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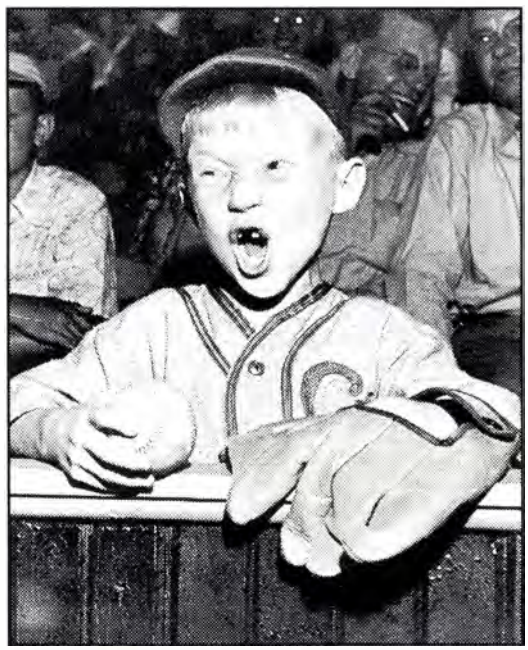

A Fort Worth Cats fan enjoys the action at LaGrave Field.

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INTRODUCTION, WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Professional and amateur baseball had been played across the state of Texas for over 100 years before the Houston Colt .45s began play in 1962. The history of baseball in Texas is an extensive one. No other sport can compare in terms of richness of tradition.

Here, the members of the Hall-Ruggles Chapter present for you an overview of that rich history. You will read of Tris Speaker, Rogers Hornsby, Ernie Banks, Joe Morgan, Nolan Ryan, and other Texas-born national greats. And don't forget the heyday of the Texas League and its teams: the Fort Worth Cats, Dallas, San Antonio, and many other Texas cities... Add the greatest collegiate and amateur teams, including the formidable University of Texas, and the history becomes even richer. The birth of the Colt .45s, the long struggle to bring major league baseball to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex (specifically Arlington), the new and old stadia of the state, and the colorful people who have built the tradition of Lone Star baseball give an even more delightful perspective to this venerable sport. The Hall-Ruggles Chapter hopes you enjoy these writings and the convention itself.

Larry Ritter once wrote, "If we didn't have baseball, somebody would have to invent it."

Baseball matters; it's a national institution. Baseball is where people can rise in an ecstasy of joy or descend into the depths of despair.

The late President Herbert Hoover gave baseball one of its highest compliments when he remarked, "Our voluntary rules of right and wrong as applied to American sports are second only to religion in strengthening the morals of the American people... and baseball is the greatest of all team sports."

It is with this train of thought that the Hall-Ruggles Chapters welcome many of the 6,900 baseball scholars whose selfless love of our national pastime knows no bounds. SABR honors the city of Arlington, the local chapter, the Texas Rangers, and Texans everywhere by bringing SABR to our doorstep.

May your visit to the Ballpark at Arlington and other locales leave an indelible impression. We extend a Texas-sized welcome to SABR and visitors from throughout the nation!

And the Hall-Ruggles Chapter takes great pride and appreciation in the cooperation and sponsorship of SABR 24 by the newspaper which provided the great Flem Hall columns and shouts of encouragement for major league baseball in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Special thanks are extended to the Fort Worth STAR-TELEGRAM for its role in providing resources to make SABR 24 possible. Hall joined longtime sports editor Bill Rives of the Dallas MORNING NEWS to bury the hatchet among newspaper publishers, civic leaders and other corporate entities to ensure the arrival of major league baseball in North Texas. From Arlington Stadium to the ultimate in baseball playgrounds -- the Ballpark at Arlington -- diamond fans throughout America and in this area especially salute their efforts along with the countless hours devoted by then-Arlington Mayor Tom Vandergriff.

The editors of this anthology wish special thanks to Norma Williams, Marlo Smith, Howard Green, Wayne Poage, Tom Simmons, Jim Reeves, Randy Galloway, Joanne Pryor-Carter, Ed.D., Cathy Bolton of Tarrant Printing Company, Bill O'Neal, Don Hase, and countless others for their assistance in the publication.

How the Texas Rangers Came to Town

By Jim Reeves (Ft. Worth STAR-TELEGRAM)

Politicians called it modern day highway robbery. The nations's capitol mourned as if it had lost a president. Fans wept openly at old RFK Stadium and threatened to lynch Bob Short on the spot.

In North Texas, specifically the Dallas-Arlington-Fort Worth corridor along the Turnpike, it was Independence Day all over again. Fireworks lit up the night sky. Fans danced in the streets.

It was Sept. 20, 1971, and Tom Vandergriff's 13-year, Holy Grail-quest for a major league baseball franchise had finally ended successfully.

Just like that, the Texas Rangers were born.

If this was Hollywood, this is were we'd bring up the Hallelujah Chorus and fade out showing multiple pennants flying over The Ballpark in Arlington. That delightful beginning almost 23 years ago, when Washington Senators' owner Bob Short emerged from a 13-hour owners' meeting in Boston to announce that he had received the necessary votes to move his franchise to Arlington, has yet to be followed by a happy ending. For that we still bide our time.

But for that moment in the fall of '71, simply getting major league baseball into North Texas was enough. Vandergriff, the man-on-a-mission Arlington mayor, had almost singlehandedly pulled off the impossible and he had done it despite the protestations of a Pressident (the late Richard Nixon), assorted U.S. Senators and the Honorable Judge Roy Horeninz, the Houston owner who wanted to keep Texas and its bountiful TV market for himself.

It did not make Vandergriff a popular man in Washington, a fact brought home to him in singular fashion when he was in the city shortly after the announcement that the Senators would be leaving D.C., to take up residence in the wild, wild, West.

Sitting in the backseat of a cab enroute to a hotel from the airport, Vandergriff discovered just how unpopular he had become.

"You know anything about this guy Vandergriff?" the cab driver growled when he learned that his customer was from Texas.

Tom conceded that indeed he did and that the man was, in fact, an admirable fellow.

The cabbie proceeded to call the hombre who had stolen the Senators the lowest snake in the grass that had ever crawled. And that was one of the nicer things he said.

Vandergriff chuckled and chatted and finally, against his better judgment, told the driver who he was. And wound up being dumped, bag and baggage, at the nearest corner.

The Rangers, over the years, have experienced the same feeling.

Perhaps the Rangers inherited too much from their forefathers in Washington. The Senators, we were often told in the post-World War II years, were always first in war, first in peace and last in the American League.

The Rangers refined that saying somewhat, particularly in their first two seasons in Texas. They weren't first in war. They weren't first in peace. But they were definitely last in the American League West.

Moving into a revamped minor league ballpark, the name was changed from Turnpike Stadium to Arlington Stadium though fans would have named it after Vandergriff if he would have let them, did not bring the Rangers good fortune -- or, for that matter, many fans those first two seasons. The novelty of major league baseball quickly wore off as North Texas fans -

only 662,974 the first year - watched Frank Howard and a ramshackle band of basically expansion players win just 54 games and lose 100. Ted Ford led the team with 14 home runs. Its winningest pitcher, Rich Hand, went 10-14. Ugh.

Short, wringing his hands and wondering if he'd made a drastic mistake (the break even attendance count for the team that first season wass 800,000), looked toward a better 1973.

Guess again. Ted Williams, the team's legendary manager and sole link with respectability, quit after the '72 season. Under Whitey Herzog, who brought in a long-term plan he believed would turn the franchise around, the Rangers lost a whopping 105 games, a record that still stands.

The Rangers drew just 686,085 but 218,240 of those fans came out to see a teen-age wonder named David Clyde, who would make a dozen starts at Arlington Stadium, six of them in front of more than 21,000 fans, including the team's first-ever sellout for his debut on June27, 1973.

Clyde, facing a Minnesota Twins team that included Rod Carew and Tony Oliva, was just 18 and still fresh from Houston's Westchester High School when he took the mound in front of 35,698 buzzing fans that hot June afternoon in '73. Ten thousand more were turned away at the gates.

Nervous, Clyde walked the first two batters he faced, then struck out the side. The fans roared their approval.

There are those who say Clyde saved the franchise. Maybe he did, but at serious cost to himself. He never gained the success predicted for him and many thought it was because he couldn't handle the major league fast lane at such a young age.

Even with Clyde averaging over 18,000 fans per start, Short was still losing money. Desperate, he fired Herzog on Sept. 7, 1973. Why? Becuase suddenly Billy Martin was available.

"If my mother were managing the Rangers and I had the opportunity to hire Billy Martin, I'd fire my mother," Short said at the time.

Ironically, it was one of the last major decisions he would make as the Rangers' owner. In April, before the 1974 season opener, he sold the club to a Dallas-Fort Worth group headed by plastic pipe entrepreneur Brad Corbett. Under Corbett and Martin, a new era of Rangers' baseball was about to begin.

The Rangers became legit in '74. An off-season trade had sent minor league hitting whiz Bill Madlock, who would win four National League batting titles, to the Cubs for pitcher Ferguson Jenkins. Jenkins supplied the Rangers with what they needed most - veteran leadership for the pitching staff. At the same time, Jeff Burroughs was blossoming into a talented young slugger and Martin boldly opened the season with rookies behind the plate (Jim Sundberg) and at first base (Mike Hargrove).

Jenkins would win a remarkable 25 games. Burroughs would win the MVP award. Sundberg would prove to be the best defensive catcher in the game (he won six Gold Gloves) and Hargrove was the league's rookie of the year. The Rangers, known as Billy Martin's Turn-Around Gang, gave the Oakland A's a run for their money, finishing just five games out and in second place with an 84-76 record.

For the first time attendance cracked the million mark with 1,193,902 fans pouring through the turnstiles. Corbett was ecstatic and willing to gamble. Early in the '75 season he traded three players for Cleveland icon Gaylord Perry. In an age when baseball's average salary was less than $45,000, Corbett was paying his top two pitchers, Jenkins and Perry, a combined $335,000.

Money, Corbett soon learned, wouldn't buy a pennant, no matter how much he borrowed and spent. Nor, over the next five years, could he wheel and deal for one either, though he certainly tried. Finally, his own funds exhausted and his plastic pipe business failing, Corbett persuaded longtime friend and Fort Worth businessman Eddie Chiles to buy out his controlling interest in the Rangers. The deal was consummated in the spring of 1980.

Chiles, who had made his name and fortune in the oilfields of west Texas, also found frustration in baseball. He couldn't just whip it into shape, as he had The Western Company of North America. He couldn't just fire star players when they failed to perform up to expectations. He couldn't even get Commissioner Bowie Kuhn to follow his orders and end the strike of 1981, though he flew to New York and faced Kuhn in his Park Avenue office with that mission in mind.

Still, Chiles, who died last year, fought on as Rangers' owner until the oil business hit hard times and his own personal fortune began disappearing. Chiles gave up on baseball in the winter of 1989, selling the club to an investor group led by George W. Bush, son of the president, and Edward W. "Rusty" Rose.

A succession of managers had followed Martin, who was fired at mid-season 1975. Frank Lucchesi, Eddie Stanky (one day), Billy Hunter, Pat Corrales, Don Zimmer, Doug Rader, Bobby Valentine, Toby Harrah and current manager Kevin Kennedy. Each had some measure of success. None has yet delivered a pennant to North Texas.

Star players have come through, too. The roster includes Jenkins, Burroughs, Sundberg, Hargrove, Perry, Harrah, Bert Blyleven, Bobby Bonds, Willie Horton, Sparky Lyle, Richie Zisk, Al Oliver, Jon Matlack, Buddy Bell, Mickey Rivers, Larry Parrish, Jim Kern, Jeff Russell, Nolan Ryan, Rafael Palmeiro and current stars Juan Gonzalez, Ivan Rodriguez, Will Clark, Dean Palmer and Tom Henke.

Arlington Stadium has been replaced by The Ballpark at Arlington, perhaps the finest baseball facility in the world. The Rangers are in a new, leaner American League West. The time is ripe for the team's first ever title.

North Texas fans who have supported the team since its arrival in 1972, can't wait. It has been a long time between celebrations.

"Two great outfield plays stand out in my mind of all that I have seen. One was by Bibb Falk of Chicago. Bibb made a diving catch in left-center (he was playing leftfield) and was sliding on his stomach. He took the ball in his gloved hand, not more than two inches from the ground, and then turned a complete flip-flop across the cinder warning patch. His face and both arms were cut from the cinders, and he came back to the bench covered with blood, but he held onto the ball."

--Babe Ruth from BABE RUTH'S OWN BOOK on the outfield defense of Texas great Bibb Falk

Case Study: The Texas Rangers' Managers

By Randy Galloway
Dallas MORNING NEWS

Okay, baseball lovers, you have come to the right town for your convention! At least, it's the right town for doing a case study on managers.

It's not that we have been around that long in the majors; it's just that we have had sooooooooo many managers come and go, win or lose, with the Texas Rangers -- mainly lose, or, of course, there wouldn't have been 13 of them in 23 seasons.

See what I mean? That has to be a record, doesn't it -- 13 managers in 23 years?

And there have been so darned good ones to come through here. Mr. Herzog and Mr. Martin, for example, are a couple of big winners for you -- just not here, unfortunately.

As a Dallas MORNING NEWS sports writer who dealt personally with these 13 either as the Rangers' beatman for 10 years or as a columnist, I was nominated to give you a brief profile of each member of our managerial herd.

Opinions are my business. Some of those opinions are strong, and that is why some of these managers haven't been on speaking terms with me in years.

But don't look for a lot of negative stuff here. Whether my reviews in the past happened to be favorable or unfavorable, I still respected the job each and every one did -- simply because it's a very hard one. So here comes a quick 20-plus years of memories:

TED WILLIAMS (1972) The most fascinating of the bunch, Ted Williams is the most fascinating guy I've dealt with in all sports. This includes Jimmy Johnson, Tom Landry, Tex Schramm, Muhammad Ali, Dick Motta, and many others.

For a kid reporter trying to grasp the inside of major league baseball, Ted was like a candy store. I couldn't get enough of what he was selling, which, of course, was a ton of theories and opinions.

He was there for one season as a favor for then-owner Bob Short, but Ted was the big name on the team. The team was awful, but Williams was a jewel.

WHITEY HERZOG (1973) How many times have I said that the worst mistake the Rangers ever made was firing this guy? It was Herzog's first managerial job, and, man, he was special. But by August, Herzog was ousted by Short. Whitey didn't even make it through the '73 season. I don't think the baseball gods ever forgave the franchise. Whitey is the best I've seen at handling pitchers, even bad pitchers, which the Rangers had plenty of in 1973.

BILLY MARTIN (1973-75) When Short fired Herzog, he came under extreme media heat, so Short called a quick news conference to announce you-know-who as Whitey's replacement. "I would fire my grandmother to hire Billy Martin," said the late Mr. Short. Martin gave the franchise its first taste of winning, but it was same old story. Only Billy kept Billy from being the manager here forever. Once the first pitch was thrown, Martin ran a game better than anyone in the business. But it was before the game and after the game... Well, you already know that story. I liked the guy a lot. He was crazy, but he was one of a kind.

