

SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

November-December 1993/January 1994

Robert F. Bluthardt      Committee Chairman  
244 No. Oxford Drive      Home (915) 942-0635  
San Angelo, TX 76901      Work (915) 657-4441

© SABR Ballparks Committee

I NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these folks to our committee:

Brian Powers  
3547 Carter Hill Road #A205D  
Montgomery, AL 36111

Christopher Wait  
7707 College Town Dr. #7  
Sacramento, CA 95826

All parks of the 20th cent; NYC, Chicago, & Fenwa Park; currently designing a ballpark for Auburn Univ; working on a Rickwood Field model.

Phila, Oakland/KC, Balt. & NY parks; all levels & eras;

Stig Jantz  
101 Canon St. #2  
Medford, OR 97501

All eras & levels; Pacific NW and pre-1959 LA park interest in sponsorship of parks & teams; Aberdeen SD parks; Miles Field, Medford, OR research.

Imada Hideyuki  
1-6-45 Midori - Cho  
Koganei Shi Tokyo  
184 Japan

Wrigley and Fenway; USA vs. Japan parks; post 1920 parks; minor leagues.

Please contact these gentlemen if you see areas of common interest. And our thanks to all four new members for their donations of postcards and news clippings for our committee files.

II NINETEENTH CENTURY BALLPARKS PROJECT

Project chairman Bob Bailey has very encouraging news: Of the 53 cities with 175 ballparks, 29 cities with 99 parks have been assigned. Some essays are already turned in with more promised soon. The project is moving along well, but we still have a few large cities (representing a bunch of parks) and many small communities to be covered. Here is what uncovered:

NEW YORK: Brooklyn, NYC, Albany, Troy, Syracuse, & Elmira  
NEW JERSEY: Weehauken, Hoboken, Jersey City, Elizabeth, & Newark  
INDIANA: Ft. Wayne & Indianapolis  
ILLINOIS: Chicago  
MARYLAND: Baltimore  
MASS: Springfield  
PA: Pittsburg & Meadville  
VA: Richmond  
OH: Euclid Beach

Members with suggested new researchers/writers are asked to contact Bob Bailey at 12129 Briargate Lane, Goshen, KY 40026 (502) 228-5269. Get on board and help us see this project to completion!

III GOOD NEWS FROM BROOKLYN

Dan Price just called to report that Con Edison has tentatively agreed to pay for and erect a marker for Washington Park, the pre-Ebbets home of the Dodgers. More details on a hoped for spring-1994 ceremony in our next newsletter. Thanks go to Dan with Bill Cahill, Elliot Knispel, and Marty Adler for working on this project.

IV PHOTOS OF HILLTOP PARK MARKER

David Ginsberg of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York kindly sent some glossy photos of the marker ceremony. For \$1.00 we'll send decent photo copies to anyone.

(2) Ballparks Nov-Dec 93/Jan 94

V CONGRESSIONAL BALLPARKS BILL

As reported in previous newsletters, Congressman Bonior of Michigan has sponsored a bill to preserve the classic ballparks (Wrigley, Yankee, Fenway, & Tiger) should the teams decide to abandon them. Tiger Stadium may be a test case for this bill that will have hearings in the spring with no date known at this time. Bonior's office asked if we would print the enclosed letter and as a public service we have done this. The committee and SABR as a whole can not take a position on this piece of legislation, but we cordially invite our members to express their view to Rep. Bonior or their own representatives. If members wish to send a copy of their views/letters, we can have a selection of viewpoints in the next newsletter.

VI BOSTON BRAVES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Braves Field fans and researchers need to consider this society as a resource and organization to join. Their recent meetings have been held at Boston University structures overlooking Braves Field, now Nickerson Field. Their latest newsletter was full of information about ex-Braves players, team & ballpark memorabilia, solicitation of ideas for the 80th anniversary of the 1914 "Miracle Braves," and publications. The Association is located at 47 Porter Road, Malboro, MA 01752. For a copy of "The Park with Nobody in it," send me a SASE of 29 cents. The poem laments the state of Braves Field in 1957.

