

THE GATEWAY PRESENTS
South Orange
CAMERON FIELD

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

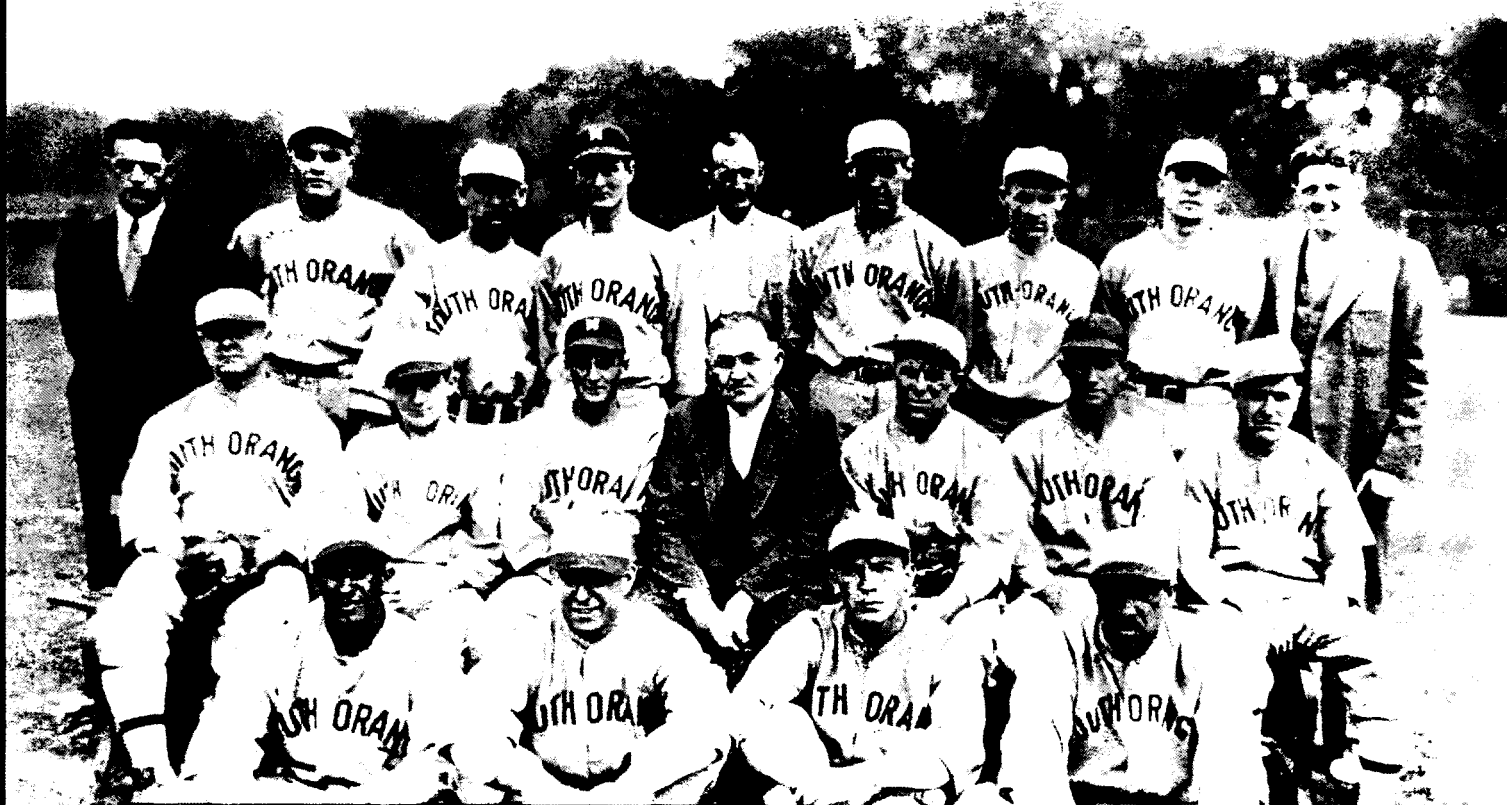
Where the Legends Played

The South Orange Villagers vs. The Flemington Neshanock

A 19th Century Base Ball Game played according to 1864 Rules of Base Ball
Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of South Orange Cameron Field

