

Interview With

JIMMY AUSTIN

Q You started off in 1909. That was a long time ago.

A Huh?

Q You started off a long time ago, in 1909.

A Yeah, with the Yankees. And I played five years in the minor leagues before that. I was three years with Dayton, Ohio, in the Central League. That's up in Dayton, Terre Haute, Indiana, Fort Wayne, South Bend, and Wheeling, West Virginia, and Grand Rapids, Michigan and, yeah, that was a good --

Q Started there in --

A Oh, that was a good league. And do you know who we had on our team?

Q Who?

A Bob Bescher.

Q He was fast.

A Tony Bush.

Q Yeah.

A Doak Caster - do you remember him? And old Ed McKeen was our manager. He was the old second baseman with the Cleveland club years before.

Q Was Bob Bescher really fast in those days?

A Oh, yeah, he was a -- yeah, he was a -- you know, I never saw anybody yet -- you know, Mat Carrier -- I never saw too much of Mat -- he was always in the International League, and I was always in the American League, and but Bob Bescher, of course, I played with him. I never saw anybody in my life could get a lead off from first base like Bescher and hardly ever get caught, you know, he just had that knack, he was just that way.

Q And he was fast.

A Oh, yeah, Bob was fast, and he was a big man. He was just about as big as you. Big man. And I think Bob's dead now, but Tony Busch lives in Indianapolis. I think he's got stock in that Indianapolis club.

Q I think he's the president of it.

A Yeah. Well, I had the surprise of my life in December. You know, they had the baseball meeting down San Diego, and so one day the phone rang and my wife answered, and "It's for you, Jim," she says, so I went to the phone, and the guy says with a rough old voice, he says, "Are you going to be home tomorrow?" I says, "Yeah, I'm going to be home tomorrow." He says, "Well, I expect to be there around noontime." I says, "Who is this?" "Branch Rickey," he says. Branch Rickey.

Q Yeah.

A ~~AM~~ And I'll tell you who brought him up here. George Cutchaw.

You head of him.

Q Cutchaw?

A Yeah, he used to be with Brooklyn. Then he went to Detroit where I met him. He played at Detroit a few, couple of years, and he lives at, uh -- oh, what's that place down there? Another resort down further. I'll tell you in a minute. Anyway, he brought him up, and oh, we had baseball here for four hours. Old Branch, he was going up to L. A. He had a speaking date that night, then he went on to St. Louis. Said he was coming out again, I think late in April.

Q He was your manager for a while?

A Yeah, and he made me his Sunday manager. See, he never went into the ball park.

Q On Sunday.

A Not Sundays. Never.

Q I didn't know that.

A Yeah, his father was a preacher, or something, and his mother was church people, you know, and he promised them he'd never go near it on Sunday. So, he joined us as manager of the Browns in 1913. We were the first club that ever went into Florida to train. He took us to St. Petersburg.

Q And you managed on Sundays?

A I managed on Sundays.

Q I'll be darned.

A Yeah.

Q Isn't that something.

A Funny thing. Oh, yeah, I -- all the time he was with the Browns. And then, of course, he went over to the Cardinals. See, when Mr. Ball bought the -- he had the Federal League club. When he bought the Browns, he brought over his whole club, manager and all, which was Feeler Jones --

Q Sure, Feeler Jones.

A -- and Branch had a two-year contract to manage the Browns, and so Branch says, "Well, if you don't want me to manage the Browns, I'll go somewhere else." And they took it to court.

Q They say Branch Rickey was not a very good manager. Is that right?

A Oh, he was a pretty good manager. Not the best, maybe, but he was good. Well, anyway, I want to tell you about that. Mr. Ball said, "Branch, we want you to take over the . . ." And Branch says, "No, I've got a contract to be field manager of the ball club on the field, and that's what I'm going to do." He says, "Well, I've got a manager, Feeler Jones. I brought him over." And we went south that spring with 65 ball players. Ha. You never saw such a -- you know, both the Federal League club and our club, and we all had to battle for our jobs.

Q You had two of everything?

A Yeah - three of some things. I had to battle Charlie Deal - remember Charlie Deal?

Q Yeah, sure, sure.

A Third baseman. Well, Charlie and I -- he was a better hitter than I --

Q Charlie, he's still alive.

A Oh, he's up in Pasadena. I see him every now and then, or I did. I haven't seen him lately, but I have seen him, but anyway, Charlie and I battled it out in practice in the spring, you know, in our training . . . and I'll admit, Charlie was a better hitter than I, but he wasn't as fast as I, and he . . . but anyway. . . he got to worrying, see, so one day Feeler says to me -- Feeler says, "Jim, you get in there and play third tomorrow. Let me see what you can do." So, I go in at third base, never got me out. Got to going good, you know. Well, the next week, they sent Charlie Deal to Kansas City, the American Association, so that's the way it went on then. We had one good man out of that Federal League club, though, young Tobin.

Q Johnny Tobin.

A Yeah. Well, now, you asked the difference in this league -- baseball today and what it was in those days. Well, of course, we all know one thing. The spitball had a lot to do with it. And

another thing is, when Babe started to hit those homeruns, and they made an outfielder out of him -- I batted against him when he came to Boston as a pitcher, lefthand pitcher. And when Babe started to hit those homeruns, they said, well, we can't afford to keep him out there, we gotta win that game . . . He . . . the parks everywhere.

Q He sure did.

A And he hit them homeruns, and so . . . the fans wanted homeruns, so they made the ball a little more lively. Since then, they made it still livelier. Look at the homerun hitters of today -- well, we used to have homerun Baker -- about '14.

Q Yeah.

A Gabby Covat who was our judge, by the way, until this last year, he died. You know Gabby?

Q Yeah.

A You've heard of him?

Q Sure.

A He run the Philadelphia club there, and he was with them for a long time. Well, he was the homerun slugger with the National League for about four years. The most he ever had -- I think he had 24 one year, but then he went -- that was '13 and '12, around there -- that's one reason the game is a little different today.

Q Yeah, it's a lot different.

A They won't sacrifice today until maybe the last two or three inning, if they need a run. In other words, from the start to the finish, they slug that ball.

Q You had a guy named Ken Williams on your team.

A Oh, yeah, well he died. He lived at . . .

Q He was quite a hitter.

A Oh, yeah, good hitter. Yeah, he was a good hitter.

Q In fact, that St. Louis club, you were on that a long time --

A Oh, in '32, we lost the pennant by one game, to the Yankees -- 1922 we lost the pennant by one lousy game.

Q Did you lose it on the last day of the season?

A No. We lost in the last series, though, in the last series. You see, they came into St. Louis, I think for three games.

Q The Yankees?

A Yeah, and . . . and finally, they got two . . . they got ahead of us and they beat us that day . . . but now, I'll tell you about Tobin. Great man at that bat. He could drive. I never saw anybody yet could <sup>drag</sup>drive as good as Tobin. He could bunt. He was fast, you know, he'd beat 'em out, and that's what we had to do in those days. I done that. I'd ride and bunt a lot, because I was -- I was only a mediocre hitter -- my lifetime average was about -- around 250. This was all right in those days for an infielder.

Q You were a good fielder.

A And, not only that -- yes, that helped me out, my fielding, my throwing, and I was fast. In Omaha, I -- we won the pennant in Omaha, and by gorry, you know, they sold me -- just to show you what they used to do -- Bill Roark - they called him . . . there in Omaha. So we went down -- I think we went down to Wichita or somewhere -- and he says, "Jim, I want you to do something for me." I says, "Well, I'll try to do anything you want me to do. What is it?" "Turn around and hit lefthanded against a righthanded pitcher," he says, "With your speed, you can drag and bunt and better your average maybe twenty points or more, and if you do that," he says, "I'll sell you before the year's out." So --

Q Had you ever hit lefthanded before?

A No. So, anyway, that spring he sent me the contract - he give me a \$300 raise. You know, in them days, money wasn't -- of course, it went further, you know, but we didn't get as much money as they get nowadays, and I says, "Oh, Bill, after the year I've had?" I thought I was worth at least a \$600 raise, see. And he says, "Well, Jim, you're worth it, but I can't give it to you." "You know," he says, "we had that pennant money left, and I've got to give everybody a little bit more, you know, so I can't give you any more. That's the best I can do." "Well," I said, "I'll tell



you what I'll do, Bill. You write down the bottom of the contract that you'll give me \$600 - give me that extra \$300 - if I'm sold or drafted." See? He says, "Sure, I'll do that." Well, he wrote it in the contract. Well, the last series of the year, we had to go to Denver and Pueblo. They were in the Western League. And, so I took my wife along. She's never been to Denver, took her for the last trip, so we were in the diner, eating dinner, and he stopped by as he went by, he had a table there. He says, "Jim, after you're through dinner, after a while, come to my berth, will you, I want to talk to you." And Jesus, what did he do? He bought up all the bouquets on all the tables in the dining room, and you know, he brought them to my wife, give them to my wife, all those --

Q Wasn't that nice --

A Well, anyway, --

Q Who was that? Who did that?

A Bill Ward, the owner of the Omaha club.

Q I'll be darned.

A He finally sold out the Omaha club, and he went down and he was scouting for Cincinnati . . . so he finally passed on.

Q That was surely nice of him.

