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© SABR Ballparks  
Committee

#### I NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to our Committee

Michael Bauer  
526½ No. Front St.  
Medford, OR 97501

Major lgs, Cleveland, Arlington, TX,  
Urban history, NW lg, stadia & politics.

Jim Ball  
1706 Palomino Dr.  
Rowlett, TX 75088

Minors, NL, College & semi-pro parks,  
Texas parks esp. Dallas/Ft. Worth, Waco;  
post 1920 parks, Sportsman's Park

Mark Altizer  
8501 B Falls Run Rd.  
Ellicott City, MD  
21043

Majors, all eras, park idiosyncracies,  
has access to Library of Congress, wants  
to see more park markers done.

Dave Raglin  
8222 Londonderry Ct.  
Laurel, MD 20707

Majors, post 1950, architectural,  
stadia & politics

Paul Rittenhouse  
6840 Harriett Ave. S.  
Richfield, MN 55423

All eras, all levels, photos, parks  
as part of urban history

Gloria Smith  
110 Silver Spring Rd.  
Short Hills, NJ 07078

post 1950 parks, all lgs, has photos of  
Camden Yds under construction; stadia pol-  
itics, arch/sociological issues

Jerry Kahn  
124 White Plains Ave.  
W. Harrison, NY 10604

All levels and eras, architectural, NY  
parks, note: may have new address.

#### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Many thanks for your kind letters and cards during the long absence; they were appreciated. It is good to be back in business and this newsletter scratches the surface of the mounds of material to summarize. More coming! And more material and items for the publication are welcome. This will be a "re-organization" year as I try to get computerized. Members with advice on proper systems for record keeping, mailing lists, newsletter production, and other items such as e-mail and internet access are welcome to give me their suggestions. Stay in touch.

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### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Money, of course, and the trend for naming facilities after corporations is gaining steam in the majors, although it seems behind the same trend in arenas. Cincinnati's Riverfront will shift to Cynergy Field for a local utility; Candlestick changed to 3Com for a high tech company; and Joe Robbie became Pro Player Park for a clothing manufacturer. Meanwhile, new parks will continue the trend: the new SF park will be named after Pacific Bell; Milwaukee's new facility gets the Miller Park title; and new expansion venues in Arizona (Bank One) and Tampa Bay (ThunderDome to Tropicana Field) follow the corporate trend. The Red Sox have announced that their future playing location will be up for naming rights, and with nearly ten more major league facilities discussed, planned, or set, we will see more corporate sponsorship.

Still, many facilities carry the traditional style names. Of the current twenty-eight locations, seven take a place name (TX, Anaheim, Boston, Baltimore, Pitts., Atlanta, & Minnesota (also a person in HHH)); seven more take a person's name: Cleveland, Chicago (both AL & NL), KC, SD, StL, and NY/NL; Three take the government name in Seattle, Oakland, and Milwaukee while four go with the team in NY/AL, Detroit, LA, and Houston. Toronto, Montreal, and Philadelphia fall into the miscellaneous category. Four sites have gone corporate in full with Colorado, SF, Cincinnati, and Florida, all in the NL!

### NEW PARK FRONT

- \* The Tiger Stadium Fan Club lost a court challenge to the team last summer, but the new park process isn't exactly smooth. The Club fights on and we have a SCD piece (9-20-96) and various local papers outlining the land acquisition (10 pgs).
- \* A summer/96 pitch was made for a new, downtown Phila. park near 30th Street. local papers, 4 pgs.
- \* San Diego seriously talking about a ballpark near downtown and the expansion of the Murph not to the team's liking. Local papers, 12 pgs
- \* Milwaukee breaks ground behind County Stadium; many clips on the ceremony from local papers (up to 15 pgs)
- \* More with George and NY as NJ seems to be fading. Will he go to mid-town? Many articles (up to 20 pgs) plus interesting Yankee attendance chart for whole team history.

Next issue we'll summarize new park proposals/battles in Minnesota, Montreal, Boston, Houston, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, and others. Plus, a round-up of many minor league park projects and openings.

Articles and clippings always welcome.