VII CHIEF WAHOO COMES DOWN

The well-known symbol of Cleveland Indians baseball that sat atop Cleveland Stadium for over thirty years was removed in early January and placed in storage. It will not be placed upon the new Gateway Park and it is being considered as a donation by an area museum. For the record, the Tribe finished 380 games under .500 in his tenure (2362-2742). For several photos and stories, send 75¢.

VIII PHOTO CONTEST TO START AGAIN FOR 1995

Our annual committee photo contest will take a break for 1994 with the hopes of a bigger and better production for 1995. There may not be enough interest (and thus enough quality entries) to sustain it year-to-year. So, for 1994, we will have a display of the committee photo collection at the SABR gathering in Arlington while we plan for a 1995 contest. Suggestions should be sent to the contest chairman, Ken Carrano, 2696 Sterling Ct., Elgin, IL 60123.

IX SABR ANNUAL MEETING IN MINOR LEAGUE CITY?

Several committee members wrote to express their views and suggestions for a minor league city for an annual SABR meeting. Frank Helminski would like to see us go to Rochester, MN, which has great convention facilities and an expected 1994 summer college league team in the North Central League. Joe Gusky notes that Norfolk, VA has a new park this year and numerous tourist sites and activities in the region. I would note that San Antonio, a traditionally popular city for meetings, has a new minor league facility for the AA Texas League team.

X YANKEE STADIUM GOES BACK IN TIME

The latest development in the Yankee Stadium saga has the park brought back to its previous glory before the regrettable renovations of 1973-74. Send \$1.50 for a great selection of stories and photos describing this interesting idea. Also, a lawsuit was filed in NY state to stop public funding of any Yankee Stadium work.

(3) Ballparks Nov-Dec 93/Jan 94

XI THE FIFTH OWNER?

In our last newsletter we noted a story that listed the five parks named after team owners, but most of us could think of just four (Comiskey, Busch, Wrigley, & Kauffman). Brad Sullivan and Frank D'Amico both suggest that the writer may have been thinking of Joe Robbie of Miami. While he did not own the Florida team, he did build the football stadium where the team's games are played.

XII BALLPARKS EXHIBIT IN AMARILLO

Your committee chairman had a fun evening last November with a short (300 miles) drive to Amarillo, TX, where the "Fields of Dreams" exhibit was celebrated with an opening night event at the Don Harrington Discovery Center. For a copy of the story on the exhibit and slide show given that night, send a SASE of 29¢. The exhibit will be on display at the Brevard Art Center & Museum in Melbourne, FL from January 28 to March 16. It then moves to the Elmhurst Historical Museum in Elmhurst, IL, from June 9 to August 11.

XIII BROOKLYN DODGERS NEWSLETTER

Defunct teams like the Dodgers thrive in the minds of many, and the newsletter by the Brooklyn Dodger Hall of Fame is worth considering. Marty Adler can be written at 2946 Bayside Ct., Wantagh, NY 11793. The October-1993 issue had a variety of news notes on the team and its former players, memorabilia (including a booklet of original plans and blueprints for Ebbets Field) and Dodger-related events and programs.

XIV NEW MILWAUKEE PARK

Progress is still slow in Milwaukee according to committee member Jim Nitz. Some recent clippings noted the "old-time" ads going on the fences and a two-month delay of the stadium plan due to a transit report. Send 75¢ for copies of the stories.

XV THE NAME GAME

F David Gill suggests that the new Cleveland park may be called Gateway Park as his 1994 season ticket application included a card with that name. Meanwhile, they released the dozens of names submitted for the "contest" to name the new Texas Ranger facility, already dubbed "The Ballpark in Arlington." Some of the fan choices were pretty caustic, like "Jurassic Park," as one suggested, "in honor of all the old, tired, worn-out, over-the-hill dinosaurs who have played for the Rangers." Send 40¢ for the story.

XVI BALLPARKS IN MOVIES

On a recent night I spent a few hours watching "The Kid From Left Field," an average baseball movie made in 1953 (remade in 1979) with the real star being LA's Wrigley Field. Great interior and exterior shots of this long-gone facility that was considered one of the best minor league parks. TV fans may recall its hosting of "Home Run Derby" thirty-five years ago. Has anyone out there compiled a good "Ballparks in Movies List?"

