

May-August 1993

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

FROM LIBRARY OF
 JOHN F. PARDON
 A FOUNDING MEMBER: S A B R

I HILLTOP PARK MARKER CEREMONY SET

We have received word that a ceremony and marker unveiling will take place for Hilltop Park, home of the Yankees from 1903 to 1912, on Thursday, September 30, at mid-day. Exact time and format of the ceremony will be known later this summer. Plans include bringing Chet Hoff, the oldest surviving ex-major league player, to the ceremony. Chet played at Hilltop in 1912. The 102 year old Hoff now lives in a retirement home in Florida.

The marker program had been stalled, but some swift action by the public relations firm that has both Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center (current owners of the park site) and the Yankees as clients put the event back on track. Once I receive the final arrangements, I will make a special mailing to all committee members in NY, CT, & NJ. If you live more distant and wish this mailing, let me know and you will be included.

Thanks go to Bill Cahill, Mike Frank, and Larry Ritter who worked on this project.

II PUBLICATIONS NEWS

1. Preservation News, the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has published two interesting and useful articles on ballparks and related issues. The May-June issue has a great piece on fire insurance maps that are valuable resources for urban research. "Charts of Change" can be found on pages 42-48 & 91-92. The next issue for July-August features a cover color post card image of Ebbets Field and a major article by our own John Pastier called "Diamonds Aren't Forever." Some impressive photos by Jim Dow are included. To order back copies, call NTHP at (202) 673-4000 or write them at 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.
2. Diamond magazine, a new publication, has been featuring an old or lost park in its early issues. Sportsman's Park in St. Louis was covered in the July issue; Washington's Griffith Stadium was set for August. To subscribe, call (602) 949-0100 or 1-800-359-2482. You can write them at FANS Publishing Company, 6991 East Camelback Road, Suite C-250, Scottsdale, AZ 85251.
3. Box Seat Gazette is a newsletter for ballpark seat collectors, Contact Seitz & Company, 1772 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104-6030. (612) 646-3659.
4. Legends Sports Memorabilia magazine had an excellent ballparks article in its July/August hobby edition. The piece profiled our committee and gave SABR excellent coverage. To order, call (619) 460-9219 or 1-800-835-2835. Write them at 9950 Campo Road, Suite 202, Spring Valley, CA 91977.
5. Sports Illustrated of May 31 had a story on the Tigers with superb photos of Tiger Stadium.
6. Boyd's Ballparks covers the essential info and more for all major and minor league parks. Published in magazine format, it is available by calling (716) 743-1801, or write them at PO Box 180, 800 Walk Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120.
7. The Rand McNally ballparks book, The Official Baseball Atlas, covers just the majors, but it has maps and colorful graphics. Available in most major stores.

(2) Ballparks May/August 1993

III NY YANKEES MOVE TO ???

The rhetoric heats up this summer as Boss George, the mayor and governor make statements about keeping the Yankees in the Bronx or in New York. A variety of clippings donated to the committee from Business Week, NY Times, NJ papers, and AP are available for \$1.50. An interesting poll noted that 70% of the fans would be less likely to follow the team to NJ, but 44% would increase their attendance if the club moved to Manhattan. The poll said that 67% are satisfied with the Stadium, but 28% would like to see the team move.

IV ATLANTA BURNS AGAIN

So much for fireproof construction... Fulton-County Stadium had a major pre-game fire on Tuesday, July 20, before the Braves and Cardinals were to play. The fire broke out in a private box from spilled cooking liquid. Send 75¢ for a selection of articles. The demands for investigations bring back the historic era of 1909-1915 when so many wooden parks were replaced by the "fireproof" concrete and steel parks. I recall a fire at old Comiskey Park in a grandstand popcorn stand that spread smoke through the area during a White Sox-Red Sox game twenty years ago. And how about the bomb threat at old Metropolitan Stadium during a Twins-Red Sox game. Wooden Robinson Field in St. Louis had a fire during a game. Are there other fires during games in the twentieth century? We'll compile a list if we get enough response.

V BROOKLYN DODGERS WIN

The Brooklyn Dodger bar in Brooklyn, that is, won a lower court ruling over the trademark suit with the IA Dodgers and Major League Baseball. Thanks to Keith Danish for a copy of the court ruling, which, by the way, is being appealed by the IA Dodgers and ML Baseball. One of the more amusing aspects of the ruling was the judge's comment that the fear by the IA club that the Brooklyn bar was "trading upon the good will and good name" of the team. Judge Motley noted that this was ludicrous as many Brooklyn residents despise the IA Dodgers for the 1957 abandonment. For copies of some articles and the 14-page ruling, send \$2.00.

VI ROYALS STADIUM BECOMES KAUFFMAN STADIUM

Upon the name change in Kansas City to honor long-time owner Ewing Kauffman who passed away recently, the balance of stadium/park names has been shifted. The park will now be just the fifth of the 28 locations to be named after a team owner. For a two-page AP story on park names and the interesting discussion on Kauffman Park vs. Kauffman Stadium, send a 29¢ SASE.

