



# AROUND THE HORN

"The Newsletter of Seasons Past Baseball"

AUGUST 1985

## Cubs Pass Tigers in '57 East Chase-- Mavs Pace Crowded West Scene

It took five months, but the pre-season favorite Cubs finally overtook the vaunted Tigers and gained first-place in the SPB-57 Eastern Division. Rick Ryan's bangers made up a two-game deficit to move a pair ahead of the Bengals (15-13) on the strength of a 19-9 August mark.

However, that wasn't even the best overall monthly mark as Jim Wheeler's Pelicans were a fantastic 20-8 to tie Frankfort for second. Both the Pelicans and Cubs were on the slate with the Knights who floundered at 6-22 for the month.

The pre-season statistical breakdown which appeared in the March issue of *Around the Horn* predicted a western finish of the Cubs-Tigers-Pelicans.

With one month remaining on the schedule and the Cubs hosting both the Tigers and Pelicans at home, we could very well see a new pennant winner.

Will that mean Gary Plunkitt will be ready to trade Mickey Mantle for failing to lead the Tigers to a flag, the way he blew off Eddie Mathews after the 1956 World Series calamity? Stay tuned.

Over in the West, Mike Cascarano's Mavericks continue to play steady ball and fend off challenges to remain three games in front of Frank Papp's Falcons.

### Standings Page 4

The Falcons managed to chop a game off the mark with a 16-12 ledger for the month, tying the Cascades for the top division record. The Rifles and Mavs each came in at 15-13 while the Bluebirds stumbled, dropping to five back after a 13-15 skein. Tom Falduto's Saxons came up short again to drop eight behind, 13-15 for August.

The pre-season favorite here? The Falcons, followed by Bluebirds and Saxons. The Mavericks, thought to be hurt by the loss of Bill White to military service, were picked 6th. As Woody Hayes once said, "Statistics are nothing. Explain them to a man who drowned in a river with an average depth of four feet."

Continued Page 4

## Commissioner's Forum

by Jim Wheeler

Time to dig out your copies of TOTAL BASEBALL, draw up the charts and get ready for trades once again.

The SPB-58 Rookie Draft has been set for Saturday, September 9th. This draft will be hosted by Rick Ryan. Contact Rick if you plan to attend in person.

The 19-man protected list is due back at the Commissioner's Office along with your dues by August 5th. Once the lists are compiled, each manager will receive a disk containing the 1958 pre-season rosters and a list of available free agents. It seemed to work quite well with the '46 draft and provided all managers a fine perspective of available players.

The 1958 campaign will begin on November 1st. thus permitting sufficient time for what I'm sure will be another whirlwind trading session.

I was recently notified that Andy Langert, manager of the Heartland Bluebirds, will resign at the conclusion of the 1957 season due to time constraints. The league will definitely miss Andy, not only for his being an all-around "good guy," but because he has put together some of the best teams in the league. Andy was a charter member of the league and his Bluebirds won the first league championship in 1954.

Replacing Andy will be Mike Borges who has worked with Gary Plunkitt, Luke

Continued Page 3

### GAME NOTES...

In order to maintain *AROUND THE HORN* as a complete chronicle of Seasons Past Baseball's monthly pennant races, I have enclosed a review sheet. We all thrive on the excitement of pennant races and player accomplishments. So that information can be distributed to all managers, it is asked that you each fill out the series report and provide highlights. It will only take a few minutes for each series and will definitely increase the enjoyment for all. Please make copies and use for each '46 and '57 series and send the completed form and a copy of the Game Summary report to Lou Ross.

# '46 Draft Review

by Bob Calicchia

*From back on the left coast, Bob offers his perspective on the huge '46 draft which set the wheels in motion for another exciting season. This review was prepared prior to trades.*

## Western Division:

**Bears-** In it for the long haul, with long-term projects Kinder, Yost and Robinson. Ralph Kiner will spend his first few seasons as a Bear looking around for help in the lineup. Favorite pick: Rigney (6th round).

**Whales-** Grabbed crafty lefty-righty combo of Dickson/Brazle in 2-3 rounds. Late round find Jr. Thompson and his microscopic ERA will get the opportunity to save many Whale victories. The Del Ennis selection speaks for itself. Favorite pick: Ennis.

