

SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

June - December, 1999

© SABR Ballparks Committee 1999

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I. NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following people to our Committee:

Thomas S. Owens 1001 W. Boone Street Marshalltown, IA 50158	1920-onward; all Iowa minor lg. ballparks; majors; seeks information on ballparks for children's book; another children's book to be published in October/2000.
Ron Selter 1430 East Walnut Avenue El Segundo, CA 90245	1900-onward; minors; West TX/NM league; seeks info on ballparks & elevation effects on batting.
Bob Trumbour 2518 Third Avenue Altoona, PA 16602	1900-onward; all levels; Cinn/Boston/NY/Pitts; studying media coverage of new stadia projects like Pittsburgh & Cincinnati.
Jason DuPaul 4855 Meadowview Drive Macungie, PA 18062	1950-onward; AL parks; Fenway/Yankee/Astrodome; interested in designs of future stadia.
Devon Niebling 3008 So. 126th Plaza #56 Omaha, NE 68144	All eras; all levels; WPA parks; Omaha; seeks info on parks & winter maintenance. Ask if any study has been done on college-level parks; working on dissertation on baseball/parks/fiction.
David Stephan 11824 Beatrice Culver City, CA 90230	1900-onward; Majors; hit streaks
Kevin Young 1742 Joan Drive Louisville, TN 37777	1900-onward; all levels; Cleveland/Akron; suggests a study of new parks and design trends; seeks preservation of Bill Meyer Stadium
Victor Wilson 2232 Via Alamos Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274-1653	All levels; all major levels; research interest in park distances and configurations.

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Jason Rozon 1920-onward; major leagues; NY/Seattle/Ontario
311 Division Street #4
Oshawa, Ontario Canada
L1G 5M6

Please contact any of these new Committee Members if you see items of common interest; several are new SABR members!

II. BUSINESS AND POLITICAL ARTICLES

1. "New ballparks are fouling up the game," Phila Daily News, 5-28-99 (1 pg)
2. "Owners make books say what they want," " " , 6-22-99 (1 pg)
3. "Millions for Baseball, Not a cent for logic," NY Observer, 8/30-9/6, 1999 (1 pg)
4. New facilities generate more cash, Detroit News, 6-6-99 (2 pgs)
5. Naming rights still big business, Facility Manager, 1/2-1999 (4 pgs)
6. Redskins ink 27 year/\$200 million name deal, Wash Post, 10-28-99 (2 pgs)
7. "Ballparks are going to cost us a lot more," Phila Daily News, 6-1-99 (1 pg)

III. MISCELLANEOUS MAJOR LEAGUE ARTICLES & NEWS

1. "Achieving the perfect turf," CSM, 7-20-99 (1 pg)
2. Dodger Stadium is assessed at \$99 million (SI news note of 10-25-99)
3. Quincy, MA man gets replica of famed Fenway RF 'red seat,' Patriot-Ledger, 7-26-99 (2 pgs)
4. "Fabled Ballparks Bow Out," Wash Post, 9-18-99 (2 pgs)
5. "Wrigley, The last of the real deal," Seattle Times, 7-11-99 (1 pg)
6. Grass overtaking turf; 23 of 32 NFL teams may be on grass by 2002. SI 9-6-99 (1 pg)
7. With 1999 closings, SI lists and comments on ten oldest parks; 9-20-99 (1 pg)
8. New Miller Park will feature \$1 seats, but not for a while yet.
9. Home Field advantage not what it used to be: teams having better road than home records have improved from 8.5% in the 60s to 17.3% in the late 90s. TSN , 7-19-99 (1 pg)
10. Profile of man owning several buildings around Wrigley Field; CSM, 7-6-99 (2 pgs)
11. The stadium advantage; stats & home fields; WSJ, 7-2-99 (1 pg)
12. Review of new 'retractable & retro' parks, NY Times, 7-13-99 (2 pgs)
13. Famed peanut vendor at Dodger Stadium, CSM, 8-17-99 (1 pg)
14. Old Cleveland Stadium rubble now serves as underwater reef, Reading Times, 8-20-99 (1 pg)
15. "In the shuffling of players & stadiums, what happens to longtime team loyalties," Phila Inquirer via Wash Post 7-20-99 (1 pg).
16. Kevin Cosner plays in movie at Tiger Stadium, Detroit Free-Press, 9-16-99 (2 pgs)
17. "At Wrigley, past & present mesh seamlessly," Phila Inquirer, 8-16-99 (2 pgs)
18. Memorial Stadium in Baltimore to be demolished, wire article, 5-7-99
19. "Are We Having Fun Yet," Roger Angell looks at today's game, New Yorker, 5-17-99 (2 pgs)

IV. EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

1. "Cleveland in Picture Postcards," including some baseball sites, was on display at the Stokes Wing at Cleveland State University from May 22 to July 30, 1999, says Fred Schuld.
2. The Chicago Bears were featured in an exhibit at the Field Museum in Chicago that ran until January 2. Did anyone see it--and did they have any Wrigley Field photos?

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3. Boston Public Library had a special Boston baseball photos exhibit in honor of the All-Star Game. Boston Globe article of 7-12-99 (3 pgs) available

Report any and all displays on baseball/ballparks and we will post them in future newsletters. If printed materials/articles, etc. are available, send along a copy to be made available to all.

V. MARKERS & MEMORIALS

1. Thanks to John Moist who sent us a photo of the Edmonds Field marker for that Sacramento, CA field of 1910-1960. photo copy available.
2. Doug Lyons seeks any information and/or listings on markers, memorials, statues, monuments, streets, etc. named/erected for ballplayers. Doug can be e-mailed at BASEBALLINFO@aol.com Phone him at (914) 723-5484, 181 Webster Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583.
3. Greg Martin seeks information on successful marker projects for ballparks. E-mail him at ebbetmartin@home.com, or try him at 100 Wells Street, #320, Hartford, CT 06103.
4. The Brooklyn Dodgers Hall of Fame newsletter reported in their summer/99 issue that their next "plaque event" would be the Con Ed plant in downtown Brooklyn, site of old Washington Park, the pre-1913 home of the Dodgers. Some of the OF wall still exists.

- VI. **REVIEW OF SAFECO FIELD** is enclosed as written by Jack Carlson of our Committee. Enjoy. Other reviews of the new parks, books, exhibits, etc. are most welcome.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES

1. SkyDome lacks intimacy of new stadiums, Toronto Star, 8-9-98 (3 pgs)
2. "Bases Loaded with gourmet cuisine," CSM, 6-30-99 (1 pg)
3. Rockies relegate organist to Sunday games only, wire service, 7-8-99 (1 pg) team wants to attract and keep younger fans; Cleveland & Baltimore have dropped organists.
4. "Out of the Ball Park," residents near NYC former parks losing baseball interest, NY Times, 10-10-99 (2 pgs)
5. 1998 Mexican League game attendance averages range from 1402 (Campeche) to 9333 at Monterrey. All but two are under 5000; half are under 2300. (1 pg)
6. "Haunted Houses," Roger Angell asks "what do fans remember when an old ballpark is shut down," New Yorker, 1999, illustrations, (6 pgs).

VIII. BOOKS & OTHER ITEMS

1. Williamsport's Baseball Heritage by Lou Hunsinger and James P. Quigel of Arcadia Publishing has a few good ballpark photos, including parks before Bowman Field, so says Don Lancaster.
2. The Ballparks Book, A Journey Through the Fields of Baseball Magic, is being touted by its publisher, The Sporting News. Forty-six parks, over 300 pages, and just \$24.95 to those who order this April/2000 book early. Regular price will be \$39.95. Call 1-800-825-8508. I would welcome a review for our newsletter.
3. Making ballpark models with model railroading, O Gauge Railroading, August/1999 (3 pgs). Thanks to Dick Kaufmann for spotting this
4. Fenway Saved, by Nowlin & Ross is recommended by Steve Carroll. It covers all corners and nooks of the old park with chapters on The Wall, The Grounds, and Around the Park.
5. The Boston Braves Historical Association (508 485-1423) has published a great Braves Field

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calendar for \$25, featuring some sharp photos of Boston's last NL home.

6. Bill Feldman has completed his Astrodome painting and he thanks this Committee for our help and support. Thanks to Bill for donating a print to our Committee. Call Bill Goff, Inc. at (860) 927-1411 for info on ordering this limited-edition print.
7. Forbes Field project press release enclosed; deadline was 12-31-99, but they probably still need help.
8. Home of the Game, The Story of Camden Yards by Thomas Loverno, \$24.95, 255 pgs, available through Taylor Publishing of Dallas, TX.
9. Baseball in Baltimore, the first 100 years, by James Bready, Johns Hopkins Press, 1998, \$34.95, 242 pg.
10. Some early illustrations of Fenway appear in The Year the Red Sox Won the Series (1918), by Ty Waterman and Mel Springer, Northeastern University press, \$24.95.
11. Yet another Tiger Stadium book, The Corner, by Vincent & Bak, \$34.95, with hundreds of photos. Wayne State University Press.
12. Casey and the Bat, a fictional baseball account of the last season at Tiger Stadium, by SABR member Michael Betzold, \$16, 734-994-7973 or write him at 519 Eberwhite Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Two page summary available for SASE.

IX. ARTICLES OF THE PAST

1. "Echoes of Swayne Field," Toldeo, OH, The Blade, 7-18-99, (5 pgs)
2. "The 103 Seasons of Professional Baseball in Toledo," all parks/locations, by John Husman, (1 pg)
3. Memories of SF Candlestick Park, Riverside Press-Enterprise, 9-28-99 (2 pgs)
4. "A Lifetime of Cheering," 89 years of a Cubs fan, Chicago Sun-Times, 9-11-98 (1 pg)
5. Summary of current location of old Forbes Field. (1 pg).
6. Forbes Field, SCD, Paul Ferrante, 6-18-99, (3 pgs)
7. Local coverage of last Forbes Field game & eventual demolition, (8 pgs) donated by Paul Ferrante.
8. Bruce Genter gave us copies of Memorial Stadium's (Balt) seating bowl plan for 1954, 1955, 1961, 1963, & 1971. Thanks too for his donation of books to our library.
9. 1909 Opening Day Shibe Park Program, (50 pgs)
10. Local fan provides tours of Yankee Stadium, Village Voice, 8-31-99 (1 pg)
11. Twenty-five year anniversary of beer riot in Cleveland, AP, 6-4-99 (1 pg)
12. Reading and the International League, Reading Times, 5-31-99 (2 pgs)
13. "Looking to the past for our baseball future," Shibe Park, Phila Daily News, 5-17-99 (1 pg)
14. "Then & Now," NYC Hilltop Park, NY Daily News, 5-30-99 (1 pg)
15. A tour covers all Phila. baseball sites & history, Phila. Inquirer, 4-9-99 (4 pgs)
16. "Fans fondly recall Connie Mack Stadium," Phila. Inquirer, 8-5-99, (2 pgs)
17. "Where Shibe stands still," Phila. Daily News, 9-1-99 (3 pgs)
18. The houses across from Shibe, Phila Inquirer, 9-7-99 (2 pgs)
19. Snowfall doesn't deter Indians groundskeeper, Cleve. News, 4-9-20, (1 pg)
20. Short preview of League Park, Cleve. News, 4-19-21 (1 pg)
21. Four photocopies of photos of Fenway Park for 1912 World Series (3 pgs).
22. ESPN.com series on old parks to be abandoned: general piece (2 pgs); Tiger Stadium (14 pgs) Candlestick (15 pgs); Houston (11 pgs); Seattle (16 pgs); & Milwaukee (15 pgs).
Thanks to Ken Carrano for patiently printing/sending this material.

All copies can be paid for at a rate of 12 cents per page and this rate includes the necessary postage. Make any checks out to Bob Bluthardt in name only. Thanks!

X. MINOR LEAGUE NEWS AND ARTICLES

1. Ballparks of MD & PA, Central Pennsylvania Life, July/August 1999 (13 pgs)
2. Midland, TX voters approve by 60-40 vote a new sports complex, including a new minor lg. park to replace 1952 facility, promotional material (10 pgs)
3. Sacramento, CA to have new park by May/2000 and will accept Vancouver AAA team. Raley Field to be built on city's riverfront, seating 10,700. (BB America, 1 pg)
4. Vancouver's Nat Bailey Stadium, a 1952 park, to be used by NWL team from OR.
5. Big bucks to be spent in Staten Island to bring minor league ball to this NYC borough. \$76 million latest estimate. Site would be near ferry terminal. AP, BB America, & NY Times (4 pgs)
6. Hartford, CT, to spent \$20 million on new park seating 8,000 - 12,000 and would resemble Ebbets Field. AP story and local summary (3 pgs)
7. New Haven may lose team to Springfield, MA that aggressively seeks team for new 5300-seat ball-park. New Haven Ravens play in 72-year old Yale Field. NY Times & AP (4 pgs)
8. Speaking of minor league parks, Mike Dempsey reports that he spotted Nat Bailey Stadium (see #4) in a tv "Highlander" episode.
9. Long Island Ducks getting ready for opening day in new park, May/2000. Park seats 6002 in Suffolk County, Newsday, 11-23-99 (2 pgs)
10. Louisville makes progress on new park to replace 1956 Cardinal Stadium. A 12,000 seat park named for Hillerick & Bradsby will replace the 35,000 seat current home in April/2000. One page from Baseball America, 11-29/12-12 1999
11. City and University of Nebraska team up with investor to produce a new park for the Lincoln & college team, located near downtown, just west of Memorial Stadium. The \$24.1 million/5000-seat facility could be ready by spring/2001. Omaha World-Herald, 7-31 & 8-3 1999 (4 pgs)
12. New Schaumburg, IL park open, Chicago Sun-Times & local paper, May/1999 (2 pgs)
13. "Minor Leagues successfully invade big cities," BB America, 5-31/6-13 1999; NA and Indy Lg. teams now moving to big metro areas and competing in Chicago, So. CA, NYC, Twin Cities.
14. Toledo needs a new park; plans and challenges, Toledo Blade and City Paper, March/99 (3 pgs)
15. Niles, OH (Youngstown) a big success with new park, Cleve. Plain-Dealer, 7-20-99 (2 pgs)
16. Tour/evaluation of five minor league parks within 1 hour of Greensboro, NC. News & Record, summer/99, (10 pgs), covers Greensboro, Danville, Winston-Salem, Burlington, & Martinsville.
17. Another tour of PA-NJ-DE minor league parks, Phila. Daily News, 3-31-99 (2 pgs)
18. Bristol Township (Allentown, PA) seeks baseball park & team to curb blight and bring area back to life. \$20.5 million/6500-seat park planned by 2001. Phila. Inquirer, 8-24-99 (2 pgs)
19. Downtown Trenton benefits from new ballpark, Phila. Inquirer, 8-8-99 (1 pg)
20. "Birth Night" targets expectant moms at Lowell, MA ballpark, AP, 7-30-99 (2 pgs)
21. "Baseball is a hit in state," (PA) Reading Eagle, 5-16-99 (1 pg)
22. Park and displays honor John Henry 'Pop' Lloyd in Atlantic City, (1 pg)
23. Newark, NJ delighted to have baseball back, but questions on costs, NY Times of 7-17-99 & 7-4-99 plus two pages of Sunday magazine article from unnamed paper.
24. Lackawanna County (Red Barons) seating plan (1 pg)
25. "Unfulfilled Baseball Destiny" at Old Orchard Beach, ME. NE Col. Baseball League, Nov.99 (1 pg)
26. In its Nov. 15-28 issue, BB America noted the 5 minor lg. parks that had "significance beyond their cities": Rickwood/Birmingham, AL; Wrigley/Los Angeles, CA; Durham Athletic Park/Durham, NC; Cooper Stadium/Columbus, OH; & Pilot Field/Buffalo, NY. Anyone think differently?
27. Goodbye old Municipal Stadium (1963) in West Palm Beach, former training site of the Braves. Site and other adjacent buildings/land sold to Jehovah's Witnesses (1 pg photo)
28. Developmentally disabled workers do well at Akron's park, Beacon-Journal, 8-29-99 (1 pg)

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29. "Intro. to Ballpark at Harbor Yard (Bridgeport, CT), souvenir yearbook/99, (1 pg)
30. History of Johnstown's Point Stadium, 70 years old, (4 pgs)
31. Cedar Rapids, IA, seeks additional moneys to build new park; state grant fell short.
32. Bell Atlantic acquires naming rights for new Chattanooga, TN park, ready by March/2000.
33. Stockton, CA changes team name to Mudville Nine to capitalize on local "Casey at the Bat" origins and seeks funding for new park. 1999 Ports drew barely 1000/game in 50-year old park.
34. How about that! Thirty-year old Albuquerque ballpark now one of PCL's oldest parks and could be out of date soon, BB America, 9/20-10/3 1999 (1 pg)
35. Another Kokernot Field article (8 pgs-Austin Magazine), the pride of Alpine, Texas.
36. St. Catherine NY-Penn Lg. team to go to Brooklyn for 2000 season; team finished next-to-last in attendance for past two years.
37. Dayton, OH began construction on new park in downtown, First & Monument Streets.
38. New park opens in Crestwood, IL, Chicago Sun-Times, 5-4-99 (1 pg)
39. Visalia, CA (CA League) may be doomed. Local government zoning denied a site for a new park, team now plays in 1800-seat concrete "bunker" built in 1946.
40. The killer spring tornadoes missed Oklahoma City's SW Bell Ballpark, but housing insulation from homes five miles away blew into CF.
41. Somerset, NJ Patriots open new \$17.7 million park, on June 7, Capacity crowd of 6506 attended.
42. Lakewood, NJ to get ballpark and So. Atlantic Lg. Cape Fear Crocs. A \$20 million stadium has been proposed for Lakewood, taking the Crocs away from Fayetteville, NC after the 2000 season.
43. Knoxville, TN new home for Smokies will lack tradition/feel of 1953 Bill Meyer Stadium. New park in another county, exit 407 of I-40. New Committee member Kevin Young believes city lost its chance to improve its downtown as was done in Akron. (8 pgs-local sources)
44. Nine pages of photos/summary of renovations at McCoy Stadium, Pawtucket, RI (AAA), now becoming one of the oldest parks in minor league baseball.
45. More improvements at Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium, hoping to keep the College World Series and the AAA team. (1 pg)
46. "Keeping 'em clean, fed, & happy," Colorado Springs Sky Sox clubhouse man, CSM, 8-3-99 (1 pg)
47. "'Field of Dreams' deteriorates into Iowa battleground," NY Times in Cleve. P-D, 8-7-99 (1 pg)
48. Davenport's John O'Donnell stadium getting a \$9.3 million facelift.
49. "A friendly guardian at the gate," Modesto, CA ballpark's forty-year veteran ticket taker, working at the ballpark overall since 1942, CSM, 7-13-99 (1 pg)
50. Ozark, MO Price Cutter Park has a big opening month, averaging 3400/game in first 15 contests. TX-LA franchise is just south of Springfield, MO and just north of the big Branson resort region.
51. Another old park revived: Portland will return to the PCL with the Calgary team, and 73-year old Civic Stadium will be renovated after the 2000 season.
52. Round Rock (Austin), TX is making great progress with its \$20 million park. The Jackson, MS Texas League (AA) team will re-locate. Already there is talk of a rivalry with San Antonio, just 70 miles south. Round Rock's season ticket base passed 3000 and could hit 4000.
53. San Angelo, TX, breaks ground on 5000-seat park for San Angelo Colts, a new TX-LA Lg. team, ready for May/2000 opening. Park is located on land of Angelo State University which will share the facility. Colts last played in late 1950s in San Angelo in TX-NM League.
54. Seating plans for JetForm Park, Bowman Field, Perdue Stadium & Altoona Park. (1 pg each)
55. International League Park Facts for 1999: Average dimensions: LF 330; CF 403; RF 326; Average capacity: 13,794, but only two above 20,000 (Buffalo & Louisville). (4 pgs)
56. Reading Municipal Stadium will soon be GPU Stadium, named for a regional power company that paid \$2.25 million for 15 years rights. (10 pgs local papers)

XI. RESEARCH & PROJECTS

Our apologies for the possibly dated nature of some of these requests. We post all of the research requests and projects of the past six months so everyone knows what is being done "out there," even if the time for assistance has passed.

1. Greg Martin of the group that is recreating the minor league ballpark in Hartford, CT, as Ebbets Field seeks opinion regarding his latest thought: a museum/display area that is dedicated to ballparks! He envisions a display area of park models, a gift shop, video room, meeting space, etc. E-mail him at ebbetmartin@home.com. Also, write him at 100 Wells Street, Suite 320, Hartford, CT 06103 Fax 1-860-728-0820.
2. The Brooklyn Historical Society called us last fall and sought information regarding models of Ebbets Field for an exhibit they were planning. Anyone have any information on this?
3. Benjamin Rader of the University of Nebraska is researching a study of the "hitting barrage of the late 1990s." He seeks stats as generated by parks. Has anyone kept this info for the past decade? Contact him at (402) 472-2414, or write him at the Dept. of History, University of Nebraska, PO Box 880327, Lincoln, NE 68588-0327.
4. David Mitchell of our Committee has done a great service by putting together a very comprehensive list of "Published Baseball Stadium Books & Booklets" and "Non-Baseball Stadium Books & Booklets." Each listing was updated as of 6-23-99. The first is 30 pages; the second is 18 pages. With David's pending permission, we can make this available for review, comment, and correction. Contact us for a copy. Usual copy/postage rates apply.
5. Our friend in London, Simon Inglis, writes us and notes that his work on Wrigley Field is nearing completion. He asks, "Is it true that there has never been advertising inside Wrigley Field?" And he asks if there is any AL-NL-minor league park with a similar policy. He can be e-mailed at inglis@malavan.globalnet.co.uk. Also write him at 1 Alred Road, London, England NW6 1AN.
6. Your chairman had an interesting chat with Rick Phelan of Santa Barbara, CA. who was writing a ballpark book, concentrating on stories, unusual activities, anecdotes, and other non-traditional material. No date of publication as yet. He can be reached at (805) 969-6010. Work address is 1482 East Valley Road, Suite 132, Montecito, CA 93108.
7. Scott Flatow at DEADBALL@aol.com asks for info on Katy Field, home of the Waco club of the Texas League in 1925-1930. In that period, Waco led the league in homers at 917 with only Wichita Falls close at 836; Dallas (535), Shreveport (513), Beaumont (504), Fort Worth (503), San Antonio (409) & Houston (316) round out the rest. Write him at 1701 West 3rd, Brooklyn, NY 11223 (718) 376-1007.
8. John Pastier was seeking info on creating a nineteenth-century baseball team in Seattle. E-mail him at johnpastier@email.msn.com 4702 Linden Avenue N., Seattle, WA 98103.
9. Stefan Csik asks if McCurdy Field in Frederick, MD. has ever been used for professional baseball. E-mail at csik@juno.com 6334 Lansdowne Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63109.

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10. Nathan Smith, a student at Gettysburg, PA Senior HS, seeks info on the funding, financing, original proposals, and final costs/cost over runs of Camden Yards.
E-mail at Leona.Smith@quebecorusa.com.
11. A Doug Brei of Rochester, NY, called recently to ask "which ballpark was used as a stand-in for Wrigley Field in "The Natural." Francis Kinlaw who sorts through our data of "Ballparks in TV and Film," noted that some SABR-L subscribers suggested a Buffalo high school filled this need. Seems logical as the Knights played at "The Rockpile" of Buffalo's War Memorial Stadium.
12. Jason Rozon of 311 Division Street #4, Oshawa Ontario N6C 5E1 seeks a copy of the SABR version of Green Cathedrals.
13. David Signs of 1152 Bill Eads Road West, Richmond, KY 40475, sent us a copy of his research project, "The Uneven Playing Field," a study of the factors leading to the decline of major league pitching performances over the past 30 years. Twenty-four pages. Comments welcome.
14. From the ever-productive Bob Tiemann we have "Nineteenth Century Major League Attendance," a summary and listings of all 1800s teams and leagues with as accurate figures as can be done for the period. Thirty pages.
15. David Vincent at e-mail GrandSlams@aol.com seeks info on a 9-18-1898 game played between New York and Brooklyn. The NL contest was supposed to be in Brooklyn, but was shifted to Weehauken, NJ. Write him at 2942 Marsala Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22192-1620
16. Steve Carroll sends us a four-page piece, "Orlando Baseball History." Thanks; copies available.
17. Ron Selter at e-mail henneseltr@aol.com seeks info on the dimensions of Braves Field of the 1920s and 1930s. He also is researching the definitive heights and dates for the RF wall at the Baker Bowl. Overall, he is working on the dimensions for all AL & NL parks in the 1921-1940 era. Copies of his e-mails and "A Proposed Method for Comparing Ball Park Dimensions" available from me; write him at 1430 East Walnut Ave., El Segundo, CA 90245 for more details.
18. Lloyd Johnson wrote last summer to announce the building of a minor league baseball museum in Memphis, TN as part of the new ballpark being built downtown, just blocks from famed music road, Beale Street. The National Association is behind the project. By the way, your chairman visited the park building site last summer and has some slides of the developing structure if anyone is interested. Lloyd's info sheet is included in this newsletter.
19. A Patty Pensa of the Columbus, OH Dispatch called last summer to seek info on Wrigley Field and how it has survived the last decade while other old parks are meeting the wrecker's ball. Did anyone see this piece?
20. David Arcidiacono of 72 Charles Mary Drive, E. Hampton, CT 06424, is interested in any info on the park of the Hartford, CT NL & NA teams on 1874-1876.
E-mail at Arcidiacono.Sikorsky.com (203) 386-5357.
21. Tom Owens at 1001 West Boone Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158 was working on a book on ballparks for younger readers (ages 9-13).

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22. Doug Lyons at 51 East 42nd Street, #1212 NY, NY 10017-5434 (212) 682-3372 is writing a piece on "plaques, monuments, statues, ballfields, schools, etc., named for baseball players, umpires, executives. etc. His Out of Left Field book had over 1134 "newly discovered, amazing baseball records, connections, coincidences, and more." E-mail at BASEBALINFO@AOL.COM
23. It's long past his deadline, but Paul Ferrante who writes those great pieces for SCD was looking for info on the final days/demolition of old Sportsmans Park in St. Louis. Our files had a very limited selection. If anyone has anything worth submitting, we'll file it for another day.

XII. SOME OTHER MINOR LEAGUE NOTES

Baseball America in its year-end issue (Dec. 27/January 9) provided the attendance and value estimations for all AAA, AA, A & Short-Season teams, 136 in all. A few observations:

1. The parks are definitely getting younger! Only 41 of the 136 are listed as being built before 1960. By the decades: 1910s (1); 1920s (8); 1930s (8); 1940s (15); 1950s (9), and a number of those forty-one parks are planned for replacement or full-city abandonment.
2. Top five teams for attendance for 1999 in overall National Association: Buffalo (AAA) 684,081; Indianapolis (AAA) 658,250; Pawtucket (AAA) 596,624; Richmond (AAA) 523,6760; & Akron (AA) 522,4598.
3. This causes some problems and questions every year we list it, but here are the oldest ten parks going by the listed dates in Baseball America: Pittsfield (1919), Burlington, VT (1922), Orlando (1923), Williamsport (1923), Macon (1926), Portland (1926), Greensboro (1926), Stockton (1927), New Haven (1927), & Chattanooga (1930). Listings from AAA down to Short Season.

The rest of the 1930s parks include: Hagerstown (1931), Little Rock (1932), Wichita (1934), Clinton (1937), Eugene (1938), Helena (1939), & Davenport (1939).

We welcome your comments and observations on this issue, especially on the status of a park's age, renovated vs. original components, etc.

4. By the numbers for park capacity: AAA average: 12,195 (IL @ 13,804 and PCL @ 10,787); AA at 7101 (Eastern Lg. @ 7001; So. Lg. @ 7326, & Tx. Lg. @ 6968); A at 5353 (Ca. Lg. @ 4549; Car. Lg. @ 5360; Midwest Lg. @ 6039; & So. Atl. Lg. @ 5256); Short Season @ 4658 (NYP @ 4287; NW lg. @6842; & Pioneer Lg. @ 3026). All figures as of end of 1999 season.
5. Biggest parks in the NA minors: Louisville @ 33,500, Omaha @ 24,000, Portland @ 23,150, & Buffalo @ 21,050. The smallest parks: Butte @ 1500, Visalia @ 1800, Missoula @ 1900, & Helena @ 2010. All figures as of 1999 season.
6. Dimensions by league level (start of 1999 season)

AAA Overall	333/406/329	AA Overall	329/404/328
Pacific Coast	336/408/331	Eastern	325/402/326
International	330/404/326	Southern	331/409/326
		Texas	332/399/334

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(dimensions cont.)	A Overall 327/399/326	Short Season Overall 332/402/332
	California 329/397/328	NYP 332/400/330
	Carolina 325/398/325	Northwest 324/399/330
	Midwest 330/398/328	Pioneer 337/410/338
	S. Atlantic 325/401/324	

Left Field	Longest: Louisville & Albuquerque @ 360	Shortest: Savannah @ 290
Center Field:	Longest: Chattanooga @ 471	Shortest: Bakersfield @ 354
Right Field:	Longest: Jamestown @ 353	Shortest: Yakima @ 295

7. Overall attendance for minor league ball was up ever so slightly from 32.26 million to 32.30 million, but the team average per game was down slightly at 3419 down 29 fans per game from 3448 in 1998.

XIII. SOME MAJOR LEAGUE NOTES

1. SAN FRANCISCO The last game at Candlestick Point was unusually warm: 82 degrees. The Giants had a record regular-season crowd of 61,389 on 9-30-99 as the home club lost to the rival Dodgers, 9-4. Since April 12, 1960, the team went 1775-1398 at "The Stick," a home winning percentage of .559. Maybe the team's pitchers will miss the traditionally breezy conditions: for the past five years the home ERA is better than the road. Ten pages of assorted wire and USA Today pieces.
2. ANAHEIM Despite the best attendance in nine seasons (2.5 million), Disney was not pleased and placed the team for sale. Perhaps the merchandise sales (ranked at 22nd in major league ball) did the trick.
3. CINCINNATI The Reds wanted to place real grass at Cynergy Field, but the Bengals held up the deal. Both clubs are heading to new facilities within a few years. The Reds may move home plate and bring in the fences. Four pages of assorted sources.
4. MINNESOTA St. Paul voted down a 1/2% sales tax increase to fund one-third of a proposed \$325 million open-air ballpark. Voters came out in a record high turnout (66%) in a non-gubernatorial election year. The team's sale from Carl Pohlad was contingent to the new park. Four pages of assorted articles.
5. LOS ANGELES The team will remain in Florida's Dodgertown at Vero Beach, FL, for 2000 after the plan to move their spring training facility to Arizona fell through. Meanwhile, back at Dodger Stadium, there will be less room for foul pops behind the plate as 300 extra seats will be installed, taking up 25 feet and, perhaps, changing that magic 56,000 capacity figure.
6. KANSAS CITY Interesting piece in the 9-6-99 SI about KC's Kaufmann Stadium, its soft padding on the OF fences, and the effect on hitting, especially triples. The club has been in the top three for three-baggers 26 or the past 30 years and was leading the majors as of early September. (1 pg)
7. ST. LOUIS With so many new parks coming on line, Busch will soon be one of the oldest in both the NL and in the majors, opening in 1966. The team claimed expenses of \$1.4 million in 1999 to keep the park maintained, but they are looking to a new park in some future time. A 7-11-99 feature section in the Post-Dispatch looked at other new park projects and assesses the needs for the Cardinals (five pages).

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8. CHICAGO Another disappointing year for the White Sox at the gate has many observers wondering what can be done to the park and neighborhood to get the fans back. The Sox produced a "Eat, Drink, & Be Sox Fans" brochure, noting area bars & restaurants. (copy available). The team realizes it must fight both the Cubs and growing minor league popularity/options. Eight pages of area articles. Also, a piece on skybox food at both parks.
9. HOUSTON The last game for the Astros in the Astrodome was a loss to the Braves in the NL playoffs, 7-5, before 48,553, about 6000 short of a full house. Enron Field is rapidly nearing completion as the team's new park, a thirty-year lease has been signed on the 42,000 seat facility. The dimensions announced in the fall: 315 to LF; 436 to CF and 326 to RF. The brick and limestone architecture will complement the nearby 1911 Union Station and the overall plan has the ballpark sparking development in this long-time neglected section of Houston's downtown. Five pages of various sources, plus SABR's Claudia Perry with a two-page review of her visit for the regular season closing.
10. SAN DIEGO What a mess! The lawyers have seemingly taken over as groups are filing suit to stop the project; fans are disappointed in the team's miserable past season; charges and counter charges of improper deal-making and procedures, and grave concerns on traffic and environmental effects if the park is built. Up to twenty-pages thanks to Bob Boynton who thinks the vote would be very different if held today. Also, Bob sent us a SD Union-Tribune piece with recently discovered color photos of Ted Williams taking some batting practice swings at Lane Field in October/1941, just a week after being the last man to hit 400! (2 pages--b/w copies only)
11. MIAMI New team owner John Henry wants to build a \$400 ballpark in either downtown Miami or Ft. Lauderdale, using tourism tax money for \$300 million of the total costs. Proposed seating of 38,000 and a target date of April/2003. A later story ruled out the Fort Lauderdale site, and local environmental activists were protesting Henry's site of Bicentennial Park, 30 acres near Biscayne Bay. Three pages of wire articles. In an interesting twist, Henry is offering 75% of the team profits from either operation or team sale as an incentive to taxpayers.
12. While they argue about site and funding to the east, PITTSBURGH has started construction on the PNC Park and is selling season seats for 2001. Richard Dempsey of our Committee took a summer trip to Pittsburgh and notes that access to the site from downtown was very easy on foot. An AP story of 11-30-99 noted that the park was on schedule, ground having been broken in April. It will be another case of "less is more" at slightly over 38,000 seats, just like its grandfather of Forbes Field. Miscellaneous stories and drawings available (6 pgs)
13. PHILADELPHIA After six months of various discussions, political meetings, public input, and proposals & counter-plans, the Phillies have no defined site. The team liked the downtown site at Broad and Spring Garden, but a local politician held up the approval due to constituents' objections. Deadlines to start something loomed, then the team switched to a South Philly site as favored by some city officials, and they angered those neighbors who felt kept in the dark. 30 pgs available of local articles. Thanks to Kevin Tulley for many packets of information.
14. BALTIMORE A \$47 million project will replace Memorial Stadium with housing for seniors, according to a story in the Daily Record, a MD state business paper of 7-23-99 (1 pg)
15. TAMPA BAY They spent some money to fix up and scale down Tropicana Field for the 1999

(Tampa Bay) but the team did not fare well, drawing 25% fewer fans in 1999 than in 1998, the worst fallout in the majors (2,261,158 to 1,696,294) (4 pgs)

16. MILWAUKEE The tragic accident of the collapse of the 2100-ton crane on July 14, 1999, has forced the Brewers to endure one more season at County Stadium. They will open the new Miller Park for April/2001. For a short time they discussed keeping to the April/2000 new park opening, but the construction schedule could not absorb safely the more speedy work necessary to keep to the original timetable. Thanks to Jim Nitz we have a thick file on the accident, on-scene reports, and follow-up investigations. Damage by the crane collapse will cost \$50-75 million with some costs covered by insurance and the rest by loans taken out by the stadium authority.
17. SEATTLE The Mariners made few friends when they demanded more public funds to complete Safeco Field, beyond the agreed figure of \$417 million. Indeed, The Seattle Times in an editorial called it a "major league error." The team claimed the money was owed to the project because it was over the projected income from the sales tax increase. Meanwhile, the team had pledged to cover the extra costs. Our thanks to Lile Anderson who has sent our Committee one large bundle after another of newspaper clippings, photos, and local promotional material on this big Seattle event. We have Lile's ten-page review, a review by our own John Pastier as published in the Seattle Times, and, if you want more, ask me for a summary of articles available.

As predicted, Safeco had an immediate effect on the game. After 18 games pitchers' earned run averages went from 6.28 for the previous 39 games at the Kingdome to 4.31. Runs scored per game went from 13.8 for the previous 39 Kingdome games to 8.45 at the first 33 games at Safeco. For the record, Seattle lost the opener at Safeco 3-2 to San Diego. Home runs dropped too from 75 by the home club at 39 Kingdome games before Safeco and only 22 in Safeco's first 23 games. Dimensions tell part of the story: the RCF and LCF power alleys changed from 380 to 386 and 389 to 400; RF went from 312 to 326. At least the pitchers are happy.

18. BOSTON Fenway Park got quite a dose of national attention at the All Star Game, but the Red Sox are moving ahead with plans to replace the oldest park in the majors. Costs keep rising for the project, now approaching \$600 million when land, preparation, parking garages, and site needs are totaled. The team's promotional brochure notes "a new ballpark is just the ticket" and "A new ballpark ... preserving the Red Sox Experience." Copies of the brochure and a Red Sox letter explaining the case available (3 pgs). Meanwhile, the Save Fenway Park group has been getting some press, and they have produced drawings/plans to renovate the old park to meet most of the Red Sox needs within a claimed better financial cost. Copies of the plan are available from the group at PO Box 873, Boston, MA 02103 www.SaveFenwayPark.com. (617) 367-3771. Cost of these plans is \$20 and a membership in the Save Fenway Park group is \$25. They have a newsletter and have raised some good issues regarding the costs and long-term benefits of a new facility. The Red Sox want a new/old Fenway with the original dimensions, modern amenities, and 44,130 seats, built across the street from the existing Fenway, preserving parts of the classic park. Also, thanks to our committee member Mark Sterman, we have a 23-page report prepared for the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, "Economic Impact Analysis of the Proposed Ballpark for the Boston Red Sox." And, we can make available up to 20 pages on the proposed ballpark. The Red Sox may delay their original 2003 completion date, pending political cooperation, public funding, and a new financial study. Given Fenway's national audience and Boston's interesting political landscape, this project will be colorful, well documented, and complicated. Stay tuned. Lastly, we'll provide up to 15 pages of the Save Fenway Park group's materials.

19. DETROIT The old lady at Michigan & Trumbull went out in high style with massive local and regional coverage, some national live tv, and more written material than our files deserve! Many of our Committee have sent material, but Dick Clark gets our thanks for his regular packages of local articles. A big crowd of 43,356 attended the 9-27-99 last regular season game vs. KC. The crowd was about 3500 short of capacity; perhaps some fans have kept the tickets as future investments in hobby/collectors market. Detroit won, 8-2, as dozens of ex-Tigers were on hand. The Tigers overall record at Tiger Stadium/Briggs/Navin since 1912 (regular season) is 3764-3090 & 19 ties for a .549 percentage. Given the massive amount of material available on both the end of Tiger Stadium and the development of Comerica Park, we'll put together a separate reprints sheet that will be available on request for the rest of the year. The new place isn't open and they are already talking about changing the distant LCF 400-foot power alley to a lesser distance to please new acquisition Juan Gonzalez. There is certainly precedent for that: Fenway's RF bullpens were created in 1940 to shorten that 400 foot distance to 380 for rookie sensation Ted Williams, and the dimensions haven't changed since!

No plans for Tiger Stadium firm as yet; team officials will remain until the move to Comerica. The neighborhood is looking for some adaptive use that will bring back the crowds for the eateries & bars. Everything from a apartment/shopping complex to a minor-league/school sports facility has been proposed. Big ballparks are a challenge to retro-fit to anything--see Baltimore. For all its alleged drawbacks, no park had better second-deck seats or a more cozy feel, given its 50,000 plus seats. We will not see another like it--and I will miss it.

XIV. CORRECTIONS

1. Lyle Spatz correctly notes that we have Hagerstown, MD an extra "G" in our last issue. He also notes that Sal Maglie Field had to be called something else in 1932 when opened, as Sal was just a teenager at the time!
2. Larry Zuckermann corrects several references to that WPA ballpark list as posted in the May/99 issue. Perris Hill Park in San Bernadino was built in 1933,, not 1935; Hi Corbett Field in Tucson began as Randolph Park, originally built in 1927 (not 1937). San Jose Municipal Stadium was built in 1942, not 1941; and he has much info to add re Dunn Field, rebuilt from a previous field in 1938-39 (1 pg for all info).
3. Larry also notes that the Palacios book could have been researched better, especially uniting the relationship of the field to the stands.
4. Ed Hartig disagrees with answer #7 on the Barry Evans trivia quiz on ballparks in the May/99 issue. "The AAGPBL resembled softball, not baseball." Ed notes that a 6-25-1943 game of Cubs-Cards would qualify as a "night game" under MLB rules because it began at 6 p.m. and was listed as a twi-light contest, a full week before the AAGPBL. Go figure!

In closing this issue, our thanks again to everyone who has patiently kept my mailbox full of materials. I look forward to more. Our next issue--and we will strive for late March--will include updates on committee projects, some numbers crunching on attendance, profiles of changes and other info for the new season, and anything else all you "out there" happen to send.

Reminder: copies are 12 cents/page and that includes all necessary postage.

Best wishes for the new year, and if you want to take the short route, the new millenium.