VII SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE PHOTO CONTEST

Congratulations to our contest winners. We have attached the summary of the winners. Thanks to contest chairman Ken Carrano and our three judges Phil Bess, John Pastier, and Joe Favano.

While the contest organization worked well this year, we have not received the number of contestants or entries to make for a truly national or extensive competition. Two suggestions given at the committee business meeting in San Diego center of a contest every other year with streamlined categories. What are your thoughts? Write Ken Carrano at 2696 Sterling Ct., Elgin, IL 60123. Remember: the 1994 convention takes place in mid-June in Arlington, Texas.

(3) Ballparks May/August 1993

VIII BALLPARKS COMMITTEE MAKES US CONGRESS

About two months ago we received a call from a congressional assistant who was interested in the current value of the parks/land of the classic big four: Yankee, Tiger, Fenway, & Wrigley. A Detroit area representative, David Bonior, was going to file a bill in Congress to have these parks become national landmarks if they were to be left by the current teams. Our committee sent some material, gave advice, and expressed our interest in assisting. But, the congressman's office was advised that our formal participation would have to be approved by the SABR board and certainly run by our committee members.

I agreed to keep this issue quiet until the bill was unveiled and it was made public at the Ballparks Symposium during the All-Star Game activities in Baltimore. Much to my surprise, our committee is listed as an advisor in the bill! Thanks to John Pastier for alerting us to this and thanks to Ron Gabriel for sending a copy of the bill. It is unlikely that this bill will go anywhere, but it is very intriguing that an idea often proposed by SABR Ballparks Committee members is now considered by Congress. For a copy of a few articles and the bill, send \$2.50.

IX ALL-STAR GAME BALLPARKS SYMPOSIUM

As mentioned above, there was a ballparks discussion at the All-Star Game festivities in Baltimore, and committee members John Pastier and Phill Bess were on the panel. Camden Yards was highly praised; new Comiskey was somewhat criticized; and the new crop of parks for Denver, Texas, & Cleveland were assessed by Pastier as putting fans more distant from the action than in current facilities. Several committee members attended and Bruce Genther sent us a copy of the program. For a selection of articles on the symposium and related issues, send \$1.25.

X COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN USA TODAY

The July 2 issue of USA TODAY featured a variety of sports fans who have built life-size or scale models of famed sports facilities including ballparks, football fields, hockey arenas, etc. Bruce Hellerstein's models were featured and he sent us the clippings. Send \$1.00 for the whole story.

XI NEWS IN DETROIT

As the Tigers fade into the AL East (didn't they start to fade after that great Sports Illustrated piece on Sparky?), Tiger Stadium becomes more of an attraction than the club. Attendance is on a rate to dramatically exceed the 1992 levels, but new team owner Mike Ilitch is still talking about plans for a new park. One AP story notes that Ilitch wants a "destination spot" to attract people. Many of us would argue that he already has it! Thanks to Andy McCue who faithfully send us the wire stories. For four June & July stories on the Tiger Stadium issue, send 50¢.

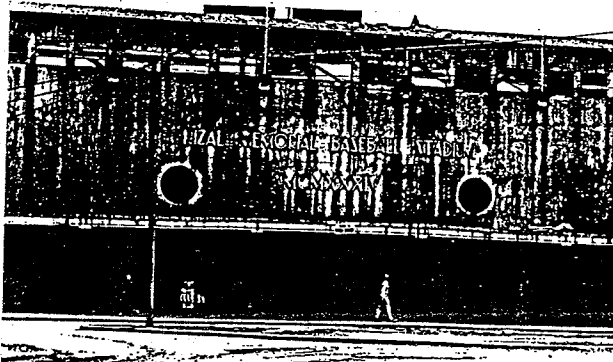
XII AN ANNUAL SABR MEETING IN A MINOR LEAGUE CITY?

What do you think about SABR having its annual gathering in a minor league city some year? This was done in Providence, RI, in 1984 as part of the centennial of the Providence-NY 1884 Series. What city might you pick, assuming that a minor league game or two would be part of the deal. Write or call and we'll compile the opinions.

(4) Ballparks May/August 1993

XIII. RESEARCH REQUESTS

1. SABR member Bob Rives of Wichita, KS, is researching the 1954 Longhorn League season that included the West Texas-New Mexico cities of San Angelo, Odessa, Midland, Sweetwater, Roswell, Carlsbad, Artesia, Big Spring, and Wichita Falls. He needs specific info on the parks in those cities: dimensions especially. Call him at (316) 684-3286 if you can help.
2. Hiroyuki Matsumoto in Japan is a very ardent Phillies fan and he seeks a fellow fan in the USA with whom to trade info and materials. Please contact him at 96 Kotobuki Cho Kukaya Saitama 366 Japan to assist. He joined our committee this year.
3. Gordon Fleming at 111 East Chestnut, Apt. 45K, Chicago, IL 60611, seeks information about the exact date of the placement of the RF bleachers in Seals Stadium in San Francisco. According to Larry Ritter they were put into the park sometime in the early 1940s. If you know, send the info to Gordon and Larry who lives at 171 West 73rd Street #3 New York, NY 10024
4. Committee member Dick Miller had a question in the 19th Century Newsletter: "I see quite often in photographs of nineteenth century parks the word: 'S T O P' spelled out in the coaches' box back of first base. Does anyone have an idea concerning the significance of this?" Good question. Any ideas?
5. Andrew Gernhardt of 6122 Beaumont Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46825, asks for information about the identity of the following player and park. It is not clear if the park and player are related. Send us a copy of anything you send to Mr. Gernhardt.



Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium
MCMXXXIV



6. Paul Ferrante of 183 Drake Avenue #1F, New Rochelle, NY 10805 (914) 235-2074, was seeking info on Braves Field seats and those of old Connie Mack Stadium. Where did they go after the parks were torn down?
7. Davis Wright, 195 Laursen, Syracuse, NY 13205 seeks info on Shibe Park/ Connie Mack Stadium for a 1950s model he is building.
8. Rodney Johnson at PO Box 3096, Tempe, AZ 85280 (602) 968-8065, seeks info on PCL parks of the 1909-1918 era plus American Association parks of the 1913-1918 era. He is researching Flame Delhi, the first Arizona-born major leaguer. He needs photo information too.

(5) Ballparks May/August 1993

9. Tot Holmes of PO Box 11, Gothenburg, NE 69138 (308) 537-3335, a SABR member, is organizing the Nebraska State High School Hall of Fame in his home city. The \$1 million facility will include a Dodger Museum plus a replica model of Ebbets Field to American Legion baseball specs (300-351-280). They are in the process of hiring an architect and assembling info and materials. Among their questions: exact angle of the bottom half of the RF wall; size and layout of the Rotunda; any specific details that would make this scale model field accurate.
10. Work continues of the documentation for Birmingham's Rickwood Field by the the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). This HABS program is an early step toward the restoration of this classic park into a functional community ballfield. If you have something to offer, please write Hemant Damle, HABS Summer Team, 204 20th Street No., Suite 200, Birmingham, AL 35203 (205) 323-2592 home: (205) 326-8718. For full info on the project, send \$1.00.

XIV OTHER BALLPARKS NOTES & NEWS

- * SABR researchers documented the 10,000th home run at Tiger Stadium and its predecessors to 1901.
- * Houston may add 10,000 more seats to the Astrodome (for football) or build a new domed stadium.
- * The Padres-Phillies doubleheader of ~~Friday-Saturday~~, July 2-3, ended at 4:30 am, the latest finish in major league history. 1000 fans stayed the distance.
- * The heat waves of this summer have caused players and officials to design ways of keeping cool, especially on astroturf. Field temps can reach 140 degrees. Boxes of crushed ice for feet, cabbage leaves for heads, spray bottles of water, etc.
- * SF Candlestick Park became an art gallery for a day with a special exhibit of thirty baseball greats by artist Tom Rodrigues. "Legends at the Stick" featured people in period clothing, including Babe Ruth "chewing on a cigar with a woman on each arm," and the "Who's on First" routine of Abbott & Costello on the stadium PA system. Rodrigues funded the entire cost, \$60,000, himself. Three hundred people attended.
- * The first college football field to install artificial turf, Neyland Stadium in Knoxville, TN, will replace the turf with real grass after the 1993 season. The Vols and Georgia played a 17-17 tie on 9-14-68, the first college game on the artificial surface.
- * Several committee members have written to express disappointment, anger, and disgust with these new rolling ads on the padding behind home plate. They are distracting, but that we notice them proves the point of their value to owners.
- * The annual Old Timers Game at re-created Crosley Field took place on August 1 in Blue Ash, KY. Send 50¢ for the press release.
- * SF Bay Area Baseball history exhibit until October 16 now at the Hayward Area Historical Society, 22701 Main Street (C & Main) Hayward, CA 94541. (510) 581-0223. Times: 11-4 weekdays; 12-4 Saturdays. Admission \$1.00 adults & children are 50¢. "Uniforms, Photos, Programs, & Memorabilia" of the area.
- * Jim Nitz reports some signs of renewal in the neighborhood and on site of Cleveland's League Park.

(6) Ballparks May/August 1993

XV NEW MEMBERS We welcome these people to our committee

C. David Stephan
1248 So. La Jolla Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90035-2645

Major lgs. of the 20th cent; Baker Bowl & League Park (Cleve); cities of Bost/Chi/Cinn/Phila/St. L. Cleve/Det/L. A.

Gary Jarvis
93C Phelps Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Minors after 1920; interested in directory of minor league parks with better info; has an outline of such a project if anyone is interested.

Christine Fry
16 Royce Road #10
Allston, MA 02134

Tiger Stadium and old minor lg. parks; preservation of older parks, esp. Tiger Stadium.

Hiroshi Takagi
2-24-7 40b Kyomachi
Kawasaki-ku Kawasaki 210
JAPAN

New York parks, parks after 1920/major lgs

John Croce
2670 So. William Street
Denver, CO 80210

Post 1920 parks; all levels; Ebbets Field; will start a video project to document building of Coors Field; has Denver & Mets material

Dan Crawford
5613 Wharton
Fort Worth, TX 76133

Minor; modern era, college, & major league parks; Special interest in markers for historic Texas parks; suggests a study in unusual marketing techniques/give-aways by teams; has seen games in all ML parks and 58 minor league parks.