XVII CREEPING ADS

The Yankees will have those annoying and distracting revolving ads behind home-plate for 1994 at the Stadium, joining Milwaukee and Detroit. Several committee members have expressed their disapproval.

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XVIII THOUGHTS FROM MEMBERS

\* Joe Naiman says that "what ballparks need is the structural soundness of the 1990s, the ambience of the 1920s, and the seating capacities of the 1970s." He questions the lower-capacity parks being built today and wonders if the teams will miss the seats when (if?) they make the playoffs.

\* John Holway visited Mile High Stadium recently and "thought it was one of the best stadiums I've ever visited, and I've seen about 40-some." John questions the wisdom of building a new facility, especially the naming it after a beer.

John also lists his stadium totals for games and visiting. We have had more than a few members claim the top prize for parks visited. Perhaps we need another contest?

\* Joe Favano did some traveling and saw the Kingdome in Seattle. He saw a night game and took a stadium tour. On the plus side, "huge variety of food and restaurants, fan-relation reps, coffee bars, pubs, etc. Close-circuit screens throughout, speakers in all the corridors and even the rest rooms ..... with play-by play;" on the minus side, "a tarp covers the entire upper deck in fair territory." They also have a small memorabilia/history room dedicated to local professional & amateur sports.

He also saw Camden Yards in Baltimore and agrees with the assessment that "it is not an old-fashioned ballpark, but rather a deliberate attempt to incorporate some idiosyncracies with modern amenities." A game with the minor league Bowie BaySox was less crowded. The removal of an OF scoreboard now allows for tailgate parties in the parking lot with a view of the game through the trees. Even with a crowd of 12,000, plenty of parking!

Have you visited a park or site? Viewed an exhibit? Read a ballpark book or publication? If you have an opinion, let us know and share it with the committee.

XIX NEW PARK FOR CINCINNATI?

A new baseball-only park for Cincinnati was proposed for the River City recently and two committee members were involved: Phil Bess and Kevin Grace. The future of Riverfront for baseball may be questionable with new concessions made for the football Bengals. Send 75¢ for the details.

XX LESS IS MORE IN SAN DIEGO

Another park is going with the "instant intimacy" system. Jack Murphy Stadium will close the upper deck, reducing the capacity by 13,000 from 59,411 to 46,510 for 1994. Another 6,000 seats will be reduced in price. The upper deck tarp covering the seats will feature the logos of NL teams. Send 50¢ for the news articles on this development.

XXI ANOTHER NEW PARK ATTEMPT IN SF

The Giants will pitch a new downtown park again to San Francisco. Meanwhile, they will add 300 on-field seats to Candlestick that could cut the foul distances (one of the largest in the NL) by fifteen feet. The seats could cost: \$30-\$50! Send 40¢ for two short articles with more details.

XXII THANKS GO TO:

- \* Bob Boynton for donating a copy of the updated edition on Cleveland Stadium. Our resources for ballparks research grow each week with members' donations.
- \* Ken Carrano for a set of 1994 committee survey forms that we send to new members.
- \* Bob Littlejohn who sent us a large collection of clippings documenting the Bengals - Riverfront Stadium crisis in Cincinnati.
- \* John Kaup for his donation of a copy of the Rand McNally baseball atlas travel guide.
- \* Jack Carlson for his snapshots of the marker of homeplate at old Comiskey Park.
- \* these members for their sending of articles and information: Evan Meyer, Keith Danish, Mike Frank, Andy McGue, Dick Kaufman, F David Gill, Jack Carlson, Bruce Hellerstein, Fred Schuld, Jim Nitz, David Moreau, Gordon Thomas, Lloyd Johnson, Bob Boynton, Fred London, Bill Cahill, John Holway, Bob Carr, Jay Gauthaux, Ed Lilly, Bob Rives, Bill Watterson, Jim Peters, Mike Welsh, Kevin Grace, John Par-don, David Fietkusza, Brad Sullivan, Barry Evans, Ron Gabriel, Kit Crosse, Dave Wright, Bill Gagliano, Art Lierman, Ira Drucker, Joe Favano, Steve Bennett, Joe Gusky, Chris Jennison, Stig Jantz, Joe Naiman, Mike Dempsey, M. Bakst & Art Schott You make our newsletter newsworthy!

