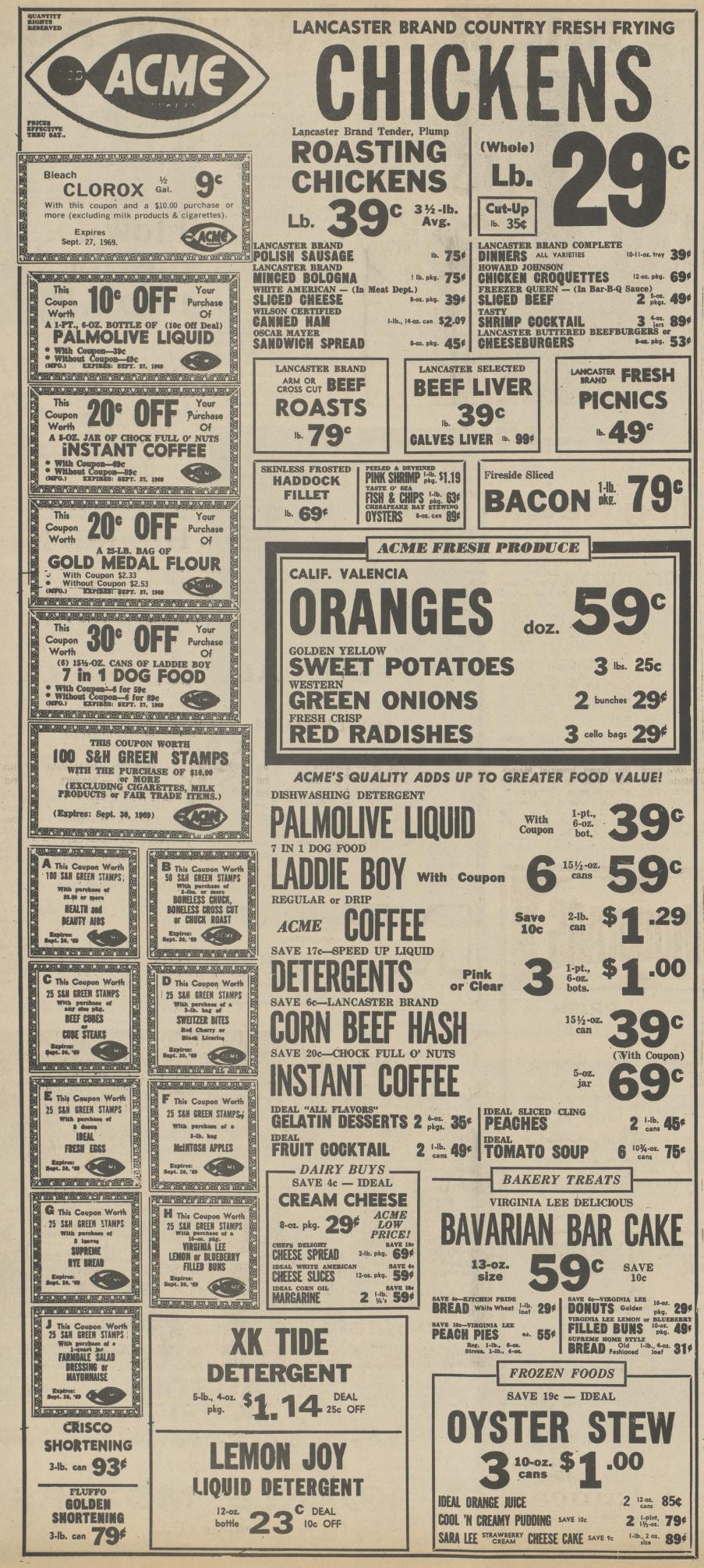
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THE DALLAS POST, SEPT. 25, 1969



northeastern by DAVE GRIFFITHS

> Two exploratory meetings were held recently at the Scranton Chamber of Commerce to examine the possibilities of returning professional baseball to northeastern Pennsylvania.

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From the golden days of 1939 when over 330,000 fans paid their way into old Athletic Park (now Scranton Memorial Stadium) interest in pro sports has dipped sharply.

Cosmo Iacavazzi, commissioner of the Atlantic Coast Football League, lost a bundle in trying to interest area fandom in pro football.

