



Exhibition Showcasing Baseball Legend Jim O'Rourke Open at The Barnum Museum!

(Bridgeport, CT)—On Thursday, July 27, The Barnum Museum in Bridgeport opened an exhibit featuring information from Mike Roer's first book, "*Baseball in Bridgeport*," released in 1998 the year that the baseball returned to Bridgeport with the Bluefish. Some information from Mr. Roer's new book, "*Orator O'Rourke; Life of a Baseball Radical*," released in May 2006, will also be revealed in the exhibit.

The exhibit focuses on the history that baseball played in the Park City and the role of Jim O'Rourke in shaping this popular national pastime. O'Rourke was born on September 1, 1850 and died on January 8, 1919, living during the P.T. Barnum era in Bridgeport. O'Rourke was an outfielder who began his pro career in 1872 with the Middletown Mansfields, but his primary team was the New York Giants. Jim O'Rourke played baseball for numerous organizations until he was the age of 50, after which he continued in the game as manager, umpire and minor league president. He was nicknamed "Orator Jim" because of his tendency toward lengthy rhetoric.

Mike Roer is the Executive Director of the Academy Group, a non-profit association in Fairfield, CT.

Phineas Taylor Barnum, one-term mayor of Bridgeport and four-term member of the Connecticut General Assembly, was born July 5, 1810 in Bethel and died April 7, 1891 in Bridgeport. The original museum building, owned by the City of Bridgeport is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is totally handicapped accessible.

- What:** "*Baseball in Bridgeport*" by Mike Roer
An exhibit based on this book is now open in the People's Bank Gallery.
- Where:** The Barnum Museum, 820 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604
- When:** Exhibit up now through September 30, 2006
- Cost:** General Admission applies.
Adults: \$5.00, Seniors and College Students: \$4.00.

For more information call 203-331-1104, ext. 100 or visit www.barnum-museum.org

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