

SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

August-October, 1992

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Committee Chairman  
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I NEW MEMBERS We welcome these people to the committee:

- Stephen Roedell  
12552 Deer Run Rd.  
Phila., PA 19154  
All levels; 1900-1950; Shibe & Comiskey Park; esp. stadia seats; researching Shibe park and welcomes assistance.
- Bob Summers  
594 McKaig Rd.  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130  
All levels and eras; Southern lg; Sulphur Dell (Nashville); Southern ballparks of late 1800 & early 1900s; needs photos of Sulphur Dell and help with Nashville baseball 1901-1963.
- John Pardon  
PO Box 728  
Crugers, NY 10521  
All cities and levels; special interest in taking photos of minor league parks.
- David Barrett  
1371 Kings Ridge Dr.  
Norcross, GA 30093  
Minor Leagues; Atlanta Crackers & Ponce de Leon Park; architectural interest; photos and postcards.
- Tom Lazzaro  
8111 Stickney Avenue  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213  
Major lgs of 1900-1950; Cleve/Boston/Milwaukee; interest in public vs. private financing of parks.
- Andy McCue  
4025 Beechwood Pl.  
Riverside, CA 92506  
1920-1950 era; also modern era; L. A. & Brooklyn; special interest in stadia and city politics, finances, construction.
- Joseph Gusky  
1036 Naval Avenue  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
1900-1950; all levels; Buffalo, NY parks; working on study of minor parks of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Hampton, & Suffolk, VA. Help is welcome.
- Jack Carlson  
2904 Green Vista Dr.  
Fairborn, OH 45324  
NL parks; pre-1900 to 1950 era; Pittsburgh & Cincinnati parks searching for maps of early Pitts ballpark location; suggests rating the major league parks' scoreboards.
- Joseph White  
34 Milhaven Ct.  
Richmond, VA 23233  
1920-today; Minors and NL parks; Richmond, VA and Florida; parks; architectural and urban history interest.
- Mike Bortner  
700-53 East Lake Dr.  
Orange, CA 92666  
pre-1900 to 1950; AL & NL parks; special interest in 1929 A's special interest in researching ballparks seats.
- Don Spoon  
PO Box 919  
Aberdeen, WA 98520  
1920-1950 era; all levels; just getting started in ballpark research.
- Gordon Brown  
710-10 Highland Cres.  
Kitchner, Ont. Canada  
N2M 5C2  
1900-today; all levels; "the more obscure the better;" parks of the Old South and east of the Mississippi; suggests cataloguing every minor lg. ballpark of this century with relevant info.
- Gregory Stanley  
19066 Outer Drive  
Dearborn, MI 48128  
Major lg. parks of 1900-1920 era; Cleve. League Park, Union Grounds in Balt. Baker Bowl & Braves Field; interest in Farrell (Kingsbridge) Park) and wooden parks.

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Arthur Schott  
459 Jewel St.  
New Orleans, LA 70124

All levels and eras; photos and postcards; special interest in Louisiana's baseball history.

Daniel Price  
334-22nd St.  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

1920-today; Major Lgs; Ebbets, Baker Bowl & pre-76 Yankee Stadium; studying Baker Bowl and Chick Klein.

Richard Stueber  
502 E. Main St. #4C  
Madison, WI 53703

Pre-1900 to 1920; All levels; extensive research on 19th cent. baseball; researching in all pre-1900 Sporting News issues; parks and stats.

This has to be one of the largest numbers of new members to join our committee. Please contact any of these gentlemen if you see common ground and interests.

