

# SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

November-December 1994

Robert F. Bluthardt      Committee Chairman      © SABR Ballparks  
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## I NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to our committee:

Simon Inglis      "From a distance, all ballparks, old & new!"  
1 Aldred Road      He is a veteran writer/consultant on English/  
London, ENGLAND      European football (soccer) stadia. Interest in  
NW6 1AN      ballparks & how they fit in world stadia design.

Chris Herndon      All levels after 1900; Bush Std. in Indianap-  
2240-3B Oakwood Ave.      olis and Crosley; works for Ind. Indians and  
Muncie, IN 47304      has access to team archives.

Doug Spear      Writing thesis on Forbes Field and welcomes any  
3924 Spruce St.      help; permanent address at 5511 Fair Oaks St.  
Phila., PA 19104      Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

Karl Grapes      Tiger Stadium interest; interest in  
4722 Dryades St.      photos.  
New Orleans, LA 70115

Joe Dittmar      All levels and eras; Interested in exchanging  
3112 Hayes Rd.      photos of ballparks (photocopies) with other  
Norristown, PA 19403      members.

Please contact these people if you see areas of mutual interest.  
Also, send a SASE of 32¢ for additional info on Simon Inglis and  
his projects.

## II COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- \* Please remember that the postal rates increase on 1-1-95. One-stamp SASE will be 32¢. Please make adjustments when paying for reprints.
- \* Dick Beverage, SABR board liaison to the committees, recently asked chairs to complete a short survey on the role and operation of SABR research committees. If you would like a copy of your chairman's comments, send a SASE of 32¢.
- \* The 1995 annual meeting, real baseball or not, takes place in June in Pittsburgh. Start thinking of the items you want discussed at our annual committee business meeting. Also, express yourself if you have a preference for a day/time for that meeting.

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### III MAJOR LEAGUE NEWS NOTES/MATERIALS

1. St Louis goes back to grass! Busch Stadium will convert its playing surface to the real thing for the 1996 season. Three pages of misc. articles available. TSN noted that Cardinals played better on grass in 1994 (19-14 vs. 34-47), but they hit better on turf (.270 vs .246).
2. The "Park of Dreams" has been unveiled in New York. This project was conceived by the company that makes erector sets. The park created from thousands of fans' suggestions has 45,000 seats, natural grass, movable dome, traditional and high-tech scoreboards, and irregular distances. It will be on display for three months after 11-17-94. (3 pgs)
3. Yankees increased the 4300 best seats from \$17 to \$25! (1 pg)
4. Red Sox have expressed interest in a major convention/stadium complex. Boston Herald, 11-11-94 (1 pg)
5. Houston Astrodome will mark the 30th anniversary with another Houston-NY Yankee game on 3-30-95. The original game had the dome's first ab by Mickey Mantle.
6. The Kingdome accident that killed two workers was caused by the basket atop a crane striking the roof.
7. The latest Coors Field newsletter has great shots of the park nearing completion. For a copy write Denver Metro Major League Baseball Stadium District, 1660 17th St., Suite 100, Denver, CO 80202.
8. Latest Tiger Stadium Fan Club newsletter outlines the newest plan by the team to fund a new park. It also surveys MI lawmakers on the stadium financing issues. Write PO Box 441426, Detroit, MI 48244-1426 for a copy.
9. The Bostonian Society is planning a marker to note the site of the South End Grounds. If you have an opinion on its exact location on today's landscape (and if you have some good info on the park not readily available elsewhere) write Phil Bergen at 206 Washington St., Boston, MA 02109.
10. Bob Boynton reports that Jack Murphy Stadium will add 11,500 seats for football and the 1998 Super Bowl, destroying the baseball aesthetics. SD Union-Tribune piece of 1 pg available.
11. The Packers leave County Stadium in Milwaukee and will not play football in that city for the first time in 60 years. There is some confusion as to the effect on a new baseball park: will it be cheaper or not?

