

## SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

January 2003

c SABR Ballparks Committee 2003

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### MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Several displays, past and present: the NYC Transit Museum in Brooklyn had a special display, "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," in the summer of 2001. Also, the Brooklyn Historical Society had an exhibit on the Dodgers last year, and the New City Museum in downtown Washington will have a display by February/03 on the history of sports in that city. Send in any exhibit info and we'll be a little more timely with its dispersal.

### DIMENSIONS

A few notes on ballpark changes: the Tigers finally agreed that Comerica was too spacious, so the LF power alley shrinks from 395 to 370; the Red Sox have discussed adding seats to the top of the Green Monster, but they added 160 seats along the already narrow foul areas; the Mets were considering shrinking Shea's power alleys. Send in any park changes you see or read for our next issue.

### BALLPARKS STUFF

- \* Home Fields, Inc. has a collection of ballparks/stadium models, 1-800-852-1385 [www.homefields.com](http://www.homefields.com).
- \* Danbury Mint has sent out an announcement that it has most parks in model form, 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857 \$60 plus \$8
- \* Sports Collectors Guild has cased ballpark models, 800-950-0320; visit them at [www.replicastadiums.com](http://www.replicastadiums.com)
- \* "Forgery Alert: Keep your eye on your seat," SCD, 5-11-01 (2 pgs)
- \* "Stadia Collector: Chasing the maybe nonexistent Braves Field relics," SCD, 4-6-01 (2 pgs). This park always seems to create interesting research questions.
- \* "Hallowed Ground, Ballparks Past and Present," 2003 calendar, art by Bill Purdom, [goodsportart.com](http://goodsportart.com), 1-800-321-4633, Bill Goff, Inc. \$16 plus \$6 s/h
- \* Fenway Park in a handcrafted, lighted ceramic collectible, The Christmas Dove, [www.christmasdove.com](http://www.christmasdove.com) 888-550-3683

### MINOR LEAGUE NOTES

Here are some news notes from the past year or two on the minor league circuit:

1. Profile of Tacoma, WA Cheney Stadium (1 pg)
2. Toledo, OH opens new Fifth Third Field before 12,134 in April/02. Park costs \$39.2 million and has dimensions of 320, 412, 320. (Detroit Free Press & Ohio Magazine (3 pgs) MASH star and Toledo booster, Jamie Farr, was featured. See more in PRESERVATION section of newsletter on Toledo.

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3. Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium undergoes another improvement, seating capacity up to 24,000 and OF dimensions increased. World-Herald, 2002 (1 pg)
4. "A Day at the Park," Chillicothe, OH, Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7-21-01, (1 pg)
5. Memphis realizing downtown revival with new AutoZone Park, NYT, 8-15-01 (1 pg)
6. Ryans seeking to match Austin/Round Rock, TX success in Corpus Christi, Dallas Morning News, 7-22-02, (2 pg)
7. Fort Worth Cats moved from college field into new park just north of downtown on the site of old LeGrave Field. Very sharp minor league facility with old-style bleachers.
8. Frisco, northern Dallas suburb, proposed a new park in 2003 for RoughRiders (2 pg)
9. "Back to the Minors," summary piece on teams/parks in Camden, Harrisburg, Trenton, Reading, Wilmington, and Atlantic City, Philadelphia Inquirer, 4-12-02 (2 pg)
10. "Minors are a major attraction," same as above, Toledo, Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and Lansing, Detroit News, 2002
11. Construction on new Eastlake park outside of Cleveland Plain Dealer, 11-24-02 (2 pg)
12. Profile of historic Waconah Park, Pittsfield, MA, AP 9-8-02 (1 pg)
13. "Take me out to the Beer Game," beer on minor league circuit, Ale Street News, August/September 2001 (2 pg)
14. Baseball is back in Brockton, MA in new 4,500 seat park, Campanelli Stadium, Banker & Tradesman 6-10-02 and Regional Review of Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Q3/2002 (4 pgs)
15. And baseball's back in Brooklyn, NY with the Cyclones, first pro ball in the borough since the Dodgers left in 1957. Misc. papers (5 pgs)
16. But despite great crowds, piece says this team and the club in Staten Island is producing just "singles" in economic development, Crain's NY Business, 9-3-01 (3 pgs)
17. Bergen, NJ officials face skepticism in getting ballpark, The Record, 4-19-02, (2 pgs)
18. Akron player locks self in dugout bathroom! Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6-30-01 (1 pg)
19. Long Island Ducks have successful 2000, Newsday, 2-23-01 (1 pg)

