AUGHT ON THEFLY

OLD-TIMERS DINE AT CINCY RESERVATIONS for the first anniversary dinner of Ball Players of Yesterday, a Cincinnati organization composed solely of former professional diamondmen, at the Cuvier Press Club in the Queen City, the evening of January 14, indicate a capacity crowd will turn out to honor the pacity crowd will turn out to honor the many veterans who make Cincinnati their home and also give Billy Southworth a warm welcome as manager of the World Champion Cardinals. Membership eligibility requirements of the club are that a man must have played at least three years of pro ball. A big majority of the members played with the Reds and many of these formed with the Reds and many of these formed such a liking for Cincinnati while playing ball there that they adopted the city as their home. In this class are Eppa Rixey, Rube Bressler, Heinie Groh, Larry Kopf, Dummy Hoy, Jesse Tannehill, Heinie Peitz and Tommy Griffith, current president of the club and chairman of the dinner committee. Because of travel restrictions, not many persons from outside of Cincinnati are expected at the dinner. Lew Fonseca, a former Red, who later managed the Chicago White Sox and who now is the American League's director of motion picture supervision, plans to attend. pervision, plans to attend.

Rip Collins, reappointed manager of the Albany Eastern League club for 1943, January 4, will make his first public appearance since re-signing at the annual Hot Stove League session of the Albany Lodge of Eiks, January 29. He recently became member of the New York capital's lodge.

MILLERS PICK TERRE HAUTE HE Minneapolis Millers of the American Association have arranged to train at Terre Haute, Ind., pitching camp April 4 at Memorial Stadium there. Close to French Lick, Ind., where the Chicago Cubs and White Sox will condition, several exhibition games will be staged with the two major league clubs, as well as with Louisville and Indianapolis, which will work out at home. Terre Haute will not be wholly strange to Owner Mike Kelley, for he was manager of the St. Paul Saints hack in 1904 when they trained there.

Buster Blakeney, shortstop for the Atlanta Crackers, is employed during the offseason in Memphis, Tenn., by the National Funeral Home. Rogers Hornsby, general manager and

pilot of the Fort Worth Texas League club, has abandoned plans to conduct his usual baseball school in the spring, due to transportation and housing diffi-

Among the contributions made in a campaign conducted in Oakland for the collecion of used sports goods for Army and other service units stationed in Northern California were a couple of paseballs given by Johnny Vergez, manager of the Pacific Coast Oaks and former National League infielder. They were autographed agates acquired by Johnny during his long career and, in donating them, he explained the keepsakes would serve a better purpose providing recreation for the boys in camps than gracing his souvenir cabinet.

KIDS AND KUBS KEEP GAME ALIVE LTHOUGH the New York Yankees and St. Louis Cardinals will not train in St. Petersburg, Fla., this spring, the famous Kids and Kubs team of the Three-Quarter Century Club will keep the came alive there for the duration. allow no one on their roster, even as rookie, until he has passed his seventy-fifth birthday. Frank Peckinpaugh, father of Roger Peckinpaugh, general manager the Cleveland Indians, is one of their leading sluggers at the age of 82. Only Fred (Jake) Ross, retired street railway maintenance man from Rockville Centre. N. Y., who is catcher and captain of the Kubs, is a former big leaguer, having seen some service in the majors back in the 90s. They play a series of games each winter-two of six innings each week-for the championship of the "Sandspur" League, named for the prickly burrs borne by a weed grass that is prolific in Florida.

A seven-pound-nine-ounce boy was presented to Al Milnar, Cleveland Indians' southpaw, by Mrs. Milnar at Booth Memorial Hospital in Cleveland, January 2. The little fellow is their second child.

Mel Ott's fielding average of .990 for the Giants last year was the highest in his 17 seasons at the Polo Grounds. His previous high mark was .985, made in

Although he has been asked to call Shaughnessy of the International League is inclined to mark time for the mapping f the circuit's plans for 1943 until the regularly scheduled meeting at New York, February 6. He has had schedules of 140 and 154 games drawn up and the opening may be deferred until May I.

NIGHT GAME FAN'S OWN RISK HE 2nd District Court of Appeals at Cosought \$10.000 from the Columbus American Association club for injuries suffered while watching the Red Birds in a night ing players. game, August 13, 1941. The court said a patron assumes risks incident to watching game and if the risk is greater at night the fan is under greater obligation to protect himself by taking a seat behind a

rates is wintering in Milwaukee, having moved from Lakewood, Wis., his usual offseason home town.

