ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED

HISTORY CLUB

BALLPARKS

THE GOOD OLD DAYS 1950-1960

BY: ANTHONY T. MASTANDREA



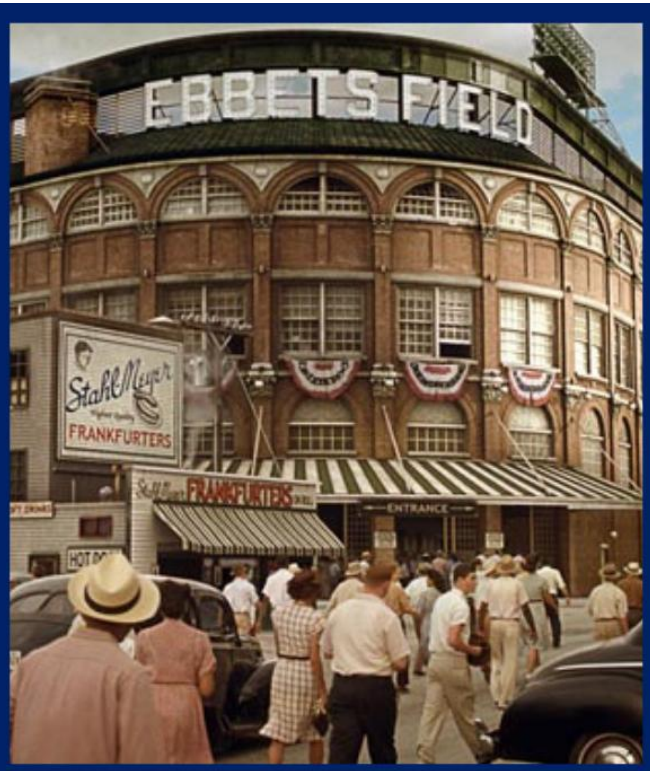
GRAB A SEAT& HANDOUTS
WITH TICKET ENJOY!!!

















EBBETS FIELD

CITI FIELD

THREE BROOKLYN DODGERS ON 3RD BASE AT ONE TIME



926 - Dodgers playing Boston Braves (Milwaukee Braves, 1953), then Atlanta Braves (1996) at Ebbets Field

- Dofgers have bases loaded.

On 1st base is Chick Fenster
On 2nd base is Dazzy Vance (a pitcher)
On 3rd base is Hank DeBerry

Babe Herman hits a ball off the right field wall. DeBerry scores from 3rd base. Vance, on second thinks the ball is going to be caught. Holds up, hesitates, then, when he sees the ball is not going to be caught, he runs to THIRD BASE, turns it, andheads back to Third Base. Meanwhile, Fenster (who was on !B), is running his ass off, and has arrived at 3rd base, too. SO WE HAVE TWO MEN ON THIRD BASE RIGHT NOW, BUT IT GETS WORSE.
Herman, who hit the ball, is running with head down like a wild bull and sees nothing in front of him, slides into third, and knocks his two teammates down. “What the hell are you doing here is the cry?”

HOW WAS IT RESOLVED?

- The hesitating Vance is entitled to 3rd base. That's the base he originated from.
- Fenster and Herman are tagged out for a double play.
- So Herman is the only player in the history of baseball who "hits a double into a double play," ONLY IN BROOKLYN!!

Ebbets Field - Flatbush section of brooklyn. Home of the Brooklyn Dodgers.

68 years in Brooklyn. "The Dodgers were a fixture. Brooklyn was not Brooklyn without the Dodgers. Last year, 1957. Owner Walter O' Malley and the NYC fathers could not agree on a new, suitable area and ballpark.

HOW WAS IT RESOLVED?

- 68 years in Los Angeles, beginning baseball year, 2026.

- Ebbets Field dimensions
- LF 340ft. CF 408ft. RF 315ft.
- LCF. 373ft. RCF 365ft

- Relatively small ballpark. Tremendous “intimacy.” “Wrecking ball, painted white to look like a gigantic baseball, “knocked down” EF in February 1960. Ebbets Field Apartments replaced the stadium.

- LF 270. CF 483 ft. RF 254 ft.

