

KELTNER'S HOT CORNER



Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter

June 2021

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Thur, June 10, 7 PM (CDT)

○

[125 Years of Badger State Baseball Cards](#) [w/ Jason Schwartz](#)

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○

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August 10, 13-14

○

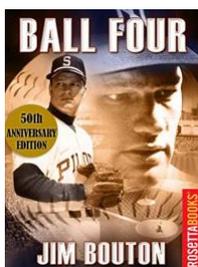
[SABR Virtual Calendar](#)

Handy place to see all of the other virtual SABR meetings monthly

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

Upcoming Virtual Meetings

Keltner Book Club Meeting - *Ball Four* with Special Guest Mitchell Nathanson Thursday, June 10 at 7 PM (CDT)



Mitchell Nathanson, author of [Bouton](#) will join us as we discuss [Ball Four](#), by Jim Bouton at our next virtual Keltner Book Club meeting on June 10. It is the only sports related book to make the Top 100 Books of the 20th Century. Nathanson will add deeper insight into the pitcher turned author turned icon.

[Register Here](#) for the Keltner Book Club meeting



125 Years of Badger State Baseball Cards with Jason Schwartz

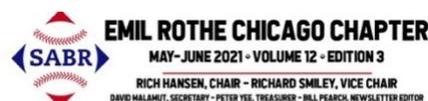
Thursday, June 24 at 7 PM (CDT)

Join SABR Baseball Cards Committee co-chair Jason Schwartz for a baseball card tour up and down Wisconsin covering more than a century of cardboard. The presentation will test our chapter's knowledge of our hometown heroes, so bring your number two pencil and some scratch paper too. This presentation is sure to raise the roof—Phil Roof, that is.



[Register Here](#) for the Badger State Baseball Card meeting.

Emil Rothe Chapter Newsletter



[Open May-June 2021 Newsletter](#)

May Virtual Chapter Meeting Recordings

Did you miss one or both of our two terrific May Virtual Chapter Meetings? You can still see them, or, watch the meeting recordings to enjoy the presentation again. Click on the arrow in the picture for each event to enjoy.

Milwaukee Brewer Stories with Mike Gonring



On Thursday, May 20, former *Milwaukee Journal* Brewers beat writer, Mike Gonring, joined 13 members to talk about his tenure writing about the team from 1975 to 1979 before leaving to attend law school. He was full of stories of the early Milwaukee Brewers. With the recent passing of Del Crandall he talked about the three managers he dealt with, one manager was one of the few people he had had a negative opinion of while another and a favorite word he used quite often. You will hear about the off season Saturday night massacre in 1977 and the characters involved. There are many stories about players from Yount, Molitor and Gantner, Coop and The Boomer, Danny Thomas, Moose, Moore, Travers and Jimmy Slaton. Caldwell hated all opponents. He hung out with Uecker and had great respect for Henry Aaron. And the best story was a prank pulled by Jim Colborn. The West Bend native also opined on how things were different; he flew on the team charters and players were more receptive before they started making money. Enjoy!



Dan Wallach - Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum - Executive Director My Baseball History Podcast - Host



A week later on Thursday May 27, Dan Wallach of the [Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum and Baseball Library](#) and host of the excellent [My Baseball History](#) podcast entertained seventeen members and guests as he talked about both passions. The White Sox fan who has collected Joe Jackson memorabilia (and Michael Jordan jerseys) succeeded the longtime Executive Director four days before COVID closed down the country. Then the museum, housed in Joe Jackson's former home, was being moved a second time with a new opening day of April 2020. With delays due to contractor, inspectors and the electric company, they are still closed but close to opening in June with many changes. Listen to Dan as he is upbeat about the museum even with the challenges they have faced in the past year. Things they have been doing including the [My Baseball History](#) podcast which has listeners in 35 countries and now has international interest in Shoeless Joe. Also, a more prominent social media presence, nearing 5,000 followers on Twitter and a new museum membership. program. One of the guests joining our meeting was umpire Perry Barber who was the subject of one of the podcasts this year and she was gracious to answer questions regarding the experience. Wallach also discussed how they do not sugar-coat Joe's actions and how they have worked with Jacob Pomrenke and SABR's Black Sox Scandal Committee with the [Eight Myths Out](#) project. Enjoy the recording!

Here are several examples of recent My Baseball History podcasts ([website](#)):

[Umpire Perry Barber](#)

[Joe Jackson Historian - Mike Miller](#)

Museum Website: <https://www.shoelessjoejackson.org>

My Baseball History Podcast Website: <https://shoelesspodcast.libsyn.com>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/shoelessmuseum>



Keltner Book Korner

Book Club News by Mary Shea



Greetings Keltner Bookworms,

Our next book club meeting will be Thursday, June 10th, at 7:00 PM CT. We'll be discussing *Ball Four*, by Jim Bouton, and will also be honored to have Bouton biographer Mitchell Nathanson join the discussion. He is a professor of law at Villanova University and also a well-regarded author of various books and articles, including [Bouton: The Life of a Baseball Original](#). We are very excited that Mitch will be able to share his tremendous insight into this unique baseball life. Hope you can join us!

You can [Register Here](#) for the Keltner Book Club meeting or through the [SABR Events Calendar](#). SABR will send you the Zoom instructions.

Praise for *Bouton: The Life of a Baseball Original*:

“Once you start reading, you will not be able to stop. A compelling look at one of the most influential and controversial figures in baseball history. A new generation needs to know the story of Jim Bouton: a man who never wearied of gleefully and hilariously skewering the establishment but who also had the old-school drive to will his dreams into reality. Above all, a lifetime love of baseball shines through in every chapter—a true reflection of Bouton himself.”—Brian Kenny, host for MLB Network and author of [Ahead of the Curve: Inside the Baseball Revolution](#).

Check out the Mitchell Nathanson website, lots of great stuff:
<http://www.mitchellnathanson.com/events.htm>

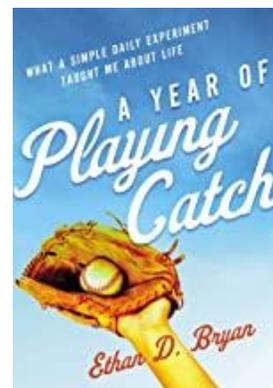
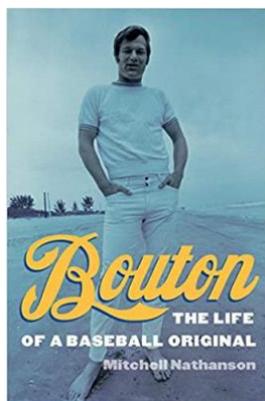
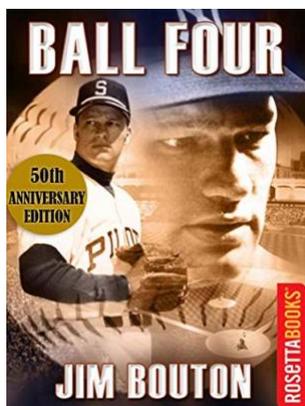
Our subsequent book club selection will be [A Year of Playing Catch](#), by Ethan D. Bryan. We're hoping to have an in-person meeting in Milwaukee for this one, and, hopefully, it'll involve actually playing catch for any of us who have any arm left. Check back for more details, and happy reading!

Also, I'd like to thank the member who suggested having Mitch Nathanson on the recent survey. I was racking my brain wondering who to get for the meeting, and voila, this wonderful suggestion just appeared. Much appreciated.

Please let [Mary Shea](#) know if you have any other suggestions, questions, or concerns. I'm really looking forward to seeing all your faces again!

Happy reading!

Mary



Get to Know...Cory Ritterbusch

By Dennis D. Degenhardt

To most baseball fans and SABR members, being born into a strong baseball family says it all. Cory Ritterbusch is fortunate to have done so. His German-Catholic family, hailing from Quincy Illinois, is half avid St. Louis Cardinal and half fervent Chicago Cub fans. But he finds being fanatical about one team as being silly although Ritterbusch does favor the National League Central Division.



The third of Jim and Joyce (Schoenekase) Ritterbusch's three boys, Cory Ritterbusch was born in Crystal Lake Illinois on Halloween, Sunday, October 31, 1976. His dad was a commodities trader while his Mom managed the home, then worked for John Deere Healthcare. He grew up in what he calls "a former resort town, turned homogenous suburb, 45 miles northwest of Chicago." He lived there until he was 24 attending kindergarten through high school there but considers Quincy his home town; that is where his family roots lie. His grandfather, Harold Ritterbusch owner of the Harrison Pub, was known as Quincy's biggest Cub fan and the grandson credits him for "instilling my passion for baseball." He did so by having a great baseball past; knowing former National League Hall of Fame umpire [Al Barlick](#), and for designing [Emil Verban's](#)¹ house. His other grandfather, Bob Schoenekase, a Purple Heart recipient in WWII, was a truck farmer known for his strawberries and Cory has fond memories of him listening to "his Cardinals" on KMOX while tending his garden.

