

THE BALTIMORE CHOP



SABR Babe Ruth Chapter

Vol. 3, No. 4

Winter 2019-20

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President's Message

People join SABR for different reasons, but one of the most rewarding aspects of the Society for me is the opportunity to spend time with fellow members. Without SABR, it would be fairly difficult to find, befriend and associate with people who value the game of baseball as much as I do. Inside, however, there is opportunity galore to visit with members online and in person (and sometimes over the phone) who are as avid as I am about baseball, its history, its complexity and its beauty.

I am not ashamed to admit that I am not the best researcher or most dedicated writer, but you won't find many people who attend more SABR functions and meetings. As I've said on many occasions, "These are my people." The chance we have to congregate and share each other's interests and experiences is, I've come to appreciate, at the heart of SABR. The very formation of a chapter is acknowledgement that we need to interact with each other on some kind of regular basis for the Society to fulfill its mission.

If I have not met you before and we attend a meeting together, please come and introduce yourself. You no

President ▶ Page 4

SABR Day/BRRC 5: Another Hit!

By Michelle Freeman
Chapter Secretary

The Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter (BBRC) celebrated "BBRC 5" (SABR Day) on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at the Peabody Heights Brewery—former site of Terrapin Park/Oriole Park (V) in Baltimore. Unlike last year's event, when we were huddled together in the brewery with the room temperature less than ideal and our speakers competing with the lively sounds of a wedding reception, this year we made our way back to the PHB barroom, the facilities main public area!

Although it was Pro Bowl Sunday for the NFL, we hosted 45 people for our annual meeting. It was also a reunion of sorts because, among the guests and speakers, two of our chapter's charter board members, Bernard McKenna and Gary Levy, were on hand for an afternoon of baseball research presentations, beer, trivia and conversation.

The day began with opening remarks by chapter president Bruce Brown. He announced that SABR 50 would be held this summer in Baltimore and that the planning committee was hard at work. Chapter elections



The house specialty, also on tap (David Stinson photo)

followed, and Bruce was re-elected to another term as president. Dick O'Keefe, owner of Peabody Heights Brewery and had been serving as treasurer, was elected to the position. At the conclusion of the business portion of the annual meeting, BBRC 5 was under way.

Our first presenter was no stranger to this crowd. Charlie Vascellaro thrilled the audience with a wonderful pictorial presentation about finding what seemed like a random baseball glove while working a garbage truck route in Arizona in the early 1990s. Ever the researcher, Charlie would

SABR Day ▶ Page 7

- ▶ July 15-19
- ▶ Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor
300 Light Street, Baltimore
- ▶ Register at <https://profile.sabr.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1249654>
- ▶ Early-bird discount expires June 1
- ▶ There is no host chapter discount
- ▶ Watch for information on volunteering at SABR 50



SABR Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter Formed 2015

Board of Directors

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Find us on [Facebook](#), too.

Calendar

Regularly scheduled events

Peeps @ The Peeb

Conversation, nibbles, libations
First Wednesday of the month, 7-9 PM
Peabody Heights Brewery, 401 E. 30th St., Baltimore

Talkin' Baseball

Since 2001, Bob Davids Chapter hosts a guest speaker
First Saturday of the month, 9 AM
Brighton Gardens, 7110 Minstrel Way, Columbia

Called Shot lunch

BYO lunch and talk baseball
Third Wednesday of the month, noon
Babe Ruth Museum, 216 Emory St., Baltimore

March

16: March Madness Preview with Walt Williams and Tony Massenburg, Babe Ruth Museum, 216 Emory St., Baltimore, 6-8 PM, 410-727-1539, baberuthmuseum.org.

26: Orioles open at home vs. Yankees

26: 30th Annual Opening Day Block Party, Babe Ruth Museum, 216 Emory St., Baltimore, 11:30 AM-2:30 PM, 410-727-1539, baberuthmuseum.org

26: Nationals open in New York vs. Mets

April

1: Peeps @ The Peeb

2: Nationals home opener vs. Mets

4: Talkin' Baseball, Paul Scimonelli, "Joe Cambia: Saint or Scoundrel: Life of Baseball Scout"

15: Called Shot lunch

May

2: Talkin' Baseball, Mitchell Nathanson, "Life of a Baseball Original"

2: Minor-league outing (co-hosted with Bob Davids Chapter), Frederick Keys at Fredericksburg (Va.) Nationals

6: Peeps @ The Peeb

20: Called Shot lunch

June

3: Peeps @ The Peeb

6: Talkin' Baseball, TBA

17: Called Shot lunch

Getting to Know ... Jim Considine

Jim Considine, a frequent contributor to *The Baltimore Chop*, has been a SABR member since 2010. Baltimore-born and -bred, he's an ardent Oriole fan who counts the Washington Nationals as a second favorite team.

