

THE BALTIMORE CHOP



SABR Babe Ruth Chapter

Vol. 3, No. 2

Summer 2019

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President's Message

My love for baseball began as I saw the enthusiasm for the game in both my parents. My mother bragged how her mother had starred on her high school's team, playing on dusty New Mexico diamonds. Mom told me that if her Dodgers and Yankees weren't in the World Series, it was an aberration.

My father was a child of the Depression and grew up in the Rocky Mountains, nowhere near major-league baseball. And although he was not a fan of any particular team, he played locally and then in the army during World War II. He knew baseball and he knew the game's stars. He told me of Ted Williams' 1941 season before I ever read about it. He told me about the masters of the game: Musial, DiMaggio, Foxx and Johnson, but his voice had a special air of reverence when he spoke of Mickey Cochrane. That made me decide to be a catcher.

But Dad also told me stories that were pure lore—fun, but not really factual. SABR's strength is its ability to combine intergenerational stories of baseball with historical documentation. When a person

President ► Page 5

Getting Ready for SABR 50!

By Peter Coolbaugh

It is coming. Not for another 10 months or so, but it is coming. For the first time since June of 1982, the SABR national convention will be in Maryland. Last time around, 227 attendees visited Towson University outside Baltimore and went to a game at Memorial Stadium.

In July 2020, the 50th incarnation of the SABR national convention will be downtown in Charm City. This time around it will be downtown at the Hyatt Regency on Light Street overlooking the Inner Harbor. The Orioles schedule has been released and the Birds will be hosting Tampa Bay for the weekend of the SABR convention.

SABR's conventions date back to the founding of the organization in 1971. The

first meeting in Cooperstown is considered the first convention. Over time, the conventions steadily grew in size, with the largest attended one to date being the New York City convention in the summer of 2017. Over 800 people came to Manhattan for that one.

I came late to the convention party. Although I have been a SABR member since 2007, it wasn't until 2015 that I made it to my first convention in Chicago. I missed 2016, but since have been to three straight conventions in New York,

Pittsburgh and most recently San Diego.

Members and baseball fans who attend the conventions regularly will surely tell you—GO! You need to go at least once for



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SABR Visits Camden Yards

On the first Saturday in June, 42 SABR members and guests met for our fourth annual chapter outing to Camden Yards. The weather was perfect, our seats high behind home plate were shielded from the sun, and as always, the speakers and food were outstanding!

We gathered in the Camden Club for our pre-party program. This year we were in a larger room in the Warehouse than in previous years, though the atmosphere was the same. Chapter members and guests arrived on time and were welcomed by chapter president D. Bruce Brown. After a few announcements, we jumped right into the afternoon's festivities.

Our first speaker, Eric C. Gray, treated us to three short stories from his new book, [Bases to Bleachers: A Collection of Personal Baseball Stories from the Stands and Beyond](#). He shared a story involving a friend meeting a bar patron who turned out to be Mr. Cub himself, Ernie Banks, even though the friend had no idea who that was! He next shared a story about Cal Ripken and what he means to the Orioles and Camden Yards. The last story was about taking his daughter to her first major-league game. Gray told us that he has enough material for a second book that

Camden Yards ► Page 7

SABR Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter Formed 2015

Board of Directors

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Find us on [Facebook](#), too.

Calendar

Regularly scheduled events

Peeps @ The Peeb

Conversation, nibbles, libations
First Wednesday of the month, 7-9 PM
Peabody Heights Brewery, 401 E. 30th St., Baltimore

Talkin' Baseball

Since 2001, Bob Davids Chapter hosts a guest speaker
First Saturday of the month, 9 AM
Brighton Gardens or Vantage House, Columbia
(email notice will have location)

Called Shot lunch

BYO lunch and talk baseball
Third Wednesday of the month, noon
Babe Ruth Museum, 216 Emory St., Baltimore

September

21: Called Shot lunch

October

2: Peeps @ The Peeb
5: Talkin' Baseball, Dan Joseph, The Last Ride of the Iron Horse
16: Called Shot lunch

November

2: Talkin' Baseball, Steve Klein, The Afterlife of Hugh Fullerton
6: Peeps @ The Peeb
20: Called Shot lunch

December

4: Peeps @ The Peeb
7: Talkin' Baseball, Cameron Penwell, Baseball in Japan
18: Called Shot lunch

