

June 1, 1988

244 N. Oxford Drive

San Angelo, Texas 76901

Dear SABR Ballparks Committee Member:

In no particular order, here is another update of some "ballpark matters"

I SABR ANNUAL MEETING will feature the usual committee meetings. If you have an item you wish discussed, please submit something to me by June 30. That will give me a few days to pull together an agenda. If you have something on your mind, a project, an idea, a way/means we should be using our resources, let's get it open for discussion.

II BRAVES FIELD project is moving along very well according to Dick Johnson. Dick will have a flyer available describing the events at the annual meeting. We are making the final plans on the plaque, research presentations are being considered on the park and team; and several ex-Braves will be attending. Full details at the annual; meanwhile, contact Dick at the NE Museum of Sports, 1175 Soldiers Field Rd, Boston, MA 02134, if you have questions or would like to assist.

III BALLPARK COSTS vary from place to place, and the stats below might be of interest to some folks. This appeared in the Boston Globe and other papers at the beginning of the season:

Take me out to the ballgame — and bring cash
Red Sox fans will pay the most for a day at the ballpark this season, while Los Angeles Dodgers followers will pay the least, according to the following chart from this month's issue of Money magazine. The magazine surveyed the 26 major league teams to find out how much a typical family of four can expect to spend at each ballpark. The totals include the top-priced seats and parking, four hot dogs, two sodas, two beers, snacks (a pretzel, peanuts and popcorn) and four souvenirs — a pennant, a cap, a T-shirt and a program.

	Ticket		Snacks						Novelties			A day at the park	
	price range	Parking	Popcorn	Pretzel	Peanuts	Hotdog	Soda	Beer	Pennant	Cap	T-shirt		Prog.
NATIONAL LEAGUE													
NY Mets	\$6.00 to \$11.00	\$3.50	\$1.10	\$0.95	\$0.80	\$1.60	\$1.15	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$7.50	\$10.00	\$1.25	\$85.30
Chi. Cubs	\$4.00 to \$10.50	7.00	1.25	1.25	1.00	1.50	0.85	2.00	2.50	5.00	10.00	2.00	83.70
San Fran.	\$2.50 to \$10.00	3.00	1.00	1.25	0.75	1.25	1.00	2.00	2.50	10.00	12.00	2.00	83.50
Philadel.	\$4.00 to \$9.00	3.75	2.00	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	2.50	3.00	8.00	12.00	1.00	80.75
Houston	\$4.00 to \$10.00	3.00	1.15	1.35	1.00	1.55	1.10	1.75	2.00	7.00	12.00	1.25	80.65
St. Louis	\$4.00 to \$10.50	3.50	1.00	1.25	0.80	1.10	0.80	1.45	2.50	8.00	11.00	1.25	80.20
Atlanta	\$4.00 to \$9.50	3.00	0.75	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.00	2.25	2.50	6.50	12.00	1.50	78.00
Pitts.	\$3.00 to \$9.50	1.50	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.00	2.25	2.00	7.00	10.00	1.00	74.75	
S. Diego	\$3.50 to \$8.50	3.00	1.00	1.25	1.00	1.25	0.75	1.75	2.50	7.00	12.00	2.00	73.75
Montreal	\$3.16 to \$9.48	3.16	0.51	1.19	0.51	0.95	0.75	1.78	2.17	5.53	9.88	1.98	71.71
Cincinnati	\$3.50 to \$8.50	2.75	0.75	1.00	0.75	1.00	1.00	2.50	2.00	6.00	10.00	3.00	71.25
Los Ang.	\$4.00 to \$7.00	2.00	0.75	N.A.	0.50	1.75	0.75	2.25	3.00	6.00	11.00	1.50	65.75
AMERICAN LEAGUE													
Boston	\$5.00 to \$12.00	\$5.00	\$1.00	\$1.30	\$0.85	\$1.50	\$1.15	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$1.50	\$89.95
Detroit	\$4.00 to \$10.50	5.00	1.00	1.25	1.00	1.50	1.15	2.25	3.00	7.00	15.00	1.50	89.55
NY Yank.	\$4.50 to \$11.00	4.00	1.25	1.00	0.85	1.50	1.00	2.00	2.75	7.50	10.00	1.25	84.60
Chi. W.S.	\$4.00 to \$10.50	5.50	1.25	1.25	1.00	1.50	1.00	2.25	2.00	6.00	9.00	2.00	82.50
Texas	\$4.00 to \$10.00	3.00	1.50	1.25	1.00	1.25	1.00	1.75	2.00	6.00	14.00	1.50	80.75
Minnesota	\$3.00 to \$10.00	4.00	1.00	1.50	1.00	1.50	0.95	2.00	2.00	7.00	10.00	2.00	80.40
Toronto	\$3.16 to \$11.85	3.95	0.79	1.19	0.79	0.99	0.79	1.90	1.98	5.14	6.32	1.98	78.88
Cleveland	\$4.50 to \$9.50	4.00	1.00	1.35	0.90	1.40	0.90	2.25	2.50	7.00	10.00	1.75	78.40
Milw.	\$4.00 to \$10.50	3.00	0.85	1.50	0.90	1.30	1.00	1.75	2.00	6.00	10.00	1.25	78.20
Seattle	\$3.50 to \$9.50	4.00	1.00	1.50	1.00	1.50	0.80	2.00	2.00	7.00	10.00	2.00	78.10
Oakland	\$3.00 to \$9.00	4.00	1.00	1.25	0.80	1.75	1.00	2.20	2.50	7.50	7.50	2.50	76.45
Baltimore	\$4.75 to \$9.50	3.00	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.00	1.00	1.50	2.00	6.50	12.00	1.50	75.75
California	\$3.00 to \$8.00	3.00	0.75	1.50	1.00	1.50	0.75	2.25	2.50	7.00	12.00	1.50	73.25
Kansas C.	\$3.00 to \$9.00	3.00	0.90	1.25	0.80	1.25	0.75	1.25	2.00	6.25	10.00	0.50	69.60

