

Dodgers Lead Way in Farms; Cubs Next, With Yanks Third

With the Dodgers showing the way, closely followed by the Cubs, Yankees and Cardinals, minor league farms, operated by major league clubs through ownership or working agreements, have increased to 234, with several more to be added before all of the minors have opened their seasons. Affiliates reported, with the total number for each club, ownership or working agreements and classifications, are:

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Brooklyn (25, 13 owned—2 AAA, 2 AA, 2 A, 5 B, 4 C, 9 D)—Montreal, International; Fort Worth, Texas; Danville, Three-I; Newport News, Piedmont; Nashua, New England; Santa Barbara, California; Three Rivers, Canadian-American; Cambridge, Eastern Shore; Olean, Pony; Thomasville, North Carolina State; Valdosta, Georgia-Florida; Kingston, Border; Ponca City, K-O-M, owned; St. Paul, American Association; Mobile, Southern; Meridian, Southeastern; Abilene, West Texas-New Mexico; Zanesville, Ohio State; Johnstown, Middle Atlantic; Sheboygan, Wisconsin State; Asheville, Tri-State; Spokane, Western International; Pueblo, Western; Greenville, Sally; Pulaski, Appalachian.

Chicago (21, ten owned—1 AAA, 2 AA, 2 A, 5 B, 4 C, 7 D)—Los Angeles, Pacific Coast; Des Moines, Western; Davenport, Three-I; Fayetteville, Tri-State; Visalia, California; Clinton, Central Association; Hutchinson, Western Association; Lumberton, Tobacco State; Janesville, Wisconsin State; Elizabethton, Appalachian, owned; Tulsa, Texas; Nashville, Southern; Macon, Sally; Hagerstown, Inter-State; Tacoma, Western International; Portsmouth, Piedmont; St. Augustine, Florida State; Marion, Ohio State; Sioux Falls, Northern; Centralia, Illinois State; Iola, K-O-M.

St. Louis (19, 16 owned—2 AAA, 1 AA, 2 A, 3 B, 4 C, 7 D)—Rochester, International; Columbus, American Association; Houston, Texas; Columbus, Sally; Omaha, Western; Allentown, Inter-State; Decatur, Three-I; Lynchburg, Piedmont; Fresno, California; Focattello, Pioneer; St. Joseph, Western Association; Winston-Salem, Carolina; Albany, Georgia-Florida; Hamilton, Pony; Johnson City, Appalachian; Salisbury, Eastern Shore, owned; Duluth, Northern; Carthage, K-O-M; West Frankfort, Illinois State.

New York (18, four owned—2 AAA, 2 A, 3 B, 4 C, 7 D)—Jersey City, International; Minneapolis, American Association; Trenton, Inter-State; Fort Smith, Western Association, owned; Sioux City, Western; Jacksonville, Sally; Richmond, Piedmont; Manchester, New England; Danville, Carolina; Erie, Middle Atlantic; Reno, Sunset; Bristol, Appalachian; Hickory, North Carolina State; Springfield, Ohio State; Oshkosh, Wisconsin State; Seaford, Eastern Shore; Peekskill, North Atlantic; Lawton, Sooner.

Boston (16, seven owned—1 AAA, 1 AA, 1 A, 3 B, 5 C, 5 D)—Milwaukee, American Association; Hartford, Eastern; Evansville, Three-I; Eau Claire, Northern; Bluefield, Appalachian; Owensboro, Killy; Richmond, Ohio State, owned; Little Rock, Southern; Pawtucket, New England; Jackson, Southeastern; Las Vegas, Sunset; Fort Lauderdale, Florida International; Amarillo, West Texas-New Mexico; Leavenworth, Western Association; Bloomington, North Atlantic; Mt. Vernon, Illinois State.

Pittsburgh (14, seven owned—1 AAA, 1 AA, 2 A, 2 B, 3 C, 6 D)—Indianapolis, American Association; Selma, Southeastern; Keokuk, Central Association; Hornell, Pony; Salisbury, North Carolina State; Leesburg, Florida State; Tallahassee, Georgia-Florida, owned; Albany, Eastern; York, Inter-State; Bartlesville, Western Association; Fargo-Moorhead, Northern; Uniontown, Middle Atlantic; Riverside, California; Rehoboth, Eastern Shore.

Philadelphia (11, six owned—1 AA, 2 B, 3 C, 5 D)—Utica, Eastern; Wilmington, Inter-State; Terre Haute, Three-I; Dover, Eastern Shore; Americus, Georgia-Florida; Bradford, Pony, owned; Vandergrift, Middle Atlantic; Schenectady, Canadian-American; Salina, Western Association; Appleton, Wisconsin State; Carbondale, North Atlantic.

Cincinnati (8, two owned—1 AAA, 1 A, 1 B, 3 C, 2 D)—Columbia, Sally; Ogden, Pioneer, owned; Syracuse, International; Providence, New England; Rockford, Central Association; Tyler, Lone Star; Lockport, Pony; Muncie, Ohio State.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

New York (20, seven owned—2 AAA, 1 AA, 3 A, 4 B, 6 C, 4 D)—Newark, International; Kansas City, American Association; Binghamton, Eastern; Norfolk, Piedmont; Ventura, California; Bisbee, Arizona-Texas; Independence, K-O-M, owned; Beaumont, Texas; Augusta, Sally; Denver, Western; Victoria, Western International; Quincy, Three-I; Sunbury, Inter-State; Amsterdam, Canadian-American; Twin Falls, Pioneer; Joplin, Western Association; Butler, Middle Atlantic; Fond du Lac, Wisconsin State; Easton, Eastern Shore; Stroudsburg, North Atlantic.

Cleveland (17, five owned—1 AAA, 1 AA, 1 A, 3 B, 5 C, 6 D)—Wilkes-Barre, Eastern; Meridian, Southeastern; Bakersfield, California; Tucson, Arizona-Texas; Burlington, Central Association, owned; Baltimore, International; Oklahoma City, Texas; Spartanburg, Tri-State; Harrisburg, Inter-State; Pittsfield, Canadian-American; Jacksonville, Lone Star; Green Bay, Wisconsin State; Batavia, Pony; Dayton, Ohio State; Cordele, Georgia-Florida; Ardmore, Sooner; Union City, Killy.

St. Louis (17, four owned—1 AAA, 1 AA, 1 A, 2 B, 5 C, 7 D)—Toledo, American Association; San Antonio, Texas; Elmira, Eastern; Springfield, Three-I, owned; Paris, Big State; Hannibal, Central Association; Aberdeen, Northern; Muskogee, Western Association; Globe-Miami, Arizona-Texas; Gloversville, Canadian-American; Newark, Ohio State; Mayfield, Killy; Pittsburg, K-O-M; Baton Rouge, Evangeline; Belleville, Illinois State; Ada, Sooner; Wausau, Wisconsin State.

Philadelphia (12, seven owned—1 AA, 2 A, 1 B, 3 C, 5 D)—Savannah, Sally; Lincoln, Western; Martinsville, Carolina; Moline, Central Association; Lexington, North Carolina State; Red Springs, Tobacco State; Federalburg, Eastern Shore, owned; Birmingham, Southern; Lancaster, Inter-State; Niagara Falls, Middle Atlantic; Nyack, North Atlantic; Welch, Appalachian.

Detroit (11, three owned—1 AAA, 1 AA, 1 A, 2 B, 2 C, 4 D)—Williamsport, Eastern; Troy, Alabama State; Thomasville, Georgia-Florida, owned; Buffalo, International; Dallas, Texas; Montgomery, Southeastern; Hagerstown, Inter-State; Rome, Canadian-American; Lubbock, West Texas-New Mexico; Jamestown, Pony; Nazareth, North Atlantic.

Boston (10, five owned—2 AAA, 1 AA, 1 A, 2 B, 2 C, 2 D)—Louisville, American Association; Lynn, New England; San Jose, California; Wellsville, Pony; Milford, Eastern Shore, owned; Toronto, International; New Orleans, Southern; Scranton, Eastern; Roanoke, Piedmont; Oneonta, Canadian-American.

Chicago (9, one owned—1 AAA, 2 B, 2 C, 4 D)—Waterloo, Three-I; owned; Hollywood, Pacific Coast; Fall River, New England; Oil City, Middle Atlantic; Superior, Northern; Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin State; Madisonville, Killy; Mattoon, Illinois State; Lima, Ohio State.

Washington (6, four owned—1 AA, 1 B, 1 C, 3 D)—Chattanooga, Southern; Charlotte, Tri-State; Havana, Florida International; Orlando, Florida State, owned; Brewton, Alabama State; Kingsport, Appalachian.

'If We Had Hank, I Would Have Won'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

managers now domiciled in Florida, except O'Neill himself, and he doubtless has some inner feelings along the same lines.

Hank hit 44 homers and drove in 127 runs last season. The second best run producer on the club was responsible for only 60. If Dick Wakefield and Hoot Evers, who batted under .270 in 1946, fail to do tremendously better, Steve will be up against it.

Not to be overlooked is the psychological factor insofar as Detroit pitching is concerned. The Tiger front office did not have to sell Hank, and it has left a gorgeous springboard for excuses.

The general impression is that the Cubs will give the Dodgers a battle for second money. A multiplicity of injuries prevented Charlie Grimm from developing the contention which Leo

Minors' Total Hits 52

Formal granting of membership to the Class B Colonial League raised to 52 the number of leagues operating in the National Association this season. This completed the minor league family for 1947, as no additional league applications will be considered. This is a record for the National Association, the previous being 46 in 1910. Members of the Colonial League are New London, Waterbury, Bridgeport and Stamford, Conn., and Poughkeepsie and Port Chester, N. Y. Ken Strong, former football star and outfielder, is president of the new circuit.

Durocher was so sure Chicago would throw into the race last season.

The Braves, who finished fourth, only a length behind the Cubs in 1946, have yet to look truly impressive.

The Giants seem to have a coming hitter in Clint Hartung, but, says Del Webb, "He needs an iron hat in the field." Bucky Harris likes Don Johnson and Frank Shea, young right-handers, and is sure Tommy Byrne finally will make it. Johnny Beazley the other day asked for his unconditional release. He is sure his arm is gone, but Eddie Dyer won't quit on him. Chuck Diering, Cardinal outfielder from Rochester, is a reminder of Jigger Statz in the field and may be kept, even though his batting is not impressive.

Shoeless Joe Gets Ready for Action



RECOVERING at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md., from a skin-grafting operation on his heel, Joe DiMaggio of the Yankees enjoys a spot of tea, with a carton of Chesterfield within easy reach. For a short time after he starts training, Joe will wear a special shoe in order to avoid irritating the foot.

Yankees Always Win Openers With DiMag, Lose in Absence

BALTIMORE, Md.

On a piece of skin the size of a special delivery stamp rests the hopes of Joe DiMaggio being able to appear in the Yankee lineup on opening day. The thin slice of cuticle was transferred from the back of the outfielder's right thigh to the inside of the left heel, where a raw wound had been left by earlier surgery for the removal of a bone spur.

Surgeons at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore described the skin-grafting operation as "successful," but have declined to speculate on when he can start training. Joe still is hopeful, however, that he will be ready to appear against the Senators, April 14, but there are plenty of doubters.

During his major league career, DiMaggio has appeared in the Yankees' opening day lineup four times and each inaugural they won by a shutout. However, they have lost all four curtain-raisers in which he failed to participate since he joined them. Now he faces the prospect of missing his fifth opening game in his nine years with the Yanks.

Physical troubles and holdout sieges were responsible for Joe's absence from four previous inaugurals.

It was in 1936 that DiMag came up to the New Yorkers from San Francisco. During spring training he suffered an ankle injury. Diathermy treatment was prescribed by Trainer Doc Painter, and the ankle was placed under the lamps. However, Joe forgot to warn Painter that he was a sufferer from a blood chemistry disturbance caused by an over-prevalence of sugar. The foot was burned, and DiMaggio was forced to miss the first 17 league encounters. Sitting on the sidelines, Joe saw Bobo Newsom pitch Washington to a four-hit, 1 to 0 victory over Lefty Gomez and the Yanks to inaugurate the '36 race.

Had Tonsils Yanked in '37
In 1937, DiMaggio reported with a sore flipper, and was advised to undergo a tonsillectomy. The operation caused the Yankee Clipper to miss another opening combat. And again the Bombers went down to defeat, 3 to 2, before Washington. DiMaggio's absence extended through the first six games.

In 1938, DiMaggio was a holdout and missed the first 12 games. Once more, the Yankees, in DiMag's absence, blew a season opener, losing to the Red Sox, 8 to 4.

The Yankee Clipper and Ed Barrow reached an agreement early in 1939. For the first time Joe was on hand for the American League opener. With Ruffing pitching a seven-hitter and DiMag making one safety in two trips, the Yankees defeated the Red Sox, 2 to 0.

With a full training season under his belt for the first time, DiMag went on to win the first of his two successive batting titles that year with a .381 average.

Another mishap tripped Jolting Joe in 1940. After signing for a reported \$32,500 shortly after the training season opened, DiMag banged his right knee in the final days of the exhibition campaign. Again he had to sit out the league opener, and as on previous oc-

Pope-DiMag Photo Mixup

Joe DiMaggio of the Yankees, recovering at Johns Hopkins Hospital from a heel operation, has received 50 copies of an error made by an Attleboro (Mass.) paper, reports Earl Wilson of the New York Post.

Captions under pictures of Joe and Pope Pius XII were transposed. The caption under Joe's picture said: "His Holiness Pope Pius XII is carried through ducal hall on a portable throne." The caption under the Pope said: "Heel Healing, He Hopes. Joe DiMaggio pours himself a cup of tea."

Casions when Joe was missing, the Bombers bowed, Red Ruffing losing to the A's, 2 to 1 in ten frames. Joe missed the first 15 games that year, but won the batting championship.

Despite salary squabbles, Joe was on hand for the openers the next two

seasons. Signing for a reported \$35,000 late in March, 1941, DiMaggio collected two hits in four appearances in the inaugural as Marius Russo held Washington to three hits, winning, 3 to 1.

The Jolter, satisfied with a \$42,500 contract, was on hand early in 1942. Again the Yankees won a shutout on opening day with Joe in the lineup. Ruffing limiting Washington to three hits, the Yanks triumphing, 7 to 0.

DiMag was in the armed services in 1943, 1944 and 1945. He returned to action last spring, and the Bombers once more annexed an opening-day shutout. Joe made one hit in four tries, Spud Chandler twirled a five-hitter, and the Stadiumites toppled the A's, 5 to 0. But it was a disappointing year for the Jolter, hitting below .300 for the first time in his career.

Any Yankee would feel like a heel if he talked Joe into playing too soon, but all hands would like to see him in there with both feet well healed.

Ruth First to Be Given Day by All Majors in 51 Years



Babe Ruth

MIAMI BEACH, Fla.—Except for a like tribute to Harry Wright back in 1896, the first general big league observance of a "Day" for an individual will be staged April 27, when Babe Ruth will be honored by the majors. By direction of Commissioner A. B. Chandler, the fans, will unite that afternoon in a salute to the home run king. Wright was similarly remembered April 13, 1896, by order of the National League's board of directors.

Recognizing the place Ruth holds in the heart of the fans, Chandler, who visited the Bambino in the hospital, set aside the last Sunday in April as "Babe Ruth Day," in the following statement issued here:

"All Americans and others interested in sports throughout the world have been concerned in recent months over the illness of one of baseball's most beloved figures. George Herman (Babe) Ruth is now recuperating from a serious operation. In order that the fans, players and the management of the game may have an opportunity to unite in a salute and join in a prayer for his early recovery, Sunday, April 27, has been designated as 'Babe Ruth Day.' Appropriate ceremonies will be held at every major league game—a nation-wide system will carry a broadcast. The commissioner earnestly hopes that every lover of baseball will participate.

"There will be no collections—no advance in price at the parks. This is not a fund-raising event. It is an expression of affection to one who has contributed so much to our national sport—Baseball.

"ALBERT B. CHANDLER, Commissioner."

Wright, who helped found the National League, paved the way for Organized Ball by assembling the first professional club, the undefeated Cincinnati Red Stockings of 1869. Wright also managed the Boston Red Stockings (1871-1881), Providence Grays (1882-1883) and Philadelphia Phils (1884-1893).

When Wright's health failed in 1894, the National League created the honorary post of umpire-in-chief for him, and on his death in 1895 the memorial day was arranged and all 12 league cities and many minor league towns scheduled games for the event.

Bad weather washed out many of the contests and kept attendance low elsewhere. The receipts failed to produce the revenue needed to build the monument planned for Wright's grave, but the National League dipped into its treasury and commissioned Edmund Quinn to do a figure of the "Father of Professional Baseball." The statue was unveiled in Philadelphia, where Wright is buried, on June 20, 1897.

While all of the minor league clubs are expected to participate in Ruth Day, the Canadian-American, Southeastern and Sally leagues were the first to reveal plans for the nation-wide observance.

