

Mike Callas

PRESS Sports

CHATting WITH ANGEL OWNER GENE AUTRY

PALM SPRINGS: For the past three years Gene Autry, who won world-wide fame in the movies as a singing cowboy, has been in almost regular attendance at Dodger home games. The first two years he behaved like a member of the Dodger organization; his radio station KMPC broadcast the games. In '60 O'Malley switched to KFI and Gene became a guest on the field. Today he's the proud owner of a baseball team, the Angels, and its number one fan, as witnessed by the following taped interview:

When did you and Reynolds decide to buy the Los Angeles franchise in the American League?

Actually we didn't set out to buy anything but radio rights. That is, we had talked to Hank Greenberg about broadcasting the Angel games on KMPC when he made his trip out here to talk with O'Malley. Our negotiations continued when we followed him back to the American League meetings.

Did Hank agree to broadcast the games on your station? He didn't have time to look over our presentation. Hank gave up his claim to the franchise.

Then what happened? Reynolds and I got into our tepee and finally decided to buy the franchise ourselves.

In other words, you had to buy a baseball team in order to radio the games?

That's exactly what happened.

ANGELS WILL SURPRISE
The Polo Grounds here in Palm Springs is a beautiful field. What arrangement do you have with the city as to its use?

A percentage of the receipts of spring training games. The Chamber of Commerce and numerous other folks have been wonderful. Bill Rigney, our skipper, thinks the field is the best spring training grounds he has ever managed on.

How about the team, Gene? Most of the reporters here feel you have last place cinched.

Everyone is entitled to their opinion, of course, but a lot of folks are going to be surprised with our league play this year. We'll finish better than last.

HUNT GOOD PROSPECT
Do you think you'll draw better than a million at Wrigley Field?

That's what we are hoping for and I think we'll make it.

Is that why you bought Steve Bilko? To assure that gate?

Partly. But we think Big Steve will come into his own. He never really got the chance to prove his ability.

Of the minor league players in camp, who do you believe has the most potential?

When we talked with Casey Stengel about managing the Angels, Case told us that Ken Hunt, an outfielder, showed the most promise. By the looks of him here in Palm Springs, I think Casey is right. Most of these players deserve being on a major league team but take Hunt's case in particular. Would you bench Mickey Mantle in order to play a rookie like Hunt? So you see the players we have needed the expansion of the American League. This way they'll get a chance to play regularly.

Do you like baseball, or is this venture just a business one.

I got interested in baseball back in the days of Dizzy Dean and I've followed the game since; but no one likes to throw away money. In two or three years we'll give the Los Angeles public a winning team. The money we make now will be reinvested in players and farm system to achieve that goal.

FISCHER ELECTED

Robert Edward Fischer, CPA, 21109 South Doble Ave., Torrance, has been elected a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Fischer is with the Los Angeles office of Arthur Young & Compan.

CHAINS INVEST

According to Chain Store Age, the chains will spend more than \$58 million on refrigerated cases for new stores during this year. Close to half of it will go for meat cases to insure housewives of well-protected fresh red meats.

Warriors' Fifth Practice Game Set for Tomorrow

Golfers from El Camino College will tread the fairways with Santa Barbara City College tomorrow in their fifth practice match of the young season.

With two practice games won and two other matches lost, the Warrior six-man squad coached by Al Greenleaf is already falling behind the blazing season the golf team experienced last year, when it finished second in the Metropolitan Conference by one-half game.

Last week the aggregation of club-swingers lost its first Metro clash of the season to 1960 winner, Santa Monica, 43 to 8. Last season the Warriors defeated the Corsairs in their first game of the season.

BEAT COMPTON
At a three-way practice meet held at Palos Verdes Country Club, El Camino's par 71 home course, the Warriors turfmen defeated Compton College, 28 to 8, and Orange Coast College, 31 to 5.

Low scoring for El Camino was turned in by Spencer Beard, fifth man for the locals. Beard carded a 39-39-78 round to share low for the day with Tom McInerney from the Compton College clan.

Other Camino scores at the dual golf get-together were Don White, 90; Les Warr, 84; Bill Cartnal, 81; John Kelly, 81, and Rich Loretta, 82. Low

Warriors Clash Tomorrow With Orange Coast

El Camino College baseballers will be out for revenge when the Pirates from Orange Coast J.C. invade the Warrior diamond Friday, for the second pre-season meeting of the two clubs.

Orange Coast handled the Indians a 12-1 setback in the first game, but the second contest promises to be closer.

The pirates were state champions last year and still sport a tremendously powerful nine. They unleashed a victorious 14-hit attack against ECC in the initial bill, and the Pirate pitching staff stymied El Camino with only six hits.

Tuesday, the Indians will don their traveling uniforms and take a long bus trip to meet Mt. SAC for the ninth practice contest of the pre-season.

On the week-end of March 10-11 the Warriors will trek to US at Santa Barbara. Monday, March 13, EC will play host to the USC varsity on the Warrior's field.

The Metropolitan Conference tournament will start March 16 at Blair Field in Long Beach.

League play begins Tuesday March 21, when ECC travels to East L. A. J. C.

RUTH LEAGUE TRYOUTS

Hopefuls who wish to make the Torrance Babe Ruth League teams this year, ages 13, 14 and 15, are urged to attend a try-out and registration session Saturday morning at Del Amo Field.

