

SABR Ballparks Committee

Committee Newsletter February-1989

Robert F. Bluthardt Committee Chairman
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I BRAVES FIELD MARKER DONATIONS The committee gratefully acknowledges these individuals and their contributions:

Mark Holan, So. Boston, MA	\$20
Thomas Larson, Chicago, IL	\$10
Don Spoon, Aberdeen, WA	\$10
Robert O. Wood, Mnt. View, CA	\$100
David Paseltnier, Thiells, NY	\$25
Peter Craig, St. David's, PA	\$20
Keith Olbermann, Los Angeles, CA	\$262

Some members may recognize Mr. Olbermann from his work as a sports broadcaster in Boston in 1984. He is now with KCBS in Los Angeles. As Keith stated in his letter to SABR, " I worked ever so briefly in the hub, so I have great empathy for Braves Field insomuch as we were both torn down in Boston."

II NEW MEMBERS We welcome to new members to the committee:

John Pastier 1548 Silverwood Ter. Los Angeles, CA 90026 (213) 665-0580	David Pietrusza 53 Jay Street Amsterdam, NY 12010
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Interested in major lg. parks of the post 1900 eras. Has written several ballpark/architecture articles. Former <u>LA Times</u> architectural critic. Has several ballpark book or exhibit ideas and research projects in mind.	Interested in all parks of post 1920 eras. Is doing history of Canadian-American League and it will include a chapter on parks.
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III FINANCIAL REPORT The committee's postage fund ended 1988 with a surplus of \$45.98 in cash and stamps. The SABR board approved the committee's 1989 budget of \$280.00 which will cover all newsletter materials, postage, and general stationery. No part of this is used for travel, phone calls, or any non-SABR expenses. We thank all committee members who made cash and stamp contributions to the fund in 1988.

IV CORRESPONDENCE REPORT for September/October/November: 33 pieces received and 47 sent out.

V FEGLEY STADIUM, home of the Limeport Milkmen (PA) Thanks to Ralph Graber for sending the committee files an aerial photo of the place. A copy to anyone who sends us the SASE.

- VI SABR Urban Ballpark Project Project director Phil Bess reports much progress in writing up the narrative to accompany his final product, but we are still trying to find a publisher or funding source to help publish and distribute the results of this work to baseball officials, stadia planners and buildings, and team owners or officials. Phil made a funding request to the SABR board last fall that the board declined to include in the budget, so the funding source will have to come from another person, place, institution, or agency. If you have any ideas or suggestions, contact Phil at 4438 Artesian Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625, or contact me. Baseball park design and construction seems to be at a positive crossroads and this project can have a positive contribution to current and future park work.
- VII HOME RUN FACT SHEET comes to us courtesy of the Records Committee. A copy is enclosed with this newsletter. Our thanks to the members who researched this information.
- VIII BASEBALL'S FIRST PARK is the subject of research and a future article by Steven Tischler, 260 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10025. The Ballparks (Shannon & Kalinsky) cite Cammeyer's 1862 Union Grounds in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Green Cathedrals (Lowry) states the same. However, confusion begins to set in when one takes into account the Capitoline Grounds, also in Brooklyn, built shortly after Cammeyer's park. Tischler is finding some confusing info and references. If you have any suggestions for further research, write or call him at (212) 749-0910
- IX TIGER STADIUM FAN CLUB continues its work to save this classic 1912 ballpark. Their January-89 newsletter reports an upcoming March 4 "Rock 'N' Bowl For Tiger Stadium" fundraiser event. I am including a copy of the newsletter's front page that includes the club's phone, address, and sale items. Consider supporting them!
- X DOMES REPORT San Antonio voters approved a funding proposal to build an enclosed stadium for this Texas city, though it lacks any firm commitments for a baseball or football team. The vote was 53% to 47%. Info on the vote and proposed stadium for a SASE.
Joe Favano has visited the site for the St. Petersburg SunDome and has contributed some news clippings for our files. Copies for a SASE.
Toronto's SkyDome opens this season and you too can have a SkyDome Ball Cap!
- XI FENWAY PARK'S outfield dimensions in the pre-1934 version have been subject to some study and questions, especially the deep CF figures. Just how far was the outermost point? An obituary for John F. (Johnny) Daley, former major leaguer and supposed oldest living former player (101) may help us. He is credited with an inside-the park HR at Fenway during his only major league season, 1912, on August 13, that "rolled between Tris Speaker and Duffy Lewis." If someone has some time, look up that game in some Boston papers and see if there is any interesting info. The obit also quoted Daley as saying that he "scored standing up." Daley played for the St. Louis Browns, so let's try the St. Louis papers too!

