

# Baseball's Best More Atlanta Braves highlights

By LAMAR GARRARD  
Baseball historian

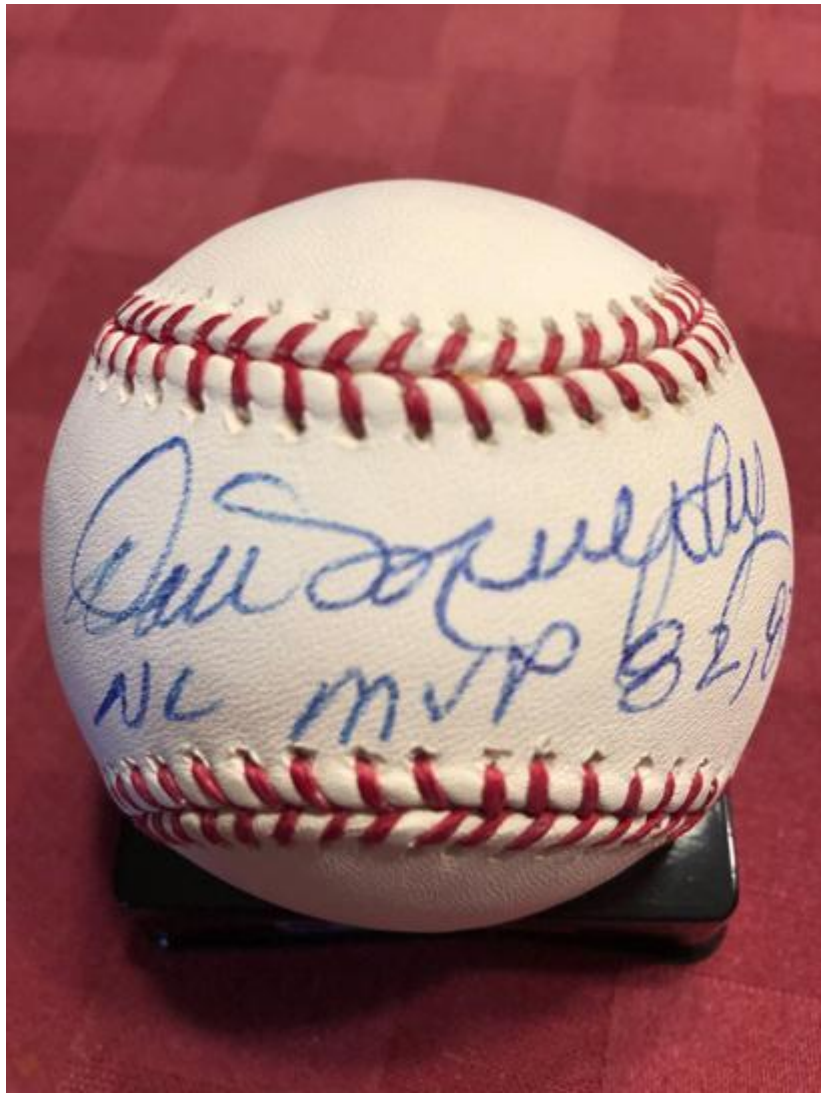


"If you live what you believe, you will always have the respect of others." Dale Murphy, Atlanta Braves MVP

Continuing on with the theme of last week's column we reflect on some more Atlanta Braves memories and highlights. Of course in two articles it is impossible to mention all the great players and stellar moments in the Atlanta franchise history book.

So we begin with remembering the 7 time all-star and fan favorite Dale Murphy. In his 18 year major league career, Murphy was a 5 time gold glove and a 7 time silver slugger award winner. The two time back to back National League MVP compiled a lifetime batting average of .265 while slugging 398 home runs. Murphy played in 131 games as a 19 year old with the Braves farm club in Greenwood, SC in 1975 before coming to the bigs. Many of us were saddened to see Dale traded to the Phillies in 1990 just before the Braves began their streak of 14 consecutive division championships. Murphy played on many mediocre teams while in Atlanta. I wonder how well he would have done if he had been with the New York Yankees or another contending franchise.

One of my most favorite pitching memories was recorded by Gene Garber, the gentleman dairy farmer from Pennsylvania on August 1, 1978. In a game against the Reds, rookie pitcher Larry McWilliams had retired Pete Rose 4 times. To close the game, Garber came on



Dale Murphy signed baseball.

and struck out Pete Rose and the Braves racked up a 16 to 4 win over the visitors from Cincy. The Garber strike out broke the Rose hitting streak at 44 games. Rose had been

in pursuit of Joe DiMaggio's 56 game hitting streak set in 1941. He was not happy with Garber and accused Garber of pitching like it was the World Series. Garber's comeback reply was the he was pitching like he always pitched and that was pitching to win.

