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NATION-WIDE REPORTING COVERAGE  
STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS  
CERTIFIED STENOTYPE REPORTER AND STAFF

INTERVIEW  
with  
MARTY McHALE



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INTERVIEWER: You were in vaudville for how many years?

MARTY McHALE: Twelve.

INTERVIEWER: No kidding. What did you do?

MARTY McHALE: I used to sing.

INTERVIEWER: An Irish tenor?

MARTY McHALE: Yeh, Irish Thrush, they called it then, but even before that, before baseball even I used to work in a lot of shows around Boston and made trips down to Wakefield, Winchester, you know, Minstrel Shows usually, and sometimes these little two act things that they have.

Mike and I, see first before that, I had this quartet--

INTERVIEWER: Oh, this was recent, New York Herald Tribune, March 1, 1960.

MARTY McHALE: Yeh. But this quartet, Joe knew them very well, he was there with this troupe see, in Boston.

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh!

MARTY McHALE: And then we were together for about three years, and then I did a single for about three years which was not very good, but it was good enough so that they paid for it, and then when Mike and

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1  
2 I got together we did a regular routine, singing, we  
3 didn't sing too much but we used to do a double entendre,  
4 you know, on conversation, and then I went back to a  
5 single again after he went to Hollywood.

6 Mike was -- he was the Babe Ruth of his  
7 day, you wouldn't remember him but your father would or  
8 somebody of that --

9 INTERVIEWER: Well, the name is very  
10 familiar.

11 MARTY McHALE: Yeh, he only died a couple  
12 of years ago and I had a letter from his wife on my  
13 birthday, which was the 30th of October, and she had  
14 some souvenirs that Mike had, one was a gold bat and  
15 a ball that was given to him as the most valuable player  
16 in 1905 -- well I wouldn't know, about five I guess, or  
17 six, something like that.

18 Then he has a couple of cups that were  
19 given to him, one for being the outstanding Giant when  
20 he was with the Giants, and one with the, that the fans  
21 in Chicago gave him and that one -- I think he was not  
22 with the Cubs, I think he was with another club but he  
23 was so outstanding that the Mayor had this big dinner  
24 and they presented Mike with the cup for his great  
25 ability, and some cufflinks which I have.

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INTERVIEWER: She gave them to you.

MARTY McHALE: She gave them to me after Mike died. I have them, but --

INTERVIEWER: Was Mike in vaudville with you?

MARTY McHALE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: For how long?

MARTY McHALE: For five years.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, that's quite a while.

MARTY McHALE: Yeh.

INTERVIEWER: After the season every year?

MARTY McHALE: Oh, yes, sure, naturally, I was still playing and I had to work in the wintertime.

INTERVIEWER: Did he sing too?

MARTY McHALE: No, he used to go through the motions.

INTERVIEWER: Why did they call him "turkey Mike"?

MARTY McHALE: He used to walk like a turkey, he'd kind of strut a little, and he used to do a -- well, Mike, when he made a terrific catch or something he'd always do a kind of a turkey step and take his cap off and throw it up like a Ham, a real Ham,



1  
2 but a good one, and could prove it, out there in the  
3 field or when he was up at bat.

4 INTERVIEWER: You pitched the opening  
5 day for the Yankees in 1914 and the opening day for the  
6 Yankees in 1915, is that right?

7 MARTY McHALE: Yah.

8 INTERVIEWER: They weren't the Highlanders  
9 any more?

10 MARTY McHALE: Oh, no, they were the  
11 Yankees.

12 INTERVIEWER: When did they become the  
13 Yankees:

14 MARTY McHALE: In 1912, I think.

15 INTERVIEWER: Which is just about when you  
16 went there, huh?

17 MARTY McHALE: Well, I was with the Red Sox  
18 before that.

19 INTERVIEWER: You won the opening game  
20 on both days?

21 MARTY McHALE: Yes. Against the World's  
22 Champions, the "A"s, the "A"s were the champs then, both  
23 times against the "A"s.

24 INTERVIEWER: It also says up there that  
25 you pitched three successive no hit games --

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1  
2 MARTY McHALE: In college.

3 INTERVIEWER: For Maine University in 1910.

4 MARTY McHALE: Yeh, just before I went to  
5 the Red Sox, but the diamond situation, see after the  
6 Red Sox quartet quit, they quit because some of them  
7 were sent to different clubs, you know, and I was just  
8 as well satisfied because it was quite an ordeal keeping  
9 the boys on schedule, you know, because they were not  
10 used to that buzzer, you know, that syas you're on next  
11 and so forth.

12 They'd be a couple of minutes late and  
13 you can't do that in vaudeville, you know, you're on.

14 INTERVIEWER: You must have known a lot  
15 of the old time vaudeville players.

16 MARTY McHALE: I did, that's what this --  
17 that's inthis story "Errol Laney", when he wrote the  
18 story, he looked back at a great many of the old programs.  
19 Mike and I played the Palace twice in one year, when it  
20 was the Palace, not the way it is now, when they had  
21 nothing but the -- you know -- the big headliners, the  
22 big stars there, and Al must have gone into the archives  
23 to dig up some of the stuff he has in this story about  
24 the old days.

25 Montgomery and Stone playing at the Globe



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across the street, things of that kind.

INTERVIEWER: When you look back now do you remember your vaudeville career or your baseball career with more fondness?

MARTY McHALE: Well, I think that I -- I would say that they were about fifty-fifty. The vaudeville was more difficult.

INTERVIEWER: It was?

MARTY McHALE: Travelling, I mean.

INTERVIEWER: You had to travel a lot in baseball.

MARTY McHALE: Well, but you had somebody taking care of your trunk and your tickets and everything, and all you had to do was get your slip, go into the train and go to bed. When you got to the theatre, the hotel your trunk was there.

INTERVIEWER: Yeh.

MARTY McHALE: And in vaudeville you had to watch your own stuff. I used to say to Mike, you're one of the best valets I know, because he was always on time with the tickets and had our checks for baggage and everything all taken care of, right on the button all the time.

INTERVIEWER: How did you get -- I notice



1  
2 up there it says you went to Maine. Wasn't it unusual  
3 in those days -- that was about 1910 -- for a Major  
4 League Ballplayer to have gone to college?

5 MARTY McHALE: Oh, no. That's the point  
6 that these young squirts who write ~~about~~ sports today  
7 know nothing about, they're only guessing. I want to  
8 give you an idea about that.

9 On the Red Sox, when I joined them, we  
10 had a catcher named "Bill <sup>Carrigan</sup> Tarrian" who went to Holy  
11 Cross.

12 INTERVIEWER: He became a manager later.

13 MARTY McHALE: Yeh, that's right, and he  
14 won two world's championships and quit. Then we had  
15 another catcher named "<sup>Cady (Forest?)</sup> ~~Tatey~~", "Arvis ~~Tatey~~". I don't  
16 know whether he finished college or not but he went to  
17 one of those midwest schools. We had "Jake Stall" on  
18 first base who went to the University of Illinois.  
19 We had Larry "<sup>Gardner</sup> ~~Bradner~~" playing third, who  
20 went to the University of Vermont. We had Duffy Lewis  
21 in left field and Harry Looper in right field who both  
22 went to St. Mary's out in California. "<sup>Speaker</sup> ~~Steicket~~" went  
23 to -- not the University of Texas, but Texas Polyclinic,  
24 Polytechnic or something of that kind out there. He  
25 only went two years, but he went.

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1  
2 Then we had Ray Collins who pitched for  
3 the University of Vermont; <sup>Chris Maloney</sup> ~~Ray Spinaldi~~ at Fordham;  
4 McHale at Maine; Johnny Busick at Illinois.

5 INTERVIEWER: It's very different from  
6 what you read about them.

7 MARTY McHALE: Of course it is, they don't  
8 know what they're writing in half of these stories. I  
9 would say that about, oh, seventy, at least seventy  
10 percent of our lads went to higher grades in school,  
11 you know, to high school and some of them into college,  
12 and very many of them finished.

13 Now, our shortstop, "Heinie Wagner", he  
14 went to New Rochelle High School. That was as far as  
15 he went. Steve Yurkees went to High School, he played  
16 second base. Nearly all of our crowd were educated  
17 people Hughie Bradley, who was substitute first base-  
18 man, he went to Holy Cross for a couple of years.

19 Buck O'Brien, one of the pitchers, he  
20 said I got a degree, he said I got a BS from Brockton,  
21 he said "boots and shoes", meaning that he worked in  
22 a shoe factory, but he went to high school, then he  
23 went to --

24 INTERVIEWER: You know you read about --  
25 you know, I've had to do a lot of reading on this and

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1  
2 I've heard about the old days and -- well, I get a very  
3 different impression. I get --

4 MARTY McHALE: These fellows don't know  
5 what they write about. Now, there is -- a great many  
6 of them are thinking back to the old days of the Orioles.

7 INTERVIEWER: 1895.

8 MARTY McHALE: That's when McGraw and  
9 Jennings and those fellows were there, and here's a  
10 strange thing, once again proving that they don't know --  
11 that they still don't know of what they write. Jennings  
12 became a lawyer. McGraw went to St. Bonaventius. I'm  
13 not saying that some of these lads weren't a little on  
14 the crude side, but some others were on the crude side  
15 too. All of them didn't go to high school, and the  
16 majority of them didn't go to college.

17 You find any of those guys today who went  
18 to college, they're outstanding. The difference is you  
19 find some of these boys who went to college are working  
20 for their masters now, you see, and they get a little  
21 more publicity for that.

22 INTERVIEWER: Did you graduate from Maine?

23 MARTY McHALE: From Maine.

24 INTERVIEWER: What did you major in?

25 MARTY McHALE: Oh, well, it's a cinch

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1 course really, Civil Engineering.

2 INTERVIEWER: Doesn't sound like a cinch  
3 to me.

4 MARTY McHALE: Anybody who thinks it is  
5 should try it.

6 INTERVIEWER: Yeh. How did you get --  
7 you grew up in Massachusetts?

8 MARTY McHALE: Yes, down in "Donna" Mass.,  
9 that's ninety miles out of Boston.

10 INTERVIEWER: How did you get to go to  
11 Maine, on an athletic scholarship?

12 MARTY McHALE: They didn't have them,  
13 I paid my own way. I went to Maine because it was not  
14 too expensive. I had offers of scholarships at  
15 Dartmouth, Holy Cross and Georgetown and four of them  
16 had made a gesture but when I went down -- because I  
17 visited Dartmouth and Brown and Holy Cross, and I  
18 didn't go down to Georgetown -- but in those three  
19 places they had plenty of work for you to do, you know.

