



Early Innings Illustrated

Vol. 2 No. 2

The Journal of the Vintage Base Ball Association
and Chronicle of Historic Baseball Re-Creation

August, 1997



The Capitals

**A Committee to teach
and play authentic
mid-nineteenth century
base ball**

by Doug Smith

The Rules Committee continues to do an excellent job finding material to help VBBA member teams interpret the game accurately. Now it is time to spread their work to member teams and those clubs just beginning to play the game.

So, for next season, I have created a committee whose mission is to teach those wishing to learn the way to play the 1860's game according to the best knowledge we have on the subject. We understand that knowledge is growing weekly as new research finds more materials, references, and descriptions of actual field play and techniques not known to us before.

What the committee will do is form a team that will teach the rules, techniques, and demonstrate on field language and play. The method will be to schedule a seminar (match

A Visitor to the Ohio Cup

*From the land of
the Rising Sun*

by Charles "Lefty" Trudeau

I used to think every American boy wanted to grow up and play baseball. I was wrong. As I recently found out the dream is not confined to this country.

The story starts when our illustrious vice-president, Kevin Lehr, and I drove down to Louisville for the baseball game during the SABR convention. I originally wanted to go just to see the Louisville Slugger factory and museum. Of course by the time the game was over the factory was closed and we had to sneak into the museum. But that is beside the point.

At the end of the game Kevin suggested that a gentleman from Japan who had been a spectator would be interested in one of my bat brochures. As I handed him the brochure I had a fleeting thought about

VBBA Officer Nominations *Solicited for 1998*

by John R. Husman

Your Nominating Committee of President Doug Smith, Vice-President Kevin Lehr, and Past-President John Husman, Chairman, seeks officer nominations for 1998. Offices for which election will be held are Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian and Trustee (3 year term). The person elected as Vice-President will become President in 1999 as provided for in the VBBA Constitution.

Nominations shall be sent by ordinary mail to

John Husman
5911 Jeffrey Lane
Sylvania OH 43560

postmarked no later than
November 15, 1997. The

Nominating Committee will contact each nominee to determine willingness to be placed on the ballot.

Members of clubs in good standing may serve as officers. Present officers, except the President-Elect, are eligible for re-election and may succeed themselves in their present roles (except for President, Vice-President, or Past President) or serve in new offices.

Ballots and voting instructions will be mailed to clubs December 1, 1997 along with 1998 dues invoices. Votes will be counted for candidates whose clubs are eligible by virtue of paying their 1998 dues.

President's Report

by Doug Smith

What should be the basis of a vintage base ball club's rules? Because of the research done by the VBBA's Rules & Customs Committee, clubs have had to think more closely about what rules are used in the playing of their matches.

Until very recently what could be called "the Muffin rules" were the most popularly accepted way to play. There were, of course, exceptions. The Old Time Base Ball Program at Bethpage Village on Long Island has for some time been changing the rules they play by. This is because research has been present for a number of years and new findings have been put into effect on the playing field. The Colorado Vintage Base Ball Association has researched the Western game and played according to that manner.

The VBBA suggested for this playing year of 1997 that clubs try playing by the "new rules". While some clubs tried this early in the year, this met

Convention
Vintage Base Ball
Match at SABR

"New Rules"
Used

with interested teams early next season. Then the VBBA team will travel to the host site and teach local players what is known to be accurate for the period. After that, they will play a match using what has been taught. The match may be part of a practice session or a regularly scheduled match, open to the public at the choice of the host club.

It is expected that the host team is very serious about learning the VBBA endorsed rules. The goal of the committee is to spread the playing of the best researched rules, playing procedures, language, and interpretation we know to exist at the time of the match.

Goals of the Teaching Program

- Establish schedules for 1998 with existing teams wishing to look at the "new rules" and newly forming teams. A "match" will include classroom teaching, field practice, and a match to give each participating club an accurate look at what is being advocated.

- Teach the techniques of playing the "new" rules.

- Demonstrate the "new" rules as they have been researched.

- Promote the "Gentlemenliness" of the game and show how and why it is part of the re-creation.

- Prepare uniforms, equipment, and uniform patterns that clubs can use to increase their accuracy and teaching of the game.

- Involve many teams in the committee.

- Seek sponsorship to help

"The Capitals Committee"
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international bat sales. Having all but forgotten about the whole thing I was quite surprised to find a fax from Japan waiting for me in my office a short time later with an order for three vintage bats. I won't tell you what my wife said when I suggested that I needed to have more fleeting thoughts.

Being a loyal VBBA member, when I shipped the bats to Japan I included an application for membership in our association. You guessed it! It wasn't long before I found another fax from Japan in my office.

Having conferred by phone and fax a number of times over the past couple of weeks, it is an honor to be able tell you about our newest member. His name is Kazuo Sayama of Tanabe, Japan. He is an historian and award winning author. The subjects of his works include Satchel Paige, the Philadelphia Royal Giants, my childhood hero Roberto Clemente, and the Negro Leagues. One of his recent books, *The Mystery of Jap Mikado - The First Japanese Professional Baseball Player*, traces the story of Goro Mikami, aka Jap Mikado, who played in the pre-W.W.I Independent League.

Mr. Sayama has a genuine enthusiasm for baseball and has expressed an interest in being a part of a vintage game. To that end I have invited him, and he has accepted the invitation, to the Ohio Cup Vintage Base Ball Festival. He will be playing in several matches during the two day festival to get the feel of the vintage game. I know those of you who will be at the Cup will join me in extending a warm welcome to him. Somehow its nice to know that the passion we all share for the game knows no borders.

Ten Vintage Teams Represented

by John R. Husman

Vintage Base Ball was a part of the 28th Annual Convention of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) at Louisville, Kentucky on Friday, June 20, 1997. The Great Black Swamp Frogs Base Ball Club of Sylvania, Ohio; the Vintage Base Ball Association (VBBA); and a Picked Nine of SABR members engaged in a well played match by the New York rules of 1860.

The event was a cooperative one bringing together the researched based SABR group and the presentation based VBBA on common ground.

The SABR nine consisted of members of several clubs and at-large SABR members wearing uniforms provided by The Old Time Base Ball Program at Old Bethpage Village Restoration, Old Bethpage New York. In all, ten different uniforms representing the Civil War era were on the field.

The match was officiated by Richard "Always Right" Schuricht of the Ohio Village Muffins, Columbus, Ohio and SABR. Game Keepers (Scorers) were Kevin "On the Square" Lehr, also of the Muffins and Jay Ferguson, a SABR member from Louisville. Team Captains were Greg Rhodes of the Sharon Woods Shamrocks and SABR from Cincinnati and Rick "Amazin" Mazzei of the Frogs. The Frogs won the match 12-6.

At '97 Ohio Cup

by Richard "Always Right" Schuricht

At the beginning of this season, the Vintage Base Ball Association's Rules Committee made a recommendation to adopt and play by the Rules of 1860. These have become known as the "new" rules (as opposed to the Muffin rules) and are based on new research by members of the VBBA that has brought to light many things not know by the original re-creators of vintage base ball in the early 1980's when vintage games were just getting underway.

Rules as originally adopted at the March, 1860 convention of the National Association of Base Ball Players and later published in Beadle's Dime Base Ball Player: Compendium of the Game were important sources for the "new" rules and on how the game was

"New Rules Listed"
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resistance from most clubs weaned on the Muffin rules. This resistance included the Ohio Village Muffins. Putting aside something that is tried and true is not easy. The threat of the game changing seemed strong.

In the Midwest the club that has most strongly pushed the new rules has been the Great Black Swamp Frogs. Their matches, played by these rules, have brought little real change in scores. Modifications to open stealing have been put in place. These are explained elsewhere in this newsletter.

This Association has pledged to try and present this game in an accurate manner. It makes more sense to let our emphasis be what we have found happened rather than what we think may have happened. The Muffin rules were grounded in research done in the early 1980's. They were the most researched rules of their day and were transferred into

"President's Report"
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A wide variety of uniforms graced the match between the Great Black Swamp Frogs of Sylvania, Ohio

and a worthy adversary made up of several vintage clubs and SABR convention attendees.



Vintage Teams

A List of Contacts

by John Wells

Over the last few years I have written a lot of letters, talked to a lot of people who wanted to form vintage baseball teams, and sent out a lot of "kits" containing information on how to do it. In the early part of the 1990's it was done as part of the educational program at the Ohio Historical Society. Doug Smith now carries on that correspondence when potential teams call the Society about the Muffins and the Lady Diamonds programs.

Now the VBBA gets most of those letters and calls. The story in *Inside Sports* magazine, for example, generated many letters about forming a vintage team. All were sent "kits" with details on how the game is played, how to put a re-creation group together, and local teams they could play.

What follows is a list of teams that are on my contact list. Some are active members of the VBBA (noted in bold type), some are teams that are inactive or play only a few matches a year, and many are people who have shown interest but the status of any activity are unknown to me.

Team managers may wish to contact the potential teams in their geographical area and promote matches, appearances, or even seminars for next season.

Lumber Barons
Al Smith
Box 1133
Winona, MN 55987
507-452-3145 off
507-454-2288 home

Unknowns Base Ball Club
Betsy Thamert
Four Mile Historic Park

Sharon Woods Shamrocks (Full Member)
Dave Koch
Sharon Woods Village
3970 Bluestone Court
Cincinnati, OH 45241
513-769-5621

Littleton Champions
Donna Hawkins
Littleton History Museum
6028 S. Gallup St.
Littleton, CO 80120

Muffins & Lady Diamonds
Doug Smith
Ohio Historical Society
1982 Velma Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211-2497
487-9560 Home
297-2652 Office

Fulton Mules Vintage Base Ball (Full Member)
Ed Shuman
Canal Fulton Hist. Society
6230 Manchester Avenue
Canal Fulton, OH 44614
330-854-3691 home
330-833-3165 work

Oceanics
Edward Baker
Mystic Seaport Museum
P. O. Box 6000
50 Greenmanville Ave
Mystic, CT 06355
203-572-0711
401-364-7709 home

Walnut Hill Bluestockings
Frank McKenny
Iowa Living History Farm
2600 N.W. 111th St.
Urbandale, IA 50322
515-278-5286 office

Pember Villains (Associate Member)
Jim Bowe
Pemberville Historical Soc
P. O. Box 802
Pemberville, OH 43450
419-287-3832 Town Hall
419-287-4475 Sect**

Bellmore Seminoles
Jim Mallinson
170 Haven Lane
Levittown, NY 11756
516-845-3691
516-331-2889

Lake County Pirates
Joan Kapsch
Lake County Historical Society
8610 King Memorial Road
Kirtland Hills, OH 44060
216-255-8979 work

Deep River Grinders
Joanna Shearer
Deep River County Park
9410 Old Lincoln Highway
Hobart, IN 46342
219-947-1958 office

