

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

Number 93:3

NEWSLETTER OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY COMMITTEE
SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH

Summer 1993

© 1993 BY THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH

LIFE AFTER BASEBALL IN PITTSBURGH

By Dan Gisnburg

THE STEREOTYPE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY BASEBALL PLAYER is not a particularly flattering one. In general, nineteenth century players were considered a rough and crude bunch who, once their playing days were over, fell on hard times, drank heavily, and then died young and in poverty.

Unfortunately, there is a great deal of truth to this notion. For every Billy Sunday and Al Spalding, who grew rich and famous, there are many Pete Brownings and King Kellys, who died young and in poor circumstances.

However, in at least one city, there was a thriving community of former nineteenth century players who achieved a great deal of success after their careers ended. This city was Pittsburgh, a hotbed of baseball interest in the early years of the current century.

Heading up this baseball community was Al Pratt, a former pitcher with the Forest Cities of Cleveland in the National Association in 1871 and 1872. After his playing days ended, Pratt turned to umpiring, and later played a key role in the organization of both the American and Union Associations. He also was active in the management of the Pittsburgh National League club in the last decade of the nineteenth century.

After ending his baseball ties, Pratt became a salesman for the Spalding Brothers Sporting Goods store in Pittsburgh. He also assumed the role of the leader of Pittsburgh's community of former players.

While Pratt was the leader of this community, he was by no means its most prominent member. Enjoying this distinction was John Tener, who pitched for Chicago in the National League and Pittsburgh in the Players' League. Tener became a congressman, representing a Pittsburgh area district. He later was elected governor of Pennsylvania, and left office to become president of the National League.

Joining Tener in politics was former teammate and fellow pitcher Ad Gumbert. Gumbert, who won 123 major league games with a variety of teams between 1888-1896, became clerk of the Allegheny County court after his playing days were over. He later was elected sheriff of Allegheny County, where he enjoyed a long career.

Perhaps not coincidentally, Gumbert's chief deputy sheriff was Ed Swartwood, a hard-hitting outfielder during the 1880s. Swartwood holds a lifetime batting average of .299, and won the American Association batting title in 1883 with a .356 average.

Another pitcher turned politician was Steve Toole, who

pitched between 1886-1890 in the American Association. After leaving the game, Toole was elected as a Pittsburgh alderman, and later served as one of the county commissioners of Allegheny County.

As a player, Henry Youngman was certainly not a household name. His major league career lasted only one year, as Youngman hit .128 in thirteen games with Pittsburgh (NL) in 1890. After leaving the game, however, he became a policeman in Homestead, a steel town near Pittsburgh, and soon rose to the position of chief of police.

Another ballplayer turned public servant in Pittsburgh was James Gray, a third baseman who appeared in one game with the Alleghenys (AA) in 1884. After leaving baseball, Gray was employed by the Pittsburgh water assessor's office, and had a long career with that institution.

The success of Pittsburgh's baseball community, however, extended far beyond public service. For instance, Mark Baldwin, who won 156 games between 1887-1893, became a doctor after his retirement from baseball. Baldwin was considered one of Pittsburgh's leading physicians.

Other forms of private enterprise had ample representation from the baseball community. Elmer Cleveland, a third baseman who played in eighty games in the majors between 1884-1891, and Tom Quinn, who caught 113 major league games between 1886-1890, both owned hotels in the Pittsburgh area. Quinn ran a successful hotel in Braddock, while Cleveland was the proprietor of the Hotel Lawrence in Ellwood City.

Many other nineteenth century players enjoyed prosperous lives after baseball in Pittsburgh. Ren Wylie, who appeared in a game with the Alleghenys in 1882, became one of the area's leading insurance agents. Pete McShan-

nick, who played third base for the Alleghenys in 1888, became a prominent Pittsburgh artist before moving to Toledo later in his life. Frank Killen (1891-1900) operated a small hotel in Pittsburgh. Even Pittsburgh's director of public safety in the early 1900s, John Morin, was a former top-notch minor league player.

Why did these Pittsburgh area players achieve such success off the field? Certainly one key factor was the love and respect that Pittsburgh fans had for baseball. Pittsburgh

fans did not forget their heroes, and former players successfully traded on this fame. Another factor was the closeness of the baseball community, which made it possible for former players to keep in touch and help each other in their post-baseball days. Most important, however, is the fact that—along with the drinkers and the gamblers—nineteenth century baseball produced some fine individuals, who used the same competitive spirit that helped them succeed on the diamond to succeed in life after baseball.

