

## Three Strikes You're Out (Again)

Jane Roland

*Animal Tales  
Other Random Thoughts*



I wrote his column a couple of years ago and have repeated it; however, it is that time again. Spring Training, the Giants have added to the roster and, of course, we hope that they win most games and the pennant. However, win or lose they are my boys of summer. I love them and Buster's image hangs in the shop. So here we go again.

"Yesterday I had the great pleasure to meet Mike Krukow, the godfather of the groom at a gorgeous wedding we attended. I cannot resist publishing it again in his honor and for your enjoyment as you anticipate our boys of summer returning in a few days

When most of us think of "The Boys of Summer" during this Olympic season and the success of "The Boys in the Boat," then a Ken Burn's special we visualize the nine boys from Washington who pulled a miraculous win in 1936. But I think of the Giants. Our boys of summer who win or lose, we still love them. Perhaps this is not true of those who plunk down big stakes on the outcome. However, I can equate with our own children. We are happy when they do well but forgive if they do not and wait for the next challenge (obviously I am speaking of the normal parent not the fanatics who push their youngsters to be the best and rant if they are not).

The San Francisco Giants came into my life in the fifties when Willie McCovey became a star and my baseball friends were enthralled. But I must confess I wasn't hooked until sometime in the seventies when it was either watch or read. Now I do a little of both depending on the games. I truly adore them, warts and all, as it were. I have grieved over the transformation of Brian Wilson and the perfidy of The Panda. We thrilled over the pitching of "Woody," Schmidt, Nen, Lincecum, Cain and now Bumgarner. I won't go into other team members except the two Brandon's, Pagan, Pence, Panik and of course Posey - whose photo hangs in my office. I know I have forgotten many favorites but write them in. There is one constant with the Giants, one that we adore and that is the broadcasting team of Duane Kuiper and Mike Krukow (Jon Miller and Dave Flemming are not too shabby either but Kruk and Kuip are our boys). Both were stars on the field prior to their turn behind the mike and in front of the podium. They are also heroic in their personal story.

"After his playing career, Krukow became a radio and television sportscaster. He began broadcasting as an occasional color analyst for KNBR radio in 1990 and became a full-time broadcaster in 1994. He is a seven-time Emmy award winner. "Kruk," who was named as the starting right-handed pitcher to the 1980s Giants All-Decade Team in a vote by Bay Area media in 1999, is noted for his deep knowledge of the game and tremendous sense of humor. He is known for his detailed scouting reports on umpires' strike zones, is often teased by his broadcasting colleagues throughout the major leagues for having "majestic hair", [Part of the San Francisco Giants broadcasting team, Krukow is half of the duo dubbed "Kruk and Kuip," (pronounced "Kruke" and "Kipe") along with game-day Duane Kuiper, a former Giants teammate. Krukow and Kuiper tape a game-day commentary ("Kruk and Kuip on baseball") for KNBR radio as part of the Giants' pre-game radio coverage. Notably, although Kruk was a pitcher and Kuiper was a position player, Kruk has five career home runs, four more than Kuip (who managed only one in his career despite having over 3,000 at-bats).

Krukow has a few "Krukitionary" catchphrases, including: "Grab some pine, meat"; "Just another, ha ha ha ha, laugh!" (After a nail-biter win); "gamer babes"; and repeating "I wanna get that!" the last of which is associated with a product endorsement. In his spare time he enjoys reading, bicycling, golfing and drinking Coronas on the beach. He is good friends with Duane Kuiper. In July 2014, he revealed he was suffering from inclusion body myositis (IBM). His condition was known to the Giants and many of his fellow broadcasters, but he kept the condition a secret from the general public until then. Krukow first noticed that he was having problems about 10 years earlier, when he had lost about 100 yards (90 m) off his golf drive. According to sportswriter Steve Fainaru, Krukow "blew it off... for years", but "secretly feared he had ALS, Lou Gehrig's disease." Finally, in 2011, he was diagnosed with IBM. The disease, which mainly affects the quadriceps and hand muscles, is not life-threatening, but now requires him to use a cane; eventually, Krukow will have to use a walker and/or a scooter. Because of increasing hand weakness that limits his ability to play stringed instruments, he has recently taken up the drums, which require a different set of muscular movements Krukow plans to continue broadcasting for the foreseeable future.

After retiring from baseball, Duane Kuiper provided commentary for the Giants from 1987 to 1992 before leaving for a one-year stint with the Colorado Rockies in 1993. Kuiper returned to broadcast for the Giants in 1994, where he has remained since. His call of Bonds' 715th home run to pass Babe Ruth is considered the historic call for that home run, as radio announcer Dave Flemming's microphone cut out at the exact moment the ball was hit: Kuiper made the TV call for Barry Bonds' historic 756th home run which broke Hank Aaron's record (although the historic call is that of KNBR radio announcer Jon Miller). Kuiper is noted for his distinctive calls beginning and ending each game: after the result of the first batter of the game, he says, "And that's how this game gets started"; when the ball game is over, Kuiper says, "And that's the ball game!"

