

THE BALTIMORE CHOP



SABR Babe Ruth Chapter

Vol. 2, No. 2

Indian Summer 2018

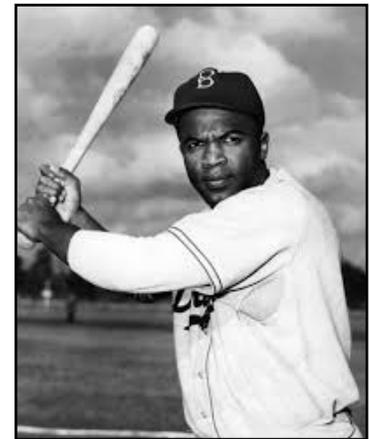
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Jackie Robinson Project: A Fight for Survival

By Stephen Butler and Barry Zamoff

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson played his first game with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Many say this was the start of the modern civil rights movement. Perhaps it was. Fifteen months later, on July 16, 1948, that President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981, desegregating the military. Seven years and one month after Jackie's historic breakthrough, the Supreme Court issued the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision outlawing racial segregation in public schools. Eight years on, the nation became familiar with Rosa Parks and a young minister from Atlanta, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



No wonder MLK referred to Robinson as "a freedom rider before freedom rides; a sit-inner before sit-ins."

January 31, 2019 will mark the 100th anniversary of the birth in Cairo, Ga., of Hall of Famer Jack Roosevelt Robinson. Celebrations will be held in honor of this date in elementary schools, middle schools, senior high schools and colleges and universities. Unfortunately, the staff and students of the Jackie Robinson Project at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., will not be celebrating. Instead, they will be fighting to re-

verse a totally incomprehensible administrative decision to terminate the enormously popular Jackie Robinson Project at the end of the 2018-2019 academic year.

The George Washington (GW) Jackie Robinson Project (JRP) was initially funded in 1996 by a grant to the Sociology Department from the District of Columbia Humanities Council. Associate Professor of Sociology Richard Zamoff, who wrote the proposal, was designated project director. Zamoff has held this position for

Jackie▶Continued on Page 15

President's Message

What's in a name?

SABR has grown from a handful of member in 1971 to multiple thousands today. The first chapter SABR ever had was named for its founder, L. Bob Davids. Bob was a resident of Washington, D.C., and that's where the first chapter sprouted and grew, holding its first annual meeting merely a year after the Society was organized. Now there are chapters throughout the country not to mention Canada, Europe, Asia and Latin America, each with a name to identify it. Sometimes the name of the chapter represents a baseball person important to that region (for example, the Jack Graney Chapter, based in Cleveland, calls attention to the first player-broadcaster, featured in an [article](#)). Sometimes chapter merely bears the name of the region (for example, the Northwest Chapter, which encompasses parts of multiple states and an adjacent Canadian province!)

▶ Continued on Page 13

Save the Date: SABR Day, January 20

- Saturday, January 20
- 9:30 AM
- Peabody Heights Brewery, 401 East 30th Street, Baltimore
- Research, raffles ... and more
- Stay tuned for details



SABR Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter Formed 2015

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Getting to Know...Ken Mars

In each issue, we will profile one of our members.

Ken Mars is a native New Englander who has eagerly adopted Baltimore. A SABR member for the past four years, he serves as the Chapter's treasurer and has presented at SABR Day.

Home was Foxborough, Mass., and he saw his first ballgame at McCoy Stadium, home of the late Pawtucket Red Sox, in the mid-1970s. Now he calls Parkville home, works in logistics and tech support and roots for the Orioles. He has also fallen for the Lord Baltimores (1872-74). His favorite players are Adam Jones in the present and John McGraw from the past. His favorite ballpark is John J. McGraw Field in Truxton, N.Y., which he visited for further research after interviewing a McGraw relative (see *Baltimore Chop*, Spring 2018).



Mars' hobbies include making movies, writing, drawing and "sometimes playing music."

His favorite baseball memory?

"About three years ago, John Thorn sent me a nice letter of congratulations on official MLB Office of the Commissioner stationary for a set of baseball cards I drew. A friend was there when I opened it and didn't know who Thorn was. I said he was like the 'David Bowie of baseball nerds,' and she was suddenly quite impressed. Laughed about that for a while."

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, Columbia

Called Shot lunch

BYO lunch and talk baseball

Third Wednesday of the month, noon

Babe Ruth Museum, 216 Emory St.

November

3: Talkin' Baseball, Jack Smiles, "Bucky Harris: A Biography of Baseball's Boy Wonder"

3: Jane Leavy book signing, *The Big Fella*, Babe Ruth Museum, 3-5 PM, 216 Emory St., Baltimore

7: Peeps @ The Peeb

14: An Evening with the '83 Orioles, Babe Ruth Museum Gala event, Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, 6-9:30 PM

21: Called Shot lunch

December

1: Talkin' Baseball, Bob Luke, "The Baltimore Elite Giants"

4: Peeps @ The Peeb

19: Called Shot lunch

January

2: Peeps @ The Peeb

5: Talkin' Baseball, John Coulson, "Wee Willie Sherdel: The Cardinals' Winningest Left-Hander"

16: Called Shot lunch

20: SABR Day, Peabody Heights Brewery, 401 E. 30th St., Baltimore, 9:30 AM

26: SABR Day, Bob Davids Chapter, Key Bridge Holiday Inn, Arlington, Va., 9:30 AM

We've Moved to Gmail

Our chapter has a new email address:

sabrbareruth@gmail.com.

Noteworthy ...

- Jimmy Keenan, a Chapter member, has just written a book, *The Lyston Brothers: A Journey Through 19th Century Baseball*. The Lyston brothers were from the Waverly section of Baltimore. The book, available as an eBook and in paperback from Amazon, chronicles their careers as well as other Baltimore baseball history. If the name seems familiar, Keenan contributed an article on the Orioles' 1901 opening day game to the second issue of *TBC*.
- The Babe Ruth Birthplace & Museum is always looking for volunteers to be greeters and docents for tours especially during the baseball season. If interested in learning more, contact Volunteer Coordinator Peter Coolbaugh at poconopete74@yahoo.com.
- Jane Leavy will sign copies of her new Babe Ruth biography, *The Big Fella*, on Saturday, Nov. 3 at the Babe Ruth Birthplace & Museum, 216 Emory St., 3-5 PM.

Union Park (Baltimore)

Note from Teddie Arnold:

I worked on it on and off for about five years, sifting through old copies of the Baltimore Sun as well as any other resources I could find that mentioned the ballpark. I ended up with about 12,000 words that then had to be cut down to about 3,500 (I have lots of other factoids if anyone is interested). I chose Union Park because of its storied history in housing one of the most famous teams in baseball history—the “old” Baltimore Orioles of the National League.

What struck me about Union Park was the number of records that were set between its walls—many of which still stand today. As a lifelong resident of Baltimore, I have come to find that the overwhelming majority of Baltimoreans know little to nothing about that team (even the most rabid Orioles fans), or anything about the origins of baseball in Baltimore. My hope is that more research will be done and more books written about baseball in Baltimore during the 19th century to help revive its place as a foundation of our national pastime.

This article is part of SABR's Bio Project and first appeared [online](#).

This article was written by Teddie Arnold

Although the home grounds of the Baltimore Orioles of the nineteenth century occupied several locations, the team found a permanent setting at Union Park between 1891 and 1899.

Baseball in Baltimore began around 1855. In 1882, as a charter member of the American Association, they were known as the Lord Baltimores. They won only 19 games and finished last while playing at Newington Park, located on Pennsylvania Avenue Extended on the northwest side of West Baltimore.¹ At the end of the season, the team's owner, brewery magnate Harry von der Horst, renamed them the Orioles², and moved to a new location, known by contemporary historians as Oriole Park I (also known at the time as Huntington Avenue Grounds and/or American Association Park).³ During their six seasons there, they finished last three times and as high as third only once.

The team moved a third time for the start of the 1889 season to what is known as Oriole Park II, four blocks north of Orioles Park I, located at Greenmount Avenue (then York Road) between what is now 28th and 29th Streets.⁴ The struggling Orioles briefly dropped down to the minor league Atlantic Association for the 1890 season. However, halfway through the season, their AA replacement franchise, the Brooklyn Gladiators, folded, and the Orioles re-joined the American Association on August 3, 1890.⁵

It was reported that the Oriole Park II was one of the most difficult ballparks for fans to reach of any grounds in the country.⁶ Dissatisfied with the location, Harry von der Horst announced shortly after opening day in 1891 that the team was moving four blocks south so that its games “will be within easier reach of the people.”⁷ The new grounds, which would be known as Union Park — also Orioles Park III --were located at the corner of Huntington Avenue (now East 25th Street) and Barclay Street, one block west of Oriole Park I.

The York Road branch of the Union horse car line ran within a few steps of the gate; the grounds now could be reached from nearly every section of the city by direct travel or transfers.