A Anyway, what he wanted to see me about -- so I stopped in his berth, took my wife to our berth -- "Well," he says, "Jim, the reason I had you stop is I wanted to tell you that ~~when~~ when

we get back to Omaha, I'll owe you another \$300." I says, "How come?" He says, "Well, don't you remember what your ~~contract~~ contract reads? Down the bottom, you know, you've got a clause in there that I wrote in, if you're sold or drafted, you get that extra 300 bucks." I said, "What did you do? Somebody buy me or something?" He said, "Yeah, the Yankees." So we got back to Omaha, before we went back to Cleveland -- I lived in Cleveland then --

Q You were a third baseman then? You switch hit that year, 1908.

A I switched hit.

Q How did you do switch hitting?

A Well, I bettered my average thirty points. I hit, I think it was 270 -- but what I wanted to -- I'm ahead of my story a little bit. The year before we won the pennant. This was the second year I was with Omaha.

Q 1907 you won the pennant.

A Yeah, '07 and '08.

Q You won a pennant both years?

A No, no. Sioux City beat us the last series.

Q In 1908.

A Yeah. Well, anyway, what'd they do that year? They sold me to Columbus, Ohio, and --

Q I thought to the Yankees, you said?

A Yeah, but this was in '07.

Q Oh, oh.

A This was 1907. Come out in the sporting news and all, that I was sold to Columbus, Ohio, in the American Association.

A Of course, that, uh - that, uh --

Q A league higher.

A Yeah, a little higher. Well, Jesus, I never heard from Columbus, but before it was time, they sent me back to Omaha . . . it was a cover up deal. That's what they used to do in those days - they cut me out. See? . . . let me go to draft . . . he sold me to Columbus, because he had an understanding with --

Q They'd sell you back again.

A Yeah. So, the next year, though, of course, the Yankees bought me, and then I went --

Q You were in the minors for five years?

A I was two years with Dayton, then they sold me to Omaha.

Q How did you get to Dayton in the first place?

A Well --

Q You know, beginning -- I thought you were born in England.

A I was born in Swongee, Wales.

Q You were a Welchman?

Q Are you as stubborn as Welchmen are supposed to be?

A I don't think so. Yeah, I was born over there, came over

here when I was eight years old. My mother and three of us.

Q Were you the first foreign born baseball player in the --

A As far as I know -- I don't know.

Q Probably.

A I don't know about that, but they've -- oh, several times they've written that up, you know, but --

Q Where did you come when you came - where did your family come, to the United States?

A Cleveland, Ohio. My father was a shipbuilder in England.

Q There were a lot of good ball players came from Cleveland, weren't there?

A Oh, jeeze -- we had good --

Q Tommy Leech was from --

A Huh? Tommy Leech. Yeah. Yeah, Tommy came from Cleveland. He lives in Florida, I think, now.

Q The Delahancys - they were all from ~~XXXX~~ Cleveland.

A All the Delahancy family - oh, yeah - Patty Lemerson, the old catcher, but he didn't stay too long. He got so fat. And Joe Costa, he was up there more than ten years.

Q Did your father come over here, too?

A My father came over here two years before us.

Q He built ships around the Cleveland area?

A Oh, yeah, American Shipping Company. Yeah, he -- you see,

in those days, they had wooden - they made wooden ships, and then they switched --

Q Wooden ships and iron --

A Then they went to steamships, and by gorry, you know, the bow and the stern of the boat, you know the plates are all bent, you know, to get the shape, and he always had that particular work.

Q What did he think when you first started playing baseball first off?

A Who?

Q Your father.

A Oh, he thought it was fine. He didn't care, but I learned the machinist trade.

Q Oh, you did?

A I learned the machinist trade in the Westinghouse Manufacturing Company. Spent four years. So it went on for four years. At the end of the four years, --

Q You were an apprentice?

A My four years was up --

Q Apprenticeship --

A And the union come along and said, "Jim, your apprenticeship is up. You're a machinist now." Then you had to join the union. Well, this is all right. If I have to join it, I'll join

it. I didn't know that they were preparing to go on a strike.

And they came to me about two weeks before I was --

Q What time was this? This was some time about 1903 or '04?

A This was -- yes, in 1903. In 1903 that was. Anyway, the boss came to me once. Billy Mirrs his name was. He says, "Jim, you know the boys are going on strike Monday or Tuesday, but that don't affect you, inasmuch as you're still an apprentice." I says, "Bill, my time was up a month ago, and six weeks ago, the union came and said I had to join the union, so I had to join the union." "Oh, well," he said, "of course, you have to go with 'em." So, I was out of work two weeks, and somebody from Warren, Ohio -- there was Warren, Akron, New Castle, Pennsylvania and Sharon and Homestead and Jamestown, New York -- they had a little league around there . . . not professional, you know, so by gorry, you know, this fellow came to my house - I'd been out of work two weeks, and my mother had died, and my sister was keeping house, my oldest sister, she was next -- I was the oldest of eight.

Q Eight children.

A And so, this fellow came to the door, and I was in the backyard doing something. So, she come back, she said, "Jim, you're wanted. Some gentleman wants you." I went out there, and there was this guy from Warren, Ohio. He says, "You're Jim Austin. I've heard of you. You're playing ball around here." I says, "Yeah."

He says, "Well, how would you like to come and play independent ball?" I says, "All right." So, he said, "Well, that's fine. We got a pretty good little league down there. It's all . . . companies mostly." Akron was in it, too, but that was a lumber town, you know. So, he says, "Do you know where I can get an outfielder?" I says, "Why, sure, I can get the best outfielder in town." Our club - the Bears - that's a brewing company there, Bears Brewing, and they had the best club.

Q You played for them?

A Oh, no, but they had the best club for years, you know. They were older fellows than we. So, we were coming along, the FAC, the Franklin Athletic Club --

Q That was yours?

A Yeah, and we come along and finally we got good enough to beat 'em.

Q You used to play on Sundays?

A Sundays and holidays, you know, so by gorry, we took over and was the best club. I guess that's how that fellow heard about it, see. Well, he wanted to know if I'd go down to Warren, Ohio and play ball. I says, "Sure, I'll go down and play." He says, "Can you recommend a good outfielder. I want a good outfielder." I says, "Yeah, the best in town - Doak Caster." So Doak Caster and I went down to Warren. We stayed there all year, ~~and~~ about four

months.

Q And did you play there every day?

A Yeah, every day. Yeah, every --

Q How much did they offer you to --

A Oh, forty dollars a month, I think --

Q Forty dollars a month?

A Yeah. And that's all we got, and so by gorry, we come home in the fall - it wasn't too late either, because they'd quit sooner than most other clubs, and my sister says, "Your boss sent up here. He wants to see you." So I went down to Westinghouse, and he says, "When you coming to work? What the hell -- when you coming to work?" I says, "Any time you say." "Come in Monday." I think this was about Thursday or Friday. So, I went back to work, but that strike wasn't settled to suit the machinists union, so the next spring they went again - went out again, and in the meantime, I get a letter from Dayton, Ohio. Somebody recommended me to Dayton, Ohio. I didn't know who it was, and Doak and I both went to Dayton, Doak Pasture and I, and we both spent three years there.

Q Three years. That was an organized ball club.

A Yeah, that was an organized ball club, and boy, they kept you in those days, especially if you were going pretty good, you know.



Q Do you remember how much money you made there?

A Yes. I made \$60 there, and the second year I made \$80, and then they raised me to \$90. I never got \$100. Well, I'll tell you what he did do.

Q Never got a bonus either, did you?

A No, I never got a bonus. I'll tell you what I did do. We had a fellow by the name of Herb Noll that lived in Columbus, Ohio, and he was taken down with typhoid fever or something, toward the end of the last year that I was with Dayton, which was '04, '05 - that was '06, 1906, see. And John Spatz - he was one of the owners. Joe Wolf, John Spatz and Elmer Reedell. Elmer Reedell had, oh, two or three theaters there in town, and ~~xxx~~ this John Spatz had a business bar downtown, made good money, you know, the great big fellows that had money would go to his bar and get a drink. Wasn't a what you'd call one of those saloons where everybody was pickled all the time. It was the big, you know, and they had a big lunch counter and all that, and Joe Wolf, he had a bar, too, down the depot, just around the corner from the depot, and so they owned the club, so anyway, this Herb Noll, our manager, he took sick, and we had six weeks to go yet, and John Spatz said to me, he says, "Jim, will you take over the club and manage it the rest of the year?" I said, "Sure." I was playing every -- I was playing short then. They switched me over to Omaha. They ~~xxxx~~

switched me the last day, the last six weeks there, and we had the only bush company. We had Runt Welch - maybe you heard of him, Runt Welch. He was from Lima, Ohio, and he was a helluva good third baseman, but he got to drinking terrible. So, they asked me if I wouldn't switch over to third, because they couldn't find a third baseman, but they found a good shortstop. I says, "Sure, I'll go to third."

Q This was the club that had Tony Busch and had Bob Bescher --

A Doak Pastures --

Q Wow.

A Yeah, and a fellow named Arty Kloss was a pretty good catcher. See, he was from Cleveland, too --

Q And you won the pennant?