His first game was at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium, but his favorite memories come from Camden Yards, his favorite ballpark: games 2130, 2131, 2132 and 2133 of Cal Ripken's streak.

Favorite players? More Orioles numbers: 5, 8 (of course), 20, 22 and 33 (Brooks Robinson, Ripken, Frank Robinson, Jim Palmer and Eddie Murray, to the uninitiated).

Jim's third career (he's retired) was in Baltimore sports—as manager of the Ravens' press box for eight seasons. "I had the pleasure of managing the press box for the Baltimore Ravens from 1996 to 2003," he says. "It was 'on-the-job-training' for a role that was, at the time, undefined. The people that I met and worked with were terrific.

Most of the media who covered the Ravens also covered the Orioles. After my time with the Ravens, I made an unlikely move of working as a football statistician for the Washington Redskins. A football statistician is a fancy name for a scorekeeper, except that there were 10 of us compared to baseball. These jobs were performed on game days only and were, in essence, my hobby at the time."

Now his hobbies are photography and gardening.

He has also been involved with a couple of other local sports institutions, the Roland Park Baseball League (15 years) and lacrosse (four years).

And his first career has a Baltimore sports connection: He started in the restaurant business working for retired Baltimore Colts Johnny Unitas and Bobby Boyd, going from bus-boy to general manager 10 years later.



Trivia Corner

Which Orioles have played the most games for the team since 1954?

The number of games is listed.

The order really isn't important. It's just how many you can name.

1.		3,001
2.		2,896
3.		1,962
4.		1,884
5.		1,763
6.		1,759
7.		1,700
8.		1,613
9.		1,446
10.		1,428

Follow That Bus! A Tale from the Eastern Shore League

By Marty Payne

1924 was the third season of the new Class D Eastern Shore League of the Delmarva Peninsula, sometimes referred to as the "Baby Loop". The aggregate population of the six towns participating totaled 23,000. The teams took the field with local nicknames like the Cambridge Cannery, Crisfield Crabbers, Easton Farmers, Dover Dobbins and Parksley Spuds. Even the Salisbury Indians were named for their most renowned town team of the 1870s, which had identified with Native American headman White Cloud.

The league was beset with many problems typical of the era. There was a limit placed on the number of players with experience at a higher level, which was usually ignored. The salary cap was rendered pointless, primarily through creative illegal contracts. Mass forfeits for violations of these rules would become a problem. The league was also tasked with developing up-and-coming stars, but rosters were still filled with veterans of the independent professional town ball that had preceded it. No one could know then that three destined for the Hall of Fame, Red Ruffing, Mickey Cochrane and Jimmie Foxx, had played on league teams by 1924.

Rowdiness and physical violence were frequent occurrences, often fueled by rampant gambling, a baseball tradition in these small towns for nearly 60 years. The rabid "ball bugs" were responsible for much of the violence. In the inaugural season of 1922, an umpire was jumped and struck on the back of the head, landing him in the hospital for a week. In another, an umpire was struck with a club to the back of the head as he fled into a dugout and was sent home to Baltimore to recuperate. Players, managers and umpires physically fought each other on a consistent basis throughout the league's six-year existence.¹

Commissioner Landis couched two visits to the league in 1923 and 1924 as social events, but they were actually inspections to make sure the baby loop was living up to his expectations. Wanton disdain for rules with illegal contracts, forfeits, folding franchises, violence and veteran outlaw players had the judge's attention.

Landis' 1924 visit was just days away when the Salisbury team bus pulled into the parking lot of the Cambridge Cannery's park. The game was unusually uneventful, a Salisbury victory. The Indians stopped at a restaurant in Cambridge for supper before heading home. That, also, was uneventful. As the bus pulled down the street, one of the Indians saw a friend on the street and yelled out to him by his nickname, "Hey, Hawkshaw!"

Standing on the street was Officer Hurley, who thought the player was yelling at him, and for some strange reason, thought Hawkshaw was some kind of insult. Hurley did not stew long as the bus rode down the street. Without a vehicle of his own, Hurley "commandeered" a Ford. It did not take long to catch the unsuspecting Indians, and Hurley stormed onto and took on the whole bus.

"Which one of you [expletives] called me Hawkshaw?" he demanded. Freddie Fitzberger, signed by the Indians as a utility player, was now a starting outfielder and one of the leading hitters in the league. The young man answered for the bus, "There are no [expletives] on this bus."

Then they began to "raze the cop," so Hurley decided to arrest the whole bus.

