

#6D Continued Charles Hassell Page 2 Baseball... “The Way It Used to Be”

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The '60's, like most everywhere else in the country, were troubled times, and folks strayed away from the organized league play. But by the early '70's, baseball was back. This time it was called the Seashore League and the "Eastern Blues" led the way, bringing the same kind of enthusiasm for old-timer's they knew hi the '40's and '50's. Wilson Davis, manager of the Blues, said he had one bench of die-hard fans that followed them all over the county. Not a single one of them was under 70.

Today baseball is reserved for Little Leaguer's. TV with channels from Chicago, Atlanta, and some place called ESPN, keeps ballgames on year-round and around-the-clock. These were the times that used to be spent in places like Smyrna and

Newport on hot, dusty afternoons. Air-conditioning has replaced the salty southwest breezes that used to keep fans happy.

What we have learned from talking with players and fans from all different times and places, is that baseball hi this county was far more than a weekend activity; it was a way of life. It was some of the best tunes this county has ever seen, enjoyed by some of the finest people this county has ever known. Many of these one-time heroes are now gone, but the memories of the joy they brought to their team mates, coaches, and fans will never be forgotten.

This collection of memories is only that. It is by no means the complete story, only fragments of memories. We have brought together only a portion of what needs to be accumulated. The stories and people that make up the story of baseball hi Carteret County would fill a book — maybe two — and someone needs to do just that. The research would take quite a while, but what fun it would be... and what a treasure we would ah¹ have. In the meantime, let's begin with this small sampling of memories. May this be the beginning of bringing the story together.