

Application for Palo Alto Historic Inventory by  
Historic Resources Board

Little League Ballpark at  
3672 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA

Jason Yotopoulos

October 15, 2014

## **Methodology**

Secondary research for this evaluation involved review of various existing materials including maps, plan drawings, architectural surveys and other resources related to the history and development of Palo Alto. I have also conducted archival research on the ballpark site over many months at the Palo Alto Historical Association Archives, the Santa Clara County offices, and the City of Palo Alto Development Center.

Primary research included interviews with all remaining Ballpark family members (who have also reviewed these materials), ex-coaches, and players. See References section for a complete list of resources.

A. Palo Alto Little League Baseball Field at 3672 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303,  
APN: 132-06-013

### **B. Property Description**

The 3672 Middlefield Road historic site is comprised of a designed landscape as a stadium/sports arena constructed in 1952 on approximately 2.7 acres. On the property is a sunken baseball diamond design field of dirt and grass to standard Little League specification. Access to the sunken field is through stairs by the east and west dugouts.

The site also has a two story clubhouse building constructed in 1956 with mid-century modern architecture. On its top floor is a wood boardroom and announcers booth with a panoramic view of the entire stadium. Below are the guest restrooms and the built-in concession stand, separated by a breezeway for entrance into the stadium.

The site also includes a hardscape parking area for spectators, pitcher warm-up areas by the outfield, safety fencing, lighting, scoreboard, batting cages, and bleachers.

This R-1 zoned property is privately owned by California corporation Little League Baseball of Palo Alto, Inc.

### **C. Historical Value**

## **Overview**

A State of California placard commemorating the founders resides on the exterior of the Little League Ballpark Clubhouse building and identifies the historic property having been created as the region's first such ballpark in 1952. The property and its structures are clearly designated in the City of Palo Alto GIS system and the County's Parcel Report system as having been "Deemed Potentially Eligible for the California Register of Historic Resources in 1998"...one of a select group of such eligible sites in Palo Alto. The property was also flagged for the architecture of its structure (the 1956 clubhouse) as being (at a minimum) CRHR eligible in the "windshield drive by" Palo Alto Historic Survey Update (Corbett and Bradley for Dames & Moore in 2000), which took into account only the physical structure and not even the cultural landscape, events, or persons associated with the property. The property has not yet been

formally evaluated for National Register, California Register, or Palo Alto Historic Inventory. The site's period of significance is the ballpark's construction in 1952 through 1964 (50 year cutoff).

According to the Little League organization's historian, it appears that the ballpark is the first dedicated Little League baseball field under private ownership in California and one of the oldest privately owned dedicated Little League fields in the nation. It still exists in operation to this day with the same original purpose, indicating significant post-war foresight by its founders who initiated a vision that several years later would have been prohibitively expensive given the significant growth of Stanford and the new City of Palo Alto. Since inception, this ballpark has had one dedicated purpose, has been privately owned, and has continued to function exclusively as a Little League field for the community. This was quite unusual for its time when Little League in most communities was a public function held on public fields. By virtue of its private ownership, it avoided the financial challenges and repatriation of land that many municipalities have faced in the past 60+ years, severely impacting the staying power of such Little League fields. The site remains Northern California's flagship Little League ballpark in use to this day.

Moreover, it also appears that this ballpark was at least among the first (I can find no evidence that it is not the first) sunken diamond-design Little League ballparks in the nation. It was designed as an exact but smaller scale version of what is acknowledged as one of the nation's most beautiful college ballparks, Stanford's Sunken Diamond, down to the detail of the field being oriented such that the light slides down the right field foul line at dusk, as it also does at Stanford. It precedes the famous Howard J. Lamade Stadium in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, home of the Little League World Series since 1959, which was constructed seven years later and is described by the Little League's Historian as "not a sunken diamond design but rather a ballfield placed between two rolling hills."

Additionally, the Palo Alto Little League appears to be among the first created in California (perhaps the very first), created in 1951, the same year as San Bernardino's. Notably, Palo Alto Little League's ballpark was built within one year of organizing, quite unusual for an newly established organization to have the means to finance and build a ballpark so quickly.

#### **Part of Historical Trend, Events:**

Palo Alto grew in conjunction with Stanford University, with one of its most significant growth phases coming in the years after World War II, when residential and commercial development boomed in the city in the 50s. The ballpark was constructed during a period of growing popularity of Little League baseball in the US.

The Little League organization itself was created on the east coast in 1939 by Carl Stotz as a non-profit organization based in Williamsport, Pennsylvania with the purpose of teaching children how to play baseball in a wholesome program as a way to impart the values of sportsmanship, fair play, and teamwork to be used later in life to become good citizens. Little League has since become the world's largest organized youth program with hundreds of thousands of teams globally.

The first two Little League organizations ever created in California were the Palo Alto American Little League and the Jaycee Little League in San Bernardino, both formed in 1951 when Little League overall

had only hundreds of teams, all but a few on the east coast of the United States. It is unclear which was created first, although the Jaycees did play in the 1951 Little League World Series, whereas the Palo Alto did not field a team that year. The Palo Alto National Little League was also formed in 1952. Both these Palo Alto leagues were created by the founders of this property.

While the Palo Alto Little League's first game in Palo Alto was played in 1951 at El Camino public park, the Little League facility was constructed the following year as a dedicated space to accommodate demand for the youth sport at a time when there were no other such athletic programs for the youth.

The Little League Ballpark's opening ceremony for the property on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1952, was attended by Palo Alto Little League Officer (President) and League Commissioner, baseball great Ty Cobb. This ceremonial event marked the movement of youth baseball into the West Coast as the first dedicated site to Little League baseball in California (well preceding that of San Bernardino in 1971, home of the Little League Western Regionals). The event featured Cobb, the first man ever voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, and his family. Cobb spoke at the opening (and they could scarcely get him off the field to start the game). The Ballpark's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary featured Ty Cobb's grandson Herschel Cobb and great grandson Ty Cobb throwing out the first ball of the day. Both live in Menlo Park and Ty has participated in Little League games for many years. The senior Ty Cobb is regarded by some historians and journalists as the best player of the dead-ball era and is generally seen as one of the greatest players of all time (Society for American Baseball Research, 2002). He still holds the highest career batting average ever ([www.baseball-reference.com](http://www.baseball-reference.com)).

The opening day also featured Pop Warner (creator of Pop Warner football), one of college football's greatest coaches, inducted into the Coach's Hall of Fame in 1951. Mayor J. Pearce Mitchell keynoted the event. As was his tradition, Ballpark Founder, Palo Alto Tall Tree Honoree, and Little League Hall of Fame inductee Bill Alhouse played "Take me out to the ballgame" on this clarinet, just as he did at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and all other games which he attended. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary also featured Stu Pederson who went to Paly High school, played professional baseball himself, and whose son Joc Pederson recently had his professional debut on 9/1/14 with the LA Dodgers.

#### **Persons of National History Associated:**

Four acres of property at this site were purchased for \$13,000 in 1952 by a group of founders, local benefactors who each contributed some money (they are listed on the plaque on the side of the historic clubhouse, see Appendix). The local Palo Club itself donated as well. The overall group pooled a total of over \$100K in resources in kind, a very sizeable sum at the time, to create this ballpark. Some found the land, others funded, others excavated, others did the paving, others constructed, others installed the windows. Then they built the site from the ground up as a community, harnessing the strengths of some for funding, others for construction, others for digging out the tons of dirt required to create the sunken diamond field. These were local men who were passionate about sports (particularly baseball), building their community, and helping the local children. Once they accomplished the heroic task of securing and building this site from the ground up, they went on to build the league and coach children,

which in turn seeded new teams in towns throughout Northern California. A number of these founder's wives and children, with whom I have spoken, are still alive today.

The Ballpark's local founders clearly include **individuals whose lives were nationally significant in our past:**

-Bill Alhouse, National Little League Hall of Fame inductee, American Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame and ex-Brooklyn Dodgers player, who with others bought the land.

-John Hurlbut, Vice-President of the NCAA, Professor of Law at Stanford University who taught Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the US Supreme Court

-Joe Eichler, American 20<sup>th</sup> Century post-war real estate developer known for developing residential subdivisions of Mid-Century modern style tract housing in California. He was one of the influential advocates of bringing modern architecture from custom residences and large corporate buildings to general public availability

Dozens of professional players like Frank Farmer (pro baseball, '41) and Hank Norberg (pro football '46-'48) coached the kids on this field, and storied coaches like Ted Tollner (USC, SD State, Raiders) learned to play baseball on this very field as youth.

Major League Baseball players likely to have been part of Palo Alto Little League (which in the 50s covered a region across half a dozen adjacent cities) and therefore likely playing on this field (to be confirmed) include ([www.baseball-almanac.com](http://www.baseball-almanac.com)):

Kevin Bass (born '59 Redwood City, played '82)

Rich Troedson (born '50 Palo Alto, played '73-4)

Cord Phelps (born '87 Stanford, played '11-present)

Dan Petry (born '58 Palo Alto, played '78-91)

Stu Pederson (born '60 Palo Alto, Paly HS, played '85)

Joc Pederson (born '92 Palo Alto, Paly HS, son of Stu, just had debut weeks ago on 9/1/14 with LA Dodgers)

Jim Campbell (born '37 Palo Alto, played '62-3)

Mike Dalton (born '63 Palo Alto, played '91-91)

Dan Duran (born '54 Palo Alto, played '81-81)

John Gall (born '78 Stanford, played '05-07)

Sam Bohne (born '77 Palo Alto)

Johnny Couch (born '75 Palo Alto)

Gary Johnson (born '75, played '03-03)

Randy Kramer (born '60, played '88-92)

John Arrillaga Sr, American billionaire real estate developer and philanthropist, one of the largest landowners in Silicon Valley and the man to help create many of the structures that make up Silicon Valley today, later supported the further build out of the property with paving, walls, etc.. John donated money for these structures under the guideline that the ballpark was never to be a commercial venue (for example, with any form of advertisement, etc.), a stipulation which is still known and has been respected by the Little League Ballpark Board to this day.

And as previously mentioned, Ty Cobb, the game of baseball's greatest player and an officer of Little League was in attendance at the opening ceremony, with his grandson and great grandson in attendance at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Architectural Style or constructed by a master architect:**

The project was architected by prominent Bay Area architect Morgan Stedman and is in his body of work a rare example of a recreation building. Stedman was a licensed architect for over thirty years, working in his profession for about fifty years, most prominently in the 50s and 60s. He reached fellowship status in the AIA in the 1970s, a program developed by the national organization to elevate those architects who have made a significant contribution to architecture and society, and who have achieved a standard of excellence in the profession. He is best known for his residential work, with at least one local Historic Resource designated home being 12640 La Cresta Drive in Los Altos Hills. He won the Pace Setter House award in 1956 by national magazine House Beautiful for the Epstein residence in Saratoga.

The sunken field design appears to be the first in Little League history in California and perhaps the nation. The property **embodies distinctive characteristics of the period** that represent the work of a master and possess high artistic values, apparently being the first sunken diamond Little League Ballfield designed as an exact replica to the Stanford University legendary Sunken Diamond created in 1931, down to the fact that the field was positioned directionally such that the shadow at the end of the day slides right down the right field foul line at dusk in an identical way as it does at Stanford. This meticulous attention to detail and the exhaustive work of removing a significant depth of soil across the entire face of the field (many tons of soil) and relocating it took significant dedication by a committed team of community leaders to create something unique which remains today.

The two-story clubhouse design is unique to its era, with the club above and restrooms, concession below (where Tim Sanborn and his mom still preside over the kids' snacks). The clubhouse design boasts a panoramic view of the entire ballpark from the all-wood announcer stand and boardroom area on the second floor and has a breezeway entrance to the ballpark between the restrooms and concession stand on the ground level. The property appears to be nationally unique in that it is one of

the few privately owned Little League clubhouses, which required a great deal of foresight by its founders in the late 40s and early 50s.

The property is **part of the historical trend** and yields **important historical information** regarding baseball's post-war popularity's moving west. Being the primary sport activity of youth in the early 50s, the founding of Little League in Northern California and the creation of such a unique privately owned Little League sunken diamond field and clubhouse which appears to be the first of its kind is quite historically significant.

Importantly, the ballpark's early development in this location, which was previously farmland, anchored the development of a number of community facilities around it: Mitchell Park developed in 1956, the Library in 1958, Wilbur School (JLS) in 1953, and Fairmeadow School, all immediately adjacent. In fact, the founders were very creative in their original purchase of the property, purchasing more than the current plot of land for Little League and selling a portion of the overall purchase at a profit years later to help further finance the buildout of the ballpark. From a community perspective, Little League in the 1950s for the local children was quite literally "the only game in town" and community schedules revolved around the activities at this site.

#### D. Current Condition & Threats

Overall, the property has a high degree of integrity, never having been moved or substantially altered inside or outside, with many of its original features still intact and any small replacements being replaced in-kind such that integrity is not compromised. The site continues to convey its significance through its character defining features of the visual landscape as a well-manicured baseball field with a Eucalyptus grove view shed behind, its sunken diamond design, field-level dugouts, unique orientation, and two-story clubhouse with the unique characteristics described above. Its orientation and surroundings have not changed and continue to be city park and residences, consistent with the original grid of Palo Alto.

-Location, the place where the historic property was constructed.

→ High degree of location integrity, was never moved from its original location

-Design, the combination of elements that create the form, plans, space, structure, and style of the property...

→ Moderate degree of design integrity, buildings not substantially altered on the inside or outside, still in original form and design. Most of the original features are fully intact, however some new items have been added to the original site such as light poles, safety fencing, and batting cages.

-Setting, addresses the physical environment of the historic property inclusive of the landscape and spatial relationships of the building(s)

→ High degree of setting integrity, as it was never moved from its original location and surroundings continue to be city park and residences, consistent with the original grid of Palo Alto and remains largely unchanged in appearance and scale since the mid-century

-Materials refer to the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern of configuration to form the historic property

→ Moderate degree of materials integrity, buildings not substantially altered on the inside or outside, original materials remain, most of the original finishes, materials, and character defining features are almost entirely intact. Although there are no building or permit records, it appears that some of the site's features such as the bleachers and scoreboard have been replaced and others added over time such as lighting, batting cages, and safety fencing.

-Workmanship, the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history

→ High degree of workmanship integrity, buildings not substantially altered on the inside or outside, the materials used to construct 3672 Middlefield have not been significantly altered or removed. The clubhouse and overall property retain the majority of the original and character defining features

-Feeling, the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time...

→ High degree of feeling integrity, as design, materials, and configuration remain for all the original structures. The building's relationship to the field and sense of place and design is entirely unaltered since construction. In 2005 more modern lights, fences, and bleachers were added consistent with the site's purpose as a ball field. Up until recently the property even had the historical anniversary sign up on the clubhouse.

-Association, the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property...

→ High degree of association integrity, as there is strong association with important people and events in the Nation's, California's, and Palo Alto's history. The property has been used consistently as nothing other than a Little League ball field since its founding, which is extremely rare over a sixty plus year period of time. Ty Cobb was an officer of the League and in attendance at the opening ceremony and two generations of his heirs were in attendance at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration as well. Additionally, Morgan Stedman's work on this site remains prominent and intact.

Threat: Currently proposed construction of 65 foot tall celltower on the historical site which could negatively affect the visual landscape of the historic site.

E. Restoration necessary



It is unclear that any restoration is necessary to the property. The ballpark's character defining features are its sunken diamond design, historical clubhouse with club above and restrooms/concession stand below, and dedication of function exclusively as a Little League ballpark all of which exist intact today. The clubhouse is in good shape and the playing field itself has never looked better. The view shed remains relatively unobstructed and the site's design and orientation persists.

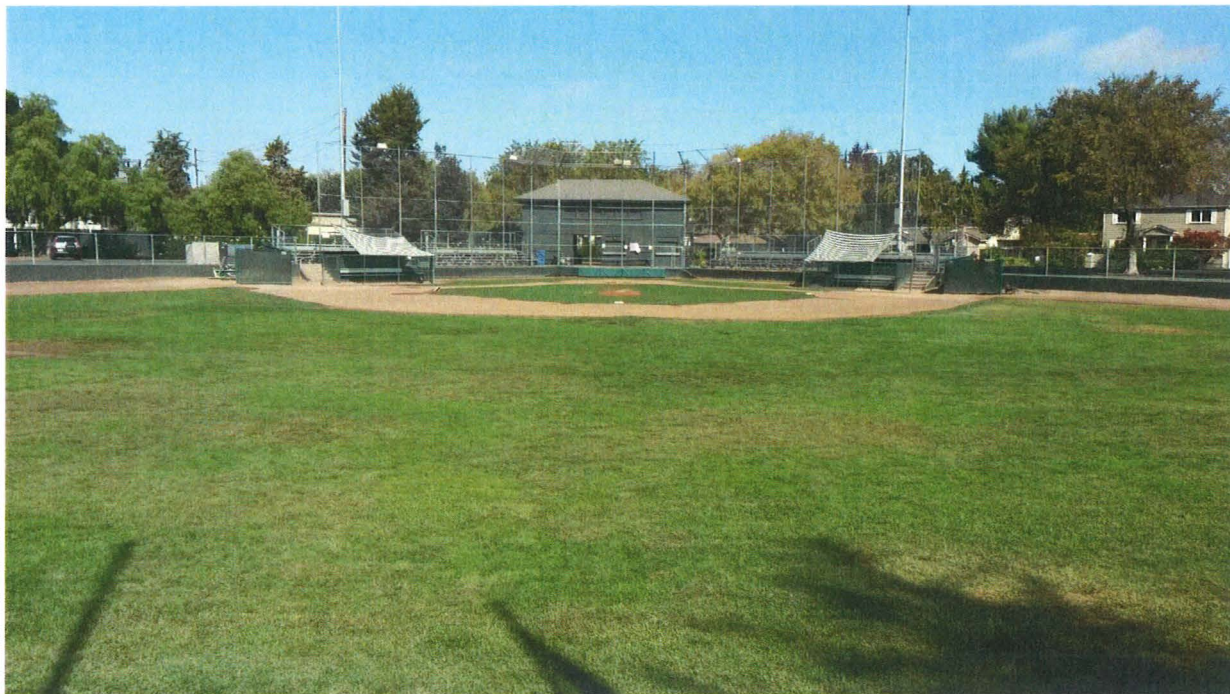
This application is not proposing to remove any of the current items on the property, nor would it be my role or even the role of the HRB to make this determination as far as I am aware.

