



EMIL ROTHE CHICAGO CHAPTER

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Clinton LumberKings right fielder Jerar Encarnacion (27) watching from the on-deck circle as shortstop Demetrius Sims (3) steps up to the plate against the South Bend Cubs on Saturday, May 4.

A CLASSIC BASEBALL STADIUM FOR LOVERS OF THE GAME

BY: TIM CZUBA



Driving to LumberKings Stadium, home of the Clinton LumberKings, I was able to take in the sights of what is today's small town Americana. Many older buildings in the downtown area, some occupied, some not, lined the streets as I made my way to the game. My initial entrance to the park was blocked by a sitting commercial train, but instead of waiting, I ventured down a few blocks and turned onto Riverview Drive, which not only took me to the stadium parking, but gave me a wonderful view of the Mississippi River just a few hundred feet and east of the park. Parking is free and there was plenty to be had.

The park itself is a throwback to some of the parks one would see in period baseball movies such as *A League of Their Own* or *The Natural*. Finished in the art deco style of the depression era, the park was christened Riverview Stadium in 1937. After purchasing a reasonably priced general admission ticket for \$7.00, I walked through the wrought iron gates of the front entrance and could not help but feel nostalgic.

The mostly bench seat and canopied grandstand extends around and to the ends of the diamond. There are some regular seats earmarked for season ticket holders at field level. General Manager Ted Tornow told us that those seats are replicas of the ones used at Wrigley Field and are purposely made wider than standard stadium seating. All in all, the grandstand is in wonderful shape and very cozy.

Down the left field line there is a bullpen patio with picnic benches covered by an awning and high top seating at field level. I chose to sit there and watch the game from this vantage point and really enjoyed it. For an old park, I thought the lighting was better than one would expect. My only complaint is the scoreboard was hard to read from this area, mostly because the scoreboard is older and just not as well lit as some others. There is also a picnic area in straightaway left field and another patio area in right center. There is no other seating in the outfield.

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GREATEST "LEFTY" PLAYERS OF ALL-TIME*

MONTHLY TOP 10

RANK	PLAYER	POSITION	YEARS	BWAR
1	LEFTY GROVE	P	1925-41	107.0
2	LEFTY GOMEZ	P	1930-43	38.4
3	LEFTY TYLER	P	1910-21	26.3
4	LEFTY STEWART	P	1921-35	25.5
5	LEFTY O'DOUL	OF/P	1919-34	25.3
6	LEFTY LEIFIELD	P	1905-20	21.2
7	LEFTY WILLIAMS	P	1913-20	12.3
8	LEFTY MARR	OF/INF	1886-91	6.6
9	LEFTY DAVIS	OF	1901-07	3.1
10	LEFTY JOHNSON	OF	1884-92	1.6

*Although Steve Carlton, among others, was nicknamed "Lefty," he was not referred to as "Lefty Carlton" by fans or baseball historians and has not been included.



LEFTY GROVE

Photo: National Ball Hall of Fame

PATENT PORTAL: BASE-BALL BASE, NO. 171,038

BY: JOHN RACANELLI



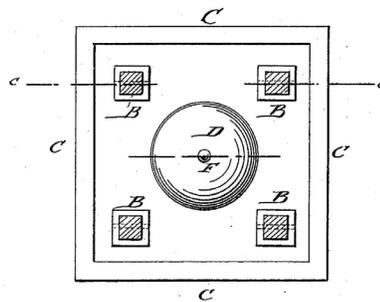
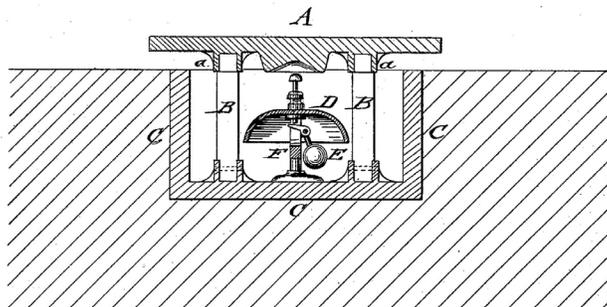
John C. O'Neill of St. Louis, Missouri was a problem solver, perhaps ahead of his time. He invented a base outfitted with a hidden mechanism that would trigger a bell (or a "whistle, electrical connection, or any other suitable annunciating device") when a runner stepped on the bag. He boasted that his contraption would enable the umpire "to render his decision in a perfectly correct and reliable manner, avoiding thereby the dissatisfaction and squabbles arising from erroneous observations and decisions." O'Neill's self-proclaimed "enunciating base" was granted a patent on December 14, 1875.

