H A R V E Y H A D D I X

This conversation between Walter Langford and Harvey Haddix is being taped in Harvey's home in South Vienna, Ohio, on July 3, 1987.

WL: Harvey, you tell me you were raised right around here and came back here. Now tell me when and where you got strated in baseball.

HH: Well, actually I got started right here in baseball. I played all my life in a little school over here in the next county, Champaign County, north of here. When I was a freshman in high school we moved right down here, about a mile down the road. And I finished my high school career here in Clark County at South Vienna. Catawba was the name of the high school. And my last year in high school, after I graduated, I was playing semipro ball around the area here. A fellow by the name of Pat Donohue came up to me after a game that I pitched and he says, "I'm going to write to Connie Mack about you." Write, not call, in those days they wrote. This was 1943. So, I didn't hear back from him, but in the meantime I picked up the newspaper one day, and I saw a little note in there that said "For the St. Louis Cardinals." They were having a tryout camp in Columbus, Ohio, which is 30 miles east of here.

So I said to my dad, "I'd like to go over there and see what those scouts think of me." I went over there and it was a 3-day camp with 350 kids and two fellows running the camp. So, you can imagine how busy. Well, anyway, on my card that I filled out I put down for "Position" pitcher, first baseman, outfielder. I played all three positions at that time. And of course they didn't have time for all of that foolishness, so they just wiped out the last two and said, "You're a pitcher."

The first day there we went from 9 o'clock in the morning to 4 o'clock in the

afternoon, when he finally called me in and said, "Now you throw nothing but fastballs." So I threw fastballs, about seven or eight. And he said, "That's enough, you can come back tomorrow." I went back the next day and it was the very same thing, from 9 o'clock in the morning to 4 o'clock in the afternoon. He said, "Now you throw what the catcher calls." And I threw probably four or five fastballs again and I threw probably four or five curve balls, and he said, "That's enough. Do you want to sign?"

I said, "No." At the time I'm .... I'm the old country boy, the honest boy, and I'm giving this Pat Donohue from my home town here the chance to sign me. Well, I never did hear back from Pat Donohue, so I went back over to Columbus and signed up with the St. Louis Cardinals.

WL: That was '45?

HH: 1943.

WL: Now, where did you go in the following years in the minors?

HH: The following years, of course, were the war years. I made a 2-week/trip road with the Columbus Redbirds, who were in the Cardinal organization at that time. I came home and registered for the fraft, and I was frozen on the farm for 1944, 1945, and 1946. After the war I took off and went to Winston Salem, North Carolina.

WL: What classification was that, Class A?

HH: That was Class C league then. In fact, they had D, C, B, A, AA, AAA, and the major leagues in those days.

WL: All right. After winston Salem, where else were you in the minors before you reached the Cards?

HH: Well, it was quite a jump. I jumped from C ball to Triple A ball. I came right over here to Columbus, Ohio, where I was originally scouted. And it was a struggle my first year. I think my first year there I was 11-8 or something like that, and it was a struggle. It was a learning process, that's what it was. And I was there the next two years. I was there in 1948, 1949, and 1950. And before the '50 season we were in the playoffs for the Little World Series. At that time Uncle Sam grabbed me for the Korean War, and so I went with Uncle

Sam this time. I was gone from the end of the 1950 season till August 1952, when I joined the St. Louis Cardinals. I came out of the Army and went right to the Cardinals.

WL: You were short-changed in those few years, which is too bad.

HH: Well, it's one of those things that happen.

WL: A lot of ball players missed that number of seasons. Like Ted Williams, I think missed most of six seasons.

HH: Yes. Some people are a little bit more fortunate than others.

WL: Besides the fastball and the curve, which you had when you came up, did you have any other pitch?

HH: At that time I threw an off-speed pitch, a change of pace. But one day while I was in Columbus here, one day after a ball game one of the opposing players came to me and he said, "When did you start throwing the slider?" Which was almost unheard of in those days. Well, I didn't know that I threw a slider, so I didn't say anything. I started checking and I found out that when I was pitching, if I got a little tired, instead of staying on top of the ball I was a little bit off to the side of it and made the ball slide. And that wound up being a pretty good pitch for me, because then I knew what I was doing with it.

WL: All right. How about your first game?

HH: My first game in the major leagues was against the Boston Braves, and Lew Burdette was the opposing pitcher. And I won that ball game, 9-2. It rained us out in the top of the 9th inning, I believe, and they finally called the game. It was one of those downpours in St. Louis where it just didn't quit. I can remember that game very well. My first time at bat off of Lew Burdette I had a base hit with two RBIs, and a stolen base. Of course, I knew it wasn't going to be that easy all the time.

WL: Well, the first year, in fact, the first three years with the Cardinals, Eddie Stanky was your manager. How did you like Eddie?

HH: Eddie was a little bit tough on the ball players. He was a very smart baseball manager, but he was very, very tough on some of the ball players. I think a lot of guys learned a lot from him but there were a few guys that he scared to death.

WL: A manager can sometimes do that. So, you were in third place that season. The next season, '53, was your best season from the won and lost percentages. What have you got to say about that season?

HH: Well, all I can say is that it was all new to me. It was very exciting. I didn't worry about who I was pitching against. It didn't matter to me. In those days we didn't go over the hitters much. We just went out there and pitched. And evidently I had good enough stuff. You learned as you went along what guys' weaknesses were. My catcher most of that season was Del Rice, who had been there a while, so he knew a lot of the weaknesses of the hitters.

WL: OK. '54, the Cards dropped to sixth and 25 games back of first place. What happened? You had a pretty good lineup in '54, it seems to me.

