

FROM THE INDEPENDENCE DAILY REPORTER

February 26, 1930

"The other big project is the illuminating of the athletic field so games of baseball and football can be played at night. We have had plans submitted by the concerns who do such illuminating and they have made a very attractive offer with a complete guarantee of satisfactory results."

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March 3, 1930

"Night baseball is practically assured fans of Independence and the surrounding territory, for the Western association league games here this year.."

"The contract has been signed for the equipment, and a mere formality of the acceptance of the signatures of the local club, the park board, and the high school athletic association, by the manufactures of the equipment remains."

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March 12, 1930

"'Night baseball will be the greatest thing ever staged, in my opinion.' says Mayor Charles H. Kerr".

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March 13, 1930

"Mayor Kerr has secured an amount of pipe, which will be used in the construction of the sixty foot towers which will house the projectors for the field illumination. He has completed arrangements for welders to do the work on the towers and the first shipment of equipment from the manufactures at Council Bluffs, Iowa, is expected to arrive at any time."

"The six sets of floodlights will be installed by April 3, is the definite announcement of the sponsors of the proposal."

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March 12, 1930

"'Since I have been connected with the game' says Marvin L. Truby, president of the local club, 'I have never seen a proposal which looked as good as night ball. It will eliminate the uncomfortable sitting in a hot grandstand on a sultry afternoon, and the play should be every bit as fast and as good. I think night baseball will prove of untold benefits to the game in general and will eventually mean much to the minor leagues.'"

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March 17, 1931

"The floodlight projectors, shipped from the factory at Council Bluffs, Iowa, are here".

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March 28, 1930

"The skeleton steel work for the giant towers is on the ground, assembled, and the poles are so huge, that on the ground as they are, a scant score of feet remains between each tower frame."

"Complete they will raise the bulky projectors sixty feet in the air, and from those heights, rays of huge power will bear down onto the ground, and others will go searching upward into space, with the avowed idea of picking up any high fly propelled by a slashing bat and bathe it in a glow, so that should the inhabitants of Mars be looking in this direction, they could (but probably will not) gain the idea that this vale of tears has another satellite."

"A few robins sitting on the left field fence watch the proceedings with a skeptical eye, but there was no skepticism in the minds of the fans who straggled out here to watch the workmen at work."

"And the grandstand, which has looked on diamond history, continues bearing down its vision on the field, wondering, if grandstands wonder, just what change is taking place out there."

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April 10, 1930.

"The contracts of the local organization were signed by Mayor Charles H. Kerr for the park board, Marvin L. Truby for the baseball association, and L.E. Losey for the high school athletic association and okehed by B.H. Woodman of the board of education. C.B. Smith, president of the Giant Manufacturing company signed for that firm."

"Five huge highpowered towers casting fingers of light through the haze of darkness,"

"A light bathes the infield from the center and top of the grandstand with 10,000 candlepower."

"In a pair of towers about thirty feet back of third and first base".

"and the same style towers will beam out from right and left field."

"In the matter of arrangement of the lights lies the entire secret of the ability of artificial illumination to cope with the rays of the solitary orb, insofar as making night baseball possible."

"Cherryvale inhabitants can see the lights above the field from their front porches. So can dozens of other surrounding communities."

"In addition to the lights inside the park, the club management will install a group of lights outside, where automobiles of spectators are to be parked. Men will also be provided to prevent the borrowing of automobiles of spectators during the contests."

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April 16, 1930

"The manner in which the towers of the baseball field have been speeded into place has astonished even the most rabid baseball fan of Independence. The projectors are being placed today and it is believed that at least in one of the towers that a test will be made tonight of its lighting capabilities."

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April 17, 1930.

"An organized baseball club for the first time in history will play baseball on it's own baseball field under the rays of floodlights. It starts a 7:45 o'clock p.m. at Producers field."

"The inauguration of the night game is an epoch. It is something which will never happen again."

"Independence is thus leading the world in the plan which experts say will ultimately result in adoption by practically every minor league baseball team in the world."

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April 18, 1930.

"With 90,000 watts of electricity pinch-hitting for Old Sol the Independence Producers trounced the members of the House of David team last night on Producers park, 9-1."

"It's here to stick, and the shimmering lights which play on the heavens convey a silent but spectacular invitation for twenty miles around to "Come over and see our baseball games"."

"If anyone exists in Southeast Kansas who thinks night baseball will not be a success, let him ask any of the 1200 spectators who watched its world debut in Independence last night:"

"Manager Cotton Tierney of Joplin, Joe Becker, scout for the Brooklyn team, and several Joplin newspaperman, were a few innings late in arriving at the local thrill factory, and they stated that the lights were visible in the heavens when they were eighteen miles away from Independence."

"Mrs. Julius Frohlich--'I think it is pretty ritzy, myself. It's a clever idea and I hope it's a success which it undoubtedly will be. It's keeping in progress with the city and is something different. It's unique and I think it's real nice.'"

"Mrs. Ed Hatcher--'I think it's a grand success. It's proved itself to be all they said it was and if they're as happy as I am, they're certainly well pleased. It's going to make a lot out of baseball and I think it's fine. Everything's so pretty. There are people here tonight that probably haven't seen a baseball game in years. The night games will certainly stimulate interest.'"

"Mrs. F.W. Shelton--'It's great! Much better than I ever anticipated. I heard someone say tonight that they could see the lights 20 miles out in the country and it seems to me that is wonderful, if true. There's a great crowd and I think the night baseball is a big success. It's wonderful.'"

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April 29, 1930

"Last night's game was notable for the fact it was the premiere night exhibition in organized baseball--but as far as the game was concerned--check and double check for punk. Approximately 1000 fans were present."

"Dazzy Vance, the mite Wichita right-hander started on the mound for Independence".

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March 20, 1931

"M.L. Truby, president of the ball club said several more light units would be added before the season opened, making field a little brighter at night."

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April 27, 1931

"The game will begin at 7:45 and will be the first nocturnal tilt of the year. Admission will be 50 cents."

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April 28, 1931

"Even though the Producers were beaten last night by the Texaco club of Tulsa, Manager Purtell found out his boys can hit under floodlights".

"The addition of six new units to the lighting system makes it much better."