FRANK LUCCHESI (1975-77) As one of Martin's coaches, Lucchesi was given the job when Billy was fired. It took Martin 10 years to forgive him, but if nothing else, Lucchesi brought class to the job. If there's such a thing as being too nice a guy, Frank is guilty. But in the big picture, Lucchesi always will be remembered for being just that -- a good human being. He's still active today in helping feed the homeless in the DFW area.

EDDIE STANKY (1977) Now we see him; now we don't. No one in history will have a better record (1.000 percentage) than Eddie. He was 1-0. Stanky was hired as a fulltime guy, managed one game, and then climbed on a plane in Minneapolis and went home to Mobile, Ala. Stanky simply didn't want to do it any more. There have been many Rangers' managers who wish they had done the same thing.

BILLY HUNTER (1977-78) Check his record (146-108). The players didn't like him, so then-owner Brad Corbett fired Hunter. Let this be a prime example that the players usually don't know squat when it comes to evaluating a manager. Not exactly a personable guy, Billy knew how to make a running game work, even without great speed. Despite his success here, Billy strangely never managed again.

PAT CORRALES (1978-80) Tied with Don Zimmer as my personal favorite among Rangers' managers, Corrales was tough as hell, honest, and respected by the players. He also didn't have the horses and didn't win enough, so ultimately he was fired. It's a story that has been told in baseball for 125 years.

DON ZIMMER (1981-82) If you don't like Zim, you don't like America, much less baseball. The best kind of people -- that's Don Zimmer. He was great at calling a game, but the knock on him was that he couldn't handle pitchers. Zim's problem here was that he didn't have any pitchers to handle.

DARRELL JOHNSON (1982) Johnson finished up for Zimmer, and he had a chance to be rehired, but the team was a bummer. Darrell was swept away in a big housecleaning. I never heard him raise his voice, even on a team that was so bad that it made you want to scream.

DOUG RADER (1983-85) Rader came in with great expectations as a rookie manager, but his failure was an awful communications' problem with the players. This was about the time that big money was changing the game forever because of how it altered the attitudes of the players. Rader was a young guy from the old school. He was never able to handle the needed adjustment, plus he made some bad snap judgments on prospects, particularly Tom Henke.

BOBBY VALENTINE (1985-92) Very good in so many areas on and off the field, Valentine is the ultimate lesson in what happens when a manager stays this long without ever winning a division. First, a power trip developed and then a paranoia that eventually fogged his judgment in how he dealt with front office people, players, prospects, coaches, trainers, etc. Bobby's biggest problem was that he was allowed to hang around here forever.

KEVIN KENNEDY (1993-present) After a rocky start as a rookie manager, he has displayed the tenacity to overcome plenty -- including his own mistakes. Kennedy has a tough side, and he doesn't allow the small stuff to slide. He could be a good one in the making, but... We have said that in Arlington before, only to have it fail to materialize -- not here, anyway.

"It ain't over 'til it's over."

--Former Houston Astros' coach and Yankees' great Yogi Berra

Wherefore The Name: Hall-Ruggles SABR Chapter

By Larry Swindell, Vice President; and Tom Simmons

The movement to bring the 1994 SABR 24 Convention to the Arlington area and the new Ballpark at Arlington actually might have started with the memories of two gentlemen who loved the game of baseball and who lived in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

They were Flem Hall of Fort Worth and Bill Ruggles of Dallas.

Flem Hall was a near and dear friend of retired Tarrant County (Fort Worth area) Judge and earlier state legislator Howard Green. When Howard Green called an organizational meeting of interested baseball partisans in early 1991, more than 50 persons responded. Several had been members of SABR chapters in other locales, but the DFW chapter quickly mushroomed under Green's steady guidance.

Obviously, when it came time to name the budding chapter, Hall and Ruggles were natural choices.

Hall, a nonagenarian when he passed away recently in April, 1994, and retired sports editor of the Fort Worth STAR-TELEGRAM, was a pioneer in the solid coverage of Texas League and famed Dixie Series as well as major league baseball within the state of Texas. Ruggles, formerly secretary of the Texas League and its premier historian during his days with the Dallas MORNING NEWS, was a driving force in the documentation of the state's rich baseball heritage.

And in honor of their legacies, Hall-Ruggles Chapter meetings have included guests as wide-ranging as Texas Rangers' President Tom Schieffer to local historians with an anecdote from their own baseball memory bank. Local SABR Secretary-Treasurer John Blake, Vice President for Public Relations for the Rangers, immediately found a home for SABR meetings at old Arlington Stadium and in recent weeks at the Ballpark at Arlington. His assistance at gaining top-notch monthly programs for the membership has been invaluable.

But getting back to the Hall-Ruggles tandem, one has only to turn to opposite ends of the Metroplex to find two monuments to baseball in Texas.

Hall (1901-Apr. 22, 1994), one of the early presidents of the Football Writers Association of American and noted sports editor-columnist for the STAR-TELEGRAM, covered baseball aspect from the World Series to the signing of the early bonus "babies." Though his health failed in recent years, he was a willing conversationalist on baseball in general and particularly Texas diamonds.

William Brush Ruggles was a man with distinguished careers in many fields. He was an editorial writer for the MORNING NEWS, and his Labor Day, 1941, editorial became the basis for federal and state right-to-work laws, including the Taft-Hartley Act.

He served with distinction in both World Wars -- on the battlefront as an infantry lieutenant in Germany in 1918, the Pacific Theater (including the Luzon campaign) in World War II and the occupation of Japan through 1945. Ruggles (1891-1988), many observers note, might have been most proud of having his name on the Hall-Ruggles Chapter if he had lived to see the group's local organization.

Bill was a baseball statistics junkie in addition to being the editor of the Dallas MORNING NEWS' editorial page until his retirement in 1960. He began, modestly enough, as sports editor of the Houston POST in 1910 and then the Galveston NEWS. After returning from World War I, Ruggles became sports editor of the old Dallas NEWS and started a 42-year connection with Class A Texas League. He was official statistician of the league from 1920-62, secretary from 1921-25, acting president in 1929, and author of History of the Texas League: 1888-1952. That volume is a cherished "collectible" of baseball historians far and wide.

Yes, Flem Hall and Bill Ruggles are true legends, immortalized in Texas sports lore through the SABR chapter which bears their names.

Ex-mayor recounts 13-year effort to bring baseball team to area

By: Sam Blair, Dallas Morning News

Twenty-three years ago, Arlington Mayor Tom Vandergriff came home from a long swing through 12 American League baseball training camps, glowing from something besides a great suntan.

He felt strongly that North Texas soon would have a major league baseball franchise. It took little more than a year to reach that goal. On April 21, 1972, the Texas Rangers played their first game in Arlington Stadium, a minor league facility expanded to 35,694 seats in just six months.

On Monday night, the Rangers will open their 20th season against the Milwaukee Brewers. Pursuing the dream was nothing new for Mr. Vandergriff. When he began to seek a team in 1958, he was 32 years old and still known as the "boy mayor" of Arlington, an office to which he first was elected in 1951. By 1971, he was nearing middle age.

But he never had been so excited about his mission.

"I knew we were closer to landing a club than ever before," said Mr. Vandergriff, 68, now Tarrant County judge.

"In the winter of 1970, I had learned that Bob Short, the owner of the Washington Senators, was feeling more pressure to move the club. The American League required approval by three-fourths of the club owners to move a franchise. So that spring, I went to every American League camp.

"That was the place you could crack the brass."

"At each stop, Mr. Vandergriff knew he must make the best possible pitch for the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In his articulate, low-key manner and resonant baritone voice, he delivered beautifully.

It was sweet satisfaction that he did so much better pitching for his "neighborhood team" than he had at his alma mater, the University of Southern California. "I once gave up the longest home run in school history." he said.

In the spring of 71, Mr. Vandergriff pursued his goal with a quiet confidence because of two conversations a few months earlier. The first was with Cleveland Indians president Gabe Paul, the second with California Angels owner Gene Autry, a native of Tioga in Grayson County who had made a fortune as a singing cowboy in Western movies and later in broadcasting and hotels.

"I went to Cleveland to see Gabe Paul on a blasted cold winter day, and he was the first to tell me, 'Go for Washington,'"Mr. Vandergriff said, "He also told me, 'Don't tell Bob Short I told you. He doesn't want to leave Washington, and you'll run into opposition from him.'"

Mr. Vandergriff knew he mist proceed quietly and carefully. There also were people in high places who believed that the nation's capital must always have a major league baseball team. One was then-baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn, who as a schoolboy had hung numbers on the old scoreboard at Senators games in Griffith Stadium. The other was President Richard Nixon.

But the Arlington mayor, son of pioneer North Texas auto dealer Hooker Vandergriff, knew it was time to shift into overdrive and move fast after talking to Mr. Autry.

"He told me, as a fellow Texan, that other American League owners wanted to moue the Senators, Short was having financial trouble. His team was drawing poorly in Washington, and all the other clubs lost money playing there. If the Senators had to move, Autry wanted to see the club in North Texas."

As a club owner with a history of hard times and financial stress, Mr. Short was aptly named. Yet he was not eager to reach for the life preserver offered by moving the Senators to a new market, although he once had prospered from such a move in the National Basketball Association.

Mr. Short was an attorney who graduated from Georgetown University in Washington and later became a key figure in the Democratic Party in the 1950s. He also became a force in the then-struggling NBA when he bought control of his hometown Minneapolis Lakers. They were a good team with a bad box office. In 1961, he bought up the stock of his partners for roughly $300,000 and moved the franchise to Los Angeles.

The Lakers became immensely successful, but Mr. Short, who seemed forever stretched thin by other business enterprises such as trucking and hotels, never became a famous face among the beautiful people of Los Angeles. He operated the club by long-distance telephone and told employees on the scene to trim expenses to the bone. In the spring of 1965, he sold the Lakers to Jack Kent Coke for $5,175,000 and was believed to have made a profit of $3.5 million from the deal. This was before the era of high-dollar franchise deals. In 1960, Clint Murchison, Jr. paid $600,000 for an expansion NFL franchise that became the Dallas Cowboys.

His Los Angeles bonanza enabled Mr. Short to buy control in December 1968 of the Washington Senators. This was an expansion franchise launched in 1961 when the previous Senators moved to Minnesota and became the Wins. Mr. Short was enamored of Washington, the city of his youth and a place where he yearned to move easily with people of power and position. In January 1969, he hired as his manager the legendary Ted Williams, who in 1941 with the Boston Red Sox was the last major leaguer to hit better than .400 for a season.

Mr. Short wanted to become the showy savior of baseball in the capital and along the way build some political ties that might help him down the line. Alas, even with Mr. Williams at the helm, the lowly Senators remained the box-office equivalent of a .175 hitter.

By summer 1971, financially strapped and having failed to sell the Senators to Washington interests, Mr. Short realized that he must look seriously at moving to the Dallas area and Arlington's little Turnpike Stadium. By then, he had become friendly with Mr. Vandergriff, whom he had met through mutual ties in the Democratic Party. Mr. Vandergriff at that point had developed strong support among other AL owners.

But it wasn't unanimous.

"We had arranged for a consortium of banks in Dallas and Fort Worth to give Short the financing he needed to move, and eventually we neutralized the opposition of Kuhn and Nixon," Mr. Vandergriff said. "But as we got closer to a special league meeting in Boston in September to vote on the move, Jerry Hoffberger of the Baltimore Orioles and Arthur Allyn of the Chicago White Sox remained strongly opposed. Hoffberger owned a brewery and sold too much beer in Washington to support the Senators' leaving. I still don't know why Allyn was against us. Still, we thought we had 10 to 12 clubs supporting us, and only nine were needed."

One supporter was missing, however, when AL president Joe Cronin convened the owners for the special meeting at the Boston Sheraton on Sept. 20, 1971, Mr. Autry had taken ill after arriving in Boston and was in a local hospital.

As the other owners went behind closed doors, Mr. Vandergriff and the Dallas-Fort Worth alliance still felt confident of nine positive votes. But Oakland A's owner Charles Ø. Finley, who a few years earlier had been denied permission to move his club from Kansas City to Arlington but later was allowed to transfer it to Oakland, made a surprise play.

"Finley told Short he would trade his vote for Jeff Burroughs, the best young player in the Senators' organization," Mr. Vandergriff said. "Short knew he had very few good players to bring to Texas, and he wasn't going to give up his best young talent. He told Finley no."

So each time Mr. Cronin took a vote, it remained eight for, two against and two abstentions--Mr. Finley and Mr. Autry.

"When it was obvious Finley would hold out, Cronin took the initiative," Mr. Vandergriff said. "He went to the hospital to see Autry, who signed a proxy allowing Cronin to count his vote for us. Once Finley realized it was settled without him, he voted for us, too, and it was 10-2. When I saw him afterward, he smiled and shook my hand. 'Oh, I'm so happy!" he said."

Mr. Vandergriff was more than happy, he was ecstatic. As Howard Green, the Tarrant County judge of that era, expressed it, "For 13 years, Tom experienced a splendid misery."

The long campaign began in 1958, with Mr. Vandergriff's election as chairman of the new Bi-County Sports Commission. It was organized at the urging of sports editors Flem Hall of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and Bill Rives of *The Dallas Morning News*, who believed that Dallas and Fort Worth leaders must rise above their perennial business and political rivalries and unite to seek a major league baseball franchise. Mr. Vandergriff was elected chairman because he had both political and baseball savvy and came from a little town with no ax to grind.

Years passed, Mayors came and went in Dallas and Fort Worth, as did other commission members . Some people got discouraged and dropped out. The area was passed over in expansion by both the American and National leagues and missed out on earlier franchise moves from Kansas City and Seattle.

With the support and encouragement of Mr. Green, Mr. Vandergriff arranged for the city of Arlington to purchase Turnpike Stadium from Tarrant County, whose voters in 1964 had approved bonds for a 10,000-seat stadium that could be expanded to major league proportions when the time was right. Through the years, Mr. Vandergriff expanded his contacts and support through baseball.

The club's ownership has changed three times since Mr. Short, who died in 1981, moved the franchise to Arlington. The club was sold to the Brad Corbett group in May 1974, to Eddie Chiles in April 1980 and to the George W. Bush-Rusty Rose group in April 1989. In 1977, after 26 years as Arlington mayor, Mr. Vandergriff left office and concentrated on family business enterprises for a few years. He was elected to the U. S. House in 1982, served one two-year term, then returned to business in Arlington again. In 1990, after switching to the Republican Party, Mr. Vandergriff was elected Tarrant County judge.

Through all the changes, his love for the Rangers has remained constant. So on opening night, as always, he will be there smiling, ready for the first pitch.

"We stole the idea for the original skyboxes from the Romans. They did it in 359 A.D. Of course, they didn't provide television."

--Judge Roy Hofheinz

Old Dudley Field - El Paso
Nation's Only Adobe Grandstand

Oldest Photo
(1890) of Texas League Baseball

Beaumont's
Stuart Stadium

Mission Stadium
San Antonio

From .45 Caliber to Intergalactic: The National League Houston Astros

By Gene Elston

Look back 33 years, and it's easy to see what has happened to the game of baseball from a financial standpoint.

