

# The Casey Stengel Chapter Newsletter

## The Lineup

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**NOTE:** This month's newsletter is devoted to the BioProject Committee and the Biography Project but to clarify, we are *not yet* focusing on the Biographical Research Committee, which "collects birth and death data, as well as other vital statistics, on the more than 20,000 players and managers to appear in the major leagues since 1871" and which was an original 1971 SABR committee.

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## July Highlight: The BioProject Research Committee

SABR’s BioProject <https://sabr.org/bioproject> home page encourages you to “Browse the BioProject” which includes more than biographies of ballplayers.

This website has a big “Welcome!” for readers, stating that:

Bios on more than just ballplayers: The ambitious goal of the SABR Baseball Biography Project is to publish a full-life biography of every major league player in history. But SABR members write about a lot more than just ballplayers. In addition, we have pages for Ballparks, Broadcasters, Executives, Games, Managers, Scouts, Spouses, Umpires, Writers, people who were Famous Outside Baseball, and a lot more. You can browse all of these categories here. So, if you’ve ever thought, “Hey, that person (or ballpark) should get the full BioProject treatment” — write the story!

You can find any BioProject essay by typing a name (full name or surname) in the search box or scrolling down to browse through category pages. Here are those categories: Achievements; Awards & Honors; All-Stars; Completed Book Projects; Ongoing Group Projects; Demographic; and Birthplace.

### Achievements

300 Pitching Victories

3000 Hits

500 Home Runs

Batting Champions

Home Run Champions

Triple Crown winners

(batting)



Above, from L to R, batting Triple Crown winners Paul Hines (1878, the first Triple Crown winner), Oscar Charleston (1921, 1924, 1925) Rogers Hornsby (1922, 1925), and Ted Williams (1942, 1947).

The BioProject includes Negro Leagues bios: Biographical information from the Seamheads Negro Leagues Database <https://www.seamheads.com/NegroLgs/> appears courtesy of Agate Type Research LLC.

## Biographies: Recipients of Awards & Honors

### Awards & Honors

Bob Davids Award

Cy Young Award

\*Ford C. Frick Award

Hall of Fame

\*\*Henry Chadwick Award

Most Valuable Player

Rookie of the Year

\*\*\*BBWAA



Russ Hodges

Red Barber

Lindsey Nelson

Tim McCarver

\* Here <https://sabr.org/bioproj/category/awards-and-honors/ford-c-frick-award/> are the Ford C. Frick Award winners -- honoring excellence in baseball broadcasting -- who are known to fans of the Giants, Yankees, Dodgers, and Mets: Mel Allen, Red Barber, Russ Hodges, Tim McCarver, Lindsey Nelson, and Vin Scully among many others.

There are even biographies on the first popular broadcasters of baseball on the radio, like Graham McNamee and Arch McDonald. The writing pulls you into a world of announcers who had to re-enact the game when it was first broadcast, and every bio seems filled with intrigue during those competitive beginnings!

\*\* Henry Chadwick Award – If you love the history of baseball, then these six researchers – Lee Allen, Bob Davids, F. C. Lane, Ernie Lanigan (written by Fred Lieb for the 1973 BRJ), Bob McConnell, Allan Roth – will remind you “how to do it” <https://sabr.org/bioproj/category/awards-and-honors/henry-chadwick-award/>

\*\*\* The BBWAA (Baseball Writers’ Association of America) has fascinating biographies <https://sabr.org/bioproj/category/awards-and-honors/bbwaa-career-excellence/> of writers who achieved career excellence such as Roger Angell, Dan Daniel, John F. Kieran, and Walter “Red” Smith.

## The Completed Book Projects

The Baseball Biography Projects have made it so easy to delve into any favorite category and two prominent examples are the All-Stars and the Completed Book Projects. The All-Stars whom you can't wait to read about are organized by the decades from the 1930s through the 2010s. You will find links to their professional career statistics at both [www.Baseball-Reference.com](http://www.Baseball-Reference.com) and [www.Retrosheet.org](http://www.Retrosheet.org) as well as interviews, photographs, and other resources to broaden and deepen your knowledge about each subject.

