



Chicago (Emil Rothe) Chapter SABR Meeting - April 14, 2007

Location: Chicago History Museum, Clark Street & North Avenue, Chicago

Program:

1. With 20 members in attendance, the meeting began at 12:30pm. This was our first meeting here since the museum reopened. Thanks to Stuart Shea for arranging the room. We were given an overview, by Elizabeth Garibay of the CHM, of the many programs and activities sponsored by the museum. Elizabeth told the group about the new changes and programs the museum has to offer. We were also told that the museum was open to us after our meeting to go through.

2. Rich Hansen made several announcements concerning upcoming SABR-related events: The SABR National in St. Louis, MO on July 26-29, 2007; the upcoming June 9 chapter meeting at the Italian American Sports Hall of Fame (which will include guest speaker Judith Testa discussing her book *Sal Maglie's Southern Seasons--the Making of "Sal the Barber"*); and the August 11 meeting at the Kane County Events Center to see a Cougars game.

3. Dave Zeman led the first topic, "How to Get Your Book Published." Dave discussed the process he went through in publishing *The Baseball Rookies Encyclopedia* with Dave Nemeck in 2004. This was Dave's first book. His first experience with the publisher, Brassey's, actually came after he applied there for a job.

Judith Testa and Stuart Shea also commented on their publishing experiences, differences in advance policies, and editing practices. Getting known is critical for a first-time author. Spending time at book industry conventions or the SABR national convention book room is a good first step.

4. Jim Walker was the next presenter with "Everything but the Game: A Photographic Essay." A frequent presenter, Jim gave a light hearted

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NEXT MEETING

Date: **Saturday, June 16, 2007**

Location: National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame and Museum
1431 W. Taylor St., Chicago

Time: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Speakers: Judith Anne Testa: *Sal Maglie's Southern Seasons-- the Making of "Sal the Barber."*

Representative from the museum will speak and we will tour the museum and research facility.

Museum Tour: \$5.00 for Adults, \$4.00 Seniors, \$3.00 Kids

There will be a short organization meeting after the speakers.

Dinner: After meeting in the area.

Date: **Saturday, August 11, 2007**

Activity: Meeting & Baseball Game.

Meeting Time: To be announced.

Location: Kane County Events Center
Team: Kane County Cougars vs. Peoria Chiefs

Game Time: 6:00 PM

Game Events: Jesse White Tumblers and Fireworks

Speakers: From the Cougar (TBA)

Group Tickets: Sold out but you can get tickets on your own and join in the pregame activities. Call Cougars Box Office 630-232-8811

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view of the game with his slice-of-life slide show of his travels to several parks. This was followed by a discussion of the wave of new parks and the end of the multi-purpose stadiums.

5. Mark Fimoff followed with a different type of slide show: "Truth in Labeling: Deadball-era Photo Captions." A new member of SABR, Mark quickly became involved with the pictorial committee. As described in a previous chapter newsletter, Mark reviewed some of the photos from the Bain collection (from the Library of Congress) that were reviewed by SABR. He described his research techniques to identify errors in the captions of each of five photos he reviewed, such as the players, dates, and parks. Mark also presented his review of several of the photos in the CHM photo collection. Unfortunately, over the years, many of these errors have made their way into books.

6. Barry Evans reviewed the results and conclusions of the member survey conducted by Richard Smiley. 20% of the members (65 of 325) responded. The results will be posted in full on the chapter website.

Briefly, the survey suggests that members would prefer bimonthly meetings, and that they last two hours. Saturday morning or Saturday afternoon are the preferred times. Lack of transportation to the meetings appears to be a problem for some members. Members prefer meetings to be held either in Downtown Chicago or on the North side of Chicago, and would prefer that meetings not be held in the Southern suburbs. Nearly all members had no objection to paying a small fee for the use of a meeting room. Most members also had no objection to hosting a meeting at a restaurant or sports bar. Members are most interested in ballplayers, managers, ex-players, scouts, and executives, speak to the chapter.

In addition, members like having authors present their books and chapter members present their research. Nearly half the respondents expressed interest in taking part in chapter activities in some way outside of attending meetings. Members favor having officer succession handled through nomination and showed little interest in having the chapter become a formal not-for-profit entity.

7. Merle Branner proposed moving ahead with chapter officer elections, in that the membership survey had addressed this point.

