

SABR Ballparks Committee Newsletter

November/December 1990

Robert F. Bluthardt Committee Chairman
244 No. Oxford Drive Home: (915) 942-0635
San Angelo, TX 76901 Work: (915) 657-4441

I NEW YORK CITY MEETING Committee members and ballparks friends in the NYC-NJ-CT area may want to join us for an informal gathering on Tuesday, December 18, 7-9 pm, at Wolf's in Manhattan at 6th Avenue & 57th Street. Valerie and I will be there on our way to Boston for the holidays and we extend an invitation for anyone to join us for a good meal and some baseball conversation. If you have any questions, contact Vin Russo at (718) 544-9799. See you there!

II NEW MEMBERS Welcome to three new members of the committee:

F. David Gill
2929 Washington Blvd.
Cleve. Hts., OH 44118

All 20th c. parks, esp. major lg., a member of the Cleve. Indians advisory group for the new park; interest in park architecture and urban develop.

Marc Vranes
144 Tremont Street
New Britain, CT 06051

1920-50 era, major lgs., esp. NL; is working on study of the factors that led to abandonment of Forbes Field for Three Rivers Stadium.

Tom Shieber
Mt. Wilson Observatory
Mt. Wilson, CA 91023

All major lgs over time; esp. interested in photos; working on computer data base for photo identification.

Please welcome these folks with a card or letter if you have similar interests. We now have 83 committee members with a continued growth of 2-4 per issue of the newsletter.

III NIGHT BASEBALL BEFORE 1935, a research project of David Pietrusza, a committee member, could use some advice and assistance. He is studying the evolution of night ball, a long process that has its origins dating back many years before the 1935 game at Crosley Field. Contact David at 611 Sanders Avenue, Scotia, NY 12302 if you can help.

IV NY STATE BALLPARKS BEFORE 1930, another research project of David, welcomes material. Contact him at the address in #3.

V BALLPARK DESIGN CONTEST The Texas Rangers sponsored a design contest among the six Texas schools with architecture schools: Univ. of Houston, Rice, Texas A & M, Univ. of Texas at Austin, Univ. of Texas at Arlington, and Texas Tech. The contest closed on October 22, 1990. The winning designs will be published in the spring of 1991. I have the guidelines that outline what the team was looking for with their new facility. A SASE of 45 cents with \$1.00 for copying should cover the costs.

(2) SABR Ballparks Committee Newsletter
November/December 1990

- VI SAVING/PRESERVING COMISKEY PARK, at least a part of it, is a possibility. If you would like to lend your voice in support, write Michael Devine, Director, Illinois State Historical Society, Old State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62701. More details in the first 1991 newsletter. Our thanks to committee members who have already contacted Mr. Devine.
- VII MINI-REVIEW Perhaps you have seen the ads for the Baseball Stadium Postcard Album in sports catalogs. There are two, one for the AL, one for the NL, each with 31 cards reproduced from color and black/white originals. The price: \$9.95 for one and \$18.00 for both. Some good cards, some fuzzy, a few early 1900 types. Little written info on the cards. If you are not a serious collector of postcards, this might be a painless way to have such a resource. Published by Taylor Publishing in Dallas, Texas and available through Phenom Sports, PO Box 6872, Patterson, NJ 07509. Call 1-800-966-7787. My order took five months to fill; yours might be quicker!
- VIII EXHIBIT IN CHICAGO, "Beyond the Box Score: New Resources for Sports History," opens on December 19 at the Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street at North Avenue, Chicago. Committee member Corey Seeman organized this show that will run for eight months. Area members are encouraged to see it. Our thanks to Corey for keeping us posted and good luck for Opening Night!
- IX BALLPARK TALKS John Pastier recently gave an extended version of his history of ballpark design slide show at the at the Los Angeles regional meeting. Bob Bluthardt gave a slide talk to the students of various architecture courses at the University of Houston.
- X PAYNE PARK, a 1920s spring training site in Florida, is no more. Thanks to John Lobingier for a set of photos and news clippings. A contribution of \$1.00 should cover all postage and copying.
- XI SPORTS STADIA CONSTRUCTION was the topic of the November 10 meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures in Chicago and committee member Bill Watterson attended. Our thanks for his contribution of info from the conference. A \$1.00 for the materials if you are interested. Bill also kindly donated some materials on Sick Stadium and the Seattle Pilots.
- XII TIGER STADIUM FAN CLUB continues its fight to save the classic park. Their December newsletter notes a variety of new activities and fundraisers. Please note that their 1991 Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 20, 1991, 6:00 pm, at the Gaelic League, 2062 Michigan (at Wabash), just west of Tiger Stadium. Area committee members should consider attending to keep in touch with this effort to save one of the best ballparks in the game. Call (313) 964-5991 for more info.