- Wrecking ball destroyed the park in 1964. Giants 75 years, NYC. 68 In San Francisco.
- Polo Grounds low-income apartments today

HILDA CHESTER AND HER FAMOUS COWBELL(NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME LIBRARY)



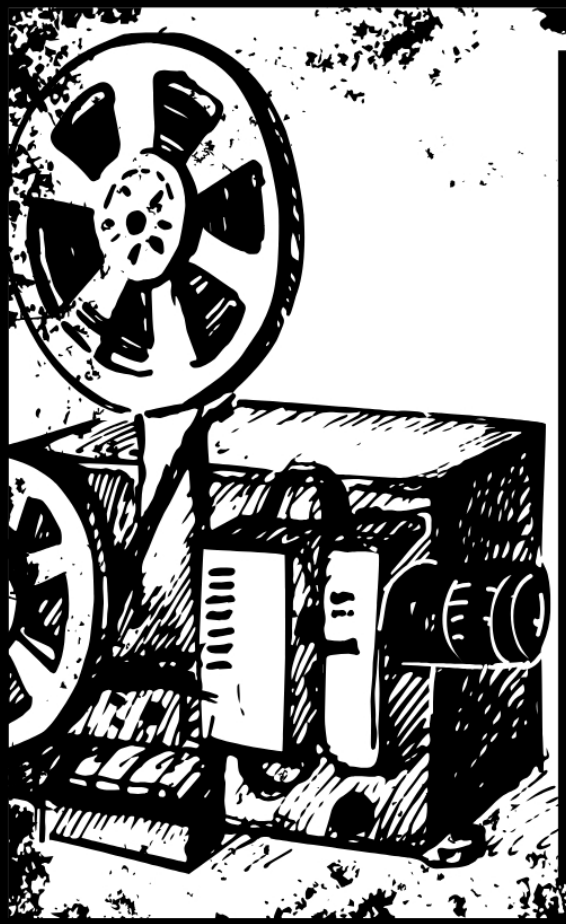

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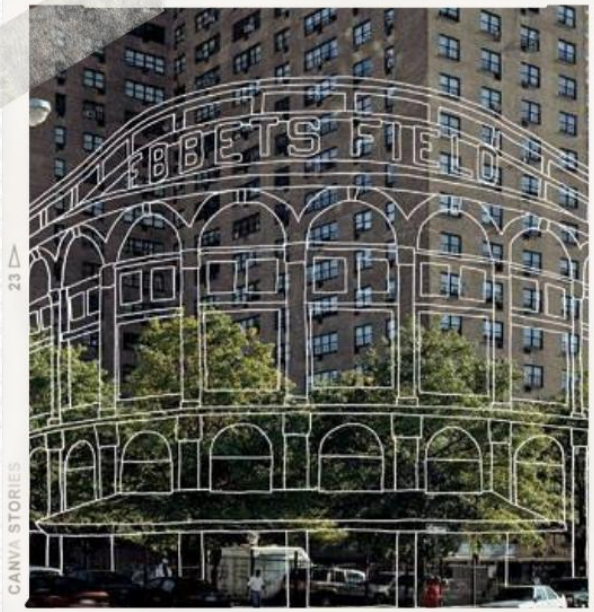


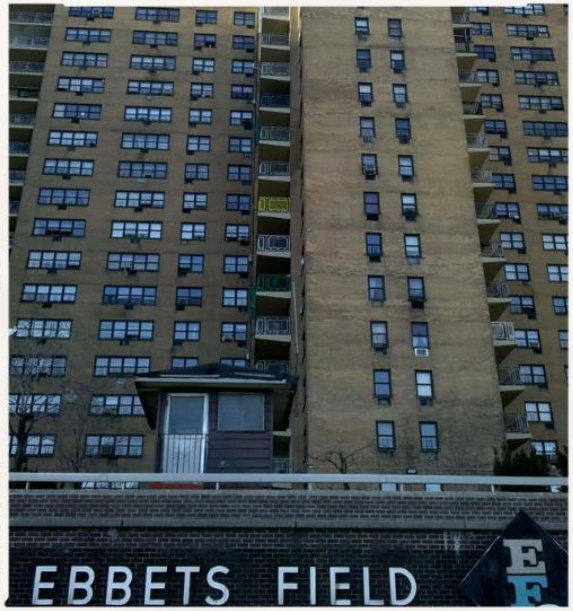
DODGERS

SYM-PHONY BAND











EBBETS FIELD APARTMENT

ROBERT MOSES

POWER BROKER

Almost 30 years as a power broker in NYC.

