

# SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

January, 1998

c SABR Ballparks Committee 1998

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## I NEW MEMBERS

Kevin Tulley  
913 Greenway Ter.  
Kenhorst, PA 19607

All areas; all levels; Reading, Phila., Eastern PA, MD, DE, NJ,  
architectural, photographs; Parks as part of urban history.

Lile Anderson  
15816 28th Avenue NE  
Seattle, WA 98155

Pre-1900 and early 20th century; All levels; Seattle pre-1920;  
Pacific Northwest parks; architectural, photographs, parks as part  
of urban development.

Michael Dillon  
26 Van Buren Avenue  
Teaneck, NJ 07666

1920-1950 parks; modern era; All NY and NJ stadiums, esp.  
Roosevelt Stadium in Jersey City. Postcards; parks as part of  
urban history.

If you see areas of common interest, please contact these new members.

## II BUSINESS-POLITICS-DESIGN ARTICLES

1. "D'Angelo vs. Boston Red Sox Baseball Club," a legal tussle over the use of the term "Green Monster," pp 1635-1638 43 USPQ2d, some interesting notes as the team and a souvenir company fight over terms and usage rights. (4 pgs).
2. "Just Bidness, Charlie," Russell Baker looks at sports, NY Times, some 97 date.
3. "Round trip looking for baseball in the grass," Phila. Inquirer, 8-24-97, two writers seek a better ballpark for Philadelphia.
4. For and against articles on Pittsburgh stadium funding vote, Phila. Daily News, 10-31-97 (2 pgs)
5. "Stadium Deals Rarely Add Up To a Good Thing," WSJ, 12-19-97,
6. New arenas get less fancy and upscale, WSJ, 10-10-97.
7. "Name of the game," selling sports facilities naming rights, Akron Beacon-Journal, 9-7-97, (2 pgs)
8. "New parks enhance team values, not cities," Pitts. Post-Gazette, 9-9-97, (3 pgs).
9. Keith Olbermann decries "relocation blackmail," BB America, Sept. 15-28, 1997,
10. The worm turned on public financing of stadiums in '97," Balt. Sun, 1-12-98.
11. Two HOK pieces: "Spinner of designs, Pitts Post-Gazette, 9-21-97, (4 pgs)  
"Ballpark Figures," Wash. Post, 9-10-97, (2 pgs)

Note: Articles are one page long unless other listed.

Copies of these articles and other materials throughout the newsletter available at 12 cents/page postage included. Make checks payable to Bob Bluthardt. Donations in addition to costs always welcome.

### III MAJOR LEAGUE ARTICLES

1. "The Stadium," American Way, 10-1-97, profile of Yankee Stadium, (9 pgs)
2. "Talkin' Baseball, P. A. Announcer Gives Game Voice," profile of Yankee Stadium PA man Bob Sheppard, WSJ, 9-5-97
3. 1997 Toronto Blue Jays Fan Flyer with info on SkyDome, (5 pgs)
4. "The Long Goodbye," profile of Memorial Stadium, Baltimore, September 1997, (5 pgs)
5. "America's Best Beer Ballparks," Beer Connoisseur, Sept/Oct 1997, (8 pgs)
6. Work done at the new Pacific Northwest Ballpark and Anaheim, IBEW Journal, Oct/97 (4 pgs)

### IV ARTICLES ON THE PAST

1. "Boys of Summer, Memories Lost and Found," major league exhibition games in CT fifty-plus years ago, NY Times, some date in '97 (3 pgs)
2. Profile of the today's neighborhood around Milwaukee's Borchert Field, Milw. Journal-Sentinel, 8-3-97 (3 pgs)
3. "Craziest Wall in Baseball," two-page profile of Ebbets famed RF wall and how Carl Furillo played it, Collier's, ca. 1954
4. Polo Grounds OF dimensions vs. Yankee Stadium, NY Sun, 2-5-47 (2 pgs)
5. New League Park is opened, Cleve. Plain-Dealer, 3-31-10 & 4-3-10, (2 pgs)
6. "Reopening of Yankee Stadium," Keith Olbermann, Collectors Quarterly, Summer-1976 (3 pgs)
7. Cartoon, Comiskey promises a fan a new park, Chicago Daily Tribune, 11-23-08.
8. Remodel job to Cleveland Stadium shortens distances, Cleve. News, April-1933
9. "Ghosts on a faded field," old League park in Akron, Beacon-Journal, 9-7-97, (4 pgs)

