

News



Update

2009 Banquet Issue

The following was taken from Daily Local News sports editor and Chester County Sports Hall of Fame committee member Greg Greenday's article "Chester County Hall Announces Second Induction Class," that appeared in the Sunday, October 11 edition of the Daily Local News:

Chester County Sports Hall of fame president Jerry Schneider admitted his committee had a tough act to follow, referring to last year's elite inaugural class of inductees, which included the likes of Dick Vermeil, Glenn Killinger, Herb Pennock, Jon Matlack, Mike Piazza and Rip Hamilton, to name just a few.

"We knew we had our work cut out, but we also realized that Chester County has a rich athletic heritage," Schneider said. "There is no

shortage of worthy nominees to choose from and I suspect there never will be. Once we collected all the nominations submitted by our Hall of Fame membership, the committee was asked to narrow the list to its top 10.

"We feel this year's class of inductees is both extremely worthy and representative of the caliber of outstanding sports figures who have brought honor and glory to the county throughout its history."

All that remains is to formally induct the Class of 2009. That piece of business will be taken care of on Nov. 7 when the CCSHOF hosts its annual awards banquet at the Red Clay Room in Kennett Square.

This year's inductees are:

- Howie Bedell (Baseball)
- Art Douglas (Broadcaster) (deceased)
- Monte Irvin (Baseball)
- Billy Joe (Football)
- Addy Kelly (Sports contributor) (deceased)
- Hugh "Butch" McDevitt (Sports writer) (deceased)
- Curt Schilling (Baseball)
- Don Strock (Football)
- Marian Washington (basketball)
- Dick Yoder (Athlete/Sports administrator)
- Special Award:
The Mighty Macs of Immaculata (Basketball, 1972-74, National Champions)

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Tickets for the CCSHOF awards dinner at the Red Clay Room in Kennett Square are still available.

The cost is \$45 per ticket.

See the order form on page 2 for more information.

News bites

Last-minute ads for banquet booklet

Ads should be in Thursday, October 15. Please contact Charlie DiMarco at r441c7@verizon.net, Tom Walsh at tmwalsh318@aol.com, or Jerry Schneider at jerry@jerryschneider.com

Next Meeting

Next meeting, open to all members will be Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 7 PM at the Daily Local News, 250 N. Bradford Ave., West Chester.

Check out our Web site

Our Web site is up and running! Please visit www.chestercountysportshalloffame.com

Save the date:
November 7 for the Awards Banquet!

2009 Awards Banquet Ticket Order Form

Saturday, November 7, 2009 — Cocktail hour 6:00 • Dinner 7:00

Red Clay Room — 423 Dalmation St. — Kennett Square, PA 19384

Directions: <http://www.redclayroom.com/location.aspx>

I plan to attend the awards banquet on Saturday, November 7, 2009.

I request _____ tickets @ \$45 each. Total \$ _____
(Make check payable to C.C.S.H.O.F.)

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK TO:

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Burton's Barbershop and Museum By Mary Lou Doyle

'Walk right in, sit right down! Baby let your hair hang down!'

You might recall listening to the 1962 Rooftop Singers or Jerry Lee Lewis belt out the hit song, still popular today. It's also the feeling you get when you walk into Bob Burton's barbershop in Kennett Square, except, not much talking and certainly, no singing. One-by-one, they walk right in. Sit right down, and a maroon cape is swooped counter clockwise over the customer. Owner, and lifelong baseball fan, Bob Burton, starts cutting.

Back in the '60s, letting your hair hang down meant not getting it cut and many barbershops went out of business. By the '70s, long hair was the rage and salons were the new place to have tresses shaped. Burton's barbershop endured, with a steady customer base and a little nostalgia with each snip. At 72, Bob rarely takes a break and on this day, skipped lunch, even with prodding from his two other barbers. Regulars came in at a steady clip, were greeted by name and sat back for a quick cut and brush.

