



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Lebanon Valley Baseball League Collection

NMAH.AC.0067

Robert S. Harding

1983

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

P.O. Box 37012

Suite 1100, MRC 601

Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

archivescenter@si.edu

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Lebanon Valley Baseball League Collection
Date:	1936-1963
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0067
Creator:	Lebanon Valley Baseball League. (Creator) Darnbach, Ray (Creator)
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (3 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection documents the history of the Lebanon Valley Baseball League, and includes names of the teams which played, reports of games, problems attendant to both professional and amateur status of a minor league, and League standings. It contains newspaper clippings, letters and memorandums.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was purchased from the Americana Mail Auction through George Rinsland, circa 1970.

Provenance

The collection was transferred from the Division of Community Life (formerly the Division of Home and Community Life, now the Division of Cultural and Community Life) to the Archives Center on August 31, 1983.

Processing Information

Processed by Robert Harding, archivist, 1983.

Preferred Citation

Lebanon Valley Baseball League Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The Lebanon Valley (Pennsylvania) Baseball League was started in 1931 and was amateur through 1934. The players were paid in 1935 but the League folded in 1939 because the teams could not meet their payrolls. The League was reorganized in 1941 on a strict amateur basis. Because of World War II, the League was idle 1943-1945. From 1946-1963 the League played every summer season.

Ray Darnbach of Richland, Pennsylvania, a trucker in Lebanon, Pennsylvania since 1916, was an officer of the Lebanon Valley Baseball League for at least twenty-five years. With the exception of the 1962 and 1963 seasons, he kept scrapbooks of the League's games and events from 1936 through 1961. By March 16, 1963, he had gone to the "big diamonds in the sky," as one newspaper report put it. This collection is a detailed history of the Lebanon Valley Baseball League, and includes names of the teams which played, reports of games, problems attendant to both professional and amateur status of a minor league, and League standings. It contains newspaper clippings, letters and memorandums. The Lebanon Valley Baseball League was started in 1931 and was of amateur status through 1934. The players were paid in 1935 but the League folded in 1939 because the teams couldn't meet their payrolls. The league was reorganized in 1941 on a strict amateur basis. Because of World War II, the league was idle in 1943, 1944, and 1945. From 1946 through 1963, the League played every summer season. The number of teams in the League varied through the years as did the communities they represented, depending in part on available sponsors and players. Information in the collection includes material that covers several problem areas: players and manager criticism of the quality of umpires, getting stories to certain press people in a timely fashion, and internal friction within teams. Scattered throughout the articles about the League are newspaper clippings about major league games, well-known sports figures, such as Connie Mack, Lou Gehrig, and Babe Ruth, and also a few articles on the World Series. There are also stories and images of boxing, bowling, swimming and other sports events. One scrapbook, seemingly started in 1935 and including items added until 1945, has an eclectic flavor. Besides Lebanon Valley Baseball League articles, there are images and newspaper clippings of the killing of John Dillinger, the Bruno Hauptman trial, the Dionne quintuplets and floods in Pennsylvania.

Scope and Contents

The Lebanon Valley Baseball League collection was originally a series of scrapbooks, kept annually, of newspaper write-ups of the League games through the baseball season. It contains some correspondence regarding League affairs. Also included are pictures and stories of major sports events which were presumably of interest to the owner. This collection is of interest to persons studying amateur baseball from 1936-1963 in the minor league. The collection traces the development of the League and its teams. It also portrays the dedicated persons who kept the game and League going.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Baseball -- 1930-1970
Sports -- 20th century

Types of Materials:

Clippings -- 20th century
Correspondence -- 20th century
Scrapbooks -- 20th century

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Scrapbook, 1936
Box 1, Folder 2	Scrapbook, 1937
Box 1, Folder 3	Scrapbook, 1938
Box 1, Folder 4	Scrapbook, 1939
Box 1, Folder 5	Scrapbook, 1941
Box 1, Folder 6	Scrapbook, 1942
Box 1, Folder 7	Scrapbook, 1943
Box 1, Folder 8	Scrapbook, 1946
Box 1, Folder 9	Scrapbook, 1952-1953
Box 2, Folder 10	Scrapbook, 1954
Box 2, Folder 11	Scrapbook, 1955
Box 2, Folder 12	Scrapbook, 1956
Box 2, Folder 13	Scrapbook, 1957
Box 2, Folder 14	Scrapbook, 1958
Box 2, Folder 15	Scrapbook, 1959
Box 2, Folder 16	Scrapbook, 1960
Box 2, Folder 17	Scrapbook, 1961
Box 2, Folder 18	Scrapbook, 1962
Box 2, Folder 19	Scrapbook, 1963
Box 2, Folder 20	Miscellaneous: News clippings
Box 3	Scrapbook, including score sheets and baseball news and images and other news stories, circa 1930s