

Baseball in Cleveland



Society for American Baseball Research

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Baseball in Cleveland

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Cleveland baseball history is deserving of a comprehensive, full length publication. **Baseball in Cleveland** is not that, but is ia glimpse into a variety of Cleveland baseball subjects ranging from the burial place of Ray Chapman to the never-ending image of the Cleveland Indians on film. We hope the articles herein add to your enjoyment of SABR XX and your appreciation of Cleveland baseball history.

—Morris Eckhouse

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COVER PHOTO: Rocky Colavito, Roger Maris and Gene Woodling (l to r) (March 4, 1958). Courtesy The Cleveland Press Collection/ Cleveland State University Archives

The Cleveland Indians in 1940

by Bill McMahon

Baseball would not have been the primary concern of a serious person in 1940. As the season began Germany overran Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, and France. The European war was definitely for real, yet isolationist America remained generally complacent and comfortable between two oceans. We were still able to avoid overseas distractions, and by a wide margin the top spectator sport was baseball.

The Indians that year were regarded as being a good team but a definite longshot for the pennant. The Yankees were prohibitive favorites (one prominent bookie gave 7 to 20 odds), and while some pundits favored Boston, most picked the Tribe for third. The Indian lineup had veterans Hal Trosky at first, Ken Keltner at third, Jeff Heath in left, Roy Weatherly in center, Ben Chapman in right, and Rollie Hemsley catching. Much depended, however, on the young keystone combination, Lou Boudreau and Ray Mack, who were playing their first full major league season. The bench consisted of infielders Rusty Peters and Odell Hale and outfielder Beau Bell, who had been obtained from the Tigers for Bruce Campbell. Catching depth was questionable, as Frankie Pytlak felt that a \$3,500 pay cut was reason enough to hold out. The pitching staff was led by the phenomenal 21-year-old Bob Feller, who had won 24 games the previous year. The supporting cast included Mel Harder, Johnny Allen, Willis Hudlin, and lefty Al Milnar, while another lefty, Al Smith, was returning to the majors after a 16-2 year at Buffalo.

The Indians trained at Ft. Myers. An acknowledgement of the European situation was a spring all-star game for the Finnish relief fund. Keltner, Trosky, Hemsley, and Feller played, as the American League lost to the National, 2-1. On March 19 Boudreau broke a small bone in his ankle, but he managed to recover by the start of the season. The Tribe toured with the New York Giants, the highlight of which was a 1-0 win by Feller over Carl Hubbell. The record against the Giants was 5-7, in addition to 4-2 vs. other major league teams.

The season opener was April 17 at Comiskey Park, with Feller facing Eddie Smith. Supposedly, the Van Meter fireballer didn't have his curve, but it didn't matter as he pitched a no-hitter, striking out eight and walking five in a 1-0 victory. Ray Mack saved the gem, knocking down a smash by Taft Wright and throwing him out to end the game. The Indians got another shutout in the home opener two days later, by Johnny Allen, who blanked the Tigers, 4-0. Although Feller was shelled, 12-2, by the Tigers in his second start, the Tribe was in first place after five games. They went to Detroit, where on April 27 Boudreau hit his first two career home runs to beat 18-year-old Hal Newhouser. The following day they blew a 9-3 lead in the ninth but won in the tenth on Trosky's homer.

On May 4 Boston pushed the Indians down to second. Pytlak finally signed, but in the May 15 roster cuts Willis Hudlin, veteran of 14 years with the Tribe, was released. Beside those mentioned above, others on the 25-man roster were infielder Oscar Grimes, outfielder Clarence Campbell, catcher Hank Helf,

and pitchers Harry Eisenstat, Joe Dobson, Johnny Humphries, Bill Zuber, and 6-foot-8 rookie Mike Naymick. The Indians' 23-13 record at the end of May kept them a shade behind the Red Sox. The Yankees, having gotten off to a terrible start, were nowhere to be found, but the Detroit Tigers stayed in contention.

In early June Al Milnar shut out the A's, got a save against Washington, and then blanked the Yankees on two hits. The Indians managed to tie for the lead, but two losses at Fenway knocked them back into a second place tie with Detroit. At this point there occurred the "Vitt Affair". On June 13 a delegation of 11 players went to club President Alva Bradley, asking that manager Oscar Vitt be replaced by Luke Sewell. It seems that Vitt was a nervous, irascible type whose constant fidgeting was irritating and whose cutting remarks were deemed intolerable. His insults of opposing players stirred them to greater efforts against the Tribe. About 12 veterans were the leaders of the rebellion (with Feller and Trosky suggested as ringleaders); several of the younger players did not participate. After considering the matter for a couple of days Bradley seems to have talked the players into withdrawing their demands, as a statement to that effect was signed by 21 team members on June 16. From this distant vantage point it is difficult to say who was in the right. A manager who doesn't have the respect of his players isn't worth much, but at the time a manager was regarded as having authority like that of a ship's captain. Hence the players' action was generally viewed as mutinous, as is indicated by the following comment by Jim Schlemmer of the Akron Beacon Journal: "To permit a group of high-priced players to throw out their manager is to give in to a revolutionary move which can only hurt all baseball." Feller's salary, incidentally, was \$26,000. Most of the other Indians made considerably less than that.

There is no evidence that the strife hurt the team in the short run. After the agreement, the Indians ran off eight home wins in a row to take over first place. The streak ended on June 23, when the Red Sox took the second half of a double header to salvage a win in a four-game series. But the Red Sox had dropped to third, three back, and were never again in serious contention. The threat now came from the Tigers, who managed to grab a half-game lead at the All-Star break. The Indians had a 45-29 record. Three starters, Feller (13-5), Milnar (11-3), and Smith (9-2), were pitching superbly. Ray Mack was hitting .330, and Hal Trosky had 17 home runs. No Indian started in the All-Star Game, but Keltner, Boudreau, Mack, and Hemsley played as the AL lost, 4-0. Feller, expected to start, instead was used for the last 2 innings. After beating the A's on July 11 the Indians reclaimed the lead. During late July and early August the lead changed hands several times. Then after gaining a tie on August 11, the Indians made their move. The following day Feller beat Detroit, 8-5, for his 20th win. They completed a two-game sweep over the Tigers the next day. After taking two of three at Boston they were ahead by 5 1/2 on August 21, reaching their peak with a 71-46 record. But they were then swept in three by the Yankees, the last game being

ominous, as Feller lost after pitching 7-1/3 no hit innings. On Labor Day the Indians dropped a doubleheader at home to the Browns. In Europe the Germans were blitzing London; in America the Indians were beginning to wilt. They went up to Detroit for three and were routed, 7-2, 11-3, and 10-5. This put the Tigers only a game back, while the seemingly-hibernating Yankees won 21 of 25 to move within two games of the Tribe. The Tigers gained a first place tie on September 7 when the Indians lost to Chicago for their sixth straight, and by September 9 the Indians were in second for the first time in a month.

As their situation deteriorated, the Indian players began meeting and planning strategy without Vitt. Bradley gave Vitt a free hand to deal with matters as he saw fit, but, probably wisely, he took no action. Hal Trosky missed several games due to a pulled muscle, while Feller was being overworked, pitching on two days rest as well as working in relief. Yet the Indians battled back to gain a tie with the Tigers on September 19. There were eight games left, six with the Tigers. The first three were at Detroit. In the series opener the Tigers scored five runs in the eighth to win, 6-5. Feller was called in to save the game but gave up three hits to get the loss. On September 21 Schoolboy Rowe pitched a 5-0 shutout over the Tribe. Feller then won the finale to leave the Indians a game down.

The Indians split two with the Browns, so they entered the final series — three games at home against the Tigers — two games behind. A tie was impossible; the Indians needed a sweep to win. For the September 27 opener Feller would be going for the Indians. Tiger manager Del Baker decided to save Rowe and sent out a surprise starter, 30-year old rookie Floyd Giebell (whose record was 1-0). The Indians got six hits off Giebell but were unable to score. Ben Chapman fanned three times with men in scoring position. In the fourth inning, with Gehring on, a Rudy York drive barely cleared the left field fence at the 320-foot mark. The Tribe could not score, and the 2-0 victory gave the Tigers the pennant. Behind Harder and Milnar the Indians won the last two games to beat out the Yankees for second, ending officially only one game out of first.

Since the Indians led for so long, with a seemingly comfortable lead, it was generally thought that they had blown it. The players of course were the scapegoats; if they had stayed loyal and followed the manager's instructions, the team would have hung together. However, a better hypothesis is that the Tigers won because they were the best team, and the Indians did well to get as close as they did. Detroit had the better hitting team; they outhit Cleveland by 21 points (.286 to .265) and outslugged them by 44 points (.442 to .398). Greenberg and York each hit more homers than Trosky, the Tribe leader with 25, and they combined for 284 RBI, as compared with 194 for Boudreau and Trosky. The Tigers scored 888 runs, the Indians 710. The Tigers also had strong years from Barney McCosky (.340) and Charlie Gehringer (.313), while the leading Indian hitter was Weatherly at .303. The Indians had a weaker bench; injuries kept Jeff Heath out for a third of the season, and Vitt did not use his reserves much, so the regulars were probably tired in September.

The Indians, playing in a better pitcher's park, could be said to have had the edge in pitching. They allowed fewer runs, 637 to 710. This was largely due to Feller, league leader in wins (27, against 11 losses), ERA (2.62), and strikeouts (261). Milnar (18-10) and Smith (15-7) had excellent years, but after Harder (12-11) and Allen (9-8) there was no pitching depth. Those five accounted for 81 of 89 wins and 14 of 22 saves. The Tigers were led by Bobo Newsom (21-5) and Schoolboy Rowe (16-3), while Al Benton, used exclusively in relief, had 17 saves. Manager Baker was less reluctant to use his second line pitchers than Vitt; his greater confidence in them paid off with the Giebell performance. Using Bill James' Pythagorean projection measure, one calculates a .605 percentage for the Tigers, or 93 wins. The projection for the Indians is .554, or 85 wins. Since the Tigers won 90 and the Indians 89, it is arguable that the Indians played slightly over their heads. In that event their performance was hardly shameful, and the alleged psychological effect of the dispute with the manager was negligible. In the course of a season things tend to balance out, and alas, the first all-Ohio World Series was not to be.

Lake View Cemetery

by Fred Schuld

Formed in 1869 by a group of Cleveland's leaders, the Lake View Cemetery Association established the 285-acre Lake View Cemetery. Located where Cleveland, Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland join, Lake View is best known as the burial site of James Abram Garfield, twentieth President of the United States, and John D. Rockefeller, founder of the Standard Oil Company.

Among the many prominent people buried at Lake View, several were major league baseball players. The most famous ballplayer interred there is Raymond Johnson Chapman (1891-1920), the only major league player to die as a result of being hit by a pitched ball. Bill James, noted baseball analyst, wrote of Chapman in his "Historical Baseball Abstract" (1985): "Chapman was a tremendous offensive and defensive player, probably destined for the Hall of Fame had he lived." Mike Sowell's gripping 1989 book "The Pitch That Killed" describes the arguments that resulted in Chapman being buried at Lake View Cemetery.

Peter James (Monkey) Hotaling (1856-1928) was a nineteenth-century star outfielder in the '70s and '80s. He compiled a .267 average in his years with several teams. Noted as a good fielder and speedy runner, Hotaling played five years for Cleveland teams in the National League and American Association.

Edward William McFarland (1874-1959) was a major league catcher for 14 seasons from 1896-1908, principally with Philadelphia in the National League and Chicago in the American. He played in 887 games and compiled a .275 lifetime batting average. He had one unsuccessful World Series pinch-hit at-bat

in 1906. The fact that McFarland played major league baseball was not mentioned in his obituaries.

Charles "Heinie" Berger (1882-1954) pitched for the Cleveland Naps between 1907 and 1910, winning 32 and losing 29 games. Berger hurled for the Columbus Redbirds during their pennant-winning years of 1905, 1906 and 1907. In 1906 he led the American Association pitchers with a record of 28 and 13. A spitball pitcher, Berger's best Cleveland year was 1908 when he won 13 and lost 8 with a 2.12 ERA. After he left the Naps, Berger pitched for Cleveland amateur teams on the sandlots.

Although his real name was Wilbur Arlington Tarbert (1904-1946), the gravestone at Lake View simply reads Arlie Tarbert. A star baseball and basketball player at Ohio State University, Tarbert was with the Boston Red Sox during parts of the 1927 and 1928 seasons. An outfielder, Tarbert played in 39 games with a batting average of .186.

A prominent person in the history of Cleveland baseball, Alva Bradley (1884 -1953) is also buried at Lake View Cemetery. From a successful lake shipping and Cleveland downtown real estate family, Bradley and other Cleveland businessmen purchased the Indians in 1927 and sold them to a Bill Veeck-led group in 1946. During Bradley's tenure, the Indians frequently finished in the first division and in 1940 lost out to the Tigers by one game. Several great players were secured by Bradley during this period including Earl Averill, Wes Ferrell, Bob Feller, Mel Harder, Bob Lemon and Hal Trosky. One of his major decisions was to name the 24-year-old Lou Boudreau manager for the 1942 season.

A Champion Sports Town and an Unsung Hero

by Tom Blaha

Two of Cleveland's three American League pennants were won in the seven-year span between 1948 and 1954. While Casey Stengel's Yankee dynasty was copping all the pennants in the intervening years, Cleveland was arguably Baseball City, USA during this period of post-war prosperity and optimism when television was still in its infancy and large numbers of people came out to the ballpark.

The Yankees, after all, shared the Gotham entertainment market with two other major league clubs plus a multitude of other diversions in a world city. The Indians commanded the undivided attention of the northern half of Ohio, western Pennsylvania and New York state, West Virginia, and parts of Ontario. Combine this with the fact that they regularly filled the largest stadium in professional baseball, and you begin to get the picture of a city in which baseball is king. In fact, the now familiar Chief Wahoo logo was often pictured with a crown jauntily cocked on his head next to his single feather.

All those fans weren't just flocking to The Stadium (they regularly broke their own single game, series, and season attendance records) just because they were tired of Milton Berle, Jackie Gleason, and Dumont Pro Wrestling on TV. The Tribe was what was happening.

During those seven seasons, under Hall-of-Famers Lou Boudreau and Al Lopez the Indians won two league championships, were thrice runners up, and placed third and fourth. Even the latter (a 92-62 season in 1950) was done with a record which would have won a divisional title in the 1970s or '80s. Sportswriters didn't use the word "superstar" in those days, but if they had, many of the players they would have so labeled wore Cleveland uniforms.

The two managers, as already mentioned, have plaques at Cooperstown. Boudreau is in there as much for his playing accomplishments as managing. The man was a standout (and perennial All-Star) at shortstop, a lifetime .295 hitter. He won the AL batting crown in the mid-'40's and finished runner-up to Ted Williams with a .355 average (!) in that golden year of 1948.

Hall-of-Famers Bob Lemon, Early Wynn, and Bob Feller were regular pitchers on those teams while another enshrinee named Satchel Paige made a contribution to the 1948 World's Championship. Having Lemon, Wynn, and Feller on the same staff for that span of time would be the equivalent of having Roger Clemens, Orel Hershisier, and Mike Scott on the same team today. Throw in Mike Garcia, and it would be like having Saberhagen too!

In 1954 when the Tribe won a league record 111 games (out of 154) eclipsing the mark of the legendary 1927 Yankees, every single AL individual performance category was won by an Indian:

Wins:	Bob Lemon	23
	Early Wynn	23
ERA	Mike Garcia (the Tribe's 2.78 team ERA was the lowest by any team in history up to then)	2.64
Shutouts	Mike Garcia	5
Batting Avg.	Bobby Avila	.341
Home Runs	Larry Doby	32
RBI	Larry Doby	126

So it wasn't just pitching, either. Nor was it just guys presently in the Hall of Fame. Guys like Doby, Avila, Rosen, Keltner, and Hegan (remember, we're talking 1948 through 1954 here) are never going to make the Hall of Fame, but were universally recognized as All-Stars in their day. This period, arguably the Golden Age of major league baseball, is surely the Golden Age of the Cleveland franchise.

Remarkably, only Doby and Hegan held starting lineup positions with both pennant winners, while only Lemon and Feller were on the pitching staffs of both. Al Rosen, who'd had a brief cup of coffee with the '48 champs became a bona fide superstar third-sacker by 1954. Moving in the opposite direction was Dale Mitchell. While he saw action for the Indians in both the '48 and '54 Fall Classics, he was the regular leftfielder in the former and basically a pinch-hitting specialist in the latter. Yet in many ways, he embodies the solid, but less-remembered competence of those Cleveland teams.

Dale Mitchell spent 11 seasons in the major leagues with a lifetime batting average of .312. He was the Indians' regular leftfielder from 1947 through 1953. Hanging on as a pinch-hitter and spot player, he stayed with the Tribe until halfway through the 1956 season when he was purchased by the Brooklyn Dodgers to add bench strength to their pennant drive. And that he did, getting into the 1956 Series with the Bums for his third Fall Classic.

Ironically, baseball seems to remember Dale more for a single pinch-hitting appearance in the 1956 World Series than for his stellar career (and two World Series) with the Indians. He became part of World Series history as he watched a third strike from Yankee hurler Don Larsen end the only perfect game that has ever been pitched in post-season play.

It is even more ironic when one considers that Mitchell was always known as a very difficult strikeout with an extremely

accurate batting eye. He struck out only a total of 119 times in his 11-year major league career. Fellow Oklahoman Mickey Mantle logged that many Ks in a single season more often than not. To put this in perspective, over his lifetime 3984 at bats, Mitchell's 119 strikeouts give him a ratio of 1 strikeout per 33 times at bat. Mantle fanned once every 4.7 times at bat.

Remembering that it was a called third strike, there has always been a nagging unstated doubt as to whether the "taking" of that pitch was based on sentiment rather than judgment. There are those who viewed it as a sportingly passive contribution by an old pro to the masterpiece of his younger opponent. Those who subscribe to this theory hold that the Dodgers would have profited little (game-wise) from a base hit in this situation, while Larsen's accomplishment dwarfed even the Yankees' winning of the game and ultimately the Series.

There is no doubt however, that Mitchell's hitting, fielding, and baserunning skills helped the Cleveland Indians to win two of the three AL pennants in the club's history. It is for that reason that he is being remembered here. He was a consistent hitter, batting over .300 in all but four of his eleven major league seasons. His lifetime mark of .312 puts him in front of several of his better known contemporaries including Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle, Duke Snider, and Ralph Kiner.

Though he smashed one in the 1948 World Series, he had only 41 homers lifetime and was not known as a home run hitter. In fact, as a fleet-footed leadoff batter, his job was to get on base. This meant more emphasis on getting a safe hit of any kind than

on the more dramatic four-bagger. It also meant he couldn't afford to gamble the K against the "HR" like a Babe Ruth or a Reggie Jackson. His batting eye and difficulty to strike out have already been noted.

While neither home run blaster nor whiff wizard (see Jackson reference above), Dale was certainly not a "Punch and Judy" hitter. A large proportion of his hits (he exceeded 200 hits a season more than once) were for extra bases. His hitting ability, combined with speed and a good baseball brain got him many doubles and triples. His league leading 23 triples in 1949 were the most since Hall-of-Famer Sam Crawford's 26 in 1914! Mitchell thus not only got on base, he often got into scoring position as a leadoff man.

