

SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

January-March 1995

© SABR Ballparks
Committee

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I NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to our committee:

Andrew Dresdner All levels after 1900; working on urban plan-
2822 N. Frederick ing & architecture thesis for Milwaukee ball-
Milwaukee, WI 53211 park and seeks assistance. Send me SASE for
summary of his project.

Michael Trabert All levels after 1900; Jacobs Field; reasons
7248 Thorncliffe Blvd. why some parks are enjoyed more than others.
Parma, OH 44134

Ray Miller Major lg. parks; photos/postcards; has idea for
32 Farrin Street "oral history" for the old parks; producing a
Bath, ME 04530 series of "then & now" shots.

Please send a greeting to any of these new members if you see areas of common interest. For a SASE of 32¢ we will send a copy of any member's survey form if you seek more information.

II VOTE! An upcoming issue of the SABR Bulletin will have the candidates for SABR President, Treasurer, and Board Member. Cast thy ballot and help direct the Society to even better days!

III COMMITTEE NINETEENTH CENTURY PARKS PROJECT

Project chairman Bob Bailey has relocated to 121 South Drive, Newtown PA 18940, (215) 504-0345 at home and 638-2273 for home with the fax at 638-5332. Progress continues with essays received on Phila., Columbus, Richmond, St. Louis, and Cleveland. Twenty cities remain untouched with two (Wheeling and NYC) already having info available to get started. We have received some publication interest, so if this project can reach completion, we may see the results in print! Keep the progress going! Contact Bob if you would like to help.

IV COMMITTEE MINOR LEAGUE PARKS PROJECT

Interest continues in compiling a definitive list of all minor lg. parks ever used! Ted Lukacs has heard from a number of members and has received much material from Gordon Brown and Mike Dempsey. To get involved--especially if you have a state or region already covered--contact Ted at 5617 Open Sky, Columbia, MD 21044.

V PITTSBURGH CONVENTION, with or without baseball, takes place in June. I'll have full details for our business meeting in the Apr-May issue. Meanwhile, if you have an issue you want discussed, contact me so we can place it on the agenda.

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VI RESEARCH REQUESTS & RELATED NEWS

1. Matt Michael of the Syracuse Post-Standard called several times in February as someone offered to fund the biggest share of a new facility in that city. Did anyone see his story?
2. No word yet on the marker for the South End Grounds in Boston. The plan was to have it ready by Opening Day. Anyone read any news on this in the local papers?
3. Congratulations to committee member Phil Gruen of Chicago who completed his master's thesis, "The Festival Ballparks: Baseball and the New Image of the Center City." Phil kindly donated a copy of his work to our committee.
4. John Mallander of 4436 15th Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55407-3649, raises an interesting questions: is there a central source for info regarding the parks having their last season in the minor lgs. year-to year. Please contact him if you can assist.
5. Allen Schaffer, 6104 Pershing Avenue, 2A, St. Louis, MO 63112, a student at Washington University, seeks to take the current trends in urban parks and create a ballpark in downtown Akron, OH, for the AA franchise there. He welcomes assistance/advice. We have a summary of his project for a SASE of 32¢.
6. Craig Nelson at Box 2869, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, has a thesis proposal, "Bringing Baseball Back to the City: Camden Yards in Baltimore and America's New Urban Landscape." He welcomes assistance/advice. SASE of 32¢ for summary.
7. Michelle Hiskey of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution called in March to discuss the new stadium in Atlanta and its place in the recent architectural trends. Watch for her articles if you live in the region. She can be reached at the paper at Olympics Dept., 8th Floor, PO Box 4689, Atlanta, GA 30302.
8. David Allen of the University of Pittsburgh is researching the "Twilight of Forbes Field," and is looking at the post-1950 era of the classic parks and the factors that led to their demise. Contact him at 258 No. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, if you can assist.
9. Karry Keane of 122 Hall Street, Raynham, MA 02767, is helping organize an effort to get a marker erected in Providence, RI, at the site of Melrose Park, where Babe Ruth played his games in 1914. If you have suggestions for fundraising or if you wish to make a contribution, please contact him. We have a copy of his one-page report for a SASE.
10. Amanda Bennett, PO Box 33293, Indialantic, FL 32903, seeks info/materials for a course she is teaching on baseball history for elementary/junior hs students.

