

# The Casey Stengel Chapter Newsletter

## The Lineup

Volume 2 Number 4

September/October 2025

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### Note to Readers

We have returned after a summer break to continue publishing the Casey Stengel Chapter newsletter for our September/October issue which looks at two more of SABR's 35 research committees: the Baseball Landmarks Research Committee and the Baseball Cards Research Committee. Many research committees in SABR can be categorized as having themes related to Ballparks, Biographies, Education, Games, Historical Eras, Players, Rules, Statistics, Teams, and Visuals. Every baseball fan can find a niche to explore! These two committees illuminate the breadth and depth of baseball research related to landmarks and baseball cards. Some of the revelations are in this issue but so much *more* lives on their SABR pages and blogs ... go for it!

## The Landmarks Committee

The SABR Landmarks Committee <https://sabr.org/research/baseball-landmarks-committee/> includes members who are curious about old ballparks, baseball-related statues, murals, museums and even movie locations. Some seek to document historical markers or visit ballplayers' graves and some members are just curious to see what the Landmarks Committee is all about.

*Everyone*, though, is curious about the now-famous SABR Baseball Map! This tutorial <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tF2t9YpMNE4> shows how to use the interactive map and clarifies what is acceptable for this kind of visual and geographic compilation.

An even more recent video is detailed here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbSz7fNAsW4>



by John Rancanelli, Chris Kamka, and Mark Armour. Both videos are clearly presented, fascinating and informative. Viewing this will save you so much time!

What will you find on the SABR Baseball Map?

**Ballparks** – Active Major League, MiLB, Independent Minor League, and Summer Collegiate Leagues (categorized by level)

**Statues** – Statues, busts, sculptures of players, managers/coaches, broadcasters, owners

**Markers** – Historical markers and monuments for people, places, events

**Murals** – Murals and public art featuring baseball-related themes

**Museums** – Museums, permanent exhibits, displays dedicated to baseball

**Graves** – Select gravesites with GPS coordinates to area of headstone

**Movie Locations** – Distinctive baseball movie filming locations

**Sites** – Miscellaneous roadside attractions and photo opportunities

## What *won't* you find on the SABR Baseball Map?

- \*\* Locations like former ballparks with no remaining physical structure or marker
- \*\* Parks or ballfields simply named after ballplayers with no additional connection to the location (i.e., played there as a youth) or for which no plaque or statue was dedicated; sites involving people associated with baseball but with no true baseball connection at the site
- \*\* Most restaurants that have been named for, or owned by, players

### **Volunteers needed!**

The SABR Baseball Map is a “living project that will require periodic updating as new sites are added, old sites are removed, and other landmarks are moved, stolen, or destroyed. Committee volunteers are always needed to help keep the map as accurate and up to date as possible.”

Contributions that detail *your personal connection* with a particular ballpark or landmark are most helpful:

- Your favorite landmark, how you discovered it and what it means to you
- Your favorite place to watch baseball and who you like to watch baseball with
- Your top five (or ten) baseball sites that all baseball fans should visit
- The baseball landmark closest to you geographically/why did it become a historic landmark
- The baseball landmark closest to you emotionally or special to people from the area
- The baseball landmark(s) near you that no one knows about (not even us!)
- The baseball landmark(s) near you that you would recommend baseball fans see if visiting the area
- A travelogue and photos from your latest baseball trip
- Paying your respects at the grave of a ballplayer
- Experiencing baseball in a far away or unusual location
- Your experience(s) getting a historical marker placed
- Tips and tricks for getting the most out of the SABR Baseball Map



The menu (on the far left of the page) can narrow your search if, for example, you mostly want to see the pins within the NYC area.

The menu has FILTER TOOLS to eliminate groups of pins and give directions via Google maps.

At <https://fortress.maptive.com/ver4/SABRGravesMap>

On the Landmarks Committee website is “The Hardball Voyager” blog page <https://sabrlandmarks.com/> which is about “baseball sites, detective work to find long-lost places, celebratory gatherings, ideas for marking currently unmarked locations, stories about what makes the landmark special in the first place” and other topics to support the SABR Baseball Map. The committee encourages members to ask, “Why is the plaque here? Why did I decide to visit?”

Of the many enjoyable blogs, some will delight readers who love any of the 4 NYC teams (although 2 now call California home). Examples in this issue will include a visit to the childhood home of a beloved Brooklyn Dodger and a ballpark marker dedicated in NY State for the MLB manager with the third-most victories *and* the highest winning percentage for anyone who managed more than 4,000 games. An awesome blog entry is “Ten Baseball Cards to Visit Before You Die” <https://sabrlandmarks.com/2025/01/31/ten-baseball-cards-to-visit-before-you-die/> which ranks the BB Card “Destinations” among cards that go beyond the typical card that we used to collect and even flip to increase (or decrease) our collection!

**My Visit to Gil Hodges' Hometown of Petersburg, Indiana  
(and a side trip to his birthplace in Princeton, Indiana)  
by Greg Phegley**



On my day trip January 3, 2025, I was fortunate to spend a little time with a man who knew Gil and the Hodges family. I'll tell you more about that man later. While in Petersburg, I visited:

1. Pike County Courthouse to see the **bronze bust** of Gil Hodges in the rotunda,
2. **Mural** of Gil Hodges that is across the street from the Courthouse,
3. **Bridge** that is named for Gil Hodges, and
4. **Boyhood home** of Gil Hodges.

*The 52-foot by 16-foot Hodges mural*

I'll tell you a little bit about each and share pictures and videos that I took that day. In Princeton, I visited the **ballpark that is named** for Gil Hodges. Pictures and video for that, too.