January

15: Called Shot lunch
26: SABR Day, Peabody Heights Brewery, 9:30-4

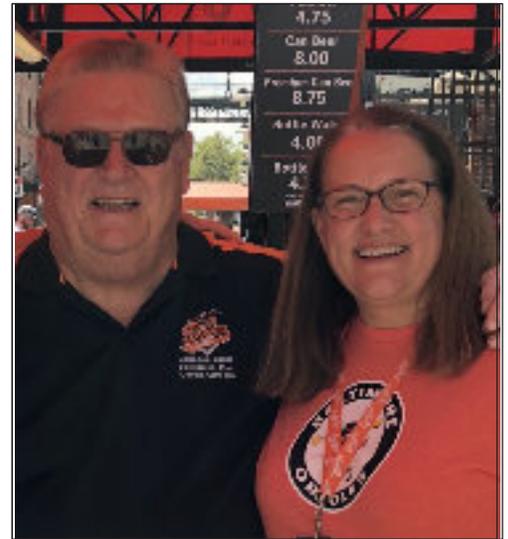
Volunteers Needed

The Babe Ruth Birthplace & Museum is seeking more volunteers to be docents/tour guides at the museum or to volunteer at the larger annual events like the Birthday Bash or Opening Day Party. If interested, contact Museum Volunteer Coordinator Peter Coolbaugh at poconopete74@yahoo.com.

Getting to Know ... Leslie Hoffmeister

Leslie Hoffmeister hails from suburban St. Louis, where she grew up a Cardinals fan. The first game she attended was at Busch Stadium (the 1966-2005 version).

She moved to Maryland, lives in Columbia and has adopted the Orioles. Her baseball favorites are all about the birds: Her favorite teams? Orioles in the American League, Cards in the National, but the O's win in a head-to-head game. Favorite player, past or present? Cal Ripken in the AL, Ozzie Smith in the NL. It follows that her favorite baseball memory is Cal Ripken's 2131: "The energy and pride from the fans was phenomenal!"



Leslie Hoffmeister has been to all 30 current ballparks, but home is where you can hang with Boog Powell.

SABR came into her life in 2013, and her first SABR event was the convention in Philadelphia.

Family has meant change. "I resigned from electrical engineering back in 2005 to raise my three sons," she says. "After raising my children, I'm just now returning to activities for me," she says. "I love to travel; I'm currently at 49 states and 46 countries." This includes baseball travel: "I've seen all 30 current stadiums, and Camden Yards remains my favorite."

Another interest is music: "I used to play French horn in several bands and orchestras, and I'd like to re-engage with that."

In a way, she's also joining the Birds: "I'm finally following up on a life-long goal: I'm learning how to fly a plane!"

In sum, "My world is a blank palette; invite me along, I like trying new things!"

Save the Date: SABR Day 2020

SABR Day 2020 is set.

- We'll be back at Peabody Heights Brewery on Sunday, Jan. 26 from 9:30 AM until 4 PM.

- There are no NFL games that day.

- The Orioles haven't set their FanFest date yet, but traditionally it has been on a Saturday and should not conflict with our SABR Day.

Attention, Web-savvy SABRites

Calling all tech-/web-savvy SABRites!

The Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter is looking for a technical assistant or someone to run our website.

Contact chapter President [Bruce Brown](#) for details.

Doug DeCinces and the Night Orioles Magic Was Born

...And you never know
Who's gonna hear the call.
Every game there's a different star.
That's the magic of Orioles Baseball!
Orioles Magic, feel it happen...



[Orioles Magic--Walter Woodward](#)

By Bill Stetka

Whenever he is in Baltimore, Doug DeCinces can't go anywhere without someone telling him they were at Memorial Stadium the night "Orioles Magic" was born.

"If everyone was there who said they were, there'd have been half a million people in the stadium that night," DeCinces said recently, 40 years later.

It was June 22, 1979, and the Orioles were in first place and starting a four-game series against the Detroit Tigers.

One of the favorites to win the American League East, the Orioles got off to a typically slow start, losing eight of their first 11 games. But momentum was building, from the new radio contract with a station, WFBR, that zealously promoted the team, to a bearded Dundalk cab driver named "Wild Bill" Hagy who turned Section 34 of the upper deck into a raucous party every night.

On June 22, the Orioles trailed the Tigers 5-3 in the bottom of the ninth inning. After Kiko Garcia flied out to right field, Ken Singleton homered to cut the deficit to one. Eddie Murray singled, but Gary Roenicke popped out to second for the second out, bringing DeCinces to the plate. It was a moment he might not have been ready for a couple of years earlier.

Despite being a third-round pick by the Orioles in 1970 and producing good numbers in his climb through the farm system, DeCinces did not arrive in Baltimore as a cherished figure. He was the heir apparent at third base to the beloved Brooks Robinson.

After two brief call-ups, DeCinces stuck in 1975, playing all four infield positions. He started 103 games at third base in 1976 and fully supplanted Robinson as the regular third baseman in 1977. Although Robinson was at the end of his Hall of Fame career, fans did not take to DeCinces easily. Every error he made was greeted with "Brooks would have had it."