When Kuiper states the pitch count on a batter, he often calls "nothing" in lieu of calling "a ball" and the current number of strikes when the count is "no balls." Kuiper often uses the phrase "Got 'em!" when an out is recorded.

His trademark home run call is "He hits it high... hits it deep... it is (or this baby is) OUTTA HERE!!" or "HIGH DRIVE... LEFT (or RIGHT) FIELD... IT IS (sometimes: THIS BABY IS) OUTTA HERE!!" Another popular home run saying, "THAT ONE'S BELTED DEEP, AND GONE!! A HOME RUN!!"

Kruk and Kuip are also famous for their line, "Grab some pine, meat!" when a batter strikes out. In April 2010, Kuiper coined a new slogan from a fan's sign for the SF Giants club: "Giants baseball. Torture!" This slogan is used generally if the games are either tense, tight, or very close, in which the Giants have later won by a small margin. The two men are great friends, Duane guards his buddy, walking behind him in case of a fall, having a ramp built for him in the broadcasting booth. They are considered by many to be the best broadcasting team going. We have no quarrel with that. And should you wonder how this fits in with Animal Tales, wonder no more. We had a panda, we have a baby giraffe, our mascot is Lou Seal and many animals at the zoo and homes are named after many of the boys of summer. Jane Roland gcr770@aol.com



## Seasonal Wharf Walk Resume: 'A Whale's Tale' on April 7

Monterey's Fisherman's Wharf Association Resumes Hosting "Wharf Walks - Walking Tours at Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf" on Saturday, April 7, 2018 --- "A Whale's Tale: The Fascinating History of Whaling in the Monterey Bay" with noted Monterey Bay Fisheries Historian and author, Tim Thomas. Beginning on Saturday, April 7, the monthly "Wharf Walks - Walking Tours at Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf" ([www.montereywharf.com](http://www.montereywharf.com)), that are held on the first Saturday of every month from 10:00 AM - Noon, will resume.

The topic for the Wharf Walks will be: "A Whale's Tale: The Fascinating History of Whaling in the Monterey Bay." Tours meet at the head of Old Fisherman's Wharf near the pink "Harbor House" store, #1 Old Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey. Advance reservations are required by calling Tim Thomas at (831) 521-3304 or via email [timsardine@yahoo.com](mailto:timsardine@yahoo.com).

The tour is for ages 10-adult only and the cost is \$20 for adults and kids are \$15 (10-15 years). Group Rates are also available.

### About Wharf Walks

For thousands of years people have made their living fishing the Monterey Bay, beginning with the Rumsien Ohlone, the Native People of the Monterey area. From abalone to rockfish, everything was fished and utilized and the Monterey Bay was a multi-cultural stew, made up of whalers from the Azores, squid fishermen from China, salmon fishermen and abalone divers from Japan, and Sicilians fishing sardines in the "dark of the moon." This entertaining tour of Old Fisherman's Wharf and the waterfront will take us back in time to explore the history of the Monterey Wharf, early history of the Monterey waterfront, The Rumsien/Ohlone People-Monterey's first fishermen, the abalone industry, whaling the bay and of course, the legendary sardine industry. Discover some of the people and cultures of Monterey's colorful past and hear fascinating stories about Old Fisherman's Wharf and those who worked and walked there. Learn more about the sardine and squid industry, too.

### About Tim Thomas

Tim Thomas, fourth-generation native of the Monterey area, is a popular speaker and lively tour guide. For 16 years, he was historian and curator for the Monterey Maritime & History Museum and has worked with the Monterey Bay Aquarium, California State Parks and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. He is author of "The Abalone King of Monterey: Pop' Ernest Doelter," "The Japanese on the Monterey Peninsula" and co-author of "Monterey's Waterfront."

### Monterey Bay Whale Watch

Monterey Bay Whale Watch (<http://www.montereybaywhale-watch.com>) on Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf will offer a \$3.00 off coupon for all Wharf Walks participants of the April 7 Wharf Walk.

### Paluca Trattoria

After taking the Wharf Walk, participants are also invited to enjoy a complimentary appetizer of delicious calamari (squid) - either traditional style or pesto calamari - with a purchased entrée, at Paluca Trattoria located at the head of the Wharf. Paluca Trattoria was the location featured in many scenes in the popular HBO TV series, "Big Little Lies."

For more information about Old Fisherman's Wharf, go to [www.montereywharf.com](http://www.montereywharf.com) or call (831) 238-0777.