**Gil Hodges Bronze Bust in the Pike County Courthouse**

The bust, by sculptor Don Ingle, is on the main level of the courthouse and was dedicated on June 14, 1997. Randy Harris, Mayor of Petersburg at the time, led a two-year fundraising project and was instrumental in getting the bust made and placed at the courthouse. Be sure to go when the courthouse is open (weekdays) if you want to be able to get inside to see the bust!

**Gil Hodges Mural**

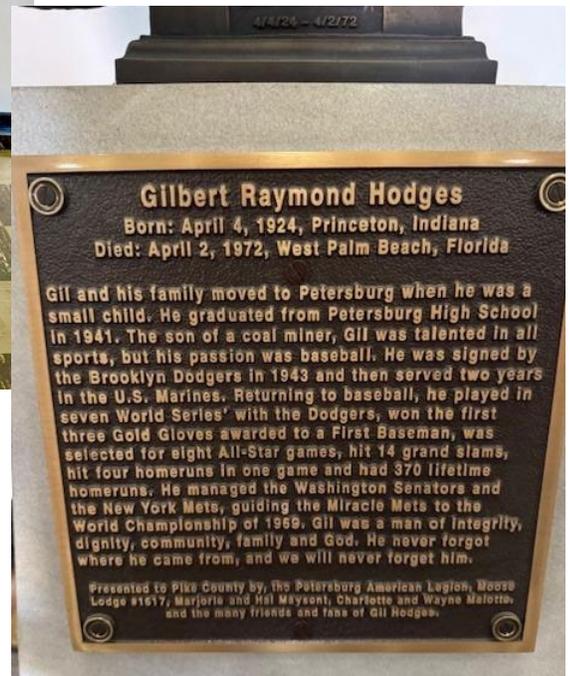
The Gil Hodges mural, by artist (and Petersburg HS grad) Randall Heddon, is across the street from the courthouse. You can't miss it! It's fantastic to see and very well done. The 52' x 16' mural was dedicated in 2009. Again, then-Mayor Randy Harris had a hand in this project. In 2022, following Gil's induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, the mural was updated to include the HOF logo and a plaque commemorating Gil's enshrinement. Heddon also created

the picture of Gil in his Mets uniform that hangs on the wall next to the bronze bust in the courthouse.



The bronze bust of Gil Hodges with the accompanying text beneath the bust is on display in the Pike County Courthouse, along with the portrait of Hodges and the wall plaque.

The Courthouse is open Monday to Friday.



All photographs were taken by Greg Phegley and for more, see <https://sabrlandmarks.com/2025/01/06/my-visit-to-gil-hodges-hometown-of-petersburg-indiana-and-a-side-trip-to-princeton-indiana/>

Here are the links to the videos he made during his trip:

The Mural: [https://youtu.be/c3JXg\\_116Oo?si=P7S20L1z-4Injx26](https://youtu.be/c3JXg_116Oo?si=P7S20L1z-4Injx26)

The Bust: <https://youtu.be/GH7mGH-27qU?si=4vs4CykoepNcJIEC>

## Gil Hodges Bridge

The Gil Hodges Bridge is on State Road 57 as it crosses the East Fork of the White River, on the north edge of Pike County. The bridge is only about a 10-minute drive from downtown Petersburg.



This picture (left) provides a view of the sign on the south side of the bridge (looking in a northerly direction).

## Gil Hodges Boyhood Home

I learned from visiting with people in Petersburg that the boyhood home of Gil Hodges is located at 1401 E. Main Street, only a few blocks east of the courthouse (at the SE corner of Main and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets). I learned that when Gil's mother passed away, the house was sold. The family that purchased the house from the Hodges family seemingly still owns the property.



## Gil Hodges Ball Park (in Princeton, Indiana)

Gil Hodges Ball Park is centrally located in Princeton adjacent to Lafayette Park. The street address is 700 N. Lafayette Park Drive. The ballpark looks to be in awesome condition.



If you're looking for a place to eat or get a milkshake, I highly recommend Dick Clark's Family Restaurant at 702 N. Prince Street in Princeton.



**Here are links to the videos:**

The Bridge: <https://youtu.be/kBhtzC0DppE?si=GWvgA2Mwur40o3dS>

Boyhood home: [https://youtu.be/IxSRuAhHhwg?si=nO\\_FercJ0wvTauWC](https://youtu.be/IxSRuAhHhwg?si=nO_FercJ0wvTauWC)

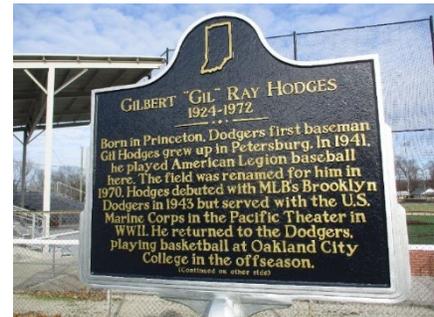
Gil Hodges Ballpark: [https://youtu.be/6rJzwVT\\_hXA?si=NBqptU1IP4JOe9QR](https://youtu.be/6rJzwVT_hXA?si=NBqptU1IP4JOe9QR)

## Wrap Up

Gil Hodges was born on April 4, 1924. As of the day of my trip, he would have been 100 years old. I am a really big fan of the New York baseball teams and players from the great era in which Gil Hodges played. I love reading and learning about the Boys of Summer, Willie Mays and the New York Giants, and of course Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford and some of those Yankees teams. While I didn't get to see these players and teams in person, I have been fortunate to make friends with people who did.