With Robinson's retirement following the '77 season, DeCinces had a breakout year in 1978, batting .286 with 28 homers and 80 RBIs. He also committed only one error over his final 72 games.

Third base clearly was now his, but a balky back—an injury that would plague him throughout his career—sent him to the disabled list from late April to early June of 1979. He entered the series against the Tigers hitting just .219 with five homers.

A crowd of 35,456 (not the half-million or so who seemingly claim to have been there) came to the ballpark that Friday night in

Trivia Corner

Lee Smith (1994) is the most recent Hall of Famer who played for the American League Baltimore Orioles for a single season.

Who are the others?

Answer on Page 6.



June 22, 1979: It was magic. (Baltimore Orioles photo)

June as the Orioles faced the Tigers. The Birds trailed 5-3 after three innings, and it remained that way as Detroit reliever Kip Young tossed 5½ scoreless innings at the Birds through the eighth.

Detroit manager Sparky Anderson—who had taken over the Tigers eight days earlier after leading the Cincinnati Reds to two world championships and four National League pennants in nine years as skipper—summoned right-hander Dave Tobik from the bullpen to start the ninth inning.

Singleton's homer cut the lead to 5-4 and Murray was on first with two outs when DeCinces came to bat. He took a ball and then fouled a pitch back to the screen.



Bill O'Donnell

In the WFBR broadcast booth, veteran Orioles announcer Bill O'Donnell—a steady, calm voice—set the scene as the station's iconoclastic sportscaster, Charlie Eckman—a former NBA coach and referee whose shrill voice was laced with his native Baltimore accent—sat next to him.

Orioles fans listening at home—or who hear the broadcast call today through YouTube—are prone to goosebumps.

O'Donnell: "The one-one by Tobik...Here's a fly ball to deep left field..."

Eckman (interrupting): "IT MIGHT GET OUTTA HERE!"

O'Donnell: "Way back [Eckman: "GET OUTTA HERE!"]...way back...GONE!"

Then, in as raspy a voice as he ever had: "HOME RUN...HOME RUN...HOME RUN...*The Orioles win it, Doug DeCinces with a two-run homer...The Orioles have won the ballgame in 1979 style. Do you believe it?*"

Eckman: "THEY'RE GOING CRAZY!"

O'Donnell: "Every Oriole is at the plate...Every Oriole is at the plate."



Charlie Eckman

Magic ► Continued on Page 9

Road Trip: Blue Rocks Excursion ROCKED!

By Seamus Kearney

Some 40 members of three SABR chapters attended a special gathering of SABRites on Aug. 24 at Frawley Stadium during Negro Leagues History Day in Wilmington. We socialized, drank, ate and watched a Single A (Advanced) game twixt the Wilmington Blue Rocks and the Down East Wood Ducks from North Carolina (not Maine). The Rocks won, 8-4, because of a meltdown of a Wood Ducks pitcher in the eighth inning.

The Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter co-sponsored the event with the Connie Mack Chapter, and a few of the Bob Davids Chapter joined us in Bluewinkle's Diamond Club of the Judy Johnson Field. We were hosted by members of the Blue Rocks. Group sales man Ryan Blaire arranged appearances of Rocks chaplain Tony Graffanino, announcer Cory Nidoh (who stayed and chatted with the group up until close to game time), data analyst Tony Medina, media

man Matt Janus and pitcher Kris Bubic. Bubic was recently named the Royals' Player of the Year for their minor-league system.

A tie game vanished when Ducks pitcher Jairo Beras allowed: a walk, a hit batsman, a botched bunt, a late throw, a throwing error and three singles (one of them a Texas Leaguer) for four runs in the bottom of the eighth. The game had no dingers, great (and flawed) fielding by the Ducks third baseman, Sherten Apostel, sharp fielding, several wild throws, lots of 'tween-inning foolishness, an on-deck batter who caromed a foul ball, and several infield shifts by both teams. Amazingly, a Blue Rocks pitcher (Andrew Beckwith) alternated overhand and submarine pitches during several at-bats. All of this overseen by two umpires!

I believe this game was enjoyed by all of us attending. I know I did.

Peace in your Life and a World Series in Philly.



A view of the field from Peter Cottrell



Bruce Brown was admiring the moonscape quality of the tarmac when he was nearly hit by a foul ball. A staffer retrieve it and he now has the best souvenir of the day.

Thanks, from the Blue Rocks

Thank you so much for you all coming out on Saturday. It was a true pleasure having you all out for a great time, and getting to meet you! How was your experience?

