

SABR Minor League Newsletter

Robert C. 'Bob' McConnell, Chairman
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Reed

Howard

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New Members

Note: addresses and phone numbers only shown if not listed, or different from that in the SABR Directory.

George Arendt; 457 Neipsic Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033; (860) 652-0467; has access to *Hartford Courant* and *Hartford Times*; Interests: Eastern League, especially Hartford Chiefs of 1940-52; Colonial League; players who played in both the Eastern League and Negro Leagues; working on history of Hartford Chiefs of 1946-52; would like to see a project of compiling list of first Negroes, Puerto Ricans, etc. in each minor league; willing to help SOME to fulfill requests.

Sean Byam; 558 Bennington Drive, Rochester, NY 14616; byam5@yahoo.com; (585) 865-4299; has *Spalding* and *Reach Guides* 1911-41, *TSN Guide* 1942-TD, *Baseball Register* 1940-TD, *Who's Who in Baseball* mixed; has access to *Rochester Democrat-Chronicle*; Project: compiling career stats for all minor league batting champions; willing to help SOME to fulfill requests.

John Heiselman; songbird941@aol.com; Interests: George Bechtold, pitcher in Yankee system in 1960s; Lancaster in old Tri-State League; working on biography of Harry Coveleski; willing to help SOME to fulfill requests.

Steve Millman; 5 Pratt Island, Darien, CT 06820; semilman@worldnet.att.net; (203) 656-3225; has all *TSN Guides*, *Registers*, *Dope Books*, *AL Red Books*, *NL Green Books*, *Who's Who in Baseball*; has access to all New York City and many Connecticut newspapers; Interests: farm clubs of Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Browns; teams in Connecticut and Westchester, NY; willing to help SOME to fulfill requests.

Mark Pattison; has access to Library of Congress; Interests: player career records; league records; would like to see project of *Minor League Stars IV*; willing to help a LITTLE to fulfill requests.

Ron Parker; 7 Anglesey Blvd., #33, Toronto, Ontario M9A 3B2, Canada; 2ronparker@rogers.com; (416) 231-1625; has access to *Toronto Star*, *Globe & Mail*, *Sun*, *National Post*, *Telegram*; *Montreal Gazette*; also has access to Toronto Reference Library which has huge collection of archival microfilm; Interests: Montreal, Toronto, Buffalo, Rochester & Syracuse in the International League; Projects: Brooklyn farm system in 1950s; history of Toronto Maple Leafs; willing to help CONSIDERABLE to fulfill requests.

Joe Simenic; has all *Reach*, *Spalding* and *TSN Guides*, complete run of *Sporting Life* on microfilm, and *TSN* thru 1990 on microfilm; has access to *Cleveland Press* and *Cleveland Plain Dealer*; Interests: all phases; willing to help CONSIDERABLE to fulfill requests. (Editor's note: Joe is one of the sixteen founders of SABR. He is one of the top biographical committee researchers.)

Alain Usereau; althetiger@hotmail.com; has *Reach* and *Spalding Guides*, 1876-1905, *TSN Guides*, 1946-2002 and over 800 BB books; has access to *Montreal Gazette & French* dailies, *Toronto Globe & Mail* and *National Post*; Interests: all phases; would like to see a web site created for the minor leagues; willing to help SOME to fulfill requests.

Questionnaires not yet received from new members Evelyn Begley, John Bell, Mickey Tangel, Crofty Thorp, and Mike Walsh.

Change of Address

Dennis Bidwell; 876 Vandalia Road, Morgantown, WV; (304) 284-0441; dbidwell@adelphia.net

Mike Dempsey; 18 Cove Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Scott Fiesthumel; 4 Farndale Street, Clinton, NY 13323; (315) 853-8873

Chairmanship of the Minor League Committee

Bob McConnell plans to resign as chairman of the Minor League Committee, effective at the 2003 SABR convention in Denver. If anyone is interested in the job, please contact Bob for details on what the job entails.

Help Needed

Sean Byam is compiling career records for all minor league season batting champs. He needs help on the following: Leo Cotter, 1922 Springfield, Western Assn; Earl Babbington, 1923 Elmira/York, NY-PA Lg; F. T. Craig, 1923 Greenville, East Texas Lg; Paul Kirby, 1924 Paris, Kitty Lg; A. B. Benson, 1926 Fort Smith, Western Assn; Otto Dumas, 1926 Sanford, Florida State Lg; Earl Clark, 1927 Richmond, Virginia Lg; John Alloway, 1928 Phoenix, Arizona State Lg; George Hammen, 1928 Hanover, Blue Ridge Lg; Cy Anderson, 1929 Williamsport, NY-PA Lg; Nathan Braly, 1932 Keokuk, Mississippi Valley Lg. He also needs stats for Arthur Bourg, 1923 Laurel, Cotton States Lg (no stats in guides for that league that year). Sean is looking for any stats for these players that were not published in the guides, as well as other teams for which they played. See Sean's address under New Members.

John Dillon writes that Ted Sullivan, a minor league pioneer, is buried in Milwaukee and his grave is in poor condition. If anyone is interested in helping to correct this situation, write to John at 2222 Valentine Ave., Bronx, NY 10457.

