

146pp

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

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- 2
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I N T E R V I E W

with

SAM CRAWFORD



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1
2 INTERVIEWER: You mentioned Cobb a minute
3 ago, I really don't want to talk too much about Cobb
4 but I understand he and you didn't get along very well.

5 SAM CRAWFORD: Ah, he didn't -- they said
6 we didn't get along, you know, newspapers built it up
7 and built it up.

8 INTERVIEWER: At the very beginning when
9 he was a rookie?

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, he had come up from
11 the south, you know.

12 INTERVIEWER: He said he was treated
13 pretty rough.

14 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, but why, why was he
15 treated rough?

16 INTERVIEWER: I don't know, why?

17 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, he come up when
18 we were down with the Yankees, you know, he brought
19 it on himself. You know, just personal, but he was
20 just a young fellow that came up there, and he came
21 up with a long -- you know, antagonistic towards the
22 other players, which didn't set so well with us fellows,
23 you know.

24 INTERVIEWER: When you came up as a
25 rookie, 1899?



1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: I came up in 1899 in
3 Cincinatti.

4 INTERVIEWER: Did they treat you rough
5 when you came up?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: No, no, I just went along.
7 Had a lot of old timers there in Cincinatti at that
8 time, Buck Ewing, Billy McFee and Tommy Corcoran and
9 Steinfeldt, Al Silbach, McBride, you know, I can name
10 them all.

11 INTERVIEWER: You saw Buck Ewing play?

12 SAM CRAWFORD: No, he was managing, he
13 didn't catch much. He was about finished I guess, but
14 he was a good catcher.

15 INTERVIEWER: Yah.

16 SAM CRAWFORD: But Billy McFee, he played
17 second base for nineteen years in Cincinatti, one
18 position.

19 INTERVIEWER: How did you come up with
20 Cincinatti, you started off --

21 SAM CRAWFORD: I started in the Canadian
22 League, 1899. That's an odd thing, Canadian League,
23 you know, you had to get out of the country to start.
24 Canadian League that was just a little, I guess about
25 a six club league, Chatham and London, Hamilton, just

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1
2 little, folded up about July.

3 INTERVIEWER: How'd you get to go up
4 there from Nebraska?

5 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, there was a fellow
6 living in Omaha that had been up there so when he went
7 back in the spring, I knew him and he took me along with
8 him.

9 INTERVIEWER: As an outfielder?

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Um hmmm.

11 INTERVIEWER: Always did you play right
12 field?

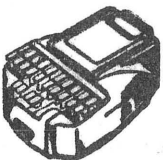
13 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, in Detroit I played
14 centerfield sometimes.

15 INTERVIEWER: You played first base too,
16 didn't you?

17 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, a little bit, not
18 much.

19 INTERVIEWER: How did you hit in that
20 Canadian League, pretty good?

21 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, about led the league
22 I guess, but that folded up about the first of July
23 I guess and then I went to Columbus, the Western League.
24 That was another odd thing. Columbus, and Detroit was
25 in the Western League, Buffalo was in the Western League.



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That's an odd thing, do you remember, that's an odd thing, a Western League with Detroit in there and Buffalo, Kansas City, Indianapolis, St. Paul, that was the Western League; in fact that was the time when Ben Johnson broke in -- so it was from then on I was in there July, August, September, till September, and then they sold me to Cincinatti that fall.

INTERVIEWER: The same year all that happened?

SAM CRAWFORD: Three Leagues in one year and I hit over three hundred in all of them, in Cincinatti and then I went on from there.

INTERVIEWER: You hit about 330 the first year you played in Cincinatti, too, didn't you?

SAM CRAWFORD: I guess so.

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

SAM CRAWFORD: But, that, those were rough and tough days, you know, in those days things was different.

INTERVIEWER: What was different?

SAM CRAWFORD: Everything was different, you didn't have the hotels, and the travelling, you know, two guys sleeping in an upper, you know and things like that, so it was, this was altogether different.



1
2 You didn't get the money, of course, a dollar was worth
3 a dollar in those days.

4 INTERVIEWER: You didn't stay in the best
5 hotels though?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, the best they had
7 you know. As a rule ball players in those days were
8 considered pretty rough, you know, and -- well, if you
9 had the time you could reminisce, you know, go back
10 and think of the old days. I can remember the Detroit
11 Club, back in 1903 or even before that in Cincinnati,
12 they had you go in a dining room, you know, as good
13 as you could get, but there they shoved you way down
14 in a corner somewhere.

15 You know, there comes a ball player, down
16 in the corner. Did you ever hear of Kid Overfield?

17 INTERVIEWER: Sure.

18 SAM CRAWFORD: For the Yankees, up on
19 hilltop. Well, he was in Detroit, he played in Detroit
20 with Kid Gleason, well, anyway, Overfield was a second
21 baseman, no, shortstop, a tough little guy too, and
22 anyway, he come from the south somewhere, Arkansas or
23 somewhere. The kid was in some hotel somewhere, Pittsburgh
24 I think, and they shoved us way down in the corner and
25 they had a tile floor, little square tiles, you know,



1
2 and we're down there and couldn't get any waiters, you
3 know, colored waiters, and this is true, you know,
4 he says, I'll get you some waiters fellows, so he took
5 on the plates and sailed it down there and it came down
6 in a million pieces, when it hit that tile floor you
7 know, and he had four or five waiters around there in
8 no time.

9 (Laughter)

10 But, that's the kind of a thing that would
11 happen, you know, those things, they usually remain in
12 your memory you know. So, the ball players were pretty
13 rough in those days, they were rough. I don't know it
14 wasn't, they were supposed to have a curfew and all that
15 stuff, but-- there were quite a few good drinkers in
16 those days too, you know.

17 I joined that Columbus Club in the Western
18 League -- well -- when I joined them there they trans-
19 ferred Columbus to Grand Rapids. Lou Bardell was on
20 that club.

21 INTERVIEWER: Lou Bardell on the same club?

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, he was on the Grand
23 Rapids Club, but they transferred from Columbus to
24 Grand Rapids but that was, oh, I don't know, those
25 leagues were struggling you know, they had a hard time



1
2 getting along, you didn't see much money.

3 INTERVIEWER: How much money did you get
4 in the Western League, do you remember?

5 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I don't think more
6 than maybe a couple hundred dollars. The Canadian League,
7 I only got about sixty-five dollars.

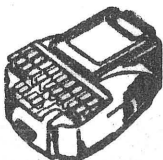
8 INTERVIEWER: Per month.

9 SAM CRAWFORD: Um hmmm.

10 INTERVIEWER: Just for room and board.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: So you see, if you go way
12 back, them were tough days, but we enjoyed it, of course,
13 we didn't realize they must have been making money.
14 When I transferred to Cincinatti, of course, I had
15 never been anywhere at all, I had left Nebraska and went
16 up to that Canadian League, I had never been anywhere
17 and I wound up there dickering with John T. Brush. He
18 owned the Cincinatti Club, he was a businessman in
19 Indianapolis.

20 He was a tough cookie too, you know, to
21 get anything out of, but then come later years when
22 Gary Herman, after Brush, then Gary Herman, then they
23 got to fighting, the two leagues got to fighting, I
24 don't remember the year exactly, but it's way back there,
25 around 1900, somewhere in there. They were stealing



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each other's players, you know. Flick, and those fellows, they were jumping back and forth, Al Chase. Al Chase played on the south side one day and the next day he played on the West side, you know, sort of a thousand dollars a jump, they were jumping back and forth.

INTERVIEWER: Churchgrove, I think, jumped from Pittsburgh I think to Highlanders.

SAM CRAWFORD, Yah, yah, and Dineen, I think Bill Dineen was in there, but speaking of Churchgrove, there's a fellow won forty games one year. Same as big Ed Walsh, but I don't know, it's --

INTERVIEWER: You jumped over to the Tigers from --

SAM CRAWFORD: Well, speaking of Gary Herman, they were dickering, the magnates got together, they said, well, we can't keep this up, you know, cutting each other's throats, we've got to get together, so they started dickering, and Gary Herman, they had everything all settled then, I heard later about it, he said, what are you going to do about Crawford -- I had jumped to Detroit, see, and jumped back and forth --

INTERVIEWER: Did you jump back and forth?

SAM CRAWFORD: Only a couple of times.



1
2 Of course, that was unethical, it shouldn't have been
3 done but, you know, a fellow, if he didn't have any
4 money he just generally followed the rest of them.

5 INTERVIEWER: Did you get a thousand dollars
6 every time you went back and forth ?

7 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I guess some of them
8 got more than that, maybe fifteen hundred or maybe two
9 thousand, but those fellows they came down to settle
10 this thing and they said, Gary, what are you going to
11 do about Crawford? Well, he says, let him go to Detroit,
12 you know, and that was the way I got there, 1903, so
13 I was there until '17.

14 INTERVIEWER: 1903 until 1917.

15 SAM CRAWFORD: I don't know whether it
16 was a good move or bad, I don't know. Of course,
17 Cincinnati won the penant later, you know, and all, of
18 course, I might not have been there later.

19 INTERVIEWER: What was Lou Bardell like,
20 back in the Western League in 1899?

21 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, he was, you know he
22 was just like a big boy, you know, you could take him
23 by the hand and lead him around, you know.

24 INTERVIEWER: Was he as wacky as he turned
25 out to be later?



1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I think he was pretty
3 much like that. We, in Grand Rapids, there you know
4 he'd pitch a game and then you wouldn't see him for a
5 week, you wouldn't know where he was, out playing with
6 the kids or gone fishing or something.

7 You'd have a game advertised for Sunday
8 you know, Lou Bardell is going to pitch, and there's
9 Sunday come and you know a little town, the little
10 bleachers were packed, and where's Lou, no Lou. Pretty
11 soon you'd hear people up in the grandstand yelling,
12 here comes Lou, here comes Lou, right down through the
13 stands, you know, and he'd jump down in front, cut
14 across center field, crosses the diamond taking off
15 his shirt and in about five minutes, he never had any
16 underwear on, you know, he'd come out of there and
17 say, all right, let's go.

18 I used to get a kick out of him. In
19 those days he didn't have any trouble, he could pitch,
20 he had good control, a fast ball, a good pitcher, bit
21 raw boned, six foot two or three, wonderful control,
22 never hit anybody.

23 INTERVIEWER: Even then?

24 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, never hit anybody,
25 but if you didn't say anything to him he would get --

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2 how do you say that word, lacksadaisical, you know or
3 something, just fooling around, if you didn't say any-
4 thing to him but if you got him mad, you know, if you
5 rode him and got him mad, then he'd go to work.

6 Tony got him later you know, Tony Mack,
7 and we had some battles, although we had more trouble
8 with "Plank" than we had with Lou Bardell.

9 INTERVIEWER: Really?

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah. Plank was a toughie.
11 We never had much trouble with Lou but Plank was a
12 toughie, he had one of these side arm things and he'd
13 have that ball in on you all the time, but --

14 INTERVIEWER: Could you hit Lou, him being
15 a left handed pitcher and you a left handed batter.

16 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, Lou was an overhanded,
17 the difference in the pitching was he'd pitch overhand.
18 You could follow them along better, but if you pitch
19 side arm like Plank, he pitched side arm all the time,
20 he had it in on you, but Lou, we could follow that
21 ball.

22 Anyway he used to -- Cobb would be in,
23 we had some tough, tough games with Ty, that was in
24 1907 I think or '08, and we were battling for the
25 pannant you know, but Cobb would come up to bat and he'd



1
2 say, now don't get him mad when I'm up there, don't
3 get him mad. Well, I'm after that and I used to do
4 everything to distract him, you know, even Jennings,
5 you know.

6 Go to the dime store and get toys, rubber
7 snakes or jack in the box, you know, that jumps out,
8 and he'd go on the first base coaching line and he'd
9 set them down on the grass and yell, Hey Lou, look,
10 and Lou'd look over and kind of grin, you know, and
11 he'd do everything to distract him from his pitching.

12 Those things really happened you know,
13 those things really happened. It's like some big
14 pitcher walks out to the mound, a great big guy, he'd
15 say, oh, boy look at the size of that guy. Maybe just
16 an ordinary pitcher, but you have that psychological
17 things, you know, look out for this guy, he's a big
18 guy, but a little fellow walks out, a little pitcher,
19 maybe he's got twice as much as the big guy, you'd
20 see a little man walk out and you'd say, well, we'll
21 knock his ears off, you know, it's psychological, in
22 your mind.

23 INTERVIEWER: A lot of baseball is in the
24 mind.

25 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah. I don't know how much



1
2 baseball is in the mind of these modern young, these
3 present day players, they're always looking about for
4 help, they don't know what to do.

5 INTERVIEWER: Do you think they were
6 smarter in your day?

7 SAM CRAWFORD: I don't think there's any
8 doubt about it, you were on your own, these were the
9 guys, you had all the best of them. Today they got
10 the pitchers handicapped, you can't do anything, get
11 new balls to pitch to all the time. We played one whole
12 game with the same ball if it stayed in the park, lop-
13 sided and black and everything else.

14 INTERVIEWER: You saw some mighty good
15 pitching didn't you?

16 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, Walter Johnson.

17 INTERVIEWER: Were you playing the day
18 Walter Johnson first pitched in a major league game?

19 SAM CRAWFORD: I beat him, and I'm not
20 being egotistical, I hit a home run off him that first
21 day, I think we hit him three to two.

22 INTERVIEWER: First game he ever pitched
23 in the big league?

24 SAM CRAWFORD: American League. Big --
25 have you ever heard of Cotillion, Joe Cotillion?



1 INTERVIEWER: Sure.

2
3 SAM CRAWFORD: You know Joe, you know
4 of him, he was managing Washington at that time. I
5 think that was 1907. We were after the pennant then,
6 that was our first pennant, but Joe was always kidding,
7 he was a kidder, you know. Joe was a nice fellow, he
8 was an umpire too, later, but Joe, we went out to the
9 park and Walter had just reported, you know, from Idaho
10 or somewhere, and Joe said to us as we came off the
11 bench, he said, well, boys I got a big, big apple
12 knocker that's going to pitch to you guys today.

13 Better watch out for him, he's swift, he's
14 very fast, you know, he told us that, and here's Walter,
15 he's just a string of a kid, I guess he was only about
16 twenty, you know, tall, lanky, didn't have a curve, but
17 he had that fast ball.

18 That's all he pitched, we had a pretty
19 terrible time beating him and we needed that game too.
20 Just fast balls. He didn't need any curve. I hit one
21 and it was over the shortstops head, I can remember
22 the scene, a line drive. I wasn't in front of the ball,
23 you know, generally I pull the ball, but I hit it and
24 it went over the shortstop's head and in those days
25 the ballfield, the grounds were big. You hit one be-

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1
2 tween the outfielders and you could make the run. You
3 had to run but the ball was still in the park, and they
4 were shagging it, but before they could get it you could
5 score with a home run inside the park.

6 It very seldom happens now, they've pulled
7 those fences in, but Walter was a wonderful man too.
8 He wouldn't hit anybody, you know, he was always afraid
9 he might hit somebody, a wonderful guy.

10 INTERVIEWER: His ball was fast.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: Yeh, he was fast, the
12 fastest I ever saw, in my career. He reminded me of
13 these, did you ever see these pitching machines?

14 INTERVIEWER: Yah.

15 SAM CRAWFORD: The compressed air thing.
16 Well, I batted against those things, you know, and it's
17 a peculiar thing, I was afraid of that machine because
18 they could gear that thing up so that ball was like a
19 bullet you know, -- swish -- that was the word I'd use,
20 swish, and it went by you and that was the kind of a
21 ball that Walter Johnson pitched. He had a swish on it.

22 Those things come back you know, when you
23 get to talking about it. Of course, Big Ed Walsh, he
24 was a spitball pitcher, you know, he was different.
25 Chesborough was a spitball pitcher. Those fellows, they



1
2 didn't know how to pitch until they got that spitball.
3 Big Ed Walsh was on the bench there in Chicago, they
4 wouldn't even let him pitch. All he had was his fast
5 ball, so he sat on the bench.

6 INTERVIEWER: He went on and got --

7 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, won forty-one games
8 and I think he finished up about twenty for the rest
9 of them. He was an iron man, big man too.

10 INTERVIEWER: That spitter really moved?

11 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, he could control it
12 you know, he could bring it in or out. We had a lot of
13 tough battles with that guy. "Doc Fide" was another
14 one, a little left hander. Ray Sharp, the catcher,
15 you know, we had tough going.

