

FOR COLLECTORS ONLY

Hot Stove League 1993/4

a newsletter for those who appreciate the hobby of card collecting

Volume 1, Number 3

Autographed Conlons

by Rick Keating - an FCO exclusive

You've already read some great things about the Sporting News Conlon Collection cards produced by Mega Cards in Moonlight's Conlon Corner here. I could add to the accolades by carrying on about some of my favorite subsets, particular cards, and so on. But instead I'd like to tell you about one of the best bonuses that they don't even mention in the advertising. Many of the players featured in the set will sign their cards in return for your request.

Of the 30 or so players who were still living when they were featured in one of the first three series issued so far, I've received autographed cards back in the mail from 20 of them. Another five of the old timers have passed away since their cards were printed, and a few I have not been able to track down through the mail. Only a couple have refused, either by returning the card unsigned or requesting a fee.

continued on Page 2

Shop Talk for the Holidays

In remembrance of the holiday season, Shop Talk takes a look back in time to a card show which significantly changed one life and in one way or another affected all of us. Thanks to The Guru for this bit of holiday sentiment.

You attend an estate sale, and are able to purchase a shoe box full of 1953 Topps baseball cards for ten dollars. Or maybe this is your dream. After filling up your gas tank at some mom and pop roadside store in the Mojave desert, you notice half a box of 1972 Topps ballcards collecting dust on a shelf.

I'm still waiting for that shoe box full of bargain priced cardboard, and the only wax packs I have seen collecting dust were of the 1988 Donruss variety. But on Saturday October 12 1991, I made the purchase that took my collection to a higher level.

I had just arrived in Oklahoma, having been transferred from the Southern California area. My wife and children remained on the west coast in our old home, and would join me in Oklahoma during Christmas break. The space in the

classified ad section of the morning newspaper read:

CARD SHOW SATURDAY
HOLIDAY INN NW. EXPRY.
10AM-5PM ADMISSION \$1

I follow the same routine at just about every card show I attend. I make a stop at each table just to get a feel for what the dealer has to offer, and also to look through bargain boxes. I normally don't say much to the person working the table. After getting a quick look at what is available, I'll revisit each table. That's when I ask if they might have any bargain priced beat up old cards.

"Sure" said the vendor "have a look at this book". Turning the cover of the binder, I was happy to see it stocked with 50s and 60s creased bent beauties. My heart is pounding a little faster now, but how many times have you been disappointed? You pull a card from the plastic page and ask the clerk for a price. "Round corners, ink damage, and two heavy creases" states the salesperson "I'll let you have it for low book". Thanks for nothing.

continued on Page 5

TOPPS PUNCHBOARDS

by Dave Hornish

Every once in a while the price guides miss one. Most collectors are probably unaware that Topps issued two punchboard sets in the mid-1960's since none of the major price guides bother to provide checklists. In fact, even the more specialized guides and comprehensive player checklists published throughout the years either ignore these sets, or cloud the two issues so completely that any hope of order is lost. This is unfortunate, because to me these are some of the most intriguing cards ever issued by our friends in Brooklyn.

A punchboard is simply a piece of decorated cardboard with a number of perforated "cells" laid out in a systematic format. Early punchboards from the 1930's were used as a way of gambling: you bought the right to punch out a cell or two for a few cents and each cell, when punched, yielded either a slip of paper revealing a prize or, most likely, nothing at all. Baseball themed punchboards were prevalent at the time and enjoyed a certain popularity for the next twenty years or so. Topps refined these penny ante tactics and came up with a game that kids could play by punching out various cells which contained baseball plays, much like the scratch off games work.

In 1966 Topps tested a baseball punchboard that was laid out like a playing card. That is, the card featured small photos of two players, who are upside down with respect to each other. The punch out pieces resemble baseballs and two kids could play a game of punchout baseball with one card. These test punchboards are rare and only one or two copies of most specimens exist. Strangely enough, these come up for auction about three times a year, so if you have the cash you have a shot at getting one. But you'll need a lot of cash, even for a common! And only a few different players are known.

