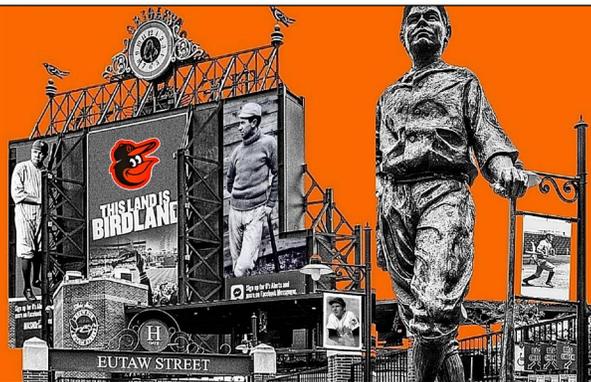


THE BALTIMORE CHOP

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BABE RUTH CHAPTER OF BALTIMORE



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH



Vol. 6, No. 3

Fall 2022

The Lineup

SABR Spotlight	2
Calendar	2
Chapter officers	2
Trivia	3
Tribute to Vin Scully	4
Tale of Multiple Cities ...	5
Seven-Month Miracle ...	6
BBRC Aberdeen trip ...	7
Queen's '91 O's game .	7
Buhner: Almost	8
Trivia answer	8
Al Kaline	9
Babe's trade	10
Babe's first pro HR	11
Jackie in Baltimore	12
Babe in Baltimore	16

SABR 50 Touches Them All



By Scott Bush
CEO, SABR

It was a real pleasure to hold SABR's 50th annual convention after a forced two-year hiatus. Baltimore—and the Babe Ruth Chapter—were excellent hosts, providing first-class hospitality to SABR members who were excited to gather together in person once again. The event also acted as a showcase of the Charm City as members visited Oriole Park at Camden Yards, the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum, Memorial Stadium and other former ballpark sites, as well as attractions in and around the Inner Harbor.

I'm incredibly proud of the event and our lineup of speakers. It reflects well on SABR that we can play host to a group that includes Tim Kurkjian, Judy Pace Flood, Larry Lucchino, Sig Mejdal, Janet Marie Smith, Brad Snyder, Eve Rosenbaum, and so many more. We were joined by more than 500 guests, a number that surely would have been greater had public health and airline travel been a bit more friendly.

I'm already looking forward to Chicago next year, because it's my job to do so. But I hope each of you will remember SABR 50 until at least SABR 51, and hopefully well beyond. Thanks for everything you contributed to its success.

President's Message

We here at the BBRC have a lot to be thankful for in 2022.

First, the hometown Orioles shocked the majors by finishing over .500 and in fourth place in the division. I had hoped for 75 wins, but, man, what a great season that should be the beginning of something great here in Charm City. Eighty-three wins and a 30+-game turnaround is pretty remarkable!

And, of course, we had the privilege of hosting SABR 50 back in August, after a two-year wait. Based on the feedback I got myself and via the whispers in the hallway, it was deemed a great convention and an overall success.

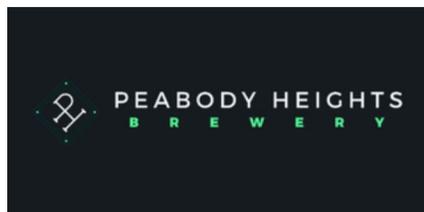
About 525 people attended the first post-worldwide pandemic convention, and 175 of those were first-time attendees. For the first convention held in



SABR visits Memorial Stadium site, still used for baseball (David Stinson)

Notes from the Lost Ballparks Tour
My First SABR Convention
SABR 50 Statistics

Page 3



Save the Date
SABR Day 2023
February 5

President ▶ Page 7



SABR Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter

Formed 2015

Board of Directors

President - Peter Coolbaugh (term expires SABR Day 2024)
peterc@baberuthmuseum.org

Vice President - David Stinson (term expires SABR Day 2023)
huntingtonparkdbs@gmail.com

Treasurer - D. Bruce Brown (term expires SABR Day 2024)
dbucebrown@gmail.com
443-742-4494

Secretary - Leslie Hoffmeister (term expires SABR Day 2023)
leslie.hoffmeister@gmail.com
443-421-1413

At-Large - John Burbridge (term expires SABR Day 2024)
jjburbridgejr@gmail.com

Michael Gibbons (term expires SABR Day 2023)
michaelg@baberuthmuseum.org

Ruth Sadler (term expires SABR Day 2024)
editor714@gmail.com

Find us on [Facebook](#), too.

Calendar

Regularly scheduled events

Zoom registration links are sent by the chapter

Peeps @ The Peeb (in-person and Zoom)

Conversation, nibbles, libations
First Wednesday of the month, 7-9 PM
Peabody Heights Brewery, 401 E. 30th St., Baltimore

Talkin' Baseball (Zoom only until further notice)

Since 2001, Bob Davids Chapter hosts a guest speaker
First Saturday of the month, 9 A.M.

Called Shot Lunch (in-person only)

BYO lunch and talk baseball
Third Wednesday of the month, noon
Babe Ruth Museum, 216 Emory St., Baltimore

Baltimore Baseball Babble (Zoom only)

Free-for-all baseball chat, not recorded
Last Sunday of the month, 7-9 P.M.

October

19: Called Shot Lunch

30: Baltimore Baseball Babble, Inning 8

November

2: Peeps @ The Peeb, SABR member Gary Cieradkowski will talk about his books and experience on the road

5: Talkin' Baseball

16: Called Shot Lunch

27: Baltimore Baseball Babble, Inning 9

December

3: Talkin' Baseball

14: Peeps @ The Peeb, SABR member Justin McKinney will talk about his upcoming book on Union Park (**NOTE: Due to a previous commitment, we are hosting Peeps on December 14 instead of December 7.**)

Getting to Know ... John Eisenberg

Author John Eisenberg hails from Dallas and is a familiar name in Baltimore, where he's written for the past 38 years for the Baltimore Sun and baltimoreravens.com. He retired in April after 43 years in daily journalism but continues to write. Watch for a history of Black NFL quarterbacks next year; working title: Rocket Men.

A SABR member since 2014, he counts the Orioles as his favorite team.

He saw his first game in Arlington Stadium in 1973, but Camden Yards is his favorite, "and that's after visiting probably 25 as a journalist."

Favorite player? "I come at this differently than most because I've interviewed hundreds, and those interactions color my perspective," he says. "I always enjoyed dealing with Brady Anderson. Rick Sutcliffe was a hoot, and so wise in the ways of baseball. Brooks Robinson offered to proofread my 500-page oral history of the Orioles before it was published and then called me with a dozen or so corrections. Elrod Hendricks was an absolute joy."

His favorite baseball memory also comes from his professional life: "I was at Dodger Stadium for Kirk Gibson's home run in 1988. Incredible scene. I was sitting in a press section in the upper deck and almost threw my laptop over the edge because I had written an early column lauding Dennis Eckersley and it couldn't be changed due to the HR coming so late. Frustrating at the time but as the years have passed, I'm glad I was there."

Eisenberg lists his hobbies as running, reading, and playing tennis.

You may not know: "In recent years I have written a lot more football than baseball, largely due to working for the Ravens, but baseball is my favorite sport. When my son (now 31) was younger, I coached his travel team for five years. We went all over Maryland creating great memories that we share."



Welcome, New Members

Danny Black	Baltimore
Robert Bochar	Odenton
Zach DeLong	New Market, MD
Wayne Laufert	Baltimore
Alee Marschke	Manchester
Joseph Natalicchio	Silver Spring
Chris Roberts	Bel Air
Deb Seymour	Rockville
Mike Sortino	Nottingham
Drew Sullins	Woodstock
Gordon Witherspoon	Lutherville

Babe Ruth's Baltimore—in 2 Pages

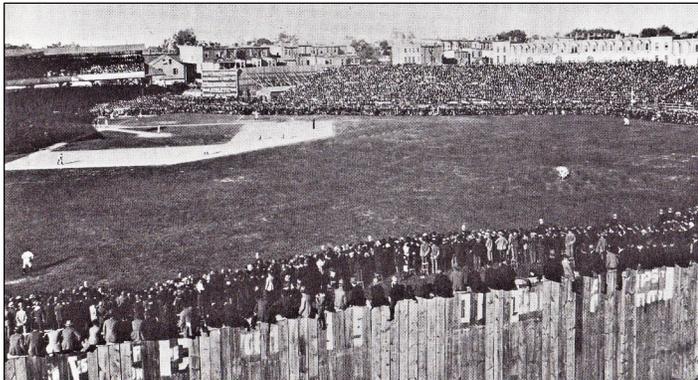
SABR 50 attendees received a list of Babe Ruth historic sites in and around Baltimore, compiled by Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter VP David Stinson. The two-page list is a handy guide for members interested in taking their own tour of Babe Ruth's Baltimore and is on pages 16-17.

SABR 50 Notebook

Historic Lost Ballparks Tour

By David B. Stinson

As part of SABR 50, the Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter provided a Historic Lost Ballparks Bus Tour on August 18. With the help of Chris Riehl and Baltimore Rent-A-Tour, SABR members David B. Stinson, Bernard McKenna, and Charlie Vascellaro, led a three-bus tour for approximately 150 con-



Boston Beaneaters v. Orioles, 1897 (Library of Congress)

vention attendees, visiting the former sites of many of Baltimore's former major-league ballparks.

Included in the tour were stops at Westport Park and Maryland Baseball Park, home of the Black Sox from 1917-1920, and 1921-1932, respectively; Oriole Park I, home



of the American Association (AA) Orioles from 1883-1888; Oriole Park II, home of the AA Orioles from 1889-1891; Oriole Park III, also known as Union Park, home of the AA Orioles in 1891 and the National League champion Orioles from 1892-1899; Oriole Park IV, also known as American League Park, home of the American League Orioles in 1901 and

Ballparks ▶ Page 13

Missed SABR 50? Here's the Replay

<https://sabr.org/convention/>

Trivia Corner

Match the 10 Orioles team accomplishments to the correct year. (Answer on Page 8)

- | | |
|--|------|
| A. The first pitching staff to hold opponents scoreless for 50+ consecutive innings | 1898 |
| B. The last 20th century AL team to feature four Gold Glove winners in the same season | 1959 |
| C. The last 20th century team to post a winning record immediately following a 100-loss season | 1966 |
| D. The last team to post a winning record immediately following a 100-loss season | 1974 |
| E. The 20th century team with the fewest triples in a season | 1975 |
| F. The first team to have four first-round picks in the annual amateur draft | 1989 |
| G. From 1951 through 1988, the only AL team to record a World Series sweep | 1998 |
| H. Team that had to postpone a game due to a hazardous chemical spill near the stadium | 1999 |
| I. The first team with at least one player with 200 hits for five consecutive seasons | 2001 |
| J. The first team to turn a triple play on Opening Day | 2022 |

My First SABR Convention



By Jim Considine

When thinking about the notion of a convention, I may be a little jaded by past experiences. I was happy to participate in the SABR convention, but gave it little thought ahead of time.

