INTRODUCTORY READING


ADAPTATION

Between 1913, when ball club owner Charles H. Ebbets opened the place, and 1957, the Brooklyn Dodgers, also known early on as the Superbas and then the Robins, played baseball at Ebbets Field, a few blocks east of Flatbush Avenue and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The pantheon of characters that populated Ebbets Field’s acres during those years have paraded across the pages of American literature—not just sports literature, mind you—creating a mythic and heroic aura surrounding two things Brooklyn: the team and the field upon which they played.

Ebbets Field alive teemed with people, the colors of an artist’s palette around its outfield walls, a bustling Brooklyn neighborhood right over the top of its right-field fence on Bedford Avenue, where a cascading home run ball would occasionally stop traffic while children scrambled in its wake. In the final analysis, what developed connected the surrounding neighborhoods to the ballpark and its team with an intensity and passion for baseball not known before or since.

After two pennant-winning Brooklyn teams played on the ballpark’s grounds during Ebbets Field’s first eight years, the ball club settled into a close to two-decade pattern of complacent if not downright abysmal play, with only a couple years proving exceptions. But on Saturdays and holidays—and Sundays after the blue laws were repealed in 1919—the legions came, often jamming the stands, with overflow fans standing behind ropes in the outfield during an era when baseball allowed that practice.

In the decades since Ebbets Field was wiped from the American scene, it has been a name uttered at various junctures when plans for construction efforts on new stadiums proceed, but not because anyone would ever want to build a ballpark the same way. Too many things were wrong with Ebbets Field to make it a paradigm. Yet the aspiring successors present themselves, whether in Baltimore, Cleveland, Denver, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, San Diego, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, or in Houston or Arlington, Texas, with St. Louis and other to come. Their objective is always the same. They seek to grasp the intimacy that somehow both emits and captures a rollicking, signature sense of pride, reinforcing a wonderful sense of place.

It should come then as no surprise that it was thought unconscionable when the Dodgers were moved to Los Angeles, after the 1957 season, with Ebbets Field, their citadel of struggle, unceremoniously deserted. Owner Walter O’Malley, who made a reported investment of $83,333 for an 8.33 percent share in 1944 and consolidated his
control of the team in 1950, was the sole executor of that decision, for which he is reviled to this day.
BUILDING NEW BALL PARK WILL SURELY BE SOME JOB

Much Leveling to Be Done Before Ebbets Field Will Be Ready for Building.
Some New Facts.

Although possessed of a site for his $750,000 baseball park after three years of heavy work in the real estate field, Boss Ebbets of the Brooklyn Club finds that his efforts in that line were mere play compared with what is ahead of him. The Superba president has discovered that owning a lot big enough to turn into a stadium is one thing, but turning that aforementioned bit of land into said stadium is destined to prove the undertaking of his career.

For instance, the piece of property seems to have been the center of an upheaval at one time or another. It is a succession of miniature hills and valleys, which in themselves are bad enough when it comes to the question of grading, but the problem of all is a deep hole near what is destined to be first base that will take some filling, and more. It has been intimated that Ebbets selected the Flatbush site mainly because he could use the hole as an entrance for the fans in China, although he denies this.

As already told in The Eagle, Ebbets refused an offer of $7,500 from a contractor for the privilege of filling this hole for the reason that he intends to use it himself when he starts grading the property in a few days. The ground slopes upward from the Sullivan street end to Bedford avenue in irregular form, the Bedford avenue line being from thirteen to sixteen feet higher. In other words, the Sullivan street end is about 87 feet above sea level, while the two corners at Bedford avenue are 100 and 104 feet, respectively. Ebbets intends to have his park leveled to 96 feet above sea level at the
home plate and sloping one foot to the different fences. This will necessitate a retaining wall at Bedford avenue.
All the residents on the property will be asked to move out by February 15, when it is expected the workmen will have reached the height of the grading. Then the houses will be razed and the work completed. Twenty contractors have already interviewed Ebbets on the subject of building the stands, but as Architect Van Buskirk has not completed the plans no papers have been signed. There are many details yet to be considered, so many that the club will be lucky if it can take possession of the field by August 27.

