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JOHN F. PARDON
A FOUNDING MEMBER: SABR

SCOUTING SABR Scouts' Committee

Vol. I, No. 3

Dec. 10, 2000

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

As we head into 2001 (and without a presidential electee as I write this newsletter), allow me to wish each of you, regardless of religion or cultural background, a warm and healthy time to celebrate the year ending and may the coming year be better than ever.

A copy of the Clark Family Newsletter - which is in its 25th (?) edition - is attached so that you can get to know a bit more about your chairman (for better or for worse).

WELCOME, CINCINNATI

The third club to join in the committee's projects is Cincinnati. Gary Hughes, who has long been interested in the possibility of a scout's wing in the Hall of Fame Museum, has been at work setting up a research project in Cincy. Great!!! This is the oldest major league franchise in major league baseball and has long been a citadel of scouting.

AND THE PADRES

Bill Gayton, the new scouting director for the San Diego Padres, has checked in with his interest in involving the Padres in our projects. He will soon be moving from Houston to San Diego and will work on setting up a person with whom we'll work there. Only 26 clubs to go.

ROLAND HEMOND, D-Backs

Roland Hemond, who has been involved as the general manager of three major league clubs, is now the senior vice-president of the Arizona Diamondbacks and a dedicated member of this committee. He has sent a long list of signings (by whom), and some valuable addresses of old veteran scouts who are still doing their thing. He has become our most valuable and active major league executive - a man vitally interested in the past, present, and future of scouting.

STEVE LAMAR

Thanks to John Zajc, SABR's membership chair, we have located Steve Lamar. Those who want to visit with Steve can find him at:

Steve Lamar
1488 Third Street, No. C
LaVerne, CA 91750-52000

SAN DIEGO PADRES BASEBALL CLUB

P.O. BOX 122000, SAN DIEGO, CA 92112-2000 • 8880 RIO SAN DIEGO DRIVE, SUITE 400, SAN DIEGO, CA 92108
TELEPHONE: 619/881-6500 • FAX: 619/497-5339

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of SABR's membership will be July 11-15 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There will be a committee meeting (date and room to be announced early in 2001) and we welcome any presentations you might care to make - both in committee and on the floor of the convention.

This will be my first-ever SABR meeting, so we'll feel our way. I hope all of you can make it to Milwaukee. I worked as a scout for the Brewers in their first year of life - 1970 - after the bankrupt Seattle Pilots were purchased by Bud Selig and moved to Milwaukee. This will be a homecoming, of sorts, though not many old Brewers are still in the game.

Get back to me pronto if you have a presentation.

KOM LEAGUE

One of the biggest research projects in our game is an ongoing love affair between John Hall (who also lives in Columbia, Mo.) and the Kansas-Oklahoma-Missouri (KOM) League. John was a batboy for Carthage in 1951 as an 11-year-old. A few years ago, he wondered what had happened to the players from 1951. And he started to run them down. The whole idea snowballed. The league, which ran from 1946 thru 1952, had some 1,600 players involved thru the years and John has located almost 1,200 of them. There have been three reunions of the surviving players in the past five years and John publishes a monthly newsletter entitled "The KOM League Remembered." He has also published a 500-page history of the league entitled "Majoring in the Minors."

John recently sent a mailing to all living members to reply to him with the name of the scout who signed them. He is getting a good return and will compile the list for both the "KOM League Remembered" and our committee. All it will cost me for the data will be a steak dinner. Well worth it. Thanks, John.

PAUL FAUKS

Paul Fauks was the director of minor league operations for the St. Louis Cardinals between 1976-87. He put together a history of the Cardinals' minor league operations from 1924 thru 1987...which was the basically from Day One. Paul notes that the three large volumes contain numerous information of the scouting staffs during that period. We're working with Paul to retrieve that data. Glad to have Paul a part of this committee. His wisdom and experience make him worth his weight in gold.

FRED SCHULD

From the Cleveland area comes a true SABR guy - Fred Schuld. He retired as a high school history teacher in 1987 and since has made SABR his avocation, helping SABR members with research in the Cleveland area. He's a member of the Umpire's Committee in SABR and has volunteered to cull Cleveland-area newspapers for scouting, something he had done in recent years, and says "No task is too humble for me." Fred is 74, on schedule for a new knee in early 2001, and his only on-field baseball experience was a bat boy for the Heidelberg College team in 1946. In addition to microfilm work, Fred is also ready to do audiotape interviews. We're glad to have Fred back in action, new knee or old.

FRANK PHELPS

Frank, 83 now and devoting his research time solely to tennis, has agreed to open his files to our committee. He has researched fact sheets on 53 scouts for a 1989 publication which used only bits and pieces of his research. Frank is willing to give our committee copies of the data...along with much else. We'll work out the exchange with him. Frank lives in King of Prussia, Pa.. He says "I've always had an affinity for scouts and over the years collected much about them!" He adds, "I trust your 'Upcoming Projects' also include documenting the history of scouting itself, as well as compiling biographies of scouts."