The Completed Book Projects are also organized chronologically (see next page). There are three books which were "SABR member-produced biography books [that] predated and, in many ways, inspired what is now the BioProject":

**Deadball Stars: AL (Potomac Books, 2006)**

**Deadball Stars: NL (Brassey's Inc., 2004)**

**Green Mountain Boys (New England Books, 2000)**

Deadball Stars: NL (2004), edited by SABR's Tom Simon, included an article about Helene Britton (photo, right), the first woman in history to own a major league baseball club: the St. Louis Cardinals. With just one click, you can read it here: <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/helene-britton/>



All biographies are written by SABR members, have been peer-reviewed for style and accuracy, and are all free for a mere click or two. The biographies are "considered works in progress and will be updated as errors are discovered. All biographies on this site are jointly the property of SABR and the author."

## Teams: Completed Book Projects – **Find your team!**

- 1870s Boston Red Stockings (SABR, 2016)
- 1883 Philadelphia Athletics (SABR, 2022)
- 1890s Boston Beaneaters (SABR, 2019)
- 1901 Boston Americans (SABR, 2013)
- 1912 Boston Red Sox (SABR, 2012)
- 1914 Boston Braves (SABR, 2014)
- 1918 Boston Red Sox (SABR, 2018)
- 1919 Chicago White Sox (SABR, 2015)
- 1929 Chicago Cubs (SABR, 2015)
- 1934 Philadelphia Stars (SABR, 2023)
- 1934 St. Louis Cardinals (SABR, 2014)
- 1935 Detroit Tigers (SABR, 2014)
- 1935 Pittsburgh Crawfords (SABR, 2020)
- 1939 Baltimore Elite Giants (SABR, 2024)
- 1939 Boston Red Sox (Rounder Books, 2009)
- 1942 Kansas City Monarchs (SABR, 2021)
- 1946 Newark Eagles (SABR, 2019)
- 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2012)
- 1947 New York Yankees (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2013)
- 1948 Boston Braves/Red Sox (Rounder Books, 2008)
- 1948 Negro League World Series (SABR, 2017)
- 1950 Philadelphia Phillies (SABR, 2018)
- 1950s Boston Red Sox (SABR, 2012)
- 1951 New York Giants (SABR, 2015)
- 1954 Cleveland Indians (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2014)
- 1957 Milwaukee Braves (SABR, 2014)
- 1959 Chicago White Sox (SABR, 2019)
- 1960 Pittsburgh Pirates (SABR, 2013)
- 1964 St. Louis Cardinals (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2013)
- 1964 Philadelphia Phillies (SABR, 2013)
- 1965 Minnesota Twins (SABR, 2015)
- 1967 Boston Red Sox (SABR, 2017)
- 1968 Detroit Tigers (Maple Street Press, 2008)
- 1969 New York Mets (Maple Street Press, 2009)
- 1970 Baltimore Orioles (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2012)
- 1972 Texas Rangers (SABR, 2019)
- 1972-74 Oakland Athletics (SABR, 2015)
- 1975 Boston Red Sox (SABR, 2015)
- 1975 Cincinnati Reds (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2014)
- 1979 Pittsburgh Pirates (SABR, 2016)
- 1982 Milwaukee Brewers (SABR, 2020)
- 1984 Detroit Tigers (SABR, 2012)
- 1986 Boston Red Sox (SABR, 2016)
- 1986 New York Mets (SABR, 2016)
- 1992 Toronto Blue Jays (SABR, 2022)
- 1995 Atlanta Braves (SABR, 2020)
- 1995 Cleveland Indians (SABR, 2019)
- 2004 Boston Red Sox (SABR, 2024)



More Completed Books (photos of book covers are from books below in red)

Cuban Baseball Legends (SABR, 2016)

Dominicans in the Major Leagues (SABR, 2022)

Federal League (SABR, 2020)

From Spring Training to Screen Test (SABR, 2018)

Kansas City Royals 50th Anniversary (SABR, 2019)

Major League Baseball A Mile High (Colorado Rockies) (SABR, 2018)

Minnesotans in Baseball (Nodin Press, 2009)

No-Hitters (SABR, 2017)

Nuclear Powered Baseball/The Simpsons (SABR, 2016)

One-Hit Wonders (SABR, 2021)

One-Win Wonders (SABR, 2024)

Puerto Rico and Baseball (SABR, 2017)

San Diego Padres 50th Anniversary (SABR, 2019)

Scouts book: Can He Play? (SABR, 2011)

