First Annual West Coast Sports Collectors Convention

Date: August 23, 1969
Venue: Brea, California
Co-Promoters: Edward Broder & James Nowell

Long before The National Sports Collectors Convention burst onto the scene in 1980, a small group (The Lucky 13 as they were referred to) of dedicated collectors gathered at James Nowell’s House in Brea, California to set precedent and make Hobby History as the very 1st Sports Collectors Convention. James Nowell, a Purchasing Administrator for Hunt Wesson Foods, along with Co-Promoter Ed Broder, brought together many of that era’s elite collectors for a one day affair that emphasized trading (and small scale selling) rather than the Big Business atmosphere that would permeate the Hobby in the decades to come. The impetus for the 1st Sports Collectors Convention was borne out of the growing fascination with Regional Baseball Card Sets on the West Coast that had actually been around since the 1950’s (Mother’s Cookies, Union Oil, Milwaukie Meats out of...
Portland, Oregon, etc.). Many of the (13) attendees that day were already in contact with one another through Hobby Ads in Trade Papers like: The Trader Speaks, Sports Collectors News, Ball Card Collector, etc. Thus, it was a natural progression of Things to forge ahead and pioneer the 1st Gathering of Cardboard Collectors. The Official Program (see cover above) was mimeographed and stapled. It contained a complete agenda of the Day’s events along with a short biographical sketch on some of the “Lucky 13.” John England, a collector from Ft. Smith, Arkansas, made the trip to Brea and consummated one of the biggest deals that day when he swapped “a complete 1953 Bowman Color Set along with complete sets of ’54 & ’55 Topps” with fellow collector, Bill Klink (he hails from The South), for a “complete run of Philadelphia Phillies Yearbooks (1949 – 1969).” Among the other choice pieces of Cardboard that day were “a complete T-206 set, several Caramel Issues and many of the West Coast Regional Offerings.” All of the attendees had their niche in the Hobby. Ray Medieiros who was based in Lancaster, California specialized in rare Postcards and was recognized as a “expert photographer with hundreds of great negatives.” John J. Smith, a Banker from Diamond Bar, Cal., had been collecting autographs since 1939 and had amassed well over 100,000 signatures including (101) different Baseball Hall of Famers and (27) different US Presidents. In addition, Smith published an “Autograph Club” monthly newsletter that was mailed out to (200) collectors. Co-Promoter Jim Nowell collected Sport and Non-Sport Cards and had engineered trades that resulted in him acquiring complete sets of Dan Dee Potato Chips, Tacoma National Bank Regionals and Stahl Meyer Meats Cards. Great attention was paid to every last detail on this historic Day. After a brief Introduction Period, the (13) attendees converged into a discussion Group that was broken down into (3) Sessions: A, B & C. Session A covered topics like: Hobby Papers, Letter Writing Lettering and Wantlists and American Card Catalogue. After a brief recess where Jim Nowell’s Wife (Marjie) served “Dougohnuts and Coffee,” the Group Discussion resumed with Sessions B & C. Around 11:30 AM the Group disbanded and prepared for the “Elections.” The Official program came complete with Sample Ballots where attendees could vote for “Collector of the Year,” Paper of the Year (Candidates included: Ball Card Collectors, Sports Trader and The Trader Speaks among others) and for “Favorite Hobby Card Dealer” (Such luminaries as: James T. Elder of Odessa, Florida who is generally regarded as “The Godfather of Sports Publication Collecting”; Frank Nagy of Grosse Ile, Michigan; Goodwin “Goody” Goldfadden” who owns the unique distinction of having the “very 1st Hobby Card Store on Santa Monica Blvd. in Santa Monica, California). After the Buffet Lunch, the “Lucky 13” did a Group Picture Session followed by Exhibits, A small Auction and a Trading Session. After a quick Dinner (Sandwiches), the Group resumed with another Trading Session and the Gala Extravaganza concluded with a Closing Address by Jim Nowell. Looking back some (42) years after the very 1st Sports Card Convention, Collector Bill Klink, whose Hobby presence spans the better part of (5) decades recalled with a tinge of nostalgia that “the 1st Convention was about Trading, Relationships and Having Fun.” He further added, “we should be so lucky as to bring this back into the Hobby.”
The Gathering in Brea, California on that warm August Day in 1969 helped pave the way for other Conventions to launch and ultimately gain a foothold in the Hobby. Just one year later, The Midwest Sports Collectors Convention, with the likes of Don Steinbach, Frank Nagy, Mike Aronstein, Irv Lerner, Pat Quinn, etc in attendance, made its debut in Detroit. Lloyd Toerpe’s article that appeared in the 1972 Midwest Sports Collectors Convention Program noted “We had hopes of exceeding the 160 People in attendance at the 1971 Mini-Convention in Los Angeles in July.” Nearly 500 People entered the turnstiles over the course of (3) days, making the 1971 Midwest Sports Collectors Convention a resounding success. Bob Schmierer, a former High School Guidance Counselor from Maple Glen, Pennsylvania got into the act in 1974 with the inaugural EPSCC Show at Spring Garden College in downtown Philadelphia. A stickler to detail, Schmierer’s regime lasted for more than (30) years before Hunt Auctions bought the rights to the Show.

