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-Kade Medels

Matt Voelzke  
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Matt Voelzke

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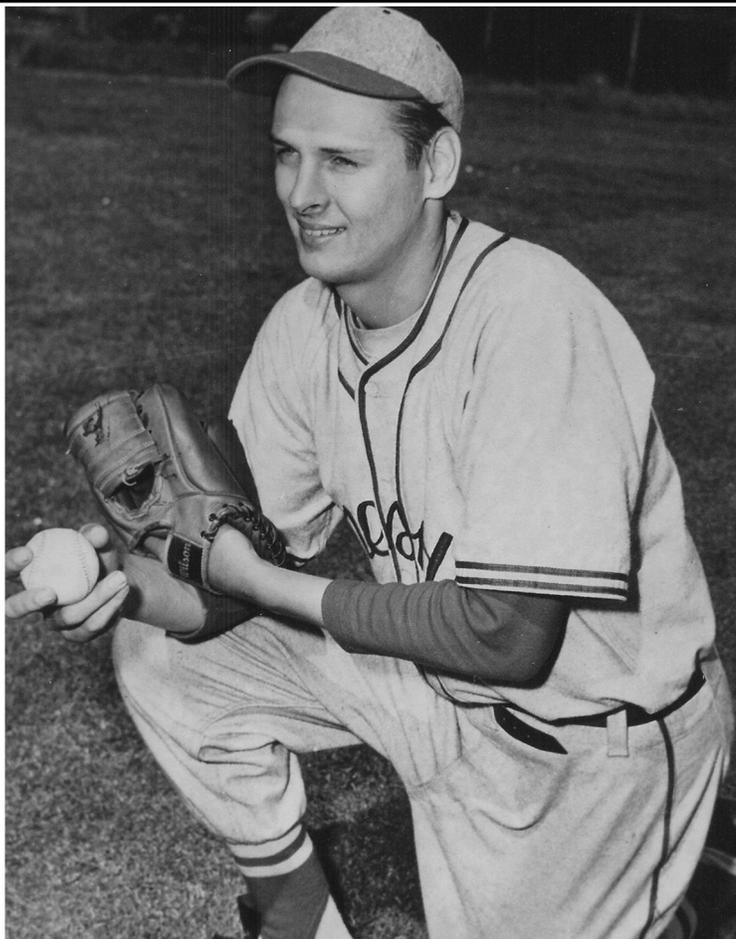
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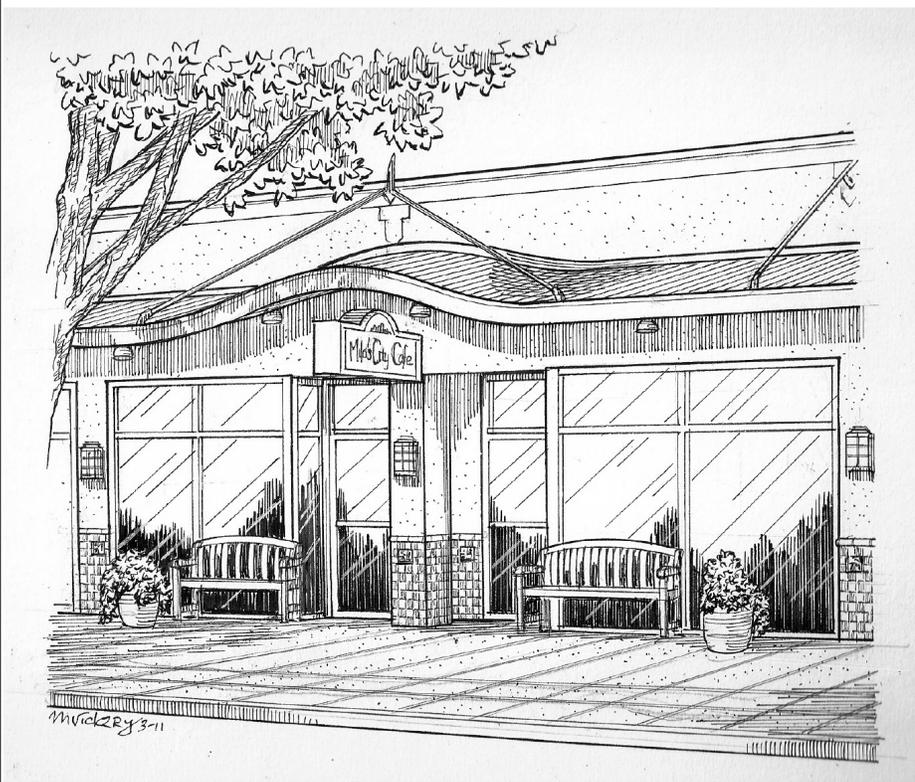
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# ROCKY: MAN OF MANY TALENTS

## By Donald R. Nelson

Rocky Benevento, groundskeeper and ballpark superintendent of Vaughn Street Ballpark and Multnomah Stadium for the Portland Beavers, was a man of many talents and abilities.

