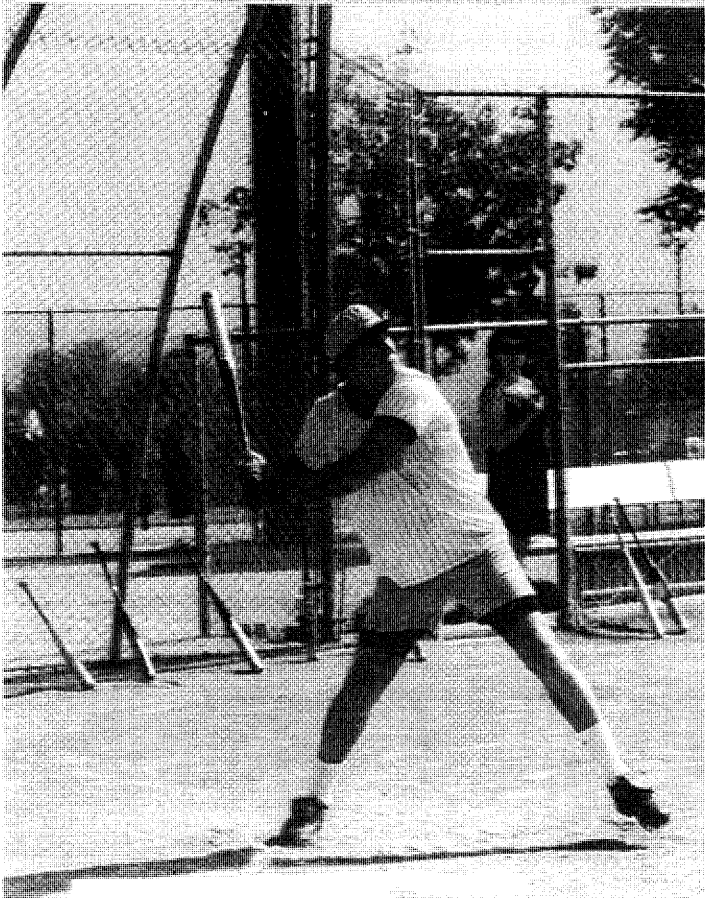
Back: John Mitchell, Bill Jennings, Doc, Roger Keller, John Maples.  
Front: Bob Beard, Joe Raffa, Jim Bradley, Dick Ellison, Carl Hutzler.  
Tommy



Bob Morse



Dick Tasker



Bill Gaynor

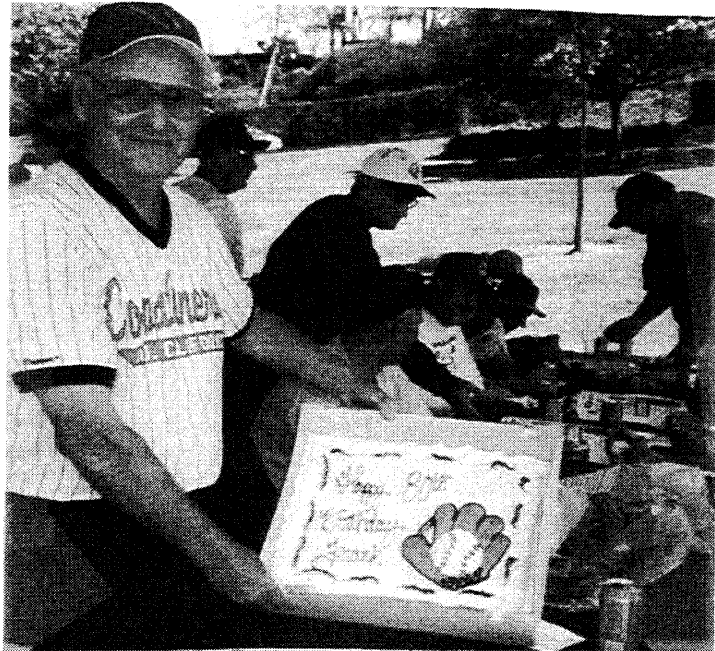


Ken Finley



## Frank Hecklingers 80th Birthday Party

Frank, an ex New York Yankee farm hand, celebrated his 80th birthday on April 28th, 2001. We all helped him and even had it covered by KUSI and he received a tape of the affair. He even celebrated by playing and getting a couple of hits. It is pretty much unanimous that he has the softest hands for playing ball of anyone in the league



Bottom picture is of players over 70 years of age in 2001.