This set is another example of what I call a "Gelman job." To refresh your memory, Woody Gelman was Topps art director and he had a baseball card store on the side. He also liked to catalogue Topps' issues and one of the existing test punchboards has tape running down one side where it seriously collecting as a kid in 1970, a 1966 Sandy Koufax card I had brought a Hank Aaron in trade, a card which I had been trying to obtain for weeks and for which I had previously offered up everything short of my entire collection. So I think Topps just decided to go with the name recognition factor to sell some cards in 1967. Plus, since other players in the set are listed in the "lineup" section of the Punchboard, it may have been more trouble than it was worth.

So how many punchboards are in the 1967 set? Well, I have yet to encounter a team with more than five players issued. That could mean 100 cards were issued, but how many decent players could teams like the Astros and Angels (the only teams I have not yet found players for) have had that would warrant the inclusion of five of their players? I have 54 players checklisted and there are nine players in each lineup. Each

continued on Page 3

Moonlight's CONLON CORNER

The big news for Conlon fans is the announced release of the 1994 Conlon Series. This is the 4th year of the ongoing series and once again the cards will be filled with all the great photos and information us old timer enthusiasts love. This series will mark the return of such subsets as "Nicknames", "Great Stories", "Trivia" and "First Cards". To round out the set, new subsets featuring "Sox Scandal", "In-Action", and "Double Play Combo's" will be included. And for those who can't live without a insert card to spice things up, you can find one gold foil card in each pack as well as randomly inserted "colorized" photos. Look for the '94 Series in mid-January and be sure to save your wrappers for more free colorized cards through the mail.

Also new this year are two separate 8" X 10" baseball card sets featuring meticulously reproduced and enlarged images of the greats of the game. There is a 9 card black and white set with a lineup of "The Best There Ever Was" Also a 9 card color-enhanced set that includes all the greats as well as the

now famous Nolan Ryan/Walter Johnson handshake. If you like Conlon Cards, you are going to love these!! Production is limited to 25,000 sets of each, so don't miss out!

TRIVIA CONTEST

Interested in some free Conlon promo cards? The first 3 people correctly responding will receive a promotional pack of 3 Conlon cards (including Babe Ruth!). Here's the question:

What are the first names of the most famous double play combination ever, Tinkers-to-Evers-to-Chance?

Send your answer with your name and address to Moonlight's Conlon Giveaway, c/o Scott & Co.

Good Luck!!!

Moonlight

Want to know more about Conlons & old-time ballplayers? Send questions to Moonlight's Conlon Corner, Dept. FCO, P. O. Box 340546, Milwaukee, WI 53234.

THE SKY IS FALLING — or is it?

Chicken Little hits the ballcard market

Beckett is crazy! That set couldn't have fallen in price! These are sound investments that are supposed to go up, up, up. The dealer and all the investor magazines said so... NOT!!!!

Look around. Read the investment journals, the monthly price guides, even respected financial reporting publications like Forbes — baseball cards are ICE COLD as an investment.

Wonderful, isn't it? Now is the time for the budget-minded collector to go absolutely crazy on recent baseball cards. Boxes of cards from as far back as 1987 are going for \$5 or less. A Rickey Henderson rookie card, valued at well over \$100 just a few months back now goes for under \$50. The long-awaited bottoming-out of the market has finally begun... or has

it? What's REALLY going on behind the scenes at your local card shop?

What's going on is something called oversaturation of the market. There are simply too many card companies out there producing too many different types of sets. Dealers are being pressured by manufacturers to stock up on mass quantities of the hot new sets and can't afford to so they dump their stock from the past year to scrape together enough cash to place their order for the new year. Simply put - there are too many baseball cards out there right now and there aren't enough dollars in the hobby to buy them all.

Don't get me wrong, there are millions of dollars out there waiting to be spent on cards. The tricky part

continued on Page 3

Autographed Conlons - continued from page 1

Several of these players are Hall of Famers; many aren't, but each epitomizes the spirit of the game that most of us who read For Collectors Only cherish. I feel that adding a signed card to this already great collection somehow brings me closer to the players.