As a young man he was a pitcher for an amateur team in San Jose. One time he was called upon to pitch both ends of a doubleheader. By the seventh inning of the second game he could not lift his arm.

Being the groundskeeper at Sodality Field in San Jose, Calif., he became acquainted with the Seattle Indians (later renamed the Rainiers) and the Portland Beavers of the Pacific Coast League who had spring training there. He was given a tryout with Seattle in the early 1920s but his arm gave out once again.

A few years later Rocky accepted a job as groundskeeper with the Beavers. He began his lengthy tenure in 1927 with the team, first at Vaughn

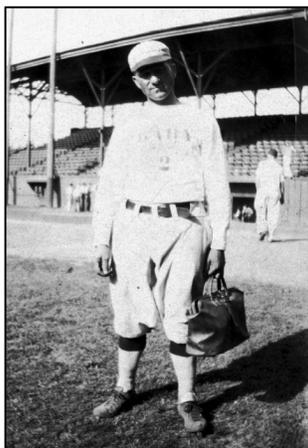


**Rocky Benevento with daughter Margeret Ellen and son Dick**

Street Ballpark and then at Multnomah Stadium until his retirement in 1966. He also pitched batting practice for the Beavers in earlier days. Rocky was

a member and later coach of a local baseball team, the Baby Beavers.

Rocky also had culinary skills and  
**(See 'Rocky'/Page 25)**



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Donald R. Nelson

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*Johnny Pesky, circa 1928*



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# BOBBY DOERR REMEMBERED

*Bobby Doerr played his entire 14-year Major League Baseball career for the Boston Red Sox; the second baseman batted .288 with 233 home runs. Doerr was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1986. Old-Timers Baseball Association of Portland past president Glenn Miller offers this personal remembrance of Doerr, who died November 13, 2017 at age 99.*

## By Glenn Miller

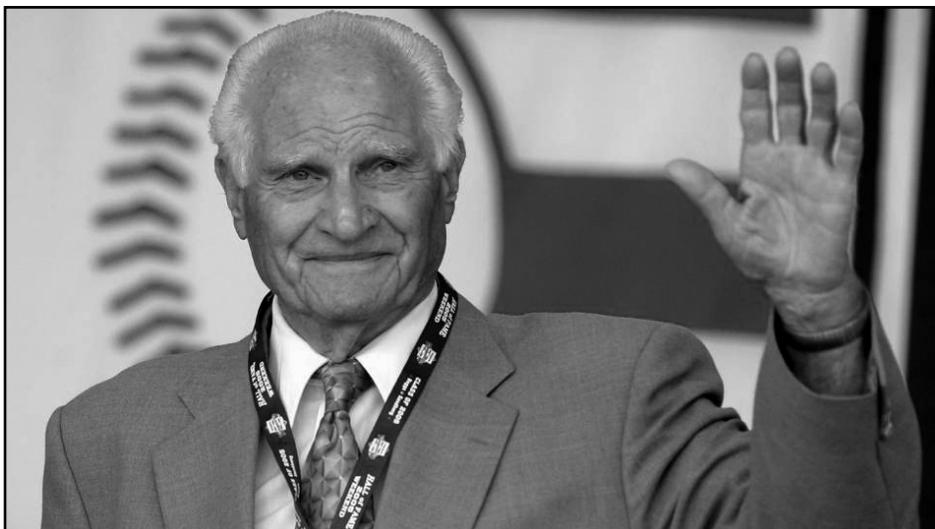
When I settled in Portland in the fall of 1965, I settled in Northwest Portland. This was prior to the gentrification of N.W. 21st and 23rd Avenues. It was a working-class area, with a lot of older affordable apartments.

It also had a lot of taverns, roughly one every other block. I turned 21 in the summer of 1966, and I had my first legal beer at the 21st Avenue Tavern, which was located next door to the Cinema 21 theater. I lived a block away, so it was convenient. It was kind of scruffy, a neighborhood bar, with more than its share of characters. I fit right in.

