Mule Fr Kicks

By S. Mule Thornley

Gregory Stretches for New Post, New Home

John Gregory has been named the chair of the newly developed SABR Internet Committee, which will exist to complement the efforts of SABR and its various research committees. Its purposes will include creating an internet presence for SABR, providing tools for baseball research, disseminating baseball information, and attracting new members to SABR. John, by the way, will be performing his internet duties from a new home. He has accepted a position with CPLEX and will be moving to Nevada in July.

Frank Bigelow

New Chapter member Frank Bigelow grew up in North Minneapolis and played ball in Brooklyn Center when it had just 2,000 people and many more cornfields. He bought his first baseball card in 1954 and was greeted by Willie Mays' smiling face at the top of the pack. Despite this, Frank was a Brooklyn Dodger fan (a lifelong affinity for underdogs) and was thrilled in 1955 when the team finally won a World Series. Now he pulls for the Cleveland Indians to do likewise and is only sorry he no longer has the St. Louis Browns to root for. A statistical buff, Frank has a baseball library numbering 1,000 volumes and says Total Baseball is his favorite. Frank is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Journalism School and currently works for the Minnesota Department of Economic Security.

Cow Chips

Tom Wyman won a contest that allowed him to play SEGA NBA Basketball against Kevin Garnett of the Minnesota Timberwolves.... Brenda Himrich was elected president-elect of the Upper Midwest Division of the American Industrial Hygiene Society.... The lastest issue of SABR's The National Pastime contains an article by Bob Tholkes.... Paul Rittenhouse had a garage sale.

Rockwell Revisited

A previous Mule Kicks offered explanations from the SABR-list on Norman Rockwell's Last of the Sixth painting, specifically, why Brooklyn manager Clyde Sukeforth appears delighted at the rain, even though his Dodgers trail the Pirates, 1-0, in the last of the sixth. The most logical interpretation was that Sukeforth is actually pointing to a break in the clouds—indicating that the game could soon resume—while Pirate manager Billy Meyer is doing his best to look chilled. Another possibility offered was that Sukeforth wants the game stopped at that point since the score would revert back to the last full inning. Even though this is obviously incorrect (since the Ebbets Field scoreboard shows that the Pirates' sole tally came in the second, not the sixth, inning), the version is backed up by Dr. Donald Stoltz and Marshall L. Stoltz in Norman Rockwell and the Saturday Evening Post: The Later Years (1943-1971). In a sidebar to this painting, the Stoltz's write that Sukeforth was "delighted by the fact that his opponents, the Pittsburgh Pirates, are ahead by one run, because the score will not become official unless Brooklyn gets another opportunity to bat in the bottom half of the inning. . . . The rain is on the side of the Dodgers." It's not clear if this was the actual meaning intended by Rockwell or an author's interpretation.

Question: Who are the three umpires portrayed in the picture? Answers next month.

Separated at Birth



Merie Haggard



G. R. Rekela

Dr. Fan on the Move Again

Even though no new stadiums opened this season, Seth "Dr. Fan" Hawkins has had to hustle to keep intact his feat of having seen major-league baseball games in every stadium that has hosted them since 1950.

Seth made an April trip to Cashman Field in Las Vegas, where the Oakland Athletics opened their season while renovations were being made to the Oakland-Alameda Coliseum to accommodate a football tenant. Dr. Fan now looks ahead to August when the Padres are transferring a series to Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, so they can get out of San Diego while their city is infested with Republicans in town for a political convention.