~ Saturday, September 20, 2014 ~

Cameron Field, Mead Street, South Orange
12-1 Family Activities / 1pm Commemorative Ceremony and Game



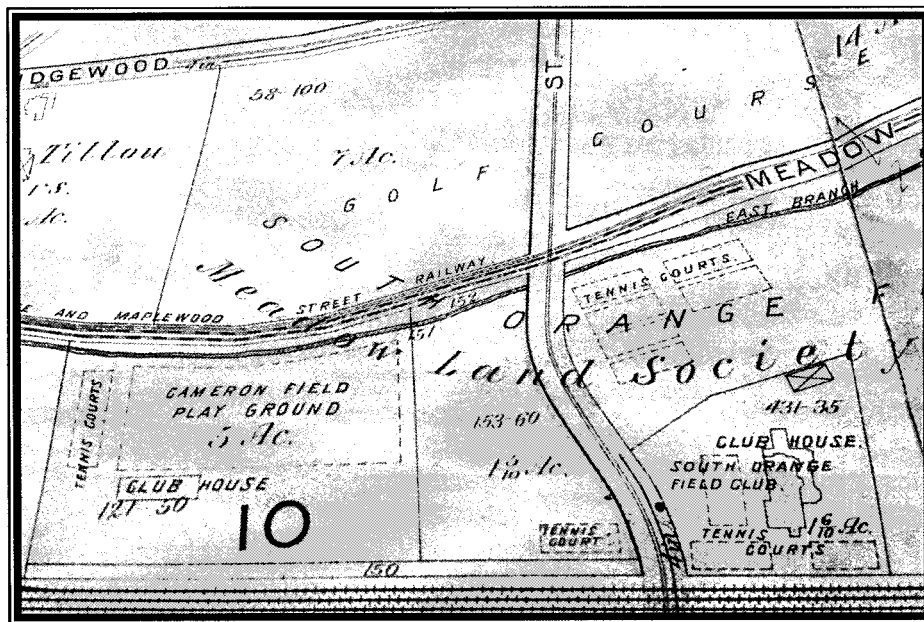
★ Hosted by the South Orange Recreation Department and the South Orange
Historic Preservation Commission, this event also celebrates New Jersey's
350th Anniversary and the role that NJ has played in the history of baseball. ★

Cameron Field Centennial

Rev. Lewis Cameron was Archdeacon and Rector of Church of the Holy Communion and was one of the best known and beloved men of the village in the late 1800's. Reverend Cameron wanted to dedicate a playground for the children, whom he loved so much. In early 1909, he formed the "Lincoln Memorial Committee." On October 30, 1909, Reverend Cameron passed away. The committee was renamed "Cameron Field Association."

Subscriptions raised \$8,600 to secure a five-acre tract of land located off Mead Street. The land was deeded to the Village for a playground for the children, in memory of Rev. Mr. Cameron, with the restriction that it always be free to the public. "Cameron Field" was formally dedicated on May 30, 1914, Decoration Day, now known as Memorial Day, to a crowd of over 900.

From Mr. Pierson's *History of the Oranges*, "A walk was laid from South Orange Avenue to the entrance of the ground, and there the boys and girls find ample space and apparatus to play to their hearts' content."



1911 A. H. Mueller Atlas of the Oranges

Cover Photo: The South Orange Semi-Professional Baseball Team, Circa 1929. See Page 4 for more information about this photo. (Courtesy of the Farrell Family)

References:

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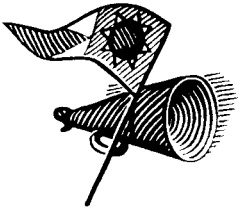
Yankees Magazine, "Unforgettable", Alfred Santasiere III, V31-7, September 2010.

