On This Date

<u>March 4, 1912</u>

Wielding a silver spade, Brooklyn Superbas owner Charles Ebbets wields a silver spade to break ground in Brooklyn for the team's new ballpark.

The \$650,000 stadium was to be called Washington Park after the team's field that was in use from 1898 to 1913, but at the time of the dedication the future structure is already being called Ebbets Park.

The new ballpark with a proposed 30,000-seat capacity, is being built on a barren, desolate stretch of wilderness, that lies in an area that is known as "Pigstown," "Goatville," "Tin Can Alley," and "Crow Hill."

Borough President Alfred E. Steers tells the audience that Ebbets paid an "immense" amount of money for the site and that eventually 15 different car



Borough President Alfred E. Steers (L) and Charles Ebbets (R) on new ballfield

site and that eventually 15 different car lines will converge on the site now only accessible by goat and cow trails.

A little after 1pm, when Ebbets drives the spade into the ground, a bystander quips "Dig up a couple of new players, Charlie."

Following the ground-breaking ceremony, Ebbets and some 50 of the invited guests adjourned to Frederick Winter's Consumers Park Brewery, where they toast to Ebbets health and the future success of the Brooklyn Baseball Club.

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