After Saturday's agenda, I realized that I had more fun than a man of my age is supposed to have.

Why? Here is a list of things that I found enjoyable:

- The camaraderie with folks who share an interest in baseball.
- Connecting with friends from the past.
- Being so impressed with the organization and hard work by Jessica Smyth and Jacob Pomrenke, who seemed to be everywhere from morning to the ninth inning.
- Seeing our CEO, who appears to be able to bend the age curve of the SABR membership.
- Being able to chat with David Stinson throughout the weekend is always enjoyable. His enthusiasm is contagious, while his knowledge is most impressive. He seems to stir my quest for knowledge.

And there were Sig, Boog, and "Boordy," the amazing Bill Stetka, and a live introduction to Kevin Brown and Joe Castiglione. Finally, my favorite panel was when "the band got back together," Larry Lucchino's quip as he was reunited with Janet Marie Smith and Dr. Charles Steinberg.

Curt Flood's story was told by Ken Burns as well as any documentarian could tell a story. Having the opportunity to hear it from his wife at SABR 50 reinforced the sacrifice he made for the players association.

One of the treats of the convention was John Burbridge's presentation on Jackie Robinson coming to Baltimore in 1946. This is an event that has always intrigued me, and I was delighted to hear someone present this information to the audience.

In summary, it was a marvelous way to spend a summer weekend in Baltimore.

We held it, and they came

- 🍷 517 from 36 states, Washington DC, and 5 Canadian provinces
- 🍷 175 first-timers (may be a record, double that of SABR 49)



A Tribute to Vin Scully—With Affection, from Canada

By Maxwell Kates

On the morning of August 3, I awoke to find one e-mail which stood out due to its brevity. It consisted of only one word.

Vin.

Right away, I knew. The night before, Rick Monday was faced with the difficult task of informing the Dodgers radio audience that Vin Scully, at age 94, had been called up to the angels. For 67 years, Vin broadcast the Dodgers, first in Brooklyn and then in Los Angeles. Working alone, both on the radio and on television, Vin Scully became an educator, an inspiration, and a voice of summer to millions.

Vincent Edward Scully was only 22 when the Brooklyn Dodgers hired him to replace Ernie Harwell on radio beginning in 1950. Growing up in Fordham, Vin predicted that when boyhood chum Larry Miggins hit his first major-league home run, he would be there to broadcast the shot. This proved to be correct, as Vin called Larry's first home run when the Dodgers faced the Cardinals in 1952. Vin was also behind the microphone when the Dodgers finally defeated the Yankees for their first world championship in 1955.

After the team moved to Los Angeles in 1958, transistor radios at game time became ubiquitous, especially at Dodger Stadium, with Vin's voice reverberating throughout the concourse. His broadcasts were impartial, applying facts and ephemera to paint a portrait with every game. Such was the case on the evening of September 9, 1965. Vin's "2-and-2 to Harvey Kuenn" foreshadowed the euphoria of a perfect game by Sandy Koufax.

It was the Dodgers who visited Atlanta in 1974, when Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run. Vin was able to demonstrate with his home run call, the societal relevance of the record-breaking round-tripper, as would be the case later on, with Fernandomania. By 1980, Vin Scully's voice was as legendary throughout the Southland as those belonging to Chick Hearn, Jerry Dunphy, and Stu Nahan. As a network announcer for NBC in 1986, Vin called perhaps the most controversial play in World Series history, as Mookie Wilson hit a nubber past Bill Buckner to win Game 6 for the Mets.

When Vin Scully retired in 2016, he had become an Irish uncle to millions of Angelenos of all backgrounds. His demeanor gave fans the impression that he was broadcasting not from a booth in Dodger Stadium, but from the confines of a family living room. Bob Costas poignantly remarked that when the Dodgers traveled to the East Coast, their radio broadcasts coincided with the Los Angeles rush hour. Vin's voice of calm proved to be the perfect juxtaposition for a car-maggedon of smog and smaze. It was time for gridlock on the San Diego Freeway, but it was also time for Dodgers baseball.

Some 2,750 miles from Tinseltown, in the remote outpost of Ottawa, a 10-year-old boy was getting ready to watch his first World Series game on October 15, 1988. The Dodgers were not even supposed to be there, having won only 73 games the year before. Instead, the Dodgers defied expectations in 1988, roaring through the division and defeating the heavily favored Mets in the National League Championship Series. It was a Pyrrhic victory, as the Dodgers lost Kirk Gibson to injuries in both legs.

Now they were facing the powerhouse Athletics. As Oakland took a 4-3 through eight innings, manager Tony LaRussa summoned the most dominant closer in baseball, Dennis Eckersley. Eck retired the first two Dodgers, which set the stage for the signature portrait of Scully's career. Eckersley walked Mike Davis, expecting to face Dave Anderson in pitcher Alejandro Pena's spot in the order. But, wait, that wasn't Anderson.



Batting for Pena, manager Tommy Lasorda sent none other than Kirk Gibson, hobbling to the plate. Vin explained to the captive audience the importance of the situation. It was Eckersley vs. Gibson, both at the height of their craft. Bottom of the ninth, two out, and after seven pitches, the count was full. With Gibson down to his final swing, Davis stole second. He had expected that Gibson would see ball four and take first base. Instead, Gibson swung at a back-door slider and parked the pitch in the right-field stands. "There she goes!" Scully remained silent as Gibson limped and pumped his fists as he circled the bases.

"In a year that has been so improbable," he proclaimed, "the impossible has happened." At Vin Scully's retirement ceremony in 2016, broadcaster Charley Steiner called the proclamation the greatest home run call of all time. In a moment of levity, Scully went on to observe that "nobody wants to leave!" This was another improbability at Chavez Ravine, given the consumer behavior of ticket holders to leave in the seventh inning in order to beat traffic on the freeway.

What an introduction to World Series baseball! And for that 10-year-old in Ottawa watching for the first time, who knew he wasn't athletic enough for intramural sports, now he had a new ambition: not to play baseball, but to broadcast the game. At age 20, he was working on a panel at a sports radio show in St. Catharines, Ontario. He had hoped it would be the first step along a trail leading to an anchor position for a major-league team. Instead, the baseball gods had different ideas, and his career both began and ended in St. Catharines.

In his 40s, he and Bill Nowlin co-edited *Time for Expansion Baseball*, the title, a tribute to Vin Scully's influence. A few months later, he received an envelope that was sent from Los Angeles:

"Hi Maxwell, thank you for your wonderful book, which I will read with great delight, and for all the thoughtful good wishes from my birthday to Happy New Year, and the same to you.

Vin."

Wishing you a very pleasant day, wherever you may be.

(Note: This appreciation also appears in the Houston and Toronto chapter newsletters.)

Chop Deadlines

Winter 2022-23	December 31, 2022
Spring 2023	March 31
Summer 2023	June 30
Fall 2023	September 30

A Tale of Multiple Cities

By Pat Brown

The headline on the front page of the September 30, 1953 issue of the *Baltimore Sun* read "BIG LEAGUE BALL BACK IN CITY AS BROWNS DEAL IS APPROVED" with the sub-head "AMERICAN OWNERS VOTE 8-0 TO O.K. TRANSFER". In fact, the sale of the St. Louis Browns to Baltimore interests to become the Baltimore Orioles made headlines across the country, including front-page treatment in newspapers like the *Boston Globe*, and crowded out the other big baseball news of the day, the start of the 1953 World Series (back when the "Fall Classic" started in September), in most newspapers' sports sections. This event began a new chapter in the rich history of major-league baseball in Baltimore, much of which was recounted at the recent SABR 50 convention. It is interesting to note some of the details of the transfer and its consequences as reported by news sources at the time.¹

One detail is that, for several different reasons, it almost did not happen. In 1952, after his efforts to move the Browns to Milwaukee failed, Bill Veeck, the owner of the Browns, tried to move to Baltimore, but the other owners, by a reported vote of five against, kept him in St. Louis for the 1953 season.² On September 27, 1953, the American League was holding its regularly scheduled league meeting. Baltimore came to this meeting with what it thought was the only concrete proposal until Del Webb, co-owner of the Yankees, put forth a surprise bid from West Coast interests which led to a 4-4 vote (six votes needed for approval) that night. On September 29, the Baltimore group, led by Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro Jr. and Baltimore attorney Clarence Miles, proposed buying 40 percent of the Browns stock, with about the same amount being retained by Veeck and his Chicago and St. Louis backers. When it became obvious that the AL owners would not accept that, Miles, after conferring with other members of the Baltimore group, made a counterproposal. This proposal, which was eventually approved, called for the purchase of 80 percent of the stock for approximately \$12 a share, which meant an investment of \$1,300,000 more than Baltimore was prepared to offer going in. Meanwhile, the effort to take the franchise to Los Angeles fell through because, according to Webb, potential backers would not produce the amount of money they were talking about.² When it was clear that the West Coast bid would be unsuccessful, Webb proposed the unanimous vote because "[he] did not want any dissension in the league."³ Webb did get one concession when the league approved his motion to amend its constitution to provide for a 10-team league in case of West Coast expansion in order to include such cities as Los Angeles and San Francisco. An editorial in the September 30 edition of the *Baltimore Sun* called out the "persistent optimism of Mayor D'Alesandro" as a major factor in this victory over "selfish opposition". This optimism was probably no more in evidence then when, after the meeting, he stuck out his hand to Webb and said, "I must warn you we're out to break your monopoly on winning pennants. We're going to be in the World Series in 1954."⁴ (The Browns had finished the 1953 season 54-100, worst in the AL.)

