

RESUME OF INFORMAL MEETING TO  
DISCUSS DEDICATION OF STADIUM  
(Sid Scarbrough, Ernie Johnson, George  
Goodwin and Ann Drummond - 2/4/65)

In discussing the appropriate date to hold dedication ceremonies, it agreed that the first game to be played on April 9th, would not be the appropriate time. The reasons brought out included the fact that many areas of the stadium would not be completed, the landscaping would not be in, the weather is apt to be inclement, and the operation of the stadium itself would not have reached the point of refinement desired for such an important occasion. It was the general concensus, however, that at the April 9th game the following brief ceremony would be appropriate.

Utilizing a member of the Braves staff as master of ceremonies, a local high school band (Murphy High was suggested) could be used to play the National anthem, a Boy Scout color guard to present colors, the highest ranking clergy to give a brief invocation, and Mayor Allen to throw out the first ball. If two people could be utilized for "the first ball bit", The Chairman of the Fulton County Commissioners should share the honors with the Mayor.

Since the important exhibition game between the Braves and White Sox is scheduled for June 14, and since this is also Flag Day, the middle of the summer and approximately two and a half months of operating the stadium, it was our feeling, with the Mayor's enthusiastic concurrence, that this would be the best date to dedicate the stadium.

In discussing the format of the ceremony, the following suggestions were made. First, that no more than 45 minutes be allowed . . . that Arthur Montgomery serve as Master of Ceremonies. . . secure the Third Army Band, and the Marine

Corps color guard, invite Matewilda Dobbs (a native Atlantian with the Metropolitan Opera) to sing the National Anthem; invite Dr. Billy Graham to deliver the invocation and invite Senators Russell and Talmadge, our Georgia Congressmen State and local officials to attend. It was felt that only persons asked to speak (less than one minute each) would be the Governor, and the two Senators. Mayor Allen specifically requested the honor of throwing out the ball.

Adopting the June 14th date as the Dedication would permit time to prepare an outstanding souvenir program, and explore the possibility of securing several sponsoring Atlanta firms who would buy large blocks of tickets for special guests and their company associates.

If this suggestion is pleasing to the Stadium Authority Dedication Committee, it would be extremely important to get an early commitment from Dr. Graham and Miss Dobbs.