After some questions from the floor, it was confirmed that the national office does not have guidelines on how to hold elections, what positions are needed, or whether to have elections at all. There are chapters that do not have a formal process and some that do. We discussed some of the steps needed to proceed with elections and agreed to continue this process.

Merle Branner reframed her motion to "That we start the change in leadership process with self-nominations of officers which would consist of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, and we will define their duties." Ryan Rutkowski seconded this motion. It went before the group for a vote. Nobody opposed the motion, which therefore passed.

There were no specifics offered, and none accepted, at this point as to how the positions would be defined, how the election process will be carried out, **(Continued on Page 4) Page 2**

A Rare Showing of Don Larsen's World Series Perfect Game

By Gary L. Livacari

About twenty-five baseball fans in Chicago area were treated to a real thrill on March 29th: a rare showing of the original film of Don Larsen's Perfect Game in the World Series between the Yankees and the Dodgers played in Yankee Stadium on October 8, 1956.

We've all seen countless times the classic highlight of Yogi Berra jumping into Don Larsen's arms after the last called strike on Dale Mitchell, but until recently, very few people had ever seen footage of the entire game. Those of us who made the long trek out to Naperville to see this film certainly got our money's worth. I was excited just to be there and took copious notes so that I could share the experience with other baseball fans.

We also participated in a bit of baseball history, as this was only the second public showing ever of this film. The first showing was in New York in February, with Don Larsen and Yogi Berra in attendance. Hard to believe, but the two principal players in one of baseball's most historic and memorable games had never even seen this film! The footage of the game was complete except for the first inning, and even included all the commercials. According to the film's owner and organizer of the event, Doak Ewing of Rare Sports Films, complete games from this era in baseball are almost nonexistent; so we are indeed lucky that any footage of this game exists at all. Doak had purchased the film from a collector 15 years ago who was not a baseball fan and didn't realize what he had. The film arrived in a canister with the label "John Larsen's perfect game." When Doak viewed it, he knew immediately he had something special.

I counted twelve Hall of Famers on the field that day. In addition to managers Casey Stengel and Walter Alton, and Yankee third base coach Frankie Crossetti, HOF'S playing in the game were: Dodgers Pee Wee Reese, Duke Snider, Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella; and Yankees Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, and Enos Slaughter. Also, in the dugouts but not in the game were Whitey Ford and Don Drysdale. Here were the batting orders:

Dodgers:	Yankees:
Junior Gilliam, 2B	Hank Bauer, RF
Pee Wee Reese, SS	Joe Collins, 1B
Duke Snider, CF	Mickey Mantle, CF
Jackie Robinson, 3B	Yogi Berra, C
Gil Hodges, 1B	Enos Slaughter, LF
Sandy Amoros, LF	Billy Martin, 2B
Carl Furillo, RF	Gil McDougald, SS
Roy Campanella, C	Andy Carey, 3B
Sal Maglie, P	Don Larsen, P

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Web Sites:

Chapters SABR National Site: <http://www.sabr.org/sabr.cfm?a=cms.c.1058.9.0>

Members Chapter Site: <http://malamut.net/sabrchicago.html>

Old Timer's Baseball Association: <http://www.otbac.com/>

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or whether we should benchmark against other chapters' work.

At this point, discussion between some members concerning chapter finances and how they should be administered became somewhat intense. All parties agreed to carry over discussion until the next meeting.

8. The silent auction was very successful in helping to fund postage and duplication for mailings. \$60.00 was raised and collected by Merle Branner.

9. All were encouraged to attend the National Convention, Seymour Conference, and other local events.

10. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jon and Marge Daniels and hope that Marge returns to good health. It was great to see Jon again, even if he was wearing his Cardinals World Series jacket.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00PM

Meeting minutes prepared by Rich Hansen and Merle Branner and synthesized by Stuart Shea.

