

SAER BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

March - May 1993

Robert F. Bluthardt      Committee Chairman  
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I NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these folks to our committee:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Hiroyuki Matsumoto<br>96 Kotobuki - Cho Fukaya<br>Saitama 366 JAPAN              | All parks on the majors and minors up to 1950; NY, Brooklyn, Pitts., and especially Philadelphia; has both American and Japanese/Taiwanese info and resources; he saw the Phillies clinch their 1980 Series title at the Vet. |
| Fete Easton<br>4 Avery Ct.<br>Madison, NJ 07940                                  | All levels and eras up to 1950; Chicago, Det., Phila, St. Louis, & NYC; designing a minor league park for Newark, NJ; interested in reproducing arch. drawings of ballparks.  |
| Greg Carter<br>3408 Humbolt Ave. So.<br>Minneapolis, MN 55408                    | AL & NL parks of all eras; Fenway, Polo Grounds, Nicollet (Minn) and Sicks, interested in relationship of ballpark and theatres.  |
| Bill Martel<br>1520 S. Brentwood Blvd.<br>St. Louis, MO 63144                    | NL parks of early 20th cent. Wrigley & Comiskey; working on book on "One Day in Life of Wrigley Field," manufactures ballparks-related memento items.   |
| Alan Truax<br>105 East Laurel Avenue<br>Sierra Madre, CA 91024                   | All levels from 1920 on; Fenway & Wrigley; researching Montreal's Delormier Downs; interest in summer/college leagues like Cape Cod Lg.   |
| Rickey Bailey<br>37 Edgar Street<br>E. Orange, NJ 07018                          | All levels up to 1950, especially the "forgotten parks," Researching Jersey City and Newark, NJ parks and welcome assistance; Can assist with local research.   |
| Bob Nelson<br>Rextrêw House - HRIM Prog.<br>University of DE<br>Newark, DE 19716 | All levels in post 1950 era; urban parks like Pilot Fd & Camden Yards; Riverside Stad. in Harrisburg, PA; studying ways for community to benefit from Wilmington's new minor league park; good file on new park.              |

Please welcome these new members with a note if you see areas of common interest. Our committee now covers three countries with our new man in Japan!

II CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Bill Cahill now at 91-01 Shore Road, #511, Brooklyn, NY 11209  
David Moreau now at 4217 Newton Street, Metairie, LA 70001  
Ethan Casey now could be in Thailand! Write for details.

Updated roster lists always available for a SASE of 52¢

III CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you for your cards and letters; over March - May we received 101 and sent out 114 pieces. Keep in touch!

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#### IV BOOK REPORT & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- \* Green Cathedrals is now out in paperback.
- \* Michael Gershman's book gets closer to completion. Diamonds is being published by Houghton-Mifflin early next year.
- \* Stadium for Rent by Bob Andelman recounts the Tampa Bay story and their under-used dome. 232 pgs, \$22.95.
- \* The Ballparks by Shannon & Kalinsky is back in print for \$49.95.
- \* Congrats to committee member Jim Nitz whose article on Borchert Field will be published by the Milwaukee County Historical Society. Details on date and issue later.
- \* The Stadium Newsletter of Mike Cervenka has gone to a every other month format. Contact him at 213 Lilac Street, Elburn, IL 60119 for details.
- \* Committee member Dick Johnson reviews the Fenway Park, A Pop-Up Book, in a recent issue of New England Sport. Send a SASE for a copy.
- \* Congrats to Daniel Bonk and Corey Seeman of our committee whose articles appeared in the Summer-93 issue of Pittsburg History. The entire issue is devoted to baseball (at least most of it!) and Dan's piece on Forbes Field is worth reading. Call (412) 681-5533 for ordering details.
- \* Legends Magazine will be issued to thousands of attendees at a July sports collectors meeting in Chicago and a piece on SABR and this committee will appear. Thanks to Tom Owens of the publication for the publicity.
- \* I recently spotted a cut-out model book of Fenway Park that was very impressive. You cut out the various parts and build a good looking scale model of the park. Has anyone tried this?
- \* The Ballpark by Peter Richmond (who remembers his great pieces "Doomed Stadiums" in The National?) covers "Camden Yards and the Building of an American Dream." I have been asked to review it for the journal Nine. Has anyone read it and if so, what do you think?

Please report any interesting article, book, or ballparks-related item to our attention for our committee newsletter.

