

The Casey Stengel Chapter Newsletter

The Lineup

Volume 3 Number 1

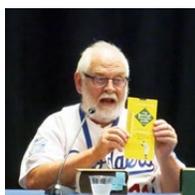
January/February 2026

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Note to Readers:

Records carry stories and statistics and are fundamental to baseball fans; this issue of **The Lineup** highlights SABR's Baseball Records Research Committee where we seek and find information about the records that we love to learn and share.

Thank you to those unacknowledged members who volunteer to discover and recover lost records that you strive to make accurate for the rest of us – Evelyn Begley, editor.



Photos like this one (left) of Dave Smith (Retrosheet) at the 2019 SABR Convention are always thanks to the courtesy of SABR and cannot be used for other purposes or without permission.

SABR's Baseball Records Committee

The Baseball Records Committee <https://sabr.org/research/baseball-records-research-committee/> was formed in 1975 by Cliff Kachline and Joe Simenic, both of whom attended the 1971 meeting in Cooperstown, NY when they and 14 other men created the Society for American Baseball Research. The goal then, and now, was to strive for accurate baseball records and maintain integrity of those records. For 25 years, Lyle Spatz <https://sabr.org/awards/winner/lyle-spatz/> served as chair of the Baseball Records Committee. In the (almost) 160 newsletters that he edited, Spatz graciously shared the myriad names of those invisible masters of research who helped the committee achieve accuracy and integrity of records, names like:

Ross Adell, Greg Beston, Dick Beverage, Charlie Bevis, Cliff Blau, Al Blumkin, Bob Boehm, Darryl Brock, Bill Carle, Jim Charlton, Clem Comly, Father Gabe Costa, Frank Cunliffe, Bob Davids, Bill Deane, Joe Dittmar, Frank D'Amico, Ted DTullio, Scott Flatow, Jim Fredlund, Cappy Gagnon, Bill Gilbert, Ray Gonzalez, Jerry Gregory, Ted Hathaway, Tim Hannan, Dan Heisman, Bob Hoie, Ralph Horton, Tom Howell, Fred Ivor-Campbell, Rick Johnson, Steve Kanehl, Jerry Khan, Herm Krabbenhoft, Sean Lahman, Len Levin, Dan Levitt, Doug Lyons, Norman Macht, Bob McConnell, Trent McCotter, Andy McCue, Madison McEntire, John McMurray, Neil Munro, David Nemecek, David Neft, John O'Malley, Pete Palmer, Doug Pappas, John Pardon, Everett Parker, Frank Phelps, Jeffrey Platt, Ron Rakowski, Tom Ruane, William Ruiz, Ken Samelson, John Schwartz, Alan Schwarz, Lee Sinins, Dave Smith, Jim Smith, Glenn Spatz, Mike Spatz, Jayson Stark, David Stephan, Brad Sullivan, Hiroshi Takagi, John Tattersall, Dick Thompson, John Thorn, Bob Tiemann, Rich Topp, Dixie Tourangeau, Jim Troisi, Frank Vaccaro, Dave Vincent, Gerry Wachs, Joe Wayman Jim Weigand, Mike Welsh, Paul Wendt, Frank Williams, Walt Wilson, Tom Zocco.

Correcting errors and discovering unknown facts and stats was only part of Lyle's mission; he respected and encouraged the work being done on accurate records by people involved in publishing the records they believed were correct. Relationships between the Records Committee and "Craig Carter of *The Sporting News Record Book*, Pete Palmer of *Total Baseball*, Seymour Siwoff of the *Elias Book of Baseball Records*, and Rick Wolff of *The Baseball Encyclopedia* was one of cooperation, not confrontation" Lyle wrote. "And while they don't always agree with proposed changes, they invariably give us a fair hearing."

Back in early 1995, when Jack Kavanagh spoke to Spatz about the need to reconcile statistics in various encyclopedias and record books, suggesting perhaps a committee project, Lyle followed through with ongoing progress reports in the newsletter about the discrepancies of records throughout the years. Each time a new edition of a record book was published, there were differences in older *and* in upcoming books. Some of the corrections that had been sent to the writers and publishers were included in the new editions. Many were not.

The former editor of *The Sporting News (TSN)* for 40 years, Cliff Kachline, became the official historian at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in 1969 after the death of Lee Allen. He worked there for 14 years, repeatedly asking MLB to recognize Hack Wilson's 1930 RBIs as 191, not 190 and he offered proof. Yet the stat was not changed until the commissioner agreed in 1999.

Cliff Kachline

SABR pioneer - one of the original 16 members in 1971

<https://sabr.org/journal/article/cliff-kachline-baseball-man-and-sabr-pioneer/>

(Enjoy this article by Bob Obojski!)

Interviewee: **Kachline, Cliff**

Interview Date: 1/26/1996

Interviewer: Carney, Gene

Duration: 2:31:11

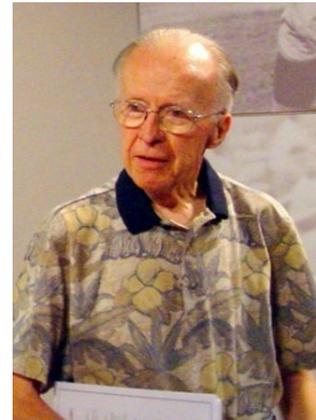
<https://sabr.org/interview/cliff-kachline-1996/>

A Bob Davids Award winner in 1995

<https://sabr.org/awards/winner/clifford-s-kachline/>

A Henry Chadwick Award recipient (Enjoy this profile by Mark Armour!)

<https://sabr.org/journal/article/henry-chadwick-award-clifford-s-kachline/>



A fuller account of SABR's origins is here <https://sabr.org/about/founders> with profiles in the order of their signatures on the 1971 sign-in sheet: Bob Davids, Bob McConnell, Cliff Kachline, John Pardon, Bill Gustafson, Tom Hufford, Paul Frisz, Joe Simenic, Ray Nemec, Raymond Gonzalez, Keith Sutton, Bill Haber, Thomas Shea, Dan Dischley, Daniel Ginsburg, and Pat McDonough.

Bill James was the man who coined the term *sabermetrics* in 1981 and the man who championed Project Scoresheet. He was also a Henry Chadwick Award recipient and you can enjoy reading this article written by Don Zminda here <https://sabr.org/journal/article/henry-chadwick-award-bill-james/>.



In 2017, Bill was honored with the inaugural SABR Analytics Conference Lifetime Achievement Award <https://sabr.org/latest/bill-james-honored-with-inaugural-sabr-analytics-conference-lifetime-achievement-award/>. Four years earlier, he was the keynote speaker at the SABR Analytics Conference. He can be heard here (below).

