little is known about the early groundskeepers except that they worked long, hard days and, until recently, didn't have much to work with in terms of grasses, products, supplies and equipment. These early groundsmen learned their trade from “trial and error,” and expanded upon their successes and failures. There were no formal courses or classes available to them and even if there had been, the long working days and demands of the facility took up most of their waking hours. In the early years, many of the groundskeepers came into the position by working their way up from a clubhouse boy like Roy “Cotton” Bogren of the Royals, was one of its early graduates. Emil also had three sons who became groundskeepers. Harold and Marshall remained at Cleveland when Emil retired, and Gene went to Chicago to take over duties at Comiskey Park. Harold had a son, Brian, who was Head Groundskeeper at San Diego’s Jack Murphy Stadium. Steve Wightman took over the duties there when Brian left to take over the duties at Yankee Stadium. Unfortunately, Brian died suddenly in 1991, leaving his cousin, Roger (Gene’s son) as the sole surviving 3rd Generation groundskeeper in the Bossard family. Roger is currently head groundskeeper at Comiskey Park in Chicago. He began working for his father, Gene, in 1967 and took over as head groundskeeper when Gene retired in 1983.

Comiskey Park saw its first baseball game on July 1, 1910. For 80 years, the old park lured such name players as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, George Kell, Cy Young, Ted Williams and Mickey Mantle. When the new Comiskey Park opened in 1991, right across the street from the old stadium, the explor-