

Published November 27, 2007 02:33 am - Vetter Stone has been awarded the contract to finish the Twins stadium's exterior walls with limestone from the company's Mankato quarry.

## **Vetter Stone to outfit Twins ballpark exterior**

Mankato company awarded contract for limestone facade

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The Free Press

MANKATO —

Fans strolling up to the new Minnesota Twins ballpark in 2010 will be greeted by a facade that's thoroughly Minnesotan, by way of Mankato.

Vetter Stone has been awarded the contract to swath the stadium's exterior walls with limestone from the company's Mankato quarry.

Vetter President Ron Vetter said the Twins project will be among the third-generation family enterprise's largest endeavors.

The Twins ballpark exterior will utilize 100,000 square feet of stone cut into 4-inch-thick panels — 100 truckloads in all.

By baseball-stadium comparison, 27 truckloads of Vetter stone were required in the construction several years ago of PNC Park in Pittsburgh, and seven truckloads were used in the building of Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix.

Vetter limestone is also prominent in many other buildings, ranging from the Wells Fargo Tower in downtown Minneapolis to the Mankato post office.

Vetter said it's gratifying to have his company's product associated with such a high-profile edifice that will house a sport steeped in tradition.

"A ballpark is an emotional place for people," he said. "And this is a Minnesota-owned ballpark. There's so much Minnesota in it."

In addition to the state's indigenous limestone, the ballpark also will feature other Minnesota touches, including pine trees as a centerfield backdrop and turf grown in state.

And by design, people will get up close and personal with the limestone walls because gaps will be built into the exterior, allowing "knothole" viewing of games from outside the stadium.

Vetter said much of the stone will be affixed to pre-cast panels with shipments to Minneapolis starting in March.

He said work on the project will take about a year.