- II HILLTOP PARK MARKER in New York got off to a quick start with a very cordial and productive meeting at the office of Mr. Daniel Ginsberg of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center on Tuesday, October 6. SABR members Bob Bluthardt with Valerie Bluthardt, Mike Frank, Bill Cahill, and Larry Ritter were joined by several hospital officials. The medical center that now owns the block that once housed the home of the Yankees (1903-1912) in far uptown Manhattan (B'way between 165th and 168th Streets) is very interested in a marker and a spring-1993 program to mark the unveiling. The hospital has also offered to pay for the project! Send a 29¢ SASE for a two-page summary of the meeting. Members with special info on Hilltop Park are asked to contact Bob Bluthardt as a draft for the marker must be written this fall. And a thank-you to Bill Cahill who got this project back on track with a few phone calls and to Mike Frank for his research material.
- III NINETEENTH CENTURY PROPOSED PROJECT on ballparks is taking shape. For a proposed outline, send Bob Bluthardt a 29¢ SASE. If you are willing to serve on this research project committee, contact Bob Bailey, 12129 Briargate Lane, Goshen, KY 40026.
- IV BOSTON BRAVES came back to life for a wonderful afternoon on Sunday, October 4. The Boston Braves Regional Chapter of SABR put on a great show that featured numerous ex-Braves players, team publicist Billy Sullivan, several research presentations, a short talk on Boston's NL parks by your chairman, and a tour of Braves Field, now Boston University Nickerson Field, by SABR member Ralph Evans. The meeting was held in a room overlooking the remaining stands of Braves Field. This event marked the 40th anniversary of the team's last Boston game.
- V CROSLY FIELD also came back with the annual Old-Timers Game at the partially rebuilt park in Blue Ash, OH, on Sunday, August 2. For a copy of the 4-page press release on the event send a 29¢ SASE.
- VI CLEVELAND'S LEAGUE PARK may be restored, at least what is left of it. The Spring/Summer issue of Inside, the publication of the Gateway Corporation that is guiding the construction of the new park, reports that an initial study and a \$2 million would be needed to restore the ticket office and remaining stands. Send a 29¢ SASE for a copy of the article.
- VII NEW DODGER MUSEUM has been reported near Cooperstown, NY, about 3 miles from that community. More info as it happens!
- VIII BROOKLYN DODGERS OF THE EARLY YEARS & BROOKLYN BASEBALL HISTORY BEFORE THAT is the project of Daniel Barron, The Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11201. If you have suggestions on materials & artifacts, please contact him.

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- IX GREEN CATHEDRALS will be coming out in paperback by the beginning of 1993 according to the publishers Addison-Wesley. Valerie and I recently met with several Addison-Wesley people who are working on the paperback edition. If you have any marketing suggestions, let me know.
- X BALLPARKS HISTORY COURSE is being taught by SABR president Lloyd Johnson in Kansas City. We sent him some materials from the files. Lloyd noted the future value of a proposed reading list on this topic. Anyone want to try putting one together? Lloyd also noted that half of his class was composed of staffers of the three ballpark design firms in Kansas City! We hope that they read City Baseball Magic!
- XI CLEVELAND STADIUM celebrated its 60th anniversary of baseball with a special program and July 31 game that drew 53,000 fans despite a chill rain and mid-afternoon starting time. For a copy of the scorecard and other materials, send \$1.50. Our thanks to F. David Gill for the material.
- XII PARKWAY FIELD IN LOUISVILLE, KY Barbara Oremund, 3065 Ledgebrook Court, Louisville, KY, seeks information and materials on this 1920s ballyard that housed many minor league and Negro League games. Today, it is used by the University of Louisville. Barbara is compiling information to seek possible landmark status for the field from local or state officials. Please contact her if you can assist. Barbara is an accomplished SABR researcher and speaker.
- XIII TIGER STADIUM FAN CLUB reports encouraging news in its September 92 "Unobstructed Views" newsletter. The club presented its Cochrane Plan for renovation of this historic park to the team's new owner Mike Ilitch. Former owner Tom Monaghan had refused to see the plan. The Fan Club, one of the best examples in the nation of "grass roots" organizing, celebrated its 5th anniversary last month. To join the Club, write them at PO Box 441426, Detroit, MI 48211-1426 (313) 964-5991.
- XIV THE STADIUM NEWSLETTER is published monthly by Mike Cervenka of 213 Lilac St., Elburn, IL 60119. Mike's newsletter recalls the Ballparks Bulletin put out for several years by Ray Medeiros. The Stadium Newsletter started in June of this year and features reports on minor league teams and franchises, stadium postcards, commentary, letters, and some stadia history. Sample copies are \$2.00; subscriptions are \$9/year (US) and \$12/year (foreign). Mike encourages contributions to the publication.
- XV RAIL TRANSPORTATION & CAMDEN YARDS in Baltimore is attracting attention. Dick Kaufmann and several other committee members sent in some material showing how well the new park is served by public transportation. For copies of these materials, send \$2.00 for copying and postage.
- XVI BALLPARKS TRIPS by two of our committee members are worth noting: Jim Brown, one of our more prolific suppliers of minor league park materials, covered 5650 miles and 34 games in 43 days. The sole major league game was the Cubs. Bob Boynton went 6900 miles in 30 days and caught a few games along the way! Bob gives Comiskey II a B- and Camden Yards an A. Bob also had dinner with Robin Roberts and Gabe Paul.
- XVII BALLPARKS MARKER PROJECTS for minor league parks in Dallas (Burnett Field) and Fort Worth (LaGrave Field) are being considered. If you have an interest in this project and/or information about these two parks, contact Bob Bluthardt. This marker program might be coordinated with the Dallas/Fort Worth based SABR regional chapter. It would be fitting to accomplish something by summer-94 as the SABR national meeting that year will be in Arlington (Dallas-Fort Worth)!

