

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

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INTERVIEW

with

H E I N I E G R O H



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1  
2 MR. R: Tell me, was baseball different  
3 back when you started than it is now? Was it a  
4 very different game?

5 MR. G: Oh, yes. It -- I don't know, it  
6 seems like there's more power than -- not any more  
7 power, but, I mean, they've said that they go for  
8 power.

9 MR. R: Yeah, I know the words.

10 MR. G: And it -- in a way -- I don't know,  
11 it seems to hurt it a little bit. You take the people  
12 that like -- they like to see a little hit-and-run  
13 there, and so forth. That's the way I'd look at it.

14 MR. R: Well --

15 MR. G: The other way, it's just: Pound  
16 away and away they go; if you hit one out -- okay.  
17 They're all going for that long ball, and, in a way --  
18 I don't know, sometimes I think it takes a little  
19 interest away from it. You see, there's nothing  
20 there to -- they hit that ball and it goes out of  
21 the park and they'd yell, and that's it.

22 MR. R: That's the end.

23 MR. G: The men, years ago, that used  
24 to hit and run, of course, they had to hit them out  
25 of the park in those days, but not as often as they do



1  
2 now. Now, they go for the big boy with that  
3 powerhouse. You don't see many hit-and-run  
4 hitters any more.

5 MR. R: No?

6 MR. G: Very few. There may be one  
7 or two.

8 MR. R: Were you a leadoff man or a  
9 second man?

10 MR. G: A second man. You see, I  
11 could hit behind the runner pretty good. That was  
12 my --

13 MR. R: You were a left-handed hitter.

14 MR. G: No; right-handed.

15 MR. R: Right-handed; but you could hit  
16 past first, easy.

17 MR. G: Yes. Yes, I could hit behind  
18 that runner all the time, and it's -- as a rule,  
19 they have a man that can do that. You see, even  
20 if he's a left-hander, they have him behind the runner.

21 MR. R: When did you get -- how did you  
22 get started? You're not a big man, are you? I  
23 mean -- 5-foot-6?

24 MR. G: I'm about that, maybe a little  
25 over; not much more.

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MR. R: You're not a big man --

MR. G: No.

MR. R: (Continuing) -- and most ball-players are pretty big fellows. How'd you ever get started with playing baseball?

MR. G: Well, I was going -- I started to go to the University of Rochester, and while I was playing in practice -- we were practicing then; that was just my first tryout over there -- and along come a scout. And he asked me if I'd like to go out and play ball. Hell, I was only 16 years old then and not yet out of the grade school. And then --

MR. R: You went in for short.

MR. G: Yes, I was a shortstop. I'm originally a shortstopper. Then I moved to second, and I played second; then, third. But that's how I got started over there, and I was only 16, or probably 17.

He asked me if I'd like to go out and play ball. I says, "Well, I believe I will, because, " I said, "I'm taking too much money from the folks in this. I don't want to be grabbing all that spending money all of the time."





1  
2 So, that's how I got in training. They  
3 sent me out to Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

4 MR. R: Professional baseball.

5 MR. G: M-hm; professional ball.

6 MR. R: What did your father and mother  
7 think of this?

8 MR. G: They didn't say. At least, my  
9 dad said, "Well, let him go. He'll be back."

10 MR. R: So?

11 MR. G: I didn't; I stayed. I stayed  
12 out, all right, but I didn't hit much. I had hit --  
13 I don't think I'd even hit much over .200.

14 MR. R: Did you have that bat there?

15 MR. G: No. No, I didn't get that bat  
16 until I joined the Giants. I had the ordinary bat.

17 MR. R: So, if you only hit about .200,  
18 what did you do the next year?

19 MR. G: Well, that second year, I hit  
20 around --

21 MR. R: How come they kept you?

22 MR. G: Well, on my fielding.

23 MR. R: Oh.

24 MR. G: (Continuing) My fielding is  
25 what kept me. And then, the following year, I went



1  
2 over there and I fielded like a house afire, and  
3 I was hitting over .300. That's when the Giants  
4 took me.

5 MR. R: How did you learn to hit in  
6 one year?

7 MR. G: Well, some of the boys come  
8 along and said, "Well, now, hitter, you can't hit  
9 that way," they said; "They'll knock the bat out  
10 of your hand."

11 Well, I said, "Well, how would you  
12 suggest?"

13 Well, then they told me what to do;  
14 they said, "Choke-up a little bit." And they  
15 said, "You can follow it; you can follow that ball  
16 much better, and you've still got -- you haven't  
17 got a lot of power, but you've still got enough  
18 power to drive 'em by 'em." So, I did.

19 MR. R: Did you choke-up, then, with  
20 your hands together --

21 MR. G: Yes.

22 MR. R: (Continuing) -- or did you  
23 separate your hands?

24 MR. G: Well, mostly, on there, I'd  
25 separate it just a little bit. You see, about

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like that (indicating).

MR. R: M-hm.

MR. G: (Continuing) And then, I used to slide it down (indicating).

MR. R: Oh. And McGraw bought you for the Giants the next year.

MR. G: Yep; he bought me from Springfield, Illinois. I hit over .300 there at Springfield, that second year.

MR. R: You were a second baseman there?

MR. G: No; a shortstop.

MR. R: A shortstop, still. When you were a second baseman, you came to the Giants.

MR. G: M-hm. When I come to the Giants; yeah.

MR. R: When did you get to the Giants.

MR. G: In 19 -- let's see -- 19 -- I have to think a little bit here now. 19 -- about 19'9, I think it was.

MR. R: Who was on the team then?

MR. G: Larry Doyle and Arthur "Frondy"; Christy Mathewson; --

MR. R: Snodgrass.

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1  
2 MR. G: (Continuing) Snodgrass was  
3 there; and Josh Devore; --

4 MR. R: And Merkle.

5 MR. G: (Continuing) -- Merkle; and  
6 Chief Spender -- uh, Chief --

7 MR. R: Meyers?

8 MR. G: (Continuing) -- Meyers.

9 MR. R: Yes?

10 MR. G: (Continuing) -- And they had --  
11 Arthur Wilson was a catcher; he was there then.

12 MR. R: That was a pretty good team.

13 MR. G: They were good; they had a lot  
14 of power.

15 MR. R: Yeah.

16 MR. G: When they hit a home run, they  
17 really enjoyed it.

18 MR. R: Yeah.

19 MR. G: But, now, a hit's just to get  
20 the home run, 'cause the folks want to see it.

21 MR. R: Did you stay with the team that  
22 whole year?

23 MR. G: No; I joined them that year,  
24 and then they sent me to Buffalo -- and farmed me  
25 out to the Buffalo club. And I stayed there, I



1  
2 guess, 30 days, and they pulled me back in again;  
3 yeah, then they traded me to Cincinnati after that.

4 MR. R: Yeah.

5 MR. G: See, I went to Buffalo, and then,  
6 the minute I come in, then they traded me to Cin-  
7 cinnati in 19'9.

8 MR. R: How'd you get along with McGraw?

9 MR. G: Very well.

10 MR. R: Did you?

11 MR. G: Yeah.

12 MR. R: You went back to McGraw later  
13 on in your career.

14 MR. G: Yes, and he took me back again.

15 Then, somebody told me, I think it was  
16 Chief Meyers -- he said, "Very seldom that he brings  
17 one of them in when he's sent one out."