Schedule of Events

12:00 noon to 1:00 pm - Family Friendly Activities & Children's Games

1:00 pm - Commemoration Ceremony

- ◆ Words of Recognition - Ed Matthews
- ◆ Presentation of Proclamations - Trustee Steve Schnall
- ◆ Special Guests:



Nicole Lynn Frasier, Granddaughter of Larry Doby
Lee Leonard, Sportscaster

1:20 pm - Game Time

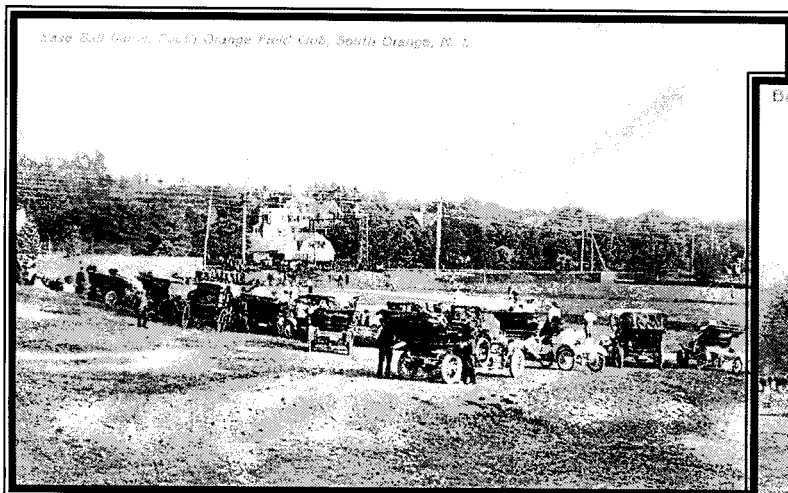
- ◆ Announcement of Team Players - Ed Matthews & Brad "Brooklyn" Shaw
- ◆ National Anthem - Marni Raab, Broadway Star & Midtown Direct Rep Literary Manager
- ◆ Ceremonial First Pitch - Ed Ayuso

19th Century Baseball Game

The South Orange Villagers vs. The Flemington Neshanock

Post Game - Children are invited to "run bases" and meet the players

- Old time food concessions are available for purchase -



Postcard: Base Ball Game South Orange Field Club, Circa 1920



Circa 1910 Postcard of Base Ball Game at South Orange Field

Hosted by the South Orange Recreation Department and the South Orange Historic Preservation Commission, this event also celebrates New Jersey's 350th Anniversary (<http://officialnj350.com>) and the role that New Jersey and South Orange have played in the history of baseball.

History of Cameron Field - Where the Legends Played

In the 1920s, many baseball clubs hired professional sluggers to play with local ball clubs. In South Orange, crowds gathered at the South Orange Field Club (now the Baird Center) to watch the South Orange semi-professional team play against other semipro teams or Negro League teams. The semipro South Orange Team was one of the best teams in the Northeast, and in 1929, had three retired major league players in their roster: Mike Gazella, Howard Ehmke and Curt Fullerton.



Josh Gibson
Pittsburgh Crawfords

South Orange's baseball competition frequently came from touring Negro League Teams. Some of the many Negro League teams that played the South Orange semi-professional team included the Newark Eagles, Black Yankees, Pittsburgh Crawfords, Cuban Stars and the Washington Pilots. Other Negro League baseball teams such as the Kansas City Monarchs, San Francisco Lions, and Baltimore Elite Giants played in South Orange during these teams barnstorming years. Their team rosters included baseball legends Jackie Robinson, Willie Mays, Roy Campanella, Satchel Paige and the likes of Willie Wells, Ray Dandridge, Leon Day, Larry Doby, Monte Irvin, Biz Mackey, and Don Newcombe. Josh Gibson, who was perhaps the greatest Negro League player of all time, played several games against the South Orange Villagers when he was with the Pittsburgh Crawfords. Gibson was a catcher in the Negro Leagues and was known as "the black Babe Ruth." During his career, spanning from 1930 to 1946, he played for the Homestead Grays, the Pittsburgh Crawfords, Los Dragones de Ciudad Trujillo, and the Veracruz Blues. The first South Orange Record Sports Editor, Joe Carter Jr., said he witnessed Gibson throw a ball from behind the plate in a crouch position, on a line to the centerfielder.

