

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH

November 2023

GREETINGS, NEW ENGLAND SABR-ITES!

It was the first World Series featuring teams named after states (Texas and Arizona), not cities, and the first Series in which both ballparks had roofs. And now comes the first fall meeting of the Southern New England SABR chapter at a new venue. Farewell, St. Philip's, which told us they needed "our" space. Welcome to the Smithfield Elks Lodge, at 326 Farnum Pike, Smithfield (driving directions below).

The date: **Saturday, November 25.**

The time: As usual, **11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

The program: As usual, member presentations, Hall of Fame mock election, Father Gerry Beirne's trivia quiz, baseball book raffle/sale (book contributions welcomed), guest speaker.

Our speaker, coming for a repeat performance, will be **Lenny DiNardo**, former Red Sox pitcher and currently a NESN analyst.

We have three presentations scheduled, and time for one more *short* one. First one to ask gets the slot; others get first dibs on a spot at our spring meeting. (Note: One of the presenters, Dixie Tourangeau, asks that you write the names of 25 or more people you'd like to see in the Hall of Fame and bring your list to the meeting.) The other scheduled presenters are Herb Crehan and Mark Kanter.

The Elks serve lunch. Arrangements forthcoming.

Authors? Let me know if you want space to sell your books.

The tariff: \$7.00 to cover our expenses. Children free.

This newsletter is going out a little later than I expected, and it would be appreciated if you RSVP promptly.

John Vorperian Recommends Some Good Baseball Reading

Before highlighting some wonderful baseball book selections, I just wanted to share how our beloved sport does have a collective thematic knack or in the words of the Big Le Big Lebowski “putting it all together.” This year’s fall classic won by the Southwest Washington

Senators is a fitting tribute to a DC baseball legend, namely the late **Frank Howard**. Hondo’s passing struck me because as a kid the famed slugger captured my full attention. And though I lived in the Metro Big Apple area in 1969, with a skipper with the surname Williams, the Nats, not the Yanks, were the team I followed. Fast-forward to the 1996 Mets Fantasy Camp: Hondo was on staff and actually looked for me.

During the camp’s photo session, he noticed how I carefully instructed the photographer to capture as much of my nameplate as possible while I was in a batting stance. Frank recognized my Armenian name. He had some good stories of how he and his Dodgers roommate Chuck Essegian would go over to the Essegian home. Chuck’s mother would always put a feast out for the boys. Hondo asked for translations of some key Armenian words that Chuck’s mom would say at the table. What else would a mom say to an All-Star? Eat more!



And now for some literature . . .

BASEBALL’S ENDANGERED SPECIES: Inside the Craft of Scouting by Those Who Lived It, by Lee Lowenfish. (University of Nebraska Press) Three cheers for SABR member Lowenfish. Even before opening this book, just by the volume’s cover I knew it would be a comprehensive and enjoyable study of scouts. On the book jacket is an image of Tom Greenwade, known for signing Commerce, Oklahoma, standout Mickey Mantle. But note that Greenwade is in a Dodgers uniform. Lowenfish surprisingly takes us on a detailed whirlwind

tour of multiple scouts, their journeys, and their significant and lasting impact on the rosters of various major-league franchises. Branch Rickey would say, “Luck is the residue of design.” After reading **Baseball’s Endangered Species**, you’ll agree that scouts honor is just as important or even more so in securing talent.

DAYBREAK AT CHAVEZ RAVINE: Fernandomania and the Remaking of the Los Angeles Dodgers, by Erik Sherman. (University of Nebraska Press). The human misery index of the Dodgers’ move to the West Coast has been portrayed in a number of books. Yet the overwhelming number of titles focus on how the shift afflicted Brooklyn denizens. New York Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Sherman bypasses Kings County and addresses the LA team’s original sin. Construction of Dodger Stadium in Chavez Ravine displaced an entire Hispanic neighborhood. Fernando Valenzuela put numbers in the win column, in the seats, and, more importantly, gave the Dodgers redemption.

