

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH

November 2012

GREETINGS, NEW ENGLAND SABR-ITES!

The postseason format (one-game play-ins) might have been clunky, but I thought the games were terrific. And the World Series ended before November. Now comes the next meeting of the Southern New England SABR chapter, on **Saturday, November 24**, at St. Philip's Parish Center in Greenville, Rhode Island. We will meet **from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** You already know that **Rich Gedman** will be our speaker. Rich will be there at about 2 p.m. Besides Rich there will be the usual items: research presentations, authors, the ballpark lunch, the baseball book raffle (book donations for the raffle welcomed) and the trivia quiz (think baseball brothers). There is still room on the agenda for a couple of presentations if anyone out there wants to do one. If you do, please let me know. And please, please, please RSVP. We have to give the lunchtime crew as accurate a count as possible. For newbies, directions to St. Philip's are on the back page of this newsletter. Hope to see you there.

Also . . .

Try to get to the Boston Chapter meeting, on Saturday, November 10, at the Non-Profit Center, 89 South Street, Boston, at 1 p.m. Oil Can Boyd will be there. If you want, you can start with lunch at 11:30 at Clark's in nearby South Station. Some of the regulars will be there. For more info on the meeting, contact Joanne Hulbert (jhulbert@earthlink.net).

Johnny Pesky

As delightful a baseball lifer as you could find, Johnny Pesky, who died on August 13, was an accommodating person who would do anything he could to help you out. Once when the scribbler of this newsletter was doing research for a newspaper article on the 1950 Boston Red Sox, Pesky told me how he willingly stepped aside for a number of games so Billy Goodman, who was in the hunt for the batting championship, could play third base and get enough playing time to qualify. (Goodman did, and won the batting crown with a .354 average.) A couple of years before that, Pesky had agreed to switch from his shortstop position to third base so newly acquired Junior Stephens could play short. As **Gerry Beirne** put it in the booklet published on the occasion of our chapter's 50th meeting, "Mr. Red Sox came to one of our first meetings held at St. Philip's in Greenville, in 1992. Humble, intelligent, open and a fan favorite, #6 honored and graced the Lajoie-Start Chapter with his historic presence."

Quiet grace

You may have wondered who that guy was who was prowling around silently at our meetings snapping pictures of the speaker and audience. While doing that, **Peter Connell**, who died on October 12, was on the job, amassing material for one of his sports columns in the *Greenville Observer* or its successor the *Valley Breeze*. Peter had a long career with the State of Rhode Island and after retiring began a new career as a sportswriter and columnist. He and his wife, Dorothy, were regulars at SABR conventions. Peter was also an umpire in local baseball and softball leagues.

Good baseball reading

From chapter member John Vorperian:

Who will be in the Fall Classic? As of this article's submission it's down to four clubs. The Detroit Tigers, New York Yankees, San Francisco Giants or St. Louis Cardinals could be crowned 2012 World Series champion. Looking into my crystal baseball, I foresee a Summer of 1968 sequel. Trust me, it's in the Cards. In the meantime here are some good Diamond Game titles to check out.

YANKEE MIRACLES, by Ray Negrón and Sally Cook (Liveright). Yogi Berra said, "You don't have to be a Yankees fan to love **YANKEE MIRACLES**." TV sitcom fans remember how Steinfeld's George Costanza got his Yankees job. Perhaps truth is stranger than fiction. George Steinbrenner collars a teen spray-painting graffiti on Yankee Stadium. Rather than turn the youth over to the NYPD, the Boss makes the street kid a batboy to work off the misdeed. During this "sentence" the young man is befriended by skipper Billy Martin, slugger Reggie Jackson, pitching ace Catfish Hunter, Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle, A-Rod, Derek Jeter and even Mrs. Lou Gehrig. Today Ray Negrón is a Yankees community advisor and has dedicated his life to rescuing generations of city kids from unfulfilled lives. **YANKEE MIRACLES** go beyond the ballpark.