<https://sabr.org/interview/bill-james-2013/>

Interviewee: **James, Bill**

Interview Date: 3/8/2013

Interviewer: [2013 Keynote Speaker SABR Analytics Conference]

Duration: 0:54:20

For more, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_James



<https://sabr.org/interview/bill-james-2022/>

Interviewee: **James, Bill**

Interview Date: 2022-01-26

Interviewer: Hall, Brian

Duration: 0:57:48

Transcript by Jack Barron

<https://sabr.org/awards/winner/bill-james/>

Keeping consistent records despite changes like strikes, shortened seasons, expansion teams, realignment, more games added, wild cards, and so on was an opportunity, committee chair Lyle Spatz said, to “be educators: Best record in April means to remind folks that now April is longer.” Lyle conferred not only with the Records Committee but with those involved in publishing the most respected record books, as these quotes from him can attest over the years:

“Ken Samelson of Macmillan was praised for his work on the 10th edition of *The Baseball Encyclopedia*, known as Big Mac.”

“Congratulations to Pete Palmer and Gary Gillette on the publication of *The Baseball Encyclopedia*, and to all the folks responsible for the eighth edition of *Total Baseball*.”

“Also, a tip of the cap to Steve Gietschier who put together *The Sporting News 2004 Complete Baseball Record Book*. Steve stepped in at the last minute, and under very trying circumstances produced a sleeker and more user-friendly edition of the Record Book. Steve is continuing to work on improvements for future editions.”

In addition to printed record books, baseball researchers like Dave Smith of Retrosheet and Sean Forman of Baseball-Reference were contacted when double-checking, triple-checking, and beyond could ascertain the accuracy of a record. In the February 2001 newsletter was this gem:

Retrosheet to the Rescue (Again)

Previous editions of *Total Baseball* and *The Baseball Encyclopedia* show **Tom Patton's** major league career to have consisted of one game for the 1957 Baltimore Orioles in which he had two at bats, and two strikeouts. But in a telephone conversation with the Hall of Fame Library's Eric Enders, who was researching one-game players, **Patton** told Eric that he had not struck out twice in that game. In fact, he claimed he hadn't struck out in either at bat.

Eric passed that information on to Matt Silverman of *Total Sports*, who in turn passed on to Pete Palmer. Pete then asked Dave Smith to check the Retrosheet play by play data for this game, and Dave verified that **Tom** was right. He found that **Patton's** one game in the majors was at Chicago on April 30, 1957 when he took over for Joe Ginsberg behind the plate in the fourth inning.

Both of **Patton's** at bats were against Billy Pierce, but as **Patton** had said, in neither at bat did he strike out. In the sixth inning, he reached on third baseman Bubba Phillips's error, and in the ninth he bounced back to Pierce.

Using Jack Smalling's address book, Pete was able to write to **Patton** and inform him that he had made the adjustment and that the corrected record will appear in *Total Baseball VII*.

Fortunately, Retrosheet had this game in its files, but many other games are still waiting to be catalogued. If you would like to volunteer in this most worthy effort, please contact Retrosheet at <https://www.retrosheet.org/>

Along with the diverse baseball record books and websites, the SABR Records Committee works with other SABR committees like the 19th Century, the Minor Leagues, and the Oral History committee. Members like Joe Dittmar, the vice-chair of the Records Committee, and Bob McConnell, considered to be the second SABR member (which he laughs about in the interview below), were very helpful when members in and out of the committee shared frustrations that records were not uniform. Bob was the chair of the Minor League Committee when he responded to a 19th Century question because his baseball research and interests were so broad; he agreed about the difficulty reconciling baseball numbers.

“Ernie Lanigan compiled unofficial RBI for 1907 thru 1919. These stats were used in Big Mac. Stats prior to 1907 were compiled by a bunch of college boys hired by Dave Neft and they were used in Big Mac. I am amazed that these stats are accepted as gospel by most baseball people. I have done a great deal of research on 19th Century baseball and it is impossible to compile accurate RBI.

“Many years ago, I compiled Ty Cobb's RBI for his first two years (1905 & 1906). There were a few games where I could not determine who had the RBI. I was lucky to determine that Cobb did NOT bat them in.

“My compilation includes the inning, who scored, and how Cobb knocked them in. I gave my results to Lee Allen and he sent out a press release. My figures do not agree with those in Big Mac. My guess is that half of the 19th Century RBI can be questioned.”

At <https://sabr.org/about/founders> is the reason why Bob McConnell (below) is listed as the second SABR member. He was the 1985 inaugural winner of SABR’s highest honor, the Bob Davids Award, and received the Henry Chadwick Award as well <https://sabr.org/awards/winner/bob-mcconnell/>.



Enjoy reading this BioProject piece by Peter Morris <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/Bob-McConnell/> and this article by Peter Morris and John Thorn <https://sabr.org/journal/article/henry-chadwick-award-bob-mcconnell/>.

His Wikipedia page is **below**.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_McConnell

<https://sabr.org/interview/bob-mcconnell-2011/>

Interviewee: **McConnell, Bob**
Interview Date: 7/28/2011
Interviewer: Paulson, Dave
Duration: 0:49:43

In the June 2002 newsletter, Spatz noted that Herm Krabbenhoft discovered and proved Ted Williams's two missing 1941 walks. It also stated that STATS (Sports Team Analysis and Tracking Systems), Inc., which was co-founded by John Dewan (pictured right) in 1981 as an outgrowth from Project Scoresheet, would be combining with *The Sporting News* to produce several sports publications, including the *TSN Guide*, *Register*, and *Record Book*. In fact, he won the 2007 SABR Baseball Research Award for his research on his book *The Fielding Bible*. See <https://sabr.org/awards/winner/john-dewan/>



Interviewee: **Dewan, John**
Interview Date: 2022-03-16
Interviewer: Hall, Brian
Duration: 0:57:06

Enjoy this article by Sean Forman! <https://sabr.org/journal/article/henry-chadwick-award-john-dewan/>

Even before 2004, John O'Malley and others had been asking about the committee publishing *its own Records book*, noting that every December, the newsletter listed records which were broken or set, including ties and special accomplishments as well as the daily research reconciling and discoveries of statistics confirmed or unproven. Members offered ideas, too, like this one:

THE DECEPTIVE NATURE OF FIELDING AVERAGES

Even more so than batting and pitching statistics, fielding averages can be misleading. For instance, the AL leader for first baseman in 1983 was Mike Squires of Chicago with a .996 average.

