

# SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

## JULY 2004

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### I NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these people to our Committee; please contact if you see areas of common interests.

\* A. G. Bassett, 1994 Hoot Owl Cove, Norcross, GA 30091 [agb001@comcast.net](mailto:agb001@comcast.net)

Majors; Pre-1900 to 1950; Yankee Stadium (1923-36); Architecture/Photos/Parks and effect on stats, player performance; suggests using aerial photography to determine park fence distances; welcomes help with a study of player performance and foul territory park-to-park.

\* Mike Hauptert, 1632 Ferry Street, La Crosse, WI 54601 [hauptert.mich@uwlax.edu](mailto:hauptert.mich@uwlax.edu)

Majors; All eras; New York parks, Photos and Park construction/politics/finance; studying costs/construction/financing of all MLB parks with goal of marking trends/shifts of private to public construction; suggests data base of all parks and their construction costs/renovations/tenants/current property status with dates and locations.

\* Ed Williams, 7663 Topridge Dr., West Chester, OH 445069 [purplemoose@fuse.net](mailto:purplemoose@fuse.net)

All levels and eras; Photos; Parks and effect on stats & player performance; Ohio parks

\* Dave Black, 3767 Bucknell Cir., Highlands Ranch, CO 81029 [drawblack@yahoo.com](mailto:drawblack@yahoo.com)

All levels and eras; Indianapolis and Milwaukee parks; older minor league parks; Advertising and signage; Architecture, Photos, Parks and effect on player stats; suggests a survey of ballparks ads and signage.

\* Ed Haist, 1517 Arrowhead Lane, Carrollton, TX 75007 [bravesman44@msn.com](mailto:bravesman44@msn.com)

Majors; 1920-today; Tiger Stadium and Fenway; Photos; Parks as part of urban history;

\* Tim Wiles, 72 Main street, Cooperstown, NY 13326 [twiles@baseballhalloffame.org](mailto:twiles@baseballhalloffame.org)

All eras and levels; Photos; Parks & urban history; Parks in art and literature; suggests documenting the effect of Comiskey II on the retro generation of parks. Wrigley, Tiger, Fenway, and Peoria & Waterloo, IA; notes that HOF has file on most parks of last 100-plus years.

\* Richard "Dixie" Tourangeau, 64 Calumet St., Boston, MA 02120 [marilyn668@aol.com](mailto:marilyn668@aol.com)

Pre-1900 to early 1900s; Majors; "anywhere interesting," working on Congress Street Grounds in Boston; has good resources for Boston research; suggests a survey of ballparks architects for 19<sup>th</sup> century; Architecture/Photo/Park construction and aspect of urban history interests.

## II TRADITIONALISTS DEFEAT SPIDER-MAN

As my mother used to say, "it seemed like a good idea at the time," but the howl of protests defeated the MLB marketing plan of placing a Spider-man movie logo on the bases for select games to coincide with the film's opening. Our Committee received a few calls on this from papers in Denver and Chicago. As quick as it was announced in early May, the idea was pulled. Your chairman acknowledged the 100-plus years of ballparks ads, but noted the unseemly encroachment of ads onto the playing field/equipment. New Committee Member Dave Black suggests a study of ads/ballparks. Any other folks interested?

## III BALLPARKS PHOTO INDEX PROJECT UNDERWAY

Thanks to Paul Healey of the SABR Pictorial Committee, we have several fledgling data bases and an effort underway to document photos of every MLB park ever used since the beginning of the professional game. More will be discussed at SABR/Cincinnati, but contact Paul at [paulhealey@yahoo.com](mailto:paulhealey@yahoo.com) or write him at 43 Linden Street, #5, Allston, MA 02134 (508) 498-8457. If you know of little-seen ballparks photo sources, contact Paul. He is reviewing most of the ballparks/baseball books to input the commonly published photos, but we all know that there is so much more "out there." We'll report again after the meeting in Cincinnati. This project is a joint venture of the two committees and is formally called BPI (Ballparks Photo Index).