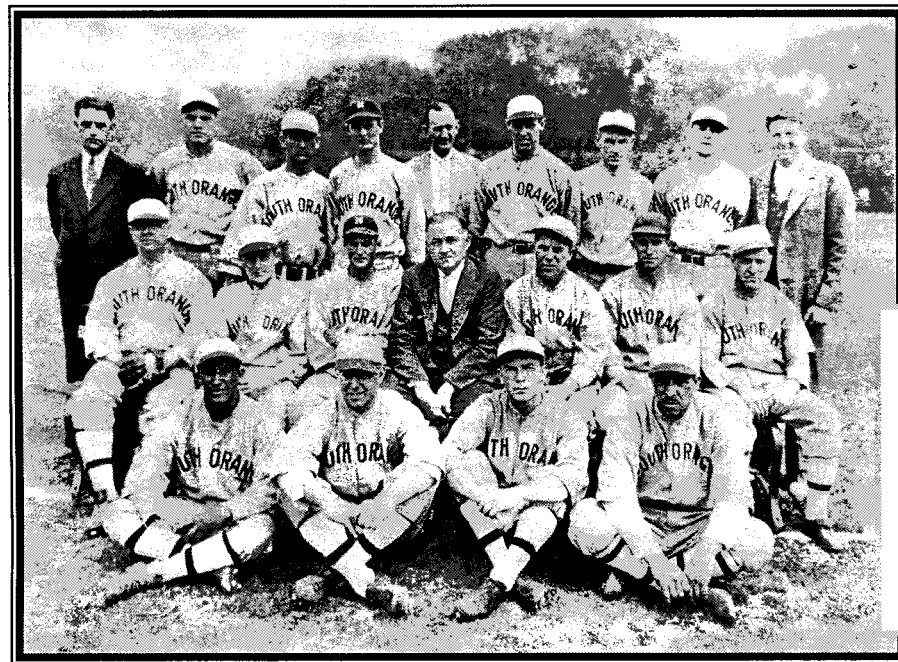
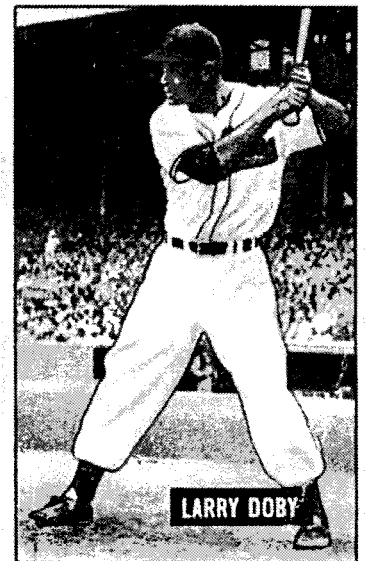


Photo: South Orange Team Circa 1929
From L to R, Front Row: Ed Ralston, Harry McEnroe, Wuzzy Fullerton, and Fred Schetelich; Middle Row: Mike Gazella, Mike Bowe, manager Joe Carter, Joseph A. Carter (in suit), Abbie Leitch, John McEntee, and Steve Plesnick; Back Row: Joseph Farrell and eight unidentified.