In addition to the thrill of ripping open an envelope to find another autograph to add to my collection, I also have the good feeling of knowing that I've actually done some of these men a favor by asking them for their autograph. How do I know? They've told me so! Some of the players have enclosed notes along with the signed card saying "It's so nice to be remembered. Thanks." Imagine them thanking me!

But Rick, you ask, did you get a certificate of authenticity with those autographs; how do you know they're REAL? No. To be honest, I've always wondered who certifies the authenticity of the certificates of authenticity, anyway? Besides, I have no plans to sell these mementos, and in my heart I know they're real enough to bring me plenty of enjoyment each time I flip through the pages holding my Conlon Collection. (These cards are too much fun to keep them stashed away 'unopened'!)

Having said all that, I'm not going to tease you by leaving you wondering how to get your Conlon Cards signed. The first step, of course, is to go out and get yourself some of the cards. The first series (1-330) from 1991 might be difficult to find, but the latest (661-990) from this past year is still in many stores. You can get a factory set, or buy a box which Mega Cards guarantees to contain a complete set. Then start writing your letters and addressing your envelopes. I usually include a few sentences mentioning a couple key accomplishments of the player, and then ask for the autograph. And, of course, include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Here are addresses of the living Conlon players I've had luck with:

Ab Wright PO Box 3 Muskogee, OK 74401	Terry Moore 501 Ridgmont Collinsville, IL 62234	Don Gutteridge 804 Lakeview Dr. Pittsburgh, KS 66762
Max Lanier 11250 S.W. 186th Circle Dunnellon, FL 32630	Johnny Vander Meer 4005 Leona Ave. Tampa, FL 33606 (requests \$5 for Old Timers Fund)	Claude Passeur 113 London St. Lucedale, MS 39452
Joe Hauser 919 N. Fifth St. #14 Sheboygan, WI 53081	Hal Newhouser 2584 Marcy Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013	Jimmie Reese 10797 Ashton Ave Los Angeles, CA 90024
Bobby Doerr 33705 Illamo-Agness Rd. Agness, OR 97406	Woody English 14 N. 11th St Newark, OH 43055	Tommy Henrich 1347 Albino Trail Dewey, AZ 86327
Buddy Hassett 114 Stony Ridge Dr. Hillsdale, NJ 07642	Enos Slaughter RR2 Roxboro, NC 27573	Bob Feller Box 157 Gates Mill, OH 44040
Bruce Campbell 4011 Bayside Rd. Ft. Myers Bch, FL 33931	Chief Hogsett 115 West 16th St Hays, KS 67601	Monte Weaver 826 S. Lake Adair Bd. Orlando, FL 32804
Lonny Frey 14424 127th Ave. SE Snohomish, WA 98290	Rick Ferrell 2199 Gullview Dr. # 203 Troy, MI 48084	

By mid-January the '94 Conlons will be out and I'll be ripping open packs, building my set and digging up addresses for some more of these great players. Just the thing to keep me busy until Opening Day!

TOPPS PUNCHBOARDS (from Page 1)

lineup I have seen lists some players I already have on the checklist, but I haven't seen all that many lineups. It's entirely possible that the set total is a multiple of nine, which means 63 or 72 is a possible number. I haven't yet done a position distribution analysis (catchy, huh?) but if I did I'll bet it would convince me the set is complete at either 90 or 100 subjects. Unfortunately, I don't own any punchboards so I can only guess. Partial checklists of both sets follow.