16 INTERVIEWER: (Not clear.)

17 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes, yes, that was
18 way back, way back, when the old National League --
19 Bill Krieger was the catcher.

20 INTERVIEWER: Yah. "Sal Young" won about
21 five hundred games in his career. Was he that good, did
22 you see him?

23 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, of course, when we,
24 he was kind of on the down grade I think, a little bit,
25 and the last time I saw him was in St. Louis, the St.

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1
2 Louis Browns. He might have been National, I don't
3 remember, I guess he must have been National.

4 INTERVIEWER: You had some good pitchers
5 on your Detroit Club, didn't you, George Mullen?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, Uh, huh, Wild Bill, --

7 INTERVIEWER: Wild Bill Goslin, Killian.

8 SAM CRAWFORD: Killian, Sheavers.

9 INTERVIEWER: Good enough to win three
10 pennants.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, nothing outstanding
12 but they seemed to be balanced, like 1907 -- well, we
13 sneaked in, you know, won the pennant by maybe a game
14 or two. That's just one of those things they said, but
15 we came back in 1908 and won it again, well, it was
16 a fluke, another fluke, couldn't be, couldn't be possible,
17 but we won it, and when it come around to 1909 we won
18 it again, and then they run, we run into the Cubs
19 again and we lost all three world series you know.

20 INTERVIEWER: Yah.

21 SAM CRAWFORD: Two to the cubs and one to
22 Pittsburgh. I finished up in Los Angeles, you know.

23 INTERVIEWER: Yah, you became an umpire
24 too, didn't you?

25 SAM CRAWFORD: I umpired in the coast league.

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1
2 INTERVIEWER: How did you like being an
3 umpire?

4 SAM CRAWFORD: Thankless job, thankless
5 job, tough job. I had a good partner, I booked in
6 with a fellow named Jack Powell, he was a wonderful
7 umpire and he'd tell me, you know, he was giving me
8 some advice, which is all right. He said don't frater-
9 nize with these ballplayers, you know.

10 I felt well, I can talk to the ballplayers,
11 you know, kid a little with them, he said don't do it.
12 They'll put you on a spot tomorrow, don't fool with the
13 ball players, don't have anything to do with them.
14 So that's the way it turned out.

15 There's got to be an umpire, you know,
16 there's got to be an umpire in the ball game. I know
17 we used to dress, we may have a couple minutes or so
18 and Jack would say we'll get out there when I'd say
19 come on Jack, but they never had a game without an
20 umpire.

21 We'd get out there in plenty of time,
22 take our time, and he'd tell me different things,
23 that he'd been through, different episodes, tough
24 situations, you know where bottles and things come
25 flying at you and all that, but he said don't fraternize

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2 or they'll put you on the spot. You haven't got a
3 friend in the place, you know, only your partner, that's
4 the only man that's for you. There's a bench over here,
5 and a bench over here, and they're all watching you
6 like a hawk trying to get something on you, and he said
7 you'll find there's a prima donna or two on each club.

8 He said, as soon as they rear up in any
9 way, give them the old thumb right now, get rid of them,
10 and you won't have any more trouble. He was right,
11 if you do, run them out quick, then everything is
12 fine.

13 INTERVIEWER: Did you like being an umpire?

14 SAM CRAWFORD: No, I didn't care much about
15 it. It's too, oh, I don't know, it's lonely, a lonely
16 thing.

17 INTERVIEWER: One thing I notice funny
18 about umpires, they never sit down through the whole
19 game do they?

20 SAM CRAWFORD: No, no.

21 INTERVIEWER: The ball player, he sits
22 down between innings.

23 SAM CRAWFORD: He don't get a drink of
24 water or nothing.

25 INTERVIEWER: How do you do it?



1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I umpired in
3 Sacramento in the summer and it gets pretty hot in
4 Sacramento, over a hundred, and you wear that blue suit,
5 you know, your shirt is wet underneath, and you can,
6 if you want, you can go and get a drink of water at
7 the bench if you want to, but I don't know they don't
8 seem to.

9 INTERVIEWER: You can't go to the bathroom
10 can you?

11 SAM CRAWFORD: No.

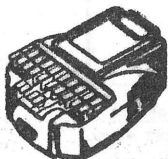
12 INTERVIEWER: And you never sit down between
13 innings. You never sit down. You know, that's not easy.
14 I don't know how they do it, they're not young, they're
15 not twenty year olds now.

16 SAM CRAWFORD: It's a routine, a routine
17 they go through. Their legs are in pretty good shape
18 I guess.

19 INTERVIEWER: You were about fifty-five
20 when you were an umpire, 1935 or so.

21 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, along in there some-
22 wheres.

23 INTERVIEWER: And you had to stand, let's
24 say a double header, you'd be on your feet for something
25 like --



1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, there's a break in --
3 in the middle you know, and you could go into the club
4 house then, but I don't know you never think about
5 getting tired because there's always something doing.
6 You know you've got to watch everything, so you don't,
7 a lot of times we know what club was winning, but we
8 didn't even know what the score was, you know.

9 You'd get so interested in what's going
10 on --

11 INTERVIEWER: You got so much to do.

12 SAM CRAWFORD: You get, yah, it's a thank-
13 less job.

14 INTERVIEWER: In the early years, when you
15 were with Cincinatti and Detroit, way back, how many
16 umpires did they have?

17 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, a lot of times they
18 only had one umpire.

19 INTERVIEWER: In a game?

20 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah.

21 INTERVIEWER: Where did he stay at?

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, part of the time in the
23 back -- if you want to go way back, sometimes where the
24 catcher stood way back until two strikes, did you know
25 that?

1
2 INTERVIEWER: No. That's before your
3 time though.

4 SAM CRAWFORD: No, I played when the
5 catcher was back, we had a backstop and when they got
6 two strikes on the batter then he came up.

7 INTERVIEWER: Did he catch the ball on a
8 bounce?

9 SAM CRAWFORD: No, it didn't count, of
10 course, but he was back, but that was in 1899, then
11 later, when they got two strikes on the batter then
12 he'd come up for the third strike.

13 INTERVIEWER: Where did the umpire used
14 to stand then?

15 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, then he'd be out back
16 of the pitcher. They didn't, it seemed to me that they
17 didn't get behind the pitcher very much in those days,
18 you know.

19 INTERVIEWER: Couldn't you steal a base
20 a lot of times with the umpire out of position? I
21 mean how could the umpire be in proper position in
22 those days when there was only one umpire?

23 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, that was a tough
24 situation there. One umpire, he'd be in back of the
25 pitcher, somebody's on second base, somebody gets a hit,

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
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2 well then he's watching the ball, somebody catching the
3 ball over here, this guy running cuts third base fifteen
4 feet. He don't even touch third base, you know, things
5 like that. He couldn't do anything about it, he didn't
6 see it, so you know when these fellows are playing today,
7 they're sitting on top of the world, you know.

8 Everything is done for them. Oh, I don't
9 know -- I'm talking a lot, but it's different, altogether
10 different. Like I told you it looks to me like baseball
11 is on -- like number four, so --

12 INTERVIEWER: Do you remember "Jeremy
13 Schaffer"?

14 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, he was our second
15 baseman, he was a great guy for a club, a wonderful
16 man for a club, never down, you know, never down, no
17 matter what happened, always had a big smile, you know,
18 kidding.

19 INTERVIEWER: Good second baseman?

20 SAM CRAWFORD: Pretty fair, you know,
21 pretty steady.

22 INTERVIEWER: Do you remember the time
23 that he went -- stole second and then stole back
24 to first again?

25 SAM CRAWFORD: Went back to first, I don't



1
2 remember that, it may have happened, I heard of Harry
3 Davis doing that in the Athletics. I think they were
4 trying to draw a throw you know, a man on third you
5 know, and the pitcher wouldn't even throw the ball,
6 but I guess they ruled that out.

7 INTERVIEWER: Do you remember "Dony" Bush?

8 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yah, he was our short-
9 stop. I think he's still alive.

10 INTERVIEWER: Sure.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: He's in Indianapolis isn't
12 he, wasn't he president of that club or something.

13 INTERVIEWER: Still is.

14 SAM CRAWFORD: He is? Yeh, --

15 INTERVIEWER: Davy Jones was on that
16 team.

17 SAM CRAWFORD: I had a letter from Davy
18 the other day, he's in Wisconsin -- he's was the best
19 lead off man in the country, Davy Jones, and I've seen
20 all of them or a good deal of them, but I've never seen
21 as good a lead off man as Davy. Fast you know, he was
22 a ten second man, in college.

23 INTERVIEWER: He went to college?

24 SAM CRAWFORD: Yep, and he could really
25 fly down there. He had a guy eye and he got a lot of



1
2 bases on balls, many, many bases on balls.

3 INTERVIEWER: Who was your catcher then?

4 SAM CRAWFORD: Savage --

5 INTERVIEWER: Schmidt?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: Schmidt, oh, Charley

7 Schmidt, he was a coal miner from Arkansas. Coal Hill
8 he came from. All these things you're bringing back
9 to memory. Now, there's a guy, I believe, he was the
10 strongest man I ever saw. He didn't have much of an
11 education but he was sincere in what he did, a powerful
12 man.

13 We were going somewhere one time and the
14 train stopped somewhere along the line, a little station
15 somewhere, and they wanted to change a track and they
16 had torn out rails along the track, and we was all
17 kidding around there, throwing stones and so on, and
18 someone said, see if you can lift that rail. Well,
19 you might lift one end of it you know, I don't know
20 how much they weighed, but they're heavy, about a
21 thirty foot rail, and we were fooling around there and
22 finally Schmitty come over and said, get out of the way,
23 he says, I'll show you how to lift that thing.

24 He got astride of that thing, it was over
25 a little kind of a gully like, he got astride of that

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
CERTIFIED STENOTYPE REPORTER AND STAFF



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2 thing, got his hands under there and he lifted the whole
3 thing up. Both ends off the ground. He was powerful.

4 Those things come back to you, you know,
5 because I sit around and I don't talk to anybody that
6 knows anything about the old days. Once in a while I
7 meet some elderly man that says I remember when you
8 were playing, you know, they can recall. I still get
9 fan mail you know.

10 INTERVIEWER: Really?

11 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yah, from kids you
12 know, wanting autographs.

13 INTERVIEWER: How much, how much mail
14 do you get like that? Very much?

15 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, not too much anymore.
16 I used to get a whole lot when I first went in the hall
17 you know, I used to get a lot. It's dwindled down
18 now because there's so many more new ones, you know,
19 and they're centering on the new ones now, so --

20 INTERVIEWER: Do you remember George
21 Moriarty?

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yah, third baseman.

23 INTERVIEWER: Yah, was he as tough as they
24 say he was?

25 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, George was -- he'd



1
2 fight, a fighting Irishman. Nice fellow, nice fellow.

3 INTERVIEWER: You got along with most
4 all of them?

5 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes.

6 INTERVIEWER: Seems like Cobb didn't
7 get along with so many of them so well.

8 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, the big star you know,
9 the big star.

10 INTERVIEWER: Babe Ruth was a big star.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, oh but he was different,
12 a different setup.

13 INTERVIEWER: Babe Ruth was a big star
14 and everybody loved him.

15 SAM CRAWFORD: Like Walter Johnson was,
16 and Speaker and those fellows, you know a good fellow.
17 When you're talking about Cobb having a tough time
18 when he came up there -- you got to look at the other
19 side of the thing too. Why? He had a book you know,
20 he wrote a book.

21 INTERVIEWER: I read his book.

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Yeh, I got one of them
23 somebody gave me. There was too much "I" in there, I
24 felt.

25 INTERVIEWER: He stated you guys were very



1
2 tough on him. He says you guys weren't fair to him, he
3 says you broke his back.

4 SAM CRAWFORD: I don't believe that, I
5 don't remember anything like that. You see now, if
6 you don't know a player, a player comes on and you don't
7 know him, you're not going to start riding him before
8 you know the man, so there might be another side to
9 this thing.

10 As I said before, we were rebels, you
11 know, we were a lot of rebels, the dam Yankees, things
12 like that, so I don't think a lot of that stuff -- I
13 didn't take much stock in it.

14 INTERVIEWER: He says they wouldn't let
15 him in the showers.

16 SAM CRAWFORD: I don't think so.

17 INTERVIEWER: Well, you know every rookie
18 gets a little bit of hazing?

19 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes, in a mild way.

20 INTERVIEWER: And if the rookie, when he
21 gets this hazing takes it the wrong way, everything can
22 go allwrong.

23 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, that's right, that's
24 right. He was antagonistic, you see, he came up with
25 the wrong attitude. I've never talked much about Cobb



1
2 and people have asked me about him, all the time being
3 the greatest ball player there was. I will always say
4 he's one of the greatest ball players that ever lived,
5 I don't think he was the greatest ball player that
6 ever lived. I think Honus Wagner was the greatest ball
7 player that ever lived.

8 I mean all around ballplayer. He, Cobb,
9 could only play the outfield; Honus could play outfield,
10 infield, anything. Hit, throw, wonderful arm.

11 INTERVIEWER: Honus was an outfielder
12 before he became a shortstop, and then a thirdbaseman,
13 before he became a shortstop.

14 SAM CRAWFORD: And then a shortstop.

15 INTERVIEWER: Tommy Leach took his third
16 base job when Honus moved to short.

17 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah. Great ball player, I
18 saw him in his prime, I saw him before he moved to
19 Pittsburgh, when they were still in Louisville.

20 INTERVIEWER: Oh, did you?

21 SAM CRAWFORD: YAH, they came from Louisville
22 you know. I saw him in his prime, in 1909 --

23 INTERVIEWER: You saw him before he was
24 a shortstop then?

25 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, yah. He could do



1
2 other things outstanding. Anybody that can do every-
3 thing, they're always outstanding. He could throw,
4 had a wonderful arm; he could steal bases, he could
5 hit. He knew what to do, never made a mistake, big
6 man,

7 INTERVIEWER: Bow legs.

8 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, if you looked at him
9 you'd think he was just off the farm somewhere, he'd
10 have his shirt like this you know, a pair of blue --
11 what is that blue material -- serge, you know, blue
12 serge pants with a belt you know, a baseball belt.
13 You'd see him going down, he had shoulders like that,
14 you know, wonderful fellow.

15 You know it's a treat to see ball players
16 like that, you know, I saw them in their prime. Another
17 great ball player, I guess he's in the hall, Bobby
18 Walsh, is he in the Hall of Fame?

19 INTERVIEWER: I don't know.

20 SAM CRAWFORD: Great shortstop, a little
21 man, small man.

22 INTERVIEWER: Wash't he your manager for
23 a while?

24 SAM CRAWFORD: No, no he, Bobby, I guess he's
25 gone now, but he was a wonderful little fellow. He

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
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2 started out as a pitcher I think, at one time with the
3 old Cleveland Indians, way back, in the National League,
4 maybe he was a third baseman, but he wound up shortstop
5 with the St. Louis Browns, but he could go, best man
6 I ever saw, he had a wonderful arm. He could back, go
7 in back of that third baseman, get any ball that gets
8 by the third baseman and straighten up and get that
9 ball over there, wonderful.

10 INTERVIEWER: Like a bullet.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: Right and true, you know,
12 true throwing. He was a wonder on that, on that one
13 play especially, going back, not letting -- if it got
14 by that third baseman, he'd come up with it.

15 INTERVIEWER: Did you ever see Jimmy Cohen
16 play?

17 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes.

18 INTERVIEWER: Not Eddie, Jimmy.

19 SAM CRAWFORD: He was a third baseman
20 too. He was the old National League.

21 INTERVIEWER: Bobby Rowe. Bobby Rowe was
22 one of your managers wasn't he?

23 SAM CRAWFORD: No, no, he played on
24 Detroit though, when he --

25 INTERVIEWER: He played with you?



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2 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah. He was the first one
3 to hit four home runs you know. That was something,
4 you know, the old ball, in the old days.

5 INTERVIEWER: Talking about home runs,
6 you led the league in home runs three times, right?

7 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, I guess it's on my
8 placard, I don't know, did you see it on those cards?

9 INTERVIEWER: No.

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Haven't you ever seen one?

11 INTERVIEWER: No.

12 SAM CRAWFORD: I think the whole thing is
13 on there. The Hall of Fame furnishes me these cards.

14 INTERVIEWER: You led the league in home
15 runs in 1901 with sixteen, right?

16 SAM CRAWFORD: That was Cincinatti.

17 INTERVIEWER: That's a lot of home runs in
18 1901, sixteen, and most all of them inside the park.

19 SAM CRAWFORD: Yep.

20 INTERVIEWER: Sixteen home runs in 1901,
21 how did you get that many -- I mean that's a lot of
22 home runs for 1901.

23 SAM CRAWFORD: A long ball too, you know,
24 they had big grounds, if you'd get one between the
25 outfielders then you can go home and sometimes walk

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
CERTIFIED STENOTYPE REPORTER AND STAFF



1
2 around there.

