City of Carroll

112 E. 5th Street Carroll, Iowa 51401-2799 (712) 792-1000 FAX: (712) 792-0139

MEMO TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Mike Pogge-Weaver, City Manager MSP-W

DATE: March 9, 2017

SUBJECT: Merchants Park Baseball Stadium Signage

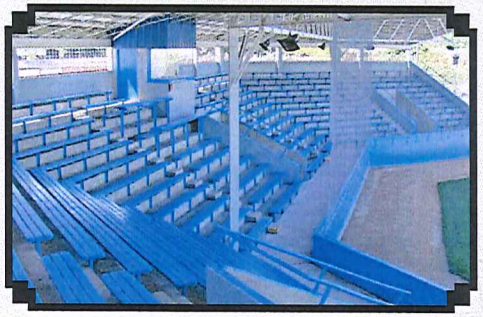
The Carroll Historical Society and the Carroll Athletic Association have teamed up to develop historical signage for Merchants Park Baseball Stadium. A total of six signs are proposed and includes signs for:

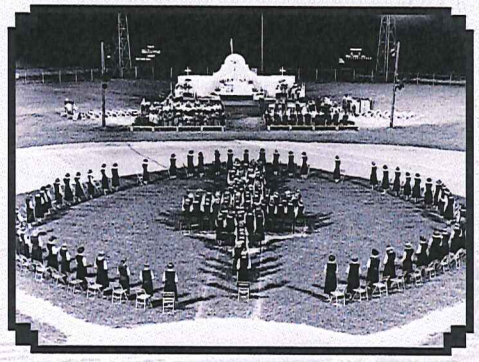
- Carroll Merchants Baseball Stadium
- Semi-Pro Baseball in Carroll
- Carroll High School Baseball
- Kuemper Catholic High School Baseball
- IHSAA Baseball Tournaments
- Historic photos related to the stadium.

Representatives will be at the meeting on March 13th to discuss the proposed signage.

RECOMMENDATION: Review and consider a motion approving proposed historical signage for Merchants Park Baseball Stadium.

CARROLL MERCHANTS STADIUM





1947 - Thirty representatives from 13 civic organizations organized the **Carroll Athletic Club** (later **Carroll Athletic Association**) to **"raise and manage funds to be used for the development of fields and facilities for athletics in Carroll,"** especially to develop a new baseball field. President of the Board of Directors was William Farner; other charter members were Art N. Neu, M. R. Tan Creti, Ben Schenkelberg, Ted Kisgen, Frank Liewer, Jim Kisgen, and Henry Pfiester.

1948 - **Seastrom Brothers of Coon Rapids** won the contract to build the **1,500-seat Merchants Stadium** for $24,916, including three ticket booths, a large concession stand, two dressing rooms, restrooms, two dugouts, and storage space; a 15-foot high grandstand with twelve rows of seats and a glassed-in press box. The stadium was 78 feet wide directly behind the home plate and had wings that extended 51 feet down the left and right foul lines. K. E. Westerlind, Sioux City architect, prepared the stadium plans; and Newell Guernsey, Sioux City landscape engineer, laid out the athletic fields. A citywide canvass solicited $12,000 for **stadium lights.**

1949 - **Funds** to complete the stadium were donated by the Elks, Amvets, American Legion, and Moose Lodge. In a little over one year, $102,000 was raised privately through selling of tip boards (10 cents per chance) in local bars; $10,500 was approved for **fencing** of the athletic fields.

June 10, 1949 - **Merchants Stadium officially opened** with a game between the Carroll Merchants and the Harlan Cardinals (who won 6-0) before 3,233 fans.

1950s - present - **Home to the Carroll Merchants and to the Carroll High and Kuemper Catholic High School baseball teams**, the stadium over the years has also seen Eddie Feigner, the King and His Court; a softball all-star team; all-star wrestling; music concerts like Up With People and Blues Image (1975); College Classic baseball games with Iowa, Creighton, Iowa State, and Grand View; Negro League games; Catholic Action Day services; Senior and Little League baseball games; Donkey Ball; CYO baseball tournaments; NJCAA Division II Baseball Regionals; Agarama pork and beef barbecues; steer shows; and Little League and high school state tournaments.

1965 - Name changed from **Merchants Stadium** to **Carroll Baseball Stadium**; **2011** - Name changed from **Carroll Baseball Stadium** back to **Merchants Park;** new **scoreboard** installed.

