

# Booty, Babe and Beauty Bloom in Bailey Fairy Tale

## 'Hubby Never Had Failure,' Beams Karen

Wife's Phone Calls Helped Bob Snap Swatting Slump at Columbus Last Season

By LES BIEDERMAN  
PITTSBURGH, Pa.

Karen Bailey is a beauty. Since she's married to Bob Bailey, the Pirate rookie third baseman who is reputedly the highest-priced bonus player in history, that would make Karen Bailey a bonus beauty. And she certainly is.

This story is 25 per cent Bob Bailey and 75 per cent Karen Bailey, wife of the bonus rookie and mother of their three-month-old daughter, Caroline Jo.

So far life hasn't been too much of a struggle for the Baileys. Things have worked out rather well for the young couple. They have love and affection, money and a child. Bob has a good paying job and all three Baileys are in robust health.

However, if a crisis developed, these two people would solve it quickly. Although Bob is just 20 and Karen only 19, both are older than their years. They look older, talk with a mature mind, act like older people and think like older people.

"I have so much confidence in him," Karen Bailey proudly said with a long sigh of adulation and adoration. "We've known each other for years and years, about a third of our lives. I knew him when I was 12 and we started going together when I was 14 and he was 15. We were married when I was 18 and he was 19.

### Confident Even at .220 Mark

"I guess the reason I have so much confidence in Bob is that he doesn't know the meaning of the word fail. He received a great deal of publicity when he signed with the Pirates and then he went to Asheville, N. C., as an 18-year-old boy.

"I knew it was a big step for him and it was his first time away from home. But neither of us ever wavered for a moment. Not even when he couldn't seem to hit. He batted .220, but both of us knew things would work out."

Things did work out for Bailey, but they took time. In the meantime, Bob and Karen were married, November 18, 1961, and he was to start phase No. 2 of his career in the spring training camp of the Pirates in February of 1962.

"I certainly had false ideas of my

### Even Bob Isn't Quite Sure How Large His Bonus Was

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Bob Bailey has always set his sights high. Maybe that's the reason he was able to command what is generally regarded as the biggest bonus in history: anywhere from \$150,000 to \$200,000. However, even Bailey admits his bonus dealings have so many ramifications it's difficult to put a price tag on the size of it.

But Bailey's ambition is eventually to go into the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown.

"This may sound strange coming from a young man who has played less than 15 big league games, but I always aim high," Bob said. BIEDERMAN.



KAREN BAILEY will never sing "Bob Bailey, Won't You Please Come Home?" The Pirate bonus baby's life is built around his wife and infant daughter, Caroline Jo. At left, Bob



bids his wife and daughter good-bye as he heads for the ball park. At right, on his return home he picks up Caroline Jo and gives her the full treatment from a doting father.

ability after that half-season at Asheville," Bob laughed. "Do you know people were telling me in high school how good I was and I believed them. I shouldn't have done that.

"I was so puffed up with my own importance, I figured I'd be in the majors within a half year after I graduated from high school. But after the way I struggled at Asheville, I began to have doubts I'd ever make it to the majors. At least I knew it was not going to be easy.

"The Arizona Instructional League helped me a great deal that fall and the work I did there changed my outlook completely. Then I set a new target date for the majors: 1965. I figured I had much to learn, but I had a long time in which to learn it."

### Slow Start Meant Fast Finish

Karen feels she had a great deal to do with Bob's sudden rise at Columbus last summer. He started slowly with the Jets of the International League and then finished in such a flurry he carried everybody on his bandwagon.

"When Bob didn't start hitting at Columbus, we weren't worried, but we were concerned," Karen said. "I knew he'd come through and I kept telling him he would.

"There was one incident I remember well. I usually wrote Bob every day. He doesn't like to write letters, so he'd phone me when he got into a new city or if he had a good game. However, if he failed to call me, I'd call him, knowing he may have had a bad night and needed a boost in morale.

"His batting average was going downhill at Columbus and I knew by the sound of his voice over the phone he needed encouragement. The day his average was at its lowest was the day my doctor told me I was going to have a baby.

"I phoned him that night and he started hitting like a demon. The news seemed to relax him."

The poise of the young couple is amazing.

"I always had great confidence in myself," Bob said with pride. "I

### 'I Was Just Lucky; I'd Have Signed for Nothing'—Bailey

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Bob Bailey calls himself a lucky kid—lucky the bonus was there and he was able to grab it.

"Baseball is my whole life and I never thought of anything else," the Pirate rookie said. "I played quarterback on the Wilson High School team at Long Beach, Calif., but baseball was in my blood. I would have signed for nothing. But I was fortunate to get a good bonus.

