

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

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INTERVIEW
with
PAUL WANER



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1
2 MR. R: You didn't come from Oklahoma
3 City though; you came from a little town called --

4 MR. W: Ada.

5 MR. R: (Continuing) -- Ada; yeah.

6 MR. W: Well, I came from a little
7 town right out of Oklahoma City; a town by the
8 name of Harrah.

9 MR. R: Harrah; right.

10 MR. W: That was before. Then, I
11 went to a teachers' college, East Central State
12 Teachers' College at Ada. You could spell that
13 backwards or forwards (laughing).

14 MR. R: (Laughing)

15 MR. W: (Continuing) So that's the
16 reason I've always been ^{a fuddle-dud,} ~~fuddled-up~~ (laughing).

17 MR. R: (Laughing) You went three
18 years to college; didn't you?

19 MR. W: Yeah, just a little over
20 three.

21 MR. R: What were you going to do, be
22 a teacher?

23 MR. W: Well, no; I was studying law.

24 MR. R: You were!

25 MR. W: Never had a doubt, while I was



1
2 there. I felt so much about it.

3 MR. R: You found an occupation more
4 productive than law.

5 MR. W: Well, at that time, I would've
6 had to go to -- I would've gone to Harvard, I guess.
7 That would've been the school that I was going to,
8 and that would've taken probably four or five years;
9 four more years. So, all at once, baseball came
10 up, and --

11 MR. R: How did it happen? You were
12 playing with -- did they have a team that --

13 MR. W: Well, they had a great amateur
14 team then -- mostly all of them there, along in
15 those Middle States.

16 In the early days, every town that had
17 a thousand people in it, had a baseball team.

18 MR. R: That's not true any more; is it?

19 MR. W: No. Of course, outside of the
20 Western League, which was Class "A," there wouldn't
21 be a scout around ^{Atkin, or Dacoma,} ~~Atkin, or Dacoma,~~ or places like
22 that.

23 MR. R: Then how did they find you?

24 MR. W: Well, they found me: A scout
25 got on a drunk; and he was in Muckogee, looking over



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a player that Frisco wanted to buy, by the name of "Flashcamper." And he looked him over and sent in a recommendation. He was out on a drunk about ten days. They never heard from him; didn't know anything about him or where the heck we was going.

He finally got in shape enough to get back to Frisco. But, on the way back -- he was on the "Frisco" -- a conductor, by the name of Burns -- you know how they used to stop and talk with you and ^{such as that} ~~out chaff~~ -- he found out that he was a baseball scout.

I went with this conductor's daughter ^{Lady Burns} -- _A ~~dated her~~ in school -- so, naturally, the conductor -- what the heck, my going with his daughter, and all -- why, he was ~~hauling sail~~ by telling him how great I was.

So, they sat down, and he told him about me: I could pitch; I could play outfield; first base; hit ~~or~~ run, ^r ~~or~~ all that. So, Nick Williams -- the scout's name -- well, he's decided, "I've got something here."

So, when he got back out there, they wanted to know where the heck he had been, and what happened; and they knew he was a drinker, and



1
2 figured he'd been on this bender, maybe.

3 He says, "I've been looking over a
4 ballplayer at Ada, Oklahoma"; and he gave ^{them} ~~it~~ all, ^{The story}
5 and told them how good he was and how he'd stayed
6 there for ten days.

7 MR. R: He never saw you though?

8 MR. W: No. So, he got into Frisco
9 and told them that. Then he -- of course, the
10 conductor gave him an idea of how old I was, and
11 about my proportions -- and then Nick wrote me a
12 letter, and he says: "I have just talked to the
13 Frisco ball club about you. I heard about you
14 through this Burns. And I told them that I saw
15 you, and all that, and I want you to write me a
16 letter and send it to my home. Don't send it to
17 the ball club; send it to my home.

18 ^g "Tell me all about yourself: Your
19 height, your weight, and whether you're left-
20 handed or right-handed -- batting and throwing --
21 and how fast you can go ^{the} with a hundred, and all
22 that, so I'll know, see -- really know."

23 And so, I wrote him a letter with all
24 that information and sent it to his home.

25 So, the next year, why, they sent me a

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2 contract. And I sent it back, 'cause my dad
3 always wanted me to go to school; he didn't want
4 me to quit.

5 MR. R: You'd been playing weekends
6 while you were going to school; huh?

7 MR. W: Yes. And in the summer --
8 well, I went to summer school too, some, but then
9 ~~they~~^{that} didn't bother me ~~to play~~^{playing}.

10 But, anyway, I said, "Well, my dad
11 don't want me to go."

12 So, I said, "Well, dad, I'll ask 'em
13 for \$500. a month, and, if they give it to me, will
14 you let me go."

15 And he turned around and he said, "Well,
16 I'll tell you: If they'll give you \$500. a month,
17 starting off, and if you'll promise me that if you
18 don't make good, you'll come right back and go to
19 school."

20 And I said, "Well, surely; I'll do that."

21 So, I told them about the conditions.
22 Well, it didn't make any difference. So they can
23 look you over, ~~they'd~~^{and} offer you any salary. Then,
24 if you weren't really good, they could just say,
25 "Well, that's that," so they're just out expenses.



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Well, anyway, I went out there, and I was a pitcher.

MR. R: You were a pitcher then?

MR. W: I was a pitcher.

MR. R: A left-handed pitcher.

MR. W: A left-handed pitcher; and, also, at Ada there, I played first ^{and} in the outfield, ^{when} I wasn't pitching.

We got there on a Monday ^{for Spring} and started training. And I had -- well, let's see, Sunday -- that Monday we started -- and Sunday, the Yanigans -- they called them -- played against the Regulars, and I pitched against the Regulars.

So, about the sixth or seventh inning, an umpire was behind us in a squad game, and they had another scout there -- a ^{coach-} ~~Coast~~ scout -- by the name of Spider Baum. So, he was behind me, and I said, "Spider," I said, "my arm's ^{tiring} tightening up and getting sore on me."

He says, "Make it or break it."

Now, they don't say those things nowadays. My gosh, if you're a little hurt or tired, ^{They say they won't pitch any more} the old arm, they won't let you pitch on it. But, I broke it; and, the next day, gee, I couldn't hardly



1 lift it up.

2 So, Willie Kamm, Lew Fonseca^a, and
3 Jimmy O'Connell -- who was a major-league sens-
4 ation -- big man there -- they went out early with
5 us, just to take a little workout.

6 MR. R: 1922-or-so?

7 MR. W: Yeah -- well, that was '23.

8 MR. R: '23?

9 MR. W: M-hm.

10 MR. R: Willie Kamm was already up,
11 wasn't he?

12 MR. W: Yeah, and Jimmy O'Connell and
13 Lew Fonseca^a.

14 MR. R: Yes.

15 MR. W: (Continuing) So, they'd go
16 up there, you know, and ^{after we were} ~~actually go~~ through a work-
17 out. They'd go out and hit, and throw to one
18 another, and run around.

19 MR. R: At the ^{Seals} stadium?

20 MR. W: No, at the training camp; at
21 "Bowie" Springs. You see, we went to "Bowie"
22 Springs.

23 MR. R: Oh.

24 MR. W: (Continuing) ^{So anyway I had this bad arm and} Everybody went in ~~and~~ ^{the}



1
2 these fellows would stay out and I'd shag balls
3 for 'em. I just stayed out there; and I was
4 shagging flies, and tossing them underhanded, 'cause
5 I couldn't throw overhanded.

6 I was shagging balls for 'em about
7 three or four days. I don't know who mentioned
8 it to one or the other one, but I know that they
9 thought, well, maybe I'd like to hit some, 'cause
10 they figured that if I quit shaggin', they was in
11 a heck of a shape -- the three of them -- ~~as one~~
12 ~~said to the other, "Yeah, they he can have" --~~

13 So, they said, "Hey kid! You wanna
14 hit some?"

15 And I said, "Sure."

16 So, they threw some and I hit. They
17 just let me hit and hit and hit -- and I was hitting
18 them.

19 So, we went in and got dressed. When
20 we were at the dinner table, why, the manager, ^{Dox} ~~Doc~~
21 ^{Miller} ~~"Smiller,"~~ he said, ^{he} ~~"Well, I'll go over."~~ He came
22 over to my table -- and he called me "Okie" -- and he
23 says, "Okie," he said, "tomorrow, you fool around in
24 the outfield, and don't throw hard, just toss 'em;
25 and, you hit, with the regulars."

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2 That, was something! Well, from then
3 on, I was with the regulars, and I started playing.

4 MR. R: Could you hit, even when you
5 were pitching?

6 MR. W: Huh?

7 MR. R: Were you a good hitter even
8 when you were a pitcher?

9 MR. W: Yes. So, I jumped that with
10 Triple "A," --

11 MR. R: Yeah; what did --

12 MR. W: (Continuing) -- from school,
13 and I hit .369 the first year.

14 MR. R: Yeah. What did you hit the
15 second year?

16 MR. W: It was .359.

17 MR. R: What did you hit the third
18 year?

19 MR. W: Well, here's the story of that --

20 MR. R: I know what you're going to --

21 MR. W: (Continuing) They wanted a
22 hundred-thousand dollars for me, the Frisco club.
23 That's when they were independent.

24 MR. R: I remember what you hit the
25 third year.

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MR. W: (Continuing) And so, "Bing Devine" was the scout for Pittsburgh, and he was trying to get them to buy me. Even after the middle of that first year, he was trying to get them to buy me. I was too small, and so "Devine" told me -- he always said, "Paul, it looks like that you gotta hit .400 to get up to the majors."

And -- I was kidding -- I said, "Well, that's just what I'll do!" You know, like that.

MR. R: (Laughing)

MR. W: (Continuing) And sure enough, I hit .400 and more.

MR. R: Yeah, .401.

MR. W: (Continuing) And I was sold to Pittsburgh.

MR. R: Yeah. That was some year.

Was your father and mother still living when you were sold to Pittsburgh?

MR. W: Huh?

MR. R: Were your parents still alive?

MR. W: Yeah, yeah. They got --

MR. R: What did your father think of that?

MR. W: I beg your pardon?



1
2 MR. R: What did your father think of
3 that?

4 MR. W: Oh, everything was fine. Then,
5 Lloyd came out the next year. They were supposed
6 to give him \$2500, actually, if they kept him after
7 the 1st of May.

8 MR. R: The Frisco club.

9 MR. W: The Frisco. I was still -- we
10 were with them, yes.

11 (Continuing) And the next year, we
12 had such an outfield -- a terrific outfield -- that
13 Lloyd didn't have a chance to break in the lineup,
14 except pinch-running or pinch-hitting once in awhile.

15 So, before the 1st of May came, they
16 said, "Now, Paul, we want to keep Lloyd. We want
17 to keep Lloyd, but we haven't had a chance to see
18 him. We'll keep him, we'd like to keep him here, if
19 he'll just waive that \$2500. out."

20 And I said, "Well, I'll tell you what
21 we'll do. You sign him, and give him the same con-
22 tract that he's got this year for next year, and, if
23 you keep him, then after the 1st of May, you'll give
24 him the 2500."

25 So they says, "Fine"; we got that all fixed.

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3 Next year, Lloyd went out there and he
4 didn't get a chance to play -- they had a great
5 outfield again. He played just a little bit, and,
6 all the time, Joe "Devine" of Pittsburgh was watching.

7 Lloyd had wrote me a few letters, and he
8 ^{said} figured that they ^{had come} was coming to him several times, and
9 told him that they'd keep him, but they couldn't give
10 him the 2500. So, I told Lloyd not to stay if they
11 didn't ^{+ to let them release him,} raise him, and that Joe "Devine" would send
12 him right to Pittsburgh.

13 So, sure enough, it come up around the
14 1st, and they just wasn't going to do it; so, they
15 gave him his release. So, Lloyd went and got his
16 things, and he left town. They were mad at him
17 then. They said, "Gee, we payed your salary all
18 this time, and then you up and leave."

19 Well, Lloyd said, "Well, I got my
20 release."

21 They said, "What'ya gonna do?"

22 And he said, "I'm going to Pittsburgh."

23 MR. R: (Laughing)

24 MR. W: So, in the meantime, I was telling
25 Mr. Dreyfuss, the President of the club, that I have
a brother that's a better ballplayer than I am. I

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2 told him a deal: That they might not be giving him
3 the money and that he might be a free agent, and then
4 we could get him.

5 So, sure enough, they really wanted him.
6 They wanted him; so, when Lloyd was released, he
7 ^{by home} dropped ~~down~~ for a few days ^{→ then to} at Pittsburgh. So, I
8 was saying, "Well, now, he can play Triple "A."

9 So, the man, Dreyfuss, the President of
10 the club and the owner, he said, "Well," he said,
11 "I'll tell you: I'd rather send him down to
12 Columbia. That's in "B" baseball; a good league.
13 I'd rather he'd start down there, and have a good
14 year, than to put him in Triple "A," and ^{start} ~~not try~~
15 him ^{off} ~~out~~."

16 Well, at that time, Lloyd was just 18.
17 And so, it so happened ^o that he went down there,
18 and he was chosen the league's best ballplayer.

19 So, the following year, they took him
20 to spring training ^{just to take him} ~~They just took him~~ on the
21 trip, and not even thinking ~~that~~ he weighed 135
22 pounds, --

23 MR. R: Yes.

24 MR. W: (Continuing) -- not even
25 thinking anything about him playing at all.

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2 MR. R: You only weighed 150 pounds,
3 didn't you?

