

SABR BALLPARKS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

January-February 1993

Robert F. Bluthardt Committee Chairman
244 North Oxford Drive Home (915) 942-0635
San Angelo, TX 76901 Work (915) 657-4441

I NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these people to our committee:

Jerry Gregory 3409 Reedy Drive Annandale, VA 22003-1137	League Park in Cleve; Hudson Field, Dayton, OH; Mun. Std. in Zanesville, OH; minor lg. parks; interested in all ballparks aspects.
Dale Rhines 3933 Elmwood Road Cleveland Hts., OH 44121	All parks, esp. early 20th century & 1950-onward; Cleve/Phila/Pitts/other midwestern cities; working on master's thesis (see later in newsletter).
Michael Hinkleman 782 Holmes Street Atlanta, GA 30318	AL & NL parks of 1900-onward; Ebbets, Comiskey, Shibe, and Weeghman (pre-Wrigley); interest in scoreboards; model making & paintings of parks.

If you see common ground, please contact these gentlemen. Thanks!

II NINETEENTH CENTURY PARKS PROJECT REPORT

Project chairman Bob Bailey reports that people have volunteered to take these cities: Milwaukee, Rockford, Cleveland, Toledo, Keokuk, Providence, Philadelphia, Washington, and Louisville. He also has offers for essays on Recreation Park in Detroit and Southside Park in Chicago. This is a great start, but many cities remain. Bob has a set of general guidelines if you are interested. Refer to your last newsletter for the list of 19th century parks to be covered. To receive additional information, please contact Bob Bailey at 12129 Briargate Lane, Goshen, KY 40026.

III PHOTO CONTEST

Our thanks to contest chairman Ken Carrano for getting this activity organized. A contest flyer is enclosed. Please contact him at the address/phone printed on the flyer for additional details. Consider participating and encourage fellow SABR members to do the same!

IV GOODBYE CLEVELAND STADIUM

As the new and as yet unnamed facility nears completion in Cleveland, the home of the Indians approaches its last season. The ever-busy Brad Sullivan provides with these interesting facts about this soon-to-be abandoned ballpark:

1. The last game at the Stadium will be the Indians third participation in a facility's last game. The Tribe played in the 10-1-61 game against the Angels at LA Wrigley Field. This was the same day that Roger Maris hit his 61st hr. The other "last game" was the team's final home contest at League Park in 9-21-46.
2. The Indians' only Sunday night ESPN appearance will be on June 27 (Convention time) against Kansas City. The team specifically asked for that date to mark the 54th anniversary of the first night game at the park. Feller threw a one-hitter that night.
3. Going into the last year at the Stadium, the Red Sox have lost the most games there (253), but the Tigers are just one loss behind!

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4. Bob Lemon has won the most games at the Stadium (100), Andre Thorton has the most home runs (119), and Mickey Mantle has the most opposing home runs (36), but Ted Williams is just behind him with 35.
5. The Indians and Rangers close their parks on the same day, October 3. This is the first case of a double "closing" since 9-22-65 when the Braves played their last game at County Stadium in Milwaukee and the Angels left Dodger Stadium.
6. The Indians are taking advantage of last-game nostalgia as they require fans to buy seats to all three of the weekend games including the last contest on 10-3-93.
7. Season's seats and regular seating sales are quite brisk reports F. David Gill. By early February the team had tripled (from 184,000 to 500,000 plus) its ticket sales and they hoped for 800,000 by Opening Day.

V GOODBYE ARLINGTON STADIUM

As noted above, Arlington Stadium, home of the Texas Rangers, will close its gates for the last time on the same day as Cleveland's park has its final game. The public relations director of the team, John C. Blake, has issued a request for any information, photos, clippings, anecdotes, etc. about Arlington Stadium, especially concerning its early years as a minor league facility in the 1960s. Contact John at the Rangers office at PO Box 90111, Arlington, TX 76004-3111. By the way, Brad Sullivan notes that it is appropriate that Kansas City will help Texas close its park; the Rangers did the favor for Kansas City at Municipal Stadium on 10-4-72.