Another detail was that the name of the new team would be the "Baltimore Orioles", but there already was a Baltimore Orioles team in 1953, the Triple A affiliate of the Phillies. This was not the only team "lost" in the euphoria of this announcement. Many reports mentioned that this was the first time "in 51 years" that Baltimore was "Big-League", overlooking the existence of the 1914-1915 Baltimore Terrapins of the Federal League. Actually, the minor-league Orioles were not totally overlooked; reports at the time mentioned that Jack Dunn III, owner of the team, would be paid \$350,000 for the franchise and would get an unspecified job for a \$25,000 annual salary, and he mentioned that, although



a technicality, the International League would have to approve the departure of the minor-league team. At a meeting in Montreal in October, an agreement was reached in which Baltimore paid the IL \$48,749 in damages for relinquishing the Baltimore territory. The amount of damages was computed as 7 cents per person in attendance over the period of 1951-53. The question then became what would happen to the franchise. Since the September 30 deal included the St. Louis farm system, which was headed by the Double A San Antonio Missions, there was speculation that the Browns/Orioles could move them to another city and keep them as a farm team. However, that did not happen, and the Orioles did not have a Triple A team until 1958. Complicating the matter for the IL was that in early September 1953 another IL team, the Springfield Cubs, had been put up for sale. Many observers believed that, with the two southernmost teams gone, the IL would enter the season as a six-team league (Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal in Canada and Buffalo, Syracuse, and Rochester in New York State). However, as early as November 1953, the IL was already making plans to move the Baltimore franchise to Havana (another connection between Baltimore and Cuban baseball to be added to the list highlighted at SABR 50) and the Springfield franchise to Richmond, Virginia, to remain an eight-team league. A major complication was that Richmond already had a team, the Class B Colts of the Piedmont League. In early December 1953, the owner of the Colts, Edwin Moers, refused an offer to sell his franchise and ballpark property for \$225,000 to industrialist Harry Seibold, expressing regret that "the people of Richmond will not see triple-A baseball this coming season."⁵ This prompted a statement by the mayor of Richmond, Dr. Edward Haddock, which included the line "Perhaps Congress and the Supreme Court of the United States should have another look at baseball."⁶ Since having a seven-team league was not an option, to have Havana join the league, the Richmond situation would have to be resolved or another city, perhaps Lancaster, Pennsylvania or a return to Springfield would need to be worked out on short notice. After meetings involving Haddock, Seibold, officials of the International and Piedmont leagues, and George Trautman, the minor-league commissioner, a conditional settlement was worked out on December 17 in which Moers sold the franchise to Seibold for a reported \$25,000, but retained ownership of the ballpark where the Piedmont League club played. (The Colts eventually "moved to the suburbs" and became the Colonial Heights-Petersburg Colts for the 1954 season.) It was then up to the Richmond city government to find a suitable place for the team to play. At the beginning of January 1954, they approved a resolution to lease Parker Field, a city-owned park, for the operation of a Triple A team. This was followed by a fund-raising campaign with a goal of \$292,000 to make the necessary improvements so that it would meet International League

'The Seven-Month Miracle', Part 1

By Jim Considine

The Baltimore Stadium was an earthen structure, built and paid for by the city of Baltimore. It was nicknamed "the seven-month miracle" by sportswriter John Steadman. John was good at spinning literary nicknames and this name fit like a glove.

December 2, 2022 will mark the 100th anniversary of the stadium's opening. The original structure was replaced and renamed Memorial Stadium in 1949.

The "miracle" begins when Mayor William Broening "demanded" that Baltimore City build a stadium that that was city-owned and controlled, and he got it. The purpose would be to attract college football games with emphasis on attracting the Army-Navy game, the Super Bowl of the 1920s. Civic events and scholastic sporting activities would be held at nominal or no charge. Picking the low-hanging fruit was their first tactic. The U.S. military services had teams that played against other services and local teams. The teams could square off on the gridiron, which proved to be a popular attraction.

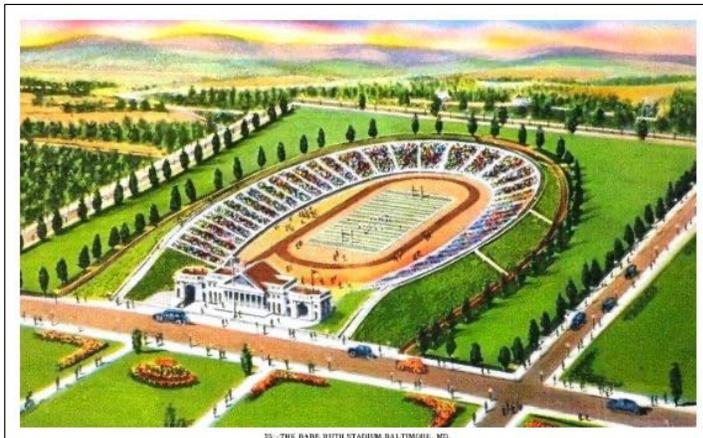
The goal was to impress the baseball magnates in order to persuade them to either transfer or award a franchise to Baltimore. This may sound Pollyannish, but the plan worked.

We should never forget what the Baltimore sports fan went through between 1899 and 1915. Baltimore is the only city in history to lose three major-league baseball franchises in 16 years. Not only did we lose our National League club, which was chock-full of future Hall of Fame players in 1899, we then got hosed when Ban Johnson sought an American League club to enter the New York City market. The final straw was our two-year excursion with the Federal League that cost the city the Orioles, Babe Ruth, Ernie Shore, and a Supreme Court case that sanctified baseball's antitrust exemption.

The Jack Dunn Orioles would scratch and scrape a minor-league existence until they finally secured the transfer of the lowly St. Louis Browns.

The Seven-Month Miracle played a big role in the acquisition of the Browns.

Baltimore baseball fans were embarrassed and forlorn over the loss of these teams. This city has always been regarded as a train stop between Washington and Philadelphia. We take great pride at our homegrown heroes and love our pro teams. Baltimoreans carried the scorn throughout



20 - THE BARE WITH STADIUM, BALTIMORE, MD.

12/22/1921 CITY-OWNED STADIUM, IS DEMAND OF MAYOR

Announces He Wants Municipal Field To Be Offered Free For Big Events.

NEEDED FOR SCHOOL GAMES

Residents in Vicinity Of Mount Royal Reservoir Oppose Project There.

Mayor Broening last night declared Baltimore will have a municipal stadium, regardless of whether Johns Hopkins men build one at Homewood. The city stadium, he said, will be offered without charge for important football games such as that recently played between the Army and Marine Corps, for which Johns Hopkins charged \$1,000 for use of the Homewood field and its facilities.

The municipal stadium, moreover, will be used for high school games and athletic meets, for pageants and civic meetings at a nominal charge, Mr. Broening declared. Chief Engineer Henry G. Perring is working on estimates of cost for transforming the Mount Royal reservoir into a stadium, he said, and soon would make recommendations as to whether he thought it advisable to erect a stadium there or on some other site.

Mayor Glad Of Petition.
Earlier in the day Mayor Broening had told a committee representing the Mount Royal Improvement Association that he would take under consideration their protest against use of the reservoir.

The protest petition presented to the Mayor was signed by several hundred owners of property in the vicinity of the reservoir. It declares:

"That the Mount Royal entrance to Druid Hill Park is one of the most beautiful in Baltimore, and that anything to mar its beauty would be a serious detriment to the city as a whole.

Favors Hopkins Project.
That the association understands the Park Board to have at its disposal a large amount of money "resulting from the tax and the present excessive street car fares," but conceives that as "no reason why this surplus should be needlessly expended in the construction of a stadium which the Johns Hopkins University is anxious to build free of cost to the taxpayers."

"That the expense of a stadium built on the reservoir site would include cost of acquiring parking space for automobiles, that the present parking system of the neighborhood would have to be abandoned and that all of the trees in the neighborhood would have to be removed.

"That since colored and white citizens would be entitled to use a municipal stadium it could not be managed harmoniously, and asks if this condition might require the building of another stadium for colored people.

"That when the city accepted the reservoir site it agreed to use it for no other purpose and that the association could "hardly believe the Park Board can be indifferent to the property rights of those citizens who invested their money in homes adjacent to the Mount Royal reservoir, relying upon an agreement the city deliberately entered into with the owners of said property in the year 1867."

Those presenting the petition were J. Kemp Bartlett, A. M. Kimman, Marion B. Freeman, H. I. Thomson, Edward C. Wilson, William H. Morris, Nathaniel D. Sollers, Jacob S. Goldsmith and George W. Whiteside.

Baltimore Sun, 12/22/21

the 20th century. As a child, my father would take me to University Barbershop in the 3100 block of Greenmount Avenue. In the rear of the store, the barber had a photograph of the 1896 Orioles in a shabby frame. Old Oriole Park (V) and the American League Park (IV) once filled his chairs with ballplayers and patrons on their way to the ballpark. The older generation would tell stories of championship baseball and the Colts team that played in "the greatest game ever played." They also imparted a paranoia when rooting for the Redskins and insecurity of our support for professional franchises were part of our fabric.

How does an earthen stadium with just enough concrete to hold back a mudslide become a miracle?

Baltimore City modeled the stadium after the Yale Bowl, which was also the inspiration for the Rose Bowl, Michigan Stadium, and the Los Angeles Coliseum. Why build an earthen stadium? It was cheap and big. The Baltimore Stadium was constructed for a mere \$450,000 (\$7,486,000 in 2022 dollars). What were the drawbacks of the design? To avoid having to pour concrete, steps and bench seats were fashioned and fixed in place with lumber. The lumber (a total of 500,000 board feet) would last about three years before it had to be replaced. It would prove costly replacing the splinter-infested benches.

The seven-month miracle earned this moniker when the ground was broken on May 9, 1922 in the hinterlands of North Baltimore. Venable Park was the name of its location, but only half of the name spoke the truth. It was not a park. It was a dumping ground for discarded bricks and soot from coal furnaces. The stadium opened for business as promised on December 2, 1922. That is six months and 24 days after the ground-breaking ceremony.

The first game at the new stadium requires a bit of explanation. The teams were the U.S. Marines of Quantico vs. the Army Third Corps Area (Camp Meade). Basically, this was a grown-up version of the Army-Navy game. The Army-Navy game was the Super Bowl of the first half of the 20th century. Professional football essentially did not exist. Collegiate football was second only to baseball in popularity. Hence, a chance to see a grown-up Army-Navy game was most appealing to the sports fan. And that is why 50,000 people showed up to see the USMC and Army slug it out on that first day at the Baltimore Stadium. The teams had played before a sellout crowd of 16,000 the year before at Johns Hopkins, prompting Hopkins to talk about enlarging Homewood Field, expediting the city's decision to build its own stadium.

The comments about the new stadium were glowing. The one thing that mattered to a visiting team was the quality of the playing surface, and Baltimore put its best foot forward

Miracle ► Page 14

End of Summer MiLB Game at Aberdeen



By Peter Coolbaugh

As the Labor Day Weekend continued, SABR members from the Baltimore/Babe Ruth Chapter and the Connie Mack-Dick Allen Chapter came together for a third straight season to share an afternoon of fellowship and fun in Aberdeen.



GM Jack Graham

As he spoke of his time with the team and fielded questions.

Many fans recollect that Aberdeen was one part of the NY-Penn short-season league, which ceased to exist after the 2020 season. Many teams did not survive, but Aberdeen received a promotion to High A and a full season and remains an Orioles affiliate.

2022 celebrated 20 seasons in Aberdeen and the team rewarded fans with strong play and a postseason push. Unfortunately, the club fell one game short of the championship, losing in the final round to the Bowling Green Hot Rods in three games.

Those who attended had a great time. Both the weather and the view were spectacular from seats in Sky Box 1 on the club level, and attendees enjoyed ballpark fare. Several folks had never been to a game at Ripken Stadium, but whether rookie or veteran fan, everyone agreed it was a fabulous way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

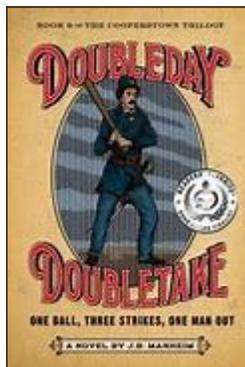
We look forward to possibly collaborating with our Philadelphia neighbors in 2023 as we visit another minor-league park in the Mid-Atlantic region.