Carlos Bauer would like to work on the Less Than 15 Games stats for the 1919 IL. TSN did not carry box scores for the league that year. He can use some help. If you have access to papers from any of the cities in the league (Baltimore, Binghamton, Buffalo, Jersey City, Newark, Reading, Rochester, Toronto), contact Carlos at 6315 Mercer Street, San Diego, CA 92122; or carlosb@simplyweb.net.

Bill Hickman of the Pictorial History Committee needs some help in identifying a few players. 1921: American Assn; Louisville; SANDERS (Roy G. or Roy L.?); St. Paul; JONES (John J. or John P. or John W.?); Blue Ridge Lg; Waynesboro; LERIAN (Walt ?); Eastern Lg; Bridgeport; KELLY, Joseph H. (is this Business Manager the same person who played in the majors in 1914, 1916-19?); Bridgeport; MARTIN (William L. or W. M.?); Bridgeport; McLAUGHLIN (James A. "Kid"?); International; Syracuse; SMITH (Paul S.?); Three I Lg; Terre Haute; HENDERSON (Bernie or Edward J.?); Western Canada Lg; Calgary; SWARTZ (Vernon "Monty"?); 1928; American Assn; Milwaukee; SANDERS (Roy G. or Roy L.). Bill can be reached at 7 Columbia Court, Rockville, MD 20850; or bdhickmn@aol.com.

1910 New England League

Bob Richardson has compiled the batting and fielding stats for the 1910 New England League. Bob notes that the league did not formally recognize a batting champ, but Jess Burkett topped the published averages at .333. However, local newspapers acknowledged that he played in only thirty eight games and considered Lefty Williams as champ at .312 in eighty eight games. Bob needs first names for the following:

Blakely, R. M.; of; from Brooklyn, NY; played for Houston in 1909.
Cullen, J. K.; 2b-of; previously played for Kansas City, AA.
Friene; p; St. Mary's College (CA); previously tried out with Philadelphia, AL.
Kennedy; 1b; previously played in NYSL; son of major leaguer "Doc" Kennedy.
McGuire; p; from Pittsburgh, PA.
Morgan; ss; previously played for Nashville.
Moshier; p; from Santa Clara, CA.
Williams, "Little Chief"; of; Native American; previously tried out with New York, NL.

Contact Bob at 386 Riverway #4, Boston, MA 02115.

Long Service Players

Bob Hoie has sent some interesting facts on long service players as a result of an article in the last newsletter:

Arturo Gonzalez was on the Phillies spring roster in 1986, but never got into a major league game. He pitched in seven games this year for Monterrey in the Mexican League, his 31st consecutive season in the minors. Twenty six of those seasons were with Monterrey in the Mexican League and one with Monterrey in the Mexican Central League.

Ramon Arano also pitched in 31 seasons in the minors, but accomplished it by doing the Minnie Minoso gimmick. After retiring in 1986, he pitched in a couple of games in 1995 to give him five decades, and one game in 2001 to give him six decades.

Francisco Estrada was part of the Ryan-Fregosi trade and he played in one game for the Mets in 1971. He played in the minors for 31 seasons from 1964 thru 1994.

An article on William J. Sisler appeared in the second volume of *Minor League Baseball Stars*. Sisler played with 43 different teams (two stints at Clarksburg count as one) in 27 different leagues (old NY-PA Lg and Eastern Lg count as one). He was under contract, but did not play, with six more teams in four additional leagues. He was a non-playing manager with two more teams in one more league. He never played in the majors.

Lee Riley played in 2,043 games during 17 seasons before finally appearing in four games with the Phillies late in the 1944 season. Lee is the father of Pat Riley, the basketball coach. Minnie Mendoza played in 1,890 games over sixteen seasons before making the majors with the Twins in 1970.

Regarding other long time pitchers in the Mexican League: Jesus Rios finished the present season with a record of 9-4 and 72 Ks. This gives him a 228-137 record in the Mexican League. His career Pct. is .625, 7th best for pitchers with 200+ wins, and his 2,334 Ks are tied for 12th. Angel Moreno was 9-9 this season for a career minor league record of 245-171. Arturo Gonzalez was 1-4 during the first month of the season and hasn't pitched since. His career record is now 263-200, and in his first five seasons he was an outfielder who didn't pitch.

When Stump Merrill shifted from Norwich to Columbus on May 24, his minor league record as a manager was 1,207-869 for .581. For managers in 2000+ games, his percentage was good for third behind Bill Murray and Cletus Dixon. Stump inherited a bad club at Columbus (15-30). Since then, they are 39-46, which lowers Stump's career percentage to .576, and he slips below Jack Dunn on the career list.

Jimmy Lyston

Jimmy Keenan, one of our members, is working on a biography of his grandfather, Jimmy Lyston. Lyston had a twenty six year career in semi-pro and minor league baseball. He started his minor league career with Baltimore in 1921 as an eighteen year old. Lyston's father and two uncles played pro ball in the Nineteenth Century.