#### V SEATING PLANS

1. We have many color copies of the seating plan and prices of the new Rangers Park. Send a SASE for a copy.
2. 1993 Orioles/Camden Yards ticket brochure and seating plan. B & W copies available. SASE for one or both.
3. Color photo and stats on new Cleveland Park. SASE for a copy.

If you want all three, make the SASE for 52¢ Copying free!

#### VI CONTRIBUTIONS

We thank all members who add a little extra when they request articles. We especially thank Phil Lowry, Ken Hodges, & Bruce Genther for their generous donations to the cause.

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- VII HISTORY OF BUFFALO, NY BALLPARKS has been donated to our committee by long-time researcher Joe Overfield. Thanks! For a copy of this 46-page manuscript, please send \$4.00 to cover postage & copying.
- VIII BASEBALL IN AUSTRALIA Thanks to Ira Drucker we have some information about the clubs and parks. Send \$1.00 for details.
- IX EXPOSITION PARK FOUND in Pittsburgh, PA, home of the Pirates in the late 19th and early 20th century. The park site is now covered by the parking lot of the Three Rivers Stadium. Committee member Dan Bonk was among the SABR people who did the research and found the exact site. For a copy of their outstanding report, please send \$1.25.
- X CRACKS IN COMISKEY PARK that may take \$300,000 to fix. For a copy of several articles, please send 50¢. The cracks appear on the main walkway behind the grandstand.
- XI WEEKEND IN CLEVELAND Morris Eckhouse in the SABR office notes that the local society chapter is forming a weekend event to celebrate the last year of the Stadium; see a game, take a stadium tour, and have some presentations. The dates are the September 24-26 weekend. More details at the convention!
- XII WHY NO BIRTHDAY and celebration of County Stadium in Milwaukee that marks its 40th this year. So asks committee member Tom Lazarro. I did receive a few articles outlining some of the park's history, but some fans think that the club is low-key on the 40th to keep excitement and ticket sales/commitments high for the new park. Any thoughts from our Milwaukee area friends? I suspect that the last year in County Stadium (95 or 96) will be a season-long hoopla. Just look at what has been done in Chicago and what should be happening in Cleveland and Texas.
- XIII EXHIBIT ON BALLPARKS by the Mid America Art Alliance (MAAA) is nearing conclusion and many committee members, publications, and expertise have been used. More details at the convention and in our future newsletters. This exhibit highlights ballparks architecture while focusing on several old and new parks.
- XIV ORIOLES FAN FEST will be part of the 1993 All-Star game at Camden Yards. Part of the line-up of activities will be a public symposium, "Build it Right and They Will Come: Baseball in the 1990s," set for July 12. More than 400 design professionals, media people, and baseball fans will gather and "examine the important sporting, cultural, and economic issues surrounding the design of new Major League stadiums." For more info, call Dennis Smith at (202) 626-7464.
- XV NINETEENTH CENTURY BALLPARKS PROJECT is making progress according to Bob Bailey. A draft of guidelines has been written, about ten cities have been spoken for, some submissions are expected shortly. Bob requests that people who want to contribute/assist, etc, are to contact him at 12129 Briargate Lane, Goshen, KY 40026. Our goal is to cover in a succinct, accurate, and comprehensive manner all major league cities of the nineteenth and early twentieth (pre1909) era.
- XVI NEW TEXAS PARK in Arlington, just behind the current facility, is rapidly taking shape. Impressive views can be had from the top rows of the upper level behind home plate at Arlington Stadium. Ranger programs are highlighting the park's history, various promotions are planned, and 1994 will see the team in the new place. No doubt tours and games at the new park will be a big part of the 1994 SABR convention in Dallas-Fort Worth.

XVII RESEARCH REQUESTS

LA Coliseum and the recent renovations... info sought by Bruce Genter, 15835 Haynes Road, Laurel, MD 20707.

Bruce also seeks info on Ebbets Field for his latest model project. A 1" to 45" scale model is planned. Exterior/interior photos, especially the left field facade. Ads on the OF walls would be helpful too. Send photo copies not originals of materials.

Minor league parks of Sioux City, SD, info is sought by David Kemp for an exhibit at a local museum in late June. Write him at Box 85224, Sioux Falls, SD 57118.