## SPECIAL RESOURCES

We remind members that we have two interesting reference items available for the copying/postage:

1. "Ballparks in the Movies and TV" by Francis Kinlaw, updated to 2002. Notes the appearance on ballparks, both intentional and by chance, in various programs. Sometimes you find the best view by accident; for example, recently I saw a silent film on tv called "Speedy," starring Harold Lloyd, and it featured some great shots of cabbie Harold driving through the NYC streets with shots of his approach to and wandering inside Yankee Stadium, ca. 1928. Anyhow, the reference piece has 20 pages and we welcome additions.
2. "Published Baseball Stadium Books & Booklets," by David Mitchell has 27 pages of references with some resources not always known.

## GENERAL ARTICLES & NEWS

1. Overview of new Pittsburgh and Milwaukee parks, noting waning influence on Camden Yards, The Washington Times, 4-2-01 (2 pgs).
2. Review of So. CA college ballparks, SD Union Tribune, 5-6-02 (3 pgs)

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3. "New Parks Lose Magic Quickly," NYT, 5-7-02 (2 pgs)
4. How the 70s baseball stadia became obsolete, US News & World Rept., 5-4-01 (3 pgs)
5. Loss of the bullpen pitchers carts--as one historian said, the "players hated them."  
Sports Illustrated, 5-20-02, (1 pg)
6. Did you hear about the lady who had her husband's ashes in a container dropped from an airplane onto Safeco Field--and it missed! SI, 6-3-02, (1 pg)
7. Great summary of current ballparks, how they were built, public/private funding, and other commentary, Tax Notes, 6-4-01 (17 pages)
8. "Home Grown," how they care for Jacobs Field grounds, Plain Dealer, 5-12-01 (2 pg)
9. "Ballparks resurrect a mysterious path," CSM, 5-11-01 (1 pg), comeback of the pathway from the mound to the batter's box.
10. "Amusement Parks," WSJ, 3-29-02 a piece for traditionalists everywhere as in what happened to the game as parks now have "cheesy music, sushi, & a swimming pool!"
11. "Where should I park myself?" USA Today Sports Weekly 12-4/10-02, (1 pg) writer reviews favorite parks as a free agent fan.
12. "Twenty-five winter baseball destinations", USA Today Sports Weekly, 12-25/31-02, notes some off-season visits such as Fulton Co. Stadium site, Yankee Stadium tour, Huntington Ave. Grounds site, Wrigleyville, Field of Dreams (IA), and Metropolitan Stadium site. (3 pgs)
13. Did you see the 12-30/1-6 02/03 Sports Illustrated that noted the "retro ballpark" as a sports trend of the future with a 6000 seat all wood bandbox! (180 ft. to dead center!) and wire coops in place of dugouts. (1 pg)
14. "Trend in new arenas: less is better," Arizona Daily Star, 02 date, sports facilities see fewer ads to lessen fans' complaints and increase effectiveness.
15. Newest pricing wrinkle, multiered ticket pricing, higher prices for top games, Cubs Mets trying this in 2003. Discounts for less popular games too.
16. "The Ballpark of Memory," terrific NYT piece on famed author Larry Ritter, 10-13-02  
(4 pgs). Larry was a great help with our Hilltop Park marker project.
17. "Foul balls: Stinging souvenirs," Phila. Inquirer, 4-5-02 (2 pgs) fan injuries, where the fouls go, how clubs deal with claims, new screening ideas.
18. "Grass Roots," & "The Legend of Fenway" American Luxury, summer-fall/ 01 (7 pgs)
19. "Stadium Jinx, What to call Enron Field?" WSJ, 12-4-01, companies sell their name to sports stadiums and then they tank! some stats too.
20. "Dream Fields," Time, June/2002, hitting all the parks (3 pgs)
21. Brief review of vendors and their bp sales, SI, 4-30-01 (1 pg)
22. "Rating the Parks," by The Closer, TSN, 4-30-01, he likes Wrigley, SD, and Shea in the NL and Fenway, Yankee, and Tiger in the AL (1 pg).
23. "Three Kings," Village Voice, 6-19-01 (2 pgs), PA man Bob Sheppard, organist Eddie Layton, & anthem singer Robert Merrill (51, 36, and 29 years respectively!)
24. Review of ballparks food, USA TODAY, 4-16-01 (1 pg) park by park food notes.