At the station, the verbal exchange between officer and the Indians continued, and captain Dick Early was charged and put in a cell. Teammates sent back cigarettes and chewing tobacco, expecting an extended stay. They then passed the hat to raise the \$100 bail. Most Class D players didn't make enough money to get home at the end of the season, and the smart ones negotiated passage in their contracts. Now they had just spent their meal money. Fitzberger knew they could



July 19, 1923: Judge Landis Day in Salisbury. Photo from SABR Game Project account (courtesy of Jimmy Keenan). Read about it: <https://sabr.org/content/landis-day-game-july-19-1923>

pass six hats and not come up with that kind of money, so he dashed out and soon returned with Cambridge resident Robert Matthews, the treasurer of the league. He then went looking for the mayor. It was Matthews who bailed out Early. The Indians were jubilant upon being set free.

The driver pulled out and motored through the town, slowly. The buses of the 1920s had a bell as well as a horn. One player laid on the horn, while another rang the bell incessantly, as the players whooped and hollered in their slow, vengeful procession out of town. The Salisbury account stated that the only thing the Indians were guilty of was "snatching victory from the hands of the Cambridge Cannery and robbing the fans of an upward march for the pennant."²

References

1. *The Baltimore Sun*, June 18, and August 9, 1922
2. *Salisbury Daily Times*, August 6, 1924

There's a Museum for That

Learn more about the Eastern Shore League at the Eastern Shore Baseball Hall of Fame Museum in Salisbury. The museum is open during Delmarva Shorebirds home games (doors open one hour before game time). Individual and group tours are available. During the off-season, the museum is open for tours by appointment only. For information, call 410-546-4444 (leave message) or email info@esbaseballhalloffame.org



The Year 'Diamond Jim' Brought Power to Baltimore

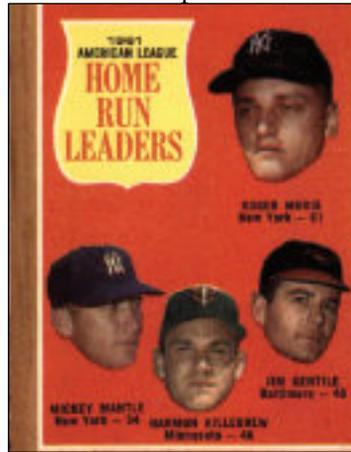
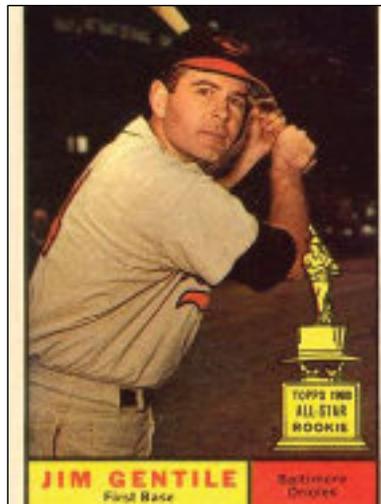
By Francis Kinlaw

For several years after the St. Louis Browns moved east to Baltimore (i.e., from 1954 through 1959), the Orioles depended on pitching and defense rather than a solid offense to achieve limited success. Not only had batters capable of frequently reaching outfield fences (with the exception of Gus Triandos) been absent from Baltimore rosters, but the dimensions of Memorial Stadium's playing field presented a challenge even to noted sluggers on opposing teams.

However, following a promising 1960 campaign that featured a season-long pennant race with the powerful New York Yankees, the club's run production improved markedly in 1961 due to an exceptional performance by free-swinging first baseman "Diamond Jim" Gentile.

During a season marked by the American League's expansion from eight to 10 franchises (with the addition of a new group of Washington Senators and the Los Angeles Angels), Gentile hit 46 home runs and drove in 141 runs.

While the season-long home-run derby between Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle dominated headlines, Gentile's number of homers—which easily surpassed Baltimore's previous record of 30 established by Triandos in 1958—was remarkable in its own right. Furthermore, the big first baseman's RBI total equaled the high number posted by Maris and placed the two sluggers in a tie for the league lead in that category.



Gentile was first and foremost a slugger (his 147 hits in 1961 included 73 extra-base hits), but his batting average was an impressive .302. Consequently, he deserved his third-place finish in voting for the American League's Most Valuable Player award (behind Mantle and Maris but slightly ahead of Detroit's Norm Cash) as the Orioles finished in third place with a record of 95-67.