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11. Mike Harrington of 1450 So. Lincoln Road, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858, seeks info/references on minor lg. teams that have played in MI. He also seeks info on Detroit's Recreation Park, home of the Wolverines in the 1880s.
12. Joe Dittmar of 3112 Hayes Road, Norristown, PA 19403-4018, has some high-quality ballparks photos and is willing to trade photocopies of his for the same of others. Contact him if you would like to trade.
13. Bigelow Field, Home of the Jets, was located in Dayton, OH, or so people say! The local reference librarian seeks info on its exact location. We'll send a photo copy of the place if you think you can place the ballpark. If you have an answer contact Suzanne Gourlie, Reference Librarian, Wright Memorial Public Library, 1776 Far Hills Avenue, Dayton, OH 45419.
14. David Vincent seeks info on the park(s) for Brooklyn of the AA in 1890; for NY of the NL in 1876; and the Sunday games locations for the Boston teams in the 20s/30s. Contact him at 2942 Marsala Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22192.
15. A producer for television programming called asking for good modern shots, preferably inside of the newer parks and some of the classic ones. Call Peter Wanet at 516 656-2433 if you have something fantastic to offer!
16. Mike Dempsey will soon be "on the road" again in search of old, lost, and/or forgotten minor league ballparks. His itinerary includes sites in NJ, PA, MD, NC, VA, TN, KY, WV, & NY. I'll send a copy of his list no charge to anyone who wants it. Contact Mike at 1564 Glasgo Road, Box 99, Voluntown, CT 06384, if you can lend assistance.
17. Mark Pollak, One East Highfield Road, Baltimore, MD 21218, seeks info on the parks for certain teams that claimed major league status. He welcomes help with the following teams:
 - Binghampton Crickets, Troy in 1877, League Alliance
 - " " " " , Hartford '78, Internat'l Assoc.
 - New Boston, Quicksteps, 1881, East'n Chap'ship Assoc.
 - Toledo Swamp Angels (1894-5) & St. Joseph Rough Riders (1898) of the Western League
 - Mexican League (1946) entries of Monterrey Industriales, Neuva Laredo Tecolontes, Puebla Angeles, San Luis Potosi, & Torreon Union Laguna.
 - Southern Lg. of Colored Baseballists (1886) all teams
 - League of Colored Baseball Clubs (1887) all teams
 - Southern Negro League (1920) Pensacola Giants
 - Negro Southern League (1926) Albany Giants
 - US Baseball Lg (1945) for Phila. Hilldales, Detroit Motor City Giants, Pitt. Crawfords
 - Negro Southern League (1945) for Knoxville Grays & Little Rock Travellers.

We thank Mark for sending us some wonderful material of his research on teams/cities/playing fields "claiming major league status."

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VII MAJOR LEAGUE NEWS

1. More info on the Boston "Megaplex" development as the NFL shows its support and the state legislature proposes a stadium committee (4 pgs)
2. SF Candlestick Park needs money for renovations, so the name may be for sale! (3 pgs)
3. Cubs are sued over wheelchair access at Wrigley(1 pg)
4. Cubs & Sox attempt to bring back fans with special deals and ticket prices, Crain's 12-12-94 (1 pg)
5. Sportsman's Park gets a new marker/sign. Post-Dispatch (1 pg)
6. Task force established to study new downtown park for Seattle as team lease runs out in 1996 at Kingdome, AP (1 pg) 1-11-95
7. Plans for Phoenix, AZ expansion team and park, AP 1-11-95 (1 pg)
8. Marge Schott rejects latest idea for new Reds park, AP 1-4-95 (1pg)
9. Plans released for new Atlanta park; Structure taking shape misc. clippings (4 pgs)
10. Tax sought to pay for renovation of Cleveland Stadium and other projects; outline on proposals for Cleveland. (6 pgs) Jan/95
11. NFL players prefer grass fields; many of the best are also AL & NL parks, USA Today, 1-30-95 (1 pg)
12. Study in Montreal shows that future problems could occur with retractable dome. TSN 12-26-94 (1 pg)
13. Seattle has asked the AL permission to reduce most of the Kingdome's fences to eight feet; major barriers not to change.
14. Despite financial problems, talks continue on a new "old-style" park for the CA Angels.
15. The Red Sox GM says the team will have to leave Fenway within ten years.
16. LA Dodgers plan to charge 1958 prices for "replacement" player games: \$3.50, \$2.50, \$1.50, \$.75. Most teams are offering reduced ticket prices and special deals.(TSN)
17. More plans, counter-plans, intrigue, denials, etc. with the Yankee and their future at the Stadium. Also, a piece saying why the Yankees would not move. \$1.00 for the small batch; \$2.50 for a full roster of clippings.
18. With the Blue Jays forced to play at 6218 seat Dunedin Stadium, it is said that this will be the smallest park for regular season games since the Brooklyn team at Washington Park in 1890. Can anyone confirm/refute that?
19. A new park for the Pirates may be located at one of two sites: adjacent to Three Rivers or downtown. (TSN 2-27-95)
20. Coors Field nears completion! Send \$1.00 for a press release photocopy of the ticket brochure, and other materials, including latest newsletter from Stadium Authority.
21. Our man in Milwaukee, Jim Nitz, sent us a large batch of clipping on the very-slowly moving stadium situation. The club now wants a retractable dome, located on the parking lot of County Stadium. \$1.00 for a small batch of clippings; \$2.50 for a full batch!