HH: Well, we had almost the same ball club, but ...

WL: Not quite. Joe Cunnigham came in at first, but you had Schoendienst and a bunch of others, and Stan Musial and Wally Moon, Repulski.

HH: I'm not sure if that was Bill Virdon's first year as manager.

WL: No, '54 was still Stanky.

HH: No, he came the next year. Yes, Bill Virdon came the next year. I don't know what happened there. It was just one of those things that we couldn't get going. As a pitcher, I was going myself for my 13th win on the first day of July in 1954. And about a week before that Al Brazle, who was a lefthanded pitcher with us, said to me, "You're going to win 30 ball games this year." And I thought I could, but of course you don't count your eggs before they're hatched.

WL: Not in baseball.

HH: Well, anyway, I was in Milwaukee again and, believe it or not, of all the

things that have happened, I was leading 4-1 in the 4th inning and Joe Adcock hit a line drive back and hit me on my left knee and put me out. And of course I didn't win that ball game. And when I came back to try to pitch, the spring was gone out of my left leg. I had no spring to push off, and I never ever threw the same after.

WL: Well, that shows in your statistics, and I wondered exactly what happened.

HH: I never had the same spring off of that leg that I'd had before.

HH: Did you lose some of your fastball?

HH: I lost a little bit of everything, really. My control a little bit, my stamina, everything. In fact, when I started pitching, I got the drop foot. It had ruined the nerves in that left leg from the knee down, and when it would get irritated from working my foot would drop and then I would tear the ligaments from on top of my instep. So, that was one of those things.

WL: That's an occupational hazard with pitchers - line drives banging you up. In that season Harry Walker took over as manager. How was he?

HH: Harry was an excellent guy to try to teach things. As a manager, it was a very tough situation. You had a bunch of fellows there that had played with him, and of course that didn't make it any easier for Harry to manage. So, it was really a struggle.

WL: Lots of guys, like Phil Cavaretta, found out that taking over as manager with the same guys you played with ....

HH: It's a very tough situation, so it did not work out very good.

WL: Now, in '56 you got traded to the Phillies. Who did they trade for?

HH: On May 11, 1956 there was Stu Miller, Ben Flowers, and myself traded for Murry Dickson and Herm Wehmeier. Frank Lane had come in, Trader Lane, and he started trading all over the place. I think he traded almost every guy away from there except Stan Musial, and I think he wanted to trade him and Stan refused to go.

WL: Mayo Smith managed you in Philadelphia.

HH: Yes. Quite a guy. A very nice guy, and I thought he did an excellent job with the ball club he had. He was a very good manager, I thought.

WL: Let me ask you this. Even though Lane liked to trade people like mad, do you imagine that your trade in part was due to the injured knee?

HH: Well, it could possibly be. When I got traded, it was the 11th of May and I had thrown one shutout and I had one victory. I was 1-0, that was my record at the time. And I can remember that at the time there was a lot of turmoil on the ball club, because we knew that the trades were being brewed. And so there was a lot of turmoil on the ball club.

WL: All right, you stayed with Philadelphia in '57.

HH: '56 and '57 I spent with Philadelphia.

WL: And then before the '58 season you went to Cincinnati. Was that a trade?

HH: That was a trade. They traded Wally Post and me. He was a favorite in Cincinnati. I can remember at the time Wally said to me, "I've spent some time here, now you can spend some time near home." Wally Post was from the little town of St. Marys, Ohio, which is about 60 miles from here.

WL: There in Cincinnati you ....

HH: I pitched for one year, in 1958.

WL: And you had two managers, Tebbetts and Dykes. How were they?

HH: They were excellent men. We just didn't win for Birdie Tebbetts. It was a year I'll never forget. In the spring when the season started it just rained and rained and we didn't get to play, and finally we had all the doubleheaders stacked up in front of us in July and August and September, and we didn't do very well. I'm not sure whether Birdie quit or was fired or what. Jimmy Dykes was a coach at the time, and I can remember him telling us, "go out and play ball, guys." Which we did, and we wound up doing pretty good under Jimmy Dykes. Because we had all those doubleheaders to play, and we won a lot of them.

WL: Now we'll move on. We've got things to come back to, but in '59 you're over in Pittsburgh. How'd you get there? Trade, sale, or what?

HH: At the end of the 1958 season (of course my record was only 8-7 with Cincinnati, and I'd had an injury all that summer and could not pitch as well as I wanted to), but that's one of those things in the game of baseball. It was nothing with my arm, it was a physical thing but it had nothing to do with my arm. I never had a day in the game of baseball that I couldn't throw a ball. But I got traded to Pittsburgh, and possibly it turned out to be the best thing that ever happened in my baseball life.

There were three of us traded for four. Smoky Burgess, Don Hoak, and myself for Frank Thomas (who had hit 30 or 35 home runs that year for Pittsburgh), Jim Pendleton, Johnny Powers, and Whammy Douglas.

WL: Pittsburgh got the better of that deal.

HH: We feel like we had the benefit.

WL: You three became keys in the '60 pennant.

HH: That's exactly right.

WL: And Danny Murtaugh?

HH: Excellent man. A ball player's manager. He just put you out there. If somebody needed to be corrected or disciplined, he did. If you didn't do anything that was wrong, he left you alone. Go out there and play, and play as hard as you could, and that was it. No matter whether you did good or bad, it was always the same, as long as you gave the effort.

WL: Everybody speaks well of Danny. Now, let's go to May 26, 1959.

HH: Yes, and of course I had just been traded over to Pittsburgh.