4 MR. W: 148 was my top weight. That
5 was my top weight.

6 (Continuing) So, we took him out there;
7 and he played a few exhibition games and he looked
8 good. We had Barnhart; and Cuyler, of course. And
9 Barnhart came out there, that Spring -- he must've
10 weighed 250-75 pounds; he was just a butterball --

11 MR. R: (Laughing)

12 MR. W: (Continuing) -- and they took
13 him and they gave him mud baths, the steam baths,
14 they ran him and they ran him and they ran him, to
15 get his weight down. Well, the poor fellow was so
16 weak, he just couldn't hardly lift the bat. He
17 couldn't hit, or anything else.

18 So, we came and started back; Spring
19 training -- ~~after Spring training~~, we were in San
20 Antone^{jo}, playing the White Sox, and Donie Bush was
21 the manager at the time, you know.

22 MR. R: Yeah.

23 MR. W: (Continuing) So, he sent
24 Lloyd into left field; Cuyler, in center, and me, in
25 right.

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2 And he came over to me and he says,
3 "Paul, I'm putting your little brother out there
4 in the left field, and he's going to open the season
5 for us."

6 And I said, "Well, you haven't made a
7 mistake."

8 And that was about a week before the
9 season opened. So, Lloyd got in there --

10 MR. R: That was 1927, wasn't it?

11 MR. W: Yes.

12 (Continuing) -- Lloyd got in the line-
13 up and played every game. And one more. We had
14 a tie game. We played, instead of 154, we played
15 in 155 games; and he played in 155 games and he hit
16 .350.

17 MR. R: That's the year you hit .380.

18 MR. W: Yes.

19 MR. R: And you took the pennant.

20 MR. W: M-hm.

21 MR. R: Yeah; that was quite a team, but,
22 mainly, that was ^{the} ~~in~~ outfield. Traynor at third --

23 MR. W: Third, yeah; a great ballplayer.
24 Glenn Wright at short --

25 MR. R: Yeah.

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2 MR. W: (Continuing) -- a great ball-
3 player. Eddy Moore; Grantham; I played some first
4 base. When I went up there, I originally was a
5 first-baseman -- uh, they was going to switch me
6 to first. But, they decided then -- that Carey
7 deal; they sent Carey into Brooklyn -- that they'd
8 put me in outfield, and switch; see? They put
9 Grantham back on first, and they had Eddy Moore
10 and a couple of others to play second. Eddy Moore
11 was a regular before; he was their regular second-
12 baseman. So, that's the way it went.

13 MR. R: How'd your arm come around?

14 MR. W: Well, about a month after the
15 season started, why, I could throw pretty well --
16 not enough to make good.

17 We went into Salt Lake City, and it was
18 hot there. We played a double-header, and in
19 practice, the arm, it felt like it stretched out
20 that much farther. And I just started throwing
21 them in, you know, and it caught me off guard. I'd
22 just wind up -- and wowie!

23 So, Dusty Lewis was the manager of the
24 Salt Lake club -- and they'd played us before we
25 came over there -- and he knew about **it**; and he says,

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2 "Run on Waner. Anytime he throws, just duck your
3 head and start going, 'cause he can't throw."

4 So, ^{there was a} ~~somewhere near the~~ short right-
5 field wall, someone hit one against the wall, and I
6 took it off on a hop and shot him out at second.

7 MR. R: (Laughing)

8 MR. W: (Continuing) Someone tried to
9 score from second, and I threw him out; someone
10 tried to go at third, and I threw him out; I threw
11 about three out in about -- just, nothing flat. And
12 they quit running.

13 MR. R: (Laughing)

14 MR. W: (Continuing) So, that got ~~out~~
15 all over the league: Instead of running, they
16 wouldn't run; and I never did have any trouble with
17 it. Never had any trouble with my arm.

18 Here, a few years ago, I'd say six years
19 ago, my arm -- I could still pitch batting practice --
20 and my ^{age that was pretty} ~~aim were still~~ good.

21 MR. R: Yeah.

22 MR. W: (Continuing) And I was up at
23 Waycross, where the Milwaukee minor-league club was
24 practicing -- Spring training -- and they had these
25 batting cages. So, a couple of those rubber balls



1
2 that they used to throw the same way as the regular
3 baseballs, they had come back of the netting, almost
4 out of the playing field. So, there was two of 'em,
5 and I got one; and the other one, I was going to throw
6 it, back over the netting, and I just got about here
7 (indicating), and this ball just pulled it down there --
8 and it pulled something in there (indicating). And
9 now, I can't throw worth a whip.

10 Of course, at 55, I was fit in the arm,
11 even at that time. My arm was good all the time.

12 MR. R: Boy, that was a break; you
13 know? 'Cause -- I mean, you're arm coming back --
14 'cause that could've ended your career.

15 MR. W: Oh, yeah. Well, it was back
16 a week or ten days after that. It was back where
17 they could've probably made a first-baseman out of
18 me.

19 MR. R: Yeah.

20 MR. W: (Continuing) But, still, I
21 was a little small. Of course, I was as tall as
22 Sisler. Sisler was one of the great first-basemen.

23 MR. R: I thought -- I always thought
24 of Sisler as a 6-footer.

25 MR. W: No.

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2 MR. R: No, huh?

3 MR. W: No, I don't think Sisler was
4 that big. I think he's about 5, 8.

5 MR. R: Is that right!

6 MR. W: M-hm. He was a heavier fellow,
7 but he was a terrific first-baseman; he could always
8 get up and around.

9 MR. R: Yeah.

10 MR. W: Stuffy McGinnis was with our
11 ball club at the time, as a first baseman, but he
12 was getting pretty old. And they put me to rooming
13 with him -- in all Spring training and all of that.

14 So, Stuffy McGinnis was one of those
15 like Sisler, you know; just every place, and easy,
16 and just a flow of motion. And he'd get in the
17 room and take a pillow and show me all of these
18 different ways: How to get on a toe and get up,
19 and how to switch from this foot over to this one
20 back here, you see (demonstrating), and reach; you'd
21 get half-a-foot more reach. And so, I'd practice
22 on that thing.

23 So, Pie Traynor said that ^{I was} ~~he~~ had the
24 best first-baseman he ever threw to.

25 MR. R: Yeah?



1
2 MR. W: (Continuing) He had a bad
3 arm at the time.

4 MR. R: Pie did?

5 MR. W: Yeah.

6 (Continuing) His arm was bad in Spring
7 training, while I was playing first, and it kind of
8 tied-up and he threw sinkers. Instead of holding
9 up, it looked ^{like it would} likely ~~to~~ drop.

10 And to slow ^{with} ~~em~~ ^{men} in -- to slow ^{with} ~~em~~ ^{men} in,
11 instead of going out and trying to catch it out
12 here (demonstrating), I'd back up, get it on a long
13 hop, and I'd step here (demonstrating). So, it
14 saved a lot of ^{bad} ~~that~~ hop^s, if I'd get it on the big
15 hop.

16 MR. R: Yeah.

17 MR. W: That was the way it worked out.

18 MR. R: You saw Pie Traynor play a lot.
19 You played with him for years and years.

20 MR. W: Oh, yes!

21 MR. R: Was he really as good a third-
22 baseman as everybody says?

23 MR. W: Oh, yes! They could hit those
24 balls down there like **bullets**, and when he'd get a
25 line-drive over ~~at~~ third base, ^{id} ~~he had to~~ dive; he'd



1
2 dive head-on it. And ^{he'd} ~~I even seen him~~ knock it
3 down and pounce on it ^{& throw you} ~~until the~~ out.

4 MR. R: You've seen Boyer of the Yankees';
5 was he as good a fielder?

6 MR. W: Yeah, he was a good fielder.

7 MR. R: Was he better?

8 MR. W: I wouldn't say "as good," or "better,"
9 'cause there wasn't any third-baseman that I've ever
10 seen at the time, that could field like Pie.

11 MR. R: And, he could hit.

12 MR. W: And, not only that, he was a good
13 hitter and a good runner.

14 MR. R: Yeah. Honus Wagner was coaching
15 all these years, wasn't he?

16 MR. W: Who?

17 MR. R: Honus Wagner.

18 MR. W: Well, when he quite playing, why,
19 he was playing amateur ball around; just for the fun
20 of it, I guess.

21 MR. R: I thought he coached all those
22 years?

23 MR. W: And then, he came back; yes. He
24 came back and coached.

25 MR. R: Was he a coach most of the time

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you were with Pittsburgh?

MR. W: Well, yeah; I'd say, 6 ^{or} 8
years of the ¹⁵13 I was there; maybe more.

MR. R: How did he get along with the
rest of the players?

MR. W: Oh, just fine. Everybody loved
old Honus. Yeah, everybody liked him.

MR. R: 'Cause I thought he didn't
talk very much.

MR. W: Well, not so much, but he was
funny and good-natured. If anybody used to tell
a story, some kind of an odd story or something,
he'd say, "What about that!"

MR. R: (Laughing)

MR. W: ^{So} ~~And~~ that's one thing we always
^{when we'd see him:} used to say, "What about that, Honus?" (Laughing)

MR. R: (Laughing)

MR. W: No, he was a good-natured
^{old} ~~double~~-Dutchman; a very fine fellow.

MR. R: Yeah?

MR. W: I got to see him, fielding a
few; you know, if they'd play an amateur game, maybe,
after we got through -- a sandlot game -- I'd see him
out there, just like a scoop-shovel -- bow-legged --



1
2 and he didn't seem to catch them like we did. He
3 just (^{scooped them up} indicating by a sound), and the dirt's flying;
4 ~~that guys running through the dirt; everything,~~ ^{looked like when he threw the dirt + everything would go}
5 though, with his hand, you know.

6 MR. R: (Laughing)

7 MR. W: Yeah, Honus was a well-liked
8 man, and the fans were crazy about him.

9 MR. R: Yeah; I should think they would
10 be.

11 MR. W: And they told me, when I came
12 ~~out~~ ^{up} -- well, Pie was the one that figured it out --
13 the first year I came ^{up} out, he said, "Paul, you'll
14 be a very popular ballplayer."

15 And I said, "Well, why?" You know, I
16 didn't know why.

17 And he said, "Well, I know that you're
18 going to make it in good shape, and ^{the} ~~that~~ people like
19 to pull for a little fellow."

20 And when Lloyd came up -- same thing --
21 he said, ^{you watch} "You'll walk it."

22 And Lloyd and I were never "booed" in
23 Pittsburgh, and Pie was never "booed." No matter
24 how bad we were for weeks -- no "booing."

25 MR. R: Really! Boy, that's unusual.

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MR. W: Yes. Now, on the road, I liked to be "booed."

MR. R: Yes.

MR. W: (Continuing) I like to be "booed." ^{I'd act like I was} ~~I like them~~ mad as heck; you ^{know} ~~see?~~ And then, I'd laugh; and I'd say, "What you raising heck about?" (Laughing)

MR. R: (Laughing)

MR. W: ~~I know~~, In St. Louis, they told me -- they said, "That right-field stand there is tough. They ride everybody."

And, of course, the fellows didn't know whether I could take ^a ~~the~~ riding in the majors or not. So, I ^{figured} ~~upped and~~ said, "Well, I'll get 'em; I'll get 'em good. If they jump on me, why, I'll have some fun."

So, when I first showed up in ~~the~~ right field -- "Why, you ^{oh,} ~~so-and-so~~" -- they give me the Dickens. I turned around and I said, "They told me two or three years about this St. Louis; all the drunken bums are out here, and I just had to be here to see it."

MR. R: (Laughing)

MR. W: (Continuing) And, oh, did they

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2 get mad. "Oh, yeah" -- they just give me the
3 Dickens.

4 Well, that went on ^{most of} ~~almost~~ to the year,
5 and it finally wound up when we were giving them a
6 licking. I was hitting that ball and I bounced a
7 triple, drove in two or three runs; and I came out
8 there, and -- boy -- did they give me hell.

9 I says, "What you all screaming and
10 yelling about"; laughing, see? I wasn't mad at
11 all; see?

12 And so, some old fellow there -- well,
13 I caught the last ball, and I went over and gave it
14 to him. Well, by golly, from then on, everybody
15 there was for me. And, that old fellow, any time
16 I got ~~to~~ the last ball, I ran over and give it to
17 him, for he was out there all the time.

18 It didn't make any difference away from
19 home, but I don't know what it would be like to be
20 "booed" at home. I don't imagine it would help you
21 any.

22 MR. R: No.

23 MR. W: (Continuing) But, on the road,
24 when you're getting "booed," you're either a sore-
25 head or else your hurting 'em; either one or the other.

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2 Now, I think today -- you talk about
3 the old days -- in this phase, today, the opponents,
4 they'll give 'em a good hand. Even if he beats 'em,
5 they'll give him a hand.

6 MR. R: Depends on the city, I think.

7 MR. W: Well, probably there is truth
8 there, but they used to raise heck, you know. They'd
9 get on you and ride you and ride you. They wanted
10 to know if you could take it or not.

11 Of course, the changes, the big changes
12 of baseball to me, in a way, is that ^{The} old balls, ^{of the} old
13 times ^{is in here} ~~isn't here~~.

14 Now, Gus ^{Suhr} "Searle," we bought him 'round
15 in '31, or along in there somewhere; I'm not sure of
16 the date. And we were playing the Chicago Cubs on
17 a long trip. We played them in Los Angeles and San
18 Francisco, and all the way back in El Paso, Tucson,
19 Phoenix and Amarillo; and we had scheduled, I guess,
20 about 18, 20 games.

21 Gus ^{Suhr} "Searle" was a new man we bought.
22 They had Pat Malone, Guy Bush, Charlie Root and
23 Warneke. They had a terrific pitching staff; they
24 could throw that ball.