VI BOOK REVIEW

Thanks to Charles P. Wilson of our committee for his book review of Major League Stadiums, A Vacation Planning Guide. The review is enclosed.

VII CHANGES TO TIGER STADIUM

New Tiger owner Mike Ilitch has commissioned an \$3 million wintertime renovation to the park that includes an open-air food court and upscale shops ready for the 4-13-93 home opener. A 55-year old blue wall that ran the length of Michigan Avenue was taken down. Our thanks to Andy McCue, Gregory Stanley, & Mike Betzow for various news clippings on this issue. For copies, send 75¢ for copying and postage. By the way, the Tigers are also looking at holding rock concerts at the park while the team is on the road!

VIII ADDRESS CHANGES

Ethan Casey now at 1814 Church St., Detroit, MI 48216-1527
Richard Smiley now at 3030 No. Narragansett Ave., Chicago, IL 60634-4944
David Pietrusza now at 49 Heritage Pkwy, Scotia, NY 12302
Paul Savary now at 7744 Shootingstar Dr., Springfield, VA 22152-3102
Steve Csik now at 6334 Lansdown Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109-2217

Please keep us informed if you change locations. Updated committee rosters are always available for \$1.00 for postage/copying costs.

We now have nearly 200 on our mailing list. That represents many stamps and newsletters. If you do not wish to remain on this mailing list, let me know and we'll take care of things.

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IX BALLPARK MARKER REPORT

1. Hilltop Park, New York

Good news from Manhattan as the officials of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, current owners of the site, have had a major meeting and fundraising event to help support the marker and ceremony. To keep the Yankees interested & involved, the date for the ceremony has been moved to the fall, thus this could be the 81st anniversary of the last game rather than the 90th of the first game.

2. Washington Park, Brooklyn, NY

More positive news as the officials of Con Ed, owners of the site, have agreed to consider a marker. Committee member Bill Price had a very friendly and productive meeting with the Con Edison people and plans will be developed for some type of memorial to the pre-Ebbets Field home of the Dodgers and the site of Federal League ball in Brooklyn.

X RESEARCH QUESTIONS & PROJECTS

1. Woody Wilson (PO Box 160104, Sacramento, CA 95816) is researching the history of the All-Star Game. He wants to know the exact capacity for all parks used by this contest and he wonders if the press are included in any of the capacity and announced attendance figures. He also is investigating the parks that may have added extra, temporary seating for the All Star Game. He is looking at field dimensions too. We referred him to the standard books on parks and he welcomes additional assistance.
2. Nettie Goldstein (914 337-4026) needs information about ballpark models. She is considering making one of Shea, Yankee, or Veterans Stadiums. She is also interested in panoramic photos of parks.
3. Michael Foster (2191 Dave Street, Winston-Salem, NC) seeks information on Southside Ballpark in Winston-Salem and Holt Moffit Field in Lexington, NC. Both parks were frequently used in the 1940s and 50s by traveling pro teams and American Legion clubs. Michael notes that both parks were the "classic type" in downtown sections with odd fence dimensions and green wooden grandstands.
4. Margaret MacCahill (1-800-872-3410 ext. 6451) of Baseball Weekly is writing a short piece on Ebbets Field in honor of its 80th anniversary (April-1913) She seeks interesting stories, ticket prices & food items sold at the park in its last season of 1957. Please call if you can assist.
5. Nelson Eddy (126 Second Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37201) seeks information photos, etc., on the famed Sulphur Dell. He is working on a documentary film to be finished by the end of this baseball season, the 30th anniversary of that park's last active year.
6. Timothy Rask (217 East Davenport St, Iowa City, IA 52245-2105) continues his research on IA parks. He has expanded his scope to include these cities: Clinton, Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Keokuk, Waterloo, Davenport, & Dubuque. Timothy requests info on parks in any of these cities. He also notes that his files on Community Field/Burlington, Veterans Memorial Stadium/Cedar Rapids, Riverview Stadium/Clinton, & John O'Donnell Stadium/Davenport are considerable and he is willing to share such information.