RESEARCH REQUESTS

1. EDMUNDS FIELD MARKER, SACRAMENTO, CA Mike Kennedy of 3576 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95816 (916) 731-5144, seeks advice. The park hosted baseball from 1922-1960.
2. SMITH FALLS, ONT MARKER for Canadian Pacific Recreation Grounds ballpark Doug Phillips of RR #4, Smith Falls, ONT, Canada K7A 4S5. The park existed from 1934-to 1978. Doug seeks help with all marker aspects from fundraising to publicity.

3. WHERE IS THIS PARK? The photo from the early 1900s could be that of John Martin "Mart" Price, grandfather of SABR researcher Ray Nemec. If so, Price had a year in the Penn-WVA lg in 1908 with Uniontown. If you recognize the player or the location, contact Jim Kreuz at 70 Bayberry Ct. Lake Jackson, TX 77566-4624.



4. STORIES OF CANDLESTICK PARK are sought by committee member Mike Wells, PO Box 5853, KC, MO 64171 (816) 346-1161. Mike is working on an anthology for that soon-to-be abandoned stadium.
5. RICKWOOD FIELD PHOTOS sought by Chris Fullerton at (205)458-8161. 2251 Highland Avenue, #1109, Birmingham, AL 35205. Chris coordinates the preservation/event activity at that historic ballpark.
6. SITES OF ALL TEXAS LG BALLPARKS needed by Scott Hanzelka of 4934 Lakewood Drive, San Antonio, TX 78220-4824. He already has a good list.
7. CHANGES TO WRIGLEY FIELD and the articles/photos to show them needed by Ed Hartig of our committee. Contact him at (708) 739-2812 447 Faversham Ct., Bollingbrook, IL 60440-2219.
8. OUTFIELD WALLS & HR's BEFORE 1920 are being studied by Richard Hansen, 513 Braemar Ave., Naperville, IL 60563. (708) 717-0624. He is especially interested in the "inside the park home run" and how/why certain parks had more than others.
9. SPORTSMAN'S PARK/ST. LOUIS PHOTOS sought by Albert Greensspan at (203) 853-2000 ext. 2396.

10. YANKEE STADIUM marks its 75th anniversary next year and Chris Jennison continues his work on a book to mark the event. If you have materials for him to consider, contact Chris at Guilford Press, 72 Spring Street, New York, NY 10012.

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## RESEARCH REQUESTS (cont)

11. DIRECTIONAL ORIENTATION OF NEW PARKS: Phil Nichols at PO Box 1577, Stephenville, TX 76401, notes that not all major league (and surely not all minor league) parks follow the official rule of baseball: 1.04, stating that "it is desirable that the line from home base through the pitcher's plate to second base shall run East-Northeast." Phil wonders if there is information on just how many major league parks follow this rule.
12. JOSEPH BYRD was a Philadelphia contractor who is supposed to have built one of that city's old ballparks? Which one? The family does not seem to know. We will try to get more info for our next newsletter. Meanwhile, if the name rings familiar, contact Jack Eckert at 122 Kings Chapel Road, Augusta, GA 30907.

## SHRINKING BALLPARKS?

The parks are getting smaller, at least in seating capacity, both from new designs and "downsizing" existing parks. For 1996, the AL parks averaged 48,634 in capacity with Boston at the smallest end (33,871) and CA/Anaheim at the largest (64,593). In the NL, the parks averaged 51,946, 6.8% bigger than the AL, with Wrigley holding down the cozy level at 38,765 and SF at the large end with 63,000. Future developments in SF, Milwaukee, Seattle, and Phila should see smaller parks. Boston would be an exception with an increase in seating for any new facility. Still, the days of the 50,000 plus facility may be numbered.

## HOME & AWAY

For 1996, the AL teams won at home at the rate of .518, but their NL rivals found home better at .566! A quick check of my 1989 Total Baseball book shows the major league home average for both the AL & NL for the 1900-1988 period to be .543. Has someone a more updated average for both leagues? Will the AL do better at home this year?