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- XVIII SABR NATIONAL CONVENTION next year takes place in San Diego. Our own: Bob Boynton is chairing the research presentations and members should contact him---with ballpark related topics we hope!--- at 376 Bellaire Street, Del Mar, CA 92014. Also, convention organizer Joe Naiman, is willing to list major and minor league ballparks and sites of same of the San Diego area in the convention program. If you can assist, contact him at 9312 Marilla Drive, Lakeside, CA 92040.
- XIX FIELDS OF DREAMS: ARCHITECTURE AND BASEBALL is a travelling exhibit being developed on the design of the parks in Baltimore, Chicago, Arlington (TX), Cleveland, and Denver. Architectural critic Barbara Koerble is coordinating this effort. Our committee has been contacted for information. If you have something to offer, write her at 608 Monticello Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76107.
- XX BALLPARKS BOOKS & VIDEOS
- \* "The Wrecking of Comiskey Park," a 37-minute video tribute "to the death and life of the late Sox ballyard," with 250 photos of <sup>how</sup> it was and how it fell. Cost: \$19.90 plus \$3.00 s/h. Write Bougainville Productions, PO Box 578-358, Chicago, IL 60657. (312) 525-3153.
  - \* Fenway Park, A Stadium Pop-Up Book, 17 pages of text and a pop-up model for \$25 by John Boswell and Davis Fisher. Spotted in Boston-area stores.
- XXI TWO THESIS STUDIES have been donated to our files:
- \* John T. Kaup donated "Ballpark And City, Progressive Era Baseball Parks as a reflection of Urbanization, 1909-1923" His 101-page senior thesis has an impressive bibliography and nearly 500 footnotes!
  - \* Terry Fraser-Reid sent us "The Inside Pitch: Recent Efforts at Planning the Urban Stadium," a thesis for a Master of City Planning degree. His 152-page work compares/contrasts Camden Yards and the SkyDome.
- If you would like a copy of either work, send a check for \$10.00 for the Kaup work and \$15.00 for the Fraser-Reid work. I will wait until December for orders to accumulate (if any!) and then make all copies.
- XXII RESEARCH NEEDS
- \* Joe Ditmar, 3112 Hayes Road, Norristown, PA 19403 Joe is working on a 1901 project and needs photos, postcards, other visuals on Bennett Park, Detroit; League Park, Cleveland; League Park, Cincinnati; and Lloyd Street Grounds, Milwaukee---all for 1901.
  - \* Damian Houseman, 2640 Park Windsor Drive, #207, Fort Myers, FL 33901 He seeks "photographs, drawings, and memories of Ebbets Field for highly detailed scale model. Especially need location of vendor facilities, bathrooms, ticket booths, gates, walkways, ramps, clubhouse, and other details not generally seen on photographs. Telephone & Fax: (813) 278-4213
- XXIII NEW TEXAS PARK construction continues in Arlington. At the September meeting of the SABR regional chapter in Arlington, Tom Schieffer of the Rangers gave a presentation on the park to be. For a SASE I'll send a black & white copy of a sharp color photo of the model.