18 He said, "He very seldom brings them  
19 back into the same fold again."

20 So, I thought, "That was very nice of  
21 him, to do that."

22 Well, I hit pretty good then, when I  
23 returned.

24 MR. R: A lot of people did not get  
25 along with McGraw, didn't they?



1  
2 MR. G: No, they -- of course, they  
3 probably didn't know him.

4 He was a little rough once in awhile,  
5 and then you used to let it -- just that you'd have  
6 to leave it bounce off your shoulder.

7 Of course, if you get a little hot-  
8 headed, why, then, there on, you're out of luck,  
9 because he really could give it to you.

10 He could give it to you, and -- just  
11 like that -- he'd close off and he wouldn't say  
12 another word.

13 He just might say, "Well, I've talked  
14 my piece out, so forget about it."

15 MR. R: He didn't hold a grudge.

16 MR. G: Never held a grudge against  
17 anybody -- that I know of.

18 MR. R: Was he a lot of fun to play  
19 ball with?

20 MR. G: He was on the -- well, I  
21 enjoyed playing for him.

22 He never alibied; he never second-  
23 guessed.

24 He never second-guessed you. That's  
25 one thing I could say for him.

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MR. R: Yeah.

MR. G: He never alibied. All that he wanted you to do, is what he wanted. And that's one nice thing I've always said about McGraw: He never alibied. He never told newspaper men, or anybody, that he told them something else.

MR. R: He never blamed --

MR. G: He never blamed; he took the blame. If he got out and put a hit-and-run on, and it was a bad play, or something like that, he took the blame, and he said, "That's all right," he said; "We were trying."

MR. R: Who was the manager when you went to Cincinnati?

MR. G: Hank O'Day was there in it, for a little while.

MR. R: The old umpire.

MR. G: M-hm. Yeah, he was there. Then, Charlie Herzog. You see, when Charlie Herzog went over there, I went over there with him.

MR. R: Oh, and he became the manager.

MR. G: He was the manager there.

MR. R: Yeah; and then Mathewson, after him.



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MR. G: Then, Mathewson come in.

MR. R: Heinie, what kind of a guy was Mathewson, 'cause I've heard so much about Christy Mathewson.

MR. G: Well, I don't know how you can explain it, because he was, what we called "Silent Sam," in fun.

He'd go out, he'd go out by himself, and then, he'd come back in, and he'd come in and he'd sit on the bench, and wouldn't say a word. He let you go. He just left you to do it. Like, as if you were on a leash, he'd just cut that leash and let you go and do your own thinking out there. And he did pretty good for 'em.

MR. R: Was he a good manager?

MR. G: Well, he wasn't a bad manager. He never rode anybody; I'll say that for him. He allowed us to use our own judgment a lot of times, same as McGraw did. I think he copied a little after McGraw, because McGraw used to say, "Well, I had something on; I had to change it in a hurry," he said, "I could see that they were doing it to you a lot of times. If we could catch those -- those signs --"



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1  
2 I had those -- I had the signs  
3 on the Yankee club in 1922. I had their signs well  
4 after about the second hitter.

5 MR. R: In the World Series?

6 MR. G: Yeah; in the World Series, I had  
7 the signs. And, just to show you how McGraw was, I  
8 come in and I says -- I says, "Mac," I says, "I got  
9 Miller Huggins' signs."

10 And then he says, "Well, keep it to your-  
11 self."

12 MR. R: Why is that?

13 MR. G: So nobody else could pick it up,  
14 see. That protected me, see. It was the bunt sign,  
15 see. It was the bunt sign, and I caught it pretty  
16 quick. And when I got hold of it and I told McGraw,  
17 he said, "Keep it to yourself. That's just how much  
18 longer you're protecting yourself"; because then I  
19 knew the bunt was on, see, and then I could play  
20 accordingly.

21 MR. R: You were on third then?

22 MR. G: Yeah. I says, "Okay, Mac," and  
23 I just kept quiet. Nobody else knew it.

24 MR. R: Is that the --

25 MR. G: You see, I saw him -- when I saw



1  
2 him do it, see, he was coaching on third, and this  
3 was practically right in the -- I think it was in  
4 about the third inning that I saw him do this here,  
5 and there was a chance for it -- either a hit sign or  
6 a bunt sign. So, when I saw him go up like this  
7 here (indicating), the first time, and he hit and he  
8 didn't bunt --

9 MR. R: Put his hand to his mouth.

10 MR. G: (Continuing) -- so, then, I kept  
11 my eyes open; I looked for others like that at him  
12 again, and the next thing he did, he does it the same --  
13 he does the same thing, and that's when I told McGraw.  
14 But, he didn't tell anybody else, and neither did I.  
15 'Cause it just made it easy for me.. I had all the  
16 plays right in front of me.

17 MR. R: Yeah.

18 MR. G: Never had to worry.

19 MR. R: Is that the year you hit .474?

20 MR. G: Yeah.

21 MR. R: (Continuing) In the World Series?

22 MR. G: Yeah; that was the same year.

23 MR. R: Did you have the pitchers' signs  
24 too?

25 MR. G: No, I didn't have the pitchers'

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1  
2 signs. They had too many good pitchers on their --

3 MR. R: .474 is some World Series' average.

4 MR. G: Yeah. All I -- just got in there,  
5 and I guess I got the breaks with it. Well, I -- I  
6 deserve it, I guess, the way I have -- what I mean is,  
7 without any breaks, I didn't get anything given to me,  
8 you know (laughing).

9 MR. R: It takes luck too.

10 MR. G: Yeah, because you either -- you  
11 usually have to get the breaks --

12 MR. R: You were in five World Series in  
13 a space of about seven or eight years there, weren't  
14 you?

15 MR. G: M-hm; yes.

16 MR. R: It seems like they never had a  
17 World Series, without you being in it on one team or  
18 the other. On three different teams and five  
19 different World Series.

20 MR. G: Yeah.

21 MR. R: And you started off winning them,  
22 and then you started losing.

23 MR. G: Then you start losing it.

24 MR. R: Yeah.

25 MR. G: Well, I only won that one in



1  
2 Chicago, with Cincinnati; and, then, there was a  
3 couple that we took -- in New York.

4 MR. R: Did you -- did you think anything  
5 funny was going on during that one in Chicago in 1919?

6 MR. G: No, no; and, as I still contend,  
7 I don't think there was anything wrong.

8 MR. R: Funny thing, that they made  
9 Chicago such a favorite in that Series, 'cause, as  
10 you go down the lineup, Cincinnati had an awfully  
11 good ball club.

12 MR. G: Yes; we had a good pitching staff  
13 too.

14 MR. R: Yeah, you had a better pitching  
15 staff.

16 MR. G: We had a good one. I had --  
17 had Eller and Sallee and all; and Ray Fisher. They  
18 were all in good condition. And I still always will  
19 say that I never thought there was anything wrong.