The patent was announced in the January 15, 1876 Scientific American "Index of Inventions," but no further contemporaneous accounts of the Base-Ball Base have been found to demonstrate whether the somewhat clever invention was ever manufactured or tested. It would not be surprising if O'Neill encountered issues with the creation when the first baseman or any other covering fielder would cause the bell to sound with his own foot. Regardless, it is not difficult to conceive a modern version of this device, especially in an age of instant replay reviews and threats of robotic strike zones.

J. C. O'NEILL.
BASE-BALL BASE.

No. 171,038.

Patented Dec. 14, 1875.



WITNESSES:

Chas. Nida
A. J. Terry

INVENTOR:

J. C. O'Neill
BY *[Signature]*

ATTORNEYS.

SABR SCENES FROM THE STANDS



Top: The Clinton LumberKings' grounds crew prepare the field prior to the Saturday, May 4 game against the South Bend Cubs.

Middle: SABR Chicago members Bill Peach, Lorene Kennard and Richard Ray enjoyed meeting members from the Field of Dreams chapter during the LumberKings/Cubs game.

Bottom: SABR Chicago members received an exclusive on-field tour prior to the Saturday, May 4 game. Pictured (left to right) are Craig Wiczorkiewicz, LumberKings General Manager Ted Tornow, Tim Czuba, LumberKings public address announcer Brad Seward, Bill Peach and Lorene Kennard.

WHAT'S ON DECK?

GET YOUR PENCILS AND SCORECARDS READY

- **CHAPTER MEETING**

June 1, 2019 - 1 p.m.
Glen Ellyn Public Library
400 Duane Street
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Confirmed Speaker
Jason Schwartz

Baseball Card Research Highlights

CLICK FOR
DIRECTIONS

- **SABR 49 - SAN DIEGO**

June 26-30, 2019
Manchester Grand Hyatt
1 Market Place
San Diego, CA 92101



CLICK FOR
DETAILS

- **CHAPTER MEETING**

September 14, 2019 - 1 p.m.
Lisle Public Library
777 Front Street
Lisle, IL 60532

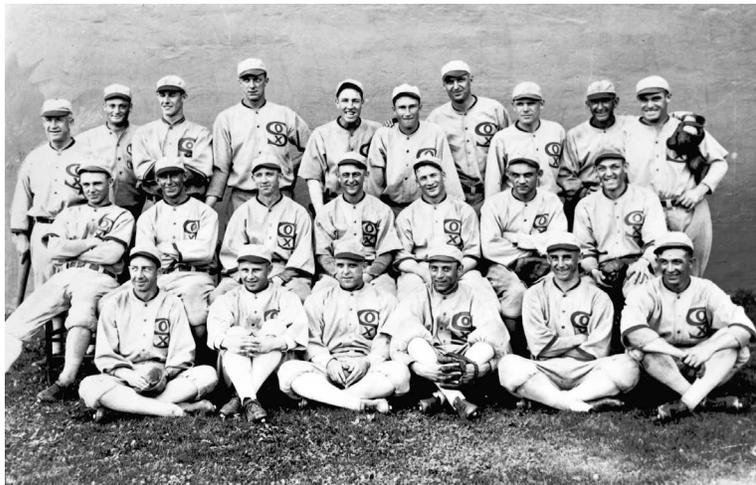
CLICK FOR
DIRECTIONS

CLASSIC BASEBALL STADIUM (CONTINUED)

Most of the food was standard ballpark fare. Dogs, popcorn, peanuts, etc., along with soft drinks and beer, all reasonably priced. I had a hot dog and for a smaller sports operation, it was delicious! I also chose to try the "Buzz Saw", which is a burger with bacon, two chicken strips, pulled pork and onion rings on it. It was also delicious and reasonably priced for \$9.50.

If there was anything I was disappointed in, it was the souvenir shop. There was a limited selection of LumberKings items, which seemed priced a little high. However, they did carry several items from the Field of Dreams venue in Dyersville, IA.

Overall, the ambiance of the park is more than what one would expect from a stadium as old as this one. The renovations in 2006 have enhanced the fan experience. The park staff was very friendly and I would recommend taking the trip to see this wonderful old ballpark.



