

MARTY MARION

This conversation between Marty Marion and Walter Langford is being recorded in the Breckinridge Inn in St. Louis on May 10, 1985.

WL: Tell me, Marty, about your start in baseball as a teenager or whenever.

MM: Well, Walter, like every kid, I suppose, I played in high school, played a lot of American Legion baseball, and signed a major league contract with the Cardinals in 1936. Played four years in the minor leagues and came to St. Louis in 1942 - in 1940, I'm sorry. '42 was our first World Series, and I was thinking about that one. But I spent some four years in the minor leagues.

WL: Do you remember your first game in the majors?

MM: Yes, very well. Against Pittsburgh. A guy named Klinger was the pitcher for the Pirates.

WL: Bob Klinger.

MM: Bob Klinger. My first major league hit -I can tell you about my first one, but not the last one, was a swinging bunt down the third base line and I beat it out.

WL: Good enough. Now, when you came up in 1940, I notice, the Cards had three managers that year.

MM: Who did we start out with, Ray Blades?

WL: Well, according to me, uh, I've got it here somewhere....

MM: Ray Blades. I can't think of three, but we had three, huh?

WL: Ray Blades started, oh, Mike Gonzalez took over for 5 games.

MM: Yeah, but he doesn't really count. Then Billy Southworth came in.

WL: Billy stayed quite a while.

MM: Yeah, Billy stayed until he went to Boston, I guess in 19....

WL: Well, we'll come to that. I got it done here somewhere. Was he the best manager you played under?

MM: Well, I'll tell you. I didn't think there was such a thing as a best

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manager. They're all good. One is as good as another. In certain years we had better players than other years, and that's what makes the manager, not the manager himself.

WL: You had a good bunch there in 1940 and it's no surprise you were going to win the pennant a couple of years later, because you had Johnny Mize and Enos Slaughter and Terry Moore and Pepper Martin and Joe Medwick...

MM: Well, back in those day.. Mize was traded right after that, I think he was traded in '40 or '41.

WL: That's right, he didn't stay too long.

MM: He didn't stay long, but Enos and Terry Moore were with the '42 team, together with Musial. But Pepper Martin was leaving and Medwick was leaving, and they were the remnants of the old Gas House Gang. And they were a colorful bunch of ball players, none more so. The most colorful team we've ever had in St. Louis was the Gas House Gang.

WL: Well, I don't know if there has been a more colorful one anywhere. Maybe some of the Brooklyn Dodgers outfits.

MM: Yes, the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Gas House Gang fit into the same mold.

WL: And they were sort of contemporaries and fought each other for the pennant. One year I was talking with Larry French and he says, "One year we won 104 games and still lost the pennant to the Cardinals by two games."

MM: Yeah, that was after the Gas House Gang, though, they were in the '30s. And we all started in the '40s.

WL: Mort Cooper was just coming up in '40.

MM: Yeah, Mort was an up and coming young pitcher. He was up two or three different times before he made the grade. He finally made it big in 1942.

WL: Lon Warneke had a good year for you then, but he must have been headed toward the end, though he was still good in '41.

MM: Yes, but Lon has his good years with the Cubs. And he came over here in the twilight of his career, and he still had some good years here.

WL: Yeah, he was 16-10 in '40 and 17-9 in '41. In ~~84~~<sup>44</sup> he was just 6-4.

MM: He didn't get to pitch much in '42.

WL: Well, in '41 Walker Cooper came up.

MM: Right. He's the best catcher we've had in St. Louis in many, many a day.

WL: Mickey Owen had been here but went at that time to Brooklyn.

MM: Right. Mickey Owen came up in the farm system. But he was traded to the Brooklyn Dodgers.

WL: And never lived down that one pitch. Isn't that too bad?

MM: Mickey was a great defensive ball player, and a real holler guy. I remember the first year I went to spring training with the Cardinals, Mickey was a highly touted rookie coming up from Columbus, Ohio, I believe it was. Boy, he had a lot of ballyhoo about him. But he never made it big with the Cardinals.

WL: No, he had his better years later, despite that unfortunate incident.

MM: Yeah, that was just one of those things that happen.

WL: It may have turned the World Series around. You can't prove those things.

MM: Maybe, maybe not.

WL: Well, you came into being the tops in '42 with 106 wins. And you had picked up by that time Kurowski and Beazley.

MM: Right. He had a big year in '42. 22 games did he win?

WL: I have it right here. Beazley was 21-6. Mort was 22-7. And Howard Krist was 13-3.

MM: Howard did most of the relief pitching.

WL: Max Lanier was 13-8.

MM: And Ernie White, what did he do that year? He was a great pitcher that year.

~~Whe~~ I think he shut the Yankees out in the World Series.

WL: Ernie White had a sore arm and was only 7-5.

MM: I think he was 2-0 in the Series.

WL: Exactly. Now, Branch Rickey was still here. Left about that time, or shortly after that. How much association did you have with Branch?

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MM: Branch and myself were always fighting. He didn't want to pay any money.

WL: Oh, boy, I know it.

MM: And, you know, it's kind of ridiculous to talk about money, compared with what they pay today. But we had a heck of a time making \$5000 dollars, so you can see what money meant. And I can always remember Mr. Rickey writing me a 10-page letter. He was a great writer, he could talk and speak. And he would always say, "Marty, you just do what I want done and we'll take care of you." I always told him, "Mr. Rickey, you pay me and I'll take care of myself." But he was a great baseball man, one of the greatest of all time. Everybody says that, so it must be true.

WL: That's right. And any guy that can, apparently he gets the credit for originating the farm system.

MM: Right. I was one of his boys.

WL: Glenn Wright told me, "I used to just love to sit around and listen to Mr. Rickey talk. I never knew what he was saying but I just loved to hear him talk.

MM: Rickey was a very astute man.

WL: Oh, my, yes. Had to be. All right, now Terry Moore tells me that if the war hadn't come along to take so many of your people into the service, the Cardinals would perhaps have won as many as six or seven pennants in a row.

MM: Definitely. We had the greatest nucleus, and they were all young, too.

WL: And you had them coming up like mad.

MM: If the good Lord had not taken our boys away to the army and if this hadn't happened and that hadn't happened, we would have won a lot of pennants. We won a lot as it was, but we would have won a lot more.

WL: Sure you would. Because when Beazley came back he was not the same pitcher.

MM: Well, Beazley hurt his arm. You know, one throw and you can be gone. That's the problem as a pitcher.

WL: In '42 of course you beat the Yanks in 5 games. In '43 they beat you in 5.

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You had picked up Ray Sanders at first and Lou Klein at second, and Harry Walker had joined you in the outfield. And Harry Brecheen.

MM: Harry Brecheen. Kid and the Cat, we used to call him. Great little lefthanded pitcher. He became famous in the '46 World Series.

WL: Harry Gumbert had been with the Giants before coming over to you.

MM: He was a fair pitcher.

WL: What about those two Series with the Yankees that you remember?

MM: Well, the first one was a very great Series because that was our first one, at least my first one and the first one the Cardinals had won in a long time. And the Yankees were a great ball club, and this was before the War.

WL: That's right. Everybody was there.