20 MR. R: Yeah, you had a great pitching  
21 staff.

22 And, in the outfield, you had  
23 Eddy Roush --

24 MR. G: Eddie Roush and --

25 MR. R: (Continuing) -- you had yourself

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1  
2 at third base; --

3 MR. G: Yes.

4 MR. R: (Continuing) -- you had Jake  
5 Devore, I guess, at first base.

6 MR. G: Yes, Jake Devore was on first;  
7 and, "Morris Raft."

8 MR. R: Kopf at short, I guess.

9 MR. G: And Kopf; yeah, Larry Kopf  
10 was on short.

11 MR. R: It was a good ball club.

12 MR. G: Yeah, we had a good, steady  
13 ball club.

14 MR. R: How was Pat Moran as a manager?

15 MR. G: All right. Pat was all right.

16 MR. R: Of all the managers you've  
17 played for -- well, I guess you'd probably say  
18 McGraw was the best of them all.

19 MR. G: Oh, yes. He had more -- oh,  
20 I don't know -- he had more of everything. He  
21 could call the turns. Unless he would fall down  
22 once in awhile, there's no questions about it. And,  
23 of course, he'd always be out there, looking at  
24 that field; he never looked around

25 MR. R: How did you -- once you got to

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1  
2 the Giants -- develop that bottle bat? How did  
3 that come about?

4 MR. G: Well, how that developed was:  
5 When I first joined the club, they used it, and they  
6 realized that my bat was a big handle. And Mc'Graw  
7 said, "You won't be able to get that bat around."

8 He says, "I want you to have a big bat,  
9 but," he says, "you won't be able to get that  
10 heavy one around. But, what I'd like to have you  
11 do is to get a light" -- "a small-handled bat."

12 So, all right. So I says, "Okay."

13 So, I went down to Spalding's in New  
14 York, and I bought one -- I just bought the one.  
15 And then, I come back, and McGraw paid for it.

16 And he says, "That's the kind I want,  
17 Groh," he said. And I said, "Well," I says,  
18 supposing the handle breaks."

19 "Well," he said, "you can tape it,  
20 until you get another one."

21 So, that's how I got it. And then,  
22 from then on --

23 MR. R: Then, he already had a bat like  
24 that in stock, huh?

25 MR. G: No.

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MR. R: No.

MR. G: No, so I went down to Spalding's, and I went down in the basement and they -- we got together; and then, we'd taken to whittling that bat down until it got in that shape. And then --

MR. R: From then.

MR. G: (Continuing) -- from then on, I used that bat with that shape on it.

MR. R: What about the other, then?

MR. G: They tried to use it, but they couldn't. It's too heavy for them.

MR. R: You thought that up, though; that great big bat --

MR. G: Oh, yeah. Even McGraw told me: He says, "You will" -- "if you're going to stay up in the major league," he said, "young fellow," he said, "you're going to have to have a bigger bat, a bigger butt-end there, because," he said, "they'd knock that little thing out of your hand."

So, then -- I says, "Okay"; and then, I went to the Spalding and had them make them. Then, they used to order them a half-a-dozen at a time for me.

MR. R: What's the weight of that bat?

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MR. G: It comes to around -- about 48 ounces, I think it weighs. That's a heavy bat.

MR. R: Yeah; 48 ounces is a very heavy bat. And that's all of the weight; it's in the barrel there.

MR. G: M-hm.

MR. R: None of it's in the handle.

MR. G: Oh, I hit many a ball right near the handle. They were right near my hand, about in there (indicating), close to it. See, I'd have to handle that bat like that (indicating), and, many a time, when I'd hit one right along in there, the drive was pretty good.

MR. R: Hit it on the wrong side of your hands!

MR. G: Yeah, sure; because it just might burn me.

Swinging this way, see -- the bat would be up here; I'd have about that much range (indicating) -- a lot of times I could feel the battery if it's come in close enough, see.

They used to try to pitch 'em a little bit tight on me all the time. When they'd pitch 'em tight on me, well, then I'd move back a





1  
2 little bit, see. And then, when I'd move back,  
3 why, they'd switch around and they'd come forward  
4 again; so, I had to keep maneuvering; I had to keep  
5 watching those coaches to see what they had on, or  
6 the infielder. You could always tell, by who's  
7 covering second base. If some of these other  
8 players today would look at those things, they  
9 could find out and it would be a picnic for 'em.

10 MR. R: You mean, that if you held the  
11 bat like this -- like this (holding bat) -- that  
12 sometimes you hit a ball on here (indicating)?

13 MR. G: Oh, no; not at this end; no;  
14 up at this end (indicating).

15 MR. R: Right up here (indicating).

16 MR. G: Yeah.

17 MR. R: Yeah. Then, you slid your  
18 hand down.

19 MR. G: Yeah; I'd slide my hand down  
20 a little bit. If it happened to hit there, it  
21 probably was one of those in-shoots, see. What  
22 I mean -- it come in on me a little --

23 MR. R: Yeah.

24 MR. G: (Continuing) -- but it still  
25 would drive off of that.



1  
2 MR. R: Boy, this is a heavy bat,  
3 isn't it (holding bat)?

4 MR. G: M-hm.

5 MR. R: This is a very heavy bat.

6 MR. G: Yeah. I used to take it and  
7 just go up there; and then, if it was inside, I used  
8 to just slide my hand down -- like that (demon-  
9 strating. I'd just get some space in there, and  
10 slide this down.

11 Then, if it goes on the outside, I'd  
12 be like this, and I'd slide my hand over there,  
13 see (demonstrating).

14 MR. R: You didn't swing at the ball  
15 with all your power, did you?

16 MR. G: No.

17 MR. R: You chopped at it.

18 MR. G: I chopped at it. And I had  
19 good leverage on it, because, if it pitched out-  
20 side, why, then I'd have to slide my hand out  
21 there a little bit.

22 MR. R: It's a fascinating bat. Why  
23 doesn't anybody -- why didn't anybody else copy  
24 this bat?

25 MR. G: I don't know (laughing).



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MR. R: You had great success with this.

MR. G: Yeah. They could. They take a --  
a little fellow could do wonders with it.

You -- of course, you couldn't hold and  
you couldn't use that down on the end. You couldn't  
hold it on the end that way, and swing; they'd knock  
it out of your hand.

MR. R: Yeah. But you could hold it  
the way --

MR. G: To hold it that way, choke it  
up a little bit, you could do it.

MR. R: Where did you hold it? Here  
(holding bat)?

MR. G: Up above a bit here (indicating).  
This is right on the beginning here (indicating).

MR. R: Narrow fit (holding bat).

MR. G: Yeah.

MR. R: Do I have both hands together,  
or one hand down here (holding bat)?

MR. G: This one up, and this one this  
way (indicating).

MR. R: All the time, you held it like  
that (holding bat).

MR. G: M-hm.

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MR. R: I'll be darned!

MR. G: Then it could slide down or  
it could slide up.

Well, you see, originally, McGraw  
wanted me to have a large-handled bat -- or a  
large butt on the rear-end there -- and then I  
couldn't get my hand around the handle. So, I  
kept whittling it down and whittling it down, 'til  
it got in that -- stayed in that same shape.

MR. R: Weren't you on the Cincinnati  
ball club at the time there was this double no-  
hitter -- when both pitchers pitched a no-hit  
ball game?

MR. G: Oh, yes; I was with them then.  
That's in Chicago; that happened in Chicago.