I've learned so much from being part of the New York Giants Preservation Society. I encourage you to check them out if you don't already follow them. One more thing about the Brooklyn Dodgers.....I was lucky to shake Carl Erskine's hand on an airplane once. He boarded a flight in Denver (to Indianapolis) after I had already taken my seat. As he passed by my seat, he could tell by the expression on my face that I recognized him. He reached out, smiled, and shook my hand. Neither of us said anything, but we both knew. What a thrill for me. Erskine.... another baseball hero of mine from Indiana. Anderson, Indiana (hometown of Carl Erskine) is likely the next place I'm heading for a day trip!

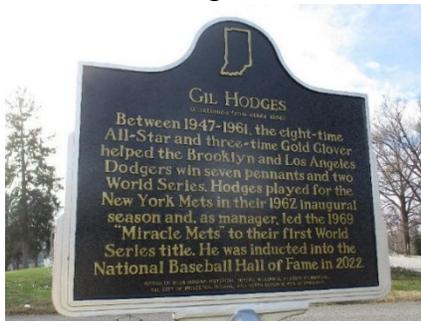
I almost forgot to tell you about the man I met from Petersburg: Randy Harris, the former Mayor of Petersburg. He currently sells real estate and has an office on Main Street (just a couple blocks west of the courthouse). For a time, Randy owned and operated a restaurant called Randy's Americana Café. I called, introduced myself to Randy, not knowing about his personal connections to Gil and the Hodges family. I said I was coming to town to visit sites and wanted to make sure this café was going to be open. Mr. Harris explained that he had sold the restaurant but told me I was welcome to stop by his real estate office when I was in town. I could not have imagined getting so lucky! Randy told me stories about growing up in Petersburg, and about Gil and his family. Randy knows all about the bust and mural. If you ever visit Petersburg to see the Gil Hodges sites, call Randy Harris. He's a great guy with great stories!



It was good to see how Gil's legacy is celebrated in Petersburg and Princeton. During his very short life (dying from a heart attack at only age 47), he had a significant impact on the people he knew.

Clem Labine said, "Not getting booed at Ebbets Field was an amazing thing. Those fans knew their baseball, and Gil was the only player I can remember whom the fans never, I mean never, booed."

Pee Wee Reese said, "If you had a son, it would be a great thing to have him grow up to be like Gil Hodges."



Gil's plaque at the courthouse concludes "Gil was a man of integrity, dignity, community, family and God. He never forgot where he came from, and we will never forget him."

Thanks, Gil, for being a great ballplayer. Thanks for giving us great baseball memories and for being such a good teammate and person.

Greg Phegley (This is my first blog. Thanks for reading. So happy I made this trip!)

## McGraw Field Marker Dedication on 8/2/25 in Truxton, NY

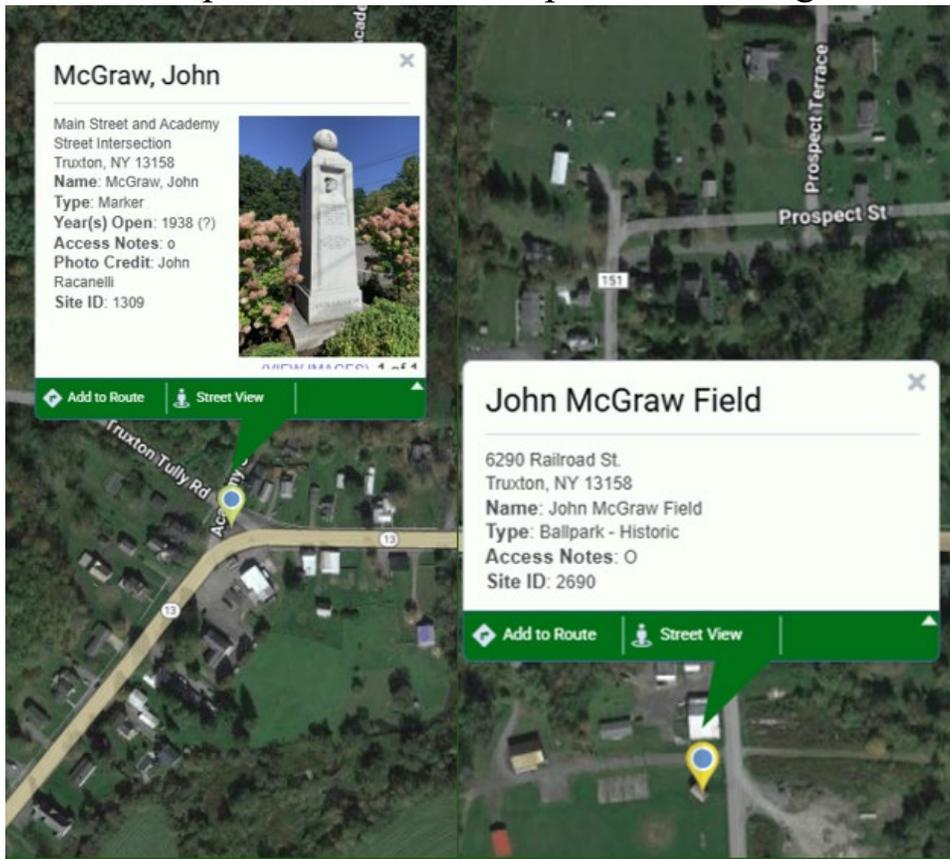


Another landmark to see is a very recent one in Truxton, New York. The historical marker at John J. McGraw Field was installed



on August 2, 2025. McGraw grew up in Truxton, where many family members are buried in a nearby cemetery. The marker “commemorates a game played at John J. McGraw Field on August 8, 1938, between the New York Giants and a local town team” and full details are here <https://sabrlandmarks.com/2025/04/18/mcgraw-field-marker-dedication-set-for-august-2-in-truxton-new-york/>

This is an example of what comes up when clicking on the map.