20 I was supposed to play football and base-  
21 ball.

22 INTERVIEWER: You played both in high  
23 school.

24 MARTY McHALE: Yah, sure, played every-  
25

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1  
2 thing in high school, but you don't have time in college  
3 to play all four. I sang in the Glee Club too on top  
4 of that, but up at these places they had jobs for you  
5 to do and usually it was in the dining room, and by the  
6 time you finished your practice, what you were doing,  
7 football or baseball or what have you, and then did your  
8 work, you would say well, what time do I have to study.

9 Oh, you'll have plenty of time, you just  
10 make your time, and the scholarships weren't very large  
11 either, you had to augment the earnings by working in  
12 the summertime, which we used to do. We used to play  
13 ball out at Pittsfield, Mass.

14 Out there they had all -- nearly all  
15 the teams were out there in the college group, you  
16 know, most of the men who played on the teams.

17 INTERVIEWER: Uh huh, and what did your  
18 father do?

19 MARTY McHALE: My father?

20 INTERVIEWER: Yes.

21 MARTY McHALE: He was a small town  
22 builder.

23 INTERVIEWER: He wanted you to go to  
24 college or you wanted to go to college yourself?

25 MARTY McHALE: Well, I wanted to go and he



1  
2 was in favor of it, but he was the fellow who had the  
3 idea about Civil Engineering. Being a little builder  
4 and so forth he could see what it probably would mean  
5 to someone, and he had a very good idea, but I went to  
6 the Red Sox before I finished and then went back again.

7 INTERVIEWER: In the off seasons?

8 MARTY McHALE: Yes, sure -- but first I  
9 went back and finished in 1911.

10 INTERVIEWER: You went straight from  
11 Maine to the Red Sox?

12 MARTY McHALE: Yah.

13 INTERVIEWER: No minors?

14 MARTY McHALE: No minors, no, and then  
15 I went from the Red Sox to the Yankees, and then I  
16 went back to the Red Sox, then the Yankees, after Bill  
17 Harrigan who said, he was the manager then, Bill said,  
18 now that you're seasoned enough you can come back and  
19 pitch for a big league team.

20 (Laughter)

21 The Yankees in those days were a terrible  
22 ball club, very bad.

23 INTERVIEWER: When you were on the Yankees  
24 who was the manager then?

25 MARTY McHALE: Frank Chance.



1  
2 INTERVIEWER: Frank Chance, what was Chance  
3 like?

4 MARTY McHALE: Great guy. If you went  
5 out there and worked for Chance and hustled and showed  
6 him that you were interested in what you were doing he  
7 would certainly be in your corner to the extent that  
8 he would try and get you more money every time he had  
9 a chance to.

10 INTERVIEWER: I heard Frank Chance was  
11 a really tough egg.

12 MARTY McHALE: He was one of the nicest  
13 men I've ever met. He was tough if you deserved it,  
14 and his wife was one of the sweetest, loveliest women  
15 you'd ever want to meet.

16 I had a watch at home, one of these little  
17 "Wafer" watches, that Chance gave to me in 1914 after  
18 I guess about the first month. I had won a couple of  
19 games for him, one of them was the opening game and  
20 one day he gave me this Wafer watch.

21 He said, just a gesture, he said, I know  
22 you don't need any money, he said, anybody who picks up  
23 your big checks and then works all winter and picks up  
24 vaudeville checks, you don't need money. He said, this  
25 is just a gesture. I still have the watch.

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1 INTERVIEWER: He was a nice person.

2 MARTY McHALE: Oh, gee, I enjoyed him very  
3 much.  
4

5 INTERVIEWER: Was he still playing first  
6 base?

7 MARTY McHALE: No. Occasionally he  
8 would fill in but not regular.

9 INTERVIEWER: This was the same team that  
10 Harold Chase was on?

11 MARTY McHALE: No, Chase had left, he had  
12 been just a little bit ahead of us.

13 INTERVIEWER: Were you on the same team  
14 with Chase?

15 MARTY McHALE: No. He went to -- he was  
16 traded by the Yankees to -- who -- I know he went to  
17 Cincinatti --

18 INTERVIEWER: Yah, then to the Giants.

19 MARTY McHALE: Did he go to the Giants  
20 from Cincinatti? I don't remember.

21 INTERVIEWER: Yah.

22 MARTY McHALE: I didn't know -- I only  
23 knew Chase -- I just met him a couple of times -- sort  
24 of casually -- didn't know him.

25 INTERVIEWER: Did Frank Chance ever talk

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1 about the "Tinkers" a group of ballplayers?

2  
3 MARTY McHALE: Oh, yes, Frank and I were  
4 very good friends to the extent that when he was quitting  
5 and this was in 1915 -- in Washington we were playing  
6 a series and after dinner one evening he said, let's  
7 take a little walk -- which I did -- and we went out to  
8 a little park across from the Hotel and sat down -- he  
9 wanted to unload something that he had on his chest --  
10 he said, I'm going to quit, he said, I can't stand this  
11 being manager, can't stand being the manager of this  
12 ball club.

13 He said, we're not going to get anyplace,  
14 I've got a good pitching staff, and he did have a good  
15 pitching staff -- he said, but you fellows are just  
16 batting your heads against the wall every time you go  
17 out there, no runs -- and he said, I just can't take it --  
18 he said, I'm going to quit.

19 He had already talked it over with the  
20 front office in New York and he had -- one of the reasons  
21 he took me out to the park was that he had told them  
22 the ones that he thought they should keep, and I happened  
23 to be one of them, Sam Caldwell and Ray Fischer, three  
24 pitchers, and he said -- I know that you'll be working  
25 in vaudeville next winter and I would advise you to get



1  
2 yourself a two or three year contract, if you can, before  
3 you leave New York on your vaudeville tour, which is  
4 very good advice -- which advice I didn't take. I was  
5 too smart -- you know how it is -- very smart -- so  
6 Mike and I went out on the Orpheum circuit that winter  
7 after opening at the Palace.

8 We went to Chicago and New Orleans.

9 INTERVIEWER: "Frank Govern" wasn't with  
10 the Yankees then?

11 MARTY McHALE: No, he was coaching for  
12 the Giants. He never was with the Yankees. He coached  
13 the Giants. That's what made the team in vaudeville a  
14 pretty good team, the Giant and the Yankees, you know,  
15 in a performance.

16 So Mike, before we left New York, he said,  
17 you better go over to the office, the Yankee office  
18 and get yourself signed in for your contract before  
19 you leave. He said, you never can tell what's going to  
20 happen. I, being very, very smart, I said, No, I'll  
21 be worth more money to them in the Spring than I am now  
22 after the publicity we will get in vaudeville this winter.

23 But, I was wrong, because during the winter  
24 we were in Minneapolis at the Orpheum theatre, so the  
25 Yankees were sold to "Ruppert" and -- "Dudley and

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1  
2 Farrell" sold it to Ruppert and Houston, and I'm quite  
3 sure I could have made a deal with Frank Farrell for  
4 a two or three year contract before leaving, but as I  
5 say I wasn't very smart.

6 When we got back east -- we jumped from  
7 Minneapolis to Brooklyn, New York and then Brooklyn,  
8 then we played the Fifth Avenue on Broadway here and  
9 then went into the Palace again and Bill Donovan had  
10 been appointed manager of the Yankees, to take over,  
11 and he was not in favor of anybody having a two or  
12 three year contract.

13 INTERVIEWER: Wasn't <sup>Rockaway</sup> "~~Ecken's~~ party" in  
14 there sometime or other?

15 MARTY McHALE: Between the two  
16 (A very loud noise obliterated the  
17 speakers momentarily at this point.)

18 And then Donovan took over the next  
19 spring.

20 INTERVIEWER: (Question obliterated.)

21 MARTY McHALE: Yes, and very well too. He  
22 was a good ball player. He was, well, he was about the  
23 only top ball player we had on the ball club, with the  
24 exception of the pitching staff. We had a good pitching  
25 staff. "Tod Ballington", the fellow that drew all

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1  
2 these cartoons for these calendars, he came in one day  
3 and he had some drawings that he had made from stills  
4 that I had out in front of the theatre and then I had  
5 a motion picture that he took some stills from, from  
6 the motion picture.

7 INTERVIEWER: You were in a movie?

8 MARTY McHALE: Yeh! And he ran back the  
9 averages, you know, the pitching averages and so forth,  
10 and one year, well, in 1914 I lost seventeen ball games  
11 and I think I won eight, but my pitching average was  
12 2.51.

13 INTERVIEWER: No runs?

14 MARTY McHALE: No runs. You would be  
15 beaten one to nothing, two to nothing, three to one,  
16 three to two, things like that, you know, but you were  
17 never ahead of anybody, and as "Clark" pointed out, he  
18 said, your average, your big league average is 2.54  
19 pitching, he said, but you're winning and losing average  
20 he said, is not very pretty, but I knew that.

21 You can't win without runs. you have to  
22 have them. You take this fellow who's pitching for the  
23 Mets --

24 INTERVIEWER: Roger Cree?

25 MARTY McHALE: Yeh, what did he lose,



1  
2 twenty-two, something like that? What did he win,  
3 -about five?

4 INTERVIEWER: About five but he lost an  
5 awful lot of one to nothing --

6 MARTY McHALE: One to nothing, two to  
7 nothing, terrible. Now, on the other hand Slim Caldwell  
8 with us, the Yankees, Slim had a pretty good winning  
9 there. Slim was the best pitcher we had. He didn't  
10 need the runs that he got.

11 INTERVIEWER: When did you go to the  
12 Yankees, in 1912?

13 MARTY McHALE: 1913.

14 INTERVIEWER: Were you on the Red Sox  
15 when Smoky Joe won those --

16 MARTY McHALE: Yeh, sure.

17 INTERVIEWER: Were you there the time that  
18 Johnson and --

19 MARTY McHALE: Yah.

20 INTERVIEWER: Tell me what happened then  
21 because I'm not sure. He never talked very much.

22 MARTY McHALE: He won the game one to  
23 nothing.

24 INTERVIEWER: He was very shy and never  
25 wanted to talk about it.

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1  
2 MARTY McHALE: No, he -- the Red Sox took  
3 one run off Johnson.