(3) SABR Ballparks Committee Newsletter
November/December 1990

XIII PHOTO CONTEST Joe Favano has been the coordinator of our annual photo display at SABR annual meetings for several years. We now think that there is sufficient interest in having a competition for the 1991 meeting in New York. Joe and I are interested in your views, so here are the questions that need some thought and response:

1. Do you think SABR people would enter?
2. Types of categories for entries
3. Prizes? Any ideas?
4. Criteria for judges; suggested judges
5. sizes of entries; number, color vs. b/w
6. general rules or guidelines

Send your thoughts to Joe at 21 Roosevelt Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870 before January 15, 1991. We will try to put all this together for an announcement in the Jan/Feb 1991 newsletter.

XIV BASEBALL MUSEUM IN HOUSTON On the site of old Buff Stadium, home of Houston minor league baseball that was built in 1928, now stands Fingers Furniture Store. In the middle of the showroom you will find a small exhibit area and coffee room. The photos and artifacts cover area Houston legends in sports. It also covers the history of Buff Stadium. Should you get to Houston you can visit the store Momday-Saturday. It is located on the Gulf Freeway (I-45, near the University of Houston.)

XV BASEBALL TV PROGRAM As the recent SABR Bulletin noted, the producers of the acclaimed Civil War series have turned their attention to baseball. Committee chairs have been enlisted in the preliminary work to see what is available to researchers. The SABR office is coordinating any info suggested by the membership. The producers are interested in minor league parks and they plan on visiting all major league park sites. Your chairman has written the SABR office suggested a larger role for ballparks in the series. To quote the producer's proposal:

"Many of the minor league ball parks are timeless monuments to baseball of another era and will provide beautiful settings for our new, live cinematography. We would be interested in archival photographs of these parks as well as guidance about which parks might look best on film. unusual anecdotes about life in the minors are also welcome, as well as information about noteworthy players."

As more requests about what the producer and researchers want become available, we will keep you posted. Meanwhile, what minor league parks would you suggest.

(4) SABR Ballparks Committee
November/December 1990

- XVI SPECIAL THANKS FOR DONATIONS to Barry Evans for a good batch of clippings on parks and Chicago. Also, he sent an extra copy of "Through the Years," the history of Comiskey Park. And our thanks to SABR member Chris Nichol who sent several photos of several major, minor, and collegiate parks.
- XVII BALLPARKS HISTORY lecture will take place at the Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame, 2901 Key Street, Maumee, OH 43537. This Toledo-area facility is having a series of baseball talks with the parks talk set for May 19. For more info, contact Ms. Kathleen Gardner. You can call at (419) 893-9481.
- XVIII MINOR LEAGUES COMMITTEE is looking to publish a Minor Leagues Annual that could feature pieces on minor league parks. If you have a piece that might merit publication, or if you have a suggestion for an article on ballparks on the minor league level, contact Minor Leagues Committee chairman David Kemp, PO Box 85224, Sioux Falls, SD 57118. If you have any suggestions for financial assistance to help the committee make this annual work, drop Dave a note.
- XIX BALLPARKS COMMITTEE INFO I have updated the four-page summary of our committee that is sent to members asking about our work and organization. If you joined this committee before 1987, you might find this material interesting. Send a SASE of 25 cents for a copy. Members who have joined within the last two-three years probably received this material.
- XX MEMBERSHIP ROSTER as of December 10, 1990 is enclosed. If you see any mistakes, let me know. An additional 15-20 SABR officials, fellow committee chairs, and a few special guests receive the newsletter, so our mailings reach about 105 people each issue.
- XXI ANOTHER NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER Jay Montanari, 2812 Kirkleigh Road, Baltimore, MD. Interested in AL & NL parks after 1920; is considering taking pictures of parks; and he is interested in preservation of classic ballparks. Welcome! Drop Jay a note if you can as he is one of our younger members and we want to encourage his correct way of thinking!
- XXII NEWS - NEWS - NEWS As we close the 1990 season of this newsletter, my thanks go to all of you who regularly contribute news items, clippings, suggestions, etc. What goes into this newsletter is up to you. Send us anything that relates to ballparks: a lecture that you gave (or heard), local events, articles of interest, exhibits, programs, media programs, even a short article you have written. This newsletter is what you make of it. Thanks!

