DODGERS ACCEPT LOS ANGELES BID TO MOVE TO COAST

Team Will Play in California in '58 After Representing Brooklyn Since 1890

CITY TO SEEK NEW CLUB

Wagner Will Name Group to Get Replacement—Rights to Territory Uncertain

By EMANUEL PERLMUTTER

The Dodgers will play their baseball in Los Angeles next year.

The Brooklyn Baseball Club announced yesterday it was proceeding with the necessary steps to move to Los Angeles.

Warren C. Giles, president of the National League, hailed the Dodger move to the West Coast as proof of the league's "professional" nature. He said he and the league would miss New York, however.

Thus ended a colorful and often zany baseball era in Brooklyn. The Dodgers had represented Brooklyn in the National League since 1890. They had become world famous, first because of their erratic baseball and then because of their winning teams. In their flight to the Pacific, they join the New York Giants, who are moving to San Francisco.

Yankees Voice Regret

The Yankees, who will now have the New York baseball territory to themselves, issued a public statement of regret at the departure of the Dodgers.

"We are sorry to see the Dodgers go, and we wish them the best of luck in Los Angeles," Dan Topping, co-owner of the American League club, said. "Now that they have definitely gone, there are so many things to be considered that we will have no further comment until after the next American League and joint major league meetings in December."

Meanwhile, the Yankees have more pressing problems. They meet the Milwaukee Braves today at the Yankee Stadium in the sixth game of the world series. Bob Turley is scheduled to pitch for the Yankees and Bob Buhl for the National League club.

Club Sought Downtown Site

Upon learning of the Dodgers' decision to move, Mayor Wagner immediately announced at City Hall that he soon would appoint a committee of citizens to try to get another National League team for New York.

New York and Los Angeles had engaged in a tug-of-war for the Dodgers since early in the year. A plan by which the city hoped to condemn a slum area in downtown Brooklyn and build a stadium there collapsed when the cost of the over-all project was estimated at $30,000,000. Offers by Nelson A.