A No, see, we never won the pannant. We finished up pretty good, but we never won the pennant. Anyway, so I managed the club the last six weeks, and we went along pretty good and got along all right. So, the last week, Mr. Spatz come in - he's the fellow that asked me to manage. He says, "Jim, Omaha wants you and Doak and so does Atlanta, in the Southern League. Now, you've been good to us and managed this club, didn't cost us anything extra or anything, where it could have if we'd had to go and hire somebody for six weeks. Now, I'm going to give you the preference. You can either go to Omaha, or you can go to Atlanta, and we can fix it

that way, and we'll give the other club dough." I says, "Well, I'll have to talk it over with my wife and see what she thinks about it," my former wife. She died later. That's the reason I had to quit baseball. She had heart trouble. But she stayed a long time, of course, all of the years I was in the major league and coaching and all that. But I still could have gone on. Louis Kanesky, he wanted me so bad to stay with his club, and the ball players, Lou . . . Ted Lyons, they said, "Aw, hell, come on, you gotta stay with us." But I couldn't leave here. See, we lived here then, and we trained at Pasadena, so I had to quit finally, but I'll tell you about that later. Anyway, so by gorry, we talked it over, and I says, "Odie, would you rather go to Atlanta, Georgia or Omaha?" Well, she says, "It gets pretty hot down south, I guess. I don't know." We talked it over a couple of days and decided to go to Omaha. Well, we went to Omaha, and Doak went to Atlanta. Funny thing, now, Doak and I were three years at Dayton together, and he was at Atlanta two years, I was in Omaha two years, then we both went up to the major leagues, just went along together, you know. Funny thing how it happened like that.

Q Was life pretty rough in the minors in those days?

A Oh, yeah, you know, you had to carry your - you had a bat bag, you carried -- the suit was in, you know. You had to do that all yourself.

Q Lot of traveling on buses --

A Well, not so much on buses as -- no, we went by train to Grand Rapids and different places. Once in a while, we'd take a bus maybe, or the interurbans then, you see, electric train. They were just cars that worked the line from Dayton and places like that, you know, and to Fort Wayne and all. The only train travel -- well, going to Wheeling we'd take one, and going to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Q Was your father still alive when you were a ball player in the minors?

A Yeah.

Q What did he think about that, you giving up a good trade?

A Oh, he didn't care. He didn't care. He thought if I could work up to the major leagues, why it'd be worthwhile, which I did, see.

Q Did he understand this game of baseball?

A But every winter - every winter, I'd go back to the shop and work.

Q As a machinist.

A Yeah, yeah, I even left the -- Westinghouse got slack one year, laid them all off . . . I went to the American Shipping Company in the machine shop, and we had a ~~boxnamed~~ bowling club, you know, and a good bunch of fellows, and my boss would say, "Jim, don't

forget to come back in the fall. If we got work, why your job's here." And we'd go along and bowl and have fun. So, that's the way it went.

Q It was a good life.

A Yeah, until I got to the major leagues. My wife says, "Jim, you're going to -- if you're going to stay in baseball now -- you're up as high as you can get in baseball. I was in New York then, see, the second year I was in New York. She says, "You better quit that machinist job. If you cut a finger or something, then you can't play." Well, so I quit then. I was making enough money to go along. Here's ~~wx~~ another thing I wanted to tell you. Mr. owned the New York club, and you know where we played in those days? We were the Highlanders.

Q The Highlanders.

A Way up at the end of Broadway, you could look from the stands down the Hudson River.

Q You didn't play with the Yankees. You played with the Highlanders?

A That's right, yeah. See, we --

Q Was Marty McCabe with you people then, Marty McCabe, the pitcher? Marty McCail.

A I don't know whether -- I'll tell you. We had Russ Ford, and we had --

Q . . . was the spitball?

A Yeah, ~~me~~ and Jack Waterhouse. We had -- he wasn't exactly a spitter. He was a bluff spitter.

Q See, everybody says Russ Ford invented the spitball.

A Yeah, I know they do, but he -- he had something that . . . like a spitball.

Q What was it? What did he do?

A He had a piece of sandpaper on his belt right there, and he'd rub the ball on it, and he was a good pitcher. That ball would do a couple of tricks, you know. It would take off, one way or the other . . . you see you take a ball and rough one side of it, and then you throw it against the wind, and it'll take it down a ways, you know, and then it'll turn around and go that way, see.

Q Something like Eddie Sycotti's shine ball.

A Oh, yeah. Well, anyway, where was I now?

Q You were saying you played up on the Hudson, way up --

A Oh, yeah. We were with the Highlanders and played a way up there. Mr. Fair was our club owner, so he sent me a contract for \$1800. That was my first contract with the major league. I said, "Oh, Mr. Fair, I thought if I was going into the major league, I be worth at least \$2400." Well, he says, "Jim, we don't know if you're going to stay with the club. You got to make good first. We don't know what you're going to do." Well, I says, "All right."

Here's another instance that I done with Bill Roark, and they'll always go along with you. I said, "All right, Mr. Fair, I'll sign for the \$1800 if you'll write on the bottom of my contract that I'll get the extra \$600 if I make good and stay with the ball club." So, he done it. Sure, he did. He'd be tickled to death if you made good and stay. So, he wrote it in there. Well, sir, we went along and the first month, Stalling, George Stallings was our manager.

Q George Stallings, yes, yes.

A And he was a good manager.

Q He managed the Braves about six, seven years.

A Oh, I remember he went in there and he won the pennant. He was on the bottom the 4th of July, and they beat Connie Mack four straight and won the pennant.

Q Yep, George Stallings.. was he a good manager?

A Yeah, he was. He knew baseball, that guy. He was all right. Anyway, --

Q Who else was on that team? Those Highlanders.

A Oh. Yeah, Russ Ford, Tom Hughes, ~~big~~ big, tall fellow, and Jack ~~Wax~~ Warhop, and Manning -- and who'd you say?

Q Chesboro - was he there then?

A Jack -- the first year. I was there two years. First year, Jack was there, and then he was gone. I don't know where he

went, what he's done now.

Q Was Hal Chase there then?

A Hal Chase on first base. Hank LaPorte on Second base. Jack Knight on short and T. W. Field on third, and I was The Kid, so we had Willy Keeler the first year in right field, and we had Bertie Tree, remember him? The outfielder. I saw where he died this winter, early this winter, and then we had Harry Walters, he was from 'Frisco, a good left-hand hitter.

Q You played with Willy Keeler?

A Well, that one year.

Q Was he still pretty good?

A Aw, yeah, he was, you know, he could loop 'em over the infield better than anybody in the world --

Q He was still --

A But anywhere. He could pull 'em, push 'em, anything.

Q He was no kid anymore?

A Oh, no, he was about through.

Q And he was still able to hit the ball?

A Yeah, he could hit it. He was a good hitter.

Q What kind of a person was Willy?

A Oh, wonderful fellow. He come to me and he says, "Jim, if ~~уашхххххххххх~~ I can help you in any way -- you ought to make a great ball player. You got a great career ahead of you." Willy



Keeler, great he was.

Q How big was he?

A He was a little fellow. He wasn't big as me, and I'm not too big, you know.

Q And he was a nice person?

A Oh, wonderful - wonderful fellow. Charlie Henfield we had, too. He was an outfielder.

Q How about Kid Eberfields? He was a good third baseman? He must have been about through, though, because you took his job from him?

A Huh?

Q You took his job from him? Kid Eberfields?

A Yeah, yeah, well, I ~~was~~ didn't exactly take it from the kid. They had a fellow name of Joe Ward who was a third baseman, but the Kid was in there most of the time. They were just getting by their time, see.

Q Now, this brings up something interesting. You know I read a lot today, and in the old days, when a rookie came up, the regulars made it mighty tough on him. Was that true in your case?

A Now, I don't think so, because, you know, I got in there -- I'll tell you how I got in there first. I was coaching at first base for the first month I was with the Yankees, I mean the Highlanders.

Q You were coaching even though you were a rookie?

A Yeah, they had me coaching at first base, and Kid Eberfields playing third, and he hit a ball down the right-field ~~xxx~~ line that I know was a good foot fair. Tim Hurst was behind the plate -- it wasn't Tim Hurst, it was -- yeah, it was Tim Hurst, and I says, "Go on, Kid, go for two." Of course, he could see the ball himself coming down the line. He went down there and he slid into second base, and he was safe, and Tim behind the plate called it a foul. The Kid got up, brushed himself off, and finally he was wondering, you know, everybody was motioning him back. He went right through the pitcher's box from second base and started jabbing Tim in the belly, and Tim took his mask and whack, right across his nose and his cheek and skinned it all up.

Q You mean he hit the umpire and then the umpire hit him?

A Yeah, yeah. So, that put me in the game. He got suspended for five days and got fined fifty bucks. And that put me in the game. Stallings says, "Kid, you're playing third tomorrow." I says, "Okay." I went in there, and they never got me out for two years, for three years, and I had three pretty good years, too. We finished second in 1910. I was there 1909, 1910. Finished second. We got to Cleveland one time. We were going to play the series in Cleveland and then took the boat over to Detroit for the Series,

so George Stallings said, "Anybody see Hal today?" He was looking for Hal and Hal wasn't around. He never did show up. Then, they found out in the evening paper, it says, "Hal Chase Arrives in New York," and he said that he wanted the job, you know, as manager, so he undermined Stallings. I do n't know, he come out with a statement of some kind. I don't know just what it is now, but here's Hal in New York, and we're up here fighting for the pennant, and finished second that year. Well, Stallings liked Frank LaPorte and I. He liked us because we hustled. I always had a lot of life, and that's the reason I was in St. Louis 23 years. They wouldn't let me go. Every clud wanted to play for me. Anyway, so they let Stallings go. He went to Boston. They made Hal Chase manager that winter. By golly, the first thing he done was traded Frank LaPorte and I because Stallings like us, to St. Louis. They traded us for Roy Hartson and \$5,000. You know, he took that club and -- we finished second. He finished last. They fired him. That was his last --

Q Let's stay on Hal Chase.

A One year, mind you, from second to last in New York.

Q How come they gave him the job as manager after he did a thing like that?

