

post-convention, all-star issue, 2012

# NWSABR

JULY 2012

VOL. 3? ISSUE 1

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### upcoming events

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- **NWSABR meeting. Sat., Nov. 3 in Seattle**

**free baseball film tickets**

**Yakima Bears moving to Hillsboro**

**Name That Tune baseball trivia quiz**

**Web site upgrades**

## Triple Play: Baseball in Yachats, Oregon – July 28

The Yachats Academy of Arts & Sciences will be sponsoring the first baseball festival held in Yachats, Oregon on July 28. The event, called “Triple Play,” will include something for everyone, even non-baseball fans.

During the afternoon three ball games will be played on Yachats's cozy ball field, located behind the Yachats Commons. The first game, for children ages 6 through 8, will begin at noon. The second game, for children ages 9 through 12, will begin at about 1:00. Both of these games will be played with very soft balls and soft bats. Adults will do the pitching. The Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP) staff will organize and manage the teams.

The third game, starting at about 2:30, will be for players ages 13 through 100. Everyone will get the opportunity to play. The balls and bats will be softer than regulation equipment. Anyone hitting a ball into the Yachats wetlands in right field will be required to retrieve it.

During the games a “concession stand” will be set up under the picnic shelter in left field. Sponsored by YYFAP, the

**YACHATS ACADEMY OF arts & SCIENCES**

**David Baldwin**  
Ph.D., Genetics  
Major League Pitcher

**SATURDAY 28 JULY 7 PM**  
Yachats Commons  
4th ST. & HWY. 101, Yachats

**Triple Play Event:  
Weird Science of Baseball**

**Why fast balls don't  
hop; why pop-ups  
are dangerous;  
how a curve ball only  
appears to break;  
and other amusing  
explanations.**

**Systems engineer  
Researcher in ecological genetics  
Relief pitcher for Washington  
Senators, Milwaukee Brewers, &  
Chicago White Sox in the 1960s  
and 70s.  
Author of "Snake Jazz".**

**Suggested Donation: \$5.00**

**YACHATS ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**  
P.O. Box 435, Yachats, Oregon 97498 / 541-961-6695 / [www.GoYachats.com](http://www.GoYachats.com)  
Supported by the Friends of the Yachats Commons Foundation

**YACHATS ACADEMY OF arts & SCIENCES**

**BASEBALL**  
YACHATS STYLE

**SATURDAY 28 JULY NOON**  
Field Behind Yachats Commons  
4th ST. & HWY. 101, Yachats

**Triple Play Event:  
3 Ball Games 3**

**Everyone can play!** • Limited Seating ~ Bring your own!  
First game at Noon • Safe “Spongy” balls & bats  
for the youngest • Baseball fare: hot dogs, popcorn,  
players. Second game peanuts, and Cracker Jacks  
for older children & • Try out for the mythical  
teens. Third game for Yachats Smelt MLB team  
adults and old codgers. • Smelt baseball caps for sale

**Suggested Donation: \$5.00**

**YACHATS ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**  
P.O. Box 435, Yachats, Oregon 97498 / 541-961-6695 / [www.GoYachats.com](http://www.GoYachats.com)  
Supported by the Friends of the Yachats Commons Foundation

stand will offer standard baseball game cuisine: hot dogs, peanuts, and Cracker Jacks, and more.

Seating in the “grandstand” is limited, so bring your own folding chairs or blankets.

At 7:00, Dave Baldwin, SABR member and former major league pitcher, will give a slide presentation titled “The Weird Science of Baseball,” in which he will describe surprising scientific facts about the game, such as why catching a pop-up can be dangerous, why the batter can't see a fast pitch as he hits it, and why the flight of a knuckleball is so unpredictable. His talk will be in the main auditorium of the Yachats Commons.

Baldwin, who played professional baseball for 16 years, earned a Ph.D. in genetics and an M.S. in systems engineering from the University of Arizona. He has collaborated with physicists and psychologists in writing dozens of articles about the science of baseball published in such journals as the American Scientist, the American Journal of Physics, and the Harvard Business Review. His baseball memoir, *Snake Jazz*, was published in 2008. See [www.snakejazz.com](http://www.snakejazz.com).

## Vancouver meeting, August 11

Our annual meeting in Vancouver, B.C. will be Saturday, August 11 at 1:00. The meeting location is Nat Bailey Stadium, 4601 Ontario Street, home of the Vancouver Canadians. Former Houston Astros pitcher [Gordie Pladson](#) will be a guest. We also expect to have another former player.