A happy holiday to one and all from Valerie and me.
We will include a membership survey in the first issue of the 1991 newsletter. No space on this issue.

BALLPARKS COMMITTEE

of the Society for American Baseball Research

1. Bob Bluthardt	244 No. Oxford Dr.	San Angelo, TX 76901
2. Keith Danish	12 Cottage Place	Leonia, NJ 07605
3. Ernie Accorsi	Cleve. Browns/Cleve. Stad.	Cleveland, OH 44144
4. Mike Frank	100 Arden Street	NYC, NY 10040
5. Ray Medeiros	P. O. Box 10	Wauna, WA 98395
6. Francis Kinlaw	603 Shawnee Road	Greensboro, NC 27403
7. Phil Bess	4438 No. Artesian	Chicago, IL 60625
8. Tom Karnes	6 Hillway	Round Rock, TX 78664
9. Bob Bailey	12129 Briargate Lane	Goshen, KY 40026
10. Vin Russo	70-20 108th St.	For. Hills, NY 11375
11. John Lobingier	Sea Pines, 42 Landing Ln.	Brewster, MA 02631
12. Keith Knopf	3891 Edendale Rd.	Columbus, OH 43207
13. Phil Lowry	10650 Porto Ct.	San Diego, CA 92124
14. Stew Thornley	982 15th Ave. SE	Minneapolis MN 55414
15. Dick Clark	1080 Hull	Ypsilanti, MI 48198
16. Phil Baker	3547 Walnut Ave.	Long Beach, CA 90807
17. Ralph Graber	1618 Chew St.	Allentown, PA 18102
18. Bruce Hellerstein	8611 Otero Pl.	Englewood, CO 80112
19. Steve Nadel	2137 Wallace Ave.	Bronx, NY 10462
20. Chris Jennison	541 Woodvale Ave.	Deerfield, IL 60015
21. Bob Koehler	4713 W. Nash St.	Milwaukee, WI 53216
22. Joe Favano	21 Roosevelt Avenue	Old Grnwch, CT 06870
23. Christine Fry	52 Tremont St. #2	Brighton, MA 02135
24. Jim Peters	2854 W. Leland	Chicago, IL 60625
25. Barry Evans	1130 S. Mich. Ave. #2105	Chicago, IL 60605
26. Bob Little john	4144 Paxton Woods Dr.	Cincinnati, OH 45209
27. Richard Smiley	1348 W. Cornelia #3	Chicago, IL 60605
28. Peter Young	105 MacGuinness Blvd.	Brooklyn, NY 11222
29. Antoinette Tomczyk	259 A Nassau Ave.	Brooklyn, NY 11222
30. Kyle Johnson	389 Fourth Street #2	Brooklyn, NY 11215
31. Lloyd Johnson	205 West 66th Ter.	Kansas City MO 64113
32. Dick Johnson	10 Wildwood	Milton, MA 02186
33. Dick Miller	2770 Observatory Ave.	Cincinnati, OH 45208

