

Cal Eyes Lemon as No. 1 Item on Twin Trade List

Jim Reported Unhappy After Giving Up Holdout Siege;
Club Could Use Help on Hill, Bench and at Shortstop

By TOM BRIERE

ORLANDO, Fla.



Zorro Versalles

Slugging Jim Lemon may be ripe for picking from the **Twins** tree in the American League trading mart.

The **Twins** high thinkers—Calvin Griffith, Joe Haynes, Cookie Lavagetto and Sherry Robertson—stand at the moment of major decision.

The **Minnesota** club is sadly lacking in pitching and bench depth, and shortstop remains a serious problem, as yet unsolved by Zorro Versalles, 20-year-old Cuban.

The question posed is: Will the **Twins** trade for help, or will they stand pat, hoping that young pitching and the inexperienced Versalles can pick up the slack?

Lemon, 33-year-old left fielder who hit 38 homers and drove in 100 runs, could command some player loot on the open market. He was dangled as trade bait during the inter-league period last winter. The Dodgers were reportedly interested. The names of Dodger Outfielder Don Demeter, Shortstop Bob Lillis and Infielder Junior Gilliam were freely mentioned.

No deal! The Phillies talked about adding a powerful righthanded hitter like Lemon. Still, no deal.

Trade talk started again this spring when Lemon held out for 17 days before signing. At the time, Gentleman Jim said: "Sign me or trade me." Griffith said, "My uncle told me, 'Never trade an unsigned ball player.' He'll sign at my terms."

Jim finally came to terms, grudgingly, March 16. He was unhappy. Salary negotiations between Lemon and Griffith ended on a bitter note.

Griffith said sternly: "He signed at my terms, no bonus on home-run performance."

Lemon said, "What can you do? I asked to be traded. Quit? Might as well as play at his prices."

Age Against Vet in Team Plans

The six-five, 210-pound Lemon received \$25,000 in 1960. He was asking \$35,000, and Griffith supposedly brought him into the fold at \$32,000.

Manager Cookie Lavagetto of the **Twins**, who is torn between a desire to hold his power in Lemon, Harmon Killebrew and Bob Allison and add needed help, welcomed his No. 4 hitter.

"Jim is too much of a gentleman for me to worry about his attitude," cooed Cookie.

Griffith said last winter: "We'll wait until we get through spring training to decide what help we need. Then we might do business." He didn't say whether he was more inclined to trade Lemon after the recent financial bickering.

The **Twins** are building on youth.

Allison Clamps Big Bear Hug on Drysdale—Ends Rhubarb

ORLANDO, Fla.—Bob Allison of the **Twins** may take up wrestling in the off season. He scored a bear-hug fall over the Dodgers' Don Drysdale in a recent rhubarb with the **Twins**.

The original argument was between Outfielder Len Green of the **Twins** and Drysdale. After Zorro Versalles' third-inning homer, Drysdale got two strikes on Green and then decked him with a duster. Greenie struck out.

In the fifth inning, Drysdale was covering home after an error and Green came sliding home—with spikes high, according to Drysdale. "He was just mad because he was getting bombed," said Green, who represented the second run of a seven-run inning.

Words and threatening gestures were exchanged between Green and Drysdale until enough players arrived to assure no action. Then Drysdale really wanted to go—with little swinging room.

Allison, the on-deck hitter, wrapped up Drysdale. He applied a bear hug and lifted the six-six, 216-pound Drysdale right out of his fighting frame of mind.

Manager Walt Alston of the Dodgers further quieted temperamental Don by lifting him right out of the game. TOM BRIERE.

Changing Suits?



Jim Lemon

While Lavagetto calls Lemon an American League guarantee for "between 30 and 40 homers, 80 to 100 RBIs and a .280 to .300 batting average," the Virginia big boy is limited by age in the long-range program.

Smart baseball operators always pick the opportune time to unload a player at high value—still in demand—before he goes over the hill of age, slowing reflexes and the trigger on his Louisville Slugger.

Twins Set at Most Spots

Aside from pitching and shortstop, the **Twins** are pretty well set. Not that Lavagetto wouldn't welcome a .300 power-hitter lefty for the No. 3 spot in his batting order.

Earl Battey will carry a 130-game catching load. Ron Henry, draftee from the Milwaukee chain, has impressed at the plate, but receiving shortcomings may force the **Twins** to hold veteran Hal Naragon as catching protection.

Killebrew is set at first base, even though Don Mircher (.306 at Charleston in the American Association in 1960) is having a fine spring at the plate. In the event Mincher's left-handed bat stays hot, he might influence thinking to part with Lemon. Killebrew could go to left with Mincher taking over first base.

Veteran Billy Gardner, still shedding pounds around the middle, will pivot at second base on the double play with Reno Bertoia at third base. If Versalles falls short of the major league level, Jose Valdivielso and Billy Consolo will vie for the job at short.

