

June 8, 1962

Mr. Milton Berle
151 El Camino
Beverly Hills, Calif.

Dear Milton:

There is so much that you write in your letter that I know in my heart is true that I can only give you and Ruth my personal apology.

Let's face it, we opened a new park which was not completed with elevators that were not running properly, with a traffic program that left much to be desired, and with an entirely green staffing crew. We have seen progress on some of the problems each week but there are others that continue to plague us. For example, if we had 40 instead of 2 elevators we could not possibly handle the general public. This is the only ball park in the country with 2 elevators and they were originally designed to accommodate the press, staff, players and club and dugout people. In the meantime the public went on a sightseeing binge to see the stadium that they voted for. They felt they had a proprietary interest inspecting every nook and cranny and our procedures broke down in such overwhelming demands. We are still waiting for the inside and outside indicators on the elevators, the fans are now installed but not working, and the telephones.

What to do about all this? First, we have plans to raise the dugout seats about six inches next season, they were never intended to be on the same elevation as the field boxes because they were supposed to be something quite special. Next season the dugout fans will park in the inside lot at the end of the



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stadium and walk down a flight of stairs, and it is not any more than we have in the Hollywood Turf Club. This will keep them out of the nightmare elevator mess, and will provide for easier entry and exist from the stadium. Next, the ushers and usherettes are undergoing a series of lessons in courteous common sense and discretion. You will note that we have finally enclosed the parking lots with posts and this has kept people jumping the curbs with their cars which resulted in a horrible traffic snarl. They are constructing at the present time an added facility to the Stadium Club which will give 400 more seats but this will be slow work as it must be done between times when games are being played. This ball park is like the old boarding house where the sheets never get cold but were always dirty.

There is one point in your letter about which I had another complaint from ammutual friend of ours, but here we do face a problem. Unlike the Coliseum where all my friends could gather in my box behind home plate and chat with the players in the runway, this is a regulation park and whether you and I understand the rule or not it is a strict baseball rule that players are not supposed to talk to the spectators before, during or after a game. This rule is frequently violated and we make no attempt to have it enforced because we do not have the gambling here that bothered ball clubs in some other cities. Once the umpires take charge of the game they will report to the league president that spectators in this park are going to the ends of the dugouts to chat with the players. As a result the usherettes were cautioned to ask the people to remain in their seats. I am sure from your letter that this was not intelligently nor politely handled, for which I am sorry.

Milton, as you know, we value the friendship of you and Ruth and this is a time in our break in period when we will ask our friends to put up with some things until we can actually get around to correcting all the faults and killing all the bugs (and I don't mean moths).

One final practical thought, would you like to have your parking lot switched to the end of the stadium and experiment on walking along to your lefel and then taking the stairs down.

Sincerely,

Walter F. O'Malley
President.

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