Broomfield Swans (Associate Member)
John Bosio
National Vintage BB Festival
P. O. Box 29
Broomfield, CO 80038
303-460-8060 day
303-465-2055

Great Black Swamp Frogs (Full Member)
John Husman
5911 Jeffrey Lane
Sylvania, OH 43560
419-882-3438 home
419-245-6208 work

Vintage Base Ball Club (Associate

Linda Watkins
Blennerhassett State Park
231 North Hills Drive
Parkersburg, WV 26101
304-428-3000 park
304-485-8326 home

Akron Black Stockings (Full Member)
Mark Heppner
Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens
714 North Portage Path
Akron, OH 44303-1399
330-836-3424 home
330-836-5533 work

Newtown Barnstormers
Mark Maguire
304 North Main Street
Pleasant Hill, OH 45359

Miners Base Ball Club
Matt Mayberry
Western Museum Min & Ind
1025 North Gate Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Westville Craftsmen & Biscuits (Associate Member)
Matthew Moyer
Westville Historic Village
P. O. Box 1850
Lumpkin, GA 31815
888-733-1850
912-838-6310 evening

Huntington Suffolks (Full Member)
Michael Tangel
11 King Arthur's Ct
St. James, NY 11780
516-584-5709

Roysters
Mike Whitehead
Fayetteville Roysters
2600 Van Hoose Dr
Fayetteville, AR 72701

15 South Forest
Denver, CO 80222

Salt City Base Ball Club (Full Member)

Bill Ferguson
P.O. Box 517
Manistee, MI 49660
616-723-2129 work
616-723-5674 home

1922 Giants Baseball Club (Full Member)

Bo Johnstone
303 West Fourth
Marysville, OH 43040
937-642-1341 home3pm
937-644-3822 office

Forest City Base Ball Club
Bo Burr
1589 Bell Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
216-338-1556 home
216-425-1600 off

Quicksteps Base Ball Club
Bob Tholkes
1028 Gould Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55421
612-375-4304 days
612-781-6161 night

Dayton Ducks
Brian Heckett
Montgomery Co. Hist. Soc.
7 North Main Street
Dayton, OH 45402
513-228-6271

Name not known (Full Member)

Christopher Paul Cobb
4805 Calle Alto
Camarillo, CA 93012-8530
201-222-5098

Buffington Island
Dave Gloeckner
Buffington Island
Rt 2
Racine, OH 45771
614-992-2671 work
614-247-4921 after 10:00 pm

Sycamore Grasshoppers & Katydid (Full Members)

Fred G. Malone
Mohawk Historical Society
P. O. Box 23
Sycamore OH 44882-0023
419-927-4050 home
419-927-6392 work

Carpenters On Fire
Gary Porteus
431 S. Marion Street
Cardington, OH 43315

Old Time Base Ball Program
Gary Monti
Bathpage Village Restoration
251 School Street
Westbury, NY 11590
516-334-8545 home

Kent Base Ball Club (Full Member)

Gordon Olson
1911 Glendale NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-454-5420 home
616-456-3629 work

Preble Aces (Associate Member)

Jane Lightener
Preble Co. Hist. Society
7693 Swartselsel Road
Eaton, OH 45320
937-787-4256 work
937-839-1143 home

Railroaders
Jim Sadler
Wyoming Territorial Park
975 Snowy Range Road
Laramie, WY 82070

Clodbusters and Lady Clodbusters
Base Ball Clubs
Jim Wilson
Friends Of Carriage Hill Farm
7914 West National Road
New Carlisle, OH 45344
513-882-6552 home
513-879-0461 work

member
Kay Cynova
Stuhr Museum/Prairie Pioneer
3133 West Highway 34
Grand Island, NE 68801
308-385-5316 work
308-381-0336 home

Ghost Ballplayers
Keith Rahe
"Ghost Ballplayers, Inc."
30318 Golf Course Road
Dyersville, IA 52040
319-875-2657 home

Albuquerque Telegraphers
Ken Dusenberry
3345 Gabaldon Place NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104-2715
505-247-9165

Aurora Base Ball Club
Ken McCreight
840 South Parkview
Aurora, OH 44202
216-995-9781 home
216-987-4182 work

Laurel Base Ball Club
Kevin Summers
Middletown Historical Society
507 South Main Street
Middletown, OH 45044
513-424-5189 home

Rock Springs Ground Squirrels (Full Member)

Lee Slider
Macon Co. Conservation Dist.
1495 Brozio Lane
Decatur, IL 62521
217-423-4913 work
217-423-1922 home

Ethereals
Lile Anderson
15816 28th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98155
206-365-3415
Blennerhassett All Stars

Woodstock Actives
Murray Coulter
P. O. Box 125
Woodstock, ONTARIO, Canada N4S
7W8
519-539-1234

Freetown Base Ball Club
Ophelia Umar Wellington
Freetown Village
P. O. Box 1041
Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-631-1870 off
317-259-4877 home

CVBBA and Columbines
Pat & Nancy Massengill
Colorado Vintage Base Ball Assn.
903 E. 14th Ave. #4
Denver, CO 80218
303-832-6693 home

Middletown Mansfields
Paul Schilling
Middlesex Co. Hist. Society
151 Main St
Middletown, CT 06457

Summit Merinos (Full Member)

Paula Moran
Summit County Hist. Soc.
550 Copley Road
Akron, OH 44320
330-535-1120

Ragga Muffins
Peter Hatch
P. O. Box 316
Charlottesville, VA 22902
804-984-9808

Buckeyes (Associate Member)

Richard Wiegand
875 Park Ave
Amherst, OH 44001
216-985-1225

"Vintage Teams"
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Vintage Teams

from page 2

Berrien Co. Cranberry Boppers
Robert Myers
Berrien Co. Hist. Assn.
P.O. Box 261
Berrien Springs, MI 49103
616-471-1202 work
616-473-1321 home

Spiegel Grove Squires
Roger Bridges
Hayes Presidential Center
Spiegel Grove
Fremont, OH 43420
419-332-2081

Ludington Mariners (Full Member)

Ronald M. Wood
Mason Co. Hist. Soc.
1687 South Lakeshore Dr.
Ludington, MI 49431
616-843-4808 work
616-757-2270 home

Hoover Sweepers (Full Member)

Stacy Krammes
Hoover Historical Society
2225 Easton St NW
N. Canton, OH 44720-3339
330-499-0287 work
330-494-7633 home

Lah-De-Dah Base Ball Club (Full Member)

Thomas Stoll
Ford Museum & Greenfield Village
P. O. Box 1970
Dearborn, MI 48121-1970
313-271-1620 Ext520
419-269-0174 home

Leather Stockings
Tom Heitz
P. O. Box 901
Cooperstown, NY 13326-5901
607-547-7200

José M. Hornedo
1026 East River Ave
El Paso, TX 79902
K. C. Priest
921 Upton Drive
South Charleston, WV 25309

Marilyn Wagner
Navarre-Bethlehem Twn Hist Soc
302 Park St NW
Navarre, OH 44662-1150

Michael Perkel
1790 Mulkey Rd Suite 6A
Austell, GA 30001
404-941-3760 off

Michael A. Cavallo Jr
109 John Paine
Williamsburg, VA 23185
757-253-5679

Mike Boyd
208 Berwick Road
Victoria, TX 77904
512-575-2567

Nancy Nixon
Roscoe Village
381 Hill Street
Coshocton, OH 43812
614-891-6287

Neil Morrison
1130 South Spruce Avenue
Bloomington, CA 92316

Nora E. Graf
Fort Verde State Park
Box 397
Camp Verde, AZ 86322

Patrick Brown
2495 South Alden Street
Salk Lake City, UT 84106

Pattie Pinter Hartmann
Missouri Historical Society
P.O. Box 11940
St. Louis, MO 63143-0940

A Spring Program

Sets Example for Teaching

by John Wells

On Saturday April 19 the Colorado Vintage Base Ball Association, Friends of Historic Fort Logan, and CU-Denver Phi Alpha Theta held a Colorado Sports Symposium entitled "Take Me Out to the Old Ball Game" at the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Fort Logan. It was the kind of program more clubs should consider providing for their communities as part of their educational mission. And there is the additional benefit of both spreading the word about vintage base ball and doing some public relations to promote the club.

Take Me Out to the Old Ball Game:

A Colorado Sports Symposium



Vendor List

Of Vintage Equipment

For Re-creation of Base Ball

The following is a list of vendors known to produce equipment for period teams. Several teams also have members who produce equipment just for their own nines. I would greatly appreciate any additions. Send name to the VBBA post office box for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Balls

Jay R. Ferguson
Leather Goods Manufacturing
P. O. Box 2834
Louisville, KY 40201
502-895-3167

Bat Blanks

Wes Surritt Jr.
A.W.S. Limited
545 Millikan Avenue
Washington C.H., OH 43160
(614) 573-3005

Bats

Charles Trudeau
Phoenix Bat Company
4096 Balsam Avenue
Grove City, OH 43123
875-0077

Bats and Balls

Dale Risney
Cooperstown Bat Co.
P. O. Box 415
Cooperstown, NY 13326
607-547-2415
607-547-6156 FAX

Hats

Norma Gallery
199 Blooming Grove Rd #4

Athletic & BB Club Copperstown
William Arlt
Cooperstown Ballcap. Co.
P. O. Box 1003
Cooperstown, NY 13326
607-264-8294
607-264-3965 FAX

The following groups or individuals have shown interest in forming a vintage club but the status of their teams are unknown to me.

Bob Mather
1323 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-934-3917 home
412-471-2600 Ext310

Charles Jacobs
Hardin Co. Hist. Museums
P. O. Box 521
Kenton, OH 43326

Connie Benig
Geneseo Chamber Of Commerce
200 North State Street
Geneseo, IL 61254
309-944-2686

Craig Fuller
Utah State Historical Society
1845 South 1800 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
801-533-3538 day
801-467-2259 home

David Quin
2070 Pinewoods Road
Springdale, AR 72762

Ed Merrell
Olmstead County Historical Society
1195 County Road 22 SW
Rochester, MN 55902

Joe Grandstaff
Museum Of Am. Frontier Culture
Box 810
Staunton, VA 24401
614-102-8807

314-454-3146

Paul Wilcox
2740 East Desert Trumpet
Phoenix, AZ 85048
602-759-4147

Peter Ledwith
Ontario Agricultural Museum
Box 38
Milton, ONTARIO, Canada L9T2Y3
905-878-8151

Robert Keeler
Oregon Coun. For Humanities
812 SW Washington St #225
Portland, OR 97205
503-241-0543 work
503-292-8114

San Santana
508 Fairway Blvd.
Willowick, OH 44095-5063

Steve Shust
Meadowcroft Museum Of Rural Life
41 Meadowcroft Road
Avella, PA 15312
412-587-3412

Sue Fischer
Jourdan-Bachman Farm
1300 Watermellon Way
Austin, TX 78725
512-928-2885

Thomas Rumer
Carmel Clay Hist. Soc.
211 First St. SW
Carmel, IN 46032

Tom Schmidt
Victorian Revival Society
208 Olive Street
Peabody, KS 66866

Please send any updates, corrections, and additions to

Early Innings Illustrated
P.O. Box 14105
Columbus, OH 43211

or call

614-261-1707 in the evenings



Above is a reproduction of the cover of the offering brochure for the Colorado program.