President Ed Barrow of the New York Yankees reveals he asked for a 140-game schedule at the joint meeting in Chicago, January 5, but was voted down. "I thought we should shorten our season to show we were in step with the times." he said on his return. Clark Griffith asked for eight more night games, but no one made the motion from

Columbus of the American Association and Rochester of the International, two farm clubs of the St. Louis Cardinals, probably will pick camps close to each other. as has been the custom in the past. Neither expects to condition at home and some site in Ohio, or Indiana, is expected to be

TOO MUCH WATER FOR REDS

NE REASON why officials of the Reds club's 1943 training camp is that folklore says there will be a second flood in men firmly believe that if ice remains when flood waters of the Ohio recede, the river will be back later that same year to get its ice. When the flood water went out of tendent Matty Schwab reported a crust of saying. The Cincinnati park was flooded 1939. All told, it has been flooded 21 times in the 43 years, starting with 1897. It takes a 56-foot river at Cincinnati to put water in the ball park, the water starting to seep onto the field by backing in through the sewers and drains when the river reaches

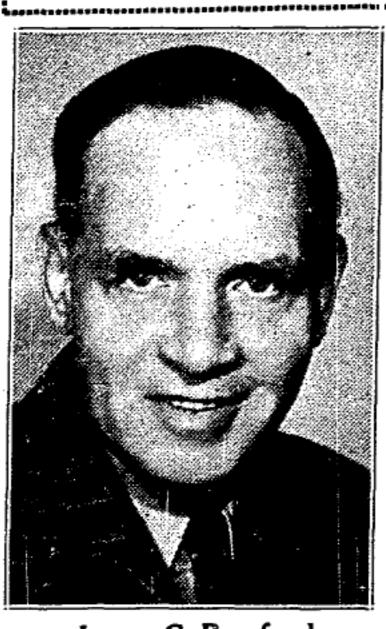
Beginning January 13, Babe Ruth planned to make a series of personal appearances, going to bat for the government to promote the sale of War Bonds and

Although Commissioner K. M. Landis President Will Harridge of the American League and General Manager Warren C. Giles of the Cincinnati Reds, who form the major league committee on the specifications of the 1943 major league baseball, all were in Chicago, January 5, for the special hold a committee meeting to discuss the ness. . . . James (Ripper) Collins re- dians promise to be the contenders for ball. Commissioner Landis will call a meet- engaged as manager of Albany Eastern the American League championship in 1943, ing of this committee in the near future. League club. probably in Chicago.

TY COBB'S DAUGHTER WEDS EVERLY COBB, 21-year-old daughter of and closing to October 3 and limit training McLaren at the chapel of the Castilleja Ohio rivers and east of the Mississippi, exary 9. The former Detroit outfielder and option of conditioning in Missouri. . . . Wilmanager has four other children-Dr. Tyrus mington of Inter-State League releases Man-R. Cobb. Jr., an interne in a hospital at anager Herb Brett. Atlanta, Ga.: Shirley, who operates a book. January 6-St. Louis Browns trade Pitchstore at Palo Alto; Herschel R., in business er Elden Auker to Washington for Pitcher

Lou Adamie, manipulator of the electrical scoreboard at Sportsman's Park, home of the Cardinals and Browns, for several years, has a new job. He is an internal revenue tional League. . . President Branch Rickey agent of the U. S. Treasury Department at of Dodgers appoints Ed Staples, former Car-

the Federal Building in St. Louis. The Buffalo Bisons of the International League had made arrangements to train Cardinals to Jones post.



Card New Publicity Man

James C. Bassford

TTT ITH Mel Jones leaving the Cardinals to become traveling secretary of the Dodgers in the new Branch Rickey administration on the Brooklyn club,

James C. Bassford was moved into Jones' former job as publicity director of the Redbirds by President Sam Breadon. Bassford, who has had wide experience in publicity and promotional lines, has been connected with the St. Louis organization since the fall of 1936. At that time he was an assistant to Ed Staples, then publicity man, who quit the club about two years ago for a position with a tax reduction organization at Jefferson City, Mo. Staples is Rickey with the Dodgers."

Bassford, son of the late Homer Bassford, crack newspaperman, and brother of Wallace Bassford, a well-known artist, was assistant manager of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra as early as 1915. Later he was publicity man for the old Shubert Theater in the Mound City and for four are ample years was advertising manager of a chain store system in Chicago. Returning to St. Louis, Jim handled publicity for various enterprises before lining up with the Car-

Shortly after identifying himself with the Redbirds, Bassford was assigned by Breadon to take charge of and develop the concessions at the many Cardinal farms, a job which he was eminently successful. 1939, when Harold Roettger quit the Cards' Hamilton, Ont., farm club as business manager to go with Syracuse of the International League, Bassford finished out the season in Hamilton as business chief. He is married and has two daughters.

The Concord site was picked by Peter G Campbell, president of the Toronto club, who said he had authority to act for the Bisons. He also was looking for a camp for the Leafs, visiting Kannapolis, Salisbury and Albemarle and apparently favoring the last-named place, at the time.

in their own backyards this spring. President Tommy Richardson stated after the joint meeting in Chicago, last week. The annual training expeditions into the Carolinas are out. The season will open May later than usual, and close September 12.

