

*Twenty-Second Season*

# THE CALIFORNIA CUTIES

*From LAKEWOOD, CALIFORNIA*

***"The World's Funniest  
Softball Team"***



*Official Picture Album*

*and*

*Souvenir Program*

# History of The California Cuties

The year 1970 marks the 22nd season on tour for the California Cuties, and in that time, the West Coast funny men have risen from a group of unknowns, to one of the world's top sports attractions. In late May of 1961, the United States Army selected the Cuties to make a September tour through the Pacific to entertain American troops. This was the culmination of many years of playing against the top softball teams in the nation while putting on a long series of side-splitting shows. The troops in Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Phillipines and Taiwan saw first hand the fabulous Cuties. Of course, many things have happened in the past over these last 22 years which have carried the Cuties to every corner of the United States and Canada and to foreign lands also. The competition has always been tough, but nonetheless, the California nine has been able to compile an amazing record. The team's best winning season was 1955 when 109 victories went into the record book. The same season the Cuties lost 16 more than any other campaign. But there is more to the history of this fabulous team than just the records. The beginning, for example, when a World War II act started this whole crazy touring whirl.

Trino Palacios, who you will recognize as Liza Jane on the Cutie roster, was in the United States Air Force back in the 40's. An occasion arose where some entertainment was needed. Somehow, Trino got into the act and decided on ball players dressed in ladies garments. This Palacios decided might be good for a howl at least. Trino of course had no idea what the impact of this first show would have. In any event, the Army buddies thought the show was terrific. It was presented again, and again. Then came the end of World War II. Palacios wanted to leave most of his memories behind and return home to his family. But once back on the West Coast in Compton, California, Trino would not and could not get the "lady softball players" off his mind. So it was decided to pick up some top-rate softball players and go on tour. Actually, it was 1948 before the first tour was given a try. The initial game was played in the city of Lynwood, California. About 500 fans showed up but the show was a huge success. So the Cuties were asked to come back the next week. To the amazement of the game promoters 1800 jammed the park and over 500 had to be turned away. In the years that have past since the first game, attendance has been varied, once going as high as

14,000 in a single night. Of the beginning, Trino Palacios (Liza Jane) has this to say: "I had quite a time getting enough players to wear female attire, but after a lot of talking convinced nine ball players that they should be part of the show. After I got the ball players to agree, it took some time to get a chance to book games because our show was a long way from the usual softball game. But I finally set the game in Lynwood, Cal. and the merry chase was on."

Over the years of touring, the Harlem Globetrotters have had their moments. And the Cuties, who are sometimes called the Globetrotters of softball, have had their moments too, some good the others, well, not so good. The Cuties many times have been into cities where big promotions have been in force. But the promoters on some occasions did not have a complete knowledge of things and a small crowd showed up. Like the stop the team made in a Wisconsin city several years ago. The Cuties travelled 455 miles to get to the game. Then they languished as 55 fans paid in to see the attraction. Of course, there is the other extreme. Back in 1954, the Cuties were in McKeesport, Pa. to take part in a 4th of July celebration and 14,000 fans were on hand. That show went over with such a bang that the Cuties were asked to appear on a popular night club in the evening. On another occasion, the Cuties had an open date while in the Western part of Canada. Driving into the city of Lethbridge, the team booked a game and played for the benefit of Pony League baseball players. The local radio station plugged the game all day. At night, over 1000 fans crowded the ball park to get a look at the California Cuties.

In the early days of touring, the Cuties were thankful to get going in a vehicle of any vintage, in any shape. Many thousands of miles have been covered by these laughmakers. Like many persons in show business, the Cuties from time to time have had heartbreaks and bad luck. But never has the ills of a player or the group interfered with the main object of the Cuties: To Make People Laugh and play good softball.

The Cuties, like the average tourist, must always be prepared for any happening on the highway. In the thousands of miles the team has traveled since 1948, there have been the usual flats, running out of gas, etc. But the veterans

with the organization always look back to 1954 and a break down to end all breakdowns. It happened on a tour through Western Canada. What happened read like a box score: rear axle busted, two tires exploded, the generator went dead. The vehicle was about to succumb itself. With the destination of the game 60 miles away, there was only one thing left, hitchhike, and the Cuties did just that. The game was played. The car has never been heard from since. While touring and covering the many highways of the United States and Canada, there are always the brushes with oncoming traffic, or a driver stopping dead in front of you. The Cuties have had their share of this, like the time a sleeping driver came down the highway, crossed the island and chased the Cuties into the woods almost to get out of the way. And then there was the time the team was on a bus going through a pass in California. On the downhill part of the pass, the brakes on the bus failed. The bus careened down the hill, the Cuties speechless at what was happening. Luckily, the driver was able to guide the bus off the highway and into a bank of sand. Everyone was a bit shaken but exceptionally happy. Of course on another occasion, a station wagon ran out of gas at the top of a hill that was seemingly miles long. So down the grade they went, rolling, rolling and rolling until, by some miracle, a gas station. Twenty feet more and the Cuties would have made the lead pump.

