

SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

May 1998

c SABR Ballparks Committee 1998

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I NEW MEMBERS

Tom Holster Washington, D.C., Griffith Stadium; making a model of Griffith; seeking photos and materials on Griffith; all levels and leagues too.
PO Box 223661
Chantilly, VA 20153

Steve Gajewski All leagues and eras; Shibe Park, Laurer's Park of Reading, PA; seeks advice and assistance for erecting marker for Laurer's Park.
30 Ginger Lane
Reading, PA 19606

Mike Attiyeh All levels and eras;
1601 Civic Center Drive, Suite 101
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Neal Poloncarz All levels; modern era; Yankee Stadium & Fenway Park; All Philadelphia parks; researching ballparks and sea level home run effects.
1133B Holland Street
Crum Lynne, PA 19022

Stephen B. Carroll All eras and levels; Washington, Cleve., Boston, Phila. & NY.
521 So. Chicot Avenue
West Islip, NY 11795

Tom Weakland Pre-1900 to 1950; all AL parks; League Park & Cleveland Stadium; researching League Park and seeks photos and material.
722 Valleyview Dr.
Bellevue, OH 44811

We welcome these new members to our Committee. Please contact them if you see areas of common research and interest. Copies of their survey form available for SASE.

II ARTICLES OF THE PAST

(all reprints in this newsletter are available at 12 cents/page)

1. "The Polo Grounds," two-part series in SCD, 2-20 & 2-27-98, by SABR member Paul Ferrante (6 pgs)
2. White Sox Park in So.LA, LA Times, 2-22-98 (1 pg)
3. "The Brooklyn Myth," Creamer takes apart the Dodgers & Ebbets Field, NY Times, 5-24-98 (1 pg)
4. "Faults Are Found with New Ball Park of The Yankees, TSN, 3-25-23 (in 4-20-98 issue) (1 pg)
Another look at the Donovan Field area of West Haven, CT by Mike Dempsey (3 pgs)
- o. City Park Stadium in New Orleans adapted for baseball; looks similar to Polo Grounds; 7-7-57
7. Boxscore from the last game at Pittsburgh's Exposition Park, 6-29-09 (1 pg)

III POLITICS-DESIGN-BUSINESS

1. "Losing Sight," Boston Globe, 5-3-98, (3 pgs), how new parks & arenas place fans farther from the action; should be required reading by all on this Committee!
2. Red Sox top majors in average ticket price at \$20.63; only Yankees join the Sox above \$20 at \$20.51; WSJ, 4-3-98 (1 pg) Bottom four clubs are Montreal, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & Minnesota below \$10.00.
3. "Name of the Game," naming rights for stadia, Phila. Daily News, 1-27-98 (1 pg)
4. Brochure from the "Third Annual Stadium and Arena Conference," Orlando, FL 1998 (4 pgs)
5. "Downtown Comes Alive After Dark," Akron Beacon-Journal, 3-8-98 (2 pgs)
6. "Hair Salons, Hot Tubs and...Oh Yeah, Baseball," some date in '97 WSJ, (2 pgs)
7. Two articles and a cartoon from the NJ Record, NY Times, and NY Observer saying that George should build and pay for his own stadium, (3 pgs).
8. "Ohio Libertarians help defeat \$11 million sports stadium plan," no source, (1 pg) 1998
9. "Field of Schemes," NY Village Voice, 4-28-98, how teams like NY will use questionable structural concerns to get new taxpayer funded stadia.
10. How Jacobs Field turned the Indians into a money franchise, Plain Dealer, 4-10-98 (2 pgs)
11. "Gateway draws business to once-dismal district," Crain's Cleve. Business, 3-23-98 (2 pgs)
12. Two BB America articles on naming minor league parks, (2 pgs)

IV PRESERVATION NEWS

1. Marker placed on Babe Ruth's 1929 apartment building in NYC, Daily News, April/98 (1 pg)
2. "Save Fenway Park" organization making news in Boston. The group held an Opening Day party on April 1 and many articles have appeared in local papers. Copies of the party invitation while they last. Also, articles from the Globe, Herald-American, & Christian Science Monitor (10 pgs)