1967 TOPPS PUNCHBOARDS

AARON, HANK
ALLEY, GENE
ALOU, FELIPE
ALOU, MATTY
ALVIS, MAX
APARICIO, LUIS
BATTEY, EARL
BOYER, KEN
BROCK, LOU
BUNNING, JIM
CARDENAS, LEO
CARTY, RICO
CEPEDA, ORLANDO
CLEMENTE, ROBERTO
CLENENDON, DONN
DAVIS, WILLIE
EDWARDS, JOHNNY
ETCHEBARRÉN, ANDY
FLOOD, CURT
FREEHAN, BILL
GREEN, DICK
GROAT, DICK
GROTE, JERRY
HALLER, TOM
HERSHBERGER, MIKE
HOWARD, ELSTON
HUNT, RON
JONES, CLEON
KILLEBREW, HARMON
KOUFAX, SANDY
LEFEBVRE, JIM
LOCK, DON
MANTLE, MICKEY
MARICHAL, JUAN
MAZEROSKI, BILL
McAULIFFE, DICK
McLAIN, DENNY

MENKE, DENIS
OLIVA, TONY
PINSON, VADA
ROBINSON, FLOYD
ROMANO, JOHN
ROSEBORO, JOHN
SALMON, CHICO
SANTO, RON
SCOTT, GEORGE
SNYDER, RUSS
STARGELL, WILLIE
TORRE, JOE
TOVAR, CESAR
VERSALLES, ZOILLO
WHITE, BILL
WILLIAMS, BILLY
YASTRZEMSKI, CARL

1966 TOPPS PUNCHBOARDS

CLEMENTE, ROBERTO
CLENENDON, DONN
KALINE, AL
MARICHAL, JUAN
RICHARDSON, BOBBY
ROLLINS, RICH
ROSEBORO, JOHN
YASTRZEMSKI, CARL

A correction: My first article in FCO mentioned 1967 Silver Paper "cards" as being issued by Topps. I have since determined these are actually the 1968 Topps Discs which are checklisted in all the major guides. The silver paper refers to the waste area surrounding each disc. When the discs are cut off a sheet, they are usually cut in squares which result in a silver border around each disc. Sorry for any confusion.

Want to comment on Dave's musings? Have any questions about hard-to-find Topps issues or inserts? Do you have something old that need to be identified? Contact Dave Hornish through Prodigy (DJXP04A), America Online (DavidH4646) or CompuServe (70714,1273), or through FCO.

SKY IS FALLING (from Page 2)

is guessing WHERE those dollars will be spent and putting your dollars elsewhere to maximize your buck.

The most expensive issues right now are the so-called "Super Premium" sets, those being Topps Finest, Upper Deck SP, Fleer Flair, Score Select and Leaf Studio. Nice cards, expensively produced, lots of flash, highest price tag. What does that mean for the collector? STAY AWAY! Wait a year, see what happens to them. Sure, they're pricey now and going even higher, but look at the recent past. So-called premium issues like Stadium Club and Fleer Ultra are being practically given away. Even precious "chase cards" drop like a stone after the next year's issue comes out. Only one new issue has a chance of holding its value — Ted Williams. The sets are attractive, nostalgic, have the foil stamping, embossing and flash that appeal to the investor types and they have the Williams name. At worst, they won't drop as far or as fast as the others, at best they're the buy of 1994.

For the beginning collector, FCO says, "Buy 1988-1992 now." Wait 6 months, then start buying 1993 cards. Don't be afraid to make a dealer an offer on some of his outdated stock. If you're fair, the dealer will probably be glad to get rid of them. Just remember to price around.

FCO PREDICTS:

- By 1996, at least one major card company will fold or be bought by a competitor.
- Topps, Fleer and Donruss will phase out some of their mid-line sets, cutting back production to only the Super Premium issues and the basic, lower-end issues.
- There will be a greater premium placed on Mint and Near Mint condition older cards, while lesser condition cards of all years will plummet in price.
- The number of full-time card dealers will drop 10-15% by 1996 and 20-30% by 2001.
- Inserts and 'Limited Edition' cards will hold their market value for approximately one year from the date of issue — until the next issue comes out.
- Cards in general will be a 'Cold' investment for years to come while Memorabilia (game-worn uniforms, bats, balls, equipment, etc.) will be the new rage for the future.
- There will be lots of reasonably priced, older, lesser condition bargains available for those who appreciate them.

NEXT ISSUE:

Spring Training '94!

An FCO New Year's Exclusive!

The new season is upon us, filled with the hopes, dreams and expectations of the new year. Who do you like? Who'll make a triumphant comeback? Who'll call it a career? Tell us!