XXIV SOME NOTES HERE & THERE

1. Fenway Park broke a few traditions with some rock & roll music over the PA systems this summer. Is this the end?
2. A photo book on Camden Yards is available in Baltimore stores. It retailed for about \$30.00.
3. Harper's Magazine of October 1992 had a "novella" called "Pafko at the Wall," on the famed 1951 season and Dodgers/Giants playoff. Congrats to Mike Frank for supplying a key fact on the Polo Grounds for the author.
4. Dominick Denaro's baseball exhibit made a network wire story in San Angelo-- so who knows where else it has played! He now seeks information about Vermont's Northern League and Centennial Field in Burlington. The park dates from 1922. Would not this make it one of the oldest parks in baseball behind Fenway, Tiger, & Wrigley? Write him at 64 Hawthorne Cir., So Burlington, VT 05403 if you have information.
5. Committee member David Wright has made a variety of models, both from kits and on his own. Model fans may wish to contact him at 195 Lausen Drive, Syracuse, NY 13205.
6. "When It Was A Game II" was shown on HBO on July 13. Several members have noted that this was a wonderful production that featured many of the classic parks in color. Someone noted that at least the first segment was out in video. Check your stores.
7. Greg Frein, an eighth grader, seeks info on ballpark design as he plans on designing one! We sent him some materials. If you have any advice, contact him at 33 Madison Drive, Plainsboro, NJ 08536. And he just joined SABR
8. Andy McCue has graciously supplied all committee chairs with a report on our work on issues that involve SABR committee work. A copy is enclosed and you are welcome to contact Andy or myself with your opinion.
9. And what will the hand operated scoreboard at Wrigley Field do with more games to post with expansion? Probably drop an AL game and post all NL games says a club official as reported in the Sporting News, 8-24-92.
10. Brad Sullivan notes that the new mall that covers the site of Metropolitan Stadium in Bloomington, MN (Minneapolis/St. Paul) sports a marker for the site of home plate. If you are in the neighborhood, take a look and tell us what it says.
11. Nostalgic Baseball Reproductions, Inc., offers ballpark posters of Ebbets, Forbes, and Polo Grounds. Write them at PO Box 16424, Palm Beach, FL 33416.
12. Mike Dempsey sends us some clippings on the last game at Norfolk VA Met Park. Send along 75 ¢ for the batch. Mike has been doing some serious ballpark travel up and down the coast, taking photos along the way.

XXV BALLPARKS PHOTO CONTEST It is time to start serious thought about this event if we are to have one for 1993. How do we get more people involved? What are some good prizes and how to get them? What should the categories be? Ken Carrano of 2696 Sterling Ct., Elgin, IL 60123 has offered to help us with the 1993 contest. Write him with suggestions.

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XXVI MAJOR LEAGUE ARTICLES

1. Story on the three Kansas City architecture firms that design ballparks, Architecture, July-1992 (7 pgs)
2. "St. Petersburg's domed stadium is getting bad reviews," wire story, no date (2 pgs)
3. Two stories from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on construction progress and plans for the new Texas Rangers park, (5 pgs) 7-2 & 8-16, 1992
4. Committee member Jerry Casway's article on Phila. Recreation Park from the Phillies Report, (1 pg) 8-27-92
5. "RFK from 'Miracle' to 'Dreadful,'" Wash. Post, (2 pgs) 7-10-92
6. "Ballpark design a clash of priorities," Rocky Mountain News, 8-27-92 (1 pg)
7. "Stadium now just a memorial to a lamented way of life," (Balt. Mem. Std), USA Today, 10-1-92 (1 pg)
8. "Ebbets Field is back--in miniature form," Sports Collectors Digest, 8-21-92, featuring committee member Brad Merila. (2 pgs)
9. "Birding strikes out at SkyDome," Tor. Globe & Mail, 7-1-92, (1 pg)
10. "Twins ugly dome is a winner too," Tor. Star, 7-9-92 (1 pg)
11. Stories on luxury boxes and preliminary work for Milwaukee's new park, 8-92 (8 pgs) Milwaukee Journal

XXVII BALLPARKS IN STAINED GLASS is about an impressive a way of depicting ballparks as you will ever see. Terry McGee of Austin, Texas creates what he calls "Glass Ballparks." He has been invited to show his work at the future Hall of Fame at Camden Yards. For more information, contact him at (512) 219-8904 or write 11803 Charing Cross, Austin, Texas 78759.

