

1964: Recap on New York Giants' visit to S.C.

History

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Sentinel is celebrating its 150th year in 2006 by reaching into our archives to republish some of the noteworthy stories out of the past. The following article was printed in the Sentinel on March 29, 1964.

By MILDRED ANN SMITH
SENTINEL WOMAN'S EDITOR

32 years ago today was a big day in the history of Santa Cruz. John McGraw,

owner-manager of the famed New York Giants, brought his ball team here to play an exhibition game against the Seattle Indians.

Santa Cruz had a new ball park on Water Street, site of the present medical center, where the Seattle Indians were in spring training.

Late Santa Cruz promoter, Fred Swanton, then mayor, arranged for the ball club's stop here, the only one between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

In a Sentinel front-page story, Mayor Swanton urged all business and professional men to make arrangements for their employees to have free time to see the game. Children were given a part holiday from school too.

A picture of McGraw was taken at the Big Trees where the Giants stopped on their way into town. Though small in stature, McGraw was a big man in baseball. He took over the Giants in 1904 and at the time of his visit here

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under his leadership his ball club had won 10 National league pennants and three world championships.

The game here in 1932 wasn't the first time the Giants played in Santa Cruz. A Sentinel reporter, doing a little checking, found that the Giants "invaded California on a barnstorming tour in 1888 and visited Santa Cruz." That game was played at the old Dolphin grounds against the California State league all-stars.