The Class A IronBirds were hosting the Hickory Crawdads in the last regular-season home game. Fans were treated to seeing players like Heston Kjerstad, the Orioles first-round draft pick from 2020, take the field. Aberdeen had won the South Atlantic League North Division during the first half and was headed to the postseason no matter what.

The team did prove victorious in a 4-2 win to close out the season at home. Twenty-four SABR members and friends not only were treated to the victory, but had a chance to speak with IronBirds GM Jack Graham before the game as he spoke of his time with the team and fielded questions.

Manheim Book Named Finalist

Jerry Manheim's *Doubleday Doubletake: One Ball, Three Strikes, One Man Out*, the third and final volume in *The Cooperstown Trilogy*, was named a finalist in the 2022 Readers Favorite book competition for Sports Fiction. The first book in the trilogy, *This Never Happened: The Mystery Behind the Death of Christy Mathewson*, was awarded a similar honor by American Book Fest in 2021. All of his novels are contemporary stories grounded in real events from the Deadball Era, and all are filled with mystery, deception, and intrigue. You can learn more about the books, including reviews (and a link to Amazon), at jbermanheimbooks.com.



Remembering the Queen's Visit to Memorial Stadium in 1991, and She Saw the O's



Queen Elizabeth, who died September 8, visited Memorial Stadium and took in an Orioles game (staying just 48 minutes, according to the *Baltimore Sun's* John Eisenberg) during a state visit to Washington, DC in 1991.

Jim Considine put together a collage of that May 15 visit and notes, "I think this was the first time that metal detectors were used at the turnstiles. Everyone was having a snit over the imposition. I am wondering why I did not go to the game, as I did not miss many home games that year."

President ► From Page 1

Baltimore City, and the first in Maryland in 40 years, I can safely say we did a darn good job.

For those who did not make it to the convention, you can find photos and audio from most of the panels and presentations online via Sabr.org.

As for our chapter, I am proud of what we have done and what we will strive to do in the future. We still have two to three meetings a month, will have our annual SABR Day event in person, likely on February 5, 2023, and we will resume our annual chapter Orioles game next year in addition to another minor-league park trip.

Thanks for being on this journey with me. Enjoy the post-season, the winter holidays, and I will see you all again in the new year.

—Peter Coolbaugh

When Jay Buhner Almost Became an Oriole

By Barry Sparks

If not for Mariners teammate Ken Griffey Jr., Jay Buhner might have become an Oriole following the 1994 season.

Buhner, a 6-foot-3 outfielder, was known for his power, defensive skills and strong throwing arm. From 1991 to 1993, he averaged 25 homers and 85 RBIs. In the strike-shortened 1994 season, he slugged 21 homers and drove in 68 runs.

Although the 30-year-old free agent was paid \$2.77 million in 1993, he felt under-appreciated by the Mariners. Buhner and the Mariners entered the 1994 season in a financial standoff. Buhner asked for \$4.7 million a year, and the Mariners countered with a \$4 million offer. The club upped the offer to three years for \$10.5 million, but Buhner held out for \$13.5 million.

The Orioles, who had lacked a power-hitting outfielder for more than a decade, were extremely interested in Buhner. In 1994, left fielder Brady Anderson led the Orioles outfielders in home runs with 12, while center fielder Mike Devereaux contributed nine and right fielder Jeffrey Hammonds added eight.

Orioles general manager Roland Hemond convinced owner Peter Angelos to open his wallet in order to entice Buhner to Baltimore. The slugger visited Baltimore, toured hitter-friendly Camden Yards and met with the front office. The Orioles appeared to be the front-runners.

The club offered Buhner a four-year, \$16 million contract.

The Mariners upped their offer to three years for \$13.5 million after Griffey, one of the brightest young stars in the game, expressed his frustrations with the club's lack of commitment to keeping its talent. He said Buhner was a key element in the team's success. "If he goes, I go," said the superstar. Seattle took his threat seriously.

Buhner, however, appeared ready to sign with Baltimore on Dec. 15, 1994. Buhner said: "The deal is all but done, I'm just waiting on a call from my agent. My mind is pretty much made up. It's time to move on." He hadn't heard from the Mariners in more than three weeks.

Seattle was resigned to losing the slugging outfielder.

On December 20, 1994, Hemond, assistant general manager Frank Robinson, and lawyer Russell Smouse left the club's annual Christmas party early to phone Buhner's lawyer, Alan Hendricks. Talks went late into the night.

The following evening, Buhner announced he had signed a three-year, \$15.5 million contract, plus incentives up to \$425,000 each season, with Seattle. The Mariners had sweetened the pot with another \$2 million. The Orioles had increased their four-year offer to \$18 million.

Griffey's intervention was a turning point.

"We think Junior showing the emotion he did indicated how important Jay was to Kenny on a personal level and as a teammate," said Mariners president Chuck Armstrong.

After signing the contract, Buhner said, "Do I know how to pick my friends, or what?"

Griffey kept his part of the bargain, signing a four-year extension with the Mariners for \$34 million.

Previously rejected by free-agent starting pitcher Danny Jackson and reliever Lee Smith, the loss of Buhner stung. But, the Orioles front office, as well as *Baltimore Sun* columnist Ken Rosenthal, attempted to assuage the impact by pointing to an abundance of outfielders in the farm system.

"We are very fortunate to have a lot of depth in the outfield," said Hemond. The Orioles' prospective outfielders included Sherman Obando, who, according to assistant general manager Doug Melvin, had "Jay Buhner-type power," Alex Ochoa, Mark Smith, Curtis Goodwin, Damon Buford, Jack Voigt, and Jim Wawruck.

Rosenthal wrote: "A four-year contract for Buhner would have been disastrous for all those talented young outfielders in the Orioles' farm system. A \$4.5 million annual salary would have created a payroll crisis."

Returning to Seattle, Buhner put together three spectacular seasons from 1995 to 1997. He averaged 42 home runs and 123 RBIs. He blasted 40 or more homers and drove in 100 or more runs for three consecutive seasons, a feat Mickey Mantle never achieved.

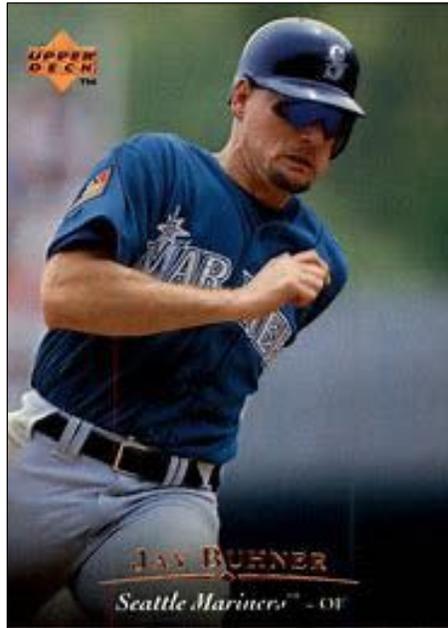
The Mariners won the AL West two of the three years. So, what did the Orioles' budding outfielders do in 1995 and beyond?

The seven prospects played 194 games for the Orioles. In 1995, games played included Goodwin (87), Smith (37), Buford (24), Obando (16), and Voigt (3). Smith also played 27 games in 1996. Ochoa never played for the Orioles and Wawruck never made it to the major leagues.

In 1995, the Orioles traded Voigt to Texas on May 16 for John Dettmer, a pitcher who never won a game in the majors. Ochoa and Buford were shipped to the Mets on July 28 for outfielder Bobby Bonilla and a minor leaguer. Goodwin was traded on December 26 to Cincinnati for pitcher David Wells.

Obando was sent to Montreal on March 13, 1996, for outfielder Tony Tarasco. Smith was traded to San Diego on January 9, 1997, for a minor leaguer.

It's intriguing to think what Jay Buhner could have done wearing an Orioles uniform.



Trivia Answer

- 1974 A. The first pitching staff to hold opponents scoreless for 50+ consecutive innings
- 1975 B. The last 20th century AL team with four Gold Glove winners in one season (Belanger, Blair, Grich, Robinson)
- 1989 C. The last 20th century team to post a winning record immediately following a 100-loss season
- 2022 D. The last team to post a winning record immediately following a 100-loss season
- 1998 E. The 20th century team with the fewest triples in a season (11)
- 1999 F. The first team to have four first-round picks in the annual amateur draft
- 1966 G. From 1951 through 1988, the only AL team to record a World Series sweep
- 2001 H. Team that had to postpone a game due to a hazardous chemical spill near the stadium
- 1898 I. The first team with at least one player with 200 hits for five consecutive seasons (1894-98)
- 1959 J. The first team to turn a triple play on Opening Day (Boyd-Carrasquel-Boyd)

Baltimore's Al Kaline's Early Success Won Over Local Fans

By Mark R. Millikin

Al Kaline hailed from 2222 Cedley Street in the Westport section of Baltimore and starred for Southern High School in baseball and basketball in the early 1950s. His first love was baseball, and he became the first four-year choice on the Baltimore Sun's all-scholastic baseball team in 1953. He played full-time amateur baseball for four summers, often eight games per week.

After he received offers from 15 major-league clubs, Kaline signed a major-league contract with the Tigers with a bonus of \$35,000 on June 22, 1953. A happy Al Kaline was pictured in the *Baltimore Evening Sun* holding his check from the Tigers, and another photo featured him with his jubilant parents, Nicholas and Naomi. *Evening Sun* sportswriter Murray Wieman, who covered scholastic sports, witnessed Kaline's signing. Wieman worked as a subscout for Detroit scout Ed Katalinas and recommended Kaline to the Tigers. Kaline insisted on waiting a few days after his June 17 graduation before signing, so he could participate in Maryland's Amateur Day Program, playing baseball for the United Iron Metal Co. and Leone's Restaurant. "His last act as an amateur" wrote *Evening Sun* sports editor Paul Menton, before signing his contract with the Tigers "was crossing home plate with the tying run for Leone's against Sun Cleaners on June 21." Kaline paid off his parents' mortgage and bought insurance and annuities with some of his bonus money.

Kaline was used sparingly by the Tigers for the rest of the 1953 season, batting 7-for-28 (.250) with one homer and two runs batted in before he turned 19 years old. He played regularly as an outfielder for the Tigers during the 1954 season after teammate Steve Souchock suffered a broken wrist in the Cuban League before spring training in 1954. Kaline batted .276 (139-for-504) in 138 games with the Tigers with four home runs and 43 RBIs. The Baltimore native never played a day in the minor leagues, going straight to the Tigers for the rest of the 1953 season after signing his contract in June, because a condition of bonus contracts at that time stipulated that the player stay with the major-league team he signed with for two years. That arrangement often worked against the development a young baseball player and his team's near-term success, but not so in this case.