“BLACK SOX” SYMPOSIUM

BY: BRUCE ALLARDICE

Registration for our 100th anniversary Black Sox symposium on September 27-29 at the Chicago History Museum will launch later this month at SABR.org. Just to give you an early idea of the schedule so you can all start making travel plans:

Visit the
Chicago
History
Museum

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- **10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.:** Baseball history walking tour #1 in downtown Chicago (\$10)
- **7:00-10:00 p.m.:** White Sox game at Guaranteed Rate Field (\$20 for Upper Deck Box seat)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- **9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.:** SABR 100th anniversary symposium at Chicago History Museum (\$20 for SABR members, \$25 for non-members - includes admission to the full museum)
- **Evening:** Prohibition-era pub crawl/meet-up (TBD location; drinks on your own)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- **10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.:** Baseball history walking tour #2 in downtown Chicago (\$10)

Those prices are a la carte for anyone who wants to pick and choose what to do, but we'll also have an “all-inclusive” package available — likely set at \$40 — for anyone who wants to go to everything: the symposium, the ballgame, the bar meet-up, and one of the two walking tours (the Friday and Sunday tours are exactly the same, just on different days to accommodate more people's schedules.) On-site registration itself will also be available for locals who just want to come to the Saturday symposium ... assuming we don't sell out in advance!

I'll be finalizing details with the White Sox on the group ticket block next week and also working out details on the “pub crawl” — which, due to expected attendance, probably won't be a “crawl” so much as it will be just a single meet-up in a cool, interesting spot that can contain us all.

Photo: Chicago Tribune / National Baseball Library



[CLICK HERE TO PLAY](#)
MLB FIRST 40-HR
PLAYER BY TEAM



SCHWARTZ APPOINTED CO-CHAIR OF BASEBALL CARDS RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Perhaps you noticed a new monthly segment, *Cardboard Detective*, on the front page of this issue. That was brought to you by one of SABR Chicago's Emile Rothe Chapter members, Jason Schwartz.

Schwartz was just appointed co-chair of the Baseball Cards Research Committee for the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR). He will be splitting duties with Nick Vossbrink. Chris Dial and Mark Armour started the committee, blog and Twitter community in late 2016 and were ready to pass the torch. You will find Jason actively tweeting here: [@HeavyJ](https://twitter.com/HeavyJ).



PASTIME PASSAGE...

“NO MATTER WHAT I TALK ABOUT,
I ALWAYS GET BACK TO BASEBALL.”

— CONNIE MACK

*Quote: The New York Daily News, March 18, 1951 /
Photo: National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum*



CHICAGO SALMON VINTAGE BASE BALL CLUB - 2019

The Chicago Salmon's 1858 ... err, 2019 season is underway. They play a vintage style of base ball dating back to 1858 and are affiliated with the Vintage Base Ball Association. Their roster consisting of players from around the Chicagoland area and they play matches against other area teams. Here's a look at the upcoming Salmon schedule.

May 19 - 2:00 p.m.

Deep River Grinders
Hobart, IN

May 30 - 10:30 a.m.

Hawthorn Hammers
Hawthorn Middle School North,
Vernon Hills, IL

June 2 - 1:00 p.m.

Elkhart Railroaders &
Douglas Dutchers
Lincoln Park, Chicago, IL

June 9 - 2:00 p.m.

Lemont Quarrymen
Naperville, IL

June 22-23 - All Day

Menomonie Blue Caps Festival
Menomonie, WI

June 30 - 1:00 p.m.

McHenry Independents
Fox River Grove, IL
100th Anniversary

July 7 - 1:00 p.m.

Somonauk Blue Stockings
Historic Methodist Campground
Des Plaines, IL

July 13 - 1:00 p.m.

Sunset Hill Farm
Valparaiso, IN

July 21 - 1:00 p.m.

Deep River Grinders
Riverside, IL
150th Anniversary

July 27 - 1:00 p.m.

Sunset Hill Farm
Lincoln Park, Chicago, IL

July 28 - 1:00 p.m.

Oregon Ganymedes
Chana School Museum Field
Oregon, IL

August 3 - 1:00 p.m.

Essex Base Ball Club
Newbury, Massachusetts
Lincoln Park, Chicago

August 11 - 1:00 p.m.

Blue Island Brewmasters
Historic Methodist Campground

August 18 - 1:00 p.m.

Creston Regulators
Historic Methodist Campground
Des Plaines, IL

August 24 - 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Field of Dreams
Dyersville, IA

September 7 - 1:00 p.m.