The Colorado program began at 9:00 A.M. at the Fort Logan Auditorium with coffee and pastries. Then a trip to the ball field was followed by calisthenics and an introduction to the vintage game as played in the territories. From 10:00 to 1:00, a contest was held between the Central City Stars and the Littleton Rough and Readies with side offers of base ball style refreshments and historic interpretation.

The afternoon was filled with a tour of the fort, a symposium covering many aspects of the game from its first introduction through the Negro and women's leagues, and finally an introduction of other sports in the area including women's rodeo and skiing.

The fee for the day was a very modest \$20.00 and included breakfast and the day's activities. We send our congratulations to the folks in Colorado.

The VBBA encourages more of our clubs to engage in these kinds of work.

More Articles Wanted

Early Innings Illustrated will now be going to a much wider audience than before. So we want to put our best foot forward. That means we would like to have more vintage ballists write articles for our newsletter.

Doug Smith has sent a post card to each member team asking that a representative be designated to send results of matches, stories about the team, and

Hanover, PA 17331-7916
717-630-0778

William Arlt
Cooperstown Ballcap. Co.
P. O. Box 1003
Cooperstown, NY 13326
607-264-8294
607-264-3965 FAX

Uniforms

Pat Silk
Betlin Manufacturing Co.
1445 Marion Road
Columbus, OH 43207
(614) 443-0248
(614) 443-4658

Phyllis Sharpless-Harrison
P. O. Box 627
209 North Summit
Mountainair, NM 87036-0627

Uniforms, Bats, Balls & Hats

Ken Weaver
527 Carriage Drive
Orange, CT 06477

Uniforms, Bases, Games*

Robin Hewitt
311 Highfield Drive
Columbus, OH 43214
614-846-0341

* Games include various sideline distractions for children and carnival type games of "skill".

articles of general interest to *Early Innings*. I hope that each team will send along one major article a year for publication along with a story for each issue on what their club is doing.

Please consider volunteering for this "opportunity". I don't expect the designated reporter to write all this stuff, just see that it gets done. The amount of work you do is inversely proportional to the size of the whip you use.

From the Archives

"Sunny Jim" Bats 'em In

by Larry "Mick" Friedman

On September 16, 1924, Jim Bottomly, young first sacker of the St. Louis Cardinals, set one of the most remarkable records in baseball history. On that day the Cardinals were playing the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field. Managing Brooklyn that day was Wilbert Robinson, the old Baltimore Orioles catcher of the 1890's who in 1892 had set the major league record of 11 runs batted in during a single game. In that Dodgers-Cardinals game, 'Sunny Jim' established a new major league record when he drove home 12 runs to power the Cardinals to a 17-3 victory. He did it with 6 hits in 6 times at bat which included 2 home runs in succession, a double, and 3 singles. Here is the play-by-play of that game direct from the scorebook of the sports editor of the old St. Louis *Star*.



Third Inning

Cardinals - Gonzales grounds to Mitchell at shortstop and is thrown out. Cooney grounds to third baseman Stock and is thrown out. Shortstop Tommy Thevenow fouls out to Any High down the right field line. No runs, no hits, no errors, none left.

Brooklyn - Pitcher Al Hollingsworth pops to Thevenow for the first out. High flies to Douthit in center field. Mitchell singles down the left field line but is thrown out trying to stretch his single into a double. No runs, one hit, no errors, none left.

Fourth Inning

Cardinals - Sherdel slams a double into the gap in right center field. Mueller walks. Douthit sacrifices. Men are now on second and third. Hornsby walks filling the bases. Bottomly works the count to two balls and one strike and then slams a drive deep to right field and into the right field stands for a grand slam home run. Decatur now pitching for Brooklyn. Hafey flies to Wheat in right field. Gonzales grounds to Mitchell at shortstop and is thrown out. Four runs, two hits, no errors, none left.

Brooklyn - Wheat flies to Hafey in left field. One out. Fournier is out on a ground ball to Bottomly unassisted. Brown flies to Hafey. No runs, no hits, no errors, none left. The score at the end of four innings - Cardinals 9 - Dodgers 1.

Fifth Inning

Cardinals - Cooney lines to Brown in left field. Thevenow bounces out Fournier to Decatur who covers first. Sherdel singles to right. Mueller lines to Griffith in right field. No runs, one hit, no errors, one left.

Brooklyn - Stock flies to Hafey in left field. Griffith sends a line drive to

Eighth Inning

Cardinals - Cooney pops out to Stock at third base. Thevenow lines to Griffith in right field. Two down. Sherdel singles to right field. Mueller triples to right center field and Sherdel scores. Douthit strikes out. One run, two hits, no errors, one left.

Brooklyn - Taylor bats for Wilson and singles to left. High singles to center and Taylor races to third. Mitchell hits into a double play Thevenow to Hornsby to Bottomly and Taylor scores. Wheat flies to Mueller in center field. One run, two hits, no errors, none left. The score at the end of eight innings is the Cardinals 16- Brooklyn 2.

Ninth Inning

Cardinals - Roberts now pitching and Loftus at first for the Dodgers. Hornsby leads off with a drive into the right center field gap for a triple. Bottomly lines a single to right field to score Hornsby. This is Bottomly's sixth straight hit and his 12th run batted in. Smith runs for Bottomly. Roberts picks Smith off first base. One out. Clemons bounces out to Loftus unassisted at first base. Hafey flies out to left field. One run, two hits, no errors, none left.

Brooklyn - Rhem now pitching for St. Louis. Smith goes to right field, Mueller to first base, and Blades to second base. Loftus singles to center field. Brown lines a shot down the first base line that Mueller spears and steps on first base to double Loftus. Two out. Stock walks on four pitched balls and then goes to third on a passed ball. Griffith walks. Stock scores on a wild pitch. DeBerry walks. Hargreaves bats for Roberts and pops to Blades behind second base. One run, one hit, one error, two left.

Cincinnati Reds where he played for 3 seasons. Cincinnati at that time was the Siberia of baseball. Sunny Jim accepted the bad news of his trade with customary grace and humor. "Well," he sighed, "as the missionary said when the cannibal threw him into the stew pot, 'That's Africa.'" Jim had a way with words. When the Cardinals trainer Harrison (Doc) Weaver exhorted the team to put together a long winning streak, "Naw, Doc, that ain't the way to do it," drawled Jim, "The way to win a pennant is to win two games, lose one, win two, lose one until one day you've got 100 and whole ball of wax." Jim was purchased from Cincinnati by his old team-



mate Rogers Hornsby to play for the St. Louis Browns in 1936 where he finished out his career.

Jim had a lifetime batting average of .310 with career highs of .371 in 1923 and .367 in 1925. He batted over .300 nine seasons with 2,313

hits, 465 doubles, 151 triples, 219 home runs, and 1422 runs batted in. At the end of the 1928 season, after seven big league seasons, Jim was the most prolific batter in National League history in driving runs across the plate. He averaged for those seven years .81 runs batted in per game. Frankie Frisch called him the best clutch hitter he ever saw. "When the ducks were on the pond, Jim knew what to do."

Two other stories are worth telling here before we close this article. The day after Jim had driven in 12 runs against the Dodgers, eclipsing the single game mark held by Wilbert Robinson, he followed an old habit and stopped by the Dodger bench, figuring on picking up a chew of tobacco from Robbie, then the



First Inning

Cardinals - Heine Mueller walks. Taylor Douthit singles to center, with Mueller stopping at second. Rogers Hornsby beats out a hit over second base. The bases are now loaded. Bottomly lines a single to right field scoring Mueller and Douthit. Hornsby goes to third. Chick Hafey now up. Hafey triples to right center, scoring Hornsby and Bottomly. Hollingsworth now pitching for Brooklyn replacing Ehrhardt. Catcher Mike Gonzales is out on a grounder to shortstop Mitchell to 1st baseman Jack Fournier. Hafey remains at third. George Toporcer strikes out. Shortstop Tommy Thevenow pops out. Four runs, four hits, no errors, one left.

Brooklyn - Andy High bounces out to Bottomly unassisted. Mitchell bounces out Thevenow to Bottomly. Zach Wheat fouls out. No runs, not hits, no errors.

Second Inning

Cardinals - Pitcher Bill Sherdel walks. So does Mueller. Douthit fouls out to Catcher Hank DeBerry. Hornsby strikes out. Bottomly rifles a double to right field scoring Sherdel and sending Mueller to third. Hafey sends a grounder to shortstop Mitchell for the third out. One run, one hit, no errors, two men left.

Brooklyn - Jack Fournier walks. Center fielder Ed Brown singles to left, with Fournier stopping at second. Milt Stock flies to Hafey in right field and Fournier advances to third. Right fielder Griffith fouls to Gonzales behind the plate. Two out, two on. DeBerry singles off shortstop Thevenow's glove into short left field. Fournier scores but Brown is thrown out trying to score. One run, two hits, no errors, one left.

ght center field that Douthit hauls down. DeBerry pops out to Thevenow. No runs, no hits, no errors, none left.

Sixth Inning

Cardinals - Douthit walks and steals second. Hornsby flies out to Brown in center field. Bottomly catches hold of a one-and-one pitch and drives it into the right field stands for a two-run home run. Hafey singles to center. Hafey goes to second when Fournier misses a pickoff throw. Gonzales triples to deep right center scoring Hafey. Cooney drops a bunt down the third base line that goes for a single and scores Gonzales. Cooney steals second, and advances to third on a wild pitch. Thevenow pops to Mitchell. Sherdel flies to Wheat in right field. Four runs, four hits, one error, one left.

Brooklyn - Clemons now catching for St. Louis. Johnson bats for Decatur and rifles a single to left field. High singles to left with Johnson stopping at second. Mitchell pops out to Sherdel. Wheat pops out to Thevenow. Fournier is out Sherdel to Bottomly. No runs, two hits, no errors, two left. The score is now Cardinals 13 - Dodgers 1.

Seventh Inning

Cardinals - Wilson now pitching for the Dodgers. Mueller singles to right. Douthit sacrifices and is safe on a fielder's choice when Stock's throw to second base is too late to get Mueller. Hornsby sacrifices, and the runners advance to second and third. Bottomly singles to right field scoring both Mueller and Douthit. The score is now 15 to 1 in favor of the Cardinals. Hafey pops out to High behind second base. Clemons flies to Wheat. Two runs, two hits, no errors, one left.