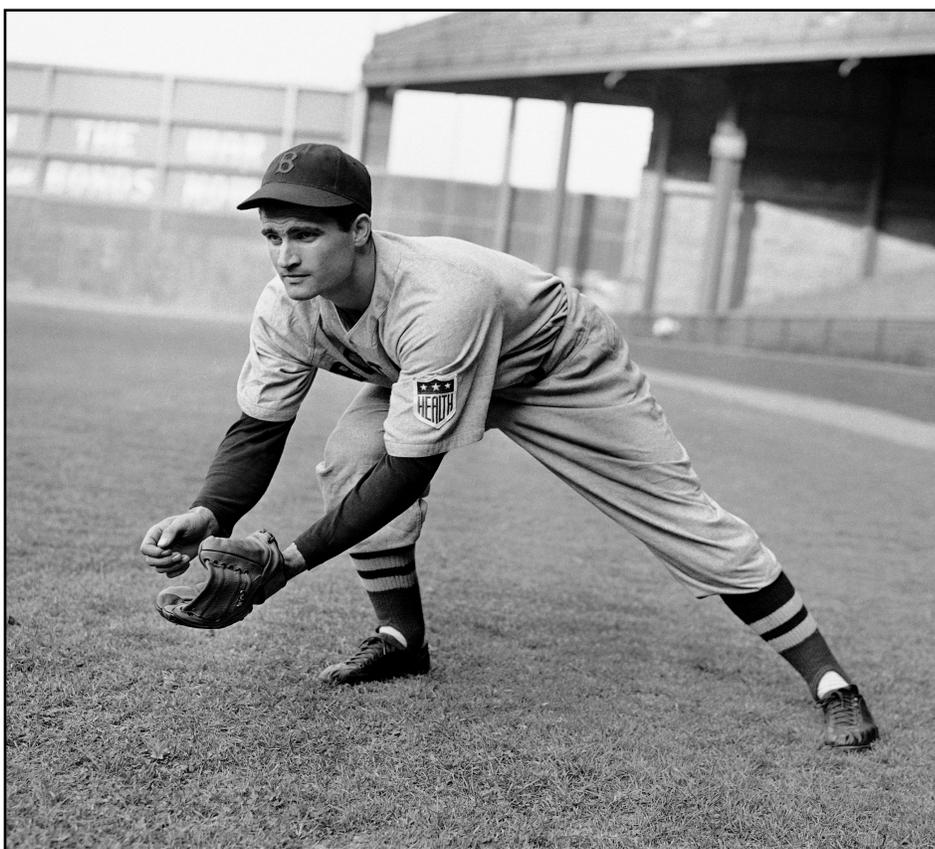
I met four brothers there who were all baseball fans. We became friends, even though they were Yankees and Reds fans and I liked the Red Sox. Their father was a member of the Klamath tribe and their mother was Irish. Their parents had met in the Rogue River country in the southwest corner of the state. They married, had four sons and a daughter. The two older boys and the daughter grew up in Gold Beach, the younger brothers in Northwest Portland.

Their uncle, a Klamath, had a rustic resort on the Rogue River. It was located about 15-20 miles upriver from Gold Beach. It had around 12 guest rooms and once had the likes of Clark Gable and Ginger Rogers stay there. It hadn't been used as a resort in many years but the uncle, Fred Lowry, still lived there.

I heard a lot of their tales regarding growing up in the beautiful Rogue



**Bobby Doerr at the Hall of Fame, above, and in his playing days**



River country. I also heard in passing stories about a major league ball player who lived for a time in Illahe, which was about 20 miles upriver from Uncle Fred's place. The player was Bobby Doerr, a Hall of Famer who spent his entire career with the Red Sox.

I didn't think much about this fact until a bunch of us decided to go see Uncle Fred. The first trip was kind of a

blur, but one thing that I really remember is the old-timers in Gold Beach telling me what a wonderful person Bobby Doerr was. He used to have his supplies sent to him by boat, as Illahe was really remote. He'd also travel downriver to Gold Beach once in a while. He was an avid fisherman, so he'd look up the locals to swap fishing  
(See 'Doerr'/Page 25)



