



Golden Hill in a League of its Own!

By Michelle Blodgett

Excitement and anticipation were abuzz at ball field on the morning of Saturday, March 3rd, as over 500 little league players, together with their families and friends, celebrated Opening Day of the 2007 Season of Golden Hill Little League.

The ceremony began with a parade of 45 teams, comprised of players ranging in age from five to sixteen. From the smallest t-ball players to the nearly full grown junior level players, enthusiasm could be felt and all were ready for the ceremonious first pitch and the fun that ensued.

The Opening Day Ceremony was also attended by various dignitaries and special guests. California Senator Lou Correa took time out of his busy schedule to attend the ceremony to present and dedicate a United States flag to the League.

Fullerton Mayor Protem Sharon Quirk and Councilmember Pam Keller were on hand to show their support.

The honorary guest speaker this year was Rick Vanderhook, Assistant Coach of the California State University Fullerton Titan baseball team. Vanderhook emphasized to the players that by enjoying the game and establishing good playing habits now, they will enjoy baseball for many years to come. He was joined by two players, Junior Wes Roemer and Freshman Sean Urena, both current roster pitchers for the Titans.

Sunny Hills student, Alex Geringer, sang a stunning rendition of the National Anthem and closed the ceremony by leading everyone in the traditional singing of "Take Me Out To The Ballgame". When the ceremony ended, the players were ready to "play ball!"

Golden Hill Little League has been offering baseball opportunities for children in the City of Fullerton for over 50 years. Many of the League's current coaches, volunteers and parents have played on the exact fields that their children play on today.

Current Board President, Kurt Blodgett, is a prime example of alumni. Living only one block from the fields during his childhood, he recalls days spent playing and watching games at Unocal Field. "To stand here today, conducting Opening Ceremonies, I have to tell you that Golden Hill has a very special place in my heart. I have such fond memories of my time in little league, and it is incredible to coach my two young sons on the very fields that I played on," said Blodgett.

The Golden Hill Little League program is a self-supporting, non-profit organization that derives its success from strong family participation and community involvement. It privately maintains two of the most professional looking youth baseball fields in Orange County. Year after year, through an exceptional partnership with community sponsors and the League's network of volunteer boardmembers, coaches, and team parents, funds are raised and a tremendous amount of work is accomplished that facilitates a relatively seamless season of baseball. Due to this joining together for a common purpose, both working and playing together, many strong relationships and lifelong friendships are made.

In addition to the baseball program, Golden Hill Little League also offers a distinctive umpire training program. It was founded by then Umpire-In-Chief and current League Vice President Steve Byrens in 2003. At that time it trained interested youth to officiate at games. In 2005, under the direction of current Umpire-In-Chief Tony Mannara, Jr., along with Byrens, it evolved to include adults. The program offers a professional style all-day Field Clinic and full 3-month classroom curriculum known as the Golden Hill Baseball Officials Association (GHBOA). By educating individuals both within and outside of the organization in the art of officiating, it has trained a pool of highly qualified umpires. Through GHBOA, Umpire-In-Chief Mannara works diligently to schedule officials for the myriad of games that are played throughout the season.

The focus of the Golden Hill Little League is to make each player's experience one of lifelong positive memories. "I feel fortunate my boys have the opportunity to play in a league that cares so much about the kids," commented Coach and parent of two, Jon Miller. Little League strives to teach our children various life-skills, emphasizing teamwork, good sportsmanship and the pride that comes from doing the best that you can to succeed.

If you would like to be a part of Golden Hill Little League's top notch youth baseball program, consider sponsoring a team or take part in the upcoming Golf Tournament that will take place at Coyotes Hills Golf Course on May 9th. Please contact the League at 714-680-8634, with any questions or visit the web-site at www.ghll.net.

FULLERTON GHOSTS

Rob and Anne Wlodarski have recently completed their 17th book on the paranormal, entitled *Fullerton Ghosts*. It's a tribute Rob's hometown. His parents, Matt and Hank Wlodarski, still live on a quiet avenue in Fullerton, where they have dwelled for over 50 years; and by the way, their house is haunted!

Fullerton Ghosts is a response in part to the very successful Haunted Fullerton Walking Ghost Tours run by Aimee Aul of the Fullerton Museum Center and her talented staff. Aul has been the Museum Educator at the Fullerton Museum Center since 1998 and continues to act as ghost mistress and lead tour guide for the seasonal event. Aul was very instrumental in helping us get this book into print.

The authors, with the help of their own paranormal research group (the International Paranormal Research Organization - IPRO), the San Diego Ghost Hunters, local business owners, and Cathy Thomas of the Launer Local History Room, Fullerton Public Library, were able to investigate and research stories from various establishments in Fullerton. Through interviews and investigations, the history and hauntings and spirits of Fullerton finally came to life.



Lois Weber, America's first woman filmmaker lived in Fullerton.



Goodwin lived in Fullerton and wrote her first book here.

The names of George Fullerton, the Ameriges and Charles C. Chapman are forever etched in the landscape of this historic city. At Amerige Park, Hall of Famers Walter Johnson and John Honus Wagner played baseball; trial lawyer William Jennings Bryan addressed the high school student body in 1917; philanthropist Doris Tennant Wescott graduated from Fullerton Union High School; Clarence Leo Fender, father of the Fender Stratocaster played by Buddy Holly, Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton, grew up here; Lois Weber, America's first woman filmmaker resided in Fullerton; the first women's chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America was formed in Hillcrest Park; African-American author Ruby Goodwin wrote her first book in Fullerton; the Los Angeles Angels trained at Amerige Park in 1947; and pioneer aviators William and Richard Dowling helped establish the Fullerton Airport, the oldest and largest general aviation airfield still in its original location in Orange County. Fullerton represents



Leo Fender, grew up here.



The California Hotel (now Villa del Sol)

a unique historical blend of business and industry, parks and recreation, oil and agriculture, homes and mansions, libraries, schools and churches. The celebrations and special events that have taken place here since the 1880s are an integral part Fullerton's heritage. This special link to the past is on full display in the numerous protected and preserved historic buildings that dot the local landscape. In Fullerton, the present and past continually cross paths. The city conjures up nostalgic reminiscences of a bygone era. It also conjures up GHOSTS!

Fullerton Ghosts is filled to the brim with



Fox Fullerton Theater

accounts of other-worldly confrontations and also contains: A history of the city; Paranormal accounts from 22 haunted locations; A map of selected historic Downtown Fullerton locations and important Fullerton information; What to do if you see a ghost; and a ghost hunters kit.

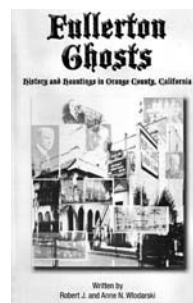


Plummer Auditorium

The book is currently for sale at the Fullerton Museum and Angelo's and Vinci's Ristorante. Hopefully locals will also be able to find copies at Le Potager, the Muckenthaler Cultural Center and the Fullerton College Bookstore. You can also purchase a signed copy by contacting the

authors as follows:

Rob and Anne Wlodarski, G-Host Publishing, 8701 Lava Place, West Hills, California 91304 Phone: 818-340-6676 email: robanne@ix.net-com. *Happy Haunting!*



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