



No. 129 Alan Stein

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Alan Stein, president of the Omaha Storm Chasers baseball team (formerly the Omaha Royals), displayed his customary smile and sunny disposition during the needling that preceded the unveiling of his caricature. And Stein had much to smile about: a new ballpark, record-setting attendance and a league-leading team featuring some of Kansas City's top prospects. Tom Becka, KFAB talk-show host and baseball fan, pointed to Stein as "a trend-setter, one of the first to leave Omaha to get away from (Mayor) Jim Suttle's taxes." (When the City of Omaha made its decision to abandon Rosenblatt Stadium and build a new downtown ballpark for the College World Series, Stein's team found a new home and a new name in suburban Sarpy County.) That new home, Werner Park, boasts a wide variety of concessions. In fact, said Becka, "it's not really a baseball park. It's more like a food court with bats." In artist Jim Horan's drawing for the Face on the Barroom Floor, Stein is definitely the center of attention, ready to hit a home run out of Werner Park. He's wearing a Storm Chasers cap and cufflinks engraved with a "K" for Kentucky. Surrounding him are the ballpark and all its attractions, including a bullpen with real bulls. Stein praised the city that has been a second home since he arrived in 2005. He said he once asked members of his family about their favorite places to visit. Paris, the Greek Isles and the Holy Land were mentioned. Then Alan's son Scooter capped it all with: "Omaha, the best baseball town in America!"