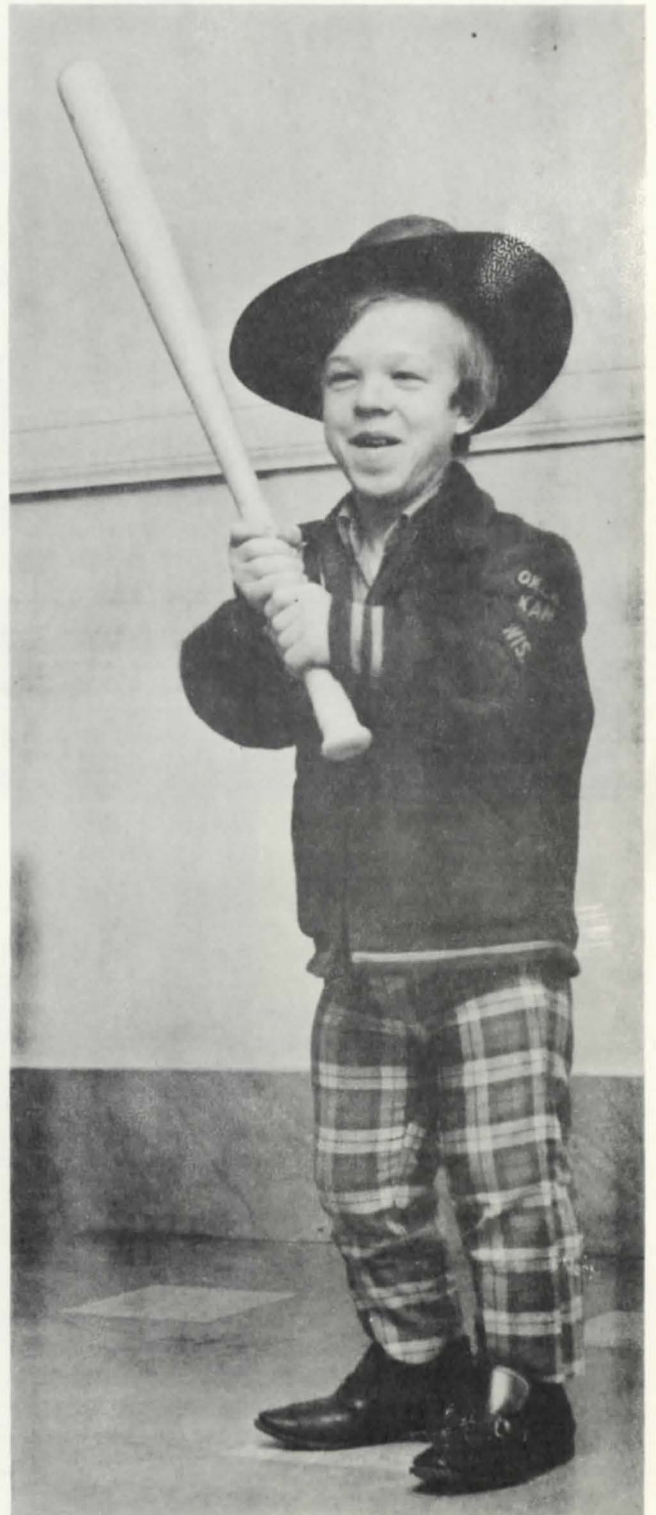
The classic happening was when the Cutie bus ran low on water and one of the members of the troupe put the water where the oil goes and all it did was cost us a new engine.

The season of 1970 will add a year to the California Cuties' history. The schedule in '70 will carry the 8 men to the Eastern seaboard, thence across the entire country, plus a tour of Canada, before returning to the West. When it is all over, the Cuties will have traveled over 30,000 miles, pushing the team's all-time total of miles on tour up over the 800,000 mark. Trino Palacios, the founder, hopes the Cuties can continue for a long time, at least until the mileage chart shows a million miles logged while visiting cities and towns to put on shows. Tonight, the Cuties are proud to be your guests. They hope to return again, as they write and make The California Cutie History.