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by Fred Lieb

Life Story of BABE RUTH

Waterfront Waif Who Rose to Fame

Put in Industrial School at 7, Remained 12 Years

Signed Sight Unseen by Jack Dunn of Baltimore Club on Recommendation of Teacher; Proved Immediately Successful as Southpaw Hurler and Slugger

In the middle of that decade known as the Gay Nineties, when Ned Hanlon's Orioles, one of the greatest of all baseball teams, were winning pennants for Baltimore, a husky, loud-voiced infant was born in the modest rooms back of a Baltimore waterfront saloon. The Chesapeake town then was singing the praises of John McGraw, Wee Willie Keeler, Wilbert Robinson, Kid Gleason, Joe Kelley and Hughie Jennings.

Had some soothsayer told the Oriole fans that this waterfront babe would eclipse them all in the baseball firmament, he would have been called stark mad. Yet that babe was destined to do all of that—not only eclipse those Baltimore stars, but for color, fan appeal, drawing power and prowess for slugging a baseball for tremendous distances, he stands head and shoulders above all other great players, past and present. Shining at the zenith of his glory, he drew a salary four times as great as that of the entire Baltimore team, a salary greater than that paid the President of the United States.

The infant born on the waterfront was George Herman Ruth, later known not only to millions of fellow Americans, but all over the world, as Babe Ruth. So obscure was his birth and so humble his origin that for the greater part of his playing career, he believed he was a year older than he actually is. It wasn't until 1934, when he needed a passport for a baseball trip to the Orient with a team of American stars, that he learned his exact age. A Baltimore birth certificate then revealed he was born on February 6, 1895. Up to that time, the Babe thought he was born "in February, 1894."

"That's one of the biggest jokes I ever heard on a ball player," the big fellow bellowed at the time. "Half of these birds (the other fellows) are afraid to have you look too close into their birth records. Some of 'em are two to five years older than they have it in the books. Then they dig up the official stuff on me and I'm actually a year younger than I thought I was."

Placed in Industrial School
Like his fellow star on later day Yankee world's champion teams, Lou Gehrig, Ruth is of German descent on both sides. The writer once was told by a former baseball official that Ruth's first contract in the International League bore the signature of "George H. Ehrhardt." However, Babe has always insisted the German family name was Ruth.

His early environment was that Baltimore waterfront saloon, frequented by stevedores and the hard-boiled Chesapeake oyster dredgers. The kid developed a headstrong will, and was difficult to handle. Some neighbors, feeling that the saloon was no place in which to bring up a child, had him committed to St. Mary's Industrial School, a Roman Catholic semi-reform school.

Some parts of Ruth's early life have been grossly exaggerated, especially the story that he was such a bad boy he had to be put away. This obviously is incorrect, as Ruth was committed to St. Mary's before he was 7 years old. It also is untrue that Ruth was a motherless waif when he was sent to St. Mary's. His mother died some years after he entered the institution, and he was permitted to attend her funeral. His father lived until Ruth became a big leaguer, and shared to some degree George's early success as a pitcher with the Red Sox. But, with the exception of a few times when he was out on permission, St. Mary's was the only home Babe knew from the time he was 7 until the age of 19, when he went south with the late Jack Dunn's Baltimore International League Orioles.

Two brothers of St. Mary's, Brother

Difficulty in Remembering Names of Own Teammates

The Bambino's poor memory has been notorious, sometimes comic. Nobody who was in the Yankee dugout the day Paul Whiteman visited the Stadium will ever forget what happened.

Ruth began to introduce his teammates to the famous band leader. Lou Gehrig, Tony Lazzeri, a couple more, and then Ruth found that he did not remember the names of his associates.

He grinned, Whiteman roared, the players began to introduce themselves.

Up to 35, you are "Kid" to Ruth. Over 35, "Doc."

Paul, head of the school, and Brother Albert, in charge of athletics and recreation, were chiefly responsible for molding George Herman's early character. Babe still retains his love and loyalty for the school and the Catholic brothers, who paved the way for his life of useful citizenry. He helps repeatedly in raising funds for the school; St. Mary's band frequently played at Yankee Stadium, and in the Baltimore industrial school George Ruth is held up today as a shining example of what a St. Mary's boy can do in the outside world.

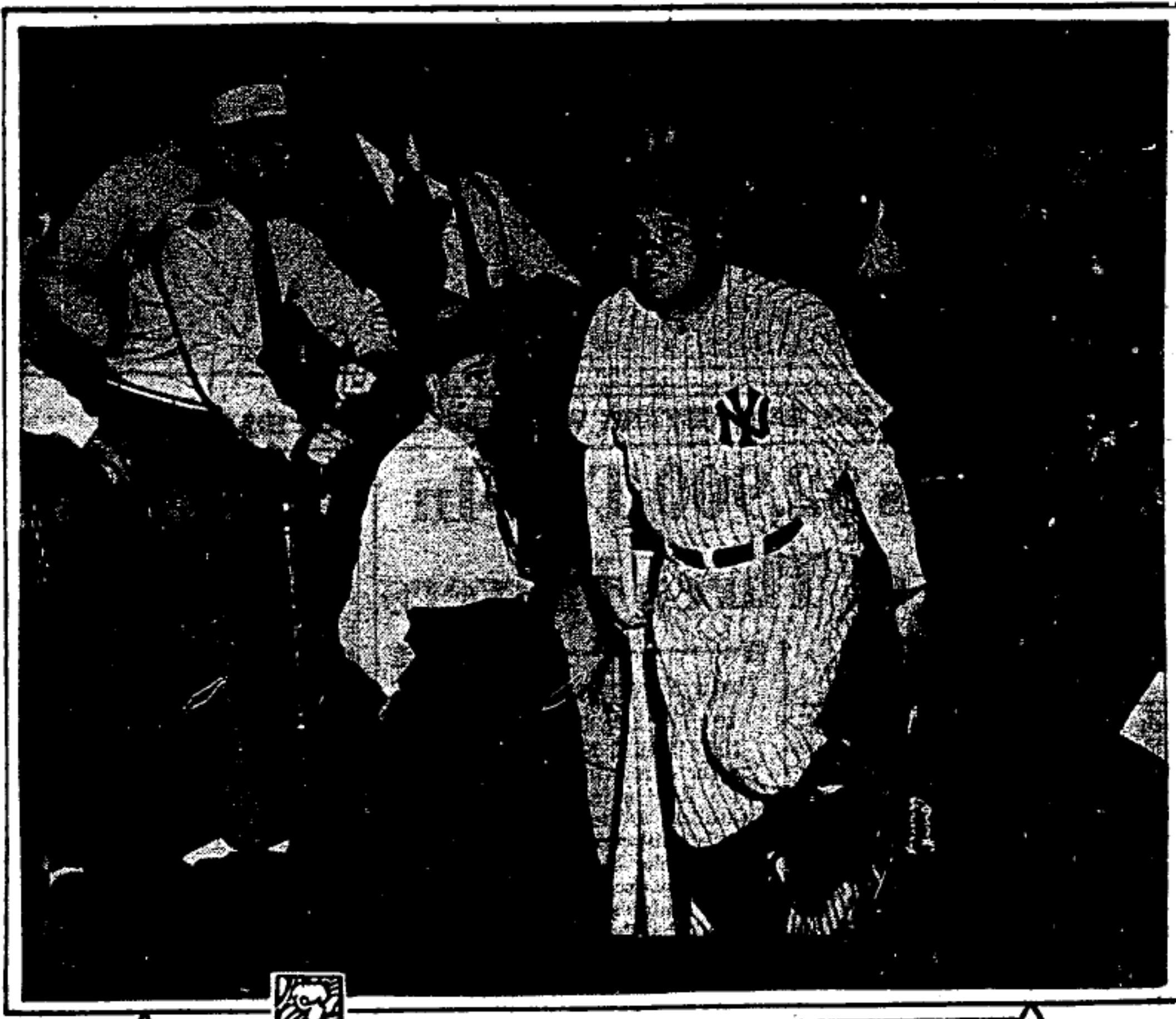
At St. Mary's, they realize they can't count on all of their boys becoming great baseball stars, and the youngsters are taught trades so that they can support themselves in the outside world. And the particular trade they taught George Ruth, of all things, was tailoring. It was a long jump from his work bench in the Baltimore school's tailor shop to Yankee Stadium, New York, but the same fingers which clasped tightly around his home run bat years before spent many hours in stitching St. Mary's uniforms, robes for the brothers and other bits of sewing that needed to be done. His report card at St. Mary's indicated he was a good tailor.

Started Behind the Bat

The brothers went on the splendid theory that "All work and no play makes Babe a dull boy." There were sports at St. Mary's, and baseball was No. 1. Brother Paul once said: "Ruth played ball the first afternoon he was with us, and from then on he played baseball at every opportunity. He never knew a closed season, and played ball spring, summer and fall. He was tall and skinny in those days, taller than most of the other kids, and started out to be a catcher. However, he was lefthanded—very lefthanded—and all the catcher's mitts in Brother Albert's department were for righthanders. So George stuck his right hand into the lefthanded glove, his little finger going where the thumb rightfully belonged. Getting tired of this, and learning that he could throw the ball faster than any other boy in the school, he switched to the other side of the battery and became the pitcher."

There are several stories as to how

Farewell Appearance in Yankee Uniform



GOING TO BAT AGAINST WALTER JOHNSON IN WAR BOND GAME

Ruth got his nickname, "Babe," Brother Paul once said: "We didn't call him Babe at the school, only George." Later, it was said Babe was hung on him because he was so young when Jack Dunn signed him that the Baltimore owner practically had to adopt him to get him out of St. Mary's before Ruth was of legal age. The writer printed this one time and later received a letter from a man who said he had been at St. Mary's with Ruth.

"Babe was quite homesick when he first came to the school," the man wrote. "Of course, we older boys teased him and picked on him. Then he would cry, and we nicknamed him 'Babe.' It stayed with him when he signed with Dunn's Orioles and became a natural when the Babe advanced into the big leagues."

As Ruth grew older, he became the star of St. Mary's team. That famous barrel chest, which was so familiar

Treated Ankle With 'Hot and Cold Complications'

In his last seasons with the Yankees, Babe Ruth found the going tough, his legs tired. He began to take advantage of little opportunities to "get hurt."

In Cleveland in 1934, he stuck out a hook at a low liner and sank in horrible anguish. They toted him off in an ambulance. That night, writers and other players went up to see him in his room.

"What are you doing for the ankle?" a scribe asked.

"Oh, putting on hot and cold complications," the Babe replied.

to American fans, had not yet developed. At first, he was slim, being six feet tall when he was 17 years old and weighing only 140 pounds. However, he was strong and tough he was the school's first-string pitcher, he batted in the cleanup position and was already hitting for great distances. Brother Paul once recalled Babe's physical hardness and his practical immunity from illness. "In the coldest weather, he would go around without underwear and his shirt unbuttoned," said the school superintendent. As an \$80,000 a year ball player, Ruth still disliked underwear and slept "raw."

Dunn Signed Him Sight Unseen

Jack Dunn, late Baltimore owner-manager, was perhaps the greatest of all minor league men in developing star players. He had a series of contacts which reached into the Cumberland, prep schools of Virginia, the Tobacco roads of the Old South. Through these contacts he came up with such great players as Lefty Grove, Ernie Shore, Jack Bentley, George Earnshaw, Max Bishop and Joe Boley, all of whom went into the Big Time. He had his contact in St. Mary's School, the good Brother Albert. The latter told Jack of Ruth's great strength, hopping fast ball and batting power. Dunn signed Ruth, sight unseen as far as the Babe's ball playing was concerned, to a contract calling for \$600 a season. To the

waterfront kid, who had been outside of the confines of the school walls at only infrequent periods, that sounded like all the money in the world.

Dunn later told of his visit to St. Mary's and the first time he saw Ruth, his greatest discovery. "I visited the school in February, 1914, so it was just around Ruth's nineteenth birthday. Some of the brothers pointed him out to me. Dressed in overalls and looking like a big overgrown kid, he was sliding on the ice with some other boys. However, I took the word of the brothers that he was a great pitching prospect and left with his contract. But, until he put on a uniform at my Fayetteville, N. C., training camp a few weeks later, I never had seen him play ball. I was amazed at the way he hit in batting practice, but at that time we considered him only as a lefthanded pitcher."

A Dream World Opens

That Fayetteville experience was an eye-opener for the St. Mary's boy. For the first time in his life he was looking for the world he dreamed existed outside of St. Mary's, with its tailor shop, school rooms, dormitories and athletic field. It has been printed that Dunn had to adopt Ruth legally before he could play ball for him. This would have made Babe Dunn's foster son. What really happened was that Ruth had been committed to St. Mary's until he became of legal age. Father Paul, therefore, paroled him to Dunn and Jack was responsible to a Maryland court for Ruth's conduct and welfare.

Dunn was fighting the invasion of the Baltimore Federals into his town in that spring of 1914, and he tried to combat them with a near-big league lineup. Among Ruth's first teammates in professional ball were such big time names as Birdie Cree, Bert Daniels, Fred Parent, Neal Bail, Claude Derrick, Ernie Shore, George Twombly and Ben Egan, and the young Babe promptly won his spurs with that clan of ex-big leaguers. The Babe had the faculty of making the headlines from the very beginning. When

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18, COL. 1)

On Gehrig Day



THE BABE greeting the late Lou Gehrig on the day the Iron Man was honored by 62,000 fans in Yankee Stadium, July 4, 1939.

Getting the Works--From Head to Foot



THE HOME RUN HERO GETTING WELL GROOMED FOR HIS PUBLIC

Ruth Was \$2,900 Toss-In in Sale of Three Players

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

such big league clubs as the Giants, Athletics and Phillies, the last-named two then no push-overs, came through Baltimore on the exhibition trail, they were amazed at the stuff this tall 19-year-old lefthander was firing at them. Ruth defeated all three of these clubs.

A show, "Along Came Ruth," was running on Broadway, New York, at the time. Alert sports writers promptly put that head over the box scores of young Ruth's victories over the big leaguers. The late John McGraw, a former teammate and close friend of Dunn's, was impressed with Ruth's showing against his team and exacted a promise to get first crack at the young lefthander when Dunn put him on the market.

Dunn's team proceeded to tear the International League wide open, and with young Babe the ace of their pitching staff, the Orioles led by 17 games at the half-way post. Dunn boosted Ruth's pay to \$900 after the first month, and \$1,300 after the second month. But, with a club which has been called the strongest minor league aggregation ever put together, Dunn couldn't draw flies. Baltimore, with its recollection of its glorious National League days, swallowed the Federal League bait as a third major hook, line and sinker. The Feds played in a park across the street from the Oriole grounds, and with such players as Otto Knabe, Mickey Doolan, Jack Quinn, George Suggs, Harry Swacina, Fred Jacklitsch, Kaiser Wilhelm, Johnny Bates and others, the club, labeled the Federal Terrapins, got all the business.

Sold to the Red Sox

One day after his magnificent team played to only 17 paid admissions, Dunn threw up the sponge as far as trying to get any money back through the gate and sold his outstanding players to the highest bidders in the majors. Birdie Cree was sold back to the Yankees, Claude Derrick, Bert Daniels and George Twombly were disposed of to the Reds, and Pitchers Babe Ruth and Ernie Shore and Catcher Ben Egan were sold to the Boston Red Sox, then owned by Joe Lannin, for a sum said to have been only \$8,500. For some reason, Egan was considered the most valuable of the trio. Ruth's rating in the \$8,500 was given as \$2,900.

However, when John McGraw later remonstrated with Dunn for not giving him the first chance at Ruth, the Baltimorean said he had no alternative, explaining that during the bitter fight with the Federal League, Lannin's bankroll helped keep the International going. Lannin operated clubs in both Providence and Buffalo, and helped Baltimore and other clubs to fight off the invaders. "Lannin deserved first pick on my club," Dunn then said. Had Ruth gone to the Giants in 1914, instead

Ruth Signed by Ford Co. to Aid Legion Junior Ball

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Before leaving for a rest in Florida, April 8, Babe Ruth accepted a position as consultant to the Ford Motor Company's assistant in the American Legion's junior baseball program.

The announcement was made at a press conference at Ruth's home here. The Babe looked wan and weak from his long hospital stay, which followed an operation on January 6.

"I am really happy to be back in the game," said the Bambino. "You know how I've always felt about kids playing baseball. For the first time in my life I feel that I have a chance to put a lot of my ideas into action. I will work just as hard at this job as my health permits."

Ruth was given a noisy send-off at the airport when he boarded a plane for Florida, accompanied by his wife, a nurse, and a friend, Raymond F. Kiltzau, at whose home the while vacationing in Miami. He returned to New York City on April 18.

Before leaving for the South, the Bam also closed a deal with Republic Pictures for the screen rights to his life story, which will be filmed under his technical direction. It is not certain whether he will appear personally in the picture.

of to the Red Sox, the entire history of the two major circuits in the last three decades would have been different.

