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### COMMITTEE ARCHIVES MOVE

And with them, went the chairman, Valerie, and Natalie. Our apologies for the long absence since the last newsletter. We took the plunge and bought a house and it seemed to take a separate truck-load to move the SABR files! We are still unpacking and getting organized. Please note the new mailing address; the home phone is unchanged; the work phone has voice mail; and the fax machine works on most days.

We will put out two more newsletters for 1995: an issue in late October or early November, and a last issue before the end of the year.

### I NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to our committee:

Ron Gabriel 5512 Cornish Road Chevy Chase, MD 20814	Early 20th cent. parks; all Brooklyn parks; semi-pro parks in Brooklyn.
Dick Clark 1080 Hull St. Ypsilanti, MI 48198	Pre-1900 to 1950 era; minor leagues; all Negro League parks; interest in photos; Chairs SABR Negro Leagues Committee.
Paul Ferrante 163 Drake Ave. #1-F New Rochelle, NY 10805	Major lgs from 1900-1950; Yankee Stadium & Polo Grounds; artifacts and memorabilia from torn-down parks; writes extensively on park material.

Drop these fellows a note if you see items of common interest.

### II BALLPARKS IN TV & MOVIES

Francis Kinlaw, a loyal member of the Committee for many years, has agreed to chair this project to compile a list of movies and tv shows that have significant footage of ballparks. Just the other night I watched segments of "Only the Lonely" that had some great scenes of old Comiskey Park. Contact Francis at 603 Shawnee Road, Greensboro, NC 27403, to assist. Both Francis and I have a report on what has been done thus far.

### III JARRY PARK GOING GOING GONE

Gordon Thomas reports that the first home of major league baseball in Montreal is under the wrecker's ball. Visiting the site on Labor Day weekend he saw the RF stands gone and the rest "not long for this world." The site was surrounded with a locked fence, and Gordon declined to let himself in and cause an international incident.

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IV NEWS ABOUT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Congratulations to Bruce Genter who completed his latest model of Clipper Park, a proposed football stadium.
2. Congratulations to David Moreau whose normally successful hs baseball team at Jesuit/New Orleans again had a fine season, going all the way to the state final where they were unfortunately defeated.
3. Gordon Brown & Jerry Gregory took a post-SABR convention trip and saw Point Stadium of Johnstown, PA, with its 260 ft. foul line.
4. John Kaup made his first visit to Cooperstown and was impressed with the ballparks material on display.
5. Brad Moore of England is back in Houston, TX, after several years abroad. He caught a game in Tulsa, OK, and noted the interesting combination of Family Night at the park with 3500 folks stomping their feet on the aluminum seats.
6. Lisa Pincus of NJ, continues the fight to save Fenway Park with the first step of local landmark status. She continues her work on her master's thesis at Columbia on old parks & cities.
7. Ray Miller reviewed Harold Kaese's Boston Braves history and summarized all references to parks such as the South End Grounds and Braves Field. Copy available for 32¢ SASE.
8. Mike Jaffee and his wife are back on the road to catch games in many western minor league cities, plus Denver. We look forward to another batch of schedules and materials.

V ARTICLES ON STADIA/BALLPARKS OF THE PAST

1. Review of Riverfront in Cincinnati in Sunday Magazine, Enquirer, 12-27-70 (7 pgs)
2. Story outlining a proposed turf & dome for Metropolitan Std., Bloomington, TSN, 2-15-69.
3. "Three Rivers Stadium" name unpopular, TSN, 3-1-69 (1 pg)
4. Phillies happy to leave Baker Bowl, TSN, 7-7-38 (1 pg)
5. Wrigley improved by \$1 million since '32 Series, TSN, 10-6-38
6. Only Public Money Can Build Today's Parks, TSN, 7-15-53 (2 pgs)
7. Series on Ballparks from TSN in 1937
  - a) Fenway
  - b) Comiskey
  - c) Wrigley
  - d) Griffith
  - e) League/Municipal
  - f) Crosley
  - g) Forbes
  - h) Braves
  - i) Yankee

Special thanks to Brad Sullivan for sending these and other great articles.

