



# The Wood Pile



Newsletter of the Smoky Joe Wood Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research

Volume 2 Issue 1

Summer 2020

## Leading Off: A Message from the Chapter President

By Steve Krevisky



Over the past year, we have continued our high level of activity, even though the COVID situation slowed us down in these last several months.

We had a well attended chapter breakfast in February 2020. Our March 2020 spring general meeting,

which would have been held at Middlesex Community College, my home campus, was canceled, due to the COVID situation. We continued to put out excellent chapter newsletters, led by Karl Cicitto. He has stepped down from this, and we thank him for his leadership! Stan Osowiecki will succeed him in keeping the Wood Pile active. Thanks, Stan!

We held a chapter leaders luncheon in June, where it was nice to see people again, and we brainstormed about future plans. We had an enjoyable Zoom chapter general meeting on June 25, hosted by Tom Monitto. Thanks to Tom, as well as to our presenters! Mitchell Nathanson did a nice presentation on his new book about Jim Bouton. Alan Cohen did a good update on various new books in SABR. About 20 people participated in this new venture! We are one of the few chapters so far to do this! Some of us also joined in on a June 28 Zoom event on baseball cards, sponsored by the SABR baseball cards committee.

The in-person annual SABR convention in Baltimore was canceled, due to the COVID, but it will hopefully take place, next year in Baltimore! Meanwhile, there will be a virtual convention, taking place later in July.

This year marks the Centennial of the Negro Leagues, so various events will occur to commemorate this! Other future events will occur, as things slowly reopen. MLB will have an abbreviated 60 game schedule, starting at the end of July, so we await this, and see how the season unfolds!

Our members are active in many ways, as authors, active in the bio project, researchers, and contributors to this newsletter, and they all deserve our thanks! We also mourn the passing of Larry Howard, who was an active member of the chapter!

I have been re-reading *The Hidden Game of Baseball*, by Pete Palmer and John Thorn. My Dad got this for me, back in the mid-80's, when it first came out, as one of the alternative ways of analyzing players and teams. It's a good read, and it would be interesting to see a revised version of this, all so many years later. One might not agree with all of their conclusions, but it challenges you to think, as you absorb their tables and charts.

Stay tuned for more about future chapter plans, and please share with us what you'd like the chapter to do! Thanks!

## Upcoming Events

### Chapter Events

[www.smokyjoewood.com/events](http://www.smokyjoewood.com/events)

Additional chapter activities are being discussed. Activities include Zoom gatherings and in-person meetings once they are allowed to happen.

Chapter is also investigating the opportunity to attend, at a social distance, New Britain Bees games as a part of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League.

Watch for emails from Steve Krevisky for details on our chapter plans.

### National Events

On-line SABR events are occurring over the next few weekends. These events are listed at: [SABR.org/virtual-meetings](http://SABR.org/virtual-meetings)

More information at [sabr.org/events](http://sabr.org/events)

## New Chapter Members

Welcome to new members (since January 2020):

Jason Amico, West Hartford	Sally May, West Hartford
Keith Bova, Fairfield	William McCormack, Fairfield
Andrew Follo, Newington	Elaina Pakuta, Branford
Matthew Galligan, Milford	Chris Sawyer, Bristol
Tony Imbimbo, Darien	Bob Trostler, Norwich
Jay Johnson, Old Lyme	Claire Wilson, New Canaan

## Editor's Note

With the completion of the previous issue of the Wood Pile, Karl Cicitto handed over the editorial duties to me. Karl was the founder of our chapter's newsletter and served as editor of the newsletter through its first five years. Working closely with Karl, I always appreciated his focus on ensuring we provided the best newsletter possible in both content and quality. While Karl will continue to be a contributor to the newsletter, I will miss working closely with him. Thanks Karl. -Stan O.

## On the Web

Society for American Baseball Research: [sabr.org](http://sabr.org)  
Smoky Joe Wood Chapter: [smokyjoewood.com](http://smokyjoewood.com)

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Members are welcome to submit articles, book reviews or other information that might be interesting to other chapter members. Please send information to Stan Osowiecki at [osowiecki@sbcglobal.net](mailto:osowiecki@sbcglobal.net).

## Book Review: Bouton: The Life of a Baseball Original

By Karl Cicitto

*Bouton: The Life of a Baseball Original*, by Mitchell Nathanson, begins with Jim Bouton's birth in 1939 as a whoops baby and ends with the completion of his ironic, joyous and impactful life in 2019.

Any fan of *Ball Four* will be satisfied with this book because Nathanson goes deep. Bouton granted him access to his papers including the butter yellow box containing over 900 pages of notes he jotted while writing *Ball Four*. With impressive detail and research, Nathanson puts us in the room with Bouton and shows us the man.

Given that the Paul Hensler is also writing about this title, I'm going to use this space to point out just a few parts of the book that resonated with me.

Many know that Bouton co-founded Big League Chew, a product that still does about \$16 million in annual sales.<sup>1</sup> We learn that Bouton's entrepreneurial streak goes back to childhood. We learn that he lived life as if new opportunities would never end.

The anti-conformist was a capitalist. In preadolescence, Bouton would pitch anything door-to-door in his neighborhood, jumping on selling opportunities he found in the newspaper (5,6). In third grade, a scrapper paid him \$50 for an enormous pile of metal he'd scavenged, quite a haul for an 8 year old, circa 1947. In high school, Bouton began painting with watercolors, winning a competition and later outselling his adult competitors at the Gold Coast Art Show in Chicago. (One Bouton original was \$3.99, two were \$7.) The teenager left the show sans paintings and with his pockets stuffed. (18) In college, he created and sold his own line of costume jewelry and taught his future wife, Bobbie, to do so, too. (27)

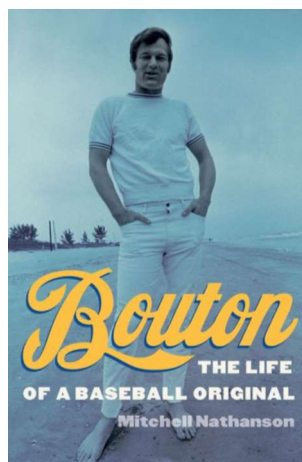
Bouton followed his instincts, always maintaining he had a garage full of ideas. He invented Table To Go, Rodney's Cube, and Mudders, baseball spikes that wouldn't cake mud. (309) Baseball was just one facet of his multi-dimensional nature.

Nathanson also explores Ball Four's development and publication. Leonard Shecter was an important influence of which subjects Bouton prioritized, influencing him to go beyond clubhouse silliness and into Marvin Miller, the labor-management relationship, and baseball salaries. (125).

Shecter is an author worth exploring. He wrote his own tell-all book about the sports world, titled *The Jocks*. (1969). His other books include *Roger Maris, Homerun Hero* (1961); *Once Upon The Polo Grounds* (1970); *I'm Glad You Didn't Take It Personally*, written with Bouton, (1971); and *On The Pad* (1973). He was a proponent of new journalism just as that style reached the sports world.