XXIII BALLPARKS/COMMITTEE NEWS NOTES

- \* Congratulations to Bruce Hellerstein whose collection was profiled in an article of Sports Collectors Digest. SASE of 29¢ for copy.
- \* Mike Frank reports that they filmed "Major League II" at Camden Yards and the sign said "Welcome to Cleveland Stadium," thus confusing Sid Fernandez according to Newsday
- \* committee member Terry McGee just completed another park in stained glass, the new Texas park for the Rangers.
- \* The Marlboro Man ad has been banned from the Kingdome as a ordnance forbids all tobacco ads from county buildings. For now it is covered in black paint.
- \* The Mets are again looking toward a super sports complex in Queens. Shea is entering its fourth decade of service and the Mets see their financial future in a mixed-use facility.
- \* John Croce is taking video of the Coors Field construction. Good idea! Members with video cameras should do the same for minor league facilities, especially those not in use or about to be abandoned.
- \* Memorial Stadium in Baltimore will last somewhat longer as no funds are available to take it down. If Baltimore received one of the new NFL teams, Memorial was to serve as the temporary home.
- \* Jim Gumm lists the ballparks articles in a series published by Topps Magazine called "Ball Park Blitz." Send a SASE of 29¢ for the index to which issues had which articles and how to order back copies.
- \* Mike Welsh expands on the issue of parks named after owners for the AL, NL, & FL over the last 90 years. Send a SASE of 29¢ for a copy.
- \* The Rangers had an auction and Christmas sale of park items on November 26-27-28. Seats went for \$25 unmounted, signed by Ryan seats for \$50, or mounted with plaque and home delivery for \$150. Benefits went to Rangers Charities.

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(notes-cont.)

- \* More on Rizal Stadium in Mamilla from Bob Littlejohn. Bob spent part of WWII there and thinks he saw a football in the park on July 4, 1945. There were marks on the wall related to the 1934 major leaguers tour. The stadium roof was hit by artillery fire in 1945. This park was in a mystery photo of a recent newsletter and several members wrote to identify it and give info.
- \* I just received a 1994 Red Sox ticket brochure with great graphics and photos of Fenway. Do other teams do the same? These brochures make good reference materials for future research.
- \* Gary Jarvis clears up some of the ambiguity on the oldest minor league parks. The Pittsfield, MA park may date to 1919, but the grandstand dates from 1950; Labatt Park in London, Ontario may have had baseball since 1877, but the current facility was built in 1938-39 after a flood destroyed the previous stands; Durham's famed park dates from 1939 as a fire destroyed the 1926 facility. With the 1994 season coming upon us, we need an accurate list of the truly oldest minor league parks not sites. Send your lists and we'll publish the results next issue.
- \* Two notes from Bob Carr: He caught an interesting goof in the Philadelphia Inquirer story on a new Philly park..it seems that they reversed a photo of Camden Yards, placing the famed warehouse in left field instead of right! A Boston weekly newspaper did that several years ago to Fenway creating the Wall in RF! Bob also agrees that a National Pastime with a ballparks theme would be great "if editorial material is personal and new (to readers) and not repeated in book old or new...."
- \* Joe Naiman found that the first ballpark powered by nuclear energy was Forbes Field with a April 18, 1958 game. It was a day game, so the power was used for matters other than lights. Send 40¢ for the box scores of that April game plus the first night game with nuclear power (5-9-58). Also, contact Joe at 9312 Merilla Drive, Lakeside, CA 92040 if you have info on this topic.
- \* More marker news.... Phil Gruen is starting the investigation for a marker for Chicago's West Side Grounds, now occupied by the University of IL Medical Center If you have thoughts, write him at 809 S. Damen, SSR #1303A, Chicago, IL 60612.
- \* Congrats to member Mike Gershman whose Diamonds has been receiving some good reviews. Steve Gietschier of the Sporting News was quite positive in his review. Some committee comments have been mixed. What do you think?
- \* The Stadium Newsletter has completed an index to the Ballparks Bulletin that Ray Medeiros published in 1986-88. Write Mike Gervánka at 213 Lilac Street, Elburn, IL 60119 to order back issues.
- \* Some address changes: Dennis Coyne now at Box 113, 1512 Spruce Street, Phila, PA 19102; Elliot Knispel at 10 Helen Avenue, Plainview, NY 11803; Dan Price at 20 Capt. Shankey Drive, Garnerville, NY 10923; Ken Kolb at 27 Ballwood Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870. If you move, let us know!
- \* City Baseball Magic royalties of \$112.51 were credited to our committee by the Publishers, Wm. C. Brown Communications, Inc. Phil Bess kindly assigned the royalties of the second printing to our committee. And by the way, we still have copies for sale! \$5.00 (postage included) brings you the better way to build a ballpark. Bulk order rates always negotiable!