### V MINOR LEAGUE NEWS & ARTICLES

1. "Old-guard operators fight for survival," BB America, Dec. 22/Jan. 4, 1998
2. Four-page story on Akron's Canal Park from team program, 1997
3. Famed singing vendor of St. Petersburg park scene dies, local stories, 11-20-97 (4 pgs)
4. One-page seating plans to New Haven, Norwich, & Akron parks
5. A team and new minor league ballpark for Fort Worth? Site proposed not far from old Le Grave Field site, Star-Telegram, 10-30-97 (2 pgs)
6. New Orleans new park sets new attendance record (over 500,000 surpassing post WWII Pelicans mark of 400,000) and facility wins local architectural award, local stories, five pages.
7. "Minor League, Major Entertainment," US Airways Attache, August--1997, (5 pgs) ballpark reviews
8. Victory Field in Indianapolis debuts with 639,830 first-year attendance in 15,250 facility, second best mark in minor leagues (exceeded only by Buffalo at 696,193).
9. Akron's first year at Canal Park draws Eastern League record of 473,232.
10. Louisville Slugger Field debuts in downtown Louisville for 1999 season on banks of Ohio River.
11. Memphis also building new downtown ballpark; say goodbye to Tim McCarver Stadium in 1998.
12. Rochester has rare feat of winning championship at home in debut year of new park; team attracts near 500,000, third best in International League.
13. California League attracts a over 2 million in 1997 for first time; only four games across the league lost to rain for year.

## SABR Ballparks Committee Newsletter January, 1998

- Success in Philadelphia as Shibe Park/Connie Mack Stadium is remembered with a marker. After some delays and funding questions, a marker with a proper ceremony was unveiled in November 8, 1997. Our Committee had another false start at this site more than twelve years ago, so it is good to see other organizations get the job done. Current occupants of the block: Deliverance Evangelistic Church. Five pages of local news summaries.
9. Gary Miller of our Committee reports that efforts continue to renovate Miles Field in Medford, OR. A one-page local story available. For more information, contact the Miles Field Community Renovation Society at PO Box 4224, Medford, OR 97501.
  10. Somebody stole the brass, home-plate shaped plaque that marked the site of St. Paul's Lexington Park, home of the local minor league team from the early 1900s to 1957. Whoever stole it sent a mystery letter to local newspaper holding the plaque but without any clear indication of what the point was. Local baseball historian Stew Thornley sent us a 9-25-97 St. Paul Pioneer Press story (2 pgs).
  11. Tim Hannan of our Committee at 28 Shady Lane, Fairport, NY 14450, wants to erect some markers for the sites of Rochester, NY's four park sites. A one-page summary of the sites available at no charge. In 1898, Cleveland and Brooklyn played some NL games in the city.
  12. Tom Simon of the Larry Gardner Chapter (VT) of SABR kindly responded to our call for marker advice in the last newsletter and sent us a two-page summary of advice. Free.

Save Fenway Park! The Boston Preservation Alliance at 45 School Street, Boston, MA 02108, is gathering information and ideas to present to various parties to build the argument that Fenway Park should be remodeled and saved for the future. This committee was contacted a few months ago and we sent selections of information from the files and some advice. Members of this Committee who have ideas and suggestions should contact the Alliance or Ms. Sarah Holmes, 140 Clarendon Street, #1141, Boston, MA 02116. They have some nice green & white bumper stickers!

Also, we have a few articles of interest:

- \* "Farewell Fenway, Park may soon exist only as a memory," Phila. Inquirer, 9-16-97 (2 pgs)
- \* "Rebuild Fenway where it is," Boston Globe, 8-24-97 (2 pgs)
- \* Ten pages of attachments and a plan by the Boston Preservation Alliance to expand Fenway Park.

A 9-29-97 piece in Sports Illustrated, "Endangered Species," (p. 98) had a somewhat favorable yet inconsistent tribute to Fenway as one of the last survivors of a distinct baseball park style. "...the game will be forever diminished if the old girl disappears." the magazine concluded.