Shecter's influence on Bouton was significant but their relationship was short. He died of leukemia in 1974 at age 47.<sup>2</sup>

Shecter and Bouton withstood a gut punch from their publisher, World Publishing, when World's lawyers wrote a pre-publication letter detailing forty two potentially libelous statements in *Ball Four*. These included the assertion that Mantle closed a window on a child's finger; that all of the Orioles and most of the Tigers were on greenies; that Joe Pepitone stole an elevator; and that



Steve Barber and Bud Daley are deformed. (141) World demanded the deletion of the passages in question. The two men mostly stood their ground. They cut five, kept thirty-seven, and insisted their book would be published as it was or it would not be published at all. (142).

*Bouton: The Life of a Baseball Original*, touches on many compelling subjects. Nathanson neatly explains the decline of the Yankees in 1965, roots and causes. (95). He paints the progression of the jock book from

mild insider stuff to tell-it-like-it-is bombshell. (123). He renders for us the essence of *Ball Four* and expresses it beautifully. (144). He captures the initial backlash to *Ball Four* (Roger Kahn: "Its tone is superior, leering and mocking.") (160).

As to the essence of the man, Sam Elitzer, son of Chip, Jim's partner in saving Waconah Park, has a beautiful quote. Sam said this after a 2019 visit with Bouton: "I remember who he was...the greatness, the charisma, the virtue." (361)

There is much detail here about Bouton. The book feels comprehensive if not truly complete. We can't have the ultimate finishing touch: Bouton's comments on the book. You know he'd have a lot to say.

This is one that I'll read again, probably sooner than later. Recommended.

### Notes

1. Jake Malooley, "How a Minor League Pitcher Turned a Dugout Conversation into Big League, Chew", *Esquire*, July 10, 2019.
2. Steve Cady, "Leonard Shecter, Sportswriter, Ball Four Co-Author, Is Dead", *New York Times*, Jan. 20, 1974.

## Baseball Conjectures & Speculations by Ezra Count

Answer these questions to the best of your imagination.

1. Which types of plays are most often misplayed by fielders?
2. Which players represent the borderline between players who should be in the Hall of Fame and those who should not?
3. How will the rule change that relief pitchers must face at least three batters affect baseball?
4. Which baseball players had the best nicknames?
5. Rank the 5 or 10 most frantic pennant races in baseball history.
6. Which Charlie Brown cartoons captured the spirit of a losing baseball team best?
7. What do pitching coaches typically say when they go out to the mound? What questions should they ask and what advice should they offer?
8. What are the worst stadiums in major league baseball? In minor league baseball?



## Book Review: Jim Bouton

By Paul Hensler

*Bouton: The Life of a Baseball Original* by Mitchell Nathanson

The curious and interesting life of former Yankee pitcher Jim Bouton was underpinned by no small streak of independence, and his fiber contained more than a few strands of DNA laced with an appreciation for the humorous side of just about any subject. That he penned a baseball diary, *Ball Four*, that remains a compelling must-read opus fifty years after its first publication seals his legacy. The release of Mitchell Nathanson's biography of Bouton invites further examination of what drove the knuckleballer to become a man in full who reveled in being the center of attention.

The author was blessed to have access to an enviable array of interview subjects and well-sourced material: Bouton himself, his two wives and family members, as well as other figures central to Bouton's life. What also draws significance is the oft-referred-to "butter-yellow box" of ephemera containing 978 artifacts on which the notes to the book that became *Ball Four* were written – and scribbled – by Bouton.

Bouton's entry into the literary world came at a time when a subset of the press referred to as the "chipmunks" had been making their mark during the 1960s. As Nathanson states, "the New Journalists saw themselves as seekers of a certain type of truth, one that traditional journalism couldn't reach," and that realm included reporting on matters that had been kept out of the newspapers, not least of which were the private lives of ballplayers and what transpired in the sanctity of the clubhouse (99). When Bouton wrote *Ball Four* and violated the unwritten law that protected the time-honored code of silence, he became a pariah to many of his teammates and the stuffed-shirt baseball establishment, but he also transformed into a folk hero to many fans for having pulled back the curtain to expose the game for what it truly was.

Taking delight in poking his finger in the eye of authority, Bouton nonetheless "touched the third rail of men's feelings" with the renowned diary of his experience during the 1969 season (145). Yet equally captivating about him was an indefatigable spirit that always had him involved in some kind of business venture. Unfortunately, this busy-ness also cost him his first marriage when he pursued a comeback with the Atlanta Braves in 1978, a lark to which Bouton subjected his family all for the vain purpose of chasing a dream to prove to himself that he could return to the big leagues. Bouton also evinced an arrogance in believing that if he thought something was funny, then everyone else should think it funny as well, and there was an unfortunate inconsistency in a key part of his moral compass: "He could be easygoing and forgiving when it came to almost anything. But ethical failings and downright [poor] behavior were something else" (333). Intolerance of substandard conduct by those with whom he dealt in the world of business did not always square with some aspects of how he led his personal life.

But if we accept this shortcoming, the broader and ambitious Bouton was manifest in his desire to never idle and satisfy an urge to keep moving, writing, and inventing. Taken in the end by a disease that robbed him of both physical ability and mental capacity, his death came moments after his wife Paula Kurman had put a baseball in his hand. "He then placed his first three fingers behind [the seams] and gripped the ball as tight as he could. And then he was gone" (361). The poignancy of this moment makes it impossible for the author to let the reader down gently. In his story of baseball's great iconoclast, Mitchell Nathanson has delivered a superb book about an extraordinary life.

## 2020 Major League Schedule

	RED SOX	YANKEES	METS
JUL 23		@WSH	
JUL 24	BAL		ATL
JUL 25	BAL	@WSH	ATL
JUL 26	BAL	@WSH	ATL
JUL 27	NYM	@PHI	@BOS
JUL 28	NYM	@PHI	@BOS
JUL 29	@NYM	PHI	BOS
JUL 30	@NYM	PHI	BOS
JUL 31	@NYY	BOS	@ATL
AUG 01	@NYY	BOS	@ATL
AUG 02	@NYY	BOS	@ATL
AUG 03		@BAL	@ATL
AUG 04	@TB	@BAL	@WSH
AUG 05	@TB	@BAL	@WSH
AUG 06		@TB	
AUG 07	TOR	@TB	MIA
AUG 08	TOR	@TB	MIA
AUG 09	TOR	@TB	MIA
AUG 10	TB		WSH
AUG 11	TB	ATL	WSH
AUG 12	TB	ATL	WSH
AUG 13	TB		WSH
AUG 14	@NYY	BOS	@PHI
AUG 15	@NYY	BOS	@PHI
AUG 16	@NYY	BOS	@PHI
AUG 17	@NYY	BOS	@MIA
AUG 18	PHI	TB	@MIA
AUG 19	PHI	TB	@MIA
AUG 20	@BAL	TB	@MIA
AUG 21	@BAL	@NYM	NYY
AUG 22	@BAL	@NYM	NYY
AUG 23	@BAL	@NYM	NYY
AUG 24			
AUG 25	@TOR	@ATL	MIA
AUG 26	@TOR	@ATL	MIA
AUG 27	@TOR		MIA
AUG 28	WSH	NYM	@NYY
AUG 29	WSH	NYM	@NYY
AUG 30	WSH	NYM	@NYY
AUG 31	ATL	TB	
SEP 01	ATL	TB	@BAL
SEP 02	ATL	TB	@BAL
SEP 03	TOR		
SEP 04	TOR	@BAL	PHI
SEP 05	TOR	@BAL	PHI
SEP 06	TOR	@BAL	PHI
SEP 07		@TOR	PHI
SEP 08	@PHI	@TOR	BAL
SEP 09	@PHI	@TOR	BAL
SEP 10	@TB	BAL	
SEP 11	@TB	BAL	@TOR
SEP 12	@TB	BAL	@TOR
SEP 13	@TB	BAL	@TOR
SEP 14	@MIA		
SEP 15	@MIA	TOR	@PHI
SEP 16	@MIA	TOR	@PHI
SEP 17		TOR	@PHI
SEP 18	NYY	@BOS	ATL
SEP 19	NYY	@BOS	ATL
SEP 20	NYY	@BOS	ATL
SEP 21		@TOR	TB
SEP 22	BAL	@TOR	TB
SEP 23	BAL	@TOR	TB
SEP 24	BAL	@TOR	@WSH
SEP 25	@ATL	MIA	@WSH
SEP 26	@ATL	MIA	@WSH
SEP 27	@ATL	MIA	@WSH