L-R Max Gritzmaker, Joe Dwyer, Frank Hecklinger, Bob Ross,  
Jim Bradley, Herb Althouse and J.T. Torres

*THE RUN THRU*  
*A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF NCSS*  
*VOL. I - MARCH 2003*

**First Edition**

This is the first of a continuing series of periodic newsletters, which has as its goal, providing info to the league members on a timely basis. All comments and suggestions are appreciated.

**Did You Know?**

NCSS is filing the appropriate paperwork to classify the league as Non-Profit. This will benefit us as we move forward. Also, we have a web site. This site highlights our mission statement as well as rosters, schedules and various email addresses. Currently it is not accessible through a search engine. Access via your home page. On the address line type in [ncss-cd.com](http://ncss-cd.com) then click Go. Once you are connected add it to your "Favorites" category.

**Brengle Terrace/Mission - Bradley Parks**

Without an advanced notice Brengle Terrace maintenance people began to work on the fields. These fields might not be available for at least six weeks. Due to this condition we will play all Brengle Terrace games on the schedule at the Mission fields until further notice. The play at Bradley will continue as scheduled. Refer to your schedule or see the web site.

**Player Safety**

The new league officers and managers held a player safety meeting. It was determined that the league votes last fall banning the Miken bat would be upheld for the foreseeable future. In addition a new pitching parameter as well as a One-Up home run rule has been implemented.

**Kaump Selects Dates**

Bob Kaump is the tournament director for the league's second annual invitational softball bash. The dates are February 27 and 28. The league proposes to play the Thursday league game Wednesday, February 26. The tournament will be held at the Bradley field complex. This is a great way to obtain additional funds for the league.

**Camp Pendleton**

John Maples is the tournament director of this major event sponsored by NCSS. It is hoped we will attract at least 25 teams. We will, also, open the snack shack and hold a raffle. The dates are May 15 - 18. We will need volunteers, so begin to think about your participation. The success of the tournament is dependent on every member of the league.

**The Future**

League officers and managers will select new team members on January 30. Games will be scheduled for the first part of February. This is an excellent opportunity to check the web site for the new rosters and schedule, which will be made available on or about February 4. There is a major tournament in Palm Springs the week of February 9 that may effect the scheduling of league games.

**California's Budget Deficit Causes Concern**

The California budget crisis hits hard at all aspects in the State. NCSS feels the pinch. As a result we will ask that all players donate \$10.00 each for the upcoming league schedule. Moving to the Mission fields has caused an additional financial burden since we pay for playing on San Marcos fields. On the