How Ebbets Kept Negotiations Secret

Speaking of his efforts to keep secret the negotiations of the property, Ebbets said yesterday that not even the real estate people knew for whom they were purchasing the land until a month ago. Even then he sidestepped any attempt on their part to gain knowledge of his interest in negotiations, all of which were conducted by Barney York. Even Treasurer Henry Medieus was not let into the secret until last Saturday, although the president was spending a great deal of the club’s money. Henry knew there was something doing, but just what he could not tell. Secretary Ebbets had to be informed early in order to obtain the names of the various property owners from whom the ground could be purchased, making only three in the secret.

The manner in which the wily president pulled the wool over the eyes of his architect in order to prevent a leak which would have sent the prices of the various parcels soaring was laughable. Ebbets took Van Buskirk on two Western trips and kept him busy drawing maps and plans. Van looked over the new grandstands on the circuit as well.

The fact that the general topography of the new plot was similar to that of Washington Park permitted Ebbets to intimate that he intended to make improvements at the old ball field. Later, when Van Buskirk questioned the difference of the shape at the entrance, the Superba boss hinted that he might locate in the Coney Island section. When all the properties had finally been purchased and the architect was told where it was located, which was last Tuesday night, his surprise was greater than that of any other person present.

A Queer New Year’s Gift
Another sample of Ebbets’ insight into the many angles that make a financier is given in his attitude toward the occupants of the buildings on the property. As soon as each parcel was purchased, the inhabitants were informed that they would have to pay a nominal rental. That was in order to make them tenants instead of squatters, as the case might be. On January 1 each tenant was informed that as a New Year’s gift from the owner he would be permitted to reside rent free until February 15, when all would be expected to move.
1. Describe the state of Ebbets Field before construction began, according to DOCUMENT 1.

2. Why was Charles Ebbets so secretive during the negotiations for purchasing the property?

3. Who was the architect that designed Ebbets Field? Where did he believe the project he was designing would be built before he learned the truth?

4. Were there people living on the property when Ebbets bought it? What was Ebbets’ “New Year’s Gift” to them?
TRANSPORTATION OF "FANS."

Ebbets and the B. R. T. Officials Confer on Transit Facilities.

For the accommodation of the crowds going to the new Ebbets Field, the future home of the Brooklyn Baseball Club, the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company will provide ample transportation. Mr. Ebbets conferred with the Rapid Transit officials a few days ago, and was assured by them that everything possible would be done to carry the "fans" with the least possible inconvenience.

Although it has not yet been announced officially, it is almost certain that the Brighton Beach L will carry a large share of the crowds. This will be made possible if the tentative plans are carried out for the removal of the Consumers station to a point nearer the main entrance of the new ball grounds, where a large station will be constructed on a spur.

The majority of the baseball traffic will, in the opinion of the B. R. T. officials, be handled by the surface lines converging within a short walk from the entrance of the park. All lines transferring to the Church avenue cars will furnish a short and quick route.
1. According to DOCUMENT 2A, which subway line would carry most of the fans coming to Ebbets Field? Locate and circle this subway line on DOCUMENT 2B.

2. What are some ways the BRT could compensate for the increased traffic to and from Ebbets Field?

3. Using DOCUMENT 2B, analyze how accessible Ebbets Field was to people living different parts of Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Long Island. To which areas is it most accessible? Least accessible?
PLAY BALL!

EBETTS FIELD

Come on, you fans, you rooters, come!
To our brand new Stadium.
Hear that cheering? Hear the band?
Ain’t them concrete bleachers grand?
Come in troops and regiments,*

*But don’t bring less than fifty cents.

Come on, fans, leave gloom behind,
Let joy and mirth be unconfined!
See that nifty new rotunda?
Say! That ceiling is a wonder!
Get a seat in that grandstand!*

*But have a dollar in your hand.
1. According to DOCUMENT 3, how much did it cost to sit in the bleachers when Ebbets Field first opened? What about the grandstand?

2. Do you think residents were excited for the new stadium to open? Why or why not?

3. According to DOCUMENT 3, what could fans expect to find inside at Ebbets Field?

4. Design your own cartoon or write a poem advertising the opening of Ebbets Field.

Ground Is Broken For New Addition To Ebbets Field

Left and Center Double-deck Stands to Be Ready for First Game April 19

Formal ground breaking exercises for the new 10,000-seat addition to Ebbets Field took place shortly after 11 a.m. today, when Stephen W. McKeever, treasurer of the Brooklyn Baseball Club, turned the first spadeful of dirt deep in left field. Mr. McKeever also used an electric drill.

