

OUTSIDE THE LINES

"When the Music Stops"



Tom McNulty

Deprived of one life-long dream, playing for the Yankees, Tom McNulty has managed to achieve another, publishing a novel. A 17 year veteran of the Union County Senior Softball League, he is currently the left-center fielder and "pinch-runner extraordinaire" for The Office, defending two-time champions in the "over 60" B division.

Tom's book, *When the Music Stops*, begins in the sliver of time between the ending of the Great Depression and the United States entry into World War II. Swing was King, DiMaggio and Louis were icons, economic prosperity finally beckoned again. But a gnawing sense of anxiety gripped the nation as Europe careened towards calamity.

With the Twentieth Century's most traumatic events as background, the story follows the fortunes of four young Americans: Johnny Miller, a talented musician intent on making the big time; Jean, the beautiful, devious girl who becomes his obsession; his cousin, Herman, an idealistic labor organizer; and Jean's sister, Dee, an abused but loyal wife. They are brought together through chance, physical attraction and professional expediency leading

up to a December weekend when the music stops with the slash of a knife and an act of unimaginable treachery. Their lives are forever altered as mankind's most terrible war comes to America.

When the Music Stops is rich in historic detail. Momentous happenings, world leaders, contemporary sports figures and radio personalities dot the pages. Locales move from the drab countryside of northeastern Pennsylvania to the glittering nightlife of New York City to war torn London to the battlefields of Europe and the Tarawa killing ground.

"I did extensive research to make the book factually correct and reflective of the times," Tom said. "It was a long process but in the end a very satisfying one. Not quite as good as playing for the Yankees, but close."

Tom played baseball at Union High for Gordon LeMatty and later teamed with the legendary coach in Senior Softball. Tom is a 1968 graduate of Penn State University with a degree in Journalism. For the past 37 years he's been a partner in the Green, Lind & McNulty advertising agency. He and his wife, Andrea, reside in Florham Park. They have two children and four grandchildren, all of whom live in North Carolina.

When the Music Stops is available in print and electronic form on amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com. More information can be found on the author's website: sbpra.com/TCMcNulty

Notable Quotables

"Trying to sneak a pitch past Hank Aaron is like trying to sneak the sunrise past a rooster."

—Joe Adcock

NEW JERSEY AMATEUR SOFTBALL HALL OF FAMER

60+ Senior Softball League of Middlesex County



Mr. Edward T. Strek

New Jersey Amateur Softball Hall of Famer Edward Strek's love of the game made it easy for him to make the transition into the 60+ Senior Softball League of Middlesex County where he has played for many years.

Under the sponsorship of Giuseppe's of Old Bridge, NJ, the team has compiled a consistently winning record on the playing field, capturing a number of

League championships.

However, Ed, an 82nd Airborne Veteran, has established a much more formidable record in his role as captain of the American Legion Lenape Post No. 211 Honor Guard in Sayreville, NJ. Under his strong leadership, the Honor Guard played a key role in pioneering NJ's first Mission of Honor Service held in the Borough on October 21, 2009.

The solemn ceremony captured national, county and local attention and now serves as a model for future services to be conducted throughout the country.

While the Honor Guard took part in approximately 60 military funerals since 2008, it is by no means limited to conducting memorial services for deceased veterans. Boasting 24 active and enthusiastic members, the Honor Guard devotes itself to conducting various patriotic programs at local schools in an effort to instill in the young student population a deeper love of country.

Within the past two years, the Honor Guard has also undertaken the presentation of Blue Star Banners to families who have sons or daughters serving in the military. The Banners are intended for display in the windows of the homes of the veterans' families until the return of the family member serving.

From the foregoing, it would appear that Ed Strek has distinguished himself not only on the softball field, but he has also hit a home run on the much more gratifying field in honoring our veterans.

The Official NJSSA Website

Website

<http://njseiorsoftball.com> or <http://njssa.us>

can be accessed from your web browser and either address will bring you to the official website.

Site selections are located along the left hand column.

You can 'click' on any of the links to see what information is contained in each. For example: select Leagues, select your county such as Union County and view the desired information.

The selections are arranged with the most likely accessed appearing from top to bottom. Each county is setup differently depending on league organization and information maintained. The Locations section has been updated to allow for easy access to field locations and directions.

It would be great to have an individual from each county maintain and format their information for me so I can post it. Suggestions on the website can be sent to: njssa@hotmail.com.

Bobby Lorincz