

Sick Yanks Make Quick Pick-Up With Aid of Mick's Slick Stick

Mantle Hitting at .420 Clip,
Drives in 16 Runs in 17
Games Following Injury

By TIL FERDENZI
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Baseball is still a team game. But there are times when the team needs that something extra to function as a genuine pennant contender. The Yankees are a case in point.

During the absence of Mickey Mantle by injury for more than a month, the pin-striped gentry struggled along at a 15-15 pace. When Mickey got back into the lineup as a regular on June 22, the Yankees started to move. Going into an eight-game home stand on July 24, the Bombers were bombing away in first place, three and one-half games ahead of the second-place Angels.

It was obvious that the reason for the Yankees' surge to the top was the record they compiled once Mantle moved back into the batting order. Compared to their desultory record during the inactivity of their injured outfielder, the results on his return were somewhat startling. From June 22 to July 25, the Yankees won 22 and lost only nine.

Mick Rates MVP Label

All of which makes it fairly obvious that, as far as the Yankees are concerned, Mickey Mantle is the club's most valuable player. In truth, and at the danger of sounding a little provincial, the Most Valuable Player in the American League today is Mickey Charles Mantle. If the voting for the MVP prize were to take place now, you can bet the choice would be the Yankee center fielder.

The contributions of Mantle have been considerable. Taking only the tangibles into consideration, The Switcher has an imposing list of statistics alongside his name. Going into the Boston series on July 24, Mantle's previous 17 games had seen him bat at a .420 clip, hit seven home runs and account for 16 RBIs.

This productive pace hiked his batting average from .311 to .342. At no time in his career had he looked so imposing at the plate.

Standout With Glove, Too

Mantle's base-hit binge, and his sparkling play afield, proved to be a tonic for the world's champions. With Mantle performing in old-time style, the quality of performances prospered among the entire club.

Ralph Houk called Mantle's efforts "as good as he's ever made."

"Mickey's efforts have been terrific, as good as he's ever made," the Yankee manager said. "There is no question that he's playing as strong a game as he has ever played."

Elston Howard, a self-proclaimed

Bomber 'Mr. Big'



Mickey Mantle

Veeck Urges Scribes' Probe If Mick Fails to Land MVP

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Bill Veeck, the highly literate author of "Veeck as in Wreck" fame, has successfully made his way through life by taking a definite stand on issues.

It should, therefore, come as no surprise that the former baseball executive has definite ideas on the identity of the American League's hottest prospect for the Most Valuable Player Award.

"If Mickey Mantle doesn't get the MVP award this year—and get it unanimously—there should be an investigation of the writers who do the voting," said Veeck during a phone conversation from his home in Easton, Md.

disciple of the "Mantle-is-the-greatest" school, also hopped on the center fielder's band wagon.

"When Mickey's going good like he has, his actions kind of spill over on everybody," the veteran catcher said. "Just to know he's in the lineup, ready to swing with somebody on base, gives a ball team like ours the lift it needs."

"You know," the catcher added, "Mickey's value to any team even goes over what he does on the field. Everybody knows what a great amount of talent he has in all departments, but you don't ever hear too much about the other things."

Howard was asked to elaborate on "the other things."

"Well," he said, "he's the kind of player who has more determination and guts than you'll ever know. He's a great fighter on the field. He loves to win."

"Oh," the catcher added, "we all like to win. With the Yankees, you're expected to win. You play every game to win. There are no picnic days when you give yourself up and say, 'Oh, what the heck, we'll play an-

Flyhawk 'as Good as Ever,' Says Houk; Howard Cites 'Other Things' That Help

other one tomorrow.' Getting back to Mickey, he's got something inside him that makes him want to win 'em all.

"Pretty soon, you get that feeling from him. I can't describe it, but one of the greatest things that happened to this club was the day he came back to play in the starting lineup. You could feel the whole club pick up. He's important, very important. He does so good himself, it makes everybody want to follow his example. That's what makes him the leader. He doesn't pop off, he does things, and that's why he's the leader.

"Mickey is the No. 1 boy, and we all know it."

Mates Share Elston's Slant

Howard's flush of eloquence on the subject of Mantle would be repeated in every corner of the Yankee clubhouse were you to solicit opinions.

Everywhere but in Mantle's corner of the carpeted bower in Yankee Stadium, Mantle makes little of his daily battle with the inconveniences of a tender left knee and the chronic aches of his right knee.

"You know," he said, "you writers have always made too much of that stuff."

Going into the second All-Star edition in Chicago's Wrigley Field, Mantle was back in center field after a brief convalescent period in right field.

The Switcher was moved back to his old position on July 18 in Boston. The reason given by Houk was that the strangeness of right field was forcing Mantle to make plays from awkward positions.

"He just didn't seem to be at home in right, and I thought he was running a risk of re-injury because of that," the manager said. "We both decided that center field was better for him."

Since the shift, Mantle has played center field with no semblance that the job was too demanding. With his injured leg growing stronger with every game, Mantle was covering ground in center field at nearly top efficiency.

Hector Nabs Job in Left

Mantle's return to center field gave the Yankee outfield a look of permanence it hadn't had since Mickey's injury on May 18. Roger Maris was back in right field and Hector Lopez continued to cement his hold on the left field berth.

The Maris-Mantle-Lopez picket line was the big issue in forcing Yogi Berra to shed his fielder's glove for the more familiar tools of the trade that made him famous. Since Mantle returned to the lineup on June 22, Yogi's talent had been exclusively utilized behind the plate.

And with Lopez continuing to improve, John Blanchard's duties as an outfielder have been more limited than they've been in more than a year.