The Knoxville Smokies of the Southern Association will train at home this spring for the first time in eight years. The last time they tried it, the experiment was highly unsatisfactory. The season opened early and bad weather prevented them from getting into condition.

Cape Girardeau, Mo., through Mayor R. lumbus, O., held, last week, that a E. Beckman, is willing to be host to either ruling exempting clubs from damages of the St. Louis clubs, or minors, this spring. day contests. Carl H. Hummel of that city | State Teachers' College has been asked to place the lockers and dressing rooms at Houck Field House at the disposal of visit-

> BLADES TO LEAD MONTREAL? RESIDENT HECTOR H. RACINE spiked the report that Charlie Dressen, former Brooklyn Dodgers' coach, is to manage the Montreal International League Royals in 1943. Racine declares Dressen is not being considered. Five or six have applied for the job and it is believed Ray Blades, 1942 Cincinnati coach who piloted New Orleans in the Southern Association in 1941, has the inside track.

Kid Nichols, famous pitching star of the came a great-grandfather when a girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Everett, Jr. She has been christened Sundra Nichols erett of Kansas City, Mo., with whom Nichols lives, is a daughter of the Kid.

Alpha (Cotton) Brazle, who pitched two seasons for the Houston Texas League club, winning 22 and losing 13, has been ordered to report for spring training with the St. Louis Cardinals. He is 3-A and 28 years old.

Branch Rickey, president of the Brookers believes a little persuasion by him will help the Californian make up his mind. .

"ROCK GARDEN" IN ATLANTA tion, 150 tons of crushed rock was buried there. As a result, outfielders in the league probably will be pounding the rocks, instead

farewell party for Harold New York Giants, given by his Dolgeville, S. Y., friends, took on a more serious note this year. Many close friends and admirers have gathered for a supper party on the eve of Schumacher's return to the baseball

ANUARY 4-James Sanders, secretary of will help him. the Southern Association for 13 years. int session of the big leagues, they did not announces retirement to go into busi-

January 5-Major leagues, in joint session with Commissioner Landis in Chicago, set back opening of 1943 season to April 21 Ty Cobb, was married to Thomas Dick, sites to territory north of Potomac and School for Girls, Palo Alto, Cal., Janu- cept St. Louis clubs, which are given

at Twin Falls, Nev., and James, who at- Paul Dean and cash. . . American Associtends New Mexico Military Institute at Ros- ation votes to start season April 29 and close September 19, and eliminates all-star

> January 8-Pepper Martin signs one-year contract to manage Rochester of Interna- been unavailable to them. dinal secretary, his assistant and Mel Jones. Redbird publicity director, traveling secretary. . . . James C. Bassford is promoted by

which the minors are expected to follow. Asheville, N. C., to Lynchburg, Va.

Boost Jimmy Collins

BUFFALO. N. Y .- Jimmy Collins, considered by many old-timers as the greatest third baseman the game has ever seen, has a birthday this week-celebrating his seventieth anniversary, January 16. His friends here think it would be a fitting. tribute to him to put his name in the Hall of Fame this year.

It is pointed out no third baseman, outside of John J. McGraw, appears in the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown and the Giants' head man was chosen more for his managerial success than that as a player. Colfins also was a manager, piloting two pennant winners and one world's championship team, but it was as a player he

achieved fame. Collins hit better than .300 for six seasons in the majors and in his day had no superior, being a graceful and sure fielder, a hard hitter and a home run king in the era of the dead ball, in 1898 with the Boston Nationals.

In the first ballot for the Hall of Fame, Collins polled one of the highest votes and fell just short of nomination. Every year, however, his chances have grown slimmer, because the modern generation of writers are not acquainted with his achievements.

Collins started with Buffalo in the Eastern League in 1893, was loaned to Louisville for part of the 1895 season by the Boston Nationals, whom he left to jump to the A. L. team there as manager in 1901 to 1906, remaining until 1907, when he was traded to the Philadelphia Athletics. He managed Minneapolis in 1909 and Providence in 1910 and part of 1911.

wars each spring, but, last week, they sent him off to a different kind of a war-as a lieutenant, j. g., in the Naval Reserve. Schumacher, who was presented with a pen and pencil set, reported for duty January 7.

BURNED ALLEYS FORMERLY SCHALK'S

HE Chicago bowling alley in which six persons were burned fatally and 73 injured in the fire of January 5, formerly was Ray Schalk's place. The Cracker built the center, which was the scene of the tragedy and after operating it for five returning to the game as aide de camp to years, sold it in 1940 to a stock corporation. He continue to operate his new establishment at 2535 West Ninety-First street.

