

MINOR LEAGUE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER,
JULY, 1990, VOLUME 4, NO. 2

MINOR LEAGUE: TWO TRIPLE PLAYS IN SAME GAME
Courtesy of Arnold Springer's research

April 23, 1903: Butte of the Pacific National League converts two triple plays at Los Angeles. The plays went Reilley to Hillingsworth to Messerly and Reilly to Messerly.

June 4, 1904: Toledo at Kansas City in the American Association. The plays went Lowe to Ryan and Lowe to Sullivan.

June 14, 1905: Also at Kansas City. Kansas City executed 2 triple plays.

April 24, 1911: In a 9 inning exhibition game between Grand Rapids of the Central League and Battle Creek of the Southern Michigan League each team executed a triple play. The Grand Rapids catcher grabbed a bunt in the air then runners were thrown out at second and first. Battle Creek executed theirs on a line drive to the shortstop. The remaining outs were at third and first base.

Much has transpired in the past months. Included is a copy of the Minor League History project and the annual report. I hope that they both summerize the committee and committee chairman's activities. Initial response to the publications project was disappointing. We tried to become more commercial and no one would let us. Notice of the availability of the materials to the minor league clubs was nearly three months late do to the changes in our front office. We hope that inspite of the delay, subsequent notice this fall will lead to the project's success. We hope that it will create a new audience for the material produced by our committee.

We have completed the Index of Minor League Researchers. The Index includes 197 at the present time. It been a useful tool for work on Minor League Stars III. We are discussing the best means for making the index available to interested members. It is constantly changing.

We are hoping that MLSIII will be included as part of the publication schedule for 1991. Research for the new Minor League Stars is almost complete. My contribution, like many other committee members throughout the country, has been tracking down Willie Ludolph's, and Dave Altizer's performances in the Dakota League of the 1920's. Mike Cantillion put minor league baseball into several railroad towns in every part of Eastern South Dakota. The search has been quite tedious but at the same time quite interesting.

The cost per volume for the first two MLS was nearly \$15,000. Let us hope that somewhere in the editorial budget there is room for the volume 3 of the most successful SABR publication to date.

A reunion of all those interested in the Evangeline League Memorabilia Society was held April 28, at the Nicholls State University in Thibodeaux, Louisiana. The Memorabilia Society is opened to any SABR member. The society is trying to contact as many players, managers, umpires, etc., who were involved in the league. There are no dues, meetings or elections. The only requirement is being interested in preserving the memory of a now 33 year defunct baseball circuit which contributed much to minor league history. If you are interested in joining the society you may contact minor league committee member, Art Schott, 459 Jewel St, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70124, or Carroll Chauvin, 2701 Hudson Place, New Orleans, 70131.

The May, 1990 issue of the Arizona Highways magazine includes, "The First Cactus League", an article on the Class D Arizona State League by Jeb Rosebrook.

Several committee members have asked that we mention the fine reproduction work of minor league uniforms, being done by Ebbets Field Flannels. The 1955 San Francisco Seals' hat is quite similar to the Sioux Falls Soos' hat of the 1920 Dakota League. They also hold up during a full season of rains and windy weather on the Great Plains.

Northern League Exhibits:

The Depot Museum of the St. Louis County Heritage Center in Duluth, Minnesota has completed an exhibit on the Duluth Dukes. KDSE public television in Duluth is currently producing a video history of the league.

The St. Cloud Rox. Minor League. Major Dream is on exhibit by the Stearns County Historical Society at the Heritage Center Museum in St. Cloud, Minnesota. The exhibit opened in May and will be on display until May, 1992. Minor league committee member, Jim Poff served as historical consultant for the exhibit.

1990 MINOR LEAGUE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The minor league committee has currently 127 active members. As SABR's largest committee we continue to carry out the documentation of the minor leagues' activities. We are currently carrying out various projects.

In the past year the committee completed an Index of Minor League Researchers. The data base is being used to locate researchers for our work on Volume III of Minor League Baseball Stars. Each researcher's file includes completed research and publications and current interests and projects.

We have assisted in providing information for publications concerning the minor leagues.

We are nearing the completion of the selection of candidates and compilation of statistics for Volume III of Minor League Baseball Stars. Bob Hoie, Bob McConnell, and Bob Hoie, veterans of the first two volumes and possessors of the essential yearly guides, are coordinating the compilations of statistics. The tradition of involving many of the new members of our committee in the compilation has been quite successful. They have contributed many hours of volunteer work pursuing small town newspapers in our attempts at completing the most thorough documentation possible. The quality of the new members' work has been quite excellent. Bob Davids will once again provide the commentary for Volume III. This is not part of the editorial process of SABR.

This past spring, after several years of discussion and work, the minor league committee made available to the individual minor league teams and the publications that cover the minor leagues a series of historical works, entitled Minor League History. The historical works include materials from SABR publications and work either developed or made available to the committee by our members. Full utilization by the minor league teams for use in their publications will take place prior to the 1991 season. We believe that this project is the best possible method to decimate the work of our committee, to encourage the continuation of research on the Minor Leagues, and to provide recognition and support for the researchers of the Minor Leagues.

The committee has also developed material for use in radio broadcasts. Magic Moments in Minor League History will highlight special events and personalities in Minor League History. The 146 programs are in need of corporate sponsorship at the present time to aid in their completion and dissemination to the minor league teams. The programs will be made available to radio stations that broadcast and cover minor league games for use in their daily radio coverage, pregame and post game shows.