It stands to reason that there were probably other small gatherings that took place on or around this time in various locales around the Country. Some documented; others, impromptu meetings that were never intended to be anything more. But, for one day in August of 1969, the “Lucky 13” assembled at Jim Nowell’s House in Brea, California to lay claim to being “the very 1st Sports Collectors Convention.” Or, as one of the original attendees speaking on condition of anonymity said “We were the 1st, no doubt about it – (we) even got the Pictures to prove it.”

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**1964 Jim Bunning Perfect Game Program**

*1964 Jim Bunning Perfect Game Program* (It happened on June 21, 1964 (Father’s Day) at Shea Stadium. Jim Bunning (HOF) pitched a Perfect game against the hapless NY Mets. Program is scored neatly in pencil for the entire (9) innings. Uniform numbers rather than names written in line-ups. For example, # 9 = Jim Hickman; #33 = Ron Hunt; # 14 (for the Phillies) = Jim Bunning, etc. The former patron also noted in pencil above and to the right of scoring section “6/21/64 – Father’s Day – No hit, no run, perfect game – Jim Bunning.” In addition, “No Hitter – Perfect Game – 6/21/64” is written on front cover in pencil. Program shows much wear in the form of: cover wrinkling, mild to moderate staining in spots inside, folds/creases, etc. Staples show some rusting. Tear in upper left corner of back cover. Spine is tight. Program is full and complete. No cut-outs. Historically significant Program. Fair/Good condition) $125.00 + 3.99 S&H in the USA

**1950 Jackie Robinson (The Jackie Robinson Story) Original Mexican Movie Poster**

*1950 Jackie Robinson (The Jackie Robinson Story) Original Mexican Movie Poster* (Issued in conjunction with the Opening of the 1950 Jackie Robinson Story starring Jackie Robinson as himself; Ruby Dee as Rachel Robinson and Minor Watson as Branch Rickey. Poster is done in both English and Spanish. Great inset Photo of Jackie entering the Brooklyn Dodgers Locker-Room. Has the appropriate Film Distribution Serial Number at bottom (Reproductions don’t have this). Measures approx. 16.5” x 12.5” Has some tack holes in spots along the borders along with a few minor creases (along borders, as well). No major imperfections. Outstanding graphics throughout. Vg/Ex condition) $150.00 + $4.99 S&H in the USA
1961 – 1985 California Angels (Don Baylor) 25th Anniversary Poster

1961 California Angels 25th Anniversary Commemorative Poster with Don Baylor (Neat Angels item. Poster is done on thin grade cardboard (not flimsy paper). Measures approx: 11” x 16” The medium used for the Baylor artwork (originally, that is) appears to be watercolor. Poster was issued as part of a Silver Anniversary Sweepstakes to win “Original Angels Art.” The sponsors were: Straw Hat Pizza & LA’s Magic 106 FM Radio Station. Poster exhibits some light staining on borders and a few creases in spots. Nothing radically wrong with poster – just some light wear. Suitable for framing. Vg/Ex condition) $ 9.99 + 5.99 S&H in the USA

1920’s W529 Boxing Strip Cards

1920’s W529 Jack Dempsey Boxing Strip Card (Has a crease running down the center. Hand cut from Strip Corner wear. Blank back. Fair/Good) $ 10.00

1920’s W529 Benny Leonard Boxing Strip Card (Lower left corner appears to be shaved/trimmed. Crease running horizontally from side to side in center. Blank back. Upper right corner wear. Fair/Good) $ 8.00

