

Lewis Rosenthal Stadium

Camp Lewis was not the only location named in honor of Lewis Rosenthal. On April 15, 1951, the Bayonne Little League program began when a handful of local volunteers organized a four-team program. They contacted several merchants who agreed to provide uniforms and equipment for the 90 youngsters. In 1952, with popularity increasing, 12 more teams were added to accommodate the number of boys who wanted to participate.

The increase in participation led to the building of a formal stadium. The league received assistance from William Rosenthal, owner of the Maidenform Brassiere Company, who allowed a stadium to be built on land behind his building on Second Street and Lexington Avenue. That building - the former Babcock and Wilcox Company office building (Babcock and Wilcox manufactured steam boilers for the US Navy during both World Wars I and II) - was erected in 1907 and used by Babcock and Wilcox until 1946 at which time it was purchased by the Divera Sportswear Company. Maidenform acquired it in 1948. As a gesture of appreciation, the league named the stadium in honor of William's son, Lewis Rosenthal.

In 1954, the number of Little League teams increased to 20, and by 1962, the success of the program led to the establishment of 24 major league and 12 minor league teams. Needing a larger stadium and additional parking, the league moved in 1965 to First Street and Kennedy Boulevard where it remains today.

Many Bayonne adults fondly recalled that Rosenthal Stadium was the field where they learned and played their first baseball game.

Some of the Bayonne merchants who sponsored teams were:

Lions Club	Bayonne Auto Seat	Drug Fair
Rotary Club	Twin City Auto Wreckers	AAA Sport Center
Kiwanis Club	Royal Arcanum	McCarthy's Cleaners
Elks Club	Hudson Cab	Broadway National Bank
Unico Club	Electro Dynamic	Pamrapo Bank
Charles Grotsky's	Bayonne Sport Shop	Bayonne Plumbing Supply
Dobb's Service	Fifth Street Deli	D'Angelo's Pizzeria
Jack Kaplan Association	Strauss Brothers Drugs	Feeney and Adie Bar
M&M Boys Centre	Conte TV and Radio	Hassett's Pub
Nowicki and Sons	Fraternal Order of Eagles	Cavanaugh's Bar
Leon's Photoshop	Manno Dairy	Parente's Bar
Meyer Israel	Pope and Daniels	Home Coal and Oil
Mortman's Bakery	Mercury Builders	Woodward Lumber
Silver Brothers	Prokop Gulf Service	Mackenzie Post
Collins Chevrolet	Surplus Army and Navy	Stabile Insurance Agent
Grasso's Old's	CJ Murphy Fuel	
Kramer Motors	Beacon Oil	