Blue Island Brewmasters
Blue Island, IL

September 14 - 2:00 p.m. (EST)

Elkhart County Railroaders
& Embracers
Nappanee, IN
Nappanee Apple Festival

September 15 - 2:00 p.m. (EST)

House of David
Benton Harbor, MI

September 22 - 1:00 p.m.

Bloomington Prairie Chickens
Oak Park, IL

September 29 - 1:00 p.m.

Somonauk Blue Stockings
Somonauk, IL

October 5 - 1:00 p.m.

Milwaukee Grays
Milwaukee, WI



CHICAGO RANDOM TANDEM ED WALSH AND MORDECAI BROWN

Top: In 1908, Hall of Fame White Sox pitcher Ed Walsh led the AL with 40 wins, 6 saves and 464 innings pitched.

Bottom: In 1909, Hall of Fame Cubs pitcher Mordecai Brown led the NL with 27 wins, 7 saves and 342.2 innings pitched.

**GET SOCIAL WITH SABR'S
EMIL ROTHE CHICAGO CHAPTER**
THERE ARE FIVE EASY WAYS TO INTERACT
WITH CHICAGO CHAPTER MEMBERS.
CLICK TODAY AND START TALKING BASEBALL.



SABR MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: BOB DEAN

BY: BILL PEARCH

Bob Dean remembers it like yesterday. As a native of Kirkwood, Missouri, his first game was a 1961 preseason matchup between the New York Yankees and St. Louis Cardinals at St. Louis' Sportsman's Park (Busch Stadium). He was in attendance with his father and grandfather. "I saw the Yankees with Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris and Yogi Berra playing against Stan Musial and the Cardinals," Dean said. "Of course, that was the year Maris went on to break Babe Ruth's single-season home run record."

During his formative years, Dean was a first-hand witness to baseball dominance. "Bob Gibson was the greatest player I've ever seen," he said. "His records from the '60s were overshadowed by Sandy Koufax, but he was the greatest competitor I have ever seen step on to a baseball field." But Dean wasn't just watching pro games in his youth; he relished his time getting his own uniform dirty in the George Khoury Association of Baseball Leagues in St. Louis and Kirkwood.

Bob Dean joined SABR in 1982 to benefit from its numerous publications. "I had been a student of baseball history growing up," he said. "The Cardinals had a glorious history with players like Dizzy Dean, Rogers Hornsby, Joe Medwick, Red Schoendienst, and of course, 'Stan the Man.' My two sons are also big fans." He is excited about SABR's growth in recent years and is interested to see how its new chief executive officer will help attract and inspire the next generation of baseball fans.

In terms of his areas of SABR research interests, Dean's passion leans toward ballparks, broadcasters and teams. Who can blame him? He grew up listening to St. Louis' legendary voices of Harry Caray and Jack Buck during the 1960s. "I watched Harry come to great popularity in Chicago with the White Sox then the Cubs on WGN's superstation," he added. "I also loved Cleveland's Tom Hamilton (1991-2001) and now I get the listen to Pat Hughes. Another great one!" Baseball on the radio has been a lifelong journey for him. But for research, he keeps his focus on the Cardinals, Cubs, Cleveland Indians, Kansas City Royals and Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers.

Nurtured in the heart of 1960s Cardinals country, he fully admits to following the Chicago Cubs these days. "After growing up as a Cardinals fan, then moving to American League cities like Baltimore, Washington and Cleveland," Dean said, "I returned to my National League roots following my move to Naperville in 2001." He loves Wrigley Field, as does his entire family.

"By far the Cubs' 2016 season was the most memorable season by far," Dean said. "I attended Game Four of the 2016 World Series with my youngest son, Jack, who was 25 at the time. We were fortunate to see the World Series drought end just a few days later."

Like any good team would, Bob would like to see baseball make some adjustments moving forward. "I think it's time to standardize the



SABR member Bob Dean (right) with his son Jack standing near Wrigley Field's iconic marquee prior to Game Four of the 2016 World Series.

designated hitter," he said. "We should also shorten spring training and start the exhibition season in early March. That way we can start the regular season around April 5th each year." He also wants to attract young fans to the game. One of his suggestions is playing some League Championship Series and World Series games during the afternoon. He believes that games are ridiculously late during prime time.

