

SABR MINOR LEAGUE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER, SUMMER, 1992

NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT, courtesy of David Kemp.

17 of the committee's over 200 members were on hand for the Minor League meeting at the national convention in St. Louis. Chairman David Kemp coordinated the meeting. The following subjects were discussed:

Minor League Stars III, update of MLS I and II, Minor League History Journal, Annotated Guide to Books on Minor League Baseball, Minor League Encyclopedia, recordkeeping software, and creation of regional archives.

Four excellent minor league research papers were presented: John Dowling, "The Three-I League, 1901-1961;" Charles Gaharan, "Zeke Bonura Comes to the Evangeline League;" Paul Leslie, "Roy Samner, the Season;" and Joe Naiman, "Wyoming's Only Professional Baseball Team: the 1941 Cheyenne Indians."

Many of our most active committee members were once again not in attendance at the national convention. This does not lessen the importance of our committee's efforts in documenting the history of the minor leagues. Much like the Ball Parks Committee we have dozens of minor league researchers across the country carrying out important research in a number of areas.

MINOR LEAGUE STARS III. Final editorial work is being completed. The book should be published around the time of the World Series. Bob McConnell has provided anecdotes to be included in MLS III. The three Bobs -- Hoie, McConnell, and Davids -- along with Ray Nemec, have again done a superb job as cross checkers and coordinators. This group effort has again helped produce an excellent volume in the true SABR spirit. It is this committee's goal to continue this type of research and effort. We should be able to publish much of this in future issues of Minor League History. Bob Hoie notes that several active minor leaguers might be recognized in future issues of the journal.

David Kemp has available updates on MLS I and II. Costs will be for copying and postage charges. A nationally televised tornado and a major computer problem have slowed our chairman down but he's back on track.

Carlos Bauer, 4533 North Dovers, Chicago, Illinois, 60640 is currently compiling Pacific Coast League records from the late 19th century and early 20th century. Carlos presented information on the baseball record keeping software, SOFF BALLS, Version 4.0 at the convention.



Kevin Grace, Archives and Rare Books Department, University of Cincinnati, 8th floor Eagan Library (ML 113), Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0113 is completing "A Checklist of Books on Minor League Baseball." He is interested in any titles completed by committee members or in any locally printed books that committee members may be aware of. He is also organizing a session on collecting and storing baseball archives at the Midwest Archives Conference to be held in May, 1993 in Chicago.

The committee is looking for published or unpublished research conducted by Vern Luse. Vern was in the habit of distributing copies of completed works and works in progress to various people. We would like to complete an index of Luse material. Send your list to David Kemp, Minor League Committee, Rex Stucker Chapter SABR, Box 85224, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57118.

Baseball America will publish obituaries of minor league players if we supply them. Sent obits to Jim Sumner, 3215 Warwick Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606, and Jim will forward them to Baseball America.

Bill Kirwan is editor of Nine: A Journal of Baseball History and Social Policy Perspectives, Faculty of Social Work, #300, 8625-112 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6G 1K5. He is interested in submissions on minor league history between 2000 and 5000 words. He can supply publishing guidelines and subscription information. The journal is published twice a year. The September, 1992 issue arrived a little early. It contains an article entitled "Drawing the Line: The Trials of African-American Baseball Players in the International League (1886-1889)" by Mark Savoie.

Lloyd Johnson and David Kemp may be contacting you for help in documenting several leagues for the Minor League Encyclopedia. Several still need some work.

The Minor League Committee office received recently a copy of Enciclopedia Del Beisbol Mexicano, published this year. It sent David Kemp scrambling to update the careers of several players included in MLS III. The work is 600 pages and is similar in design and content to the Baseball Encyclopedia. It is an invaluable source for the documentation of the Mexican League. Copies are available from the Mexican League office Liga Mexicana De Beisbol, Angle Pola No. 16, Colonia Periodista, 11220 Mexico, D.F. (Mexico); The cost is the equivalent of fifty American dollars in pesos, plus postage.

Daniel Ginsburg is compiling information on gambling scandals in professional baseball. He especially needs information on pre-1915 scandals. He would like also to correspond with anyone else who is interested in this subject. He can be reached at 121 East Bonefish Circle, Jupiter, Florida 33477.



John Cronin has taken on an ambitious task. He is researching the history of all New York Yankees farm teams from 1932 until the present. He needs clubs, nicknames, classifications, league, managers, record and finish, playoff records, league leaders, and all-stars for Yankee farm clubs. John can be reached at 154 Bard Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10310.

