

The Casey Stengel Chapter Newsletter

The Lineup		
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The Casey Stengel Chapter sends its members this newsletter to keep them informed of news, events, and subjects of special interest to its membership. We post each issue on our chapter website <https://sabrny.org/> and we ask members to submit news and events as well as short pieces of special interest to our chapter.

Thank you!

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Willie Mays, Remembered:
Tributes from the NYGPS



On the New York Giants Preservation Society <https://newyorkgiantspreservationsociety.com/> is a page titled THIS DATE IN NY GIANTS HISTORY with a calendar you can click on. On June 19th (the day after Willie Mays died), the retired San Francisco *Chronicle* Giants writer Chris Haft posted #24: THE PASSING OF THE SAY HEY KID and the current SF *Chronicle* Giants writer John Shea posted WILLIE MAYS, SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS LEGEND AND MLB ALL-TIME GREAT, IS DEAD. Both pieces can be read here <https://newyorkgiantspreservationsociety.com/?m=20240619>.

Casey Stengel Chapter member Gary Mintz, the founder of the NYGPS, has a Facebook page that created a digital space for memories of Willie Mays. <https://www.facebook.com/people/New-York-Giants-Preservation-Society-BASEBALL/100043575017622/>

At <https://www.youtube.com/@NYGiantsPreservationSociety/videos> are a myriad of videos like these which also celebrated the life and career of Willie Mays:

SAY HEY WILLIE MAYS APPRECIATION DAY (recorded 1/31/24)



This tie-in with the San Francisco Giants and Adam Swig (whose idea it was to celebrate Willie Mays Day on 2/4/24 with many events) was packed with people for 3+ hours, sharing thoughts and appreciation for Mays.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAqVAJ3Vr_k&ab_channel=NewYorkGiantsPreservationSociety

THE NY GIANTS PRESERVATION SOCIETY HONORS WILLIE MAYS with a VIDEO BIRTHDAY CARD for his upcoming 93rd Birthday on MAY 6



(recorded 4/25/2024)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYhGBmsmagU&ab_channel=NewYorkGiantsPreservationSociety

NYGPS MOURNS THE PASSING OF WILLIE MAYS - NEW YORK GIANTS PRESERVATION SOCIETY - 6/18/2024
(recorded 6/18/24)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcoGnavlwNM&ab_channel=NewYorkGiantsPreservationSociety

More Mays Memories, Tributes, and Online Videos are on pages 13-14.

June Highlight: The Oral History Research Committee

SABR's 35 committees enrich our knowledge and provide a place to show what we love about baseball. This month, we are highlighting the Oral History Research Committee <https://sabr.org/oralhistory> whose Chair is John McMurray. You can contact John at sabroralhistorycommittee@gmail.com if you want to conduct an interview. The Oral History Committee (OHC) has a wealth of information about how to interview someone <https://sabr.org/oral-history-interview-guidelines> and some actual questions are listed at the end of this article.

Would you believe that the SABR Oral History Collection includes more than 500 audio files of interviews conducted with “ballplayers (Major Leagues, Minor Leagues, Negro Leagues, AAGPBL), executives, scouts, authors, writers, broadcasters,” and other historically significant people? Many files have been digitized through a collaboration with the National Baseball Hall of Fame Library and Museum and some of them were recorded as far back as 1960!

As you listen to the stories included below, you will notice that many SABR members have complemented the Oral History interviews with that person's biography for the SABR BioProject. This idea of SABR committees working together gives us a fuller picture of people who were interviewed. It also illuminates more completely the effect that the interviewee has had in history.

The interviews and transcripts in SABR's Oral History Collection are available for research and general listening but they “may **not** be used for commercial purposes — in whole or in part — without the express written consent of the Society for American Baseball Research.”

All of the pictures shown here are from the Oral History Committee website. Within the treasure trove housed on the OHC website are dozens of New York Baseball-related interviews and this newsletter will be including many in each issue.

As of 7/1/24, here are approximate interviews:

[37 Brooklyn/LA Dodgers](#)

[41 New York/SF Giants](#)

[31 New York Mets](#)

[90 New York Yankees](#)

Since 1986, the SABR Oral History Committee has been preserving the historical record and recollections of baseball history. Not only does the OHC have the “most comprehensive account of a player’s career in existence” but these primary sources supplement those in baseball who have never been recorded. For example, if the OHC has no audio files with Willie Mays, its archives can still be used to add to our knowledge. Many of the interviews below are players who were teammates or peers of Willie Mays.