## Only a Year Ago

By Alan Cohen

1969 was a memorable year. I remember one night returning from a date and turning on the television. The Mets game had just ended and the players were walking off the field with a somber tone. Catcher Jerry Grote shook the hand of Pitcher Tom Seaver and it was over. I soon learned that Seaver had come just about as close to immortality on that evening as a pitcher could get. He lost a bid for a perfect game in the ninth inning.

Well, I married the girl, and it is just about fifty years later. I gave up my day job back in 2011 and for the past few years have been working in the ballpark press box. That night (June 4, 2019), Franny drove me to our ballpark in Hartford, Connecticut. This is the third year of games in Hartford after a long absence of minor league ball in the city. Our team during its first two years posted more losses than wins, but this year has been different. In past years, a rousing rendition of the National Anthem by the Gay Men's Chorus would have been the highlight of the game. Not so on this night. Trenton was in town and the Hartford Yard Goats, winners of eight of their prior nine games were 1 1/2 games behind the division leading Thunder. In their prior two home games, on May 28 and May 30, Goats pitchers had struck out 17 and 18 batters respectively.

Rico Garcia was pitching for the Goats and the opposition Thunder had more than they could handle. He struck out the first five batters he faced and, by the time his father was honored with the evening's "Hero Among Us" nod for his service with the Hartford Fire Department. Rico was in a groove. The strikeouts mounted with 11 by the end of the sixth inning. He had not allowed a hit and his mates, with three solo homers, had staked him to a three-run lead. His mates had made two errors behind him (some in the crowd of 6,371 cheered when the first error was posted), and a fielding gem by third baseman Colton Welker had ended the third inning.

The bullpen took over and it was more of the same. Jordan Foley pitched a flawless seventh inning, striking out a pair, and Logan Cozart took care of business in the eighth inning. The game went into the ninth inning and closer Ben Bowden was brought on to secure the win. He struck out the first batter but then the no-hit bid was gone. Matt Lipka, on the first pitch, executed a perfect bunt to the right side of the infield. By the time second baseman Brett Boswell's throw arrived Lipka was a full two strides behind the bag. Bowden retired the last two batters without fanfare and the Goats were winners again.

There is a certain disappointment in missing the no-hitter with one out in the ninth inning, especially on a bunt, but the Goats have the victory and will take the field tonight with the opportunity to vault to first place with a win. What better way to spend an evening in early June!

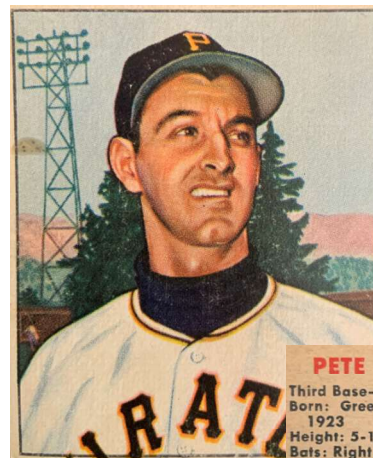
As we sit through a very unusual time and wait for things to get better, I have thought back to last summer. I had gone through some eye surgery on May 28 but didn't miss a Yard Goats Game. Indeed, on the games of May 28 and May 30, the team's pitchers had set strikeout records. I must have been seeing double. I wrote this after the game on Tuesday, June 4, 2019. This game was the team's first game back after a brief weekend road trip to Bowie.

## Frank Observations

By Michael Frank

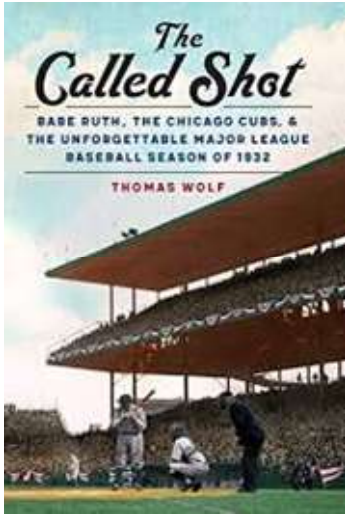
When I said I'd write about Greenwich High School baseball, I didn't anticipate the season being called off. Or travel to schools or libraries. So all of this came off the Net. Maybe I'll go to a game and get more, next season.

- GHS has an enrollment of 2,744. It's on Hillside Avenue, above Putnam (Route 1). All their teams are called the Cardinals. They have artificial turf and a wooded area behind the outfield fence.
- They were state champs in 1962 with a 4-3 win over Stamford. They were Fairfield County champs 7 times, after 1962.
- There's a Diamond Club which supports it, mainly with a golf outing. And an Old Timers Association for all sports.
- Adrian Arroyo was to replace Mike Mora as head coach, after many years. Mora still runs camps for the town's thriving younger kids programs.
- I expected a load of pro players among the alumni, but not so. Zeke Bella and Mike Sandlock were addressed previously. Pete Castiglione of the 1950s era Pirates appears to be an alumnus. Tim Teufel and Jamie d'Antono went to other schools in the area. L.J. Mazzilli started there but transferred out because "football and lacrosse were more prominent".
- Other alumni of note: Islanders owner Jon Ledecky, commentators Matt Lauer and Trey Wingo, figure skater Dorothy Hamill, writer Truman Capote, and football's Steve Young.



## Book Review: The Called Shot

By Paul Hensler



*The Called Shot: Babe Ruth, the Chicago Cubs, & the Unforgettable Major League Baseball Season of 1932*

by Thomas Wolf  
(Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2020)

The year referenced in the subtitle of Tom Wolf's latest book was a seminal time in the history of the United States. Falling into the depths of the Great Depression, few corners of the country escaped its harshness, and the tide would not begin to turn until Franklin

Roosevelt took his place in the White House in 1933. Through it all, there was baseball, and plenty of it.