The August, 1992 Southern Living has a four page article on the Arkansas Travelers. Leon Kelley, "Minor Leagues, Major Dreams: Professional Baseball in Oklahoma," appears in the Spring, 1992 Chronicles of Oklahoma.

Barry Sparks, "Comebacks and Fisticuffs: The Many Lives of the Eastern Shore League, 1922-1949," appears in the Maryland Historical Magazine, Summer, 1992. This entire issue of the Maryland Historical Magazine is devoted to baseball in Maryland and contains articles on nineteenth century baseball, Lefty Grove, Memorial Stadium, the Elite Giants, and other topics. Copies are available from Publications Marketing, Maryland Historical Society, 201 West Monument Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201 for \$4.00. plus \$3.00 postage and handling for the first copy and \$.50 for each additional copy.

Readers of the first volume of Minor League History may recall Jim Sumner's article on the 1951 Granite Falls Graniteers/Rocks. Proving that great minds travel in similar paths Greensboro News-Record sports editor Wilt Browning has written a book on that team entitled The Rocks: The True Story of the Worst Team in Baseball History. It is published by Down Home Press, P.O. Box 4126, Asheboro, N.C. 27204. Retail price is \$19.95; I don't know about shipping and handling.



## MINOR LEAGUE HISTORY JOURNAL

We have formally requested that the second volume of Minor League History be approved by the SABR board of directors. We are awaiting board approval and direction for volume two. We have received several articles for possible inclusion.

The Minor League Committee consists of over 200 members, making it the largest committee in SABR. Over the past two decades the committee has fulfilled its mandate to document the history of the minor leagues by producing articles for Baseball Research Journal, National Pastime, and the three volumes of Minor League Stars. These publications provide an excellent introduction to the amount of research conducted by committee members, both individually and collectively.

These publications are also only the tip of the proverbial iceberg. We are primarily a research committee located in a research organization. For years the committee has discussed various ways of disseminating more of this research. It is our hope that the Minor League History Journal, volume I of which appeared late last year, will become an annual publication and will provide an avenue for the further circulation of the committee's research. We expect that the creation of a regular publication outlet will encourage both new research and the completion of longer running projects. It will be made available to SABR members and interested members of the general public. We will encourage minor league teams to distribute the journal in gift shops and souvenir stands.

The journal will range from 48 to 64 pages in length. It will remain 8 1/2" by 11", with a two color cover, featuring original art work.

Regular features will include:

Yearly departmental leaders: a longtime committee responsibility.

Chronology: The journal will be an avenue for updating the various Minor League Stars volumes, in addition to documenting the careers of contemporary minor league standouts.

Minor League Stars: In depth articles highlighting the careers of exceptional minor league players. Lots of possibilities here.

Pictorial Essays: For those members who concentrate on photographic documentation of past players, leagues, or ballparks.

Minor League Travel Odysseys: Accounts of trips to ballparks, leagues, or areas.



Exceptional Teams, Players, Managers, and Umpires: Who were the best and worst minor league teams ever? Who had the longest streak or best career?

Obscure Teams and Leagues: Many interesting but unpublicized teams and leagues are now being adequately documented by committee members for the first time.

Statistical Analysis: Statistical studies are an excellent way of recreating a certain time or place in minor league history.

Overview: Broader studies of issues affecting the minor leagues are welcome.

Poetry: Why not honor minor league heroes in verse?

Independent Teams. An underresearched area. How did indys do against O.B. teams?

Other: Use your imagination.

#### EDITORIAL PROCEDURE:

1. Articles submitted by members. Articles should not have been published elsewhere.
2. Selection Committee reviews submissions. The committee will use the subject matter criteria presented above. Selected works will be crosschecked by our veteran researchers for corrections, additions, and comments. This will insure content quality.
3. Jim Sumner will be the principal editor. A managing editor position will be rotated. This position will coordinate the editorial process. Both the copy editor and managing editor will be compensated for their work.
4. Each author will retain complete rights to his work. Permission will be obtained for printing each article. The authors will be compensated \$20 for their work. The compensation may be in the form of complimentary copies of the journal.

#### PRINTING AND LAYOUT:

Bids will be taken for printing and layout work. The work must meet the standards established by the committee. The lowest bid providing the required quality will be awarded the contract. Photographic reproduction will be completed by Rich Hanson at no cost to SABR.

#### DISTRIBUTION:

Distribution will be carried out by the Minor League Committee chairman. All mailing and consignment work will be carried out by the committee. Members will be compensated for work carried out. Members may preorder copies. Special sales arrangements may be made with publications such as Baseball America.