Grinnell Baseball Association History

The following article is a brief history and purpose of the Grinnell Baseball Association incorporated Oct. 1, 1955.

This association's chartered purpose is as follows: "It shall be the purpose of this organization to furnish, equip, provide and make available the necessary facilities and equipment for the carrying on and conducting of a baseball program for the youth of the city of Grinnell and the surrounding area and to operate and supervise this program in such a manner that the greatest amount of benefit will be received by the maximum number of youth."

The first ballpark of the association was in front of Donaldson Manufacturing Co. on grounds given to the city of Grinnell for the purpose of development for recreational purposes. This later was purchased by Donaldson's and the funds used to acquire by long-term lease the present ball park adjacent to the high school.

The development of this site is an example of community cooperation at its best. The following outlines the steps required:

1. Grinnell deeded the land in front of Donaldson's back to Grinnell College.

2. Grinnell College sold the land to Donaldson's.

3. Grinnell College acquired the site of the present ball park and gave it to the city for development for recreational purposes.

4. Grinnell spent funds acquired by a ½-mill tax levy for recrea- purposes, about $10,000.

5. The Poweshiek County Conservation Commission, with approval by the State Conservation Commission, spent about $40,000 in additional improvements.

6. Grinnell high school, Grinnell, the Conservation Committee, and the Grinnell Baseball Association cooperatively maintain the park, which has been officially named Fowler Field.

What Program Provides

The program presently provides the following:

1. Uniforms, bats, balls and catcher's equipment for 17 teams of boys.

2. A full-time manager and an assistant.

3. Umpires.

4. Team managers and assistants on a volunteer basis.

5. A lighted, well equipped ball park.

6. Insurance for all of the active participants against injury.

Funds

Funds are provided to carry on the program through sponsorship of teams by businesses and other organizations in the community, at $100 per team and by contributions from other interested persons. Additional funds are provided by the sale of refreshments and collections taken from persons attending. The annual budget for the equipment and operations of the program is about $2,500 per year. There is no charge to any youngsters for any of the above equipment or program.

Management of the park and the program is the responsibility of the Grinnell Baseball Association. Through the cooperative efforts of the community, however, this program and facility has been made possible.

Much effort and thought has been given to improve the program. Everyone's interest and support is needed to insure its continued success.

In the 11 years since the program was started, too many people have given of their time and money to give credit here. The schedule of games will be carried at a later date in The Herald-Register. 5/29/67