

Mule Kicks

By Stew (Mule) Thornley

Hep Hops to Stay Hip

In May of 1989 Pete Hepokoski attended an Astros-Mets series at the Astrodome in Houston, completing his circuit of seeing a game in every current major-league stadium. A month later, SkyDome opened, leaving Pete's collection momentarily unfilled and the need for another trip to Toronto.

Hustling to get to new stadiums as they open has become a way of life to Pete in recent years, and currently he is short just one ball park, Coors Field in Denver, which he hopes to get to in the next year or two. Besides the other 27 current ballparks Pete has been to, he has attended games in seven defunct stadiums: Cleveland Stadium, Mile High Stadium, Memorial Stadium, Exhibition Stadium, Arlington Stadium, Metropolitan Stadium, and Comiskey Park (and was present for the final game played in the latter two ballparks).

For many years, Pete's major-league baseball experiences were confined to Met Stadium. In 1978, however, while in Philadelphia on business, he took in a series at Veterans Stadium, watching his beloved Dodgers sweep the Phillies and take over first place to stay. Over the next few years, his figure of ballparks visited rose like the temperature of a diseased yak. Pete picked up a few other stadiums while on business trips, then starting going on ballpark trips with a friend, Fred Barnes, as well as some of the organized bus tours to various stadiums across the country.

Pete has plenty of highlights from his jaunts, including watching Larry Parrish hit three home runs to ruin Billy Martin's 1985 return to the Yankees in a game at Texas. He also was at SkyDome when a swarm of gnats required the dome to be closed halfway through the game.

In addition to now planning a return to Denver for a Coors Field visit, Pete is looking ahead to 1997 when a new stadium opens in Atlanta as well as the expansion year of 1998, which will usher in two new stadiums: Bank One Ballpark in Arizona and Thunderdome in St. Petersburg. He doesn't mind the challenges posed by the opening of so many new stadiums. "I enjoy the new parks, and they give me the chance to add to my total," he says.

Another new experience awaits Pete in 1996. He's never been to a Spring Training game but a planned trip to Scottsdale in March will afford the opportunity to see some Cactus League contests.

Pete has plenty of his own baseball memories. He was student manager for the Minnesota Gopher baseball team in the late 1960s, when the Gophers won several Big Ten championships under Dick Siebert. Pete became involved with the Gophers at the urging of Chapter member Glenn Gostick, an assistant coach at the time Pete came to Minnesota. The two had met when Glenn was coaching a Collegiate League team one summer in Wadena, Minnesota, Pete's home town.

Answer to Last Month's Quick Quiz

The two northernmost cities to host a World Series game are Minneapolis and Bloomington, Minnesota.

Main Events

Saturday night, February 3—The Hot Stove League Meeting at United Methodist Church, 950 Gould Avenue NE in Columbia Heights, will begin at 7 p.m. Besides the good fellowship, we will be treated to a display of Mike Campbell's baseball memorabilia from the turn of the century as well as a video, *The First Century of Baseball*, which was produced by the American League in 1938. Refreshments will be served. The meeting is free, but donations will be accepted.

Saturday, April 20—The Spring Chapter Meeting will be held at the Northeast Minneapolis Library at 2200 Central Avenue with the standard format of research presentations, player panel (which may include Craig Kusick), business meeting, and assorted other frivolities. An optional add-on is that night's Twins-Yankees game. The meeting, which includes lunch, is \$8; a ticket to the game is \$11. A flyer with more details will appear in the February *The Holy Cow*.

Stretching the Web

Multi-talented John (Stretch) Gregory has been generating a fair amount of publicity in the past year with the baseball internet resources he has been involved in. Last May, *USA Today Baseball Weekly* listed the Halsey Hall Chapter Web site that Stretch established:

Browsing the Web

The Society of Baseball Research (Halsey Hall chapter) Web site (<http://www.skypoint.com/subscribers/ashbury/hhhomepage.html>) lists numerous links in addition to telling about how the organization works.

USA Today Baseball Weekly's listing of the Halsey Hall Chapter Web site

Stretch also had an editorial in the January 7, 1996 issue of *Baseball America* in which he outlined the Chapter's index of internet resources pertaining to baseball and added that he's impressed with the number of baseball e-mail lists that exist, including the one he helped start for SABR members (which he has explained in his "The Cutting Edge" column in *The Holy Cow*).

Cow Chips

Jerry Janzen got Harmon Killebrew's autograph at Montgomery Ward in St. Paul. . . . Brenda Himrich bought a washer and dryer at Sears and tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her knee (in an unrelated incident). . . . Bob Tholkes is now teaching training classes at Dayton's. . . . Howard (Daisy Pusher) Luloff took the early lead in his Fantasy Death League when former actress Vivian Blaine died. . . . Jed Levitt has been job hunting for a lab technician position. . . . Barry Bengtsson and Connie Hill went to San Antonio and saw the missions. . . . Rich Arpi has been busy cross-country skiing across Minnesota.