

KELTNER'S HOT CORNER



Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Ken Keltner Chapter is not hold events during the summer - starting up again in September.

SABR 51

Chicago, July 5 - 9, 2023
Palmer House – Chicago
More Info [Here](#)

Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference

July 20-23, 2023
Detroit, Michigan
More Info [Here](#)

SABR/IWBC Women in Baseball Conference

Sept 29-October 1, 2023
Rockford, IL
More Info [Here](#)

Direct questions or comments to:
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Recap May Meetings

Keltner Spring Chapter Meeting



Our Spring Chapter Meeting was held on Saturday, May 6 at [J&B's Blue Ribbon Bar & Grill](#). Leading off the day was Jim Misudek, the Fond du Lac Dock Spiders General Manager and SABR member. The Fond du Lac native attended UW Fond du Lac, a two year college, where he helped revise club baseball before moving on to UW LaCrosse where he earned his degree in sports management.

Misudek enjoyed a 14 year career in professional baseball starting as an intern with the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers and then the Brewers where he worked in public relations. Milwaukee asked him to return for a second year and Misudek worked in their ticket department, nothing was available in media relations, but Jim helped with media whenever he could and sat in the press box. Moving on to Cincinnati he continued as an intern in media relations for a year then taking the skills developed to Atlanta for five years. While with the Braves, he was full-time and traveled with the team. This was a very interesting opportunity for a young man being around the players and he had some good stories. But to get ahead in the front office, it often requires moving to get ahead and that took him to Baltimore where he was the Senior Management of Baseball Communications which means he was the team's primary media contact from spring training on. One of the tales Jim told was how the 2019 All-Star Game break wasn't a break for him because the Orioles traded Manny Machado before the game, he had lots of 'splaining to do.



Having an opportunity to return home he went full circle working again for the Timber Rattlers, the owners of the Dock Spiders founded in 2017. The organization's mission statement for the Timber Rattlers and Spiders are the same, "all have great experiences" from the fans to the players, the interns, front office, and community. Part of that experience includes an exhibition game with the T-Rats so they can see the next level. They have averaged about 1,000 fans in a very nice and cozy ballpark that holds 1,500 – very family oriented.



We learned that as the GM, Misudek is more involved with running the organization leaving player procurement to the team manager who has the relationships with the colleges and their coaches. They have had one player make it to the show, catcher, [Nick Fortes](#) who was on the inaugural 2017 team, taken by

Miami in the June 2018 draft. They have had a total of 28 Spiders selected including 8 from the 2022 squad. Jim mentioned that the Northwoods League, has had 322 players play in the big leagues.

The Northwoods League is comprised of 28 teams in four divisions to cut down travel. The Spiders are in the Great Lakes West with the Wausau Woodchucks, Wisconsin Rapids Rafters, Green Bay Rockets, Madison Mallards, and Lakeshore Chinooks. [Looks like a good list of teams for us to visit.]

Jim's vast baseball contacts proved valuable inviting the Baseball Hall of Fame President to Fondy to talk about the HOF. [See article elsewhere](#) in the Hot Corner. He also helped the chapter with discounted tickets for our fun June 3rd trip to Herr-Baker Field, thanks, Jim.



During the lunch break, Bob Buege and Rick Schabowski gave us a sneak preview of their Milwaukee Braves Historical Association's Wall of Honor presentation for Bob "Hurricane" Hazle on Monday, May 8th at American Family Field, most likely their final dedication. Hazle's nickname came from the October 1954 hurricane named Hazel which devastated the South Carolina coast like he was doing to the National League after being recalled on July 29, 1957, in the middle of the Braves pennant race. He is the only major leaguer since Ted Williams to bat over .400 with 150 or more at bats, slashing .403/.477/.649 for an OPS of 1.126. That included smacking seven homers with 27 RBIs, two of those dingers occurred on August 25 when his six RBI day helped Spahn defeat the Phillies 7-3 at Connie Mack Stadium. And just as the wind goes out of a Hurricane, so it did with Bob who struggled in 1958, batting only .179 in 66 plate appearances when he was sold to Detroit. With the Tigers, he didn't fare much better playing sporadically mostly pinch hitting as Hazle did in his last game on September 28, 1958, batting for pitcher Al Cicotte, with a fly ball to center field. But Milwaukee Braves fans will never forget the Hurricane. Read Hazle's [SABR Bio](#) to learn more.



If anyone would like a copy of the PowerPoint presentation [I couldn't attach it], please let [Dennis](#) know.



Author, historian and SABR member Matthew Prigge (the 'e' is not silent) joined us to talk about his latest book, [Opening Day in Milwaukee, The Brewers Season Starters 1970 - 2022](#).

Going to Opening Day has been a ritual for so many of us baseball fans that we start thinking about it the day after the season ends. Matthew brought along a PowerPoint presentation highlighting some of the highs and lows of that important day. Do you remember Hank Aaron's return to Milwaukee, and we all sang "Welcome Home Henry". We all remember [Sixto Lezcano's](#) walk-off grand slam but which one or both? Where you there for Yount's debut or in 1990 when he returned after contemplating retiring after his second MVP year.

And more, Like Lorenzo Cain, Glendon Rusch, Richie Sexson, etc., etc. It's all in the book.

Matt sold some books including one for the chapter raffle won by Mary Shea. Included with the book purchase, the avid baseball card collector included cards from the Opening Day set he created of game highlights, fun to have.



[I was thrilled to get a copy of the book as well and it is very good and a mostly a fun read. (there are a few memories of those teams that come back to haunt you). I was at a good number of these games, starting with the first in 1970, so it made the reading more enjoyable. Each game starts with three items, In the News, At the Movies, and On the Radio which really helps put the time period into perspective; especially the radio portion as I quickly saw how unhip I've become with newer music! Then a highlight of the previous years baseball news, we get to relive the stadium debates again but luckily in small bites and then details of each game. There was some great baseball and some stinkers. Looking for an interesting baseball book, I gladly endorse Matthew's effort. DDD]

Know a Future SABR Member?

Have them visit [Become a SABR Member Today](#) for member benefits and subscription amounts.

Virtual Meeting with Matt Klentak Brewers Special Assistant to GM & President of Baseball Operations



Although we were unable to get a member of the Brewers Baseball Operations for our Spring Meeting, we made up for it with Matt Klentak who joined the Brewers front office in January 2022 as a Special Assistant to the General Manager and President of Baseball Operations who was a dynamic speaker.

Why was Cal Ripken his favorite player even though he grew up a Red Sox fan, attending his first major league game at Fenway in 1986. He talked about his career in such a manner that we learned more about the game as we got to know Matt. Very interesting experiences from a person who wants to learn and find new ways to do things. He explains why the Brewers were a good fit for him after stepping down as the Phillies GM. And he answered our many questions which Klentak greatly appreciated because they were “fantastic”.

As many of you who have attended one of our virtual meetings know, I usually mention that when the official meeting is over that anyone willing to stick around for “bar time” like we do after in-person meetings is invited to stay to talk baseball. Although Matt couldn’t stay after this meeting, he mentioned he would like to be able to do so after a future live meeting. And he reiterated that thought in an email thanking us for the invite and the great questions. So, when planning live meetings next year, I will check with his calendar first!

If you missed the meeting or want to see it again, click on Matt’s picture or [here](#) to watch the recording.



Fond du Lac Dock Spiders Game



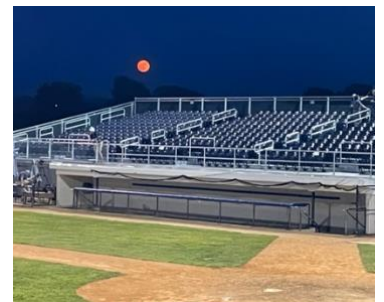
Mary Shea, her husband Joe, Mike Kerry, and Dennis Degenhardt attended the [Fond du Lac Dock Spiders](#) hosting the Wisconsin Rapids Rafters game on Saturday, June 3rd. It was the first time for all except Mike who has been there several times. Herr-Baker Field is a nice cozy ballpark designed for enjoying a ballgame. We were in row B (second row) behind the plate and were nearly in the umpires back pocket. Great seats, all of the 1,500 seats were also close to the field. Although a small group we had a great time talking baseball amongst ourselves and with the fans around us. The Spiders have a good group of avid fans and its very family friendly. We all agreed that this is a ballpark to return to annually.