MM: Everybody was there. And nobody gave us a chance to beat the mighty Yankees. They did have a powerful ball club. But we were a cocky bunch and we didn't think they could beat us. History proves that we were right. But in '43 it wasn't the same setting. The excitement wasn't there. I don't know why. We should have beat the Yankees ourselves in '43, but we didn't. They beat us very easily.

WL: Well, they beat a lot of people in those years, starting in '27.

MM: We had a pretty good ball club in '43, but nothing like '42.

WL: Then '44 comes along and you still win 105 games.

MM: And we played the Browns, I suppose.

WL: The Browns, yeah. You know, as you study the play-by-play of that World Series - and I talked with Luke Sewell too - a break here and there could have given those guys the upper hand in that Series.

MM: Well, I'll tell you one thing. We took the Browns very lightly. Which was a mistake.

WL: Everybody would have.

MM: Which was a big mistake. Then when we got on the field with the Browns, they almost beat us. As you say, a break here or there and they could very easily have won the Series.

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WL: It was a better Series than anybody expected... You had Emil Verban. Was that before he went to the Cubs?

MM: Oh, yes. Emil came here and went to Philadelphia and then to the Cubs. A funny thing about that '44 World Series with the Browns. I had a 104 fever for the whole Series. I'd go up to my room and I only had orange juice for about a week there. I had an uncle who came up from Thomasbn, Georgia. Old Dr. Garner and he stayed with me. Ny wife had gone home because we were expecting a baby at that time, so she wasn't here. So Dr. Garner roomed at the hotel here. And he took care of me. He'd go out at night to get me aspirin and things like that. And I played that whole Series with a temperature of 104. I was as sick as a dog.

WL: You did all right.

MM: Yeah, I had a good Series. So you used to play ball sometimes when you were sick as good as when you were well.

WL: You picked up, or he came up, Ted Wilks that year.

MM: Yes, Ted was a good relief pitcher. He wasn't....

WL: Well, he had a record of 17-4 that season.

MM: Well, maybe he pitched a little more regular that season...

WL: Later he became a relief pitcher. He had 16 complete games in '44.

MM: We used to ask Ted how he pitched a certain guy, and he'd say, 'I don't know, I just throw it down the middle.' He was a kind of Polish old boy, you know, a straight-talking kid. Nothing fancy about big Ted.

WL: And you also got George Munger that year.

MM: George, yeah. He was from Houston, Texas. We always thought he would be a better pitcher than he really was. Red was - if he'd been meaner - he'd been a great pitcher. Red was too easy-going.

WL: Charlie Grimm says that about Bob Rush.

MM: The same type of kid. You got to be mean to be a pitcher. Brecheen was mean. He'd throw right at you and yell, 'Look out!'

WL: Burleigh Grimes was one, and .... Early Wynn.

MM: Most of the great pitchers had that kind of ~~streaky~~ attitude.

WL: You also got in '44 Johnny Hopp.

MM: Johnny Hopp. John was the type of ball player that if you played him for two weeks he was the best ball player in the league, but if you played him longer than that he would get out. Rest him for a few days, put him back in the lineup, he was great. A very good utility ball player.

WL: And another pretty good old boy - Danny Litwhiler.

MM: Danny came over from the Phillies, and Dan was a good hitter.

WL: I think he coaches some college team now.

MM: Well, he did coach a college team. I was talking to somebody the other day about Danny, and he's doing something down in Charlotte, but I don't believe he's coaching any more. But he did for a long time.

WL: Now let's take a look at '45.

MM: '45. We lost to the Cubs, I believe.

WL: Was that the occasion when they won 21 straight at the end of the season?

MM: No, that was back in the Gas House Gang days. '35, I believe it was.

WL: In '35 Charlie Grimm was managing them and they had Cavaretta, Don Johnson...

MM: Cavaretta hit a home run. I remember that. Mr. Rickey, talked about Mr. Rickey. He had invited me from Atlanta, GA. They wanted to sign me to a contract. So he invited me up to St. Louis to try out with the Cardinals, with the big team in Sportsman's Park. And I sat in the stands and watched that game and Phil Cavaretta hit a home run to beat Paul Dean that day, 1-0, I think it was. I saw that when I was just a kid. That was the year, I think it was, when they won the 21 straight to win the pennant.

WL: Red Schoendienst joined you that year. I was surprised to see that he came up as an outfielder.

MM: Well, Red could play anywhere. The reason he didn't play shortstop or second base is we had two pretty good guys. But he could play anywhere.

WL: He got into a few games at short - 10 and one at second base, but most

of the time he was in the outfield. And you also got Red Barrett that year.

MM: Red Barrett. He came over from Boston. Great pitcher to work behind.  
real  
Worked/~~fast~~. Got the ball and threw it before the batter was ready. I loved  
to play behind Red because he pitched so quickly.

WL: Everybody likes to play behind a fast-working pitcher. They keep you in  
the game. He was 21-9 that year. And Ken Burkhardt...

MM: Old Burkie. He was an umpire later.

WL: Where did he come up from?

MM: Burkie came out of our minors system.

WL: He was 18-8 that year.

MM: Well, Burkie was a mediocre pitcher. I think he had that one fairly  
good year and that was it.

WL: Also what about Buster Adams.

MM: Buster Adams, he was in the outfield.

WL: Not for long.

MM: No, he didn't play very long.

WL: Well, we come to '46 and you get Eddie Dyer as manager.

MM: Right. Eddie's first year as a manager.

WL: And that wasn't one of your worst seasons by a whole lot.

MM: No, we did pretty good. That was the year that Dyer and/<sup>Walker</sup>Cooper, they had  
had words in the minor leagues and they didn't like each other. And that was the  
year that Cooper said he would not play for Dyer. And I think he had to trade  
Cooper. And I think Joe Garagiola and Del Rice did the catching.

WL: Yes, Joe is listed as the principal catcher and Del Rice was there.

And you had to beat Brooklyn in a playoff. That was 2 out of 3, as I remember.

MM: Two out of three. Durocher was the Dodger manager that year, and he decided  
to have the first game here and then get two in Brooklyn. We beat him in the  
first game here and also in the first game in Brooklyn.

WL: Leo outsmarted himself more than once. That's interesting, because later



than that, in the American League, there a was playoff between Cleveland and the Red Sox and it was only a one-game playoff.

MM: Yeah. Now it's 3 out of 5 and they want to make it 4 out of 7.

WL: Always to make more money. Yeah, Walker Cooper went to New York.

MM: Right. I think Walker Cooper went to New York and I think they sold Dickson to Pittsburgh. That was another of our pitchers we lost, for money. We had to have some money.

WL: Let's see. You still had Dickson this year. He was 15-6 in '46.

MM: So he went over in '47, I guess.

WL: He was 16-6 in '46. And Al Brazle.

MM: Brazle, yes. Lefthanded sinker ball pitcher. Very good relief pitcher.

WL: Beazley was back, but he was only 7-5.

MM: Yeah. Beazley had nothing then.

WL: Now, how about that Series with the Red Sox?

