

December 1, 1987

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Dear SABR Ballparks Committee Member:

Many interesting things going on lately, so here is a summary of the last two months.

- I BRAVES FIELD PROJECT is alive and very well according to project chairman Dick Johnson of the New England Sports Museum (1175 Soldiers Field Road, Boston, MA 02134). Dick has made successful contacts with the officials at Boston University which now owns the site and remaining portions of Braves Field (now part of the Nickerson Field athletic complex). The university wants to participate in a plaque/memorial project and dedication, and there is a chance of more activity involving ex-Braves, a dedication ceremony, dinner, and baseball/Braves Field conference. More later as matters develop.
- II CONGRATULATIONS to Phil and Ellen Lowry on the birth of their daughter, Megan Andrea. No doubt, Phil will have that child at the nearest ballpark very soon.
- III POSTAGE DONATION made by committee member Keith Danish. Thank You. Every extra bit helps as we grind out the newsletter and answer all the mail.
- IV MAIL VOLUME continues to increase, especially research requests and requests for copies of things. My apologies if matters take a little long sometimes. To catch up, I will hold all new copies of items until the next newsletter.
- V BOSTON GARDEN, though not a ballpark, is older than most stadia (first activity in November of 1928), and there was an excellent piece in Boston Magazine in the November-87 issue, p. 128. Write the magazine at 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02115 (617) 262-9700, for a back copy, if available.
- VI THE BASEBALL RESEARCH HANDBOOK by Gerald Tomlinson, recently sent to all SABR members, is an excellent piece of work. I highly recommend it as both a reference or refresher piece for all baseball and ballpark researchers.
- VII THE METRODOME was certainly in the news with the Series. Many writers have said that it is a definite plus for the Twins, probably the ultimate example of a home-field advantage producing a tangible factor for a club. If anyone saw any interesting pieces on the park, pass them along and I will have them available for members.

(2) Ballparks 12-1-87

VIII NEW MEMBERS Welcome to several new members of the committee whose backgrounds and interests/research areas will make them valued additions. If their interests match something of your own, be sure to drop them a note and say hello. All new members receive an updated roster with interest areas, so they may be contacting you:

Larry Reilly  
66 Windover Lane  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
(215) 340-9319

Parks of the original 16 teams and the replacement parks of the 60s/70s. Photos/drawings/sketches; stats and player perfmc & parks; interest in promoting scale models of classic parks; minor lg. parks that go major

Tony Lamonte  
8906 Jackwood  
Houston, TX 77036

Texas League parks; most major lg parks, esp. Houston, LA Col, Ebbets; Photos/sketches, etc; parks as part of urban devlp; collects pocket scheds; looking for photos of Houston Buff Stad;

Bruce Genter  
15835 Haynes Rd  
Laurel, MD 20707  
(301) 725-1906

Interested in all parks; architectural; photos & sketches, etc; constructs detailed models of 1" to 30, 45, and 60 ft works with Lib. of Congress plot maps; wants to add new illustrations to Green Cathedrals.

Jim Nitz  
4440 N. 147th  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
(414) 781-0699

Interested in all parks; architectural/sociological; photos & sketches; parks as part of urban hist; All Milwaukee parks; working on history of all sports facilities in Milwaukee; wants to get plaques for Milwaukee parks like Borchert Field. Wants to help with Green Cathedrals revision.

Donald Lancaster  
60 Oakland Road  
Pittsburg, PA 15205-4265  
(412) 922-3001

All parks; esp. Forbes Field Western PA parks; wrote SABR piece of construction of Forbes Field using newspaper accounts Wants to document all minor lg parks with seating diagrams, field shape, etc.

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IX RESEARCH REQUESTS Some interesting projects going on here; help out with any you might have materials/advice:

1. Danny Rieber  
33 Riverside Drive #2A  
New York, NY 10023  
H (212) 724-0929  
O (212) 944-2334

A grad students at CUNY, Danny is working in the Center for Human Environment: Environment Psychology Program. He is interested in how people use physical space in sports, esp. how fans are distributed in sports facilities. Attendance, seating capacity, stadia layout and separation of seating sections, etc. all might pertain.

2. John Schacht  
2533 Hillegrass #304  
Berkley, CA 94704  
(415) 841-4338

Yes, this fellow is related to the famed baseball entertainer. John is working on a MA in journalism at UC Berkley. He is focusing on the SF Giants and the general idea of a city's identity and spirit being related to a baseball team. "Is SF a Baseball Town?" is one question he is looking at.

3. Bill Loughery  
2 Bentley Way  
Owening Mills, MD 21117  
H (301) 363-2681  
O (301) 584-5190

Bill is an engineer doing a study on Washington D.C RFK Stadium. As DC looks to baseball in its future, is it worth renovating the old RFK or building something new? What is/was/will be the effect of baseball on DC?