#### F. Photos

Since the focus of the historic nature of the property is its cultural landscape and heritage and most are familiar with the look of the Ballpark itself, I thought it appropriate to include the State of California plaque commemorating the Ballpark's founders (see Appendix), which sits on the wall of the clubhouse and nicely captures the importance of the park to the youth of Palo Alto since 1952.

Historic images of the site, which indicate how little the site has changed, are also in the Appendix.

Current site photos are below:



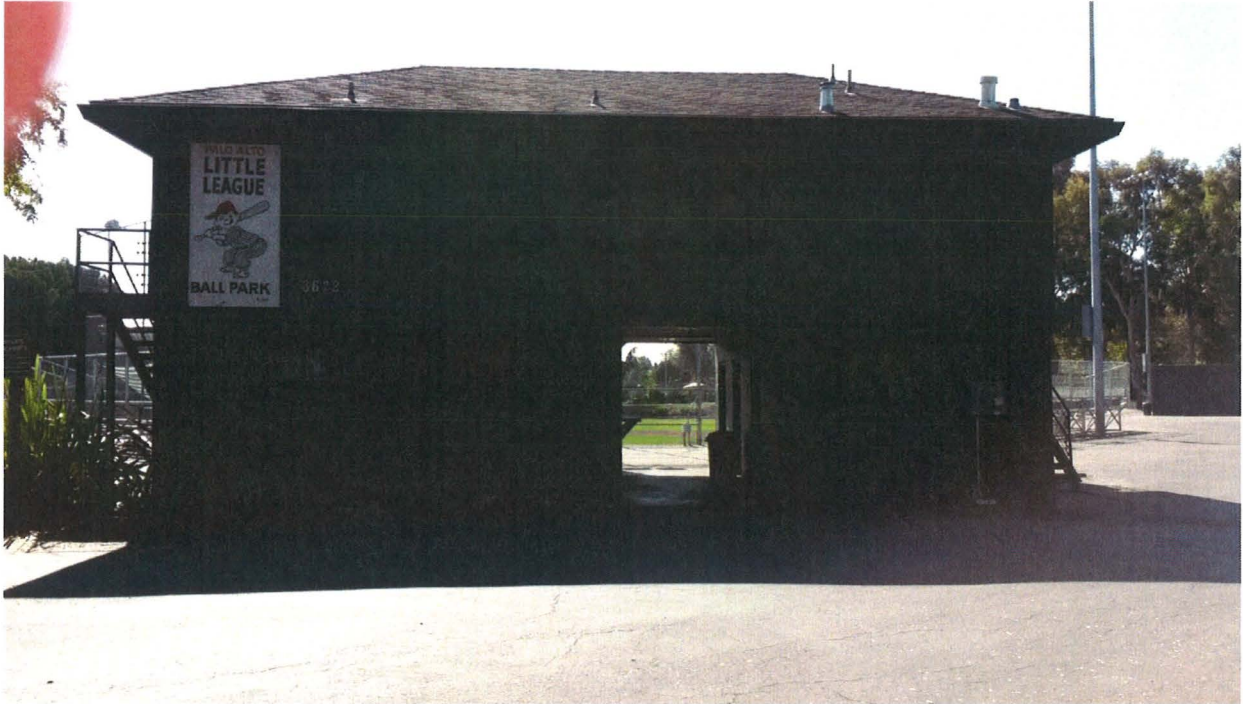
View of the site from the outfield



View of the site from home plate



Side view of the two story clubhouse



View of the two story clubhouse entrance



View of the two story clubhouse second floor windows and ground floor concession stand, rest rooms

G. Other supporting Information

I have also attached the Dames & Moore study pages from 1999 which flag the clubhouse structure itself as potentially eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (see Appendix).

### **City of Palo Alto Historic Inventory Criteria**

The City of Palo Alto's Historic Inventory lists noteworthy examples of the work of important individual designers and architectural eras and traditions, as well as structures whose background is associated with important events or trends in the history of the city, state, or nation.

Chapter 16.49, Section 14.49.040 (b) provides general criteria that apply to all historic designations in Palo Alto. The specific criteria:

- The structure or site is identified with the lives of historic people or with important events in the city, state, or nation
- The structure or site is particularly representative of an architectural style or way of life important to the city, state, or nation
- The structure or site is an example of a type of building, which was once common, but is now rare
- The structure or site is connected with a business or use, which was once common, but is now rare
- The architect or building was important
- The structure or site contains elements demonstrating outstanding attention to architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship

### ***Recommended Findings for Designation***

Based on a review of the criteria for designation and the definitions of the Historic Categories found in Municipal Code Chapter 16.49, based on a consideration of the Dames & Moore Evaluation, and primary and secondary research, the site at 3672 Middlefield Road appears to meet all six local criteria for designation as follows:

- It represents the development of the nationally important Little League Baseball organization as it moved into California as what appears to be the first dedicated Little League site in the state. It also represents the early development of the now prominent university town of Palo Alto as it moved southeast in the period from 1947-1956 in its high growth phase and the development of a unique cultural heritage of Palo Alto by anchoring many community amenities like the adjacent Mitchell Park, the Library and the local schools in this newly growing area which followed soon after. It is also a shining example of the local philanthropy and neighborhood cooperation of a number of local and nationally prominent Palo Altans (Criterion 1)
- It is an example of what appears to be the first sunken diamond design Little League baseball field and co-located two story clubhouse of its era. It followed in the footsteps of local Stanford University, which created its own sunken diamond in 1931, transferring the many tons of soil to support the seating at the

adjacent football stadium. The sunken diamond has proven to be an effective design for the experience of both players and spectators, as has the two story clubhouse, for the experience of viewing the game (Criterion 2)

-It represents a Little League baseball field and clubhouse with contiguous exclusive use in that capacity from inception to this day, a duration of 62 plus years which is indeed notable, as most other fields have been long since been coopted by additional sports according to the national Little League organization, which this site has not. It has also not fallen prey to commercial development over time. (Criterion 3)

-It represents a rare surviving example of a privately owned Little League baseball field, which represents less than 5% of all Little League fields played on today, as most have been coopted to other local construction or development. The vast majority (95% plus, according to the national Little League organization) of all Little League teams play on public fields today. Were it not for the foresight, creativity, and resourcefulness of the local founders, this local asset would not exist in our community today (Criterion 4)

-It is an exceptional example of the work of one of Palo Alto's most important architects, Morgan Stedman, and represents a rare example of a recreation building in his body of work (Criterion 5)

-It is a meticulously designed field layout patterned after Stanford's legendary sunken diamond, down to the way the sunlight falls on the field at dusk, yet also conforms to the set of field specifications set by Little League which include stipulations around the distance between bases, home plate to the pitcher's mound, and the distance to the outfield fence. (Criterion 6)

### **City of Palo Alto Historic Inventory Categories**

Chapter 1.49, Section 16.49.020 (b) establishes by Historic Category the level of importance of properties that meet the general criteria for designation. The focus of the definitions of the Categories is on architectural significance. Category 1 and 2 buildings (significant buildings) are defined as follows:

-Category 1 (Exceptional Building): any building or group of buildings of preeminent national or state importance, meritorious work of the best architects or an outstanding example of the stylistic development of architecture in the United States. An exceptional building has had either no exterior modifications or such minor ones that the overall appearance of the building is in its original character.

-Category 2 (Major Building): any building or group of buildings of major regional importance, meritorious works of the best architects or an outstanding example of an architectural style or the stylistic development of architecture in the state or region. A major building may have some exterior modifications, but the original character is retained.

-Category 3 or 4 (Contributing Building): any building or group of buildings which are good local example of architectural styles and which relate to the character of a neighborhood grouping in scale, materials, proportion, or other factors. A contributing building may have had extensive or permanent changes made to the original design, such as in appropriate additions, extensive removal of architectural details, or wooden facades resurfaced in asbestos or stucco.

## ***Recommended Findings for Designation***

### Category 1: Exceptional Building

The site at 3672 Middlefield Road has retained its overall appearance and the building is largely representative of its original character. It is associated with events and persons of “preeminent national or state importance.” The clubhouse building was designed by prominent Palo Alto (and state level prominent) architect Morgan Stedman, has had only minor alterations (roof, windows) and retains its original character. It can be recognized as “meritorious work of the best architects” and a rare example of a recreational building in his body of work. The clubhouse was flagged in the Dames & Moore study as potentially CRHR relevant. This Ballpark appears to be the first dedicated Little League site in the state of California, representing the movement of youth baseball to the west of the United States. The site was selected specifically for the purpose of community activity focusing on youth sports and as a result in its time it was one of the most important locations in Palo Alto in the 1950s and 1960s, a cultural hub on evenings and weekends. It was created intentionally in a residential community through significant cooperation and resources from a set of nationally prominent local founders who had a passion for the sport and the local children. It has essentially remained unchanged, whereas all around it similar schools and libraries have long since fallen apart or been significantly altered. If a player from 1952 walked onto the site today, they would recognize this as the field they played on in their youth. The site itself fully retains its function and feel as a children’s ballpark, just as it has operated since 1952.

Thank you for your consideration of this historic resource.

## References

Interviews and document review with founders' family members including the wife of Walt Gamage, the daughter of Bill Alhouse, the son of Joe Jury, the grandson of Ty Cobb, as well as prior coaches and players.

Consultation and review with the City of Palo Alto's historical consultant, Architectural Resources Group, at the suggestion of ex-historic officer Denis Backlund

Discussions and research with Steve Staiger of the Palo Alto Historic Association, City Archives

Discussions with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Officer, and California Office of Historic Preservation

Interviews with Little League National officials

## Appendices

1. State of California Plaque honoring founders (on the side of the building)
2. Dames & Moore study naming the building potentially California Historic Registry historic
3. California Secretary of State document indicating Little League of Palo Alto filed as corporation 1/16/1952
4. Palo Alto GIS map indicating historic status deemed as potentially eligible for CRHR in 1998
5. Annexation map showing the expansion of the City of Palo Alto
6. Original Deed map for 4 acres
7. An Original Grant Deed from 1952
8. Map from Little League of Palo Alto Handbook showing spread of Little League teams in Palo Alto 1965
9. Use Permit for the property to be used as a Ballpark
10. Original Ballpark map
11. Permit to construct Clubhouse, 1965, letter requesting such
12. 1965 Clubhouse design
13. 1965 Clubhouse building documentation
14. Photos of site and clubhouse, 1974
15. 1965 Palo Alto Realtors Little League team photo
16. San Francisco Chronicle coverage of ballpark season, 1953
17. San Jose Mercury News coverage of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 2002
18. Palo Alto Daily News article 2008
19. Selected Founder profiles
20. Article on Ty Cobb as Baseball's Greatest Player

The State of California  
Honors the following individuals  
for both bringing Little League  
Baseball to the City of Palo Alto and  
for building the Middlefield Ball Park in 1952:

Bill Alhouse	Verne Freeman	Phil Montrouil
Dick Armstrong	Walt Gamage	Hank Norberg
Howard Bertelsen	John Hurlbut	Lee Orr
Mayne Brewick	Joe Jury	Frank Pfyl
Benn Capp	Maurice Ledoyen	Paul Reimer
Harry DeFeo	Floyd Lowe	Jay Rhodes
Joe Eichler		Ed Thompson

Their vision and generosity will forever  
be appreciated by the youth of Palo Alto

April 17, 2004

Appendix 1



deth Dunmen

Appendix 2

**STUDY PRIORITY 1 and STUDY PRIORITY 2 PROPERTIES:  
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENTS OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OR CALIFORNIA REGISTER**

Submitted to  
The City of Palo Alto

Prepared by  
Dames & Moore, Inc.  
221 Main Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94105

22 January 1999

The City of Palo Alto decided not to study <sup>Priority 2 Properties</sup> CRHR

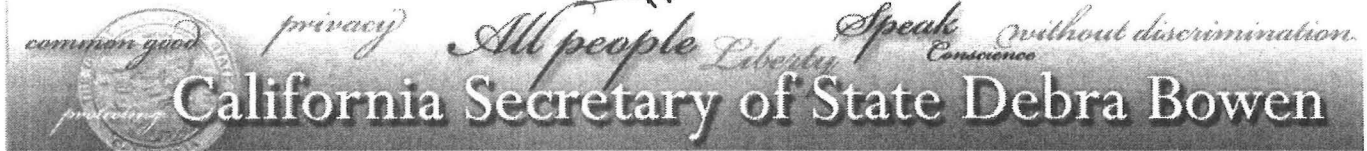
APN = Assessor's  
Property Number

3 = Architecture

Study Priority 2: Summary of Research Information

Map	Address	APN	Construction Date	Resource Attribute	Assessments		Research Information						
					Potential NRHP Eligibility	Potential CRHR Eligibility	Arch. Journals	Palo Alto Times	Biographical Research	Property Files	Planning Dept. Computer Files	Photo	
10M	3672 Middlefield	132-6-13	1946	HP39	NO	3							
11J	512 Military Way	137-11-41	1935	HP2	NO	3							
11J	513 Military Way	137-11-38	1934	HP2	NO	3							
11J	520 Military Way	137-11-42	1938	HP2	NO	NO							
12J	553 Military Way	137-12-65	1947	HP2	NO	NO							
12J	563 Military Way	137-12-64	1947	HP2	NO	NO							
12J	581 Military Way	137-12-62	1947	HP2	NO	NO							
12J	586 Military Way	137-11-22	1941	HP2	NO	NO							
12J	597 Military Way	137-12-60	1941	HP2	NO	NO							
7G	101 Miramonte	124-24-17	1934	HP2	NO	3		√			X		X
7G	300 Miramonte	124-23-25	1940	HP2	NO	NO	X	√			X		X
7G	350 Miramonte	124-23-14	1937	HP2	NO	NO	X	√			X		X
17I	895 Mockingbird Lane	175-20-86	1944	HP2	NO	NO							
14L	433 Monroe	147-48-208	1929	HP2	NO	3							
14L	439 Monroe	147-48-170	1929	HP2	NO	3							
14L	442 Monroe	147-48-214	1928	HP2	NO	3							
14L	445 Monroe	147-48-168	1926	HP2	NO	3							
14L	460 Monroe	147-48-192	1940	HP2	NO	3							
7J	735 Moreno	127-32-39	1947	HP2	NO	NO							
7J	736 Moreno	127-33-7	1946	HP2	NO	NO							
7J	743 Moreno	127-32-38	1947	HP2	NO	NO							
7J	749 Moreno	127-32-37	1947	HP2	NO	NO							
7J	757 Moreno	127-32-36	1947	HP2	NO	NO							
7J	760 Moreno	127-33-57	1946	HP2	NO	NO							

Appendix 3



Secretary of State Administration Elections Business Programs Political Reform Archives Registries

Business Entities (BE)

Online Services

- E-File Statements of Information for Corporations
- Business Search
- Processing Times
- Disclosure Search

Main Page

Service Options

Name Availability

Forms, Samples & Fees

Statements of Information (annual/biennial reports)

Filing Tips

Information Requests (certificates, copies & status reports)

Service of Process

FAQs

Contact Information

Resources

- Business Resources
- Tax Information
- Starting A Business

Customer Alerts

- Business Identity Theft
- Misleading Business Solicitations

Business Entity Detail

Data is updated to the California Business Search on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Results reflect work processed through Tuesday, September 23, 2014. Please refer to Processing Times for the received dates of filings currently being processed. The data provided is not a complete or certified record of an entity.

Entity Name:	LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL OF PALO ALTO, INC.
Entity Number:	C0259665
Date Filed:	01/16/1952
Status:	ACTIVE
Jurisdiction:	CALIFORNIA
Entity Address:	PO BOX 785
Entity City, State, Zip:	PALO ALTO CA 94302
Agent for Service of Process:	ANDREW LEONARD
Agent Address:	157 PRIMROSE WAY
Agent City, State, Zip:	PALO ALTO CA 94303

\* Indicates the information is not contained in the California Secretary of State's database.

- If the status of the corporation is "Surrender," the agent for service of process is automatically revoked. Please refer to California Corporations Code section 2114 for information relating to service upon corporations that have surrendered.
- For information on checking or reserving a name, refer to Name Availability.
- For information on ordering certificates, copies of documents and/or status reports or to request a more extensive search, refer to Information Requests.
- For help with searching an entity name, refer to Search Tips.
- For descriptions of the various fields and status types, refer to Field Descriptions and Status Definitions.