**Marauders-** Laying foundation for "Boys of Summer" reunion with Furillo and Cox. Enos Slaughter and Dave Koslo will provide instant production. Guaranteed to get mileage from Pistol Pete Resier and Joe Garagiola. Favorite pick: Reiser in 5th round.

**Elephants-** Strong and immediate presence with Joltin' Joe D. and 20-game winner Howie Pollett. Valo and Hank Edwards will provide capable OF support to Pachyderm Clipper. Favorite pick: Bruce Edwards in 5th round.

**Acorns-** Million Dollar infield acquisitions in Reese, Priddy and Dillinger should lead team out of SPB II wilderness. Virgil Trucks joins a surprisingly solid rotation. Favorite pick: Truck, on round two.

**Trees-** "VanderMeer and Sain and pray for Barney in '48" will be the cry for the

Trees this season. The M&M boys, Marshall and McCosky, will stalk opposing pitchers all season. Favorite pick: McCosky in round five.

**White Sox-** Until his next tour of duty, the "Splendid Splinter," along with "Old Reliable" Tommy Henrich, will be shelling the opposition. Nest egg Johnny Lipon promises to pay dividends in future seasons. Hurlers Ewell Blackwell and Tom Ferrick will contribute quality innings. Favorite pick: Henrich in fifth round.

## Eastern Division:

**Fortress-** Johnny Mize will love hitting in Briggs Stadium as he rewrites the SPB II record books. Astute drafting in previous seasons paved the way for stockpiling of phenoms Lollar, Coan, Woodling and Rojek. Favorite pick: Woodling, 6th round.

**Redbirds-** Balanced draft featuring youngsters Yogi Berra and Dale Mitchell in first two rounds. Higbe, Hatton and Bahr will make instant contributions. Favorite pick: Higbe, 4th.

**Dodgers-** Considerably strengthened up the middle with Joe Gordon and Dom DiMaggio. Hurlers Phil Marchildon and Schoolboy Rowe will step in and stabilize the rotation. Favorite pick: Rowe in fifth round.

**Gold Sox-** Wyrostek, Johnson and The Scooter will propel the Sox run and shoot offense. When he's not playing in the OF, Bob Lemon will bring Hall of Fame credentials to the mound. Favorite pick: Rizzuto in 2nd round.

**Federals-** Mickey Vernon joins an already potent offense led by Stan the Man's return. Throw Hoot Evers, Harry Walker and Gene Hermanski into the mix, and the result will be many runs. Key draft picks Casey and Kush will be available to protect leads. Favorite pick: Hermanski in 8th round.

## DIAMOND DUST

**1946-** The Phillies return to their original nickname, discarding the *Blue Jays* monicker....Giants' skipper Mel Ott hits his 511th and final HR on Opening Day against the Phillies. The next day, he dives for a ball, injures his knee and plays sparingly.. Bucky Walters matches up with Rip Sewell in a pitching duel and steals home for the only run of the game. He loses, 2-1... Indians' catcher Frank Hayes ends his consecutive game streak at 1,312...Ed Pellagrini homers in his first at bat... Brooklyn's Ed Head no-hits the Braves 5-0 at Ebbets Field...Giants' pitchers Ace Adams and Harry Feldman jump to the Mexican League...Bob Feller no-hits the Yanks 1-0 on Frank Hayes' HR.

*"We don't throw at .200 hitters!"*

—Yogi Berra

In '57 game against the Red Sox when Jimmy Piersall, in a slump, said to Berra, that if Yankee pitchers threw at him, he'd bash in his (Berra's) head with a bat and plead temporary insanity.

**1957—**Yanks purchase Sal Maglie from the Dodgers on September 1 although he is ineligible for World Series play....Braves sweep Cubs 23-10 and 4-0 as Bob Hazle gets 4 hits in the opener....Dodgers play final game in Jersey City as Don Drysdale loses to Phillies 3-2 in 12 innings....On Sept. 21, Gail Harris hits the final HR as a NY Giant. Their final game is Sept. 29th at the Polo Grounds....On September 22, Ted Williams homers on 4 official ABs over 4 games...Duke Snider's 39th and 40th HRs are the last 2 to be hit at Ebbets Field...The final game draws only 6,702 against the Bucs...Bobby Bragan signs to manage the Indians, replacing Kirby Ferrell...Walter O'Malley waives his oil rights to Chavez Ravine....The Giants sign a lease to play in Seals Stadium....NL President Warren Giles says the 1958 schedule has no provision for teams in New York.