1929 was no exception to the South Orange Villagers' success. They had a remarkable season, with a 26-1 record. One team they were unable to beat, however, was New Brunswick; they were humiliated in an 11-1 loss early in the season. The rival teams were set to meet for New Jersey's semipro championship game on October 27, 1929. Baseball legends Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig played in that game on Cameron Field. It was not uncommon for professional ball players to continue to play ball out of season - it was called "barnstorming."

Babe Ruth was legendary for his barnstorming, although his salary in 1929 was \$80,000 (over \$1.1 million in 2014 dollars). Lou Gehrig was an up and coming ball player and made \$25,000.00 that year (over \$348,000 today). On October 27, 1929, more than 12,000 spectators paid \$1.00 a piece to squeeze into the grandstands to witness Ruth and Gehrig help the South Orange Villagers beat New Brunswick; the final score was 7 - 6. Together Gehrig and Ruth hit three home runs, including Gehrig's tape-measure shot over the railroad tracks, onto Vose Avenue, thus securing South Orange's place in semipro baseball. Following the overwhelming success of the Ruth-Gehrig game, some Village residents were upset by the large crowds now attending games. They brought suit against the Village, but "the matter foundered in the courts for some time before the Village obtained a decision in its favor." (1969 News-Record). A subsequent South Orange game featuring Ruth and Gehrig took place in 1932 at the Bears Stadium in Newark.

Over the years, many other well-known players graced Cameron Field including Grover Cleveland Alexander, Bullet Joe Bush, Pepper Martin, Mickey Cochrane, Howard Ehmke, and Mule Haas.

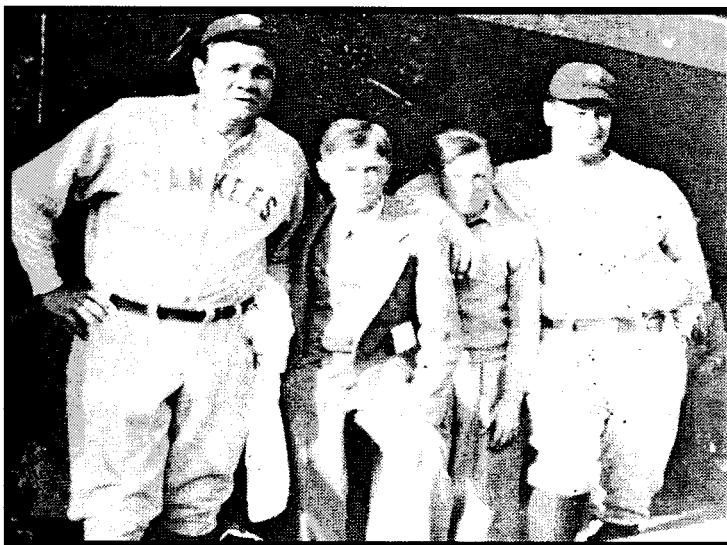


Photo: Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig pose in Bears Stadium with local youngsters. Next to Ruth is Owen Larry Keefe, a former News-Record employee. The other youth is unidentified.

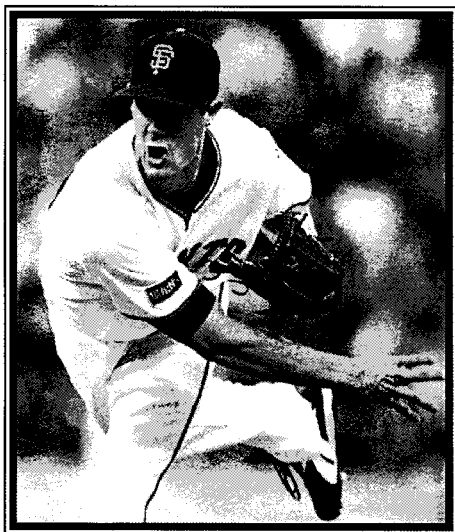


Photo: Joe Martinez, San Francisco Giants



Right: Pictured is the 1936 South Orange Baseball Team. From left to right: (front row) unidentified, Tom King, Harry Ash, Richard "Buddy" Farrell, Pat Lagavenese, and two unidentified; (back row) Joseph Farrell, George Iantosca, four unidentified, Mike Roman, and Spud Carter. (Photo courtesy of the Farrell