Articles for the 2003 SABR Convention

The Rocky Mountain chapter publications committee is looking for short (3-6 page, double spaced) articles and research notes for an anthology that they will publish and distribute at SABR 33 in July 2003. The topic is Rocky Mountain baseball, broadly defined: mountain areas, intermountain basins, eastern plains, not just Colorado. They have a November 15th deadline for proposals and a February 15, 2003 deadline for finished/ revised papers. Send to Dr. Thomas Altherr, History dept., Box 27, Metropolitan State College of Denver, P. O. Box 173362, Denver CO 80217-3362; (303) 556-3175; fax (303) 556-2671; altherr@mscd.edu.

Disputed Batting Champions

An article appeared in the last newsletter about disputed league batting champions. We asked members to send their comments on the subject. Jim Price and John Benesch sent very interesting comments, but we were disappointed in not getting more responses. We will hold off until the next newsletter to print their comments and, hopefully, comments from additional members.

Consecutive Game Playing Streaks

Mark Okkonen asked, "What is the minor league record for most consecutive games played?" This is not in the record books, but we would like to hear about any long streaks of which you are aware.

California League

Bill Weiss has been sending his *California League Newsletter* every week this season. A few events described:

- 1) Corey Myers of Lancaster went hitless on August 31 after hitting in 33 consecutive games. This was two short of the league record held by Brent Gates of Modesto in 1992.
- 2) Mike Campo of Rancho Cucamonga was hit by a pitch 40 times. This is believed to be a minor league record. Campo was never seriously hurt by a pitch.
- 3) In a game August 30 against Rancho Cucamonga, Modesto did not have an assist. There were fourteen strike outs, four outfield flies, and the other outs were on pop ups and line drives in the infield.
- 4) Jon Knott of Lake Elsinore won the batting title with .341. He went on a tear during the last week of the season, hitting .536, with a .893 slugging average. He was on base with a hit or walk in his last 35 games.
- 5) Jeff Clark of San Jose had the best ERA with 2.06 and the best W-L Pct. with .800 (12-3). He was promoted to AA in August.
- 6) Stockton won the California Lg championship for a record 10th time, breaking a tie with Fresno. They drew a bye in the first round, swept Modesto 3-0 for the division title, and beat Lake Elsinore 3-1 for the championship.

Hall of Fame Teammates

Jim Price writes that George Kelly started the 1914 season with Spokane, Northwestern Lg, and was sent to Victoria in the same league after a month. Many record books list him only with Victoria for the season. He was a teammate of Stanley Coveleski when with Spokane, and we can add them to our earlier list.

Bob Richardson writes (tongue in cheek) that Wilbert Robinson was a better player than manager, thus should be considered as entering the Hall of Fame as a player. He probably played in the minors with some other Hall of Famer, but as you know we have not counted people who were voted in as a manager.

Bill Weiss and Bob Hoie have verified that Johnny Mize and Whitey Ford were at Kansas City at the same time in 1950. They also pointed out that Rogers Hornsby did not play for Chattanooga in 1939, he managed Baltimore that year, so scratch Hornsby and Cuyler.

Bob Hoie sent comments on several other possible teammates. Brouthers and Ewing were together for more than 7 weeks with Rochester in 1880. In 1917, Hoyt's last game with Memphis was June 5 and Vance's first game was July 12, so they missed each other. Vance and Sewell were teammates for about 3 weeks with New Orleans in 1920.

Hoyt also writes that the following cases will require more research: With Hartford in 1916, Hoyt's first and, perhaps, only appearance (he played earlier with Lynn in the same league) came shortly after Burkett became manager. With Newark in 1918, Hoyt played between McCarthy's two appearances as a player. McCarthy was the manager but may have been on the active list at the time Hoyt played.

Unusual Game

Bob Hoie watched all 17 innings and five hours, 18 minutes of a game Columbus vs. Louisville. Since Bob lives in California, I assume he watched it on TV. He said it was one of the strangest games he has ever seen. The game was tied 5-5 after seven innings and it remained that way through 12. Louisville scored a run in the top of the 13th. Louisville had run out of pitchers, so the right fielder came in to pitch, and he allowed an unearned run to tie the game. Louisville then scored again in the 15th and then brought in their third string catcher to pitch. With two out in the bottom of the 15th, it appeared that the right fielder would get the win and the catcher would get a save.

But Billy McMillon of Columbus ruined a good story by hitting a homer to tie the game again. Louisville scored again in the top of the 16th. They then brought in another right fielder, who had never pitched at any level of baseball. With two out he wild pitched in the tying run. Louisville scored a run (naturally) in the top of the 17th. Billy McMillon then hit a two run homer in the bottom of the 17th to win the game for Columbus. To summarize, the last five innings were pitched by three Louisville position players, each team scored in the four innings after the 12th, and one player hit two home runs after the 14th inning.

Mexican League

Bob Hoie sent in a couple of interesting facts about the 2002 Mexican League season. Alejandro Ortiz hadn't reached the 20 mark in home runs during any of the previous eight seasons. However, he hit 23 this season to give him a career total of 424, good for fifth on the all time minor league list.

