

## LONG GONE REMINDER



**IN THE REVERED TRADITION OF NEIGHBORHOOD BALLPARKS, PITTSBURGH'S FORBES FIELD WAS ONE OF THE GREATS.** Built in 1909, it was among the first made of concrete and steel, signaling the end of the old wooden stadiums. In a city known for its work ethic, Forbes Field bespoke a serious approach to leisure. The exterior was elaborate, the outfield vast. A review of the time stated, "For architectural beauty, imposing size, solid construction, and public comfort and convenience, it has not its superior in the world." **THE STADIUM WAS HOME TO THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES FROM 1909 TO 1970.** In the summer of 1921, it was the site of the first radio broadcast of a major league game. It was here that Babe Ruth hit his final home run. In later decades, a new generation of fans thrilled to the heroics of Roberto Clemente and his mates; Forbes was the scene of one of the game's immortal moments, when the Pirates' Bill Mazeroski hit a home run to win the thrilling 1960 World Series in game seven against the hated Yankees. The University of Pittsburgh's towering Cathedral of Learning served as an observation deck for fans on the outside (pictured). **AT THE DAWN OF THE 1970S, SEISMIC CHANGES IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY WERE UNDERWAY,** and Pittsburgh faced an uncertain future. Almost as a ritual goodbye to the past, Forbes Field was demolished, replaced with a high tech arena with Astroturf at the confluence of the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers. Three Rivers Stadium was part of the multi-purpose megastadium wave of the 1970s. **LIKE FORBES, THESE GIANTS WERE EVENTUALLY CONSIDERED OBSOLETE,** most demolished for parks trying to recapture the character of the old fields. As a reminder of a time long gone, parts of Forbes Field have been preserved. The flagpole, home plate, and parts of the ivy-covered outfield walls remain on what is now the University of Pittsburgh campus.