4 INTERVIEWER: Was that built up then as a  
5 real big spectacular win?

6 MARTY McHALE: Terrific, yeh. And both of  
7 them, I don't know how many they struck out but they  
8 must have, each one must have struck out thirteen or  
9 fourteen, something like that.

10 They only had a couple of hits off of  
11 either pitcher, and I think that they run they got off  
12 Walter was scored on a sacrifice. It's so long ago  
13 I don't remember, exactly.

14 INTERVIEWER: You saw Walter Johnson  
15 pitch a lot?

16 MARTY McHALE: Saw him pitch a lot. Every  
17 time I pitched against Washington I had Johnson as an  
18 opponent, or Jim Shaw, either one. Griffith, he used  
19 to, I don't know -- I had an idea he didn't pitch them  
20 against Caldwell. It seemed that every time Slim pitched  
21 they'd get him three or four runs, and as I say he  
22 didn't need them, he was a great pitcher.

23 INTERVIEWER: Was Johnson as great a  
24 pitcher? As they say?

25 MARTY McHALE: He was greater than they

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say. He was with one of the worst ball clubs imaginable, not quite as bad as the old Yankees but almost as bad. I'll tell you another facet that you probably don't know about.

When I got out of the Air Service, after the war, you see I quite baseball -- well, it was on the 4th of July, I think, in 1917 and went into the Air Service, when I came out I went to work for the Evening Sun.

INTERVIEWER: The New York Evening Sun?

MARTY McHALE: Yah, writing special articles, and the Sun used to run them every Saturday, every Saturday. The syndicate used to sell them to -- wherever they could sell them, Boston, Philadelphia, Newark, anywhere they could, you know -- and I used to get five, two, four, eight dollars apiece for them, and one of the stories that I wrote was about Walter Johnson.

I wrote one about Joey too, and about Seicer and, oh, so many of them, I have a stack about that high, and in the Johnson story I pointed out that despite the fact that he had one of the worst ball clubs in either Major League, he had one of the best winning records of anybody in either league, and one of the

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1  
2 best earned run records. His fast ball was really fast,  
3 and he had more shut-outs than anybody, etcetera, more  
4 strike-outs, more of everything, and then I had a story  
5 about Maddy, and Joe Villaher, who was the sports editor  
6 for Sun, he met Maddy up at the Polo Grounds one day  
7 after Maddy's story was published in the Sun and he  
8 wanted to know if Maddy saw the story, and Maddy said  
9 yes, I saw the story.

10 He, Joe, said, Great story, because I had  
11 put the old plug in for him naturally, never would say  
12 anything disparaging about anyone, even if I could I  
13 wouldn't, and you couldn't say much about him that was  
14 disparaging, he was a great pitcher, but I pointed out  
15 in Johnson's story his great record, from every angle  
16 of pitching, and then made mention of the fact that with  
17 that poor ballclub he still had a better record than  
18 nearly all the pitchers in either league.

19 I said I'm just wondering what would have  
20 happened if Walter was pitching for the Giants, the  
21 Giants could get him four or five or six runs nearly  
22 every time he started, then I'm wondering if he'd ever  
23 lose a ball game, and I think Maddy didn't care very  
24 much about that, and so he said, Yah, it's a good story.  
25 You know.

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(Laughter)

INTERVIEWER: I never knew Maddy well.

MARTY McHALE: He and Mike were very good friends.

INTERVIEWER: What about McGraw?

MARTY McHALE: Oh, McGraw, he was my sponsor into the ~~Lions~~ <sup>Lambe</sup> Club.

INTERVIEWER: Is that right?

MARTY McHALE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Now, I have lots of conflicting impressions from reading about McGraw. Some places I read McGraw was a tyrant, other places I read that the ballplayers loved McGraw. Could you --

MARTY McHALE: He was a Jekyll and Hyde. On the ball field he was one of the toughest people you'd ever want to know, very strict -- well, they had to call him Mr. McGraw. Off the field he was very affable, and I knew Mrs. McGraw pretty well, to the extent that every time I used to meet her, years later, she'd have the arms open, you know, that type, and he was, oh, a great, great person, off the ball field.

He would change terrifically the minute he'd get in uniform, but by the same token, as Mike used to tell me, of course, I got a lot of inside information

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1  
2 from Mike that I wouldn't get any other way, which helped  
3 me when I was writing these stories.

4 He said, you know, McGraw never fired any-  
5 body without trying to get them a good job with some  
6 other ball club or somewhere. He said, some of these  
7 lads that he had to get rid of, who didn't behave them-  
8 selves, and he had to get rid of them, he had two or  
9 three -- I would call them semi-quasi men, who were  
10 good ball players but they're not dependable.

11 INTERVIEWER: Bugs Randall?

12 MARTY McHALE: Yah, that's one of them  
13 and there's "Shuffling" Phil Douglas, you know. There  
14 was a guy, a terrific pitcher, but you never knew when  
15 he was going to be himself, and some days when he wasn't  
16 himself he still pitched a fairly good ball game, but  
17 that doesn't always hold true.

18 But, McGraw, now, when he traded Maddy,  
19 and when he traded "Herzog" and when he traded some  
20 of the other fellows, he got them good jobs with other  
21 ball clubs, and then he would trade a man for a season  
22 sometimes and get him back again the following year  
23 or two years later.

24 INTERVIEWER: Yeh, that's true.

25 MARTY McHALE: He used to do that. Now,

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1  
2 he was on the ball -- if you gave him something, you  
3 know, he was deserving of.

4 INTERVIEWER: The ball players seemed to  
5 have idolized him.

6 MARTY McHALE: They did!

7 INTERVIEWER: And then on the other hand  
8 you always get these funny things like his lifelong  
9 friendship with "Blooper" Ellison breaks up because  
10 they get in an argument and they don't speak to each  
11 other again for ten years. It's so funny.

12 MARTY McHALE: Well, that could happen  
13 in any household.

14 INTERVIEWER: Yeh, that's true.

15 MARTY McHALE: You see what I mean,  
16 brothers and sisters that could happen to. That comes  
17 under the head of false pride in my philosophy, false  
18 pride. Those two guys were in Baltimore together and  
19 they knew each other from when they were young kids  
20 together, but -- "Riley" was a peculiar person himself.  
21 He would know his ball players fairly well but he  
22 wouldn't know anybody's name.

23 INTERVIEWER: Yeh.

24 MARTY McHALE: That is he'd know the man  
25 if he thought about it but he wouldn't take the time

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to think about it.

INTERVIEWER: Yeh, something like Stengal these days.

MARTY McHALE: Just about the same and part of it is an act with Stengal, and part of it isn't.

INTERVIEWER: Did you play against Stengal?

MARTY McHALE: Yes, I pitched against him in exhibition games.

INTERVIEWER: How did you come to go to the Red Sox, how did that come about?

MARTY McHALE: Well, well it came about -- I pitched in three no hit games in a row. I had scouts from all over the place there, you know.

INTERVIEWER: Well, why did you sign with the Red Sox?

MARTY McHALE: Well, it was almost my home town.

INTERVIEWER: Yah, that's true. Did you get a bonus?

MARTY McHALE: Oh, a big bonus, absolutely. What did I get -- I think I got somewhere around two thousand dollars.

INTERVIEWER: That was a big bonus?

MARTY McHALE: That was worth ten thousand



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of these dollars today, as you know, being a teacher,  
and knowing the value of a dollar.

INTERVIEWER: It's a lot different today  
than it was then.

MARTY McHALE: Well, the depreciation in  
the value of dollars -- I had a bid to go to Detroit -  
one to go to Pittsburgh - one to go to the Giants -  
one to go to the Braves, Red Sox and there was one from--  
sort of a veiled bid from Cincinatti.

INTERVIEWER: Had you been a Red Sox fan  
when you were a kid?

MARTY McHALE: I never went to a big  
league game.

INTERVIEWER: Until you played in them?

MARTY McHALE: I saw, that is I think  
I saw one game before I went into the big league and  
that was a game Sal Young pitched in Boston. You see  
I lived nine miles out of Boston and in those days they  
didn't have automobiles running back and forth or  
buses. You had to take a trolley car and change two  
or three times, but this Cincinnatti situation --  
Griffith was down there managing and when I reported  
to the Red Sox, which was in June, following college,  
that was in June, yes, his club was playing the Braves,

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1  
2 over at Braves field across the tracks from the Red Sox  
3 Park. Now, the Red Sox were on the road when we reported.

4 INTERVIEWER: Had you signed yet?

5 MARTY McHALE: Oh, yes, but they were on  
6 the road and they didn't want these college boys who  
7 had signed with them right away, they had to make room  
8 for you, you only could have so many players. So I  
9 remember that Griffith came over to the Red Sox Park  
10 one morning, we had morning practice, to watch the boys  
11 work out and the club house man told us we were all  
12 being watched -- like you'd watch horses, you know,  
13 working out each morning, and he said if we wanted  
14 to stay with the club better take it easy and not put  
15 too much on the ball while you're working and so on.

16 INTERVIEWER: Why is that?

17 MARTY McHALE: Well, if you want to stay  
18 with a club, because see they usually ask wavers on  
19 the newcomers immediately upon reporting to see if any-  
20 body other than themselves are interested in the young-  
21 ster, and if they are they can withdraw the wavers  
22 after a certain time.

23 I remember very definitely -- I went out  
24 there and I was pitching to the hitters and I put  
25 everything I had on the ball because after looking

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1  
2 over that bunch of Red Sox pitchers I could see that  
3 there was not much chance for a young collegian breaking  
4 into that lineup.

5 At any rate Griffith must have put in  
6 some claim on the wavers, you see, because two days  
7 later I was on my way to Chicago to join the Red Sox.  
8 They had withdrawn the wavers. I joined them in  
9 Chicago and we went from Chicago to Cleveland and I  
10 remember my pal, Tris Speaker hurt his finger in Chicago  
11 and he was out for a few days and they had Cris Mahoney  
12 who was an outfielder, pitcher and a good hitter.

13 They had Chris playing right field when  
14 we played in Cleveland, Harry "Hooper" was playing  
15 center and Duffy Lewis playing left and he put me in  
16 to pitch my first game in the big league against that  
17 Cleveland club, all those boys, Joe Jackson.

