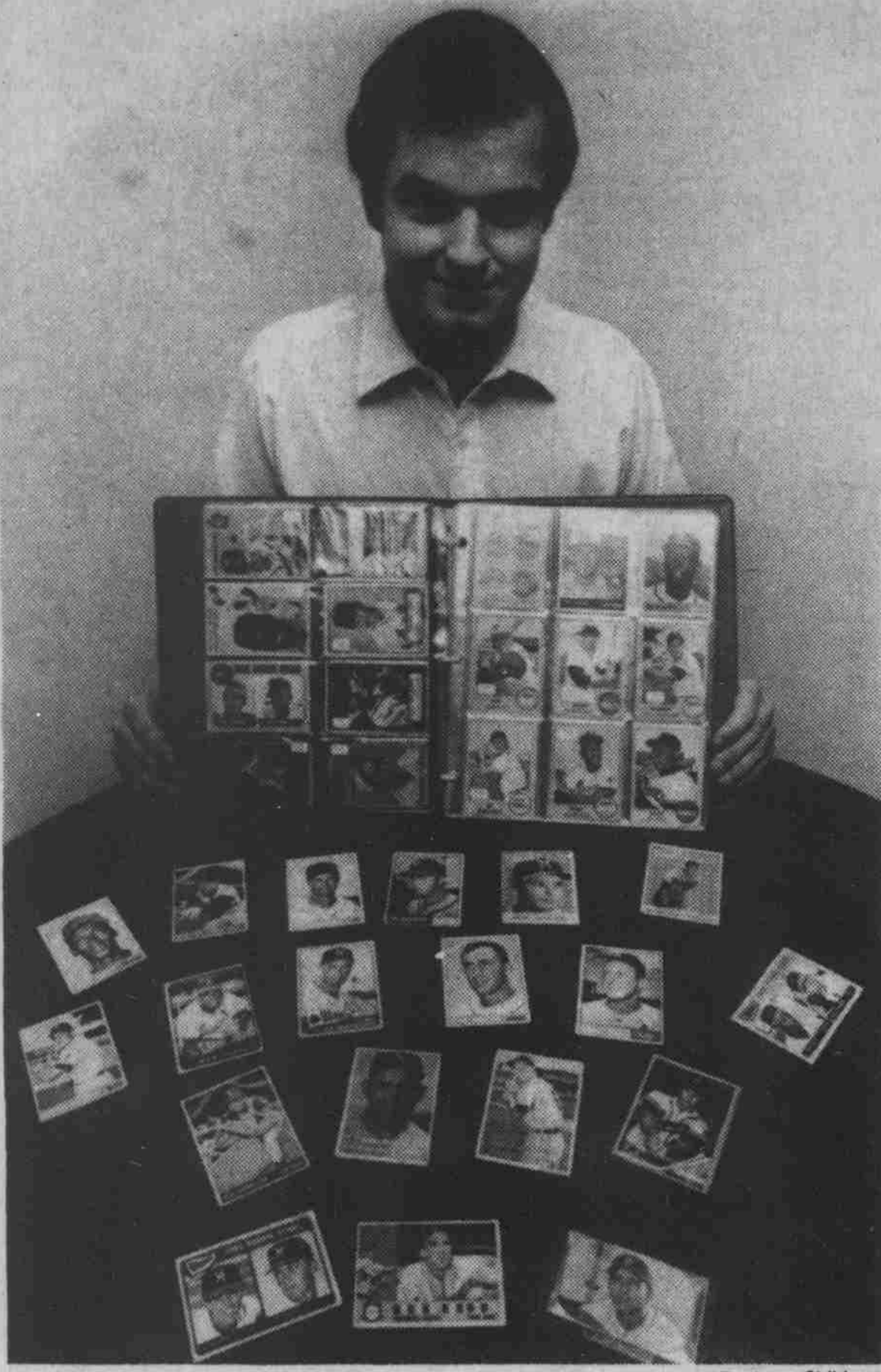


Paying the price for a piece of baseball history



Ted Carlton displaying some of his favorite baseball cards

By LOUIS CORRIGAN
Staff Writer

Big-time television contracts led to greater exposure, which led to cocky heads, which led to seven-digit contracts, which led some to court on drug charges. And somehow that corner-lot game of little boys knocking around a ball with a wooden bat just wasn't the same anymore.

