Manager's Memo

Hey, baseball fans!

This is our first attempt at a Brooks Robinson – George Kell SABR chapter newsletter. Thanks to Fred Worth for setting this up. The next issue will come out sometime this summer before our August 19 meeting in Memphis. If anyone wishes to contribute anything to it, please feel free to do so.

I’d like to take this opportunity to encourage you to join us in Hot Springs from March 23-26 for Boiling Out III. Two years ago at this meeting, the idea was hatched for the Robinson-Kell chapter. It is a fabulous opportunity to learn about Deadball baseball and the history of spring training in Arkansas from some of SABR’s most knowledgeable researchers. My favorite part of the 2004 meeting was simply meeting and talking baseball with people of various interests and ages from different parts of the country. So even if you can’t make the entire weekend, consider driving down on Saturday, March 25.

Just two weeks until pitchers and catchers report! Come on, spring!

- - Madison McEntire
Boiling Out 2006 at the Arlington Hotel

The Deadball Era Committee and the Robinson - Kell Chapter present Boiling Out 2006, a celebration of Deadball-Era-style spring training. Join us as we walk fields once trod by Dode Paskert, Cy Young and others. Attractions include the Hot Springs Ballpark Site Crawl, the Deadball Dice Baseball Tournament, and Hot Springs itself.

No charge to attend, though we will pass the hat to cover the cost of the conference room.

Don Duren returns! Four years ago, Don, a published author on the history of spring training in Hot Springs, led a delightful tour of Hot Springs ballpark sites. Mike Dugan, who led the 2004 tour, has arranged for Don to return to show us what was where and where was what.

The meeting will also feature Beth Worth doing "Music from the Deadball Era," the Robinson-Kell Chapter Meeting, book signings by Madison McEntire, Tim Gay, and David Anderson as well as the authors of "Deadball Stars of the AL" (and the 2004 NL book) and the Deadball Dice Baseball Tournament.

The tentative list of research presentations includes:
* Dave Anderson ... Umpires During the Early Deadball Era
* Tim Gay ... Tris Speaker
* R. J. Lesch ... The Giants in Marlin
* Richard Smiley ... The White Stockings in Hot Springs
* Tom Simon ... "What If Ban Johnson Hadn't Been So Freekin' Ambitious?"
* Fred Worth ... "A Necrological Travelog": Graves of deadball era players or those buried in Arkansas.
* Steve Krevisky ... Lon Warneke
* Terry Turner ... Judge William M. Kavanaugh

There is still room for more talks. We welcome research presentations on the Deadball Era, Spring Training, Arkansas baseball, or any combination of the three. Contact R. J. Lesch if you are interested in presenting something. Meeting contacts are R. J. Lesch <rjalesch_usa@yahoo.com> or Mike Dugan <mduganhome@prodigy.net>.

The Arlington is offering a rate of $99 per night (single occupancy room) or $109 per night (double occupancy room). Call 800-643-1502 for reservations, and ask for the "Society for American Baseball Research" group rate. **If you haven't made reservations yet, do so soon!**
Spring 2006
Fayetteville, AR  We have tentative plans to go to Baum to watch a **Razorbacks game**. Details will be forthcoming.

June 29 - July 2, 2006
Seattle, WA  **SABR 36**, the SABR Annual Convention will be held at the Renaissance Hotel on Madison Street.

The keynote speaker will be former major league pitcher and noted author, Jim Bouton.

For additional information, go to www.sabr.org.

August 19, 2006
Memphis, TN  We'll be going to **Autozone Park to see a Memphis Redbirds game**. Our host will again be Dave Chase, SABR member and president of the Redbirds. We will again have a full slate of activities which will be announced as they are finalized.