Photography Gallery

Images By: [Merle A. Branner](#)



McCovey Cove © 2003

To view more of Merle's images go to her web site at:
<http://www.websportscards.com>



O'Fallon Missouri © 2002



Great American Ballpark © 2002

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The game, which was won by the Yankees 2-0, was played in a snappy two hours, six minutes with 64, 519 fans in attendance. Most of the men in the stands were in suit coats. The footage and the audio were of surprisingly good quality. Of course, there were no replays, so if you missed the action the first time, you were out of luck. There were no substitutions in the game except for the last batter, Dale Mitchell, pinch-hitting for Sal Maglie. It was a well-played game with no errors, only two Yankee walks, and sparkling defensive gems by both teams. Highlights included a towering homerun by Mickey Mantle for the Yankees' first run. This allowed us to see the classic Mantle head-down homerun trot. There were also two sensational catches, one each by the centerfielders, Mantle and Duke Snider. Two factors greatly helped the pitchers that day: a tarp normally over the centerfield bleachers was taken down to facilitate seating for the overflow crowd; and there was a shadow between the pitchers mound and the batters box for most of the game. After the game, the fans were allowed to walk on the field and exit through gates in the outfield wall.

The perfect game was nearly lost by a blast off Snider's bat that curved foul at the last instant, missing a homerun by less than a foot. The impressive pitching performance by Sal Maglie (5 hits, 2 runs, 5 K's over 8 innings), was, of course, completely overshadowed by Don Larsen's gem. (Maglie himself had pitched a no-hitter just two weeks previously against the Phillies). Larsen also laid down a textbook perfect sacrifice bunt – with two strikes on him – that moved the second run into scoring position. It was also a great thrill to see Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella - even though they were near the end of their careers - and to catch a glimpse of their greatness. We were all commenting on Campy's powerful physique, with legs that absolutely resembled tree trunks. The Dodgers pulled off an unusual 3-2-5-2-5 double play, with Robinson making a lunging stab of Campanella's errant throw that seemed headed for the outfield.

The announcers that day were Mel Allen, who called the first half of the game, and Vin Scully, who did the second half. They worked alone, with no color commentators, and I can honestly say both were in great form. I especially enjoyed Mel Allen. Hearing his wonderful baseball voice had me nostalgically dreaming that I was a kid again back in the 1950's. He also had a short, interesting interview with Hall of Famer Carl Hubbell during the game. Scully never mentioned the words "No Hitter" or "Perfect Game" during his stint at the mike,

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Pres Box:

By Rich Hanson-Chair

New newsletter feature:

In the last year our chapter has restarted a first rate newsletter. I would like to congratulate David Malamut, Merle Branner, Richard Smiley and all contributors.

We have also been active with our meetings again. I have been traveling extensively for work recently and greatly appreciate the efforts of all to organize meetings and make presentations. I plan to be more involved the rest of the year.

We recently completed a member survey. A very active 20% of members responded giving us valuable input on chapter activities. Please continue to give us your ideas on how to improve the chapter to meet the needs of our members. I would like to see an increase in our meeting attendance. Long commutes make meetings difficult for many, but please make a point of attending at least one meeting in the next year.

The last meeting concluded with a discussion of having chapter elections. Now that we have increased revenues and expenses, Peter Yee has accepted my request to be the Treasurer for now. The chapter account balance is about \$500. I will be sending out e-mails and chapter mailings as we progress towards elections.

Hope to see you at June 16th meeting or the National Convention in St. Louis.

Ken Keltner Badger State Chapter of SABR

Meeting was Saturday, May 5 at 11:00 A.M at **Long Wong's**,
5230 West Bluemound Road in Milwaukee, WI.

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It was a great meeting which included:

- **Guest of Honor:** Brewers TV announcer Brian Anderson.
- **Author:** Tom Stanton as a Guest of Honor. Tom has authored a number of books, "Hank Aaron and The Homerun That Changed America", "The Final Season", and has a book due for release on May 15, "Ty and the Babe" Tom had books for attendees to purchase even his new book. "Ty and the Babe." It is a must read.
- **Presentation:** 19th Century Baseball in Milwaukee.
Presented by Dennis Pajot, a new SABR member.

The meeting was filled with interesting speakers, good food and great people!

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The Chicago Seminar on Sport and Culture

Final session of this season:

Was May 4, 2007, 3:30 PM.

"Blazing Balls and Smashing Batsmen: Baseball, Race and the US Army, 1870-1920"

By Stanley Arnold, Ph.D

Northern Illinois University

His research examines the development of baseball among four black regiments, (24th and 25th Infantry and the 9th and 10th Cavalry) in the period between the Civil War and the end of the First World War. Baseball provided black soldiers an opportunity to demonstrate their athletic prowess. They competed against white settlers, Filipinos and both white and black soldiers. In the process, they developed a level of skill and confidence that would inspire some to join the first Negro League teams.