Bob Hoie considers this a gross miscarriage of justice. Bob points out that Enos Cabell of Detroit had a .997 FA but did not qualify because he played in only 106 games and 108 were needed to qualify.

But, while Squires had 515 putouts, 40 assists and two errors, Cabell had 830 putouts, 79 assists, and three errors, for a total of 355 more chances. Squires may have played in more game (124), but many of those were as a defensive replacement. Bob estimates that in all, Squires probably played in only half as many innings as Cabell did.

Members also asked about the new records being set by players suspected of taking performance-enhancing drugs and those players who did admit it. In the April 2005 newsletter, editor Lyle Spatz clarified “Integrity” for readers:

THE INTEGRITY OF BASEBALL RECORDS

In the immediate aftermath of the Jose Canseco book, with its claims of rampant steroid use among players, I received several calls from reporters, as well as emails from several committee members, asking how the Baseball Records Committee would treat the accomplishments of the players mentioned. One committee member asked, "Do you honestly believe that self-admitted illegal performance enhancing users such as Ken Caminiti and Jose Canseco's records reflect the integrity of the game?" Most, however, were interested specifically in Barry Bonds and how we would treat his final home run total if it passed Hank Aaron's 755. Several used the word asterisk, referring to the supposed asterisk that is affixed to Roger Maris's American League single-season home run record. Of course there is no asterisk next to Maris's name and there won't be one next to Bonds's name should he surpass Aaron.

This is not to say that many people won't make mental adjustments to these records and determine to their own satisfaction just how valid they are. However, while everyone is entitled to his own set of opinions, everyone is not entitled to his own set of facts. A record is a record is a record. Ken Caminiti has 239 career home runs, and Jose Canseco has 462. That will not change even though both admitted using illegal substances. Same goes for Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmiero and all the other players accused of using illegal substances.

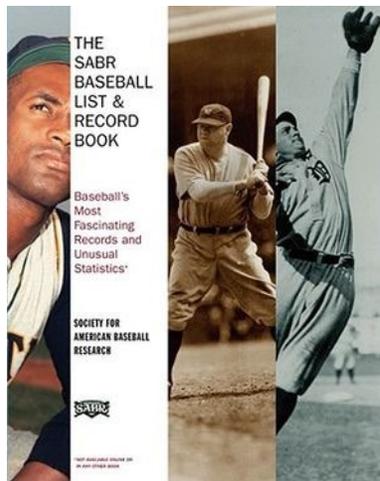
The Baseball Records Committee was created in 1975 to reconcile differences and pursue a greater degree of accuracy in baseball's "historical record." The word record, as we use it, has two meanings. We use it in the sense that some player, or some team, has the most or least of something for an inning, or a game, or a season, etc. For example, Nate Colbert holds the National League (and major league) record for Most total bases in a doubleheader (22), or that Mark Eichhorn holds the American League record for Most games in a season, none of which were starts (89). We also use the word record to refer to a player's game-by-game, season-by-season and lifetime accomplishments. For example, Bobo Newsom pitched 285.2 innings in 1936, or Terry Puhl had 226 career doubles.

It is not, however, our role to decide the purity of the conditions under which those records were achieved. We are not moralists. Our role at SABR is strictly to get the numbers right, that is to make sure, for example, that Don Sutton is credited with 324 wins and Gaylord Perry with 314, and not to decide which, if any, of those wins were accomplished by cheating.

In 2005, work began on the SABR Record Book, an e-Group was created by Trent McCotter for discussions, and Lyle congratulated Trent for getting one of the Yoseloff-SABR Baseball Research Grants to study “AL Anomalies 1920-30.”

In 2006, the never-ending triple-checking, especially for typos, was given to the committee before the upcoming publication in 2007 of *The SABR Baseball List & Record Book: Baseball's Most Fascinating Records and Unusual Statistics* (with an asterisk stating it was “not available online or in any other book”).

Spatz reminded everyone that “This is in no way an alternative to the wonderfully informative record books and encyclopedias we all depend upon, but rather a complement to them. I trust that everyone in or out of SABR with an interest in baseball records will find it a valuable resource.”



The Union Project

One year later, the February 2008 newsletter highlighted efforts toward “The Union Project” to achieve a reconciliation of statistical records among as many record books and websites as possible. To quote Lyle:

“We all know the frustration we face when confronted by differing statistics in reliable publications (both printed and online). That frustration led Gary Gillette, of *The ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia*, to call on representatives of these publications to pool their knowledge and resources.

“The result is a forum we have named The Union Project. The current members of The Union Project include representatives from Baseball-Reference, *The ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia*, SABR, Retrosheet, *The Sporting News*, and *Total Baseball*. This is something many of us have wanted for decades.

“More than a quarter century ago, **Pete Palmer** discovered mistakes in the 1910 AL statistics that changed Ty Cobb’s career hit total from 4,191 to 4,189, and his lifetime batting average from .367 to .366. No one has challenged the accuracy of Pete’s research, yet Major League Baseball has never adopted those corrections, and they remain unknown to most fans to this day. Sean Forman, of Baseball-Reference, is putting together a system that will allow researchers to submit suggested changes to the panel for review. I will keep you apprised.”



<https://sabr.org/interview/pete-palmer-2022/>

Interviewee: **Palmer, Pete**

Interview Date: 2022-02-08

Interviewer: Hall, Brian

Duration: 0:58:28

A sabermetric pioneer who won the fifth Bob Davids Award in 1989, Palmer was a Henry Chadwick Award recipient (with others) in 2010, the first year it was awarded <https://sabr.org/awards/winner/pete-palmer/>.

He was the second person who earned the SABR Analytics Conference Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018 <https://sabr.org/latest/pete-palmer-honored-with-2018-sabr-analytics-conference-lifetime-achievement-award/>. Palmer was also co-editor of *Total Baseball* and co-author of *The Hidden Game of Baseball* <https://sabr.org/authors/pete-palmer/> and <https://sabr.org/journal/article/henry-chadwick-award-pete-palmer/>.

For more on Pete Palmer, go to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pete_Palmer

Besides the focus in 2008 on The Union Project, the Records Committee dealt with the after-effects when SABR member Steve Gietschier, who was the Managing Editor, Research at *The Sporting News*, was told that his position was being eliminated by the parent company of *The Sporting News* and that the St. Louis office which was founded in 1886 was closing. Gentleman that he is, Steve kindly made the 2008 edition of the *TSN Complete Baseball Record Book* available for free to SABR members.

In 2009, vice-chair Joe Dittmar stepped down but “graciously consented to continue proofreading the newsletters ... and to supply some of the hard-to-find pictures that appear in each issue. Joe is a terrific researcher, so I expect he will be contributing in other ways also. More importantly, Joe is the kindest, most decent man I know. I am honored to call him my friend.