A natural athlete, Mitchell was a state high school sprint champion in Oklahoma. He twice led all AL outfielders in fielding average, and was among the leaders in other seasons. With Dale patrolling the green space alongside Larry Doby, very little got by them. This may have been an overlooked contributory factor as to why the Cleveland pitching staff of the day was so successful in producing no-hitters and one-hitters.

Plaques at Cooperstown will insure the immortality of Feller, Lemon, Wynn, Boudreau, Lopez, and Paige. But organizations like SABR and publications like this one will insure that posterity remembers the contributions of the Ken Keltner, Gene Beardens, Larry Dobys, Jim Hegans, Bobby Avilas, Al Rosens, and Dale Mitchells.

The Rocky Colavito-Harvey Kuenn Trade

by Allen Pfenninger

What most Cleveland fans regard as the beginning of the end of the Golden Era of Indians baseball can be traced to Easter Sunday, April 17, 1960. The Indians, who had finished second to the Chicago White Sox in 1959, were playing the American League champions in an exhibition game in Memphis, Tennessee.

Cleveland's rightfielder and 1959 AL homer champ Rocky Colavito homered over the left field wall in his first at-bat that day. In his next at-bat, in the fourth inning, he reached first base on a fielder's choice and was removed from the game for a pinch runner.

Upon returning to the dugout, he was informed by Indian manager Joe Gordon that he had been traded to Detroit for 1959 AL batting champion Harvey Kuenn.

Thus was launched the bombshell that immediately angered Cleveland fans, many of whom still regard the deal as the end of the glory days for the Tribe.

The main players in this melodrama, from the Cleveland point of view:

FRANK LANE, aka "Trader Lane" and "Frantic Frank", Cleveland General Manager. Had been a general manager with the Cardinals and White Sox before replacing Hank Greenberg in Cleveland after the 1957 season. Trades were his first love, and his claim to fame was that every team he had worked for improved in the succeeding years' standings. Before Lane would leave the Indians just after the 1960 season, he was to make 95 deals. Lane was so proud of his trading ability that the 1960 Indians Sketchbook listed each of his transactions since joining the team. And Lane's contract with the Indians contained a clause that promised him a bonus based on the team's profitability. Attendance had been only 663,805 in 1958, but grew to 1,497,976 in 1959.

ROCCO DOMENICO "ROCKY" COLAVITO, 26-year-old rightfielder. Arrived on the scene in 1955, and earned a starting role with the Indians in 1956. Known as an average hitter with good power, Colavito hit 129 home runs in his four seasons as a starter, leading the league with 42 round trippers in 1959, and his 111 RBIs were just one fewer than Boston's Jackie Jensen. Over the 1958 and '59 seasons, Colavito's homer and RBI totals (83 and 224) outclassed those of both Willie Mays (63 and 200) and Mickey Mantle (73 and 172). Colavito achieved notoriety during the 1959 season by hitting four home runs in a single game at Baltimore. The handsome outfielder was a favorite with the fans and was popular with his teammates. He was rated as an average fielder, although his rifle arm was respected throughout the league (he was once a pitcher and appeared on a handful of occasions as a reliever in the majors during his career). He was regarded as a liability on the bases, and, like most power hitters, was prone to strike out. A 1959 September batting slump, during the Indian pennant drive, was an albatross that was used in part

by Lane to justify the trade.

HARVEY EDWARD KUENN, 29-year-old centerfielder. Kuenn arrived with the Tigers in 1952, became the team's starting shortstop in 1953 and led the team with a .308 average. He followed that with .306 marks in 1954 and 1955. He led the league with 196 hits in 1956, batted .332 and had a career-high 88 RBI. His average dipped below .300 for the first time in 1957, to .277. His greatest year came in 1959, when he led the league in hits (198), average (.353) and doubles (42). He was rated as an excellent fielder, and had above-average speed. Through his eight seasons, he had hit only 53 home runs, with a high of 12 in 1956. The knocks on Kuenn in Detroit were that he couldn't drive in runs and that he was injury-prone.

Before making the Colavito trade, Lane was naturally busy at work making other trades, virtually breaking up a team that had missed out on the 1959 AL flag by only five games. Two of the biggest deals were made before 1959 was even over.

Lane traded the team's second-leading RBI man, Minnie Minoso, along with catcher Dick Brown and pitchers Don Ferrarese and Jake Striker, to the White Sox, for catcher Johnny Romano, third baseman Bubba Phillips, and unknown first baseman Norm Cash. Minoso was deemed expendable because of the emergence of Tito Francona, acquired from Detroit during the 1959 season. Ironically, Francona had a higher batting average than Kuenn in 1959 (.363) and might have won the batting title but for a lack of at-bats. Because Lane had slick-fielding Vic Power to play first, Cash was sent off to Detroit for third baseman Steve Demeter just five days before the Colavito trade.

In addition, Lane traded second baseman Billy Martin, who had failed to provide the team leadership Lane wanted in 1959, along with the 19-game winner Cal McLish and young first baseman Gordy Coleman to the Reds for second baseman Johnny Temple.

Meanwhile, Colavito proved to be difficult to sign, holding out for a contract befitting a home run champion. He eventually signed for \$35,000. But, not one to let Colavito forget his shortcomings, Lane included a \$1,000 bonus in the contract that would kick in only if Colavito hit less than 40 home runs, the idea being that Colavito was to cut down on his swing, reduce his strikeout totals and improve his average.

As the 1960 training camp convened, the Indian starting eight appeared to be set: Power, 1B; Temple, 2B; Woodie Held, SS; Phillips, 3B; Colavito, RF; Piersall, CF; Tito Francona, LF. But the emergence of a rookie outfielder from Class A, Walter Bond, turned the heads of both Lane and manager Joe Gordon. Invited to camp because of an off-season injury to backup outfielder Chuck Tanner, Bond batted .400 for the spring, with five home runs, and led the team in RBIs. Despite his lack of experience, both Lane and Gordon were convinced that Bond was the real

thing. Even *The Sporting News* picked Bond as the AL's top rookie prospect as the season was about to begin.

This set the Lane trading machine back into motion. He had been talking about the possibility of Colavito-for-Kuenn with Detroit general manager Bill DeWitt since February, when both players were holding out. Before swinging the deal, Lane met with Gordon and the Cleveland coaching staff, none of whom were against the move. Bond would provide the power, along with Woodie Held, and play rightfield; Kuenn would be the table-setter and play centerfield.

When the trade was announced in Cleveland, all hell broke loose. The team was returning to Cleveland following the Easter Sunday exhibition game for its Tuesday home opener — ironically, against the Tigers. A crowd of 300 met the team at the airport to show support for Colavito, who checked out of his Cleveland hotel and moved to another to meet his new Tiger teammates.

Lane defended the deal by citing Colavito's September slump, saying that it had cost the team the pennant. He also was quoted as saying that the home run was overrated, citing the fact that Washington had led the league in home runs in 1959 but finished last (in fact, Cleveland had led the league in home runs with 167; Washington was second with 163). He summed it up by saying that the team had a better chance to win the pennant with Kuenn. He calculated that the team had given up 40 home runs for 40 doubles, added 50 singles and eliminated 50 strikeouts. Gordon echoed his support, adding that Kuenn was an all-around player.

Cleveland Plain Dealer sports editor Gordon Cobbledick weighed the pros and cons of each player and asked that the fans reserve judgment, while allowing for the fact that Colavito was probably one of the most popular players in team history. He concluded that "Kuenn may take the Rock's place in the lineup and fill it with distinction, but he cannot ever take the Rock's place in the hearts of the people — particularly the young people, who will be tomorrow's cash customers. If the team wins, the fans will applaud. But they'll be slow to forgive Lane for trading the Rock."

Reaction in Detroit was not nearly as negative. One newspaper headline summarized the trade in this way: "140 singles for 42 home runs."

On the Monday between the trade and the Opener, Lane made another deal, sending Colavito's best friend and roommate Herb Score to the White Sox for pitcher Barry Latman. With this trade, only two players — Russ Nixon and George Strickland — remained from the team that started the 1958 season, and Lane had actually traded Nixon to the Red Sox earlier in spring training in a deal that was cancelled by the Commissioner because catcher Sammy White chose to retire rather than report to the Indians.

Opening Day in Cleveland saw a crowd of 52,756 turn out, most of them to cheer for Colavito. Many fans carried banners supporting the Rock, while others hung Lane in effigy outside the stadium. Others simply boycotted the game in protest. Colavito went hitless in six at-bats, including four strikeouts — Lane later bought pitchers Gary Bell and Jim Grant a new hat for each strikeout they recorded against Colavito. True to his reputation for injury, Kuenn pulled a muscle legging out a base hit in the extra-inning affair eventually won by Detroit, 4-2. Colavito got

his revenge the next day, slugging a three-run home run, Detroit winning again.

Trades, of course, are measured over time, but the notoriety of this one led fans to compare the players throughout the season. It certainly appeared as though Cleveland had the early edge as Kuenn led the team in hitting throughout the early going, keeping his average at or near .300, with the expected low power and RBI output. Colavito suffered through a slow start and slumped throughout June. The *Sporting News* gave the edge to Cleveland in a July 6 article, running a chart showing Kuenn leading Colavito in eight offensive statistics — notably in average (.314 to .226), hits (70 to 44) and even RBIs (31 to 26). Colavito led in only one significant category — home runs (11 to 4), and had 32 strikeouts to Kuenn's 6.

The Indians were in contention, shuffling between the league's top three spots, while the Tigers foundered in the middle of the pack, struggling to reach .500. Frank Lane looked like a genius. But was he?

Walter Bond had mysteriously shown that he could not hit big league pitching and was back on the bench by the end of May with a .217 average and just three home runs. By mid-season, he was back in the minors, spending the majority of the year at Vancouver. He was replaced by Jimmy Piersall, no power hitter himself. And Woodie Held, the team's "other" power hitter, went down for six weeks with a broken finger. An unnamed American League pitcher was quoted July 27 in *The Sporting News*: "Nobody in the Cleveland lineup scares you. The Yankees and White Sox have home run hitters, and one pitch can kill you. Cleveland has a bunch of singles hitters."

Worse for Lane (and his pocketbook), attendance was off despite the team's remaining in contention, and Colavito came out of his slump in July, registering a .256 average with 19 home runs and 50 RBIs through the end of the month.

In the second week of August, Lane and his Detroit cousin DeWitt pulled a trade just as notorious as their outfielder swap by trading managers — Joe Gordon went to the Tigers, Jimmy Dykes to the Indians. At the time of the trade, Cleveland was in fourth place, seven games out, while Detroit was in sixth, twelve and a half games out. Gordon was reunited with his outfielder that struck out too much, and Lane, asked if he would still make the trade of outfielders, said, "No comment."

Kuenn continued to contend for the American League batting crown until he suffered a hand injury in early September and broke his foot after being hit by a foul tip in mid-September, finishing him for the season. He ended the year with a .308 average, but with just 474 at bats, nine home runs and 54 RBI. The Indians finished fourth, 21 games behind New York. Attendance dropped dramatically, and Lane's bonus for 1960 was substantially lower than the \$35,000 he had received in 1959.

Colavito finished the year with a .249 mark, 35 home runs and 87 RBIs as the Tigers finished sixth. General manager Bill DeWitt encouraged Colavito to swing for the fences by paying him the \$1,000 bonus in early September. Still, the season was considered to be an "off-year" for The Rock. He came back to slug 45 home runs in 1961, leading Detroit with 140 RBIs as the team finished second to New York. He hit 37 round-trippers in 1962, 22 in 1963, and was traded to Kansas City, where he hit 34 in 1964.

Walter Bond, unfairly projected as the next Willie Mays,

finished the 1960 season with just five home runs, 18 RBI and .221 average in 40 games. He never did play regularly for Cleveland, but shone briefly as the starting first baseman for Houston in 1965 and 1966, before dying of leukemia at age 30 in 1967.

And in Frank Lane's final trade as General Manager of the Cleveland Indians, he sent Harvey Kuenn to the San Francisco Giants on December 3, 1960 for 30-year-old pitcher John Antonelli and 26-year-old outfielder Willie Kirkland, a promising slugger. Lane cited the fact that the team needed A) a veteran pitcher to head up its young starting staff and B) some power, plus the fact that Kuenn was injury-prone.

Kuenn went on to have a couple of productive years in San Francisco, setting the table for power hitters such as Willie Mays, Willie McCovey and Orlando Cepeda. Antonelli was a bust with Cleveland, going 0-4 before being sold to Milwaukee in mid-season. Kirkland played for Cleveland through 1963; his best season was 1961, when he hit 27 home runs for 95 RBIs and a .259 average. He was traded to Baltimore before the 1964 season began for Al Smith, who was released before mid-season. This left the Indians with nothing to show for the Colavito deal.

Lacking an identity, the Indians foundered in the middle of

the pack through 1964, and fan support dwindled. Talk of moving the team to Seattle became a real possibility. In a final effort to spark fan interest and keep the team in Cleveland, General Manager Gabe Paul brought Rocky Colavito home in a three-way deal with the White Sox and Athletics on January 20, 1965. The price to bring Colavito home was steep — starting catcher Johnny Romano, plus the organization's two brightest prospects, pitcher Tommy John and outfielder Tommy Agee.

The 31-year-old Colavito returned to Cleveland a hero, and responded with a 26-homer, league-leading 108 RBI season. The fans responded, and baseball was most likely saved in Cleveland as a result. Colavito had one good year left with the Tribe, but was traded again in 1967 for journeyman Jim King. He retired after the 1968 season after spending time with the White Sox, Dodgers and Yankees.

It is left to conjecture as to what the Tribe would have accomplished had Colavito never been traded. He was the last legitimate "star" produced by the Indians' organization, and it took his return to bring attendance back to where it was in 1959. His trade in 1960 — and the name of Frank Lane — have been vilified in Cleveland baseball lore ever since.

Lost Septembers: Tribe Near-Miss Seasons of 1921 and 1926

by Fred Schuld

Between 1920 and 1940, the Cleveland Indians came close to winning the American League pennant only twice - 1921 and 1926. Pre-season favorites to repeat as champions, the 1921 Tribe squad was burdened with uniforms inscribed with World Champions across the front. Although they started well, the Indians could not catch the New York Yankees, who were led by Babe Ruth's amazing hitting. Five years later, after back-to-back sixth place finishes in 1924 and 1925, the Tribe surprised their American League competitors by surging to within two games of the lead as late as September 23 before losing out to the Yankees by three games.

Why did the heavily favored Indians, who didn't have to face the banned Black Sox, fail to repeat as champions in 1921? Why were the 1926 Indians able to give the Yankees a close race to the flag after finishing in the second division the previous two seasons?

Although the 1921 Indians improved their team batting average five points to .308 and runs scored from 857 to 925, their pitching ERA went from 3.41 to 3.90 while their errors increased by 19 and their team fielding average dropped from .971 to .967.

31-game winner Jim Bagby won 17 fewer games in 1921 while 1920 20-game winner Ray Caldwell was only 6 and 6 the next season. Speaker finally suspended "Slim" on September 5 for failure to stay in shape. Stan Coveleski was the ace of the staff with 23 victories, George Uhle chipped in 16 and Duster Mails

came through with 14 wins. Veteran Allan Sothoron, obtained from the Red Sox, was a pleasant surprise with a 12-4, 3.23 ERA year.

Speaker led the regulars with a .362 batting average and a league-leading 52 doubles. Third baseman Larry Gardner repeated his success of 1920 by hitting at a .319 clip and driving in 115 runs. Every regular hit .285 or better and substitutes Smoky Joe Wood's .366, Les Nunamaker's .359 and George Burns' .361 batting averages were most impressive.

The key factors that kept the Tribe from repeating in 1921 were injuries to Speaker and catcher Steve O'Neill and an awesome New York attack led by Babe Ruth's mind-boggling 59 home runs, 171 runs batted in and a slugging percentage of .846. Bob Meusel added 24 home runs and 135 runs batted in as the Yankees hit 134 home runs to 42 for the Indians.

In spite of playing the last 23 games of the season on the road, the Indians were in first place as late as September 16 when George Uhle's four-hitter beat Washington 2-0. Injuries hurt, too: the Tribe lost their ace Coveleski for two turns with strained ligaments in his side and Speaker's injured knee on September 11 kept him out of the regular lineup for the rest of the season. Performances like Elmer Smith's seven consecutive extra-base hits in a doubleheader against the Browns on September 5 kept the gritty Tribe in the race. For the next ten days the Yankees and Indians were tied or the Indians were within one game of first

place. Then back-to-back losses to the Yankees on September 25 and 26 gave New York the lead for the rest of the season. How right was the Cleveland Press bard Wampus when he wrote-on September 27:

"Hear ye this fact/ My song is not truthless/ How soft hearted those Yanks would be/ If they were but Ruthless." During the four games with the Yankees in which the Indians lost three, Ruth hit .727 with eight hits in 11 at-bats for 18 bases, including two home runs. He was walked five times and scored seven runs. Westbrook Pegler concluded: "How come anyone thinks Babe Ruth didn't break the hearts of Cleveland?"

Five years later the Indians seemed to be going nowhere as the 1926 Spring Training camps were about to open. Their gloom was heightened when the players were in a train wreck on their way to Lakeland, Florida. Fortunately the car the Indian players were riding in stayed on the tracks and no player suffered more than a few bruises. George Uhle, the only pitcher left from the 1921 team, slept through the accident. After two straight subpar seasons, Uhle had paid an offseason visit to famed Youngstown Doctor "Bonesetter" Reese who fixed his arm for one more great year. Hurling 318 innings, the Bull completed 32 out of 36 games, winning 27 and losing 11 and had a true Cy Young year with a 2.83 earned run average. His magnificent pitching largely contributed to a drop of the 1925 team ERA of 4.49 to 3.40 in 1926. Emil "Dutch" Levens, after two mediocre seasons, came through with a 16-13 season topped by doubleheader four-hit complete game victories over the Red Sox on August 28. Veterans Joe Shaute and Sherry Smith won 14 and 11 games respectively while huge southpaw Garland Buckeye had the fifth lowest ERA in the league with 3.09.

At 33, George Burns had a career year at first base with a .358 batting average, 114 runs batted in and record setting 64 doubles. As a reporter noted, Burns hit a "daily double" on his way to being chosen as the Most Valuable Player in the American League for 1926.

While Cleveland hit .289 for the season, opposing managers pointed to better defense for the 18-game improvement over the previous year's sixth place finish at 70-84. Eddie Collins thought Freddie Spurgeon's brilliant play at second base — leading the league in assists and double plays was the key, while Connie

Mack pointed to Luke Sewell's catching for the success of the 1926 Indians. The three holdovers from the 1920 World Champions, Tris Speaker, Joe Sewell and Charley Jamieson, had commendable years. Speaker rapped 52 doubles and combined with Sewell to drive in 171 runs while Jamieson scored 89 runs.

