

# KELTNER'S HOT CORNER



## Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

### September 2021 In This Issue:

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### Upcoming Event:

#### Dillard Style, Baseball Stories and more with Tim Dillard

Thursday, September 9 @ 7Pm

[Virtual Meeting](#)



#### SABR/IWBC Women in Baseball Conference

September 10-12

[Now Virtual Only](#)



#### Beloit Snappers Game

Saturday, September 11, 6:35PM

With the Chicago Chapter

[Info](#)

Direct questions or comments to:  
Dennis D. Degenhardt  
[bovine9@icloud.com](mailto:bovine9@icloud.com),  
262-339-9968

### Upcoming Virtual Event

#### Dillard Style, Baseball Stories and More with Tim Dillard

Thursday, September 9 @ 7 PM

Register in advance with [Zoom](#)



[Tim Dillard](#) spent 16 years in the Milwaukee organization, four in the majors appearing in 73 games. Yet, he's probably the Brewers most popular minor leaguer of all time. And now he is transitioning to broadcasting. Many fans consider left-handed pitchers to be unique and Dillard is the most lefty of any right-hander. He has an upbeat, witty manner and loves telling stories. SABR members love hearing stories. Sounds like the perfect match!

Register in advance with [Zoom](#). SABR will send you login experience to join the meeting.



### Beloit Snappers Baseball Game with Chicago Chapter

#### Beloit's New ABC Supply Stadium

Saturday, September 11 @ 6:35 PM



Our friends with the Emil Rothe - Chicago Chapter are planning a game at the Beloit Snappers new ABC Supply Stadium versus the South Bend Cubs on September 11th. They have invited members of the Ken Keltner Chapter to join them in the event.

The Snappers, a High A affiliate of the Miami Marlins, just moved into their [new stadium](#) making this excellent opportunity to see the new ballyard.

Please contact [Tim Czuba](#) of the Chicago chapter if interested in attending or have questions regarding the event.

### Keltner Hot Corner Archives

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

## August Chapter Meetings



Six Keltner members met on August 14 for the book Club Meeting at the Estabrook Beer Garden to discuss [A Year of Playing Catch](#) with the author Ethan Bryan joining us via Zoom. Bryan added to the enjoyment of the book by sharing stories and answered a question on how often he has played catch since writing the book in 2018. He said about three times weekly.

Afterwards four of us did what seemed very appropriate, played catch; Mary Shea, Bob Buege, Dave Klement and Dennis Degenhardt. Mary brought two gloves; a 40s vintage that Klement used while she used a 50s mitt. Dennis also brought a 40's [Bill Doak model](#) and along with Dave, both commented on how much fun the older glove was to use but it took more concentration when making a catch. Afterwards they used the beer garden to relax and talk baseball and stuff. (Note, to see the action, send [Dennis](#) an email as it won't copy to a PDF format.)



### Keltner Book Korner Book Club News by Mary Shea



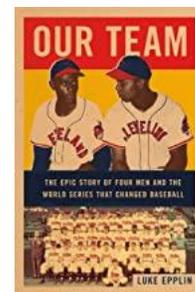
Hey Keltner Bookworms,

Have you read any good baseball books lately? The book club is on hiatus, but we'll hopefully have a virtual meeting before the end of the year. Please contact [Mary Shea](#) if there's a book you'd like to recommend.

My current recommendation would be [Our Team](#), by Luke Epplin. It's about the 1948 Cleveland Indians, focusing on their four most remarkable figures: [Bill Veeck](#), [Larry Doby](#), [Satchel Paige](#), and [Bob Feller](#). Epplin does an amazing job of presenting the lives and legacies of each one while developing the storylines that led to the team's last World Series. As soccer executive and Bill Veeck enthusiast Peter Wilt noted, "... the context ... provided was remarkable. It really demonstrated the social, political and sporting history that the four men and their associates were making."

Any other good reads out there?