Photos and info on Wilkes/Barre Artillery Park (home of the Barons, 1932-55); Scranton, PA Miners 1923-52; Hazleton, PA (Eastern League 1929-38 and No. Atlantic Ig 1940s; Carbondale, PA Blues, No. Atlantic Ig in late 40s. If you have photos on these teams and their parks, write George Pawlush, 206 Taylor Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410.

Sportsman's Park in 1944, the Browns pennant winning season... info on the appearance of the park is sought for a book by Carson Van Lindt, PO Box 1682, NY, NY 10013-1682.

A model of the Boston So. End Grounds of the early 1890s before the fire of 1894 is a project of David Timmons. Color of park, seats, flags over grandstand, ads in park, etc. Write him at 18 General Pulaski Drive, Salem, NH 03079.

What happened to the various markers and outfield plaques at the old Polo Grounds. Grant, McGraw, and Matthewson had markers---anyone else? So asks Martin Hoerchner, 48 Mildmay Road, London, England N1 4NG. Martin is a No. Californian expatriate living abroad and hopes to return soon!

Please contact these members if you can be of assistance.

XVIII NEWS NOTES

1. Bruce Genter recently completed a model of Memorial Stadium in Baltimore to reflect the "what if" situation of renovation instead of Camden Yards.
2. Jim Brown spent his traditional spring training gathering ballparks material and we thank him for his donations. He now is headed north for other parks and sites. He sent a summary on ballpark postcards in Florida. For a copy, send 75¢.
3. Jim Nitz visited a snowy Chicago over the winter and sent us a few shots of the old Comiskey Park site. Jim Peters also sent us a note with a generous postage fund contribution. He noted that the park site continues to attract attention from visitors, making him wonder if something more substantial could be erected on the site.
4. The Yankees are making another rumble about moving to NJ. Send a SASE of 29¢ for two short articles. The current lease runs to the year 2002.
5. And speaking of Yankee Stadium, John Guilfoyle sent us a brochure card that outlines the stadium tour (\$6 for adults). A free photocopy for a SASE.
6. I have a few Astrodome 1993 brochures. SASE of 29¢ while they last.
7. The fans of the Brooklyn Dodgers held an 80th anniv. ceremony on the site of Ebbets Field. Also, Washington Park--now partially a playground--will be renovated. Send 50¢ for both articles outlining the news.

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XIX MINOR LEAGUE ARTICLES & NEWS

1. Wilmington, DE, has a new park and we have a Phila. Inquirer article plus special sections from the Wilmington News-Journal. \$1.25 will do it.
2. Tim McCarver Stadium in Memphis, TN was renovated for 1993. Send \$1.00 for newspaper photos, program sections, and details.
3. Ernie Shore Field in Winston-Salem, NC was renovated. 50¢ for the news.
4. New ballpark for Prince George's County, MD? \$1.00 for details.
5. History of Durham Athletic Park and plans for the new ballpark. Various newspaper articles for \$1.00
6. Frank Keetz who asked about ballparks restaurants in a recent newsletter sent us a short piece about the restaurant in Schenectady, NY. Free.
7. Work on Birmingham's Rickwood Field. Birmingham Post-Herald. March/1993 free.
8. Restoration of Auburn, CA ballpark. 40¢
9. Renovations and new enclosed seating area at Greensboro, NC War Memorial Stadium. 75¢ Francis Kinlaw notes that they are claiming that this facility is now the oldest in the minor leagues. True? Well, our March/April 1990 newsletter listed (from the Sporting News) parks in Kenosha, WI (team now gone) and Asheville, NC (park thoroughly renovated/replaced) as older. It also lists Howard Johnson Field in Johnson City, TN for 1926. Greensboro is 1927.
10. MacArthur Stadium in Syracuse, NY continues to be in the local news. Send \$1.50 for an evaluation of this older facility with some of the plans for a future ballpark. David Wright sent us these with photos of his model of the park.
11. The New Orleans Zephyrs now play at Privateer Park, a rather small facility for AAA ball. A new facility has been tied to a large sports facilities plan for New Orleans. Jay Gauthreaux sent some snapshots of the park while David Moreau and Richard Dempsey have been faithfully sending clippings. For a summary collection, send \$1.00.
12. Reading, PA has renovated its 43-year old park. Dick Kaufman sent us a 1993 team program. For a few pages of park news, send 50¢.