3 INTERVIEWER: That was 1901 and in 1914
4 you were still going, you were tied with Frank Baker
5 for the home runs in 1914. Of course, I'm not talking
6 about triples.

7 SAM CRAWFORD: I guess that still stands
8 in triples.

9 INTERVIEWER: Three hundred and twelve.

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, they don't think
11 anything about triples anymore, it's the home run.

12 INTERVIEWER: No, you don't see many
13 triples any more.

14 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, with that new ball,
15 it's a lively ball, a triple now, it's a home run.
16 It used to be probably seventy-five feet, maybe a
17 hundred feet more too.

18 INTERVIEWER: Did you all pay much atten-
19 tion to records in those days?

20 SAM CRAWFORD: No, we never thought any-
21 thing about them. Nobody ever said anything about them.

22 INTERVIEWER: Even though you hit sixteen
23 home runs in 1901?

24 SAM CRAWFORD: Never thought anything
25 about it, didn't even know it you know, until the



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averages come out, you know. We used to get that Spaulding Guide, you know, and it would all be in there.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember that time when you all went out on strike in 19--

SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes, I remember that.

INTERVIEWER: 1912.

SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, that was over Cobb, you know, that was over Cobb.

INTERVIEWER: What happened then?

SAM CRAWFORD: You mean the start of that?

INTERVIEWER: Yah.

SAM CRAWFORD: Well, the start of it was because Cobb was out of the game you know, Ben Johnson threw him out of the game because he hopped up in the bleachers and socked somebody in New York. That was the start of the thing and we wanted to get him back in because we was up there and I guess we wanted him back in anyway.

It was, I don't know if it was a smart thing to do or not. He was out, suspended you know, he was out and we wanted to get him back, you know, but we were out -- we had -- Mahlin, the manager, or the owner, he came dashing down to New York you know,



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2 it was a terrible time, but we went back. You couldn't
3 do anything to Ben Johnson, you know, that was foolish,
4 he had him suspended and that was it.

5 But, some of the guys thought maybe we
6 could, you know.

7 INTERVIEWER: But some of the guys
8 thought maybe they could, you know -- Cobb shouldn't
9 have gotten into the stands.

10 SAM CRAWFORD: That was another thing,
11 I don't know whether I should say that or not. It was,
12 he might have been justified in what he did, but the
13 way it turned out it was kind of tragic affair. This
14 man, I can remember this, somebody was sitting up in
15 the bleachers, it was raining, sprinkling and that day,
16 there was only, I think the man was sitting up there
17 alone, pretty near, and in the bleachers near the back
18 of our bench and he was riding Cobb all the time.

19 Every time he'd go in you know, he kept
20 riding him personally, personal stuff, bad and Cobb
21 took it as long as he could and finally went up there.
22 This man was sitting there with a raincoat on, remember
23 they used to wear a cap, he went up there and he took
24 a sock at this man and he come to find out the man didn't
25 have any arms. Did you ever hear that?

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
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2 INTERVIEWER: Yes.

3 SAM CRAWFORD: You heard that, you knew
4 that then, yah, it turned out he had both arms off,
5 so that was what the whole thing was, of course, he
6 shouldn't have gone up there.

7 INTERVIEWER: No, you know, a fan can't
8 go on the field and a player shouldn't go into the
9 stands.

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I -- the thing that
11 we think about reminiscing about, when you meet some-
12 body that has these questions or knows something about
13 baseball, you get some foolish questions too, you know,
14 sometimes, people wonder about different things.

15 I'd had letters from people that went
16 back, I guess from 1907 or '08 or somewhere in there.
17 We had Connie at that time, Connie Mack, to battle,
18 Philadelphia, and we had a seventeen inning game there
19 one time, and it decided, really it decided the pennant.

20 Well, they had ropes up around the outfield
21 and we were going on, they had Wild Bill and were knocking
22 his ears down, but he seemed to recover, you know. It
23 was a bad game, I think it was nine to nine or something
24 like that, and we tied it up in the ninth inning and
25 it went seventeen innings, but then during this game,

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2 I was playing centerfield at that time, and "Harry
3 Deers" I know hit a fly ball out center, just an ordinary
4 fly ball, and just as I was going to catch it something
5 hit my arm and just whirled me around like that, you
6 know.

7 Some policeman, sitting down in front
8 of the ropes, you know, he didn't, I wasn't anywhere
9 near the ropes, he was sitting down front of the ropes,
10 I noticed him sitting there -- and he jumps up and he
11 run around in front of me and hit my arm just as I
12 was catching the ball, hit my arm and knocked it out
13 and of course, we squawked you know, and "Phil Coatin"
14 was there and I don't know who the other young fellow
15 was but they both saw it, and then of course, they
16 called him out, but that was the way it ended.

17 It was a tie game and that really won
18 the pennant for us.

19 INTERVIEWER: It seems to me a lot of
20 times they'd put ropes up in the outfield.

21 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah.

22 INTERVIEWER: Fans standing behind the
23 ropes. I should think there'd be a lot of incidents
24 like that, where they'd interfere with the outfielders.

25 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes, they really inter-

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2 fered too, at times, you know. Sometimes when they
3 didn't have the ropes up and the crowd was around there
4 and they'd have policemen there to keep them back.

5 I've seen many a time people who would interfere with
6 the fielder. You know, all they'd have to do is stand
7 still and let the fielder run into them, they wouldn't
8 get out of the way.

9 I've seen the crowd open up and let him
10 go in there and get it, you know. Instead of standing
11 still they'd open up and he'd go right into the
12 crowd and get it.

13 INTERVIEWER: It all depends on whose
14 side your on.

15 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah. Well, this thing about
16 Cobb, the armless man, I wouldn't want that --

17 INTERVIEWER: No, well, everybody knows
18 that anyway --

19 SAM CRAWFORD: No, I don't think many
20 people know about that.

21 INTERVIEWER: Well, they always say that
22 he was a cripple.

23 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, well, they could say
24 that.

25 INTERVIEWER: Yeh, he shouldn't, you know



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2 a ball player shouldn't go into the stands and the fan
3 shouldn't go onto the field.

4 SAM CRAWFORD: You take a lot of abuse
5 you know, and it gets under your hide after a while.

6 INTERVIEWER: Does it really? Did it
7 get under your hide?

8 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, it will eventually,
9 eventually.

10 INTERVIEWER: You get sort of cynical
11 about it, don't you?

12 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, you don't pay any
13 attention to them. But, you hear it just the same,
14 you know, you hear it alright, you can't help it.

15 INTERVIEWER: Yeh. Do you remember that
16 game, when you all won the pennant in 1908, the last
17 day of the season?

18 SAM CRAWFORD: In Chicago, the White Sox
19 beat us --

20 INTERVIEWER: Walsh?

21 SAM CRAWFORD: I guess they had two or
22 three in there, but we went into Chicago, we only had
23 to win one game out of three, to win the pennant.

24 INTERVIEWER: 1908.

25 SAM CRAWFORD: And we thought it was a cinch

1
2 you know, and the Sox, they didn't figure, but we got
3 in there and "Jeez" they knocked us off the first few
4 games. Then it comes down the last game, boy things
5 tightened up, you see.

6 We had good games there, you see, we got
7 beat two close games, but then it depended on this
8 last game and Wild Bill pitched, shut 'em out, seven
9 to nothing.

10 INTERVIEWER: Yeh, Ed Walsh pitched for
11 them.

12 SAM CRAWFORD: I guess he started, yaa.

13 INTERVIEWER: Do you know how many hits
14 you got that day?

15 SAM CRAWFORD: I don't remember.

16 INTERVIEWER: Four.

17 SAM CRAWFORD: Really, I didn't remember.
18 I remember the game, we wound up seven to nothing, you
19 see when they, when the Sox went out there, when they
20 won the first game, you know, everything was, you know,
21 they didn't figure they had a chance, they just went
22 out there and played ball, and they beat us, and the
23 second game, same thing, you know.

24 We were tightened up and they were relaxed,
25 and when it come to the last game then the chips were

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
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2 down, the guys couldn't pick up a ball hardly, you
3 know, it would be Frankie's ball and "Chiggie" Donohue,
4 you know, they were like this. We came into the park
5 you know, yelling and singing.

6 INTERVIEWER: Pressure had a lot to do
7 with it.

8 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, we were -- a great
9 big axe was on the club at that time. Geez, I've popped
10 off here quite a bit, is that going to be all in there?

11 INTERVIEWER: Well, I took it all down,
12 what's in there I don't know, but everything you've
13 said is very interesting.

14 If you had to do it all over again, if
15 you had to start to live your life all over again, would
16 you be a ball player?

17 SAM CRAWFORD: I believe so, yah.

18 INTERVIEWER: Did you enjoy it?

19 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes. I enjoyed it.
20 It was a good life, all that. Of course, there were
21 tough games too, a lot of beefs going on too, you know,
22 different things.

23 INTERVIEWER: What did you do after you
24 finished in the American League, you went to the Coast
25 League didn't you?



1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah. I came out in 19 --
3 I finished up in Detroit in 1917 and I came out to
4 the Coast here and played with Los Angeles, '18, '19,
5 '20 and '21.

6 INTERVIEWER: Why didn't you stay a few
7 more games and get three thousand hits with Detroit?

8 SAM CRAWFORD: I'll tell you about that if
9 you'll excuse me a minute.

10 INTERVIEWER: Sure. How come you didn't
11 stay in the big Leagues just enough to get another
12 thirty-six hits to get three thousand?

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, it's a long story.
14 I really had three thousand hits, I had three thousand
15 hits -- see I was in the Western League, that's where
16 Ben Johnson come into the picture, he was forming the
17 American League at that time. I was supposed to get,
18 when I went to Cincinatti -- he decided that anybody
19 that come from a smaller league, I just happened to
20 be the Western League, I was supposed to have those
21 hits that I made in that Western League, see, but they
22 wouldn't give them to me.

23 I wrote to "Spink", you know, St. Louis,
24 and I wrote to the Hall of Fame before I went into the
25 Hall of Fame. I wanted those, I wanted -- that's a

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2 select circle, you know, that three thousand, and I
3 really should have been in there because I had those
4 hits and they gave you the hits for being in the
5 Western League because the Western League, some of
6 those towns were taken into the American League, see.

7 Well, I had those hits but you know they
8 wouldn't give them to me. I had them, I don't know
9 about three thousand and fifty-two something like that,
10 so I wrote about it, I wrote Spink about it and said
11 you've got the records right there and the Hall of
12 Fame.

13 Do you know Kainer, Sid Kainer, I wrote
14 to him about it. Well, they hem-hawed around about it
15 I guess and then said, well I guess we can't do any-
16 thing about it.

17 INTERVIEWER: When you went to L.A. in
18 1917 or '18, did you figure then you had three thousand
19 hits?

20 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I had given up on
21 it you know, and then I didn't think anything about it
22 because -- it's a long story, about this hit business.
23 Cobb was mixed up in that too.

24 INTERVIEWER: How was that?

25 SAM CRAWFORD: And Jennings was mixed up



1
2 in it.

3 INTERVIEWER: How did they all get involved?

4 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, Cobb and I didn't
5 get along too well you know, I don't know about this in --

6 INTERVIEWER: Don't worry about it, it
7 won't go on.

8 SAM CRAWFORD: I can tell you about this,
9 I don't very often mention it. About 1917, spring
10 training, everything was fine, well-- if you're on a
11 club with a man like Cobb, the big guy, you know, he
12 knew that I was nearing three thousand. It always
13 burns me when I think of this, you know. At the time
14 I didn't want any trouble, you know.

15 They set me on the bench in 1917 and I
16 never played a ball game, all season. Cobb and Jennings
17 and Mahlin, they were -- Cobb was running the thing
18 and keeping me from making these three thousand hits.
19 Instead of advertising the thing and making something
20 out of it, the head office had the damper on it, see,
21 they weren't going to do anything, so I sat on the
22 bench all 1917, never played a ball game.

23 I was ready to play and I'd have gone
24 way over if I had. That was a personal affair and
25 they were all three in on it, Jennings, and Cobb and

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1
2 Mahlin, and of course, they said, well, we'll keep
3 him out. It was only a personal affair between Cobb
4 and myself, but Jennings and Mahlin had no business
5 sticking their noses in.

6 I would have made three thousand in
7 seventeen years, I would have had it, shortest time
8 that anybody ever made it. That burned me after, when
9 I got to thinking about it, then when they wouldn't
10 give me that - that I really made it by the Western
11 League, that was the second thing, and I knew I had
12 them, but then they wouldn't give me those.

13 INTERVIEWER: Oh, boy, and you could still
14 hit because you hit 360 in the Coast League a couple
15 years after that.

16 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, so it was, well it
17 was, I don't know what word to say, but it was a brutal
18 thing in a way, you know, personal animosity that would
19 go that far. And also, to humiliate me they put
20 pitchers in the outfield, you know, things like that.

21 INTERVIEWER: Well, it's a shame.

22 SAM CRAWFORD: That really happened,
23 I'm not just popping off or overstating or understating
24 it, it's just exactly as it was. I won't exaggerate
25 it anyway, that's just exactly the way it happened.

1
2 I still think of those things you know,
3 after all, you wouldn't think a man - a professional
4 jealousy, you know, he didn't, Cobb wanted to be the
5 whole thing all of the time, all the time.

6 INTERVIEWER: Wasn't that way with Honus
7 Wagner.

8 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, no, or Walter Johnson,
9 any of those fellows, Speaker, they're all in together.
10 They'd say oh, you lucky stiff, and kid around about it,
11 but he wanted to be the main cog all the time, which
12 he was, in a way, but still, you could still recognize
13 and be half way decent about things.

14 He's talking about, in his book, about,
15 oh everybody was against him and all that stuff. I
16 said well, there's two sides to this thing, why, why
17 was everybody against him, there must have been a reason
18 for it. We're not cannibals or heathens or anything,
19 we're all ball players together and trying to get
20 along, and somebody comes in there and disrupts the
21 whole situation, saying dam Yankees, things like that.

22 INTERVIEWER: He was still fighting the
23 Civil War.

24 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah. It was a terrible
25 thing. Well, he was, he led that Atlantic League



1
2 down there, I think somewhere in Augusta, somewhere
3 down there and he was pretty cocky you know.

4 INTERVIEWER: You were up there when
5 Babe Ruth broke in weren't you?

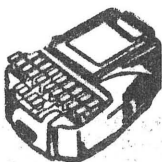
6 SAM CRAWFORD: I suppose so, he was with
7 Baltimore, I think, wasn't he, with Jack Dunn?

8 INTERVIEWER: Yah.

9 SAM CRAWFORD: I think that's where he
10 broke in, in the Eastern League I think, and then he
11 moved to the Red Sox, as a pitcher. I batted against
12 him many times.

13 INTERVIEWER: Oh, I meant to ask you
14 something -- you played in a World Series two years
15 against the Cubs, Tinkers, and Evers and Chance, were
16 they you know, now fifty years later, people say, the
17 greatest infield ever was Tinkers, Evers and Chance,
18 how true was that?

19 SAM CRAWFORD: I never thought that.
20 It was a good combination, a good double play combina-
21 tion, but as far as ball players, I don't know whether
22 there was a three hundred hitter among them, but it
23 was that combination and they wrote a song about it
24 and that's in there, in the Hall of Fame, which as a
25 lot of ball players would say, no it shouldn't be in



1
2 there.

3 INTERVIEWER: What was the best infield
4 you saw, what about that Philadelphia As infield?

5 SAM CRAWFORD: That was a great infield.
6 Boston had a great infield. They were all pretty
7 good ball clubs all around, pretty well balanced all
8 around, but I never -- you talk to any old ball player
9 you'll hear the same thing, there are some players
10 in there that shouldn't be in the Hall of Fame.

11 INTERVIEWER: And some that aren't in
12 that should be?

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, they will be even-
14 tually, but you know they put one in this year that
15 goes clear back to 1880.

