



Four generations of Wanderers fans: James, Richard and Ken Endsor by the grave of Dick Lee

FOOTBALL TURF PUT ON GRAMPS' GRAVE

By **ANDREW CHATFIELD**

WHEN football fan Richard Endsor dug up a piece of the sacred turf of Loakes Park after last week's final game there, he took it somewhere more sacred — his grandfather's grave.

It was a gesture of gratitude to his "Gramps" Dick Lee, a great Wycombe Wanderers fan who used to take him to matches as a child.

Dozens of fans rushed on to dig up pieces of the pitch when the final whistle blew at the end of the all-star fare-

well match at the 95-year-old ground last Monday.

Many were digging just to take a turf home for their gardens. But the Endsor family already had other ideas.

"I have been going to Loakes Park for over 30 years. My grandfather used to take me in the 1950s," said Mr Endsor, 45, of Totteridge Drive, High Wycombe.

"When we knew it was their last game, we supposed it might be possible to take some of the

pitch and we said: 'Oh, Gramps would love to have a piece of that pitch on his grave'."

An announcement at half-time invited the fans to help themselves at the end of the match.

Mr Endsor was helped by his father Ken Endsor, 68, and his 13-year-old son James to prize up a few chunks of earth and grass from the centre of the pitch.

"We drove straight from the game to the cemetery and put some of Loakes Park on to Gramps' grave." Old gramps

would have liked it, you know."

Dick Lee was born in High Wycombe in 1887 and died in 1973. He lived for many years in Bridge Street, High Wycombe.

"We used to meet there before home matches on Saturdays and walk up to the ground from there," recalled Mr Endsor.

The family will miss the old stadium with all its memories, but is confident about the Wanderers' future, he said.

"As a part of our weekend outings we often drive up to the new ground and it looks superb. It deserves much better than the Vauxhall Conference," concluded Mr Endsor.