And from that program, here are some interesting attendance facts:

| 1992 TOP 26 MINOR LEAGUE CLUB ATTENDANCES |               |       |            |                         |
|---|---------------|-------|------------|-------------------------|
| CLUB                                      | LEAGUE        | CLASS | ATTENDANCE | POPULATION OF CITY/AREA |
| Duffie                                    | American      | AAA   | 1,117,867  | 328,323                 |
| Louisville                                | American      | AAA   | 646,958    | 269,063                 |
| Columbus                                  | International | AAA   | 583,918    | 632,910                 |
| Sarasota/W.D.                             | International | AAA   | 569,464    | 129,328                 |
| Nashville                                 | American      | AAA   | 439,992    | 481,969                 |
| Richmond                                  | International | AAA   | 453,913    | 203,036                 |
| Iowa                                      | American      | AAA   | 453,386    | 193,387                 |
| Omaha                                     | American      | AAA   | 402,249    | 335,293                 |
| Las Vegas                                 | Pacific       | AAA   | 392,838    | 258,293                 |
| Oklahoma City                             | American      | AAA   | 362,394    | 444,719                 |
| Albuquerque                               | Pacific       | AAA   | 362,283    | 384,736                 |
| Pasadena                                  | American      | AAA   | 358,318    | 72,644                  |
| Denver                                    | American      | AAA   | 347,615    | 467,610                 |
| Charlotte                                 | Southern      | AA    | 338,047    | 393,934                 |
| Vancouver                                 | Pacific       | AAA   | 333,564    | 431,147                 |
| Indianapolis                              | American      | AAA   | 332,941    | 731,222                 |
| Frederick                                 | Carolina      | A     | 329,392    | 350,308                 |
| Tacoma                                    | Pacific       | AAA   | 329,059    | 178,664                 |
| Kane County                               | Midwest       | A     | 323,769    | 317,471                 |
| Rochester                                 | International | AAA   | 303,199    | 231,636                 |
| Tucson                                    | Pacific       | AAA   | 300,134    | 405,390                 |
| Tulsa                                     | Texas         | AA    | 290,373    | 503,341                 |
| READING                                   | EASTERN       | AA    | 287,878    | 78,388                  |
| Durham                                    | Carolina      | A     | 280,994    | 136,611                 |
| Phoenix                                   | Pacific       | AAA   | 278,798    | 900,033                 |
| Calgary                                   | Pacific       | AAA   | 277,207    | 636,104                 |

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XX SPRING TRAINING PARK NOTES

1. McKechnie Field was totally rebuilt for the 1993 season and we have several articles, a certificate of the first game, and a special newspaper section. Send \$1.25 for the lot.
2. A history of Miami's Bobby Maduro Stadium. SASE of 29¢ Article from the Miami Herald 3-7-93
3. An extended article on Dodger Town in Florida on its 40th anniv. 75¢
4. A mini Wrigley Field to replace the club's Mesa AZ facility? 50¢ for two articles.
5. A four-page summary of the Homestead facility and two related articles. 75¢ for the bunch.

XXI MAJOR LEAGUE NEWS NOTES & ARTICLES

1. Mets thinking of leaving Shea and building a dome. 50¢ for two articles.
2. "Train me Out to the Ball Game," Camden Yards & Amtrak, Amtrak Express, May/June 1993 40¢
3. Poor field conditions in Denver & talk of increasing the size of the new park. two articles 40¢
4. So. End Grounds and the Fire of 1894, 40¢
5. Walls, slopes, angles, and other strange characteristics of current and past ballparks. wire article, 50¢
6. "They Built a Field of Dreams, but No One Came," St. Petersburg Suncoast Dome, LA Times, 3-18-93 29¢
7. Opening Day at Fenway Park in 1912, Boston Globe, 4-18-93 40¢
8. Opening Day at Tiger Stadium, and how many more? wire service, 40¢
9. "Few will miss this ballpark," (Cleveland), Bergen City, NJ Record, 40¢
10. Yankee Stadium vs. Shea Stadium this season: prices, services, etc. 29¢
11. Milwaukee News: the progress for the new park, promotions for County Stadium, 40th anniv. article. \$1.25 for the bunch.
12. Side by side comparison articles of Joe Robbie & Mile High parks. 29¢
13. "How Professional Baseball Came to Manhattan," New York Clipper-1905 as reprinted in SAER Nineteenth Century Notes. 29¢
14. Plans for Wayne Huizenga's proposed mega-sports facilities. AP article, 29¢

NOTE: each of the prices for articles includes the postage; if you order a bunch, you may adjust the postage accordingly.