In Oct., 1960, the National League expanded while awarding franchises to New York and Houston. One year later, the old Houston Colt .45s selected 23 players in the expansion draft for a grand total of $1.85 million. The average cost per player was approximately $80,000 -- that's $29,000 below the 1994 minimum for one-year major league salary!

And since George Kirksey (originally given credit for primary responsibility for bringing major league baseball to Texas) and those who later fell in line to reach that ultimate goal -- Craig Cullinen, Judge Roy Hofheinz and R.E. "Bob" Smith (for whom the College Player of the Year Award is named) -- the Houston franchise has had 17 winning seasons (four at exactly .500) and 15 losing campaigns.

The 1975-80 turnaround from the depths of 43 games out of first place (1975) to a divisional championship in '80 still stands as one of baseball's great comebacks.

From humble beginnings at a park designed for the Houston Buffaloes of the old Texas League to one of the most futuristic edifices of its time, the Houston Astros have left a legacy on professional baseball in the Lone Star State as well as the nation.

Humbly, the old Houston Colt .45s, led by Most Valuable Player Bob Lillis, introduced regular-season Major League baseball to Texas with a 11-2 triumph over the Chicago Cubs on Apr. 10, 1962. It has been a long and fascinating, yet oftentimes frustrating, road to the present level of contention for pennants on an almost annual basis in Houston.

On Apr. 23, 1964, Astros' pitcher Ken Johnson became the first major leaguer to lose a nine-inning no-hitter -- in this case a 1-0 defeat at the hands of the Reds.

One year later, though, the Colt .45s became the Houston Astros, moved into the then-premiere indoor sports facility in the country at the Astrodome and started sports history with a 2-1 exhibition win indoors over the New York Yankees on Apr. 9 in spite of the first indoor home run in major league history by longtime Dallas resident Mickey Mantle.

The largest Astrodome baseball crowd in history -- 50,908 -- viewed a June 22, 1966, win by the Los Angeles Dodgers and Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax over the Astros. Righthander Don Wilson wowed Houston partisans almost a year later on June 18, 1967, with a 2-0 no-hitter of the Atlanta Braves with Henry Aaron as the final out of the game via a strikeout.

By 1971, however, things were starting to turn around for the Harris County team in its final year as Texas' lone major league franchise. Cesar Cedeno led the league with 40 doubles while ever-present Joe Morgan shared the NL lead for triples with teammate Roger Metzger of the Astros.

Offseason acquisitions of Lee May, Tommy Helms and Jimmy Stewart helped the 1972 Astros to post their best record ever at 84-69 and to notch second place in the NL. A year later, Cedeno established a "50-20" precedent by becoming the first player in history to steal 50 bases and hit 20 homers in back-to-back seasons.

In 1975 future General Manager Bob Watson continued to endear himself to Houston fans with team-leading totals of 157 hits, 85 RBI and a .324 average. Pitcher Larry Dierker paced the staff with 14 wins en route to a successful broadcasting career.

Pitcher J.R. Richard, later to have his career ended by illness, became the Astros' second 20-game winner in 1976 while Cedeno set a team record with 58 stolen bases and won a fifth consecutive Gold Glove Award.

Behind Richard's 313 strikeouts in 1979, the stage was set for Houston's first-ever title as the Astros conquered the NL West with a 93-70 record. Venerable Joe Niekro paved the way with a 20-victory season while Joe Morgan returned to provide critical leadership at second.

A year later, the Astros utilized a Sept, 26, 1981, no-hitter (the fifth of his career) by Nolan Ryan and a NL-best 1.69 ERA by the Alvin resident to catapult to a playoff spot again with a 33-20 record in the second half of a strike-riddled 1981.

1983 and '84 campaigns were times of promise for Houston, though slow starts doomed the team in both years. '83 was the year in which Ryan surpassed the immortal Walter Johnson as the majors' career strikeout leader, and the all-time "K-Meister" reached what some thought might be an unattainable 4,000th whiff for the 1985 Astros.

Houston's Silver Anniversary season in 1986 produced a second NL West championship, a record 96 wins under first-year manager Hal Lanier, 306 strikeouts with 18 wins from Cy Young Award recipient Mike Scott, and NL MVP runnerup honors for Houston first sacker Glenn Davis.

In 1987 Nolan Ryan showed he could still reach down and throw his patented "heat" to go along with a wicked circle change to end the year with a major league-most 270 strikeouts and NL-leading ERA of 2.76.

Following a career-best 34 home runs during the 1989 season by Davis, Houston groomed another youngster for superstardom in 1991 when Jeff Bagwell notched Rookie of the Year laurels with a .294 average, 15 homers, and Houston rookie record 82 RBI.

1992 was the year of the majors' longest modern road trip -- some 26 days -- by the Astros and the Republican National Convention (the culprit for that trek) in the course of an eventful time which saw relief ace Doug Jones compile a club-record 36 saves in one year.

Offense-minded Houston pleased new owner Drayton McLane, Jr., with franchise records for batting average (.267), home runs (138) and doubles (288) last season and laid the groundwork for competition in the National League's realigned Central Division. Early in '94 activity, it appeared that the Cincinnati Red, Astros and Cardinals were going to be in the thick of the final battle for Central supremacy.

Baseball characters such as Jim Ray, Joaquin Andujar, Doug Rader, Bo Belinsky, Joe Pepitone, Jim Bouton, Jackie Brandt, Julio Gotay, Charlie Kerfeld, and Cliff Johnson, among others, helped add to the colorful history of the Astros along with the front-office legends such as Tal Smith, Gabe Paul, Pat Gillick, Bill Giles, Gerru Hunsicker, Ed Wade, and Jim Wilson.

With such nationally-significant events as the opening of the Astrodome in 1965 to the tune of a 2,515,470 draw for that season to the entrepreneurial talents of Judge Hofheinz to the faithful support of the community-minded Bob Smith, the Astros can be summed up aptly in the phrase, "That's entertainment!"

From a foundling franchise drawing crowds in the lower 10,000s in the early 1960s to a squad which annually passes the 1.9 million mark, the Houston Astros (nee .45s) truly have experienced "Astro-nomical" growth along with the city of Houston.

Remebering Nolan

By Nick Trujillo

(Editor's Note: Nick Trujillo is an Associate Professor of Communication at California State University, Sacramento. His book, titled The Meaning of Nolan Ryan, was published by Texas A&M University Press in 1994)

In the summer of 1972 I was a 16-year-old pitcher for my American Legion team in Las Vegas, Nev. That summer our team traveled to Southern California to play American Legion teams in the Los Angeles area. We won a few games, and we lost a few games. But the highlight of the trip was going to Anaheim Stadium to see Nolan Ryan pitch in his first season with the California Angels.

All of us, of course, had heard of Nolan Ryan, and we were excited to see him pitch. When we entered the stadium, the pitchers on our team immediately raced down to the Angels' bullpen, so that we could watch him warm up before the game. When we saw Ryan throw that first fastball, we were in awe. How could anyone throw the ball that hard?

I don't remember the outcome of the game, but I do remember that Ryan struck out about a dozen batters and walked seven or eight. It seemed like a typical Nolan Ryan outing. I also remember on the 300-mile return trip to Las Vegas, we talked a lot about how hard Nolan Ryan could throw a baseball.

In the winter of 1988 I was a 33-year-old professor at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and pitching coach of the SMU baseball club (baseball was dropped as a varsity sport at SMU after the 1980 season as a cost containment measure). I had been studying the Texas Rangers' franchise for over a year, and I happend to be driving out to Arlington Stadium on the morning of December 8 to conduct an interview with the ticket manager. Just before I turned into the stadium parking lot, I heard on the radio that the Rangers had signed Nolan Ryan as a free agent at the winter meetings in Atlanta. Like most Rangers' fans, I couldn't believe my ears. Excited to talk with Rangers' employees about the big news, I walked briskly to the ticket office. But when I walked into the office, phones were ringing off the hook. The ticket manager looked up and said, "I'm sorry, Nick, but we have to reschedule the interview. Everybody is calling to buy season tickets to see Nolan Ryan!"

Seeing Nolan Ryan pitch in his first season with the Texas Rangers was indeed memorable. He had some classic matchups, none more riveting than his 2-1 win over Roger Clemens at the end of April, 1989. He struck out Bo Jackson the first of several times he faced him when Bo was with the White Sox, but then Bo got even when he launched a 461-foot drive over the centerfield fence for the longest home run in Arlington Stadium history.

Then in August, 1989, after the Rangers had played themselves out of divisional contention, Ryan got his 5,000th strikeout against Rickey Henderson of the Oakland Athletics. The crowd was electrified that night and popped thousands of camera flashbulbs on every two-strike pitch after Ryan had registered No. 4,999. The atmosphere in the ballpark that night was as exciting as during a World Series, and that game ranks among the most memorable ones in Arlington Stadium history.

I also remember seeing Nolan Ryan off the mound that first season. I remember seeing him sign autographs for countless little leaguers (and middle-aged leaguers) at the ballpark and in the parking lot. I remember meeting him at a Rangers' banquet. There he was, one of the most recognizable people in all of Texas, wearing a nametage "Nolan Ryan," and politely making small talk with guests.

I was living in Sacramento, Calif., during the 1991 season, so I did not get to see his seventh no-hitter, another memorable moment in Arlington Stadium history. But I remember reading the local paper the next day and seeing Nolan Ryan's photo on the front page, even though virtual hometown hero Rickey Henderson had broken Lou Brock's all-time stolen base record the same day.

I remember reading a lot of articles in the paper about Nolan Ryan and actually read over 500 articles in order to write The Meaning of Nolan Ryan (Texas A&M Press, 1994) in newspapers from 1965 -- the year before he began his major league career -- to 1993 when he retired from baseball. Just as many Americans, I probably know more about Nolan Ryan from reading about him and seeing him on television than I know from spending time in person. In Ryan's 27-year major league career, reporters gave us many Ryan stories and images to shape our memories of him.

Early in his career, sports writers presented critical stories of Ryan, termed a youthful prospect who was wild, inconsistent, stubborn, and injury-plagued. By the time he ended his career in his mid-40s, still throwing the ball in the 90s, he was "the ageless wonder, " or "miracle man," or "the last real sports hero." With the help of the media, we remember his life story as a quest: he left rural Texas in search of the American Dream, he struggled to overcome the obstacles of his wildness and mediocre teams, he performed great feats along the way, and he returned home to end his career as a Hall of Fame hero.

In my view, Nolan Ryan is one of the greatest pitchers in baseball history, and his 50-plus major league records prove it. His 5,714 strikeouts represent his enduring legacy as a power pitcher and as someone who once threw the ball 100.9 mph. His seven no-hitters (and 12 one-hitters) represent the pure dominance he had over others; when Ryan was on, he literally was unhittable. His 300-plus wins represent the success he achieved over time while playing much of his career with .500 or below teams. His 27 seasons, more than any other major league player, let alone pitcher, in history stand as a tribute to his incredible longevity.

In 1999, Ryan's plaque will be placed in Cooperstown to make sure that fans will be remembering Nolan for generations.

"I remember Rogers Hornsby's were clear as crystal, and he was all baseball."

--Babe Ruth biographer Fred Lieb

FORGOTTEN TRAGEDY

Despite untimely death, Ross Youngs' story often overlooked
By Sam Blair, The Dallas Morning News

So much about Ross Youngs and his rare baseball career seems unforgettable, yet most of it has been forgotten.

In triumph, he was a superb right fielder, batter and baserunner on the best New York Giants teams of the legendary John McGraw era. In tragedy, he was the Lou Gehrig of the '20s, a hustling young athlete from Texas who died in his prime.

Youngs was only 30 when he died Oct. 22, 1927, in his hometown of San Antonio. He was a victim of Bright's Disease, or nephritis, an inflammation of the kidneys which medical science was not yet able to overcome.

But unlike Gehrig, the Iron Horse of the New York Yankees who died of a rare muscle disease at 37 on June 2, 1941, Youngs never had an opportunity to stand at home plate and say thanks and farewell to a packed stadium of hushed fans.

He played his last game for the Giants on Aug. 10, 1926. Too sick to continue, Youngs went home to San Antonio, still optimistic he could recover and return to his club in '27.

Dick Kinsella, the Giants' scout who discovered Youngs in 1916 when he played for Sherman, Texas, in the Western Association, visited him in San Antonio early in the '27 season and had to fight back the tears at the sight of Youngs, his body wasted away from 170 to little more than 100 pounds. "The hand of fate is heavy upon him," Kinsella told McGraw and the Giants, confirming what they had feared despite Youngs' positive letters to them.

A two-mile procession followed his body to Mission Park South Cemetery. At his graveside were his estranged wife, Dorothy, who brought their baby daughter Caroline, whom he had never seen, from New York for the funeral. They were yet another symbol of the sad ending to a remarkable career.

Typically, the guy popularly known as "Pep" Youngs was a gamer to the end. His nephew and namesake, 62 year old Russ Middlebrook Youngs, says his father told him that a doctor pronounced his uncle dead once, "then he came back and lived three or four more weeks."

In '26, his final season, Youngs' hit 306 in 95 games, although his health was so poor McGraw hired a male nurse to travel with the team. Always a favorite of the demanding McGraw and dedicated to the manager and club which gave him a shot in the big leagues while still a teen-ager, Youngs also tutored his 17-year old successor in the art of playing right field in the strangely shaped Polo Grounds. The kid was named Mel Ott.

Youngs hit .322 in 10 seasons with the Giants (1917-26) and appeared to be McGraw's choice to some day succeed him as manager. McGraw, who retired in 1932 after 33 years as a major league manager, including 30 with the Giants, called Youngs "the greatest outfielder I ever saw on a baseball field."

Sure, the right fielder for the Yankees during Youngs' prime years was a power hitting ex-pitcher named Babe Ruth. McGraw respected Ruth's impact on the game but rated him well below Youngs in the field.

"Ruth knows batters, and he plays them correctly, "McGraw said. "He can camp under a high fly as well as the next man. He has one of the greatest throwing arms ever seen in the outfield But when you have said this, you have said it all. Babe is rather clumsy. He isn't especially fast. He's not a great outfielder. Pep Youngs is all these things, and he also has a whip as deadly as a rifle."

McGraw said this in '24 when Youngs also had his finest season as a hitter (.356). Pep already enjoyed other distinctions.

In the Game 3 of the '21 World Series against the Yankees, he became the first player in Series history to get two hits in an inning when he doubled and tripled in an eight-run seventh. The Giants won 13-5, and took the Series, five games to three. In the '22 Series, they swept the Yankees in four games with Youngs hitting .375.

Still, the swift, aggressive Texan was a truly fearsome figure in the field.

In an exhibition game with the Chicago White Sox in the spring of '23, Willie Kamm singled to right field but Youngs rifled a throw to home plate that trapped Earl Sheely, who was trying to score from second. Pep sprinted in from right field, joined the rundown between third and home and tagged Sheely out. Thus he earned both an assist and putout.

So skillful was Youngs' fielding balls off the wall at the Polo Grounds, which measured only 259 feet down the foul line, that Waite Hoyt said, "he played that carom as if he's majored in billiards."