COPIES OF ARTICLES ARE 6¢ each. Postage is 32¢ for the first five pages and 23¢ for additional sets of five pages. Extra donations, stamps, etc welcome!!! If no info is given on a number of pages, assume it is a single page.

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VIII MINOR LEAGUE ARTICLES & NEWS

1. Pennington Gap, VA, World's Largest Enclosed Ballpark, Kingsport Times-News 7-18-86 (2 pgs)
2. More articles on new Yankees Spring Training Home in Tampa (9 pgs)
3. Upgrading of FL Spring Training Parks, TSN, 1-18-64 (2 pgs)
4. Several stories on Sulphur Dell, TN (3 pgs)
5. Pilot Field, Buffalo, to lose its name, AP 2-21-95 (1 pg)
6. Local Group Buys New Orleans Zephyrs, Times-Picayune, 1-30-95 (2 pgs)
7. Kane Co. Cougars Can't Buy Stadium, Crain's 12-5-94 (1 pg)
8. Space Coast Stadium in Verna, FL, just a year old and it already needs repairs! AP 1-10-95 (1 pg)
9. Bush Stadium in Indianapolis, IN, planning last year events for old park, press release (2 pgs).
10. Photo of day care service at Class D FL State Lg. Park! (1 pg) 1952!
11. Improvements to Houston's Buff Stadium, TSN, 5-16-46 (1 pg)
12. The RF short porches at Nicollet and Dell, TSN, 5-28-52 (1 pg)
13. PCL parks not up to major league standards, TSN, 5-21-52 (3 pgs)
14. Oklahoma City to build park and downtown complex, Dallas Morn. News, 3-5-95 (2 pgs)
15. 1917 Atlanta Crackers, Journal-Constitution, 4-10-60 (3 pgs)
16. Improvements to Atlanta Crackers park, TSN 4-30-52 (1 pg)
17. Improvements to Missions park in San Antonio, TSN 11-3-46 (1 pg)
18. New park for Allentown in Cardinals system, TSN 12-11-46 (1 pg)
19. Phoenix Firebirds sign new lease for park, AP 1-13-95 (1 pg)
20. Fresno, CA, attempting to build new stadium and catch AAA team. Selections from their tabloid (5 pgs)
21. New Havana Stadium Opened, TSN 11-6-46 (1 pg)
22. Labor Dispute has club execs working, TSN on SF, CA (1 pg) 5-2-46
23. Yankees Seek Bids to Raze Newark Stadium, TSN, 10-22-52
24. Akron/Canton agree to new lease, Beacon-Journal, 12-20-94 (1 pg)
25. More TSN Pieces
 - a) Yokohama, Japan park dedicated to Gehrig 5-9-46
 - b) Mexico City plans \$2,000,000 park 3-24-46
 - c) New San Diego park for '47 5-9-46 & 2-21-46
 - d) Fire and Rebuilding of Amarillo, TX park, 7-9 & 7-23 1952
 - e) Cedar Rapids, IA to get new park in '47 4-4-46
 - f) SD park closed due to termites! 5-14-52
 - g) Clinton, NC park burns, 6-5-46
 - h) Shorter fences in Houston, 11-19-52
 - i) Wilmington, DE park used as winter skating rink, 1-16-52
26. AA Park fence distances for 1937 from TSN in SABR Minor Lg. Newslette

DONATIONS

Committee members often donate a few stamps or extra funds when requesting articles, and it is greatly appreciated. Special thanks this time go to Bruce Genther, John Kaup, Don Spoon, Ken Hodges, & Ralph Graber for their generous contributions to our committee postage fund.