1996 - The **Carroll Athletic Association** was reincorporated. President was Barry T. Bruner; members were Ed Lawler, Jim Greteman, Jim Auen, Jim Gossett, R. T. Schreck, John Perrin, Chris Whitaker, Paul Milligan, and Matt Lujano.

2014 - 2017 - **Merchants Park Stadium** was renovated and upgraded in a joint public-private partnership of the city and the Carroll Athletic Association.

SEMI-PRO BASEBALL IN CARROLL

1898

1914

1917

1939

1941

1875 - early 1900s - baseball played at County Fairgrounds, Maple Park, Fireman's Field, and Minchen Park; 1932 - new diamond built at **Minchen's/ Fireman's Field** (grandstand, scoreboard, backstop); games also played at Graham (City Park) Athletic Field and American Legion grounds east of the swimming pool

1932 - 1934 - Carroll Firemen; 1933 - 1934 - junior (amateur) team were **Carroll Tigers**

1935 - renamed the **Carroll Merchants;** sponsored by local businesses

1936 - 1937 - no semipro team in Carroll due to lack of players

1938 - 1941 - Carroll Merchants revived; sponsored by local businesses

1941 - 1942 - renamed the **Carroll Ramblers** (also name of a teenage boys' baseball team and a girls' 4-H club)

1941 - joined Northwest Iowa Semi-pro League

1943 - 1944 - no semipro team in Carroll due to World War II

1945 - 1946 - Carroll Warriors; 1945 - part of the Carroll County League; no home ballfield so all games played on the road

1947 - renamed **Carroll Indians**; junior squad was the **Carroll Warriors**

1947 - new athletic field with a baseball diamond and a football gridiron was planned by the City of Carroll and the school district on 15 acres of land south of the American Legion swimming pool

1948 - no semipro team; ballpark was not fully developed

1949 - Carroll Merchants team revived; grandstand and dugouts built in **Merchants Stadium;** college players from around the country were given jobs and stayed in homes during the summer

1949 - 1955 - Carroll Merchants in Iowa State League

1956 - 1959 - Carroll Merchants in Central States League

August 9, 1955 - Carroll Merchants played an all-star team of former players from the **All American Girls' Professional Baseball League** (Merchants won, 9-1)

1960 - Carroll Merchants sponsored men's fast pitch softball team

2005 - 2009 - Carroll Classics semi-pro team organized with small college players and former high school players

2011 - Carroll (formerly Des Moines) **Vikings**

2015 - 2016 - Carroll Merchants revived as a member of the Corn Belt Summer Collegiate Baseball League

2017 - Carroll Merchants member of Northwest Iowa Pioneer League

1947 Goetz Distributing Team

1947 Schlitz Falstaff Team

1950

1954

KUEMPER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

STATE TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES

1976 (Third Place)
2001 (First Round)
2005 (Runner-Up)
2A Wilton (42-0)
Kuemper Catholic (35-4) 8-3
2010 (Runner-Up)
2A Solon (41-2)
Kuemper Catholic (27-10) 5-2
2011 (Semi-Finalist)
2012 (Semi-Finalist)
2013 (Semi-Finalist)
2016 (Runner-Up)
2A Clear Lake (31-7)
Kuemper Catholic (26-12).....8-1

IHSAA HALL OF FAME COACHES

BILL WIELAND
1976 - 1995

JERRY SPIELER
1995 - 2007

CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

1904 - 1922 - Carroll High School baseball teams competed against area teams.

1951 - After discontinuing the baseball program after the 1922 season, Carroll High restarted it for one year.

1965 - Baseball program again restarted.

1973 - School's first winning season with a 9-8 record.

1976 - Tigers started the season 12-0; won the school's first baseball conference title; was rated #5 in the state; and won a then-school record 21 games.

1977 - The Tigers earned back-to-back Midwest Conference titles.

1991 - Tied the school record for wins at 21; won 13 straight games; ranked #9.

2003 - Winning 24 games, the Tigers set a new school record.

2006 - First CHS team to advance to the state tournament; won a school-record 26 games.

CARROLL HIGH TIGERS

	RECORD	
1922	4-2	
1951	3-5	first season since 1922
1965	4-12	program started again
1976	21-4	Conference Champions
1977	20-6	Conference Champions
1987	19-7	District Champions
1992	18-12	District Champions
1993	18-9	District Champions
2006	26-10	State Qualifier
2012	19-14	District Champions
2015	12-16	District Champions

IHSAA BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

1970 and 1973 - Carroll Stadium hosted the Class A state baseball tournament.

