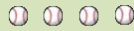


# NEBRASKA HOT STOVE LEAGUE



SEASON XXXVII



2020 HSL Champion  
West Des Moines Cubs  
Manager: Shamu

400

## FROM THE BULLPEN

2021 Campaign

Edition No. 3

March 1, 2021

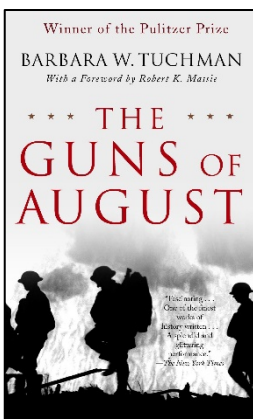
Brethren:

Thanks to all of you who participated in last Friday's spirited Zoom session, at which time we agreed that our 2021 HSL Draft will take place on Sunday, March 28, beginning at 1:00 p.m. sharp. Those who wish to participate in person should show up at the iconic Bridges Trust Building (between noon and 1), and those who do not want to personally attend because of COVID 19 concerns will be able to draft via Zoom technology. But in that case, you are on your own for libations and eats.

Should be a great day, under the circumstances.

### BOOK REPORT:

*The Guns of August*  
By Barbara W. Tuchman



I just finished reading *The Guns of August*, the tour de force of Barbara W. Tuchman, who some would say authored the quintessential account of the start of World War I. My take on the book is that Kaiser Wilhelm<sup>1</sup> was a warmonger of the highest order, and the brutalization of Belgium by his war machine Huns was as heinous as it gets. The Kaiser definitely did not hold any backseats to Adolf.

In any event, the very first paragraph of the book, which the author reportedly spent eight hours composing, is compelling:

*So gorgeous was the spectacle on the May morning of 1910 when nine kings rode in the funeral of Edward VII of England that the crowd, waiting in hushed and black-clad awe, could not keep back*

<sup>1</sup> Beautifully described by the author as being the "possessor of the least inhibited tongue in Europe."

*gasps of admiration. In scarlet and blue and green and purple, three by three the sovereigns rode through the palace gates, with plumed helmets, gold braid, crimson sashes, and jeweled orders flashing in the sun. After them came five heirs apparent, forty more imperial or royal highnesses, seven queens--four dowager and three regnant--and a scattering of special ambassadors from uncrowned countries. Together they represented seventy nations in the greatest assemblage of royalty and rank ever gathered in one place and, of its kind, the last. The muffled tongue of Big Ben tolled nine by the clock as the cortege left the palace, but on history's clock it was sunset, and the sun of the old world was setting in a dying blaze of splendor never to be seen again.*

Sublime prose.

## 2021 DIRECTORY

I am attaching a revised directory of the Hot Stove League Owners/Managers. If there are any mistakes, or any updates to be made, please let me know and we will consider making them.

### SHORT HOPS



Who can name the pitcher who struck out Dave Winfield, Reggie Jackson and George Brett in order in the 1984 All-Star game? No cheating, please.



Who are the two players with the most home runs among those whose last names begin with "H"? Hint: They both ended up with 383 career home runs.



Here's a good one: Christian Yelich, Charlie Blackman and Carlos González all won batting titles during the last decade, and each had *exactly* 135 strikeouts in their Silver Slugger year.



From my brand-spanking new Dickson Baseball Dictionary, 3rd Ed., the legendary Red Barber used to refer to a poor defensive infielder as an "ancient Mariner," having announced a game in which the shortstop kicked away two ground balls before making a good play on a third, at which Red declared, "Like the ancient Mariner, he stoppeth one of three!"



In case you didn't catch the article in the World Herald a couple of weeks ago, Hank Aaron played in one game in Omaha back in 1952 when the Indianapolis Clowns took on the Kansas City Monarchs at what was later renamed Rosenblatt Stadium. According to Shatel's article, Aaron went 0 for 4 and contributed to a couple of double plays from his second base position. That was the first time I had ever heard that Aaron played in Omaha.