Another thrilling play in Braves history occurred on October 14, 1992 in a play off game against the Pirates at Atlanta Fulton County Stadium. With two outs in the ninth inning, Sid Bream was on second base. Third string catcher, Francisco Cabrera comes up and hits a single to left field. Barry Bonds played the ball and his throw to the plate is off and Bream scores the winning run and the Braves advance to the World Series winning the tilt by one run, 3 to 2.

In 1995 the Braves defeated Cleveland to win only the 3rd World Series in Braves history. That team was full of Braves Hall of Famers including Bobby Cox, John Smoltz, Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux. Atlanta took 4 out of 6 games and Glavine was named the series MVP.

Certain players in Atlanta's past created excitement just by taking the field. Deion Sanders was one of the most productive and fun ball players to ever put on the Braves uniform. Bob Horner was a power hitter that crushed the ball into the upper decks and the fans loved it. Phil Niekro was always interesting to watch with his fluttering knuckleball and Braves fans appreciated Phil because he would win and win and win.

Many other players too numerous to mention have played a big role in the Braves time line. Maybe this years 2021 edition of "America's Team" as former owner Ted Turner named them, can finish as a winner of the division and give us all some highlights by playing in another World Series. Oh well, it doesn't hurt to hope and pray!

# Across The Savannah A Haunting Postscript Missing Caskets

By TOM POLAND  
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Recently I wrote about finding my great granddad's old farmhouse, but I left out an eerie aspect that would be suitable for a Halloween column. The last line in my previous column read, "But of this much I am certain, more stories about old Thomas Antone's (Poland) home are sure to come, and when they do, you'll hear 'em."

True to my word, here's a haunting postscript. Once you read this column, as Paul Harvey famously used to say, "Now you know the rest of the story." Well, maybe.

My quest to find the old Poland home in Mount Carmel succeeded thanks to the help of a friend and former neighbor back in Columbia. Bobby Gladden works in the McCormick County Courthouse and he used his lunch break to find the records that led me to the old home.

I had read in my great granddad's obituary that he died in the house. That first day I saw the house it was a scorcher, hot as the hinges of Hades. Something about the house gave me an uneasy feeling. The heat, high humidity, and a hissing baby buzzard in a front room made my mind up. I'd stay outside.

I took exterior photos of the house and sent them to Bobby. He sent an email back with interior photos and a question. "Did you go inside? When I saw this, it was a shock to my psyche and I got out of there."

The photo was of a child's casket. Maybe that was behind the foreboding. I just had to go back and go inside. Sunday, July 25, Bobby met me at the old home. Tire tracks in tall grass told us the