## PETE HALOWATIVK

Cuties New Midget...



Pete Halowativk - born in Canora, Sask., Canada 19 years ago - is the Cuties new midget star. This is Pete's 2nd season. He is 39 inches tall and weighs 62 lbs... can steal bases ala Maury Wills style -- gets more WACKS THAN ANYONE ELSE.

Pete is also the pool playing champ on the troupe... is quite a dancer and is by far the most popular member of the Club...The Cuties have high hopes that Pete will become one of their all time greats.



**DUMPY DORA** -- from Staples, Minn., is playing his 4th season as a Cutie. His real name is Tom Rubel. He was a star football and baseball player at Staples High School in Minn. He now resides in Long Beach, Calif. He also plays basketball on the Cutie Casaba Team in the winter. Dora, the catcher, can play any position without hurting the team.

**HEFTY HELEN** - is playing his first season. He hails from Newport, Vt. George Mantiatty is his given name, plays outfield and has good speed. Also played on the Cuties Basketball Team. He was an All-League player while playing at his High School in Newport, Vt. The Cuties have hopes that he might develop into a top clown.





# The Department of Defense

presents this

## Certificate of Esteem

to

### California Cuties Softball Show

for Patriotic Service in providing Entertainment

to Members of the Armed Forces in

### Pacific

during the period

### 1961

Washington, D. C.

*Carlisle R. Runyon*  
Assistant Secretary of Defense

**CUTIES  
ARRIVE IN  
TOKYO, JAPAN  
FOR THEIR  
60 DAY TOUR  
OF THE FAR EAST.**





#### CALADONIA...

Monroe "Rip" Collins - The Cuties Salesman-Player charge of the transportation - a Jack of all Trades for the Club...

Collins has been on the road for several traveling teams in softball and basketball for 35 years. He knows his business well and is a great asset to the California Cuties Organization.



#### WILMA THE WHIP...

Jim Brunette from Long Beach, Calif. This is Jim's 2nd tour - will be with the club until June 29th when his 45-day furlough from the U.S. Air Force expires. Jim will be going to Alaska for his Overseas Tour of duty for the U.S. Air Force.

Jim is one of the outstanding Cuties to ever put on a Cuties uniform. He can run like deer, throw with the speed of a bullet and catch fly balls behind his back and between his legs - hit 22 homers on his last tour 1968.... Wilma is the greatest as you will see.



#### MAIN STREET SALLY...

Larry Rogers - from Wardell, Missouri - playing his first year on the Cuties. Larry was a star High School player at Wardell High School in Baseball, Basketball and Football. He now lives in Long Beach, California. Larry is a good fielder and has a good batting eye.

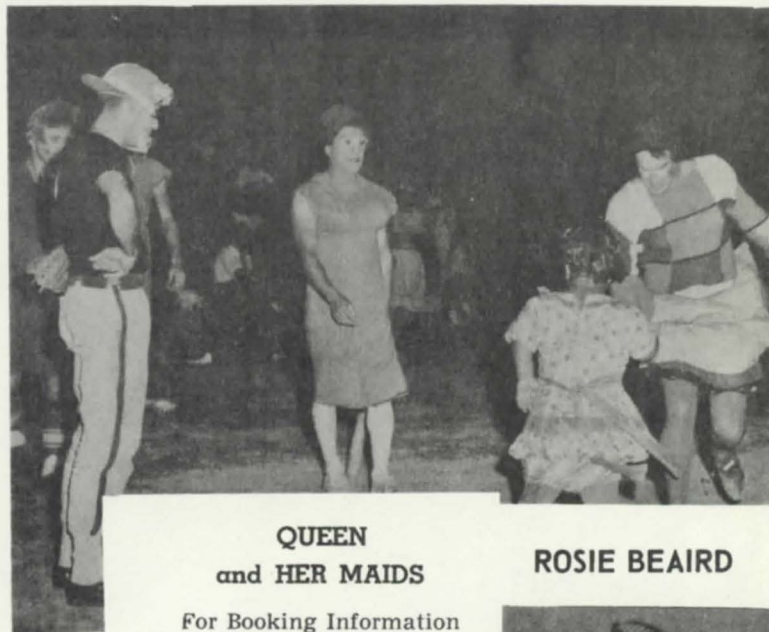
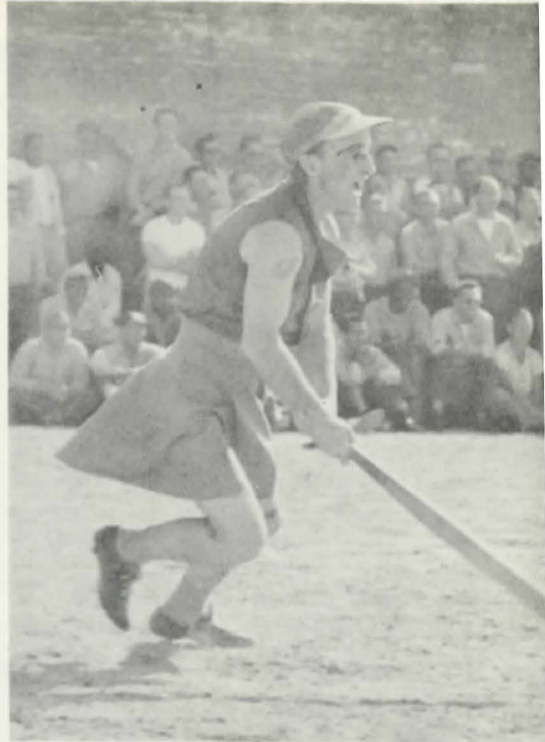
#### ROSETTA...