A double-decker grandstand extended from behind home plate down the first base line. A single deck down the third



base line seated an additional 3,000 with 14 rows of orchestra chairs.⁸ The field sloped down from east to west, containing a mound, several trees, and a stream bed known as Brady's Run, which created a perpetual swamp in right field oozing underneath the outfield fence.⁹ A space at the northwest end of the grounds of about 250 square feet was to be set up with tennis courts and tracks for amateur sports including baseball, lacrosse and football. One feature that still remained from Oriole Park I was the old clubhouse. It was said that the cost of “fitting up” the grounds was \$7,500.¹⁰ At the time it was built, Union Park was the largest ballpark in the American Association and the first in Baltimore to have a double-decked grandstand.¹¹ To the east of Union Park was Pompeii Park, which contained a one-third mile running track, a bike path, and a 400 x125 foot lake for rowing and other aquatic sports. The grounds were available to amateurs at all times the Orioles were not playing.¹²

As the owner of the Eagle Brewery and Malt Works, Von Der Horst had been selling beer at Orioles games ever since he purchased the team back in 1882. Union Park contained a beer garden and a restaurant, prompting Von Der Horst's notable quip: “Well, we don't win many baseball games, but we sell lots of beer.”¹³

How Union Park got its name is up for debate. Historian James Bready notes that for 30 years, fans had ridden to games in cars pulled by horses. In the 1890s, the overhead-wire electrical method was introduced and by June 1, 1891, three passenger railway companies had consolidated into the Baltimore Union Passenger Railway Company. Bready suggests that as a business promotion, Union Passenger may have paid some of the new ballpark's construction costs.¹⁴

However, there may be another explanation for the name. A company known as the Union Park Association had several years earlier secured a lease on the property. The Orioles took over the lease, so perhaps the name stuck out of familiarity.¹⁵

A crowd of over 10,000 paid 25 cents admission to see the Orioles' first game at Union Park on May 11, 1891, at 4:00 p.m. against the St. Louis Browns, an 8-4 win for the home team.¹⁶ Former Oriole great Bobby Matthews was the umpire. The four-game series drew a reported 24,100.¹⁷

It was reported that the Orioles were not able to hit well at Union Park because their eyes were blinded by the sun reflecting off the bare field. But the grass was beginning to grow and was expected to have made considerable progress when the team returned from their road trip.¹⁸ In late May, construction began on a new wooden clubhouse located in right field at the

Union Park ► Continued on Page 4

Get Stamped In

By Peter Coolbaugh

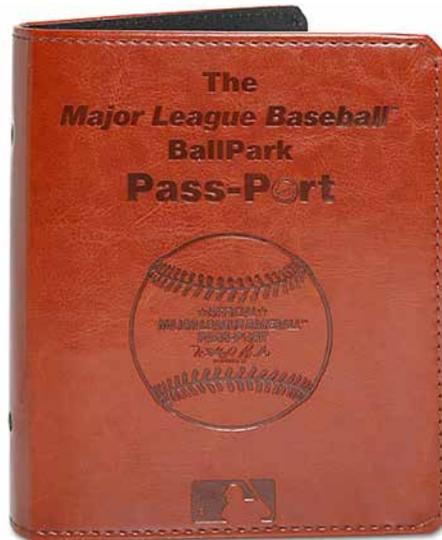
I blame the Orioles. Not for their terrible record, but for keeping me hooked. I will explain...

Like many baseball fans, I love to travel to different ballparks. Between 2004 and 2006, I probably went to about 18 different parks over three seasons plus a few minor-league ones. Once I bought a house and my overtime dried up by 2008, I stopped making it a priority. Plus I had a long-distance girlfriend who commanded my attention.

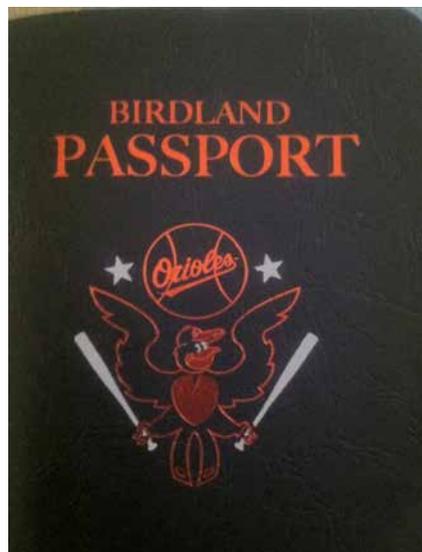
I still enjoyed going to games, of course, and over time I racked up a few more parks. But certainly not at with the same speed as in the past. That started to change around 2012, and this is where the Orioles come into play. During the 2012 season, which was 20 years since the opening of Camden Yards, the Orioles unveiled their Orioles Passport. If you got stamps at five of the organization's six parks, you would get a prize. Get all six, and you could win a trip to spring training the following year. Although I was newly engaged that spring, I was certainly up for the challenge. My new fiancée and I embarked to games at Oriole Park, Aberdeen, Delmarva, Frederick, Bowie and Norfolk. Getting to Harbor Park in Virginia was the hardest, but I we did. And I repeated the feat in 2015 and 2018 as well. Lucky for me I have a wife who lets me do this, and quite honestly with the exception of Norfolk, getting to all the Orioles affiliates in Maryland is quite easy if you are willing to make the effort. For Orioles mega-fans like me, it is a lot of fun.

Around the same time the Orioles debuted their passport, an MLB Passport also came on the scene. The brainchild of a Cincinnati Reds fan named Tim Parks, who enjoyed traveling all over the USA to visit states and ballparks, the MLB Official Ballpark Passport appeared nationwide starting in 2013. Much like a regular passport, you get stamps for each park visited at a specific location in the facility. In addition to fields, places like the National Baseball Hall of Fame and the Negro Leagues Museum are also places of interest to visit and get a stamp. Baseball nerds find this passport to be an official documentation of parks visited. Currently I have 10 stamps (got my book in 2015) but wish they had it 12 years ago because I would have a lot more!

Now that the MLB Passport has become so popular among baseball fans, there is also a Minor League Passport and a Spring Training one as well. Never too much for the die-hard fan apparently! Fellow SABRites and devotees can rejoice. There are always more challenges out there. And there is even

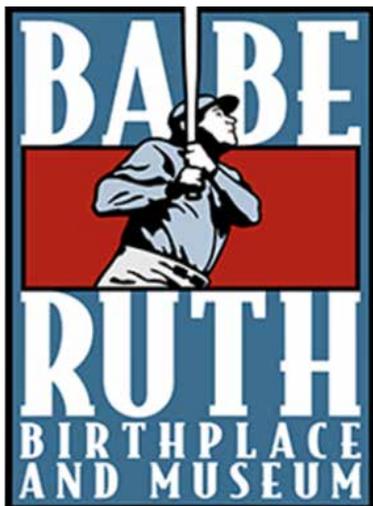


The MLB passport (above) was rolled out nationwide in 2013, a year about the Birdland Passport (below)



a Facebook group for MLB Passport Stampers. No one should be surprised at that.

For more info on the MLB Passport program, check out the [passport website](#).



Babe Ruth Museum '83 Orioles Gala

On Nov. 14 from 6-9:30 PM, the Babe Ruth Birthplace Foundation and the Sports Boosters of Maryland will present an Evening with the '83 Orioles. This fundraising gala will celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Orioles' World Championship and will benefit both organizations.

Fans can relive memories of that season, and many of the stars from that team will be there. VIPs include: Eddie Murray, Ken Singleton, Scott McGregor, Tippy Martinez, Tito Landrum, Jim Palmer, Gary Roenicke, John Stefero, Bill Swaggerty, John "T-Bone" Shelby, Benny Ayala, Dan Ford, Storm Davis, Richie Bancells and Fred Manfra.

Gala attendees will enjoy a cocktail hour, plated dinner with complimentary wine service, silent and live auctions as well as speakers. Call 410-727-1539 x3033 for details.

Baseball's Biggest Trade, Ever

By Lyle Spatz

(from his book *Yankees Coming, Yankees Going*, McFarland, 2000)

On November 17, 1954, general managers George Weiss of the Yankees and Paul Richards of the Orioles announced a nine-player trade that was the first part of what would emerge as the biggest baseball trade ever. The Yankees, who had finished second in 1954 after five straight championships, had targeted pitching as their major need, a need intensified when longtime ace Allie Reynolds indicated he would not be back in 1955.

In part one of the trade, the Yanks sent pitchers Harry Byrd and Jim McDonald, outfielder Gene Woodling, shortstop Willie Miranda, catcher-first baseman Gus Triandos, and minor league catcher Hal Smith to Baltimore, for pitchers Bob Turley and Don Larsen, and shortstop Billy Hunter.

"Turley and Larsen are two of the finest and fastest young right-handers in the game," said Weiss. "Both figure to get better and they are young. Turley is only twenty-four, Larsen twenty-five."

Turley had impressed everyone with his fastball. He'd appeared briefly with the St. Louis Browns in 1951 and 1953, then stuck with Orioles in 1954, the club's first year in Baltimore. Pitching for a seventh-place team, Turley was 14-15 with a 3.46 ERA and a league-leading 185 strikeouts.

Larsen had gone 7-12 as a Browns' rookie in 1953, and then had a horrible 3-21 season for the Orioles in 1954; nevertheless, many baseball people believed that Larsen had fully as much potential for stardom as did Turley.

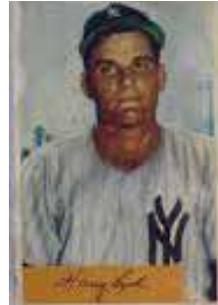
The second part of the trade was completed on December 1. The Yankees received five players while the Orioles got three. Unlike part one, the players in this deal were primarily minor leaguers. It brought the total number of players in the two trades to a record-setting 17.