## ARTICLES AND NEWS FROM THE PAST

1. Nice aerial shot of Parkway Field, Louisville, ca. 1940 (1 pg)
2. "Growing up at Griffith Stadium," George Case, souvenir program, 2000 (2 pgs)
3. "NY Heart Still Beats for Giants," Dave Anderson, NY Times, Oct/2002 (1 pg)
4. Opening Day at League Park 1910, Cleve. Press, 1-17-53 (1 pg)

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5. New Yorker piece on a day game at Polo Grounds weeks before Giants leave forever, 7-27-57, (2 pgs)
6. Fan reaction to 1985 Cleveland plan to close bleachers at Municipal, Plain Dealer, 2-3-85 (1 pg)
7. No knotholes in new Cleveland park fence, cartoon, 9-19-09, (1 pg)
8. New park for Cleveland, 5/1946, (3 pgs) local; of course, it didn't get built that way at that place, suggesting a 40,000 seat park at Euclid and East 40th Street.
9. "Isn't it Time to Modernize Stadium?," Plain Dealer, (1 pg) 11-4-65; Lebovitz sees new park for SD and asks why can't Cleveland fix its facility.
10. Summary of Cleveland Municipal Stadium, Akron Beacon, 4-1-01 (2 pgs)
11. New ballpark for Orioles in spring training, Scottsdale Progress, 5-6-55, (2 pgs)
12. Profile of League Park, Akron Beacon, 4-1-01 (2 pgs)
13. Writer visits modern site of Ebbets and Polo Grounds, NY Times, 3-30-01 (3 pgs)
14. Famed 1949 Indians flagpole sitter dies, Charley Lupica stayed on platform for 117 days in 1949, hoping Tribe would take pennant, Plain Dealer, 12-25-02. He even missed the birth of a son while perched on a pole. The Indians finished third that year.
15. Lighting expert for post-WWII parks, James Buck, dies, Plain Dealer 12-28-02 (1 pg)
16. Profile of "Detroit's wonderful popcorn man," Plain Dealer, 10-2-05, (1 pg)
17. Groundskeeper expert Marshall Bossard dies at 87, Plain Dealer, 9-10-01 (1 pg)  
He worked on Indian ballfields from 1937 to 1986. Three generations of the family worked on the grounds.
18. Another profile of League Park, Cleveland Magazine, May/2001 (6 pgs). good photos.
19. Profile of Del Webb, Sun Cities (AZ) Area Historical Society, (2 pgs) 1998
20. Profile of stadium and teams of Sun Cities, AZ, (2 pgs) 1998
21. Three shots of Scottsdale, AZ Stadium, including two aerials.
22. "Diamonds aren't forever," profile of Wolfson Park of Jacksonville, FL, folioweekly, 4-23-02 (8 pgs) Park hosted 50 years of games.
23. Profile of Frank D. Lawrence Stadium of Portsmouth, VA, built in 1941 and out of use by the 1970s. The Virginian Pilot, 5-27-92 (5 pgs)
24. Memories of Springfield, IL Laphier Park, IL State Register-Journal, 4-17-60 (1 pg)
25. Kevin Tulley's research on ballparks of Reading, PA, including maps/ info on North 11th Street Grounds, Circus Maximus, Lauer's Park, and parks/maps for Harrisburg, Altoona, Shamokin, Johnstown, Chester, & Easton, PA , plus other Tri-League (1907-1914) info. Great materials! up to 50 pages.

BALLPARK REVIEWS by Lile Anderson of Comerica Park (8 pgs), Miller Park (4 pgs), and PNC Park (7 pgs). Very specific in his praise and criticisms. Not as good as being there, but worth a read.

### PRESERVATION NEWS

Baltimore: Thanks to committee member Gordon Thomas, they knew to look for the 1954 time capsule when tearing down Memorial Stadium. Court battles kept the facility alive for a short stretch as competing proposals were issued to save some or all of the stadium, but the final plan to knock down all of the stadium and save just the memorial facade won the day. Gordon sent us a full folder of material, so ask for the small (10 pgs) medium (25 pgs) or large (50 pgs) package. Most of the thirty-one acres will become a senior housing development.