MR. R: Yes. That time, both  
pitchers pitched a no-hit ball game.

MR. G: Yes; m-hm.

MR. R: I forget what year it was.  
1917, I think.

MR. G: Yes, it's around in there, be-  
cause Toney was with us. He come in from Chicago  
there. Yeah, they both pitched a no-hit game.  
I was in on that game.

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1  
2 MR. R: Well, did you all know that  
3 both of them were pitching a no-hitter?

4 MR. G: No, we didn't know. We  
5 never paid attention to it. Unless somebody  
6 seen it and -- a lot of times they'd get super-  
7 stitious, you know -- and they don't want to take  
8 it and say anything, until it's all over with. Some  
9 of 'em probably knew that there was a no-hitter  
10 going on, but we got enough to take care of our-  
11 selves out there.

12 MR. R: You all won that ball game.

13 MR. G: Yeah; m-hm.

14 Yeah; 1-to-nothing.

15 MR. R: Yeah. Two pitchers pitched  
16 a no-hit ball game -- in this whole game.

17 I don't think that's ever happened  
18 any other time.

19 MR. G: No, I don't think so either.

20 MR. R: I think you were the leadoff  
21 man for Cincinnati that day.

22 MR. G: Yes.

23 MR. R: Well, as I recollect, you even  
24 got on base a couple of times, but you were walked.

25 MR. G: Might -- I might have walked at

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that time; yes.

MR. R: You ~~didn't~~ get a hit. Nobody got a hit.

MR. G: Yeah, there's a lot of -- a lot of times there, they'd get close -- they used to get close to it, but they didn't hit. They used to maneuver a little bit too much.

See -- I never used to go for that no-hitter, as much as a lot of them would like to today. But, they used to -- they never worried about if they got a couple of hits off of them. They went right along with them.

MR. R: They didn't used to be so conscious of records, I guess.

MR. G: No. Now, you take today. Now, on this light ball, it's pretty lively. You could really tap that one by 'em.

MR. R: Yeah; yeah.

MR. G: I guess that's why some of those big fellows get hits. Well, I hear that they're hitting them out of the park, and that's a common occurrence today. But, the fans want to see it, and that's what the men are giving to 'em.

MR. R: Of course, the fielding is



1  
2 different today, because the glove is so different;  
3 I don't know.

4 MR. G: Yes. I noticed that the first-  
5 baseman's glove looked like a catcher's glove.

6 MR. R: Yeah. What kind of a glove did  
7 you have at third base?

8 MR. G: Just a regular, ordinary third --  
9 uh, glove, was all.

10 MR. R: Does it have a -- have you ever  
11 seen a modern third-baseman's glove?

12 MR. G: What, with the net in between?  
13 Yeah, I've seen those. Then I saw the other one,  
14 the first-baseman's glove; that one looked like he's  
15 got a catcher's glove on.

16 MR. R: You didn't have any kind of a --

17 MR. G: Padding or anything?

18 MR. R: Yeah.

19 MR. G: No.

20 MR. R: Did you cut a hole in the glove?

21 MR. G: No, I never cut a hole in the  
22 glove, but they used to wear through. No, I never  
23 cut. Some of them used to cut a hole in the glove.  
24 Anyway, I never did.

25 MR. R: You were a good fielding-third-



1  
2 baseman. As a matter-of-fact, I think you still  
3 have the record for a National League third baseman.

4 MR. G: Well, I'd have had it better  
5 than that, if it just wasn't for one thing -- one  
6 newspaper man.

7 MR. R: What happened?

8 MR. G: This was over -- that's when I  
9 had that record. I was over there in Boston.

10 There, there was a ball hit down third-  
11 base line and I couldn't quite get it. And they  
12 gave -- Smith was a third baseman and he hit it down  
13 there, and I went way back of third and got it, and  
14 didn't get him. And, naturally, he got a base-hit  
15 off of it.

16 Well, in the next couple of innings, we'd  
17 go along, and, here, I hit one practically further  
18 along the line, back of third, and they gave me an  
19 error. Seems, I went out -- I went after that ball  
20 and they gave me an error on it, where the other man,  
21 Smith, got a hit on the ball. And that, that threw  
22 in that extra error. See what I mean? That gave me  
23 an extra error in there.

24 MR. R: Yeah.

25 MR. G: I would've really had an average.





1  
2 I told the sports writer -- I says,  
3 "Criminy sake," I says, "I went further than Smith  
4 by a yard."

5 And I said, "He didn't get any error  
6 and then you give me an error."

7 "Well, he said, "you go further than  
8 he does."

9 And I said, "Why don't you give me a  
10 little credit for it then?"

11 And then I just laughed it off and  
12 walked away. It wouldn't do me any good to argue  
13 with him.

14 MR. R: Yeah.

15 MR. G: If he'd of just -- I always  
16 had it in my mind. I've said that my record  
17 would've really been a one to beat -- if they  
18 ever beat it.

19 MR. R: It's still not beaten. I  
20 forget what the percentage is, but I think you  
21 only had 7 errors that whole season, and you had  
22 an awful lot of assists.

23 MR. G: M-hm. Then, I went back to  
24 him, and I said to him, "This is right back of  
25 third base, on the line. I fumbled it just a

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little bit."

"Well," he says, "you go further than he does."

Then I says, "Okay, you win." In those days, they never paid any attention to the averages (laughing). They took it as come along.

MR. R: You played third base with Hal Chase playing first base, didn't you?

MR. G: Yes; m-hm.

MR. R: Was that guy as great a fielder as people say he was?

MR. G: Well, I never did see him in his prime, but he really could maneuver with that glove. He could do anything with that glove. He was a wonder, and he was a good hit-and-run man -- very good.

MR. R: But he was that good a fielder?

MR. G: M-hm.

MR. R: You're the guy that was throwing from third to him, so you ought to know.

MR. G: Yeah; you'd have to just pick 'em up and throw 'em, and he could get 'em.

MR. R: He'd dig them out of the dirt --

MR. G: Yep.

MR. R: (Continuing) -- and get 'em high.



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MR. G: Yes, sir! He was all right.

MR. R: You think he saved you any errors when he was at first?

MR. G: Well, I don't know about that. He may have. He used to get -- that glove of his, you know -- he used to swish it up from underneath there, and he'd throw his glove away and go on in. It used to be a picnic for him.

MR. R: He was always mixed up with shady characters though, wasn't he?

MR. G: Yeah; yeah.

MR. R: It's a funny thing.

MR. G: Yeah. That's what they always said, but I never -- I never saw him with them, but I have always heard what he was doing.

We'd -- Eddie and I, we said one time, if we ever catch him doing anything, we said, it would be the last time he'd be doing it. You know what I mean -- if he pulled anything crooked, or anything like that. But he never did pull anything against he or I.

MR. R: You were his manager too, weren't you?

MR. G: Yep; m-hm.

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2 MR. R: Yes. You think a manager is  
3 very important?

4 MR. G: Well, I belong to the -- yes.  
5 You've got to have a manager, and you've got to have  
6 a manager that can study that infield -- that ball  
7 club.