Kaline was swinging a lead-core bat and gripping a rubber ball during the offseason of 1954-55 to strengthen his shoulders and wrists (a much different regimen than current-day players). He also sold tickets for the Orioles and worked at a sporting goods store during the offseason. He had married his high school sweetheart, Louise Hamilton, in October 1954 and they were still living in Baltimore during the 1955 season.

That year, Kaline blossomed into a power hitter to become a five-tool player, hitting for high average and power, as well as being a much better than average outfielder with an outstanding throwing arm, and good base-running speed. During his career, especially in the 1950s and 1960s, he was consistently among the league leaders in batting average and often among the league leaders in assists by outfielders.

When Jim Bready's feature article about the slugging outfielder appeared in the July 24 *Baltimore Sunday Sun*, many more Baltimoreans had taken notice of Kaline early in the 1955 season. Kaline was leading the American League in batting during the first half of the season and hitting for power. He had already hit two home runs in one inning and had three homers in one game on April 17. Bready wrote of Kaline, "the second team he looks for in the standings is the Orioles, every morning. He's okay with them finishing second behind Detroit." When the Tigers played the Orioles in Baltimore (11 games), Bready wrote that Nicholas and Naomi Kaline "could be heard from box seats directly behind home plate." Kaline told Bready, "As long as I can be in

baseball, I'm happy." Kaline's parents had encouraged him to play baseball as often as he could (rather than holding a part-time job), and it had paid off for their son.

Plenty of baseball fans in Baltimore envied the Tigers once the city got its own AL team in 1954. Every season that Kaline and the Tigers came to Baltimore and Memorial Stadium, starting with the Orioles' first season in 1954, many Oriole fans (including longtime Baltimore sports announcer and WBAL-TV sports director Vince Bagli) thought, "Oh, if we only had our native Baltimorean Kaline on our team." Some writers in 1955 were already comparing Kaline to one of baseball's greatest five-tool players, Joe DiMaggio (the Yankee Clipper). Bready, calling people in Detroit, those "lucky bums," wrote they could nickname Kaline the Baltimore Clipper.

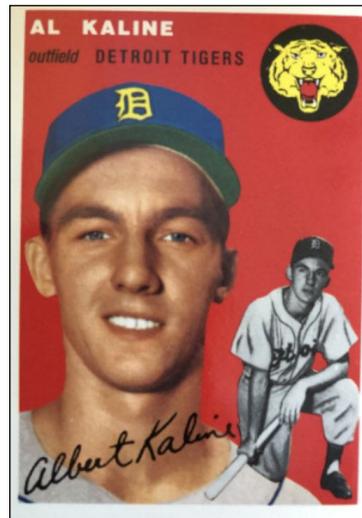
Kaline won the AL batting crown in 1955, a few months before he turned 21 years old, becoming the youngest batting champion in major-league history (one day younger than Ty Cobb when he accomplished the feat) and the favorite major leaguer of many Baltimoreans and Tigers fans. His .340 average easily surpassed Vic Power's second-place .319 mark. Kaline was already a selective batter and collected 82 walks for what would have been a .421 on-base percentage (not tabulated in that era). He excelled in batting again in 1956, challenging Mickey Mantle for most RBIs in the AL. With one game left in the season, Mantle had 129 and Kaline had 126; Mantle drove home one run as a pinch hitter for a league-leading 130, and Kaline drove home two for a final mark of 128, as Mantle clinched the Triple Crown (.353 and 52 home runs).

In 1966, the Orioles had their own top-flight outfielder who could hit for power and average, Frank Robinson. His throwing arm was not as good as Kaline's, but he hit for more power and a slightly higher average. Wieman noted in a preseason article in the *Evening Sun* in 1967 that many Baltimore baseball fans still felt a special attachment to Kaline. He remained one of the AL's best hitters throughout the '60s and starred for the Tigers in their 1968 World Series win over the Cardinals.

References

- Vince Bagli, telephone interview, 2003.
- James H. Bready, "Baltimore minor. Detroit major. The Al Kaline story is simply the story of a boy doing the thing he has always wanted to do," *Baltimore Sunday Sun Magazine*, July 24, 1955, 11-14.
- Francis Kinlaw, "The trials, tribulations and challenges of Al Kaline," *Baseball Research Journal*, 50, No. 2 (2021): 32-41.
- Paul Menton, "It's all in the viewpoint: Kaline refused to miss two amateur day tilts," *Baltimore Evening Sun*, June 22, 1953.
- Murray Wieman, "Al Kaline signs \$35,000 bonus contract with Tigers," *Baltimore Evening Sun*, June 22, 1953.
- Murray Wieman, "Al Kaline, elder statesman, again leader of Tigers," *Baltimore Evening Sun*, April 11, 1967.

Note: Francis Kinlaw's article in the *Baseball Research Journal* is an excellent source of information about Kaline's many injuries that affected his playing time and batting numbers.



The Rest of the Story of the Babe Ruth Trade to the Yankees

By Frank Amoroso

The story of the trade of Babe Ruth to the Yankees is well-documented. However, once the teams reached agreement on the financial terms there was still a substantial obstacle—the Babe himself. The deal would not be final until the Yankees assessed whether the superstar would behave in New York and what his monetary demands were. Neither issue was simple. This is an account of the rest of the story.

With the Red Sox in 1919, Ruth had done the unthinkable. He set a single-season home run record, blasting a remarkable 29 while winning nine games on the hill. The fans came out in droves to see him. No one had ever dominated the sport at the plate, on the mound, and at the gate as Ruth had.

With Brother Matthias' admonition about peacocks becoming feather-dusters in his head, Babe acted to take advantage of his success. He knew that an athlete's career could end quickly. An errant pitch to the head, or a line drive through the pitcher's box that was hit too fast was all it took. He also knew that he was the reason people were flocking to the ballpark in unprecedented numbers.

He recalled his experience with the Federal League back in 1914, when he declined a large bonus to jump to the Baltimore Terrapins. No one ever rewarded him for his loyalty. At the time, he said, "I just got jobbed out of twenty thousand dollars without a thank you from anybody . . ."¹

Babe demanded that the Red Sox double his salary. The financially strapped owner of the Red Sox considered Ruth a disruptive diva. Harry Frazee publicly accused Ruth of being selfish and inconsiderate. The owner had enough money troubles with his theatrical productions without added pressure from his young baseball star.

On top of this, Babe had become an ink magnet for all sorts of scandalous stories. Whether it was smushing his car between two trolleys, or throwing his piano into a lake, Ruth was always in the gossip columns. Frazee waged a press campaign against Ruth.

"I do not wish to detract one iota from Ruth's ability as a ball player, nor from his value as an attraction, but there is no getting away from the fact that despite his twenty-nine home runs, the Red Sox finished sixth in the race last season."²

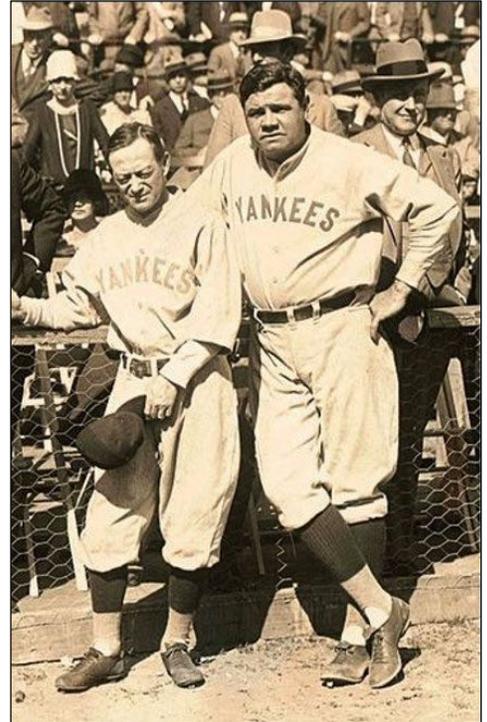
Frazee ultimately decided to eliminate the headache Ruth had become and, at the same time, ease his own solvency problems.

When the ownership of the Yankees learned of Ruth's availability, they sought their manager's opinion. Miller Huggins recognized that Babe possessed unique talent and had the uncanny ability to deliver at the most opportune moments. He knew that Babe possessed an exceptional ability to attract fans. As Miller told his bosses about Ruth: "He pulls them in. He makes the turnstiles click."³

The Yankee owners made Frazee an offer of monetary proportions that he could not refuse. Once the terms of payment

to Frazee were finalized, the deal was kept secret until they could "kick the tires," so to speak. The Yankees sent Huggins to California where Babe was vacationing,

On arrival, Huggins went to the golf course where he knew Babe would be. Set in the eastern foothills of the Santa Monica mountains, Griffith Park was cut into the chaparral-covered hills that rolled through central Los Angeles. Huggins asked the golf superintendent where he might find Babe. The sun-wizened man pointed to a large man at the 18th tee. He wore a stylish yellow polo to go with tweed knickers. A matching tweed driving cap with the brim turned backwards sat atop his wavy black hair.



The manager watched as Babe calculated the best approach to the green. About 150 yards away, the hole was flanked by water on one side and a crescent-shaped sandtrap on the other. A slight breeze coming off the hills complicated the calculus. An avid golfer himself, Huggins thought that these are the shots that separate the duffers from the scratch golfers. The safe play was to lay one up before the hazards and then take a chip shot to the green. He wondered how Babe would play it.

With perfect fluidity, Babe lofted his shot toward the green. Huggins stifled a gasp as Babe's shot barely cleared the pin and rolled back to within four feet of the hole. He heard Babe release a hearty laugh as he yelled, "Now that is how you shoot a double eagle!"

Huggins introduced himself and suggested that they share a cold beverage and chat on the terrace.

What Huggins lacked in physical stature he made up with brain power. At barely 5-foot-5, he was one of the smallest men ever to play in the big leagues. He played 13 seasons, culminating his career as player-manager for the Cardinals. Huggins had graduated from law school and was admitted to the bar. His tenacious playing style, coupled with a cerebral approach to the game, made him a formidable opponent.

As they exchanged small talk, Babe fidgeted while scanning the terrace for women. Huggins sensed that he was losing Ruth. He withdrew a couple of Cuban Cohibas from his pocket and offered Babe a cigar. Smiling, as if to say at last we are getting somewhere, Babe accepted. After sniffing the tantalizing aroma of the fine tobacco, they lit up. Between puffs of smoke and sips of ice-cold, fresh-squeezed lemonade, Babe settled into a cocoon of contentment.

"Have I been traded to the Yanks?"

Huggins took a drag on his cigar before replying.



Babe Ruth's 1st HR as a Pro: Fayetteville, March 7, 1914

By Fred Glueckstein

Babe Ruth's illustrious career spanned 22 years. Ruth batted .342, recorded 2,873 hits, 2,214 RBIs, and 714 home runs. His first professional home run preceded his official total. It took place in March 1914 during an intrasquad spring training game in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The story of Ruth's first professional home run rightfully begins at St. Mary's Industrial School in Baltimore. On June 13, 1902, Ruth's parents placed him there, at the age of 7, for behavior problems. It was at St. Mary's that Ruth met Brother Matthias, who saw early on that the youngster had a talent for baseball. Ruth was first a catcher on St. Mary's baseball team. Then Brother Matthias had him pitch. Ruth became a successful left-handed pitcher who showed he could also hit.