*The Called Shot* is an assemblage of many short chapters that allow for a variety of subtopics to take the spotlight, even briefly, without wandering too far from the main storyline. A lot was going on in Chicago in 1932 – a series of bombings suspected as the work of organized crime, two political conventions, an exciting National League pennant race, and a World Series marked by an iconic moment that is the book's title. The zeitgeist of the Windy City included the personages of mayor Anton Cermak and, of course, Al Capone. If anything, the milieu of New York gets shortchanged in this Chicago-centric text.

Wolf's narrative covers much ground in the early portion of the 1932 baseball season, with attention given to the plight of a number of teams, not least of which were the Philadelphia Athletics, who were vying for a fourth straight American League title. The New York Yankees were never seriously challenged, but the National League was beset by a different competitive balance, with most of the clubs having a shot at the pennant. As Wolf notes, the huge turning point for the Chicago Cubs was the dismissal of manager Rogers Hornsby and the installation of Charlie Grimm as player-manager. The Cubs erased their five-game deficit, moved into first place on August 11, and held on to take the pennant.

Several dramas played out as the Cubs moved into contention: the issues with Hornsby's gambling problems, and especially the sordid and lengthy Billy Jurgens affair, in which the Cub shortstop was shot by his lover, Violet Popovich. The author sets the stage nicely in bringing Mark Koenig into the picture, downplaying the former Yankee infielder's role early in the book but reprising him when he joined the Cubs in early August and proved to be a catalyst in their dash to the top of the NL standings.

The showdown between the Cubs and Yankees in the World Series turned out to be anticlimactic when the Bronx Bombers swept the North Siders in four straight games, but the intrigue of Babe Ruth's famous "called shot" home run – did he, or didn't he? – stokes debate to this day because of the ambiguity of

eyewitness accounts and the bias that informed some of the opinions of those at Wrigley Field on the afternoon of Game 3. Wolf breezes past the actual event in the contemporaneous narrative but returns to it in detail in a following chapter.

The author also provides a nice recap in his "Extra Innings" afterword, where a host of the book's more noteworthy characters are given a last look to provide the reader with a "whatever happened to them" type of recap. This finishing touch demonstrates Tom Wolf's devotion to the subjects covered in a fine volume that provides both broad and narrow focuses on one of the more memorable campaigns in the history of the national pastime.

## Quotable Baseball: The Game & Its Legends by Jim Mizera

I didn't even graduate from high school. I ate and slept baseball all my life.

- Smoky Joe Wood (1889 - 1985)

Can I throw harder than Joe Wood? Listen, mister, no man alive can throw any harder than Smoky Joe Wood.

- Walter Johnson (1887 - 1946)

A hot dog at the game beats roast beef at the Ritz.

- Humphrey Bogart (1899 - 1957)

The greatest feeling in the world is to win a major league game. The second-greatest feeling is to lose a major league game.

- Chuck Tanner (1928 - 2011), *The Sporting News*, 7/15/85

Close don't count in baseball. Close only counts in horseshoes and grenades.

- Frank Robinson (1935 - 2019), *Time Magazine*, 7/31/1973

When he [Al Kaline] arrived, one of the security people thought he was a bat boy. He was 155 pounds, 6'1... a bean pole. He ended up wearing a bat boy's uniform.

- Bill Dow, Detroit freelance sportswriter

I owe everything to baseball. Without it, I'd probably be a bum.

- Al Kaline (1934 - 2020)

Sometimes a week might go by when I don't think about the (perfect) game, but I don't remember when it happened last.

- Don Larsen (1929 - 2020)

Baseball is not life and death. But in life and death, we remember the game, and we remember those who shared the game with us.

- Jeff Zillgit, USA Today sportswriter, "A Childhood Memory", *Chicken Soup for the Baseball Fan's Soul* (2012)

Live long and play baseball.

- Anonymous



## One Game Hezekiah

By Karl Cicitto

Hezekiah Allen, a catcher by trade, appeared in the one and only major league game of his life in 1884 for Harry Wright's Philadelphia Quakers. In that game Ki performed well at bat, establishing a career .667 batting average, but did not field his position well. He was soon injured and returned to his hometown in Connecticut where he worked as a watchman, custodian, and constable until his passing at age 53.

Ki Allen was born to Chauncey and Delia Allen on February 25, 1863, in Westport, Connecticut, a small farming and shipping community on Long Island Sound. According to Willard Williams, retired sports editor of the *Norwalk Hour*, "Westport was full of Allens for several generations. There was an old saying that to win an election it was necessary to get the Allens, the Bakers and the Battersons on your side."<sup>1</sup>

Exactly how Allen came to Philadelphia to play for Wright is unknown. What is evidenced, however, is that Ki was part of the reserve team experiment undertaken by major league team owners in 1884. The scions established reserve teams in their major league cities to provide a ready supply of talent. Losing players to other teams was increasingly possible in 1884, given the establishment of the short-lived Union Association in 12 cities that year.

On March 26, *Sporting Life* listed the starting nines and change batteries of the Quakers (a.k.a. the Whites) and their Reserves (a.k.a. the Reds). Hezekiah Allen is listed with a pitcher named Waring as the Reds' change battery.<sup>2</sup>

After some seasoning with the Reds, it was announced that Allen would be retained as a substitute on the Quakers, along with outfielder Jim Fogarty and outfielder-pitcher Joe Knight. (Fogarty would be a core member of the Quakers for six years.)<sup>3</sup>

Allen made his major league debut — and played his last game — on May 16, 1884, at Recreation Park. On that day, Harry Wright followed up a 25-5 victory over Buffalo the previous day<sup>4</sup> by starting his battery of Joe Knight and Hezekiah Allen. The Bisons put Billy Serad on the mound.

Joe Knight was wild on the mound for Philly. He yielded a single and walked three batters in the first inning. Ki had two passed balls in the first inning, thus contributing to two Buffalo runs.

A triple and single off Knight produced a Bison run in the third. An error, a walk, two infield hits and two steals in the fifth notched two more scores. The next three Buffalo runs scored in the seventh when Knight gave up two doubles and a triple. After one last run was notched in the ninth, the final score was Buffalo 9, Philadelphia 0.<sup>5</sup>

As bad as Knight had been, Allen had been good. Billy Serad had allowed just four hits to the Quakers and Ki had two of them. A nice day at the plate combined with errorless fielding over the last eight innings made for a promising major league debut for Ki.

It is uncertain how Allen became injured but on May 27 it was reported that Harry Wright was dealing with multiple injuries to pitchers and catchers and that Ki Allen "is still complaining."<sup>6</sup>



Thus, at this point we know that Ki Allen was hurt. Exactly what his injury was and how it occurred is a mystery.