Per your request, the guests in attendance were: former major-leaguer (Braves, Rays, White Sox Royals, Red Sox, Brewers, Indians) and current Blue Rocks advisor and team chaplain Tony Graffanino; Blue Rocks pitcher Kris Bubic (Royals Minor Leaguer of the Year, 2019); Kansas City Royals Assistant to Player Development Malcom Culver; Blue Rocks Historian, PA Announcer and Director of Community Affairs & Tours Kevin Linton; Blue Rocks Video Coordinator & Data Analyst Tony Medina, and Blue Rocks Director of Media Relations & Head Broadcaster Cory Nidoh.

Ryan Blaire



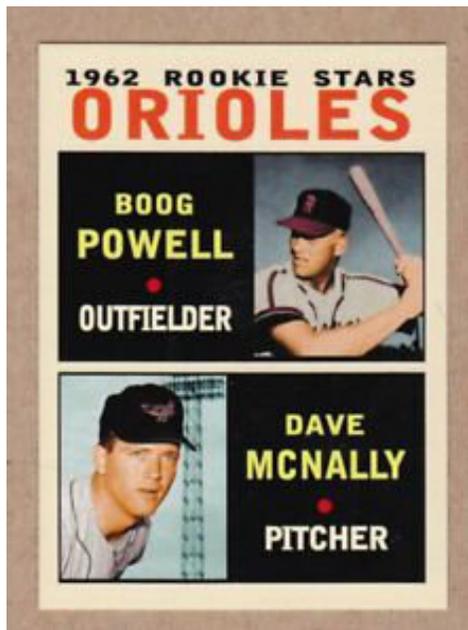
One of the many Judy Johnson displays at Frawley Stadium. (D. Bruce Brown)

McNally Arrived Quickly in 1962

By Francis Kinlaw

A two-night doubleheader between two non-contending teams a few days before the end of the 1962 regular season would not normally be expected to be noteworthy more than five decades later, but the first game of a twin bill in Memorial Stadium between a seventh-place Baltimore team and the ninth-place Kansas City Athletics on Sept. 26, 1962 remains extraordinary. On that evening, one of the greatest pitchers in Orioles history made an impressive major-league debut in a manner which caused the game to proceed at a rapid pace that would make current baseball commissioner Rob Manfred turn green with envy.

Dave McNally emerged from the shadows of the Orioles' farm system without great fanfare and hurled a brilliant two-hitter, striking out four and issuing three walks. Placing an exclamation



point on his initial appearance, he retired the last 17 batters in order.

Earlier in the summer of 1962 (his first full season in professional baseball after agreeing to a bonus contract of \$80,000 offered by Orioles scout Jim Wilson), the left-handed prospect had thrown four shutouts as he posted a record of 15-11 and an earned run average of 2.98 for the Elmira Pioneers of the Class A

Eastern League. In Elmira, McNally's manager had been future Baltimore skipper Earl Weaver and his regular catcher had been Andy Etchebarren. The promotion of Etchebarren to Baltimore and his subsequent opportunity to make his own debut as the starting catcher during McNally's "original gem" likely improved the 19-year-old pitcher's comfort level.

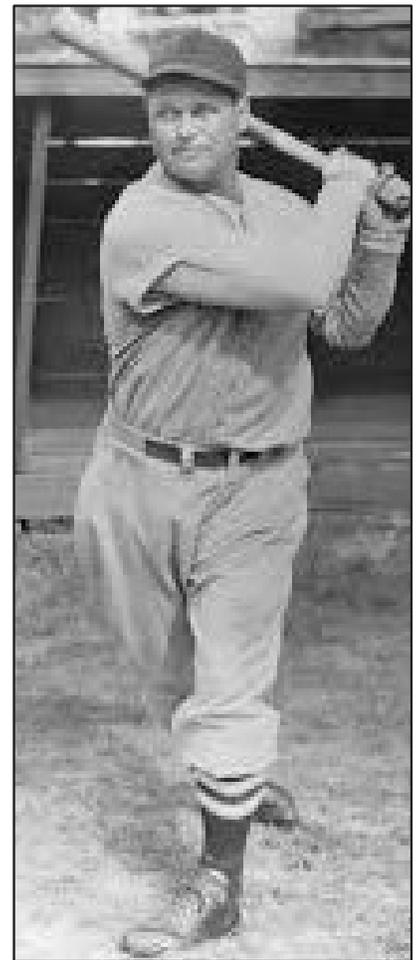
The dual debut of pitcher and catcher was exhilarating for the players involved (Etchebarren's first major-league hit was a single to left field in the second inning off right-hander Bill Fischer), but the initiation process of the two lasted a shorter period of time than a full-length movie in a theater! A mere 1 hour and 32 minutes elapsed between first pitch and final out of a 3-0 Orioles victory. All these years later, the game still stands as the shortest in terms of time in modern Orioles history. McNally's tendency to attack hitters forthrightly undoubtedly contributed to the pace of play, as did the fact that the two pitchers used by Athletics manager Hank Bauer (Fischer and John Wyatt) issued no walks in their eight innings. The Athletics gained a split of the doubleheader with a 6-2 victory in the nightcap that took 2 hours and 20 minutes.

