

On Sunday, July 20, professional baseball will mark it's 150th anniversary.

Little did spectators realize on a sticky, muggy, hot Tuesday, July 20, 1858, that they were witnessing history on Long Island.

Earlier that year, a committee for the management of intercity amateur club teams came together to organize and promote a competitive crosstown organized game. It isn't clear whether the players were paid athletes, but during those first years, it was common to see bookies handling bets during competitions such as horse races, bare-knuckle fights, dog and rooster fights.

For weeks, promoters spread the word around New York. Neighborhood club managers picked their best players to try out for one team that would represent their city.

After an extensive search, the teams were picked by the managing committee and the game was on. Customers lined up to pay a stiff gate admission price of 50 cents, then elbowed their way into Fashion Race Course on Long Island, just outside the town of Flushing, N.Y.

As the grandstand began to overflow, eager spectators nudged their way to the track railing. These were to become what we know today as the watchers, or fans.

The doers or players were the first organized group that people paid admission to watch play.

These working-class men came from surrounding suburbs that were soon to be the cities of Hoboken, New Jersey, Bronx and Manhattan. The players would face a group of all-stars from the independent city of Brooklyn.

Residents from these neighborhoods came to Flushing by train, horseback, carriage, and by foot,



The Jayhawker

By Jim Merriott
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some walking over five miles.

The players from New York came in a decorated horse-drawn omnibuses covered with bunting, flags and streamers. Players from Brooklyn came in a conveyance pulled by 14 gray horses decorated with feathered bridles.

The New York team won the game 22-18, and for the first time, the team with the most runs allowed the trailing team an opportunity to tie the score in the bottom of the last inning. The Brooklyn team failed to score, ending the first professional game.

Centerfielder Harry Wright would be named the most valuable player for the winning New York team and Brooklyn shortstop Frank Pigeon the top player for the losers.

This event also introduced baseball to the first sports reporter, English born Henry Chadwick, who covered mostly horse racing events, bare-knuckled boxing and dog and cock fights, for the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*.

Today, most Americans interested in the sport believe that the game was developed during the American Civil War era (1861-1864) by Union Gen. Abner Doubleday.

During periods between battles, Northern troops needed a diversion from the everyday boring routine of marching and training. At camp sites just off of the Potomac River,

Doubleday organized the game to take troops minds off ensuing battles.

In fact, on the day of the bloodiest battle of the Civil War, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 1862, able bodied Northern soldiers played a game in New York before a crowd estimated at 15,000.

Historians from the Society of Baseball Researchers believe that even though Doubleday has been credited with the invention of the game, he never played it.

Their studies indicate the game was developed from two games, the English cricket and a game called rounders.

Even though Doubleday takes the glory, no one is exactly sure who invented the game. Experts credit Alexander Joy Cartwright as the true "Father of Baseball" up to 20 years before the war.

Cartwright initiated what was to become the "New York Game" in the 1840s. Cartwright arranged games between clubs which he called the "Knickerbocker-style game."

Prior to the Knickerbocker game, fielders were allowed to throw the ball at runners to make outs. Cartwright's rules stated that if the ball reached a base before the batter or base runner, this was considered an out. The rules stuck and so did the New York style.

Cartwright helped spread baseball across America as he ventured west on a wagon train headed to the gold country of California in 1849.

On the long trip west, during the early evenings after the wagons were circled, he taught settlers the game after supper and chores.

On his cross-country journey, Cartwright taught the New York style game from the Ohio River basin westward through the Midwest. As his caravan traveled on, he continued to teach the game to everyone who was interested, including a band of friendly Indians.

Cartwright carried his bat and ball across the plains and Rocky Mountains as if it were a Bible and cross, preaching the game to homesteaders as an evangelist would.

After his gold-mining adventure panned out, he left California, for the Hawaiian Islands, where he lived the remainder of his life teaching and telling stories of the game.

Though he is not usually credited for inventing baseball, his promotion developed into what we know today as the "American Pastime."

It has been shown that southerners prior to secession played a similar bat-and-ball game as far west as Galveston, Texas.

As the game developed, men such as Wright, the most valuable player of the first New York-Brooklyn game, and his brother George, also helped spread the game to Ohio, where they were hired to develop a team in Cincinnati.

Wright is credited for developing the modern uniform, similar to what players wear today.

Thanks to men such as Cartwright, Wright and thousands like them, the baseball tradition has been passed down from generation to generation.

Going for the long run



SOPHOMORE NOLAN WASSON ran a good race at the Quinter and Rawlins County meet Friday in Atwood. Wasson finished fourth in 13 minutes, 14.62 seconds in the 3,200 meter run.

