Programs with basically the same aim—improved recreation opportunities for people in outlying areas of the county—are underway and likely will achieve their objectives, thanks to people willing to work for what they want.

Shawsville's recreation program is off to an impressive start and a program to benefit the Riner area will be launched soon with one of Auburn High's vigorous coaching staff—Nelson Simpkins—as its head.

 Christiansburg and Blacksburg already have well organized, well run and usually well participated-in programs. Nothing quite so elaborate is sought at the beginning in Shawsville and Riner but there is a need to be met in both locations where population buildup has turned yesterday's open spaces into today's neighborhoods.

Regardless of how great or how laughable the effort, there is something to be gained from participating that can never be equaled by watching the most exciting sports event in person or on the tube. Active people who want to keep themselves young is the best reason we know for any recreation program.

Virginia Tech's baseball team, now in the home stretch, is out of town this week, breaking more records. By the time the season ends, the Hokies may have broken 47 or more records.

About two dozen had fallen at last report. It takes a team of standouts to do this, and Tech has it, nearly all the time.

We thought Mike Arrington showed some of his best at-home pitching so far in the first game against West Virginia. We'd like to say something good about the Mountaineers, but can't quite pull it off. The WVU hitters showed as much speed running to first as the old Osgood Lines bus used to show while coming up a steep grade in south Morgantown.

The state that sent Lew Burdette to the majors must still have some baseball players and in time WVU will get its share, maybe soon.

***

Did Gunsomke run out of horsepower or was it turned out to pasture by baseball, that seemingly toothless older statesman of sports?

Was former Washington sports editor Shirley Povich right when he called baseball "A dull game only for those with dull minds?"

Any rate, Gunsomke is headed for the last roundup and Matt Dillon, who has been in the saddle longer than creating lawyers, is ready to uncinch the girth, pat his horse (whose name nobody seems to know) on the flank, hitch up his Wranglers and walk into the sunset.

CBS is left with the only time slot in network television that will have to be curried before it is used again and NBC's Monday night baseball is sound of wind despite a tendency to show too many of the same teams seen on the tube the past couple Saturdays.

The state of baseball appears to be healthy, Houston Astros notwithstanding.

While not the national pastime (a stronger case can be made for high school football in that regard) it still draws fans by the millions, saturates TV with itself in season and stimulates the economy by selling all that shaving cream.

***

Speaking of TV sports, NBA basketball is at high quality as you would want to ask of the professional sport, but won't it ever end?

The playoffs now seem only slightly shorter than the season. The day when pro basketball's crowning of a new champion conflicts with baseball's All Star game may not be far away.

***

This total golf nut we know is convinced of the truth of these definitions:

1. Ravi Shankar is a condition that can be corrected by any good pro.

2. A slice is plenty if you're trying to get in shape for 18 holes.

3. Loft is what you need when an old Piedmont Fairchild is approaching the end of the runway.

4. Windage is how they manufacture a golf ball.

5. Unplayable lie: Nobody believes your scorecard.

6. Birdie: Hit one and either your score improves or you have a lawsuit from the Audubon Society.

7. Eagle: Bald bird that lives on Mr. Rogers and feeds on golf balls lost in the rough.

8. Hole in one: It could be a great year for the donut shop.

9. Break 100: the hope of the weekend golfer and the race driver on a short track.

10. Flag high: Your chip shot went over the fairpole.

11. Water hazard: For 50-carp, 200 green frogs and you next three golf balls it's home.

12. Gimme. Don't forget the greens fee. They're not running a charitable institution.

***