

BOB TURLEY

This conversation between Walter Langford and Bob Turley is being recorded in Mr. Turley's home in Marco Island, Florida on Nov. 10, 1989

WL: I see you were born in Troy, IL, right near St. Louis.

BT: Yes, but I lived there only two months, when my parents moved to E. St. Louis. It was the dumping pot for St. Louis. It was open until late at night and they *had* gambling going on. Everybody from St. Louis came over there. Later it turned into a kind of bombed-out area.

WL: How did you start in baseball?

BT: I started off as a little kid in E. St. Louis, and at 11 I was playing with the Chamber of Commerce. It was a sort of forerunner to the Little League. I played a lot of baseball around St. Louis and E. St. Louis. At that time it was a great baseball breeding ground. My last year in high school our coach took me to a tryout with the St. Louis Browns, along with another player. And the Browns signed me in 1948.

WL: Where did you go in the minors?

BT: The first year I went to Belleville in the Illinois State League. The next year I went up to Aberdeen, South Dakota, and at the end of the season they called me up to the big leagues. That was in 1949. In '50 I was with Wichita, Kansas, and '51 with San Antonio in the Texas League. They called me up at the end of the season and I got into one game before I went into the Service. I came out in '53. I was in Korea for a time and then sent to Texas and played down there. In '53 I took 45 days of TDY ~~and finished~~ in August and finished the season with the Browns. Then I had to go back and get my release from the service. In '53 I went down and played baseball in Puerto Rico - winter ball.

The following year the Browns moved to Baltimore and I went with them.

WL: In St. Louis you were with Bill Veeck.

BT: The first owners of the ball club while I was there were Charles and Bill DeWitt. They later sold the club to Veeck. So I only played for him in 1953.

WL: You must have <sup>been</sup> there for the Eddie Gaedel episode.

BT: No, I was still in the service. He went to bat about July '53 and I didn't come back until August.

WL: Satchel Paige was there.

BT: Oh, yes. Satchel was a good friend and I got to talk with him a lot. a real character. By that time he was just a control pitcher. A lot of motion and he threw strikes. He would never walk anybody. Of course, the Browns were a bad ball <sup>club</sup> ~~player~~ and being a good reliever with a bad ball club is not too good.

WL: Clint Courtney?

BT: Old Scrapiron, he was a catcher there in '53 and moved with the club to Baltimore.

WL: You must have known Doc Bauman.

BT: Oh, yeah, the trainer with the Browns. They tell me he's still alive. He was a great friend. (*I interviewed Bauman*)

WL: Also, wasn't Don Larsen with you there?

BT: Right. Don and I both went to the Yankees in a trade in October '54. We had played together <sup>a</sup> lot in the minor leagues too.

WL: Who was your first manager in Baltimore?

BT: Jimmy Dykes. Paul Richards came over at the end of '54 to become the General Manager and manager. He was an awfully nice guy and traded me to the NY Yankees.

WL: Vern Stephens and Roy Sievers were there.

BT: Yes, Vern Started with the Browns, went to the Red Sox for some years, and came back to the Browns. Roy was with us in '53, before being traded to Washington. He had been Rookie of the Year with the Browns in '49.