And nephew Ross Youngs, born two years after his uncle's death, said his father, Arthur Byrd Youngs, told him about some of Pep's other fielding gems in the Giants' home park. "Once he ran into the stands, scampered up a few rows among the fans and caught a foul. Another time he raced in, made a shoetop catch of a Texas Leaguer and tagged out a runner between first and second for an unassisted double play."

Frankie Frisch, another Giants star of the Youngs era who went on to more greatness with the St. Louis Cardinals, years later put Youngs ability in perspective for a later generation of fans.

"He was built like Enos Slaughter, short, stocky and played with Enos' hustle--and had even more ability."

Youngs had other admirable qualities. By all reports, he was friendly, caring and generous. Too generous, in fact. When he died, it was estimated he was owed $16,000 by his many debtors, and his family never collected a penny of it.

He didn't drink or smoke but loved to bet $100 per hole when he played golf at the San Antonio Country Club since he could shoot in the 60s and was considered the best golfer in major league baseball, it wasn't much of a gamble.

But after his early death, this legend soon gained another quality. The memory of Ross Youngs became invisible.

In '36, the Baseball Writers of America voted to elect the first class for new Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, N. Y. Youngs finished 20th and in succeeding years received little support, finally disappearing from the ballot.

It wasn't until 1972 that Youngs was elected to the Hall of Fame as a Veterans Committee candidate. Former commissioner Ford Frick, an old baseball writer who remembered Youngs in his prime, championed his cause. So did Bill Terry, the old Giants teammate and Hall of Fame first baseman who took the job that Youngs didn't live to fill--as McGraw's successor.

So it went for Ross Youngs for so long--unforgettable in life, forgotten in death.

Although he was one of the biggest stars in America's biggest city during the Golden Age of Sport, the quiet, dutiful Youngs simply played great baseball for the glory of the Giants.

His daring style on the basepaths made the fans gasp. He may have been the best of his era at breaking up double plays with his fierce body blocks on the pivot man at second base. But whenever they cheered him for any type of play, he awkwardly touched his cap and hurried into the dugout. In his way, he gave a great show but never was a showman.

San Francisco attorney Duane Garrett, a collector and auctioneer of baseball memorabilia and also a historian of the Giants franchise on both coasts, believes the chemistry of those historic Giants teams probably increased Youngs' natural modesty and later anonymity.

"First, McGraw had a dominant personality, and Youngs, the ideal team player, readily accepted it," Garrett said. "Also, look at all the future Hall of Famers on those Giants teams. Frankie Frisch, George Kelly, Freddie Lindstrom, Travis Jackson, Casey Stengel, Dave Bancroft, Bill Terry. With so many other stars around him Youngs quietly played his own brilliant game."

Ross Middlebrook Youngs was born April 10, 1897, in Shiner, Texas, the second of three sons. His father was a railroad worker but suffered from a disability and moved his family to San Antonio when the boys were young. He made some money from ranching, then left his family. His wife, Henri Middlebrook Youngs, then reared her sons in a close, strong family.

"She ran a small hotel in downtown San Antonio, and my dad got a newspaper route to help support the family," the surviving Ross said. "I heard from an old friend that my dad was a better ballplayer than Ross, but he became a used car salesman in San Antonio. The youngest brother, Jack, wound up with Humble Oil in Houston as an accountant. Ross was good in all sports--a star running back in football, a 9.8 sprinter when that was a great time for 100 yards, a fine golfer--but baseball always was his love."

While attending West Texas Military Institute (now TMI) in San Antonio, Youngs received football scholarship offers from major colleges across the nation but wanted a professional baseball career. He played briefly for Austin in the Texas League in 1914, hitting only .097 in 10 games. In '15, he went to Brenham (Mid Texas League) and Waxahachie (Central Texas League), but both leagues disbanded during the summer.

He first flourished as a switchhitting infielder at Sherman in 1916, hitting .362, Giants scout Kinsella recommended Youngs so highly that McGraw paid the Sherman club $2,000 for him and told Youngs, 19, to report to the Giants' spring camp in Marlin, Texas, in 1917.

McGraw loved Young's natural athletic ability and his attitude but realized he was not a good infielder, making too many plays off balance and hurrying his throws. He farmed him out to Rochester of the International League and told manager Mickey Doolan: "I'm giving you one of the greatest players I've ever seen. Play him in the outfield. If anything happens to him, I'm holding you responsible."

Pep Youngs played splendidly for Rochester, hitting .356 in 140 games before McGraw recalled him to the Giants to finish the season. He hit .346 in seven games, and McGraw knew he had a new right fielder. In 1918, Young's first full season in the majors, he became purely a left handed hitter and finished with a .302 average.

After Youngs' death, McGraw had two photos on the wall of his clubhouse office. One was of Youngs, the other of legendary pitcher Christy Mathewson, who had died of tuberculosis in 1925, nine years after he pitched his last game for the Giants.

There are three theories about how Pep Youngs contracted Bright's disease.

His nephew said, "My dad said Ross would never drink water during a game because he was afraid it would slow him down. That might have hurt his kidneys."

Some baseball people believed Ross Youngs ... John McGraw's protege died of a kidney ailment in 1927.

Youngs seriously injured his kidneys when he threw so many crossbody blocks at second base to break up double plays.

McGraw biographer Charles C. Alexander said Youngs' severe urinary track infection resulted from migration of an earlier streptococcal throat condition into his kidneys. Alexander credited this information to Dr. Jesse H. DeLee of San Antonio, "who has thoroughly investigated Youngs' medical history."

Arlington Stadium's Memorable Moments

By Howard Green

Soon to be bull-dozed into oblivion, that which once was Arlington Stadium becomes a custodian of memories, and as such, joins Ebbets Field, Sportsman Park, Baker Bowl, Cleveland's Municipal Stadium, League Park, Shibe Park, Griffith Stadium, the Polo Grounds and Braves Field, as gone-but-to-be-remembered places where some of the game's most exciting stories were written.

It may have lacked architectural perfection and wasn't the scene of a world series or championship playoff game. Nonetheless an unimposing ballyard between Dallas and Fort Worth played a special role in the lives of the millions so fortunate as to pass through its turnstiles. There was the homey intimacy, the community and neighborhood atmosphere that would transcend the game itself and contribute to a sharp curtailment of the long-standing nonsense associated with the historic rivalry of the two cities.

With that out of the way, it is appropriate to select

ARLINGTON STADIUM'S TEN MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS

1. 4-21-72 - Frank Howard's tape measure home run in the first game ever. His blast was last seen passing over the General Motors plant. The Rangers won that opener from the California Angels, 7-6.

2. 6-27-73 - David Clyde's debut and the first American League sellout. Score: Texas 4, Minnesota 3.

3. 8-30-74 - Dave Nelson stole second, third and home in the same base running sequence on a sunny Sunday afternoon. The result? Cleveland 7, Texas 3.

4. 4-9-76 - On opening day 1976 President Gerald Ford threw out first pitch. Score of game: Texas 2, Minnesota 1.

5. 9-30-84 - Mike Witt's perfect game as Angels blanked Rangers, 1-0.

6. 8-25-86 - Geno Petralli's dramatic pinch home run which beat Roger Clemens. The score: Texas 4, Boston 2.

7. 8-22-89 - Nolan Ryan's strikeout of Rickey Henderson for #5,000 as the A's defeat Rangers, 2-0.

8. Ryan's seventh no-hitter. The score: Texas 3, Toronto 0.

9. 8-4-93 - Ryan's headlock on Robin Ventura. Rangers won to stay in race: Texas 5, Chicago 2.

10. 10-3-93 - Capacity crowd says good-bye to Arlington Stadium and Cooperstown bound, George Brett and Nolan Ryan. Score: Kansas City 4, Texas 1.

ALL TIME TEAM OF NATIVE TEXANS

By Howard Green

1B **CECIL COOPER** This smooth-fielding first baseman was one of the most consistent hitters of the late '70s and early '80s, always among the top batting and fielding leaders. He won the gold glove in both '79-80, made the American League all-star team five times, and the batting star for the Milwaukee come-back-victory over California, in the 1982 ALCS. He played with both Boston (1971-76) and the Brewers ('77-87'). For the Brewers he had a string of seven successive .300-plus seasons, finishing second to George Brett in the 1980, batting .352, to Brett's .390. A native of Brenham, Cooper played in two world series.

2B **ROGER HORNSBY** "The greatest right-handed hitter of all-time" is Hornsby's calling card. A native of Winters, he grew up on Fort Worth's historic North Side where boyhood pals remembered him best for a total dedication to baseball. He was to compile a .358 all-time average, second only to Cobb's .367, and blast 301 home runs. His .424 average for 1924 is the highest for this century. The Rajah won seven National League batting championships. In 1926 he led the Cardinals to the world series title in his first full year as a major manager. He subsequently was to manage the Braves, Cubs, Browns and Reds, but never again finished first. Hornsby didn't smoke or drink (not even coffee) but played the horses and frequently disagreed with bosses. To say the least, he was his own man. Elected to Hall of Fame - 1942.

3B **PINKY HIGGINS** One of the many great ones signed off the campus of the University of Texas, Higgins for 12 years was a hard hitting, steady fielding third baseman for the Athletics, Tigers, and Red Sox. For Detroit in 1938, he delivered 12 consecutive hits which remains a record now jointly held with Walt Dropo. In the fourth game of the 1940 world series with the Tigers, he handled a record ten chances without an error. The three-time American League all-star piloted the Red Sox 1955-62, and in his first year was named AL manager of the year by The Sporting News. His all-time batting average .292. Born at Red Oak; died in Dallas.

SS **ERNIE BANKS** Known as "Mr. Cub" and among the most popular ever to play in Chicago. Banks went directly to the Cubs from the legendary Kansas City Monarchs. Deceptively strong, Ernie belted 512 home runs in 2,528 games, all for the Cubs. In 1955, his 44 homers is an all-time record for shortstops and in 1958-59 won back-to-back MVP awards. Because injuries to his legs limited fielding range, Banks switched to first base in 1962. An all-star five times, he earned the honor at both shortstop and first base. The Dallas native made the Hall of Fame in 1972.

RF **ROSS YOUNGS** Remembered as the "tragic star," Youngs played only eight full seasons with the New York Giants. He was struck down by Brights Disease and died at the age of 30 at a time when he should have been at the peak of one of baseball's greatest careers. John McGraw, the stormy petrel of the NL, for 30 years, hung two portraits behind his desk at the Polo Grounds - Christy Mathewson and Ross Youngs, calling Youngs "my greatest outfielder." Possessed of an incomparable throwing arm and tremendous range in the outfield, Youngs starred on four pennant winners - 1921-24. His all-time batting average was .322. He died at San Antonio during the 1927 pennant race. A native of Shiner, Youngs was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1972.

CF **TRIS SPEAKER** The seventh player elected to the Hall of Fame (1937), Speaker's plaque is inscribed "greatest center fielder of his day." A peerless defensive player, his offensive stats are surpassed by few -- all-time average .344, most career doubles 793. Speaker, born at Hubbard, left the Polytechnic College (now Texas Wesleyan) campus in 1905 to join Cleburne of the North Texas League. Shortly after becoming a Red Sox, Speaker was the "king" of one of the game's greatest outfields -- Hooper, Speaker and Lewis. Most valuable AL player in 1912 the swift Texan starred in a world series victory over the Giants. Traded to Cleveland in 1916, Speaker enjoyed his most productive years, averaging .354 for 11 seasons and leading the Indians to their first world series title in 1920. Speaker's first full season as manager. Winding up his remarkable career with Washington (27) and the A's (28), Spoke in 1950 became the first inductee in the Texas sports Hall of Fame. He died on the fishing dock near Whitney in 1958. Made Hall of Fame in 1937.

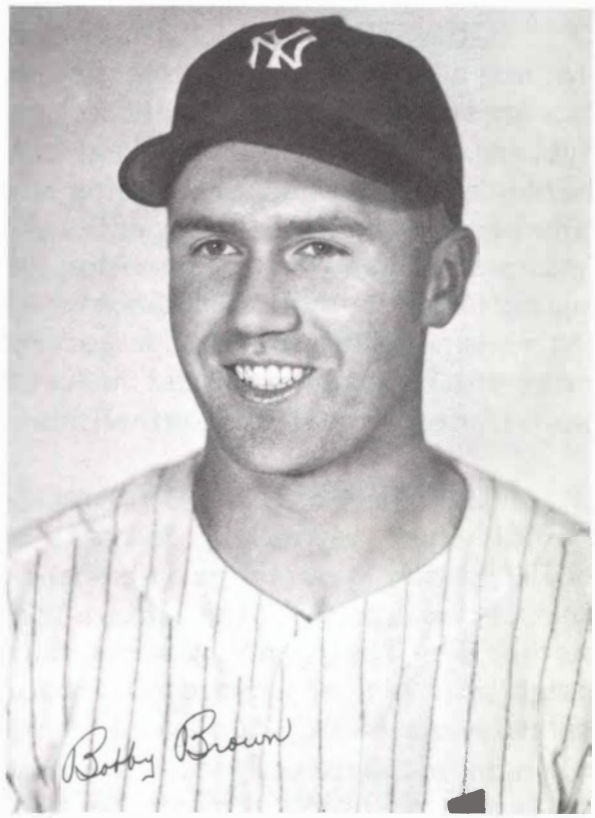
LF **SAMMY WEST** West ranked with Speaker and Youngs among the all-time defensive outfielders. Factually, he learned a lot from Speaker. Breaking in with the Senators during the 1927 season, West observed first-hand the little secrets that made Tris Speaker one of the best, if not the best ever to play the outfield. In his first seasons as a regular, in 1928, West set an all-time (since broken) American League record with a fielding percentage of 1996. West batted over .300 in eight of his 12 seasons as a regular. His career batting average dropped under .300 to .299 during his final season of 1942. He played 42 games for the White Sox. The transplanted West Texan, born at Longview, moved early in life to Rule in Haskell County and had been a resident of Lubbock for more than 50 years at the time of his death. He was a member of three AL all-star squads, including the first two. He was a late inning replacement for Babe Ruth in the first.

C **JERRY GROTE** Described as Nolan Ryan as the "best catcher I ever pitched to." Grote was a key ingredient on Met teams for a dozen years, backstopping in 15 WS games. Signed originally by Red Murff for the Houston Astros, Grote got off to a slow start and was purchased by the Mets. Lou Brock called him "the toughest catcher in the League to steal on." Grote was in two WS with the Mets and Two more with the Dodgers. He wound up his career with Kansas City in 1981. A lifelong resident of San Antonio, the fiery catcher also got into action in the recent league for seniors.

P **NOLAN RYAN** If Tris Speaker was adjudged the outstanding Texas athlete of the first half of the 20th Century, who but Nolan Ryan will get the accolade for the last half? Discarded by the Angels as "Just another .500 pitcher," "The Express" has improved with age. Two of his record seven no-hitters have been recorded after his 43rd birthday. More than 5,000 career strikeouts and 300-plus victories are his calling card to the Hall of Fame. Ryan has surpassed Roger Staubach and Doak Walker as the most popular athlete in Dallas-Fort Worth history. Born at Refugio and raised in Alvin, Ryan looks and talks like a Texan.