18 INTERVIEWER: Joe Jackson was with them  
19 then.

20 MARTY McHALE: Yah.

21 INTERVIEWER: That's the first game you  
22 were ever in?

23 MARTY McHALE: Yeh. I was defeated two  
24 to one. I had ten strikeouts.

25 INTERVIEWER: You went the whole -- the

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1  
2 entire nine innings?

3 MARTY McHALE: Yah, I had ten strikeouts  
4 and I lost the ball game because of one of those sun-  
5 field things -- George Stovo was playing first base for  
6 Cleveland and he got himself a legitimate two base  
7 knock and he was sacrificed over to third, and then  
8 the next batter hit a long fly to Duffy out in left  
9 field, Duffy Lewis, and Duffy was dead certain on fly  
10 balls, but Harry was playing centerfield, Harry Hooper  
11 who was dead certain on fly balls, but when Speaker  
12 was in centerfield as Harry said afterwards, he said  
13 we used to let Speaker take everything within range,  
14 and as you know, Speaker, in my opinion was the greatest  
15 I hate superlatives but nobody was in his class as an  
16 outfielder, but Harry said Duffy and I didn't get our  
17 signals crossed but we were not sure as to who was going  
18 to take the ball.

19 Finally Duffy went for it and just as he  
20 made his pitch for the ball the sun hit him right between  
21 the eyes and he didn't get his hands on the thing and  
22 Stovo, of course, scored, and the fellow who hit the ball  
23 he got himself a double from the thing. He -- somebody  
24 got a single on top of that and anyway the score was two  
25 to one. That was it. The strange part of it all was,

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2 and I never could understand it, I didn't get to start  
3 another ball game.

4 INTERVIEWER: That was in 1910.

5 MARTY McHALE: I didn't know why, I  
6 thought my first showing was pretty good. I gave up  
7 seven hits, never walked anybody --

8 INTERVIEWER: How did the players treat  
9 you?

10 MARTY McHALE: What?

11 INTERVIEWER: How did the other players  
12 treat you, coming straight out of college? A rookie,  
13 in the middle of the season?

14 MARTY McHALE: Oh, all right, fine.  
15 They were all right, I knew some of them. "Grodnick"  
16 who used to play out in that summer league, you know,  
17 Bill Gerrigan.

18 INTERVIEWER: They weren't real rough  
19 on you?

20 MARTY McHALE: Oh, no, no, you know a  
21 lot of those stories are fantastic. A lot of those  
22 stories -- you know, you read about sawing up a fellow's  
23 bat and all that sort of thing. I never heard of it.  
24 I never heard of it. I think if you were trying to beat  
25 somebody out of a job he wouldn't break his neck to



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teach you very much, that would be a natural setup, but I never heard of any of those things.

INTERVIEWER: Yah. You mentioned Joe Jackson. Is he as great a hitter as stories about him?

MARTY McHALE: One of the greatest natural hitters.

INTERVIEWER: The greatest natural hitter.

MARTY McHALE: He was marvelous. That day that I had the ten strikeouts I had Joe twice, two strikes, no balls, and I did something that the average big league pitcher would never do. Instead of trying to fool him with a pitch I stuck the next one right through there and caught him flat-footed. He never dreamed I'd do that.

So the next time up there the same thing happened. He hit a foul, then took a strike and then -- "Chad Clino" and old head was catching and he came out you know, midway conference, talked it over, and he said what do you want to pitch to him, a curve ball, and I said, no, I'm going to stick another fast one right through there.

He said, he'll murder it, well -- we'll see, he took another one. But, the third time he was up he hit a ball that was like a shot out of a rifle



1  
2 against the right field wall. They had an extended  
3 fence in right field and it wasn't too far out there.  
4 I think it was seven feet high, one of them bleachers  
5 were out there, and that ball went out there like a  
6 shot, and it was retrieved by Eric Cooper, in left  
7 center, a shag you know.

8 He used a tremendous great big long black  
9 bat and he was a big man; he weighed -- Chad was around  
10 six two and a half, something like that and built in  
11 proportion, more on the slender side, but -- wiry you  
12 know, tremendous.

13 INTERVIEWER: Taking everything into  
14 account, who was the best ball player you ever saw?

15 MARTY McHALE: Cobb -- you're talking  
16 about all things, taking all things into consideration.  
17 Cobb was not the fielder that Speaker was.

18 INTERVIEWER: Speaker was the greatest  
19 outfielder?

20 MARTY McHALE: I think he was in a class  
21 by himself. "Harry Cooper" was exceptionally good.  
22 And there was a national leaguer named Moore who also  
23 was a great outfielder. I really could name quite a  
24 few outfielders, but I'm talking about fellows who  
25 could play deep second base and still be great out-

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1  
2 fielder.

3 INTERVIEWER: Did Speaker really play  
4 that close in?

5 MARTY McHALE: Oh, yes, Speaker would  
6 play close enough so that at times in these run downs  
7 they'd have he'd be in on the play, and then the next  
8 man perhaps would hit a long fly into centerfield and  
9 he would be on his bicycle with his back to the ball,  
10 not backing away, he'd turn his back and run, and you'd  
11 think he had a radar or a magnet or something because  
12 just at the proper time he'd turn around and catch  
13 the ball over his shoulder.

14 INTERVIEWER: Um hmmm.

15 MARTY McHALE: Those fellows, Speaker,  
16 Louis and "Hooper", they used to practice throwing, some-  
17 thing that you don't see anymore. You see a little of  
18 it, but not like you used to, and those fellows would  
19 practice throwing so that they'd have a "cap" down near  
20 the catcher and they'd see who would come closest to the  
21 cap, when they'd throw from the outfield. They all had  
22 marvelous arms.

23 Nobody would run on that trio, rarely,  
24 if ever, and I think that most of the people who ever  
25 played baseball in that era and even after, who ever

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1  
2 saw them play, would say that there was no trio that  
3 could compare with --

4 INTERVIEWER: Yes. Let's skip down to  
5 Cobb. Really, there is no doubt in your mind that  
6 Cobb was the greatest --

7 MARTY McHALE: In my opinion, I always  
8 qualify everything about opinions. As I said, he  
9 couldn't throw with those fellows, and he couldn't  
10 field with Speaker or Hooper, but -- as you know Speaker  
11 hit around 340 something over a period of twenty-two  
12 years. There's a point that these fellows don't give  
13 at all, these writers of today.

14 They've only seen these fellows play a  
15 few years. Now, Cobb played either twenty-three or  
16 twenty-four years. He had the highest batting average  
17 of anybody in baseball, even today, nobody has the  
18 average that Cobb carried for twenty-three or four  
19 years.

20 INTERVIEWER: Imagine that, 367 wasn't it?

21 MARTY McHALE: And nobody could run bases  
22 like Cobb. Nobody.

23 INTERVIEWER: You were on the mound when  
24 he was on the --

25 MARTY McHALE: Oh, yes, I was, and I never

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was -- Ty and I became pretty good friends after. He always used to call me when he came to New York, just to say hello, how are you, and when he was very, very sick, toward the end, I used to talk to him on the phone up at the hotel.

Of course, nobody could ever tell anything to Ty, he had his own opinion on everything. We used to talk security, but you can't argue too much with a fellow who has over two and a half million dollars. He's no dope.

And, he was no dope in baseball. He used to do some of the things that were fantastic. He would set up a play, He'd watch the, he always stole on the pitch --

INTERVIEWER: And you were a pitcher, you knew he was going to steal on the pitcher, what could you do about it?

MARTY McHALE: Watch him very closely, throw over a few times. You could almost tell when he was going to go. He wouldn't go just to steal a base. He'd go for reasons, they'd have to get a run or something, he'd worry everybody, and you'd usually pitch out when you were afraid that he was going to run.

He had managed the Browns and then he



1  
2 came back and became assistant in Detroit. In Detroit  
3 he was living at the Ansonia.

4 INTERVIEWER: The ball clubs used to stay  
5 at the Ansonia in those days didn't they?

6 MARTY McHALE: I was the first one of the  
7 group because when I was doing a single in vaudeville  
8 I stayed there during the winter and then during the  
9 summer I went up there and used to stay there and about  
10 a year after, "Leslie Noonan" was sold by the Red Sox  
11 to the Yankees and they brought him up to the Ansonia  
12 and then ball players began to come in and then the  
13 out of town teams stayed there.

14 INTERVIEWER: It's still the same Ansonia?

15 MARTY McHALE: Yep, on 72nd. We stayed  
16 up at the Ansonia, there was a little poker game going  
17 on in one of the rooms -- I was kibitzing or looking  
18 on and Ty came in with the Detroit Club at that time  
19 so "Harley", Dan, Dan Harley, who came from, not too  
20 far away from my home town over there, not Brockton but  
21 one of those other towns nearby, and Dan said, "You  
22 know Ty, I'm glad you're here."

23 He said, "This big stiff, you never did  
24 much hitting against him", and Ty said, "No, that's right  
25 I never did, he never had enough to hit." I never gave



1  
2 him any fat pitches to hit, and I never did, but I used  
3 to give him more good balls to hit, without much on them.  
4 You know, a half-speeder, and a dippy-do, or what they  
5 call today, a slider, you know.

6 INTERVIEWER: You played on the same team  
7 with Babe Ruth in Boston?

8 MARTY McHALE: Yes.

9 INTERVIEWER: But you, when I said to you,  
10 who is the greatest ball player you ever saw you didn't  
11 say Babe Ruth, you didn't think a second, you just  
12 said Ty Cobb.

13 MARTY McHALE: Well, I think that Babe  
14 was one of the greatest, no doubt about it, but I'm  
15 talking about all around.

16 INTERVIEWER: Babe was a great pitcher.

17 MARTY McHALE: Yeh, Babe was a pitcher.

18 INTERVIEWER: He was a great outfielder.

19 MARTY McHALE: He never threw to the  
20 wrong base in his life, but Babe reminded me of a  
21 monkey, swinging by his tail from a limb, from limb to  
22 limb and never missing his catch on a limb or anything  
23 of that kind. I don't mean he looked like a monkey.

