

New Member Erick Reinikka Brings Love of Baseball, Theater to Chapter

Product of a Mixed Marriage: Mom Was a Cubs' Fan; Dad Rooted for the Cardinals

Erick Reinikka is the newest Chapter member as well as the newest addition to the Quicksteps. Erick learned about both the Chapter and the team in the Southwest Journal article written by Mark Engebretson last summer. He liked the idea of using his historical interest in baseball in a participatory manner. Mark grew up in a baseball-loving family in Ironwood, Michigan. Access to baseball telecasts was limited on the Upper Peninsula, so the World Series was always a big event that brought the family together.

Erick's mother grew up in the neighborhood of Wrigley Field and once talked a local department store out of its cardboard mannequin of Cubs' ace Guy Bush. Many years later, Erick went to his first major-league game at Wrigley Field and had the chance to watch his hero, Pete Rose. Pete and the Phillies came away with a 1-0 win over the Cubs.

After graduating with a degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan Tech, Erick came to the Twin Cities, where he had friends and family. He worked in the medical manufacturing area before hanging out his own shingle about a year ago and forming Reinikka & Associates, which specializes in technical communications.

Besides baseball, Erick has a strong interest in theater and is a "wannabe playwright." He's now writing a play about baseball. He also enjoys woodworking and is staying plenty busy with home remodeling projects. Erick has been married less than a year to Kate, who is an avid runner and a motivator on the remodeling projects.

Directory information:

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Also, here is the information for Frank Bigelow, who was introduced in last month's *Mule Kicks*: Box 1877, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 644-5669

Bounding Balls

Another Burns Boner

Some teams could be accused of overzealousness in retiring numbers, but at least they've been accurate about it. Not so with the Montreal Expos' recent retirement of the number 20, which was supposedly worn by Jackie Robinson 50 years ago as a member of the International League's Montreal Royals. The number is now prominently displayed in the turf near the Expos' on-deck circle. However, on the SABR list-server news group, Jules Tygiel (author of *Baseball's Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy*) points out that Robinson wore 9 while playing with the Montreal minor-league team.

Who screwed up? None other than Ken Burns in his pseudo-documentary on baseball. "During his segment on Robinson at Montreal," Tygiel writes, "Burns had misrepresented photos of Robinson wearing the uniform of the Kansas City Royals, a black barnstorming team, and inaccurately passed them off as depicting Robinson on Montreal. In these photos, he was wearing number 20.

"This was not an innocent mistake. . . . So, due to Burns' manipulation of evidence, the Expos retired the wrong number, which is now on display at Expos [sic] Stadium for all to see."

Not Using Their Beans

Gary Miller of ESPN seems to have a broader definition of beanings than the rest of us; apparently he thinks a beaning refers to any part of the body, not just to the head, as noted by his comments about Mo Vaughn being "beaned in the kneecap" and Jim Leyritz "beaned in the wrist." StarTribune beat writer Brian Wicker has followed Miller's mislead. In describing a play from the July 11 Twins-Indians game, Wicker referred to "a catcher beaning his own pitcher on a stolen-base attempt" even though the catcher (Sandy Alomar) hit the pitcher (Jack McDowell) in the back, much closer to his butt than his head (although in McDowell's case, the confusion is understandable).

Cow Chips

Dan Levitt and **Suzy Veenhuis** planted three new trees in their yard while **Mark Engebretson** bought a new tree (Norway Pine) for his. . . **Dr. Seth Hawkins** held an open house at his historic St. Paul mansion, the **Julian H. Sleeper** House. . . **John Gregory** watched the Reno Chukars of the Western League and saw their mascot in a birdsuit, **Chubby Chukar**. . . **Alan Holst** and family will be arriving at their new home in Monterrey, Mexico just in time to watch the relocated Padres-Mets series. . . **Brenda Himrich** and her current husband are going to Cooperstown for the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies in August. . . **Fred Buckland** went to Los Angeles and saw a game at Dodger Stadium. . . **Phyllis Thornley** went to Philadelphia. . . **Brent Peterson** is awaiting publication of his book about convict life at the Minnesota State Prison. . . The spouses and offspring of Chapter members have been distinguishing themselves: **Kate Reinikka** completed the half-Grandma's Marathon in Duluth. . . **Charlie Rekela** won a President's Education Achievement Award with authentic artificial signatures of **Hillary** and **Bill Clinton**. . . **Poncé Himrich** coughed up a large hairball on the **Himrich/Thornley** carpet. . . **Mike Tholkes** graduated from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota and promptly landed an information specialist position at General Motors Residential Funding. . . **Angie Tholkes** has quit castrating pigs and is now working for Dayton's.

Answer to Last Month's Quiz:

The three umpires in Rockwell's *Last of the Sixth* are Larry Goetz, Beans Reardon, and Lou Jorda. (Jorda was also the plate umpire when Bobby Thomson hit his famous 1951 home run.)