WL: Had you recently?

HH: Well, to start that season. In fact, yes, we were all new to Pittsburgh at the time, and we were in Milwaukee. In fact, early that morning I got up in Pittsburgh about 6 o'clock in the morning. And we flew to Milwaukee for a night game there. And on top of it I had the flu.

WL: Oh, no!

HH: Yes, I sure did. Well, anyway, I remember that I didn't feel good, but about the middle of the afternoon I had a hamburger and a milk shake. And I

headed for the ball park, not feeling good. I intended to pitch, no matter what. And we get out there, and Danny held the meeting before the ball game, on how we were going to hit and pitch and defanse against them. A clubhouse meeting before the game. Well, I'm conducting the meeting on how I'm going to pitch these guys, and evidently I got on the thing of pitching high and tight and low and away. I can remember at the end of that meeting - it broke it up - Don Hoak spoke up and he said, "Harv, , if you pitch those guys that way, you're going to pitch a no-hitter."

WL: I'll be damned.

HH: This was before the ball game now. And with that he broke up the meeting. We all laughed and said the heck with it, let's go. We went out there and got into the ball game.

WL: You were against Lew Burdette.

HH: Lew Burdette again, the man I beat in my first ball game in the major leagues. We got into the ball game and I had the no-hitter going, and there was no doubt it, I felt lousy. I sucked on throat lozenges the whole ball game, so I wouldn't cough while I was out there on the mound. And it was a kind of rainy, stormy night, you didn't know whether we were going to play, you didn't know whether we were going to get rained out. There was lightning in the background and everything. It was a weird night.

The game kept going on and on and I knew I had the no-hitter.

WL: When did you begin to really be conscious of it?

HH: Well, I was conscious of it all the way. In fact, before that, one time against Philadelphia I went to the 9th inning with a no-hitter. Richie Ashburn came up to break it up for me to lead off the 9th inning. So I'd been through this thing before. I did not try for the no-hitter. I just kept right on going and just one up, two up, three up and down they went till the 9th inning. I said, "I've been this close before. I'm going to go for it." Now the score was 0-0, of course, and that was the only inning of that ball game that I really tried to throw a no-hitter.

And I gave it my all. And we got 'em out in the 9th inning. And of couse we didn't score, so we kept on going. Every inning, I'd say from the 7th inning on, every time I'd appear on the field either going to the mound or to bat, the people would stand and cheer me. The home town (people).

WL: I know it.

HH: And it made me feel pretty good. Some time late in the ball game I came to bat and I can remember Del Crandall, the catcher, saying to me, "Harvey, you've got a pretty good ball game going." He didn't say the magic word. He just said that, and of course I said, "Yeah, I guess I have." And we kept on going. And every inning as I walked in and out, there was the big scoreboard right up there in front of me. You can see exactly what's going on.

Now, of course it went into the 13th inning, and the first batter up for Milwaukee was Felix Mantilla. He hit the most routine ground ball to third base that you could ever want to Don Hoak. He had so much time that he picked the ball up, looked at the seams, got the ball just right, and threw it into the dirt at first base. Nelson didn't handle the ball, so the spell was broken.

WL: The perfect game was broken, and with it the spell, but it still was a no-hitter.

HH: I didn't know that I had done something that nobody else had ever done. I didn't know that. I knew that I had a no-hitter, but I was never a "stat" man that worried about stuff like that. I knew I had a no-hitter but it did not affect my pitching, as far as that's concerned. The next man was Eddie Matthews. He sacrificed Mantilla to second base and I threw Eddie out at first. The next man was Hank Aaron. We walked him intentionally to set up for a force out or a double play or whatever. And the next man up was Joe Adcock.

WL: And you had handled him four times.

HH: Pretty good, yes. And with the second pitch to him I got a slider a little bit up and out over the plate. It wasn't a bad pitch, it wasn't a good pitch. It was just good enough to hit. And you have to give him credit. He didn't try to pull the ball. He went with it and hit it over the right center field fence.

Now the score wound up 1-0. Here is what happened. Felix Mantilla, who was on second base, rounded third and scored. Hank Aaron was on first base. He ran down and touched second base and turned around and ran back across the pitcher's mound. He knew they only needed one run to win. In the meantime Adcock had run around second base and the umpires ruled that he had passed Adcock on the bases, and that's why the score wound up 1-0 instead of 3-0.

But two years ago I found out an almost impossible thing. Bob Buhl was a pitcher on the Milwaukee Braves staff at that time. He said, "I stood in center field with the binoculars and relayed every pitch that you threw to the hitters." And they still didn't get a hit. And they knew every pitch that was coming.

WL: That's incredible!

HH: They relayed them off of our catcher to a guy sitting next to Buhl who had a towel on his shoulder. If it was a fastball they didn't move it; if it was anything else they moved the towel.

WL: I can't believe that.

HH: Every pitch, they knew what was coming.

WL: I've talked to so many guys who said, "We beat So-and-so because they were calling the pitches. Two of them have told me, Joe Sewell and someone else, that in the 1920 World Series against Brooklyn, when Burleigh Grimes, the old spitballer, was pitching, Johnny Rawlings at seond base, I believe it was Rawlings /actually, it was Pete Kilduff/, would always reach down and get a handfull of dirt if it was going to be a spitter. They picked that up and they beat him. And years later he told Burleigh, and Grimes said, "I knew you were getting something." Anyway, I listened to that whole game of yours, and it was a thrill, I tell you, to listen to it, and it was a sad moment when that ball went over the fence, because your guys had lots of chances to win it. I think you got 13 hits....