Ki Allen returned to Westport where he married his wife, Rebecca. They had one child, Alma Christine Allen. Alma married Frank Dennert and the couple gave Ki and Rebecca three grandchildren: Elizabeth, Marie and Frank.<sup>7</sup>

In 1909, Ki Allen lost his bid to be elected on the Democratic ticket as a constable in Westport.<sup>8</sup> The next year he succeeded.<sup>9</sup>

As a constable, Ki was noted in the press for attending to the gritty chores of law enforcement by apprehending pugnacious drunks<sup>10</sup>, arresting tax dodgers<sup>11</sup>, looters<sup>12</sup> and pressing a confession from a mail thief.<sup>13</sup>

Hezekiah Allen passed on September 21, 1916, at age 53. A short obituary appeared in the *Norwalk Hour*: "Hezekiah Allen, one of the best known residents of Westport died at his house in Saugatuck this morning. The deceased had been ill for about a year. He was in his fifty-third year...Mr. Allen has for years been a constable of the town of Westport. Years ago he was a popular baseball player being one of the catchers of the old school in the days when masks, chest protectors and heavily padded gloves were unthought of. He was highly regarded by the fans of Westport and surrounding towns and played many games in Norwalk."

Ki Allen is buried in Willowbrook Cemetery in Westport.

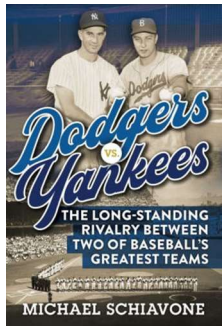
### Notes

1. Letter from Willard Williams to Bill Haber, Dec. 4, 1979, from Hezekiah Allen's Hall of Fame file.
2. "The Reserves", *Sporting Life*, March 26, 1884, 2.
3. "Base Ball Notes", *The Times* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), April 26, 1884, 2.
4. "Philadelphias Defeat Badly Crippled Buffalo Nine", *The Times*, May 16, 1884, 3.
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7. Letter from Willard Williams to Bill Haber, Dec. 4, 1979, from Hezekiah Allen's Hall of Fame file.
8. "Westport G.O.P Elects Ticket", *Bridgeport Times and Evening Farmer*, Oct. 5, 1909, 3.
9. "Westport Elections", *Bridgeport Times and Evening Farmer*, Oct. 4, 1910, 1.
10. "Let Me Introduce Battling Payne", *Bridgeport Times and Evening Farmer*, Sept. 24, 1912, 5.
11. "Arrested For Non-Payment Of Personal Tax", *Bridgeport Times and Evening Farmer*, April 5, 1912, 15.
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## New and Upcoming Baseball Book Releases

Compiled By Stan Osowiecki (Source: bn.com)



### Dodgers vs. Yankees

(June 30, 2020) by Michael Schiavone

The Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Yankees are two of the most storied and popular teams in not only baseball, but all of sports. Their rivalry began in New York and continued with the Dodgers leaving Brooklyn and moving to sunny California. The two teams have even met in the World Series a record eleven times! For a long time, the Dodgers-Yankees rivalry was the marquee match-up in baseball. For as good as the Dodgers were, the Yankees were almost always better. But why were the Yankees so much better than the Dodgers? Were the Dodgers “chokers” when it mattered most? Or was it simply the case that the baseball gods favored the team that would be later known to its detractors as the “Evil Empire” over the boys in blue? Whether you’re a fan of the Yankees or Dodgers—both on the East and West Coast—Dodgers vs. Yankees offers the most complete overview and analysis of these team’s timeless rivalry.

### Hall Ball

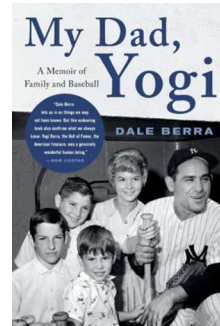
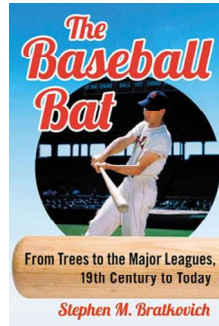
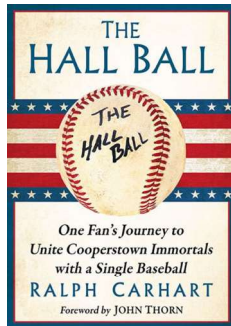
(July 5, 2020) by Ralph Carhart

Rescued in 2010 from the small creek that runs next to Doubleday Field in Cooperstown, New York, a simple baseball turned into an epic quest that spanned the United States and beyond. For eight years, “The Hall Ball” went on a journey to have its picture taken with every member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, both living and deceased. The goal? To enshrine the first crowd-sourced artifact ever donated to the Hall. Part travelogue, part baseball history, part photo journal, this book tells the full story for the first time. The narratives that accompany the ball’s odyssey are as funny and moving as any in the history of the game.

### The Baseball Bat

(August 4, 2020) by Steven M. Bratkovich

Why do modern-day sluggers like Aaron Judge prefer maple bats over the traditional ash bats swung by Ted Williams and others? Why did the surge of broken bats in the early 21st century create a crisis for Major League Baseball and what steps were taken to address the issue? Are different woods being considered by players and manufacturers? Do insects, disease and climate change pose a problem long-term? These and other questions are answered in this exhaustive examination of the history and future of wooden bats, written for both lifelong baseball fans and curious newcomers.



### My Dad, Yogi

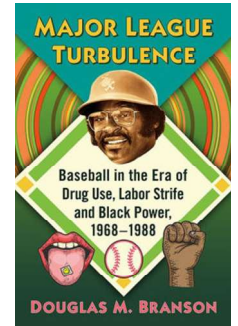
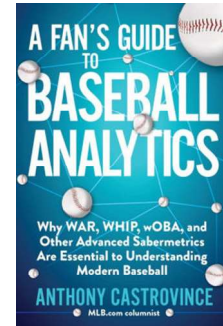
(Available Now) by Dale Berra

Everyone knows Yogi Berra. The American icon was the backbone of the New York Yankees through ten World Series Championships, managed the National League Champion New York Mets in 1973, and had an ingenious way with words that remains an indelible part of our lexicon. But no one knew him like his family did. My Dad, Yogi is Dale Berra's chronicle of his unshakeable bond with his father, as well as an intimate portrait of one of the great sports figures of the 20th Century. When Yogi wasn't playing or coaching, or otherwise in the public eye, he was home in the New Jersey suburbs, spending time with his beloved wife, Carmen, and his three boys, Larry, Tim, and Dale. Dale presents — as only a son could — his family's history, his parents' enduring relationship, and his dad's storied career.

### A Fan's Guide to Baseball Analytics

(Available Now) by Anthony Castrovine

In the last twenty years, an avalanche of analytics has taken over the way the game is played, managed, and assessed, but the statistics that drive the sport (metrics like wRC+, FIP, and WAR, just to name a few) read like alphabet soup to a large number of fans who still think batting average, RBIs, and wins are the best barometers for baseball players. In A Fan's Guide to Baseball Analytics, MLB.com reporter and columnist Anthony Castrovine has taken on the role as explainer to help such fans understand why the old stats don't always add up. Readers will also learn where these modern stats came from, what they convey, and how to use them to evaluate players of the present, past, and future. An introductory course on sabermetrics, A Fan's Guide to Baseball Analytics is an easily digestible resource that readers can keep turning back to when they see a modern metric referenced in today's baseball coverage.