Bobby Thomson <https://sabr.org/interview/bobby-thomson-1993/>



Interviewee: Thomson, Bobby
Interview Date: 9/26/1993
Interviewer: Harris, Tom
Duration: 1:01:20
Size: 23.5 MB
2 Parts

Go here to read the SABR biography of Bobby Thomson
<https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/Bobby-Thomson/>

There is also a 16-page PDF transcript of the interview on the same OHC page.

Monte Irvin

<https://sabr.org/interview/monte-irvin-unknown/>

Interviewee: Irvin, Monte
Interview Date:
Interviewer: Frommer, Harvey
Duration: 0:42:03
Size: 38.4 MB



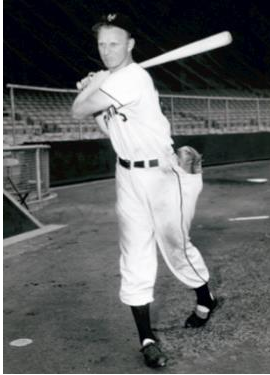
The biography is available for Irvin’s stand-alone 42-minute audio interview by Harvey Frommer as well as for an additional 9-part audio interview of 2+ hours by Fay Vincent
<https://sabr.org/interview/monte-irvin-2002/>

Go here to read the SABR biography of Monte Irvin:

<https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/Monte-Irvin/>

There is also a 7-page PDF transcript of the Monte Irvin interview on the same OHC page.

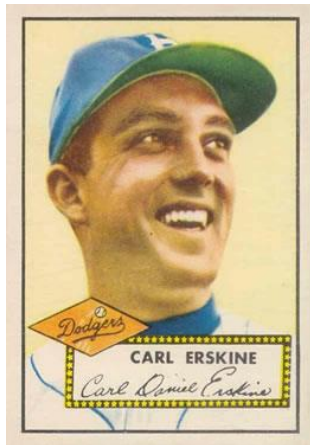
Whitey Lockman <https://sabr.org/interview/whitey-lockman-1973/>



Interviewee: Lockman, Whitey
Interview Date: 5/18/1973
Interviewer: Crissey, Kit
Duration: 0:35:44
Size: 13.8 MB

Go here to read the SABR biography of Whitey Lockman:
<https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/Whitey-Lockman/>

Carl Erskine <https://sabr.org/interview/carl-erskine-1987/>



Interviewee: Erskine, Carl
Interview Date: 5/8/1987
Interviewer: Langford, Walter
Duration: 1:13:11
Size: 28.1 MB

Go here to read the SABR biography of Carl Erskine:
<https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/Carl-Erskine/>

There is also a 28-page PDF transcript of the interview on the same OHC page.

Tom Lasorda <https://sabr.org/interview/tom-lasorda-2005/>

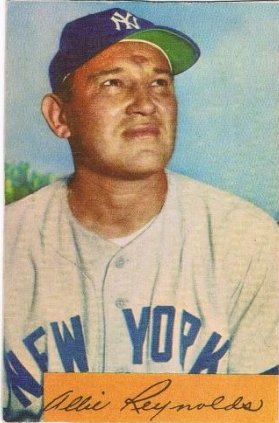
Interviewee: Lasorda, Tom
Interview Date: 2005-11-12
Interviewer: Baldassaro, Lawrence
Duration: 0:09:20
Size: 6.3 MB

Go here to read the SABR biography of Tom Lasorda:
<https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/tom-lasorda/>



Allie Reynolds

<https://sabr.org/interview/allie-reynolds-1992/>



Interviewee: Reynolds, Allie
Interview Date: 7/10/1992
Interviewer: Bergman, Irwin
Duration: 0:30:36
Size: 11.7 MB

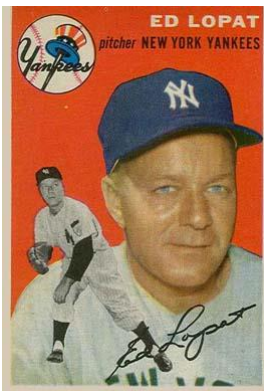
Go here to read the SABR biography of Allie Reynolds
<https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/Allie-Reynolds/>