Mantle Will Be Hard-Pressed to Attain Minimum 502 ABs

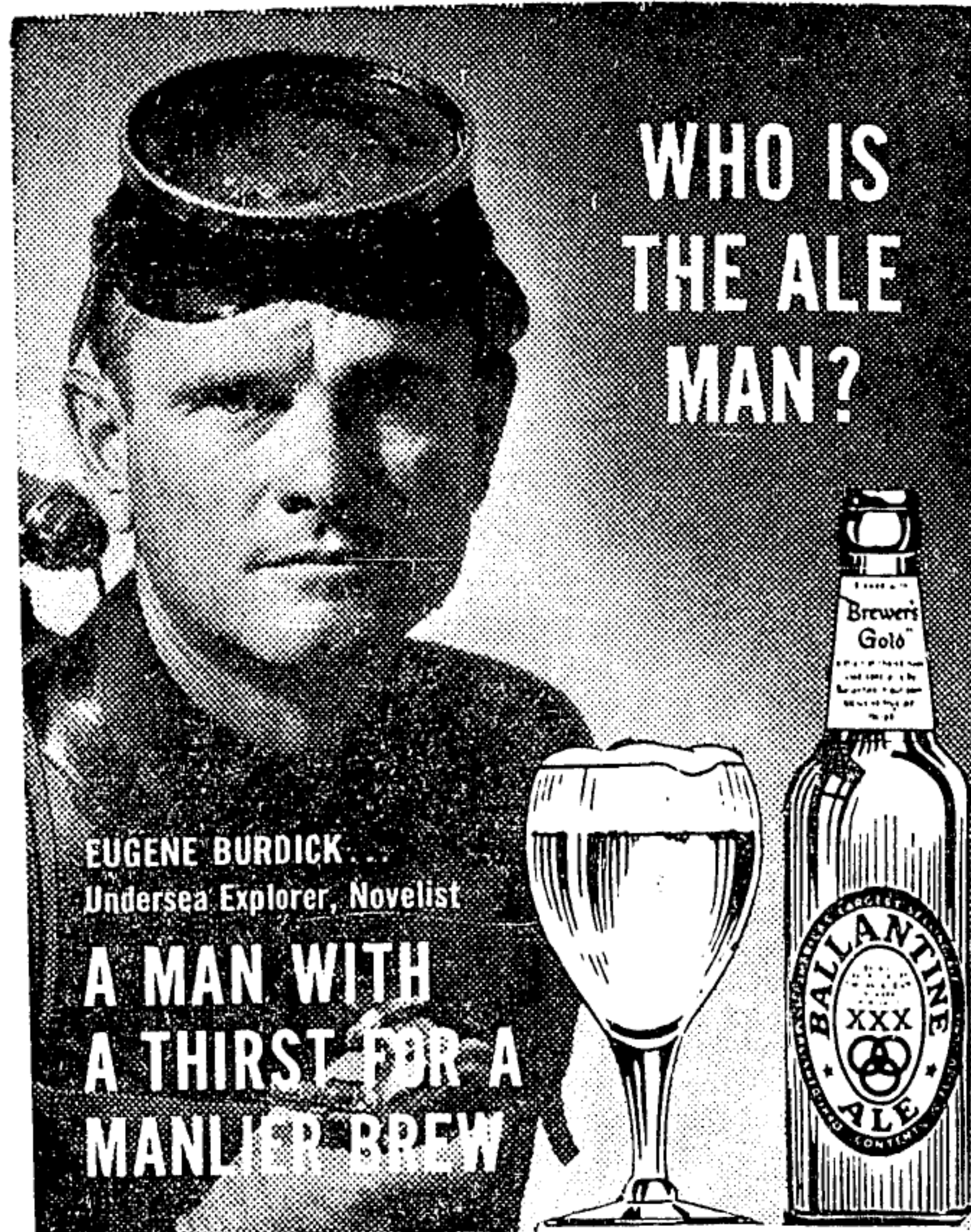
NEW YORK, N. Y.—Mickey Mantle is taking a wait-and-see attitude on his chances for the American League batting title.

Since a candidate must have a total of 502 appearances at bat to qualify, the Yankee center fielder must go to bat 241 times in the 70 games that were left to play going into the game of July 24 with the Red Sox.

At this point, Mickey was batting .342 and had been to bat officially 196 times. His 63 walks, plus one sacrifice fly and being hit by a pitched ball boosted his total appearances to 261.

Assuming the center fielder plays every game between July 25 and the end of the season, he will need an average of 3.4 appearances at bat in each game to qualify.

FERDENZI.



WHO IS
THE ALE
MAN?

EUGENE BURDICK
Undersea Explorer, Novelist

A MAN WITH
A THIRST FOR A
MANLY BREW

TRY BOLDER, KEENER, MORE TO THE POINT

BALLANTINE Ale

P. BALLANTINE & SONS, NEWARK, N. J.

Berra Named 14th Time to Star Squad

Yogi Listed by Pilot Houk as Picket for Junior Loop;
Robinson, Williams, Mathews, Mahaffey Join N. L. Crew

CHICAGO, Ill.

For the fourteenth straight year, Yogi Berra, the venerable Yankee, was selected to play in the All-Star Game.

Berra was picked by Manager Ralph Houk of the American League for duty in 1962's second contest, July 30, at Wrigley Field in Chicago. In most of Yogi's previous appearances, he was listed as a catcher. This time he went on the roster as a right fielder.

Both Houk and Fred Hutchinson, the National League pilot, made changes in their rosters for the second game. The first, played in Washington on July 10, was won by the Nationals, 3 to 1.

In addition to Berra, Houk added First Baseman Pete Runnels of the Red Sox and Pitchers Ken McBride of the Angels and Jim Kaat of the Twins. Milt Pappas, Oriole hurler, was picked officially for the contest. He was in the first game as a supplemental nominee.

Hutch added Outfielder Frank Robinson of his Reds and Billy Williams of the Cubs, Third Baseman Eddie Mathews of the Braves and Pitcher Art Mahaffey of the Phillies.

Some of the players who were on the first-game roster were dropped. The Red Sox' Bill Monbouquette, who has been getting his lumps in the past month, was omitted by Houk. Hutch dropped Bob Shaw of the Braves and Sandy Koufax of the Dodgers, who is out with an injured finger.

Both coaching staffs also were revised. The American Leaguers had Hank Bauer, Kansas City manager, and Bill Rigney, Angel pilot, assisting Houk. Hutch's new aids were Birdie Tebbetts, Milwaukee manager, and Harry Craft, the Colts' field boss. The complete rosters follow:

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Pitchers—Hank Aguirre and Jim Bunning, Detroit; Dick Donovan, Cleveland; Jim Kaat and Camilo Pascual, Minnesota; Ken McBride, Los Angeles; Milt Pappas, Baltimore; Dave Stenhouse, Washington; Ralph Terry, New York.

Catchers—Earl Battey, Minnesota; John Romano, Cleveland; Elston Howard, New York.

First Base—Jim Gentile, Baltimore; Norm Siebern, Kansas City; Pete Runnels, Boston.

Second Base—Billy Moran, Los Angeles; Bobby Richardson, New York.

Shortstop—Luis Aparicio, Chicago; Tom Tresh, New York.

Third Base—Dick Rollins, Minnesota; Brooks Robinson, Baltimore.

Left Field—Leon Wagner, Los Angeles; Rocky Colavito, Detroit.

Center Field—Mickey Mantle, New York; Jim Landis, Chicago.

Right Field—Roger Maris, New York; Lee Thomas, Los Angeles; Yogi Berra, New York.

Manager—Ralph Houk, New York.

Coaches—Hank Bauer, Kansas City; Bill Rigney, Los Angeles.

Batting Practice Pitchers—Jack Kralick, Minnesota; Spud Murray, New York.

Batting Practice Catcher—Jim Hegan, New York.

Trainer—Eddie Froelich, Chicago.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pitchers—Don Drysdale, Los Angeles; Dick Farrell, Houston; Bob Gibson, St. Louis; Art Mahaffey, Philadelphia; Juan Marichal, San Francisco; Bob Purkey, Cincinnati; Warren Spahn, Milwaukee.

Catchers—Del Crandall, Milwaukee; John Roseboro, Los Angeles.

First Base—Orlando Cepeda, San Francisco; Ernie Banks, Chicago.

Second Base—Bill Mazeroski, Pittsburgh; Frank Bolling, Milwaukee.

Shortstop—Dick Groat, Pittsburgh; Maury Wills, Los Angeles.

Third Base—Ken Boyer, St. Louis; Eddie Mathews, Milwaukee; Jim Davenport, San Francisco.

Left Field—Tommy Davis, Los Angeles; Felipe Alou, San Francisco; Billy Williams, Chicago.

Center Field—Willie Mays, San Francisco; Hank Aaron, Milwaukee; Richie Ashburn, New York.

Right Field—Roberto Clemente, Pittsburgh; Stan Musial, St. Louis; John Callison, Philadelphia; Frank Robinson, Cincinnati.