Arthur Pachter, owner of the Scranton Miners in the Eastern Basketball League, has hung on gamely despite dwindling support that has cost the automotive magnate dearly in the last few seasons.

Pro boxing has staged a modest comeback based on the individual efforts of first Jerry Tomasetti and now Dalton's Bobby Phillips.

Circumstances surrounding the past couple of shows, however, indicates that the fans have lost faith in the promoters and the sport.

Harness racing made an auspicious debut at Pocono Downs a few years ago but as we forecast in this column after the first two weeks of the 1969 season the losses at the mutuel window topped the 2 million 600 thousand dollar mark. Attendance was way below the 1968 mark.

The "flats" made their debut just two weeks ago and already it looks like what we termed the biggest gamble in area sports history will prove to be one of the most costly ventures in our time.

Steve Klessel, racing columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News, praised the operation at Pocono (based on a weekend visit) but pointed out that the \$40 per capita wagering was \$50 below the average for thoroughbred tracks.

Wilkes-Barre, it must be pointed out did well with their pro basketball team last season but the Barons were in a class by themselves. They made a shambles of the pennant race.

So the story on pro sports is a sad one. This lack of support is one of the factors the committee trying to determine whether the region wants a minor league club must consider.

Quite frankly, after being more closely associated with the Scranton baseball picture than anyone except Reardon, I wouldn't invest a red cent in the operation. There are just too many other activities to occupy the leisure time of regional residents.

One of the sad notes that came out of the baseball meetings was the fact that nowhere in the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre area is there a suitable ball park to house a minor league team even if such a venture were to be crowned with success.

Don Moyer, a director of the Economic Development Council, told the group that 500,000 persons resided in the area from Carbondale to Hazleton. And he pointed out that some 17 million people come to Pennsylvania each year for recreation.

What Mover said was true.

But not even a Moyer can explain why in the area of which he spoke no one was interested in keeping the stadia we had or in planning one that would be

suitable for all sports. The tragedy of Dunmore Stadium need not be repeated. But when you speak about pro baseball interest and then note that our so-called recreation leaders, politicians and yes, educators wouldn't invest \$50,000 to purchase one of the finest minor league parks in the nation you get some idea of the apathy that existed and still does.

The members of the current committee are men who knew and loved the sport as we did but the lack of interest among today's youth was evident by the turnout for the sessions to which the public was invited.

Scranton and Wilkes-Barrehaveshown conclusively that scholastic sports have earned their support and devotion. They'd rather put their money on the line to see the kid next door run for a touchdown or sink the winning field goal.

The pros have lost their glamour. The nearness to New York and Philadelphia where they can see the best of the pros has made the big difference.

And when any baseball organization surveys the regional picture he is quickly convinced that any area the size of the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre market that doesn't even have a suitable playing site must be written off.

Provide a stadium and the major league clubs will provide a club.

As Shakespeare so aptly phrased it: "The old order changeth yielding place to the new.'

There's no place in the new order for professional baseball.

At least nobody but nobody wants to invest in a stadium!

Trucksville WSCS hears mission resume

WSCS of Trucksville United liam Clewell. Methodist Church met recently in the educational building. The program centered on a resume of the mission school held this past summer, attended by Nancy Pichert, represesenting the youth, Mrs. Stanley Henning, Mrs. Charles Gommer and Mrs. Thomas Kreidler. Mrs. Harold Croom presided.

All recipes for the cook book being compiled by the society must be in to Mrs. Walter Pichert or Mrs. Fred Whipple by Sept. 30. Patrons also have the same deadline. Names may be given to Mrs. Sheldon Bennett.

Reservations for Wyoming Conference WSCS luncheon in Sidney, N.Y., Oct. 9, must be ness meeting after members made by Oct. 1 with Mrs. Wil- return from the trip.

Following the meeting, refreshments were served by Mrs. Thomas Kreidler, chairman; Mrs. Vought Long, Mrs. William Lohman, Mrs. Francis Keller, Mrs. George Liddicote and Mrs. William Long.

Next meeting will be Oct. 1 when the society will visit Retreat State Hospital. Members will leave the educational building at 12:45 p.m. Each is asked to bring one or more small prizes, gift wrapped and inconspicuously marked as to contents and whether it is for a man or woman. Reservations for the trip are to be made with Mrs. William Lohman or Elizabeth Rowlands by Sept. 28.

There will be a short busi-