Matias Carillo hit 13 home runs and stole four bases this season while playing for the Mexico City Tigers. This gives him career totals of 302 and 300 respectfully. He is the first minor leaguer to reach the 300-300 mark.

2002 SABR Convention in Boston

This was a good convention, and the Committee attracted a number of enthusiastic new members. Among the discussions at the Committee meeting were the following:

Bob Bailey reported on his *Junior World Series* book. (See description elsewhere in newsletter)

Dave Chase reported on The National Pastime; the Museum of Minor League Baseball. (See report elsewhere in newsletter)

Bob McConnell described the upcoming second edition of the *Guide to Minor League Statistics*.

Bob also discussed the Nineteenth Century Minor League Project.

Bill McMahan gave a report on the Farm Club Project.

Marc Okkonen reported on his 2,000 Cups of Coffee Project, and gave a description of the Jacobs Notebooks.

A question was raised at the meeting - When were the terms "minor league" and "major league" first used? When the International Association was organized in 1877 the press did not refer to it as a minor league. Can anyone provide early references?

A request was made for anyone who would be willing to set up and maintain a web site for the Committee. We would like to be able to put newsletters and other items on the web, and possibly create a forum for discussions. If there is anyone who would be willing to take on this job let us know.

It was mentioned that the National Association contract record cards, located at the Hall of Fame Library, will be microfilmed. We have heard since that the microfilming has begun. These cards are a great resource for anyone compiling player career records.

Stew Thornley, one of our committee members, has been elected vice president of SABR. Stew is one of our outstanding researchers and is an expert on baseball in the Minneapolis area. Congratulations Stew.

Miscellaneous

New member John Bell has recently published his second book entitled, "*PICKLE IT!*" *Minor League Baseball of Carrollton, Georgia*.

This year is the fiftieth anniversary of Ron Necciai's twenty seven strikeout game. Pitching for Bristol of the Appalachian League on May 15, 1952, Ron threw a no-hitter against Welch.

Charleston (SC) of the South Atlantic League set a paid attendance record on July 8. Paid attendance was zero. Everyone got in free. This was a promotion gimmick pulled off by Mike Veeck, a principal owner of the club.

Mike Dempsey writes about some franchise changes in the Northeast League. The dormant Catskill Cougars club was moved to Brockton (MA), the Lynn (MA) dormant club was moved to Pittsfield (MA) and the Waterbury (CT) club remains dormant.

The American Association Almanac is available for \$8 per year for six issues. Volume 1 is still available. Volume 2, the Sept./Oct. issue will include an assessment of overall team performance for the years 1902 thru 1926. Contact Rex Hamann at 14201 Crosstown Blvd. NW, Andover MN 55304; pure487@aol.com.

A little publicized all-star game was played earlier this summer at Milwaukee. It was the fourth annual game between top minor league prospects born in the USA versus prospects born elsewhere in the world. Jose Reyes, a shortstop in the Mets system, was named the MVP after hitting a bases loaded triple in a World Team victory. Yankee second baseman Alfonso Soriano was the MVP in the 1999 game.

Rob Colamarino has joined the staff of Minor League Baseball as Director of Information Technology. In that role he will be involved with the technical and business aspects of the organization's web site, www.minorleaguebaseball.com.

Nelson Barrera

There were articles in the July and November, 2001 newsletters regarding Nelson Barrera setting the Mexican League career record for home runs. Nelson died on July 14 at his home in Campeche, Mexico. He was removing some metal siding from his house and it came in contact with a power line and he was electrocuted. He had been player-manager of Campeche of the Mexican league earlier this season. He did not have any homers this season. However, he is second on the minor league career list with 479. He holds the Mexican League career hit record with 2,092. This was his 26th year in the Mexican League.

Umpires

Denver Howard, not a member of our committee, is a former minor league umpire. He has been sending us a number of interesting articles. Most were written by Denver for his local newspaper. We suggested that he contact the SABR Publications Director. Listed below are a few of the most interesting ones. Write to Bob McConnell or e-mail Reed Howard if you wish a copy of any of them.

- 1) Umpire's friendship was certainly the right call (two umpires working the minor leagues).
- 2) Baseball on radio waves (listening to baseball games on radios in the 1930s).
- 3) Hop Calvin's barbershop (boy's experience with adult baseball fans).
- 4) No mold for baseball umpires (differences in umpires).

- 5) Brief history of the Midwest League.
- 6) Dirty tricks by ball players (ball players that wanted to be ejected).
- 7) Denouncing the myth of Uecker (Bob Uecker at spring training in 1956).
- 8) Purpose pitch has lost significance (pitching inside no longer accepted).
- 9) Ray Nitschke was better at football than baseball (Nitschke pitching for the University of Illinois).
- 10)

"Minor League Baseball Has Changed"

An excerpt from Denver Howard's column, "That's The Way I Saw It", in *The Waynedale News*, from September 18, 2002:

"Several Years ago there were 40 to 50 minor leagues. Now there are 14 with 5 independents that choose not to be a part of the National Association. The lower minors had classifications of D, C, and B. If a person advanced there wasn't any question about a better league. Now with an A classification for the lower minors some leagues are called higher (better) but have the same classification.