> Although major clubs cannot take advantage of the invitation, Statesville, N. C., offers accommodations to minor league clubs looking for training sites. It is pointed out the town has an excellent park, good hotels and moderate climate. There are no defense plants there and accommodations

Alike, yet so different-Branch Rickey and his predecessor, Larry MacPhail, as president of the Brooklyn Dodgers: Both graduated from the University of Michigan, refereed intercollegiate football games, carned law degrees, served overseas as commissioned officers in World War I and have sons, named Branch, Jr., and Larry, Jr., respectively, holding executive positions in the game.

Powel Crosley, Jr., president of the Cincinnati Reds, was married to Mrs. Marianna Richards Wallingford of Cincinnati, O., January 9. His former wife died suddenly at their Sarasota, Fla., estate, February 26

Three players of the Tacoma Western International League club were sold to San are Outfielder Morry Abbott and Pitchers Chet Johnson and Charley Chanz.

HANDLEY DOES NOT BLAME BUCS TIS major league career cut short last! year by injuries received in an automobile accident and released to Toronto burgh, Third Baseman Lee Handley declares he was treated fairly. In a letter to President William Benswanger, the infielder stated: "I don't blame you one bit lyn. for releasing me, in view of the condition of my arm. However, that's baseball and no doubt you've seen it happen numerous times. Every player, when he reads it in connection with some player, says to himself, 'It won't happen to me,' and then he's the most surprised guy of all when it does class flychaser. Brought up by the Phil-

A seven and one-half pound boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Walker at Leeds, Ala., January 5. Walker is an out- the team until he made his last appearance fielder of the St. Louis Cardinals and a night policeman at Leeds during the winter.

Benny Borgmann, manager of the Allentown Inter-State League Wings in 1942, is doing so well with his bowling alleys at Paterson, N. J., it is said that he is not interested in returning to the game next season.

The Old-Timers' Hot Stove League of St Paul, Minn., will have President Bill Veeck of the Milwaukee American Association club as its chief speaker for the annual dinner and gabfest, January 20.

Sylvester (Stretch) Goedde, a six-footfrom Vaughnsville, O., has signed a contract with Toledo of the American Association. A southpaw, Goedde averaged 18 strikeouts a game in high school and 17 in semi-

BLUE ROCKS RELEASE BRETT HE Wilmington Blue Rocks of the Interplaying manager to meet the diminish-Everett's mother, Mrs. Harlan Ev- ing player supply. The Blue Rocks won 1942 post-season playoff under Brett, after finishing three percentage points beaind Hagerstown in the regular race.

> ice. It was 25 and 25 in the two columns when Hoag wound up his year's play in White Sox. Myril hit two triples and turb his even totals. The Californian also raised his total of putouts to 1,400 by gathering in 266 fly drives for the Dykesmen

Tom V. Moorhead, mayor of Zanesville a trainer's room, showers and other equip- cut of the game with the Phillies enjoying There are few war industries in Zanesville and ample hotel and apartment accommodations are available. The park is located not more than a mile from the main hotels, with adequate bus service.

ROLFE'S RETIREMENT STICKS Yankees were spiked by the former third sacker himself, last week, when would keep him busy at New Haven even during the thick of the pennant campaign. can't go back," Red explained. got classes at Yale right through the summer and I've got to be, want to be, there, can't quite understand these rumors about my returning. I'm perfectly satisfied with illness that put him under a handicap his last two seasons with the Bombers, but he Association series of 1914 with Minneapolis. ball, he drove out nine home runs, 12

the Boston Red Sox, if they do not lose any more men to the service. Cronin so expressed himself, last week, in Honolulu, where he is serving as welfare director of the Red Cross.

ROGELL CONTINUES SCHOOL TLLY ROGELL, a councilman in Detroit and former infielder of the Tigers, will operate his municipal baseball school in the Motor City again next summer. Founder and director of the school. Rogell players last year and expects to double the never bothered him. number of teams in 1943. The program cost only \$8,500, but gave recreation and physical training to thousands of youths, from 14 to with the Phillies and Braves, Titus com- Biddy stepped out of active pastiming 16 years of age, that, otherwise, would have piled a .280 batting average, hitting more of his own accord. In 1899, when he an-

Dodgers, became a papa for the fourth time, New Year's Day, when Mrs. Vaughan presented him with his first son at the. at Concord, N. C., this spring, before Com- January 10-Piedmont League approves other children are girls. The Vaughans re-Ukiah, Cal., General Hospital. The three turnity, Titus seldom had trouble with the that Cincinnati fans importuned the man- Philadelphia, January 2, after a long illmissioner Landis announced other plans, transfer of St. Louis Cardinals' farm from side on a 2,000-acre sheep and cattle ranch in Potter Valley.