Manager—Fred Hutchinson, Cincinnati.

Coaches—Birdie Tebbetts, Milwaukee; Harry Craft, Houston.

Batting Practice Pitchers—Cot Deal, Houston; Dick Ellsworth, Chicago.

Batting Practice Catcher—Dick Bertell, Chicago.

Trainer—Al Scheuneman, Chicago.

Zany Braves

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

added, "Now we've seen just about everything this year."

He wasn't kidding, either. Earlier this season, Willie Davis of the Dodgers hit a "second chance" home run after Lew Burdette was caught pitching with his foot off the rubber; the Braves batted out of turn against the Cubs, and Frank Bolling lost a possible extra-base hit against the Reds when an eight-year-old boy in the bleachers caught the ball in his cap.

Third Base-Running Boo-Boo

As a matter of fact, one Brave has run past another on two previous occasions since the club moved to Milwaukee.

Joe Adcock was involved in both earlier episodes. Once he passed Andy Pafko, now a Braves' coach, between first and second when Cub Right Fielder Walt Moryn dropped his short fly. Another time, he lost a home run against the Pirates when he was declared out for passing Aaron.

Adcock's latter hit was the blow that beat Harvey Haddix in the thirteenth inning after the little lefty had pitched 12 perfect innings.

Yanks Drew 1,297,316 in First 44 Road Dates

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The turnstiles around the American League sing a merry tune every time the Yankees come to town.

In their first 44 dates on the road, the Yanks played to 1,297,316 customers, a gain of 250,322 for a comparable number of dates in 1961.

If this same pace continues, the Bombers will draw 2,231,145 in enemy bastions. This would be a major league record currently held by the Yankees. They established the mark last year when they attracted 1,946,679.

One of the reasons for the record, of course, was the expansion of the league from eight teams to ten. This gave the Yankees eight more games, four of which were on the road.

Yankee officials noted that a substantial part of the increase this year has come from Minneapolis-St. Paul and Los Angeles, the two newest members of the circuit. Both have been playing good ball, too, which helps.

Two-Way Slugger Fitted for Clipper's Shoes

Mickey Raps Homers From Either Side

Dickey, Henrich Schooling Kid Shortstop in Plan to Use Him in Center

By DAN DANIEL
PHOENIX, Ariz.

Mickey Mantle, the 19-year-old who hit .383 for Joplin in the Class C Western Association last season, and is not on Casey Stengel's roster, but who is expected to wind up on the Yankees, if not this year, then in '52, continues to be the talk of the world's champions.

There are many unusual features about this quiet, well-behaved and conceivably quite bewildered youngster from the lead-zinc mine country around Commerce, Okla.

Not the least interesting is the fact that he is a member of an almost extinct tribe—the switch-hitters.

With Joplin in 1950, Mantle hit 14 homers lefthanded and 12 from the third base side of the plate. It may be that somewhere in the record book of minor league achievement there is a counterpart of this odd feat. But, up to now, research experts have not been able to locate it. Usually a switch-hitter has his power from his basic, original stance.

Mantle explains that he is naturally a righthanded hitter. However, he looks slightly better while hitting lefthanded. That's still another oddity.

He's Clothes-Line Clouter

At this writing, Mantle had hit three homers for the Bombers. No. 3 came off the lefthanded Chet Johnson of the San Francisco Seals, and like his two previous wallops, left the park on a line. Mickey doesn't hit looping homers.

Mantle's first four-bagger, at Wrigley Field in Los Angeles, off the righthanded Bob Spicer, smashed into the center field wall some 430 feet from the plate.

Mickey's second out-of-the-park achievement signaled an 11 to 0 victory over Joe Gordon's Sacramento club. Mickey belted that one off Left-hander Harry Grubb.

Mantle is under the personal direction of Professor Thomas Henrich. But his most effusive booster is Bill Dickey.

"I was greatly impressed with Mickey in February, 1950, when we ran a school at Phoenix," Dickey told me.

"Mantle had had only one year of experience, with Independence in the K-O-M League, and had hit .313.

"But during 1950 at Joplin, Mantle grew greatly in baseball and in physical stature. He is stronger, and he drives a ball harder.

"I have heard of some half-formed plan to turn Mantle into a first baseman. If it were up to me, I would not do that. I would let him continue his work in the outfield. His amazing speed would be wasted at the bag."

Best Ever, Says Dickey

Asked if he had seen a switch-hitter so young and so effective, Dickey chuckled, "No. Never. But then, the turnabout feature of his batting is just a minor one."

Not so in the estimation of Casey Stengel. "I know how valuable an asset a player possesses if he is able to shift against righthanders and lefthanders," Stengel said.

"This is especially true today, in our era of specialists. You have outfielders and infielders and catchers who are used only against southpaws, or exclusively against righthanders.

"This, of course, is nothing new. Back in 1914, when George Stallings won the world's championship with the Miracle Braves, he had the two-platoon system in the outfield. Later John J. McGraw picked up the idea.

"With a power hitter of the switch type, you don't have to worry about the character of the opposition hurling."

When Mantle reported at Phoenix on February 19, he was there merely for instruction. He had been playing short, and Stengel had decided to convert him

'If He Can Make It, I'll Move to Right or Left'



TOMMY HENRICH IS COACHING MANTLE IN THE WAYS OF THE OUTFIELD...

"HE NEEDS A LITTLE TIME TO LEARN JUDGEMENT— BUT HE SHOULD PICK IT UP FAST"

MICKY IS A BASEBALL RARITY—A SWITCH HITTER WITH NATURAL POWER FROM BOTH SIDES... HE HIT 14 HOME RUNS LEFT-HANDED, 12 RIGHT-HANDED AT JOPLIN LAST SEASON — BATTING .383

JOE DIMAGGIO'S COMMENT
WHEN WE ASKED HIM WHO WOULD REPLACE HIM AFTER HE RETIRES NEXT YEAR...

"THERE'S ALWAYS SOME YOUNGSTER COMING UP—THEY'LL FIND SOMEBODY..."

— THAT "SOMEBODY" APPEARS TO BE 19 YR. OLD **MICKY MANTLE** THE SLUGGING CLASS C. SHORTSTOP CASEY STENDEL HOPES TO CONVERT TO THE YANKEE CENTER FIELD...

SAYS "CASE"— "IT'S A BIG RISK TO JUMP A KID FOUR CLASSIFICATIONS... BUT IF HE HAS WHAT IT TAKES I'LL TAKE THE GAMBLE"

WITH A TRIPLE AND A HOMER IN HIS FIRST EXHIBITION GAME HE GOT OFF TO A FLYING START...

Greatest Prospect Joe Can Remember

PHOENIX, Ariz.—"Mickey Mantle is the greatest prospect I can remember," declares Joe DiMaggio of his understudy. "Maybe he has to learn something about catching a fly ball, but that's all. He can do everything else." DiMag has shown no resentment over the ballyhoo Mantle has received. "If he's good enough to take my job, I can always move over to right or left," Joe added.

a turn-around batter has prompted investigations into the number of survivors of this breed in the major leagues, and its origin.

Just when a batter first switched is not set down in the annals of baseball. It would be interesting to trace the genesis of the sect. Undoubtedly, some batter found himself not hitting and decided to try the other side.

Mantle says he got into the habit

of switching when he was only ten years old. Even at that early date the family had professional baseball plans for the kid.