"Most leagues were 6 or 8 teams, hardly any divisions and each team played all teams the same number of games. Minor Leagues always started May 1 and ended Labor Day. Now they start April 7 and everybody complains about the weather.

"A normal roster was 18 players. Eight position players, an extra catcher, infielder, outfielder, and seven pitchers. Normal rosters have 25 players with some pitchers lucky to get 80 innings during a whole season. Outfielders were expected to play all positions as well as infielders. Catchers were expected to sometimes play third base and right field. Pitchers would hit and sometimes pinch hit. In 1955 Hannibal, Missouri (MOV) finished the season on the road with a roster of 14.

"Half of the managers played Major League Baseball and the other half were playing managers. Non-playing managers many times pitched batting practice. It appeared that the managers had direction of their teams; who played where, who pitched and when.

"The ball parks had bleacher type stands and the lights weren't too good. The teams hardly ever played in million dollar ballparks and an attendance of 1,000 to 1,500 was good.

"Many nine inning games were played in less than two hours and doubleheaders (two seven inning games) total time less than 3 1/2 hours. Actually seven innings is illegal. Rules state that baseball game duration is nine innings. Seven inning games are played because of a gentleman's agreement.

"Extra promotions like fireworks were only seen on the Fourth of July. Some promotions involved players trying to catch a greased pig, cow milking contest, and players trying to throw a baseball into a basket at second base. Max Patkin (Crown Prince of Minor League Baseball) did however pack a good crowd.

"The business office had one secretary and many times the Business Manager was part time owning a business in the town. Well we could go on-and-on. I'm not saying Minor League Baseball is better now. I'm only saying it is different. That's The Way I Saw It."

Home Run Titles By Brothers in the Same Season

We received a phone call from the Tampa Bay Devil Rays recently, asking if there had been two brothers winning home run titles in their leagues in the same season. We could find only one such case. In 1929, Ike Boone of Mission led the Pacific Coast League with 55, and his brother Dan led the Piedmont League with 46 while playing for High Point. Does anyone know of any others?

The query was brought on by the fact that Tampa Bay had two farm hands who were leading their leagues at the same time. According to the September 4-10 edition of *Sports Weekly*, Joey Gomes led the NY-PA Lg with 15. His brother Jonny was leading the California Lg going into the last day of the season. However, Jorge Soto of Visalia hit two homers on the last day to take a one home run lead. There was still hope. Jonny's Bakersfield team and Visalia tied for the lead, necessitating a one game playoff, and stats in this game would count in season averages. Neither Jorge Soto nor Jonny Gomes homered in the playoff game.

Umpire Amanda Clement

The following is reprinted from the *USA Today* web site of April 26 2001:

"From the mailbag: Denver C. Howard of Fort Wayne, Indiana, writes in to set the record straight when it comes to female umpires.

"Countless stories have referred to Ria Cortesio, currently umpiring in the Midwest League, as the fifth female umpire to work the minor leagues. Howard says that count (which includes Bernice Gera, Christine Wren, Teresa Cox and Pam Postema) fails to recognize Amanda Clement of Hudson, South Dakota, who began umpiring at age 17 and worked games in Iowa and South Dakota from 1905-1911.

"Howard cites passages from three books, including the following excerpt (sic) from *Low and Inside* by Ira Smith and H. Allen Smith:

"Mandy was described as a girl possessing enormous personal charms, so the question of romance often entered into discussions of her professional career. Newspapermen traveled all the way from the East to watch her in action and talk with her. 'I am wedded to baseball,' she stated one day when someone asked her about the husky, young catcher who was trying to win her heart. 'I've received 60 offers of marriage from men in our league alone. But I believe I can do more good for the game and the nation by uplifting the characters of professional players who do not know how to behave'

According to Howard, Clements eventually left baseball to pursue a teaching career, returned home to Hudson in 1929, became a city assessor and justice of the peace and died in 1971."

SABR Convention Presentations

Ralph Christian gave an interesting presentation at the SABR convention on nicknames of various Des Moines minor league teams. The following are excerpts from the presentation:

In 1894-95 the team was called Grandpa Traffley's Colts in honor of manager Bill Traffley. The name did not really catch on since sportswriters from other cities in the league called them the Prohibitionists. Des Moines happened to be one of the largest cities in the country in the late 19th century to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages. In 1902-03 the team was called the Undertakers in honor (?) of manager Joe Quinn's off season undertaker profession. In 1904, a local newspaper held a contest to change the name. Names submitted included Grafters, Hard Boiled Eggs, Live Wires, Plow Boys, Politicians, Razoopers, Resurrectionists. The winner was Politicians. Another newspaper contest in 1905 brought out more great suggestions, such as Monks, River Rats, Cherubs, Underwriters, Canteloups, Japs, Coal Diggers and Non-Brewers. An all out effort by the local insurance industry resulted in Underwriters winning out. This name lasted for three years. In following years the team had a few more conventional nicknames such as Boosters, Demons, Bruins, Dodgers, Iowa Oaks and Iowa Cubs.