A Sample of OHC Interview Guidelines

- Be well prepared. Research the interviewee's record, look for unusual stats, and any players or moments that you'd like to hear about.
- Check for a BioProject entry <https://sabr.org/bioproject> and visit <https://www.baseball-reference.com/> as well as Retrosheet <https://www.retrosheet.org/> and other websites.
- An updated version of *How to Do Baseball Research* is online at <https://sabr.org/how-to/updates>
- Avoid yes or no questions; instead ask how, what, and why.
- Be a careful listener by focusing on what the person is saying, not hurrying on to your next question. Unexpected revelations can often happen.
- Gently guide the speaker back to the topic if the digression is not producing interesting material.

Ed Lopat

<https://sabr.org/interview/ed-lopat-1973/>



Interviewee: Lopat, Ed
Interview Date: 7/7/1973
Interviewer: Crissey, Kit
Duration: 0:29:27
Size: 11.3 MB

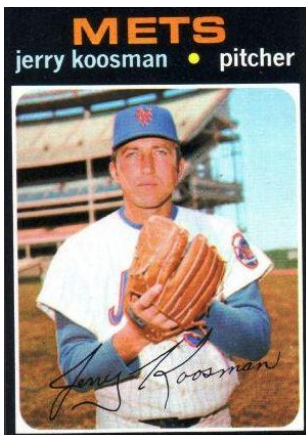
Go here to read the SABR biography of Ed Lopat:
<https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/Eddie-Lopat/>

Occasionally, only a transcript will be available after an interview, but the OHC provides every possible way to support interviewers who want their efforts to be memorable for others who will listen. This is encouraging:

If you are able, transcribe the interview as close to word for word as you can (focusing particularly on the interviewee's comments rather than your own) as soon after the interview as possible so that your memory is fresh. It's a time-consuming process, but it's a useful research tool for those who wish to benefit from the work you have provided. It is far better for the person who conducted the interview to transcribe it, but if for some reason you cannot do that, please let us know as soon as possible and we will try to find someone else to do it for you.

Here is an example:

Jerry Koosman <https://sabr.org/interview/jerry-koosman-2003/>



Interviewee: Koosman, Jerry

Interview Date: 2003

Interviewer: Liptak, Mark

Duration: TRANSCRIPT only (see below)

Go here to read the SABR biography of Jerry Koosman:

<https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/Jerry-Koosman/>

There is an 8-page PDF transcript of the interview on his OHC page.

More Suggestions for the Interviewer

- Don't settle for generalities; ask for incidents which illustrate the type of person a player or manager was. Jog their memory, mention names of players that you'd like to hear about.
- Ask to see scrapbooks, photos and memorabilia (if you're not meeting them at their home, ask if they would like to bring such materials when you arrange the interview).
- Ask about today's game and the players.

The home page of the Oral History Committee shows the most recent interviews, and some are **video recordings** (as well as the audio version) such as John McMurray's February 6, 2024 interview of the former New York Mets pitcher Jon Matlack. Enjoy hearing and seeing Matlack describe giving up the 3,000th hit to Roberto Clemente!

Jon Matlack

<https://sabr.org/interview/jon-matlack-2024/>



Interviewee: Matlack, Jon
Interview Date: 2024-02-06
Interviewer: McMurray, John
Duration: 1:07:35
Size: 92.8 MB

Go here to read the SABR biography of Jon Matlack:

<https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/jon-matlack/>

There is also a 18-page PDF transcript of the interview on the same OHC page.

Some of the OHC entries have played for *more than one NYC baseball team*, like Duke Snider who played for the Brooklyn (and LA) Dodgers, the Mets, and the SF Giants.

Duke Snider <https://sabr.org/interview/duke-snider-1962/>

Interviewee: Snider, Duke
Interview Date: 1962
Interviewer: Evans, Clifford
Duration: 08:43
Size: 12 MB

Go here to read the SABR biography of Duke Snider

<https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/duke-snider/>

Watch this recording as a video:

<https://sabr.app.box.com/s/dic9z4abzcldqtcqj8e3w6ffwvcw2vng>



Before you interview anyone, the OHC will help you choose the best recording technology to use at a surprisingly low cost. After your interview is done, thank the person and “tell them you will be in touch with a copy of the recording and of the transcript of the interview. Make them a CD unless they would prefer it in some other form.”