His earliest baseball memories are of enjoying the Game of the Week on TV and then watching the 1982 "Suds Series." But, it was the Cubs 1984 campaign that got Ritterbusch excited about baseball. As a kid, he went to loads of games at Wrigley Field, including what turned out to be the ballpark's first night game on August 9, 1988. The originally scheduled inaugural game with lights was rainout the night before and he was lucky to attend the historical game as the Cubs defeated the New York Mets 6-4. He also attended games at Milwaukee County Stadium which is reasonably close to Crystal Lake.



Even as a youngster, he didn't have a favorite team but he had a favorite player, oddly one who retired 18 years before his birth, [Pee Wee Reese](#). In 1985, on Halloween and his ninth birthday, he saw an image of a 1953 Bowman Pee Wee Reese baseball card in [The Complete Book of Collectable Baseball Cards](#) by Beekman House Publishing. He said, "It changed my life. Pee Wee Reese then became my role model." Why? "He was short, or at least his name implied, like me and a scrappy base stealer. I later learned he was great at the intangibles (bunting, hitting behind the runner, running first to third, etc.) and that Pee Wee was a good guy that helped Jackie Robinson." Ritterbusch also favored "scrappy shortstops of the traditional variety – the small ballers," liking [Shawon Dunston](#), [Ozzie Smith](#), [Pete Rose](#), and [Robin Yount](#) as well as a second baseman, [Ryne Sandberg](#).

Although Ritterbusch played soccer, basketball, football, and was a good cross country runner when growing up, none of those compared to baseball. He was initiated into the game as a bat boy for his brother's teams and then played primarily shortstop and a bit of second base. For a few a few summers he played on three different teams. In June 1991, he broke his jaw, collarbone, received a concussion and knocked out eight teeth in a freak play and spent the rest

¹ Per his SABR BioProject biography, Verban won a measure of fame as the namesake of the Emil Verban Memorial Society – a group of long-suffering Cub fans – because the founder saw him as the symbol of their longtime futility.

of the summer with his mouth wired shut. His playing career ended when he graduated high school - as he went to work.

Ritterbusch's post-high school education was starting a business instead of going to college, he explained, "School and I never got along but work and I certainly did." As his brief bio on his SABR author's page states, "Cory Ritterbusch is a diverse professional living in Shullsburg, Wisconsin, with his wife and two boys. He is a restoration ecologist, community planner, teacher, and historian." Cory carries six business cards: Restoration Ecologist, Community Planner, Historian, Executive Director, Historic Portrayer and Landscape Architect. In his past, Ritterbusch ran a vegetable farm and was a member of the Shullsburg City Council. He says, "I am a serial quasi-entrepreneur. I have been running small businesses my whole life and have freelanced for a long time." He also gives presentations, writes, and teaches Restoration Ecology and Fire Ecology at the UW-Platteville. Or, as he added, "It's been a rather unconventional career but I like work diversity and only do things I care about."

He eventually settled in [Shullsburg Wisconsin](#) in 2006, a small town with a good baseball tradition among other attributes. It is located in Southwest Wisconsin, Lafayette County, which does not have a traffic light. In 2009, Ritterbusch married Emily Lubcke. They have two boys, Paul (11) and Mark (7). Emily played soccer at the University of Wisconsin but also loves baseball. Cory is proud to say, "I play baseball with my boys a lot and still play catch with my Dad."

Feeling guilty about reading BioProject and Games Project articles without contributing, Ritterbusch joined SABR in 2014. He then got involved in 2017 helping the Louisville Pee Wee Reese Chapter with getting the Louisville Bats minor league team to retire his hero, Pee Wee Reese's number. About SABR, he said, "I have always been impressed with how well organized SABR is, including the local chapters." In 2019 when Ritterbusch gave a presentation at the Louisville Slugger Museum on his relationship with Reese, they gave his family an intimate tour of the private archives, stating, "I held a Pee Wee Reese bat, and my son a Ted Williams, in their special 'bat vault.' It was a great honor."

As a historian and writer, Cory explained, "I write a lot but work slow as I am a thorough researcher and look for details." The 'a lot' includes over 50 pieces published including a book in 2011, [H.S. Pepoon: Pioneer Conservationist](#). His topics range from botany to music to local history. With a strong interest in researching local baseball history, he also provides presentations about the game in his region. He has written four articles for the SABR Games Project in an unofficial series he has dubbed "famous games that happened at Wrigley Field that have nothing to do with the Chicago Cubs." He's fond of the Games Project because he enjoys the challenge in researching and writing about games that interests him. And one, [September 8, 1985: Red's Pete Rose unknowingly breaks Ty Cobb's Hit Record](#), was chosen for the [SABR '50 Best Games of the last 50 Years' Project](#).

His next Games Project article will be on Jackie Robinson's arrival at Wrigley Field in May 1947. He says, "It's a very dynamic game with lots of sub-plots going on including setting a Wrigley Field attendance record that still stands today." He added, "In the seats watching was the future Commissioner of Baseball, a future U. S. Senator and a future Pulitzer Prize winner. It's been a great game to study and I'm still picking up usable tidbits." He's also researching a local player who was good enough to make it to the Major Leagues. Unfortunately, he was drafted in 1942 and died in battle during World War II without being able to live his dream.

Like Ritterbusch's diverse career, so are his interest. Although Baseball is his longest lasting, it's just one of his passions. Another is the legacy of the W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration) and learning about the ballparks they built from 1935-1943. Although baseball related, it also ties into being an architecture buff, "I find ballpark design intriguing and enjoy traveling to historic stadiums to experience the details and I really prefer these W.P.A. built parks." Many of the ballparks are still in use playing an important role in their communities. Wisconsin and



Shullsburg Website

Missouri have many of them and he's gathering information for a possible book through SABR. So far, he has located about thirty in the Upper Midwest and he would appreciate tips about some he doesn't know about.

Ritterbusch probably holds the Ken Keltner Chapter record for attending Bob Dylan concerts, over 90. He has found that many big Dylan fans are also Baseball fans because, "They are both highly analytical and can process details well. In England, obsessive Dylan fans are big soccer fans. So, if you're a psychologist. I would love to get that figured out."

The historian would consider a game at Ebbetts Field in 1955 or Wrigley in September of 1935 if he had a time machine opportunity because he loves the "Golden Era" of Major League Baseball. But he would prefer a local game when dairy farmers and miners suited up and competed truly for the love of the game. Ritterbusch said, "Some great local legends came out of those games. Major League Baseball has been so well documented we can easily imagine what it was like with accuracy. It's the local stuff you cannot and it leaves a lot to be curious about. Only being there could confirm the wonder."

When asked for any final words of wisdom, SABR's Shullsburg member replied, "Working a lot, I have never really had a TV. I probably listen to over a hundred games per year on the radio from the high school level to MLB. I advise everyone to also utilize the radio medium, it's as close to a time machine as you can get. You can close your eyes and hear something very similar to what your grandparents heard. The delay between hearing the crack of the bat and the announcer's description of the ball's outcome is one of the greatest nuances of baseball. I highly recommend games on the radio – Five-Stars."



Ken Keltner Chapter Survey Results



Special thanks to the 28 Ken Keltner chapter members who responded to our survey on how to move forward with the country reopening following the COVID outbreak. The survey was only sent to members of the Keltner Chapter. As you will see, the majority of members responding favored returning to in-person meetings, 58.3% with 92% favoring returning to Saturday morning meeting starts with the prior three to four meetings annually. There is some hesitancy with meeting in-person now or indoors which is to be expected after the past year we have had.

The most comments were regarding Zoom meetings with an interest to continue using Zoom. This makes sense because virtual, with all of its drawbacks, has expanded the type of meetings we can hold and we have attracted SABR members and guests from all over the nation.

Following the survey are the comments made by members to the various questions. Most of the members did not have comments and we appreciate all that were received. As a matter of fact, we are happy to say we've already acted on two of them. There was a suggestion to have Mitchell Nathanson, the author of *Bouton: The Life of a Baseball Original* join our June Keltner Book Club Meeting. Mary has reached out the Nathanson and he has agreed to join us. And there was a request for Trivia questions in the newsletter. I asked Rick Schabowski if he would create a monthly contest and he agreed. Look for it in the July *Keltner Hot Corner*. We will look at the other ideas and see what we can do make the request happen.

Moving forward we will start planning to meet in-person while continuing Zoom meetings periodically. Our Book Club is planning on an outdoor meeting in August and we will explore expanding that to be more of a full meeting as well, possibly at a beer garden. Watch for more information in the July newsletter.