MM: Well, that's a funny Series. There again, we were the underdogs and nobody thought we could beat Ted Williams and the Red Sox. But we didn't think we were that bad a ball club ourselves. And we figured if we could split with them here, which we did - we won one here - and went to Boston for three games, and we figured we could win one game in Boston (which we did by a big score) and then come back to St. Louis and we could beat 'em. And we did. That's the year Brecheen won three games.

WL: Yeah. And Enos made his famous run.

MM: And I don't really know why everybody was so worried about that. I was the next hitter and I was going to drive him in anyway, it didn't make any difference.

WL: Well, Enos wasn't about to fool around.

MM: Old Enos come flying around there and it wasn't even a close play.

WL: They underestimated him or something, from all I can read...

MM: Well, it wasn't that bad. They always played on poor Pesky on that thing.

But it really wasn't Pesky's fault. Slaughter was running on the pitch and Harry Walker hit the ball to left-center. Who was it center field - Culberson or something like that - Dom DiMaggio wasn't in there at the time. Pesky went out to take the relay on the grass part, and Pesky didn't have that strong an arm anyway. But nobody was close to Pesky to tell him where to throw the ball. Normally you would think that Enos would go to third and stop. But when Pesky took that second hitch when he saw that Enos was going, it was too late.

WL: I've been told that Enos might have been delayed on getting into the Hall of Fame by being really against bringing the black players into baseball.

MM: Oh, that had nothing to do with it. I haven't heard Enos say one thing about the black players.

WL: That's good. I'm glad to hear that.

MM: The Cardinals have a reputation that they were trying to keep black players out, but you know I played with those teams and I never have heard any of that stuff. I've gotten more reports....

WL: You ought to know better than anybody else.

MM: I sure do, and I never heard any of that stuff. That had nothing to do with Enos. A lot of guys just didn't think Enos had that kind of reputation (to get into the Hall of Fame). Enos, he was a good ball player, he wasn't a great, great player. Enos was a good ball player. Oh, God, you know Milton Richman out of New York? Milt called me the other day and he said, "Marty, I don't know what to do with this World Series, this Hall of Fame thing." You know how Milton talks. He said, "What the hell would you do?" I said, "Why don't you put Enos in the Hall of Fame? He wants to be in there. Put him in there. He'd be so happy." He said, "That's good enough for me." So I'm glad he's in.

WL: I was in Florida a couple of months ago talking to Johnny Vander Meer, and he is really upset that they don't put Ernie Lombardi in the Hall of Fame.

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He says that's the biggest disgrace....

MM: Well, I don't really care whether I'm ever in the Hall of Fame. I'm not really gung-ho for that kind of stuff, you know.

WL: Some of them are.

MM: I know, Enos was.

WL: It was eating him up.

MM: It wouldn't make one bit of difference to me whether I was in the Hall of Fame or not. I don't really care one way or the other. But Enos did.

WL: And there are some others. Babe Herman is still unhappy that he hasn't been put in.

MM: What good does it do you?

WL: Just your vanity, your ego.

MM: I don't have any of that.

WL: Okay. Now, in '47 you dropped back to second place.

MM: '47. Well, after '46 you can forget about it, for we didn't win anything from then on.

WL: You went down, that's right. But you picked up Whitey Kurowski in '47.

MM: Oh, no, Whitey was with us before that. Whitey was on the '42 World Series team. He played forever.

WL: Del Rice.

MM: Del Rice was on the '44 team.

WL: Yeah. He moves in as the first string catcher in '47.

MM: Del was a great defensive catcher. Couldn't hit and couldn't run. I think Del's dead now.

WL: Jim Hearn came along ...

MM: From Atlanta, Georgia.

WL: Won some games for you.

MM: Pretty Boy. We used to call him Pretty Boy. He always had his hair

right in place, you know. Had a good style as a pitcher, but he was a ....

WL: The first game I ever saw in the majors, as a matter of interest, was right here in old Sportsman's Park.

MM: The old ball park. That was a great ball park.

WL: I was on my way up to Notre Dame to be a freshman in 1926, but I didn't see the Cardinals, I saw the Bwons play Ty Cobb and the Tigers.

MM: I never saw Ty Cobb play. And I never saw Babe Ruth play.

WL: You didn't?

MM: Never saw Babe Ruth in my life. And I started playing baseball in '36, but I never saw Babe Ruth in my life.

WL: Well, of course his last seasons in the majors was '35.

MM: Was it '35? That was when he was the Bees?

WL: That's right. Well, let's see what we've got then in '48, when you finished second behind the surprising Braves.

MM: We were second that year? I don't even recall. Well, Southworth went over there. And that's when Tommy Holmes, and Johnny Sain, and Warren Spahn. Spahn, Sain, and pray for rain.

WL: That's the story, yeah. They did have Vern Bickford and Bill Voiselle too.

MM: Well, they weren't too bad.

WL: No, they weren't too bad. In '49 you finished second, one game back of Brooklyn. Do you remember the race that time?

MM: No, I don't remember too much about that race.

WL: You had Howie Pgllet then.

MM: My old roommate.

WL: Is that right? He was your biggest winner at 20-9.

MM: Howard was a fine pitcher.

WL: You had Gerry Staley, who later became a real good relief pitcher.

MM: With the White Sox.

WL: Yeah. I was all excited about that in '59 when he helped them win the

pennant. Nippy Jones. He didn't last long.

MM: No, Nippy had a very bad back. He was a California boy and a pretty good hitter and played first base. And he came up with a very bad back. It shortened his career.

WL: Terry Moore tells me that when, I guess it was in '45, the Pasquel brothers from the Mexican League started raiding the majors as fast as they could, they were really hot after Musial and Slaughter and made Terry some offers. The others were just about to take it and he says he talked to both of them as an older hand would and ....

MM: Terry's a very wise person.

WL: He says he told them, "You're just wrecking your career. You're going to make it big here if you stay here long enough. Don't go running off just because he's waving some money in your face." So Terry says they stuck around and ....

MM: I guess it was Rickey or Breadon or whoever it was gave him a thousand bucks. I guess it was tempting for those kids because they weren't making any money. Somebody open a big suitcase with all that money, I guess it was pretty tempting for the kids. I didn't have that problem. Nobody offered me any money to go anywhere. But Freddie Martin went, and Lou Klein and Max Lanier. Off of our club here. Two good pitchers and a second baseman.

WL: Lanier came back to pitch real well when he got back here. Martin never was too much, and Klein somehow was not quite the same ball player ...

MM: Right. I don't think he was. \_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_ was a very good ball player. We called him \_\_\_\_? Klein. Talked all the time. A kid from New Orleans. A great kid but he got the wrong information about jumping to Mexico.

WL: Well, he wasn't the only one. Old Sal Maglie, who became a great pitcher after he came back.

MM: Yes, he did. Maybe he learned something down there.

WL: Might have. I've spent a lot of my life in Mexico City and they tell me

a curve ball won't break as sharply in that thin atmosphere.

MM: I've heard that too. Like in Denver it won't break as much.

WL: Pitchers who depend a great deal on the curve are in trouble when they get up in that high altitude. If they don't have a good fastball. Well, then in '50 you're in 5th place and in '51 you took over as manager.

Was that at the beginning of the season?

MM: Yes. I started the season and finished the season, and I think we finished third that year.

WL: You did.