TWO NEW COMMITTEE PROJECTS LAUNCHED IN SAN DIEGO

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Nineteenth Century Committee in San Diego, two new long-term committee projects were introduced by BOB MCCONNELL and RICH PUFF. McConnell will direct a five-year research and writing project of his design, which will result in the first comprehensive history of the American Association (1882-1891), the longest lived of baseball's five defunct major leagues. Puff will direct the Pre-1871 Rosters Project, which he has designed to gather as complete data as possible on baseball clubs organized before the formation of the professional National Association in 1871. Both projects offer opportunity for large numbers of researchers to search out data on important but heretofore neglected areas of nineteenth century baseball history. All SABR members are invited—and members of the Nineteenth Century Committee are especially urged—to join one or both projects.

These new projects bring to four the number of the committee's active research projects. The National Association Box Score Project, directed by Bob Tiemann, is compiling full player and team stats for the five years of the NA (1871-1875); and the *More Nineteenth Century Stars* project, headed by Fred Ivor-Campbell, is preparing a volume of brief biographies to complement the committee's 1987 publication, *Nineteenth Century Stars*.

Two projects of the Ballparks and Bibliography Committees are also described below. Both are of interest and value to nineteenth century researchers, and both could use volunteers from our committee.

PRE-1871 ROSTERS PROJECT

RICHARD A. PUFF, director

The goal of the Pre-1871 Rosters Project, which reaches well beyond the project's modest title, is to "accumulate as much data as possible about the teams, players and records of major baseball clubs playing prior to the establishment of the National Association of Base Ball Players in 1857 and for NABBP clubs playing from 1857 through 1870." Rich Puff will electronically tabulate the information submitted, providing for SABR—and all baseball historians and statisticians—a data base and one or more publications covering an era of the game that has never before been researched systematically.

The 1996 SABR convention is suggested as a target date for completing the project, but since it won't become clear just how much information is out there until research is well under way, this deadline is, for now, somewhat tentative.

Puff has prepared a detailed description of the project, and a form for reporting game results. Contact him at P.O.

Box 551, Slingerlands, NY 12159. Phone: (518) 262-3421, days; (518) 439-7297, evenings.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION HISTORY PROJECT

BOB MCCONNELL, director

The goal of the AA History Project is to produce—by mid-1998—a book on the ten-year history of the Association. The project is will be undertaken in three phases: research, editing, and writing. The crucial first phase, which is now getting under way, is day-by-day research on each AA club, with the success of the project depending on the careful, detailed examination of newspapers from each city represented in the Association: Baltimore, Boston, Brooklyn, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Louisville, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Richmond, Rochester, Syracuse, Toledo, and Washington.

For project details, and to volunteer to research one or more of these cities, contact Bob McConnell at 210 West Crest Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803.

OTHER SABR COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Of Interest to Nineteenth Century Baseball Researchers

BASEBALL ONLINE PROJECT

Bibliography Committee

ANDY MCCUE, director

Andy McCue describes Baseball Online as "an electronic database of English-language materials of interest to the baseball researcher" which, when complete, "will

contain all books, articles, monographs, dissertations, and audio and video recordings about baseball." The project to compile this bibliographic database is SABR's most ambitious committee undertaking to date.

To test the viability of the project, volunteers over the past year have compiled data on books and articles pub-

lished in 1992. Now, seeing that the project is within the realm of possibility, McCue and Hathaway have expanded its focus to publications of all eras, and have issued a call for many additional volunteers. It's a project that could use the services of all SABR members who read, watch, or listen to materials on baseball.

Full instructions and forms for recording the required data are available. If you are interested in periodicals, contact Ted Hathaway: 5645 Fremont Av. S, Minneapolis, MN 55419. If your interest is books (including yearbooks and other once-a-year publications), or if you don't fit neatly into either category, contact Andy McCue: 4025 Beechwood Pl., Riverside, CA 92506. Phone: (909) 787-

4954, home; (909) 782-7505, work.

NINETEENTH CENTURY BALLPARKS PROJECT

Ballparks Committee

BOB BAILEY, director

The Nineteenth Century Committee is cooperating with the Ballparks Committee to produce a book of essays on the ball parks of nineteenth century major league cities. (See *NCN*, Winter 1993, p. 3.) Several cities still need researcher/writers. For up-to-date information, contact Bob Bailey, 12129 Briargate Ln., Goshen, KY 40026. Phone: (502) 228-5269.

BOOK REVIEW

Baseball in the Afternoon: Tales from a Bygone Era. By ROBERT SMITH. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993. 272 pages. Index. Cloth, \$21.

Reviewed by JAMES T. COSTELLO.

"The first baseball bat I ever owned was a Stuffy McInnis-model Louisville Slugger, which weighed about two and a half pounds, and had a split in the handle." So begins Robert Smith's *Baseball in the Afternoon*, an utterly charming volume of personal and professional recollections and reflections on the game. It's a perfect opening sentence, but the follow-up is even better: "It was given to me by Ed Barrow, manager of the Boston Red Sox, when I was (I think) still in first grade."