Washington, D.C. Former SABR executive director, George Case, worked with a number of SABR people to arrange a symposium and marker ceremony to remember Griffith Stadium on September 25, 2001. We have a

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great file of materials and local stories on the events from Gordon Thomas. The stated plan was for a marker by the front door of the current Howard University Hospital on the ballpark site, plus four markers close to the original sites of the plate and three bases. And an exhibit on the park was set for the lobby. A belated thanks to anyone from our committee and SABR who had a hand in this worthy effort. We first suggested this project in the mid-1980s! (up to 20 pgs)

Houston With both its baseball and football teams at other sites, the Astrodome lacks a steady tennant, but it can say that it is one of the top 100 engineering projects of the 150 year history of the American Society of Professional Engineers. The engineers cited many bridges, buildings, dams, and other structures that changed both the engineering profession and the American landscape. November/December 2002 Civil Engineer (1 pg)

Pulaski, TN Steve Carroll reports that this city's Calfee Park was voted a state historical landmark.

Muskegon, MI Marc Okkonen reported in 2001 that the city's Marsh Field, built in 1916, was being considered for a marker. The oldest minor league park in the state, it hosted high school, amateur, and professional minor league baseball, and the All American Girls Professional League and several major league teams played games there. Details available (2 pgs).

Pittsburgh Story in October/2002 Smithsonian shows the famed photo of the college students on the Cathedral of Learning roof reacting to the 1960 World Series, and it shows the same site today, plus a profile of the man (George Silk) who took that shot (2 pgs). Today, the park site is covered by a University of Pittsburgh building.

Boston The Boston Braves Historical Society commemorated the naming of Braves Field Way on October 6, 2002, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the site.

Brooklyn The Brooklyn Dodgers newsletter says that the Canarsie Casket Company, owner of the old Ebbets Field Flag Pole, was considering selling it to Brooklyn Cyclones at Coney Island, the new team and park for Brooklyn.

Newark The city's new ballpark was renamed Bears & Eagles Stadium to honor the two teams whose glory years of the 1940s made that city a baseball hotbed. Yogi Berra, formerly of the Newark Bears of the International League was on hand for the May 8, 2001 ceremony and he was joined by Larry Doby of the old Newark Eagles of the Negro Leagues.

Montreal Steve Carroll reports that old Jarry Park remains in that city, in use as a tennis stadium, and completely enclosed. The public swimming pool that used to be visible beyond right field is still in use.

Toledo Preservation, the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, cites the new Toledo park, Fifth Third Field, as the latest example of ballparks being used on the minor league level to revitalize older, mid-size and small cities. (2 pgs) May/June 2002

Miami In the spring of 2001 they began to tear down Miami Stadium, the late 1940s park that hosted so many black and Cuban players in the 1940s and 1950s. The park was renamed for Bobby Maduro in 1987.

Chicago The City of Chicago, through its Landmark Division, is seeking expertise, advice, and possible witnesses to build a case to make Wrigley Field a Chicago landmark. Mr. Terry Tatum of the Landmarks

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Commission at (312) 744-9147 e-mail of [ttatum@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ttatum@cityofchicago.org) is the contact person for this project. A public hearing may be held in mid-March. Owners of parks have traditionally fought such designations, fearing restrictive rules on future expansion, renovation, or even abandonment. However, certain financial benefits can come from this designation with tax credits for improvements, etc. Mr. Tatum has asked for a letter of support from our Committee. Unless any of the membership objects--and pending no objections from the SABR office, I will be happy to do so. If you have something to contribute, contact Mr. Tatum.

**Boston** Local non-profit group seeks to pick up dropped 1998 project to build a mini Fenway Park in Quincy, MA. Started by former Red Sox infielder Tim Lincecum, the project was dropped after he left the Sox with an elbow injury. A local group seeks to build the 3000-seat, half-scale Fenway, with all distinctive touches such as a Green Monster. *Patriot-Ledger*, (2 pgs) 4-16-02

**Daytona Beach** Friends of Daytona Baseball, LLC, is rehabilitating the historic baseball park in Daytona Beach where Jackie Robinson broke professional baseball's color barrier in 1946 with the Montreal Royals. The \$20 million renovation will make the ballpark, a potential revival point for the entire community of Daytona Beach. The 1915 ballpark will remain in use during the renovation. (2 pgs)