ONE SEASON IN ROCKET CITY: How the 1985 Huntsville Stars Brought Minor League Baseball Fever to Alabama, by Dale Tafoya (University of Nebraska Press). Foreword by Sandy Alderson. If you thought that below the Mason-Dixon line, the only sport Southerners would line up to see was football, think again. Dale Tafoya regales us as to how Huntsville, Alabama, enthusiastically embraced pro baseball. In 1985 the Oakland Athletics place an affiliate in the heart of Dixie and some fun stuff happens. And why not when you’ve got on the hometown nine the likes of future major leaguers Jose Canseco, Tim Belcher, Luis Polonia, Terry Steinbach, and Eric Plunk.

John Vorperian, hosts BEYOND THE GAME, a community-syndicated cable TV program. Visit: www.wpcommunitymedia.org. He may run a 2024 campaign to allow only the top winning percentage team in each league to play in the World Series. Wish him luck.

Trivia

To the Hall. From 1918 through 1965, every Yankees manager but one (not counting interim managers) has been elected to the Hall of Fame. Can you name them all? And who was the non-electee?

And then there were ... The Texas Rangers’ World Series championship leaves five teams never having won a World Series. Which ones? (Hint: All five are expansion franchises.)

No minors. Six Hall of Fame pitchers had careers of 10 years or more without ever playing in the minor leagues. Can you name them?

Watch them go. What Hall of Famer is the only player to lead the major leagues in triples and homers in the same season?

Triple threat. What former Red Sox player has the most career assists from right field?

A toughie. We baseball mavens all know the five Hall of Famers Carl Hubbell (a HOFer himself) fanned consecutively in the 1934 All-Star Game (Ruth, Gehrig, Foxx, Simmons, and Cronin). Who can name the five All-Stars Pedro Martínez struck out in the 1999 game?

What's my name? Can you give the full names of these Hall of Famers? Sparky Anderson, Richie Ashburn, Home Run Baker, Cool Papa Bell, Dan Brouthers, Candy Cummings, Kiki Cuyler, Red Faber, Lou Gehrig, Lefty Gomez, Ken Griffey, Bucky Harris, Whitey Herzog, Monte Irvin, Chipper Jones, Rabbit Maranville.

An easy one? Who is the oldest major leaguer with four or more hits in a game?

Three out. What infielder and former manager is the only player to hit a World Series home run for three different franchises?

Shaughnessy special. In two seasons (1980, 1984), the MVPs in both leagues have been third basemen. Can you name them?

Luminaries. Besides all being members of the Baseball Hall of Fame, what do Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Foxx, Al Simmons, and Joe Cronin have in common?

A little tricky. Who was the only National Leaguer to win a batting championship in three different decades?

Trivia answers

To the Hall. Miller Huggins (1918-29), Joe McCarthy (1931-46), Bill Dickey (1946), Bucky Harris (1947-48), Casey Stengel (1949-1965). The non-electee was Bob Shawkey (1930).

And then there were ... The Rockies, Brewers, Padres, Mariners, and Rays.

No minors. Bob Feller, Catfish Hunter, Sandy Koufax, Ted Lyons, Eddie Plank, and Eppa Rixey.

Watch them go. Jim Rice: 15 triples and 46 homers in 1978.

Triple threat. Harry Hooper (333 assists from right field; 344 altogether).

A toughie. In the top of the first, Pedro struck out Barry Larkin, Larry Walker, and Sammy Sosa. In the second, he fanned Mark McGwire leading off. Then Matt Williams reached on an error and was caught stealing as Martínez K'd Jeff Bagwell. Three of those Martínez struck out (Larkin, Walker, Bagwell) are in the Hall of Fame, and Sosa and McGwire could be except for drug issues. Oh, and Pedro is in the Hall, too.