## Ten Baseball Cards *to Visit Before You Die*

While surveying the Hardball Voyager, you will smile at “where the enthusiastic hardball voyager might land: ten destinations that are less recommendations than destiny. One might even say visiting them is “in the cards!” and three of those ten ranked destinations are below. 😊😊😊

### # 9 Destination: Jackie Robinson Statue, Dodger Stadium, Los Angeles, CA



**Card:** 2020 Topps Opening Day – Team Traditions and Celebrations

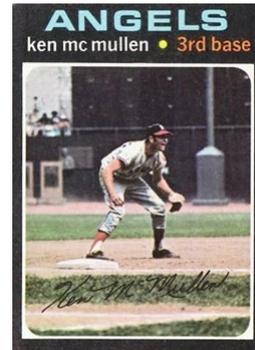
#### *From the Hardball Voyager:*

*While you’re in the neighborhood, check out the Jackie and Mack Robinson statues across from Pasadena City Hall and the Jackie Robinson football statue at the Rose Bowl!*

### #5 Destination: Monument Park, Yankee Stadium, Bronx, NY

**Card:** 1971 Topps Ken McMullen

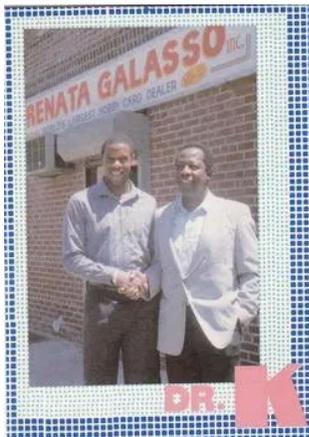
*Check out that a close-up of the Gehrig monument!*



All 10 cards to visit are here

<https://sabrandmarks.com/2025/01/31/ten-baseball-cards-to-visit-before-you-die/>

### #1 Destination: Renata Galasso headquarters, 6305 10th Ave, Brooklyn, NY



**Card:** 1985 Renata Galasso Dwight Gooden #16

#### *From the Hardball Voyager:*

*RGI is long gone, and the place looks a lot different now. Still, who wouldn’t want a photo op in the exact spot Dr. K and Henry Aaron hung out!*

Just seeing this #1 Destination card of Dwight Gooden and Hank Aaron brings out the treasured memories we enjoy sharing, and this also brings us to the next research committee in this issue: the Baseball Cards Research Committee!

## The Baseball Cards Research Committee

The Baseball Cards Research Committee <https://sabr.org/research/baseball-cards-research-committee/> was re-established in 2016 in order to:

**A.** Encourage more interactive knowledge sharing about the history and importance of baseball cards as a representation of the game itself. This research will help document the link between the baseball card industry and the game's popularity.

**B.** Research the history of the relationship between statistics and baseball cards. (i.e. when baseball cards starting publishing RBI, Stolen Bases, etc.)

**C.** Provide a forum for discussion on the following aspects of the baseball card industry:

- memorable, important and famous series designs
- the late '80s, early '90s influx of new card sets and limited-edition inserts, and their effect on the hobby's health
- documentation on all of the major card companies and important figures in the evolution of the baseball card industry
- research into the game's evolution as viewed through the lens of baseball cards (batting gloves, player/managers, the DH, record-setting achievements, the steroids era, etc.)

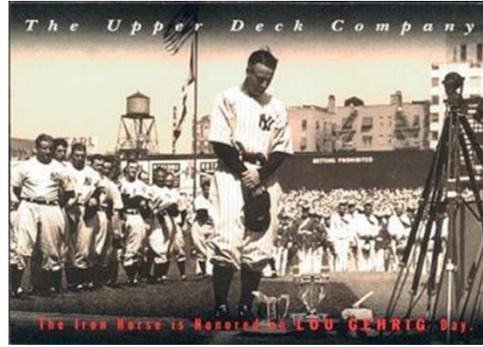


The Baseball Cards Committee website has articles and updates every week at [sabrbaseballcards.blog](http://sabrbaseballcards.blog) and, on social media (Facebook, X, Instagram), there are more discussions and information. The main thematic categories for blogs, taken directly from <https://sabrbaseballcards.blog/categories/> are these:

- **Collecting**  
Collecting covers the range of how we've collected cards and the issues that we have to consider when pursuing projects—whether it's building sets, looking at individual cards, or remembering our childhoods. Everything from worrying about condition, value, and authenticity to figuring out how to store everything goes in here.

- History  
Posts which touch on the history of cards, history of baseball, or even general history outside of this specific hobby all belong in this topic.
- In Culture  
Cards have life outside our collections and intersect with larger cultural institutions like museums and movies. Sometimes cards need to be thought of as objects of art. Other times they're components of games and other items that encourage use more than collecting.
- Production  
Everything about photography, printing and design goes in here. The wonderful thing about baseball cards is that they offer a way of looking at our visual culture and how we've manufactured it over the past century and a half. Oh yeah, and when there's a mistake in production that's where we get Error cards.
- Sociology  
Cards also give us a window into culture. They touch on our cultural values and record the ways we've considered who's worth depicting on cardboard and who's collecting them. So we look at cards and consider the ramifications of who's represented and how they reflect our society.
- Brands  
The biggest one of course is about the card manufacturers and brands. For the most part this is pretty straightforward. The separate Oddballs and Regionals subcategory is necessary to address the explosion of releases that occurs in the 1980s. Currently a lot of the Pre-war issues are grouped by type—Gum, Food/Caramel/Candy, and Tobacco—but as those categories get larger the fidelity will improve.
- Eras  
Periodizing the posts is also hugely important but also not without controversy. We've opted to go with dates so as to avoid too much jargon as well as to keep the category sorting in chronological order. **Era breaks are currently set as follows:**  
**1900 for nice round number reasons.**  
**1939 with the creation of Play Ball, Gum Inc., and what would eventually become Bowman Chewing Gum.**  
**1956 with the institution of the Topps monopoly.**  
**1981 with the dissolution of the monopoly.**  
**1995 after the strike ended.**  
**And 2011 after Topps regained a monopoly of sorts via an exclusive license to use Major League logos.**
- Committee  
And last but not least, we've got a category for committee announcements, projects, and the occasional poll in which we crowdsource opinions about what the "best" sets of a given decade or era are.

