

The Webfooter

The official publication of the Webfooters Post Card Club Portland, Oregon

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www.thewebfooters.com

Happy Mothers Day

See Cover Photo information on page 3 for information about this famous mother.

Next Meeting – May 20, 2006

At Russellville Grange - 12105 NE Prescott Street

10:00 am to 4:00 pm



See Page Four for a story on the History of Baseball in Portland

President's Corner

Another successful Annual Show and Sale is behind us and despite the many challenges, there were many positive things that will be remembered about this show. Several people thought that having a show on Easter weekend would be disastrous, but all in all it didn't have a major effect. Attendance was down slightly, but our most serious collectors came on Sunday and buyers didn't have to rub elbows to look at cards.

Thank you to those of you who brought displays. These were some of the best we have ever had. Shirley Pollak won first prize for her Early Views of Albany Oregon; Jocelyn Howells won second prize with her rare board of Elmer Allen Coe post cards of Northwestern Oregon and she won honorable mention with her "Cat's Meow"; third prize went to Joe Macdonald for his Western Oregon Stages.

The board that generated the most interest was probably Ed & Colleen Weum's board showing family views of Portland Studio Photographer Cal Calvert. Famous for his 10-minute Mazeograph process, Cal Calvert had studios at Council Crest Amusement Park, City Park (now Washington Park) and at 6th & Washington in downtown Portland. Shirley Pollak had a collection of post cards that she was selling and that she had identified as "All One Photographer". By comparing them with the Weum's board showing the Cal Calvert family, Shirley was able to identify a previously unidentified photographer.

We were expecting to see the spirit of Washington post card photographer J.Boyd Ellis, but we saw the ghost of Portland post card photographer Cal Calvert instead.

A "thank you" goes out to Phyllis Palmer for organizing and overseeing the displays. To set the record straight, Phyllis did not have any boards in the display and therefore did not have any conflict of interest. Overseeing the counting of votes was Nancy Conover who also did not have any boards in the display. Thanks also to Jane Burton for helping watch the display boards.

A word of appreciation goes to Dave Elston for painting and lettering the new 4-foot tall sandwich board signs that were purchased by the club. They were prominently placed on Columbia Boulevard and they gave us much more visibility than last year. Thanks to Terry Weis for allowing us to use his signs as well and to Dale Nix for setting out and picking up the signs.

We want to give a special word of thanks to David Sell, Dave Elston, Kenn Lantz, Steve Kuryk, Dusty Schmidt, Steve Kenney and Ross Willey for setting up and taking down tables. Thanks to Al Powers for staffing the admission table and for acting as our official greeter.

President's Corner (continued)

We were also very happy to have Monique Scarnatto and her family who prepared, cooked and served our refreshments. We had a wonderful Easter dinner with ham and scalloped potatoes and all the trimmings.

Thank you also to our wonderful dealers. One of our non-members commented on how nice all of the dealers were. We thank all of you for your support and cooperation in making this a really fun show.

Apart from the show, I want to say a special word of thanks to David Sell and Dave Elston. They do an awful lot of work behind the scenes to keep the club going.

The next scheduled meeting of the Webfooters board will be held on Monday, May 15, 2006, at Elmer's Restaurant located at 10001 NE Sandy Boulevard.

Cover Photo

Charles Lindbergh is shown on the cover with his mother, Evangeline Lodge Lindbergh in 1927. Lindbergh flew into Portland with his plane "The Spirit of St. Louis" on September 14, 1927 to help open the new Portland Airport on Swan Island.

Charles Lindbergh (1902-1974), an American aviator, made the first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean on May 20-21, 1927. Other pilots had crossed the Atlantic before him, but Lindbergh was the first person to do it alone, nonstop. Lindbergh's feat gained him immediate, international fame. The press named him "Lucky Lindy" and the "Lone Eagle." Americans and Europeans alike idolized the shy, slim young man and showered him with honors.

Club Officers

President.....	Mark Moore
Vice President.....	Dale Nix
Secretary.....	Dave Elston
Treasurer.....	Al Powers
Member-at-Large.....	Jane Burton
Member-at-Large.....	Phyllis Palmer
Membership Chairman.....	David Sell
Editor.....	Mark Moore



Post cards and photos from the collection of Mark Moore www.PdxHistory.com unless otherwise noted.



Baseball...America's Pastime

Every year in the Spring, there is a phenomenon in the modern world known as the lure of the baseball stadium. Beginning in the early 1800's, Americans began informally playing baseball and they formed teams, following their own local rules. By the 1860s, the sport had become unrivaled in popularity and baseball was being described as America's "national pastime."

You can't talk about Baseball in Portland without mentioning some of the world class players who played here: There was Joe Tinker, Satchel Paige, Lou Pinella, Sam McDowell, Del Baker, George Freese, Eddie Basinski, Jim Thorpe, Luis Tiant, Scott Brosius, Kent Bottenfield ... The list goes on and on.