Continued Page 6



## '46 Trading Block

34. ELEPHANTS swap Howie Schultz and Dick Wakefield to WHALES for Babe Young and Lou Stringer.

35. GOLD SOX move Mark Christman, Carden Gillenwater, Skeeter Newsome and Bama Rowell to HORNETS for Doc Cramer, Erv Dusak, Oscar Grimes and Skeeter Webb.

36. WHALES send Harry Gumbert to DDOGERS in exchange for Bill Salkeld.

37. MARAUDERS trade Herm Besse to BEARS for Al Jurisch.

38. WHALES send Dick Wakefield, Eed Heusser and Buster Mills to REDBIRDS for Red Ruffing, Ed Bahr and Dick Whitman.

39. HORNETS send Charlie Keller, Hal Newhouser, Bill Nicholson, Maurice Van Robays, Max West, Jake Early and Jake Jones to FORTRESS for Gene Woodling, Nick Etten, Dutch Leonard, Cass Michaels, Al Evans, Felix Mackiewicz and Goody Rosen.

40. MARAUDERS exchange Wally Moses for HORNETS Mark Christman.

41. BEARS send Heinz Becker to MONARCHS for Pinky Higgins

42. MONARCHS s wap Walt Masterton and Clyde Shoun to FEDERALS for Hugh Casey.

43. FORTRESS trade Don Johnson and Maurice Van Robays to FEDERALS for Mickey Witek and Jimmy Wasdell.

**Note:** The Dodgers picked up Marv Grissom from the undrafted list and cut Don Gutteridge and Ox Miller.

## THE ENVELOPE PLEASE..... AND THE ANSWERS ARE

Thanks to Tim Johnson for taking the time to answer the questions to the July quiz. Tim actually came up with a 50% ranking to win the Edsel. Two things we should warn you, Tim. The first is to try and collect your gift from Jim Wheeler. Good luck. Second, parts are a bit scarce.

Here are the answers:

- 1) Baseball's Man of the Hour... Ralph Kiner
- 2) Mr. Shortstop...Marty Marion
- 3) Staten Island Scot...Bobby Thomson
- 4) Silent Captain of the Red Sox....
- 5) Reading Rifle...Carl Furillo
- 6) Octopus of Baseball...Marion, again
- 7) The Invincible One... Warren Spahn
- 8) The Champ...Pee Wee Reese, a Marbles champ as a kid
- 9) The Big Bear...Fred Hutchinson
- 10) Fordham Fireman...Johnny Murphy
- 11) Old Reliable...Tommy Henrich
- 12) Fire...Virgil Trucks

### THIS MONTH'S QUICKIE QUIZ:

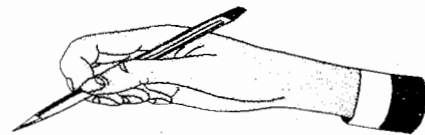
**Which current SPB skipper once participated in a championship game on the same court as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar?**

*Commissioner* From Page 1

Kramer and myself on several PTP old-time seasons. Mike is a true baseball historian who, like most of us, relishes the "older days" of baseball. Mike lives in Denair, CA and can be reached at, 209-634-6791.

Back when SPB began, we made it a point to provide monthly team info to all managers. Lou Ross has provided you with a form to detail your team's activities. Let's get back to basics.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



If baseball was *merely* a matter of crunching numbers, there would be no need to spend six-months playing out an old-time season. As new games have hit the market over the years, one of the key criteria was how fast the game could crank out a full-season replay in computer mode.

Spewing out games in 2.5 seconds might sound awesome and a bit intimidating, but what purpose is served? If you are merely looking to compare stats, fine. Run a special project? Okay. But then, wouldn't it be better to spend some time at the library and read every boxscore and game story to get some enjoyment from the season and players?