MM: We had some unfortunate luck that year. We had a very bad case of ... a whole month the whole club was down with the flu, then Musial came up with appendicitis. As you can see, Musial didn't have a very good year that year. We had some problems and we didn't have the best ball club, but we weren't the worst, either. Anyway, a guy named Mr. Fred Saigh owned the ball club at that particular time and we didn't get along very well, so he got rid of me quick.

WL: I gather a lot of people didn't get along with Saigh, from all I read. But Staley was your big winner that year, winning 19 games.

MM: Right. Old Gerry Staley. Wonder what ever happened to him.

WL: You had Cliff Chambers and ...

MM: We got him from Pittsburgh. I think that's the year we traded Pollet and Garagiola and somebody else, and I think we got Chambers and some guy named Westlake. And that wasn't the best deal I've ever seen. It wasn't good for either club.

WL: All right. And then let's see. In '52 did you start out managing?

MM: No. I just managed the one complete year. Stanky came in the next year.

WL: And then during the season you went and took over the Browns from Rogers Hornsby.

MM: Yeah. After I was fired from the Cardinals I went to play for the

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Browns. But I was an old has-been by then. I was a coach and a player and had a very bad back and everything. I played a few games and didn't play too badly. And then when they fired Hornsby, I took the managing over and I was worse than Hornsby. That was <sup>a</sup>very bad ball club. It wasn't a good club. Also, I was manager of the team when it moved to Baltimore.

WL: I'd forgotten that.

MM: Yes, that was when Veeck ... I was the last manager of the Browns. That was the year that ...

WL: Were you there for the midget?

MM: No, I was before the midget. [/Actually he means after the midget] I think I was with the Cardinals when the midget was around. I'm sure I was. Although I heard about it. But Veeck was a great guy to work for. He has a very tough situation here (in St. Louis).

WL: He had a tough situation in a lot of places, and he didn't deserve it.

MM: As far as I'm concerned he's quite a guy.

WL: He sure is. Was and is. You had some colorful players (with the Browns). You had for a while Jungle Jim Rivera.

MM: Ha, ha. Jim was only colorful. He wasn't a very good player.

Greatest old boy in the world, though. Give you the shirt off his back. He was just a good-hearted old boy. I wonder what happened to Jim, do you know?

WL: He's living, the last I heard, either in Fort Wayne or just outside of it, running a restaurant.

MM: He'd be good at that. I loved Jim. A good man. I had Minnie Minoso too. I had Minnie and Nellie Fox and Carrasquel. We had a pretty good ball club. We would have won the pennant - I forget what year it was - but we were out in front about September 1st or right around there.

WL: Probably '55.

MM: Then Dick Donovan, our best pitcher, came up with an appendicitis

operation. We lost him and boy we went downhill from then on.

WL: You had Walt Dropo then.

MM: We had Dropo, we had Lollar catching. We had a pretty good ball club.

WL: You sure did. It was from '51 on, when Paul Richards took over, and they started up and reached their peak in '59.

MM: I became the manager of the White Sox through Richards. He had gone to Baltimore and I was coaching for him and they gave me the job. I got fired there because I always wanted to come home. I didn't want to live away from my family. That was the toughest thing in baseball.

WL: For everybody in it, it's got to be.

MM: Every chance I got I'd be on the plane flying back to St. Louis to see my family.

WL: A few players are lucky enough to play where their home is. Like the Padres now, in the last year or two, have had Graig Nettles. He lives about 10 miles away from there, and he waited a long time to get back to San Diego.

MM: Yeah, old Graig's about had it now; he's getting pretty close to 40, ain't he?

WL: He's over 40. I think he'll turn 41 during this season.

MM: You know, what you notice now, more than you did back when we played, when very few people played to 40 years of age, and now a lot of guys are playing past 40.

WL: Well, I suppose it's because through the years physical health and exercise have become more of a big thing with American youth...

MM: You're right.

WL: And better nutrition and better guidance, and all of that. I can't account for it any other way, because as you say there are many times more who are playing past 40 now.

MM: It used to be that when you got past 35 you were about done. Boy, your old legs just gave out. We had to play on those old hard infields.



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WL: Let's back up just a minute to the '52 team. You had old Satchel there that year.

MM: Well, that wasn't too good. Satchel was the hardest guy. I managed with the Cardinals, I managed with the Browns, and I managed with the White Sox. Satchel was the kind of a guy who did what he wanted to. You didn't manage Satchel, he managed you. You know, I had Satchel there and he'd do what he wanted to, and Veeck would back him up. I fined him all kinds of money that year, but Veeck never took a nickle. One time when I was managing the White Sox, Veeck called me up and said, "Marty, you can win the pennant if you get Satchel." I said, "Listen, Bill, I wouldn't take Satchel if I would win the pennant." Good old Satchel. Course he was long past his best days by that time. I didn't see Satchel when he was great, because when I saw Satchel he was just an ordinary pitcher. But a great storyteller.

WL: Oh, he must have been. He pitched his first full game for Cleveland in Comiskey Park, and I was there. I was one the lucky 50,000 or so that got inside, for there were 10 or 15 thousand outside that couldn't get in. He packed them in and shut out the White Sox. Then they go over to Cleveland within a week and he shuts them out over there. So he was riding high for a while.

MM: Good old Satch. He's dead now.

WL: Yeah, that's right. Not too long. Now you had... which Pillette did you have?

MM: Duane Pillette.

WL: That's the son of Herman.

MM:. I didn't know Herman.

WL: He pitched for Detroit and had one real good year back around 1920.

MM: Anyway, Duane was a pretty good pitcher. He was a hard-working kid. Gosh, he sweated on the mound. I think he was a California boy. I don't know whatever happened to him.

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WL: No, they were from Oregon or somewhere up there. And you had Gene Bearden.

MM: Oh, Gene Bearden. Well, Gene was, you know, the best thing about Gene when he was with us on the Browns, other than being a fairly good pitcher, he was my best pinch hitter. He was a good hitter. I'D send him up there all the time, and he was always <sup>a good</sup> getting hit for me.

WL: You never saw old George Uhle?

MM: No, I didn't know him.

WL: He was one of the great hitting pitchers. In fact, he's got the best record.

MM: Is that right?

WL: He holds the record for the most hits in a season by a pitcher. He and Wes Ferrell tied.

MM: Red Ruffing wasn't bad...

WL: And Red Lucas was a good hitter. George's average was something like .286 over 20 seasons or so in the majors, and I think he hit over .400 one year.

MM: During my career as a manager I had three guys who pinch hit for me that were pitchers. A guy named Dixie Howell, with the White Sox, and Dick Donovan, a good hitter. And Bearden. That's the three I can remember as pinch hitters. So you know we weren't very strong on the bench when we had pitchers pinch hitting for you.

WL: Now, you had Ned Garver during that season.

MM: Ned. Garver. Ned, gosh he was winning 20 games there every year for the Browns. Ned was a good pitcher, but I don't think he had such a good year for me.

WL: No, was 7-10. Now, let's see. When you went over to the White Sox in '54, you replaced Richards for the last 9 games and they came in third. You had pretty good names - Ferris Fain, Nellie Fox, Chico Carrsaquel, Minnie Minoso, Lollar, Sandy Consuega, Keegan, Jack Harshman.