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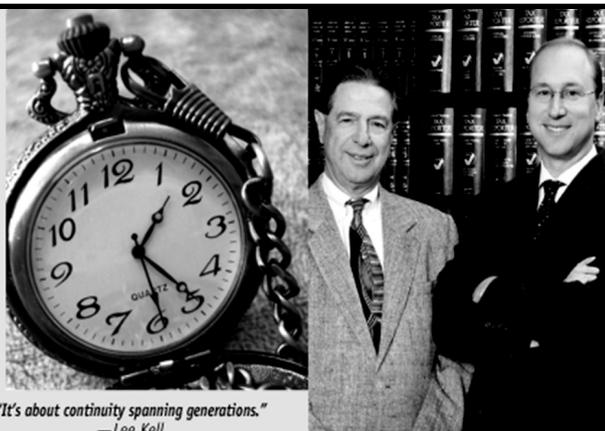
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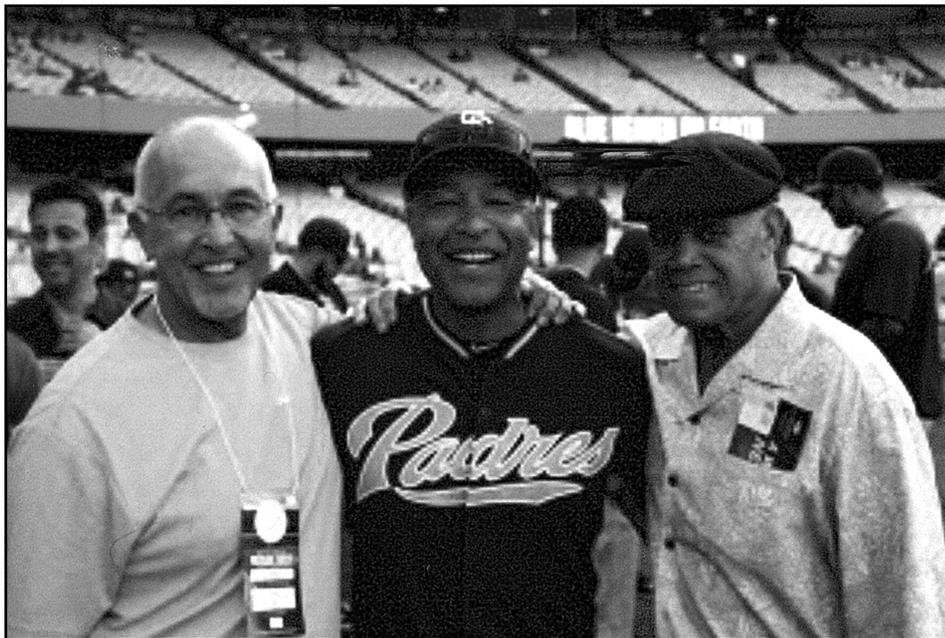
# WILLS DID IT THE HARD WAY

## By Jerry Gatto

In 2014, I had the opportunity to be on the field at Dodger Stadium in the pregame company of San Diego Padres bench coach Dave Roberts and legendary retired major league player Maury Wills.

Dave Roberts has since moved on to become manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers. At the time, Bud Black was manager of the San Diego Padres and I had the pleasure of recognizing him in the past out our Northwest Baseball Coaches Convention, which I host annually.

I followed baseball with a passion when younger and always marveled at the "small ball" pressure tactics employed by teams and individuals. Maury Wills was always one of my favorites who spent the good percentage of his career with the Los Angeles Dodgers. He had a lifetime batting average in the Major Leagues of .281, and in 1962 he had 104 stolen bases.

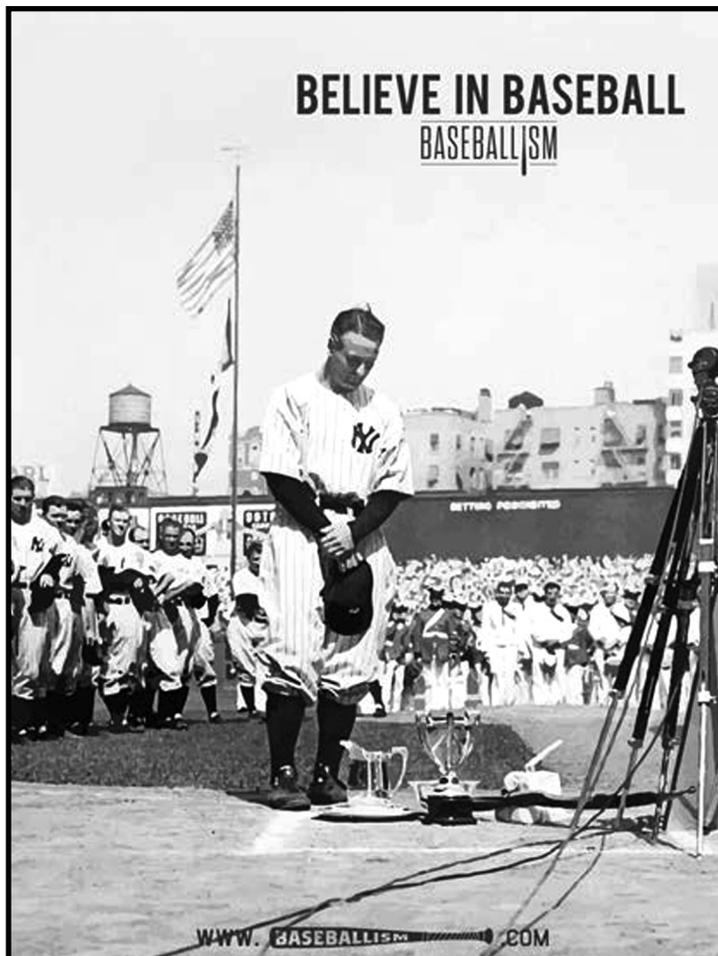


Left to right: Jerry Gatto, Dave Roberts and Maury Wills in 2014

He led the major leagues in stolen bases six consecutive years and played in seven All-Star Games.