“The Board of Directors approved my recommendation that Joe’s place be taken by Trent McCotter. Trent is currently a law student ... [who] started

contributing record-related corrections to Steve Gietschier, Pete Palmer, Steve Hirdt, and me back when he was a teenager. Now one can hardly pick up a newspaper or look at a baseball website without seeing a reference to Trent concerning some little-known record related to the previous day's games."

Noted also: An all-encompassing SABR Encyclopedia was being developed *by* SABR that excited many committees, especially the Records Committee!

The SABR/Baseball Reference Encyclopedia

Today, there actually *is* a *SABR/Baseball Reference Encyclopedia* where anyone can go to view it https://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Main_Page.

There is also an "About" page to read how SABR worked and still works with Baseball-Reference to continue presenting the most up-to-date records data <https://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/About> :

The SABR/Baseball Reference Encyclopedia is an attempt to collect and organize the vastness of baseball knowledge. All things baseball.

It was launched as the "BR Bullpen" on July 21, 2005 as part of Baseball-Reference.com. Initial pages were stocked with basic information for all major league players, teams and leagues. An additional suggested section structure was created, but it was assumed that these would be very fluid for the first months or year of its launch.

On July 16, 2014, it merged with a similar project maintained by the Society for American Baseball Research called "The SABRpedia," and the new collaboration was named The SABR/Baseball Reference Encyclopedia.

SABRpedia entries such as the Spread of Baseball Project and the Collegiate Baseball Database are now available in the same place as the Bullpen's detailed histories of Negro League teams and minor league players.

On another page of the website, it states "While the term sabermetrics is derived from the society's name, its work encompasses much more than just statistical analysis and reflects the eclectic interests of its broad membership. Its mandate is to "foster the study of baseball past and present, and to provide an outlet for educational, historical and research information about the game.'" See

https://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Society_for_American_Baseball_Research

Continuing on that page:

SABR publishes *The Baseball Research Journal*, a twice-annual publication that contains original baseball research undertaken by members. Another publication, *The National Pastime*, used to cover similar topics, but is now the vehicle for publishing articles related to SABR's annual convention.

Both are provided to members as part of their annual membership dues. In addition SABR publishes other books on baseball and reprints some hard-to-find materials of high historical interest. SABR also hosts a number of specialized research committees dealing with specific topics such as the Negro Leagues, the Business of Baseball, Scouts, Women in Baseball, Records, Biographical Research, etc. There are regional chapters of the society throughout the United States and in Canada, the UK and Japan, all of which meet on a regular basis to exchange the results of original research and trade stories and anecdotes with guests connected to the game.

One of the society's major undertakings in the SABR Baseball Biography Project, which collects biographies of all players and managers who have appeared in major league baseball, as well as of a number of other persons of significance in baseball history. Other significant projects include the SABR Games Project and the SABR Oral History Collection. This website is also affiliated with SABR, and most of its principal contributors are SABR members.



Sabermetrics

As for sabermetrics, Baseball-Reference provides history and clarity:

Sabermetrics is the study of baseball using statistics. The term is attributed to Bill James, the field's most celebrated author, and is derived from the acronym "SABR" for the Society for American Baseball Research.

James, who parlayed his fame into a special advisory role with the Boston Red Sox, is only the most notable in a long list of people who have published sabermetric works of significance. James began publishing his annual *Baseball Abstract* books in the mid-1970s.

Statistics had been part of the game since Henry Chadwick

had invented basic statistical concepts in the middle of the 19th century, but until the advent of modern sabermetrics there had been relatively little serious study. As the decades went by, the game had changed enough that the original statistical concepts gradually grew less and less suitable to adequately describe the game.

In 2004, Alan Schwarz published *The Numbers Game*, which recounts in some detail not only the historical interaction between baseball and its statistics, but the stories of many of the people who were integral to the collection, analysis, and dissemination of those statistics.

Other prominent authors in the field of sabermetrics include George Lindsey, Earnshaw Cook, Dick Cramer, Pete Palmer, Jim Albert, and F. C. Lane.

Also here <https://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Sabermetrics> is the reaction to *Moneyball* (Michael Lewis's bestseller from 2003) which many people believed was the first time that “major league front offices incorporated statistics (or the advice of statistical analysts) into their decision-making process. However, the first major-league general manager to employ sabermetric analysis in decision making was Branch Rickey, who employed Allan Roth for that purpose.”

Allan Roth https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allan_Roth was the “official statistician from 1947 to 1964” for the Dodgers and in that role, he created new baseball statistics to excel in his work.

Sabermetric pioneer and co-founder of STATS Inc., Steve Mann (pictured below) became the **first** full-time statistician in *three decades* to be hired by a major league team, the Houston Astros in 1989.



Interviewee: **Mann, Steve**

Interview Date: 2022-03-08

Interviewer: Hall, Brian

Duration: 1:18:55

<https://sabr.org/interview/steve-mann-2022/>

STEPPING DOWN, BUT NOT FADING AWAY

by Lyle Spatz (June 2016 newsletter)

This is to let everyone know that I am stepping down as chairman of the **Baseball Records Committee** I have had the privilege and pleasure of holding this position for the past 25 years but it's time for some new blood. Replacing me will be Trent McCotter who needs no introduction to those in the "records community." Executive director Morris Eckhouse asked me to replace John Schwartz in December 1990, and I agreed. SABR was quite a different organization back then. According to Jacob Pomrenke, we had 4,842 members and 14 committees in 1990. Here are the committees and their chairmen. Some very familiar names and some not so familiar. And only the redoubtable Bill Carle is still in place.

Ballparks - Bob Bluthardt
Baseball Records – John Schwartz
Bibliography - Frank Phelps
Biographical Research - Bill Carle
Collegiate - Cappy Gagnon
Computerization - Jim Johnston
Latin America - Peter Bjarkman

Minor Leagues - David Kemp
Negro Leagues - Dick Clark
Nineteenth Century - Bob Tiemann
Oral History - Norman Macht
Statistical Analysis - Donald Coffin
Umpires and Rules - Larry Gerlach
Women in Baseball - Sharon Roepke

In those 25 years, the committee turned out six newsletters a year; this issue is the 153rd and I will continue to produce the newsletter, at least for now. Early on, this involved getting 200-300 newsletters printed, folded, stuffed into envelopes, and stamped. Fortunately, the number of newsletters sent by snail-mail is down to two.