16 INTERVIEWER: I still don't understand
17 why "Rube" Walker isn't in the Hall of Fame.

18 SAM CRAWFORD: I don't know, you know
19 he won nineteen straight once.

20 INTERVIEWER: Lou Bardell, of course, he
21 is, isn't he?

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yah, he's in. Took
23 me forty years to get in there. I finished my season
24 in the big league in '17 and didn't get in there until
25 '57.

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2 INTERVIEWER: Yes, that's true isn't it,
3 that's right.

4 SAM CRAWFORD: Forty years, and when I
5 did get in I had telegrams from, well the President
6 of the League, different baseball people, and they
7 all said the same thing, this should have happened
8 years ago, you know, they all said the same thing, they
9 had it in their minds, you know.

10 I'd given up on it, that is, I hadn't
11 really thought much about it. You know, they were
12 talking about the Hall of Fame, I read the papers,
13 and they'd say well, so and so they voting on in the
14 Hall of Fame and your name came up, you know.

15 Well, nothing came of it, that was it
16 see, and this went on for years like that, every once
17 in a while my name would come up, you know, and I
18 just said, skip it, I don't care anything about it,
19 and then all of a sudden when I'd forgot all about it,
20 then all of a sudden here we are, I was sitting up
21 on the desert up therein a cabin with snow all around,
22 in February, and the first thing you know I hear the
23 photographers and newsmen all around the place, taking
24 pictures and everything. I didn't know what was going
25 on. It was an amusing thing, just sitting up there, and

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1
2 you know, then from then on -- but I've had, I guess
3 I've had thousands of letters, you know, just thousands,
4 I answered everything by hand, you know, and I still
5 get, as I told you, I still get fan mail, kids wanting
6 autographs things like that.

7 Sometimes they send a stamped envelope,
8 sometimes they don't, so really it's been an expense
9 to me because it cost you six cents for a stamped
10 envelope but I always answer them whether they send
11 a stamped envelope -- about half of them send stamped
12 envelopes.

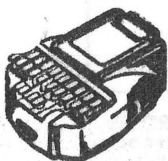
13 INTERVIEWER: Do you ever go back to
14 Detroit?

15 SAM CRAWFORD: I haven't been back there
16 since 1908 -- I mean '58.

17 INTERVIEWER: What did they have, an
18 old timer's day?

19 SAM CRAWFORD: They had an old timer, or
20 an anniversary, the first anniversary from 1907 to
21 1957, see, that was the first anniversary. Those things
22 are all right, but I never cared -- I didn't like to
23 get out there in uniform. I want to be remembered the
24 way I used to be because you're only a shell of your
25 former self, you know, and I think it's kind of pitiful

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1
2 myself and I don't think they should -- it's all right
3 to get out there in your clothes, civilian clothes,
4 and appear, but to get in uniform and try to play ball,
5 I don't believe in that.

6 Of course, you can't play anyway -- maybe
7 an inning, but -- it's too bad, I don't like it.

8 INTERVIEWER: Did you enjoy yourself
9 though, there that day?

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes, you know, they
11 always give you presents and things like that, it's
12 very good.

13 INTERVIEWER: What was your highest
14 batting average?

15 SAM CRAWFORD: Three seventy-eight.

16 INTERVIEWER: Three seventy-eight.

17 SAM CRAWFORD: And I never even come close
18 to leading the league. Jackson hit over four hundred.

19 INTERVIEWER: Oh boy.

20 SAM CRAWFORD: Talking way back, 1911 or
21 '12.

22 INTERVIEWER: Jackson was quite a hitter
23 wasn't he?

24 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, he was a great ball
25 player. A great ball player.



1
2 INTERVIEWER: A great natural ball player.

3 SAM CRAWFORD: He reminds me -- Ted Williams,
4 he was built just about like Ted Williams, long and
5 rangy, not muscular, but had a natural swing. He'd
6 hit a ball as hard as anybody ever hit a ball I think,
7 even Babe Ruth. They claim that he hit one in the old
8 Polo Grounds, you've seen the Polo Grounds, double
9 deck, and then the roof, he hit the old ball over the
10 roof.

11 You know it's a pretty good ball to hit
12 in the lower pavilion, and then to hit it upstairs,
13 but he hit it clear over the roof, the old ball.
14 Things like that you know.

15 INTERVIEWER: What ever got into a man
16 like that, such a great ball player, to take part in
17 that business?

18 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, he had no education
19 you know, he was just a hillbilly from down south
20 somewhere.

21 INTERVIEWER: Yah, I guess he was --

22 SAM CRAWFORD: He was persuaded probably,
23 by the rest of them.

24 INTERVIEWER: He was a follower, some-
25 body like "Gando" --

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SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, a conformist.

Gando, they tell me, got the money out of that thing. The way I heard it, I don't know the whole truth, but, it seems that they gave these gamblers, I think Abe Atell was mixed up in that --

INTERVIEWER: Abe Atell was, yes.

SAM CRAWFORD: Well, it seems, the way I got it was that Mrs. Gando was given seventy-five thousand dollars. Did you ever hear of that?

INTERVIEWER: Seventy-five hundred.

SAM CRAWFORD: No, seventy-five thousand.

INTERVIEWER: I didn't hear that, no.

SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, seventy-five thousand, that's the way I got it, and after she got it, well then she said she didn't, nobody ever gave me anything, I don't know anything about it, you know, played dumb, and they say he came out here to the coast and bought property later and he wouldn't do much for seventy-five hundred.

INTERVIEWER: Yah.

SAM CRAWFORD: So it had to be thousands, but that's the way I got it so I don't know how true it is. He was in on it.

INTERVIEWER: He was the ring leader.

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2 SAM CRAWFORD: Too bad, and Buck Weaver,
3 he claims he wasn't in on it.

4 INTERVIEWER: He claims he was at the
5 meeting but after the meeting he didn't throw any
6 ball games, he played his best.

7 SAM CRAWFORD: Um hmm, great ball player,
8 he was a nice ball player, big pair of hands, a great
9 pair of hands.

10 INTERVIEWER: Jimmy Austin says he's the
11 best third baseman he ever saw.

12 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, he was a great pair
13 of hands. Any time that ball hit that glove it was
14 there, it didn't bounce out or anything, he had it.
15 Not much of a hitter but a good steady ball player.

16 INTERVIEWER: Two-eighty.

17 SAM CRAWFORD: So, it's -- the whole thing,
18 that was a bad situation. I don't know whether you
19 know about it, but that series, that was in 1919 wasn't
20 it, Cincinatti won that series, well -- Eddie Collins
21 was on the club. Kid Gleason was the manager. Sharp
22 was pitching. "Shuck" he was catching his pitcher,
23 he knew dam well they weren't putting out, he knew it,
24 he went to Gleason and told Gleason about it, and
25 Gleason went to Kominsky, they knew it, they knew that

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2 they threw that game. They knew that now, this is
3 official, you won't want this in the book -- they
4 knew that that was a crooked series, the magnates
5 knew it. Well, they let it go.

6 They didn't do nothing and it kind of
7 blew over. Well, they go into the next season, it
8 looked like the Sox were going to win again, see, they'd
9 gone down to, I guess way into September.

10 INTERVIEWER: Sox and Cleveland.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, September, wasn't
12 it? Here they got the whole team, and then here they
13 stopped this thing, after a year later, then they
14 stopped it and said that there was a crooked series.
15 And they knew it all the time. It's better, right at
16 the minute they knew, they should have stopped that
17 thing, they knew it. Sharp knew it. I talked to Ray
18 Sharp later down in Cooperstown, he knew it, he knew
19 the fellows weren't putting out.

20 INTERVIEWER: Secotty was a good pitcher
21 too.

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, so you see, they blame
23 it on the ball players, but it wasn't the ball players
24 fault, and any ballplayer will tell you that Kominsky
25 was the guy that was -- that had the most to do with



1
2 that because Kominsky would never pay any salaries.
3 You know, you've heard that. He'd rather give a
4 newspaper man a thousand dollars than he would a ball-
5 player five dollars.

6 Of course, that was his business, he
7 wanted publicity.

8 INTERVIEWER: They said that Secotty
9 was getting over six thousand that year.

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I guess that's
11 probably true.

12 INTERVIEWER: And that Joe Jackson was
13 getting seventy-five hundred. Those were pretty low
14 salaries, very low.

15 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, for a million dollars
16 worth of ball players.

17 INTERVIEWER: Of course, you start talking
18 about owners you know, there's not very many of the
19 owners that are giving away money to ball players.

20 SAM CRAWFORD: No, you bet not, that's
21 right, and Kominsky especially was noted for -Oh, you
22 know, he'd wine and dine the press but when it comes
23 to the ball players, that was a strange thing because
24 he was a ball player himself.

25 INTERVIEWER: Yeh, yea.



1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: Made million, millions.
3 Do you remember Russell, Red Russell, left hand pitcher
4 with the White Sox?

5 INTERVIEWER: Yah.

6 SAM CRAWFORD: Do you know what he was
7 getting -- two hundred and fifty dollars a month.
8 I know that.

9 INTERVIEWER: Well, there was a lot of
10 cheap owners, Griffith was never any spendthrift.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: No, nor Connie Mack either.

12 INTERVIEWER: Frank Mahlin wasn't giving
13 his money away either.

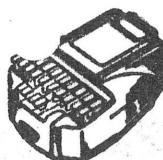
14 SAM CRAWFORD: No, no -- of course, back
15 in those days, five, six thousand was a lot of money
16 you know, it was considered a lot of money. You were
17 only working six months they'd say, but you got to
18 live in those six months too, besides, six months idle,
19 unless you got a job or something.

20 INTERVIEWER: What did you use to do in
21 the offseason?

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, I never did much of
23 anything, I just, you know, took it easy.

24 INTERVIEWER: Go fishing.

25 SAM CRAWFORD: Fishing, was in Cuba one



1
2 winter, down in New Orleans, you know, just fooling
3 around, which I think -- I don't believe in "Calfer"
4 plan, I don't think you should. I don't know how it
5 is now, I guess they don't exert themselves too much
6 now, but I know when we got through with our season we
7 were ready to sit down and rest a little bit.

8 INTERVIEWER: Yeh. What did you do after
9 1922 when you hung up your spikes?

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, then I was coaching
11 the "U.S.C." ."

12 INTERVIEWER: Oh, did you.

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, I coached over there
14 three or four years, and then I umpired too, you know.
15 I was with U.S. C., I took the boys to Japan in '28.

16 INTERVIEWER: Oh, you were in U.S.C. for
17 how long?

18 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, I don't know, two or
19 three years I guess, maybe four, I don't know. I know
20 I took them to Japan. That's a big trip for the boys,
21 you know.

22 INTERVIEWER: How does it feel, you know,
23 you figure from 1899 to 1921, you were playing every
24 season right? Twenty-two years, twenty-three years. How,
25 well, how did it feel in 1922, when you don't go to



1
2 spring training or you're not going to go out there and --

3 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, you know, you don't
4 feel any too good about it, of course, you see the
5 parades and all that and you kind of get a lump in
6 your throat, you know. I did, to see the boys having
7 parades before the games you know, and all that, but
8 that's the way it is, you can't, you go so far you know,
9 and then --

10 INTERVIEWER: You were about forty-two
11 then anyway. At forty-one you were still hitting in
12 the three hundreds.

13 (Tape went blank at this point)

14 And, you don't have a telephone do you?

15 SAM CRAWFORD: No, I wouldn't have one.
16 If I had a lot of money I wouldn't have a telephone.

17 INTERVIEWER: Why not?

18 SAM CRAWFORD: I just don't like telephones.
19 Anybody wants to see you they can come and see you.

20 I never was for telephones. If I had dough I wouldn't
21 have a telephone. I guess it's all right, you know,
22 it might be, but I don't like it.

23 INTERVIEWER: You don't like to have
24 people calling you?

25 SAM CRAWFORD: No, and I got that tele-

1
2 vision, I never turn the thing on. Never turn it on,
3 nothing on there I want.

4 INTERVIEWER: You don't even watch the
5 ball games?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: I might watch the World
7 Series, that's about all. I don't know how long I'll
8 be here, you know.

9 INTERVIEWER: I never knew -- well -- have
10 to move on again.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, I was fooling around
12 in Cayugas, about two years ago I was in Cayugas, then
13 I left there and went down to Oceanside, you know
14 down -- what's the names -- the name of the place just
15 below Oceanside there -- Incinedias -- down there about
16 a year, then I came back to Cayugas again, was awful
17 windy there this winter, very windy, much more than it
18 is here.

19 I've been thinking about this place, so
20 I got acquainted with a lot of people and finally I
21 staggered into this, you know, you get this cottage
22 here, I rent these cottages, you know just kind of
23 look after things. I got a wife down in Hollywood.
24 She says I still bounce around, you know, it's a hang-
25 over from baseball days, always a change, you know, one

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1
2 day you're here, next day in Boston, you're always
3 changing and she says you're still changing. I can't
4 take that down there.

5 INTERVIEWER: L.A.?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: Too much smog, Hollywood,
7 tough going down there, can't breathe hardly. Have
8 you been there, you know.

9 INTERVIEWER: Sure, I've been there.
10 You're an individualist.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: Not a conformist, I like
12 to do what I want to do, don't bother anybody, I don't
13 even buy a newspaper, ain't nothing but trouble in
14 it. Spoils your morning, you get up in the morning,
15 feel pretty good, get a hold of a paper, see big head-
16 lines, somebody killed, somebody kidnapped, the whole
17 thing starts off -- it starts the day wrong. That's
18 my own feeling, maybe I'm wrong about it, I don't know,
19 but I don't know what's going on, somaybe I'm wrong,
20 I don't know.

21 INTERVIEWER: Do many people who come
22 to see you talk about the old days of baseball?

23 SAM CRAWFORD: Very few.

24 INTERVIEWER: Do many people know who you
25 are?

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2 SAM CRAWFORD: I never talk -- had enough
3 of that too, I was up in the "Pananlo" Valley up there,
4 for about ten years in that cabin, and I go back and
5 forth to Hollywood, a week or two up there, and down
6 and back, well, I was around there about ten years,
7 around this little town called Pear Blossom -- you
8 know where that is around there, you don't --

9 INTERVIEWER: No.

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, it's around Lancaster
11 and Palmdale, out on the deserts, what they call
12 "Pananlo Valley", on the edge of the desert. It's nice
13 up there, gets pretty cold in the winter, but I was
14 around about ten years and finally when I got in the
15 Hall of Fame people come around and say well, I didn't
16 even know you were a ball player, because, you know,
17 I never told them.

18 Only my friends knew, once in a while
19 I'd go to the county fair, they'd have a little fair
20 there in Lancaster, and I'd go around there, had some
21 friends there and they'd introduce me around and they
22 didn't even know I was a ball player.

23 INTERVIEWER: Baseball was a lot rougher
24 in the old days?

25 SAM CRAWFORD: Not only was it rougher,

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1
2 but --

3 INTERVIEWER: The men that played it
4 were more durable.

5 SAM CRAWFORD: Must have been, must have
6 been, not only must have been, they were, because some-
7 times those pitchers would pitch a double header, like
8 McGinity or some of those, Alexander, they'd start a
9 double header and they'd win the first game in a breeze,
10 you know, nothing to it, go right on and pitch the
11 second game. That happened many a time.

12 INTERVIEWER: I remember they'd play
13 with injuries.

14 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, they'd get spiked,
15 spiking, they talk about Cobb spiking, Cobb never
16 spiked anybody. If they got in the way, that's their
17 own lookout. Those infielders are supposed to take
18 care of themselves. If they got in the way and got
19 nicked, why, they never said anything, they'd just take
20 a chew of tobacco out of their mouth and slap it on
21 there, wrap a handkerchief around and go right on.

22 They didn't think anything of it. But
23 now, if they get a little scratch, why they take them
24 to the hospital.

25 INTERVIEWER: Yeh, they were much more



1
2 durable guys.

3 SAM CRAWFORD: I don't know about durability,
4 or durable, but I know they're talking about these
5 fellows talking about five or six hundred consecutive
6 games, well, I played over twelve hundrec consecutive
7 games.

8 INTERVIEWER: Did you?

9 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, over twelve hundred
10 consecutive games and not only that but all the spring
11 training games, and exhibition games. They were talking
12 about Mustal or somebody playing eight hundred or some-
13 thing like that.

14 INTERVIEWER: You didn't have the kind
15 of training facilities, club house training facilities
16 that they have today did you?

17 SAM CRAWFORD: No, they got "baths" and
18 everything else. We had a trainer but you know, he
19 just rubbed you down, put some what they used to call
20 "Go fast" on you, take a bottle of vaseline and a
21 bottle of Tabasco sauce, you know how hot that is,
22 mix that together, that's hot, and they put that on,
23 and boy when you start sweating and you were on fire.