Although there has been a great wealth of scholarship on the Negro Leagues, there has been less attention paid to the period before 1920. This is an attempt to shed some light on this somewhat neglected period. Dr. Arnold teaches US sports History and 20th century US History. He has been nominated for an Emmy for Best Documentary Research for the film: Du Bois: A Life in Four Voices. He is currently researching African American boxers in Georgian London.

The seminar met at the Newberry Library, The Newberry is located at 60 W. Walton St., between Clark and Dearborn streets. The meeting was free and open to the public.

For additional information, contact the coordinator, Steve Riess, Dept. of History, Northeastern Illinois University at 773 442 5631 or s-riess@neiu.edu

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Call for

Articles

We want you to have an article published in the newsletter. Please E-mail David Malamut: david@malamut.net.

Deadline for the July newsletter is June 15th

All articles need to be submitted in a Microsoft Word as an attachment. All images need to be saved in the JPEG format. Each image needs to be a separate file. Please indicate the location of the photographs in the article along with the caption photographic credit, if possible.

National SABR Convention

Will be held in St. Louis this year at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown St. Louis. The keynote speaker will be Joe Garagiola. It will be held July 26-29, 2007.

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but he did a fine job developing the drama of the situation as the game moved into the later innings.

The home plate umpire was Babe Pinelli, who called a pitcher-friendly game with a generous strike zone. This World Series was the culmination of Pinelli's 21-year career. Umpiring at first base was Hank Soar, with Dusty Boggess at second, and Larry Napp at third. Ed Runge and Tom Gorman were on the lines.

Believe it or not, all of the commercials except one were for Gillette safety razors and shaving cream. They were all one minute in length and aired between each half-inning, so there was plenty of time to actually see the players coming on and off the field and the pitchers warming up. The commercials were either animated skits with the Gillette jingle, or hokey little scenes featuring a bad-acting celebrity ball player shaving in front of a mirror with dialogue like: "Yogi, what kind of shave do you like?" "I like mine nice and smooth, Al, just like I get with my Gillette safety razors!" Another comical scene featured Hank Bauer and Casey Stengel rubbing their chins and discussing how to get a close shave. The only other commercial in the entire game was one for Scripto "Piggy Back" Ballpoint Pens, featuring the comic Joe E. Brown.

Of course the real star of the evening was Don Larsen, who was in complete command the entire game, striking out seven, mixing it up with an effortless, abbreviated windup. Benefiting from Pinelli's generous strike zone, he started almost every Dodger batter 0-1, 0-2, and had only one 3-ball count the entire game. He never displayed any emotion and remained cool and steady even as the game moved into the final innings. If he was aware that he was on the brink of baseball history, he never let on. It was quite a performance. Even though we knew how it would end, we all had goose-bumps as Pinelli raised his left hand for the final strike out of Mitchell to end the game and Yogi Berra jumped into Larsen's arms.

As I said, it was a thrill just to be there that night. After the showing, Doak Ewing had a question and answer session that was also interesting. Doak mentioned that he plans to have more showings of the film in the future and will travel to different areas if invited. He eventually plans to donate the film to the Baseball Hall-of-Fame, as he has done with many of his other sports film restorations. He is also actively negotiating with the television networks, hoping to convert it into a sports documentary. If there ever will be another showing of this baseball classic in the area – still the only Perfect Game in World Series history - I'd highly recommend making the effort to attend. It was well worth the trip.



Obituary: William E. "Bill" O'Neil Jr., 91, a lifelong Evanstonian, died at home on March 28, beloved son of the late William E. O'Neil, M.D. and the late Rose Joyce O'Neil; loving brother of Rose-mary O'Neil. Alumnus of Loyola Academy and Loyola University, Chicago. Veteran WW II, Lt. U.S. Navy S.W. Pacific amphibious fleet. Retired insurance broker with W.A. Alexander and successor companies; past president, Insurance Brokers Assn.; past director, Executives Club of Chicago. A lifelong baseball and Cubs fan, Bill was vice president and historian of the Old Timers' Baseball Assn. and a member of SABR (Society for American Baseball Research).
www.donnellanfuneral.com