Because "Diamond Jim" was so essential to his team's first-division performance, these details pertaining to the many long drives he tagged during the 1961 season are relevant:

- Ninety-one of Gentile's 141 RBIs (64.5%) resulted from the 46 baseballs he hit over various fences and walls. The number of RBIs as well as the percentage of RBIs linked to homers received a significant boost from five round-trippers that occurred with the bases loaded. (Two of those big blows came on May 9th against the Minnesota Twins. The other three were hit against the Detroit Tigers on July 2nd, against the Kansas City Athletics on July 7th, and against the Chicago White Sox on September 22nd.)

- Gentile hit only 16 of his 46 home runs (34.8%) in front of fans in Memorial Stadium. Given the expanse of the local ballpark, that statistical "split" is not surprising.

The bottom line for 1961

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	AVG
148	486	96	147	25	2	46	141	96	106	.302

- Only eight of the slugger's 46 homers (17.4%) were hit off left-handed pitchers. This small percentage of Gentile's total can be attributed to two facts. First, he obviously preferred to face right-handed pitching (his "slash" lines for the 1961 season were .320/.441/.711 against righties; .256/.373/.474 against lefties). And second, only 27.4% of Gentile's plate appearances were against southpaws.

- Pedro Ramos of the Twins and Bob Shaw of the White Sox and, later, the Athletics topped the list of Gentile's "mound victims" with three gopher balls each. (Shaw surrendered one homer to Gentile while on Chicago's pitching staff and then two more after being traded to the Athletics.)

- Six pitchers delivered two home runs to Gentile: Gene Conley of the Red Sox, Billy Pierce of the White Sox, Jim Bunning of the Tigers, Art Ditmar of the Athletics, and a pair of members of the Angels' staff (Ryne Duren and Ron Kline).

- And, finally, these 28 hurlers watched from the mound as one of Gentile's drives flew out of a playing field: Jim Coates and Bill Stafford (Yankees); Gary Bell, Johnny Antonelli and Bob Allen (Indians); Paul Foytack, Bob Bruce, Fred Gladding, Phil Regan, Bill Fischer, Don Mossi and Hank Aguirre (Tigers); Paul Giel, Don Lee and Al Schroll (Twins); Tom Morgan, Jerry Casale, Johnny James, Ted Bowsfield and Ron Moeller (Angels); Jerry Walker, Ed Rakow and Norm Bass (Athletics); Billy Muffett, Ike Delock and Bill Monbouquette (Red Sox); Don Larsen (White Sox); and Johnny Klippstein (Senators).

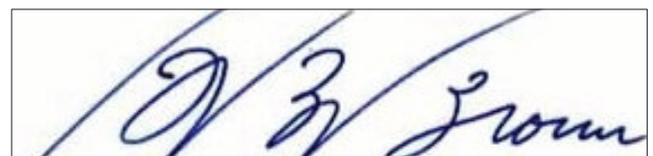
Trivia Answer

1.	Cal Ripken	3,001
2.	Brooks Robinson	2,896
3.	Mark Belanger	1,962
4.	Eddie Murray	1,884
5.	Boog Powell	1,763
6.	Brady Anderson	1,759
7.	Paul Blair	1,700
8.	Adam Jones	1,613
9.	Ken Singleton	1,446
10.	Al Bumbry	1,428

President ► From Page 1

doubt have many things you know about the game and many experiences to share, and I love having the opportunity to have some of that rub off.

I look forward to talking with you at our next meeting.



Schuerholz Figured Prominently in Royals' Expansion Draft

By Maxwell Kates

In 2018, Bill Nowlin and I co-edited *Time for Expansion Baseball*, an anthology of the formation of all 14 expansion teams and the personalities who played for them. Included among the articles was a statistical analysis that addressed which team yielded the most successful expansion draft. The team which earned the most points was the Kansas City Royals. After winning 85 games in 1971 and their first division title in 1976, the Royals remained a perennial contender in the American League West through 1989. Like the era, the Royals executives who ap- more, taking the Oriole Way" with teams. For the Roy- executives was even Baltimore.



League West many franchises of were overseen by prenticed in Balti- teachings of "the them to their new als, one of these ex- born and raised in

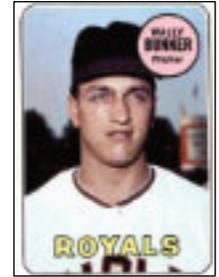
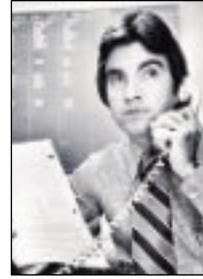
The same city that Ruth and Al Kaline produced Babe also generated John Schuerholz. Born October 1, 1940, Schuerholz was educated at Towson State Teachers College and was trained as a teacher. After serving his Uncle Sam, Schuerholz wrote Orioles owner Jerold Hoffberger in 1966 to ask for a job. He got one, working for director of player development Lou Gorman. When Gorman joined the expansion Kansas City Royals in 1968, he took Schuerholz with him.