Ballpark Committee (3)
February 1989

- XII LIST OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN updated to December 24, 1988, is enclosed for your benefit.
- XIII MAJOR LEAGUE PARKS LIST from the 1988 Baseball Digest guide is also enclosed. A handy reference, but do watch out for some out-of date items here and there, like the NL prez for instance, and the commissioner.
- XIV SABR ANNUAL MEETING 1989 is set for Albany, NY, and committee meetings are being set up now. A major problem, the scheduling all committees for the same time block, has been modified with staggered schedules. The Ballparks Committee will meet on Saturday, June 24, from 12 Noon to 1 pm. We share the time slot with the Latin American Committee. All committee chairmen will also meet on Friday, June 23, from 9:30 to 10:30 am.
- XV FOUR ARTICLES that are worth reading:
- "Once There Was a Ballpark" by Charlie Rubin, GQ Magazine December-88 story on men who make ballpark models.
- "The Chicago Architecture Police" by Phil Bess and Howard Decker, Inland Architect, Nov/Dec, 88 thoughtful story on effect of night baseball on classic parks and future it holds for Wrigley Field.
- "The Business of Baseball, Creative Proposals Can't Save Comiskey Park" Inland Architect, Jan/Feb, 89, by John Pastier. excellent overview of the past few years of activity by various people to save or raze Comiskey Park.
- "How to Keep the Giants in San Francisco" by John Pastier, California Magazine, May, 86, subtitled: Blow up Candlestick Park and build a postmodernist stadium downtown.
- SASE for 25 cents for one; 85 cents for all four.
- XVI BASEBALL EXHIBITS We remind members of the baseball exhibit at the Chicago Historical Society on the 1919 "Black Sox." Also, the Houston Fine Arts Museum has a traveling exhibit on baseball and the arts/literature. Roger Angel is speaking there on February 21. Call (713) ~~526-1361~~ for details. I hope to see both over the next two months and will report on them in the April newsletter.
- XVII WRIGLEY FIELD'S 75th anniversary was featured in a recent issue of the club newsletter (Vinevine?) Could someone send me a copy which I will copy for the files and return. Also, if received, it will be available for members.
- XVIII BALTIMORE'S new park, set to open in 1992, will be fashioned after the classic parks like Fenway, Comiskey, and Tiger Stadium. "The era of the concrete donut is over" said Rick deFlon, chief architect for the project being done by HOK of Kansas City. We shall see!
- XIX MILWAUKEE STADIUM situation clippings from summer-88 available for a SASE of 65 cents.
- XX SURVEY from new committee member John Pastier is enclosed. Please consider assisting him with his study project on power alleys and the famed Mays/Polo Grounds catch in 1954. Thanks.

Next newsletter in April.

B.B. St. Handt

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NATIONAL LEAGUE OFFICE
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(212) 371-7300

AMERICAN LEAGUE PARK DIRECTORY

BALTIMORE ORIOLES
Memorial Stadium
Baltimore, Md. 21218
Telephone (301) 243-9800
Seating Capacity 54,017
Playing field distances
Left field 309
Left center 378
Center field 405
Right center 378
Right field 309
Height of walls
from right field and left field to
cf fence, which is 7 ft.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX
Comiskey Park
35th and Shields Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60616
Telephone (312) 924-1000
Seating Capacity 44,078
Playing field distances
Left field 347
Left center 382
Center field 409
Right center 382
Right field 347
Height of center field fence 7½ ft.; walls in left and right field 9 ft.

