

CARROLL MERCHANTS PARK



1947 - Thirty representatives from 13 civic organizations organized the **Carroll Athletic Club** (later **Carroll Athletic Association**) to “raise and manage funds to be used for the development of fields and facilities for athletics in Carroll,” especially to develop a new baseball field. President of the Board of Directors was William Farner; other charter members were Art N. Neu, M. R. Tan Creti, Ben Schenkelberg, Ted Kisgen, Frank Liewer, Jim Kisgen, and Henry Pfisterer.

1948 - **Seastrom Brothers of Coon Rapids** won the contract to build the **1,500-seat Merchants Stadium** for \$24,916, including three ticket booths, a large concession stand, two dressing rooms, restrooms, two dugouts, and storage space; a 15-foot high grandstand with twelve rows of seats and a glassed-in press box. The stadium was 78 feet wide directly behind the home plate and had wings that extended 51 feet down the left and right foul lines. K. E. Westerlind, Sioux City architect, prepared the stadium plans; and Newell Guernsey, Sioux City landscape engineer, laid out the athletic fields. A citywide canvass solicited \$12,000 for **stadium lights**.

1949 - **Funds** to complete the stadium were donated by the Elks, Amvets, American Legion, and Moose Lodge. In a little over one year, \$102,000 was raised privately through selling of tip boards (10 cents per chance) in local bars; \$10,500 was approved for **fencing** of the athletic fields. The Carroll Athletic Association gave the baseball park to the City of Carroll.

June 10, 1949 - **Merchants Stadium officially opened** with a game between the Carroll Merchants and the Harlan Cardinals (who won 6-0) before 3,233 fans.

1950s - present - Home to the **Carroll Merchants** and to the **Carroll High** and **Kuemper Catholic High School** baseball teams, the stadium over the years has also seen Eddie Feigner, the King and His Court; a softball all-star team; all-star wrestling; music concerts like Up With People and Blues Image (1975); College Classic baseball games with Iowa, Creighton, Iowa State, and Grand View; Negro League games; Catholic Action Day services; Senior and Little League baseball games; Donkey Ball; CYO baseball tournaments; NJCAA Division II Baseball Regionals; Agarama pork and beef barbecues; steer shows; and Little League and high school state tournaments.

1965 - Name changed from **Merchants Stadium** to **Carroll Baseball Stadium**.

1996 - The **Carroll Athletic Association** was reincorporated. President was Barry T. Bruner; members were Ed Lawler, Jim Greteman, Jim Auen, Jim Gossett, R. T. Schreck, John Perrin, Chris Whitaker, Paul Milligan, and Matt Lujano.

2011 - Name changed back to **Merchants Park**; new **scoreboard** installed.

2014 - 2017 - **Merchants Park Stadium** was renovated and upgraded in a joint public-private partnership of the city and the Carroll Athletic Association.