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7. John Kaup (1756 Rada Road, Hacienda Hts., CA 91745) is working on a paper about San Diego ballparks for the 1993 SABR meeting. He seeks any "information and advice."
8. Dale Rhines (see page 1) is a new member working on a master's thesis contrasting ballparks of the classic era with those of the modern age. He is examining "the differences between facilities of different eras and the impact these facilities have on surrounding neighborhoods." He expects to limit his study to several midwest/eastern cities: Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Cincinnati, & St. Louis. More to come as he refines his topic.

Please offer any assistance to these people if you see areas of common knowledge and concern. Thank you.

XI MAJOR LEAGUE NOTES

1. Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh will be reduced in seating capacity for the 1993 season by eliminating 11,000 seats of the outfield upper decks area. This will cut the capacity from 58,729 to 49,992. The seats will be covered by a tarp. Send a SASE for three short article summaries. (29¢).
2. New park for Atlanta by the 1997 season! Fulton-County Stadium isn't 30 years old yet, but it will be gone in another few years as plans have been made to build an Olympic Stadium for Atlanta's hosting of the 1996 games. The stadium will then be converted to baseball use and Fulton-County reduced to a parking lot. So, a parking lot to a park and a park to a parking lot. Send \$1.50 for a variety of press clippings with design photos and features.
3. McCuddy's Tavern owners in Chicago dropped their lawsuit. This famed building where Babe Ruth allegedly downed a few beers between doubleheaders at Comiskey was torn down in 1989 to make way for the new Comiskey. The owners settled for \$15,000. (Sporting News, 2-15-93).
4. Joe Robbie Stadium, home of the Florida Marlins for 1993, will feature a hand operated scoreboard on top of its left field wall. Officials say that the board will reach 35 feet in height, but that it will be higher/lower from place to place. (Sporting News, 2-25-93).
5. No smoking in the seating areas at Camden Yards for 1993. Baltimore joins Detroit, San Diego, Oakland, & Toronto. Send 50¢ for the full AP story.
6. A cost-efficient, old style ballpark for Seattle? Send 50¢ for the wire service article that outlines how this could happen and thus save the Seattle fans from further suffering in the Kingdome.
7. Wrigley Field to make 10% of the outfield bleachers available on a season's ticket basis! About 330 seats would be sold for \$614 each. (Sporting News, 2-8-93).
8. The debt-ridden SkyDome in Toronto is sold by the Ontario government. Send a 29¢ SASE for the story from the Tor. Star.
9. Construction continues at Cleveland's Gateway Park. The Gateway Corporation is offering fans the chance to buy "handsome pavers" at \$50 or \$100 as part of the Indians Plaza. Send \$1.00 for the articles on the park's construction and a copy of the "Gateway Paver Order Form."

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XII MAJOR LEAGUE ARTICLES

1. Denver's Coors Field design, Denver Post, 10-11-92 (1 pg).
2. Several Milwaukee articles on new park, ticket drive, test borings at site, and increased local support for team, Jan/93 (7 pgs).
3. Christmas Day in Baltimore's Memorial Stadium, The Sun, 12-26-92 (2 pgs)
4. Three articles on Camden Yards financial/neighborhood economic success, (4 pgs).
5. Comiskey Park 1991-1992 review; contrast vs. Baltimore, Chicago Tribune, 1-4-93 (2 pgs).
6. Photo copy of Texas Rangers 1993 Ticket Info brochure with new park info. (2 pgs)

Please send 6¢ for each page and figure 29¢ for the first four pages and 23¢ for additional four pages or sections thereof.

XIII MINOR LEAGUE ARTICLES

1. New park in Tempe, AZ, Orange County, CA Register, (2 pgs) 2-19-93
2. Last game in Kenosha, WI, Milw. Journal, 9-11-92, (1 pg)
3. Gilmore Field, then & now, LA Times, 1-11-93, (1 pg)
4. Washington Park, then & now, LA Times, 1-4-93, (1 pg)
5. Minor lg. baseball in Portland, ME and Hadlock Field renovations, (4 pgs)
6. Minor lg. baseball in RFK or Memorial Stadium? (4 pgs) various papers