In the ballgame, the visitors scored their only run in the fifth inning on a double steal and made it hold up for a shutout victory. Each team had four hits and were victims of some great defense, an exciting game. Also, Northwoods League games early in the season can be low scoring as the ball players are adjusting to hitting with a wood bat.

GM Jim Misudek joined us later in the game to thank us and talk baseball some more. We let Jim know we appreciated the discount on tickets and the hospitality.

As we were leaving, the moon was rising over Herr-Baker and it was the only picture I remembered to take.

We will return to Fond du Lac next summer. Buy Dock Spider Tickets [here](#).



Keltner Hot Corner Archives

You can now view or download past copies of the Keltner Hot Corner at: [Ken Keltner Badger State Newsletters](#)

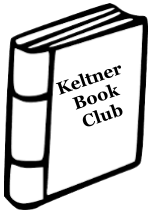
Use of Links

Links in the *Keltner Hot Corner* are used to enhance the articles with the majority going to players SABR [BioProject](#) and [baseball-reference.com](#) as well as other related sites.

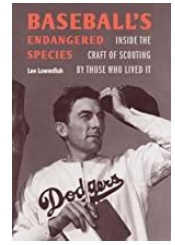
Who is Ken Keltner? See his SABR [Biography](#).

Keltner Book Club News

By Mary Shea



For your summer reading enjoyment and our fall Keltner Book Club (September or October) we are reading long time SABR member, Lee Lowenfish's [*Baseball's Endangered Species: Inside the Craft of Scouting by Those who Lived It*](#). We are hoping to have the author join us for the meeting.



Kudos for the book include Dusty Baker, "Scouts are like the blues musicians of baseball, whose stories reveal the heart of the game. Lee Lowenfish has dug deeply to bring these tales back to life."

And Joe Madden added, "From the Ferocious Gentleman, Branch Rickey, the greatest scout in baseball history, to the Four Corners Scout and his three oil changes every calendar year, who better than Lee Lowenfish to write about those who have always been at the heart of the game, unfailingly dedicated yet mostly unseen. Thanks to his passion for baseball and understanding of its history, Lee happily tells their stories."

Women's Baseball Coming to the Midwest

The U.S. Women's National Baseball Team is gearing up to play in the 2024 World Cup and will play a couple of exhibition games in Rockford and Kenosha in preparation for the qualifiers in Thunder Bay, Ontario, this August. These are great opportunities to watch these highly skilled players, many of whom have played high school, college, and even pro baseball. More information is available [here](#).



The Kenosha game will be played August 4th, at historic Simmons Field, the home of the Kenosha Comets of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. The game is free and open to the public and will be a part of the AAGPBL Players Association Reunion, with a number of the original players attending. The players will be honored at the Kenosha Kingfish game that evening. Also, there will be a special giveaway, a Kingfish bobblehead in a Comets uniform. Tickets are available through their [website](#).

Happy reading and enjoy the summer!

Mary



2023 SABR/IWBC Women in Baseball Conference



SABR and the International Women's Baseball Center have announced a call for papers for the fifth annual [*SABR/IWBC Women in Baseball Conference*](#), scheduled for September 29-October 1, 2023, at Rockford University in Rockford, Illinois.

The 2023 conference will be a hybrid event, with panels and presentations on Zoom and a dinner banquet and golf outing in Rockford, Illinois. Registration information will be available soon. Please submit abstracts of approximately 200 words, along with contact information and a short biography, by **June 30, 2023**, to [Leslie Heaphy](#).



Get to Know

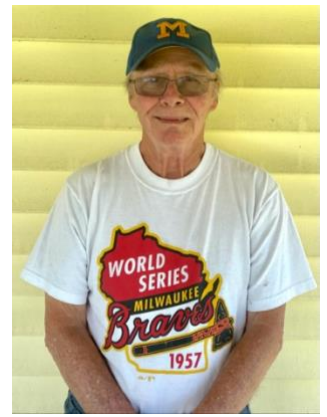
Get to Know...Jim Stringfellow

One of Jim Stringfellow's fondest memories is of Bob Buege forming a group of 20 area SABR members who dedicated a lot of time and effort to bring SABR 31 to Milwaukee in 2001, crafting it a great convention. "We had some wonderful panels, and we even had the Commissioner of Baseball as our Luncheon Speaker. Who else has done that?" His primary job was arranging transportation for the two convention ball games at County Stadium and Wrigley Field. "The only problem we had is we went to Chicago with 500 people and came back with 499." Following the convention, Jim was one of founders of the Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter.

James Allan Stringfellow, the only child of Ed and Helen (Zivcic) Stringfellow, was born on June 29, 1946, at the old St. Luke's Hospital (it is currently a parking structure), located at 230 W. Madison Street, in the shadow of the Allen Bradley clock on Milwaukee's south side. Both of his parents were children of the Depression and

as Jim recalls, “While they weren't cheap, they were very frugal.” Jim’s mom was a “full blooded Croatian” and housewife. Dad, who was drafted into the Navy in 1943 seeing action in the South Pacific, worked in the shop at A.O. Smith.

Stringfellow grew up on Milwaukee’s southside, living near 6th and National Avenue until he was 11 years old, attending Vieau Grade School located at 4th and National. He reminisces, “As a kid, I remember the different languages spoken in my neighborhood, German, Polish, and Slavic,” adding “all these nationalities had their own newspapers, printed in their language.” Jim moved further south to the old Town of Lake, Howell Avenue and Howard Avenue neighborhood, attending Tippecanoe Grade School for a year and then Humboldt Park for seventh and eighth grades. Next was Bay View High School, graduating in June 1964.



An aunt taking Jim to a Braves game in 1954 is his earliest baseball memory. “I can still recall the bright green grass and a leather lunged fan near us who kept yelling at [Birdie Tebbetts](#) every time he showed his face.” What really sparked his interest in baseball was a visit to Vieau by [Billy Bruton](#), who showed a Braves highlight film. “From there, baseball cards and magazines filled my bedroom” while Stringfellow and friends “were kings of the local sandlots, but none of us went out for baseball in high school.”

Like most kids growing up in Milwaukee during the 1950s, the Braves were his favorite team. And like many diehard fans, he has great memories of listening to the games on the radio, “with the Earl and the Blainer,” especially remembering, “Get the Net Blainer.”

Who was his favorite ball player? [Joe Adcock](#). Why Adcock? “Because one of my first baseball memories was listening to Earl call one of Joe's home runs on the radio. As I recall, he talked about Big Joe's power, and I could imagine myself playing for the Braves someday and joining Joe in the line-up hitting a home run every time I came to bat. I continued to follow his career with the Braves and would always be disappointed if Frank Torre was playing first base that game.” Stringfellow lamented, “I've often wondered if he didn't have so many injuries in his career, could he have hit 400 home runs?”

After High School, Stringfellow attended UW-Milwaukee for a year before going to work for what Jim called “a little company in West Allis, Allis Chalmers.” Stringfellow estimated the employment was over 5,000 at that time and remarked, “If someone in the mid-60's told you what the future held for that company, no one would have believed it.”

On April 1, 1966, he had a new employer, “I got off the train at the Great Lakes Naval Station, and I spent the next 3 years and 8 months in the U.S. Navy.” Jim was trained to be an electrician and was stationed on the USS Fort Snelling LSD-30 (Landing Ship Dock) with his home port the Amphibious Base in Little Creek Virginia, a suburb of Norfolk. When at sea, they were usually deployed to the Caribbean, crossing the Equator when assigned to be off the west coast of Africa as part of a recovery team for returning Astronauts; ships were deployed around the world in the event they landed somewhere other than their designated area.

After about 2-1/2 years of being gone frequently, Jim’s wife, got to know their fellow naval neighbors who noticed he was often out to sea and Stringfellow soon saw how the military often works. Chris was assured by their new friends that if Jim put in for a transfer to shore duty, the paperwork would be approved whether or not his superiors agreed because, “it would eventually land on the desk of his friend who would type up orders to have me transferred to shore duty.” Jim added, “It was my first lesson in life that sometimes it's good to know the right people.” He spent the last year on shore duty at a Maintenance Support Unit. When his enlistment ended, “I got out four months early because our government wanted to save some money.” Upon discharge. Stringfellow decided to not return to that “little employer” but looked to see what else was possible. On December 10, 1969, he started working at The Falk Corporation staying until he retired at the end of 2007. With his naval electrical background, Jim worked in electrical maintenance for 4 years while returning to school, eventually earning an Associate’s Degree in Marketing from Milwaukee Area Technical College and a Bachelor’s Degree in Business from Upper Iowa University. In 1973, an opportunity opened in the Purchasing Department working with the person who bought all of Falk’s electrical products and Jim purchased electrical equipment for the next 19 years. After promotion to supervisor, Stringfellow purchased capital asset equipment and dealt with on-site construction projects until retirement. “It was a good career.”