**Cleveland** An often discussed plan to restore the crumbling ruins of League Park and make it a community center/first class baseball field has arisen again, and workers tearing through the old grandstand discovered a forgotten underground tunnel that connected the field to the dugout. The old ticket office now serves as a community center, but part of the restoration plan is to bring the first floor to its original appearance. Several articles from the local papers (7 pgs)

**Brooklyn** Thanks to local SABR and Committee members, the old wall at Washington Park, now a part of the Con Ed yard in Brooklyn, is saved--again, from being torn down. Several meetings among the company officials and SABR members brought out several issues and ways to preserve the wall, one of the oldest extant pieces of a professional ballpark. Summaries of a flurry of e-mails available (8 pgs)

**Boston** The Sox have been sold since our last newsletter, and the plans for a new park have lost most of their steam since then too. An aggressive restoration/renovation/expansion program has become more attractive. Thanks and praise go to the Save Fenway Park group that has been waging a steady, informed, and intelligent battle to preserve the park and all that it represents for baseball in Boston and the country. If all of this is relatively new to you, get on board and join the Save Fenway Park group by writing them at PO Box 873, Boston, MA 02103 [www.SaveFenwayPark.org](http://www.SaveFenwayPark.org) (617) 367-3771 fax at (508) 4587-8977.

The Committee supports preservation and education efforts designed to preserve the heritage of the classic ballparks on all playing levels, professional and amateur. Keep us informed on what preservation/restoration efforts may be happening in your community. We also support properly designed efforts to celebrate the sites or remaining pieces of old parks, and it is never too late to start such an effort. As noted in the Washington event for Griffith Stadium, timing is everything, and a good idea deferred is not an idea denied. A marker is by no means as good as the real thing, but out of sight is out of mind, and without a marker, future baseball fans might never know what they missed. Thanks!

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**BOOK NOTES**

Here are a few notes on some books of the past year or two regarding ballparks. We welcome "mini reviews" of any book for the newsletter.

1. The Baseball Filmography by Hal Erickson and published by McFarland, Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640, 800-253-2187, may have some of our favorite ballparks in their movie listings. \$45; 536 pages, illustrated.
2. Arcadia Publishing--publishers of an ever-increasing number of local history books--has done a book called Baseball in Washington, D. C. by SABR members Mark Rucker and Frank Ceresi. \$19.95 plus s/h. see [www.fcassociates.com](http://www.fcassociates.com).
3. Three Rivers that Spawned Champions by SABR member Greg Spaulding is 150 pages and retails for \$20 plus \$2 s/h. (412) 829-5042. It has over 100 photos, City of Champions Publishing, PO Box 17276, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.
4. Storied Stadiums, Baseball's History Through its Ballparks, by Curt Smith, author of the acclaimed book on baseball broadcasters, is 593 pages with lots of data. \$32.
5. Simon Inglis of England has published a book on stadia, Sightlines, a Stadium Odyssey, on line at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk). Simon can be reached at 020 7794-7494 .
6. The Boston Red Sox, From Cy to the Kid, is another Arcadia production, \$19.99, 128 pages, with 200 photos. Authored by Mark Rucker and Bernard M. Corbett.
7. Chris Epting, a SABR member, has written a book on the LA Coliseum with 200 photos. Has anyone seen it?
8. Blue Skies and Green Fields by Ira Rosen, profile of the author in the 12-5-01 The Record, (2 pgs) His favorite is Wrigley; his worst is Montreal's Olympic Stadium. 218 pages, lots of color photos, \$40, Clarkson Potter/Publishers, New York, Thanks to Keith Danish for passing along a copy.
9. Echoes of Detroit, A 300-Year History, by Irwin Cohen, has a great shots of the city and now and then references and photos of the many parks of Detroit, including several good pre-Tiger Stadium shots. 134 pages, City of Vision Publishing , 1629 Haslett Rd., Suite 178, Haslett, MI 48840. \$19.95 Irwin did an Arcadia book on Detroit that has some park shots. And speaking again of Detroit, don't forget the book by The Detroit News, Home, Sweet Home, \$29.95, [www.SportsPublishingInc.com](http://www.SportsPublishingInc.com). 160 pages with some terrific shots of Tiger Stadium and the great moments it hosted.
10. 'It's Hardly Sportin','' by Costas Spirou and Larry Bennett, examines the projects of the United Center and Comiskey Park Park, plus the Wrigley lights addition, to see how the rhetoric of urban revitalization and improvement matches the realities of the various neighborhoods. The authors are not impressed with the results of the new arena and ballpark. 220 pages, available in March, \$28.50, Univ. of IL Press
11. The Final Season by Tom Stanton, was available in summer/2001, and covered the last year at Tiger Stadium. St. Martin's Press.
12. Splash Hit, Joan Walsh and C. W. Nevius, profiles the new Pac Bell Park and the Giants, 144 pages, \$29.95 pb, Chronicle Books, [www.chroniclebooks.com](http://www.chroniclebooks.com) 800-722-6657.