Triborough Bridge
Throgs Neck Bridge
Whitestone Bridge
Henry Hudson Bridge
Cross Bronx Expressway
Lincoln Center Complex
Jones Beach - the most visited public beach in the United States

Hundreds of pools, etc.
Intelligent, brilliant, inflexible, arrogant
Appointed by Fiorello LaGuardia
Willam O'Dwyer
Vincent Impelliteteri
Robert Wagner
Nelson Rockefeller

Meeting of two intransigent egos.
Nobody wanted to "intellectually lose"

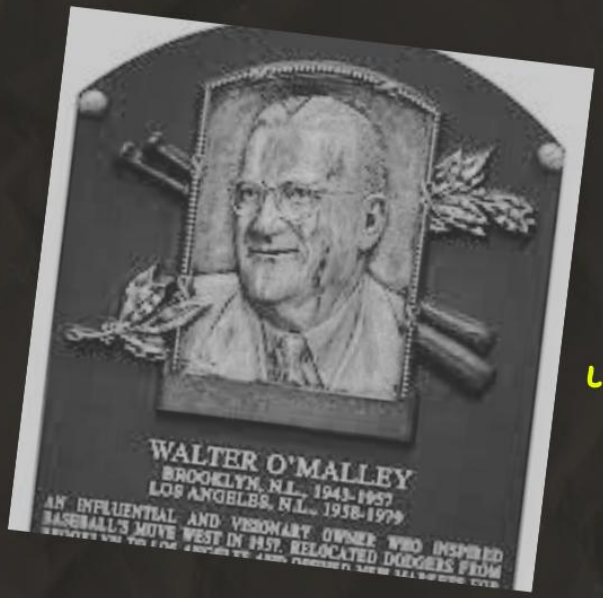


WALTER O' MALLEY

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Last Work

The Chavez Ravine Episode - Somewhat Complicated

The Dodgers were in Brooklyn for 68 years - 44 at Ebbets Field.

1. Ebbets Field in Flatbush. Park is becoming dated. 35,000 maximum attendance. Parking for only 700 cars. Area changing.

2. President Walter O'Malley wants the city to give him land in the Atlantic/Flatbush area of Brooklyn for his ballpark. We can work out a "financial deal," says O' Malley. Thinking of a domed roof facility.

3. Robert Moses, the man who was an unelected official, controlled ALL Urban Development in NYC, said We'll give you a very nice section in Queens. (Moses was the brains behind the development of the Triborough Bridge, the Whitestone Bridge, the Throgs Neck Bridge, the Cross Bronx Expressway, the Verrazzano Bridge, and the "biggest" beach of the Atlantic - Jones Beach.



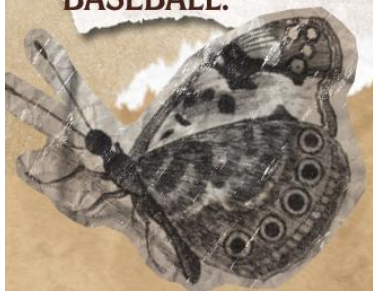


The Chavez Ravine Episode - Somewhat Complicated

The Dodgers were in Brooklyn for 68 years - 44 at Ebbets Field.

4. Moses, brilliant, combative, assertive, "my way or the highway," always got his way, appointed by Fiorello LaGuardia, in "office" for over 30 years. "How about we give your Flushing Meadows." said Moses to O'Malley. "We're not the Queen's Dodgers," said Walter O. "We're the Brooklyn Dodgers." How ironic! (Today Flushing Meadows, the home of the New York Mets.). Moses knows very little about baseball.