Early on, the Tribe was far behind in the race. On July 10 they were 42-40, in fifth place, ten games out. Eighteen days later they were 55 and 44 and in second place, but still ten games behind in the lost column to the Yankees. No longer was Wampus' 1921 evaluation of the Yankees true, "Eight guys and Ruth go out each day/ And so the Yankee team they play/ The eight line up, but tell the truth/ The Yankee team is all Babe Ruth." Young Lou Gehrig had arrived and in his second full season hit .313 and drove in 105 runs. Trailing the Yankees by ten games on August 24, the Tribe began to win and the Yanks started to level off. By winning nine straight games between August 25 and 31 (including consecutive doubleheader wins over the Red Sox), the Tribe trailed the Yankees at the beginning of September by 5-1/2 games. Winning seven and losing five in the first two weeks of September, the Indians were still 5-1/2 games behind but had a chance to take the lead as a six-game series with the Yankees began at Dunn Field on September 15. Sadly, the Yanks drove their nemesis George Uhle from the box to win 6-4, but the Indians won a double header the next day as Levens and Buckeye both twirled two-hitters. Buckeye's whitewash game was unusual with ten walks, including four straight to Ruth. Shaute and Uhle won the next two games (the Bull's sixth victory of the year over the Yankees) and the Yankees led by only 2-1/2 games. To start the concluding game, Speaker chose righthander Levens, who was far from his best. Several Indians had suggested to Spoke that he pitch a southpaw, either Buckeye or Jake Miller. With a white-shirted overflow crowd standing in front of the right field wall, Gehrig hit three doubles and, along with Ruth, a home run in an 8-3 victory. 29,736 fans, the second largest crowd in Dunn Field history, saw the Tribe hopes fade.

Yankee doubleheader wins over the Browns on September 25 clinched the pennant for New York. Tris Speaker predicted "the World Series will be played on this ball diamond next year." Little did Spoke and the Tribe fans know that there would be no more near misses and close races for the flag until 1940.

The Race

Richard E. Derby, Jr.

The 1908 National League pennant race was one of the greatest ever. The American League race in 1908 was equally exciting yet is often overlooked.

Four teams — Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago and St. Louis — remained in contention for most of the season. In the final six weeks, two no-hitters and a perfect game were pitched by contending teams. Three teams went into their final series of games with a chance at the pennant. The league champion was not decided until the Tigers beat the White Sox at Chicago in their final game of the season. While the pressure-packed pennant race did not result in a league president committing suicide, under slightly different circumstances it might well have resulted in the murder of an umpire!

Underway

The Naps lost their opener 2-1 in ten innings to St. Louis. Two days later, they dropped their second straight ten-inning encounter 6-2. Glenn Liebhardt, Naps hard-luck loser, had a no-hitter through seven innings. The loss of these opening two games in effect cost the Naps the 1908 pennant as they eventually lost out by only one-half game. The Naps finally won their first game by spoiling Detroit's home opener 12-8 in eleven innings.

In late April, Dusty Rhoades pitched Cleveland temporarily into first place by defeating St. Louis 6-3 with the help of a slow ball that ought to have been "pinched for loitering." Dusty probably also used his "merry widow" curve — "it's a beauty, a fooler and a teaser." Dusty's roommate, Addie Joss, had five of Cleveland's first nine victories.

Back and Forth

Despite having dropped to fifth place with a 19-18 record in early June, the Naps put together a three-game winning streak that moved them all the way back into first place — indicative of the closeness of the race.

But the White Sox were hot also and they gained first place with the help of a 13-game winning streak. On June 24, Cleveland opened an important four-game series with Chicago. Addie Joss won the opener 6-0. The next day Glenn Liebhardt defeated Nick Altrock 3-2. The Naps won the third game of the series 4-2 as Dusty Rhoades defeated Ed Walsh.

Charlie Chech won the fourth game for the Naps 6-3. But despite starting in second place and sweeping the first place Chisox, Cleveland did not move into first as St. Louis won more games in the same time period.

After losing two 3-2 games at New York, the Naps dropped back to fourth but were still only three games behind St. Louis and Detroit. After a game was lost to rain, Cleveland swept a double-header from the Yankees 16-1 and 3-2. Detroit's bats were also

booming. Two days after Cleveland's 16-1 win, the first place Tigers beat the A's 21-2 while collecting 25 hits.

The Naps then fell into their biggest slump of the season, winning seven and losing twelve through July 27. It was this stretch of games that really cost them the pennant.

On August 6 it was announced that Wilbur Goode, a hard hitting outfielder, had been acquired by the Naps from Akron where he was hitting .372. Goode broke into the lineup in the ninth inning of a 7-2 loss to Boston. He delivered a pinch hit single off the old master, Cy Young. Two days later, Goode misplayed two grounders in the outfield in a 8-7 loss to the A's.

After losing a double header to Washington, the Naps faced a crucial series with the first-place Tigers. Rhoades won the first game of the series 9-1, and Chech won the next 7-3, while Goode had a home run, a stolen base and scored twice.

Addie's Tune-Up and Rhoades' No-Hitter

On September 1, Addie Joss pitched the fifth one-hitter of his career, to win 1-0 over George Winter of Detroit. Ty Cobb delivered the Tigers only hit in the first inning. Cleveland's run was the result of a single by Birmingham. Joe had been sick in bed all morning with a high fever and at noon there was even a discussion about allowing him to return to Cleveland. As good as this performance was, Addie was just warming up for a game versus Chicago a month later.

On September 18, Dusty Rhoades pitched a no-hitter, but the Naps had to rally to beat Boston 2-1. Boston took a 1-0 lead in the second inning. In Boston's fourth, Speaker was safe on Bradley's error. Gessler was safe on a fielder's choice and Heinie Wagner walked to load the bases. But Rhoades managed to get out of it. One Cleveland paper attributed his good luck to a \$2 Egyptian amulet Rhoades had purchased the night before and had in his pocket while pitching. Wilbur Goode singled in the eighth and eventually scored the winning run on a passed ball.

Two days after Rhoades' no-hitter, Frank Smith of Chicago pitched a 1-0 no-hitter over Ed Plank and the Philadelphia Athletics. The winning run scored in the ninth inning.

On September 22, headlines proclaimed "Best Work Ever" as "Plucky Fighting Puts Naps at Top." Cleveland had regained first place by defeating New York 5-3 while Detroit was losing to Boston 4-3.

Joss kept the Naps in first with a 7-0 shutout of New York. The game was tied 0-0 after five. Deacon McGuire took over coaching at first base in the sixth and Cleveland went on to score five runs in the inning.

The Naps won their next game over New York 9-3. The game was tied 1-1 until the sixth inning when the fans clamored for McGuire to take the coaching lines. He did and the Naps promptly scored two runs and six more in the seventh.

Detroit declared itself back in the race as they regained

second with a double-header sweep of Philadelphia 7-2 and 1-0. While the Naps were idle, Detroit went back into first place with a 5-2 victory over Philadelphia.

On September 29, all four contenders swept double-headers from second division opponents.

Perfection

On October 2, 1908, Addie Joss pitched a perfect game against the Chicago White Sox in what is arguably the greatest clutch pitching performance of all time. Pitching for Chicago that day was Ed Walsh, who struck out fifteen Cleveland batters (in eight innings) and surrendered only four hits and one unearned run himself.

Walsh's statistics for the 1908 season were amazing: 66 games, 49 starts, 42 complete games, 464 innings pitched, 269 strikeouts, 40 wins against only 15 losses, twelve shutouts and a 1.42 ERA. Walsh came into his confrontation with Joss having just defeated Boston three times within 48 hours. Boston managed only one run in the three games. (In the last nine games the Sox played in 1908, Walsh pitched seven times and won six.)

But on October 2, Big Ed met his match in Addie Joss. Chisox manager Fielder Jones summed it up best when he said, "The only kind of pitching that would have beaten Ed Walsh today was exactly the kind of pitching that Addie Joss showed us."

How great of a pitcher was Joss? Consider these facts: Forty-five of his lifetime 160 wins were shutouts. His lifetime ERA of 1.88 is the second best of all time. His nine lifetime low hit games (two no-hitters and seven one-hitters) is exceeded by only Bob Feller and Nolan Ryan.

Addie's perfect game still left the Naps in second place, one-half game behind the Tigers who beat St. Louis 7-6.

The following day Ed Walsh got his revenge. The Naps were playing their final home game of the season before a huge crowd of 20,000 people. Walsh came on in relief in the seventh inning with the bases loaded and only one out. After getting Hinchman to ground into a forceout, Walsh struck out Napoleon Lajoie to retire the side. He then went on to wrap up a 3-2 victory.

Concluding Games

On Sunday, October 4th, the Naps were in St. Louis for a key series with the Browns that would seal their fate in the race. Umpire Jack Egan was 20 minutes late in reaching the ball park

for the first game. Had he remained away altogether, the Naps might have won the game. Dusty Rhoades started for Cleveland and gave up three runs in the first four innings. Once again, it was left to Addie Joss to keep the Naps alive. After walking the bases full, Joss fanned Bobby Wallace to end the threat. The game finally ended an eleven-inning 3-3 tie. Joss pitched the final six and 2/3 innings and allowed only two hits.

But the real story of the game was Cleveland's ninth inning and Umpire Egan's decision. Joss was on third base and Bill Bradley was on second and two were out. Bill Hinchman hit one out over second base for what looked like the lead runs. But shortstop Bobby Wallace somehow got to it, knocked it down and threw to first. Joss had already scored and Bradley had rounded third base. The St. Louis players immediately tried to run Bradley down between home and third. After Bradley had slid back to third, Egan "surprised everybody" by announcing he had declared Hinchman out.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer's respected sports reporter Henry P. Edwards called it "the most raw decision by an umpire I have ever witnessed."

The following day Bill Dinneen officially eliminated the Naps from the race with a four-hit 3-1 victory. Umpire Egan quickly reminded the Naps he was still in charge. Hartzell of St. Louis had singled and stolen second base. Hofman singled to left but Hinchman made a "grand return" of the ball and Bemis had Hartzell "blocked off the plate by yards." Egan called him safe and "the Naps seemed to go completely in the air."

Meanwhile, on October 4 and 5, the White Sox were winning two straight from Detroit in a last-ditch attempt to win the race themselves. On the 4th, Chicago scored three times in the first inning and held on to win 3-1. Chicago won this game despite only getting one hit. The next day Ed Walsh stopped Detroit 6-1.

On October 6, Detroit clinched the pennant in their last game of the regular season with a 7-0 two-hit shutout of the White Sox by Wild Bill Donovan. The game was played at Chicago and a Sox victory would have given them the pennant.

Cleveland finished second by defeating St. Louis 5-1. Hughie Jennings, the manager of the pennant-winning Tigers, put Cleveland's season in the proper perspective when he said: "The Naps have made one of the grandest fights in the history of the game." His comment is still valid today, long after their grand fight has been forgotten.

The Ghost of 1959

by Gary Speidel

"Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these — it might have been."

The memorable and haunting lines of John Greenleaf Whittier express regret as well as any ever written, and they could have been written for Cleveland baseball over the last thirty years. The demise in the fortunes of the Indians seems centered on the era in the late 1950s, and included their last brush with history in 1959. So much of what has happened began, either in fact or in our imagination, in that season in which the Tribe made a gallant but failed run at the American League flag. The bare facts of the pennant chase, dramatic and exciting though they were, tell only a partial tale of the broken dream, and what almost was the death of the franchise.

A seesaw battle most of the season, the 1959 pennant race is generally remembered as a battle of the hitting power of Cleveland against the pitching and defense of the White Sox, skippered by former Cleveland manager Al Lopez. Although in the basic sense this was true, the issue was actually more complicated. Chicago's hitting was better than it looked on paper because of the run-scarce spaces of Comiskey Park. Cleveland's much denigrated pitching featured two outstanding performers in Cal McLish and rookie Jim Perry, and Gary Bell and Mudcat Grant were inconsistent but had as many good moments as bad. Unremembered is the fact that Cleveland's defense was the league's best through the first two months of the season, with brilliant work by magic-gloved Vic Power at first, veteran Billy Martin at second, and the outfield of Minnie Minoso, Jim Piersall and Rocky Colavito. Woodie Held, a converted outfielder, began the year at third, was switched to fill a desperately needed shortstop hole and did not make his first error at either position until June 7. Added to timely hitting, the club jumped out to a 9-1 start for second-year manager Joe Gordon. But for all their remembered power, through early June the Indians had only outscored the rival Sox 209 to 206. It was not until an early-season acquisition, one John Patsy (Tito) Francona got into the lineup that the Indians' attack truly went on the warpath.

Ostensibly picked up as lefthanded bench strength, Francona took a few tips on his swing from Gordon and, for two-thirds of one blindingly brilliant season, found out what it must be like to be Stan Musial. In his first doubleheader start, he slammed six hits in eight at bats. He kept it up, finishing with a .363 average, .419 on-base percentage and a .566 slugging average. His first homer was a bottom-of-the-ninth shot against the Yankees and typified the dramatics that surrounded most of the twenty round trippers he hit, in only 399 at bats.

After the hot start, the Tribe quickly settled into a slot usually a game to a game and a half back of the Pale Hose, who were playing the most consistent baseball in the league. However, a

surprising Baltimore team, led by aging Gene Woodling and Bob Nieman, and the slugging of Gus Triandos, made things interesting through early June. The pitching-rich Orioles even tied for first for a couple of days before succumbing to injuries and a lack of depth. Even the brilliance of Hoyt Wilhelm couldn't prevent their slide.

Wilhelm is a very sore point in Cleveland's history, and may well be the key in the club's inability to nail down the pennant in '59. His departure from the wigwam late in 1958 is a quintessential example of the poor moves that cost the team its future. The great knuckleballer had been acquired by the Indians prior to the '58 season for needed bullpen strength in a straight cash deal. He was doing his job, although only 2-7 in the won-lost column, he had a fine 2.49 ERA, with excellent hit-inning and strikeout-walk ratios. In one of his few starts, he lost a complete game, 1-0. Any good baseball man could see he was pitching well. Nevertheless, on August 23, he was sold to the Orioles for \$75,000. The reason? In a game against Kansas City on August 22, one of his hard-to-handle knucklers escaped catcher Russ Nixon, allowing a winning unearned run to score. In a fit of rage, the Cleveland general manager stormed into the team clubhouse and, during a general tirade, said that that type of loss would not happen again. The following day, Wilhelm was gone.

The engineer of this wondrous move was Frank Lane. It has become axiomatic in Cleveland baseball lore to say that Lane's hyper mania for roster moves sold the club's future down the drain. It is not an overstatement. In a twenty-month span between 1957 and 1959, Lane made an astonishing 55 transactions involving more than eighty players — nearly three deals per month! One Cleveland veteran remarked on his way to another team, "When you play for Lane, you keep your bags packed." Most of the trades were shockingly detrimental to the club's future. Within weeks of his arrival in Baltimore, Wilhelm pitched a no-hitter against the world champion Yankees, and followed in 1959 by leading the majors in ERA at 2.19 en route to a 15-11 record with a losing team. The acquisition of Martin to fill the gap at second base came at the expense of lefty Don Mossi, who promptly became the best southpaw starter in the league over the next three seasons, except for Whitey Ford. And let's be honest, it's not as though no one knew Mossi could pitch. With Herb Score injured and the team short of pitching — lefthanded pitching in particular — this was not a wise move. But the most incredible of all Lane's deals is long forgotten, primarily because it involved no big names. Trading 30-year-old veteran backup catcher Hal Naragon, a lefty hitter, to the Washington Senators, he threw in the club's lone southpaw relief pitcher, Hal Woodeshick, who had posted a respectable rookie year in '58, 6-6, 3.64. In return, the Frantic one received the services of a 35-year-old, righthanded hitting reserve catcher, Ed Fitzgerald. With a team nearly bereft

of lefty hitting and pitching, the two bench men were not unimportant. Woodeshick later became a fine reliever; Naragon hit .302 two years after Fitzgerald's last game in the bigs. After catching 46 games for the Tribe, Fitz broke a finger and never played again. Incredible.

The 1959 White Sox were not a great team. MVP Nellie Fox had a typical season, not his best, and the club was probably better a couple of times in the previous six years. Teamed with super glove Luis Aparicio, the Sox had the best middle infield in the league. Cy Young Award winner Early Wynn (22-10, 3.17) Bob Shaw (18-6, 2.69) and catcher Sherm Lollar (22 HRs) all had great years. But the Pale Hose also had gaping holes at first base and right field, and a journeyman at third base. Al Smith in left was a good player having one of his poorest seasons. Landis in center was a great defensive performer, but no more so than Piersall. For all the Sox' strengths, Cleveland usually had a strength to match — except one. Ironically, the forgotten ingredient of the White Sox success that year was a forerunner of baseball to come. Turk Lown and Gerry Staley formed the best bullpen in the majors that year, choking off rally after rally, insuring win after win. Cleveland had nothing remotely like them.

On June 10, the Indians found themselves in third place, 1-1/2 games behind Chicago and surprising Baltimore. In Baltimore, the Tribe faced rookie Jerry Walker, having a fine season. After walking in the first inning, Rocky Colavito drilled a line-drive homer off Walker in the third. Arnie Portocarrero faced Rocky in his third time at bat, and a slider went 410 feet to left. Against Portocarrero again, Colavito drove a low sinking fastball 430 feet to left-center. In the ninth inning, after acknowledging polite applause from the 16,000 Orioles throng, Rocky sent an Ernie Johnson fastball to the same general area as his third homer, and into the history books. The final score was 11-8, Colavito totaling seven runs. But Baltimore was still a half game up on the Indians. The following day, a long Colavito double in the eighth inning scored Held from first to break a 1-1 tie, and only the Sox remained in the way.

With Francona delivering clutch hits in demonic fashion through June, July and August, the Tribe stayed close to the increasingly dominant Chicago pitching. In late August, the Tribe had a crucial two game set with the resurgent Yankees. The Bronx Bombers had dug a hole early that they could not extricate themselves from, having fallen into last place at the end of May. But now they were hot, and the White Sox were due in for a four game series after the Yanks. Colavito beat Whitey Ford with a pair of homers in the first game, and crashed a bottom-of-the-ninth job the next night off stopper Ryne Duren with the score tied, and the stage was set for the showdown with the Sox. It was to be Cleveland's Waterloo.

The White Sox annihilated the Tribe in the four games, outscoring them 24 to 10, and dropping Cleveland 5-1/2 games back. Surprisingly, they stayed even with the Sox through September, but even wasn't good enough. They finished five back.

Was there a pennant to be had in Cleveland in 1959? Almost beyond doubt. Had Lane held onto any one of the pitchers he squandered away — Wilhelm, Mossi, Bud Daley, Wynn himself — the outcome would likely have been different. In the months that followed the season, Lane continued the carnage. He yielded the team's top starter, McLish, to Cincinnati for Johnny Temple, who was on the downslide. Oh yes. He threw in our second baseman, Martin, and promising young slugger Gordy Coleman — a lefty of course. There was the infamous Cash for Demeter deal, and the emotional shocker, Colavito for Kuenn. In justifying his ludicrous deal, Lane referred to The Rock as an "incomplete player" — a label that was somehow supposed to make us not notice that Kuenn had no power, a poor arm, and a reputation for not taking care of himself. We noticed. The grandstanding, ego-strutting Lane was suckered badly by Detroit — twice.

We may not know exactly why the malaise that has followed the Tribe for three decades seems to cling like an iron glove, but it is clear where it began.

Cleveland in the Black Major Leagues

by Merl F. Kleinknecht

I - The Teams

Leroy "Satchel" Paige is remembered by long-time Cleveland baseball fans for his role in the Indians' 1948 World Championship season. However, the Tribe was not the first major league team Paige pitched for in the lakefront city. In 1931, already a five-year veteran of the black major leagues, he hurled for the Negro National League Cleveland Cubs.