Post-meeting activities include barbecue and pizza at the home of Max Weder and Jennifer Ettinger, 2953 Ontario Street, and a return to the ballpark for a Canadians game that night. The meeting and get-together at Max and Jennifer's house are free. You can purchase advance tickets for the game on the Canadians [Web site](#) if you wish.

Check the [Facebook page](#) for meeting updates:

Washington residents will need an enhanced driver's license, a passport, or a passport card to cross the U.S./Canada border. Oregon residents will need a passport or a passport card.



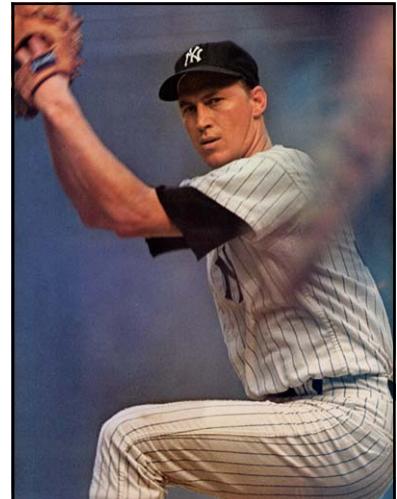
*Note that Gordon Pladson's nickname is spelled Gordy on his baseball card. Most Internet sources spell it Gordie, including an autograph for sale on eBay.*



## Seattle meeting, November 3

Our next meeting in Seattle will be Saturday, November 3 from noon to 5:00. The tentative meeting location is the Seattle Pacific University library. Former Yankee great Mel Stottlemyre will be our guest speaker. The Washington native also spent many years as a successful pitching coach.

Contact [Rick](#) if you've been researching material you might be ready to present at the November meeting. We'll have another book exchange there. You can donate books to the chapter and get some you haven't read yet. Suggested donation will be \$2 for hard cover books and \$1 for paperbacks.



*Mel Stottlemyre pictured in the 1969 Yankee Yearbook. That year was his third 20-win season.*



# Chapter News: Web Update

A recap of our terrific June meeting is on the [chapter Web site](#). Our chapter secretary Mark Brunke now has access to areas of our Web site that were previously limited to the site administrator in the national office. We have already updated the site's links, and we are adding a few. We will gradually add content that doesn't fit into the pre-existing categories, and we hope to add more types of content.

We will start with a directory of member blogs and Web sites, a list of member books in print (with purchase links), and new member introductions. Please make this as simple for Mark as possible.

## Web site or blog

Please use the following form. You can paste it into a spreadsheet or word processing document. Please keep it brief. We reserve the right to edit for any reason. Send the form to [Mark](#).

|  |  |
|--|--|
| your name  |  |
| site owner [if not your own site]                      |  |
| blog/site name   |  |
| URL  |  |
| site type [newspaper, Web site, blog, other]           |  |
| purpose [news, opinion, statistical analysis, history] |  |
| update frequency                                       |  |

Sample:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| your name  | Brandin' Web   |
| site owner [if not your own site]                      |  |
| blog/site name   | Remembering Mike Krsnich                                       |
| URL  | <a href="http://www.keithe.com/stock">www.keithe.com/stock</a> |
| site type [newspaper, Web site, blog, other]           | blog   |
| purpose [news, opinion, statistical analysis, history] | opinion, history   |
| update frequency                                       | random   |

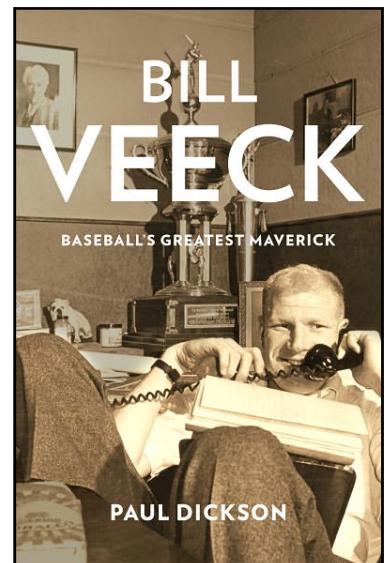
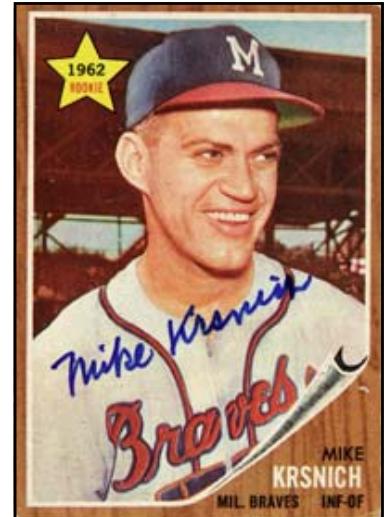
## Book