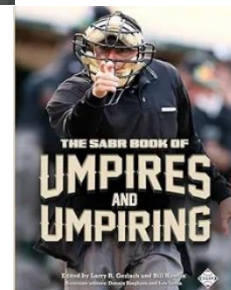
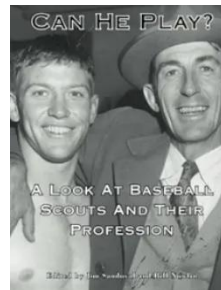
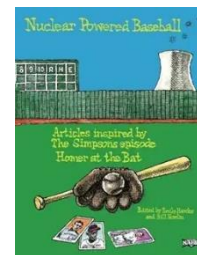
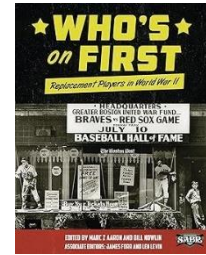
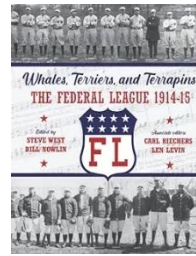
Time for Expansion Baseball (SABR, 2018)

Tony Conigliaro Award (SABR, 2017)

Umpires and Umpiring (SABR, 2017)

Van Lingle Mungo (SABR, 2014)

World War II replacement players (SABR, 2015)



The Baseball Biography Project strives to “enliven the people behind the statistical records that are so readily available. While doing so, the project will also encourage quality research and writing, *energize SABR’s regional chapters*, provide SABR with a large, unifying project, and provide tools and procedures to encourage research co-ordination.” This is why so many committees lead back to the BioProject Committee as you will see with the next three categories.

## Ongoing Group Projects

The Ongoing Group Projects lists the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League and the MLB team ownership histories as two of the ongoing collaborations that the BioProject undertakes and shares its BioProject Resources. We saw this in the last issue (*June 2024*) with the Oral History Research Committee including links to the BioProject Research Committee for listeners to see the person who is being interviewed and read more about him or her.

The penultimate category is Demographic <https://sabr.org/bioproject#tab-id-6> and the 7th (and last) category to relish is Birthplace which includes more than 30 places of birth for players. These are topics listed in the Demographics category.

### Demographic

Black Sox Scandal

Broadcasters

Commissioners

### **Cup of Coffee (one-game players)**

Executives

Famous Outside Baseball

Integration Pioneers

Managers

Minor Leaguers

Native Americans

Negro Leaguers

Parent-Child

Scouts

Siblings

Spouse

Umpires

Writers and Researchers

Read about Eddie Gaedel (right) who had one at bat in one game.



Nick Testa (left) was in one “cup o’ coffee” MLB game yet worked in baseball from 1946-2000 worldwide.



Archibald “Moonlight” Graham (right) played his sole game on 6/29/05 for the NY Giants at Washington Park in Brooklyn where the Brooklyn Superbas were defeated. He was portrayed in *Field of Dreams* (1989) by actor Burt Lancaster.

## Category: Birthplace

You can discover the biographies about people not born in the USA – there are 31 places of birth listed – and you can even learn about players who were from three of the unincorporated territories of the United States: American Samoa; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and the Virgin Islands of the United States.

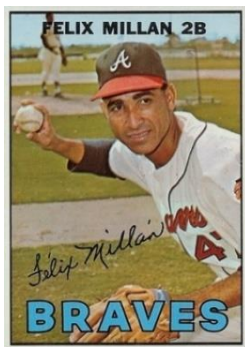
The only American Samoan who has ever played in the major leagues was



Tony Solaita. His biography <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/tony-solaita/> was written by the Co-Director Rory Costello of the BioProject Research Committee who has contributed enormously to the volume of biographies, especially in this category.



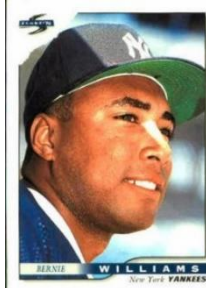
Did you know that Puerto Rico has the fourth-highest number of active players in baseball behind the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Cuba? The BioProject offers more than 60 biographies! Some familiar names are the Alomar brothers, Roberto and Sandy, as well as Sandy Alomar, Jr. and one of the most beloved players of all time was Roberto Clemente. Visit <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/roberto-clemente/>



New York Mets fans can enjoy reading about Benny Ayala, Kevin Baez and others who have biographies on the BioProject webpages. Check out Felix Millan here <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/felix-millan/>.