The day starts at 4 a.m., something Burton says he started doing almost 29 years ago, when his daughter was young and had early morning swim practice before school. He would drop her off at the pool and rather than back-track home, he'd grab a coffee and open up the shop on Main Street for early birds. His early hours attracted customers who came from Wilmington on their way to work in Philadelphia or New York, had busy schedules and found it was the only time they could get a haircut. Some mornings, Burton finds a short line waiting for him. Mostly, men in suits on their way to work but other days, it's men coming in from the late shift who wait for a trim before heading home. All are equal, foreman or celebrity and Burton makes it clear--it's still the same amount of time in the red, leather chair. Same price.

"I wish I had my dad's old chairs he bought back in 1956. We thought we'd modernize a bit in the '70s and got these. Everybody smoked back then but my eyes were always watering and ten years ago I made it a no smoking shop," said Burton, as he points to the dusty, built-in, metal ash tray on the arm of the chair.

"Hi, how are you today?" says a walk-in.

"Good. Take off your glasses," Burton replies. After 56 years in the business, he can pitch a story, wave a comb and flash scissors all at the same time. The man occupying the chair grins as the baseball banter goes back and forth.

"My grandfather and my father were big baseball fans. Dad had 900 baseball cards at one time and he loved looking at all of them. He could tell you every single detail on every one of 'em without turning it over. And dad knew Ruth's signature, too. People would bring stuff to him all the time and he'd have to tell them, no, it's not Babe's handwriting. He had a special room downstairs, that was his own area. Mom never touched stuff down there. Me? When I got married at 26, and moved, she threw a lot of my cards out!" said Burton. Burton has more than made up for his lost childhood collection. Just about every inch of the paneled walls are covered with original photos of all the greats. Names include, Herb, Babe and Lou, all in pinstripes and dark stockings.

Why do they still come from miles around for a haircut? It goes back to 1892, when Burton's grandfather, Amos Burton, opened the first barbershop just a few blocks from where it stands today. They had six chairs back then and all they did was shave, all day long. Amos was a baseball fan in the very early days of baseball, a tradition he shared with his son, Burton's father, "Bat" Burton. Bat, as he was known, had a love for the game but he was named after 1911 lightweight boxing champ, Battling "Bat" Nelson.

Baseball fans get a dose not just of nostalgia at the three-bay shop, it's akin to walking through a mini-Cooperstown, with original brown and white photos of all the greats. Kennett was home to Herb Pennock, a Hall of Famer who played for the dueling Red Sox and Yankees during his career and, friend to Babe Ruth. At the back, photos of Pennock and Ruth, are casual, with shots of them taking the mount instead of the mound. Pennock was a well-known native and fox hunter who showed Ruth how to ride down on Oak Tree Road. There were no night games at that time so players were welcomed out to the farm or for dinner in Kennett and the NY Yankees got to know the country town well.

An archival history of baseball's beginnings, floor to ceiling, are in that narrow shop. Pictures represent a time when one name was all you needed to recognize a player. There are no proper names like, "Robert" or David" but ones that sounded more like nicknames from that era. Names like, Buck and Duck, Tick and Spike, Howdy and Honus. If you want current players, and that means the last 20 years, you have to go to the front of the store.

Continued next page.

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Visit the CCSHOF exhibit at the Winner's Circle in Exton!

Bob Burton, *cont.*

Photos of current players and celebs of all kinds are there, photos with Burton or photos that have been sent to him with a big “thanks” scrawled across the top. Tug McGraw, Dick Vermeil, Governor Tom Ridge, Republican Chairman, Alan Novak and a host of other known entities who’ve had a haircut or two from Burton, all write something special to the man who maintains a little piece of yesteryear and a big piece of America’s favorite pastime. Curt Schilling’s red and white jersey hangs prominently behind glass and Burton remembers when he was a fan of the Cardinals.

“I’m glad the Cards and the Phillies are no longer rivals,” says Burton, who is also big Phillies fan. But if they were still rivals, and in the Pennant, who would he cheer for?

“Oh, I’d have to root for the Phillies,” he said as he shook the maroon apron and gave it a snap, smiling. Another happy customer leaves the chair, pays with cash and goes home with a history lesson.

Editor’s note: CCSHOF Board member Bob Burton has spearheaded the annual Kennett Square Area Hall of Fame. The Kennett banquet is normally held in January each year in the Red Clay Room in Kennett Square site of this year’s CCSHOF awards banquet.

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