

October 6, 1987

244 N. Oxford Street  
San Angelo, TX 76901

Dear Ballparks Committee Member:

Time for another update on various ballpark happenings and info:

I Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama, as many of you know, had its final game recently, and the attention that is turning to the nation's second oldest professional baseball park is producing a fair amount of clippings. Thus far I have a NY Times article, one from the Boston Herald, another from the Richmond Times-Dispatch, and a magazine piece from the Atlanta Constitution/Journal. If you want copies of all, send a SASE with 90¢.

Gordon Thomas of Alexandria, VA, had written about any efforts to save, preserve, or designate as a landmark, this park. Has anyone seen anything worth reporting? The Barons, sad to say, are moving to a new stadium in the suburbs.

III Insight Magazine, published at 3600 New York Ave., NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, had an excellent article in its September 21 issue on "Stadiamania" by John Holmes, outlining the explosion of stadia building and proposing by cities wanting to be "big league." I recommend having this for your research collection as it has some good color photos. Write them for a copy. SABR and several ballpark committee people are quoted.

III Bush Stadium in Indianapolis is the site chosen by that film company to shoot "Eight Men Out" according to member Jim Peters. They have a long list of souvenirs including some fine postcards. A minimum order is required. For info, write the club at 1501 West 16th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202 (317) 632-5371. I have about ten extra postcards of the WPA era park that I will be happy to trade with people.

IV San Antonio Express-News did a story recently on yours truly and SABR ballpark activity. It features one of the meaner looking pictures of your chairman, so for a copy and a good laugh, send a SASE with 22¢.

V Congratulations to member Ray Medeiros whose Ballparks Bulletin was featured in a number of newspapers including the Chicago Tribune. If you are not getting this bi-monthly production, your missing out on some good stuff. Write Ray at PO Box 10, Wauna, WA 98395.

VI The Meadowlands in NJ as a site for future baseball/stadium and a site that breeds cancer for football players from Giants Stadium? Several articles available for SASE and 37¢.

2. SABR-Ballparks 10-6-87

- VII Address Change Jim Peters now at 2854 West Leland, Chicago, IL 60625
- VIII New member Welcome to Michael E. Dempsey, 123B West Thames, Norwich, CT 06360, (203) 887-5694. He is interested in all types of parks with a special interest in photos.
- IX Little League history...anyone interested in this area? If so, write Carl Scheele, Curator, Division of Community Life, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560. Carl needs the help of someone with some expertise in this area.
- X Encyclopædia of North American Ballparks is the working title of a book that Michael Benson hopes to write by the fall of next year. Obviously this man has yet to digest Green Cathedrals, but maybe there is more to it than that. Anyhow, if you would like to assist him, write him at 324 East 19th Street #2D, New York, NY 10003 (212) 529-1423.
- XI Rickwood Field and War Memorial Stadium (Buffalo) are among the parks for which Jim Brown has items for sale or trade. Photos, programs, ticket stubs, last-day stuff, etc. Good for research or collection. Write him at Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS 39174.
- XII Copies of the following available

1. "Philadelphia's Giant Grandstand" from 10-08-13 Baseball Mag.
2. "Prosperity in Pawtucket" on PawSox and McCoy Stadium
3. Boston Globe article, "Modify Fenway and the Sox will Win"
4. Capsule stories on Reds/Crosley/Palace of the Fans
5. Story on Wrigley Field Bleachers, 50th Anniv.
6. Story on new stadium for Baltimore?

22¢ SASE for one; 56¢ for all

- XIII The New American Baseball Stadium is the topic of a project by John Eisenhart, 318 E. Jefferson, Apt. 3, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, (313) 663-1248. John is a graduate student of architecture at the Univ. of MI and he is conducting research of major league park design--past and present--that will assist his above named project. John seems most sympathetic to the ills that modern stadia have produced and he says he wants see where they went wrong. Sounds like the Bess Stadia Project again. Please write John if you can help with suggestions, stadia plans, photos, etc. More as his work develops.

3. SABR-Ballparks 10-6-87

- XIV More Research into Old Stadiums by Professor Frank Wilson of Bowdoin College, Sociology Dept., Brunswick, ME 04011. Frank is interested in the relationship of parks/stadiums to the neighborhood, land use, ecological effect of stadia, why parks are put where they end up, neighborhood and stadia identity, and he would like to talk with anyone who has seen most of the current (and past) crop of parks. His number is (office): (207) 725-3756. More as his work develops.
- XV Model Making of old parks by Bruce Genther, 15835 Hayhes Road, Laurel, MD 20707. Bruce has done very accurate models of many classic parks . For more information, contact him.
- XVI Congratulations to Dick Johnson of our committee and his New England Sports Museum that has received great publicity upon its opening and first year activities.
- XVII Ebbets Field recently marked the 30th anniversary (I refuse to say celebrated) of its last game, September 24, 1957. Pass along any good clippings you come across. Was there any activity to mark this event in Brooklyn?
- XVIII Correspondence for the July-September Quarter is at the usual high level: 74 letters and cards received; 79 sent. Keep the stuff coming and send along anything you would like to make available to other committee members.

That should do it for now.