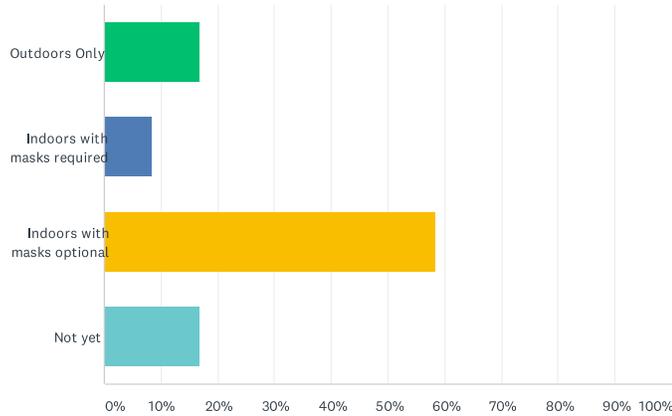
Please send [Dennis Degenhardt](#) your questions or comments and ideas.

Thanks for your continued support of SABR and the Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter - DDD

Ken Keltner Chapter Survey - May 2021

Q1 Should the Keltner Chapter start holding in-person meetings again?

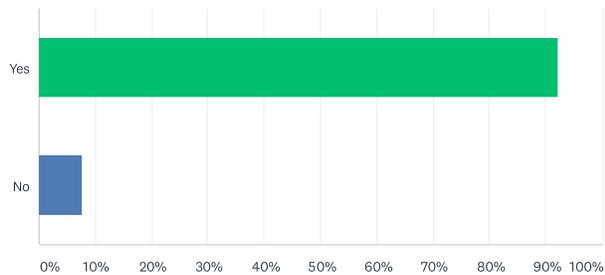
Answered: 24 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Outdoors Only	16.67%	4
Indoors with masks required	8.33%	2
Indoors with masks optional	58.33%	14
Not yet	16.67%	4
TOTAL		24

Q2 For in-person meetings, should we continue our past practice of Saturdays starting at 11 AM?

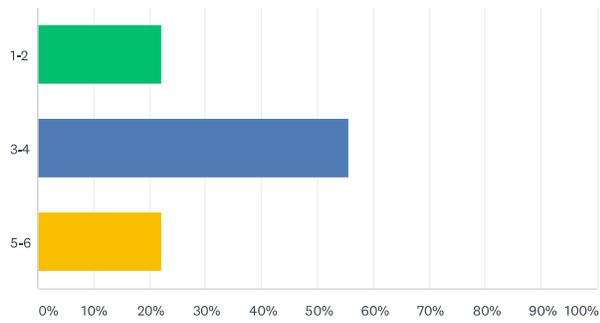
Answered: 26 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.31%	24
No	7.69%	2
TOTAL		26

Q3 If holding in-person meetings again, how many should we have annually?

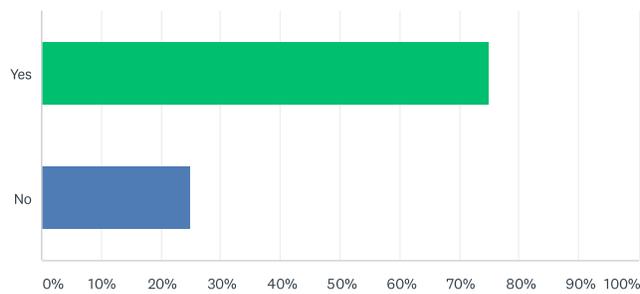
Answered: 27 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1-2	22.22%	6
3-4	55.56%	15
5-6	22.22%	6
TOTAL		27

Q4 Did you attend any of the Chapter Zoom meetings in the past year?

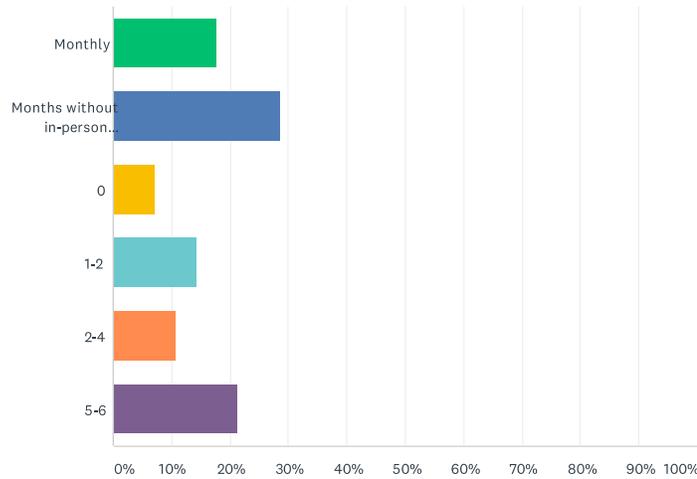
Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	75.00%	21
No	25.00%	7
TOTAL		28

Q5 How many Zoom meetings should we have annually?

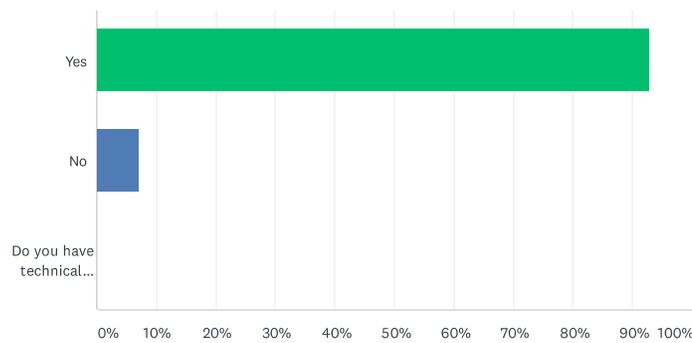
Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Monthly	17.86%	5
Months without in-person meetings	28.57%	8
0	7.14%	2
1-2	14.29%	4
2-4	10.71%	3
5-6	21.43%	6
TOTAL		28

Q6 Should we explore live-streaming or adding Zoom participation for in-person meetings so members who live away from Milwaukee can attend more easily?

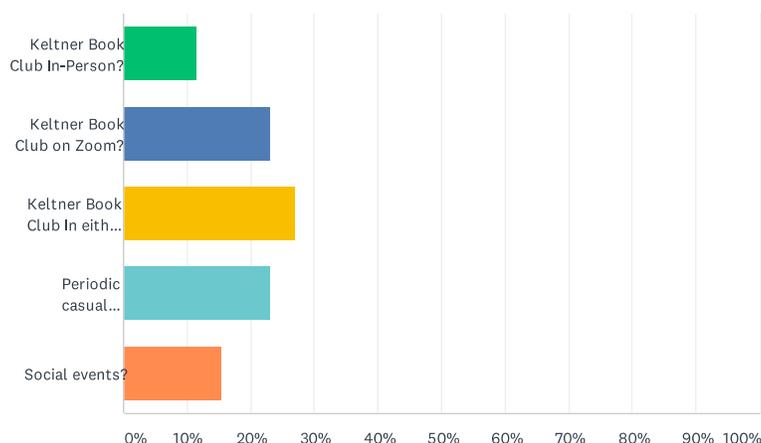
Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.86%	26
No	7.14%	2
Do you have technical skills to help us to this? (name and contact below please)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		28

Q7 What ideas do you have for future meetings, in-person or Zoom?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Keltner Book Club In-Person?	11.54%	3
Keltner Book Club on Zoom?	23.08%	6
Keltner Book Club In either in-person or Zoom?	26.92%	7
Periodic casual occasions for breakfast, lunch or dinner?	23.08%	6
Social events?	15.38%	4
TOTAL		26

Q8 Do you have any suggestions for the monthly Keltner Hot Corner newsletter?

- Having an interest in Wisconsin-born Major Leaguers, I enjoyed your capsule biographies.
- The one's that I have read have been extremely well done
- It's been great! MN shares some of our content, so maybe we could include things from other chapters.
- Keep up the great job!
- I would love to see regular pictures of historic baseball in Wisconsin - e.g. old stadiums, team photos, etc.
- Trivia, ask an expert, uniforms and logo history, links to interesting articles.

Ken Keltner Chapter Survey Comments May 2021

Q1 Should the Keltner Chapter start holding in-person meetings again?