Even in *Seasons Past Baseball*, there is a tendency at times to race through the games and leave behind the true experience of what we are trying to accomplish: Recapture the glory days of baseball. The beauty of the game is taking the time to reflect, to capture everything that's going on throughout the league, to anticipate and discuss the great accomplishments and miscues.

Hence, the reason for THE FORM. I can hear it now. "Not another piece of paper to fill out." All managers in each league want to watch the pennant race evolve, see which player has had an impact and which is falling short. Beyond the numbers, who'd he do it against?

Hall of Fame announcer Bob Murphy would always introduce the late Lindsay Nelson with the phrase, "Here to paint the word picture for you...." So, gentlemen, grab your pens to create and open the SPB info highway. LJR

**'57 Pennant Races** from Page 1

Looking at the year-to-date team stats, the production of the Cubs, expected to far outdistance every other club, has been average. Their .264 is right at the league average and they trail in the power department, 49 homers behind the Rifles, led by Roy Sievers' 51 dingers.

Surprisingly, the Pacific Cascades are at the top of both batting and pitching, tied with the Tigers with a .278 mark and with a 3.39 ERA, they are .08 ahead of

fired another shutout, 3-0, and Pacific also won 15-5 and 19-3 affairs, though the Falcons won the series 4-3.

Roy Sievers apparently picked the wrong year to make his Triple Crown bid as the Falcons' Ted Williams is thumping along at a .393 clip, thus negating Sievers' 51-135 hammering. He also leads in hits by 2 over Frank Thomas, 171-169. Williams is well ahead in total average, 1.540 to 1.289.

On the hill, the Pelicans' Johnny Podres

Keying the Cubs' surge were the bats of Dale Long (10HR-25RBI) and Eddie Mathews' 23 RBI and a .350 average. George Crowe picked up the slack for the Bears with 11-22 while hitting at a .322 clip. Sievers had another fine month with 13-28 and .343. The Pelicans' Jackie Jensen drove home 20 on a .385 mark.

On the pitching front, Herm Wehmeier was one bright spot for the Blue Sox, 4-0 and 1.29. Podres joined Drysdale's fine 6-0 1.74 with a 4-0 1.27 to lift the Pelicans. Hal Jeffcoat, shifted back into the starting rotation in '58 had a great month at 5-0 and a 3.64 E. for the Cubbies.

The Minors' Harry Simpson hit only 208 while the Pelicans' Red Schoendienst struggled at .223. The Falcons' Ken Boyer was at .176 and the Knights' Wally Post, always John Turnbull's player-of-the-month, was at .206 for August.

Johnny Kucks (Blue Sox) had an 0-3 5.45 month while the Tigers' Virgil Trucks struggled at 0-4 and an 8.18 ERA in a closer's role. Connie Johnson hurt the Gurnee chances with a 1-4 8.07 ERA and Gene Conley failed to get a win at 0-4 and allowed runs at a 9.19 clip.

Who'll meet in the 1957 Series? Stay tuned and send in your series reports to chronicle the pennant race.

	Year-to-Date				August	
	W	L	PCT	GB	W	L
<b>East</b>						
<b>Cubs</b>	72	54	571		19	9
<b>Tigers</b>	70	56	556	2	15	13
<b>Pelicans</b>	70	56	556	2	20	8
<b>Blue Sox</b>	54	72	429	18	14	14
<b>Knights</b>	48	78	381	24	6	22
<b>Grays</b>	47	79	373	25	12	16
<b>Minors</b>	46	80	365	26	12	16
<b>West</b>						
<b>Mavericks</b>	75	51	595		15	13
<b>Falcons</b>	72	54	571	3	16	12
<b>Rifles</b>	71	55	563	4	15	13
<b>Cascades</b>	71	55	563	4	16	12
<b>Bluebirds</b>	70	56	556	5	12	16
<b>Saxons</b>	67	59	532	8	13	15
<b>Black Sox</b>	49	77	389	26	11	17

the Bluebirds. The Cascades also have the largest difference in hits:IP, allowing 94 fewer hits than innings pitched.