IX MAJOR LEAGUE ARTICLES

1. "Modern Stadium Would Not Slow Ruth," changes in old/new Yankee Stadium, USA Today BB Weekly, 1-25/2-7 1995 (1 pg)
2. "Megaplex, One man's Stadium is another's dinosaur," Boston Globe, 3-12-95 (2 pgs)
3. Model maker of old parks, local PA paper, 2-7-95 (2 pgs)
4. Profile of Diamonds and author Mike Gershman, Westport News, 4-1-94 (2 pgs) Mike is a committee member.
5. Several TSN April-46 articles on renovations to Yankee Std. (3 pgs)
6. "Playing Ball in Pittsburgh," why the team will not move, Pittsburgh, Dec. 94 (9 pgs).
7. Photo of homes built inside abandoned Osaka, Japan park!
8. "Three Rivers: The Stadium that is--and never was," Pitts. City Paper, January 19-25, 1994 (3 pgs).
9. New Stadium for Pittsburgh, TSN, 2-23-63 (1 pg)
10. "Throwaway America Discards its stadiums," Asbury Park, NJ Press, 12-11-94 (1 pg)
11. Cities Rethink Public Subsidies for Sports," Chris. Sci. Mont. 12-5-94 (1 pg)
12. Changes requested in Washington & Detroit parks, Cleve Plain-Dealer, 9-27-08 (1 pg)
13. Man has attended 12 ballpark openers, SCD, 12-30-94 (2 pgs)
14. Cartoon/history of Milw. Borchert Field, '47 Program, (1 pg)
15. "Stadium articles spark reader reactions," several SABR/Committee people quoted, SCD, 1-6-95 (3 pgs)
16. Study of Winds at SF Candlestick, TSN, 7-6-63 (1 pg)
17. New Atlanta Stadium on Schedule, TSN, 6-22-63 (1 pg)
18. Overhaul of Crosley Studied, TSN, 7-18-64 (1 pg)
19. Griffin Stadium expands by 10,000 seats, TSN, 7-17-46 (1 pg)
20. Plans to fix up Forbes Field, TSN, 8-14 & 9-25 1946, (1 pg)
21. Improvements at Comiskey Park, TSN, 10-30-46 (1 pg)
22. Controversy on white shirt backround at Wrigley bleachers, TSN, 4-30 & 5-7 1952 (2 pgs)
23. Houston too early for big league club says St. Louis owner, TSN, 11-5-52 (1 pg)
24. New park awaiting team in Milwaukee, TSN, 11-26-52, (1 pg)
25. New Cleve owner (Veeck) abandons owner's box, TSN, 7-10-46 (1 pg)
26. von der Ahe vs. MacPhail, TSN, 5-2-46 (1 pg)
27. Misc. articles on KC Athletics/Finley/lease, TSN 1963-64 (5 pgs)
28. Various pitching mound heights, TSN, 11-27-46 (1 pg) They vary from 10 to 15 inches!
29. Team apology/story after famed "wet paint" Braves opener, TSN, 4-25-46 (1 pg)
30. Remodeling job & new ticket office at Ebbets Field, TSN, 3-28-46 and 2-20-52 (1 pg)
31. Rowdies plague Braves opener and teens riot at Forbes Field! TSN, 5-9-64
32. From the SABR Records Com. Newsletter, a list of first home runs at selected major league parks, (1 pg)
33. 7-1 Deadline for New Phila park! TSN, 5-30-64(1 pg)
34. WGN covers Cubs game from bleachers, TSN, 6-13-64 (1 pg)

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X COMMITTEE & PROJECT NEWS

1. Correction to our last newsletter item on shared facilities for baseball & football. Dr. Seth Hawkins of St. Paul, MN, reminds us that SkyDome has both the Blue Jays and the CFL Argonauts.
2. Ken Carrano reminds us that our committee photo contest is alive and well--if you want it so! There will be a flyer in the next newsletter and flyers will be distributed at the Pittsburgh convention. If you have questions, please contact Ken at 2696 Sterling Ct., Elgin, IL 60123.
3. The National Trust for Historic Preservation had run ads for a ballparks tour, but they decided to cancel the July 17-25 trip due to the uncertainties with the major league season.
4. The last 1994 issue of Current Baseball Publications of the SABR Bibliography Committee noted two books that may be of interest to ballparks researchers: Baseball's Home Towns: Teams: The Story of the Minor Leagues by Bruce Chadwick and The Beer & Whiskey League (American Assoc.) by David Nemecek. Any good ballparks material in these publications? Also, I see the book, Shadows of Summer (baseball photos 1869-1947). Has anyone seen this book?
5. Our best wishes to Ralph Graber of our committee who has survived some medical problems, retired from college teaching, and is spending his time wisely with baseball research!
6. The models of Bruce Genter of our committee have been very favorably received by the teams/owners of the parks. He is currently working on a football-only stadium.
7. John Croce of our committee has a radio show in Denver and covers sports topics. He wishes it could cover just baseball!
8. Another travel program to see ballparks: "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," is sponsored by History America TOURS (800) 628-8542. The May 9-14 tour starts in Toronto and covers Cooperstown, Binghamton, NYC, and area sites.
9. No doubt you have read about the "Sultan of Swat" conference to be held in late April at Hofstra University to mark the centennial of Ruth's birth. Numerous SABR people and some from our committee are on the program. If you attend, save any good materials for our files.
10. Congratulations go to former SABR president Dick Topp and his wife Barbara who are proud parents of baby Mary Flora, born on March 1. Dick served on our committee for many years.