Reaction in Baltimore to Richards's first trade as general manager of the Orioles was overwhelmingly adverse. While claiming the deal was generally one-sided in favor of New York, Baltimoreans were especially upset that the Orioles had traded Turley. However, Yankees manager Casey Stengel disagreed. "This deal is tremendous for Baltimore," Stengel said. History would prove that the Orioles had indeed been snookered.

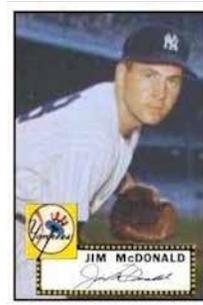
NOVEMBER 17, 1954: TRADED RIGHTHANDED PITCHERS HARRY BYRD AND JIM MCDONALD, OUTFIELDER GENE WOODLING, SHORTSTOP WILLIE MIRANDA, CATCHER-FIRST BASEMAN GUS TRIANDOS, AND MINOR LEAGUE CATCHER HAL SMITH TO THE BALTIMORE ORIOLES FOR RIGHTHANDED PITCHERS BOB TURLEY AND DON LARSEN, AND SHORTSTOP BILLY HUNTER

In announcing this nine-player trade, George Weiss of the Yankees and Paul Richards of the Orioles revealed that it was only the first part of what would emerge as the biggest baseball trade ever. The two general managers said that part two was dependent on the results of the major league draft scheduled for the following week. However, both suggested that it would likely bring three more players to Baltimore and four more to New York.

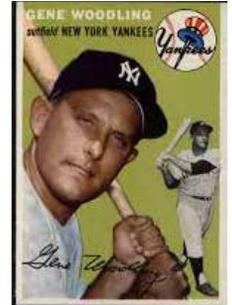
Weiss and Richards had begun their negotiations during the World Series and had discussed many players before settling on the final deal. The Yankees, who'd finished second in 1954 after five straight championships, had targeted pitching as their



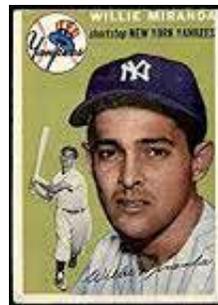
Byrd



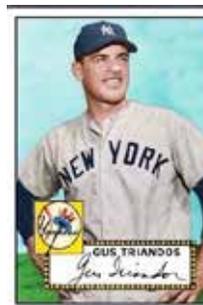
McDonald



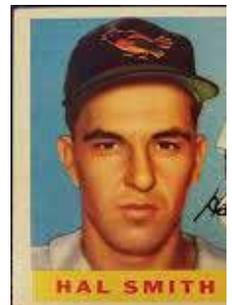
Woodling



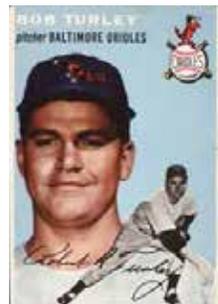
Miranda



Triandos



Smith



Turley



Larsen



Hunter

major shortcoming vis a vis the pennant-winning Cleveland Indians. The need for pitching had intensified when longtime ace Allie Reynolds indicated he would not be back in 1955.

With starting pitching his major priority, Weiss offered GM Frank Lane of the White Sox a group of players for Chicago lefthander Billy Pierce. The rumor was that if Weiss would include third baseman Andy Carey in his offer, there might be a

Trade ▶ Continued on Page 12

Flashback to 1944

(This article originally appeared in the Spring 2016 Roland Park Newsletter)

By Jim Considine

Roland Park, a Baltimore community created in 1891, has one distinction that is becoming invisible as time erases the memory. If you should be traveling on Roland Avenue, there is a strange-looking home located about a half-block south of the Roland Park Shopping Center. The current house at 4706 Roland Avenue is a “rancher” that was added in 1959 to replace the original structure which had been razed. The first structure to occupy this space was nicknamed “Oriole Hall.” Oriole Hall was the spring training home of the International League Baltimore Orioles baseball team during the war years of 1943 through 1945.

President Franklin Roosevelt issued his opinion to baseball commissioner Judge Kennesaw Mountain Landis that professional baseball should continue despite the war. The population would be working long hours, and they needed a chance to relax at a ball game. Everyone was happy that we would have baseball to take our mind off the war, but it came with many caveats.

Professional baseball players were called to serve in the military in mass. Deferments were granted to married men, men with dependents and people with jobs that were vital to national security. The draft age was 21, meaning that teenagers were fair game. Many recently retired players returned to the diamond. It should be noted that these deferments were available, but the prevailing attitude was to serve rather than look for a deferment.

Minor-league baseball had 44 leagues throughout the USA at the start of the war. Twelve remained in business by the end of the war. The Orioles played in the AA International League, which was the highest level at the time.

Every baseball team had travel restrictions imposed on them. Charter buses and reserved rail cars were not allowed to transport a team (so much for the Rockford Peaches traveling by bus in the movie *A League of Their Own*). The tradition of traveling to the warm-weather southern states was restricted. The New York Yankees were permitted to go as far south as North Carolina. I imagine the Washington Senators may not have made it past Virginia. The minor leagues were not allowed any traveling privileges.

Orioles manager Tommy Thomas developed a plan of how to prepare for the upcoming season without palm trees and tropical breezes. Gilman School would provide the critical answer to this puzzle.

Gilman had a tremendous indoor facility known as “the cage.” It would accommodate live batting practice with real dirt underfoot and a pyramid-shaped skylight overhead. The Orioles were given their own private locker room where they could change and access the baseball field without interfering with the students.

Living quarters were arranged by renting a home at 4708 Roland Avenue. A small staff that included a cook and housekeeper was hired for this dormitory of baseball players. The Girls Latin School bumped up against the rear of the house. Morgan Millard Pharmacy and lunch counter was the place to hang out. Protective parents and some neighbors took umbrage at the new neighbors. These arrangements were maintained in 1944 and 1945.

1944 was a season that usually gets a full chapter in books about baseball in Baltimore.

Local author James Bready writes that

*The ballclub caught fire in 1944 (in the pervasive pleasantries), and so did the ballpark. It was the year of 52,833 paid admissions to a minor league playoff game in Baltimore – 16,625 more than to any game of that year’s World Series.*¹

The original “Oriole Park” located at 28th and Barclay Streets in Waverly was a 30-year-old wooden ballpark. Following the July 3rd game on a Monday night, the groundskeeper hosed down the seating area. The Fourth of July would be a day off for the weary war-workers and a chance to catch a doubleheader. A smoldering cigar is the suspected culprit that changed history.

The fire lasted one hour.

Baltimore Sun journalist Jacques Kelly recalls that the daughter of a local dentist, Dr. Ethridge of 30th Street, telephoning the news of the fire to the BCFD.

It was considered the second largest fire in Baltimore history after the great Baltimore fire of 1904. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured, and the damage to surrounding properties was minimal.

The inferno consumed the team’s uniforms and equipment. A museum’s worth of trophies and memorabilia from Baltimore’s baseball history was incinerated. Total devastation described the situation.

Baltimore’s beloved Republican Mayor Theodore McKeldin inspected the site afterward. He met with the Dunn family, the owners, and offered the use of the massive Baltimore Municipal Stadium. This coliseum was built in 1922 to attract the major collegiate football games along with the annual Army-Navy contest.

McKeldin put the city workers to the task of converting the field on 33rd street, the precursor of Memorial Stadium, into a baseball arena. Within two weeks, with assistance from Connie Mack and the Philadelphia Athletics and the city employees, the Orioles were playing ball on 33rd Street.

The 1944 Orioles would win the International League championship in October. The story of Baltimore outdrawing St. Louis in attendance made national headlines. The story planted a seed that would be sown later.

At the conclusion of the baseball season, shifting the field back to football would take place. The Naval Academy was scheduled to kick off its season the next weekend.

The city of Baltimore’s reaction to the fire caught the attention of many sports enthusiasts. It caught the attention of the U.S. War Department. The city of Baltimore was given a two-week notice that the Army-Navy game would be moved to Baltimore, a neutral location. The Cadets and Midshipmen would travel to Baltimore for the game.

The Army-Navy game of 1944 was the greatest in the history of the rivalry. The event was attended by four of the seven generals and admirals who would be awarded a fifth star in the next month. Attending the game were Generals Marshall and Arnold along with Admirals Leahy and King.

Many of the 1944 Orioles would plant roots in Baltimore.

Bob Latshaw Jr. recalls that his father, who played first base for the champion O’s, met former teammates Sherm Lollar, who joined the O’s as a coach after an 18-year career, and “Howitzer” Howie Moss for lunches at Alonso’s. Bob’s son Daniel would play for the Roland Park Baseball League and graduate from Gilman.

Manager Tommy Thomas played baseball for Baltimore City College before pitching for the Orioles, which led to a 12-year major-league career before returning to Baltimore. He was in-

1944 ► Continued on Page x



Baysox manager Gary Kendall has been with the Orioles organization since 2000. (Baysox photo)

Road Trip: Sun Finally Shines on SABR at the Baysox

By Peter Coolbaugh

It was a long time coming. After first dealing with a rainout in July, the Baltimore Babe Ruth chapter finally made it out to Prince George's Stadium on August 26 for an afternoon game against the Erie Seawolves, AA affiliate of the Detroit Tigers.

Twenty-nine SABR members and guests attended the pregame talk and game. Corporate sponsorship manager and director of broadcasting Adam Pohl first made some brief remarks and introductions. SABR members may remember Adam from his talk on SABR Day in January 2017 at Towson University.