25 Well, they just knocked Gus down, one

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2 after the other. Just -- BAM -- down he'd go, down
3 he'd go, down he'd go; and Gus didn't know what it
4 was all about. Just thought, "What the heck," they
5 didn't like him or what?

6 MR. R: (Laughing)

7 MR. W: (Continuing) The whole thing
8 was to test him and to find out if they could get
9 him a little scared, and, if he's scared, they got
10 something. They can pitch to him, and, if someone
11 gets on base, then they can knock him on his ear and
12 get him riled up and get him out. But, Gus didn't
13 fall for it when they knocked him down.

14 Of course, we hollered at 'em, "That's
15 a hell of a thing to do," and we bust some of those
16 fellows out; you know, to kind of find out too.

17 MR. R: Yeah. Those were the days
18 before they even thought of helmets.

19 MR. W: We never thought of a helmet
20 and the umpire had nothing to do.

21 Now, many, many times, you know, where
22 they'd, say, give an intentional base-on-balls,
23 they'd ^d ^{four} ~~throw~~ at your head; just throw 'em at you,
24 just to make you mad. And it used to be that
25 that pitcher would do that, just to show his own

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2 fellows, you know, and all, that he had a lot of
3 guts, you know. ^{that} He wasn't afraid of anything, you
4 know, and he just knocked you down.

5 MR. R: What did you do to avoid being
6 knocked down too much?

7 MR. W: Huh?

8 MR. R: What did you do to avoid being
9 knocked down too much?

10 MR. W: Well, I knew how to get out of
11 the way. Now, ^{we} they used to know how to get out of
12 the way; today, they don't. They have to be taught,
13 ^{that} I guess. If you ~~re~~ hit right, you can get out of
14 the way.

15 Now, here's a way I might show you: You
16 see, a lot of fellows are up at bat. You see what
17 they do when they throw 'em? Here they go (demon-
18 strating).

19 MR. R: Yeah.

20 MR. W: (Continuing) Now, when I have
21 no way to get out of the ball that's thrown up here
22 (indicating), and I can't do anything with it, ^{but} then
23 I hit, and hit this way; see (demonstrating)? Give
24 the best reach. And that's the way you hit. You
25 see, my head is still, if it come up here (demonstrating)



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2 Now, if they hit here, it's just a
3 glancing blow, and it ain't gonna hurt you (in-
4 dicating); and you never get hit in the head.

5 Rickey started the helmet in Brooklyn.
6 Pete Reiser was there, and he couldn't duck. He'd
7 hit right, but he'd just freeze there and just stand
8 there and let it hit him; he couldn't help it.

9 He got hit a few times, so Rickey had
10 devised this helmet. I was with Brooklyn then, and
11 everybody had to wear 'em. He was gonna fine you
12 if you didn't wear it.

13 So, at batting practice, I put one on
14 and went ^{up} ~~out~~ to hit. I didn't like it at all. I
15 didn't want it around. It was just burdensome and
16 ~~a disadvantage.~~ ^{such as that.}

17 So, I went up to Rickey and told him I
18 couldn't wear one. I said he'd just have to fine
19 me. And I explained to him about the way, when I
20 got out there, that I never get hit in the head, and
21 they could throw it at me all day long. In fact,
22 there was two fellows ^{one particular one on our} ~~who wanted to kick it on our~~
23 ball club.

24 Bill Swift ^{who} could throw the ball hard; I
25 mean, he could zip it. One day, while we were eating

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2 dinner -- there was some knockdown contest, or
3 something like that -- Swifty said, "Well," he said,
4 "if they throw at us," -- and I think he was pitching
5 the next day -- "if they start anything," he said,
6 "I know how -- they won't get out of the way -- I
7 know how to ^{hit 'em} ~~give it.~~"

8 He says, "I can hit anybody; I can hit
9 anybody, any time I want to -- hit 'em in the head."
10 He said, "I'll throw right there."

11 You see, and when they back back, to get
12 out of the way, ^{then} ~~that's~~ how it gets them. And that
13 is something that's tough. If you don't get that,
14 why, it gets you every time -- the ball -- right in
15 here; right back of your head (indicating).

16 MR. R: Yeah.

17 MR. W: (Continuing) So, I said, "Well,
18 Swifty, you can probably do it, but I'll bet you
19 \$500. I'll let you warm-up good; I'll give you
20 five shots at my head; bet you can't hit me."

21 He said, "Hell, I just want to hit ^{my own} ~~at~~
22 ~~some of these~~ players."

23 I said, "Well, you won't hit me."

24 And I showed him; and he said, "Well,
25 I'd get some in your ribs."

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2 And I said, "Well, if you get a ball
3 that hits you there, it's just a little glancing
4 blow. What the heck! It don't even make a
5 mark."

6 MR. R: Yeah.

7 MR. W: Today, they got that helmet on,
8 and they're just dug in there; ^{oo}and it come in here
9 and really hits around close to 'em.

10 MR. R: You always hit for a high average.
11 How come you see so very few high-average hitters
12 today?

13 MR. W: They don't know how to hit. All
14 they got now -- or most of all of 'em -- are great
15 big, strong kids with ^athat little light bat.

16 MR. R: (Laughing)

17 MR. W: (Continuing) And they swing
18 at the general direction of where the ball is
19 coming; and, if they get a hold of it, it goes -- *pow*
20 (indicating by sound) -- out of the park.

21 I used a 42-and-a-half-ounce bat that
22 year that I had a great --

23 MR. R: You used a 42-and-a-half-ounce
24 bat!

25 MR. W: (Continuing) I had my greatest



1
2 year with the 42-and-a-half-ounce bat.

3 Well, now, that's 10 ounces or 12
4 ounces heavier than they use nowadays.

5 MR. R: 42 ounces and a half!

6 MR. W: And you know how to swing it.

7 MR. R: Yeah.

8 MR. W: We were kidding up there when
9 we was training ^{at Bradenton} ~~some Braves in~~ ^{The} with this Milwaukee
10 club, and I hadn't swung at a ball, or I hadn't
11 swung a bat, all Winter of that Spring.

12 They came out there and I was teaching
13 a few of them to pull a ball.

14 MR. R: You were not a pull-hitter,
15 certainly; were you?

16 MR. W: No, I went to all fields. Of
17 course, I went there intentionally; intentionally,
18 wherever it was due.

19 MR. R: Yeah. You pulled when you
20 wanted and you --

21 MR. W: Yeah, yeah.

22 MR. R: Yeah.

23 MR. W: (Continuing) But, anyway,
24 they complained about the bat being heavy; if they
25 could get a light bat, they could pull a ball better.

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2 I said, "It's not that; it's how you
3 use it."

4 I was trying to train 'em: "Weight drops
5 down and it can't drop up. If you're up, over the
6 ball, in coming down, it'll help you. And you
7 can't take a heavy bat and put it up here. You're
8 already up there, with a heavy bat." (Indicating)

9 So, I had a machine there, and it threw
10 a ball like a real fast pitcher. And I happened to
11 look out there and I saw an inch-and-a-half lead
12 pipe -- about that long (indicating). And you
13 figure what it'd weigh, that would probably weigh
14 2 to 3 pounds, maybe 4 pounds.

15 Then I said, "Here, I'll show you."

16 And I got in there with that big lead
17 pipe and pulled 'em right there. Then I went over
18 and changed it to my bat, see, and they all watched
19 me hit it -- (indicating by expression) -- like that.

20 And they said, "Well, I'm a Swanee."

21 MR. R: (Laughing)

22 MR. W: And that's the only time; believed
23 me only when I used the heavy bat. That thing --
24 heck -- that thing weighed four times 42 ounces, that
25 inch-and-a-half lead pipe.



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3 But, this is the matter, the reason
4 they're going for the home runs: They can't lift
5 that bat -- lift it up faster -- lift it. So,
6 they got the light bat so that they could get it
7 up there quicker and hit more.

8 Now, I would ^{use a light bat} utilize that, if I were
9 playing today. Of course, all the good hitters,
10 hit down; they hit down.

11 MR. R: If you hit down, you're not
12 going to hit many over the fence; are you?

13 MR. W: Oh, yes.

14 MR. R: You will.

15 MR. W: If you hit down on a ball at
16 that angle -- a good fast ball -- and hit it right
17 in the center of the ball, it'll take right off and
18 ^{climb} ~~tie~~ 'em up.

19 You see, if you had a flat bat and hit
20 like that, it would be just the opposite. But,
21 you got a round bat and a round ball --

22 MR. R: Yeah.

23 MR. W: (Continuing) -- and, when
24 you're hitting that, the weight of the ball and
25 the weight of that bat -- the concussion -- it gives
in, to the center of the ball. The center of the



1
2 ball is not where they think it is. They think
3 it's outside. The core is the center.

4 If you hit down good and your bat would
5 press down, if it went straight-on through, it would
6 cut right straight ~~down~~^{or} below the center. If it
7 springs off it, it concusses, and springs that way
8 (indicating). It doesn't spring straight out, it
9 springs that way.

10 MR. R: Yes. How close could you see,
11 or did you watch the ball to the time it hit the bat?

12 MR. W: Well, see, you can't see it.
13 They say, if you're hitting well, you can see the
14 ball hit the bat. You will not.

15 MR. R: Some people say they do see the
16 ball hit the bat. They swear they do.

17 MR. W: No; ^{if} they bunt. If they bunt,
18 they can.

19 MR. R: Yeah; but, I mean, if they hit
20 away.

21 MR. W: No. No, they can't do it. They
22 think they can, now; they probably didn't mean to lie
23 to you.

24 MR. R: Oh, I know that.

25 MR. W: They just can't see it. It's

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2 too fast in there. In fact, you'd have a heck of
3 a fast camera, to take in the whole thing.

4 MR. R: Yeah.

5 MR. W: Now, in bunting, if you throw
6 a real fast ball and bunt it, you don't usually see
7 the bat. You see the ball coming up there; right
8 there, pretty close. But, if you swing real fast
9 at the ball with that bat, you don't see it. You
10 see it right out there, but you cannot see it hit.
11 'Cause I've tried it and tried it, and I couldn't
12 see it. It just disappeared; it was just like a
13 blink in your eye when you'd hit it.

14 MR. R: You did a lot of batting-
15 coaching, didn't you?

16 MR. W: Yeah, I did. ^{for} ~~That~~ was about
17 for ten years, after I got through playing.

18 MR. R: Were you a regular coach or just
19 a batting coach?

20 MR. W: Just a batting coach. Well,
21 I took outfield and first-base too.

22 MR. R: Who did you coach with?

23 MR. W: Milwaukee. I coached in Mil-
24 waukee six years; then, two with the St. Louis
25 Cardinals, and two with the Philadelphia Phillies.

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2 I did ten years of that.

3 MR. R: Were you on the coaching line
4 too?

5 MR. W: Well, I took the whole organi-
6 zation. Like, in Milwaukee, 14 minor leagues and
7 the big-league club.

8 MR. R: I see.

9 MR. W: When the big-league club was at
10 home, I'd usually be there. Then, when they went
11 on the road, I'd start flying -- California, New
12 York; hitting all of them.

13 MR. R: Oh, I see.

14 MR. W: 14 teams. I'd take their
15 instructions and fly to these different places,
16 and see 'em for four or five or six days -- while
17 they were at home and we had the chance to get out
18 there and practice a little extra.

19 MR. R: Now, you saw the old players
20 and played with them, and you coached and instructed
21 the young kids.

22 MR. W: Yes.

23 MR. R: Is there any difference between
24 the kind of player that you played with and the
25 youngsters today -- in their baseball playing?

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2 MR. W: Well, some there is; with some
3 there is.

4 You see, a lot of them now -- you see,
5 I worked one way in testing out who I would work
6 with and who I don't; and they've got to show me,
7 first, because, if I talk to you, you've got a bat
8 in your hand and I've got a bat in my hand.

9 Then I show 'em: I do this big, long
10 step and go on out here. "Then you just swing in
11 here and get your belly-button around quick, and
12 bring it ^{the bat} ~~back~~ with you."

13 Then, I swing and show 'em.

14 Then, I said, "See my head? It's like
15 that if I get a ^{low} little ball, if it's a high ball,
16 anything."

17 MR. R: You never moved your head.

18 MR. W: (Continuing) "Never move
19 your head."

20 "Now, if you go and walk away, and get
21 your glove and don't go practice at it, see if you
22 can do it." (Laughing)

23 MR. R: (Laughing)

24 MR. W: (Continuing) "And you'd be
25 surprised. Maybe someone over here, while I'm

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go get a bat + try it. There's ⁴⁰ the one ^{The}
talking to you, if he'll ~~go hit it~~, he'll never even
~~bat one; he'll miss the ball every time."~~

MR. R: Yeah; m-hm.

MR. W: And I never had a ^{coached one} ~~else one~~ yet
that didn't swing ^{try} the bat the way I did; but, they
never did hit it. They just wasn't interested.

MR. R: Yeah.

MR. W: Now, if anybody would tell me
something while I was playing golf -- about a shot;
you do so-and-so here, and you gotta putt it in --
gee, I'd go get my putter, and see what's going on.

MR. R: Did you find that the young
players listened to you, or --

MR. W: Oh, yes.

MR. R: They do.

MR. W: My being small has helped me
more than anything.

MR. R: Being small has helped you more
than anything?

MR. W: Yep.

MR. R: How's that?

MR. W: Now, like you, you're big; you
usually hit well.

MR. R: Yeah.



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2 MR. W: Well, ^{They} you figure -- what the
3 heck -- you can just go up there and swing; and you can
4 get a hold of 'em and just --

5 I am small, and they say, "Gee, he must
6 know something."

7 MR. R: Yeah.

8 MR. W: (Continuing) "3,000-some-odd
9 hits and 600-and-some-odd doubles all these years,
10 so he must know how to hit."