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13. The Diamond in the Bronx by Neil Sullivan "uses the history of Yankee Stadium to reflect the currents of change that have swept through New York in the past century, particularly in the Bronx. Not without flaws, has many insights into the politics of the new stadium business." NY Times book reviews, 5-6-01. \$30 Oxford University.

14. Ballparks by Robert von Goeben published by Michael Friedman, is a coffee table book says Joe Favano of our committee, 120 pages, lots of photos, some good views, but "breezy and unprofessional" in the text with several glaring errors and taking the broad scope here and there. Get it for the photos. I have Joe's full one-page review if you wish to read it. I got my copy for \$15, about half price.

We welcome book reviews, reports of great places to get old ballparks books, and any material on ballparks authors and other publications.

### RESEARCH NOTES & REQUESTS

Some of these are a little dated, so the inquirer may have moved onto other projects, but this summary will give committee members some idea of what is being asked and researched in the world of ballparks. And we have a few resources noted.

- \* The NY Times now has photos available from what they are calling its "Historic Stadiums Photo Collection. Call 1-800-671-4332 nytimes.com/nytstore. A little pricey but some classic shots are available.
- \* Serious scholarship and college courses in baseball, NY Times, 6-15-02 (2 pgs)
- \* Bill Mountjoy has e-mailed us some interesting ballpark shots and he seeks any information on Maher Field in Roanoke and other Piedmont League teams. Contact him at butzadams@hotmail.com
- \* Eric Glass at Hope-Beckham, Inc., 13 Corporate Square, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30329, seeks info on any ballparks used by the Atlanta Crackers about 1903.
- \* Bill McNeil at Wmneil68@aol.com is studying the greatest major league catchers of all time and he needs info on foul distances about home plate.
- \* Kevin Tulley sent us a 3-page essay on Reading, PA Lauer's Park
- \* Ron Selter sent us a 14-page essay and maps on NYC's Hilltop Park.
- \* Norman Macht, loispn@dmv.com asked about the old Detroit ballpark with a sign on the OF fence with a large head of an Indian, ca. 1909-1911.
- \* Matthew Tobias at matabas@colby.edu was seeking a historical list of ballparks and their capacities.
- \* Ron Selter via Mike Foster alerts us to a great Library of Congress source of ballparks photos at www.loc.gov. The site has a selection called American Memories with lots of classic park shots; also, some spring training photos.
- \* "Baseball Fanatics & the 1903 World Series," (7 pgs) by Roger Abrams, summary of presentation at last year's SABR convention, soon to be a book.
- \* The 1910 Championship of Manhattan," by Bob Golon, SABR/2002, (8 pgs)
- \* Summary of NYC Ballparks, Allen Schmidt, et. al., (5 pgs)
- \* Peter Donhauser at pld727@earthlink.net, was researching the Polo Grounds and seeks info on its 1911 construction, design notes, plans, etc.
- \* "He Plays Boswell in Storied Stadium," NY Times, 1-26-02 (2 pgs) Tour guide knows all about the park and has a 2002 World Series ring too!
- \* Michael Swope, 2203 Clark Drive, #9, Jackson, MI 49202, bigmike@voyager.net, seeks info on estimated square footage of fair/foul territory in ml parks.
- \* Marc Okkonen tells us that he has reprints of his illustrations from his 1900-1909 Baseball Memories, color 8 1/2 by 11 copies at \$5 each. (231) 755-1240 okkonen@aol.com



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\*Dixie Tourangeau at 64 Calumet Street, #2, Boston, MA 02120 seeks info on old Congress Street Grounds in Boston.

\* Check out Chris Eptings's web site at [ww.chrisepting.com](http://www.chrisepting.com)

### MORE RESEARCH NOTES & REQUESTS

\* Project to research and mark the site of Chicago's West Side Park/Grounds. Brian Bernardoni, Chicago Area Realtors, is working with Committee member Ed Hartig. If you have something to offer, call him at (312) 243-3773. [BBernardoni@chirealtor.com](mailto:BBernardoni@chirealtor.com)

\* Searching for Negro League parks photos, Sue Terry, [Infowhizz@aol.com](mailto:Infowhizz@aol.com) PO Box 56719, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 (818) 506-0500.