In 1963 during Jim’s junior year of high school, he met his future wife, Christine Hendrickson, a senior. They wed in September 1967, while he was in the Navy and they have two children, Craig, born in the Portsmouth Naval Hospital in July 1969, and a daughter Laurel, born in Cudahy in 1973.

Jim isn't sure when he joined SABR, probably in the mid-1990's. He was reading an article about a biography of Walter Johnson that was the SABR book of the year and he questioned, "SABR, what's that?" After doing some research (like a good SABR member), he knew it was something he would be very interested in joining because of his fascination with baseball history. Stringfellow has attended a handful of national conventions in Milwaukee, St. Louis, Cleveland, and Washington D.C.

Like many SABR members, he is interested in the history of the game and major league stadiums. Jim has been to 26 ballparks; some that no longer exist. He's been to Cooperstown twice and would like one more visit. And he's been to some historic games, "I have been fortunate to have seen in person Spahn and Ryan's 300th win, Yount's 3,000 hit, and Shawn Green's record setting day when he eclipsed Joe Adcock's total bases record in a game by getting [19 total bases on May 23, 2002.](#)"

If Stringfellow could have a time machine moment and go back in time to be present at one game, it would be October 10, 1957. "It's the greatest day in the history of Milwaukee baseball as the Milwaukee Braves beat the New York Yankees to become World Champions. Bushville Wins!!"

Are there any final words of wisdom you would like us to know? "My final bit of wisdom is something I heard many years ago. Words to the effect that we spend our lives learning to grip and throw a baseball only to realize at some point that it was the baseball that had a grip on us."



Baseball Hall of Fame Comes to Fond du Lac

By Mike Kerry

It was a beautiful June evening at Herr Baker Field in Fond Du Lac Wisconsin where fans were ready for baseball, but no game occurred, just great artifacts were on display and memories shared with local baseball fans.



The Fond du Lac Dock Spiders and GM Jim Misudek hosted the Baseball Hall of Fame President, Josh Rawitch and Jason Schiellack, Director of Membership and Annual Giving, who visited Fond du Lac to talk about the museum. It was a homecoming of sort for Jason who explained how he became an employee of the HOF. Growing up in Hartland, WI and on a trip to the Hall back in 2001, he

showed up wearing a Brewer hat and an employee asked if he was from Wisconsin? A conversation occurred and Jason asked "how do you get to work here" which led to an internship. Finishing college in Wisconsin Schiellack ended up landing a job a couple years later in Cooperstown and after four promotions is leading the membership drive for the museum.



They brought along a 1974 Atlanta Braves jersey [Hank Aaron](#) used during his home run record breaking season. Had a great story of Hank with his family touring the Hall one night telling stories as Jason was able to usher them through. What great work benefits that must be. An online display is also currently available on [Hank Aaron: Chasing the Dream.](#)

[Warren Spahn's](#) baseball from his 301st win was shown to the crowd. An odd number, why the 301 and not 300? It broke the all-time record for left handed pitchers, he had been tied with [Lefty Grove.](#)

They presented the spikes from [Robin Yount's](#) 1987 season which still had some dirt left on them. Marked as the 144th item that the Hall took in that year. The shoes took an interesting journey that year as they were part of the 13 game winning streak, a long losing streak and participated in the Juan Nieves no hitter.

How about a rookie hat? There have been nearly 23,000 rookies to play MLB baseball so there are many of them. This lid came from the player that finished 2nd in the 1978 Rookie of the Year award and now HOFer [Paul Molitor.](#)



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The interesting thing is all the work the HOF does to preserve the items that the public may see or not. You can't touch the gear as both Josh and Jason wore gloves, so they did not stain the items with finger oils.

The Hall has a treasure trove of items that they preserve for the future and get constant offerings from fans as they have monthly meetings to decide what to take and make sure it's not a duplicate. In addition, the staff is always on the lookout for history being made so they will then contact a team or player and ask for a donation. Interesting, Aaron Judge is still deciding on what to give the HOF from last years home run journey.

If you have the [HOF on your to do list](#), a visit to the upstate New York village of Cooperstown is one that you will never stop talking about as a baseball fan.



SABR 51

SABR 51 in Chicago is only 26 days away (as of June 9) and we have eight Keltner members attending as of that time. If you are unsure or still thinking about attending the convention, visit [here](#) to learn more about the interesting list of Research Presentations, speakers, panels, the White Sox ballgame, and of course the Trivia Contest. Attending are:

Lawrence Baldassaro
Michael Cabell
Dennis Degenhardt

Mike Duncan
Matthew Prigge
Mary Shea

John Strohbusch
Craig Wiczorkiewicz



CELEBRATING 20K RAFFLE

WIN FREE REGISTRATION TO THE NEXT FIVE SABR CONVENTIONS

This summer at [SABR 51 in Chicago](#), SABR will welcome the 20,000th national convention attendee in its history. To celebrate this significant milestone, one lucky SABR 51 attendee will win FREE registration for the **next five SABR conventions** — including hotel accommodations — beginning in 2024!

To be eligible for the Celebrating 20K Raffle, you simply need to be an active SABR member, sign up for a full SABR 51 convention registration (either all-inclusive or regular registration rate), and pick up your registration packet at the convention registration check-in area at the Palmer House Hilton hotel during the convention. We'll announce the winner of the Celebrating 20K Raffle during the SABR 51 Awards Luncheon on Saturday, July 8. Attendance at the Awards Luncheon is not necessary to enter the raffle or to win the grand prize.

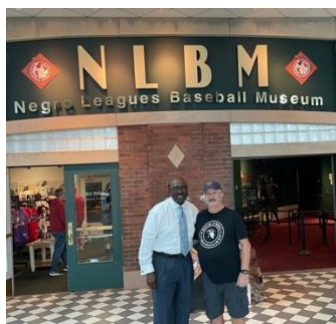
- [Click here to register for SABR 51 on July 5-9, 2023, in Chicago](#)

Visit [SABR.org/convention](https://sabr.org/convention) to learn more about SABR 51.

[Click here for a multimedia look back](#) at SABR's convention history.



Notes from DDD



Heading into summer, our activity will be slowing. We will not schedule activities since everyone is busy this time of year. In addition, the newsletter will also be on hiatus for July and August. That will give me time to work on a team ownership project I have had on the docket and unable to get to. But if something comes up, I will keep you informed through group emails or Special Editions of the *Hot Corner*. It will also give me time to work on the new chapter by-laws to present in the fall. I will be reaching out to some members to help with advise for the by-laws, if you're interested in helping [let me know](#).

Following is the Annual Chapter Report I submitted to SABR. It's a good recap of what we have done in the past year and gets me thinking of ideas for the next 12 months. I always appreciate newsletter articles and ideas for meetings. This is our chapter, not mine, so what would you like to see?

Enjoy your summer!



Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

2023 Annual Report June 2022 - May 2023 By Dennis D Degenhardt

For the year June 2022 – May 2023 we again had a busy chapter year. Our total membership maintained the same level with some changes in the population that make up the total changing.

We provided 17 opportunities for meetings, virtually, in-person and the book club. The members have stated that we are very fortunate to have had some excellent speakers who were knowledgeable, entertaining, and appreciated how we ask great questions.

We had two members win prestigious awards at SABR 50, Larry Baldassaro’s *Tony Lazzeri: Yankee Legend and Baseball Pioneer* won the SABR Baseball Research Award; and Dave Heller won the Larry Ritter Book Award for *Gettysburg Eddie Plank: A Pitchers Journey to the Hall of Fame* presented by the Deadball Era Committee.

We again thank SABR for providing Zoom for the chapters, we were able to reach members further out in Wisconsin and members nationwide with excellent speaker opportunities. Their support is greatly appreciated by the Ken Keltner Chapter.

Membership

We have been reviewing our membership annually in July. Since the SABR Annual Report is due in May, we are moving our review to May. For the following review, we are comparing to July 2022.