As this seemingly insignificant late-season game was being played before a gathering of only 2,840 fans, the young McNally could only dream that four years later he would be on the same

field sealing the Birds' first world championship with a four-hit shutout against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game Four of the 1966 World Series. Etchebarren could hardly have imagined that he would be behind the plate that afternoon when Orioles center fielder Paul Blair sent all of Birdland into a state of elation by securing a flyball off the bat of the Dodgers' Lou Johnson for the final out. And finally, in the Kansas City dugout, Bauer certainly could not have imagined that the exceptional pitching performance he was witnessing would be the first of McNally's 181 victories in an Oriole uniform and that Bauer himself would be the managerial beneficiary of that World Series triumph.

From the SABR Games Project: Jimmie Foxx, Pitcher

The Orioles have used a number of position players as pitchers this season. The SABR Games Project recently added a [report](#) from 1945 with a different Maryland connection: Hall of Fame slugger Jimmie Foxx (the pride of Sudlersville, Queen Anne's County) struck out five in his first pitching start. Foxx's career pitching stats aren't too bad (1-0, 1.59 ERA, 11 strikeouts, 14 walks), considering he only pitched in the majors in his 30s.



The way we usually picture Jimmie Foxx (534 home runs)

President ▶ From Page 1

asks me what SABR is, I explain the connection with sabermetrics. My elevator pitch, however, is, "We at SABR combine our love of the game with research, historical and scientific, in order to validate and justify our passion."

I hope my parents would have approved.

Brooks Robinson, Memorabilia Maven

By Maxwell Kates

If you visit virtually any home in the metropolitan Baltimore area, there's a good chance the living room will feature a photograph or a baseball signed by Brooks Robinson. Brooks has always been cordial and personable with his fans, greeting them as though they were neighbors or old friends. During his career as a third baseman, coach and broadcaster for the Orioles, Brooks lent his name to products like Rawlings Sporting Goods, Mike Meagher's All-Star Dodge, Crown Central Petroleum, Miller Lite and Es-skay Hot Dogs. These were products that were popular among households and families in the Baltimore area, including his own. Brooks and his wife Connie have spent most of their married life in "the Land of Pleasant Living," where they raised sons Brooks David, Chris and Michael, daughter Diana and several grandchildren.

On the field, Brooks Robinson was sterling, committing only 263 errors in 9,165 chances during a 23-year career, from 1955 to 1977. When his left hand was not ensconced in a leather Rawlings glove, it was often holding a pen signing an autograph. Over the years, Brooks has signed thousands of items, including a pet rock, an Easter egg, a photo of Frank Robinson, and even a plane ticket.¹ Brooks made fans everywhere he went, including Vancouver, where he played for the AAA Mounties in 1959. Mel Lehan remembers meeting him at Capilano Stadium after the Mounties' game on July 7:

"I remember standing outside the Mounties' dressing room [when] Brooks Robinson emerged, gave me his autograph, and we walked together towards the stadium exit." Lehan continues, "He informed me that he had just ... been brought up by the Baltimore Orioles and that he was now on his way to the airport. I was the first person he [had] told."²

The late broadcaster Chuck Thompson once remarked that "when fans ask Brooks Robinson for an autograph, he complies while finding out how many kids you have, what your dad does, where you live, how old you are, and if you have a dog."³ While I can't say that Brooks asked me any of those questions the day I met him in 2006, he was every bit as genuine, generous and humble as he appeared on television. Brooks has become so familiar with his memorabilia, that he knows the details of the items he is asked to sign.

One fan asked Brooks to sign a lithograph of his spectacular catch that robbed Johnny Bench of a base hit in the final game of the 1970 World Series. "I remember it well! Paul LaVine was a young artist who painted this the year we closed Memorial Sta-

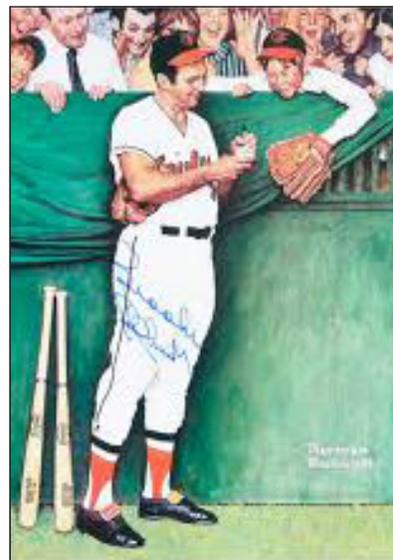


Throws right ...
... Signs left

dium. You probably want me to add 'Game 5, 1970 World Series' as an inscription."⁴

Another asked Brooks to sign a 1983 Orioles yearbook which included a cover illustration of Brooks in honor of his Hall of Fame induction that year. "You probably also want me to sign the back."⁵ Indeed.