24 INTERVIEWER: He was pure natural.

25 MARTY McHALE: He was so completely natural.

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1  
2 He never did anything wrong on a ball field that I can  
3 remember. Of course --

4 INTERVIEWER: He didn't just hit home runs,  
5 he was a --

6 MARTY McHALF: Babe was a great player,  
7 he could hit into any field when he had too, but, of course,  
8 they made such a furor over his home runs that he got  
9 away from his natural ability as a hitter just to hit  
10 home runs. He struck out more than any other human  
11 that you ever saw and he was one of the beautiful sights  
12 striking out. He gave it everything he had.

13 Do you play golf?

14 INTERVIEWER: No.

15 MARTY McHALF: Well, Babe used to have a  
16 follow through, here's a point, the Babe had a follow  
17 through so beautiful they took some slow motion pictures  
18 of his batting one day that this proved by the camera  
19 that the Babe's follow through was so great that when  
20 he'd hit the ball, now the same thing applies to golf,  
21 I've seen pictures of golf clubs hitting the golf  
22 ball, that dislocates the molecules in the ball, same  
23 thing in a baseball, same thing in a football, when  
24 these kickers kick a football, it flattens out, and  
25 then, I wouldn't say a few seconds, less than a few

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1  
2 seconds, these molecules are gathered together again  
3 and assume the shape of the ball or the football. I've  
4 seen it happen, I've seen it on the screen. I've seen  
5 it proved by the football and the golf and by the Babe  
6 hitting the ball and it flattened out on his bat and  
7 left the bat and before it could get very far away  
8 the bat had caught up with it again.

9 His follow through was so perfect and  
10 so fast. You couldn't see that with your naked eye,  
11 but the camera proved it. If somebody told you about  
12 it you'd say well, maybe, but this proved it. You  
13 didn't have to --

14 INTERVIEWER: As I said though, you've  
15 got in your mind that Cobb was the greatest ball player,  
16 all around?

17 MARTY McHALE: I would say it was a  
18 matter of opinion. If I had the two men, if you want  
19 to make a point of it, if I had my selection of either  
20 man, as you'd choose up sides, I would take Cobb.

21 INTERVIEWER: He could beat you more ways --

22 MARTY McHALE: He could beat you more ways  
23 than Ruth could. He could do most everything but steal  
24 first, and he can't do that. Mike and I, in our act,  
25 I used to do a number called, "When You're a Long Long

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2 Way From Home", and at the same time I used to do a  
3 recitation, and the last two lines were, "when you're  
4 on third base alone, you're still a long, long way from  
5 home."

6 I used to sing the last line, I'd sing the  
7 verse and the chorus, then do the recitation, and Mike  
8 in the spotlight would be listening very seriously, and  
9 then we finally made the switch so that when I'd say,  
10 "when you're on third base alone", he would hit me on  
11 the chest, and say, "You're still a long, long way from  
12 home."

13 That got a laugh you see, instead of being  
14 on the serious side, that recitation was serious about  
15 life being like a game of baseball, if you make a hit  
16 okay, but no one overlooks your errors, you know, one  
17 of those serious things.

18 INTERVIEWER: You still remember it?

19 MARTY McHALE: Oh, I do it every once in  
20 a while now. I was up at dear old Maine six years ago  
21 at the alumni dinner and I did a routine for them for  
22 about twelve minutes, and then last year I went up again  
23 and switched the routine a little bit but kept that in  
24 there, you know, the long way from home situation, and  
25 the knothole, Jimmy peeking through the knothole and

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1  
2 watching the ball game, one of those tear jerkers from,  
3 you know, how things have changed, you can't peek  
4 through a concrete fence and see a game of ball today,  
5 the difference, but I'm speaking of the Babe, he was  
6 in Boston with this quartet, see, and John, he's off  
7 the Times now --

8 INTERVIEWER: "Gerbinher"?

9 MARTY McHALE: No. Dawson, no -- and  
10 he used to write this column -- what the heck's his name,  
11 well, it doesn't make any difference, but he --

12 INTERVIEWER: Toomis?

13 MARTY McHALE: Who?

14 INTERVIEWER: Toomis, Johnny Toomis?

15 MARTY McHALE: Uhh, Curran, Johnny Curran.  
16 Damon Runyan had written a story about me, to the extent  
17 he said this fellow, meaning me, who is not the greatest  
18 ball player that ever lived, he said, but he is probably  
19 the most versatile man who ever followed the business  
20 of baseball, so Johnny asked the Babe about it, and he  
21 said that Marty played in the big league, he played  
22 football in college, he was on the track team, he was  
23 a singer, he wrote for the theatre syndicate in the Sun,  
24 he was in the Air Service -- and he went on to tell  
25 all these things, and then the Babe said, well, I don't

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1  
2 know about all those things, but he was the best GD sing-  
3 er I ever heard.

4 (Laughter)

5 I used to tell the story, when I was in  
6 vaudeville, I said, you know, we used to talk about some  
7 of the ball players a little bit, and there was one  
8 fellow who never got a home run off of me and he's one  
9 of the greatest home run hitters that ever lived, I  
10 said, and Mike said, who's that, and I said, Babe Ruth.

11 He said, "He didn't?" and I said, "No,  
12 I never pitched against him."

13 (Laughter)

14 Just a little laugh, but you know, never  
15 pitched against him.

16 INTERVIEWER: Why is it that, well, now  
17 maybe I'm wrong, so I'll go back one step further. Is  
18 it true that all the ball players liked Babe Ruth and  
19 not many liked Ty Cobb?

20 MARTY McHALE: Well, they're just a hundred  
21 percent different.

22 INTERVIEWER: Then it is so, I was going  
23 to say why is it so?

24 MARTY McHALE: Ty was a domineering boy,  
25 he was not friendly at all on the ball field. He was

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1  
2 out there to win that ball game at all costs, any any  
3 cost. The Babe was out there to win it too, but he  
4 could relax a little better, and he could say hello  
5 to a guy once in a while.

6 He could get just as mad as anybody in  
7 the world.

8 INTERVIEWER: Another guy that didn't  
9 know anyone's name, hmm?

10 MARTY McHALE: Oh, him, he never knew  
11 anybody's name, "Hi Kiddo", he never could remember  
12 anyone's name, and he was one of the most charitable  
13 guys, he's give you his shirt. Cobb would too, but he  
14 wouldn't want anyone to know about it. Cobb did a  
15 tremendous amount of good for hospitals and a great many  
16 people but he wouldn't want anyone to know about it.

17 INTERVIEWER: Can we talk about, remember  
18 I asked you about how they treated you when you were a  
19 rookie. You know there's a lot of stories about how  
20 Cobb had a lot of trouble when he first came on the  
21 Tigers.

22 MARTY McHALE: Because he caused most of  
23 it.

24 INTERVIEWER: He just didn't, I mean he  
25 just couldn't get along with any of the regulars.

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1  
2 MARTY McHALE: Well, he would fight any-  
3 body, I mean he was a drop of the hat --

4 INTERVIEWERS: I mean some sweet guys like  
5 Sam Crawford, really pleasant people wouldn't speak to  
6 him.

7 MARTY McHALE: And he was always in trouble  
8 with George Moriarty. I knew George quite well, George  
9 was a very good third baseman, a big fellow, and quick  
10 speed for a big fellow. You know, like some of these  
11 big line men today in football, quick speed, not for  
12 distance, but short distance, and I don't know how many  
13 times Ty and George got tangled up, more wrestling than  
14 fighting, but a couple of times George, I know once  
15 Danny Burch told me, I wasn't there, that George clipped  
16 Ty in the locker and closed the door on him after a  
17 terrific spat. Ty would never admit defeat in any way,  
18 never.

19 He'd be right back at him again the next  
20 week or so.

21 INTERVIEWER: He couldn't, evidently he  
22 couldn't take the sort of teasing that a rookie was --

23 MARTY McHALE: No, and he wouldn't take  
24 it.

25 INTERVIEWER: And it's really harmless, in

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1  
2 most cases anyway.

3 MARTY McHALE: Of course it's harmless,  
4 a lot of kidding, you know, but he was a hot head, but  
5 boy oh boy what a tremendous person he was on that  
6 ball field.

7 He would make a play that would look so  
8 stupid and be caught, you know, in a run down or some-  
9 thing, and he'd be developing that situation for a time  
10 when he'd need it, then while the pitcher had the ball  
11 in his hand he might start to second, things like that,  
12 and then the next time he'd do that he'd start and stop  
13 and go back, and the pitcher would be in such a rush that  
14 he'd throw the ball over the first baseman's head or  
15 he'd throw to the second baseman into the dirt or some-  
16 thing.

17 He'd build these things up. And another  
18 thing about his base running -- I used to --

19 INTERVIEWER: He really wasn't fast now,  
20 was he?

21 MARTY McHALE: No, but he had a long big  
22 lopping stride and he was always watching that baseman  
23 who was covering the play. If he would see the second  
24 baseman or the shortstop covering and look like he was  
25 coming into, in towards the infield meeting a throw that

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1  
2 was low, he would slide out into center field, and if  
3 he had the room he'd hook it as he slid out with his  
4 left foot. If he didn't have the room he'd slide it  
5 out there bodily and came over and grabbed the bag with  
6 his hand.

7 Now, if the throw was high and he could  
8 always tell by the way the baseman went after it, then  
9 he'd have to think like that, you know, it's just two  
10 or three seconds, you have to have intuitive thinking,  
11 I'd call it, if it was a high throw, Ty would slide in  
12 toward the infield and clip it with his right foot or  
13 his right hand. The same thing with third base.

14 All those things, and the guy would practice  
15 all these things. He just didn't do it from sitting in  
16 a chair and thinking about it.

17 INTERVIEWER: Now, he wasn't a natural  
18 was he? He was a made --

19 MARTY McHALE: He worked, he worked at it.

20 INTERVIEWER: Yah.

21 MARTY McHALE: When he would be in a batting  
22 slump, and any time Ty was hitting 310 or 320 he was  
23 in a batting slump, he would go out there and have  
24 somebody throw to him until they got tired of throwing,  
25 then he'd get somebody else, and he would just hit

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1  
2 straight through.