24 INTERVIEWER: You had the unfortunate
25 experience facing Babe Adams --

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1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: Just an ordinary pitcher,
3 just an ordinary pitcher, just a little curve ball.
4 There's always something in the World Series, somebody
5 that's been generally outstanding, some hitter or
6 pitcher, or somebody.

7 INTERVIEWER: Adams won three games that
8 year in the series.

9 SAM CRAWFORD: Acheson shut out the
10 Athletics, shut them out for three games in the World
11 Series.

12 INTERVIEWER: You never faced Mathewson,
13 did you?

14 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, in the early days,
15 when he first came to the National League, I batted
16 against him in Cincinnati.

17 INTERVIEWER: Oh, really?

18 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, when he just came
19 out of college. I always done pretty well against
20 Matty. He was a great pitcher, really mix them up
21 you know.

22 INTERVIEWER: I guess the best pitcher
23 you figure you ever faced was Walter Johnson, hmmm?

24 SAM CRAWFORD: I'm sure of it, without
25 a doubt.



1
2 INTERVIEWER: I sure do appreciate your
3 taking this time.

4 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I'm just sitting here
5 and reading. I don't generally read that -- that's
6 trash, that paper stuff, some of it is trash you know,
7 but I haven't got any -- I haven't got any of my books.
8 My favorite writer is Balzac.

9 INTERVIEWER: Do you read a lot?

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Quite a bit. Balzac is
11 my favorite.

12 INTERVIEWER: I haven't read him.

13 SAM CRAWFORD: A great descriptive writer.
14 I say it's an amazing thing that a man could write so
15 many and be interesting. You could take, I had a set
16 of Balzac, you could pick out any book and you'd have
17 something interesting. It's amazing, I don't see
18 how one man with a mind could spend his life at it,
19 I guess. He must have, because all those hundreds
20 of books.

21 INTERVIEWER: Is that a mathematics book
22 down there?

23 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, I was just glancing
24 at it, I was never worth a dam in mathematics. I have
25 some reader's digest stuff.

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
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1
2 INTERVIEWER: So that's what you do, you
3 spend all your time, all by yourself reading.

4 SAM CRAWFORD: Not all the time, I pitch
5 horseshoes, I got some horseshoes there, pitch horse-
6 shoes and I whittle chains out of sticks.

7 INTERVIEWER: Did you do those? I've
8 been looking at them.

9 SAM CRAWFORD: You been looking at them.

10 INTERVIEWER: Yeh.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I whittled them out.

12 INTERVIEWER: You whittled these?

13 SAM CRAWFORD: There's the stick it's
14 made out of.

15 INTERVIEWER: Boy oh boy.

16 SAM CRAWFORD: That's made out of teakwood.

17 INTERVIEWER: That's beautiful.

18 SAM CRAWFORD: That's really before it's
19 finished you know, just the rough, just the corners,
20 you have to take that all off. That's the way you saw
21 the wood see, just like that. That's teakwood.

22 INTERVIEWER: I don't know how you do it.

23 SAM CRAWFORD: I have tools to do it.
24 Here's one made out of Oak, you can see the difference
25 in them, in the woods.

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
CERTIFIED STENOTYPE REPORTER AND STAFF



1 INTERVIEWER: Boy, they're beautiful.

2
3 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, it's something to
4 kill time with. You can spend hours you know, working
5 on it. You have to have little drills and knives, I
6 have special knives you know, woodworking knives.

7 INTERVIEWER: Yah, I think they're good.

8 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, some people like to
9 look at them. Here's one I'm working on now, a little
10 small one, see, here's the stick, I've only got that
11 far with it. That's just in the rough. I'll smooth
12 it up you know.

13 INTERVIEWER: What do you do then with
14 them?

15 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, I haven't done anything
16 with them, I may give them away, it's just something
17 to kill time. Here's one of the first ones I ever
18 made. It's pretty exacting work you know, you've got
19 to be very careful. That's pine.

20 INTERVIEWER: I don't understand how
21 you do it, I mean, you got all these things together,
22 you don't put them together.

23 SAM CRAWFORD: No, they've got to be carved
24 out. Here's the way they are, you see, that one is
25 loose, that square that's loose in there, and then you've

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
CERTIFIED STENOTYPE REPORTER AND STAFF



1
2 got to whittle them out, a little at a time, it takes
3 a little time, but that's all I've got is time.

4 INTERVIEWER: I think that's wonderful.

5 SAM CRAWFORD: It's just something I have
6 the tools to work with.

7 INTERVIEWER: It's great.

8 SAM CRAWFORD: A lot of people like them
9 who've seen them, but I have special tools.

10 INTERVIEWER: Where did you learn to do
11 that?

12 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, I just picked it up,
13 I haven't got much in here.

14 INTERVIEWER: Were you a farm boy, did
15 you grow up on a farm?

16 SAM CRAWFORD: I've been on a farm many
17 times, I've husked corn and things like that.

18 INTERVIEWER: You weren't a farm boy though?

19 SAM CRAWFORD: No, not really.

20 INTERVIEWER: You grew up in town, at
21 Wahoo.

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah. Here's one of the
23 drills I use.

24 INTERVIEWER: What did your father do?
25 Was he a whittler?



1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: He was -- no, he was in
3 the Civil War and when I can remember back, he had a
4 store, a general store you know, just a little country
5 store where they sold everything. This is just fun.

6 INTERVIEWER: How'd you get to be a
7 ball player?

8 SAM CRAWFORD: Just around town, we
9 always had ball players, kids, You know, playing ball
10 around town, made our own balls by yarn and --

11 INTERVIEWER: You made your own balls?

12 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, all the kids would
13 gather string and yarn you know, and we'd make our
14 own balls, make our own bats.

15 INTERVIEWER: This little town Wahoo --

16 SAM CRAWFORD: I insisted that they put
17 this name Wahoo on that card, on that plaque, that's
18 made out of bronze you know, you've been to the Hall
19 of Fame haven't you, that's made out of bronze, and I
20 insisted they put that name Wahoo on there, I wanted
21 that on there.

22 INTERVIEWER: Why is that?

23 SAM CRAWFORD: Because that's my home town,
24 see, I wanted to advertise it. Do you know that there's
25 some prominent men came from Wahoo, Darryl Zanuck came



1
2 from there, did you know that?

3 INTERVIEWER: No.

4 SAM CRAWFORD: I remember when he was
5 a little towheaded kid running around the streets.
6 About four, five years old, his mother and father
7 owned a hotel there, you know, a little country town,
8 Wahoo, the county seat. His father and mother had the
9 hotel. And then we had Harold Hanson, another Wahoo
10 boy, and when we were kids together -- well, he's the
11 big shot in Eastman's Conservatory of Music in
12 Rochester, New York, orchestra leader and conductor
13 I guess, and composer. A big man.

14 Then we had another one, a guy by the
15 name of Beadlow. He was a farm boy, he lived on a
16 farm outside of town, well, he's in Cal Tech, in there
17 in Pasadena that big, whatever it is, he was in
18 genetics or something. He won a Nobel prize I think.

19 INTERVIEWER: You grew up in town.

20 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah.

21 INTERVIEWER: And your mother and father
22 ran the general store.

23 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, they didn't have, they
24 wasn't doing anything then, he wasn't doing anything
25 then, he had never been very well, he didn't do so well

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



1
2 in the war, but I can remember before we was in Wahoo,
3 we was in another little town and that's where he had
4 the store.

5 INTERVIEWER: Oh, and then he retired?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: Uh, huh.

7 INTERVIEWER: What did he think about you
8 becoming a ball player?

9 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, they didn't, they
10 thought it was all right.

11 INTERVIEWER: You said baseball players
12 were a little bit --

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, they were rough, it
14 was rough game, but it was a wonderful thing, you know,
15 a little town, they say, hmmm, maybe you're going to
16 get in the league somewhere and when I signed up to go
17 in that Canadian League, boy that sure was something.
18 You leave town, get your transportation and everything,
19 sixty-five dollars a month.

20 You know I was up in Chatham, that's just
21 a little ways from Detroit, and I wind up there and
22 I haven't got -- I think my Dad gave me ten dollars or
23 something, I didn't have anything, didn't have a job
24 or anything even, I didn't know -- so I went up there and
25 I wind up in Cincinatti -- so that's the way it goes.



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Is this going in there?

INTERVIEWER: Yah, but I just want to get those pictures.

SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yeh, let's see -- this is real old stuff you know that I got here. This is an old book, you can see it's old and dilapidated. There's the boat we went over on, it had sails on. We went to Vancouver, there's the boat. It's more like a Yacht you know.

INTERVIEWER: You got sick on it.

SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, geez, I near died, I was ten days in my bunk. Now these are old stuff, you may not be too interested in seeing old stuff. Here's Doc White. This is the world tour, this is the start of it, see here.

Here's the Tally Ho, over in Houston.

INTERVIEWER: That's the Tally Ho, huh?

SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, the Tally Ho, you rode on top of it you see.

INTERVIEWER: When the ball club went to the ball park, did you go in those?

SAM CRAWFORD: Went in a bus, a bus, seats on the side you know.

INTERVIEWER: It was horse drawn.

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
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1 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, horse drawn.

2 Here's Speaker and myself, this was down in Arizona.

3 Here's Speaker.

4 INTERVIEWER: Speaker was a good outfielder.

5 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, the best center fielder
6 there was ever I guess. He could go back, better than
7 anyone I ever saw, go back and get those balls.

8 INTERVIEWER: He played pretty close behind
9 second?

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Everywhere, why he was all
11 over the place. Here's Hal Chase. That's Mrs. Chase
12 and that's Speaker, that's Mrs. Hal Chase. He had a
13 sprained ankle here, see, he's got a cane.

14 INTERVIEWER: They say he was a pretty bad
15 apple, is that right?

16 SAM CRAWFORD: He was the best first base-
17 man that ever lived, I think.

18 INTERVIEWER: Yeh?

19 SAM CRAWFORD: In my book.

20 INTERVIEWER: You saw him play first base?

21 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yeh, he was a marvel,
22 a marvel. He didn't have a big basket to catch them
23 in either.

24 INTERVIEWER: And he was a great fielder?
25

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



1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yeh. These are some
3 pictures we took of him. "Fielder" Jones. Bar-B-Que
4 at Oxnard, see.

5 INTERVIEWER: I vaguely remember, wasn't
6 that a time that you had a -- "Lopert" was with you
7 all on that thing and you had a race --

8 SAM CRAWFORD: He raced a horse around
9 the bases.

10 INTERVIEWER: I remember that, yeh.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: I don't remember whether
12 it was in "Oxnard" or not, we didn't play in Oxnard,

13 INTERVIEWER: Who won that race, him or
14 the horse?

15 SAM CRAWFORD: The horse beat him, it went
16 around the outside and beat him. You know, outside the
17 bases. Now, I made it to Japan, see.

18 INTERVIEWER: But "Lopert" was pretty fast
19 wasn't he?

20 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, he was pretty fast,
21 but you can't beat a horse, you know.

22 INTERVIEWER: He's still around you know.

23 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, he's a good guy. We
24 got to Rome and went to see the Pope you know, and he
25 was, he married a divorcee, and they didn't allow her

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
CERTIFIED STENOTYPE REPORTER AND STAFF



1
2 to go. Broke her heart you know, she wanted to go.
3 Hong Kong. There's Mrs. Lopert.

4 INTERVIEWER: That's Mrs. Lopert.

5 SAM CRAWFORD: Yup. I got one picture --

6 INTERVIEWER: What size bat did you use,
7 what weight bat?

8 SAM CRAWFORD: Forty ounce.

9 INTERVIEWER: Forty -- did you strike out
10 very much?

11 SAM CRAWFORD: Well they tell me very
12 seldom, I don't want to pop off or anything, but they
13 said very seldom. I didn't pay much attention to it,
14 but you know, it's kind of a -- you know, you hated to
15 strike out, you know. When the pitcher got two strikes
16 on you, you shortened up on your bat, did something,
17 you just didn't stand there, but these guys, Jesus, they
18 don't do a thing.

19 I don't know, of course, it's -- there's
20 one picture here --

21 INTERVIEWER: With very few strikeouts,
22 were you hitting for distance or for --

23 SAM CRAWFORD: No, just hitting, trust to
24 luck.

25 INTERVIEWER: Just try to meet the ball?

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



1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, hit it somewhere, get
3 men on bases you know, do something with it. Here's
4 where we were in Cuba, in Havana, they caught a shark,
5 they went out in the Harbor and got a shark, look at the
6 size of that mouth. That's Schaeffer there, pulling his
7 mouth open.

8 INTERVIEWER: You said Schaeffer is a
9 good thing for a ball club, why was that?

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Because he was a good, he
11 kept everybody in good humor, you know, all the time.

12 INTERVIEWER: A comedian.

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, kind of a comedian,
14 you know, all the time, telling stories, telling what
15 a great hitter he was and all that stuff, you know,
16 just kidding. There's the old Tally Ho, that was
17 electric.

18 INTERVIEWER: You call them the Tally
19 Ho, was that what everybody called them then?

20 SAM CRAWFORD: I guess so, I don't know,
21 but I guess that's what it was.

22 INTERVIEWER: Sort of a little bus?

23 SAM CRAWFORD: Yeh, but you rode on top of
24 the dam thing. There isn't much more, this is old stuff.

25 INTERVIEWER: Did you dress in the hotel

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
CERTIFIED STENOTYPE REPORTER AND STAFF



1
2 or in the ball park?

3 SAM CRAWFORD: We dressed always at the
4 hotel and went out in a bus.

5 INTERVIEWER: In that Tally Ho?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, there were seats on
7 each side, you know. You recognize this.

8 INTERVIEWER: That's the triangle.

9 SAM CRAWFORD: Is that still there?

10 INTERVIEWER: Yah. Twenty-fifth street
11 I think, twenty-third.

12 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, it is, huh.

13 INTERVIEWER: What's this?

14 SAM CRAWFORD: I was choked up on the bat,
15 you know.

16 INTERVIEWER: Most of the time where did
17 you hold the bat?

18 SAM CRAWFORD: By the end. You asked me
19 about it, forty ounce.

20 INTERVIEWER: Cobb had a funny hold on the
21 bat.

22 SAM CRAWFORD: He choked up with his hands
23 apart, but a choke just the same.

24 INTERVIEWER: What do you think about
25 those, you know --

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



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SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, everybody had a different way -- you get started in a certain thing, a certain way of holding and doing things and if it turns out all right, why that's what to do, you know. But I don't know, I think these young punks now, they go to train a batter and think they know what they're doing. There's so many coaches around telling him what to do you know.

INTERVIEWER: Didn't you have coaches?

SAM CRAWFORD: No, we never had any coaches. Had a trainer, that's all we had. You're on your own.

INTERVIEWER: Were you superstitious?

SAM CRAWFORD: Not too much. The only thing is, I wouldn't walk under a ladder, that's all.

INTERVIEWER: What about on the ball field?

SAM CRAWFORD: No, not so much, never thought of anything. I've seen a lot of them who were superstitious, even butterfly's flying across the field. These big red butterfly's, you've seen those, Monarchs, or a white butterfly. A red one meant something and a white one meant something, and the manager would look out and boy, oh, boy, oh boy, there goes a red one, you know, things like that. They believed that stuff, you know, they really believed it.



1
2 A fellow named Bill Armor, he used to
3 manage Cleveland, Bill Armor, and he came to Detroit
4 after, very superstitious. The bats, we used to lay
5 the bats out you know, and if one was laid a little bit
6 crooked you know, he'd holler at the bat boy and say
7 hey, take that hickory out of there, you know. Little
8 things like that. He'd go nuts if he a cross eyed boy.

9 INTERVIEWER: Really?

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, Jesus, we used to try
11 to find a cross eyed boy for a bat boy.

12 (Laughter)

13 Bill would take a look at him and get an
14 expression on his face, you'd think he was going to die,
15 you know. Get rid of him, get rid of him. Leave him
16 stay here but keep him out of my sight, I don't want
17 to see him.

18 INTERVIEWER: What was Bill then, manager
19 of Cleveland?

20 SAM CRAWFORD: No, he was managing Detroit.
21 He had managed Cleveland and then he came to Detroit.

22 INTERVIEWER: Oh, you're talking about
23 way back.

24 SAM CRAWFORD: 1904 or '05, in there.

25 INTERVIEWER: Yah, yah, before Jennings

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



1
2 now and --

3 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah. There were a lot
4 of superstitious guys, Jesus. We'd laugh you know, we
5 got a big kick out of that, we'd really try and find
6 a cross eyed bat boy. We had a lot of fun.