P **FRED MARBERRY** One of the first pitchers used almost exclusively in relief, Marberry was nicknamed "Firpo" because of a striking resemblance of the heavyweight boxer who once knocked Jack Dempsey out of the ring. He led the AL five times in saves, won 53 games in relief and 94 as a starter. Firpo participated in three WS during a 14-year career with the Senators, Tigers and Giants. He finished his career pitching for and managing Dallas in the Texas League. Born at Streetman, Marberry lived out his final years at Mexia. During his heyday, he boasted one of the premier fast balls.

Howard Green
(circa 1950)



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Roy Hofheinz

SABR 24 Organizing Committee

P **PETE DONOHUE** Donohue left the TCU campus in 1921 for a spectacular early career with the Cincinnati Reds. Before he had reached his 26th birthday, Pete had totaled 103 victories, but mound over-indulgence probably cost the big Texan a niche in Cooperstown. Working out of turn repeatedly during the torrid 1926 pennant race with the Cardinals, Donohue injured his arm and was never the same after an unfortunate late-season experience. Pete is credited with perfecting the change-up. He led the NL once each in wins, starts, complete games and twice in innings. Donohue remained in the majors until 1932 and was to 31 games in his last six seasons. A good hitting pitcher, he was the first National Leaguer to bat over .300 and win 20 games. Born at Athens in East Texas, Donohue, like Hornsby grew up on Fort Worth's North Side.

MGR. PAUL RICHARDS Although Richards never finished higher than second, he was considered one of the game's most brilliant and innovative strategists, particularly skilled at teaching the techniques of pitching. A reserve catcher at Brooklyn and the Giants in his early playing career, Richards credited Bill Terry with giving him the background to become a successful manager. He led the White Sox and Orioles in the AL, and had been a highly successful minor league skipper at Atlanta, Buffalo and Seattle. In 1945, he resurfaced as first string catcher for the world series winning Tigers, and was credited with perfecting Hal Newhouser as a pitcher. Paul's last position in baseball was in the front office of the Texas Rangers. He is buried in the city of his birth, Waxahachie.

U-1 **JOE MORGAN** Only Babe Ruth and Ted Williams drew more walks than little Joe, who also was a speedy second baseman with power. He won consecutive MVP crowns in 1975-76 as the mainspring of the Big Red Machine. Only a Hornsby, the "greatest right handed hitter of all-time" could keep Morgan from making it as the all-star second baseman.

U-O **BIBB FALK** He was the first of a string of Southwest Conference stars to go directly to the majors from a college campus, leaving the University of Texas in 1920 to join the Chicago White Sox. Before his first season had ended, seven of his teammates had been implicated in the worst scandal in baseball history. He replaced one of the culprits, Joe Jackson, in left field. Over 12 major league seasons, Falk compiled a .314 average. Afterward he became one of the most respected of big time college coaches, leading the Longhorns to two national titles. His 468-176 record also earned for Texas 20 southwest Conference championships. Disch-Falk Field in Austin is his monument.

"Let's play two!"

--Chicago Cubs' Hall of Fame shortstop and Dallas native Ernie Banks

THE HONOR ROLL:

1B	**NORM CASH**	AL batting champion for the Tigers in 1961. Played in two world series and four all-star games.
1B	**EDDIE ROBINSON**	On seven AL clubs including champion Indians of 1948 and the 1955 Yankees. Made all-star game four times.
SS	**ROY McMILLAN**	One of top defensive shortstops of all time. Twice a Gold Glover and twice NL all-star.
OF	**PETE RUNNELS**	Led AL in hitting 60-62 and three times an all-star.
OF	**JOE MOORE**	Perhaps the greatest left fielder in history of New York Giants. Three World Series.
OF	**CURT FLOOD**	All-star three times, Gold Glover twice. Played in three WS for Cardinals.
C	**FRANK SNYDER**	First-string catcher for successive New York Giant pennant winners - 1921-24. Led NL catchers in fielding three times.
C	**GUS MANCUSO**	Another star Giant receiver. In five WS and three all-star games. Also had fine years with Cardinals.
P	**BURT HOOTEN**	Winner of 151 games for Cubs, Dodgers and Rangers. Pitched in three WS and on '81 NL all-star squad.
	MGR. CITO GASTON	First African-American manager in postseason play and winner of back-to-back World Series titles -- 1992 and '93.

"I was hopping pretty good for the first 11 of 'em."

--Courageous pitcher Monty Stratton after retiring 11 straight batters from a Paris team after the Paris manager ordered each to try and bunt off the physically-challenged hurler

Tris Speaker

Damon Runyon never forgot his roots. Neither did Tris Speaker.

Bill McClatchey, sports editor of the Pueblo (Colo.) STAR-CHIEFTAN, wrote: "Damon became a Broadway legend, a national figure, but always remembered he was from Pueblo (after being born in Manhattan, Kan., and spending most of his youth in Colorado)."

Coincidentally, the same could be said for Speaker, who earned "Greatest Athlete of the First Half of the 20th Century" accolades from the Texas Sports Writers Association. 'Spoke' never forgot the people "who lived and loved" in his hometown of Hubbard, a remote Central Texas farming community.

After leading the Cleveland Indians to their first American League World Series championship in 1920, Speaker went so far as to persuade the management to train in nearby Waxahachie in spring, 1921, and even arranged for a practice game at the makeshift field at Hubbard. When he died at nearby Lake Whitney on Dec. 15, 1958, he was spending a month with the homefolks. For years he also was an honorary member of the Hubbard Volunteer Fire Department.

Peerless in centerfield for the Red Sox, Senators and Athletics for a 22-year span -- until Joe DiMaggio emerged to challenge him for that honor -- Speaker was universally accepted as the greatest defensive outfielder of all time.

Hall-Ruggles Chapter member Howard Green has many fond memories of Speaker's career.

"Before starting school at Swenson, Texas, in 1927, I felt a kinship for the Grey Eagle," Green recalled. "He was my dad's baseball hero. Dad could recite Speaker superlatives in the climactic Red Sox triumph over the Giants in the 1912 World Series, the tragic death of the Indians' Ray Chapman, the immediate resurgence of Joe Sewell at shortstop, and the bitter fight with the Yankees and Chicago for the 1920 pennant. I also learned of Buster Mails' acquisition late in that season, and his remarkable contribution to the championship as well as Speaker's then-record 11 successive hits against the Yankees at the old Polo Grounds. Dad told me that no state can match Texas for producing players of the caliber of Speaker and Rogers Hornsby."

"My mother once confided in me that it required one month for my parents to agree on a name for you," Green continued. "She said my dad kept insisting on Tris, but in the end she won out with Howard. Like hundreds of other SABR members and thousands of Americans, I was the lucky recipient of a baseball inheritance."

HITTING HARD TO ALL FIELDS

The Life of Bobby Brown

By Talmage Boston

(Editor's note: Copyright, 1994, Talmage Boston; Boston's first book, The Centennial of Thirty-Nine: From Cooperstown to Television, will be released later this year through the Summit Group. A noted essayist and reviewer, Boston is a trial lawyer in Dallas, a member of the Hall-Ruggles SABR Chapter and a member of the Steering Committee for SABR 24).

As a New York Yankee in the late-Joe DiMaggio, early-Mickey Mantle era, Bobby Brown sprayed line drives, an appropriate style of hitting for a man whose life has turned out to be a line drive of constant achievement in many directions.

The ballplayer, cardiologist, highly-demanded banquet speaker, and current American League President is the only American athlete enshrined in three separate college Halls of Fame (Stanford, UCLA and Tulane). In a society screaming for role models, there is none better than Dr. Brown, who will return to Fort Worth later this summer as a fulltime resident.

Brown repeatedly has been profiled by newspapers, magazines and medical journals. He also has been the subjects of chapters in at least three books about the great Yankee teams of the late '40s and early '50s (1). Authors Robert L. Shook and Ramon Greenwood made him the only baseball figure in their 1992 book, The Name of the Game is Life, a survey of celebrated athletes who have achieved success in business or government after their playing days (2).

Despite this media coverage, no biographer yet has reviewed exhaustively the life of Bobby Brown, and the good doctor never has had the time to attempt an autobiography. Arguably, Dr. Brown has had more relationships and encounters than anyone else in this century -- stretching from teammates Berra, DiMaggio, Mantle, and manager Stengel to manager Billy Martin in Brown's Texas Rangers' team president year to Ueberroth, Giamatti, White, Vincent, Selig, and Steinbrenner during his 10-year tenure as American League President.

A. Childhood and Amateur Career: 1924-46

Baseball likes to promote the image of the game's impact on fathers and sons -- playing catch and going to games together. The relationship between Bobby Brown and his father, Bill, is one of a fairy tale father if there ever was one and a son who exceeded expectations.

Bill Brown played the game well enough as a young man to compete on the semipro level and think about making the big leagues. Bill reluctantly abandoned the game for a career in business, and then along came Bobby.

Bobby started swinging the bat at age five with his father as mentor and coach. When Bobby turned nine, Bill tied a ball to a rope and then hung it from the ceiling of their basement to work indoors when the family lived in New Jersey. By the time he was 11, Bobby was playing with high school-age youngsters. At 13 he attracted the eye of New York Yankee scouts while playing American Legion ball and exhibiting a perfect, lefthanded swing.

When Bobby turned 15, his father took a job on the West Coast to necessitate the family's move to San Francisco. The young hitting star now could play year-round. The decision to move was made easier by a misguided coach who was scheduled to be Bobby's high school coach in New Jersey. The coach confided to Bill that Bobby would not be starting on the team, and the California job offer to Bill became instantly acceptable.

Attending the Dimaggio brothers' high school in San Francisco, Brown played shortstop and hit .583 as a junior. Bobby, shouldering duties as team captain and president of the school's student body, saw his average dip to .360 as a senior in a prep league with future Yankee teammates Gerry Coleman and Charlie Silvera.

When minor leaguers came home to the Bay Area in the offseason, Brown honed his skills by playing with them in pickup games. He hit so well as a teenage that both teammates and opponents saw his major league potential.

As important as baseball was in the Brown family, the game was not allowed to interfere with Bobby's education. In college Bobby played for three schools. In spring, 1943, at Stanford he hit .460 and gained All-Coast Conference honors while changing his major from chemical engineering to pre-Medicine.

When his World War II military service began in summer, 1943, Bobby had to transfer to UCLA where he completed his pre-Med studies while participating in the Navy's V-12 officer training program. In 1944 he hit .444 for the Bruins, was elected team captain of the Coast Conference champion and again earned All-Conference laurels. Finally, he went to Tulane for medical school in spring, 1945, where he hit almost .500 while pacing the team to a 22-6 mark.

When the baseball season ended at Tulane, 15 of the 16 major league teams lined up to sign the hard-hitting infielder. Bobby's father served as negotiator and awarded his son to the high-bidding Yankees for $52,000 over three years, the second-highest signing bonus at that time (3). When Tulane's Dean of Medicine heard about the bonus, he asked Brown if the Yankees would like to endow a chair.

New York delighted in the signing of its prize rookie. At Brown's news conference after the signing, Yankee President Larry McPhail's bragging about the heavy-hitting medical scholar prompted a writer to ask, "Are you hiring a player or a doctor?"

B. Life in the Pros

Bobby's minor league career began and ended in 1946 at Newark (the Yanks' top farm club) in the International League. Playing with the famed Bears in his native state, he roomed with Yogi Berra and pored over his medical books while Yogi devoured comic books. Brown led the league in hits while batting .341, second only in the IL to Jackie Robinson's .349. Garden State sports writers named Brown the New Jersey Athlete of the Year in '46.

The Yankees called up Brown, Berra, Frank Coleman, and Vic Raschi at the end of the 1946 season. In an era when 80% of major leaguers did not attend college, Yankee veterans at first resented the clean-cut third baseman and med student, whom the media already had started calling "the Golden Boy." The vets countered with the nickname "Quack," but the sarcasm stopped when they saw Brown hit. In the last week of his first major league campaign after the Red Sox wrapped up the American League pennant, Brown and Berra each got to appear in seven games with Brown hitting .333 (8-for-24) while Berra batted .364 (8-for-22).

At 1947 spring training Brown battled popular right-handed hitting veteran Billy Johnson to a stalemate for the third base position going into the season. Two weeks after opening day, Boston's Mel Parnell broke Brown's finger with a pitch. By the time the injury healed, Johnson's hot hitting and consistent fielding cemented his position in the starting lineup. Brown made the most of leading the AL in pinch hitting with a 9-for-27 (.333) showing and overall average of .300.

Bobby Brown's favorite moment as a player, however, came in the 1947 World Series when a somewhat-magical hitting performance earned him the nickname "The Wand." In four trips into the box against the Dodgers he was 3-for-3 with a walk and three RBI. Brown had time to glance after an RBI double in the fourth inning of Game Seven to see his father sail a favorite hat into the sky. He had fulfilled the dream of his personal hero and greatest fan.

In 1948 Brown again hit .300 but couldn't break into the starting lineup on a daily basis. Though the '48 Bronx Bombers finished 2 1/2 games behind the Indians in the pennant race, the year had a historical highlight. On June 13, 1948, Brown and teammates witnessed the retirement of Babe Ruth's No. 3 as the Bambino made a final appearance at Yankee Stadium before dying.

Casey Stengel arrived on the Yankees' scene in 1949 and led the team to a last-day pennant in a season immortalized by David Halberstam in The Summer of '49. Stengel believed in platooning hitters more than any previous major league manager, leading him to split the third base duties between Brown and Johnson that year.

Bobby had his most productive season in 1949 while knocking in 61 runs in 104 games (16 of which saw him appear as a pinch hitter), and he proved his 1947 postseason heroics were no fluke. In the '49 World Series he was 6-for-12 with a bases-loaded triple to break open Game Four after an intentional walk to DiMaggio to get to Brown.

When the '49 season ended, Bobby returned to Tulane to finish medical school duties and in the autumn was introduced to Sophie Newcomb College homecoming queen Sara French of Dallas' Highland Park High School by his sister. She became Mrs. Bobby Brown in 1951.

The Yankees repeated as Series champions in 1950, with Brown and Johnson again platooning at third. Stengel knew of Bobby's postseason success and handed him the starting position for the World Series against the Philadelphia "Whiz Kid" Phillies. After a 4-0 sweep of the Phillies Brown had a three-year Classic average of .520 and became the first major leaguer ever to earn his M.D. as an active player. Bobby Brown's last season as a fulltime player came in 1951 when he platooned with young Gil McDougald at the hot corner.

Stengel continued to play Bobby and Gil evenly in the '51 Series against the Willie Mays-Bobby Thomson Giants. Brown had another great Fall Classic with a .357 average (5-for-14), which could have been higher if the umpires had not ruled that Mays had made a catch in center on a ball which rebounded off the outfield wall. Mays' talent made it appear that he had made an over-the-shoulder catch similar to the one he grabbed in 1954 against Vic Wertz.

The Korean War disrupted Dr. Brown's career from 1952-54 as he received a Treasury Department Medal for Bravery as a Battalion Surgeon in an Army MASH unit. Brown understandably suffered during those war years while having to listen to the 1952 World Series, riding on a plane to Tokyo when his first child was born and doing his part for the Korean effort while being able to play in just 57 games during the 1952-54 seasons.