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11. Lisa Pincus, a recent addition to our committee, has created quite a stir with her proposal to have Fenway Park declared some type of historic property. Members may recall a previous effort by the federal government in the late 80s. Lisa has generated a media blitz and we have some of the stories for a 32¢ SASE. If you would like to offer any advice, contact her at 10 Clearview Road, East Brunswick, NJ 08816. We remind members that our committee as well as SABR must stay somewhat "neutral" in matters political, but we can and do offer our assistance with information and guidance.
12. We received a nice note from Jack Kavanaugh who sent us a copy of the 4-13-12 story from Sporting Life that outlines a ceremony to mark the site of the old Athletics park in Philadelphia. There was a controversy several years ago with a SABR publication on old baseball sites in Philly. If you would like a copy of the story, let me know--no charge.
13. Congratulations to committee member Jim Nitz who gave a presentation on Milwaukee's Borchert Field to an area historical society. Jim noted that his talk caused quite a trip down "memory lane" for many in attendance.
14. Committee member Bill Cahill gets a salute for donating much material on baseball in Queens/Long Island to the Queens Historical Society. We have a good file on that score thanks to Bill.
15. For you photo/illustration fans we remind you of the new SABR Pictorial History Committee Newsletter. Chair Tom Shieber, also a member of this committee, is directing some excellent work in organizing photo resources in print and not. Their Jan-95 newsletter offers an index to every baseball illustration in the NY Clipper and a similar outline to the 200 photos in most of the Putnam series on teams. To get involved, contact Tom at PO Box 203, Mt. Wilson Observatory, Mt. Wilson, CA 91023
16. Thanks to many contributors, we now have a preliminary summary of ballparks in movies and television. Send a 32¢ SASE for a copy. We welcome additions to this ever-growing list.
17. Special thanks to Ernest Green who donated a number of photos from his book, The Diamonds of Dixie, to our photo collection. The book is to be published in April-1995.
18. Barry Evans of our committee developed an interesting trivia quiz involving ballparks that he presented at a recent regional meeting in Chicago. Copies available at no charge.
19. Mike Dempsey, curator of our ballparks photo collection, asks all donors to include the important info on the back of each photo donated: name, date, park & city. He has a number of photos that have no info at all! If you have donated some shots in recent years and do not recall adding that info, please contact Mike. See #16 of the Research section for address.

BOOK REVIEW
STEALING FIRST IN A TWO-TEAM TOWN
BY RICHARD C. LINDBERG
SAGAMORE PUBLISHING

REVIEWED BY KEN CARRANO

Rich Lindberg is a loyal White Sox fan. You can tell this from his latest book about the Sox, *Stealing First in a Two-Team Town*. He is also a loyal White Sox employee, and unfortunately, you can also tell this from his latest book about the Sox. As team historian, Lindberg has a great deal of information at his disposal, and he uses this information to detail the early years of the White Sox. However, he also uses the book to take some pot shots at the Chicago Cubs owners, the Tribune Company, for having too much power in baseball's ownership, when it was apparent that Jerry Reinsdorf had as much or more power than the Tribune when the strike of 1994 was becoming a reality.