Mickey's dad and grandfather are old semi-pro pitchers. The granddad is lefthanded.

Batting against these fingers, Mantle adopted the practice of turning around.

It was just a natural, automatic reaction to a determination to get the best results.

In the major leagues, there are only four switch-hitters, pitchers excluded. They don't often count for much, anyway.

In the American League, the lone regular representative of the breed is Outfielder Dave Philley of the White Sox.

Switch batters among the hurlers include Hal Newhouser, Steve Gromek and Early Wynn. The last named with Cleveland, quite often is used as a pinch-hitter.

In the National League there are three outstanding turn-around batters—Red Schoendienst, Cardinal infielder,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4, COL. 3)

Relief Society for Old-Timers Needs Funds

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

the All-Star Game's net receipts to the society.

The Association is a charitable organization which takes care of aged, ill and indigent retired ball players.

The players of today, if they achieve major stature, gain retirement protection through an admirable pension system set up by Commissioner Albert B. Chandler.

The old-timers of a playing era in which big league stars seldom received as much as \$5,000 a season did not make enough to put away any appreciable nest egg. For them, there were no funds for annuities. Now some are in dire need, and the Association is there to help them, if it can.

The All-Star Game was played for the Association before the war. Then came a period in which war relief agencies cut in on the Association, and it was thrown pretty much on its own resources, which have been all too slender.

After the war, receipts from the All-Star Game began to go into the majors' pension fund.

With World's Series television sold for a million dollars per classic for the next six years and likely to bring even higher revenues thereafter, the pension fund no longer needs the All-Star gate. The receipts from the mid-summer classic would rescue the hard-pressed relief society.

Now Trying to Sell Ads

The Association is in such financial straits that it is trying to sell pages in its annual book for \$350 each. This appears to be in the nature of a last desperate gasp.

"The Association of Professional Ball Players of America requires from \$70,000 to \$20,000 a year to operate, even on the restrained system of help now in operation," Clark told me.

"When Judge Landis died, we had \$153,000 to our credit in the treasury of the commissioner. Now I would say that we have not more than \$35,000, and that includes the \$25,000 the majors voted us in December.

"The Pacific Coast League, in lieu of receipts from its now abandoned all-star game, is making an outright donation of \$2,500. A few other loops have earmarked modest sums for the organization.

"We are not kicking, we are very thankful to the big leagues, and the minors as well, for the help they have been giving us, but when I note that we got \$25,000 and the American Legion received \$50,000 for baseball promotion among youngsters, I have the feeling that we should get more assistance.

"I wish I could open our books to you and show you exactly who is being helped, and to what extent. However, our records are confidential. Doubtless you know quite a few old timers who rely on us for subsistence.

"Our dues are \$10 a year for major league players and are graded down to very modest sums for those in the various minor classifications.

"Each big league club now matches the sum turned in annually by its players for dues. Some 50 per cent of the minor league clubs do likewise. Why can't we get 100 per cent support on this in the minors? Why do 50 per cent of the clubs fail to recognize our need and appreciate the character of our work?"

"Not Making Pressure Campaign"

"Mind, we are not making a pressure campaign. We don't want that. Baseball is doing a lot for us, and we cannot be placed in the position of biting the hand that feeds us."

The writer broke in, "Win, it's our opinion that your Association must not be forced to come before the big leagues hat in hand, grovelling for something that belongs to you.

"The all-star game must be restored to the Association. The pension fund no longer needs that gate, and the time has come to recognize your prior rights."

Clark, who maintains the Association office in Los Angeles, is doing a terrific job despite handicaps.

Although confined to a wheel chair as the result of the amputation of a leg several years ago, plus the debilitating effects of diabetes, the 75-year-old executive (he'll turn 76 on April 11) is on the job every day. He personally investigates many of the petitions for aid, yet has the interest and zest to attend many athletic events and social gatherings.

Clark played from 1894 to 1911, both in the minors and majors and at every infield position. He was with Louis-

Hits 'Em Righthanded . . .



MICKEY MANTLE, Who Swings Right or Lefthanded, Hopes His Hitting May Force Yankees to Carry Him to The Stadium.

MANTLE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Pete Reiser of the Pirates and Swift Sam Jethroe, outfielder of the Braves. Among the pitchers, Russ Meyer and Bob Chesnes. If, as is rumored, Chesnes' arm is not responding to treatment, and he is forced to convert himself into a fielder, he will find the switch asset a valuable one.

If Mantle sticks with the Bombers, he will be a member of a very select and small group of switch batters on that club, going all the way back to 1903.

The most recent switch of any account was Mark Koenig, who played short on the famous 1926, 1927 and 1928 pennant winners.

Frisch One of Oddest

Frankie Frisch was one of the oddest switch-hitters I ever saw. In addition to hitting from either side of the plate, Frankie was that rarity of rarities, a cross-handed hitter. McGraw quickly got the Flash out of that category.

In 1928, when Leo Durocher reported to Miller Huggins of the Yankees at St. Petersburg, Fla., he looked like the worst batter seen in a major league camp in years.

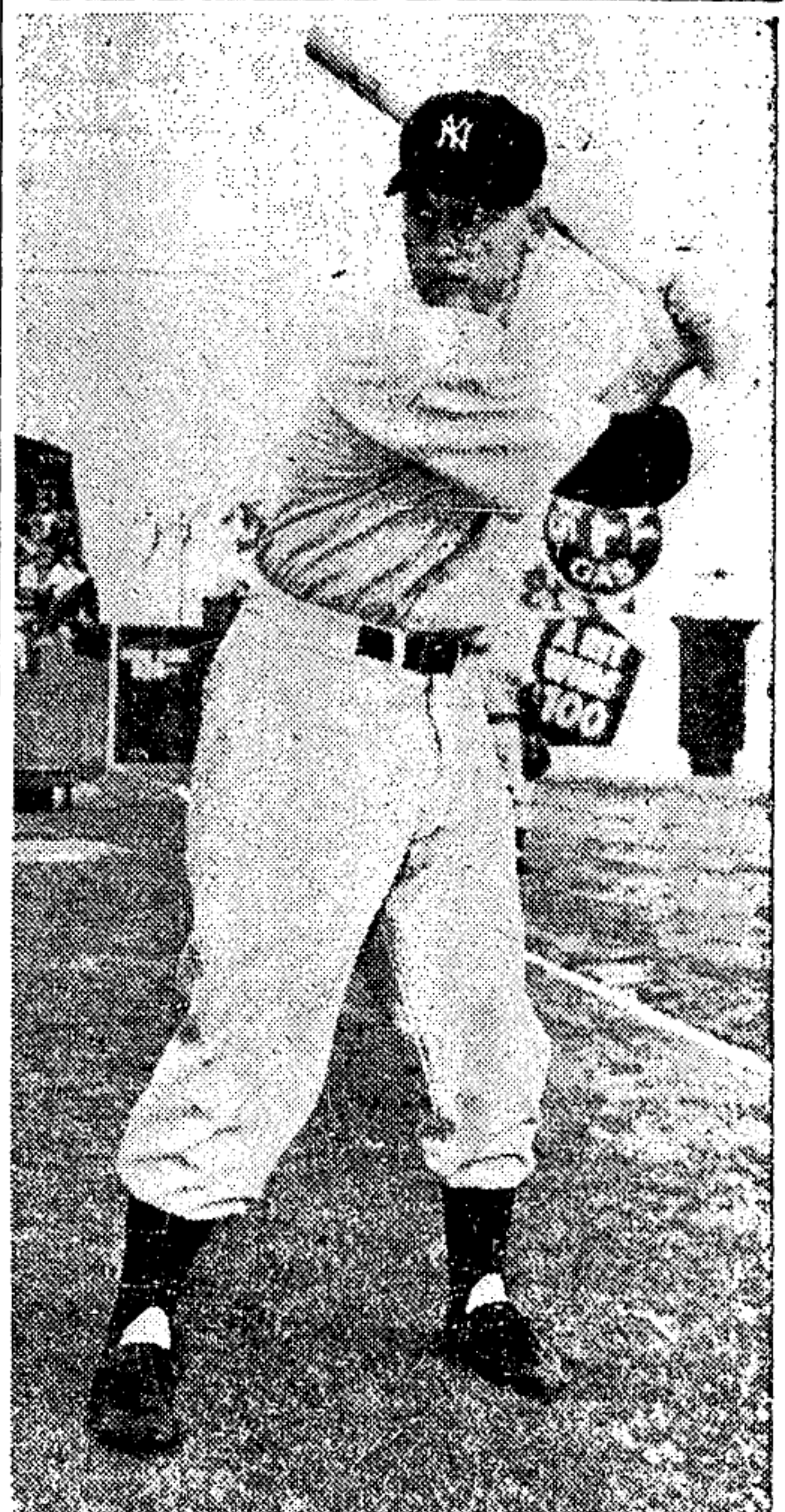
"Durocher, you never will make the grade batting righthanded," Huggins told him. "Your only chance is to hit lefthanded—or at least to become a switch hitter."

