

SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

April-May 1995

SABR Ballparks
© Committee
1995

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I NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to the committee:

Alan Walters All levels and most eras; Baltimore &
15 Windsor Road Boston parks; wants to build a check list
Wellesley, MA 02181 of stadium postcards.

Robert Bochar All eras and levels; architectural & photo
516 A Street NE interests; lives near Library of Congress.
Washington, DC 20002

Please send a greeting to these gentlemen if you see items of common interest. For a SASE of 32¢ we will send a copy of any member's survey form.

II ANNUAL CONVENTION IN PITTSBURGH

I hope that this newsletter reaches most of you before convention time. I regret having to miss this year's meeting due to a major festival at my museum that same weekend.

Joe Favano, a long-time member of this committee has kindly agreed to pinch hit for me at the business meeting on Sunday morning, 8:30-9:30 am. I believe that the time can be extended if necessary. If you have topics needing discussion, see Joe at the meeting and bring it up!

The Committee Table needs some people to watch the photo display and other items for viewing. The table will operate on Friday and Saturday only. Two hour shifts are available from the morning to late afternoon each day. Call Joe Favano at (203) 637-3221. Take a shift and chat with your fellow SABR members!

The annual report for the Committee is enclosed with this newsletter. If you have questions, please call on me.

I look forward to joining you in Kansas City in 1996!

We will publish the minutes of the business meeting in our next committee newsletter.

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III MINOR LEAGUE NEWS & ARTICLES

1. Profile of CA State Lg. teams of So. CA, LA Times, 4-20-95 (3 pgs)
2. Exhibit on PCL opens in San Diego, Union-Tribune, 4-2-95 (2 pgs)
3. Overview of New Orleans Privateer Park, 1995 (1 pg)
4. Pitch made to save Indianapolis, IN Bush Stadium; mayor refuses historic listing, Ind. News, April-95 (3 pgs)
5. Plans for new New Orleans park, 4-4-95 (2 pgs)
6. New stadium opens in Durham, NC, Greensboro daily, 4-95 (3 pgs)
7. Norwich ready to open new park, Journal-Bul'tn, 4-9-95 (2 pgs)
8. New home for Edmonton Trappers, Edm. Journal, 4-18-95 (2 pgs)
9. Akron looks at Norfolk, VA Harbor Park for inspiration for new facility, Beacon-Journal, 5-7-95 (3 pgs)
10. Brewers staying at Chandler spring training site, AP, 4-6-95 (2 pgs)
11. Program from preservation event held at Rickwood Field, free, 4-page program with short history--while they last!
12. Calgary re-names its park Burns Stadium from Foothills Stadium in return for Burns Foods support of facility renovation.

IV MINOR LEAGUE PIECES OF THE PAST

1. San Antonio team uses school park after fire, TSN, 6-23-32 (1 pg)
2. Delay in new Seattle park, TSN, 11-4-37 (1 pg)
3. New soundproof glass tested in PCL, TSN, 2-47 (2 pgs)
4. Sick Stadium opens in Seattle, TSN, 6-23-38
5. Funeral held at LA Wrigley Field, TSN, 7-15-37 (1 pg)
6. New park for San Antonio, TSN, 4-30-47 (1 pg)
7. Ventura, CA park first named for Babe Ruth, TSN, 5-14-47 (1 pg)

Our thanks to Brad Sullivan for providing these slices of the past in the minor leagues.

V RESEARCH REQUESTS

1. Douglas Kleintop of 2880 John Street, Easton, PA (610) 250-0107 seeks a listing/info on minor lg. parks about to be abandoned or in danger of such.
2. Jerry Cohen of Ebbets Field Flannels and our committee seeks quality photos of minor league parks for his work; contact him at 181 Western Ave. West, Seattle, WA 98199.
3. Thomas Baxter of 26 Beacon Street, #13D, Burlington, MA 01803 is researching ballparks and aerodynamics. Any info on ballparks, research & windcurrents would be appreciated.
4. Ray Medeiros at PO Box 60249, Colorado Springs, CO 80960, seeks a copy of first day/promotional newspapers for Camden Yards and TBIA and will trade a Coors Field equivalent.
5. Kenneth Miller at Miller Associates, 203 972-0777 was researching ballparks that were near airports for a realistic video game. It may be too late at this point, but if you have any thoughts, call.