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VI MINOR LEAGUE NEWS/ARTICLES

1. Bush Stadium in Indianapolis, IN, makes the news as the team plans to move to a new park in 1996, leaving the old facility, a classic, without a future. The local landmarks commission is trying to save it, but the mayor will not grant it landmark status. The National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) has declared it an endangered landmark as it is a fine example of Art Deco architecture. The NTHP news note quoted committee member John Pastier. If you have any thoughts for saving the park, contact Kip Norman at the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indianapolis at (317) 638-5264. Brian Powers of the committee has talked to Mr. Norman and hopes to document Bush if its loss is apparent. Assorted articles available (6 pgs)
2. Historic Traveler magazine ran a short piece on old parks and how to visit them in its May/June issue. They seek additional stories on parks from the ca. 1940 era or earlier. (2 pgs). If you want to write the author, Judy Sopronyi, contact her at PO Box 8200, Harrisburg, PA 17105.
3. The naming rights for Pilot Field are up for grabs as Pilot Air Freight did not make its payments for the honor. AP (1 pg)
4. Homeplate at Visalia, CA (CA State League) was stolen from the ballpark, only to be returned after the club broke a six-game home losing streak. SI (1 pg)
5. Architects version of the new Akron, OH ballpark plus a piece on that city's old Firestone Stadium (1925). (2 pgs).
6. Minor league ball returns to Long Beach, CA, after many years. (2 pgs)
7. Another look at the CA State League, LA Times, 6-25-95 (4 pgs)
8. New Britain, CT unveils new park and team. Misc. items (4 pgs)
9. Bonds are approved for new facility for New Orleans (2 pgs).
10. New ballpark for Erie, PA. Thanks to Bill Cahill for a program, scorecard, and some photos. Bill calls it a smaller version of Buffalo's AAA model. A few pages of the program with info available.
11. Thanks to Mike Jaffee for another selection of pocket schedules. We have: Pawtucket, RI; Wilmington, DE; New Britain, CT; Hagerstown, MD; NJ Cardinals; Jamestown, NY; Peoria, IL; Erie, PA; Elmira, NY; and Auburn, NY. First-come/first served. No charge.
12. A thirty-minute fight/bench clearing brawl took place at a May Class A Durham-Winston-Salem game at Durham Athletic Park. It was "Stamp Out Domestic Violence Night" at the park! (2 pgs).

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VII MAJOR LEAGUE NEWS & ITEMS

1. Toronto's SkyDome had two thirty-pound tiles fall on fans injuring seven fans during a game of June 22. The game was not stopped and many of the 43,490 in attendance did not know what had occurred. We have five pages of local and AP pieces.
2. The Oilers (NFL) are threatening to leave the Astrodome and much of the city of Houston has said, "Go Already!" This would leave the Astros as the main tenant. Any thoughts of a baseball-only facility in Houston can be squashed by a walk in the SE Texas summer sun.
3. Shades of 1967 with the Red Sox star Mo Vaughn complaining about the poor hitting background in the CF bleachers. Do they still keep the "triangle," aka "Conig's Corner" in '67, closed?
4. More on Fenway: when did they admit that the LF foul line is now 310 feet instead of the 315 it has been posted at since the 1930s? John Pastier brought this to our attention and filed a research request on the e-mail system. A recent AP photo showed the 310 mark on the wall. Has anyone read of this change? Did they move home plate? As most Red Sox fans know, the LF line is closer to 308 feet than 315 feet.
5. The ballpark debate in Seattle heats up with a vote on the funding ordinance on September 19. Mariners favored the area south of the current dome, but some folks including Pastier and committee member Jerry Cohen have pushed the site north of the dome to tie a facility to Pioneer Square and various historic/commercial districts. Ten pages of AP/local articles available.
6. Will Coors Field have to raise its fences to catch a few of those too-frequent home runs? AP 8-10-95 (1 pg).
7. Cincinnati's City Council approved a two-facility deal to please both the Reds and Bengals in late June. Five pages of details on both projects that save both franchises for downtown Cincinnati.
8. Now that it is twenty-five years old, can we consider the memories at Three Rivers Stadium? A two page SCD piece and seven pages from the local paper. Three Rivers wasn't built as once drawn and the area development never happened. Will they try again?
9. The annual Old Timers game took place on June 12 at Blue Ash, OH, where a re-built Crosley Field sits. Five page press release.
10. Interesting news in Detroit with the Tiger Stadium story. The Detroit Free Press came out in favor of renovation on May 14. An August 2 AP story notes a new funding plan for a new facility, fully backed by the governor. Frank Rashid of the Tiger Stadium Fan Club sent a selection of editorials supporting renovation with other stories on the renovation plus some fact sheets put out by the Club. In all, 26 pages available, or ask for a selection. You can write the club at PO Box 441426, Detroit, MI 48244-1426.