- Residing in another eastern state, I will not be able to participate in in-person meetings.
- Hybrid meetings if we go live so zoom people can attend
- Indoor with masks until 70% of Wisconsin is vaccinated
- Outdoors would be a good start, but things could change quickly
- For those who can prove they are vaccinated
- I suggest planning for in person meetings beginning in the fall
- Other, or outdoors during the summer is fine, too.
- I am unlikely to attend in person as I live 5 hours from MKE

- Q2 For in-person meetings, should we continue our past practice of Saturdays starting at 11 AM?
- No, would conflict with other Zooms on SABR
 - Anytime is fine...can some be scheduled during the week?
- Q3 If holding in-person meetings again, how many should we have annually?
- Simulacast on Zoom
- Q4 Did you attend any of the Chapter Zoom meetings in the past year?
- Ability to attend from a distance
 - Easy for me to attend and participate
 - Interesting topics were discussed. (2) I have several friends in the chapter.
 - I think that the Zoom meetings offer greater flexibility and opportunity to attend meetings. I'd imagine the chapter has a geographically far-flung membership, so the Zoom meetings allow for wider member participation.
 - No, Family and other personal conflicts with meeting times
 - Yes, They're easy and enjoyable
 - Not the same as in person. Not even close.
 - No, I just joined in past 2 months
 - It was the only option. It worked, but is a poor substitute for an in person meeting.
 - Yes, Good format.
 - No, Zoom meetings don't offer the interpersonal contact that makes a SABR meeting worthwhile.
 - Attended one book club meeting, do not enjoy zoom settings.
- Q5 How many Zoom meetings should we have annually?
- We could do less if doing in-person meetings
 - 1-2, Zoom meetings are great for including guests from outside the area
 - As a resident of another eastern state, I will wish to participate in any Zoom meetings that are held.
- Q6 Should we explore live-streaming or adding Zoom participation for in-person meetings so members who live away from Milwaukee can attend more easily?
- Sorry I'm of no help with technical matters, but I could easily bring my iPad to a meeting to do this. Not sure if I could show slides for a presentation.
 - No, I am saying no only because I know how difficult this can be.
 - Even though I might now join, I know there are members who would like this.
- Q7 What ideas do you have for future meetings, in-person or Zoom?
- Have Mitch Nathanson on when book club discusses Ball Four
 - Book club is ideal for zoom, because it allows us to invite the authors, no matter where they live
 - I enjoy the meetings as we have had them.

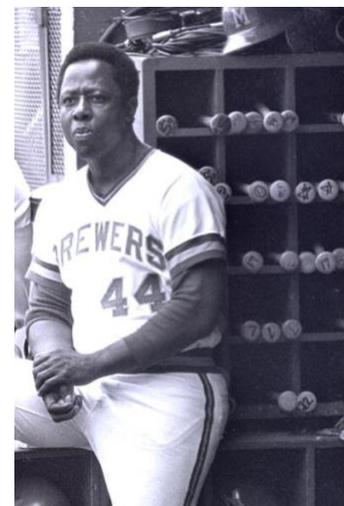


During the virtual chapter meeting with Mike Gonring, he mentioned the article from the Shepard Express on the sad ending to Henry Aaron's baseball career. Mary Shea retrieved it and we are including it here.

An Unfitting End: The Final Game of Henry Aaron's Career
Matthew J. Prigge, Shepard Express, September 06, 2016

Bob Uecker and Henry Aaron crowded into a vacated storage room in the bowels of County Stadium, just as they had before each Brewers home game of the past two seasons. They were recording the final installment of the "Locker 44 Show," the pregame radio interview with baseball's home run king that ran before Brewers broadcasts on WTMJ. It was October 3, 1976. Henry Louis Aaron, owner of dozen or so of baseball's all-time records, was about to play his last game ever. Uecker started the tape while Aaron leaned against the wall, dressed only in his underclothes. "Well, Henry," began Uecker, "this is it."

Aaron sighed. He said that he had only become emotional the night before, when he cried at the thought of never playing baseball again. But now, he had a game to play. One last game on a pitiful Brewers team about to finish with the worst record of any team Aaron had ever played on. And Aaron himself was only a shadow of the player he once was. He was posting career lows in nearly every offensive category (although advance stats still show him as slightly better than a league-average hitter) and had only played in 84 games that season. August and September, the dogs days of the season that often grind on older players, had been particularly cruel. Aaron was playing only about twice a week, batting a meager .156 with only three extra base hits. He hadn't homered since July 20. "After all these years," He told Uecker, "it boils down to a couple of hours and four at bats."



Aaron in the dugout during his final game

As he sat in front of his locker before the game, reporters crowded at his feet, some who had been covering him since he had debuted in Milwaukee 22 years ago. They wanted most to know about his plans for the future. The topic had become a familiar one between Aaron and the media. When the Brewers acquired him in the fall of 1974, he had been promised – and it was announced to the public – that he would be offered a role in the Brewers front office after his playing career was over. It had been the lack of such a commitment from the Atlanta Braves that had, in part, motivated his move to Milwaukee. In fact, the Brewers had offered Aaron a job while he was still an active player, just months into the 1975 season. In late June, with the team struggling and president Bud Selig wary of field manager Del Crandall's leadership, Selig offered Aaron Crandall's job – which would have made him just the second African American skipper in baseball history. But Aaron turned down the offer. "I didn't go over there to manage," he said in 1987, "I was there to play baseball, I wasn't prepared to manage." Aaron also did not want to undercut Crandall, a teammate from his Milwaukee Braves days and good friend. When Aaron agreed to return for the 1976 season, it was still being reported that he would enter the Milwaukee front office following the year. But by the time Aaron dressed for last time on the field, the worst-kept secret in baseball was that upon his retirement, he would go to work for the Braves. Responding to reporters that day, however, Aaron would only say that his long-promised job with the Brewers was still under consideration. "It depends on well things go between Selig and myself," he said.

Years later, Aaron would admit that those "things" had soured long before his final game. Although he declined to say what had gone wrong, he cited his relationship with Selig as the reason he would not be returning to the Brewers. "I was on very bad terms with the owner at the time," he said in 1987. "I wasn't going to be stuck in Milwaukee working for somebody who didn't want me."

Fewer than 7,000 were on hand for that afternoon as the Brewers hosted the Tigers. Shortstop Robin Yount led off for Milwaukee. Yount had not even been born when Aaron began his Major League career. Batting cleanup, Aaron grounded out twice before coming to bat in the sixth inning with George Scott on second base and Charlie Moore at third. Aaron laced a grounder to the right side of Tigers shortstop Jerry Manuel, who got a glove on the ball, but bobbled it. Aaron – his legs slowed by age – managed to hoof it safely to first and Moore scooted home to make the score Detroit 5, Milwaukee 2.

An appreciative roar emerged from the sparsely populated grandstand as Aaron stood at first base. With a list of accomplishments as long as any living American athlete, Aaron had one more mark on his mind at the moment – sole possession of second place on the all-time runs scored list. He was, at the moment, tied with Babe Ruth at 2174 behind Ty Cobb. But manager Alex Grammas was unaware of the mark and sent infielder Jim Gantner in to pinch run for Aaron. Grammas wanted to see Aaron end his career with a hit. As Aaron walked from the field for the final time, the crowd stood and applauded. Moore and Yount greeted him as he returned to the dugout. The ovation and handshakes were the only bit of pageantry witnessed that afternoon.

Baseball Almanac Box Scores																						
Detroit Tigers 5, Milwaukee Brewers 2																						
Game played on Sunday, October 3, 1976 at County Stadium																						
Detroit Tigers				ab	r	h	rbi	Milwaukee Brewers				ab	r	h	rbi							
Scrivener	3b	4	0	0	0	Yount	ss	4	0	0	0	Lane	lf	5	0	1	0					
Staub	rf	5	0	0	0	Scott	1b	4	1	2	0	Horton	dh	4	2	2	0					
Meyer	1b	4	1	2	0	Aaron	dh	3	0	1	1	Meyer	1b	4	1	2	0					
Stanley	cf	4	2	2	1	Gantner	pr,dh	1	0	0	0	Stanley	cf	4	2	2	1					
Freehan	c	3	0	1	1	Lezcano	rf	4	0	0	0	Freehan	c	3	0	1	1					
Garcia	2b	3	0	2	3	Thomas	lf	4	0	1	0	Garcia	2b	3	0	2	3					
Manuel	ss	4	0	0	0	Sutherland	2b	4	0	1	0	Manuel	ss	4	0	0	0					
Roberts	p	0	0	0	0	Bowling	cf	3	0	0	0	Roberts	p	0	0	0	0					
Totals		36	5	10	5	Heidemann	3b	3	0	2	0	Totals		34	2	8	1					
						Beare	p	0	0	0	0											
						Haas	p	0	0	0	0											
						Totals		34	2	8	1											
Detroit				0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	5	10	2							
Milwaukee				0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	8	3							
Detroit Tigers				IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	Milwaukee Brewers				IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO			
Roberts	W (16-17)	9.0	8	2	1	0	2	Beare	L (2-3)	6.0	9	5	5	2	7	Haas	3.0	1	0	0	1	2
Totals		9.0	8	2	1	0	2	Totals		9.0	10	5	5	3	9							

E-Lane (1), Roberts (4), Moore (9), Scott (13), Sutherland (11). DP-Detroit 1, Milwaukee 2. 2B-Detroit Horton (17,off Beare), Milwaukee Scott (21,off Roberts). SF-Garcia (4,off Beare). SB-Stanley (2,2nd base off Beare/Moore). CS-Lezcano (10,3rd base by Roberts/Freehan); D Thomas (2,3rd base by Roberts/Freehan). U-HP-Terry Cooney, 1B-Jerry Neudecker, 2B-Art Frantz, 3B-Bill Deegan. T-2:09. A-6,858.