BLUEGRASS BASEBALL, by Katya Cengel (University of Nebraska Press). **BLUEGRASS**'s subtitle is "A Year in the Minor League Life." True Seamheads know that baseball legends Pee Wee Reese, Greg Maddux, Joe McCarthy et al. did their minor-league stints in Kentucky. Purer than a four-seam fastball, Katya Cengel takes us through the 2010 season with not one but four teams, three affiliated and one independent club. From the front office scheming wacky promos to trainers shopping for the team to players struggling for a shot to The Show, this nitty-gritty account puts you in that minor-league clubhouse. So well done you'll smell the bus fumes and hear that heckler over on the **BLUEGRASS BASEBALL** third-base line.

SEASON OF '42, by Jack Cavanaugh (Skyhorse Publishing). Pulitzer Prize nominee Cavanaugh tells the story of how MLB played on with most of the same players from 1941 in this first year of World War II. Joe D. and Teddy Ballgame played in their first and last wartime season. Life on the American home front through box scores and news stories, **SEASON OF '42** dramatically interweaves big-league baseball and the USA's efforts to fight the good war. In '42 with German subs sinking U.S. ships within sight of East Coast beachgoers, FDR was right to "green light" the game which clearly boosted public morale to turn on and turn the tide of the war.

JOHN VORPERIAN is host of BEYOND THE GAME, a sports program cablecast in New York. Since March 2002 more than 1,000 episodes have been produced. Shows are posted at www.wpcommunitymedia.org. This offseason Johnny V roots for a Patriot Super Bowl victory.

Trivia

From Canada to Fenway. The No. 1 and No. 2 leaders in the number of major-league games pitched by Canadians both pitched for the Red Sox. Do you know who they are?

Incomplete Cy. Who was the first starting pitcher to win the Cy Young Award without pitching a complete game?

Incomplete Cy again. Who was the next starting pitcher to win the Cy Young Award without pitching a complete game?

First names first. What are the full names of these Hall of Famers: Red Schoendienst, Lefty Gomez, Earl Averill, Home Run Baker, and Nellie Fox?

For you Cardinals fans. What pitcher appeared in the 1943 World Series while on furlough from the Army.

Walk-off kings. Two players – a Hall of Famer and a current (as of the 2012 season) major leaguer – have hit the most walk-off home runs. Who are they?

Good company. This past August Adrian Beltre of the Rangers hit three home runs in a game and hit for the cycle in another game in the same week. What Hall of Famer was the last major leaguer before Beltre to accomplish this feat?

Do you remember? Who was the last Red Sox pitching coach who wasn't a pitcher himself?

Mighty man. From chapter member and Cardinals aficionado Dale Collett comes this question: Can you name this player who had just three major-league hits but all were home runs? (By the way, Dale was the first treasurer of our chapter.)

Time immemorial. What is unique about major league umpire Derryl Cousins?

Three in one. In 1933 there were two Triple Crown winners, who played in the same city. Do you know who they were?

Good losers. What two players (one of them is a Hall of Famer) played in the most losing World Series.

Bosox alumni. Two former Red Sox shared the shortstop duties for the 1954 Cleveland Indians, who won 111 games but were swept by the New York Giants in the World Series. Who were they?

Sterling skippers. John Farrell is the Red Sox' 46th manager since the team began. Of these, 11 are in the Hall of Fame, as players, managers, or executives. How many can you name?

And the Yankees? Including Joe Gerardi, they have had 32 managers, of whom nine are in the Hall of Fame. How many can you name? (hint: there's some overlap with the Red Sox list.)

One more on the Yankees. Six Hall of Famers associated with the Yankees in one way or another managed other major league teams. How many can you name?

Trivia answers

From Canada to Fenway. Paul Quantrill (841 games pitched) and Rheal Cormier (683).

Incomplete Cy. Roger Clemens, for the Yankees in 2001. Clemens went 20-3 that pennant-winning season, but averaged less than seven innings per start, and seldom faced the stronger teams in the American League. Mariano Rivera (50 saves) and the rest of the Yankees' bullpen were his saviors. Mike Mussina was 17-11 but pitched better than Clemens.

Incomplete Cy again. Roger Clemens again, in 2004, when he was 18-4 with Houston.

First names first. Albert Fred Schoendienst, Vernon Louis Gomez, Howard Earl Averill, John Franklin “Home Run” Baker, and Jacob Nelson Fox.

For you Cardinals fans. Murry Dickson. He pitched in one game with no decision. (Thank you, John Cullinane).

Walk-off kings. Mickey Mantle and Jim Thome, with 13 apiece.