Jack Pawluk hails from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Playing his first year, Jack has been pitching for 10 years - has won many championships in Alberta, Canada...He attended Strathcona High School in Edmonton and excelled in baseball and football. The Cuties expect great things from Rosetta.







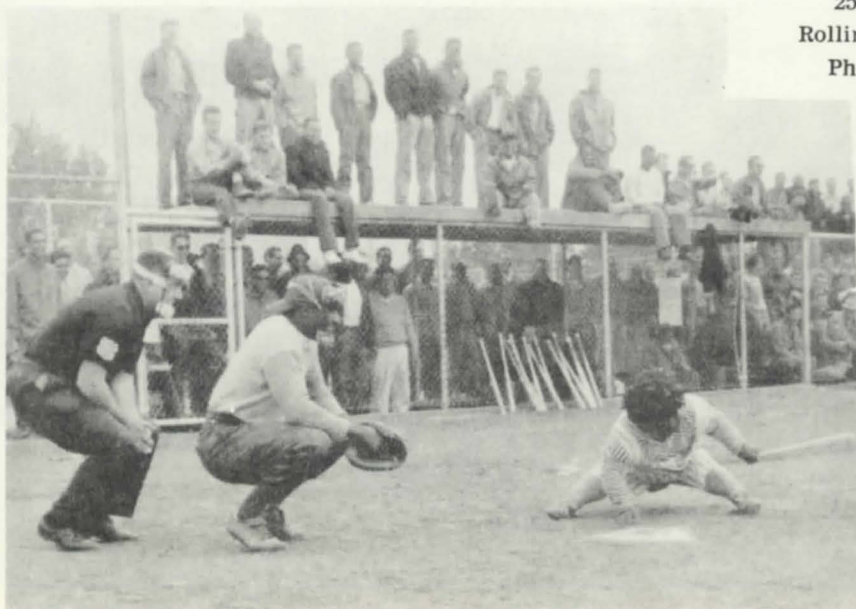


**QUEEN  
and HER MAIDS**

**ROSIE BEAIRD**

For Booking Information  
write:

ROYAL BEAIRD, Manager  
25943 Saddlebow Ln.  
Rolling Hills Estates, Calif.  
Phone: (213) 378-7766





### LOTTA FANNY...

Bill Mellor, Jr. - an all-around athlete from Bellflower, California - attended Arizona State College in Tucson, Arizona - where he ran the High Hurdles, played Baseball and Basketball. This is Bill's first tour and the Cuties have great plans for this athlete. He is very fast and can play infield and outfield. Lotta will join the team when Wilma leaves around June 29th.

## CUTIE RECORDS

Won - 1210

Lost - 223

### Batting

Mason Fritz - 1955 - .452

### Homeruns

Ron Catching - 1965 - 47

### Pitching

Russ Brooks - 1949

Won - 99; Lost - 11

### Strikeouts

Gary Denny - 1968 - 2200

---

THE CUTIES JACKETS WERE MADE BY:

## W.A. GOODMAN & SONS

441 West Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, California

**"THE WEST COAST LEADING"  
STORE IN ALL SPORTING GOODS**



**CUTIES TEAMS  
OF THE PAST**



# EX-CUTIE STARS



# HALL OF FAME



**JOHN MALDONADO** - played 21 years with the Cuties - until his death last summer. Buelah, as he was known to his thousands of fans throughout the U.S.A. was the outstanding showman of the Cuties. John may be gone now - but he will never be forgotten.



