

SABR Scouts' Committee Newsletter

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Dec. 20, 2001

PLAN NOW FOR SABR 32

It is not too early to plan now for the 2002 SABR convention in Boston. The dates: June 26-30, 2002. The site: Park Plaza Hotel in Park Square, downtown Boston. Rates: \$99.00 rate plus \$12.00# in tax...double rate. To make your reservation early - call now at 1-800-225-2008 and identify yourself as attending the SABR convention.

We'll have a full list of the various activities surrounding SABR, but you can plan on attending a game at Fenway as a part of the SABR convention on June 28 - a night game.

Regarding the scouts' committee: A conversation with Bill Nowlin, who is co-ordinating the week, gave us a chance to set some tentative plans. We'll have a two-hour committee meeting on either Thursday or Friday, will have a scouts' forum on Saturday morning, and will be a part of the awards ceremony at noon on Saturday.

The scouts' forum will be a first for SABR. In past years, we've enjoyed the round-table programs with leaders in both the Negro Leagues and the professional women's baseball league from the 1940's and '50's. The tentative plans will give us a chance to have give-and-take with scouts one day and with umpires another day.

Your chairman is tentatively slated to moderate the scouts' forum. He has asked for the Saturday morning time frame because he will be leaving the moment the awards dinner is done to get to Pittsburgh where he is the co-ordinator of a national weightlifting championship. Fortunately, the lifting competition continues all day Sunday with the awards dinner set for Sunday night.

It will be a busy weekend...

AWARDS DINNER

The current plan is to have a panel of friends and ~~teammates~~ delight the gathering with stories about Ted Williams. Don't miss it.

COMMITTEE AWARDS

The Scouts' Committee will once again present two awards. First - the Tom Greenwade Award which will go to the person who submits the "who signed whoms." Steve LaMar was the 2000 winner. Dick Clark, who was runner-up in 2000, is the current leader in 2001. Second - the Roland Hemond Award, which goes to the major league executive who has done the most to promote the scouting profession and the cause of SABR, was won by Roland in 2000. No repeats - though he'd be the leader if repeats were allowed. Two former club presidents are in the running to receive the award from Roland in June.

AWARDS (Cont.)

The winner of the Hemond Award will be announced early in 2002, but the Greenwade Award winner will not be determined until after June 1, the cut-off date for "who signed whoms."

A CHANGE IN REPORTING

Your chairman is moving the base of information from New Hampshire to Colorado. Rod Nelson will now be developing the list of "who signed whoms" and will keep it available for those with computers - and for Ol' Clark via hard copy, since the Missouri dinosaur has no computer nor any desire to ever have one.

The entire list of "who..." that Clark has in his files is now being entered in Rod's computer. He has already entered the huge list submitted by Steve LaMar in 2000. We should have an updated, complete list in a matter of weeks. Once established, next comes the job of sorting out the many duplications on the list.

To report your signing list:

Please send one copy via fax (573-474-1449) or snail mail (3906 Grace Ellen Drive, Columbia, Mo. 65202-1796) to Bill Clark and e-mail one copy to Rod Nelson: rockymtnsabr@aol.com.

Rod's phone is 303-893-6767. His fax is 303-893-6179

We should have everything from the past ready for the future by SABR 32.

If you need to call Clark - his home phone is 573-474-4510. He has no cell phone.

ROLAND HEMOND

This man is tireless in his pursuit of baseball history. A phone conversation with Roland on Dec. 19 was a great kick start for your chairman for 2002. Roland will be involved deeply with helping set the stage for the scouts' round table at SABR 32; he plans to meet with the families of scouting legends Nick Kamzic and Hugh Alexander and arrange for some of their reports get to Cooperstown; he has arranged for a steady flow of scouts' and major league club reports to find their way to Cooperstown and the Hall of Fame Museum, where it will form a base for the Scouts corner in the museum.

Roland was successful in getting 1,877 reports from former 3B and long-time scout Eddie Bockman to Cooperstown

As of October 14, Roland had been responsible for 3,276 reports finding their way to the Hall's Museum.

Now he's eagerly awaiting the posting of the "who signed Whom" list so he can help sort out the problems by sifting thru the names and visiting with other former GM's and scouting directors who can shed light on just who did sign whom.