The NNL operated from 1920 through 1931 with clubs located in the midwest and south. Cleveland was an occasional entry under a variety of names. The city's five initial NNL teams: the 1922 Tate Stars (a) (17-29), 1924 Browns (15-34), 1926 Elites (6-38) (b), 1927 Hornets (14-38) (b) and 1928 Tigers (19-53) (b), all wound up in the league basement. The 1931 Cubs (24-22) (b) posted Cleveland's best NNL record.

In 1932 the East-West League was formed as a major black circuit but failed to survive the season. Standings published prior to the EWL's demise saw Cleveland's Stars (8-16) standing sixth in a seven-club chase.

A second Negro National League was formed in 1933 with teams located primarily in the east. Cleveland competed as the 1933 Giants (c) and 1934 Red Sox (4-25).

The Negro American League was organized in 1937 encompassing cities in the midwest and south. Cleveland initially participated in the new circuit as the Bears in 1939 (9-9/first half) and 1940 (10-10/...), leading the NAL in the early going of the 1939 campaign.

Cleveland's most successful black major league team, the Buckeyes, came from Cincinnati to the shores of Lake Erie during the 1942 season. By 1945, under the ownership of Ernest Wright, Sr. (d) the Cleveland Buckeyes (53-16) ruled the league and all of black baseball with a four game Black World Series sweep of the NNL Homestead Grays. After a relapse in 1946, the 1947 Buckeyes (51-22) recaptured the NAL pennant but lost the Series to the NNL New York Cubans, 4 games to 1. In 1948, Cleveland was 31-21 in the first half, but faded to a 10-21 second half. The Buckeyes transferred to Louisville in 1949 but relocated in Cleveland by the season's end. 1950 saw the Clevelanders win but three of 36 first-half contests and withdraw from the black majors for good. The Buckeyes had represented Cleveland well in the NAL but a new era had dawned.

II - The Managers

James (Candy) Taylor piloted the 1922 and 1926 NNL entries. He also managed the 1923 NNL Toledo Tigers who withdrew from the league and reappeared as the resurrected Cleveland Tate Stars later that summer. Taylor went on to lead the 1928 St. Louis Stars and 1943 and 1944 Homestead Grays to NNL championships. The Grays added Black World Series triumphs both years.

Taylor, a third baseman, began playing in 1904. Available data reveals a .295 batting average for the 1926 Elites and a .291 NNL average from 1920 through 1931. He was one of four brothers to succeed in professional baseball.

Sol White managed the 1924 Browns in the twilight of a career launched in 1887. An infielder, he starred in Organized Baseball prior to racial discrimination and posted a .360 batting average in 152 OB contests. White piloted the Philadelphia Giants to the top of black baseball from 1904 through 1907 and authored "The History of Colored Baseball" in 1907.

Pete Duncan (e) guided the 1928 Tigers. He had gained acclaim as an outfielder for Rube Foster's early Chicago American Giants powerhouses.

Parnell Woods replaced Walter Burch (f) as the Buckeye field general in 1942 and held the post until releasing the reins to Quincy Troupe in 1945. Woods remained as the club's third baseman and was a vital cog in their 1945 title drive. His career, initiated in 1933, ended in 1949 in the Pacific Coast League. Available data reveals a .319 batting average the final six years of Wood's professional career. He played in 4 Black East-West All-Star Games, starting 3.

Troupe led the Buckeyes through 1947. Available figures show a .300 batting average in black major league play with a high of .352 for the 1947 Buckeyes. He was in 5 East-West All-Star Games, being a starting catcher in 4 of them. In 1952 Troupe appeared in 6 games for the Cleveland Indians.

Alonzo Boone was the NAL Buckeyes' last manager. He had appeared as a pitcher for the 1931 Cubs and was reportedly a member of the NNL Cleveland Bears. He was also on the 1942 Buckeyes. Boone pitched for 2 NAL pennant winners: the 1944 Birmingham Black Barons and then returned to the Buckeyes to post a 5-1 record for the 1947 titleist.

III - The Players

Cleveland's black major league teams provided some outstanding individual performers.

The 1924 Browns featured a fine outfield of Vic Harris, Orville Singer and Wilson Redus. Harris later played in six East-West All-Star Games and gained fame as the manager of eight championship clubs for the Homestead Grays. Singer also played for the city's 1928 and 1931 NNL entries and the 1932 EWL Stars. Redus went on to patrol the outer pastures for the St. Louis Stars' 1928, 1930 and 1931 NNL pennant winners. He then returned to Cleveland with the 1932 EWL Stars, 1933 NNL Bears and 1934 NNL Red Sox and appeared in the 1936 and 1937 East-West All-Star Games.

The 1926 Elites displayed another fine outfielder in Tack Summers. Summers was also a member of the 1927 and 1928 clubs. John Wesley Johnson pitched for the Elites as well as the 1924 Browns and 1928 Tigers.

The 1927 Hornets had Edgar Wesley at first base hitting at a .400-plus pace. Wesley had topped the NNL in both batting average (.440) and home runs (18) with the 1925 Detroit Stars.

Nelson Dean came to Cleveland to pitch for the 1927 Hornets and 1928 Tigers and had a tough time notching victories. But after leading NNL pitchers with an 8-3 mark for the 1931 Detroit Stars Dean was back in Cleveland with the 1932 EWL Stars.

Satchel Paige was joined on a fine 1931 Cub pitching staff by Sam Streeter. Streeter later pitched in the 1933 East-West All-Star Game and for the 1935 NNL Champion Pittsburgh Crawfords. Paige hurled for Kansas City's 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1946 NAL flag winners and in five East-West All-Star Games.

1933 saw second baseman Leroy Morney capture the NNL batting crown with .419 and represent Cleveland as a starter in the East-West All-Star Game. Red Sox infielder Pat Patterson played in the 1934 East-West All-Star contest. The lone Bears' East-West All-Star was Parnell Woods in 1939.

Many outstanding players performed for the Buckeyes, twelve representing them in East-West All-Star Games: pitchers Eugene Bremmer (1942,44,45), Chet Brewer (1947) and Theolic Smith (1943), catcher Quincy Troupe (1945,46,47), first baseman Archie Ware (1944,45,46), third basemen Parnell Woods (1942) and Leon Kellman (1949), and outfielders Buddy Armour (1944), Lloyd Davenport (1945), Willie Grace (1946), Dave Hoskins (1949) and Sam Jethroe (1942,44,46,47). Ware led the NAL in 1945 with 39 RBIs, in 1947 with 99 hits and in 1948 with 23 doubles. Kellman topped the NAL with 54 RBIs in 1947. Outfielder Joe Atkins led the Buckeyes and NAL with ten roundtrippers in 1947. Pitcher George Jefferson (11-1) paced the 1945 NAL with a .917 winning percentage while posting a 1.75 ERA for the Buckeyes. However, George's brother Willie, also a Buckeye pitcher, led the 1945 NAL in ERA with 1.57, while ringing up a 10-1 record.

Sam Jethroe, the Buckeyes fleet centerfielder, spearheaded the club's rise to the top of the NAL. Nicknamed Jet, he fashioned a .340 NAL batting average from 1944 through 1948 while topping the league in stolen bases in 1944 (18), 1945 (21), 1947 (50) and 1948 (29), in runs scored in 1944 (55), 1945 (61) and 1947 (90), in hits in 1944 (97), in doubles in 1944 (14) and 1947 (9), in triples in 1945 (10) and 1947 (9), in total bases in 1944 (121), 1945 (123) and 1947 (162) and in at-bats in 1944 (275). Jethroe captured the batting crown with .353 in 1944 and .393 in 1945. He hit .333 in the 1945 Black World Series.

Jethroe left the Buckeyes to join Montreal of the International League midway through the 1948 season. He was an immediate sensation, hitting .322 as the Royals went on to win the Junior World Series. In 1949 Jethroe hit .326 for Montreal and topped the IL in runs (154), hits (207), total bases (330), triples (19) and stolen bases (89). The next year he joined the Boston Braves and became an instant star in the National League, earning Rookie-of-the-Year honors and pacing the major leagues in stolen bases in 1950 (35) and 1951 (35). He played in OB through 1958 (g) and was a pioneer in reviving the art of base stealing at the major league level.

An interesting footnote to the contribution of Cleveland's big league black clubs is that a half dozen of their players went

on to play for the city's American League entry once the race ban was lifted. Satchel Paige (1931 Cubs and 1948 Indians) and Quincy Troupe (1945-47 Buckeyes and 1952 Indians) have been mentioned. Sam Jones (1948 Buckeyes and 1951-52 Indians), Al Smith (1947-48 Buckeyes and 1953-57 Indians), Dave Hoskins (1949 Buckeyes and 1953-54 Indians) and Joe Caffie (1950 Buckeyes and 1956-57 Indians) also accomplished this feat.

With these and other players the 1950s emerged as the most memorable decade in the recently integrated Cleveland Indians' history.

FOOTNOTES

(a) George Tate, club officer and NNL veep, probably owned them.

(b) Based on latest research by SABR Negro League Committee.

(c) Merger of NNL Columbus Bluebirds and an Akron ball club.

(d) Wright owned the Buckeyes through 1949. Wilbur Hayes was owner in 1950.

(e) Duncan possibly managed the 1927 Hornets, also.

(f) Burch, a catcher, played from 1931 through 1944.

(g) Hit .261 in 4 NL seasons, .295 in 8 AAA seasons.

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"History of Colored Baseball" (1907) by Sol White
"Nineteenth Century Stars" by SABR ("Sol White") by Jerry Malloy
"Only the Ball Was White" by Robert Peterson
The Baseball Encyclopedia (Macmillan) 1969
"20 Years Too Soon" by Quincy Troupe
"Beisbol Venezolana (1946-66)" by G. Becerra Mijares
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Baltimore Afro-American

Chicago Defender

Cleveland Call and Post

Erie (PA) Times-News

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Philadelphia Inquirer

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The Essential Cleveland Baseball Library

by Morris Eckhouse

Cleveland has a rich baseball heritage with professional roots dating back to 1869. The Indians are one of just four of the original American League teams of 1901 to represent the same city ever since. And yet, only two widely circulated books devoted exclusively to the history of baseball in Cleveland exist. The essential Cleveland baseball library begins with "The Cleveland Indians" by Franklin Lewis (Putnam, 1949). One of the Putnam team history series, the book goes back to the beginnings of baseball in Cleveland, covering the Spiders of the American Association and the National League. Lewis, a long-time sports editor of the Cleveland Press, chronicles Cleveland's American League history right up through the amazing 1948 World Championship season.

In "Day By Day in Cleveland Indians History" (Leisure Press, 1983) my goal was to pick up where Lewis left off as well as concentrate on the great games and great seasons in Tribe history. One of several day-by-day books published in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Cleveland book offers highlights from each day of the calendar year plus reviews of post season games, trades, records and nicknames.

Cleveland baseball fans owe a debt of thanks to John Phillips. Through his Capital Publishing Company, Phillips has produced work after work on various aspects of Cleveland baseball.

Chronologically, begin with "The Spiders — Who Was Who." Phillips provides brief sketches of all players who wore the Spiders' uniform during the years 1889 to 1899 from Pete Allen to Chief Zimmer. Phillips devotes a full volume to the most infamous club in Spiders' history, the 1899 team that compiled a won-loss record of 20-134.

"Who Was Who in Cleveland Baseball in 1901-10" by John Phillips is another compilation of biographical sketches from Cleveland's first American League decade. Hall of Famers Addie Joss, Nap Lajoie, Elmer Flick and Cy Young receive special emphasis.

SABR can take credit for publishing the first biography of Cleveland's first modern (since 1901) superstar in the Spring, 1988 issue of "The National Pastime." "Napoleon Lajoie — Modern Baseball's First Superstar" by J.M. Murphy recounts Nap's entire career including such Cleveland highlights as his eight-for-eight performance to "win" the 1910 batting title, the 1908 pennant race, and his 3,000th hit in 1914. Phillips details Lajoie's first season in Cleveland with his book on the 1902 Cleveland Blues, "When Lajoie Came to Town."

Long before the Rocky Colavito-Harvey Kuenn trade, Cleveland made an equally outrageous move by trading "Shoeless Joe" Jackson, still the all-time batting average leader in club history. As supplemental reading, "Say It Ain't So, Joe" (Little, Brown, 1979) is both a fine biography of Jackson and a look into his years with Cleveland from 1910 to 1915.

The Indians, as Cleveland's AL team has been known as since 1915, reached and won their first World Series in 1920, one of the most remarkable and important seasons in major league history.

One of the best recent works of baseball history chronicles that season by following the careers of pitcher Carl Mays of the New York Yankees and shortstop Ray Chapman of the Indians. Mike Sowell tells the story of the only fatal beaming in major league history in "The Pitch That Killed" (Macmillan, 1989), winner of the Casey Award as best baseball book of the year. Phillips uses the day-by-day style to recount that remarkable season in "The 1920 Indians."

The Indians had fine seasons in 1921 and 1926. Only the Yankees had more AL wins in the 1930s than Cleveland. But, the biggest event in Cleveland baseball between the 1920 World Series and 1940 was the arrival of Bob Feller in 1936. Feller's first autobiography, "Strikeout Story" (A.S. Barnes, 1947), acceptably covers Rapid Robert's life and Cleveland career until 1946. His new biography, "Now Pitching, Bob Feller" (Birch Lane Press, 1990), re-hashes the old material, but also provides a look at the years from 1948 to 1956.

Feller was the first Tribe player to have his uniform number retired, Lou Boudreau was the second. "Player-Manager" (Little, Brown, 1949) is the autobiography of Cleveland's shortstop throughout the 1940s, manager from 1942 to 1950, and AL Most Valuable Player in 1948. Published after the 1948 season, Boudreau's book discusses his entire career, but emphasizes Cleveland's World Championship season of 1948.

Boudreau was the on-field architect of Cleveland's second World Series winner, but club owner Bill Veeck was the acknowledged genius whose tireless promoting and shrewd moves produced the most exciting baseball season ever on the north coast. Veeck tells his side of the 1948 story, including how he nearly traded Boudreau before the season, in his biography "Veeck As In Wreck" (Putnam, 1962).

Two of Veeck's biggest moves involved the integration of the junior circuit. Larry Doby, forever overshadowed by Jackie Robinson, became the first Black player in AL history and spent a decade in Cleveland. Joseph Moore is Doby's biographer in "Pride Against Prejudice" (Praeger, 1988). In 1948, Veeck brought Negro League legend Satchel Paige to the bigs. Paige tells his story in "Maybe I'll Pitch Forever" (Doubleday, 1962) and Cleveland sportswriter Hal Lebovitz follows Satch's amazing "rookie" season in "Pitchin' Man" (self-published). Another bold move by Veeck brought Hall of Fame slugger Hank Greenberg into the Tribe front office in 1948. Hank remained in Cleveland following Bill's 1949 departure and ran the club until 1957. "Hank Greenberg — The Story of My Life" (with Ira Berkow, Times Books, 1989) recalls his controversial reign and efforts to move the team to Minnesota.

Cleveland's 1949 season was a disappointment compared with the glory of 1948, but, argues author Bruce Dudley, more like the majority of Tribe seasons with great expectations that went unfulfilled. "Distant Drums: The 1949 Cleveland Indians Revisited" (self-published) features interviews with almost every member of that club and a look at how the defending champions

fared a year later.

The years 1946 to 1956 were, arguably, the best in Tribe history. "Cleveland Baseball Winners" by John Phillips is a "Who's Who" look at the members of the Indians during those years. The members of the 1954 club banded together to dethrone the Yankees with an AL record 111 victories. Unfortunately, Cleveland could not add a single win to those 111 in the 1954 World Series. Some Tribe fans might argue that the biggest turning point in modern club history was September 29, 1954. Arnold Hano's "A Day in the Bleachers" (Crowell, 1955) is a baseball classic; an in-depth, personal, inning-by-inning account of the first game of the 1954 World Series. For those that remember April 17, 1960 as the darkest day in Tribe annals, "Don't Knock the Rock" (World, 1966) by Gordon Cobbledick recounts the life of Rocky Colavito, the biggest baseball star in Cleveland since Bob Feller.

A strong argument can be made that the Indians have never recovered from the Colavito trade. Most of the significant moments in Tribe history since have been of a transient nature and due to the individual brilliance of a single athlete. Gaylord Perry was such an athlete. Obtained in a trade from the Giants, Perry won the Cy Young Award for Cleveland in 1972 and gained national headlines with his "does he or doesn't he (throw a spitball)" act. His confessional, "Me and the Spitter" (Saturday Review Press, 1974), looks at Perry's entire career through the 1973 season.

The Indians made integration headlines again by making Frank Robinson the first Black manager in modern major league history in 1974. "Frank: The First Year" (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1976) by Robinson and Dave Anderson is a diary of that season, ironically highlighted by a feud between Robinson and Perry. Local Cleveland sportswriter Russ Schneider also looked at that landmark season in "Frank Robinson: The Making of a Manager" (Coward, McCann, Geohegan, 1976).

The player that, no matter how briefly, excited Cleveland baseball fans like no player since Colavito was Joe Charboneau, profiled in "Super Joe" (Stein and Day, 1981). Joe was a one-year wonder. The most recent player to make a long-term impact on the Tribe was Andre Thornton. His book, "Triumph Born of Tragedy" (Harvest House, 1983) deals primarily with Thornton's religious beliefs, but provides insight into the most popular Tribe star of the 1970s and 1980s.

Another enlightening look inside the Indians of the late 70s and early '80s comes from "A Baseball Winter" (Macmillan, 1986) by Terry Pluto and Jeffrey Neuman. Pluto and Neuman describe the 1984-85 off-season doings of several clubs, including the Indians. A vivid picture of a floundering franchise emerges.

An integral part of Cleveland baseball has been the two homes of the AL club. "League Park" (self-published) by Peter Jedick is a monograph on the home of the Tribe until 1946. "Cleveland Municipal Stadium" (Cleveland Landmarks Press, 1981) by Jim Toman and Dan Cook deals with the development, construction and overall use of the mammoth lakefront facility.

Many aspects of Cleveland baseball have yet to be discussed. The Cleveland Buckeyes were one of the most successful Negro League clubs during the 1940s. Star catcher Quincy Troupe tells his story in "20 Years Too Soon" (S & S Enterprises, 1977). Still less literature is available on Cleveland's sandlot and minor league teams.

The essential Cleveland baseball library is sure to expand. Tris Speaker, Sam McDowell, the 1908 and 1940 AL pennant races, and Cleveland baseball in the 1950s are just some subjects that deserve full-length treatment. Such books would not only add to Cleveland baseball literature but enhance the written record of baseball in general.

Cleveland Indians All-Time Teams

by Morris Eckhouse

An enjoyable and on-going ritual of baseball is the periodic selection of various all-time teams. All-time rosters have been selected for individual teams, ethnic groups, sluggers, base stealers, and so on. A variety of all-time teams have been selected for the Cleveland Indians. The following sample includes a mythical team chosen by fans voting in local Cleveland newspapers in 1951, the 50th anniversary of both the Indians and the American League, one from *The Ronald Encyclopedia of Baseball* edited by Joseph Reichler in 1962, one chosen by fans and media through polling by the Cleveland Press during professional baseball's centennial season of 1969, and one from the authors of "The All-Time All-Star Baseball Book" (Bart and Nick Acocella and Donald Dewey).