Brown took pride in his interrupted eight seasons in the majors with a .279 average, but, more importantly, he never batted below .333 in four World Series and still holds the all-time record with a .439 batting mark for players with a minimum of 40 times at bat in the Fall Classic. His .707 slugging percentage is fourth in Series history behind Reggie Jackson, Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

Tommy Henrich had one of the most apt descriptions of Bobby Brown, the player, when he wrote: "He couldn't run, field or throw but with $1,000,000 on the line, he wouldn't choke up at the plate. In every pressure situation, Bobby was always the one in charge at the plate." Brown's teammate Irv Noren told author Dom Forker, "Bobby would call up the visiting team before the game to find out if he could come to hit. He wanted it."

Brown steadily improved in fielding from the point where Casey Stengel joked, "Brown looks like he has been a hitter for 12 years and a fielder for one." But in 1950 the Good Doctor had a better fielding percentage than his rival Johnson at third base through perseverance.

The talented physician split his focus between baseball and medicine constantly through his career, even asking the team doctor to drill him on questions-and-answers from medical books, which he read daily. Brown attended to his teammates as a long-distance physician during the offseason as he prescribed a special diet to help Johnson overcome weight and heart problems. He counseled McDougald on Gil's hearing loss.

C. The Doctor: 1954-84

After retiring as a player in 1954, Dr. Bobby Brown spent three years as a resident in internal medicine in San Francisco and then went to Tulane for a one-year cardiology fellowship in 1957. Afterward, medical school best friend Dr. Albert Goggans persuaded Bobby to join him in cardiology practice in Fort Worth in 1958 where they remained partners for 26 years.

Brown practiced cardiology with the same intensity he had as a hitter in World Series, and the pressures were comparable. "His very strengths caused him his biggest problems," noted Goggans. There are just a lot of sick people who need cardiologists, and Bobby's nature is to want to make everyone better. When one his patients died -- and in cardiology you do lose patients -- he would take it very personally."

"The trick is not to be too euphoric when you do well and not to be too depressed when you do poorly," Brown later told authors Shook and Greenwood. "You have to get a psychological balance to keep yourself on an even keel. You can't get discouraged when things go badly. You never can give up until it's over -- just as Yogi said."

During his Fort Worth years, in addition to his medical practice and raising a family, Brown somehow found time to chair Fort Worth's Park Board, sit on the board of a major bank, and serve as one of the massive Amon Carter Foundation's three trustees."

D. The Baseball Executive: 1974, 1984-94

During the 1958-84 span of his medical career, Bobby Brown took six months away from the surgical smock to become president of the Texas Rangers in 1974 for his friend and then-owner Brad Corbett. The manager of the Rangers that year was Brown's former New York teammate Billy Martin. Brown objected to Martin's insistence that David Clyde, Houston Westchester High School phenom and the Rangers' first-round draft choice in 1973, remain in the big leagues throughout 1974. Encouraged by his medical associates, Brown left the Rangers as president at the close of the '74 campaign.

Nine years later, major league owners searched for a replacement for Bowie Kuhn as commissioner. To Bobby Brown's surprise, they call him to interview for the position. Brown was a finalist, but because of a then-precarious financial situation due to the 1981 players' strike, the owners opted for Peter Ueberroth, who had helped the 1980 Olympics at Los Angeles become a huge financial success.

But Brown's leadership and talents kept him on short lists for executive positions in baseball, and retiring American League President Lee McPhail personally pushed through Bobby Brown as his successor. The decision to return to fulltime baseball was not difficult for the specialist. "A cardiologist sees and experiences a great deal of bleak times in a patient's life," noted the Fort Worth resident, "and I decided it was time for me to leave, so I did."

Brown immediately announced his goals for the position when he became AL President in '84. In no particular, he wanted to get more young kids playing the game, to have baseball become more integral in the inner city, to wage a campaign against the players' use of smokeless tobacco, and to assist owners in gaining control of expenses to permit economic survival.

He has made progress toward achieving his goals and White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf spoke for the other owners in his evaluation. "Everybody likes him," Reinsdorf said. "He's a true gentleman. He's a low-key individual who doesn't cause confrontation and keeps the league running very smoothly."

From 1986-88 the triumvirate of Commissioner Ueberroth, AL President Brown, and NL President A. Barton Giamatti constituted possibly the best assemblage of versatility and executive talent in baseball history. "In 1988 after the World Series, the rules committee met," explained Giamatti in an interview with the New York TIMES. "Dr. Brown was marvelous.

"Every time someone would propose an anatomically inoffensive term, like the breastbone," Giamatti continued, "he would explain that wasn't where we wanted the strike zone to be. So we ended up with mid-chest to the knees to get the umpires to focus on the high pitch zone."

Giamatti's death in Sept., 1989, dealt a severe blow to baseball and grieved good friend Bobby Brown, who paid an eloquent tribute to the essence of baseball's Renaissance man. "Bart Giamatti was a brilliant, warm, lovable man," said the AL leader. His life on earth was far too short, but certainly no one made better use of his time. He was a man of tremendous ability but did not flaunt it. His only aim was to do good."

Successor commissioner Fay Vincent did a superb job initially at handling such crises as the earthquake during the 1989 Oakland-San Francisco World Series, but he later had many rough dealings with major league owners. The owners finally ousted Vincent in 1992, but the vacant post has left Brown, Bill White, and interim baseball head Bud Selig with the task of leading an uncertain future for the major leagues.

Approaching 70, Bobby Brown is eager to return to Fort Worth, resume fulltime relationships with his three children, 10 grandchildren and friends while he awaits completion for a search for his successor.

The scholar-athlete with three successful careers is a living testimony to his philosophy. "There's more to life than being an athlete," he observed. "If you think otherwise, you miss a lot and spend many days looking back. Life has taught me to do the very best I can every single day."

When Bobby gets to retire this year, one of baseball's all-time role models surely will take a "line drive" approach to life and find new challenges for his considerable talents.

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(1) Tom Meany's The Magnificent Yankees (Grosset & Dunlap, 1952); Dom Forker's The Men of Autumn (Taylor Publishing, 1989); Phil Rizzuto's and Tom Horton's The October Twelve (Forge, 1994),

(2) The book has chapters on such sports luminaries as President Ronald Reagan, President Gerald Ford, Senator Bill Bradley, Roger Staubach, Willye B. White, among others, as well as Brown.

(3) The Yankees had their eye on Brown for eight years, and top scout Joe Devine told Bill Brown that his son was the greatest prospect he had ever seen, Hall of Fame manager Joe McCarthy told the teen-aged Bobby, "Don't ever let anyone change you."

J. Alvin Gardner

By Howard Green

Courtly, fastidious, wealthy, resolute, distinctive, dignified, astute...

Any and all of the above apply to towering Texas, J. Alvin Gardner, for 24 years the authority symbol of the Texas League. Gardner assumed the strains and pleasures of leadership in 1930, just as the Great Depression became a reality. The one-time Beaumont bat boy could not have selected a tougher time to become a league president.

As any school kid knows (or used to know), Gardner took charge of an entertainment outlet at a time when nickels and dimes, much less dollars, bordered on extinction. A lesser man would have given up hope.

It was Gardner who persuaded Texas League owners to persevere, even if the game they loved so passionately took shirts off their collective backs. With the advent of night baseball, and the growth of the chain system, Gardner and his league survived the 1930s. Then came the turbulence of all-out war. The Class A-1 Texas League suspended operations for the seasons of 1943-45. Most of the able-bodied had swapped bats for rifles. Gardner was still around in 1946, however, and his Texas League for a few brief years enjoyed its most shining moments.

The combination oilman-baseball executive and his assistant, Milton E. Price, gave the staid old league an added dimension. During Depression years Gardner had found time also to head the Dixie League and the West Dixie League while Price presided over the West Texas-New Mexico circuit. Together, they formed a team almost beyond compare. This writer had the good fortune to know them both, and what a pleasure it was!

They may have launched more umpires on the way to major league employment than any pair in the history of the game. Gardner was to admit with some reluctance, however, that he had not always championed the infallibility of the men in blue. This came about when he was questioned about any possible attitude change from his earlier days as a club owner.

"I wish you hadn't asked me," he told this writer. "Truly, I was one of the worst. I can now be more understanding of Bonneau Peters and Dick Burnett (two Texas League owners outspoken in their criticism of umpires) when I remember when I made such a fool of myself. A case in point: We were in a playoff in the Texas League; my box seat was behind first base. I was there so I could help the umpire. Once in a close game, Pete Turgeon was called out at first. I was livid. I said I was going to call Doak (Doak Roberts was Gardner's predecessor as TL president) and motioned Pete over to my box to inquire about what was wrong with these umpires. Pete told me nothing was wrong and that the ball beat him by a half-step. I wanted to crawl under my seat. At last, I had realized that I was too prejudiced to have an opinion."

George White

By Tom Simmons

In the glory days of the Texas League, George W. White was one of its leading media voices.

His column, "The Sport Broadcast," in the Dallas MORNING NEWS was for 20 years an authoritative, no-nonsense commentary in an era when baseball was king. Radio was scanty, and television had not blossomed, though George later was a pioneer in both fields.

He was born in Kansas (also the home state of journalist-playwright Damon Runyon) in 1902 and educated in Peoria, Ill. Covering high school and amateur sports for the Peoria JOURNAL-TRANSCRIPT while in high school, White became the nation's youngest sports editor in 1917 when the rest of the Peoria sports staff trooped off to World War I.

In 1922 he became sports editor of the Dallas DISPATCH, and in 1928 White began a 21-year career with the MORNING NEWS. The baseball Dallas Steers and their legendary feuds with the Fort Worth Cats were his fodder. He wrote accounts of the classic duels between spitballer Snipe Conley of the Steers and southpaw Joe Pate of the Cats.

White also was one of the leading chroniclers of Houston Buff fireballer Dizzy Dean and Rudy York of the Beaumont Exporters. The famed Dixie Series between the TL and Southern Association was one of his favorite sports events in a journalistic career that spanned seven decades.

The venerable sports editor had a regional impact that went beyond baseball. He was credited with the first extensive coverage of a young Dallas secretary of later Olympic fame, Babe Didrikson Zaharias, and was a moving force in the evolution of the (now Mobil) Cotton Bowl to national status in 1937. He provided play-by-play for the first Dallas live radio account of a sporting event -- a 1925 high school football game -- as well as the first sports telecast in the area of a 1949 high school football contest.

His friends included the likes of Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, John McGraw, Babe Ruth, Connie Mack, Rogers Hornsby, and Dizzy Dean. He became the first Metroplex writer to cover World Series, starting with the 1924 Washington Senators' win over the New York Giants. White hammered on his trusty portable typewriter at major bowl games, the Kentucky Derby, PGA events, bowling tournaments, and other national events. He was named first president of the Texas Sports Writers Association in the 1930s.

White, pipe clenched in teeth, could grind out columns with the best of them as he headed a staff mostly numbering three persons (including weekenders and part-timers today's MORNING NEWS sports department has 60 employees). In 1949 he left the MORNING NEWS to become the first sports director of WFAA-TV while simultaneously editing the National Skeet Shooting Association magazine and serving as a Southwest area scout for the NFL Cleveland (later Los Angeles) Rams. Be helped to build the NSSA membership from 4,000 to 18,000 after becoming executive director of that organization before retiring in 1969 and later died in 1977.

Gold Sox Stadium
Amarillo

Dallas Steers
1926 TL Champions

Yankees' Standouts Coleman,
Rizzuto, Henrich, Brown, Johnson

Buff Stadium
Houston

Paul LaGrave

By Howard Green

Paul LaGrave in a short span of 12 years became the architect of a dominant minor league dynasty at Fort Worth and paragon baseball figure in the Texas League.

Late in the 1916 season Fort Worth owner H.M. Weaver of Waxahachie became engraged at the way that manager Jake Atz was running his club. A climax in the scenario came one afternoon when an agitated Weaver rose from his box seat, rushed onto the field and relieved the Fort Worth pitcher from "a real country pounding," according to accounts. Atz immediately resigned as manager. Texas League president J. Walter Morris didn't conceal his embarrassment over the incident nor did Fort Worth fans, particularly business and civic leader William Stripling.

Morris told Stripling to buy the club. Stripling agreed if he could find the right baseball man to run the show. League president Morris came up with the name of a 32-year-old Missouri native, Paul LaGrave. Acceptance was immediate, and no one could imagine what was in store for suffering Tarrant County fans.

Stripling agreed to serve as president and LaGrave, also a minority stockholder, would bear the title of business manager-secretary with full authority over operations. Their first move was to recall Atz as manager. That signified the most successful story in Texas League history in the next decade. It was a case of the astute LaGrave in the office and the Atz on the field.

LaGrave later brought boyhood pal, Jack Zeller, to Fort Worth as an assistant and chief scout. Zeller later became one of the most respected persons in baseball and was credited with building an empire that resulted in four American League pennants and two World Series championships for the Tigers. LaGrave and Zeller produced the material that topped the Texas League in winning percentage for seven consecutive seasons.

LaGrave also conceived the idea of a Dixie Series, matching the champions of the Texas League and Southern Association. With assistant from Morris, he launched in 1920 a classic that for over 25 years became one of the outstanding sports events in the South and Southwest. Fort Worth teams competed in the first six Dixie Series and won five.

"Only those who lived through it appreciate the throbbing excitement experienced when Jake Atz and his Fightin' Cats made baseball history," wrote famed sports editor Flem Hall. "In retrospect, it's almost unbleievable. Public interest boiled for nearly 10 years/ The majors were remote. There was no radio coverage and little else to hold attention. No World Series meant more to New York or any other place than the Dixie Series meant to Fort Worth in the early 1920s. There were overflow parades, special trains and fierce loyalty to the team."

LaGrave stocked this roster well. A former shortstop, LaGrave joined Zeller to produce four outstanding shortstops during the first seven seasons of that era. Bobby Stow. Topper Rigney, Jack Tavener, and Wayne Windle are still legends in TL tales. Texas A&M alsumnus Rigney was peddled to the White Sox, but Tavener stepped right into his spot after Zeller spotted the latter in the South Atlantic League. Windle jumped into the fray when Tavener was sold to the Tigers. Stow later was a popular concessionaire at Fort Worth sporting events while Tavener returned to the city of his baseball fame as operator of a popular bowling establishment.

The Atz-LaGrave-Zeller combo had a strong belief in the Connie Mack adage that pitching is 80 percent of baseball. Among the best to pass through the organization were Joe Pate, who won 30 games twice and 20 or more contests in six straight seasons, and righty Paul Wachtel (winner of a Texas League-record 232 games with 32 shutouts and two no-hitters).

THE START OF THE TEXAS LEAGUE

BY JOHN J. McCLOSKEY

(As told to William B. Ruggles, June 15, 1931)

Actually, I think the birth of the Texas League in 1888 was due to the fact that a club of minor leaguers defeated the New York Giants. That notable victory aroused the sporting blood of Austin to the patch of enthusiasm necessary to form the league.