A Well, he got in with Mr. Fair, I guess, and tried to tell him he could do this and that and the other. Hal Chase was a great

first baseman.

Q He really was.

A Greatest. He was the greatest. He could hit and run, he could do anything.

Q What about fielding?

A But, you know what he done, don't you? You know why they fired him out of the league. He got to gambling. Christy Mathieson went down to Cincinnati to manage the club, and he got in down there, and he exposed in Cincinnati. And that was the last of Chase. And then when he went to -- finally, when he got into the Federal League, well, that busted up, so he and Sid . . . started a team down in Tucson, and they played in New Mexico and all those towns around there.

Q I guess Chick Andault and Hal Chase were two of the worst apples ever in the game, weren't they?

A And it's a shame, too, and they were two great players, so much ahead of him you know. Look at Buck Weaver, the greatest third baseman ever I saw. Of course, I didn't see Jimmy Collins. They say he was great, but you take --

Q Do you think Buck Weaver really was involved in that? You know, a lot of people say he wasn't.

A . . . even though he had -- he had a good batting average in that series. He batted over 300, up around 330, I think, and

he tried to come back on the strength of that, but they had it on him. He was exposed some way. Too bad. Everybody liked Buck. We all did.

Q Everybody didn't like Chick Anvill, though, did they?

A Oh, not so much.

Q What about Hal Chase? Did people like Hal Chase?

A Oh, the boys didn't like him.

Q He was gambling way back in 1910, wasn't he?

A Yeah, he gambled all his life.

Q But he was a great first baseman?

A Oh, he was. There's no doubt about it. You know, I guess -- I don't know whether he was at first when he went back, you know. He used to play up to the bag, around the line, but he went to heck with that bat, and boy, he could cover that ground. He could do anything.

Q Occasionally, he played second or short, didn't he?

A No, no, I never heard him play second or short, but several times, though, he made a play -- he'd be back, you know, there'd be a man on second base, and by gorry he'd get the ball and throw it to third and catch that man, the head man, you know -- see what I mean? . . . and if it hadn't been for his gambling, he'd have come out -- he just ruined a great career. He wasn't smart.

Q He was never your manager, though?

A Yeah. Oh, no, no. No. He traded me. He traded LaPorte and I. Frank LaPorte.

Q Did he have any friends on the ball club, who were close to him?

A Naw. None on that club.

Q He was always by himself.

A Yeah. They didn't like Hal, and it was his own fault, too. Too bad. Gosh, he had a good club there, too. He could have won the pennant if he'd have stayed with it.

Q 1910.

A Yeah, 1910. Jack Knight. He hit good. One day, somebody gave Jack Knight a good bat, you know, it just suited him, and he went along with, and boy, he hit like a fool with it, and Hal was always doing that. If I had a good one, or somebody else was going good with a bat, why he say, "Let me use your bat." He had a thousand bats himself, but he wanted the other guy's who was hitting good, so Jack had this one bat, and it was given to him by a friend, and he was going good with it, so Hal says, "You don't mind if I use your bat, do you, Jack?" He says, "I'd rather you not, because it's the only one I got." Oh, he got mad and took it and slammed it up against the wall. Now, that's one of his, you know. So, he made enemies that way.

Q When you first went down to spring training with that

team, you were a rookie with the Highlanders --

A Yeah.

Q How did they treat you then?

A Oh -- I wanted to tell you exactly. Now, Kid Eberfield - I guess he was the oldest on our club. When he was playing, see, and when he got in that rumpus and got kicked out and fined, I went in, and I was playing about, oh, I guess I played about a couple of weeks, and we used upper and lower berths in those days on the train, so I was getting up in my berth. I had the upper berth, so he saw me going up there. Well, I'm up in there, and he grabbed me by the ankle, and he jerked me down, and he said what are you doing up there, kid? I said that was my berth. He says, "Well, you were playing out in the game. That ain't your berth." "The hell it ain't, I've had it ever since I've been with the club." He says, "Well, you're not going to have it anymore." He went to Tom Davis, our secretary. He says, "Put the Kid down in a lower berth. He's played every day, hustling like hell out there. That was the way they treated you. They weren't bad.

Q Even though you were going to take his job away from him?

A Yeah. There I am -- not only that, but they'd help you. When you was a kid, they'd help you.

Q Were you scared when you first went to spring training --

A Here's another case now I'll tell you, that I can just

remember. We were playing in Cleveland, and Heinie Berger, a spitball pitcher was pitching against us, and we didn't -- I think we had about two hits up to the ninth inning, and then, well, if I didn't get on first base, and then I stole second. I could really run in those days. So, the Kid was coaching at third base then, see, and what did he do - he started waving me on and waving me on. I says, "Oh, Jesus, I got to second now, and maybe we can get a base hit." We only had two hits all day. The ninth inning, and they're one ahead of us, and so here's a guy, he hits a foul ball over the stands, and he run all the way out to second base. He says, "Kid, get a good lead and come on over. We're not hitting this guy," and he says, "I think you'll make it. Try anyway. We're not hitting him." So, Jesus, what did I do? And the funny part of it is - here's second base - here's third base, and there's our dugout. See, right straight there, there was a big gate where they took the batting cage out, right next to our dugout. So, here I get what I figure was a good lead, and away I go, and from the time I left second base, I hear George Stallings say, "Oh, you son-of-a-gun! What possessed you to do that. What are you going? What are you doing?" I could hear him as I come around. See, I'm still running. The Kid run right into the dugout, from the coaching box. He says, "George, don't blame the kid. Blame me." And the funny part of it was, I made the goddamned bag, but overslid it and he



got me coming back. He got me coming back. Well, anyway, we didn't get no hit. I think the next guy struck out. It didn't amount to anything. Well, anyway, the Kid come right into the bench and said, "George, don't blame the kid. Blame me." He says, "I went all the way out there and told him, and I'd been waving him for two pitched balls. There were two balls pitched, and I was waving him over." Well, anyway, so that night we went to Detroit, and on the boat -- oh, there was three or four, maybe five of us, just talking baseball. That's one thing I think they done more in those days than they do nowadays, talk, and who's going to pitch against us tomorrow and how we're going to beat them and all that stuff. Anyway, George Stallings was looking all over the boat for me, and he come in. He cussed the hell out of me, and I heard him, and he always cussed awful. He always told us, he says, "Don't pay any attention to me, what I say, ~~ZKZSZKZK~~ because it's only because I'm hot and sore and in the game with you. So forget it." So here, he finally finds me and he says, "Say, Kid, come here." He called me away from the gang I was with there. He says, "Listen don't mind what I said today. That don't go. Any time you get a lead, you go and unload bases, and don't bother, don't mind what I say." And that's the kind, now -- so, you see, it was fine, it was wonderful. He tried to please you.

Q How about in spring training, when you were just a real

rookie?

A Oh, no, they -- they were all right.

Q So, all these stories --

A You take your batting practice, you know. You take your turn up there.

Q All these stories about how --

A Oh, I know. I never saw any of that. I was the only kid up there. I never found any crabs like that. They were always nice, always nice.

Q Isn't that interesting.

A Yeah. I know there was a lot of talk of it. I heard of it. I heard the same thing you're talking about, but I never saw any of it on any club I was with. I went down to the Browns then. They traded me down there. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXX~~ Bobby Wallace was our manager. Great shortstop he was. He was still playing. He played a while. I played third, and he was on short.

Q You played for a lot of managers on the Browns, didn't you?

A Oh - well, I started off with Bobby, and after Bob --

Q George Stogel, wasn't it?

A George Stogel came, and he -- you know, he spit on the back of the umpire.

Q What did he do?

A With a big chew of tobacco in his mouth, see -- he fired

him out of the game.

Q How'd that happen?

A Well, he was in St. Louis, and there was this Ferguson, an umpire by the name of Ferguson, and George -- I don't know whether he played in the minor league with this guy. Anyway, they had coiled before, see. So, Stallings was hollering at him and one thing and another, and he threw him out of the game, so he had this big cod of tobacco in his mouth, up like that. He had to go to first base for his glove, and our dugout was at third base, and all the way around and in back of the umpire down there and got his glove, come on back, and the umpire trying to get him along so he gets out of their way, and he let a "patuee" - a big gob - hit on his cap and run down his neck and run down his coat - terrible. Well, they fired him out of the league.

Q Out of the league?

A Clear out of the league. Dan Johnson fired him clear out of the league. So --

Q And, only a few years before, when George Stallings -- when Kid Eberfield hit an umpire, they just gave him a five-day suspension.

A Five days and fifty bucks.

Q That's a big difference.

A Well, this was -- oh, yes, that was a dirty trick. You

know, you could see what it looked like. It was a mess. And, anyway --

Q Spit tobacco on him --

A So, what'd they do? They asked me to manage the club the rest of the year.

Q Oh, yeah?

A Oh, yes, I managed the Browns the rest of the year.

Q 1915.

A Yeah, and then come Branch Rickey.

Q Yeah, Branch Rickey.

A See, and -- no, 19 -- Bobby had it in 19 -- when I went there in 1909 --

Q No, 1915. You went --

A I mean - yeah, '09 and '10 I was in New York.

Q And '11.

A In 1911 and part of '12, and then Stover come from Cleveland. See, in '12, and then they let him go after that, so I finished there as manager for about six weeks, and then Mr. Hedges called me to the office one day, and he says, "Jim, will you come out to my apartment tonight?" And I says, "Yeah. Where is it?" I didn't know where he lived. He told me, so I went out there and got in there, and here's Branch Rickey, and he'd been scouting. I'd never met Rickey. I'd never met him.

