

August 1, 1988

244 N. Oxford Drive
San Angelo, TX
(915) 942-0635

Dear SABR Ballparks Committee Member:

The annual meeting in Minneapolis drew several hundred members including a good number of committee people. Let's start with the convention and review what happened there:

- I BESS PROJECT/URBAN BASEBALL DESIGN PROJECT Phil gave a very detailed and organized report of the work thus far, and he brought with him a dozen drawings, architectural renderings, and a near-complete model. I took a few photos of the set-up. If you want copies, send along \$1.00 for costs & postage. Phil and I chatted at length with SABR board and publications people and hope to find a way to economically and effectively publish the results of the project.
- II BRAVES FIELD MARKER/BRAVES EXHIBIT-SYMPOSIUM Dick Johnson of the New England Sports Museum reported that a fine weekend of activity is set for Friday-Saturday, August 5-6. I am enclosing a copy of the brochure for your info. If you can attend any part of the weekend, come along! This will probably be the last time to see most members of that 1948 championship team.
- III TIGER STADIUM FAN CLUB Alex Benski of the organization gave an outline of the group's efforts to call attention to the park and its positive points worthy of preservation. If you have not paid attention to this movement, it is a superb example of a well-organized grass roots effort to counter negative comments by the City of Detroit and unsettling silence by Tiger club owner Tom Monaghan. Their booklet, "Tiger Stadium: Where Baseball Belongs" is a very well done piece of work. For more info, contact the organization at PO Box 441426, Detroit, MI 48244, (313) 964-5991.
- IV COMMITTEE MEETING We had almost 25 people at the beginning and 15 at the conclusion at 12:30 am, not a bad turnout. Many members complained about the late hour that was set for the committee meetings, and all the committee chairmen at the convention met and discussed a better schedule for 1989 and beyond. We discussed the items in I, II, & III; Joe Favano reported on his stadium photo project and had two ring binders full of entries; Bob Littlejohn spoke on the efforts in Blue Ash, Ohio, to rebuilt a replica of Crosley Field with many original items; and Larry Moffi of Redefinition Publications asked our opinion on a new book on baseball parks. More on that in a separate item. We also discussed the committee budget and the appropriateness of the committee getting involved in such matters.
- V ANNUAL REPORT A one-page summary of the year for the committee is enclosed. I will be working on a more lengthy one for issue in the late summer.

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Moving along to other matters:

VI NEW MEMBERS of the committee. Welcome to:

Elias Dudash
20 Holly Forst Road
Mt. Pocono, PA 18344

Andrew Klein
425 Student Services
Bowling Green, OH 43403

Both are interested in parks of the majors in the twentieth century. Andrew lists Tiger Stadium, Polo Grounds, and Ebbets as his favorites. Elias has an extensive postcard collection.

VII MILWAUKEE COUNTY STADIUM, hardly an "old" park, is under great scrutiny and there are serious plans to replace it. I have a large collection of clippings on the recent action to build something new, but at least they are talking about something with grass and "character." Still, County Stadium is one of the older and more individual parks in the majors. Send a 85 cent SASE for the batch of clippings.

VIII BALTIMORE is planning for a new park by the early 1990s to replace Memorial Stadium, another facility that has been deemed too old! The project people has invited public comment on the proposed new park. Letters on "ideas on the construction, amenities, and personality of the stadium" should be addressed to: Fan Voice, Baltimore Orioles, Memorial Stadium, Baltimore, MD 21218. No cracks about the club; they have suffered enough!

IX PLAQUE REPORT for Roosevelt Stadium and Griffith Stadium. The developers for the project to cover the Roosevelt site have not begun building, but in a recent letter they have assured me that they want to work with SABR when the time comes for a plaque. Less cooperative is Howard University which has not answered several letters from myself and Gordon Thomas asking to discuss with them the possibility of a joint effort for a baseball plaque on the site of the university hospital that covers the park area. More details as they come.

X FOURTH QUARTER on correspondence: 108 pieces received and 110 sent. Total for the year: 328 received and 350 sent. Keep those cards and letters coming!

XI WELCOME FELLOW COMMITTEES Starting with this newsletter issue we will send copies to all other committee chairmen, who, in turn, will return the favor, allowing for some information/news exchange on a broader level.

XII A NEW BOOK ON BALLPARKS, or at least part of one, is in the planning stages for Redefinition Publications. Larry Moffi attended the SABR meeting in Minneapolis and received many good suggestions. Right now, he needs help in tracking down a photo on the former Colt Stadium (Houston, early 1960s) now rebuilt somewhere in Mexico. If you can assist with this and what to add you two cents worth on what a book on ballparks should cover, contact Larry at 700 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 739-2110. A copy of his letter to the committee is enclosed.

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XIII POSTAGE CONTRIBUTION by Phil Bess...thank you. I will admit that recent contributions and a generous SABR allotment has made our postal fund healthier than it has been in my six years of working with this committee. Unless someone wants a ballpark model shipped overseas, I do not charge postage for an information request and many do run into serious postage. These extra moneys come in quite handy to continue the committee's work.