HH: Twelve. Twelve hits, I think we had.

WL: Were there any close plays, was anybody thrown out at the plate who could been the winning run?

HH: Well, there was a baserunning mistake made by Román Mejías. I think he was on first base and/a base hit I think he hesitated going around second and I think he got thrown out. The big thing is - remember I told you it was a stormy night - Bob Skinner hit a ball to right field. It was out of the ball park. Henry Aaron went back to the fence and stood there and put his hands down. A gust of wind came up and blew it back into the ball park and Aaron caught it.

WL: Oh, for goodness' sake.

HH: But the strangest thing of all to me was there were only about two real tough plays from our side. I think it was Johnny Logan who hit a real hot scooter at Dick Schofield at shortstop. Schofield was playing shortstop and Dick Groat wasn't. I do not know to this time why. And I'll tell you another man who was missing from our lineup at that time and I didn't realize it until later. Roberto Clemente did not play in that ball game, and that could have made a difference.

WL: It sure could.

HH: Anyway, I think there was a ball hit pretty well to center field that Bill Virdon hauled down easily. And I think there was a line drive by Matthews to Rocky Nelson at first base. All the rest of them were the most routine plays. There were no running or diving catches or nothing. It seemed so easy some nights.

WL: You can see that because there are guys who, well, didn't even belong in the major leagues practically, who on a certain day would pitch a no-hitter. Bobo Holloman, for instance, and characters like that.

HH: I think he pitched a no-hitter the first ball game he pitched in the majors.

WL: And practically didn't win another game.

HH: Two or three more ball hames, that's about it, I believe. /Two, to be exact/

WL:: Well, that was a great moment, and one that will remain in baseball history, Harvey. Somebody might some day pitch 13 or more perfect innings, but it hasn't happened yet.

HH: Well, it's just one of those things the situation has to be right. Usually a team has a run or so or something, and so the opportunity has to be there for the fellow to be able to do it.

WL: It would be very rare to have a scoreless game into the 13th or 14th inning. It's happened, of course. Johnny Vander Meer tells me that in his two straight no-hitters, in the two games together, there were only about two plays that were really tough and close. In one, he knocked down a liner and chased it and got it to first in time. Those things just happen sometimes.

HH: That's what makes our game of baseball so great. You never know what can happen.

WL: All right. Now, in 1960 you really put it together.

HH: As a team.

WL: When did the Pirates as a team begin to feel that you had it that year?

HH: Well, believe it or not, I have this feeling today that my 12-inning perfect game brought us together as a group.

WL: Could well be.

HH: We kidded and agitated one another from that day on. They always had the thing about how I was cocky, which was not true. But we kidded one another the rest of the time, and I think this carried on into the next year, and we were the loosest bunch of ball players you ever saw.

WL: And you had a manager that helped you be that way.

HH: Danny Murtaugh was just a part of it, he just overlooked all the things, and when we went out there and played we put out on the field, and that's where it counted. In fact, Danny didn't have to go after guys, our own players would go after one another. We thought that if somebody didn't hustle

quite enough after the ball, two or three of the players would go after the guy. This was the thing that the 1960 Pirates had.

WL: We overlooked one thing in '59. That was the remarkable season that Roy Face had.

HH: I can remember that very well. In fact, I can remember the ball game he got beat in. It was the old Coliseum in Los Angeles. I cannot remember the exact situation, but I remember that there was a man on second base. Now Roy had 17 wins and no losses, I believe, at the time. And the routine ground ball found a hole between third and short and it scored the guy from second base to defeat Roy. And then of course he won one game after that and made it an 18-1 season.

WL: I think he holds the record for the most wins from the start of the season without a loss at 17. Johnny Allen had 15 for Cleveland one year. And he was obviously a very strong figure in your winning in '60, because he had 24 saves, which in those days was a heck of a lot of saves.

HH: Sure, they've changed the saves situation since then, yes, but Elroy might possibly could be the best relief pitcher I ever saw.

WL: It's entirely possible.

HH: He was tremendous, and of course he was one of the first guys that threw the forkball that started becoming so popular. Today they call it the split-fingered fastball. It's the same pitch thrown at different velocities.

WL: And now, with Roger Craig promoting it, half the pitchers in the majors are trying the split-fingered.

HH: Yes, and some can throw it and some can't, and you wonder how many of those balls that get hit out of the ball park were the split-fingered fastball, that nobody says anything about.

WL: Now let's look at that '60 Series. That was one of the most fantastic Series that we've ever had. You guys were outscored 55-27, got beat 16-3, 10-0, and 12-0, but you still hung in there and took that last one in a slugfest, so you beat 'em at their own game.

HH: This is the 1960 Pirates. That's the way we played all year. Exactly. We had a bunch of guys that would not quit. They never knew when they were beaten, and of course if you don't give up you've got a chance of winning. And that's exactly what happened in the 1960 Series. We laughed when they kicked the tar out of us.

WL: That's all you can do.

HH: We laughed about it.

WL: It's good that you did.

HH: That's better than pouting about it, becuase it helped us for the next game.

WL: Actually, your spirits could remain better than if you got beat 2-1 or 3-2. Because you knew you were out of it, so just relax and come back the next day.

HH: The game was gone and we just got ready for the game the next day.

WL: All right. You beat them in Game 5 , 5-2, and Elroy came in and finished it. And then you came back in and got the win in the crucial game.

HH: With the Mazeroski home run, yes.

WL: That's the most spectacular finish any World Series has ever had. It's the only time a World Series ever ended with the last pitch being a home run.

