

# *Muffin Matters*

## News and Happenings Vol. 2



### **Big Leaguers at the Coop**

2/28 - Clippers President & General Manager Ken Schnacke announced that the Washington Nationals will travel to Columbus on Thursday, March 29 to play an exhibition game against the Baltimore Orioles, at 4:05 pm in Cooper Stadium.

"Washington promised Columbus that as a part of this new partnership between our state capital and the nation's capital, that they would entertain coming to Columbus for a pre-season exhibition game. We are very pleased that things have worked out in the very first year of our partnership." said Schnacke.

"Washington also accommodated us in as late a starting time as they could with the game being on a Thursday. This game will represent a homecoming for former Clipper Nick Johnson, and will also showcase other names familiar to Central Ohio; Austin Kearns now with the Nationals and former American League MVP Miguel Tejada and Zanesville native Jay Payton with the Orioles."

Tickets for the game are on sale now and can be ordered online or by telephone at 614-462-5250 for \$10.00.

### **Vintage Baseball Sure to be a Hit**

By Mark Wineka

Salisbury Post

Vintage baseball — the kind played in Civil War times — will be coming to Salisbury in mid-April as part of the 10th Annual Salisbury Confederate Prison Symposium.

The Ohio Village Muffins, a vintage baseball team from Columbus, Ohio, will be holding demonstrations and playing games April 14 and 15 as part of their entertainment and education mission.

On Saturday of the symposium, after the day's lectures and business meeting at Catawba College, the Muffins will try to recreate the well-known lithograph of baseball's being played at the Salisbury Confederate Prison.

Dressed in clothes similar to those in the lithograph, the players will take their positions on a lot at the corner of South Shaver and East Bank streets, a piece of property that is believed to part of the baseball field depicted in the lithograph.

One of the original lithographs of "Union Prisoners at Salisbury, N.C.," by Otto Boetticher hangs at the Rowan Museum, which also sells full-sized, color prints of the work.

The 1863 lithograph shows a view from the prison site toward South Main Street. The Salisbury skyline includes church steeples and the Boyden House, where now the old Empire Hotel stands.

Kaye Brown Hirst, executive director of Rowan Museum Inc., says the lithograph is considered one of the earliest

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**Reminder: The final Winter seminar will be held Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> in the OHS classrooms. All Muffins and Diamonds are encouraged to attend. Salisbury trip role assignments and uniform requirements to be discussed. Season match signups continue. 10am-12pm - Refreshments served.**

illustrations of baseball and often appears in baseball history books, including a recent work through the Smithsonian Museum.

The work is considered one of the more accurate representations of Salisbury and the Confederate Prison before conditions at the prison became unbearable toward the end of the war.

On Sunday of the symposium, the Ohio Village Muffins, dressed in their vintage uniforms and playing by the original rules, will play Civil War-era baseball at Catawba College's Newman Park. The game or games — they proceed fairly quickly — will be open to the public at no admission.

The Ohio Village Muffins are affiliated with the Ohio Historical Society. While they make most of their appearances in Ohio, they sometimes take their games on the road.

The Muffins' appearance in Salisbury will kick off their 2007 season.

Ed and Sue Curtis, leading organizers behind the Confederate Prison Symposium, contacted Dr. Jim Tootle in Columbus and Eric Laudenbacher in Greensboro to make the vintage baseball weekend happen.

Last April, the Salisbury couple noticed a newspaper story in Greensboro about Laudenbacher and his efforts to organize a vintage baseball team in the Triangle.

He had formerly been an Ohio member of the Muffins before his work sent him to Greensboro.

Laudenbacher put the Curtises in touch with Tootle, a retired assistant dean at Ohio State University.

Tootle and his wife came through Salisbury in December on their way to visit the Biltmore House in Asheville, so he could inspect the lot at South Shaver and East Bank streets.

Their discussions also turned to where the Muffins could play the next day, and Tootle and others quickly became enthused about Newman Park.

College officials soon agreed to allow the vintage game April 15. "These guys are real enthused about coming," Ed Curtis said of the Muffins.

The Muffins could bring as many as 20 players. Laudenbacher also has been recruiting some players in North Carolina who might be part of the games.

Women accompanying the Muffins will be in the crowd, helping to explain the rules of Civil War baseball, which are sometimes quite different from the modern game. Most of the equipment, such as bats and balls, are handmade.

Laudenbacher will kick off the 10th annual symposium by speaking on vintage baseball at 5 p.m. April 13 (a Friday) at the Landmark Church Fellowship Hall.

The next day's lectures will include Dr. Gary Freeze on prison structures; Dr. Mike McCully on prison life in 1862; and Lonnie Speer on black prisoners of war. Freeze, McCully and Speer are in-state historians.

The out-of-state lecturers will include Bill Kissel of New York and Pete Kissel of Washington, D.C., Tom Perry of Virginia and Geoffrey Ryder of Maryland.

Before the vintage baseball April 15, the public also is being invited to two memorial services — one at Salisbury National Cemetery and the other at the Old Lutheran Cemetery.