V MAJOR LEAGUE ARTICLES & MATERIAL

1. Six pages of history/information on Tropicana Field from the website .
2. Twenty-five pages on renovating Cinergy (Riverfront) for Reds from the Enquirer website (11/97-2/98)
3. Ten pages from the Diamondbacks' website on Bank One Ballpark.
4. Brief history of County Stadium and overview of events leading to new park, team website, (15 pgs)
5. "Jacobs Field Tour a Ball," Plain Dealer, 4-19-98 (1 pg)
6. Cleve. writer unimpressed with new Anaheim park, Plain Dealer, 4-5-98 (1 pg)
7. "Calculating Home Runs," Lakeland Ledger, 1-25-98, figuring hr numbers at Tropicana Field (1 pg)
8. Figuring foul balls at Fenway, Herald, 4-17-98 (4 pgs). For one Sox-Mariners game the "hot spot" was in the LF corner. 56% landed in the lower boxes.
9. "Big Mac Attack," Fans await balls hit out of Wrigley by McGwire et al. SI, 5-11-98 (4 pgs).
10. Ten pages of SF park history and review of new PacBell Park, Jay Roberts of SABR
11. Steinbrenner vs. Wilpon on getting a new stadium, NY Observer, 4-27-98 (2 pgs)

VI SELECTED MINOR LEAGUE NEWS & MATERIAL

1. Lowell, MA opening new 4710 seat stadium for Spinners in Class A, Boston Herald, 4-10-98 (2 pgs)
2. Minor league ball for Fort Worth near site of old LaGrave Field? Star-Telegram, 2-17-98 (2 pgs)

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3. McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket, RI to receive \$15 million in renovations to bring 1942 ballpark a long future. Thanks to Charles Bakst for great stories and plans (10 pgs).
4. Renovated Merchant Stadium in Lakeland includes luxury boxes for 7027-seat park, Ledger, 1-31-98.
5. Mayor says Staten Island needs baseball, NY Times, spring/98 (1 pg)
6. Reading Phillies upgrade park, plan new scoreboard, Eagle-Times, 11-6-97 (1 pg)
7. Seventy year old Hagerstown, MD facility still hosts minor league games, Wash. Post, 98 date (4 pgs)
8. Oklahoma City opens new Bricktown Ballpark before capacity crowd of 15,000. Statue of Mickey Mantle unveiled; park features picnic area, two decks, and some feel of old Forbes & Griffith. (2 pgs)
Your chairman visited the site in February and walked through the whole place without seeing another soul. Park is located near developing "Bricktown" (streets are paved in red brick) of clubs and eateries.
9. Old Beehive Park may be replaced, but it still sits next door to the new New Haven, CT facility for the Rock Cats. Local hs and Legion teams enjoy its classic environs. (via Yankee Magazine)
10. Another downtown park debuts in Memphis in 1999 with 14,320 seats. Named for AutoZone, the facility will have the downtown skyline as a backdrop. Brochure & schedule available (3 pgs)
11. Profile of minor league baseball in NJ where six teams now plan to play where none existed a few years ago "Are there enough fans around?" wonders the article. NJ is a developing hotbed on minor league ball. NY Times, 4-5-98 (3 pgs).
12. Zephyrs create 29 foot hill at park, making highest point in New Orleans and re-creating famed "Monkey Hill" of local zoo. Times-Picayune, 4-6-98 (2 pgs).
13. For seventh time in ten years, Tulsa improves its park, TX Lg. Newsletter, 4-20-98 (1 pg)
14. Quick index to Texas League parks and teams since 1902, league book, (1 pg).
15. "Eatery joins ballpark lineup," Akron Beacon Journal, 5-19-98 (1 pg)
16. Baseball old and new in Bridgeport, CT with info researched by Mike Dempsey. He notes a new book on the city's baseball history, Baseball in Bridgeport, by Mike Roer, 194 pages/\$10.
Five pages of material Mike has provided.