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11. Attendance has recovered somewhat, but it is still down at many major league parks. In the AL by late July Boston and Cleveland were up (1% each) with the league down nearly 18%. In the NL, only Montreal was up with 1.8% and the league down 18.9%. The top losers in the AL: Minnesota down 35%, Brewers 33% and Rangers 32%; in the senior circuit the Giants were down 41% with Marlins down 29% and both Braves & Pirates down 28%.
12. Keep your brooms at home in Cleveland as they were confiscated at a June 1 game with the White Sox. Fans brought the symbols of an impending "sweep," but officials at Jacobs Field took away 200 and stored them for retrieval after the game. "It was strictly a safety issue" said a stadium official. A sports writer said that Gate A looked like a "check room for a witches convention."
13. Milwaukee continues to lose money and hope for a new park. If there is no new facility planned soon, the team will have to move. One AP story noted that club debt is near 50% of the worth of the franchise. Ten pages of AP stories from July & August.
14. The April-95 issue of Architecture magazine has excellent photos and articles of the new park in Cleveland plus a few diagrams. Call 1-800-745-8922 for ordering info. Cost is \$6 plus postage.
15. Oscar Eddleton donated to us a chronological listing of major league parks with some research notes. Five pages available.
16. USA Today reported in its June 13 issue that a major statue of Babe Ruth placed outside Camden Yards has the Babe clutching a right-handed fielders glove.
17. As more "now/old" parks get built, there is continued talk on what serves as the official model of the vintage stadium. Is it Fenway, Wrigley, possibly the departed Comiskey, or Tiger Stadium. A June 12 letter to Sports Illustrated by David Johnson of Kansas City compared the new crop of parks to Wrigley and Fenway and decided that the proper model is Fenway.
18. NY Mets continue their search for a new stadium site, AP 6-21 (1 pg)
19. Pirates seek better lease agreement from city/stadium. AP 7-14 (1 pg)
20. Judge oks land condemnation for Phoenix park, AP 7-19 (1 pg)
21. Journal of Sport. Management published an article on "The Effect of Team Loyalty & Selected Stadium Factors on Spectator Attendance," (11 pgs). I never understand the statistics, but some good coverage on what makes people go/not go to the ballpark.
22. "Minors & Micros," overview of some beers at minor league parks, Beer, July-95 (5 pgs).
23. "Diamonds in the Rough," description of the Osborn Files of ballpark blueprints and the company marketing them. (3 pgs).

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24. Walt Wilson of the SABR Records Committee notes three mistakes to Green Cathedrals: the smallest crowd to see a game at Fenway was 68 for a Red Sox-White Sox game on 7-15-22 (not the 409 for an Angels game on 9-29-65); in the famous double no-hitter of 5-2-17, Jim Thorpe drove in the winning run with an infield single, not a double; and Gabby Hartnett's home run that beat the Pirates on 9-28-38 did not clinch the pennant for the Cubs, but it did put them in first by  $\frac{1}{2}$  game. They would clinch at St. Louis on October 1.
25. Thanks to David Vincent of the Records Committee we have two lists of first home runs at selected major league parks. Two pages.
26. History repeats itself in photos: the sharp photo of Jim Thome at bat in the SI story of 7-10-95 caught one reader's eye who noted its similarity to the first SI cover photo (8-16-54) of Eddie Matthews batting at Milwaukee County Stadium. Batter, catcher, umpire, and backdrop are remarkably similar!
27. The SABR Nineteenth Century Notes newsletter claims that the first park to place a protective screen behind home plate was Providence in 1879, not Toledo in 1883. The Grays' Messer Street Grounds show a screen in a photo. Committee member John Husman (also a member of our Committee) asks if there are screens to be found elsewhere, or even at Providence a year earlier when the park opened?
28. Another Nineteenth Century member (and Ballparks Committee) asks about the creation of dugouts, citing a Rochester, NY story (4-15-90) "How the Rochester Nine Helped Create Rochester's Dugout." Who has researched this item of ballparks?
29. NEW PROJECT PROPOSED Steve Bennett of our Committee suggests that we build upon the success of the publication of the City Baseball Magic booklet and define the issues for the true urban ballpark in some type of "one stop" set of information for organizations considering building the classic park the right way. By identifying "the broad categories of concern" we can assist a city, team, architect or even sports columnist in asking the right questions and, just as important, getting the right answers. Steve has sent me a two-page outline and I'll make it available to anyone who asks at no charge. Also, I will go into this in more depth in our next newsletter. Meanwhile, what do you think? Call/write and we will explore this in the next issue.
30. MINOR LEAGUE PARKS REPORT Gordon Brown and Ted Lukacs are combining forces and making great progress in this effort to identify and describe all minor league parks from the 1870s onward. They are also trying to keep up with the independent leagues that are sprouting recently. They are compiling some impressive material. Contact Ted at 5617 Open Sky, Columbia, MD 21044 for more details.
31. LATE RESEARCH REQUEST from Bruce Becker, 237 West Pabor Road, Phila., PA 19120 (215) 424-8570. He seeks any color photos of Shibe/Connie Mack Stadium for 1964, especially yhe OF walls and ads. Scoreboard too. He is researching the park for a painting and he needs to know the color patterns of the ads for that year. If you have any suggestions, please contact him.