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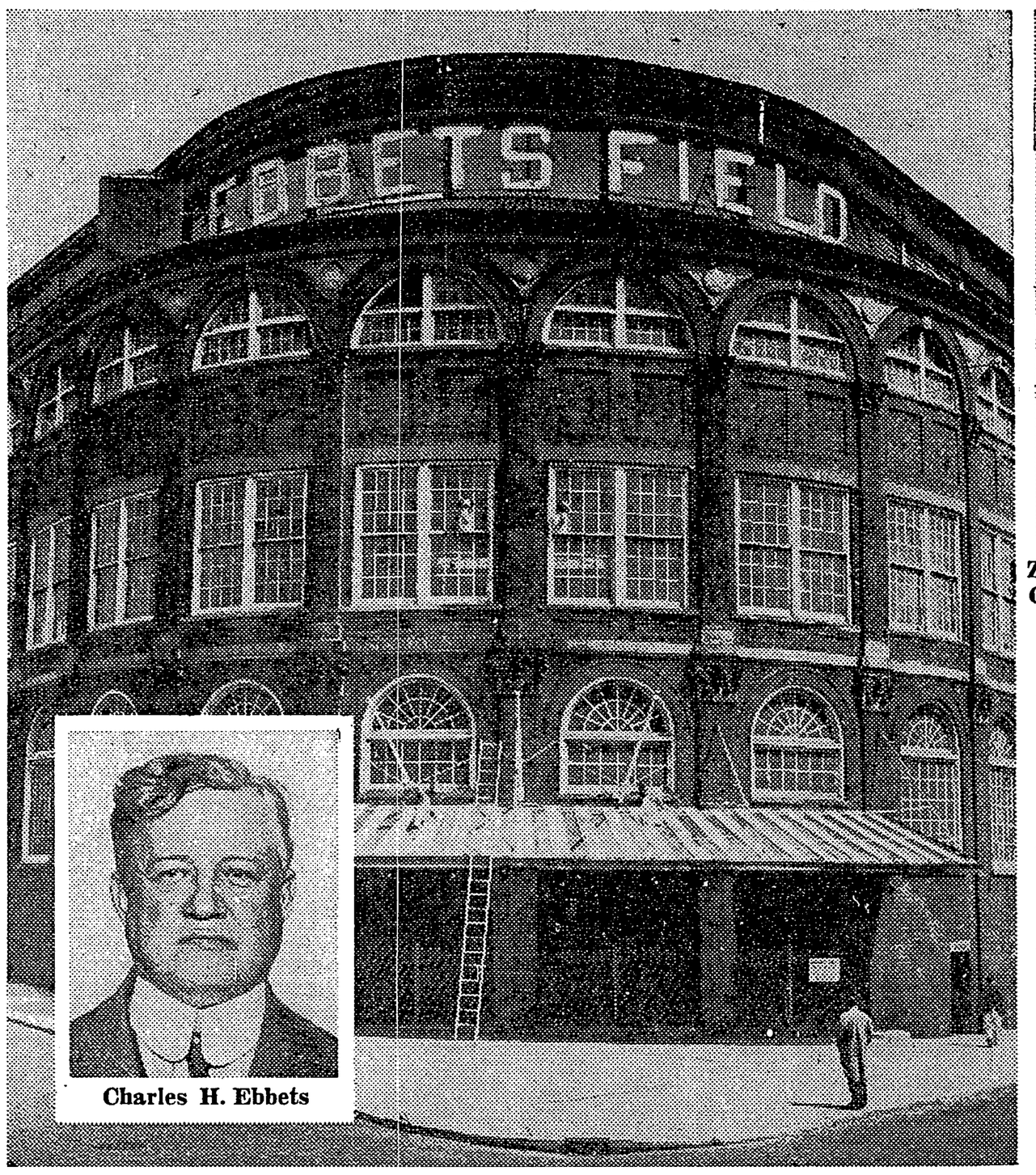
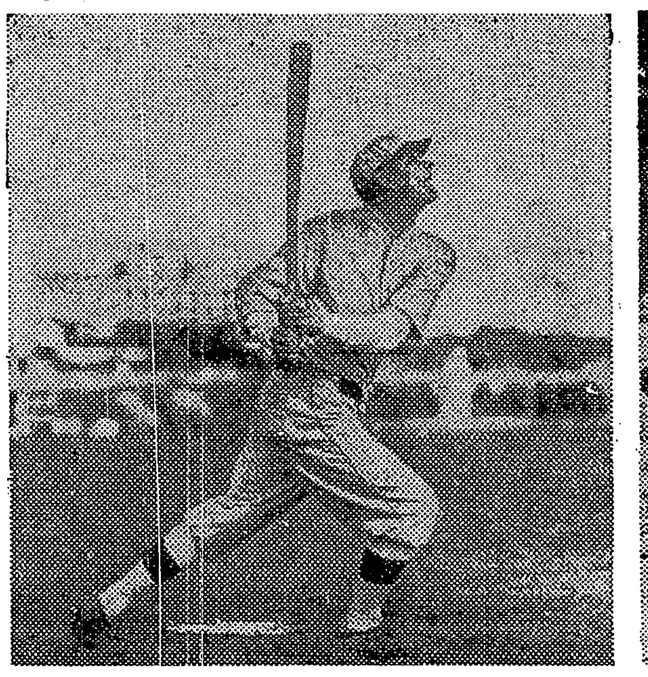
Dodgers Forsake Brooklyn for Los Angeles, Leaving Sorrowing Flatbush Her Legends and Heroes

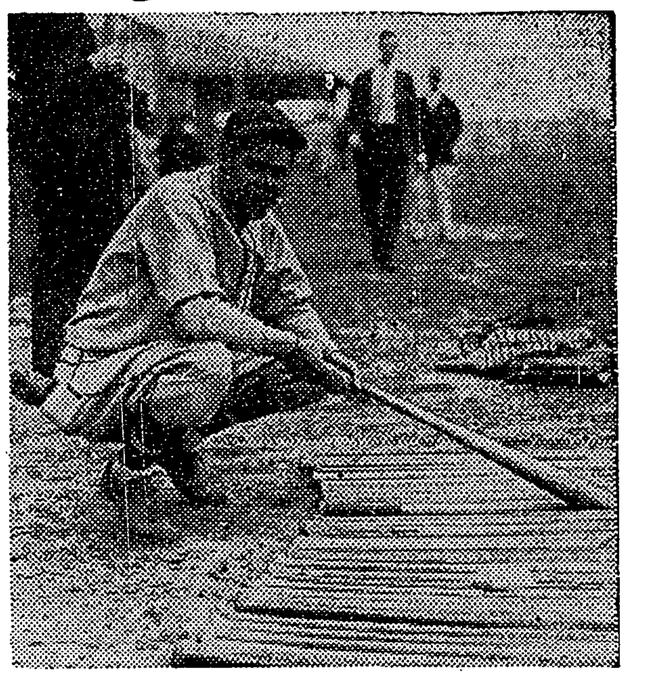


Charles H. Ebbets

Ebbets Field, home grounds of the ball team, was built in 1913 by Charles H. Ebbets, who started with the club as an office boy and worked up to become president and owner.