If you turn over the cover, you will see an advertisement for Mike Meagher's All-Star Dodge inviting fans to "Have Brooks Auto-graph Your Yearbook Picture Personally!" Brooks entered into a personal services contract with the automobile dealership in which fans could send in their yearbook to have him sign the back cover—all it cost was \$1.75 in postage.



Then there's the Norman Rockwell print. In 1971, Rockwell was commissioned by Rawlings to paint a portrait of Brooks which was used in the Orioles' World Series program.⁶ The bats, shoes, glove and ball in the painting were all Rawlings products. The portrait was entitled "Gee Thanks, Brooks" and it has become a classic. When Brooks was asked to sign a print, he added five inscriptions without even being asked.

Those inscriptions offer an efficient synopsis of Brooks' accomplishments in his baseball career. In 1964, as the Orioles challenged the Yankees for the American League pennant, he won its MVP Award. Two years later, in 1966, despite a 2-1 loss to the National League, he won the All-Star Game MVP Award. Then, in 1970, he was the World Series MVP. The fourth inscription acknowledged his 16 Gold Gloves, and the final one commemorated his Hall of Fame induction in 1983.

Brooks could even identify some of the people in the portrait. "Rockwell painted himself into the photograph. That's him smoking a cigar. And that's the photographer sitting behind me. The kid receiving my autograph [in the painting] is his son."⁷ Brooks then went on to ask, "I'll bet you don't know who owns the original painting. I'm going to tell you right now it's me. My son was on a cruise [a few years before] when he noticed the painting was up for

Trivia Answer

	Year with Orioles	Hall of Fame
Joe Kelley *	1902	1971
Reggie Jackson	1976	1993
Tim Lincecum Sr.	2001	2017
Vladimir Guerrero Sr.	2011	2018
Jim Thome	2012	2018

*Kelley also played for the National League Orioles from 1892-1898.

Brooks ► Continued on Page 8

Camden Yards ► From Page 1



Eric Gray recounts three tales from his book—with some SABR references.

opener since 1954 except for his time in the Navy! Gibbons was also involved with the design and construction of Orioles Park! He oversaw the grand opening/reception. The special guest for the event was acclaimed actor James Earl Jones! He also shared that he spends a lot of time verifying and authenticating Babe Ruth artifacts. Most recently, he verified a team postcard from 1908 featuring a young Babe Ruth (13 years old) as a player for an industrial team named the Burroughs!

The last speaker of the day was former Oriole [Ross Grimsley](#). His father, also named Ross Grimsley, [pitched briefly](#) for the Chicago White Sox in the 1951 season. The son was a left-handed pitcher drafted by the Cincinnati Reds. During his [career](#), he played for the Orioles, Montreal Expos and Cleveland Indians. He entertained us with stories about his playing days, and it was obvious that he had dozens more than time allowed. He noted that he had pitched against 42 Hall of Famers, including Willie Mays, Hank Aaron and Willie Stargell—impressive! He also dispelled a few rumors from his playing days. Although he admits he was somewhat eccentric, there was no truth that he had consulted a witch to assist with his pitching! After his playing days, he coached for 31 years with various teams. As the son of a player, he noted that he's been around baseball for nearly his entire life. It was evident to all that he loved the career that allowed him to meet and play against some of the best players in the history of the game.

We dined on a scrumptious buffet of hot dogs, burgers, brats and all the fixings while we listened to the speakers. At the conclusion of our pre-party, we enjoyed an afternoon of baseball. Although the O's dropped the game to the Giants, a great day was

will be published reasonably soon. **Trivia:** Can you guess which SABR Baltimore Babe Ruth chapter officers' stories are featured in his book? (Answer below)

Our next speaker was [Michael Gibbons](#), Executive Director Emeritus of the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum. He entertained the crowd with personal stories that were unique to his experience working for the museum. He also shared that he's attended every O's home



Former Oriole Ross Grimsley (left below) shares as many stories as time allows.



Babe Ruth Executive Director Emeritus Mike Gibbons (above) talks about his museum experiences and personal Camden Yards history.

had by all. What's better than an afternoon of talking baseball followed by taking in a major-league game?

D. Bruce Brown, Michelle Freeman and Peter Coolbaugh contributed to this article.

Answer to trivia question: Chapter secretary Michelle Freeman (pages 81-82) and treasurer Ken Mars (pages 314-315) are featured in Gray's newest book, plus SABR national vice president Leslie Heaphy (pages 310-311).