Where was Ted Williams discovered by the Red Sox organization? He was discovered at batting practice at Vaughn Street Park in Northwest Portland. Did you know that Bobby Doerr was signed here? Or that Jim Thorpe played for the Beavers, as did the great Negro League pitcher, Satchel Paige?

They were teams with great names such as the Pioneers, the Portland Spartans, the Monograms, the Highland Baseball Club, Slabtown, the Portland Gladiators or the Vancouver Occidentals, and they played a variety of base-ball in fields, towns, and cities in and around Portland.

The invention of Baseball was attributed to Alexander Cartwright of New York, who lived from 1820-1892. In 1845 he invented the modern baseball field at the age of 25. Cartwright and the members of his New York Knickerbocker Base Ball Club, devised the first rules and regulations for the modern game of baseball.

Baseball was based on the English game of rounders. Rounders became popular in the United States in the early 19th century, where the game was called "townball", "base", or "baseball".

The first recorded baseball game was played in 1846 when Alexander Cartwright's Knickerbockers lost to the New York Baseball Club. The game was held at the Elysian Fields, in Hoboken, New Jersey. Cartwright is credited with formalizing the modern rules of baseball. In 1858, the National Association of Base Ball Players formed the first organized baseball league.



Early view of a baseball team at Estacada about 1920.

The first known organized baseball team in the Northwest was recorded on May 28, 1866. On this day the Pioneer Baseball Club of East Portland was created. The teams were comprised of merchants, doctors, lawyers and farmers from rural Portland. The club was considered a "gentlemen's" group.

As was the norm for the day, professionals were not allowed, and the "Club" was strictly for members to partake in for social purposes. The club had elected officials and a dues system: each member paid 50 cents to help buy baseballs for a dollar each and bats that cost \$2.50 each.

The Pioneers are on record as playing the Clackamas Club and winning handily 77-46. In the early years of baseball, the rules were different from those of today. Under hand pitching was allowed and batters called where they wanted a pitch over the plate. Scores of this nature were not uncommon at the time given the differences in the rules from today's game.

The first games played by the Pioneers appear to have taken place on a vacant lot owned by Stimpson and Estes on Washington Street. Other games were played near Broadway and Stark downtown, but as time moved on, the team played in fields on the east side of Portland, just over the Willamette, hence the name "East" in the club's name. The team played the best games on Clinton and McCoy field, the only field in town with a half-enclosed grandstand and bleachers.



Baseball team at Ockley Green School in North Portland about 1915.

On October 1, 1867, the Pioneer Base Ball Club invited representatives from other clubs to a meeting in February of 1868 to form a players association. Joe Buchtel was elected president of the five-team group that included the Pioneers, the Spartans of Portland, the Highland Base Ball Club, the Clackamas Club from Oregon City, and the Vancouver Occidentals, which included soldiers from the Ft. Vancouver garrison, with local civilians rounding out the Occidentals squad.

The players group operated as "The Oregon, Washington and Idaho Territories Association of Base Ball Players". They adopted the rules set down by the National Association of Ball Players that resided in New York and they were slightly modified for the Northwest group.

Joe Buchtel was the person most acknowledged as popularizing baseball in Oregon in the latter part of the 19th century. In a short period of time, Buchtel went from elected director, to captain, to manager/player. He was a pitcher and an outfielder when the Pioneer Club won at least two State championships at the Oregon State Fair. Fleet of foot, Buchtel was said to have run 150 yards in fifteen seconds. In 1874 Buchtel reorganized the team and two years later won the Centennial Baseball Championship playing against the Clackamas Club, the Vancouver Occidentals and Willamette University.

Joe Buchtel fulfilled his obligations as a player/manager for the Pioneers for 15 years. In 1884 he organized the next great team to come out of Portland, the Willamettes of East Portland. That team consisted of Joe Buchtel and his son Fred who played shortstop. Then came the outstanding Parrott family.

This team was so successful that in 1890 they became the Portland Gladiators who helped organize the first fully professional organization, the Pacific Northwest League (PNL). This league consisted of Portland, Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane. Making the transition from the amateur Willamettes to the professional Gladiators were Fred Buchtel, "Jiggs" Parrott, and Tom Parrott. The league soon was filled with players from leagues in Texas, the Midwest and New York.

In 1891, the Gladiators played 94 games to win the league championship. During that season they also played teams from the California League, which included Sacramento, San Francisco and San Jose.

The Monograms began in 1896 when 18-year old Cal Geil assembled some "neighborhood kids", mostly from Central and North Central High Schools, in a barn on East 12th and Pine Street with the idea of forming the best baseball team possible. They practiced on a field known only as "The Graders" in the area of NE Flanders to Hoyt and NE 9th to 11th. Games were played at a place called the Buckman field site.