Carl McCoomb gave an interesting presentation on the Maine-New Brunswick League of 1913. This Class D league had 4 teams, including Bangor, Maine and St. John and Frederickton, New Brunswick. The fourth team was shared by the border towns of Calais, Maine and St. Stephen, New Brunswick, with games alternating between the two locations. The league had been an amateur league in previous years and was in organized baseball for just one year.

There were so many things going on at the convention that it was impossible to take in everything. Two presentations missed were: "The Wartime Portland Beavers", by Donald Wells, describing a team that finished in the Pacific Coast League cellar in 1942, and under new management finished in first place in 1945; "Minor league and Independent Clubs in Washington, PA", by Tom Mueller.

Cal Ripken

Cal Ripken, one of the "nice guys" in baseball, is now a club owner. As most of you know, he owns the Aberdeen (MD) club in the New York-Penn League. The following is a direct quote from an interesting article on Ripken from the *Washington Post*, sent to us by Dave Paulson.

"One evening a few weeks ago, Cal Ripken was watching his Aberdeen IronBirds when a play by the team's shortstop caught his attention. Ripken asked someone to have the young player, Pete Shier, stop by his Ripken Stadium sky box after the game so they could talk. But Shier found Ripken surrounded by visitors and only later did he spot Ripken walking across the outfield grass, leaving the park to go home. 'Mr. Ripken,' Shier called after him. What Shier thought might be a few cursory words from the legendary "Iron Man" turned into a 1 hour 45 minute conversation about baseball. 'We started out in left field and ended up standing on the dirt at shortstop,' said Shier, 'He made some suggestions. He showed me the way he liked to take throws from the second baseman on double plays. We didn't leave until about 1 in the morning.'"

We can't imagine too many present big leaguers treating a young player this way. The article went on to say that Aberdeen's attendance after twenty six home games was 158,449, second in the fourteen team Class A league. Another interesting tidbit in the article said that of the 160 minor league teams in the United States and Canada, eighty six are playing in stadiums built since 1990.

2,000 Cups of Coffee

Mark Okkonen is continuing his work on *2,000 Cups of Coffee*. He needs first names for the following players from the American Association. Marc can be reached at 889 Woodside #1, Muskegon MI 49441; okkonenm@aol.com.

<u>Columbus</u>	<u>Louisville</u>	<u>Milwaukee</u>	<u>Minneapolis</u>
Dunham '02	Burns '14	Disch '02	Berger '13
Ford '02	Harrington '11-12	Batsch '28	Black '25-27
Henderson '16	Hughes '09-11	Forsythe '21	Burns '02
Ketchum '25-26	McMahon '01	Grant '23	Evans '40
Kyle '12	Miller '21	Gregory '21	Hansen '27
Miller '22	Neal '06-07	Hughes '15	Harper '15
Miller '38	Pearce '12-13	Jones '14	Jacobs '03
Nelson '09	Scanlon '14-15	Maisel '16	Leverette '13
Sherman '20	Scott '05	Matthews '21	Miller '28-30
Thomas '02	Shannon '28	Nicholson '14	Slagle '03
Wright '15-16	Wolfe '06	Schulz '20	Smith '16
		Slaughter '20-21	Watson '25
		Stanley '06	
<u>Indianapolis</u>	<u>Kansas City</u>	<u>St. Paul</u>	<u>Toledo</u>
Cantwell '15	Black '22-23	Holmes '27	Burns '03
Craig '05	Fuhrman '24	Jones '21	Matthews '02
Cruthers '18	Hickey '02	Kirsch '28	Quick '03
Dickerson '17	Hogan '17	McGill '01	
Keene '12-13	Kraft '06	Merritt '18-25	
Lindeman '09-10	Malay '30-31	Stewart '03-05	
McArthur '17	Maloney '03	Walsh '08	
Smith '21	Miller '15	Ziegler '01	
Whelan '13	O'Connor '13		
Williams '02	Wright '20-23		

Marc is also asking members to send him team pictures of minor league clubs for the 1898-1950 period (he doesn't need pictures from the Guides). The pictures should have players identified. They do not need to be originals; decent half tones or Xerox copies are acceptable. Marc adds that if contributors are interested in more complete IDs, he can probably provide first names for many of them.

The Junior World Series

The Junior World Series (JWS) was a long-standing part of the minor league season. It started in 1904 when St. Paul of the American Association agreed to come east to meet Buffalo of the International League in a series of games. While this series was much closer to a post season barnstorming tour, it nevertheless provided the start of what became the longest running post-season series this side of the World Series.

The story of how the series evolved and changed over the next 94 seasons and the stories of the individual series themselves are recounted in the book *The Junior World Series* by Bob Bailey to be published by Scarecrow Press either this fall or next spring.

The book opens with an essay on the development of the Junior World Series from its experimental years 1904 to 1919 through its hey-day from 1920 to 1962 and its return to experimentation with different formats beginning in 1970 and ending with the last Triple A World Series held in 2000.