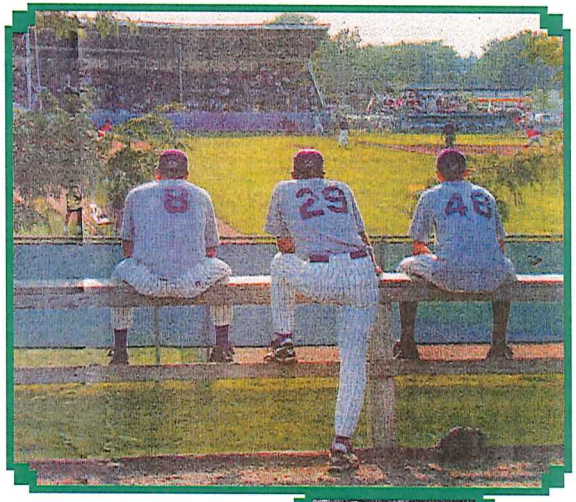
1975 - **Marshalltown** hosted the state tournament; high school baseball had only **Class A and Class AA,** and the tournament lasted just two days.

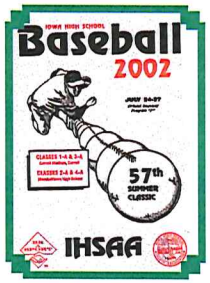
1981 - The tournament went to three days when baseball was expanded to **four classes.**

1995 - State high school baseball tournaments returned to **Carroll Stadium** after a 22-year absence. The tournament field increased from **four to eight teams** in each class, so a second site was needed; and half the games were moved to **Carroll.**

1995 - 2004 - Iowa High School Athletic Association Class 1A and 3A baseball tournament games were hosted at Merchants Field in the Carroll Stadium, where the Kuemper Knights played in the 2001 Tournament. Classes 2A and 4A remained in Marshalltown.

More than 100 volunteers made the tournament happen. The tournament hosts were the City of Carroll along with the two local high schools—Carroll High and Kuemper Catholic High —and the schools' booster clubs worked together in operating the concession stands and ticket gates. Other volunteers included announcers, ball boys, and a parking crew made up of Carroll firefighters and other volunteers.





Year	Class IA Champion	Class 3A Champion
1970	Decorah	
1973	Lansing Kee High	
1995	LeMars Gehlen	Davenport Assumption
1996	North Kossuth	Harlan
1997	North Kossuth	Spencer
1998	Mason City Newman	Vinton, Washington
1999	LeMars Gehlen	Davenport Assumption
2000	Granville Spalding	Fort Madison
2001	Granville Spalding	Sioux City Bishop Heelan
2002	Mason City Newman	Knoxville
2003	Van Meter	Harlan
2004	Martensdale-St. Marys	Davenport Assumption

"As an umpire it's an honor working at Carroll. The state-tournament group is a model that should be used by all state-sanctioned tournaments. It gives such a positive impression of the Carroll community to see a group of individuals representing Kuemper High, Carroll High and the community. These people are truly a fantastic group of ambassadors for your community and the reason Carroll is the tournament site of choice to work.

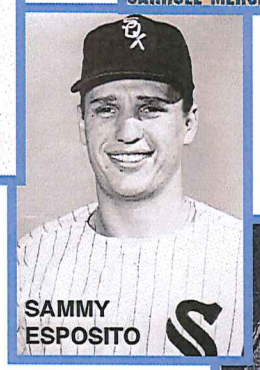
Also, a special acknowledgment to Scott Parcher about the playing field. Being able to umpire at many locations throughout the state, I can honestly say the only diamond comparable to Carroll's is Sec Taylor Stadium in Des Moines. I would hope others would use Carroll's field as a master for their own baseball fields." Neils Johnson, Ames, 2004 (Letter to the Editor)

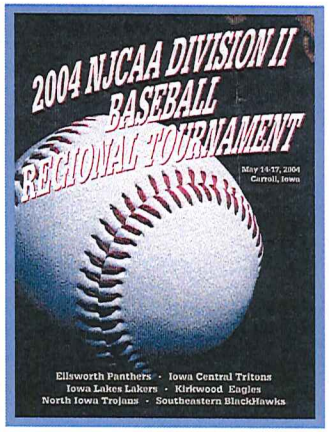
2005 - All four classes of the state baseball tournament moved to Sec Taylor Stadium / Principal Park in Des Moines.