The deal for Babe, Shore, another great pitcher, and Egan was put through July 8. Bill Carrigan was managing the Red Sox, and they were running second to the great Athletics. Ruth hit the minors with the minors' No. 1 team, and when he reached the majors he found himself on a club with such headliners as that great outfield trio of Duffy Lewis, Tris Speaker and Harry Hooper; Dick Hoblitzel, Steve Yerkes, Larry Gardner and Everett Scott manning the infield; Forest Cady and Chet Thomas aides of Carrigan behind the bat and Joe Wood, Ernie Shore, Hubert (Dutch) Leonard, Ray Collins, Charley Hall, George Foster and Hugh Bedient the pitchers. Speaker and Wood had a lot of fun playing pranks on the crude kid from the Baltimore industrial school and the Babe resented it in language which was not permitted at St. Mary's. It resulted in a coolness between Babe and Speaker, which lasted until the two great stars appeared with other living baseball immortals at the game's one-hundredth anniversary at Coopers-town, N. Y., 25 years later.

Ruth remained with the Red Sox for a little over a month in that first major league season of 1914. Carrigan worked him into five games; he was credited with two victories against one defeat,

Pair of Sluggers



TWO CHAMPIONS of swat in their heyday—Ruth and Jack Dempsey.

and in ten times up he made two hits, the first of that 2,873 collection. By August, Lannin's Providence club was in the thick of the International League pennant fight. With Dunn's Oriole stars disposed of, the Baltimore lead melted away like a snowball in Haiti, and it left Providence, Buffalo and Rochester scrambling for the flag. Joe McCarthy, later Ruth's manager in New York, was second baseman for the old Buffalo Bisons.

Helped Providence to Flag

In an effort to strengthen Providence for the late season pennant drive, Lannin sent Ruth to the old Grays and the Babe added enough pitching power to put Wild Bill Donovan's club over the wire first. So Ruth, the man of many pennant winners later on, started his professional career with a championship club. The International League record of the boy, who had been skating on the St. Mary's ice pond in his overalls only the February before, totaled 22 victories against only nine defeats, an especially remarkable feat when it is considered he spent from July 11 to August 20 in the American League. He hit 231 in 46 International League games, but only one of his 28 blows was a homer. At that time, the Babe was only regarded as a great pitching prospect.

The following February, under Ruth's reckoning of that time, he reached his majority and was free of his parole to Brother Paul and St. Mary's. However, the birth certificate later provided by Baltimore's office of vital statistics showed he was only 20 when he, the school and the court thought he was 21. Anyway, he was growing bigger and heavier. He was six feet

Babe Blanked Buffalo, 6 to 0, Got Two Hits in '14 O. B. Bow

By ERNEST J. LANIGAN

COOPERSTOWN, N. Y.

George Herman Ruth, who will be honored by baseball on April 27, stood a day of his own when he made his first appearance in Organized Ball at Baltimore against Buffalo on April 22, 1914.

He shut out the Billy Clymer-directed Bisons, 6 to 0, with six hits and made two singles himself off Tall George McConnell—one the first time he batted and the other the third. Both hits were aimed to right field. Twice the Babe was retired, grounding out to First Baseman Ben Houser in the third inning and to Shortstop Wilbur Roach in the eighth.

He won his game before a very slim turnout. Oriole fans that year much preferred the Federal League brand of ball to that served up by the International League.

Bobby Vaughn, once of Princeton, was the first batter Ruth faced; Joe McCarthy, former Yankee manager, drew the first pass he issued and Del Paddock was the first batter he fanned.

Here is the play-by-play account of the first inning Ruth pitched: Vaughn was thrown out by Ball, McCarthy walked and took second on a wild pitch, Murray flied to Cree. Ruth and Gleichman got mixed up on Houser's pop fly, the ball dropping safely for a hit and McCarthy taking third; Houser stole second. Jackson was hit by a pitched ball, filling the bases; Roach was thrown out by Ball. No runs, one hit, no errors.

Several of the participants in Ruth's first game can be located without much trouble. McCarthy is in Tonawanda, N. Y.; Ben Egan in Sherrill, N. Y.; Paul Krichell scouts for the Yanks; Bert Daniels is in Newark, N. J., and Neal Ball in Bridgeport, Conn. It was Ball who preserved Ruth's shutout for him by a great stop on Roach in the first inning.

As for the umpires in this game, Dick Nallin is in Frederick, Md., and Bill Carpenter is the National Association's chief of staff and the schedule expert for a flock of leagues.

Ruth's first pay check was \$100 a month. He hit no homers during his stay with the Birds in championship games, but quite a few in exhibition games. His one IL four-bagger came when he was wearing a Providence uniform, off a Toronto pitcher named Ellis Johnson. In that game, Ruth set the Leafs down with one hit.

Ruth, Ernie Shore and Ben Egan were sold by Jack Dunn to the Red Sox in July, 1914, and the Oriole manager sent his secretary—Bill Wickes—along to Boston with them as a bodyguard to see that the Federal leaguers didn't purloin them on their way to the Hub. They arrived safely and Owner Joe Lannin rewarded Wickes with a check for \$100 for his services as chaperon.

Bill Carrigan put Ruth to work for the first time against Cleveland on July 11 and he beat Mitchell of the Indians, 4 to 3, though Dutch Leonard had to finish the game for him. In seven innings he gave the Tribesmen eight hits, all singles. Jack Graney, Joe Jackson and Jay Kirke each had two blows; Ray Chapman and Steve O'Neill each one.

Soon Ruth was at Providence, but he came back to Boston in the fall, winning 87 and losing 44 games for them before H. Harrison Frazee sold him to the Yankees.

Great pitcher, great hitter, great fellow—George Herman Ruth, a \$100 a month performer when he broke in.

Box score of Ruth's first O. B. game follows:

Buffalo	AB.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.	Baltimore	AB.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Vaughn, 3b	5	0	2	1	4	1	Daniels, rf	4	1	2	3	0	0
McCarthy, 2b	4	0	0	0	1	0	Parent, 3b	3	0	0	1	0	0
Murray, rf	3	0	0	0	0	0	Ball, 2b	2	2	0	1	3	0
Houser, 1b	4	0	1	10	0	0	Cree, cf	4	1	1	2	0	0
Jackson, lf	2	0	0	1	1	0	Twombly, lf	4	1	1	1	0	0
Roach, ss	4	0	1	2	4	0	Derrick, ss	4	1	3	1	0	0
Paddock, cf	4	0	1	2	0	0	Gleichman, 1b	4	0	0	14	1	0
Krichell, c	4	0	1	6	2	0	Egan, c	4	0	1	4	0	0
McConnell, p	2	0	0	2	3	1	RUTH, p	4	0	2	0	3	0
*Stephens	1	0	0	0	0	0							
Totals	33	0	6	24	15	2	Totals	33	6	10	27	13	0

*Struck out for McConnell in ninth.

Buffalo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baltimore	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Runs batted in—Egan 2, Twombly 2, Daniels 2, Egan, Krichell, Roach. Stolen bases—Daniels, Ball, Houser. Bases on balls—RUTH 4 (McCarthy, Jackson, McConnell, Murray); off McConnell 3 (Ball 2, Parent). Hit by pitcher—By RUTH (Jackson). Struck out—By RUTH 4 (McConnell, Paddock, Houser, Stephens), by McConnell 6 (Twombly, Fleischman, Egan, Cree, Daniels, Parent). Wild pitches—Ruth 1; McConnell 1. Passed ball—Krichell. Umpires—Dick Nallin and Bill Carpenter. Time—1:54.

two inches tall when he left St. Mary's, but weighed only 170 pounds. He still didn't have that big barrel chest of later years, but his weight suddenly jumped up to 190 pounds. Lannin promptly recalled him at the end of the 1914 International League season, and in 1915 offered the former Baltimore waif a contract for \$3,500.

Babe later enjoyed life's fleshpots to the fullest, and keeping in strict training proved irksome to him. Yet, the eternal wonder is that he did not let his newly acquired success turn his head and do even more rash acts than he did. Here was a boy who a year ago still was working long hours in St. Mary's tailor shop, whose greatest thrill was spending a nickel, suddenly getting semi-monthly checks for \$600. It then looked like all the money in the world.

Ruth's new wealth did not prevent displaying as much on the pitching mound for Boston as he had shown the previous year with Baltimore and Providence in the International League. Unless it was Grover Alexander's feat of winning 28 games for the Phillies in 1911, his freshman year in the majors, Ruth's 1915 performance with the Red Sox is the outstanding performance of a first-year pitcher in this century. He won 18 games and lost only six, and led the American League in won and lost percentage with .750. He struck out 112 and held opponents to an earned run percentage of 2.44. Boston won the championship that year, and met the Phillies in the World's Series.

On Bench in '15 Series

Carrigan was holding Ruth back for his fourth pitcher, but Bill did so well by alternating Shore, Foster and Leonard that Babe ate his heart away on the bench. Perhaps it was a prelude to what was to come, but Ruth's only appearance in his first World's Series was as a batsman. He had hit .315 in that 1915 American League season, collected four home runs, and in the only World's Series game that Boston

Bambino, Visiting Patient, Causes Hospital Turmoil

The Yankees were playing in Asheville, N. C. In that Carolina mountain resort is located St. Joseph's Sanitarium, the national Catholic hospital for tubercular patients.

A patient sent word to one of the New York writers, "I would feel better if Ruth came to see me."

"Sure!" roared the Babe when told of the request. The scribe and Ruth taxied to the hospital, and within five minutes, the place was in a turmoil.

The patients climbed out of their beds. The sisters went into a dither. The Mother Superior threw up her hands. It was a day the hospital has yet to forget.

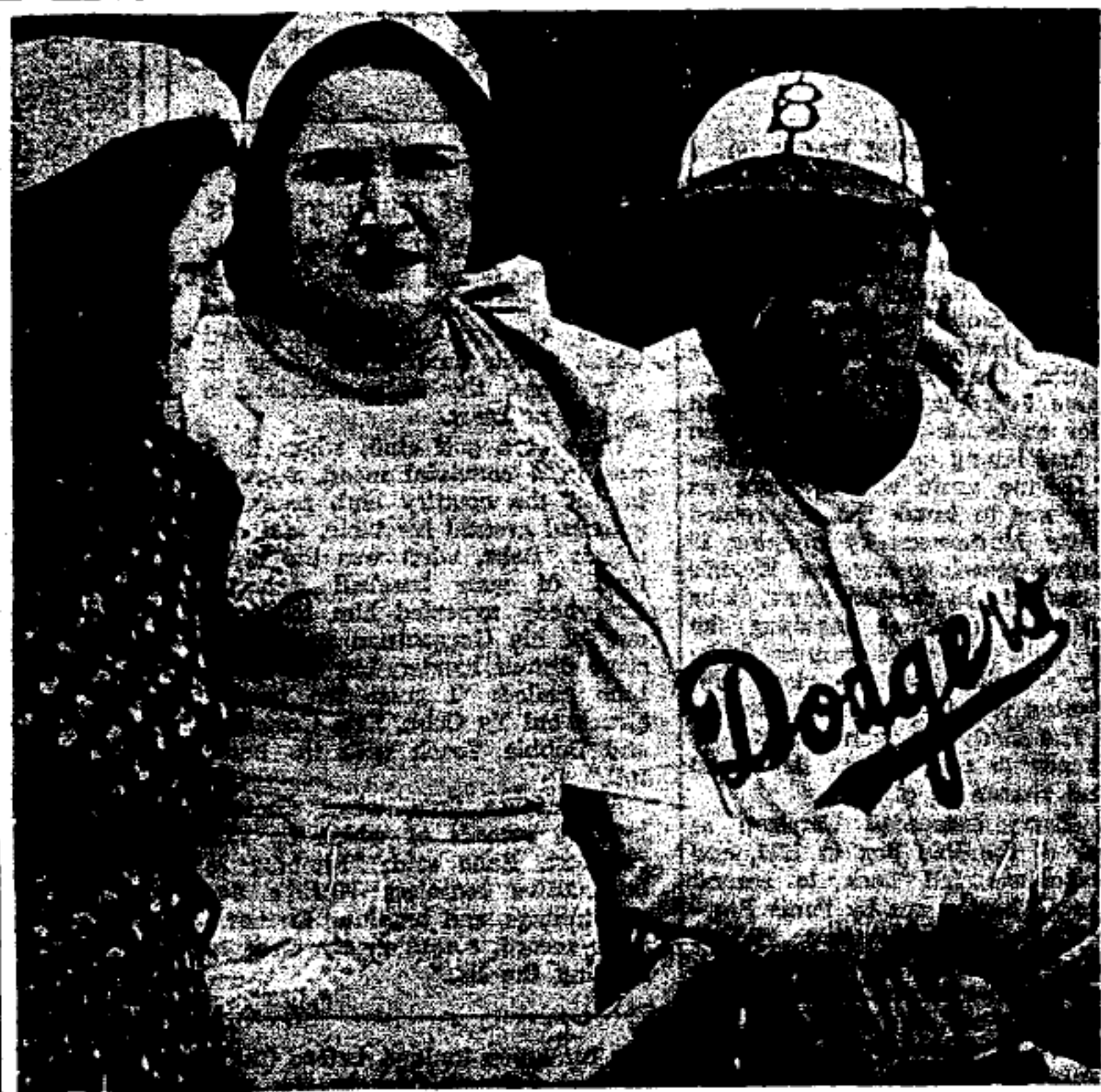
Leaving the sanitarium, Babe Ruth wept. "But for the grace of God, I could be in there," the big slugger blubbered, tears running down his face.

lost, Carrigan used Babe as a pinch-hitter for Shore against none other than the great Alexander.

The Babe later won such astounding success as a home run slugger that his early pitching prowess often is forgotten by a later generation of fans. The writer has heard players, especially pitchers of Ruth's pitching days, remark: "He wasn't a pitcher, but a thrower." If that was so, he surely could throw the ball past the rival batsmen. The Red Sox repeated under Carrigan in 1916, and Ruth's contribution to the victory was 23 victories against 12 defeats. He jumped his strikeouts to 170 and his earned-run record of 1.75 was the best in the league. At the age of 21, the Babe already had led the American League in both winning percentage and earned-run effectiveness.

There was no sitting on the bench

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20, COL. 1)



WHEN HE WENT
ON A CANADIAN
HUNTING
TRIP
in 1933...



RUTH AS DODGERS COACH, 1938, with
MRS. RUTH and DAUGHTER



ALWAYS READY FOR
A GOOD TURN...
RUTH PLAYING-
SANTA CLAUS with
TONY GALENTO,
the boxer...1940



AS
A RADIO
ANNOUNCER



The BAMBINO BEING
MADE UP FOR HIS
1942 ROLE in the
LOU GEHRIG-PICTURE



AS MILLIONS
WILL WANT TO
REMEMBER HIM ...

Hurled 14-Inning Victory in 1916 World's Series

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

for Ruth in the 1916 World's Series with Brooklyn which followed. Carrigan pitched Ruth in the second game against Uncle Robby's crack southpaw, Sherry Smith, and the game resulted in a 14-inning lefthanded pitchers' battle, the longest World's Series game ever played. Hi Myers hit Babe for an inside-the-park home run in the first inning and, before the National League again was to score on him, he was to break the old record of Christy Mathewson by pitching 29 consecutive scoreless World's Series innings. In the 1916 game, Babe won, 2 to 1, darkness engulfing the Boston field as pinch-runner Mike McNally scurried over the plate with the winning run in the fourteenth inning. The Red Sox won the Series, four games to one, before Babe had a second chance to pitch.

Jack Barry succeeded Carrigan as manager of the Red Sox in 1917, and the Bostonians fell back to second place, being beaten out by Pants Rowland's Chicago White Sox. There was little falling off in Ruth's work from his great season of 1916. He again won 23 games, and lost only one more game than in 1916-13. In his three full years as a pitcher, his former waif of St. Mary's had won 64 games and struck out 410 batsmen. He was only 22, and many were predicting Ruth would pass the records of Waddell and Plank, the great Athletic southpaws, before he hung up his uniform.

Turned Into Outfielder in '18

However, the nation then was in World War I, and many changes were taking place in the big leagues. Jack Barry, manager of the Red Sox, along with such Boston stars as Duffy Lewis, Dutch Leonard, Mike McNally, Jimmy Walsh and Chick Shorten, went into the Navy. Ruth, who had married a young Boston waitress the year before, stuck with the club.

To fill his new managerial vacancy, Harry H. Frazee, the Boston owner, drafted Ed Barrow, who was president of the International League when Ruth signed his first contract with Baltimore of that loop, and later was intimately associated with the Babe in New York as Yankee general manager and Ruppert's righthand man.