## IV SEE YOU IN CINCINNATI

I look forward to seeing many of you in Cincinnati for the annual meeting, and our committee meeting will be held on Sunday morning at 9 am. Come worship with us as we discuss the many projects associated with the famed green cathedrals. Our meetings are usually pretty informal, but we cover a lot of ground, so come one-come all and bring a friend. We will have printed material available on existing and new projects. And your chairman will sponsor a few door prizes, but he can't afford real ballparks doors, so some books will have to do. See you there!

## V MLB BALLPARKS SHRINK AGAIN

Last summer we noted that MLB parks' capacities had shrunk by 4.6% from 1975 to 2003 (net average loss of 2284 seats) from 49,186 to 46,902. Well, they shrunk again as an informal survey of 2004 ballparks capacities as noted in the box scores show an AL average of 45,065, an NL average of 45,405 and a MLB average of 45,247. That is another drop of 3.5% or 1655 seats. There are a few interesting points and qualifications:

- San Diego and Philadelphia downsized significantly from 66,307 and 62,418 to 42,445 and 43,500.
- Florida's listed capacity is 36,331, but it can use up to 60,000 seats in Pro Player if needed.
- Fenway has been creeping up with a 2004 capacity of 35,095 with new RF roof seats;
- Wrigley has increased slightly to 39,345, and now is only the third smallest NL park behind Florida (36,331 and Pittsburgh (38,496)
- For the Expos, we count just Montreal's stadium; although they routinely draw more in Puerto Rico with a park of 19,000.
- For you NY haters, here's another bone to chew: NY now has the largest park in both leagues: Yankee (57,478) and Shea (57,405)

And yes, Dodger Stadium stays at 56,000, no more—no less!

## VI ARTICLES FROM THE PAST

- "The Fan Cries Havoc," SI, early 1961; adjusts with relocated/ new teams (5 pgs)
- "In memory, it's still a wonder," Astrodome, Cleve PD, 1-28-04 (1 pg)
- Cleve. Hosts first night game, Negro Lg. contest, Plain-Dealer, 7-13-30 (1 pg)
- League Park highlights for centennial (1891-1991) (1 pg)
- History of Sportsman's Park in St. Louis in Deadball Era, (9 pgs)
- Photo of Ebbets Field famed Rotunda, from author Joe McCauley, (1 pg)
- "Flashbacks" cartoon of DC Swampoodle Grounds, Wash. Post, 9-7-03 (1 pg)
- "What About the Astrodome," AP, 2-29-04 (2 pgs)
- "League Park a mystery to collectors," SCD, (2 pgs)
- Photos of Seattle Civic Auditorium Stadium (2 pgs); Highland Park, Idaho Falls, ID with city baseball history (3 pgs); & Frank Lawrence Stadium, VA (1 pg)

## VII MINOR & OTHER LEAGUE NOTES AND ARTICLES

- "She Deals with Diamonds," Phila Inquirer, female groundskeeper in Trenton, (1 pg)
- New Texas Collegiate League brings baseball to more towns (7 pgs)
- John O'Donnell Stadium in Davenport, IA, renovated (again?) (1 pg)
- Mets invest \$1.5 million in renovating Thomas J. White Stadium in Port St. Lucie, FL (1 pg)
- Phillies new FL home at Bright House Field, Clearwater, USA Today Sports Wkly (1 pg)
- Portland AA (Red Sox) team has 37-foot Green Monster in LF!
- Burlington, VT's Centennial Field notes in SI's VT Sports Profile; built in 1906; how much is original? And is it time for our Committee again to survey the "oldest" league parks and produce a definitive list?
- "Play Ball," Dodgertown, SI, 2-23-04 (3 pgs)
- "Arizona Dreaming," Spring Training parks in AZ, Texas Journey, Jan/Feb-04, (4 pgs)
- Profile of owner of Fort Worth Cats and their home at LeGrave Field (a terrific minor lg facility!, Dallas Morning News, 4-18-04 (3 pgs)