8 See -- if you didn't have any manager  
9 or a captain, or something like that, if he's out  
10 there playing, he can't see those things. When  
11 your manager's on the bench, if he's a live manager,  
12 he'll see everything that's going on.

13 MR. R: Take some of those Yankee teams.  
14 Couldn't anybody have managed them and won the  
15 Pennants?

16 MR. G: Well, they could, under certain  
17 conditions: If they'd allow them to do the same as  
18 the other manager allowed. Probably, this manager, if he  
19 would not let him hit that "pick" ball -- you know,  
20 the good ball -- and he'd want him to hit the one  
21 that he wanted him to hit -- well, by doing that,  
22 he'd be throwing him off, and then they'd both be  
23 throwing each other off.

24 MR. R: Yeah.

25 MR. G: Surely. That's why they have

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1  
2 that hit-and-run; it's to break up that double play.  
3 Then, they could break it up. He probably -- the  
4 man on first probably hesitated, and, when he was  
5 hesitating, why, that play was off. You just had  
6 that second, that's all you had.

7 MR. R: Yes. You played for Donie  
8 Bush too, didn't you?

9 MR. G: Yeah. Donie was a nice boy.  
10 He was a pretty shrewd manager. If he knew you  
11 went along all right and was doing the things in the  
12 way he'd like to have them done, then you never had  
13 a bit of trouble around there. He'd let you go  
14 ahead and play.

15 Then, he'd say, "You know my way of  
16 managing, and everything else," he said. "Now,  
17 don't handicap yourself by looking twice at me; just  
18 go right ahead."

19 Yeah; and he did have success too.

20 MR. R: That was the same team that the  
21 Waner boys were hitting on. They were hitting a  
22 blue steak that year, weren't they?

23 MR. G: Yeah.

24 MR. R: Yeah. I think --

25 MR. G: Well, I didn't have a bat in my



1  
2 hand for some time, but I was in there playing.

3 MR. R: I think Lloyd was a rookie  
4 that year.

5 MR. G: Yeah. Boy, it was a treat to  
6 watch both of them.

7 MR. R: Yeah?

8 MR. G: I nver will forget when Danny  
9 said -- in Pittsburgh -- he said that, "Paul come  
10 out one day" -- Danny was with Brooklyn -- and he  
11 said, "and I'm pitching against Pittsburgh."

12 And he said, "I seen Paul, up at third."  
13 Then he says, "Oh, oh! I gotta watch my step  
14 where I throw these fast ones from now on, for  
15 this game."

16 He said, "Paul was just weaving back  
17 and forth," see, and he was afraid to hit him --  
18 afraid to hit Paul.

19 So, the first time up, Paul hits a  
20 line-drive to left field for two bases. Then,  
21 the next time he comes up -- and he's weaving  
22 around in there -- then he hits another one down to  
23 the left-field line -- "Just a mile a minute," he said.

24 He says, "That fellow," he says, "can  
25 hit with his eyes closed."

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MR. R: Yeah.

MR. G.: (Continuing) And I says,  
"What do you mean, 'with his eyes closed?'"

"Well," he says, "he couldn't stand up  
and he hit two line-drives," he said, "but he  
didn't hit any in, that day over there, because,  
I'm telling you, Heinie, I'd a been likely to have  
gotten my ankle broken that day."

MR. R: That was early in Paul's  
career.

MR. G: Yeah.

MR. R: Was Paul drinking that soon  
in his career?

MR. G: I don't know whether Paul was  
or not. I don't think Paul was, though. It  
might have been a little bit later.

MR. R: So, when you say he was weaving,  
you don't mean 'cause he had too much to drink.

MR. G: He might have. It looked  
like he might have had enough, the way Dazzy --  
that's Dazzy and the way he talks, you know. You  
never can tell whether he's giving you the works  
or whether he's not.

MR. R: Yeah. Paul always drank a lot,



1  
2 I guess; but look, he lasted until he was over 40  
3 years old.

4 MR. G: Yep; yep.

5 MR. R: Some guys can do it and some guys  
6 can't; that's all there is to it.

7 MR. G: M-hm.

8 MR. R: He sure could hit, though.

9 MR. G: He could hit that ball. I think,  
10 a lot of times, I think he put it on -- to fool those  
11 pitchers a little bit (laughing). Because, he couldn't  
12 hit that way, if he was under the intoxicating liquors --  
13 the way he used to hit. Criminy sake, he's always  
14 hit. He had to hit good, is what I mean. He had to,  
15 if he had a good, clear eye.

16 MR. R: Yes.

17 MR. G: (Continuing) And they was no --  
18 what, uh -- I forget whether they called them "bloopers";  
19 you know, those little fly balls? They were all  
20 line-drives.

21 MR. R: Lloyd too.

22 MR. G: And Lloyd, he could run. It  
23 was a treat, though, in seeing them; and I was with  
24 Pittsburgh, you know.

25 MR. R: Yes.





1  
2 MR. G: (Continuing) And it was a treat  
3 to sit on the bench, and when I -- you see, when  
4 Wright was hurt, I was playing third; and then they  
5 put the other infielder in there. And then, when I  
6 got out, I sat on the bench and thought it was just  
7 delightful to watch them play.

8 I'd see the both of them run like a  
9 streak, and hit -- Paul's line-drive; and later, and  
10 then the other one, he would bunt and run; and Lloyd,  
11 he'd be there, and they were running around --

12 Yes sir, that was -- that was passing  
13 time away (laughing).

14 MR. R: Yeah; yeah.

15 MR. G: (Continuing) The way they could  
16 do it.

17 MR. R: Yeah. You played on some great  
18 teams.

19 MR. G: M-hm.

20 MR. R: Weren't you --

21 MR. G: And all regular fellows too, for  
22 some reason.

23 MR. R: Yes?

24 MR. G: Yes.

25 MR. R: You were the regular third baseman



1  
2 on the Giants, weren't you, in 1924, when you won  
3 the Pennant?

4 MR. G: Yeah.

5 MR. R: And then, I guess -- I don't know --  
6 you got hurt, and "Lindstrom" took your place --

7 MR. G: Yeah, "Lindstrom."

8 MR. R: (Continuing) -- in the World  
9 Series?

10 MR. G: Yeah, "Lindstrom" come in; yeah.

11 MR. R: What happened to you?

12 MR. G: I got -- in my knee -- hurt in  
13 my knee. See, I hurt it before that time, and then  
14 it come out again. And then, that's when I had to  
15 get out of there.

16 MR. R: That's the Series that the ball  
17 bounced over "Lindstrom's" head.

18 MR. G: Yeah; yeah.

19 MR. R: It would have been bouncing over  
20 your head, if you hadn't hurt your knee; right?

21 MR. G: Well, if I would've had done the  
22 same thing as -- he backed up, and that's what beat  
23 him. You see, he backed up on the play -- on the  
24 ball; and, when he backed up, it bounced over his  
25 head. Then, it was too late.



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2 MR. R: It happened twice in that game.

3 MR. G: M-hm.

4 MR. R: Would you have played those  
5 balls the same way?

6 MR. G: Well, it's just a question now,  
7 whether I would've played it or not. I would  
8 imagine I would. I very seldom allowed anything  
9 to play me. Even if I had to chest 'em, I'd get in  
10 front of 'em, 'cause that's what McGraw said:

11 "Get in front of those balls," he said.  
12 "You won't get hurt."