South Orange continues to have a rich baseball history and legacy. For many years Seton Hall University held its Fall Baseball Season at Cameron Field. SHU Pirates who painted the corners of Cameron Field before making it to the Major Leagues include Craig Biggio, Rick Cerone, Jason Grilli, Matt Morris, Mo Vaughn, and John Valentin. The Village's most recent baseball celebrity is Joseph "Joe" Martinez, who was born on February 26, 1983. Martinez graduated from Seton Hall Preparatory School and had his first win during his Major League Baseball debut with the San Francisco Giants on April 7, 2009. Since then he has played for a number of major league teams and their associated minor league squads, including the Pittsburgh Pirates, Cleveland Indians, Arizona Diamondbacks, and Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

Baseball - Then and Now

The Flemington Neshanock uses Chadwick's 1860's system to keep score during matches. Like almost everything else in 19th century base ball, scorekeeping and statistics were handled differently than today. Henry Chadwick, sometimes known as the Father of Base Ball, was an early innovator in this field, using his experience as a cricket writer to develop a base ball scoring system that he continually refined.

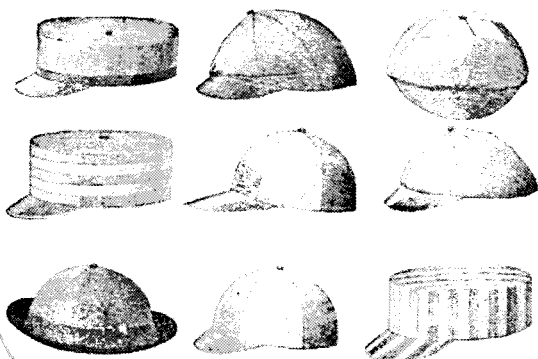
The scoring system is very different from today. Instead of the modern 1 (pitcher), 2 (catcher), etc., Chadwick assigned fielding positions based on the player's position in the batting order so the lead off batter is number 1 regardless of position. Chadwick used this system because of the frequency with which players changed position during a game. Perhaps somewhat ironically, this approach works well in today's vintage game where teams frequently use more than nine players and position changes are also frequent. The only part of Chadwick's system that survives today is the symbol "K" for a strikeout, which is based upon the last letter in the word "struck."

Chadwick's system for compiling and reporting statistics also evolved over his long involvement in base ball. During the 1860's, the primary emphasis was on runs and outs, with no reference to batting averages, runs batted in or even home runs. The 2011 statistical results for the Flemington Neshanock use Chadwick's system for the 1863 season. Clear scores refer to games where a striker scored every time he appeared at the plate while blank scores refer to matches where the striker failed to score even once. Averages refer to the average number of runs scored and outs made during a match.

(From: <http://www.neshanock.org/1863-stats.html>)



BASE BALL CAPS.



Old Time Base Ball Terms: **Ballist:** a ballplayer. **Base-tender:** a baseman. **Can of Corn:** an easy fly-ball catch by an outfielder. **Cellar:** a team in last place. **Crank:** a serious baseball fan. **Daisy Cutter:** a ground ball. **Gopher:** a homerun hit. **Home Point:** home base. **Hurler:** a pitcher. **Huzzah!:** A base ball cheer from the crowd, meaning "Hurrah!" or "Hurray!" **Mascot:** The batboy. **Scout:** an outfielder. **Sky Ball:** Pop-up ball. **Striker:** Batter.

Little League in South Orange

South Orange has a long standing history of baseball. The first "junior league" teams played in Cameron Field as early as 1926.

