



BRAIN TRUST — The board behind the Bedford Boys Baseball League is pictured here. Standing (left to right) are Robert Fultz, new secretary-treasurer; Thomas Gittus, new co-general manager; Walter Bielski, retiring secretary-treasurer who succeeds Arnold Scherer as commissioner; James Brown, new co-general manager, and William Winson, league attorney. Seated (left to right) are Thomas Pruden, also league attorney with Mr. Winson; Arthur Maschke, board member; Arnold Scherer, retiring general manager, new commissioner and founder of the league; Martin Hammerstein, president of the board; Norman Crary, board member, and Dr. Daniel Soda, board member.

Founder of 3B Retires

Eight years ago, a man named Arnold M. Scherer started a group of boys in a baseball program. Today, as he looks over the years, he has seen the league grow to be one of the finest organizations for young men in existence.

Mr. Scherer, founder of the Bedford Boys Baseball League (3B), is retiring as the general manager but will still have connection with the league as a member of the Board of Commissioners.

Walter Bielski is also retiring as secretary-treasurer, an office he has held since 1959. Robert Fultz of Lambertville has been appointed as the new secretary-treasurer.

Mr. Bielski will succeed Mr. Scherer as a commissioner.

Thomas Gittus of Lambertville and James Brown of Temperance have been appointed co-general managers.

The 3B was organized in 1959 by Mr. Scherer after a year of planning for his "dream". He wrote the basic rules and by-laws that still exist today and set up the well-working structure of the league.

Loop Forms

Letters were sent to leading businessmen in Bedford Township asking them to serve on the Board of Commissioners. They were to be rulers over the entire league, including general manager Scherer, who claimed, "Nobody's right all the time."

1 — Dr. Thomas J. Keane,

who donated his medical skill free of charge to the league and served until his death in 1963.

2 — Martin Hammerstein of Temperance, who has been president of the board since 1958.

3 — Norman Crary who has been on the board since 1958.

4 — Harlan VanDeilen who served from 1958 to 1963.

5 — Leo Bofia, a board member since 1958.

6 — William Winson and Thomas Pruden who have been the league attorneys since 1958.

7 — Barton Cook, who has since moved to Monroe, who was the secretary-treasurer in 1958.

8 — Walter Bielski, the secretary-treasurer from 1959 to 1965.

9 — Dr. Daniel Soda, a board member since 1961.

10 — Arthur Maschke, principal of Bedford High School who has been on the board since 1960.

After the board was organized and the plans for the league were definite, Mr. Scherer printed entry forms and placed them

with fund-raising canisters in every business establishment in Bedford Township and introduced himself and his objectives to each proprietor.

Response Is Fine

The response was immediate and soon a general meeting of parents was held and publicity was handled by the parents and boys.

The 3B began with a fund-raising campaign that went over the goal with the first dollar being donated by D. N. Roberts, former County Visitor of The Evening News.

From five teams in 1958 that played in the Trilby, Ohio, League, the loop steadily grew to 33 teams in 1962. Today, there are 24 teams including the Farm Club (all 9 years old), the Minor League (10 through 12) and the Junior League (13 through 15).

No tryouts or doubt exists in a boys' mind in the 3B league. All he has to do is register for play and he will be placed on a team. Names are all drawn from a hat with an equal number in each age group on each squad. Every boy must play three innings and bat at least once every week.

One outstanding feature of 3B is that no "area" teams are in existence. Boys from all areas of the township are on all teams. Mr. Scherer insisted on this in his original by-laws. In order to promote better community respect, spirit and cooperation.

Nearly all boys that played on Bedford High School Great Lakes League championship teams in 1963 and 1965 played in 3B.

League Is Most Important

A standing order in the Scherer household is that no matter what Mr. Scherer was doing, he always should be called to the phone or door to talk with one of "his" boys from 3B.

Mr. Scherer is owner and publisher of Dreher's Simplex Guide, Inc., of Toledo. During World War II he was in charge of production of a 52-inch world globe which the War Depart-

ment presented to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Mr. Scherer received a letter of commendation from Gen. George C. Marshall for the fine job and speed of production.

An interesting sidenote on the devotion of Mr. Scherer to Bedford Boys Baseball was noted by his wife. Mrs. Scherer called him in from outdoor painting and said, "Well, this is the last time I'll have to call you."

Mr. Scherer gave her a cold stare and replied, "Have you forgotten, I'm a commissioner now."