

FREEPORT BASE BALL- "A CENTURY APART"



It started in the 1880's; Freeport became part of the local base ball (two words back then) craze on Long Island. The Village had several teams including the Mohawks, Stars, Freeports, and the Freeport Athletic Club, all members of the prestigious South Side Base Ball League. Just about one century later, in conjunction with the Village's 1992 Centennial Celebration, Freeporter Steve Karr formed a re-creation of the Freeport Athletics, with a mission to re-establish the original style of play, even with replica uniforms and equipment.

Some of the players from early Freeport teams were "Gil" Malone, Raymond Malone, William Miller, Whittemore, Claude Suits, Raymond Barker, Milton "Pilly" Raynor (former Freeport H.S. star), Denton, Bedell, Spring, Burleigh (a catcher and manager in 1908), Donaldson, Bedell, Tooker, Carroll, Dean, Pettit, and Fishel. Fishel. Leo Fishel, a tall player at 6', actually pitched in the major leagues for the New York Giants in 1899. He later coached at Freeport H.S. and won the county championship in 1903. E. V. Baldwin managed the Freeport Stars in the early 1900's, and a Freeport Station agent, George Smith, umpired many of the South Shore League games.

The latter day Freeport Athletics played a series of games against the Westburys in 1992 at the Cleveland Avenue field in Freeport, at Westbury, and at Old Bethpage Village Restoration, which became a home for the Freeport team for several more years. Residents Steve Karr, and later Ed Elmore, captained the team from 1992 to 2001.

The 1992 Freeport Athletic lineup included: Karr, Elmore, John Kuckens, Frank Stevens, Michael Byrne, Norman Thompson, Wane McNair, and Ralph Smith (former

trustee). Other residents who joined later were Marc Josloff, Don Malm, John Huber, Jimmy Yee, Mike Harrison, and Jeff Camaro.

This story was written by Ed Elmore and Marc Josloff. Information on Leo Fishel was contributed by Robert Harrison.

Note: Ed Elmore and Marc Josloff are presently members of the Brooklyn Atlantic vintage team (www.brooklynatlantics.org), a team which travels around the country bringing old time base ball back to life. Marc Josloff, along with friend Paul Kaplan have documented these colorful vintage games with fine art photographs which will be on exhibit at the Freeport Memorial Library during the month of August- reception on Saturday, August 27, 11-1pm.

Photo #1: 19th Century FAC.

Photo #2: 20th century Freeport Athletic Club