\* Bruce Genther seeks photos of the Astrodome for his latest model project, ca. 1965. 15835 Haynes Road, Laurel, MD 20707 (301) 725-1906 [BruceGenther@aol.com](mailto:BruceGenther@aol.com)

\*Union and Players Park of Pittsburgh info needed, George Skornickel, [skor1416@nb.net](mailto:skor1416@nb.net)  
1416 Sun Mine Road, Tarentum, PA 15084

\*Researching the early ballparks of Toronto, Nate & Jane Dorward, [ndorward@sprint.ca](mailto:ndorward@sprint.ca)

\* Researching Comiskey of the 20s; anyone know of anyone alive who saw a game then? Contact Steve Mitchell at [wrigley1pm@hotmail.com](mailto:wrigley1pm@hotmail.com). Steve is a grad student at Syracuse

\*Lukas Thorn at [lukasthorn@hotmail.com](mailto:lukasthorn@hotmail.com) was seeking all detailed info of all parks built over the past ten years as he assembled info for the Washington, DC effort for a team

\* Wendy & Eric Pastore were researching/taking digital photos of every pro ballpark in the US and Canada! [digitalballparks.homestead.com](http://digitalballparks.homestead.com)

\*Ted Sande is researching League Park for the restoration/urban development program. Contact him if you have specific info at (216) 561-3689. 13415 Shaker Hts Blvd., Shaker Square, Cleveland, OH 44120.

\*Researching some old Comiskey Park seats, Paul Geoghegan at [Sevnt@aol.com](mailto:Sevnt@aol.com) He needs to figure out from what section of the old park his seats came.

\* Several are researching inside-the-park hr's and citing the size of parks in the 1900-1950 era, with special attention to pre and post deadball eras. Contact Ron Selter at [r.selter@worldnet.att.net](mailto:r.selter@worldnet.att.net)

\*Researching Wash. DC parks of the late 1890s, Angus McFarlane at [aamacfarlane@earthlink.net](mailto:aamacfarlane@earthlink.net). He is especially interested in OF distances.

\*John Holway seeks info on the height of the RF roof at Old Comiskey. [JHolway@erols.com](mailto:JHolway@erols.com)

### THIS & THAT

\* Sun Sentinel (FL) piece of 4-15-01 mentioning Ballparks Committee and discussing teams/owners/ballparks re the Marlins. (2 pgs)

\* Plain Dealer piece of 9-25-02 on famed drummer at Indians games, John Adams (2 pgs)

\*Mike Trabert and the ballparks he has visited (4 pgs)

### SABR DENVER/2003

See you in Denver in July; looks like our committee business meeting will take place on Saturday, July 12, at 11 am. I look forward to seeing everyone. If you have a topic for the meeting, get it to me now and I'll start building the agenda.

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Also, convention organizers seek “research based oral and poster” presentations. Contact Gail Rowe, 7205 Poudre River Road, #6, Greeley, CO 80634 or growers36@36attbi.com

Oral presentations have a 20 minute limit with 5 minutes for questions. Deadline: 3-15-03.

LAST THOUGHT

Our committee has been approached by the publishers at McFarland to help create a new index /reference book to ballparks. Depending on our ambition and resources, this could conceivably cover all pro/amateur levels, all states, even nations! What do you think? Have you research material you are willing to share? Are you willing to assist? Let me know and we'll outline the options for our next newsletter.

IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

We will provide an update on all major league parks (let us know if you hear of any changes to any facility in capacity, dimensions, or style), and we will list the new members who have joined the committee in the past two years and patiently waited for a newsletter.

My thanks and appreciation to all committee members who have remained in touch, despite my long delays in responding. The next newsletter should clear up the backlog of material and we'll try to stay current. Also, I'll propose some subcommittees to help spread out our committee work and get us back in gear.

Among the immediate issues, let us see if we can gather everyone's e-mail address and consider sending the newsletter by that means. It would surely save money and make it even more timely.

Copies are 7 cents/page; stamps welcome as payment; checks made out to me by name only as my local bank does not know what a ballparks committee or SABR is.