— Herald photo by Patti Richards.

First professional team hit K.C. 100 years ago

By JIM MERRIOTT
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As we sip our cokes, peel our salted peanuts, and smell the aroma of fresh-buttered popcorn at a Kansas City Royals game, few people realize that over 100 years ago, a man by the name of Americus K. McKim brought the first professional baseball team to the "Heart of America."

Even as an "Enlightenment Evangelist," this pioneer of America's favorite past time drew fans to Kansas City from all parts of the Midwest.

Baseball fans would make the trek to the "City of Fountains" by railroad, horse and buggy, bicycle, horseback, and by foot to see famous baseball stars of the era.

Buried in Elmwood Cemetery in

Kansas City, McKim died Feb. 10, 1910 at the age of 70.

Though he is a forgotten name in history, McKim owned the Kansas City Unions and hosted Chicago in one of the professional leagues of the time, the American, Union or Players League.

Games were played at Athletic Park just off Southwest Boulevard and Summit Street.

Soon thereafter, McKim formed the Kansas City Cowboys, who entered the National League.

Being a businessman, McKim turned his interest to general contracting and brick making, dropping out of the league as an owner, but he will always be remembered as the "Father of Baseball in Kansas City."

Movie inspired young man to achieve

By JIM MERRIOTT
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Director Lloyd Bacon couldn't know when he shot the 1949 movie "It Happens Every Spring," starring Ray Milland as Professor Vernon K. Simpson, it would receive an Oscar nomination.

As spring arrives, so does the baseball season. One of my personal passions has been collecting baseball movies on tape and disk.

Though producers and directors usually say that baseball movies aren't big money makers, good producers overlook this and take the challenge.

As a lad, my first and all-time favorite baseball movie appeared one Saturday as a matinee rerun at the old Isis theater in Kansas City.

Professor Simpson not only excited me about the dream of being a baseball player, he inspired me to overachieve.

After graduating from elementary school, I entered Paseo High School.

The inner-city schools at that time had eighth through 12th grades.

I was just an average student from an average family. My parents were good parents, but neither of them were much interested in helping me with my education.

Every night, my pop would say to me, "Do you have your homework finished?"

As a typical teenager, I would say yes, then either go outside and play sports or watch television.

My high school counselor also didn't care much.

"Looking at your grades son," he said. "You are not college material. I would recommend you either taking up a trade or joining the Army."

After that point, I kind of lost interest in school.

I just wanted to play sports and have a good time with my friends after school.

Watching that movie that Saturday inspired me. I only made the honor roll one time in high school after that, but now I wanted to go to college.

Though it is not listed as one of the Top 10 baseball movies by Baseball Almanac, it is a great film that can be

purchased on DVD online.

Baseball movies such as "Bull Durham," "Field of Dreams," "Pride of the Yankees," "The Natural," "Major League," "For Love of the Game" and "Sandlot" rank ahead of "It Happens Every Spring," but it is a fun movie to watch with a story that has a positive ending.

In a nutshell, the story tells of a college professor who accidentally invents a liquid that repels wood. Simpson, a St. Louis Cardinals fan, experiments with the chemical.

Because his favorite team is doing so bad, he decides to take the summer and try out as a pitcher, using the chemical on the baseball.

You get the idea. He becomes a 30-game winner and takes the Cardinals to the World Series.

In the last game, he is called on to win the game and the series, but he runs out of the chemical in the last inning of the game.

The lesson I learned is that even though odds are against you, the human spirit can prevail if you're

willing to never give up. This inspiration, along with perspiration, can change a person's life if they are just willing to try.

Though there are many great baseball movies, Professor Simpson will always stand out in my mind. This movie is a must see, and on occasion you can catch it on the Turner Classic Movie channel.

Hopefully, as the school year ends and the boys of summer put on their mitts and spikes, they will become inspired as I was.

It happens every spring.

OBERLIN, KS REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

TUES., APRIL 22, 2008 **ABSOLUTE AUCTION**

SELLER:
LILLIAN I. MOSIER ESTATE,
Lou Kersenbrock & Peggy North,
Co-Administrators

REAL ESTATE SELLING AT 10:00 AM, CDT
PERSONAL PROPERTY SELLING AFTER REAL ESTATE
AUCTION LOCATION: 202 S. WOLF, OBERLIN, KS

TRACT 1

202 S. WOLF
Lots 5-6 & N2 vac alley, Block 19, Summit addition –

Approximately 1,896 Sq. Ft. Home

- Living Room
- Family Room w/fireplace
- Kitchen and dining area, w/oak cabinets, Whirlpool dishwasher, Tappan stove
- 3 Bedrooms
- Master bedroom w/master bath
- Full bath
- Utility Room
- Partial 14'x18' Basement
- Forced Air Heat & Central Air
- Patio
- 2-car attached 25'x28' garage w/2 7'x9' OH steel doors w/remote, walk-in door & concrete floor
- 8'x12' Utility Shed

2007 Taxes were \$1,508.06

This home is conveniently located across from the park!