Ted ‘Double Duty’ Radcliffe <https://sabr.org/interview/ted-double-duty-radcliffe-2002/>



Interviewee: Radcliffe, Ted
Interview Date: 7/5/2002
Interviewer: Vincent, Fay
Duration: 1:11:34
Size: 177.6 MB

Go here to read the SABR biography of Ted ‘Double Duty’ Radcliffe: <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/ted-double-duty-radcliffe/>

Staying with the New York/Willie Mays themes, here are the last two OHC interviews for this issue. For Theodore Roosevelt Radcliffe, his nickname was Double Duty; for Mel Allen, according to Wikipedia (which has mostly SABR contributors and editors), he “became the Yankees' and Giants' lead announcer, doing double duty for both teams because only their home games were broadcast at that time.”

Mel Allen <https://sabr.org/interview/mel-allen-1962/>



Interviewee: Allen, Mel
Interview Date: 1962
Interviewer: Evans, Clifford
Duration: 21:30
Size: 29.5 MB

From the Clifford Evans Archive, used by permission of Gregory L. Peterson. Radio executive Evans conducted audio interviews of baseball players during spring training in the early 1960s.

Go here to read the SABR biography of Mel Allen <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/mel-allen/>

Watch this recording as a video: <https://sabr.app.box.com/s/7zk9ouf0zfizbyt8v9uvpvqjzfmtp737>

Are you ready to interview the 3 oldest living Hall of Famers now? Luis Aparicio, Sandy Koufax, and Bill Mazeroski are the oldest living Hall of Famers but there are other players still alive that you might interview. This handy question sheet is from the OHC:

Here is a list of some possible questions you might ask:

- How did you get started in baseball? Sandlot ball, American Legion, high school, etc.?
- What was your family life like as a kid? Where did you grow up? Where did you go to school?
- What did your family think about you playing professional baseball?
- What positions did you play growing up?
- How did you reach the majors?
- What was your favorite ballpark? Your least favorite? Why?
- What type of hitter/pitcher were you?
- Describe your hitting stance or pitching motion.
- How do you rate yourself as a hitter? Pitcher? Fielder? Runner?
- Who were the toughest pitchers/batters you faced?
- What umpires do you remember and why?
- Who influenced you the most? Which managers, coaches, teammates, opponents?
- Who were your favorite ballplayers when you were a kid? When you played?
- Who were the colorful characters on your team?
- What was the travel and road life like? What were the off-field benefits of being a ballplayer?
What were the off-field detriments?
- What did you do during the offseason? What did you do after your playing career?
- How did you get along with managers? Executives? The Press? The Fans?
- What were some of your most memorable games? Events within games?
- What was the worst game you played?
- What season do you remember the best?
- How did you know that you reached the end of your baseball career?
- Tell me about (a famous play, a notorious incident, etc.)

At <https://sabr.org/research/oral-history-research-committee/> you can see how to follow the Oral History Committee on X/Twitter, find past committee newsletters, and get emailed announcements. Special thanks to the Oral History Committee for the information, graphics, and recordings for us all to appreciate: John McMurray (Chair), C. Paul Rogers (Vice Chair), Mark Pattison (Vice Chair), Patrick Montgomery (Membership Recruitment Coordinator), and Skylar Browning (Social Media Coordinator).

Living Players from NYC Teams

Would you consider interviewing a living player who long ago played for your favorite New York City team? Here are some gents who might like the idea. It does not matter if they have previously been interviewed. In fact, many players have been interviewed on 3 occasions, as Duke Snider has been, in 1962, 1984, and 2002. Bob Turley has been interviewed **four** times: in 1989, 1992, 2002, and 2003. Some people like to share and feel more comfortable when they do it more than once! 😊

Living Brooklyn Dodgers

Tommy Brown	December 6, 1927
Fred Kipp	October 1, 1931
Jim Gentile	June 3, 1934
Sandy Koufax	December 30, 1935
Bob Aspromonte	June 19, 1938

Living NY Giants

Al Worthington	February 5, 1929
Joe Margoneri	January 13, 1930
Ray Crone	August 7, 1931
Ozzie Virgil, Sr.	May 17, 1932
Joey Amalfitano	January 23, 1934
Bill White	January 28, 1934
Jackie Brandt	April 28, 1934