# North County Senior Softball - Competitive Division Roster

www.ncss-cd.com

# 2007

Team 1		Team 2		Team 3		Team 4	
Merrill, Brad - Mgr	(760) 743-7175	Mason, Hank - Mgr	(760) 747-0867	Coleman, Chuck - Mgr	(760) 754-1342	Gaynor, Billy - Mgr	(760) 730-3310
Bottenfield, Gary	(760) 728-2787	Althouse, Herb	(760) 728-8986	Allen, Rick	(760) 753-5461	Caulfield, Clif	(760) 433-7580
Buck, Dave	(760) 740-9123	Baker, Mike (T)	(760) 436-1170	Arnold, Russ	(760) 433-3606	Clary, Bob	(760) 740-2475
Byrne, Don	(760) 724-1491	Buchanan, Rick	(760) 216-6343	Bellerive, Jim	(760) 630-9489	Cramer, Vince	(858) 674-0759
Dwyer, Joe	(760) 597-0567	Chapman, Billy	(951) 303-9666	Blomberg, Chuck	(760) 943-1904	Crawford, Raymond	(760) 672-4232
Elson, Ron (T)	(760) 438-4764	Costley, John (Th)	(760) 723-6695	Cesseña, John (T)	(760) 207-5646	Ellison, Dick	(858) 755-4597
Fraccalvieri, Frank	(760) 433-0915	Finney, Mike	(760) 930-6562	Chacon, John (Th)	(619) 216-8555	Fearn, Rich	(760) 757-2764
Gritzmaker, Max	(760) 431-0112	Haveron, Dan	(760) 728-2377	Chandler, Don	(760) 758-8196	Givens, Jack	(858) 674-5643
Kriticos, Gus	(760) 736-4874	Jacobs, Jeff	(858) 792-6586	DeMaria, Bob	(858) 759-8823	Jacobs, Richard	(760) 233-8934
Lewis, Duane	(760) 602-1054	Kakadelas, Kevin	(760) 436-7485	Hodgkins, Paul	(760) 728-5758	Martinez, Johnnie	(760) 598-7688
Petricovich, Vinny	(248) 736-6554	McGhee, Al	(760) 471-7191	Hutzler, Carl (Th)	(619) 472-5548	Nunnery, James	(760) 433-5507
Mitchell, Johnny	(760) 632-0669	Maples, John	(760) 758-7451	Jennings, Bill	(760) 929-1075	O'Dell, John	(760) 724-8914
Olivas, Sammy	(760) 891-0724	Robinson, H	(760) 918-9080	Keller, Roger	(760) 743-7625	Riggins, Jim	(760) 438-2360
Shipe, Jim	(949) 413-1862	Saldaña, Al	(760) 476-3608	Morse, Bob	(760) 741-1736	Roberts, Mike	(760) 415-2697
Sperling, Frank (Th)	(760) 805-0504	Torres, JT	(760) 721-1908	Raffa, Joe	(760) 730-3214	Rosenbaum, Steve	(760) 695-8485
Wilhelm, Frank	(760) 598-1872	Thurman, Tim (Th)	(760) 941-5955	Rauch, John	(858) 487-8149	Sawyer, Art	(760) 451-0348
Winkler, Wally	(858) 674-1312			Storm, Bob	(760) 734-1221	Scott, Charlie	(760) 723-5579
						Wahlrab, Jim (Th)	(760) 749-9590
<b>Inactive</b>							
Guy, Bob (T)	(949) 589-3622					Lawson, Jordan	(760) 439-9639
Kaump, Bob	(760) 720-0250					Russoniello, Dennis	(760) 845-9980
Roolofs, Bruce	(760) 494-7097						

# 2007 Teams

## TEAM # 1



Back Row: Gary Bottenfield, Vince Petricevich, Wally Winkler, Gus Kriticos  
Middle Row: Max Gritzmaker, Ron Elson, John Mitchell, Brad Merrill  
Front Row: Sammy Olivias, Bob DiMaria, Joe Dwyer, Dave Buck

## TEAM # 2



Back Row: Hank Mason, Mike Finney, Herb Althouse, Herschel Robinson  
Middle Row: Bill Chapman, John Costley, Mike Baker, J.T. Torres  
Front Row: John Maples, Jeff Jacobs, Al Saldana, Al McGhee

**TEAM # 3**



Back Row: Bill Jennings, Roger Keller, Chuck Coleman, Bruce Roelofs, John Cessena  
Middle Row: Jim Bellarive, Russ Arnold, Bob Storm, Paul Hodgkins, John Rauch  
Front Row: Dan Haveron, Joe Raffa, Don Chandler, Rick Allen

**TEAM # 4**



Back Row: Richard Jacobs, Jim Riggins, Bill Gaynor, Mike Roberts, Jack Givens  
Middle Row: Steve Rosenbaum, Jim Nunnery, John Martinez, Vince Cramer, Bob Clary  
Front Row: John O'Dell, Rich Fern, Dick Ellison, Jim Wahrab, Charlie Scott

# REFLECTIONS

By Max Gritzmaker

As we look back we can see the many changes that have taken place since the League's beginning. We lowered the playing age to fifty years of age. This resulted in stepping up the caliber of play. New rules were made regarding high tech equipment. High tech equipment caused safety concerns. Holding the Pendleton Tournament has resulted in the league becoming financially sound. Previously dues were collected and kept going up to meet the demands of field rental and insurance. Before becoming financially sound, the teams needed to seek out sponsors to defray all or some of the expenses. Money from the tournament now covers the expenses. This method has caused us to lose some team identities such as Sport About or DeJaVu. We are now identified as the North County Senior Softball League, Competitive Division with teams being only numbers. Our uniforms are all the same whereas previously, with individual team sponsors, we had some good looking team uniforms. Having the tournament money makes playing softball in our league a real bargain. In fact it is free.