GREAT UMPIRE CALLS HIM OUT



THIRTY-NINE years ago this spring Jack (Silent John) Titus was looking forward to his first season in the majors and it left such an impression on him that he retained through the remainder of his life a ball he saved from the first game with the Phillies in 1903. Before his death at Saint Clair, January 8, he was photographed holding the souvenir.

The outfielder was the last player in the majors to wear a handle-bar mustache, but his mates on the Phils soon made him get rid of the hirsute adornment and, as the picture shows, he also discarded it in later life.

Recrology

Clair, Pa., January 8. A stroke paralyzed back of his mouth. his entire side, September 26, but for two and a brother survive.

them boys. When the Spanish-American grazing the button of John's cap, as he War broke out, John enlisted in Company ducked the pitch. K of the 8th Regiment, Pennsylvania volwhere he learned to play baseball between | concentrating on the pitcher, and jerked Diego of the Pacific Coast League, it is his military duties. After the war, he the toothpick from John's teeth. Elated as announced by Owner Roger W. Peck. They played some ball at nearby Pottsville and a schoolboy, the Rajah ground the toothit was when a member of the Saint Clair | pick in the dirt. The Silent One, after Athletic Club, that he and others in the or- calling time, turned on the burly Bresnaganization decided to sprout mustaches. han, his face scarlet with rage, and tor-He liked the hirsute adornment so well rents of words poured from his mouth that he cultivated the mustache and wore Roger was so taken back by the unusual of the International League by Pitts- it a long time in the majors, the last to eloquence that he went so far as to apolsport one until Stanley Bordagaray came up with some facial spinach, while with Brook- against Titus.

Titus joined the Concord New England League club in 1903, and within a few weeks was a sensation, leading the circuit in hitting and developing into a firstlies, with a batting average of .407, he played his first game with them June 8, 1903, not making a hit, and remained with as a pinch-hitter for Catcher Bill Killefer, just a week more than nine years later. With Sherwood Magee, Roy Thomas and Titus making up the outfield, the

Phillies had little reason to change. Nobody bothered Titus about his mustache then, but when Kitty Bransfield, Mickey Doolan, Otto Knabe and Magee came along, they decided to do something about it. They made several vain attempts to catch Jack while asleep. However, later, he figured on pacifying them by trimming the hirsute adornment to match that of Manager Billy Murray, but did such a bad job, he had the whole thing shaved off. Later, he attempted to raise

another, but his fellows nipped it. Three years in a row-from 1909 through 1911—Titus was the No. 1 right fielder in the National League. He originally started in left, but moved over to right when bench pilot, Brett will be succeeded by Magee came to the Phillies in 1904, Sherry seemed to have trouble playing the latter pasture. One of John's big days at bat came May 25, 1907, when he went on a hitting spree in a double defeat of the Brooklyn Superbas. With the Phillies trailing. 5 to 0, in the first game, Titus tripled to score two runners in the sixth inning and he came home on a passed ball. Then, in the eighth, with two out and two aboard, he slammed another three-bagger that tied up the score and then registered the winning run on an error. He had a double and another triple. driving in three runs and scoring twice, himself, in the nightcap.

Titus broke his ankle sliding into the plate in a one-sided game with St. Louis at Philadelphia. May 23, 1911, and went a big lead in the pernant race. When he teturned as a pinch-hitter. July & the team no longer was in front, being in third place, and it finally finished fourth. The Phillies never got back in the race, as they lost Magee on a 36-day suspension and Charlie (Red) Dooin, their ace catcher, broke a leg. John never was the same after the in-

jury, which slowed him up considerably. In June of 1912. Titus was traded to the Boston Braves for Outfielder Roy Miller and cash. He began the 1913 season as the regular right fielder, but later was relegated to the bench by Manager George Stallings, and in September was shipped to Kansas City. In the opening American Titus suffered a fractured skull when struck triples and 25 doubles. on the head by a pitch from Southpaw McPhee also was clever in base run-The St. Louis Browns and Cleveland In- Bill Burns, who was a teammate on the ning. In the 129 games he played during Phils in 1911. After another season with the season of 1887. Biddy stole 96 bases. in the opinion of Manager Joe Cronin of the Blues. Titus decided to call it a career. His record of stealing bases excels that of returned home and married his next door any second baseman in the game, Biddy beneighbor. 17-year-old Ethel Stone.

fing and other big leaguers. Titus achieved Phee, with an average of .026 a contest. stardom despite a physical handicap. When McPhee scored 100 or more runs each of he was 4 years old. John was holding a ten seasons, ranking him close up to the stick of wood on a tree stump for a broth- | leaders. He also led the league in fielder, when the latter nipped off the tip of ling his position in seven different seasons, the index finger of the right hand with an in six others was second and in only one had about 300 teams and more than 6.000 ax. Titus, however, said the short finger did he finish below the first four second

During his 11-year career in the majors found. than .300 in two seasons, clouted a total nounced his retirement, he had shown so ball and stole 140 bases.