In addition, Roland continues to file lists of players and who the signing scout was. He recently listed 30 players signed by the late Joe Stephenson, who worked for more than three decades for the Red Sox prior to his death on June 30, 2001. Joe's obituary follows:

Joe Stephenson

They say - "Work is work *unless* you would rather be doing something else. I think we can say that Joe never worked a day in his life. He celebrated his 80th birthday on June 30th, 2001 and for 75 years he was totally dedicated to baseball and loved every moment.

From the vacant lots in Detroit, the sand lot fall games consisted of taped up baseballs and cracked and taped up bats. The old tennis shoes and the baseball caps were obtained with ten coupons of Blue Bonnet Butter. A child's true field of dreams.

Of course football, basketball and ice skating had to be included at the high school level. Joe was noticed by Fr. Martin, teacher and coach at Boys Catholic Central in Detroit. With participation in three sports, Joe made All City and All State of Michigan. He accepted a football/baseball scholarship to Michigan State, but the sound of the bat and ball won out and he switched to Western Michigan in his junior year. Joe was then tempted by a lucrative offer of \$125 a month and \$1 a day for meals, to play ball in Lubbock Texas.

The stands were old and rickety and the players had to change uniforms in their hotel rooms. They rode in a non air-conditioned bus, which broke down every 50 miles or so, and played double headers in 104 degree temperatures and loved it. So much so that he talked Dorothea into coming down to St. Elizabeth's Church, in Lubbock, and they were married on May 27th, 1942.

For the next ten years Joe and Dorothea celebrated their wedding anniversary in a different city and state, such as, Memphis and Birmingham with the New York Giants, Chicago Cubs and White Socks.

While catching during a game there was a collision at home plate. When the dust cleared, Joe had suffered a double fracture on his left leg. All thoughts of ever playing baseball again were over. Two outstanding men, Joe Cronin and John Murphy, General Manager and Farm Director of the Boston Red Sox, offered Joe a scouting job in Los Angeles. A position which lasted until his death.

Joe's second love, his family, included four sons - Jerry, Thom, Bob, Joe and two daughters - Jo Ann and Mary Lou. Jerry, Thom and Joe played professional baseball. Bob served in the Navy. Jo Ann and Mary Lou were successful in the sport of basketball.

The family of today includes nine grandchildren. Summer, Shannon, Brian, Casey, Connor, Nicole, Riley, Katilin, Taylor and one more due in October.

These were the best of times as husband, father and grandfather.

Joe was Major League all the way. ☺

Not long before his passing, Joe was proud to have sent along reports to Cooperstown covering players he had signed who went to the majors.

YOUR CHAIRMAN

Since the SABR 31 convention in July, '01, your chairman has spent most of his days on the road in places such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Canada, Dominican Rep., Curacao, Venezuela, Iowa, the Dakotas, etc., seeking players for the Padres. In two years with San Diego, Clark has been responsible for 82 players coming into the Padres' minor league system, though his name appears on only a small number of contracts.

Now he's signed a two-year extension with the Padres and will be going at it full-time thru the 2003 season. That means he'll still have only limited time to do his SABR duty. Please bear with the program.

In the next few months, we'll get back to many of you who had proposed projects in the past to see where you are today.

SCOUT OF THE YEAR

As we write this newsletter, we have no information on who was honored by the Scout of the Year Foundation during the major league meetings in Boston. We'll have a rundown on the honorees in the next newsletter.

AN INTERESTING RULE

Rod Nelson recently moved a list of questions and answers concerning the Hall of Fame on his web page. First Question: Are scouts now eligible for the Hall of Fame?

Answer: No, they are not. Managers, Umpires, and executives are the only eligible candidates on the composite ballot.

Question: Why are scouts not eligible?

Answer: The Board of Directors believes the scouting profession is important, but extremely difficult to quantify. The Hall is in the process of developing an extensive exhibit to be all-encompassing and very educational so the scouting profession is represented in the museum and much better understood by the public.

Question: Is Marvin Miller eligible and, if so, when?

Answer: Yes. He has been eligible and will continue to be eligible. He has never been not eligible.

It is not difficult to accept the role of scouts. Writers, broadcasters, women are relegated to the Museum. For the scouts to have their own wing is understandable. We are not Babe Ruth or TY Cobb or Cy Young. We are not Cal Hubbard or Bill McGowan or Ban Johnson.

But Marvin Miller???

Come on!!!

Have a great holiday season...and we'll see you again early in 2002 with an update on the convention and Rod Nelson's project. In the meantime, spend Christmas doing baseball research. It is non-fattening.