Bob's favorite baseball book is Roger Angell's *The Summer Game* and favorite movie is *The Natural*. If Bob could hop into a time machine to witness any moment in baseball history, he would return to the Friendly Confines on October 1, 1932. "No question, Game Three of the 1932 World Series," he said. "I'd like to see if Babe Ruth truly called his shot against the Cubs' Charlie Root."

SABR MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

We all have great baseball stories to share. In each issue, we will highlight SABR Chicago Chapter members. Contact Bill Pearch, newsletter editor, via email at wcpearch@comcast.net to schedule a brief interview.



A BLAST FROM THE PAST

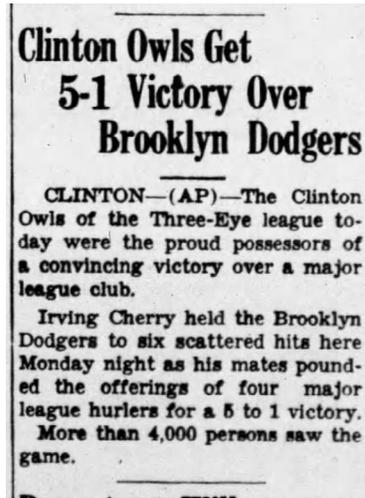
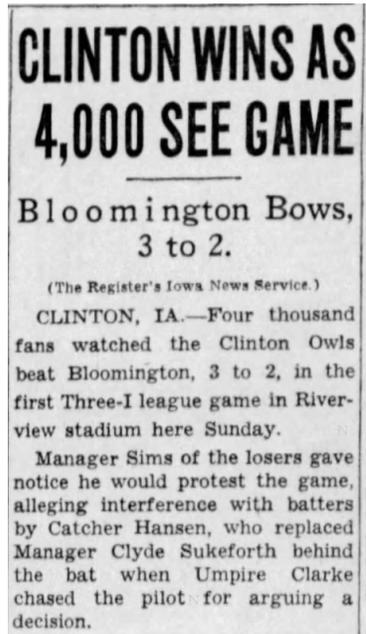
BY: BILL PEARCH

Today, the ballpark located at Sixth Avenue and Ballpark Drive in Clinton, Iowa is known as LumberKings Stadium and it serves as the home of the Midwest League's Clinton LumberKings. Throughout the decades since the facility opened, a host of minor-league teams have called the place home.

Construction of the ballpark commenced in 1935 as a Works Progress Administration project and it opened in 1937 as Riverview Stadium, home of the Clinton Owls of the Three-I League. After 21 years without a baseball team in Clinton, 4,000 fans packed the ballpark on May 9, 1937, and watched the Owls defeat the Bloomington Bows, 3-2. Later that season, on July 26, the Owls hosted their major-league affiliates, the Brooklyn Dodgers, and beat them 5-1 at Riverview Stadium.

As SABR Chicago members were touring the field, LumberKings general manager Ted Tornow mentioned the banner highlighting Clinton alums from the team's various incarnations who spent time on Major League Baseball rosters. While scanning the names, he was careful to note that Clinton fans are still waiting to claim their first Hall of Famer.

The ballpark retained its original name into the 21st century, but in 2002, the park was renamed Alliant Energy Field. During 2006, the ballpark underwent a significant \$4.2 million renovation. Throughout the years, renovations have included replacement of the entire stadium lighting system, a new home clubhouse, new drain tiles, dugout expansions and covered batting cages. After being named Ashford University Field from 2012 through 2016, its now named LumberKings Stadium.



Left: Des Moines Register, May 10, 1937, p. 6

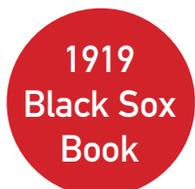
Right: Iowa City Press-Citizen, July 27, 1937, p. 9

Top: Much of LumberKings Stadium's grandstand remains the same as it did during its first season in 1937.

Bottom: A plaque located near the main entrance to the ballpark commemorates its Works Progress Administration roots.

APRIL MEETING VIDEOS

If you weren't able to attend our April chapter meeting (there was a freak April snowstorm after all), we have videos of all of all presentations available on SABR Chicago's Facebook page. Enjoy!



GET YOUR BASEBALL RESEARCH PUBLISHED

Are you conducting baseball research? SABR's Emil Rothe Chicago Chapter can help. We are looking for new articles to publish in the Chapter's monthly newsletter and social media outlets. Submit your articles to Chapter Secretary David Malamut via email at david@malamut.net. Submittal deadlines are the 15th of each month for inclusion in the next edition.