As manager of Paterson in the old Atlantic League, Barrow developed and sold to the majors Honus Wagner, baseball's greatest righthanded hitter and one of the game's real immortals. In 1918, Barrow made a move in Boston that not only changed Ruth's entire career, but revolutionized baseball. Barrow had a good club in Boston, and it ran first most of the 1918 season. With Lewis, Shorten and Walsh in the Navy, he suffered mostly from a shortage of outfielders. Amos Strunk was obtained from the Athletics and George Whiteman from the Toronto Internationals, but as the season advanced Barrow found the club suffering from the loss of a real lefthanded outfield punch. Ruth still was listed as a pitcher, but, more and more, Barrow worked him into his regular lineup as left fielder, especially when righthanders opposed Boston. And, regardless of whether Ruth pitched or played left field, Barrow had him batting in the cleanup position.

Boston regained the American League championship, lost in 1917, and Ruth was the most talked of player in that last year of World War I. The Babe took part in 95 of his team's 126 games, and hit an even 300, but it was the manner in which he prodded that dead war "pumpkin" that amazed the fans. His extra-base collection included 26 doubles, 11 triples and 11 homers. The 11 homers gave him a tie with Clarence (Tilly) Walker of the Athletics for the league leadership.

Won 1 to 0 in Series

In between his hitting assignments, Ruth was used often enough on the mound to be credited with 13 victories against seven defeats in the shortened season. And, in the World's Series with the Cubs, Ed Barrow still regarded Ruth as one of his best pitching bets. The big Marylander was given the honor of opening the 1918 event against Jim Vaughn, the Cubs' crack southpaw, and Ruth came through magnificently for Barrow and the American League, winning a 1 to 0 shutout. He gave up six singles and walked only one man. Ruth also was credited with winning the fourth game of the Series, his third World's Series victory, but the game in which his string of consecutive scoreless innings finally was broken. He blanked the

King of Home Run Hitters Proudest of Hurling Feats

Even though Ruth's wholesale home runs and other slugging exploits won him world fame and wrote chapters into the record books which time is not likely to ever erase, the Babe remained a pitcher at heart.

Once at a golf club, when Ruth was in a convivial mood, a number of the country club members gathered around his table, and one asked: "Babe, what was the great thrill of your baseball career?" Everybody expected him to recall one of his gargantuan belts over some distant barrier, but the Bambino smiled: "I guess the time I struck out Ty Cobb, Sam Crawford and Bobbie Veach with the bases full."

At another time, when discussing the records of which he was proudest, Babe said: "Pitching 29 consecutive scoreless World's Series innings, and breaking Mathewson's record, comes pretty close to heading the list."

Cubs for seven innings, before Chicago tied the score on him in the eighth with two runs, and with a lead of 3 to 2 in the ninth and two on, Barrow rushed Joe Bush to his relief and Bullet Joe retired the side.

It marked the end of Ruth's career as a World's Series pitcher, but he always was as proud of his 29 innings of consecutive scoreless World's Series innings as of his later home run laurels. At bat, the Babe broke loose only once during the Series, hitting a triple in five official times at bat.

The Armistice came shortly after the Red Sox won that World's Series, four games to two, and the next winter the Bambino got in his first real hold-out argument. Whether as a pitcher or a slugger, he decided he was pretty good and wanted real money for the 1919 season. He asked for \$10,000, and Harry Frazee, the Red Sox owner, who also was a New York theatrical promoter, told Babe: "I wouldn't pay one of my best actors that much," little dreaming that he had a greater drawing card than all the actors and actresses he ever engaged, put together. Ruth eventually signed for \$9,000, with Frazee still protesting no ball player was worth that much money.

Started Homer Marks in '19

Barrow started the 1919 season by again alternating Ruth between left field and the pitcher's box, but as he sprinkled home runs around American League parks his appearances on the mound became more and more rare. The entire country was thrilled by his assault on all the then known home run records. By midseason, he had passed the old American League home run mark of 16, established by Ralph (Socks) Seybold of the Athletics in 1902. In September, he bounded past the best known National League mark, Bucky Freeman's 25 with Washington in the late '90s. Then, they dug through some ancient box scores and discovered Ed Williamson of the old Chicago White Stockings had hit 27 homers in the early '80s. Ruth also took that in his stride, and eventually finished with the then unbelievable total of 29.

The new record was made with Ruth playing in only 130 games of a shortened 140-game schedule. To get a

Ping, as Ruth's Roomie, Saw Only Babe's Trunk

The Bambino always was more or less of a law to himself and, except when he got completely out of hand, such Yankee managers as Miller Huggins, Bob Shawkey and Joe McCarthy closed their eyes to many of the Babe's shenanigans off the field.

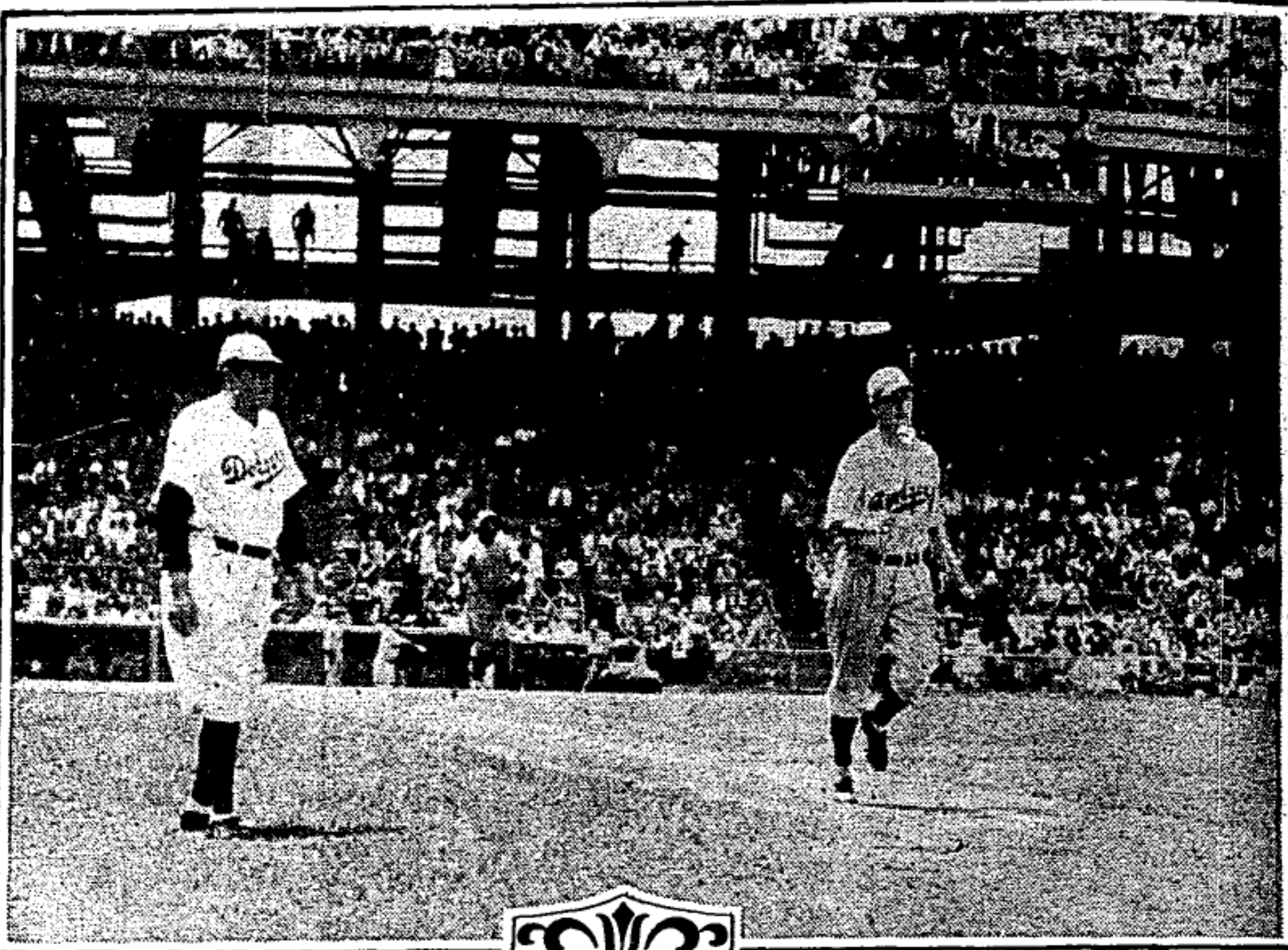
In Ruth's first spring with the Yankees in 1920, the New Yorkers stopped at the old Burbridge Hotel in Jacksonville and the late Harry Sparrow gave Ruth to Ping Bodie, another outfielder, for a roommate. Late in the stay, Ping was asked: "Did you have any trouble with Ruth? What kind of a guy is he, anyway?"

"I really don't know," said the good-natured Bodie. "After we left the ball field, I never saw him."

"But, don't you room with Ruth?" the questioner persisted.

"I room with Ruth's trunk," said Ping.

Bam in Coaching-Line Role With Dodgers



RUTH SERVED AS A DODGER COACH FOR PART OF THE 1938 SEASON

proper appreciation of what 29 homers meant in 1919, it is only necessary to point out that Gavy Cravath led the National League with 12 and the next best performance in the American League was ten, hit by Frank Baker, Tilly Walker and Charley Jamieson. In the four years that Frank Baker won the American League home run crown, he did it with nine, ten, 12 and eight. As late as 1917, Wally Pipp led the league with nine.

Four of Ruth's sensational 29 homers that year were with the bases full, and one actually knocked a manager right out of his job. In a game in Cleveland, the Indians were ahead in the ninth inning when the Red Sox filled the bases, with Ruth bringing his big bat to the plate. Lee Fohl, the Cleveland manager, took out his southpaw pitcher, Fritz Coumbe, and sent up a righthander to stop Boston's lefthanded slugger. Ruth knocked the ball out of the lot and won the game for the Sox. The late Jim Dunn fired Fohl that night, and appointed Tris Speaker, who had teased the Baltimore rookie five years before, as his successor.

Despite all of Ruth's sensational hitting, the Red Sox plunged from first place to sixth, and Frazee, who had bought the club from Joe Lannin on a proverbial "shoestring," was short of cash. A showman and a promoter all of his life, Frazee sold the banner attraction of over 100 years of baseball to the two colonels of the New York Yankees—Jacob Ruppert and Tillinghast Huston—for \$125,000. In addition, Ruppert took a \$350,000 mortgage on the stands at Fenway Park.

Ed Barrow, who still was Frazee's manager in Boston, tried to talk Harry out of the deal, but Frazee had notes to pay off to Joe Lannin, the former Red Sox owner, and felt he had put over a smart swap. The deal was far reaching in its effects; it meant that Ruth would be exploited to the full extent of the metropolitan press, the rise of the Yankees to the top of the baseball heap, the eclipse of the Giants and the subsequent erection of Yankee Stadium, The House That Ruth Built.

\$20,000 Contract as Yankee

Thirteen New York sports writers accompanied the Yankees on their training trip to Jacksonville, Fla., in 1920, the greatest number ever to follow a big league club up to that time. The big attraction, of course, was the newly acquired Boston star, Babe Ruth.

During the 1919 season, while Ruth was on his home run splurge, Frazee had given him a new contract for \$10,000, for a three-year period. Ruppert and Huston tore this one up and gave Ruth, now 25, and six years out of St. Mary's, a contract for \$20,000. The big, massive chest now had filled out and he was having difficulty in keeping down to his playing weight of 225 pounds. Ruth started slowly in that 1920 training season, and did a lot of futile swinging against the pitchers of Uncle Wilbert Robinson of Brooklyn, who also were training in Jacksonville. The crowd rode the big fellow hard, and one day he jumped over a bleacher rail to get at one of his tormentors. The man pulled a large knife on him, but a rescue party, led by Col. Huston, pulled Ruth away without any bloodshed.

A few days later, Babe hit a tre-

Ruth Acquired Golf Skill

After His Diamond Days

Following his retirement from the big leagues in 1935, Ruth's great sports interest was golf. He was proud of his game, too, and could shoot the average course in the low 70s. Babe became a skillful putter, hit for tremendous distances, but sometimes his in-between shots weren't too accurate.

Ruth also experienced two of the great thrills of a golfer's life, a hole in one, and the even rarer feat, a deuce on a par five. He scored the latter at the old Jungle Club, St. Petersburg, in a four-some with Charley Segar, now National League publicity chief; Jeff Mosher, sports editor of the St. Petersburg Independent, and Fred Lieb. Ruth drove behind some traps 275 yards from the tee, and used a No. 2 iron not only to reach the green, 215 yards away, but to drop the ball into the cup.

mendous home run against Al Mamaux, Brooklyn speedball pitcher. It started him off, and from then on there was no stopping him. There was some speculation before the season whether he ever again would reach the magic home run peak of 29, but the Babe matched that in midseason. Up to this time, the Yankees had never won a championship, but the two colonels had acquired a lot of other players for this 1920 season—Carl Mays and Ernie Shore and Duffy Lewis from Boston, Bob Meusel from the Coast League, Warren (Rip) Collins from Dallas, and other lesser lights.

With little Miller Huggins leading this pack, the Yankees finished third to Cleveland and the White Sox in a close race, the New Yorkers blowing the pennant in Chicago on their last western trip. But, Babe Ruth, the new wonder man of the game, closed the season with 54 home runs, almost doubling his record crop of 1919. Everywhere the Yankees went, they were greeted with amazing crowds, while in New York, where the Yanks still

Ruth's Homer Featured Yankee Stadium Opening

The larger the crowd, the more likely Ruth was to put on a big show.

When Yankee Stadium was opened on April 18, 1923, the park was called "The House That Ruth Built," and all eyes were on the Babe as the Yanks and Red Sox opened the season before 74,200 fans, a record crowd for that time, including Commissioner Landis and all the dignitaries of baseball. Bob Shawkey and Howard Ehmke quickly tangled in a pitching duel, but with two on base in the fourth Ruth swung at one of Ehmke's fast ones, and the ball traversed a great arc into the right field bleachers. The Yanks won, 4 to 1, with that three-run homer proving the margin of victory. Having found the range at Yankee Stadium the day the park was opened, Ruth never lost it, until Father Time finally slowed him down.

were using the Polo Grounds, they leaped far ahead of the Giants in the New York Battle of the Turnstiles. Even with the red hot postwar Harding-Cox presidential campaign on, Ruth was daily on the front pages of the nation's press.

The 1919 Black Sox scandal, with all its sordidness, broke in the last week of the 1920 season, but the amazing exploits of Ruth, together with the election of Judge Kenesaw M. Landis to the job of one-man commissioner of baseball, helped the great American sports-loving public to forget the crookedness of the Chicago stars. Yet, it was from one of the expelled men, Shoeless Joe Jackson, that Ruth learned more than from any other of baseball's great hitters. "I looked around for a hitter to copy after," said Ruth at that stage of his career. "Cobb, Speaker and Eddie Collins weren't my type of hitters, but Jackson had the smoothest, easiest swing of any hitter in the league. So I watched his every action whenever our clubs would meet, and copied it as much as possible. Imitating Joe helped make me a great hitter."

Those 54 homers in 1920 were good for another \$10,000 raise, and the Babe's salary for 1921 was \$30,000. In that season the Yankees first went over the top, beating out Cleveland in a tough two-team race in the last week of the campaign. Ruth's brilliant contribution to this first of a long string of Yankee flags was 59 home runs, 177 runs scored, still the American League and modern major record, and 170 runs batted in.

Fame Brings Difficulties

Babe gave Huggins a peck of trouble at the time. No one used the Bambino as a Y. M. C. A. model; he loved to get in a fast car with some of the younger players and step down to the floorboards; he loved night life; but on the ball field, he was a magnificent player. The nation talked more of Ruth than any single individual in its athletic history. Boys, young men, old men, girls and elderly ladies besieged him for his autograph. He greeted them all the same way with the same kindly "Hello kid," or "Glad to oblige you, kid."

He made a movie. He gave his name to caps, suspenders, candy bars, soft drinks. His by-products brought him in even more than his big Yankee salary.

Handicapped by a boil on his left elbow, his work in the 1921 Yankee-Giant World's Series was disappointing. It was the Series in which the Yanks opened by winning two 3 to 0 games, and then losing the set, the Giants winning, five games to three. They then were playing for the best five out of nine. After his team got away to a three to two lead, Ruth was out of the last three games with his boil, except for one appearance as a pinch-hitter in the eighth game. Even so, Babe hit .313 in his six games, stole two bases, despite the handicap of a sore arm, and hit the first of his 15 World's Series home runs, batting against Phil Douglas.