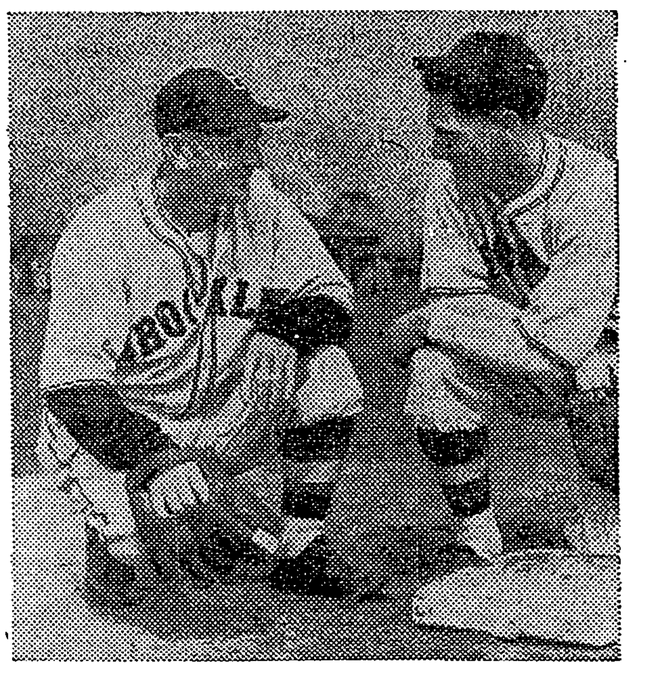


Zack Wheat, batting here against the Giants, starred in the Nineteen Twenties.

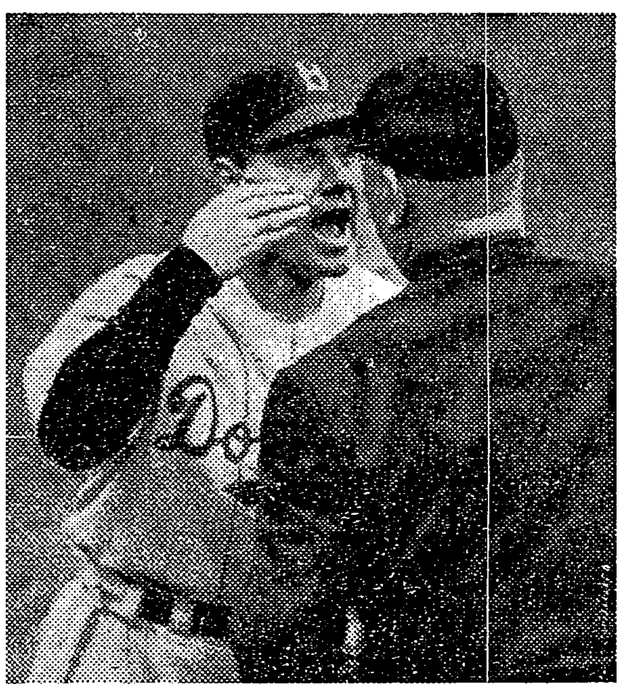


Babe Herman achieved fame as one of the team's more unpredictable players.

Dazzy Vance was a star pitcher. Wilbert Robinson led the club for eighteen years.



Casey Stengel, left, won spurs as Dodger manager. With him is Buddy Hassett.

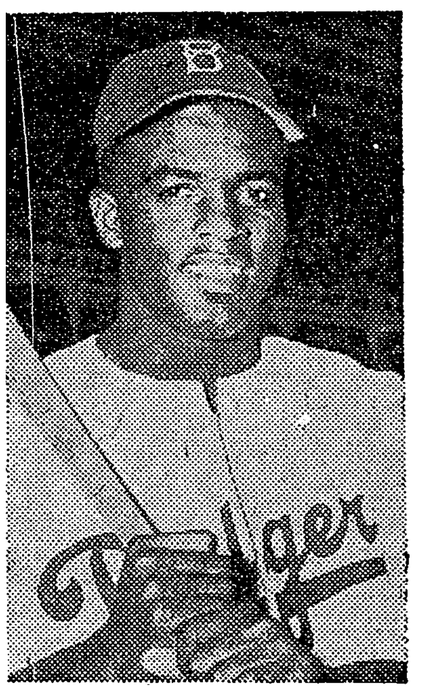


Leo Durocher was beloved by the fans for his umpire-baiting. In 1941 he led team to its first pennant since 1920.

Team's emergence as front-runner began in 1938 under Larry MacPhail, left, and developed under Branch Rickey's aegis.

The New York Times

Culmination of Brooklyn's dreams was World Series triumph in 1955. Here Roy Campanella, catcher, hoists Johnny Podres, winning pitcher. With them is Don Hoak.