[Modify Search](#) [New Search](#) [Printer Friendly](#) [Back to Search Results](#)

[Privacy Statement](#) | [Free Document Readers](#)

Copyright © 2014 California Secretary of State

Parcel Report for APN: **132-06-013**

Net Lot Size: **2.74 acres**  
 Zone: **R-1 (8000)**  
 Zone %: **100**

Land Use Designation: **SF**  
 Land Use Designation %: **100**

Flood Zone: **X**  
 LOMA: **no**

Parking District: **none**

Airport Influence Area: **no**

Historic Status: **Deemed potentially eligible for the CRHR in 1998**

Homer/Emerson Corridor Frontage: **no**

Easements: **no**

Underlying Lot Lines: **no**

Near Creek Feature: **no**

Distance between sidewalk and pl. (as measured on map): \_\_\_\_\_

Substandard: **no**

Flag Lot: **no**

Cottage: **Yes, lot meets minimum size for cottage.**

Max Floor Area: **36,568 sf (note: maximum for main residence is 6,000 sf)**

Max Lot Coverage: **If single story, 36,568 sf  
If two story, 41,787 sf**

Max Height to Ridge: **If roof slope < 12:12, 30'  
If roof slope >= 12:12, 33'**

Special Setbacks: **24' along Middlefield Rd**

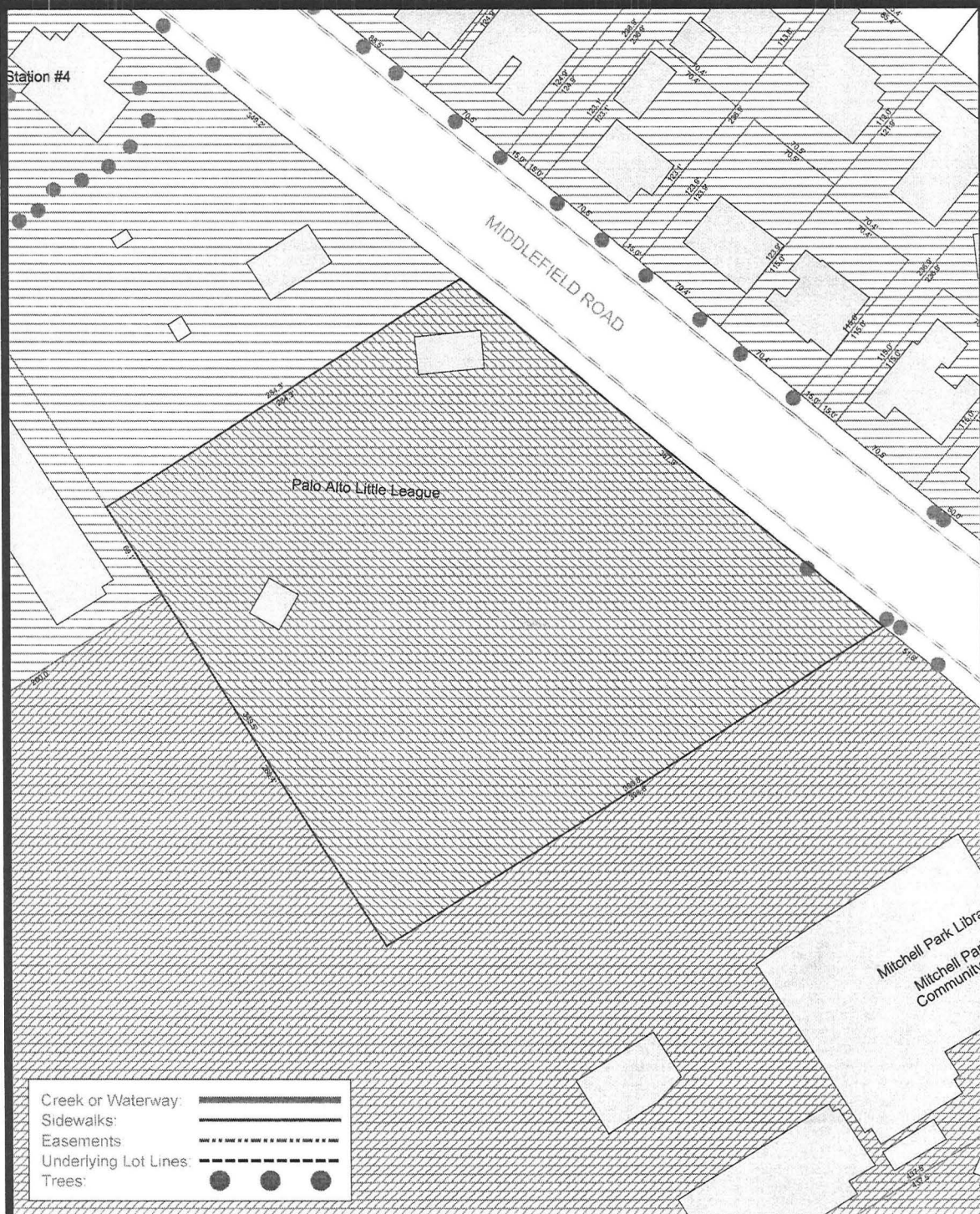
Minimum Setbacks:

Front: **If no special setback, 20', or, if avg. contextual setback > 30', the avg. contextual setback.**

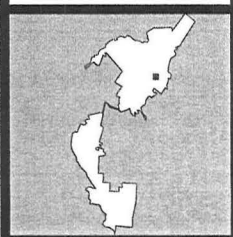
Rear: **20'**

Interior Side(s): **8'**

Street Side: **If no special setback, 16'**



The City of Palo Alto



**3672 Middlefield Rd**

*Appendix 4*

This map is a product of the City of Palo Alto GIS



Appendix 5

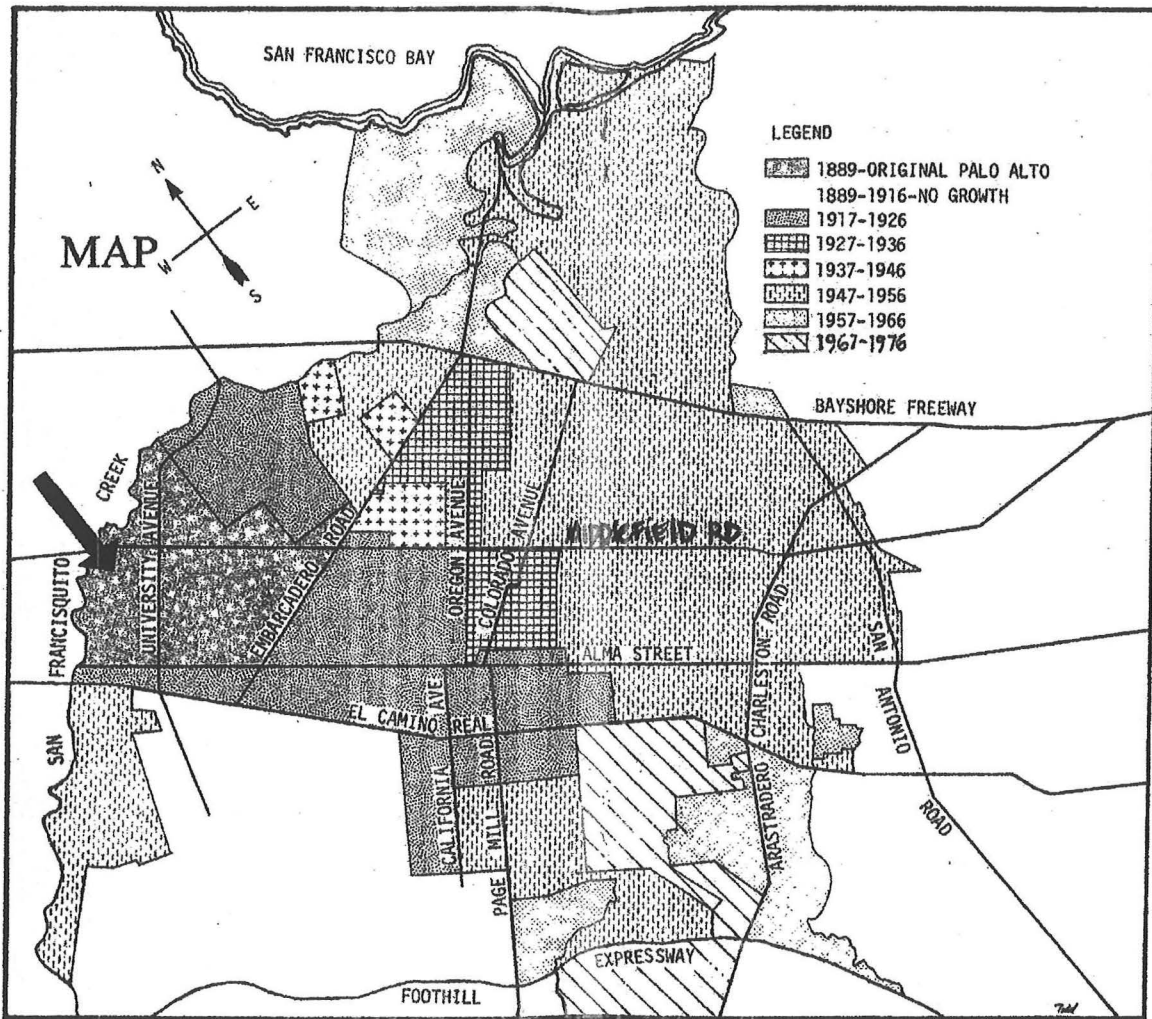


Figure 4. Annexation map showing the major additions to the original town of Palo Alto.

BOOK 3211 PAGE 172

Appendix 6

E. MEADOW DR.

N 54°30' E 304.87'

MIDDLEFIELD ROAD  
S 53°42'50" E 468.78'

S 35°34'50" E 459.61'

N 54°30' E 450.75'

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL OF P. A., INC.  
4.00 ± ACRES  
2496 OR. 202

S 35°34'50" E 459.61'

Easement to be obtained

APPROVED: June 1, 1955	PUBLIC UTILITIES EASEMENT	SCALE 1" = 100'
ENGINEER L. J. ... LIC NO. 7562	PT. RANCHO RINCON de S. P.	FIELD BOOK PAGE FILE NO 5 A 439
DRAWN BY TRACED BY CHECKED BY	CITY OF PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA	DRAWING NO 13116

### Corporation Grant Deed Individual

SAN JOSE ABSTRACT & TITLE INSURANCE CO.,

GRANT TO  
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL OF PALO ALTO, INC.  
a California corporation,

BOOK 2498 PAGE 202  
FILED FOR RECORD  
AT REQUEST OF

OCT 2 2 34 P 1952

*Charles A. Ryan*  
RECORDER

111

Above space for Recorder

Beginning at a 3/4 inch iron pipe in the Southwesterly line of Middlefield Road, 60 feet wide, distant thereon S. 53°42'50" E. 371.20 feet from the point of intersection thereof with the Southeasterly line of Diss Road as shown on a plat of 45 feet by Decree of Condemnation in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Santa Clara, on February 26, 1952 in that certain action entitled, "City of Palo Alto, a municipal corporation, Plaintiff, vs. Louis Freitas, et al, Defendants", Case No. 80752, a certified copy of said Decree being recorded in Book 2370 of Official Records at page 416, Santa Clara County Records; thence leaving said line of Middlefield Road and running parallel with said Southeasterly line of Diss Road, S. 54° 30' W. 304.87 feet to a 3/4 inch iron pipe on a line which is parallel with the Northeasterly line of that certain 53.76 acre tract of land described as Parcel One in the Deed from Frances M. Weisshaar to Colie P. Laramie and Lizzie D. McMillan, dated March 7, 1938 and recorded June 10, 1948 in Book 1629 of Official Records at page 205, Santa Clara County Records, said Northeasterly line also being the Northeasterly line of that certain 12.25 acre tract of land shown on that certain Map entitled, "Record of Survey of a portion of the Rancho San de San Francisco", which Map was filed in the office of the Recorder of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, on October 5, 1941 in Book 10 of Maps at page 32, said parallel line being distant N. 54° 30' E. 575.90 feet measured along said Southeasterly line of Diss Road from said Northeasterly line of said 12.25 acre tract of land; thence along said parallel line S. 35°34'50"E. 452.61 feet to a 3/4 inch iron pipe; thence parallel with Southeasterly line of Diss Road, N. 54° 30' E. 450.75 feet to a 3/4 inch iron pipe on said Southeasterly line of Middlefield Road; thence along said Southwesterly line of Middlefield Road, N. 35°30'50" W. 13.32 feet to an angle point therein and N. 53°42'50"W. 468.78 feet to the point of beginning, containing 4 acres of land, more or less, and being a portion of the Rancho Lincoln de San Francisco.

NO RIGHT WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED

30th September 1952

SAN JOSE ABSTRACT & TITLE INSURANCE CO.

*R. L. Stanton*  
President  
*Richard Stanton*  
Assistant-Secretary

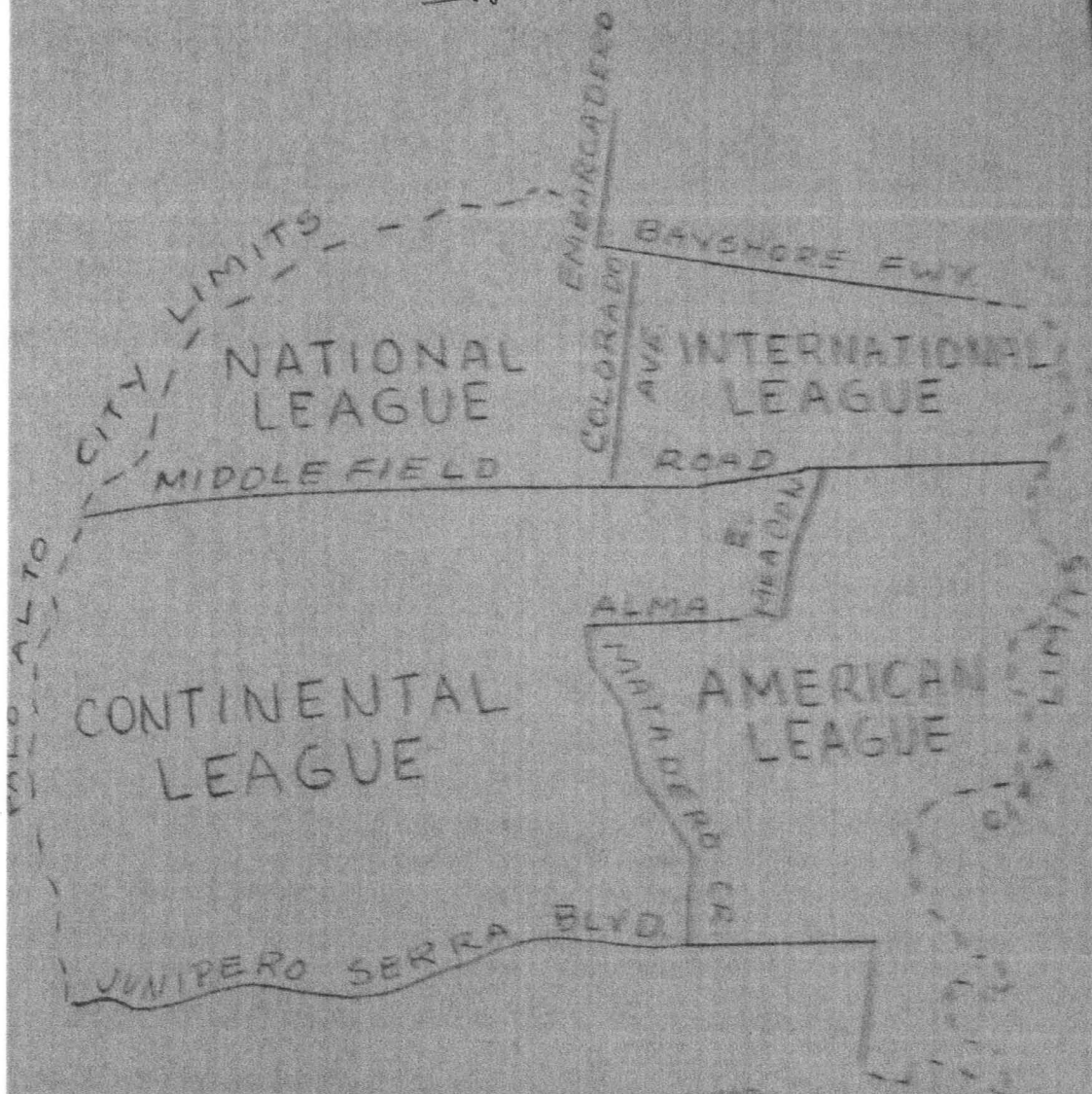
30th

September

1952, R. L. Stanton

R. L. STANTON

Appendix 8



PALO ALTO LITTLE LEAGUE BOUNDARY MAP  
1965

The League General Managers for each of the four leagues in Palo Alto are listed on Page 7 of this booklet. For any further information concerning your league, please call them.



FRANK LEE CRIST  
MATTHEW STAFFORD  
COLIN M. PETERS  
JOHN M. DONEGAN  
ELTON F. MARTIN

Appendix 9

VI-6  
TELEPHONE DAVENPORT 3-6122

**CRIST, STAFFORD & PETERS**  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW  
THREE HUNDRED TEN  
UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

March 18, 1952

RECEIVED

MAR 19 1952

Planning Commission  
City of Palo Alto  
City Hall  
Palo Alto, California

Attention: Miss Larsen

RE: Little League Property

Dear Miss Larsen:

Dr. Henry Defeo, Howard G. Bertelsen, Floyd Lowe and Frank Crist hold, as Trustees for the benefit of Little League of Palo Alto, the real property in the City of Palo Alto, County of Santa Clara, described as follows:

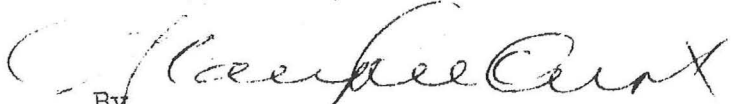
BEGINNING at a point on the Southwesterly line of Middlefield Road, distant thereon  $51^{\circ} 47'$  E. 335.38 feet from the point of intersection of said line of Middlefield Road with the Southeasterly line of Diss Road, 65 feet wide, as said Diss Road is described and referred to in the Complaint in Action No. 80752 for Eminent Domain, entered in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Santa Clara, entitled, "City of Palo Alto, a municipal corporation, versus Louis Freitas et al", filed July 16, 1951; thence leaving said line of Middlefield Road and running S.  $56^{\circ} 30'$  W. 326.27 feet to a point on the Southwesterly line of that certain 19.59 acre tract of land described in the Deed from Mae E. Rapp to Charles Rapp, dated November 9, 1938 and recorded February 17, 1948 in Book 1567 of Official Records, page 570; thence along the Southwesterly line of said 19.59 acre tract, S.  $33^{\circ} 30'$  East 470.67 feet to a point on the Southwesterly line of Middlefield Road; thence along said line of Middlefield Road, N.  $51^{\circ} 47'$  West 460.29 feet to the point of beginning, containing approximately 4 acres net, and being a portion of the Rancho Rincon de San Francisquito,

which is particularly diagramed in Exhibit "A" hereto annexed.

It is proposed that the said land which comprises four acres be used as a baseball park for the Little League of Palo Alto. The only type of structures contemplated are dressing rooms and bleachers. We desire a permit for the four (4) acres to be used for that purpose.