Please welcome and contact these new members if you see common ground.

XVI SABR 23 IN SAN DIEGO

Our congratulations to the local organizers for a very enjoyable meeting. Attendance was slightly smaller than recent meetings, but the CA location brought a different crowd and it was great to meet many committee members for the first time.

There were several ballpark presentations: John Kaup gave his history of San Diego ballparks; Vic Fallos gave a superb slide show on PCL parks; and John Pastier summarized the history of stadium/ballpark design. Also, David Pietrusza spoke on the development of night baseball; Tom Shieber covered the development of the baseball diamond; Bob Boynton examined World Series games for length and epic events; and Ron Gabriel presented the "Sounds of Ebbets Field." Let us hope for as many fine ballpark talks in Arlington next year.

The committee business meeting attracted about 35 folks. Most of the business is covered throughout this newsletter: budget, photo contest, marker programs, 19th Century Parks project, etc. As usual, there wasn't enough time to catch up on a year's activity. I appreciate everyone's participation over the past twelve months.

It is not too early to think about SABR 24 in Arlington. A new ballpark, some fine museums and attractions in Dallas/Fort Worth, and the hospitality of Texas await you. Plan on attending. It's a short 265 mile drive for me, so I hope to bring along anything portable from the committee files and my own collection. Let's get better organized in 1994 and staff a committee table where we can show our accomplishments and activities.

(7) Ballparks May/August 1993

XVII MAJOR LEAGUE ARTICLES

1. "History of Mile High Stadium," Denver, Rockies program, (5 pgs)
2. "Rockies Rooters," Rockies Program, (3 pgs)
3. Pet Check System at Comiskey Park, Park Program (1 pg)
4. "North vs South," (White Sox vs. Cubs), Chicago Sun Times, 5-6-93 (2 pgs)
5. Cigarette ads being banned from ballparks, Chicago Sun-Times
6. "Phillies will have to stay in the old ballpark," by committee member Jerry Casway, Phila. Inquirer, 6-13-93, (1 pg)
7. "Tampa Bay Built it, but they didn't come," Times-Picayune, 3-8-93 (1 pg)
8. "Busch Stadium Turns 27..." Cardinals Program, (4 pgs)
9. New OF Wall padding at Busch, Post-Dispatch, 6-16-93 (1 pg)
10. Astros History, Team Scorebook, 6-22-79, (3 pgs)
11. Ballparks and inner-city investment, IA Times, 7-11-93 (3 pgs)
12. Past mammoth home runs at Busch, Post-Dispatch, 7-4-93 (1 pg)
13. "The Future of Fenway," Boston Globe, spring of this year-no date (2 pgs)
14. Training of service people at Comiskey Park, Chi suburban paper, 7-26-93 (2 pgs)
15. "As Sox win, city yawms," Crain's Chi. Business, 7/19-7/25, 1993 (2 pgs)
16. "Luxury-Box Fever Kills 'Ball Parks'" NY Times, July ?, 1993 (1 pg)
17. "Why I am Building a Baseball Stadium," by Charles Ebbets, Leslie's Weekly, 4-4-12 (1 pg)
18. "Unique Stadium Design Puts Fans Close to Action," Detroit News, 7-13-93 (2 pgs)
19. Review of AL East Teams & Parks, Dugout, June-1993, (2 pgs)
20. "A Bird Watcher's Guide to Fenway Park," Yankee, May-1993, (4 pgs)
21. How they keep Camden Yards clean, Baltimore Sun Magazine, 5-23-93 (8 pgs)
22. Summary of all current and future parks, San Diego Union-Tribune, 4-26-93 (2 pgs)
23. 1972 new stadium plans & 1978 renovation of park in Detroit, Tiger publications, (4 pgs)
24. Photos & Stats on New Texas Park, Star-Telegram, 6-13-93 (4 pgs)
25. Improved attendance and final weekend plans in Cleveland, AP story, 7-15-93 1 pg
26. Another domed stadium plan for Boston, AP story, 7-26-93 (1 pg)
27. Improvements to SF Candlestick Park, AP story, 8-6-93 (1 pg)
28. Site of old KC Municipal Stadium now a garden, AP story, 5-31-93 (1 pg)
29. "Camden Form vs. Memorial's Function," USA Today BB Weekly, 5-5-93 (1 pg)
30. "Build it (and you'd better) and they will come, Seattle Times-Intelligencer new/old park for that city, (1 pg) no date, probably 1993

Articles are 6¢/page plus 29¢ for first 5 pages; 23¢ for each 4 pages in addition. Make checks to Bob Bluthardt. Cash & stamps are good too.