Immediately after the Series, Ruth embarked on an unauthorized barnstorming trip, taking with him his fellow slugger of the team, Bob Meusel.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22, COL. 1)

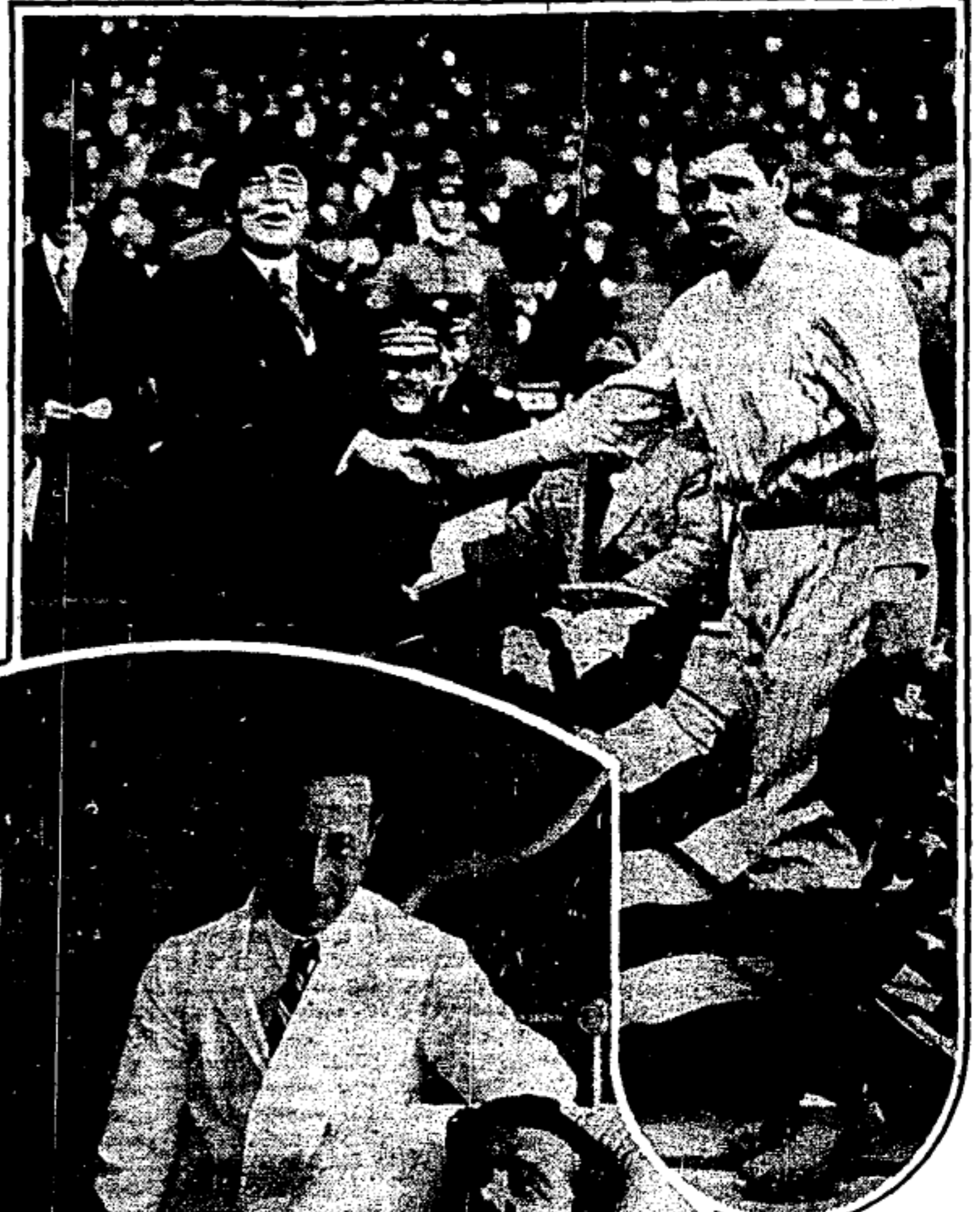
Happy-Go-Lucky ... From Days as Home Run Hero ... to Hospitals



BABE AND HIS FIRST MANAGER, THE LATE JACK DUNN of BALTIMORE...



IN FORMAL ATTIRE ...



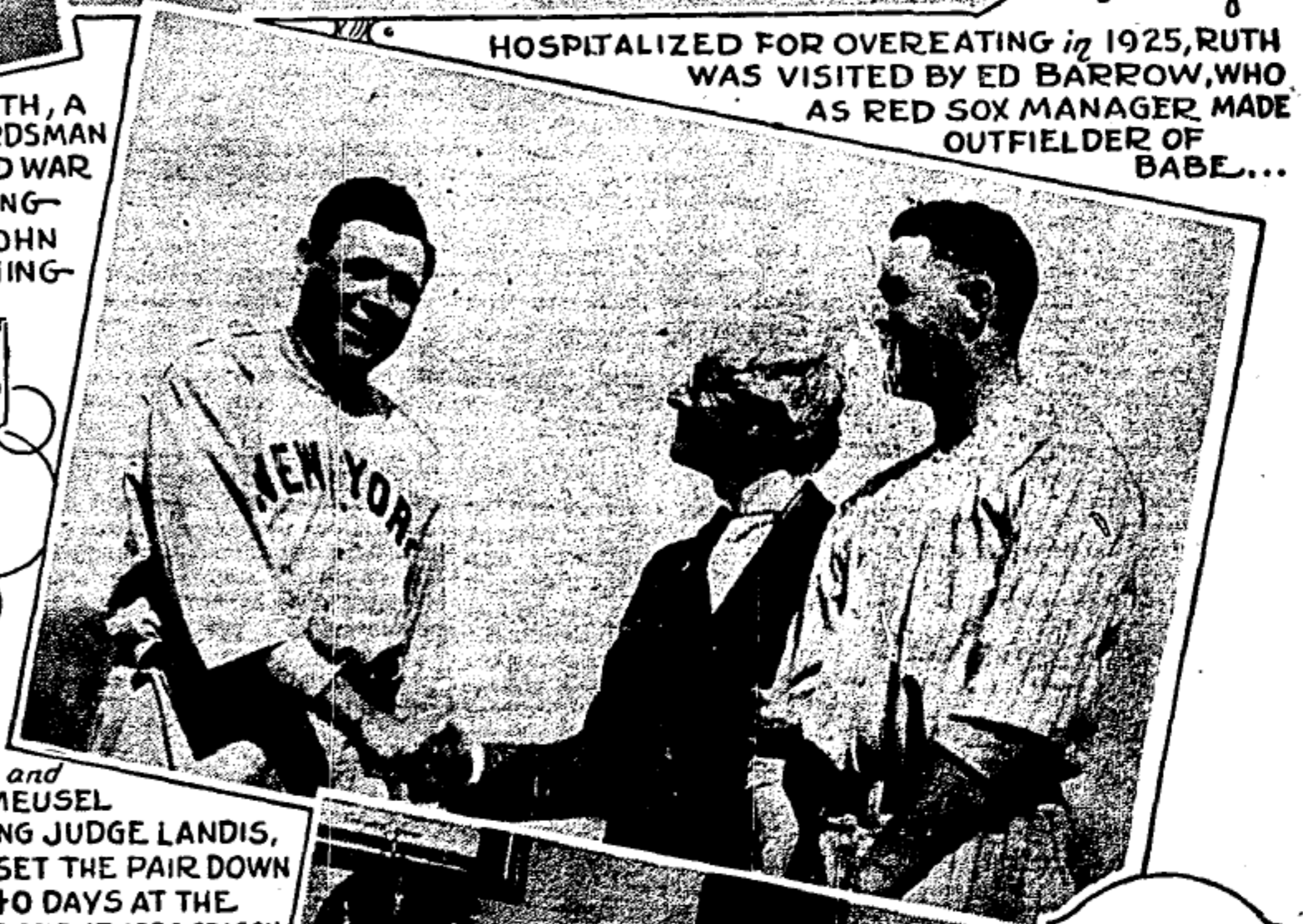
MEETING PRESIDENT WARREN G. HARDING at 1923 OPENER...



RUTH, A NATIONAL GUARDSMAN DURING WORLD WAR ONE, SALUTING GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING



RUTH AND LATE OWNER OF THE YANKEES, COL. JAKE RUPPERT....



HOSPITALIZED FOR OVEREATING in 1925, RUTH WAS VISITED BY ED BARROW, WHO AS RED SOX MANAGER MADE OUTFIELDER OF BABE...

BABE and BOB MEUSEL MEETING JUDGE LANDIS, WHO SET THE PAIR DOWN FOR 40 DAYS AT THE START OF THE 1922 SEASON FOR IGNORING HIS BARNSTORMING BAN AFTER WORLD'S SERIES THE YEAR BEFORE



THE BAMBINO LEAVING HOSPITAL AFTER RECENT SERIOUS NECK OPERATION....



AUTOGRAPHING PHOTO FOR HANK GREENBERG SHORTLY AFTER RECENT RETURN FROM HOSPITAL...

Fined \$5,000 by Huggins, Ruth Started as Lefty Catcher **Who Made Penalty Stick -- Disclosure by His First Coach**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20)

and two young pitchers, Tom Sheehan and Bill Piercy. Notwithstanding the protests of Colonel Ruppert and Huston, that he was punishing the Yankee club rather than the players, Judge Landis suspended Ruth, Meusel and Piercy until May 20, 1922, and held up the players' World's Series money.

Despite this unpleasant incident, largely the result of Babe's headstrong will, in the following winter he was appointed captain of the Yankees and signed to a new five-year contract, calling for over a quarter of a million dollars. Colonel Huston signed the document personally with Ruth while the Babe was melting off some of his fat in a tub at Hot Springs, Ark. It called for \$52,000 for each of the seasons of 1922, 1923 and 1924, with the club having the right to extend it at the same terms for 1925 and 1926.

From Big Bam to Big Bum

The first year of the new contract was one of George Herman's poorest in his major league career. The long suspension in the spring got him off on the wrong foot when he became eligible to play late in May. Pitchers by that time were well advanced. The Babe got into an argument with Umpire Tommy Connolly and used such strong language that the late Ban Johnson, then American League president, fined him heavily and took his newly acquired captain's commission away from him.

Babe's batting average fell from .378 to .315, and his homer crop from 59 to 35, but the Yankees, strengthened by the acquisition of Joe Bush, Sam Jones, Everett Scott and Joe Dugan from the Red Sox, again won the American League pennant after a tough struggle with the Browns. In the World's Series with the Giants, both the Yanks and Ruth hit their low in blue ribbon competition. The best the American leaguers got out of five games was one ten-inning tie, while two hits in 17 times at bat gave Babe the slim batting average of .118. Giant fans in New York laughed shrilly at the fate of the American leaguers and changed Ruth's name from the Big Bam to the Big Bum.

Christy Walsh had taken hold of Ruth's business affairs at this time and he arranged for the Babe to throw a party for the New York baseball writers after this bad Series. The Babe said frankly: "You guys have praised me in the past, but this year you've panned me. I resented it at the time, but now I know I deserved all you handed to me. I think you let me off easy. What's more, I realize I can't go much longer at the pace I've been traveling. That .118 batting average in the World's Series was an eye-opener."

There was some plain language exchanged, and at the end of the session Ruth promised to forsake the bright lights and spend the off-season at his Massachusetts farm and that he would start immediately to get in shape for the 1923 season.

Hit .393 in Comeback

The big fellow kept his word. He spent the fall and winter chopping down trees, shoveling snow and doing other chores around the farm. He was hard as a rock when he went to Hot Springs, Ark., for some preliminary training, and in the season which followed he put on a great comeback, his batting average soaring back to .393, the high of his career, and he was named the most valuable American League player. Helped by three Ruth home runs and a .368 World's Series batting average, the Yankees finally laid low the Giants in the Series of 1923, four games to two. It enabled Col. Ruppert, who had become sole owner of the Yankees after the 1922 Series, to celebrate the Yankees' first year at Yankee Stadium with the prize he long had coveted, the world's championship. As for Ruth, whose drawing powers had made possible the building of the great stadium, he now was doubly acclaimed, not only for regaining the batting heights, but for winning a more important victory over himself.

The season of 1924 saw the Yankees' three-year pennant monopoly broken when they were unexpectedly nosed out by Washington, but Ruth won the American League batting crown for the only time and raised his home run output to 46, his greatest total since the 59 of 1921.

But, with Ruth, life never moved at an even keel. He would skyrocket one season, and come down the next like a bomb dropped from the sky. His

Ruth's Nickname Among Yankee Pals Was 'Jidge'

While the fans have always felt that "Babe" was an ideal moniker for Ruth, oddly enough, that wasn't the Bambino's nickname among his real intimates on the old Yankee world champions. He was called "Jidge."

There is some doubt as to the exact derivation of "Jidge," but one account is that the term first was used by George Mogridge, lefthanded pitcher, when he and George Ruth were teammates on the 1920 Yankees. When Ruth made Mrs. Christina (Mom) Gehrig a present of a Mexican hairless dog, he told her the name was "Jidge." And "Jidge II" long was a member of the old Gehrig menagerie at New Rochelle.

year as champion batsman was followed by the worst of his career, 1925. That season saw the Yankees flop to seventh, the team's only second-division club in a quarter of a century, and Ruth flopped with the club. It started in the training season, when Ruth became ill on the barnstorming junket north. He had quite a fever on a Sunday morning in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Huggins ordered him to remain in bed.

He appeared in uniform ten minutes before the game, and when Huggins bawled him out, he pointed to the crowd which packed the park, saying: "They came out to see me; I couldn't let them down." Huggins permitted him to play five innings, and he hit two of the longest home runs of his career. The next morning, Babe collapsed into the arms of Steve O'Neill, then a Yankee catcher, in the Asheville, N. C., railway station. The big fellow was rushed to New York for hospitalization, and it was weeks before he again played ball.

Arguments With Huggins

When he did get back, the club was wallowing in the second division. Ruth wasn't going well, neither was the club, and he was in constant arguments with Miller Huggins. The good resolutions after the 1922 World's Series again were forgotten. The Babe was running wild. Huggins felt his grip on the club loosening and he suspended Ruth indefinitely and fined him \$5,000. The Babe rushed to New York to protest the punishment, and to criticize Huggins' direction of the club. Ruppert promptly stopped him with: "Hug fined you because you weren't keeping in shape and we are in back of him 100 per cent."

Babe later apologized to Huggins; he was reinstated after ten days of idleness, but the fine never was restored. Somehow the issue cleared the situation between Babe and the little manager, and Ruth gave him his best as long as Hug lived. But Ruth's 1925 record matched the drab seventh-place finish of the Yanks; his batting average dropped under .300 to .290; his runs batted in fell under 100 and his home run crop dwindled to 25.

There came another surprising return of Ruth to the heights in 1926. This time he did his early training in the New York gym of the late Artie McGovern, boxing referee and former lightweight. He went to McGovern weighing 265 pounds, and Artie had him down to 230, by the time he reported to Huggins at his camp in St. Petersburg, Fla. Again, it was an inspired Babe. His five-year contract at \$52,000 was expiring in 1926, and he knew another season like 1925 would mean a sharp cut.

His average again soared to .372 and his home runs totalled 47. What is more, the new Babe carried the Yanks back to Pennantland with him, the team, fortified by the young infield pair, Tony Lazzeri and Mark Koenig, making the phenomenal jump from seventh to first in one year. In the sensational Yankee-Cardinal World's Series of 1926, the Babe wrote another brilliant chapter in his World's Series career by hitting three homers in the fourth game. The Yanks, however, dropped the title, four games to three, and Ruth provided the last out, being nailed stealing with Bob Meusel at bat and the Yanks a run behind in the last game.

Ruth's reward was a raise to \$70,000 in his new contract and there was an even greater season still in store for the amazing Bambino. From the time he hit 59 homers in 1921, he had failed again to get in the 50 class. In the following five years, he had averaged 39 homers a season. No one ever ex-

Became Hurler by Accident When He Laughed Over Efforts of Others

By TOM SHEHAN

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Much has been written about the part Brother Gilbert, Jack Dunn, Ed Barrow, Miller Huggins, Jake Ruppert, Joe McCarthy and Christy Walsh have had in Babe Ruth's career, but there was another man—a comparatively unknown—who also played an important role in the life of the former slugger. He was Brother Mathias, Ruth's first baseball coach.

Why wasn't Brother Mathias better known? The answer is that not only was he a member of a religious order, having voluntarily taken the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and shut himself off from the world, but he was one of the shyest men I have ever known.

As a student at St. John's Prep School in Danvers, Mass., I had seen Brother Mathias many times after one of the other brothers, knowing of my interest in sports, has pointed him out to me as the Babe's first baseball coach. However, I never was able to get to know him well.

When Ruth was traded to the Boston Braves from the New York Yankees in an ill-fated deal, I was working on the now defunct Boston Evening Transcript. I went to my boss, George C. Carens, sports editor of the Transcript, and suggested that he interview Brother Mathias, the Babe's first coach, for his column, "The Sporting Pulse." Carens was getting ready to shove off for Florida and the training camps, so he turned the assignment over to me.

Specially-Arranged Interview

The interview took place in the sitting room of Memorial Hall at St. John's Prep. Brother Ambrose, CFX, now the provincial-general of the Xaverian Order with headquarters in Belgium, but then the headmaster at St. John's, arranged the interview. Otherwise, I don't believe I would have been able to get Brother Mathias to talk. He was really that shy.