## PLAYOFF & SERIES CROWDS

In the wild-card playoffs, Texas packed The Ballpark twice exceeding the 49,178 capacity with houses of 50,860 & 50,066 against NY. Cleveland jammed the Jake's 42,865 capacity with crowds of 44,250 & 44,280 against Baltimore. Baltimore exceeded its 48,262 in the second game against Cleveland with 48,970. In the NL only San Diego overtaxed its limit with 53,899 in game 3 against St. Louis, but SD's capacity of 47,750 is artificially low as they had "downsized" that season. St. Louis, Atlanta, and LA did not exceed their capacities and LA came up with 8,000 empty seats for game one vs. Atlanta.

In the Divisionals, Baltimore again packed Camden Yards with two capacity-plus houses of 48,974 & 48,635; NY, Atlanta, and St. Louis fell short of capacity throughout the series. Sometimes, press, VIP, and special seating takes away regular capacity, not to mention the local interpretation of the fire laws adding to capacity!

Next issue we'll look at the World Series.

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COMMITTEE NEWS

1. Andrew Dresdner of our Committee now works for the City of Minneapolis as they plan a new ballpark for the Twins. Good to have one of our own on the inside! Andrew now lives at 1512 Spruce Place, #302 Minneapolis, MN 55403.
2. Once active in baseball affairs, Ethan Casey now writes and travels in Thailand. He sends his greetings. Latest address is PO Box 1091, Silom Post Office, Bangkok, 10504 Thailand.
3. We have a Committee person in the Hall! Corey Seeman is now the manager of the Technical Services Department. His new home address is 10 Eagle Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326.
4. Committee member Jim Sumner just had his article on Civil War baseball appear in Baseball America.
5. Bruce Genter attended last year's AIA meeting in Baltimore where he heard HOK Senior VP Joe Spear speak on the new football facility for Baltimore, adjacent to Camden Yards. Over 200 attended the lecture at the Baltimore Museum of Art.
6. Last summer we helped Claudia Goodrich of Norwalk, CT, with her ballparks model project. She liked us so much that she joined SABR! "SABR has been light years ahead of any other group I have contacted for assistance." Thanks, Claudia, and welcome to SABR. If you have advice on model making, you can write her at 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT.
7. Dick Beahrs re-upped for three years of SABR and gave us a generous postage donation. Many thanks. He tells us that he is one of the principal owners of the Class A San Jose Giants (affiliate of the SF club). Dick also has some contact with SF regarding their new park. If you have some thoughts, write him at 20 Beach Drive, Darien, CT 06820.
8. Committee member Jay Ziemann and I met in Arizona last May under 1880s baseball circumstances. Jay works with the state parks board and I travelled to historic Fort Verde, AZ to umpire their 1880s game. Played under hot, dusty, and very windy conditions, a good time was had by all.
9. Greg Carter of Seattle noted that the local design review board for the new park included a representative from the architecture department of the Univ. of Washington and a local AIA person.
10. Chris Epting reports on the site of St. Mary's Industrial Home in Baltimore, where Babe Ruth grew up. "I was knocked out to see that the original baseball diamond behind the main building still stands (I matched it up with old photos). Of course, no marker, but the image of a teenage Ruth honing his skills was easy to imagine."

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COMMITTEE NEWS (cont)

11. It is very sad to report the death of two long-time members of our committee:

JOHN LOBINGIER of Brewster, MA, passed away on October 10, 1996. He was 77 years old. John arranged for the re-installation of the Huntington Avenue Grounds marker at the PE building at Northeastern University in Boston. John also was one of the original planners for the Braves Field marker and reunion project in 1988. Valerie and I had the pleasure of visiting John and his wife Margaret at their Cape Cod home on two occasions. He was a true gentleman and we will miss him.

DICK MILLER of Cincinnati, OH, passed away suddenly on January 10, 1997. He was 72 years old. Dick's "ballparks credentials" were quite impressive. Author of many articles, speaker at many SABR meetings, and teacher of numerous courses, Dick spent most of his retirement in gathering materials on the old stadia he loved. His wife Helen notes that Dick's considerable files will be donated to the University of Cincinnati. SABR will miss him.

12. Last spring Dennis Higgins noted that he had signed on with the Wichita Wranglers as their broadcast coordinator. He noted that the Texas League had "a splendid blend of ballparks" from the modern Municipal Stadium in San Antonio to a pair of classics in Lawrence-Dumont in Wichita and Ray Winder Field in Little Rock.
13. SABR ANNUAL MEETING takes place in June in Louisville, KY. If you have suggestions for activity or Committee Table, let me know. Volunteers are always welcome to help staff the table. We will do a better job this year in getting the photo books to the meeting before the meeting!
14. In the next month I will be submitting our Committee mailing list to SABR. The main office advises me as to which members have not paid their dues. Please stay current in your Society dues. Those funds, in part, support this Committee and so many other worthy SABR activities.
15. VOTE when the time comes for the candidate of your choice. It is discouraging to see less than 10% of the Society's membership take part in the election process.
16. On July 4 & 5 I will travel to Fort Laramie, WY, to take part in a 19th Century Baseball weekend. This national historic site will have several 1800s-style games and I will give a few brief talks on parks and the game in the late 1800s. More details in upcoming newsletters.

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COMMITTEE PROJECTS

1. CITY BASEBALL MAGIC, our booklet on how to build a better ball-park, is nearly sold out! We have a very limited supply left, so if you want an individual copy, act now. Single copy price of \$5.00, postage included.
2. SLIDE COLLECTION Now that we have lost a few more classic minor league parks, our slide collection, donated by Marty O'Connor, looks more valuable. If you have slides of a lost or soon to be lost minor league park (majors too), consider donating them to our Committee. A list of what we have is available by writing Bob Bluthardt.
3. MINOR LEAGUE PARKS PROJECT Two of our Committee, Gordon Brown and Ted Lukacs, met recently to coordinate their efforts to bring some order to the many lists/materials that outline the many sites used in a century-plus of minor league ball. We will report again in the spring. Meanwhile, if you have some expertise, contact Gordon at 102 Highland Crescent, Kitchner, Ont. Canada N2M 5C2. Ted moved to 166 SE St. Lucie Blvd., #305 Stuart, FL 34996.
4. NINETEENTH CENTURY PARKS PROJECT was ably coordinated by Bob Bailey for several years. Bob has asked to step aside to follow other research activities, so we seek a new coordinator. While we have a number of cities finished, several blocks remain with NY and NJ cities left. Contact Bob Bluthardt if you are up to an editing/coordinating challenge.
5. BALLPARKS IN TV & MOVIES continues thanks to project chairman Francis Kinlaw. He appreciates the extra suggestions and materials he received in Kansas City. The list is growing in number and accuracy. Contact Francis at 603 Shawnee Road, Greensboro, NC 27403 if you have suggestions. Many current and past stadia appear in tv programs and movies, often showing segments not usually documented in traditional ways.
6. BALLPARKS PHOTO ARCHIVES Chairman Mike Dempsey at 18 Cove St., Old Saybrook, CT 06475 (new/temporary address) reports that we have seven binders of shots with more coming in every month. Reminder: when submitting photos please write your name/address/park site & name/date on the back of every shot. Mike has a list of parks in the collection if you are interested.
7. BALLPARKS COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNET? Over recent months several members have sent print-outs of some items appearing on a ball-parks web page at <http://www.ballparks.com/> A new member of SABR, Cory Suppes, has offered us the opportunity to have our own committee web page. What do you think? Contact Cory at 5169 Seaside Court, Union City, CA 94587 (510) 475-7892 E-mail CSupes@media-citycom. Our thanks to Cory and his partner, Paul Munsey, for this offer.

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GENERAL STADIA/PARK ARTICLES

1. "Required Reading for Stadia Collectors, Pt. 1," by Paul Ferrante, Ragtime Sports, March/96, 3 pgs.
2. Brand Naming Stadia/Arenas, Management Strategies, 12/2/96, 4 pgs
3. "The Economics of New Stadiums," by Paul Eisinger of U<sup>W</sup>-Madison's La Follette's Institute, 1 pg.
4. "Bottom Line Drive," Univ. of Chicago Mag, May/June 95 6 pgs.
5. Troubles at the "Field of Dreams," misc. articles, 2 pgs.
6. "How Sports Stadiums Soak Both Cities & Fans," Phila Inq. 1 pg, 7-29-96 by Neal Pierce
7. "Sports Naming Rights Deals, What's in a Name?" KPMC newsletter, Spring/Summer 96, 10 pgs
8. "Fair or Foul," cities and sports, Univ. of Chicago, ca 96 1 pg
9. "End Sports Blackmail," USA Today, 5-2-96 1 pg
10. "Fields of Dreams," places not built, Toronto Sun, 10-6-96 1 pg.
11. "Creative Packages Spur Stadium Sponsorships," USA Today, 10-8-96
12. "America's cities think they owe team owners billion dollar ballparks," Knight-Ridder piece, 4-25-96
13. "Public Stadium Subsidies, The Moynihan Proposal," NY Law Journal 2 pgs, 9-6-96
14. USA Today spread on baseball architects/projects, 3 pgs, 4-17-96

ARTICLES/EVENTS FROM THE PAST

1. First Night game at the Polo Grounds, NY Times, 5-24-40 2 pgs
2. Football changes to Cleveland Stadium; plans for a dome over the facility, Cleveland Press, 10-27-61; 12-16-62 2 pgs
3. Old Lane Field in San Diego, SD Union-Tribune, 6-9-96 6 pgs
4. Three articles on proposed park for Cleveland AA team in 1887, Dec/1886 3 pgs, somewhat fuzzy copies
5. Yankee Stadium articles:
  - a) 25th anniv. article, TSN, 6-16-48 2 pgs
  - b) Shadows causing on-field problems, NY World, 4-22-28 2 pgs
  - c) Capacity increased, TSN, 1-7-37 2 pgs
  - d) Stories of site selection process, including several sites not chosen and why, TSN, 3-3-48 1 pg incomplete
  - e) Building of Stadium, TSN, 4-41 3 pgs
  - f) Renovations to Stadium, Cement News, 4-26 1 pg.
6. "The Last Game in Washington," Vol. 8 #2, 1 pg Oldtyme BB News
7. "Some still say Forbes Field razed too soon," Pitts Post-Cte 7-28-96 3 pgs.
8. Story on Chicago's first professional ballpark, Dexter Park, 42nd & Halsted, National Chronicle, 1 pg 6-4-1870
9. Chicago Inter-Ocean stories of 1885 on West Side Grounds, 4 pgs.
10. Jackie Robinson's first game at Jersey City, 4-18-96 NY Daily News
11. "New League Park is Grand," Cleve. PD, 4-3-10 1 pg.
12. "Would an Olympic bid have changed Detroit?" Det. News on the hopes for the '68 Games, 7-21-96 2 pgs.

Copying costs are 6¢/page plus postage of 32¢ for first five pages and 23¢ for each additional 5 pages. When in doubt, just be a little extra generous; all extra moneys go to the postage fund.

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BALLPARKS PUBLICATIONS & ITEMS

1. The A & E catalog noted the video "Domed Stadiums," for \$19.95. Has anyone ordered it? It was listed next to "Gothic Cathedrals!"
2. Thanks to Bob Boynton for donating a copy of the "Historic Cleveland Municipal Stadium" auction catalog. Also, thanks to Joe O'Connell for a copy of the Metrodome Souvenir Book.
3. Thanks to Charles Brereton for his annual donation of his newest "A Field in Flatbush" calendars, featuring some great shots of Ebbets Field. Contact him at PO Box 307, Concord, NH 03302 (603) 225-6307 for details. Cost: \$14 and it includes postage/handling.
4. Overseas thanks to Akihiro Ito for donating photos and postcards of Japan's ballparks. Also, a copy of the 1996 Sanyo All-Star Game program & game yearbook.  
  
Akihiro notes that two new stadia open in Japan this spring: the Nagoya Dome for the Cunico Dragons and the Osaka Dome for the Kintetsu Buffaloes.
5. Stadium Postcards summarized in Barr's Post Card News, 1-1-96 2 pgs copies available
6. Committee member Rich Polling released a limited edition lithograph last spring, "The Legacy of Camden Yards." Rich has also done similar work on the new parks in Arlington & Chicago. For information/ordering, contact Visual Perspectives Inc., 2728 McCutcheon Lane, Dallas, TX 75227 (214) 382-4894 Or 800-201-9950.
7. A new ballparks book has been out for months, Philadelphia's Old Ballparks, by Rich Wescott, 256 pgs, 102 illustrations, \$29.95 Temple Univ. Press. Would someone like to submit a review?
8. Bruce Genter reported on a stadium book, Bowls of Glory; Fields of Dreams by Steve Blickstein, Cerbo Publishing Group, 5535 Balboa Blvd., Suite 108, Encino, CA 91319 (818) 783-0040, \$29.95 plus s/h. "Essentially, the publication reviews many ballparks and stadiums throughout the country while additionally providing profiles of companies and corporations who support the Stadium Managers Assoc. with products and services. HOK is mentioned within the publication's various profiles."
9. Various teams including the Indians, Braves, and Phillies have produced team encyclopedias. Any ballpark material in them worth noting?
10. With so much talk of one or two stadiums in Boston to be built, Bob Brady has produced two interesting booklets, "Pigskin on the Diamonds of Beantown," and "Back to the Future, Baseball's Possible Return to Boston's Congress Street Grounds." Bob will reproduce either 12-page booklet at cost for interested members. Contact him at 25 McAndrew Road, Braintree, MA 02184.

PUBLICATIONS & ITEMS (cont)

11. The Theatre of Sport, 384 pgs, Johns Hopkins, has been published on "why the place a sport takes place is so important." It especially examines baseball parks. Another book to review? Has anyone read it?
12. The Way Baseball Works by Dan Gutman, is a visually attractive book with many colorful, eye-catching graphs and charts. The ballparks section is rather short (27 pgs), but the whole book looks at many features of baseball that relate to the stadiums. Will Lingo of Baseball America reviewed it favorably. Check your discount places as I got my copy at half-price (\$15).
13. Dan Palubniak, recently moved to 36 Susquehanna Trail, Branchburg, NJ 08876, seeks a 1996 Minor League Ballpark Calendar. He has duplicates for trade!
14. Jack Carlson reported last summer that he read Dan Shaughnessy's "At Fenway" book It had about twenty pages of park history with summaries of what was built and when. "Most of the book is repetitive by going over the same Sox misfortunes time after time."
15. Enviromint of 501 W. Algonquin Road, Mount Prospect, IL 60056, features many ballpark items including very large models of Comiskey & Wrigley, 11'square, 3½ feet high! The old Comiskey model was a one-time project and sold for \$13,000.
16. Mike Jaffee moved to 8 Middle Loop Road, Staten Island, NY 10308. He sent us another selection of schedules: Albq, NM Toledo, OH; New Britain, CT; Columbus, OH; Omaha, NE; Burlington, IA; Grand Rapids, MI; Lansing, MI; Appleton, WI; and Delmarva Shorebirds. He says this brings him to 116 parks seen.
17. Our thanks to Don Spoon who responded to our last newsletter's request for a copy of the Tacoma, WA News-Tribune 2 pg piece on ballparks that quoted our Committee. Free for 32¢ SASE.
18. "Dreams and Mortar," a special 32-page illustrated magazine featured the new Atlanta Olympic facility, soon-to-be the Braves ballpark. Printed for the 5-5-96 Atlanta Journal-Constitution, it may be out of stock, but call 404 522-4141 to ask.
19. Two more newspaper articles that featured our Committee: Detroit News, 9-29-96, "Could new stadium help Tigers win? and St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 4-8-96, "There's No Place Like Home," changes and fan-friendly additions to Busch Stadium. SASE of 55¢ for both; 32¢ for one.

Late Note: oops; we do have a review of the Philly ballparks book, written by Gerry Casway, published in the 7-28-96 Phila. Inquirer. Free copy to all interested.

Next issue at the end of March.