What's my name? George L. Anderson, Don Richard Ashburn, John Franklin Baker (often incorrectly referred to as Frank "Home Run" Baker), James T. Bell, Dennis J. Brouthers, William A. Cummings, Hazen S. Cuyler, Urban C. Faber, Henry Louis Gehrig, Vernon L. Gomez, George

K. Griffey Jr., Stanley R. Harris, Dorrel N.E. Herzog, Monford M. Irvin, Larry W. Jones, Walter V. Maranville.

An easy one? Pete Rose of the Reds: 5-for-5 on August 11, 1986, at the age of 45 years and 119 days.

Three out. Matt Williams: Series homers for 1989 Giants, 1997 Indians, 2001 Diamondbacks. Managed Washington Nationals 2014-15.

Shaughnessy special. 1980, Mike Schmidt and George Brett; 1964, Ken Boyer and Brooks Robinson.

Luminaries. Ruth, Gehrig, Foxx, Simmons, and Cronin were the future HOFers struck out in succession by Carl Hubbell of the New York Giants (himself a Hall of Famer) in the 1934 All-Star Game. (Despite Hubbell's heroics, his National League lost the game, 9-7.)

A little tricky. Honus Wagner, who won batting crowns in 1900, 1903, 1904, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, and 1911. Your editor labeled this a little tricky because some people think 1900 should be part of the decade of the "aughts." It's actually part of the decade of the '90s (1891-1900).

R.I.P. Jack Baldschun (Phillies 1961-66, Reds '66-67, Padres '69-70); Bobby Bolin (Giants 1961-69, Brewers '70, Red Sox '70-73); Eddie Bressoud (NY Giants 1956-57, SF Giants '58-61, Red Sox '62-65, Mets '66, Cardinals '67); Joe Christopher (Pirates 1959-61, Mets '62-65, Red Sox '66); Alex Cole (Indians 1990-92, Pirates '92, Rockies '93, Twins '94-95, Red Sox '96); Wayne Comer (Tigers 1967-68, Seattle Pilots '69, Brewers '70, Washington Senators '70, Tigers '72); Pat Corrales (Phillies 1964-66, Reds '68-72, Padres '72-73, manager Rangers '78-80, Phillies '82-83, Indians '83-87); Casey Cox (Washington Senators 1966-71, Rangers '72, Yankees '73); Roger Craig (Brooklyn Dodgers 1955-57, LA Dodgers '59-61, Mets '62-63, Cardinals '64, Reds '65, Phillies '66; manager Padres 1978-79, Giants '85-92); Dick Drago (Royals 1969-73, Red Sox '74-75, Angels '76-77, Orioles '77, Red Sox '78-80, Mariners '81); Bobby Durnbaugh (Reds 1957); George Frazier (Cardinals 1978-81, Yankees '81-83, Indians '84, Cubs '84-86, Twins '86-87); Dave Frost (White Sox 1977, Angels '78-81, Royals '82); Rob Gardner (Mets 1965-66, Cubs '67, Indians '68, Yankees '70, A's '71, Yankees '72-73, A's '73, Brewers '73); Bob Garibaldi (Giants 1962-63, '66, '69); Hal Gilson (Cardinals 1968, Astros '68); George Green (Negro Leaguer); Mario Guerrero (Red Sox 1973-74, Cardinals '75, Cardinals '75, Angels '76-77, Athletics '78-80); Bobby Guindon (Red Sox 1964); Dick Hall (Pirates 1955-57, '59, KC Athletics '60, Orioles '61-66, Phillies '67-68, Orioles '69-71); Bob Harrison (Orioles 1955-56); Tom Harrison (Kansas City Athletics 1965); Jesse Hickman (KC Athletics 1965-66); Ulysses Hollimon (Negro Leaguer); Don Hood (Orioles 1973-74, Indians '75-79, Yankees '79, Cardinals '80, Royals '82-83); Frank Howard (Dodgers 1958-64, Senators '65-71, Rangers '72, Tigers '72-73, manager Padres 1981, Mets '83); Mike de la Hoz (Indians 1960-63, Milwaukee Braves '64-65, Atlanta Braves '66-67, Reds '68); Mike Ivie (Padres 1971, '74-77, Giants '76-81, Astros '81-82, Tigers '82-83); Pete Ladd (Astros 1979, Brewers '82-86); Clifford Layton (Negro Leaguer); Joanne McCombe (Springfield Sallies, AAGPBL, 1950); Bob