First up to speak to the group was manager Gary Kendall, who spoke of his years in baseball and the many things he has seen and done as a scout, coach and later manager. He has been part of the Orioles organization since 2000. Gary then took questions from the audience before leaving to begin his game-day duties.

Adam Pohl had to disappear early to attend to his pregame broadcasting obligations so next the group heard from team GM Brian Shallcross who spoke of his time with the Baysox, ideas for the team in the future, and possible uses in the offseason for the stadium facility. Brian also talked about his interest in youth baseball and his hope that both MLB and minor-league teams can invest more in promoting baseball to kids.

Coming close to the 1:35 game time start, the group left the conference room on the club level and were ushered to the owner's suite for a substantial ballpark buffet and prime seats above home plate. The Baysox won that day, although their hopes to make the postseason were already over. The final score was 4-1 and the game lasted only about 2 hours and 20 minutes.

And for those real Orioles die-hard fans, they were able to get back to Baltimore in plenty of time to see the Birds host the Yankees at 8 PM at Camden Yards for the ESPN Game of the Week.

The Babe Ruth Chapter was very happy with the way everything turned out, despite the delay in seeing a game due to the summer rainfall. All participants seemed to enjoy themselves and several sent compliments to the chapter officers praising the event as a success.

We are grateful to the Bowie Baysox for their generous hospitality and working with us as date and time changes and the number of participants constantly fluctuated. Hats off to Scott Rupp and Adam Pohl for being so accommodating.

For those who have never been to see the Baysox play at home, it is well worth your time. Great ballpark and always a fun time. Thanks, Baysox! Best of luck in 2019.

Trivia Corner

The Orioles began, as a franchise, in Milwaukee in 1901, the American League's first season. From 1902 to 1953 they played in St. Louis as the Browns. The players below wore the uniforms of this franchise and have been elected to baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Their years with the franchise and the year of their induction are given. See if you can fill in 32 names. (Try it first without looking at the initials.)

Answer on Page 14.

	Years with franchise	Hall of Fame	Name	Initials
1.	1901	1945		HD
2.	1902-04	1946		JB
3.	1902-16	1953		BW
4.	1908-10	1946		RW
5.	1913-15	1967		BR
6.	1915-22 1924-27	1939		GS
7.	1916-17	1946		EP
8.	1928-30	1964		HM
9.	1929-33 1941-43	1984		RF
10.	1930-32	1968		GG
11.	1933-37	1942		RH
12.	1936-37	1974		JB
13.	1947	1953		DD
14.	1947	2006		WB
15.	1951-53	1971		SP
16.	1955-77	1983		BR
17.	1956-57	1983		GK
18.	1956-58 1961-62	2008		DW
19.	1958-62	1985		HW
20.	1961-62	2010		WH
21.	1962-65	1976		RR
22.	1963-67	1984		LA
23.	1965-67 1969-84	1990		JP
24.	1966-71	1982		FR
25.	1968-82 1985-86	1996		EW
26.	1976	1993		RJ
27.	1977-78, 1996	2003		EM
28.	1981-2001	2007		CR
29.	1996-98	2011		RA
30.	2001	2017		TR
31.	2011	2018		VG
32.	2012	2018		JT

Ruth Sold to Yankees: Boston Globe, N.Y. Times Report News

By Fred Glueckstein

On January 6, 1920, Boston baseball fans read the unimaginable. *The Boston Globe* reported that Babe Ruth had been sold to the New York Yankees. *The Globe* headline read:

Red Sox sell Babe Ruth for \$100,000 cash

Owner calls one man team a failure;

Ruth Says he'll only play in Boston

By James C. O'Leary

GLOBE STAFF

The Globe article began: "Babe' Ruth, home-run hitter extraordinary of the Red Sox, has been sold to the New York American League club for a cash price of probably \$100,000 and possibly more. Pres [Harry] Frazee in announcing the sale at Red Sox headquarters in the Carney Building late yesterday afternoon declined to state the amount."

"The price was something enormous, but I do not care to name the figures," said Frazee. "It was an amount the club could not afford to refuse. I should have preferred to have taken players in exchange for Ruth, but no club could have given me the equivalent in men without wrecking itself, and so the deal had to be made on a cash basis," he said. "No other club could afford to give the amount the Yankees have paid for him, and I do not mind saying I think they are taking a gamble."

"With this money the Boston club can now go into the market and buy other players and have a stronger and better team in all respects than we would have if Ruth had remained with us," explained Frazee.

"I do not wish to detract one iota from Ruth's ability as a ball player nor his value as an attraction, but there is no getting away from the fact that despite his 29 home runs, the Red Sox finished sixth in the race last season," said Frazee. Again, he emphasized the Red Sox's poor finish. "What the Boston fans want, I take it, and what I want because they want it, is a winning team, rather than a one-man team which finishes in sixth place."

O'Leary, the *Globe* writer, wrote of Ruth's popularity in Boston and suggested that fans wait before assessing the sale of Ruth: "Ruth was very popular in Boston, and for sentimental reasons the fans may first be inclined to regard his transfer to the Yankees with disfavor, but if they withhold judgment until they have thoroughly sized up the affair, the chances are that they will agree with Pres Frazee and others that the sale of 'Babe' will, eventually, redound to the welfare of the Boston club."

Ruth Responds to the Sale

During the evening of January 5, 1920, Johnny Igoe, Ruth's business manager, notified Ruth in California by telegraph of his sale to New York. At 11:30, Igoe received the following telegram from Ruth: "I will not play anywhere but Boston. Will leave for the East Monday."

The Globe went on to explain that "Igoe gave as a reason for Ruth's objection to playing with any club other than the Red Sox, that the big fellow had invested his money in the cigar business in Boston and that he wished to be here as much as possible to look after his business. Also, that because of his associations here he preferred to play with a Boston club rather than any other."

O'Leary ended his *Globe* report: "Notwithstanding the Ruth telegram, Miller Huggins declared in a statement made at Los Angeles last night that he had actually signed the great slugger. Papers were exchanged, Huggins said." The story of Miller Huggins signing Babe Ruth with the Yankees was reported by

The New York Times 10 days after *The Globe* article reported the sale.

Ruth Speaks of Final Days in Boston and Frazee

On January 16, 1920, *The Times* published a fascinating account of Huggins' search for Babe Ruth around Los Angeles to inform him that he had been sold to the Yankees, as well as Ruth's reaction and blistering comments of Frazee.

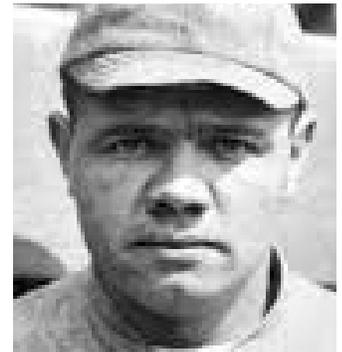
The Times article was titled: *Ruth Tells Tales of His Boston Days: Says Frazee Made Him Pay for Wife's Ticket at Big Game in His Honor*. No byline or writer's name appeared. The newspaper article began: "The details of the famous conference between Babe Ruth and Manager Miller Huggins of the Yankees have at least drifted eastward and it develops that Huggins had to search around Los Angeles for two or three days before he finally cornered the home-run slugger and told him he was sold to the Yanks for \$125,000."

The article reported that Ruth spent much of his time in Los Angeles playing golf at Griffith Park every day. Huggins went to the golf links and waited until Ruth had finished a round and then took him aside and had a long talk with him. When Ruth learned that he had been sold by Frazee without his consent, he first objected to the Red Sox owner's method. The two men then talked further.

The Times reported: "Ruth, after their conference, said that he had not made Huggins any promises and that he wouldn't agree to anything until he got a slice of the money which had been paid to Frazee. Later, however, when Ruth read what



Harry Frazee



Babe Ruth

Frazee had given as his reasons for selling him, Ruth said that he was glad he had been sold and would play with the Yankees if for nothing more than to show up Frazee."

Ruth continued his hard comments about the Red Sox owner: "Frazee is not good enough to own any ball club, especially one in Boston. On Babe Ruth Day Boston people packed the park. He reserved 15,000 seats and forced the ball players to pay for their wives. I paid for Mrs. Ruth. After the game I was called to the office, where he handed me a cigar and thanked me. That is a fair sample of his liberality."

"Because I demanded a big increase in salary, which I felt I was entitled to, he brands me as an ingrate, and a trouble-maker," said Ruth. "The time of a ball player is short and he must get his money in few years or lose out. Any fair-minded fan knows that my efforts on the Boston club last season warranted a larger salary and I asked for it. I have always hustled as hard as any man on the diamond," continued Ruth.

"When not taking my turn in the box, I played the outfield, doing everything I could to make the club win. I don't like to play for Frazee. I like Boston and Boston fans. They have treated

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end of the grandstand.

By season's end, the Orioles had managed a winning record while finishing third. In December, the American Association dissolved and the Orioles were one of four teams that joined the National League to form a 12-team circuit.