Durocher agreed, and for days, Hug and he worked on the lefthanded scheme. But it had to be abandoned.

Leo achieved a miracle in 1936, with the Cardinals, when he hit .286.

The saga of the switchers is dramatic. The very fact that they hit from either side is evidence of unusual determination and ambition.

The breed would gain handsomely if this 19-year-old kid with the Yankees were to jump right into its midst, and achieve the promotion from Class C to a world's championship club. This trick is without precedent in the history of the New York club.



Mickey Signed to K. C. Pact, But New York Will See Him

By DAN DANIEL

PHOENIX, Ariz.

A large advertising company has offered Mickey Mantle \$1,500 for an endorsement, which gives an idea of where Mickey stands in the Yankee picture—even though he was signed to a Kansas City contract, March 28.

That Kansas City pact does not mean that Mantle won't stay with the Yankees. He probably will be shown to New York fans in pre-season games with the Dodgers. Then he may stay or he will go out to the American Association farm club for more education as a center fielder under George Selkirk, ex-Bomber outfielder who will manage the Blues this season, after two years at Binghamton.

Mickey is being groomed as the eventual replacement of Joe DiMaggio and Casey Stengel must determine if the youngster would fare better this year as an occasional performer for the Yankees or an everyday player at Kansas City.

Mantle came here without a contract. On the Yanks' return from their California trip, he was signed to a Kansas City pact. After he signed, he denied a story printed in New York that he had been bickering about salary. He is happy and content and he believes that when he wins a job with the Yankees, General Manager George Weiss of the Bombers will do the right thing by him and make up for the fact that when Tom Greenwade signed Mickey for the New York organization, he gave the boy only \$1,000.

Meanwhile, the young man from Commerce, Okla., has been getting the headlines by his sensational hitting in the Yankees' exhibition games.

Not the least interesting feature of the Mantle situation is his 4-F draft rating.

Mantle is troubled with infection and inflammation in the left leg, just above the ankle. This is a chronic condition and draft doctors turn down young men suffering from it. The inflammation could stay as it is, or could flare up into something more drastic at a moment's notice.

They say that if you watch Mantle closely as he

walks, you will note a limp. When he runs, no such handicap is apparent. He will outfoot any other Yankee, with no trouble.

The bad leg is the result of a football injury.

In San Francisco, Stengel was quoted as having said that "the baseball writers have blown up this Mantle so much that I have to take him into New York."

The scribes certainly have "blown up" the young man from Oklahoma, but they had not been aware that this "blowing up" could influence a decision on Mickey.

Asked to explain the quote, Stengel replied, "I never said it. I am not letting the newspapers run the club, and I know the writers have no desire to do so.

"I am no less enthusiastic over Mantle than any of the writers covering the Yankees.

A 'Once-in-a-Lifetime' Rookie

"The kid is the kind of player a manager runs into about once in his career, if he is lucky," said Casey.

"To jump from Joplin, Class C, all the way to the majors would be a tremendous feat for Mickey. He may be able to do it.

"We have got to be very careful with Mantle. Not that he is the kind of boy whose head would be turned by success. You have seen him around, and you know that. He is quiet and shy.

"However, the kid is just about that—a kid. And we should not place on his shoulders responsibilities which he could not carry."

Says George Weiss, "Mantle is a rarity. However, he has much to learn in his conversion from a short-stop into an outfielder.

"I have been told that we should follow, with Mantle, the system John J. McGraw used with Mel Ott. Twenty-five years ago, when Ott, at 16, reported at the Polo Grounds, we did not have farm systems. Now we have great facilities for the development of young players."

That's how things stood as the Yankees, back at their Phoenix base, looked to their junket into New York.

ville, then a member of the National League, in 1897 when Honus Wagner came up. They were roommates that season.

Clark joined the Association the year it was formed—1924—and has been secretary since 1938.

In regard to the solicitation of ads for the Association's booklet, Clark said:

"There seems to be some misunderstanding that we are going around soliciting money for the Association. That is not true. Our directors voted to take ads for the booklet just to cover the costs, so that the money could be used where it is so badly needed, among our needy. But we will ac-

cept ads only from very reputable concerns—sporting goods houses, publications and the like.

"I think advertisers will get their money's worth, for the books are distributed widely to our members, to the press and all ball clubs."

Sawyer Confident of Aid From O. B.

By STAN BAUMGARTNER
CLEARWATER, Fla.

Help for the Association of Professional Ball Players of America, the organization that provides aid for

needy ex-major and minor league players not covered by the pension fund, is sure to come, according to Eddie Sawyer, Phillies' manager, who is president of the organization.

"Organized Ball has promised to underwrite all our needs, if we need help," said Sawyer. "I sat in at a meeting of the society's officials with the Commissioner, league heads and many club owners recently and they assured me that the moment we needed help, we would get it. Both Mr. Harridge and Mr. Frick were strong supporters.

"So far we have not found it necessary to call upon them. However, that eventuality may soon arise. Until a few years ago we got the receipts from the All-Star Game, but now they are

Mantle Puts on Bat Show Against Collegiate Hurling

PHOENIX, Ariz.—The daily life of Mickey (Muscles) Mantle, 19-year-old boy wonder of the Yankees, is loaded with achievement—so much so, that the writers find it virtually impossible to ignore the kid for even one edition of their papers.

Mantle really put on an exhibition in Los Angeles on March 26, when the Bombers blasted the University of Southern California nine, which had beaten Pittsburgh and Hollywood. The Yankees took the Collegians, 15 to 1.