Very truly yours,

CRIST, STAFFORD & PETERS

  
By  
Frank Lee Crist

FLC:mi

Exhibit attached

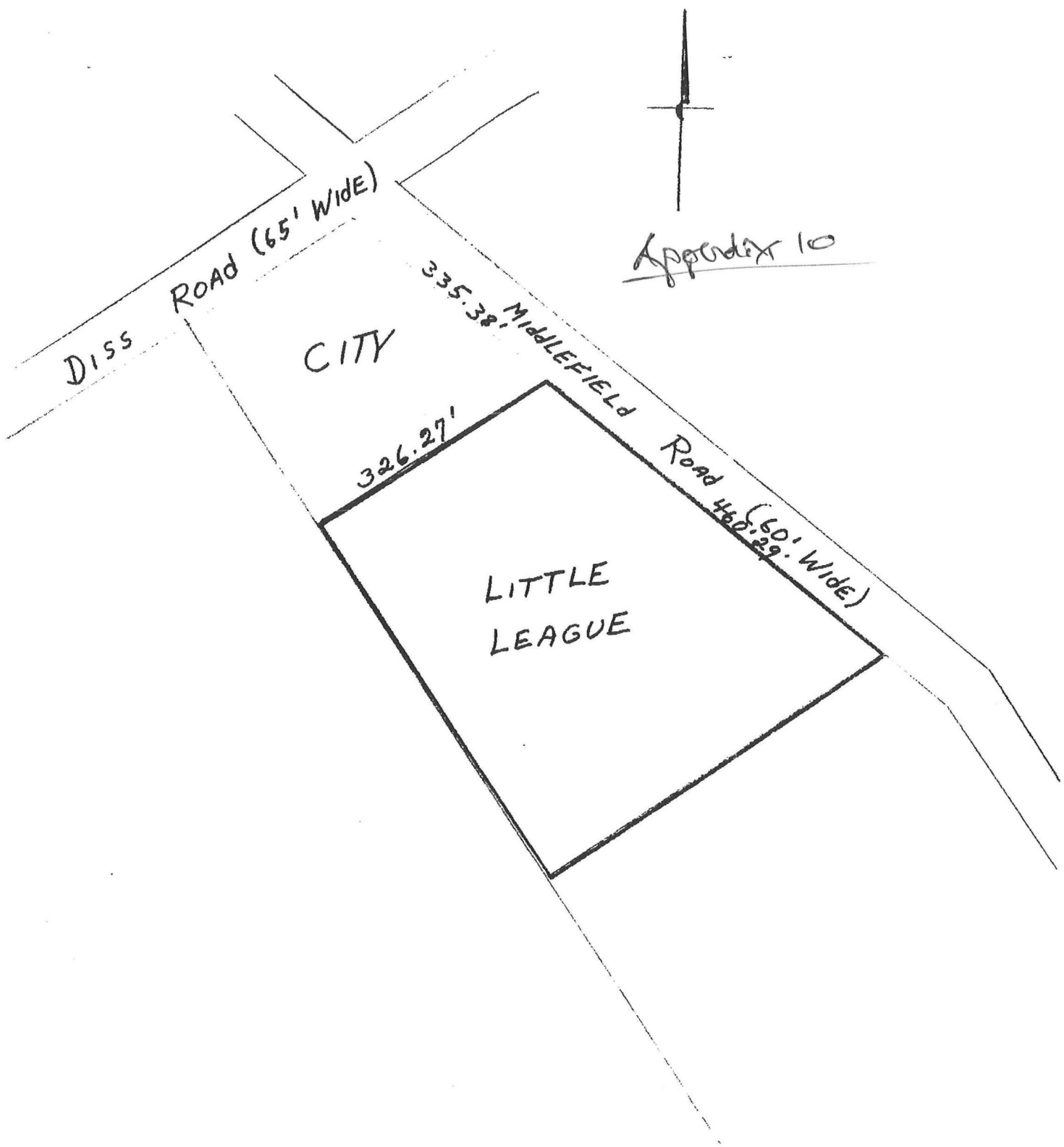


EXHIBIT "A"

Appendix 11

CITY OF PALO ALTO  
CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

A

Use Permit APPLICATION

Application No. 65-UP-11

Name of Applicant Camino Ferreo Model Engineers, Inc. Phone No. 321-5283

Address P.O. Box 11745, Palo Alto, California

Date of Application 8-12-65 Comm. Dept. Receipt No. 19051

Location of Property: Lot 13 Block 23 Tract Rancho Rincon de San Fran-

Address 3630 Middlefield Road Zone District R-1-B-10 cisqueto

Name of Property Owner (if other than applicant) Palo Alto Little League Baseball, Inc.

Property Owner's Address (if other than applicant) P.O. Box 785

Application is made to permit: The construction of a concrete block building,  
to be used by the Camino Ferreo Model Engineers, Inc. as a clubhouse.

  
Signature

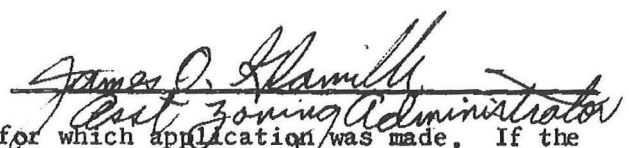
(If application is made by other than the owner, written evidence that the applicant is the purchaser under contract of the premises involved or has the permission of the owner to make this application must be submitted with this application.)

Date of Hearing held by Zoning Administrator August 31, 1965

Action of Zoning Administrator: This application is approved, subject to the following condition:

Remarks and/or conditions: All construction and development shall comply with all applicable Codes and Ordinances and with the State of California Administrative Code, Title 19, Public Safety; the Palo Alto Municipal Code, Article 17, Fire Prevention; and to the standard hydrant and water policy of the Fire Department.

Dated September 2, 1965

  
City Zoning Administrator

Note: This form does not constitute the Use Permit for which application was made. If the application is approved and if no appeal from this decision is filed by any person, firm or corporation affected by the decision ~~by~~ on or by September 13, 1965, you will receive a copy of your permit in the mail. If this application is denied, the decision may be appealed to the Planning Commission by filing an appeal application with the City Clerk on or before the abovementioned date.

Camino Ferreo Model Engineers, Inc.  
P.O. Box 11745  
Palo Alto, California  
August 2, 1965

Zoning Administrator  
City of Palo Alto  
City Planning Department  
1313 Newell Road  
Palo Alto, California



Dear Sir:

The Camino Ferreo Model Engineers, Inc., a non-profit California corporation initiated for the furtherance of HO-gage model railroading, is applying for this Use Permit for the sole purpose of constructing a building to be used as a clubhouse. A portion of this clubhouse would be used as a meeting area and the remainder would be used for the construction of an operating railroad layout. The membership of the club is limited to adults with provision for a junior group of fifteen (15) boys interested in learning model railroading.

The proposed use and location of this building would not be detrimental to the adjacent property since it is by designation a clubhouse and as the attached plans indicated, the construction of same would be similar in nature to those buildings on the adjacent properties.

The use of this proposed building by its very nature could in no way be a menace to or endanger the public health, safety, or general welfare of the community, but would be an asset since the club would provide another recreational endeavor in which members of the community may further educate and enjoy themselves in the hobby of their choice.

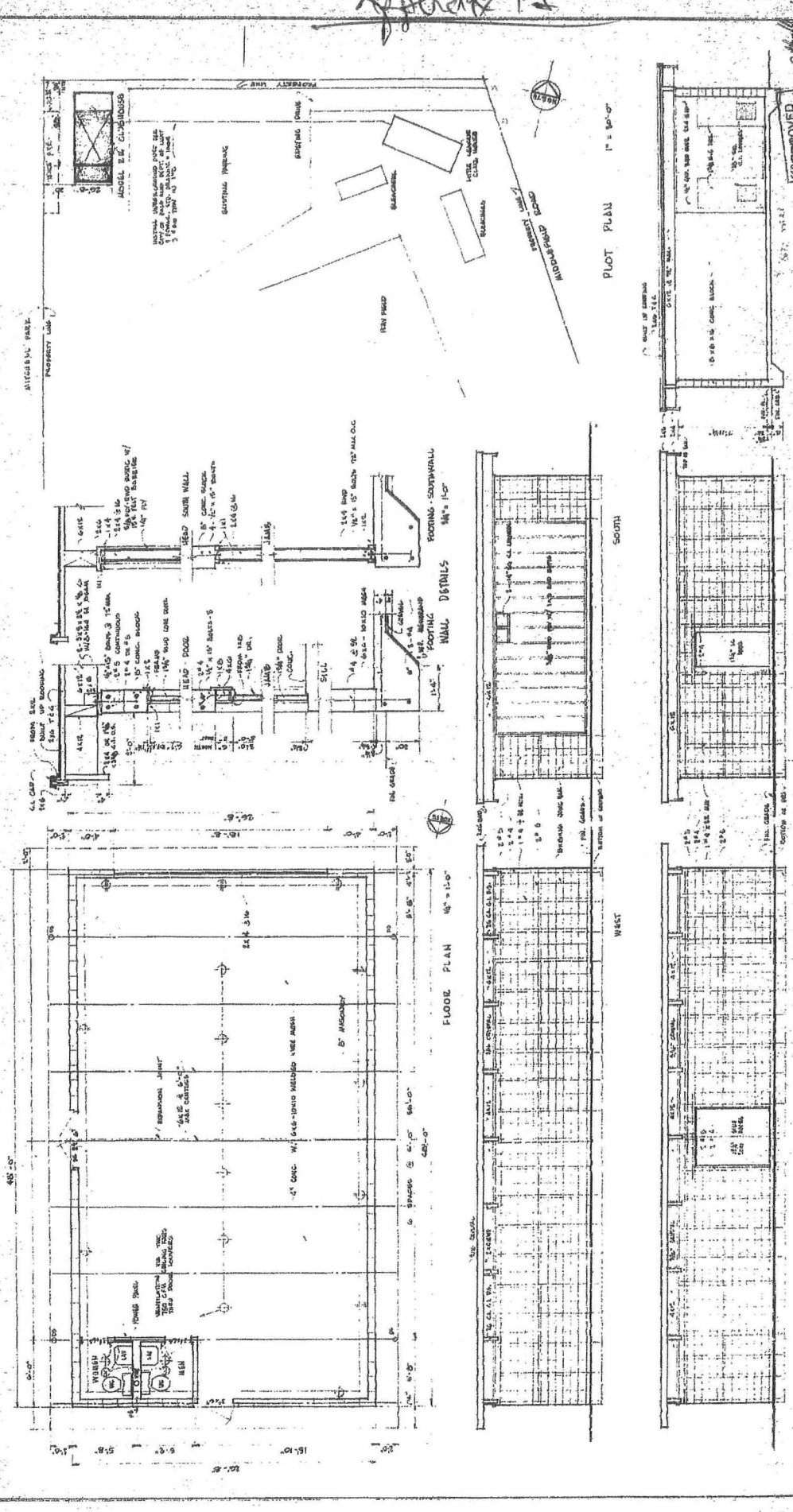
Very truly yours,

Robert H. Katzive, President  
Camino Ferreo Model Engineers, Inc.

Encl: Letter of Request.  
Owner's permit to file.  
Plot Plans (4)  
Adjacent Property Map (2)  
Adjacent Property Owners List (4)  
Application Form (4)  
Check - \$35.00

65-UP-11

Appendix 12



CAMINO FERREO MODEL ENGINEERS CLUBHOUSE  
 3672 MIDDLEFIELD  
 ELEVATIONS  
 APPROVED  
 CITY PLANNING DEPT.  
 CITY OF PALO ALTO

65-07-1









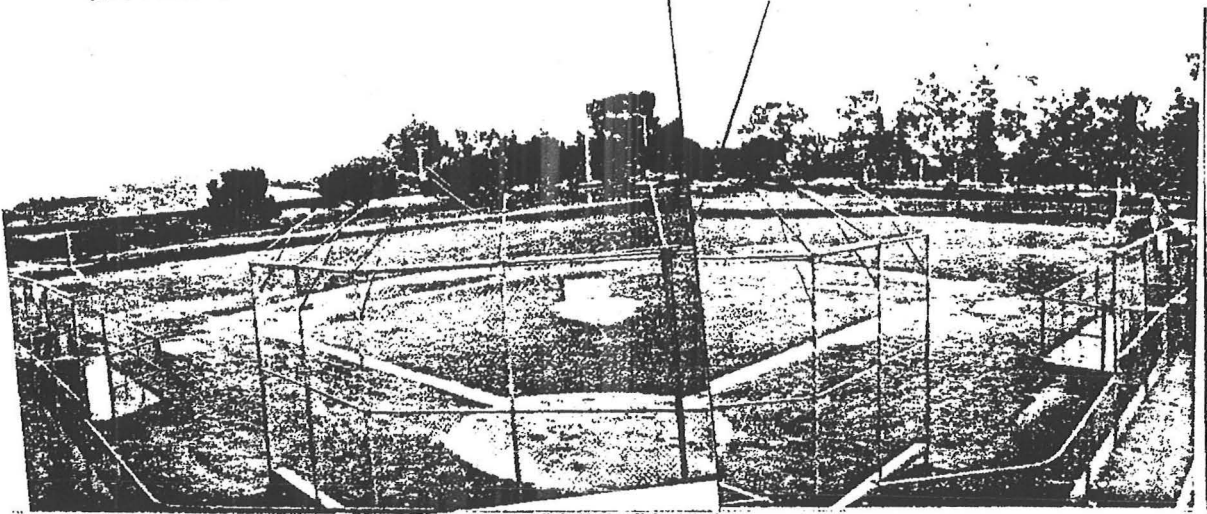
STREET NO. 3650 Middlefield LOT NO. 1-6-13 BLOCK NO. ~~6-1-13~~ ASSESSMENT NO. 17799 <sup>(2)</sup>

<b>OWNER</b>	<u>Little League Baseball of Palo Alto</u>	<b>REMARKS</b>	<b>PERMIT RECORD</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT SUMMARY</b>								
<b>CONTRACTOR</b>	<u>Mary-gratis</u>		No.      Date Amount: House	19	REPLACEMENT VALUE							
			No.      Date Amount: Garage	19	% DEP.							
			No.      Date Amount: 	19	BLDG. ASSESSMENT	<u>1250</u>						
<b>OCCUPANCY RECORD</b>			No.      Date Amount: 	19	REPLACEMENT VALUE							
Tenant		Recorded Market Value of Land		19	% DEP.							
Owner		Recorded Market Value—Land and Improvements		19	BLDG. ASSESSMENT	<u>1250</u>						
<b>INCOME DATA</b>		Index Used in Arriving at Value		19	REPLACEMENT VALUE							
Monthly Rent		Present Value .....% of Inflated Value		19	% DEP.							
Yearly Lease		Type of Property: Residence..... Business.....		19	BLDG. ASSESSMENT							
Average Lease		Assessments                      Additions                      Alterations		19	REPLACEMENT VALUE							
Insurance				19	% DEP.							
<b>PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS</b>				19	BLDG. ASSESSMENT							
Charge to Real Estate				19	REPLACEMENT VALUE							
Charge to Tenant				19	% DEP.							
<b>LAND RECORD</b>		<b>LAND VALUE COMPUTATIONS</b>										
No Utilities	Low	Frontage	Average Depth	Unit Price	Unit Percent	Front Ft. Price	Cor. Infl.	Total	% Depr.	Value	Assessment	
No Paved	High											
No Dirt	Level											
No Center	Soil											
No Sidewalks	Regular											
No Curbs	Irregular											
No Lighting	Good											
No Trees	Excellent											

OCCUPANCY	CONSTRUCTION	SIZE	GRADE	AGE	REMODL'D	COND.	PHY. DEP.	FUNG. DEP.	REP. VALUE	PHYSICAL VALUE	ACTUAL VALUE
<i>Swatkin diaphrag</i>											

FOUNDATION		ROOFING		PLUMBING		TOTAL		BUILDING COMPUTATION					
Concrete Walls		Tar & Gravel		Bath Rooms		<p style="text-align: center;">Excavation 5000 cu. yds.</p>		5000	S. F.	2500			
Cement Block Walls		Composition		Toilet Rooms				S. F.					
Brick Walls		Tile		Water Closet Extra				S. F.					
Stone Walls				Lavatory Extra				S. F.					
Tile Walls		Slate		Sink Extra				S. F.					
BASEMENT AREA		CEILINGS		NO PLUMBING									
1/4	1/2	3/4	Lath & Plaster										
EXTERIOR WALLS		No Ceiling		TILING									
Solid Com. Brick		INTERIOR FINISH		Bath Rm. Floor & Wains.									
Com. Br. on Tile or C. B.		Pine		Toilet Rm. Floor & Wains.									
Face Br. on Com. Br.		Hardwood		Bath Room Floor									
Face Br. on Tile or C. B.		Enameled		Toilet Room Floor									
Face Brick Veneer		Wallboard		MISCELLANEOUS									
Com. Brick Veneer		Unfinished Interior		Fire Proof Construction									
Cement or Cinder Blk.				Mill Construction									
Reinforced Concrete				Rein. Conc. Beams & Col's									
Cut Stone Facing				Steel Frame									
Terra Cotta Facing				Steel Beams & Col's									
Stone or T. C. Trim				Timber Beams & Col's									
Stucco on Tile or C. B.				Steel Trusses									
Stucco on Frame				Sprinkler System									
Siding or Shingles				Passenger Elevator									
Party Walls				Freight Elevator									
Plate Glass Front				Incinerator									
ROOF TYPE				Fireplaces									
Hip	Gable			Chimneys									
Mansard	Flat			Steel Frame Sash									
FLOORS				Wood Frame Sash									
	B	1ST	2ND	3RD	Gas								
Cement					Oil Burner								
Earth					Coal Stoker								
Pine													
Hardwood													
Single Fl.													
Rein. Conc.													
Wood Joist													
OCCUPANCY DETAIL AND INCOME		WIRING		LOCATION		EMPL.		RENTAL CAPITALIZATION		REPLACEMENT VALUE			
		Knob & Tube		Good Fair Poor		M.		FLAT EXPENSE ITEMS		BASE PRICE			
		Flexlume				L.		Land		Bemt. Area			
		Pipe Conduit				P.		Vacancy		Walls			
								Heating		Roof			
								Water		Floors			
								Electricity		Floors			
								Janitor		Partitions			
								Management		Bemt. Finish			
								TOTAL FLAT EXPENSES		Int. Finish			
								Gross Annual Income		Heating Sys.			
								Less Flat Expenses		Auto. Htg. U.			
								Balance for Cap.		Fireplaces			
								Cap. Rate		Plumbing			
								Reflected Cap. Value		Tiling			
										Tot. Base Price			

Appendix 14  
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL OF PALO ALTO, INC.