### Major League Turbulence

(October 4, 2020) by Douglas M. Branson

The decades between the late 1960s counterculture and the advent of steroid use in the late 1980s brought tumult to Major League Baseball. Dock Ellis (Pirates, Yankees) and Dick Allen (Phillies, Cardinals, Dodgers, White Sox) epitomized the era with recreational drug use (Ellis), labor strife (Allen), and the questioning of authority. Both men were Black Power advocates at a time when the movement was growing in baseball. In the 1970s and 1980s, Marvin Miller and the Major League Baseball Players Association fought numerous, mostly victorious battles with MLB and team owners. This book chronicles a turbulent period in baseball, and in American life, that led directly to the performance-enhancing drug era and dramatically changed nature of the game.

## Meeting Goes Virtual

By Stan Osowiecki

In this ever-changing landscape that has been a result of the coronavirus, the Connecticut Smoky Joe Wood SABR chapter has recently been making changes too. Gone for the time being are the chapter breakfasts, strat-o-matic days and general meetings to be replaced by a new medium for many...Zoom meetings.

On June 25, 2020, with the technical assistance of Tom Monitto, the chapter held its first virtual meetong. The meeting was well attended and even with the very different format from previous meetings, it was a huge success.



Mitchell Nathanson,  
author of the book  
*Bouton: The Life of a  
Baseball Original*.



After the opening of the meeting, the chapter was introduced to Mitchell Nathanson, the author of the new book *Bouton: The Life of a Baseball Original*. Mitchell had prepared a presentation titled "Jim Bouton and the Butter Yellow Box" that he used as the method to tell his story of pulling the book together. The Butter Yellow Box referred to the box of notes, now available at the Library of Congress, that Bouton used to hold the notes of ideas of stories for his book. Mitchell had the opportunity to first view the notes during his discussions with the Bouton family as he began his research on the book. He would then view the notes again when they had been accepted into the Library of Congress, butter yellow box and all. As an interesting note, Mitchell discussed how during his research and review of the collected notes at the Library of Congress, he was not allowed to bring in a pen and paper but could take as many pictures as he desired.

Mitchell discussed that in the review of his notes, Bouton even noted that some of his teammates would yell out to him on the bus or the plane things like "Hey Bouton...put that in your book." From the reaction of many teammates and ex-teammates, they definitely did not understand the type of book that Bouton was pulling together. Mitchell closed out the session with a short time of questions and answers.

The other primary presentation during the virtual meeting was from Alan Cohen. Alan discussed "what's new in SABR" specifically regarding book projects. One of the recently completed projects was on the 1995 Atlanta Braves and Alan shared an interesting story about Alejandro Pena that he learned from research on the book. Another recently released book that Alan discussed was a book called *Harvey's Wallbangers* focused on the Milwaukee Brewers.

Alan also discussed the work on an upcoming book on the 1935 Pittsburgh Crawfords who featured stars such as Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson. During research for the book, Alan noted that an interesting fact about Josh Gibson is that he hit a home run in every Major League ballpark he ever played in...14 stadiums in all. Adding to the significance of this feat is that he only played in three of those stadiums one time.

The meeting came to a close with some quick updates on chapter business from Chapter President Steve Krevisky and a short discussion on holding future meetings virtually for the near future until it is safe for the chapter to reconvene again face-to-face.



## Many Polish Stars But Stan Was the Man

By Stan Dziurgot

When rooting for a baseball team sometimes nationality is a factor as opposed to just being a fan of the local nine. Case in point; The Yankees starting in the 1920's had players of Italian descent such as Lazzeri, Crosetti, DiMaggio and Rizzuto.

Being Polish, I can remember one of my uncles asking my father "How is Carl doing?" Carl being Carl Yastrzemski. I don't remember my uncle being a big baseball fan, so his question was more of national pride than rooting for the Red Sox. There have been many



great Polish players including Yaz, Al Simmons (real name Aloys Szymarski) Bill Mazerowski, Stanley Coveleski, the Niekro brothers and Stanley Frank (Stanislaw Franciszek) Musial. When you talk about Stan Musial, yes, the numbers will tell you how great he was. He played in 24 All-Star games, a 3-time World Series Champion, 3-time NL MVP (he finished second 5 times) and 7-time NL Batting Champion. He also led the NL in triples 5 times, twice having as many as 20 in a season. Running hard out of the batter's box and not posing or styling like the modern-day player, his unusual stance, in a deep crouch, produced 475 home runs for someone who was 6ft. tall and 170 pounds. If you look at his seasons between 1949 and 1958, they are consistent and almost interchangeable. During this time, he played in 895 consecutive games. You want consistent - how about 3,630 hits in his career 1815 at home and 1815 on the road.

Beyond the statistics, Musial was known as a great gentleman. According to Commissioner Ford Frick he was baseball's perfect warrior and perfect knight, a model of humility and graciousness. Playing in St. Louis, called the Mound City because of the Indian burial grounds in the city and into southern Illinois, and also the major league's most western city until 1955, he might be described as unappreciated with the media capitals on the east coast focusing on DiMaggio, Williams, and Mantle. Author George Vercey called him Stan the Mench, a Yiddish term meaning a person of high integrity.

The son of a Polish immigrant who came to America in 1910, Musial was a two-sport star in High School in Donora, Pennsylvania and turned down a basketball scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh to sign with the Cardinals in 1938. He was a pitcher who was also used in the outfield. In a year that he won 18 games as a pitcher in the minors, he dove for a ball while playing centerfield and severely injured his left shoulder. His manager at the time, Dickie Kerr, played a major part in his transformation to full-time outfielder. This was the same Dickie Kerr who pitched for the White Sox in the 1919 World Series winning two games, a team that had 8 players thrown out of baseball for trying to throw the series. Musial paid Kerr for his support by buying Kerr a house in Houston in 1958 in

appreciation for his help and support. He married a Donora, Pennsylvania girl, Lillian Labash. In 1941, the Cardinals called up Musial in September and he hit .426 in 12 games. His batting stance featured a deep crouch and he would use his batting stance whenever he was introduced at any public function.

In "The Bigs" for good, in 1942 he switched between the outfield and first base using a quick release to throw in the outfield with an arm that never came back to full strength. The Cardinals went to the World Series in 1942, '43 and '44. Musial missed 1945 for military service in WWII and came back to play in another World Series in 1946. He played in the World Series in each of his first four full seasons but would never get back after 1946. That World Series the Musial Cardinals against the Ted Williams Red Sox. A 7-game Cardinal victory which featured the Williams shift and the Enos Slaughter dash in Game Seven. Starting from 1946 the first year after WWII until 1955, The Sporting News picked Stan Musial as it's Player of the Decade. Interestingly, Joe Cronin, Red Sox General Manager from 1948 - 1958, voted for Musial over his own player, Williams. The year 1947 brought health issues for Musial. He had acute appendicitis and instead of having surgery had a procedure to "freeze" the appendix and have surgery after the season. A down year, Musial only batted .312 in 1947. He turned down an offer from Alfonso Pasquel to jump to the Mexican League and then there was controversy over Jackie Robinson. Musial dismissed talk of the Cards having a petition not to play against Robinson and the Dodgers as "hot air".