As baseball has become a money sport, collecting baseball cards has become a money hobby, even an investment for some. The business of collecting leaves a taste as funny as new Coke with old-time collectors. "I'm disgusted with it, to tell you the truth," said Ted Carlton, an N.C. Highway Patrol officer and card collector in the Chapel Hill area.

Carlton started collecting baseball cards when he was a boy. "My cousin had a bunch of cards he was throwing away. They were just lying on the floor of the garage. He said, 'If you want them, then you can have them.'"

Since then, Carlton has collected thousands of cards from convenience-store bubblegum packages, trades and flea markets.

In the early years of his collecting, Carlton said, he would trade duplicate cards for cards he did not have. There were no glossy price guides around to advise him of the financial soundness of his deals. Love of the game and of those tiny little statistics and trivia were his main motivations.

The new business of the hobby has, according to Carlton, "just changed the whole outlook of card collecting." Collecting has become more popular, but cards have become as much a commodity as an interesting piece in the American dreamscape. *The Wall Street Journal* has examined their investment

value, and some have compared them favorably to money-market accounts.

"Kids can't even afford to buy cards today," Carlton said, citing 1985 Dwight Gooden cards that already sell for \$5.50.

Paul Snow, owner of Paper Heroes Past 'n' Present in the Raleigh Flea Market, curiously disdained the business element of collecting, yet he's in the business.

Snow sells to new and hard-core collectors from his stock of 500,000 to 600,000 cards. "What they all have in common is they like baseball," he said.

"Some people come in and collect just for the monetary reason, which, in my opinion, is the wrong way to collect," Snow said. He started collecting when he was a boy and said he thought the only reason anyone should collect baseball cards was for the enjoyment.

Snow explained that, though collector shows have existed since the 1960s, the boom in the business came around 1980 when the first comprehensive price guides were published. He started Paper Heroes four years ago and has seen the card collecting industry grow.

"It's made collecting easier because there are more places for people to buy cards now," Snow said. Baseball cards are sold at flea markets, in coin and stamp shops, in used-record shops and at annual conventions.

Little boys may start ignoring the pretty marble colors of the cards when they find a Dwight Gooden next to the bubblegum. Dealers may purchase whole sets in bulk for about \$17 per set from the manufacturers with the intent of making a huge profit in the future. Still, the old-time collectors may be the most affected by the rising monetary value of baseball cards.

Snow opened his shop, and Carlton admits he

probably would not still collect cards except for the monetary value. Money adds another dimension of mystery and interest to the hobby, and a particularly American one at that.

Learning what cards are valuable and why teaches people as much about baseball as the cards themselves.

Cards in the 1985 series for common players — those considered average — list at 3 cents each. Cards for players with some future stardom expected of them list at 7 cents to 15 cents to much more.

Rookie cards are likely to increase most in value, while cards for the best and most popular players fetch the highest prices. An MVP season increases a player's card value the same way it increases high salary demands. A card's condition also figures into the price.

Carlton's 1975 Robin Yount rookie card goes for \$16.50 because Yount is one of only a couple of active players with a theoretical shot at breaking Pete Rose's new all-time hit record. A 1963 Rose "Rookie Stars" card in Carlton's collection lists at \$400.

Carlton has sold or traded thousands of cards to get better ones and values his collection at "a couple of thousand dollars."

Paging through his booklet of cards reminds one of the history of baseball itself: Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle, Mike Schmidt and dozens of other legends.

But when Carlton says, "Cards have the history of baseball," it seems clear he means more than just the faces and the statistics.

Bob Uecker was not much of a player, but now that he is making the big bucks from Miller Lite's television advertisements, his card has shot up to a \$1.65 list price.

Public library to hold annual book auction

By KERSTIN COYLE
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Public Library is holding its 15th annual rare book auction and sale Oct. 13-15. More than 18,000 books and 50 rare collectibles will be available.

"Bells, Books and Bargains is the theme of this year's sale, which features books for all tastes, all ages, all needs and all whims," said Taffy Bodman, chairman of the sale and auction.

A bell ringing concert of the Bookworm Brigade will officially open the sale. The Brigade, six women interested in books as things to love and own, have participated in the sale and auction for 15 years.