And, 1584 people responded to a Boston.com query from July 18-August 6, 1997, answering the question: "Why do you go to Red Sox games?" The results: 51.9% to see the park itself; 31.5% to see the Red Sox; and 16.6% to see the opposing team. source: Boston Globe.

Fenway Park has been awarded the 1999 All-Star Game; the game was originally set for the new Miller Park in Milwaukee, but it will not be ready for 1999. The Sox wanted the 2001 game to mark the 100th anniversary of the franchise.

IX MISCELLANEOUS NEWS NOTES

1. Two more parks have gone the corporate route: Anaheim Stadium, aka "The Big A," will become Edison International Field of Anaheim. A \$50 million sponsorship was deal arranged. Oakland Coliseum has been renamed UMAX Coliseum after a subsidiary of a Taiwanese computer company.
2. Windy Wrigley: as if you didn't suspect this, a four-year study of the wind patterns at the Cubs facility found that the wind blew in 49.5% of the games while blowing out 31.1% with 19.4% of the games having a cross wind.
3. The 1936 Berlin Olympic Stadium, site of the largest attendance to see a baseball game, may be torn down, but two local residents are leading a drive to save the structure that is somewhat controversial among Berliners. WSJ 1-9-98 (1 pg).
4. Another Field of Dreams built in a man's large yard, Cleveland Plain Dealer, 8-24-97 (3 pgs)
5. He may have won the Cy Young Award, but Roger Clemens \$31 million contract did not help the Blue Jays bottom line. Attendance increased a slim 29,724 over 1996 levels.
6. Final Major League Standings of 1997 show an interesting variation for home/away records: The AL teams had a total home record of 585-547 for .517 (equal to a 84-78 season record for one team) while the NL had a total home record of 628-506 for a .530 mark (equal to a 86-76 one-team mark). In 1996, the AL had a .518 home record and the NL had a .566 mark Total Baseball's 1900-1988 statistics show a major league home record of .543.
7. Interleague play in 1997 boosted the average game attendance for AL teams by 5678 (33,286 from 27,608) while the NL enjoyed a similar boost of 5537 (33,527 from 27,990). All stats from the 9-6-97 Dallas Morning News. Twenty-six of twenty-eight teams enjoyed an increase in average attendance from interleague play; only Montreal (-2039) and Minnesota (-3394) suffered from the new wrinkle. The top teams for IL attendance increases were:

Philadelphia	18,191 to 34,396	+16,205	Florida	28,641 to 40,266	+11,625
Pittsburgh	19,182 to 34,576	+15,394	Chi Sox	23,431 to 32,824	+9,393
Yankees	30,764 to 46,086	+15,322	KC	19,672 to 28,861	+9,009
Oakland	14,902 to 27,577	+12,675	Milwkee	17,889 to 26,266	+8,377
Giants	18,249 to 30,406	+11,977	LA	39,660 to 47,019	+7,359

Let us watch the attendance for IL matches in 1998 and see if the numbers hold up!

Full summary of IL attendance and team records available (1 pg). By the way, if you take the mean and not the average of IL attendance increases, the increase becomes a more modest 3162.

Four of the top five teams in IL attendance increases weren't drawing that well to begin with, and seven of ten by September were below the daily average for all major league teams!

8. The "Field of Dreams" exhibit sponsored by the Exhibits USA is no longer touring, but we have a four-page summary available. This exhibit outlined the new trends in ballparks design and featured the work of our Committee member, Phil Bess of Chicago.

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14. All Sports Stadium in Oklahoma City closed with fullhouse of 15,182 on August 28, 1997; the locals opened and closed the park by the same 6-5 loss, this year to New Orleans. New downtown facility to open in 1998.
15. Minor league attendance tops 30 million in 1997, fourth year in a row, but Baseball America notes an unsettling trend toward larger markets, squeezing out smaller communities.