Few writers today can evoke memories like these, and therein lies the charm of this book, aptly subtitled *Tales from a Bygone Era*. Smith's memories reach back to the game's earliest days. In fact, he spends nearly the entire first half of the book on the nineteenth century and prominent personalities of that era, such as Chris von der Ahe, Lou Sockalexis, Pete Browning, and others.

But this isn't a book for researchers. Smith isn't digging up new data here nor presenting new information. He even gets a fact or two wrong (such as blaming Dale Alexander's limited plate appearances in his batting crown year of 1932 on a leg injury—a career-ending injury that he actually suffered in 1933). But most books contain these occasional errors, and who really cares? Smith's motive and method are different here. He is remembering a game and an era gone by, and in drawing out that thread he reveals the cloth to be all of one piece. How many of us still

remember that first bat, also split in the handle, nailed and taped? Maybe not a Stuffy McInnis signature model handed down by the manager of the Red Sox, but a powerful memory nonetheless.

Smith's book draws out these personal memories and shows how they account for the game's hold on our imagination. But his long career as a writer and sportswriter provides many professional memories as well. It's the way in which he weaves these two levels of personal and professional in his narrative that makes for such enjoyable reading. At times he wanders into tangential material (a long section on the famous New York restaurateur Toots Shor, for example), and he peppers his text with irrelevant (though strongly held) opinions on politics and other matters. But these digressions also reinforce the flavor of sitting around the hot stove swapping tales. Who tells a tale straight in such circumstance?

The reminiscences that drive the narrative focus on players and other figures from the game. They don't go much beyond the 1920s, and they all have the strongly personal perspective of the author. The book doesn't shed any new light on the game, but it does cast a wide and clear beam. By remembering the game in all its guises, including its sandlot variations, its nineteenth century origins, and its long ago African-American stars like Moses Walker and Joe Williams, Smith shows us why baseball is the national pastime. If you're looking for rigorous research and fresh facts, don't look here. But if you want some pleasant reading that reminds you why you love this game, look no further.

NINETEENTH CENTURY BASEBALL: THE 1993 SEASON

THE MASSACHUSETTS GAME IN DELAWARE

TOWN BALL CAME (RETURNED?) TO DELAWARE in July when Dover met Wyoming at the Delaware Agricultural Museum in a game played under the Massachusetts Association rules of 1858. A second game was scheduled for mid-August. Dover *News Journal* writer Al Mascitti, in a 29 July feature article, doesn't give the score of the game

—or even say who won it—but he notes that despite the difficulty players had in adapting their thinking to the old rules such as lack of foul territory (they "frequently remained rooted in the batter's box . . . after fouling off a pitch") they found the game "more enjoyable than the modern versions of either baseball or softball. 'This is more fun,' says Dennis Russum of Felton. 'You get to hit

people with the ball.'"

Lorraine Goodman of the Agricultural Museum brought the Massachusetts Game to Dover after learning about the town ball games played in Cooperstown, where the game had been revived. Ironically, the Cooperstown town ball players are reported to have abandoned town ball for the modern game, played by 1915 rules.

FROGS O'ERLEAP FOES, CAPTURE SYLVANIA CUP

SYLVANIA, OHIO'S GREAT BLACK SWAMP FROGS Base Ball Club, who play by 1859 National Association (Knickerbocker) rules, defeated the Deep River Grinders of Hobart, Indiana, 14-6, and the Kent club of Grand Rapids, Michigan, 8-6, to capture the inaugural Sylvania Cup competition on the Fourth of July at Sylvania's Pacesetter Park. The Frogs managed to avoid playing the Muffins of Columbus, Ohio, who had defeated them earlier in the season, as Kent buried the Muffins 32-9 in the first match of the tournament. In the consolation final, the Muffins edged the Grinders 10-9.

THE MUFFINS

THE MUFFINS, WHO FIELD TWO NINES—the Hurlers and the Strikers—for Ohio Village in Columbus, are the premier performers of nineteenth century baseball, the team that always seems to be featured when national publications talk about the nineteenth century baseball boom. Their schedule this year calls for 48 games, 19 of them away, as far away as Winona, Minnesota, and Lexington, Virginia. They have an official club song (Chorus: "So, here's to the Muffins! / Huzza for the Muffins! / Victory for the Muffins, / We will win this base ball game."), and publish a weekly newsletter, *The Muffin Tin*. They host the Ohio Cup tournament, which this year is scheduled for 10-12 September. For further information, contact *Muffin Tin* editor John Wells, Ohio Historical Center, 1982 Velma Ave., Columbus, OH 43211-2497.