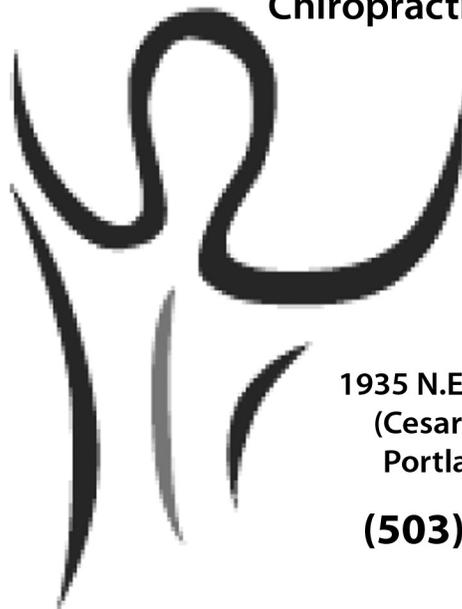
My fondest recollection of that day

was the conversation and comment I made to Maury Wills that he should be in the Baseball Hall of Fame. I made  
(See 'Wills'/Page 25)



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# O.S.U.'S SEASON TO REMEMBER

## By Kip Carlson

The winning run scoring from second base on a wild pitch as a hitter strikes out. Three runs in the ninth inning on the road. Rallying from a run down in the 16th inning. Striking out an archrival with a one-run lead and the bases loaded to end a game. Drawing back-to-back bases loaded walks for the tying and winning runs.

Sometimes, it all goes your way. That was how Oregon State put together one of not only its best seasons ever, but one of the best in college baseball history.

The 2017 Beavers put themselves on the list of greatest teams ever by going 56-6 this spring, their .903 winning percentage tying them for the fourth-best mark by a team in the College World Series era (1950-present). The ultimate goal of a national championship wasn't attained, and having

two players miss the trip to Omaha may have factored into that, but this OSU team made a lasting mark nonetheless.

"You come back and lose in the World Series, there's a lot of pain with that and a lot of disappointment with that and it's hard to reflect on the season," OSU head coach Pat Casey said after the Beavers were eliminated from the College World Series. "But it's really just impressive what these guys accomplished. I know how much it hurt them to lose and I want them to understand what an unbelievable run they had. And they will appreciate it as time goes on."

Looking back, there will be a lot to appreciate along with that gaudy winning percentage and its place on the all-time list:

- OSU reached the College World Series for the sixth time in school his-

tory and won a pair of games before falling one win short of the national championship series.

- The Beavers were ranked No. 1 in the nation from mid-March through the end of the season, and were the No. 1 national seed heading into the postseason.

- A team built on pitching and defense, Oregon State led the nation in earned run average (1.93), shutouts (14) and hits allowed per nine innings (6.27). Junior pitcher Jake Thompson led the nation in wins (14) and junior Luke Heimlich led the nation in ERA (0.76).

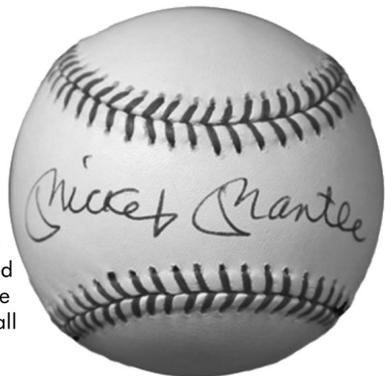
- The Beavers won the Pacific-12 championship with a 27-3 record, setting a conference record for victories. Oregon State swept seven of its 10 conference series, including over national seed Stanford.

(See 'O.S.U.'/Page 25)

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*Thank you, Stan.*

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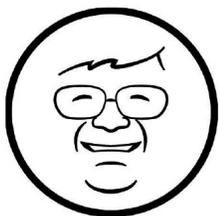
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# \* ROCKY

(Continued from page 17)

was said to have been a chef for San Jose city councilman Doc Denegri. After the 1932 baseball season, Rocky hosted a barbecue for players, umpires and fans. He roasted beef in a pit dug behind home plate.