The start of the 1892 season did not go as planned. George Van Haltren briefly replaced long-time manager Billie Barnie. After the Orioles lost 10 of their first 11 games, Van Haltren was replaced by John Waltz, who didn't fare much better. On May 10 he was replaced by Ned Hanlon. The Orioles finished dead last with a record of 46-101. The only highlight of the season came at home on June 10 when, during a 25-4 drubbing of St. Louis, Wilbert Robinson went 7 for 7 (a double and six singles), a major league record (since tied by Rennie Stennett of the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1975).¹⁹ The Orioles improved in 1893, but it wasn't until 1894 that they would hit their stride. And that in no small part began with the hiring of a new head groundskeeper, Thomas Murphy. With 10 years of experience under his belt, Murphy no doubt knew what improvements were needed at Union Park. He assured Ned Hanlon he would have Union Park as "level as a billiard table" by the time the Orioles returned from spring training.²⁰

Although the improvements to the field noted by the press made for good copy, Murphy's changes to the diamond resulted in a great offensive weapon for Ned Hanlon's brand of "inside baseball."²¹ The advantages afforded by Murphy's work were detailed in Peter Morris's *Level Playing Fields*. The infield soil was mixed with clay and water, and when rolled became as hard as concrete. Placed in front of home plate, it led to the invention of the "Baltimore Chop." The players would "hit down on the ball so sharply that they could make it to first base before any infielder could make a play."²²

The first base line was given a slight downgrade from home plate in order to assist players' running efforts. From first to second base was given the same treatment. By contrast, Murphy built up the base paths from second to third base with an uphill grade. From third to home plate had a downhill grade, again to assist runners, and was built up from the outside to prevent bunted balls from rolling foul.²³

The outfield was intentionally kept uneven, most notably the "hill" in right field where Willie Keeler roamed, and was considered a "terror of visiting players." The grass in right field was always kept "ragged and full of weeds, rough spots, hollows, and hills" which enabled Keeler to successfully perform his hidden ball trick. Apparently, thanks to Keeler's familiarity with the rough terrain in right field, he kept a stash of extra balls hidden in the weeds. When a visiting team hit a ball into the tall weeds, Keeler always managed to conveniently locate it. Balls hit by Oriole batters were not so easily located by opposing fielders, resulting in extra bases.²⁴

A similar ploy was used on the pitching mound. In the era before rosin bags, pitchers would customarily pick up dirt around the mound with which to rub the ball down. Murphy would "sprinkle soap flakes near the rubber" that would end up in the hands of visiting pitchers. Oriole pitchers, however, knew strategic locations of dirt that were not covered in soap.²⁵

Sportswriter Hugh Fullerton claimed that the totality of Murphy's work at Union Park created "the most unfair grounds ever constructed," maintaining that "the grounds, adapted perfectly to the home team's style of play, did more to win pennants than anything else."²⁶

On Opening Day 1894 the Orioles beat the New York Giants, 8-3. The losing pitcher, Amos Rusie, ironically had been

discovered by groundskeeper Thomas Murphy while working as a groundskeeper in Indianapolis in 1889.²⁷

The Orioles' explosive offense carried them to the 1894 National League pennant. A big factor was the team's penchant for triples, a record 153. In the first game of a Labor Day doubleheader against the Cleveland Spiders, a crowd of 20,000 witnessed the Orioles hammer out 9 triples — a record that still stands.²⁸ Left fielder Joe Kelley went 9 for 9, scoring 7 runs, setting a record still unmatched. In the afternoon game Kelley hit four straight doubles off Cy Young.²⁹

Baseball was not Ned Hanlon's only interest. In a scheme to fill the winter void, the owners of six clubs in the National League formed the first professional soccer league in the country in August 1894. Known as the American League of Professional Football (ALPF), the league featured teams in Baltimore, Boston, Brooklyn, New York, and Washington, D.C. Hanlon managed the Baltimore club (and would later be investigated by the U.S. Treasury Department for signing English professionals and claiming that they were American, in violation of immigration laws). The first professional soccer game in Baltimore took place at Union Park with Baltimore defeating Washington, 5-1.³⁰

On the baseball front, Orioles management erected a "small cottage" inside Union Park to the left of the ticket office to be occupied by groundskeeper Murphy.³¹ Having Murphy live at the ballpark turned out to be a good decision. During the night of January 14, 1895, a fire destroyed the grandstand and clubhouses at Union Park. The first person to discover the flames was Thomas Murphy.

Once Von Der Horst worked through the insurance issues, plans for a new grandstand were immediately in the works. Work began in early March on what was described as "the best Baltimore has even seen." The new park would again feature a double decker grandstand with private boxes, as well as press boxes and a telegraph box on the second level. The grandstand would not only be bigger, but it would be supported by iron pillars rather than wood.³²

Playing in their rebuilt home grounds, the Orioles repeated their championship in 1895 and 1896, winning 90 games in '96 and the Temple Cup playoffs.

Opening day on April 22, 1897, began with a parade and ended with a win before one of the largest crowds ever seen at Union Park.³³ The 1897 pennant race came down to [a thrilling finish between the Orioles and the Boston Beaneaters](#). Huge crowds, including Boston's famous Royal Rooters, filled Union Park to witness a crucial September series.³⁴ Paid admission on September 27, 1897, was 18,123, reported to be a record for Union Park.³⁵ The Orioles lost the three-game series and ultimately the 1897 pennant to the Beaneaters.

The few bright spots of the 1898 season included two 12-game winning streaks. The team also led the league in batting, stolen bases, and runs scored. Despite winning 96 games, the Orioles were outmatched by Boston, who took the pennant by 6 games. Attendance on the year was 123,416, less than half of what it had been during the pennant winning years, causing profits to take a hit and rumblings of syndicate baseball.³⁶ To make matters worse, Thomas Murphy had left for Cincinnati to be the Reds' groundskeeper.³⁷

In order to cut his losses, Harry Von Der Horst acquired a controlling interest in the Brooklyn Trolley Dodgers, and moved his Orioles stars, including Willie Keeler, Joe Kelley, and Hughie Jennings, and manager Ned Hanlon to Brooklyn. John McGraw and Wilbert Robinson, who owned a successful

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business in Baltimore called the Diamond Café, refused to go. McGraw became the Orioles' player-manager.

By all accounts, the Orioles exceeded expectations in the 1899 season. By mid-May, Hanlon dubbed them "the surprise of the season."³⁸ On July 4, history was made once again at Union Park when John McGraw became the first player to steal second, third, and home in the same inning.³⁹

On October 10, 1899, the Orioles played their final home game of the season against Washington, and the final professional baseball game ever to be played at Union Park. The game ended in a 5-5 tie. In perhaps an ominous sign of the Orioles' future, Frank De Haas Robison, syndicate owner of both the St. Louis and Cleveland clubs, was in attendance. Robison was quoted as saying the National League intended to honor its 10-year 12-team commitment, with the Orioles playing another two years in Baltimore.⁴⁰ It didn't happen.

By season's end, the McGraw-led "leftovers" (as dubbed by Burt Solomon) finished with an 86-62 record, good for fourth place, 15 games back of pennant-winning Brooklyn. Following the season, the National League contracted to eight teams, without the Orioles.

Although the official announcement of the league contraction would not occur until March, a movement had immediately begun following the end of the season to revive the defunct American Association. Looking to capitalize on the National League castoffs and growing resentment among players (mostly over salary and the reserve rule), the effort attracted Cap Anson and John McGraw to lead the charge. Having learned that Hanlon and Von Der Horst had inadvertently allowed their lease on Union Park to lapse on January 3, McGraw swooped in and secured the rights to the grounds on January 25.

It was noted that trustees of the Sadtler estate, the park's owners, "were extremely favorable to the new team and were willing to give it preference." The lease terms were for one year at a rent of \$3500, and would be in the name of Philip Peterson, a stockholder in the new company. However, the lease was subsequently transferred to the Baltimore Amusement Company, the official owner of the purported new franchise.⁴¹ So popular was McGraw's coup that prominent members of Baltimore society were continually approaching him to purchase stock in the new company, which was capitalized at \$20,000 -- 200 shares at \$100.

The lease included the land, the stands, clubhouse, and other improvements that had been made and paid for by Von Der Horst's Exhibition Company.⁴² On Saturday, February 3, the Baltimore Amusement Company was granted an injunction against the Exhibition Company from "removing or destroying any of the fixtures at Union Park." On that same day, Hanlon and company put armed guards at the gate of Union Park and nailed "No Trespassing" signs to the fencing.⁴³ When McGraw's forces attempted to gain access to the grounds and were stopped by Hanlon's men, some of them scaled the fence and jumped down onto the roof of Murphy's cottage. A fight broke out. While police broke it up, McGraw's men, carrying guns and clubs, set up camp at third base. On the other side of the diamond, Hanlon's men set up shop at first base. A single police officer took his post in front of the ticket office. This scene would remain for much of the month while the battle continued in the courts.⁴⁴

It wasn't long until the ground beneath the upstart American Association started to crumble. Within a few weeks of the skirmish, McGraw announced that the new league could not

mobilize in time to play in the upcoming season.⁴⁵ Maybe out of pride or spite, McGraw voiced his intentions to continue the legal battle over the rights to Union Park despite the lost season. However, once reality set in, rumors started to spread that McGraw's financial backers were looking for ways to settle the dispute with Hanlon.⁴⁶ After much back and forth, a compromise was finally struck between the two companies. The Exhibition Company agreed to pay \$3500 to the Amusement Company -- the balance of one year's rent, in addition to an estimated sum of \$1500 to \$2000, which purportedly represented the expense incurred by the Amusement Company to establish a team in Baltimore.⁴⁷ Notably, this compromise would also end any bad blood between Hanlon and McGraw, as Hanlon was "inclined to forgive and forget, and make McGraw manager of the Baltimore team next season."⁴⁸ With the matter now settled, the Amusement Company planned to hold a banquet at the Eutaw House, with Hanlon and Von Der Horst as distinguished guests.⁴⁹

In early March, the National League announced Baltimore's exit from the circuit. With the lack of a professional team, Union Park would be home to games of the Atlantic Association.⁵⁰ McGraw and Robinson signed with the St. Louis Cardinals for 1900. Before departing they made a final curtain call at Union Park in a game between the Baltimore newspapermen and the cast of "Broadway of Tokio." In what was dubbed a "horrible game of baseball," the Robinson-led actors prevailed in a "painful score" of 19-0 over McGraw's newspapermen.⁵¹

Although Baltimore had gone the entire 1900 season without professional baseball (the only such year from 1882 to present day), that was about to change, as McGraw and Robinson landed the Baltimore franchise in Ban Johnson's new American League. McGraw voiced his opinion that new grounds would have to be built to house the new franchise, as the lease for Union Park was set to expire in two years.⁵² McGraw was unwilling to consider Union Park unless the lease terms were renegotiated.