In 1887, I had been playing at St. Joseph in the old Western League. Mike O'Connor had a club at Webb City, Missouri, and after the close of the Western League season, I was asked to get a team together to represent Joplin, ten miles away, in a match series with him. I gathered up a star collection of Western Leaguers and we won ten out of fourteen games from Mike's club. All of the ball players headed for the Pacific Coast in the winter in those days. So we decided to hold the Joplin team together and work it out to the Coast via Texas. We played in Fort Worth and Waco against strong independent clubs and got down to Austin where we expected to play the Austin team. A friendly clerk in the hotel tipped me off to the fact that the Austin folk had gotten together the star players of the Southern League. But with Dooms pitching brilliantly, we defeated them.

Sam French, a lumber man, and Ed Byrne, contractor, with kindrid spirits, conceived the idea that we could defeat the New York Giants, then barnstorming in Texas. The Giants demanded a thousand dollars guarantee with winner to take 65%. Byrne wired back that the offer was accepted but winner would have to take 85%. I was not especially confident, but we did have a good club. The upshot of it was that the Giants scheduled three games, we defeated them twice, and they did not stay for the third contest. Austin, then about to celebrate the dedication of the new capitol building, was wild with enthusiasm. Byrne, French, Charlie Newning and others joined me in getting the new league launched and the Texas League became history.

One birth was not quite enough for it as a matter of fact. We had to revive it every year. There was no such thing as continuous ownership of franchises, and in 1888, 1890, and again in 1892, after a year's absence in which there was no Texas League, I had to stir up interest.

Our chief trouble was inability to keep the ball clubs in the best of physical condition. The State was new to baseball. People were enthusiastic. The saloons, the poolrooms were open to the players, free of charge. They were young for the most part. Naturally they fell for the diversions offered, but it was difficult for the men who were seriously trying to make a go of baseball.

As for the actual playing strength of the early clubs and those of today, I think the teams then were fully as good. My Austin team of 1888 developed such major league stars as Red Ehret, Buck Weaver, and Raymond, and players as good as they were in their prime could hold their own on a major league nine of 1931.

"We had kicked around the idea of artificial turf when the Astrodome was being built, but we felt it might be a little too much for people to swallow all at once."

--Judge Roy Hofheinz

J. WALTER MORRIS

By Howard Green

There was a bit of fluster about him, just enough to endear him to the Fourth Estate. Few, if any, sports figures enjoyed a better press.

He was J. Walter Morris, a man of a million jokes. He laughed heartily at them all. Not the least shy, he could talk unceasingly of his accomplishments. To say that baseball was his life in an understatement. A turn of the century graduate of the University of Texas Law School, he would laughingly remind listeners: "I was vaccinated to be a lawyer but it didn't take." and would go on, "I organized more leagues (14 to be exact) than any other man and was president of more (seven).

"I even went down in the bowels of the earth (Carlsbad Caverns) to organize one of them (the West Texas-New Mexico)."

I knew Walter well. He was an early hero. Ironically, when got canned by the Big State League in November, 1950, I was hired in his place. My first statement to league directors was to label Walter "probably the most outstanding baseball executive in the history of the Southwest." Then, Walter accompanied me in my station wagon to the baseball meetings in St. Petersburg. He was released at 69; his successor was 29.

Walter was the first college graduate from Texas to become major leaguer. He played for the Texas League founder, John J. McCoskey, as a St. Louis Cardinal in 1908. Walter would brag that his active career was cut short by a deep spike wound from Manager Fred Clarke of the Pirates, his way of saying, "we were tough in my day."

He was president of the Texas League from 1916 through 1920, and with protege' Paul LaGrave of Fort Worth originated the Dixie Series which for several generations would be outstanding sports event of the Southwest. Prior to assuming the mantle of league leadership, he has been a player, manager, club owner and club president. He served the lower leagues on the Board of Arbitration of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues for five years and during the depression formed four leagues.

Morris earned a footnote in baseball lore by uncovering a gambling scandal in his Evangeline League in 1946. ·Several players drew suspensions.

J. Alvin Gardner, legendary Texas League president, had been Morris' batboy at Beaumont in 1904 and their friendship endured for a lifetime. Beverly Roberts, long-time personal secretary to Gardner, recently recalled: "In his last years Mr. Morris lived at the old Blue Bonnet Hotel in downtown Dallas. He was not in good health and, if by 10 o'clock each morning he had not called our office, I was under instructions to call his room and verify that he was all right." At the time of his death Morris was practically devoid of worldly possessions.

The colorful veteran was a favorite of Harold Ratliff, sports editor of the Associated Press, Southwest. He once wrote:

"No man ever contributed more to baseball than J. Walter Morris. He organized more leagues, built more parks and served in more capacities than any other man in history.

"And he brought to the game a great degree of righteousness. He had to force much of that, but he was the man who could do it.

"They called him the 'finingest' president of them all. He stuck ball players and managers for anything he considered detrimental to the game he played and loved with a fierce passion.

"His pronouncement of fines and suspensions against recalcitrant players and managers always brought a chuckle. Typical was this statement given to the press one day: 'I am fining three players and a manager for using derogatory and uncomplimentary expletives, which in simple English means cussing the blankety-blank umpire.' He was a crusader against profanity on the ball field. 'There are women and children present,' he would explain."

"He capped the climax of a fining career by assessing a chief of police $10.00. He collected the money, too, although the officer didn't pay it - the ball club did. 'I can do anything if it concerns baseball, Morris said. 'This guy shoved one of my umpires.' So he delivered an ultimatum. Either the chief of police paid the ten bucks or the ball club for which the chief was rooting forked it over. The ball club did it.

"They called this salty personage, 'Mr. Baseball of the Southwest,' and he lived up to the name."

College Baseball: A Lone Star Tradition

Collegiate baseball in Texas has one of the most illustrious traditions among any state in the Union.

From the exploits of such individuals as knuckle-curveballer Burt Hooton of Texas to the Hall of Fame credentials of Texas Wesleyan's Tris Speaker, the state has produced some of country's most outstanding collegians.

Among the greatest diamond teams on the four-year level are the University of Texas' 1949 and '50 NCAA title teams under coach Bibb Falk and the Longhorns' majestic 1975 and '83 national championship teams under Falk's protegee and fellow American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame member, coach Cliff Gustafson.

Gustafson added another chapter to his legendary, 26-season tenure as chief of Longhorns' fortunes on Friday, Apr. 22, 1994, when he won his 1,333rd game to become the "winningest" NCAA Division I head coach of all-time with a 10-1 triumph over Grand Canyon. He passed college coaching mainstay Raoul "Rod" DeDeaux with 1,332 career victories over a 46-season period at Southern California.

In fact, the two active NCAA Division I mentors with the most wins nationally are both products of SWC programs. Texas-Pan American chief Al Ogletree, an All-Southwest Conference catcher at Texas A&M in 1950, guided the University of Dallas and the Broncos to 1,134 triumphs in his first 37 years prior to the 1994 campaign.

Gustafson recently paced Texas to its conference-record 11th postseason tournament crown and national-high 40th appearance in NCAA Region or District play. The Longhorns also entered 1994 with a NCAA-most 27 appearances in the NCAA World Series, which has been held annually at Omaha, Neb., since the early 1950s.

And, as a whole, Southwest Conference teams have been no strangers to the "big dance" at Omaha. Five SWC teams have captured a composite 76 victories at Omaha in 38 appearances prior to the June 3-11, 1994, festivities.

On the NAIA level such coaching talents as Larry Hays (now with Texas Tech) at Lubbock Christian and Jim Harp of Dallas Baptist have led their respective squads to national championships while producing their shares of college standouts.

But talented and colorful student-athletes have been the bread and butter of undergraduate baseball in Texas.

Lone Star programs have produced the likes of Cy Young Award winners such as Texas' Roger Clemens and Houston's Doug Drabek along with Rookies of the Year Chuck Knoblauch and Wally Moon of Texas A&M. Baylor's Ted Lyons enjoyed an illustrious, 20-year pitching career that made him the SWC's first member of the Baseball Hall of Fame while SMU produced 11-year major leaguer Jack Knott before the Mustangs dropped varsity baseball in 1980.

Last summer three of the top 26 players selected in the major league free agent draft came from SWC ranks. Texas A&M pitcher Jeff Granger, Texas DH-P-OF-1B Brooks Kieschnick (chosen as 1991-93 College Player of the Year four times by three different agencies) and Texas A&M pitcher Kelly Wunsch were among the first round choices.

Rice's Eddie Dyer managed the 1946 St. Louis Cardinals to the National League pennant while TCU standouts such as Jim Busby and Carl Warwick established fine reputations in "the bigs." Texas Tech's Mike Humphreys, A&M's Scott Livingstone, Baylor's Pat Combs, Rice's Norm Charlton, and Texas' Greg Swindell, Bruce Ruffin and Bruce Ruffin are just a few of many SWC collegians making a major difference in their team's hopes for divisional crowns.

Favorites from Fort Worth

With the perspective of one who might have seen it all, the late Flem Hall describes the standout eras of Jake Atz and Bobby Bragan:

JAKE ATZ

During the Atz regime, public interest boiled for nearly a decade. Hall wrote, "Only thoes who lived through it can appreciate the throbbing excitement experienced when Atz and his 'Cats made history. The field leader of spitited teams, Atz was a beloved image of fun and victory. His league records which will not likely be broken include longest Texas League Service as field manager (22 years), longest service for one club as manager (18 years), longest continuous service with one club as manager (14 years), most consecutive first-place clubs (seven), most consecutive pennant winners (six), and most Dixie Series titles (five)."

Jake was a legend before he died, largely because he loved to spin yarns. When his jokes were repeated, he never denied them. That's why the story started that he changed his name from Zimmerman to Atz when he first joined a team whose members received their pay in alphabetical order!

BOBBY BRAGAN

Legendary Bobby Bragan, co-author of the book, You Can't Hit the Ball With the Bat on Your Shoulder, is not only famed for days as a major league manager and Texas League president, but he also brought fame to the Fort Worth Cats as a player-manager.

Robert Randall Bragan helped team attendance records tumble as the stocky (5-10, 190) catcher and leader from Birmingham, Ala., paraded teams composed of exciting youngsters such as Irv Noran, Dick Williams and Chico Carrasquel to two first-place, one second and one fourth-spot finishes at Fort Worth.

Fort Worth made the brash ballplayer whose baseball travels took him to Los Angeles, Havana, Pittsburgh, Houston, Cleveland, Spokane, Milwaukee, and Atlanta. Bragan is the only former Cats' manager to become a field leader of a big league team, and he made it in both the National and American Leagues.

The 76-year-old current special assistant for the Texas Rangers and mastermind of the Bobby Bragan Youth Foundation which provides funds for much-needed charities began his seven-decade baseball career in the Alabama-Florida League in 1937 and made it to the Philadelphia Phillies in 1940 as an infielder. Traded to Brooklyn in 1943, he started learning to catch. By the time that World War II service called, Bragan was a regular. Four years later, though, he chose to come to Fort Worth rather than remain with the Dodgers as a bullpen catcher.

Arriving at midseason, 1947, Bragan rallied the Cats, pushed them into first place and won the pennant in a hair-raising playoff. He was still doing an excellent job in 1952 when the fast-moving Brooklyn baseball situation moved him with Branch Rickey, first to California for three seasons. Then he trekked to Pittsburgh where he managed the Pirates in 1956-57 and to Cleveland in 1958, to Spokane in 1958 and '59, Milwaukee in 1963 and '64, and Atlanta in 1965-66. After leaving the playing field, Bragan was named as president of the Texas League in

1969-74 and the National Association of Professional Baseball Clubs from 1975-77. Known in this area as "Ambassador for Baseball," Bragan watched younger brother Jimmy Bragan, a college baseball standout at Mississippi State, serve for almost two decades as president of the Southern League before Jimmy announced his retirement at the conclusion of the 1994 campaign.

JOE MACKO

Joe Macko is synonomous with baseball in the entire Metroplex.

He played first base for 1951-52 and '56 Dallas teams as well as the 1958-59 Fort Worth squads. Since joining the front office of the Dallas-Forth Spurs in 1967, he has been a permanent figure at both pro ballyards in Arlington. He was general manager of the Dallas-Fort Worth team from 1969-71 before becoming business manager of the Texas Rangers in 1972. Since then he has been a popular equipment manager and clubhouse caretaker for over 20 years.

His association with the numerous Rangers' managers and players has been up close and personal. Some of his favorites, though the list is too long to publish here, are hustling Mike Hargrove, Toby Harrah, Jim Sundberg, Gaylord Perry, Buddy Bell, and Fergie Jenkins.

The Clinton, Ohio, native broke in with Batavia of the Pony League in 1948 and last appeared in uniform at the end of the 1970 season for the Dallas-Fort Worth squad.

"Many of our players had been called for military duty," Joe remembers, "and Joe Altobelli (Spurs' manager) suggested that I go on the active list for the last three days. That meant that I was an active list in four different decades."

Possibly his biggest claim to fame came in 1951 at Burnett Field in Dallas when Macko played a nine-inning game against Houston without recording a putout, assist or error. No one knows how many times that has occurred in pro baseball or on any level, but zero chances at first rank as a near-impossibility.

Joe managed in the Chicago Cubs' systems for four seasons at St. Cloud (1961), Wenatchee (1962 and 1964) and Amarillo (1963). At St. Cloud in the Northern League Macko tutored a rookie outfielder named Lou Brock, destined for Hall of Fame immortality.

Joe and Dorothy Macko are parents of four children, and their oldest son, Steve, was a promising infielder for the Chicago Cubs in 1979-80 before being stricken with a fatal illness. Mike Macko recently completed a two-year career with Texas Christian University.

The Mackos have sponsored the "Steve Macko Run" for several years to raise funds for cancer research.

L.D. LEWIS

Which Fort Worth minor league great of the following had the longest tenure of service - Jake Atz, John Reeves, Paul LaGrave, Ziggy Sears, Lee Stebbins?

Actually, it was none of the above diamondmen. Former Fort Worth Polytechnic High School standout L.D. Lewis actually served as everything from an usher to general manager during a 1940-66 period with the Texas League unit. Also working as operations manager, business manager and finally general manager, he was TL "Outstanding Front Office Executive" in 1966 before he moved to Little Rock as general manager of the Arkansas Travelers. Lewis left organized baseball to take over as operations manager of the Dallas Cowboys in 1968.

Texas Baseball Personalities

The following sung and unsung heroes have added to the legend of Texas baseball, and their exploits are being recalled at SABR 24:

DICK BUTLER

Once Dick Butler was introduced at a Fort Worth banquet as "one who first came down to Texas as a representative of the Baseball Commissioner's Office and has been going down ever since." Butler has been a league president, a general manager, and for 25 years supervisor of umpires for the American League.

On that first trip to Teaxs in 1950, Butler had been dispatched to Dallas to investigate a pressbox incident. Sometimes-excitable Dallas owner Dick Burnett in a fit of anger tore up all pressbox lines of communication and demanded that the media ignore a particularly-poor showing by his team. What went on in the meeting between Butler and Burnett was never revealed, but for the remaining five years of his life, Burnett never repeated his unusual outburst.

A native Kentuckian (Paris), Butler first was special assistant to Commissioner A.B. (Happy) Chandler. In succession, Butler served as president of the South Atlantic League (1953), the Texas League (1954-62), and general manager of the Hunt-Mercer baseball interests of Dallas-Fort Worth from 1963-68. In 1969 he began his quarter-century tenure as American League supervisor for both Joe Cronin and Dr. Bobby Brown.