**RICKY MARIS** - an outstanding all-around player for 5 Cutie Seasons. He was called **PRINCESS RAMONA** and short-stop and outfield. He was one of the fastest players the Cuties had during his time. Ramona stole 75 bases one season to set a Cutie record. Ricky is now living in Lakewood, Calif.



**JACKIE JACKSON** - The California Cuties Coach and M.C. for 10 years until death called him 3 years ago, was an outstanding showman and always had the crowds in stitches. He was known as **Christine** throughout the softball world. The Cuties are still looking for a replacement of his caliber.



**RON CATCHING** - who played the part of **DUMPY DORA** for eight years has been selected to the Cutie Hall of Fame by the Board. Dumpy was a great clown and home-run hitter for the Cuties - one season he hit 35 homers which stands as a Cutie record. Dumpy is now married and living in Lakewood, Calif. Ron was a third baseman.

# IN MEMORIAM



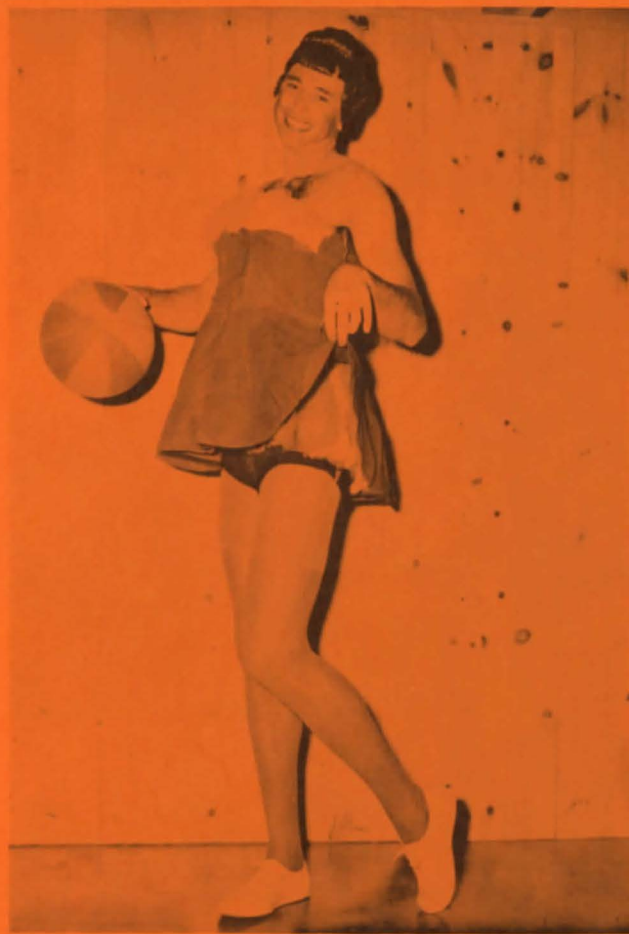
This page is dedicated in memory of our beloved star, John Maldonado - known as Buelah in softball circles - passed away - June 26, 1969, while on tour with the Cuties. He played his last game in Red Deer, Alta, Canada. He left us while the team was in Prince George, B.C., Canada. John was a great star for 21 years and will never be forgotten as long as the Cuties exist.

# *Posing with Founder Palacios —*



Trino Palacios, known as Liza Jane with the Touring Cuties, born in Long Beach, California on St. Patrick's Day March 17, 1919, stands 5.8, 180 pounds. Currently lives in Lakewood, California. Attended Compton High School and was on the baseball team and track squad. Also took part in these sports at Compton College where he was a physical education major. Employed as a teamster in Los Angeles Harbor on the off-season.

Trino has been one of the top Cutie hitters for the last 15 years — always gets a piece of the ball and averages 7 strikeouts per year. However, this year Trino has doctor's orders to slow down due to the mild heart attack he had this winter.



**CUTIES ALSO PLAY BASKETBALL**

FOR PLAYING DATES

Write to  
CALIFORNIA CUTIES  
Post Office Box 455  
Lakewood, Calif.