7 INTERVIEWER: You had, yeh, you had
8 "Barrel" as a manager too, didn't you?

9 SAM CRAWFORD: Yeh, one time in Detroit.
10 He's in the Hall of Fame, now why is he in the Hall of
11 Fame?

12 INTERVIEWER: I don't know.

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Because he got Babe Ruth
14 from Boston, that puts him in the Hall of Fame. He
15 never was a ball player.

16 INTERVIEWER: No, he was a general manager.

17 SAM CRAWFORD: Even before that you know,
18 when he was younger, he wasn't a ball player. He managed
19 Toronto one time, he was a fighter you know, that is
20 bull dozer, he scared that Toronto club into winning the
21 pennant, they were afraid of him. You won this game
22 or he was going to lick everybody, and I guess he did
23 lick a couple of them. He had them scared to death,
24 they won the pennant.

25 He thought he could do the same thing

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



1
2 when he came to Detroit, he was going to bull doze
3 everybody. He was one of these guys that sat on the
4 bench and made sarcastic remarks while the game was
5 going on, you know, if you're out on the bases or some-
6 thing, look at the big lobster out there, you know,
7 making remarks.

8 It gets a laugh from the rest of the
9 bench you see, things like that, but that didn't set
10 good.

11 INTERVIEWER: He only lasted at Detroit
12 for a year?

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, and that was a year
14 too much. Oscar "Vitt" was pretty much that way. After
15 he got to Cleveland, if he had kept his mouth shut they'd
16 have won that pennant you know, at that time. He would
17 sit on the bench and make sarcastic remarks, like, fellow,
18 look at my star pitcher out there, things like that.

19 If he had kept his mouth closed we'd have
20 won that pennant. You can't do it, you can't go against,
21 you know, things that are not right. You can't do those
22 things that's all.

23 INTERVIEWER: What makes a good manager
24 and what makes a manager not good?

25 SAM CRAWFORD: You've got to give and take,



1
2 you got to be flexible, you know. You can make a lot
3 of rules, I don't know how it is now, of course, they're
4 getting big money now and they're probably taking care
5 of themselves, but we had a hard time with managers and
6 everything, because there were a lot of drunks, you
7 know, there was a lot of boozing going on.

8 They would have a curfew and -- well,
9 they didn't

10 INTERVIEWER: You said before that very
11 few people drank on your club?

12 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I mean generally,
13 some did, some have trouble, we didn't have much
14 trouble, although once in a while somebody would come
15 in after curfew but --

16 INTERVIEWER: Do you think the manager's
17 job is mainly strategy or is it morale?

18 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I think the players
19 make the manager, the manger don't make the players.
20 He can't make the players, it's the players that make
21 the manager. If you've got a bunch that can think,
22 why hell, the old Brooklyn when Robby, no, not Robby,
23 before Robby -- Hanlin, Ed Hanlin -- Brooklyn, they
24 had that old Baltimore bunch came to Brooklyn, you know,
25 they left Baltimore, and the rest of them, Tom Dooley



1
2 and -- a lot of them came to Brooklyn from Baltimore.
3 Well, anyway, Ed Hanlin was the manager, he was bench
4 manager, he didn't have on a suit, civilian clothes,
5 and there was Tom Dooley, Jennings, Bill Darwin, some
6 of those old timers, Kid Gleason I guess was there, well,
7 anyway Hanlin was managing, and they'd get in a tough
8 game and things were getting a little tough and Hanlin
9 here is wringing his hands, you know, on the bench
10 and talking to some of those old timers.

11 He'd say -- some of the players were
12 talking -- look out there, that's rough, and he'd say
13 to them, Hanlin, he'd say to them, for Christs sake
14 keep quiet, keep quiet and we will win the ball game,
15 just keep your mouths shut. That's what he used to tell
16 them.

17 You know, you aren't doing any good, they're
18 playing the game, they know what to do, and he was trying
19 to tell them, see, for Christs sake, keep quiet, we'll
20 win this ball game. And that's the way they were, those
21 fellows, they were out there to win that ball game.

22 INTERVIEWER: That was a tough bunch, that
23 old Baltimore bunch.

24 SAM CRAWFORD: You bet your life they were.
25 Brother Keeler and all those fellows.



1
2 INTERVIEWER: Did you ever see "Keeler"
3 pla y?

4 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yeh, I played against
5 him.

6 INTERVIEWER: You did?

7 SAM CRAWFORD: In the old days, in the
8 Baltimore days. I was with Cincinatti.

9 INTERVIEWER: Yeh, that's right.

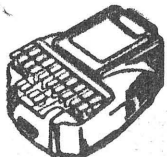
10 SAM CRAWFORD: That was my first experience
11 you know.

12 INTERVIEWER: Was he as good as they say,
13 Keeler?

14 SAM CRAWFORD: Wonderful, wonderful. He
15 wore a little mitt, a left hander he was. Never used
16 much of the bat, he only used half of the bat. He
17 hit over 400 once, just hitting them over the infield
18 you know, bouncing them down.

19 INTERVIEWER: Bouncing them down, they used
20 to do that more than they do today.

21 SAM CRAWFORD: Of course, it's a peculiar
22 thing about that, why they used to do that or not, if
23 you were lucky you might hit down on a ball and make
24 it bounce, but there's a chance that it might not. It
25 was a lot of luck you know. It's like the fellow trying



1
2 to -- you know, the place hitter, you've heard of the
3 place hitter.

4 INTERVIEWER: Yeh.

5 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, the place hitter is
6 nothing more than, if the ball is right, he can hit
7 it right where he wants to hit it. Like they say hit
8 and run, they say run and hit now, they don't say hit
9 and run, they say run and hit.

10 Well, anyway, somebody on first, and the
11 batter up there, they're going to play run and hit,
12 hit and run. Well, he gives him a sign and he goes
13 now -- well, he's going to try and hit behind that --
14 the batter if he can, to right field maybe, or maybe
15 he might hit to left field, but the ball is pitched right.
16 If the ball isn't pitched right, then what.

17 You don't always get it where you want
18 it. If it's pitched inside maybe you can pull it to
19 right field, but suppose he wants to hit to right field
20 and the ball is pitched outside, you see, what are you
21 going to do, so that hit and run, or that place hitting,
22 it's a hit and miss affair.

23 There's no specific rule that you can go
24 by because the pitcher, every ball is different.

25 INTERVIEWER: But Keeler could do it,

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
CERTIFIED STENOTYPE REPORTER AND STAFF



1
2 you see.

3 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, well, he's supposed to
4 be a place hitter, but he was just a little pecking
5 hitter, you know, just a little knicking job, he may
6 have been pretty good at that, placing.

7 INTERVIEWER: You didn't try to place the
8 ball?

9 SAM CRAWFORD: Not too much. Now, I know --
10 I can only remember one time in Chicago -- Taylor, he
11 used to swing right, he always used to swing around to
12 the right. Well -- Keeler jumped from centerfield to
13 manager. A left handed pitcher was pitching, and they
14 were all swinging around to the right, nobody was in
15 left field, and this pitching, well, I don't know what
16 happened, but he pitched outside to me, and I -- gee,
17 it went in left field.

18 Three times I hit that ball, three two base
19 hits, I could walk to second to second base, you know,
20 there wasn't anybody in left field. Now, that's one
21 of those things. You wouldn't think that -- Nick should
22 have known better than that, to pitch outside when he
23 sees all the fielders all playing to the right, so I
24 just -- that's one time that I can say I tried to hit
25 to left and I did hit to left, three two base hits.

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



1
2 And all I did was just trot to second base, there wasn't
3 anybody over there.

4 So I don't know, this place hitting, I
5 don't know. Well, it was a base hit that started the
6 trouble. You see the man on second base, if the next
7 one hits, he scores, and Merkel instead of going down
8 to second and catching second, he ran straight to the
9 club house, you see, he don't go to second base.

10 Well, he discovers he don't go to second
11 so he gives up another ball, you see, and then the
12 Cubs win, no they tie, they tied the game, and then
13 the played it off and Walter "Tidebaum" beat Masterson
14 in the play off, so that's the way that was, but Merkel,
15 hell, anybody -- that's just a lapse, but it's liable
16 to happen.

17 INTERVIEWER: I understand they always
18 ran for the clubhouse in a situation like that in those
19 days.

20 SAM CRAWFORD: They didn't pay any attention
21 to it, it happened to be a very important game, you see.
22 Any little thing outside of the routine, they'd grab
23 it, you see. It was like this, one of those pitchers
24 in there, "Guessler" I should say, Doc Guessler, he
25 was in Detroit for a while as an outfielder, and later

NATION-WIDE REPORTING COVERAGE
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1
2 he went to the Cubs, and he was centerfielder. An
3 amusing thing, he was just an ordinary ballplayer,
4 not too bright, but he was playing centerfield, I don't
5 know who they were playing, but Evers and Tinker were
6 there, and somebody, there was a -- one run, see, they
7 needed, there was a man on second base and somebody
8 hit just line, kind of a line fly ball out there, you
9 knew, and -- to Guessler, and he was kind of running
10 sideways towards the club house you know, and he catches
11 this ball, you know, and keeps right on going with only
12 one out.

13 (Laughter)

14 Here was Keeler and Evers chasing him
15 you see.

16 (Laughter)

17 That was a funny thing, they were chasing
18 their heads off and he's going to the clubhouse. Is all
19 that going in there?

20 INTERVIEWER: No, I'll just pick and
21 choose.

22 SAM CRAWFORD: But it all goes in there?
23 Everything I say --it really goes in there.

24 INTERVIEWER: Goes in there, that's right,
25 it goes in there.



1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: Just talking natural.

3 INTERVIEWER: Yup.

4 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I'll be darned, that's
5 sensitive isn't it?

6 INTERVIEWER: Very.

7 SAM CRAWFORD: Must be.

8 INTERVIEWER: Very sensitive.

9 SAM CRAWFORD: Better be careful. There's
10 not anything in there that's too personal, you know.
11 I want -- if I could see it --

12 INTERVIEWER: No, there won't be.

13 SAM CRAWFORD: I wouldn't want anything
14 because, you know, there's a lot of ball players left
15 and they'd say that fathead, what the hell is he doing
16 popping off out there.

17 INTERVIEWER: No, no.

18 SAM CRAWFORD: I wouldn't want that because
19 I want them to remember me as a pretty fair sort of a
20 guy, you know, that's the way I want to be so that when
21 you kick off, they'll say, well he wasn't such a bad
22 guy after all, you know, pretty fair and square.

23 I very seldom mention Cobb but he never
24 had a friend in baseball, but you know that. That's
25 a terrible thing you know, play out there twenty years



1
2 and never have a friend. That is not right. Too big
3 a star that's all, too big a man, too big a star. His
4 money, he had too much, he made a lot in Coca Cola
5 you know.

6 INTERVIEWER: A tremendous amount.

7 SAM CRAWFORD: He made more in Coca Cola
8 than he did in baseball, but at any rate that's the way
9 it is. He was a great ball player, but not the greatest
10 ball player in my book.

11 INTERVIEWER: Where did you bat in the
12 batting order, typically?

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Fourth, generally.

14 INTERVIEWER: Who was above you?

15 SAM CRAWFORD: Cobb.

16 INTERVIEWER: Cobb was third?

17 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah. Dony Birch would
18 lead off generally, and then Davey Jones, then Cobb and
19 then myself, then Leach.

20 INTERVIEWER: Was it a problem for you to
21 bat right behind Cobb with Cobb on the base pad?

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Didn't bother me.

23 INTERVIEWER: Didn't distract you? Will
24 a baserunner often -- who is going back and forth --

25 SAM CRAWFORD: That don't mean anything



1
2 to the batter --

3 INTERVIEWER: It doesn't.

4 SAM CRAWFORD -- because, unless he gives
5 him a hit and run sign or something like that, but even
6 then you're looking out for yourself, you know. He's
7 taking care of himself.

8 INTERVIEWER: You weren't trying to -- I
9 mean the pitcher was being distracted by Cobb wasn't
10 he, and wouldn't that distract you too? No, huh.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: No, I was taking care of
12 myself, you know, I wanted to hit that ball somewhere
13 if I could. But a lot of times he'd be on first base
14 and I'd get a base on balls, purposely maybe, and go
15 down to first. I'd glance, as I started on my way to
16 first I'd sort of half glance at third you know, and
17 I'd see him go, just a little bit, like that, he wanted
18 me to go to second base, you see.

19 Well, I would trot down half way, two-
20 thirds of the way to first and after I got two-thirds
21 of the way I'd speed up and go as fast as I could go
22 and I turn first and head for second, and he's on third,
23 so they were watching him, trying to watch him and I'd
24 go on to second base. They didn't know what to do,
25 they were afraid he was going to score, if they went

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1
2 after me, he's liable to score, see. Well, we pulled
3 that on them a long time.

4 INTERVIEWER: You mean you went to second
5 on a base on balls?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, yes, I'd go to first,
7 you get first naturally, and then I wouldn't stop at
8 first, I'd just touch the base and go right on, see.

9 INTERVIEWER: On a base on balls?

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, yah, that's official,
11 there's nothing wrong with it. You know you're allowed
12 first base and it don't make any difference what you
13 do after you get to first, so I'd just step on the base
14 and keep right on going, see. Tear out for second base
15 and then, boy then there was excitement, you know,
16 for the crowd, they'd wonder what's going to happen
17 now. We pulled that all the time.

18 It was very interesting, sometimes they
19 would catch him and sometimes they'd catch me. Sometimes
20 they wouldn't get anybody, you know.

21 (Laughter)

22 They didn't know what to do, if he got
23 off too far, they'd send that ball to third and I'd go
24 on to second see, and if they got him trapped then
25 he's in a pickle and now he's going back and forth see,



1
2 and then I've got to go over towards third base and in
3 case they get him I'm going to be on third, you see.

4 So this was the old material, a lot of
5 things happened, after the game started. You know, you
6 can sit in the clubhouse, we used to sit around in a
7 circle, you know, and we'd talk about things, if the
8 Boston club was coming, we'd have a meeting before we'd
9 go out, what we're going to do, you know, we're going
10 to do that, we're going to do this, but we'd get out
11 there and it don't go that way at all.

12 We knocked our brains out so you can't
13 figure this, see, you can't put it on a blackboard, it
14 can't be done.

15 INTERVIEWER: You were pretty fast too?

16 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, I -- pretty good.

17 INTERVIEWER: You used to steal twenty-
18 thirty bases a season.

19 SAM CRAWFORD: I think forty once. Of
20 course, Cobb helped me there too, you know, they were
21 afraid of him. I got stolen bases where they were
22 watching him too. It's all been very interesting. This
23 is more than I've talked in years, and it's good, but
24 I don't see anybody and I don't talk too much.

25 You know, if somebody asks me something,



1
2 and as I told you I lived up there on the desert, I
3 was up there for ten years, and they didn't even know
4 I was a ballplayer, I never talked to them.

5 When the Hall of Fame thing come up, they
6 said, well Gee, that's Sam, he's up there, we didn't
7 even know it, gee. Photographers, newspaper men, they
8 didn't know what was happening.

9 INTERVIEWER: Those were great days, when
10 they played, weren't they.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: We thought so, we thought
12 so. Of course, they didn't get the prices then, they
13 didn't have the seating capacity, but it was real base-
14 ball, real baseball, because there was always something,
15 it wasn't cut and dried, you know, it wasn't over until
16 that last man was out.

17 Not cut and dried, because there's too
18 many things could happen. Bunting, there was a lot of
19 bunting going on, you could bunt that ball you know,
20 Of course, today, very few can bunt, they don't know
21 how, but then that bunt was a part of the ball game,
22 you know if you want that run.

23 I saw a man get on first and they need
24 that one run and instead of bunting him down to second
25 or if he got on second bunting him to third, they get

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1
2 up there and swing. I can't see that. They want one
3 run, that's all they want.

4 INTERVIEWER: Don't understand it.

5 SAM CRAWFORD: No, and if they do bunt
6 they bunt it right back to the pitcher and they catch
7 the guy inbetween and then they massacre him. They
8 pick him apart. They're doing the best they can, you
9 know.

10 INTERVIEWER: You said, when you were a
11 kid in Nebraska, you made your own baseballs?

12 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes, you know with
13 some yarn and some string. You'd get hold of a little
14 rubber ball for the center, you know. Then we'd sew
15 the, get the mothers to sew the ball, the string all
16 around to hold it together.