(8) Ballparks May/August 1993

XVIII MINOR LEAGUE ARTICLES

1. "New Orleans Baseball History," by committee member Arthur Schott, (5 pgs)
2. "Baseball in Greensboro, NC" (4 pgs)
3. New ballfield for Modesto, CA, team program (3 pgs)
4. Articles/pictures of new Harbor Park, Portsmouth, VA, 1993 (10 pgs)
5. "Ernie Shore--man and stadium," (1 pg)
6. New Wilmington, DE park, NY Times, 3-15-93 (1 pg)
7. New Stadium for Erie, PA? local articles, August-1993 (3 pgs)
8. Parks & Cities of CA State Lg, 1993 (7 pgs)
9. Park floods in Davenport, IA, SD Union-Tribune, 7-20-93 (1 pg)
10. Opening of Heinemann Park in New Orleans, Arthur Schott, (2 pgs) a 1915 park!
11. "Memories of Old Maple Leaf Stadium," Toronto, Dugout, 6-1993 (6 pgs)
12. New Portland, ME park takes shape, local articles, 7-1993 (3 pgs)
13. "What's New for '93 in Minors," USA Today BB Weekly, (2 pgs)
14. "Historic Golden Park," Columbus, GA, team program, 6-27-91 (1 pg)
15. "For real baseball, try the minors," USA Today, no date (1 pg)
16. History of baseball in Wilmington, DE, team program, 1993 (5 pgs)
17. New ballpark for Charleston, SC in 1994, team program, (2 pgs)
18. Photos, snapshots, misc. of Sulphur Dell, Nashville, TN (3 pgs)
Historic marker shot too; all from Bob Summers
19. Misc. articles on history and renovation of Rickwood Field, Birmingham, AL
(12 pgs)
20. Q/A on new ballpark for New Orleans Zephyrs, team newsletter, 8-1993 (2 pgs)
21. New park for the Bowie Baysox, MD, Wash. Post, 8-1-93 (3 pgs)
22. North Side site picked for new Syracuse, NY park, misc. articles, 1993 (6 pgs)
23. NY-PENN League directory with parks and capacities, 1993 (1 pg)

Costs the same as major league articles.

XIX ATTENDANCE NOTES & FIGURES

- * The Indians have a chance to draw 2 million this season!
- * The Rockies-Cubs game of 7-31 drew 71,484, breaking the NL night game record of IA-Chicago of 4-12-60 by 4,234 fans. The Rockies just broke 3 million and will break 4 million soon.
- * Comiskey Park II had a 43,559 game with the Mariners on July 3, breaking the previous record of 43,350 vs. Milw. last July.
- * The Marlins as of 7-19 were averaging 36,588, the leading road attraction in baseball. Home attendance was averaging 40,420.

(9) Ballparks May/August 1993

XX NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN..

Ballparks travelers should note this letter:

New York, November 24 Editor

"Sporting Life" Having just noticed in your issue of the 18th inst. a statement by your Birmingham correspondent, Mr. G. F. Hobart, that Mr. D. L. Bridges of that city, claims to be the champion attendant at ball games, I think I have it on Mr. Bridges on the point of long and continuous patronizing of the national game. I claim to have PAID to see more games than any man living. I started attending ball games in 1882 and have seen games on every diamond of the major leagues. I traveled up to 1896 and laid out my trips so as to afford myself the pleasure of seeing my favorite game in the various cities I have visited. I figure that during the elapsed time since 1882 I have averaged 75 games a season, with the exception of the years 1900-01-02, inclusive, during which I was so disgusted with the way the National League team was run that I did not go to many games; but in 1903, when the American League started here, I was in my glory again and have missed few games since. During all those years I have not been a "dead head" more than 20 times. I sincerely hope that Mr. Bridges may live to enjoy the only sport for a great many years to come, as I hope to, being only 56 years old, and when I get to a ball game, I am easily 30 years younger than that. If Mr. Bridges ever gets to New York I extend to him an invitation to come and see me and we will go up to Hilltop together and enjoy our favorite pastime.

Yours very truly Tom S. Slack
33 East Twenty-seventh Street

How about that! Our thanks to Jack Kavanagh for spotting this letter while reading some 1911 issues of Sporting Life. Jack notes that Mr. Slack was a SABR type, a fellow worth visiting if we could hop into a time machine.

XXI NINETEENTH CENTURY BALLPARKS PROJECT

Project chairman Bob Bailey is still looking for researchers and writers to help us complete entries on all professional level parks used in the pre-1909 era. Bob can be reached at 12129 Briargate Lane, Goshen, KY 40026.

Our plan is to have most of the entries--if not all--written by the SABR meeting of 1994. The search for proper illustrations has already begun, but this will be coordinated better once we see how our text is running.

Publishing possibilities are being explored this year. I will be talking to SABR officials; John Pastier has interested a small but quite capable press in the project; other suggestions are welcome.

SO, if you want to get involved, write Bob Bailey for the list of available parks and let's get the text complete. Bob can provide the guidelines---you don't have to be a world-class scholar to take part. Willing and reliable people are welcome.

THANK YOU to John Infanger of Downers Grove, IL, who wrote the main SABR office in Cleveland and gave a generous donation of \$50 in the committee's name!