John Franklin (Silent John) Titus, long- mouth, at bat and in the field. He claimed time outfielder of the Phillies, distinguish- he used it to keep his teeth clear of chewed by his handlebar mustache and peren- ing tobacco, as the weed had a tendency nial toothpick, died at his home in Saint | to wedge itself between two teeth in the

One day Catcher Roger Bresnahan of years he had been growing blind as cat- the New York Giants sought to have some aracts slowly dimmed his eyes. The widow | fun at the expense of the toothpick. Rival pitchers had tried in vain to knock it from Born at Saint Clair, February 21, 1876, his mouth, Lefty Leifield, then with Titus was one of eight children, six of Pittsburgh, coming the closest, but only Bresnahan was a strategist, however, and

unteers, and was sent to Savannah, Ga., one day reached around, while Titus was ogize and never attempted another forav

Titus made a practice of saving his monthly pay checks until the end of the season and cashing them as he needed money, often causing headaches in the club's bookkeeping department. Off the field, he wore a derby, as well as a vest years, after the advent of the protection. adorned by a heavy gold watch chain, played barehanded. One day, Biddy appearkeeping the vest as a part of his costume ed in his position with a glove on his left even in the hot summer months.

est second baseman of all time during fielding average made a marked advance. the 18 years he played with Cincinnati However, in 15 out of McPhee's 18 major risburg as a farm and placed Jack 18 in the American Association and National League, died at his home in Ocean Beach, his record in this respect being without Cal., a suburb of San Diego, January 3, at parallel. the age of 83 years. He was born at Massena, N. Y., November 1, 1859, and early but severed completely his connection with in life moved with his parents to Keith- the game after 1909. burg, Ill. Following his retirement from the game, McPhee moved to Los Angeles and had resided in San Diego for 20 years. A nephew, W. R. Berry of Los Angeles, and two sisters-in-law in Cincinnati sur-

outfielder with Davenport in 1879. After with the New York Americans prior to playing several positions with the club, he World War I, after leaving Syracuse Unijoined Akron as a second baseman in 1880 and performed so brilliantly at the keystone sack he was signed by Cincinnati Two other sons and two sisters also surof the newly-organized American Association in 1882. He continued playing ball in that city from that date to 1889 in the A. A. and from 1890 to 1899 in the National League and managed the Reds in 1901 and part of 1902.

Rhinelanders until 1919-and he remained at second base for the same city for 18 consecutive seasons until he voluntarily quit playing. Over that stretch of time, Biddy was one of the most capable and faithful guardians of the keystone position any club ever had. To him also went the distinction of working under the colors of the Cincinnati team more years than any player ever connected with the club. Few players took care of one position with the same team as long as did McPhee, playing more than 2,000 games during that time.

With an average of .982 in 116 games, he turned the following season and was reled the second sackers of the 12-club Na- leased to Richmond, Ind., then went to tional League. This mark stood in the Danville, Springfield, O., Charleroi, back National League for 29 years-until Earl to Akron, and wound up his career with (Sparky) Adams of the Chicago Cubs Joplin in 1934. eclipsed it. with .983 in 1925.

As a batter, Biddy also was proficient. He didn't compare with Collins, Lajoie Feller, former Cleveland pitching ace now or Hornsby, with the stick, but he was a dependable hitter, with a lifetime average of .272. In 1886, for example, when hurlers worked from the 50-foot distance

ing credited with 714, or an average of .033 Like Three-Fingered Brown. Red Ruf- a game. Eddie Collins ranks next to Mcsackers-a record for consistency rarely in 1924.

alent. He always had a toothpick in his McPhee decided to quit before he became daughter.

LOOPING THE LOOPS

= By J. G. TAYLOR SPINK =

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.)

provement Company in Philadelphia, he went with a cotton yarn concern as field representative. Then came the war. Jack enlisted for ground work in aviation and went overseas as a lieutenant. Later, he was advanced to captain and became aidede-camp to General John C. Biddle.

Much of Potter's time was spent in England, where he assisted Gen. Biddle in expediting troop movements. On the day the Armistice was signed, he and the general were guests at Buckingham Palace, where Jack met the then Prince of Wales.

All told, Potter was overseas 14 months. At one time, he managed a team of U.S. boxers in the A. E. F., including Augie Ratner, Joe Lynch and Mike O'Dowd. He also formed a baseball league.