The Cardinals had a host Southerners on the team but were told by Commissioner Ford Frick that they would be suspended if they refused to play against Robinson. Enos Slaughter and Joe Medwick spiked Robinson on two plays at first base didn't help matters but was dismissed as Robinson playing a new position and not having the footwork down. The Dodgers and Cardinals had a huge rivalry in the 1940's. From 1941 - 1949 the Cardinals won 4 pennants and the Dodgers 3. Robinson said that Musial and Hank Greenberg were two people who encouraged him during his first season. Musial had played with and against black players in Donora including Buddy Griffey, grandfather of Ken Griffey Jr. who was from Donora. Musial and Junior share a birthday - November 21<sup>st</sup>.

The 1948 season might have been Musial's best. He fell one home run short of the Triple Crown and added 46 doubles, 18 triples and 429 total bases. Musial went into business with an acquaintance Julius "Biggie" Garagnani. He would invest in a restaurant in St. Louis called Club 66. The name was changed to Stan and Biggies and was located just down the street from Ted Drewes Frozen custard on Chippewa Street. It would move to another location on Oakland Avenue in 1960. Basically, Biggie ran the business and Stan had the name. Just Stan being present in the restaurant would help bring people in. The original location was in a section of town that produced major leaguers Joe Garagiola and Yogi Berra. Yogi would meet Carmen Short, his future wife, at Stan and Biggies. She worked there as a waitress.

While Musial was in his prime in the 1950's, he had some great individual moments such as 5 home runs in a double header against the Giants in 1954 and a walk-off 12<sup>th</sup> inning home run off Boston's

*"Musial" continued on Page 10*



## Musial (continued from Page 9)

Frank Sullivan to win the 1955 All-Star Game for the National League. In 1953 upon buying the Cardinals, Gussie Busch also purchased Sportman's Park from St. Louis Browns owner Bill Veeck. The two teams had shared the stadium since 1920 but now the Cardinals were the landlords and the Browns the tenants. The next year, the Browns would move to Baltimore and become the Orioles. Busch tried to change the name of the ballpark to Budweiser Stadium but was vetoed by the other owners. He settled on Busch Stadium, the family name but not yet a beer brand. Now giving a stadium or arena a corporate or business name is commonplace. Places even have names of alcoholic beverages such as Coors Field which may be why Budweiser Stadium was refused. After Busch bought the team, the Cardinals signed their first black player, first baseman Tom Alston. Frank "Trader" Lane was the St. Louis General Manager in the mid 1950's and tried to trade Musial to the Phillies for Robin Roberts and later to the Pirates for prospects. Pittsburgh was 25 miles northwest of Stan's hometown of Donora. Both times Cardinals' owner Gussie Busch also owner of Anheuser Busch Brewery intervened and not only did Musial stay put but Busch made him the first National League player to earn \$100,000 in a season in 1958. Lane immediately traded Stan's good friend Red Schoendienst to the New York Giants. Lane also changed the Cardinal jersey taking away the two birds perched a bat; a staple since 1922 but after one year brought them back. Musial would sign his autograph for people until everyone was satisfied. He would learn from actor John Wayne to carry picture cards of himself that were already autographed.

Musial had voted for Republican Dwight Eisenhower for President twice in the 1950's but in 1960 he actively campaigned in different cities for Democrat John F. Kennedy. Stan was a devout Catholic and Kennedy would be the first Catholic U.S. President. While campaigning he met author James Michener who would write a book titled "Poland" - a depiction of Communism and religion in Poland. Michener would introduce him to Edward Pizek who started a company, Mrs. Paul's Kitchen, whose main product was fish sticks. This led to a couple of trips to Europe and especially Poland where Musial saw concentration camps and visited relatives. Through Pizek he met Solidarity Leader Lech Walesa and the first Polish Pope, Pope John Paul II.

Branch Rickey who started the farm system for the Cardinals in the 1920's before moving on to the Dodgers was hired as a consultant by the Cardinals in 1962. Musial thought that Rickey wanted to bring in Leo Durocher to take over as manager of the team from Johnny Keane. Not a fan of Durocher, who ordered his pitchers to brush him back, Musial decided to retire after the 1963 season. In 1961 during spring training in St. Petersburg, Florida it was brought to the attention of owner Gussie Busch that while white players stayed at one hotel, black players had to stay in another section of town. Busch said he was not aware of this and in 1962 he rented two motels and though not quite an order it was highly suggested that all players and their families were welcome to stay there together. One of the black players, Curt Flood, would later be traded by the Cardinals and

challenged baseball's reserve clause. In March 1963, Walt Disney expressed interest in investing in entertainment near the St. Louis Ballpark but balked when Gussie Busch wanted to sell beer and Disney wanted to keep it family oriented. Good-bye St. Louis, hello Orlando. St. Louis would later get Six Flags Amusement Park.

Musial retired after the 1963 season with two hits in his final game. When told he had two hits in his first game in 1941, he remarked "no improvement". The Cardinals would win the World Series in 1964 after obtaining Lou Brock from the Cubs for Ernie Broglio. Stan's comment was "they finally got a good left fielder." Stan always preferred playing left field over first base. He was kept on as a Cardinals Vice President until 1966 when he was named General Manager in 1967. The Cardinals won the World Series that year, but he decided that the job was not for him and left the job after the World Series ended. He realized that this would have been a 24-hour a day job and was content to leave and take care of other businesses that he had going.

His business partner, Biggie, died of a heart attack in 1967 and now one of Stan's sons and one of Biggie's sons were running the business side of the restaurant. Stan also had some business investments with Biggie in Florida and Stan, Biggie and Cardinals teammate Joe Garagiola invested in a bowling alley, Red Bird Lanes in St. Louis. Bowling was popular in the 1950's and 60's and the Bowling Hall of Fame was in St. Louis until moving to Arlington Texas. The two sons had changed Stan and Biggie's from a steakhouse to a French menu and were losing money. In 1986, they transferred \$130,000 from the bowling alley to the restaurant to offset losses but Garagiola was not involved in the restaurant and sued Stan. The money was paid back but the 40-year friendship between Musial and Garagiola was over. The Cardinals were careful not to seat the two near each other at any team function. In 2006 they were both asked to throw out the first pitch at a Cardinals post season game. Stan called in sick and Ozzie Smith took his place with Garagiola.

In retirement Musial as a Physical Fitness Advisor for President Johnson and toured Vietnam during the Vietnam War with a group of major leaguers. He was elected to the Major League Hall of Fame in 1969 and was inducted with Roy Campanella, Waite Hoyt, and Stanley Coveleski. He was a regular at Hall of Fame inductions showing off "The Stance" and playing the harmonica. One of the few he missed was the year that Garagiola was elected to broadcast's wing of the HOF. He is also a member of the Brooklyn Dodgers Hall of Fame inducted in 1990; Brooklyn being where he acquired the nickname "Stan the Man" A statue of him is outside the current Busch Stadium which opened in 2006. When Albert Pujols played in St. Louis people called him "El Hombre" a name he rejected saying "there is only one Man in this town". Two bridges, one in Donora, PA on SR 1077 over the Monongahela River and one over the Mississippi River on Route 70 leading from Illinois to Missouri are named in his honor. He was named to the Major League Baseball All Century Team in 1999 and in 2011 received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama. Musial died in January 2013, the same day as another Major League Hall of Famer, Earl Weaver.