## VI PUBLICATIONS

1. Congratulations to committee member Ron Nytes of Sheboygan, WI, who has published his research on that city's baseball parks from 1886 to 1997. Two copies of the 12-page summary have been given to the Committee files.
2. Randy Johnson kindly sent us a copy of the Arizona Baseball Journal that has a four-page piece on Bisbee's Warren Ballpark, possibly the oldest facility in the nation with its 1909 erection. For a copy of the journal, send \$10.00 (postpaid; check payable to the ASABR) to Al Gwinnell, 1296 East Horse-shoe Avenue, Gilbert, AZ 85296.
3. The ever vigilant Don Lancaster tells us that another Cleveland Stadium book is on the market: Cleveland Stadium: The Last Chapter by James Toman and Gregory Deegan, published by the Cleveland Landmarks Press, 1997, 13610 Shaker Blvd., Suite 503, Cleveland, OH 44120-1592. Priced at \$24.50, it has 136 pages and is a sister book to the Cleveland Stadium, Sixty Years of Memories. It covers the demise and demolition of the stadium with many "final" events photos.
4. Chris Jennison announces that his work on Yankee Stadium will be off the presses this spring by opening day! Be sure to get a copy; the 50th Anniversary book is a collector's item.

We appreciate any news of a new book, monograph, pamphlet, etc. on ballparks or related themes. Copies of any such material are always welcome as donations to our Committee Research Files.

## VII RESEARCH REQUESTS

1. Stew Thornley seeks information, illustrations, and resources for his ongoing research for a book he is putting together on the Polo Grounds. Our thanks for his donation of miscellaneous news clippings he copied during his research. Contact Stew at 1082 Lovell Avenue, Roseville, MN 55113-4419, (612) 415-0791 FAX (612) 482-0187; e-mail: thorn017@tc.umn.edu.
2. Chris Lyons is researching baseball in the Clifton-Passaic-Paterson, NJ area and needs information on Olympic Park in a Clifton section called Lakeview. Honus Wagner played there for the Paterson Atlantics in the Atlantic League in 1896-97. Write Chris at 21 Linwood Terrace, Clifton, NJ 07012.
3. Paul Alexandre John paints ballparks and would be delighted to hear from folks with similar interests. Contact him at Box 532, Sugar Hill, Eastbrook, ME 04634 (207) 565-2798.
4. Harold Feinstein of 14050 Cedar Road, #517, University Hts., OH 44118, seeks the exact date of the January-1937 flood photo that has Reds Grissom and Schott rowing across Crosley Field.

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5. Scott Harris of 101 Mound Avenue, Miamisburg, OH 45342 (937) 859-9023, is searching for the exact colors of the scoreboard and ads for Sportsman's Park in St. Louis for 1946. Any information on obtaining color images much appreciated.

### VIII PRESERVATION AND MARKER NEWS

1. The Oilers have left it and the Astros are close to moving out for a new downtown park, so what happens to the Astrodome? There isn't much nostalgia or sentimentality to save the "Eighth Wonder of the World." AP article of 7-28-97 outlines the glorious past and an uncertain future. (3 pgs)
2. There are many ideas for a "reuse" of Tiger Stadium, but not many involve saving much--if any--of the structure. Detroit News article of 11-28-97 (2 pgs)
3. What is the oldest park in baseball? Is it the 1910 Rickwood Field in Birmingham, AL or is Cardines Field in Newport, RI of 1908 vintage? Jeffrey Staats of 75 Wilkey Avenue, Portsmouth, RI 02871-1120 is researching the history of the field and has kindly sent us a two-page summary available from your chairman for a SASE. He thinks the dugouts may have some resemblance to those at Ebbets Field and would welcome any comments or information. Jeffrey is working on a National Register application.
4. Congratulations to the members of the Pacific Coast League Historical Society for their efforts to mark the site of Gilmore Field, home of the Hollywood Stars. A marker ceremony took place on September 7, 1997. CBS Television City Studio 46 now occupies the site. We have a number of pages of materials including the LA Times article, some photos, program, and flyers of the day's events. Thanks to Chris Epting, Dick Beverage, and Larry Zuckerman for the information (8 pgs).
5. Two blocks of the old Washington Park wall in Brooklyn still exists, but according to a 11-2-97 article in the NY Times (2 pgs), this "last vestige of the Dodgers in Brooklyn" may be torn down." The two blocks on Third Avenue between First and Third Streets may be the oldest ballpark wall in the nation says Tom Knight, a noted Brooklyn sports historian. Our Committee cooperated with the Brooklyn Dodger Hall of Fame several years ago in an attempt to convince Con Ed, owners of the property the wall fronts, to save this piece of history and give it a proper marker. Unfortunately, we never heard anything, so it is time to start efforts again. Any NYC area members have any thoughts?
6. Boston University has given up football, so what happens to BU Nickerson Field, part of which is old Braves Field? Our Committee joined forces back in 1988 with the New England Sports Museum and Boston University to put up a marker. The efforts grew into a wonderful Braves Reunion Weekend to honor the 40th anniversary of the 1948 pennant winners. Local sources tell different tales, but let us be watchful and see if we can protect the last symbols of National League baseball in Boston. Part of the grandstand plus that great ticket office remain.
7. More on Boston NL history. Phil Bergen reports that a marker was placed on the Ruggles subway station (Orange Line) to recall the site of the South End Grounds. "Professional baseball games were played here from 1871 to 1914" notes the marker. The plaque is located on a passageway connecting train passengers with the bus facility. Phil notes that it sits just opposite a photo mural display on the great South End flood of the late 1880s. The actual park location was the parking lot/garage adjacent to the station, but the chosen marker site would allow more people to see it.