The Cascades may very well have single-handedly put a halt to the Saxons' pennant hopes. After winning the first three at home, the Saxons blew a 5-3 lead and lost 6-5 to Pacific. They NEVER scored again as Don Newcombe and Billy O'Dell combined on a 1-0 zip and Bob Buhl and Jack Urban each tossed 8-0 shutouts.

In their series against the Falcons, Buhl

maintains the ERA nod over Ned Garver, 1.82 to 1.91, while Don Drysdale of the Pelicans leads the league with an 18-5 record. This comes about on the strength of a 6-0 1.74 ERA in August.

On the down side, the Minors' Frank Lary already has 17 defeats with Pedro Ramos (Knights) at 16. Marv Grissom of the Mavs leads in saves with 27, two over the Falcons' rookie, Turk Farrell. Warren Spahn has notched 6 shutouts and Don Newcombe leads with 15 complete games.

**REMEMBER:**  
 '57 Stats  
 to  
**Jim Wheeler**

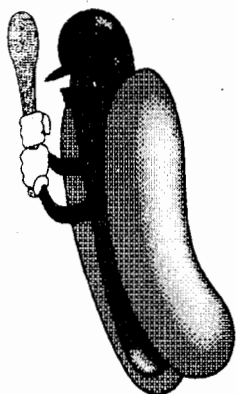
'46 Stats  
 to  
**John Ungashick**

**RENT THIS SPACE  
 FOR '58**

# Reflections

-Part I-

by Dr. ♦



Stepping out of character, SPB's own Dr. Diamond, in his secret identity of a mild-mannered English teacher for a mid-north Indiana high school, would like to share his own fond memories

with the rest of you old-time baseball junkies. Inevitably, these memories overlap with those of my closest, oldest fellow addicts: Gary "The Creator" Plunkitt, named for his Dr. Frankenstein-like habit of creating old-time PTP computer seasons and muttering, "It's alive," after each completed player came to life. And Rick "The Rocket" Ryan, named for the one-time Purdue basketball ace Rick Mount (Rick did make my high school's all-time team, as student manager).

In the beginning, B.P 1969, (before Plunkitt), before there was even Ryan ('62), there was tabletop hockey, with immobile, spring-powered metal players and round, ball-bearing size pucks. I played this so-called table game with my older brother on the kitchen table, with often disastrous results when the puck left the rink and sailed across the kitchen to wipe out whoever was putting away the dishes.

Perhaps my parents were tired of buying new dish sets or had simply tired of my nagging, but sometime in the mid-60s, my parents bought a Negamco College Football game for me. Maybe you remember this game: no players, but zillions of teams with

alphabetical rankings of "players" and +/- ratings to simulate offensive and defensive proficiency. I must admit it was hard to fathom Bob Griese on that abstract, impersonal chart, but I tried for a few years.

Thankfully, I soon saved enough allowance to graduate to Strat. I spent many summer hours playing shortened schedules with the 1963-64-65 ratings (Gosh! I wish I still HAD those cards). I remember President Johnson calling for a drastic troop increase in Vietnam in 1965, while I was playing Strat on the living room carpet (Thanks, Robert McNamara!). While that distant Asian conflict heated up and the civil rights movement was changing the face of American history, the boy who would grow up to be SPB's Dr. Diamond was making "history" with Dick Radatz, Tony C. and Yaz! With the "tireless" Radatz able to pitch every day, how could the Bosox miss? To this day, I feel a twinge of guilt, thinking that somehow, I am responsible for his early burnout.

Although I still enjoyed Strat, the game had become very predictable to me, especially the infamous split-card deck and simple minded X-chart. So, as I had acquired a bit more affluence, I purchased my first set of APBA cards in '67 (Wish I had THOSE!!). I especially enjoyed the old-timer teams and played endless double-elimination tourneys between the classic teams.

Along the way, I subscribed to the "old" *APBA JOURNAL*. As my brother had grown up, gone to college, and the ultimate betrayal of boyhood, married a GIRL. I had no one to play baseball with on a regular basis. Rick was already my best friend, but he knew few baseball players and preferred to be "the eternal underdog" in games of *BIG LEAGUE MANAGER* Football, a holdover from Negamco days and yes, an



improved tabletop hockey game with moveable players. Thus, I placed an ad in the *APBA JOURNAL*. Considering the

small circulation of the publication and the percentage of people in my little corner of Indiana who knew, or cared, of the difference between Red Schoendienst and Red Skelton, my ad was the ultimate shot-in-the-dark, the ultimate message in the bottle. But, in my youthful naivete, I was unaware and very hopeful.