Game played on Sunday, October 3, 1976 at County Stadium

Baseball Almanac Box Score | [Print](#) [PDF](#)

After the game, another Brewers loss, Aaron was reserved as he spoke again for the press. He admitted he had wanted a chance at that last run and perhaps one more time at bat, but refused to make an issue of it. "My career is done with – over with. Let it go at that." As he undressed and had his usual post-game cigarette (he later said it was the last he would ever smoke), he expressed frustration with his performance as a Brewer. "I've been playing on borrowed time the last two years," he said. "It's been embarrassing for the kind of career I've had to be finishing with a .229 average."

Asked what he would miss most about playing, Aaron – long weary of the attention the game had brought him – said it was the clubhouse. "[That is] where I had isolation from the outside world. I've had the most peaceful moments of my life there."

In the following day's Milwaukee papers, Aaron's exit was given less attention than the Packers' 24-14 win over the Lions. There was a sadness about the moment, one that went beyond the loss of an all-time great and a fan favorite. The Milwaukee Sentinel's Mike Gonring saw it that way. "Kings deserve better," he wrote. "[Aaron] ended it in bad company, surrounded by a team that played as if it didn't know how to win, in front of a crowd that did not reflect the importance of the moment."



1936 Milwaukee Brewers Team Song Revived after 84 Years Our Team is Leading the Hit Parade

By Paul Tenpenny
(Tencentz@aol.com)



In the cloistered year of 2020, I was asked by Joel Willems, Curator of Milwaukee's Chudnow Museum if I could help with a baseball exhibit at their museum during the upcoming baseball season. It was a pretty quick yes, having had shared my enthusiasm and collections in the past for several exhibits in both Milwaukee and Madison. Memorabilia from the Old Milwaukee Brewers, the Milwaukee Braves and the current Milwaukee Brewers was housed in 3 display cases.

The exhibit was well received despite restrictions placed on us all with the Covid precautions. The exhibit ran until the end of the baseball season.

We recorded an interview on the exhibit and later, a live Zoom SABR event was hosted by the Museum that summer.

While dismantling the exhibit, one of the artifacts was my copy of the 1936 sheet music, "Our Team's Leading The Hit Parade" and I told Joel of my desire to hear the song. No one had a recording of it and I had tried in vain for years to get someone to perform and record the music.



The Museum’s player piano happened to have the Wisconsin Badgers “On Wisconsin” cued up, that got us both talking about old time music and the little-known history of this 1936 celebratory song. This song had been sitting around for 84 years in silence. Why not give it a try?

I asked again and through Joel, I now had someone willing to try. We made a copy of the music and Joel set out to find someone to perform it. The rest of the story is “history.”

After a couple of attempts failed, the 3rd time was the charm as he found a former volunteer and teacher, Leah Duckert-Kroll from West Bend. She mustered up a pianist and vocalists too.



Ian Janssen
Pianist



Jerry Becker
Vocalist

We now have a time machine back to the 1936 Milwaukee Brewer baseball team and this [wonderful song](#), including some great film footage from Borchert Field that year.

I am forever thankful to all who participated:

Leah Duckert-Kroll

Piano: Ian Janssen

Vocals: Jerry Becker and Family

Mixing/Production: Corey Murphy

Film Footage: Robert Block

Video Editing: Joel Willems

Sheet Music: Courtesy of Vintage Brew

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Borchert Field, the Bonus Chapters

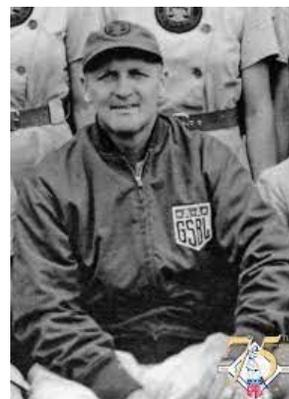
By Bob Buege

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

A LITTLE OF EVERYTHING

“You name it in baseball and [Eddie Stumpf](#) has done it.” So said the dinner program of the 28th Annual Banquet of the [Old Time Ball Players’ Association of Wisconsin](#) on November 3, 1965. Stumpf, the guest of honor that night in Milwaukee’s Elks Club, was introduced as the Director of Advertising and Special Events of the Chicago White Sox.

A native of Milwaukee and a product of the local sandlots, Stumpf played catcher for the 1916 Brewers in a lineup that included former Olympic star [Jim Thorpe](#). Stumpf was clearly not ready to play at that level—he batted just .107. He began the next season at Rocky Mount, North Carolina, where Thorpe had debuted eight years earlier. The league quickly folded, a common occurrence in those times. The season before becoming a Brewer, Stumpf had performed with the Aurora Foxes in the short-lived Bi-State League. That league went bust on July 7, shortly after the Foxes played the Freeport Pretzels. After Rocky Mount, Stumpf caught on with Cedar



[Stumpf as the Rockford Peaches First Manager](#)

Rapids, but once more, they promptly went broke. At one of their games only 18 paying customers showed up.

After serving a year in the military, he coached high school football in Duluth and worked in the shipyards there. He made another attempt at playing ball for a living. Returning to Athletic Park, he was Milwaukee's backstop until he injured his knee by running into the grandstand in Kansas City. The Brewers released him in July, and he joined the Columbus Senators, where he finished his playing days. Ironically, in late August the Brewers' only catcher, [Emil Huhn](#), injured his foot. On two hours' notice, they were forced to hire someone new to put on the chest protector and mask. They signed up a local sandlot player—Eddie Stumpf's 19-year-old brother, Benny.

That day Bruno Haas, who had worn house slippers in the coaching box because of an injured foot, put on spikes and batted for Benny Stumpf in the twelfth inning. (The next day he pinch hit again, this time while wearing slippers. He fanned.)

On September 23, 1919, Eddie returned to Athletic Park with the Columbus ballclub. Eddie went hitless, but his team defeated Milwaukee, 6-0, in the first-ever Brewers appearance by a pitcher with a wonderful, euphonious name—[Buzz McWeeny](#).

Eddie Stumpf actually took two shots at playing big-league ball. Twice he traveled to spring training with the Chicago White Sox. Each time, however, he was released before the Sox headed north.

In 1920 Stumpf began a decade-long managerial tour of Wisconsin's sandlot and semi-pro clubs scattered around the state: Waukesha, Milwaukee, Lancaster, Kaukauna, Merrill, Antigo, and so on. In 1929-30 he skippered the Castor-in-Oils team that headquartered in Milwaukee but had no home park and played all their games on the road.

Besides managing, Stumpf also gained a reputation as Wisconsin's leading promoter of athletic exhibitions. When [Babe Ruth](#) and [Lou Gehrig](#) brought their "Bustin' Babes" and "Larrupin' Lou's" to Borchert Field, the man sponsoring the show was Eddie Stumpf. He also promoted numerous sporting contests, most of them in Borchert Field, such as wrestling matches, House of David and Negro League baseball, and barnstorming teams of ballplayers like [Al Simmons](#), [Jimmie Foxx](#), and the 1934 World Series heroes, [Dizzy](#) and Daffy Dean.

At the end of the 1931 pro football season, Stumpf arranged to have the three-time world champion Green Bay Packers play a team of Chicago Bears and Cardinals in Borchert Field. Red Grange and Bronko Nagurski and their compatriots from the Windy City agreed to the additional payday. Curly Lambeau's guys, however, perhaps full of themselves after their recent three-peat, demanded \$2,000 in guaranteed money. The best the promoter could offer was a percentage of the gate. As a result, the contest never took place.

In 1932 Stumpf helped organize a new semi-pro baseball circuit called the Wisconsin-Illinois League, which according to the Milwaukee morning newspaper was "the strongest semi-pro circuit in the Middle West." The new league was formed after the Wisconsin State League folded. The Dairy State's trio of representatives included the Sheboygan Chairs, the 1931 state league champs; the Madison Blues, featuring Milwaukee teenager [Fabian Gaffke](#); and Stumpf's Milwaukee Red Sox.

Gaffke was a future big-league teammate of Jimmie Foxx and [Bob Feller](#), among others. Besides youngsters on the way up, though, the new league showcased a handful of experienced major leaguers, mostly pitchers. Forty-four-year-old Hippo Vaughan of the Logan Squares, who shut out Stumpf's club on opening day, 7-0, had gained immortality as a Chicago Cub on May 2, 1917, by hooking up with Cincinnati's [Fred Toney](#) in a nine-inning double no-hitter. (Jim Thorpe drove in the game's winning run for the Reds in the tenth inning.)