13 He said, "You gotta chest there." Then  
14 he said, "You -- young fellow -- watch the way  
15 Chesty uses it."

16 They called me "Chesty." That's what  
17 they used to call me (laughing), 'cause I was  
18 chesting the ball all the time.

19 If I had a pretty good arm, then I'd  
20 just let him hit me in the chest; but if they hit  
21 themselves there, then I'd have to pick 'em up and  
22 let 'em go.

23 It's funny though -- when you play one  
24 position like that -- when you get used to it --  
25 why, you can just go in there and it's just like

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2 sittin' in a rocking chair -- just comes autom-  
3 atically, I think.

4 MR. R: Yeah, if you do it every day.

5 MR. G: But the only thing is that the  
6 youngsters today, they don't follow the ball. They  
7 should play the ball more than a lot of the balls  
8 play them.

9 MR. R: Well, Lindstrom was only 18 years  
10 old then, wasn't he?

11 MR. G: Yeah.

12 MR. R: He was a real kid. It was his  
13 first year and he was just a kid. And the first  
14 time I think it happened it was about the eighth  
15 inning. Washington tied the score when the ball  
16 bounced over Lindstrom's head.

17 Then, in the twelfth inning, the ball  
18 bounced over again, and I guess --

19 MR. G: Yes, it was all over.

20 MR. R: (Continuing) -- yeah -- and  
21 Muddy Ruel scored that run.

22 MR. R: Well, do you think there's some  
23 chance that if Lindstrom had played the ball, that  
24 he might have been able to --

25 MR. G: Yeah, that's the way they all

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1  
2 said it. He backed up. When he backed up, it  
3 was gone. Sure, that could happen to anybody, see  
4 what I mean. You know, like that, it could've  
5 happened to anybody at the time. But he didn't  
6 know it was going to hit something and bounce over  
7 his head, or he'd of -- he was just playing it.

8 And that's why I say: Never allow a  
9 ball to play you. That ball plays you, then 9  
10 out of 10 times, you're apt to kick it. And when  
11 you haven't got control, you haven't got control.  
12 In other words, you haven't got control over that  
13 ball then.

14 See, if you run in and pick it up right  
15 away, you can pick that ball up and throw it and  
16 have something behind it. But, if you run in and  
17 stop, then pick it up, you've got a different angle  
18 again.

19 MR. R: Yeah. Did you have a good time  
20 playing baseball?

21 MR. G: Yeah. Yeah, we always had a  
22 good time. We always got in early. Got up --  
23 not too early, but we got up early enough.

24 MR. R: It was a good life.

25 MR. G: Yeah. It was a good life.

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2 Lots of good people, and they wouldn't say any-  
3 thing to you, unless you'd jump back at 'em. If  
4 you said something to them, then the fans would  
5 jump on it. But, outside of that, we never had  
6 a bit of trouble.

7 Of course, I never will forget -- and  
8 I never mentioned it to anybody; I didn't want to  
9 mention it to anybody at all -- it was in Chicago,  
10 and right in line with third base, there was two  
11 couples, and they were giving me a ride. I'd  
12 just walk right by 'em, and right at 'em, and then  
13 I'd turn to the left, and, boy, were they giving  
14 it to me.

15 So, I said to myself, "Oh, oh! I'll  
16 give it to 'em this next inning."

17 So I got over there when the next  
18 inning come in, I walked right down to first, their  
19 line, right straight toward them -- right towards  
20 their box, see.

21 And I never will forget (laughing), and  
22 I just laughed a little bit: "Well, I said, "you  
23 know one thing?" I said, "When I was a little boy,  
24 my mother told me not to pick my nose and eat it,"  
25 and I kept right on going.

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MR. R: (Laughing)

MR. G: (Continuing) And they never said a word, from then on; and they even laughed about it.

MR. R: (Laughing)

MR. G: No -- I didn't say "eat it"; I said, "in front of public."

Yeah, and they never said a word. From that time on, they kept quiet.

Yes, they never -- "My mother told me never to pick my nose in public." And then I just kept right on going and they never said a word.

MR. R: (Laughing)

MR. G: Of course, some of them -- some of the ballplayers, I guess, they used to tell me, "You might cuss some of those out in those bleachers." That wouldn't draw.

MR. R: Did you -- you were aware of the fans, whether they were for you or against you?

MR. G: No; as a rule, we never knew there was anybody out there.

Of course, if you were a ballplayer that wanted to be out in front of the public -- you know what I mean; that wanted to be "I'm this," and that,"



1  
2 and so forth -- well, you can get 'em that way.

3 You can really get under their skin plenty.

4 Yeah, we never had a bit of trouble when  
5 I played.

6 MR. R: You played on that Giant team  
7 with George Kelly --

8 MR. G: Yeah; and Frisch.

9 MR. R: (Continuing) -- and Frankie  
10 Frisch.

11 MR. G: Yeah; and Bancroft --

12 MR. R: Bancroft.

13 MR. G: (Continuing) -- and Jackson.

14 MR. R: Yeah? Oh, you were there  
15 when Jackson was there, huh?

16 MR. G: Yes.

17 MR. R: Hubbell there yet?

18 MR. G: Yeah, Hubbell was there.

19 Yeah; we had a pretty good club there.  
20 I was scouting more or less, when I got away from  
21 there.

22 See, McGraw wanted to put me over in  
23 Jersey; wanted me to take that Jersey City club.

24 MR. R: Manage it?

25 MR. G: Yeah. And then that fell

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1  
2 through over there.

3 MR. R: What did you do after you  
4 retired?

5 MR. G: I went scouting.

6 MR. R: For who?

7 MR. G: I was scouting for Philly, in  
8 the Philadelphia club.

9 MR. R: Did you do any managing?

10 MR. G: Oh -- yeah; oh, when I left  
11 the majors -- yeah -- I managed. I managed the  
12 Hartford club. Let's see; that's the Hartford  
13 club, and I managed one in Ohio. Up at Canton,  
14 Ohio. I managed Canton, Ohio.

15 MR. R: Did you like that?

16 MR. G: Yeah; that's nice work. Of  
17 course, I was independent though. My club was  
18 independent. See, I owned the club in -- what  
19 was that again? Canton. Yeah. I owned the  
20 club in Canton.

21 MR. R: Oh, you were the owner and  
22 manager.

23 MR. G: Yeah. See, I was in there  
24 with the president of a bank up in Rochester --  
25 or a vice-president of a bank. We were going



1  
2 along in pretty good shape, until the Yankees  
3 come in and they offered something for them; and  
4 then, that's when we let go of it.

5 MR. R: Sold out.

6 MR. G: I was working, more or less,  
7 for this banker in Rochester. He had most of the  
8 money in there, and I knew, that eventually, that  
9 it was just a question of time that they were going  
10 to take the club over.

11 Half the time, we'd go up to the bank  
12 and there wouldn't be any money in the bank; I'd  
13 have to put it in the bag (laughing).

14 MR. R: (Laughing)

15 MR. G: (Continuing) The President  
16 said, "Well, we'll keep that man from Rochester,  
17 who's puttin' his hands in here every once in awhile."  
18 He says, "We'll take care of you."