## AND NOW, A POEM

In response to the new corporate trend as noted with the San Francisco Bell Park, we have this poem sent to the Committee. We are sorry to have lost the author's name, but please identify yourself if you read this.

Take me out to the Bell Game  
Plug me into the crowd,  
Rent me a cell phone and audio jack  
I don't care if I ever call back  
For it's loot, loot, loot for the sponsor  
Small market share is a shame  
And in one, two, three years we'll shout  
For a real ball game.

An April 3, 1997 AP story noted that the new park will be supplied with audio jacks, food ordering capabilities at one's seat, pay telephones, and a long-distance calling center & cell phone rental, all courtesy of the sponsor, Pacific Bell.

## XI SOME WORLD SERIES NOTES

- \* Game Four in Cleveland was noted as the coldest in the Series history: 38 degrees! The snow was a nice touch.
- \* Florida opened all their extra seating sections for the Series, packing crowds of 67,245, 67,025, 67,498, & 67,204 for Games 1, 2, 6, & 7). Not since 1964 at the old Yankee Stadium were Series crowds of 67,000 seen, when the Yankees put 67,101, 66,213, & 65,633 for Games 3, 4, & 5. Game Six figures for Florida was the biggest Series crowd since Game 1 of the 1963 Series when 69,000 packed the Stadium. With the trend to smaller ballparks, only a few facilities could match the Florida crowds these days. If the Phillies make the Series, we could get close, but the Vet isn't popular these days and the "Big A" has been shrunk and SF will leave for smaller facilities in a few years.
- \* Attendance for the entire Series hit 403,617, the second highest in World Series history. Only the 1959 match-up with Chicago and Los Angeles, featuring mega crowds at the LA Coliseum, attracted more with 420,784. The 1959 and 1997 Series were the only two to have over 400,000 in attendance. For the record, the top ten Series in attendance have been:

LA Dodgers & Chicago White Sox	1959	420,784	6 games
Florida Marlins & Cleveland Indians	1998	403,617	7 games
Milwaukee Braves & New York Yankees	1957	394,712	7 games
Milwaukee Braves & New York Yankees	1958	393,909	7 games
St. Louis Cardinals & Minnesota Twins	1987	387,138	7 games
St. Louis Cardinals & Milwaukee Brewers	1982	384,570	7 games
St. Louis Cardinals & Detroit Tigers	1968	379,670	7 games
San Francisco Giants & NY Yankees	1962	376,864	7 games
Atlanta Braves & Minnesota Twins	1991	373,160	7 games
Pittsburgh Pirates & Baltimore Orioles	1979	367,597	7 games

\* The first World Series in 1903 (Pittsburgh vs. Boston 1903) drew 100,429; the 1912 Series topped the 200,000 mark with 252,037 with eight games played in two new or rebuilt facilities at Fenway Park and the Polo Grounds. New parks played a role again in 1923 as the total attendance topped 300,000 (301,430) with the Yankees at their new Stadium playing their rival Giants across the river for six games. Lowest Series attendance came in 1908 as the Detroit Tigers and Chicago Cubs played five games before 62,232 in the last Series before the "concrete & steel" era of parks opens a year later. Game five at Detroit drew but 6,210!