MM: It brings back memories talking about those kids. Hey, Harshman! There's another pitcher who was a good hitting pitcher. He used to play first base somewhere back in those days.

WL: That's right. And Billy Pierce. I'd only pitch Billy Pierce on Sunday. Billy wasn't a very strong kid, and if you'd pitch him in rotation every fourth day and he'd get murdered. But if you'd give him rest he'd beat the opposing team every time. I never got booed so much in my life as one day when I was managing the White Sox. We were playing the Yankees and in the first game of a doubleheader we were leading 3-2 about the 7th inning or something like that. Bases were loaded and Billy was hot and Billy was not a very strong kid, and I went to take Billy out. I'll tell you one thing. Six thousand people booed me, they all stood up and booed me. I brought Dixie Howell in and Hank Bauer hit a screaming shot to left field right at Minoso.

WL: And he didn't get it?

MM: Oh, no! He caught the ball and we won the game. And I was a big hero then. As a matter of fact, we beat the Yankees four straight in Comiskey Park that year. And that's something good. We'd never done that before.

WL: What year was it?.. you didn't have Tommy Byrne?

MM: I had Tommy Byrne hit with the Browns.

WL: No, but he came to the White Sox briefly and the Yankees came to town, leading 3-1 or something like that in the last inning. The Sox had the bases loaded and Richards put Byrne in as a pinch hitter and he hit a grand slam to beat the Yankees.

MM: Yeah, I've heard about that one. Good old Byrne. He's a character.

WL: Chico wasn't in the same league with Aparicio, was he?

MM: Chico was a good ball player. We traded him when I was the manager. Chico didn't want to play baseball. He didn't have that desire. Kind of lazy, you know. But we had this kid named Looie Aparicio playing with Memphis, so I said we'll bring Looie up and play him at shortstop, and we

did, and I taught Looie everything we know. And this kid was a good little ball player. We started the season with Looie, and we were playing Kansas City. And he wasn't doing worth a nickle. He was scared to death and couldn't talk very well. And I said, "Looie, come over here." I want you to sit right down. You're not going to play today." And he was pouting, you know. I put him on the bench. I kept him on the bench one or two days. But when I put him back in there he was a different ball player. And he was never out of depth. You can see his career after that. Looie turned out to be one of the best. He was a great kid.

WL: Yeah, he took over in '56... George Kell was pretty much down the line when he came to the Sox.

MM: Yeah, we got George and he did a good job for me, and then we traded him over to Baltimore in the middle of the next season. But George had his best years at Detroit. George was a fine ball player.

WL: Now, Jim Busby was there ....

MM: Jim Busby. Played center field. Played it well. A very good center fielder, not much of a hitter. Good kid.

WL: You got Larry Doby in '56.

MM: Doby was a disappointment, though. Doby had his best years with Cleveland. He was kind of hurt when he was over with the White Sox.

WL: I think that was the season, though, in '56, When I was in Comiskey Park and saw them play a doubleheader with the Yankees. In the first game Doby homered in the first inning with two on, and in the second game he homered in the first inning with two on, and the White Sox beat them handily in both games. I was never happier in my life.

MM: Yes, Doby could hit them out of sight.

WL: Yes, he could. Off and on.

MM: Off and on, right. When he had his big days, he was great. When he had his bad days, he wasn't so good, like all of us.

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WL: Dick Donovan pitched some awfully good games, but somehow ~~his~~ <sup>he didn't have the</sup> overall career record....

MM: Well, he didn't stay around too long. He stayed in the minors an awfully long time. We got him in the draft from Atlanta, Georgia.

WL: Well, let's see. In '56 he was 28 and that was pretty early in his career in the majors. And that's old to be coming up.

MM: That's very old. I'll never forget the time - again it happened in Kansas City - he was getting shellacked out there one day when he first came up.

He'd been up and down so many ~~diff~~ times with different ball clubs. And I went to take him out cause he was getting shellacked, and he wouldn't give me the ball. He said, "No, you're not going to get this ball. I'm going to make this team." Anyway, I assured him he'd get another chance, he'd pitch the next time out, you know. And so he did, and had a good year from then on.

WL: Donovan was a good pitcher. I liked him. Now, after '56, what did you do?

MM: After '56 I bought the Houston baseball club.

WL: Oh, really?

MM: A minor league club.

WL: The Houston Buffs.

MM: The Houston Buffs. I bought them, kept them three years, lost a lot of money, then when we sold the franchise to the people who got the ~~major~~ league franchise we made some money. That was the last I was ever in baseball.

WL: I was raised in McAllen, Texas, down on the Mexican border. So the Houston Buffs were one of my favorite teams.

MM: You see, the Cardinals owned the Buffs at that time, and we paid \$100,000 for the Buffs, and we got some ragtag ball players. We knew that Houston was going to be a major league city one of these days. But we had to ride out the wait, and we didn't have enough money to get the franchise. Mr Hofheinz kicked us out. Nowadays they would have taken it to court, and they couldn't do that. Back in those days they could do what they wanted to.

WL: Well, tell me, Marty, can you finger your best remembered moment in baseball?

MM: Oh, yes. My first World Series. The 1942 World Series.

WL: A lot of old timers have told me the same thing - Glenn Wright....

MM: A World Series is a big thing, plus the fact, you know, we were poor kids back in those days too, Walter, and that was big money for us. I don't know whether it means anything to the kids these days, but it did to us.

WL: It couldn't mean as much, when they're getting four or five hundred thousand even as an ordinary player. The 60 to 80 thousand they get in the World Series is just gravy.

MM: I'll never forget my first check in the World Series - \$6,192. Winner's share.

WL: That was probably more than your season salary.

MM: Yeah, I made \$5000.

WL: Joe Sewell showed me his first contract. "Just take a look at that," he said.

MM: Things have changed, and all for the better. Television money.

WL: What about your biggest thrill in baseball.

MM: Oh, that World Series was the biggest thrill.

WL: I don't think the old-time ball players had the disappointments that guys do now.

MM: We played for fun, and money too. After all, it was a living...

WL: A good living, in a way, in its time. Especially if you got to the Series.

MM: I can't say I made a great deal of money in baseball, but I sure made some good contacts

WL: That's very helpful, too.

MM: Yes, you know how a baseball player's a kind of a celebrity type of guy. Especially when you win and you're in a town like St. Louis. Everybody knows you. And it's just a good feeling.

WL: Terry Moore, I talked to a couple of years ago when I came through here. At a time when they were having a reunion of .....

MM: '42?

WL: The Cardinal team of '42.

MM: Yes, I remember that reunion.

WL: You were probably there.

MM: I was there.

WL: Terry said, "I sat on the bench there and I couldn't believe what I was seeing with regard to the attitude between the players and the manager. The things the players got away with."

MM: Red Schoendienst told me when he was managing - this is going back a few years, and I used to run the Stadium Club down here at the ball park for a long time, like 18 years - and he said, "Boy, you couldn't manage today. You wouldn't put up with all this stuff." He said, "We don't manage them, they manage us."