From 1920 through 1991 the champions of the International League met the best of the American Association fifty one times. From 1920 to 1925 the International League was represented by the greatest dynasty in minor league history, the Baltimore Orioles of Jack Dunn. Here Lefty Grove compiles a terrible post-season record while players like Jack Ogden, Jack Bentley, Max Bishop and Fritz Maisel set JWS records that still stand. Many of the great minor league stars appeared in the JWS with names like Joe Hauser, Nick Cullop (the hitter and pitcher), Ike Boone, Jay Kirke and Steve Bilko having good and not-so-good series. Lesser-known players put up some staggering statistics. Like Jack Rothrock in 1933 when he hit .455, slugged .818, while driving in 14 runs and scoring 14 runs for Columbus. Or Russ Morman with Omaha in 1990 slugging 1.095 as he collected 12 hits, 9 RBIs and 23 total bases in a five-game series.

When the minor leagues restructured in 1998 by dropping the American Association (AA) and moving its teams into the Pacific Coast League (PCL) and International League, the revival of the JWS began its last three-year run. The series showcased players like Lance Berkman (who became the first player to hit three home runs in a single JWS game), John Halama, Barry Zito and Albert Pujols. But this was not the first time the PCL joined the party. Back in 1919 the St. Paul Saints went west to meet the Vernon Tigers in what turned out to be a contentious and mean-spirited series filled with arguments, gamesmanship and ill-will. Roster shenanigans, umpire baiting and beanball battles were all part of the 1919 spectacle. The series soured the St. Paul contingent and leaders of the American Association that when it came time for a return to the Coast in 1920, the Saints refused to go because their likely opponent was the Vernon squad. They instead headed east and met the rising Baltimore Orioles. This started the traditional JWS off on a 43 year run interrupted only in 1934.

The book presents each series with an essay describing the events of the series along with team and individual statistics for that series. The essays cover all series between teams from the high minors with chapters on the PCL-AA exhibitions of 1924 and 1925, the Kodak World Baseball Classic in Hawaii in 1973 and the Triple A World Series in Louisville in 1983.

Throughout the book there are profiles of star performers and tables presenting career statistical leaders for various categories. Profiles include Joe McCarthy, Mike Kelley, Benny Borgmann, Rance Pless, and recent long-term minor leaguers Russ Morman and Jeff Manto. The book also includes presentation of JWS records along with a bibliography and index.

Minor League Player Deaths reported through 10/3/02 - Issue #9

Compiled by Ray Nemeč

Player	Span	DOD / POD	Informant
Adair, Marion D. (Bill)	1935/1956	6/17/02 Bay Minette, AL	Dave Chase
Alexander, Roland A.	1950/1953	2/5/02 San Diego, CA	John Hall
Barrera, Nelson E.	1974/2002	7/14/02 Campeche, Mexico	Dave Chase
Bartz, Ted	1945/1956	1/1/02 Plymouth, MI	SS Death Index
Bass, Edward O.	1940/1952	10/30/01 Erwin, NC	SS Death Index
Bauldree, Joseph D.	1995/2002	5/29/02 Allentown, PA	Dave Chase
Benyo, Jason	1996/1997	8/17/02 nr Schwenksville, PA	Jack Morris
Bertolotti, Ernest J.	1946	5/29/02 Sacramento, CA	Joe Murphy
*Brownson, Lynn John	1948	4/24/02 Spokane, WA	Jim Price
Brumbeloe, Wm. Charles	1939/1943	7/17/02 Wildwood, FL	Gene Wood
Cadinha, Milton	1940/1946	4/20/02 Castro Valley, CA	Dick Beverage
Chatham, Chester	1929	8/16/02 Garland, TX	Bill Carle
Churchill, Robert L.	1938/1952	12/30/01 Memphis, TN	Richard Bozzone
**Conroy, Edmund C.	1938/1939	3/17/01 Peoria, AZ	Bill Carle
Dale, Daniel Charles	1979/1985	9/11/02 Clemmons, NC	Randy Wooden
DiFrancesco, Anthony E	1949	7/22/02 Philadelphia, PA	Bob Bailey
Doughty, Paul L.	1951/1956	6/8/02 Pembroke, MA	Rich Topp
Fennell, Michael J.	1982/1985	5/15/02 Rochester, NY	Bill Carle
Genevrino, Michael A.	1942/1952	6/17/02 Edison, NJ	Ed Washuta
Grawe, David H.	1966/1969	8/3/01 Cincinnati, OH	Dave Kemp
Hazle, Joe E.	1947/1955	10/23/00 Anderson, SC	SS Death Index
Hibbs, Harding J.	1940/1951	8/18/02 Kenner, LA	Art Schott
Hostetter, Carroll D.	1950/1953	9/14/02 Edmond, OK	Gene Wood
Howard, W. Edward	1936/1941	9/27/01 Longview, TX	Bill Dougherty
Johnson, George Woodrow	1935/1951	5/4/02 Knoxville, TN	Bill Carle
Kash, Michael T.	1934/1955	6/25/01 Webster, MA	SS Death Index
Kredar, Charles P.	1958	4/24/02 Windsor, CT	Rich Bozzone
***Larson, John A. (Jack)	1952/1954	8/31/02 Menomonee Falls, WI	Bill Carle
Manarel, Raymond J.	1937/1938	4/9/02 Bristol, CT	Rich Bozzone
Mashburn, Larry C.	1936/1938	8/29/02 Kansas City, MO	Bill Carle
Merrill, Gordon S.	1939	1/12/02 Brandon, FL	Bill Dougherty
Quinn, Henry L.	1947	9/24/02 Davenport, IA	Bill Carle
Rose, Russell H.	1946/1957	5/12/02 Pasadena, CA	Dick Beverage
Rote, Kyle	1951	8/14/02 Baltimore, MD	Associated Press
Scafati, Orlando M.	1936	2/22/02 Walpole, MA	Cappy Gagnon
Schroeder, Kenneth J.	1932/1933	6/5/02 Rock Island, IL	Bill Carle
Stumborg, Ralph F.	1941/1947	7/5/02 St. Louis, MO	Cliff Kachline
Tighe, John T. (Jack)	1936/1947	8/1/02 Pompano Beach, FL	Dave Chase