- Gill Stadium in Manchester, NH, sports new look and new team. Built in 1913 as Textile Field, it now hosts the NH Fisher Cats. HNTB is overseeing the renovation of the old place plus the erection of a new facility. Manchester Union Leader (4 pgs)

## VIII PRESERVATION NOTES

- “It Takes A Stadium,; a review of Jim Bouton’s book documenting his efforts in preserving Pittsfield’s Wahconah Park, Harper’s Magazine, April/2004 (5 pgs)
- One of the older minor league parks, War Memorial in Greensboro, NC, was the subject of a city task force last fall with a general goal of saving the 1920s structure for local/amateur baseball with a possible museum, etc. New facility was slated for downtown (10 pgs)
- Another effort to make League Park in Cleveland into an active field with a community center, museum, etc., proposed again. We were called by an AP writer in Cleveland, but never made contact. Any of our people in Cleveland see any activity? League ruins date back to the late 1800s.
- Congrats to SABR member Jon Daniels and his successful efforts to get a marker for Chicago’s Lakefront Park (1878-1884). Dedication could be this summer. We have a copy of the draft text for the marker.
- Pete Keely of the City of St. Paul, MN ([pete.keely@esgarch.com](mailto:pete.keely@esgarch.com)) seeks information on the St. Paul Saints and their Lexington Park. He hopes to incorporate the history of the team/park into the development plans for the neighborhood. Please contact him if you have any suggestions/materials/resources.
- Gary Miller in OR was asking about memorial/marker efforts. Contact him at [c-gmiller@charter.net](mailto:c-gmiller@charter.net)
- Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Al, continues to thrive as it will play host for part of the Southern Association Baseball Conference. Called “America’s Oldest Baseball Park,” the 1910 field will have papers on the Southern Association (1901-1961) and a ballparks tour. Contact David Brewer of the Friends of Rickwood at [d.brewer@rickwood.com](mailto:d.brewer@rickwood.com). This first and hopefully annual event takes place on October 8-9; deadline to register is September 8. The Friends of Rickwood are located at 2100 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, Al 35203.
- Save Fenway Park continues its good work: PO Box 15300, Boston, MA 02215, (617) 367- 3771 [www.savefenwaypark.org](http://www.savefenwaypark.org)
- \* Portions of Wrigley Field now a declared landmark, so says the City of Chicago, perhaps restricting some future expansion plans.

## IX BOOKS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Arcadia continues to churn out local/regional history books with baseball themes. The American Association Milwaukee Brewers by Rex Hamann and Bob Koehler (128 pgs, \$200 photos, \$19.99) and Nineteenth Century Baseball in Chicago by John Freyer and Mark Rucker are two of the latest.
- Summer in the City, New York Baseball, 1947-1957, by Vic Ziegel, has some outstanding NY Daily News photos of all three NYC parks within the 200 sharp photos. (Abrams/\$35). An aerial of Ebbets Field going down is distressing, but eye catching!

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- Ira Drucker reports that the Arcadia book on the Brooklyn Dodgers has an exterior of Forbes on page 97 labelled at Ebbets! You have been warned!
- Arcadia's Baseball in Fort Worth by Mark Presswood has a chapter on local parks.
- A Yankee Century by Harvey Frommer has a chapter on ballparks.
- Rex Hamann now offers for \$4 postpaid his booklet on the ballparks used by the St. Paul Saints. 14201 Crosstown Blvd., NW, Andover MN 55304-3311 [pureout@msn.com](mailto:pureout@msn.com). Rex is now working on a booklet on Toledo and if you have materials to share, contact him!
- The von Goeben book on ballparks has been re-published in 2004 with some additions.
- Chartwell Books has published Ballparks, A Panoramic History," 256 pgs.
- The Ballparks Postcard Newsletter continues to produce great articles and illustrations of parks via classic postcards. You can subscribe to BPN by contacting Jim Schneider at [jsrna@aol.com](mailto:jsrna@aol.com) PO Box 5689, Fullerton, CA 92838 \$30 for ten issues.