On a visit to Paris, after the Armistice, Jack ran into Hank Gowdy, the first major league player to enlist in World War I. "It was in the Bal Tabarin," relates Potter. "I noticed a tall American sergeant whose figure seemed familiar. I went up closer and found it was Gowdy. He was leading a group of attractive chorus girls in singing 'Madelon.' They were doing fine, too, except that Hank couldn't sing in French, and the girls didn't know any English."

"Managed" Prince of Wales

HEN the Prince of Wales came to this country in 1919, Jack, still a captain, was designated by official Washington as his aide de camp. He picked up the Prince in Canada and took him all over the United States.

"Once in a while, he got away from me," laughed Potter, "but I think did a pretty good job of managing him. Jack is a member of the British Victorian Order, a personal decoration given him by

It was while "managing" Wales that Potter made the contact that brought him into the theatrical business. He met the late Charles B. Dillingham, noted producer, in New York, when arranging a dinner party for the Prince and later joined the producer as a company manager. He remained with Dillingham 15 years, or until the latter died on one of his annual summer tours of Europe in search of theatrical

Jack then joined John Golden, also a producer, who at that time had Gertrude Lawrence under contract, and was with him two years. He is in his third season with Miss Lawrence's present show, "Lady in the Dark."

Between times, Potter has handled such celebrities as Leopold Stokowski, Fred Stone, the Duncan Sisters, Jack Whiting, Clifton Webb, Constance Bennett, Marion Davies, Gladys Swarthout, Beatrice Lillie, Jack Buchanan, A. E. Matthews and Herbert Marshall. The four last-named, like Miss Lawrence, are English.

"That Victorian Order medal has done pretty well for me," quipped Jack. When the former Prince of Wales, now the Duke of Windsor, was in New York last summer, he called at the Alvin Theater, where Miss Lawrence was play-

has-been. Under insistent pressure, however, he was induced to accept the management of the Cincinnati club'in 1901. The team finished last that season, but he lifted the Reds to fourth place in 1902.

In 1886, gloves came into general use by nfielders and outfielders, though previously the rules specified they could be worn only what I had done," he said. "I've the by catchers and first basemen. However, Biddy didn't approve of them and for some aged myself right out of a job." hand. He felt and looked ashamed after DOTTER'S other experience in the his long holdout against a fielding aid, John Alexander (Biddy) McPhee, ac- but he soon learned the glove was a great claimed by old-timers as one of the great- improvement over bare hands and his league seasons, he played without a glove,

Later, McPhee scouted for Cincinnati

John C. Rafter, former catcher, died at Troy. N. Y., January 5, after several months' illness. Aged 68, Rafter graduated said. "But the experience was worth " from Fordham in the late '90s and played price.' with Syracuse, Memphis, Troy, Albany McPhee began his diamond career as an and Pittsburgh. One son, William J., was versity, and played with Utica, Bridgeport and Buffalo before retiring in 1919

Born in Lansingburg. N. Y., Rafter began his career by catching on the Y. M. C. A. team at Troy. While playing professional ball in the summer he worked as a street car conductor in the winter His first season with Cincinnati the and became an inspector for the United team won the pennant-the last for the Traction Co. at Troy in 1900, later entering the claim department. He retired from active service last July.

> Don M. Benintendi, known in the game as Don Benn, during 13 years' service as a catcher in the minors, died at Tulsa, Okla., January 6. after a heart attack. He recently was employed at the Douglas Aircraft Company plant in the Oklahoma city. Benintendi, born in Graney, Mo., July

19, 1903, signed with Topeka in 1922 after attending Wentworth Military Academy. Subsequently he was with Newton, Oklahoma City. Fort Smith. Van Buren, Akron, In 1896, after 14 years of continuous play, Dallas, and quit the game in 1929 while McPhee had his banner season in fielding. with Akron, to go into business. He re-

> William Feller, 56-year-old father of Bob a chief specialist in the Navy, died at Van Meter, Ia., January 10, after an illness of several years. The elder Feller's life was wrapped up in the career of Bob. whom he caught when the youngster was a tiny lad. The father used him at shortstop on the neighborhood team he managed until Bob was 15 and made him a regular pitcher of the Farmer's Union team that the elder Feller piloted to a state

Mrs. William A. Neale, mother of Earle (Greasy) Neale, coach of the Philadelphia Eagles professional football team and forther outfielder and coach, died at Parkersburg. W. Va., after a long illness. Neale played with St. Thomas, London, Cleveland, Dayton, Saginaw, Wheeling, Cincinnati and the Phils, and coached the Reds

Mrs. Neale was 72 years old. Her husband and three other sons survive.

