

February 1, 1988

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Dear SABR Ballparks Committee Member:

My best wishes to you for the new year! Since our last newsletter there has been much activity, so let me update you in no particular order of news, events, research requests, etc:

- I Second Quarter Mail was at a high level: 74 letters received and 81 sent out. Keep in touch; I get to every letter eventually!
- II Boston Garden was profiled again in Boston Magazine in the January-88 issue. Write them at 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, for a back issue.
- III Highest Altitude Ballpark in the majors was a question I got recently. I thought it was Atlanta (1125 ft above sea level) and within a week the same question appeared in a sports column in the Dallas Morning News. Is this question making the rounds?
- IV That Newsweek Article on the stadia building craze came out in the December 28 issue, page 21. Worth a look at for you researchers.
- V Postage Contribution by Bruce Kuklick, thank you. Every bit helps.
- VI Updated SABR Research Paper Collection index is available from me. Just send a SASE for 22 cents. This is an expanded version of the one mentioned in a previous newsletter.
- VII Astrodome in Houston is being refurnished and expanded. This deal "saved" the Oilers from fleeing to some new site. Tony Lamonte sent us a clipping describing the work to take place. Send a SASE for 22 ¢ for a copy.
- VIII The Seattle Times called recently for a comment on the city's deal with a local developer on an arena building plan. I suggested some additional research people and questions they needed to examine. I recommended several Ballparks Committee people; did anyone get contacted?
- IX Metrodome Noise in Minneapolis was as loud as everyone was saying. A sidebar in the Boston Globe pegged the level at between 80 and 125 decibels, averaging 98.5 decibels for October 18. Busch Stadium on average was four times quieter. The Metrodome levels exceeded the safety levels set by OSHA (90 decibels) for many factory jobs. All of this data was reported in the Journal of the AMA.
- X For those of visiting the Babe Ruth Museum in Baltimore, don't miss the ballparks room with an exhibit on Baltimore parks, past, present, and future.

XI Baltimore's Memorial Stadium is a research subject for Bruce Genther, 15835 Haynes Rd., Laurel, MD. He is writing a history of the place and needs info and photo sources. He hopes to complete this history before the new baseball park is built by the early 1990s. Models also interest Bruce and I am enclosing an information page of his projects.

XIII Ballparks Construction and Total Area covered by the structure was a question called in by the Hughes Associates in Wheaton, MD. It seems that a new building code under consideration as a national model would affect many outdoor stadia, especially some of the classic parks. A copy of their report will be made available when they send me one.

XIII Fenway and Tiger Stadium in Danger? Unsettling news from Boston and Detroit regarding these twins (born April 20, 1912). Both parks are considering the ever expensive renovations over the next few years. A recent Sporting News blurb noted the club officials in Detroit wondering about the long-term future of the place. And in Boston, we have the same unhealthy rumors. Read the article below:



WILL McDONOUGH

Sox: new park?

Possibility is being studied

There are two chances. Slim and none. Nevertheless, there is a possibility that, down the road, the Red Sox will be looking to play their home games in a new stadium, preferably in the downtown Boston area.

"I don't want everyone to get all excited like we are thinking seriously of tearing Fenway Park down," says John Harrington, chief adviser to team owner Jean Yawkey, "but we might have to look at that possibility. It all depends on what this study says, and we will probably know that in the next couple of weeks."

About a year ago, the Red Sox commissioned a study of the venerable ballpark, asking some of the top firms in the country to inspect it for the purposes of developing a plan.

"We know the park needs a lot of structural work because it is so old," says Harrington, "but how much will have to be done and how much it will cost will be the determining factor."

If the cost of rebuilding the park, primarily involving the support systems holding up the grandstands and the roofs, approaches \$20 million, the Red Sox will face a serious decision. They would have to ask themselves if it is worth \$20 million to renovate or to put that money toward a new stadium. Then they could sell the land at Fenway Park, nearly nine acres of prime real estate, for a bundle, which also could be used

McDONOUGH, Page 39

New park for Red Sox?