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RESEARCH (Cont)

6. Lloyd Johnson of our committee seeks info on "points of interest for the baseball traveler" and any relatively unknown ballparks-related sites would be welcome. Monuments, markers, places where famed players made their debut, etc. Most contributors will receive a free book copy. Contact Lloyd at PO Box 22481, Kansas City, MO 64113 (816) 822-2516.
7. Jeff Samoray continues his research on 19th C. parks in Detroit and requests info on Bennett Park and Burns Park. Is there anyone alive who remembers watching a game there? Contact him at 28478 Ridgebrook Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-3465 (810) 489-1767.

VI MAJOR LEAGUE ARTICLES (Historical)

1. AL Ticket Prices from AL Red Book, 1955 (1 pg) Boxes run \$1.65 (under 12) to \$3.15 (NY); Bleachers run .50 (child) to .75.
2. Overlay diagrams of AL & NL park dimensions with article, TSN 6-1-39 (2 pgs)
3. Veeck moves his short fences back, TSN, 6-18-47 (1 pg)
4. Veeck, mayor, and fans tangle over midget auto racing at Cleve. Stadium, TSN, 6-4-47
5. New York owner Del Webb urges uniformity in ballpark scoreboard & seating arrangements. TSN, 1-8-47
6. Sportsman's Pk. spruced up for \$200,000, TSN, 4-16-47
7. 12,000 more spacious seats installed at Comiskey, TSN, 3-12-47 (1pg)
8. Forbes Field "dolloed up" for \$500,000; drawings, TSN, ca. '47
9. Overview of Cleve. League Park as Veeck leaves, TSN, 4-2-47 (2 pgs)
10. Phils leave Baker Bowl, 7-7-38 TSN (1 pg)

Again, our thanks to Brad Sullivan for his sending these & pieces of the major league past.

VII MAJOR LEAGUE ARTICLES (Recent)

1. "Suite Deals: Why New Stadiums Are Shaking Up the Pecking Order of Sports Franchises," Financial World, 2-9-95 (8 pgs)
2. A visit to the re-built Crosley Field, SCD, 3-10-95 (2 pgs)
3. A visit to Jacobs Field & Gift Shop, SCD, 3-24-95 (2 pgs)
4. First HR at Selected ML Parks, SABR Record Com. N'letter (1 pg)
5. Build a Coors Field for NYC! Newsday, 4-26-95 (1 pg)
6. Michelle Hiskey of the Atlanta Journal/Constitution called several committee people and wrote an extended article on Coors Field and its implications for Atlanta, 4-27-95 (2 pgs)

Note to all members: My apologies for being a few weeks late with this pre-convention issue. A tornado & severe hail storm struck San Angelo on May 28. Our home escaped damage, but our museums and historic sites (where Valerie & I work) took a beating. The past days have been busy! We will recover, but it has been quite an experience.

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VIII COMMITTEE PROJECTS & NEWS