New York Yankee fans can learn about long-ago players like Luis Arroyo, and more recent ones such as Jorge Posada,



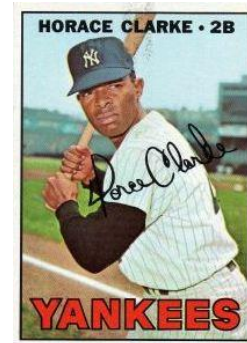


both of whom have BioProject biographies, as well as the popular Bernie Williams <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/bernie-williams/>.

Valmy Thomas was born in Puerto Rico to parents from the Virgin Islands because the medical attention was better in PR, so he is categorized as having Puerto Rico as his birthplace despite his mother returning immediately to St. Croix where he was raised. His amazing journey as a baseball player is just one part of his fascinating biography here <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/valmy-thomas/>



Two men very well-known to New York fans were Joe Christopher <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/joe-christopher/> who played for the Mets from 1962-65 and Horace Clarke who was a Yankee from 1965-1974. For Clarke, both the BioProject and the Oral History committees shared information and resources for a fuller picture of him at <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/Horace-Clarke/> and at <https://sabr.org/interview/horace-clarke-1991/>.



### More Than 6,000 Biographies ... and Still Counting

In 2022, SABR's BioProject Research Committee achieved a milestone of publishing 6,000+ biographies! Visit <https://sabr.org/latest/sabr-bioproject-reaches-milestone-with-6000th-baseball-biography/> where you'll notice the many resources and guidance <https://sabr.org/bioproject/resources> offered to members who have any ideas or questions about getting involved in these successful and satisfying efforts.

## SHARING OUR STORIES

### **A Tribute to Carl Erskine**

**By Patrick Brown**

There is an ongoing SABR project to transcribe the Weiss Baseball Player Questionnaires, a collection of self-completed surveys of professional baseball players from 1945-2005. (These questionnaires are also available now on ancestry.com). The cards provide the players, many of whom are just starting out on a baseball career, a chance to showcase their background and experiences in athletics and in life. Therefore, they are filled with descriptions of athletic achievements, such as pitching and hitting records broken and championships won.

My wife Karen and I have volunteered to assist with this project, and so we have seen several hundred cards full of that type of information. That is why the card filled out by Robert McClelland Weigle in 1965 is unique. Mr. Weigle played baseball at Anderson College when Carl Erskine was a coach there. Given the chance to write about his own baseball experiences, Mr. Weigle writes “Being able



to have the opportunity to play in college for a coach such as Carl Erskine, I can not express in words what a tremendous person Carl Erskine is and what he has done for me. I have great respect for Carl, not only as a former Major Leaguer, but also for what he stands for, and the example he sets in his everyday life, I also want everybody to know this.”

Carl Erskine received many honors and tributes, both during his life and after his death, but it is hard to believe that many of them were presented in such a heartfelt and unselfish manner.

## M. Frank's Column: All Star Games

By Mike Frank

In 1960, we summered at Long Beach. A year later I was old enough to ride into the city by myself.

In 1964, I had a summer job as an office boy with a dress company. Looking back, I wish I'd taken off that day for that game.

In 1977, I wrote to some post office box and wound up controlling four tickets to that All-Star Game on July 19.

You could look up the play by play, but my best memory was from before the game.

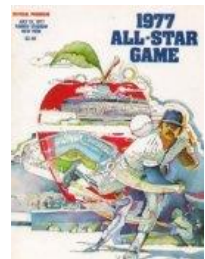
I went down by the railings where the team pictures were being taken and watched Carlton Fisk help Joe DiMaggio into place. Two or three people to my right was Charles O. (for Owner) Finley, who called over Wayne Gross, the A's only representative. It was a hot night in Yankee Stadium.

That's it. The 2008 and 2013 games were for high rollers, not people like me. I did go down to Javits Center in 2013 where they were selling programs with covers of players on every team. Naturally, I chose Cleveland.

New York has hosted nine All Star Games; Chicago is next with seven. Cleveland, with only one team, has six.

[Editor's Note:](#) The National League defeated the American League 7–5 at Yankee Stadium where the All-Star Game was being held there for the third time. The next time would be 31 years later, in 2008 (the final year the Yankees would play in the original House That Ruth Built). The host Yankees won the 1977 World Series; the third time in history that a team hosting the All-Star Game would win the World Series in the same year. The other two were the 1939 Yankees and the 1959 Los Angeles Dodgers.