Notes: Tickets and parking are based on 1987 prices. Except for the Chicago Cubs, Houston Astros, Boston Red Sox and California Angels, the latest figures available for snacks and novelties are from 1987; some items are expected to increase slightly when the new season begins. N.A. (not available)

(2) SABR Ballparks 6-1-88

IV NEW MEMBERS

Mark Landsbaum
1577 Deercrossing
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
(714) 861-5904

Interests: Major Lg. Parks; 1920-50 & modern era; LA Coliseum info welcome; interested in Wrigley, Ebbets, and LA/NYC parks; also interest in models/reproductions.

Steve Bennett
3030 Upham Ct.
Lakewood, CO 80215
(303) 237-1653

Interests: early 20th century and 1920-50 eras; Denver/Chicago parks; interest in preserving old parks; architectural interest.

Welcome to the committee!

V PHOTO PROJECT Member Joe Favano reports that he now has 28 photos for the photo display of stadia at the annual meeting. Joe will have a table at the annual convention; be sure to have a look at the photo collection. For more details, contact Joe at 21 Roosevelt Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870.

VI ATLANTA DOME is a possibility and a fellow from the Sumitomo Bank of New York called for info on stadia financing, expected revenues, etc. I recommended a few folks and sent the usual info packet. Atlanta is serious about a 60,000 - 70,000 seat facility for its Falcons and other events. Closer to my home, San Antonio is battling over the dome issue with the mayor all for one and some citizens' groups against it.

VII EBBETS FIELD had its 75th anniversary, and well known Dodger fan Ron Gabriel was prepared with a speech which he had entered in the Congressional Record! Copies available for the usual SASE of 25¢.

VIII GRIFFITH STADIUM in Washington, D.C., has been gone but not forgotten. Gordon Thomas is leading another effort to have a proper marker put on the site where the Howard University Medical Center now sits. We have written friendly letters to the university personnel and are awaiting their response. If you wish to help, contact Gordon at 2733 S, Buchanan Street, Arlington, VA 22206.