XXII BALLPARKS & COMMITTEE NOTES

1. Committee member Dominick Denaro has a new exhibition of baseball art at the Fletcher Free Library, Burlington, VT, August 3-31. The show is called, "Caught in Time, an exhibition of baseball art."
2. Bruce Genther was very impressed with a photo show of major/minor league parks at the Maryland Science Center. This special traveling exhibit by the Smithsonian Institute features the work of Jim Dow, a long-time ballparks illustrator.
3. Bruce is also working on the model of Ebbets Field for fellow committee member Mark Mahler.
4. John Matthew reports that a recent Toronto Argonauts football game at the SkyDome (pardon me, it should be just SkyDome), was held with the roof still closed despite a fine evening. It seems that it takes five people to open the roof and they all went home at 5:00 pm.
5. Mike Dempsey returned from a ballparks summer trip that included dozens of minor league and some major league parks. Jim Brown did the same, covering 7400 miles, 15 states, and 44 games in 32 minor league parks.
6. Ken Carrano notes that the constant bashing of new Comiskey may be due for a rest to give it some time to age and develop some memories. One must admit that new Comiskey got dropped fast as the prototype once Camden Yards came, but Camden Yards isn't without faults either.
7. Ballparks of Denver postcards that were developed with help from Bruce Hellerstein info available from Karl Seydel PO Box 2531, Denver, CO 80201.
8. Congratulations to Dick Kaufman who recently threw out the first ball at a Reading, PA "Turn Back the Clock" night. The Reading Phillies wore copies of the Reading Indians 1953 uniforms.
9. From the World Features Syndicate as printed in the Daily Southtown (Chicago) Hall of Famers Who Hit Parks' First HRs: Frank Baker in 1909 for Shibe Park, Casey Stengel in 1913 for Ebbets Field, Babe Ruth in 1923 for Yankee Stadium, Willie Stargell in 1964 for Shea Stadium, and Hank Aaron in 1970 for Riverfront Stadium. Also, Mays hit Sportsman's Park's last HR in 1966.
10. The July Bibliography Committee newsletter had a book listed, Fear in Fenway: A Duffy House Mystery, by Crabbe Evers; published by William Morrow, NY, 238 pages. Has anyone read this?
11. Dave Mofeau has given us two pieces of research: Last Home Runs at Defunct Parks, 1938 -- and First Home Runs at Ballparks: 1932-1993. Plus the first pitcher and batter at ballparks opened 1932-1993. Send \$1.00 for all three items.
12. Congratulations to David Wright whose efforts on Syracuse baseball and model of MacArthur Stadium were profiled in a recent article in the Syracuse Post-Standard. Send a SASE of 29¢ for a copy of the article. Our thanks to David for sending so much material on the Syracuse situation.
13. Special thanks to Jim Brown for his large donation of minor league articles; to Bill Cahill for a big collection of material on Erie, PA baseball; to Joe Gusky for an extensive set of clippings on the new Portsmouth, VA park.

(11) Ballparks May/August 1993

NEWS NOTES (cont.)

- * Thanks to Bob Nelson for his sending of a report, "The Potential of Judy Johnson Field at Legends Stadium as a Catalyst for Local Economic Development." This 50-page report was written by Bob and it details the local franchise, lease agreements, similar arrangements at other cities, reasons for stadium building, and the potential for economic development. Bob has allowed copies to be made. Send \$7.00 if you want a copy for postage/copying.
- * I recently called the Corvette Museum near Cooperstown, NY, where I had heard a Dodger Museum was being planned. True, said a staff member. Mr. Schery will start construction "as soon as he has enough money."
- * Jim Peters reports that the home plate marker at old Comiskey continues to attract fans' attention. I called the Illinois State Historical Society in Springfield, IL, to see what the status was for the marker our committee had proposed for Comiskey. My original contact person had been laid off with state budget cuts, but she was re-hired by another agency. Some answer would be forthcoming this summer on the project, but I have no news right now. Stay tuned. If we can get the wheels of government turning, something good might happen at Shields and 35th.
- * F. David Gill notes that the new food court at Tiger Stadium seems to be priced fairly with booths for bar-b-q, deli sandwiches, pizza, subs, sausages, ice cream, fancy coffee (to stay awake during games?) and a cocktail bar. The court is fenced in the style of Camden Yards. The new box seats are dark blue with the old English "D" logo in orange. He also notes that the "snarling teenage demons whose job it was to reduce concourse congestion" have been eliminated. Meanwhile at Three Rivers, he says that the hiding of 10,000 seats has done little to create intimacy. A LF food court has been restricted to season ticket holders.
- * Evan Meyer continues his work with the Florida Marlins as noted in the SABR June Bulletin. He has advised them on their OF walls/heights, etc.
- * The hunt for the definitive oldest minor league parks continues. Mike Welch checked Boyd's Ballparks and compiled this list:

Labatt Park	London, Ontario	1877 (B)	Eastern Lg.
Damascme Field	Oneonta, NY	1906 (B)	NY PENN Lg.
St. Cloud Commons	Huntington, WV	1910 (B)	Appalchian Lg.
Wanconah Park	Pittsfield, MA	1919 (B)	NY-PENN Lg.
Duncan Park Stad.	Spartanburg, SC	1925 (OD)	So. Atl. Lg.
Civic Stadium	Portland, OR	1926 (B)	FGL
Durham Athel. Park	Durham, NC	1926 (OD)	Carolina Lg.
War Mem. Stad.	Greensboro, NC	1926 (B)	So. Atl. Lg.
Falcon Park	Auburn, NY	1926 (B)	NY-PENN Lg.
Silver Stadium	Rochester, NY	1928 (B)	International Lg.
Luther Williams Fd.	Macon, GA	1929 (B)	So. Atl. Lg.

note: (B) = built (OD) = Opening Day

How does this square with other info?