We welcome news on ballparks books; we also appreciate any reviews. And we remind members and friends that David Mitchell kindly maintains a master index of ballparks books, booklets, and publications that have ballparks sections/chapters. David sent us his March/2004 updated list that covers 30 pages. Copies available from your chairman for \$4.00 postpaid. Changes/additions go to David at 31469 Amsterdam Road, Winchester, CA 92596.

### X OLD TEAMS/OLD PARKS/NEW NEWSLETTERS

Several committee members sent us the contacts for some of the organizations we have noted from time-to-time that cover some of the former MLB teams:

St. Louis Browns Historical Society  
443 Fieldcrest Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63119 Attn: Bud Kane

Dues are \$25/year for membership; three newsletters and an annual special event with former Browns present. It may be one of the oldest of these historical societies.

Philadelphia Athletic Society  
6 North York Road  
Hatboro, PA 19040

Dues are \$30/year; four newsletters annually; annual event in October; team souvenirs and material for sale.

Nats News  
PO Box 2248  
Germantown, MD 20875

\$20/year; four newsletters; annual meeting; excellent photos in newsletter; a few sales items; concentrates on getting baseball back in DC.

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Boston Braves Historical Society  
PO Box 5658  
Marlboro, MA 01752

\$15/year; two large newsletters; annual dinner/event in October with Braves Field tour. Various sales items.

Dodgers of Brooklyn Attn: Ron Gabriel  
5512 Cornish Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814-1008

\$15/annual dues; self-published newsletter with no formal society

Marty Adler  
Brooklyn Dodgers  
198 Carriage Lane  
Plainview, NY 11803

Short and informative newsletter; \$5.00 lifetime membership; newsletter comes by internet at [www.Ebbets-Field.com](http://www.Ebbets-Field.com). Some articles for sale.

New York Giants Historical Society Attn: Stuart Leeds  
144 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10011-6262

Dues at \$20/year; four-five newsletters annually

Special thanks to Randall Chandler and Bob Mayer who provided the short reviews of these societies. If you can think of others that have a ballpark component, send them along.

## XI RESEARCH/PROJECTS INFO REQUESTS

Most of these have been already answered with some form of assistance from our files, but feel free to chime in and help if you think you have material or assistance.

\* Whatever happened to all the stuff from Ebbets Field? Mike [DISCOROCKS@webtv.net](mailto:DISCOROCKS@webtv.net)

\* Palace of the Fans/Cincinnati info for 1904, including OF bulletin board and an OF LF terrace, plus all site dimensions. Mike Lackey, Lima OH 1818 Latham Ave., Lima, OH 45805-1636 [mlackey@limanews.com](mailto:mlackey@limanews.com)

\* Palace of the Fans model about five feet square, Gregg Rhodes, Great American Ballpark, 100 Main Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202-4109 (513) 765-7020 [GRhodes@cincinnatiareds.com](mailto:GRhodes@cincinnatiareds.com). This model will be a part of the new Reds museum.

\* Looking for photos of ballparks of 1919-32 era in Reading, PA; Baltimore, MD; Newark, NJ; Rochester, NY; Jersey City, NJ; Akron, OH; Providence, RI; & Montreal, Quebec; Joe Haring, 1219 Fern Avenue, Reading, PA 19607 [cat9keys@aol.com](mailto:cat9keys@aol.com)

