

Baptists in the Outfield

Baseball holds a special place in American history. From its somewhat mythical beginnings with Abner Doubleday in 1839, to Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in 1947, the game is woven into our national identity. It has even played a role in the story of Coppel.

According to old timers, a baseball game was held at the opening of Grapevine Springs Park in 1937. At the time, a baseball diamond sat on the southern park grounds. The first game featured a squad from Coppel versus a team from Grapevine. The Coppel team emerged victorious.

Lifelong resident Barbara Lee recalls that baseball continued to be played at the park through her youth. Sunday afternoons the community would gather for games, pitting a team of Methodist women against Baptist women. Families brought fried chicken and freezers of homemade ice cream.

It must be left to the reader's own prejudice to decide which church squad was superior.

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