The Monograms played in Portland against teams with names like South Portland, Goose Hollow, Slabtown, the Phoenix team, the Vancouver Maroons, Oregon City and St. Helens. The team beat all the other teams in their league, setting up a playoff with the Washington State Champion, the Tacoma Four Spots, for the right to go to San Francisco and play the California champion in the Pacific Tournament which was sponsored by the San Francisco Examiner. The Monograms beat the Tacoma Four Spots 10-1 to advance.

Even though the Monograms lost players to the flu, seasickness and injury, they still managed to tie the California League Champions 12-12 in the first game before losing a heartbreaker in the second game, 16-14. There were approximately 17,000 spectators at each game. Later that year, the Pacific Northwest League collapsed.

In the Spring of 1901, construction began on a new baseball stadium on NW Vaughn Street between 24th and 25th Streets. F.I. Fuller's Portland Railway Company owned the land, and he teamed up with rival streetcar company owner, C.F. Swigert of the City & Suburban Railway Company to build the park. The idea was simple...increase ridership on both streetcar lines and make money at the turnstiles.



Aerial view of Recreation Park (Vaughn Street Stadium) which opened in 1901 (Photo courtesy of Frank Schlick)

The new baseball park opened on May 22, 1901 and the face of baseball in Portland would take on its greatest change. This day marked the beginning of 55 seasons of great baseball in Portland. It was on a rainy Wednesday afternoon when that first game was played at Recreation Park (Vaughn Street Park or simply the *Baseball Park*).

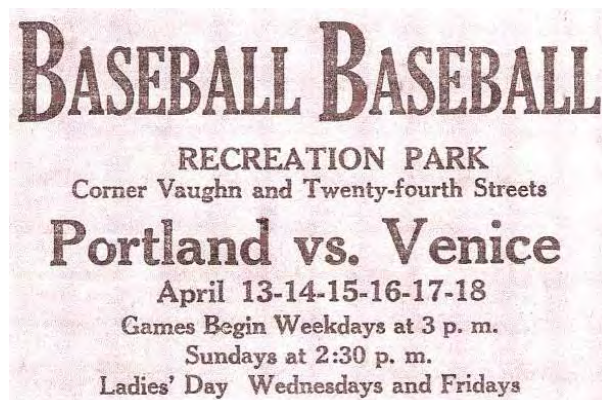
It was the place where the Red Sox discovered Ted Williams. It was where the great Joe Tinker first played; it survived a massive 3-alarm fire and numerous floods. It was the heart and soul of the city.

The Pacific Northwest League was revived in 1901 and when the National Association was organized, the league became a Class B member. While Fuller and Swigert owned the park, a group of prominent business owners, spearheaded by well-known baseball promoter named William H. Lucas, decided that the best way to bring favorable publicity to an ambitious young city was to bring in a baseball club. So began the Portland Baseball Club, as the ownership group assembled a team in 1901 called the *Webfooters*.

Joe Tinker played Third base for the Webfooters in 1901 and would go on to the Baseball Hall of Fame. The Webfooters were an outstanding team and they went on to win the Pacific Northwest League championship in that 1901 season, but the remaining years of the team would not be anything near as good as the first. As the 1902 season approached, two more teams were added to the PNL; Butte and Helena, Montana made a total of six teams. Portland would finish fourth in the league. The PNL was folded into a new league.

In 1903, the Pacific Coast League was formed and the Portland Browns had the worst record in the new league their first year. Other teams were fielded in Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, San Francisco and Seattle during the league's first season. With the coming of the Lewis & Clark Exposition and World's Fair to Portland in 1905, Recreation Park (Vaughn Street Stadium) was used for the National Track & Field Games. The renamed Portland Giants played at Multnomah Field while Recreation Park was used as a track venue.

The team was renamed again in 1906 and the Portland Beavers won their first Pacific Coast League title. The Beavers won PCL Championships again in 1910 and 1911. Vaughn Street Stadium was remodeled in 1912 and 12,000 fully enclosed bleachers seats were added in centerfield. Also, the first known Luxury Boxes were installed. The park stayed virtually unchanged until 1955 when the park known as Vaughn Street and Lucky Beavers Stadium was closed and torn down the following year.



Ad from April 11, 1915 when Portland played the team from Venice, California

The Beavers won PCL championships again in 1913 and 1914, but in 1918, the wartime travel restrictions forced them to cancel their season. After the war, the wins were few and far between. On March 25, 1922, the Beavers announced a strong batting lineup that included All-American Athlete Jim Thorpe playing in the outfield. However, a shoulder injury as well as a leg injury forced his release from Portland on June 1, 1922. Thorpe had been the highest paid ball player in the PCL at \$1000 a month.

Vaughn Street Stadium became the first to install coin drop turnstiles to speed entrance into the park. Finally, in 1932, the Portland Beavers won their sixth PCL crown. Four years later in 1936, the Beavers won their Lucky Seventh League Title. In 1945, the Beavers won their eighth league title and their last crown for 38 years.



Sellwood team about 1918

In 1946, Vaughn Street Park also hosted the short-lived Portland Roses of the West Coast Negro Baseball Association. When the league was formed, Vice President of the league, Jesse Owens took ownership of the Portland Roses. The league was also made up of the Seattle Steelheads, the San Diego Tigers, the Los Angeles White Sox, the San Francisco Sea Lions and the Oakland Larks. Portland won their June 4th opener as 1,500 fans watched. Most of the teams soon found themselves in financial trouble and the Association folded in July 1946. Team members packed their bags and headed home.

The Beavers didn't make any major headlines until they moved to Multnomah Stadium (later Civic Stadium and now PGE Park) in 1956. Multnomah Stadium was built in 1926 with a capacity of 28,000 and it was used almost exclusively for football games until 1956. That was the end of the old Vaughn Street Stadium, it simply died of old age. It was razed in 1957. The Beavers transplanted the grass from the old Vaughn Street Stadium to Civic Stadium. However, the grass vanished in 1969 when Civic Stadium was the first outdoor facility to install AstroTurf.

The Dodgers and Giants moved from New York to the West Coast in 1958, effectively transforming the PCL from baseball's third major league into a AAA classification league. The Beavers became a Major League farm team for the first time joining the St. Louis Cardinals family as their AAA team in 1961. The Beavers became the AAA affiliate for the Kansas City Athletics in 1962.

Then in 1964, the Beavers became the AAA team of the Cleveland Indians. The Beavers became the first AAA team in the history of the Milwaukee Brewers in 1970. In 1971, the Minnesota Twins became the Beavers' new parent club. Then in 1972, the Beavers became the AAA team of the Cleveland Indians.

In 1973, the Beavers moved to Spokane. Civic Stadium was remodeled again in the 1970's when a new roof was added. The Press Boxes were moved from on top of the roof to under the roof.

Then Portland rejoined the PCL in 1978 as an expansion team and the AAA affiliate of the Cleveland Indians. In 1979, the Pittsburgh Pirates became the parent club of the Beavers. The Philadelphia Phillies became the Beavers' parent club in 1983. In 1987, the Minnesota Twins became the Beavers' parent club. Then in 1994, the Beavers moved to Salt Lake City. In 1995, the Bend Rockies of the Single A Northwest League moved to Portland.

Triple A ball returned to Portland in 2001 when the Albuquerque Dukes moved to Portland at a remodeled Civic Stadium now known as PGE Park. The team revived the name Beavers and they became affiliated with the San Diego Padres. When the 20,000-seat Park was remodeled, Nexturf was installed on the playing surface. Luxury Boxes were added and they installed "Club" seating. The naming rights were sold to PGE and it was renamed PGE Park. The Beavers are still popular in Portland through good times and bad. Baseball continues to be America's pastime.



Editor's note: Scans for the above logos and memorabilia are available on the official and unofficial websites for The Portland Beavers. After longtime mascot Round Tripper retired in 1994, he hand-picked his replacement, "Boomer" in 2001.

Members in the News

On May 5th, several Webfooters were on hand at the rededication of the remodeled Vista House at Crown Point, which had been closed for nearly five years. Present were Irene Adams (#1628), Dave Elston (#1592), Steve Kenney (#644), Mark Moore (#923), Gary Randall (#1582), David Sell (#1610), Alan Viewing (#354) and Bill White (#468). Also on hand were Governor Ted Kulongoski, the Royal Rosarians and local dignitaries. The Post Office provided an official pictorial cancellation for the event. The Vista House was originally dedicated on May 5, 1918.

Membership Report

We welcome 10 new members: Mary Delacy of Lake Oswego, Michael Glover of Dufer, Barbara Hermens of Portland, Susan Hermens of Vancouver, Washington, Jim Holley of Aberdeen, Washington, Buzz and Emily Kinnimont of Bellingham, Washington Bruce and Judy Nagle of Lincoln City and Thomas Olsen Jr. of Portland.

Calendar

May 15 – Webfooter's Board Meeting at Elmer's Restaurant (no host)
10001 NE Sandy Blvd – 6:30 pm (Board Meetings held every other month)

May 20 – Webfooter's Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange
12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

June 4 – Pacific NW Post Card Club Meeting – Lake City Community Center
12531 - 28th Ave NE in Seattle – 11:30 am to 5pm

For the latest news, visit our website:



www.thewebfooters.com

WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB

c/o Mark Moore

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June 17th and 18th 2006

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Upcoming Show: Kent, WA – June 24th and 25th, 2006

FREE APPRAISALS