Though I was NOT surprised, I WAS a bit intimidated when I, a backward 17-year-old, received a phone call from a 22-year-old from the BIG neighboring town of Frankfort. To top it all off, this guy was married TO A GIRL (OK, girls were okay, sort of, but I still preferred an evening with coke (Ed. Note: coca cola), popcorn and APBA to the prom) and he had a KID.

Despite my misgivings, I invited this "worldly adult" to my house after school one spring afternoon. He arrived in a yellow Mustang, carrying a HUGE box with every APBA card he owned. Some had been "marked up"—a real sacrilege in my fastidious, conservative little mind—so that every power number was a 1- (that's a home run in APBA jargon).

What followed was a pretty boring conversation in which this adult, whose bangs kept falling into his eyes (Get a haircut for Cripes' sake! Who are you, George Harrison?) pointed out all the power hitters for the previous ten APBA sets and I said, "Uh huh," nodding my head and looking impressed at all the right moments. My initial meeting with Rick hadn't gone quite as well. I hit him with a dodge ball and he stabbed me with a pencil. Rick, this looks like the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

At last, this "adult" packed up his APBA card collection, all fifty pounds of it, and drove away to his JOB (Wow!) cutting meat in a grocery store, where he had once crushed and almost cut off his hand. I didn't think he'd ever call me back, but

Continued Page 6



## Reflections

Conti. from Page 5

twenty-six years later, Gary Plunkitt is still calling me to get together and ogle player ratings. Back that summer, when Purdue grad Neil Armstrong walked on the moon and a bunch of uninhibited kids rock-and-rolled at Woodstock, Gary talked me into my first "serious" tabletop baseball project, a complete replay of the 1968 American League. Of course, the future "Creator" insisted on managing the Tigers. Sitting in Gary's small, hot house in Antioch, rolling dice on the small kitchen table, I was really happy spending my evenings and weekends doing something so "meaningful."

As for Rick, he had learned "the ropes" of table gaming so well that he was now regularly "cleaning my clock" in BLM Football AND in hockey. He was ready for the next step in his apprenticeship, playing APBA's greatest teams in hopelessly mismatched "World Series" contests. For example, I got the '27 Yankees— with "Murderer's Row"; he got the '68 Yankees of Clarke, Tresh and Cox—just plain murder. I called these travesties "Every Star a Superstar"—except for Rick's teams, of course.

The 1970's were, as the cliché goes, the "Me Generation." For my community of three — one hardcore baseball addict (Gary), one neophyte (Rick) and one long hair (me), the 70s were one \_\_\_\_\_ of a roller coaster ride. Gary in a leisure suit (quite a sight!) was mistaken for Dave Kingman at the first APBA Convention in Philadelphia. Rick was compared to John Kennedy by a somewhat intoxicated young woman. On that night, Rick set a Miami U. record for consumption of 3.2 beer which still stands as of this writing. This was NOT the same night when Rick saw his first major league game, a no-hitter by the Cubs' Ken Holtzman at Riverfront Stadium and said, "Is this rare?" And, I did my

best to violate and disregard all social mores, except my love for baseball. As James Earl Jones said in *Field of Dreams*, "The one constant was baseball."

Despite the different paths our eccentric destinies followed, Gary, Rick and I always returned to baseball. Whether we went to a game, hit flies in my parents' "orchard" (the last tree, an old pear, had died in '58 when it was struck by lightning), or spent most of a summer's day and night drafting players for a fantasy league based on our latest obsession, Replay Baseball, we were all united by the sport.

Today, despite our having families (Gary for the second time), despite our busy schedules and differing interests, our occasional quarrels, we are all joined by our love of the "perfect game."

In a way, all three of us have traveled a great distance across space and time to arrive a point we never left.