\* One must go back to 1940 to get a Series crowd under 30,000 when 26,854 filled old Crosley Field for Game 7. Some other small crowds include Game 7 at St. Louis in 1931 (a bad year in the Depression) with 20,805. Also, Game 8 at Cincinnati in 1919 for that tainted Series with 13,923. These days only Fenway and Wrigley could produce Series crowds under 40,000.

Sources for World Series numbers: The World Series, ed. Reichler (1978); The World Series, Cohen, Neft, & Johnson (1976), and Total Baseball, ed. Thorn & Palmer (1997)

## XII NEWS NOTES ON NEW MAJOR LEAGUE PARKS

1. The Mets announce that they want to bring back Ebbets Field with a dome in the Shea Stadium parking lot. As one stadium consultant was quoted, "it doesn't become controversial until people see the numbers." Four pages from the NY Post of 10-26-97.
2. Nearly 375 tons of dirt were delivered to Tropicana Field to make an infield and outfield for the Devil Rays. The park will have all-dirt basepaths in the infield. Appropriate enough in the Tampa area, the park will have a "cigar bar." Capacity is now up to 45,000. Ten pages of details and photos.
3. Detroit broke ground for the 40,000-seat replacement for Tiger Stadium on October 29, 1997. The name of Tiger Park has been suggested. A 1-13-98 Detroit Free Press story noted that the team's loan for its share of the \$260 million project was as yet unsigned. The team recently increased the height of the new park and were increasing the luxury suites from 80 to 100. Owner Ilitch was still resisting giving any naming rights to some outside corporation. (one page of articles).
4. A fall poll in Montreal showed support for the proposed downtown ballpark for the Expos. Owner Brochu claims to need 18,000 personal seat licenses sold by June-98 to make plans work, but stepped back from this deadline, noting that government support is the difference.
5. Cincinnati Magazine in its November-97 issue notes the increase of the Bengal's stadium from \$170 million in March of 1996 to \$400 in September of 1997. Will there be enough left over for the Reds? A 11-16-97 Cincinnati Enquirer story notes a possibility of updating Cinergy Field, making it more fan-friendly. A similar project for Busch Stadium in St. Louis is cited. Ten pages from both sources.
6. Phoenix Bank One Park will seat 48,500 and have LF at 328, CF at 402 and RF at 335. It is nearly sold out for the first season.
7. No new park for the Twins. A Sports Illustrated story noted how far the state and Twin Cities have slipped in sports support since the late 1980s.



8. "Take Me Out to The Ball Game," WSJ piece of 12-17-97 covers the private funding systems paying for the new San Francisco park that broke ground on 12-11-97. (one page).
9. A new park in Philadelphia would be a "tough sell" as one local story called it. No one seems to like the Vet, but the teams are bound to that facility until 2011. Baltimore's downtown success is just down the interstate, so why not Philly? Existing infrastructure in South Philly make any project there cheaper, but the attraction of a downtown park is strong. Up ten pages of local stories.
10. Seattle fans are on a roll: in 1996 they set an attendance record at 2.7 million and they passed 3 million in 1997. The US Supreme Court recently turned aside a local taxpayers group's challenge to the funding for the facility. Loyal fans, however, are upset at costs of seat licenses and increases for good seats. New Committee member Lile Anderson sent us an outline of the seating controversy, a Seattle Times story (11-20-97) on the problems, a seating plan, a color rendering of the park, and a 11-page summary of the ticket plans for the next two years. All available. John Pastier of our Committee wrote a detailed summary of the ticket and financial arrangements for the new park in the Business of Baseball Committee newsletter. As you might guess, it isn't a great deal for the fan. Three-page summary available.
11. Taxpayers in the Pittsburgh area buried a stadium-tax proposal by a 58-42 margin with the opposition increasing as you travel farther from the city. We have a 9-5-97 & 9-14-97 article on the proposed new park that would seat just 37,912 (very similar to old Forbes Field) on the shores of the Allegheny River. Five pages of local news.
12. Construction continues at Milwaukee with Miller Park rising just across from existing County Stadium. Suites were sold in May of 1997 for \$75,000 to \$100,000, seventy available in all. A November-97 audit that claimed a \$76 million excess in costs was denied by the stadium authority. Salvage rights to the old place may be worth \$2 million. Up to eight pages of local news from the fall-97 available.
13. Where to put it and how (and who) to pay for it dominated the San Diego news last fall. Another downtown (old Lane Field site?) park by the water or should it be downtown? How about near the current facility in Mission Valley--or south of everything by the bay at Chula Vista. The Padres current lease at Qualcomm ends in 1999. We have up to fifteen pages of local articles, including a piece outlining how parks have been paid for in history, and some short pieces by Joe Naiman and Bob Boynton objecting to the downtown proposals. Joe notes a recent wrinkle that a relocated major league park could throw some area territorial rights issues into chaos.
14. From SABR's Business in Baseball newsletter we get the details of the new Houston park, Ballpark at Union Station, seating 42,000, featuring a retractable roof (Houston's summers are tough!) and natural grass. Ground broken on 10-30-97; cost is \$250 million; first game by opening day 2000.

