



Alexandria Times

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Out of the Attic

Baggett Stadium, an early stage for local athletes

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Image: Aerial view of Baggett Stadium, 1927. Photo, City of Alexandria.

At the end of the 19th century, farmer and butcher Benjamin F. Baggett owned about 20 acres of land on the north side of upper King Street. The property reached approximately four blocks to the north and was located west of Harvard Street and to the east of Hooff's Run. A field to the west of the Baggett home had been used for farming but after Baggett's death in 1913, it became a ballpark that hosted athletic contests and community events.

By 1916, Baggett's field was the site of baseball games, one of which was so engrossing that a spectator watching from the nearby train tracks was injured when he was struck by an engine.

By the mid-1920s, the field was known as Baggett Stadium. It had a wooden grandstand on the west side of the field and the wall around the outfield and along King Street featured billboard-style advertisements. A restaurant called the Stadium Inn opened nearby at 1801 King Street.

Area businesses, fire companies, police departments, churches, and military installations fielded baseball teams that competed at Baggett Stadium. In the fall, many of these same groups and athletic clubs had football teams that also played at Baggett's. In 1928, a crowd of 5,000 witnessed Alexandria High win the state football championship there, and in the early 1930s, Parker-Gray School played some of its football games there, too.

Baggett Stadium, seen in this 1927 aerial photograph, was also the site of boxing matches, community and school events, and even a band and drum corps competition during the annual meeting of the National Firemen's Association in 1934.

The stadium closed around 1937 as new businesses, like the Reed Theater and car dealerships, opened on upper King Street.



"Out of the Attic" is published each week in the Alexandria Times newspaper. The column began in September 2007 as "Marking Time" and explored Alexandria's history through collection items, historical images and architectural representations. Within the first year, it evolved into "Out of the Attic" and featured historical photographs of Alexandria.



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These articles appear with the permission of the Alexandria Times and were authored by Amy Bertsch, former Public Information Officer, and Lance Mallamo, Director, on behalf of the Office of Historic Alexandria.