Jack Dunn, owner of the Baltimore Orioles of the International League, learned of Ruth's pitching prowess and went to St. Mary's. With Brother Matthias and Brother Paul present, Dunn signed George Herman Ruth. However, because Ruth was under 21, Dunn would have to become his legal guardian and be responsible for him. Ruth described what happened next in his autobiography:

"Dunn looked me over and said he'd take a chance. Then he said, 'Now, about his salary-'"

"I guess my jaw must have dropped. You mean you'd pay me? I gasped. My voice cracked and he laughed."

"Sure, George. I'll start you out at six hundred a year."

"It made me as lightheaded as if I had been hit on the head with a bat."

"You mean six hundred dollars? I asked him, unable to believe that I was one they were talking about."

"That's right," Dunn said. "And if you're as good as Brother Gilbert and the others say you are, you'll be earning more than that in a short time."

On February 27, 1914, at the age of 19, Ruth left St. Mary's and began his professional career with the Orioles at its spring training camp in Fayetteville. It was there that Ruth got the name Babe.

In Fayetteville, Ruth made his first appearance as a professional ballplayer in an intrasquad game on March 7, 1914. The squad was divided into two teams and played a seven-inning scrub game at the Cape Fear Fair Grounds. The captains were Ben Egan, a catcher, and Scout Steinman, an ex-ball player who was a scout, coach, and general handyman around the club. Egan called his team the Buzzards; Steinman named his the Sparrows.

Ruth played shortstop and pitched the last two innings of a 15-9 victory. In his autobiography, *The Babe Ruth Story*, Ruth wrote: "Late in the game I hit the first professional home run of my life. I hit it as I hit all the others, by taking a good gander at the pitch as it came up to the plate, twisting my body into a backswing and then hitting it as hard as I could swing."

Ruth's long home run to right field was locally reported to be longer than a legendary shot by Jim Thorpe, who had played pro baseball in Fayetteville during his summer vacation from the Carlisle Indian Industrial School.

On April 2, 1952, a historical marker was dedicated to Ruth's first professional home run on Gillespie Street and Southern Avenue. A local businessman, Maurice Fleishman, had pressed for the marker commemorating Ruth's Fayetteville home run.

Fleishman's reason for wanting a historical marker was personal. At the age of 12, he was the bat boy on March 7, 1914, when Ruth hit that home run. It went out of the Cape Fear Fair Grounds along Gillespie Street and into Mallett's Mill Pond.

Among those at the dedication was Ruth's widow Claire Merritt Ruth. "Babe would have loved it," said Mrs. Ruth as

she pulled the string unveiling the marker on the spot where 38 years earlier the Babe hit his first home run as a professional ball player.

A number of notable men from baseball and other fields were also present, including baseball contemporaries of the Babe: Connie Mack, Bill Dickey, Johnny Allen, and Ernie Shore, as well as Orioles president Jack Dunn III and Rodger Pippen, who played center field on Ruth's team that day. Pippen, later sports editor of the *Baltimore News-Post*, later measured the distance of the home run and reported it to be 350 feet.



Maurice Fleishman, Claire Ruth, and Connie Mack at the marker dedication 1952. (Fayetteville Observer)

Before the ceremony, there was a parade to the side. In the parade were the 1952 International League Orioles, who had lost an exhibition game that night to the Philadelphia Athletics, 6-0.

In August 1982, Maurice Fleishman told the *Fayetteville Observer* about Babe Ruth. "He had real big shoulders-skinny legs-but big shoulders," Fleishman said. "Back in those days you had to have power to hit balls that far. Then, the ball just had rubber in them, but now, they've got nylon and other stuff to make them move faster and farther."

Fleishman explained that his father, Hyman Fleishman, lured the Orioles to Fayetteville. The elder Fleishman was a merchant who came to Fayetteville from Baltimore and he knew Jack Dunn Sr., owner of the Orioles. "They were looking for a place for spring training and had thought they might go south," Maurice Fleishman recalled.

"My father said, 'If you come to Fayetteville, you can stay at the Lafayette Hotel and all you'll have to pay is the railroad fare,'" Fleishman said. The Orioles with young Babe Ruth came to Fayetteville. Fleishman said his father would close the clothing shop in the middle of the day to watch Ruth and the Orioles practice. Maurice confessed to skipping school for the practices.

"Babe was only 19 years old when he came to Fayetteville with the Orioles," Fleishman remembered. "Babe was a bit shy in his young days. I reckon he was scared. It was the first time he was away from home. He looked like a baby, too, with that round, full face, like a cherub, an angel." His appearance caused his teammates to call him "the Babe." "When they would walk from the fairgrounds to the hotel," Fleishman said, "he would hand the girls and boys baseballs."

It was on March 7, 1914 that Fleishman at age 12 watched Ruth play for the Buzzards against the Sparrows and watched as the Babe hit his first professional home run. Maurice Fleishman died at age 89 in 1991.

On the 100th anniversary of Babe Ruth's first professional home run in Fayetteville, the community rededicated the historic marker, and Mayor Pro Tem Kady-Ann Davy declared March 7, 2014 "Babe Ruth Day." Gov. Pat McCrory declared it "Baseball Day" in North Carolina. Without question, the Babe would have enjoyed it.

Jackie Robinson Comes to Baltimore

By John J. Burbridge Jr.

In October 1945 Jackie Robinson signed a contract with the Montreal Royals, the top farm team of the Brooklyn Dodgers, breaking the color barrier in so-called “organized baseball.” Montreal was in the International League, which consisted of Toronto, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Jersey City, Newark, and the Baltimore Orioles. Baltimore, below the Mason-Dixon line, adhered to segregation practices in 1946. As a result, there was some concern about Robinson’s visits during that year.

After a spring training in Florida during which there was some turmoil, including canceled games due to segregation practices, Montreal was to open the season with a four-city road trip beginning in Jersey City. Frank Hague, Jersey City’s longtime mayor, went all out, selling over 52,000 tickets for a stadium that sat slightly in excess of 25,000. Robinson did not disappoint, as he went 4-for-5 with a three-run home run and two stolen bases.¹ The iconic handshake from George “Shotgun” Shuba as Robinson crossed home plate has been memorialized in photographs and is now a sculpture in Shuba’s hometown of Youngstown, Ohio.²

After two additional games in Jersey City, Montreal went to Newark and then to Syracuse. It was in Syracuse that Robinson later said he felt the worst verbal abuse. This abuse was mainly directed at Robinson by the Syracuse players. In addition to the heckling, a player threw a black cat in Robinson’s direction, shouting, “Hey Jackie, there’s your cousin clowning on the field.”³ The reaction of the Syracuse players was probably due to both their racist views and the fear that, following Robinson, there would be other African-American players threatening their livelihoods.

After Syracuse came Baltimore. Montreal was scheduled for a Saturday night game on April 27, a doubleheader on Sunday, and the finale on Monday night. Baltimore was a Southern city, and while there had been some attempts to integrate, progress was exceedingly slow.

Frank Shaughnessy, the International League president, was concerned about the upcoming visit, fearing possible violence and a riot. At the opening game in Jersey City, he implored Branch Rickey, the president of the Dodgers, not to let Robinson and John Wright, an African-American pitcher, go to Baltimore. Rickey thought Shaughnessy was exaggerating the danger and realized Robinson would have to face such crowds in the future. He denied Shaughnessy’s request.⁴

The newspapers of Baltimore had a mixed reaction to Robinson’s forthcoming visit. The stories seemed to depend somewhat on whether the readership was white or black. The *Baltimore Sun* story on the upcoming games referred to Robinson as the “Negro star at second,” while the *News-Post* gave more coverage to Baltimore’s Eddie Robinson but did devote a paragraph to the “highly publicized colored second baseman.” The *Evening Sun* described Robinson as “the Negro who is pioneering the cause of his race in organized baseball.”⁵

It was quite different at the *Baltimore Afro-American*. Since Robinson’s debut in Jersey City, this paper had been reporting on his progress with a “Keepin’ Tab with Robbie” table. Before the visit, the headline on the sports page proclaimed, “Fans Await Jackie Robinson’s Initial Appearance” and called the upcoming games a “history making experience.” Sam Lacy, the *Afro-American* sports editor, wrote that Robinson’s first game was “a modern Emancipation Day.”⁶

The Saturday night game was played in cold weather (after the game, Robinson was quoted that he felt he was playing in Alaska) before a small crowd of 3,405. The Orioles won, 12-7, with Robinson going 1-for-3 with a stolen base. His wife Rachel was in the crowd and heard spectators yell the “N” word and other abusive language directed at her husband. Later that night, she cried in her room wondering

whether Robinson should withdraw from the great experiment.⁷

A big crowd of over 25,000 fans with approximately 10,000 African-Americans attended the Sunday doubleheader in much nicer weather. While the verbal abuse continued, Robinson was cheered by the blacks in attendance. The Royals won the first game, 6-5, but dropped the nightcap, 6-3. Robinson went 1-for-7 in the two games and committed an error in the second game that contributed significantly to the loss. The Afro-American blamed the pressure on Robinson for the error.⁸

The series concluded on Monday. Robinson responded with his best game in Baltimore, going 3-for-3 with a double, four runs scored, and another stolen base as Montreal won, 10-0. He was also hit in the hand by a pitch.

While there was considerable apprehension, his first visit to Baltimore went surprisingly well. There was considerable verbal abuse, but the cheering crowd on Sunday provided an uplift to his spirits. His performance in the final game was the crowning achievement in a road trip that began in Jersey City and ended in Baltimore. After this exhausting four-city opening road trip, the Royals were on their way back to Montreal for their home opener.

While the Royals had a winning homestand, Robinson came down with a calf injury and missed most of the games in late May. The second visit to Baltimore was scheduled for June 6-8. Robinson was unable to play in the opener, which the Orioles won. He returned for the next game, which the Royals won, 5-4. The game ended in a double play with a close play at home involving Jim Honochick, the Orioles runner, and Herman Franks, the Royals catcher.⁹ After the play, the two scuffled and were joined by fans who stormed the field while the players retreated to the clubhouses in center field.