In the spring of 1939, Rocky and wife Lena opened a restaurant on N.W. Vaughn Street near 27th Avenue, just a couple of blocks from the ballpark. A circa 1939 photo shows Rocky posing next to his building.

Specialties offered included spaghetti and ravioli as well as American dishes. A handwritten invitation in the Ad Liska family collection states, "All the spaghetti you can eat at Rocky's." The restaurant closed around 1943. Later, on special occasions, Rocky kept on cooking.

Through the years Benevento continued to use his cooking skills at the Neighborhood House Community Center. Vince Paveskovich remembers that Rocky put on fundraising dinners at St Patrick Church.

Rocky, who was a showman while performing his duties at the ballgames, was a well-known and a beloved icon of the city. Rocky died in 1969.

# \* WILLS

(Continued from page 21)

the added remark that Reggie Jackson is in the Hall of Fame and he had only a lifetime batting average of .262 to your .281, but he did hit 563 home runs during his illustrious career.

Maury Wills quickly interrupted me and brought to my attention that he had to hustle and scratch his way around the bases, determine every pitcher's move and gain the edge on his opponent on the mound on his way to 586 stolen bases throughout his career. Reggie took the easier route and hit them out of the yard, tipped his hat, waved to the crowd and well wishers and eventually returned to the dugout.

A fun day for sure, in the company of winners on and off the field.



# \* DOERR

(Continued from page 19)

stories.

On subsequent trips, I met some of the boatmen and fishermen who knew Bobby personally. They were universal in their assessment that Mr. Doerr was a real gentleman, kind and unassuming. In fact, a lot of them didn't know he played ball. They thought he was just a fishing fanatic.

Time passed, and roughly 10 years after my last Gold Beach trip I was the president of the Old-Timers. We used to be affiliated with Pete Ward, who brought past and present ballplayers in for his baseball clinic. The clinic was one day and the banquet another. Pete's clinic presenters also spoke at our banquet. It was a great relationship as we didn't have to try to arrange for banquet speakers.

When Pete stopped doing his clinics we had a hard time finding speakers. We would spend each fall trying to find somebody, anybody, to speak. We were in our usual pickle when Mel Krause, the last coach Oregon had before it discontinued the baseball program in 1981, mentioned to me that he might be able to get Bobby Doerr to speak. He knew Bobby because Bobby lived in Junction City, close to Eugene, and they had become friends.

Talk about a miracle! Bobby was

going to speak at our banquet. I used to meet with our main speakers the afternoon of the banquet to go over that evening's format. It was arranged that Mel, Bobby, and I would meet. Mel and I were waiting for Bobby when he arrived pushing his wife, who was in a wheelchair. I was rather surprised, figuring Mrs. Doerr would rather be doing anything except listen to a bunch of uninteresting baloney.

I had no idea of Mrs. Doerr's condition. Mel told me later was she had a neurological problem, but that didn't stop them. They went everywhere together. Mrs. Doerr was a very kind person, making me feel like I'd known her forever. I was really struck by how solicitous Bobby was to his wife without being cloying. It was obvious that he would do anything to make her comfortable, that there was a real love between them.

I don't remember much about that banquet, the talks, awards, etc. But what's always stood out for me is what a wonderful man Bobby Doerr was. You would never know he was a Hall of Famer. He cared much more about taking care of his wife than glorifying his past exploits. He was a Hall of Fame human being in my book.

That's the highest honor any of us can hope to achieve.

# \* O.S.U.

(Continued from page 23)

• OSU clinched the Pac-12 title on May 12 – with two weeks remaining in the regular season – with a 5-4 win at Oregon; that was also Casey's 1,000th career head coaching victory.

• Oregon State had a pair of 23-game winning streaks; the previous school record had been 18 games. The Beavers went unbeaten in March and May.

• OSU went 31-1 at Goss Stadium at Coleman Field, including 5-0 in NCAA Regional and Super Regional

games.

Oregon State also excelled in the classroom, being one of just 36 NCAA Division I teams across the country to earn the American Baseball Coaches Association's Team Academic Excellence Award. OSU was the only Pac-12 team with the honor, earned by having at least a 3.0 team grade point average for the year; the Beavers finished at 3.19.

Oregon State also saw a school-record 16 players earn Pac-12 All-Academic honors.



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Ivan Kafoury and Kip Carlson, co-editors;

Vince Paveskovich, Don R. Nelson, Glenn Miller, Bob Webster, Jerry Gatto,  
Kip Carlson, contributors; Ivan Kafoury, Barb Pearson, John Keller, Mike Lulich,  
Art Larrance, Tom Wise, Vince Paveskovich, Dale Stebbins, Jack Dunn,  
Bob Webster, Kip Carlson, Jeff Kafoury, sales staff.