(2) Ballparks Committee

34.	Bob Tiemann	4518 Wichita Ave.	St. Louis, MO 63110
35.	Martin O'Connor	37 Cypress St.	Floral Pk, NY 11001
36.	Dave Hornish	2230 Seaman's Neck Rd.	Seaford, NY 11783
37.	Gordon Thomas	3000 N. Edison	Arlington, VA 22207
38.	Mark. L. Reynolds	2808A Alla View Dr.	San Diego, CA 92139
39.	Wilm. B. Keller	2708 Whitney Ave.	Baltimore, MD 21215
40.	Sam Pathy	5144 N. High St. #202	Columbus, OH 43214
41.	Bruce Kuklick	Hist. Dept/Univ. of PA.	Phila. PA 19104
42.	Howard Wasserman	281 Holdenwood	Concord, MA 01742
43.	Michael Dempsey	RFD 2 Box 99 Rt. 201	Voluntown, CT 06384
44.	Larry Reilly	66 Windover Lane	Doylestown, PA 18901
45.	Tony Lamonte	8906 Jackwood	Houston, TX 77036
46.	Bruce Genther	15835 Haynes Rd.	Laurel, MD 20707
47.	Jim Nitz	4440 No. 147th St.	Brookfield, WI 53005
48.	Don Lancaster	507 Oaklyn Ct. #1B	Pittsburga PA 15220
49.	Mark Landsbaum	1537 Deercrossing	Diamond Bar, CA 91765
50.	Steve Bennett	3030 Upham Ct.	Lakewood, CO 80215
51.	Ethan Casey	2614 Garfield St., NW	Washington, DC 20008
52.	Elias Dudash	20 Holly Forest Rd.	Mt. Pocono, PA 18344
53.	James Hickey	3306 Green Lawn Pkwy.	Austin, TX 78757
54.	Paul Shapiro	415 22nd St.	Santa Monica CA 90402
55.	John Pastier	1548 Silverwood Ter.	Los Angeles CA 90026
56.	David Pietrusza	26 Irving Road	Scotia, NY 12302
57.	Ross Bartow	4910 Stolls Ave.	Tampa, FL 33615
58.	Brad Merilla	PO Box 993	Shelter Isl. NY 11964
59.	Jeff Lindberg	160 N. California	Palo Alto, CA 94301
60.	Frank Helminski	46 Edgemere Rd.	Grosse Pt. Farms, MI 48236-3709
61.	Jerry Hermele	1204 Portner Rd.	Alexandria, VA 22314
62.	Jim Sumner	3215 Warwick Dr.	Raleigh, NC 27606
63.	Charles Wilson	30 Turnberry Dr.	Arden, NC 28704
64.	Ken Hodges	26 Barholm Ave.	Stamford, CT 06907
65.	Eliot Knispel	50 Grant Street	Farmingdale, NY 11735
66.	Jim Gumm	Rt. 9 Box 59 Hidden For. Trail	Cleveland, TN 37312

(3) Ballparks Committee

67.	Jerry Cohen	117 W. Denny Way #214	Seattle, WA	
68.	Steve Wisendale	PO Box 85	Storrs, CT	06268
69.	Mike Welsh	6133 No. 25th Ter.	St. Jos. MO	64505
70.	Todd Klatt	927 East 5th St.	Duluth, MN	
71.	John Guilfoyle	50 Henry Rd.	Centereach NY	11720
72.	Evan Meyer	8253 Brecksville Rd.	Brecksville OH	44141
73.	Dick Kaufman	70 Chestnut St.	Mohnton, PA	19540
74.	Bill Watterson	1900 Franklin Ave. E.	Seattle, WA	98102
75.	John Hollway	6 Kennedy	Alexandria, VA	22305
76.	John Misner	59 Woodland Ter.	W. Patterson NJ	07424
77.	Andrew Klein	6 Virginia Rd.	Waltham, MA	02154
78.	Corey Seeman	532 Sheridan Road #2A	Evanston, IL	60202
79.	TOM Shieber	Mt Wilson Observatory	Mt. Wilson CA	91023
80.	Marc VRANES	144 TACMONT ST.	New Britain CT	06051
81.	Jay MONTANARI	2812 Kinleigh Rd	Baltimore MD	21222
82.	F. David Gill	2929 Washington Blvd.	Cleve. Hts. OH	44118

Articles available

- a) Review of City Baseball Magic in Urban Land, Sept. 1990 (40 cents)
- b) "After a closer look at Sox history, maybe new park needs a new name," The National, August 18, 1990 (30 cents)
- c) "Good Old Days Are Back," NY Newsday, December 2, 1990 (30 cents)
- d) "He has designs on ballparks," The National, September 6, 1990, profile on model maker Carl Schoen, (30 cents)
- e) "Building the Perfect Ballpark," GQ, September 1990, (35 cents)
- f) Professional Roofing magazine, a trade journal piece on the roof work for the new Comiskey, October 1990, (45 cents)

Costs listed include copying. If you order two or more, you can adjust the total figure a bit for less postage. Thanks.

And our thanks to the members who contributed these and other items to the committee.

Personal Dept. My museum's "living history" volunteers, 80 people in 1870s uniforms, period clothing, etc., will be taking part in the 1991 Cotton Bowl Parade, telecast on CBS on the morning of New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1. I will be "among the troops," but don't look for me to carry a banner that says "Save Tiger Stadium."