SABR 50 ► From Page 1

the experience. The panels, the game, the academic research presentations, the mingling of fans and rivals, the making of new friends, the night out at the ballpark ... it really does not get better than this. You create new memories every year.

Next summer it is Baltimore's turn to shine. SABR has a reputation for putting on wonderful conventions, so that is certainly a challenge for our chapter. But many don't realize the depth of the baseball history and knowledge of the fans in this region. There are the old Orioles from the National League days, the original American League Orioles, the International League Orioles, the current franchise, and several Negro Leagues teams. Not to mention a lad from Pigtown who went on to play in New York and rewrite history. No shortage of baseball antiquity here for sure. And we get a chance to show off our city and ballpark to the rest of the baseball world.

The SABR 50 planning committee is in the early stages of putting together a wonderful program. Stay tuned for more info as time goes on. The Baltimore/Babe Ruth Chapter may only be 4 years old, but we are honored to be hosting SABR 50. We likely could use some volunteers as we get closer to the event, so please watch your e-mail inbox for more information.

SABR 50 is putting us back on the map. Let's make it the best one ever and perhaps even the largest to date as well. Be proud Baltimore ... time to show the baseball world just how important we are to the game.

***What else happened in 1982?
See Page 9***

Brooks ► From Page 6

auction. So he made a bid. The auctioneer didn't believe him when he wrote his name as 'Brooks Robinson.' When he told the auctioneer that he was my son, the auctioneer said that if anyone increased the bid, he'd let him know. Now it's sitting in my living room in Timonium."⁸

And then there was the famous photo of Brooks posed with his Gold Gloves on the grass infield at Memorial Stadium. Captured early in the 1976 season, the photo was intended to commemorate the record Brooks set for having won the most Gold Gloves (since surpassed by Greg Maddux). Brooks knows about that one, too. "If you look closely you'll see 16 Gold Gloves, but they're not all mine. See, there's Paul Blair's Gold Glove and Bobby Grich's Gold Glove."⁹



One year after the Gold Glove photo, in 1977, the Orioles took a road trip to Seattle for a series against the expansion Mariners. Once again, he met Vancouver's Mel Lehan:

"Before the game started, I walked down to the Mariners' dugout and saw Wes Stock, a coach who used to pitch for the Mounties. I asked if I could talk with Brooks, and he went and got him. I told Brooks the story about being the first person that he had told about being called up [by the Orioles]. He said that he had another first for me—he had just decided to retire and would make the announcement very shortly. I felt very thrilled to have been there at both ends of his magnificent career."¹⁰

I also had a personal recollection to share with Brooks, about how well he recovered from a mishap with the United States Postal Service:

"All these years, I've wanted to thank you for handling a fan relation situation in a way that not everyone would have."

Brooks answered, "No problem, what happened?"

"You see, when I was a kid, I wrote for your autograph. You wrote me back asking for \$6 for charity. I said fine. At that time, \$6 was two weeks' allowance. Months went by and I never received a reply. Then I wrote a second letter." Brooks began to nod, his facial expression suggesting that he remembered what I was talking about.

"I just wrote to ask what happened to the card and if there was anything that could be done. About three weeks later, my mom wrote me at camp to tell me there was a package waiting for me from Crown Petroleum. Inside there was a photo signed by 'Brooks Robinson—finally!' (Her words, not mine.)"

I'll never forget Brooks' reaction to the story.

"I remember that! I remember getting that letter from some kid in Canada! Years before I had taken a personal services contract with Crown and I had a few photos left over. I'm glad you got the photo!"¹¹ I'm glad I saved the envelope, too—it was also signed by Brooks. I was 15 years old when I wrote that letter, the same age Mel Lehan was when he first met Brooks in Vancouver.

No matter where he travels, Brooks knows how to identify with his audience. Speaking in Toronto, the native of Little Rock, Ark.,

proclaimed that "I feel that part of me is Canadian, at least in a cultural sense." Besides the season he spent in Vancouver, Brooks related that "my wife grew up in Windsor, Ontario, her brother lives in Brampton, and his whole family is here tonight."¹² By studying and mastering the nuances of his memorabilia, Brooks has been able to identify with the individual as well. Each fan leaves with a personal memory of the day he or she met Brooks Robinson. This might explain the memorabilia in the living rooms. It could also identify why, to paraphrase sportswriter Gordon Beard, "in Baltimore, [people] name their children after him."¹³

Gee thanks, Brooks!