Pos.	1951	Ronald	1969	All-Star Book
1B	Hal Trosky	G. Stovall	Hal Trosky	Hal Trosky
2B	Nap Lajoie	Nap Lajoie	Nap Lajoie	Nap Lajoie
3B	Ken Keltner	Bill Bradley	Ken Keltner	Al Rosen
SS	Joe Sewell	Lou Boudreau	Lou Boudreau	Lou Boudreau
OF	Joe Jackson	Joe Jackson	Joe Jackson	Larry Doby
OF	Tris Speaker	Tris Speaker	Tris Speaker	Tris Speaker
OF	Earl Averill	Earl Averill	C. Jamieson	C. Jamieson
C	S. O'Neill	S. O'Neill	S. O'Neill	S. O'Neill
P	Cy Young	Joe Shaute (L)	Vean Gregg (L)	Bob Feller
P	Mel Harder	Bob Feller (R)& Addie Joss (R)	Bob Feller (R)	
Mgr		Al Lopez		Al Lopez

(Note: Boudreau and Feller were not eligible for the 1951 selection because both were still active players.)

In 1989, the Indians ran a fan poll to choose an all-time 24-man squad. These choices included Feller, Harder, Joss, plus Bob Lemon, Early Wynn, Sam McDowell, Gaylord Perry, Mike Garcia, Stan Coveleski and Herb Score. Joining infielders Boudreau, Lajoie, Trosky and Keltner were Al Rosen, Andre Thornton and Joe Gordon. Leading the outfielders was modern fan favorite Rocky Colavito, followed by Speaker, Larry Doby, Averill, Joe Carter and Jackson. The catchers were O'Neill and Jim Hegan.

Disregarding the 1989 selections, the most striking feature of all these all-time teams is the old-time nature of the clubs. On the Ronald squad, only Feller was an active player beyond 1952. Rapid Robert is again the most recent retiree (1956) on the squad

chosen in 1969. "The All-Time All-Star Baseball Book" adds an element of youth by including Doby who retired in 1959. Even the 24 players chosen in 1989 feature just seven active since 1960 (Wynn, McDowell, Perry, Score, Thornton, Colavito and Carter).

Playing the all-time all-star team game can lead in many directions. A Cleveland team based on most home runs in one season would be comprised of catcher John Romano (25 home runs in 1962), first baseman Hal Trosky (42, 1936), second baseman Joe Gordon (32, 1948), shortstop Woody Held (29, 1959), third baseman Al Rosen (43, 1953), leftfielder Leon Wagner (31, 1964) and rightfielder Rocky Colavito (42, 1959). Two centerfielders, Earl Averill and Larry Doby, each had a pair of 32-homer seasons. Andre Thornton's 31 homers in 1982 are the most for a Tribesman playing designated hitter. Wes Ferrell's nine home runs in 1931 is a record among pitchers for the Indians and all major league baseball.

How about Cleveland's "A Squad"? You might have Joe Adcock at first base, Bobby Avila at second, Ken Aspromonte at shortstop, Max Alvis at third, Averill, Tommie Agee and Benny Ayala in the outfield, Alan Ashby catching and Johnny Allen pitching. They could play a "B Squad" with Bruce Bochte at first, Jack Brohamer at second, Boudreau at short and Buddy Bell at third, Bobby Bonds, Walter Bond and Brett Butler in the outfield, Moe Berg catching and Jim Bagby Sr. pitching.

An All-Time defensive team for the Tribe might consist of first baseman Vic Power, second baseman Lajoie, shortstop Boudreau, third baseman Graig Nettles, outfielders Speaker, Colavito and Jimmy Piersall, catcher Ray Fosse and pitcher Phil Niekro.

Perhaps the most fitting all-star team would be one based on selections to the All-Star game. Cleveland's team would include pitcher Feller (eight selections), shortstop Boudreau, outfielder Doby, and third baseman Keltner (seven each), outfielder Averill (six), catcher Hegan (five), second baseman Avila and outfielder Colavito (two each). At first base, we might shift Rosen across the diamond.

The possibilities are endless (unlike the pennantless drought of 35 plus years in the Wigwam, I hope). Perhaps thoughts of the tallest Tribe team, the heaviest (with Garland Buckeye edging out Jumbo Brown as starting pitcher), the smartest (with Berg catching) and others will send you scrambling to the record books.



Four stars of the record setting, pennant winning 1954 Indians; Jim Hegan, Dale Mitchell, Ray Narleski and Early Wynn (l to r).
The Cleveland Press Collection/Cleveland State University Archives



Cleveland's three great players of the first quarter of the 20th century, soon after the opening of Cleveland Municipal Stadium; Tris Speaker, Nap Lajoie and Cy Young (l to r) (August 11, 1932).
The Cleveland Press Collection/Cleveland State University Archives



Manager Steve O'Neill counsels his teenage pitching star Bob Feller (May 19, 1937).
The Cleveland Press Collection/Cleveland State University Archives



Ray Chapman's grave site at Lake View Cemetery



Charles W. Mears
(credit Cleveland Public Library)



The Cleveland Forest City team of the United States League at Luna Park field on May 1, 1912. Two of the former major league players on the team were Joe Delehanty, bottom row, second from the right, and Howard Wakefield at the extreme right of the top row. Manager Rowdy Jack O'Connor is seated in the second row, fourth from the left.

The Cleveland Press Collection/Cleveland State University Archives



Cleveland's League Park

Bruce Young's Pretty Good Photographs, Cleveland, Ohio



Rocky Colavito receives a contract for \$29,000 after "winning" an arm wrestling contest with General Manager Frank Lane (January 19, 1959).

The Cleveland Press Collection/Cleveland State University Archives



Bill Veeck burns Lou Boudreau's old contract and presents him with a new one containing a substantial raise (January 25, 1949).

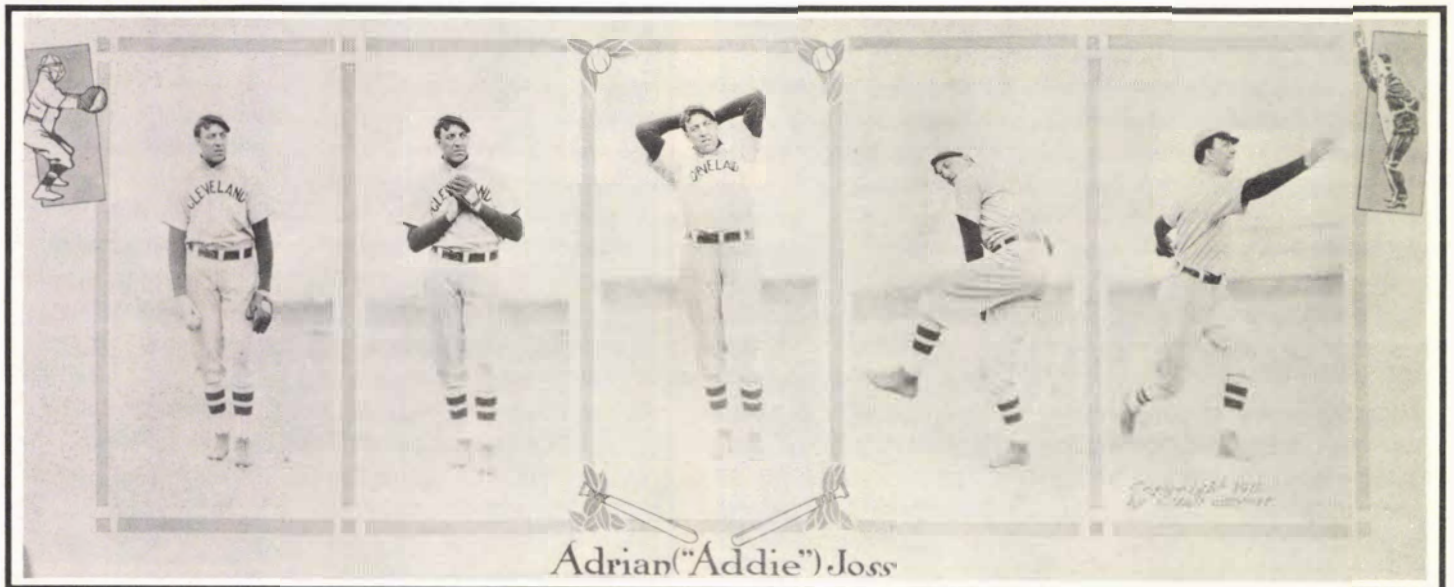
The Cleveland Press Collection/Cleveland State University Archives



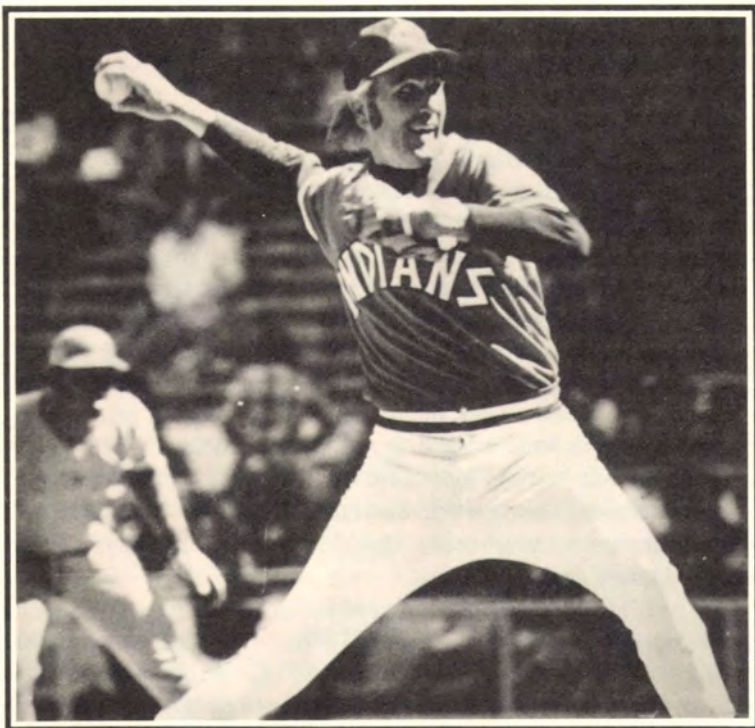
A close-up portion of the 1926 Indians' squad during spring training at Lakeland, Florida shows playing manager Tris Speaker at the right in the first row and fellow Hall of Famer Joe Sewell at the left in the second row. Garland Buckeye, second from the left, dominates the top row. The Cleveland Press Collection/Cleveland State University Archives



Cy Young looks on as Cleveland mayor Frank Lausche presents Mel Harder with a \$1,000 bond in honor of his many years of service with the Indians. The Cleveland Press Collection/Cleveland State University Archives

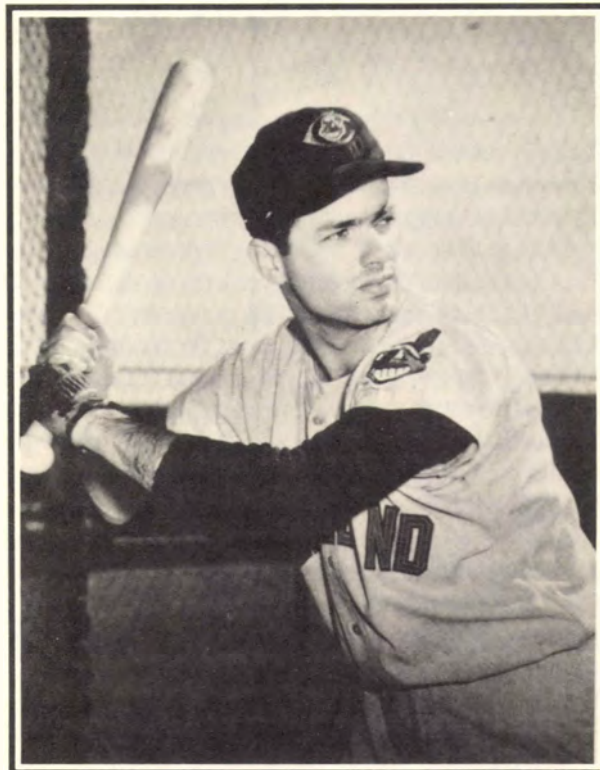


Addie Joss
(Credit Western Reserve Historical Society)



Jim Perry, a star of the 1959 Indians, is shown here in his second stint with the Tribe (April 9, 1974).

The Cleveland Press Collection/Cleveland State University Archives



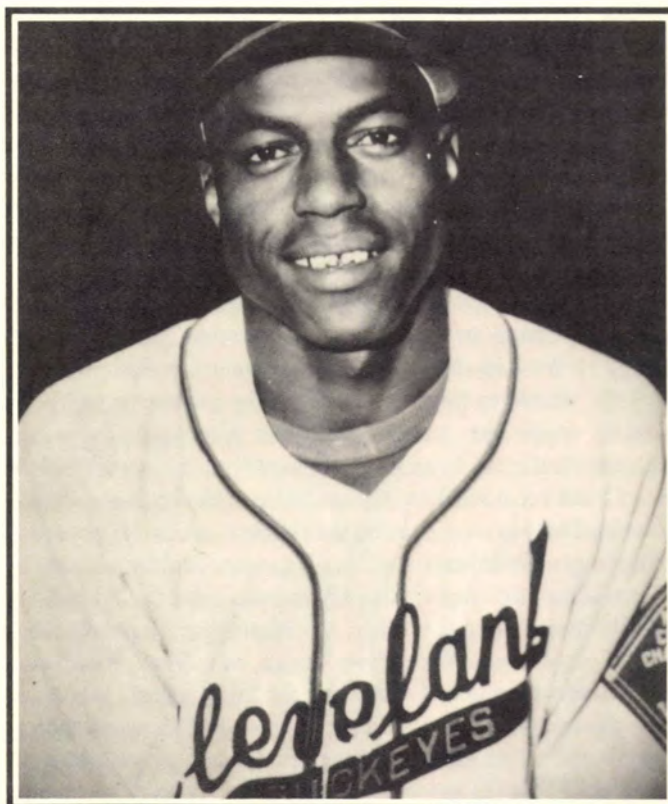
The Indians' most popular player of the post World War II era, Rocky Colavito (April 16, 1958).

The Cleveland Press Collection/Cleveland State University Archives



Oscar Vitt, controversial manager of the 1940 Indians, is shown with General Manager Cy Slapnicka soon after becoming Tribe manager (March 22, 1938).

The Cleveland Press Collection/Cleveland State University Archives



Sam Jethroe, star of the 1945 Negro League champion Cleveland Buckeyes (July 9, 1947).

The Cleveland Press Collection/Cleveland State University Archives

The Cleveland Forest Citys, 1912

by Frank Phelps

During early 1912 two proposed leagues struggled to gain a foothold outside Organized Baseball. In the middle west the Columbian League failed for lack of enough capital and quickly dissolved, a disappointment to its prime sponsor, John T. Powers of Chicago, who would launch the Federal League a year later. The other upstart, the United States League, did attract sufficient money and backing to begin a 126-game schedule on May 1 with Eastern clubs at New York, Reading, Pa. (home of USL founder William Abbot Witman, Jr.), Richmond Va., and Washington D.C., and Western teams at Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh, absorbing elements of the defunct Columbian circuit. The USL elected Witman president-treasurer, Pittsburgher Marshall Henderson secretary, and adopted an 18-player roster limit, the lively Goldsmith baseball, and OB's playing and administrative rules, except as they concerned territorial rights. The League called itself an "independent", not an "outlaw" because it pledged itself to respect existing OB player contracts and sign free agents only. Nevertheless the OB establishment never failed to refer to the USL as an "outlaw."

Most USL clubs signed their players during April. Their rosters included mainly out-of-work minor leaguers, local semipro, amateurs, and some "has-been" major leaguers, both of the "cup of coffee" short stay variety and of the ex-regulators like George Brown (OF 1901-12), Jack Cronin (P 1895-1904), Hemus McFarland (OF 1896-1903), Frank Owen (P 1901-09), Big Jeff Pfeffer (P 1905-11), Deacon Phillippe (P 1899-1922), Bugs Raymond (P 1904-11), Claude Ritchey (2B 1897-1909), and Socks Seybold (OF 1899-1908). A few little-known youngsters would make the majors later, like Ernie Johnson (SS 1912-25) and Frank Bruggy (C 1921-25). Altogether about thirty-five of the 206 USL active players reached the bigs before or afterwards. Browne and Phillippe were playing managers for Washington and Pittsburgh, USL. (Cleveland's players will be identified further below.)

The season began May 1 with high hopes, good crowds, and apparently sound and efficient administration, yet three weeks later, with Western clubs about to make their first Eastern swing, the USL started to flounder. During May extremely inclement weather wiped out many games and made enduring others miserable business. Lost revenues hurt both the majors and the minors and some smaller leagues failed. The weather problem, combined with growing public indifference to Class B grade ball in big league cities, sunk the USL. Expenses could not be met by 50 cent admissions from 300 to 400 attendees and capital reserves quickly disappeared. On May 21 Washington gave up when unpaid players quit. Within two weeks New York, Richmond, and Cincinnati followed suit. After the last regularly scheduled games were conducted on June 1, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Reading, and reformed Richmond and Cincinnati teams played intermittently until June 23 when Pittsburgh and Chicago concluded a three-game series at Chicago. All attempts to revive individual clubs and the league failed.

Preseason prospects for the Cleveland club, the Forest Citys (sometimes the Forest Cities), seemed promising. Franchise president W.L. Murphy secured as manager Rowdy Jack O'Connor, 21-year major leaguer and a most popular Cleveland

NL player from 1892 through 1898, available because he had been dismissed as St. Louis AL manager after the 1910 incident intended to give Nap Lajoie the batting title over Ty Cobb. O'Connor arrived at Cleveland on April 10 and set up headquarters at the Gillsy Hotel, preparatory to signing players and initiating practices. Murphy contracted for home games to be played on the grounds of Luna Park, a well known amusement resort since 1906, located at Woodland Avenue and Woodhill Road, about four miles east of Public Square. Hurriedly during the last two weeks of April, a grandstand, a pavilion, and bleachers were erected to seat 4,600 spectators at a cost of \$15,000. Murphy announced that ticket prices, ranging from 25 cents to 50 cents would also entitle holders to enter the Park's amusement area free; and that Mondays and Thursdays would be Ladies' Days.

The team O'Connor assembled in April included former big leaguers: Joe Delahanty (1907-09), OF; Jerry Freeman (1908-09) 1B; Howard Wakefield (1905-07), C-OF; Doc Moyer (1910), P; and others: George Ort (Pacific Coast veteran), RF; Roy Kirby (Youngstown 1911), SS; Green (Fort Worth 1911), C; Bill Britten, 3B, M. Hobart, 2B, and C. Hobart, P (Cleveland semipro); Selig, 2B and Stringer, LF (probably semipro); Clay Blanke (Duluth 1911), P; Rube Walters (Canton, OH), P; and Bill Rafferty (Western Reserve University), P. Later acquisitions included Harry Kirsch (AL 1910), P; Sandy Murray (Wheeling 1911), 2B; Orendorff, (who may have been Jesse Orendorff NL 1907); and "Schack" (Erie 1912), P.