"I like pressure. I like to hit with the winning run on base."

never was afraid of baseball or of a challenge. I always felt I was ready for anything that came along."

Bailey has been bothered with a slight soreness in his left shoulder, the result of a checked swing early in spring training. The injury has slowed him down. He missed the camp games and the first ten exhibitions. It was apparent the ailment didn't give him complete freedom of movement at bat.

### She Likes to Build His Ego

"Oh, certainly, I was worried about his shoulder," Karen said laughing. "I knew it gave him pain, but I tried not to let him know I was concerned. I kept telling him it was going to be all right and he'd be a big star this year. I like to build up his ego, although this is difficult because he's anything but egotistical."

Up to now, the Baileys have built their life around Caroline Jo. At Columbus last summer, Karen saw Bob play every game at home. But this spring, Caroline Jo has kept Karen tied down.

"I like baseball and like to watch Bob play, but our days are built around our baby," the 19-year-old mother said. "Bob likes to eat at home and I like to cook. We always eat at home and Bob likes my pies, cakes and cookies."

When was the last time you heard of a 19-year-old mother baking pies, cakes and cookies for her family?

## Cactus Kids

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(Eastern) last season and had a 14-9 record. The San Francisco farmhand's earned-run average was a fine 2.88.

The Los Angeles Angels and the Houston Colts appear to be going with veteran pitchers this year. None of their rookies is ready.

The Indians have two eye-poppers in Floyd Weaver and Sonny Siebert. The former has a chance to become a starter this season.

The tall, righthanded Texan, who was 10-10 at Salt Lake City (Coast), pitched the final game of the season for the Indians and handcuffed the Angels. Unquestionably, he has a major league fast ball, curve and temperament.

### Siebert Slowed by Injury

Siebert was coming fast until he strained a muscle in his side during a recent exhibition game. This set him back.

Jack Warner of the Chicago Cubs is a 22-year-old righthander who impressed me as having the stomach and the control required of a good relief pitcher.

Phil Murdock pitched in a couple of B games I saw and threw shutout ball each time.

And now back to Perry, the best of a fine lot. He has one advantage over his closest competition, Morehead and Weaver. He pitched 43 innings of major league ball for the pennant-winning Giants and his experience shows. Had he pitched three more innings, he would have fallen out of the rookie category.

Now to the other rookies—the non-pitchers.

I hope I won't be accused of favoritism in saying the Indians, whom I cover, had the three best rookies in the West in Martinez, Davalillo and Max Alvis. I am trying to be completely objective.

As a matter of fact, my close view of the Indians could have been a handicap to their rookies, for they were under the microscope every single day and not every performance can be top grade. I rate Alvis behind Martinez and Davalillo because

### Freshman Gaylord Brother of Tribe Hurler Jim Perry

ON ROAD WITH INDIANS—Gaylord Perry, the San Francisco Giants' fine rookie pitcher, is the brother of Jim Perry, the Cleveland Indians' righthander.

When Gaylord was signed for \$85,000, Jim quipped, "He got the money but I got the arm."

he is less relaxed and the tightness shows in his fielding.

Choosing between Martinez and Davalillo is an almost impossible task, I find. Davalillo is the most exciting player to come into the majors since Willie Mays. The little fellow has the flare for the sensational and his exceptional speed makes each race with the ball a cops-and-robbers chase.

He also has a remarkable bat, dubbed a "seeing-eye" one, by his manager, Birdie Tebbetts, because of the way in which his hits seem to find the infield holes.

### Tony Has Poise of Vet

Martinez has no flash at all. He's so steady that it's difficult to realize he's a rookie. He's not as fast as Davalillo, but has better than average speed, excellent range and a strong arm. At bat, he's a team hitter, being able to put the ball behind the runner.

The Houston Colts have an outstanding rookie catcher in John Bateman. He is living up to the scouting reports on him. This big fellow, who won't be 21 until July, batted .280 at Modesto (California) last season, hitting 21 homers and knocking in 75 runs. He's agile, aggressive, has desire—and a good swing. Bateman is going to be a good major leaguer.

The Chicago Cubs have made history in the rookie department. Last year, Ken Hubbs was Rookie of the Year in the National League. The season before, another Cub, Billy Williams, won the honor. And, in 1960, their man Ron Santo came in second.

Their candidate this season is Nelson Mathews, who hit .368 at Wenatchee (Northwest) a year ago. He has demonstrated his power this spring and has an outside chance to break into the lineup in center.