Costs: same as in Section XII

XIV MINOR LEAGUE NEWS

1. Asheville, NC McCormick Field now has a new, extended 35-foot outfield wall, painted blue, and soon to be covered with ads in the great minor league tradition. Jim Baker of the city's newspaper called to see if this wall could qualify as the tallest in the minors. If you have any advice, call him at 1-800-800-4204, ext. 471. For a copy of the article on the wall swiftly sent to us by Charles Wilson, please send a SASE of 29¢.
2. Mike Dempsey of 1564 Glasgo Road, Voluntown, CT 06384 has a minor league philosophical question. Mike visits many minor league parks in his wide-ranging travels. He asks: "When is a minor league park no longer a minor league ballpark?" He says, "... I am finding the playing field is still there, but the grandstand burned/was torn down, sometimes replaced with a new structure.. Any ideas?"
3. Fun in New Orleans... Two forces have been slugging it out in that city with minor league baseball held in the balance. The Denver Zephyrs have been transferred to New Orleans, but they lack a suitable park at the moment. Meanwhile, Tom Benson, owner of the NFL Saints, thought he had purchased the Charlotte (Southern League) Knights with plans to move the club to New Orleans. Benson has the rights to the park at the University of New Orleans. Lots of in-fighting, a lawsuit here and there.. etc. We thank David Moreau and Rick Dempsey for their clippings. If you would like to catch up on this mess, send \$1.50 for the articles.

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4. Rickwood Field, once the oldest professional baseball facility in the nation, may have new life. A short wire story of 1-21-93 noted that the field may be renovated for both active baseball use and perhaps a museum. Thanks go to Arthur Scott for sending a few recent photos of the place. As noted in our last newsletter, this committee offered assistance to the officials in Birmingham, AL, but no response has come. If you have any info on this project, please send it along and we'll make a report in the next newsletter.
5. MacArthur Stadium in Syracuse, NY, a 1934 facility, has been under great criticism by local officials and the parent club Blue Jays. Over recent years both full replacement and renovation have been discussed. A downtown ballpark proposal received very mixed reviews. The city would like the state to pitch in with funding for a proposed \$20 million park, but NY state isn't doing any better than most of its major cities. Our thanks to David Wright for his extensive donation of news clippings on this issue. He has pulled together a selection of stories from the past three years, and for copies, send \$2.00.

David is also working on a paper on the history of MacArthur and welcomes any assistance. He lives at 195 Laursen Drive, Syracuse, NY 13205-3334. Also, he just finished a model of the park. Despite 13 feet of snow this winter (and counting!), he has great hopes for spring and Opening Day.
6. Silver Stadium in Rochester, NY, just down the Thruway, is also in danger. Our man in Rochester, John Schwartz, notes that city and state politicians have been punching and counter-punching over new ballpark sites, funding, and new construction vs. renovation. Twenty-two sites were studied for a new park in the city and county. John has written a very informative and detailed letter about the situation as of 2-14-93. For a copy send a SASE of 29¢.
7. Joplin, MO had a minor league team and ballpark for much of the twentieth century until the mid-1950s. We just got a call from Gary Hailey, 6100 City Avenue, #911, Philadelphia, PA 19131 (215) 772-5152. He seeks any info on the park. Mickey Mantle played his Class C 1950 season there. The park had several names, including Joe Becker Park and Miners Park. Please contact Mr. Hailey if you can assist and send a copy of your info/material to our committee files. Thanks!

XV OTHER NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nelson Eddy
126 Second Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37201

Minor lg. parks of pre-1900 and 1920-50 eras;
Sulphur Dell & Engel Stadium (Chattanooga, TN);
Tenn. ballparks and Southern parks. Working on
history of Sulphur Dell.

Ron Menchine
PO Box 1
Long Green, MD 21092

All parks & eras; just completed a postcard histo
of baseball/ballparks; interested in stats and
ballpark cards, illustrations, etc.

Welcome to the committee! Please contact these gentlemen if you see areas of common interest.