Arnold Springer, a long time SABR member, developed material for This Date In Minor League History several years ago. Minor League committee member, Lloyd Johnson is currently updating and transferring the material to a database for use in future projects. The material is currently being featured in Baseball News, the official publication of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues.

The National Association has been quite supportive of our research efforts in the past year. Our committee hopes that in the future we may work closely with the National Association in completing many minor league historical works.

The minor league committee is in the process of securing the work of Vernon Luse, a long time member and chairman. We hope to carry on the work in various subjects of Minor League history begun by Vern.

For the next year David Kemp will continue as the committee chairman. Jim Sumner will take over committee newsletter responsibilities in August of 1990. Kemp will continue production and distribution's responsibilities.

MINOR LEAGUE HISTORY

Articles available from the Minor League Committee of the Society For American Baseball Research

- TNP-83 001 All Time Season Records, Minor League Baseball Stars I ✓
 002 Annual Minor League Home Run Leaders, Minor League Stars II ✓
 003 The Ballad of Old Bill Williams, by Dr. Lucien Stark ✓
 004 Ballparks In The Bushes - Some Awards, by Jim Brown ✓
 005 Baseball Parks and Home Run Marks, Minor League Stars I ✓
 006 Batting Average During Hitting Streaks, Minor League Stars II ✓
 BRJ-86 007 Bitter Inter-City Rivalry Died When Twins Arrived, by Stew Thornley ✓
 MLH 112 008 The 1902 Charlotte Hornets, by Jim Sumner ✓
 009 Chattanooga's Engel Stadium, by Jim Brown ✓
 010 1905 Cotton States League - Class D, by Vern Luse OK
 TNP-82 011 Double Joe Dwyer: A Life In The Bushes, by Gerald Tomlinson ✓
 012 1884 Eastern League of Professional Baseball Clubs, by Vern Luse ✓
 BRJ-82 013 The Evangeline League Scandal of 1946, by George W. Hilton ✓
 MLH 115 014 The Evolution of Minor League Classifications, by Vern Luse OK
 TNP 118 015 The Farm System, by Bob Hoie ✓
 BRJ-79 016 The First Negro In 20th Century Organized Ball (Jimmy Claxton, P.C.L.), by William Weiss ✓
 BRJ-77 017 The 1920-25 Fort Worth Panthers, by Vern Luse ✓
 MLH 115 018 Give Them an "E" For Effort, The Lone Class-E League Ever, by John Herbold ✓
 MLH 115 019 The Granite Falls Graniteers - The Worst Team Ever, by Jim Sumner OK
 020 Great Pitching-Hitting Combinations, Minor League Stars I ✓
 021 Have Toe-Plate, Will Travel ✓
 MLH 112 022 Heroes of the Mid-Atlantic League, by Stan Grosshandler OK
 BRJ 112 023 Integration of Baseball After World War II, by Merl Kleinknecht ✓
 BRJ-83 024 Jack Bentley's Sad Tale: Victim of Circumstances, by Ralph Graber ✓
 BRJ-86 025 Joe Hauser-Home Run King, by Stew Thornley ✓
 MLH 115 026 Millers Topped Minors In Odd Protested Games, by Stew Thornley ✓
 BRJ-84 027 The Mysterious Malquist: The Best Batting Average, by David Kemp ✓
 MLH 112 028 Minor Leaguers Who Chose the Gridiron, by Bob Lemke ✓
 BRJ-87 029 The Newark Bears, by Randolph Linthurst ✓
 BRJ 75 030 Nick Cullip. Minor League Great, by L. Robert Davis ✓
 1986 Convention 031 Nicollet Park, 1896-1955, by Stew Thornley ✓
 032 The North Carolina State Professional Baseball League of 1902, by Jim Sumner ✓
 MLH 115 033 1953 Northern League Home Run Frequency, by Arthur Schott ✓
 034 The Old and the New: Two Southern League Ballparks in Alabama, by Jim Brown ✓
 BRJ-82 035 Only A Memory: A Look at A Few Historic Minor League Ball Parks, by Ralph Graber ✓
 BRJ-84 036 Quebec Loop Broke Color Line in 1935, by Merritt Clifton ✓
 BRJ-79 037 "Riverside-Ensenada-Porterville," An All-Negro Minor League Team (Southwest International League), by Bob Hoie ✓
 038 The Texas Baseball League - 1888, by Vern Luse ✓
 BRJ-86 039 Too Good In Minors To Manage in Majors! (Ben Geraghty), by Randolph Linthurst ✓
 040 The Top Minor League Players, Minor League Baseball Stars II ✓
 041 The Top Ten: Batting and Pitching Career Leaders, Minor League Baseball Stars I ✓
 BRJ-87 042 20th Century Minor League Batting Champions, by John Spalding ✓
 043 20th Century Minor League Single Season 30 Game Winners, by Dick Thompson ✓
 MLH 115 044 A Vote For Dunn's Orioles (best minor league team), by Al Kermisch ✓
 BRJ 77 045 Waltzing Across Texas: Five Texas League Parks in Five Nights, by Jim Brown ✓
 MLH 115 046 William G. Bramham: The Czar of Minor League Baseball, by Jim Sumner ✓