Among the group of dignitaries of Brooklyn baseballdom who attended the ceremonies were Frank B. York, president of the club; Mr. McKeever, Harry M. DeMott, vice president; Dave Driscoll, business manager; Larry Sutton, scout for the club; William G. Byrne, chief clerk of the club; Otto Miller, coach; Val Picinich, Brooklyn catcher; Stephen Mulvey, grandson of Mr. McKeever, and Roy Veille, superintendent of the grounds.

William Kennedy Sr. and William Kennedy Jr. of the William Kennedy Construction Company, contractors for the $450,000 job, also attended.

Part Ready by April 19

Mr. Kennedy Jr. explained that the leftfield stand, where there are now bleachers, and the centerfield where there are now circus seats, will be finished with double-deck stands in time for the opening game on April 19.

The centerfield stands will be ready by May 15, Mr. Kennedy said, the workers to continue on these after the season begins. They will come early in the morning to complete their eight-hour day before the baseball game in the afternoon.

Mr. Kennedy expects to set steel by March 10. He said that when the construction reaches its height it will provide work for at least 400 unemployed.
1. What does DOCUMENT 4 tell us about the popularity of Ebbets Field and the Brooklyn Dodgers?

2. What are the changes being made to Ebbets Field and how much will they cost?

3. The Great Depression began in 1930 with the stock market crash followed by high rates of unemployment. Why was this construction project significant for people living in Brooklyn during this time? Explain using evidence from DOCUMENT 4.
Ebbets Usherettes? Banish the Thought!

BY BEN GOULD

Round the big league front offices they're starting to worry about another manpower shortage—in the usher department. One club, the Chicago Cubs, has gone so far as to recruit girls for the job.

But you'll never find usherettes at Ebbets Field. Take Johnny Haines' word for it.

Johnny, head usher at the Flock's backyard, has been interviewing candidates for this year's staff all week and yesterday he was as emphatic about the feminine question as ever.

"The gals may fit into their ball parks, but not at Ebbets Field, brother," he asserted. "Maybe our patrons are a little different, perhaps, a bit rougher. Why, the fellows have a tough enough time at the night games! Just imagine a pretty kid trying to handle a gang of fans when we have a packed house. Why, you'd need chaperons all over the park!"

60 Are Holdovers

Fortunately, Haines doesn't have even to answer the letters some girls send in about usher jobs. He has 60 holdovers from last year and has picked up 40 more from the dozens of 14 to 18-year-old youths who applied this week.

Johnny, who has been head usher since 1939, has no trouble getting a corps together. St. Francis, Brooklyn Prep, St. John's and other schools have been co-operative and send their biggest an huskiest fellows down for the jobs. Whenever Haines needs a dozen or so ushers in a hurry he simply puts in a call to one of these schools and before batting practice is over the prep schoolboys have arrived ready to handle the crowds.

"Of course, the boys we have today are far younger than the prewar crowd. Why, hundreds of our former ushers are in the armed forces today, but the youngsters taking their places are almost as capable," Johnny relates.

Vets Apply Too

Any discharged veteran applying for a job will find the likable Haines leaning over backwards. One chap, who contracted malaria in the South Pacific, is almost certain to land a spot, while another, discharged because of battle fatigue in the European theater, is also hooking up with him.

The GIs who once handled the crowds at Ebbets Field write Haines and business manager Jack Collins frequently. Collins, as might be imagined, is especially proud of the feats of his nephew, St. John Collins, a former usher now taking part in the invasion of Okinawa.

Another usher who worked his way through medical school through his earnings at the park is Comm. Francis V. Mitchell of the navy's medical corps. He, too, is seeing action in the Pacific area.
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1. What is the reason for the "manpower shortage" mentioned in DOCUMENT 5? Where did many of the former ushers leave to go?

Another usher who worked his way through medical school through his earnings at the park is Comm. Francis V. Mitchell of the navy's medical corps. He, too, is seeing action in the Pacific area.
2. Summarize Johnny Haines’ response when asked if he would recruit women to work as “ usherettes” at Ebbets Field? Would this be considered discrimination today? Explain why or why not.