Also looking for Collector Profiles, questions for Ask the Guru, Reader Feedback and anything else you have to say. Send contributions to:

Scott & Company, Dept. FCO
P.O. Box 340546,
Milwaukee, WI 53234

Copyright © 1993. All Rights Reserved. Unless otherwise credited, written by Phil Chmielewski, editor and publisher.

For Collectors Only is published quarterly by Scott & Company, Dept. FCO, P.O. Box 340546, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53234-0546. Subscription rate - \$7.00 per year. Individual copies may be obtained for \$2.00 from the above address. Classified ads will be charged at \$25 per line per issue with a \$1 minimum charge, paid in advance. Display ad rates will be mailed upon request.

All information is original unless otherwise noted and credited where applicable. Contributor information is assumed to be original, except where noted by the contributor. Scott & Company is not responsible for plagiarism on the part of any contributor.

Happy Holidays

from all of us at **FOR COLLECTORS ONLY**

MR. TRIVIA'S BASEBALL CHALLENGE

Test your wits against the exalted and mystifying Mr. Trivia, who will amaze and astound baseball fans with the depth and breadth of his knowledge of baseball, it's players and feats.

Underhand Toss:

- How many years must a player be retired before he is eligible for the Hall of Fame?
a. 2 b. 4 c. 5 d. 6
- Name two New York Yankees who won the Triple Crown?

Fast Ball:

- What is the oldest team in the National League?
a. Braves b. Giants c. Phillies d. Dodgers
- In what year was the first World Series held?
a. 1910 b. 1898 c. 1909 d. 1903

Hard Breaking Slider:

- Name the pitcher/catcher, brother combination, selected for the '42 and '43 All-Star games?
- Name the first pitcher to hit a World Series home run.

Answers:

- Underhand Toss: 1. b 2. Gehrig and Mantle
Fast Ball: 1. Phillies (of course) 2. d
Hard Breaking Slider:
1. The Coopers,
Mort (pitcher) and Walker (catcher)
2. Jim Bagby Sr.

New Year's Resolutions

In our last issue, we asked for your New Year's Collecting Resolutions for 1994. Here's a sampling of what we received from our readers:

My collecting goals for 1994 are:

- To add to my '59 Yankees collection (currently holding at 15.) I'll probably have to settle for a Guru level NM on the Mantle.
- To add to my '87-88 Fleer basketball collection of major stars. (Nope, I don't have the Jordan and probably never will.)
- To drastically increase my ratio of older cards to newer junk.
- Resist buying even one pack of '94 cards (probably won't happen, but a nice idea.)

5. Gather more old trade bait for OBC members.

6. Be less picky on conditions of older cards. (I seem to have difficulty purchasing < NM cards.) Guru-HELP!!

George Hay
TX

My new year's collecting resolution is to buy and trade for 100 new type cards and to finish my 70 topps set. I'll let you know how it goes.

Dave Hornish
NY

My "special goal" for 1994 is to complete my Jim Gilliam collection. I still need 56T (#28), 73T (#569), 55B (#98), 60L (318) and any other oddballs. Yes, I'll accept help in the form of trades.

The Lone Dodger in Tejas

The Lost Art of Flipping

by Bob Neill

This reminiscence is about my card collecting days of the late 1960's, or rather, my card flipping days. As almost any collector of my age will attest to, baseball cards were meant for two things — flipping and trading. If anyone in my neighborhood had suggested that we go to the corner drugstore, buy some packs of baseball cards and then put them away unopened, we would all have assumed that he had taken one too many beanballs without his batting helmet on. The only reason to buy those packs of cards was to rip them open, chew that wonderful gum, and see how many Phillies you got. It didn't matter if it was Jim Bunning or Don Lock, if the card said Phillies, the pack was a gold mine. On the other hand, if you got some of those worthless other cards, like Willie Mays or Hank Aaron, then the best you could hope for was that somebody who was low on flipping material would trade you a Phillies card for 5 of these commons.

person would then collect all the cards that had been flipped. This game alone is responsible for the fact that not a single card I saved from 1968-1971 has even one "perfect" corner. The second game we played was called "toppies" (no relation to the card company. In fact, we probably didn't even know the name of the company. In this game, we took turns flipping our cards out across the room. The idea was to flip one of your cards so that it landed on some portion of a card already flipped. If you did so, all the cards flipped up to that point were yours. We all learned some lessons in plane geometry by this game. It was absolutely amazing how you could flip a card onto a floor that was seemingly 99% covered with cards, and yet it almost always found an open space. At times we were certain that the cards magically rearranged themselves while your card was in flight.