XXII BALLPARKS STATS

- \* Cleveland's '93 Opening Day attendance was the 2nd largest in AL history: 73,290 vs. the Yankees; the record is the '73 opener vs. Detroit with 74,420.
- \* The Rockies set a major league record for home opener attendance with 80,277. The previous record was 78,672 for the LA Dodgers debut on April 18, 1958.

(Stats-cont.)

- \* The Rockies 212,475 for a three-game series vs. Montreal broke the major league record of 188,081 for an August 6-8, 1948 series at Cleveland vs. NY.
- \* The Rockies also broke the million mark faster than the Blue Jays.
- \* Most expensive park for a traditional visit by a family of four (food, tickets, parking, programs, souvenirs, etc.) was Toronto at \$116.11; least expensive was Cincinnati at \$77.31. Major league average was \$90.87. The expansion cities were \$81.12 for Colorado and \$98.83 for Florida.

### XXIII THIS & THAT

- \* The Delaware Art Museum is running a sports show on the last 125 years through photography. The museum is in Wilmington, DE, and the show stays open through June. A second show covers "The Artist and the Baseball Card."
- \* The Brooklyn Dodger Sports Bar in Brooklyn, NY, won its battle over the use of the name as NY federal judge ruled that the name was a "non-transportable cultural institution."
- \* There have been protests lodged against the Expos by visiting clubs as the outfield scoreboard seems to be distracting hitters.
- \* How about these 1887 rules for the Baker Bowl in Philadelphia:

**PARK RULES.**  
AMONG WHICH MAY BE ENUMERATED THE FOLLOWING:

Rowdy, drunkard, or other objectionable characters will not be admitted under any pretense. The price of their tickets, if presented, will be refunded.

Food eating, gambling, or open betting not allowed.

The use or sale of spittoons or mulligans prohibited.

Smoking till playing forbidden.

Keeps for the manager's decisions, however distasteful, will be refused.

Disturbance, disrespect, or other disorderly conduct among the audience will not be tolerated.

The presence of a sufficient number of uniformed officers will guarantee the execution of the above Rules and the summary arrest of their transgressors.

- \* Congratulations to John Pastier of our committee who has written the July/Aug. cover story of Preservation News, the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. John's piece will cover ballparks issues.
- \* From Galen Wiser I just received an interesting article on the three sports design companies in Kansas City: HOK, HNTB, & Ellerbe-Becket. Free with a 29¢ SASE.
- \* And how about this photo of the rat charging a player from the AA minor lg. team playing in Baltimore's Memorial Stadium! How many player/animal/park stories can you name?



Dowle Rays pitcher Erik Schottstrom uses a broken ball to fend off an angry rat that charged him in left field during a Class AA minor league game with the New Britain Red Sox on Sunday at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium. The rat escaped through a crack in the outfield wall.

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ANNUAL CONVENTION IN SAN DIEGO, CA JUNE 24 - 28, 1993

We hope to see many of you on the west coast for the annual SABR gathering. There will be some fine research presentations including several on ballparks by John Pastier, John Kaup, Bob Boynton, Tom Shieber, Vic Pallos, plus many more good sessions.

Our committee meeting is set for Sunday morning, 8:00 - 10:00 am. This poses no conflict with any ballparks tours or research presentations. I hope to see you at our meeting. If you have a subject that we need to discuss, please call or write me. First preference goes to topics/issues that get on our formal agenda.

PHOTO COLLECTION DISPLAY We need some willing people to help us sit the photo collection at the convention. Joe Favano needs to hear from some folks right away. I plan on donating a few hours as will my wife Valerie. Who else can assist? Call Joe now at (203) 637-3221

This newsletter had started as the traditional March-April issue, but I got side-lined by various work responsibilities. We will try to have a summer issue after the convention.

We continue to benefit from the thoughtful contributions of various members. Among those sending in items these past months: Phil Lowry, Norman Macht, the SABR office, Jerry Gregory, John Guilfoyle, John Kaup, David Moreau, David Wright, Jim Brown, Jim Nitz, Ira Drucker, Andy McCue, Bob Nelson, Francis Kinlaw, Rickard Puff, Chris Jennison, Kan Carrano, John Carlson, Dick Kaufman, Paul Shapiro, Richard Dempsey. Thank you all and our apologies if we left anyone out.

See you in San Diego!!!