(Thanks to Bob Bluthardt, JOHN HUSMAN, NORMAN MACHT, and the Ohio Historical Society, who provided the information for this piece.)

GAME? NO GAME?

By FREDERICK IVOR-CAMPBELL

(with thanks to JEFFREY PLATT for drawing attention to these two games)

AMONG THE MANY INTRIGUING FEATURES of *Total Baseball* are the lists of forfeited and no-decision games, with their brief comments on how the statistics for these games have been treated by various compilers. Two National League games forfeited by Louisville in 1876 and 1877 and subsequently declared "no game" provide an interesting look into the informality with which games could be declared null and void in the League's early years.

Rain began falling in Louisville on Thursday, August 3, 1876, as the home team came to bat against Chicago in the top of the fourth inning. Although League rules called for the umpire to suspend play if either captain requested it after five minutes of rain, umpire Charles Hautz refused Louisville's request. In the fifth inning, the *Courier-Journal* reported, "the rain began falling more briskly. The Louisvilles were blanked again in the inning, and the Chicagos took their turn at the bat, the players acting under instructions from [manager Al] Spalding to hit free, get out, and end the game." The White Stockings, who were leading, wanted to complete the inning to establish a regulation game—and the win—before umpire Hautz decided to call it for rain. "At this juncture it had rained steadily *twenty-one* minutes, [Louisville pitcher Jim] Devlin made a last request of Houtz [*sic*] to call the game, and again being met with a refusal, a ludicrous scene ensued. The Chicagos were intent on getting put out and ending the fifth inning, while the Louisville players, suffering under the injustice of the umpire, resolved that they should do no such thing. One side did their best not to strike the ball, while the other side were just as determined neither to catch it nor to throw any one out. This state of affairs continued until five scores had been made by the Chicagos on strikes out, when Houtz

gave the game to them by a score of 9 to 0, the reason for this decision being that the Louisvilles were trying to delay the game.

"Strange as it may seem, a close examination of the League rules will disclose the fact that there is no provision or penalty in them for a set of players who try to play a purposely bad batting or fielding game of ball. This alone would make Houtz's decision [to forfeit the game] null and void. Immediately after the decision the Chicagos left the field."

Then followed a display of sportsmanship that not only wouldn't be considered today, but probably wouldn't even be permitted. "After mature deliberation between the managers of the two clubs, Mr. Spalding determined not to abide by the decision of the umpire, and very handsomely refused to take advantage of any benefits that might fall to his club through the decision in question. The game yesterday will, therefore, be no game at all, and the Chicagos will complete their series of ten games with the Louisville club on Saturday and Monday, August 5 and 7."

Louisville beat Chicago on August 5, 4-2, for their first—and, as it turned out, only—win over the White Stockings in 1876, for they concluded their season series two days later with a 9-2 loss.

Total Baseball seems uncertain whether to treat the 1876 game as a forfeited game, and include the stats in the player and team records. Currently it does not, but treats it as the competing clubs decided to do—"no game at all." Unless the League later overruled the decision of the two clubs and restored the forfeit, I see no reason for *Total Baseball* to challenge history and reverse its original decision.

The next year Louisville forfeited their game of May 15 in Cincinnati when manager Jack Chapman pulled his men off the field in the seventh inning in a dispute with the umpire. Louisville had scored twice in the inning to increase their lead to 8-5 before Bill Crowley went to first on a base on balls. But Cincinnati argued that the umpire—a man named Brady who was called upon when no regular League umpire showed up—had lost track of his called balls, and that the count was one pitch short of a walk. After a discussion, Brady agreed that he had erred, and ordered Crowley back to the plate. When Crowley remained seated on first, “as quick as you could snap your fingers” Brady called him out. “With no chance for a change of umpire,” the *Courier-Journal* continued, “and with Brady’s absurd decision on putting Crowley out still ringing in their ears, Chapman and his men picked up their bats and left the grounds. Brady decided the game in favor of the Cincinnati by a score of 9 to 0 . . .”

But a couple of days later the Louisville front office ate a bit of crow, expressing “their disapproval of the with-

drawal of their club from the game in Cincinnati Tuesday. The representatives of the Chicago, Boston, Hartford and St. Louis clubs [who were attending a League meeting in Indianapolis] thereupon informed [Cincinnati president Josiah L.] Keck that, in view of the fact that a League umpire had not acted in this game, they would recommend that it be called null and void, and played over. Mr. Keck telegraphed that this was satisfactory to him, and the game will accordingly not go for or against either club.” A makeup game was scheduled for June 16 in Cincinnati. (The game originally scheduled for the 16th, also against Cincinnati, but to be played at Louisville, was moved up a day, to the 15th, and was rained out.) Louisville won the makeup 8-4 and moved into a first-place tie with St. Louis.

