

SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

September-October 1994

© SABR Ballparks
Committee 1994

Robert F. Bluthardt
244 No. Oxford Drive
San Angelo, TX 76901

Committee Chairman
Home (915) 942-0635
Work (915) 657-4441
Fax (915) 657-4540

I NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to our committee:

John Curran
UAE University
Box 17172 Guru
Al Ain, United Arab Emirates

All levels after 1900; is working on a ballpark plan for Milwaukee; interest in SF, Seattle, Boston, Phila., NYC, & Chicago parks; all thematic interests.

Lisa Pincus
549 West 113th St. #5b
New York, NY 10025

All eras & levels; special interest in preservation issues; writing a MA thesis on preservation strategies for old parks and welcomes all assistance.

John Koos
7110 E. Mockingbird Way
Anaheim, CA 91719

All levels after 1920; architectural interest; writing his senior thesis on public investment in minor lg. ball; seeks assistance on thesis topic.

David Connick
2800 July St. #1
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

All eras and major league levels; esp. interested in AA and So. Assoc; working on masters thesis on the architecture/cultural context of Fenway, Camden Yards, & the Astrodome. Assistance welcomed!

Gary Miller
PO Box 4224
Medford, OR 97501

Seeks assistance/advice as his group attempts to raise money to renovate local minor lg. park.

Dr. Jeffrey Barto
165 Edgewater Dr. NW
Concord, NC 28027

All levels; interested in NC parks and all Pittsburgh parks; considering a book on Pitts. parks; wants to have markers for all lost Pitts. parks.

David Mitchell
1308 Slauson Lane
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

All major lg. parks after 1920; Griffith, Fenway & Braves Field; suggests a book on old park drawings.

Jeff Samoray
28478 Ridgebrook
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

All levels, esp. Detroit amateur/minor lg. fields; Ontario parks of pre=1920; working on essay of Detroit 19th c. parks; considering photo hist. of Tiger Stadium.

Emory Lardner
15 Woodward Ave.
Quincy, MA 02169

All eras on major lgs; working on various park models; has completed many models of classic parks. Has considerable research information.

II REFLECTIONS ON BURNS/BASEBALL

Several committee members wrote to express themselves on the major ^{KEM} Burns treatment of baseball. Even in such a long program we have complaints that certain subjects were left out (and some were given too much treatment). Jerry Gregory asks "where were the umpires and scouts" while wondering about the lack of true baseball experts such as Larry Ritter and SABR's Bob Davids. Jay Gauthreaux enjoyed the program, but thought the ballparks received a shorter segment (actually, they did not receive much of a special segment). John Kaup agrees with Jay and notes the lack of West Coast baseball. J. L. Croce found the footage of NYC/Brooklyn in the 50s very interesting, but agreed that ballparks deserved more.

I found the ballparks photos and films very intriguing, but you had to be careful to separate the image from the words! Fenway 1933 was used to illustrate Fenway 1912; a classic park (Shibe 1909 or so) used to illustrate a 19th century concept. Burns used images rather loosely to create a "feeling" rather than to substantiate and illustrate a fact. John Pastier and I chatted at length on this as he caught dozens of mis-matches of text and photo. I wonder how this will be treated in the book. In print one must be more precise!

III MINOR LEAGUE PROJECT

A few committee members wrote to comment on a project to list, identify, describe, etc., the minor league parks of the nation, and other nations too (Mexico and Canada for starters). Mike Frank agreed that it is an endless task, but Ted Lukacs believes that it is a very worthy goal, even if not achieved right away. With the recent publication of the Minor League Encyclopedia, we have a good starting base for the post-1900 game. Already, several committee members have been working on parks in some states. Many state histories have been written on minor league ball (a new one came out for NJ recently). Ted may be willing to help us organize our work; I can pull what research we have in our files; and I am sure the Minor League Committee has assistance/material to offer. If you have thoughts, please write me or Ted at 5617 Open Sky, Columbia, MD 21044. We will publish an update in our next newsletter.

IV THANKS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS of material and articles for this issue go to: Paul Shapiro, Steve Csik, Jeff Samoray, Bob Boynton, Fred Schuld, David Moreau, Mike Dempsey, Ken Carrano, Andy McCue, Mark Landsbaum, Dick Clark, Art Lierman, John Kaup, Jim Nitz, Rocco Del Sesto, Simon Inglis, Bill Cahill, Charlie Owen, Brian Powers, Galen Wiser, Chris Jennison, Kevin Grace & Clarence Watkins. Thank You!

V REMINDER ON POSTAGE Please send 29¢ for the first five pages and 23¢ for segments of additional 5 pages. Make any checks to Bob Bluthardt in name only. The number in the () tells how many pages to a piece. If no number is listed, assume it is a single page piece.