1951 – CARROLL – 1951
HOME BASEBALL
SCHEDULE
Iowa State League Defending Champs
This is the home of the Carroll Merchants. 4400 Good Seats
NO ONE STANDS IN CARROLL
For Real Enjoyment Follow The Carroll Merchants
JUNE
*June 1—House of David
*June 6—Bancroft
*June 11—Linden
June 18—Estherville
June 15—Mason City
June 17—Spencer
June 19—Storm Lake
June 21—Lakes-Denison
June 25—Estherville
June 27—Mason City
June 29—Spencer
JULY
July 1—Storm Lake
*July 4—Colored Team, 7:15 (Fireworks Display)
July 8—Lakes-Denison
July 10—Bancroft
July 15—Bancroft
July 17—Lakes-Denison
*July 20—To Be Announced
July 23—Estherville
July 24—Mason City
July 26—Spencer
AUGUST
August 3—Spencer
August 5—Storm Lake
*August 7—To Be Announced
August 10—Estherville
August 15—Mason City
August 17—Bancroft
*August 19—To Be Announced
August 21—Lakes-Denison
August 23—Storm Lake
August 26—Play-offs
*INDICATES NON-LEAGUE GAMES
All Night Games. Admission 75c; High School Students 35c; Grade School Students 10c

IOWA HIGH SCHOOL
Baseball
2002
JULY 24-27
CLASSES 1-A & 3-A
Carroll Stadium, Carroll
CLASSES 2-A & 4-A
Marshalltown High School
57th
SUMMER
CLASSIC
IHSAA

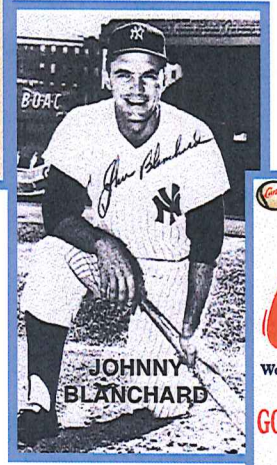
OFFICIAL
PROGRAM
1951
10¢
CARROLL MERCHANTS

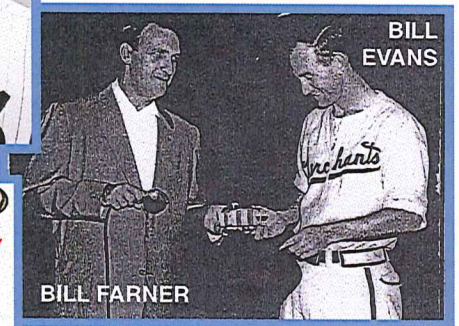

SAMMY
ESPOSITO

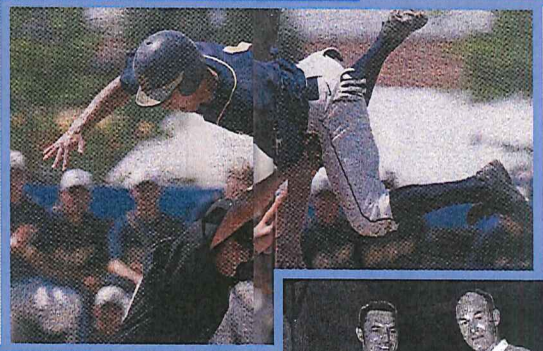

2004 NJCAA DIVISION II
BASEBALL
REGIONAL TOURNAMENT
May 14-17, 2004
Carroll, Iowa
Ellsworth Panthers · Iowa Central Tritons
Iowa Lakes Lakers · Kirkwood Eagles
North Iowa Trojans · Southeastern BlackHawks

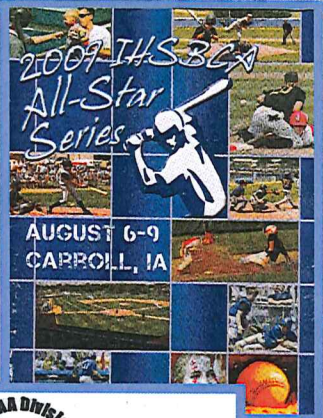
CREIGHTON
Bluejays
UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN IOWA
Panthers
GRANDVIEW
Vikings
COLLEGE BASEBALL CLASSIC
May 7, 1993
Carroll, Iowa