Brother Mathias was a giant of a man and you had only to see him walk before you realized the origin of that peculiar little stride which was so char-

acteristic of the Babe. He was reluctant to talk about his friendship for Ruth, but when he learned that as a St. John's boy I had picked up an assorted amount of information about him from brothers who were mutual friends, he loosened up.

Brother Mathias had coached Babe at St. Mary's Industrial School in Baltimore, Md. "The big fellow played on my teams for eight years," he finally told me. "He was a good ball player even then—a born player. I had no part in making him a ball player, and I don't want you to say that I did." Babe first made the team as a lefthanded catcher, Brother Mathias revealed. Lefthanded catchers, it seems, weren't as rare in those days as they are now.

"I discovered he could pitch by accident," confessed the good brother somewhat sheepishly. "One day our star pitcher was batted out of the box and the other team hit every pitcher we sent against them. Babe, you know,

pected to see the Babe menace the figure of 59. But 1927 was an amazing season for the Yankees. The club won 110 games, the American League record; young Gehrig, Ruth's new fellow lefthanded slugger, had a great season and threatened to take the Babe's home run crown. The Babe took up the challenge, and drove his home run production up to 60, which still remains the major league record. The Yanks followed up their great league season with their first "Four Straight Cleanup World's Series," Ruth helping to humble the Pirates by batting .400, his six hits including a pair of homers.

Batted .625 in 1928 Series

The Yankees repeated in 1928 after a stubborn fight with the Athletics, with Ruth helping things along with 54 homers, his third greatest crop. This time the Yanks cleaned up the Cardinals four straight and, despite an injured ankle, which made him limp through the Series, Ruth reached the World's Series pinnacle in baseball's most spectacular career. He came out of the classic with a batting average of .625, the highest on record.

In four games, he lashed out ten hits, three of them homers, and scored nine runs. In the fourth and final game, played in Sportsman's Park, he repeated his feat of two years earlier in the same park, three World's Series home runs in one game.

Ruth had his first great baseball disappointment in 1929, when Huggins died in the last week of the season. For years, he had a hankering to manage the Yankees, especially when such other fellow stars as Ty Cobb, George Sisler, Tris Speaker, Rogers Hornsby and Eddie Collins served as high-salaried playing managers. He thought the decease of the mite manager opened the door to opportunity. He personally went to Ruppert at the latter's brewery and applied for the managerial job. Ruppert replied: "You're too good a player to have the burdens of managing my club."

The Yankee colonel first offered the job to Art Fletcher, then coach with the New York club, and when Art turned down the proffer, gave the post to Bob Shawkey, the pitcher.

Babe was hurt, but he didn't let it affect his play, for in 1930, Shawkey's

Early Mentor



Brother Mathias

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Made Four Hits in Game First Time in July, 1915

A compilation of Babe Ruth's "firsts" includes the following:

First time four hits in game—July 21, 1915. Single, two doubles and home run off James and Hamilton, St. Louis.

First home run as pinch-hitter—June 12, 1916. Off Park of St. Louis when batting for Janvrin. This also was Babe's first home run off a St. Louis pitcher.

First time two home runs in game—July 5, 1919. Off Russell Johnson of Philadelphia in eighth and tenth innings.

Home run that changed managers—July 18, 1919. Off Fred Coumbe, Cleveland, in ninth, with bases full. The lefthander, who had been ill, came in to relieve Elmer Myers. Next day Tris Speaker replaced Lee Fohl as the Indians' manager.

First American League hit—October 2, 1914. Double off either Brown or McHale of New York.

year, he hit .359, smacked 49 homers, scored 150 runs and drove in 153. And Ruppert had striven to appease Babe's disappointment by signing him for 1930 to a contract calling for \$80,000 a year.

Shawkey had only a fair season, with the Yankees in 1930, finishing third, and there were reports another managerial change was contemplated. Joe McCarthy was let out as skipper of the Cubs in the last week of the 1930 season, and rumor promptly had him coming to New York as director of the Yankees. Again Ruth went to see Ruppert to put in a bid for the managerial job. "I think I have earned the right to get a crack at the job," he told the Colonel. Babe's early escapades weighed against him. Ruppert said: "For years, Babe, you couldn't take care of yourself; how can I turn my team over to you?" To which Ruth replied: "Colonel, I've been through the ropes. I can point out the pitfalls to young players and tell them what to avoid."

Ruppert, however, was unconvinced and after the 1930 World's Series he passed over Ruth to engage McCarthy, who had come up the hard way, through a playing and managerial career in the

Babe Played for Eight Years on School Team Led by Brother Mathias

is a man who has always had a strong sense of humor. Instead of being upset about the licking we were taking, he thought it was funny.

"If you're so smart," I told him, "let me see how well you can do." He went in and pitched and they didn't get a hit off him the rest of the game. He is always pitched for us after that.

While Brother Mathias was coach of the baseball team, it was Brother Gilbert, now at Keith Academy in Lowell, Mass., who brought Jack Dunn out to see the Babe and arranged for him to get a tryout with the Orioles. Brother Mathias was much too shy for that.

Always Friend of Old School

However, Ruth remained very fond of Brother Mathias. With characteristic generosity, he bought the brother two Cadillac automobiles. And when the St. Mary's Industrial School band was in need of financing, the Babe, through the intercession of Brother Mathias, arranged for the band to make a trip with the Yankees to raise money by playing at the ball parks before the games and passing the hat.

Brother Mathias' influence on the Babe came to be recognized by the Yankee front office. In fact, several times when the Babe got out of line they sent in an SOS for Brother Mathias to join the club on the road and assist in getting him straightened out.

Before my interview with Brother Mathias, I had been tipped off by one of the other brothers who had been at St. Mary's when Babe was playing on the team there, to ask Brother Mathias what the other players on the team called Ruth. Fortunately, I already had asked him all the questions I wanted answered, because when I inquired about Ruth's nickname at the school, he closed up like a clam after saying, "If you don't know, I'll never tell you."

Brother Mathias thought so much of the Babe that he wouldn't even reveal Ruth's boyhood nickname, because it was repugnant to him, and he felt probably was just as distasteful to the Babe, even though it represented nothing but crude boyish humor.

minors. The Babe never was reconciled, and so long as he remained with the club there was a chill between him and Marse Joe. Ruth never was in open revolt against the "bush league manager," always played the best ball he knew, but McCarthy went one way and the Babe another. Even rules which applied to other players did not affect Ruth. He now was 36, playing his eighteenth season in the league, and the old legs were losing much of their snap.

Ruth and Gehrig Homer Twins

Even so, the old fellow still had several banner years left. He hit .373 and lashed out 46 homers in 1931, McCarthy's first season, and an average of .341, with 41 home runs, helped Marse Joe to win his first New York pennant in 1932. Again the World's Series of that year saw the Yankees and their newly acquired specialty of sweeping a blue ribbon event in four straight games. This time the National League victims were the Cubs, giving McCarthy a sweet revenge on the club which had let him out two years before. And with the exception of Lou Gehrig, none contributed more to Marse Joe's triumph than the aging Bambino. It was Ruth's tenth World's Series, a new record, and he and Gehrig put on the same devastating act that they had done against the Cardinals in 1923. In his tenth World's Series, he hit .333 and whacked two homers, the second and the fifteenth and last of his World's Series collection being the most spectacular of the entire lot.

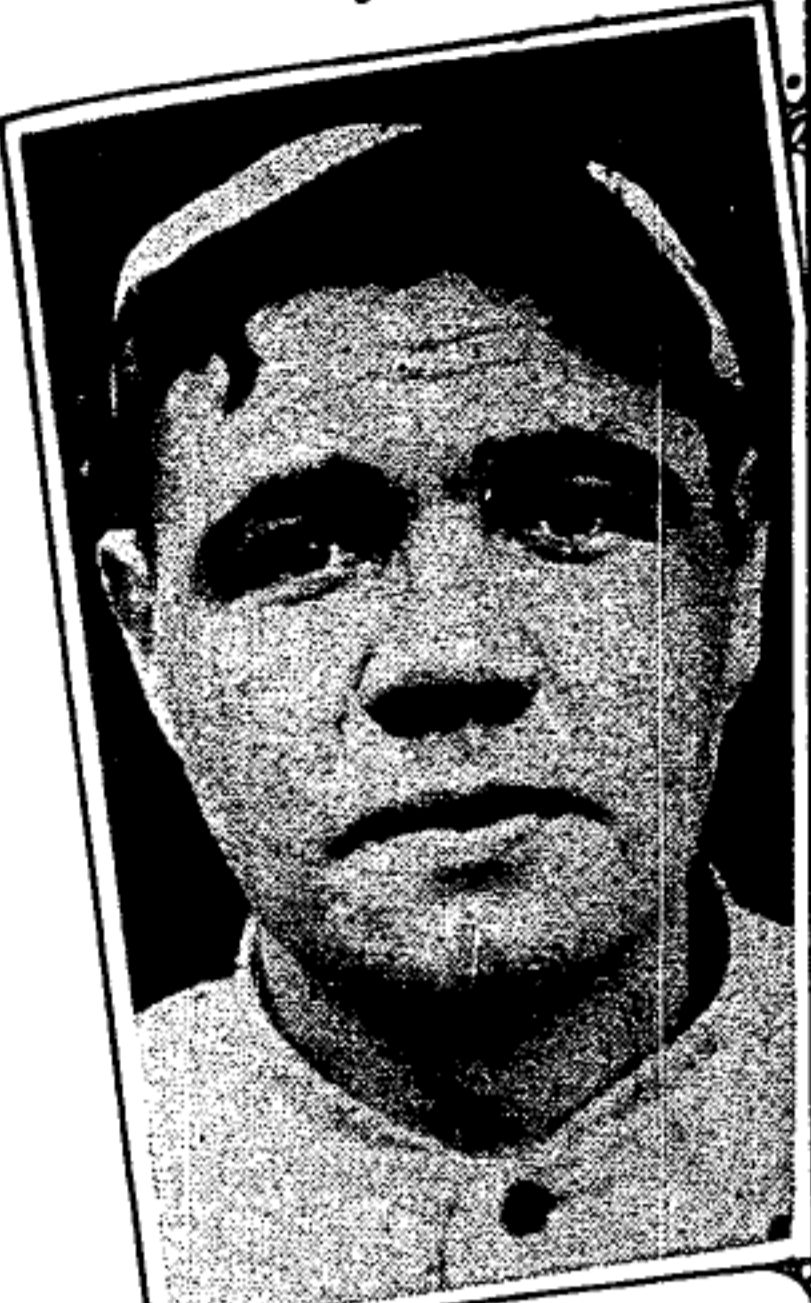
There was quite a feud on between Babe and the Cubs all through the Series, the big fellow accusing the Chicago players of parsimony in voting only a fraction of a share to Mark Koenig, the former Yankee, who, acquired by Chicago in the latter part of the 1932 season, was a big factor in the Cubs' pennant drive. The feud especially blazed forth in the third game and first played in Chicago, after some women fans actually spat at Ruth and his wife as they entered the team's hotel on the North Side.

In the first inning, the Babe hit a home run off Charlie Root with Ruth Combs and Joe Sewell on base. Gehrig had just blasted Root for a homer when Ruth came up in the fifth. The Babe

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24, COL. 1)

Big Moments in Career ... of the Game's Biggest Gate Magnet

THE SPORTING NEWS, APRIL 23, 1947



BAMBINO AS MEMBER of 1919 RED SOX



Manager MILLER HUGGINS of the YANKS and THE BABE...1927



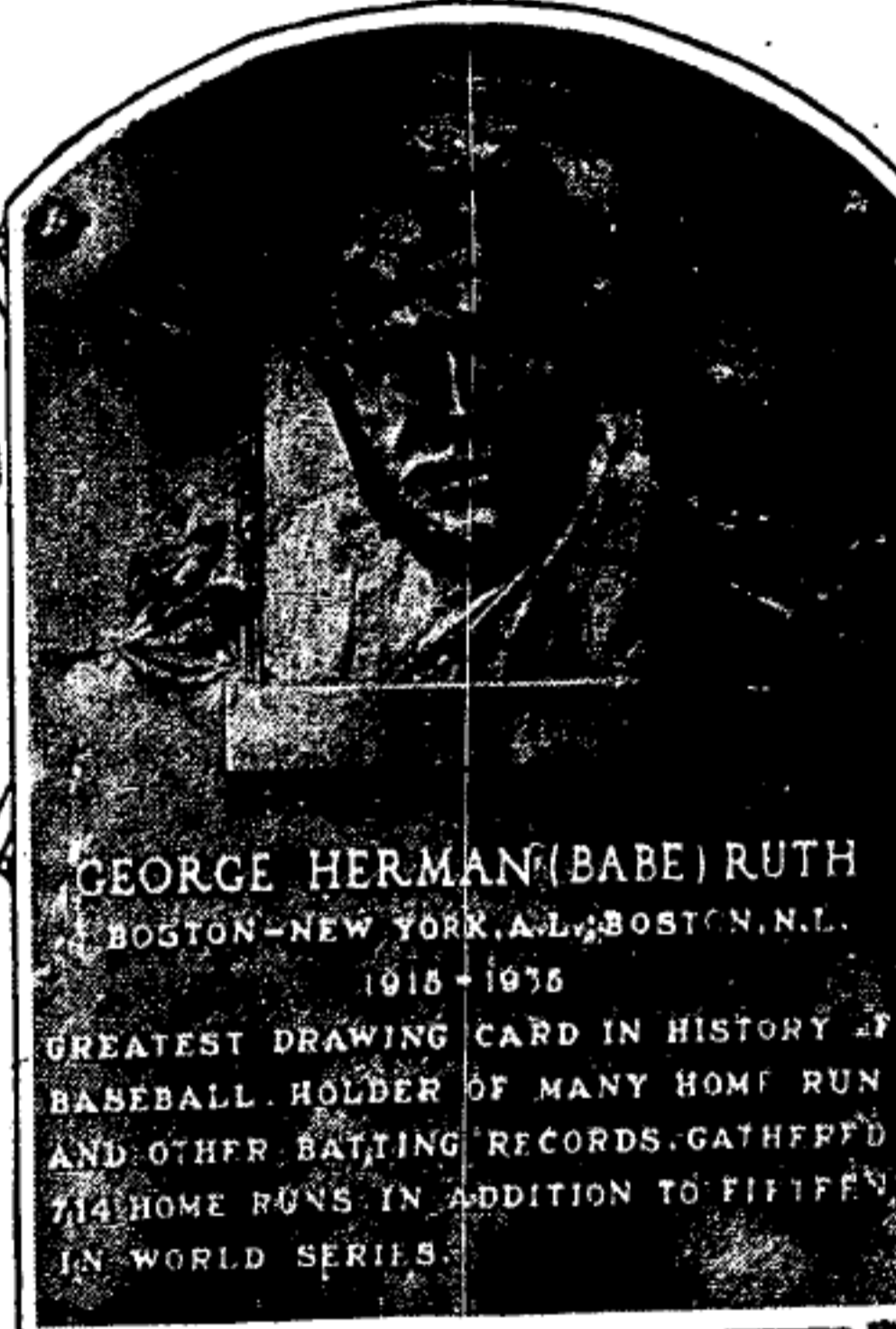
AT PEAK OF REMARKABLE CAREER, 1928



THE SWING THAT PROPELLED 714 BIG LEAGUE HOME RUNS



WHEN LOU GEHRIG (left) and RUTH FORMED GREATEST ONE-TWO PUNCH IN HISTORY OF GAME....



THE BAMBINO'S PLAQUE in COOPERSTOWN HALL of FAME...



THE BABE AS A BRIDEGROOM APRIL 1929



HE WAS THE IDOL OF YOUNGSTERS WHEREVER HE WENT



EVEN WHEN HIS PLAYING DAYS WERE OVER, BABE WAS POPULAR WITH AUTOGRAPH SEEKERS....

54 Major Marks

Babe Ruth splashed the record book with an amazing collection of achievements. He held 54 major league records, was tied for four others and, in addition, had ten American League records to his credit and was tied for five more.