Good company. Joe DiMaggio, who did it in 1948. In one respect Beltre outdid DiMaggio; his games were two days apart. DiMaggio’s were three days apart. The Yankee Clipper hit for the cycle against the White Sox on May 20, 1948, and hit three homers on May 23 against the Indians. Beltre hit three home runs against the Orioles on August 22 and hit for the cycle against the Twins on August 24.

Do you remember? Rhode Islander Mike Roarke, who was a catcher for the Tigers in the 1950s and was a longtime pitching coach, capping his career with a stint with the Red Sox in 1994. (Roarke was the speaker at the very first Lajoie-Start Chapter meeting, in January 1985.)

Mighty man. Keith McDonald, a catcher for the Cardinals who was up for cups of coffee in 2000 and 2001 and had a total of nine at-bats. In 2000 he smashed a pinch-hit homer in his first at-bat, then hit two more – and got no other hits – in his abbreviated stay with the Cardinals. McDonald got into two games for the Cardinals in 2001, then spent the rest of his playing career in the minors. Admittedly a minuscule sample, but McDonald’s batting average in 2000 was .429, his on-base percentage was .556 (he had two walks), his slugging percentage was 1.714, and his OPS was 2.270.

Time immemorial. Cousins was one of the replacement umpires called up by the major leagues when the umpires union went on strike in 1979. After the strike ended, some of the replacement umpires were kept on the job. Cousins is the last of them – still umpiring and at present one of the senior major league arbiters in terms of longevity.

Three in one. Jimmie Foxx of the Philadelphia Athletics and Chuck Klein of the Philadelphia Phillies.

Good losers. Hall of Famer Pee Wee Reese and Elston Howard, who each played on the losing team in six World Series.

Bosox alumni. George Strickland, who was the shortstop for most of the 1954 Indians, and Sam Dente, who was his backup.

Sterling skippers. Jimmy Collins (managed 1901-1906); Cy Young (1907); Ed Barrow (1918-1920); Hugh Duffy (1921-1922); Frank Chance (1923); Bucky Harris (1934); Joe Cronin (1935-1947); Joe McCarthy (1948-1950); Lou Boudreau (1952-1954); Billy Herman (1964-1966); Dick Williams (1967-1969).

And the Yankees. Clark Griffith (managed 1903-1908); Frank Chance (1913-1914); Miller Huggins (1918-1929); Joe McCarthy (1931-1946); Bill Dickey (1946); Bucky Harris (1947-1948); Casey Stengel (1949-1960); Yogi Berra (1964, 1984-1985); Bob Lemon (1978-1979, 1981-1982). Note that four managers in a row, spanning the years 1931-1960, are in the Hall.

One more on the Yankees. Ed Barrow, Leo Durocher, Joe Gordon, Burleigh Grimes, Bill McKechnie, and Branch Rickey.

R.I.P. Darrel Akerfelds (Athletics 1986, Indians ’87, Rangers ’89, Phillies ’90-91, Padres bullpen coach 2001-12); Agnes Allen (All American Girls Professional Baseball League 1950-53); Pedro Borbon (Angels 1969, Reds ’70-79, Giants ’79, Cardinals ’80); Dave Boswell