At <https://www.baseball-almanac.com/asgbox/yr1977as.shtml> you can find out that Joe DiMaggio and Willie Mays were honorary captains, what woman threw out the first pitch (caught by Thurman Munson), and so much more!



## **The Jints Column**

**By Gary Mintz**

My first remembrance of Willie Mays was that of my father constantly talking about the Say Hey Kid. As an eight-year-old, my dad was my hero, and if he spoke so highly of this ballplayer, Willie Mays was going to be my sports hero from then on as well. The Giants too would be my team of choice that has continued to this very day. My father would take me to many games when the San Francisco Giants would invade Shea Stadium to play the Mets. Great players who played for the visiting team were generally booed at Shea, but not Mays as fans remembered him and his exploits playing for the New York Giants. He was “their” guy, no matter that the uniform said San Francisco across the front.

Mays came “home” when he was traded to the Mets in 1972. That weekend Mays would be playing his first game as a Met against none other than the team that traded him, the Giants. My father wisely scooped up tickets for Willie’s return to Gotham where his career had started. In story book fashion, Mays hit the game winning homerun against his former mates. To this day, it was the only time in my mind that it was okay that the Giants lost.

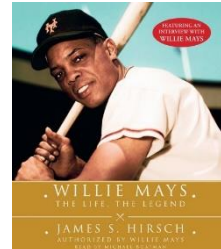
Mays would soon retire but left a tremendous legacy behind him. He WAS baseball whether he was playing or not.

Occasionally, I would see Willie at various Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies throughout the years. The line for autographs usually very long as he was always the greatest player to return to where baseball lives, Cooperstown. Whereas most Hall of Famers signed autographs on the street at tables, Willie was generally in a secluded area befitting someone of his amazing stature.

Following the Giants winning their first world championship as the San Francisco Giants, I was fortunate to actually meet him. The Giants brought their

World Series trophy to New York in January of 2011. At a private brunch that the New York Giants Historical Society was invited to and organized by Giants executives Staci Slaughter and Shana Daum, those in attendance received a copy of Willie's biography, WILLIE MAYS: THE LIFE, THE LEGEND by James Hirsch.

Willie signed everyone's book and those in line each had a quick moment to say something to Willie. I marveled at the size of his hands and then told him of my dad's love for him. He looked up and in his high-pitched voice said, "Thank You". The only thing missing that day was in fact my dad who passed away in 2003. I was a bad substitute for my dad, the greatest "Giant" there was. I was in awe.



I next met up with Willie this time in San Francisco in June of 2012 at AT&T Park at Polo Grounds Night in San Francisco. By this time, I had established the New York Giants Preservation Society, and the group was actually honored on the field. When the ceremony concluded, Peter Magowan, the one-time head honcho of the Giants, led us off the field, through the Giants' dugout and to the Giants' Clubhouse.

Unbeknownst to us, Willie Mays was sitting in Clubhouse Manager Mike Murphy's chair in Murphy's office. This was truly an unexpected surprise by Mr. Magowan, the keeper of the NY Giants flame in San Francisco. Again, we were able to briefly chat with Willie, this time receiving an autographed ball which I still stare at today. My dad was again on my mind as I knew he should have been there instead of me.

I would cross paths with Willie again at the Giants Trophy Tours in Manhattan in the January's of 2013 and 2015. Willie would enter the room, and everyone would rise in unison saluting their hero. They saw him as a 25-year-old, not as the aging man he was at that time. He was WILLIE MAYS, END OF STORY. I presented him with a check to the Say Hey Foundation from the New



York Giants Preservation Society and took a picture with him and the check. So, I had met him 4 times. I'm sure he didn't know me, remember me, or anything like that, but that was more than okay with me. I had seen my team win 3 championships in 5 seasons when I never envisioned them winning one. The bonus was seeing Mr. Mays make that cross-country trek three times.

*The August newsletter will complete the story of Mr. Mintz and Mr. Mays.*



The Casey Stengel Chapter publishes this monthly newsletter on our website [www.sabrny.org](http://www.sabrny.org) and emails it to chapter members to inform them about news, events, and subjects of special interest.

We ask members to submit news, events, and short pieces of special interest to our chapter. Thank you!

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