17 INTERVIEWER: You wound tape on the out-
18 side.

19 SAM CRAWFORD: No, we didn't know what
20 tape was, we didn't see much tape. Of course, they had
21 tape then, because for electricity they had tape, but
22 I can remember very well the first electric lights in
23 our town, in Wahoo, on the corner, the street corner
24 they had one, just one loop of wire, kind of reddish,
25 us kids used to go down to the corner and watch this

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1
2 light go on, it was incandescence light. That was a big
3 deal. Then we'd go over to the powerhouse, the dynamos
4 were there, you know, and see where they made the elec-
5 tricity.

6 After that they came with the arc lights,
7 the arc lights, you know, the two carbons coming to-
8 gether, that was the next step, but the really onld
9 first ones, they were just a reddish, just one loop of
10 wire in the bulb.

11 INTERVIEWER: Was baseball a very well
12 known sport when you were growing up?

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes, there were teams,
14 always a team in Wahoo, the men, a man's team, and
15 they've had what you call league ball, a dollar and
16 a quarter is what it was, they called it league ball,
17 rubber center and all. Boy if we ever could get a
18 hold of one of those, why --

19 INTERVIEWER: What did you use for bats,
20 a regular bat?

21 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, we'd come down and get
22 a broken bat and nail it up, or put string around it,
23 but I can remember when the used to catch behind the
24 plate without a mask or protector or glove. Yeh, I
25 remember, no mask, no protector, nothing, and they threw



1
2 a pretty fast ball, once in a while you'd get a foul
3 tip you know, right in the face. Terrible. And they
4 didn't have any glove for that, a mitt, catcher's mitt,
5 you know, they didn't have those.

6 INTERVIEWER: No wonder it was hard getting
7 a kid to be catcher, huh?

8 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, in those days, of
9 course, it didn't make much difference then.

10 INTERVIEWER: Did a catcher catch the
11 ball on the bounce then?

12 SAM CRAWFORD: Yeh, they'd stand back by
13 the backstop, until the batter had two strikes, they'd
14 come up on the third strike. I used to tell a story
15 about when Connie Mack was a catcher you know, and he
16 stook back like that, and he used to get two strikes
17 on a batter and He'd come up and be talking to the
18 batter, kidding with the batter you know, and all of
19 a sudden he'd jump behind the plate and the pitcher
20 was all ready to pitch and they'd put a strike over on
21 him.

22 INTERVIEWER: A quick pitch.

23 SAM CRAWFORD: Yeh, a quick pitch. You
24 know, you'd be distracting the batter's attention and
25 the pitcher was all set to go. Even in those days,

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1
2 you know, they had trickery.

3 INTERVIEWER: Pitchers in those days
4 were allowed a lot more leeway than they are now?

5 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, even in my day too
6 with these spitballs and all this. A spitball pitcher
7 was plenty tough. Jack Chesbrough, you know, he used
8 to be with the Yankees, he won forty games there one
9 season.

10 INTERVIEWER: Did Ed Walsh throw a spit-
11 ball?

12 SAM CRAWFORD: That's what made him, the
13 spitball. He -- they wouldn't let him pitch, he sat
14 on the bench there one year, all he had was a fast
15 ball, didn't have a curve, and they wouldn't even let
16 him pitch until he developed his spitball and they
17 couldn't beat him. A big man, you don't remember him,
18 of course, but he was a big man, big man.

19 He could walk out, well, he won over
20 forty games of his own and then finished about twenty
21 for the rest of them so you know he was quite a pitcher.
22 He'd walk out there any time, anytime they needed some-
23 body, as they'd say, to put the fire out.

24 INTERVIEWER: I wanted to ask you about
25 the Cincinatti Reds that you first came up with?

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1 SAM CRAWFORD: 1899?

2 INTERVIEWER: Yeh?

3 SAM CRAWFORD: September, 1899.

4 INTERVIEWER: You were with the Reds for
5 three years, right?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: I finished up -- it was
7 1899, 1900, '01 and '02, three and a half years.

8 INTERVIEWER: You had some -- wasn't
9 Amos Ruchie on that team?

10 SAM CRAWFORD: No, he was all through at
11 that time. His big time was in New York, you know.

12 INTERVIEWER: Before then?

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes. He was just --
14 they took him on I think for his name, he was all
15 finished.

16 INTERVIEWER: Harry Steinfeld was on that
17 team, wasn't he, the year you went to the Cubs?

18 SAM CRAWFORD: That's right.

19 INTERVIEWER: And Deedee McFee was on that
20 team.

21 SAM CRAWFORD: Nineteen years he played
22 second baseman for Cincinatti.

23 INTERVIEWER: Oberfield was on that team?

24 SAM CRAWFORD: Yes, for a while, before
25

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
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1 he went to the Yankees, you know.

2 INTERVIEWER: Deedee McFee was a good
3 hitter.

4 SAM CRAWFORD: Not so much, a good fielder,
5 great fielder, and we had a shortstop name of Corcoran,
6 Tommy Corcoran, who was quite a fielder too, but that
7 was my first, in 1899, I just came out of the Western
8 League, that's where this controversy was -- with that
9 Western League.

10 I came up there with all these old fellows
11 you know, Buck Ewing, and Al Selback, McBride, all
12 old timers. Jack Taylor was a pitcher, and Reidenstein
13 was there too, and he hated those years when he was
14 in St. Louis. Reidenstein, he was a left hand pitcher
15 too.

16 INTERVIEWER: Did you break right into
17 that lineup?

18 SAM CRAWFORD: Yeh.

19 INTERVIEWER: Was anybody resentful?

20 SAM CRAWFORD: They weren't any too friendly
21 you know, and they didn't ask you for batting practice
22 or anything you know. There was a little hostility there,
23 I was only nineteen then, you know, and coming into a
24 strange situation there, altogether different, you
25 know.

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1
2 INTERVIEWER: That was also your first
3 year of organized baseball.

4 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, yah.

5 INTERVIEWER: You made the majors the
6 first year.

7 SAM CRAWFORD: In three leagues, made the
8 Canadian League, the Western League and the American
9 League, all in one year.

10 INTERVIEWER: Wasn't "Dudley Horris" on
11 that team too?

12 SAM CRAWFORD: There was a man, Dudley
13 Horris, he should be in the Hall of Fame, I've always
14 said that. When Cincinnati won the pennant the last
15 time, he threw out the first ball, you remember that?

16 INTERVIEWER: He was a hundred years old
17 then.

18 SAM CRAWFORD: Ninety-nine, ninety-nine
19 years old, but there was a good ball player. He stole
20 over five hundred bases and he don't get a tumble for
21 the Hall of Fame. There's a mistake there because the
22 man should be in there. He hit almost three hundred
23 too. He was a right hand thrower and a left hand hitter,
24 fast.

25 INTERVIEWER: Good ball player.

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1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: Very good. Great ball
3 player, great outfielder. I played alongside of him
4 but he was mostly on his way out at that time, he
5 was about finished. He was going out and I was just
6 coming in.

7 INTERVIEWER: How did he communicate --

8 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, he could make a
9 little kind of a throaty noise, kind of a squawky little
10 noise that he got out of his throat somehow, I don't
11 know how he did it, but I could always, when he was
12 going after a fly ball I could hear this little noise
13 and I knew he was going to take it, see, but he never
14 had any trouble. He was the originator, or the insti-
15 gator of the umpire giving that -- you know that?

16 INTERVIEWER: No, what?

17 SAM CRAWFORD: Giving the sign for a ball
18 or a strike. You see he'd be up to bat, he can't hear
19 and he can't talk so he'd be up to bat and he'd look
20 around to the umpire.

21 INTERVIEWER: Oh.

22 SAM CRAWFORD: That's what started that.
23 They didn't used to do that you know. He was the one
24 that started that, he had to look around and see what
25 it was, a ball or a strike.



1
2 INTERVIEWER: I'll be darned.

3 SAM CRAWFORD: That's the way that started.
4 Ordinary baseball fans don't know that, you know, but
5 that's a fact. There's another peculiar thing, maybe
6 I told you about him and his wife, he had a deaf and
7 dumb wife also, you know, and they lived in Cincinnati,
8 had their home there, and they had a unique doorbell
9 arrangement. I don't know whether I told you, did I?

10 INTERVIEWER: No, no.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: He had a doorbell, a knob
12 on the front door somewhere and you pulled this knob
13 and they had a little wooden chute or something, there
14 was a lead ball on it, and you pulled this knob it pulled,
15 tilted this thing up and this lead ball would roll off
16 and hit the floor and they knew, they felt it, you know.
17 Wasn't that an odd thing.

18 That lead ball would hit the floor and
19 they'd get the vibrations, see, through the feet. I
20 thought that was quite odd and interesting, wasn't it.
21 He had a personal, he used to wear a diamond ring, we
22 all did in those days, but his knuckles were pretty
23 big, so he had to have, he had a diamond ring, but it
24 had a hinge in it. He'd put it on and lock it see, he
25 couldn't get it over his big knuckles so he'd put it on

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CERTIFIED STENOTYPE REPORTER AND STAFF



1
2 and then lock it.

3 INTERVIEWER: "Dummy" Horris played for
4 fifteen, eighteen years, didn't he?

5 SAM CRAWFORD: I think so, the old
6 National, he's in the encyclopedia there. I was looking
7 in there, I wanted to see if they give the total, and
8 I couldn't find the total of stolen bases. They don't
9 have much on stolen bases in there. It just gives the
10 different years of base stealing.

11 INTERVIEWER: You used to do a lot of base
12 stealing, you did more than your share of base stealing.

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Not too much.

14 INTERVIEWER: Twenty-five, thirty bases
15 a year, right?

16 SAM CRAWFORD: Even had forty some one
17 time.

18 INTERVIEWER: Every year, twenty, thirty,
19 forty.

20 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I had a pretty good
21 pair of legs. Never had much trouble and that's a ball
22 players life, you know, those legs. I've been putting
23 these down, names of different -- since you were here,
24 you see, I'd think of something and I'd just put the
25 name down and recall an incident.

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1 INTERVIEWER: Bill Sullivan, hmm?

2 He had six hundred and five --

3 SAM CRAWFORD: Now, think of that, and
4 he don't even get a tumble for the Hall of Fame, on
5 that one thing alone, that should put him in the Hall
6 of Fame.
7

8 INTERVIEWER: That's a lot.

9 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, gee, I thought, some-
10 body told me it was five hundred and I thought that
11 was plenty terrific and he's got six hundred, think of
12 that, and that man hasn't even been mentioned for the
13 Hall of Fame.

14 INTERVIEWER: Sullivan?

15 SAM CRAWFORD: John L.

16 INTERVIEWER: John L.? What about John
17 L.?

18 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, he was on his way
19 out of course, you know, but he was around Philadelphia
20 there, New York a lot, and you know, he used to come
21 around to the hotel and see the ball players, he liked
22 some ball players on the Cincinatti Club, he liked
23 Corcoran and some of the fellows, and he used to come
24 around to the hotel you know, and --

25 INTERVIEWER: When he was still champion?

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1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, no, no, that was way
3 after.

4 INTERVIEWER: Corbett had taken over?

5 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, that was way after, but
6 he was still around, you know, and he liked to be
7 around to talk about the old days. He come around there
8 one time, he liked Corcoran, he called him "Laddie," his
9 name was Tom, but he called him "Laddie", but he came
10 around there one time and he wanted some of the boys to
11 go out with him, he used to make all the rounds of the
12 bars there, and this night, this evening he came around
13 and everybody was turning him down, no John, I'm sorry,
14 I've got a previous engagement, I can't go tonight.

15 So he finally got a hold of Tom Corcoran
16 and he asked him if he wanted to go out and make the
17 town, a little drinking and so forth, they did more
18 drinking in those days, but Tommy, he gave him that
19 old song too, he says, well, I'm sorry John, I have
20 a previous engagement, and John looked at him and said,
21 You're the -- this is just the way he said it, can it
22 go in there?

23 INTERVIEWER: Yah, go ahead.

24 SAM CRAWFORD: He said, "You're the
25 thirteenth son of a bitch that had a previous engagement."



1
2 (Laughter)

3 SAM CRAWFORD: He didn't want to go out
4 by himself.

5 INTERVIEWER: John L. Sullivan.

6 SAM CRAWFORD: That was John L. Sullivan,
7 yah. He wasn't tall, he was stocky, you know, stocky
8 built.

9 INTERVIEWER: More like a football player.

10 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, on that order. Of
11 course, Corbett just tired him out and pushed him over,
12 you know, he couldn't hit him.

13 INTERVIEWER: Alex, what about Alex?

14 SAM CRAWFORD: Who?

15 INTERVIEWER: Alex.

16 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, Alexander? Oh, --

17 INTERVIEWER: You say, some hitter reminds
18 you of Alexander.

19 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, He came from Nebraska
20 too, you know.

21 INTERVIEWER: No, I didn't know that.

22 SAM CRAWFORD: From St. Paul, Nebraska.
23 Alex pitched his fast ball when he was with Philadelphia.
24 Later he went to the Cubs. We had him after the war.
25 They used to train in Catalina, over in Catalina Island,

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1
2 and, of course, Alex, you know, he was a wino too.
3 You know, you can say these things which are actual
4 facts, and they say that he used to have his booze
5 right on the bench and take a shot every once in a
6 while.

7 INTERVIEWER: He was a good pitcher.

8 SAM CRAWFORD: You can't take that away
9 from him, he was a great pitcher.

10 INTERVIEWER: How did some of these guys
11 last so long?

12 SAM CRAWFORD: They were rugged, they
13 were rugged. Like Bardell, he was another, he never
14 took care of himself. He was really a rounder. They
15 trained, as I say, they trained in Catalina you know,
16 and they were training there and they had some pretty
17 good sized hills over there in Catalina and after the
18 work out they'd have to make this trip you know, up
19 in the hills, so Alex made it a couple of times, but
20 he didn't like to train.

21 He said, I didn't come over here to climb
22 mountains, I come over here to pitch baseball, so he
23 made the trip a couple of times and the road was winding,
24 one of those turning things, you know, and Alex dis-
25 covered, there's one one point pretty close to the club



1
2 house where they were training, or where they had their
3 showers, pretty close, not very far, maybe not more than
4 a half a mile, somehow he discovered this road, one
5 road was down there, right there, and the other was up
6 here, you see.

7 Well, he figured if I could get down to
8 that bottom road there, I could go down there and then
9 I'll go into the club house and these other guys got
10 a couple miles to go yet, so he got a rope -- this
11 story is for true, he got a rope and he stashed it
12 there and when he come to this point he dropped back
13 and then he'd get on this road, he'd drop down to the
14 other road and he was almost in the clubhouse.

15 (Laughter)

16 He'd get all dressed you know and come
17 out smoking a big cigar and the fellows were wondering
18 how is he doing it, but they finally caught up to him.
19 He didn't like to train though.

20 INTERVIEWER: Yet, he lasted twenty years.

21 SAM CRAWFORD: Yeh. He had wonderful
22 control you know. He had control. He never gave any-
23 thing fat to hit, always off center or something.

24 INTERVIEWER: He won thirty games one year.

25 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, that was Alex.



1
2 INTERVIEWER: You've got Bill Darwin's name
3 down here.

4 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, Bill Darwin, Bad Will
5 Darwin, they used to call him. He was -- it's nothing,
6 that just came to my mind. He come from Baltimore,
7 you know, some stayed in Baltimore and half came to
8 Brooklyn, Tom Daily, Darwin, and I think Fielder and
9 Jones were there too at that time, but -- Jennings and
10 Keeler --

11 INTERVIEWER: Robinson.

12 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, pitcher, but Hanlin
13 was the manager, Ed Hanlin, but Darwin, he was just
14 a little simple thing, he never took fielding practice.
15 He's a shortstop and just before the game would start,
16 you'd see him coming along across the outfield, you
17 know, moseying along, and just about the time the game
18 started. He never took fielding practice. You'd think
19 he would warm up his arm or something, but he'd just
20 start right in and play.

21 INTERVIEWER: He was a tough one wasn't
22 he? A tough character.

23 SAM CRAWFORD: No, not like some of them,
24 no.

25 INTERVIEWER: Kid "Emerfeld"?

NATION-WIDE REPORTING COVERAGE
STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
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2 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, little Kid Emerfeld,
3 he was tough, you know. There's no doubt about that
4 because he used to get hit. You know if it was a right
5 hander, he'd get hit on purppse, you know, all the time.
6 Then he'd take first base, he'd get hit on purpose.
7 I don't know whether he could possibly have had it so
8 fine that it would just knick him -- he'd get hit.

