

The SABR Minor League Committee

Jamie Selko

A Word from the Chairman of the Minor League Committee

Greetings to all, and welcome to what we hope is the beginning of a new era in Minor League research, the last great frontier of our National Game.

Allow me to introduce myself—my name is Jamie Selko, and I was asked at the Texas National if I would be interested in becoming Chairguy of the Minor League Committee, a task which I agreed to undertake. It is a job I was not seeking, but I figured that—if those who had recommended me for the position thought me capable—I would give it my best shot. And what I do care about is the regeneration of a strong group of dedicated researchers with a solidarity of purpose: To Chronicle the great vastness of the Minor Leagues, the *real* baseball of America.

It was also decided that—given the sheer volume of work that can be done—the Minor League Committee should be the first committee to have its own "Publications Chairman." We are fortunate to have the estimable Carlos "Can Do" Bauer in that position. He will coordinate the newsletter and our journal, with the goal of making them publications of regularity, appearance and quality of work

as to even give the gods pause. (This he has pledged with his life, good, and chattels—well, he said he'd try to buck our puns up a notch or two...) long-range goals and hopes for the Committee are these: 1) To eventually have a book which details the history of every Minor League which existed

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for 5 or more years; 2) To compile a history of each town with more than 10 years in pro ball; 3) For SABR in general, and the ML Committee in particular, to have a living resource group to provide historical background to all leagues and cities currently in pro ball; to that end, we could notify league presidents and GMs and/or P. R. people of the availability of this type of resource. I believe this would be a

The enclosed Questionnaire should be returned within a month to the Editor of the of the SABR Minor League Committee Newsletter:

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tremendous plus for SABR, and maybe even a source of revenue; 4) Finally, I would like to see work done of minor league payroll averages, including intra-league post season; it would be great to see how many Bill Serena's, J. C. Dunn's and Bill Kennedy's there are out there.

Obviously, this will be a Herculean task, and not one which we can
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Bob McConnell

Ideas & Comments Regarding the Operation of the Minor League Committee

The first and most important thing we must do is survey the membership of the Minor League Committee. Then we must publish the results of the survey in the committee newsletter; we also need to publish a roster of current Minor League Committee Members.

Expand the newsletter, and publish it more often. In an organization such as SABR, with members spread out all over the world, the only way committee members have of knowing what other members are doing is through a newsletter.

The following types of material should be included in our newsletter:

- Results of the survey.
- Letters to the Editor.
- Book Reviews of recently published books devoted to the Minors.
- A research exchange exclusively for Minor League Research projects.
- Articles on research materials & facilities: Articles aimed at beginners, showing how to obtain microfilm, inter-library loan and Hall of Fame Library.

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hope to accomplish overnight. However, our short-term goals, which we intend to reach this year—and with your help, possibly before the World Series—are of utmost importance: To find out just what is going on out there, so to avoid duplication of labor, open lines of communication between members, and works together toward our stated goals, rather than being our own opponents. In other words, lay the ground work for some really great work down the road.

What is important is that we not work at cross purposes. There are a lot of human resources out there which we have available to us, folks, and it would be foolish of us not to take advantage of them. For example, both the legendary John Pardon and the mythical Bob McConnell have pledged to be of whatever assistance they can, stating that all we have to do "is ask." Cliff Otto has volunteered to do any data processing we need to have done (an invaluable service in this silicon, chip-driven age we live in—IBM compatible, if you want to contribute—or, down the road, make use of what we hope will be the best data base this side of the military-industrial complex. Eduardo Valero, Latin America Committee chairman, has pledged his support—and expressed his hopes for cooperation with us—for any and all of our endeavors.

Enclosed you will find a questionnaire (the brainchild of Bob McConnell and Bob Hsieh). Please fill it out and respond ASAP. The results of this survey will be compiled, tabulated and disseminated to the membership, so we can see where we are at the present point in time, and to find out who's doing what. Any questionnaire not returned within four weeks cannot be included in the results, but all respondents will after that time will be considered as part of the committee, and continue to receive the newsletter. The next newsletter will focus mainly on the results of the survey, and the implications for our work; future issues will probably deal with research about teams, leagues and personalities. Of course, nothing is cut in stone, here—and we'll keep our eyes open for any new ideas.

In closing, let me ask each and everyone of you to return the enclosed survey to either Carlos or me as soon as you are able—so we can get going on putting the results together for our next newsletter. If there are ever any areas in which you need help—either mine or another member's, please feel free to contact me. Also, let me state that Delegation will be the hallmark of the Minor

League Committee from now on—so any and all offers of help will be welcomed. Thanks, and now let's get down to it!

Jamie Seiko

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McConnell continued

- An article on the Reserved lists, and possibly a compilation of available lists.
- Listing available collections of reference books and microfilm; listings of unpublished minor league averages, and averages published in TSN at season's end but not in following year's guide; less than 10's done by our members, etc.
- Articles to both promote committee projects—and to suggest future projects.
- Articles submitted by committee members.

Several projects which the Minor league committee should consider are:

1. A compilation of Minor League Ballparks, similar to that of *Green Cathedrals*.
2. Completing the biographical data on well-known minor leaguers.
3. Writing a history of 19th Century Minor Leagues.

Also, *The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball* will be coming out with a second edition, and the editor, Lloyd Johnson (who is a long-time and active committee member), should be supported as much as possible by our members, by sending him any corrections or additions we come across.

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One thing we should think about in the future is compiling a list of all player career records, and where they might be obtained.

Finally, we should encourage the compilation of Minor League averages. There are a number of leagues for which no averages exist. We should encourage members to recreate those seasons from boxscores, in the same way Vern Luse did, and Ray Nemecek is still doing.

Bob McConnell 6/16/94

Carlos Bauer

A Final Word from the Editor

At the San Diego National a year ago, it became abundantly apparent that the Minor League Committee needed to both survey the membership and to upgrade the newsletter. What drove this point home was Bob Hsieh's survey of the members present at the committee meeting. It turned out, in one case, that four minor league committee members were working on—believe it or not—the 1911 San Joaquin Valley League! And none of them knew the other.

This is the type of information that the newsletter should try to get out to the membership. If this information were known, maybe one could have worked on 1910...the others on the non-O.B. Central California League of prior years. In my own case, I recreated the 1918 Coast League before finding out that Bob Hsieh had already done it.

As to the newsletter itself, I believe that both Jamie and Bob have covered what we will try to include in future issues, so I will just limit myself to say that the newsletter will be at least eight pages long, and will be issued on a quarterly basis. Content will depend a great deal on what members share with us; the number of pages we can publish will depend a lot on what the SABR Board decides to give us, though the members may want to consider picking up the additional cost of an expanded newsletter, if we do a good job, of course.

As to projects: The most important is disseminate to the membership a roster of all members with their specialties and/or interests. After that, I think we'll be able to discuss what projects are both possible and desirable.

In closing, I'd just like to say one thing: The Minor League Committee put SABR on the Organized Baseball map with its *Minor League Stars* series. I know that same talent can build upon that and do even more amazing things. The job of the editor of this newsletter is to facilitate those talents by opening up and expanding the newsletter so as to finally become a true forum for all members of the Minor League Committee.

—CB 6/27/94