

## Don Randel Baseball Clip Transcript

Don Randel: I played Little League baseball when I was younger, middle school. Maybe freshman high school. Panama was a big baseball place, and so they had a professional league in the winter season. The winter leagues of Panama, and my father and two other guys and a ball club in that league. It was a funny situation, because the team that my father and his partners owned had only imported players, that is, players from the United States who would come down and play winter ball, and the other teams were made of entirely Panama and or Latin American ball players. How that came to be I don't quite understand. So, I went to many baseball games, and so did some number of my friends. I would sit in the dugout with these ball players sometimes. I learned a lot of words that I shouldn't have learned at that age.

Betsy Bemis: Do you remember the name of the Ball Club?

Don Randel: Yes, it was called Carta Vieja, which was the name of a rum made in Panama, and one of the partners was the managing partner if not the owner of the rum company. And everything, every play or everything that could happen in a ball game had the name of a sponsor attached to it. So, if you hit a home run, it was a jonrón Carta Vieja, and if you got a base hit, it was a base hit Chesterfield. Chesterfield cigarettes was one of the other teams.

Betsy Bemis: Did you enjoy Little League baseball? Were you a part of—didn't the Canal Zone team go to the World Series at one point?

Don Randel: I never was on that team, but I played a team called the Fireman, which was sponsored by the fire department, and there was a police department team, a Sears and Roebuck team that was managed by the manager of the Sears and Roebuck store in Panama, which was a catalogue store only. So, yes, when I was in middle school, end of grade school, middle school, baseball was very serious, and my piano lessons were called off during baseball season.

Don Randel: My team was the Fireman and the coach, the two coaches of the team, or the main coach of the team was, in fact, a fireman.

Betsy Bemis: Did you ever play sports that were maybe more unique to the community in Panama, say cricket, which I know was a significant part of the West Indian community

Don Randel: I never played cricket myself, but my father sponsored a cricket team. All the teams had sponsors, so, Seymour Agency was the sponsor of a cricket team which we used to go watch once in a while.