Louisville continued its winning ways well into the season, and seemed a sure pennant winner. But, as we all know, four players—Devlin, Bill Craver, George Hall, and Al Nichols—conspired with gamblers to throw the title to Boston, and were expelled from organized ball forever.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

NEW MEMBERS

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY COMMITTEE welcomes to membership:

JAMES M. BAILEY, 225 Leah St., Providence, RI 02908
 DENNIS BINGHAM, 6324 S. Knox, Chicago, IL 60629
 PETER CARLSON, 7385 Hidden Knolls Ct., Springfield, VA 22153
 JERROLD (JERRY) CASWAY, 9252 Broken Timber Way, Columbia, MD 21045
 DAVID CRETER, 1131-D, Decker St., El Cajon, CA 92019
 FRANK D'AMICO, 4460 Overland Ave., Suite 52, Culver City, CA 90230
 JAMES W. (JIM) EATON, 423 E. College St., Bridgewater, VA 22812
 JOSEPH A. ESPOSITO, 7100 Game Lord Dr., Springfield, VA 22153-1313
 KENNETH A. (KEN) FISCHER, PO Box 7344, Las Cruces, NM 88006
 TONY KISSEL, 825 NYS Rte. 222, Cortland, NY 13045
 JASON PASQUALE, 7841 Ridge Av., Apt. B-236, Philadelphia, PA 19128
 DANIEL ROSS, 3226 S. 29th St., Lincoln, NE 68502-5117
 BRUCE RULE, 4306 Kenwyn Ct., Annandale, VA 22003
 ROBERT E. (BOB) SHIPLEY, 110 Tillman Ln., Aston, PA 19014
 LYLE SPATZ, 18817 Rolling Acres Way, Olney, MD 20832

NEW ADDRESSES

RANDY LINTHURST, 1015 Augusta Dr., Sun City Center, FL 33573
 KIRK M. LYONS, 9 Whiffletree Way, Riverside, CT 06878

WATCH FOR . . .

PUBLISHERS ARE COMING TO REALIZE that the fan's appetite for baseball reading is not limited to March and April, and they are beginning to use their fall lists as launching pads for new books on the game. Several deal in part with nineteenth century baseball:

Arthur Ashe's *Baseball*, part of *A Hard Road to Glory*, his multi-volume study of African-Americans in sport, in October from Amistad (paper, \$9.95).

Baseball Archaeology: Artifacts from the Great American Pastime, with photos by Bret Wills and text by Gwen Aldridge, due in September from Chronicle Books, in both hard cover (\$29.95) and paper (\$18.95).

Baseball in 1889, by Daniel Pearson. See the August *SABR Bulletin* (p.2) for details about this book on “a turning point season in professional baseball.” If nothing else, this book shows that not *all* serious research on nineteenth century baseball is done by members of SABR.

A Brief History of Sports in America, by Elliott Gorn and Warren Goldstein, two highly regarded academic sport historians, in October from FSG/Hill & Wang, in cloth (\$22) and paper (\$10.95).

Michael Gershman's illustrated *Diamonds: The Evolution of the Ballpark from Union Grounds to Camden Yards*, from Houghton Mifflin in October (\$40).

Two new volumes in Bruce Chadwick's *Memories & Memorabilia* series: *The Chicago Cubs*, and *The Cincinnati Reds*, from Abbeville in September (\$24.95 each).

Richard “Dixie” Tourangeau's 1994 *Play Ball!* calendar, from Tide-mark Press (\$10.95), already in the stores, with Kid Nichols as its featured player for September. If any wall calendar deserves inclusion in a book list, it's SABRite Tourangeau's information-packed *Play Ball!*

HELP WANTED

BRONX COUNTY (N.Y.) HISTORICAL SOCIETY librarian Lloyd Ultan is writing a multi-volume history of the Bronx, and "wants to uncover everything that could shed light on the history of the Union Baseball Club of Morrisania." This committee has referred Ultan to such contemporary sources as Chadwick (*The Game of Base Ball*) and Peverelly, suggested sporting papers to consult, recommended Chadwick's scorebooks and scrapbooks, and the annual guides, compiled the scattered references to the club in Adelman, Kirsch, Goldstein, Seymour and Voigt, and suggested browsing through Orem. Any other suggestions? In particular, do you know of library or private archives of *unpublished* sources that could shed light on the Morrisania club, or useful published sources other than the ones cited above, or possess clippings or other information dealing with the club's history (and particularly with "when, how, and why the team dissolved")? If so, please send citations—and where pertinent and feasible, photocopies of documents—to Fred Ivor-Campbell, 21 Martin St., Warren, RI 02885, who will (1) add the information and materials to the Nineteenth Century Committee files, (2) promptly forward everything to Mr. Ultan, and (3) send it also to Rich Puff, who is compiling data on Morrisania as part of the new Pre-1871 Rosters Project (see p. 2).