Tom Vandergriff credits Butler's powers of persuasion for obtaining Cronin's commitment to bring the Washington Senators to Arlington as the Texas Rangers. Butler was a high school assistant coach under Blanton Collier, later a famed football mentor for the Cleveland Browns and University of Kentucky. During World War II the longtime Fort Worth resident was athletic director for the Eighth Air Force under General Curtis LeMay.

HAL SAYLES

Sayles played a pivotal role in the brief but exciting "golden era" (1946-50) when minor league baseball flourished in the Lone Star State. Born to considerable wealth (his family name is on one of Abilene's best-known thoroughfares), he nonetheless opted for a sports writing career.

Without his counsel, coverage and connections the 1946 Abilene team could not have been energized as a tower of strength in postwar West Texas-New Mexico League competition. He also was behind the scenes in the formation of the Longhorn League, which brought pro baseball to happy fans in such areas as Ballinger, Big Spring, Midland, Odessa, Sweetwater, Vernon, Del Rio, and San Angelo. New Mexico outposts Carlsbad, Artesia, Roswell, and Hobbs (later to gain national fame for its high school basketball teams) also celebrated the advent of the Longhorn League. Sayles was co-owner of the Sweetwater franchise in 1947-48 before ascending to the Longhorn League presidency in 1949. He also presided over the West Texas-New Mexico and Big State Leagues.

MILTON E. PRICE

Scholarly Milton Price gave unfaltering leadership to the West Texas-New Mexico League in good years and bad . From the Texas League offices in the old Republic Bank Building in Dallas, he kept alive some seemingly-impossible ventures.

The WT-NM League, launched with six clubs in the barren areas of West Texas and Eastern New Mexico, withstood almost insurmountable hardships in its initial year of 1937. The franchises dropped from six to five to four by July 9, but the determined Price moved forward with breakneck speed. The league retooled with relative success until war conditions caused it to succumb temporarily in 1942.

Reorganized in 1946 with franchises in established cities such as Albuquerque and Clvis, N.M., and Texas cities Abilene, Amarillo, Borger, Lamesa, Lubbock, and Pampa, the league shared in unprecedented acceptance. Though mostly independent of major league connections, the teams were still objects of intense civic pride under Price's guidance.

After the 1951 season, the personable Price resigned to devote full attention to his duties as secretary of the Texas League and Alvin Gardner's business interests. During his 24 years as Gardner's top assistant, he was considered a TL president-in-waiting, but surprisingly declined the opportunity when Gardner resigned in early 1954.

DAVE PHILLEY

Rightfully Dave Philley (5-16-20, Paris) is remembered as one of the most reliable pinch hitters. The 18-year veteran of eight different clubs ended the 1958 season with eight successive hits off the Phillies' bench. On opening day, 1959, he pinch doubled for a major league record ninth consecutive safety. Possessing a great arm and excellent speed, Philley led American League outfielders in assists three times. His all-time average for 1,904 career games was .270, and he later scouted for many years for the Boston Red Sox.

L.D. MEYER

Out of service in time to play 130 games for the 1945 Cleveland Indians, L.D. Meyer (10-6-15, Waco) battled George Stirnweiss for the AL batting championship. Meyer later suffered through a season-ending slump and batted .292 to Stirnweiss' .309.

Meyer was a successful manager for Dick Burnett at Gladewater and Dallas. He won the East Texas League pennant and individual batting title for Gladewater in 1950 and later placed three Dallas teams in the first division from 1951-53. In 1953 Meyer's Dallas Eagles won the TL pennant and the Dixie Series.

Nephew of Hall of Fame TCU coach "Dutch" Meyer who was one of Roger Maris' first managers in organized baseball, L.D. (nicknamed "Little Dutch") Meyer was the prime target for TCU passing great Sam Baugh in football and had a six-year major league career with the Tigers and Indians.

EDDIE ROBINSON

Few Texans, if any, can boast of a more versatile major league career than Eddie Robinson. Appearing in eight games for the Cleveland Indians in 1942, Robinson spent three years in the military before resuming his career in 1946. He would wear eight teams' uniforms in

the majors while playing for the AL in four All-Star Games and two World Series (1948 Indians and 1955 Yankees). For three straight seasons (1959-61) he batted in more than 100 runs. In the DFW area Robinson is remembered as a successful Rangers' manager during the Brad Corbett regime. Previously, he served similarly for the Atlanta Braves and longtime friend, Waxahachie's Paul Richards. Robinson was farm director for both the Astros and Braves and continues to scout. His counsel still is sought on many fronts.

STAN McILVAINE

The distinction of owning both a World Series and Super Bowl ring belongs to Stan McIlvaine, one of the youngest general managers ever to serve in organized baseball.

McIlvaine was a trusted aide to Bill Veeck at Cleveland in 1948 when the Indians won their last world title and for Dallas' Lamar Hunt at Kansas City in 1968 when the Chiefs emerged triumphant in the NFL.

In 1949 Veeck named McIlvaine, then 20, to head Zanesville in the Ohio-Indiana League. Subsequently, the young prodigy was general manager at Dayton, San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Sacramento. Only J. Walter Morris and Bob Tarleton exceeded McIlvaine in number of Texas League affiliations.

Hunt hired the Cleveland-born McIlvaine as an advisor in the construction of Arrowhead Stadium at Kansas City, and he also assisted Ewing Kaufman in the planning of Kaufman Stadium. McIlvaine later served as stadium manager for the Rangers from 1977-85.

PETE RUNNELS

Pete Runnels (1-28-28, Lufkin) was a big man in Texarkana in summer, 1950. The Bears won the Big State League, and Runnels was their star shortstop. Owner Claude Lee later sold his contract to Washington, which sent Pete to Chattanooga where he hit .350. Runnels was a big leaguer for 13 seasons with AL batting championships at Boston in 1960 (.320) and 1962 (.326).

He also lost the batting crown to Hall of Famer Ted Williams on the final day of the 1958 season but still played defensively with versatility and grace. He performed at all infield positions in the bigs before finishing with Houston in 1964. The Texas Sports Hall of Fame inductee was an All-Star in 1959, 1960 and '62.

SWEET SIXTEEN

Sixteen pitchers from the Lone Star state have earned 100 or more victories in the major leagues. Danny Darwin of the Red Sox is on a present pace to vault from sixth to third if he maintains his victory pace. Strikeout king Nolan Ryan (Refugio) leads the list with 324 during a record 26 seasons. Chicago Cubs' no-hit ace Hippo Vaughn (Weatherford) is next with 178. Vaugn also leads the list with five 20-win seasons. The rest of the "century" mark hurlers as of May 20, 1994, includes: 3. Schoolboy Rowe (Waco) 158; 4. Burt Hooton (Greenville) 151; 5. Fred Marberry (Streetman) 148; 6. Darwin (Bonham) 145; 7. Pete Donohue (Athens) 134; 8. (tie) Ray Culp (Elgin) and Greg Maddux (San Angelo) 122; 10. Gary Bell (San Antonio) 121; 11. Doug Drabek (Victoria) 114; 12. Sam Grey (Van Alstyne) 111; 13. Warren (Rip) Collins (Weatherford) 108; 14. Fred Norman (San Antonio) 104; 15. Ray Benge (Jacksonville) 101; 16. Otto (Tex) Carleton (Comanche) 100.

Baseball Road Mapper: Jimmy Adair
By Howard Green

Lon Goldstein, who performed for some of baseball's top managers including Bill McKechnie at Cincinnati in 1943 and '46, does not hold back praise for Texas diamond legend Jimmy Adair.

"Jimmy Adair was thorough and the best manager I ever played for," Goldstein noted. "He knew the game inside and out and gave a reason for every move."

Goldstein, who also played at Syracuse for former Pirates' pilot Jewel Ens at Syracuse in 1943-44, played professionally for 15 years with a career batting average of .331 thanks to the tutelage of managers such as Adair, who also guided Lon in the Big State League at Gainesville, Texas..

Just as so many others of his generation, Jimmy was a consummate baseball man. He was in the game for 50 years as a player, manager and scout. Adair was associated with 21 minor league teams and played for 12 years in those organizations. He later managed in the minors for 11 years and was a coach in the major leagues with the Red Sox, Orioles and old Houston Colt .45s as well as the modern Houston Astros.

In 1924-25 Adair began his baseball walk of fame as a member of Waxahachie High School teams, which were a combined 84-1. Eight members of that starting nine played professional baseball, and among those schoolboy teammates were Paul Richards, Art Shires, Archie Wise, and Belve Bean.

Richards made his old high school chum a third base coach for the Chicago White Sox in 1951-52 and later took him to the Orioles in a similar capacity.

Adair's shining moments as a player came in the early 1930s. He battled Billy Herman for the starting second base spot for the 1932 Chicago Cubs under Rogers Hornsby.

"Roger only spoke to me once when he was manager of the Cubs," Adair laughed several years later. "That was after I went 4-for-5. He told me, 'Nine going, kid,' and that was it!"

Once Adair feared for his managing life as field boss for the Dallas club. Volatile Dick Burnett called him over after Dallas lost a close opening game of a doubleheader.

"He told me I was managing like I had one pitcher that day," Adair recalled, "and I expected to get my release between games. We won the second one, though, and he came over and congratulated me for a great managing job."

In spite of the gruffness of Burnett and the rugged life of coaching in the majors, Adair remained a solid force in baseball circles until his death in 1982. His son, Steve Adair, was head baseball coach at both the University of Plano and Southern Methodist University and remains as one of the outstanding baseball teachers in the area with the "Adair Baseball School." Steve has enjoyed a fabled coaching career at Trinity Christian Academy in Dallas where he has captured several state private school titles and send numerous players to college and pro careers.

Bobby Goff: Baseball Pioneer
By Howard Green

Bobby Goff was a hardy pioneer during the developing years of minor league baseball in the Southwest and elsewhere.

Few in number are the ones for whom the game meant as much. Baseball was his focal point when he reported to Sulphur Springs as a rookie second baseman in the East Texas League. From that day until July 21, 1972, when Goff was honored by then-Mayor Wes Wise on "Dallas Night" at Arlington Stadium for 50 years of diamond service and beyond, the longtime Dallas County resident was a baseball fixture.

Goff played and managed in 10 different leagues and 11 different cities. Charlie Metro, one-time major league player and manager, remembers Goff's 1938 tenure as manager of the Johnstown, Pa., Middle Atlantic League team owned by the St. Louis Browns. The Johnstown squad was holding a tryout camp as (later NL umpire) Augie Donatelli and Metro left their jobs as Western Pennsylvania coal miners to seek a new life. Goff signed them for a whopping $60 per month, and Metro recalls, "WE were damn glad to get it!"

Goff's leadership began at Palestine, Texas, in the deep Depression of 1934 in the West Dixie League, organized by J. Walter Morris. Goff stayed at Palestine for three seasons.

Other managerial stops came at East Texas League Tyler (1939-40) and Lafayette, La., in the 1937 and 1941 Evangeline Leagues.

He received a self-described 1931 "cup of coffee" with the Chigao White Sox after playing stops at Bridgeport, Conn., Atlanta, and Oklahoma City before launching his bench staffing career.

Goff was a scout for both the St. Louis Brown (1942-46) and Cleveland Indians during the last 15 years of his active baseball career. He received a World Series ring for his contributions to the Browns' AL pennant and brought in Bob Muncrief and Jack Jakucki to anchor the Browns' pitching staff. That made the difference in St. Louis' last American League flag. Later, Goff signed University of Texas product Max Alvis and many others for the majors.

High-profile Dallas owner Dick Burnett lured Goff away from Wichita Falls in 1948 to serve as the new general manager. Together they broguht stability to an important Texas League franchise. On opening day, 1950, the Dallas nine drew a then minor league-record 57,000-plus fans for a special game played at the Cotton Bowl.

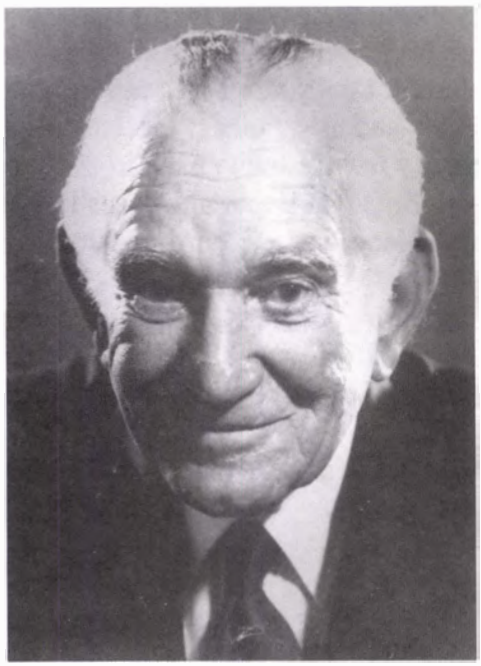
In 1922 Goff teamed with 24-year National League umpiring veteran Lee Ballanfant as an effective double play combination for the Federal Reserve Bank team which won the Dallas city title. Ballanfant also persuaded Goff to join him at a tryout in Sulphur Springs.

Not only did Goff meet his future wife, but he also began a 50-year baseball career. The couple's four daughters all earned college degrees and followed their father's career with special attention.

"They still couldn't hit me."

--Famed spitballer "Snipe" Conley after retiring three batters when he was over 70 in a Texas League Oldtimers Game

Disch Field
Austin



George Schepps

Bobby Goff

SCHEPPS REMEMBERS FLETCHER AND OTHERS

George Schepps, 95, witness to nearly a century of the game that has consumed much of his life, styles himself as "baseball's oldest living batboy." Rightfully so. At the age of ten in 1908, Schepps began jerking bats for the Dallas Giants of the Texas League. Coincidentally, Art Fletcher, one of the most distinguished graduates of the storied old circuit, was the shortstop and an early hero of an impressionable youngster.

Described as "great on both offense and defense," Fletcher would further his claim to extraordinary skill during an 11-year run as shortstop for John McGraw's New York Giants, in the process playing in four World Series. By 1923, Fletcher had become manager of the futile Phillies and survived four complete seasons. Next, as a coach for the New York Yankees, he was in the pin stripes from 1927 to 1945, except for an 11-game stretch in 1929 when serving as interim manager upon the death of Miller Huggins.

Schepps, with brother Julius, purchased an interest in the Dallas club in 1920. By 1938, they had acquired controlling interest. After two pennants, a three-year vacation enforced by all-out war, and a thrill a minute for Dallas fans, the Schepps sold to Dick Burnett as the 1948 season opened.

George, later owner of Greenville (Big State) and Corpus Christi (Gulf Coast), for SABR members has selected his all-time squad of Dallas Texas Leaguers. Of course, Fletcher is an honoree as utility infielder.

Others include: Al Vincent, manager; Jim Riley, 1b; Les Mallon, 2b; Grey Clarke, 3b; Johnny Lipon, ss; Rhino Williams, Randy Moore and Hack Miller, outfielders, with Hal Lee as utility; Ned Cronin and Josh Billings, catchers; and Snipe Conley, Slim Love, Hank Oano and Sal Gliatto, pitchers.


SABR