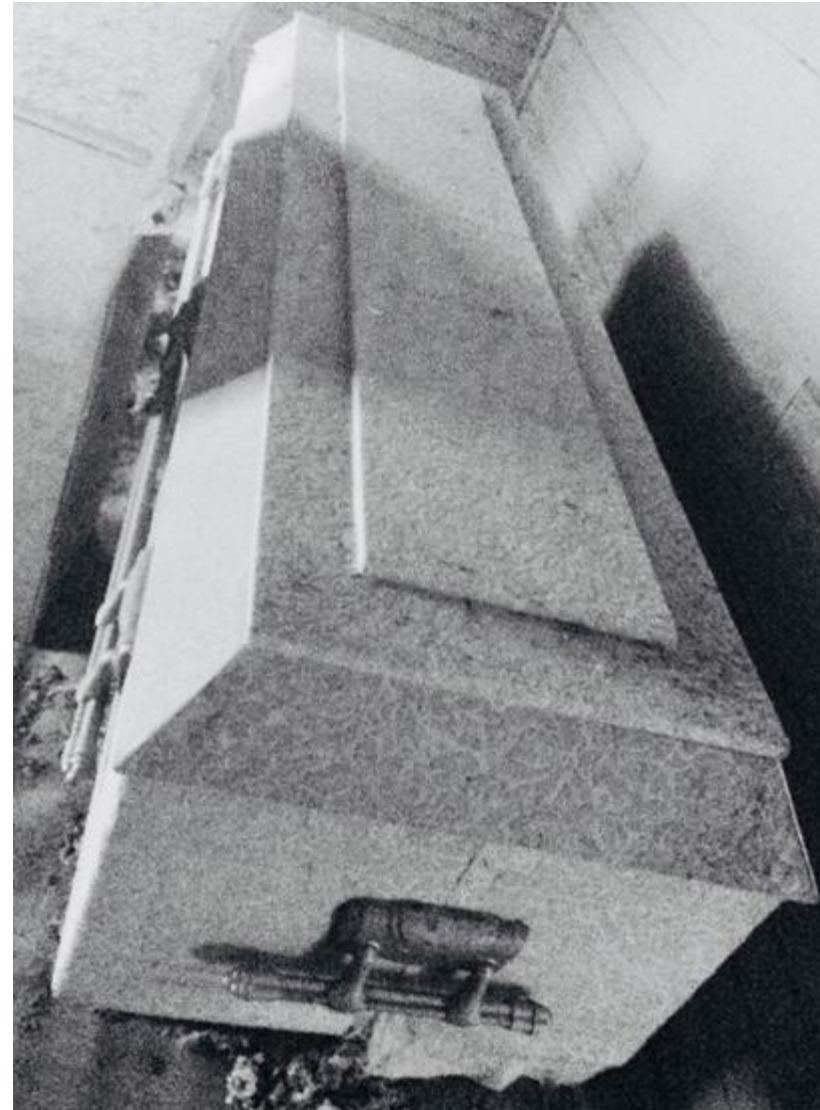


Photo was of a child's casket. (Photos Courtesy of Bobby Gladden)

home had recently had a visitor. As we entered the home Bobby told me there had been not one but three caskets in the house. We went inside and no casket was to be seen. All three gone. Nary a one.

Did the mysterious tire tracks

have something to do with the missing caskets or had they been removed years earlier since Bobby first saw them? We'll never know. Lots of questions.

Who would buy caskets and never use them? Just why would someone store caskets in an old abandoned house? Who were they for? A possible explanation for the child's casket came to me. My Dad had a sister, Hulda Ray Poland, who died in infancy. I have death certificates for her. One states, "Born April 13, 1925, died May 7, 1925," of bronchial pneumonia. It listed the undertaker as "None." In a lesser mystery another death certificate listed her as being born April 12, 1925, and dying May 7, 1925 and a corrected certificate as being born April 14 and dying May 1, which her tombstone verifies. Her complete name appears to be Hulda Ray Searles Poland. Confusing as it is, the corrected certificate reveals she lived just 17 days.

The tattered, weathered casket's shipping label says, "RUSH Child's Casket."

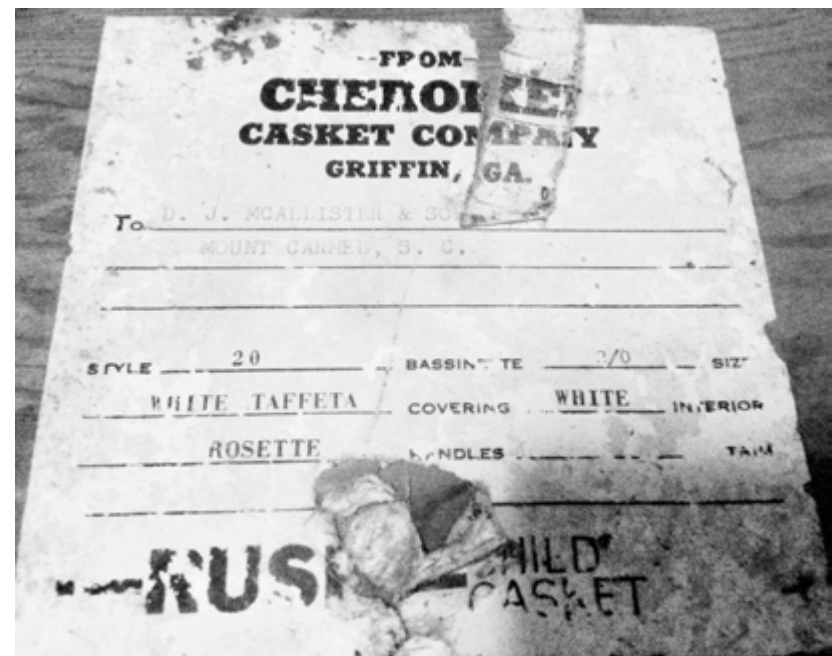
Undertaker, "None," had the little girl's grandparents bought her the Cherokee child's casket but it got there too late to use? Another casket took its place? Just what's going on here? I called Cherokee Child Caskets in Griffin, Georgia, to find out.

The answer is no, the casket wasn't for what would have been my Aunt Hulda. Cherokee Child Caskets didn't come into existence until 1941, sixteen years after her death. Plus I later learned Great granddad bought the house in 1946. Who were the caskets for?

The old house? Its walls haven't spoken ... yet. For now stand by, I have a developing story about this old home that will be more uplifting.