Jimmy Austin  
(cont'd)

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Q He used to be a catcher long ago?

A Yeah, he caught for the Highlanders for -- oh, he hardly was there. He didn't spend a month or so, that's all, not long, then he went to Michigan College. But anyway, Mr. Hedges owned the club. He says, "Jim, I want you to meet Mr. Rickey." So, then he turned the whole meeting over to Branch and I, Mr. Hedges did, see, so Branch says, "Jim, I want you to manage the club the rest of the year," which was about six weeks - a couple of days more, and he says, "I'm going to travel a lot, and I got to go to Cincinnati to the draft meeting, but I'll join you here and there around and maybe bring in a new ball player." He says, "I got some in mind that I want to --

Q And he's going to be the manager next year?

A But he's going to be the manager next year. Now, he says, "What do you want for that?" I says, "Whatever you give me. I don't care. I'm not telling you what to give." So, they give me a thousand dollars extra. That's me there. This is Ty Cobb, and that's me.

Q Is that right?

A Yeah.

Q That's a famous picture.

A Yes. Oh, they used that an awful lot. I'll show you that later. Anyway, so they gave me a thousand dollars to manage the club the rest of the year. Branch says, "Now, Jim, I'll come in, I'll

probably meet you here and there. I don't know when or how, but I'll see you different places." Well, we had a couple of more games at home, and we went to Cleveland to play the last series and then to Detroit. Who shows up one evening in Detroit but Branch. He says, "Jim, I bought a ball player into camp." He says, "I want you to meet George Cissard." That was the first day he joined. He says, "Now, I don't want you to play him. I want him to be with you the rest of the year. I don't want you to play him, but let him go up there and get his batting practice, fielding practice, or whatever he wants to do. So, take him now and entertain him for the evening, and you see that he gets his uniform and everything tomorrow." I says, "Okay." You know Bert Shotten?

A Yes.

A Well, Bert was my roommate for ten years. I says -- George was bashful as can be. I says, "Bert, you're going to have to help me entertain this George. George is so bashful." I says, "What do you say, boys, we go to see a show?" I'd get some tickets, I didn't have any. I was going to buy tickets and take him to a movie. In Detroit, mind you. This was in Detroit. And Ciss says, "Naw, I don't care about going to Detroit." So, we sat there in the lobby. I said, "Let's go up the corner and get a soda." Okay, we all went up there. You know, I made six trips that night, just

for ice cream sodas. I had the dammedest time understanding Ciss.

Q He wouldn't talk, huh? He wouldn't do anything?

A No, he was bashful. Well, he was fine, you know, after he got acquainted, you know, as time went on. But he sure was hard to entertain. Anyway --

Q He stayed with the team the rest of the season?

A Oh, yeah, and then the next spring he joined us, but, you know, I didn't know at the time that he had signed with Pittsburgh and they farmed him to Columbus, but he wasn't of age, and so --

Q He never reported to Columbus, did he?

A Never reported to Columbus. He never reported to Pittsburgh, and so what'd they do? They took it up with Gary Herman and the board of directors, you know, and so Rickey won him. Rickey won it. He won the case. He wouldn't, you know -- he knew, so of course, when we got him, why he had his folks sign his contract. He wasn't of age, and that made him our property. Well, anyway, so the next year, Branch took us to St. Petersburg, '14, the first club that ever went to Florida to train. There was a fellow down there by the name of Al Lang who's home was in Pittsburgh, and he was mayor of St. Petersburg for a couple of terms, and a great friend of Branch's. They built us a park down there, and they built a new hotel, and had this lady, you know, and her husband, they fed us and all. Of course, they hired help, and jeeze, they had sand in the infield.

You can imagine running around in sand and trying to field the ball. Well, they brought in - they had ordered plot soil from up north, to make an infield, which they did later, but we didn't go back again. We only went that year, in '14.

Q Oh, really?

A Yeah, and after that, I think Philadelphia went in there. Gabby told me they went in there. Philadelphia went in there, and oh, we went to Houston three years, and we went to San Antonio, then we went to Galveston one year, and Taylor, Texas one year, and to Waco, Texas one year, and we went to West Palm Beach, Florida. Eight straight years, I went from here, clear to there.

Q Across the county.

A Yeah, clear across the country.

Q You know, you saw, I guess, the two greatest first basemen that ever lived.

A Cisstard and Chase.

Q Yeah.

A Yeah.

Q Which was the best?

A And I threw to both of them, many a ball, threw to both of them.

Q Which was the best?

A Which?



Q Yeah.

A Well, Ciss could hit a longer ball, maybe, than Chase, but between you and I, I have to say Chase, because the only reason there's more said about him is because he gambled and --

Q He was the best fielder of the two?

A He was the best fielder, the best first baseman, in my estimation.

Q But he couldn't hit with Cissler.

A Well, he always hit.

Q He didn't hit far or --

A But not the long ball --

Q He didn't hit 400, though, either, did he?

A Oh, Ciss had 420 -- between the two. No, he never hit that much.

Q But you think he was a better fielder - Chase was? And you were the third baseman throwing the baseball over to them?

A Yes, sir, boy, I saw that guy play many -- oh, as I say, I played with them both.

Q If you threw it in the dirt, you figured either one of them would get it?

A Oh, sure, they'd get it. They were both good. See, you can't take anything away from either of them. They were both great, but you'd hear more about Chase, if he'd have been on the level, than

you hear now, you know. He's forgotten, you see, whereas Cissler -- yeah, that's a --

Q How many errors do you figure they saved you, those two first basemen?

A Oh, I don't know. I'm pretty accurate about that, you know. My fielding averages - they speak for themselves, but, hell, I done a lot of running around third base, you know. Of course, lots of times -- lots of times third baseman will cut across, and when you get in front of the shortstop, you're better off if you let it go, you know, and but -- I -- I'll betcha that I was the only third baseman in the world ever to make a put-out at first base, playing third base.

Q How did you do that?

A Well, it was in Washington. A guy hit one up in the air, and I could see that Ciss was having trouble seeing. The sun was in his eyes, see, and he lost it, and I run over. I could see it there. Ginney was our second baseman at the time. I do n't know where he was, but probably down at second base, because there was a fellow going around, see. Well, sir, I went over there, and I just missed catching it, but I got it on the bounce, and I beat the guy who was running back to first base, and I run back and tagged him h at first base for a put-out. Now, beat that. That's a fact.

Q You tagged the batter.

A Huh?

Q Was it the batter you tagged?

A Yes. Yeah, he come on around you know, and he thought I was going to catch it then, you know and started back, so there was another man ahead of him, and he got jammed up and I caught him before he got back to first base. Tagged him out. And then I -- another play that to this day I never heard of one, and Billy Evans was the umpire. You remember him?

Q Sure, sure.

A Well, he was a great writer, too. He wrote for papers in Youngstown, Ohio, before he went to umpiring, and then he wrote stories for different magazines at the time. We were playing up in Boston one day, and the bases were full, and Herb , of course, he wasn't a speedster, you know, anyway, he was up there batting, and I was at third base, and he combed one right down the line, and you know, it was going to be fair. So, anyway, I took a dive after it, and stuck my hand out, and it stuck in my glove, jumped up and . . . touched third, threw to second; he threw to first for a triple play, and the only one that I ever heard, started on the double play. You take a triple play is usually started with a line drive at somebody, an infielder, see, and then to second, then to first. This was a ground ball, and Billy Evans stopped after the

game, he waited over there. We had to go through the Boston dugout to get up to our clubhouse, up in Fenway Park, and he says - he waited for me - he says, "Jim, I don't know ever of a play, a triple play starting that way. I'm going to look it up." And he looked it up, and he could never find it. He told me later on. "Oh," he says, "I'm still looking for that ~~kingx~~ thing. I can't find any, Jim." I don't know of any triple play that started on a ground ball.

Q There were men on first and second?

A Sure, they were filled, the bases were filled.

Q You touched third --

A Yes. I touched third, throwed to second, and he threw to first, McMannus to Cissler.

Q Since you were in the field day at Komisky Park, Chicago in 1911 --

A Yeah.

Q -- you bunted and ran to first base in three and a half seconds.

A Yeah. You know what I got? That was a field day put on for charity.

Q September 30th, 1911.

A Yeah, and I -- did I say what I won --

Q All it says is about first base bunting and running to

first base in three and a half seconds.

A Yeah, and I won the hundred yard dash that day -- I won two prizes.

Q That looks like a little tiny thing, compared to the glove today. There's really no pocket in it.

A No, not yet. There would be later.

Q Were you one of those that cut a hole in the palm of your glove?

A We used to.

Q Did you do that?

A Yeah, I remember one day Tony Busch and I, we were both cutting the holes in our gloves. And lots of times, we'd unlace it here and take some padding out of there, see, just leave around there, pull the center out.

Q I want to ask you about this famous picture, of Ty Cobb sliding into third and knocking you up in the air.

A Well, you see, he beat the ball there.

Q Do you remember when that happened?

A Yes. Yeah, I remember when that happened. See, he beat the ball there. The ball's out here, you can see it in the picture, but he took my left foot with his shoulder, see, you know, but he was safe anyway.

Q Okay. Now, you were a third baseman and Cobb was on the

bases a lot. Was he a fair or an unfair base runner?

A Oh, he was fair enough. He's a -- look at his mouth, look at his determination. Boy, you know -- the only trouble I've ever heard of -- he knicked me a couple of times, but it was my fault. I'm not blaming him.

Q Oh, it was your fault?