I also read recently that the famous Cincinnati Red Stockings, the first professional baseball club, came to Omaha in 1869 and played a game against a bunch of locals, routing them to the tune of 65-1.

### PSAs<sup>2</sup>



If any of you are looking for something good to watch on TV these days, I highly recommend *Yellowstone*, in which HQ and I are currently on the second season. It is the role that was made for Kevin Costner.



My favorite new song that I just can't stop humming is called *The Dreaded Spoon*, by Ricky Skaggs and Bruce Hornsby. Do yourself a favor and listen to it about four times. Cracks me up.

\* \* \* \* \*

And that's it, boys.

Skipper

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<sup>2</sup> Public service announcements.

## HOT STOVE LEAGUE - 2021 OWNERS/MANAGERS ROSTER (UPDATED FEBRUARY 24, 2021)

Owner	E-mail	Nickname(s)	HSL Team	Business Phone	Cell Phone	Home Address	Business Address	Spouse	Children
Jeff Bechtolt (DOB: 1/25/64)	<a href="mailto:bechtoltj@gmail.com">bechtoltj@gmail.com</a> (O)	Screech Friend O' Skeezik The Blair "Mystic"	Monarchs		402-450-9480	20513 D Street Omaha, NE 68022		Karen	Justin Jake Michael
Jon Blongewicz (DOB: 8/6/59)	<a href="mailto:blongewicz@leawoodattorneys.com">blongewicz@leawoodattorneys.com</a> (O)	Stretch McBlunder McJester Sunny	Blues	913-335-1399 FX 913-491-6398	913-485-7210	14009 Garnett Street Overland Park, KS 66221	Jon A. Blongewicz, Attorney at Law, P.A Gates, Shields, Ferguson, Swall, Hammond, P.A. 10990 Quivira Road, Suite 200 Overland Park, KS 66210		Albert James - 11/7/90 Danielle Lee - 5/7/94
Dennis Bontrager (DOB: 10/6/55)	<a href="mailto:dennybontrager@gmail.com">dennybontrager@gmail.com</a> (H) <a href="mailto:dbontrager2@unl.edu">dbontrager2@unl.edu</a>	SloPay Silent Assassin	Devil Bears	Unlisted	402-488-3646	1221 Eldon Drive Lincoln, NE 68510	Known only to Kelly Ann Conway and selected cult members	Patty	Samuel - 11/27/91 Max - 7/11/93 Chloe Olivia - 8/30/95
Edson Bridges III (DOB: 6/28/58)	<a href="mailto:tbridges@bridgesinv.com">tbridges@bridgesinv.com</a> (O)	PAwesome	Wahoos	402-397-4700	402-871-8073	760 Fairacres Road Omaha, NE 68132	Bridges Investment Management 1125 S 103rd St #580 Omaha, NE 68124	Tracy	Edson IV (Max) - 3/26/89 Taylor Kathryn - 5/23/91 Mary Esther - 5/21/96
James D. Buser (DOB: 2/11/64)	<a href="mailto:jbuser@pheblaw.com">jbuser@pheblaw.com</a> (O) <a href="mailto:jbuser@cox.net">jbuser@cox.net</a> (H)	Tirebiter Jim Ed	Redbirds	402-397-5500	402-578-9233	13240 North 74th St. Omaha, NE 68122	Pansing Hogan Ernst & Bachman 10250 Regency Cir., #300 Omaha, NE 68114	Patty	Matthew James - 1/28/94 Allison Marie - 4/1/96 Daniel Patrick - 2/19/00