Brooklyn - Brown strikes out. Stock singles to left. Griffith walks. DeBerry lines to Thevenow whose relay to Hornsby at second doubles off Stock. No runs, one hit, no errors, one left.

The final score is St. Louis 17, the Dodgers 3. The Cardinals rip out 18 base hits with Bottomly going six for six. In 1931, Sunny Jim did it again blasting out six base hits in six times at bat to set a National League record.

Sunny Jim was one of the first of the young players that Branch Rickey harvested from his budding farm system. Rickey devised the idea of developing his own players in the minor leagues in an effort to compete with the wealthier clubs. As everyone knows, it was a highly successful system. In the next 20 years, a steady flow of eager youngsters kept the Cardinals at the top giving them nine pennants.

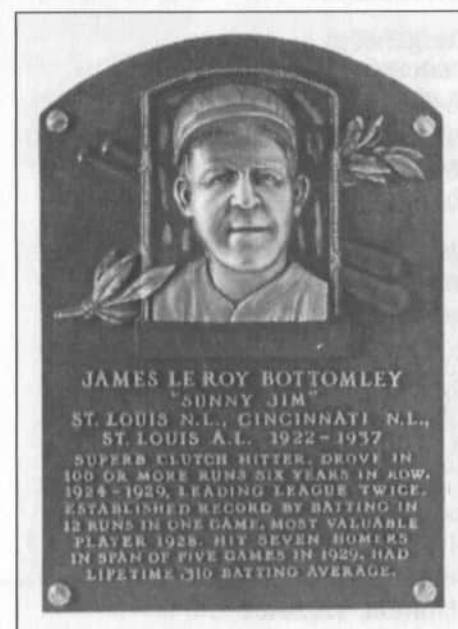
Sunny Jim helped lead the Cardinals to four pennants in 1926, '28, '30, and '31. He was brought up from Syracuse of the International League in August, 1922 to take over first base for an ailing Jack Fournier. He batted .325 in 37 games and the Cardinals traded Fournier to the Dodgers. In 1923, his first full season, he batted .371 with 94 runs batted in. Beginning in 1924, Sunny Jim drove in 111 or more runs in six straight seasons. He topped the league in runs batted in with 120 in 1926 and 136 in 1928. In 1928 he batted .325 with 31 home runs to tie for the league lead with Hack Wilson of the Cubs as he drove the Cardinals to the pennant. That season, also, he smashed out 20 triples and 42 doubles to total 93 extra base hits in his 187 safeties. He was voted the Most Valuable Player that season and received a \$1,000 bag of gold as his prize. This was presented to Jim early the next season at Sportsman Park with 10,000 Knothole Gang kids leading the cheers.

Sunny Jim got his nickname because of his ever-present smile and pleasant disposition, and his swaggering stroll and cocked hat were trademarks which were remembered by St. Louis fans as clearly as his playing ability. In addition to being a great slugger for 16 big league seasons, he was a brilliant fielding first baseman. He played 11 seasons for the Cardinals, and after the 1932 season he was traded to the

chews from me," Robbie told Jim, "Do you know what did yesterday? You chased me right out of the record book. Now get outta here."

Because of the way current major league hitters are smashing the ball out of the park, this next story has contemporary interest. Jim was interviewed in 1936 after having been around for 15 big league seasons. There was a lively controversy that the ball was too live. Rogers Hornsby, then the manager of the St. Louis Browns, had charged that the jackrabbit was running away with baseball, while Joe McCarthy, manager of the New York Yankees, had come out in favor of leaving the ball the way it was. Jim replied, "McCarthy has the correct slant on the ball and the entire situation. The ball is lively. It has been that way for a long time. Why all the hulla-balloo now?"

"Pitching is bad. If you get a well-pitched game, that ball is sufficiently controlled and everything looks great. Don't tinker with the ball any more. And don't get the idea that it is any livelier in the American League than it is in the National. What we do want is better pitching, and the ball will take care of itself."



Tradition

The Good Old Days—and We Mean Old

EACH MODIFICATION OF THE national pastime—artificial turf, the designated hitter, wild-card teams, interleague play—drives hordes of fans to declare themselves purists who pine for a return to the good old days, when the game was simpler. These self-appointed guardians of baseball's integrity can take heart in knowing that the old-time game still is alive today.

Each summer, teams with names like Great Black

Swamp Frogs, Clodbusters, and Cranberry Beggars gather on weekends, don period uniforms, and play ball as it likely was played in the mid-19th century, the era of the modern game's infancy. "We were founded on the idea of the New York Knickerbockers, the first organized club," says Doug Smith, who runs the Ohio Village Muffins. The Muffins formed in 1981 when the Ohio Historical Society, with help from researchers at baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., studied the rules of baseball as it was played by the Knickerbockers in the 1850s. The idea was to add old-time ballgames to the list of attractions at Ohio Village, the historical society's reconstructed 19th-century community in Columbus.

In this earliest form—known in the old days as "base ball"—the dimensions of the field are the same, but the pitches are delivered

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underhand, no balls or strikes are called, a ball can be caught on one bounce for an out, and fielders don't wear gloves, which makes double-digit scores fairly common. "The ball is a little harder than people might think for a game with no gloves," Smith says. "We used to use a safety ball. Then we started using a leather ball, which made for a more offensive, big-hit-type game."

At first, the Muffins played "club matches" among themselves, or against local softball teams. Over the years other teams have cropped up, mostly in the Midwest. Last year 26 clubs in nine states—Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New York, New Mexico, and Colorado—banded together to form the Vintage Base Ball Association. [For more information, write to the VBBA at PO Box 14105, Columbus, OH, 43214, or call

Publicity Alerts the Public

Compiled by the Public Relations Committee

Over the summer of 1997, the clubs of the VBBA received much notice in various media around the country. Some of that has found its way to the newsletter office and is reproduced here.

To the right is the full page that appeared in the Sports Section of the Columbus Dispatch on Saturday July 26, 1997. To the top, left, and

Page 8B

The Columbus Dispatch / SPORTS

Saturday, July 26, 1997



Grand Old Game

Local exhibition team portrays baseball as it was in its heyday

Story by Rob Otter
Dispatch Sports Reporter

Photos by Tim Neveall
Dispatch Photographer

PLAIN CITY, Ohio — The time machine is rather rudimentary — a wool cap and a pair of baggy trousers. But oh, how it works. One minute the man wearing the Nike shirt looks a little like Cal Ripken Jr. The next minute he resembles the original Iron Horse.

One minute a fairly baldy player scans his surroundings behind an expensive pair of wrap-around sunglasses. The next he's pounding his fist into a baseball glove that today would be considered more of an oven mitt.

Nothing has actually changed on this baseball diamond. The dirt still roils around your feet and the grass still stretches to the outfield fence.

Nothing looks the same, though. The moment those men of the '90s dress themselves back to the 1850s in vintage-style uniforms, it's like turning the pages of a grandfather's photo album. No wonder is the transformation that one wonders how Hale fifth might look in polyester slacks. Probably pretty good, but still a tad odd.

Bringing the past to the present is what Bruce "Bo" Johnston of Marysville had in mind when he started the 1922 Giants Baseball Exhibition Club. The club was founded three years ago to promote a better appreciation of baseball as it was played in the early 1920s, unlike other local teams, which depict baseball in its 19th-century infancy.

The 1922 Giants uniforms, equipment and rules approximate the way baseball looked when men like Rogers Hornsby, Ty Cobb and George Sinker played. There are no public address announcements — Johnston shouts instructions off to the crowd before each game — no numbers on uniforms, and no big paychecks.

In fact, there are no paychecks at all. The Giants play for free, and still have fun. "I work a manufacturing job at Honda," said pitcher Michael Nixon, 24. "It's like old-time baseball. They worked jobs and still played baseball."

The Giants average about three exhibition games a month during the summer; their latest, played last Saturday in Plain City, was a lopsided win against the Mud River 9, a reproduction of a 19th-century team of the '20s.

Johnston is a baseball history buff, but didn't consider creating a vintage team until he played the part of an outfielder in *Eight Men Out*, a movie about the 1919 Chicago Black Sox scandal.

Now he plays similar parts without the massive salary. Against the Mud River 9, Johnston was behind the plate calling balls and strikes.

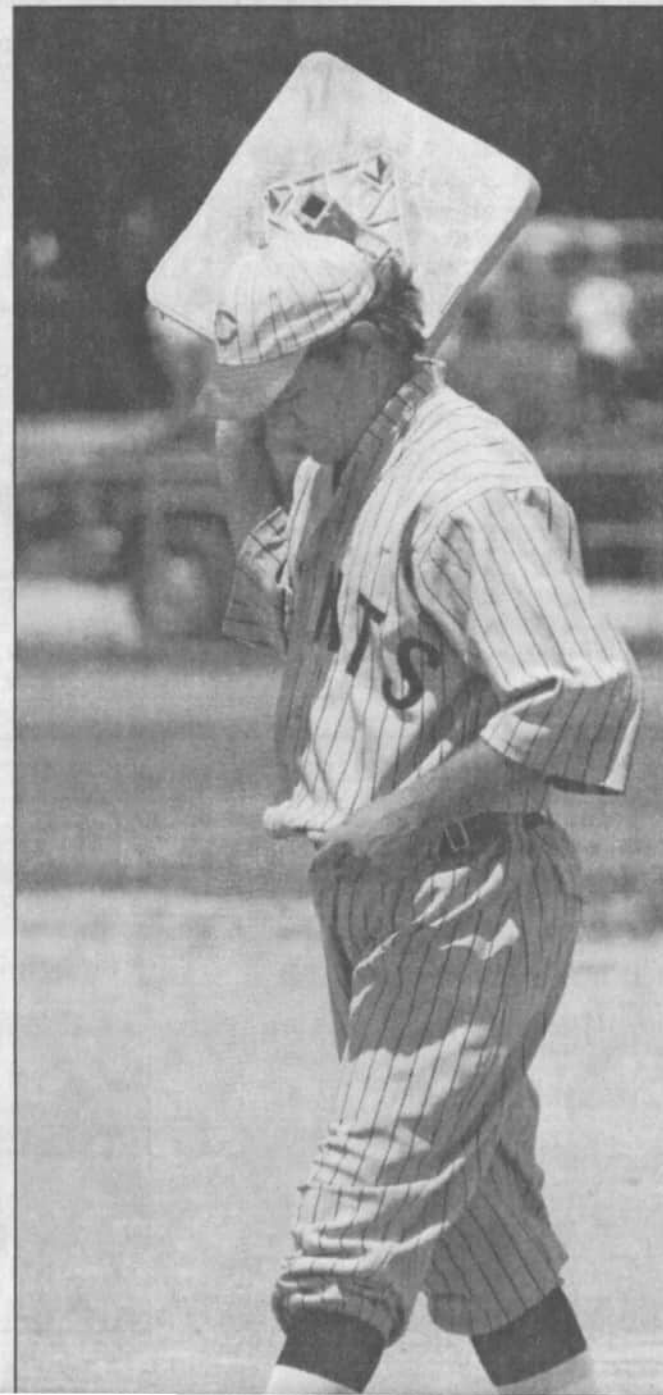
"And we all got to be groundskeepers out here, too," he said.