WAYNE MCELREAVY

Wayne is the key man with this committee. He's the person who is logging on the computer the "who signed whom" list. You can send your list either to Wayne or to your chairman. Wayne's address is:

Wayne McElreavy
PO Box 1154
Claremont, NH 03743-1154

Greg Crouse has written to say that my list of 400-plus credits in the recent newsletter was probably 1,000 short is probably correct. But, it was the last list I had available. Sometime prior to the July convention, we'll try to get an updated list to you.

GREENWADE AWARD

Remember that we're keeping score of "who signed 'em" starting Nov 16. Still have no idea what your prize will be, but we've got some strong entries. Roland Hemond sent in 189 names...plus 47 more signed by Dick Wiencek. Dick Clark has submitted 209 names. Poor Wayne must enter all these names and note duplications. And we'll work out during the committee meeting in July how to resolve issues where more than one person has claim to a player. Anyway - things are heating up. Get involved!!!

HERB RAYBOURN

Herb recently retired as the Latin American supervisor for the Toronto Blue Jays, a position he had also held in earlier years with the Kansas City Royals, New York Yankees and, prior to those roles, he was the Panamanian scout for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Herb is now involved in trying to locate scouts who worked in Cuba alongside Joe Cambria. He's seeking data about Cuban nationals, if any, and who might have been the trigger man for Cambria's many signings of major league players for the Washington Senators.

Herb also had a question. The question was the same as many others have posed...how do you determine the signing scout?

On Dick Clark's latest list, Howie Haak was credited for signing Omar Moreno of Panama. As luck would have it, Ol' Clark had Omar's son in a tryout on Nov. 30 in Panama City. We had a good visit about the past and I mentioned, in passing, that Howie had signed him. "No," he said. "Herb

Raybourn signed me." Howie, however, was the Latin supervisor and Herb's superior. No doubt, Howie approved the contract and was credited for Omar. We might get the same story from Manny Sanguillen and others.

Folks - we gotta problem. Just like the Florida election - there may be no easy way out. But we'll work on it in July.

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

Dave Paulson, the new chairman of the Oral History Committee, has sent along a request for names, addresses, phone numbers of veteran scouts around the U.S. who can be interviewed in a joint project for his committee and ours. If you have a candidate, please contact Dave at 301-854-2244 or by mail at 6285 Cardinal Lane, Columbia, Maryland 21044

SLOPPY THURSTON

Bill Lamberty from Bozeman, Montana, sends along an update on Hollis (Sloppy) Thurston. It was a very lengthy story from the Saturday Evening Post of Aug. 16, 1952. Bill adds three players signed by Thurston who were not on the list in the last newsletter. They were INF Doug Hansen, Cleve. '51; J.W. Porter, C - several teams '52-59; Jim Rivera, OF, W/Sox, others, '52-61. Bill also tells us that Thurston died on 9/14/73 in L.A. And - Bill says his main interest is in researching scouting during the dead ball area. A man after my own heart.

THE REGISTER

As I read Lamberty's letter, it occurred to me that the ultimate goal of this committee sometime between now and 2150 (when I'll be 118) should be the register of every scout who had a full-time contract with a major league club, the scout's birthdate and birthplace and when and where he went to the Great Ballfield in the Sky. Then, listed below his name would be all the major leaguers he allegedly signed.

PERSONALLY

Your chairman was gone for two weeks at the end of November and early December - to Panama and to Ecuador. Saw a Pan-Am tourney in Panama City to qualify five teams for the World Cup in 2001 in Taiwan. U.S. finished 5th and Cuba wasn't there. Top five made it. I'll be gone from Dec. 17-31 to work as an evaluator in a baseball school in Florida, home on Dec. 31, then off early on Jan. 1 for 13 days in Australia. Back home the night of Jan. 13 then on Jan. 14 to the Dominican Republic for a week, followed by another week in Mexico. Should be home by Jan. 26th or so. With a little luck, I'll get a few days at home to catch up on committee mail and a lot of other mail and get out Vol. II, No. 1 for you.

In my first year as the Padres' international guy, I was responsible for the signing of 35 players, but actually signed only one - a good-looking 16-year-old from El Salvador - the first native Salvadoran ever to sign a U.S. pro contract. If all 35 play in the majors, I'll claim 'em all and let you guys work it out. OK???

Keep me posted...

BILL CLARK

RETURN TO:
Bill Clark
3906 Grace Ellen Drive
Columbia, Mo. 65202-1796

Page 5

SABR SCOUTS' COMMITTEE
INFORMATION SHEET

Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Birth Date _____ Yr _____ . Years in SABR _____
Wife's name _____
Home phone _____
Mobil phone _____
Office phone _____ . (If not a problem)
Fax _____ . Pager _____
e-mail _____
www _____
Years on the scouts' committee _____

A brief biographical sketch....your background in baseball, as a researcher, as a person, as a SABR member (what other committees, etc.). I'd like to have a directory of our committee ready for the national convention unless you choose not to have this info made public.

I will attend the 2001 SABR convention in Milwaukee yes () no ()