VI RESEARCH

1. The opening of the Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix, AZ, has reopened the question about the dirt pathways parks used to have from home plate to the pitcher's mound. We have struggled with this query before, but I do not recall us finding a definitive answer. A quick look through many ballpark books and I found a pathway at Griffith Stadium in 1954 (Lost Ballparks, p. 88), and maybe another for the same park in 1956 (Take Me Out to the Ballpark, p. 282), but no pathway appears in a Griffith photo of 1949 in The Ballparks (p. 237). We have a short Washington Post article (4-7-98) noting the waiver BoB got for their nostalgic feature. Any thoughts on why/how/when the paths disappeared?
2. Mark Vatauvuk sent us a few pages of observations on the differences in both leagues in fence distances and park capacities for 1956 vs. 1997. The AL capacity average was 47,879 in 1956 and in 1997 the average is 48,283, a small increase of less than 1%. Meanwhile, NL parks in 1956 held an average of 36,683 in 1956 and in 1997 they held 52,579, a substantial increase of 43%! He also notes that 1997 parks average 21 feet longer to RF than their 1956 counterparts while the deepest point listed in a park is 22 feet shorter for 1997 parks over the elder forbears. Six pages available.

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3. Jon Daniels at 1340 No. Dearborn Pkwy, #3EF, Chicago, IL 60610 seeks info on the exact location of Lake Front Park. He hopes to have a plaque placed there. Was it east of west of Michigan Ave? And where exactly was home plate?
4. We have a copy of the program for the "Diamonds in the Desert" conference held last March at the Arizona State University campus. (12 pages). Thanks to Joe Dulle for sending this along.
5. We just got a call from Bill Feldman, 119 Mackenzie Street, Brooklyn, NY 11235. He is working on a painting for Bill Goff of the famed "called shot" by Ruth in the 1932 Series. He needs photos of the bleachers at Wrigley---and we all know that they were substantially different before the ivy covered walls came five years later.
6. With the problems at Yankee Stadium in April, the Yankees and the Mets shared Shea Stadium *for their games, the first time in a century-plus that one park hosted two games from different leagues on the same day.* It last happened says the Hall of Fame in 1885 at the old Polo Grounds (the first one, with two diamonds between 110th and 112th Streets and Fifth & Sixth Avenues). Box score and AP story available. Two pages. For the record it was Wednesday, April 15 , and the Yankees beat the Angels 6-3 before 40,743 and the Mets edged the Cubs in the nite-cap, 2-1 before a smaller house of 16,012.
7. Harold Feinstein thanks those who responded to his photo research request in a previous issue. He had sought the exact date of the famed photo of two Reds players taking a rowboat ride in flooded Crosley Field in 1937. It was January 27.
8. Jeffrey Staats has the poem from the opening of the "When it was a game" video and would welcome any info on the author. Here it is----any ideas? Write him at 75 Wilkey Street, Portsmouth, RI 02871.

Doubtless, there are better places to spend summer days, summer nights
than in ballparks.

Doubtless.

Never the less,

decades after a person has stopped collecting bubble gum cards
he can still discover himself collecting ballparks.

Not just the stadiums,

but their surrounding neighborhoods, their smells, their special seasons and moods.

Quaint?, sure

Beautiful? not really.

However, when the sun is bright and the air is crisp and your seat seems closer than
the on deck hitter,
all is forgiven.

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9. Dale Schreyer seeks assistance with the restoration of his Municipal Stadium seat. He has restored it to forest green, but was the lettering white or black? Write him at 1244 Altis Ct., Strongsville, OH 44136. (216) 572-3550
10. Everett Parker at 7 Penrod Ct., Napa, CA, just relocated from NYC, but his passion for the old Polo Grounds has never waivered. Over recent years he has written many folks to see just what happened to all those plaques that used to sit on the CF wall. For the record, those markers were for Eddie Grant (1921), Ross Youngs (1928), Christy Mathewson (1928), John McGraw (1934), Al Blozis (1945), Jack Lummus (1945), and Mayor James J. Walker (1948). Everett has contacted NY Giants team officials (baseball & football) and no one can say where those seven markers have been since the last Giants game of 9-29-57. Any ideas? Three pages of Everett's letter and marker summaries available.