Please use one form for each title. Send the form(s) to [Mark](#).

|   |  |
|---|--|
| author(s) [at least one must be an active member] |  |
| title   |  |
| publisher   |  |
| year of original publication                      |  |
| format [hc, pb, ebook]                            |  |
| URL where book can be purchased                   |  |

Sample:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| author(s) [at least one must be an active member] | Howie Reed   |
| title   | Waiting for Paplebon: the Josh Beckett Story                     |
| publisher   | Tug-Glenallen  |
| year of original publication                      | 2011   |
| format [hc, pb, ebook]                            | ebook  |
| URL where book can be purchased                   | <a href="http://www.Tug-Glenallen.com">www.Tug-Glenallen.com</a> |



## New Members

If you joined SABR or moved to the Pacific Northwest in the past couple of years, please accept our apology for not formally welcoming you to the chapter. The national office no longer sends lists of new members to chapter leaders, so we don't know about you. We are pleased that you joined and we look forward to meeting you at a meeting. If you'd like to introduce yourself to members, we'd be delighted. You may find local members with common specific interests. Send this form to [Mark](#).

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| new member           |  |
| city of residence    |  |
| favorite team        |  |
| particular interests |  |
| phone (optional)     |  |
| e-mail (optional)    |  |

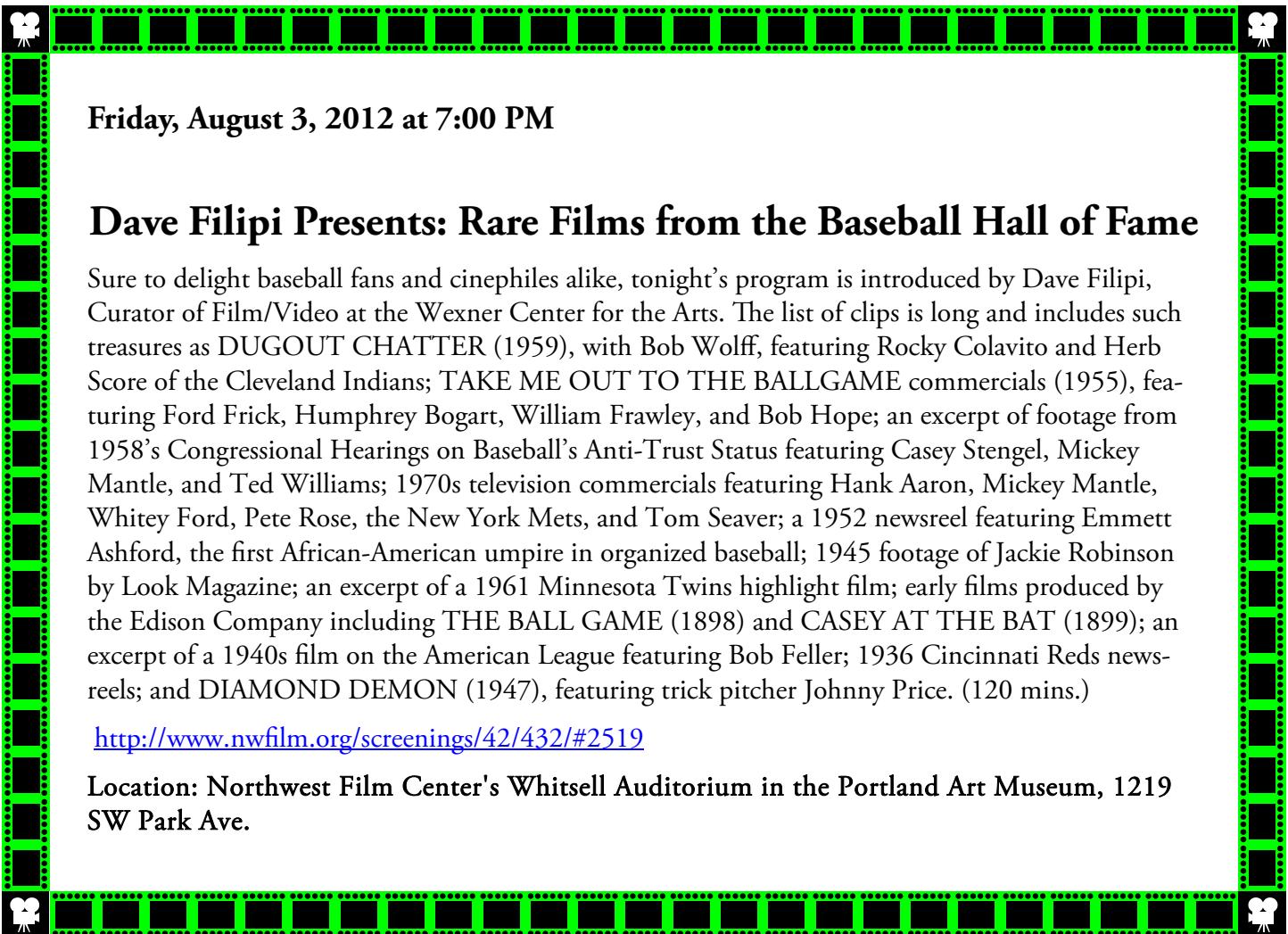
Sample:

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| new member           | Wally "Woolley" Joyner                                   |
| city of residence    | Sedro Woolley  |
| favorite team        | Sedro Woolley Bullies                                    |
| particular interests | PCL in the 1930s, APBA                                   |
| phone (optional)     |  |
| e-mail (optional)    | <a href="mailto:letsplay2@ghc.org">letsplay2@ghc.org</a> |

If you'd rather not be listed on the Web site, you can introduce yourself privately to [John Henshell](#) and [Rick Solomon](#).



Unedited press release:



**Friday, August 3, 2012 at 7:00 PM**

## **Dave Filipi Presents: Rare Films from the Baseball Hall of Fame**

Sure to delight baseball fans and cinephiles alike, tonight's program is introduced by Dave Filipi, Curator of Film/Video at the Wexner Center for the Arts. The list of clips is long and includes such treasures as DUGOUT CHATTER (1959), with Bob Wolff, featuring Rocky Colavito and Herb Score of the Cleveland Indians; TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME commercials (1955), featuring Ford Frick, Humphrey Bogart, William Frawley, and Bob Hope; an excerpt of footage from 1958's Congressional Hearings on Baseball's Anti-Trust Status featuring Casey Stengel, Mickey Mantle, and Ted Williams; 1970s television commercials featuring Hank Aaron, Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford, Pete Rose, the New York Mets, and Tom Seaver; a 1952 newsreel featuring Emmett Ashford, the first African-American umpire in organized baseball; 1945 footage of Jackie Robinson by Look Magazine; an excerpt of a 1961 Minnesota Twins highlight film; early films produced by the Edison Company including THE BALL GAME (1898) and CASEY AT THE BAT (1899); an excerpt of a 1940s film on the American League featuring Bob Feller; 1936 Cincinnati Reds newsreels; and DIAMOND DEMON (1947), featuring trick pitcher Johnny Price. (120 mins.)

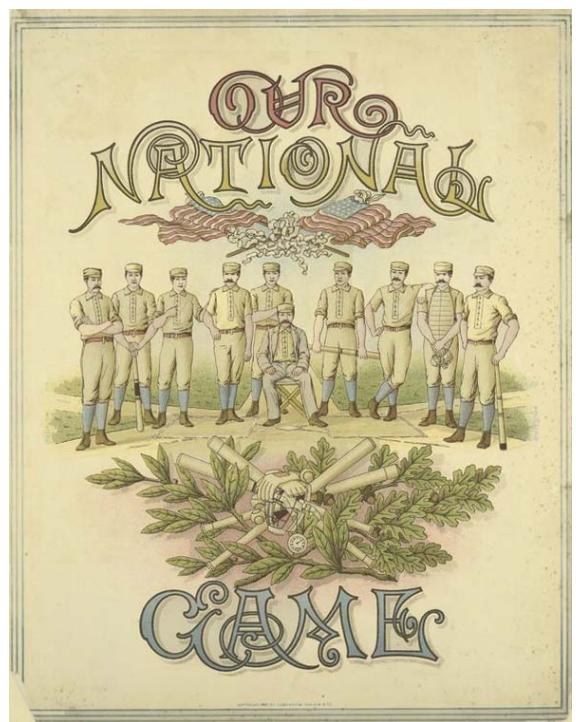
<http://www.nwfilm.org/screenings/42/432/#2519>

**Location: Northwest Film Center's Whitsell Auditorium in the Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park Ave.**

## **Free Tickets**

I have four free tickets for this film event. I agonized over the fairest way to give them away. I thought of giving them to people who have served the chapter in some way, but that would apply to few enough people in the Portland area that I would practically be earmarking the tickets. I thought of asking baseball trivia questions, but the answers could be researched even if I used pictures.