The Giants are comprised of 15 players who range from college age to Johnston, who is 98.

"It's fun to get back to the basics of baseball," said 22-year-old Gabe Hower, who said the two largest adjustments in old-time baseball were learning to use a smaller glove and refraining from using modern conveniences — a few high fives were spotted — and vocabulary.

"We try to call other players' bunt fouls instead of 'Strike,'" Hower said. "But the old language is pretty much the same."

Actually, the language is downright delightful, according to the bunter and third baseman who appear



In keeping with their intense desire for authenticity, the Muffins originally refused to allow base-runners to lead off or to steal bases. However, recent VBBA research suggests that such practices may have been used in the 1800s; thus, this season the VBBA is allowing them, as well.

Schedules occasionally include tournaments, but standings and championships are eschewed. Competition is downplayed, just as it was back in the early days, when the base ball matches were considered friendly exercise in preparation for the main event: a customary post-match banquet that included speeches and songs.

However, the Muffins' experiences illustrate why the non-com-

petitive club game quickly evolved into something more serious. "It's always more fun to win, but we try to do it for fun," Smith says with a touch of irony. "It's part vaudeville

The joy of base ball: "It's part vaudeville and part amusement."



OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

below — the article that appeared in the August, 1997 *Inside Sports* magazine.

If your team appeared in the spotlight and you would like to send us the details, it will be published in the next issue. Send copies to

Early Innings Illustrated
Vintage Base Ball Assn.
P. O. Box 14105
Columbus, OH 43214



Pitcher Michael Nixon of the '22 Giants hits a speedball ball.

to the game. "It was never a gentleman's game," said Mark Melendy of Pleasant Hill, Ohio, who coaches the Mud River 9. "We're family-oriented." Johnstone said. The game itself, however, hasn't changed much — at least not the way Zolo Kelley sees it. Kelley, 71, of Bethesda, Ohio, sat quietly watching the Giants make one-handed catches — scope — and slap the ball around. "I can't say I played in 1902, but I played in the late '30s and that wasn't a whole lot different," Kelley said. "There are a lot of differences today from what we played, mostly the uniforms and the speed of the game. But you still have to get three outs and score the most runs to win." Time can't touch everything.

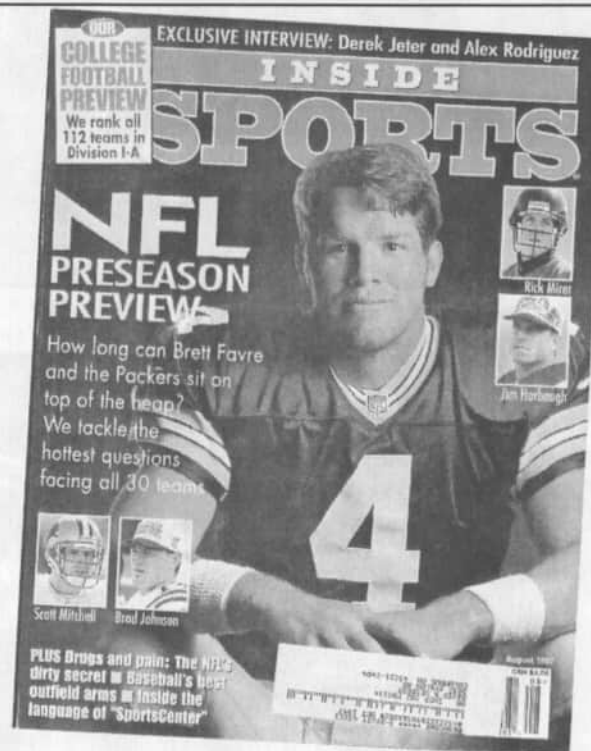


Barrenstorming teams of the '30s often provided their own grounds crew, and it's true today for the Giants. Brian Williams hauls the second base bag onto the diamond.

and part amusement—sometimes it's compared to Civil War re-enacting. But it's not always a re-enactment, because there is a game being played and a score being kept. The action, while otherwise unchoreographed, also includes a few traces of period theater for the benefit of the crowd: "If somebody spits," Smith says, "the umpire fines them 25 cents."

As an employee of the Ohio Historical Society, Smith is encouraged by the popularity of vintage baseball, which attracts a healthy mix of enthusiasts and first-timers. "People get drawn to this for so many different reasons, whether they're interested in history or really love baseball," he says. "We've got guys in high school, and we've got two guys in their 60s. It's an odd movement, but it's growing."

—Anthony Craine



Westville Georgia's

Base Ball Team on Fox Television

by Andy Moyer

Westville is a living history village in southwest Georgia. We've been playing vintage base ball as part of our interpretation for a couple of years. We have just now joined your association and

look forward to learning from you.

This note is to alert you that Fox TV taped a game we played to show on Saturday, July 19 at 12:30. It was a segment on a program just before the Major League Game of the Week.

For those of you who are purists or expert, I hope you'll cut us a little slack since we are fairly new at this and made no pretense of representing ourselves as the experts — even if it turns out looking that way. They seemed to be most interested in our version which is played in the village amongst the trees and ditches and allows any age, gender, etc. to participate.

Westville's site on the net is
www.westville.org

Subscriptions to

Early Innings Illustrated

Regular delivery comes with an Individual Membership of \$10.00 or as a member of a VBBA team, you can receive the newsletter for \$5.00. Send your check to the VBBA, P. O. Box 14105, Columbus, OH 43214 with your name, address and team affiliation.

A Look at VBBA Teams

Salt City & Salmons

Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, Manistee's rich history is rooted in Michigan's lumbering era. This booming industry produced great wealth: Manistee is credited with having more millionaires per capita at the end of the nineteenth century than any other Michigan city. The presence of other natural resources earned Manistee the name Salt City.

This preeminent role in lumbering and the city's accumulation of wealth led to the construction of stately homes, great churches and commercial buildings, and a theater-opera house. Nearly a hundred years later many of these structures — the Ramsdell Theatre, Congregational Church and the Ramsdell Building — still stand as vestiges of a glorious past.

Bill Ferguson, proprietor of Hokanson Camera & Office Equipment orga-

nized the Salt City Base Ball Club. In the process he learned of Gordon Olson, the Grand Rapids city historian and the founder of the Kent Base Ball Club. Olson soon became Ferguson's mentor for re-creating vintage baseball in Manistee.

Olson's impetus for organizing the Kents originated with his discovery of the original 1867 constitution and by-laws of the Kent Base Ball Club. "I then saw a game played in Ohio involving the Ohio Village Muffins and became enthused," related Olson.

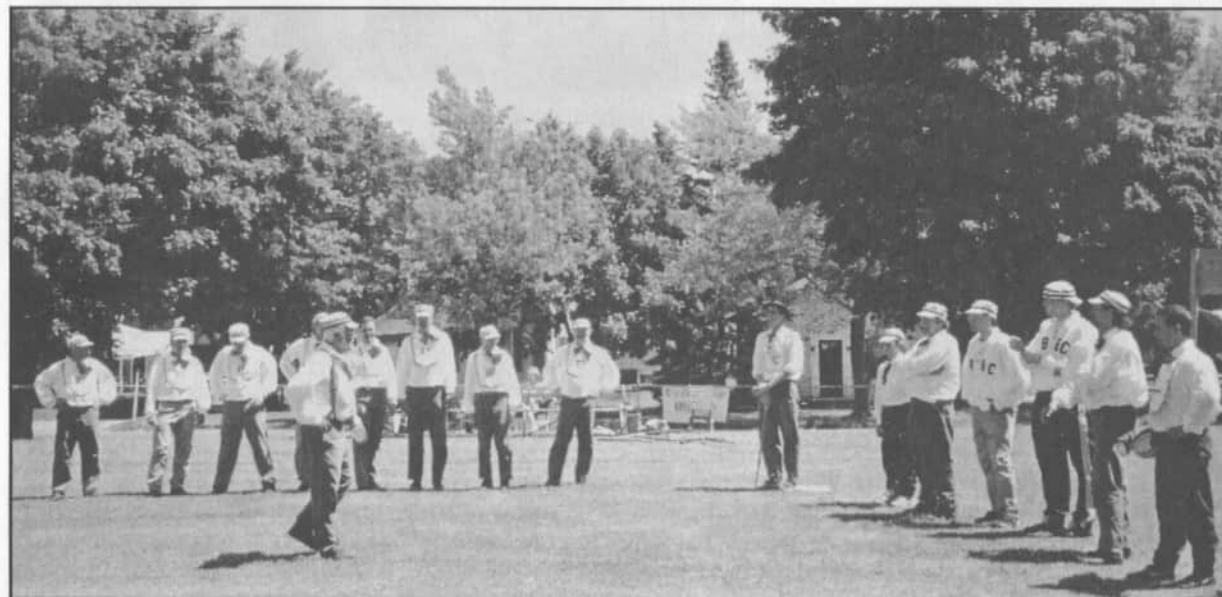
The pictures on this page are from the Salt City Tournament of August 2nd and 3rd of this year. They were taken by Barbie Tootle, "official" tin type artist of the Muffin Club. As several Muffins commented, "It was a long drive to Manistee from Columbus...but worth it".

Below left, Captain Dale Brandon of the Muffins opens the Kent Base Club match. Tournament host Bill Ferguson of the Salt City Club, center with a foot on home plate, served as the umpire for the match.



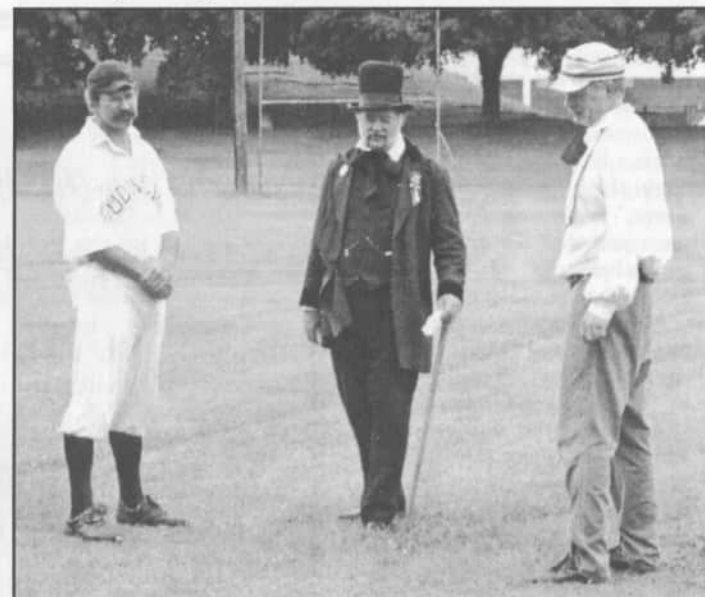
Above is a new team, the Chicago Salmons, who recently played the Great Black Swamp Frogs while the Frogs were on a trip to the

Field of Dreams. Team Manager Elizabeth O'Rourke is at the left with 15 members of the team pictured ready to play.