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XVI MISC. NEWS & COMMITTEE NOTES

1. Mike Dempsey has compiled a reference/index to the Baseball America's Great minor League Ballparks Calendars. Send a SASE of 29¢ for a copy.
2. John Kaup attended a recent Ted Williams Chapter (San Diego) of SABR at Jack Murphy Stadium. He was very impressed with Vic Pallos's slide show on PCL ballparks.
3. Speaking of Vic, he is making another set of postcards. Details in upcoming newsletters. I recall that Philadelphia parks will be at least one subject.
4. Brad Sullivan attended a Cleveland SABR regional gathering and heard a report by Jeff Suntala on League Park. His research has resulted in an excellent painting of the park ca. 1920. Jeff is thinking of making 1920 prints available for sale. Brad did a report on first/last games at ballparks.
5. Several members have mentioned Ron Menchine's new book, A Picture Postcard History of Baseball. Ron is a new committee member. The book has many ballparks illustrations, 240 in all. There is a SABR discount: \$16.00 including postage/handling (regular price is \$14.95 plus \$2.75 p & h). Who would like to write a review?
6. The Boston Braves SABR Chapter is developing future programs and among them is a Photo Resources Project for both players and Braves Field (and why not the South End Grounds too). Contact Bob Brady, 25 McAndrew Road, Braintree, MA 02184 (617) 848-5046 if you can assist.
7. Congratulations to committee member Phil Bess who will be speaking this year at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum of the Smithsonian Institution in New York. Phil will be addressing ballparks and architectural design.
8. Committee chairman Bob Bluthardt and several members of the Dallas-Fort Worth SABR regional chapter spent a foggy/rainy hour pouring over the remain of Fort Worth's LeGrave Field last month. This minor league park was located north of downtown Fort Worth, just off of Main Street. Buried among the overgrown brush and debris were the dugout tunnels, floors of the clubhouse showers and ticket offices, and other tangible signs. The playing field is intact and well moved! This month, an examination of Dallas's Burnett Field is scheduled. Eventually, SABR members want to have a marker erected for both parks. Members with suggestions or information about these parks are invited to contact Bob Bluthardt.
9. The Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame in Maumee, OH (outside of Toledo) is planning its 1993 series of programs and activities. Curator Kathleen Gardner invites SABR members with topics or presentations to contact her at the Hall at (419) 893-9481 2901 Key Street, Maumee, OH 43537.
10. We have a new, updated four-page summary of the Ballparks Committee, its history, projects, etc. Send a SASE of 29¢ for a copy. This is the info we send to people requesting material on our committee.
11. Ballparks & transportation, especially light rail, a project of Tom Larwin, Metropolitan Transit Development Board, 1255 Imperial Ave., Suite 1000, San Diego, CA 92191-7490. Please contact him if you can assist.

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12. Thanks to David Gill for his sending of a Cleveland Indians schedule for the 1993 season. It includes the promotion and special event games. For those of you planning a trip to the Stadium for its last baseball year, here are those dates:

1993 Promotional Events

Mon. April 5	Opening Day/Magnet Schedules (all fans)	Sat. June 19	1954 "Turn Back the Clock" Game	Sat. Sept. 25	New Ballpark Pin *
Sun. April 18	Commemorative Cup Set *	Sun. June 20	1954 Championship Cap *	Sun. Sept. 26	New Ballpark Print *
Fri. April 30	Fireworks Night	Sun. June 27	1939 First Night Game Anniversary Fireworks		* All youths 14 and under * All adults 21 and over
Sat. May 1	League Park Pin *	Sat. July 17	Cleveland Stadium Pin *		* First 25,000 fans * First 15,000 fans
Sun. May 2	League Park Print *	Sun. July 18	Cleveland Stadium Print *		Prints are 6 1/2 x 11 and are numbered.
Fri. May 21	Fireworks Night	Fri. July 23	Fireworks Night		All giveaways with a paid admission only.
Sun. May 23	Commemorative Pennant *	Sun. July 25	1948 Championship Cap *		Promotional events subject to change.
Sun. June 6	Commemorative Sports Bag *	Sun. Aug. 15	Commemorative Baseball *		Final Indians Weekend at the Stadium (Oct. 1-3).
Fri. June 18	Fireworks Night	Fri. Aug. 27	Fireworks Night		Ticket and promotional information will be announced at a later date.
		Sun. Aug. 29	1920 Championship Cap *		
		Sun. Sept. 12	Commemorative Notebook *		

13. Thanks to Charles Wilson for his donation of a Lost Ballparks for a prize for the committee photo contest; Bruce Kuklick has donated a copy of his Shibe Park book, To Everything a Season.. thanks! And thanks to John Pastier and Joe Favano for serving as judges for the contest; the third judge will be announced in the next newsletter.
14. The Stadium Newsletter, a publication of Mike Cervenka, 213 Lilac Street, Elburn, IL 60119, includes a time-line chart for AL ballparks and team names for the 1901-1993 (and beyond!) period. Write Mike for subscription info.
15. The SABR Ballparks Committee finished 1992 "in the black." We began 1992 with a small surplus of \$121.60. Committee expenses of paper, postage, copying, and related costs for the newsletter and services came to \$1170.37. The total income came to \$1205.05 with nearly half of this being donations and fees for services. The other half of the income was our annual SABR budgetary allowance. This means we finished the year with a surplus of \$34.68. So, we begin 1993 with a surplus of \$156.28. Now, don't get all excited...this committee isn't exactly rich! That surplus represents the expenses for one newsletter. Again, our great thanks for all members who give a little extra when they order copies and our special thanks for those kind folks who make a larger donation from time to time. I will give a full report at the San Diego annual meeting.
16. More thanks: Ken Carrano for making up a new, snazzy survey form for our future committee members; to Bob Boynton and John Kaup for donations to the postage fund; and to members Paul Shapiro, Dan Palubniak, Jim Nitz, Jim Brown, Elliot Knispel, Andy McCue, Allen Tait, and all others whom I may have forgotten for donations of clippings to the cause!
17. A late research request that just arrived: Jim Annis, 307 Nettleton, Charlevoix MI 49720, creates and prints some wonderful postcards of "period scenes" of the classic ballparks. He sent me examples of Comiskey, Wrigley, and Tiger (Briggs Stadium actually) of the 1940s. He is working on Crosley Field and need specific and detailed info on brickwork details of the office and ticket booths on Findlay Street, including the color of trim and woodwork on the upper deck stands next to the office building between home and 1st base. Mr. Annis sounds like a precise kind of guy who wants to the job right. You can call him at (616) 547-2948. Please contact him if you can assist. You might want to order some of his cards too!

Our apologies for the delay in getting this issue in the mail. The next issue is scheduled for late April. Please send along any ballparks news, clippings, etc.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE AT BALLPARKS
PHOTO COLLECTION TABLE AT SAN DIEGO
1993 MEETING

December 7, 1992

Dear _____,

I am writing to you as a Ballparks Committee member and with the approval of our Chairman Bob Bluthardt. This year's convention will be held in San Diego from June 24-27. If you were at last year's convention in St. Louis, you may have had the chance to view our Committee's Ballpark Photo Collection. At the time, it numbered two three-ring binders plus a separate donated personal collection. At this time it is already up to four binders and growing. Needless to say, arrangements are being made to have it displayed again at this year's convention. In addition to the collection, a display featuring entries from this year's photo contest (see upcoming committee bulletins for details) will also be displayed.

This is where you come in. We are looking for volunteers to spend no more than 2 hours at any one time to sit with the collection and contest display to make sure no one walks off with either but more importantly to share your knowledge and ballpark experiences with interested viewers. It's an ideal way to not only talk up the Committee but also to talk about one's favorite park since most viewers have their own memories which could be shared with you.

I'm hoping to get a battery of Committee members to watch the collection, roughly ten or more people so that sessions would be shorter. Last year, with only three sitters, there were several times when the display had to be shut down, leaving all of us the poorer.

At this time, all I'm looking for is a commitment from you for a couple of hours. As we get closer to the convention, I plan to get the presentation schedule in advance so I can put together a tentative listing of times. If possible, could I please hear by May 15?

Thank you again for your consideration.

(Please return to Joe Favano, 21 Roosevelt Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870)

_____ I can offer to watch the collection for _____ sessions (each session should be no more than 2 hours pending the convention schedule).