3 INTERVIEWER: Held his hands apart, didn't  
4 he?

5 MARTY McHALE: He always held his hands  
6 -- sometimes a little more than others, according to  
7 what he wanted to hit, and he's shift his feet too, and  
8 toward the end of his baseball life, when they began  
9 to talk about home runs, one day over in Philadelphia  
10 when he and Speaker were playing for the As, somebody  
11 said, "Ty, you don't hit many home runs", and he said,  
12 "No, he said, I never, I just try to hit where I figure  
13 it's easy to hit with this pitcher pitching the way  
14 he's pitching and the outfield playing the way it's play-  
15 ing and the infield playing the way it's playing, he  
16 said, but if you'd like to see a couple of homeruns I'll  
17 try to get them for you today", and he had three.

18 He just slid his hand down, way down at  
19 the bottom and got his feet set and he hit three home  
20 runs. He was, you never could figure what he was going  
21 to do, never, and that's why, as I said to him once  
22 when they were talking about -- Clint Barthington was  
23 a great friend of Cobbs, the cartoonist, and Clint was  
24 talking to Ty, Clint and I were very friendly, his wife  
25 was a customer of mine, and he asked Ty about me, and

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1  
2 Cobb said, well, he said, well, He's not what you'd  
3 call a great pitcher, but one of the smartest guys out  
4 there, and he said, you never knew what he was going  
5 to do.

6 INTERVIEWER: When you were pitching did  
7 you have any spit ball or anything like that?

8 MARTY McHALE: I had everything, yes, spit  
9 ball --

10 INTERVIEWER: You did?

11 MARTY McHALE: Yes, but as I said to Frank  
12 Graham the other night, we were talking about allowing  
13 the "emory" ball back, you know, and Frank said, what  
14 do you think about it. I said it wouldn't make any  
15 difference Frank. I said, when I was pitching I was  
16 supposed to be a spit ball pitcher but I had a better  
17 curve than a spitter. I had what they call a medium  
18 good fast ball, no over-powering fast ball, but a good  
19 enough fast ball, and if you took something off your  
20 curve and your spitter and your slow one, your fast  
21 ball looked a lot faster.

22 I said they still have these fellows that  
23 throw spitters, doesn't make much difference because  
24 even when we had spit ball pitchers, in both leagues,  
25 you couldn't pick six good spit ball pitchers in both





1  
2 leagues, you couldn't pick six.

3 You'd pick a fellow like Ed Walsh with  
4 the White Sox, the two "Coboreskies", Burley Grimes,  
5 and the left handed spitter in the National League,  
6 who has since lost both legs, Thomas Mitchell, and  
7 the reason I know his name Jack Halsey was talking  
8 about him recently.

9 Now, Thomas was a good spitball pitcher,  
10 not as good as Walsh, Walsh in my opinion once again,  
11 was the best spitball pitcher. He worked harder at it  
12 had a better spitball, had better control of it, and  
13 he pitched in more ball games than any pitcher in either  
14 league over a period of years.

15 INTERVIEWER: Yes, he pitched a lot.

16 MARTY McHALE: Yah.

17 INTERVIEWER: Marty weren't you on the  
18 same team with one of the "Coboreskies"?

19 MARTY McHALE: Yes.

20 INTERVIEWER: When you went to Cleveland?

21 MARTY McHALE: Stanley. Now, he was a  
22 pretty good spitter, but not in the class with Walsh  
23 and not as good as Burley Grimes.

24 INTERVIEWER: How good was "Secotty", not  
25 as a spitball pitcher, but --

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1  
2 MARTY Not so good. Eddie was  
3 with us in Boston yc

4 INTERVIEWER: Oh, you were on the same  
5 club.

6 MARTY M: Yah. He was going with  
7 a spitter. He used to, that emory ball, and then  
8 he developed what we c "shine" bal. He used  
9 to have parafin on dif. parts of h trousers.

10 INTERVIEWER: This was nlegal.

11 MARTY McH: This was legal, and he  
12 would just go over all titches, that parafin,  
13 making the other part of ball ro', just like  
14 an emory situation, and ary balone of the  
15 most dangerous.

16 INTERVIEWER: spias not particu-  
17 larly dangerous.

18 MARTY McHALE: ot no. It broke  
19 down and usually out or in, wh<sup>r</sup> in. Once  
20 in a while you'd throw it a lttle arm and it  
21 would kind of sail out like a cu<sup>h</sup>e best spit  
22 ball was the down. Walsh used :

23 INTERVIEWER: Didspitball when  
24 you were in college or did you later?

25 MARTY McHALE: I all in college



1  
2 but very rarely threw it. I used to have a very good  
3 down, what they call a drop curve and it would, you'd  
4 get that over spin on it and overhand and that ball  
5 would break much better than a spit.

6 But you'd drop that all the time.

7 INTERVIEWER: Yes, they never knew.

8 MARTY McHALE: With every pitch they  
9 dropped. So you never had an idea what would be.

10 INTERVIEWER: I'd like to ask you, when  
11 you decided to sign with the Red Sox and become a big  
12 league ballplayer, professional ball player, your father  
13 had been interested in your becoming a Civil Engineer --

14 MARTY McHALE: My father had died.

15 INTERVIEWER: Oh. Your mother --

16 MARTY McHALE: She was still alive.

17 INTERVIEWER: What did she think about it?

18 MARTY McHALE: She thought it was fine.

19 INTERVIEWER: Did she know anything about  
20 baseball?

21 MARTY McHALE: Only that she knew that I  
22 like to play and she knew that I had always played well.

23 INTERVIEWER: Did she ever see you pitch  
24 in the big leagues?

25 MARTY McHALE: No. She saw me in vaude-



1  
2 ville though. When I was in high school I was captain  
3 of the ball team and -- when I was a junior and a senior,  
4 two years, captain of football when I was a junior and  
5 a senior, so she used to see me play football and base-  
6 ball in high school.

7 INTERVIEWER: Then there was something else  
8 I forgot to ask you, when you first, that game you  
9 talked about when you faced Cleveland in 1910, your  
10 first big league game, were you nervous?

11 MARTY McHALE: Not particularly.

12 INTERVIEWER: I can't imagine how you  
13 couldn't be nervous.

14 MARTY McHALE: I wouldn't be what you'd  
15 call sloppily relaxed. It was the first game in the  
16 big leagues, but I was one of the most egotistical guys  
17 that God ever put on this earth, I felt that I could  
18 beat anybody. That's the way I felt, and I think it's  
19 a great way to feel, if you can prove it.

20 INTERVIEWER: You felt that way when you  
21 started this opening day for the Yankees?

22 MARTY McHALE: Oh, sure. I used to tell  
23 them after, Stuffy McGuinness and I were pals. He lived  
24 over in Manchester, Mass., by the sea, and we used to,  
25 years later we used to have beach parties over there, my

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1  
2 own Mary lived in Manchester and she had a hundred  
3 lobster traps out in the ocean and we'd cook the lobsters  
4 on the beach and Stuffy would come in and Jack Crawl,  
5 and the sportswriter from Boston on the Traveller would  
6 come over, so he used to say to Jack, he'd say, we,  
7 The Athletics, are always wondering how this guy ever  
8 was beaten because, he said, we would have nearly every-  
9 body's signs, you know pitchers, we knew pretty well  
10 what they were throwing, how they'd handle the ball  
11 or the way they took their stance you know, and he  
12 said, we didn't get the signal from the catcher, we got  
13 them from the pitchers, but he said this fellow used  
14 to show us, the spit, and I said, of course, I'd show  
15 it to you because you guys, I knew you were getting  
16 signs, and then when you were winding up you just turn  
17 the ball over in your hand and instead of throwing it  
18 straight, you'd take those two fingers off it and throw  
19 them maybe a "streamfall" and these fellows would be  
20 off stride and they'd bloop it up or something.

21 INTERVIEWER: How did it come that you  
22 started opening day in 1914 and '15 for the Yankees  
23 when you hadn't won a lot of games the season before?  
24 Why you for opening day pitcher?

25 MARTY McHALE: Well, one of the reasons

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1  
2 was that every game that I lost the previous year, they  
3 got a good contest, even though I was defeated. They  
4 got a battle, they always had a battle on their hands  
5 and when Chance asked me to work the opening game, he  
6 gave me the job two days before.

7 He said I want you to be ready, he said,  
8 I know it's not going to bother you any. He said, some  
9 of these other guys would be vomiting, but it won't  
10 bother you much. I said, it won't bother me at all  
11 because if we get enough runs we'll win, and if we don't  
12 we'll lose, and that always was my attitude excepting  
13 that every time I started I felt that I had a chance to  
14 win even though I knew that I wasn't going to get many  
15 runs.

16 INTERVIEWER: How did you get from the  
17 RedSox to the Yankees? You were traded --

18 MARTY McHALE: I was sold.

19 INTERVIEWER: In 1912?

20 MARTY McHALE: Yah. They got --

21 INTERVIEWERS: In the middle of -- were  
22 you with the Red Sox after the -- during the World  
23 Series of '12?

24 MARTY McHALE: '12.

25 INTERVIEWER: You saw Joe "Wood" win his

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1  
2 MARTY McHALE: Yes, and I saw Harry Hooper  
3 make that catch off Larry Doyle, and I wrote a story  
4 about that.

5 (Chiming clock obscured voices.)

6 -- and Snodgrass, not Snodgrass but  
7 Merkel and Meyers, either one of them could have caught  
8 the ball and Matty came in too, and the three of them  
9 let the ball drop. Now, Snodgrass in my opinion was not,  
10 this muff was not a bad muff at all because he was so  
11 certain of making that catch that he was careless, and  
12 that happens.

13 INTERVIEWER: Oh, I'm sure that happens.

14 MARTY McHALE: In anything. Now, I don't  
15 know if you remember the play out here at the Yankee  
16 Stadium one day when the Chief, pitching for the Yankees,  
17 the Indian, what was his name?

18 INTERVIEWER: Reynolds.

19 MARTY McHALE: Reynolds, yeh, he had  
20 pitched a no hit, no run game previously. He had two  
21 men out in the ninth with Ted Williams at bat. I was  
22 there and Ted hit a high pop fly, foul, and Yogi ran  
23 a quarter of a mile under it, and then missed it com-  
24 pletely, made a dive for it, and he was four or five  
25 feet away from it and the ball dropped, and I thought



1  
2 what a terrible thing it would be for Ted to get a base  
3 hit on top of that, but just fortunately he hit another  
4 foul fly and Yogi caught it.

5 Now, he didn't get his hands on the first  
6 one. He misjudged it, and that can happen in any ball  
7 park where that wind is blowing out there in the stands.  
8 It goes for a certain distance and all of a sudden it  
9 takes off.