Mantle drove in seven runs with two homers and a triple. He also picked up a single and a pass. He left the game with a total of five home runs for the training season, and the admiration of the crowd of 3,000.

Said one of the USC boys, "Can you imagine what Mantle could get if he were on our nine, open to the bidding of 16 major league clubs?"

directed to the pension fund. But I have no worry about Organized Ball coming to our support when we need it.

"Our disbursements have naturally increased with the rising cost of living and the additional number of minor league players. Some are indeed heart-pulling requests, many from ex-soldiers who are partially incapacitated or unable to find work and not only have themselves to support but also their families. We have unpaid agents who check up on every bid for help, men who know the players and their situations personally and make recommendations.

"Each case has a number and is handled as such. Anyone who wishes to learn the identity of the number can check with Win Clark, the secretary, the only paid member of our organization, and get the name of the man helped.

"There was some thought for a time that we would establish a home for old players and their families, but after careful investigation we learned that it would not only be less expensive but more satisfactory to extend our help on the basis we are now doing—aiding the players to keep up their heads in their own community and get what work they can to supplement the aid we are able to give.

"The major league pension fund has knocked some of our revenue in the head. Some older players in the majors who come under the fund do not feel it necessary to contribute to our association and we lose some money there."

The Sporting News

THE BASE BALL PAPER OF THE WORLD

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

VOLUME 131, NUMBER 12

ST. LOUIS, APRIL 25, 1951

PRICE: TWENTY CENTS

12-Club Major Loops Urged by Perini

He'll Pass

By *Willard Mullin*

Wants Game to Start Now on Rebuilding

Cites California, Montreal, Havana, Mexico City as Possible Big Time Sites

By **GEORGE C. CARENS**
BOSTON, Mass.

The recent comment of Cub Owner P. K. Wrigley that "the entire map of Organized Ball should be reorganized so that baseball can keep pace with the growth of the nation," as quoted in the April 11 issue of THE SPORTING NEWS, strikes a responsive chord with Lou Perini, president of the Boston Braves.



Lou Perini

Wrigley pointed especially to the Pacific Coast as a future outlet for the majors, declaring that if he had to choose between selling his Chicago and Los Angeles franchises (in case the majors spread to the West Coast), he would prefer to sell the Cubs, because he believes Los Angeles has a greater future.

Perini shares the belief that the Pacific Coast offers fertile soil for major league ball. He goes further and includes other sections of the United States, as well as neighboring countries, as logical fields for major expansion. And the Braves' president suggests two 12-team major leagues as a solution, rather than a third major.

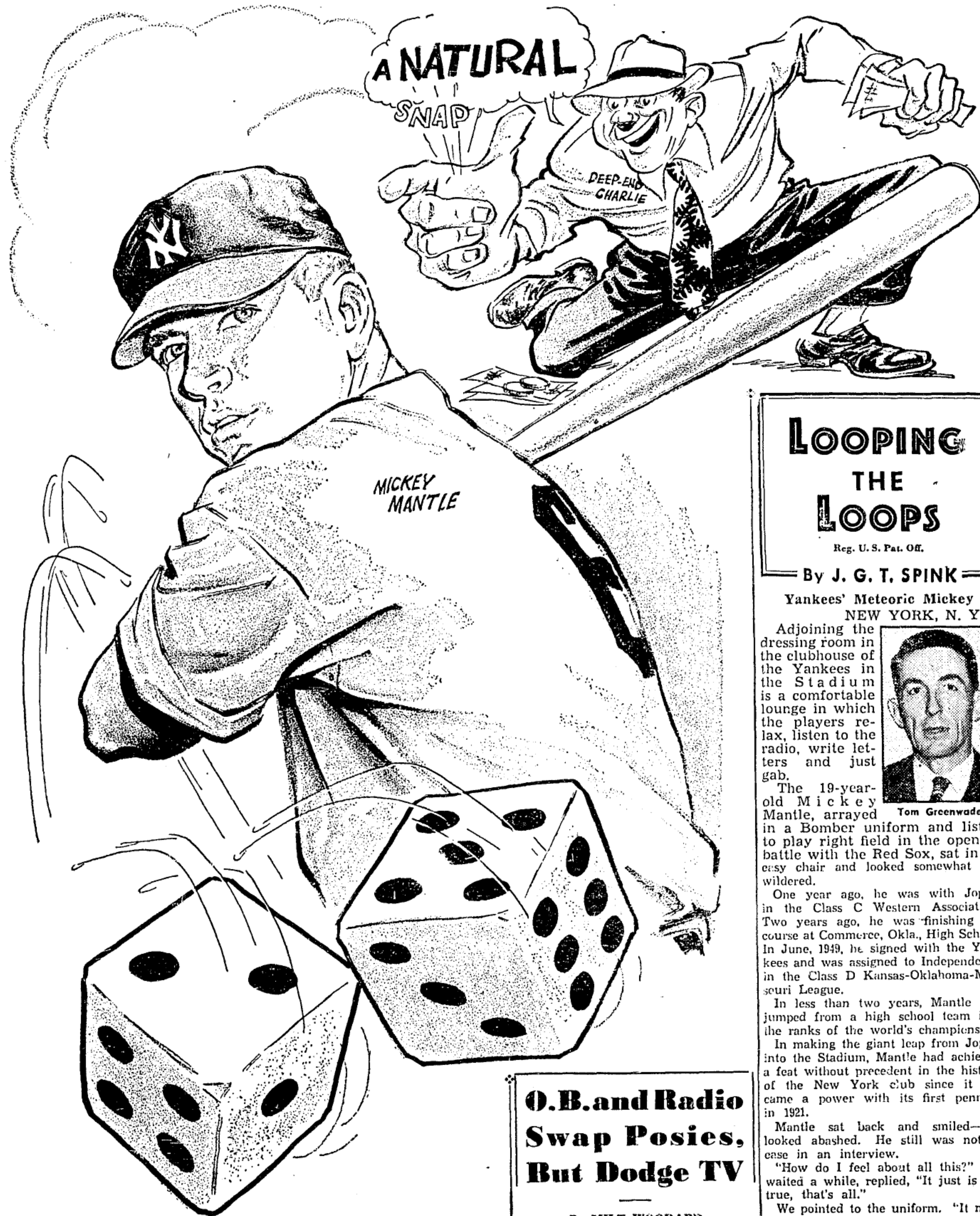
Braves' Chief Gets Around

Lou juggles millions like the ordinary citizen would flip quarters as he flies here and there to effect fabulous contractual obligations. He builds dams in Alabama . . . tunnels in New York . . . watersheds in Pennsylvania . . . docks in New Jersey . . . Army camps here . . . an airport there . . . a big job in Venezuela.

Even before he took command of the Braves in 1944, he admitted his commitments of the preceding decade exceeded \$100,000,000 . . . for one company.

I'm trying to paint a picture that here is a man with vision . . . a man who has flown more than a million miles in private and commercial planes . . . who gets restive that so much time is "wasted" in his point-to-point travels because airplane builders are so slow in making full use of jet propulsion and atomic energy. . . "No one can tell whether he is moving 200 m.p.h. or three times that fast," says the No. 1 Boston Steamshovel, "so why not hit the faster gait? It shouldn't be long before we can travel from Los Angeles to Chicago in four hours."