11 MR. R: Yeah; yeah. So, they listen.

12 MR. W: Yeah. Now, I can't strong-back
13 'em, so I've got to be like a boxer; I've got to
14 know how.

15 MR. R: Of course, I hear people tell
16 me that the young player of today, he won't listen
17 to advice.

18 MR. W: Well, ^{There's some won't.} ~~they was teasing you on~~
19 ~~it.~~ I go around a lot. Like, I worked with the
20 Kansas City club this Winter -- in the last month
21 or so -- and there was very few. Nearly every one
22 of them would listen to you.

23 MR. R: They would; huh?

24 MR. W: Yeah. Of course, the first
25 thing with that team, I want to talk to 'em; I want

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2 to get 'em all together. Then, in the clubhouse,
3 I say, "Sit there and I'll talk to you."

4 I start to explain hitting, very easily.
5 Before I finish -- which should be just a few
6 minutes -- they're rearing to get out there and get
7 the bat and hit. 'Cause they've got it; they think
8 that's it, right there.

9 MR. R: Yeah. They really work at it
10 too -- the youngsters?

11 MR. W: Yeah, they work at it. Now,
12 some of them, they go right out there, and instead of
13 doing what you told them to, they'll do what they're
14 used to doing.

15 MR. R: Yeah.

16 MR. W: And some of 'em will just try to
17 do it, but they can't catch on.

18 MR. R: But they're trying.

19 MR. W: They're trying. And there's
20 some that don't catch on right away; it just takes
21 them a longer time to do it. But that's the way
22 all the good hitters do it.

23 Now, I could take a gang and put 'em
24 around here -- say, 25 ballplayers, and just circle
25 'em around.

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I'd say, "Gentlemen, all good hitters, every one of the good hitters, every one of the great hitters do the same thing -- no matter how they stand, or hold their hands, or anything like that. They all have one thing they do, and to be a good hitter, a great hitter, you've got to do it."

With them there: "Well, listen, what the heck could it be?"

MR. R: Yeah; "What's the secret?" (Laughing)

MR. W: (Continuing) They've got something.

So, I says, "You know what it is? A fast bat. Now, if you have a fast bat, you can wait longer for the ball, so, therefore, you hit the curve easy; you don't swing ^{at all those bad ones} with all of the bat when you're right there and you're quick."

MR. R: What do you mean by a fast bat? You don't mean the same thing as swinging with all your might, do you?

MR. W: No. No, you don't have to swing it that way.

MR. R: That's two different things, aren't they?



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2 MR. W: Yes. A fast bat, is one that
3 goes -- (indicating by sound) -- here; and a slow
4 bat, you see, is there (indicating). Now, this is
5 a fast bat.

6 MR. R: You can have a fast bat and not
7 swing with all your might, can't you?

8 MR. W: Oh, yes.

9 MR. R: Yeah.

10 MR. W: Yeah, yeah.

11 MR. R: Did you swing --

12 MR. W: You don't have to swing. You
13 can -- in other words, later on, I'll tell 'em,
14 "You can't over-swing as long as you keep your head
15 still. You can swing as hard as you can, and if
16 you keep your head still, you're not over-swinging."

17 MR. R: When I watch a lot of ball games
18 now, it looks to me like the player's just swinging
19 with all of his might. Did you do that?

20 MR. W: No -- well, I did, but I never
21 did hit anything that way.

22 MR. R: (Laughing)

23 MR. W: But, anyway, I tell 'em now
24 about these things.

25 "Now," I says, "I haven't told you



1
2 anything yet. I can write a book about that and
3 you still wouldn't know how to get a fast bat.

4 "Now, what we're going out and do" --
5 what I'm going to do here, is to demonstrate to you
6 the difference of a slow bat and how you can get a
7 fast one. Maybe I'll do it this way: (Demonstrat-
8 ing to Mr. R)

9 Elbow under here. See where the bat
10 is? Drag it.

11 MR. R: Yeah.

12 MR. W: (Continuing with demonstration)
13 The same motion -- there it is, out there. (Refer-
14 ring to the bat)

15 MR. R: Yeah.

16 MR. W: (Continuing with demonstration)
17 And it's above the ball, where you can pop it.

18 So, that's just about all in there that
19 I'd say to 'em. Maybe, one of them, I'd say, "Swing
20 the bat out here." To the rest of them I'd say,
21 "Just do what I say; just swing the bat like he does."

22 Then, he'll get up there, and I'll say,
23 "Now, just swing it and see how fast -- I'll get
24 around behind you, and get ~~that~~ belly-button around
25 in here as fast as you can. You do like this --



1
2 (indicating by sound) -- and -- (indicating by
3 sound)"-- and their eyes bug out.

4 MR. R: (Laughing)

5 MR. W: (Continuing) "And the bat," I
6 said, "do you hear it whistle like that? You can't
7 make it whistle any way but that way. If you come
8 at it this way (indicating), I don't care how strong
9 you are, you can't make a bat hum like I can make it
10 hum. There's a secret to this thing."

11 Like, these golfers -- but, most of that
12 is an optical illusion -- golfing, and all that about
13 wrists. You don't hit with your wrists. They had
14 that all of the time. I'd ^{teach} ~~a~~ taught: "No hitting
15 with the wrist; no hitting with the wrist."

16 MR. R: What did you hit with, the
17 upper part of your body?

18 MR. W: You hit with your weight; you
19 hit with your weight.

20 I'd start a bat here, and when I'd come
21 through -- you see my hands? (Demonstrating)

22 MR. R: M-hm.

23 MR. W: (Continuing) When I come over
24 here, do you see where they are? (Demonstrating)
25 I haven't touched a wrist or anything.

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a lot

1
 2 Did you ever see a kid that hits wild,
 3 say, "I got too much blisters"? Well, he's not
 4 hitting right, 'cause, actually, you're flipping
 5 around like that, you're just twisting the bat
 6 around in your hand. And these are solid; see?
 7 I got so much weight when I come around there --
 8 blop -- and hit that ball, that it's gonna take off;
 9 gonna take off (demonstrating).

10 Hank Aaron -- after the first year,
 11 they started talking about Hank's terrific wrists;
 12 they had pictures of 'em, you know --

13 MR. R: Yeah, yeah.

14 MR. W: (Continuing) -- and all that.
 15 Well, Hank didn't know. It feels like the wrists
 16 are really whippin'; and they do, naturally. You
 17 don't have to try; they just roll over.

18 And, of course, we were in Spring train-
 19 ing, and, of course, I didn't want to bother him.
 20 ~~He was a little upset. I wasn't that good, like he~~
 21 ~~was,~~ but he went for about a week, in exhibition
 22 games, and couldn't hit a ball to save his life.
 23 He couldn't hit it good to the outfield.

24 I come down and sit down next to him on
 25 the bench, and I says, "Hank, those pictures in the

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1
2 paper about your wrists, you've been using them now.
3 You do not use your wrists. They don't know what
4 they're talking about. You just roll 'em; and
5 that's the way you been hitting, but they -- it
6 looks like you're hittin' with your wrists -- and
7 you think you're hittin' with your wrists. It's
8 an optical illusion. Now, you just do like I been
9 tellin' you, and they just roll."

10 He went up there in batting practice,
11 and just -- (indicating by sound) -- (laughing) --
12 WOW! Out of that park, against the fences, and
13 everything else!

14 I said, "Hank, you ^{didn't} ~~had to~~ use your
15 wrists, do you think?"

16 He said, "I don't think I did. It
17 feeled like it, but I didn't." (Laughing) And
18 he just -- (indicating by sound).

19 MR. R: (Laughing)

20 MR. W: But, then, there's another
21 system -- there's a way to get 'em to roll.

22 MR. R: How come a man like Aaron
23 doesn't have a high average, really?

24 MR. W: Well, I --

25 MR. R: You know, 30 years ago, Aaron

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1
2 wouldn't have been considered a good batter, if
3 you just go by his average.

4 MR. W: (Continuing) Well, I don't
5 know why; I wouldn't say.

6 I'd say this: If you get 1 hit in 100,
7 that's 10 points; isn't it?

8 Let's just say that you got 40 -- 4
9 hits in 100; that's *40 points*.

10 Well, the difference is that a fellow
11 like Hank is hitting against a good defense.

12 MR. R: Oh, you had to face good
13 defense too.

14 MR. W: I know, but the gloves now --
15 they backhand them on you, and everything else.
16 ~~When they used to throw 'em at you, they could~~
17 ~~field good; they used to be hits. Now, they got~~
18 these big holes in ~~those~~ things, and they can go
19 way over 'em, and -- (indicating by sound) -- ~~catch~~ *catch*
20 that ball. You see, you'd go over there, and
21 maybe knock it ~~out~~ *down*, but that's 100 times that you
22 hit through there, and maybe there'd be 4 more
23 hits, with a little *glove* luck.

24 MR. R: M-hm.

25 MR. W: (Continuing) Now, there's

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1
2 40 points.

3 MR. R: Yeah, yeah.

4 MR. W: (Continuing) So, even if you,
5 say, add 30 points to his average, each year, --

6 MR. R: Well, then, he's hitting 'em.

7 MR. W: Yeah.

8 MR. R: Yeah.

9 MR. W: Now, that's not all of it, but,
10 then, they do pitch a little different now, than
11 they used to.

12 They used to have a high-hard one. You
13 was a pitcher if you had a high-hard-one; now, you're
14 not. You gotta have a fast-low-pitch and a curve-
15 ball. I keep 'em low, and the batter's trying to
16 lift it mostly all the time.

17 MR. R: Yeah, but you know very well
18 that you faced just as good pitchers as are pitch-
19 ing today.

20 MR. W: Oh, I sure did. Like Hubbell
21 and Dean, Derringer, Warneke, ^{Root}Ruth; all those
22 fellows.

23 Today, ^{They could}you can go out there and win
24 your 20 ball games.

25 MR. R: Sure, so the pitchers were just

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1
2 as good before. You really figure that the defense
3 is so much better, that's why the average --

4 MR. W: It's better, yes.

5 MR. R: (Continuing) And the fact that
6 so many of 'em are trying to hit the home run now.

7 MR. W: Yes, and they've gone into it --
8 we'll say that there's progress made all the time.
9 We'll look back, ten years from now, on the baseball
10 they're playing now, and there'll be a little im-
11 provement. There's ~~improvements~~ improvements all the time, but
12 it never gets perfect.

13 MR. R: Would you say, in baseball,
14 today --

15 MR. W: What?

16 MR. R: (Continuing) -- that the
17 ballplayer's a better ballplayer than in your day?

18 MR. W: Well, I would say that they
19 weren't better, but they knew how to play positions
20 better now, than then. They know how to play those
21 positions better.

22 MR. R: Of course, a lot of fellows who
23 played with you, would say the opposite.

24 MR. W: M-hm; yeah.

25 MR. R: (Continuing) They say that

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1
2 in the '20's, they played positions more than they
3 do today.

4 MR. W: Yeah; well, here's the thing
5 that we find about that. They say they played
6 their positions well, but we're gonna say just
7 this one thing:

8 It used to be that a shortstop would
9 play straightaway. And, say, there's a hit-and-
10 run would come up.

11 Instead of just standing away there,
12 and as soon as he sees the fellow running he takes
13 it on a dead-run to get him at second, now, he
14 shortens up. He just comes in and shortens up;
15 and he watches you hit, and he's got plenty of time
16 to get there.

17 So, when you hit-and-run today, you
18 hardly ever catch a good infielder running towards
19 second base.

20 MR. R: When you talk to these kids in
21 the batting-coach business, do they know who you
22 are?

23 MR. W: Yes. Yeah, they know, or their
24 fathers have more than likely talked about it.

25 I notice now, like in meeting people if



1
2 I go to the golf course, or any place like that
3 where you meet people --

4 MR. R: Yeah?

5 MR. W: (Continuing) -- that I'm
6 running into the class of the '60's, 75, 80-year-
7 old people. And, with these, they'd say "Oh, I'd
8 seen you play in Chicago," "I saw you play in New
9 York," "I saw you play in Frisco, when you started
10 out," and all like that, but they're nearly always
11 old people.

12 Then, you get letters from kiddies --
13 you know, a lot of them in there, where they ask
14 for autographs -- and they say, always, in there,
15 in the letter, that they "think you're the greatest
16 ballplayer that ever lived," you know, to get that
17 signature.

18 They have never seen you, but they've
19 probably heard of you; and some of them write to
20 get your autograph.

21 There was a kid that sent for autographs.
22 I had remembered his name, but I had either misplaced
23 his letter ^{or something} ~~or I had guessed that the company sent it~~
24 ~~to him.~~ I hadn't answered it, and maybe I had lost
25 the letter or misplaced it, but he said: "I wrote

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1
2 you, thinking that you were my favorite ballplayer,
3 the greatest in the world, and wanted your auto-
4 graph. But, I didn't get it," he said.

5 "Now, I want to write you that I think
6 you're lousy," and this-and-that (laughing).

7 MR. R: (Laughing)

8 MR. W: (Continuing) And, so, you know
9 what I did? I sent him an autograph (laughing).

10 MR. R: (Laughing)

11 MR. W: (Continuing) And I think that's
12 what he figured I was going to do (laughing).

13 MR. R: (Laughing)

14 MR. W: But, they're pretty easy now,
15 most all of them. They put a self-addressed
16 envelope in the letter --

17 MR. R: Oh, yeah?

18 MR. W: (Continuing) -- and you just
19 open 'em.

20 Now, they don't want just one; they want
21 six or eight.

22 MR. R: Why?

23 MR. W: They trade 'em around. See, you
24 may have three or four or five of another fellow, and
25 I trade you for one, but I haven't got so-and-so, so



1
2 they trade back and forth.

