

Land 'o' Lakes Cal's Bread 'n' Butter

Twins' Boss Sees Gates Of 2 Million

By MAX NICHOLS

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

They say the first five years are the easiest when major league baseball moves into a city for the first time. That's supposed to be the "honeymoon" stage.

But Calvin Griffith, hosting the All-Star Game during his fifth year in Minnesota, figures the best part about the land of 10,000 lakes is that there are thousands of baseball fans in the future for each lake there.

"We're going to draw 2,000,000 yet," said Griffith. "We won't this year because the weather gave us such a bad start. Even if we win the pennant, we can't draw 2,000,000 now."

"But if we continue to field winning teams, the day will come when we'll draw that high. The economy in Minnesota is strong because it is so diversified. And people here are sports-minded."

"The long winters here actually work in our favor. When summer comes, people are going to spend their time outdoors—fishing, boating and going to ball games. We just have to compete for their time."

Heavy Talent Expenditure

Under Griffith's direction, the Twins spent \$1,500,000 to \$1,750,000 each of the last three years on player development to insure an American League team that will be able to compete with the many outdoor activities of Minnesota.

"That's as much money as we used to take in for all operations when we were in Washington," said Griffith. "We have spent \$4,500,000 on developing players the last three years. And our farm system is at its strongest."

In line with this thinking of the future, Calvin is educating his son, Clark Calvin Griffith II, for the day when he can continue the dynasty with strong guidance.

Calvin's ideas about the future of Minneapolis and St. Paul are based on surveys and research of the Metropolitan Planning Commission of the Twin Cities.

Here is the way a research specialist of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce interprets these surveys:

"The projection for the population of the Twin Cities (now about 1.5 million) is for an increase to 1.9 million by 1970 and 2.45 million by 1980. By the year 2000, they expect four million to live in this area."

Recessions Are Unlikely

"Industry is widely diversified, so that recessions are not likely to affect the whole area. Minneapolis Honeywell is the largest employer with 17,000 employees in the electronics field. Honeywell has defense work here, but also has its plants here for making consumer products (such as regulators for furnaces)."

"There are many electronics companies here, including Control Data. The milling and food products (such as General Mills, Pillsbury and Green Giant of Leseur, Minn.) are strong. The apparel industry (Munsingwear) is strong here, too."

Added to this, in Griffith's thinking, is the fact that labor is well organized in Minnesota and therefore well paid. And the working men have long been the backbone of baseball's support.

Griffith was well-trained by his late uncle, Clark (the Old Fox) Griffith, to lead this baseball organization. He patterns many of his living habits as well as his baseball



CALVIN AND CLARK GRIFFITH II . . . Two Generations in Diamond Dynasty

business methods after his uncle. And he feels the Old Fox would have been proud of his franchise move from Washington in 1961 to the Paul Bunyan country.

"My uncle always said you have to be a bit of a gambler to get anywhere," said Calvin. "I have thought it over many times from all angles. And I'm sure he would have approved of our move."

Johnson Planted Idea

"Charlie Johnson (executive sports editor of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune) first put the idea of moving into my head back in the 1950s when he used to come to Washington to talk to my uncle. We talked about it many times."

"I don't think the club ever would have been moved while my uncle was alive. He felt strongly about the nation's capital. But he would have approved of our thinking of the club's future."

Calvin has done just about every job there is in baseball. He never played in the majors, but he was a catcher in college and for a few games in the minors. The Twins are one of only three family organizations left in the American League. The others are the Red Sox' Tom

Griffith Boosts Boys' Clubs

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—Among Calvin Griffith's proudest awards have been admission to the Hall of Fame of George Washington University and being named Salesman of the Year by the Minnesota executives.

He also has received the Big Brother Award from the Boys' Club of Washington, D. C., for his work in helping boys' clubs. The Twins play a benefit baseball game for boys' baseball each year.

Yawkey and the A's Charlie Finley, who ties up the A's with his personal fortune represented by his insurance company.

The Griffith-Robertson family is the only one left which depends entirely on baseball for its livelihood. Because of this, Griffith is thankful he was trained so thoroughly, from batboy to field pilot, to traveling secretary, to G. M. to president.

On January 25, 1940, THE SPORTING NEWS carried a story by Francis Stann of the Washington Star that told in detail how Griffith met challenges as a field manager at Charlotte (Piedmont) in 1939.

Catcher Al Evans had suffered a broken finger and the Hornets were battling for the pennant.

"The president, treasurer and

manager of the Hornets had put his No. 2 catcher behind the bat," THE SPORTING NEWS reported. "He promptly suffered a broken thumb. On this night, the fingers of two more catchers were broken. In desperation, an infielder—Jimmy Carlin—was put behind the bat."

"The Hornet pitcher was Roberto Ortiz, Cuban rookie with a terrific fast ball. On the next foul tip, Carlin wrung his hand in pain. Something was broken. Catcher No. 5 was gone, and so probably were the pennant hopes."

"The president, treasurer and manager of the Hornets got up and met his latest casualty as he walked to the bench. He helped peel off his

Cal's Son Plans to Attend Minnesota U. Law School

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—Clark Griffith II, working in the farm department of the Twins this summer, intends to attend law school at the University of Minnesota after graduation from Dartmouth.

He is a graduate of Sidwell Friends High School in Washington and he has served two years in the Navy. He was stationed at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba during the 1963 crisis.

paraphernalia and then began to fasten the leg guards on his own shins and to pull on the chest protector and mask. And the announcer said:

"Griffith now catching for Charlotte."

"Calvin had not caught in six years, since he was manager at Chattanooga, and that had been in an emergency. He had been captain of the George Washington University team as a catcher."

"The first pitch from Ortiz struck his glove, skidded off and went all the way to the backstop on the fly. But he caught the next one and the rest of the pitches while hitting safely twice. He caught until Evans was well enough to return."

Cal Kayoed the Jinx

"I did it because if anything happened to my hands, it wouldn't have made any difference," Calvin said later. "If I was to be the sixth victim, it wouldn't be any blow and I might have been the fellow to stop it."

"All I was trying to do was put the pressure on the jinx," the account related.

Calvin was one of seven children of James Robertson, brother of Mrs. Clark Griffith. After James Robertson died, Clark Griffith sent for the wife and children. One brother, Bruce, had died.

Clark legally adopted Calvin and one sister, Thelma. Others were Mildred (wife of American League President Joe Cronin), Sherrard (Sherry), James and William.

Thelma, now vice-president and assistant treasurer of the Twins, is the wife of Joe Haynes, executive vice-president. Sherry is farm director. Jimmy is director of concessions and Billy is director of Metropolitan Stadium operations.

Calvin started as the Washington batboy in 1923. When he was a junior at Staunton University, he became traveling secretary and treasurer of the Chattanooga farm.

\$250-a-Month Prexy

"When I became president and manager at Chattanooga in 1937, I was making \$250 a month," said Griffith. "And when I was president, treasurer and manager at Charlotte, I was making \$500."

But Calvin learned things in those years he was never to forget.

"I learned the ways of ball players," said Calvin. "I learned how they feel about things and what their problems are. Those were important years for me."

"I loved managing. I always wanted to be a big league manager. But my uncle advised me against it. He said there was no security there, that I would do better in the front office."

"I have never considered going back to the field as manager since I took over the club. There are too many things to running a club these days. I think Connie Mack must have been the only man who was ever complete owner and manager at the same time."

In 1942, Calvin returned to Washington to begin his graduate training with the Senators. He operated

(Continued on Page 20, Column 4)