By early January, McGraw and company had signed a five-year lease for the land upon which American League Park was to be built, located about three blocks north of Union Park. What was to become of old Union Park? Hanlon - still the leaseholder - signed over rights to former Oriole catcher William J. "Boileryard" Clarke, now with the Boston Beaneaters, who held rights to an American Association franchise in Baltimore. Hanlon and others in the National League hoped to revive the American Association to compete with the American League. Recognizing that Union Park was prime real estate, Hanlon hoped that the grounds would be of use in attracting a franchise to Baltimore. However, the effort to revive the American Association and attract a new franchise to Baltimore failed.

Despite the fact that Union Park was still in use by college and local teams, it was reported in early 1902 that the grounds would be cut up into building lots following the expiration of its lease in March 1903. Although still under lease by the National League (through the Baltimore Baseball and Exhibition Company), who were on the hook for a final year's rent of \$3500, speculation was that the NL would allow the lease to lapse. With the erection of American League Park, the National League, who had secured the site to prevent the American League from getting it, had no further use for the old ballpark.⁵³

After the AL and NL signed a peace agreement in 1903,

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Johnson found a buyer in New York for the Baltimore franchise.

The newly constructed American League Park was placed into receivership, with the stands and buildings to be auctioned off. Meanwhile, Hanlon was vocal about his opinion that the National League would benefit from a team in Baltimore and that Union Park was still a suitable grounds, even better located than American League Park.⁵⁴ The old skipper couldn't seem to let go of his old stomping grounds.

Although Hanlon's hopes were still high for a Baltimore franchise, any hopes of playing at Union Park were dashed when the National League officially decided to allow the lease to expire in February 1903. In addition, the end of Union Park was signaled as the league appointed Hanlon to "sell the old stands, lumber and all movable property belonging to the old club. . . [t]hus will pass away the ball park that Hanlon's old champions made famous in the last decade."⁵⁵ By year's end, the lumber that made up the stands at Union Park had been sold, and the park was awaiting demolition.⁵⁶ Hanlon did finally manage to bring baseball back to Baltimore, albeit in the form of an Eastern League franchise. Their new home would be American League Park, which Hanlon had purchased out of receivership for \$3,000.⁵⁷

It is unclear when Union Park was officially torn down. Throughout 1903 and 1904, there are references to teams playing at a "Union Park," but it seems unlikely that this was the same stadium.⁵⁸ What is clear is that the vacant Union Park lot was purchased by Howard G. White on October 2, 1905. It was expected that the land would be improved with dwellings; the site consisted of 1800 building feet and could accommodate 120 houses.⁵⁹ In a eulogy run by the *Baltimore Sun*, Union Park was remembered for its history with the old Orioles and the name Union Park "would always be associated in the memory of local rooters with Baltimore's palmiest baseball days."⁶⁰

Palmiest days indeed. The Orioles' success playing at Union Park had been remarkable. In 599 games at Union Park, the Orioles had managed to amass a record of 413 wins and 186 losses, for an astounding winning rate of .680 (by contrast, baseball teams today have a home winning percentage that averages around .550). With Union Park gone, baseball would continue on in Baltimore, but the memories of the old ball-park remained. Perhaps out of habit or nostalgia, years later it was reported that players of the new Eastern League Baltimore team would refer to their new home as "Union Park" on occasion.⁶¹ The old park was gone but not forgotten.

Acknowledgments

This article was reviewed by Norman Macht and fact-checked by Chris Rainey.

Notes

1. James H. Bready, *Baseball in Baltimore: The First Hundred Years* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), 17.
2. Team owner Harry Von Der Horst allegedly named the Orioles after the Order of the Orioles, a local social club whose major activity was an annual Mardi Gras style parade. See Jack Kavanaugh and Norman, *Uncle Robbie* (Society for American Baseball Research, 2000), 11.
3. Orioles Park was located at what is now East 25th Street (then Huntington Avenue) and Greenmount Avenue (then York Road). See Bready, *Baseball in Baltimore*, 38.
4. *Ibid.*, 47.
5. The Orioles ended up winning the Atlantic Association

pennant on the final day of the season, August 25, 1890. See *Uncle Robbie*, 11

6. "New Base-Ball Park," *Baltimore Sun*, April 25, 1891: 3.
7. *Ibid.*, 3.
8. The total seating capacity of Union Park when it opened is unclear, as seats were progressively added over the years.
9. "New Base-Ball Park," *Baltimore Sun*, April 25, 1891: 3; Peter Morris, *Level Playing Fields: How the Groundskeeping Murphy Brothers Shaped Baseball* (University of Nebraska Press, 2013), 64.
10. "New Base-Ball Park," *Baltimore Sun*, April 25, 1891: 3
11. Bready, *Baseball in Baltimore*, 59.
12. "The Whole Plan And Scope," *Baltimore Sun*, April 27, 1891: 1.
13. Burt Solomon, *Where They Ain't: The Fabled Life and Untimely Death of the Original Baltimore Orioles, the Team That Gave Birth to Modern Baseball* (Doubleday, 1999), 40.
14. Bready, *Baseball in Baltimore*, 50.
15. "The Whole Plan And Scope," *Baltimore Sun*, April 27, 1891: 1.
16. Bready, *Baseball in Baltimore*, 51; "Classified Ad 2," *Baltimore Sun*, May 11, 1891: 1; "Opened with a victory," *Baltimore American*, May 12, 1891: 5.
17. "Four Thousand Saw It," *Baltimore Sun*, May 14, 1891: 3.
18. "Talk Of The Players," *Baltimore Sun*, May 21, 1891: 4.
19. Bready, *Baseball in Baltimore*, 59.
20. "Sporting Gossip," *Baltimore Sun*, March 19, 1894: 10.
21. Morris, *Level Playing Fields*, 34.
22. Morris, *Level Playing Fields*, 35.
23. Morris, *Level Playing Fields*, 35; Solomon, *Where They Ain't*, 71.
24. Morris, *Level Playing Fields*, 36; Solomon, *Where They Ain't*, 71, 76.
25. Morris, *Level Playing Fields*, 36; Solomon, *Where They Ain't*, 71 (Solomon notes that Orioles' pitchers carried dirt on their pockets)
26. Morris, *Level Playing Fields*, 36
27. Solomon, *Where They Ain't*, 71; This fact has been disputed by Peter Morris, who claims that it was more likely Tom Murphy's brother John, also a groundskeeper, who discovered Rusie. Morris, *Level Playing Fields*, 33.
28. "Triples Team Records", baseball-almanac.com.
29. Bready, *Baseball in Baltimore*, 79-80.
30. <http://amofb.blogspot.com/2014/01/the-first-professional-soccer-league-i-...>
31. "Ground-Keeper Murphy's Lodge," *Baltimore Sun*, October 29, 1894: 7.
32. "World of Sport," *Baltimore Sun*, February 27, 1895: 6.
33. "61,000 See The Games," *Baltimore Sun*, April 23, 1897: 6.
34. "The Crowds Far And Near," *Baltimore Sun*, September 25, 1897: 6.
35. "Hurrah For Boston," *Baltimore Sun*, September 27, 1897: 6.
36. Bready, *Baseball in Baltimore*, 98-99.
37. "Groundkeeper Murphy Leaves," *Baltimore Sun*, October 22, 1898: 8.
38. "Mr. Hanlon In Town," *Baltimore Sun*, May 15, 1899: 6.
39. <http://sabr.org/gamesproj/game/july-4-1899-baltimores-john-mcgraw-first-...>
40. "De Haas Robison Here Again," *Baltimore Sun*, October 11, 1899: 6.
41. "Union Park Captured," *Baltimore Sun*, January 26, 1900: 6.
42. *Ibid.*

