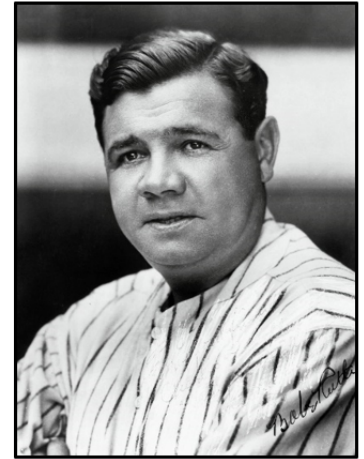




# Babe Ruth

7-time World Series Champion  
 Career Batting Average: .342  
 Career Home Runs: 714  
 Career Pitching Record: 94-46  
 Career ERA: 2.28  
 1st in All-Time slugging percentage: .690  
 1st in All-Time OPS: 1.164



2019 Campaign

Edition No. 5

March 15, 2019

Brethren:

Just a short note to remind all of you that we are now only nine days away from the funnest day of the year, that being DRAFT DAY! Be sure to crack the books and be ready to go for this most sacred of events. Starting time is noon sharp, and Jim Ed and I will be at the office by 11 for anyone who gets there early. My cell number is 402-598-1226, and Tirebiter's is 402-578-9233, in the event that the doors out front are locked.

## THE TRIP

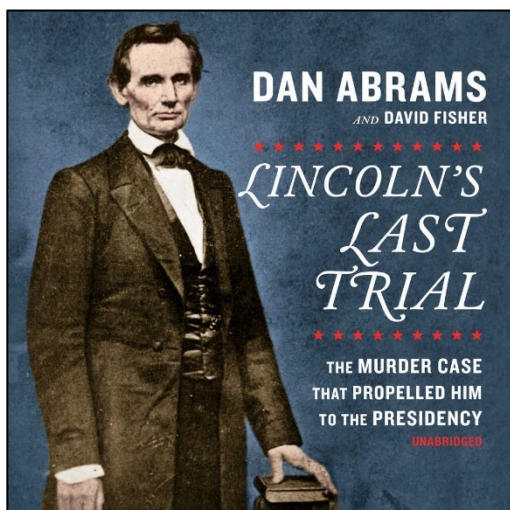
The latest update on The Trip is that we now have hotel rooms in Arlington, thanks to B.T., our resident hotel magnate. However, what we don't yet have are commitments from two of our owners to attend and participate in this feature event of our 35th Hot Stove League campaign. Below is the current status:

	In <sup>1</sup>	Out <sup>2</sup>	Lame Excuses for Those in Column 2
Stretch	✓		
Shamu	✓		

<sup>1</sup> Paddlers of their own canoes.

<sup>2</sup> Non-paddlers.

Big Guy	✓		
Mouse	✓		
Skipper	✓		
B.T.	✓		
Screech	✓		
Itchie	✓		
Curby	✓		
PAwesome		✓	Too busy with work Too busy with family Purported trip to Ireland Bunionectomy procedure that week Tracy says no friggin' way Acolyte duty at church Fear of insecure southern border Clear conflict of interest Dog ate his homework Victim of White Privilege
Underbelly		✓	Allegedly attending mysterious "ceremony" for unnamed kin at undisclosed location Polygraph date TBA
SloPay	?	?	Reportedly stiff waiting for lottery results
Tirebiter	?	?	Reportedly waiting for his Javelina permit



BOOK REPORT:  
**LINCOLN'S LAST TRIAL**  
 By Dan Abrams and David Fisher

I recently finished a spellbinding book entitled *Lincoln's Last Trial*, by Dan Abrams and David Fisher. The case involved Honest Abe's representation of a young man in his early 20s who had stabbed another young man who had attacked him, and Lincoln defended the knifer with a theory of self-defense. One of the interesting twists in the book is that the knifing victim, the decedent, had previously worked as a law

clerk in Abe's law firm, and Lincoln was very fond of the victim and felt he had a promising career as a lawyer ahead of him.

The stabbing occurred in a small town just outside of Springfield, Illinois, Abe's hometown, and the place where the trial was held. One of the star witnesses called by Lincoln in the defense of his client was the young defendant's grandfather, who was a well-known fire and brimstone preacher in the area, who had been called to the victim's death bed to minister to him. The old preacher testified that the victim told him with his dying breath that his injury and death were his own fault, and that he didn't hold it against the defendant. Lincoln had to convince the trial judge that this testimony about the decedent's last words was not hearsay, but an exception for a dying declaration, and in the end, the judge ruled accordingly.

Another interesting tidbit I learned from the book was that in those days, a defendant did not have the right to testify in their own behalf, and so Lincoln could not put his own client on the stand and have him explain that he felt threatened by the decedent's actions and stabbed him in self-defense. Rather, Lincoln had to prove this through other witnesses, which proved to be challenging, but in the end, successful.

Finally, I was fascinated to learn at the very end of the book that the transcript of the trial--done in longhand by a man named Hitt--was found only recently in a garage in Fresno, California, in a home owned by the defendant's grandson. Because of this rare find, the author was able to weave a marvelous tale about the trial using actual excerpts from the testimony in the case. In fact, the story is told through the eyes of the court reporter, Mr. Hitt.

According to the author, Lincoln was already rather famous at that time because of the recent Douglas-Lincoln debates, but his success in this trial reportedly propelled him to the nomination by the Republican party which led to his election to the presidency.

The book is, as they say, a *good story, well told*.

\* \* \* \* \*

That's it for this issue, my brothers. See you on the 24th, if not before.

Skipper