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ANTI B. B. PARK LOUD PROTEST

Scores of Residents and Taxpayers Show Many Reasons Why Baseball Grounds Should Not Be at Second and Polk

The Editor, the Arizona Republican.
Sir,
We wish to voice through your paper a protest against the establishing of a baseball park at Second and Polk streets.
Last Thursday afternoon Governor Hunt broke ground for the proposed All-American Baseball Park at Second and Polk streets. In the course of his speech of dedication the Governor said: "I believe in baseball, the great national sport. It is one of the producers of this active, robust race." Everybody will heartily voice the sentiments of the governor; but nevertheless we the undersigned property owners, residents and tax payers of the First Ward, to say nothing of all those who have the best interests of Phoenix at heart, are opposed to the establishing of a baseball park on the proposed site. We are all lovers of the national sport and are most willing to promote its popularity in Phoenix; but our opposition to a baseball park in the first ward is based on cogent reasons.

In the first place, a baseball park at Second and Polk streets would mean a depreciation of the surrounding property. This is a residence section of Phoenix and its value as residence property depends on its pleasant surroundings and peacefulness. It will occur to any unbiased reader that the erection of an unsightly fence and grandstand will materially detract from the appearance of the locality.

We, who have lived in this section for years, who have expended time, labor and money in the improvement of our property, who have taken no small pride in watching the growth of our neighborhood, are today confronted with a situation, which if allowed to exist, will jeopardize the best interests of those who have striven to make this locality a homelike place.

Of course, the erection of a ball park on Block 16, Churchill Addition, matters little to the owners of the property. He does not reside in Phoenix and, working through his agent, seizes this opportunity to gain sufficient income to pay his taxes on the land. What cares he about the appearance of this locality? He is considering only his immediate gains. He lacks sufficient civic spirit to improve his property and simply hides his times till he reaps the riches of enhanced values made possible by the efforts and perseverance of the residents of the First Ward. As a matter of fact any improvement on Block 16 has been made at the expense of adjoining property owners who out of civic pride and desire to improve their own property, have planted shade trees and today attend to the watering of the same.

In the second place, a baseball park in this locality will prove a positive nuisance. The value of a residence section largely depends on its peacefulness. It is evident to anyone that a crowd of shouting "fans," practically in our front yards, will not promote the quiet of our neighborhood. It will be no inducement for people to make their homes in this section.

Furthermore, a large number of people are firm believers in a peaceful Sunday. That day they observe as a day of rest. Baseball with its attendant noise will make a travesty of a peaceful Sunday.

But, perhaps, the best reason why this baseball park should not be located at Second and Polk streets is the nearness of that site to the Sisters Hospital. Surely it is our plain duty to do all we can to promote the comfort of our sick. In the Sisters Hospital are men, women and children suffering with fever and tossing on beds of pain. Rest and quiet are what those sufferers need. In some cases quiet is absolutely necessary for their recovery. For that reason along the walls of the corridors in the hospital are hung signs bidding the visitor be as quiet as possible. Will the shouting and screaming of an excited crowd lend peacefulness to the hospital? Will the noise soothe the nerves of our sick folk or hasten their recovery? Anyone who is not so selfish as to seek his pleasure at the expense of other people's comfort and welfare will declare with us that the establishing of a baseball park so close to our hospital would be a reflection on the good judgment of the citizens of Phoenix.

Finally, we maintain it is a short sighted policy that would establish a baseball park at Second and Polk streets. It is more than likely that in a couple of years the growth of the city will necessitate the removal of the park from so central a location. Let those who are behind this proposition look beyond today and establish the ball park where we can consider it a permanent institution. Let our ball grounds be located in a park where the patrons of the sport can go and enjoy the big outdoors, and not disturb any part of the community. Is our city so large that we object to traveling to the suburbs? Hardly. Is an outlying ballpark contrary to established custom? In no city of any importance can you find a baseball park centrally located. This is due, first, to the value of central property and to the fact that a ball park, centrally located, especially in a residence district would prove a positive detriment. What's more, Second and Polk streets would become the camping ground for every vagrant circus that finds its way to Phoenix.

We wish the promoters of the All American ballpark every success. But we suggest that they do not pursue the short sighted policy of looking only to today. The site they have selected would, at best, be for but a while. On the other hand, East Lake Park, to mention only one place, affords the grounds. But if rowdiness has forced

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See Windows

logical and ideal site for baseball Mr. S. H. Mitchell of the Phoenix Railway company to close the gates of Eastlake park to our baseball enthusiasts on Sunday, for a much greater reason are we opposed to rowdiness at our very doors.

Considering, therefore, the value of our property, the appearance and peacefulness of our neighborhood, the comfort of the residents, the nearness of the hospital and, in fact, the best interests of baseball itself, we are opposed to the establishing of a baseball park at Second and Polk streets and call upon the citizens of Phoenix to rally to our cause.

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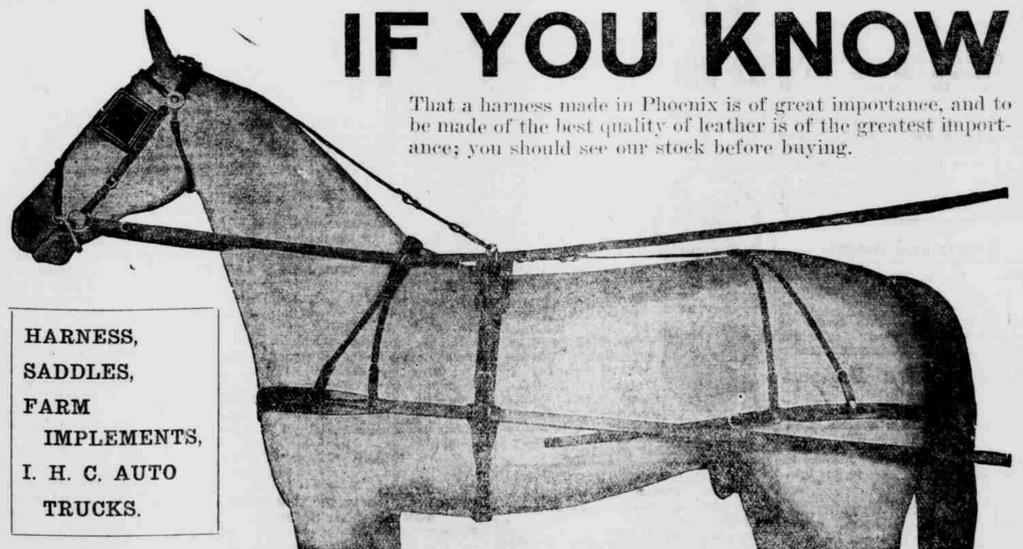
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