HH: I can remember it very well. Of course, to start that 9th inning, I don't remember the exact way it was. I think we were leading by one run.

WL: You were leading, 9-7. And they tied it up.

HH: 9-7. I remember Bob Friend started the inning, and I was warming up in the bullpen and this is why I cannot remember all of it. But I do remember when I came in there was a man on first and third and nobody out. And I looked at the plate and there stood Maris, over there stood Mantle. Following him stood Berra and following him was Skowron. And with the game that close, that's a tough situation.

WL: You know it.

HH: It's the only time in my life I ever got nervous on the mound.

WL: With reason.

HH: Yep, I said, "I can't pitch this way, so I've gotta do something about it." I stood out there, I laughed at myself, I cussed myself out, I did anything I could. It must have took me five minutes and I'm looking up at home plate. And all the time I'm trying to get this nervousness off me, Maris is standing up there grinding the bat. Looked like sawdust was coming out it. He wanted to hit. And the more I could delay him the better it'd be for me. Well, actually they hit each waste pitch I threw in that inning. I can remember the first pitch to Maris was off the plate and inside. He hit my first pitch, I believe, and it was off the plate intentionally six to eight inches at least. He swung and popped it up over home plate. Smoky Burgess, I believe, was the catcher at the time and he caught it. Hal Smith hit the home run earlier, but I believe Smoky was the catcher (in the 9th).

WL: I don't have the box score here, that's in another book, but I think you're right.

HH: Well, anyway, Maris popped up. And the next man up was Yogi Berra. The very same thing to him. I wasted a pitch inside, a waste pitch, and he swung ~~xxxx~~ and hit a long hop. He hit the ball hard and hit a one-hop to Rocky Nelson at first base. To this day I do not know why Rocky did not throw to second base and back to first for the double play. I was running over to cover first base. Rocky was looking at third base, because the runner was there and as I lo~~xx~~ked, there he is.... I take it back, I got ahead of my story. Mantle batted second. I wasted a pitch to Mantle outside and ~~xxx~~ off of the plate low and he was on one knee and hit the ball for a single over Mazeroski's head. That ~~xxx~~ tied the game, with that bloop single. Then came Berra who hit the ground ball to Nelson, and with one out I couldn't figure why he didn't go to second and back to first for the dpuble play. But he was looking at the man on third. Rocky runs up and touches first base for the out. Mantle must have been confused

too, because here he comes sliding back into first base. (He meant second base) So there's two out yet, with a man on first and third. The next batter was Bill Skowron and I throw a waste pitch inside to Bill Skowron and he hit a ground ball to Dick Groat at short for the third out. I threw four pitches to four hitters, all waste pitches.

WL: Well, if you had wound up losing that game you'd think that Nelson blew it, but in the final analysis it just made the victory more sensational.

HH: It sure did.

WL: I can't remember whether Maz hit the first pitch or the second.

HH: Second pitch. I can remember it very well. I was sitting on the bench and I was going to be the second hitter. Danny was going to pinch hit for me, because Mizell is warming up in the bullpen. I saw the first pitch to Maz, and he started to go for it but laid off of it. He didn't swing. He started but stopped his swing. The next pitch was about six inches lower, I'd say about chest high. Just right for Mazeroski. He swung and with the crack of the bat I knew the ball was a home run. I told the guys on the bench beside me, "I've thrown enough of them to know that's gone." And sure enough, when that thing sailed over the wall, Pittsburgh went wild.

WL: A wild moment, yep. Great memories. Now, let's move to '61, when the Pirates dropped from first to sixth place.

HH: We didn't do worth a dern. We tried the same things the next year and things didn't work out.

WL: That's happened so many times. You see it all the time now.

HH: No matter what we tried, it did not work.

WL: Well, the Red Sox are in that situation right now, and the Mets started off that way but they're gathering some steam now. Well, that's part of baseball. Like you say, if we knew what was going to happen all the time, nobody would be out there watching.

HH: We sure couldn't explain. We almost had the same personnel and everything.

WL: Now then, in '63 you got converted to a reliever primarily.

HH: Yes.

WL: How did you like that?

HH: It was something new to me and I didn't mind trying it, because as time went on it became tougher and tougher for me to go nine innings. Of course, the bullpen wasn't used in those days like it is today. In a lot of games I could go five or six innings, but that wasn't enough. In those days they wanted more, so I was glad to go to the bullpen. And it was quite an adjustment. The toughest thing for me was I was the only lefthander in the bullpen, and my arm got very, very tired. Not that I couldn't throw a baseball. I could throw the ball but not with the stuff on it because my arm hadn't been used to that throwing day after day. Being the only lefthander down there, I was up every day - for look, for show, for use.

WL: You were up more than once, probably.

HH: Oh, I was up seven or eight times in a day, and then they'd say, "Hey, we didn't use you today; we've got you for tomorrow." And you don't say no.

WL: Now, you went to Baltimore.

HH: Yes.

WL: Was that a trade?

HH: That was a trade, and I cannot think of the name of the young ball player Pittsburgh got for me from Baltimore. He was a young player and I cannot remember the name. I don't know whether Pittsburgh got any cash out of it, or whether it was a straight deal, or what it was. But I enjoyed it very much in Baltimore. [Haddix was traded for minor league shortstop Dick Yencha and cash]

WL: And you found Hank Bauer as manager there.

HH: Yes. In spring training those years when I was with the Cardinals and he was with the Yankees, we used to play against one another quite often in spring training games, so we knew one another ptetty good.

WL: Well, you had a good season for him with 10 saves, and got into 89 plus

innings. And 10 saves back in those days was prett many.

HH: Not too bad.