A Oh, yeah, you do things --

Q Did you block the base when he came in?

A No. This is a good one. One day he's on first base, and there was a ball hit to right field, so he comes all around, and I stand there, you know, nonchalant, as though nothing's happening, and the last minute here comes the ball, ~~and~~ and Ty slid in, and I took it, and I snuck his foot off the bag, and Tommy says, "You're out." Ty, laying there on the ground, looked up at me, and he says, "Mister, don't never do that no more." In his Southern brogue. But he and I were pretty good friends.

Q You don't talk about Ty Cobb with as much fondness as you talk about Babe Ruth, though, do you?

A Oh, no. Babe had a heart. He really had a heart. Heart of gold, big fellow, Babe. Well, this guy's all right. He's better off the field than he is on. When he's out there in that ball game, look out. He's out to win, regardless. I saw him cut Jack Berry from there clear down, of Philadelphia. Oh, he had -- you see,

Philadelphia and Detroit were fighting for a pennant one year, and they got nasty, and old Ty, he could get nasty, but off the field he was a pretty good guy --

Q You know, you look back - you saw Cobb, you saw Cissler, you saw Ruth --

A Yeah, Gerig --

Q You know, I guess it's hard to make an all-star team, isn't it, but did you ever think about doing that? Best team you ever saw?

A Yeah, yeah --

Q Like, who would you put at third base? You know third basemen. Course, you didn't see guys like Py Trainer play --

A No, they were in the national league, see, but, of course, in the years I was in the American League, Dugan . . . Tuck Turner in Cleveland and Bill Bradley, he was about through, but I'll tell you who I'll take for third base on my club, Buck Weaver. Hit, ~~and~~ and play a good third base. Now, lots of fellows, I don't know, they'll pick a club, but they won't pick him, because he was one of the outlaws, see.

Q You saw Joe Jackson play a lot, too, didn't you?

A Yes. I saw Joe play --

Q Was he as great a hitter as --

A Oh, gee, you can't take it from him. He done it year after

year. He was a good hitter, but there was Stoke, Ty, Ruth, you know, you gotta give them consideration. You know who the greatest manager I ever played for - and I played for all those fellows.

Q Who?

A Jimmy Dykes.

Q Is that right?

A Yeah.

Q Jimmy Dykes.

A That's right. He had scoring from Connie, and he just worked like Connie. He ain't out there bawling the heck out of you in front of everybody and everything else. If you do something wrong, all right. There ain't a word said. In a nice way, he says, "Do you think you done right? What about that play?" He let you, you know -- forget it now. Don't do it again. And he was wonderful, great fellow.

Q You saw Connie Mack operate for years, didn't you?

A Oh, he was a great third baseman for many a year, you know.

Q I mean -- not Jimmy, Connie Mack. You saw Connie operate --

A Oh, yeah.

Q He was really a great manager, Connie.

A Oh, he was great.

Q What was he like as a person?



A Oh, he was wonderful. You know, I . . . I trained them, and we were getting ready to leave on Friday, see, going to Yuma for a game and then Tucson and then work our way east . . . and I says, well, I'll stay home, and I stopped over and get a neighbor of ours, Mrs. Webber, ask her if she'll come over. She came over. Well, I went over and went to the Green Hotel in Pasadena and . . . I had my car, you know . . . So, by gorry, you know . . . Wednesday, and they were leaving Friday for Yuma, and as I say, I was up all night with her that night, so I told . . . he got in the car with me, drove down . . . I says, "Oh, jeeze, I been up all night with my wife, you know she's got that heart trouble, bad." So, what did he do - I went down and got the balls and started the boys a working out there, warming up, you know, and he, all the time, evidently looking for Dykes to come, and he always come an hour later or so, so he told him that I told him about my wife, so in a minute or two, nosied around and got close and he says, "Hey, Jim, come here. What's this I hear about Mrs. Austin?" I says, "Oh, she had a bad night, and I was up with her. She wouldn't let me stay home. I was going to stay home today." He says, "Well, go in there and take that goddamned uniform off now and go home." He says, "And we're leaving Friday for Yuma. You call me up Friday morning. If you can go, why you come on over and it'll be all right. If you can't, stay home, if it's a month, two months or all year.

Your job's always here." So then I couldn't go that year. She got worse, but I finally found a heart specialist in Santa Ana that kept her alive another ten years, but she was always bad. I couldn't leave her alone.

Q She lived a long time with a bad heart.

A Yeah. Anyway, when the club got back to Chicago -- "Where's Jim." So, Dykes told him, so he wrote me a letter, and he says, "Listen, Jim, any time you can join the ball club, you come on, by plane or train or any old way. Your job's always here."

Q You know, I look at this record, and you played in 1922 for a few games --

A Yeah, that's my last year.

Q -- but then in 1923, 1925, 1926, 1929, you had one game each season --

Q Oh, yeah.

A It winds up, in 1929, you're fifty years old. You're fifty years old, and you're in a major league ball game as a pinch hitter.

A Well, I'll tell you what happened. You know, some of the opposing club would want to know -- well, they'd say, "Let Jim hit." You know, the game was gone. We were far ahead or something. Last game of the year --

Q In 1929.

A Yeah.

Q You played the whole game - or you played part of it anyway, 'cause you had a couple of assists --

A Right.

Q Yeah, two assists, and you were at bat once. You didn't get a hit, but you were fifty years old then.

A Yeah.

Q And you coached for the Browns from 19 --

A Uh huh, from '22.

Q From '24 to '32 --

A Naw. From '22.

Q '22 to '32?

A Yeah.

Q Then you coached with the White Sox from '33 to '40.

A Yeah.

Q So you coached for almost twenty years.

A Yeah - and could have gone more. Could have stayed more.

Q How did you like being a coach?

A I loved it. They boys liked me, the owners liked me.

Q You were the third base coach most of the time?

A Oh, I -- part of the time, but most of the time I was on first base. All the time for Jimmy, I was on first base --

Q Gee. When you talk about -- you see, you played for so

many managers - you coached for so many managers -- you got to know, I would imagine, what makes a good manager and what doesn't. You coached for Dan Howley --

A Yeah --

Q Everybody says Dan Howley was a good manager.

A Oh, he was a peach, and you know, I played against Dan. You know, Dan, when he played, I was in the Central League -- he was at Grand Rapids, Michigan --

Q Way back then?

A Yeah, yeah, he was catcher.

Q I'll be. Everybody says he --

A Then he went over to Cincinnati . . . the owner of the Washington club wrote to Mr. Ball, he says, "Mr. Ball, would you mind if I would write to Jim Austin and try to get him as my manager?" But he didn't write me. Well, you're not supposed to, you know. So, anyway, Mr. Ball wrote me a swell letter. He says, "Jim, I just got a letter. I just got home from Tulsa. I just got a letter from Clark Griffith and he wants to write to you in regards to managing his ball club, and I wouldn't send you away for a minute." He says, "Now, I want you to take this into consideration. He had Tony Busch one year - he let him go. George McBride - he was shortstop. He had him one year and let him go. Clyde Marlin, his outfielder, good outfielder - he had him one year and let him go. Now, there's a job here as long as you want to stay. Now, take it all in con-

sideration, and then you can do as you please." So, we had a lot of nice friends in St. Louis, and you know, I'd been there so long, and so I says, "I think I'll just stay with the Browns." So, I stayed there until Mr. Ball died, and they were, oh, jeeze . . . took over, you know, Branch went over there and made a club out of it and made that farm system. He built that all ~~up~~ up, and so they went on by the Browns. The Browns were the most popular club when I first went there, but when they come around winning those pennants, the Cardinals, why they took over. So then they got Grover Alexander down there, you know, made a ~~h~~ good ball club out of it, and so they -- if it wasn't for Babe Ruth, they couldn't. He'd fill any park, regardless, you know, in those days.

Q Well, you still say, after playing for all those managers and coaching under all those managers, the best manager you ever saw or were associated with was Jimmy Dykes?

A Yeah, that's right.

Q Isn't that a funny thing. When Jimmy Dykes went to Cleveland, Joe Gordon went to Detroit.

A Yeah, I know it.

Q Isn't that a funny thing?

A Yeah, yeah, that was funny. Yeah, you know, when I first joined the Highlanders, there wasn't no clubhouses. We didn't have a clubhouse at the ball park, anywhere. We always -- we'd get in

uniform -- we wouldn't put our spike shoes on, but we'd go from our room to a parlour or a certain room, you know, where salesmen have a room and have our meeting and discuss who's going to work against us that day and how we could beat them. Never will forget one time - we were in the Planter's Hotel in St. Louis, and we had on these -- jeeze, it was five miles out to the ball park, and we had four horses on the Tally Ho -- yeah, and anyway, we discussed who was going to play -- I was in New York then --

Q Was Rube with the Browns when you got there?

A No, he'd left for Minneapolis. He went back to Minneapolis, but he was with the Browns when I was in New York -- Jimmy Mackaley was the manager of the Browns then, so anyway, we discussed, you know -- there was nobody else that could pitch agin' McGrew . . . and the ball park in St. Louis was on the corner of Grand and . . . anyway, there was a saloon there on the opposite corner of the ball park, and we had to round that corner to go to the park where they let us out of the bus, and here comes Rube out of this corner door, big double doors with a big . . . . of beer that high, and somebody said, "Who said Rube was going to pitch today? Look at him there." He had this big . . . . of beer, holding it up, waving it.

Q Coming out of the saloon.