The final game, and the one that was quite possibly the easiest to master, was "matchies". In this game one person flipped a predetermined number of cards, usually 5 or 10, and counted how many of them landed heads, and how many were tails. Then his opponent would flip an equal number of cards and attempt to match exactly the number of heads and tails. If he did, then he won all the cards that were flipped, otherwise they all went to the first

Continued on Page 5

FCO's Resolutions for '94

In 1994, For Collectors Only resolves to it's readers:

- To keep up the work we started in 1993 and spread the word of collecting as a hobby rather than an investment.
- To increase our subscriber base by 50% during 1994.
- To make every effort to land a few regular advertisers to help up offset the costs in order that we may keep our subscription rates affordable.
- To maintain the high standards of quality and entertainment in our articles.
- To continue to bring you more from The Guru, Moonlight, Dave, Mark, and everyone else (as long as they're willing) who makes our publication fun and informative.
- NEVER to recommend Shaq cards as potential investments.

SHOP TALK continued from Page 1

1957 Topps #400 Dodgers' Sluggers (Brooklyn Dodgers/Bums). Furillo, Hodges, Campanella, Snider. Round corners, numerous light and moderate creases, and off colored borders. "How much for this card?" as I dislodge the boys in blue from their acid free environment. I wasn't surprised at the dealers next move. We've grown to expect it. His left hand holds my treasured piece of cardboard, as his right hand reached for the price guide. When the gentleman replied "two dollars", all of a sudden my knees felt a little weak. Remaining poised and standing ever so erect, I removed a 1960 Topps #350 Mickey Mantle. "Would you give me a price on this card too"? By this time my throat is slightly dry, and those little beads of sweat were building up around my shirt collar. "Five dollars" he states. "Act cool" and "don't appear to anxious" I tell myself. Rub your hand across your three day growth of beard. Don't move too fast. Reach for your wallet and hand over the money. I thank him, and head out to the hotel lobby to find a seat.

I knew then that this was something special, but my collecting budget would only allow ten dollars. This would require drastic measures. It's funny how a grown man acts under such trying circumstances. "I can skip dinner tonight" I tell myself. "This will be the last show I attend until after my family arrives". "I can car pool to save money". Since I was living in temporary housing all my money was in travelers checks. I walked over to the hotel desk clerk and cashed in two twenties.

I saw the binder from 100 feet. I swear it had a glow to it. But I had to be cool. I stopped at another table and pretended to look at some other

items. But that binder of beat up beauties was pulling at me like a magnet.

1958 Topps #418 World Series Batting Foes (Mantle /Aaron) "Three dollars".

1953 Topps #54 Bob Feller "Two bucks".

1959 Topps #380 Hank Aaron "Two-fifty".

I was feeling a little light headed by now, so as calmly as I could, I paid the fellow and headed back to that easy chair in the lobby. Those people who walked passed me while I was sitting there, would never understand. I was just staring at Hanks smile on that Batting Foes card. I knew that 'ol Henry was smiling at me. This was my day, my chance. My legs felt strong, I was rejuvenated! I flashed my hand stamped hand at the lady working the admission table and went straight for the binder.

So what if I couldn't afford to go to the movies during those two months I was alone in that apartment. I have cable TV! You know a person doesn't really miss Diet Pepsi all that much after a week or so, and there must be ten different styles of Hamburger Helper! I spent a total of forty five dollars on beat up cardboard that day. Here is a list of what I bought during what I call my "1991 Oklahoma City Buy". All cards are Topps.