VII BOOKS-PUBLICATIONS, ETC

1. The Danbury Mint at 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857, makes a colorful replica of Ebbets Field on a "deluxe" scale plus twenty-four other park models, reports Steve Carroll.
2. Common Courage Press at 1 Red Barn Road, Monroe, ME 04951, sent our Committee a copy of Field of Schemes. How the Great Stadium Swindle Turns Public Money into Private Profit. Anyone read it and willing to review it for our next issue? I'll bring a copy to SABR in CA. \$22.95 plus \$3 s/h. 1-800-497-3207.
3. Through September 2 ballparks photographer Jim Dow has a display at the University of Michigan Museum of Art featuring "The National League Stadiums. Located at 525 So. State, the museum hours are 10-5 Tuesday-Saturday (Thursday to 9 p.m.); Sunday 12-5. One-page review from the Ann Arbor News available (5-10-98).
4. The Cultural Encyclopedia of Baseball by Jonathan Fraser Light has a section on ballparks. Anyone seen it? Any new material?
5. The Baseball America BookGuide had a few ballparks titles worth noting:

Turner Field: Rarest of Diamonds by Gary Caruso (Longstreet Press) \$29.94 provides a tour of the new facility.

Ballpark by Elisha Cooper (Greenwillow Books) \$15
Children's book showing a day at the park, before/during/after a game.

In the Ballpark: The Working Lives of Baseball People by George Gmelch & J. J. Weiner, (Smithsonian Institution) \$21.95; a look at vendors, clubhouse people, and team administrators.

The Old Ball Yard: McCormick Field, Home of Memories by Bob Terrell (Worldcomm) \$9.95 a history of what was once one of the oldest facilities in the minors in Asheville, NC.

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Yankee Stadium, 75 Years of Drama, Glamour, & Glory, (Penguin Studio) \$29.95 by Ray Robinson & Committee member Christopher Jennison. Chris kindly send our Committee a copy. Mike Frank of our Committee provided some photos. There are many new photos not seen here before. If you have the 50th anniversary book, then you need this one!

6. Stats, Inc, just released a book on ballpark diagrams and Oscar Palacios sent us some sample pages that look very sharp. Contact them at 8131 Monticello Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076-3300 (847) 676-3322. The parks are on a scale of one inch of diagram equals 60 feet. Since the sample pages sent included Huntington Avenue Grounds and other defunct fields, we can assume that they cover much more than the current field of play! The layouts include all distances. No info on price.
7. The ever-vigilant Don Lancaster reports on a new book covering the Eastern League ballparks: It's Raining Cats and Sea Dogs: A Fan's Guide to the AA Ballparks and Towns of the Eastern League by Steve Holcomb, 1997 (Pax River Press) Box 229, Bowie, MD 20716 . No price info available.
8. Great color postcards of Forbes recently published, showing some sharp images from the 1950s and 1960s. Committee member Dan Bonk and associates are publishing "Memories of Forbes Field" for \$12 for a set of twelve; s/h included. These may be the first color postcards of a defunct park published in over twenty years. Contact them at Point Four Sports, 520 Second Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139. If this series does well, then more to come!

