



## ***Hemond talks about his baseball life at Green Diamond Gallery***

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Trading for Dick Allen in 1971 to give a jolt to the White Sox is only one chapter of a long lifetime of stories the legendary Roland Hemond will share with members of the Green Diamond Gallery on June 26 in Cincinnati.

The Chicago Baseball Museum is assisting with Hemond's appearance at the gallery, a private baseball museum stocked with the memorabilia of founder Bob Crotty. The gallery hosts regular programs involving Hall of Famers and other prominent baseball figures.

Hemond, 84, was Sox general manager from 1970 to 1985, working under three different ownerships. He is a three-time Major League Executive of the Year honoree who started in baseball 63 years ago. Hemond now is special assistant to the president of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

He was re-united with Tony La Russa, now D'backs chief baseball officer, when La Russa achieved his long-desired front-office position last month. Hemond promoted La Russa to his first big-league managing job at 34 with the Sox in Aug. 1979.

Hemond broke into organized baseball in 1951 with the Eastern League Hartford Chiefs. He joined the Boston Braves organization the following year, working for the team through its move to Milwaukee. In 1961, he became scouting and farm director of the Los Angeles Angels.



**Roland Hemond has a lifetime of baseball stories to tell in any speaking appearance.**

Hemond began his 15-year stint with the Sox late in the 1970 season, coming over from the Angels in tandem with manager Chuck Tanner. He revived the franchise from its all-time worst 106-loss season in '70. In 1972, he earned his first executive of the year award when the Allen-sparked Sox battled the Athletics for the AL West crown into late September. Eleven years later, Hemond won the award again for assembling the 99-victory "Winning Ugly" Sox, managed by LaRussa to the franchise's first title of any kind since the 1959 AL pennant.

After moving on from the Sox, Hemond had a seven-year stint as Baltimore Orioles GM. He later worked for the Sox and the Diamondbacks in his senior executive roles.

Along the way, Hemond mentored a number of prominent baseball people such as La Russa, Tigers GM Dave Dombrowski and Reds GM Walt Jocketty.

His talk among the history dripping from the walls at the Green Diamond Gallery is quite apropos. One of two baseball museums in Cincinnati, the gallery features rare and revealing photos, team uniforms and other one-of-a-kind memorabilia. Hall of Fame officials rated the gallery as one of the best baseball museums outside Cooperstown.

Perhaps the most interesting photo was Bobby Thomson arriving at home plate after slugging his "shot heard 'round the world" pennant-winning homer in 1951, taken from center field at New York's Polo Grounds. The rare image shows the faraway celebration at home plate. In between, Dodgers second baseman Jackie Robinson, his back and uniform No. 42 facing the camera, is depicted standing at his position, hands on hips in total frustration.