Casson also stated that there will be a meeting of the League's Board of Directors March 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Steelworker's Hall.



Jerry Homel of Gable House invited this reporter to attend the official ground breaking ceremonies last Monday for the new bowling stadium to be built next to the Jefferson Bowl in Culver City.

MANY CELEBRITIES

Leonard Homel originally started the idea of bringing well known bowlers together in order to form a National Bowling League. Homel's team, L.A. Toros, will represent the Los Angeles County as the Rams do in the sport of football.

On hand for the official ceremonies were members of the press, photographers and camera men, the mayor of Culver City, contractors and builders, star players, members from Brunswick and staff, Bill Welsh of KTTV, and many others.

Among the star bowlers attending were Fred Riccili, Norm Meyers, Billy Myers, Dick Jensen and Don Glinkski. Photos were taken of the crowd along with Juli Redding, Miss Greater Los Angeles Press Club.



After a sufficient hole had been dug and photographers had used up their flash bulbs, a press meeting was held.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Leonard Homel introduced everyone attending the meeting, gave a brief background talk, and then discussed what was to happen with the league in the very near future.

He introduced Ralph Tucker, owner of the Fresno Bombers team, and Dick Charles, commissioner of the bowling league.

After a few brief talks, Homel threw the meeting open to questions and answers.

- Q. Price of tickets?
- A. Not yet decided.
- Q. How many nights a week will be team bowl?
- A. Five nights except Monday and Thursday—these are reserved for traveling.
- Q. How long does the season last?
- A. Six months.
- Q. Will there be TV and radio coverage?
- A. Yes, there will be 39 TV shows over a 26 week period.
- Q. Will there be parking facilities?
- A. Yes, in Bowl lot, adjoining lots and on the street parking—just like at the Coliseum or Sports Arena.
- Q. What will the new stadium be like?
- A. There will be 4 lanes for these exhibition matches or special tournaments. The ceiling will be sound proofed, building will have floating construction, seats will be on sloped floor—narrow in back and wide in front, 60 per cent of seats will be located behind bowlers—30 per cent on sides and the rest in left field near the pins.

END OF MEETING

These were just a few of the questions and answers asked of Leonard Homel and Dick Charles. Many of the answers are not definite yet until the official meeting scheduled March 6 and 7 in Miami. The star bowlers were asked whether pressure would be a problem due to the many spectators on hand?

Norm Meyers said he thought it would work out real well. In his opinion it was more fun to have people near the lanes.

Dick Jensen said no, the spectators wouldn't bother him if he could just get that first ball thrown without his legs shaking—after that, he would be all right.

Fred Riccili and Billy Myers agreed with Dick about the nervousness, but they hoped this league would make bowlers happy and in turn the stars would have an incentive to knock down more pins.

To ensure a perfect ending, a delicious buffet luncheon was served where we had the opportunity to get acquainted with the bowling stars and the people behind the scenes.

I was fortunate to talk with Dick Jensen and Billy Myers, and was interested to hear about their bowling problems, how often they bowled, averages, and what horrible splits they occasionally left. This goes to prove no matter how expert he may be, there are off and on days for everyone.

One final thought, which was brought out by Ralph Tucker, was the fact that more people can participate in bowling than any other sport. What other sport can you watch a pro, then grab a ball and try it yourself?

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CORONATION CEREMONY—The Torrance "Over 50 Bowling Club" early this week selected two of their number to reign over club activities during the coming year. Here Earl Queen receives his crown from her highness Sylvia Hilliker. Group of "over 50" sports enthusiasts meets weekly at Gable House Bowl for bowling instruction and competitive games. Prizes for the two were donated by Allen Jewelers, Jerry Homel, manager of Gable House, Kolbos Restaurant, and by the Brunswick manufacturing company.

Supervisor Chace Reports Approval For Golf Course

Supervisor Burton W. Chace this week announced approval of preliminary plans and specifications for the Los Verdes Golf Course Clubhouse.

Building, which will contain approximately 17,532 gross square feet, will include a dining hall for 240 people, a banquet room seating 92, and a coffee shop and lounge. Adjoining this concession area will be the professional shop area, with space for a golf pro-shop and men's and women's locker and shower rooms.

Chace said cost of construction will be \$331,877. Preliminary estimate of \$312,442 had to be increased because of the soil condition, making caissons and grade beam construction necessary, and because the general golf course planning had not been developed at that time, exact grades for the building site were not available.

Pony Leaguers Slate Tryouts For Saturday

Tryouts for the Pacific-Rivera Pony baseball league will be held on Saturday morning, at 9 a.m. Meet is scheduled at Kissel Field, located at 4000 Pacific Coast Highway.

Boys in the 13 and 14 year old bracket who wish to play in the coming season must attend. Parents should accompany the boys as their signature and birth certificate or equivalent is necessary.

League will consist of six teams and the opening date has been set for Sunday April 30. It was announced by the incoming president John Creviston. Also on the board is Weldon Thompson, secretary; John Bebbing, treasurer; Leo LaPorte, player's agent; Walt Delaney, field manager; Harold Estabrook, equipment manager; and Clyde McArthur, publicity.

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