1953- #54 Feller

1957- #55 Banks; #400 Dodgers' Sluggers (Hodges/Campy/Snider).

1958- #351 Fence Busters (Mathews/Aaron); #370 Berra;

#418 Batting Foes (Mantle/Aaron); #436 Fence Busters (Mays/Snider); #487 Mantle AS.

1959- #360 Kaline; #380 Aaron;

#430 Ford; #461 Mantle HR.

1960- #240 Aparicio; #350 Mantle; #554 McCovey AS; #566 Aaron AS; #570 Drysdale AS.

1961- #2 Maris; #44 HR Leaders (Mantle); #160 Ford; #260 Drysdale; #307 Mantle HR; #472 Berra MVP; #478 Maris MVP; #484 Aaron MVP.

1962- #10 Clemente; #395 Mays AS.

1963- #138 Pride of NL (Mays/Musial).

1964- #35 Mathews; #120 Drysdale; #136 Koufax WS; #177 Killebrew; #182 Sox Sockers (Yaz); #225 Maris; #260 F Robinson; #306 Giant Gunners (Mays); #331 AL Bombers (Maris/Mantle); #342 Stargell.

1966- #28 Niekro; #30 Rose; #50 Mantle; #70 Yaz; #72 Perez; #100 Koufax; #120 Killebrew.

1967- #45 Maris; #150 Mantle; #200 Mays; #250 Aaron; #326 Uecker; #355 Yaz.

1968 Game Cards- #2 Mantle; #3 Yaz; #4 Aaron; #8 Mays.

Mr. Mint bought a collection of NM 1952 Topps high numbers, and I read where someone discovered a large amount of unopened 50s Bowman boxes in Tennessee.

My purchase of beat up old ball cards is weak compared to these famous finds. But my "1991 Oklahoma City Buy" is what brought my collection out of the minor leagues.

I think it's every collectors dream. You attend an estate sale, and are able to purchase a shoe box full of 1953 Topps baseball

Got a favorite shop in your area? Drop us a line here at Shop Talk & we'll review it.

FLIPPING

continued from Page 4

flipper. Perhaps this is what led me to get a degree in Physics. I spent hours at home perfecting my release so that I could get 10 heads in a row. Not only would this almost guarantee me a windfall of 10 more cards, but would also make up for all those cards I would lose in "knocksies", a game which I'm certain the card spirits decreed I would never win.

As I look at my two boys, ages 7 and 9, collecting cards today I am overjoyed that they don't know what a price guide is. They occasionally buy cards at the local store, the "cheap, worthless" cards, and eagerly tear open each pack looking for Phillie. Perhaps next summer I'll teach them how to play matches.

Bob Neill is a transplanted Phillie fan now residing in Raleigh, NC.

Sports Lithographs

— Your favorite players from your favorite sports.

— Hall-of-Famers and stars of today..

— Matted to fit a 16x20 frame with room to mount a card.

From \$15 - postage paid in continental U.S. Write or call for details or a sample. Dealer inquiries welcome.

Pro-Lith-Ic Impressions

P.O. Box 340546
Milwaukee, WI 53234
(414) 672-9336

Autographed Duke Snider & Rollie Fingers lithos also available - \$50 postpaid

TOPIC TEAMS

1B Ed Kranepool
2B Wade Boggs
SS Ernie Banks
3B Brooks Robinson
C Steve Lake
LF Tim Lincecum
CF Mickey Rivers

They're All Wet

RF Curt Flood
OF Dave Moates
P Ron Reed
P Catfish Hunter
P Dick Pole
P Wade Blasingame
Wally Westlake

CONGRATULATIONS, DAVE!!!!

To our friend and contributor Dave Hornish on the birth of his first child, Ryan Patrick on December 23rd. Mom, son and proud dad are doing fine, but a little lacking in sleep. All of us at FCO wish our best to The Hornish's for their early, but very special Holiday gift.