If you would like to assist Mr. Ultan further by reading pertinent newspapers or other materials and providing him with complete citations of sources of information on the Morrisania club, you may contact him directly at The Bronx County Historical Society, 3309 Bainbridge Ave., The Bronx, NY 10467.

SCOTT FLATOW (1701 W. 3d St., Brooklyn, NY 11223) would like information on the post-baseball lives of the following nineteenth century players whose major league careers ended with a 500+ at-bat season: Bill Grey, Jack Manning, Jim Manning, Jim McTamany, Al Myers, John Reilly, Hank Simon, and Dan "Ecky" Stearns.

TONY KISSEL (825 NYS Rte. 222, Cortland, NY 13045) seeks "assistance with research on the New York State League for the years 1889-1890, 1895 and 1897-1900. I am compiling stats, anecdotes and material for a league history," he writes, "and don't want to neglect the early years."

HELP WANTED: QUICK QUESTIONS

Please send replies to this section of "Help Wanted" to the compiler of NCN, who will publish them in an upcoming issue.

JACK KAVANAGH has seen it suggested that Fred W. Thayer, who invented the catcher's mask, and Ernest L. Thayer, who wrote *Casey at the Bat*, were related. (Both attended Harvard: Fred in the late 1770s and Ernest in the mid-1880s.) Were they related? and if so, how? Please note the source of your information.

What is a catcher's "parry"? SABRite Rick Bailey

came upon the box score of an 1868 New Jersey game in which each catcher was credited with several balls (?) "parried." Have others of you seen this fencing term applied to baseball? What does it mean? Potential wild pitches that the catcher blocked? Blocked foul tips? If you've seen the term used, please provide the full context if you can.

What is a pitcher's "twister"? A couple of people have asked about this term, which appears in some early game accounts to describe the pitcher's delivery. Is it a curve? Has anyone seen the word in a context that gives some clue as to what kind of pitch is meant?

Also, reread the Quick Questions in the Spring 1993 NCN (p. 6). They have not yet been answered.

HELP OFFERED

TONY KISSEL (825 NYS Rte. 222, Cortland, NY 13045) offers research assistance on baseball in "the central New York area from Syracuse to Elmira."

JOE KLEIN (45 Stone Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776) offers assistance to researchers seeking information from *Spalding's Guide*, of which he has a full collection.

DAVID NEMEC (1517 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122) observes in NCN "a good deal of interest and research being done on major league Civil War vets and baseball in general during the Civil War," and says: "If anyone who's so engaged lives out my way or is planning a trip out here, I could put him in touch with an organization of Civil War buffs in this area who are looking for someone to talk to them about his knowledge."

AMONG THE PERIODICALS

REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS

THE CLEVELAND CAREERS of Cy Young, Nap Lajoie and Tris Speaker were the subject of Charles C. Alexander's 1992 article "Triple Play: Cleveland's Hall of Fame Triumvirate," in *Timeline*, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 2-17. *Timeline* is published bi-monthly by the Ohio Historical Society, 1982 Velma Ave., Columbus OH 43211-2497.

Lajoie is also the subject of a biographical article by Fr. Gerald Beirne ("with thanks to Jim Murphy," whose full-length biography of Lajoie was published by SABR as an issue of *The National Pastime* in 1988) in *Old Rhode Island*, Vol. 3, Issue 5 (1993), pp. 40-45.

Philadelphia's nineteenth century ballparks were recalled in detail last year in JERROLD CASWAY's "Phillies' First Playing Site Was Tiny Recreation Park, *Phillies Report*, 27 August 1992, pp. 8-9.

SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

William J. Baker, "Disputed Diamonds: The YMCA Debate Over Baseball in the Late 19th Century," *Journal of*

Sport History 19 (Winter 1992), pp. 257-62. A perceptive look at why some YMCA leaders did not regard baseball as a worthy athletic endeavor.

Robert Knight Barney and Frank Dallier, "'I'd Rather Be a Lamp Post in Chicago, than a Millionaire in Any Other City': William A. Hulbert, Civic Pride, and the Birth of the National League," *Nine* 2 (Fall 1993), pp. 40-58. The authors draw on the important Hulbert and Chicago Cub archives at the Chicago Historical Society to build a case for Hulbert "as a biographical study worthy of thorough and penetrating scholarly investigation."