5. Enter Los Angeles and Chavez Ravine. Chavez Ravine some 3 miles from downtown to Los Angeles. Sits on the hill. Really, a slum and dilapidated housing. 1,500 Mexican Americans. Dirt roads, pigs, goats, minimal electricity, etc.





The Chavez Ravine Episode - Somewhat Complicated

The Dodgers were in Brooklyn for 68 years - 44 at Ebbets Field.

6. 1950s – **Before Dodgers thinking of moving**. The city of L.A. and the Housing Authority want to build low-income housing in the area - a massive plan – 24 thirteen story towers 163 low rise buildings, and some garden apartments. **Get the hell out, Mexican Americans**. Low balled them for their homes. Many Mexican American left - like the old "Okies" moving to California during the depression. L.A. using power of eminent domain -the public will benefit. Democratic Party legislation.

7. Republicans are elected in Los Angeles mid 50s and this business stops we are not going to build low-income housing too socialistic Dems came back however in the late 50s and the plan to remove the Mexican Americans and build low income housing continues.





The Chavez Ravine Episode - Somewhat Complicated

The Dodgers were in Brooklyn for 68 years - 44 at Ebbets Field.

8. The infamous deal 1957, O'Malley would purchase the minor league club, the Los Angeles Angels from the city, and then he would give the city the 9 acres of the land the Angels played on. (Of course, the ones that deal went through, there would be no minor league club called the Los Angeles Angels.). In addition, O'Malley would give the city some $1.3 million for 315 acres (some sources made 333 acres) of Chavez Ravine.
The citizens of Los Angeles had to approve of this in a referendum. Millions voted - approved by 25,785 Yes- 351,683 No - 325,898 a 51%- 48% approval. Adios, Mexican Americans. What a victory for the sneaky and underhanded O'Malley - Chavez Ravine with development, worth millions more.

9. May 9, 1959, a day that is known as Black Friday – sheriffs, police ousting whatever Mexican Americans left, maybe 100 – 150. Bulldozers knocking down low-income homes.





The Chavez Ravine Episode - Somewhat Complicated

The Dodgers were in Brooklyn for 68 years - 44 at Ebbets Field.

10. Dodger Stadium opens up in 1962. The third oldest stadium, after Fenway Park, 1912 and Wrigley Field, 1914. (Ebbets Field, 1913.). Dodger Stadium was built by private money, mainly O'Malley - not public money.

11. The Dodgers played in the Coliseum for four years – 1958 – 1961 - while Dodger Stadium was being built. Coliseum a "joke" for baseball. Left field 250ft. - had to build high screens, etc.

12. O'Malley say "I tried to stay in Brooklyn. Even played games at Roosevelt Stadium in Jersey City to show that I wanted to be in this area is full of contradictions.

13. The joke about Hitler Stalin and O'Malley being in the same room with you. You have a gun with two bullets. What would you do? O'Malley gets two in the head." Is the reply.





The Chavez Ravine Episode - Somewhat Complicated

The Dodgers were in Brooklyn for 68 years - 44 at Ebbets Field.

14. Ebbets Field is gone but the spirit of Hilda Chester. The Brooklyn Sym-phony, Happy Felton's Knot-Hole Gang, Abby Stark's sign in right field – "Hit the sign and win a suit." Not too many hit the sign, with the "Reading Rifle," Carl Furillo patrolling right field.





The Chavez Ravine Episode - Somewhat Complicated

The Dodgers were in Brooklyn for 68 years - 44 at Ebbets Field.

Ebbets field was a central part of the community. The stadium fostered strong fan base and became a cultural land-mark representing the spirit of Brooklyn. Blacks, whites, Puerto Ricans, all came together to root for the Dodgers. No Civil Rights legislation was needed to foster good will. Arguments were "squashed" when you found out that your opponent was a Dodger fan. Many of the Dodgers live in Brooklyn. They could walk to the ballpark. They went out and married Brooklyn girls - Gil Hodges and notable example. And the people were making just a few thousand less than the players. Fans making $7000-$8000 a year -most players $15,000- $16,000 a year. Jackie Robinson was the highest paid at $35,000 a year. And you would often meet the players in a candy store or in a Horn & Hardart" Automatic restaurant. (I'll take iced tea glasses from now on, I'll take ice take glasses from now on...)