The Forest Citys lost their opener at Luna Park to the Pittsburgh Filipinos (so called for Phillippe), 7-11, before 3,697 people, then dropped the balance of the series, 5-6 and 4-12, with attendance falling to 562 and 423. The record evened at 3-3 when Cleveland swept a series with the Chicago Green Sox. From then on the Forest Citys lost more than they won and reached totals of eight wins, thirteen losses, through June 1 when the league's tottering status terminated Cleveland's play. Attempts were made to transfer the club to St. Louis to be backed by Otto Stiefel, a brewing executive there. O'Connor kept the team together until it became obvious the transfer possibility was dead. Playing only against the other Western clubs, the Forest Citys were 1-8 versus Pittsburgh, easily the USL's strongest team, but 4-3 and 3-2 against Chicago and Cincinnati. Like all franchises except Pittsburgh, Cleveland lost money despite a few crowds exceeding 1,000. During the first three weeks of the season the team played ten home dates, including two doubleheaders, and four away dates, but lost six others to the weather, including three Sundays, two being at home.

The usual Cleveland batting order went Britten, Freeman, Ort, Delahanty, Selig or later Murray, Stringer, Kirby, Green, pitcher. Delahanty was the offensive star, hitting .414 and tallying three of the club's seven homers. Occasionally the newspapers praised Kirby's fielding and Ort's catches. When O'Connor missed a couple games attending his mother's funeral in St. Louis, Freeman became acting manager.

The Forest Citys' high point had to be the May 8 game at Chicago. Cleveland trailed 8-3 with bases full of Green Sox and none out in the bottom of the sixth when O'Connor yanked

ineffective Doc Moyer (and released him shortly afterwards) and sent in a recruit just arrived from Erie called "Shack" by the newspapers. The 19-year old righthander immediately struck out the side and the next five hitters in the seventh and eighth. In his four innings, he gave no runs, no hits, two walks and struck out eleven. Cleveland scored ten times in the eighth and won, 15-8, with "Shack" scoring twice and even stealing a base. This remarkable young man was Al Schacht (AL 1919-21), the future famous comedian-coach. Dubbed "Wonder Boy" by the press, he subsequently pitched twice more, winning and losing complete

games for a 2-1 record, not 5-0 as he said in his autobiography, "My Own Particular Screwball" (1955). Al furnished a reasonably accurate version of his brilliant relief appearance, however, and remembered with warmth the friendly encouragement he received from Howard Wakefield when the lonely newcomer first joined the club. The final standings shown below includes all games between USL teams up through June 23 and consequently differs from the standing which appeared in the Reach Official American League Base Ball Guide for 1913:

	<u>G</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>Home Field</u>	<u>Manager</u>	<u>Pres.</u>	<u>Last Game</u>
Pittsburgh	44	27	17	.614	-	Exposition Park	Deacon Phillippe	W. J. McCullough	June 23
Richmond	35	21	14	.600	-	Lee Park	Alf Newman	E.C. Landgraf	June 19
Chicago	33	17	15	.531	1	Gunther Park	Burt Keely	Wm. C. Niessen	June 23
Cincinnati	28	14	13	.519	1	Gilberts Park	Jimmy Barton	John J. Ryan	June 18
Reading	26	12	12	.500	2	Circus Maximus	Leo Groom	Wm. A. Witman, Jr.	June 5
Washington	15	6	8	.429	1	Union League Park	George Brown	Kohley Miller	May 26
								Kid Carsey	
Cleveland	21	8	13	.381	-	Luna Park	Jack O'Connor	W. L. Murphy	June 1
New York	18	2	15	.118	1	Bronx Oval	Wm. Jordan	Wm. Jonian	May 26

CLEVELAND USL 1912 BATTING AND PITCHING

The statistics below are compiled from newspaper accounts and box scores. For a few games ABs and BBs have been estimated because papers omitted ABs or box scores failed to prove.

	<u>G</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>BA</u>	<u>POS & G</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>CG</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>BB</u>
Blancke, Clay	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.000	P 2	0	1	11	1	-	15	15	8	6
Britten, William	15	50	16	11	1	-	1	23	12	.220	3B 15									
Burke	1	4	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	.500	2B 1									
*Delahanty, Joseph	16	58	12	24	5	-	3	8	3	.414	OF 16									
Duff, Sam	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.000	P 1	0	1	.1	-	-	4	2	-	1
*Freeman, Jerry	21	79	23	26	3	1	-	12	8	.321	1B 21									
Green	20	70	7	19	5	2	-	3	5	.271	C 19									
Herron, John	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.000	P 1	0	0	1	-	-	4	3	1	1
Hobart, C.	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.250	2B 1									
Keene	4	11	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	.182	P 4	3	0	24	2	1	10	31	6	10
Kirby, Roy	21	70	11	21	2	1	1	12	6	.309	SS 21									
*Kirsch, Harry	1	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	.333	P 1	0	1	8	1	-	11	11	4	2
Milan	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.000	P 1	0	1	1	-	-	4	4	1	2
Miller	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.000	P 1	0	0	.2	-	-	2	2	1	3
*Moyer, Doc	4	8	2	3	-	1	-	1	-	.375	P 4	1	1	23.2	-	1	23	37	1	39
Murray, Sandy	7	24	4	5	-	-	-	3	2	.208	2B 7									
O'Donnell, Willie	1	5	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	.200	3B 1									
?*Orendorff	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	.333	C 1									
Ort, George	21	85	16	23	8	2	1	11	6	.271	OF21 2B	2								
Patton	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.000	P 2	0	1	8	-	1	11	15	1	4
Peterson, Billy	4	16	5	4	2	-	-	3	2	.250	OF 1									
Pfeiffer	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.000	OF 1									
Rafferty, Bill	5	10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	.100	P 5	0	3	27	2	2	25	33	812	
*Schacht, Al	3	10	2	2	-	-	-	1	1	.200	P 3	2	1	22	2	1	12	22	18	7
Selig	12	38	7	7	-	-	-	6	2	.184	2B 11									
Shaylor	4	13	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	.077	P 4	1	0	25	1	3	14	24	15	4
Stark	4	7	2	2	-	1	-	1	1	.286	P 2	1	1	17	1	1	7	15	7	3
Stringer	18	66	10	16	1	-	1	3	3	.286	P 2									
*Wakefield, Howard	16	45	6	14	1	-	-	4	2	.311	OF 8 C2									
Walters, Rube	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.000	P 2	0	1	4	-	-	13	12	2	2
Team	21	712	134	194	29	10	7	95	54	.272	8	13	178.2	10	11	161	236	85	70	
*Major Leaguers																				

The Federal League of Base Ball Clubs

E. Vernon Luse

In the spring of 1913, the Organized Base Ball monopoly seemed to have very successfully driven the "outlaw" organizations to cover. An eastern-based United States League was in the process of organization, but with little financial backing, and appeared — rightly — to have little future stability. In fact, no club would play more than two of the scheduled games before the league wilted into the dust. This league may still be "operating" — it was never formally disbanded!

Appearances are often deceiving, for, on March 8, 1913, John T. Powers called a meeting of interested baseball investors in Indianapolis; a new Federal League of Base Ball Clubs was formed, with Powers as President. Powers had been the president of the 1912 Columbian League, and was said to be connected with the USL Pittsburgh franchise which was reputed to have gained a profit before the US League fell apart.

Franchises were issued to Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis (each home of at least one major league team) and Indianapolis, which was an American Association franchise. Two more franchises were to be placed by President Powers, with Detroit the most favored location.

Problems arose immediately at Cincinnati (site of a 1912 USL franchise). Many bills had been left unpaid at time of disbandment, and the National League team — the Reds — was opposing the location of a new ball park within the city by political action. An alternate site was chosen across the Ohio River at Covington, Kentucky, where the ball park could actually be placed closer to the city center of Cincinnati than the existing Reds' field. Organized Base Ball had turned down Covington as a location for a Blue Grass League (Class D) franchise earlier in 1913, and had even "thrown out" the Blue Grass League, apparently for its temerity in suggesting competition for August Herrmann's beloved Reds.

Each team was required to be incorporated (and capitalized at a minimum value of \$100,000). A forfeit of \$5,000 per team was required of each team. The league, incorporated under Indiana law, elected as officers M.R. Bromley (Cleveland) vice-president; James A. Ross (Indianapolis) Secretary; and John A. George (Indianapolis) Treasurer. The Board of Managers was William T. McCullough (Pittsburgh); Michael Kenney (St. Louis); Charles X. Zimmerman (Cleveland); John A. Spinney (Cincinnati); Ross, George and John S. Powell (Indianapolis); and Charles L. Sherlock (Chicago).

In an effort to keep clear of Organized Ball, The Federal League declared that it had no intention of trying to secure players from either the major or minor leagues, but would recruit its players from leagues not under the National Agreement.

With the season due to start soon after May 1, each new team began to sign their field managers—Chicago's announcement of the signing of Burt Keeley leading the pack. Sam Leever signed up with Covington, "Deacon" Philippe resumed his USL post as manager in Pittsburgh and "Whoa Bill" Phillips, a former Indianapolis star pitcher, agreed to take the Indianapolis post.

When Jack O'Connor agreed to terms in St. Louis, all teams but Cleveland had hired managers. The management in Cleveland, a conservative group with Luna ball park already in hand, announced that they were going to appoint old Cy Young as manager — but only when all other clubs had posted full forfeits. Young signed formally on April 24.

With the short time between signing their manager and the May 3 opening of the schedule, it was not surprising that several of the Cleveland players were never in later Federal lineups — they were local amateurs, some (probably) playing under pseudonyms. Luckily for Cleveland, and for their Covington opposition, the opener resulted in a 6-6, ten-inning tie. By the next day, both teams presented complete nines of true professionals, and the quality of the game improved, with a 4-1 Cleveland victory, followed, on May 5, by a 5-2 Covington triumph. In the series finale, on May 6, Covington eked out a ninth-inning run to produce a 2-1 win.

May 6 was also opening day at Pittsburgh and St. Louis. Both Indianapolis and Pittsburgh had well-organized teams and presented lineups which were indicative of their alignment for the rest of the season. Foreshadowing season-long results, the "Hoosier Feds" defeated the "Filipinos" 9 to 5. At St. Louis Manager Jack O'Connor was the best known man on his team, owing to his long career in the big leagues. He was also the St. Louis manager who had allowed Lajoie his famous 8-for-8 season-ending day to "beat out" Ty Cobb for the Chalmers automobile. The Chicago team was well organized, and with a complement of "permanent" players, while O'Connor had to recruit heavily from the local Trolley League for many of his players. Though the Trolley League was very strong, its players were just not up to Federal League play, so that St. Louis opened with a 7-4 loss.

Chicago continued its good work throughout the month of May, leading on May 31 with a 14-8 record, while the amateurish Cleveland "Youngsters" (officially Green Sox) brought up the rear at 8-14.

Both Covington and Indianapolis had opened on the road, but each announced the attendance at their opening game — Covington, 6,000, and Indianapolis, 7,000. On May 11, their first at-home Sunday game, the Hoosier-Feds drew 18,507 to their new park — Riverside. Thanks to provision for auto parking on the grounds, over 200 auto parties were in the crowd.

On May 16, one of the eeriest no-hit games of baseball history was pitched by "Chief" Raymer (Rehmer) of St. Louis. Actually, in the fourth inning, third baseman Warren, of Pittsburgh, singled "and then was declared out for batting out of turn." This was Pittsburgh's only hit. Rehmer/Raymer was from Belleville, Illinois, an across-the-river suburb of St. Louis, and had previously played in the Trolley League. The Illinois littoral was littered with German settlements, including Belleville and Germantown, the village associated with "Red" Schoendienst. Thus, although the name was spelled Raymer in most boxes and game

writups, I feel very confident Rehmer was the proper spelling of this name. Conceding to the majority, we have spelled it Raymer in the statistics.

At Covington, May 28, Indianapolis introduced a new first baseman, O'Day. By the time O'Day had played four games, and the Hoosier Feds had returned to Indianapolis, O'Day had been recognized as a career minor leaguer, "Biddie" Dolan. Dolan finished out the season as the outstanding Indianapolis player, and played on the 1914 Federal League (major league) team.

June was the month of decision for the Federal League. Although the Federal League had been termed "independent" in most sources, the teams had carefully refrained from signing contracted Organized Base Ball players. The OB people proved to have less restraint, and, on June 15, signed pitcher Ben Taylor (7-3) and shortstop James Scott (.336) of the Indianapolis team. Outfielder Charles H. "Silk" Kavanaugh (.488) and several other Chicago players were reputed to have jumped the Federal League, and the major leagues and American Association announced open warfare against the "outlaws." Kavanaugh may have declined to leave Chicago because he was in the midst of a record hitting streak. Beginning May 11, and continuous until the second game on June 26, Kavanaugh hit in thirty-seven consecutive games. During the streak, he had 66 hits in 140 times at bat, a .471 percentage. Kavanaugh's streak-stopper was only five innings, and he had only one official at-bat in the game.

After the initial enthusiasm, the Covington team had been having trouble drawing paying crowds. Handicapped by a very small ballpark, games tended to be slugfests. So short were the fences that "home run posts" had to be set so that balls out of the park outside the posts were only two-base hits. As the season wore on, the home run posts crept closer together, reflecting the greater skills of the hitters in the league. Finally, Covington backers announced their desire to give up their franchise; Toledo, Baltimore and Kansas City became the cities which were expected to replace Covington. Thus, although Covington's team had had a winning record (21-20) it played its last game June 26, after which it became the Kansas City Packers.

The month of June was excellent for two teams: Indianapolis and Cleveland. By month's end, Indianapolis was leading Chicago by four full games, and Cleveland had achieved fourth place with a winning record. Pittsburgh had only a 5-22 won-lost record and had grabbed a firm hold on last place.

July was another good month for both Indianapolis and Cleveland. On July 31, Cleveland was in second place. Pittsburgh, with a winning record in July, was still in last place, while Kansas City, in spite of playing in a brand-new ball park, was sinking rapidly toward last place. Meanwhile, Chicago and St. Louis were converging toward a battle for third and fourth place at or near .500.

One reason for the showing of the Chicago team had been erased July 5; the entire management team of the club resigned, and a new set of officers headed by President James A. Gilmore took over. Field Manager Bert Keeley received a vote of confidence and was retained.

August 2 saw an important league meeting, during which President Powers was placed on vacation and Gilmore, of Chicago, appointed acting president. Powers had been effective in organizing and starting up the league, but, as time went on, had

made some bad, and arrogant, decisions which had agitated most of the money-men in the league. Under Gilmore, the Federal League promised to fight the raids by Organized Base Ball on a man-for-man basis.

August proved to be the last month of the "race" for the first Federal League pennant. Indianapolis, already with a substantial lead, played nearly .800 ball to completely swamp second-place Cleveland. Their success also caused the release of Samuel Leever (Covington, then Kansas City manager) on August 11, and his replacement by Hugo Swartling. Swartling, with a group of Steubenville (Interstate League) players had joined Kansas City after the breakup of their league in mid-July. Swartling, a first baseman as well as Steubenville manager, was injured on August 12, but finished out the season as bench manager.

After the close of the season, plans were made for a series of exhibition games in Indianapolis, matching the Hoosier Fed champions against an All-Star aggregation of Federal League players. President Krause, of Indianapolis' team, announced that all gate receipts would be divided between the opposing teams. As so often happens, though, not until September 21 did the weather allow playing of even the first game. On that date, it was decided to play two games, both of which were won by the Hoosier Feds.

The appended statistics are based on 100% of games played by Federal League teams. Newspapers are the only source for these games. In those cases in which local boxscores have differed from telegraph boxes in other cities, the local box — subject to check against the game account, if any — has been used in these compilations.

A research project of this magnitude is much greater than a one-man job, even over a two-year period. Ray Nemec worked his way through several of the Chicago newspapers looking for just one which had printed the AB column. Bob Tiemann supplied copies of all the St. Louis boxes, as did Bill Carle the Kansas City boxes. Two Indianapolis newspapers, the Cincinnati Enquirer (Kentucky edition), the Pittsburgh Post and the Cleveland Plain Dealer were secured through Interlibrary loan, by either the Parkersburg, West Virginia public library or the San Diego County Library, LaMesa branch.

Actually, there were four games played during the championship season which are not included in these statistics. These included two tie games, the first game played in Kansas City's new stadium (apparently without ground rules) and the 4-1 victory of Indianapolis over Pittsburgh of June 3. This last decision was thrown out by President Powers; the controversy over the Powers action may very well have been influential in the relieving of President Powers at the league meeting August 2. Indianapolis feeling was expressed in the June 7 Star:

"POWERS HAS STARTED SOMETHING. President Powers of the Federal League sprung something on us Thursday night when he declared Monday's game between Indianapolis and Pittsburgh thrown out of the standings because an umpire made a bum decision at first base. This is indeed something new in baseball. A lot of games have been protested and thrown out of the standings because of technicalities violated by the umpires, but never before has a league hired an umpire and then because he erred in judgment as to whether a base runner was safe

or out, thrown the game out of the standings. It's a bad move. There are a lot of bum decisions. Any umpire will admit that he kicks one once in awhile. The best of them do it. There are errors made every where and every day and if President Powers is going to throw out every game of ball on which there was a questionable decision then he's going to be a busy man the rest of the season and the Federal League is also going to have a lot of postponed games to play over before winding up the 1913 schedule. The writer saw the game in question and fully agrees that Umpire Franklin made a very punk decision, favoring the Indianapolis Club in the game with Pittsburgh, but that decision doesn't justify Powers in throwing the game out of the standings and giving Pittsburgh another shot at it. It's very bush."

A final, and most important, acknowledgement. Ray Nemecek, of Naperville, Illinois, typed up the alphabetized Batting and Pitching statistics of the Federal League on his special small-type IBM machine. He also reduced the fielding averages to a size which could be easily copied through some "Xerox" process. I stand in his debt for a job well done!

(Editor's Note: E. Vernon Luse, Jr. wrote this article in 1988. Mr. Luse, 1988 recipient of the Bob Davids Award, passed away in 1989. Space limitations preclude us from printing the 11 pages of 1913 Federal League statistics that accompanied this article. If you wish, please contact the SABR office for information on how you can obtain the 1913 statistics.)

The Mears Collection

by Mike Sparrow

Charles Willard Mears is best known today for the Mears' Collection of baseball materials. These materials range from a complete run of Spalding Guides from before the turn of the century to a set of 41 scrapbooks which consist of box scores, articles and clippings from 1853 to 1941. The collection is wide-ranging. One can find 21 volumes of Beadle's Base Ball Player, 18 issues of DeWitt's Baseball Guide, Our Boys Base Ball Rules, Napoleon Lajoie's Ball Guide, and two editions of Spalding's Base Ball Guide in Spanish!

The 41 scrapbooks are the heart of the Mears' Collection. They have not yet been fully analyzed and cataloged. The scrapbooks are extremely interesting in appearance. For the most part, Mears did not use blank sheets to paste his scores and articles; Mears used clean sides in bound volumes of correspondence to magazines of the 'teens and twenties for which Mears handled advertising.

In all, the Mears' Collection, which was donated to the Cleveland Public Library in September, 1944, two years after Mears' death, consists of 468 volumes. In addition to book material, approximately 800 photographs were donated. The Library has added many other baseball items over the years: biographies, yearbooks, annuals, media guides, and statistical sources. Not all of the Mears' material is bound. In addition to the photographs, the Library has several envelopes of unbound clippings including a whole series of nineteenth-century articles on the curve ball and a large and varied collection of baseball poetry including many uncollected parodies of "Casey at the Bat" and "Hiawatha."

