

## MINNESOTA BALLPARK'S LIMESTONE COMING FROM MANKATO



Vetter Stone in Mankato, Minnesota

**Mankato, Minnesota (November 27, 2007)** – Crews building Minnesota’s Ballpark are utilizing many of our state’s homegrown materials and natural resources. Vetter Stone of Mankato will supply the indigenous limestone that will adorn the façade of the new ballpark, set to open in 2010 in downtown Minneapolis.

Twins Sports, Inc. President Jerry Bell said Vetter has been awarded the contract and will provide 100,000 square feet of Minnesota limestone - or about 100 truckloads - for the ballpark’s exterior. Bell made the announcement while standing at the base of the company’s massive quarry.

“One of our goals with the new ballpark was to feature an environmentally friendly design that incorporates conservation, sustainability and energy efficiency,” Minnesota Ballpark Authority Chairman Steve Cramer said. “We’re excited to capture the



Twins Sports, Inc. President Jerry Bell watches ballpark limestone being cut essence and beauty of our state’s natural resources with these incredible limestone walls, which help connect the state at large with this great civic landmark.”

The limestone will be cut into 4-inch-thick panels and the sections will be separated by “knothole” openings, according to Mortenson Construction.

“The natural limestone doesn’t just make a visual statement,” said Dan Mehls, construction executive with Mortenson Construction. “The stone is practical and by design will be laid in the ballpark’s façade walls with gaps, so fans can peek inside, allowing ‘knothole’ viewing of games while standing on the sidewalk outside the ballpark.”

Ron Vetter, president of Vetter Stone— now in its fourth generation — said the new ballpark is among the company’s largest construction projects. Minnesota stone is known



Ron Vetter, President - Vetter Stone

for its warm color, strength and durability and has been featured on monumental projects in the Twin Cities and throughout the world. Vetter Stone has also supplied materials in the building of PNC Park in Pittsburgh and Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix.

The new ballpark will also feature several rustic northern Minnesota landscaping elements, including pine trees as a centerfield backdrop. Whenever possible, the ballpark and surrounding areas will incorporate Minnesota-native flowers, trees and shrubs.

A company spokesman for Vetter said much of the stone will be affixed to pre-cast panels with shipments to the site scheduled to begin in March. Stonework on this part of the project could take up to one year. For four generations, the Vetter family has supervised the bulk of the stone production in Southern Minnesota.