Mary



### Get to Know...

#### Get to Know...Dave Klement

George Klement and Irene (Neuman) Klement welcomed me, their first child, David L. "Dave" Klement into the world on May 10, 1945, in River Falls, Wisconsin. I also have a sister, Cherie (Wamser), who is six years younger. My father was a grocer and my mother an elementary school teacher before having children and after they left for college. Mom also helped in my dad's grocery store part time when I grew up and I did as well in high school and summers when home from college.

I was raised in [Port Edwards](#), four miles south of Wisconsin Rapids, and attended school there, K through 12th grade. I then attended the University of Wisconsin and Lakeland College where I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. After graduating, I taught chemistry and physical science at Waunakee High School for two years, before entering Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, a suburb west of Portland, OR. I graduated with a Doctorate in Optometry and met Cindy (Nee: McDonald); we have been married for 46 years. I practiced optometry from 1976 until January 2018

(in Milwaukee, Madison and Oconomowoc). I liked the field, my staff, and my patients, so I worked longer than I should have.

As baseball fans know in 1952, multiple cities had more than one Major League team: New York (3), Chicago (2), Boston (2), Philadelphia (2), and St. Louis (2), accounting for 11 of the 16 teams! When the Boston Braves moved to Milwaukee, I immediately became a baseball fan, spending my allowances on baseball cards, reading, trading, and playing games with them. Listening to the Braves' radio broadcasts was the only way to get the games because we didn't have a television until two years later; even then there were not many sporting events on TV. The first game I recall listening to was the first Milwaukee Braves game in 1953. That year the Braves had a good team, but the Brooklyn Dodgers had a stronger team. I remember lying in bed listening to a night game vs. the Dodgers. I was especially worried whenever [Duke Snider](#) came to bat with runners on base, he hit 40 or more home runs five years in a row (1953-1957).



My favorite team was the Milwaukee Braves. Most people follow the local team because they hear news about it all the time. Jack Dittmer and [Early Wynn](#) were my favorite players because they were in my first pack of baseball cards. I liked Dittmer because he was a Brave, and Wynn because he was a great pitcher.

In high school, I played basketball for my first two years, but not baseball or other sports.

Cindy and I have a son, Paul, age 42, who lives in Sussex and works for Aurora Health Care. I made an avid baseball fan out of him, and he is doing the same for our four year old grandson, Ben. Last month (July 2021), our granddaughter, Joy, arrived, and I'm sure she will get to love baseball in a few minutes.

In 1983, I read that SABR was holding its convention in Milwaukee, so I attended a couple of meetings free of charge. Tom Joswik was in charge of the research and trivia events and one of the members urged me to join, telling me that the publications alone were worth the cost of membership. He was so right! I also attended national conventions in Chicago, Minneapolis, and New York City. When I was working, I was unable to attend local Saturday meetings because I worked Tuesdays through Saturdays. It's been great being able to get involved again.

I especially enjoy reading about baseball history and great players, looking through stats, and following the action on the radio and TV. The only baseball paper I ever wrote was around 1987 which showed the correlation between a team's winning percentage and home-field advantage. In other words, which teams have the greatest home-field advantage, a .300 team, .500 team or .700 team? I found that there are two types of teams that have no home-field advantage: those that never win and those that never lose. It turns out that .500 teams overall have the greatest home-field advantage (or visiting-field disadvantage). I presented it at a national convention (Pete Palmer and Bill James were on the panel) before it was finished. I never found the time to complete it after the convention, and I don't know where it is now.

Currently my baseball activities are just reading, listening, watching, and talking baseball. I'm also involved in computer baseball leagues, Imagine Sports (the best), and Sim League Baseball. In these leagues, team owners are allowed a set amount of money to draft a team that plays a season schedule, followed by playoffs. All former players are assigned a salary according to their value, so I can build a team emphasizing speed, defense, pitching, OBP, power, or whatever, and see how it performs vs. the other owners. Although the websites play the games and show the results, the players and strategy can be managed, and the home stadium can be chosen by the owner. The ballparks I use most often are Coors Field, when I put together a slugging team with a ground-ball pitching staff, and the historic Hilltop Field (home of the New York Highlanders), when I choose a team without power.

