



THE MINNESOTA TWINS, American League champions five years after leaving Washington, included, front row (left to right)—Roy Crump, equipment manager; Sandy Valdespino, Bob Allison, Mel Nelson, Coach John Sain, Coach Hal Naragon, Man-

ager Sam Mele, Coach Jim Lemon, Coach Billy Martin, John Klippstein, John Sevcik and Trainer George Lentz. Middle row—Jerry Kindall, Dave Boswell, Jim Merritt, Andy Kosco, Jim Kaat, Don Mincher, Dick Stigman, Jim Perry, Jim Grant and Al Worthington.

Back row—Jerry Zimmerman, Frank Quilici, Camilo Pascual, Bill Pleis, Rich Rollins, Earl Battey, Zoilo Versalles, Joe Nosssek, Jimmie Hall, Harmon Killebrew and Tony Oliva. In foreground, batboys John Natwick, Mark Stodghill and Dennis King.

Birth of Twins: Here's the Real Story

Cal's Decision to Move Ended 7-Year Struggle

By CHARLES JOHNSON
In the Minneapolis Tribune

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

When the **Twins** qualified for the World Series, it was a dream come true far ahead of schedule for a small group of Minneapolitans who made possible major league baseball for the Twin Cities and the Upper Midwest.

We say "far ahead of schedule" because, when Calvin Griffith was given permission on October 26, 1960, to move his Washington franchise to this area, none of the hard-working sponsors had the slightest idea that in 1965 they would be hosting the American League champions.

In 1960, Griffith had a tail-end club that had been staggering around, going nowhere in the nation's capital.

But this decision to move to Metropolitan Stadium ended a seven-year struggle to get a major league franchise for this region.

Now, for the first time, the whole story of how all this happened can be told by this eyewitness and other participants.

President Joe Cronin of the American League had called a meeting of all club owners, October 26, in New York.

This writer and a small group of Minneapolis boosters decided they should be on hand, just as they had for almost every league meeting since 1953, when they began their bid.

The thought never occurred to these Minneapolitans when they went to New York that memorable October that they would wind up with the Washington club the next day.

Five-Man Group on Hand

Carrying the Upper Midwest's hopes were Gerry Moore of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, Gordon Ritz, Wheelock Whitney, Bill Boyer and yours truly.

On our arrival in New York, October 25, the writer sought out Cronin to see what was in the wind for the next day's meeting. The prexy never hinted that the league might expand, but he wondered if we were still interested in getting the Washington club.

We gave him a strong "yes," but said we had been frustrated so often we were almost at the end of the line.

For the next few hours, we canvassed seven A. L. club owners. None of them felt there was a chance of approving a move of Washington to Minneapolis-St. Paul. None of them even mentioned the possibility of expanding to ten teams. (Months earlier, the National League had decided to give Houston and New York franchises.)

Our small committee agreed we would meet again at 8 p. m., October 25, at the Savoy Hilton to pool information we had picked up during the afternoon.

It was at this time that Moore and Boyer informed us they had had a long session with Griffith. He had offered them some encouragement on asking permission to move the next day. Nothing was said about expansion.

Boyer and Moore had arranged another session with



CALVIN GRIFFITH . . . He Surprised Twin Cities

Griffith at his hotel that night to pursue negotiations they had had in the afternoon.

It was decided we would meet again at midnight to hear the results of the showdown with Griffith.

Our fivesome gathered again at the appointed hour. Moore and Boyer startled the rest of us with great news.

Griffith told Jerry and Bill he would move the Washington club to the Twin Cities in 1961 if the Minneapolis representatives would:

Arrange to increase the capacity of Metropolitan Stadium to 40,000 for the 1961 season.

Guarantee a paid attendance of 2,500,000 for the first three years of operations.

Throw in \$250,000 to cover expenses of moving from Washington.

Arrange bank credit to get the new deal going after the move to the Twin Cities.

Agree on a 7 per cent rental charge for the stadium after

Action by A. L. Jarred Cities Which Lost Out

all taxes and the visiting club's share of the gate had been deducted.

Accept 10 per cent of the gross on concessions, with the Stadium Commission taking all parking receipts.

There were other provisions, but they were minor.

Calvin gave the Minneapolis committee until 8:45 a. m., October 26, to accept his terms.

Plan Discussed Until Wee Hours

Until 3 a. m., Ritz, Whitney, Boyer, Moore and myself mulled over ways of meeting the requirements.

The stumbling block was the \$250,000 advance to take care of the moving expense. How to get it brought a long discussion. We believe it was Boyer who said:

"We'll raise \$250,000 if we have to go from door to door, begging \$1 from each individual."

The die had been cast. Moore was instructed to inform Griffith at 8:45 a. m., October 26, that we would accept his terms. He did.

Let us throw in here that the \$250,000 item was taken care of through a shrewd plan worked out by Whitney and the co-operation of major bondholders. It was quite a stroke.

The Minneapolis committee gathered at the scene of the American League meeting the next morning. We got nothing but sympathy from groups representing Los Angeles and Dallas-Fort Worth. They were positive they would be in the American League.

No word came from the star-chamber session. The magnates broke for lunch. About 3:15 p. m., the press and all franchise bidders were summoned before the owners, with Cronin as spokesman. With poise, he announced:

"The American League today has decided to expand to ten teams for the 1961 season. We have approved the transfer of the Washington franchise to Minneapolis and St. Paul. We also have agreed to award new franchises to Washington and Los Angeles."

Big News Stunned the Writer

Moore and the writer were the only Minneapolis representatives in the room when this startling announcement was made. The bidders from the other cities were stunned. This writer phoned the good news to the Minneapolis Star and the Minneapolis Tribune and then began a long siege at the typewriter, pounding out the stories.

Yes, there was a victory celebration with a dinner that night. Mr. and Mrs. Cronin, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Griffith, Howard Fox, Boyer, Whitney, Ritz and Moore staged a real "ball." This writer dropped by for a "cup" in between hours of pounding out the good news for readers back home.

A seven-year struggle to get major league baseball for this area had ended. It was the end of many frustrations for the Minneapolis boosters to get major league baseball for the Twin Cities.