3 MR. R: Were they this autograph-happy
4 when you were playing?

5 MR. W: Not till later on. They were,
6 in Brooklyn. Brooklyn was the first one that
7 really started it bad. But, like when I was in
8 Pittsburgh, I can't remember any when I first started
9 there. There were very few; very few people wanted
10 your autograph.

11 But, then, ^{it} when I started in Brooklyn,
12 I went there and they were packin' 'em in, and I
13 found that they just carried 'em every place. And
14 I mean to say, there, that's a mob.

15 You get 'em Ladies' Day. ^{They} There, you
16 just bang up, and you're in their, in the crowd;
17 and you can't hardly sign, 'cause they've got
18 everything over your neck, and they're --

19 MR. R: (Laughing)

20 MR. W: (Continuing) -- all over you.

21 MR. R: Did you usually sign them, or
22 didn't you want to?

23 MR. W: Oh, it all depended if I got
24 the time. A lot of times, you just couldn't; you
25 couldn't sit there and wait for 'em.

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1
2 Normally, you'd see the kids every
3 day -- some of 'em, every day -- and they'd come
4 shootin' in to get your autograph.

5 MR. R: Same kids?

6 MR. W: Same kids.

7 MR. R: That's a funny thing; probably,
8 to trade 'em again.

9 MR. W: Well, the Brooklyn kid, when
10 he wanted two or three, he'd actually shoot dice
11 for 'em.

*I asked
one about it.*

12 MR. R: (Laughing)

13 MR. W: (Continuing) He said: "So-
14 and-so's name is worth so much nickels, so much
15 dimes, some were 15 -- Ruth was worth 50¢.

16 MR. R: (Laughing)

17 MR. W: (Continuing) And when they
18 were playing -- they're just kids, now; you know,
19 kids that were only 12, 14 years old, and they
20 were shooting crap and playing poker -- why, Babe
21 Ruth's autograph there was just as good as a 50-
22 cent-piece.

23 MR. R: Yeah (laughing).

24 MR. W: (Continuing) But, I know
25 Ruth was the top at 50¢; I think Gehrig was 40.

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1
2 And they went on down, and when you got to the
3 just average fellow, it was a nickel.

4 MR. R: (Laughing)

5 How did you feel when you came into
6 your first and only World Series?

7 MR. W: Not any different than in a
8 regular ball game.

9 MR. R: No nerves.

10 MR. W: No. I'd say, after it was
11 over, I can remember one thing in particular about
12 the World Series.

13 In right field, when Miljus made the
14 pitch that got by "Gooch," I was stunned. Yeah,
15 I just stood there, and I couldn't figure I'd been
16 in a World Series. There it was, all over, and I
17 just couldn't believe I'd been in a World Series.
18 That's really the only time that I gave it a
19 thought, that I was playing in a World Series.

20 MR. R: Your father and mother didn't
21 see you -- both you and Lloyd play; did they?

22 MR. W: Yes, they were at the Series.

23 MR. R: Were they?

24 MR. W: Yeah. But, I never -- it
25 was the first time up, the first pitch, and I



1
2 doubled. I hit 'em out, just like any other game;
3 I never thought about it.

4 MR. R: I think you hit .333 in that
5 Series.

6 MR. W: Yeah. In the town of Ada,
7 they had a lot of bets there. Of course, Lloyd
8 and I against Ruth and Gehrig, that we'd outhit
9 them. And there was a lot of money bet there, and
10 it wasn't the home runs as much as the average.

11 So, Gehrig hit .400, 6 out of 15;
12 Lloyd got 6 out of 15; I got 5 out of 15, and
13 Ruth hit .300; so, we had it on 33 points.

14 MR. R: (Laughing)

15 MR. W: But, that was funny, the way
16 they were betting on the ball game. But, after,
17 when we come home, after the Series, why, gee,
18 everybody around there was so happy as heck that
19 we were the winners, that they told us about the
20 bet.

21 I said, "Gee whiz, that's a funny way
22 to bet -- on an average of two fellows that stood
23 up against Ruth and Gehrig."

24 MR. R: (Laughing) Gee, after that,
25 you ended second about four or five times, and never

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1
2 won another pennant.

3 MR. W: Yeah; we never did have what
4 you'd call pitching. They were always looking
5 for a left-fielder. And they had 'em; there was
6 Johnson, Comorosky -- they were good young ball-
7 players; they hit .300.

8 They had everything, but it seemed like
9 they wanted someone to hit .340 or 50.

10 I was up -- I went to New York to a
11 meeting, and they just bought Lindstrom.

12 MR. R: He was no kid then; was he?

13 MR. W: What?

14 MR. R: He was no kid then.

15 MR. W: No.

16 (Continuing) So, "Ben Swinger" came
17 rushing over to me, and he said, "Paul, guess what?"
18 Well, I flew up there -- and he said, "I don't like
19 to see you flying, 'cause, you know what we just did?"
20 He said, "You can't guess. I just bought Lindstrom;
21 now, we've got an outfielder." (Laughing)

22 I looked right back at "Swinger," and
23 I said, "My goodness, we need pitching." (Laughing)
24 But, they wanted Lindstrom.

25 We had, what you'd call -- well, Kr^omer

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1
2 I'd say was about at a average; Ray Kremer. He was
3 a 20-game winner for a couple of years.

4 MR. R: And Freddie Snodgrass.

5 MR. W: Well, that was a little later
6 on. But, Meadows, Aldridge and some, they'd win
7 15 and lose 12 or 13. You know, one of those
8 like that.

9 And to win ball games or pennants, you
10 gotta have a couple of pitchers on there. Whether
11 you can win 20 or 18 and lose 6 or 7, it don't **make**
12 any difference. If you win 20 ball games and lose
13 20 --

14 MR. R: Yeah.

15 MR. W: (Continuing) -- that isn't
16 a percentage, because your ball club's gotta go in
17 on a nearly 7 -- 600-and-some-odd percentage.
18 That's 650, 700 nearly, to win a pennant.

19 MR. R: Yeah.

20 MR. W: (Continuing) So, if you've
21 got pitchers on there -- outside of relief-pitchers --
22 now, the difference is, there, you've got special
23 pinch-hitters or relief-pitchers.

24 They didn't go for that so much in the
25 early days, you know, 'cause if you pitched at the

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1
2 start, then that's how you nearly always finished.
3 They didn't hardly think of a pinch-hitter.

4 Oh, you'd have 'em; but mostly all the
5 time, on the pitching staff, if there'd be one or
6 two who could hit pretty well, then they were the
7 pinch-hitters.

8 MR. R: Oh, yeah?

9 MR. W: M-hm. The only two pinch-
10 hitters that we had -- for years and years, that I
11 know of, that we had 'em -- was Lucas and "Irving
12 Burns," two pitchers.

13 MR. R: Is that right?

14 MR. W: Yeah.

15 MR. R: That was in the '20's. In the
16 late '30's, you got Heinie Manush, didn't you?

17 MR. W: Yeah, Heinie arrived in '38.

18 MR. R: Yeah.

19 MR. W: We got him right at the last of the
20 season.

21 MR. R: Yeah. That was the year that
22 Hartnett hit that home run.

23 MR. W: Yeah, he hit that home run.

24 MR. R: That must've been a big dis-
25 appointment.



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MR. W: Oh, that was something!

And, Chicago, if you'd see a ball park and people going wild! I've seen 'em do that, you know, in football games, but I watched and wondered if Hartnett could touch home plate. Of course, they would've collared him there, anyway.

But, by golly, as soon as he hit that home run, and by the time he started circling around second, those fans went in there and just piled on top of him; and they went up in the air with him and everything. Gee, it was terrific.

MR. R: What field did he hit that home run to?

MR. W: Huh?

MR. R: Did he hit it to right or left field?

MR. W: Left field.

MR. R: There was no doubt that it was a fair ball; huh?

MR. W: Oh, yes, the play was fair.

MR. R: Because it was dark, wasn't it?

MR. W: Yeah. Well, the game was already -- that was over with. He had two strikes on him, would've been the third man out, when the



1
2 game was called.

3 MR. R: When it was pretty dark --
4 and there was no doubt that was a fair ball?

5 MR. W: No doubt. Oh, yes, it was a
6 fair ball. 50 feet! There's no doubt it was a
7 home run, 'cause it was just clippin' the back of
8 those stands -- and BAM!

9 MR. R: What did you guys do when you
10 went back to the dressing room, after that?

11 MR. W: Well, when you go in, in a
12 condition like that, you just don't say a word.
13 You hardly hear a noise out of anybody. You don't
14 say nothing, and it's like as if you're at a funeral.

15 Then, someone'll break in and say some-
16 thing, and then, it probably'd get started.

17 "Mace" Brown" -- I stayed with him till
18 3 in the morning.

19 MR. R: He pitched the ball?

20 MR. W: M-hm. He cried like a baby;
21 and I was afraid he was going to jump out of the
22 window, so I was watching him.

23 MR. R: Did he ever get over it?

24 MR. W: Yeah, he got over it now. I
25 see him; he's down here scouting, and all like that.



1
2 Old "Mace" was a heck of a good kid, and he even
3 laughs about it now.

4 MR. R: Of course, you know --

5 MR. W: (Continuing) He'll laugh, and
6 he's kind of still though; he still looks like he's
7 thinking, "Gee, if I just hadn't of got that ball."

8 What he was wanting to do -- with two
9 strikes letting Hartnett look so bad on the first
10 two curve balls -- he was going to throw him a
11 real curve ball. And he just -- (indicating by
12 sound) -- and when he tried to throw it too much,
13 he gets two stiff wrists, and it just hung right
14 up there. It was breaking and just kind of rolled
15 up there, and Hartnett -- evidently it looked like
16 he was looking for a knockdown -- he just came back
17 this way (indicating), and there it was -- and BAM!

18 But, you know, that year it looked like
19 the Good Lord had just prescribed that Chicago'd
20 win.

21 Now, we played 'em in Pittsburgh, and
22 we had the crowd on the field -- roped in. I
23 don't know how many doubles ~~they got at a~~ ground-rule
24 double, ~~but we just couldn't~~ -- when this little
25 fly-ball grounded in right field.

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1
2 I'd get there, and I couldn't quite
3 get in that crowd. Now, I told the crowd to get
4 out of the way. And they had the rope there, and
5 I could jump the rope or get under it, if they'd
6 give me room.

7 And, so, instead of that, they'd press
8 towards that; they wanted the ball, so they'd press
9 onto it.

10 MR. R: Oh, oh.

11 MR. W: (Continuing) And when they'd
12 hit one -- by golly -- it looked like they'd come
13 back. (Laughing) Of course, that's the way it
14 looked, 'cause of my -- you know.

15 But, those balls there had been the
16 easy outs. It seemed like, if it happened to swing
17 in there, it's when they beat us; just beat us.

18 And then, here was another one: In
19 the big game, before Hartnett hit the home run,
20 they put Lazzeri in to hit. We're leading by
21 two runs, and they put Lazzeri in to hit -- with
22 a man on first and second.

23 They got him two, so he tried to bunt
24 twice. The first one -- he missed it altogether;
25 and the next one -- he fouled it up, and Todd --

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1
2 Al Todd -- it ran -- he just almost got it; just
3 tipped it.

4 Then, the next pitch -- it was in on
5 his fist; and he swung on it and he broke his bat.
6 And he's strictly a pull-hitter, and it went right
7 over the first-baseman's head; it was a spin-on.

8 Well, when I came in after it, I knew
9 the ball was going to jump out; instead of coming
10 towards me, it was going to jump out, so I cut in
11 here so it'd jump this way -- to me (indicating).
12 And then it hit, and jumped right in -- this way
13 (indicating).

14 And, so, both the runs scored -- I
15 mean, the one run scored.

16 Then, Billie Herman came up -- and
17 that's the only thing, I'd say, where it looked
18 like they might lose -- and Billie hit one to me.
19 And I threw to the fellow who ended that run for
20 Lazzeri at second, so I threw the fellow out at
21 home. Then we were tied-off.

22 But, just everything that happened --
23 I hit two or three balls with Lloyd on first and
24 none out; two right-field low line-drives, and
25 "Cabaretta" dived after 'em and caught 'em. If

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1
2 he didn't catch 'em -- if they'd of got by him --
3 oh, heck, this would've been a cinch as a home
4 run. You could've just trotted around on it
5 there.

6 But, it just seemed like everything
7 was going like that; it was just one after the
8 other:

9 Whenever they needed a run, they'd
10 just bunt it, hit it, or something;

11 When they needed a home run, Hartnett
12 got it.

13 MR. R: There's a lot of luck in base-
14 ball, isn't there?

15 MR. W: Oh, yes.

16 MR. R: After Pittsburgh released you --
17 when was that? '38 or '39?

18 MR. W: No, it was '40.

19 MR. R: (Continuing) In '40, you
20 signed up with Brooklyn, I think, or Boston?

21 MR. W: I signed with Brooklyn, and I
22 was with them until June. And, then, they ex-
23 pected to lose Amoros -- not Amoros -- let's see --
24 an "Alamo" -- it sounded like "Alamo," I think; and
25 they also thought they was gonna maybe lose Peewee



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2 Reese -- I mean, they thought they was gonna lose
3 Reiser. In other words, it turned out that their
4 players didn't go when they were supposed to, so
5 they released me.

6 So, then, Boston took me. So I went
7 over to Boston and played there for the rest of
8 the season and the next season.

