

MR. BASEBALL



Demolition, Blasphemy, Hyperbole Part 3

But now I will cease to belabor the point. The point was, as I remember, that old and small and eccentric is good. New, large and symmetrical is bad. Or so say the Retro-Purists. They prostrate themselves on the alters of Fenway, Wrigley and Tiger Stadla, and insist they must be preserved for historical, aesthetic and functional reasons.

Pure Poppycock.

Anyone that's ever lived in an old beach house knows there is a definite down-side to old, small and eccentric. This applies to Ball Yards as well. As I've tried to chronicle in the past three chapters, this ranges from inconvenient (no parking, too few restrooms, lousy sight lines), to downright lethal (fires, collapsing stands, homicidal trolleys). And this is merely regarding the spectators. The players, the employees in these monoliths, have to endure antique locker rooms, training rooms and other facilities from 80 years ago. If you were a CPA and showed up for work one day to find a ledger, secretary's chair, and a manual Remington in your work area, you'd whine to mommy too.

The heart of the preservationists' argument lies in their assumption that "they just don't make them like that anymore." This is correct. Ballparks are being constructed today that are superior to anything in the history of sporting arenas. My father was content to sit on ass-busting pine for nine innings, consume warm beer and cold dogs, hope for a seat not behind a pole and eat soot from Esco, all to see the Beavers game at Yaughn Street. He hoped for a better life for me. I agree. The new ballparks, such as Jacobs Field and Camden Yards are Baseball-only facilities that were built to a certain character and with the creature comforts of the 21st Century in mind. The park in Baltimore, for instance, has one huge cooler for the beer kegs, and is tapped into by miles of insulated pipe going to the various concession stands. The result is cold beer at a ball game. Imagine that!

Sparky Anderson say's he's tired of the obsolete facilities at Tiger Stadium, and wants a new park. Who's going to argue with him? This guy has to work there. And furthermore.....

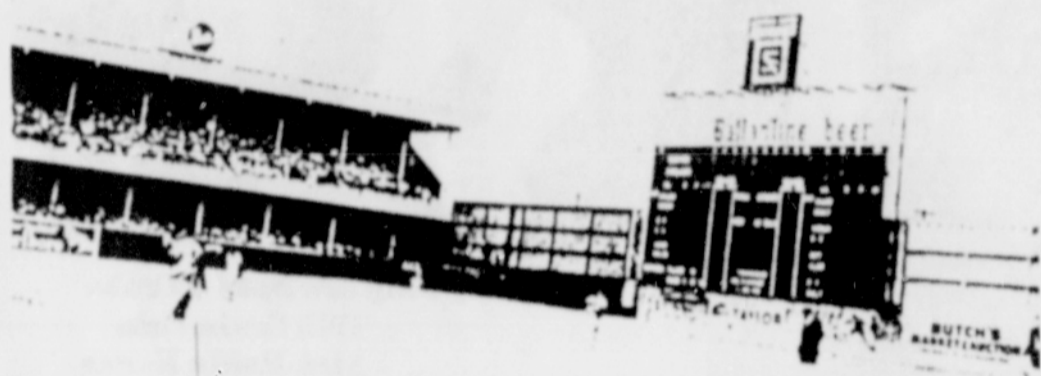
Oh, what the hell difference does it make anyway? These guys are going to strike and that'll be it, the season gone down the toilet. The only reason I'm writing this is seated across from me, in the form of my slightly askew editor, who is fondling a Kalashnikov Assault rifle and eyeing me warily. In his confused state, he's convinced I'm Ryne Sandberg, and he keeps babbling, "You can't quit on me now, pig parts, write!", punctuated by clicks of the safety.

He seems to be nodding, and the pint of everclear has slipped from his hand, so I'm going to attempt a break-out.

Next Month: The strike; The victims, The passers-by, and The Lynch List.



Baker Bowl, Philadelphia - Fatal accidents due to collapsing grandstands occurred here. Twice.



Shibe Park, Philadelphia - A corrugated iron fence induced bizarre caroms in right. A batting cage was in play in center.