Below right, Ludington Captain Rob Williams and Muffin Teams Manager Doug

Smith at the stone toss conducted by Muffin umpire Richard Schuricht.





A panorama of Lake Michigan with the Manistee Light at the end of the Pier frame the Muffins.



The Ludington and Muffins nines pose for a post game photograph. Judging from the smiles, it was a dandy match.

Sycamore Grasshoppers

And Area Clergy

"Pass The Plate" Together

by: Fred "Meal Ticket" Malone

The Sycamore Grasshoppers Gentlemen's Base Ball Club hosted a group of area clergy members in a match of vintage base ball played at Grasshopper Park on Saturday, May 17th. The match was the season home opener for the Grasshoppers and was a gala family event which included children's games from the 1860's, a kite flying contest, reenactors, Civil War period bands, and a pair of llamas sporting custom-made

champions "The Sycamore Grasshoppers" were introduced by Fred "Meal Ticket" Malone, manager and captain of the squad. The worthy adversary for the day was dubbed the Northwest Ohio Clergy and was led by the Grasshoppers' own Charles "Parson" Steward. After formal introductions were made and the tossing of the wet stone, the Grasshoppers took the field allowing the Clergy to strike first.

Leading the Grasshoppers to the striking plate in the first inning was 90 year old Choice "Big Country" Culver, honorary owner and oldest member of the Grasshoppers. As he took his place at the home plate, Choice could be seen flashing his well known smile and a hint of a gleam could be seen in his eye as maybe memories of days gone raced through his mind. Over seventy years ago, Choice passed up a chance to play with what is now the Toledo Mud Hens



Choice Culver, left, honorary owner of the Grasshoppers and Fred Malone, manager.

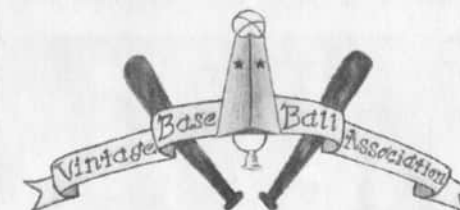
not without incident. Captain Malone noticed and informed Mr. Mohr that the first base man for the Clergy, the Rev. Don Kraps, was sweating profusely while at his position. Captain Malone pointed out that there were indeed ladies present and asked for an apology to be given. Mr. Mohr, being the wise and scholarly man that he is, proceeded to inform Parson Steward that the incident was going to cost him a 25 cent fine and an apology from the Revs Kraps. As Parson Steward was preparing to pay the tariff, Sir. Dave "Dutch" Zeis who had been relegated to the Clergy squad for the day, was overheard to utter the word "hell". This, of course, prompted Mr. Mohr to fine Captain Malone the immense sum of 50 cents. Sir. Malone protested the fine, arguing that he was sure that Mr. Zeis was merely contemplating a religious question and furthermore that since Mr. Zeis was on the Clergy club for the day, Mr. Steward

Logo Contest

Entries Received

Remarks, Reactions Invited

Four entries have been received for the contest to design a logotype for the VBBA. You will recall that a bat, custom turned by Muffin bat maker Charles "Lefty" Trudeau, is in the offing for the selected design.



My name is Shane "Lefty" Gault and I am a member of the Akron Black Stockings. Enclosed is my submission for the Vintage Base Ball Association logo. I also would like to give you our new web page address. It is: <http://members.aol.com/ABSLefty/Akr onBlackStockings.html>.

Be sure to use caps where noted. Thank you and strike well.



Choice Culver, age 90, at the strike in the opening match of the Grasshopper season in Sycamore, Ohio.

Grasshopper base ball hats. The llamas were brought courtesy of Ray and Lois Sipe of rural Upper Sandusky. Lois fashioned the hats for her two friends using the Grasshopper hat as a model.

The day began with bright sunshine and brisk winds, which was nice for the kite flying, but a little cool for the spectators. Children's games started at 11:00 with serving of roast beef and roast hog along with pies, cakes and hand cranked ice cream at 12:00 noon. After a couple of hours of fine fellowship and some hearty music from the Heritage Minstrels of Seneca County and the Spencer Cunningham strings from Bowling Green, the two base ball groups took the field.

Mr. Kim "Big Poison" Mohr, umpire for the contest, called the two clubs together and the great Wyandot County

The Sycamore Grasshoppers Gentlemen's Base Ball Club on May 17, 1997. The Ladies Team are the Katyids.



and opted to stay home on the farm and develop a career that has seen many, many summers come and go. As the first couple of pitches were thrown, Choice could be seen biding his time and waiting for just the right one. As the third pitch arrived at the plate, Choice drove it into the hole between the second base and the shortstop position. As he strode into first base, the roar of the crowd could be heard and as I turned to look, everyone had risen to their feet in a resounding standing ovation. As he stood on first base and tipped his hat to the crowd, you could still see the child in this 90 year old man. Walking back to the bench with him, after allowing a younger member to run for him, he said to me "You know, with a little more practice I believe I could hit the ball farther". Isn't it wonderful what the game of base ball can do when given a chance.

Although both squads exhibited very gentlemanly behavior, the day was

should indeed pay this fine. Mr. Mohr replied that since Mr. Zeis was first, last and always a Grasshopper, he **should know better**. Mr. Malone paid....

Leading the Grasshoppers at the iron striking plate with four hits for the



day were T. "Hoss" Fadley, Rob "Broken Bat" Malone, John "T-Bone" Stoner, Chris "Hamhock" Cover and Jeff "Hoopie" Welch. Also having base hits for the club were: Rabbit Fadley, "Farm Boy" Tschanen, "Little Joe" Williams, "Popeye" Sakash, and "Peach Pie" Plott. Carrying the big lumber for the Clergy was Rev. Don Kraps from Tiffin with three base hits.

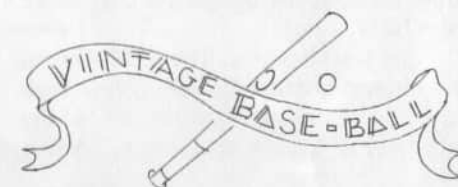
Many fine defensive plays were made during the day, with both clubs showing much ginger, even from those players that are growing a bit long in the tooth. The final tally for the day showed the Grasshoppers the victor by the final tally of 17 to 16, although Mr. Covers tally sheet showed the true score to be 17 to 9.

Once again the Grasshoppers have brought the community together with a family day capped off with a game of base ball. Crowds were seen coming and going all day with an estimated 200 plus people watching the ball game.

The Grasshoppers have been dubbed "The Ambassadors of Wyandot County" and continue to live up to the title wherever they go.

Take a moment to cast your eyes on the logotype presented above, which I offer in response to your contest. The clean, bold lines within the geometric layout present a sensible proposition to a world that seems to have forgotten the rules. Our "game", and our organization, are reflected by my design in this regard. The inclusion of the ball, the bats, and the field, is a reminder that these exquisite instruments of play are not simply antiques from the distant past, but are still put to use on warm summer afternoons. The result is an emblem that I am proud to call my own, a sentiment I hope will be shared by my brothers between the lines.

William H. "Whipsaw" Dean of the Greenfield Village Lah-De-Dah's.



The final two entries are from Mark Mitchell of Spring Valley, California. No remarks were received with his entries so they must speak for themselves.

Adoption of a logotype for the VBBA will take place at the February, 1998 meeting of the clubs which is projected to be held in Sycamore, Ohio.

The 1922 Giants

Baseball Exhibition Club

by Bruce "Bo" Johnstone

The 1922 Giants is an historic baseball team organized in 1994 to promote an understanding and appreciation for the history of the "great American pastime". The time period presented is the era from 1920 to 1931, known as "Baseball's Golden Age", when the game was

average of .305, a team ERA of 3.45, and finished 7 games ahead of second place Cincinnati. In the World Series they swept the New York Yankees four games to none and their pitchers held Babe Ruth to a .118 batting average. The Giants of the 1920's had hitting, pitching, speed and defense. They finished first or second from 1920 to 1925. The Giants won four straight National League titles from 1921 to 1924 and were World Champions in 1921 and 1922. Their lowest finish in the decade was fifth in 1926, after which they rebounded to second or third until 1932. Their manager, John McGraw, was one of the game's best. After managing the team during the "deadball" era of the early twentieth century, he was able to change his coaching methods to match the "slugging" of Babe Ruth. Some of the Hall of Famers to play for McGraw during the twenties were Frankie Frisch, Bill Terry, Casey Stengel, Mel Ott, George Kelly and Ross Youngs.

As members of the Vintage Baseball Association, a national organization of historic ball clubs, The 1922 Giants strive to present the most accurate portrayal of the era as possible. The team wears uniforms that have a baggy over-

cludes actual catcher's gear from the 1920's. However, the team uses modern shinguards for safety and cost. Since gloves from the 1920's are hard to find in good condition, the team uses gloves from the 1920's through the 1940's. Wooden bats are the rule, no aluminum allowed. The team uses regulation baseballs, unless field space is limited. Then RIF balls are used which don't carry as far when hit. There are no batting gloves, batting helmets, and no wrist bands. No jewelry other than wedding rings.

In addition to looking the part, the players "act" the part. The behavior is like that in the twenties. The language of the era is heard, although a little cleaner. The batting style is different from the "swing for the fence" style of today. The pitchers double pump during their wind up or stop and throw a "hesita-

Dan Hoover singles to right while playing at Bucyrus, Ohio in a July, 1996 exhibition game.

toric detail helps make a fun and informative event for everyone involved.