The Chavez Ravine Episode - Somewhat Complicated

The Dodgers were in Brooklyn for 68 years - 44 at Ebbets Field.

Ebbets field lives today. There are tours from the Ebbets field apartments, noting where things used to be. I am not kidding. Look it up.

And what about the Mexican Residents of Chavez Ravini?

From a Mexican American writer, "it was a happy community where everyone knew and helped each other. At night there were light bonfires, and people gathered around and sang songs. The horses were rested with plows at their side, and the people admired the hillsides where were sugar cane and corn was planted." So, when you're watching a Dodger game, think about it all this.





HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

1401 EAST FIRST STREET
TELEPHONE ANGELUS 2-2121

COMMISSIONERS
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LLOYD A. MASHBURN
VICE-CHAIRMAN
J. E. FISHBURN, JR.
MAURICE SAETA
GEORGE A. BEAVERS, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HOWARD L. HOLTZENDORFF

BOX 2316 TERMINAL ANNEX
LOS ANGELES 54, CALIFORNIA

July 24, 1950

To The Families of The Palo Verde and Chavez Ravine Areas:

This letter is to inform you that a public housing development will be built on this location for families of low income. The attached map shows the property that is going to be used. The house you are living in is included.

Within a short time surveyors will be working in your neighborhood. Later you will be visited by representatives of the Housing Authority, who will ask you to allow them to inspect your house in order to estimate its value. Title investigators will also visit you. You should be sure that any person who comes to your house has proper identification.

It will be several months at least before your property is purchased. After the property is bought, the Housing Authority will give you all possible assistance in finding another home. If you are eligible for public housing, you will have top priority to move into any of our public housing developments. Later you will have the first chance to move back into the new Elysian Park Heights development.

Three offices are being opened in this area to give you information and answers to your questions. They are located as follows:

Santo Nino Parochial Hall at 1034 Effie St.,(rear of Church)
San Conrado Mission at 1809 Bouett, (near Amador St.)
Tony Visco's old grocery store at 1035 Lilac Terrace

You are welcome to come in at any time. We will be open day and night this week, July 24 through July 28, and during the day Saturday, July 29. Next week we will be open during the day and in the evenings by appointment. Telephone ANgelus 2-1963 for any information.

We want to assure you that it is our intention to help you and work with you in every way possible.

Yours very truly,

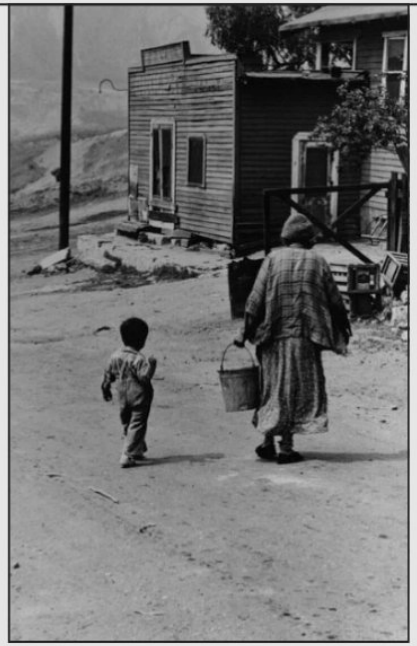
Sidney Green

Sidney Green
Management Supervisor

Before Dodger Stadium was a legendary baseball venue, it was known as Chavez Ravine. The area was home to generations of families, most of them Mexican American.





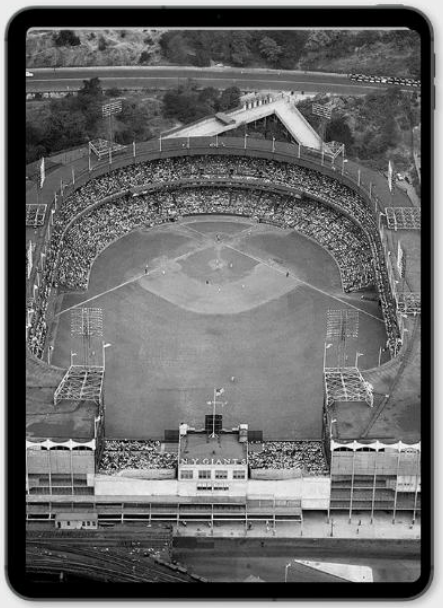






Polo Grounds New York Giants









The original Polo Grounds stood at 110th Street between Fifth Avenue and Sixth Avenue, directly across 110th Street from the northeast corner of Central Park. The venue's original purpose was for the sport of polo.