Which category would you pick for this card? Most readers will know that the date of Lou Gehrig's farewell was on July 4, 1939 at Yankee Stadium before 61,808 fans.



The photo is on the Baseball Cards Committee Megaproject blog and is in the category of the “1981 with the dissolution of the monopoly” era because it was part of the 1994 Upper Deck All-Time Heroes set.

<https://sabrbaseballcards.blog/2022/10/14/baseball-card-megaproject/>

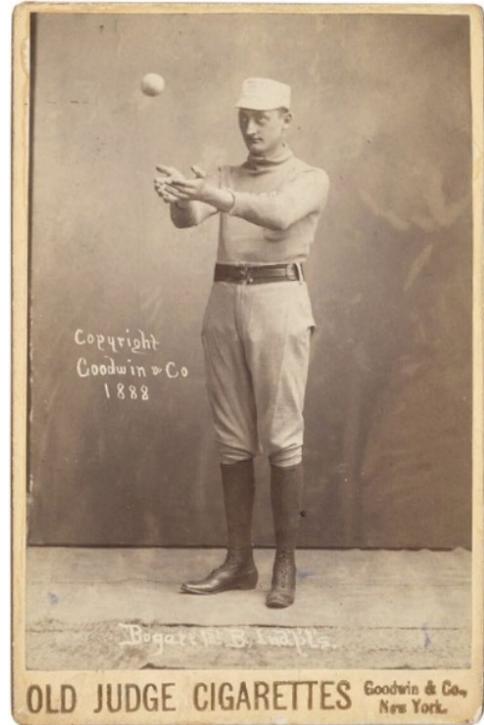
Former Yankee Freddy Moskowitz related vivid details of Gehrig's poignant speech in an Oral History Committee interview such as being invited by Gehrig to be there. Moskowitz, who also played under the name Freddy Moore to avoid anti-Semitic behavior by some ballplayers like Ben Chapman who slapped his face when Freddy admitted being Jewish, was very familiar with Ruth, Keller, Henrich, Ruffing, Dickey, Gomez, Dahlgren and other Yankees especially when he was on the Newark Bears. Enjoy! <https://sabr.org/interview/freddy-moskowitz-1994/>

**Interviewee:** Freddy Moskowitz **Interview Date:** 11/13/1994 **Interviewer:** Irwin Bergman

Paul Hoffman wrote an article published in *Yankee Stadium 1923-2008: America's First Modern Ballpark* titled “Lou Gehrig's Farewell Speech: July 4, 1939” that is absorbing and well-documented <https://sabr.org/journal/article/lou-gehrigs-farewell-speech-july-4-1939/>. Hoffman states that “after the ceremony, Gehrig returned to the clubhouse, where he saw right-hander Steve Sundra, who was slated to start the nightcap for the Yankees. Gehrig went to Sundra and said, “Big Steve, win the second game for me, will ya?” and you can read David E. Skelton's excellent biography of Steve Sundra here on SABR's BioProject Research Committee webpages <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/Steve-Sundra/>.

## The Least Known Player Ever on a Baseball Card?

When many of us look at a baseball card, we get a compact visual of player stats along with any records, history or trivia. The front of the card shows the subject either alone or in a group, sometimes posing, sometimes not. The front and often the back of a baseball card evoke memories of past games and can trigger a reverie into happy times at ballparks or while watching or hearing a game on various media.



One card that was carefully analyzed in the Baseball Cards Research Committee blog by Craig Brown of **threads of our game** <https://www.threadsofourgame.com/> (the 19<sup>th</sup>-century baseball uniform database) was this picture of Walter Bogart. His compelling research article on the Baseball Cards Committee blog <https://sabrbaseballcards.blog/author/threadsofourgame/> uncovered some fascinating information about the five cards of Bogart in 1888. The writer asks:

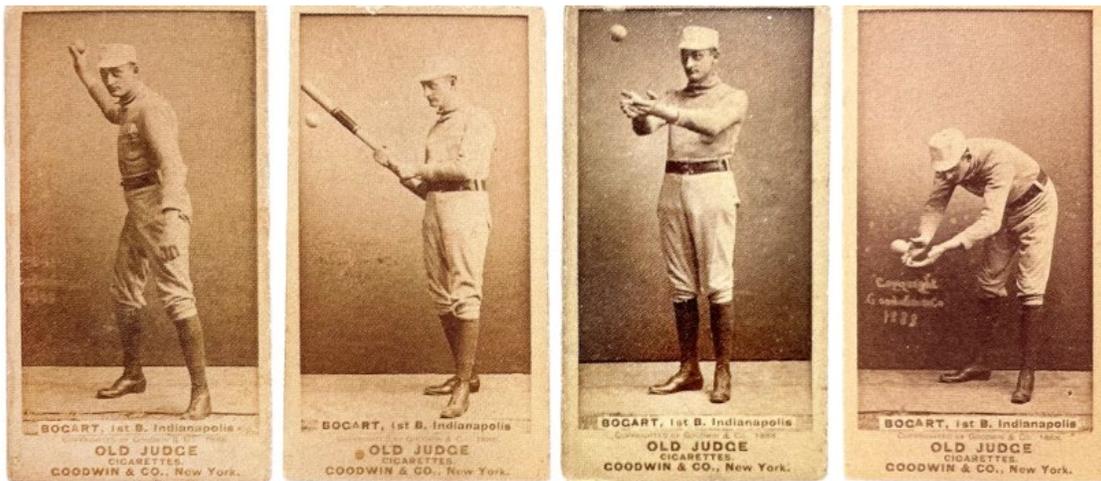
*Is this the least-known player ever to appear on a baseball card?*