Rick Drews (DOB: 4/2/58)	<a href="mailto:rdrews98@gmail.com">rdrews98@gmail.com</a> (H)	Big Guy Whitesot	Tigers	402-391-3712	402-980-9420	6322 North 105th St. Omaha, NE 68134	Richard Drews, Esq. 7018 North 102nd Circle Omaha, NE 68122	Molly	Abby Marie - 9/10/84 Sara Celine - 6/9/87 Emma Jane - 12/22/88
David D. Ernst (DOB: 10/21/56)	<a href="mailto:dernst@pheblaw.com">dernst@pheblaw.com</a> (O)	Skipper	Senators	402-397-5500 Dir-402-392- 3513	402-598-1226	18688 Oregon Circle Elkhorn, NE 68022	Pansing Hogan Ernst & Bachman 10250 Regency Cir., #300 Omaha, NE 68114	Michele	Joseph Jackson - 1/4/94 William David - 8/9/95 Savannah Jane - 10/21/97 Emily Ann - 8/16/99
Robert Hurlbut (DOB: 10/1/55)	<a href="mailto:rwhurlbut@gmail.com">rwhurlbut@gmail.com</a> (O)	Underbelly U-Baldo The Outhouse Oracle	Tribe		402 429-7624	8346 S. Tularosa Ct. Lincoln, NE 68516	Retired--don't ask him to do a damn thing	Jody	Brian - 7/22/75 Scott - 7/25/79 Lacey - 2/17/84
Scott Krause (DOB: 7/14/58)	<a href="mailto:sak68516@gmail.com">sak68516@gmail.com</a> (H)	Baby Trumpetfish (B.T.)	Saints FN <sup>1</sup>	402-423-4500	402-430-9603	6710 Jack Pine Ct. Lincoln, NE 68516	Mobile Psychiatric and Psychic Treatment Services c/o BT's Handmade Birdhouses	Beth	Jesse Scott - 5/15/81 Jordin (Jori) Layne - 11/8/82 Samuel Nathan - 8/11/87 Eli Harrison - 11/5/88 Anna Kathryn - 11/4/98
Mike Morris (DOB: 1/6/58)	<a href="mailto:mike@tkcweb.com">mike@tkcweb.com</a> (O)	Mouse	Bronx Bombers	402-935-1613	402-669-1771	18402 William Cir. Omaha, NE 68130	Thermo King Christensen 7508 F Street Omaha, NE 68127	Brenda	Wells Michael - 10/31/92 Greta Rae Christensen - 6/8/96 Tatum Layne Christensen - 12/20/99
Mitch Pirnie (DOB: 3/13/58)	<a href="mailto:mitch.pirnie@kiewit.com">mitch.pirnie@kiewit.com</a> (O)	Tricko Magpie Mr. Pie	Bums	402-943-1408	402-290-2392	18510 Shadow Ridge Dr. Omaha, NE 68130	Kiewit Corporation Industrial Group General Counsel 3555 Farnam St. #1000 Omaha, NE 68131	Lori	Katelyn - 11/30/86 Robert - 8/8/89 Michael - 4/2/91
Chuck Sinclair (DOB: 6/14/58)	<a href="mailto:cdsshamu@yahoo.com">cdsshamu@yahoo.com</a> (H)	Shamu Sir Charles Snickler	Cubs		515-988-3015	5603 Northview Place W. Des Moines, IA 50266	Out to Pasture	Jan	Hannah Elizabeth - 9/8/94 Rachel Anne - 7/4/99
John Thielen (DOB: 2/3/58)	<a href="mailto:johnthielen1212@gmail.com">johnthielen1212@gmail.com</a>	Itchie Bender Big Johnny Rafsanjani Foster	Skipjacks		402-216-8827	901 N 190 ST Omaha, NE 68022	Green Onion Lounge 11414 Davenport St. Omaha, NE 68154	St. Anne	Zach Robert - 4/4/93 Alyssa Jean - 1/19/96 Madison Grace - 8/29/97 FN <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> f/k/a The Chiefs (before BT's woke moment in 2020).

<sup>2</sup> Not to mention his second family in the North Tucson area, the identities of whom are still under investigation.