If I could have a "time machine moment" I would like to go back in time to see the first five players being inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame: [Babe Ruth](#), [Ty Cobb](#), [Walter Johnson](#), [Honus Wagner](#), and [Christy Mathewson](#). Second would be the first All-Star game, where I could see the greats that played before my time.

## Borchert Field, the Bonus Chapters

By Bob Buege

During the February Keltner Book Club meeting featuring Bob Buege and his awesome book, [Borchert Field Stories from Milwaukee's Legendary Ballpark](#), we learned that 13 chapters were not included in the book. We asked Bob if he would like to place them in the *Hot Corner*; he happily agreed. We'll feature one monthly into 2022. Thanks, Bob!

### ENJOYING A NAP

He had a large physique for his time, over six feet tall and about 200 pounds. He was the strong, silent type, capable of flashes of temper, never predictable. Despite his size, he was, according to those who watched him play, the most graceful ballplayer they ever saw. He wore a tiny pancake glove but captured ground balls with ease. He had no discipline at the plate, swinging wildly at pitches far outside the strike zone, yet he produced the highest single-season batting average in the twentieth century.

He was a Rhode Island native of French-Canadian descent. Philadelphia Phillies followers in the late 1890's called him La-joy. He reportedly preferred the French pronunciation, luh-ZHWAH. Most people today say LAH-zhuh-way. His friends and teammates called him Nap or Larry. [Connie Mack](#) in 1901 called him "without doubt the greatest second baseman in the business," then adding, "there isn't a ballplayer in the business that compares with him."

He was [Napoleon Lajoie](#),<sup>1</sup> the original superstar of the American League. A famous photograph of the first class of Hall of Fame inductees, taken in Cooperstown in 1939, shows 10 of the initial 11 men enshrined there that day. (Ty Cobb intentionally arrived late and missed being in the picture.) All of these legendary heroes—[Ruth](#), [Mathewson](#), [Walter Johnson](#), so on—played ball long ago, yet their exploits remain fresh. Of those pictured, Nap Lajoie is perhaps the least remembered today.



In 1901 the fledgling American League took its first tentative flight as a major circuit to challenge the established National League. Former Milwaukee manager Connie Mack led his new Philadelphia Athletics into Milwaukee Park (a.k.a. Lloyd Street Grounds) three times for series against the Brewers—four games in late May, three in mid-July, and three at the end of August. In the eight games in which Lajoie appeared, he produced at least one base hit in each and batted .371 overall in Beertown. This was a credit to Milwaukee's pitching staff. For the season Lajoie batted .426 and earned the mythical Triple Crown.

September 1, 1901 marked Lajoie's final appearance in Milwaukee Park. The day, however, belonged to Duffy Lewis' Brewers. Lajoie managed only one hit (the local newspaper called it "a punk one") and made two fielding errors as Pete Husting, a Fond du Lac native, outpitched rookie [Eddie Plank](#) (a future Hall of Famer) and the last-place Brewers defeated the A's, 2-1.

After the season the Milwaukee franchise absconded to St. Louis, so Lajoie never again played a major league contest in Wisconsin. He won batting titles in 1902, 1903, and 1904, but he achieved those honors not for Connie Mack's team but for Cleveland. Why would Mack trade such an outstanding player?

The fact is, he didn't. Lajoie had begun his big-league career as a Phillie from 1896-1900. When the American League began in 1901, Lajoie jumped to the new circuit to escape the National League's salary cap of \$2,400. (No, C.C. Sabathia did not invent the pursuit of baseball happiness

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<sup>1</sup>James Murphy's book-length biography of Napoleon Lajoie was published as the Spring 1988 issue of The National Pastime.

through wealth.) The Phillies, predictably furious, filed suit after the 1901 season. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that Lajoie could only play for the Phillies in the state of Pennsylvania.