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Union Park ▶ From Page 11

43. Solomon, *Where They Ain't*, 184.
44. Solomon, *Where They Ain't*, 184. Author and historian Charles Alexander provided a slightly different account, where he noted that Peterson managed to climb the fence, pummel one of the guards, leaving in his pocket a court order. Alexander also noted that Hanlon's men had no plans on leaving so they erected a tent in the left field bleachers, in addition to occupying the clubhouse and Tom Murphy's old cottage. Charles Alexander, *John McGraw* (University of Nebraska Press, 1995), 69.
45. Alexander, *John McGraw*, 69.
46. "New Baseball Phase," *Baltimore Sun*, February 21, 1900: 6.
47. "Baseball Tempest Over," *Baltimore Sun*, February 26, 1900: 6.
48. *Ibid.*
49. "Association Boomers," *Baltimore Sun*, March 1, 1900: 6.
50. "Atlantic Baseball Association," *Baltimore Sun*, April 30, 1900: 6; "Baltimore Baseball League," *Baltimore Sun*, May 18, 1900: 6.
51. "Joyful Baseball," *Baltimore Sun*, May 4, 1900: 6.
52. "Baseball Coming To A Point," *Baltimore Sun*, November 12, 1900: 6.
53. "Old Union Park Is Doomed," *Baltimore Sun*, January 31, 1902: 6.
54. "Will Old League Buy," *Baltimore Sun*, October 21, 1902: 6.
55. "Hanlon Has Hopes," *Baltimore Sun*, December 15, 1902: 6.
56. "Baseball," *Baltimore Sun*, December 27, 1902: 6.
57. "Hanlon's Ball Park Now," *Baltimore Sun*, January 1, 1903: 9.
58. "Marston's Defeats Country School," *Baltimore Sun*, November 14, 1903: 9; "Amateur Ball Clubs," *Baltimore Sun*, July 21, 1904: 9; "Baseball Cops Are Working," *Baltimore Sun*, August 18, 1904: 9; "Sparrows Point Ends Play," *Baltimore Sun*, October 30, 1904: 10; "Barclay, 6; Sparrows Point, 0," *Baltimore Sun*, November 27, 1904: 10.
59. The Sadtler estate, which owned the lot on which Union Park stood, sold off their last unimproved lot by November 19, 1905, disposing entirely of everything in the estate.
60. "Old Union Park To Go," *Baltimore Sun*, October 2, 1905: 12.
61. "Orioles Warming Up," *Baltimore Sun*, March 17, 1908: 10.

Modern O's: A Cooperstown 5-for-5

Did you know that all modern players inducted into the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown as Orioles were also first-ballot HOFers? Frank Robinson in 1982, Brooks Robinson in 1983, Jim Palmer in 1990, Eddie Murray in 2003, and Cal Ripken Jr. in 2007.



Trade ▶ Continued from Page 5

deal. But while no deal for Pierce, an excellent young pitcher, was ever made, in Bob Turley and Don Larsen the Yanks were getting two other excellent young pitchers.

"When we got Turley and Larsen, we plugged the major weakness of the Yankee club---pitching," Weiss said. "They are two of the finest and fastest young righthanders in the game. Both figure to get better and they are young. Turley is only twenty-four, Larsen twenty-five.

Turley had impressed everyone with his fastball, which had been labeled the best since Bob Feller came up to Cleveland almost twenty years earlier. He'd appeared briefly with the St. Louis Browns in 1951 and 1953, then stuck with Orioles in 1954, the club's first year in Baltimore. Pitching for a seventh-place team, Turley was 14-15 with a 3.46 ERA and a league-leading 185 strikeouts.

Larsen had gone 7-12 as a Browns' rookie in 1953, and then had a horrible season for the Orioles in 1954. He won only three games while losing a league-high 21; yet despite that horrendous '54 won-lost record, many baseball people believed that Larsen had fully as much potential for stardom as did Turley.

Along with pitching, Weiss had also been seeking a shortstop, knowing that Phil Rizzuto's .195 batting average in 1954 was an indication that his long career was nearing its end. Acknowledging that he'd been unsuccessful in attempts to get the White Sox to part with Chico Carrasquel, Weiss said that "(Billy) Hunter was the best available shortstop for whom we could deal."

The 26-year-old Hunter, a former Dodger farmhand, had been the Browns/Orioles shortstop the past two seasons. He'd shown he could handle the job defensively, but with batting averages of .219 in 1953 and .243 in 1954, he had yet to prove he could hit major league pitching.

The same was true of Willie Miranda, whom the Yankees had purchased from the Browns in June 1953. Miranda, perhaps the best defensive shortstop in the league, was a notoriously weak hitter, although he'd improved some in 1954. He had a .250 average in 92 games in '54, serving most often as a late-inning replacement after Rizzuto had been removed for a pinch hitter.

Reaction in Baltimore to Richards's first trade as general manager of the Orioles was overwhelmingly adverse. While claiming the deal was generally one-sided in favor of New York, Baltimoreans were especially upset that the Orioles had traded Turley. However, Yankee manager Casey Stengel disagreed. "This deal is tremendous for Baltimore," Stengel said. "I regret losing the players who helped me win championships. I'm speaking of (Gene) Woodling and (Jim) McDonald."

That description certainly fit the 32-year-old Woodling, a Yankee since 1949 and a member of each of Stengel's teams that won five consecutive World Series. Woodling had a .285 average for his six seasons in New York and a .318 mark in 26 World Series games. But an injured hand had limited him to only 97 games in 1954, and he'd batted just .250.

As he had done in McDonald's previous two seasons with the Yankees, Stengel had used the 27-year-old former Brownie as both a starter and a reliever in 1954. But, as with Woodling, injuries limited McDonald's usefulness. He pitched in just 16 games, winning four and losing one and bringing his three-season record with the Yankees to 16-12.

The Yanks had acquired Harry Byrd eleven months earlier in

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Trade ▶ Continued from Page 12

an 11-player trade with the Philadelphia Athletics. At the time they envisioned him as a likely replacement for either of their aging righthanded aces, Reynolds or Vic Raschi. But Byrd didn't have that kind of success; he won only nine games, lost seven, and had a 3.99 earned run average.

Gus Triandos batted .296 with 18 home runs for the Yanks' American Association team at Kansas City in 1954. He'd gotten into 18 games as a Yankee in 1953 and two in 1954, but hit just .154, with only one home run.

Hal Smith was also in the American Association in 1954. He was with the Columbus Red Birds where his .350 batting average led the league. However, both Triandos and Smith faced the same dilemma. They were young catchers (both were 24) on a team that had already Yogi Berra, the league's best catcher, and Elston Howard, whom they were preparing to be the number two man behind Berra. The Yanks had sent Howard, originally an outfielder, to the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1954 so he could make the conversion to catching. While learning his new position, Howard batted .330 and won the International League's Most Valuable Player Award. Now he was set to join the Yankees in 1955 as their first black player.



Kryhoski Blyzka Johnson Fridley DelGuercio



Miller Segrist Leppert

DECEMBER 1, 1954: TRADED LEFTHANDED PITCHER BILL MILLER, THIRD BASEMAN KAL SEGRIST, AND MINOR LEAGUE SECOND BASEMAN DON LEPPERT TO THE BALTIMORE ORIOLES FOR FIRST BASEMAN DICK KRYHOSKI, RIGHTHANDED PITCHER MIKE BLYZKA, CATCHER DARRELL JOHNSON, OUTFIELDER JIM FRIDLEY, MINOR LEAGUE OUTFIELDER TED DEL GUERCIO, AND A PLAYER TO BE NAMED

The Yankees received five players while the Orioles got three as the two teams completed part two of the trade they'd begun on November 17. It brought the total number of players in the two trades to a record-setting 17, nine new faces for Baltimore and eight for New York. (Although announced to include an 18th player, rumored to be Orioles' pitcher Lou Kretlow who would go to the Yankees as "a player to be named," Kretlow remained with Baltimore.)

Unlike part one, the players in this deal were primarily minor leaguers, although several had big league experience. Former Yankee Dick Kryhoski, a .260-batter for the Orioles in 1954, had the most. He'd come up with the Yankees in 1949 and gone on to play for the Tigers and the Browns/Orioles. (The Yanks had no place for Kryhoski, who was now 29, and would sell him to the new Kansas City Athletics just prior to the 1955

season.)

Mike Blyzka and Jim Fridley were with the Orioles in 1954: Blyzka going 1-5 in 37 relief appearances, and Fridley batting .246 in 85 games. Darrell Johnson, who had big league experience with the Browns and White Sox in 1952, was at Richmond of the International League in 1954, where he batted .261.

The recent move of the American League's Philadelphia franchise to Kansas City had forced the Yankees to move their American Association team in that city elsewhere. They eventually chose Denver, which would be the 1955 destination for Blyzka, Fridley, and Johnson. (Of the three, only Johnson would ever play for the Yankees, batting a combined .226 in 26 games in 1957 and 1958.)

Ted Del Guercio was with the Wichita Indians in 1954, where he batted .321 and was the Class A Western League's all-star center fielder. The Yanks moved Del Guercio up to Class AA, sending him to the Southern Association's Birmingham Barons.

Although Don Leppert was only 24, and had batted .313 at Birmingham in 1954, he did not figure in the Yankees' future plans. Neither did 27-year-old Bill Miller, who had a 6-8 record with the Yankees in 36 appearances spread over the last three seasons; nor Kal Segrist, a career minor league who batted .291 for the Kansas City Blues in 1954. Segrist's only big league experience had been as a 21-year-old in 1952, when he had one hit in 23 at bats for the Yankees.

President ▶ From Page 1

Our chapter was formed in 2015, carved from SABR's premier chapter, the Bob Davids. There was nearly instant, unanimous agreement that we should tout the fact we are located in the birthplace of baseball's greatest player. How could you not? With Baltimore being the Babe's native city, we complied with the request to add a geographical indicator and became the Baltimore/Babe Ruth Chapter. (Some prefer "the Babe Ruth/Baltimore Chapter", but the effect is the same.)

