

SABR Scouts' Committee Newsletter

Vol. II, No. 3

July 30, 2001

CONVENTION NOTES

Your chairman has just experienced his first SABR National Convention and I'm sorry I hadn't attended long ago. The four days in Milwaukee, a city where I worked in 1970 as a scout for the first-year Brewers, allowed me to meet many people who were merely letter-writers, phone callers, or names in print. They very quickly became friends. The two-hour committee meeting was also a chance to meet new people interested in the history of the scouting profession and to set the direction for the remainder of 2001 and all of 2002. The Awards Dinner gave our committee an arena to re-introduce what we have done, are doing, and what we plan to do. We were very fortunate to be able to have Roland Hemond on hand to accept the award given in his honor and to have Robert Mazur fly in from Florida to pay respects to Roland and to set the future cooperation between our committee and her "Scout of the Year" Foundation.

It was a chance to meet with George Case, the SABR executive director, and with the amazingly efficient John Zajc, SABR's director of membership services. It was a chance to meet with such SABR stalwarts as John Pardon and Norman Macht and to draw from their 30 years in SABR so that we do things properly and stay politically correct, which is often hard for Your Chairman to do when he feels his cause is not being given proper consideration.

It was a chance to meet writers such Peter Bjarkman, Mark Rucker, and Elysian Fields' Tom Goldstein, with whom I've shared literary efforts and Larry Lester and Dick Clark, a pair of men who have been my role models regarding the history of Negro baseball in this world.

Now - on to the business of our committee and a look at the future.

THE WEB SITE

I have little idea about what I discuss here and am not sure what we will be doing regarding e-mail, web sites, computers, etc.. What I do know is that we have a person in place who will be available to all of those interested on the web or internet or whatever all this stuff is called.

Your Chairman named Rod Nelson as web master because I had heard that title a lot. Evidently he's not the web master, but he is the clearing house for all that moves on e-mail. He'll be in touch with the SABR web page and the SABR web master and will be posing many things on e-mail.

Rod will be in daily touch with those who have e-mail and will keep Ol' Clark posted by printing out what he posts and periodically will send it snail mail to the Missouri Dinosaur so that he will not become a T. Rex. To contact Rod via e-mail:
rockymtnsabr@aol.com

By Phone: 303-893-6767

By Fax: 303-893-6179

If all else fails: Snail Mail - 1550 Platte Street, #455, Denver, CO. 80202

TOM GREENWADE AWARD

Our sincere thanks goes to both Jim Kreuz, the immediate past chairman of this committee, and to the Louisville Slugger folks for donating two Babe Ruth bats to the annual winner. We're good thru 2002. The award will be given in the future to the person who supplies the committee with the most data, not just "who signed whom." The latter will be the deciding factor, but scouts' lists are equally important to our research at this time.

ROLAND HEMOND AWARD

The award was established and chosen this year by your chairman. In the future, the award will be chosen by a three-person committee which will be the committee chairman, a member selected by the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, and a major league executive (which will be Hemond until he chooses not to be involved). The criteria for the award will be a major league executive's contributions to the history and acknowledgment of scouts and scouting...which means that executive must have a good track record in backing both SABR's programs and in helping the Hall of Fame Museum in its efforts to establish and maintain a scouting corner in Cooperstown. The executive's shrewdness in the evaluation of talent has no bearing in the Hemond Award.

Roland now has turned over to the Hall's Museum almost 800 reports on major league players and is doing his best to recruit others in his front-office position to do likewise. In addition, he's submitted more than 300 "who signed whoms" from front office files and plans to send along many more.

ROBERTA MAZUR

In an effort to support the inclusion of a scout's wing in the Hall of Fame Museum, a major role player has been Roberta Mazur and her "Scout of the Year Foundation." The "Scout of the Year" became a reality in 1984 when Howie Haak was the sole selection. Since 1985, scouts have been selected on a geographical basis - East, Midwest, West. Roberta Mazur became involved as an office employee with the California Angels and, as things progressed (or regressed), she moved on to other jobs and major league baseball let the idea of awarding scouts start to die on the vine. However, Roberta became the central figure in working with a number of executives such as Roland Hemond to keep the program alive and it is now accepted as a separate part of baseball's make-up.