XXVIII BOOK REVIEW on the Dickinson work, Major League Stadiums, was submitted, and the author left off his/her name from the sheet and I had already discarded the cover note. If you are the author, please let me know and I will run it in the next newsletter. And speaking of reviews, we need more material of this nature. Reviews of books, programs, exhibits, ballparks themselves...all are welcome material for this newsletter.

XXIX CINCINNATI BALLPARK MARKER may be in the discussion stage for the 1860s park of the Red Stockings. The modern location is the Union Terminal which now houses the Cincinnati Historical Society. Jack Carlson is investigating the possibility of a marker. If you would like to assist him, contact him at the address on page 1

XXX THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be the "hot stove" issue of November/December, sent out in December. Please submit materials by December 20. Be thinking about 1993 anniversaries for ballparks, past or present!

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Minor League Clippings

1. "The Sporting Scene," New Yorker, 8-17-92, Roger Angel on minor league ball in upstate NY, 3 (12 pgs)
2. "His Field of Dreams Has a Home," The Record, Minor league park to be in NJ, (2 pgs) 10-13-92
3. "Cities Face Difficult Decisions," Baseball America, basic stories on the state of minor lg. ball and park requirements (4 pgs)
4. "In the bushes, a cache of jewels," no date, Utica NY Observer-Dispatch a review of some minor lg. parks (2 pgs)
5. "Ray Winder Field Healthy at 60," Arkansas Times, 5-14-92 (1 pg)
6. Two stories on Indianapolis, IN Bush Stadium, 1992 program (3 pgs)
7. Story and editorial on proposed ballpark for Suffolk County (NY) 9-18-92 (2 pgs)
8. Ballparks of New Orleans with two photos (3 pgs)
9. Baseball back in Portland, ME, misc. stories (8 pgs)
10. Old Orchard Beach, ME stadium may go up for sale, Portland Press, 8-5-92 (1 pg)

And Yet More on Camden Yards!

11. "Romance in Right Field," Baltimore Magazine, April-92 (13 pgs)
12. "Tragedy of season is alienation of O's faithful," The Sun, 9-27-92 (2 pgs)
13. "Camden Yards & The Glorious Oys of Summer," Washington Post, 9-28-92 (1 pg)
14. Stories & editorial on poor seats in left field, The Sun, (4 pgs) Aug-Sept./92
- (6 pgs) 15. "A Floor by floor tour of the Camden Yards warehouse," Sun Magazine, 8-30-92
16. "A Bird's Eye View of Oriole Park," Sports Collector's Digest, 9-11-92 (2 pgs)
17. "Ballpark put city back in big leagues," The Sun, 9-27-92 (1 pg)
18. Summary story on first year of park, The Sun, 10-4-92, 2 pgs)
19. Story on picture book on park, The Sun, 10-4-92 (1 pg)
20. Camden Yards and nearby neighborhood, The Sun, 7-19-92 (2 pgs)
21. General story on park, Phila. Inquirer, 8-23-92 (2 pgs)
22. Stories & editorials on Phila. Fans liking Balt. park, (3 pgs)
23. Camden Yards vs. Fenway, Boston Phoenix, (2 pg) 5-22-92
24. Signage & Graphics at Camden Yards, Communication Arts, (6 pgs) Sept/Oct-92
25. Review of Camden Yards in Architecture, "Grand Stand," July/92, (4 pgs)
26. "Class Struggle Comes to Camden Yards," by committee member John Holway, draft of article published in City Papers (Wash., DC) in June/92 (5 pgs).

THANKS to our many contributors for this issue: Bob Boynton, Bill Cahill, Bruce Genter, Jim Brown, John Guilfoyle, John Matthew, David Wright, F.D. Gill, Dave Moreau, Don Lancaster, John Lobingier, Dan Palubniak, Jim Nitz, Paul Shapiro, Joe Haiman, Kit Crissey, Fred Ivor-Campbell, Vin Russo, Allen Tait, Art Schott, Richard Puff, Bob Brady, David Pietrisza, Bob Summers, John Pardon, & Gordon Thomas, Jerry Casway.

COST FOR COPIES is 6¢/page plus 29¢ for the first four pages and 23¢ for additional groups of four or portions thereof. Please make payment out to Bob Bluthardt without reference to SABR or the Ballparks Committee as the local bank does not recognize SABR! Thanks!