- \* Is anyone alive who attended Yankee Stadium's Opening Day in April/1923? Christine Ong of NYC 2012 (the Olympics effort), 646-587-5464 [cong@nyc2012.com](mailto:cong@nyc2012.com)
- \* Exact colors of tickets, seats, awnings, etc., at Ebbets Field Myron Uhlberg [muhlberg@earthlink.net](mailto:muhlberg@earthlink.net)
- \* The future of minor league baseball stadiums... this one may be past its time as it was for a school project Wendy Whittington, Georgia state University [nellybell\\_21@hotmail.com](mailto:nellybell_21@hotmail.com)
- \* Dimensions and info on all St. Louis Cardinals home parks (this one may be past its time too as it seemed to be for a spring issue), Steve Brooks, [Bubba29752@aol.com](mailto:Bubba29752@aol.com).
- \* Did Ruth or Gehrig ever hit a hr into the upper LF deck at Yankee stadium? So asks Mario Torres [mtorres10@houston.rr.com](mailto:mtorres10@houston.rr.com)
- \* Mario also asked about dimensions of four 1887 parks: Dartmouth Street (Boston), Sportsman's 1 (St. Louis), Recreation (Detroit), Eastern (Brooklyn), plus West Side I/Chicago for 1889 and South Side II for Chicago in 1892
- \* Exact date (we all know it was 1966) when old LA Wrigley Field was torn down. Gaylon White, 401 Sugarwood Drive, Kingsport, TN 37663 (423) 323-0341 [whizzer@chartertn.net](mailto:whizzer@chartertn.net). He is writing a book on the old LA Angels of the PCL
- \* Rural ball fields/minor lg.fields for a fine arts/photography book. Terry Horn, 972 232-6084 [THorn@kbhome.com](mailto:THorn@kbhome.com)
- \*2003 stats on home run production and effect of home parks Ian Stewart [ianstewart@acadiu.ca](mailto:ianstewart@acadiu.ca)
- \*Little Rock, AR park photos, especially West End/Kavanaugh Field (1895-1931) and Travelers/Ray Winder Field (1931-present) Terry Turner is writing a pictorial history 501 407 9666 [TTurner@awcc.state.ar.us](mailto:TTurner@awcc.state.ar.us)
- \*Photos of old Dayton, OH parks Jack Carlson [jaywalker26@earthlink.net](mailto:jaywalker26@earthlink.net) Dimensions too.
- \*Percentages of seats at MLB parks bought by businesses. Julian Loscalzo [btours@qwest.net](mailto:btours@qwest.net)
- \*Maheffey Park in Canton, OH, where the Cleveland Naps played a few games in 1903; need info on field dimensions Mario Torres [mtorres10@houston.rr.com](mailto:mtorres10@houston.rr.com)
- \*Baltimore's Bugle Field, home of that city's Negro league team in the 1920s-1948 era, located at Edison Hwy and Fleet Street in east Baltimore. Our old friend and model maker, Bruce Genther, is tackling this site for a scale model (1" to 30'). Contact him at 15835 Haynes Road, Laurel, MD 20707 [BruceGenther@aol.com](mailto:BruceGenther@aol.com). His model will be shown at the Babe Ruth Birthplace/Museum Bruce has done a number of models and received terrific assistance from our Committee

## XII MAJOR LEAGUE NEWS NOTES

- Traditionalists win again: The Yankees tried to replace Cracker Jack with Crunch 'n Munch on May 19, and a few weeks later after protests, Cracker Jack was back. As one veteran vendor noted, no one likes change and the new stuff didn't have a prize!
- \*A May 10 TSN piece noted four places where "home runs go to die: Petco Park in San Diego with its 411 foot RCF; SBC Park in San Francisco with a 421 foot CF; Minute Maid Park with a 436 foot furthest point; Yankee Stadium with its still potent 399 LCF; and Pro Play Stadium in Miami with a 434 foot CF and a 385 foot RCF
- Companion pieces: SI and Steve Rushin's "take Me Out To The ..Whatever," bemoaning how little folks pay attention to the game ((6-14-04) and TSN piece on "Stuff yourself now, and pay for it later," noting parks and their "order by cell phone" for concessions.
- The singing hot dog vendor at Comerica Park has been told to quiet down by Sports Service.