Roberta has been the driving force to raise the money needed to support the Hall's scouts' wing. She has been successful in raising \$115,000 - \$5,000 each from 23 of the 30 major league clubs. (Hard to understand how seven clubs don't have the cash to come up with \$5,000 to honor their own).

Roberta has a file on the 49 men selected as "Scouts of the Year" and that data is available for anyone doing research. Roberta's data:
e-mail: mlscouts@aol.com
Phone: 561-798-5897
Snail Mail: PO Box 211585, West Palm Beach, FL 33421-1585

OUR DIRECTION

One of the things that came from our committee meeting was a sense of direction. Here's our plan:

1 - Work to establish a list of scouts by club since 1876 and cross-reference it so we have a list of scouts which would give us a chronological history of each scout. Then, under each scout, we'd like to list those major leaguers signed by him. Where possible, we'd like the birth and death dates of the scouts and any other data available about them.

2 - Collect and make available all data which can help make the Hall of Fame Museum's scouts' wing a place all fans would want to visit.

3 - Work with the various regional groups and the various SABR committees to do interviews and swap pictures.

REGIONAL GROUPS

We'll soon have a mailing to the various regional chapters around the country seeking their involvement. What better place to use the area researchers who knew the old-timers, who may have great files of major league clubs thru the years.

We have basically struck out with the major league clubs. They are primarily interested in marketing and not in the historical research we do.

But - retired major league office people, those who have been great fans in the past and who love doing local research, those who are interested enough to be regional members, may be major role players in our future. At least it won't hurt to ask, huh?

What would be a major help would be for each chapter in a major league city to make a project of establishing a scouts' list for that franchise and trying to add to the "who signed whom" list.

NEW MEMBERS

The following attended the committee meeting in Milwaukee and expressed a sincere interest in making this committee successful in its goals.

Jim Furtado
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BUDGET

Our budget has been sent to SABR for approval for 2002. We have budgeted for six newsletters in 2002 - plus our two committee awards to be presented at the 2002 convention in Boston.

OUR FILES

Wayne McElreavy has served the committee as assistant chair since the days of Jim Kreuz and has kept our list of "who signed whoms." Rod Nelson will be working with Wayne to set up a duplicate list which will be easily available to all SABR members...and other researchers.

PROCEDURE

This may seem like an added amount of work, but your chairman MUST be aware of what is being done within the committee. So, in the future, beginning now, please send a hard copy of all research - scouts' list, who signed whoms, etc., to me as well as to Wayne and Rod.

At this time - you will need to send a copy of your research to Wayne regarding "who signed whoms" only. Duplicate to Clark.

All other research must come to Clark. In the near future, we'll possibly establish a different routing system.

KOM LEAGUE

It was a great treat to attend the 55th anniversary reunion of the Class D Kansas-Oklahoma-Missouri (KOM) League the last week in June in Carthage, Mo., where the league was organized in 1946. It died after the 1952 season. Ol' Clark was cut from a 1948 Cardinal tryout and is a member of the group by accepting his title of "reject." There were 100 members of the KOM League on hand, including umpires, bat boys, etc., yes, even "rejects." John Hall, a bat boy for the 1951 Carthage team, started a project to locate the '51 Carthage team members and wound up finding about 1,200 of the 1,600-plus players whose name appeared on a KOM League roster. He has even written a huge book about the league and publishes a monthly newsletter called KOM League Remembered. If you're interested in this old league, contact John Hall, 1709 Rainwood Place, Columbia, Mo., 65203 e-mail: jhall103@midamerica.net. Phone: 573-445-8125.

JIM KREUZ

Jim sent along a couple of pictures of scouts taken at some major tournaments in the 1950's. We'll get them all ID'd sooner or later. Give us time, Jim.

AUGUST

A day after I mail this, I'll be off to Mexico and Canada for the entire month of August doing what scouts do (make a living). We'll get back to you in a couple of months and again at year's end. In the meantime, send all communication to:

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3906 Grace Ellen Drive
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Phone: 573-474-4510
Fax: 573-474-1449
No cell phone and no computer.