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VIII RESEARCH NOTES & REQUESTS

1. Steve Cannella of Sports Illustrated called recently and asked about the definitive list of oldest minor league parks.
2. Gordon Blaine of Harrisburg, PA, called in July and put your chairman on his radio show by phone to discuss stadium projects and recent trends in financing and franchise relocations.
3. Cheryl Phillips of USA Today contacted the Committee and sought backround info for a piece she did on ballparks.
4. Max Uram of PO Box 32168, Chicago, IL 60632, seeks info on Mickey Mantle's longest home runs, both regular season plus exhibition & Series.
5. Chris Wait of our Committee is coordinating an effort to erect a marker at the site of Edmonds Field, former home of the Sacramento Solons of the PCL. The site is now a Target store. If you have suggestions & advice to help the local chapter of SABR get the plaque done, contact Chris at 7707 College Town Drive #7, Sacramento, CA 95826 (916) 386-9832.
6. Terry Matthews at 800 727-5336 ext. 8869 is making some park models and seeks info on blueprints and other detailed info on the "golden age" of ballparks.
7. Dominick Denaro of our Committee seeks photos of Negro Leagues parks of the 1930s. Contact him at 54 Hawthorne Circle, So. Burlington, VT 05403.
8. Paul Ferrante, recently added to our Committee, seeks copies of the ads for the American Seating Company which could be found in the back issues (pre-1970) of the Baseball Blue Book. Paul is also working on a 3-part study of the renovation of Yankee Stadium. He is looking any articles. Contact Paul at the address listed on p. 1.
9. Dennis D'Agostino wrote to set the record straight on the scoreboard that was moved from Yankee Stadium to Connie Mack Stadium in the 50s. Dennis says that the All-Electric board installed in Yankee Std. in 1950 was used until 1958, when it was replaced with the famed "tower" scoreboard that lasted until 1973. Meanwhile, Connie Mack Stadium had its final all-electric board in 1956 and it lasted until the park closed in 1970. Dennis notes that several ballparks books have the Yankee Stadium board going to Philly--and that is not possible. Do all you scoreboard experts agree? A copy of Dennis' letter is available, no charge.
10. SABR member Dennis Purdy, Sr, has launched a magazine, The Vintage & Classic Baseball Collector, and he is looking for articles. Contact him at (206) 584-6918; Fax 206 589-3363.
11. Craig Nelson kindly sent our Committee a copy of his thesis on Neo-Traditional Urban Ballparks in the 1990s. I'll copy & send it (75 pages) to anyone for a \$12.00 contribution to the Committee Postage Fund.

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BALLPARKS PUBLICATIONS & ITEMS