Now—not when world conditions are settled, but NOW—is the time, Perini insists, for top echelons of baseball executives to start building for bigger horizons. . . . Two 12-team major leagues . . . a complete revamping of the Triple-A alignments from coast to coast . . . examination of transportation and expense problems . . . consideration of the risks involved in crossing mountains . . . whether it is timely to include clubs in such neighboring countries as Canada, Cuba, Mexico and



LOOPING THE LOOPS

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

By **J. G. T. SPINK**

Yankees' Meteoric Mickey
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Adjoining the dressing room in the clubhouse of the Yankees in the Stadium is a comfortable lounge in which the players relax, listen to the radio, write letters and just gab.



Tom Greenwade

The 19-year-old Mickey Mantle, arrayed in a Bomber uniform and listed to play right field in the opening battle with the Red Sox, sat in an easy chair and looked somewhat bewildered.

One year ago, he was with Joplin in the Class C Western Association. Two years ago, he was finishing his course at Commerce, Okla., High School. In June, 1949, he signed with the Yankees and was assigned to Independence in the Class D Kansas-Oklahoma-Missouri League.

In less than two years, Mantle had jumped from a high school team into the ranks of the world's champions.

In making the giant leap from Joplin into the Stadium, Mantle had achieved a feat without precedent in the history of the New York club since it became a power with its first pennant in 1921.

Mantle sat back and smiled—and looked abashed. He still was not at ease in an interview.

"How do I feel about all this?" He waited a while, replied, "It just is not true, that's all."

We pointed to the uniform. "It must be true," we insisted. "Here you are wearing the Yankee suit, and the lineup says you will play the position made famous here by Babe Ruth."

"Well, you know what I mean," Mickey picked up. "For years I have been reading THE SPORTING NEWS, with its stories about Joe DiMaggio, Tom Henrich, Ted Williams, Vic Raschi, Bob

O.B. and Radio Swap Posies, But Dodge TV

By **MILT WOODARD**

CHICAGO, Ill.—Organized Ball and radio bowed, scraped and passed around olive branches—each bearing a covey of peaceful doves—here on April 17, during the sports panel of the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters.

However, all hands showed an amaz-

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LOOPING THE LOOPS

By J. G. TAYLOR SPINK

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Feller and all the rest. Now I am playing right next to DiMaggio, and Henrich is my teacher. I am playing against Williams, Dom DiMaggio and Bobby Doerr.

"I somehow get the feeling that I hadn't ought to be here. That maybe is a mistake, after all, and I am supposed to be in Kansas City.

"Now, Mr. Spink, please do not misunderstand this statement. I do not lack confidence. If I did, I would not be sitting here with you, a Yankee.

"It is just that I am awed by the history of the New York club and by my company."

55 Errors As Shortstop

Asked to discuss his chief problems, Mantle replied, "As you know, I played shortstop until I arrived in Phoenix this spring. I was not a good shortstop. I made 55 errors for Joplin and fielded only .908.

"Now, I am up against learning to handle line drives hit straight at me, and balls hit over my head.

"I have two great teachers, and then, of course, there is Casey Stengel, a great outfielder in his day and who is helping me.

"Joe DiMaggio tells me where to play the batters. Henrich takes me in hand as soon as we arrive at the field, and hits fungoes off the wall. He tips me off to—oh, a hundred things. And he keeps telling me to watch DiMaggio, and move with him.

"I study Joe all the while. I marvel at his speed at 36. I marvel at his grace and nonchalance."

Mickey was asked if he preferred to bat right or lefthanded. He is a switch-hitter, and in 1950 with Joplin got 14 homers lefthanded and 12 from the other side of the plate.

"I honestly don't have a preference," Mickey replied. "Originally I was a righthanded batter. That was nine years ago.

"My dad, and his father, were semi-pro pitchers. They started early with me, the way Feller's dad started with him.

"Grandpa Charles pitched lefthanded, so I got into the habit of batting righthanded against him. Dad threw righthanded, so I became accustomed to batting lefty against him. Now I don't care whether the pitcher is righthanded or a southpaw. That doesn't mean I approach my problems with a swelled head."

We suggested, "The way we size you up, there seems to be little danger of your getting a swelled head. You appear to be taking all this in stride."

Mantle chuckled, "I cannot afford to get a swelled head. I would not be able to go back home. They don't like swelled heads in my section of Oklahoma. I couldn't face my pals—Donie Dodd, who is at Miami Junior College, Chigger Williams and Rodney Gamble, who are in the lead-zinc mines, and Bill Moseley, our football hero."

He Asked For Tryout

Had he been approached by any colleges before he signed with the Yankee chain?

"No, our coach knew I was not interested in going on with my studies," Mickey replied.

"Coffeyville is in Kansas, but it is not far from Commerce, Okla. There is an old home in Coffeyville which is a baseball shrine. I have been in it. It is the old home of Walter Johnson. About the greatest pitcher, wasn't he?"

How did Mickey get into the Yankee organization?

"In May, 1949, as I was about to be graduated from high school, I walked into the Joplin ball park and asked to see the manager, Johnny Sturm, who had played first base for the Yankees," Mickey revealed.

"I told him I wanted to play ball. He gave me a tryout, and said that I would hear from one of the Yankee scouts.

"Three weeks later, Tom Greenwade got in touch with me. I was graduated on May 12 and signed with Greenwade on May 20.

"Bonus? No. I did not ask for any. Greenwade did give me \$1,000.

"I have not received another cent in bonus money since. However, I am not kicking. I am lucky to be here at all."

We asked Mickey about a report that he had worked in a lead-zinc mine at Commerce during the past winter, and he said:

"Well, I needed some dough and the

Dodgers Slow Up Mickey

—Then He Lowers Boom

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Mickey Mantle made his local debut for the Yankees in Flatbush on April 14 and got one hit. The Brooklyn press box sounded derisive.

The next day Mantle was struck out by Joe Hatten as a starter, and the Dodger press box waxed sarcastic.

Then Mantle tore off four hits in a row, three singles and a homer.

His batting average for the training season was .402. He led the Yankees in homers, with nine, and in runs driven in, with 31.

mine was there, with a job, so down into the mine I went."

Here was a youngster worth a fortune as a ball player, yet the Yankees had neglected to ask him about his financial situation and had permitted him to go 400 feet underground, in the damp and cold, to work as an assistant electrician for something like \$40 a week. An advance would have tided Mickey over.

Mantle was asked to report at Phoenix, Ariz., last February 15. He did not show up and there was an investigation. He was found working in the mine.

"Did it ever occur to me to write to Mr. Weiss? No," said Mickey. "It seemed to me that it was my own problem."

Thinking of Getting Married

Mickey is thinking of getting married. The girl is Merlyn Johnson, and she works in the bank at Picher, Okla., six miles from Commerce.

"Merlyn and I had talked about getting married this summer, but it seems it would be best to wait until the end of the season," Mantle revealed.

Merlyn came to see Mantle play at Kansas City not so long ago, when the Bombers passed through there, and she seemed to be a nice, quiet girl, reddish-brown hair, good looking, very much taken up with Mantle.

Asked about the chronic osteomyelitis which has given him a 4-F rating in the draft, and could be a very serious thing, Mantle said, "I was halfback on the Commerce football team in 1947, 1948 and 1949. I love to play football.

"I ran, passed and kicked. I got a leg injury in 1947, and it needed medical attention. In 1948, I figured the injury had disappeared. Well, the trouble flared up again, and subsided. I was on the team again the next season, again the leg acted up.