We welcome news stories, articles, etc on any new park project on any level.

### **XIII COMMITTEE NEWS**

1. We thank Alan Schmidt for his generous donation of two books: Shibe Park by Kuklick and the Fenway Park pop-up book by Martin. Alan moved to 325 Liberty Avenue, Hillsdale, NJ 07642.

2. Bruce Genter continues to make ballpark and football stadium model. He notes that the new football stadium in Baltimore will dwarf Camden Yards.
3. Jim Nitz of our Committee addressed the Milwaukee County Historical Society on October 29, 1997, on area baseball history.
4. Mike Frank and Mike Trabert have submitted their lists of the most parks seen or experienced. Who else wants to enter this informal "contest."
5. Thanks to Bob Bailey and Jerry Casway, the 19th Century Parks Projects (actually covering all pre-1909 major league parks) is renewing its quest to publish current research in some form in the near future. Rather than wait for all cities to be covered, it was thought best to proceed with exemplary examples or sections of current material. If you have been asked (or if you have agreed) to write an essay, please submit it to Bob Bailey at 121 South Drive, Newtown, PA 18940.
6. SABR/28 visits California on June 25-28. Members who can volunteer some time to cover the Committee Table, please send suggested dates or times. If you have business or topics for the annual committee business meeting, send your thoughts. Lots of good ballpark activity in CA, plus a wide range of minor league parks across the state. See you there!
7. Gordon Brown submits a list of "One Fan's Top 25 Unique Ballpark Names" for our pleasure. If anyone knows a few unusual ballpark names, it has to be Gordon with his extensive minor league park research. Cannibals Park in Longview, Texas (1920s) struck me. Copies available--no charge. Gordon also has sent us a list of "missing" parks from the post-WWII era in various states including MD, FL, GA, NC, MN, KY, TX, IN, LA, ONT, VA, CA, MA, NY, NE, WV, & AZ. Copies of these parks, cities, and dates available, no charge.

#### XIV LAST NOTES

This overdue newsletter started as a fall-97 project, so we'll start 1998 in a timely fashion and hope to stay on a semi-regular schedule. We also might point out that this first issue of 1998 marks the entry of your chairman into the computer age. As promised in our last report, we are attempting to enter the twentieth century before it leaves us! A salute and big thank-you to our household's computer person, Valerie, who patiently guided her two-fingered typist husband through the arcane language and sometimes frustrating series of commands it takes to get something done.

Thanks go to the many members who sent clippings and other materials over the August-December period. Keep it up! We also appreciate the postage fund donations. Committee members Genter, Altizer, Kaufman, Beahrs, Wiser, Coleman, and Carter have been especially generous.

Next issue in the spring (March?) and we'll include answers to last issue's trivia quiz, another look at that 1939-40 minor league park index, more on Committee projects, and anything else that happens in the ballparks world.

And lastly, future SABR member and committee person, Carolyn Frances Bluthardt, was born on September 5, 1997. She seems to like old ballparks and the traditional league allignments.