FREDERICK IVOR-CAMPBELL

COMPILER'S COMMENTARY

THE PLEASURES OF SAN DIEGO

FOR ME, ONE OF THE JOYS of a SABR convention is meeting for the first time members I have known only through correspondence or phone calls, or haven't previously known at all. Another is renewing acquaintance with SABRites I haven't seen for a year or more. In both respects the San Diego convention rewarded me richly. Another highlight was TOM SHIEBER's splendid presentation tracing the evolution of the baseball diamond—I hadn't realized how often and significantly it had changed from the first Knickerbocker rules to its present configuration.

The annual meeting of our committee was well attended—thirty-two SABRites signed the attendance sheet, and others drifted in and out—and featured the introduction of two new committee projects by BOB MCCONNELL and RICH PUFF. (See page 2.) The ventilation had to be turned off, though, so we could be heard, and the room grew uncomfortably warm by the end. I welcome feedback about the meeting from those of you who were there, especially with suggestions of what you'd like to see included in future meetings.

One non-convention highlight was a visit to the house on Point Loma where Albert G. Spalding lived when he wrote his history of baseball. The well preserved wooden structure, which now houses the administration of Point Loma Nazarene College, is an architectural curiosity, shaped like a turtle, with a prominent central dome topped by a bulbous lavender skylight.

CONGRATULATIONS

to BILL RYCZEK, on winning one of this year's SABR-Macmillan Awards for his pioneering history of the National Association (1871-1875), *Blackguards and Red Stockings*. It was my pleasure to accept the award for Bill at the convention banquet in San Diego, and to hold in my hands—if only for a few minutes—the plaque that goes with it. I don't recall that they trusted me to hold the money part of the award, though they may have. It was all kind of a blur.

This award shows the world that some of SABR's best research is being done in nineteenth century baseball. We

all know that, of course, but it's nice to have this public recognition. It's Bill Ryczek's award, but I don't think he'll mind if we all take pride in it and brag about it.

GRAVESITES

JASON PASQUALE has sent me several recent photos he took at Philadelphia's West Laurel Hill Cemetery of the graves of Al Reach, Ben Shibe, and Harry Wright. Grave markers and monuments are always interesting, and often informative. Sometimes they even provoke controversy, as do the commemorative tablets erected on Charlie Radbourne's grave concerning the spelling of his name.

I'm going to mount Jason's photos in a looseleaf notebook along with some that I've taken myself, to exhibit at the committee's annual meeting in Texas next June. If you have photographed the graves of nineteenth century baseball figures, and would be willing to contribute copies for this scrapbook display, I'll receive them with thanks. Also welcome for the display: copies of news accounts of the circumstances leading to the more elaborate monuments—like those of Jim Creighton, Henry Chadwick, and Harry Wright—and accounts of the monument dedication ceremonies.

THE BOARD IN BALTIMORE

THE FALL MEETING of SABR's board of directors will be held at the Holiday Inn-Baltimore Harbor, 301 West Lombard St., Baltimore, September 17-19. SABR board meetings are open to the society membership, and if you're interested in seeing how the leadership conducts itself, they're worth sitting in on. The board will also meet with area members at dinner Saturday evening, the 18th. Details of time and place can be obtained from Morris Eckhouse in the Cleveland office.

MAJOR LEAGUES OR MINOR?

WAS THE AL A MAJOR LEAGUE IN 1900?

THE AUGUST ISSUE of SABR's Records Committee newsletter notes that a number of knowledgeable SABRites believe that 1900 should be recognized as a major league season for the American League, and that the AL player and team stats for that year should be included in major league statistical compilations. LYLE SPATZ, who chairs the Records Committee, urges his committee members who have an "informed opinion" on the question to "let me hear it, so we can get a discussion going."

Since 1900 is the final year of the nineteenth century, this is an issue that our committee should also address. Let's hear your reasoned arguments for or against viewing the AL a major league in 1900.

WHAT ABOUT THE UNION ASSOCIATION OF 1884?

THERE IS NO QUESTION that the upstart Union Association was the least "major" of the three leading professional leagues that played baseball in 1884. The encyclopedias consider the UA as a major league, however, and its player

and team stats are included in most tabulations of major league records.

But at least one leading authority on nineteenth century baseball strongly questions the designation of the UA as "major." Others defend the league's major league status just as strongly. We need to explore the issue with more of your reasoned arguments.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MISCELLANY UPDATE

ADD A COUPLE OF NAMES to Cappy Gagnon's list (in *NCN*, Spring 1993) of National Association pitchers who won more than 20 games and also compiled a winning record:

Bobby Mathews	132-111	.543
George Bradley	33-26	.559

This brings to just six the number of NA pitchers who achieved this record of success. The others: Al Spalding, Dick McBride, George Zettlein, and Candy Cummings.