The games The 1922 Giants play at events can be done several ways. If time permits, a regular nine inning game will be played. The average time for nine innings is two hours. If time is limited, a four or five inning game (or less if necessary) can be played. The Giants and their opponent generally play until the time limit is reached and play as many innings as possible. This allows for player changes, pinch hitters, etc., which makes the announcer do his job with the megaphone. The 1922 Giants will play other historic teams, local teams, or even softball teams willing to try historic baseball. In the twenties, teams in the Major Leagues would often go to small towns and play exhibition games against local teams. This happened in spring training, after the World Series, and even in the middle of the regular season. If an opponent



Mike Nixon rests at second in a June, 1996 game between The 1922 Giants and the Akron Black Stockings

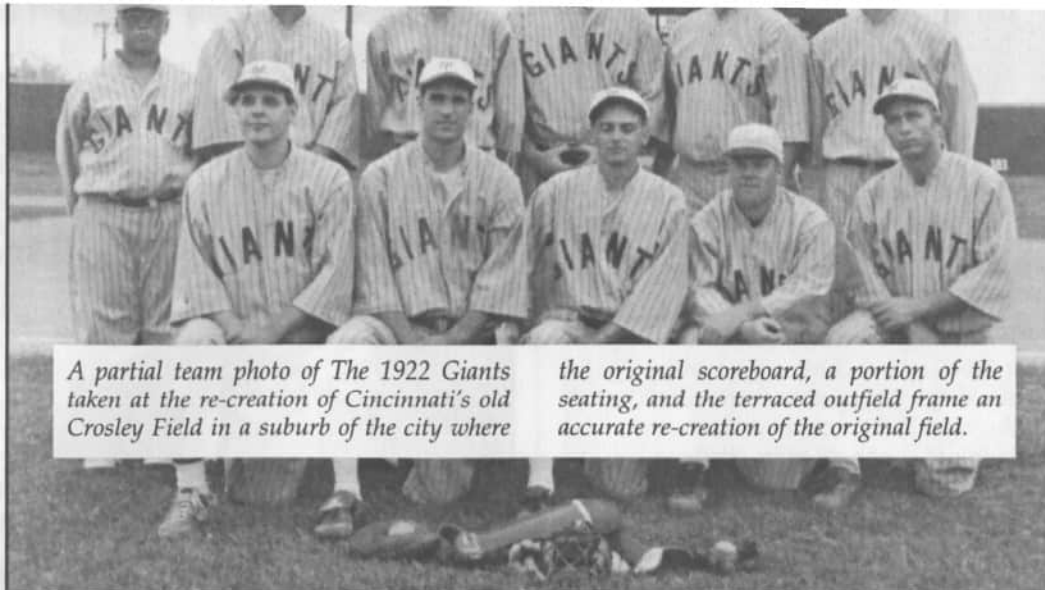
the major spectator sport in the United States. In addition, the team wants adults to relive their childhood memories while showing children what the game looked like in the "old days" and how it has changed.

To do this, the team plays a game as it would have looked in the 1920's. There are only one or two umpires



and an announcer on the field with a megaphone. There were no PA systems. All the games were played during the day because there were no lighted fields. There are no numbers on the uniforms. The phrase "you can't tell the players without a scorecard" is the literal truth. The pace of the game is much quicker. The players run on and off the fields. They are not allowed so much time in the batter's box or on the pitcher's mound. After three outs the fielders don't bring their gloves off the field. They throw them behind or beside their position. The hitting was in transition from slapping at the ball to make contact to "slugging", or trying to hit homeruns and extra base hits. Still, there were not very many strikeouts. But because of field conditions and the equipment, there were a lot of hits, a lot of errors and a lot of runs scored. It was a very exciting time for the fans, especially those from New York.

The team's name, The 1922 Giants, was chosen because the 1922 New York Giants were one of the best teams of the decade. The Giants had a team batting



A partial team photo of The 1922 Giants taken at the re-creation of Cincinnati's old Crosley Field in a suburb of the city where

the original scoreboard, a portion of the seating, and the terraced outfield frame an accurate re-creation of the original field.

sized fit. Actual uniforms from this era were made from wool flannel, but for comfort, durability and cost, the replica uniforms are made from modern materials. For safety, the team wears modern baseball shoes.

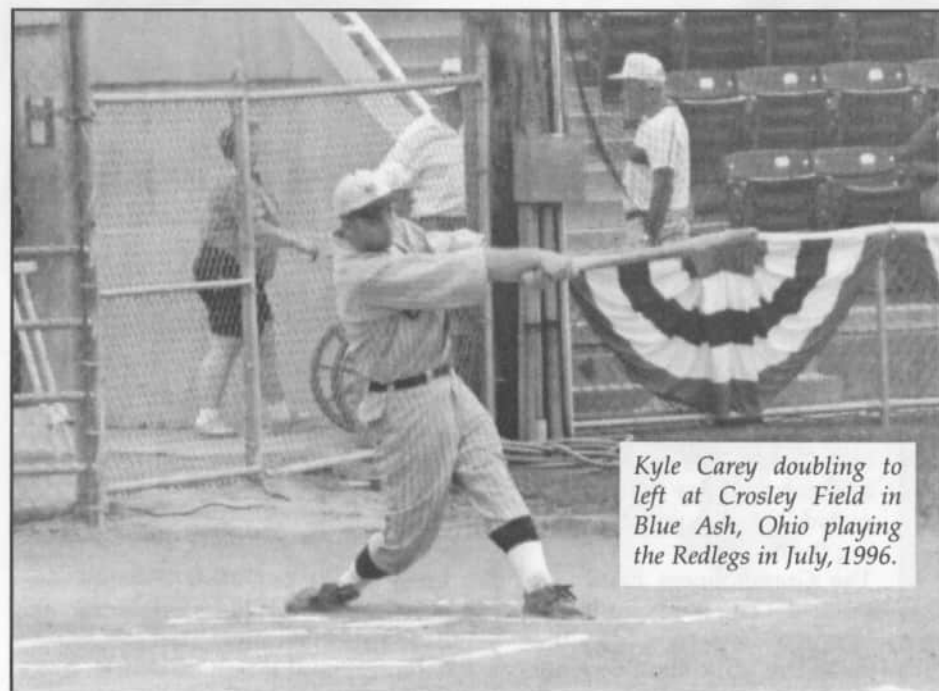
The equipment the team uses in-

tion" pitch. The on field announcer gives the line up and any changes through a large megaphone. The umpires don't showboat like today's umpires — they just call the game. The players shake hands after a good play — they don't high five. Attention to his-

scrimmage by splitting into two squads. There are a few other 1920's teams in central Ohio and the Giants have a good working relationship with them, but it is still sometimes difficult to get an opponent.

The goal of The 1922 Giants Baseball Exhibition Club is to showcase historic baseball to as many people as possible. One hoped for result is a greater interest in playing historic baseball and the formation of other teams from this era. More teams will allow more actual games between different teams. Most teams in the Vintage Base Ball Association play 1860's style ball, which is much different from the 1920's. The Giants would like to see more teams playing ball from the 1920's to present that era in baseball history.

A classic photograph of Lyle Arnold pitching to the Redlegs from the mound on Blue Ash's Crosley Field. The historic field is located in a sports park just off the outerbelt around Cincinnati.



Kyle Carey doubling to left at Crosley Field in Blue Ash, Ohio playing the Redlegs in July, 1996.



"New" Rules Listed

from page 1

played during that period. Beadle's was written by Henry Chadwick, the foremost base ball writer/historian of his day. The on the field execution details included by Chadwick, along with the complete rules, gives us the most accurate description to date on how base ball was played in the mid-nineteenth century.

In keeping with efforts to portray the game as accurately as possible, it was decided to play the Ohio Cup Festival using the "new" rules instead of the Muffin Rules for clubs re-creating the Civil War game.

Actually, since a number of teams have played this way sometime during the year, it may not be as different — or difficult — as it may appear. For those teams who have not played by these rules this year, and as a refresher for those who have, I will try to briefly explain how the "new" rules will be used at the Ohio Cup.

1. The first, and most dramatic change is in the ability of a runner to advance on a pitched ball (steal). When we first tried this we allowed the base runner to start as soon as the ball was pitched. We quickly found out that even a runner as slow as yours truly could easily advance. Something was wrong!

Upon further study of Chadwick's comments, we came to the conclusion that since the batters were taking many pitches in order to allow the runner the opportunity to advance that maybe the runner could not just run when the ball was pitched. Perhaps he was waiting for a muff by the behind, or by the pitcher on a return throw. So another tactic was tried and the result was much better.

The implementation of the "advance" rule will be that the runner may take a lead off the base and it may be as short or as long as he wants. However

A "Deja" View

of Baseball

by Andy "Mule" Shuman

Feeling like George C. Scott in Patton as he viewed the ruins of an ancient Carthaginian battlefield, I exclaimed, "I've been here before!"

"Of course you have," said Doug Smith, "we played here last year."

No, really, I had been here. The Twins vs. the Indians, the Giants vs. the Cardinals, and the Met's championship season. I was there. Smith looked puzzled as I recounted these legendary contests.

The sand and dirt of the infields have been pounded solid by warrior's feet. The fences sit rusting like abandoned defenses from a forgotten war. Gone too are some of the battlefields. Like Cleveland Municipal Stadium, they are only memories.

pitch, the umpires will be instructed to enforce this rule. But so far, I haven't noticed many batters waiting if the pitch is a good one.

5. The final change involves the force play. Basically this rule keeps the force play in effect no matter where the first or second out is made as long as the base runners are in "force" positions. For example, if there is a base runner on first base, on first and second bases, or on first, second, and third bases the force play is in effect. If the striker hits the ball fairly and on more than one bound to the first baseman with runners in the above noted positions, and the first baseman puts the striker out by either touching him with the ball or touching the base before him, the force remains in effect for the other runners and they must advance to their next base.

But the ones I think of fondly are my little league days at Canal Fulton Community Park. The Twins were my team and the Indians were our opponents. I was cheating in from centerfield to back-up any pick-off attempts. The ball got past the shortstop to me just as the runner rounded third. My brother Ed and I had practiced this throw a hundred times in the backyard. With one bounce and a tag, I made my first assist at homeplate.

Behind the Tilt-a-Whirl and other festival rides currently in the park, there was a diamond where the Giants and Cardinals met in 1978. It was where Ed and I would first play against each other. That day, like today, I was the victorious brother. But at what price? Seeing my Ed's head bowed after a game has always felt like a loss for me as well.

In our final year, Ed and I went from worst to first with the Mets. We watched together as the coach was given a ceremonial dunk in the canal following our victory. I looked around the park remembering these and other moments of a baseball career taken from me at age of 13 when I was told talent mattered.

Bringing me back to the present, Smith tugged on my arm and reminded me that "all glory is fleeting". I nodded in sad agreement. Yet win or lose, when the time comes each week to play this child's game, I echo General Patton when I say, "God help me, I love it so".



Handouts

At Matches

To Inform & Educate

by John Wells

As I travel around to matches as the Muffins tallykeeper, I make a point of collecting the handouts that our adversaries regal their fans with. They run the gamut from well prepared brochures to basic mimeographed pages. They generally contain background history of baseball, information on the sponsoring organization and its activities, and often a roster of the team. Several are reproduced here to give you an idea of what others are doing whom you may not have been able to visit.

The VBBA Public Relations Committee would like to help its member clubs who have less than an adequate budget be able to have attractive, historically accurate, and locally oriented brochures to pass out at their matches. We understand that the cost of doing this can often exceed local coffers so here is what is offered:

If you will prepare the information you would like in a brochure for your team, including such things as

- the era in which you play
- the rules you follow
- any special ground rules you have
- team, officials, & interpreter roster
- supporting organization
- details on what you and your sponsor are doing
- pictures of the team and its sponsors
- any other data you would like included,

the committee will prepare for you a brochure that you can reproduce locally by printing press or photocopy. This will be professionally done and using

the runner must come to a complete standing stop and may not advance until the ball has crossed home base.