Not surprisingly, the Royals' first selection in the expansion draft was a former Oriole, Roger Nelson. The tall right- hander from California split the 1968 season between the Orioles and Rochester, pitching an aggregate 7-3 record. Nelson's best season with the Royals was 1972, going 11-6 with a 2.08 earned run average and a league-leading 0.87 walks and hits per innings pitched. Nelson's ratio of 120 strikeouts to 31 walks was also the best in the junior circuit for 1972. That winter, Nelson was sent to Cincinnati in a trade for Hal McRae, who became a marquee player for Kansas City until he retired in 1987.

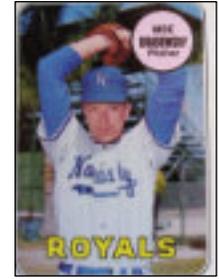
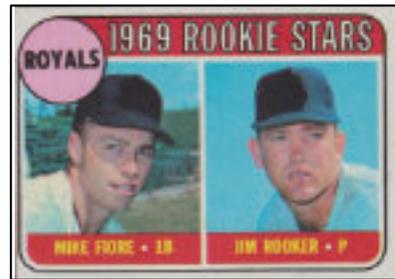
Other former Orioles selected in the expansion draft by Kansas City included infielder Mike Fiore and pitchers Wally Bunker and Moe Drabowsky. Fiore, a Brooklyn native, showed brilliance at first base for Rochester in 1968, registering a .995 fielding percentage in 105 games for the Red Wings. Bunker pitched a stellar 19-5 for the Orioles in 1964 before winning Game 3 of the 1966 World Series. Injuries limited him to 18 appearances in 1968 but he was effective, going 2-0 with a 2.41 earned run average. Drabowsky pitched a perfect 6-0 for the 1966 world champions, striking out 96 batters in 98 innings. In Game 1 of the World Series, he set a record for relief pitchers by fanning 11 Los Angeles Dodgers.

Despite arriving in Kansas City with high pedigrees, the accomplishments of Fiore, Bunker and Drabowsky with the Royals were modest. All three had left by 1971. However, it was another Orioles farmhand who became an early star for the Royals. Lou Piniella was acquired in a trade with the Seattle Pilots at the conclusion of spring training in 1969. On Opening Day, April 8, 1969, Piniella led off with the first official at-bat, rapped the first hit, and scored the first run in Royals history. The run proved to be the margin of victory in a 4-3 win over the Minnesota Twins. For the season, Piniella hit 11 home runs while driving in 68 and batting .282, good for the American League Rookie of the Year Award. Like Roger Nelson, Piniella's best season was also 1972. Sweet Lou, Kansas City's representative at the All-Star Game in Atlanta, batted .312 while leading the junior circuit with 33 doubles.

Another noteworthy Oriole selected by the Royals in the expansion draft, though he never played for Kansas City, was Hoyt Wilhelm. A right-handed knuckleball relief spe-



The Baltimore-Kansas City Connection

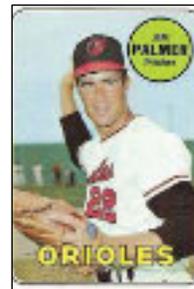


cialist, Wilhelm broke in with the New York Giants in 1952, and hit his only home run his first at-bat. He pitched in parts of five seasons with the Orioles from 1958 to 1962. In a rare start on September 15, 1958, Wilhelm no-hit the New York Yankees, who were en route to yet another world championship. As a member of the 1968 Chicago White Sox, Wilhelm broke Cy Young's record for the most games pitched in the major leagues. After selecting Wilhelm in the expansion draft, the Royals dispatched him to the California Angels for outfielder Ed Kirkpatrick and catcher Dennis Paepke.

No story about the Orioles and the 1968 expansion draft would be complete without acknowledging the player who was exposed to the draft and was not selected. After defeating the great Sandy Koufax in Game 2 of the 1966 World Series, Jim Palmer's career appeared to be at a premature end. Shoulder and back injuries limited Palmer to nine starts in 1967 and shelved him for the entire 1968 season. Neither the Royals nor the Pilots were interested in selecting him during their expansion drafts. The rest of the Palmer legend is history. Returning to active duty in 1969, he pitched a no-hitter while contributing 16 of Baltimore's 109 wins. The winningest pitcher of the 1970s, Palmer earned three Cy Young Awards and four Gold Glove awards. He retired in 1984 with 268 victories and never gave up a grand slam in a major-league uniform.