(Thanks to the two alert readers who noticed the omission of Mathews [and who shall remain anonymous because the careless compiler of *NCN* forgot to record their names], and Mark Rucker, who caught both Mathews and Bradley.)

DON'T MISS . . .

THE SERIES OF CLASSIC BASEBALL REPRINTS from Amereon House (PO Box 1200, Mattituck, NY 11952), especially A. C. Anson's autobiography, *A Ball Player's Career*, published originally in 1900 (\$29.95).

Two works from McFarland (Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640): Myron J. Smith, Jr.'s *Baseball: A Comprehensive Bibliography: Supplement 1 (1985-1992)* (\$45), an essential purchase if you have and value Smith's original volume; and Thomas K. Perry's *Textile League Baseball: South Carolina's Mill Teams, 1880-1955* (\$28.50).

NIGHT BALL COMES TO CHATTANOOGA

(This item was uncovered by BOB BAILEY in the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, July 4, 1895.)

Base Ball By Electric Light

Chattanooga, Tenn., July 3-(Special)-The Chattanooga and Little Rock teams played a game to-night by electric light. Twenty-five large arc lamps lighted up the field and diamond. Poles with two lights each were placed on each side of the home plate, at the side of first and third base, one behind third and two in each of the fields, while the grand stand and "bleachers" had a full compliment of lights. It was not light as day, though, by any means, and fast ball playing was out of the question. About 2,500 people were out to see the novel exhibition and they enjoyed it immensely. The pitchers did not put on extra speed, nor did the batsmen try to make them too hot for the fielders. There was some pretty infield work, but one or two occasions an

ordinary single netted two or three bags. Chattanooga won handily by the score of 10 to 4.

NINETEENTH CENTURY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT June 1992-May 1993

SABR'S NINETEENTH CENTURY COMMITTEE continues to fuel a resurgent interest in nineteenth century baseball, as the group and individual efforts of its researchers expand the general awareness, knowledge and understanding of the nineteenth century game. A few examples from the past year illustrate the extent and variety of committee members' contributions. Rich Puff wrote a history of baseball in Troy, N.Y., for *Troy's Baseball Heritage*, the commemorative program he edited for a June 1992 reenactment of the National League's Troy-Worcester rivalry of a century earlier. National Association statistics for 1871, compiled by contributors to the committee's NA Box Score Project, were used in the latest edition of *Total Baseball*. Joe Overfield informed Buffalo area fans about that city's great nineteenth century pitcher Jim Galvin in the February 1993 issue of *Bison-Gram*, a monthly fan newspaper which Overfield serves as historian. Two days from now, as I type this report, Jerry Wright will enlighten an academic audience about the 1890 Colored Monarchs of York, Pa., at the convention of the North American Society for Sport History. John Husman's Great Black Swamp Frogs Base Ball Club of Sylvania, Ohio, has begun its second season playing Civil War era baseball, representing the Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame. Luke Salisbury earned a nomination for the prestigious Casey Award for his novel *The Cleveland Indian*, a baseball story which draws on Salisbury's understanding of baseball in the 1890s. John Thorn has stirred up the establishment with his strong argument (published in *Elysian Fields Quarterly* and the new edition of *Total Baseball*) for regarding Dr. Daniel L. Adams, an early Knickerbocker Club president, as the "true father of baseball." And in April 1993, the National Baseball Hall of Fame appointed a "blue ribbon committee" of SABRites—all six members of which also serve on the Nineteenth Century Committee—to recommend to the Hall's veterans' committee worthy, but hitherto overlooked, candidates for election to the Hall of Fame.

National Association Box Score Project researchers—who under Bob Tiemann's direction are compiling full player and team statistics for the NA (1871-1875)—have completed work on the 1871 stats (see above), and are in the final stages of work on stats for 1872 and 1873. Work is under way on 1874 and is about to begin on 1875.

Writing and editing continues on *More Nineteenth Century Stars*, the committee's second volume of brief biographies, which will be published by SABR in 1994.

Committee membership grew twenty per cent in the past year, and currently numbers 132. Fred Ivor-Campbell, who had co-chaired the committee with Bob Tiemann since the late summer of 1991, was named committee chair in June 1992, on Tiemann's retirement from the post after five years of service. In 1993, *Nineteenth Century Notes*, the committee newsletter, moved from a tri-annual to quarterly publication schedule.

-Frederick Ivor-Campbell, Chair, 27 May 1993

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

Number 93:3 Summer 1993

Frederick Ivor-Campbell, compiler

21 Martin St., Warren, RI 02885

401-245-2548