The pitcher may throw the ball to the baseman in an attempt to pick off the runner anytime until he begins his pitch to the batter. Once the pitch has begun, any throw to the base will be a balk. If a play is made on the runner he may return to the base but, naturally, there will be no sliding or diving to the base.

If the runner leaves before the ball crosses home base the umpires will be instructed to return him to the base and levy a fine. If the batter hits a fair ball and is not put out, he must return and strike again. If the batter makes an out the out will be recorded and the next batter will strike.

2. The second change concerns running on a foul ball or a fair ball caught on the fly. If a ball is in foul territory either on the ground, caught on the fly, or caught on the bound, the ball is dead until it is returned to the pitcher. At that time it is again a live ball and the runner must have returned to his base or he stands the chance of being put out. The runner may be put out by either being touched by the ball or having the pitcher or baseman touch the base before he returns. Remember, the ball must be returned to the pitcher on any foul ball before a play can be made on a runner.

On a caught fair fly ball, a base runner may be put out if the ball is returned to his base before he gets back. The ball does not have to go to the pitcher first. This is the same as today.

Also the runner may attempt to advance on a caught fair fly ball if he tags up after the catch. Again — the same as today.

One bound catches in fair territory are played as we do now. The runner may advance at his own risk without tagging up after the ball is caught.

3. The next change is the Umpire's prerogative to call strikes. Some of us have done this already but Chadwick makes special note of this rule in light of the advancing rule. When the batter is just standing by waiting for an errant

they must advance to third base before that baseman either touches them with the ball or touches the base while he has the ball before the runner arrives.

Therefore if the bases are full of runners and the striker hits a ground ball to the first baseman who fields the ball, steps on first base before the striker arrives. The striker is dead. He then throws the ball to the behind who steps on home base before the runner from third arrives. That runner is dead. Then the behind throws the ball to the third baseman who touches the base before the runner from second arrives. That runner is also dead and you have a triple play.

By today's rule, once the first baseman touched the base the force would have been removed for the other runners and any additional outs would have required the runner to be tagged by the ball.

6. Another rule which is just beginning to be used, deals with the next striker after the third out has been made. The 1860 rules clearly state that the first striker in the next inning will be the batter who follows the man who made the last out. Because of the shortened time of the games at the Ohio Cup this rule will be set aside and the strikers will strike in the order they appear on the tally sheet.

In general I have found that the above rules require all players to be more involved in the game. Runners can no longer run indiscriminately and fielders must be alert since plays may be made on runners in many different ways. Also by making a runner wait before he can advance, there is a much better chance for the behind to throw a runner out at the second or third bases.

Finally, I have noticed that the pitchers are more concerned about making good pitches under these "new" rules, so that the ball will not escape the behind.

All the above described changes, in my opinion, keep the game moving and interesting for both the players and the spectators.



Friends of Carriage Hill Farm & Carriage Hill MetroPark Farm



the styles of the period you play in. We will use our library of period art work to decorate the brochure and use typefaces appropriate to the time period.

If budget allows, we can print them, too, using high speed laser printers or traditional offset printing. The charge will be just the cost of paper and press time.

This arrangement is being offered by the Public Relations Committee (who will do the research and layout) and several local printers (who are donating press time at cost to help us out).

You will receive a proof that you can check or get approval on. You may feel free to make alterations as required after the layout is done and the proof is received by you. Please contact the committee over the off season at

Public Relations
Committee
Vintage Base Ball
Association
P. O. Box 14105
Columbus, OH 43214

Pictured here are three samples of handouts used by clubs to explain to visitors what is going on. Included are rules, history of the game, and general information about the club and its supporting organization. Most are in the form of photocopied folders but some are printed in color inks like the Lah-De-Dah sample at the left. Often a period tally sheet is included or passed out as a separate document. Players as well as dressed interpreters offer the printed material during the match.

A First Game

On September 9, 1858

The Boston Tri-Mountain Club organized in 1857 with the intent of playing the "New York" style of baseball. They faced one major obstacle: no team in the area would play them according to those rules. Finally, after a year of practicing only among themselves, the Tri-Mountains found a willing opponent, The Portland Club traveled from Maine to face the Tri-Mountains in a match on Boston Common.

The game was played on September 9, 1858, and the new style of play attracted considerable attention, including that of a Boston Herald reporter. The day after the match, in the same column as items titled "Dead Body Found" and "Rogues Caught", the Herald ran the following piece:

TRI-MOUNTAIN CLUB

	H. L.	Runs
G. E. Guild, catcher	1	7
H. F. Gill	3	6
C. C. Dimon, 1st base	1	5
G. F. Goldthwait, 2d base	5	0
F. N. Scott, c. field	1	4
G. Tmupe, r. field	5	4
G. Arnold, Jr., l. field	4	5
W. H. Bourne, short	5	4
I. H. Ware, pitcher	2	7
Total	42	

PORTLAND CLUB

	H. L.	Runs
E. N. Robinson, catcher	6	4
S. M. Eaton, pitcher	3	5
S. Crowell, 2d base	3	5
J. C. M. Furbish, r. field	4	5
G. H. Abbott, l. field	2	6
J. R. Winslow, 3d base	2	5
G. M. Woodbury, 1st base	4	5
Samuel Chadwick, short	2	7
J. M. Knight, c. field	1	5

An Interesting Game of Base Ball on the Commons

The Portland Club of Portland, Me., vs the Tri-Mountain Club of Boston

A very closely contested game of base ball was played on the Common between the Portland Club of Portland, Me., and the Tri-Mountain Club of Boston. The game was that known as the New York game, and the Portland boys won by five runs. The rules of the New York game differ materially from those adopted by the Massachusetts Association of Base Ball Players last fall. The bases are placed at the angles of a rhombus instead of a square, the home base being the position of the striker; provision is made for "foul hits," and the ball is caught on the "bound" as well as on the "fly." The game consists of nine innings instead of one hundred tallies, and the ball is pitched, not thrown.

The playing commenced about three o'clock, the Tri-Mountain Club having the first innings, and the ninth innings of the Portland Club was finished at a quarter to six. Mr. J. E. Burt of the Tri-Mountain Club had one of his hands badly injured in the first innings by a blow from the ball, and his place was filled during the remainder of the game by Mr. Henry F. Gill. Mr. Crowell of the Portland Club was severely affected by the heat, and was obliged to give up for a time, but soon recovered and resumed playing. His place was filled by Mr. Childs, another member of the Club, during one or two innings. The playing was witnessed by a large and interested crowd of spectators. The following is the score of the game:

RUNS MADE IN EACH INNINGS

	1st	2d	3d	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	Total
Tri-Mountain	0	5	0	11	13	1	0	7	1	42
Portland	2	0	2	7	9	4	5	10	8	47

Number of ball pitched by Ware, of the Tri-Mountain Club, 143; passed Guild, the catcher, 5; caught on the fly, 2. Number of pitched by Eaton, of the Portland Club, 115; passed Robinson, the catcher, 4; caught on the fly, 4.

Umpire Richard Tower of the Tri-Mountain Club. Scorers, P. Margott of the Tri-Mountain Club and C. G. Gammon of the Portland Club.

Some Notes...

As It Applies to Re-Creating Base Ball Matches Today

by John "Tally" Wells
Ohio Village Muffins Tallykeeper

There are some interesting hints on how we should interpret 1860's matches contained within the above newspaper story.

- Baseball is spelled Base Ball — still two words.
- As a first club match, the locals lost just like the Knickerbockers did.
- The number of pitches made and balls passed the catchers were recorded although I have not seen a tally sheet of the period containing such information.

Notes to on-field re-creators

- The center fielder is called the center fielder, not the mid fielder.
- The catcher is called the catcher, not the behind.
- One umpire was used.
- Two tally keepers were used, one for each club.
- They were called runs, not aces.
- The length of the game was longer than our re-created matches lasting about 2 hours and 45 minutes. Most matches today are about an hour and a half.
- 89 runs were scored, less than the 100 required by just one club to end a Massachusetts game of the day. Still this is many more runs than we see scored in today's re-creations. Why? Probably because the defense of the early teams was not nearly as good as today's players who grew up judging the course of a ball hit by a batter.
- The number of pitches listed would allow less than 2 pitches per batsman given the required 27 outs and forty some runs for each club recorded. This would indicate that pitchers were

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Early Innings Illustrated

The Capitals Committee

from page 1

with costs.

- Publish a handbook on the rules and their best interpretation for re-creation use.
- Plan to attend the SABR convention in 1998 with a team to play in a single uniform and use accurate rules and techniques.
- Limit the first year to just 1860's rules but plan on other eras in later years.
- Continue research on playing techniques as well as rules.
- Schedule some festivals to spread the word and recruit new teams.

This is an ambitious project. It is desired to include members from many VBBA teams on the teaching team roster. Several people including Kevin Lehr, Charles Trudeau, Richard Schuricht, and John Wells have volunteered to serve on this committee. If you are interested, please drop a line to the post office box.

I don't expect every committee member to be at every seminar/demonstration game but you may wish to be a part of event near your home town. All are welcome. Expect to see announcements in the next issue of *Early Innings Illustrated* on implementation of the above goals.

President's Report

from page 1

the playing of the game. The research done more recently has surpassed that done earlier. This is a fact that must be understood. The premise is the same: research in rules is transferred to the concurrent playing of the game.

This year vintage base ball has received national publicity in separate increments. I am sure we all want the VBBA to be seen from the outside as representing the most accurate playing of the game in all eras. This would then, of course, mean the VBBA has to be the leading force to bringing accuracy about.

More and more this Association will be the instrument through which this game spreads. People contact me wanting information including how the game was played. They want to form clubs and ask what rules to play by. They assume we are accurate in what we do.

The VBBA must continue to use research as the foundation for playing rules. It is the responsibility of individual clubs to accept the researched rules, unless a club does research into its own area and finds reasons to do things differently. The VBBA's main reason to exist is to give the most accurate depiction possible. This is key to how this game grows and what our future will be.

Some Notes...

continued from above

delivering good balls to hit and that batters were not waiting for catcher muffs.

Note that balls passing the catchers were 5 for the Tri-Mountains and 4 for the Portland boys. Probably not much stealing going on in this match, if any.

- The recorded fly catches, 2 for the home nine and 4 for the visitors, would indicate that bounds and forces were the dominate way to get outs.

And a final note from eagle-eyed proof reader Mardi Wells: if you add up the total runs in the table "Runs Made in Each Innings", the totals are 38 and 47, not 42 and 47. The runs listed per player does total 42 and 47.