1911- POLO GROUNDS – UPPER MANHATTAN, 155TH ST. BENEATH COOGAN'S BLUFF. (HARLEM RIVER DRIVE PASS IT TODAY.). POLO GROUNDS APARTMENTS.

1912 – FENWAY PARK

1913 – EBBETS FIELD

1914 – WRIGLEY FIELD

POLO GROUNDS FALLING APART. PARKING IMPASSABLE. GIANTS THINKING OF MOVING TO MINNEAPOLIS. (DODGER TEAM IN ST. PAUL.). GIANTS LOSING MONEY. ATTENDANCE TERRIBLE. AVERAGE 8,500 AND 1957.

O'MALLEY TO HORACE STONEHAM, PRESIDENT OF THE GIANTS.

"LET'S DO A LOS ANGELES SAN FRANCISCO THING."

CANDLESTICK PARK – THE WORST BASEBALL PARK IN THE HISTORY OF THE SPORT. OUT OF HUNTERS POINT, BORDERING SAN FRANCISCO BA

POLO GROUNDS



1. SAN FRANCISCO LEASES LAND TO GIANTS. STORY IN THE STONEHAM SEES AREA EARLY IN THE MORNING - ON A BEAUTIFUL DAY. NO WIND, NO FOG HIGH TEMPERATURE.
2. CANDLESTICK PARK BUILT BY THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO. GIANTS GET PARKING RIGHTS, FOR CARS.
3. GIANTS PLAY IN 1958, 1959 IN SEALS STADIUM.
4. CANDLESTICK OPENS UP - 1960. PLAY TO 1999.
5. NEW BALLPARK - DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO - NOT TOO FAR FROM OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE. STILL WINDY BUT MUCH BETTER. CALLED ATT BELL PARK, RENAMED ORACLE.

"RADIANT HEATING SYSTEM" FOR SEATS DIDN'T WORK
"VENI,VIDI,VICI". BECAME "VENI,VEDI.VEXI" I CAME, I SAW, I SURVIVED. GIANTS GAVE OUT SURVIVAL PINS TO THOSE WHO LASTED THROUGH NIGHT GAMES.
1989 WORLD SERIES EARTHQUAKE. 63 PEOPLE DIE. 5:04 PACIFIC COAST TIME. AL MICHAELS TERRIFIC ON TV DESCRIBING WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

POLO GROUNDS



THE CATCH



Willie Mays made "The Catch" at the Polo Grounds in New York on September 29, 1954, during Game 1 of the World Series between the New York Giants and the Cleveland Indians.