XIV MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Boston's South End Grounds..Then & Now (photos/short article)

Red Sox Expansion & Take Us Out of the Ballgame..... two pieces, one outlining Sox plans for 3400 more seats and community reaction to some problems with crowds, noise, etc.

Squeeze Play (Detroit Monthly, May-88) excellent article outlining the controversial movement to replace an apparently sound Tiger Stadium.

A 25¢ SASE for one or both of the first two; 65¢ for all three or just the Detroit piece.

XV 1880s BASEBALL was played again at my museum and our team beat a visiting club on a field whose outlines would remind you of the Polo Grounds. A 25¢ SASE for a box score and field map.

XVI CHICAGO'S WRIGLEY AND COMISKEY have been researched by committee member Sam Pathy and he has assembled quite an impressive file of tidbits and misc. info on the parks from newspaper accounts. For more info---and if you have suggestions on how he can make an article or publication on this---contact him at PO Box 2026 Station A Champlaign, IL 61820.


XVII COLUMBIA PARK, Philadelphia, in a reproduction postcard. One sent for our files by Elias Dudash. Contact him to see if they are for sale, costs, etc.

XVIII CROSLEY FIELD as we have reported in past newsletters has risen anew in Blue Ash, Ohio. They opened the facility just two weeks ago during the All-Star Game break. If you want copies of the various news releases on the project, send me a 45¢ SASE.

XIX CROSLEY FIELD MODEL completed by committee member Bruce Genther. He next tries Connie Mack Stadium and Forbes Field.

XX BALLPARKS COMMITTEE BUDGET needs to be submitted by me to the SABR office in Kansas City by September 1 for consideration at the board meeting in late September. Committee members with any comments should contact me. I will be asking for moneys for stationery, postage, and a contribution to the plaque project we have worked on for Braves Field in Boston. Total should run about \$500.

That should cover matters for now. Maybe I will see some of you at the Braves Field event----


PS: If you have a presentation on the Boston Braves, contact Dick Johnson at the NE Sports Museum. Number/address enclosed.

Society for American Baseball Research



SABR Ballparks Committee Activities/Report: July-1987 to June-1988

- I Membership As of June 1, 1988, the committee has 55 members.
- II Newsletter Six editions of the Committee Newsletter were sent out in 1987-1988 (Aug., Oct., Dec. of 87 and Feb., Apr., June of 88) updating members on resource material, research requests, preservation projects, and general news about stadia issues.
- III Information Exchange The committee chairman maintains a vertical file on ballparks and related themes. Several dozen SABR members have contributed articles and clippings to this resource that is made available to any SABR person or researcher. Interesting resource material is described in the Committee Newsletter
- IV Research Requests Among the organizations/publications requesting research material: Seattle Times, Newsweek, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Insight Magazine, Bostonian Society, Newhouse, and several preservation groups. Individual requests focused on a variety of issues including model making, ballpark construction, stadia capacity, fan studies, and many specific parks past and present. All inquiries were answered with material from the vertical file and references to committee members.
- V Preservation Projects The committee has taken a very active role in the education/preservation process concerning older ballparks while making efforts to remember parks now destroyed. With Boston University and the New England Sports Museum, a major plaque ceremony and weekend program is set for August/88. Efforts have been revived to mark Griffith Stadium; an informal agreement has been reached for a marker at Roosevelt Stadium (NJ), and the committee has lent its assistance to efforts to save Comiskey Park, Wrigley Field, and Tiger Stadium. Several additional projects for markers will be discussed for 1988-1989.
- VI Future Stadium Project Directed by Phil Bess of the committee, the project has produced much positive publicity for SABR and the principal of a modern ballpark facility with a feel for traditional qualities. A model was completed this summer by Phil's work group. Efforts are continuing to increase the project's acceptance among baseball's hierarchy.
- VII Misc. Projects Individual members are following various research projects related to ballparks. A photo exhibition, the annual ballparks "run," individual research on some of the classic parks, etc. A full listing of committee members' interests and activities is available from the chairman.
- VIII Green Cathedrals The published reference work on all parks used in pro baseball over the past century gets continual attention and suggestions. Author Phil Lowry will be planning a second edition.

Final Note If it involves baseball parks, past-present-future, the SABR Ballparks Committee gets involved. For the full 1987-1988 report, and/or to inquire about the committee and its activities, send a 25¢ SASE to Bob Bluthardt, 244 N. Oxford Dr., San Angelo, TX 76901

REDEFINITION

400 NORTH FAIRFAX STREET, MEXICOPOLIS, VIRGINIA 22114 (703) 730-2100

18 April, 1993

Eco Bluehardt
214 North Oxford
San Angelo, TX 76901

Dear Mr. Bluehardt:

I am writing you in connection with your position of Chair, SABR Ballparks Committee. Beginning in 1989, Redefinition will publish the first in a 20-volume history of Baseball entitled World of Baseball. The series will cover baseball from the 1800s through the present, though not necessarily in chronological sequence. Some titles in the series will focus on specific eras and some will highlight specific aspects of the game: e.g., fielding, pitching, the World Series, etc. We see the World of Baseball series as presenting baseball history in a way it has never been presented before.