3. According to DOCUMENT 5, who had the best chance of being hired to work as an usher at Ebbets Field?

4. Compare DOCUMENT 4 and DOCUMENT 5. How has the demand for jobs changed from 1931 to 1945?

Adaptation

**Dodgers Scouted Robinson for Big-League Role**

**Deal Made in August — Jackie to Train in Fla. With Flock, Royals**

By Harold C. Burr

President Branch Rickey of The Brooklyn Dodgers has broken through the color line in signing the first Negro ball player to appear in Organized Baseball in the 70 years of its life. The play who enters through the opened door is Jackie Robinson, shortstop and UCLA football star.

During the 1945 season, Robinson was a member of the Kansas City Monarchs, hitting 340. He came to the Monarchs after serving as a second lieutenant in the army. He was quietly brought to Brooklyn in August. Rickey explained what he had in mind and Jackie agreed to sign Nov. 1.

Robinson was carefully scouted by Tom Greenwade, George Sisler and Clyde Stakeforth, the Rickey bird dogs. The boy was signed yesterday to a Montreal bonus contract, the Brooklyn club’s Double A International League farm. But in reality he was scouted as a major league prospect. Robinson will go to the Dodger and Montreal combined training camp at Daytona Beach, Fla., in the Spring.

Jackie previously had received a tryout at Fenway Park, Boston by the Red Sox. Of the three Negroes tried out on that occasion, Robinson received the most favorable attention from Manager Joe Cronin. But the Red Sox made no attempt to sign him and the Dodger scouts took over and reported to Rickey that he was the best of the Negro prospects.

**May Cost Club Players**

“Mr. Racine and my father,” Branch Jr. said, “will undoubtedly be severely criticized in some sections of the country where racial prejudice is rampant. They are not inviting trouble, but they won’t avoid it if it comes. Robinson is a fine type of young man, intelligent and college-bred.”

Young Rickey admitted that the move might cost the Dodgers a number of ball players.

“Some of them, particularly those who come from certain sections of the South, will steer away from a club with a Negro player on its roster. Some players now with us may even quit, but they’ll be back in baseball after they work a year or two in a cotton mill.”
Racine, whose Montreal team won the International League’s regular-season championship, said he expected no opposition either from the league or from fans. “Negroes fought alongside whites and shared the foxhole dangers,” he said, “and they should get a fair trial in baseball.”

Jack Roosevelt Robinson is 26 years old. He weighs 190 pounds, stands 5 feet, 11 ½ inches tall.

At UCLA, Robinson received numerous nominations for All-American honors in 1940 and again in 1941. He played in the 1942 All-Star game at Soldier Field, Chicago, and went to Honolulu for another All-Star game, and took part in about a dozen pro football games in the Coast League. He went into the army as a private in April, 1942, attended Officers’ Training School and was commissioned a second lieutenant in November 1942. Early this year, he was given an inactive status.

The signing of Robinson produced a wave of wild reports. Among them was a yarn that the Dodgers had 25 other Negro prospects in mind. The Mahatma made haste to enter his denial.

**Will Continue to Scout**

“I haven’t 25 prospects,” declared Mr. Rickey. “The number I have in mind is nowhere comparable to that figure. I will continue to scout Negro talent. I know of no reason why I shouldn’t go after any ball players regardless of color. If I thought it would hurt the Negro, or our players, I wouldn’t have done it.”

Mr. Rickey was asked about the problem of living and traveling while the Royals are on the road.

“The boy himself answered that question. ‘I wouldn’t want to go where I’m not welcome,’ was the way he put it.”

The president of the Dodgers explained why he hadn’t broken ground before.

**Blasts Griffith**

“When I was in St. Louis, Negroes were not allowed in the grandstand. Hence I could not arrange for try-outs. If I was in authority, I would have changed that. I got the idea when I came to Brooklyn after watching Negro teams play at Ebbets Field. Baseball is a game played by human beings, regardless of color, and I want to have winning baseball.”

President [of the Washington Senators’ American League baseball team] Clark Griffith gave out a statement condemning Rickey for raiding an organized professional league. Rickey came back with a hot retort.

“The Negro leagues, as they are today constituted, are in the nature of a racket and Griffith knows that. History will record that Mr. Griffith introduced Negro ball in the major leagues. I want to help the Negro league organize. I’m doing this in spite of outside interests and pressure groups who are exploiting the Negro rather than helping him.