PLAY BALL!  
(Part Two next month)

Draft Review from Page 2

**Hornets-** The "4-H Club" with Hutchinson, Hegan, Hatton, Harris and honorary member John Pesky provide the solid foundation for a team built on pitching and defense. Scarborough, Stevens and Dusak (since traded) provide reliable depth. Favorite pick: Hatton in the 4th round .

**Monarchs-** Quite possibly the best drafting job as Spahn, Dobson and Monte Kennedy form a commendable pitching nucleus. Although one season away, Bobby Thomson was a nice pick-up in the third round. Trinkle was an under-rated pick in the 7th round and may survive. Favorite pick: Thomson in the 3rd round.

## Monarch Jettings by Tim Johnson

*(Last month, I asked for feedback on the '46 draft. Tim took the time to jot down some notes to pass along).*

My first pick, Warren Spahn, was a no-brainer. My team needed starts and I wanted a pitcher with the 25th pick and was very happy to see Joe Dobson, whom I rated behind only Spahn, Lemon, Trucks and Dickson, still available. The 3rd round was a very pleasant surprise with Bobby Thomson waiting and the Monarchs with no future power. Also, was very happy with Hank Majeski in the 4th slot as I have no future 3B and had him rated very high. (Ed. Note- Tim took the only 2 players from my last NY home, Staten Island, available in the draft). Most of the good starting pitchers were gone by the 5th round, but Monte Kennedy was there. I almost took him in the 4th and was happy to see him there 14 players later.

The remainder of the draft helped me fill out the roster. The only surprise was having Ken Trinkle available in the 7th to help with a few years of solid relief.

Overall, I came out of the draft better than I thought I would. I got all the pitching I had hoped for, plus two solid regulars, Thomson and Majeski.

## The John Report

Just like the late 50's when baseball personnel were regularly called into the military, our own John Turnbull has begun his long, intercontinental tour, final destination, Korea. John can be reached thusly:

John Turnbull  
8 OSS  
PSC2 Box 1705  
APO AP 96264



## A SOMBER FAREWELL TO EBBETS FIELD FOREVER.... WHILE FANS RUN AMOK AT POLO GROUNDS FINALE UNTIL '62

September of 1957 was not a joyous time in New York. The inevitable had occurred and despite the official announcements, the fans knew, just knew, that National League baseball was finished in New York.

Thanks to Mike Cascarano, here's a reprint of a newspaper article which captured the feeling after the Giants' finale at the venerable old Polo Grounds.

*New York, September 29, 1957*

In the end at least, a Thomson touched 'em all. As darkness fell over the Polo Grounds on Sunday evening, after almost everyone had left the park, Nancy Thomson, age 5, retraced her daddy's famous trot around the bases. Off to the first base side, Bobby Thomson, who fired the Shot Heard "Round The World here, shot the bittersweet scene with his home movie camera. "Just one last waltz around the dance floor," said Thomson.

It's hard to believe that only three years after their world championship, six years after Thomson hit the infamous home run, 67 years after moving into the Polo Grounds and 75 years after materializing in New York, the Giants are going, going....gone.

But they are, and they played their last game today under Coogan's Bluff in front of a crowd of 11,606 that embodied a prism of emotions: sorrow, rage, gratitude, greed, indignation, denial. Bill Rigney put as many of the '51 and '54 Giants on the field as he could find and they ended up bowing to the Pirates, 9-1. At 4:35 PM, '54 world series hero Dusty Phodes grounded to Pirates' shortstop Dick Groat who threw to Frank Thomas

for the final out, and with that, the San Francisco bound Giants ran for their lives toward the old centerfield clubhouse ahead of a stampede of jilted New Yorkers.