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- Fan injured in fall from wall at SF SBC Park, twenty-four feet down to a cement surface.
- SI profile on company that makes most of the nation's big scoreboards, located in Brookings, SD. Among their new jobs: new board twice the size of the old at Jacobs Field.
- What is the hottest park: Amerquest (Arlington) in Texas or Busch in St. Louis? A TSN news note sided with Busch for its humidity.
- The Cardinals have a "camp out promotion whereby you can pitch a tent on the field at Busch, watch an away game on the Diamond Vision, and sleep overnight at the park.
- USA Today Sports Weekly noted the various "monsters" of MLB parks, and they noted Fenway's Green Monster, the fiberglass background at the Metrodome; Tal's Hill and the Crawford Boxes at Minute Maid Park; and Coors Field in general for its thin air.
- So what are the best/worst hitters' parks. According to stats from the 2002 & 2003 seasons With interleague games excluded, we have the top five (a totally neutral park is ranked at 100) as Coors (131), Kauffman (130), Amerquest (Arlington) 123, Bank One (123) and Olympic (115). And the bottom five are Dodger (82), Veterans (85), Qualcomm (85), Comerica (88) and Safeco (90). (April 14-20, 2004 USA Today Sports Weekly) SI noted in "Debunking the New-Park Myth," (5-17-04) that "of the twelve teams that moved to a new stadium from 1991 through 2003 (not including Seattle because it opened Safeco Field in July) six had a worse record in the first season in their new home than they did the previous year, including four of the past six.....The twelve teams improved their winning percentage by .011, less than two victories per team. Watch out Phillies and Padres!
- How about paying \$1500 for a set of three seats ca. 1975 from Yankee Stadium. That was the at a recent auction.

### XIII BUSINESS NOTES

- "Let the franchise foot the bill themselves," USA Today Sports Weekly, April 7-13, 2004, noting why teams should build and pay for their own facilities. Emphasis on NYC.  
  
"Eastlake's stadium needs to score," Cleve. Plain Dealer, 5-23-04 (2 pgs) new ballpark needs to better and not drain city finances.  
Evaluating the economic arguments for a MLB park in Portland, OR, Portland Business Journal, 4-2-04, (4 pgs)

### XIV MAJOR LEAGUE CITY REPORTS

ANAHEIM: Now called Angel Stadium of Anaheim as So. California Edison withdrew sponsorship; Jim Gordon reports that the park has new scoreboards; and a "halo 'A'" now sits on top of the main board; (one page full report available)

ATLANTA: Season ticket base has fallen from 25,000 in 1997 to 14,000 in 2004.

BOSTON: New RF roof seats run \$75-100 and are sold out for season (tickets in lots of four include a table and \$100 in food; infield called "softest and slowest in league," team said to be following "renovation, not replacement." And team seeking office space outside of park to free up potential expansion space; Opening Day at Fenway fell on Good Friday and Cardinal O'Malley tells flock "wait till next year" when it comes to Fenway Franks (various articles—5 pages).

CINCINNATI: Parole officer spots fugitive from justice kissing girl friend on park's "Kiss Cam." Twenty-four year old parolee is arrested and sentenced to 4 ½ years for cocaine trafficking.

CHICAGO/NL: Cubs allowed to add more night games over three-year period, going from 18 to 30; 200 premium seats added behind home plate; all ticket levels raised for 2004 with certain games even higher; team and "rooftop businesses" reach agreement and settled a federal lawsuit over theft of product as all thirteen rooftop operators agree to share revenue with Cubs.

CHICAGO/AL: As of mid-June, attendance is up 4061/game through first 25 contests; team has drawn fewer than 2 million for ten straight seasons, unusual for new park; removal of top eight rows of steep upper deck and other renovations done for 2004, called by one writer "the revenge of the Old Comiskey." Last fall police found local mobster's remains under section of Parking Lot C.

CLEVELAND: After virtually selling out all games from 1997 a portion of 2001, the team attendance has sunk from 3.2 million (01) to 2.6 million (02) to 1.7 million (03). For 2004, ticket prices cut, new scoreboard built, a new market pavilion behind CF; and "added value" the buzz word for the fan experience. Eight pages of misc.articles.

FLORIDA: New park financing and political operating ongoing: City, county and team kicked in \$200 million, but state balked; park would hold 38,000 with retractable roof (much cheaper without a roof!). Location would be next to Orange Bowl and team would change name to Miami Marlins.

HOUSTON: Curse of the Dome: Minute Maid Park had problems last fall with dingy coloring, possibly caused by mold, on roof. Clemens good for average of 4660 extra fans when he pitches (SI 5-24-04) and team could pass record of 3.06 million set in 2000.