- * John Schwartz reports on the site selection fun in Rochester for a new ballpark to replace Silver Stadium. Fans were given a chance to give their opinion on location, grass vs. turf, capacity, names, dimensions, etc. Send a SASE of 29¢ for a copy of the survey.

(2) Ballparks May/August 1993

NOTES & NEWS (cont)

- * Joseph Gusky visited the site of Forbes Field recently and had trouble finding the hr marker for Bill Mazerowski's blast. Any advice? Write him at 1036 Naval Avenue, Portsmouth, VA 23704
- * Jim Gumm asks where one can get the reprinted The Ballparks? Good question. Is it in any stores or in catalogs?
- * Congratulations to Dan Bonk whose article on Forbes Field is gaining some attention. Local newspapers and radio stations have contacted him. Dan recently visited the creator of the "Fenway Park, Build It Yourself" book. Len Martin lives in a Pittsburgh suburb. 20,000 were sold in the first month, so publisher Addison-Wesley (publishers of Green Cathedrals, 2nd edition) has contracted Len to do similar works for Yankee, Wrigley, Tiger; new Comiskey and Camden Yards.
- * Why haven't the Cubs padded the OF walls at Wrigley, asks Jim Gumm. That brick work can be a hard shock after a long run.
- * Thanks to Hiroyuki Matsumoto for his kind sending of Baseball Museum and Hall of Fame in Tokyo, located in that city's dome, sometimes called the Egg. Send \$1.00 for copies of some of the material.
- * Latest issue of the Cleveland Gateway newsletter (Spring-Summer/1993) notes that the site's injury rate is among the lowest in the nation. Other articles included the Bob Feller statue, a visit to the site by actor Tom Hanks, outdoor art at the stadium/arena site, and a piece on the old Cleveland Arena. The publisher is Gateway, 1026 Terminal Tower, Cleveland, OH 44113-2204.
- * Changes of Address for Phil Baker, now at 3581 Olive Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807; Mike Welch now at PO Box 1192, St. Joseph, MO; and Bill Watterson now at 2900 Maringo Road, SE Olympia, WA 98501
- * Phil Lowry notes that within a few years, 70,000 plus crowds may be a past event. With Cleveland moving and the Rockies set to go to a smaller park, only a large expansion of SF, Anaheim, or the Vet could create another 70,000 crowd.
- * Thanks to Joel Spivak for a great donation of 1991 old Comiskey snapshots, These will go to our committee collection.
- * John Matthew notes additions to our "No Smoking" ballparks item of the Jan-Feb. newsletter. As of 1-1-93 the SkyDome is a smokefree building except for Domer's Diner. Smoking has always been prohibited in the seating sections of Olympic Stadium in Montreal since the second game there with the roof closed.
- * Thanks to John Pardon for his kind donation of some snapshots of what is left of Lockport, NY Outwater Park, site of a PONY League and Middle Atlantic League franchise in the late 1940s. Light poles, fixtures, and concrete pads for stands date from the 1940s.
- * David Pietrusza saw a game at the new Ottawa Stadium in Canada. "A new park, heavy on luxury boxes and a sit-down restuarant; good sight-lines and 22-inch wide seats.... poor selection of food." The team is averaging 9,000 in 10,000 seat park. Max Patkin and Ferguson Jenkins at Grand Opening. Grass surface; easy to get to on major routes; close to downtown, but not a downtown park. Fans can see for free via LF fence, but team will stop that.

NOTES & NEWS (cont.)