WL: Terry brought up the case of Eddie Stanky coming back for one day with the... I believe it was the Atlanta Braves, or the Texas Rangers.

MM: The Texas Rangers.

WL: One day and he could see that that wasn't for him any more.

MM: Yeah. He went back home. He said, "What am I doing here?"

WL: Now, do you recall offhand any unusual or amusing plays or incidents?

MM: I had a very easy career, nothing very exciting happened to me - not that I can tell you about.

WL: I couldn't agree with that. A lot of exciting things happened to you, with all those pennants .....

MM: I'll tell you the most exciting thing that happened to me. It was when I was managing the Browns. We weren't making very much money, you know, with the Browns. We didn't have anybody in the stands and we didn't have enough baseballs hardly to take batting practice. ~~with~~ Well, on our last trip east

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we had scheduled an exhibition game in Providence, Rhode Island. And everything was Satchel Paige, Satchel Paige. We advertised Satchel Paige. Anyway, they had about 15,000 people out there. We made more money in that exhibition game than we made in the regular season. So, anyway, they advertised Satchel Paige, but no Satchel Paige. He didn't show up. So I'm sitting on the bench and, boy, they're all over me. Four thousand all around me and they're screaming and hollering. I said, "I'll tell you what you do. You find him and I'll pitch him." Anyway, Bill Drain was our secretary and I said, "Bill, you go upstairs and get our share of the money, for there's going to be a riot here. They're mad. They came to see Satchel Paige. They didn't come to see the Browns play." He almost got us killed. So the next morning we walked into the Kendall Hotel in Boston, and there's old Satchel, sitting in the lobby. I said, "Satchel, you know you almost got us killed last night. That'll cost you \$5000, buddy." He never - Bill wouldn't take it. Anyway, that was my biggest scare in baseball. Almost got killed. We just got out of there in time. They were stoning the bus and everything.

WL: Well, how about baseball today? What do you think about free agency?

MM: I think it's great for the players. Bad for the owners. Very definitely bad for the owners and great for the players.

WL: Who's more to blame? The owners?

MM: The owners, oh, absolutely. You can't blame the players for anything. The owners are just like a... if you can't run your business any better than that, you ~~don't~~ deserve it.

WL: What about arbitration?

MM: Arbitration. I think it's a one-sided street. I think it's all in favor of the player.

WL: Even though not all of them win, but it is in favor of them, especially along with free agency and having agents represent them, ~~instead of~~ rather than



like in your day the poor ball player went in quaking to see the owner and tried to get another thousand out of him.

MM: Yeah, and I'll tell you, Walter, in our day, it wasn't like today where they have rules you can't do this and can't do that, because of the strong union they have. Back in our day, if you didn't want to play for the Cardinals, they said, "Hey, we'll give you a one-way ticket back to Rochester, New York, or Columbus, Ohio." They didn't fool with you. They didn't care whether you played or not.

WL: Yeah, it sure was one-sided in those days.

MM: You bet it was. It was one-sided.

WL: What do you think, though, that a long-term, no-cut, guaranteed contract does to a player?

MM: Oh, I think it absolutely ruins his desire. I would never sign a player for over one year. Because, if he has his money... and I can tell you from experience, the richer I got from playing baseball, the worse player I was. I didn't put out nearly as much as when I was starving. 'Cause you're no different than the rest of us. Any guy who is satisfied is not worth a nickel.

WL: That's right. He's not putting out everything he's got.

M: Definitely. No question about it.

WL: And that's of course becoming the rule rather than the exception - these long-term contracts, with no cut and the right to veto a trade.

MM: I'll tell you one thing. The players have it all their way today. And I'll tell you, the owners are really hurting. I don't know, I guess they're not hurting too much, they're not doing anything about it.

WL: Not as long as the TV revenues keep coming in.

MM: They tell me ... I read in the papers that a lot of teams are in trouble financially.

WL: Exactly so. And unless the owners and Ueberroth can come up with some

type of sharing system with the TV revenues especially, there is going to be a lot of changes in franchises, I think, in the next 10 years, or new owners.

MM: I heard McPhail say the other day that there are a lot of owners that would like to get out. But they can't find anybody who wants to buy them.

WL: No. Because it's got to be.... They don't have the same type of owners any more. The owners now are business types who want to make money off it. And some of them do but a lot of them don't. In the old days you had owners who bought clubs because they were great baseball fans. Bill Yawkey and some of them. [Should be Tom Yawkey]

MM: Yawkey and Breadon and the Yankees. Wrigley, particularly Wrigley. Anyway, baseball has changed a great deal, and the players are reaping all the benefits and they should be very happy. And I'll tell you one thing. (Too indistinct to understand)

WL: No, of course not. Who could? What about the DH?

MM: I like it.

WL: You like it?

MM: I like it. It burns me up to see an old <sup>walk</sup> ~~pitcher~~ ~~go~~ up there and swing at the air four times (?) and go back and sit down. That's not .... There must be a better way. I like the DH. I think it's good for baseball because it gives you more offense, it gives players a job, and things like that. You know, the players who can hit and can't do anything else. They talk about strategy. Well, that's overblown.

WL: There are games, and moments, where strategy can be important.

MM: That's true, but I like the DH. I like it better than I do the other way. And I never did play in the league with the DH.

WL: What about the artificial surface?

MM: Never played on it. But I don't see how you could ever miss a ball, because it's like playing on this rug here, but I think I would like it.

WL: It changes the game, though. The bounce in the outfield especially. It makes the outfielder play the ball deeper.

MM: Yeah, but you learn how to do that. And there are no bad hops.

WL: But of course those balls can get through that infield in a hell of a hurry, too.

MM: The easiest ball in the world to catch is a ball that's hit fast. The slow ball is the one that is hardest.

WL: I think you've got a point. And the 7-games playoff, you don't care particularly....?

MM: That's fine with me. Should be fine with the players, they're getting paid for it.

WL: It looks to me, though, like they're letting the season run too far into October.

MM: Well, every sport's doing that, though, Walter, as you know.

WL: Yeah, but football can play in bad weather better than baseball. And basketball is indoors.

MM: Some years they have great weather in October, and some years they don't. In some years they have bad weather in April, and good weather in April, so, who knows?

WL: I would personally be for a shorter playing season. Let them have their 7-game playoffs and the usual World Series, but try to end the darn thing early in October. And cut the number of games in the season down.

MM: Well, with all this money they're making, I suppose you have to look at it that for the extra games we make so much extra dollars, and that's what they have to hit.

WL: That's why they don't have hardly any doubleheaders these days, unless there's a rainout.

MM: Right. No doubleheaders unless there's a rainout.

WL: I think the Padres have one scheduled this season.

MM: /I don't think the Cardinals have any. We used to have a doubleheader

every Sunday.

WL: Every Sunday, I was going to say, in Chicago I'd go up there every Sunday.

MM: Doubleheader on Sunday and an off-day on Monday.

WL: Comment a minute or two on the way relief pitchers have taken over the game.