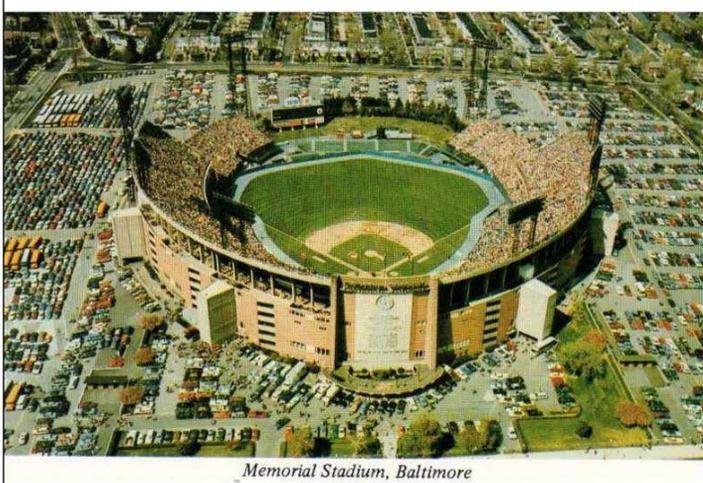
The wrath of the fans quickly turned to Robinson, as the mob followed him and the Royals to the clubhouse. While most of the Royals players and coaches left, the mob continued to demonstrate and “come out here, Robinson, you son of a bitch” was heard.¹⁰ Teammates Marv Rackley, Tommy Tatum, and Spider Jorgensen realized the danger and stayed with Robinson until the mob dispersed. At approximately 1:00 A.M., Robinson and his teammates left. His teammates accompanied him to his accommodations. Supposedly he was “staying with relatives.” Shaughnessy was right in worrying about Baltimore.

Robinson didn’t play in the final game of the series due to his calf injury. The injury also forced him to miss the next 12 games. Even without Robinson, Montreal continued to play well and extended its lead in the race for the International League pennant.



Ballparks ► From Page 3

1902, and the Eastern League and the International League (IL) Orioles from 1903-1915; Oriole Park V, also known as Terrapin Park, home of the Federal League Terrapins from 1914-1915; the IL Orioles from 1916-1944; and the Negro



Memorial Stadium, Baltimore

Memorial Stadium in its heyday (above), as captured on a Traub Co. Postcard with photo by G.B. Smith. SABR members (below) got to enjoy it in its present iteration, a youth baseball field. (Photos: Molly McClure)



American League's Elite Giants from 1937-1942, and Municipal Stadium/Memorial Stadium, home of the IL Orioles from 1944-1953, and the American League Orioles from 1954-1991.

Attendees got off the buses during our stop at the Memorial Stadium site to walk on the playing field, now a turf-



Peabody Heights Brewery, where Oriole Park V/Terrapin Park stood, where everyone could drink in the site's history and enjoy the offerings of its current incarnation. (Photo: Molly McClure)



The final stop offers a chance to soak up the history of Oriole Park V—and local beer. (Photos: Molly McClure)

covered youth baseball field (see the photograph of the group standing at home plate on Page 1).

Attendees also disembarked to visit the former site of Union Park, where, with the help of photos of the ballpark and buildings that remain at the site, they were able to see how the ballpark once fit into the surrounding neighborhood. Our final stop on the tour--Oriole Park V/Terrapin Field--included a tour of Peabody Heights Brewery (which resides on the former site). SABR reports that nothing but good things were said about the tour.

Cities ► From Page 5

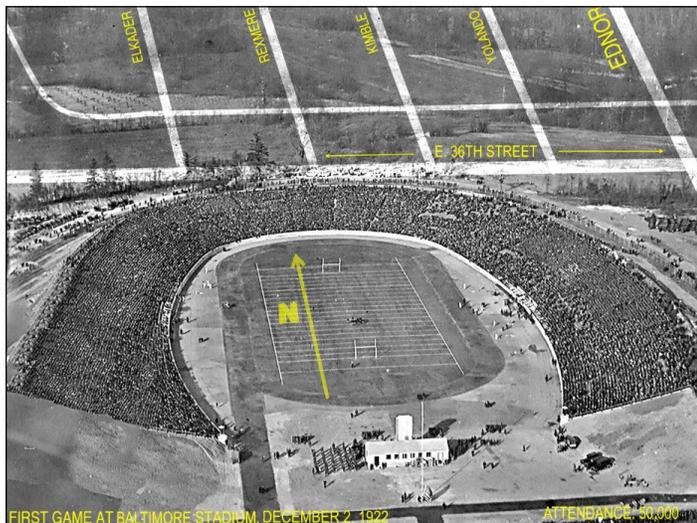
standards, which included increasing seating from 4,000 to 12,000. Once \$200,000 had been guaranteed by donors for field improvements, after a meeting in New York on January 12, the IL formally announced the two newest teams, Richmond, which became the Virginians, and Havana, which became the Sugar Kings, with both teams opening their seasons on April 20, 1954.

In his December 19, 1953 column, Red Smith (besides predicting that one of Philadelphia's major-league teams would eventually be relocated), in discussing this situation, summed it up: "There's nothing easier than to suggest moving a franchise; trying to do so sets off a chain reaction that sometimes seems endless."

1. The *Baltimore Sun* and various AP and UPI news reports as carried by various papers across the country on September 30, 1953.
2. Despite the fact that Veeck, again in his autobiography, claimed that during the meeting Webb was "waving around" a check from Howard Hughes for \$1 million.
3. September 30, 1953 *Baltimore Sun*.
4. September 30, 1953 *Baltimore Sun*.
5. December 2, 1953 *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*.
6. December 3, 1953 *Newport News Daily Press*.
7. December 19, 1953, *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Miracle ▶ From Page 6

with the quality of the field. Army coach John McEwan said Baltimore's field was superior to that of the Yale Bowl. The USMC-Third Corps Area game was played in 1923 in Washington, D.C.'s Griffith Stadium whose field looked like the surface of the moon. Furthermore, the VIPs were seated in the end zone, an unwise move. In 1923, the Army played the Atlantic Fleet, and the next year the city replayed the Army



Library of Congress

Third Corps-Marines match, and then, the big one, Army-Navy.

In order to get Navy to agree to play the 1924 game in Baltimore, the following changes to the stadium were required:

The stadium capacity was to be expanded by 30,000.

A scoreboard visible throughout the stadium was to be mounted on top of the administration building.

Concrete flooring replaced the earthen base overlaid with lumber in the premium sections throughout the stadium.

Private box seats would be created for the event.

The service academies had full charge of the field for the day before the contest as per their contract. This created a conflict that would have prohibited the Hopkins-Maryland game to be played. In an effort of compromise, Hopkin agreed to provide room and board for the Army Cadets to sleep and eat while allowing them to practice before their game at Homewood Field. In turn, they were permitted to play the University of Maryland, which would determine the mythical champion of Maryland. One good turn deserves another.

Baltimore City would also ensure that all roads surrounding the stadium will be blacktopped. The local streetcar company would lay tracks so that patrons could be transported to Gorsuch Avenue, which borders the parking area to the south of the parking lot for the stadium.

The Park Board was able to increase the capacity to 74,598. If it filled the place (demand easily exceeded supply), any standing room ticket holders might just push the attendance to 80,000, which would make this the largest crowd to see a seated sporting event in the history of Baltimore. They based their count on tickets distributed, and then rounded up to the next 10,000 figure.

A reception and luncheon would be held in the new administration building for the guests of honor, President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge. In addition to having Coolidge and the first lady as guests for the game, the game was to be broadcast coast to coast on the radio for the first time. The fact that the earthen stadium on 33rd Street did not have a formal name may have suited the times. The name

BALTIMORE STADIUM was etched in the granite above the front door. But calling it that was like giving it no name at all, or at least one without any character. Once a building or a team lacks a name, then the public fills the void to whatever suits the occasion. Baltimore Stadium was frequently called Baltimore Municipal Stadium, Venable Park, Babe Ruth Stadium, and sometimes the name Lonely Acres was used.

In 2010, local author Tom Flynn wrote a novel entitled *Venable Park*. I read the novel a few years back, and Tom gave the stadium a third dimension. My question has always been, "Where the heck were the bathrooms?" During our conversation, Tom and I were simultaneously combing over aerial photos of the stadium and were able to identify the wooden structures that were used as public conveniences. Regarding the vending of beer, this was never a problem. First, the Volstead Act took care of beer sales for the first 10 years. Next came a city ordinance that prohibited the sale of alcoholic beverages at a location that was under the control of the city's Park Board.

Tom shared one great tidbit of Baltimore trivia. On the right and left of the stadium's Greco-style administration building, there were two black torchieres that stood almost 6 feet tall. Today, they are in the city's Guilford neighborhood, near Sherwood Gardens.

To be continued in the next issue of The Baltimore Chop.

More than 125 photos of the Baltimore Stadium can be found at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjA9D1g>.

References

Bready, James H. *Baseball in Baltimore*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

Brown, Bob (editor). *The House of Magic*. Baltimore: French Bay, 1991.

Flynn, Tom. *Baseball in Baltimore*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2008.

Flynn, Tom. *Venable Park*. Maitland, Fla.: Mill City Press, 2010.

Kelly, Jacques. *Bygone Baltimore*. Norfolk, Va., Donning, 1982.

Sandler, Gilbert. *Small Town Baltimore: An Album of Memories*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002.



The two torchieres, which were nearly 6 feet tall and topped the stadium's Greco-style administration building, can be found today near Sherwood Gardens, in Baltimore's Guilford neighborhood.

Trade ► From Page 10

"A deal is possible. However, the Yankees want to know how you feel about playing in New York."

"I'm happy with the Red Sox. I like Boston. If Frazee sends me to the Yankees, I'll play as hard for them as I did for him."

Huggins was confident that he could rein in the wild Ruth stallion, but he wanted Babe to promise to behave himself in New York. The manager looked the player in the eye.

"Babe, you've been a pretty wild boy in Boston. In New York, you'll have to behave. You'll have to be strictly business."

Babe replied that he would give the team his best, but was otherwise noncommittal.

"Let me share some wisdom, son. I'm a bachelor. My one and only love is the game. I never married because I saw so many promising careers destroyed by obsession with dames. From what I hear, you are heading in that direction. If you come to the Yankees, you have to promise no more chasing skirts until all hours of the night."

"I'll promise to go easier on drinking and to get to bed earlier, but not for you, fifty thousand dollars, or two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars will I give up women. They're too much fun. I already told you I'll play the best I can. Let's get down to business. How much are you going to pay me?"⁴

Huggins remarked that Babe's current contract with Boston for \$10,000 per year made him one of the highest-paid players in the game. Nevertheless, the Yankees would tear up that contract and pay him \$15,000 per year.

Babe shook his head from side to side.

Huggins increased the offer to \$17,500 per year.

"As I've told everyone who would listen, I want \$20,000 per year," said Babe, drawing on his Cohiba.

Huggins knew that he had reached the limits of his authority and would have to consult with the Yankees hierarchy before increasing his offer.

"Babe, you'll have your answer in the morning. Breakfast at 10 at the Sportsman's Lodge on Ventura Boulevard."

"Make it lunch, Skip. I'll be there at noon," said Babe with a mischievous wink.

The next day, Huggins consummated the deal. Ruth accepted a package that made him the highest-paid player in baseball. It totaled \$41,000 for the next two years, an annual salary of \$20,000, plus a \$1,000 signing bonus. The contract included a provision that the club would allow Ruth reasonable time during the season to engage in "filming activities."