In March 2020, the Urban Chestnut Brewery in St. Louis started brewing #6 Classic American Lager to honor Musial. No one is perfect

## Musial (*continued from Page 10*)

but there are not too many people who had a bad word to say about Stan Musial. Many young players, rookies, were made to feel more comfortable and that they belonged in a big-league clubhouse. He would survive prostate cancer in 1989. One August morning in 1995, Stan Musial boarded a plane in St. Louis and flew to Dallas, Texas to attend the funeral of Mickey Mantle. He arrived, sat in the middle of the church by himself so as not to call attention to himself. He sat through the service, left, and flew back to St. Louis. He attended simply because he thought it was the right thing to do. Mantle in Oklahoma, like Brooks Robinson in Arkansas were Musial fans listening to games on the Cardinals' large radio network in the Midwest.

Far from the national media spotlight Stan Musial lived in St. Louis during his baseball career until moving to the St. Louis suburb of Ladue after retiring. He was under publicized but later appreciated by those who knew him or knew of him.

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My dad took me to my first game right around my birthday in June 1977. Yankees at Red Sox at Fenway. Sat down the third base line, but entered the park from behind home plate, seeing the green grass and monster for the first time, hearing the organ, smelling the hot dogs. (Still do the same thing dozens of visits later.) Yaz hit a homerun, and the Sox won 9-4. I was only 8 years old and at the time and didn't understand the intense rivalry and constant fighting between opposing fans each half inning. But I vividly remember those chocolate-covered vanilla and chocolate ice cream bars wrapped in foil.

- Jim Chakulski

## Quotable Baseball: The Game & Its Legends by Jim Mizera

There have been only two authentic geniuses in the world, Willie Mays and Willie Shakespeare.

- Tallulah Bankhead (1902 - 1968)

Have faith in the Yankees, my son.

- Ernest Hemingway (1899 - 1961), *The Old Man & the Sea* (1952)

I hated the Yankees and Dodgers and wound up managing both.

- Joe Torre

Baseball is Greek in being national, heroic and broken up in the rivalries of city-states.

- Jacques Barzun (1907 - 2012), *Franco-American historian, God's Country and Mine* (1954)

God, I hope I wear this jersey forever.

- Derek Jeter

As far as I'm concerned, there is no greater pleasure in the world than walking up to the plate with men on base and knowing that your are feared.

- Ted Simmons

He's [Larry Walker, Colorado Rockies] better than one of the best. He is the best.

- Atlanta Braves manager Bobby Cox, c. 2000

The strongest thing that baseball has going for it today are its yesterdays.

- Lawrence Ritter (1922 - 2004), Prof. of econ. & finance, baseball historian, *The Glory of Their Times* (1966)

The game will survive long past you or I.

- Bill Veeck (1914 - 1986), major league baseball owner

Baseball, to me, is still the national pastime because it is a summer game. I feel that almost all Americans are summer people, that summer is what they think of when they think of their childhood. I think it stirs up an incredible emotion within people.

- Steve Busby, K.C. pitcher, *Washington Post*, 7/8/74

## First Game Memories

My first major league game was on August 23, 1978. I can remember going to Shea Stadium with my father and my two grandfathers. The first thing I remember is looking up at the size of the Stadium as my only previous minor league experiences had been at New Britain Stadium and Quigley Stadium in West Haven. I can remember how it felt walking through the tunnel that first day onto the Loge level and seeing the expanse of the stadium and how prefect the grass on the field looked. I took a lot of pictures that day and am glad to have those memories...even though the San Francisco Giants beat the Mets on that day.

- Stan Osowiecki





## Opportunity Knocks for Writing Projects

Compiled by Karl Cicitto and Stan Osowiecki

*SABR has published dozens of books and thousands of biographies and will continue to add to the canon of baseball history through the efforts of SABR members. Writing opportunities are abundant. First Timers are welcome. Here is some information on 5 writing projects and how to become involved.*

### Team Ownership Histories Project

The SABR Baseball Biography Project and the SABR Business of Baseball Committee are teaming up to create a collection of the ownership histories of major league franchises. As they are completed, the histories will appear in the Business of Baseball newsletter and be posted permanently in a separate section on the BioProject web-site. If you are interested in doing a team's history, please contact Andy McCue ([amccue@sabr.org](mailto:amccue@sabr.org)), who is coordinating the project.

### Baseball Biography Project

The lofty goal is to write a high-quality journal-length biography of every player who ever played in the major leagues. 5,226 biographies have been written by 500+ SABR members as of June 28, 2020. Your subject can be anyone who ever played in the major leagues and has been retired for at least 5 years, or any manager, executive, umpire, scout, or broadcaster. In fact, we welcome your ideas for any subject who impacted the history of the game — someone from the Negro Leagues, the minor leagues, the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, and even Japan.

Web-site: [sabr.org/bioproject](http://sabr.org/bioproject)

Things you should know: [sabr.org/content/bioproject-resources](http://sabr.org/content/bioproject-resources)

Request an assignment: Lyle Spatz at [lspace@comcast.net](mailto:lspace@comcast.net)

### SABR Games Project

The SABR Baseball Games Project is a new initiative to research and write articles on major-league and Negro League regular, postseason and All-Star Games. These game accounts will complement Retrosheet and Baseball-Reference box scores as well as BioProject essays on the players involved. All games, regardless of their historical significance, are eligible to be written up.

Web-site: [sabr.org/gamesproject](http://sabr.org/gamesproject)

Things you should know: [sabr.org/content/sabr-games-project](http://sabr.org/content/sabr-games-project)

Request an assignment: Bruce Slutsky at [bruce@bruce Slutsky.com](mailto:bruce@bruce Slutsky.com)

### SABR Baseball Ballparks Project

We love ballparks and feel that each one deserves its own biography. Ballparks have a life of their own. Your job, as the ballpark's biographer, is to cover that life in detail, from birth to death.

Web-site: [sabr.org/bioproj/parks](http://sabr.org/bioproj/parks)

Request an assignment: James Forr at [jff110@hotmail.com](mailto:jff110@hotmail.com)

### SABR Book Projects

Biographers are needed for several books. Status of assignment availabilities changes daily. Please contact Bill Nowlin ([bnowlin@rounder.com](mailto:bnowlin@rounder.com)) to request an assignment.

## THE WOOD PILE

Newsletter of the Smoky Joe Wood Chapter  
of the Society for American Baseball Research



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Next Issue: January 2021

Members are welcome to submit articles, book reviews or other information that might be interesting to other chapter members. Please send information to Stan Osowiecki at [osowiecki@sbcglobal.net](mailto:osowiecki@sbcglobal.net).