IX MISSING PARTS OF OLD PARKS is another idea of Gordon's; that is, do we know just happened to all the seats, scoreboards, etc. of the various old parks when they met the wrecker's ball in the late 60s and early 70s. If this strikes you as interesting research, contact Gordon at the address in #8.

X TOKYO DOME It was just a matter of time before Japan got its first sports dome. Several members sent in articles on the "event." If you want copies, send a SASE for 25¢.

XI HOUSTON ASTRODOME is losing the famous apartment of the equally famous Judge Roy Hofheinz, the county judge of Harris County who pushed for the creation of the first domed stadium. The six-story apartment had its own bowling alley, barber shop, and putting greens. The whole plant is being removed, and players are somewhat upset that changes to the playing field now make the dugouts less private than before; they now sit at near-field level.

(3) SABR Ballparks 6-1-88

- XII GENEROUS POSTAGE CONTRIBUTION by member Bruce Genther; thank you!
- XIII ARLINGTON STADIUM, according to D Magazine, has been paid for by the Rangers (\$18 million on a lease/purchase plan) and now the 119 acre site might be worth more to developers. According to the magazine, 46% of the seating is general admission, the highest rate of lower priced seats in the majors. Will the team leave Arlington for a downtown site?
- XIV TIGER STADIUM received its much publicized "hug" on April 20, but the game with the Red Sox was rained out. Two articles with the 1986 story on how the fans liked the old park better than any planned dome for a SASE of 25¢.
- XV FENWAY PARK and the Red Sox put out another good looking ticket brochure for 1988. Contact the team at 24 Yawkey Way, Boston, MA, 02215 (ticket info also at PO Box 4488, Boston, MA 02211).
- XVI FENWAY PARK was profiled in a recent Boston Globe Calendar Magazine piece by free lance writer Susan Wilson. Ms. Wilson was doing a series of articles on Boston architectural/historical landmarks, and what better choice than Fenway? Copies for SASE of 25¢. Several stories have surfaced about Fenway exoansion, anywhere from 600 to 6000 seats and other improvements. More details in the next newsletter.
- XVII SPORTS ILLUSTRATED featured two excellent ballparks articles over the past months: "Sundays in the Ballpark" by William Taffe on Ebbets Field (4-11-88) and "Diamonds Are Forever" by Ron Fimrite on saving the old parks (4-4-88). By the way, see the 3-14-88 issue for a good article on the Astrodome renovation (see # 11).
- XVIII BUFFALO'S PILOT FELD continues to attract media coverage and articles. Thanks to many members for their contributions. For additional info on the field, send a 45¢ SASE. Also, try contacting The Buffalo News, PO Box 100, Buffalo, NY 14240, and see if they have any more of the superb April 10, 1988 magazine special on the park.
- XIX OTHER ARTICLES available for SASE:
1. The World of Wrigley Field, US Air Magazine, May-1988
 2. End of Sarasota's Payne Field (1920s park), March 31, 1988
 3. Endangered Comiskey Parks Lacks a Champion, Wash. Post, 4-23-88
 4. That Big League Yearning, NY Times, late 1950s (story on what baseball means to a city, example of LA, SF, Milwaukee, etc.)
- XX EARLY CLEVELAND BALLPARKS info needed by William T, Schneider, 9550 Westmoreland Road, Parma, OH 44129. He is looking for info on those sites preceding League Park, between 1865 and 1891. Contact him if you can help.

(4) SABR Ballparks 6-1-88

XXI ANOTHER NEW MEMBER Ethan Casey Welcome!
3795 McKay
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
(719) 471-3553

Interests: Wrigley/Chicago and Milwaukee, plus Denver and Minneapolis.
interested in park preservation; has outlined a proposed
article on the Brewers.

XXII COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT is being put together, I have to give
a brief verbal summary at the annual meeting in Minneapolis and
I usually write a summary of the year's events and activities. If
you have not been in touch lately and/or if you would like to
have some article, research, activity, project, etc. included,
please submit the information to me by the end of this month.

That should do it for now. A safe journey to those attending the
annual meeting.

Bob