

# Local Resident, Father of Tommy Hutton, Dies

by Steven Wagner

For the first time in years, the Dodgers will open the season without the familiar face of South Pasadena's George Hutton in the dugout box seats behind home plate.

The popular Dodger Stadium usher, the father of former Dodger Tommy Hutton, died recently in a West Palm Beach, Fla., hospital, family members said. He had remained in a partial coma since a car struck him shortly before Christmas.

The accident occurred Dec. 19 while Hutton, who was 77, was visiting son Tommy - who is now a broadcaster for the Toronto Blue Jays - in West Palm Beach.

According to the Dodgers, Hutton joined the organization as an usher in 1975. Over the years he worked hard to earn a spot in the exclusive dugout box seats, becoming a familiar figure to fans.

"It's one of the few jobs where you can work your way down," said Tommy Hutton, 1964 All-San Gabriel Valley Co-Most Valuable Player for South Pasadena High. "He started in the reserve (upper deck) seats and worked his way down to the ground level."

Co-workers described Hutton as one of the team's most popular employees. Bob Smith, vice president of stadium operations, said the Dodgers placed Hutton in strategic locations at the ballpark because of his uncompromising friendliness.

Tommy Hutton, who played first base for the Dodgers in 1966 and 1969 before he was traded to the Phillies, said he and his father had driven into West Palm

Beach shortly before the accident. While Tommy attended to some business, his father decided to take a walk.

As he crossed a street, an oncoming vehicle stopped for him. A second car in the adjacent lane honked at Hutton before continuing past the first car, striking him.

While hospitalized, the retired railroad supervisor received several visits from close friend and manager Tommy Lasorda. The most recent visit was three days before his death.

Last year, the elder Hutton told a reporter that he loved spending his retirement years working as an usher for the Dodgers. The job, he said, "gives me a reason to get up in the morning."