

October 6, 1988

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Dear SABR Ballparks Committee Member:

Time for our update on ballpark matters:

1. BRAVES FIELD MARKER It was a grand ceremony on August 6 that marked the field with over 200 SABR people, officials from SABR and Boston University, and Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn (who claimed that he sold papers there as a boy). SABR member and New England Sports Museum curator Dick Johnson deserves a great hand for his work in expanding the program to include a dinner and player-panel to honor the 1948 team. Thanks to committee member John Lobingier who with Dick and myself started this whole thing several years ago. The plaque is there inside the current BU Nickerson Field about 250 feet from the famed stucco ticket office. Next time you are in Boston, drop by and see it.
2. CONTRIBUTIONS toward the plaque are more than welcome. Send any contribution to SABR at PO Box 10033, Kansas City, MO, 64111.
3. GRIFFITH STADIUM will not be as fortunate as our recent efforts with officials of Howard University have not worked out. I recently visited with committee member Gordon Thomas and we toured the park site now occupied by the Howard University Medical Center. Lots of good places for a plaque, but this is a sensitive issue with university officials, so for now we will let the issue pass. Maybe at a later date we will have better luck.
4. EIGHT MEN OUT, the book and movie on the 1919 Black Sox scandal, was profiled in the August issue of Esquire magazine. Some nice shots of the 1919 "created" parks.
5. LIGHTS AT WRIGLEY FIELD has produced quite a selection of clippings, and thank-you to all committee members who have sent me copies. The Cubs themselves put out a superb booklet on the whole affair. Write the Sherman Media Company, 320 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601 (312) 704-0150 for info. Thanks to Phil Bess who sent me a copy for the files.
6. BALLPARK QUESTIONS by Phil Lowry as he readies Green Cathedrals for a second edition.
 - a) Did the 1920-1950 Cuban Stars/Cubans of the Negro Leagues ever play a game in Cuba?
 - b) Why did the CF distance at the Polo Grounds go from 505 to 483 to 475 at random from year-to-year?

If you have an answer, write Phil at 10650 Porto Ct., San Diego, CA 92124.

7. FIRST QUARTER REPORT on Correspondence: 78 sent out and 94 cards/letters received for July-August-September. Keep in touch! I am somewhat behind in correspondence, but I'll catch up soon.
8. BASEBALL PLAY-OFFS AND WORLD SERIES seem to bring out some ballpark related items in the press. Send anything along as they may profile Dodger Stadium, Oakland Coliseum, Fenway Park, and Shea Stadium. This year, as many have pointed out, the Series will be an

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all-grass affair. About time I would say!

9. MINOR LAEGUE PARKS BOOK with a photo essay is the contemplated work of Craig Braun, 117 West Walker, #203, Milwaukee, WI 53204. Write him if you have any suggestions.
10. NEW MEMBER We welcome Paul Shapiro of 415 22nd Street, Santa Monica, CA 90402 (213) 399-0419. His interests cover parks of 1920 and on, architectural/photographs-cards, and parks as part of urban history. Paul expressed interest in the "old and unique parks."
11. GEORGE WILL was at it again with the Cubs. Check out the August 15 issue of Newsweek, page 68, with his thoughts on "Take Me Out to A Night Game."
12. NEW POSTCARDS of ballparks from both Ray Medeiros and Vic Pallos. As usual, they are good collections of some wonderful parks and views. Contact Vic at 658 Arden Avenue, Glendale, CA 91202; write Ray at PO Box 10, Wauna, WA 98395. And thanks to both men for comp. copies for the research files.
13. Some interesting pieces for a SASE:
 - "Best Parks: Not older, better" John Pastier, Boston Globe, 8-21-88
 - "Cities, Stadiums, and Responsibility" Neil Sullivan, NY Times 8-14-88
 - "Many Problems in Grandstand Construction" (Toronto Exhibition Stadium), CNE Official Programme, 1948
 - "Wrigley Field, A Baseball Park that Radiates Joy" Paul Goldberger, NY Times, 9-18-88
14. ADDRESS CHANGE Kyle Johnson has moved to Brooklyn, and as he said, "where is Ebbets Field when I need it." His new locale: 389 Fourth St, #2, Brooklyn, NY 11215.
15. NEW COMMITTEE PROFILES, that is, who is on the committee and what they are doing/interested in, is my project for 1989. If you have a project you want listed/explained, let me know before the end of the year. I will be sending out new info on our group in 1989. Meanwhile, we may be pruning the mailing list by then too. If you have not been in touch of late, do so and let us know what you are doing!
16. OVERSEAS COMMITTEE PEOPLE and ballpark fans in Ethan Casey, 25 Harold Road, London, England E13 0SG and Philip Chavin, Tre Liljor 6, III S-113 44 Stockholm, Sweden.
17. PHOTOS of South End Grounds (Boston), Huntington Ave. Grounds (Boston), League Park (Cleveland) and Baker Bowl are being sought by Bill Pactoris of 18 Crawford Street, Randolph, MA 02368. Write him if you can help.

That's all for now. Next newsletter
in December. Write and contribute!

Bob