I want to thank everyone who contributed items and suggestions over the years, and a special thanks to my friend and former vice chairman, Joe Dittmar. Joe has fact-checked every one of those newsletters. One of the major benefits of SABR, beyond getting "free stuff," is in the people you meet. Joe and I met as colleagues in 1991 and quickly developed a personal friendship that, despite physical distance, has only grown over the years.

The Baseball Records Committee was created in 1975 to help reconcile differences and pursue a greater degree of accuracy in baseball's "historical record." The word "record," as we use it, has two meanings. We use it in the sense that some player, or some team, has the most or least of something for an inning, or a game, or a season, etc.

We also use the word record to refer to a player's game-by-game, season-by-season and lifetime accomplishments. Both aspects of baseball's historical record are of equal importance to us, and we are as diligent with regard to accuracy for the "unknown" players as we are for the Hall of Famers.

Beginning with our formation, committee members have contributed countless corrections, additions, and deletions to the record books. For that, we should all be proud. When I became chairman my goal was to make all the record books and, later, the on-line sources, agree on everything. Eventually, I realized that was not going to happen, but we continue to make the discrepancies fewer and fewer.

Lyle

The Henry Chadwick Award

By now, readers will have noticed how many pioneers of baseball research named in this 2026 issue of “The Lineup” have been honored with the Henry Chadwick Award. So many people mentioned in the Records Committee newsletters have earned research honors, like for the Henry Chadwick Award:

Lee Allen, Bill Carle, Dick Cramer, Bob Davids, Bill Deane, John Dewan, Sean Forman, Steve Gietschier, Gary Gillette, Cliff Kachline, Bill James, Ernie Lanigan, Dan Levitt, Norman Macht, Bob McConnell, Peter Morris, David Neft, David Nemecek, Pete Palmer, Tom Ruane, David W. Smith, Lyle Spatz, Tom Shieber, J.G. Taylor Spink, John C. Tattersall, John Thorn.

The Henry Chadwick Award <https://sabr.org/journal/article/henry-chadwick-award-henry-chadwick/> was “established in November 2009 to honor baseball’s great researchers—historians, statisticians, annalists, and archivists—for their invaluable contributions to making baseball the game that links America’s present with its past.



“Apart from honoring individuals for the length and breadth of their contribution to the study and enjoyment of baseball, the Chadwick Award will educate the baseball community about sometimes little known but vastly important contributions from the game’s past and thus encourage the next generation of researchers.

“The contributions of nominees must have had public impact. This may be demonstrated by publication of research in any of a variety of formats: books, magazine articles, websites, etc. The compilation of a significant database or archive that has facilitated the published research of others will also be considered in the realm of public impact.”

According to John Thorn, the present official MLB Historian, “it would be not too much to say that sabermetrics began with Father Chadwick.” See more about the “Father of Baseball” here <https://sabr.org/journal/article/henry-chadwick-award-henry-chadwick/> and on Wikipedia which includes his reporting account of a game at Dexter Park [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Chadwick_\(writer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Chadwick_(writer)) and notes that he “assigned numbers to each defensive position for scorekeeping purposes, a system that remains in modern baseball scorekeeping.”

Lyle Spatz himself earned several SABR awards, most of which are below.

The Bob Davids Award in 2000

<https://sabr.org/awards/winner/lyle-spatz/>

“Lyle has been a member of SABR since 1973 and has been active in many areas of the organization’s work. He is best known as the chair of the Records Committee, a task he assumed in 1991.

“As the spokesperson for that committee, he represents SABR frequently to the baseball community. People such as Seymour Siwoff of Elias Sports Bureau and Craig Carter of *The Sporting News* often seek Lyle’s thoughts and advice on a variety of topics. Recently Mr. Siwoff, in a conversation not related to this award, had unsolicited high praise for Lyle.

“Lyle Spatz is held in high regard by the baseball community for his knowledge and low-key approach in dealing with committee matters. As such, he is a wonderful representative for SABR.

“Lyle has also been an active member with his local chapter, helping to organize and run meetings and special events. However, his best contribution to SABR might be a member by the name of Glenn Spatz, Lyle’s son. Glenn is now an active member at the local level — second generation members are a great contribution to the future of the society!”



Bob Davids (above left) and Lyle Spatz who is holding his award trophy in 2000

The Henry Chadwick Award in 2017

<https://sabr.org/awards/winner/lyle-spatz-chadwick/>

Lyle Spatz’s “most lasting contribution to baseball research might be his long tenure (1991-2015) as the accomplished chairman of SABR’s Records Committee, years of great change in the field. He also has found the time to write dozens of articles and many books on the game, spanning such subjects as All-Star Games, Yankee opening days, Yankee transactions, Bill Dahlen, Willie Keeler, and his childhood hero Dixie Walker. His book *1921: The Yankees, the Giants, and the Battle for Baseball Supremacy in New York* (with Steve Steinberg) won the Seymour Medal, among many research honors Lyle has received.”



The Seymour Medal in 2011

<https://sabr.org/latest/spatz-and-steinbergs-1921-awarded-2011-seymour-medal>

To be considered for the medal, a work must be the product of original research or analysis. The winning book shall significantly advance our knowledge of baseball and shall be characterized by understanding, factual accuracy, profound insight and distinguished writing.

1921: The Yankees, the Giants, and the Battle for Baseball Supremacy in New York (University of Nebraska Press) with co-author **Steve Steinberg**

The SABR Baseball Research Award in 2002, 2016, 2022, and 2025

(previously known as **The Sporting News-SABR Baseball Research Award**)

<https://sabr.org/awards/sabr-baseball-research/>

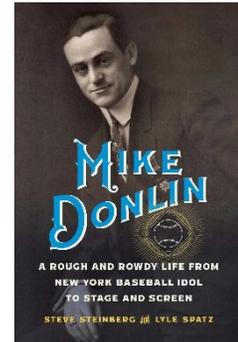
This honors those whose outstanding research projects were completed during the preceding calendar year and have significantly expanded our knowledge or understanding of baseball.

In 2025 for **Mike Donlin: A Rough and Rowdy Life from New York Baseball Idol to Stage and Screen** (University of Nebraska Press) with co-author **Steve Steinberg**

In 2022 for **Comeback Pitchers: The Remarkable Careers of Howard Ehmke and Jack Quinn** (University of Nebraska Press) with co-author **Steve Steinberg**

In 2016 for **The Colonel and Hug: The Partnership That Transformed the New York Yankees** (University of Nebraska Press) with co-author **Steve Steinberg**

In 2002 for **The Mid-Summer Classic** (University of Nebraska Press) with co-authors **David Vincent, and David W. Smith**



The Larry Ritter Book Award in 2025

<https://sabr.org/latest/steve-steinberg-lyle-spatz-win-2025-sabr-larry-ritter-book-award/>

To recognize the best new baseball book primarily set in the Deadball Era that was published during the previous calendar year. The panel cares a great deal about the originality of a particular topic or approach, historical accuracy, quality of writing, and depth of research. The selection process is a holistic one, and there is no restriction or limitation on which factors voters may use in making their choices.