See you later, Dude

I'm going to Motown to see the brothers  
I'd rather stay here if I had my druthers

Judy loves you all but what does she know  
She thinks I'm beautiful, it just goes to show

You can't always do what you want in life  
But in my case I can cause I don't have a wife

Come December and I'll return  
That's if the bridges mend that I did burn

But if they don't that's too dam bad  
I had fun and you've been had

Some of you take the game way too serious  
You get bent out of shape and that's delirious

Why don't you chile out and enjoy the game  
Don't look for a reason or someone to blame

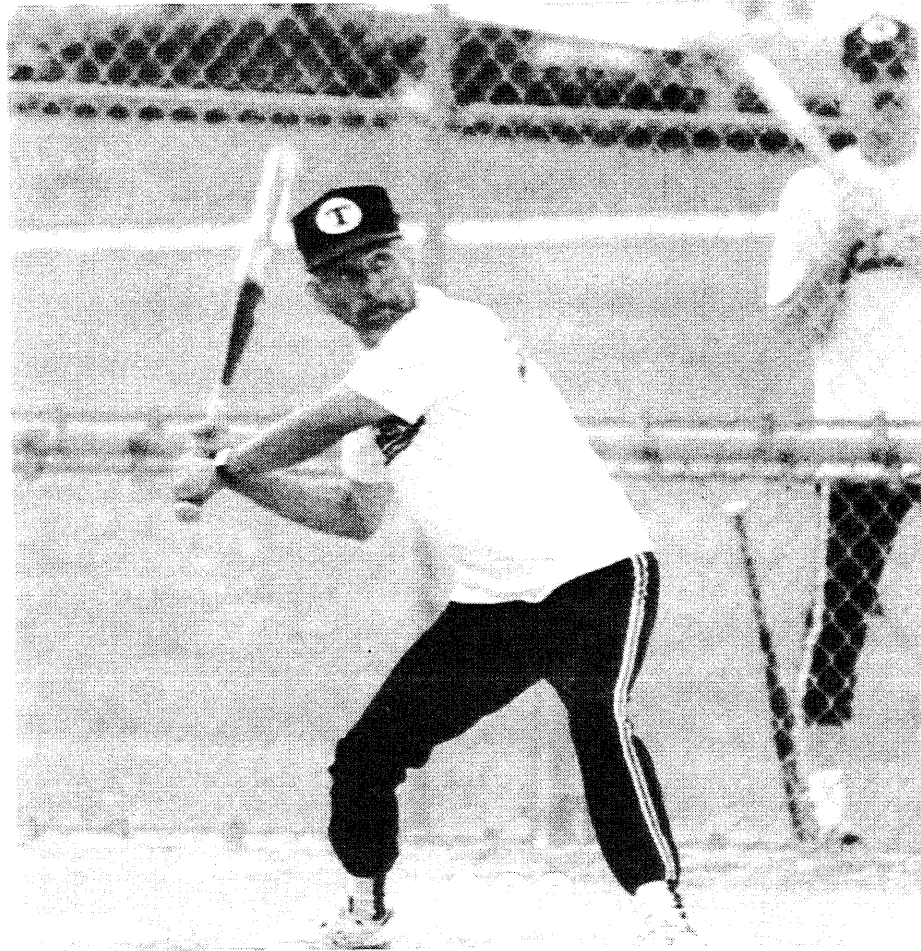
Be like Ellison and have a ball  
Don't blame one guy, blame them all

Or you can be like O'dell, Kaump or Dave Buck  
Win or lose they have fun and charge it to luck

So until we meet again I want you to know  
What you reap in life you will sow

Vinnie – March 2007

## Dedication



This last page is dedicated to those players who year in and year out have given unselfishly of their time to do whatever it takes to make this league a success. No one demonstrates this more than John "JT" Torres. John and his buddy Jim Bradley (deceased) prepared fields, worked tirelessly at Pendleton Tournaments sometimes late into the night. There are others who show the same dedication and we thank them. "JT" has been playing in our league since 1985. He like Jim Bradley retired from the USMC, I must say they were well trained and dedicated to duty.

While we are passing out accolades. We would be amiss if we did not recognize people like Otis Rowland, Roger Keller, John Maples, Joe Raffa, Frank Wilhelm, Bill Gaynor, Bob Kaump and many others who make the Pendleton Tournament such a success. Many wives contribute many hours and that is also greatly appreciated. I know that many people who deserve to be mentioned have been left out, for that I apologize