VIII MAJOR LEAGUE BALLPARK NOTES

1. HOUSTON The team unveiled a \$60,000 model that displayed the new stadium's features, including 60 suites, kids areas, 262-seat Diamond Club, and a retractable roof. A seating capacity of 42,000 is anticipated with a natural grass field. The site is Crawford & Texas Streets, adjacent to the historic Union Station, nearby the Brown Convention Center. Preliminary dimensions: LF 315; CF 435; RF 326. One Houston Chronicle article (3-27-98) and three pages from the web site.
2. MONTREAL A July deadline of 12,000 personal seat licenses looms to help erect a 35,000 park, a turn to the past to escape the often empty Olympic Stadium. The proposed park would be a close neighbor to the recently erected Molson Centre, new home of the Canadiens of the NHL. The Expos would like to be in their new/old facility by 2001.
3. BOSTON No beer on Opening Day? Seems the date fell on both Good Friday and Passover, so the team decided to be beer-free! It did not sit well with the capacity crowd. The next time all three dates coincide doesn't come for 200 years! One page AP story (4-11-98) Also, the Sox re-arranged the retired numbers of the RF facade. They used to form the code: 9-4-1-8, or September 4, 1918, the day before the first game of the 1918 World Series (the last Series the Sox won!) Just a coincidence say team officials. (Herald 4-11-98). Meanwhile, the team announced plans to build a new Fenway across the street, transferring some of the aspects, like the Wall, of the old park into the new facility. That idea, while supported by some sports writers & the Boston Globe was not well received by the neighboring homes and business. Twenty pages from Boston papers in early April available.

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4. NEW YORK The Mets have unveiled plans for their Ebbets/Dome facility, combining the best of technology with nostalgia at today's breathtaking costs. Proposed for the parking lot east of current Shea Stadium, the \$500 million stadium would feature "moving grass" on a slab that could be rolled outside, leaving a concrete pad adaptable for basketball, hockey, concerts, etc. The 45,000-seat stadium would be ready by 2002. NY Times, AP, and Daily News stories (5 pgs) of 4-24-98.
5. NEW YORK The Yankees have had an eventful beginning to their 75th season in Yankee Stadium. The morning after the great beam crashed, Keith Danish faxed some area info with the cry, "George loosened the bolts!" We have a ton of material from NYC sources (up to 20 pages) if you did not read enough in your own papers. By the way, the opening day crowd a few days before the beam crash packed the Stadium with 56,717, the largest single-day crowd since the place was reopened in '75. And the Yankees set a total run record for the Stadium with a 17-13 win, eclipsing the 17-11 win they had over the Phila. club on 6-3-33. Obviously, the beam issue has heated up the debate over a new or reconstructed ballpark. West Side Manhattan or NJ? We have up to ten pages of NYC papers and journal articles. Transportation and tradition suffer if they go to NJ, but traffic will be a mess if they relocate to mid-town. Of course, the Yankess started in Manhattan in 1903, but that is another story!
6. TORONTO Old Exhibition Stadium, originally built in 1948 and expanded in 1954, may meet the wrecker's ball in the fall. The Jays started there in 1978, moving to SkyDome in 1989. Having few supporters, the facility will be cleared for parking and landscaping.
7. SAN DIEGO The Padres have a plan and a location, now they need some voter approval and money. The stadium task force picked Centre City East, with a possible park location between 7th & 10th Avenues, J Street to Imperial Avenue. A "rush job" would depend on a positive vote on November 3 with property acquisition, stadium design, funding, and construction on a swift track for a spring-2001 opening day. Six pages of the local paper available.
8. DALLAS The architect who designed the Ballpark in Arlington, David Schwarz, also received the nod to design the new Dallas arena.
9. PHOENIX They had the usual opening night jitters for the first game in Bank One Ballpark, an exhibition contest with the White Sox, but all seemed well for the first real game. Ten pages of news about the new park from the Bank One newsletter, American West magazine, and Buildings magazine. Also, we have a copy of the commemorative newspaper section. If you want some details of the new place: transportation routes, how balls carry, family attractions, and luxury suites; copies up to 15 pages.
10. DETROIT The Tigers nailed down the financing and announced over the winter "a redesigned ballpark (that is) more fan friendly." A block-long open view of the park will be available to fans on the street. Projected distances are LF at 342; CF at 422; and RF at 328. Four pages from the Free-Press. If costs climb, naming rights may provide necessary financial assistance.
11. MILWAUKEE The 2-1-98 Journal-Sentinel noted that the 43,000 seat Miller Park was on schedule for its 2000 Opening Day. The upper deck would be pitched at 31 degrees, unlike the 35/36 degree pitch at new Comiskey and the current 33 degree slope at County Stadium. Expected dimensions are 342 to LF; 400 to CF; and 356 to RF with the two power alleys at 374 and 378.

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12. PITTSBURGH Despite a defeat at the polls, the Pirates resurrected the new ballpark proposal with "Plan B" funding, combining public and private money. The 38,000 seat facility on the city's "North Shore" would provide a view of downtown, 4800 affordable bleacher seats, and an elevated river walk. For \$228 million this could come true for the 2001 opening day. We have up to 20 pages of local newspaper coverage, plus for \$2 each, I can copy the color drawings sent to us by Dan Bonk. Home plate would be 400 feet from the river. Some area residents facing eviction aren't so thrilled. Failure to have a new home by 2001 could cause a team relocation.
13. CHICAGO The White Sox home opener played to almost 20,000 empty seats, the worst opening day since they drew just over 20,000 in 1975 (both dates against Texas!). The team is drawing poorly and there is talk of selling naming rights to finance park improvements. Seven pages from the Sun-Times and other local sources.
14. CHICAGO Local officials want to tax those roof top gatherings and enforce some safety ordinances. A "Weeghman Park" brewpub was planned behind Wrigley, named after the park's first name of 1914. And a three-page piece notes the inevitability of Wrigley's demise (Newcity 4-16-98).
15. NEW YORK Yankee Stadium 75th anniversary insert from the Daily News, 15 pages available.
16. Review of all major league parks, SD Union-Tribune, 3-30-98 (3 pgs)
17. WASHINGTON The Baltimore Business Journal of 4-17-98 noted an effort by the Washington DC Sports Commission to build a baseball-only facility seating 45,000 for \$175 million.

IX SOME ATTENDANCE NOTES

1. Major League baseball drew 63,860,022 in 1997, a 6.26% increase over 1996, but still lagging far behind the record season of 70,257,938 of 1993. The 1997 figures does represent the second highest total in major league history. The per game average for 1997 was 28,160. A look back at ten year intervals shows how the fan base has grown:

1997	28,160	1957	13,182	1917	4,237
1987	24,721	1947	16,132	1907	4,902
1977	18,381	1937	7,257		
1967	15,005	1927	8,054		

2. "Just wait until we get hot--or the weather improves" In the first two months of the 1998 season, there were fifty games that had posted attendance at less than 10,000. Six teams accounted for those poor showings with Montreal (19) and Oakland (12) leading the pack. The other four included Minnesota (9), Pittsburgh (5), Milwaukee (3), & San Francisco (1) Montreal had two three-games sets (both against Houston!) that drew under 10,000 for each game. The smallest crowd of the young season was on April 21, Minnesota at Oakland, drawing 5000.

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3. Opening Day crowds for all teams averaged 45,067, but the next day's game averaged 22,972, a drop of 49%. Cleveland actually increased its house for the season's second game by 105 (42,707 to 42,802). Boston lost but 402 fans from game one to game two (32,805 to 32,403), and Colorado had just a 4% drop and Arizona lost but 8%. The biggest losers from the first to the second game were Milwaukee at 87%, San Francisco at 82%, and Montreal & Oakland at 80%. Twelve teams saw attendance for game two drop by two-thirds or more.

X SABR NATIONAL MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO

The national meeting returns to the west coast on June 25-28. **Our annual Committee meeting will take place on Thursday night, June 25, from 8:45 - 9:30 p.m.** Should we have more to talk about, we will re-gather at some suitable location. We will have a Committee Table in the main display/book room. See me on Thursday and we will sign up people to "take a shift" and watch our table. I look forward to seeing you soon.