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12. New Park Fever continues within established projects and future possibilities:

Marge Schott of the Reds now prefers No. KY as the site for a new park and entertainment area while the city of Cincinnati wants to keep the team downtown. (3 pgs)

The Giants have extended their lease at Candlestick for five years, but still yearn for a downtown facility, also part of an entertainment facility. (1 pg)

The sale of the Pirates and future stability will increase efforts for a new ballpark in the downtown as part of a city revitalization program. (1 pg)

The predicted departure of the Rams from Anaheim Stadium will not help matters there for the team wants to develop a baseball-only facility. Talks are ongoing with the city. (1 pg)

Much discussion in Seattle over a renovated Kingdome for the Seahawks vs. the needs of the Mariners for a baseball-friendly facility. The baseball lease is through 1996. (6 pgs)

The new park/stadium in Atlanta "is starting to pick up pace," says Brian Powers. "The column grid is clearly visible ... (and) some of the lower level seating terraces are scheduled to be in place (by end of October). Thanks too go to member Michael Hinkelman who is keeping tabs on the Atlanta project.

13. With football leaving several baseball facilities, there will not be many joint facilities left by the end of the decade. In some cases, baseball may be leaving (see the San Diego situation). As of this day, I count ten sharing situations with Denver baseball moving out and Green Bay foot ball gone. By the end of the decade there could be just a few with new ballparks in Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Miami, Seattle, Phila., and San Francisco.

CONTRIBUTION THANKS for materials sent for this issue include Mike Dempsey, Dick Clark, John Guilfoyle, Bruce Genter, Andy McCue, Clarence Watkins, Bob Boynton, Steve Csik, John Koos, Keith Danish, David Pietrusza, John Kaup, Art Lierman, Fred Schuld, Jack Carlson, Gregg Carter, Brad Sullivan, Mike Frank, Michael Hinkelman, Vin Russo, David Moreau,

SPECIAL NOTICE Please read the memo enclosed with this newsletter that asks for assistance in identifying/encouraging people to run for the three positions open on the SABR Board. If you have any questions, please call on me.

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#### IV MINOR LEAGUE ARTICLES

1. History of Seattle's Sicks' Stadium, no source/date (2 pgs)
2. Last year for Edmonton's Ducey Park, SC Digest, 12-23-94 (2 pgs)
3. Baseball wanted for Homestead, FL facility, AP 3-13-94
4. New park for San Antonio? TSN, 11-1-34 (1 pg)
5. Itinerary of Mike Dempsey 1994 Minor Lg. Park Photo Tour (1 pg)
6. Articles of Canton/Akron move to Akron, OH (4 pgs)
7. Minor Lg. ball during the strike, Time, 8-22-94 (2 pgs)
8. Misc. Info/photos on Atlanta parks and teams (7 pgs)

#### V MINOR LEAGUE NEWS

- \* Jim Nitz reports taking a walking tour of the site of Racine, WI Horlick Field, home of the AAGPBL Racine Belles with a member of the 1945 team. "The configuration inside the old stone walls is much different but the walls themselves are still intact and have some of the foul line footage markings on them. The field is used primarily for football now."
- \* Bruce Genther has completed another outstanding model: the new park in Salisbury, MD. Send a SASE for a photo copy and info.
- \* The NY Yankees broke ground for their new spring training facility in Tampa, FL, a 10,000 seat park. John Guilfoyle says that the facility has "the look and dimensions of the 'Old Stadium.'"

#### VI RESEARCH REQUESTS

- \* Mike Dempsey is planning another multi-state trip to take photos of old minor league parks & sites. He needs info on these locations: Binghamton, NY; McKeesport, PA; Paintsville, KY; Edenton, NC; Charleroi & Washington, PA. Please contact him at 1564 Glasgow Road, RR Box 99, Voluntown, CT 06384-3542.
- \* Greg Carter asks about the number of professional architects on our committee. I sent him a roster with some names circled. If you are a practicing architect and/or have interest in some ballparks-design projects, contact Greg at PO Box 45666, University Station, Seattle, WA 98145-0666.
- \* Your chairman received a phone call from a investigator compiling info on the standard distance (if there is any) from home plate to the middle of a dugout, and the number of parks on any level that have protective screening for the dugout from foul balls. I had no definitive info to offer. Any ideas?

