

# Baseball's Best Announcers Create Excitement

By LAMAR GARRARD  
Baseball historian



"Baseball is a tongue-tied kid from (Washington) Georgia growing up to be an announcer and praising the Lord for showing him the way to Cooperstown. This is a game for America. Still a game for America, this baseball!" Ernie Harwell, Washington, Ga. native, long time Detroit Tiger announcer, member Baseball Hall of Fame.

Smiles come to my face when I reflect back on my teenage years in Augusta listening to my little Sears and Roebuck radio by my bed as the Augusta Tigers baseball team came alive over the air ways. The conductor of this symphony of minor league baseball happenings was local radio personality, Thurston Bennett. Some how Mr. Bennett had a way with words that made you feel like you were at the park watching the game in person.

Baseball over the years has spawned some of the finest announcers in the annals of sports. Ernie Harwell left Washington, Ga., got his start at WSB radio in Atlanta, served his country as a Marine in World War II and went to Detroit and became a Hall of Fame inductee.

We think back to the 40's and recall that the Yankees featured the iconic Mel Allen, often seen smoking a stogie and across town at Ebbets Field you had the old redhead, Southern born Dodger broadcaster, Red Barber. Russ Hodges helped make Bobby Thomson's "shot heard around the



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world home run famous" when Hodges yelled out: "the Giants win the pennant, the Giants win the pennant." Hodges, long time Giants announcer, was a

boy hood friend of my wife's dad and they both played on a church league YMCA basketball team together in the Ludlow, Kentucky area.

Milo Hamilton was one of the first Atlanta Braves announcers, soon joined by Ernie Johnson and Pete Van Wieren in the booth. Johnson, an ex Braves ballplayer, brought so much baseball knowledge to the broadcast and Van Wieren was a descriptive genius who covered every detail which was a delight to the ears of the fans.

Harry Caray, long time, "take me out to the ballgame" singer/character for the Cubs was a top notch showman. Who could forget the scenes with Harry wearing outlandish outfits and those big oversize spectacles. His son Skip pioneered on Braves radio in Atlanta and then Chip came along to make a grandfather, son and grandson legacy in baseball broadcasts.

I laugh when I think about old timer Dizzy Dean and his cowboy hat on TV's "Game Of The Week." A former HOF Cardinal pitcher got a kick out of saying: "he slud into 2nd base."

Former ballplayers seem to make wonderful announcers as was the case of Joe Garagiola who won a World Series as a Cardinal, after serving in WWII, and later became one of the most popular announcers on Television.

Don Sutton, Alabama born Hall Of Fame pitcher, was a very likable main stay for the Braves for many years. Joe Simpson has been on the radio and TV for the Atlanta Braves since it was called Turner Sports way back in 1992. Today he is the color commentator on the Braves Radio Network working along side of Jim Powell.

There are many, many more announcers in the baseball world that are notable to mention. We applaud all of them past and present for making the games so enjoyable!

# Across The Savannah

My Family Quest  
Discovering a Homeplace

By TOM POLAND  
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The past means much. As family property goes, however, no one or anything remains from my childhood. Fires, real estate deals, and a bitter sibling feud took away every home and acre I recall as family property.

Just one homeplace possibly exists, a house across the line from my native Georgia. That kept it out of harm's way. If I could find it, it'd give me a much-needed family connection for my mother and father's people are dead. Circumstances made an orphan of me. The past? It doesn't exist anymore.

But, did the house exist? No, my great, great granddaddy's farmhouse in Mount Carmel, South Carolina, burned long ago. A woman whose grandmother married my great granddad told me so, but that didn't stop my quest. She sent me a photograph and I made many trips to Mount Carmel, hoping some vacant grassy lot would speak. "Here's where it stood."

I just knew a vibe would pull me to the site where namesake Thomas Antone Poland gave up the ghost, for his obituary said he died in 1951 in his Mount Carmel home. Like some door-to-door salesman, I went from home to home searching. No luck.

Finally, the thing to do was to find the land where it had stood. A friend in the McCormick County courthouse sent me a plat. On a hot, humid Sunday I found the tract and there stood a house. I photographed it and compared it to the old photo. It was his, an old farmhouse with a tin roof, rock piers, hand-hewn joists, and two fireplaces.

I got my hand on deeds and records. For \$1,007.25 he bought the house and nine acres October 7, 1946, a Monday it so happens. At one time the place was known as the Leslie N. Miller place if I've deciphered the receipt's handwriting.