The Bambino's outstanding performances follow:

Highest slugging percentage, season, 100 or more games—847—New York, 1920 (major record).
 Highest slugging percentage, American League—592—Boston, New York, 21 years, 1914 to 1934, inclusive (major record).
 Most years leading American League in slugging percentage, 100 or more games—13—Boston, New York, 1918 to 1931, except 1925 (major record).
 Most runs, season (A. L.)—177—New York, 152 games, 1921.
 Most years leading American League in runs—8—Boston, New York, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1927, 1928 (major record).
 Most home runs, majors—714—Boston A. L., New York A. L., Boston N. L., 22 years, 1914 to 1935, inclusive. 708 in A. L. and 6 in N. L.
 Most home runs, league—708—Boston, New York, 21 years, 1914 to 1934, inclusive.
 Most home runs, season—60—New York, 151 games, 1927 (major record).
 Most home runs, two consecutive seasons—114—New York, 60 in 1927, 54 in 1928 (major record).
 Most years leading American League in home runs—12—Boston, New York, 1918 (tied), 1919, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931 (tied) (major record).
 Most consecutive years leading American League in home runs—6—New York, 1926 to 1931 (1931 tied).
 Most home runs, season, on road—32—New York, 1927 (major record).
 Most years, 50 or more home runs, American League—4—New York, 1920, 1921, 1927, 1928 (major record).
 Most consecutive years, 50 or more home runs, season, American League—2—New York, 1920-1921; 1927-1928 (major record).
 Most years, 40 or more home runs, American League—11—New York, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932 (major record).
 Most consecutive years, 40 or more home runs, American League—7—New York, 1926 to 1932, inclusive (major record).
 Most years, 30 or more home runs, American League—13—New York, 1920 to 1933, excepting 1925 (major record).
 Most times, two or more home runs, game, in majors—72—Boston A. L., New York A. L., Boston N. L., 22 years, 1914-1935; 71 in American League, 1 in National League.
 Most times, two or more home runs, game, American League—71—Boston, New York, 21 years, 1914 to 1934, inclusive.
 Most times, three home runs in a double-header—7—New York, 1920 to 1933, inclusive (major record).
 Most home runs, with bases filled, season—4—Boston, 130 games, 1919 (tied A. L. and major record).
 Most home runs with bases filled, two consecutive games—2—New York, September 27, 29, 1927, also August 6, second game, August 7, first game, 1929 (tied A. L. record).
 Most home runs, five consecutive games—7—New York, June 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 1921 (A. L. record and tied major record).
 Most home runs, two consecutive days—6—New York, May 21, 21, 22, 22, 1930, 4 games (A. L. record).
 Most home runs, one week—9—New York, May 18 to 24, second game, 1930, 8 games (tied A. L. record).
 Most total bases, season—457, New York, 152 games, 1921 (major record).
 Most years leading American League in total bases—6—Boston, New York, 1919, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1926, 1928 (tied A. L. record).
 Most long hits, major leagues—1,356—Boston A. L., New York A. L., Boston N. L., 22 years, 1914 to 1935, inclusive. 506 doubles, 136 triples, 714 home runs.
 Most long hits, American League—1,350—Boston, New York, 21 years, 1914 to 1934, inclusive; 506 doubles, 136 triples, 708 home runs (major record).
 Most long hits, season—119—New York, 152 games, 1921; 44 doubles, 16 triples, 59 home runs (major record).
 Most years leading American League in long hits—7—Boston, New York, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1928.
 Most consecutive years leading American League in long hits—4—Boston, New York, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921 (major record).
 Most extra bases on long hits, in major leagues—2,920—Boston A. L., New York A. L., Boston N. L., 22 years, 1914-1935, inclusive.
 Most extra bases on long hits, American League—2,902—Boston, New York, 21 years, 1914 to 1934, inclusive (major record).
 Most extra bases on long hits, season—253—New York, 152 games, 1921 (major record).
 Most years leading American League in extra bases on long hits—9—Boston, New York, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1926, 1928, 1929 (major record).
 Most consecutive years leading American League in extra bases on long hits—4—Boston, New York, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921 (major record).
 Most years 200 or more extra bases on long hits—4—New York, 1920, 1921, 1927, 1928 (major record).
 Most years 100 or more extra bases on long hits—14—Boston, New York, 1919 to 1933, inclusive, except 1925 (tied A. L. record).
 Most runs batted in, major leagues—2,209—Boston A. L., New York A. L., Boston N. L., 22 years, 1914 to 1935, inclusive.
 Most runs batted in, American League—2,197—Boston, New York, 21 years, 1914 to 1934, inclusive.
 Most years leading American League, runs batted in—8—Boston, New York, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1923 (tied), 1926, 1928 (tied).
 Most consecutive years leading American League, runs batted in—3—Boston, New York, 1919, 1920, 1921.
 Most years, 100 or more runs batted in—13—Boston, New York, 1919 to 1933, except 1923 and 1925 (tied for major and A. L. record).
 Most consecutive years, 150 or more runs batted in, league—3—New York, 1929-30-31 (tied for A. L. and major record).
 Most bases on balls in major leagues—2,056—Boston A. L., New York A. L., Boston N. L., 22 years, 1914 to 1935, inclusive.
 Most bases on balls, American League—2,036—Boston, New York, 21 years, 1914 to 1934, inclusive.
 Most bases on balls, season—170—New York, 152 games, 1923 (major record).
 Most years leading American League in bases on balls—11—New York, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933 (major record).
 Most consecutive years leading American League in bases on balls—4—New York, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933 (major record).
 Most years 100 or more bases on balls, American League—13—Boston, New York, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934 (major record).
 Most consecutive years, 100 or more bases on balls, league—5—New York, 1930 to 1934, inclusive (tied for A. L. record).
 Most strikeouts in major leagues—1,330—Boston A. L., New York A. L., Boston N. L., 22 years, 1914 to 1935, inclusive.
 Most strikeouts, American League—1,306—Boston A. L., New York A. L., 21 years, 1914 to 1934, inclusive.

Called Homer Shot in Series

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

deliberately took two strikes, and after each strike by pantomime pointed to the distant center field bleachers. Before Ruth let go the third pitch, the big fellow pointed exactly where he would hit the ball, the most distant spot in the park, and then made good—the ball sailing deep into the center field open seats. After the game, he confided to New York newspapermen: "Say, wouldn't I have looked like a chump if I hadn't hit that ball?"

Ruth's salary had been reduced to \$70,000 for that season of 1932. The depression then was at its worst point; banks were closing and bread lines forming. When the time came to sign for the 1933 season, Babe's pay was put at \$52,000 by Col. Ruppert—the figure in the Bam's first big five-year contract in New York.

The 1933 season definitely saw the beginning of the end for Babe as a player. Father Time finally taking a hand as the great hitter reached his thirty-eighth milestone. There still was

a lot of power in his bat, as he hit 34 home runs, but his batting average fell off from .341 to .301. However, in the first All-Star game, played in Comiskey Park, Chicago, in early July, 1933, Ruth was the usual showman, rising to the occasion before a big crowd. He contributed a home run and a single to the American League's 4 to 2 victory, and made a fine running catch of Chick Hafey's liner that turned back the last rally of the Nationals.

A bit of heedlessness after the finish of that season probably lost Ruth his coveted opportunity for managing a major league club. The late Frank Navin, former president of the Tigers, wired Babe whether he could meet him in Detroit on a day shortly after the season was over. Navin already had received Ruppert's permission to talk to Ruth. The Babe replied he could not be in Detroit on that day, as he was leaving for San Francisco where he would catch a boat for an exhibition junket to Hawaii. Navin did not wait for Ruth's return. Instead, he put through the deal whereby he purchased Mickey Cochrane from the Athletics, and appointed the crack catcher manager. Cochrane won the league pennants of 1934 and 1935 and the world's championship in the latter year.

Ruth's fifteenth and last season with

the Yankees was 1934, when the old legs had a difficult time carrying him through the long season. Even so, he still was no set-up, getting into 125 games, hitting .288, driving out 22 homers and batting in 84 runs. And he still was good enough to start the second All-Star game in right field for the American League.

At the end of that season, he joined Connie Mack in a tour of American League stars to Japan and other countries in the Orient. Despite their later treachery at Pearl Harbor, the Nipponese gave Ruth a conqueror's welcome, and the now 39-year-old Ruth thrived on Oriental pitching. He led the Americans at bat, hitting .408.

Was Vice-President of Braves

While Ruth was in the other part of the world, Emil Fuchs, then president of the Boston Braves, asked Col. Ruppert's permission to talk business with Ruth. Ruppert readily consented. The club had reached a point where it would have been necessary to bench the aging veteran, and had McCarthy benched Ruth it would have resulted in a blowup in the Yankee club, an explosion which would have been reflected in the stands. On Ruth's return to America, Fuchs offered the Babe a big contract as a player and vice-president of the Braves. It also was intimated to Ruth that he should groom himself for the eventual management of the club, which put Bill McKechnie, the Boston manager, in a tough spot.

Ruth joined the Braves amid a great blare of trumpets, and he drew tremendously on the exhibition belt as a National leaguer. But the National League season was only a few days gone before it became evident that, as a big leaguer, Ruth was through. Between the seasons of 1934 and 1935, he went back several miles. The old punch was gone, and Ruth could not keep his average above .200. There was one final flair against the Pirates, when he belted three homers into the Forbes Field stands at Pittsburgh, but it was the last big blast.

A week later, he turned in his Boston uniform. In his last active season he had 13 hits and 13 runs.

And so, after 22 years, big league baseball said "Goodbye" to the Babe. Not only had he been a great pitcher and the greatest slugger of all time, but a remarkable all-round ball player.

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Ruth became seriously ill late in 1946, and for some weeks his life hung in the balance. He was taken to New York's French Hospital for a checkup, following a series of severe headaches. A delicate operation on an artery in his neck no doubt saved the great sport figure's life. During his 82-day sojourn in the hospital, thousands of boys—and many of their elders, who had worshiped at Ruth's feet—breathed reverent prayers for his recovery. He eventually was released, Febru-

ary 15, a tired, wan man, and a shadow of his old powerful self. However, with the passing weeks Ruth slowly began to regain a little of his former strength, and on a warm day he even tried out his putter at his old Long Island golf course. Mrs. Ruth took him for a vacation trip to Florida, where only a little over a decade ago, he was the Big Gun in the Grapefruit circuit. Before departing, Ruth was engaged by the Ford Motor Company as a consultant in its American Legion's junior baseball program. Physically, he wasn't the old Ruth, but spiritually he still was the same Babe, the friend of every boy in the land.

Ruth took over a million dollars out of his slugging career netted him another million. Some estimate his

return from baseball and by-products as high as \$3,000,000.

A prodigious spender, with no idea of the value of money, Ruth would have little of his big earnings today if he had not been for the crafty Christy Walsh, his former syndicate manager, and the second Mrs. Ruth, whom Ruth married in 1929. Between them they arranged that a good part of his salary was paid direct by the Yankee club into a trust fund. The income from the fund put the Bambino in a position to live comfortably the remainder of his days.

Perhaps the best thing ever said of Ruth, and most typical of him, was the remark when he hit his 60 home runs in 1927—"And the same cap that he brought into the big leagues with the Red Sox in 1914 still fits him."

THE BABE AND BENSON FORD, grandson of the late Henry Ford, who attended the signing of Ruth to act as consultant for the American Legion junior baseball program, sponsored by the Ford Motor Company.

the Yankees was 1934, when the old legs had a difficult time carrying him through the long season. Even so, he still was no set-up, getting into 125 games, hitting .288, driving out 22 homers and batting in 84 runs. And he still was good enough to start the second All-Star game in right field for the American League.

At the end of that season, he joined Connie Mack in a tour of American League stars to Japan and other countries in the Orient. Despite their later treachery at Pearl Harbor, the Nipponese gave Ruth a conqueror's welcome, and the now 39-year-old Ruth thrived on Oriental pitching. He led the Americans at bat, hitting .408.

While Ruth was in the other part of the world, Emil Fuchs, then president of the Boston Braves, asked Col. Ruppert's permission to talk business with Ruth. Ruppert readily consented. The club had reached a point where it would have been necessary to bench the aging veteran, and had McCarthy benched Ruth it would have resulted in a blowup in the Yankee club, an explosion which would have been reflected in the stands. On Ruth's return to America, Fuchs offered the Babe a big contract as a player and vice-president of the Braves. It also was intimated to Ruth that he should groom himself for the eventual management of the club, which put Bill McKechnie, the Boston manager, in a tough spot.

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Ruth's Punching and Pitching Record

Year	Club	League	G.	AB.	R.	H.	2B.	3B.	HR.	RBI.	B.A.	F.A.
1914	Baltimore-Prov.	Int.	46	121	22	28	2	10	1	—	.231	.344
1914	Boston	A. L.	5	10	1	2	1	0	0	0	.200	1.000
1915	Boston	A. L.	42	92	16	29	10	1	4	20	.315	.371
1916	Boston	A. L.	67	136	18	37	8	3	3	18	.272	.375
1917	Boston	A. L.	52	123	14	40	6	3	2	10	.325	.394
1918	Boston	A. L.	95	317	50	95	26	11	11	64	.300	.365
1919	Boston	A. L.	130	432	103	139	34	12	29	112	.322	.386
1920	New York	A. L.	142	458	158	172	36	9	54	137	.376	.383
1921	New York	A. L.	152	540	177	204	44	16	59	170	.378	.398
1922	New York	A. L.	110	403	94	128	24	8	35	96	.315	.394
1923	New York	A. L.	152	522	151	205	45	13	41	130	.393	.375
1924	New York	A. L.	153	529	143	200	39	7	46	121	.378	.392
1925	New York	A. L.	98	359	61	104	12	2	25	66	.290	.371
1926	New York	A. L.	152	495	139	184	30	5	47	135	.372	.379
1927	New York	A. L.	151	540	158	192	29	8	60	164	.356	.393
1928	New York	A. L.	154	536	163	173	29	8	54	142	.323	.375
1929	New York	A. L.	135	499	121	172	26	6	46	154	.345	.394
1930	New York	A. L.	145	518	150	186	28	9	49	153	.359	.395
1931	New York	A. L.	145	534	149	199	31	3	46	163	.373	.377
1932	New York	A. L.	133	457	120	156	13	5	41	137	.341	.361
1933	New York	A. L.	137	459	97	138	21	3	34	103	.301	.370
1934	New York	A. L.	125	365	78	105	17	4	22	84	.288	.362
1935	Boston	N. L.	28	72	13	13	0	0	6	12	.181	.353

Major League Totals 2503 8396 2174 2873 506 136 714 2209 342 968

*Acquired from Baltimore, July 11, 1914; optioned to Providence, August 20, and recalled at end of International League season, September 27, 1914.

†Sold to New York A. L. for \$125,000, January, 1920.

Year	Club	League	G.	AB.	R.	H.	2B.	3B.	HR.	RBI.	B.A.	F.A.
1915	Boston	A. L.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1916	Boston	A. L.	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1917	Boston	A. L.	3	5	0	1	0	1	0	2	.200	1.000
1921	New York	A. L.	6	16	3	5	0	0	1	4	.313	1.000
1922	New York	A. L.	5	17	1	3	1	0	0	1	.176	1.000
1923	New York	A. L.	6	19	8	7	1	1	3	3	.368	.944
1926	New York	A. L.	7	20	6	6	0	0	4	5	.300	1.000
1927	New York	A. L.	4	15	4	6	0	0	2	7	.400	1.000
1928	New York	A. L.	4	16	9	10	3	0	3	3	.625	1.000
1932	New York	A. L.	4	15	6	5	0	0	2	6	.333	.889

World's Series Totals 41 129 37 42 5 2 15 32 325 971

Year	Club	League	G.	AB.	R.	H.	2B.	3B.	HR.	RBI.	B.A.	F.A.
1933	American		4	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	.500	1.000
1934	American		2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000

All-Star Game Totals 6 2 2 0 0 1 2 333 1.000

Year	Club	League	G.	IP.	W.	L.	Pct.	H.	R.	BB.	SO.	E.R.A.
1914	Baltimore-Prov.	Int.	35	245	22	9	.709	210	88	101	139	—
1914	Boston	A. L.	4	22	2	1	.667	21	12	7	2	.391
1915	Boston	A. L.	32	218	18	6	.750	166	80	83	112	2.44
1916	Boston	A. L.	44	324	23	12	.657	230	83	118	170	1.75
1917	Boston	A. L.	41	326	23	13	.639	244	93	103	128	2.02
1918	Boston	A. L.	20	166	13	7	.650	125	51	49	40	2.22
1919	Boston	A. L.	17	133	8	5	.615	148	59	53	30	2.97
1920	New York	A. L.	1	4	1	0	1.000	3	4	2	0	4.50
1921	New York	A. L.	2	9	2	0	1.000	14	10	10	2	4.00
1930	New York	A. L.	1	9	1	0	1.000	11	3	3	2	3.00
1933	New York	A. L.	1	9	1	0	1.000	12	5	3	0	5.00

Major League Totals 163 1220 92 44 .676 974 400 443 486 2.24

Year	Club	League	G.	IP.	W.	L.	Pct.	H.	R.	BB.	SO.	E.R.A.
1916	Boston	A. L.	1	14	1	0	1.000	6	1	3	4	0.64
1918	Boston	A. L.	2	17	2	0	1.000	13	2	7	4	1.04

World's Series Totals 3 31 3 0 1.000 19 3 10 8 0.87</

LOOPING THE LOOPS

By J. G. TAYLOR SPINK

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

when he began to hit home runs in such dazzling profusion that the Yankees outdrew the Giants in the Giants' own park, when the Babe became the greatest figure and drawing card the game had spawned, the Giants forced the Yankees to build their own stadium.

Without Ruth, there would have been no Stadium. Without Ruth, there would have been no gorgeous Yankee dynasty of success. At least, not the sort of success which came to the Huggins and McCarthy regimes.