# HISTORY OF THE OLD-TIMERS

## By Vince Paveskovich

In the late 1920s and early '30s, Pacific Coast League baseball was packing 'em in at the home of the Portland Beavers, the Vaughn Street ballpark. A wise group of business and baseball men including Porter Yett, "Bidly" Bishop, Bill Hayden, Art Parker Sr., John Faust, "Buck" Grayson, Monroe Dean, "Frisco" Edwards, "Lefty" Schroeder, the mayor, Joe Carson, and City Council members Fred Peterson, Terry Schrunk, and George Yerkovich decided to form an organization whose purpose was to celebrate the grand old game during the long, rainy winter months.

That group collaborated with the Beavers' manager, Spencer Abbott and the owner, Tom Turner (who also called his team the Ducks) and florist Tommy Luke to put on a "big time" dinner at the old Multnomah Hotel.

They put on a fabulous dinner with free drinks provided by various vendors. It was a men-only event, some-

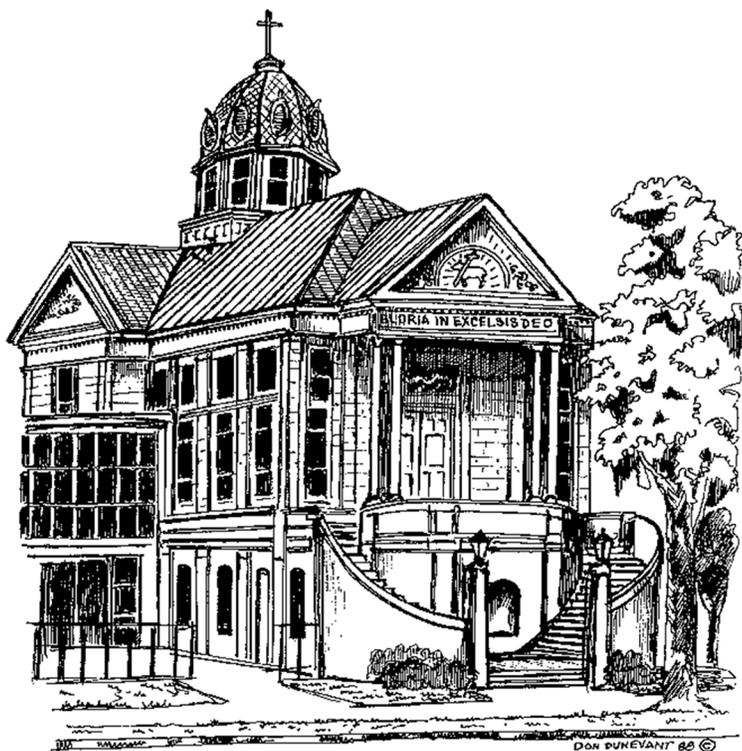
thing that wouldn't fly today. The tradition continued through the '30s and '40s, and as the Pacific Coast League grew so did the Old-Timers. Rocky Benevento, the head groundskeeper at Vaughn Street, put the kids that lived around the ballpark to work cutting grass, cleaning the stands, shagging balls, etc. They also carried buckets of water to put out the fires that ignited under the stands. Fans smoked and their discarded cigarette butts had to be extinguished before the caught the peanut shells on fire. Most of those kids later became members and officers of the organization.

The organization evolved into the Old-Timers Baseball Association of Portland, the name it has today. We partnered with Pete Ward, who enjoyed a nice career in the big leagues. Pete brought out major leaguers to work with kids in clinics he organized and the players would speak at our banquet. It was a nice arrangement that continued for many years. The

membership and money dispensed in scholarships grew.

Over the years we've had some great presidents, including Art Parker Sr., yours truly Vince Pesky, George Freese, Dan Stupur, Glenn Miller, Ivan Kafoury, Milo Meskel, Vern Marshall, and Art Larrance. Art deserves "kudos," along with Dick Benevento and George Zenner, for moving the banquet to the Multnomah Athletic Club. Art is also to be congratulated for starting a golf tournament that has been a shot in the arm for our fund-raising efforts.

The days of being a male-only smoker are long gone. Some of my cronies may mourn for the way things were but I think they're off-base, to coin a phrase. We're doing our best to give something to the community and have some fun doing it. Thanks to "Dickie" Benevento, Jack Dunn, Stan Bozich and Andy Pienovi for their assistance in jogging my memory when this review was written.