**History of Baseball in Arkansas**

If you've ever traveled the streets of Little Rock and wondered who Rodney Parham or Cantrell or Kavanaugh was, I can tell you about Judge William M. Kavanaugh. He was born in Alabama, educated in Kentucky and came to Arkansas to make his name and wealth. He was city editor of the Arkansas Gazette and a county judge. He was a member of over a dozen city commissions. When the Travelers were started in 1895, he was the natural choice to be the first team president. He loved baseball. In 1903, when the Southern Association was about to go under, he was chosen to be league president. His leadership led the league out of trouble. Shortly thereafter he was asked if he would like to be considered for the National League presidency. He replied, "For me baseball is a hobby." He turned down the bid. He also was a developer and started Little Rock's first suburb, Pulaski Heights. In the late 1930s, the curving road that connected the Heights to downtown Little Rock was named Kavanaugh Boulevard in his honor.

- - Terry Turner

**Trivia Column**

"Correct thinkers think that baseball trivia is an oxymoron: nothing about baseball is trivial."  

-- George Will (April 8, 1990)

Questions of the day -----

1. Who is the only player who was active during Babe Ruth’s last year of 1935 and Hank Aaron’s first year of 1954?

2. Who is the only batter to strike out 1,500 times and still finish with a batting average of .300?

For answers, look at the bottom of page 4.
Grave Hunting

Fred Worth's baseball graves research has turned up a couple of interesting tidbits.

Gene Paulette is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Little Rock (corner of Asher Ave. and S. Woodrow St., entrance on W. 20th St.). His career, began in 1911 with the Giants. He then played from 1916 to 1920 with the Browns, Cardinals and Phillies. His last season saw him register career highs in games, at bats, runs, hits, walks, batting average, on-base percentage and total bases. He was only 29 years old but never played again. So what happened?

Paulette was banned by Commissioner Landis on March 21, 1921. Several reasons for the ban can be found. He is alleged to have taken a loan from Elmer Farrar that was tied to gambling. He was accused of accepting gifts from St. Louis gambler Carl Zork, who was also involved in the Black Sox Scandal. He is also alleged to have taken part in throwing games. Paulette was eventually indicted for his part in schemes of Farrar and Zork.

In April of 1921, Paulette agreed to play for a semi-pro team in Massillon, Ohio. Days later he was released by the team due to the outcry against them for signing a banned ballplayer.


On another cemetery trip, Fred and his wife, Beth, had some difficulty finding a grave in Edgewood Memorial Cemetery in North Little Rock. They were looking for the grave of Hank "Rube" Robinson who played for the Pirates (1911-3), Cardinals (1914-5) and Yankees (1918). They looked where cemetery records indicated Robinson was buried. After a while, they finally found the right grave but the name was rendered "Roberson" on the marker even though it was "Robinson" on baseball and cemetery records. Apparently he was born "Roberson," played under "Robinson" but was buried under his correct name.

A Publication

Check out chapter member Terry Turner's wonderful book Baseball in Little Rock for information on Robinson's minor league career which included time with the Little Rock Travelers. It is available at Amazon.com. Just go to www.amazon.com and enter "Baseball in Little Rock" (including the quote marks) in the search box.

Trivia Answers

1. Phil Cavarretta
2. Willie Mays
**Member News**

**Madison McEntire**'s baseball trivia book, *Big League Trivia* will be available in mid-March. It’s a fun, easy-to-read baseball trivia book written in detailed paragraph form rather than simple question/answer format. Topics covered include the All-Star Game, Award Winners, Ballparks, Coincidences, Debuts, League-Leaders, Milestones, Oddities, Home Runs, No-hitters, RBIs, the World Series, and much more. 192 pages, 6” x 9” soft cover. Ordering details will be provided when it is available.


**Fred Worth** was recently featured on the front page of Arkadelphia's *Daily Siftings Herald* due to his baseball grave hunting trips. The article can be read at Henderson State University's web site at www.hsu.edu/content.aspx?id=5317. It is worth noting that since the article was published, Fred has begun working with www.retrosheet.org to get the GPS data on line so others can take advantage of it. Fred also has an article, "1000 Extra Base Hits: A Mark of Greatness?" set to appear in the upcoming issue of SABR's *Baseball Research Journal*.