MM: Well, years ago it used to be that if a guy couldn't go 9 innings, he wasn't very much of a pitcher. As a matter of fact, at the end of my career, which was the early '50s, the relief pitcher had just started to come into being. Now if a guy gives you 6 or 7 innings, man, he's great. And I used to have a theory, when I was managing, that I never wanted to lose with a tired pitcher. If I ever lost a game with a tired pitcher, I thought it was my fault. Maybe I made the decision to bring a fresh pitcher in would still lose, but I always had that theory.

WL: A good gamble.

MM: A good gamble, because I never wanted to lose with a tired pitcher. And that's what the theory of relief pitchers is all about.

WL: Sure. He comes in there fireballing, fresh and mentally prepared.

MM: And in the present day they are, as you say, mentally prepared to do what they're doing. Back in our day we used to relieve with the starters.

WL: Oh, yes. I know that. I made a little study and in some cases, away back when, the pitchers with the most saves would be some of the starters.

MM: You talk about the great Cleveland pitchers, when they had García and Lemon and Wynn...

WL: Feller.

MM: And Feller. They were always relieving. Those kids were relieving all the time.

WL: Of course, they also had Mossi and ....

MM: Mossi and Narlesky. That was later on. But relief pitching is here to stay, I'll tell you that.

WL: That's for sure. And the reliever is working himself up to the point where the good ones are making fully as much as any starter. With the likes of Gossage and Sutter and ... What was the problem that they (The Cards) let Sutter go?

MM: Money. They couldn't afford him.

WL: But then they gave Ozzie Smith two million ....

MM: Well, that was a .... well, see, Ozzie got it at the right time.

WL: After they had lost "the franchise?"

MM: Right. Ozzie's probably got the best manager ..

WL: Agent?

MM: Agent, or whatever you call those guys that I've ever heard of. You know, good old Ozzie, he's probably as good a shortstop as you'll ever want to look at, but he can't hit a lick, you know.

WL: Can't hit a lick and drives in very few runs.

MM: Has no power, doesn't drive in runs. Back in our day, they didn't pay anybody. Ozzie Smith has done more for defensive players in making money than anybody in the game.

WL: Absolutely. No doubt about it.

MM: He does great things for the defense. They never recognized defense years ago. I mean they didn't pay you for it, Walter. They would say, "Oh, he's a pretty good fielder," but you made \$5000. If you could hit, you made ten.

WL: What do you think expansion has done to the quality of play.

MM: Well, it's weakened the quality of play, no question about it. But if you take most of the big leaguers who are around today, they could have played most any time. There are a lot of good baseball players out there today.

WL: Yes, but expansion certainly has had some influence on the quality.

Now in your day, was the player limit still at 21 or had they gone up to 25 by that time?

MM: I believe it was 25 back in my day.

WL: Johnny Vander Meer was telling me that in the late '30s it was 21. He said Bill McKechnie would always manage with 20, so that he could bring somebody up immediately, without any waivers or getting rid of anybody else or all of that stuff.

MM: Yeah. I think it was 25 most of my career. I don't know what it is now. What is it now - 25?

WL: 25.

MM: I think they have... what, 40 on the roster?

WL: 40 on the roster.

MM: And 25 active. But back in our day, when you talk about waivers and Johnny talked about bringing guys up, if we didn't do well up here, there was always somebody down in Rochester or Columbus, our Triple A farm clubs, or Houston, Texas, which was a Double A club, there were always players who could play in the major leagues right away. They would step right in.

WL: I don't think there's as much of that any more.

MM: No, there's not as much of that any more.

WL: And you don't see at all what used to be a real feature of the upper minor leagues especially, and most especially of the Pacific Coast League, namely, that the roster would be made up about half of players coming up and half of players coming back down from the majors. Lefty O'Doul and Babe Herman, and all of those. Sloppy Thurston. They'd go out and play for years out there, after they left the majors.

MM: It was a great help for the young player to come along and play with the old boys. It really helped them.

WL: Of course. They could learn an awful lot, just by sitting around and listening and watching.

MM: I remember when I first came up to the Cardinals, I think Mr. Rickey had something like 45 farm teams. He got in trouble with Judge Landis on that

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particular business and had to lose all those players. But now I think  
the Cardinals have, I think, 5 <sup>6</sup> or farm teams.

WL: Nobody has more than half a dozen.

MM: Because it's too expensive. And they're having to pay a big league price for a guy to play in Louisville or somewhere like that.

WL: The ones on the 40-man roster get the same pay (as if they were playing in the majors).

MM: So that's a big deterrent.

WL: I would say that if it hadn't been for the blacks coming into the majors in such numbers and the increasing number of Latins in the majors, expansion still would have been possible but the quality of play would have dropped a good deal more.

MM: Well, the blacks have made a tremendous input on baseball.

WL: As in all sports.

MM: Now, we've lost a few. There used to be some Cuban ball players. There used to be a lot of good Cubans.

WL: You lose those but you're getting many times more out of the Dominican Republic.

MM: Dominican Republic and places like that.

WL: I lived and worked over there for three years after I retired at Notre Dame, running a private foundation, and saw a bunch of the players, and Tommy LaSorda was managing there in the winter, for instance, and I saw some of the games and some of their championship games. etc. And then they're continuing to expand because it's the fever there. Soccer is an also-ran, one of the few countries in the world where it is. They really are red-hot for baseball and every young kid sees that as his chance to get out of the poverty and all that.

MM: Oh, definitely. There are some good kids that come out of there.

I just ~~noticed~~ noticed the other night on TV that in Nicaragua, where

they're having a lot of trouble, they were having their World Series down there. The Army team was playing this other team and, boy, they were screaming and hollering. They were just having a ball. Some pretty good ball players there.

WL: There are. A few have made it to the majors. Seems to me that....

MM: You know, one of the first clubs to start taking Latin ball players was Washington, D.C.

WL: That's right.

MM: Joe Cambria. He was with Mr. Griffith, the long-time owner of the club.

WL: That's right. He was a long-time scout for them, and Griffith turned around and bought 'em up.

MM: Bought 'em up, and the first of the Latin players came to Washington. Then everybody started getting them.

WL: Everybody finally got into the act. It seems to ~~me~~ that David Green, the player the Cardinals sent to San Francisco, was maybe from Nicaragua.

MM: Yeah, he ~~is~~ from down in that part of the country.

WL: There aren't many of them, though. Venezuela turns out its share of...

MM: Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. Louie Aparicio was from Venezuela, and Chico Carrasquel and... Where was Clemente from?

WL: Clemente was from Puerto Rico. And they turn out a pretty good batch of them. Like Sixto Lezcano.

MM: Mexico. Valenzuela.

WL: Valenzuela primarily, and various others. There's Salomé Barojas, the pitcher who was with the White Sox and now is with Seattle.

MM: You know, Walter, it's a shame but I hardly know any of the players in the <sup>American</sup> ~~major~~ leagues any more. We haven't seen 'em in years here.

WL: When you don't have the two teams here, you don't have the same interest.

MM: Right. I used to know every player in both leagues and the minor leagues and everything else. You just get away from it. Haven't talked baseball in a long time.



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WL: I sometimes wish there were more cities with the two teams, like there used to be, about a half a dozen of them.

MM: The only time I see the American League play now is in the World Series.

WL: Yeah, you're not close to one around here. You'd have to go to Chicago or...