VIEW OF PLAYING FIELD FROM CLUBHOUSE



LEFT FIELD CORNER  
SOUTHWEST VIEW

6-19-74

RECEIVED

JUN 26 1974

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING  
CITY OF PALO ALTO

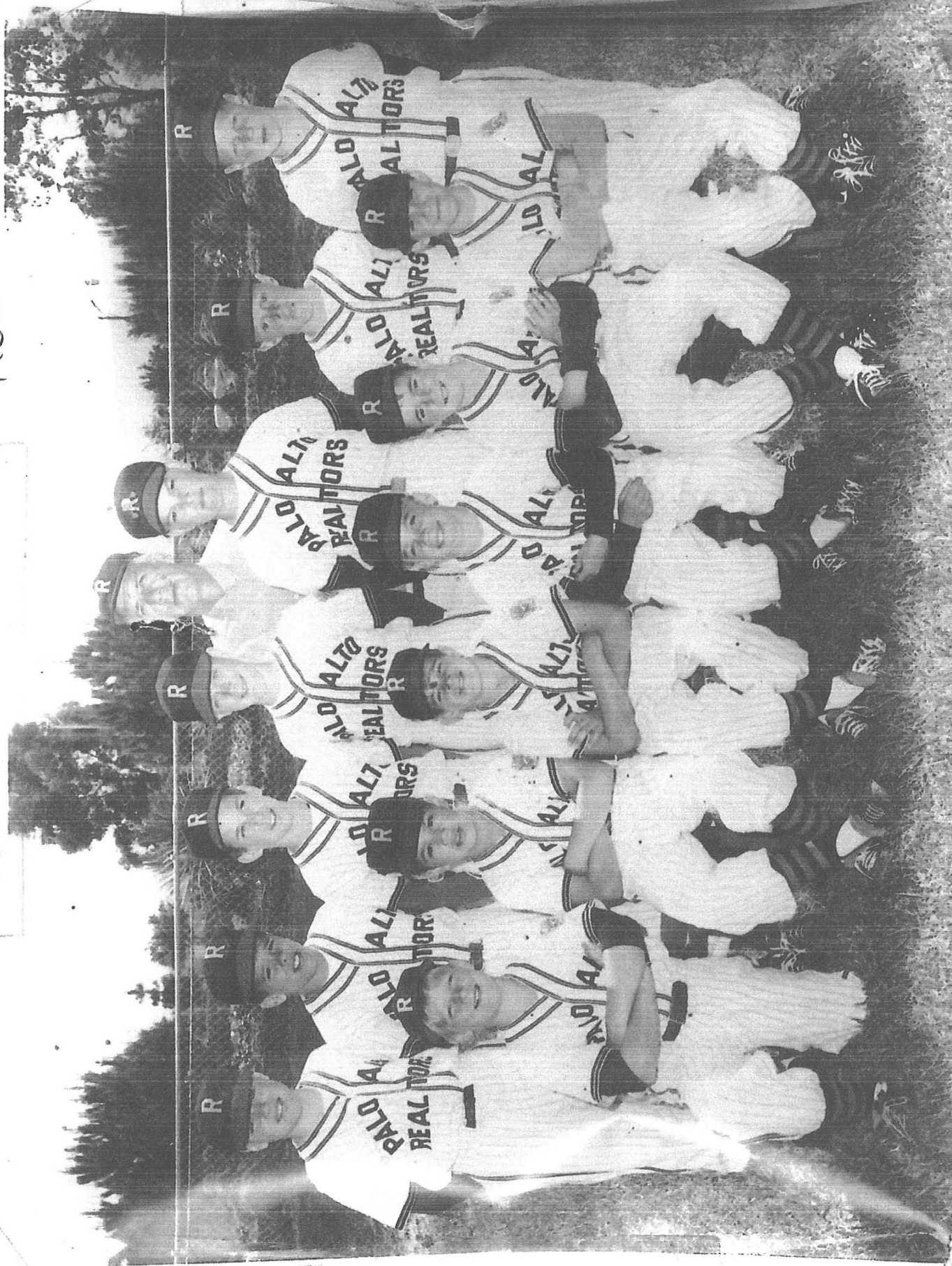


RIGHT FIELD CORNER  
NORTHEAST VIEW

Appendix 15

1965

1965



SF Chronicle 6/6/53

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE SPORTING GREEN Saturday, June 6, 1953

CCCCA

# Oh Mom! Can I Go Out to Play Ball?

## Little Leagues Begin A Proud New Season

By BOB COETHALS

Carlton Gomes of Palo Alto is 12 years old. And, like most kids 12 years old, he wants to be a baseball player when he grows up.

"I want to play with the Seals and then with the Dodgers," Gomes will tell you—and he just might play with the Seals or Dodgers someday, for today he has everything going for

him.

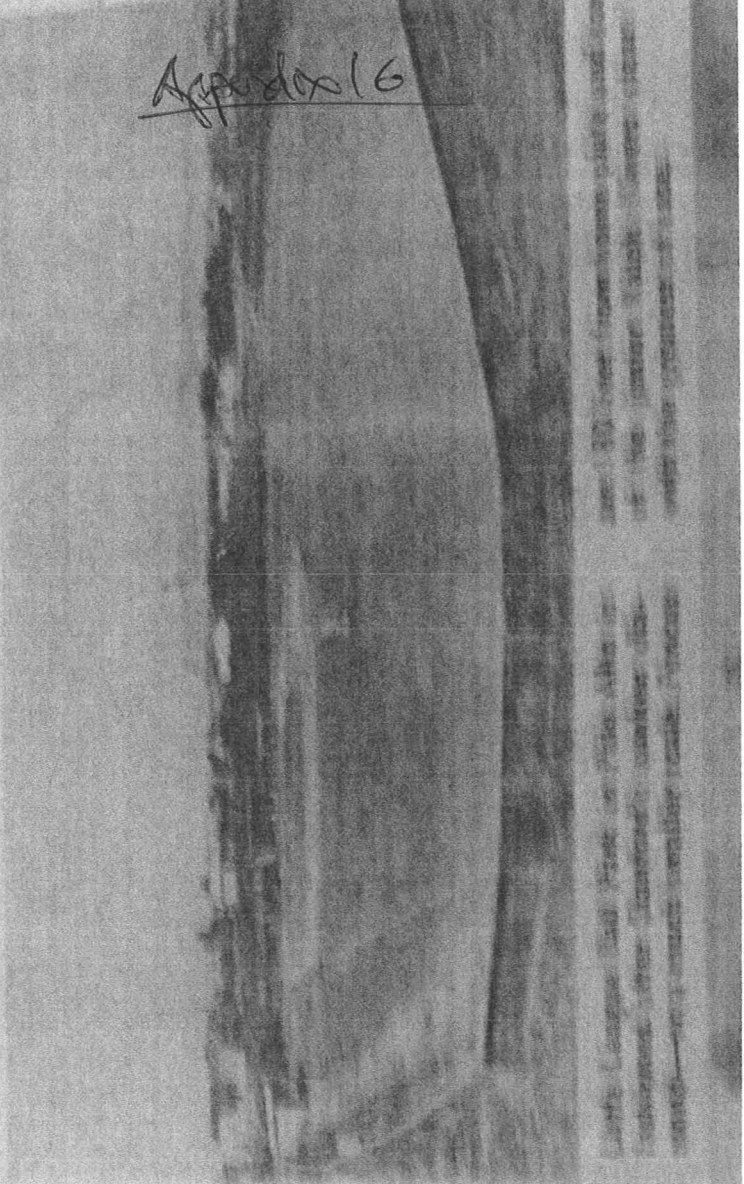
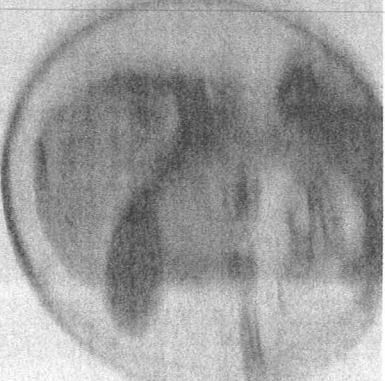
It's a Little League.

"I don't had about like this when I was a kid. It's been been at the 'big leagues' a

little of a Little League and

and you can be just what you want to be.

It's a proud new season for Little League baseball.



Appendix 16

Little League ball field in Palo Alto is one of the finest in the country. It is the only one of its kind in the country.

# Oh Mom! Can I C

## Little Leagues Begin A Proud New Season

By BOB GOETHALS

Charles Gomez of Palo Alto is 12 years old. And, like most 12-year-olds, he wants to be a baseball player when he grows up.

"I want to play with the Seals and then with the Dodgers," Charles will tell you—and he just might play with the Seals as Dodgers someday, for today he has everything going for him.



**MARK BERTELSEN**  
Palo Alto Little Leaguer

He's a Little Leaguer. "If they had stuff like this when I was a kid, I'd have been in the big leagues," a father of a Little Leaguer will tell you—and he just might have made the big leagues if he hadn't severely injured his arm during a pickup game played in a vacant lot. His arm was slashed from wrist to elbow by the jagged end of a half-buried broken bottle.

"The Little League is the greatest athletic undertaking we've ever tackled," Benn Capp, president of the Palo Alto Little League, will tell you.

"It's a tremendous thing—a true community project." And from drowsy San Rafael to rugged Portland, Me., communities all over the Nation are launching Little League programs this week that will entertain, teach, mold and be directly responsible most of the summer for some 175,000 boys in the age group from 9 to 12.

### 8000 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LITTLE LEAGUERS

In Northern California, approximately 8000 kids proudly call themselves Little Leaguers. The program in San Jose, with 20 teams, includes about 900 boys; in Salinas the count is 400 and in Palo Alto it's about 360. It's like that in about every city or town you can name—Fresno, Soledad, Greenback, Sacramento, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Stockton, Gilroy, Watsonville, Menlo Park, Los Altos, and on and on.

"The Little Leagues exist to teach the boys sportsmanship—how to win and how to lose, how to give and how to take," Gene Robertson, president of the Salinas Little League, will tell you. "Of course, the boys also learn their baseball and have fun doing it—and that's important, too."

Although the Little League idea actually had its birth in 1939 in Williamsport, Pa., it wasn't until three years ago that it found its way to Northern California. Here's the remarkable record of three years' growth in four of the first communities to embrace its own spirit: Salinas—Two ball parks, the model ball field last year, and 15 regular teams and 16 "farm" parks; Menlo Park—One ball park, 30 regular teams and 10 "farm" teams; Palo Alto—One ball park, 12 regular teams and 12 "farm" teams; Fresno—Tremendous success, topped by the most complete survey of Little League good and bad points ever published.

### VOLUNTEERS BUILD, MAINTAIN BALL PARKS

There are ball parks are something to see. Palo Alto's, for

Little fashion mond

Lee P pitchi Billy grab behind

ST

**Palo Alto Little Leaguer** Capp, president of the Palo Alto Little League, will tell you. "It's a tremendous thing—a true community project."

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Although the Little League idea actually had its birth in 1939 in Williamsport, Pa., it wasn't until three years ago that it wended its way to Northern California. Here's the remarkable record of three years' growth in four of the first communities to organize in our area: Salinas—Two ball parks, the second built last year, and 16 regular teams and 16 "farm teams"; San Jose—One ball park, 30 regular teams and 30 "farm teams"; Palo Alto—One ball park, 12 regular teams and 12 "farm teams"; Fresno—Tremendous success capped by the most complete survey of Little League good and bad points west of Philly.

### VOLUNTEERS BUILD, MAINTAIN BALL PARKS

These ball parks are something to see. Palo Alto's, for example, is fashioned after Stanford University's sunken diamond. The layout would probably cost \$20,000. However, the only actual cost was for four acres of ground. That cash outlay is being handled nicely by the Seals-Oaks benefit game each year at Stanford, with the proceeds going to the Little League. A check of \$2266.82 from this year's game was turned over to the realtor.

Once the land was chosen, volunteer workers and volunteer donors did the rest. Local construction firms furnished the bulldozers and other heavy equipment that was needed to excavate; the flagpole was delivered unexpectedly one day, a gift from a business firm; a group of men from a lumber yard walked on the scene and diligently erected the outfield fences. When the infield grass needs cutting or the outfield needs weeding, "Dad's Days" bring hundreds of fathers on the double. They love it.

The park, like all other Little League parks in the Nation, is built according to Little League specifications—about two-thirds of regulation. The fences are 180 feet from home plate; the distance between the bases is 60 feet instead of 90; the pitcher's mound is 40 feet from home plate, and to keep up the comparison, a game lasts six innings.

### NONCOMMERCIAL SPONSORS FOOT THE BILL

Put a kid in that environment, in his own uniform, with his own manager, and you've got yourself a Little Leaguer. In the past some of the teams had been sponsored by commercial organizations, but the

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...the ball park, 12 regular teams  
...transient success capped by  
...league and bad politics

### MANAGERS BUILD, MAINTAIN BALL PARKS

...to see Palo Alto's, for  
...Sanford University's sunken dia-  
...\$20,000. However, the  
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...volunteer workers and volun-  
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...the Nation,  
...specifications—about two  
...feet from home plate;  
...feet instead of 90; the  
...to keep up  
...innings.

### NONCOMMERCIAL SPONSORS FOOT THE BILL

...in his own uniform, with  
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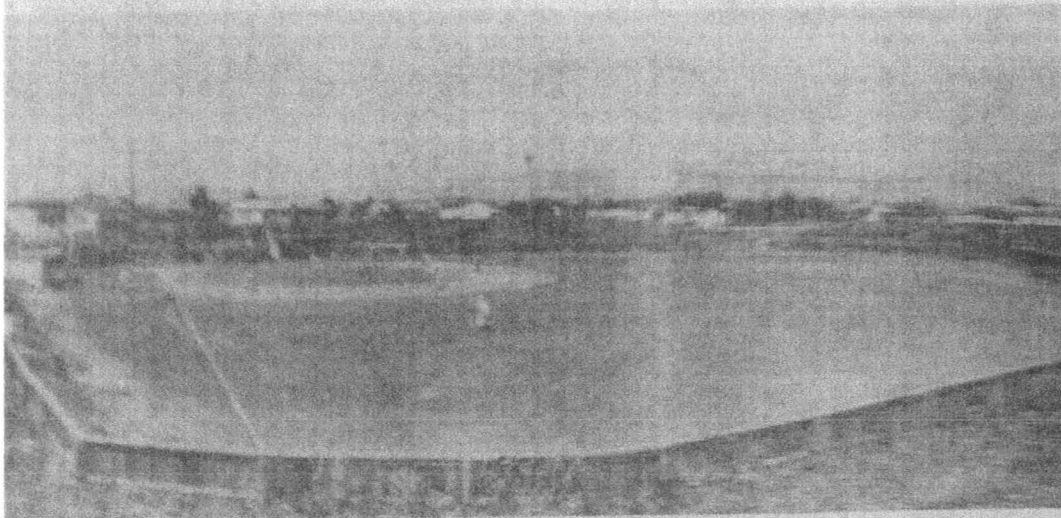
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"Coach" Larry Taylor  
into homer and is c



# Go Out to Play Ball?



Little League Ball Park in Palo Alto is fashioned after Stanford's sunken diamond—on a much smaller scale. Fences

are 180 feet from home plate and some of the junior Ralph Kinners clear 'em with the greatest of ease.

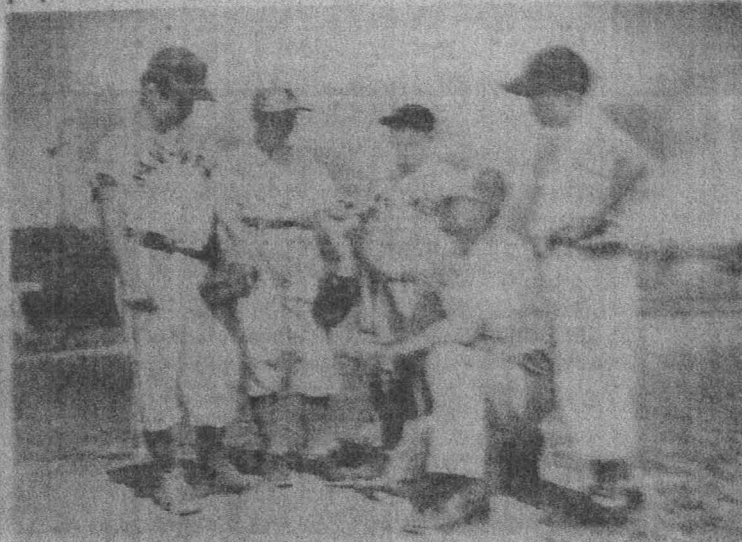


Lee Pennel (left), 12, demonstrates his pitching form while Second Baseman Billy White Jr., 9, makes a one-handed grab on a grounder. Hardly recognizable behind all that catching equipment is



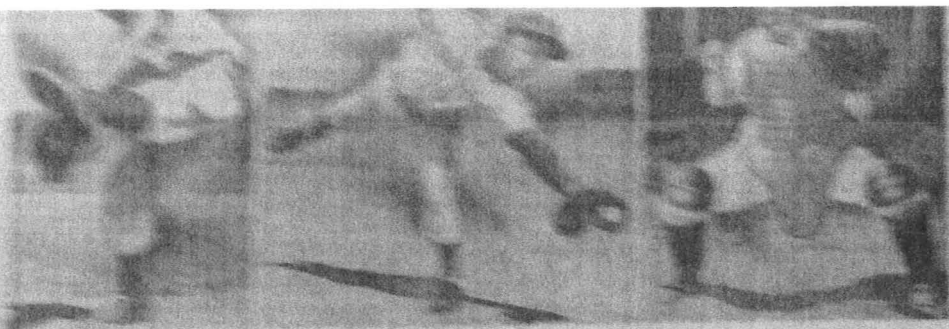
12-year-old Carlton Gomes (right). Notice the way he automatically clinches his right hand to protect his fingers from foul tips. And that man-sized chest protector is his — not his older brother's.