In 2025 for **Mike Donlin: A Rough and Rowdy Life from New York Baseball Idol to Stage and Screen** (University of Nebraska Press) with co-author **Steve Steinberg**

“Not everything that counts is counted; not everything that is counted is worth counting. — Albert Einstein” is the quote on the SABR Baseball Records Research Committee letterhead. Here are some short, but fascinating, pieces as “food for thought” that could be worth counting! Enjoy!

Degrees of Separation (from April 2011)

“Walt Wilson sent this to me. I like it because it shows the surprisingly few degrees of separation between **Tommy Bond**, who began his major league career with the **Brooklyn Atlantics of the National Association in 1874**, and **Jamie Moyer, who was active until last season.**



Tommy Bond (pictured left) pitched to Sam Trott

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| who caught Frank Foreman | who pitched to Frank Bowerman |
| who caught Christy Mathewson | who pitched to Lew Wendell |
| who caught Huck Betts | who pitched to Ray Mueller |
| who caught Warren Spahn | who pitched to Tom Haller |
| who caught Don Sutton | who pitched to Jim Sundberg |
| who caught Jamie Moyer | who pitched (in 2010)” |

Defunct Franchises (from June 2014)

“Committee member Dan Fields has compiled this data, and I think it is important that it become a part of the Records Committee’s published body of knowledge ... which included some memorable teams, and whose rosters included numerous great players.

According to Dan, a total of **65** major-league franchises have gone out of existence—in other words, they did not just change cities or names. Many franchises were in four short-lived leagues: the *American Association* (AA) of 1882-1891, the *Union Association* (UA) of 1884, the *Players League* (PL) of 1890, and the *Federal League* (FL) of 1914-1915.

The rest of the franchises were in the National League (NL) anytime between 1876 and 1899. No American League franchises have become defunct. (The National Association of 1871-1875 is not included.)”

Lyle Spatz included the statistics in the next several newsletters.

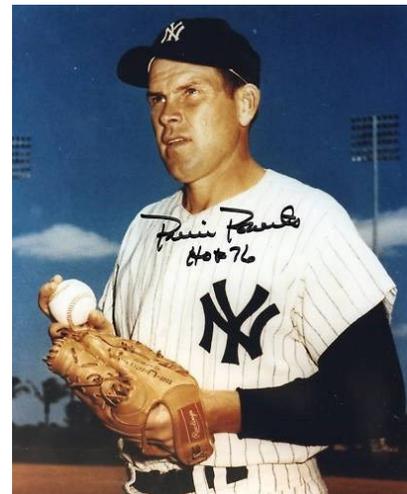
Wore a Uniform, Sat on the Bench, But Did Not Play

(from the October 2013)

“Tom Shieber raised a question about the lack of inclusion in the encyclopedias and record books (on-line and printed) of players who spent time on a team’s roster during a season but never got into a game.

“These guys donned a big-league uniform, pulled down a big-league paycheck, logged time on a big-league roster, and (perhaps most importantly) had an impact on the game, Tom said. “Hey, if I’m a manager and I know you’ve got a lefty warming up in the bullpen, that may very well affect who I send up to bat. No matter that the lefty doesn’t enter the game that day or ever ... he affected the game.”

“Tom cited **Robin Roberts** (pictured right), who was with the Yankees in April and May of 1962, and **Cy Young**, who was with the Braves in April and May of 1912. Both were suited up and on the bench with these clubs, but you’d never know by looking at the encyclopedias.



“My personal favorite is Brooklyn’s **Bill Sharman** (pictured left), the only player to have ever been ejected from a major league game without ever appearing in one. In the eighth inning of a September 27, 1951, game against Boston, umpire Frank Dascoli lost control and ejected everyone sitting in the Dodgers’ dugout, including Sharman. (I wonder if Sharman and other such players are included in the lists that show every player who wore a certain uniform number for each team?)

“Tom and I agree that it would be very difficult to identify these players or are we even sure how we’d craft this broader definition of a major leaguer. The definition might include “Must be under contract with the big-league club, be eligible to play, and be in uniform at some time.”

When Lyle Spatz stepped down as chair of the Records Committee, he asked that Trent McCotter be confirmed as his replacement, which he was. Trent thanked Lyle “for all the time and dedication he has put into the Committee over the last quarter of a century” and shared that his “interest in baseball stats began when I read a copy of *The 1999 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book*. I was only 13, but I began researching some of its entries, and I sent hundreds of suggested corrections to Craig Carter (the editor at the time) and also to Lyle, who convinced me that I should join SABR.

“So I joined SABR in 2002, and indeed it did allow me to have even more resources for researching historical stats. After one period where I emailed him dozens of times with potential errors to the historical records, Lyle referred to me as “the relentless Trent McCotter”--which I still consider to be a great compliment. Just like Pete Palmer, Dave Smith, Tom Ruane, and many other members of this Committee, Lyle was always glad to help, no matter how many times I asked.”

Relentless, yes, and faithful to the committee’s goals of accuracy and integrity. Trent also wrote this in the most recent (2025) year-end issue, the one that has the unofficial regular season records set, extended, or tied:

“As always, the year-end newsletter contains unofficial lists of assorted regular season records set, extended, or tied in the past season, along with some major individual accomplishments, positive and negative. There is also a section devoted to records set, extended, or tied for individual franchises that includes both team records as a whole and records set by individuals. Where a team record was also determined to be a franchise record, it is so noted, but some may have been missed. There is also a section on the movement by players in the top 50 all-time leaders in various career categories. We all owe an incredible debt to former chairman Lyle Spatz for compiling this year’s list--it requires hundreds of hours of time.

“As Lyle says every year, these lists are in no way complete or official.”

Barely a year after Trent had become the new chair of the Records Committee, he also became the editor of the committee newsletters in 2017 and when the Records Committee met at the annual convention in 2017, he included this section in the September 2017 issue:

Records Committee Meeting at SABR 47 Is One for the Books

“The annual SABR conference was held in New York City this year. In a changeup from years past, the Records Committee meeting was held in the grand ballroom and featured a one-on-one interview between two legends in the records community: John Thorn and David Neft. John is the official historian of MLB, and David was the driving force behind Information Concepts Incorporated (“ICI”) producing the first *MacMillan Encyclopedia* (“Big Mac”) in 1969.