**Requests for Research Help**

The purpose of this feature is to give people a chance to tap into the collective wisdom and knowledge of the chapter in searching for assistance in research efforts. If you have any items with which you want help, contact the newsletter editor.

Having no such requests for this first issue, it seemed wise to list a couple of web sites that are of great research value.

  This contains box scores, play-by-play reports, player data and a wealth of other data. You can get lost here for hours.

- **SABR** [http://www.sabr.org](http://www.sabr.org)  
  In addition to information about the organization, logging in as a SABR member, going to "Research Tools" and "On-line Tools" allows you to access several historical data bases allowing searches in newspaper and census archives. Also available is the SABR Encyclopedia with its historical home run data files.
Book Review

When Fred suggested that I write a book review for our first chapter newsletter my heart jumped and my mind raced. What book should I choose? Most months I read 2-4 baseball books and on occasion throw in a football title.

Many times I have 2-3 books going at once, a fact that drives my wife crazy. My nightly choice can be decided by the tome closest to my hand when I finally settle down.

As I struggled with my decision for the first review the selection suddenly became very clear. While it is not a true literary classic the choice is a book that I find myself picking a couple of times a week just to thumb through. Last summer I ordered SMITHSONIAN BASEBALL by Stephen Wong (Smithsonian Books $29.95) through Amazon.com the week it was released. That choice has never been a disappointment!

It is a large coffee table book of 286 pages, full color throughout. While the title infers that it might review the holdings of the venerable Smithsonian Museum’s baseball collections, it actually seems to just be a reflection of the title of the publishing company.

What the book does contain is a beautiful tour through some of the finest private collections in the country. The quality of the photographs far surpasses the text by Mr. Wong, but the visual delights are many. Each chapter introduces us to a collector(s) and the particular area that they have chosen to pursue. These areas range from vintage photographs, autographs, uniforms and pinback buttons to the classic card sets.

The owners are varied including physicians and captains of the world of business to actress/director Penny Marshall. The veteran of Hollywood who brought us “A League of Their Own” shows her intense love of the game with a collection of vintage baseball related advertising, furniture and various ephemera.

A real highlight of the book is the collection of World Series programs assembled by the father-daughter team of James and Lauren Clister. When you look at those great covers dating back to 1903 it brings to mind where these pieces have been and the fact that they were indeed witness to the action taking place down on the field. This has always been one of the attractions of collecting team issued publications for me, that they were an actual part of the game itself.

A couple of other favorite chapters are the collections of Gary Knoll and the Bill DeWitt family. The Knoll collection is centered on his beloved 1969 Cubs while the DeWitt collection was built through his many years at the helm of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Perhaps the one chapter that might speak to each of us is the one on Charles Merkel and his wonderful collection of baseball cards. Merkel of Clarksdale, Mississippi tells the story of traveling to St. Louis as a ten year old with his family to see his favorites the New York Yankees play the Browns. His passion for the game was solidified as he spent an afternoon asking each Yankee player for an autograph on a ball. His tenacious pursuit of rookie Andy Carey’s
signature to complete his ball led Gil McDougald to actually take young Merkel into the Yankee dressing room after the game. The kindness of McDougald and Carey culminated with a ride on the team bus back to the hotel where both the New Yorkers and the Merkel family were staying.

Merkel’s story of his love for baseball continues through his youth to college and beyond law school and into his 60’s. There is something in his connection to the game from an early age that probably registers with each of us and our personal lineage with baseball.

Each page contains wonderful photographs that far over-shadow the thin text, the photos are the story. A brief biography of each collector along with a photo is also presented at books end. If there is a weak spot to the book I would have preferred that the collections had been shown as each collector has them displayed in their own homes. Perhaps some items would have led to a better presentation of my own holdings which Susan sometimes refers to as “piles” or “the junk stacked in the corner.”

This book will not rank with the all-time great books on the game but it is a terrific addition to anyone’s library. This brief over-view only touches on this great picture book. Next trip to Books A Million or Barnes & Nobles take a moment to search out this book. I’ll bet you have a hard time putting it down.

- - Mike Dugan