Sources:

1. "There's Nothing Brooks Won't Sign" in *The Baltimore Sun*: April 19, 2009.
2. Interview with Mel Lehan, July 15, 2009.
3. Curt Smith, *The Storytellers: From Mel Allen to Bob Costas - Sixty Years of Baseball Tales from the Broadcast Booth*, (New York: MacMillan, 1995), 204.
4. Conversation with Brooks Robinson, May 6, 2006.
5. Conversation with Brooks Robinson, May 6, 2006.
6. Maxwell Kates, "Brooks Robinson," in *Pitching, Defense, and Three-Run Homers: The 1970 Baltimore Orioles*, Mark Armour and Malcolm Allen, eds., (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2012), 249.
7. Maxwell Kates, "Dominico Forum a Hit Among Legends and Fans Alike," in *Full Count*, Volume 10, Issue 3, (Toronto: The Toronto Blue Jays Fan Club, 2006), 4.
8. Conversation with Brooks Robinson, May 6, 2006.
9. Kates, "Dominico," 4.
10. Interview with Mel Lehan, July 15, 2009
11. Conversation with Brooks Robinson, May 6, 2006.
12. Kates, "Dominico," 4-5.
13. Ted Patterson, *The Baltimore Orioles: Four Decades of Magic from 33rd Street to Camden Yards*, (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co. 2000), 157.

The new uniform looks great, Brooks.

One of many ads Brooks Robinson did over the years for Crown—and that he gladly autographed for fans.

Whether he's showing off our new uniform or dressed in his usual business suit, Brooks Robinson is still an All-Star.

We're proud he's now a member of the Crown team. And that's a fact.

CROWN
Crown Central
Petroleum Corporation
Baltimore, MD

Magic ► From Page 3

It was as if every corner of the ballpark had been turned into Section 34.

“It was quite a thrill,” DeCinces said in reflection. “You can’t think ‘home run to win the game,’ but when it happened, the whole stadium erupted. Just crazy. We went inside and you could still hear the crowd, and finally after about 10 minutes, I came out and it was like no one had left.”

If Friday night wasn’t enough, the next night the Orioles swept a doubleheader from the Tigers in dramatic fashion again, with Eddie Murray hitting a three-run homer in the ninth inning of the opener for an 8-6 sudden-death win (they weren’t called “walk-offs” back then) and Terry Crowley breaking an eight-inning tie with a two-out single for a 6-5 victory.

On Monday morning, WFBR radio unveiled a highlights package of the weekend’s games, cut into Bachman Turner Overdrive’s popular song “You Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Yet.” Later games would create new highlights to be cut in, all the way to the American League pennant, and a vibrant connection to the local baseball team had been born.

Even after losing the World Series that fall to the Pittsburgh Pirates, the city held a parade to honor the Orioles. And in the off-

season that followed, the Orioles commissioned a Cleveland songwriter, Walter Woodward, to craft a theme song. Orioles Magic debuted in 1980 and has been the club’s go-to song ever since.

DeCinces would go on to a 15-year career with the Orioles, Angels and Cardinals. He was elected to both the Orioles and Angels halls of fame. To some, his career in Baltimore is summed up thusly: replaced one Hall of Famer (Brooks Robinson) and was traded to make room for another (Cal Ripken Jr.).

Had Hall of Fame manager Earl Weaver prevailed, DeCinces never would have been traded; He had designs on moving Ripken to shortstop from the beginning, which would have cemented the left side of the Orioles infield and, perhaps, added another pennant or two.

In the 25 years before, and the four decades since, there have been other home runs that have created a spark, won a game, brought delirium—or all three—for one reason or another. But none set a tone and energized a town like the one hit June 22, 1979.

Orioles Magic had arrived, thanks to Doug DeCinces. *Bill Stetka, a former baseball writer for the old Baltimore News-American, has been the Orioles’ alumni director since 2008.*

Remembering 1982

In Baseball

World Series	Cardinals	
	National League	American League
Batting	Al Oliver, Expos, .331	Willie Wilson, Royals, .332
Home runs	Dave Kingman, Mets, 37	Reggie Jackson, Angels, 46
MVP	Dale Murphy, Braves	Robin Yount, Brewers, 46
Cy Young	Steve Carlton, Phillies	Pete Vuckovich, Brewers
Rookie of the Year	Steve Sax, Dodgers	Cal Ripken Jr., Orioles

In Sports

Super Bowl	49ers (beat Bengals, 26-21)
College football	Penn State
College basketball	North Carolina (beat Georgetown, 63-62)
	Dean Smith’s first championship
Women	Louisiana Tech (beat Georgia, 82-60)
	First year NCAA sponsored women’s championship

Outside of Sports

Top TV shows	Dallas, 60 Minutes
Notable movies	Rocky III, Gandhi, E.T., Chariots of Fire
Celebrity deaths	Ingrid Bergman, John Belushi, Henry Fonda, Grace Kelly
Music	Michael Jackson’s Thriller released
News	Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated
	Falkland Islands War
	Epcot opens
	Doctors perform first implant of an artificial heart
	USA Today publishes first issue
	The Weather Channel airs for the first time
	Smile! :-) was suggested for use with email

