

Mule Kicks

By Stew (Mule) Thornley

Seth Hawkins is Dr. Fan

Dr. Seth C. Hawkins, who became a Halsey Hall Chapter member earlier this year, may have received his doctorate for other endeavors, but his achievements as a baseball spectator have earned him the designation of Dr. Fan. While most of us would consider it fortunate to have witnessed first-hand even one major baseball milestone, Seth has seen enough to fill a truckload of scrapbooks. He's been in the park when 12 players—Aaron, Mays, Clemente, Kaline, Rose, Brock, Yastrzemski, Carew, Yount, Brett, Winfield, and Murray—reached their 3,000th hit. With Rose, he also saw Number 4,000 as well as the record-tying and record-breaking hits of 4,191 and 4,192. Seth's fan resume also includes Hank Aaron's 715th home run, Mike Schmidt's 500th, the 300th wins of Phil Niekro and Don Sutton, the passing of Walter Johnson's mark of 3,508 strikeouts by both Nolan Ryan and Steve Carlton, the first World Series games in Canada, the first indoor World Series game, the first night game at Wrigley Field, the inauguration of Oriole Park at Camden Yards, and the New York Giants' last game at the Polo Grounds, not to mention Willie's catch in the 1954 Series opener. He's attended a game in all 50 major-league parks in use since 1950, including Roosevelt Stadium in Jersey City. Seth is already making plans for the late 1990s, when he figures Wade Boggs and Tony Gwynn will be closing in on their 3,000th hits.

"Other people take their vacations in Hawaii or Florida," he says. "When they get home, they have pictures. When I come home, I have memories."

Seth did not move to St. Paul until 1993 and thus is unfamiliar with some of this area's sportscasting legends; as a result, he wondered why we would link our newsletter title with Phil Rizzuto and Harry Caray. He will no doubt be pleased to learn that our newsletter nomenclature is intended to honor neither of these imposters but to pay homage to the first man ever to use the expression on a baseball broadcast, Chapter namesake Halsey Hall.

Cow Chips

Jerry Janzen now works with **Jim Dempster**, an original Twins' ballboy along with his twin brother. . . . Chapter president **Brenda Himrich** is getting hitched. She doesn't yet know when and where, but she at least knows to whom. . . . **Steven Gregory**, son of **Stretch**, broke his collarbone and is now in a sling. . . . **Howard Luloff** went to Champaign, Illinois, and was advised not to enter the cemetery business.

Coming Up:

February 3: Hot Stove League Meeting

April 20: Spring Chapter Meeting

Quick Quiz

What are the two northernmost cities to host a World Series game?



Near the end of October, I had the chance to visit New York and see Babe Ruth's Hall of Fame plaque in Cooperstown and his grave in Hawthorne (both awe-inspiring sites). Babe is buried—along with Helen, his second wife—in the Cemetery of the Gate of Heaven, which is about 15 miles north of New York City and also the final resting place for Jimmy Cagney, Dorothy Kilgallen, Westbrook Pegler, and Billy Martin. It was interesting to see the offerings left at the grave site by fans. There were lots of notes, mostly from kids (but the collection now includes one from a 40-year-old fan from Minneapolis), in addition to photos, Yankee hats, and a Little League baseball card from a nine-year-old from California.