Although the Royals entered the American League with a pedestrian 69-93 record good for fourth place, it would not take long for them to rise to the top. Besides Roger Nelson, the expansion draft yielded players such as Dick Drago, Al Fitzmorris and Bob Oliver. And besides Piniella and McRae, players such as Amos Otis, Fred Patek and Steve Mingori were acquired in trades generated by expansion players. Along with homegrown players like Frank White and George Brett, the Royals became a legitimate contender in the American League West by 1975. Six of the next 10 seasons would feature the Royals in the playoffs.

John Schuerholz rose through the ranks with the Kansas City Royals, ultimately becoming the team's general manager in 1981. During his nine years at the helm, Schuerholz

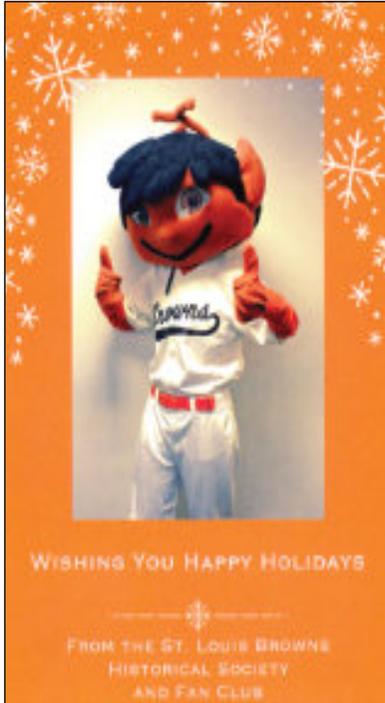


Schuerholz ► Continued on Page 8

An Oriole Fan's Creed

I believe in baseball, the great American pastime.
 I believe in the Baltimore Orioles, a charter member of the American League.
 I believe in Memorial Stadium, the magnificent home of the Orioles for 37 years.
 I believe in The Oriole Way, and that "perfect practice makes perfect."
 I believe in pitching, defense, and the three-run homer and in the wisdom of the Earl of Baltimore.
 I believe in the legendary play of Brooks and Frank, Palmer, Steady Eddie and the Iron Man.
 I believe in Oriole Park at Camden Yards, still the crown jewel of all major-league venues.
 I believe in summer nights, pennant drives, The Streak and Oriole Magic.
 I believe in the enthusiasm of Wild Bill Hagy, and I still thank God that I'm a country boy.
 I believe in the All-Star appearances, Gold Gloves, Silver Sluggers, Cy Young Awards, MVPs and the Triple Crown, which are all part of Orioles lore.
 I believe in the wild card, division titles, AL pennants and World Series titles.
 I believe that baseball is a team sport where both winning and losing are part of the game.
 I believe that only through suffering and hard times can absolute victory be achieved.
 I believe that championship-caliber baseball will return to Charm City.
 I will remain loyal to the orange and black for the remainder of my days.

--Peter Coolbaugh



Browns Fans, Their Club and a Baltimore Connection

The St. Louis Browns may be 66 years gone (they became the Baltimore Orioles in 1954), but they have not been forgotten. The St. Louis Browns Historical Society has been keeping their memory alive for 36 years. Its website is thestlbrowns.com.

Jim Considine, true-orange Oriole fan (see profile on Page 2), isn't sure how he got involved with them.

Here's his story:

I do know that a couple of the members were peeved because the Baltimore Orioles did not publish the Browns statistics in their media guide. I spoke with Bill Stetka of the Orioles on the matter, and he wrote a lengthy explanation as to why the Orioles snubbed the Browns. Actually, the Orioles would publish the Browns records some years and then they skipped other years. I think it was up to whoever was running the club and how close they were to the "Veeck Wrecks".

When I discovered the 1956 Orioles opening day picture with the Orioles wearing the 1953 Browns jackets in the dugout, I shared that fact with them, which they ran on the front page of their newsletter [Jim's account of this opening day photo ran in the Spring 2019 issue of TBC].

In 2016, I flew out to St. Louis for the membership luncheon, where I met Don Larsen, who was the guest of honor. The highlight of the day was attending a Cardinals game where Don Larsen and the Browns fan club were honored before the game. The best part of the trip was the Eddie Gaedel bobblehead that was given to the Cards fans in honor of one of the most famous Browns.