In 1950, the junior league became an affiliate of Little League Baseball. Initial financial support came from local businesses and charitable organizations, including South Orange Rotary, which continues as a sponsor. Every year Harry Bellin (Bellin's Boys' Town), a local clothing store owner, would give a pair of sneakers to the first ball player who hit a home run over the fence.

One of the greatest coaches in South Orange Little League history was Frank "Foote" Zuzuro. In addition to being Supervisor for the South Orange Parks and Recreation Department, Foote umpired and then managed a team as one of "The Business Men" before returning to umpiring until his retirement in 1979. His legacy as the "Most Popular Umpire" was secured when the Little League field was renamed in his honor: Frank Zuzuro Baseball Field.

In 1972, South Orange Little League allowed girls to participate in the baseball program. Little League Baseball threatened to revoke South Orange's charter but in 1974, Little League Baseball relented and created the Little League Softball program for girls.

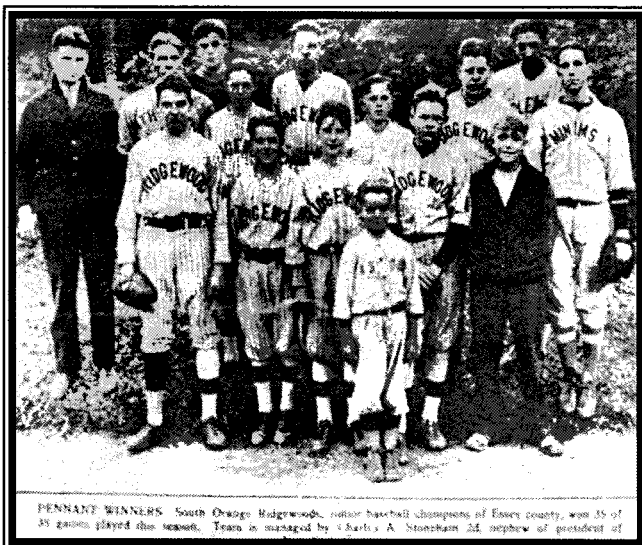


Photo: First Junior League Team - 1926, South Orange NJ - 1st Row: Richard Farrell; 2nd Row L to R: Richard Kernan, John Monaghan, Charles Kirkland, Charles Stoneham; 3rd Row: Joseph Farrell, John Holandez, George Kernan, Bob Carter, Joseph Carter, Charles Reilly, Louis Kernan, Ed Falcustein. (Three unidentified players.)

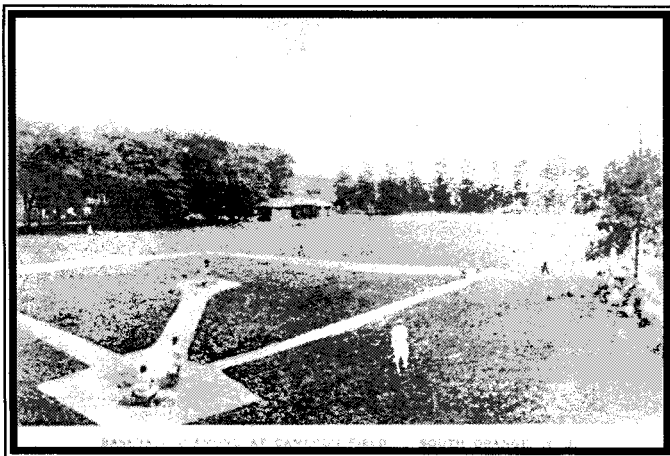
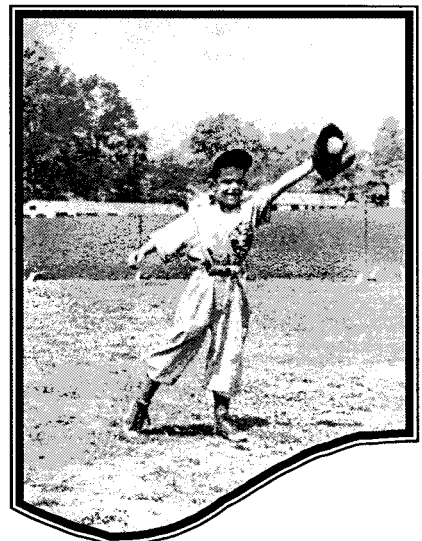
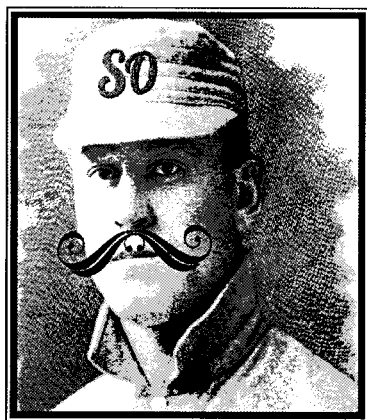