A He was at the entrance there, he was in there, 'course, he went back in, and sure enough, we get ready and start the game, and

here's ole Rube, pitching. Never will forget it as long as I live. Mackaley was the manager, and we went three innings, and we got two men on base, and I hit one and hit the top of the right field, oh, and old Rube, you know, as I was running, he was watching me run around the bases - I could see him - and he fell on his can - Jimmy Mackaley, he yells, "Come on in out of there. You didn't want to pitch anyhow!" Took him out.

Q He fell down watching you go around the bases.

A Fell right on his can. Aw, some~~e~~ funny things -- he had a shotgun ~~given~~ given to him, you know, from the fans, in Philly -- He had everything engraved on it, ducks and everything. He was drinking a little bit, and he wanted some money, you know, . . . he was going to pawn that gun, then he'd go to Connie and tell him he had ~~a~~ to have a couple of hundred dollars to get his gun out of pawn - he didn't want to lose it. Oh, boy -- There's a finger I got, in Connie Mack's stadium. Hank . . . . was our catcher, you know, and in practice -- so we're cutting up, you know, getting ready to start the game, you know, and Hank threw it down to me, and I grabbed at it, and that finger was knocked back like that - was on my gloved hand, too, broke that little bone in there and just dislocated it. I went on, still on the road eleven days before I got to St. Louis, still playing every day, and somebody told me, they said, "Jim, get a lemon and cut the two ends out and roll it

soft and then turn it and squeeze it on there, and it'll take all that swelling out.

Q You were playing every day, with that finger?

A Every day, for eleven days.

Q Broken finger?

A Yeah, and when I got back to St. Louis, Bob Quinn, our general manager . . . says, "Well, Jim, I hear you hurt your finger." I says, "Yeah, I hurt it." So, I was going along all right. He said, "Let me look at it." He says, "Go on down to Doc Hyland." Doc Hyland was our club doctor. So, he put on a stick, taped it around here and around there and out here, and he said, "Now, you have got to keep it that way for eleven or twelve days.

Q But you played for two weeks with a broken finger?

A Yeah --

Q They wouldn't do that today, now, would they?

A I doubt it. I doubt it. In those days, they did. We done lots of things in those days they won't do today but --

Q You batted against Joe Wood in that year, 1912, when he was so good. Was he as fast as Johnson?

A Well, he was pretty fast. I don't know -- Walter had those long old arms, and he could breeze 'em in there, but I'd rather bat against Walter than I would Joe Wood.

Q Why?



A Well, because Walter was so dammed careful. He was afraid he'd hit somebody, and Walter was too good a guy, you know, he was -- well, one day he had us beat about 10 to 2, or something, and he says to me, "Here's one right in there. Let's see you hit it." He pitched me a fast one right in there, and I hit it over the right field fence. Laugh. He laughed all the time I was going around. Well, that's the difference, you see -- he was one of those guys. Good guy, you know.

Q But on a cloudy day, you couldn't even see the ball coming in there?

A That day in St. Louis, I'll tell you, it was murder. Yeah -- Tony says, "Strike!" Then I got a ball. Strike two, then I looked around kinda quick like that, you know, . . . but they were all friends of mine, but I'd look around there like that, and he said, "Jim, that was right in there." I said, "I never saw nothing. Can't prove it by me."

Q Didn't see the ball come over at all?

A I knew it was in there.

Q How?

A . . . by me, that's all. Old Dutch Landers. They were good pitchers, you know --

Q The old Dutch Landers?

A Yeah, up in Boston.

Q Yeah, the old timer, because there was another Dutch Landers later on, yeah.

A Yeah, and Carl Mays, you know, he was --

Q Yeah, he was a tough cookie. . . . Chubby was a kind of awkward fellow, in getting away from a pitch. All the boys said that on the Cleveland club.

Q You all didn't wear helmets in those days, did you?

A No, no --

Q Did you get hit much?

A -- that old spitter -- you take Ed Walsh in Chicago -- boy, he had a --

Q You batted against Ed?

A Huh?

Q You batted against Ed Walsh?

A Yeah. Oh gee, I'll never forget one day, he was up there . . . and he threw one. I don't know whether he was trying to hit me or not. I'll tell you, I ducked, and the ~~mp~~ ump says, "Gee, Jim, I thought that'd get you." But it didn't, it went on by. Aw, we had good pitching in those days. You take Wild Bill Dunnavan in ~~Detroit~~ Detroit and Kickapoo Summers - I don't know if you remember him or not - he was a big - just like Joe Wood - tall and slender, and boy, he could -- he broke my arm --

Q He did?

A Yeah, I was up there at bat, and he hit me -- I know he didn't try to hit me -- he had three and two, and so I'd nudge up a little closer, see, we all did, try to get that fourth ball, you know, and maybe scare the pitcher a little bit or try to get him off, and Jesus, he let one go, right at my head, and I put up my arm, and it hit me right there and broke my arm. I went to first base, and evidently, I got as white as a sheet, because -- I know this, I was sacrificed to second, and Hank Severard hit a double and scored me, and when I got to the dugout, here was Doc Hyland. He says, "Come here, Jim." Had my arm down there. Jeeze, it was hurting. He felt my arm and said, "Listen, my car's right out by the first gate. Go on out there, and I'll be out there in a minute." In my uniform and all, I went down to the doctor's office, and he put a cast on there - it was busted.

Q You had a doctor, Doc Hyland. I didn't know teams carried doctors in those days.

A Oh, ~~h~~ yeah, Doc Hyland, and he was a peach. He didn't go on the road. He was always in St. Louis.

Q Did the other teams have a doctor, too?

A Yeah, every club.

Q What about your training - your clubhouse training facilities, you know, like --

A Oh, we had a - we had --

Q Did you have a trainer then?

A Yeah, we had a trainer that takes care of cuts and little things, you know.

Q Even back then you did? Back around 1910 or so?

A Yeah. We always had a trainer. Doc Lawler was our trainer. When I joined the Browns, he was there ten or twelve years.

Q But now, like when you were as a coach in the thirties, the clubhouse facilities were much better than they were back in those days --

A Yeah, good night, we never had such facilities as they've got now. As I say, when I joined the major league club, there wasn't no clubhouses for ball players, and there wasn't -- let's see -- two years in New York without any. Of course, the home club had one, but not the visitors.

Q Oh. Was that the way it worked?

A Oh, yeah, the home club, of course they -- they had a clubhouse, but there was no visiting clubhouse. That's the reason we had to go on this bus in Terre Haute.

Q How long did you all go out to the ball parks with a horse driven --

A Oh yeah, we went out there -- let's see, how long was that -- oh, it must have been ten years that way.

Q Oh, really, still going out with a horse drawn carriage.

A Four horses on that big bus in St. Louis. That was five miles out there.

Q With all the ball players on the bus?

A Oh, yeah, every one of them. It was the only way we had to get out there.

Q Yeah.

A We had our meeting first.

Q You were all in uniform?

A Yeah. Never will forget - in Cleveland one day, you know, whoever got the last out, why stick the ball in their pocket, so I got the last out one day in Cleveland, and we get in the bus, going down to the hotel, and here's a bunch of kids waiting for their evening papers, to tie 'em up, you know, so I see 'em all on the corner. Of course, they opened their eyes. They happened to see the ball players coming. I took that ball, and I threw it up in the air and it started bouncing. Well, they were all on top of each other - trying to get that ball. You know, they do that. In St. Louis, there was a -- we come by -- there was a short street, and there was another street going that way, but this short ~~xxx~~ street was downhill a little bit, and the fire engine house was right on the corner, and you'd see them sitting there, you know, oh, they'd come to the ball park for free, you know, police, too. So I framed it up. I was coach then. I had charge of the ball club, so I had

a lot of them that were -- they were all right. You could play catch with them, you know, but they were no good to hit in the ball park anymore, because, the pitchers would fray 'em, see, so I give about a dozen of the boys each one, and I said, "Now, when we get down here to the street, let's sail 'em all down to the fire engine house." They were sitting around there - it was hot in St. Louis - and we let 'em go, and they were bouncing all around the door, down there. So, the next day, here come a couple of the firemen out to the ball park, down in the dugout, said "You're the instigator of that." I said, "Well, you were sitting around. I thought maybe you wanted to play catch."

Q In the old days, they didn't throw the ball out of the game like they do now, did they?

A No, no. They'd keep them in there and they'd blacked them up. I used to chew licorice. I never chewed tobacco, but oh, different ones that was on our club, Fritz Maisel, for instance, oh, different ones, they'd chew tobacco - why, if they throwed it around the infield once, it was half black, you know.

Q You'd chew licorice and blacken it up with the licorice. And then they kept the ball in the game?

A Yeah, they wouldn't throw them out. See, that's another advantage that they don't do today. You get a brand new ball in there if it even touches the stands. Out it goes.

Q They just kept it in the game, and then the pitcher had a .... he could --

A Well, that's the reason, you see, today, 'cause the ball is more livelier than it was -- they'll wait until -- they won't sacrifice the first couple of innings. They'll wait until, ~~xxx~~ oh, the eighth or ninth, maybe the seventh once in a while, if they've got a pitcher going good -- they might sacrifice in the last three innings. Otherwise, they're just banging away, you know -- the infield, you know, so fast.

Q Yeah, yeah. Those pitchers - with all those - with the ball blackened up - with the ball roughened up - stuff on the belts - with emory, with this, that, I should think that they would be mighty rough to bat against.

A Oh, yeah, they were. They were.

Q Mighty rough. Who was the best pitcher you ever batted against? Really, the best?