1. A Centennial Field Scrapbook has been written by Dominick Denaro of our committee. The forty-page booklet has some good shots of the 1922 field, claimed as the oldest in minor league ball (structure vs. playing location/surface.). To obtain a copy, send \$9.95 plus \$1.50 postage to Blue Fish Arts, 150 Dorset Street, #194, So. Burlington, VT 05407. Our thanks for Dominick's donating a copy to our files.
2. Build-it-Yourself Forbes Field is more than one of those cut-out model making books. A center section of 28 pages features a fine text by our member Dan Bonk with 28 color photos, many quite impressive and not seen before! \$19.95 plus \$4.00 for shipping. Write Point Four Ltd., Forbes Field BIY Offer, 520 Second Street, Oakmont, PA 15139.
3. "There's No Place Like Home" 1995-96 Tigers Calendar features historic photos of Tiger Stadium over its pre & post 1912 opening. Jack Rall of the committee sent us a copy and notes that it was sold about the stadium. (If there is no place like home, why is Dorothy trying to leave Michigan & Trumbull?)
4. Charles Brereton generously gave us several of his new 1996 "A Field in Flatbush" calendars that have some great shots of Ebbets Field. It sells for \$14 (postage included). Write him at PO Box 307, Concord, NH 03302 (603) 225-6307.
5. Schaefer Beer is saluting the old parks with commemorative cans. So, buy a bunch and you can read and mourn your favorite lost park in fitting and efficient fashion. Story available (1 pg).
6. Stadia Tins now makes tins in the shape of baseball parks which play "Take Me Out to the Ballpark." Camden, Ebbets, Fenway, Yankee and Shea available. \$11.50 plus \$3.50 s/h. (202) 783-9399.
7. Chris Jennison & Don Lancaster among others highly recommend Cincinnati's Crosley Field, \$24.95 plus \$3 shipping from Road West Publishing Co., 1908 Dexter Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45206. SCD article/review of two pages available.
8. Also recommended by Don Lancaster: 1995 Pirate Yearbook that has a 64-page history of Three Rivers (25th Anniv in 1995) for \$7.00 plus postage. Contact the club. Game Day--The Blue Jays at SkyDome has 296 pages with six pages of photos covering the "behind the scenes" activity at the facility. \$25.99 Canadian from Penguin Books Canada Ltd., 10 Alcorn Avenue, Toronto, Ont. Canada M4V 3B2. Don notes that the "Farewell to Silver" publication to mark the passing of Silver Stadium is available from the Red Wings and is a poor job overall. Gateway: Blueprint for the Future--Book One: Jacobs Field by Edward Walsh is a 123-page oversized book on the construction of that park. No price or source. Don also recommends the 1994 Indians Yearbook for good Jacobs Field coverage with 35 pages on the opening games.



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9. More book notes from Don Lancaster on baseball/ballpark travel guides. The Complete Four-Sport Stadium Guide by USA Today has seating diagrams and info on baseball, hockey, football & basketball facilities. Mudhens and Mavericks by Judith Blahnik & Phillip Schulz, is a 294-page illustrated guide to minor league baseball, but they left out Short Season, Class A, Rookie Leagues, and Independent Leagues. \$14.95. The Minor League Baseball Book by USA Sports has few photos but is loaded with stadia and park facts. It covers all professional teams, but leaves out the Independents. \$16.95.

Don seeks information and suggestions from like-minded collectors of ballpark/stadia/sports facilities books. This is a world-wide interest (Simon Inglis, one of our newest members from London, would attest to that) that should be encouraged. If you have some thoughts, contact Don at 128 Duffland Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15210-4304.

IX MINOR LEAGUE ARTICLES FROM THE PAST (all from TSN)

1. PCL LA Angels have new park, 10-22-25
2. New park for Richmond, VA, 8-19-37
3. Charlotte, NC improves park, 1-22-25
4. Hot Springs, AR to enlarge park, 9-1-38
5. Louisville, KY improves park 12-22-38
6. Durham, NC to build \$60,000 park, ca. 1938
7. Albany, GA team to use city stadium, 11-25-37
8. Beavers park condemned; team may move from Portland, OR, 10-29-47
9. New park for Hollywood, CA, 1-19-39
10. New park for Charlotte, NC, 11-17-38
11. Bluefield, WV, has new park, 2-16-39
12. Carthage, MO, to build new park, 12-1-38
13. Pine Bluff, AR, will build new park, 12-29-38
14. Miami, FL, to build park to attract spring training teams, 12-10-47
15. Drawbacks to Lincoln, NE park, 10-19-39
16. Clinton, IA park flooded, 9-29-38
17. Newport News, VA park built with special section for blacks, 12-10-4

Most of these pieces are quite short, so figure four/page for copying costs & postage. Thanks to Brad Sullivan for sending them.

Copying charges are 6¢/page with postage at 32¢ for the first four pages and 23¢ for additional sections of four pages. Please make all payments to "Bob Bluthardt" in name only.

CLOSING TRIVIA QUESTION

Second base at Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium marks the birthplace of this famed entertainer & movie star. Any guesses? The person is still alive. Deadline for your guess is October 15. In case of several correct answers, earliest postmark.

THANKS! to all contributors for this issue; I plan a page of thank-yous in our next issue. Stay in touch!