2023 Membership Review					
	2022		2023		Chg
	#	%	#	%	
Keltner Mbrs	105	49.5%	112	52.8%	7
Other Chaps	86	40.6%	85	40.1%	-1
No Chaps	21	9.9%	15	7.1%	-6
Total Mbrs	212	100.0%	212	100.0%	0
By States					
	2022		2023		Chg
	#	%	#	%	
Wisconsin	122	57.5%	118	55.7%	-4
St Chaps	86	40.6%	91	42.9%	5
Foreign *	3	1.4%	2	0.9%	-1
No St Chaps	1	0.5%	1	0.5%	0
Total Mbrs	212	100.0%	212	100.0%	0
*Foreign 2022: Canada 2, Mexico 1 - 2023 Canada 2					

Our total membership remained the same, 212 SABR members including 100 from 22 other states and Canada. In July of 2021, we were at 199 total members.

Our Primary Keltner members, their “home” chapter, grew by seven, in 2021 it was 103.

When comparing members by state, those living in WI decreased by four as did foreign members dropping by one with growth from the other chapters making up for the decrease.

Currently over 55% of our membership resides in WI. When we add the 44 members of the Emil Rothe Chapter (Chicago) that are also in Keltner, that’s 76.4% of the total.

Moving forward we are adding a “Membership Lead” to help recruit and maintain membership.

Virtual Meetings

We held a total of six Virtual Chapter meetings during the last 12 months.

- September - Andy McCue presented his SABR 50 Research Project, *The First Ball Four Saga: The Seattle Pilots Journey to Bankruptcy*. Bob Buege won Andy’s book, *Stumbling Around the Bases: the American League’s Mismanagement in the Expansion Era* which was the basis for the presentation. Bob Buege won a copy of the book.
- October - Maxwell Kates presented his SABR 50 Research Project, *Time for Expansion Baseball*.
- January – Adam McCalvy, Milwaukee Brewers MLB.com beat writer, John Stodola won a copy of Adam’s book, *The Milwaukee Brewers at 50*.

- February – Josh Maurer, Milwaukee Brewers radio broadcaster.
- April – Professor Mary Hums of the University of Louisville spoke about her Management of Professional Baseball course that is an elective of the university's sports management program.
- May – Matt Klentak, Assistant to the General Manager, former Phillies GM talked about his career and answered questions from the audience.

In-Person Meetings

The chapter had eight in-person meetings this past year.

- June 2022 – a group of 12 attended a Madison Mallards game preceded by team owner Steve Schmidt regaling the group with stories about his favorite major league team the Cardinals and of course his 20 plus years of owning the most successful team in the Northwoods League, the Mallards.
- August - Talking Baseball, A very small group met at the Southshore Park Beer Garden to talk baseball and stuff.
- September - Author Eric Gray read from his latest book, *A Collection of Personal Baseball Stories from the Stands and Beyond*, on the patio at McGinns Bar & Grill.
- November – Fall Chapter Meeting at Stack'd Burger Bar, Milwaukee.
 - Mike Hauptert presented his SABR 50 Research Project, *Salaries, Skinflints and Scandals" The Cost of the Black Sox Scandal*.
 - Phil Sklar of the National Bobblehead Museum told us about the museum.
 - Tour of the National Bobblehead Museum.
- December – Ten members met on the 10th at our usual hangout J&Bs Blue Ribbon Bar and Grill to talk baseball and stuff. It was a wonderful lead into the holiday season.
- January 2023 - Joint SABR Day meeting with the Emil Rothe Chapter (Chicago) at the Brat Stop in Kenosha.
 - Vinny Rottino, WI born former Brewer player and Brewer's broadcaster.
 - Lee Kluck who is writing a book on Harry Dalton, gave a presentation titled, *The Last Ride of the Dalton Gang* about Dalton's final three years as the Brewers GM.
 - Larry Livacari spoke about the Leslie Jones Collection at the Boston Public Library. Jones, a Boston Tribune-Herald photographer from 1917-1956 had 40,000 negatives including 3,000 baseball pictures.
 - The fourth scheduled speaker canceled due to weather with a snowstorm bearing down on Kenosha as the meeting progressed.
- May – Spring Chapter Meeting at J&Bs Blue Ribbon Bar and Grill, Milwaukee
 - Fond du Lac Dock Spiders General Manager, Jim Misudek who returned home to become General Manager talked about his 14 year career with big league teams working in media relations with the Atlanta Braves, Baltimore Orioles, Cincinnati Reds, and Milwaukee Brewers as his Northwoods League ball club where he is starting his second year.
 - Matthew Prigge came to speak about his new book, first about baseball, *Opening Day in Milwaukee: The Brewers Season Starters, 1970-2022*. Opening Day has always been like a holiday in Milwaukee, and he had a presentation highlight some of the uniqueness of these events in Milwaukee. His book was part of the raffle that was won by Mary Shea.
- May – Bob Buege, Rick Schabowski and Bill Pearch were invited to the Milwaukee Historical Society to talk about one of the Milwaukee SABR Books, *From the Braves to the Brewers: Great Games and Exciting History at Milwaukee County Stadium*. The museum will have all three Milwaukee books on display to sell

Keltner Book Club

We had three virtual Keltner Book Club meetings in the past year.

- July - Author Craig Calcaterra joined us to discuss *Rethinking Fandom: How to Beat the Sports-Industrial Complex at Its Own Game*. Mike Kaminski won a copy of the book.
- November – Author Thomas Gilbert joined us to discuss his fine book *How Baseball Happened*. Dave Heller won a drawing for a copy of the book.
- February – Author Noel Hynd joined us to discuss of *The Sputnik Season: 1957*. A copy of the book was won by Jack Liebl.

Keltner Hot Corner

The chapter's newsletter, *Keltner Hot Corner* was published in all 12 months by Dennis D Degenhardt with

many different topics as well as some continuing series like, Get to Know, Schabowski's Supper Stumpers by Rick Schabowski, Wisconsin Born Ballplayers SABR bios and links to neighboring chapters newsletters from Chicago and Minnesota. To see all of our newsletters visit [here](#).

Get to Know Profiles

We have a regular feature in the *Hot Corner* titled *Get to Know* a small bio on SABR members often from the Keltner Chapter to get to know them...better.

June 2022 – Paul Tenpenny
 July – Joh Graf
 August – Francis Kinlaw
 October – Mike Kerry

November – Maxwell Kates
 December – Gregg Hoffmann
 February 2023 – Scott Bush
 March – Jacob Pomrenke

April – John Gehring
 May – Matthew Prigge

Keltner Hot Corner Contributors

Special thanks to our contributors to the Keltner Hot Corner.

Tom Alesia
 Dave Klement
 Rex Hamann, American Association Almanac
 Steven Landfried
 Cory Ritterbusch

Rick Schbowski,
 Mary Shea,
 Paul Tenpenny
 Tom Van Hyning

Financials

The Ken Keltner Chapter primary income source comes from raffles held at in-person meetings. Hurting the revenue this year was not doing the raffle at the Joint Chapter Meeting January with a hectic schedule and a snowstorm heading our way. Also, raffles have been lower than in the past.

Our expenses are twofold. At some of our meetings, Book Club or Chapter meetings, we hold a drawing to support the author giving a book to one of the attendees. The other expense is we buy the speakers their lunch at live meetings. For the year, we are in the red by \$76.71.

We have a checking account with \$257.89 plus \$5 in savings at a credit union. The last deposit to that account was after the Spring 2022 meeting. For the time being, I prefer leaving the account alone in the event we have need requiring more funds.

Ken Keltner Chapter Finances					
Date	Transaction	Income	Expense	Total	Comments
9/9/2018	McCue Book		\$31.60	\$31.60	Won by Bob Buege
11/12/2022	Donation	\$40.00		\$8.40	Donations at fall meeting
	Raffle	\$32.00		\$40.40	Fall Meeting
	Mike H Lunch		\$20.00	\$20.40	
11/17/2022	Gilbert Book		\$25.00	\$4.60	
1/13/2023	McCalvy Book		\$33.22	\$37.82	
1/28/2023	Donation	\$5.00		\$32.82	SABR Day, no raffle, donation in can
	Rottino Lunch		\$16.00	\$48.82	
2/19/2023	Sputnik Season 1957		\$20.89	\$69.71	Jack Liebl winner @ book club
5/6/2023	Raffle	\$50.00		\$19.71	Spring Meeting
	Prigge Book		\$30.00	\$49.71	Won by Mary Shea
	Prigge Lunch		\$14.00	\$63.71	Spring Meeting speaker
	Misudek Lunch		\$13.00	\$76.71	Spring Meeting speaker

Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Plans to Expand on Buck O'Neil's Vision in New Facility



KANSAS CITY, Mo. — One of their first conversations together occurred inside an office building, the two men starting, to their surprise, what became a life-changing friendship. In 1993, Bob Kendrick asked [Buck O'Neil](#), the famous former Negro Leagues first baseman and manager, a question that helped change his career: Why do you want to create the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum?