Tinsley, Gaynell (Gus)	1938	7/24/02	Baton Rouge, LA	Associated Press
Trapani, Philip	1947/1951	8/14/01	Herrin, IL	John Hall
Wickert, E. William	1946	5/11/02	Kerrville, TX	Bill Weiss
Williams, Ellis D.	1969	9/3/02	Colton, CA	Blair Lovern
Wilson, Edwin L.	1948/1953	6/29/02	Omaha, NE	John Hall
Woodward, Milton Ray	1947/1953	8/31/02	Port Arthur, TX	Tim Knight
Wren, Robert	1943/1947	6/11/02	Athens, Ohio	Gary Nickels

* Surname inadvertently shown as Brown in last issue. _____

** Conroy's correct surname was Conrow.

*** Not to be confused with Jack A. Larson, 1949/1952, who died in 1994.

Stats Completed

Carlos Bauer has completed the averages for the 1910-11 San Joaquin Valley League, 1908-13 Pacific Coast pitching and 1950-57 Pacific Coast saves.

Ray Nemeč has completed the averages for the 1892 Southern League.

Ron Selter has completed the Less Thans for the 1949-50-51 Pacific Coast League.

The Legend of Wild Bill Setley

Committee members Scott Fiesthumel and Tony Kissel have co-authored *The Legend of Wild Bill Setley*, published 2002 by Erie Canal Publications. It is the story of one of the most fascinating minor league players and umpires of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The book is 130 pages, with pictures. It can be purchased at a SABR discount of \$9.95 (plus 8% for NY residents), and a shipping charge of \$3 for one or two books, and \$4 for more than two books. Contact Scott at 4 Farmdale Street, Clinton NY 13323; (315) 853-8873; scottfiesthumel@prodigy.net.

Additional Miscellaneous

Dan Escobar had a fairly good minor league career. Ray Nemeč writes that Dan was short changed in 1937 while playing for El Dorado of the Cotton States League. He was charged with 394 AB. With 104 hits, this gave him a .264 batting average. He actually had 304 AB and a .342 average. This was the top average in the league, but Dan did not qualify for the batting title since he played in only seventy two of his team's 140 games.

Sean Byam writes that Charles King of Logan is credited with having the highest batting average in the Utah-Idaho League in 1927, hitting .435. With only 131 AB, he did not qualify for the batting title. Sean has found that King was released by Logan on July 29 and was signed by Salt Lake City the same day. There is a King listed in the league averages for Salt Lake City. The two listings are obviously for the same player. Adding up the AB and hits gives King a .367 average, good for third place in the league for players with 300+ AB.

Sean also points out that Zinn Beck signed his first pro contract in 1907. He was still scouting in 1980, which gave him seventy four years in baseball. Beck passed away in March, 1981.

Alex Cabrera (see June, 2002 newsletter) played for the Seibu Lions in the Japanese Pacific League this season and hit 55 home runs. This ties the Japanese baseball record. The legendary Sadaharu Oh set the mark in 1964 and it was matched in 2001 by Tuffy Rhodes. There is a question as to whether the Japanese will give anyone the opportunity to exceed Oh's record.

John Pardon sent the latest issue of *Baseball News*, the official publication of Minor League Baseball. The following is an excerpt from this publication:

"A total of 25 Minor League Baseball teams will have new Major League partners when the 2003 season opens after the latest round of the biennial shuffling game. As a result, two of the longest-running affiliations links have come to an end. Rochester and Baltimore had been partners since 1961, but the Red Wings will pair up with the Minnesota Twins in 2003, while Baltimore shifts to Edmonton. Another long-running tandem, Texas and Tulsa, had been together since 1977, but have new partners as the result of a trade. They had been contracted to continue, but the Rangers are part-owners of the team that will begin play in Frisco, a Dallas suburb, next season and wanted to switch their affiliation. Tulsa agreed and joins the Colorado system."