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VII MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE NEWS & BALLPARK NEWS

1. Congratulations to John Pastier whose latest essay, "Fields of Dreams: The Houses that Baseball Built," appeared in the journal, Humanities, published by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Copy available for 50¢.
2. That same issue had a revealing quote from Ken Burns on his baseball program: "First, I begin a purely visual response, filming whatever I feel like in the myriad archives, collecting whatever looks good, without any worry about whether there are places in the script that this will illustrate. In fact, we don't want literal illustration in our films because that sets up a merely one-to-one relationship of the word and picture. We hope that 'one and one' eventually equals 'three' in our films--a new relationship between word and picture--and not two."
3. Thanks to Kevin Grace of the University of Cincinnati libraries and this committee for his generous offer to donate \$2 for each copy of his Ballparks Resource Guide sold. This kind donation goes to our committee. Kevin has copies for sale at \$10. Call him at (513) 556-1959 for details. Donation good through 1-31-95.
4. Dan Bonk's limited printing of the Forbes Field 1909 plans looks impressive. Contact him at 417 Fairborough Ct., Coraopolis, PA 15108 for ordering details.
5. Several members have written to report on the selling of the Osborn drawings. "Ballpark Classics, Inc, The Osborn Archives" are not cheap, but John Guilfoyle reports that there may be a book on the prints in 1-2 years. Contact the company at (716) 256-6475 for more details.
6. Frank D'Amico suggested to the SABR office the creation of a new research committee, "SABR Teams Committee;" to study the teams and their nicknames, uniforms, colors, logos, etc. If you have any thoughts on this idea, contact Frank at 14 Rodgers Avenue, Dedham, MA 02026.
7. John Kaup will be volunteering with the San Diego Historical Society when the PCL history/exhibit comes to town in April-95.
8. Steve Csik, Ernest Green, and Brad Sullivan all wrote and gave additional entries to our "Ballparks in TV & Movies" listing. The "Paper Lion" movie had Yankee Stadium; a bio of Bear Bryant featured a Class D park in Americus, GA; and a "Dirty Harry" movie had Candlestick. Keep them coming; the list grows!!!
9. Another "back to the future" note from Brad Sullivan. The Cleveland Press wrote on 5-1-1890: "The private boxes on top of the grandstand afford a splendid view of the diamond, but they have a serious drawback. Their occupants can neither see nor be seen by the people underneath. This is bad, for what is the good of occupying a box unless one can be seen while in the act of occupation? The boxes at Brotherhood Park therefore will be used very rarely, until they can be placed in full view of the grandstand."

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VIII MAJOR LEAGUE ARTICLES

1. Various Mound Heights to be made standard, TSN, 2-1-50 (1 pg)
2. Changes made to Camden Yds elevators, AP 10-18-94 (1 pg)
3. Grass grows indoors at Silverdome, 6-18-94 London, Ont. Free Press (1 pg)
4. Fan Appreciation Day at Busch Stadium, Toronto Globe/Mail, 9-26-94 (1 pg)
5. Fenway Park, Smithsonian Magazine, October-94 (11 pgs)
6. Wind Currents at Fenway, ASTM Stand. News, Oct/94, (1 pg)
7. New park for Cardinals, TSN, 6-8-49 (1 pg)
8. ML Franchises decline in value, LA Times, 10-26-94 (2 pgs)
9. Improvements to Huntington Avenue Grounds, Sporting Life, 5-14-10 (1 pg)
10. Humerous look at old/new Cleve. parks, Cleve. Free Times, (1 pg)
11. Fancy food at Gateway Club, Free Times, 3/30-4/5 (1 pg)
12. Story behind Cleve. Stadium famed mustard, News-Herald, 4-2-94 (1 pg)
13. New Feller Statue, News-Herald, 4-2-94 ( 2 pgs)
14. Design review of Jacobs Field, Free Times, 3-30-94 (3 pgs)
15. Downtown Cleve. already lifted by Gateway, News-Herald, 4-3-94 (3pgs)
16. Misc. articles on strike's effects on cities, people, economy in San Diego, LA, & Anaheim, CA 8-7 & 14-94 (7 pgs)
17. New 'Old' Plan for Yankee Std unveiled, Daily News, (1 pg)
18. Coors to have micro brewery in new park, AP, 12-13-94 (1 pg)
19. Rockies have problems assigning season ticket holders new seats at Coors Field; AP, 12-14-94 (1 pg)
20. Janet Marie Smith helps Atlanta, Atl. Bus. Chron., 7-94, (4 pgs)

COPY REQUESTS require 6¢ per page and 32¢ of postage for the first five pages and 26¢ for additional groups of up to five pages. Checks should be made out to Bob Bluthardt in name only. Stamps are acceptable for payment too.

REMINDER: Articles offered as reprints from all 1994 newsletters are being filed next month, so review your back copies to see if you have any orders from those issues. After the end of January it will not be convenient to pull out numerous copies of specific pieces and articles. Thanks.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone. I look forward to working with you in 1995. Stay in touch!