

costs about \$20. And a little bit of time.

Having already tackled the Green Monster at Fenway Park in Boston with his previous “Build It Yourself” book, Len Martin turns to his beloved hometown Forbes Field. The scale model comes in 215 pieces on glossy card stock paper. The detail in the pieces is remarkable. Those who build the Forbes Field model will find ivy on the outfield fence, a scoreboard for either the last game played at Forbes Field or the 7th game of the 1960 World Series (when Bill Mazeroski... you know!), and the street facade on Bouquet Street that makes you want to buy a ticket and go inside. Alas, I did not attempt to build Forbes Field, leaving instead the book intact to enjoy page by page. Building this model is difficult, requiring a great deal of patience and attention to detail if you want the final product to look as fantastic as the one on the cover. However, if you are brave and have the patience to put these pieces together to build the model, buy two books, one to build and one to keep.

While the model is fascinating, I found the historical supplement of greater interest. Martin and Bonk (who wrote an article on Forbes Field for *Pittsburgh History*, Spring 1993) include a wonderful illustrated history of Forbes Field. The highlights of this section are 28 never-published color photographs of Forbes Field from the 1950s through 1970. The color photographs provide a great sense of the beauty of the ballpark and will make anybody nostalgic for the older parks — they alone are worth the price of this book. Bonk’s historical piece chronicles the Pirates at Forbes Field, along with the Negro League Crawfords and Grays, pro football’s Steelers, and other athletic and civic activities. Bonk also examines the development of the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh, as critical a part of the history of Forbes Field as any home run hit there. He also includes important dates in Forbes Field history and numerous interesting ballpark tidbits.

The authors have gone back in time and recreated the Forbes Field of the late 1960s, allowing us to forever remember this baseball landmark. It’s a tremendous addition to one’s bookshelf on Pittsburgh sport and architectural history. — *Corey Seeman, Library and Archives Division* ♦

The Negro Leagues Book

edited by Dick Clark and Larry Lester

Cleveland, Ohio: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994. Pp 382. Illustrated. \$29.95

Baseball in Pittsburgh

edited by Paul Adomites and Dennis DeValeria

Cleveland, Ohio: Society for American Baseball Research, 1995. Pp. 64. Illustrated \$7.50

From the Society for American Baseball Research comes two books that fill major gaps in the history of baseball in Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. *The Negro Leagues Book* is a ground-breaking biographical and statistical resource for Negro League history. *Baseball in Pittsburgh* is an anthology of

essays and illustrations documenting baseball in the region as played by the Pirates, Grays, Crawfords, and countless other teams. Both books provide excellent resources for people wishing to explore the many aspects of baseball in this region.

The Negro Leagues Book is an exceptional volume that reflects the diligent (and volunteer) work of members of the Negro Leagues Committee of SABR. Led by editors Clark and Lester, this committee has worked to solidify the biographical and statistical accounts of African Americans in baseball between the establishment of the color line in the 19th century and the decline of the Negro Leagues in the 1950s with the integration of organized baseball. Rather than a purely written account of the Negro Leagues (of which there are many), this book serves more as an encyclopedia. The book features a brief history of the Negro Leagues and the struggle to gain integration, year by year rosters and standings, biographical rosters, and complete statistics for numerous marquee players. A worthwhile feature is a historical section highlighting the “Great Teams” that naturally include the Pittsburgh Crawfords and the Homestead Grays. Impeding the work of the committee in its attempt to document the Negro Leagues has been the limited number of, and inconsistent resources for, this type of information. There is little doubt that this book will be modified as more information comes to the surface. While many may look at it as being no different than the *Baseball Encyclopedia*, the true value and worth of this book is its ground-breaking attempt to gather statistics that have long been scattered.

As primarily an encyclopedia, this book provides relatively few prose sections for casual readers. Still, interested fans and scholars will take interest in seeing (in most cases for the first time) career statistics for Negro League greats such as Satchel Paige, Cool Papa Bell, Josh Gibson, Turkey Stearns, and numerous others. Readers will see the full box scores of the all-star games and other statistics that help to illuminate the excellence of these players. This book is a wonderful and unique addition to the collection of anyone interested in the history of the Negro Leagues and a must for anyone who studies any aspect of baseball history.

Baseball in Pittsburgh was published in 1995 to accompany the SABR national convention in Pittsburgh. With each convention, SABR publishes a book that chronicles aspects of mostly major league baseball history in that community. Editors Adomites and DeValeria approached the book on Pittsburgh in a different light, pulling together an exceptional variety of essays and vignettes which document many aspects of baseball in the region. While many of the articles are about the Pirates (providing interesting approaches to the team and its two recent playing fields), many other entries go beyond the major leagues.