O'Neil, then age 81, used his charming voice to respond with only one sentence.

“So that we would be remembered.”

Earlier this year, Kendrick kept thinking of that moment, especially last year when he was in attendance when O'Neil, who died at age 94 in 2006, was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Kendrick, the president of the museum, kept hearing O'Neil's answer, which led to the museum's principal purpose.

Kendrick recited O'Neil's words Tuesday when he announced the museum's next campaign, a transition to a new facility to house as much of the history of the Negro Leagues as possible.

“It's always daunting to take risks,” Kendrick said. “You can never be afraid to dream. That's where we've reached, that place where we now understand fully that for us to be as effective as we would like to be, we need to grow. It's about creating something that will be truly special. This is the right time and the right opportunity for us to move forward with a very ambitious plan.”

Within five years, Kendrick hopes the museum's artifacts, replica jerseys and photographs will be viewed by visitors in a state-of-the-art facility. The plan is for the museum's new home — which will still be within the city's famous 18th & Vine district — to be built adjacent to the Buck O'Neil Education and Research Center, which will be inside the old Paseo YMCA building, the historic landmark where Andrew “Rube” Foster, a talented black pitcher, and seven other men in Feb. 13, 1920, established the Negro National League, each man becoming a club owner.

The 30,000-square foot venue, Kendrick said, will ensure that the museum is able to honor O'Neil's wishes by having every part of the Negro Leagues remembered and shared with the public.

“So often in our society, we don't really celebrate the bridge builders,” said Kendrick, who started as one of the museum's first volunteers before being mentored by O'Neil. “We celebrate the people who cross over the bridge. This museum celebrates the people who built the bridge.”

“That remains the task of this museum, to make sure that those who sacrificed tremendously to play the game that they loved, who built the bridge, as Buck O'Neil would say, across the chasm of prejudice, that allow [Jackie Robinson](#) and others to move, both Black and Brown, into the Major Leagues so that they won't be forgotten.”

In the past 33 years, the museum, a nonprofit organization that was established by O'Neil, teaches visitors and promotes the Negro Leagues in the manner, Kendrick said, that should've been told decades ago, such as the rise and fall of the leagues, the contrast between racism and perseverance, an important part of America's civil rights history within the context of America's pastime.

“I do believe our visitors walk away with a greater appreciation of why diversity, equity and inclusion are so important,” Kendrick said. “Those are the pillars to building a bridge for tolerance and respect.”

Tuesday's announcement served as the first day of the museum's “Pitch For the Future” campaign, an initiative to raise at least \$25 million in funding to build the new facility. The first donation for the project — through a check presentation of \$1 million — was given by Bank of America, one of the museum's partners.

Kendrick hosted a crowd Tuesday — which included Royals club owner John Sherman, mayor Quinton Lucas and Royals Hall of Famer [Frank White](#) — at the museum's Field of Legends, a carpeted field in the center of the museum that features 10 bronze statues, lit up by spotlights of the Negro Leagues' greatest players. Kendrick

loved that the day was a significant anniversary for the Negro Leagues, as the first game in the Negro National League was played May 2, 1920. He retold the summary of the game, that the Indianapolis ABCs defeated the Chicago Giants, 4-2, with Ed “Huck” Rile throwing the first pitch.



Bob Kendrick

“How fitting is it that we, on this historic date, start to make our pitch for the future?” Kendrick said to the crowd.

A few minutes later, Kendrick explained that the reason the museum needed a new building was simple: There’s no longer any open space in the current 10,000-square-foot operation.

The museum in the past few years has added new exhibits, such as “Beauty of the Game,” which celebrates the three women — second baseman [Toni Stone](#), pitcher Mamie “Peanut” Johnson and second baseman Connie Morgan — who

played in the Negro Leagues, the only women who have ever played professional baseball with and against men. Another exhibit, Barrier Breakers, celebrates the first Black or Afro-Latino player on each major-league team. On multiple occasions, the museum has hosted the “Black Baseball in Living Color” art exhibit, which includes Graig Kreindler’s 5×7-inch oil portraits of more than 230 people who were prominent in the Negro Leagues.

“This is Kansas City’s gift to the rest of the world,” Kendrick said of the museum. “Every time that I want to tell a new story, I literally have to tear something up. That is not the ideal way. If we were to acquire a significant collection — and I hope that we will — we wouldn’t have proper space to really be able to showcase it. It signifies how valued this museum has become through the years.”

Kendrick is optimistic that the museum, as part of its campaign, will receive a sizable donation from Major League Baseball and the MLB Players’ Association. Three years ago, the two parties agreed to make a joint \$1 million donation to the museum to help complete the research center.

Sherman promised Kendrick that the Royals would make a donation. Sherman, along with MLB commissioner Rob Manfred, is expected to encourage other MLB owners to make a donation.

“I’ll never say no to Bob Kendrick,” Sherman said. “This is one of my favorite places in Kansas City. Major League Baseball has a complicated history with race. We probably have a scar that will never totally heal. The story (of the Negro Leagues) is about creating opportunity.

“In fact, Frank White is always the symbol for me. I can’t imagine Frank White not being a Royals’ All-Star, an eight-time Gold Glove winner, a World Series champion because he wasn’t allowed to play in that league, despite his talent, because of the color of his skin. This is something that Major League Baseball should never forget. But this story transcends baseball. This story of the museum, really going back to Buck, is a story of entrepreneurship.”

In the Negro Leagues’ prime years, Kendrick has told visitors that the five-story Paseo YCMA building was the place where iconic boxer Joe Louis and Robinson trained, before Robinson broke the majors’ color barrier in 1947 with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Growing up in Kansas City in the 1960s, White played baseball on Friday nights in the same area where the city’s MLB Urban Youth Academy was built. In the winter, he spent hours inside the building developing his skills.

Following his 18-year career with the Royals, White helped O’Neil pay the rent for the one room inside the office building, which was just enough to house a few artifacts and newspaper clippings before the museum’s eventual home opened in 1997. During that time, White began friendships with Negro Leagues players such as Connie Johnson, Alfred “Slick” Surratt, Leroy “Jeff” Williams and Don Motley, the museum’s first director.

“I’m sure that all those guys (are) looking down on this now really excited about where we’ve gone with this museum,” said White, who is now the Jackson County (Mo.) executive. “I just can’t wait to see the new building. It’s going to be tremendous. Dreams do come true — and we’re going to see this one through.”

Jonathan O’Neil Cole, the owner of Pendulum, a Black-owned architectural firm in Kansas City, revealed Tuesday the exterior renderings of the new building. Seven of the exterior columns are expected to feature a distinguished member of the Negro Leagues — Foster, O’Neil, Robinson, Stone, pitcher [Satchel Paige](#), catcher [Josh Gibson](#) and Kendrick.

The new building, of course, will accommodate more visitors, offering them a more modern, extensive experience. More space means the museum will be able to have more interactive displays, more exhibits, more

galleries, more archival space and a larger gift shop after visitors complete their tour. Kiona Sinks, the museum's community engagement and digital marketing strategy manager, has envisioned visitors listening to O'Neil and Kendrick tell the comprehensive history of the Negro Leagues, perhaps through wireless headphones, while walking through the museum if an in-person tour with Kendrick cannot happen. Kendrick believes the facility's rooftop pavilion, with a view of the city's downtown area, could be rented for various events.

The new space will include the Field of Legends, but the plan is to have the museum's growing outreach and educational programming in the research center as part of the "Negro Leagues Campus," which Kendrick hopes will become a gateway into the 18th & Vine district.

Another hope that Kendrick has for the new building is to raise more awareness of the important role Hispanics had in the Negro Leagues.