9 Then, that was when Stengel was there;
10 so I went back to Brooklyn again, and I played
11 there two years.

12 Then, I went to the Yankees in '44 --
13 in August -- and then I went with them the next
14 year, until June I think it was.

15 MR. R: (Asked a question which was
16 inaudible)

17 MR. W: You see, I went a lot by the
18 catchers. I hit, by the catcher that was against
19 you. I knew the catchers -- about what they was; in
20 pitching -- well, I wanted a pitcher to have con-
21 trol, and, then, I'd have something, if they pitched
22 to the catcher -- where it would hit home in the
23 glove.

24 I knew just about where Lopez was gonna
25 pitch to me; particularly, in a clutch. And I knew



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2 where Jimmy Wilson, Lombardi, Hargrave was. In
3 other words, I hit against a catcher, instead of a
4 pitcher -- I mean, more than a pitcher.

5 MR. R: Is that on the grounds that
6 you knew what the catcher would call, or that you
7 watched the glove?

8 MR. W: Whatever they figured my
9 weakness was, they'd get me in a trap where it'd
10 be the best place to pitch me.

11 And Max "Butcher" was pitching this
12 day, and a couple of men were on -- the first
13 ball game. I knew where Lopez was going to try
14 to get me out; he was going to try to crowd me --
15 you know, like this (indicating). And Max had
16 a pretty good fast-ball, but I didn't expect him
17 to start me there. I figured that he'd maybe
18 pitch out there a little while, and, then, come
19 in; and maybe he wouldn't even then come in.

20 MR. R: (Laughing)

21 MR. W: (Continuing) And, so, the
22 first pitch -- right in there; and I jumped back.
23 I knew it was a striker, 'cause it went straight
24 at the plate, but, for Al's benefit, I argued with
25 the umpire.



1
2 I said, "Gee whiz, that darn thing,
3 that could've hit me; that's 6 inches inside."

4 Pretty good ball; pretty good ball to
5 hit. Pretty good ball. Pretty good strike.

6 So, I know I'm gonna get one of those
7 back. I didn't expect it the next pitch, but I'm
8 gonna wait. And the next pitch, he pitched it
9 there again, and I just went in and stepped all
10 over Al -- that ball would've stopped over Al, and
11 Al knew it. When I was on second base, well, Al
12 was looking darn near -- (indicating and laughing).
13 But, I knew darn well what the heck was going on
14 (laughing).

15 MR. R: (Laughing)

16 MR. W: (Continuing) That argument
17 (laughing).

18 Then, with Jimmy Wilson -- with our
19 ball club with a man on first base -- it was none
20 or one out. A left-hander, he'd never get a curve
21 or anything but a fast ball from me.

22 MR. R: Well, it sounds to me like you
23 played as much with your head as with your body.

24 MR. W: Well, --

25 MR. R: Is that true today of the ball-

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2 players?

3 MR. W: Oh, yeah, a lot of them do
4 that. You see a lot of them. They're traded
5 to the American League now, in that inter-trade
6 deal?

7 MR. R: Yeah?

8 MR. W: (Continuing) They haven't
9 been used to the pitching over there.

10 MR. R: Yeah? Is that true, that you
11 played as much with your head as anything else?

12 MR. W: Oh, yes; you've got to. You've
13 got to, because -- you see, when I first broke in-
14 to the majors, I kept a book on every pitch:

15 How many on, and in what inning;

16 What they got me out on;

17 What I hit.

18 MR. R: You kept a book in your head,
19 or you kept a real book?

20 MR. W: No; I kept it right in my
21 pocket. And, when that game was over, if I beat
22 your ball game with a certain pitch, I put it down
23 there; how many men on. If there was none on, or
24 a lop-sided game, then usually they didn't pitch
25 to your weakness too much. They'd try you out



1
2 here and there and every place, but, then, when
3 it came time, they'd hit to your weakness.

4 So, after the first year in there, I
5 didn't need a book. I didn't need a book; I knew
6 the catchers pretty well, so if a young pitcher
7 came up, I'd train him to pitch to the catchers.

8 MR. R: Did most ballplayers, at that
9 time, think as much about it as much as you did?

10 MR. W: I don't think they did. They'd
11 just get up and hit; then, it was a strike.

12 MR. R: What about today? Do most
13 ballplayers think as much about it as you used to?

14 MR. W: I don't think they do. They
15 just go up there and figure, if they get the right
16 pitch or get a hold of one, "It's all mine."

17 I don't say they do that as a whole,
18 'cause I haven't gone to 'em and asked for their
19 opinions, but that's the way I take it. They
20 guess a lot now, but they guess curve balls and
21 fast balls.

22 It's pretty easy to watch, you know.
23 I never took -- in any pitch that was made to me,
24 I was watching the infield and outfield; in any
25 pitch, I watched any moves they made.

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1
2 If I saw that left-fielder pull over
3 towards center, I figured that's pitching away;
4 pitching away.

5 If you take and play your team straight-
6 away, your infield straight-away, outfield straight-
7 away, and if one of 'em moves one step, it leaves
8 a hole right in there and slows you.

9 Of course, if the center-fielder moves
10 over towards that, he leaves a hole over there; and
11 if the right-fielder moves over towards that, one
12 step, it leaves a hole down the line.

13 The infielders -- if the third-baseman
14 plays over towards third, it leaves me a spot
15 through there. If this fellow moves over with
16 him, through the box; if the second-baseman moves
17 over there, through there; first-baseman moves over
18 there, I've got that (indicating). So, you had a
19 hole.

20 MR. R: Yeah. You also know by the
21 way they move, what kind of pitch might come up.

22 MR. W: Yeah; if you see 'em move over.
23 They edge over a lot, and, you know, you'd never
24 just stand there and gawk at 'em. You just act
25 natural, you know; they never seen me watching 'em



1
2 or anything, 'cause I'd just notice 'em.

3 And, you know, whether I was just
4 standing there or got in the play over there,
5 when I looked over at the pitcher, I just glanced
6 around; and then, I'd see that second-baseman moving
7 towards first -- maybe just a step -- curve ball!

8 MR. R: How many batters do you think
9 were watching you, when you were out there in
10 right field?

11 MR. W: Well, they have a right to do
12 it. I imagine a lot of them would.

13 MR. R: Did you try to conceal your
14 movement at all?

15 MR. W: Yeah; I did. You lean it; you
16 lean on it.

17 MR. R: Yeah, but he might be watching
18 the way you're leaning.

19 MR. W: Well, if I say "lean," you
20 don't lean this way, but you balance -- see, on
21 here (indicating). See where you push yourself?

22 MR. R: Yeah.

23 MR. W: (Continuing) And if I figure
24 a fellow might hit it over there, and if it was
25 slow, I'd be ready, see; real ready there.

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2 So, it's not often, but an infield
3 is more important on that little movement. But,
4 here's the thing:

5 I'd move in the box occasionally,
6 and they'd never catch you, never notice you.
7 You see, you never let anybody know it, and there's
8 a certain time you've gotta spot, where it can be
9 done.

10 Well, I'm standing here, and the plates
11 way out there. See, I'm the only guy that the
12 batter always threw at.

13 The catcher throws the ball to the
14 pitcher, and, when it gets right up here, he got
15 a look at me -- and I'm there (laughing). The
16 pitcher said he never noticed me move at all.

17 And, in that way -- well, some of 'em
18 might have noticed the difference, but not very
19 often. Like, if they was pitching outside, you
20 could move over a little bit. And, then, if some
21 of those catchers would notice it, they'd pitch
22 inside; and then, you'd know that was a tipper,
23 and you'd move over and look for it inside.

24 MR. R: M-hm.

25 MR. W: See, it was a guessing game,

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1
2 back and forth. You're guessing the game back
3 and forth.

4 MR. R: Did you ever have any regrets
5 that you took up baseball?

6 MR. W: Oh, no; no. I'd say that it's
7 just about as pleasant a life that you could live.

8 MR. R: It was a good life?

9 MR. W: Yes, it was.

10 MR. R: A lot of laughs?

11 MR. W: Oh, we had a lot of laughs.
12 Of course, in losing-ball-games it was rough, and
13 being in a slump is rough; but, you don't let it
14 worry you, you know, because you figure it happens
15 in that other club too.

16 MR. R: You couldn't have been in very
17 many slumps.

18 MR. W: Oh, I've been in 'em. A lot
19 of 'em say, "You didn't do many slumps."

20 And I'd say, "I've gone many, many
21 times -- 20 to 25 times at bat -- without a hit."

22 MR. R: Boy, then you must've collected
23 'em one after the other!

24 MR. W: Oh, yeah. Then, you'd get
25 hot, and heck, you'd get three one day and four

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2 another, two another, three another, four another.

3 MR. R: You got six out of six one day,
4 didn't you?

5 MR. W: Yeah.

6 MR. R: Yeah.

7 MR. W: The first year; but, you didn't
8 figure that, when you're playing, that other team,
9 they're gonna win some, accidentally or something.

10 When you really go into a losing streak,
11 you figure, "Well, what the heck!" You'll do just
12 as well in the winning streak, and you can get it
13 back. And a lot of clubs have that in their mind.

14 Milwaukee did it for several years, when
15 I was there. They'd win ten straight, then lose
16 eight or nine straight. It was funny, the way
17 that worked.

18 It's a lot in the noodle -- in the
19 head; in the head. You get a losing complex.

20 Now, you'll get started, and you're
21 losing ball games in the eighth and ninth innings.
22 You'd be out ahead, and, bingo, they'd come up and
23 beat you. If, the first thing, you just -- "O-o-
24 o-o-o-oh" -- in that eight and ninth, you just
25 tighten up there, and you can't win; you're just



1
2 afraid.

3 Well, now you start, and you start
4 winning. You'll come in behind and you're winning
5 them.

6 And if "Choo-Choo don't care if you're
7 two or three runs behind in the eighth or ninth, if
8 "Choo-Choo" don't get 'em, he don't care, he's
9 gettin' you like that. Heck, you just go up
10 there, and it's just relaxed -- and away you go.

11 Now, we had Cincinnati, and we beat 'em
12 21 out of 22 ball games one year. They'd have
13 6 runs in, and was ahead of us in the ninth inning,
14 but we wasn't afraid of losing that ball game, any
15 more than the man in the moon.

16 MR. R: (Laughing)

17 MR. W: (Continuing) 'Cause, we was
18 just beatin' 'em, and we beat 'em a lot of times.

19 And then, one day, they had the 6 runs
20 ahead in the ninth, and -- what the heck -- we'd
21 come up with 8 and 9 runs there -- and what the
22 heck!

23 MR. R: It's all up in the mind -- in
24 the head. That's why I asked you about whether
25 "Mace" Brown ever got over that business; because,

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you know, it seemed to me --

MR. W: I'd say, not completely.

MR. R: Yeah.

MR. W: (Continuing) Because, I'll say that "Mace" Brown will kind of laugh, but, when he gets through laughing, you know, he'll kind of stop after that, and he shudders; you know, he kind of -- (indicating by sound) -- when he stops to think about it.

MR. R: Yeah.

MR. W: Should I imagine that you'd take the 20 best pitchers in the league, and the 20 worst ones, my average would be better against the 20 better ones.

MR. R: Who was the best one you ever saw that you could --

MR. W: Well, if my life depended on it, I'd take Hubbell.

MR. R: Would you?

MR. W: M-hm. I'd take Hubbell; and, next, I would take Dizzy Dean. Of all of them that I've seen.

MR. R: M-hm. Yeah, Hubbell had a long career of great years, didn't he?

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2 MR. W: Yeah. You see, Hubbell was
3 reserved. He went along according to the game,
4 and he didn't show you the good stuff, unless he
5 had to. When he got into a tough jam, that's when
6 he got out of it.

7 *To show you*
8 ~~He sure showed how~~ in that All-Star
9 game, you see, when the American League was in
10 there hitting against him. He was going three
11 innings, and he struck out five of the best hitters
12 in the American League, right in a row. That's
13 when he ~~hits through all of 'em, all of them~~
threw all of his pitches.
~~pitches.~~

14 MR. R: Yeah.

15 MR. W: (Continuing) *I used to kid*
16 Hubbell, *particularly* when he was through: *He id* I said, "A hit'll
17 strike me out, *if he got two* 'cause I got me two strikes, *on me, he id* so
18 ~~while the iron's hot, strike now.~~ *Strike me out.*

19 MR. R: Yeah?

20 MR. W: (Continuing) And, he would
21 throw a screwball,-- *threw* he did it before, you know,
22 before that time, but, I mean, in a clutch, he
23 would. Probably, *there weren't any men on or it* if it wasn't that he wanted it
24 *wasn't a tie game* in that All-Star game, he wouldn't show it to *you* me,
25 but the idea is not to show you the pitch. When



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2 they'd throw you a screwball, you know, it dropped
3 a little bit.

4 But, this one came up there. You'd
5 say, when it started, that it got away from him.
6 It just -- oh -- it went right up there, and it
7 just disappeared; it just suddenly dropped right
8 out of sight.

9 And I used to kid him. Well, when
10 he got out, I said, "Hub, why don't you throw me
11 that real good screwball? How in the heck do
12 you strike one out? I never caught you on 'em."

13 He said, "Well, I didn't want you to
14 see it all the time."

15 MR. R: Yeah?

16 MR. W: And that's the way they do it,
17 the good pitchers. A good pitcher, when it's a
18 strike, he's got good stuff on the ball. If all
19 the stuff's away, and not good, well, there's not
20 much on it. I mean, it just looks so easy to hit.

21 And there's so many pitchers like that.
22 Hubbell's like that, and -- oh, I don't know, I
23 could name a lot of 'em.