10 INTERVIEWER: Yah. After that Snodgrass  
11 made a beautiful catch.

12 MARTY McHALE: He did, he made a running  
13 catch and it was a gorgeous one, and Harry made the  
14 best catch I ever saw, Harry Hooper. I hear from him  
15 every, twice a year.

16 INTERVIEWER: Where does he live now?

17 MARTY McHALE: In California.

18 INTERVIEWER: He used to be a Postmaster  
19 out there.

20 MARTY McHALE: Well, he's retired now,  
21 Harry has plenty of the world's goods, but he was Post-  
22 master quite a few years.

23 INTERVIEWER: In Toapatola, California.

24 MARTY McHALE: Toapatola, yeh. He owned  
25 a great many -- he owned a couple of food markets, and

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25

George Courtney, who comes in here from California, George is the head of the actor's Guild out there. He used to play on the coast years ago, in the Coast League, a big six foot three lad -- great shape now -- probably seventy something but looks fine and he was telling me that Harry sold some of his waterfront property out there and a couple of his orchards and he said -- in Harry's last letter that I had from him, he said "including a house up in the mountains" -- so we can go out and do a little hunting and get down and play a little golf.

I bowl in the winter days says Harry and I'm in almost as good condition as your in. He made this catch, and I wrote a story about Harry and in the story -- about the catch -- and from the bench that looked -- he had his back to the ball and it looked like he caught it backhanded, over his shoulder, and after I sent the story to him, this was in the '12 World Series, he wrote to me and he said, "I thought it was a very good catch too", he said, "but you were wrong in your perspective. When I ran for that ball," he said, "I ran with my back toward it and you guys with your craning necks were so excited about it, when I ran into the low fence -- (you see the bleachers came

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1  
2 up from a low fence, they didn't have any high fence),  
3 he said, "The low fence turned you around so that I  
4 half way to the right and I caught the ball in my bare  
5 right hand."

6 Well, when it turned around it looked like  
7 it was his left hand from where we were seated, but he  
8 caught it in his bare right hand. The hands are so  
9 close together that it would be hard to tell, from a  
10 distance anyway, but I would have made a wager that it  
11 was the left hand.

12 In those days they didn't have those big  
13 lacross rackets that they have now, to catch a ball in.  
14 They had a little bit of a glove and you cut out the  
15 inside so that the ball would stick in there. Even  
16 the infielders have those.

17 INTERVIEWER: You bring me to a subject  
18 that I've been --

19 MARTY McHALE: Did Joe have any gloves up  
20 there?

21 INTERVIEWER: No.

22 MARTY McHALE: I thought he might have had  
23 one to show you.

24 INTERVIEWER: No, he had some of these  
25 youngsters gloves but that was all.

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1  
2 MARTY McHALE: Well, today with this, with  
3 these things, I don't know how they can miss a ball.

4 INTERVIEWER: Well, that's one thing I want  
5 to ask you. What's different about baseball today com-  
6 pared to your time?

7 MARTY McHALE: Well, the first thing that's  
8 different about it and the worst thing in my opinion, is  
9 the home run. I think that has changed baseball terri-  
10 fically. From so many angles. Now, let's first talk  
11 of the fellow going up to the plate.

12 Seventy-five percent of the time he goes  
13 up there with the thought of hitting the ball out of the  
14 ball park, and it's not too difficult to do, because  
15 they have moved the ball park in on him. In the old  
16 days they juiced up the ball some, but when they talk  
17 about the dead ball, there never was any dead ball that  
18 I can remember.

19 I've got a couple of scars on my chin  
20 to prove it. I saw Joe Jackson hit a ball over the  
21 top of the Polo Grounds in right field, over the top  
22 of it, off one of our pitchers and I have never seen  
23 or heard of any one hitting it over since, and that was  
24 around 1914 or '15 or '16, in there. Today, they've  
25 moved all those areas in. Now in right field and center-

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1  
2 field and left field, you've got stands. They used to  
3 have a bleacher, way out, in the old days, but the  
4 only home run you'd get would be if you hit them be-  
5 tween the fielders.

6 You'd get it -- "in ground" they'd call  
7 it, a home run in ground and if a ball got by inbetween  
8 those fielders, he wouldn't be able to -- if you had  
9 any speed, he wouldn't be able to throw you out.

10 But, today if they have good long flies,  
11 it's in one of these short stands, and then if you  
12 bunt it out they have juiced the ball up a little bit,  
13 "Stolen" says no and he'll bet you that they haven't  
14 juiced it up any but I'll tell you something where I  
15 think the ball is a little bit more resilient.

16 They are using an Australian wool now  
17 in winding the core of the ball. In the old days they  
18 used wool but not the wool that is as elastic as this  
19 wool. That's my own opinion. I wouldn't be able to  
20 prove it, I don't know but I know the core of the thing  
21 is about the same, the size of it is the same, the  
22 weight of it is the same.

23 INTERVIEWER: Were the seams raised more  
24 in your day?

25 MARTY McHALE: Not so much. I have some

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1  
2 old baseballs at home that I was testing against these  
3 new ones. Jim Reegan got a couple of the new ones for  
4 me for my son, John, and I don't see any great difference  
5 in the ball, gripping it you know.

6 I think it's easier to grip in some cases  
7 now, for some pitchers I mean. You take the so-called  
8 slider that they use, that's just a fast twisting curve  
9 and then they take something off it to make a slow  
10 curve, then they have , what do they call it today,  
11 it's a pitch out that you throw over there and you get  
12 that spin going that way instead of the, screwball, yah,  
13 they call it the screwball.

14 Same things we used to throw, got the same  
15 spin on it, you know, and I think -

16 INTERVIEWER: Did you have knuckle balls  
17 in your day?

18 MARTY McHALE: Oh, yes.

19 INTERVIEWER: Now, why do they -- they  
20 didn't use to have extra sized gloves to catch you  
21 people though, did they?

22 MARTY McHALE: No, and we didn't have as  
23 good a screwball as they do today. That's one of the  
24 reasons I think they can get this ball a little better  
25 than we could hit that other ball.

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1  
2 Now, "Seiker" was the first one who used  
3 the knuckle ball, to the extent that they called him  
4 Knuckles. Quite a few of boys used to use it. I never  
5 used it because I never got any results from it. I  
6 stole Eddie Carver's slow breaking downer, the change-  
7 up as they call it, you know, by taking those two  
8 fingers off it and throwing it with that finger and  
9 the thumb, you know.

10 Grip it that way as you wind up and then  
11 when you come back here let go of those first two  
12 fingers just before you let go of the ball.

13 INTERVIEWER: That's control.

14 MARTY McHALE: Well, that's what I'm  
15 talking about -- you had to learn how to control, and  
16 you threw it with just the same motion that you threw  
17 the fast ball.

18 INTERVIEWER: And just as hard.

19 MARTY McHALE: But you didn't have those  
20 fingers on it, that's where you got your change-up in  
21 speed, and you get a little bit of an overspin on it.

22 INTERVIEWER: Do the hitters now hit for  
23 the homer, and they didn't use to?

24 MARTY McHALE: Well, that's one thing  
25 about the home run. You take even Bobby Richardson up

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1  
2 there, fellows like Bobby, who will go up there with  
3 that idea of the home run. And then another thing,  
4 the minute they have a pitcher in the hole, not the  
5 minute but usually, they'll pick on what they used to  
6 call the cripple, that next pitch, it's got to be some-  
7 where around that plate, and they don't try to hit a  
8 two base hit or a single, they're swinging from the  
9 seams at that pitch.

10 Then another thing they have a different  
11 type of bat today. You notice how many bats they break.

12 INTERVIEWER: A tremendous sum.

13 MARTY McHALE: We never -- we wouldn't  
14 break a bat in a season, hardly ever. Now when you  
15 have these very lightweight bats, they give them a little  
16 more "whip". See if you played golf you'd know more about  
17 that because the golf clubs, some of them have lot more  
18 whip in them than others. I used to play a lot of  
19 golf, I used to play every day.

20 Now, I play Saturdays and Sundays, but  
21 I used to have two sets of "long" clubs, as we call  
22 them, for distance. One of them I'd use on one course,  
23 and one on another. One you'd use a stiff shot, and  
24 when you'd have to get a tremendous amount of distance  
25 you'd use that whip. It was harder to manipulate. See,

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1  
2 anything that's whippy is harder to handle.

3 INTERVIEWER: They're lighter, the bats  
4 are lighter today?

5 MARTY McHALE: That's right, that's right,  
6 and that's another reason for home runs. The thing, I  
7 think the principal reason is the concentration of the  
8 hitter on trying to hit the ball out of the park.

9 INTERVIEWER: How about the fielding?

10 MARTY McHALE: Well, these fellows -- I  
11 think the boys, any of these boys in the big league  
12 today could field in any league at any time.

13 INTERVIEWER: Do you think it's the equip-  
14 ment?

15 MARTY McHALE: I think the equipment has  
16 more to do with the spectacular play today. You take  
17 this here baseman up there with the Yankees -- now,  
18 he's terrific, he's just terrific. Of course, he makes  
19 a lot of plays, sometimes it looks like he's not looking  
20 at the play, and of course, he has a --

21 INTERVIEWER: Now, you saw Larry Gardner  
22 play third base, right?

23 MARTY McHALE: Larry Gardner, yah.

24 INTERVIEWER: He was a good fielding third  
25 baseman?

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2 MARTY McHALE: No doubt about it. And  
3 Larry was in that quartet originally, a baritone, and  
4 he played against me in college at the University of  
5 Vermont. He was a good, a great third baseman, and  
6 he had that "trolley wire throw" to first, and Larry  
7 would be a great third baseman today.

8 INTERVIEWER: He didn't have a glove like  
9 Boyer has.

10 MARTY McHALE: I think Larry was not as  
11 agile as Boyer. That would be the only thing I'd make  
12 in comparing the two. I think Boyer is a little quicker.  
13 A little more agile than Larry. But, on the other  
14 hand --

15 INTERVIEWER: Do you think the old boys  
16 would have been as good with the equipment, with the  
17 gloves?

18 MARTY McHALE: Oh, sure, they did it  
19 without the gloves. Now, you take a fellow like Wagner,  
20 I don't mean the Wagner we had with the Red Sox,  
21 Pittsburgh Wagner, Honus Wagner, who came to see us  
22 in Pittsburgh at the theatre, and he took up the whole  
23 dressing room with that big can of his when he came in,  
24 but there is one of the most awkward looking humans you  
25 ever saw, but he rarely, very rarely made anything that

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2 resembled an error. He'd smother the ball with his  
3 big hands, and he'd throw these fellows out from any  
4 spot, never straightened up to make a throw, he'd throw  
5 from down here.