MM: Yeah, Chicago would be the closest, or Dallas. (Kansas City????)

WL: Yeah, it wouldn't be much farther, would it?

MM: I guess Chicago is the closest. Dallas is 600 miles, or something.

WL: You were born and raised in North Carolina.

MM: No, South Carolina. I was born in a little town called Richburg, South Carolina. Just a little wide spot in the road. My family moved to Atlanta, Georgia when I was nine months old, so I lived in Atlanta most all my life. Before I came to St. Louis. And I've been in St. Louis since 1940.

WL: And you haven't lost that good southern drawl.

MM: I still have a little bit of it. My wife is worse than I am. My claim to fame now is that I got 11 grandkids.

WL: You're in my league. I've got exactly 11 of my ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> ~~line~~, and my second wife has 7 on her side. Now, tell me for a second, I see that your brother ....

MM: Red. Johnny "Red" Marion.

WL: Yeah. He was an older brother.

MM: Older brother. Played with Washington, D.C. Then worked for the Red Sox for a long time, in their farm system. And died in California.

WL: Died in San Jose in '75.

MM: Johnny was three years older than I was. He came up for a cup of coffee, as they say, but never made it in the big leagues. Good outfielder, never could hit.

WL: Well, that's a problem with a lot of them. I've told a lot of guys I would have been in the major leagues if some nut hadn't invented the curve ball.

MM: I used to love to hit the curve ball.

WL: I could hit that fastball, but the curve ....

MM: The ball I used to think I could hit and never could hit it was a high... a ball that was high and tight. I used to love to swing at that ball, but I never could hit that one.

WL: That was one I could hit. Right around the letters or under the chin.

MM: If they would get the ball over the plate I could hit it. Anybody could hit it over there, but right in here I couldn't hit it. But I could hit the ball away from me. I used to hit the curve ball, Walter, to right field a lot. I was more of a right field hitter. I used to hit the curve ball after it broke. Some people try to hit it before it breaks. Anyway, I had a long career as a manager and player, and I've done everything in the books - playing, coach, manager, owner.

WL: Tell me, what did you do after you left in '56?

MM: After I left in '56 I went to Houston, Texas for three years. I bought the Houston ball club. After I sold the club in '61 I came back to St. Louis. And about that time, a few years later, while I was in business here, I had my own business and was out of baseball for a time. The only thing I did was a radio show here for a long time. And I did it for 30 years.

WL: Was that every day?

MM: Every day. And then they opened the new stadium downtown, and me and some other guys put the Stadium Club in, and I ran the Stadium Club for 18 years. We just sold it out last year to Mr. Busch. He bought it from us for a very big price, so I'm retired now. All I do now is, I own a lot of farms and I'm a big duck hunter. I go to the farms a lot and I'm raising grandkids. That's it. That's fun. And I don't like to travel. Like you're travelling all over. My wife loves to travel, but I'm not much of a traveller. I guess I travelled too much in my day.

WL: Well, that's true. My God, any ball player ....

MM: They say, living out of a suitcase, you know. But, boy, when I get home you have a hard time getting me out of the house. But, anyway, as long as

my health stays good, I'm all right.

WL: You're looking great.

MM: I feel great.

WL: There's no greater blessing than good health.

MM: I don't care what you've got, if you don't have health you're ... I'm 68 years of age, I'll be 69 on December 1st.

WL: I'll be 77 next month.

MM: You've got some years on me, but you look as good as I do.

WL: Well, I feel great and I've been blessed with good health. And I like what I've done all the way through, and that's the essence of ....

MM: Well, you've had a nice career. Anybody who has taught as many kids as you taught. Must be a real satisfaction.

WL: Yes, I still see a lot of them. I had some other experiences too.

Of course, in the coaching, my old fencers and my old tennis players. One of my old tennis players and captain was Jim Evert, the father of Chris Evert Lloyd.

MM: Well, I'll be.

WL: And then I had the very remarkable experience of being in charge of the first Peace Corps Volunteers who worked in Chile. It was the first program ever approved by the Peace Corps, in 1961.

MM: In the Peace Corps, wasn't that great?

WL: I took a group of 45 down to Chile for two years, and that really was a great experience.

MM: Well, you have been around.

WL: I hear from them all the time. We keep in touch, and we even had a 20-year reunion. We trained at Notre Dame and had a 20-year reunion there in '81 and we're going to have a 25-year reunion in '86 at Notre Dame. So, all of those....

MM: Did you know Rockne?

WL: Not well, but I was a student when he was coach and managed to meet him and

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shake his hand. I came back to teach at Notre Dame right after he had been killed in the airplane crash in '31. We lived for a couple of years just a block away from his family. He had a daughter who was in one of the administrative offices at Notre Dame, so I came to know Jeanne Rockne very well. Met Mrs. Rockne a few times, and the boys. There was a younger boy, who was about 12 years old when I was beginning to teach and live near them. Then I became Chairman of Modern Languages in '46 and moved into the office for the head of the department, which had been Knute Rockne's office in the old Administration Building, with the gold dome on top. And it had a huge walk-in vault, because Rockne was practically the whole athletic department in his early years and coached track and maybe even baseball. So in there, we had the combination, we put our departmental exams and lock them up and never worry about them for a second as far as being stolen. There were still a lot of things in there having to do with athletics at Notre Dame in the early years of the century, like basketball records for 1908. And a whole lot of copies of a book that Rockne had written, I think it was called "The Four Winners." So I called Mrs. Rockne one time and said, "Do you know that there are a lot of these copies out here?" And she said "No, I didn't know that." So I delivered them to her and she was happy to have them. That was a different era, too.

MM: Yes, that was a fine era. I was just watching an old movie yesterday, about Jim Thorpe. I think Burt Lancaster played the part of Thorpe. That was quite a show. About the Carlisle Indians.

WL: I remember a story about Rockne before he ~~played~~ coached at Notre Dame. He played a little bit with the pros in those early years. He was playing with somebody, Cleveland or Canton, and he played both offense and defense in those days. Rockne was at end and Thorpe came around end and Rockne tackled him. He came again and Rockne tackled him for a loss. And as they got up, Thorpe said, "Now, you let Jimmy run." And the next time he just bowled right through

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Rockne, knocking him flat on his back, and went right on for a touchdown.

MM: When you speak of pro football and Canton and those things, old Jimmy Conzelman. Remember Jimmy Conzelman?

WL: Oh, yeah. He coached here in St. Louis.

MM: Yeah, he coached the Cardinals in Chicago and then came here. He was a grand old man and a great speaker, and he was telling me ~~oneday~~ one day, "You know what, Marty? I was offered the Detroit ball club - the Lions - and all it was going to cost me was a thousand dollars. And I didn't have a thousand dollars." That would have been my club." Can you imagine that? A thousand dollars!

MM: I think all of (old-timers) have had something like that. I lived during the depression in South Bend, and the owner wanted to sell the house to me for \$4000. I could later have sold it for \$40,000, but I didn't have \$4000.

MM: It's not our hindsight that was so bad, it's just that we didn't have any money. Well, I got to go.

WL: I know. And I greatly appreciate....

MM: I gave you an hour and fifteen minutes.

WL: You gave me my fair time, and I thank you much.

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