Mack could not flout the law, so he was forced to release his star to free agency. Lajoie signed with Cleveland. When the Bronchos (as Cleveland's club was called in 1902) played the A's, Lajoie sat out. So successful was Lajoie in Ohio's biggest city that they named their team for him, the Naps. They retained that name for a dozen years until Lajoie left the ballclub. In 1903 the two leagues reconciled, so Lajoie no longer had to avoid the Keystone State.



Throughout the first decade of the twentieth century, Lajoie rivaled [Ty Cobb](#) for recognition as baseball pre-eminent player. In the 1910 season the two giants of the sport staged a batting race that went to the final day. The [Chalmers automobile company](#) offered one of its new roadsters to the man with the highest average, adding spice to the duel.

Cobb held a substantial lead at dawn on October 9, but the Naps and Browns had a doubleheader scheduled for that final afternoon, giving Lajoie numerous hitting chances. St. Louis manager Jack O'Connor, who disliked The Georgia Peach, offered his assistance to Lajoie by having his third baseman, [Red Corriden](#), play deep, on the edge of the outfield grass. Accepting the invitation, Lajoie bunted three times in a row after blasting a triple his first time up in game one. Each was a base hit.

In the second game, Lajoie bunted five straight times, reaching base on each attempt, but only four were scored as hits. E.V. Parish, the official scorer, explained, "His second time up, which was in the third inning...Corriden fumbled the ball and Lajoie was safe at first. A runner was on first with none out. He advanced to second. There was but one way to score the play, a sacrifice hit and an error for Corriden."

Despite going 8-for-8, Lajoie lost the batting crown by a fraction of a point. Manager O'Connor received his unconditional release from the Browns. The Chalmers carmakers, not wishing to step into a controversy, awarded each man a shiny new auto. Even today it remains unclear who really earned the title. Subsequent research seems to favor Lajoie, but some references still list Cobb as the winner.

After 13 seasons with Cleveland, Lajoie rejoined Connie Mack's club for his two final big-league years, then played a season with the Toronto Maple Leafs in the International League. On May 25, 1918, the great second sacker returned to Milwaukee as player-manager of the Indianapolis Indians to challenge the Brewers in a league contest in Athletic Park.

"Larrupin' Larry Lajoie's Log Licks the Locals" blared the *Milwaukee Journal's* alliterative headline the next day in describing the result. Fans witnessed a sloppy game in cold, rainy conditions. Each team committed five errors, and ten men walked. Lajoie committed one of the errors in the first inning, fumbling a double-play attempt on John Beall's bouncer. His big contribution, though, as referenced in the colorful headline, was a first-inning home run with two runners aboard that in the end provided the margin of victory. The three-run blast, which landed on Eighth Street, came after the slugger had fouled off an assortment of [Dickey Kerr's](#) pitches. Kerr was no slouch—the following year he was the Chicago Black Sox's number three starting hurler, winning two of the three games the Soiled Sox won in the World Series. Even so, he could not fire the ball past the 43-year-old Lajoie.

Before leaving town, "the eminent Frenchman," as the scribes liked to call Lajoie, also proved to possess diplomatic skills. When asked about the Brewers' chances in the American Association, he responded, "I believe that your boys are as good as the eastern clubs."

#### 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 sites.

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

## What's Happening with the Dock-Hounds in Oconomowoc?

### Dock-Hounds Announce Coaching Staff



Two former Brewers and a previous league “Best Manager,” boasting winning records from the MLB to Olympic level — Safe to say: The coaching staff for the Dock-Hounds are an All-Star team. And we can't wait to let them Off the Leash.

**Jim Bennett, Manager**, returns to the American Association after being named 2019 Manager of the Year, one of many accolades across a winning 30-year career.

**Dave Nilsson, Bench/Hitting Coach**, is a [former Milwaukee Brewer](#), 1999 All-Star and Silver Medalist representing the Australian Olympic Baseball Team.