[Garland \(Gob\) Buckeye](#) of the Chicago Mills team was an enormous—okay, fat—mountain of a man who had pitched five years in the big leagues while alternately playing pro football for six years with [Paddy Driscoll's](#) Chicago Cardinals. Buckeye had given up the 19th and 20th home runs of Babe Ruth's record number in 1927.

In 1932, fourteen years before [Jackie Robinson](#) played for the Montreal Royals, blacks and whites competed with impunity in the Wisconsin-Illinois League. Two of the nine clubs were composed entirely of African Americans. Jimmy Hutton's Colored All-Stars were made up exclusively of postal workers. The all-black Chicago Giants employed two pitchers of special note. One was [Bill Foster](#), son of Negro League pioneer and future Hall of Famer [Rube Foster](#). The other was [Joe Lillard](#).

Lillard had been a sensational halfback at the University of Oregon the previous autumn. He had been declared ineligible in mid-season because during that summer he had associated with Gilkerson's Colored Giants, a traveling group of low-paid professional baseball players. Lillard insisted he had just driven the team bus and filled in when a player was sick or hurt. Nevertheless, the NCAA, in its quest for sporting purity, banned him. Lillard played two seasons in the National Football League. He was the last black player in the NFL until the Rams signed Kenny Washington in 1946.

The ballclub that Stumpf's Red Sox put on the field was more than competitive. Their mound staff boasted three former Milwaukee Brewers: lefties Ralph Blatz and Dinty Gearin, and little right-hander Al Fons. The five-foot four-inch Gearin had once pitched for [John McGraw's](#) New York Giants. Later he worked a dozen years for the Brewers, winning 20 games in 1925 and achieving a no-hitter in Athletic Park on August 21, 1926.

Anchoring the infield, third baseman [Rube Lutzke](#) was a local sandlot product who played for a season with the Brewers before enjoying a five-year career with the Cleveland Indians. His unusually large hands (a newspaper photo showed him holding seven baseballs in one hand) helped him earn a reputation as an exceptional fielder. In the late 1920's Lutzke was a vocal critic of the new baseballs, insisting they were "juiced." He said the lively ball was ruining the sport, that it made his position dangerous. "I was safer in the war," he claimed.

Another of the Red Sox Milwaukee natives had a more unusual story. Norbert (Lefty) Hust started his baseball career in Borchert Field at age nine—as the Brewers mascot. He would hit a few in batting practice, then take a turn at first base, to the amusement and amazement of early-arriving fans. He became as big an attraction as the team. He continued in that role until becoming a three-sport star at Messmer High School. After graduation he accompanied the Brewers to spring training in Little Rock, hoping to make the club. He faced two barriers: he was 19 years old, and he was five-foot six. Milwaukee manager [Frank O'Rourke](#) told a reporter, "Lefty Hust is the best natural young ballplayer I have ever seen." Unfortunately his limited stature proved his undoing, but as a semi-pro first baseman, he was a wizard around the bag.

Probably today's best-known name on Stumpf's lineup card was Lloyd Larson, an outfielder and first baseman. Larson retired in 1974 after 27 years as sports editor of the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, five times honored as Wisconsin's Sportswriter of the Year. Less remembered is Larson's career as a two-sport athlete, football and baseball, at the University of Wisconsin. Later he officiated Big Ten football and basketball games, including the 1951 Rose Bowl.

On Sunday, May 22, 1932, Stumpf's Red Sox finally made their home debut in front of 2,000 fans in Borchert Field. It was a doubleheader against the Colored All-Stars from Chicago, perhaps the league's most intriguing team. The All-Stars players were recruited from such talented Negro League clubs as the Homestead Grays and the Kansas City Monarchs, and they all worked at the Chicago post office. What's more, they mixed comedy with their ball-playing, in the fashion of the Ethiopian Clowns and the Harlem Globetrotters.

Stumpf's Red Sox swept both games behind strong pitching from Gearin and Fons. Milwaukee center fielder Mandy Brooks led the offense with three hits in each game. Meanwhile, the defense rested. Both teams looked sloppy, committing a combined total of 18 errors in the doubleheader. The umpiring also appeared substandard. Players and fans from both sides complained and tormented both umpires all afternoon. All-Stars catcher James Bray finally became so vulgar and obnoxious that he was ordered off the field. He refused to leave, so a brace of Milwaukee's finest escorted him from the premises.

Eddie Stumpf simply loved the game of baseball. On July 11, in Logan Square Park in Chicago, he inserted himself, a former catcher, into the Red Sox lineup in right field. In the final inning he drove in the game-winning run with a perfectly executed squeeze bunt.

Stumpf later managed a Chicago Cubs farm club, then joined [Bill Veeck](#) after Veeck bought the Milwaukee Brewers. When Veeck bought the Cleveland Indians, Stumpf went along and ran their farm system. Veeck called Stumpf “the best operator in the minor leagues.” As the dinner program said, you name it and he has done it.



Ritterbusch Latest Games Project Article

Ken Keltner Chapter member, Cory Ritterbusch fourth and latest Games Project article has been published by SABR continuing his theme of “famous games at Wrigley Field that have nothing to do with the Chicago Cubs.” Enjoy!

September 25, 1963: Stan Musial plays his last road game at Wrigley Field_ **This article was written by [Cory Ritterbusch](#)**

After Stan Musial’s official announcement on August 12, 1963, that this would be his last season as a player, he was showered with appreciation in the seven National League cities he played at in August and September: Los Angeles, Houston, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and, finally, Chicago in late September.¹

As Musial’s illustrious 22-year career came to an end, fitting tributes honored one of the best hitters in baseball history and a man whose integrity was of the highest order. The legend said goodbye to the ballparks and cities he had spent so much time in over the years and to the fans who watched him play. Two weeks before the Chicago series, on September 10, he even became a grandfather; the 42-year-old was ready for the next phase of his life.

His announcement and subsequent retirement tour seemingly invigorated the Cardinals. They made a run at the NL pennant, going 27-8 over the first five weeks after the announcement but could not catch up to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Cardinals eventually succumbed to Sandy Koufax and the Dodgers during the season’s final two weeks. They were mathematically eliminated from the pennant race on September 24 with a 6-3 loss to the Cubs. This allowed Musial – and the team – to loosen up for his Chicago farewell ceremony at [Wrigley Field](#) on September 25 and the full-on weekend celebration at Busch Stadium – known as [Sportsman’s Park](#) for the majority of Musial’s career – culminating on September 29, the final Sunday of the regular season.²

The Cubs and the City of Chicago were well-prepared for the occasion. Wrigley Field was the perfect host for Musial’s final career road game. He played in over 200 games there under the sun, dating back to 1941. It was the site of his famous pinch-hit 3,000th hit in 1958 as well as the 1947 and 1962 All-Star Games. Musial tallied 492 hits against the Cubs in his career.

A crowd of 11,564 came out to see “The Man” and for the Cubs’ last home game of the season.³ The night before, Ernie Banks invited Musial to speak at a function at the Better Boys Foundation. Banks told the boys, “Musial was my idol. I tried to pattern myself after him.”⁴

Following a pattern set by previous cities, there was a special pregame ceremony before the 1:30 P.M. game. Musial was gifted a shotgun from Charlie Grimm and the Chicago Cubs Organization and a sterling silver bowl from Broadcaster Jack Quinlan and WGN Radio; the Chicago Chapter of the Baseball Writers Association gave a \$100 bond for his new grandson.



The *Chicago Tribune* reported, “He received many honors, strode to the mike, then showed 11,564 fans what a real man is like.” Musial accepted the gifts and lauded Chicago, its fans, the Cubs youth movement and Wrigley Field as being a “haven for day baseball.”⁵ He also apologized to his teammates, who “are getting tired of listening to me make speeches every place we go. Only one more, fellows!” He walked along the Wrigley brick wall, shaking hands with fans.⁶

The game’s starting pitchers were Ernie Broglio for the Cardinals and All-Star Larry Jackson for the Cubs. In the top of the first, Musial popped out to the catcher, Merritt Ranew.

The Cardinals went ahead in the second. Bill White singled with one out. One out later, catcher Dave Ricketts, in his major-league debut, struck out but reached first on a passed ball, advancing White to second. [Dal Maxvill](#) singled White home.

The Cubs answered with a Ken Hubbs home run in the bottom of the second, tying the score 1-1. In the top of the third, Cardinals owner August Busch Jr. relayed by phone to Wrigley Field that Musial had been named a Cardinals vice president.

The Wrigley Field public-address announcer revealed the news to the crowd as Musial came to bat. Musial would dig in at the plate as a grandfather, with his number already retired, and as the team’s new vice president. He struck out. He was quickly removed from the game, replaced by rookie Corky Withrow in left field. Withrow, coincidentally, became a father on the same day Musial became a grandfather; he was amid a “cup of coffee” and would end his career hitless in nine at-bats.