_____ I cannot commit at this time

Name _____

Address _____

BOOK REVIEW

Major League Stadiums (A Vacation Planning Reference)

Don and Kieran Dickinson

302 pages plus index

McFarland & Company, Publisher 1991

Much of what we need to know is contained in the subtitle of the book; this is not a scholarly work designed to enhance the knowledge of serious ball park students. It seems to be, unfortunately, a compendium of information gathered from 26 ticket offices coupled with some editorial comment.

The chapter regarding each ball park is arranged with some opening comments, a brief history of the team that occupies the yard, a general description of the facility, something called "Highlights" detailing historic moments (a predictably brief segment in the case of some teams), a few paragraphs describing the typical fans one might encounter there (how such generalizations are made is beyond me; there are knowledgeable spectators at every game in every city and there are also some rowdies; the Dickinsons seem to know where to find the former and avoid the latter). The chapters conclude with directions by automobile or mass transit (useful stuff), parking tips, specifics for ordering tickets, an assessment of facilities for the disabled, a general review of the food situation, location of Guest Relation, security, and first aid stations in the park, and finally a section on mementos, i.e. souvenir stands, suggested spots where one might snag an autograph, and even the likeliest spot to catch a foul ball. It works out to about 15 pages in each chapter; in most cases a seating chart is crammed into a half page or so; if you have your magnifying glass handy, you can make out a section number. And in fact I did for the Vet in Philadelphia, opting for that this year since Camden Yards is so crowded nobody goes there anymore.

So who needs this particular book? Probably not many of us; it would be nice to think that every travel agent in the country has one because there is some useful information in here. I think the Dickinsons did themselves a disservice with their characterizations of the teams simply because the book was compiled in 1990 and things have changed. The sociological descriptions of the fans in each city were likewise distracting. And a raspberry for the writers and editors is in order due to some awkward grammatical constructions and occasional words/names that are misspelled.

So the bottom line is, don't bother to buy it for your collection; having said that, I admit to consulting it occasionally and will probably continue to do so. It's not in use right now; drop me a line and I'll mail it to you so that you can make your own assessment.

Charles Wilson
30 Turnberry Drive
Arden NC 28704

1993 SABR BALLPARK PHOTO CONTEST

- CATEGORIES:
- 1) CURRENT MAJOR LEAGUE BALLPARK – DAY
 - 2) CURRENT MAJOR LEAGUE BALLPARK – EVENING
 - 3) CURRENT MINOR LEAGUE BALLPARK – DAY
 - 4) CURRENT MINOR LEAGUE BALLPARK – EVENING
 - 5) ALL OTHER (INCLUDES BALLPARKS NO LONGER IN USE, ETC.)

IN ADDITION, A BEST OVERALL PHOTOGRAPH WILL BE CHOSEN FROM THE CATEGORY WINNERS.

ELIGIBILITY: ANY CURRENT MEMBER OF SABR. PHOTOS MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN AT ANY TIME, HOWEVER, PHOTOS ENTERED IN THE 1991 BALLPARK PHOTO CONTEST AND THOSE DONATED TO THE SABR BALLPARK PHOTO COLLECTION BEFORE THE 1992 SABR CONVENTION IN ST. LOUIS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE. ALL ENTRIES BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE SABR BALLPARK COMMITTEE PHOTO COLLECTION.

CRITERIA: FORMAT -- COLOR OR BLACK & WHITE.

SIZE – 3 1/2" x 5" OR 4" x 6".

NUMBER OF PHOTOS – NO MORE THAN 2 PER CATEGORY (THE CATEGORY MUST BE DESIGNATED BY THE CONTESTANT).

PRIZES: THE PRIZES WILL INCLUDE AUTOGRAPHED COPIES OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED BALLPARK BOOKS, INCLUDING – LOST BALLPARKS, GREEN CATHEDRALS, ETC.

DEADLINE: MAY 1, 1993. ALL PHOTOS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

KEN CARRANO
2696 STERLING COURT
ELGIN, IL 60123

QUESTIONS: WRITE ME AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS, OR CALL (708) 468-9473.