To understand the eclectic nature of the Collection, one has to examine the man. In his life, Charles Mears excelled in two different, though related, fields: sportswriting and advertising. Mears was born in Monroeville, Ohio on June 23, 1874. He attended school in Norwalk and moved to Cleveland with his family in 1885. Mears was a confirmed baseball fan in his teens and tried to improve his access to ball games by serving as a stringer for The Sporting News. Mears' other athletic passion was bicycling and Mears became the first chief counsel of the

Ohio Division of the League of American Wheelmen and then editor of the Cycling Gazette. At the turn of the century, Mears turned from bicycles to automobiles and wrote for the Motor Vehicle Review. He moved on to establish the Daily Legal News. Mears was named sports editor of the Cleveland Press in 1902. He held the post for less than two years, but during this brief span, Mears had begun collecting baseball material.

Cleveland was one of the pivotal cities in the early years of automobile manufacturing, and the Winton Engine Co. was one of Cleveland's most prominent automobile manufacturers. In 1903, Mears joined the Winton organization as editor of its house organ, the Auto Era. By this time Mears had studied law and had recently passed the Ohio Bar. Mears rose rapidly with Winton, however, and shortly after that he became their advertising manager, the first man to hold that post in the automobile industry. Mears was with Winton until 1920. Apparently Mears had a difference of opinion with Winton management over the potential market for the Winton. Mears believed strongly that players the company should put out an inexpensive car to compete with Ford's "tin lizzie". The company considered their product as strictly a lux-ury item. Winton was out of the automobile business by 1922.

Mears started the Cleveland Advertising School, under the auspices of the Cleveland Advertising Club, in 1918. He served as president of the Club in 1920 and 1921. Mears achieved great distinction in the advertising field. He organized the firm of Mears, Richardson & Briggs, a consulting firm located in the Keith Building from 1921 to 1929. A 1929 Cleveland Press article lists Mears as one of Cleveland's nationally known figures along with O.P. and M.J. Van Sweringen, Newton D. Baker, George Crile, and Cyrus Eaton. He wrote extensively; among his best known works are "The Big Merchant's Problem" and "Salesmanship for the New Era."

Another one of Mears' publications is "Here's Something New — High Spots in Baseball," a compendium of fielding statistics from 1871 to 1918. In addition to figures on putouts, assists, and errors, Mears also includes leaders in total chances

per game. This last computation is roughly equivalent to "range factor," a much beloved measure to sabermetricians. Mears had a great affinity for baseball statistics. In 1924, Mears published a daily column during the baseball season spotlighting a historical event, a forerunner of "This Day in Baseball History." Mears seems to have been a compulsive compiler of numbers. In the Mears' files of the library, there is a folder with all sorts of figures: most total bases in one game, teams which scored in every inning, hitting for the cycle, consecutive pitching wins, and many others. Included in this file is correspondence with Ernest Lanigan, the "patron saint of sabermetrics", in which Lanigan asks Mears for advice and information. Interestingly, a surviving list of members of the Baseball Writers Association of America from 1935 lists both Mears and Lanigan as being affiliated with the Cleveland News. Mears was listed as advertising counselor of the News in the twenties. Mears covered the World Series for several years as a syndicated reporter whose statistical analysis of the championship games appeared coast to coast. He had acquired the nickname of "Old Doc Statistics". All this time Mears was augmenting his collection of baseball publications. He had accumulated over 250,000 box scores and claimed to have every major league box score in his collection. In a 1979 Plain Dealer article by Joe Maxse, Emerson Mears, the sole surviving son of Charles Mears at that time, recalls pasting magazine and newspaper clippings in scrapbooks. In the same article Emerson Mears stated that his father had purchased the largest portion of his collection for "eight or nine thousand dollars" from an unknown collector. In a 1939 letter, Mears indicated that he bought the Tim Murnane library and that of William M. Rankin, baseball editor of the New York Clipper.

As early as 1935, Charles Mears expressed an interest in selling his collection. The last seven years of his life were spent in a pursuit of this sale which would eventually prove fruitless. The Cleveland Public Library has a file of the correspondence pertaining to the sale of the baseball collection. In that file are letters to and from some of the leading names in baseball's front offices in the late thirties and early forties. Mears offered the collection to Larry MacPhail of the Brooklyn Dodgers using Ed Bang of the Cleveland News as an intermediary:

...I am confident he would sell it for \$15,000 and it would be a better investment than club owners make in players on occasions. This would be a lasting testimonial to a man who had the foresight of purchasing it so as to be in the position of answering any question that might come up in baseball from the date of its birth.

MacPhail was unable to meet the price. Neither was Walter O. Briggs of the Detroit Tigers who Mears approached through H.G. Salsinger. Mears offered the collection to the fledgling Baseball Hall of Fame as early as 1937, but in a letter from Alexander Cleland, secretary of the Hall, Mears is informed that all of the Hall's funds were involved in the erection of the Hall of Fame building. Five years later, Mears explored the possibility of

donating his collection to the Hall. There was apparently some dispute over the recognition that Mears would receive and the deal fell through. Mears offered the collection to W.G. Branham, President of the National Association for \$7,500 and later knocked the price down to \$6,000, but the price was still prohibitive to Branham. Mears offered the collection to Henry and Edsel Ford for Greenfield Village at the same price but received no reply. Mears ran an ad in The Sporting News in February, 1940. Mears received several replies, one from as far away as Panama, but he was unwilling to break up the collection. Mears' last and most involved campaign was to sell the collection to the Samuel Goldwyn studios in connection with their production of "Pride of the Yankees." Mears approached the studio through Christy Walsh, who was acting as technical advisor and handling some of the publicity. Mears even prepared a script to be used as a prologue for the film in which Goldwyn would present the baseball collection he purchased to Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia as the Lou Gehrig Memorial Library.

Mayor: Now that you have in our studios all the box scores of the games Lou played, what are you going to do with them?

Mr. G(oldwyn): I want to consult you on that, Mr. Mayor. Suppose that all the box scores of the 130,000 big league games played since they began in 1871 were to be gathered into a single library. These could be preserved as long as the English language is read - - a complete playing record of every player who participated in any of these games - even the player who played only a single inning - - the true day-to-day playing history of big league baseball, assembled for the first time in one place and open to everybody who loves base ball and admires its players. Would this be worth while?

Mayor: Excellent, Mr. Goldwyn. Can you do it? Will you do it? I wish you would.

Mr. G.: I waited only your approval, Mr. Mayor. Now I can say this: We have done it.

The Goldwyn Studio also declined.

Mears stated two reasons for wishing to dispose of his collection. First, Mears and his wife Blanche wished to move to a smaller place, and most importantly Mears began to experience ill health. His obituaries mentioned that he had undergone an operation several years before and had continued to suffer its effects. A letter to Mears from Christy Walsh also inquired into the condition of Mears' health. Nevertheless, Mears remained active in the Advertising Club and was serving as information officer for the War Production Board when he died on December 9, 1942 in Charity Hospital. Mears was buried in Lake View Cemetery. His obituaries barely mentioned his baseball connection, concentrating on his feats in advertising. He was named to the national Advertising Hall of Fame in 1968. Yet it was his baseball scholarship and the baseball collection which still bears his name which recalls him almost fifty years after his death.

Every Picture Tells a Story

Allen Pfenninger

1919 Cleveland Indians

Spring Training — Heinemann Park — New Orleans



Bottom Row (Left to Right): Smoky Joe Wood, of-p; batboy; Bill Wambsganss, 2b. Second Row: Johnny Enzmann, p; Terry Turner, if; Fritz Coumbe, p; Jack McCallister, coach/scout; Lee Fohl, manager; Chet "Pinch" Thomas, c; Stan Coveleski, p; Guy Morton, p. Third Row: Les Nunamaker, c; Charlie Jamieson, of-p; Marty Fiedler, ss; Walter McNichols, traveling secretary; Jim Bagby, p; Steve O'Neill, c; Ray Chapman, ss; Doc Johnston, 1b. Top Row: Elmer Dobard, 3b; Tris Speaker, of; Johnny Gooch, c; Joe Engel, p; Jack Graney, of; Elmer Smith, of; George Uhle, p; Harry Lunte, ss; Chester "Red" Torkelson, p.

Fellow SABR member Fred Schuld copied this photo from the Cleveland Press collection at Cleveland State University. It was taken by H. J. Harvey, presumably a New Orleans photographer. The photo never appeared in the Cleveland Press. Fred showed this, among his many other slides, at a SABR meeting in early 1990, and I thought it was such an interesting photo that I borrowed it and had a print made for my office. I called Fred for the identifications, and that's where the mysteries began.

Who, for example, are Elmer Dobard and Marty Fiedler? They never did appear in a game for Cleveland, much less in the major leagues. Johnny Gooch made it to the big time, but never appeared as an Indian.

And why is Terry Turner, the man who appeared in more games as an Indian than any other player, in a 1919 Cleveland spring training picture when most accounts, including *The Baseball Encyclopedia*, tell us that he went to the Philadelphia Athletics at the waiver price in January of that year?

Where are highly-regarded third baseman Larry Gardner and pitcher Elmer Myers, obtained along with Jamieson from the Athletics on March 3 for outfielder Bobby "Braggo" Roth?

Questions like these got me, Fred Schuld and fellow Jack Graney Chapter member Mike Sparrow started solving these mysteries. It certainly isn't the most "important" work that will ever be done by SABR, but it was the kind of enjoyable project that involved a bit of detective work and satisfies the curiosity itch that most SABR members have. Among these curiosities are:

THE UNIFORMS — The picture shows the team in a variety of uniform styles. In an act of patriotism, the team donated all of its 1918 uniforms to the Great Lakes Training Station immediately following the season which had been curtailed due to World War I. The new uniforms for the 1919 season weren't scheduled to arrive until the season began, hence the need to scrounge for old ones among the Cleveland equipment trunks. The Cleveland Press of March 12 noted that they were using some of the 1917 uniforms that featured numbers on them, an experiment that didn't last. You can make out a number 6 on George Uhle's right sleeve. The rest are either obscured or were removed.

Early arrivals at camp that spring were Fohl, McCallister and trainer Percy Smallwood, along with a group of pitchers — Bagby, Coveleski, Coumbe and Uhle — plus Wood and O'Neill.

They left together for New Orleans on March 11. Engel, a resident of New Orleans, met them as they opened camp.

THE ROOKIE — 21-year-old George Uhle was a Cleveland native who had, the previous year, pitched his semipro team (Cleveland Standard Parts) to the finals of the National Baseball Federation Series. Cleveland was awarded the title when the opposition Toledo team refused to play them in the finals.

Uhle was no stranger to the Indians, as they must have faced him in exhibition games during 1918. At least that seems to be the case, as Ray Chapman, who was in 1920 killed by a Carl Mays pitch, remembered one of his at-bats against Uhle. He was knocked unconscious by a Uhle pitch. Uhle, of course, was to be a teammate of Chapman's when Ray was fatally beamed. Uhle was 10-5 for the 1919 Indians, and went on to post a 200-166 record in a 15-year major league career.

NOT PICTURED — Pitcher Elmer Myers, along with 1b Joe Harris (projected as the starter), 1b Lou Guisto and pitcher Otto Lambeth, were all still with their military units overseas and would not report until late June.

Shortstop Joe Evans was also given permission to join the club late; he was completing his year at Washington University in St. Louis where he was studying for a medical degree.

THE PHENOM — Marty Fiedler was a Chicago semi-pro phenom who "could play any infield position." He played at Newark in 1918, and was hailed as the find of spring training. Cleveland management and the Cleveland papers hyped Fiedler throughout spring training because Larry Gardner was slow to report to camp — they must have thought it would serve as some impetus to Gardner to report. Once Gardner reported on April 7, Fiedler's importance diminished rapidly. He was the team's final cut, and played for New Orleans in 1919 and part of 1920.

THE LATECOMERS — Significantly late in reporting were Tris Speaker, who would become the team's manager later that season, and Gardner. Speaker finally arrived at camp on March 26, with the excuse that too much spring rain in his native Texas necessitated his remaining there to take care of his ranch — specifically, to finish construction of a "dip" for de-lousing cattle. Outfielder Jack Graney also reported late due to illness.

With Speaker appearing in the team picture and Gardner not, it is safe to assume that the photo was taken between March 26 and April 7.

THE YANIGANS — Johnny Gooch and Elmer Dobard were members of the New Orleans team, and were never mentioned in the Cleveland papers throughout spring training. One reason they may have appeared is the need for players for intrasquad "Regular vs. Yanigan" games. Manager Lee Fohl was quoted during camp that with the high number of absences, it was difficult to get these games going. Gooch and Dobard may have been "borrowed" for these purposes. Dobard was a career Southern Association player, playing for Atlanta in 1913, Mobile in 1914-15, Memphis in 1916-18 (note the "M" on his cap in the photo) and sparsely for New Orleans in 1920-21. Gooch appeared for New Orleans against the Indians in the weekend exhibition games. He started an 11-year big league career with

Pittsburgh in 1921.

THE MAN WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IN PHILADELPHIA — Terry "Cotton" Turner began playing for the Indians in 1904. He played as a regular at every infield position (except 1b) at one time or another, and even some outfield. He was the classic utility ballplayer, and finished with a .253 career average.

Turner was 38 years old in 1919, and did not appear in an American League game with Cleveland that season. The records show that he appeared in 38 games for the Philadelphia Athletics that season — his final season — batting .189. The records also tell us that Turner was sold to the Athletics in January of that season. Yet he's in the Cleveland spring training picture taken in late March/early April. He is also shown warming up in a Cleveland uniform before a league game in the April 25 edition of *The Cleveland Press*. That's because Turner was a member of the team through July 14. It is true he didn't appear in a league game — he was used primarily to warm up bullpen pitchers. O'Neill and Nunamaker had been alternating as the team's starting catcher throughout the early going, and Thomas was being used primarily as a base coach. Harry Lunte had been used as a bullpen catcher, but was injured taking warmups — thus, the job fell to Turner.

Turner was finally released on July 14, after Connie Mack, whose A's were foundering in last place, indicated some interest. The 38-year-old got a chance for a last hurrah with the A's, and the Cleveland Press marked his leaving with this bit of doggerel on July 15. "FOR AULD LANG SYNE. When Mack signs Turner, y-clept Cotton/ He may be gone, but he's not forgotten." And, this brief article: "TERRY TURNER RELEASED BY TRIBE; SIGNS WITH MACK. Fans' Best Wishes Go With Him. Terry Turner, released by the Indians after 14 years of service, has accepted terms to join the Athletics. He'll begin service on Mack's infield when Connie's team arrives in Cleveland Sunday for a series of three games."

Historical confusion over Turner's actual transfer may have occurred because the Indians had released Turner once before, at the end of the 1918 season. Because of a ruling by the War Department, all big leaguers' contracts were terminated as of the season's end — September 1 — as the season was shortened because of World War I. Contracts had run through October 15. Thus, the teams wouldn't have to continue to pay the players.

But the ruling called for the release of only those under the age of 31. Turner was 37, and thus, could have received the balance of his contract. The Indians gave him 10 days notice of his unconditional release on August 16, thus making him a free agent after the season. Turner played out the balance of the season with the Tribe, and, as the picture shows us, was back for spring training and the early part of the 1919 season.

And while he had limited success in his final season for the Athletics, he did manage to cause the Indians a moment of regret for letting him go to Philadelphia. On July 30, his ninth inning single off former teammate Hi Jasper gave the Athletics a 2-1 victory over Cleveland in Philadelphia.

The Cleveland Indians on Film

by Mike Sparrow

It happens every spring. Those four words name both a popular motion picture and a formula for television programmers. Around the first of April every year viewers can see Lou Gehrig's luck and Ike's alibis and Stratton's courage and that secret formula which causes objects to veer away from wood. Unfortunately, with all the cinematic baseball on display there is scarcely a Cleveland Indian to be seen; not a smoke signal, not a tomahawk, not even a rain dance. They show the Prides of the Yankees and St. Louis and the Winning Team with Angels in the Outfield and The Natural who Bangs a Drum Slowly. The cable stations show re-runs of situation comedies which feature Drysdale, Davis and Durocher, but not Colavito, Donovan, and McGaha. "Everything Baseball" lists appearances by Dodger stars of the '60s in every show from "Donna Reed" to "The Munsters"; Indian fans are left with Lucy in an Indian uniform (in the bowels of Yankee Stadium with Bob Hope) and former Indian player Luis Tiant being relieved by Mayday Sam Malone during the filming of a beer commercial. In the thirties and forties animated cartoons featured caricatures of famous stars of the day such as Dizzy Dan (in "Boulevardier from the Bronx"), Carl Bubble (in "Porky's Baseball Broadcast"), and Gabby Hairnet (in "Sport Chumpions"). Where are Earl Ape-rill, Hal Turkey, and Bob Fowler? The best Indian fans can see is a throw-away gag in "The Hardship of Miles Standish" when Standish (Elmer Fudd in pilgrim garb) is attacked by Indians, on horseback, in uniform, carrying bats instead of tomahawks. The narrator underlines the gag: these were Cleveland Indians!

Sadly, with two exceptions, sharp-eyed viewers have to look quickly to see Cleveland players in cameos. Bob Feller appears as himself in an old-timers sequence in "It's My Turn"; Gene Bearden can be seen in support of Jimmy Stewart in "The Stratton Story"; and sixties slugger Leon Wagner has parts in "The Bingo Long Traveling All Stars and Motor Kings" and "A Woman Under the Influence." Hall of Famer Bob Lemon had a more substantial role as Hall of Famer Jesse Haines in support of Ronald Reagan in "The Winning Team" and Satchel Paige had a good-sized role in "The Wonderful Country." Biographical films were made about Jimmy Piersall ("Fear Strikes Out") and Paige ("Don't Look Back"), but both films dealt with the time each spent prior to joining the Indians, although the latter ended with Paige pitching in the 1948 World Series. Johnny Beradino had a small part in "Don't Look Back." Beradino (or Berardino) played for Cleveland and other teams in the forties and went to a film career in such films as "Marty" and in the television series, "I Led Three Lives" and "General Hospital." There must surely be documentary footage of the Tribe available; there are certainly films of the 1948 and 1954 World Series, and many of the television stations show old newsreels which often feature sports highlights. Bob Feller and Mel Harder and Frankie Pytlak and their contemporaries must surely appear in one newsreel or another.

Although the Indians and Tribe players appear in these fringe roles and settings, there are only two films to deal largely with the Indians, "Major League" and "The Kid from Cleveland." "Major League" is a recent, popular film, readily available on video cassette so the discussion will be brief. The Indian team portrayed in "Major League" is fictional. The story, in brief summary, is one of a grasping female owner who wants to move the Indians from Cleveland to Miami. She sets out to exploit a clause in the team's agreement which gives her permission to relocate the franchise if attendance fails to reach 800,000 a season. To keep attendance down, she hires castoffs as players, including an over-the-hill catcher (Tom Berenger), a "wild" young pitcher who last played in the California Penal League (Charlie Sheen), an egotistical, overpaid infielder (Corbin Bernsen), a brash, young outfielder — Willie Mays Hayes, and a voodoo-practicing slugger. The owner chooses a long-time minor league manager to lead the Tribe into the cellar. Of course, the team pulls together and defeats the Yankees for the pennant. "Major League" received mixed reviews; the film had the misfortune to follow "Bull Durham" and "Eight Men Out," two critical favorites. I think that "Major League" holds its own with these more-acclaimed pictures. David S. Ward's screenplay is fast and funny with very little of the pretentiousness that mars "Bull Durham" and none of the solemnity that makes "Eight Men Out" slow-going at times. The whole cast performs admirably with hilarious performances by James Gammon as the manager and Bob Uecker as the team's hard-drinking radio announcer. Cleveland viewers will recognize the Hope Memorial Bridge, The Old Stone Church, Public Square, and Municipal Stadium under the credits. Several friends have mentioned the sheer joy of the climax when the Tribe wins the pennant and the crowd goes crazy.

