

February 28, 1937

Seven Miles Under

In a unique setting, the rebirth of West Texas League becomes reality when franchise representatives conduct their first official league meeting seven miles underground in the "big room" of New Mexico's Carlsbad Caverns.

Originally six Texas towns of Midland, Odessa, Wink, Lubbock, Monahans and Amarillo, as well as Clovis, Roswell, and Hobbs of New Mexico show enough interest to warrant the possibility of forming an eight-team league.

At the meeting, also attended by National Association President W.G. Bramham, four towns - Midland, Monahans, Wink and Hobbs - are named charter members ... two more league members - Roswell and Odessa - are announced a week later at a second meeting in Midland.

League officials decide that the season will begin during the first week in May and continue until Labor Day and that each team will keep all home receipts and be responsible for all of its expenses on road trips.

Teams are allowed to carry 14 players on its roster, including the manager ... 10 of the 14 players are to be "raw recruits" who have been to bat less than fifty times or pitched less than 30 innings with a club in organized baseball.

Only three of the teams have baseball parks ... Midland will have to build a fence and improve its grandstands, Roswell has to completely reconstruct its park and Hobbs will have to convert a softball field ... the other three towns will have to start from scratch.

Known as a "brooder house for major loop chicks", York-Adams County League moguls, in a move that is not unexpected, vote to drop New Oxford from the Northwestern Pennsylvania amateur baseball league.

New Oxford Drops From York-Adams Diamond Loop

Hanover And McSherrytown Will Be Represented In Circuit Again This Summer—Split-Season Plan Replaced By Shaughnessy System—Moguls Will Hold Meeting Here Sunday

In addition, league officials vote to discard the split-season format used in 1936 in favor of the Shaughnessy playoff plan ... Hanover, McSherrytown, Spring Grove, Albemarle and New Freedom commit to being in the league ... the West York Fireman, runner up to New Freedom a year ago after capturing the championship in 1935, voice their displeasure with some of the league rules and withhold their commitment to playing, while Littlestown hints at quitting in protest over the league's open roster policy.

Littlestown makes good its threat to leave and the circuit competes as a six-team organization in 1937 with New Freedom capturing its second-straight title.

Collyns Prexy Of New League

CARLSBAD, N. M., March 1 (AP) —William Collyns of Midland, Tex., was temporary president of the West Texas Baseball League today. He was elected at an organization meeting held yesterday in the big room of the Carlsbad Cavern, 750 feet below the ground.

Member cities of the temporary organization are Midland, Monahans and Wink., Tex., and Hobbs, N. M. Two more cities will be admitted next Sunday at a meeting to be held in Midland. Big Spring and Odessa, Texas, and Carlsbad, N. M., are being considered for the other franchises.

According to present plans, the league will start its season shortly after the big leagues start theirs, and continue until Labor Day. Each club will receive all its home receipts and will pay its own expenses on all trips. Clubs will be assessed for the stipends of league officials and umpires.

All holiday game receipts will be pooled and divided among league teams. A reserve will be carried in the treasury of the National Association of Minor Baseball Leagues to insure players their salaries. William G. Bramham, of Durham, N. C., president of the National Association of Minor Leagues, was present at the meeting.