I decided that members who have shown some interest in the chapter are most deserving. You are eligible if you have attended a meeting in Portland in the past three years. [E-mail me](#) with your mailing address. The first four members to respond will get one ticket each. You can buy additional tickets if you wish to bring someone else. Adult tickets are \$10. Seniors, students, and children pay a little less.



# Name That Tune baseball trivia quiz

All songs are well known and more than 35 years old.

SAMPLE. Doug Melvin told the other GM, “I’m not making that trade unless you take on our RF’s salary.”

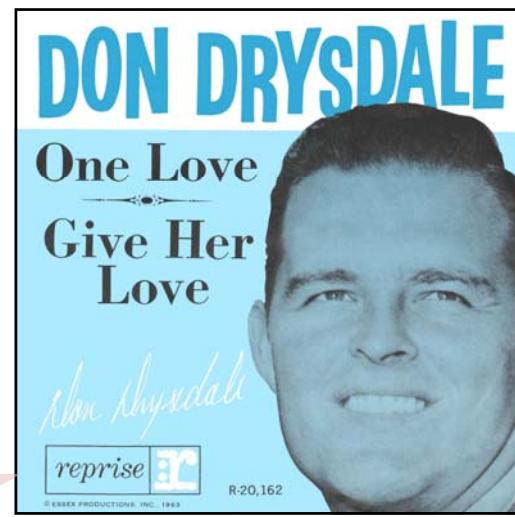
ANSWER. “You’ve Gotta Have Heart [Hart]”

1. When the NL’s top base-stealer of the past few seasons get on, you can expect...
2. 1960s Braves CF who was good at cutting down baserunners
3. The first player ever taken in the MLB draft, a Dodger announcer
4. Nellie stealing second
5. Attending a game at Comiskey in 1959
6. Smoky Joe only won 117 games or Wilbur was barely over .500
7. ABBmania
8. “I said, ‘You bring him in and I’ll approve of his, the transfer of his contract from Montreal to Brooklyn.’ And I did, and *I was the only one that could have done it*. And I said to Mr. Rickey, ‘If Landis were commissioner you wouldn’t go to see him because he wouldn’t let you.’”
9. Clause that says Sabathia gets a bonus for making the All-Star team?
10. When Rocker referred to a teammate as a “fat monkey,” he meant me
11. Especially the Boones, the Bells, the Alous, the DiMaggios, and the Hairstons
12. Willard Marshall doubles. Mize easily scores from third.
13. He could do a split at first base, helping him to win Gold Glove awards in the full seasons from 1992 to 1996
14. A Charlie Finley innovation

**Harder ones, but Mel Harder isn’t in any of the clues or answers**

15. Common locations for Ryne Duren’s fast-balls when crossing the plate.
16. Gene Conley or Darryl Motley
17. Moneyball philosophy, according to Dusty Baker and others
18. Adam is too skinny?

Answers on page 11





## The Bears Market

*The Yakima Bears are moving to Hillsboro next year.*

For a growth area, the Pacific Northwest has a shocking history of cities losing professional sports teams to greener markets. Our only MLB city lost its first team. Seattle and Vancouver lost NBA teams in the past dozen years. Many of our cities have lost minor league teams as well. Portland lost two AAA teams in the past 17 years.

When Joe Buzas moved the Portland franchise to Salt Lake City in 1995, the Cains capitalized on the open, larger market by moving the NW League Rockies from Bend to Portland. Many people in Portland who embraced having a pro team were nonetheless saddened that Bend lost its team. Some of the cities that have regained teams have downgraded from AAA to A ball.

These scenarios are repeating with the move of the Yakima team to Hillsboro. Hillsboro is the county seat here in Washington County. Hillsboro and Beaverton each have official populations of about 90,000, but both cities are surrounded by massive urban unincorporated areas that make their de facto populations more than twice as high. As an example of that, the Beaverton School District, which serves the greater Beaverton area, is the second largest in Oregon. Metro, the regional government that serves Washington, Clackamas, and Multnomah counties, projects that Washington County will have the largest population of the three within the lifetimes of most of us.

The Yakima Bears organization wasn't just looking for a bigger market. It wanted Yakima County Stadium renovated or a new stadium. Our Yakima and other central Washington members may know better, but based on what I've read, this wasn't as bad as the usual situation of team owners demanding a new stadium at taxpayer expense with the threat of moving. Also, attendance in Yakima was declining, and the team drew the least number of fans in the Northwest League for the last seven years.

K.L. Wombacher, the Bears GM, has said the team will pay off the remaining lease for Yakima County Stadium. That indicates the team believes the move will be very lucrative. Wombacher is just 33, but has held his job for eight years.

*continued on next page*

Here is a speculative overview of potential or definite winners and losers created by the move.