"These are their roots to baseball in this country, too," Kendrick said. "There's always been this symbiotic relationship, a bond, created through baseball. Negro League players were oftentimes the first Americans to play in many Spanish-speaking countries. When (Negro Leaguers) went to those countries, (they) were treated like heroes.

"In this country, the Afro-Latino athlete, in particular, couldn't play in the Major Leagues, either. They found sanctuary playing in the Negro Leagues. In essence, the Negro Leagues didn't care what color you were. All they cared was, 'Can you play?'"

Once the crowd from Tuesday's event began exiting, a new group entered the museum, 15 people from the Baltimore Orioles who wanted to follow Kendrick for a detail-rich tour. Kendrick shared stories about the character Robinson demonstrated when facing constant racism; Paige's brilliant and wizardry pitching; and how [Effa Manley](#), the Newark Eagles' owner and general manager in the 1930s and '40s, signed Hall of Fame players [Larry Doby](#), [Monte Irvin](#), [Leon Day](#) and Willie Wells.

One day in the future, though, Kendrick expects to give a tour in a new museum, a thought that he has started to visualize in his mind, one that is bittersweet and exciting.

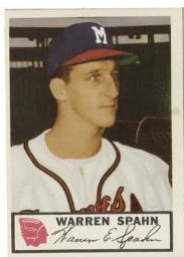
"There are so many amazing memories that have occurred in this museum," Kendrick said. "I got to walk my all-time favorite player, my childhood idol, Henry Aaron, through this museum. This place has hosted two American Presidents, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. There are countless memories that are etched in my heart to this facility.

"But you know what? We're going to make some new memories in a bold, exciting expansion of a place that will, I think, be the perfect marriage between nostalgia and technology."

Nate Taylor, "Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Plans to Expand on Buck O'Neil's Vision in New Facility" *The Athletic*, May 3, 2023



Full Set of the First Edition Johnston Cookie Available



While setting up for the Spring Chapter Meeting, I was approached by a person named Todd Peterson who has a SABR friend who recommend us because he has some memorabilia to sell. The key piece is a full set of the First Edition [1953 Milwaukee Braves](#) Johnson Cookie cards which includes [Warren Spahn](#) and [Eddie Matthews](#). In addition, Peterson has 62 ticket stubs and various programs available for sale.

If you are interested in learning more about the collections, contact Todd at either call 414-915 8933 or email at: tpete10700@gmail.com.

Do you have a baseball story – everyone does!

We all have great baseball stories, often shared with family and friends for years. So, when will you share it with your SABR family? We all love stories and want you to share yours with all of us.

If you're ready to share yours, contact [Dennis](#).

To Pg 1

Baseball Cards Research Committee News – New film, “The Diamond King”



Hello, members! Sharing what to me is some incredible baseball card news just out today.

An ambitious new film, "The Diamond King," from award-winning filmmaker Marq Evans, will tell the story of baseball through the artwork of Dick Perez.

For those of you around my age, Dick is synonymous not only with the Donruss Diamond Kings cards we loved pulling in packs but also the higher end, signed Perez-Steele postcards we couldn't afford at shows.

To learn more about the film, see SABR member Ryan Fagan's latest article in [The Sporting News](#).

You can also support the film's [Kickstarter](#) campaign, which includes some very cool Dick Perez artwork, baseball cards, and books.

I also hope to do an article on Dick for the SABR Baseball Cards blog. Let me know if there are any questions you'd like me to ask him.

Thanks,

[Jason Schwartz](#), Co-Chair
Baseball Cards Research Committee



Schabowski's Super Stumpers

By Rick Schabowski
June Trivia

Rick continues on a roll with some interesting and challenging questions.

1. Who is the only HOF pitcher with a win over all of the current 30 MLB teams?
2. The Braves' Ronald Acuña Jr. is on pace for a 40-homer, 65-stolen base season. Who was the last player with a 40-40 season?
3. In what season and at what MLB stadium did organ music make its debut?
4. Yogi Berra hit 295 home runs while in the lineup at catcher, still the most all-time by a left-handed hitting backstop. Who is second?
5. Who are the four Braves players to hit at least 30 homers and steal at least 30 bases in the same season?



Do you have a baseball trivia question or two, to stump Our Stumper? If so, send your questions to [Rick](#) to see if you can trip him up and he'll include it in a future *Keltner Hot Corner* giving you credit - bragging rights - for your stumper(s).

Trivia Answers are [here](#)



Monthly Wisconsin Born Players SABR Bios

Currently there have been 253 Wisconsin born major leaguers and 93 have SABR Bios written on them. So, you can get to know these guys better, we will include a SABR Bio monthly starting from the oldest with a completed bio to the most recent. Yes, that will take at least eight years to complete, and longer as new bios are finished. If you are interested in seeing the entire list of these players, or there is a Wisconsin born player that interests you and needs a SABR Bio, contact [Dennis](#).

This month's Wisconsin bio is on Otto Schomberg of Milwaukee, written by Keltner member, Dennis Pajot who also wrote last month's SABR Bio on Alton Falch.

Otto Schomberg

This article was written by [Dennis Pajot](#)

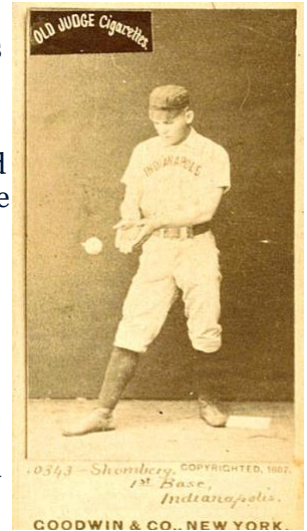
[Otto Schomberg](#) was a hitting wonder in his one full year in the big leagues (1887). Poor fielding and health issues saw him out of the majors after the following season, but the Wisconsin native then became a major-league lumberman with other substantial ventures.

Otto H. Schomberg was born in Milwaukee on November 15, 1864. His father, Henry, (listed as Schoemberg in the 1865 City of Milwaukee Directory) was a cooper, working and living at 710 West Lloyd Street.¹

Otto Schomberg first appeared in a City of Milwaukee Directory in 1880 as a laborer, living at 721 7th Street, which was also his father's address. He was not in the next year's directory, but appeared in the 1882 and 1883 directories as a machinist.

The young man first appeared in Milwaukee newspapers in 1882, playing first base for the local amateur Arctic Baseball club. In September the club presented their 17-year old first baseman with a gold medal, for being the team member "acquitting himself with the most credit" during the city championship game with the rival Maple Leafs. He also impressed the winning team; the next year Schomberg was playing first base for the Maple Leafs. This strong semi-professional local club played not only local teams but also clubs from other Wisconsin cities and Chicago.

Schomberg was engaged in early 1884 to play first base for the reserve team of the Milwaukee club of the Northwestern League. Clubs in the major leagues and the minor Northwestern League were signing players for these reserve teams to keep as many players as possible out of the hands of the newly formed Union Association. In mid-May the Milwaukee reserve team disbanded. Schomberg had "gained a favorable reputation by his perfect fielding, and [was] in demand." It was reported the Stillwater (Minnesota) club of the Northwestern League was interested in the well-built lefty, and also that he had been offered \$150 a month to play for the Rock Island (Illinois) club. Schomberg turned down the Rock Island offer, preferring to remain in the Northwestern League. The 19-year old signed with Stillwater and played well, "[winning] hosts of friends up there by his fine batting and fielding." [It must be noted here that Milwaukee newspapers usually spelled Otto's last name properly — Schomberg — but outside Milwaukee, it was almost always Shomberg].



On August 4, 1884, the Stillwater club disbanded. Conveniently for Schomberg, the Stillwaters had been playing in Milwaukee the previous three days. The *Milwaukee Sentinel* believed Schomberg was "too good a first baseman and hard hitter to be long without an engagement." During his time at Stillwater Schomberg had batted .279 (55 for 197) with 14 doubles, 3 triples and 32 runs scored.² However, he did not play for another minor league club in 1884, again taking over first base for the local Maple Leafs.

For the 1885 season Schomberg accepted a position with the Keokuk (Iowa) club, an alliance club of the Western League. It was reported he would be the first baseman and captain of the team. In June the club joined the Western League, but soon the league disbanded. It was reported that Schomberg went to play at St. Joseph (Missouri).³ However, in August he joined the Leavenworth (Kansas) Reds, where he finished the season.