XXIV MAJOR LEAGUE ARTICLES

1. Review of the outdoor sculpture at SkyDome, July-89 (1 pg)
2. Controversy on keeping SkyDome open or closed during AL Playoffs, 10-11-93 (1 pg).
3. New Rangers park & local franchise scene , Dallas Morning News, 12-12-93 (6 pgs).
4. Cleveland Gateway story & good aerial photo, AF, October-93 (1 pg)
5. Home Runs at Mile High in Denver, London, Ont. Free Press, 4-14-93 (1 pg)
6. Comiskey vs Wrigley, Toronto Star, 8-17-90 (1 pg)
7. Building of Dodger Stadium, LA Times, 12-6-93 (1 pg)
8. Fenway Park seating plan for 1912 World Series, Boston Globe, (1 pg)
9. Padres poor season, stadium, etc., LA Times, 11-15-93 (2 pgs)
10. Poor turf surface in Vet Stadium/Phila., Times-Picayune, 12-24-93 (1 pg)
11. Story on Eddie Grant (as in Polo Grounds marker), Harvard Mag. 11-12/93 (4 pgs)
12. Review of Diamonds, NY Times, sometime in 1993, (2 pgs)
13. Domed stadium for Brooklyn, Arch. Record, April-1956 (4 pgs)
14. "New Chicago Park (Comiskey) Cold, slick, & LOUD," Denver Post, (1 pg) no date
15. Bob Verdi finds Comiskey upper deck not so bad, sometime in 1993, (1 pg)
16. SkyDome financial history, sometime in 1993, (2 pgs)
17. "Is Cleveland Building another mistake on the lake?" Buffalo News 9-12-93 (1 pg)
18. "Even non-fans have to love the SkyDome," Knight-Ridder, 6-20-93 (1 pg)
19. Seats for Sale at Arlington Stadium, FW Star-Telegram, 10-14-93 (1 pg)
20. Collecting ballparks seats, USA Today Baseball Weekly, 9-22/28-93 (1 pg)
21. "Effect of the park on win probability," SABR Stat. Anal. Com. Dec. 93 (2 pgs)
22. Misc. articles on the opening of Ebbeets Field, 1913, (10 pgs)
23. Shibe Park seats in Spartanburg, SC, no source, (2 pgs)
24. New clubhouse at Atlanta vs. Boston for Braves, TSN, 1966 (1 pg)
25. The warehouse at Camden Yards, Sacramento Bee, 1992 (1 pg)

XXV

MINOR LEAGUE ARTICLES

1. Fire wrecks Memphis park, Cleve. Plain-Dealer, 4-18-60 (1 pg)
2. Review of new park in Norfolk, VA (1 pg)
3. Plan of Rickwood Field and age of each section of park (1 pg)
4. New park for Poughkeepsie, NY, AP 12-1-93 (1 pg)
5. McCoy scraps plan to expand, Providence Journal-Bulletin, 12-2-93 (1 pg)
6. Five pages of London, Ontario baseball history
7. New park and facilities for Oklahoma City, Dallas Morning News, 12-12-93 (2 pgs)
8. Improvements to New Orleans Privateer Park, Times-Picayune, 12-26-93 (1 pg)
9. Minor league ball coming to CT? (MISC. Ct. papers, (5 pgs) 1993
10. New team/park for Ottawa, Tor. Globe & Mail, 4-17-93 (1 pg)

Figure 6¢ per page plus 29¢ for the first four pages and 23¢ for each four pages after that. Make checks payable to Bob Bluthardt.

