



TURNSTILE TALES

FALL 2019 • NATIONAL BALLPARK MUSEUM NEWSLETTER • VOL. 1

Volunteers' dedication leads to increased attendance, rave reviews

The National Ballpark Museum would like to give a special thanks to all of our volunteers whom, collectively, gave 450-plus hours of their time to serve 5,846 visitors this summer—a 67-percent increase in attendance over last year. (You all must have “tired-ears syndrome,” having listened to visitor after visitor reminisce firsthand about their baseball experiences!) The strong feedback we continue to receive from reviews—especially those posted at TripAdvisor.com—speaks to your attentiveness and the depth of your expertise regarding historic ballparks.

As a result of the publicity, we took a significant leap forward in our attendance, with a total of 6,400-plus visitors so far in 2019.

“The staff is extremely friendly ... Great history, great guides... They are fantastic, highlighting and detailing many unique treasures... Volunteers have thorough knowledge about players, teams, and stadiums alike. They make the museum feel more personal...”

—TripAdvisor.com reviews

Much of the credit in this area goes to National Ballpark Museum marketing and promotions director Joey Schor, who thoughtfully and creatively answers all of the comments people leave at Trip Advisor. (You may also have noticed increased media coverage of the museum. Whether he was being interviewed by local news anchors or

reporters from Houston, Milwaukee, and Pittsburgh during Rockies homestands against the Astros, Brewers, and Pirates, Schor is becoming quite the television star!)

Visitor-satisfaction—thanks in large part to the mutual exchange of history and nostalgia between our volunteers and patrons—clearly makes the museum great. This is further demonstrated by our increase in regional visitors. They are truly the museum’s ambassadors during baseball’s off-season, when local “word-of-mouth” helps drive attendance.

The positivity of Trip Advisor reviews has also served to move the National Ballpark Museum higher and higher upon the website’s search-engine list of “Top Things to Do in Denver.”

Celebrating *Japanese-American Baseball: A Shared Experience*

Without Millie Kenko Morimoto King’s extensive research and layout designs for our summer exposition on Japanese-American baseball, that special event would have been limited merely to speakers on a stage. The exhibit *Japanese-American Baseball: A Shared Experience*, presented last July in conjunction with the Japanese-American Resource Center, required considerably comprehensive planning, which in turn provided the museum with a steep learning curve. However, our newfound appreciation for such important (but little-discussed) culture-meets-baseball history made it all worthwhile.

Given that the 2020 Summer Olympics will be hosted by Tokyo, other museums may be interested in showing the exhibit. We welcome thoughts and feedback regarding those possibilities.



(FROM LEFT) Volunteer and researcher Millie King, Channel 9 news anchor Gary Shapiro, and guest speaker Masaru Yoshimura.

The Curator's Corner



(ABOVE) National Ballpark Museum President and Curator Bruce Hellerstein's most recent acquisition, an usher's ticket box from the original Yankee Stadium, resides beside (you guessed it!) our Yankee usher. What a great addition to that exhibit!

WHOSE ON FIRST? Mickey Mantle, of course! President and Curator Bruce Hellerstein is determined to remind everyone (lest they forget) about Mantle's legendary home runs. The figure who greets patrons upon entering the museum is none other than "The Man" himself—the Oklahoma-born Yankee Hall of Famer, whose achievements are highlighted within the museum.

KUDOS: A special thanks to volunteer Joan Bundage, who constructed a map of Denver Bears old ballpark locations. It's for sale in the museum. *Check it out!*

"May all of your baseball dreams come true!"

—Bruce Hellerstein
President and Curator

VOLUNTEER WINTER CAMP: If any museum volunteer would like to provide materials for future newsletters, please inform museum manager Raelee Frazier. Your insights, observations, and stories are *priceless!*

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Now batting... Number Nine...

HANK TURNER!

At nine-years-old, Hank Turner is the museum's youngest volunteer. A great baseball park historian, Hank exhibited his knowledge and enthusiasm for old ballparks last summer during a museum tour.

Subsequently, Hank was asked if he would like to lead tours for his classmates, and perhaps select visitors next summer. His father, Andrew Turner, supports this project. Consider recommending books that you believe Hank should read over the winter. (Guess who his name sake might be? A great duo!)

(BELOW) Manager Raelee Frazier (RIGHT) greets the museum's latest acquisition, nine-year-old volunteer Hank Turner (LEFT).



On-Field Access: The *Dream* of a Lifetime



(LEFT) Visiting the *Field of Dreams* movie site in Iowa, museum volunteer Millie King observed construction on an adjacent Major League-ready ballfield where the Chicago White Sox will play the New York Yankees next summer. Millie shares her story below.

We approached through the cornstalks, just like "Shoeless Joe" Jackson. Accompanied by Clarence, our ghost guide in a White Sox uniform, my granddaughter Cassidy and I "crossed over" onto the magical field, just like Doc Graham.

We entered the house where Ray, Annie, and Karin Kinsella lived. If you stand still, you can hear their voices. As Clarence explained, the house was remodeled for the film and remains preserved to this day—dishes in cabinets with open shelving, the counter where Karin watched the movie *HARVEY* on TV, and the staircase where Ray and Annie re-

vealed their shared dream about Terrance Mann. Walking through the house is like walking through the movie.

Looking out the large living room window, I noticed machinery moving just beyond the cornfield. This is the future site of Major League Baseball's Field of Dreams stadium, which will host a game between the Yankees and White Sox on August 13, 2020. Home plate will be furthest from the house, with stands on the first- and third-base sides, allowing fans to appreciate the cornstalks as they walk a path through the cornfield to the stadium.