It's possible if Fenway can't be renovated economically

■ McDONOUGH
Continued from Page 33
for building a stadium.

There are some major negatives. First, the fans love Fenway. Most sportswriters across the country think it is the best place to watch a baseball game. Secondly, the city of Boston, as history shows, is useless when it comes to building an arena or stadium. It is the only major city in the country that never has. But in the long run, the best deal for everyone would be for the Red Sox and Patriots to play in a modern downtown stadium. The city would realize millions of consumer dollars. The Red Sox and Patriots would be able to generate more money and, in turn, should be able to use that money to be more competitive.

- XIV Ballparks Photo Display, a project of committee member Joe Favano, continues to look promising. He asked that this announcement be included in the newsletter. Consider supporting this project for our next annual meeting in Minneapolis. Contact Joe at 21 Roosevelt Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870.

The collection of personal ballpark photos from committee members and other SABR members for convention has to this point reached a total of 31 photos. To reiterate I am looking for the following:

Personal, non-commercial photos only. 3 1/2" X 5" or smaller.
Slides accepted. NO POSTCARDS. Limit five photos per address.
Subject matter - ballpark only. NO PLAYERS NOR ACTION PHOTOS.
Credit will be given. Send photos to Joe Favano, 21 Roosevelt Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870.

The photos will become the property of the Ballpark Committee; I am merely the caretaker of the collection. In order for the collection to grow, the donated photos cannot be returned.

In addition to this ongoing display I have a second one tentatively called "SABR Goes to the Ballpark" consisting of selected photos I have from each national convention since 1981.

- XV Square Pitching Mounds? Does anyone have any recollection or information on this? If so, contact Fred Paine, 5300 Post Rd., East Greenwich, RI 02818. Also, who has the real story as to why those pathways between the mound and plate disappeared after WWII. Was there any formal rule change? When was the last one eliminated? Let me or Fred know? We have received that question before and no one ever gave a satisfactory answer.
- XVI Wisconsin Parks/Arenas, with a special interest in Milwaukee ballparks like Borchert Field, is Jim Nitz's interest. He and others working on research want eventually to get markers for Borchert and other worthy sites. Contact him at 4440 N. 147th, Brookfield, WI, 53005. Jim recently joined the committee.
- XVII 1988 Minor League Parks Calendar is another good deal. Just got mine recently from Baseball America, PO Box 2089, Durham, NC 27702. This one features parks in Huntsville, Shreveport, Harrisburg, Albuquerque, Toledo, Salem (VA), Rochester, San Diego, Columbus (OH & GA), Clinton IA, & Salt Lake UT, and several more. \$6.95
- XVIII Tiger Stadium was the park of choice over any suburban or dome stadium in a recent poll of Tiger fans. I have lost the reference for this, but if I find it, I'll pass it along in the next newsletter.
- XIX WFAA-TV in Dallas, Texas called recently asking for some baseball themes or stories that might be followed. John Pronk of the station and I chatted and I suggested that he use the centennial of the Texas League and the old parks of Dallas & Fort Worth as a starting point. I'll pass along anything that happens.

NOTE: Just found the Tiger Stadium survey: October 19, 1986 issue of Detroit News. Copy available for SASE of 22 cents.

(4) BP Committee 2-1-88

XX 1988 Convention in Minneapolis will see us having a formal Committee meeting. I plan on attending and directing the meeting, so please forward anything and everything you might have on your mind for a discussion. I would like to have a good agenda ready so we can use our time together, our only major meeting, as efficiently as possible. As the meeting date comes closer, I'll be sending out more information.

XXI Fenway Park research by Jim Kaplan looks very promising. He has divided his story into "innings" as follows:

1. A Day at Fenway
2. The Opening & Glory Years
3. The Mortgaging of Fenway and the Red Sox
4. Urban Renewal
5. Death & Rebirth
6. The Wall and the Belly
7. Has Fenway Ruined the Red Sox
8. Fenway Fans
9. Why Can't Every Park be Like Fenway?