XXVI

Connie Mack Sees the Future

As quoted in a 5-17-31 article in the Cleveland Plain-Dealer, Connie Mack, described as a "kindly, old scout master," predicted that the game in the future will be played on baseball fields on the top of immense skyscrapers with a weatherproof dome to remove the rain hazzard. Thanks to Brad Sullivan for discovering this little nugget.

XXVII

TURF WARS

In 1995 KC will go to grass; Philadelphia Vet Stadium (well known for a poor carpet) may consider grass or better artificial surface, and the NFL is moving toward more grass playing fields.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Mike Dempsey is going on the road again for a photo-taking tour. He has a long list of parks in Ont, Quebec, MI, OH, & PA for which he needs info. Send me a SASE of 29¢ and I'll send you the list.
2. New SABR Ballparks Committee member Stig Jantz (see page one) seeks info and examples of sponsorships and support for minor league teams/parks. You can call him at (503) 776-7503
3. We just handled a call from the Ken Burns production company. They needed a good, indoor, color shot of the Astrodome. If you have access to one, call Sue Steisel at (603) 756-4141
4. Mike Welsh needs any info on parks in Youngstown, OH. Write him at PO Box 1192, St. Joseph, MO 64502-1192.
5. Tom Simon is working on getting a minor league team and park to Burlington, VT. Write him at 69 Green Street, #1, Burlington, VT if you have advice.
6. Joe Guskus seeks info on any minor league park still standing in York, PA. He also seeks info on Williamsport, PA parks. Write him at 1036 Naval Avenue, Portsmouth, VA 23704.
7. Steve Cummings recently purchased a Shibe Park turnstile and was looking for info on it and other turnstiles. Call him at (206) 328-1422 if you have suggestions. You can write him at 2001 26th Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112.
8. Dan Gutman seeks info on the outfield fences at Bennett Park in Detroit for a book he is writing. Write him at 224 Euclid Avenue, Haddenfield, NJ 08037.
9. Frank D'Amico is writing a summary of the AL& NL Boston parks before 1912. Folks with info should contact him at 225 Baker Street, #4, West Roxbury, MA 01901.
10. Bill McNeil of 5 Woodland Drive, Pittsfield, MA 01201 seeks an interview with minor league stars Joe Bauman, Bob Crues, & Joe Hauser. Also, he needs info on the parks in Amarillo, TX; Nicollet Park; Baltimore ca. 1930; and Roswell, & Artesia, NM.
11. Mark Dobson of 210 Sugartree Lane, So. Burlington, VT 05403 is thinking of making a model of Tiger Stadium. No info as yet on date, scale, etc.
12. Info on Miles Field, Medford Oregon, needed by Stig Jantz; see page one for address.
13. New committee member Brian Powers (see page one) needs info on Montgomery, AL Cramton Bowl.
14. Rick Johnson, 3852 Howard Avenue #1, Los Alamitos, CA 90720, seeks the definitive last game date for the Brooklyn club at Washington Park. Was it in 1890 or 1891? Various sources seem to be in conflict.

THANK YOU FOR 1993!

This committee is still solvent thanks to many copy requests and the generous donations of so many members to our postage fund. And we thank the general SABR fund for its annual budgetary support. The committee took in \$1820.50 and spent \$1861.82 for a small deficit of \$41.32. We started 1993 with a surplus of \$156.28, so we ended 1993 with a net surplus of \$115.26.

In correspondence the committee received 537 pieces of mail (up from 491 in 1992) and 607 pieces were sent out (up from 553 in 1992). Keep those cards and letters coming. We get to every one eventually!

For more details about 1993 feel free to write or call.



(9) Ballparks Nov-Dec 93/Jan 94

XXVIII EARTHQUAKE IN CA

The quake did several million dollars damage to Anaheim Stadium, but other regional facilities seemed to escape serious problems. We have one article on the Anaheim situation for a 29¢ SASE. Other committee members are welcome to send in additional information that we can share in the next newsletter.

XXIX NEW PARK MANIA

Various sources continue to mention the possibilities of new parks for San Diego, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia. Cincinnati and New York (both the Yankees and Mets) are making rumblings. Atlanta, Denver, Texas, & Cleveland open soon. Milwaukee, we hope, soon; plus Detroit is still an unfortunate candidate for a new park. The building boom is not over yet!