He answers: There were *only two* Old Judge cards produced of Cap Anson; however, there were *five* made of Walter Bogart in 1888. Walter *Who?*

Brown notes that “the Bogart cards stand out for two reasons. *One*, the images show us the somewhat unusual uniform of the Indianapolis NL club. And *two*, no one today knows who Walter Bogart is!” He was thorough in his research, found buried within several newspapers of that time which state that Bogart was born in New York and played baseball for the amateur Sylvans team in Harlem. When he signed with Indianapolis via manager Harry Spence on January 4, 1888,

he was twenty-two. Yet many questions remain. Previously, Bogart had received many offers but he had declined. Was that possibly because his father expected him to join the family business? Then why did he later sign with Indianapolis?

After signing, Bogart (sometimes spelled Bogert) survived an illness which was so serious that he had to be hospitalized, but what happened after that? Why didn't he sign with the team that had been waiting for him to be released from medical care?



To find out, do go to read this mystery of history and learn about Bogart's playing experience into the 1890s. You will then understand just why there were five photographs taken of Walter Bogart for the Old Judge baseball cards in 1888.

### **We Love You, But Not That Much:**

#### **The Puzzling Paucity of Broadcaster Baseball Cards**

Yet another intriguing piece, this time by John Racanelli, with guidance and support from Jason Schwartz and Nick Vossbrink, reflecting on the dearth of BB cards with announcers on them. Quite a few surprises here ...

<https://sabrbaseballcards.blog/2023/04/06/we-love-you-but-not-that-much-the-puzzling-paucity-of-broadcaster-baseball-cards/>

## The Jefferson Burdick Award

In 2020, the Baseball Cards Committee established the Jefferson Burdick Award to honor those who have made significant contributions to the baseball card hobby <https://sabr.org/awards/jefferson-burdick/>. Jefferson R. Burdick (1900–63) had previously been selected back in 2018 for SABR’s Henry Chadwick Award <https://sabr.org/awards/henry-chadwick> and in this John Thorn article, published in the Baseball Research Journal (Spring 2018), you can learn why.

<https://sabr.org/journal/article/henry-chadwick-award-jefferson-burdick/>.



One of the many reasons Burdick was recognized as the Henry Chadwick

winner was his collection of over 306,350 “postcards, hat cards, tobacco cards, military cards and baseball cards” although his baseball cards numbered “only” one percent (30,000-plus cards) in his card collection.

The Baseball Cards Committee chose him to represent the very best example of dedication to baseball cards. Burdick created *The American Card Catalog* in 1939 that is still used when common codes occur in card collecting. He was a “pioneer card collector whose invented classifications still govern the hobby ...donated his enormous collection to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where it remains one of the most popular destinations for researchers.” Click here to view <https://www.metmuseum.org/collections/jefferson-r-burdick-collection>

There is a Burdick section of the “Old Baseball Cards” library with a **dozen** articles here <https://www.oldbaseball.com/library.php> just about Burdick, the “Father of Card Collections” who created the classification systems still in use today. These articles reveal the chronology and history of collecting cards as well as the prescience of Burdick who started at a very young age to collect cards. See also [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jefferson\\_Burdick#The\\_Burdick\\_Collection](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jefferson_Burdick#The_Burdick_Collection).

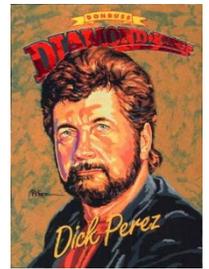
Additional winners of the Jefferson R. Burdick Award are:

- 2020 – Mike Aronstein (co-founded TCMA - The Card Memorabilia Associates )  
<https://sabr.org/latest/michael-aronstein-selected-winner-2020-sabr-jefferson-burdick-award/>
- 2021 – Doug McWilliams (video on this site for the virtual ceremony)  
<https://sabr.org/latest/doug-mcwilliams-wins-2021-sabr-jefferson-burdick-award/>
- 2022 – Dr. James Beckett (video on this site for the virtual ceremony)  
<https://sabr.org/latest/dr-james-beckett-selected-as-winner-of-2022-sabr-jefferson-burdick-award/>
- 2023 – Fred Harris and Brendan Boyd (video on this site for virtual ceremony)  
<https://sabr.org/latest/brendan-c-boyd-fred-c-harris-selected-as-winners-of-2023-sabr-jefferson-burdick-award/>
- 2024 – Dick Perez (see below)  
<https://sabr.org/latest/dick-perez-selected-as-winner-of-2024-sabr-jefferson-burdick-award/>
- 2025 – Anson Whaley (check out <https://prewarcollector.com/>)  
<https://sabr.org/latest/anson-whaley-selected-as-winner-of-2025-sabr-jefferson-burdick-award/>

## The Diamond King

The Diamond King is Dick Perez, the artist most closely associated with baseball cards, notably a collection known as “Diamond Kings” by Donruss from 1982-1996. He selected a player to represent each team every year and by the end, there were 96 HOF players he had chosen.