Rickey said he had a heavy telegram reaction, mostly favorable.
1. Write a brief summary of Jackie Robinson’s life accomplishments before signing on with the Dodgers in 1945.

2. Using evidence from DOCUMENT 6, explain how WWII began to change some white people’s views on racial integration.

3. What prevented the Dodgers’ president from recruiting black players while in Saint Louis?

4. What was the criticism Clark Griffith gave of Jackie Robinson’s recruitment to the Dodgers?
1. Why do you think Jackie Robinson had a comic book named after him?

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2. In the spaces below, create a comic strip of what you think Jackie Robinson’s experience was like playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers:
Document 8: “Ebbets Field...aerial view in foreground.” 1952. Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn Public Library.
1. Is this photograph a primary or a secondary source? Why?

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2. Use a red (or other brightly colored) marker or pen to label where Flatbush Ave, Bedford Ave, Franklin Ave, Washington Ave, Grand Army Plaza, Prospect Park, the Central Library, the Brooklyn Museum, Downtown Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Ebbets Field are located in DOCUMENT 8. Use Google Maps as a reference, if needed.

3. What season was it when this photograph was taken? Use evidence from DOCUMENT 8 to support your claim.

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4. Observe the roads in DOCUMENT 8. Do you think it was easy for people to get to Ebbets Field by car? Why or why not? Explain using evidence from the photograph.

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Stirring Veterans Day Rites
Thrill People of Many Lands

There were 6,000 new citizens in Brooklyn today—men and women from all the far places of the earth, from behind iron curtain and silken and bamboo curtains where Communist and/or Fascist tyrannies had kept them afraid.

You could almost pick them out, the 6,000, on the streets of Brooklyn. They walked with a new, self-confident air, with something of a new, bold look in the eyes.

With twice their number of relatives and friends, they had stood up in Brooklyn's Ebbets Field, and in a mass Veterans Day ceremony, first of its kind, had taken the oath of citizenship, of allegiance to the U.S.A. They were Americans now.

Like ceremonies were carried out, at the same time yesterday afternoon, in other centers of the nation and its island possessions, and a total of 48,000 new Americans were thus born.

At Ebbets Field

At Ebbets Field, Federal Judge Robert A. Inch administered the solemn oath, which the 6,000 solemnly took, and chief speaker to address them was Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr.

He spoke to the new-made citizens about immigrants and immigration. He disclosed that powerful America was not unmindful of human beings who were foreigners in foreign lands, eager to come here to the land of promise ... and of the heartbreak that sometimes befalls those who come to America's shores only to find that, for reasons of law and circumstance, they are ineligible to enter and must be sent back.

At least that part of the "heartbreak," Mr. Brownell told them, would hereafter be removed. From now on, the sifting and screening of immigrants to determine whether they are eligible to enter would be done abroad, in the countries of the hopeful immigrants' origin.

Before they leave their home shores they would be given the final decision whether the United States will accept them here. At least, therefore, they will be saved the "heartbreak" of a vain voyage across the Atlantic or Pacific—and back.
1. Why do you think this event was held on Veteran’s Day?

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2. What was the total numbers of immigrants naturalized that day in the United States?

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3. Why do you think the ceremony was held at Ebbets Field?

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Hallowed ground of Ebbets Field would have been 100 years old on Tuesday

Former Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher Carl Erskine vividly remembers the massive crane and the wrecking ball attached to it that was painted white with red bands to resemble the seams on a baseball. He graciously posed for photographers beside the heavy equipment on Feb. 25, 1960, the day Ebbets Field died, then watched the demolition begin with the visitors' dugout.

He could not bear to look anymore.

"When they dropped that ball and it crashed through the roof and all the way down to the dugout, it was too much," said Erskine, 86. "I caught a cab and went back to the hotel."

If the Dodgers had not fled to Los Angeles after the 1957 season, if Ebbets Field somehow had remained intact -- the bandbox where organist Gladys Gooding played "Follow the Dodgers," where the off-key Sym-Phony taunted umpires by belting out "Three Blind Mice," where Hilda Chester rang her cowbell to back the "Bums" -- it would have marked its 100th anniversary on Tuesday.

"It certainly signified the end of an era, it really did," he said during a phone interview from his native Anderson, Ind. "Watching the demolition of this magnificent shrine was too much."