Penner Park, Philadelphia - Game delays here were common, caused by dense clouds of coal smoke from the Penn Railroad roundhouse behind first base. Miss Hattie Williams ran the hot dog concession, and fueled her boiling Washtub O' Dogs by cannibalizing the grandstand supports. Perhaps she moonlighted at Baker Bowl. (No clear photo - ed)

Quiz

- Who was the last player to hit a home run in his home park in an All-Star game?
 - Frank Howard
 - Junior Gilliam
 - Hank Aaron
 - Harmon Killebrew
- Who is the only starter from the 1934 All-Star game to not be elected to the Hall of Fame?
 - Gus Mancuso
 - Mark Koenig
 - Dick Bartell
 - Wally Berger
- Who is the only hurler to throw three perfect innings in an All-Star contest twice?
 - Jim Bunning
 - Steve Stone
 - Roger Clemens
 - Denny McLain
- Who is the only sap to strike out four times in an All-Star game?
 - Dave Parker
 - Moose Skowron
 - Roberto Clemente
 - Gil Hodges
- Which of these guys did not hit a lead-off first inning homer in the mid-season gala?
 - Rickey Henderson
 - Willie Mays
 - Lou Boudreau
 - Joe Morgan
- The only player whose teams were 10-0 in All-Star play.
 - Stan Musial
 - Steve Garvey
 - Yogi Berra
 - Billy Martin
- Who was the first rookie to play in the game?
 - Ted Williams
 - Jackie Robinson
 - Al Kaline
 - Joe DiMaggio
- Who is the only player to represent four different teams in the All-Star game?
 - Dave Kingman
 - Goose Gosage
 - Gaylord Perry
 - George Foster
- Any pre-schooler knows Sandy Koufax collected an All-Star win, a World Series victory, and a Cy Young in 1965. But another twirler had done the same thing years earlier. Who was this guy?
 - Whitey Ford
 - Robin Roberts
 - Vernon Law
 - Don Newcombe
- He is the first player to hit a home-run in the All-Star game and a World Series game in the same season. He was also the first player to have a four-hit All-Star game to go with a four-hit Series game.
 - Frankie Frisch
 - Hank Greenburg
 - Billy Herman
 - Joe Medwick

Extra Credit - What team was the first champion of the A.A.G.P.B.L.?

Manzanita News & ESPRESSO

- FEATURING STARBUCKS COFFEE
- WIDE SELECTION OF MAGAZINES
- HEALTHFUL SNACKS

HOURS
EVERYDAY 8:00-4:00

368-7450 P.O. BOX 698
500 LANEDA AVE. MANZANITA, OR 97130

NEHALEM BAY VIDEO
368-5538
HWY 101 & Manzanita Ave.
Manzanita, OR 97130

NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

11 am - 8 pm Mon - Thurs
noon - 9 pm Weekends

Come In & See Our:

- New Look!
- New Lower Prices
- New Equipment Packages
- New Hours
- Refreshments

**Meet the Overstreets—
Elly, Larry, Steve & Shawn**

See our new expanded
section of "New Releases"

WOULD YOU COME FROM
L.A. TO SEASIDE
FOR YOUR HAIR DESIGN?
Robin Stellan Does!

Robert Thomas
Designing for Divine Perfection

(503) 738-9313

Ocean View • Parking • By Appointment

VELOCIPEDIQUES

SPECIALIZED **PRO-FLEX**

MIKE'S BIKE SHOP SINCE 1974
CANNON BEACH

(503) 436-1266 P.O. BOX 518
BIKE TALK: 800-492-1266 CANNON BEACH, OR 97110

**HIDDEN VILLA
MOTEL**

(503) 436-2237

QUIET COTTAGES
CLOSE TO BEACH

YOUR HOST
PATRICK KEALEY

188 E. VAN BUREN
P.O. Box 426
CANNON BEACH, OR

I think a baseball field must be the most beautiful thing in the world. It's so honest and precise. And we play on it. Every star gets humbled. Every mediocre player has a great moment.

Lowell Cohn, "The Temple of Baseball"

BLUE SKY

CAFE

MANZANITA 368-5212

E.C. - Rockies, 45-38 over!!
 10-0
 C-6
 B-8
 7-0
 B-6
 A-5
 C-4
 A-3
 D-2
 C-1
 ANSWERS

14 UPPER LEFT EDGE JULY 1997