KANSAS CITY: Scoring has fallen off dramatically since they moved OF fences back ten feet in the gaps and dead CF. In late May it ranked 30<sup>th</sup> in MLB in both home runs and runs scored, while in 2003 it was 11<sup>th</sup> in home runs and 2<sup>nd</sup> in runs scored.

LOS ANGELES: New owner (a Boston guy!) shoots down story he wants to build new park (Dodger Stadium is now the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest in the NL after Wrigley); Our man in LA, Jim Gordon, reports that the seats are starting to show wear; the concessions are poor, but the seat prices remain reasonable. He says the place still looks fantastic.

MILWAUKEE: From 2.8 million in the maiden season at Miller Park it fell to 1.7 million with eleven straight losing seasons and twenty-plus years since the playoffs were reached. Bill Scheft in his SI "The Show," column noted that if the Brewers closed the upper deck, they should "stretch a tarp across it with the words: LESS FILLING." Thanks to Jim Nitz for his many packages of clippings.

MONTREAL: Shades of the orphan Cleveland team in 1899...Attendance was down 10% for the first nine games vs. last year's miserable showing; twenty-two games in Puerto Rico for 2004; TSN says "Let the circling Expos land at Dulles, but rumors fly for Portland, Las Vegas (?), Monterrey, Norfolk, VA, Northern VA. Players, teams, and the Commissioner want this to be the last year of the orphans.

MINNESOTA: Team expects to lose as much as last year (\$13 million). New stadia plans pop up on both sides of the river; The Dome may be ugly, but it isn't a financial drain as a WSJ 7-8-03 piece notes.

NEW YORK/NL: From 2002 to 2003 attendance dropped from 2.8 million to 2.1 million, steepest decline except for the Indians; general improvements to Shea include new team store. Fortieth anniversary came on 4-17-04.

NEW YORK/AL: Organist Eddie Layton retired after the 2003 season, marking 37 years—and he never missed a game since hired in 1967.

OAKLAND: Now called McAfee Coliseum. Did you know Tom Hanks was once a vendor here?

PHILADELPHIA: Thirty-three years of the Vet came crashing down in sixty-one seconds on March 21 at 7 am, and the space will house a 5500-space parking lot; Citizens Bank Park (naming rights went for \$57.5 million/25years plus ad revenue of \$37.5 million); early returns show it offense-friendly with differently angled power alleys and wind patterns (57 homers in first 19 games!). Lots of Philly articles on Vet's death and Citizens's birth.

SAN DIEGO: Some logistical problems (traffic, parking, trolley runs, & food service) marred the early games as Petco Park turned into a pitcher's paradise with deep LCF at 402 and RCF at 411. Team is batting 60 points higher on the road as of early June! We have a 2003 preview/review by Bob Boynton plus lots of clippings he has sent us.

ST. LOUIS: Busch will make it to 40 as the new stadium has its ground breaking south of the current site in January/2004 with completion set for April/2006. The \$387.5 million project will be funded with team funds, private bonds, loans, state tax credits, and state transportation funds. The new park will seat 46,000 and eventually take over the site of current Busch.

PITTSBURGH: As one writer noted, "pretty park but ugly outlook." 2.4 million for the first season; 1.6 million in 2003 (26<sup>th</sup> in MLB), but the team has tied the Brewers with eleven straight losing seasons. And like the Brewers, a reduced payroll. For those lacking internet access, I have 20 pages of various downloaded materials on all Pittsburgh parks, created by the Pirates Alumni newsletter, local SABR Chapter people, and others.

TEXAS: Park now called Amerquest Field in Arlington (\$75 million for 30 years), named after a subprime mortgage company in CA.

## XV DOUG PAPPAS

Like most of you in SABR, I was deeply shocked and saddened by the news of Doug's death. Please keep Doug's good work in your thoughts as his family adjusts to this tragic loss. His SABR Business in Baseball newsletter was a regular masterpiece of news and analysis, but his true legacy will be the memory of his enthusiasm, decency, and love of the game. He will be missed.