### Contributions needed

The Lincoln County Food Pantry welcomes contributions. Your donations are tax deductible. You may mail your contributions to: The Lincoln County Food Pantry, P.O. Box 473, Lincolnton, GA 30817.



Receipt from Cherokee Casket Company rush order for child's casket.

## Squirrel season opens Aug. 15

Hunters ready to head to the woods don't have to wait much longer, because squirrel hunting season begins August 15, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

"Many people may think hunting is only about sitting still and waiting on your target to come to you, but squirrel hunting often provides more action, so you may be moving around in pursuit of ole' bushytail - this creates a perfect opportunity to engage an energetic youth or someone new to hunting," said Alan Isler, Chief of the WRD Game Management Section.

Squirrel season begins August 15, 2021 and lasts through February 28, 2022, and hunters can pursue both gray and fox squirrels. The maximum daily bag limit is 12 per hunter. However, new this year, some WMAs have a limit on harvest of fox squirrels.

Georgia's wildlife management areas (WMA) offer access to nearly one million acres of hunting opportunity, and squirrel hunting is allowed on WMAs at specified times during the statewide squirrel season (https://georgiawildlife.com/allwmas). Hunters are advised to check the current hunting regulations for specific WMA dates and info (www.eregulations.com/georgia/hunting/).

The two species Both gray and fox squirrels can be found throughout Georgia. The gray squirrel, abundant in both rural and urban areas is the most common species. Though mostly associated with hardwood forests, grays also can be found in mixed pine/hardwood forests. Predominantly gray, with white

under parts, gray squirrels appear more slender-bodied than fox squirrels, weighing anywhere from 12 ounces to 1.5 pounds.

Fox squirrels have several color phases, varying from silver-gray with a predominantly black head, to solid black, to a light buff or brown color tinged with reddish-yellow. Generally larger than grays, fox squirrels range in weight from one pound to nearly three, and are more closely associated with mature pine and mixed pine/hardwood habitats, and especially in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions.

For more information on the 2021-2022 squirrel hunting season, or other hunting seasons, visit georgiawildlife.com/hunting/hunter-resources. To renew or purchase a hunting license, visit www.GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com.

### Play runs Aug. 12-15

The Washington Little Theater presents, The Sweet Deliah Swim Club, Aug. 12-15, at 7:30 p.m. Thurs., Fri., and Sat., and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, at Bolton Lunceford Playhouse, 313 N. Alexander Ave., Washington. Cost is \$17 adults, \$8.50 children. Purchase tickets online at washingtonlittletheater.org.

### Aycock benefit fund

A benefit fund has been set up at Farmers State Bank for Laney Aycock to help with medical and other expenses as she battles Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Laney is a lifelong resident of Lincoln County, is employed by Lincoln County OES and Gold Cross Ambulance Service as an EMT.

Donations can be made at Farmers State Bank or mailed PO Box 99, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

**SUNSET AUCTION COMPANY, INC.**  
Auction dates: In-House "estate liquidations": August 7th & 14th and September 4th & 18th  
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**Lincoln County High School Red Devils Football Schedule**

Aug. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Warren Co. (Scrimmage)	Home 7:30 PM
Aug. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Bryan Co.	Home 7:30 PM
Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Westside	Home 7:30 PM
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Laney	Home 7:30 PM
Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Harlem	Away 7:30 PM
Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Elbert Co.	Home 7:30 PM
Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Towns Co.*	Home 7:30 PM
Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Social Circle*	Away 7:30 PM
Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup>	OPEN	
Oct. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Washington-Wilkes*	Away 7:30 PM
Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Greene Co.*	Away 7:30 PM
Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Commerce*	Home 7:30 PM

\* Region Game

**Lincoln County JV Football Schedule**

Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thomson	Away 5:00 PM
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Elbert Co.	Away 5:00 PM
Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Greenbrier	Away 5:00 PM
Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	GSIC	Home 5:00 PM
Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Aquinas	Away 5:00 PM
Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Washington-Wilkes	Home 5:00 PM
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Harlem	Home 5:00 PM

**SCHOOL BREAKFAST**  
Lincoln County School System  
Breakfast Menu  
Mon., Aug. 16 - Fri., Aug. 20

- Monday - Donuts, fruit.
- Tuesday - Chicken biscuit, fruit.
- Wednesday - Muffins & yogurt, fruit.
- Thursday - Steak biscuit, fruit.
- Friday - Sausage biscuit, fruit.

All breakfast menus include choice of milk or 100% fruit juice. Entrée option: cereal bowl or cereal bar with graham crackers. Menus subject to change due to availability.

**Sunday services**  
Blessed Hope Bible Baptist meets at the Presbyterian Church on Sundays at 11 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for prayer meeting. Come join us. For more information call 706-359-6759.

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