Living NY Mets

Rufus James (Jim) Marshall	May 25, 1931
George Lee Altman	March 20, 1933
Felix Lamela Mantilla	July 29, 1934
John Stephen DeMerit	January 8, 1936
Galen Bernard Cisco	March 7, 1936
Jimmie Ronald Schaffer	April 5, 1936
Wayne Leon Graham	April 6, 1936
Raymond Clifford (Cliff) Cook	August 20, 1936
Richard Franklin (Rick) Herrscher	November 3, 1936
James Wesley (Jay) Hook	November 18, 1936
David Louis (Dave) Eilers	December 3, 1936
Joseph Clifton (J.C.) Martin	December 13, 1936
Larry Allen Burright	July 10, 1937
Ronald Wesley (Ron) Taylor	December 13, 1937
Thomas William (Tim) Harkness	December 23, 1937
Robert Francis (Bobby) Klaus	December 27, 1937
Charles Leonard (Chuck) Estrada	February 15, 1938
Lawrence Lee (Larry) Elliot	March 5, 1938
Albert John (Al) Weis	April 2, 1938
Robert Thomas (Bob) Aspromonte	June 19, 1938
Norman Craig Anderson	July 1, 1938
Gordon Clark (Gordie) Richardson	July 19, 1938
Billy Rolland Cowan	August 28, 1938
Richard Alan (Al) Moran	December 5, 1938
Amado Ruperto Samuel	December 6, 1938
John Howard (Jack) Fisher	March 4, 1939
Charles Robert (Bob) Hendley	April 30, 1939
Thomas Anthony (Tom) Parsons	September 13, 1939
Louis Stephen (Lou) Klimchok	October 15, 1939

Living NY Yankees


*Art Schallock	April 25, 1924
Bobby Shantz	September 26, 1925
Billy Hunter	June 4, 1928
Zach Monroe	July 8, 1931
Fred Kipp	October 1, 1931
Gary Blaylock	October 11, 1931
Bud Daley	October 7, 1932
Johnny James	July 23, 1933
Rocky Colavito	August 10, 1933
Pedro Ramos	April 28, 1935
Felipe Alou	May 12, 1935
Bobby Richardson	August 19, 1935
Tony Kubek	October 2, 1935
Rollie Sheldon	December 17, 1936
Art Lopez	May 8, 1937
Hal Stowe	August 29, 1937
Ron Hansen	April 5, 1938
Billy Cowan	August 28, 1938
Jake Gibbs	November 7, 1938
Jim Kaat	November 7, 1938
Billy Bryan	December 4, 1938
Bernie Allen	April 16, 1939
Bob Meyer	August 4, 1939
Dooley Womack	August 25, 1939
Jack Cullen	October 06, 1939

*** Schallock is the oldest living former player.
He became 100 on 4/25/24.**

Each player was born before 1940.

You can find out which players from your favorite teams are still alive by going to Sean Forman's Baseball-Reference website and typing in "list of living New York Giants players" or just google "List of living New York Giants players - BR Bullpen"

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

At Baseball Almanac, the list of the 1,000 oldest living (former) players actually has icons of envelopes  that open up when they are clicked to reveal the snail mail address of each player! https://www.baseball-almanac.com/players/Oldest_Living_Baseball_Players.php

Area Reports – The Boroughs & Beyond

M. Frank's Column –WHITE PLAINS



The last chapter newsletter called for possibly group meetings at different parts of the NY Metropolitan area. There's already one such group which has been going on for some time.

In White Plains, we meet at 12:00 noon for lunch, the second Wednesday of each month, at the Cheesecake Factory, off Bloomingdale Road. It's pretty informal. There are many Yankee fans, with me the lone backer of the Cleveland Guardians. There's even a Mets fan.

We've evolved over time from meeting in a mall to a library and perhaps other places, but we've been at Cheesecake for several years. We've had some guest speakers in the library, but that was in the evenings.

Among our regulars are: a major fact checker for SABR; one who always researches what comes up in conversation; one who makes up the trivia quiz for the chapter; one who's very involved in the Alzheimer's project. I've noticed that some watch the current games very carefully.