When Huggins had the signed contract in hand, a satisfied smile crossed his lips. He truly believed that Babe Ruth would most definitely earn them all a great deal of money, and, perhaps, bring the long-coveted championships to New York. When the deal was announced on January 5, 1920, New York received a belated Christmas present which would forever reverberate in baseball history and give rise to the curse of the Bambino.

1. Marshall Smelser, *The Life That Ruth Built* (New York: Quadrangle/The New York Times Book Co., 1975), 47.
2. James C. O'Leary, "Red Sox Sell Babe Ruth for \$100,000 Cash," *Boston Globe*, January 6, 1920.
3. SABR Bioproject Miller Huggins, <http://sabr.org/bioproj/person/7b65e9fa#sdendnote26anc>.
4. Paul Adomites and Saul Wisnia, Babe Ruth, <https://entertainment.howstuffworks.com/babe-ruth17.htm> retrieved from the Internet, December 12, 2017.

Frank Amoroso is a Babe Ruth historian who has written a trilogy entitled *Wopper: How Babe Ruth Lost his Father and Won the 1918 World Series Against the Cubs* (Vol. 1 *Pigtown*, Vol. 2 *The Show*; Vol. 3 *The Series*). He is currently writing an historical novel about Babe's barnstorming in Cuba in 1920. © Frank Amoroso, 2022, all rights reserved

Robinson ► From Page 12

The final visit to Baltimore was a four-game series in late July. In the first game, the Royals had an 8-0 lead, but the Orioles fought back. The Royals won, 10-9, as Robinson went 3-for-5 with a home run. As in June, the game ended with a close play at home that went against the Orioles. Once again fans stormed the field, going after Gus Winters, the umpire. According to the *Afro-American*, this fracas was not a racist in nature but just a protest of the call.¹¹

The Orioles won the second game, 6-5, and the two teams split the Sunday doubleheader, which concluded Montreal's visits to Baltimore in 1946. Shaughnessy was relieved.

As the season was ending, Robinson showed signs that the pressure he was experiencing was taking its toll. At the urging of the Royals and Rachel, he saw a physician in August. The physician prescribed 10 days of rest.¹² This presented no real issue, as Montreal had just clinched the pennant. However, Robinson did return after missing just a few games. He felt he was letting down his teammates by not playing.

To possibly illustrate the stress Robinson was experiencing, a brief article appeared in the *Afro-American* saying that Robinson had decided not to return to college after the 1947 season.¹³ Was he really considering leaving baseball after his first year with the Dodgers? If he was, it can be assumed that it was due to his 1946 experiences and the stress he anticipated in 1947.

While playing in an environment that no other had experienced, his performance exceeded expectations with a .349 batting average, .468 on-base percentage, 113 runs, and 40 stolen bases. As the season progressed and his abilities surfaced, the media seemed to place less emphasis on his color and more on his performance.

Montreal won the IL pennant convincingly as well as the playoffs against Newark and Syracuse and the Little World Series against the Louisville Colonels of the American Association.

The 1946 season proved to be stressful for Robinson, possibly more so than 1947. It began in spring training and was exacerbated by the vicious heckling and the near-riots in Baltimore. Shaughnessy was right in his concerns over Baltimore. While the season was difficult, it also confirmed Rickey's faith in Robinson, who was able to overcome the stress and showed all of baseball that the sport was much richer given the inclusion of African-Americans.

1. John J. Burbridge, Jr., "Jackie Robinson, Jersey City, and His First Game in Organized Baseball," *Jackie Robinson: Perspectives on 42*, SABR, Phoenix, 2020.
2. Willie Weinbaum, "A handshake from a white teammate signaled Jackie Robinson's arrival in America's game," <https://andscape.com/features/a-handshake-from-a-white-teammate-signaled-jackie-robinsons-arrival-in-americas-game/> April 13, 2021
3. Jules Tygiel, *Baseball's Great Experiment*, (New York, Oxford University Press, 1983): 121.
4. Jules Tygiel, 121.
5. Fred B. Shoken, "Jackie Robinson vs. Orioles, Minor-league series helped make history," *Baltimore Sun*, April 28, 1996.
6. Fred B. Shoken.
7. Jules Tygiel, 122.
8. "Jackie's Errors Fatal to Montreal in Baltimore," *Baltimore Afro-American*, May 4, 1946.
9. C.M. Gibbs, "Birds Bow 5 To 4, As Rally Fails," *Baltimore Sun*, June 8, 1946.
10. Jules Tygiel, 129.
11. Sam Lacy, "Montreal Star Answers Boos With Stellar Play," *Baltimore Afro-American*, August 3, 1946.
12. Jules Tygiel, 139.
13. "Jackie Has Change of Mind, He Won't Quit," *Baltimore Afro-American*, August 31, 1946.



BABE RUTH HISTORIC SITES IN AND AROUND BALTIMORE – Compiled by David B. Stinson

Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum (BRBM) –216EmorySt, Baltimore, MD 21230

House where George Herman Ruth, Jr., was born. The museum is located in four adjoining row homes, the second of four being the row house owned by Babe's maternal grandparents, Pius and Johanna Schamberger, where, in a bedroom on the second-floor, Babe Ruth was born on February 6, 1895.

Ruth Family Home –2819Frederick Ave, Baltimore, MD 21223

House owned by Babe's paternal grandfather, John Anton Ruth, where Babe lived with his parents, George Herman Ruth, Sr., and Catherine "Katie" Schamberger, until he was two years old. The house is now the Empress Palace Banquet Hall (2.5 miles west of BRBM).

Ruth Family Home/Baltimore Lightning Rod Works –339SouthWoodyear Street, Baltimore, MD 21223

House where Babe lived from ages two to six. John Ruth, Babe's uncle, lived with his family in the adjoining house at 341 South Woodyear Street. Ruth's father owned, with his brother John, the Baltimore Lightning Rod Works, which they ran out of the garage located in the back of their adjacent properties. The garage still stands on the site, fronted by South Carey Street (1.2 miles west of BRBM).

Ruth Family Home/Bar –426West CamdenStreet, Baltimore, MD 21201

Row house and bar where Babe's father, mother, and sister, Mamie, lived from 1901 until 1903 (and Babe briefly). The house was located at the intersection of Paca Street and West Camden, across the street from Oriole Park at Camden Yards. The Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel now stands at the site. According to baberuth100.blogspot.com, Baltimore City directories list Babe's father as living at 712 South Hanover Street in 1904 and 527 East Clement Street in 1905.

Ruth Family Home/Saloon –406West ConwayStreet, Baltimore, MD 21201

Row house and saloon where Babe's father and sister lived from 1905 to 1912, and mother until 1906. The building was located in what is now left/center field of Oriole Park at Camden Yards. Inside the ballpark, near the Budweiser Patio, is a plaque erected by the "Old Timer's Baseball Association of Maryland," honoring Babe.

George Ruth, Sr., Home –552West ConwayStreet, Baltimore, MD 21230

Row house where Babe's father and sister lived from 1913 to 1915, and where Babe lived in 1914, after he left St. Mary's and signed with the International League Baltimore Orioles. The building was located on what is now Russell Street (Russell Street runs through the former site), just southwest of Oriole Park at Camden Yards. A one-block section of West Conway Street remains, with a street sign marking its intersection with Russell Street, near the front entrance to the ballpark at Schaefer Circle.

St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys –3225Wilkins Avenue, Baltimore (Halethorpe), MD 21229

At the behest of his father, from 1902 to 1914, Babe lived at St. Mary's. The field where Babe learned to play baseball remains at the site, now converted from grass to artificial turf. Adjacent to the field is the Industrial Arts Building, one of only two structures remaining at the site from Babe's time there. In that building, the Xaverian Brothers who ran St. Mary's taught Babe how to make shirt collars. St. Mary's closed in 1950, and, in 1962, the Archdiocese of Baltimore opened Cardinal Gibbons School on the site, which closed in 2010. The site is now owned by St. Agnes Hospital (3 miles southwest of BRBM).

St. James Home for Boys –301N. HighStreet, Baltimore, MD 21202

Babe lived in this halfway house for just a few weeks in 1913, before being told to return to St. Mary's. The building is now MCVET – The Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training, a nonprofit organization (1.5 miles northeast of BRBM).

Lena Fell Home –712 Portland Street, Baltimore, MD 21230

Where Babe's mother lived with her sister, Lena Fell, at some point after divorcing Babe's father in 1906, until her death on August 12, 1912 (2 miles west of BRBM).

Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery –4430 Belair Rd. Baltimore, MD 21206 (Section G–2, Lot 126)

Final resting place of Babe's mother (5.5 miles northeast of BRBM).

St. Paul Catholic Church –3755 St. Paul St., Ellicott City, MD 21043

Where Babe married Helen Woodford on October 14, 1914 (13 miles west of BRBM).

Ruth's Café –38 South Eutaw Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

House and bar Babe purchased for his father in 1915, using his World Series earnings. Babe and his wife also lived here during the following winter. On August 24, 1918, Babe's father died outside the bar from injuries he sustained during an altercation with his brother-in-law. The building currently houses The Goddess, a self-proclaimed "Gentlemen's Club," and is located three blocks north of Oriole Park at Camden Yards. The only known photograph of Babe and his father was taken at Ruth's Café.

Oriole Park IV, also known as American League Park –2840 Greenmount Ave, Baltimore, MD 21218

Home of the American League Baltimore Orioles from 1901 to 1902, and the Eastern League and the International League Orioles from 1903 to 1915, where Babe played in 1914, during his one-half season with the Orioles. A McDonald's Restaurant and row houses now mark the site (3.4 miles north of BRBM).

Oriole Park V, also known as Terrapin Park –400 E 29th St, Baltimore, MD 21218

Home of Federal League Baltimore Terrapins from 1914 to 1915, and International League Orioles from 1916 to 1944. Babe played a dozen exhibition games here from 1916 to 1930, including two on consecutive days in 1919, hitting four home runs in the first game two in the second. Peabody Heights Brewery, The Barclay School, and a Salvation Army store, now mark the site (3.5 miles north of BRBM).

Loudon Park Cemetery –3620 Wilkens Ave, Baltimore, MD 21229 (section T, far northeast corner, Lot 5)

Final resting place of Babe's father, and four of his children who preceded him in death (Babe's siblings) (4.6 miles west of BRBM).

Historic Marker/Statue

An historic marker honoring Babe is located outside Oriole Park at Camden Yards, on Eislen Street, near Camden Street. A statue, Babe's Dream, by sculptor Susan Luery, is located outside Gate H.

References: baberuth100.blogspot.com; davidbstinsonauthor.com; deadballbaseball.com; findagrave.com; Leavy, Jane. *The Big Fella, Babe Ruth and the World He Created*, New York: Harper Collins, 2018; Nowlin, Bill (editor), *Baltimore Baseball*, Phoenix, AZ: SABR, 2021; additional information provided by Shawn Herne, Executive Director, Babe Ruth Birthplace & Museum (July 2022).