

On Target

By Sturgis Hedrick



A WISP OF JOY drifted our way from Havelock over the weekend.

It came in the strangest form. A gifted sports columnist with a bite to his type, Bill Joy of The Havelock Progress, sung the praises of our Seashore Baseball League.

Actually, the underlying theme to Bill's lyrics of praise added up to a bitersweet sad song. He bemoaned the loss of so many Havelock High School stars of yesteryear to

Manager Donnie Aycock's Newport Red Sox.

You could almost sense the background chorus of a classic Greek tragedy accompanying his strain of eulogy. But weep no more, my laddie. Get yourself a team and a \$100 entry fee and the Seashore League will delight in rolling out its welcome mat.

BUT LET BILL JOY set his own sports scenes:

"Rusty Nelson isn't the best pitcher in the Seashore.

Just one of them. Charley Hardesty of the Coastal Greys has all the moves.

"Dallas Arthur. What more can you say about Dallas Arthur? He's the 'Big Hundred,' in honor of his fast ball which goes 100 mph — with gusts up to 120 when the wind roars behind it.

"Tommy Vincent can also bust loose the fast one when the occasion warrants. You don't need 20-20 vision to hit Vincent's hummer. You need 20-20 hearing.

"His curve ball, while not as sharp a disappearing act as that of Sandy Koufax or Bobby Feller, is nevertheless improving enough so that there are days when the batters go up there hoping for the fast ball instead.

"THE NEWPORT RED Sox don't do it with mirrors. Bobby Shelton can jack 'em out of sight, flag 'em down in the outfield, catch just a shade under Johnny Bench and steal you a base in a clutch situation. He could run the 100 in 10 seconds on glass.

"Don Zagorski poked 3 over the fence off West Carteret pitching for the Rams in a 10-0 zinger at Havelock a few years back and he still plays long ball in the guise of the Red Sox.

"Zag can play first and the outfield with equanimity and some will tell you that home runs, the tape measures, are like blue eyes on a girl. They're nice, but not necessary.

"JIMBO HODGES IS the least known, but also one of the fiercest under pressure. Flyhawk, second baseman or utility infielder, Jimbo beats you with the arm,

glove or the feet. Mike Burchette WAS the winning pitcher when the Sox dumped the league-leading Eastern Blues, 10-8, in Swinson.

"No one was more surprised than Burchette when he found himself in the ball game. It was like catching a train you thought had left."

I enjoyed the column and tactfully overlooked the unkindest cut in my arsenal. After all, the Russ Willan-managed Carteret County All-Stars did beat both Havelock and New Bern to win the Senior Babe Ruth Regional Championship.

BILL JOY HOPES, as do I, to make the finals of the National Senior Babe Ruth World Series in Grainger Stadium, Kinston.

Got down this schedule in the Parade of Champions. Teams arrive Wednesday. Games begin Friday at 7 p.m.

Bob Cohen, the old left-hander, says he still has a few reserved seats available at Morehead City Drug, 1704 Arendell.

Meanwhile, Joyful Bill, the Seashore League extends its most hospitable Carteret County invitation to see what looms as quite a contest. That's the Sunday, Aug. 29, confrontation between the Carteret Tides and the Red Sox at 2 p.m. in Swinson.

After all, the Tides reign as defending champs, even if they didn't hail from Havelock.

Hannibal led a huge army against the Romans in 202 B. C., but the great Carthaginian general was defeated.