WL: And Baltimore finished third that year, and third the next year too. In the '65 season you were 40 years old.

HH: Yes, I was. And I didn't do very good, but it was not because of my age, as far as I am concerned. In spring training 1965 I pitched an inning early during training, and the very next day they called on me to pitch two more innings. I remember after the first inning I go in and tell Hank and Harry Brecheen (who was the pitching coach), "My arm feels very heavy. But I think I can continue to pitch." And I went back out there for the next inning and pitched the inning. But after that my arm was never the same that year. Now, I could throw a ball, I had no pain, but I just couldn't get the stuff on it.

WL: The ball didn't do what you wanted it to.

HH: No, it sure didn't.

WL: That's about like Glenn Wright told me, after he'd banged up his right shoulder off-season playing handball, "After I recovered finally - operation, etc. - I'd throw just as hard, that is, I went through the same motions, but it took the ball longer to get there."

WL: Well, you had 14 seasons. That's far more than an average career, even with the war cutting you short at the beginning and everything. And you have to have a lot of good memories. Other than the no-hitter for 12 innings and the [redacted] '60 World Series, can you think of any other particular thrill that you had in baseball?

HH: Well, the thrill for me was being able to put on a major league baseball uniform. It's something I think most youngsters would love to be able to do.

WL: And especially back in those years.

HH: In those years, yes. Remember, there were only 16 major league ball clubs...

WL: Plus, there weren't so many pro sports.

HH: That's right. There wasn't near as much. There was more emphasis on the

major leagues at that time. I think that when I first started out the Cardinals had 22 farm clubs, and the Dogers had 26, and when you think about coming up through and beating all those guys out and reaching the majors, that's the thrill of being in the game of baseball. And the idea that you could play the game that you love and entertain people and get paid for it, what more pleasure out of life could you have? It's just one of the greatest pleasures of all. But the other day in Pittsburgh they named me to their All-Time Pirate Team, along with Ralph Kiner, Honus Wagner, Pie Traynor, Manny Sanguillen, Willie Stargell, Clemente, Paul Waner. I got on the team. Elroy Face and Vernon Law were the other pitchers. They had a righthanded pitcher, a lefthanded pitcher (me), and a relief pitcher. When I got named to that team in Pittsburgh, that to me is really an elite group. I don't know, but I'm sure there were a lot of good lefthanded pitchers. In fact, there was one fellow won 200 ball games for them. And they named me the best lefthanded pitcher in Pittsburgh history.

WL: You earned it, especially in those special moments of the 12 perfect innings and if they hadn't had you in '60 thet wouldn't have won the World Series.

HH: Well, you like to think of it that way, but you never know.

WL: Well, I say it. Any regrets?

HH: Possibly my only regret is that you could win more and contribute more. That's one. But I had the satisfaction that every time I went out there I gave it everything I had. A regret I have is that when I first came to the major leagues I had a good fastball, a good curve ball, and a change of pace. And I learned to throw that slider, of course, and I got carried away by the slider. I threw too many sliders and lost my good curve ball. Even though I could adjust the slider from a very small one to a great big one, I still lost the effectiveness of the curve ball from throwing too many sliders.

WL: Too bad. Now, are there any players you played with on those teams - great ones, near-great - you want to say anything about?

HH: Well, the only thing I can say is that I played with a lot of great ball players. Yes, to start out with there was Stan Musial in St. Louis, and of course I watched him very closely to see how a person with his stance and everything - it looked like he did everything wrong - could hit like he did. So, after my career, when I became a coach, I decided right then that I would not try to change anybody just because he was doing something that looked wrong. If he could accomplish something with it, leave him alone. Do not change him and make him into a mold. I was with Robin Roberts and Clemente and all of those fellows, and of course all the great ones I played against, and one thing that each one of them had was the intensity with which they played the game. And they all enjoyed it, you could see it, and of course when you're having good years it's very easy to enjoy it so much. It all fits in. But they all had that great intensity, the desire to excel. That's what they had.

WL: Now, do you think the ball players of today have the same intensity?

HH: As a group, maybe not. But I say this about today's ball player. He is bigger, he's stronger, he's better taught than we ever were, but they get there so fast that they don't get a chance to learn their trade as well before they get there.

WL: You're so right. And because of the night ball and travel across country, they don't have the same togetherness and they don't have near as much fun.

HH: I don't believe they enjoy the game as much as we did, because with the salaries today they have the money to do things on their own which we didn't. We had to do things as a group, but they can do anything they wish today. They have the money, and the closeness is not there. But still, like I say, today's ball player is a lot better athlete overall than what we were.

WL: On top of which, fielders have got gloves they can't miss a ball with.

HH: That's exactly right. There's been an improvement. I have in here my first ball glove that I ever owned as a kid.

WL: Funny looking little thing, isn't it?

HH: It's just a little bit bigger than my hand. And you had to catch the ball in your hand.

WL: With two hands.

HH: With two hands. When you watch 'em today, I can understand why the guys use one hand. You really don't need the two hands. Once the ball hits that glove, it just folds it in there. A lot of the old ideas were great and are great, but some of the new ones are also okay.

WL: Do you remember any particular plays xx that were great or funny or unusual?