Stealing First is more of a history of the creation and ownership of the White Sox, as opposed to a history of the team itself. The book, however, starts out not with Charles Comiskey bringing his Western League team from St. Paul, Minnesota to Chicago, but with what is a much more important date in the recent history of the Sox, June 30, 1988. It was on this day that then-governor James Thompson saved the White Sox for Chicago and signed the execution notice for Comiskey Park by convincing enough state legislators to approve a lodging tax to fund construction of a new stadium. This day was the end of a painful three year process for Sox fans, who survived a roller coaster of emotions not knowing where their heroes would be playing in 1989. The forces of opposition to the funding included downstate Illinois legislators who are primarily Cub or St. Louis Cardinal fans and could care less about a team that plays net to the projects on Chicago's South Side, and a group of fans who were willing to give up the team to save the stadium, with the hope that the American League would fill the vacancy. Lindberg paints a vivid detail of how Thompson, assisted by Speaker Michael Madagan and officials of the Illinois Sports Authority, were able to call in enough favors to swing the vote to yes, crushing (again) the hopes of St. Petersburg, Florida in the process.

After this, the book settles down to discuss at length Charles Comiskey and his role in helping to form the American League with Ban Johnson, the early success of the White Sox, the Black Sox scandal and Comiskey's eventual death. An interesting chapter details the formation of the White Sox Rooters Association, whose founders became Comiskey's constant companions, helping him organize the world tour (with the New York Giants) in 1913-1914, and whose hunting trips to Wisconsin became legendary.

After Charles Comiskey's death, the team was taken over by John Lewis (Lou) Comiskey, who before his untimely death in 1939 began the process of rebuilding the Sox, who had fallen on hard times after the scandal of 1919. Lou's death put in motion what would eventually be the sale of the White Sox to interests outside of the Comiskey, but not before some painful history of the acrimony between Lou's children, Dorothy and Chuck. Even though it was Chuck, as team president, along with famed general manager Frank Lane, who brought the Sox back to respectability in the early 50's, Dorothy and her mother, Grace Comiskey (Lou's widow) controlled the team and resisted every attempt by Chuck to consolidate ownership of the team. A reader here would be advised to have a note pad and

pencil ready, because the fight for total control of the Sox can get a bit confusing.

Eventually, majority ownership of the team was sold to Bill Veeck in 1959, and this team won the White Sox last AL pennant. Veeck sold the team after the 1960 campaign, after making some terrible deals that made the Sox older but not better. The new ownership, under Arthur and then John Allyn, had some competitive teams, especially in 1964 and 1967, but otherwise was generally unsuccessful. The Allyn's were the first owners to openly discuss replacement of Comiskey Park (then White Sox Park), looking at sites near downtown Chicago and also in the suburbs. At one point, Arthur Allyn tried to gain an AFL franchise for the city (to replace the Cardinals, who left for St. Louis in 1960 and played many seasons at Comiskey), so that he could build a multi-purpose stadium. The Chicago Bears effectively squashed Allyn's hopes for a Chicago AFL team, and a new stadium was not forthcoming. The Sox started playing some of their games at Milwaukee County Stadium in 1969 to help offset losses from operations, and the current Brewer owner Bud Selig nearly purchased the team for Milwaukee at this time. John Allyn was able to take full control of the team from his brother, and staved off potential purchases from Milwaukee and Seattle. Lindberg properly points out here that it was John Allyn that saved the Sox for Chicago, not Dick Allen as is regularly assumed. Bill Veeck's second tenure as White Sox owner is discussed, mainly in the context of Veeck's struggle to keep the team and his finances afloat with the new phenomena of free agency. Veeck is portrayed well by Lindberg, which is commendable considering Veeck's dislike for Lindberg's bosses.

The Reinsdorf/Einhorn era is discussed with a chapter called Crisis Years at Comiskey. The chapter contains a chronology of the events leading up to the June 30, 1988 Illinois General Assembly meeting. Lindberg, while obviously on the side of the owners in the fight for the new park, does not pull punches when news reports were critical of Reinsdorf or his partners. The book concludes with Re-inventing a Field of Dreams, the chapter that details the actual building of the stadium (briefly), its short-lived honeymoon with the media (until Camden Yards was opened), and the current White Sox team. Unfortunately, Lindberg concludes the book with some commentary on the future of the team under Reinsdorf, which follows the company line of fiscal responsibility, and also includes an implied threat of the Sox potentially moving again. The book ends with this passage - "Don't expect to see any "for sale" signs draped over the old candy store --- for now."

Overall, *Stealing First in a Two Team Town* is an excellent history of the ownership of a major league team. Many of the older American and National League clubs have ownership stories similar to this one. It would have been better, though, if someone with a little less to lose had added the commentary.

Our thanks to Ken for this summary/review of Stealing Home. We welcome other book reviews and reports on ballpark related items.

And our thanks to all who contributed items to our files. Next newsletter will be our April-May issue sent out at the end of May. Stay in touch!