This is open to SABR members who can get to White Plains at lunchtime. If you want to make sure it's on, e-mail me at mfrankfsa@yahoo.com.

Or call Ken Matinale or Cliff Blau if you know them.

Willie Mays, Online

There are sundry tributes to Willie Mays all over the internet and on social media that demonstrate the supreme heights to which Mays rose. For many of us who search past the statistics and lore, who enjoy watching Mays during his TV appearances, in documentaries, on talk shows and intriguing audiocasts and videocasts, these below are some online views.

One of the very best shows is this Warner Wolf interview of **Mickey Mantle, Duke Snider, and Willie Mays**. It includes a clip at the end of Terry Cashman's Willie, Mickey and the Duke. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFJeMxzsZcE&ab_channel=WarnerWolf%27sGreatestInterviews

This is the **1954 Catch** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bLt2xKaNH0&ab_channel=MLB and THIS is the **2-minute breakdown** of that 1954 World Series Catch at the Polo Grounds. It is spectacular and shows how 3/10th of a second could have cost Mays the catch entirely. Wow! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTSGIy8HXnc&ab_channel=ESPNMLB

What's My Line (Scroll to the 17-minute mark for a 5-minute segment)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoQOIf7utlY&ab_channel=What%27sMyLine%3F

A Man Named Mays https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YgRLuvfblg&ab_channel=GalenWathen

Say Hey, Willie Mays! <https://www.hbo.com/movies/say-hey-willie-mays>

Willie Mays appeared in three episodes of The Donna Reed Show: "My Son the Catcher" (Season 6, Episode 31); "Play Ball" (Season 7, Episode 3); and "Calling Willie Mays" (Season 8, Episode 20). Donna Reed Show (at 4-minute mark)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbxN5weVT_Q&ab_channel=MattWest
https://catalog.archives.gov/id/239939353?utm_campaign=PlayBall6-27-2024&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter

In Bewitched https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVlqcDJV9Do&ab_channel=FETV

For more appearances and voice-overs, go to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willie_Mays

Gary Mintz giantsguru@gmail.com shared an email he got from John Shea of the San Francisco *Chronicle* who included this photo (right) of the recent “WILLIE MAYS POPUP EXHIBIT ACROSS FROM ORACLE PARK.” Gary also devoted a 25-page issue of *The Polo Grounder* to Willie Mays and showed us this impressive Thank You letter from the Say Hey Foundation:



Gary,

Happy “24” to you!

We don’t know how we can possibly adequately express the appreciation and gratitude that overwhelmed us upon opening your “surprise” package. What a wonderful, heartfelt and authentic tribute. You could not have done anything that thrilled us more. When we opened your package on Monday, March 4th; only a month after “Willie Mays Day” in San Francisco, we were blown away.

This letter is being typed by me, Rene Anderson, Board member of the “Say Hey Foundation,” with the verbal instruction from Willie himself. We’ve both had a hard time trying to think of the best things to say. Since we all understand what it means to be part of a team, maybe our team analogy will serve us best:

The membership for the NY Giants Preservation Society is made up of folks from all over the country. Your team has been assembled miraculously from distant sources. How was that possible? It was possible because you’ve been drawn together by your love for baseball, New York City, the history of the NY Giants and your respect and love for Willie Mays. Your gift is also a tribute to all of your members and their efforts to preserve a legacy. You guys are all winners in Willie’s book!

Willie says, “These people are helping me with my foundation. This isn’t even my birthday. It’s a wonderful thing. That’s pretty good!!” And, that last line is his highest praise. He doesn’t pontificate. He just calls it as he sees it. What you all did was indeed, “PRETTY GOOD!”

We are so thrilled by your thoughtfulness, generosity and sense of fun. The celebration was a spur of the moment concoction that was picked up by our good friend, Adam Swig, who ran with it. Adam carried it every step of the way, even after it not only caught on, but also exploded into a sensational appreciation for Willie.

Willie kept asking us, “What do I need to do? What is my job on 2-4-24?” We told him to, “Just keep being Willie Mays. Nothing else required.” I wish I had a photo of the grin that spread over his face. It was priceless.

You have all done a magnificent thing for a most-deserving fellow. Your tribute has made a difference, and he is grateful. (Me too Gary)

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Sincerely,

Rene