Jim is at:
125 Warner Street
Northampton, MA
01060

XXII Cleveland Spiders (and perhaps their playing fields) is the subject of Joseph Hetrick's work, 9932 Longford Ct., Vienna, VA 22180. To refresh some baseball memories, the Cleveland franchise in the 1890s was quite sad, going 20-134 in 1899. Please contact him if you have any info. This notice was listed in a previous edition w/o Mr. Hetrick's address.

XXIII "Once Upon a Time at a Woodpile in Baltimore," a story of the pre-Memorial Stadium park, available for a SASE of 22 cents,

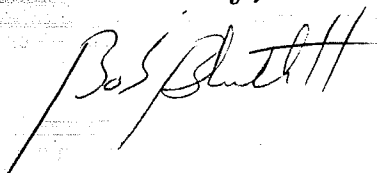
XXIV List of AL & NL Owners and misc. info on one sheet from early 1980s, available for 22 ¢ SASE. It may be somewhat out of date, but it's a nice reference sheet.

XXV History of Detroit's Parks with excellent illustrations of Bennett, Navin, and Tiger Stadium, by Mark Okkonen. From Sept. 13, 1987 Detroit Free Press. Available for 22 ¢ SASE.

XXVI BRAVES FIELD PROJECT update.....according to Dick Johnson of the NE Sports Museum, we are still looking at an early August date, maybe August 6, but nothing is official as yet. Dick hopes to have a date a preliminary program nailed down soon. A symposium on the team and park, the dedication of a marker, period films of the team, and other items are being planned. A special mailing will be sent to all Ballparks people when the final details are ready to be announced.

That's it for now, keep in touch.

Sincerely,



Sports Stadium Models Completed and Commissioned

By Bruce A. Genter, 15835 Havnes Road, Laurel, Maryland 20707

Yankee Stadium (Pre-renovation)

1"=60' scale - on display in the stadium room in The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York

Orioles Park (1911-1944)

Home of the International League Baltimore Orioles
1"=60' scale - on display in the stadium room of the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum in Baltimore, Maryland

Memorial Stadium (1954 - Present)

Home of the Major League Baltimore Orioles
1"=45' scale - on display in the stadium room of the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum in Baltimore Maryland

HarborView Stadium (proposed design)

Proposed design of a baseball only stadium for the Baltimore Orioles
1"=60' scale - on display within the executive offices of the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum in Baltimore Maryland

Connie Mack Stadium (1909 - 1970)

Home of the Philadelphia Athletics and the Philadelphia Phillies
1"=45' scale - being constructed at this time for a private collector in Beverly Hills, California. Model will detail the stadium design and all surroundings of the park which was abandoned in 1970.

Forbes Field (1909 -1970)

Home of the Pittsburg Pirates
1"=45' scale - being constructed at this time for a private collector in Beverly Hills, California. Model will detail the stadium design and all surroundings of the park which was abandoned in 1970.

Memorial Stadium (1954 - Present)

Home of the Baltimore Orioles
1"=60' scale - being constructed at this time for a private collector in Bala-Cywd, Pennsylvania. Model will detail the present stadium of the Orioles only, no surrounding detail.

Crosley Field (1909 - 1970)

Home of the Cincinnati Reds
Recent commission will be started this fall in a scale of 1"=45' for a private collector in California.

HarborSide Stadium (proposed design)

Proposed design of a multi-purpose stadium for the Baltimore Orioles and a National Football League team of the future. Scale is 1"=60"
Built for the hobby and collection of Bruce Genter.

Francis Scott Key Memorial Stadium (proposed design)

Proposed design for a football only semi-domed stadium in Baltimore Maryland. Model was completed before the Baltimore Colts left the city.