(3) Ballparks September/October 1994

VI MAJOR LEAGUE ARTICLES

1. Architectural drawings and 1992 stories on new Atlanta stadium. (5)
2. Story/box score for first ml game on Long Island, 7-27-1890 (1)
3. Stadium Building to keep teams, LA Times, 9-9-94 (3)
4. "Sporting in Style," new stadia/arenas, Hemispheres, Oct/94 (4)
5. New sculpture at Coors Field, Chris. Sci. Mon. 10-17-94 (1)
6. Chadwick's grave in Brooklyn, 1994, no source (1)
7. 30th Anniversary of "astroturf," AP 9-29-94 (2)
8. Baseball Scoreboards, Cleve. Plain Dealer, 9-4-94 (1)
9. "Where the Indians Played Their Games at Home in the 1930s & 1940s," Bob Boynton gets it right! (2)
10. "Who Owns the Rangers?" Ft. Worth Star-Telegram, 9-26-93 (8)
11. New ballpark painted on big parking lot in Cin. BB Weekly, 94 (1)
12. Lost Pittsburgh Ballparks, The Gazette, 6-26-94 (5)
13. NTHP Flyer for Ballparks Tour, (1) set for July 17-25, 1995
14. New grass grows under Pontiac Silverdome, Dal. Morn. News, 6-13-94
15. "Love Among the Ruins," Wrigley, Newcity Summer Guide, 5-26-94 (2)
16. Inside look at Brewers ownership, Milwaukee, April/94 (11)
17. Fan's Guide to Comiskey/neighborhood, Daily Southtown, 4-8-94 (3)
18. "Comeback City," review of Jacobs Field, Sun-Times, no date, (2)
19. Review of Camden Yards, Compressed Air Mag. July/Aug 1993 (6)
20. Potential sites/new parks for Pittsburgh; SABR members quoted-
Post-Gazette, 10-16-94 (7)

VII POCKET SCHEDULES

Thanks to committee member Mike Jaffee we have more pocket schedules from these teams:

Chicago Cubs, Williamsport Cubs, Elmira Pioneers, Durham Bulls, Asheville Tourists, Albany/Colonie Yankees, Winston/Salem Spirits, Phila Phillies, Norfolk Tides, Macon Braves, Augusta Greenjackets, Martinsville Phillies, Salem VA Buccaneers, Vermont Expos, Frederick Keys, Bowie BaySox & Fredericks Keys combo.

While they last! 29¢ SASE per 6-8 schedules.

VIII OTHER PUBLICATION NOTES

- * Smithsonian Magazine in its October-1994 issue has a ten page article on Fenway Park. Great photos, but no new information. To order, write the magazine at PO Box 55593, Boulder, CO 80322.
- * Latest issue of the Coors Field newsletter came out with updates on construction and art work. Write them at Denver Metropolitan Major League Baseball Stadium District, 1660 17th Street, Suite 100, Denver, CO 80202.
- * Athletic Business magazine just came out with its November issue and there is a major story on the building boom on the minor league level. Our committee is mentioned and some of the photos come from the O'Connor slide collection. Write them at 1846 Hoffman Street, Madison, WI 53704 for a copy. Cost is \$5.00.

(4) Ballparks September/October 1994

IX MINOR LEAGUE ARTICLES

1. Burbank's (CA) park where Browns played set for destruction, LA Times, 10-2-94 (3).
2. Canton/Akron Indians may move; possibility of new park in downtown Akron, Akron Beacon-Journal, 9-8-94 (4)
3. Investigation into Lake Elsinore (CA) ballpark; is the CA State Lg. park worth it? Riverside Press-Enterprise, 10-2/3/4-94 (8)
4. "Major successes in the Minor Leagues," The Class A Craze, BB America, 9/19-10-2, 1994 (1)
5. Salem says farewell to 67 year old Municipal Field - source/date as #4
6. New Britain, CT keeps its AA team, USA Today BB Weekly, 8-31 / 9-6
7. Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium hosts NBC program that "recreates" the World Series, World-Herald, 10-12-94 (1)
8. More news/illustrations of new New Orleans park (6) various sources
9. The San Antonio Missions (AA Texas Lg) set a few new attendance records: single game record for the city with a crowd of 12,673 on August 27 by re-arranging the bleachers. They also set a new Texas League full season record with 411,851, breaking the Dallas franchise mark of 404,851 set in 1949.
10. London, Ontario's Labatt Park is often cited as the oldest minor lg. park site at 117 years. It was marked as a historical property in July of this year. We have a large selection of clippings/stories on the past/present/future of the place. Send \$1.25 for the small selection and \$3.50 for the whole packet.
11. Charlie Owen sent us a selection of clippings documenting the discussion, plans, finances, and construction of the new Bowie, MD ballpark. If you want the whole batch, send \$5.00. Most articles are from the Prince George's Journal in 1991 & 1992.

X BALLPARK NEWS NOTES

1. The toy company that makes Erector sets had a national campaign for input as it is developing "the perfect baseball stadium." From the info received they will create "Erector Dream Baseball Park." The finished product will be revealed on November 17 at the Empire State Building in New York. Did anyone participate? NY-CT-NJ members take note of the event/date and drop by if you are in the neighborhood on or after November 17! SASE of 29¢ for two short stories.
2. Four pages of local stories on the Fort Worth ballpark tour and national SABR convention. One 29¢ SASE.
3. Washington Park marker project in Brooklyn is now delayed as the expected donor, Con Edison of NY, has cited a lack of funds. We are hopeful for next year.
4. Tiger ownership starting up a new campaign for a new park; Bud Selig supports their need; Mike Ilitch to get more savvy politically. Send 29¢ for the news.