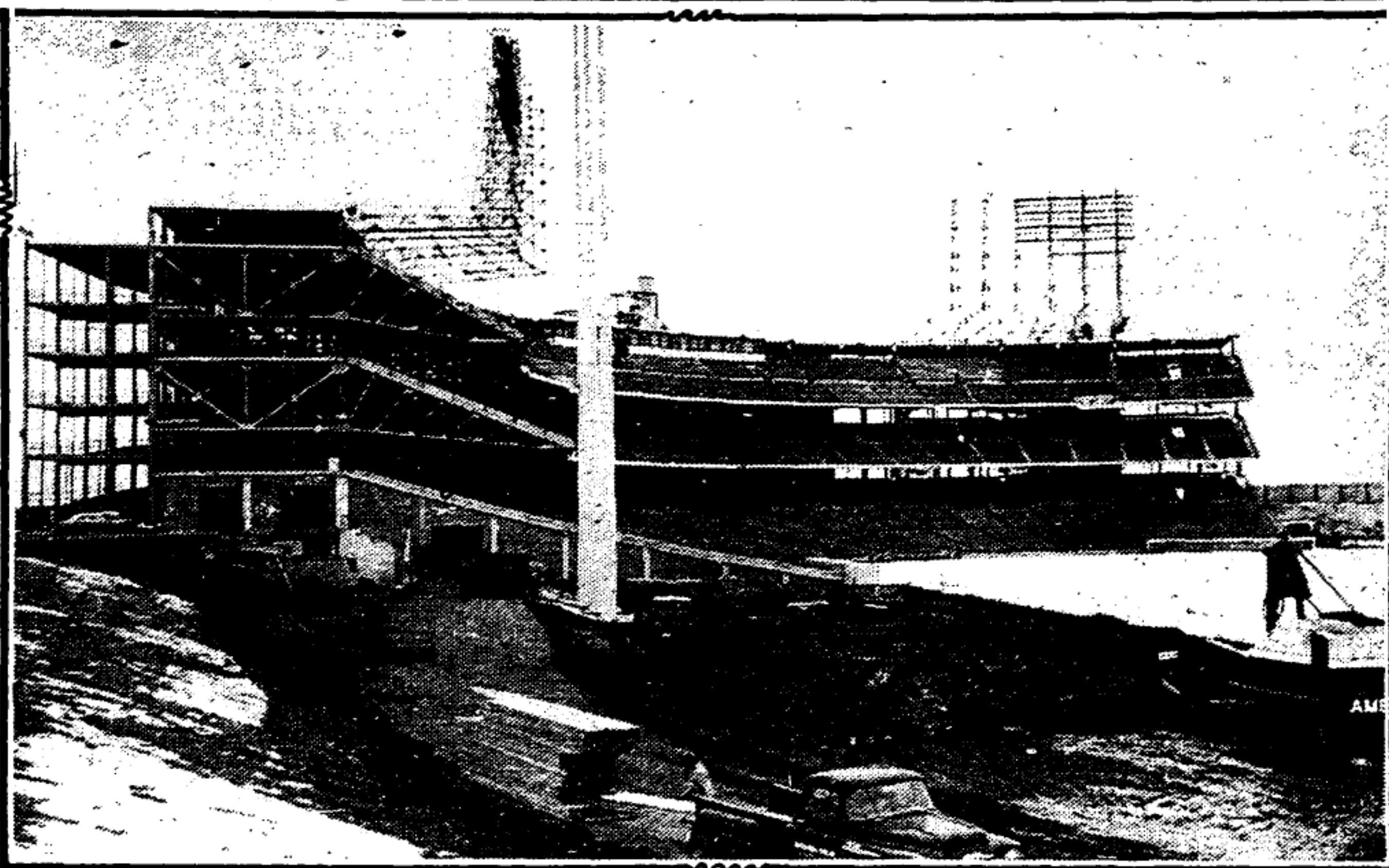
Kaat Clinching Starting Spot

In the outfield, speedy Len Green is beating off the challenges of Dan Dobbek and Rookie Lamar Jacobs in center, and Bob Allison is a fixture in right field. Elmer Valo, Dobbek and Pete Whisenant will be held in reserve.

The pitching staff is headed by Camilo Pascual, Pedro Ramos, Jack Kralick, Chuck Stobbs, Don Lee and Ray Moore. Moore will work in the bull pen.

Jim Kaat, 22-year-old southpaw up from Charleston, has virtually clinched a starting spot. Paul Giel, who pitched for the Giants and Pittsburgh in the National, has impressed in early games. Righthander Ted Sadowski earned a job with a neat

Getting Dolled Up for Big-Time Debut



THE MINNESOTA TWINS, preparing for the arrival of major league ball in the Upper Midwest next month, are expanding Metropolitan Stadium seating facilities to 31,000 with the addition of 10,000 seats. Among other innovations will be an elevator and an enlarged scoreboard.

Twins' Ticket Sale Booms; 200 Gees Within 48 Hours

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The **Minnesota Twins** did "about \$200,000 worth of business" in a 48-hour period between March 19 and 21, Ticket Manager Charlie Lavender reported.