Mrs. Edith Anne Nesbit, wife of Thorpe Arky Vaughan, infielder of the Brooklyn of 38 home runs in the era of the dead well, hitting .283 and setting the fielding Nesbit, an attorney, and a niece of John pace for the 20 second sackers who played K. Tener, president of the National League Called Silent John, because of his taci- in the 12-club circuit, with a mark of .958, from 1913 to 1918, died at her home in umpires. when baiting them was prev- agement to persuade him to remain. But ness. Surviving also are a son and a

McDonald's 'Memory

John McDonald, former travel secretary of the Dodgers, is ing to "parlez"—and he doesn't a two-horse wager. John is broken up on his French, in preparation

his new job as vice-president

general manager of the Montreal ternational League club. In a letter to Publisher J. G. Tark Spink of THE SPORTING NEW which will appear in next week issue, McDonald will tell of his arations for his new job, and relate, in humorous fashion, of his experiences at Brookle You'll chuckle over his stories Larry MacPhail, Leo Durocher writers who travel with the Dodger and about John's pal, Secretary Di

die Brannick of the Giants Conald's momentous man will appear in Spink's "Looping a ... روان " column.

ing. "Hello, Jack," was his green Potter. "Meet the wife." "He's a regular guy, all the way" as

Ran Newark Bears for Block T WAS Jack's theatrical comtions that brought him into the executive side of baseball. N lingham was an ardent fan a Potter frequently went to the in New York with him. One day Brooklyn, Paul Block, the late me lisher, joined them and Jack bear calling the plays as he would have my them if manager. His "first guessing" so expert that Block, who then owned is Newark International League club, ber-

interested in Potter and later installed as executive vice-president of the Be-That was in 1930. The team, managed by Tris Speak wasn't getting anywhere. Potter cut les a lot of old-timers and brought in free blood. Before the end of the season, here placed Speaker with Al Mamaux. However, the chief trouble was a be of power, and Potter tried to correct his buying long-ball hitters. One place is

sought to land was Bevo Lebourvey in was with Toledo. Block okayed the purchase of Bern at the American Association clubs supposed waived on him. Then there was a life Some club called back its waiver and mi lified the purchase. Block, who was at familiar with the inner workings of her

ball, "blew up" over this development "Then and there." explained Potter "A Block decided to get out of the game. couldn't understand how a deal that is viously had been made could be counted manded by the action of one club in the American Association. So, late in the inson, I was told to try to sell the francis to the Yankees, Jimmy Sinnott was at to contact the Giants and somebody is

the Dodgers. "I finally got the late Col. Jacob Ra pert interested and the Yankees how Newark as a farm club. When the went through, I was without a job stra Ruppert placed George Weiss in superi

ory charge of the Bears." Jack flashed a handsome wrist with "Mr. Block gave me this in appreciation (watch as a reminder of the time I

Ready to Get Back in Game in 1933 at Harrisburg, then a the New York - Pennsylvania League. Emil Fuchs, who was the erating the Boston Braves, had Hard charge as president. The Brave were short of cash, and besides failing provide Harrisburg with players of the sired caliber, did not support the

financially to the extent expected. During the last month of the Jack had the role of angel for Harristan "It cost me 1,500 bucks out of my of pocket to keep the Senators going.

There are three ways to run a min league club, Potter has found. "One is " get young players and develop them is salable material; another is to get pot players on option and depend on the for the financial returns, and the ollust to be an outright farm, dependent on can youngsters coming up through the char channels. I like best the idea of develop ing players as an independent."

For a period between theatrical ments, Potter was business manager de Boston National League pro football tes which now operates in Washington, 25 once had charge of the Philadelphia East But when it comes to sports, it is banks with the keen-eyed, observant Potter. would like to get back into the game. knows front-office details, knows how judge players, and is an expert at prose tion and showmenship.

And when it comes to arranging travel under wartime difficulties-Jack asks. "did you ever try to handle" big theatrical troupe, with plenty of ery, in present transportation conditions Potter has only one real gripe and baseball. It is the seven-inning game many minor leagues shoot in as part at

double-header. "That's criminal—against the law," P tests Jack. "A ball game is supposed to nine innings. What if we'd cut out last act of a show?"

And we wondered if it also isn't the law that Potter isn't in baseball, 🕬 the game needing a man of his talent

Williams Scattered Homes

Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox fielder who captured the America League hitting honors for a second straight season in 1942, spread leading total of 36 homers around the circuit, failing to any pitcher for more than two

Williams garnered two fourgers each off the deliveries of Marchildon, Russ Christopher Roger Wolff. Philadelphia; Virgi Trucks and Al Benton, Detroit; Detroit; ny Galehouse, St. Louis, and Sp.

Chandler, New York. In 1941, when Ted led the circu with 37 homers, he made six Johnny Rigney, then of Chicago White Sox and now in the Nation and four off Johnny Niggeling

Sixteen of Williams' 1942 circ smashes came in Boston, with following on enemy fields: Chicago one; Cleveland, two; Detroit, New York, four; Philadelphia, 1995. St. Louis, four, and Washing