6 You remember Rizutto. Well Rizutto would  
7 throw from down --

8 INTERVIEWER: I always thought Rizutto was  
9 a great fielder.

10 MARTY McHALE: He was, he'd throw from  
11 any position, he had to, in order to get that baseman,  
12 just throw, he didn't have that -- that some of the  
13 others have, but he would take a ball so fast, -- so  
14 does this fellow they have now -- he get's the ball  
15 away very rapid. They have too, those boys have too.

16 Tony Gussen with the Tigers, he had to,  
17 he was a little bit of a guy and he had to get that  
18 ball away fast. Now, there was a fellow who would compare  
19 with Boyer, he was playing with the White Sox, he was  
20 on that Black Sox team, Buck Beaver.

21 INTERVIEWER: Buck Beaver.

22 MARTY McHALE: He was not in then on the  
23 thing but he had an idea that something was in the air,  
24 on the fire, and he was banished because he wouldn't --  
25 there was a fellow who used to play just about like this

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1  
2 fellow Boyer does. He was a better hitter than Boyer,  
3 a better baseman, and he would field with Boyer any day  
4 and throw with him.

5 Buck Beaver would be my old time baseman.

6 INTERVIEWER: You don't seem to give the  
7 impression -- now you think the old timers were head  
8 and shoulders above the modern ball player, you don't  
9 think that do you?

10 MARTY MCHALE: No, I don't think that  
11 they were, no I do not. I think -- now let's be fair  
12 about this. I think that they were just as good and  
13 with the equipment these fellows have they might have  
14 been better. The only thing that you get from these  
15 boys that the old timer didn't have, was the home run,  
16 and there's reason for that, there are many reasons  
17 for it.

18 One is the field is shorter everyplace  
19 you go, there's a short field some place, in nearly  
20 every ball park. The ball might be, and I say it might  
21 be, a little more resilient, but the bats are whippier --  
22 the thing in my opinion is the concentration in going  
23 up there with a home run in your mind.

24 You don't hear these guys talking about  
25 that, these writers, they don't know enough about it,

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1  
2 but when you go up there with the thought in mind of  
3 doing something, well -- you're concentrating a little  
4 more on doing it. In the old days they didn't have  
5 that thought in mind at all.

6 INTERVIEWER: Are you still much interested  
7 in baseball Marty?

8 MARTY McHALE: I know very few of them.

9 INTERVIEWER: Do you watch the games?

10 MARTY McHALE: Oh, yes, very much, I have  
11 a very dear friend on the Yankees, Jim Hagen.

12 INTERVIEWER: I remember when he used to  
13 catch for Cleveland.

14 MARTY McHALE: One of the greatest there  
15 ever was, for eighteen years. He was the outstanding  
16 catcher for over sixteen years in the big leagues and  
17 one of the nicest persons you'd ever want to know. He's  
18 a terrible -- he's a fellow who has a friend from Boston  
19 who went to high school with him, a priest, Father  
20 Collinshead -- Jim was a terrible guy to have around,  
21 he sits there, reads papers, smokes a cigar, doesn't  
22 drink, very rarely goes to the theatre, once in a while  
23 he does, he said, his whole life is baseball, he says  
24 very little.

25 I said to Father one day, well, it's too



1  
2 bad that he didn't know me. I would have taught him  
3 how to hit.

4 (Laughter)

5 Because I was a -- I could always hit,  
6 and never tried to murder the ball, tried to get that  
7 base knock and the devil with it, and Jim like all the  
8 rest of them he was up there trying to knock the ball  
9 out of the park and he'd do it occasionally.

10 INTERVIEWER: Even if you don't know many  
11 of the present ball players, you know a lot of the old  
12 timers and you read a lot about the present ball players,  
13 was there any difference in the kind of a human being,  
14 in his interests, in his outlook on life, in the things  
15 that --

16 MARTY McHALE: I wouldn't think there --  
17 of course, there are more things to do now. They didn't  
18 have any television in those days, they didn't have  
19 any radio, they had intermittent radio, it was just  
20 starting to come in. They didn't -- they did like the  
21 theatre, guys in my time, they used to love to go to  
22 the theatre and they knew a lot of actors, and they  
23 knew a lot of boxers, they used to go to the fights  
24 and to the theatre.

25 You know when you talk about, when you

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1  
2 read about some of these fellows talking about how they  
3 used to hang around saloons, well -- that's not true  
4 at all.

5 You'd find a guy in a saloon once in  
6 a while but you find these guys in nightclubs. They  
7 go there for entertainment, and might take a drink.  
8 They're not drunks. I never had a drink in my life  
9 when I was playing baseball, never had a drink when I  
10 was in show business, never had a drink of any kind,  
11 even beer, until I was out of the Air Force.

12 When I was in show business I was in more  
13 saloons than you could shake a stick at and never had  
14 a drink, but people will see you in there --

15 INTERVIEWER: Yeh, but what I was getting  
16 at was I get the impression, and I want to check it  
17 with you, that in the old days the ball players lives  
18 were more involved in baseball, that baseball was a  
19 bigger part of their life.

20 MARTY McHALE: I think that's right. They  
21 didn't have too many outside interests and most of them,  
22 well they didn't have any agent for one thing, and any-  
23 time you were -- well when they'd go to a hospital to  
24 see some crippled kids or something, you wouldn't find  
25 one, you'd find a half a dozen would be willing to go.



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If you wanted somebody to talk at your dinner, your --you know, if it had to do with charity or something, you'd find a half a dozen willing to go. They had fewer outside interests, more -- in getting back to your friend Joe, now there was a fellow who could do nearly everything well.

He was a great ball player, not just a pitcher, he was a good outfielder, he was a good hitter, he was a good baseman, he would run like blazes, he used to work real hard before a ball game, he'd be around the infield, working around with the infield, or out in the outfield, playing with the outfield, and he was just a good all around ball player, a great pitcher.

INTERVIEWER: Great pool player too.

MARTY McHALE: I was going to get to that, he was one of the best players, and billiards. He could play any kind of a card game and well, also a good golfer. I think that he could have done nearly anything. If he were playing football he'd be a good quarter back.

INTERVIEWER: He was a natural.

MARTY McHALE: He was a natural, yes, and talking about egotistical people, there's a guy who had



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1  
2 terrific confidence, terrific. He was without being  
3 too fresh, he was very cocky, you know. He had the  
4 old, as "Jesse Greer" used to say, the old "confidence".

5 INTERVIEWER: I saw some pictures of him  
6 when he played with the Red Sox and I remember saying  
7 I had never seen such a baby face in my life. This was  
8 the baby face of all baby faces.

9 MARTY McHALE: Yah.

10 INTERVIEWER: He looked like he was about  
11 thirteen years old.

12 MARTY McHALE: He wasn't very old when  
13 he went to the Red Sox.

14 INTERVIEWER: No, he was about eighteen.

15 MARTY McHALE: Yah, I was going to say  
16 he was under twenty, because Speaker and I, in 19 --  
17 around '16, we made a motion picture of the big stars  
18 in both Major Leagues. I think it was just before I  
19 went into the service.

20 INTERVIEWER: Do you have any prints still  
21 around?

22 MARTY McHALE: I have some stuff right  
23 over there and I have some more in my cellar.

24 INTERVIEWER: I mean a print of the movies.

25 MARTY McHALE: I mean a print of the movies.

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2 That's what I'm talking about. See, I sold the rights  
3 to the YMCA. I had eighty thousand dollars worth of  
4 bookings for the picture and they declared baseball  
5 during the war not essential, so they all cancelled  
6 the eighty thousand dollars worth of bookings.

7 INTERVIEWER: You were in the Air Force  
8 then weren't you?

9 MARTY McHALE: Yah. So I went to the YMCA  
10 with the picture and they bought the rights to use it  
11 in the camps, all over Europe and in the ships going  
12 over and back and in the camps here, you know, and  
13 I, after the war was over I showed it up at the Rivoli  
14 and the Rialto and the famous Roxy, my friend Roxy,  
15 God Rest Him, took the thing over and showed it at  
16 the Rivoli and the Rialto and then down to Fifth Avenue,  
17 and then I happened to come into Wall Street to work  
18 and I forgot all about the film.

19 It was put in the morgue someplace, up  
20 at the Rialto or the Rivoli and the YMCA lost theirs  
21 somewhere, it was lost over in France, but I had left  
22 in the tins some cuts and excerpts of the shots of --  
23 well, Speaker, Hooper, Ruth, Woody and Matty and all,  
24 Walter Johnson, you know a lot of these fellows, and I  
25 still have them, and I showed it only about two years



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ago at the Pathe Projection room one day and it still looks pretty good, clean you know.

INTERVIEWER: Is it good film?

MARTY McHALE: Oh, sure, it projects itself, sure.

INTERVIEWER: What year did you get in the stockbroker business?

MARTY McHALE: Well, after I finished the Air Force, I went to work for the Sun doing stories, and there was a fellow down with "Kidder Peabody" named Benny Grant who used to play third base for me in high school and he was doing very well, so one day I said to him what do you have to know to be a stockbroker and he said, not much, he said, all you have to do is get yourself with a good house and take a little time out and he said, with your background, college background and so forth it wouldn't take you long to get the drift.

You might have a little trouble with the sales end of it at first, but they have night courses which I took, and I went to work for a fellow who went in business for himself. He used to be with Kidder Peabody and he was with Lee Higginson previously, then he went in for himself and I went to work for him.



1  
2 After a couple of years I had some very  
3 good accounts and I got some men, traders, cashiers  
4 and so forth, and I had the accounts and I had learned  
5 enough about what to do, I had enough dough to put up  
6 money for the breaking ground and what have you, and  
7 I've been down there for several years.

8 INTERVIEWER: Is this trading or under-  
9 writing or --

10 MARTY McHALE: No, we do a lot under-  
11 writing, a lot of estates and trading --

12 (End of tape)  
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