Equipment for the Minneapolis and St. Paul downtown ticket offices, ordered in December, had not arrived, therefore the sale was opened only at Metropolitan Stadium. The Yankees, Orioles, White Sox and Red Sox, in that order, were the opponents drawing the most attention from the buyers, ticket clerks reported.

five-inning trick against the Dodgers.

On the border-line in Coach Ed Lopat's pitching stable are Righthander Fred Bruckbauer, Relief Righthander Lee Stange and Southpaw Tom McAvoy, Ralph Lument and Joel Kiger.

Twin Topics: Gerry Arrigo, 19-year-old rookie southpaw drafted from the White Sox organization, is back in uniform after missing two weeks with a chipped bone in his left ankle. He probably will be sent to the **Twins** minor league base at Fernandina Beach, Fla., for conditioning.

Cookie Lavagetto claims he has "a major league arm." Ed Lopat says he has the "best fast ball and curve of any rookie in camp."

Camilo Pascual has been troubled by shin splints and Pedro Ramos fell a week behind with tonsillitis. Dr. Bill Proffitt, the **Twins** team doctor, said Pedro will have to have his tonsils out next winter. Dr. Proffitt spent a week in camp giving all the players a cursory physical exam.

Harmon Killebrew has lost none of his power. He's hit two 450-foot-plus homers over the center field fence—one off Danny McDevitt of the Yankees and one off Don Drysdale of the Dodgers.

Hardest worker in camp, outside of Bob Allison, is Joe Lemon, seven-year-old son of outfielder Jim. . . . Ted Sadowski gave up on wearing glasses while pitching. "They bother me, steam up when I'm on the mound," he said. "I can pitch better without 'em."

Ted is a brother of Angel Catcher Ed and Card Pitcher Bob. . . . Jim Hock, rookie infielder, had two teeth pulled to alleviate a sore arm. . . . Pascual pitched three innings against the Cardinals with no apparent shoulder trouble. "Feel loose, arm okay," he reported. "Need more work on control and curve, that's all." Pascual is the "best bet in baseball to win 20 games when healthy," said Lavagetto. He's also the **Twins** best bet to pitch the opener in Yankee Stadium, April 11, ditto the home opener against Washington, April 21.

Elevators, Air-Conditioned Boxes in Twins' New Home

Metropolitan Stadium Being Enlarged to Seat 31,000;
'Automatic' Electric Tarp to Cover Field in One Minute

By DICK GORDON

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL, Minn.

While the **Minnesota Twins** are busy in Orlando, Fla., getting ready for Metropolitan Stadium's first season of major league ball, that battle site itself is also being primed for the big opening here, April 21.

Work is now under way on the temporary stands which will swell the park's capacity to 31,000 before the first ball is thrown. Construction has also begun on the plush air-conditioned box seats.

With the new 65-seat press box being moved to the middle deck, the old press-radio-TV quarters on the third deck have been transformed into the elite boxes.

There are seven of these, seating six persons to a box and the going rate per box is \$3,000.

Naturally, people who pick up that sort of a tab expect elevator service, and this is another innovation at the park which was built five years ago. So is the scoreboard, whose 135-foot width and 50-foot height make it twice as big as last year's minor league counterpart. This new one will have a spot for "messages" and for everything else the Chicago White Sox board-features. . . . except fireworks.

Right Field Fence Will Swing Up on Hinges

The capper is an electrically-controlled tarpaulin which improves and improves on Milwaukee's "out-of-the-ground" idea.

The **Twins** tarp will be housed behind the right field fence, which will be on hinges and swing up to let the electric covering "creep" out on the diamond.

They say the tarp will reach the infield in 60 seconds from the time the umpires' signal "rain," and that only about another minute will be required to fit it into proper position.

All of the improvements should be completed before the Washington Senators come to town to play the **Twins** next month. By then the parking lot will be graded, too, although it won't have the finished blacktop which will be another 1961 innovation. The parking space, incidentally, is being divided into areas representing the ten American League teams. These will be specified on every ticket and a flagpole in the center of each area, bearing the particular club's name and emblem, will show the patron just where his car should be parked.

Meanwhile, things are also picking up on the ticket front, with the season sales passing the 4,000 mark and a big rush on Sunday (March 19) when the single-game ticket sale opened at the Metropolitan Stadium box office in Bloomington.

Gardner Sees Hike in Home Victory Total

All this points toward a box-office bonanza. **Twins** Manager Cookie Lavagetto mentioned the possibility of "another Milwaukee" as soon as news of the club's transfer was announced.

More recently, Billy Gardner, who starred for the old Millers in the American Association and is now the **Twins** second sacker, got on the same subject. "Maybe some of you didn't know this," he said, "but at Washington last year we had the worst won-lost record at home of anyone in the league."

"I think our figures were 32 wins and 45 defeats for .416. But on the road we won 41 and lost 36 for .532 and finished third in this regard, right behind Baltimore and New York."

All of which prompts Gardner to predict that the more enthusiastic fan backing, as well as less strength-sapping heat of the Washington variety, will make the **Twins** much more of a "home" club than they were. So it's fitting that current construction indicates this new home will be ready for occupancy, April 21.