If "Major League" is not a total success, it certainly fares better than "The Kid from Cleveland." In "Everything Baseball," Bill Veeck states: "I have one unwritten law at home...I never allow my kids to mention or see this abortion." In "Hustler's Handbook," Veeck adds: "...they still persist in playing (it) on TV in the face of Newton Minow's sternest warnings." Lou Boudreau called it "a dog." In Bruce Dudley's "Distant Drums," Boudreau implicates "The Kid from Cleveland" in the Tribe's slow start in the 1949 season:

Outside activities definitely put a cringe to our playing ability. Veeck agreed to make a movie, "The Kid from Cleveland," we would be in League Park during the day and consequently on our feet quite a bit doing shots...then at night we'd go to the Stadium and play a night game.

There is little in the cast and credits to indicate that The Kid would be in any way exceptional. The male lead George Brent was definitely on the downside of his career. A decade before, Brent appeared opposite Bette Davis in "Jezebel" and "Dark Victory." As recently as 1946, Brent had the lead in "The Spiral

Staircase," but Brent was nearing the end. He would make a half-dozen more films before retiring in the early '50s. Brent played radio commentator Mike Jackson who becomes interested in a young, delinquent boy, Johnny Barrows (played by Rusty Tamblyn a full decade before "High School Confidential"). Johnny is having family and police troubles when Brent spots the baseball-crazy youth sneaking into the Stadium. Brent and his wife, played by B-picture queen Lynn Bari, befriend the troubled boy, and Brent introduces him to his "30 godfathers", the Cleveland Indians, who take the boy in hand and lead him down the good path. (At one time during production, the working title of the film was "30 Godfathers," an obvious nod to John Wayne's 1947 hit, "Three Godfathers." The film was also known as "The Cleveland Story" during production.) Supporting players included Ann Doran as the boy's mother and Johnny Bera(r)dino as Mac, a hoodlum who is not pleased with the lad's rehabilitation. The film was shot largely on location by Republic Studios, best known at the time for Roy Rogers and Gene Autry westerns. In fact, the same issue of *Variety* which reviews "The Kid" also reviews Roy "Down Dakota Way" in which Roy, Dale and Trigger root out hoof-and-mouth disease in Roy Barcroft's herd. Herbert Kline directed "The Kid from Cleveland"; even the most dedicated auteurs will have difficulty remembering Kline.

Surprisingly, contemporary reviews were generally favorable. A positive review could be expected from *The Plain Dealer's* W. Ward Marsh as the film was shot in Cleveland and had its world premiere at Loew's Stillman Theater downtown. However, the film received a favorable notice from "Wear" in *Variety*, the most reliable of the trade journals. "Wear" praised the baseball scenes, Jack Mata's excellent camera work, and the performance of Bill Veeck in his review of September 7, 1949. (Incidentally, other films reviewed in that issue of *Variety* in addition to "Down Dakota Way," are William Wyler's "The Heiress," for which Olivia de Havilland won an Academy Award, and Carol Reed's "The Third Man" with Orson Welles as Harry Lime.) The *Film Daily* reviewer also liked "The Kid from Cleveland" calling it "...a fine story of the big game." Several reviewers mentioned that it was the first major film shot in Cleveland since "False Fronts" in the early '20s. Despite good notices, "The Kid" is almost forgotten today by film historians. It is not listed in the comprehensive Halliwell's *Film Guide*. Leonard Maltin gives it two stars in "TV Movies." Despite the frequent showing of Republic pictures on television, the film has not been shown on Cleveland TV in recent years although the Art Museum presented it in December, 1989. Perhaps with the large number of older films available on cable, "The Kid from Cleveland" may again turn up on the small screen.

There are figures in Cleveland baseball history whose stories would make compelling films: Ray Chapman, Bob Feller, Bill Veeck, Herb Score, and Frank Robinson. Perhaps the success of "Major League," "Field of Dreams," and "Eight Men Out" will encourage filmmakers to examine baseball history and bring these stories to the screen.

CLEVELAND INDIANS' FILMOGRAPHY

(Title of film, year of release, studio, director, leading actors, and Indians in film)

"The Hardship of Miles Standish"; 1940 WB; I. Freleng; Elmer Fudd. Animated Indians in uniform on horseback menace Elmer in this Merrie Melodie often shown on TV at Thanksgiving time.

"The Stratton Story"; 1948 MGM; Sam Wood; James Stewart, June Allyson, Frank Morgan, Agnes Moorhead. Gene Bearden played himself in the baseball game finale to this inspirational story of Monty Stratton who pitched for the White Sox in the late thirties and lost his right leg in a hunting accident. Bearden also suffered a severe knee injury during the war. "The Stratton Story" is not yet available on home video, but Ted Turner has colorized it.

"The Kid from Cleveland"; 1949 Republic; Herbert Kline; George Brent, Lynn Bari, Rusty Tamblyn, Ann Doran; Bill Veeck (owner), Lou Boudreau (manager), Tris Speaker, Hank Greenberg (coaches), Bob Feller, Gene Bearden, Satchel Paige, Bob Lemon, Steve Gromek, Joe Gordon, Mickey Vernon, Ken Keltner, Ray Boone, Dale Mitchell, Larry Doby, Bob Kennedy, Jim Hegan (players), Gordon Cobbledick, Ed MacAuley, Franklin Lewis (sportswriters), Bill Summers and Bill Grieve (umpires).

"The Winning Team"; 1953 WB; Lewis Seiler; Ronald Reagan, Doris Day, Frank Lovejoy, Rusty Tamblyn. Bob Lemon portrays Hall-of-Fame Cardinal pitcher Jesse Haines in support of Ronald Reagan as Grover Cleveland Alexander in this sentimentalized biography. Lovejoy plays manager Rogers Hornsby. Note the presence in the cast of the kid from Cleveland, Rusty Tamblyn.

"The Wonderful Country"; 1959 UA; Robert Parrish; Robert Mitchum, Julie London, Gary Merrill, Jack Oakie. Satchel Paige portrays Sergeant Sutton in this Robert Mitchum western set along the Texas/Mexico border.

"A Woman Under the Influence"; 1974 Faces Int'l; John Cassavetes; Peter Falk, Gena Rowlands. Leon Wagner has a small role in this acclaimed domestic drama. Cassavetes' wife Rowlands was nominated for the Best Actress Oscar.

"The Bingo Long Traveling All Stars and Motor Kings"; 1976 Universal; John Badham; James Earl Jones, Billy Dee Williams, Richard Pryor, Stan Shaw. Leon Wagner has a good-sized role as one of the barnstorming ballplayers in this entertaining adaptation of William Brashler's novel. Available on home video.

"It's My Turn"; 1980 Columbia; Claudia Weill; Michael Douglas, Jill Clayburgh, Charles Grodin, Beverly Garland, Steven Hill. Michael Douglas plays a retired Indians player who becomes romantically involved with the daughter of his father's second wife. Bob Feller appears with Elston Howard, Mickey Mantle, and Roger Maris in Old-Timers' Day sequence. Available on home video.

"Don't Look Back"; 1981 TBA Prod; Richard Colla; Louis Gossett Jr., Beverly Todd, Cleavon Little, Clifton Davis, Hal Williams, Ernie Barnes, Ossie Davis, John Berardino. Gossett

portrays Satchel Paige in this made-for-TV film based on Paige's "Maybe I'll Pitch Forever." The film follows Paige from his barnstorming days in the '20s to his successful appearance in the 1948 World Series. Paige appears as himself in the epilogue a year before his death. Negro League greats Josh Gibson and Cool Papa Bell are played by Barnes and Davis. Note the presence of former teammate Berardino in the cast. Former Indian Bubba

Phillips also has a small role. Available on home video.

"Major League"; 1989 Paramount; David S. Ward; Tom Berenger, Corbin Bensen, Charlie Sheen, Margaret Whitton, Rene Russo, James Gammon, Bob Uecker, Steve Yeager. Available on home video.

The Ballparks of Cleveland

by Bob Bluthardt, John Pastier and Bob Tiemann

While Cleveland's baseball history dates back to the National Association of the 1870s, its important ballpark history essentially involves two locales: League Park and Municipal Stadium. Two versions of the former and one of the latter have sheltered variously named home teams in different leagues since 1891. Recent developments promise to make a third baseball home of the twentieth century a reality, taking the franchise into the next century.

To give the nineteenth century its due, Cleveland's teams played in several leagues between 1871 and 1890, moving from one wooden facility to another as shifting alliances, changing ownership, and newly formed leagues dictated. Like most of the era's parks, Cleveland's facilities were primarily wooden affairs, quickly and plainly built, convenient to public transportation.

The National Association Forest Citys played at Wilson Avenue (later East 55th Street) and Garden Street (later Central Avenue) from May 11, 1871 to August 19, 1872. Cleveland's National League entry, the Spiders, occupied Kennard Street Park from May 1, 1879 to October 11, 1884. It was located on Silby Street, now named Carnegie Avenue, by Kennard Street (now East 46th) and Cedar Street. The city's short-lived American Association team played the 1887 and 1888 seasons at a relatively large site on the present day streets of East 33rd to East 37th, Perkins and Payne Avenues. This spacious park with outfield fences 400 feet distant also hosted the National League Spiders for the 1889 and 1890 seasons. A large fire in June of 1890 seriously damaged this structure.

The first League Park took shape on Lexington Avenue between 66th and 70th Streets. Club owner Frank DeHaas Robison controlled the Lexington Avenue cable car line and built the ballpark there in 1891 to beef up the route's patronage. The new park witnessed both legends and legendary futility. Cy Young pitched the opening day game on May 1, 1891. League Park also hosted the first "National League Championship Series" game on October 17, 1892 with split-season champs

Cleveland (second half) playing Boston (first half). Cy Young and Boston's Jack Stivett posted eleven scoreless innings before the contest was declared a tie. Boston would eventually win the next five games and take the best-of-nine series.

Futility came in 1889 and 1890, Cleveland's last season in the National League. Club owner Robison acquired the St. Louis franchise and moved most of his best players there, leaving the Cleveland team to wither and die. Fans stayed away in droves and the team played twice as many games on the road as at home. Posting a 20-134 record in 1899 that was witnessed by just 6088 fans all season (37 dates), Cleveland set major league marks for failure and non-support.

A new league and team came to League Park in 1900. Ban Johnson's American League circuit was recognized as a major league by 1901 and the Cleveland entry began its uninterrupted stretch of ninety years of play. Competition between the two leagues and real world forces that increased the sport's standing as a profit-driven business would soon alter the face of ballparks for the next two generations. Ben Shibe in Philadelphia started the fireproof concrete and steel movement with his 1909 facility and soon every flammable brick and wooden grandstand looked obsolete. St. Louis and Pittsburgh followed that same year with a rebuilt Sportsman's Park and new Forbes Field. On April 21, 1910, League Park was born again on the same site with an 18,000-seat creation, the fourth "modern" park in baseball.

The new ballpark bore the stamp of the Osborn Engineering Company, a local firm that designed or remodelled most of the classic parks of this era. Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds in New York, Braves Field and reconstructed Fenway Park in Boston, the original Navin Field and the expanded Briggs Stadium (now Tiger Stadium) in Detroit, Griffith Stadium in Washington, D.C., the expanded Comiskey Park in Chicago, and the expanded Sportsman's Park in St. Louis round out the list of their better known achievements. Osborn would also design League Park's replacement, Municipal Stadium.

A current vice-president of the firm, Dale Swearingen, explained the circumstances that led company founder, Frank Osborn, to enter the business of ballpark building. In a September 18, 1989 *New Yorker* interview, Swearingen noted that Mr. Osborn had been a chief designer for a major bridge builder. His experiments and research with structural steel and concrete gave him the know-how to put together larger sports stadia. Osborn Engineering certainly captured the market. In a promotional brochure of the 1930s, they noted that their experience provided a "comfortable seat and a full view of the playing field for every spectator." Fans might take exception to that statement after a game behind a column, but Swearingen also explained that posts allow a designer to bring a second deck of seats closer to the field, unlike the many recent stadia that eliminate the posts but push the seats far away from the playing field. That promotional brochure addressed finances, claiming that "the skillful arrangement of space and economical structural design combine to produce a plant that earns a worth while profit on the investment."

League Park was set firmly in the urban framework, occupying most of a large city block and surrounded on three sides by the neighborhood's houses and by a school and small businesses on the fourth. This cozy relationship trapped the park, leaving little room for expansion. While the club rarely needed a dramatic increase in seating (say for the 1920 World Series), the only way to add seats was from the inside, thus new sections were added that took away parts of the outfield and foul territory. Most of the era's parks eventually expanded to seat 30,000 or more, but League Park never had more than 21,500 seats and crowds over 25,000 put many fans on the field in right, shrinking the playing field by as much as fifty feet in some areas.

With its left field foul pole 375 feet from the plate and its right field pole a close 290, League Park was more rectangular than square, offering hitters a cavernous field from left to center. Batters soon caught on to lessons that were reinforced in other lopsided parks like Fenway, Ebbets, and Baker Bowl: hit to the short fence. Fielders too had to adjust as the wall's steel beams caused frightful caroms, a common problem for outfielders at other parks of this time. Left and centerfielders needed to stay alert to the short sets of wooden steps protruding from the bleacher wall.

League Park took on another name, Dunn Field, from 1916 to 1927, in honor of club owner Jack Dunn. While it hosted but one World Series, that 1920 match-up with the Brooklyn Dodgers produced several outstanding moments. Bill Wambsganss completed the first and only unassisted triple play in Series history while fellow Indian Elmer Smith hit the first Series grand slam. With this as inspiration, Cleveland went on to victory, five games to two.

Other baseball greats had special moments at League. Babe Ruth clubbed his 500th career home run over the right field wall on August 11, 1929. The boy who retrieved the ball received a \$20 bill, an autographed ball, and a chance to join the Yankees on the dugout bench. Indian rookie pitcher Bob Feller struck out seventeen batters on September 13, 1936, giving local fans a taste of success to come. The Cleveland Buckeyes of the American Negro League won the 1945 championship playing at League Park. The legendary Satchel Paige played for the Cleveland Cubs in the 1930s at League when baseball was not yet open to black players.

Municipal Stadium wasn't meant to be just a ballpark. City boosters in this ambitious community had often discussed building a large sports stadium during the 1920s, and perhaps the golden age of baseball that same decade made tiny League Park seem out of place.

The 40,000-seat Braves Field in Boston opened in 1915, ending the first wave of ballpark construction with a record capacity, and eight years later came Yankee Stadium, a 70,000-seat masterpiece. The times were definitely changing and Cleveland considered itself a big-league city, so it set its sights on the 1932 Olympics, passed a bond issue, and started construction on this huge facility. It took a little over a year and \$3 million with completion by July 1, 1931. Unfortunately, the Olympics went to Los Angeles, but Cleveland now had the first-class stadium it craved. The debut came with a July 3 boxing match between Max Schmeling and Young Stribling.

The Indians waited until the 1932 season to make their first appearance at Municipal, playing the league champion Philadelphia Athletics on July 31 before a massive throng of 76,997. The Indians played all of their 1933 games at Municipal which was a short walk from the heart of downtown, but success did not automatically follow them to the new location. A declining team batting average and the increased overhead of operating at Municipal convinced management to save the bigger park for Sunday and holiday games, cutting costs and boosting both batting and earned run averages in the more intimate League Park.

The Indians were the only major league team with two ballparks: cozy League Park for weekday games and expansive Municipal Stadium for holiday, weekend, and eventually night contests. The transition from League to Municipal was neither smooth nor swift. The two-park system would last from 1932 to 1946, when Indians owner Bill Veeck hitched his club's finances to the 80,000 seat stadium by the shores of Lake Erie. This proved to be a wise move as the 1948 pennant winning team drew 2,620,627 fans, a major league record that stood until the Los Angeles Dodgers played their first season in the new Dodger Stadium in 1962.

Babe Ruth is credited with saying that one would need a horse to play the outfield at Municipal, and the original dimensions back him up. The foul lines were modest enough at 322 feet in 1932, but the 450-foot power alleys and a center field of 470 feet discouraged home runs and made outfield speed a priority. All subsequent changes to the distances have brought the fences closer to home plate with a major concession made by Veeck in 1947. An inner fence reduced the center field mark to about 400 feet and made the power alleys a more attainable 365 feet. Veeck also admitted that he had his groundskeepers periodically shift these fences as much as fifteen feet in the dark of night in response to certain pitching matchups and visiting team characteristics. If true, no one ever noticed! To this day, no batter has reached the bleacher seats in center field.

There was always plenty of room in the stands and many of the game's attendance records have been set at Municipal. The Dodgers broke some of Cleveland's marks with their World Series games at the Coliseum (which was expanded for an Olympics — the one Cleveland wanted!). Municipal Stadium remains the largest park in baseball, but for many years Yankee Stadium was a close rival. As chairs replaced benches and fire

law enforcement and renovation took their effect, Yankee Stadium slowly lost seating capacity. By 1970, it held about 65,000 and it fell to 55,000 after the controversial renovation. Smaller ballparks now seem more in style, so it's doubtful that Municipal will be repeated in any major league community.

Municipal has had its share of both the famous and infamous. Who can forget the Nickel Beer Night of June 4, 1974 when unruly fans powered by the inexpensive suds took over the field? On the more positive side, Ted Williams hit his 500th home run here in 1960 (and he also hit his only inside-the-park home run here); Len Barker hurled a perfect game in 1981; and Bob Feller set several strikeout marks. Joe DiMaggio had his hitting streak halted at Municipal Stadium on July 17, 1941. It had reached 56 games the day before at League Park. The 1948 and 1954 pennant winning teams kept Municipal Stadium an exciting place, but the past thirty years have been less kind to Cleveland baseball as large crowds are relatively infrequent.

The third ballpark for Cleveland in this century is not yet designed, but one can safely say that the previous two well

reflected their eras. League Park fit into the urban grid on an established site with mostly private financing. Municipal broke ground in a new lakefront landfill, publicly underwritten and built in grand scale. Baseball was the prime tenant for both parks initially, but both sites embraced other sports and activities. League took in extra activity for economic survival; Municipal was designed for many sports and activities and took advantage of its flexibility. Parts of League Park, a seating section and ticket office, still exist. One suspects that Municipal may endure for another decade or more and then be difficult to dispose.

The next Cleveland ballpark will rise on the southern edge of downtown at East 9th Street and Carnegie Avenue, a part of a larger project including an arena, hotel, and office buildings. With proper design, it could be as closely linked to its neighborhood as League Park was nine decades earlier. In this case, a "baseball only" facility would benefit the fans and avoid the multi-purpose style of a municipal stadium, a grand stadium, but not a satisfactory baseball park.

Convention Notes:

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