Fifty rare and special editions will be auctioned Sunday at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the library, located at 610 East Franklin St. There will be a preview of collectibles, which includes a signed first edition of Faulkner's "Go Down Moses" and a Shirley Temple edition of "The Little Colonel."

"Donations feature an unusually high

number of art and craft gems, specialized up-to-date scientific treasures, a large assortment of travel and nature books plus cookbooks galore," Bodman said. "We also have dictionaries from American to Thai, a fine collection of children's literature and lots of fiction."

There are 31 categories of books available, including a large collection of novels, garden, how-to and travel books. Most books will be half-priced all day Tuesday.

"We have set our goal at \$15,000 for the 15th book sale," she said. "Last year's 14th sale raised the profits to \$100,000."

All proceeds go to the Chapel Hill Public Library, but it is not the only local agency to benefit from the sale,

Bodman said. The Chapel Hill-Carrboro public schools benefit because the librarians have first pick of the books on sale, she said. Junior and senior high school teachers may select free books for their resource libraries, and any books not sold are donated to PTA Thrift Shops, whose profits go to the schools.

Librarians are invited to a pre-sale from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday, and junior and senior high school teachers may select free books after 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Jean Seaman, co-chairman of the book sale, said that shoppers should bring their own boxes, bags or backpacks to carry their purchases.

Security

from page 1

Jimmy Greene said, "For this program to work, it has to go through you (the students)." Greene is one of the Campus Governing Council representatives for Granville's district and chairman of the CGC's committee on campus security. "We're not trying to create a vigilante force or anything."

Other CGC representatives will be going to meetings in the dormitories or residence areas in their districts during the next several weeks. Posters and lists of precautions will also be posted in dormitories and around campus.

Courtney Sanders, Granville's governor, said she thought the program was a good way to raise students' awareness, but it would probably have a slow start.

"When you see someone, you don't want to make a mistake and call the police," she said.

Amy Wheless, fourth floor president of Granville East, said the program would work as long as students cooperate and publicity remained high.

"Like a lot of things, it can be real gung ho for a couple of months (then die out)," she said.

The phone number for the University police is 962-6565. For emergencies in Chapel Hill, including Granville, students should call 911.

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B.B.Q., Brunswick Stew & Slaw Platter	2.85
6 oz. Hamburger Steak with Sautéed Onions	1.75
Spaghetti & Homemade Meat Sauce	1.60
Veal Parmegian	1.85
Veal Parmegian & Spaghetti	2.85
1/4 Fried Chicken	1.65
1/4 BBQ Chicken	1.65

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Country Fried Steak & Gravy	1.40
Meat Loaf (Homemade)	1.50
Turkey & Dressing	1.60
Fried Chicken Livers	1.40
2 Franks & Bean & Bacon Casserole	1.50
Pot Roast with Vegetables	2.40
Beef Stew	1.95
Broiled Fish Parmegian	1.75
Kielbasa & Sausage	1.95
Baked Ham	1.65
Stuffed Pepper	1.60
Chicken Pot Pie	1.65
Beef Tips over Rice	2.25

Every Friday and Saturday

Fried Trout	1.45
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Fried Shrimp	3.25
Sampler Platter	All 3 with slaw 4.95

Breakfast

Egg cooked to order	.40
Bacon Slice	.30
Sausage	.50
Country Steak	.85
Kielbasa (Polish Sausage)	.85
Corned Beef Hash	.95
Cured Ham	1.10
Country Ham	.85
Chipped Beef	1.10
Gravy	.45
Biscuit & Gravy	.65
Pancakes	2 for 1.25

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Creamed Potatoes	.60
French Fried Potatoes	.60
Home Fried Potatoes	.60
Pinto Beans	.60
Blackeyed Peas	.60
Butter Beans	.60
Snap Beans	.60
Creamed Corn	.60
Carrots	.60
Squash	.60
Fried Okra	.60
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Pies	.70
Carrot Cake	.85
German Chocolate Cake	.85

Grits	.45
Hash Browns	.60
Biscuit (Homemade Fresh Daily)	.25
Toast Slice	.20
Butter or Margarine	.05
Jelly	.05

Beverages

Coffee	8 oz. .35
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Juice	Orange - Grapefruit - Tomato .50
Fountain Sodas	12 oz. .50
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Iced Tea	20 oz. .50

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