Micelotta (Phillies 1954-55); John Miller (Yankees 1966, Dodgers '69); Bobby Morgan (Brooklyn Dodgers 1950, '52-53, Phillies '54-56, Cardinals '56, Phillies '57, Cubs '57-58); Danny Morris (Twins 1968-69); Dan Morrison (American League umpire 1979-99, major league umpire 2000-01); Charles "Cotton" Nash (White Sox, 1967, Twins '69-70); Jeff Peterek (Brewers 1989); Jim Price (Tigers 1967-71, longtime Tigers broadcaster); Bob Priddy (Pirates 1962, '64, Giants '65-66, Washington Senators '67, White Sox '68-69, Angels '69, Braves '69-71); Bob Raudman (Cubs 1966-67); Larry Ray (Astros 1982); Mel Roach (Milwaukee Braves 1953-54, '57-61, Cubs '61, Phillies '62); Brooks Robinson (Orioles 1955-77, Hall of Fame); Bill Schlesinger (Red Sox 1965); Dave Skaugstad (Reds 1957); Ken Suarez (KC Athletics 1966-67, Indians '68-69, '71, Rangers '72-73); John Sullivan (Tigers 1963-65, Mets '67, Phillies '68, longtime Blue Jays coach); Dick Tomanek (Indians 1953-54, '57-58, Kansas City Athletics '58-59); Jerry Turner (Padres 1974-81, White Sox '81, Tigers '82, Padres '83); Bob Veselic (Twins 1980-81); Tom Walker (Expos 1972-74, Tigers '75, Cardinals '76, Expos '77, Angels '77); Dale Willis (Kansas City Athletics 1963); Larry Yellen (Houston Colt .45s, 1963-64); Danny Young (Cubs 2000); Mike Young (Orioles 1982-87, Phillies '88, Brewers '88, Indians '89).

How to get to the Smithfield Elks Lodge

(But can anyone point me to a way to find their GPS coordinates?)

As mentioned, the Smithfield Elks are on the other side of Route 44 from St. Philip's. If you're coming on Route 44 **from Connecticut or other points west**, you go past St. Philip's and in about 500 feet take a left onto Route 116 (Pleasant View Avenue). When you get to Cedar Swamp Road, Routes 116 and 5 merge. Just beyond the Smithfield Police Department (on your right) and the Stillwater Reservoir (on your left), there is a traffic light. Turn left at the light, onto Route 104/Route 5. Shortly you'll see the Elks Lodge on your left. (Across the street is The Last Resort Restaurant/Bar.) The Elks Lodge has a big parking lot.

From Providence and points east, take Routes 10/6 to Route 295 (or however you access 295.) Leave 295 at Exit 7B onto Route 44 west. Quickly you'll come to Route 5 (Cedar Swamp Road). Take a right and eventually you'll merge with Pleasant View Ave. From there, follow the directions in the paragraph above.

From points south, you can get onto Route 295 off Route 95, then follow the directions above.

From points north, take southbound Route 95 or Route 146 to Route 295. From 295, exit at Route 7 north (Douglas Pike), then take a left onto Route 116 and a right turn onto Route 104. The Elks Lodge will be on your left. It's 2.5 miles from the Route 295 exit to the Elks.

L'envoi. Emphasizing again: If you plan to come to the meeting, please make sure you RSVP. And do it soon. Hope to see you there. (And donations to the book raffle are welcome.)

Len Levin