Welcome, New Members

	Hometown	Month joined
Bruce Besore	Baltimore	January
Rick Besore	Perry Hall	January
Scott Besore	Burtonsville	January
Tom Bradley	Columbia	October
Milbert Brown	Columbia	February
Jim Case	Baltimore	February
Richard Hardesty	Arnold	February
Michael Licea	Baltimore	February
James Sullivan	Severna Park	December





A year after a chilly afternoon in the brewery, the SABR Day crowd enjoys the warmth of Peabody Heights Brewery's bar. (David Stinson photo)

SABR Day ▶ From Page 1



Charlie Vascellaro, recounts finding baseball treasure as a garbageman.

soon discover that the left-handed glove was a Bill Werber model. Charlie then described a series of adventures that took him to the library at Cooperstown and the Babe Ruth Museum in Baltimore; and ultimately moving permanently to Baltimore. He contacted Bill Werber by mail and was pleased to receive a quick reply which led to further correspondence. "The Glove Story" was a fascinating tale of how one person's garbage was a baseball treasure that connected Char-

lie to V I P s in the world o f baseball, baseball research and the start of a career as a baseball writer.

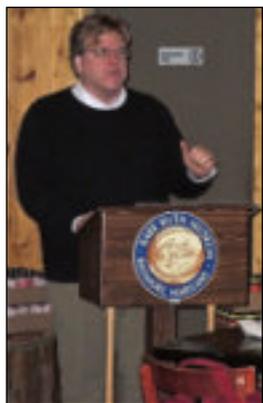
Next, Dick O'Keefe gave a brief history of old Oriole Park, on whose very foundation we were seated! He told of efforts to make the brewery into a museum and shrine to old Baltimore baseball.



Dick O'Keefe owns the brewery and has added to its old Oriole Park history.

During his restoration efforts, Dick came into contact with chapter board member David Stinson, who introduced him to Bernard McKenna. Bernard and David are responsible for the artifacts on display at the brewery.

After Dick's inspirational introduction, Bernard presented research from his forthcoming book, *The Baltimore Black Sox: A Negro Leagues History, 1913-1936* (McFarland). The presentation focused on a relatively unknown yet superbly talented player, John Beckwith, and the Black Sox's triumphs and disappointments as a member of the Eastern Colored League. Bernard read an excerpt from his book that highlighted the importance of Beckwith to the team's



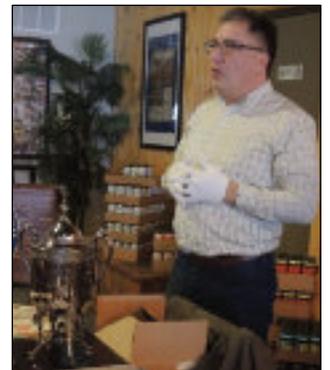
Bernard McKenna makes the Hall of Fame case for John Beckwith.



Rich Dubroff analyzes the O's.

success and ultimately made a strong case that Beckwith should be considered for the Baseball Hall of Fame. Next up was Rich Dubroff, a writer for BaltimoreBaseball.com, who spoke about the Orioles' rebuilding efforts and when we could expect the O's to return to their "glory days." He estimated that the O's would struggle in the next two seasons, but he was optimistic that by 2022, things should start to turn. Dubroff discussed the struggles the O's front office has in getting people to games when the team is awful. He noted that it shouldn't be ignored that a more competitive team—and current World Series champion—the Washington Nationals, is hurting the O's chances of keeping fans in Camden Yards. He went onto say that the 2020 season is about seeing which players can help the O's going forward and not to stress over the win-loss record, which, unless a miracle happens in spring training, will be less than ideal.

Shawn Herne, Executive Director of the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum, began his presentation by highlighting a subject that nearly every SABR member loves: STATISTICS! However, these were not baseball statistics but numbers that illustrated the challenges of operating a museum in the 21st century, particularly in Baltimore amid concerns regarding safety. He implored the audience to brainstorm ideas in which the Babe Ruth Museum and SABR could collaborate to keep Baltimore's rich baseball history alive and how best to share this history with the next generation. He brought a silver tea set that had been awarded to pitcher Matt Kilroy, whose 513 strikeouts in 1886 have never been equaled, and told of the many other rare articles the museum has.



Shawn Herne of the Babe Ruth Museum with the Matt Kilroy (513 Ks in 1886) tea set.

Richard Hershberger batted next, metaphorically speaking. He spoke about his book *Strike Four: The Evolution of Baseball* and what had led him to a fascination of how baseball rules developed and evolved. This topic that had the crowd engaged, leading to a lively discussion of the infield

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Coming Together: A Baseball Journey Continues

By Peter Coolbaugh

Way back in early 2007, my life was much different. I was single, had a job, took care of my cats and went to a few games a year at Oriole Park. Life was fairly simple in my new city. And I was kind of bored.

SABR Day ▶ From Page 1



Rules guru Richard Hertshberger leads a lively discussion of the infield fly rule.

fly rule and the rule allowing a batter to try for first base if a third strike is dropped. Richard added the historic details of each.