In a film about him called *The Diamond King*, at the 28-minute mark, he speaks about the first baseball cards (Allen & Ginter) and continues from there. Enjoy this documentary [https://tubity.com/movies/100041231/the-diamond-king?start=true&tracking=google-feed&utm\\_source=google-feed&startPos=2](https://tubity.com/movies/100041231/the-diamond-king?start=true&tracking=google-feed&utm_source=google-feed&startPos=2)



## Every Subject Related to Cards

“Women in baseball” <https://sabrbaseballcards.blog/2025/01/27/topps-women-in-baseball-cubs-coach-rachel-folden/> by John Racanelli and every other topic



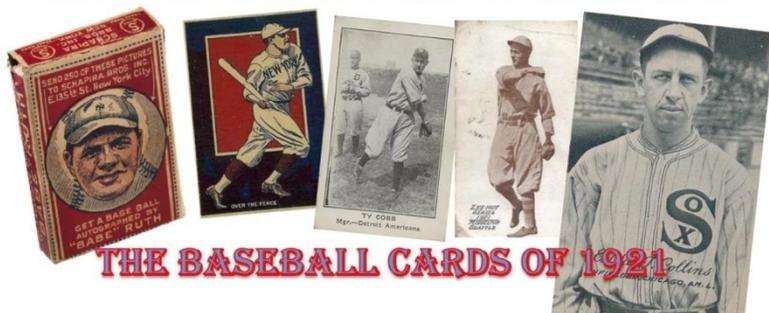
related to baseball cards can be found on this committee blog, including a piece about card flipping and trading by Jeff Katz. What was not included in the cards were the “invisible” Greats in the Negro Leagues <https://sabrbaseballcards.blog/page/29/> like these listed by Jason Schwartz:

Oscar Charleston (the St. Louis Giants), Cristobal Torriente, Dave Malarcher, and Bingo DeMoss (all Chicago American Giants), John Donaldson, Jose Mendez, and Bullet Rogan (all Kansas City Monarchs), Louis Santop (the Philadelphia Hilldales), Cannonball Redding and Dick Lundy (the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants), Pop Lloyd (the Columbus Buckeyes, John Beckwith (the Chicago Giants), Andy Cooper and Pete Hill (the Detroit Stars), Biz Mackey (the Indianapolis ABCs), Smokey Joe Williams (the New York Lincoln Giants).

## The SABR Century Project

In 2021, the Baseball Cards Research Committee blog focused on the cards

### SABR CENTURY PROJECT



from 1921 when SABR’s new Century Research Committee asked “other committees to share in the celebration of all things baseball a century ago. In our case, that means the baseball cards of 1921.” As

the author Jason Schwartz writes and shows, this was an era chockful of cards from companies like American Caramel, National Caramel, Exhibit Supply Company, Strip Cards (long strips that candy sellers would cut for their young baseball-crazy customers), and the Zeenut Pacific Coast.

The companies sponsoring baseball cards is also chockful of breads:

- 1920-21 Mother’s Bread
- 1921 Clark’s Bread
- 1921 Koester Bread New York Giants/Yankees
- 1921 Mrs. Sherlock’s Bread Pins
- 1921 Standard Biscuit
- 1921 White’s Bakery Baltimore Orioles
- 1921 Wool’s American-Maid [sic] Bread



Schwartz continues: I don’t knead to tell you that’s a lot of bread! What the focaccia was going on back then?

Challah if you feel my pain. Can’t stop now, I’m on a roll. As the packaging notes, kids needed only to eat 250 boxes (wait, seriously?!) of this candy to win a baseball signed by Babe Ruth. What’s more, according to my research, this seven-card set (or six plus a variation, I would argue) was the largest set to date featuring a single player.” At <https://sabrbaseballcards.blog/2021/01/15/sabr-century-project-baseball-cards-of-1921/> readers marvel at those Deadball Era cards.

A section about The Bambino and the “house” he built in the Bronx is here: <https://sabrbaseballcards.blog/2023/04/04/collecting-the-house-that-ruth-built-baseball-card-sets-of-babe-ruth-and-yankee-stadium/> with many baseball cards of Ruth and Yankee Stadium.

Russell Streur wrote an entertaining research piece “Collecting the House That Babe Ruth Built: Baseball Card Sets of Babe Ruth and Yankee Stadium” that puts us right in the stadium on Opening Day 1923 even before “Play Ball” was called at 3:35 pm. <https://sabrbaseballcards.blog/2023/04/04/collecting-the-house-that-ruth-built-baseball-card-sets-of-babe-ruth-and-yankee-stadium/>



Many attendees arrived by train such as Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis who was running late and had to be taken away from the ticket lines, then escorted into the stadium by the police. Note the upper right corner of the baseball card (to the right) and you will see the elevated train.



Babe Ruth’s home run is detailed but the Boston newspaperman claimed it would have been an out in Fenway. “It would have been a homer in the Sahara!” said a Yankee fan. Ruth’s Opening Day homer would have landed in the lower left-center of this view (seen in the card to the left).



One of the 1995 Megacards that celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ruth’s birth is included by Streur showing Ruth and Gehrig fishing (or posing as if they were fishing) in 1927 at Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn.



On page 13 of this newsletter was a link to SABR's Oral History Research Committee interview of Freddy Moskowitz who knew Lou Gehrig well. There is no photo on that page to make that interview stand out nor is there a BioProject bio of him. There is always a need for people to write biographies of players (and there is guidance for all stages of the writing). You need not be a committee member!