Current fans are accustomed to character-less stadiums loaded with luxury suites to cater to the rich and famous. As hard as it may be to imagine, Ebbets Field was confined to a city block in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, bound by Bedford Avenue, Sullivan Place, McKeever Place and Montgomery Street. Of necessity, the site was intimate. A double-decked grandstand accommodated most of the original capacity of 23,000. It was a mere 301-foot poke to the rightfield pole.

Ebbets Field formally opened on April 9, 1913. The Dodgers were blanked by the Phillies, 1-0, an appropriate start for a team that often was almost delightfully inept. The "Bums" would not bring home a pennant until 1941, when they fell to the mighty Yankees in a five-game World Series. They also suffered World Series defeats at the hands of the pinstripes in 1947, 1949, 1952, 1953 and 1956. Their lone World Series triumph while playing on land that once included a garbage dump came in 1955, a seven-game classic against the hated Yankees that sent a borough into delirium.
As exhilarating as 1955 was for "The Boys of Summer" and Brooklyn, the ballpark experience extended far beyond winning and losing. Players, fans and stadium employees were not strangers for long.

"The fans are what impressed me the most," said first baseman Jim Gentile, 78, promoted to the Dodgers late in their final season in Brooklyn. "They were rabid fans. They loved the Dodgers, the Bums."

The hard-throwing Erskine usually welcomed the proximity to fans who called for "Oisk" to strike out another batter. "We saw a lot of fans up close and they saw us up close," he said. "And they weren't bashful if you had a bad day." That players lived nearby only deepened the relationship.

When Gooding would launch into "Follow the Dodgers," the fight song she wrote, when the Sym-Phony (for phony symphony) would make its racket, when the plump Chester would bellow "Hilda is here!" from the bleachers, the atmosphere took on the feel of a family reunion.

"I knew the ushers at Ebbets Field by their first name," Erskine said. "I knew the cops. I knew the grounds crew. I knew the ticket-takers. They were all part of the scene. They all meant a lot to me."

The celebrated righthander, who threw two no-hitters at Ebbets Field -- against the Cubs on June 19, 1952, and the New York Giants on May 12, 1956 -- kept in touch with Kenny Smith, an usher in the upper deck in rightfield, long after he had thrown his last fastball. "He probably would have ushered for nothing," Erskine said.

Tears flowed after owner Walter O'Malley, thwarted in his effort to build a new stadium at Atlantic Yards, where Barclays Center now sits, was lured by the Hollywood set to Los Angeles. There were more tears when the final out was made at Ebbets Field.

"As you were going into the dugout, you could see people with their handkerchiefs out," Gentile said. "It was just a tough situation, that's all. You've got to go where the money is, and the park was old."

Erskine believes the Dodgers "absolutely" could have been successful if they had remained in Brooklyn. The certainty is that they struck gold out West. They won five World Series titles and drew 3 million fans every year from 1996-2010.

Levine celebrated his 40th birthday by bringing Aspen to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown last weekend.

"There was the cornerstone from Ebbets Field," he said. "Everybody rubbed it for good luck, so we did, also."
At the time of its 100th anniversary, Ebbets Field might still be magical.
1. When and why did the Dodgers leave Brooklyn?

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2. How many times did the Dodgers win the World Series while in Brooklyn? In Los Angeles?

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3. How does former Dodgers pitcher Carl Erskine describe the Dodgers’ fans at Ebbets Field?

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4. What made the players’ relationship to the fans special?

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GLOSSARY

**Abysmal**: extremely bad; appalling.

**Aura**: the atmosphere or vibe that seems to surround or be created by a person, place, or thing.

**Citadel**: a fortress, typically on high ground, protecting or dominating a city.

**Color line**: a reference to racial segregation that existed in the United States after the abolition of slavery.

**Complacent**: showing smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one’s achievements.

**Emphatic**: expressing something forcibly and clearly.

**Pantheon**: all the gods of a people or religion collectively.

**Paradigm**: a typical pattern of something; a model.

**Rampant**: (especially of something unwelcome or unpleasant) flourishing or spreading unchecked.

**Reviled**: criticized in an abusive or angrily insulting manner.

**Succession**: a number of people or things sharing a specific characteristic, following one after the other.

**Unconscionable**: not right or reasonable; unnecessary.

**Wily**: skilled at gaining an advantage, especially deceitfully.