Topics include an interview with Pirates announcer Art McKennan; an article on the Negro Leagues in Pittsburgh by noted baseball historian Rob Ruck; the history of the 1887 Colored League and the Pittsburgh Keystones; a history of the Pennsylvania State Association that played in numerous regional

cities including McKeesport, Beaver Falls, Washington, etc.; and a photo essay from the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania (by this reviewer). While not comprehensive, this book is unique in that it brings together material and stories from many aspects of baseball in Pittsburgh and provides the readers with a better understanding of its importance beyond Mazerowski's famed homer or a Josh Gibson blast at Greenlee Field. — *Corey Seeman, Library and Archives Division* ❁

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Most especially our fearless chairman Bill King, our extraordinary president Steve Graffam, senior partner in Grogan, Graffam, McGinley & Lucchino, the members of our executive committee, and the Board of Trustees have performed heroically. And what would we have done without David and Rosalee McCullough. David, you have surely been a tremendous, powerful spokesman and advocate for this center. Rosalee, you've provided support, enthusiasm and encouragement every step of the way. In a decade of downsizing, cutbacks in government and other funding for culture, together you have all been an incredible alliance in the creation of a facility which to many seemed impossible. We heard that word a great deal over the last 10 years — impossible: "It's impossible for the Historical Society to take on a project like that." "It's impossible for this community to support another capital campaign." "It's impossible to convert that old ugly ice house into a museum." "It's impossible to have those exhibits ready by opening." But impossible things can happen. People make them happen.

To our community leaders like Tom Foerster, Mayor Tom Murphy, county commissioners Dunn, Cranmer, and Dawida, and many friends in Congress, Sen. Len Bodack and many friends in the state legislature, on City Council, and in the corporate and foundation community, your generous participation got us to where we are.

Ten years to make this beginning. And what a beginning it is — a new life for the 117-year-old Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. We are about to realize our institution's mission to connect our people to their unique heritage in a way only dreamed of by the people who came before us. Their concern for a place to properly house and care for the artifacts and archival materials which represent our history has now been realized, as has been our concern that these materials be interpreted and shared with the broadest possible audience.

The History Center's exhibit program will generate a new blockbuster each year on topics ranging from the glass industry (opening in 1997), to the Heinz family and company in 1998, to the history of sports, and of medicine, bridges, and a host of other topics. Our programs will allow for learning in a variety of styles: lectures, bus trips, gallery talks, our museum theater program, ethnic cooking classes, thematic weekend programming and many, many others which will educate, excite and inspire.

We make a special pledge to the educational community to continue to provide our classroom materials for the teaching of Western Pennsylvania history, to sponsor the National History Day program, and now to be a place for field trips for museum-based learning.

This new History Center can and will play a role in developing the Pittsburgh region as a travel and tourism destination. When people travel, they want to come away with a sense of where they've been, and an understanding of the uniqueness and special character of the place. As you will see as you visit this magnificent structure, everything around you has been especially designed to convey a sense of place — this place, Pittsburgh and its region.

Most of all, the history we gather, care for and showcase here for succeeding generations is *your* history. Mrs. Heinz, when you and your sons allowed us to name the new facility for the senator, something very important and very beautiful happened. The generous and caring life of a public servant, whose life was rooted in this region, was linked forever to a place which conjures up the very essence and spirit of the people he represented.

Early in my life, I was fortunate to gain an understanding and appreciation of history from the best of all possible sources, my paternal grandparents in whose household I was raised. They were the children of immigrants from textile centers in Switzerland and Germany who had come to Paterson, New Jersey, to work in that city's silk mills. My grandparents were steeped in an understanding of their personal pasts, our family's past. Although they never lived here, their memory, their appreciation of ethnicity, their work ethic, and their love of history is very much with me here today in Pittsburgh. They influenced me early in my life to form a belief in the transforming quality that "backyard" history can have, especially for young people. And I've spent the last 22 years as a professional and volunteer in history organizations which provide that sense of place so lacking in most of our contemporary society with serial marriages, broken homes, and as great a geographic mobility as this nation of nomads has ever known. Local history gives us a touchstone, a touchstone which provides the character and cultural identification to bind us all together, giving our citizens understanding, depth, and meaning. One of the historical references that our staff discovered in their research for our exhibits was part of a speech given by Pittsburgher Harry Castle in 1896 at a convention being held at the Point in the old Exposition Hall. He said: "I know of no other city with darker skies, brighter men and women, dirtier hands and cleaner hearts with narrow or crooked streets and broader, straighter hospitality."

We have taken care of the dark skies, and in this marvelous new facility look forward to communicating to our modern visitors that the Pittsburgh tradition of hospitality, inventiveness, and heart is still with us.

On behalf of those of us who have had a role in creating this new, wonderful place for learning and enjoyment — to all who did whatever they could to help us — I thank you more than you could ever know for launching the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. ❁