

April 1, 1988

244 N. Oxford Drive
San Angelo, Texas 76901
H (915) 942-0635
W (915) 657-4441

NOTE: US Postage goes up to 25¢ per first class oz. after this week, so please adjust your SASEs accordingly. The committee postage fund will, of course, cover any shortfalls. Thank you.

Dear SABR Ballparks Committee Member:

Time for another update in the world of ballparks, and once more we have many interesting issues and activities:

I Third Quarter Report 68 letters received; 80 sent out. Keep in Touch!

II Sweden Ballparks Fan We don't get too many overseas letters on ballparks, but recently a fellow from Stockholm, former resident of Chicago, wrote with questions on research materials, etc. He is very interested in hearing from SABR members who have an interest in researching and discussing the old parks. While he isn't a SABR member now, he does plan on joining. His name/address:

Philip Cavin
Tre Kilijor 6 III
S-113 44 Stockholm
SWEDEN

III Save Our Sox, a recently organized group, is fighting to save Comiskey Park from both abandonment and destruction. They have written an impressive history/summary for restoration and are soliciting support. I have a copy of their booklet and for \$6 it's worth the time. Write them at Save Our Sox, PO Box 268727, Chicago, IL 60626. The booklet is: Comiskey Park: A Landmark Proposal. You may recall that the National Parks Service was willing to designate Comiskey a national landmark for recreation sites, but the club fought the designation for obvious reasons. They plan to move to a new site.

IV Tiger Stadium Fan Club is a similar operation with a very similar purpose. The park has been the subject of a number of disturbing statements. The Detroit mayor would like to abandon the place for a new facility; the fans seem to support renovation; and the owner, Tom Monaghan, an admitted history/preservation person, has been neutral on the fate of the park. The fan club is pushing for some positive action. They plan an April 20 demonstration of support for this classic park. For more information (and a copy of their newsletter), write them at PO Box 441426, Detroit, MI 48244-1426. Phone is (313) 964-5991.

V Fenway Park isn't in great shape either, but the structural report from the consulting firm hired by the Red Sox gave a report that fell into the "it isn't good, but it isn't as bad as we thought" department. The Sox will have to invest some big money over the next decade to keep Fenway afloat. As the other classics seem to flounder, you would think that the Red Sox would realize just what an opportunity they have at originality and tradition.

SABR Ballparks (2) 4-1-88

- VI Sportsmans Park in Saint Louis is long gone, and the site is barely recognizable. Now the home of a few athletic fields & a local Boys Club, there is nothing left of the original facility. On a recent business trip to St. Louis I took some time to visit the site and take some photos. Not exactly a charming neighborhood, but no matter. If you would like a copy of these amateur efforts, send me \$1.25 for five shots and \$2.50 for ten views. That price will cover the postage too.
- VII Riverfront Stadium is the subject of free-lance writer Joe Larrabee, PO Box 115, River Road, So. Gardiner, ME 04359. I sent him some materials; contact him if you have anything to offer.
- VIII Crosley Field lives again as we have reported in previous newsletters. The City of Blue Ash, Ohio, is rebuilding a scale model version of the park with hopes of completing the project this year. They plan a "media event" in conjunction with the All-Star game in Cincinnati. I will be reporting on this project again in the June newsletter and at the national convention. If you want more info and a list of available support materials, contact them at Crosley Field Restoration Project, 4343 Cooper Road, Blue Ash, OH 45242.
- IX Materials sent by member Jim Peters are available for the usual SASE of 22¢ for one and 39¢ for both:
- "Scene at the Ballpark" article and shots of minor league parks Americana
- "Pilot Field Diamond Looks Like a Gem from the Buffalo News
- X Griffith Stadium deserves a proper marker and memorial to recognize the years of local and national history that took place in that famed Washington facility. Various SABR members tried something several years ago with little success. A new effort, directed by committee member Gordon Thomas, will renew the effort. I will be sending out a letter asking Howard University officials to consider a marker for the park whose site is now part of the campus. We'll keep you posted.
- XI Postage contribution by Bill Keller; thank you.
- XII RFK Stadium in Washington is in the news too. The Redskins of the NFL want a new domed facility. Gordon Thomas has some articles of interest on the place and he gave me a copy. RFK was home of the Senators for a decade. If you want a copy of the materials, send me a SASE for 39¢.
- XIII Polo Grounds one-page seating plan with football layout, available for SASE of one stamp. This article given to me by SABR member John Pyros.