Having failed to capture any living souvenirs, the fans turned their attention to such inanimate objects as seats, bases, grass, the pitching rubber and the bullpen shelter. Once the looting had subsided, many of the followers gravitated toward the rightfield stands, where a banner implored: STAY TEAM STAY! Finally, the fans serenaded the Giants with a ditty to the tune of *The Farmer in the Dell*:

*We hate to see you go,  
We hate to see you go,  
We hope to hell you never come back,  
We hate to see you go.*

Baseball went from 1904 to 1952 without a franchise shift, yet in the last five years, there have been five. The Braves from Boston to Milwaukee; the Browns from St. Louis to Baltimore; the

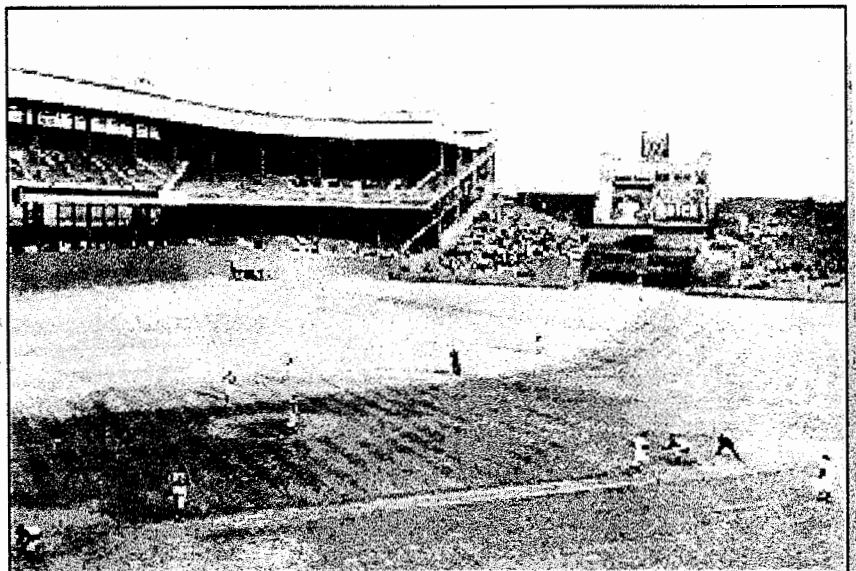
A's from Philadelphia to Kansas City; and now, the Dodgers and Giants. It would serve one of these new cities right if a metropolis with greener grass lured the club away someday.

On their way out, Rigney and Chub Feeney stopped to say goodbye to the members of the grounds crew who wouldn't be going west to Seals Stadium. Rigney told one of them, "I want to thank you guys for making this the best damn field...." Too choked up to go on, the gentle skipper gave the man a hug and walked on.

Bobby Thomson and his wife walked the next generation to home plate. And off little Nancy went, around the bases.

"Who knows?" said Bobby. "Maybe someday Nancy will have her own children. She can show them this movie and tell them about the home run that grandpa hit."

Continued "Ebbets" Page 8



# Ebbets Field.....Dodgers' Brooklyn Passport Revoked

by LOU ROSS

Unlike the Giants' final game a little over a week later, there was an aura of apathy as the Dodgers played their final game at Ebbets Field.

On September 24, 1957, Danny McDevitt and the Dodgers shut out the Pirates, 2-0 before a gathering estimated between 6,652 and 6,702 diehards.. The park, surrounded by McKeever, Montgomery, Sullivan and the famed Bedford Avenue had housed the Dodgers for the last time. The rotunda was locked forever, the scoreboard in right slowly deteriorated in the cold Brooklyn winter and the sparkle that gripped the city for decades was gone. In 1959, the wrecking ball slammed the heart and soul from Brooklynites.

Gone was the "Happy Felton Knothole Gang;" Hilda Chester and her cowbell; Gladys Gooding, the answer to the trivia question, "Who is the only person to play for the Dodgers, Knicks and Rangers," at the organ; and of course, the tone-deaf Dodgers' Sym-Phony Band. Anyone remember their famous tunes? Next time.

It was no exaggeration that the feeling was as if someone in the family had passed away. The long, drawn out process of Waler O'Malley planning and plotting had come to fruition and although the "official" announcement of the move to Los Angeles would not come for another two weeks, Dodger fans knew there would finally NOT be a next year.

I was unable to locate a complete newspaper story from the archives. What is included here are a few pieces of special memorabilia from the special Ebbets Field days.

The litho of Ebbets hangs on my wall as does the reminder of the one World Series triumph, the *Daily News*' "WHO'S A BUM?" headline. Also, a framed photo of the '55 Champions. Some photos are included here to capture the end of an era along with a copy of a "Brooklyn passport" copyrighted by a Dodger fan, which I picked up at a card show in 1982.

Enjoy