The day concluded with Paul Scimonelli's presentation, "Joe Cambria: Saint or Scoundrel." Cambria had a fascinating life and baseball career, which had ties to Baltimore via Babe Ruth and Bugle Field (home field for the Baltimore Black Sox and Baltimore Elite Giants). Surrounded by artifacts in the brewery featuring the Black Sox, it was fitting for Paul to be the last man up as he related how Cambria

pur-
chased
the
Black
Sox in
1932



Paul Scimonelli introduces the group to the fascinating life of Joe Cambria.

and moved the team to the Negro National League. Cambria also did barnstorming games with many Negro Leaguers. Paul painted him as a man well ahead of his time.

In addition to this lineup of top-notch speakers, there were box lunches from Panera Bread, thanks to Renee Coolbaugh of RCC Weddings and Events, who helped arrange lunch. Our popular annual raffle netted the chapter \$180.

BBRC5 was a success! The crowd left energized, excited, inspired and full of baseball books to help tide them over until every baseball fan's favorite words, "Play Ball!" No fret, Opening Day is just around the corner.

Schuerholz ▶ From Page 5

oversaw the Royals' first World Series championship in 1985 before signing George Brett, Willie Wilson and Dan Quisenberry to lifetime contracts. He left the Royals in 1990 to become general manager of the Kansas City's representative at the All-Star Game in Atlanta, Braves. Under Schuerholz' watch, which lasted through 2007, the Braves won 14 division titles, culminating with a World Series championship in 1995. For most of those years, the Braves were anchored by Tom Glavine, John Smoltz and Greg Maddux in the rotation, quite possibly the strongest triumvirate in a pitching rotation since Jim Palmer, Dave McNally and Mike Cuellar for the Orioles. Schuerholz was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2017. He never forgot his Baltimore roots as he oversaw two franchises, Kansas City and Atlanta, develop into premiere baseball franchises, winning pennants and championships the Oriole way.

Not long after I became a member of the Babe Ruth Birthplace & Museum, I began volunteering there twice a month. Later that year, on the recommendation of someone, I joined the Bob Davids Chapter of SABR in D.C. since it was the closest one. For the first few years, I did not attend many SABR activities outside of the annual meeting and some of the monthly book discussions. Most of the events seemed to be in the D.C. region, and it was hard for me to get there on a regular basis.

As 2008 began, I was asked to join the museum staff part-time in the summer to help out on busy Orioles weekends. By 2009, I was still on staff, had joined the Oriole Advocates and had become a 13-game plan holder for the first time. My involvement was deepening a bit since my love for baseball was great.

In Baltimore, I became the point man for SABR D.C. when the chapter hosted a game at Oriole Park every other year. Bruce Brown started to become my SABR mentor, and I was able to secure meetings at Sports Legends Museum and get the game set-up with the Orioles as well.

In late 2012, my life took a real turn. I had gotten engaged, but I lost my dad suddenly in September of that year, and it took me a while to recover. While I continued to work at the museum, I gave up the Oriole Advocates and went to far fewer Orioles home games over the next few seasons. Renee and I got married in December 2013, and only three months later, I had to bury my mother-in-law Irene. And then I was laid off from my full-time job. Not a fun time.

By 2015, I had gotten the itch again. My personal life was back on track, so I got involved with the Orioles again, this time volunteering with the Designated Hitters. Renee and I still had our Sunday 13-game plan, and with the formation of the Baltimore/Babe Ruth Chapter of SABR in June 2015, I was asked to be part of the initial officer group.

The newly formed BBRC was not initially that active aside from a few organizational meetings. But we began 2016 with our first annual meeting at Towson University and later that summer had a minor-league outing at Frederick and our first chapter game at Camden Yards. Our chapter growth was slow at first, as many long-term Bob Davids members were apprehensive about leaving a very established group for the new kid on the block, but we did grow steadily.

With SABR 50 arriving in Charm City later this summer, I am happy to see our chapter hosting such a significant event. This will be great for the city of Baltimore and for the recognition of the baseball history here going back to the Civil War. My personal baseball journey has been a winding river at times, and usually I did not know where it would end up. Proud to be seeing three of my favorite things in life: Orioles baseball, SABR and the Babe Ruth Museum all come together and work with each other this summer to make this convention a monumental experience.

I am not a researcher or an analyst. I am basically a fan of the history of the game and its impact on our lives. My dad was a baseball nut and a Little League coach/officer for 25 years. I know he would have loved to have been here for this upcoming convention. I am proud to be doing my part in some small way to make the experience in July a memorable one. Thanks to the SABR HQ and the Board for selecting Baltimore. I will do my part for sure as to not let anyone down. See you all in July.