1. Art Lierman of our committee reports that work is progressing for his design of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum to be located in London, Ontario. Description & drawing of 5 pgs.
2. For those who like both ballparks and railroading, Dick Kaufman suggests the book, The Railroads and Coors Field, a soft cover of 50 pages available for \$7.95 plus \$2 s/h from the Colorado Railroad Museum, PO Box 10, Golden, CO 80402 1-800-365-6263.
3. For you photo fans, the SABR Pictorial History Newsletter is doing some fine work. I noticed in the April-95 issue the names of seven new members from our committee. For more info contact Tom Shieber, PO Box 203, Mt. Wilson Observatory, Mt. Wilson, CA 91023.
4. Remember the Hilltop Park ceremony in NYC two years ago? Well, the honoree, Chet Hoff (he pitched there 80 plus years ago!) turned 104 May 8! Thanks to the Biographical Committee for the information.
5. Dick Clark responded to our book questions of the last newsletter. Shadows of Summer "has excellent player photos, and many are taken in stadiums, but there are really no stadium photos." The Beer & Whiskey League lacks ballparks listings, but has a few interesting park photos including Sportsman's Park (p. 42 ca. 1883) and Cincinnati's new AL park (p. 62). Baseball's Hometown Teams is "loaded" with photos of minor league parks with good text. Thanks Dick!
6. A late breaking word on the Photo Contest. As of early June we received just nine entries. Chairman Ken Caranno thinks it may be time to declare victory and move on. If you have any thoughts, let me know--or speak up at the business meeting.
7. The minor league park projects continues to make progress. Ted Lukacs and Gordon Brown may have materials to display at the meeting. If you have research materials identifying and describing any region's minor league parks, contact Ted at 5617 Open Sky, Columbia, MD 21044.
8. Bob Bailey is alive and well after a move to PA. His latest report is encouraging as more writers/researchers have signed up. Some cities remain orphans. Adopt a city and help us complete the task: Albany, Baltimore, Brooklyn, Elizabeth, Elmira, Jersey City, NYC, Pittsburgh, Springfield MA, Syracuse, Troy, West New York, Wheeling, & Wilmington need covering for this Nineteenth Century Park Project. Contact Bob at 121 South Drive, Newtown, PA 18940 work (215) 638-2273; home is (215) 504-0345.
9. Wanted: Someone with knowledge and interest in both tv/movies and ballparks to assume the research on Ballparks in TV & Movies. This can be a group project. Much more is "out there" as I receive notes and letters, and a great SCD article just came to me on the topic. Let's put together a resource pamphlet for the 1996 Convention!

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IX MAJOR LEAGUE NEWS & ARTICLES

1. Major League attendance started below par for the home openers and has yet to recover. As of the end of May, only three AL clubs had an increase over 1994 (Boston, Detroit, and NY) while in the NL all clubs were showing declines. The worst AL drop in raw numbers was Texas, down 12,418 while the NL leader of loss was Atlanta at -15,110. Have the fans spoken? Will anyone listen? For a selection of articles send 50¢, or add five pages copying charge to your order.
2. They are excited in AZ over the Diamondbacks, set to play in a retractable dome in Phoenix. The new facility, Bank One Ballpark (nicknamed BOB by some locals) continues a trend of corporately named sports facilities. A selection of articles/info (9 pgs)
3. Chief Wahoo lives! That famed sign of Cleveland Stadium was donated to the Western Reserve Historical Society. Copy of program (2 pgs).
4. New turf at the Vet in Philly; how long will it be springy?
AP story 1 pg. 4-26-95
5. The Red Sox soundly turned down a plan to renovate Fenway. The proposal was made by the city's development agency. It is clear that the Sox want out of Fenway within 5-8 years. 10 pages of assorted articles.
6. The lottery failed in WI, so who pays for a new park in Milwaukee now? Also, a proposed renovation plan for County Stadium. 12 pages.
7. And yet another pitch for a stadium in SF, CA! Denver inspires locals to try one more time. SF Examiner ca. April - 95.
8. Flaw at Candlestick with new seats will cost big bucks to correct.
AP 4-12-95 (2 pgs).
9. Houston Astrodome, continually mean-mouthed by the football Oilers, celebrates its 30th baseball anniversary with replacement players NY Yankees vs. Houston (1 pg)
10. Remember the possibility of the Blue Jays playing at Dunedin Stadium, thus being the smallest major league venue since Brooklyn's Washington Park in 1890? Well, Emory Ladner suggests that we consider the Milwaukee Brewers Lloyd Street Grounds in 1901 or the South End Grounds of Boston of the post-1894 fire. Both may have seated fewer than the 6218 listed for Dunedin after 1890.
11. Get us a new park or we move, say the Mariners. AP stories of 3 pgs. They are considering a retractable roof facility.
12. More rumblings for a new park in San Diego, especially after the city agreed to expand Jack Murphy for the successful Chargers. One suggestion says build where Lane Field used to be for the PCL! 6 pgs.
13. All hail Coors Field! AP, USA Today, and various non-Denver papers. 15 pages.

POSTAGE: 32¢ for first 5 pages and 23¢ for additional sets of 5 pages. Thanks!