XXX SOME FINAL NOTES

- \* Two ballparks books (Camden Yards & Diamonds) were among the top ten sports books for 1993 according to The Sporting News.
  - \* Thanks to Christopher Steele for a donation of clippings.
  - \* KC may bring in the fences in the alleys up to eight feet for 1994 to increase the offense--and the fans!
  - \* Cleveland's Gateway Park will be on ESPN for opening day, April 4. The Feller statue will be unveiled the day before
  - \* The new seat prices at Gateway range from \$16 for field boxes (up from \$12) down to \$6 for the 3,239 general admission & 1,959 bleacher seats. The park will seat 42,400.
  - \* NEW MEMBER Frank Cunliffe, 295 Parkway Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228. He is interested in Pittsburgh parks. He noted that in our list of park anniversaries Exposition Park lasted several years beyond its 190¢ closing to serve the US League and Federal League. Thanks!
  - \* Thanks to Brad Sullivan we tracked down that mystery show on the Polo Grounds. It was called "The Polo Grounds, Requiem for an Arena," and it was shown on the week of April 22, 1964. The producer: Howard Cosell! Send a 29¢ SASE for a summary.
  - \* A 5-14-34 Cleveland Plain Dealer said this about the new color scheme at Crosley Field: "Visiting teams are being stunned by the new color scheme at the Cincinnati park. Black, white, orange, yellow, and red adorn the scoreboard, while the reserved seats are painted scarlet and the other seats dark green. Lower deck railings are light green, the awning canopies over the nullpens are ocher and orange, and the flag poles are robin-egg blue."
- Thanks again to all members who have written and sent materials for our newsletter and files. Stay in touch! And consider joining your fellow SABR members in Texas in June for the annual meeting.
- Next newsletter--we hope--in late March. Best wishes for the new year.

DAVID E. BONIOR  
10TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

**MAJORITY WHIP**

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2207 RAYBURN OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2210  
TEL: (202) 225-2106

HOME OFFICES:  
59 N. WALNUT  
SUITE 305  
MT. CLEMENS, MI 48043-5677  
TEL: (313) 469-3232

526 WATER STREET  
PORT HURON, MI 48060-5492  
TEL: (313) 987-8889  
TTY AVAILABLE

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### Washington, DC 20515-2210

Dear Society for American Baseball Research Members:

I would like to take a moment of your time to let you all know of my personal love of the game. I have been a big baseball fan ever since I was a young boy when my father used to take me to Briggs Stadium in Detroit to watch the Tigers. I remember sitting in the left field grandstands while Yogi Berra caught fly balls and, without looking, threw them over his shoulder back up into the stands for us kids. I remember listening to Ernie Harwell on the radio call the names of Al Kaline, Harvey Kuenn and Norm Cash. Memories from a child's eye that still make my heart warm.


In fact, the memories I have of Briggs (now Tiger) Stadium have led me to introduce an innovative piece of legislation. I feel there are four old ball parks left with the character of a Babe Ruth home run, a Ty Cobb stolen base or a Yogi Berra comment: Tiger Stadium, Wrigley Field, Fenway Park and Yankee Stadium. With these thoughts in mind, I introduced H.R. 2626 on July 13th. This legislation will place these parks in the National Park System once major league baseball is through with them.

The bill specifically establishes a commission which will determine ways to accomplish these goals using private financing, with funds from families and organizations that care the most about these great old ball parks.

I envision these parks to be living, useful, integral parts of their communities. They could host baseball games --- everything from minor league to little league to professional exhibitions to old timers' games and senior softball games. In fact, we just had the Seniors Softball World Series in Wayne County, Michigan in September of 1992. What place would be better for a Seniors Softball World Series than Tiger Stadium?

While I would love to see the Tigers remain at the old stadium on Michigan and Trumbull, I want to make sure that if they do leave we preserve this ball park which has provided so many memories for so many of us. If any of you are interested in H.R. 2626, please write to me. I would welcome any ideas, thoughts or old ball park stories you may have. Please send all letters to: **2207 Rayburn H.O.B.; Washington, D.C. 20515; Attn: Ball Park Bill.**

Sincerely,



David E. Bonior  
Member of Congress