19 So, we used to put it in that night  
20 box; and then, we used to take our checks and cash  
21 'em out of that bag, see. Then the Yankees come  
22 along and took it over.

23 Those were the days!

24 MR. R: You saw a lot of good ball  
25 players.



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MR. G: M-hm.

MR. R: Who would you say is the best one you ever saw?

MR. G: Well, I don't know. There have been a lot of good ones -- and a lot of them since.

MR. R: Who was the best one you ever played with or against?

MR. G: Well, Mel Ott was a good ball player; and Eddie Roush, outfielder. And with infielders, Dave Bancroft was a good player at that shortstop.

Of course, I couldn't tell you anything about the American League, 'cause I never was over in there.

MR. R: Yeah. You saw Ruth in the World Series though, didn't you?

MR. G: Yes.

MR. R: In fact, I guess you saw him in one World Series where he hit three home runs. I forget what year that was.

MR. G: I think that might've been -- I don't know what year that was.

MR. R: '23, I think.

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1  
2 MR. G: I know he never said anything,  
3 though. He was always big. He was a good man  
4 to have around, I guess.

5 Of course, we never got in contact  
6 with him, but he slid into me at third base --  
7 during that World Series -- and boy, he like-to  
8 knock me out of there.

9 See, I had a bad knee there, at the  
10 time, and they was trying to get me out of there,  
11 but I don't think that Babe would've ruined my  
12 knee or anything like that.

13 He gave me a shoulder. He didn't  
14 slide-in, but he gave me the shoulder though. He  
15 jarred me up a little, but, outside of that out,  
16 he was all right.

17 Of course, I didn't have to say anything  
18 at all about him bumping me like that; the fans  
19 got on 'em (laughing). He set 'em hisself.

20 MR. R: Did he bump you going past the  
21 bag or sliding into the bag?

22 MR. G: Sliding in. I told him, I  
23 says, "That was your line," I says. "If you get  
24 in my line, I'm going to push you out" (laughing).

25 MR. R: What did he say?



1  
2 MR. G: He said, "Well," he says, "you  
3 know we both" -- he says, "Kid," he says, "you know,"  
4 he says, "we both have part of that line."

5 And I says, "All right. You take your  
6 side and I'll take mine."

7 So, we didn't have many plays there at  
8 all -- on those occasions like that.

9 MR. R: Seems like he was a friendly  
10 person though.

11 MR. G: Yeah; they say he was "all  
12 right."

13 Of course, a good ball player will  
14 never carry the grudge off of the field. Never!  
15 The only ones where you'll find that, is you'll  
16 find one of those mediocres that'll come up and  
17 he'll start raising the Dickens some place, saying  
18 about what he did "this afternoon." And the other  
19 ball players won't even say a word. They cut out.

20 Soon as that gate's closed out there,  
21 it's all over. Another day.

22 Of course, if you didn't, you'd be  
23 battling all the time.

24 MR. R: Yeah. Also, I guess, if you  
25 get beat, you gotta forget about it and go back the

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1  
2 next day.

3 MR. G: Yes.

4 MR. R: You can't worry about it all  
5 night long.

6 How'd you feel the first time you won  
7 a pennant? I guess that was -- when was that?  
8 1919, huh?

9 MR. G: No, that was 1911.

10 MR. R: Wasn't it --

11 MR. G: No; 1911 was when I was in  
12 New York. No. We were in -- I was in New York  
13 at that time -- the first one.

14 MR. R: How'd you feel when you were --  
15 the first time -- a pennant winner.

16 MR. G: I'll tell you, it just scares  
17 you to death for a certain time. You know what  
18 I mean; it seems like it just stops the flow of  
19 your blood; you're just cold. And then, after  
20 you field that first ball, it's just another game.

21 MR. R: On a World Series.

22 MR. G: M-hm; just another game.

23 Folks used to say, "Well, how do you  
24 feel?"

25 "Well," I'd say, "I'll let you know



1  
2 after I handle that first ball."

3 After I handled that first ball, then  
4 they're gone.

5 MR. R: Was that true on every World  
6 Series you played in?

7 MR. G: Yes; every one. It's a  
8 terrific strain on you.

9 Yeah; every time. They'd say, "Well,  
10 how do you feel?"

11 I'd say, "I'll let you know after I  
12 catch that first one" (laughing).

13 That's when they have a bad day is  
14 when they kick that first. If they kick the  
15 first one -- boy -- then you'd have it pretty  
16 tough.

17 MR. R: Laid it on?

18 MR. G: Yeah; upstairs. See, they're  
19 afraid. There's just a little something, up there --  
20 and I don't think they're afraid, but, there's just  
21 a little something, that stops 'em.

22 MR. R: Yeah. Were you surprised  
23 when you became a big leaguer? Did this sur-  
24 prise you -- that you actually were a big-league  
25 ball player?

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1  
2 MR. G: I never paid any attention  
3 to it. It just -- well, it was according to the  
4 ball game I was in. Like, you see, when I went  
5 into Buffalo, it was right next door anyway, as  
6 far as that's concerned.

7 MR. R: When you finally got to be on  
8 the Giants, were you so surprised that you were a  
9 big-league ball player?

10 MR. G: Well, I don't know as I was  
11 surprised or not, but I know I was tickled to  
12 death when I got on there (Laughing).

13 MR. R: (Laughing)

14 You figured you'd stick, too?

15 MR. G: Yep. I'll say one thing for  
16 the -- most of the older ball players, in those  
17 days -- I don't know how they are today -- they'd  
18 pull for a youngster to get in there and do some-  
19 thing.

20 MR. R: Is that right?

21 MR. G: Seems like they'd always say:  
22 "Come on, kid; do your duty now." Never jumped  
23 on 'em at all.

24 Like, all those old-time pitchers in  
25 New York -- when I was there -- they never jumped

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1  
2 on me. If I made an error, or anything like that,  
3 they never jumped on me or anything.

4 MR. R: I always had heard, that in the  
5 old days, that the rookies had a tough time from  
6 the veterans that were on the ball club.

7 MR. G: No.

8 MR. R: They didn't --

9 MR. G: Although -- well, there was  
10 probably one or two that had a grudge against  
11 them or something.

12 MR. R: But mostly, they didn't give  
13 you a tough time?

14 MR. G: No. They used to kid you a  
15 lot, but -- you know what I mean? They weren't  
16 really rough.

17 MR. R: They actually helped you, you  
18 figure.

19 MR. G: Yeah. They helped you; and  
20 then they built you up that way.

21 Of course, if you were afraid of them  
22 sliding in, then you might just as well get out  
23 of there.

24 MR. R: Who'd you room with on the  
25 Giants?

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1  
2 MR. G: I roomed with Billy Southworth,  
3 the first time; and I roomed with Frisch. That  
4 Frankie -- now, he was a dandy!

5 MR. R: Yeah, he sure was. He lives  
6 up in Rhode Island now.

7 MR. G: He moved, didn't he?

8 MR. R: Yes.

9 MR. G: Yes, Frankie and I roomed to-  
10 gether; and then there was -- I forget who I had  
11 when I first joined 'em. They generally put a  
12 young fellow in with the old fellows in those days.