<https://sabr.org/interview/freddy-moskowitz-1994/>

Another player without a biography is Rollie Hemsley who played for the Yanks (1942-44) and was interviewed by radio executive Clifford Evans at Yankee Stadium during Old Timers' Day in 1960. Want to write a SABR bio on Hemsley? Contact [bioproject@sabr.org](mailto:bioproject@sabr.org) or go to <https://sabr.org/bioproject> for more info.

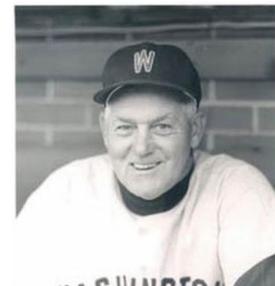
Ralston Burdett Hemsley <https://sabr.org/interview/rollie-hemsley-1960/>  
Stats: Baseball Reference, Retrosheet

**Interviewee:** Hemsley, Rollie

**Interview Date:** 1960-08-13

**Interviewer:** Evans, Clifford

From the Clifford Evans Archive, used by permission of Gregory L. Peterson. Radio executive Evans conducted audio interviews of baseball players during spring training in the early 1960s. This interview was conducted during Old Timers' Day festivities at Yankee Stadium on August 13, 1960. Click here to watch this interview as a video.



### **SABR 50 at 50: Baseball Cards**

In August of 2022, SABR's National Convention was held in Baltimore, having been postponed due to the COVID pandemic in 2020 and 2021. The Baseball Cards Committee blog reviewed how the perception of baseball cards and the actual cards themselves have evolved in the past 50 years by showing 50 cards, with background notes, here <https://sabr.org/50at50/cards>. The cards, compiled by Nick Vossbrink and Jason Schwartz, are **visible front and back** by clicking on the image <https://sabrbaseballcards.blog/2025/06/14/baseball-card-happenings-at-sabr-53/> and SABR Conventions do include baseball cards in everyone's goody bag.

## SHARING OUR STORIES: The Last of the Polo Grounds

By Mike Frank

The first Polo Grounds opened in 1876 near the northeast corner of Central Park, just north of 110th Street and a bit west of Fifth Avenue; baseball came there in 1880. You can read the Polo Grounds' detailed history in Stew Thornley's *Land of the Giants: New York's Polo Grounds* (20+ pages of the book provided here [https://www.google.com/books/edition/Land\\_of\\_the\\_Giants/4hXOpP-TJQC?hl=en&gbpv=1](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Land_of_the_Giants/4hXOpP-TJQC?hl=en&gbpv=1)) and Kevin Baker's Polo Grounds section in his book *The New York Game: Baseball and the Rise of a New City* (read 57 pages of it here [https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_New\\_York\\_Game/OV\\_DEAAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_New_York_Game/OV_DEAAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover)).

There were three stadiums built for baseball using that name; the middle one even had two fields, while the third had the familiar "bathtub" design. The Giants' heyday lasted until 1957; the Highlanders (Yankees) also played there from 1913 to 1922. The Mets closed it out in 1962 and 1963, and the stadium was demolished in 1964, using the same wrecking ball that was used for Ebbets Field.

A low-income housing project was built later and remains in the spot. Efforts to fight the deterioration of the location were made by several groups, and teams paid to refurbish the Brush Stairway, downhill from 157<sup>th</sup> Street.

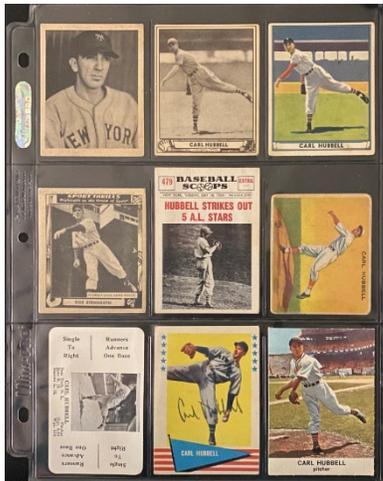
Michael Mays, son of Willie, led the efforts to restore a large plaque that was in the Polo Grounds Towers, telling the history. Gary Mintz and the New York Giants Preservation Society were also involved. This was unveiled Saturday, September 6, 2025, in an event on the block where Willie once lived and played stickball with the local kids. There were games from the era of that time for anyone to play, but unfortunately there wasn't much participation from the current locals, partly due – alas – to the daunting hill that most people declined to climb.

## SHARING OUR STORIES: Carl Hubbell

### **The Jints Column By Gary Mintz**

[With Gary's OK, we're sharing 2 Jints-related pieces from the Baseball Cards Committee blog]

At <https://sabrbaseballcards.blog/2022/07/27/thinning-out-our-collections/> is "Thinning out our collections" which concentrates mostly on Mel Ott and Carl Hubbell, with a nod to Albert Einstein. Yes, the writer, Jason Schwartz, did consider giving up his Einstein card (from the "Men of Genius" collection).



The other article by Jason Schwartz is titled "11 for 11: Hubbell's amazing feat on cardboard" <https://sabrbaseballcards.blog/category/brands/oddballs/tribute-sets/conlon-collection/> and lives on the blog in the category of the 1994 Conlon Collection. "To date there have been 11 cards (ignoring variants) honoring Carl Hubbell's 1934 All-Star Game performance in which he struck out these five immortals in succession," writes Schwartz. Just below that is the actual succession of Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Foxx, Al Simmons, and Joe Cronin, all on individual cards.

The Landmarks Committee and Baseball Cards Committee have You Tube videos as well.