## Winners

- ◆ Hillsboro residents. The people of Hillsboro get a team and a new ballpark without a tax increase. The park will have additional uses. Some Hillsboro residents will get part-time work.
- ◆ Beaverton residents. The deal worked out between the city of Beaverton and the Portland Beavers included a new ballpark that would have required a tax increase. Beaverton residents now have the benefit of nearby pro ball without penalty, although the quality of play is considerably lower than it is in AAA.
- ◆ Aloha area residents. People living in urban unincorporated Washington County benefit from many city service upgrades without paying for them.
- ◆ Hillsboro restaurants and Fred Meyer. The Oregon media and many residents of the state's largest urban area fail to understand this, but Portland is a suburb as well as an urban center. Thousands of people still commute from Tigard, Beaverton, and Hillsboro to Portland. As anyone who has ever parked on the Sunset Highway (26) during rush hour can tell, traffic is now equally not moving in both directions. Thousands of Portland residents commute to the Silicon Forest to work for Intel, Nike, LSI, and other companies. Many of them will eat at Hillsboro restaurants between work and ballgames. Many will also shop at the Fred Meyer that's practically next to the ballpark.
- ◆ The Northwest League. Visiting teams get the benefits of higher attendance and a nice new stadium. Hillsboro is closer to the I-5 corridor than Yakima, which may save most teams some money.
- ◆ The Oregon Democratic Party? The artist's depiction shows the name "Hillsboro Baseball Stadium," but it will be called something else. Hillsboro and the team will share income from the sale of naming rights for the ballpark. A large company with headquarters or major operations in the Silicon Forest will most likely sponsor the stadium. It won't be Reser's Fine Foods, as the Reser name is already attached to a stadium at OSU. It could be a technology company, but most are headquartered elsewhere, and most engage in business-to-business sales, rather than business-to-consumer sales. That leaves Nike and Columbia Sportswear as obvious candidates. If either company chooses to pay for the naming rights, the money would come from an advertising or other discretionary spending budget. Perhaps that would mean less spending on Republican candidates or ballot measures typically favored by Republicans.



*This is one employee who will be losing a job. The team nickname may change next year, too.*

## Losers

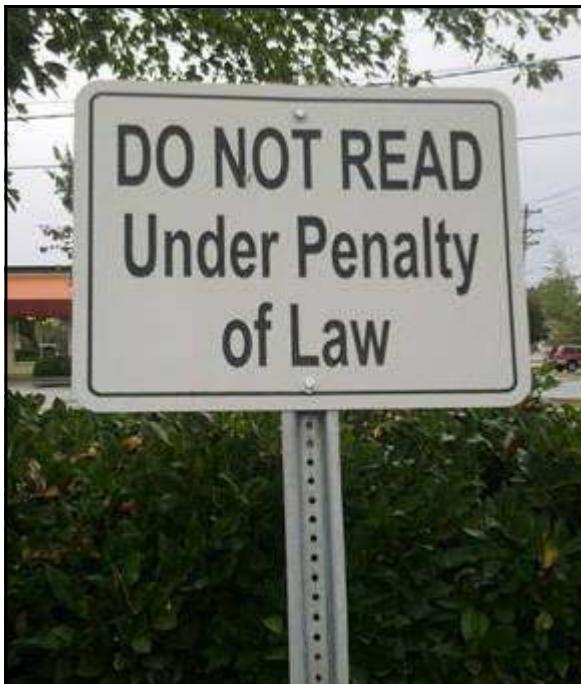
- ◆ Yakima and central Washington fans. They lose a team. It isn't their fault, and they live a long way from pro ball.
- ◆ Milwaukie government and possibly residents. Milwaukie was also trying to attract the Bears. The investment in honey may still pay off, as Milwaukie has refocused on trying to get another Northwest League team to move.
- ◆ The Yakima fairgrounds. The president says the association will lose about \$50,000 per year without the parking and concessions income from the Bears.
- ◆ Sports fans everywhere who don't like to see teams move. The subplot of the recent NBA finals was the ire fans felt for one or both teams. People despised Miami because of the obnoxiousness of LeBron James or the player conspiracy to create a super team. In spite of that, several articles said that the majority of people in Seattle were rooting against Oklahoma City, and many people throughout the country were sympathetic to their cause.
- ◆ Eastside Portland residents. Unless Milwaukie gets a team, most people who live east of the Willamette River won't easily be able to get to a game. The light rail line is nearly two miles south of the Hillsboro stadium location. Although the stadium is conveniently located right by Highway 26, it's probably at least half-an-hour from downtown Portland during the 6:00 to 7:00 hour.
- ◆ Baseball purists who don't like the hydroplane races at Safeco Field. Wombacher told the *Oregonian*, "We want to make sure we provide a top-of-the-line fan experience, the social aspect of the ballpark. Baseball is almost secondary. It's going to be about the experience of people coming out, than just watching a baseball game."