Schomberg, now considered one of the best left-handed batters in the west, signed with Providence of the Eastern League in 1886, reportedly for \$800 for the season. When the Providence team dropped out of the Eastern League in June, Schomberg went to the Utica club in New York. Otto did very well in the International League, leading the batsmen in early July. This caught the attention of "Hustling" [Horace Phillips](#) of the Pittsburgh Allegheny club of the American Association, who bought the "splendidly built chap [with] the appearance of a born athlete" for "a good round sum" in early July.

There was no doubt Schomberg was a terrific hitter. Horace Phillips said the 21-year old had the best eye for judging a good ball of any young player he had ever seen and thought he would turn into a fine big-league hitter by the next season. As opposed to previous accounts, however, it was quickly found that his work in the field was suspect. A report in the *Milwaukee Sentinel* told of a local player saying that Schomberg was weak on hit balls and lost his head when he wanted to make an assist. This weakness would soon become more apparent.

When Schomberg came to Pittsburgh, *The Sporting News* reported that several of the Pittsburgh players spoke highly of his abilities as both a batter and first baseman. Ironically, the one player mentioned by name in the St. Louis weekly was catcher Fred Carroll. In August Schomberg complained that since joining the club Carroll had "acted in a mean manner" toward him. It got so bad at one point that Schomberg thought seriously of asking

for his release. When manager Phillips heard of the trouble, he asked Schomberg about it, and Otto acknowledged the problems. *The Sporting Life* told of the events beginning on August 7:

In the meantime, someone had informed Carroll of the inquiries, and he left the supper table and hunted Shomberg up. He found him and accused him of carrying false. This Shomberg denied, and Carroll after applying some language more forcible than polite, hit him. Shomberg immediately retaliated and witnesses say was getting the best of the bout when separated by friends. Phillips immediately suspended Carroll, pending an investigation by the Board of Directors. The Directors met Monday night and revoked the suspension, but fined Fred \$50. At this meeting Carroll professed to be very sorry and said that he had struck Shomberg in the heat of passion, and Shomberg and himself shook hands and made it up.

According to *The Sporting Life* there was more method than madness in Carroll's remarks, "as the young first baseman began showing evidence of exceeding freshness." Playing in 72 games for Pittsburgh in 1886, Schomberg hit .272, scored 53 runs and accounted for 29 runs batted in. At first base the 5' 11", 175-pounder made 25 errors enroute to a .966 fielding average.⁴

After the season, Horace Phillips offered the St. Louis Maroons of the National League Schomberg and \$400 for the release of their first baseman, Alex McKinnon. The deal being satisfactory, McKinnon signed with Pittsburgh; at the same time an agent of the St. Louis club signed Schomberg — presumably taking over his \$1,800 a year salary. The deal reportedly saved the Maroons \$1,500, and the St. Louis management thought Schomberg a better first sacker and a better hitter, who had "a very quiet disposition." Others agreed, the *St. Louis Republican* later saying Schomberg could "outplay McKinnon in any department of the game." Unfortunately, Alex McKinnon never got the time to prove himself, dying of typhoid fever on July 24, 1887.

Schomberg would never get a chance to play in St. Louis. In March 1887 the Maroons were sold to Indianapolis interests for \$12,000. Most of the players, including Schomberg, went to Indianapolis.

Otto Schomberg had a terrific year hitting on an awful team. The Hoosiers lost 89 games and only won 37, easily landing in last place. According to the 1887 official National League statistics, Schomberg had a .389 batting average (walks counted as hits in this season), scoring 91 runs. [This has been changed in the record books to a .308 average, separating his 129 hits and 56 walks.] His batting average was eighth best in the league and the best on the Indianapolis team.⁵ For this accomplishment Schomberg was presented a zylonite ivory bat by the A.G. Spalding & Bros. Company.⁶

However, Schomberg's fielding was another story. At first base he committed 55 errors, having only a .958 average, the worst average in the National League for first basemen playing over 100 games. *The Sporting Life* wrote in September:

Shomberg's wretched fielding of late has caused much regret. He seems utterly unable to throw a ball across the diamond with any accuracy... Shomberg would be one of the greatest first basemen in the country if he could overcome this one fault. He is a sober, industrious player, and as a batter has but few superiors.

Runners on second base would deliberately break for third when Schomberg had the ball. Hoosier third baseman [Jerry Denny](#) was quoted as saying "He can't throw at all. It is a pity, for Shommy is a great hitter." Indianapolis President [John T. Brush](#) told the press that near the end of the season Schomberg approached him and asked to be played in the outfield. Some of these fielding problems appeared not to be Schomberg's fault, however. Three years later the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* wrote that Denny and [Jack Glasscock](#) — the third baseman and shortstop of this 1887 team — were "unquestionably the rankest throwers in the business...they literally killed the prospects of Otto Schomberg." The paper reported the two threw so savagely to first base that accuracy was out of the question.

Even with these well-known defensive liabilities Schomberg was in demand. In June Al Reach of the Philadelphia National League club tried in vain to induce the Indianapolis directors to sell Schomberg's rights to him. After the season it was still being reported the Philadelphia club wanted to get him.

But Otto Schomberg had bigger troubles to worry about than poor fielding. In October it was reported that his old trouble, heart disease, was growing worse every day. At least three times during the season he had to take off because of this problem. The report stated: "He is thinking seriously of quitting the business. All the players advise him to do so, as they believe he will some day drop dead on the field." However, a report in *The Sporting Life* in January 1888 stated that Otto told a friend he had fully recovered from this heart trouble and was in splendid health.

Schomberg held off signing his 1888 contract with Indianapolis, reportedly wanting a raise to \$2,500. However, the Indianapolis correspondent to *The Sporting News* said the difference between what the player wanted and the club was offering was “quite insignificant and easily adjusted.” Schomberg finally signed in late March. The new season found him in right field, with newly acquired Tom “Dude” Esterbrook at first base. It appears his fielding was not much better in the outfield, as he would be charged with three errors to go with 15 putouts and three assists — for a miserable .857 average. On May 2 Schomberg severely sprained his ankle sliding into second base and had to be carried off the field. This injury kept him out of the lineup for about five weeks. He returned as the club’s right fielder, but soon went back to first base, as Esterbrook was out of the lineup, not hitting much.

While Shommy had been out with this injury, a rumor was about that Indianapolis would release him to Pittsburgh. The Hoosiers’ manager, Harrison Spence, said there were no such plans. He went further, saying the Indianapolis management had an idea of making a pitcher out of Otto. “He exhibits terrific speed and has one or two good curves.” This did not come about.

Within weeks of rejoining the team Schomberg was out again, this time with malaria. He did come back, but by this time Esterbrook was back at first base and there was no room for Schomberg. On August 17 the Hoosiers signed first baseman Lewis “Jumbo” Schoeneck; they released both Schomberg and Esterbrook, who were expendable. Otto had hit only .214 in the 30 games he played. He returned to Milwaukee and played first base for the amateur Milwaukee Browns.

Otto Schomberg was out of big-league baseball — but getting into the major leagues in the lumber business. In the late 1870s his brother, Henry, along with another man, had bought a lumber operation in the Grand Traverse Bay district of Michigan, with offices in Good Harbor. Shortly after 1880 Henry bought out his partner; later in the decade (no later than 1886) he sold the business to his brothers Otto and Richard. At first Richard managed the operations in Good Harbor. Otto stayed in Milwaukee to handle sales and supplies for the mill and company store at offices in the Marine Block on Ferry Street at Seeboth.

As early as February 1887, off-season reports told of Otto doing well at the business in Good Harbor. The *Milwaukee Sentinel* of February 10, 1887, told its readers “he had a great head. Some of the other players would do well to follow his example.” By the end of 1887 Schomberg was not only attending to the lumber business in Good Harbor but also acting as the city’s postmaster. He also wanted it known he was making baseball bats and was expecting to get out 5,000 first-class second-growth ash sticks. The *Milwaukee Sentinel* of January 23, 1888, gave this detailed report on the local success story:

Shomberg is one of the few players who does not depend upon ball playing for a living. He is the junior member of the firm of Henry Shomberg & Bro., manufacturers of hardwood lumber and cooper’s stock, at Good Harbor, Mich. He writes that he is at present attending to the log scaling of his business and has charge of a gang of 150 men. His firm is doing an immense business and his father and brother are opposed to his going back to Indianapolis in the spring. But he says he wants to play just one more season and show the country what he can do. His physician ordered him to quit using tobacco and assures him that he will never again experience any trouble with his heart if he leaves tobacco alone. He proposes to follow his physician’s advice and feels confident that he will lead the league in batting.