## TAY LOOSE



Bill Felts, one of the managers in the Palo Alto Little League, gives out with some pitching instruction. The

The first  
 of the  
 season  
 will be  
 held on  
 Monday  
 night at  
 8 o'clock  
 at the  
 school  
 gymnasium.  
 The first  
 game will  
 be between  
 the school  
 team and  
 the team  
 from the  
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The school team, 12, demonstrates its  
 swinging form while Coach ...  
 ...

12-year-old Carlton ...  
 ...

**STAY LOOSE**

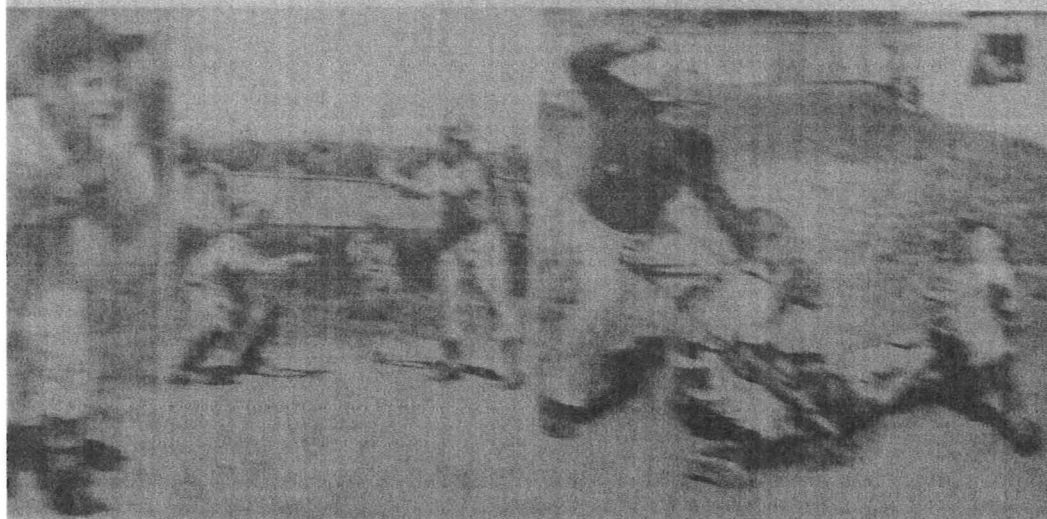


Bill ...  
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Bill ...  
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**'OKAY, GANG—BAT AROUND!'**



...  
 ...

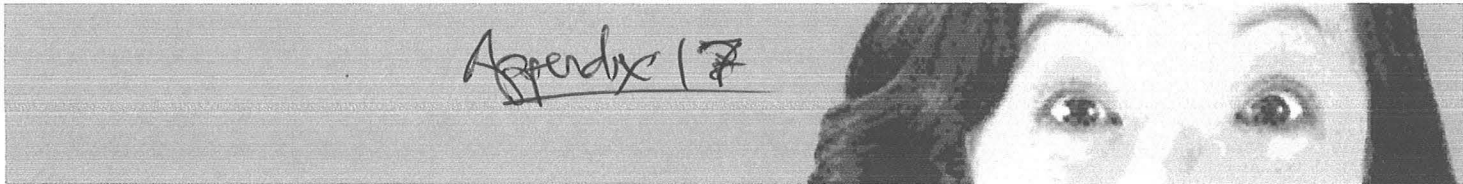
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## Peninsula

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Posted on Fri, Apr. 16, 2004

### Founders honored

SPIRITED VOLUNTEERS BOOST BASEBALL

By S.L. Wykes  
Mercury News

The Brooklyn Dodgers signed promising shortstop Bill Alhouse to their farm team, but after a few days in spring training, coached by Dodger legends Jackie Robinson and Pee Wee Reese, Alhouse knew he wouldn't be replacing them in the infield.

Instead, he ended up in graduate school at Stanford University. When a group of men committed to starting a Palo Alto Little League looked around for a guy with baseball experience, they found him.

The league's 54th season opens at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, and Alhouse will be at Middlefield Ballpark to unveil a plaque honoring the founders.

"They were a whole wonderful group of people living in Palo Alto who really had a great feeling for youth," Alhouse said. The first Little League anywhere -- in Pennsylvania -- was just more than a decade old.

Some founders were businessmen, some lawyers and some, like Alhouse, had the special expertise, love of sport and volunteerism it took to build an organization and, two years after the first games were played, a permanent field.

Floyd Lowe, a real estate developer, found those four or five acres for a ballpark on Middlefield Road, recalled Frank Pfyl, another founder. The price was \$6,000 -- enough to buy one of the houses Joe Eichler, another League supporter, was building in the new subdivisions all around the south Palo Alto ballpark site.

Not too long after league boosters bought the property, "A company came in and bought two acres of it for enough to pay off the whole debt," Pfyl said.

The day the field was built, Maurice Ledoyen volunteered his company's bulldozers and excavation equipment for the heavy work. As night fell, Ledoyen and Paul Reimer combed the entire field to make sure there were no small rocks to turn a player's ankle or bruise him on a slide. "It was plenty dark out there, but we were out there with rakes," Reimer remembered.

The field, where the league still plays, is an exact but smaller-scale replica of one of the nation's most beautiful college ballparks, Stanford's Sunken Diamond.

The initial spark for a league came from the members of the Palo Club, an organization formed to support local sports. Palo Altan Walt Gamage, sports reporter and editor for a local newspaper, was a member. So was John Jury, another athlete of Palo Alto High School



Little League co-founder Bill Alhouse and granddaughter Keri Gee enjoy the Middlefield Ball Park clubhouse. (Joanne Hoyoung Lee / Mercury News) | [More photos...](#)

fame.

Both men believed strongly in the positive effect sports could have on children's lives, and the Palo Club raised money and enlisted other volunteers: attorney Lee Orr, for one. He's 86 now, and doesn't remember precisely who recruited him. But on the field's opening day, when baseball immortal Ty Cobb threw out the first pitch, Orr was tapped to move things along.

"They couldn't get the game started because he was out there taking bows," Orr said. He said he approached Cobb and said, "Mr. Cobb, they want to start the game."

According to Orr, Cobb replied, "I know a lot more about baseball than you do," and stalked off.

Alhouse, who played sandlot ball in Brooklyn, was lucky enough to be around when baseball great Lou Gehrig came by to coach the neighborhood kids.

In the league's first year, even without the ballpark, "you couldn't keep the kids away," Alhouse said. "They all wanted to play."

This year, more than 1,000 kids, up from 870 last year, will play for 70 teams, boys and girls, in several levels of play. Volunteers give about 60,000 hours a season to make it happen.

"I can't say enough about the volunteerism that exists in Palo Alto," said Little League board president Sean Cottle. "When it comes down to it, when asked, people will step up."

Cottle, who began a practice of giving each season a theme, has decided this year's will be volunteerism.

The founding group would certainly approve.

Contact S.L. Wykes at [swykes@mercurynews.com](mailto:swykes@mercurynews.com) or (650) 688-7599. Fax (650) 688-7555.



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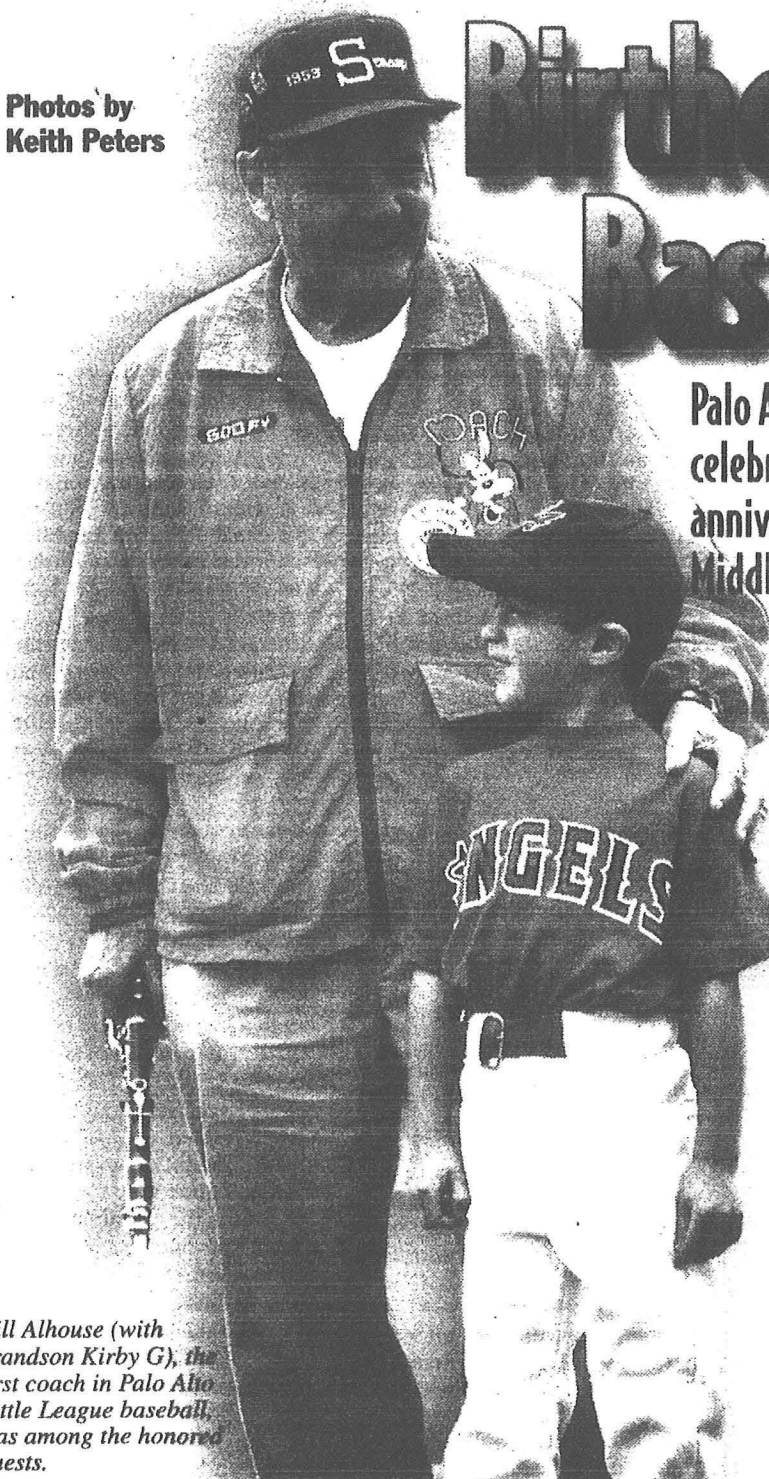
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Keith Peters

## Birthdays Bash

Palo Alto Little League  
celebrates the 50th  
anniversary of its  
Middlefield Ball Park



*Bill Alhouse (with  
grandson Kirby G), the  
first coach in Palo Alto  
Little League baseball,  
was among the honored  
guests.*



*Menlo Park's Herschel Cobb  
daughter Madeline, wife Lyn  
Park. On Saturday, great-gra*

4-10-02

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**Publication Date: Friday, April 05, 2002**

## Turning 50

*The Palo Alto Little League's Middlefield Ball Park celebrates its golden anniversary on Saturday during Opening Day celebration*

by **Bill Yarak**

The year was 1952 -- King George IV of England dies, his daughter Elizabeth ascends to the throne and becomes Queen of England.

In the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower is elected President; American Bandstand debuts, and Yogi Berra edges Mickey Mantle for the Yankees' team lead in home runs, runs batted in and runs scored.

In Palo Alto, a group of dedicated parents and volunteers complete a labor of love, creating a Little League park that have evolved into the jewel it is today.

Fifty years ago, near the corner of Middlefield Road and Diss Road (now E. Meadow), a group of contractors, local businesses, parents and volunteers carved from the clay soil of suburban Palo Alto a Little League baseball field that became the "field of dreams" for generations of Little Leaguers who followed.

Known then as Palo Alto Little League Park, the baseball stadium now called Middlefield Ball Park turns 50 this season and will be the subject of a community-wide celebration during Palo Alto Little League's Opening Day celebration on Saturday. Festivities begin at 9:30 a.m.

Middlefield Ball Park was a dream of the founders of Palo Alto Little League who chartered the League in 1950. That group, led by Floyd Lowe, Phil Montrouil, Howard Bertelsen, and Bill Alhouse, raised the \$100,000 necessary to buy the land and construct the

stadium and clubhouse. The design of the field was based on Stanford's Sunken Diamond.

Four contractors - J. McFadden and Son, Verne Freeman, Bahr and Ledoyan, and McCammon and Wunderlich -- donated equipment and personnel to excavate the site (removing 5,000 yards of dirt), while two trucking firms - Wells P. Goodenough and Urban Brothers - donated their trucks and drivers. W. Dean Duisenberg of Redwood Fence Company and Hubbard and Johnson Lumber Company donated time, material and labor to build the fence around the park.

The ballpark was dedicated in 1952 during a ceremony keyed by then-Mayor J. Pearce Mitchell, which featured two of the greatest sports legends who ever lived - baseball Hall of Famer Ty Cobb and the legendary Glenn (Pop) Warner. Cobb was the first man voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Warner was one of college football's greatest coaches, having been elected to the Coach's Hall of Fame in 1951. His 319 career wins are second only to Bear Bryant's 323 and Eddie Robinson's 408. During his nine year tenure at Stanford, his teams won three Rose Bowls.

Now, 50 years later, Palo Alto Little League once has has reason to celebrate those who built it. Palo Alto Mayor Vic Ojakian will be on hand, along with one of the League's founding fathers, Bill Alhouse, and special surprise celebrities. A parade of past players is planned and birthday cake will be served.

Palo Alto Little League cordially invites any former player to be a part of this parade. Interested former players should plan on arriving at Middlefield Ball Park by 9 a.m. to sign in. The parade begins at 9:30 a.m.

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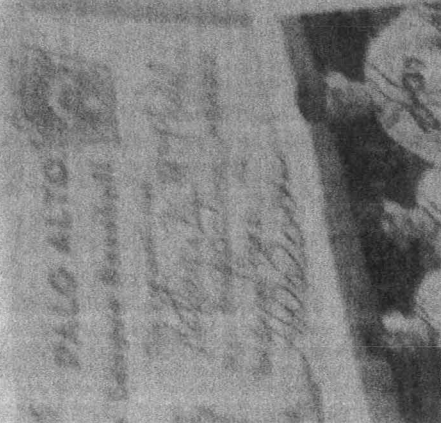
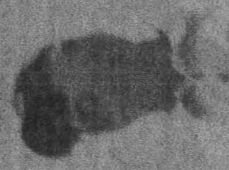
Palo Alto Daily News 7/25/08

# SPORTS

# Summers of glove

SMALL BALLPARK BRINGS BACK  
LARGER-THAN-LIFE MEMORIES  
FOR THOSE WHO PLAYED THERE  
THROUGH THE EARLY YEARS  
OF PALO ALTO LITTLE LEAGUE

Appendix B







Palo Alto, California / Daily News

The view looking toward the outfield has changed since Don McPhail stood in the infield of the Palo Alto Little League Ball Park in the 1950s, but the memories remain. Photos at left include a shot of a seated Dr. Harry DeFoe, the treasurer for the league in those days and a key figure in the effort to build the park, and slugger Neil Patten, whose home run provided a great memory for members of the Palo Alto Sport Shop team.

**By Don McPhail**  
Special to the  
Daily News

**P**eople relate to baseball. Thanks to Little League baseball, kids play ball on smoothed infields and dream their major-league dreams in nearly every town in America. Our town was Palo Alto. Our time was more than 55 years ago, when Palo Alto Little League was formed. My story began in the league's second year, 1952, when a new stadium was built off Middlefield Road. It's still in use today, and that's where I recently went to reconnect with the place where we learned to play ball. Palo Alto's Little League Stadium was patterned after Stanford University's Sunken Diamond, and it has endured almost as long. Not surprisingly, when I stand on the pitcher's mound today and look toward the outfield, the view is decidedly different. Back then, beyond the outfield fence we saw orchards and fields filled with carrots and apricots.

see **LITTLE LEAGUE**, page 54

# LITTLE LEAGUE

From page 49

and other crops boys could munch on before a game. The area is now Mitchell Park. Carrots and apricots have been replaced by swing sets and lawns.

Behind the backstop is the spot where Hall-of-Famers Ty Cobb and Pop Warner were honored during the grand opening on June 29, 1952. Back then you saw players such as Dick Holden, Hal and Howie Turner, and Ted Tollner playing for sponsors such as Palo Alto Sport Shop and Golden State Dairy.

The current outfield fence is placed at the foot of the berm, and you can't easily detect the below-ground placement of the field. But beyond each baseline you can see that the stands are a few feet higher than the field — the result of the removal of more than 5,000 yards of soil, work donated by volunteers and local contractors. You have to walk along the outfield fence to realize the elevation continues all around. The players knew about Sunken Diamond and its tradition, so the design of a below-ground Little League field proved to be popular with players and the parents who helped build it.

A year earlier, in the spring of 1951, the founding of Palo Alto Little League created one of the most enduring youth programs in the city's history. Just the year before, several visionary sports enthusiasts joined to create a program that encompassed not just Palo Alto but adjacent communities of Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, South Palo Alto and Los Altos. These men and women created an official branch of Little League baseball.