Ask the Guru

Dear Guru,

I enjoyed your article so much on smelling cards that I dove headlong into my closet and took a long pull on the wonderful scents. After coming to, I took my shoes out, and tried again. Wonderful! I then went to try to smell my T-206's. but didn't notice the small patches of green substances (80 year-old tobacco, I think) until long after I "came down from my trip". From then on I couldn't stop - I even smell the cards at shows now before I buy them. Am I a card sniffing junkie? HELP!

— Red-nosed in WI

Dear Red,

Small patches of green substance on your T-206's? I hope and pray that it IS 80 year old tobacco! Some friendly advice Red:

They say that Colonel Sanders
Chicken is finger lickin'
Don't look at your ballcards
If your nose yer pickin'

This fixation you have with continuous T-206 nasal stimuli has

me worried. Having performed your much needed exorcism many times before, please heed my advice.

Materials needed:

- 1) 3 pieces of Bazooka bubble gum
- 2) 1 stick of sandalwood incense
- 3) 1 T-206 card with "80 year old tobacco"
- 4) Cassette tape of the Doors "Light my Fire"

Gather all needed gear and start your car. Before leaving your driveway, insert the Doors tape into the stereo system and light the sandalwood incense. Place the bubble gum and the baseball card in your shirt pocket, and proceed to a local card show. As you enter the card show state these magic words: "Bob Buhl lives!" "Bob Buhl lives!" "Bob Buhl lives!" Place the gum in your mouth and begin walking the aisles of the card show. After touring each row once, continue toward the exit. Just before you leave, hold the T-206 card to your face and inhale once. Exit the card show a healed man.

Guru

Each month, the renowned and respected Guru of Card Collecting will answer questions from those seeking knowledge of the hobby.

Address all questions to: Ask the Guru, c/o Scott & Company, Dept. FCO, P.O. Box 340546, Milwaukee, WI 53234. Include your name, address and age. The guru will answer as many letters as he can.

Scott & Company
Dept. FCO
P.O. Box 340546
Milwaukee, WI 53234

COLLECTOR PROFILE

KEITH "440" SUMMERS

Aliases: Bill Veeck, Donny Brook, Special Agent 440

Address: Box 669111
Marietta, GA 30066-0102

Phone: (404) 509-SWAP (7927)

D.O.B. - February 11th, 1963
(same date as Ollie Brown)

Bats: R **Throws:** R

Ht: 5' 10" **Wt:** 200 lbs.
Never married - no kids

Occupations: Security Guard,
Private Investigator

Hobbies: Rotisserie Baseball,
ANY condition cards (**esp.**
variations), auto. memorabilia
(esp. 68-69 Plymouth GTX)

Favorite players:

Hank Aaron, Bill Brennan, Rob Dibble, Nick Esasky, Todd Jones, Jim Nash, Willie Stargell

Favorite Manager:

Earl Weaver

Favorite owner: Bill Veeck

Favorite teams:

Braves, Pirates, A's, White Sox, Raiders, Spurs, Oklahoma Sooners

Favorite defunct teams:

Seattle Pilots, St. Louis Browns, Oklahoma Outlaws, Colt 45's & Georgia Crackers

Favorite sets:

69, 70 & 72 Topps, 72 Fleer Famous Feats, 73 Fleer Wildest Days & Plays, 74 Fleer Baseball Firsts

Favorite announcers:

Skip Caray, Ernie Johnson, Sr., Keith Jackson

Claims to Fame:

County Dribble & Shoot Champ
- 1978

Georgia Card Throwing Champ
- 109' on 7/7/92

World's largest Ollie Brown
Memorabilia Collection

Basketball/FB faves: Dale Ellis, Chuck Nevitt & Eric Zeier

Etc: Started collecting in 1971 at the age of 8. Bought Al Autry's (best friend) card collection in 1978 for \$175. It seemed expensive at the time, but turned out to be a pretty good investment since there were several Dave Winfield Rookie cards in there. Al's still kicking himself.

Want to be profiled in For Collectors Only? Send us your name, age, a little personal information and something special about your collection. Send your information to:

Collector Profile Scott & Company, Dept. FCO
P.O. Box 340546 Milwaukee, WI 53234