## Winners and Losers

- ◆ Portland. City leaders should be embarrassed that one or two smaller cities in Portland's urban area will have teams and it won't. For Portland residents in general, a team in Hillsboro is a mixed blessing. A team in Milwaukie would be more convenient for most, and Vancouver, Washington would be closer for many.
- ◆ The Salem-Keizer Volcanoes. Team attendance will probably decline a bit, but that may be offset by the benefits.
- ◆ Vancouver, Washington. Vancouver was also interested in attracting a Northwest League team. As with the prospective move of the Portland Beavers to Beaverton, it wasn't practical. The proposed location was controversial, and Vancouver has been hardest hit by the recession of any of the larger cities in the area.
- ◆ Merritt Paulson/The Timbers. A rookie-league team in Hillsboro doesn't get Paulson off the hook for letting Portland's AAA team go, but others may disagree with me. His soccer team may suffer a slight decline in attendance. Media attention may be divided.
- ◆ People who want to see major league baseball in Portland. Each development in recent years has moved Portland further away from this ever happening. However, with no team in the urban area, Portland wouldn't have a chance. Financially successful teams in Hillsboro and Milwaukie— if that happens— might help. For many years, I've believed that major league baseball would be more successful long-term in Hillsboro than in Portland. An A-ball team in Hillsboro is the first step in learning more about the potential for either eventual possibility.



*The Bears will soon be headed off into the sunset and down the Sunset Highway. The news is sad for more than just Yakima residents, although a greater number of our members will be closer to a city with pro ball.*

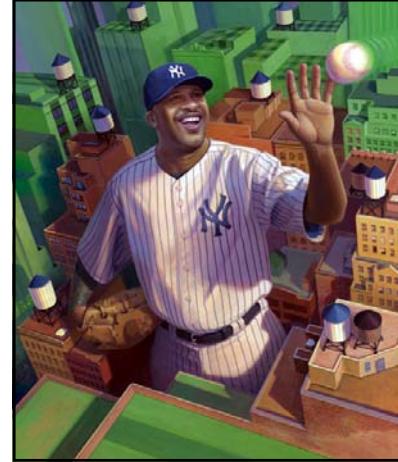


## All You Can Get from SABR

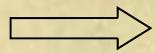
If you aren't maximizing the value of your SABR membership, download the [New Member Handbook](#) from the SABR Web site. While new members may be the target audience, this pdf publication is very helpful for anyone who isn't familiar with *all* of SABR's resources or how to access them on the new Web site. For example, many veteran members don't know how to access the membership directory. The ability to contact all SABR members is as valuable as any SABR resource, and the New Member Handbook tells you how. It also explains SABRNation, online research tools, the publications program, how to join SABR-L and research committees, and who to contact for what in the national office. Most of these resources are free for members.

## Name That Tune answers

1. When the NL's top base-stealer of the past few seasons get on, you can expect...  
“Born [Bourn] to Run”
2. 1960s Braves CF who was good at cutting down baserunners  
“Mack [Jones] the Knife”
3. The first player ever taken in the MLB draft, a Dodger announcer  
“Monday, Monday”
4. Nellie stealing second  
“Fox on the Run”
5. Attending a game at Comiskey in 1959  
“Going to a Go-Go”
6. Smoky Joe only won 117 games or Wilbur was barely over .500  
“Knock on Wood”
7. ABBAmania  
“Fernando”
8. “I said, ‘You bring him in and I’ll approve of his, the transfer of his contract from Montreal to Brooklyn.’ And I did, and *I was the only one that could have done it*. And I said to Mr. Rickey, ‘If Landis were commissioner you wouldn’t go to see him because he wouldn’t let you.’”  
“If You’re Happy and You Know It”
9. Clause that says Sabathia gets a bonus for making the All-Star team?  
“C.C. Rider”
10. When Rocker referred to a teammate as a “fat monkey,” he meant me.  
“Simon Says”
11. Especially the Boones, the Bells, the Alous, the DiMaggios, and the Hairstons  
“Family Affair”
12. Willard Marshall doubles. Mize easily scores from third.  
“When Johnny Comes Marching Home”
13. He could do a split at first base, helping him to win Gold Glove awards in the full seasons from 1992 to 1996  
“Amazing Grace”
14. A Charlie Finley innovation  
“Greensleeves”
15. Common locations for Ryne Duren’s fastballs when crossing the plate.  
“Up, Up, and Away”
16. Gene Conley or Darryl Motley  
“Okie from Muskogee”
17. Moneyball philosophy, according to Dusty Baker and others  
“Walk, Don’t Run”
18. Adam is too skinny?  
“Ballad of a Thin Man (Mr. Jones)”