4. Larry Lester  
PO Box 411312  
Kansas City, MO 64141

Attendance capacity figures for certain parks in certain years; reduced copy of his request below. Can anyone help??

LARRY LESTER P.O. BOX 411312 - KANSAS CITY, MO 64141-1512

TOTAL SEATING CAPACITY	SEATING CAPACITY	CAPACITY FOR COMISKEY ONLY
YEAR STADIUM		
1933		
1934 Polo Grounds		
1935 Cleveland Mun. Stad.		
1936 Fenway Park		
1937 Griffith Stad.		
1938 Crosley Field		
1939 Yankee Stad.		
1940 Sportsman Park		
1941 Briggs Stad.		
1942 Forbes Field		
1943 Shibe Park		
1944 Forbes Field		
1945		
1946 Fenway Park		
1947 Wrigley Field		
1948 Sportsman Park		
1949 Ebbetts Field		
1950 Comiskey Park		
1951 Briggs Stad.		
1952 Shibe Park		
1953 Crosley Field		
1954 Municipal Stad.		

I would like total seating capacity of each stadium for the year listed. A comparative study will be done based on total attendance at Comiskey versus total attendance with other stadium who hosted the All-Star game. (I have the attendance records for each game.)

Thank you for your time and let me know if there is any cost involved in compiling the data.

GO ROYALS!

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Research Requests (cont.)

5. Edward Patkowski  
106 Linnet Street  
Bayonne, NJ 07002
- He is looking for a panoramic view of Shibe/aka Connie Mack Stadium from the late 1969/early 1970 period, showing the temporary 410 foot fence in CF. Photo or negative would do.
6. Joseph T. Hetrick  
(street address lost)  
Vienna, VA 22180
- Interested in parks of the 1890s, esp. League Park in Cleveland. He is writing a piece on baseball in the 1890s. Forward any info/suggestions to me and I will get it to him as soon as I locate his address.

- X NEWSHOUSE NEWSPAPERS in Chicago called recently. Wayne Hearn wanted to talk about the lights/Wrigley Field situation. After a discussion, I gave him a number of committee members as references. He said that a piece would be put "on the wire" to several dozen papers and after that, who knows... If you see anything, send it along.
- XI NEWSWEEK's Atlanta bureau called recently and wanted to talk about the rash of stadium building/plans, etc. He was also referred to several committee people. Something may come out next week, but it was unclear if this would be in the national issue or in a regional issue. Keep your eyes out for it. Andy Murr was the author.
- XII MARC OKKONEN does wonderful drawings of the early 1900s parks, and his work was used in an excellent piece, "Tiger's Lair Has a Corner on Lore," Sunday, 9-13-87 issue of the Detroit Free Press, Sports Bonus section.
- XIII SABR RESEARCH PAPER COLLECTION now has an excellent selection of papers available for SABR members and others for research purposes. I received a three-page summary of what is available. A SASE for 22¢ and I will pass it along to you.
- XIV FENWAY PARK AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE BASEBALL PARK (1909-1915) was a grad. school paper mentioned before in this newsletter. Anyone wanting a copy of the paper, send \$2.50 for postage and copying and I will send you a copy. I wrote this in 1980, so parts may be a bit dated, but it's a good reference piece for that classic park period.
- XV Stadium Architecture and that of Ballparks too may take a turn for the better as noted in a 10-12-87 Sports Illustrated piece, "The Newest Look is Old," outlining the trend back to traditional issues in building ballparks. Page 114-116. Maybe there's hope!
- XVI The Huntington Avenue Plaque, marker of the Red Sox home of 1901-11, reads as follows courtesy of member John Lobingier: (next page)

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Northeastern University Physical Education Center  
Site of the Huntington Avenue American League Baseball Grounds  
on which in 1903 four games of the first World Series  
were played.

The Boston Americans defeated the Pittsburgh Nationals  
five games to three.

This plaque is located approximately on what  
was then the left field foul line.

Erected May 16, 1956.

XVII FENWAY PARK is undergoing some changes, but don't worry. Accord-  
to a recent blurb in the Boston Globe, the team has commissioned  
a study of the park to coordinate major repairs and renovations  
over the next decade. The integrity of the park seems safe. They  
did replace the "old" Spectra System scoreboard in CF with a new  
DiamondVision model. Too bad they didn't replace the <sup>lost</sup> sections of  
the LF wall scoreboard too. Boston-area committee members may  
want to keep an eye on the place and keep us up to date on any  
renovations.

XVIII GREEN CATHEDRALS & TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLPARK have been paired  
by the Sporting News, publishers of the Take..Ballpark book. The  
Sporting News came out with a second edition of the ballpark book  
and throws in a copy of Green Cathedrals as a bonus. Not a bad  
deal!

A very safe and happy holiday season to all of you. The next  
committee newsletter will go out early February, so if you  
have news items, announcements, research reports/requests,  
ideas, whatever, send them in and let's get the word out.

Bob