BILL
FARNER
"MR.
BASEBALL"


JOHNNY
BLANCHARD

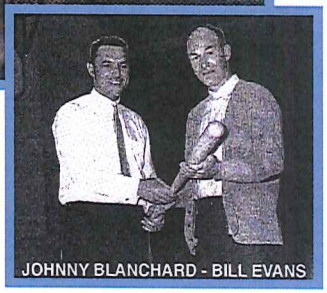

BILL
EVANS
BILL FARNER

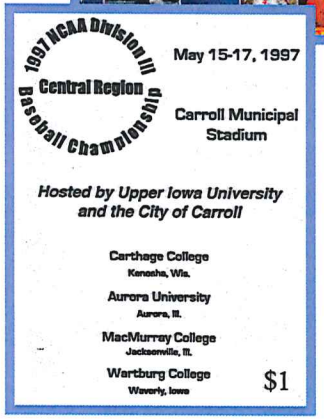


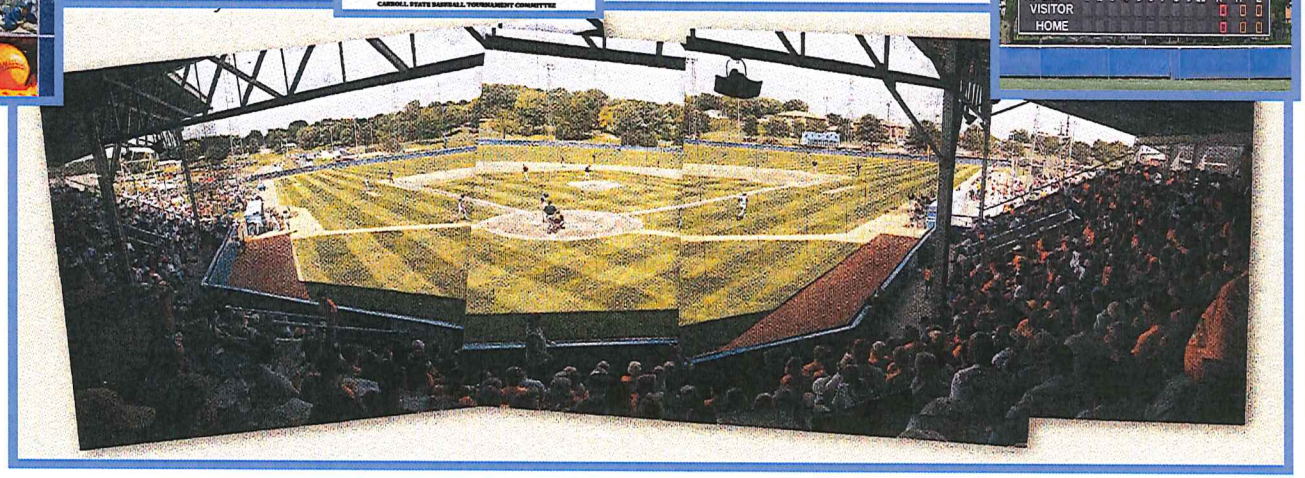

2009 IHSBCA
All-Star
Series
AUGUST 6-9
CARROLL, IA

STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT
PLAYERS, PARENTS & FANS
WELCOME
TO
Carroll
We hope you enjoy our community
and
Historic Carroll Stadium
GOOD LUCK TO YOUR TEAM
Thank you for displaying
good sportsmanship
on and off the field
CARROLL STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

MERCHANTS PARK
BALL STRIKE OUT
AT BAT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 R H E
VISITOR
HOME


JOHNNY BLANCHARD - BILL EVANS


1997 NCAA Division III
Central Region
Baseball Championship
May 15-17, 1997
Carroll Municipal
Stadium
Hosted by Upper Iowa University
and the City of Carroll
Carthage College
Kenosha, Wis.
Aurora University
Aurora, Ill.
MacMurray College
Jacksonville, Ill.
Wartburg College
Waverly, Iowa
$1



CYO BASEBALL
20th Annual
Tournament
Merchants Park-Carroll, IA
June 3 & 4, 2006
Cathedral Catholic Lakers
St. Mary's Eagles
St. Edmond Fr. Dodgers
Spalding Catholic Granville