HH: One of the greatest plays I ever saw an outfielder make was one Bill Virdon made in Forbes Field in Pittsburgh. I don't know who the hitter was, I don't know who the team was. But somebody hit a ball that was hit high and well off the left center field fence in Pittsburgh, which had to be somewhere around 410-420 feet. And the ball was about 15 feet high xx or better. And I can see Bill Virdon going after that ball. The vines were on the wall, and he ran right up the wall with his spikes. With those vines there he was able to run up. He must have been 10 feet in the air and it looked to us from the dugout that he caught the ball. But instead of coming down and just throwing it in, he turned around and fired a strike into third base and got the runner going to third base trying for a triple. I saw the umpire, he was out there in left center field, and he called the safe call as soon as Bill came down with that ball. He called safe. When Bill came in I asked, "Bill, didn't you catch that ball?" He said, "No, I short-hopped it off the wall." It was one of the greatest things. The umpire was sharp enough to call it right, and I gotta say in fairness to the umpires today, I think the instant replay is great. It shows how many times the umpires are right.

WL: Which is 99-point-something.

HH: There are some plays that are questionable yet, because the angle of the camera doesn't give you the full view which you need, and I think that rather than a detriment to the umpire the instant replay is a plus. And so they miss[redacted] one once in a while.

WL: We all do.

HH: It's the game of baseball. There's nothing perfect.

WL: Any funny guys among your teammates?

HH: Oh, there's always a lot of funny guys around, but what I enjoyed as much as anything was the camaraderie with the guys in general. You knew the guys that you could kid with, you knew the guys to leave alone, and just the idea of being around them every day and what guys you could joke with. There's nobody that really stands out, as far as that's concerned. But I had a lot of fun with a lot of them.

WL: Were you married during your baseball days?

HH: At the start, no. I got married in 1955 to my wife Marcia, and then she traveled with me for 10 years till 1965 (that was through my time in Baltimore), and she'd had enough. We had had our third little one at that time, and so she stayed home from then on while I was coaching.

WL: Well, when she started staying home, that must have been tough.

HH: It was a change of lifestyle. And you gotta give the wives credit. For a baseball wife to stay married with a baseball player is a very, very tough situation. Especially if you had little ones. Now if you don't have little ones it's not near as tough.

WL: They all say that the wives are the unsung heroes of baseball.

HH: It takes a special person for a wife to be married to and stay married to a baseball player.

WL: So, what do you feel in general about baseball today? What do you think about free agency?

HH: Well, all I know is that I don't know exactly what is right and what's

wrong. But I do know this. That they mashed us when I was playing. They were not fair to us. We were hurt. Then I think it swung around and the ball players were unfair to the owners. Whether the owners brought this on themselves or not.....

WL: They did.

HH: So, it went the other way. I think it's going to swing back, or it's going to swing and meet halfway.

WL: A happy medium.

HH: I think that's the thing to do. I cannot see these four or five year... I say today, if a man has a good year like Tim Raines did last year, give him that million dollars. For a year. Not for four or five years. That to me was the biggest mistake.

WL: All the old-timers say that, that the long-term, guaranteed, no-trade, [illegible] no-cut contract .....

HH: It handcuffs the owners and they can't do what they want to do.

WL: It removes incentives.

HH: That's exactly what happens. It takes away from the game of baseball. But I still say that these guys today, they're not overpaid, because television generates a lot of money, but the biggest fault is the long-term contract.

WL: What about artificial surfaces? Do you have any feelings?

HH: Yes. I think it's a great thing, the artificial surface. In all my playing time I played on grass fields, and it was excellent. And you still have a nostalgia about it that the old fields are great, but for television and things today (the world spins around money today) I think that artificial surface has its place today. When the game is scheduled, they're able to play the game.

WL: Almost always, unless it rains hard [illegible] and steadily at game time. And you get truer bounces.

HH: Truer bounces. I don't know whether it does, but the hard surface

probably has something to do with base-stealing today. I think they're able to run faster on it, and again we get back to the better athletes of today. And like I say, they've been taught more than what we were taught, so everything today makes me think the artificial surface is a good thing.

WL: The designated hitter?

HH: The designtated hitter has its good points and bad points also. It gives another ball player a chance to play and produce. One player extra, usually. But it takes away from the managerial maneuvering, and that's going to have its effects in the long term on your pitching. How many games are complete games and how many aren't, etc. I think it's unfair to baseball to have one league with the designated hitter and one without it.

WL: It's even unfair to have 14 teams in one league and 12 in the other. But that's not as much unfair as the DH. Now, instead of talking about you as a pitcher, let's talk about you as a hitter. How about your 4 home runs?

HH: Ha, ha! I had five home runs. Somehow or other one of them's got lost. I'll tell you what. I had three on the roof in St. Louis, I had one in the upper deck in Pittsburgh, and I had one in the sundeck in Cincinnati. That adds up to five, but the book says four. I don't know which one they lost. I don't think I miscounted, for when you only hit five in a career you can remember them. But I'll say this. I enjoyed hitting. I wasn't a good hitter, but I could slap the ball around and get the bat on the ball a little bit. I could not hit a lefthanded pitcher with 10 bats. Curt Simmons, he was impossible for me to hit. But I did enjoy it. In fact, in one year - 1953, I believe it was - I was doing four jobs for the St. Louis Cardinals. I started, and won 20 and lost 9; I relieved but I don't know what my record was at that; I pinch ran; and I pinch hit.

WL: Yeah, you hit .289 that season. 28 base hits and one home run, it says- might have been two.

HH: There was another year I was thinking I had 30-some base hits.

WL: No, not according to the Encyclopedia. 28 was your best.

HH: I know what it was. Stanky had a bet that the pitching staff wouldn't get 30 hits for the whole year. Needless to say, we won that.

WL: Which city did you enjoy most?

HH: I enjoyed every town that I played in and went to. But I would have to say St. Louis and Pittsburgh stand out to me. And of course a lot of things happened to me in Milwaukee also. But the towns that I enjoyed playing in overall the most were Pittsburgh and St. Louis.