“John and David engaged in a lively discussion about the perils of correcting the historical record--as exemplified by the ICI researchers’ uncovering of a “missing” home run for Babe Ruth that resulted in significant controversy about the role of uniform record keeping across time. John also gave David and his team credit for the Hall of Fame inductions of players like Sam Thompson--whose greatness was not appreciated until ICI compiled modern-day stats like RBI.

“Finally, David yielded some trivia that would work well in Bruce Brown’s annual contest--for example that **Big Mac was the first book in the world that was entirely type set by computer**. David’s explanation: Could you imagine trying to type set over 2,300 pages of figures by hand--and then proof it?”

David Neft was the driving force behind the 1969 publication of *The Baseball Encyclopedia*.

Interviewee(s): Neft, David

Interview Date: 2022-02-08

Interviewer(s): Hall, Brian

Duration: 0:47:02

<https://sabr.org/interview/david-neft-2022/>

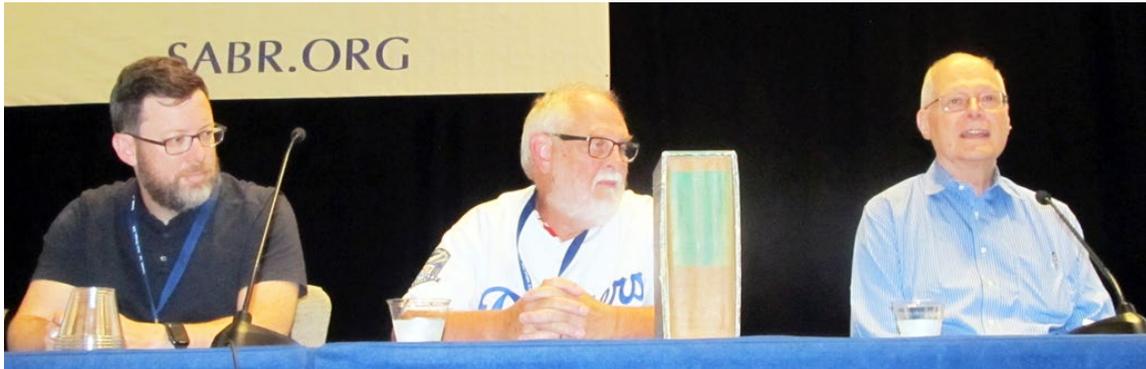


A Henry Chadwick Award recipient in the inaugural class of 2010 <https://sabr.org/awards/winner/david-neft/>, David’s impact on baseball, its fans, its researchers, its players, its media and its business cannot be overestimated as you can read here <https://sabr.org/journal/article/henry-chadwick-award-david-s-neft/> in this excellent, succinct article by Mark Armour. Enjoy!

More about David is at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Neft

At the 2019 SABR Convention, John Thorn moderated The Baseball Encyclopedia 50th Anniversary Panel <https://sabr.org/latest/sabr-49-listen-highlights-baseball-encyclopedia-50th-anniversary-panel/>. The panelists were

David Neft, Sean Forman (founder of Baseball-Reference.com), and David W. Smith (president and founder of Retrosheet.org).



From left to right: Sean Forman, Dave Smith, David Neft

Highlights are available for reading if you want a quick look-see before listening to the panelists here <https://sabr.org/latest/sabr-49-listen-highlights-baseball-encyclopedia-50th-anniversary-panel/>. You might be curious ... Did Major League Baseball discourage or support The Baseball Encyclopedia? Is Retrosheet like trying to count grains of sand on a beach? Does Baseball-Reference have any copyrights on any data or on its entire database? Did The Baseball Encyclopedia influence any voting at the Baseball Hall of Fame? Questions and answers are on audio but some are on the Highlights page, too.

One of the intriguing pieces in the October 2019 Records Committee newsletter showcased game ejections, particularly by National League umpire Mal Eason who holds the record of 33 ejections in 1914. Trent McCotter has all 33 ejections listed by Eason, courtesy of Retrosheet, that you can view here <https://sabr.app.box.com/v/baseball-records-newsletters> with live links.

“On June 29, 1914, Eason racked up 6 ejections in one day! Note that the Reds’ player-manager Buck Herzog accounted for 4 of those ejections just by himself, with Heinie Zimmerman and Johnny Evers each racking up 3 apiece.

“By and large, the ejections are for the same things we see today--close calls. More interesting are ones like Dick Egan’s ejection on September 11, 1914, for complaining about the condition of the ball.” Also amusing was NY Giants manager John McGraw’s ejection because he “Told umpire he should wear glasses.”

That same newsletter highlights the “Old 6-1-4 Force Play” with attention given to the “September 7, 2019 game when the Athletics turned a 6-1-4 double

play--that's shortstop to pitcher to second baseman. A popup dropped after being misdirected by a gust of wind, and shortstop Marcus Semien picked up the ball and threw to third base (where pitcher Chris Bassitt was covering) for a force out, who then threw to second base (covered by Jurickson Profar) for another force out.

Retrosheet files indicate that this was *the first 6-1-4 double play since at least 1933*. For those curious, according to the SABR Triple Play Database (available at <https://sabr.org/tripleplays>), the only triple play to include a 6-1-4 (in that order, in a row) was on July 14, 1965, turned by the Cubs against the Braves in the second inning. The full scoring was 2-6-1-4.

The Spring 2020 issue dealt with the shortened season “due to the nationwide virus outbreak” and the 2020 rule for extra innings that began each half-inning with a runner on second base. The rule, as Trent stated, was “ostensibly designed to save time in extra-inning games. We estimated that about 150 games would enter extra innings this season, and the new rule would save about 110 total extra innings--working out to about 2.5 minutes saved per game on average.

“Committee member Al Yellon noticed that this estimate was actually far too generous. Because of a calculation error in the newsletter, there would actually be only about 75 games that would go into extra innings (not 150), meaning the new rule would save about 55 extra innings over the course of the shortened season. Given the average time of an inning, that amounts to about 75 seconds saved per game.”

The result?

“Committee member Al Yellon noticed that this estimate was actually far too generous. Because of a calculation error in the newsletter, there would actually be only about 75 games that would go into extra innings (not 150), meaning the new rule would save about 55 extra innings over the course of the shortened season. Given the average time of an inning, that amounts to about 75 seconds saved per game” which was confirmed in the Winter issue!

Another outstanding committee researcher and former Senior Research



Associate at the National Baseball Library at the Baseball Hall of Fame, Bill Deane (pictured left), wondered about the changes in records because of the short 2020 season.