13 MR. R: Who'd you room with in Cin-  
14 cinnati most of the time?

15 MR. G: Eddy; Eddy Roush.

16 MR. R: Oh, did you!

17 MR. G: Yeah.

18 MR. R: Boy! Roush and Groh in the  
19 same room, huh?

20 MR. G: Yep.

21 MR. R: If they could've got that room  
22 out of the way -- (laughing)

23 MR. G: Yeah (laughing). If they'd of  
24 gotten it out of the way, they'd of been all right.

25 MR. R: What a dangerous room.

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1  
2 MR. G: Yeah; Eddy used to just come  
3 up from nowhere. What I mean is -- you know -- when  
4 he's out there playing. He used to take care of  
5 the whole outfield sometimes (laughing).

6 Even when they packed it on him, Eddy  
7 used to pretty-near check all those balls.

8 MR. R: Did you feel bad when you  
9 couldn't play any more every day?

10 MR. G: No; no, I never did. Of  
11 course, I missed it for awhile. But I didn't, at  
12 first, when I got to manage.

13 See, when you go out and manage a  
14 little bit -- even if you get away -- you're still  
15 with 'em. It never bothered me any.

16 MR. R: You were about 38, 39, or so,  
17 weren't you?

18 MR. G: Yeah.

19 MR. R: You'd been there a long time.

20 MR. G: Yeah.

21 MR. R: I guess it's not so easy any  
22 more at your age.

23 MR. G: No; no, that speed is catching  
24 up with you.

25 Well, we had a lot of young fellows



1  
2 on that Cincinnati club that stayed there a long  
3 time.

4 Pat Eller stayed there a long time.

5 MR. R: Sallee.

6 MR. G: (Continuing) And Sallee and  
7 Larry Kopf. There was a lot of 'em. And Luke.

8 MR. R: He was there quite awhile,  
9 wasn't he?

10 MR. G: On the ball team there; yeah.

11 MR. R: He turned into a relief pitcher  
12 later on, didn't he?

13 MR. G: Yeah.

14 MR. R: They didn't have relief pitchers  
15 when you started out, did they? Specializing.

16 MR. G: No, no. They didn't special-  
17 ize like they do today. They only had their  
18 regular ones down there.

19 Before, you used to have to see one,  
20 running down there, and it's: "There he goes  
21 again!" (laughing)

22 MR. R: Of all the pitchers you ever  
23 faced, who do you figure gave you the most trouble?

24 MR. G: Well, Vance would be one --  
25 Dazzy Vance -- 'cause he had that curve ball and he



1  
2 was pretty fast.

3 MR. R: You had to play in the day  
4 when they had emery balls, spitballs, shine balls?

5 MR. G: Yeah; we had some in those  
6 days. Eller had a shine ball. He had a good one.  
7 Pat Eller used to rough 'em up; he used to have a  
8 file on his belt.

9 MR. R: (Laughing) And the umpire  
10 didn't throw those out of the game; did he?

11 MR. G: No. He wouldn't catch 'em  
12 half of the time.

13 MR. R: There's no incidents that  
14 really stand out in your mind as really something  
15 special -- like any particular World Series game,  
16 or any particular regular league game?

17 MR. G: Well, the only thing that stands  
18 out would be that -- in '22, when I hit that .474,  
19 that stands out pretty good.

20 MR. R: Yeah.

21 MR. G: (Continuing) And I still-- I  
22 carry that as a license plate, ever since.

23 MR. R: Oh, have you?

24 MR. G: Yeah; I've carried that, ever  
25 since then. I've carried it in New York State,

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1  
2 Ohio, Pennsylvania --

3 MR. R: .474.

4 MR. G: Yep; .474.

5 They used to -- friends of mine, when  
6 they used to go touring, they used to keep their  
7 eye open. Or, a cousin that arrives from Wheeling,  
8 he used to go West, see; and, when I was scouting,  
9 he used to look for that plate coming along the  
10 road. That's when they had the World's Fair out  
11 there -- down there in Texas.

12 He said he was going to -- he kept his  
13 eye on the road, just in case we come by while he was  
14 there. That was my route, going across.

15 MR. R: You were always a good hitter.

16 MR. G: Well, that's what stood out  
17 in my mind. If I thought about anything, it's that I  
18 hit .474 in the World Series.

19 MR. R: You almost won the batting  
20 title, I think. It was 1919, wasn't it?

21 MR. G: Yeah; yeah, that year.

22 MR. R: Or '18 -- I don't remember  
23 which. But it was the year Eddy Roush won it  
24 with a .319.

25 MR. G: .319, yeah.

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1  
2 MR. R: And you got awful close to  
3 that. I think you were .310, or something like  
4 that.

5 In fact, you were leading the league  
6 most of the season, I think.

7 MR. G: Yeah; up until about the last  
8 10 days, I guess.

9 MR. R: You got tired.

10 MR. G: Yeah; I got tired (laughing).

11 MR. R: You never batted in the big  
12 leagues, except with that bottle bat, did you?

13 MR. G: That's all.

14 MR. R: What would you have done, if  
15 someday that bat thing didn't arrive -- and it  
16 didn't get there and you had to have another one.

17 MR. G: Well, I'd use one of those  
18 other ones, those long ones with the big end on  
19 there. To save time, I'd have to use one of  
20 those.

21 MR. R: But you never had to do that.

22 MR. G: No; always had enough there --  
23 the bats there.

24 Like, at Spalding's, they used to take  
25 me down in the basement -- in Cincinnati -- and I

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1  
2 used to -- I'd say, "Now this is the way I want  
3 this thing made on it."

4 He says, "Well, we can't get that  
5 size wood."

6 "Well," I said, "make it as close as  
7 you can."

8 We'd be down there for an hour-and-a-  
9 half in the morning, before I go to the park.

10 MR. R: Did you used to take care of  
11 that bat over there, after?

12 MR. G: Yeah; m-hm.

13 MR. R: What did you do to it?

14 MR. G: I'd just put a little -- uh,  
15 not wax, but I used to put a little paint on it --  
16 well, not paint, but --

17 MR. R: Bone it?

18 MR. G: Yeah; I used to bone it quite  
19 a bit. You see, you have to keep that water on  
20 it; otherwise, it gets splits, it keeps chippin'.

21 MR. R: How many of them used to break  
22 on you in a season?

23 MR. G: Oh, I don't believe I broke  
24 over one or two a year.

25 MR. R: Really!





1  
2 MR. G: Well, see, I'm up on top, where  
3 it don't break, see.

4 The reason why those bats break, is  
5 because it hits on the end; it hits on the end, and  
6 splits it.

7 MR. R: Yeah.

8 MR. G: (Continuing) But mine never  
9 did though.

10 MR. R: Did you always tape your bat  
11 that way -- half-way up?

12 MR. G: Yep. Yep, m-hm.

13 MR. R: You taped it yourself?

14 MR. G: Yeah. Yeah, I always taped  
15 it that way, so I could get my hand down there.  
16 Then, that gives you a little point to where you're  
17 always sliding your hand down.

18 See, I didn't never slid the left one;  
19 I always slid the right one down.

20 (Whereupon, at this time, the interview  
21 was completed.)  
22  
23  
24  
25

