



Baseball Exhibit Set for Historical Society



Newspaper **Sunday News Lancaster, PA** June 13, 2004

New baseball exhibition to open at Lancaster County Historical Society

The Lancaster County Historical Society will unveil a new exhibition, "Playing America's Game: 140 Years of Lancaster County Baseball," at 9:30 a.m. Friday, June 25.

The exhibition explores the local history of the national pastime. Admission is free.

"Playing America's Game" takes the sport from its arrival with Civil War soldiers to the April 28 groundbreaking for Clipper Magazine Stadium.

The exhibition illustrates the ways in which baseball has captured the hearts of local communities and drawn the county into the arms of a broader American culture.

The exhibition was developed by the Lancaster County Historical Society and its Stauffer Curator, Barry Rauhauser, and includes numerous artifacts and reminiscences from county residents who have played the game at various levels.

Playing America's Game will be on display through the World Series, closing Nov. 13.

The exhibition recounts the story of Lancaster's first two professional minor-league teams, both of which started play 120 years ago this summer.

Subsequent sections of the exhibition explore Lancaster's numerous minor-league teams, including the Lancaster Red Roses of 1941 through 1961; the business of baseball; and Lancaster City's main ballparks.

Another section highlights the "Lancaster boys" who made it to the big leagues, both those who were born here and those who played or lived here for a time.

Visitors will have the chance to vote for Lancaster County's All-Time Most Valuable Player.

Also featured will be the locally-based board game "American Professional Baseball Association," or APBA. The 53-year-old tabletop baseball simulation game boasts an international following.

The show concludes with baseball's most recent chapter in Lancaster, featuring the latest drawings of the new stadium and the arrival of the Lancaster Barnstormers.

Wachovia Wealth Management is the exhibition's presenting sponsor. The historical society and the exhibition's contributing sponsor, the Lancaster Barnstormers, will team up in the coming months to promote the exhibition.

Also sponsoring the exhibition are McMinn's Asphalt, Inc., the company behind the recent rejuvenation of historic Stumpf Field, and Warfel Construction Co., which will build Lancaster's new ballpark.

The Lancaster County Historical Society is located at 230 N. President Ave.

Admission to the research library is \$5 per day, or free with the purchase of a membership.

The historical society is open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and remains open until 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information, call 392-4633 or see the historical society's Web site at www.lancasterhistory.org.

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