1889-1989

## ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

N.W. 19th Avenue at  
Raleigh and Savier Streets  
Portland, Oregon  
Phone: (503) 222-4086

Spanish-Speaking Sunday Mass - 8:30 a.m. / English-Speaking Sunday Mass - 10:30 a.m.  
Compliments to the Old-Timers Baseball Association of Portland from St. Patrick's Church Parish



# O.B.A.P. MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement is...

The Old-Timers Baseball Association of Portland is an active group of all ages that provides mentoring, opportunity, scholarships and equipment to the Oregon amateur baseball community since 1933.

As an Organization we will:

Support the tradition and the love of the game. Over the years, OBAP has provided more than \$700,000 for our programs and for communities through the generosity of our donors and sponsors. All our activities are volunteer efforts - we have no paid staff.

As an Organization we will:

Participate in clinics, providing a win-win opportunity for retired professional players and coaches to use their considerable experiences to educate the next generation of players and coaches. Helping our youth benefits them, as well by keeping them healthy, active and contributing to our communities.

As an Organization we will:

Serve as “keepers of Oregon baseball.” As we have attracted an all-star roster of persons who have played a significant role on a local as well as national level, it allows our group to be a historical resource for schools, libraries, theater companies and others.

As an Organization, we will:

Present the annual winter banquet every January to serve as a venue for baseball enthusiasts, players, coaches, umpires and volunteers to celebrate the past season’s accomplishments and look forward to the coming season.

At this event, we will also present our scholarships and grants and recognize outstanding individuals and teams for their achievements.

We are:

A non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, EIN #46-1971865.

## Congratulations to the Old-Timers Baseball Association of Portland on its 84th annual banquet.



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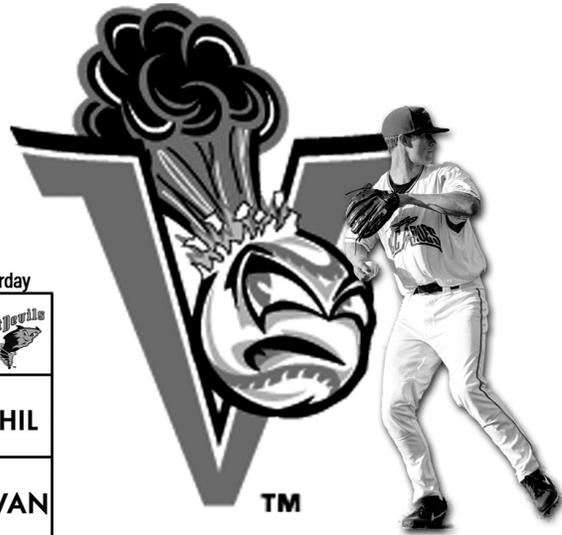
*The Multnomah Athletic Club's mission is to enrich lives, foster friendships and build upon our traditions of excellence in athletic, social and educational programs.*

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Multnomah Athletic Club

# 2018 SCHEDULE



JUNE			Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			13 COLLEGE ALL-STAR GAME	14	15	16
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday				
17	18	19	20 @ BOI	21 @ BOI	22 @ BOI	23 @ HIL
24 @ HIL	25 @ HIL	26	27	28	29 @ VAN FUTURES GAME	30 @ VAN

**CALL FOR TICKETS!**  
**(503)**  
**390- 2225**

## JULY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 @ VAN	2 @ VAN	3 @ VAN	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 @ EVE	12 @ EVE	13 @ EVE	14 @ EVE
15 @ EVE	16 @ EUG	17 @ EUG	18 @ EUG	19	20	21
22	23	24 @ EUG	25 @ EUG	26 @ EUG	27	28
29	30	31				

## AUG / SEPT

AUG / SEPT			Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 @ TRI	2 @ TRI	3 @ TRI	4 @ TRI
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday				
5 @ TRI	6 NWL ALL-STAR BREAK	7 NWL ALL-STAR GAME	8 NWL ALL-STAR BREAK	9	10	11
12	13	14 @ BOI	15 @ BOI	16 @ BOI	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 @ SPO	24 @ SPO	25 @ SPO
26 @ SPO	27 @ SPO	28	29	30	31	1 @ HIL
2 @ HIL	3 @ HIL	<b>www.VOLCANOESBASEBALL.com</b>				

**VOLCANOES**  
SALEM & HEIZER



**Volcanoes Baseball**  
"Family Fun - Well Done"

**Meet Jamie Moyer at Volcanoes Stadium on Saturday, June 16 and Tommy John on Saturday, July 7**

**Proud Affiliate of the 2010-2012-2014 World Series Champion San Francisco Giants and Supporter of the Old-Timers Baseball Association of Portland**

# Pete Lulich



Pete Lulich, Portland's peppery shortstop, leaps high for hot liner.

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The Old-Timers Baseball Association of Portland

Fondly Remembers

**Pete Lulich**

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