LIVING ROOM

KITCHEN AREA

FIREPLACE IN FAMILY ROOM

TRACT 2

704 & 712 W. SAPPA
Lots 2-6, Block 23, Marks-Cole addition

Approximately 1,009 Sq. Ft. Home

- Living Room
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bath
- NG heat
- Storm windows

2007 Taxes were \$358.90

This Tract also includes: 16'x30' building w/concrete floor, 14'x20' garage w/OH door & concrete floor, 26'x40' shop w/11'x9' OH doors, 24'x16' garage and a second house.



MANNER OF SALE: The real estate will be sold in two tracts.
TERMS: 10% down day of sale with the balance to be paid on or before May 22, 2008. **Announcements made day of sale take precedence over printed materials.**
REAL ESTATE TAXES: Seller will pay 2007 and all prior years' taxes. The 2008 taxes will be prorated to the date of closing.
CLOSING & POSSESSION: Date of closing will be May 22, 2008, with possession on the date of closing.
INSPECTIONS: Buyer(s) are purchasing these properties in their present "AS-IS", "WHERE-IS" condition, and neither Seller or Farm & Ranch Realty, Inc., their agents or representatives, are making any warranties about the properties either expressed or implied. Buyer may do the inspections, at his own expense prior to the auction.
EVIDENCE OF TITLE: Seller will provide title insurance to the Buyer(s) in the amount of the purchase price with the premium to be paid one-half by the Buyer(s) and one-half by the Seller. Title evidence will be provided on sale day. Buyer(s) may close as soon as closing documents are prepared – no later than May 22, 2008.
AGENCY: Farm & Ranch Realty, Inc., its agents and representatives, are the Exclusive Agents of the Seller.

OBERLIN MAVERICKS CORP. TEXAS HOLD-EM POKER TOURNAMENT

PRIZES
Prizes to be Announced

DATE: 04/05/2008 START TIME: 7 P.M.

The OBERLIN MAVERICKS CORPORATION Presents Its 1st Texas Hold-em Poker tournament to raise funds for local charities in our community. Game to be held at the American Legion Hall, 114 S. Rodehaver Ave. in Oberlin, Kansas. On April 5, 2008 at 7 p.m.

| PLEASE RSVP | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| SCHEDULE | |
| DATE | HAPPENING |
| 4/5/2008 | SIGN UP BEFORE THIS DATE |
| 4/5/2008 | DEALING STARTS 7 P.M. |
| 4/5/2008 | COME HAVE SOME FUN! |

Oberlin Mavericks, Corp.

Contact person:
Larry Mack

RSVP

Phone: 785-475-2495
e-mail: larry@oberlinmavericks.org

Questions? Please call!

A suggested \$30.00 Donation to the Oberlin Mavericks Corporation is Requested per player, and gives that player a chance at our final table to win one of our PRIZES to be announced during play at the FINAL TABLE.

PLEASE RSVP YOUR RESERVATION

By calling the Number listed here, or contacting the American Legion Hall with your Name and Phone Number at: 785-475-3207

Contact can also be made at www.oberlinmavericks.org web site

Participants MUST BE at least 21 years of age

Oberlin Mavericks Corporation rules and regulations do apply.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Sells immediately following the Real Estate at 704 W. Sappa

- 84 Chevy Scottsdale pickup, 6.2 diesel
- Tools•Air compressor•Alltrade drill press•Steel press•Snap-on tool box
- Electric motors•Wood saws
- Lots of Iron•Antique furniture
- Dressers
- Beds
- Mirrors
- Tables
- Bar stools
- Misc
- Heritage 22 cal pistol
- Mossberg 12 ga bolt action shotgun
- Brescia 20 ga shotgun
- Arco Int'l 20 ga 3" chamber single
- Mohawk 600-243 Remington Rifle w/Weaver scope and scabbard

TERMS: Cash or good check day of sale. Announcements made day of sale take precedence over printed material.

www.farmandranchrealty.com

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: The administrators of the Lillian Mosier Estate will liquidate the real estate & personal property at **ABSOLUTE PUBLIC AUCTION** on April 22, 2008. The real estate will sell at 10:00 AM with the personal property to sell immediately following.

There will be an OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, April 12th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM

FARM & RANCH REALTY, INC.
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