(Twins 1964-70, Tigers '71, Orioles '72); Al Brancato (Philadelphia Athletics 1939-41, '45); Patricia "Pat" Brown (Chicago Colleens, Battle Creek Belles, All American Girls Professional Baseball League, 1950-51); Nancy (Mudge) Cato (All American Girls Professional Baseball League 1949-54); Art Ceccarelli (Kansas City A's, 1955-56, Orioles '57, Cubs '59-60); Dan Daniels (Washington Senators broadcaster 1961-68); Bob DiPietro (Red Sox 1951); Joe Douse (Negro Leaguer); Don Erickson (Phillies 1958); Frank Evans (Negro Leaguer); Warner Fusselle (longtime baseball broadcaster); Bob Hale (Orioles 1955-59, Indians '60-61, Yankees '61); Mike Hershberger (White Sox 1961-64, Kansas City A's '65-67, Oakland A's '68-69, Brewers '70, White Sox '71); Kevin Hickey (White Sox 1981-83, Orioles '89-91); Pauline "Denny" Hill (Muskegon Lassies, AAGPBL, 1947); Hal Keller (Washington Senators 1949-50, '52); Chick King (Tigers 1954-56, Cubs '58-59, Cardinals '59); Jack Kralick (Washington Senators 1959-60, Twins '61-63, Indians '63-67); Jim Kremmel (Rangers 1973, Cubs '74); Marie Kruckel (All American Girls Professional Baseball League 1946-49); Don Leshnock (Tigers 1972); Dave May (Orioles 1967-70, Brewers '70-74, Braves '75-76, Rangers '77, Brewers '78, Pirates '78); Les Moss (St. Louis Browns 1946-51, Red Sox '51, Browns '52-53, Orioles '54-55, White Sox '55-58); Les Mueller (Tigers 1941, '45); Bob Myrick (Mets 1976-78); Janet (Anderson) Perkin (All American Girls Professional Baseball League 1946); Johnny Pesky (Red Sox 1942, '46-52, Tigers '52-54, Senators '54); Jack Pierce (Braves 1973-74, Tigers '75); Roberto Rodriguez (Kansas City A's 1967, Oakland A's '70, Padres '70, Cubs '70); Tom Saffell (Pirates 1949-51, '55, Kansas City Athletics '55); Doris Sams (All American Girls Professional Baseball League 1946-1953); Max Soriano (co-owner, former Seattle Pilots); Ed Stevens (Brooklyn Dodgers 1945-47, Pirates '48-50); Ed Stroud (White Sox 1966-67, Washington Senators '67-70, White Sox '71); Champ Summers (Oakland A's 1974, Cubs '75-76, Reds '77-79, Tigers '79-81, Giants '82-83, Padres '84); Robert "Hawk" Taylor (Milwaukee Braves, 1957-58, '61-63, Mets '64-67, Angels '67, Royals '69-70); Thad Tillotson (Yankees 1967-68); Tom Umphlett (Red Sox 1953, Senators '54-55); Bruce Von Hoff (Astros 1965, '67); Frank Wills (Royals 1983-84, Mariners '85, Indians '86-87, Blue Jays '88-91); Eddie Yost (Senators 1944-58, Tigers '59-60, Angels '61-62, Red Sox coach 1977-84).

L'envoi. If you can, please come early to help set up tables and chairs for the meeting, and stay for a few minutes afterward to help put them away. Bring along any books you want to donate for the raffle. Don't forget to RSVP. See you there.

Len Levin

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND SABR

REGIONAL MEETING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2012: 11:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.

ST. PHILIP'S PARISH CENTER, ROUTE 44, GREENVILLE, RHODE ISLAND

THE PROGRAM

1. Guest speaker:
RICH GEDMAN, back for a return visit.
2. Research presentations.
3. Trivia contest.
4. Authors will talk and have books available.
5. Baseball book raffle.
6. The usual ballpark lunch, refreshments and lots of good baseball talk.

HOW TO GET TO ST. PHILIP'S

From the north: From Route 95 south or Route 146 south, take Route 295 south. On 295, take Exit 7B onto Route 44 westbound. St. Philip's is about 2.5 miles from the exit, on your left after you pass through Greenville village. Use the driveway between the school and the church. Park in the parish center parking lot (plenty of room if you get there early).

From the south: Route 95 north to Route 295 north. Take Exit 7B and follow directions above.

West from Providence: Route 10 or Route 6 to northbound Route 295. Exit 7B as above. The entrance to Route 10 is just above downtown Providence, between the Westin Hotel and the Providence Place mall.

From the east: Route 195 westbound to Route 95 northbound in Providence. Near downtown Providence, follow the sign that says Hartford. Follow Route 10 to Route 6 to northbound Route 295 and proceed as above.

From northeastern Connecticut: Take Route 44 eastbound (St. Philip's is about 14 miles from the state line); or Route 6 eastbound to Route 116 north to Route 44 west. St. Philip's is just a few hundred feet west of the intersection of 116 and 44.

\$6.00 donation to cover expenses. \$1.00 for children under 12.

If you plan to come, please return this part to:

Leonard Levin, 282 Doyle Avenue, Providence, R.I. 02906-3355 (401-351-3278)

Or send an e-mail to LenLevin5@hotmail.com

Name:

Address: