

SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

September-October 1993

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I HILLTOP PARK MARKER CEREMONY A SUCCESS

The mid-day ceremony of Thursday, September 30, featured Chester Hoff, at 102 years old the longest living ex-major league player. Chet struck out Ty Cobb at Manhattan's Hilltop Park in 1911. The well-organized ceremony featured the officials of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, current owners of the property; SABR president David Pietrusza and SABR member & author Michael Gershman; and Gene Michael and Willie Randolph of the Yankees. The event received excellent print and tv coverage. Thanks to many SABR members who attended we have a selection of articles and press releases on Chet, Hilltop Park, the ceremony, and related activities. For the copies, send \$2.30. Thanks again to Mike Frank, Bill Cahill, and Larry Ritter who served on the original committee to get this project started.

II YANKEES BACK TO MANHATTAN OR NJ?

More news about the Yankees and their discontent with Yankee Stadium. The latest plan offered by the NY governor proposed a park on the west side of Manhattan. New Jersey is still making overtures and Boss George isn't saying much. We have a selection of NY and magazine clippings that tell the story, including a great cover of the New Yorker magazine that shows Yankee Stadium being flown across the Hudson by helicopter to New Jersey! For the full selection, send \$2.50; for a selection, send \$1.25.

III CITY BASEBALL MAGIC AGAIN FOR SALE

"City Baseball Magic," the definitive outline on how to build a better ballpark, is available again through the Ballparks Committee. The publisher of the second printing wanted to rid itself of all extra copies, so our committee bought 300 copies with the funding provided by Phil Bess (author of the booklet), Bob Bluthardt, and Steve Lehman. We will send copies to various team and city officials as needed to spread the word about the charms and advantages of the urban-style park. Meanwhile, help the committee and yourself by buying a copy. Cost: \$5.00 including postage. Bulk order rates available; make any payment out to Bob Bluthardt. Makes a great holiday gift for that baseball fan in the family--or even out of the family!

IV WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Texas Rangers unveiled the new name for the facility set to replace Arlington Stadium in the spring of 1994. "The Ballpark in Arlington" did not receive rave reviews. A phone poll over the all-news KRLD radio station in Dallas stopped the calls as the vote was 35-1 against with some of the comments pretty caustic. A few press clippings for 50¢ for more details.

V FUN IN CLEVELAND

My congratulations to the organizers of the Jack Graney chapter meeting on September 24-26 in Cleveland to mark the end of Cleveland Stadium for baseball and the start of Gateway. The tour of the new park was great. About 85 people came to the meeting and twice that for the Gateway tour. The official last weekend for the Stadium came on the next weekend.

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VI LAST GAMES

The Rangers lost their last home contest in Arlington Stadium, 4-1, to the KC Royals in a game that marked the end of two great careers: Nolan Ryan for the Rangers and George Brett for the Royals. The announced attendance was 41,039, short of the capacity of 43,500. John Blake, VP for public relations noted that special passes not counted in the attendance account for some of the difference. For a selection of news clippings, send \$1.50.

The Indians also lost their last home contest at Cleveland Stadium, 4-0, to the White Sox before 72,390, almost 2000 short of capacity. The Tribe was swept in the three-game series that marked the end of baseball by the lake. For a selection of articles from various sources on the Stadium and the last game, send \$2.00.

VII KC GOES TO GRASS

Another sign that better years are coming for ballparks fans came with the announcement that the Royals will change from artificial turf to grass in the newly named Kauffman Stadium for the 1995 season. Send a 29¢ SASE for a wire story on the change.

VIII TIGER STADIUM NEWS

The latest issue of "Unobstructed Views," the Tiger Stadium Fan Club Newsletter, outlines the arguments against the casino funding proposals meant to provide the revenue for a new stadium proposal. The Club continues to wage a strong battle to save this classic park. To get involved, consider joining the Club by sending \$10 to Tiger Stadium Fan Club, PO Box 441426, Detroit, MI 48244-1426. You can call them at (313) 964-5991. The Fan Club Office is located at 1401 Bagley Street. Call before visiting.

IX MORE SEATING?

A recent wire service story noted efforts in Baltimore to add between 1500 and 2500 seats to Camden Yards. The park now seats 48,079 and most games in 1993 were sold out or nearly at capacity. A new grandstand was proposed for a space beyond the left-center field wall with other seats squeezed into the existing bleachers. Send a 29¢ SASE for the story.

Meanwhile in Denver, committee member Bruce Hellerstein has been fighting the proposed addition of 5000 seats or more to the original Coors Field design. Bruce notes that such late additions may destroy the balance and scale of the design. If you have thoughts on how "marginal" these extra seats would be over the long run, contact Bruce at 8611 East Otero Place, Englewood, CO 80112 (303) 790-4171.

X OLD BALLPARK SEATS

About once every other month this committee receives a question about old ballpark seats, where to buy them, how to document them, what color to paint them, and so on. Sports Collectors Digest in 1993 ran two good articles on the subject (Ballparks Seats-historic collectibles, 2-29-93 & Stadium Seats: Restore, refurbish or refrain? 7-9-93) that we'll make available for a 29¢ SASE. Several SABR members are featured in the text. Let us also introduce a soon-to-be committee member, Mike Seitz, of Minnesota, whose newsletter covers the topic of stadium seats quite well. Contact him at 1772 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104.

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XI REPLACING THE VET IN PHILADELPHIA

More rumblings about the home of the Phillies as people look to alternatives. Two Phila. Inquirer articles look to how a new park might be considered, what lessons to be learned, and how to make it, as one article noted, a "Phillie Original." Interesting reading. Send 75¢ for the articles.

XII MILWAUKEE REPORT

Matters are not moving very quickly for the Brewers in their quest for a new park. A proposed fuel tax to help with the financing was roundly panned and a freeway plan caused a delay to stadium proposals. Thanks to Jim Nitz we have a selection of articles : from the local papers. \$1.25 will cover the lot.

XIII MARKER FOR CINCINNATI

Mike Frank and Jack Carlson of our committee have sent information on possibilities for a marker for two ballpark sites in that city. Mike noted that there is no visible plaque at Findlay & Western, site of Crosley Field. He also says that the train station is just a few blocks away, and that site was the location of the first professional baseball games. The Cincinnati Historical Society recently moved into the train station and has some baseball exhibits with great plans for future expansion to honor the city's baseball heritage. Jack seems to think that our initial proposal for a marker at the train station will be incorporated into some major effort in a few years. Area members are asked to be watchful for any news.

XIV BALLPARKS PHOTO COLLECTION

Mike Dempsey continues to receive donations to the committee collection of photos of current and departed ballparks. Mike asks that all donors kindly remember to label each photo fully to include: name of donor/photographer, site/park, date, city/location, and other helpful information. Years from now people will be most grateful for this collection. Just think how fortunate we would be if someone did this a few generations ago! To send material to Mike, contact him at 1564 Glasgo Road, RFD Box 99, Voluntown, CT 06384. Our thanks to Mike for caring for this collection.

XV CHANGING OF THE FIELD

Ever wonder just how they change a field from baseball to football (or back again)? Bob Boynton spent a long night observing the change at Jack Murphy and documented his thoughts and observations. By coincidence a major article appeared in the San Diego paper on the same subject about the same time. We have both available for your reading interest. \$1.25 will cover costs.

XVI ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

We have not exactly been swamped with opinion regarding our photo contest, how to increase participation, annual vs. every two years, etc. We did have a helpful discussion at the San Diego meeting and Ted Lukacs sent Ken Carrano, contest chair, a thoughtful memo. Unless anyone objects, I will propose to our contest chair that we skip 1994, work toward a 1995 contest, and let the future contests depend on the 1995 response. Comments? Contact Ken at 2696 Sterling Ct, Elgin, IL 60123. At the Arlington/1994 meeting we will display past winners and the binders of our collection.

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XVII NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these gentlemen to our committee:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Bill Gilbert
5113 Glen Haven Dr.
Baytown, TX 77521 | AL & NL parks; majors & minors; Houston & Denver parks; willing to assist with projects already ongoing. |
| Kennedy Columbo
7587 Chevy Chase #202
Austin, TX 78752 | All parks post 1900; working on master's thesis on ballparks, culture, and urban history. Welcomes advice and assistance. |
| Christopher Steele
700 Bolinwood Dr. #40-J
Chapel Hill, NC 27514 | Major lg. parks after 1920; NY-NJ area; working on masters project in stadium design/city planning. See research section. |
| Timothy Hannan
28 Shady Lane
Fairport, NY 14450 | All levels and eras; Rochester, Balt; Toronto; Syracuse, Denver & Miami; working on 1890 Richester AA team and park; has 1890 local newspaper info. |
| Michael Gershman
177 So. Compo Rd.
Westport, CT 06880 | Major of all pre-1950 eras; NYC parks; recently completed <u>Diamonds</u> book; interested in markers for lost ballparks. |
| E. David Gamble
2950 Clay Street #301
San Francisco, CA 94115 | All lgs. & eras; Ebbets Field & Seals Stadium; Interested in developing a computer base of ballparks info. |
| Phil Gruen
809 So. Damien SSR 1303A
Chicago, IL 60612 | Major lg. parks after 1950; new parks for Balt/Cleve/Texas/Atlanta/Denver; working on master's thesis and will be requesting assistance next spring. |
| Rodney Johnson
956 W. Lajolla Drive
Tempe, AZ 85282 | All levels after 1900; AZ ballparks; Crosley and PCL parks; see research area for additional needs; suggests a "Green Cathedrals" type book for minor lg. parks. |
| Charles Brereton
PO Box 307
Concord, NH 03302 | All levels for 1920-50; Ebbets, NYC parks; pre-1950 minor lg. parks; has files on Ebbets and pre-1950 minor lg parks. |
| Ernest J. Green
10913 Whiterim Dr.
Potomac, MD 20854 | Minor lg. parks of 20th cent; working on book on ballparks of the south. |
| Dennis Coyne
PO Box 14024
San Francisco, CA 94114 | Major lgs of 20th cent; Phila parks; Fenway; Wrigley & Comiskey; Yankee & Ebbets. |
| Arnold Fodais
510 Old Farm Road
Statesville, NC 28677 | War Memorial Stadium in Greensboro, NC; modern era for all levels; suggests research on how older parks add to their communities. |

Please welcome these people to the committee with a note if you see areas of common interest. Thank you.

LATE NOTE Something is up with the proposed Congressional bill to save the remaining classic parks (Tiger, Fenway, Wrigley, & Yankee) and keep them as national sites when the clubs decide to leave them. A full report in the next newsletter. We have been unable to get any specific info on hearings or public action. The original bill was proposed by Rep. Bonior (D-Michigan) and it was announced at the All-Star Game ballparks symposium in Baltimore last summer.

XVIII BETTER IN CLEVELAND

The Washington Post and Baltimore Sun recently published articles about visiting Cleveland, seeing games at the Stadium, and looking to the future at Gateway while commenting on how "real" Cleveland is as a city. Send 50¢ for both pieces.

XIX MEETING IN A MINOR LEAGUE CITY

Several committee members wrote to give their thoughts on having the annual meeting in a minor league city. Mike Frank, Dick Kaufman, and Jack Carlson among others suggested a few places. Among the locations proposed: Reading, PA; Buffalo; New Orleans (if they build a new minor league park); and Louisville. SABR goes to Texas next year (Arlington) and Pittsburgh in 1995. What suggestions do you have for the future?

XX CY YOUNG BACK IN BOSTON

A statue of Hall of Fame great Cy Young was unveiled in Boston on the campus of Northeastern University. The site is Churchhill Hall, approximately the location of the pitcher's mound of the old Huntington Avenue Grounds, home of the Boston AL franchise before Fenway Park was built for 1912. Send 50¢ for the two news stories. By the way, it was veteran SABR and committee member John Lobingier who convinced university officials to put the marker back that noted the Grounds and the 1903 World Series.

XXI ANNIVERSARIES FOR 1994

Barry Evans provides us with some historical milestones for the coming year:

5 SkyDome opens	40 Memorial Stadium opens
25 Jack Murphy opens	40 Shibe Park has last A's game
25 Jarry Park opens	80 Wrigley Field opens
25 Sick's Stadium opens	85 Sportsman's Park opens
30 Shea Stadium opens	85 Shibe Park opens
30 Colt Stadium opens	85 Forbes Field opens
35 Seals Stadium closes	85 Exposition Park II closes

100 South End Grounds II opens

XXII CHANGES OF ADDRESS

We remind all members to send us notice when they move. And at no charge we can send any committee member a roster of current members/addresses. Of course, it is only as current as you make it!

XXIII BASEBALL ON-LINE PROJECT

Andy McCue of the Bibliography Committee is asking all committees to consider assisting in this worthy project to create a "comprehensive electronic bibliography of materials on interest to the baseball researcher." We could be of special help in the matter of ballparks with personal and less well known published collections of materials. Also, we could index the eleven years of our newsletter. All of us have our own bibliographies and lists of resources. We will publish a more detailed outline in the December newsletter. Meanwhile, if you can lend assistance to this very important project, contact Andy at 4025 Beechwood Place, Riverside, CA 92506, or call him at (909) 787-4954. Thanks! More info in the next newsletter.

XXIV MINOR LEAGUE NOTES AND ARTICLES

1. New Parks for:
 - a) Oklahoma City, OK, where the mayor hopes to have a new park as part of a downtown development plan.
 - b) Trenton, NJ, where local officials see baseball as economic salvation.
 - c) Sussex County, NJ, where baseball will give the region a boost.
 - d) Erie, PA, where different plans await.Send \$1.00 for the lot, or 50¢ for any single.
2. New regulations for minor league parks make many NY state parks obsolete. Plus a story on the Auburn, NY franchise. Send 50¢ for both pieces.
3. Last game at Durham, NC Athletic Park. A variety of pieces on the place that the movie "Bull Durham" made famous. Send \$1.00
4. Bowie Baysox not a financial hit in Baltimore, Balt, Sun, 9-6-93 (2 pgs)
5. Last season with Madison, WI Muskies, Milw. Journal, 8-27-93, (3 pgs)
6. July 4 fire that destroyed old Oriole Park, Sun, 7-5-93 (2 pgs)
7. New look to Memphis McCarver Stadium, 7-12-93 (1 pg)
8. International League parks and info (3 pgs)
9. Indianapolis Indians ticket schedules, 1993, while they last, no charge
10. Info on new park for New Orleans and story on 1952 Southern Association All-Star Game at Pelican Stadium,, (8 pgs)
11. Info and copies of snapshots of Artesia, NM park where Joe Bauman set the minor league home run record in 1954. Bob Rives of Wichita, KS, sent us this info. His research request appeared in the last newsletter. Bob notes that the park is now used by the local high school team.
12. Baseball coming to CT? A series of articles from Mike Dempsey. (8 pgs)

Life Imitates Art The 8-16-93 Sports Illustrated noted a game that was washed out in Butte, MT at Alumni Coliseum. It seems that some water hose was mysteriously left on overnight. But the "Bull Durham" trick did not pay off as they played a doubleheader the next day!

XXV NINETEENTH CENTURY PROJECT

Bob Bailey reports that we still have many cities available for research/writing as we attempt to compile the history of all sites for professional baseball in the nineteenth century. Meanwhile, we are exploring some publishing possibilities, but it is more helpful if we have some text to show! Our original goal is to have most of the drafts ready by the SABR convention in Texas in 1994. We will publish a full status report on the project in our December newsletter. Meanwhile, if you would like to see this project completed, jump in and take a city. Contact Bob at 12129 Briargate, Gosgen, KY 40026.

XXVI RESEARCH REQUESTS & NOTES

1. Jack Carlson notes that our last issue declared that five ballparks were named for owners. Jack knows four (Wrigley, Comiskey, Busch, and now Kauffman), but who is the fifth? I was quoting an AP story. Jack wonders if the writer confused a writer (Murphy/San Diego), a politician (Humphrey/Minneapolis) or a promoted (Shea/New York) with another owner.
2. Jack also responds to our last issue's note (item XXII ?) on Grabbe Evers and baseball mystery novels. There are four titles: Murder in Wrigley Field; Bleeding Dodger Blue; Murder's Row; and Fear in Fenway. "All are fun to read. Each book contains some history of the team/ballpark that is the central point of the story. Also, old ballplayers' names are used for the books' characters." Thanks Jack!
3. Bill Cahill at 9101 Shore Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11209, reports that several efforts on Brooklyn's baseball history are being done with one exhibit getting organized at the Brooklyn Historical Society. Bill is working with local Dodger and Ebbets Field Fan Club people to get markers placed on ballpark sites in that borough. Contact Bill if you have assistance to lend. They are especially interested in pre-1920 photos and materials on Brooklyn's baseball history.
4. Ernest Green (see new members) is working on great home run seasons in the minor leagues. He needs any information on dimensions for these parks:

1948	Amarillo, TX	park name not known	West TX/NM League
1956	Lincoln, NE	"	Western League
1926	Tyler, TX	"	East TX League
1925	Salt Lake City	Community Park	PCL
1956	Plainview, TX	park name not known	Southwestern Lg.
5. David Timmons, 18 General Pulaski Drive, Salem, NH 14079, seeks information on Boston's South End Grounds, especially the RF line, the outside wall, and what appears to be a scoreboard in or outside of the park on that side. He is building a model of the park.
6. Jerry Cohen asks if anyone has ever considered what it would cost to duplicate a classic park, that is, to rebuild another Ebbets or Crosley. Write him at 181 Western Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98119 if you have thoughts on this.
7. Patrick Stacey, 7608 Antlers Lane #10, Charlotte, NC 28210, seeks information on Wrigley Field, especially "Interestwq/quirky" stories, etc. for an essay he is writing.
8. We still get requests about the past from the mound to home plate pathway that seems to disappear from the scene by WWII. Who knows exactly why---if there is an exact reason---that this piece of groundskeeping came and went?
9. Fred London asks about the LF grandstands (wooden) of the old Sportsman's Park that lasted some years after the 1909 version was built. Were these from 1875, 1882, or 1902. Write him at 3716 So. Country Club Way, Tempe, AZ 85282. Also, he asks about Damaschke Field in Oneonta, NY and Labatt Park and St. Cloud Commons. Write if you have info on these parks.
10. Lyle Spatz seeks info on the AL Washington park for 1905. Write him at 18817 Rolling Acres Way, Onley, MD 20832.
11. Mark Frohman, 336 East 90th Street, #2B, NYC, NY 10128, seeks info on how to restore a pair of Shibe Park seats, dating from 1940s or 1950s.

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12. Bill Cengeri of 2106 Priscilla Lane, Bethlehem, PA 18018, seeks a central source for AA and AAA minor league records/data for the years 1957-70.
13. Bowman Field in Williamsport, PA ... is it near the top of the list of old minor league parks? Now that McCormick Field in Asheville, NC was totally rebuilt, how does that oldest minor league park list stand? Local folks want to tout Bowman as the nation's oldest minor league park for 1994. Call Lou Huntzinger at (717) 323-5749 if you can bring some clarity to all this.
14. Rodney Johnson (see new members) seeks ballparks info for these cities/lgs:
 - PCL 1909-1913
 - UA Great Falls 1913
 - AA KC Blues 1914-1915
 - Tri Copper AZ 1916-1918
15. Phil Gruen (see new members) is interested in the latest info on the Rangers new park regarding the RF "Home Run" porch.
16. Christopher Steele (see new members) is conducting research for his master's thesis based on the issues of moving the Yankees out of the Bronx to wherever. Contact him if you can be of service.

Chris also suggests that the committee get a start on the cities up for expansion in the next round (Phoenix, St. Pete., Washington, Charlotte, Sacramento, etc.) and examine their chances in relationship to their future playing sites.

XXVII MAJOR LEAGUE PARKS ARTICLES

1. "Comiskey Park unites, divides," Chi. Tribune, 10-3-93 (3 pgs)
2. "Artists paint baseball giants for opening of Texas stadium," Schened. NY Gaz. 8-18-93 (1 pg)
3. Article and cartoon on Comiskey low attendance, Chi Sun-Times, (2 pgs)
4. "Taking Baseball into the 21st Cent.," Dugout, June/1993 (1 pg)
5. Ken Burns baseball project, LA Times, 7-11-93 (5 pgs)
6. Last Browns game in St. Louis, ST. L Post-Dispatch, 9-27-93 (2 pgs)
7. "New Stadiums Ain't East-Just as True Today as in 1891," (1 pg)
8. "Scooter at the Mike," Rizzuto calls the Mudville Nine! (1 pg)
9. "Fans Rally to Tiger Stadium," Christ. Science Monitor, 2-12-93 (1 pg)
10. Security for last game at Arlington, TX, FW Star-Telegram, 10-2-93 (1 pg)
11. Story on "new" Cleveland Stadium, Engineering News, Aug/1993. (2 pg)
12. The searching for the site for Yankee Stadium, NY Times, 10-24-93 (1 pg)
13. "From Baseball and Apple Pie to Greed and Sky Boxes," NY Times, 10-31-93 (2 pg)
14. Diagrams/info on Comiskey Park, Chi. Tribune, 10-5-93 (2 pgs)
15. Series of stories on new stadia/arenas, USA Today, 9-21-93 (2 pgs)
16. "Gateway Peek," Cleve Plain-Dealer, 10-3-93 (2 pgs)
17. "Sports Facilities," Today's Facility Manager, Sept/1993 (3 pgs)
18. USA Today $\frac{1}{2}$ page on last games, new parks 9-30-93 (2 pgs)
19. Cleve/Gateway Project, Christ. Science Monitor, 10-26-93 (1 pg)
20. "Crosley Field lives again in Blue Ash, OH," Sports Col. Digest, 10-8-93 (1 pg)
21. Fenway Park, then and now, Boston Sunday Globe, (1 pg)
22. Old Ballparks live on in memories, USA Today, 6-24-93 (1 pg)
23. "The Bimbo Ballpark," review of Camden Yards, Wash. Post, 8-15-93 (2 pgs)
24. History of land at Michigan & Trumbull, site of Tiger Stadium, Mich. History, July/August 1989 (8 pgs)
25. History of Huntington Ave. Grounds/Boston, NU Magazine, July-1993, (11 pgs)

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26. Nighttime archaeology on site of old Comiskey Park, AP 9-14-93 (3 pgs)
27. Ballparks travel programs, The Sun, 5-9-93 (4 pgs)
28. Kansas City, MO baseball sites, KG Star, no date/1993, (2 pgs) with Lloyd Johnson
29. Montreal's Olympic Stadium and expensive roof, Wash Post., 7-27-93 (2 pgs)
30. "Moving Tips (to the Yankees) from the Chisox," Newsday, 10-6-93 (1 pg)
31. "Cleveland's Double Play," (Gateway), Engin. News Rec'd, 9-13-93 (6 pgs)
32. Ted Williams & Yogi Berra on Fenway and Yankee Stadium, AP, 10-7-93 (1 pg)
33. Braves Field outline for 1915 or 1916 Series, Boston Globe, (1 pg)
34. What a Difference a Ballpark Makes! " Sat. Eve. Post, 9-6-59 (4 pgs)
35. "New Diamonds Are a Fan's Best Friend," Life, ca. 1964 (5 pgs)
36. "Row Me Out to the Ballgame," Candlestick's first game, Life, 1960 (2 pgs)
37. "Dialogue with the City, ' The Evolution of Baseball Parks," Landscape,
Vol. 29 No. 1 1986 (9 pgs)
38. Model of new stadium for Brooklyn Dodgers, Colliers, 1952, (2 pgs)
39. New Sports Museum led by Committee member Dick Johnson, (1 pg) C. Science-Monito
9-24-93

XXVIII BALLPARKS NEWS NOTES

1. Jim Annis, a ballparks artist who has requested our committee's help, has finished his Crosley Field work. Contact him at 207 Nettleton St., Charlevoix, MI 49720 (616) 547-2948 for info on his products.
2. The 1994 A Field in Flatbush Calendar by new committee member Charles Brereton is available for \$14 (includes shipping, handling). Contact him at PO Box 307, Concord, NH 03302 for info on this Ebbets Field calendar.
3. A Smithsonian traveling exhibit, "Major League/Minor League: Photographs of American Baseball Stadiums by Jim Dow," tours the country for the next four years. It just left Baltimore and we'll publish a schedule in the next newsletter.
4. Ethan Casey sends greetings from Bangkok where he writes for the Bangkok Post.
5. Bill Ballou of Whitinsville, MA, reports that a marker has been erected for the site of the first perfect game, pitched in Worcester, MA, in 1880, between Worcester & Troy, NY. "The stone obelisk is at the entrance to the Becker College administration building on Sever Street in Worcester, close to where the entrance was to the old ballpark." Bill said that there was a plaque on the side of a nearby house, but it burned down and was never rebuilt.
6. Congratulations to committee member Bob Carr whose informative and witty letter appeared in the Nov/Dec magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Bob was correcting several mistakes in a previously published letter.
7. Diamonds magazine writer Doug McDaniel called recently asking for info on Sulphur Dell. He kindly sent us some back issues of the fine publication for our files.
8. Andrew Gernhardt of Ft. Wayne, IN, thanks the members who responded to his inquiry about Rizal Stadium. Bob Carr (who spent time near the Stadium in WWII), Charles Wilson (ditto, but during Vietnam conflict) and Miles Wolf all responded to note that the place was in Manila, named after Philippine hero Rizal. It was the site of several 1934 major league touring games with Ruth, Gehrig, etc. Bob notes that he saw a 1945 exhibition game with some big league stars at Rizal.
9. Another fire (Texas Stadium/Irving, TX) started in those %S(¼S_+ luxury suites! Those things are dangerous--tear them out! Blaze took place on 10-12-93.
10. Gordon Thomas notes that the retirement of Carlton Fisk from the White Sox severs the last active-player link to RFK Stadium. Fisk played in several Sept/1971 game

11. Cincinnati installed a glass backstop in 1965, measuring 54' 10" in length, 15' 4" high. The only previous major league park with a glass backstop was Seals Stadium. Installed in 1947, it was there for the SF Giants 1958-59 seasons.can anyone dispute this....it came to us with no source noted.
12. Did they expand the SkyDome? Playoff games vs. the White Sox reported attendance of 51,375; 51,889; 51,783. And for the Series vs. Philadelphia, they topped 52,000 with 52,195 for game 6? Previous crowds seemed to be under 51,000. At the Vet, crowds stayed steady at 62,889; 62,731; 62,706 for games 3-4-5.
13. The new Cleveland park, supported by a tobacco and liquor tax; may ban smoking in the facility.
14. Evan Meyer has contributed several fine pieces of research to our committee:
 - * Final Games in Most Recent AL Stadiums (8 pgs)
 - * AL Teams first visit to Cleveland Stadium (7 pgs)
 - * Sunday night baseball at Cleveland Stadium (5 pgs)Copies available for usual 6¢/page plus postage
15. Fred Schuld notes a dramatic improvement in the PA system at Cleveland Stadium made by Art Modell after the Indians have left. Modell is quoted as planning many new changes for the facility.
16. The Boston Braves Historical Association had its annual meeting/reunion on 10-17-93 at Boston University and a tour of Braves Field was planned that day.
17. Did anyone see and save the August-93 issue of Inside Sports? It had two pages on the new type of ads on OF and Home Plate/backstop walls.
18. Frank D'Amico has a one-page summary of the surfaces of the current ml parks. Send us a 29¢ SASE and we'll pass it along.
19. The Lexington Park Fund Drive continues to erect a marker for the site of minor league ball in St. Paul, MN. Contributions, memories, and information welcome. Contact the SABR Halsey Hall Chapter, PO Box 581781, Minneapolis, MN 55458.
20. Mike Gershman's Diamonds is on the bookshelf. Anyone care to write a review. All mini-reviews welcome too.
21. John Kaup is working toward the publication of his research on San Diego, CA parks; and Jim Nitz has his article on Borchert Field published in the Winter-92 issue of Milwaukee History.
22. Jim Peters laments the passing of so many minor league parks due to the new standards established by the majors. Is this something for our committee to take as an issue, he asks?
23. Dan Palubniak suggests a National Pastime on ballparks. We might want to complete our 19th c. project first, but what do you think of the viability of such a project? Write me or Dan at 30 Manter Street, Cape Elizabeth, ME 14107.
24. Mike Dempsey recently visited Spartanburg, SC, and he confirms that about 1000 Connie Mack Stadium triple-slatted back seats are in the park there with green paint. If you are in the neighborhood, look for Duncan Park.

CLOSING NOTES Our apologies for the delay in getting this issue to you. Natalie Lynn Bluthardt was born on October 28, 1993, and has since made your chairman's life much more interesting! Mother, daughter, and father are doing well. We have started reading the names of the classic parks to her, but we are not sure of the long-term effects as yet.

Next issue with luck just before the end of the year. We'll list all of our contributors for this issue and the next at that time.