XI SOME LATE NOTES

1. Padres unveil a proposed ballpark, seating 41,000, to reflect San Diego heritage. It will be "intimate" and "fan friendly." Union-Tribune, 6-7-98 (3 pgs)
2. STADIAPLEX takes place in Chicago, IL, at the Holiday Inn/O'Hare International at 5440 No. Des-Plaines River Road in the Rosemont district of the city. Date: August 8. Also taking place in the city that weekend, the National Sports Collectors Convention and the Greater Chicago Postcard and Epherema Show. Sounds like Chicago is the place to be for buying/selling/trading baseball postcards.
3. Bruce Genter's models will be on display at the San Diego Hall of Champions for a special exhibit on ballpark/stadium design. It opens on July 1, featuring Bruce's models of Forbes, Shibe, Crosley, & Griffith. HOK will loan the Coors Field model. The exhibit will tie into the issue of a new park for San Diego and the design issues raised.
4. Professor G. S. Rowe of the University of Northern Colorado seeks info on the re-built (post 1894 fire) home of the Boston NL team. Did the South End Grounds have player dressing rooms; what were the size and details? Contact him at Dept. of History, Univ. of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO 80639.

XII STATE OF THE BALLPARKS

A quick overview of all thirty major league ballparks on a "safe," "endangered," or "doomed" status shows the AL with 8 safe, 4 endangered, and 2 doomed. Meanwhile, the senior circuit has 6 safe, 4 endangered, and 6 doomed. That means that about half of the current major league facilities may no longer be hosting a major league team in ten years or less. This unscientific survey classifies the cities as follows:

American League Safe for now: Anaheim, Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Kansas City, Tampa Bay, Texas, & Toronto.
 Endangered: Boston, Minnesota, New York, & Oakland.
 Doomed: Detroit & Seattle.

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National League: Safe for now Arizona, Atlanta, Chicago, Colorado, Los Angeles, & St. Louis.
Endangered: Cincinnati, Florida, New York, & Philadelphia.
Doomed: Houston, Pittsburgh, San Diego, & San Francisco.

Note: this survey does not account or predict the physical future of a facility. No doubt, the Astrodome will live for future conventions and sporting events; football may stay at several endangered and doomed facilities. Talk to preserve Tiger Stadium has not produced a proposal the politicians will consider.

Meanwhile, the march to the future leaves us with this "top ten" oldest major league parks:

Fenway Park	1912	3Com Park	1960	As for the other nineteen:
Tiger Stadium	1912	Dodger Stadium	1962	1960s: 3
Wrigley Field	1914	Shea Stadium	1964	1970s: 5
Yankee Stadium	1923	Astrodome	1965	1980s: 2
County Stadium	1953	Busch & Edison Int'l	1966	1990s: 9

XII THE NAME GAME

For the 1998 season, the corporate naming trend has two AL parks (Anaheim & Tampa Bay), but nine in the NL (Arizona, Chicago, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Colorado, Florida, St. Louis, San Diego, & S.F.) You could question Atlanta & Chicago (do you classify it named for a person, the industry they represent--or both!). People (Shea, Jacobs, Comiskey, Kauffman, & Humphrey), places (Fenway, Ballpark in Arlington, Camden Yards, Alameda County, Three Rivers, King(County)dome), teams ; (Tiger, Yankee & Dodger), and government/public names: Veterans, Olympic, & County round out the rest, except for the two trend-setting domes of Astro- and Sky-.

XIV THANKS go to many individuals for donating materials to the cause, and among the many correspondents for the past few months, we have: Fred Schuld for Cleveland material; Alan Schmidt for a copy of Lost Ballparks; Don Lancaster for a big packet of Pittsburgh material; Mike Frank/Keith Danish/Ira Drucker for much material on the Yankee Stadium beam crisis; Joe Dulle for the conference info; Bruce Genter, Lile Anderson, & Frank Helminski for donations to the postage fund;

Our thanks to every member who sent in some material or clipping over the past few months. We also appreciate all of you who have been advancing the various committee projects. There will be some reports and material available on our "Ballparks in TV & Movies" listing, the Minor League Parks compilation, and the Nineteenth Century (up to 1909) Parks Project. As always, we welcome your thoughts, suggestions, and participation.

With luck, our next newsletter comes out in August.