1920’s W529 Lou Tendler Boxing Strip Card (Has a crease running across center from side to side. Other smaller creases in spots. Hand cut from strip. Blank back. Good/Vg condition) $ 8.00

1920’s W529 Johnny Kilbane Boxing Strip Card (Has (3) distinctive creases running horizontally from side to side. Hand cut from Strip. Good/Vg cond) $ 8.00

1920’s W529 Joe Beckett Boxing Strip Card (Irregularly cut/trimmed along right border. Some generalized wear. Fair condition) $ 5.00

1925 Pittsburgh Pirates (World Champions) Framed Team Display Piece

1925 Pittsburgh Pirates (World Champions) Framed & Matted Team Display Piece (Extraordinary 1925 Pittsburgh Pirates (World Champions) Framed Team Display Piece. Marquee names: Hazen “KiKi” Cuyler, Harold “Pie” Traynor, Fred C. Clarke, Max Carey, Stuffy McInnis, Bill McKechnie, Fresco Thompson, Charles (Babe) Adams, George Haas, Barney Dreyfuss, Johnny Gooch, etc. Has been professionally matted and framed. Outside dimensions of frame: Approx. 15.5” x 23” Interior mat: Approx: 10.5” x 17.5” Names listed under Photo. This was actually an insert from The Pittsburgh Sun. NOT a newspaper; regular stock paper. Has (3) distinctive folds lines that run from top to bottom. Equipped with special UV Resistant Glass. Wire hanger on back for immediate display. Museum quality piece. Ex) $ 150.00 + $ 15.00 (S&H) in USA
1911 T3 Turkey Red Card RAYMOND – NY Nationals

1911 T3 Turkey Red Card Raymond – NY Nationals  (From the fabled T3 Turkey Red Cabinet Series comes this dynamic issue from 1911. #113 Raymond of the NY National League Ballclub. Has a pin-hole at very top. Black scuff mark on right side. Additional light creasing and light wear on front. On the back is some light to moderate staining. The name “Thomas” is inscribed in the upper right corner of back. Slight irregular border pattern on right. Despite wear still a great looking Cabinet Card. Good condition)  $ 69. 99 + FREE S&H

1950’s/60’s Big Lot of (7) Graded Cards


1963 World Series of Tennis (Rod Laver, Ken Rosewall, Barry MacKay, et al) Official Program

1963 World Series of Tennis Official Program  (1963 Pro Tour that was under the auspices of The International Professional Tennis Players Association – Tony Trabert: Series Director. (32) pages. Large size Program that features biographical accounts on the likes of: Laver, Rosewall, MacKay, Buchholz, Jr., etc. Some minor page wrinkling at very bottom (not pronounced or widespread). Ex)  $ 9. 99 + $ 3.99 S&H

1952 Philadelphia Athletics Roster Folder with Season Ticket Application Forms

1952 Philadelphia Athletics Roster Folder with Season Ticket Application Forms  (1952 A’s Fold-out Roster with (10) pages (includes both covers). Superb White Elephant graphics on front. Center Roster section is loose but present and accounted for and includes: Gus Zernial, Eddie Joost, Bobby Shantz, George Kell, Elmer Valo, etc. Ex condition. Ticket application Forms are unblemished and in Ex+ condition)  $ 19. 99 + $ 1.99 S&H in the USA.

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1950 Cornell University Basketball Programs Big Lot of (6)


1950’s Ted Williams Havoline Motor Oil Mounted & Shrink-Wrapped Display Ad

1950’s Ted Williams Havoline Motor Oil Mounted & Shrink-Wrapped Display Ad (It’s Splendid. 1950’s Ted Williams full page, color display ad that has been mounted onto a polystyrene backing board and shrink-wrapped. Measures approx: 11” x 14.5”. Great color shot of Williams with that Classic Follow-Through. Instant display piece. CLASSIC CORNER RECOMMENDATION: For approximately $ 2.00, or less, you can purchase a sticky-back wall mount kit. Just apply to the back and hang on the wall. Hi-tech applicators DO NOT damage walls or leave unsightly marks. Simply remove if you wish to move piece with walls remaining in gleaming shape. Ex condition) $ 9.99 + $ 4.99 S&H in USA

1981 World Series of Golf Official Program


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