

ANNUAL REPORT

HALSEY HALL CHAPTER OF SABR

MAY 2006

The Chapter's activities during 2005-2006 are summarized below. My thanks to the activity coordinators for submitting the summaries.

Bob Tholkes, President

Book Club (Tom Swift)

The Halsey Hall Chapter book club meets bi-monthly, usually on the second weekend of even-numbered months.

The book club was started in August 2002 and has drawn anywhere from six to 12 members at any event. The club meets either in a coffee shop or at the home of a book club regular. During the past year the club has read books such as "Cool of the Evening," "Only the Ball was White," and is currently reading "Brushing Back Jim Crow."

The book club is open to all chapter members, whether or not they have read the book (there are no quizzes). Future book selection suggestions are always welcome.

For more information about the book club, contact moderator Tom Dolen via phone, information found in the online SABR directory at www.sabr.org.

Research Committee (Stew Thornley)

The Halsey Hall Chapter began a research committee this year to facilitate research among members. Procedures for this committee are on the chapter's web page at http://halseyhall.org/procedures_researchcommittee.html.

The committee has held bi-monthly research roundtables that have drawn 8-10 people. The committee is also in charge of soliciting proposals for research presentations for the semi-annual chapter meetings. The committee requires that a written proposal (including e-mail correspondence) be submitted and include a brief outline of what the presentation will consist of with emphasis on the research that will be included in the presentation.

Membership Committee (Stew Thornley)

The committee attempts to promote membership within SABR and the Halsey Hall Chapter. When the chapter receives a notice of new SABR members from the SABR office, it will contact members within the chapter's geographic region to welcome them to the chapter and invite them to submit information so the new member can be introduced in the chapter's newsletter.

Newsletter (Stew Thornley)

The chapter continues to publish a monthly newsletter in an on-line format. When the newsletter is posted to the chapter's web site each month, a notice is sent to all chapter members with e-mail addresses through the SABR site. Hard copies will be mailed to anyone willing to pay an annual subscription fee. The newsletter address is <http://halseyhall.org/pubs/holy.html>.

Nominating Committee (Stew Thornley)

For the second year, the chapter had a past-president serve as chair of the nominating committee to solicit candidates for the board of directors. A slate of declared candidates is submitted to the membership at the election that takes place during the business meeting at the spring chapter meeting. Additional nominations can be taken at the business meeting.

Quicksteps Vintage Base Ball Club (Bob Tholkes)

The Quicksteps, Minnesota's premier vintage base ball team (or "nine" in 1860 parlance), first took the field in 1994. Based in the Twin Cities, they were organized to provide an outlet for the energies and enthusiasm of members of the Halsey Hall Chapter (Minnesota) of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). Clad in 1860-style uniforms and using authentic reproductions of equipment from that era, the Quicksteps have played 90 matches over eleven seasons in five states, taking on "picked nines" organized for various occasions, "real" baseball teams, Civil War re-enactor groups, and historic teams from Colorado, Iowa, and Ohio. The Quicksteps aim to entertain and to familiarize spectators with base ball as it was played in the milestone year of 1860, when a uniform code of rules and practices was first in use.

The Quicksteps have always endeavored to provide variety to its members, but 2005 was definitely unsurpassed in the nine's annals. We hosted an event for the first time, at Columbia Heights, and a nine from another state to boot; played on the manufactured grass of the Metrodome and the naturally-grown weeds of Mantorville and Brooklyn Park Historic Farm; and before perhaps 10,000 at the Metrodome and for 10 or so at Northfield and Columbia Heights.

The impact of the nine's first-year participants was also unprecedented. The addition of three more enthusiastic, regular players was an indispensable ingredient, and capped a three-year period when new players have literally changed the face of the team.

In the end, results on the field were about the same. Seven nine-inning events were held, with victories at Columbia Heights, Fridley, Mantorville, and Brooklyn Park, losses at Richfield and Prinsburg, and a tie (also unprecedented) at Northfield. Two timed matches were lost at Stillwater, and a demonstration match at Chaska. Scores were not kept for the largely intra-team event at Fort Ridgely and the Metrodome demonstration. Excluding the Metrodome, combined attendance at our events was estimated at 1,200.

Regional meetings (Howard Luloff, Events Committee, Chair)

Two meetings were held: In October at Community United Methodist Church in Columbia Heights; in May at Davanni's Restaurant in Golden Valley. Both drew an attendance of about 30. Both featured special guests (Twins announcer Herb Carneal in October and former players Dana Kiecker and Mike Kingery in May), research presentations, and a trivia contest. An additional, informal "Hot Stove" gathering in January was attended by 15 members.

Breakfast meetings (Mark Johnson)

During 2005 - 2006 we had Hot Stove Saturday Mornings in July, August, November, January, March, and May. These 6 meetings totaled 56 members in attendance.

www.halseyhall.org (Dean Thilgen, Webmaster)

The chapter website in 2005 took over as carrier of the chapter newsletter, the *Holy Cow*. The website carries information about the chapter's history, activities, and members, and includes a calendar and a link to the national SABR website.

Halseyhallgroup (Stew Thornley, monitor)

The Halsey Hall Chapter began an e-list in March of 2002 on Yahoo Groups, similar to the e-lists that other chapters and research committees have. The original intent was for this list to be used to discuss chapter business, similar to brsp regarding SABR business. Beyond announcements of upcoming chapter events, however, there has appeared to be little interest in discussing business on this forum. Instead, the majority of messages deal with general baseball discussion. Over the past year (May 2005 to April 2006), there has been an average of nearly 130 messages per month posted on the forum.

Twins Fest (Rich Arpi, coordinator)

The Halsey Hall Chapter of SABR participated in Twins Fest 2006, the fan festival sponsored by the Minnesota Twins at the Metrodome, during the weekend of January 27-29. The Twins have graciously given the Halsey Hall Chapter a free table for the last ten years or so and the chapter has taken advantage of the opportunity to display SABR newsletters and publications such as the National Pastime and Research Journal, convention publications, and other special publications. We have handed out numerous membership brochures and talked to fans. We have talked up the activities of the local Halsey Hall Chapter, particularly our vintage base ball team, and the advantages of being a national member. While it is difficult to know the exact impact, we have recruited several very active members through Twins Fest, and it is the best opportunity of the year to gain wide exposure to baseball fans and to our most likely base for new memberships without a great deal of cost or effort. Members helping out this year included Jim Wyman, Cary Smith, Joe O'Connell, Armand Peterson, Pete Gorton, Howard Luloff, Gregg Omoth, Stew Thornley, and Rich Arpi.

Plans for 2006-2007

The 2006-2007 Board of Directors will meet on June 4 to elect officers and organize for the coming year. Board members for the coming year, elected at the May 13 chapter meeting, are Jodi Elowitz, Kevin Hennessy, Dan Levitt, Howard Luloff, Art Mughalian, Armand Peterson, and Bob Tholkes. The appointments of Stew Thornley as Newsletter Editor and Dean Thilgen as Webmaster continue to the end of the calendar year,

Submitted by Bob Tholkes, 2005-2006 President, Halsey Hall Chapter.