Photo above: Little League 1950 - First pitch in South Orange Little League Opening Day. The Batter was Mike Kelly who is now Monsignor Kelly, former Principal and now President, of Seton Hall Prep High School. The Catcher was Ralph Riley, and the Umpire was Frank "Foote" Zuzuro.

Photo below: 1950 Little League Outfielder for the South Orange



19th Century Base Ball - Team Rosters



Scorekeeper:

John "Mr. New Jersey" Zimm

Umpire:

Sam "It ain't nothin' 'til I say"
Bernstein

The South Orange Villagers

Ed "Eddie" Matthews, Co-Captain
 Charlie "Skipper" Tamayo, Co-Captain
 Ed Ayuso, Honorary Hurler
 Robyn Brody Kaplan, Kid Wrangler
 Matt "Matty Kid" Becht
 Tom "Chief" Brodie
 Larry "Coach" Busichio
 Anthony "King A.C." Cicenia
 Barry "Graniteman" Echtman
 Bill "Old School" Fitzsimmons
 Matt "Scooter" Glass
 Bill "Wee Willie" Kraiss
 Mike "Tomahawk" Mazzolla
 Peter "Huzzah" Merrigan
 David "Moonshine" Micallet
 Tim "King Kong" Ritchie
 Frank "El Diablo" Rodino
 Steve "Face" Schnell

The Flemington Neshanock

Brad "Brooklyn" Shaw, President & Founder
 Chris "Lowball" Lowry, Co-Captain
 Gerard "Jacks" D'Angelo, Co-Captain
 Joe "Irish" Colduvell
 Joey "Midnight" Gallo
 Mark "Gaslight" Granieri
 Dan "Sledge" Hammer
 Dave "Illinois" Harris
 Scott "Snuffy" Hengst
 Jon "Hammer" Hepner
 Tom "Thumbs" Hoepfner
 Jack "Doc" Kitson
 Ken "Tumbles" Mandel
 Joe "Mick" Murray
 Jim "Jersey" Nunn
 Bob "Melky" Ritter
 Mark "Peaches" Rubini
 Danny "Batman" Shaw
 Greg "Southwark" Stoloski
 Steve "Cuz" Thompson



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Thanks as well, to the South Orange Village Trustees, South Orange Village Recreation Department at The Baird the South Orange Vintage Baseball Committee, the South Orange Historic Preservation Commission, the South Orange Historical and Preservation Society, the South Orange Village Center Alliance, the South Orange Community Relations Committee, the South Orange Public Library, the Friends of South Orange Sports, The Farrell Family, Author Naoma Welk, RocketShip & Print, Food Concessionaire Mike Mielle, and our many volunteers (both students and residents), who helped to make this event a success.

Special thanks to Thinc.creative for program cover design and to JAG Outfitters for team uniforms.



We also express our thanks to the "New legends of South Orange", the newly formed vintage South Orange Villagers Team who agreed to play using 1864 rules against the Flemington Neshanock. The Neshanock are a volunteer organization and play free of charge in order to spread the word about the history of baseball.