A Well, as I say, of all the -- I'd say Walter had a little more speed than Joe Wood, although I'd rather bat against Joe Wood, because Joe wasn't so careful as -- oh, he was a little careful whether he'd get one too close and hit you, see, and there was lots of pitchers like that, see. They didn't want to hit nobody for anything, and others they didn't care. The hell with you, you know.

Q But still, given everything - given the speed - given the

curve ball, given the intelligence, who was the best pitcher you ever faced?

A I think Walter was.

Q He was? He was smart as well as fast?

A Oh, yeah, he was. He had a lotta stuff. For years, you know, they said Walter don't have no curve, you know, he didn't need it. Towards the end, though, he developed a curve. But he had that -- the longest arms I ever saw on a guy. Boy, they were whips. He could whip that ball in there. You know, as long as I played ball, I was quite a while with Ty - I knew every time he was going to bunt.

Q How did you know that?

A And you know what? I'd be getting him a line, second base, third base, I was on the line there, see, and old Ty, he'd show his teeth, get up there, the way he bent over, show his teeth, make you think he was going to hit it a mile. Know what I'd do? Go way back. I'd go way back and lead him on to bunt, and just as the pitcher would start to pitch the ball, I'd start in and throw him out. He told me a half a dozen times, he said, "Jim, you never play the ball against other clubs you play against us. You can't, because if you did, why hell, you'd be up there all the time, on top of them all." I said, "Well, I'll tell you --" In St. Louis, we had the one .... for a long, long time. It was always scuffed up, you know -- and we'd go to Detroit, and that damned old . . . would be like a pool table. I loved it over there. And one day,



we were playing in St. Louis, and so we'd go out and have our practice and I'm coming to the dugout, see. Well, I'm walking over to the dugout -- no, Detroit wasn't even there, and that's what made me curious to find out why. Here's Wild Bill Dunnavan right above our dugout. I said, "What the hell you doing here? Trying to steal our signs or something?" He calls me over, he says, "Naw, ..... sent me down here. Jim, I'm trying to make a deal for you. What do you think about it?" I says, "Fine, go ahead. I love Detroit." You know, you have to have somebody with a little bit of life around there. They make you think you are looking like a ball club, anyway, and I had that energy. I had that. That's what kept me up there. It wasn't my hitting, that's a cinch, because I was only mediocre as a hitter, but I had a lot of go, good arms, good legs, you know, and lots of pep, you know, keep 'em alive.

Q Pepper Austin, right?

A Yeah . . . soon as I hit the league. He named me ~~Pepper~~ Pepper. The Pepper Kid, he named me.

Q Oh, Stallings gave you that name?

A Yeah, he give me that name. I never had it 'til I got to New York.

Q In a lot of ways, it seems like the old ball player was a lot tougher, you know --

A Oh, I think we played more ~~af~~ for the love of the game than they do today. They're after that almighty dollar today, and they may be a little afraid of getting hurt, or something, but they're a little timid in there, more timid than they used to be in our day. We were, you know -- we were a little rough on the field, but we were all right off the field, you know.

Q Yeah, you see, you talk ~~me~~ to me about how you played with that finger. A lot of other ball players in those days, they played with physical injuries, didn't they?

A Yeah, they really did. Yeah, they did.

Q Which I don't think you see now anymore at all. No, a guy get a little bit of a sore arm, you know, or any little bit of a thing, and -- also, you said before that the ball player in your day talked about baseball a lot more than you think --

A Oh, I think they did. I don't know, but I think they did. We used to talk about it all the time.

Q You might say, in a way --

A You know old Butch Kruger? You heard of him. He caught Cy Young in Boston, and I don't know what he did when he went to Cleveland - anyway, you know, that sonofagun, he could talk more baseball, and talk about a guy who knows baseball - oh, he was forever, forever talking baseball, when he was with the boys, you know. On the train, in the clubhouse, in the hotel.

Q In your playing days - not in your coaching days - but in your playing days, what was the highest salary you ever made?

A Fifty-five. And you know what done it? The Federal League. Here's what happened. Now, before the Federal League came into existence, the year before, I had a good year, and then the Federal League came in, and they were dickering with everybody, and Mr. Hedges, he give me - I was getting \$4,000, and he raised me a thousand, to five. I said to Mr. Hedges, I says, "Mr. Hedges, that's plenty of money. Give me a three-year contract at that figure - five thousand a year for three years." He says, "Jim, you're worth it, and I wish I could give it to you, but Dan Johnson has just give us instructions to to give any long-term contracts." All right. I go back to Mr. Hedges, because I knew, I says, "Mr. Hedges, Tony Busch just got a three-year contract. Eddie Foster just got a three-year contract with Washington. Oscar Britt just got a three-year contract." "Well, now," I says, "there are three players that are in my category. They ain't any better than I, if there as good. I can beat 'em all running and everything, throwing and all." And he says, "Well, Jim, I'd like to but I got instructions not to give it." All right. Here comes the manager of the Pittsburgh Federal Leage club up to Cleveland to see me. He says, "Jim, I got a job for you over in the Federal League if you'd like to come." I said, "Well, all right, what's your proposition?" He

said, "I'll give you \$5,500 a year for three years." I says, "Well, all right, mail me a contract. You know, five thousand . . . didn't want to go. Right away, I wired Mr. Hedges and told Mr. Hedges I had an opportunity to sign a Federal League contract at \$5,500 a year. I says, "I'm asking you for a three-year contract at \$5,000." He says, "Jim, I wish I could give you a three-year contract, but Dan Johnson won't allow it." He says, "Wait 'til December 2nd." I never will forget it. He was down Galveston then, down there on vacation. Down in Galveston, Texas. He says, "Don't do anything until December 2nd. I'll be back in St. Louis, and I'll talk to you." I says, "I can't wait that long. I got this contract right here." Finally, I saw there was no chance and here comes . . . anyway, comes up and so I wired hedges again that night before and says, "This is my last chance. He's coming tomorrow, and I'm going to sign this contract, if you can't see your way clear to give me a three-year contract." He says, "Well, I can't, Jim, right now." I says, "All right." So I signed it.

Q You signed the Federal League Contract?

A Yeah, with Pittsburgh. And the week before Walter Johnson signed with Buffalo, so I went on and went on, and went on, and finally I saw in the sporting news there where Walter went back to Washington. They fixed him up, see, whatever he wanted. I don't know what the hell it was. Anyway, he went back, and I never wanted

to leave the American League. Probably, Walter didn't either. Anyway, by jeeze, I signed, and they even give me a \$1,000 bonus. I signed the contract, and goddammit, you know, they wouldn't do nothing. So, finally, one day I get a telephone call from Branch Rickey. He says, "Jim, meet me at the (what the hell is the name of that hotel in Chicago) Sunday morning at our expense. Can you do that?" I says, "Yea, I can do that." He phoned me that time. He says, "All right, come on over." So I went over there, and it was Sunday morning, and soon as I got in there, I called him up at his room. He says, "Come on up, Kid." So, up I go. And he says, "Jesus, Jim, we never thought you'd jump us, go to the Federal." I says, "Well, he give me the thousand dollar raise for one year, and I told Mr. Hedges that's enough money. I'm not hollering about the money, but when Busch and everybody else around is getting three-year contracts, why can't I? They're not playing any better ball than I." Oh there was a half a dozen other players I named. I forgot who they are now. He says, "Well, will you come back at what we offered you?" I says, "No, I won't come back for what you offered me." I says, "What do you mean? You offered me a thousand dollars for one year, which is five thousand dollars. I want a three-year contract or nothing. I got one with the Federal League, Pittsburgh." He says, "Well, will you come back for a three-year contract at \$5,000." I says, "No." So, he says, "What do you want?"

So, I pulled out my duplicate contract. I says, "Duplicate that contract, and I'll come back, at fifty five." So anyway, Van says, "Well, I'll tell you. You stay here, and I'll be back in a minute. I'll go down." He was going down to somebody's room, and then he was going to get in touch with Mr. Hedges, the owner of the club. So, Jesus, I'm sitting there and sitting there - sit there for four hours. Finally, he comes. He says, "Well, Jim, I had a long talk with Mr. Hedges downstairs," and he was giving me my money to go home and my transportation both ways, and he says, "You'll hear from me again before the week's out." So then, on Wednesday, he phoned me, and he says, "Jim, meet me at the Terre Haute Hotel in Terre Haute, Indiana Thursday, can you, some time?" I says "Yeah." I got a ~~xxx~~ train and went down there. I says, "I'm going to bring an attorney down with me." I had a friend from Cleveland, a young attorney. He turned around and says, "Jim, you're getting a three-year contract, you might as well tie 'em up." I heard that they were going to stop that, see. The Federal League was going to get an injunction against us, stopping us from playing, and I told this attorney, "I want it written in there somewhere or other that I'll get this money if I do n't play a game in three years." So, I took this guy - I says, "What do you want for it?" He says, "My expenses and fifty bucks." I says, "All right, come on." So, we went down there, and I introduced this guy to Rickey, and they're both from

Michigan College in Ann Arbor up in Michigan. But they argued -- did they argue, but this guy made Branch write it all in there.

Q \$5,500.

A \$5,500 for three years --

Q Even if you didn't play.

A And if I didn't play a game - if they got an injunction against us, they'd have to pay me.

Q What about that thousand dollar bonus that you lost?

A Well, they gave me that, too. They duplicated the whole thing, and that's the most I got. Then, oh, no, and then it went on about oh, I guess, maybe two or three years, and I got another raise to \$6,000. That's the most I ever made, except that we finished second twice, and I got .....

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