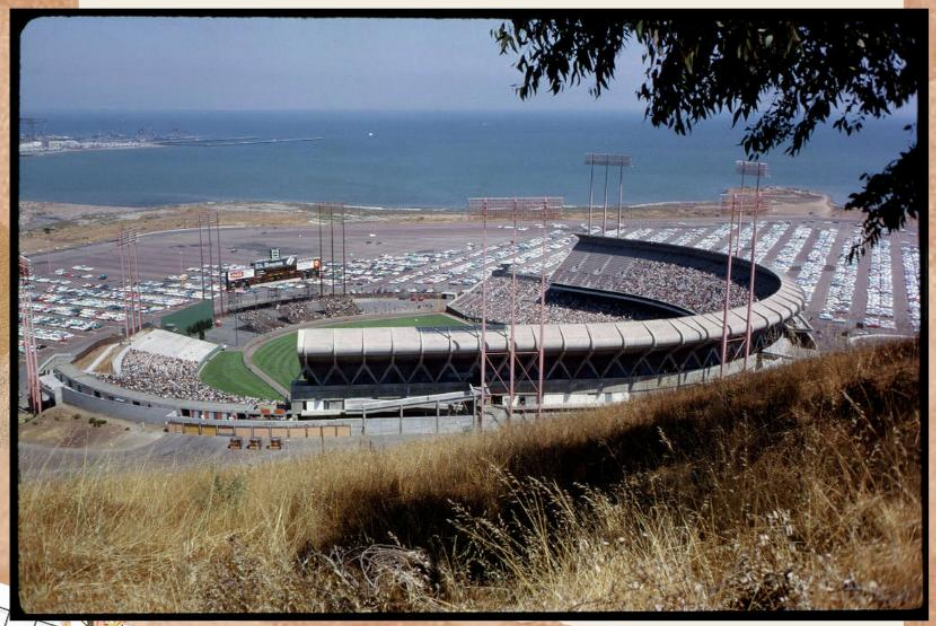
POLO GROUNDS IN NEW YORK





Candlestick Point State Recreation Area

Candlestick Park





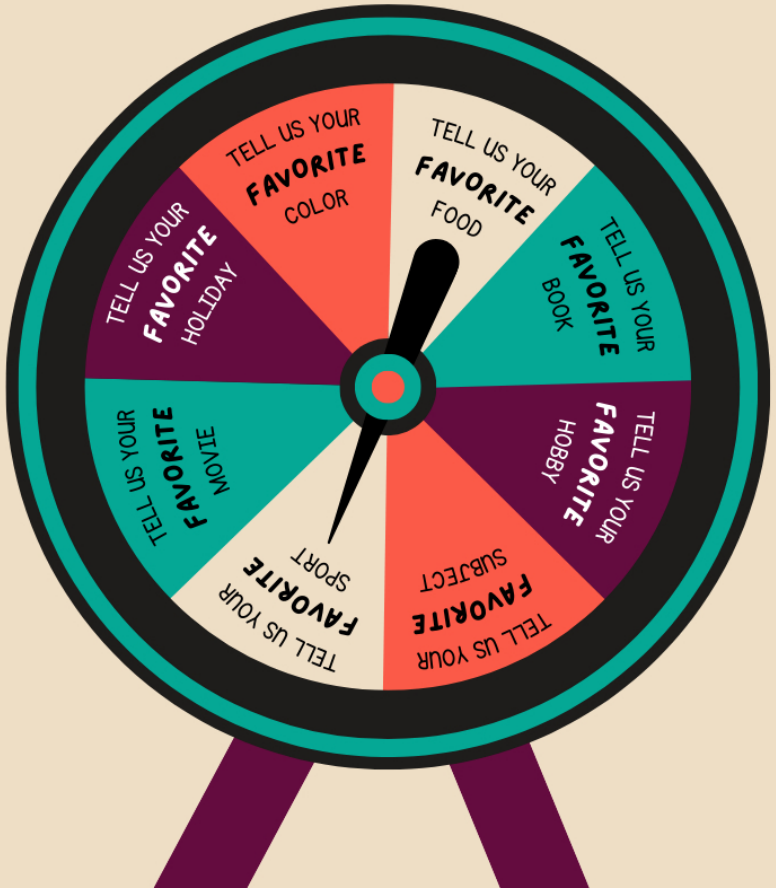
CANDLESTICK PARK




HAPPY FELTON'S
Knot-Hole Gang


HAPPY FELTON'S
Knot-Hole Gang

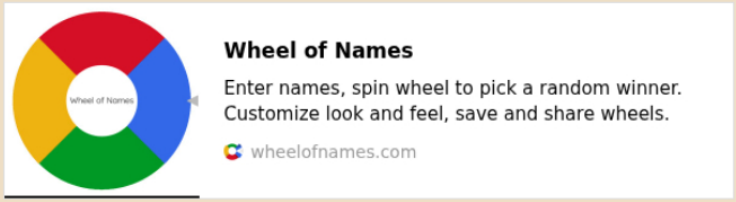
RAFFLE TIME



3RD PRIZE

2ND PRIZE

1ST PRIZE











ANTHONY MASTANDREA

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HISTORY CLUB