How McGraw Missed Ruth

The story of Ruth and the Giants and McGraw is one of the most vital in baseball history.

When the Babe developed so heroically with the Baltimore Orioles, McGraw asked his old pal Jack Dunn for a price on the young prodigy. According to McGraw, Dunn told him that when the time came for a sale, the Giants would get Ruth.

One morning McGraw read that Ruth had been sold to Joe Lannin of the Red Sox.

There was a tremendous to-do. Dunn tried to explain that unexpected developments had forced him to ignore his promise to deliver the Babe to the Polo Grounds. There had been a disastrous Federal League war, Lannin had lent Dunn money, Lannin had wanted Ruth, and that was that.

This story has a rather funny sequel. That is, it is funny today, in retrospect.

In time, Dunn developed two more stars—Jack Bentley and then Bob Grove. Dunn said to McGraw, "I had to pass you up on Ruth, but here is a chance for me to make it up to you. Buy Bentley. You won't regret it."

So Mac purchased the pitcher-first baseman for \$62,500 and sent him, eventually, to the Phillies in a deal in which Jack amounted to the waiver price.

Still fuming over the loss of Ruth, who kept piling up fantastic records and more fantastic turnstile figures, still sore over having been wrong on Bentley, McGraw, hardly was in a mood to go for any more deals with Dunn.

So, when Jack came along again and said, "Mac, I really want to make it up to you. Buy Grove for \$163,000 and you will thank me to the end of your days."

McGraw said something about what Dunn could do with Grove. So Jack closed with Connie Mack—and you know what Grove did in the American League!

When Giants Evicted Yankees

Let us go back some years to 1921. Ruth was poking homers hither and yon. The Yankees won their first pennant, but lost to the Giants in the World's Series.

McGraw feared that if the Yankees and Ruth were not handicapped, they would throw the Giants utterly into the background.

So McGraw called Charley Stoneham into conference, and said, "We have got to evict the Yankees. They cannot find a piece of ground on Manhattan, and will have to go bury themselves somewhere in the Bronx."

Stoneham was much the wiser business man. He expostulated. But McGraw had won former Magistrate McQuade, an official of the Giants, over to his view.

Stoneham eventually gave in. The Yankees and the Babe had to get out—to "go bury themselves somewhere in the Bronx."

But Ruth didn't bury himself. Operating from the other side of the Harlem, so close to the Polo Grounds that the flags of one park could be seen from the other, and the shouts from one almost heard in the other, George Herman Ruth proceeded to make the Stadium, the Yankees, and the American League—and to make the Giants and McGraw sorry.

McGraw kept boiling over. In the 1921 World's Series, the first meeting of the Giants and the Ruths, Mac aroused his athletes to indiscriminate oral attacks on the Babe. They shouted all sorts of nasty names, and the usually complacent, grinning George got sore. So, after the opening game—it was in

When Babe Called Turn

When Babe Ruth hit his three home runs in the fourth game of the Yankee-Cardinal World's Series in St. Louis, October 5, 1926, he literally called the turn during a breakfast discussion with a writer at the Yankees' hotel on the morning of the contest. Jess Haines had shut out the Yanks the day before. "But Haines didn't pitch smart to me," said Babe. "He was pitching all day to where I like 'em. But, if they pitch to me that way again today, I'll knock two out of their park." He knocked out three!

the Polo Grounds—Ruth, accompanied by Bob Meusel, invaded the clubhouse of the Giants.

"I can take it as well as anybody on this club," said the Babe. "I shout at other players, and I am not squeamish about most of the things you holler at me. But there are certain lowdown names you can't call me, and I am here to challenge any son of a so-and-so who thinks he can get away with it."

Within five minutes, the Babe was laughing. The Giants were patting him on the back. The tension was gone. And for the rest of that Series, and through the 1922 and 1923 classics with the Bombers, the Giants never called Ruth those objectionable names again.

There was the time Miller Huggins fined Ruth \$5,000 for breaking training rules. Nobody ever before had been fined so great a sum. Why, some of the most noted ball players of the game's history had played entire seasons for less. Nobody since has been subjected to so big a plaster.

The Babe raved. He announced he would jump the Yankees and go barnstorming.

But it did not take long for him to come back to Huggins and say, "That barnstorming guff was the bunk. Here I belong. I am sorry, Hug."

Ruth never got that money back while Huggins was manager. But when McCarthy took over in 1931, one of the first things he did was to see that the Babe's five grand was returned to him.

Always Ready to Help Game

All through his playing career with the Yankees, Ruth gave his time and energies to help baseball apart from achievement on the field.

If the Bombers were passing through Memphis, and some back country youngsters, 20 miles away, craved a sight of the home run king, Ruth got into a car and went.

If the Yankees were in Cleveland, and in some hospital a kid fighting desperately for his life asked for a visit from the Bam, Ruth got into a car and went.

No demands were too great. Smiling, alive to his duties as a standout figure in the game, appreciative of his position in the major league pattern, George never turned anybody down if a "Yes" could be given.

In that way he made himself the fans' ball player, the managers' idol, the players' dream.

Never to be forgotten by those who were present was the Bad Boy dinner given for Ruth in the Elks Club in New York.

The Babe had indicated a veering in the wrong direction. Wine, women and song threw their siren calls at the impressionable Bam, for whom the sports kept apologizing as a "big, overgrown boy."

There weren't many in that Elks dining room. The late Jimmy Walker was the toastmaster. He made the big appeal as coming from the dirty-faced kid in the streets.

Ruth sat there crying. That night marked the turning point in his life.

Ruth got a terrific kick out of his first training season with the Yankees, in 1920, at Jacksonville.

Because of his achievements in 1919 with the Red Sox, McGraw was impelled to arrange a long training tour with the Boston club. Nineteen one-day stands, 19 nights in the Pullmans.

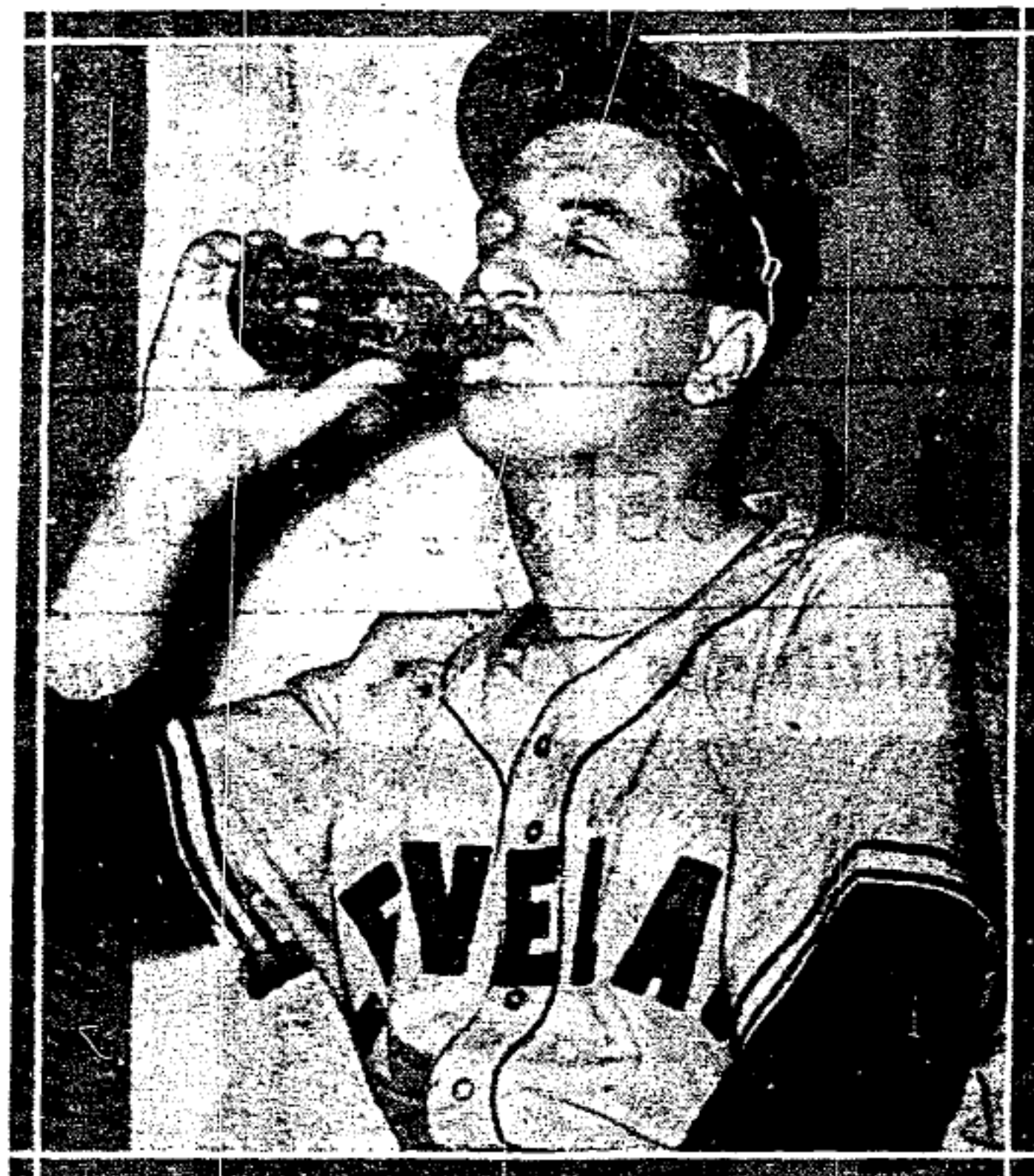
After the tour had been arranged and the posters printed, Ruth was sold by Boston to the Yankees.

The Giants and the Ruth-less Red Sox meandered all over creation from Wichita Falls, Tex., to the Polo Grounds, playing a silly series before small crowds, while the reason for the expedition was packing them in for the Yankees.

There will come a day—50 years hence, and not sooner, let us hope—when the Babe's epitaph will be written. It will read, "One Grand Guy."

White Ribbon Lifts Don Black to No. 2 Spot on Indians' Staff

Only Soft Drinks Now



DON BLACK shifts to soft drinks to cop No. 2 hill spot with the Cleveland club.

'Feel Like New Man,' Says Hurler, Now Keeping Training Regulations

By ED MCAULEY
CLEVELAND, O.

Don Black, the Indian pitcher who less than a year ago appeared to be on his way out of baseball, has taken his place right behind Bob Feller in the list of Tribal hill hopes.

"Black definitely is my No. 2 pitcher," said Manager Lou Boudreau.

In common with the other Cleveland pitchers—including Feller—Black has had some disagreeable innings this spring. But his recent performances have been consistently impressive.

Last spring, Black showed little respect for the training regimen, threatened to go home when the club shut off advances on his salary, and at one point was on the verge of suspension.

He started the season with the Indians, but was of little value and was optioned to Milwaukee, where he had no victories and five defeats.

What has caused the transformation? Black makes no secret of the answer. He's proud of it.

"I joined Alcoholics Anonymous," he says; "it's a great organization doing a wonderful job. I feel like a new man this year."

The red-headed righthander became a member of AA last fall. He took a job in Cleveland and lived so quietly that he had been in town for months before reporters knew that he had shifted his winter residence. He reported at spring training camp in excellent condition and was one of the hardest workers in the Wigwam.

Chandler Tried to Persuade Larry to Withdraw Charges

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

suspension of either Durocher or Dresen by ten minutes.

In the first place, Chandler is convinced that he did the right thing when he announced these penalties.

In the second place, the commissioner realizes that if he reconsidered the case, and lightened the sentences, he would be signing his death warrant as a real force in baseball.

Don't think that MacPhail's letter to William Harridge, president of the American League, asking him to take up with Chandler the matter of reconsidering the cases of Leo and Chuck made a hit with the commissioner.

As a matter of fact, I am told, Chandler regarded the letter as a corollary to MacPhail's disregard of the commissioner's orders to all those involved in the case not to discuss it.

There are some analysts who believe an attempt has been made to sabotage the office of the commissioner of baseball, and that the incumbent is not going to forget the effort.

I am told that it would not take very much to involve MacPhail in serious difficulties with the commissioner.

Larry Wouldn't Drop Charges
Chandler cannot forget the fact that he tried desperately to induce MacPhail to withdraw the charges of "slander," libel and conduct detrimental to baseball" against Durocher and Branch Rickey.

Soon after Chandler's decision had become effective, and Durocher had gone to California, reports began to spread in New York that Chandler had been induced to let Leo return after 30 days. There were stories in some of the local papers that Rickey had interceded for Leo and that Chandler had "realized he had been too tough."

There was absolutely no foundation for these stories. But they gained wide circulation, and a certain amount of credence.

Right into the thick of this situation jumped Col. MacPhail with the announcement that he had written a letter to Harridge, asking the president of the American League to take up with Chandler the matter of reconsidering the Durocher and Dresen suspensions. Harridge declined to become a party to this effort.

As I get it, MacPhail wrote not only to Harridge, but to all of Larry's associate club owners in the American League.

MacPhail was in no position to discuss what he had written to Harridge. He refused to divulge the contents of his letter. He felt that Harridge would make them public. I understood the letter said that Durocher and Dresen

Writers Get Runaround About Release of Murphy

NEW YORK, N. Y.—On Monday, April 14, Red Patterson, Yankee mouthpiece, was asked about a report that the club had released its veteran relief pitcher, Johnny Murphy.

Even as the question was being put, Murphy was signing a contract with the Red Sox.

Patterson replied, "No, Murphy has not been released." The following morning dispatches from Boston told of Grandma's transfer to the Hub.

The writers covering the Yankees did not admire this run-around a plugged cent's worth. Nor could they discern any reason for the run-around.

The signing of Murphy by the Red Sox will make it unnecessary for American League players to name a new representative on the majors' Executive Council. Murphy was named to that position last year.

had been found guilty without a hearing.

Both men were questioned by Chandler at Sarasota, but in the opinion of MacPhail, they did not get a fair trial.

MacPhail's letter also pointed out that when he filed the charges he did not seek penalties against Durocher and Rickey. He insisted he had asked merely for his own vindication.

Yet, the charges were filed against Durocher and Rickey for "slander, libel and conduct detrimental to baseball."

The commissioner found Durocher guilty of conduct detrimental to baseball and suspended him for one year.

After the commissioner had tried desperately to induce MacPhail to withdraw the charges, and had failed, and after the commissioner had held his hearings and announced his decision, MacPhail apparently realized that the gun had been loaded, after all.

When Chandler had held his final hearing in St. Petersburg, and Rickey had denied having made any remarks derogatory to the Colonel, MacPhail asked Chandler to issue a statement vindicating the president of the Yankees, and letting the matter go at that.

Had Chandler acceded to MacPhail's request, he would have made himself the laughing stock of the baseball world.

In writing his letter to Harridge to intercede with Chandler for a reopening of the case, MacPhail lost sight of a very important feature of the commissioner's decision.

Leo Durocher was suspended for the

Larry Gives Press Room to Stadium Club Diners

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Last season, the baseball writers covering the Yankees had a fine press room adjoining the Stadium Club. There were facilities for having a sandwich and a bit of liquid refreshment, as well as for writing.

The press club does not exist any more. It has been taken away from the writers and turned into a dining room for the Stadium Club.

The writers covering the Yankees do not like this, and they are saying so.

DANIEL.

1947 season not alone because of the MacPhail charges. Durocher had been warned twice by the commissioner, and had been told that any further unfavorable publicity would bring suspension without any more hearings or warnings. Leo's suspension was based not so much on the MacPhail charges, as the vast majority of fans seem to think, but on a succession of events starting with the under-the-stands slugging case. It is to be regretted that the Chandler decision did not make this clearer, and that the history of the Durocher case was not given out as a necessary appendix to the main statement.

MacPhail's solicitude for Durocher is one of the oddest facets of the history of baseball jurisprudence within the memory of those who have followed this feature of the game since the late Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis took office.

Once the Best of Friends

For a long time, Larry and Leo were the best of friends. They were associates on the Dodgers. In the spring of 1946, Durocher and MacPhail were in frequent telephonic communication during the training season, discussing their problems. It looked very much as if Durocher would become the 1947 pilot of the Yankees.

If Larry had had any notion of inviting Leo over to the Stadium, it conceivably was belted right out of him by Westbrook Pegler's attacks on Durocher.

In any event, friendship turned to coolness, and then there were charges and counter charges.

Before Chandler, when Leo was asked if Larry had offered him the job of Yankee manager, he replied, "No, never." This, in Larry's mind, settled the whole case. But the thing had gone much too far to be dismissed. Somebody had to get belted, and Leo got it.

Chandler has been placed in an unfavorable light by the charge that he did nothing more to Larry than fine him \$2,000 because it was MacPhail who had put him into office. There was a similar fine for the Brooklyn club, and Dresen's punishment.

Put this down as a fact. MacPhail did not make Albert B. Chandler the commissioner of baseball.

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