24 It just looked so easy to hit, but when
25 they threw the strike, then, there was something



1
2 on it.

3 Now, you take these pitchers; a lot
4 of 'em that's come up, if it's a ball, it gets
5 a lot of stuff on it. But, they can't seem to
6 get any stuff on a strike.

7 Well, the 20 years now, that I've
8 played, it doesn't seem like that I've played
9 even a month.

10 MR. R: Yeah?

11 MR. W: M-hm; it doesn't seem like it
12 at all.

13 MR. R: It went that fast?

14 MR. W: Yep. Now, the first two or
15 three years, it seemed like I'd been in baseball
16 a long time. And then, all at once, I'd been in
17 12 years -- and then, all at once, it was 20.

18 And, now, someone's likely to say,
19 "When did you retire?" -- they'd catch me saying,
20 "55." And then I'd get to thinking, "Gee, that
21 should've been 45." And that time has gone very
22 quickly.

23 MR. R: Yeah.

24 MR. W: And then, when I was coaching
25 and hitting instructor, I had around 9 years of that,



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2 I guess; and that went by so quickly, that it just
3 seems like today.

4 MR. R: Yeah. A kid comes up, and
5 they call him a rookie one day -- and, then, all
6 of a sudden, it seems like the next day, that he's
7 talking like a veteran.

8 MR. W: Yes; m-hm. Well, that's the
9 way. In baseball, it's like every business. They
10 have the same problem, of people going so far, that
11 they cannot go any farther when they've hit the top.
12 When they hit -- no matter, they can put them in
13 anything -- they can't do it.

14 I've always thought that it was mostly
15 caused by their interest -- you know, when they
16 liked it real well, or when they'd get stale from
17 it.

18 Now, you get stale from baseball; par-
19 ticularly if you're out of that race.

20 MR. R: Yeah.

21 MR. W: Oh, it's a long season. When
22 you're out of that -- that fightin' for the pennants --
23 yeah, it gets to be monotonous.

24 MR. R: It's not a game any more.

25 MR. W: (Continuing) And then, it'll

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2 liven you up when you play the head team. Because,
3 if your away down the list, and you can knock that
4 head team off, your fans are pretty well satisfied,
5 you know. They get a pretty big kick out of it.

6 Like when I was up in Boston that season,
7 in the last place, practicing all the time -- or,
8 Philly was the last place -- well, we had a little
9 feudin' on -- a little incident -- 'cause we didn't
10 want to finish in the cellar. So, the Phillies
11 and the Boston club, we'd fight like heck. They'd
12 all resented it, because we wanted to beat them
13 to keep from being in the cellar.

14 So, anyway, you know, you'd save up
15 your best pitchers and get everybody in their best
16 shape, when that top team came around. And it gave
17 'em a fit when the Phils beat 'em. 2 out of 3 --
18 it was something like that; but, boy, that was good.

19 MR. R: But, what about those 6 hits in
20 that one day?

21 MR. W: Well, some of them, maybe, had
22 been -- just happened not to be right at 'em. Maybe
23 they was on the side.

24 Now, I couldn't play for it 6 straight
25 times, I'm not that good, but they were all clean

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2 hits. It was just one of those things that happen.
3 I happened to be up 6 times, because we were playing
4 New York. And we had 14 runs, I think, in the
5 game, which was a lot in those days. And there
6 was three or four pitchers that I hit 'em against;
7 different ones. And I used six different bats, and
8 I swung six times (laughing).

9 MR. R: (Laughing)

10 MR. W: Of course, it would look funny
11 if it was two (laughing).

12 MR. R: (Laughing)

13 MR. W: (Continuing) And it happened
14 that they'd switched the batting order, and I'd been
15 hitting ahead of someone -- or, behind them, one of
16 the hitters.

17 And, so, I went in, in the dugout,
18 smoking a cigarette, and I was thinking about it.
19 But, I was ahead of him, so they hollered: "Hey,
20 Waner, Paul, hurry up, you're holding up the parade.
21 Get up to bat."

22 And I didn't think of it, and I ran and
23 just grabbed a bat on up there, and then out to the
24 plate; and, got a hit.

25 So, I thought -- well, you know, when



1
2 you're a little superstitious about things --

3 So, the next time up, my turn at bat,
4 I just went over, took my time, and then, finally,
5 picked up a bat, and went out and got a hit.

6 MR. R: You grabbed any bat you could?

7 MR. W: (Continuing) The next time, I
8 did the same thing. Till I stopped getting hits,
9 I just kept picking up different bats. Not looking
10 at 'em; just blind. I'd just turn my head and pick
11 one out. And I'd swung six times.

12 MR. R: (Laughing) This was probably
13 the first major-league ball game you ever saw, and
14 you played in it; huh?

15 MR. W: M-hm.

16 MR. R: You didn't feel funny when you
17 walked into that park for the first time?

18 MR. W: Well, I don't know. To me, the
19 major leaguers -- they'd come there and they'd look
20 and look at 'em; and, so, they didn't look like human
21 beings to me. I used to look at 'em and they'd
22 look just like anybody else, but I was always
23 thinking, "There's something about 'em" -- "some-
24 thing."

25 So many people, just looking and looking



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2 to see if they couldn't see something; just looking.
3 Well, people are that way, you know.

4 But, sports -- it looks like they like
5 it more and more now, so many people. There's
6 gonna be more time on their hands. With the in-
7 ventions they have, they can do things quicker.
8 They have so much extra time than they used to have.

9 I was raised on a farm, and gee, you
10 got up early and you didn't go to bed till pretty
11 late -- that is, not real late, but, if you was
12 working on a farm, you just never -- if you had a
13 T.V., you'd probably go and look at it on a Sunday,
14 'cause you'd be busy all the rest of the time.

15 MR. R: Was your father a farmer?

16 MR. W: M-hm.

17 MR. R: Have you any other brothers
18 besides Lloyd?

19 MR. W: (No response)

20 MR. R: Any other brothers besides --

21 MR. W: Had an older brother.

22 MR. R: He didn't play?

23 MR. W: No, he didn't; no. He played
24 amateur ball, and he played a little in the Texas
25 league for a few months. He went down there one



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2 time when the club wanted to finish out the season
3 and they needed a shortstop. He wanted to see
4 what it was like, so he went down and played about
5 a month.

6 MR. R: What's Lloyd doing now?

7 MR. W: He's with the city administra-
8 tion in Oklahoma City.

9 MR. R: What does he do?

10 MR. W: He's a city -- a supervisor of
11 a city department.

12 A WOMAN'S VOICE: Maintenance.

13 MR. W: Maintenance, that's right.

14 MR. R: How'd you feel when you couldn't
15 play every day any more? Were you sort of glad?
16 You know -- it was pretty rough.

17 MR. W: Well, I think that I just figured
18 this way: That I'd -- I knew -- I knew it wasn't
19 gonna last forever; that I'd played practically as
20 long as my legs would carry me. And it just
21 happened to be in the war years, where I could
22 be useful to 'em. If it hadn't of been, if the
23 younger fellows was on the team, I wouldn't have
24 been able to play there, because, I wouldn't have
25 been good enough. Of course, I was a pinch-hitter.



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2 Well, anyway, that's the reason that I played a
3 lot in the war years.

4 MR. R: How many games did you play in?

5 MR. W: It'd be -- likely -- well, some-
6 one asked me, I reckon I was with New York when
7 someone hollered out: "Hey, Paul! How come you're
8 playing with the Yankees?"

9 MR. R: Yeah (laughing).

10 MR. W: (Continuing) I said, "Because
11 Joe DiMaggio's in the Army." (Laughing)

12 MR. R: (Laughing)

13 MR. W: Well, I had a lot of troubles in
14 baseball, but I was never thrown out of a ball game
15 in my life.

16 MR. R: Is that right! You were never --

17 MR. W: (Continuing) I played for
18 24 professional years, and I never was thrown out.

19 MR. R: Well, I'll be darned!

20 MR. W: (Continuing) Lloyd was thrown
21 out once, with a claim to bat, but he claimed that
22 Vance had no right to be going. But, with Lloyd
23 having that man steal 'em off him, if he took 'em
24 all on -- look out!

25 MR. R: Where were you then?



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MR. W: Hm?

MR. R: Where were you?

MR. W: I was playing. When Lloyd was out there, I was there, but just sittin'. I think it was '28, '29 -- '28, I think.

A WOMAN'S VOICE: He was with "Bruce Manner," wasn't he?

MR. W: No, at the time that Vance was claiming -- no, he was with Pittsburgh.

MR. R: Never thrown out once!

MR. W: No.

MR. R: That's amazing. That's because no umpire ever made a wrong decision on you; right?

MR. W: No; I would talk to umpires, but never turned around on 'em.

MR. R: Oh.

MR. W: I'd ask 'em -- like, instead of turning on 'em, I may strike one, and, if I'd see -- say it's Bill -- well, then, I'll say, "Bill, was it a little outside there?"

"Nope, pretty good strike; okay."

And then, I got my glasses, and with the glasses on, I'm in the world with everybody.

MR. R: What year did you wear glasses?

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1
2 MR. W: Oh, about 1940; it was 1940.

3 (Continuing) So, the first time I
4 came up, why, the ball came in there, and it looked
5 like it was about that high (indicating) -- and,
6 "strike one."

7 And I said, "Gee whiz, wait a minute
8 here. Wasn't that ball way low?"

9 He said, "No, that was a pretty good
10 strike."

11 So, I just backed off; and he laughed
12 when I said, "Well, that's the first time that I
13 wore glasses." And I says, "I just wanted to know,
14 'cause I'd better be swingin' at em."

15 And he says, "Yeah, you'd better be
16 doin' that." (Laughing)

17 MR. R: (Laughing)

18 MR. W: (Continuing) But that's the
19 best thing; when you turn around, you never swear
20 at 'em.

21 When we got down in Miami -- I managed
22 in '46 -- we had some terrible umpiring. And
23 something come up, where I knew what was right;
24 so, that way, I knew I could protest the game on
25 account of the rules. But, why go through all of



1
2 that? 'Cause, you know, in the little league, you
3 could cuss (laughing).

4 So, I got up, and -- I mean to say -- I
5 swore at this umpire -- called him everything in the
6 book.

7 And he says, "Now, Paul, you've never
8 been put out of a ball game." And he says, "I
9 don't want to put you out."

10 And I says, "Why, you s.o.b., you can
11 have the honor of it. Just go ahead and have the
12 honor of doing it -- being the first one."

13 "Yeah, you get away from here now
14 or I'll throw you out."

15 MR. R: What did you do when they made
16 an obvious mistake on a base-pass -- when you knew
17 you were safe?

18 MR. W: Well, you can't go in there and
19 change it, so why kick? Usually, the manager sees
20 it about as well as the umpire; and the players --
21 well, they did most of the kicking.

22 MR. R: McGraw worked the opposite
23 philosophy, didn't he?

24 MR. W: M-hm.

25 MR. R: He kicked on everything, hoping



1
2 he'd get the close one.

3 MR. W: Yeah. Well, I had the rule --
4 I always figured my rule in, in all my clubs, and
5 I put it to use in Miami, to my ball club:

6 Any time you'd start an argument with
7 the umpire, I'd be there; and when I get there,
8 you'd all get out, and get going; I'll do all the
9 arguing.

10 If there should be an argument come up --
11 like on a third strike or something -- when they'd
12 start it, I run up there, and either they'd get
13 out or it's gonna cost 'em. Then, when they'd
14 walk away, I'd talk to him softly.

15 Half the time, I knew that the strike
16 was up with. I mean, I'd talk to him, but I could
17 see that he knew the play and could argue it right
18 down the middle.

19 And, you know, I'd say, "Well, gee whiz,"
20 and I'd say, "I saw the play, and it looked like a
21 pretty good ball."

22 He went, "Yeah!"

23 You see a lot of funny dispositions in
24 the game. I've seen 'em go up there, and before
25 it was ever called -- the ball would still be out

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1
2 there -- they're gettin' ready to argue with the
3 umpire.

4 MR. R: (Laughing)

5 MR. W: Arguing with the umpire.

6 MR. R: Yeah. I watch the game on
7 T.V. a lot and I go to 'em a lot; I hardly ever
8 seen a strike called on Yogi Berra; but, he don't
9 argue.

10 MR. W: M-hm.

11 MR. R: (Continuing) Hardly ever --
12 that he turns around and argues.

13 MR. W: M-hm. Well, he evidently is
14 not violent or something, 'cause he --

15 MR. R: He's gonna have a lot of
16 arguing to do next season.

17 MR. W: Yeah. Well, Bill Klem --
18 I used to argue in the Coast league, not violently,
19 but I used to turn around, see, on them.

20 The first year I was in the majors,
21 there was something -- I think I was called out
22 on the third there, so I was arguing with the
23 umpire.

24 Bill Klem was at first base, so I got
25 my glove -- I mean, at that time, they were already



1
2 out there, out in the outfield.

3 MR. R: You'd left 'em out there.

4 MR. W: (Continuing) Yeah; but, as
5 I came by -- the throw was out to right field, but
6 I came by first base -- Bill Klem says, "Young
7 fellow," he says, "it looks like you'll be in this
8 league for quite awhile."

9 And he says, "That argument will get
10 you nothing." He says, "I'm just telling you,
11 you'd just as well not argue and you'll get along
12 a lot better."

13 And I thought, "Well, what can I do;
14 I can't change things."

15 Bill Klem was a good friend of mine
16 after that. I was with him -- I fished with him
17 and I hunted with him -- in Miami Beach. I was
18 there a couple of years. And Bill had even been
19 an umpire in Pittsburgh, and he'd come out to my
20 house for dinner.

