Watching Remote Baseball Games Live Before Television (really!)

1911 World Series seen in Times Square
1st U.S. Televised Baseball Games: 1939

May 17: Princeton vs. Columbia at Baker Field

August 26: Cincinnati Reds vs. Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field
World’s First Televised Baseball Game: 1931

Our artist’s picture reproduced above from a photograph appearing in a Japanese magazine, shows that they are wide-awake indeed on television in Japan, for we have not reached the stage in America where we are televising ball-games, although the technical equipment available here is capable of doing so. We predict that by next summer we shall see ball games televised over more than one television system in this country.

By H. Winfield Secor

STRIKE ONE! GREETS JAPANESE VISUALISTS
1st Idea for Baseball on TV: 1928?

50-lines; Bell Labs engineer says the camera machine could be taken to the Polo Grounds.
So, What Was He Talking About?

from his Hall of Fame induction speech, 1976:

“I was born in September and my mother had to see the World Series... at the old opera house in Redlands, California. And in those days they didn’t have babysitters; they had clothes baskets. So they put old Lem in a clothes basket and they went to see the World Series. I was probably about six weeks old.”

What did she watch the game on in 1920?

Cleveland pitcher Bob Lemon 1920-2000
And This Book?

Though the game was being played in Cincinnati, Arnold Rothstein went to New York’s Ansonia Hotel, where he lived, to see the signal that the fix was in.

“It was almost like being there,” witnesses said.
Twin Births c. 1845

RULES & REGULATIONS OF THE Recently Invented Game OF BASE BALL

AS ADOPTED BY the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club on September 23, 1845

Printed in Cooperstown, New York

SAMUEL F. B. MORSE ARTIST AND INVENTOR OPENED AND OPERATED ON THIS SITE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT THE FIRST PUBLIC TELEGRAPH OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES APRIL 1ST 1845 “WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT”
The 1st Sports Bar: 1875

- Actually, this is the 1876 Democratic National Convention at the St. Louis Merchants Exchange Building.
- But, a block away & a year before at Massey’s Billiard Hall...
It Begins!

- 1884 Nashville
  - Masonic Theater
- 1885 Augusta
  - Opera House
- 1886 Atlanta
  - DeGive Opera House
- 1886 Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit

Augusta, Ga., notes:—Our boys are playing against the worst umpiring you ever saw or heard of. In Memphis they gave up in disgust, for it was plain they did not intend us to win. . . . Yesterday is getting into shape. He hit for a home run, but they would not give it to him in Nashville. . . . Luft has been released; not for poor playing but they had too many men. . . . Chadwick has been released. . . . We have a blackboard in the Opera House and a diamond on it, with holes punched for each base, with flags showing how each base runner gets his base, with the batting order of each nine. The whole game is sent by telegraph, showing how each player plays. They charge ten cents for each day. We have gotten the games played by our nine in Atlanta, Chattanooga, Memphis and Nashville and will get Columbus and Macon. . . . When Ester--

A Complete and Convenient Arrangement to Take the Game in Detail.

The Atlanta Constitution, April 15, 1886

The Sporting Life, May 27, 1885

origin of sportscast language
Outdoors: 1888

Crowd of 6000 blocks traffic on Brooklyn Bridge

Patents earn enough to buy The Boston Post
Improvements

1888 - pins

1889 - motion

1891 - electricity
Androids

1894

1895
making very complimentary remarks about Sam. Crowder’s little men. One charming young girl was heard to say: “Aren’t they just the dearest, cutest little fellows you ever saw, and so polite; why they bow as sweetly as ‘real live men’ when they are applauded,” and another: “I declare, I though ‘little’ Jake Wells looked positively handsome when he knocked that home run.”

*The Times (Richmond), May 7, 1895*
Necessities First.

From The Pittsburg Dispatch.

Tom Johnson in proposing to provide Cleveland with municipal baseball bulletin boards emphasizes the rule that the people must have the urgent necessities of life, even if some of the luxuries are omitted.

*The New York Times, June 5, 1906*

(the entire article)
1908 Compton Promotional Material

2012 GameChanger app
New York Evening Telegram
October 15, 1911

crowd watching Play-O-Graph
70,000

crowd in stadium a few miles away
50,000
More Innovation 1908-13

Coleman (front)

Jackson Manikin

Coleman (rear)

Electrascore
Not Just Big Cities

Tucson 1931

Laramie 1925

Muncie 1923

Waynesburg Pennsylvania 1925

Mark Schubin, post HPA Tech Retreat, 2013 February 22
Walter Reed Army Hospital 1918
And Then

Harold Arlin
KDKA
1921

Montrose
Colorado
1939
Leave the Room, Please

See me outside with questions.
Thank you!