Because baseball is virtually inseparable from its environs--field, park or stadium--we plan to feature narrative, graphic, and statistical histories of all ballparks in use today in the majors, as well as those that were used as home fields by post-1900 franchisees. In addition, we will also feature a number of minor league parks.

As I'm sure you can imagine, our's is a sizeable undertaking. I am hoping that you might make it known to members of your committee of some of our needs: original photos, memorabilia, anecdotal information. In short, we're looking for worlds of information about ballparks.

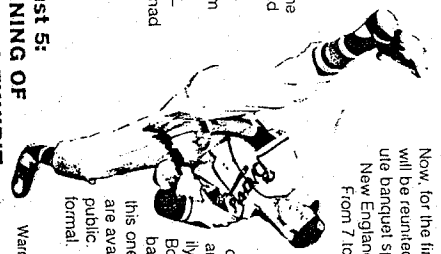
My most immediate need is that of original photographs, color as well as black-and-white. I would like to hear from any member of your committee who might own any unusual photographs of major league and minor league stadiums. Of course, Redefinition is prepared to pay for and credit all material we use.

I'd like to talk with you at your convenience, and will give this letter some time to arrive before calling. Until then, thanks for letting me introduce myself and our project.

Sincerely,
Eco Bluehardt
Editor, *Researcher*, *World of Baseball*

Friday, August 5: BANQUET

It's been 40 years since the Boston Braves electrified the fans of New England by capturing their final pennant. Four years later, the team played its final season in Boston -- but the fans never had a chance to say goodbye.



Now, for the first time, the team will be reunited in a special tribute banquet sponsored by the New England Sports Museum. From 7 to 10 p.m., over one dozen former Braves players and their wives will join with other club officials, media, and the Perini family at the Sheraton Boston for a reunion banquet. Tickets for this one-of-a-kind event are available to the public. Dress is light formal.

Friday, August 5: PUBLIC OPENING OF BOSTON BRAVES EXHIBIT

Warren Spain

The New England Sports Museum presents a special exhibit dedicated to the 76 year history of the Braves: "Boston's Braves, 1876-1952." This exhibit, at the Prudential Skywalk above the Sheraton, features pictures, videos and rare artifacts. Open to the public following preview opening, at 8 p.m. Exhibit to continue through October 27.

Saturday, August 6: PLAQUE DEDICATION AT BRAVES FIELD

Starting at 9:30 a.m., the Sports Museum, the Society for American Baseball Research and Boston University will remember the glory days of the Braves by dedicating a plaque at the Galiney Street entrance to Braves Field (Nickerson Field). The event will be attended by Braves players, and is free and open to the public.

Saturday, August 6: BRAVES SYMPOSIUM

Join with experts from the Society for American Baseball Research, Braves players and journalists for a day-long series of lectures, films and interviews chronicling National League baseball in Boston. At the Boston University College of Basic Studies, 871 Commonwealth Avenue. Tickets include a copy of 1948 World Series program reprint.

Saturday, August 6 and Sunday, August 7: BASEBALL CARD SHOW

Carlson-Miller Productions presents a two-day baseball card show at the Sheraton Boston Exhibit Hall, featuring free autographs with the Braves players, and other Braves exhibit/rememorabilia. Show opens both days at 10 a.m. and continues to 5 p.m.

BOSTON BRAVES EXPECTED TO ATTEND include Clint Conaser, Phil Masi, Sibby Sisti, Connie Ryan, Red Barrett, Bob Surgeon, Nelson Poffner, Bill Vosselle, Bob Keely, Paul Burris, Elbie Fletcher, Dick Donovan, Tommy Holmes, Earl Torgeson and others. Exhibit sponsored by Perini Corp., Thanks to Sheraton Boston.

BOSTON BRAVES REUNION ORDER FORM

Qty.	Event	Total	
	ENTIRE WEEKEND Ticket includes banquet, plaque dedication, symposium, Sunday admission to exhibit and card show, Skywalk exhibit, and 1948 World Series program reprint.	\$75 each	
	BANQUET (only) Ticket is good for August 5 banquet and 1948 World Series program reprint.	\$65 each	
	SYMPOSIUM (only) Ticket is good for August 6 symposium only.	\$5 each	
	BASEBALL CARD SHOW (only) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adults \$3 each• Children 12 and under \$1 each Tickets also available at the door. Dealers can contact Carlson-Miller Productions for special rates on tables and hotel rooms: 617-731-8595.	\$3 each	
	BRAVES COLLECTORS PACKAGE 1943 World Series press pin replica by Ballour: \$50 1943 World Series program reprint: \$5 Postage and handling: \$3	\$58	
	HOTEL ROOMS Double occupancy rooms are available at the Sheraton Boston for \$99 per night Card dealer rooms \$75 per night	\$99/\$75	
		GRAND TOTAL \$	

CHECK Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ Payable to "New England Sports Museum"

Or charge to credit card number MASTERCARD VISA

Cardholder's Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Detach and Return to: **New England Sports Museum**
1175 Soldiers Field Road, Boston, MA 02134
For Information Call (617) 787-7678