21 Of course, if it was done quietly,
22 there wasn't anything said about it; but, you
23 wouldn't get anything, 'cause Bill was -- what
24 you say when they bite: "You missed one."

25 He'd say, "I never missed one."



1
2 Then an infield-fly came up, you know,
3 and they switched the decision on him, so he had
4 missed it. He didn't call the infield-fly, and
5 they was arguing. They said it absolutely was, so
6 they reversed the decision on him.

7 So, they were kidding him about it,
8 and while they were kidding him on it, I said,
9 "You say that you never miss one. You missed
10 that one."

11 He says, "I never missed one -- right
12 there!" (Laughing)

13 MR. R: (Laughing)

14 MR. W: (Continuing) And he thought
15 he'd never missed one.

16 But, all the time that I have been
17 playing ball -- whether in the majors or minors --
18 I never did question the honesty of an umpire.

19 MR. R: It's an amazing thing, isn't
20 it?

21 MR. W: It is amazing. You never
22 questioned that if he called you out it's 'cause
23 he didn't like you, or that if he gives you any-
24 thing it's 'cause he liked you. You figured: If
25 he called, it was bad.



1
2 Now, Bill Klem called some of 'em and
3 they said he'd missed 'em. And I knew he'd missed
4 'em, but I figured, "What the heck!"

5 It's like the story that Bill said:

6 The fellow took one right down the
7 middle, and he walked away. And this fellow --
8 Bill gave us his name -- was a terrific kicker
9 about things.

10 So, he walked away, and all at once,
11 he just turned and came right at him.

12 Bill said, "He just came right at me,
13 and he said, 'You missed that one!'"

14 And Bill said, "If I'd of had the bat,
15 I couldn't of missed it." (Laughing)

16 MR. R: (Laughing)

17 MR. W: Then Bill gave us a story
18 about someone, which is an old one. He said
19 that he'd called him out, and the fellow just
20 stood there -- with his bat way-up in the air.

21 And Bill -- he says, "If that bat
22 comes down, it'll cost you 50." (Laughing)

23 MR. R: (Laughing)

24 When you came up as a rookie, did
25 they give you a tough time?



1
2 MR. W: No.

3 MR. R: Did they help you?

4 MR. W: Well, I'd say they helped me.

5 You see, in your career, there's usually one break
6 that you can look for -- that you've had. It's
7 what started you. Almost with anybody, it's the
8 one thing that stands out most.

9 So, I went out to the Coast. And I'm
10 an old country-boy, and I didn't even know, when
11 I got there, that they got a boat going across.

12 Well, my ticket didn't call for no
13 boat trip from Oakland. I didn't know that, from
14 the train, when you come into Oakland, you got on
15 the ferry and went across.

16 Well, that, to me, was a big, big
17 ocean liner.

18 So, anyway, I got there, and I asked
19 them about it. They told me to get a cab to the
20 Washington Hotel and they'd have a room for me,
21 and that they would have instructions and that
22 they was leavin' the next day. So, I went over
23 and did that.

24 Well, we got on the boat; and Willie
25 Kamm and Lew Fonseco and Jimmie O'Connell were

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1
2 there, and they were going up to warm-up and to
3 work-out a little bit. We were two or three
4 weeks ahead of their Spring training, but they
5 just, you know, wanted to run some.

6 Well, after we would get through, they
7 would take some batting practice and field some and
8 throw some. So, I was pitching, and I hurt my
9 arm. It was the first week -- the first game I
10 pitched -- a practice game. Well, I couldn't
11 throw. I throw it mostly underhanded. So, when
12 Willie Kamm -- the three of them stayed out, and
13 everybody went in, I watched.

14 Of course, it all got started when I
15 got on the boat. Kamm, then, of course, was
16 probably 24 or 5, or younger, and I was kind of
17 inquiring around, and I looked at him and said,
18 "Well, do you think you'll make good up here?"
19 And I was thinking, you know, "You don't look it,"
20 you see (laughing). And that was a big joke --
21 about me asking Kamm if he thought he'd make good --
22 you see? (Laughing)

23 MR. R: (Laughing)

24 MR. W: (Continuing) Anyway, I
25 shagged ball and they hit 'em. I shagged 'em



1
2 and I flipped 'em in.

3 MR. R: They sold Kamm to the White
4 Sox for a hundred-thousand, didn't they?

5 MR. W: Yeah; m-hm.

6 MR. R: How much did they sell you for?

7 MR. W: They sold me for a hundred-
8 thousand.

9 MR. R: Boy, that San Francisco club
10 made a lot of money that time.

11 MR. W: But, they showed me the check,
12 and Ryan was supposed to have been thrown in with
13 the deal -- on that one.

14 (Continuing) Well, anyway, I shagged
15 ball for two or three nights, and when you go through
16 an all-day Spring-training, and, then, to stay out
17 an extra 45 minutes -- well, if you're honest,
18 you're young, and, if you go back in, you like to
19 play.

20 So, after about three days, why, I
21 just figured that, well, they'd ask me to hit,
22 'cause they figured I'd quit 'em and -- if I did --
23 they wouldn't have any shagger that tough.

24 So, all at once, they yelled, "Hey,
25 kid, you wanna hit some?"



1
2 "Yeah." So, I came in there, and
3 there was a fellow in right-field, building. A
4 carpenter, I guess. He was building a house;
5 and there was an old fence there, and it was
6 about, oh, say 375, maybe 360 from home plate.

7 Well, he had his back toward us; he
8 was pounding shingles on. So, I hit one, and
9 the hit's high, pretty close to him. And he
10 looks around, you know -- like (indicating).

11 Anyway, first thing you know, I hit
12 one and it darn near hit him, see. So, he just
13 put his hammer down, and sat down there and
14 watched, see.

15 MR. R: (Laughing)

16 MR. W: (Continuing) Of course,
17 they was just lobbin' the ball in there nice --
18 and heck, here you are, swishin' it.

19 So, when we got through practicing,
20 we walked in, and they never said a word to me
21 about it -- "You did well" -- nothing.

22 When we went down to eat that night --
23 well, Doc "Smiller" was the manager. He walked
24 over, and came over to me and said, "Okie, to-
25 morrow, you fool around in the outfield, and just



1
2 toss it in so's you don't hurt your arm; and,
3 you hit, with the regulars." And that was it.

4 MR. R: That was the break.

5 MR. W: That was the break. I thought
6 it was all over, because, if they'd of let me go,
7 I'd already promised my dad I'd come back to school.

8 MR. R: Yeah.

9 MR. W: (Continuing) So, I tried --
10 in that little extra, in my liking to play, in the
11 shagging balls and fielding -- why, just so's they'd
12 notice me.

13 My arm came back, though, when we went
14 to Salt Lake City, finally. Boy, that's hot
15 weather.

16 In about a month, the season opened.
17 Dusty Ross was the manager of the club, and he had
18 already found out I was a little sore in the arm.
19 I had played and pitched some, but I couldn't play
20 very well; you know, I'd lob it in.

21 In Salt Lake, it was hot as heck, and,
22 while I was warming up -- that darn arm -- the heat
23 hit it, and it felt so good. Then, I threw home a
24 couple of times, and, gee whiz, I could just throw
25 it all the way home from the outfield.



1
2 And Dusty -- he was tellin' 'em:

3 "You run on it; every time you hit to Waner, run
4 on it, and keep running."

5 So, I threw three men out in nothing
6 flat. They would run in there, and I'd just take
7 'em. What the heck! You couldn't help but throw
8 'em out, 'cause they just went, when it was murder
9 for them to go.

10 Saw the doctor, and he said, "Waner's
11 arm's all right." And from then on, it didn't
12 bother me at all. I had a good arm, even when I --
13 I guess, I was 50, 55 years old.

14 MR. R: Did Lloyd have a good arm too?

15 MR. W: Yeah.

16 MR. R: Did you two room together?

17 MR. W: Well, we did, first starting
18 out. Then, when a young fellow'd come up, they'd
19 put him with me. That's the way they'd do it.
20 They'd put in a young fellow with an experienced
21 fellow. And, so, we roomed together, I think, part
22 of the first year.

23 MR. R: Did you qualify, by the way,
24 for the pension system?

25 MR. W: No. I was out in '45; that



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started in '47.

MR. R: Boy, that's pretty close,
isn't it?

MR. W: Yeah.

MR. R: You're not that superstitious?

MR. W: No. I had, I'd say, one
superstition. I say "superstition," knowing that
there's not a thing to it. If it gives you con-
fidence in yourself, the confidence to say, "Look,
today's my day," why, it's all right.

Well, if we'd gotta hit, the first time
up, that's when we threw our gloves on the field.
Why, there'd be this dandelion blossoming over there.
I found that if I'd take my glove and throw it over
there -- close to it -- and I'd get a hit, then the
next time, no matter where I was, I'd run over there;
I'd toss it over there and come on back in.

I had put in my glove; now, if I didn't
get a hit, I would throw it over to another place,
and if I got a hit, I'd put it back there again.

Well, that was about the only one that
I went through, but it's really a superstition that
nearly every one of 'em has. None of them say
they really believe in the thing though.



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1
2 The only way I'd say I believe it is:
3 "If it helps you, it's all right." (Laughing)

4 MR. R: What have you got to lose?

5 MR. W: Yeah, what have you got to
6 lose; that's right.

7 Well, there's a lot of happiness and
8 a lot of sadness in it. When I was with Pitts-
9 burgh, and we were fighting for the pennant for
10 so many years -- you know, we was up in there
11 fighting for it --

12 MR. R: Year after year.

13 MR. W: (Continuing) -- and they'd
14 always catch up with us. And it just tears you
15 down when you'd get three or four, five runs
16 ahead, the first part of the game, and BAM --
17 here they come and beat you out.

18 Well, one year -- I guess in '27 we
19 had 'em -- we could put eight men -- eight
20 regulars on the field -- all .300 hitters. And
21 two of the pitchers with the .300 hitters -- they
22 were pinch-hitters; Lucas and Burns.

23 MR. R: Yeah.

24 MR. R: (Continuing) But then, you'd
25 take a fellow -- you'd talk about an infielder --

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1
2 a shortstop or second baseman -- why, he'd hit
3 .280 or .260 -- outfielder -- yeah, that year you
4 didn't hit .300 --

5 Well, we got rid of two fellows that
6 were pretty good ballplayers -- good arms and
7 everything else -- hit over .300. And next year --
8 Linden -- if Linden didn't hit enough -- go buy
9 another one.

10 MR. R: You had "Arkie Vaughn" in there
11 for a long time, didn't you?

12 MR. W: Yeah, "Arkie Vaughn."

13 MR. R: He was a good shortstop.

14 MR. W: Yeah. I thought he was a
15 better shortstop when he went over to Brooklyn.

16 MR. R: Yeah?

17 MR. W: You see, he was awful fast.
18 You take a real fast ball -- the infielder -- if
19 it's too fast, he over-runs the ball. He can't
20 time himself, and you can't make that ball on an
21 average run.

22 Like Eddy Moore -- he was always slow;
23 not as fast as Shore. And "Dutch Brown" was a
24 fast man for sure.

25 We had a fight on with Boston, and



1
2 I was there as an extra outfielder on the bench.
3 We were playing our final game at home, and then
4 we would be swinging West for -- oh, about twenty-
5 some games -- double-headers, double-headers,
6 double-headers.

7 Well, Max West -- he got up and he
8 blooped a little grounder to the pitcher, and,
9 when he came back in, why, they was arguin'.
10 And while he was arguin' with Stengel, I was at
11 the plate, with two strikes on me. They threw
12 one pretty close outside, and I watched that thing
13 right up to the last second. I couldn't take it
14 too close, and I just give it -- that (indicating)--
15 and it hit -- a line-drive. And West was out
16 here (indicating); and West was "Ya-ya-ya'ing,"
17 and it just turned and it hit him -- right there
18 (indicating). And, gee, he didn't come to for
19 an hour. They took him to the hospital.

20 And we're going on the road -- now
21 we have no other outfielder -- they're stuck with
22 me. And I'm old and about broken-down then --
23 stiff as a board (laughing) --

24 MR. R: (Laughing)

25 MR. W: (Continuing) -- and here I've

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1
2 got all those double-headers.

3 So, when they went into Pittsburgh,
4 I was center-fielder. And a big boy they had
5 there -- the first time up -- he hit a double to
6 the opposite field -- right-center -- and I chased
7 that down a mile. And next, was a big first-
8 baseman -- a left-handed hitter -- and he hit one
9 into left-center -- clear to the wall. And they
10 was just hittin' those balls in between, in between,
11 in between.

12 So, finally, they hit a little bloop-
13 fly over second base. I came in on a dive for it,
14 but couldn't quite get it, and the ball -- well,
15 it hit my shoulder, and it went right there (in-
16 dicating).

17 MR. R: (Laughing)

18 MR. W: (Continuing) And I just
19 couldn't get up to get it --

20 MR. R: (Laughing)

21 MR. W: (Continuing) -- but, of
22 course, they were closing in from the other out-
23 fields, and they got that thing.

24 MR. R: (Laughing)

25 MR. W: (Continuing) But, what I'd

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1
2 do is -- the only way I'd -- of course, after the
3 game -- a double-header particularly -- we'd go
4 and get a good steam bath and rub down. I
5 wouldn't be sore, you know, but my leg'd be just
6 as stiff as a board the next morning -- stiff.

7 Well, then I'd walk around easy, and
8 when I'd go out, I'd trot easy, throw it easy,
9 pick-up easy -- till, finally, I'd be limbered up.

10 But then, I was 43 years of age at
11 that time.

12 (Whereupon, at this time, the interview
13 with Paul Waner was concluded.)
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