BOSTON RED SOX
Fenway Park
24 Yawkey Way
Boston, Mass. 02215
Telephone (617) 267-9440
Seating Capacity 33,583
Playing field distances
Left field 315
Center field 390
Center field corner 420
Deep right field 380
Right field 302
Height of walls
with 23 ft. screen extension in
left field; center field wall, 17
ft.; bullpens, 5 ft.; right field
fence, 3-5 ft.

CLEVELAND INDIANS
Cleveland Stadium
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Telephone (216) 861-1200
Seating Capacity 74,383
Playing field distances
Left field 320
Left center 377
Center field 400
Right center 385
Right field 320
Height of walls
for right and left field stands;
8 ft. for center field fence.

DETROIT TIGERS
Tiger Stadium
Detroit, Mich. 48216
Telephone (313) 962-4000
Seating Capacity 52,806
Playing field distances
Left field 340
Left center 365
Center field 440
Right center 375
Right field 325
Height of wall 9 ft.

CALIFORNIA ANGELS
Anaheim Stadium
2000 State College Blvd.
Anaheim, Calif. 92806
Telephone (714) 937-6700
Seating Capacity 64,573
Playing field distances
Left field 333
Left center 386
Center field 404
Right center 386
Right field 333
Height of wall 8 ft.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS
Royals Stadium
Kansas City, Mo. 64141
Telephone (816) 921-2200
Seating Capacity 40,625
Playing field distances
Left field 330
Left center 385
Center field 410
Right center 385
Right field 330
Height of wall 12 ft.

**OFFICE OF BASEBALL
COMMISSIONER**
Peter Ueberroth
Commissioner
350 Park Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10022
(212) 371-7800

MILWAUKEE BREWERS
County Stadium
Milwaukee, Wis. 53214
Telephone (414) 933-1818
Seating Capacity 53,192
Playing field distances
Left field 315
Left center 392
Center field 402
Right center 392
Right field 315
Height of fences
in left and right

MINNESOTA TWINS

The Metrodome
Minneapolis, Minn. 55415
Telephone (612) 375-1366
Seating Capacity 55,244
Playing field distances
Left field line 343
Left center 385
Center field 408
Right center 367
Right field 327
Height of fences
in center, 13 ft. in left, 23 ft. in
right.

NEW YORK YANKEES

Yankee Stadium
Bronx, N.Y. 10451
Telephone (212) 293-4300
Seating Capacity 57,545
Playing field distances
Left field 318
Left center 399
Center field 408
Right center 385
Right field 314
Height of walls
in left, 7 ft. in center and right
center, 9 ft. in right field, and
10 ft. at right field line.

OAKLAND A'S
Oakland-Alameda
County Coliseum
Oakland, Calif. 94621
Telephone (415) 638-4800
Seating Capacity 49,219
Playing field distances
Left field 330
Left center 385
Center field 410
Right center 372
Right field 372
Height of wall 330
Height of wall 8 ft.

SEATTLE MARINERS
The Kingdome
Seattle, Wash. 98104
Telephone (206) 628-3555
Seating Capacity 58,850
Playing field distances
Left field 316
Left center 357
Center field 410
Right center 357
Right field 316
Height of fence 11½ ft.

TEXAS RANGERS
Arlington Stadium
Arlington, Tex. 76010
Telephone (817) 273-5222
Seating Capacity 43,508
Playing field distances
Left field 330
Left center 380
Center field 400
Right center 380
Right field 330
Height of wall 12 ft.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS
Exhibition Stadium
Toronto, Ontario M5C 2K7
Telephone (416) 595-0077
Seating Capacity 43,737
Playing field distances
Left field 330
Left center 375
Center field 400
Right center 375
Right field 330
Height of wall 12 ft.

NATIONAL LEAGUE PARK DIRECTORY

ATLANTA BRAVES
Atlanta Stadium
Atlanta, Ga. 30302
Telephone (404) 522-7630
Seating Capacity 52,001
Playing field distances
Left field 330
Left center 402
Center field 330
Right field 330
Height of walls
in left and right field.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS
Dodger Stadium
1000 Elysian Park Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90012
Telephone (213) 224-1500
Seating Capacity 56,000
Playing field distances
Left field 330
Left center 395
Center field 400
Right field 330
Height of walls
for outfield fence, 8 ft.

CHICAGO CUBS

Wrigley Field
Clark and Addison Sts.
Chicago, Ill. 60613
Telephone (312) 281-5050
Seating Capacity 38,143
Playing field distances
Left field 355
Left center 400
Center field 355
Right field 355
Height of walls
5 in. in left and right field,
11 ft. in center, 6 ft.

MONTREAL EXPOS

Olympic Stadium
Montreal, Quebec H1V 3P2
Telephone (514) 253-3434
Seating Capacity 59,226
Playing field distances
Left field 325
Left center 404
Center field 325
Right field 325
Height of walls 12 ft.

NEW YORK METS

Shea Stadium
126th and Roosevelt Ave.
Flushing, N.Y. 11368
Telephone (212) 507-6387
Seating Capacity 55,300
Playing field distances
Left field 338
Left center 338
Center field 410
Right center 338
Right field 338
Height of walls 8 ft.

CINCINNATI REDS

Riverfront Stadium
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Telephone (513) 421-4510
Seating Capacity 52,392
Playing field distances
Left field 330
Left center 404
Center field 330
Right center 330
Right field 330
Height of walls 8 ft.

HOUSTON ASTROS

The Astrodome
Houston, Tex. 77001
Telephone (713) 798-8500
Seating Capacity 45,000
Playing field distances
Left field 330
Left center 400
Center field 330
Right center 330
Right field 330
Height of walls 10 ft.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES
Three Rivers Stadium
600 Stadium Circle
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212
Telephone (412) 323-6000
Seating Capacity 58,722
Playing field distances
Left field 335
Left center 400
Center field 335
Right field 335
Height of walls 10 ft.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Bush Memorial Stadium
250 Stadium Plaza
St. Louis, Mo. 63102
Telephone (314) 421-3060
Seating Capacity 53,134
Center field 414
Right field 330
Height of walls 10 ft. 6 in.

SAN DIEGO PADRES

Jack Murphy Stadium
9449 Friars Rd.
San Diego, Calif. 92120
Telephone (619) 283-4494
Seating Capacity 59,022
Playing field distances
Left field 330
Left center 405
Center field 330
Right center 330
Right field 330
Height of walls 8 ft. 6 in.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Candlestick Park
Bay Shore
San Francisco, Calif. 94124
Telephone (415) 468-3700
Seating Capacity 58,000
Playing field distances
Left field 335
Left center 400
Center field 335
Right center 400
Right field 335
Height of walls 9 ft.



HOME RUN FACT SHEET (INSIDE-THE-PARK)

Career Leaders 1900-88

Sam Crawford . . .	50
Tommy Leach. . . .	48
Ty Cobb.	47
Honus Wagner . . .	45
Tris Speaker . . .	36
Jake Daubert . . .	32
Owen Wilson. . . .	31
Rogers Hornsby . .	30
Edd Roush.	29
Max Carey.	28

Most IPH Since 1920

Earle Combs . . .	23
Sam Rice.	21
George Sisler . .	19
Pie Traynor . . .	17
Kiki Cuyler . . .	17
Bill Terry. . . .	15
Buddy Myer. . . .	15
Ben Chapman . . .	15
Bob Meusel. . . .	14
Lloyd Waner . . .	13

Most IPH Since 1946

Willie Wilson. . .	13
Rob. Clemente. . .	10
Lou Brock.	9
Richie Ashburn . .	8
Willie Mays. . . .	8
Stan Musial. . . .	7
Joe Adcock	7
Hank Bauer	7
Richie Allen . . .	7
Willie Davis . . .	7

Most IPH and Fewest IPH By Top Home Run Hitters

Total		IPH
301	Rogers Hornsby	30
251	Cy Williams	13
714	Babe Ruth	10
493	Lou Gehrig	10
240	Rob. Clemente	10
248	Goose Goslin	9
660	Willie Mays	8
534	Jimmie Foxx	8
475	Stan Musial	7
351	Richie Allen	7
336	Joe Adcock	7

755	Henry Aaron	1
586	Frank Robinson	0
403	Darrell Evans	0
390	Graig Nettles	0
382	Frank Howard	0
379	Tony Perez	0
379	Jim Rice	0
374	Rocky Colavito	0
369	Ralph Kiner	0
354	Lee May	0
348	George Foster	0

Most IPH By a Player in Selected Ball Parks

Boston: Braves Field (1915-52)	Ray Powell	13
Bkn: Ebbets Field (1913-57)	Daubert/Wheat	10
Cin: Crosley Field (1912-70)	Edd Roush	14
NY: Polo Grounds (1911-57)	Bill Terry	12
NY: Yankee Stadium (1923-88)	Earle Combs	18
Pitt: Forbes Field (1909-70)	Max Carey	18
StL: Robison Field (1900-20)	Ed Konetchy	13
Wash: Griffith Stad. (1911-61)	Buddy Myer	14

Most IPH in a Park By a Visiting Player

Eight by Tommy Leach at Robison Field	1901-14
Eight by Rog. Hornsby at Braves Field	1918-27

Most IPH for One Team in a Game

Giants vs Braves at Boston Apr.29,1922.	Four.
George Kelly (2), Ross Youngs, Dave Bancroft.	

Only Player to Hit Two IPH in One Game Twice

Roger Bresnahan: Orioles, May 30, 1902 (1)	
NY Giants, June 6, 1904	

Oldest Player to Hit an IPH

Honus Wagner, Pirates, July 1,1916.	Age 42-4.
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Most Career IPH Grand Slams

Honus Wagner and Tommy Leach Both Hit	4
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Most Career IPH in Extra Innings

Ty Cobb and Edd Roush Both Hit	3
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Highest Pct. of Career Homers as IPH

Miller Huggins in 1585 Games Hit	9 of 9
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Most IPH by Player in a Season

1901	Sam Crawford, Reds	12
1909	Ty Cobb, Tigers	9
1911	Owen Wilson, Pirates	8
1912	Tris Speaker, Red Sox	8
1925	Kiki Cuyler, Pirates	8

Most IPH in a Season Since 1930

1979	Willie Wilson, Royals	5
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Society for American Baseball Research



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December 24, 1988

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Q U E S T I O N N A I R E

To fellow Ballparks Committee members from John Pastier: I am doing research and would greatly appreciate your assistance in two areas: the perceptions of Willie Mays' famous world series catch, and the nature of power alleys.

.....

When Willie Mays caught Vic Wertz's long 8th inning drive in game 1 of the 1954 world series, how far do you estimate he was from home plate? _____ feet.
 You may answer from memory or use reference material. In either case, please indicate your method : Memory ____ . Looked it up ____ .

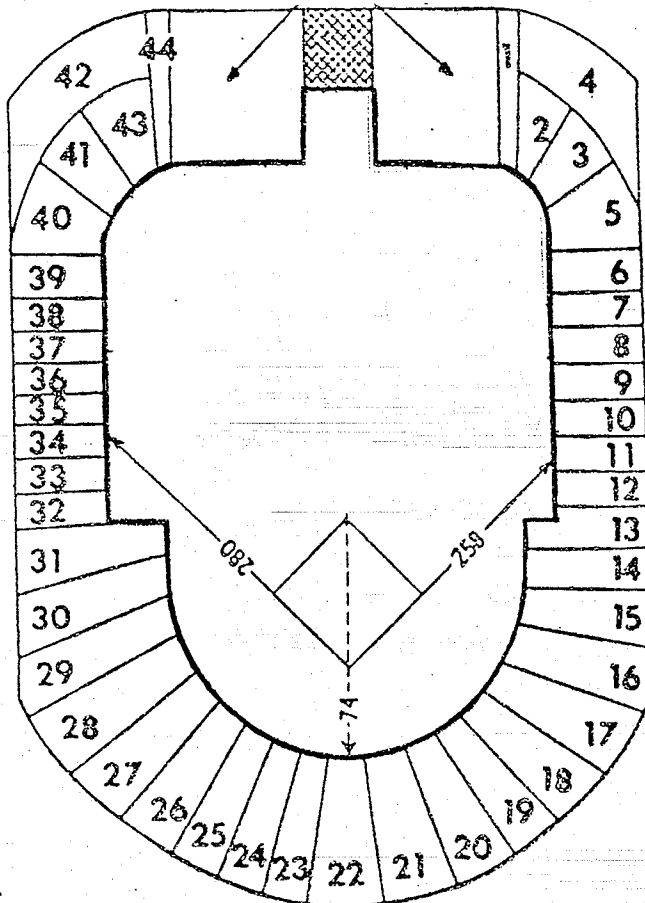
Whichever way you proceeded, what is (are) your sources for this answer? (Books, film/TV, conversations, etc.) If you used reference material, please specify it:

How confident are you of this answer? (Rank on a 1-10 scale, with 1 = least sure and 10 = fully sure): _____

Mark where you think the catch was made on the diagram at the right:

Again on a 1-10 scale, express your certainty about this answer: _____

How good was the catch? (On a 1-10 scale with 1 = normal difficulty & 10 = the best ever): _____



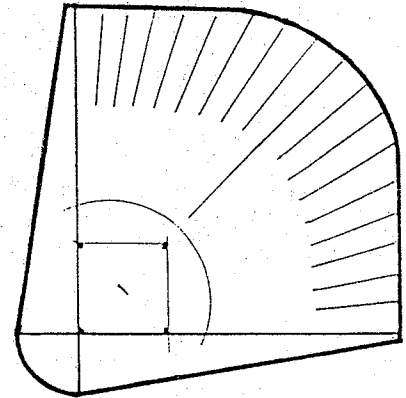
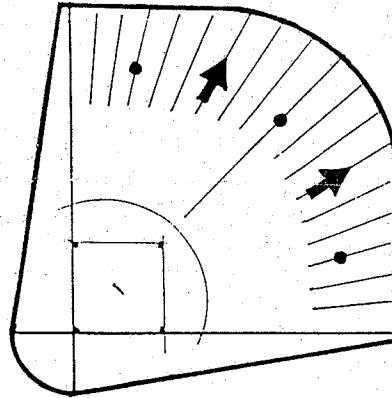
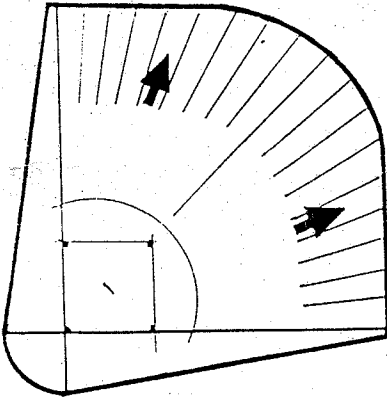
PLEASE turn to other side

In the generic ballpark below, where do you think the "power alleys" are located?

Midway between the foul lines and dead center:

Midway between the outfielders:

Some other position.
(Mark the diagram):



Do you think that power alleys are a zone where hitters can inherently drive the ball deepest, a direction that sluggers are more likely to hit in, a function of park layout, or just a figure of speech? Are they really significant? (Elaborate as much as you wish.) _____

Given current hitting vs. pitching skills and liveliness of ball, a proper distance for power alleys is _____ feet to left-center and _____ feet to right-center.

Please return these two pages to:

JOHN PASTIER, 1548 SILVERWOOD TERRACE, LOS ANGELES, CA. 90026

Optional: Name _____

Thanks very much for your help.