In February 1889 Schomberg let it be known he would like to cover first base for the Milwaukee team of the Western Association, but the Brewers were satisfied with their first sacker, Tom Morrissey. By the next month Schomberg was saying he would not play ball that season, as he could not afford to neglect his business. However in May, he was persuaded to cover first base and captain a new professional team. Milwaukee businessman Rudolph Giljohan organized a club known as the Cream Citys. They played other strong teams that were not in any league, from the area and from as far away as Chicago and Oshkosh. They had a successful season, playing through October.

Schomberg’s baseball career was not over just yet. In June of 1890 he umpired a Northwestern League game in Milwaukee when the regular ump refused to serve any longer after an argument on a disputed call. Otto also played a bit as the Cream Citys first baseman when that club re-formed in June. Later that summer he was the captain and first baseman for the South Side Club of Racine “in an old fashioned game for blood” in that city. A little later the 25-year-old former major-leaguer played with the Belle City Club of Racine in a few games.

1890 marked the end of Otto Schomberg’s playing days, but not his association with baseball in Milwaukee. In 1891 he umpired a Western Association game in Milwaukee, and one more in both 1892 and 1894. In May 1895 the regular umpire failed to show for the scheduled Western League game in Milwaukee and Schomberg

officialated. “He was off on balls and strikes in the early part of the game,” the *Milwaukee Journal* reported. Schomberg umpired another Western League game in June.

In October 1893 it was announced that Otto Schomberg would be the president of the Milwaukee Western League club being organized for the next season. The *Milwaukee Sentinel* gave the club’s reasons for picking Schomberg: “He was decided upon as an available man on account of his familiarity with baseball, his large acquaintance in the city and his ability to work unceasingly in any enterprise in which he is engaged.” He also owned \$400 worth of stock in the incorporated \$4,000 franchise. However, within weeks Schomberg resigned, stating that his business engagements for the coming summer made it impossible for him to serve the club in the capacity of president.

The last time Otto Schomberg’s name appeared in the press in connection with baseball was in January 1898. The *Milwaukee Sentinel* reported that the 33-year old Schomberg had announced his intention to return to the diamond, and offered to play first base for the Brewers should a vacancy occur. When Otto returned from his business interests in Michigan, he wrote the newspaper he had no intention of returning to the field. In his words: “The baseball business is all right, but I like the lumber business better.”

By the time that he was chosen as president of the Brewers in late 1893, Schomberg was regarded as “a substantial businessman.” In 1894 he went into partnership with two other local lumbermen, Charles and Fred Tegge, under the firm name of Schomberg & Tegge, with yards at 684 Park (today’s West Bruce Street, west of 14th Street). The following year Schomberg & Tegge consolidated with the Page & Landeck Lumber Company. Otto Schomberg was now the general manager of the largest hardwood firm in Milwaukee. In November 1896, Richard, Otto, and his wife Ida Schomberg incorporated the company under the name Schomberg Hardwood Lumber Company, with \$15,000 in capital. At its peak the mill in Michigan cut 8,000,000 board feet of lumber per year. The company also ran a hotel, two stores and a saloon in Good Harbor.

Schomberg’s acumen was shown by his novel store promotion. Otto would buy merchandise at bankruptcy or fire sales — for example, a lot of 500 derby hats — and offer them as premiums. Customers who bought at least \$10 of goods got a hat. They became quite a hit and all the men in the area were wearing them.

At home Otto was also very busy, within and outside the lumber business. In 1892 he purchased a half-interest in the schooner *Hattie Earl*, which he enjoyed sailing on Lake Michigan. Later that year, in November, he married Ida Carter of Milwaukee, and the two built a home the following year at 1213 2nd Street.

Schomberg was also a stockholder in the West Side Bank and a delegate at the Republican congressional convention from the city’s 21st Ward in 1896. The Schombergs were also active in Milwaukee society, Otto being a member of the Bon Ton club, the North Side Literary club and the Millioke club. The latter was a north side social organization boasting to be “a society that will have among its members the better class of its portion of Milwaukee residents, and whose functions shall be affairs in local social circles.” Mrs. Schomberg was active in the Women’s School Alliance and the Social Culture club.

As “elite” as all these clubs and organizations may sound, Schomberg still had a sense of community. In 1898 the Twenty-First District school became the home for night classes of the Manual Training School. Schomberg, along with other businessmen, helped with the cost of outfitting the school.

After 1900 the lumber supply at Good Harbor was decreasing. The end came for the Schombergs in Michigan in 1905 when the yard burned, destroying the mill and about one million feet of lumber. Schomberg sold the mill and the remaining buildings to an employee for \$475.

After leaving his Michigan holdings, Otto remained in the lumber business in Milwaukee, became treasurer of the National Leather Goods Company, and dealt in real estate. In 1905 he built the four-story Schomberg Building at 549 North 4th Street. This \$36,000 brick building had stores on the ground floor — including office space for the Schomberg Hardwood Company — and apartments on the remaining three floors. [In 1916 this building was turned into the Hotel Delaware.] In 1915, Schomberg built three “beautiful houses” featuring English exterior design at 2723, 2727 and 2729 East Bellevue. They were rental property.

In his later years Schomberg built new homes for himself in Milwaukee — 2575 North Lake Drive (1912) and 2757 North Summit (1922)⁷ — in addition to having a winter home in California. Traveling to California he was able to scout some talent and keep in touch with his old acquaintance [Connie Mack](#) of the Philadelphia Athletics, as some letters in the collections of the Milwaukee County Historical Society show.⁸ Otto Schomberg was also an intimate friend of Milwaukee Brewers owner [Otto Borchert](#).

For the last two years of his life Schomberg was in ill health. While returning from his winter home in California with his wife on a Santa Fe train, Schomberg died of a heart attack in his compartment on May 3, 1927, outside of Ottawa, Kansas. Otto Schomberg was laid to rest at Milwaukee's Fairview Mausoleum. He was survived by his wife Ida, a son and a daughter.⁹

Sources

Milwaukee Sentinel, various issues 1882-1898
Milwaukee Journal, various issues 1884-1897, 1915, May 4, 1927
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Rocky Mountain News, various issues 1885-1888
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The Sporting News, various issues 1886-1888
Yenowine's Illustrated News, various issues 1890 and 1892
City of Milwaukee Directories, 1860 through 1916
National Park Service web site (<http://www.nps.gov/slbe/historyculture/goodharbor.htm>)

Notes

- 1 Date of birth taken from Schomberg's death certificate (a copy provided by the Baseball Hall of Fame). All other references — going back to *The Official Encyclopedia of Baseball*, Yurkin and Thompson, 1971; and *The Baseball Encyclopedia*, MacMillan 1974 — state he was born Otto Shambrick on November 14, 1864. No Shambrick is listed in the City of Milwaukee Directories from 1859 on. The Milwaukee County birth records index does not list a Shambrick, Schomberg, or Shomberg having been born in the years 1860 to 1868. The death certificate lists Otto's father as Henry Schomberg, and makes no mention of the name Shambrick.
- 2 Personal communication from James Cagley of the Minnesota Historical Society
- 3 SABR member Mike Welsh took the time to go through the *St. Joseph Evening News* from June 1, 1885 to August 15, 1885, and could find no reference to Shomberg or Schomberg.
- 4 Statistics from baseball-reference.com
- 5 *Chicago Daily Inter Ocean*, October 22, 1887; baseball-reference.com
- 6 Historical Messenger of Milwaukee County Historical Society, September 1968.
- 7 McArthur, Shirley du Fresne. *North Point Historic Districts-Milwaukee*. Milwaukee, Wisconsin: 1981: 135, 196; Historic Designation Study Report-Epiphany Lutheran Church, date unknown.
- 8 Historical Messenger of Milwaukee County Historical Society, September 1968
- 9 *Milwaukee Sentinel*, May 6, 1927; Otto Schomberg's death certificate.

Schabowski's Super Stumpers

June Answers:

1. Randy Johnson
2. Alfonso Soriano (Washington Nationals 2006: 46 HR's, 41 stolen bases)
3. 1941 Wrigley Field
4. Brian McCann: 269
5. Henry Aaron 1963, Dale Murphy 1983, Ron Gant 1990 & 91, Ronald Acuna Jr. 2019

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