"Four times I had to go to the Picher hospital, for two weeks on each occasion, and they pumped penicillin into me.

"The leg sometimes gives me trouble."

At Joplin, some of the fans who had watched him said that Mantle cannot play a double-header, as the leg swells up.

To see Mantle run like a scared jack-rabbit, and hit, to see Mickey in the flesh, seemingly represents a total contradiction of the 4-F rating. However, the trouble certainly is there, and chronic osteo is listed as a disease which bars a draft registrant from any kind of service.

Those poison pen letters which prompted the draft board at Miami, Okla., to order Mantle up for re-examination are not hard to understand.

Dad Ground Boss at Mine

Mantle comes from an athletic family. "I have twin brothers, Roy and Ray, and they are going to be really great ball players," Mantle revealed. "Dad is working with them, as he worked with me.

"Dad's name is Elvin Clark, and he is ground boss at Blue Goose No. 1 mine at Commerce, where we produce a lot of lead and zinc.

"I was born in Commerce on October 20, 1931. I plan to go on living in Commerce, among the people Merlyn and I know."

Asked to review the incidents leading to connection with the New York organization, Mickey said, "Well, I knew that the Yankees were tops. I knew I wanted to be a ball player. So, the thing to do was to get with the New York chain.

"After I had asked Sturm for a chance, I was graduated from Com-



MICKEY MANTLE, rookie outfielder of the Yankees, being greeted by his girl, Merlyn Johnson of Picher, Okla.; his brother, Ray, 15, and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Clark Mantle of Commerce, Okla. The home folks drove up to Kansas City to see the Yankees play an exhibition game with the Braves. Mickey returned with them to Oklahoma, where his 4-F draft status was reaffirmed in a physical examination.

Joe's Shouted Directions Aided Mickey in Opener

NEW YORK, N. Y.—In his American League debut, Mickey Mantle made a single which drove in a tally in the big three-run sixth inning of a 5 to 0 victory over the Red Sox. He got the blow off Lefty Bill Wight.

"Joe DiMaggio kept shouting to me all afternoon, where to play the various hitters as they came up, and that certainly built up my confidence," said Mantle.

"It was tough hollering to the boy, because the 45,000 fans made so much noise," Joe said. "He did okay."

merce High, on May 12, 1949. That made me eligible to sign with any club in Organized Ball.

"After Greenwade had signed me, I was asked to report to a Yankee school at Branson, Mo. I was there from June 5 to 12, and then was assigned to Independence, Kan. I batted .313 there.

"In 1950, I was moved up a peg, to Class C, with Joplin, and I hit .383.

"In September, the Yankees invited a bunch of us to accompany the club around the circuit while it was fighting for the pennant. I saw the Stadium then, so stories that I never was in the New York park until April 13, when we opened a series with Brooklyn, were not based on fact.

Joined Yanks Last Fall

"What were my reactions when I first saw the Stadium?" said Mantle. "Well, I said to myself, 'Some day, Mickey, you may get to play in this park.' I certainly never dreamed it would be so soon. I figured it would take me three or four years.

"I was impressed with the fact that it was not too tough to hit home runs along those foul lines. However, now I know it is tougher than it looks.

"Last September, it did not occur to me that I would be asked to play anywhere but at short. So I did not study the outfield, nor did I note how the outfielders operated. I did see that the right fielder had to learn the caroms off the wall. But I did not pay much attention to all that. I was a shortstop, maybe headed for Norfolk.

"I have watched that DiMaggio, his grace, his nonchalance, his speed, every chance I've had. Have you ever seen anybody better?"

"He gives me a lot of attention, before and during a game. He hollers to me where to play. And what a teacher that Henrich is!"

Mantle sat back and laughed. "Pinch me," he suggested. "Maybe this is all a dream, after all.

"Two years ago today, I was worried about a new suit for my high school graduation. Now, I am on the world's champion Yankees."

Mickey Charles Mantle kept shaking his head sideways, in a most expressive gesture of wonderment, and disbelief. The saga of the American boy in the good old U. S. A.!

Majors' Gravy Ride Over on Coast, Says Rowland

By DON McLEOD

PORTLAND, Ore.

Clarence (Pants) Rowland, hustling, bustling president of the Pacific Coast League, makes no bones about his belief that spring exhibition games involving major league teams ruined the opening week for his league.

And Pants freely predicts that the gravy-train ride is over for the big leaguers.

In Portland to attend the home inaugural of the Beavers, who, incidentally, played to sell-out houses in their first week on native soil, Rowland forecast an embargo next year on spring exhibition games.

"Unquestionably, the pre-season exhibitions, featuring such name players as Joe DiMaggio, Bob Feller, Phil Rizzuto, Ralph Kiner and others, hurt our opening-week gates," the Coast prexy stated.



Clarence Rowland

"These games, naturally, drew tremendous crowds, for all the fans wanted to see the stars in action. And, unfortunately for us, the games were played right up to within two days of our openings. By then the fans were either overfed with baseball or had little desire to see the Coasters.

"Any doubt of the ruinous effect the exhibition games had on our attendance should have been dispelled by the turnouts in the Pacific Northwest, where there had been no advance tilts.

"In Portland, there was a combined attendance of 23,568 for the opening afternoon and night frays and for the week the Beavers drew more than 55,000.

"Up Seattle way, Rogers Hornsby and his Rainiers did almost as well, luring more than 12,000 to the one-game inaugural and respectable crowds the balance of the week.

"The Northwest fans weren't fed up with baseball and were satisfied with the top performances of their favorites. And their response at the turnstiles proved my point—that the big boys hurt us a lot."

Curb on Exhibitions to Be Discussed

The Coast leader said he and the league business managers would huddle some time in July with the idea in mind of acting to place a curb on the spring exhibition games.

"We have no intentions of keeping the big leaguers out of our parks," he explained. "The fans have every right to see the stars perform, of course, and we welcome them all. But we do, for the security of the Coast league, have to pull rein or we'll go bankrupt."

Pointing to the pitiful attendance in the major California cities, Rowland said the league probably would vote to ban spring exhibition games at least a week and possibly ten days before the opening of his loop.

"That would give the fans time to forget the major leaguers and give us a chance to rekindle their interest in the Coasters. It's a step we'll have to take or, sure as shootin', we'll face possible bankruptcy."

Before heading back to California, Rowland also said the league has shelved, at least temporarily, its bid for major league status but plans to continue, on an all-out basis, its campaign to seek delivery from the draft.

All-Time Portland Gate Mark for Week

PORTLAND, Ore.—While other Pacific Coast League clubs experienced poor early-season gates, the Portland club established an all-time week's attendance mark for the local club during its first week at home, April 10-15, drawing 55,611 cash customers.

After drawing 13,088 and 10,480, respectively, for an afternoon-night bill on opening day, April 10, Portland played to 5,891 for the Thursday night game, then 6,281, 7,581 and another overflow turnout of 12-

290 for the Sunday double-header.

The only previous week's gate in Portland history approaching this year's banner mark was the 52,217 who saw Seattle and the Beavers battling for the pennant in August, 1945.

The Rainiers, in their opening week at home this season, drew 37,686, providing additional ammunition for arguments that major league exhibitions hurt attendance at early league games in California cities.

L. H. GREGORY.