Musial left Wrigley Field soon after the at-bat in a Chicago Fire Department car with police siren escort for a meeting at Chicago City Hall with Mayor Richard J. Daley and other dignitaries. Musial presented an autographed baseball to the mayor and, in return, received small Chicago flag and a medallion declaring him an honorary Chicago citizen. Daley said, “This is a token of the love and affection Chicagoans have for you and what you stand for – a great American and a great athlete.” Musial replied, “I have always liked Chicago, I like Wrigley Field and I like daylight ball.” Musial, while sitting in Daley’s chair, jokingly gave all Chicago employees the day off.⁷ Daley vetoed the notion.

Back at Wrigley Field, the Cardinals scored two runs in the top of the fourth on Bill White’s single and a home run by Doug Clemens. The Cardinals stretched their lead further in the seventh: Broglio singled, Curt Flood tripled, and Dick Groat singled, knocking pitcher Jackson from the game. In the bottom of the eighth, the Cubs’ Ron Santo walked and scored as Ken Hubbs hit into a fielder’s choice. The Cubs lost 5-2 and sent the Cardinals home a winner on the train out of Chicago.

The Cubs were heading north to Milwaukee for their final series of the season, where Santo needed eight assists to tie the season record for National League third basemen. The Cubs were trying to finish over .500 for the first time since 1952.⁸ Santo ended up breaking the modern National League record with 374 assists and he would set the all-time league record in 1966 with 391. This helped the Cubs improve as a team throughout the 1960s – but they always fell short.

The Cubs’ standout player of the September 25 game was Ken Hubbs. The 1962 Rookie of the Year winner drove in both Cubs runs, homered, walked, and recorded five assists and a putout in the field. That home run would be his last career hit. The sharp-fielding second baseman was playing the last few baseball games of his life. He was the first rookie to win a Gold Glove Award. The well-liked, blossoming 21-year-old died in a plane crash during the offseason. Second-base umpire duties were executed by Hall of Famer Al Barlick. In total, five future Hall of Fame inductees took part in this game – as did sports labor pioneer Curt Flood. Ernie Banks did not play, in favor of rookie John Boccabella.

Another harbinger of things to come: Cubs right fielder Lou Brock had not yet broken out as a complete ballplayer. The next June he was traded for this game’s starting Cardinals pitcher, Ernie Broglio. That trade would go down as one of the most lopsided in sports history. Brock was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1985. Broglio was out of baseball less than three years later.

As the 1963 season concluded, however, all attention was on Musial. The City of St. Louis had tributes waiting for the final weekend: spreads in the newspaper, a television special, and a Sunday ceremony with the game's top brass speaking. But first Musial needed to attend his first meeting as an executive on Friday, trading a uniform for a business suit.

The passing of time sometimes offers strange anecdotes when woven into the national pastime. But this day at Wrigley Field undoubtedly belonged to Musial. The celebration in Chicago was a pleasant precursor to the much larger festivity that occurred in honor of Musial when he returned home to St. Louis. There and then, Musial stood as baseball's happy warrior, as baseball's perfect knight.

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On Story Parkway: Remembering County Stadium



"[On Story Parkway: Remembering County Stadium](#) is a new book about everything and anything Milwaukee County Stadium. Two and a half years in the making, it covers everything from; the county financing to demolition, Braves to Brewers, Pink Floyd to The Rolling Stones. Keep in mind the book is 620 pages with 152 photos never seen before. It includes 250 memories from former Braves and Brewers, Milwaukee media and most importantly the fans. It is not a coffee table book, but that's where you'll want to keep it for others to share in the memories. The book features memories from Robin Yount, Rollie Fingers, Bob Harlan, Chris Jacke, Mayor John Norquist, Tom Trebelhorn. and hundreds of fans. Foreword by Bud Selig. Thank god for baseball." (From the [Amazon](#) website.)

Dedicated to Henry Aaron, the book includes contributions from SABR members, Bob Buege, Dennis Degenhardt, Mathew Prigge, and Rick Schabowski. It is currently the #1 baseball book on Amazon.

Watch for a future meeting with Jim as well as some of the SABR members who have participated in this project about one of our all-time favorite places.



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Major titles included in this collection include: *Boston Globe* (1872-1922), *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (1841-1963), *Chicago Daily Herald* (1901-2006), *Houston Post* (1893-1952), *Kansas City Times* (1908-1976), *New York Tribune* (1841-1922), *Philadelphia Inquirer* (1794-1922), *Pittsburgh Courier* (1911-1977), *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (1853-1963), *San Francisco Examiner* (1865-1922), *Washington Evening Star* (1852-1939), and others.

There are over 21 million pages of Wisconsin newspapers included in the archive although The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and their individual variations are not included.



Summer of SABR



As part of SABR's 50th anniversary in 2021, all baseball fans are invited to join us online for the [Summer of SABR: Golden Celebration Series](#), presented by Major League Baseball and [Baseball-Reference.com](#). The opening session begins on June 25-27, 2021.

Join us this summer for a series of presentations, chats, and panel discussions featuring authors, scholars, and figures from around the game, including: **Katie Krall**, Cincinnati Reds; **Bianca Smith**, Boston Red Sox; **Janet Marie Smith**, Los Angeles Dodgers; **J.J. Cooper**, *Baseball America*; **Rick White**, Atlantic League; **Sean Forman**, Sports Reference; **Gary Ashwill**, [Seamheads.com](#); and **Larry Lester**, SABR Negro Leagues Committee; and more.

- **Registration:** [Click here to register for the Summer of SABR: Golden Celebration Series](#). Registration is \$35 for SABR members and \$50 for non-members. The **single registration fee** will provide access to the entirety of the Summer of SABR: Golden Celebration Series, including every session in June, July and August. That's NINE incredible virtual sessions, including the full Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference, for just one registration price.
- **Schedule:** The Summer of SABR online sessions will be held on the weekends of June 25-27, July 23-25, and August 10, 13-14. [Click here](#) for a closer look at each date and the broad range of topics to be explored.
- **Contact:** Please e-mail [Chanel Zapata](#) with any questions.

We hope you'll join us this summer for the Summer of SABR: Golden Celebration Series! Visit [SABR.org/summer](#) to learn more.

...AND FREE FOOD...

SABR National will cater a future in-person meeting for TWO deserving chapters. The winning chapters will be:

- 1) The chapter with the **most** total members registering for the Summer of SABR: Golden Celebration Series
- 2) Since we have a wide range of chapter sizes, we'll also reward the chapter with the **highest percentage** of their membership registering for the Summer of SABR: Golden Celebration Series

Great timing as we prepare to return to in-person meetings again...and what is one of Wisconsin's favorite pastime? **FREE FOOD.**

The Ken Keltner Chapter is not one of the largest but we can win the second qualifier and enjoy a summer of SABR meetings for one low cost, \$35 and then food at one of our events.

SABR 50 at 50: Baseball Trivia

SABR has featured a [trivia contest](#) as part of its annual convention since at least 1982. Further considering the hundreds of contests that have taken place at our local chapter events, it is fair to say that SABR and trivia have gone hand in hand throughout our history. We steadfastly maintain that there is nothing trivial about baseball trivia.



As part of the [SABR 50 at 50 project](#) to help celebrate our Golden Anniversary, it is appropriate that we present our 50 greatest baseball trivia questions. We asked many of SABR's best trivia stalwarts to offer questions, and then asked them all to vote on the nominees to narrow it down to 50. Like all great trivia tests, the questions range in difficulty from easy to very hard.

We invite you to test your own mastery of these questions. Once you are finished, you can click the link below and read the answers. We are interested in hearing how you did, but we also would love to hear your own suggestions for great trivia questions we might have missed. Put on your thinking caps and good luck!

Visit SABR.org/50at50/trivia to find the questions and answer key.

— Compiled by D. Bruce Brown



The American Association Angle

Offensive Parity in 1952:

Comparing the Milwaukee Brewers and Kansas City Blues

by Rex Hamann, Editor and Publisher of the *American Association Almanac*



Milwaukee's 1952 season in the American Association was unique in many respects, especially in comparison with their number one adversary, the Kansas City Blues.

After winning the league championship in 1951, taking both the pennant and the league championship (by virtue of capturing both rounds of the playoffs), the defending champion Brewers knew they'd have to tame the Blues to repeat as champs. As outlined in previous articles appearing in *The Hot Corner* (February 2021), the battle between these two contenders was, in a word, contentious, with each side winning 11 of the 22 series games. But each team brought its own unique strengths in their fight for the flag.