**Paul Wagner, Bullpen Coach**, pitched for the Milwaukee Brewers, Pittsburgh Pirates and Cleveland Indians, and is a well-known radio personality for 97.3 The Game. [Wagner](#), born in Milwaukee, attended Washington High School.

There is a lot happening on the ballpark as well. Here are some items that will take place after Labor Day:

- Light Poles going up
- Currently fabricating walls and they will be erected
- Mid-September, all stone for parking lots will be laid
- Steel for the Bowl area will start to go up
- All footings for the building are complete
- Working on drainage system that goes under the turf



**NOW AVAILABLE**  
FULL & HALF- SEASON PASSES

**Trish Rasberry**  
General Manager

[Lake Country DockHounds](#)



### Schabowski's Super Stumpers

By [Rick Schabowski](#)

September 2021

1. On May 28, 1988, which Brewers pitcher lost his perfect game after 7 1/3 innings?
2. In 1983, against which team did Robin Yount get his 1,500 career base hit?
3. Who was the first Brewer to have six hits in a game?
4. Which Brewer hit for the cycle in 2004?
5. In 1991, which team did the Brewers play in a six-hour game?

*(Answers can be found at the end of this newsletter.)*



#### Answer to August's Trivia - Brewer Pitching

1. Which Brewers pitcher threw two wild pitches in an inning during the 1982 World Series?  
**Doc Medich - G6, 6th Inning**
2. As long as we're talking about wild pitches, who holds the MLB postseason record for them in an inning? **Cardinals, Rick Ankiel, five WP, third inning, G1 of the 2000 NL Division Series**
3. Who holds the Brewers team record for regular season saves? **John Axford, 46, 2011**
4. Which Brewers pitcher led the league in game appearances for the 2019 season? **Alex Claudio, 83**
5. Name the pitcher, the year, and how many victories he had to lead the Brewers in games won in a single season? **Mike Caldwell, 1978, 22**
6. Who leads the Brewers in all-time career wins? **Jim Slaton, 117**

## SABR/IWBC Women in Baseball Conference

SABR and the [International Women's Baseball Center](#) have opened registration for the third annual SABR/IWBC Women in Baseball Conference, which will be held virtually on September 10-12, 2021.

The conference will be highlighted by keynote speaker **Dana Bookman**, founder and CEO of Canadian Girls Baseball and the founding Vice President of American Girls Baseball; a presentation about an upcoming documentary film, *Her Game is Hardball*, with director/producer **Mark Durand** and writer/producer **Selena Roberts**; a virtual awards ceremony and pylon unveiling; panel discussions on international umpires, with **Lisa Turbitt Baker**, **Sophiyah Liu**, **Eva Moo**, and **Perry Barber**; researching women's baseball with **Cecilia Tan** and **Kate Haines**; and personal stories, with **Laura Hirai** and **Suzie Hunter**; and more insightful research presentations.



Attendees can also participate in the SABR/IWBC Women in Baseball Raffle. Prizes include a Rockford Peaches jigsaw puzzle; Phil Niekro signed baseball; Bob Feller signed baseball; Colorado Silver Bullets baseball cards; AAGPBL bobblehead; and more.

This year's conference theme is "Breaking Barriers: Women in Baseball Around the World."

- **Register:** [Click here to register online](#). The conference is open to all baseball fans.
- **Cost:** Virtual attendance is \$50 per person, and includes access to all panels and presentations, pylon unveiling, a digital program, and 1 raffle ticket. Additional raffle tickets are \$5 apiece.
- **Schedule:** [Click here for complete details on panels and presentations](#).
- **Contact:** For questions, please contact [Leslie Heaphy](#) or [Kat Williams](#).