Jackie Robinson came to Brooklyn in 1947, was the first Negro major-leaguer.

DODGERS ACCEPT LOS ANGELES BID

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Rockefeller to help defray the costs also were fruitless.

The announcement of the Dodger move was cheered yesterday by residents of Los Angeles. Their City Council had approved an ordinance on Monday that embodies an agreement with the Brooklyn club.

The Los Angeles ordinance was officially signed last night by Mayor Norris Poulson, making it an official city statute. The signing took place in the Mayor's office, and was witnessed by the ten Councilmen who voted for it Monday. Four Councilmen had been opposed.

In Brooklyn, the news was received with mixed reaction. Business men in the vicinity of Ebbets Field, where the Dodgers had played since 1913, were hopeful that apartment houses would be built there and bring economic gain to the area. Fans interviewed generally felt the Dodger owners had bickered so long for a site that they had lost the esteem of Brooklyn rooters.

Cashmore Disappointed

Borough President John Cashmore expressed disappointment at the Dodgers' decision to leave. He said that he had worked hard to get the Dodgers to stay here and that he would "leave nothing undone" to get another team for Brooklyn.

Although both the Dodgers and the Giants are leaving because they assertedly feel the financial pickings are better in California, Brooklyn has been a profitable place for the Dodger owners.

The Dodgers have made more money in recent years than any other National League club. However, the Giants, who have finished poorly in the league standings, have suffered in gate receipts.

The end of New York as a National League baseball city was announced at 4 P. M. by publicity representatives for both the Dodgers and the league in the world series press room at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Neither Mr. Giles, nor Walter F. O'Malley, the Dodger president, was present.

The Dodgers' statement was brief. It read:

"In view of the action of the Los Angeles City Council yesterday and in accordance with the resolution of the National League made Oct. 1, the stockholders and directors of the Brooklyn Baseball Club have today met and unanimously agreed that necessary steps be taken to draft the Los Angeles territory."

Mr. Giles issued the following statement:

"The National League has again demonstrated it is a professional organiaztion. The transfer of the Giants and the Dodgers means that two more great municipalities are to have major league baseball without depriving another city of that privilege.

"The National League, and I, personally, will miss New York, but it is only human nature to want to reach new horizons. We look forward to 1958, when National League baseball will be played on the West Coast."

A spokesman for Ford C. Frick, Commissioner of Baseball, announced that Mr. O'Malley had already filed with the commissioner his formal "notice of intent to acquire the Los Angeles territory for the purpose of operating a National League club therein."

"Following the rules of baseball, Mr. O'Malley's communication has been forwarded to the President of the Pacific Coast League, the president of the Los Angeles ball club, the president of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues and the president of the American League," Mr. Frick's statement concluded.

Before the Dodgers can start playing baseball in Los Angeles, they will have to iron out territorial rights to that area. At present, both Los Angeles and Hollywood have teams in the Pacific Coast League.

'58 Park Not Decided

Although the Dodgers own the Los Angeles team, they must reach an agreement with the minor league. Should they fail to reach an understanding, the matter will be settled by arbitration. The Giants must follow similar procedures in their move to San Francisco.

The question of which ball park the Dodgers will use next year is still undecided. Harold (Red) Patterson, assistant general manager and publicity man for the team, said it would be either Wrigley Field, the Los Angeles Coliseum, or both. The Dodgers own Wrigley Field, but its capacity is only 22,000.

Under terms of their agreement with Los Angeles, the Dodgers are to construct a $10,000,000 stadium in Chavez Ravine, seating 50,000 persons. They will also give Wrigley Field to the city. However, the new stadium will not be ready next year.

The Dodger management said that the team would have spring training again next year at its Vero Beach, Fla., camp. However, the spring training schedule has not yet been worked out, the club added.

New York's official efforts to get a ball club to replace the Dodgers and the Giants may be impeded by the American League. Last week, the American League offered the National the borough of Queens as a future baseball site, reserving the other boroughs for itself. The matter is to be discussed at the December meeting of the two leagues in Colorado Springs.

Although Mayor Wagner has indicated that the city might be willing to build a stadium in Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, for use by a major league team, this might not prove as attractive as Manhattan, the Bronx or Brooklyn to an out-of-town prospect.

The Mayor was asked at his press conference yesterday whether he thought Mr. O'Malley had acted in good faith in his negotiations with the city.

"I can only say that in my conversations with him he said that he had no commitments, and I have to take the man's word," Mr. Wagner replied.

In another development, Gordon Gray, executive vice president and general manager of WOR-TV, which televised the Dodger games, announced that the station would return to its "regular programming schedule."

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