Among them was the ability to hit for power. Kansas City's claim as the franchise leader with 183 home runs in 1952 gave the Blues an added advantage, providing a scoring boost which allowed them to remain competitive with Milwaukee. While the Blues maintained a substantial edge in long balls, the Brewers held the season scoring edge but only by a reed-thin margin of 872-869. Put another way, Kansas City averaged 5.64 runs per game (rpg) compared with Milwaukee's 5.66 rpg, despite having over 70 more home runs!



Kansas City's Municipal Stadium

League home run production covered a wide range, with fourth-place Minneapolis posting the circuit's maximum 193 long balls (5.27 rpg). The Blues finished a close second, while Indianapolis collected 120 (5.12 rpg). In fact, these two teams presented another unique comparison. The Miller offense thrived at hitter-friendly Nicollet Park in Minneapolis, while the Blues were not as productive homering at Blues Stadium with its expansive outfield. [George Selkirk's](#) Blues led the league with a slugging percentage of .472. In the case of Minneapolis, their home run production was commensurate with

their scoring, while Indianapolis, with its third-ranked 120 home runs, ranked fifth in runs scored, averaging 5.12 rpg.



Milwaukee's Borchert Field

The Brewers started the season under manager [Charlie Grimm](#) before [Bucky Walters](#) took the reins June 6. Borchert Field, the team's long-time home on the near-north side, had served it well during its 51 seasons in the American Association. It was well known as a hitter's park, not necessarily as an easy place to hit home runs. The 1952 Brewers ranked fourth in the league with 112 (officially) home runs that year, hit only 54 at home (48%), did not take full advantage of the opportunity for hitting long balls there. Not that they needed them, as they won 101 games against 53 losses in garnering the pennant, the second best record in club history. Underscoring the team's under-reliance on the long ball was its exceptional run differential of 247. Milwaukee

batted .292 on the season, six points better than the Blues, with just 13 more at-bats. The team slugged .433, suggesting that the Brewers found ways to score without the power advantage Kansas City claimed.

A complete game-by-game database for both the Blues and Brewers provides the basis for this report. The Blues database contains accounts for each of their officially credited 183 home runs. However, the Brewers database accounts for 111 of their official tally of 112. The missing home run belongs to outfielder [Luis Márquez](#) whose official total was 14. While surveying *The Sporting News* box scores used for this project, it was found that Márquez had 13 home runs through Sept. 3, a count which aligned with the author's findings and was validated by the published listings of the league's leading batters. However, a thorough search for a Márquez home run after Sept. 3 proved fruitless, leading to the question of whether Márquez actually did hit 14 homers that year. One reason for a possible mix-up was that another player with a similar name played for Kansas City named [Bob Marquis](#); perhaps one of his home runs was mis-attributed to Márquez.

Milwaukee played ten games after the Sept. 3 date posted by *The Sporting News* for including Márquez's 13 HR, but in none of the box scores for those games was a home run listed for Márquez, the Brewer left fielder. The search employed the use of online newspapers including the *Indianapolis Star*, the *Kansas City Star*, the *Kansas City Times*, the *Louisville Courier-Journal* and the *Minneapolis Tribune*, as well as *The Sporting News*. Perhaps the *Milwaukee Journal* or the *Milwaukee Sentinel* would solve this mystery; unfortunately for baseball researchers who are not residents of Milwaukee County, there is no online access for these newspapers. As a result of the missing home run, the record is imperfect, but such is the nature of historical research, whether it be baseball statistics or any other form of documentation.

Kansas City seemed to benefit from their power surge that year. Belting 149 home runs in 1951, the Blues finished in third place 11 games over .500 under Selkirk. In 1952 they were 24 games over .500, finishing 12 games in back of the Brewers.

Would the Blues have done better in the standings had their home venue been more homer-friendly? The Blues hit 68 home runs in 77 games on the home grounds, 37% of their combined total, suggesting Blues Stadium was not an easy place to go yard. Reinforcing this idea was the fact that opposing teams hit just 41 four-baggers there. But it's all about winning, and the Blues had no problem posting W's, registering a record of 50-27 (.649) at Blues Stadium; in games in which they homered they were 33-14 (.702), posting long balls in 47 of their 77 home games, or 61 percent.

The Blues were led by outfielder [Bill "Moose" Skowron](#) with 31 circuit clouts, nearly 17 percent of the team total, with 22 on the road. Skowron also led the team in batting with a mark of .341 while slugging a healthy .641. Outfielder [Bill Renna](#) was second on the list of Blues bombers, registering 12 long balls at Blues Stadium, the club maximum. From June 28 to July 1 Renna homered in five consecutive games, combining for seven clouts, starting at St. Paul's Lexington Park, then at Nicollet

Park against the Millers. Renna led the team with 12 round-trippers during the month of July and finished the season batting .295, slugging .585 and collecting 28 circuit clouts.

The Blues maximized their advantage as a home run hitting club by hitting more than they allowed. Breaking the season into eight 20-game sets, the Blues exceeded parity (equal number of HR hit vs. HR allowed) in seven of them, finally falling short of parity by seven HR in the final week of the season (14 games in nine days) with eight long balls to the opposition's 15. The club was 25 home runs better than their opponents during their fourth 20-game set when they out-homered the enemy, 38 to 13. They held opponents to just nine home runs in three of the eight sets, during which they collected 29, 27, and 28 homers, respectively, making a strong statement in each case. Compared with other Association teams in their franchise-best seasons, the 1952 Blues were an exceptionally strong club in terms of exceeding parity in the home run column.

Milwaukee's parity ratings were modest, reflecting a much lower reliance on the long ball in 1952. In four of their eight 20-game sections, the Brewers finished under parity, while in three of the eight they were above. During the final section (14 games) they finished at parity, with eight HR both for and against, resulting in a won-lost record of 11-3 while outscoring their opponents 81-53. These figures underscore the club's under-reliance on the long ball that year.

Their best 20-game section came between the dates Aug. 13 and Aug. 28 with 15 HR for, and and nine against. During that time the Brewers won 15 of the 20 games, also their best record in the eight season sections.

While the two teams were offensive clones of each other in many departments, Milwaukee had a completely different complexion as a home run hitting club. With 112 clouts, their production was down only slightly from the 120 of the previous season when they ranked third in the league (Minneapolis led with 154 in 1951). However, opponents held the home run advantage, 124 to 112.

With its 54 home runs on the home grounds in 1952, the team accounted for 48.2% of its official total.

The Brewers achieved a record of 52-26 (.667) with a run differential of 133 (447-314), or 1.7 runs per game, at home in 78 home games. When homering at home the team's record was an impressive 25-8 (.758) with a run differential of 75 (133-58) or 2.3 runs per game.

Milwaukee homered in 33 of the 78 home games, 42.3% of the home schedule, substantially lower than Kansas City's performance at Blues Stadium, but with a more advantageous outcome.

Milwaukee's long ball parade was led by Wisconsin-born first baseman **Hank Ertman** with 17. Ertman batted .291 in 127 games, slugging .464. Luis Márquez was next with 14, batting .345 in 136 games while scoring exactly 100 runs with a team-high 280 total bases. Outfielder **James "Buzz" (or Bus) Clarkson** ranked third with 12 clouts, batting .318 in 74 games while slugging .541. Outfielder **Bill Bruton** formed the tip of the spear scoring a team-high 130 runs, batting .325, and slugging .426 while appearing in all 154 games. With only five long balls, Bruton didn't contribute much to Milwaukee's home run profile, but he was the team's ace-in-the-hole when it came to scoring runs.

The table below shows how the individual players contributed to their team's home run total in 1952 (TT = Team Total):

Kansas City	#HR	% TT	Milwaukee	#HR	% TT
Bill Skowron	31	16.9	Hank Ertman	17	15.2
Bill Renna	28	15.3	Luis Márquez.	14	12.5
Kal Segrist	25	13.7	Buzz Clarkson	12	10.7
Don Bollweg	23	12.6	Al Unser	9	8.0
Andy Carey	16	8.7	Jack Dittmer	8	7.1
Vic Power	16	8.7	Bob Montag	8	7.1

Skowron's wind-aided fly ball to right field late in the seventh game of the final round of the 1952 playoffs decided the contest before the Borchert Field faithful, as the Blues went on to defeat the host Brewers to capture the American Association championship. It was a heartbreaking defeat for local fans who had seen so many heroic Brewer victories all season, but in the end the crown went to Kansas City who then succumbed to the Rochester Red Wings in a historic seven-game encounter in the Junior World Series.



Those interested in the franchise leaders for the American Association's single season home run production (1902-1962) may be interested in the Spring 2021 issue of the American Association Almanac, Vol. 17, No. 1, which was just published. A description of the issue's contents can be found at the [American Almanac's blogsite](#).

Copies of Vol. 17, No. 1 of the American Association Almanac are on sale.

Anyone wishing to obtain an e-copy of the home run database for either the 1952 Milwaukee or the 1952 Kansas City season, please contact the author, [Rex Hamann](#)

Support your local baseball historians!