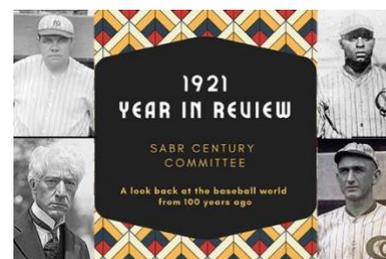


## Check out SABR Century Committee's new 1921 Year in Review project

The 1921 season was a pivotal one in baseball history. SABR's Century Committee invites you to join us on a journey back in time to learn more about baseball during the Jazz Age one hundred years ago with our [1921 Century Project](#), featuring stories, games, and highlights with contributions from more than 70 SABR members.

Led by Babe Ruth's record-setting 59 home runs, the New York Yankees began [establishing a dynasty](#) that would span most of the twentieth century by winning their first American League pennant, setting up an epic [all-New York City matchup](#) in the World Series with the rival Giants of John McGraw. The [Negro National League](#) celebrated its second season of play in 1921, led by stars like Triple Crown winner Oscar Charleston and two-way phenom Bullet Rogan. And baseball at all levels saw a growing trend toward home run-happy offenses as the game [entered the Lively Ball Era](#).

The sport also became more widely accessible in the early 1920s to fans who were able to follow along from their homes by tuning in to [games on the radio](#). Finally, American culture still reverberates with the ruling made by baseball's newly hired commissioner, [Kenesaw Mountain Landis](#), [banning eight disgraced Black Sox players](#) for life after they were caught fixing the 1919 World Series.



## McFarland's New Authorized County Stadium Book Project

Date: Mon, 23 Aug 2021 05:47:55 -0500

From: Gregory Wolf <[ghwolf1967@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ghwolf1967@GMAIL.COM)>

Subject: Publishing opportunity (from David Cicotello and Andy Terrick)



David Cicotello and Andy Terrick seek writers for two sections in a future volume on Milwaukee County Stadium for the McFarland Historic Ballparks series.

Topic 1: A chapter on the decline and abandonment of County Stadium as a viable venue for the Milwaukee Brewers before the move to Miller Park.

Topic 2: A section of summaries on collegiate baseball and football tenants as well as notable non-sporting events at County Stadium, including rock concerts; religious programs; and civic events.

To express your interest and learn more about the topics, please contact David Cicotello and Andy Terrick at [historicballparks@gmail.com](mailto:historicballparks@gmail.com). Thank you.



### Opportunity to Participate in a New Project

I receive the following email with an opportunity to participate in a new opportunity. DDD



#### To Chapter Leadership

This message is being sent to you for potential distribution to your chapter members at the recommendation of SABR CEO Scott Bush. The purpose of this message is to invite SABR members, representing all special interests, to submit their respective stories about how baseball touched their lives. The stories will be published in a commemorative book titled *My Baseball Story: The Game's Influence on America*. Please go to [www.MyBaseballStory.com](http://www.MyBaseballStory.com) for more details and how to submit your story. Approximately 200 stories will be selected from all submissions to be featured in the coffee-table book.

We are collecting stories from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds in response to the question, "What does baseball mean to me? ". However, we believe that the stories submitted by SABR members are very likely to be highly unusual due to the members exceptional passion for baseball.

You of all people know that baseball fans are a breed apart! Therefore, throughout our quest for the more remarkable stories, we hope to capture this unique sentiment; i.e., the fullest range of fan moments, experiences and insights from the super fanatics, the casual baseball fan, and from notables whose passion for the game is legendary.

Thank you for your help in achieving our goal. We are eager to read *your* story and those of your colleagues. I can be reached at 303-986-1919 or 303-475-8883.

Sincerely,

Nick Del Calzo, Project Director

[njdelcalzo@gmail.com](mailto:njdelcalzo@gmail.com)

# THE "HOLY COW"

[The Newsletter of the Halsey Hall Chapter](#)  
Society for American Baseball Research (SABR)

## Schabowski's Super Stumpers

Answers:

1. Odell Jones
2. Los Angeles Angels
3. John Briggs
4. Wes Helms
5. Chicago White Sox