(5) Ballparks September/October 1994

XI COMMITTEE NOTES AND PROJECT REPORTS

1. As many of you have read in the recent SABR Bulletin, one of our most active and loyal committee members, Bob Carr, passed away on September 8. I had known Bob since 1981, just before I joined SABR and Valerie and I always enjoyed his company and that of his lovely wife Kathie. We wish Kathie and the family our very best.
2. Thanks to Jack Carlson for donating some Coors Field photos to our collection.
3. Thanks to Rocco Del Sesto for a donation to our committee as well as some advice to our membership. After visits to Hickory, Fayetteville, Charlotte, Asheville, and Spartanburg in NC & SC, he is convinced that minor league ball is "a real treat." The intimate setting reminded him of what some of the long-gone classic parks may have been. Rocco says that if minor league ball is within a 2-hour drive (2½ for me!), then you should take advantage of it.
4. Congratulations to committee member Art Lierman whose design for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum was accepted! This project will be located in St. Mary's, Ontario. Art is busily engaged in fundraising and related tasks.
5. Brian Ten Eyck of our committee has proposed placing parts of our newsletter and other SABR newsletters/data on the Internet. If you have thoughts, you can contact him the old-fashioned way at 36945 SE Deming Drive, Sandy, OR 97055.
6. Ken Carrano, chair of our photo contest, is getting the word out to our fellow committees and regional organizations. We have some good books as prizes (one copy of Diamonds, among others). Unless we get a good response this year, we may give this a very long rest! Contact Ken at 2696 Sterling Court, Elgin, IL 60123.
7. Don Lancaster is working on an international list of stadia books and he has quite a line-up so far. He has seen Phil Lowry quoted in Dutch! With committee members now in several countries, we could be seeing a more international flavor to our work!
8. Our thanks to the several members who have contributed to our "Ballparks on tv and in movies" list. Let us go another issue before publishing what we have thus far. If you have suggestions, write me before the end of the year.
9. City Baseball Magic, our committee's project on how to build a better ballpark authored by Phil Bess, continues to sell. If you know of a person or organization who needs a copy, refer them to me. We have a good supply available for \$6.00, postage included.
10. Thanks to Gary Jarvis whose name I could not remember as sending the great packet of clippings on Trenton, NJ new park; And a correction on Silver Stadium that is located in Rochester; I had moved it to Syracuse.

(6) Ballparks September/October 1994

XII RESEARCH NEEDS

1. Please note the various research needs of our new members on page one of the newsletter. I have a copy of David Connick's abstract for his project. A 29¢ SASE will cover it. If the projects of other new members intrigue, write and we will send a copy of their survey forms.
2. Emory Ladner (see new members) seeks info on the front entrance of Braves Field in Boston for a model he is doing. We have had this question before for another model maker. Who has the answer?
3. Mike Dempsey continues to seek out lost minor league ballparks. He asks for the sites/locations of former minor league parks in NY, NC, & VA. Write him at 1564 Glasgo Rd., RR Box 99, Voluntown, CT 06384.
4. Emory has another question: what happened to the home plates of Ebbets Field, League Park, & Griffith Stadium? For some parks being replaced (Busch to Busch as in St. Louis, MO) the old plate was planted in the new park. I am not sure about these three. Any ideas?
5. Lisa Torba of 6518 S. Kedvale, Chicago, IL 60629, seeks information and illustrations of Wrigley Field for a high school project. She is entering the Chicago Metropolitan History Fair. I sent her a packet of clippings and stories from our files.
6. Lewis Scheider of 1930 Sheridan Drive, Kenmore, NY 14223 wants to know about the dates of the first public address systems for the old parks. I found some info for the Polo Grounds in the late 1920s, but I have no definitive list. Any ideas?

XIII BALLPARK STUFF

1. Charles Brereton of our committee announces his new "Field in Flatbush" calendars and t-shirts for 1995 (and he still has some 1994 items left over). Go Brooklyn! he says. Write him at PO Box 307, Concord, NH 03302 for ordering info and product info.
2. Chris Jennison notes that Gene Mack's classic ballpark cartoons are available in a new printing from JP Enterprises, 1770 Massachusetts Avenue, #296, PO Box 9111, Cambridge, MA 02140. Cost is \$16.95 and it includes postage/handling.
3. Chris also sent some lovely flyers touting the ballpark art of famed artist Andy Jurinko. Write the Woodford Publishing Company, Inc. at 660 Market Street, Suite 206, San Francisco, CA 94104 for a flyer.

XIV CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTERS FOR 94

At the end of this year all articles and materials offered for reprints will be filed by theme, not by issue of newsletter. Thus, it is somewhat difficult to locate the exact five stories offered on Yankee Stadium or some other topical event. If you are holding back on getting any 1994 reprints, get your request into me by 12-31-94! Thanks.