(3) SABR Ballparks 4-1-88

- XIV Braves Field and the Boston Braves, especially the 1948 pennant winners, will be honored with a day-long series of events on Saturday, August 6. A marker, ceremony, films and special Braves exhibit, research papers on the park and team, and, maybe, a New England regional meeting are all in the works. Specific details are coming. Meanwhile, mark that day on your calendar. Dick Johnson of the New England Sports Museum (a SABR/Ballparks Committee person) is directing the activity. SABR, Boston University, and the Sports Museum are the sponsors.
- XV Milwaukee Area Parks and Arenas is the subject of a major research project of committee member Jim Nitz. He and his research group hope to publish something in the fall. For more details, contact him at: 4440 N. 147th Street, Brookfield, WI 53005.
- XVI Class C Parks of the Can/Amer League (1936-1951) is a project of David Pietrusza, 48 Jay Street, Amsterdam, NY 12010. (518) 843-2462. A list of his parks, stats listed and needed, follows. How about the line distances for that place in Oswego! Call or write David if you can assist.

BALLPARKS

CITY	BALLPARK	LF	CF	RF	CAPACITY*
AMSTERDAM	Mohawk Mills Park	279	406	309	3,200
AUBURN	Falcon Park	330	409	335	2,200
BROCKVILLE	Fulford Field	?	?	?	2,000
CORNWALL	Cornwall Ath. Grds.	360	407	400	3,000
G'VILLE-J'TOWN	Glovers Park	330	405	330	3,000
KINGSTON	Deetz Stadium	?	?	?	3,000
OGDENSBURG	Winter Park	?	?	?	1,800
ONEONTA	Neahwa Park	337	403	341	3,000
OSWEGO	Otis Field	550	585	428	2,000
OTTAWA	Lansdowne Park	?	?	?	10,000
PERTH	Perth park	?	?	?	1,500
PITTSFIELD	Wahconah Park	352	362	333	4,000
QUEBEC	Municipal Stadium	317	372	317	7,500
ROME	Colonels Park	360	380	320	3,500
SCHENECTADY	McNearney Stadium	320	390	320	5,000
SMITHS FALLS	Can. Pacific Rec. Fd.	270	410	400	2,500
THREE RIVERS	Municipal Stadium	317	372	317	6,000
UTICA	Braves Field	389	503	400	5,000
WATERTOWN	Fair Grounds Park	300	350	300	3,000

* -- Maximum capacity; capacities were often smaller when park opened.

- XVII South End Grounds, home of the NL Boston Braves from the 1870s until the opening of Braves Field in 1915, had a second deck and ornate main grandstand. It burned in 1894 and was not replaced in the same style. When did the park achieve its 1894 appearance and when did it get that second deck? If you know, write me or Phil Bergen, Bostonian Society, 206 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02106.
- XVIII The First Foul Poles, dugouts, and other modern attributes of the ballpark...when and where did they first appear? Dick Miller, a veteran research of the old park scene, is looking for this info. If you have any idea on these or other facets of parks for that age, write Dick at 2770 Observatory Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45208.
- XIX Atlanta and its Fulton Co. Stadium is in the news. It seems that there is a movement by the Falcons to build something larger with a dome. Gary Hendricks of the Atlanta Journal & Constitution called last week and we chatted on the proliferation of new stadia proposals. I keep citing three main articles: Wall Street Journal of 3-20-87; Insight Magazine "Stadiamania" of 9-21-87; and Newsweek of 12-28-87. If you know of other good resources on the general topic of today's stadia planning/building boom, let me know. Also, send along any pertinent articles or info as this seems to be a very common topic.
- XX The new Comiskey Park? and other recently built or planned baseball facilities.... illustrations/photos copies available for a SASE of 56¢. These come to us via Chicago White Sox PR man Doak Ewing. We had a nice chat as he tried to explain the rationale behind the "big move" from Comiskey. He also has a side-business for old sports films if anyone is interested.
- XXI Photos (8 by 10s) of Ballparks Anyone have any? John Misner of 59 Woodland Drive, West Patterson, NJ 07424, is requesting some. Write him if you can be of assistance.
- XXII Nicollet Park, Minneapolis, will be the subject of a booklet issued at the SABR annual meeting. Another reason for attending!
- XXIII SABR Panel For the annual meeting in Minneapolis, how about a panel of people representing organizations trying to save or honor old parks. The "Save Our Sox" and Tiger Stadium Fan Club are two good ones for a start. The Crosley Field project people are reluctant to participate until their work is finished. Any other ideas?

That should do it for now. Keep those cards and letters coming! Any suggestions for our committee meeting in Minneapolis are most welcome.