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Robert McConnell:

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This letter is being addressed to about 25-30 persons interested in baseball history and statistical research (I use the term "statistorians"). You are an addressee because I have seen your name in the Sporting News in past years, appended to an interesting historical or statistical article, or your name has been passed on to me by Ray Nemec, Bob McConnell, Leonard Gettelson, or Cliff Kachline.

There may be many more than 25 or 30 baseball statisticians around the country. We don't really know, but I thought some effort should be made to organize this "motley crew" into a more formal group. For that reason we plan to hold an organization meeting at Cooperstown, New York on August 10-11, 1971. Cliff Kachline, Hall of Fame Historian, has kindly invited us to meet in the museum library. The Hall of Fame Baseball game and induction ceremonies will be held on Monday, August 9. Why don't we meet then on August 7-8? Impossible, says Cliff. The place is busier than Washington on Inauguration Day. You could come on August 9, take in the induction festivities and get a motel room that night, but not before, and then be available for meetings the next day.

What would be accomplished at the Cooperstown meeting? From general to specific, your attendance would provide an opportunity (1) to see Cooperstown and the always changing Hall of Fame Museum; (2) to meet and exchange first hand views with other statisticians; (3) to review specific areas of baseball interest to avoid duplication of effort; (4) to establish an informal group primarily for exchange of information; or (5) to establish a formal organization with officers, dues, a charter, annual meetings, etc.; (6) to consider the establishment of a publication in which our research efforts could be presented; and (7) to take up additional matters which you may suggest in response to this letter.

What do you do now? You should send me a note saying something along the lines of (1) "Your idea of a get-together of the baseball statisticians sounds great, I would like to attend; (2) I am interested in your efforts to organize the group, I would like to be included but cannot get away for a meeting at Cooperstown this summer; or (3) your plans for an organization are completely impossible; take me off your mailing list, quick." I would also hope that you would include in your response the names of additional baseball "nuts" who might qualify or be interested.

The next step then would be for me to send to those of you who could make the meeting this summer the information on hotels and motels which you would need for the night(s) of August 9 and 10; August 10 only; or August 10 and 11, depending on your travel plans.

I hope to hear from you

L. Robert Davids
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