Contact us:

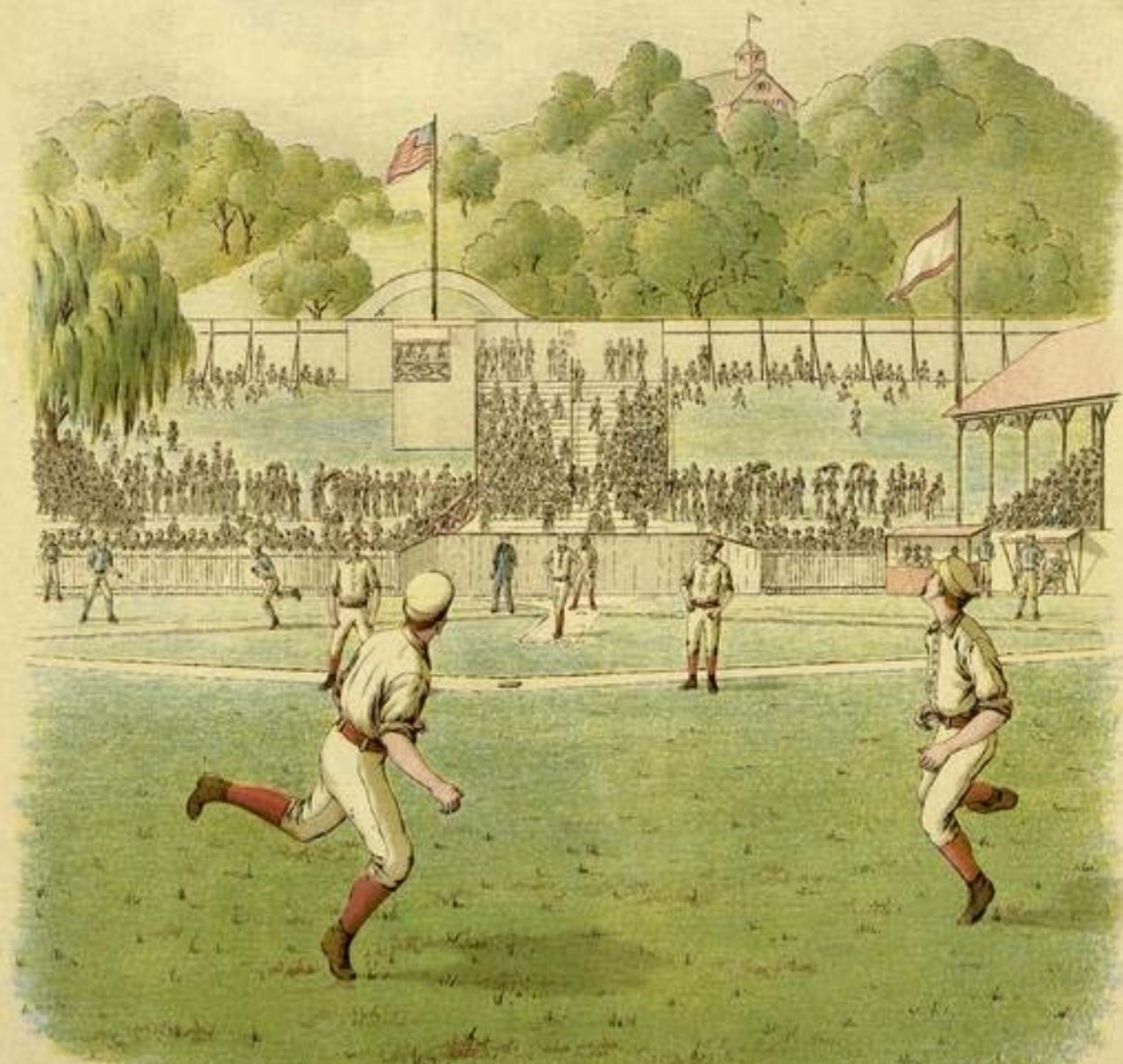


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Beaverton, President

[Mark Brunke](#)  
Seattle, Secretary

[Rick Solomon](#)  
Seattle, Vice President

[Tim Herlich](#)  
Seattle, Treasurer



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