We have enjoyed some serious growth with two regular meetings a month and annual trips to games at the Orioles and a minor-league stadium near us. Our mailing list is approaching 500 readers, and it has become obvious that our footprint goes far beyond the city limits of Charm City, and that's why we are considering altering the chapter's name to the "Babe Ruth/Maryland Chapter". That may not even be descriptive enough, since we also have members in Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and more, but Maryland does seem a better descriptor than Baltimore.

Many SABR members who live in Maryland are in the Bob Davids Chapter—actually most! A name change like this would have no effect on them. Many of them have been members there for decades. (I was myself.) This is NOT an attempt to convince anyone to switch chapter allegiance. It is only to better say who we are and where we are.

D. Bruce Brown

ducted into the Maryland State Athletic Hall of Fame in 1968.

Dick Waldt pitched on the 1942 and '43 teams. His youngest son Jobie has been the Stadium Operations Manager for the Baltimore Ravens since 1996. His brother Ritchie was a Maryland Scholastic Association first-team catcher at Calvert Hall College.

The Dunn family—when the St. Louis Browns came to Baltimore, the Dunn family sold the International League team before you could say, “Where do we sign?”—continue to carry the banner for the Orioles and the Gilman Greyhounds.

Howie Moss was an icon of Baltimore baseball. He led the Orioles for several years in home runs. He retired from baseball after 1952 and became a car salesman. He loved his new trade. Howie and his wife raised six children in Timonium.

The Orioles recognized the surviving members of the 1944 team during the final weekend of baseball at Memorial Stadium in October 1991. Another former Roland Park resident was honored that weekend. Ernie Harwell, the Hall of Fame baseball announcer, was retiring as the Tigers announcer.

Following the 1945 season, Frank Skaff, a Villanova graduate with a degree in economics, accepted a position as the line coach for the McDonogh School football team. He also coached the McDonogh wrestlers. Skaff returned to the Orioles as a coach for Jimmie Dykes in 1954. In the next decade, we see Frank managing the 1966 Detroit Tigers after the first two managers (Chuck Dressen and Bob Swift) were stricken with illness.

Gilman has stood up for the Orioles several times since the WWII years. As the American League Orioles prepared to play their inaugural opener in 1954, the stadium was in various states of construction as opening day loomed. The '54 Orioles took the field at Gilman to give the workers more time to finish up.

In 1980, with labor strife kicking, the Oriole players held their own workout at Gilman.

In 1999, with confusion reigning, the Cuban youth team arrived in Baltimore for a goodwill game. Gilman cheerfully accommodated the exhibition game.

Gilman Archives kindly contributed to this article.

1. Bready, James. (1998). *Baseball in Baltimore*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press

Only in Philadelphia...

Did you know that the teams in MLB history with the most 100-loss seasons both started in Philadelphia? The Athletics have 16 seasons of 100 or more losses, and the Phillies have 14.



Trivia Answer



	Years with franchise	Hall of Fame	Name
1.	1901	1945	Hugh Duffy
2.	1902-04	1946	Jesse Burkett
3.	1902-16	1953	Bobby Wallace
4.	1908-10	1946	Rube Waddell
5.	1913-15	1967	Branch Rickey
6.	1915-22 1924-27	1939	George Sisler
7.	1916-17	1946	Eddie Plank
8.	1928-30	1964	Heinie Manush
9.	1929-33 1941-43	1984	Rick Ferrell
10.	1930-32	1968	Goose Goslin
11.	1933-37	1942	Rogers Hornsby
12.	1936-37	1974	Jim Bottomley
13.	1947	1953	Dizzy Dean
14.	1947	2006	Willard Brown
15.	1951-53	1971	Satchel Paige
16.	1955-77	1983	Brooks Robinson
17.	1956-57	1983	George Kell
18.	1956-58 1961-62	2008	Dick Williams
19.	1958-62	1985	Hoyt Wilhelm
20.	1961-62	2010	Whitey Herzog
21.	1962-65	1976	Robin Roberts
22.	1963-67	1984	Luis Aparicio
23.	1965-67 1969-84	1990	Jim Palmer
24.	1966-71	1982	Frank Robinson
25.	1968-82 1985-86	1996	Earl Weaver
26.	1976	1993	Reggie Jackson
27.	1977-78, 1996	2003	Eddie Murray
28.	1981-2001	2007	Cal Ripken
29.	1996-98	2011	Roberto Alomar
30.	2001	2017	Tim Lincecum
31.	2011	2018	Vladimir Guerrero
32.	2012	2018	Jim Thome

Robinson ▶ Continued from Page 1

the past 22 years. He is also faculty advisor to the Jackie and Rachel Robinson Society, a GW student organization founded in 2000.

Since 1996, the JRP has accomplished the following:

1. Developed and expanded an annual lecture series and a museum exhibit;

Newspapers ▶ Continued from Page 8

me splendidly and if it not for Frazee I would be content to play with the Red Sox to the end of my baseball days. Frazee sold me because he was unwilling to meet my demands and to alibi himself with the fans he is trying to throw the blame on me.”

Ruth went on to say that with Frazee at the head of the Boston club, he was only too glad to get away from the Red Sox. As long as he was sold, Ruth said he preferred to be sold to the Yankees, and he promised to give New York fans his greatest season the next summer.

Ruth's Goals as a Yankee for 1920 Season

Ruth told *The Times* of his goals for the Yankees during the upcoming season. First, he said that since he had set a record for home runs, he was going after the batting championship next season. Second, Ruth said he would take a shorter grip on his bat and choke his swing a little. Third, he said that he was going to try to get more hits instead of trying to knock the ball out of the park every time he came to the plate. Finally, Ruth told *The Times* he was going to prove to the public that he was worth all he demanded and more.

The 1920 American League baseball season ended with the Cleveland Indians finishing first with 98 wins and 56 losses. With Ruth, the Yankees ended three games back with a record of 95 wins and 59 losses. Frazee's Boston Red Sox finished in fifth place with 72 wins and 81 losses, 29 games back.

Games	142
AB	458
Runs	158
Hits	172
2B	36
3B	9
HR	54
RBI	135

SB	14
CS	14
BB	150
SO	80
BA	.376
OBP	.535
SLG	.847

At the age of 25, Babe Ruth had an extraordinary 1920 season with the Yankees. According to *Baseball Reference*:

Ruth had to have been extremely pleased with his first season with the Yankees. He accomplished what he had told *The Times*, that he was “going to prove to the Public that he was worth all he demanded and more.” Ruth also proved that to Frazee.

Perhaps just as important, Ruth showed the fans of Boston that Frazee was mistaken in his decision to sell him and wrong in his negative public statements. Ruth's great years with the Yankees followed, and Boston's lack of success under Frazee proved the famous slugger right.

Note: Harry Frazee (June 29, 1880-June 4, 1929) owned the Boston Red Sox from November 1916 until 1923. His team won the World Series in 1918. Today, however, Harry Frazee is most remembered for selling Babe Ruth to the Yankees, starting the Curse of the Bambino and for dismantling what was, at the time, baseball's best franchise.

2. Produced an educational film;
3. Written a children's book (available in English and Spanish);
4. Held forums and panel discussions; and
5. Invited guest speakers to the GW campus to speak to students, staff and members of the community about Robinson's life and legacy.

Almost 10 years ago, the JRP also began its educational initiative to bring the Robinson story to younger students, especially minority students, in schools and community organizations in as many states as possible outside of the DC metropolitan area. As of this writing, JRP staff have met with almost 8,000 students and 350 teachers and administrators in 10 states and the District of Columbia.

The JRP is self-funded; it supports itself. Since its inception and for the entire 22 years of its existence, the Project has been supported by funds raised by the project director and donated by individuals and organizations for the project's exclusive use. GWU (Sociology Department) has generously housed the Project. As of this writing, the project director reports that available funds total approximately \$14,000 and that multiple donors have been identified who are prepared to contribute to the Project if the University guarantees that their donations will not be diverted to other university programs. The university has refused to do this. GW students have initiated a petition urging the university to reverse its “arbitrary and unjust decision to terminate the Project.” This effort is described in detail in the Oct. 1, 2018 edition of *The Hatchet*. As of Oct. 1, student leaders reported that more than 350 signatures had been obtained. Since Dean Gross has said that her supervisor, Peter Wahlbeck (Acting Dean of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences), agrees with the termination decision, several Project supporters decided to write directly to the university president, Thomas LeBlanc. As of this writing, approximately a dozen responses have been received, but none signed by LeBlanc.

Many individuals have asked what they can do to help the GW Jackie Robinson Project reverse the termination decision and continue its important work. We urge them to write to GW President Thomas LeBlanc (president@gwu.edu) and spread the news about the project via social media.

Jackie Robinson is remembered in many ways and for many things. He is quoted frequently, perhaps most often for saying, “A life is not important except for the impact it has on other lives.” These words are posted in many of the classrooms and community centers we have visited. Less often quoted is his statement, “Life is not a spectator sport.” We are confident that most SABR members are more than spectators and that many will be motivated by this article to do something to make Jackie Robinson's 100th birthday a happy one at George Washington University.

The authors:

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Both authors were raised in New York City, where they were introduced to the Jackie Robinson drama.