The first official season was played in 1951 at El Camino Park, just north of the Palo Alto train station, and across from the current Stanford Shopping Center. It offered a "skin" infield consisting of smoothed dirt with no grass — and no rocks or weeds. Bases could be set up with short baselines for fast-pitch softball, or longer for the hardball played

## MEMORY

### Have a nostalgia you want to

The Daily News wants to hear about it. call 650-391-1330 sports@dailynews.com



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Little League field dimensions were similar to softball, so this ballpark was a natural place to start. The layout provided an excellent place for our miniaturized version. The outfield was vast, and sharply hit balls often became home runs, the hitter streaking around the bases while the fielder chased down the ball.

There were four teams in that initial season. The first coaches were men like Howard Bertelsen, who looked like Jackie Gleason with his pencil mustache and cigar; Bill Althouse, with his brisk, U.S. Marine style and shortstop's savvy; and portly Frank Pyl, who looked like the ex-catcher he was.

Our team, P.A. Sport Shop, won the first championship with 14 wins and two losses. We were followed by Lowe's (10-5), Golden State (5-10) and 20-30 Club (2-14). In postseason play, Palo Alto's all-star team won its district games in Salinas and traveled by train to Santa Monica for the Western State playoffs. Our team didn't win, but we got valuable tournament experience that helped in subsequent years.

Some of the best-known first-year players included 12-year-olds Noel Barnes and Dennis Browick, both of whom later started at Cal; Bob Wendell, who captained an NCAA championship basketball team at Cal; Frank Farmer, who played at Paly before signing a pro baseball contract; and 11-year-old Ted Tollner, who played football and baseball at Cal Poly then became a successful head football coach at USC and San Diego State and is now the quarterbacks coach for the San Francisco 49ers.

Palo Alto's new Little League park was constructed at an estimated cost of \$100,000 in time for the 1952 season. All games were played at the new field on Middlefield Road. The league expanded to 12 teams, and new team sponsors were primarily civic organizations, including Knights of Columbus, Lions Club



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Mets reliever Billy Wagner, on changes since Jerry Manuel replaced because I liked him, but before, it was more of The Yankee Way. I have music in the clubhouse. You couldn't have kids around. Enter

# MEMORY LANE

## nostalgia story want to share?

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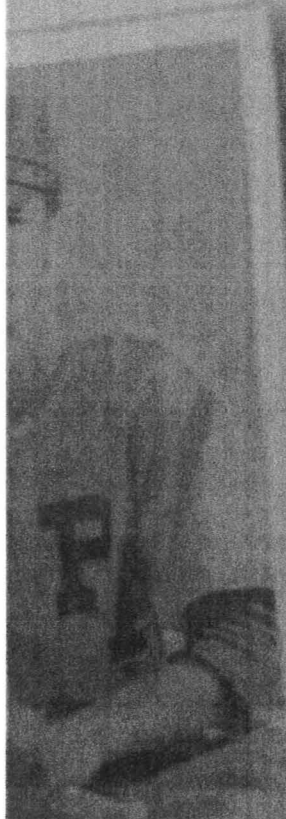
er, who was 80 at the time. The festive day was widely featured in the Palo Alto Times newspaper, which assigned a young student writer, Gary Williams, to follow every game and featured the Little League games nearly as prominently as Stanford. This included generous articles about each game and detailed box scores with all of the players' names. Those of us whose moms or dads saved the clippings still keep them in weathered scrapbooks down in the basement. Young sports-writer Williams has since passed away after becoming a nationally respected sports journalist for the Times and San Jose Mercury.

Some of the best-known players included the Turner brothers and Bob Rafis from Menlo Park; Tollner, Mike McClellan, Shibusan Tana, Dick Fregulia, Roger Baer and scores of players who went on to play high school baseball at Paly, Cubberley, Menlo-Atherton, Bellarmine and elsewhere.

The establishment of Palo Alto Little League was a lasting investment, evidenced by the continuous use of the original Little League field for more than 55 years, wisely

**The author is shown as a high school player. He went on to letter at the U.S. Naval Academy.**

protected by its founders from outside development. I can still picture the faces of





Fregulia, Roger Baer and scores of players who went on to play high school baseball at Paly, Cubberley, Menlo-Atherton, Bellarmine and elsewhere.

The establishment of Palo Alto Little League was a lasting investment, evidenced by the continuous use of the original Little League field for more than 55 years, wisely

**The author is shown as a high school player. He went on to letter at the U.S. Naval Academy.**

protected by its founders from outside development. I can still picture the faces of men like Bertelsen, Alhouse, Frank and Monte Pfyl, the Hoffaker family and many others who continued to play a major role in local youth sports, by continuing as active coaches and mentors for

these same boys as they progressed through Pony League, Babe Ruth League, American Legion and the Oaks. Palo Alto youngsters were fortunate to have such examples.

Exploring the park today, of course it is considerably smaller than it seemed back then. But to the boys who played there, it is still large and full of experiences. For those of us who started with the league more than 55 years ago, the selective memories are enormous. This was where we wore our first big-league style uniforms. We learned how to use the thin white undersocks beneath the stirruped game socks, and to roll the pants down just right, halfway toward the ankles. We wore our first spikes, the rubberized Little League version, so we wouldn't hurt each other sliding in, spikes high, the way the pros did it. We learned the fadeaway slide — to slip a leg across home plate just ahead of the catcher's tag — and to glide across second base, skimming the bag while we gathered the toss to begin a double play. We cheered and cheered when Neill Parkin hit that game-winning homer over the fence, and we learned to live with the occasional heart-breaking defeat when we didn't get the that crucial run across the plate.

In the end, the Palo Alto Little League park is a small and special place. It is a miniature ballfield where we got to play good baseball and learned to love the game. To hold all these memories, it is also larger than life.

*Don McPhail is a freelance writer who lives in Mountain View with his wife Gretchen. He is Chairman of the Board for Hanna Boys Center, a renowned residential treatment center for troubled boys located in Sonoma. His articles have appeared in travel publications and newspapers in the U.S., Canada and South Africa.*

Appendix 19

**Holla Back: Baseball pioneer Alhouse leaves quite a legacy**

Updated: 03/17/2011 12:47:55 AM PDT

MercuryNews.com

Dear Sports Editor,

While I didn't know Bill Alhouse well, I knew who he was. He was the man who helped create Palo Alto Little League when I was 1 years old.

All these years later, I know he helped to make my life better.

He was the coach for the Menlo Park team sponsored by Floyd Lowe Realty. He was the dazzling shortstop for the Palo Alto Oaks semipro team, and for a team I can't remember in the best-ever fast-pitch softball league at El Camino Park. He coached players like Cliff Gwartney, Mike Mirsky and Roger Postlewaite.

For me, Bill Alhouse was literally the "last man standing." In 1951, he joined Howard Bertelsen, Frank Pfyl and Ed and Bernie Hoffaker to create Palo Alto Little League. To do the homework, file the papers, create the concept, raise the money, build the new Little League park, and then coach the kids.

I played for Palo Alto Sport Shop and Bill Alhouse's team was the enemy. But I always knew that he was our friend, too. The opposing coach, who competed tough and fair, but when we won or lost he was a good guy.

They are all gone now.

The first official season was played in 1951 at El Camino Park, just north of the Palo Alto train station, and across from the current Stanford Shopping Center. Our team, Palo Alto Sport Shop, won most of the time -- 14-2 and league champs, versus Floyd Lowe's 10-5 -- but he was respectful and he was fair.

Some of the best-known first-year players included 12-year-olds Noel Barnes and Dennis Brewick, both of whom later starred at the University of California; Bob Wendell, who captained Cal's national-championship basketball team; Frank Farmer, who played at Paly before signing a professional baseball contract; and 11-year old Ted Tollner, who played football and baseball at Cal Poly and became a successful head football coach at USC and San Diego State and professional coach with the Buffalo Bills, San Francisco 49ers and Oakland Raiders.

The next year, we played at the brand-new Little League park on Middlefield Road that was patterned after Stanford's famed Sunken Diamond and is still used today, nearly 60 years later.

Quite a legacy.

Thanks to Bill Alhouse, for his generous gift to so many people.

Thanks for these memories.

Don McPhail



<http://paloaltoonline.com/news/print/2011/03/25/outstanding-citizens-william-alhouse-and-jane-gee>

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Uploaded: Fri, Mar 25, 2011, 8:55 am

## **Outstanding Citizens: William Alhouse and Jane Gee**

Father and daughter share a love of community involvement

by Karla Kane

It's been a memorable few months for the Alhouse family.

In February Jane Gee and her father, William Alhouse, were named this year's Tall Tree Award honorees in the outstanding-citizen category, the first time an award has been shared between a father and daughter. The month took a sad turn when, having suffered from Alzheimer's disease for the past three years, Alhouse died Feb. 24. The following week, Gee helped present another Mothers Symposium, a community event she co-founded more than a decade ago.

Next Thursday, March 31, with her family around her, Gee will be honored at the Tall Tree Awards ceremony.

"It's one of Palo Alto's highest honors," Gee said of the award. And sharing it with her beloved father, with whom she also shared a love of volunteerism and sports and a successful career in real estate, makes it all the more special, albeit bittersweet.

"I was so proud of my dad and vice versa. I'm glad he made it to the reception," she said, referring to the Feb. 10 event. "He was so happy."

Happiness, inspiration and a desire to help others are some of the words that come to mind when Gee remembers her father. "Baseball and business" are the others, she said, laughing.

A native of Brooklyn, William "Billy" Alhouse moved out west for college, got a master's degree in education from Stanford and worked as an assistant baseball coach there for 17 years. He helped to create the Palo Alto Little League, for which he also coached, in 1951.

"My mother married him thinking she would be the wife of a baseball coach," Gee said.

But when the sleepy town of Palo Alto started to grow in the 1950s, Alhouse opened a real-estate office while continuing to coach and raise two daughters. He made his presence known in the Palo Alto business community for years as the head of Alhouse Realty, serving on the Palo Alto Board of Realtors and as its president in 1963.

He never left baseball far behind, taking his family to Amsterdam for a year to coach the national team there and later serving as a coach at Gunn High School and Menlo School. "The contribution that Bill has made to young people in this area transcends sports. He has been a mentor and role model for integrity and fair dealing in business and in giving back to the community," wrote award-nominator John King, who took over Alhouse Realty in 1985.

"He wanted to help people his whole life. I have done some things but not nearly as much as him," Gee said.

Despite her modesty, co-honoree Gee has carved her own niche in Palo Alto, first by following in her father's footsteps, then branching out.

"Jane continues her father's legacy of a volunteer who jumps into many causes. Through PTA; neighborhood leadership; church mission trips to Mexico to build homes; wildlife protection and service to Preschool Family and Family Resources boards, she is a ceaseless volunteer," former Tall Tree honoree Megan Swezey Fogarty wrote in her nomination letter.

Gee grew up in Palo Alto, attended the University of the Pacific in Stockton, then, like her father, worked in the Stanford Athletics Department. After a year spent teaching in Marin County, Gee was ready to come home and make a career change.

"Dad said, 'Get your real-estate license and come work for me,'" she said, so she did just that, working for Alhouse Realty for 12 years.

"It was so much fun to work with him. I never felt like I had to follow in his footsteps, but I loved that work," she said. She served as president of the Palo Alto Board of Realtors in 1993, exactly 30 years after Alhouse did.

After meeting husband Bruce (whom she calls a perfect match, "made in heaven") and having two kids, "It all changed. I had a hard time deciding whether or not to go back to work. I was really torn because I loved the business, but I certainly loved my kids more."

Realizing such issues are common among modern mothers, Gee created a forum for women, a place of discussion and support. In 1997, the Mothers Symposium was born.

Every other year, several hundred women gather at Stanford to hear guest speakers, music and more.

"The camaraderie of women is very powerful and comforting. It tells women they're not alone," she said.

Though she keeps her real-estate license current, Gee said she's busy with her volunteer work, raising her now-teenage kids and helping her elderly in-laws and mother, all of whom live locally.

The Alhouse family's legacy of support for local sports lives on through her children and through the Palo Alto Little League organization, which continues going strong after 60 years.

"We still sponsor a team," she said. "We always will."



Publication Date: Wednesday Dec 28, 1994

## Walter Gamage (1911-1992)

Walt Gamage was sports editor and columnist for the Palo Alto Times from 1944 to 1971. He was honored in 1964 for his great contribution to both the coverage and advancement of sports in the area.

"When Walt came to the Palo Alto Times it had only a half-page of sports," remembered his wife, Crystal Gamage, who remains extremely active in the community.

He was the longtime MC and the spark behind the formation of the Palo Alto Live Oaks, or PALO Club, founded in 1946 by Verne Johnson, Jim Rafferty, Stan Troedson and Jimmy Saitta. The club boosted many improvements in sports facilities and obtained the original franchise in 1950 for local Little League baseball, which blossomed into today's profusion of youth leagues. Since 1949 the club has sponsored the Pop Warner Award for the outstanding Pacific Coast football player.

"Walt's impact on the community lay in the fact that he could mobilize the sports fans to take an interest in high school sports," which had grown rapidly following World War II and the building of huge subdivisions in the 1950s, Gamage said.

He served as the first Little League commissioner in Palo Alto along with the league president, the immortal Ty Cobb, a Menlo Park resident. He played a major role in the development of the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course, which opened in May 1956, and originated the Athletic Hall of Fame at Stanford University in 1954.

Walt endeared himself to his readers with his three-dot style of journalism and his unique Sport Shot column for 27 years. His wit and gentle sarcasm made him everyone's favorite sports columnist and dinner guest.

"Walt had a pretty good sense of humor," Gamage said. "He played basketball and softball back in Chicago and because he participated he had a sense of what the game was all about and what the readers wanted to read about. He was always fair, and he'd never denigrate the athletes or the coaches. He thought there were two sides to everything."

--Peter Gauvin

*This is the 43rd in a series of profiles on the "Creators of the Legacy," 56 people who are being honored this year by the Palo Alto Centennial for their roles in creating Palo Alto in all its aspects.*



[Back up to the Table of Contents Page](#)



## *Lasting Memories*

### William G. Alhouse

*June 10, 1925-Feb. 24, 2011*

*Palo Alto, California*



William "Billy" Alhouse, 85, a Palo Alto resident who owned Alhouse Realty for 50 years passed away peacefully of pneumonia with his loving family surrounding him on Feb. 24, 2011.

Born in Jamaica, N.Y., he graduated from Stony Brook Christian Boys School, joined the Navy and was released in California. He graduated from UC Santa Barbara and obtained a Masters Degree in Education from Stanford University. He married his college sweetheart, Barbara Pattee, in 1951 and began his career in real estate in Palo Alto. Bill maintained his passion for baseball by being the Assistant Coach at Stanford for 17 years, 12 years at Gunn High School and 4 years Menlo School. He was committed to youth sports and was a co-founder of Palo Alto Little League in 1952. His zest for life was inspirational to many baseball players and employees at Alhouse Realty. He was a Deacon at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church. Playing the piano and clarinet were his hobbies. Nothing made Bill happier than spending time with his family and encouraging others to make a difference in their community. Bill is survived by his wife Barbara, daughters, Ginger Van Wagner and Jane Gee, sons-in-law, Tom Van Wagner and Bruce Gee, grandchildren, Wendy Meade, Tim Van Wagner, Kirby Gee, Keri Gee, great-grandson Felix Meade and brother Col. Robert Alhouse, who all adored him.

Memories can be shared at <http://www.tinyurl.com/BillyAlhouse> . As Billy would say: "Let's play ball!"

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#### **From Amy Armstrong Phillips**

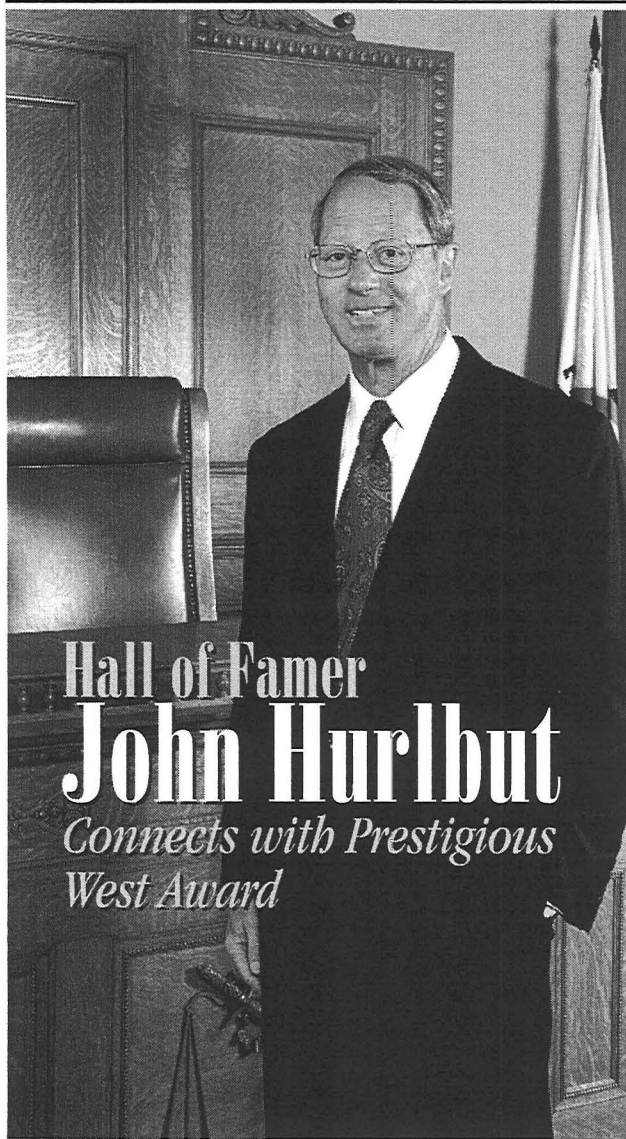
Aug. 12, 2011

I met Jane when she was working at San Domenico and I was a boarding student there and we would drive back and forth to Palo Alto together. I remember hearing stories about her family and how much she loved her Dad. I am so sorry for your loss. Sending you lots of love!