- * Stew Thornley of the Halsey-Hall Chapter of SABR that covers the Minneapolis-St. Paul region just wrote us to announce that the chapter is trying to raise funds to place a marker on a building that sits on the site of Lexington Park. The chapter has recognized Nicollet Park of the Millers and it's time to pay honor to the home of the St. Paul Saints. Any amount is welcome. Write Steve at Halsey Hall Chapter-SABR, PO Box 581781, Minneapolis, MN 55458. For a SASE I'll send you the letter and press release.
- * Congratulation to Phil Bess of our committee whose "Ballpark Figures" article appeared in the July issue of Planning magazine, a monthly publication of the American Planning Association. To order a copy, call (202) 872-0611.
- * Bruce Genther has a very interesting idea that has been suggested by others: "developing a research file on information published on ballpark/stadium design within and outside the United States." Including our people and committee files, there are many different stores of information. Bruce is going to start investigating archivists and architects in his area. If you would like a copy of his letter summarizing the project, send me a SASE of 29¢. Meanwhile, give this some thought and we'll print a longer summary for this project in the next newsletter. Bruce can be reached at 15835 Haynes Road, Laurel, MD 20707 (310) 725-1906 home and (410) 539-0000 x 5898 at work.
- * "The Great Minor Leagues Ballpark Project" is a very ambitious and quite valuable piece of research by Gordon Brown of 710-10 Highland Cres., Kitchner, Ontario, Canada N2M 5C2. Gordon has sent us his work thus far for New York, Ohio, and West Virginia, covering the minor league parks from 1900 on the topics of: dimensions, capacity, location(s), current site occupant if park is gone, general info/highlights, photographs. If you would like to assist, contact Gordon as he has plans to cover 49 states and 7 provinces! He can send info on disc. If you would like to review his work thus far, send a SASE of 29¢ for WV, 75¢ for NY, and 52¢ for OH.
- * LATE NOTICE I just re-read my A & R Books & Collectibles catalog and there I saw The Ballparks, reprint edition page 11, listed for \$49.95. Call 1-800-942-8123 or write PO Box 285, Tiverton, RI 02878. 10% discount to SABR members. Local number is (401) 624-8947. Book was available as of last month.
- * Thanks go to three members for thoughtful donations to the postage fund: Jim Peters, Bruce Genther, and Jim Peters. And we thank all of you who add some extra stamps or change when you request for copies and materials.
- * JUST CAME IN from the SABR office: A letter that notes a plan for ceremonies and activities to mark the longevity of Greensboro, NC War Memorial Stadium. More info in our next newsletter. Francis Kinlaw of our committee (and a leading figure in the SABR chapter in NC) may know more if you wish to be involved. Francis is at 603 Shawnee Road, Greensboro, NC 27403.
- * Tarpaulins.... when were they first used and developed? So asks Barry Evans at 1130 So. Michigan Avenue #2105, Chicago, IL 60605. How long has the current style been in use?

And our thanks to Barry for his generous contribution of stamps to our committee.

(14) Ballparks May/August 1993

* THANKS to Frank D'Amico, a new committee member, who has sent several packets of information on ballparks, including anniversaries of first and last games, summaries of thematic issues, and more. Frank is writing a ballparks book, actually several books on ballparks. His interests cover all aspects of ballparks within all eras.

Frank's home address is 4460 Overland Avenue, Suite 52, Culver City, CA 90230. We will make some of his materials available for our membership in next October's newsletter.

* We have so much to report and offer due to the kind assistance of many committee members. Among those who have sent material:

John Kaup
David Pietrusza
Jim Nitz
Bruce Genter
Andy McCue
F D. Gill
Jerry Casway
Arthur Schott
Bob Summers

Jerry Cohen
Mike Frank
Bob Boynton
Barry Evans
Daniel Bonk
Keith Danish
Jerry Gregory
Paul Shapiro

Bill Albach
Bruce Hellerstein
Joe Gusky
John Matthew
Jim Brown
David Wright
Ken Carrano
Steve Csik

Thanks to all!

SEE YOU IN CLEVELAND? I plan on attending the Jack Graney Chapter salute to Cleveland Stadium on the September 24-26 weekend.

Thank you for your participation. Our next newsletter should be going out in late October. Keep that correspondence coming!

1993 SABR BALLPARK PHOTO CONTEST

CATEGORY WINNERS

**CATEGORY #1
MAJOR LEAGUE PARK - DAY**

1. WRIGLEY FIELD, CHICAGO, IL - TED LUKACS, COLUMBIA, MA
2. MILE HIGH STADIUM, DENVER, CO - MARK KANTER, PORTSMOUTH, RI
3. (TIE) CLEVELAND STADIUM, CLEVELAND, OH - JERRY MALLOY, MUNDELEIN, IL
3. (TIE) SHEA STADIUM, NEW YORK, NY - LYNN GLICKMAN, PORTSMOUTH, RI

**CATEGORY #2
MAJOR LEAGUE PARK - NIGHT**

1. CANDLESTICK PARK, SAN FRAN., CA - TOM DOSHON, S.F., CA

**CATEGORY #3
MINOR LEAGUE PARK - DAY**

1. (TIE) O'DONNELL STA, DAVENPORT IA - TED LUKACS, COLUMBIA, MA
1. (TIE) O'DONNELL STA, DAVENPORT IA - TED LUKACS, COLUMBIA, MA
3. HERSHEL GREER STADIUM, NASHVILLE, TN - TOM DOSHON, S.F., CA

**CATEGORY #4
MINOR LEAGUE PARK - NIGHT**

1. SAM LYNN PARK, BAKERSFIELD, CA - TOM DOSHON, S.F., CA

**CATEGORY #5
ALL OTHER**

1. STEIGER FIELD, BESSEMER, MI - JERRY MALLOY, MUNDELEIN, IL
2. OLD COMISKEY PARK, CHICAGO, IL - KEN CARRANO, ELGIN, IL
3. OLD COMISKEY PARK, CHICAGO, IL - KEN CARRANO, ELGIN, IL