Bill, an expert at fact-checking who was awarded in 2001 the SABR Salute which honored members who had made great contributions to baseball historical research <https://sabr.org/sabr->

[salute/bill-deane/](#) had also earned the Henry Chadwick Award in 2015 <https://sabr.org/awards/winner/henry-chadwick-award-bill-deane/>, and his idea was to compare team winning percentages from before 2020 with the short 2020 baseball year.

Beneath the title “Dodging Losses” in the April 2021 issue, Trent stated that “Combining excellent play with a shortened schedule that allowed for larger variances, the Dodgers were able to put together a .717 winning percentage in 2020 (43 wins, 17 losses). Bill Deane notes that this is the highest percentage by a team in a season of any length since the 1954 Indians compiled a .721 winning percentage (111 wins, 43 losses).

“If we include their post-season record, the 2020 Dodgers’ final WL% was .718 (56 wins, 22 losses). That is the highest since the 1927 Yankees went .722 (114 wins, 44 losses). For those who are curious about how the Dodgers leap-frogged the 1954 Indians: recall that the 1954 Indians were swept in the World Series, lowering their overall WL% for the season to .703, including post-season play.”

Baseball fans, researchers, players, owners, agents, media and the game itself must have accuracy and integrity in the records generated by numbers and methodology which the Baseball Records Committee continues to imbue in its committee goals and work. Both accuracy and integrity engender trust in SABR’s research committees, all of them.

Cooperating with mutual respect for the value placed on work by entities outside of SABR is how SABR committees like the Records Committee forge partnerships to share their research with the rest of the baseball world.

Above Trent McCotter’s name where the “Welcome” message area is on the home page <https://sabr.org/research/baseball-records-research-committee/>, is this promise:

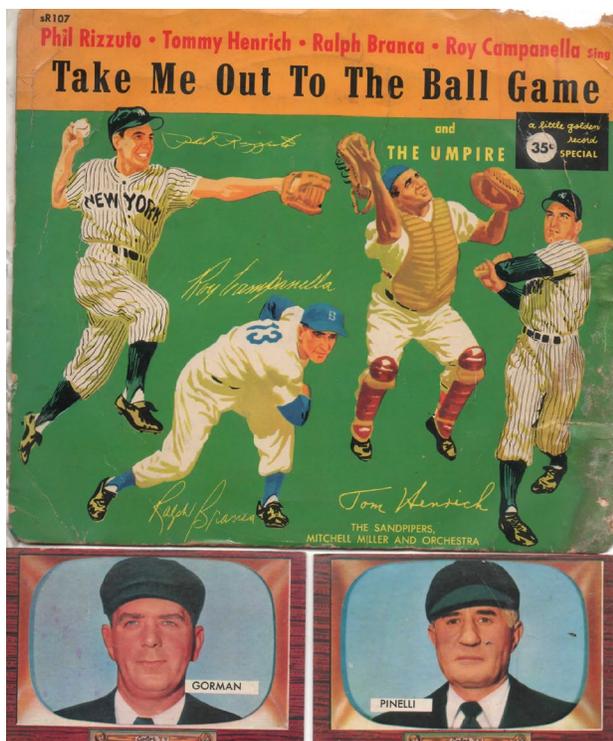
The committee has focused its research on reconciling differences and pursuing a greater degree of accuracy in baseball’s “historical record.” We also continue to be an advocate for maintaining the integrity of baseball records.

Kudos and gratitude to SABR’s Records Research Committee!

Sharing Our Stories

By Mike Frank

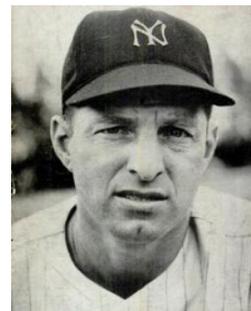
Remember those Little Golden Books? Well, that company also made records. There is a yellow 78 rpm of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" that has, on the flip side, "The Umpire" which has lyrics that are not kind to the umps.



As you can see in the picture to the left, on the very top part in red print, there were four players who sang “The Umpire” (with those unkind lyrics): Phil Rizzuto, Tommy Henrich, Ralph Branca and Roy Campanella.

Years later, I showed it to Branca at his insurance office, and he started singing it. He had a good voice, for a pitcher.

Tommy Henrich was “Old Reliable” to his team, the Yankees. He talks about that in one of these two interviews.



Interviewee: **Henrich, Tommy**

Interview Date: 7/26/1991

Interviewer: Bergman, Irv

Duration: 1:15:19

<https://sabr.org/interview/tommy-henrich-1991/>

Enjoy this article by Rob Edelman! <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/Tommy-Henrich/>

Interviewee: **Henrich, Tommy**

Interview Date: 6/26/1999

Interviewer: Paulson, Dave

Duration: 1:19:10

<https://sabr.org/interview/tommy-henrich-1999/>

Sharing Our Stories

By Gary Mintz

Hope everyone is well! Although the calendar just changed to 2026, next year will mark a historic and for many in the group, a bittersweet memory: 2027 will be 70 years since the Giants played their final season and then their final game as the New York Giants on September 29, 1957, as they would become the San Francisco Giants in 1958.

I would like to get a list of the members who saw them play as the New York Giants in NY and those who might have attended that faithful game. If you remember the year/years you attended games at the Polo Grounds or went to a visiting stadium to see them play, please let me know.

More information about this anniversary is in my 3-minute video here
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2i-iFg9_ukU

More information about the New York Giants Preservation Society is here
<http://newyorkgiantspreservationsociety.com/>

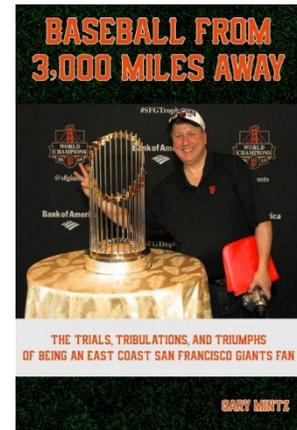
Social Media:

<https://www.youtube.com/@NYGiantsPreservationSociety>

<https://www.facebook.com/people/New-York-Giants-Preservation-Society-BASEBALL/100043575017622/#>

My Story is here:

https://www.amazon.com/BASEBALL-000-MILES-AWAY-TRIBULATIONS/dp/B0CN8GVKJX/ref=sr_1_2?crd=18R0F8GPZ00B2&keywords=baseball+from+3000&qid=1700481988&srefix=baseball+from+3000%2Caps%2C95&sr=8-2



Thank you, everyone, for your support!