---

#### **From david gibson**

March 5, 2011



Hall of Famer  
**John Hurlbut**  
*Connects with Prestigious  
 West Award*

**COVER STORY**

**Foreword**

*by Michael Yoder*

**J**ohn Hurlbut is my inspiration. If you know John, he likely is yours too. Were the legal profession populated by more John Hurlbuts, we would give nurses a run for the money in public opinion polls. To do justice to John and his contributions to the Orange County legal community, I asked my talented colleague, former *Los Angeles Times* writer and Pulitzer Prize recipient Jesse Katz, to meet with and share his thoughts on John. Jesse's piece captures nicely, and accurately, this year's Franklin G. West Award winner. John, all I can say is, keep it going! And well deserved congratulations.

**John B. Hurlbut, Jr.**

*by Jesse Katz*

**G**iven the choice between talking law—the profession he has practiced with unwavering integrity and selflessness the past forty-seven years—and baseball, John Hurlbut wastes no time. “So there I was on the mound, sailing along,” says Hurlbut, the recipient of this year's Franklin G. West Award, the Orange County Bar Association's highest honor. “Fourth inning. Zip—zip. It's probably stupid, but the moment is still seared in my brain.”

From his perch in the fourteenth-floor conference room of Rutan & Tucker, the only firm he has ever known, Hurlbut sheds his blue-pinstripe jacket, leans back in a leather chair, and gazes out a window overlooking South Coast Plaza. The man is seventy-two, a few weeks shy of his fiftieth wedding anniversary, and a proud grandfather seven times over. Before news of the West Award intruded on his stubborn sense of humility, Hurlbut was already the recipient of the OCBAs 2003 Hammon G. Scoville Award, the Public Law Center's 2007 Attorney of the Year award, and the Anti-Defamation League's 2010

Marcus Kaufman Jurisprudence Award. But for a few minutes on a gusty Friday afternoon, it's suddenly 1951 again—the inaugural season of the Palo Alto Little League—and Hurlbut, who was twelve and an all-star pitcher that summer, has journeyed by train down to the western regionals in Santa Monica.

A win would set the Palo Alto kids on course for the Little League World Series, but after tossing three dominant innings, Hurlbut surrenders a fluke of a bunt: the ball dribbles up the third-base line, fair, then foul, and at last, fair again. By the time Hurlbut reacts, he's got a runner on first. He knows he should shrug it off, regroup before facing the next hitter, but instead Hurlbut stewes, blaming himself for misreading the play. He pays for it on the very next pitch: a two-run blast out of the park. And in the end, that's the score, 2-0, dashing Hurlbut's dream of a trip to Williamsport. “So many things about baseball carry over into being a lawyer: being on a team, learning how to win, learning how to lose, dealing with people, respect, authority,” he says. “Looking back, it was kind of a watershed event.”

It's classic Hurlbut that the story he most wants to tell about himself isn't one of self-aggrandizing heroics. Had he wanted to wax nostalgic about his place in the American pastime, he could just as easily have begun in 1961, when as a senior at Stanford he led the school in doubles, triples, home runs, and RBIs. The record books will forever show that, a year before matriculating at Stanford Law, Hurlbut was MVP of the Cardinal baseball program. Instead, he dwells on what might have been, on what he could have done better—and the wisdom that only disappointment can teach, if you draw the right lesson. “I'm very careful not to be an alpha male,” says Hurlbut, perhaps the only “Best Lawyer in America” and Southern California “Super Lawyer” to have ever uttered such words. “One of the things I dislike most in the world is arrogance . . . all that chest-pounding out there. I try to stay under the radar.”

Sometimes modesty can ring false, a mask worn by conceit, but in Hurlbut's case, the assessment is not merely his. If he were to read the twenty-four letters submitted to the OCBAs in support of his nomination (six of them from judges), he would be mortified by the gush of praise, of course, but he would also discover how widely the traits he values—civility, patience, sincerity, optimism—are admired in him. “There is simply nothing false about the man,” says one. “He is a

giant in our legal community, yet one of our most self-effacing members,” says another. “He works tirelessly to promote everything that is good about lawyers and works tirelessly to promote to lawyers the need to do good,” says one more. “John Hurlbut is, quite simply, one of those rare persons that we all want and try to emulate,” says yet another.

At Rutan, where he is co-general counsel and a former managing partner, colleagues say he is as much a mentor and coach—the firm's “moral compass”—as a stellar corporate and real estate attorney. Indeed, he is not merely the recipient of awards, but the namesake of one: a decade ago, Rutan established “the John B.

“  
*There's something  
 really special  
 about doing  
 something positive  
 for somebody who  
 really, really, really  
 needs you.*”

Hurlbut, Jr. Award” to recognize lawyers who exemplify excellence, integrity, and teamwork.

“You never want to wear your halo too tight,” Hurlbut responds.

Before you'll hear him speak of such a distinction, in fact, you'll learn of another John B. Hurlbut Award—the one created in honor of his father, a Stanford Law professor from 1937 to 1971. It's a teaching award, bestowed each year on an instructor whose “intellectual vitality generates new life in the law.” In the eyes of the son, the senior Hurlbut was “one of the smartest people there's ever been on the face of the earth”—his students included two future U.S. Supreme Court justices, William H. Rehnquist and Sandra Day O'Connor—and yet far from a dour pedant, the professor retained a generous, down-to-earth

touch. “He could be talking to the most average of average people,” Hurlbut says, “and treating them like they were on the U.S. Supreme Court.”

Hurlbut considers himself just as fortunate to have been raised by a mother with a fierce philanthropic spirit. Elizabeth Harrison Hurlbut was a steadfast volunteer at the Stanford Home for Convalescent Children, a precursor to the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, and in the Hurlbut home privilege was just another name for responsibility. Although nearly five decades of legal practice have blessed him and his wife, Susie, with a degree of material comfort, Hurlbut laments a profession that worships the billable hour and exalts compensation as if it were “a scorecard.” Some years ago, he made a pledge to the Public Law Center that he would never be without an open, *pro bono* case on his desk, and he applauds Rutan for allowing him to retain a prominent role at the firm while devoting so much of his time to those without the ability to pay. “There's something really special about doing something positive for somebody who really, really, really needs you,” says Hurlbut, who also holds leadership positions with the Orange County Bar Foundation, the Orange County Youth Sports Foundation, and the Tustin Boys & Girls Club. “It's personal, one on one, and I like it that way.”

Despite his aversion to the spotlight and insistence that another nominee surely would have been more deserving, Hurlbut is not unmindful of the West Award's symbolism. If saluting an individual attorney for his decency, rather than his exploits, encourages the entire profession to be more dutiful and compassionate, he's pleased to wear the mantle. And with that, he offers one last baseball metaphor. “I'm proud of myself,” Hurlbut says, “for even being in the game.”



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**John Bingham Hurlbut  
1906-1987**

John Bingham Hurlbut, Jackson Eli Reynolds Professor of Law Emeritus, died on March 27, 1987, at the age of eighty-one. One of the most extraordinary teachers in the history of the Law School, he left the mark of his excellence on thirty-four generations of Stanford lawyers and judges, including Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Born in Omro, Wisconsin, Professor Hurlbut received a B. A. in 1928 at U.C.L.A., where he was Phi Beta Kappa, and an M.A. in political science at Stanford in 1929. He enrolled in the Stanford Law School the following year and graduated first in his class in 1934, earning one of the few straight A averages in the School's history. He practiced for three years with O'Melveny, Tuller and Myers in Los Angeles before returning to the Law School as an Associate Professor in 1937. Except for service as an antisubmarine warfare officer in the United States Navy from 1942-45, he spent the rest of his career until retirement, in 1971, at the Law School, which he served as Assistant Dean in 1941-42 and 1945-46. He was promoted to full professor in 1942 and, in 1959, became the first Jackson Eli Reynolds Professor of Law. In 1959-60 he was a Fulbright lecturer at the University of Tokyo and at the Japanese Institute of Legal Training and Research. In 1970-71 he was a Visiting Professor at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, where he taught for several years after his retirement at Stanford.

Professor Hurlbut, a sports enthusiast, was for many years Chairman of the President's Committee on Athletics and Stanford's Faculty Athletic Representative to the Pacific Coast Conference (now the PAC-10). He also served as Vice President of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Professor Hurlbut's qualities as a teacher were legendary. In legal education, the teaching tradition makes unusual demands on both teacher and student. The classroom is the arena in which the professor uses his knowledge and ingenuity to "make students think." The classical technique is the Socratic dialogue, in which the best teacher is not the one who gives the best answers, but the one who asks the best questions. There is no greater reward to the Socratic teacher than the moment at which the student, patiently led from question to further question, suddenly sees the light. Such classroom epiphanies were frequent occurrences in Professor Hurlbut's courses in evidence contracts, criminal law and procedure.

Student affection for Professor Hurlbut was, and remains, unusually strong. In part this reflects appreciation for the sheer quality of his teaching: the intelligence, the mastery of the subject, the virtuoso use of the Socratic method. Equally important, he was a benign Socrates; though relentless in his determination to bring out the best in his students, he did so without classroom tyranny. Professor Hurlbut's style employed enthusiasm, personal charm, the skill of a born actor and incredible body language to enlist the student in a joint search for learning. He was a fox, not a lion. Indeed, his students came to call him "the silver fox," and his last evidence class gave him a sculpture of a silver fox as a memento.

An enduring memorial to Professor Hurlbut's greatness as a teacher was established in 1974 when, at a law alumni banquet held in his honor, the John B. Hurlbut

Award for Excellence in Teaching was announced by the Law Students Association and a portrait of Professor Hurlbut was presented to the Law School by the class of 1940. Since then the graduating class annually selects the recipient of the Hurlbut award, who addresses the class at its Commencement exercises. The recipient's name is added to a plaque hung prominently in the Law School that reads:

John Bingham Hurlbut award for excellence in teaching

The teacher who in the classroom passes on intellectual vitality generates new life in the law. His students will challenge worn dogmas, discover new solutions for society's problems, and in turn impart their own insights to others.

The students of Stanford Law School have established this award to commend those professors who strive to make teaching an art. Though their contributions may not be fully recognized until the seeds they have sown mature, those of us who have been immediate beneficiaries of their wisdom and concern can in this way express our gratitude and appreciation.

Like his students, his colleagues affectionately remember John Hurlbut's wit, his collection of amusing doggerel written over the years by his students to memorialize great moments in his classes, and his superlative qualities as a teacher. We fondly recall his generosity to younger colleagues, his delight in the repartee of office and corridor conversation and the courteous but telling thrust of his arguments in faculty meetings. All of us are beneficiaries of his total commitment to excellence and his devotion to the Law School and the University.

Professor Hurlbut's survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Harrison Hurlbut, of Palo Alto; their daughter, Mary Elizabeth Engelbrecht, of Portola Valley; their son, John B. Hurlbut, Jr., of Costa Mesa; a sister, Mary Hurlbut Costello, and a brother, Dr. Wilbur Bingham Hurlbut, both of New York City; and four grandchildren, including Elizabeth Nichols, a Stanford senior.

John Henry Merryman, Chair  
William T. Keogh  
J. Keith Mann

October 7, 1987 Campus Report

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## Founder of Palo Alto Bicycles dies

Innovative athlete Bernie Hoffacker played pro ball, started bicycle businesses

Bernhard J. (Bernie) Hoffacker, original owner of Palo Alto Bicycles, died Dec. 5, a few days short of his 92nd birthday, from complications from a broken hip.

Described as "not only innovative, but open-minded" by Jeff Selzer, Palo Alto Bicycles store manager, "he had a fascinating life" -- including a stint as a professional baseball player.

A Palo Alto High School graduate (1934), Hoffacker excelled in baseball and was inducted in Menlo College's Hall of Fame in 1936. He then played professionally for the San Francisco Seals -- for whom he fielded grounders from coach Ty Cobb at Stanford University on weekends and roomed on the road with teammate Dominic DiMaggio.

After retiring from pro baseball in 1941, he coached semi-pro, Babe Ruth and Little League teams.

After World War II, when he and his brother Ed Jr. were running Palo Alto Sport Shop and Toy World, Hoffacker spent much of his time repairing bicycles.

"He was very mechanically inclined," Selzer said.

Palo Alto Bicycles began as a spin-off in the early 1970s to the family-owned sport and toy shop. He ran it independently until he retired in the mid-1980s and sons Bernhard (Bud) and Neal took over.

In 1975, Hoffacker started what became one of the first bicycle mail-order catalogs, with his sons traveling to Europe to buy hard-to-get parts for racers, Selzer recalled. That business soon begat another: Avocet, which made bike shoes, saddles, tires and the first electronic cyclometer, he said.

But one of Selzer's favorite memories is the store's sponsorship of a bike team in the late 1970s.

"One of the riders was a skinny kid out of Reno. He was a skier who rode bicycles in the summer to stay in shape," he said. Years later, Greg Lemond returned to Palo Alto Bicycles, crediting the team with encouraging him to enter the Tour de France -- which he won three times.

Hoffacker is survived by his wife of 68 years, Marjorie, of Palo Alto; his daughter Lyle Caudillo of San Jose; his sons Bud of Woodside, Neal of Portola Valley and Ronnie of Santa Cruz; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial mass will be held Monday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 751 Waverley St., Palo Alto.



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#### I Still Call It Rossotti's

By Laura Stec | 33 comments | 3,324 views

#### When to start thinking about college when you aren't thinking about college

By John Raftrey and Lori McCormick | 2 comments | 2,571 views

#### Venture capital for today's women entrepreneurs

By Jessica T | 4 comments | 1,975 views

#### Are You Communicating More or Less?

By Chandrama Anderson | 0 comments | 1,247 views

#### Dock Ellis in the Country of Baseball

By Nick Taylor | 3 comments | 587 views

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### Comments

Appendix 30

Top Storylines for ALCS, NLCS

X-Factors for ALCS, NLCS

## MLB



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# Ty Cobb: Baseball's Greatest Player

*By Harold  
Friend,  
Chief Writer*  
Feb 24, 2010

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Ty Cobb: Baseball's Greatest Player

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It was announced on Feb. 2, 1936, that the Baseball Writers Association of America had elected Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson, and Walter Johnson to the Hall of Fame in the first-ever balloting.

Cobb received 222 out of a possible 226 votes. Ruth and Wagner each received 215 votes, Mathewson had 205 votes, and Johnson finished with 189.

### The Greatest

When Ty Cobb passed away on July 17, 1961, the *New York Times*' headline echoed the conclusions of the majority of fans and baseball writers.

"Cobb, Hailed as Greatest Player in History, Mourned by Baseball World."

The praise came from all quarters. Current players, former players and managers, executives, and, of greatest significance, baseball scouts heaped praise on Cobb.

"The best of all time." "A great player." "A legend in American sports." "An inspiration to all."

New York Mets' general manager Lonesome George Weiss, who built the New York Yankees' dynasty of the late-1940s and 1950s, said, "There was no denying that Cobb stood alone as a baseball player, undoubtedly the greatest of all time."

No less an authority than Dizzy Dean: "We've lost a lot of great ball players. Now we've lost the greatest."

Casey Stengel, who managed the Yankees' teams that won a record five consecutive World Championships from 1949-53, called Cobb, not Mantle or Mays, "the most sensational of all the players I have seen in all my life."

"By sensational, I mean he surprised all his opponents. He would shock them with startling base running plays, and he could always outthit any opponent, even if they were great players."

In 2002, the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), initiated its Baseball Biography Project. In the first paragraph of Ty Cobb's biography, it states

"Ty Cobb was the dominant player in the American League during the Dead Ball Era, and arguably the greatest player in the history of the game."

### **Home Runs Dominate**

Ty Cobb died the year that Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris both challenged Babe Ruth's single season home run record. The media couldn't get enough of the battle between the Yankees' teammates in their attempt to top the record of another Yankees' player.

As Ralph Kiner said, "Singles hitters drive Fords, home run hitters drive Cadillacs."

With the passage of time, Cobb, a great power hitter (double and triples), inaccurately became identified with the singles hitters to whom Kiner had referred.

Babe Ruth started gaining ground with younger fans, and despite the fact that the late 1960s was a pitcher-dominated era, the home run was becoming even more glamorous.

In 1969, the pitching mound was lowered from 15 inches to 10 inches. Reggie Jackson hit 47 home runs, and in 1973, the National League became the only major league to play real baseball when the American League instituted the designated hitter rule.

By the turn of the century, great batters who were not primarily home run hitters were greatly underrated.

Many fans think that Wade Boggs, Tony Gwynn, and Ichiro Suzuki were or are not as valuable as hitters such as Jim Thome or Mark Reynolds.

Until he refused to cooperate with the government, Barry Bonds was considered greater than Willie.

### **Babe Ruth Becomes the Choice as the Greatest**

One result has been that Babe Ruth is now considered the greatest player of all time.

Ruth was the greatest power hitter of all time, but starting in 1920, the year he hit 54 home runs, Ruth played in a lively ball era.

Cobb eschewed the home run in favor of "manufacturing" runs. He played in the deadest of the dead ball eras, and runs were, as Red Barber used to say, "scarcer than hen's teeth."

### **Defense**

Defensively, Cobb played center field most of his career, but he was in right field from 1907-1909, leading the Detroit Tigers to three consecutive pennants and three World Series defeats.

He was a good, but not great, defensive player who played 706 games in right field, 2,194 in center field, and 35 games in left field.

Cobb had a .961 fielding average, which is horrible for an outfielder, until one realizes that the league had a .960 fielding average. Cobb's range factor was 2.30, compared to the league's 2.05.

Babe Ruth was an adequate outfielder the first few seasons he switched from pitching. His .968 fielding average was better than the league's .966, but Ruth's range factor was only 2.07, compared to the league's 2.22.

From the time he was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1936 until the late 1960s, Cobb was ranked ahead of Ruth.

Neither has played a game since 1935, but because values have changed, not necessarily more accurately, Ruth is considered the greatest player of all time.

Were the *New York Times*, George Weiss, Dizzy Dean, Casey Stengel, and the Society for American Baseball Research all wrong?

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Ty Cobb Biography

Ralph Kiner quote

Ty Cobb at Baseball-Reference

Babe Ruth at Baseball-Reference