WL: So, if you had it all to do over again, you would pretty much try to do it the same way?

HH: I wouldn't change a whole lot, no. The only thing is I think you'd be a little smarter and do things a little bit different, but there are no second chances, so you go with what you did.

WL: We learn from doing, but you can't go back and do it over again.

HH: It's the old thing of second-guessing.

WL: It's great fun but it doesn't change anything. Harvey, I'm really very happy to have had this chance to talk with you and find you here in good health and good spirits and remembering good things about baseball. I guess they'll never put you in the Hall of Fame, but in a way you belong there with your unique achievement and you're going to be remembered everywhere, that's for sure. I was in Cooperstown just last week talking with Howard Talbot, the Director, and he agrees that there should be separate categories there for, well, for one thing, for pitchers who throw no-hit games. Have a separate little section for them. And some other divisions also, but it's not about to happen right now, I don't think. Anyway, you've got your cherished memories and nobody can take them away from you. It's great and I'm delighted to have had the chance to talk with you.

HH: It's sure been my pleasure.

WL: So you went into coaching after '65.

HH: Yes, at the end of '65, the first of September, Baltimore traded me over to

Milwauke, or sold me to Milwaukee, I believe it was. And of course I refused. We'd just had the third little one and my wife was in a very tough situation. He was born in Baltimore and he was just a young one, and I said, "I cannot go traipsing on any further; I know I'm at the end of my career. That's it. I quit." And I came home here and was getting organized, and I still wanted to be in baseball, so I was inquiring around about jobs. But for that given time there was too much pressure. During the winter I'm sitting here and got a contract from the Kansas City Athletics. I flew out there to be a coach for the Athletics. They were tossing it around and were talking letting me coach for with Vancouver, their Triple A ball club, and I had another iron or so in the fire, and all at once the phone rings and it's the New York Mets' Johnny Murphy. My wife told me, "It's Johnny Murphy from the Mets." And I said, "Wouldn't that be strange if he wanted me as the pitching coach there?" And that's exactly what he asked.

I said, "Now, look, John, I'd love to be the pitching coach for you, but I do have a couple of problems. I have a contract laying here from the Kansas City Athletics, uunsigned, which is not a real big problem, though I've the same as said yes. And I said, "I still belong to Baltimore, because when I refused to go to Milwaukee I reverted back to Baltimore." So here's what he said to me, "You take care of Kansas City, we'll take care of Baltimore." I called Kansas City and talked with Ed Lopat, who I think was the general manager. He says, "Harv, we don't stand in the way of anybody bettering himself. If you want to go there, you go right ahead and go." And that's how I wound up being the pitching coach of the New York Mets. Would you believe the pitching staff that I started off with over there? Nolan Ryan, Tom Seaver, Jerry Koosman, Tug McGraw.

WL: Oh, golly.

HH: Was that fun!

WL: And such a challenge, and the way you brought all of them along. Nolan

took a while to get enough control to be a winner but....

HH: Well, Nolan didn't want to pitch in New York, was the impression I got. He came to me one day and said, "What do I have to do to get traded from this ball club?" He's a country boy and he didn't like the big city, and he wanted out of there.

WL: Sure, he's from Alvin, Texas.

HH: Yes, and I said to him, "There's no way you can get traded until you pitch. You have to pitch, and then maybe something can be worked out." And of course later it happened. And of course we all had to leave when Westrum quit as manager at the end of the '67 season, and we all got fired. Whitey Herzog was the third base coach. He invited me to stay on with the Mets at that time, but I said, "No, I'm going on to other places. I don't know what I'm going to do, but I'm going on." Whitey stayed there and that's where he became a front office man and eventually turned into the manager that he is today.

WL: And that's something.

HH: It sure is. He's one of the best in baseball today.

WL: And he'll probably go down as one of the best in the 20th century if he keeps on as he is. So how many years did you coach?

HH: I coached from 1966, when I started with the Mets, in 1968 I went to the Pirates' minor league system. That was a great experience, I loved it, working with the minor league pitchers. In 1969 I coached with the Cincinnati Reds. In 1970 I went back to the Pittsburgh Pirates' minor league system again. Like I say, the money wasn't there, but it was enjoyable. In 1971 I coached with the Boston Red Sox, and I enjoyed it up there. And my wife was getting kind of tired living alone, and she said, "I think you better stay home for awhile." So I was home in '72, '73, and '74, and in 1975 Frank Robinson had just been named manager of the Cleveland Indians, and he called and said, "Would you be my pitching coach?" I said something to my wife, and she said, "Go for it." So I went with the Cleveland Indians in '75, '76, '77, and '78. When I left

there I started coaching with the Pittsburgh Pirates in '79 and was lucky enough to be on the 1979 World Series champions again, which was wonderful. And I stayed there until 1984, and I said I got tired and retired.

WL: Well, that made for quite a career.

HH: I had an enjoyable career the whole way.

* * * * * *

Note: Harvey was a little confused in recreating the 9th inning of the 7th game of the 1960 World Series. The official play-by-play reads as follows:

New York

Friend pitching for Pittsburgh. Richardson singled to left-center. Long, pinch-hitting for DeMaestri, singled to right, Richardson stopping at second. For Pittsburgh - Haddix came in to pitch. Maris fouled to Smith. Mantle singled to right-center, scoring Richardson and sending Long to third. McDougald ran for Long. Berra grounded to first, scoring McDougald with Mantle going to second. Skowron forced Berra, Groat to Mazeroski.