

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Prior to this new edition of *Changing Pitches*, it had been almost 20 years since I'd last read the book. Though my words came flooding back to me each time I turned a page, I found to my dismay that I no longer recognized the world in which the story was set. So for those readers who weren't around in 1984, allow me to clarify a few points in order to assure you that you haven't picked up a work of science fiction by mistake.

1. Baseball players actually made reasonable salaries without the need for three commas. They also generally liked what they were doing.
2. Most baseball games were played in arenas with evocative names like Candlestick, Riverfront, Memorial, Three Rivers, Veteran, and The Big "A." There was no such thing as a stadium named after a corporation, such as Safeco Field or Porta Potty Park.
3. When you bought tickets to see a game, there were no convenience fees, handling charges, facility fees, processing fees, or putting-them-in-an-envelope fees. If the ticket said "\$3.50," that's what you paid.
4. Any ball club that attempted to invent a "premium seat" for \$1,000 would have been run out of town by sunset.
5. Except for Dodger rooters—who never quite learned how to show up before the third inning or stay beyond the sixth—fans *loved* going to baseball games. They even managed to access nine-inning attention spans that didn't require electronic diversions every 3½ minutes or trips to the mini-shopping malls and restaurants that ballparks hadn't yet institutionalized in order to create as many spending opportunities as possible.
6. When a player broke a long-standing record, the first thing you searched for were words of praise on his accomplishments—not track marks on his arms.

You could look it up.

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