A week later I ventured into the building. A baby buzzard hissed at me. No one had lived there since great granddad died. How do I know? Because an old farming magazine published in 1951 lay on the floor. Because the rooms held tattered, battered Victorian furniture. No one had been looking for a place to live.



Perserverance lead me to my great-great granddaddy's old farmhouse with a tin roof, rock piers, hand-hewn joists, and two fireplaces.

I walked room to room looking at ruined furniture, six-on-six windows, and the detritus of people long gone. Naked light bulbs hung like Jack McCall who shot Wild Bill Hickok in the back of the head in Deadwood, South Dakota. Amid the ruin, I felt a connection.

I walked the vine-tangled grounds where I spied a tombstone only it wasn't. It's an old granite milepost with "21" engraved into it. From here was it 21 miles to the Edgefield County line? The old Anderson County line? Lincolnton, Georgia where great granddad had moved from? I aim to find out.

One final note. A young lawyer born in Greenwood but practicing in McCormick signed off on great granddad's executrix, Eva B. Brown's Petition to Prove Will. Counselor was just twenty-four years old but he would achieve fame as Richard Nixon's Special White House Counsel for Watergate Matters. His name? J. Fred Buzhardt. From baby buzzards to presidential infamy.

I'll have more to say about this tin-roofed repository of memories for I'm going back and when I do I hope the old dwelling will give up a few more secrets. But of this much I am certain, more stories about old Thomas Antone's home are sure to come, and when they do, you'll hear 'em.



An old granite milepost with "21" engraved into it. From here was it 21 miles to the Edgefield County line?

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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

Lincoln County Elementary School Lunch Menu

- Mon., Aug. 23 - Fri., Aug. 27
- Monday - Chicken fajitas w/ onions & peppers, black beans, garden romaine salad, fresh fruit.
- Tuesday - Shrimp poppers, Texas toast, baked potato, creamy coleslaw, fruit.
- Wednesday - Chicken nuggets, hot yeast rolls, macaroni & cheese, steamed broccoli, fresh apple wedges.
- Thursday - Hamburger, lettuce & tomato, waffle fries, carrot sticks w/dip, fruit.
- Friday - Crispy chicken tenders, hot rolls, mashed potatoes, green beans, sliced peaches.

All meals include a choice of milk and 100% fruit juice. Alternative entrée choice: pizza or peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Menus subject to change due to availability.

**SCHOOL BREAKFAST**

Lincoln County School System Breakfast Menu

- Mon., Aug. 23 - Fri., Aug. 27
  - Monday - Poptart, cheese stick, fruit.
  - Tuesday - Chicken biscuit, fruit.
  - Wednesday - Strawberry mini bagels, 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.

**What's for Lunch?**

Lincoln County Middle/High School Lunch Menu

- Mon., Aug. 23 - Fri., Aug. 27
  - Monday - Chicken fajitas w/ onions & peppers, black beans, garden romaine salad, fresh fruit.
  - Tuesday - Shrimp poppers, Texas toast, baked potato, creamy coleslaw, fruit.
  - Wednesday - Chicken nuggets, hot yeast rolls, macaroni & cheese, steamed broccoli, fresh apple wedges.
  - Thursday - Bacon cheeseburger, lettuce & tomato, waffle fries, carrot sticks w/dip, fruit.
  - Friday - Crispy chicken tenders, hot rolls, mashed potatoes, green beans, sliced peaches.
- All meals include a choice of milk and 100% fruit juice. Alternative entrée choice: pizza, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, or chef salad. Menus subject to change due to availability.



#89 Cameron kicks while QB Huff holds. (Photo by LCHS yearbook staff photographer Eliza Treadwell.)

## Red Devils have two weeks to prepare for Bryan County

Coach Lee Chomskis says the two week break before the first regular season game against Bryan County gives the Red Devils much needed time to work on the lessons learned in their 35-22 win over Warren County.

"We can spend all this week working on the things we didn't do well Friday night," says Coach Chomskis, "then we can use next week preparing for Bryan County."

Chomskis says the Red Devils need improvement on special teams, as well as defense. "The secondary needs to work on filling the gaps, and the defensive line needs to get off blocks quicker than they did last week."

New transfer quarterback Trey Huff played well against Warren County, both in leadership ability and performance, according to Chomskis.

The Red Devils take on the Bryan County Redskins on Friday, August 27 at Larry Campbell Stadium. The Redskins have yet to play this season, but

take on Butler this coming Friday night, August 20, which will allow Lincoln coach and players to have a preview of their upcoming opponent.

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