9 He was a "Yank" on the hilltop up there,
10 you know, he stayed up there, he was there six years
11 and he was out of the game three, three of those six,
12 hurt or something, so he only played half the time.
13 But, he was tough, he was tough.

14 Kid Gleason was another one. Kid Gleason
15 was what you'd call a big-little man, stocky you know,
16 short and stocky. Those fellows, they didn't think
17 anything about getting hit with the ball.

18 INTERVIEWER: You knew Bobby Lowe, didn't
19 you?

20 SAM CRAWFORD: OH, yeh, he finished up
21 in Detroit when I was there.

22 INTERVIEWER: Didn't he manage Detroit for
23 a little bit there?

24 SAM CRAWFORD: No, no, he used to be a
25 third baseman when he was with Boston and finally made



1
2 four home runs. He was the first one that made four
3 home runs in a game, you know.

4 INTERVIEWER: He was a little fellow,
5 wasn't he?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: He wasn't a big man, about
7 a hundred and sixty pounds I guess.

8 INTERVIEWER: The first one to hit four
9 home runs in one game.

10 SAM CRAWFORD: That was a small park though,
11 in Boston there, a very small left field. There were
12 four hits anyway, four home runs.

13 INTERVIEWER: I think Ed Dullahan did
14 that once too.

15 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah.

16 INTERVIEWER: Did you know Ed Dullahan?

17 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes. I knew him when
18 he was with the Phillies, he and Lazzary and Elmer
19 Flick and all those boys down there with the Phillies,
20 and later they went to Cleveland you know.

21 INTERVIEWER: What was Dullahan like? There
22 were several Dullahans.

23 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, he was big, he was
24 the king in the family here, there were four boys of
25 them, all ballplayers. We had one of them, Jim, a



1
2 second baseman. Ed was an outfielder. Big man, what
3 a big man he was, over two hundred pounds. He always
4 led Lazzaray in hitting you know. He was a waiter too,
5 he'd take a base on balls. He'd wait. Lazzaray would
6 hit at anything. He was a great hitter, but he always
7 beat Lazzaray out because he was taking those bases
8 on balls all the time.

9 He'd go to bat four times and he'd get
10 one base on balls, up three times, two hits, instead of
11 four times up, two, he'd be up three times, hit two, and
12 then he'd take one base on balls. A great eye, I think
13 he was the best right hand hitter I ever saw.

14 INTERVIEWER: Good fielder.

15 SAM CRAWFORD: Fair. Tragic thing, his
16 death you know, was tragic.

17 INTERVIEWER: He died very young didn't he?

18 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, not too young, maybe
19 in his thirties. Between thirty and forty.

20 INTERVIEWER: Something happened about a
21 train.

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, it was -- he had a
23 lot of nasty trouble, wife trouble, and he was with
24 Washington, that's where he finished up, with Washington,
25 from the Phillies he went to Washington. They were



1
2 playing, I don't know, somewhere in the West out there,
3 and they were going back, and they come to the suspension
4 bridge there in Niagara Falls, and he'd been drinking
5 and the train stopped there and he got off the train
6 and some way he got left on the other side of the bridge.

7 So he started to walk across the bridge
8 and the watchman, the guard at the bridge tried to stop
9 him, and they had a fight or something, nobody knows
10 just what happened, but anyway he fell off the bridge
11 and that's above the falls. This man may have knocked
12 him off, no one knows.

13 He said that he tried to keep him from
14 walking across the bridge. Well, anyway he fell in
15 above the falls, and they found him a couple of miles
16 below the falls, and all he had on was a necktie, just
17 a necktie around his neck. That was his finish.

18 He was a Cleveland boy. I guess some of
19 those boys are living yet.

20 INTERVIEWER: Tommy Leach, you knew Tommy
21 Leach?

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes, I played against
23 him in a World Series. 1908, I guess, We played in
24 Pittsburgh, and played against him in the National
25 League to when he came out Army.



1 INTERVIEWER: In Louisville, too?

2
3 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I don't know whether
4 he was there or not. I remember Larry, but I don't
5 remember Tommy Leach. I remember Honus Wagner and
6 Beaumont, and Brandsfield, I believe, first baseman.
7 Tommy might have been playing third base there, then
8 that's before they went to Pittsburgh.

9 That's when Honus, that was when he was
10 in his prime, that's when he was hitting.

11 INTERVIEWER: You played against him then,
12 those years.

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes, in the National
14 League. He was a great ball player. I think he was
15 one of the greatest. You know they talk to me about
16 Cobb being the greatest ball player that ever lived,
17 but I always say, one of the greatest ball players.
18 I say, in my book, Honus Wagner was the greatest ball
19 player that ever lived, in my book.

20 I seen him in his prime and he did every-
21 thing. Cobb, he could only play the outfield. Honus
22 could play outfield, infield, anywhere and do everything,
23 wonderful arm, could run, you know, a big bowlegged guy
24 could run like a scared rabbit, had a wonderful arm, very
25 active, you know. You've got to be active to play short.

NATION-WIDE REPORTING COVERAGE
STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
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2 Wonderful arm, he was all around, and he could hit all
3 around he was outstanding.

4 INTERVIEWER: He was a right handed hitter
5 wasn't he?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah. He was an all around
7 man. A good team man too.

8 INTERVIEWER: Nice person too, evidently.

9 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah. Is this thing running?

10 INTERVIEWER: Yes.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: That makes me nervous.

12 INTERVIEWER: You've got Ed Hanlin's name
13 down there.

14 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, Ed Hanlin, that was
15 the old gang that came from Baltimore to Brooklyn, you
16 know. He was a bench manager, he never had a uniform
17 on. He was a bench manager. They didn't pay any more
18 attention to him than they did the batboy. That was
19 why I put that down there because all that gang --

20 INTERVIEWER: That was a rough crew.

21 SAM CRAWFORD: Rough crew was right, plenty
22 rough. You know if you made a trip around those bases
23 you'd been somewhere. They'd trip you and give you
24 the shoulder, you know. One umpire, you know, and he
25 couldn't see everything, but Hanlin, I don't know that

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
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he ever played ball, I don't know. He might have been a ball player, I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: There was only one umpire in a big league game in those days?

SAM CRAWFORD: One umpire, later there was two, of course.

INTERVIEWER: What would happen if the ball was hit out in the outfield and the umpire was watching, how could he tell whether a runner started before it was caught or whether a runner touched third base on the way around?

SAM CRAWFORD: They used to tell a story about "King Hurst". He was an old umpire too, and he was a tough character, Tim Hurst. When you speak of that one umpire business, some man on second base and somebody gets a hit, as you say he'd watch and see whether the man catches the ball or whether he fields the ball, and they'd try and cut third base by fifteen, twenty feet, you know, just cut across, and the umpire didn't see it, what to do.

Well, Jim Hurst, he knew what was happening, that is he was wise to this deal where they'd cut, well-- he was umpiring one time and somebody, Dave Beckly, I think it was Dave Beckly, the old Cincinatti first base-

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
CERTIFIED STENOTYPE REPORTER AND STAFF



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2 man, he come sliding in one day, Tim was back of the
3 plate umpiring and Dave comes in there you know, made
4 a big slide in and Tim called him out. You're out.
5 A big argument started, what do you mean I'm out, he
6 said, they didn't even make a play on me. He said
7 you big SB, he said, you got here too quick.

8 (Laughter)

9 He said, you got here too quick. He knew
10 he passed third you know.

11 INTERVIEWER: What about Keeler, did you
12 see Keeler play?

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, when he was in Brooklyn,
14 that's when he come from Baltimore you know. In his
15 heydey.

16 INTERVIEWER: He was a small fellow.

17 SAM CRAWFORD: A little fellow, he didn't
18 weigh over a hundred and forty-five.

19 INTERVIEWER: What was he like, was he
20 a tough fellow?

21 SAM CRAWFORD: No, no, nice little fellow.
22 Very friendly little guy, you know, always laughing and
23 kidding. He only used about that much of his bat.
24 He choked way up on the bat. Very seldom he'd hit an
25 extra base wven.



1 INTERVIEWER: Did he hold his hands apart?

2 SAM CRAWFORD: No, not apart, but he held
3 it way, almost in the middle. Just a little snap
4 he had. Oh, he never struck out, you couldn't strike
5 him out. He'd always hit the ball somewhere.

6 INTERVIEWER: Hit it over the infield.

7 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah. Great hitter, and he
8 used a little bit of a mitt in the outfield. He said
9 it was a glove, it was a little round mitt, it was
10 no bigger than a glove, that's what he used in the out-
11 field.

12 INTERVIEWER: Did it have fingers in?

13 SAM CRAWFORD: No, no fingers at all,
14 just like a first baseman's mitt you know, just all,
15 it was a little bit of a thing.

16 INTERVIEWER: Did he cut a hole in it?

17 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, I don't know about that.

18 INTERVIEWER: Did your's have a hole in it?

19 SAM CRAWFORD: No, oh, eventually it would
20 wear in you know.

21 INTERVIEWER: Of course, Tommy Leach wasn't
22 much bigger than Willie Keeler was he?

23 SAM CRAWFORD: He wasn't any taller, but
24 heavier. Willie wasn't, he was fast going down that first
25

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



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2 base line, see, he could fly.

3 INTERVIEWER: Did you ever see McGraw play?

4 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, he went to St. Louis,
5 the National League, I don't remember what the -- there
6 was a jam somewhere, I don't remember just what it was
7 but he and Robinson went to St. Louis.

8 INTERVIEWER: Then they went back.

9 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, McGraw was a third
10 baseman, he wasn't much of a hitter though, he was
11 left handed. Right hand thrower.

12 INTERVIEWER: What was Jennings, an out-
13 fielder?

14 SAM CRAWFORD: A shortstop.

15 INTERVIEWER: He was? Was Jennings really
16 the manager toward the end of his career or was Cobb
17 really doing the managing, because Jennings was drinking
18 so heavily?

19 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, of course, Cobb had
20 his nose in there, all the time. He could do anything,
21 he could come in anytime, after the game was started,
22 many a time he'd come in after the game was started.

23 INTERVIEWER: Cobb was a drinker at the
24 end of his career?

25 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, at the end, but not

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
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2 during --

3 INTERVIEWER: Not while he played, after
4 he retired though, he was quite a drinker.

5 SAM CRAWFORD: I guess he was, I didn't
6 see much of him.

7 INTERVIEWER: How'd you get along with
8 Mahlin?

9 SAM CRAWFORD: All right, until the end,
10 he wasn't so easy with his money. He was just a gambler
11 in Detroit. He didn't have any friends in Detroit. He
12 just got in there, I don't know how he got in, but
13 he was just a gambler around Detroit. And this was a
14 conspiracy. I told you before about the -- your casual
15 remark as to why I didn't stay in Detroit to make three
16 thousand hits.

17 Well, Mahlin was in on that, Mahlin and
18 Jennings and Cobb. That was the thing right there, and
19 when the whole thing started, from the World Series,
20 when we came back from the World Series, all the owners
21 were down in New York, you know, to meet the boat and
22 everything; Mahlin was carrying my grip and they had us
23 signed up, we had cablegrams or telegrams clear over
24 in Egypt, don't sign till you get back, see.

25 Well, I was loyal to Detroit, I didn't

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



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2 belong to the Federal League, and they offered money,
3 probably two or three times as much as I got in
4 Detroit, but I was going to be loyal to Detroit.
5 Well, instead of putting it in the contract, I got a
6 four year contract, but what I wanted was, they should
7 have had a benefit game at the end, which would amount
8 to you know, if it's put on right, would amount to maybe
9 twenty thousand dollars, you know, a big deal.

10 Well, in the meantime this fellow, I
11 didn't get along with Cobb and Jennings. Of course, I
12 wasn't in my prime, that was about the end. I wasn't
13 the ball player I was, I knew that, but I was playing,
14 but they didn't want me to make that three thousand.

15 He was talking about down in New York,
16 about the benefit game, and he said you can pick the
17 club you want, and a Sunday, you know, everything in
18 my favor. I didn't have it down, instead of making him
19 put it down I took his word for it. Well, it come down
20 to the end and I was on the outs with all of them,
21 so they gave me the works.

22 They picked the club, he said, oh, I'll
23 pick the club, Mahlin said, I'll pick the club and he
24 picked the Atheletics, tail end club, it wasn't even
25 Saturday, a week day. I only got a few hundred dollars

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



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2 out of it. Maybe twelve, fourteen hundred dollars.
3 That's all. But it should have been thousands instead
4 of hundreds. If they had been fair about it, it would
5 have been like Stan Musial, you know, when he neared
6 his three thousand hits.

7 They advertised it, you know, they adver-
8 tised that, that's a drawing card. But they didn't
9 for me. That's another thing, I wasn't palsy walsy
10 with the Detroit sports writers, that's another angle,
11 in Salzsinger's story, he wouldn't give me nothing,
12 but he had it in there, so that's another think in
13 my favor.

14 INTERVIEWER: Was there any announcement
15 made when you got your three thousandth hit?

16 SAM CRAWFORD: I never got it.

17 INTERVIEWER: Oh, you really got it.

18 SAM CRAWFORD: But they never mentioned
19 that, that was never even mentioned. Those sports writers
20 wouldn't mention it because Mahlin was controlling that
21 and they wouldn't mention it. They could have made
22 quite a deal out of that you know, if they wanted to,
23 but they -- Cobb wouldn't stand for it.

24 INTERVIEWER: You got something down
25 here that reminds me of something I wanted to ask you

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
CERTIFIED STENOTYPE REPORTER AND STAFF



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2 too. You got something about the first baseball trip
3 in a wagon, what I wanted to ask you so similar to that,
4 about what the travel conditions were like in the old
5 days?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: Of course, we had sleepers,
7 in the big leagues, 1899, 1900, sleepers, we had
8 sleepers, but the sleepers had gaslights in them, not
9 electric light, they had gaslight. They used to go around
10 and light them at night.

11 Uppers, of course, somebody had to get an
12 upper. We used to draw lots, certain numbers, to see
13 who was going to take the upper. I never cared about
14 the upper business. because I always felt you got better
15 air than down below.

16 INTERVIEWER: You liked an upper better
17 than a lower?

18 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, I always did, I never
19 squawked about an upper.

20 INTERVIEWER: You spent a lot of time on
21 trains.

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yah. Long, you know,
23 they had coal running engines, you know, this was before
24 the oil burners, the diesel, before then. They had
25 firemen shoveling coal, cinders, you'd wake up in the



1
2 morning covered with cinders.

3 INTERVIEWER: Really?

4 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, even through that screen
5 in the window, they had a little fine screen in the
6 window and still you'd get cinders.

7 INTERVIEWER: Could you sleep on a train?

8 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, you'd get so you can
9 after a while.

10 INTERVIEWER: What was your first trip in
11 a wagon.

12 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, we were kids, like Steve,
13 maybe a little older, is Steve sixteen? We were around
14 there sixteen, sixteen, seventeen, along in there.
15 I don't think any were over eighteen. Well, we made
16 a, that was in Wahoo, we made a trip overland in the
17 wagon, with a team of horses. One of the boys, he
18 wasn't a player but he lived out on a farm and he got
19 his father to let us take the horses, the team and the
20 wagon.

21 Did you ever see a lumber wagon?

22 INTERVIEWER: No.

23 SAM CRAWFORD: It was a wagon with four
24 wheels and they had seats, kind of a spring seat like,
25 it would hold two or three I guess, sitting on top of



1
2 what they call the lumber wagon. It was about this
3 deep. They used to haul grain in them youknow, in
4 these lumber wagons, to go to the elevator and dump
5 these wagons in the elevator, you know, the grain,
6 or shell corn, but they had four or five seats and they
7 were about, oh, maybe fifteen feet long, twelve, fif-
8 teen feet.

9 You had three or four seats on there and
10 there was only about, maybe eleven of us, twelve of
11 us, and we had this wagon, and we had a stove, a cook-
12 stove, and a tent and we just started out, in and
13 around Nebraska there, we made all these towns any
14 place, it didn't make any difference.

15 INTERVIEWER: And you had a game.

16 SAM CRAWFORD: We had a game, you know.
17 One of the boys was a cornet player, he had his cornet
18 with him and when we'd come into a town he'd get out
19 that cornet you know, and he'd sound off, people would
20 come around and look to see what was going on.

21 A ball games going to be going on. We
22 had a lot of fun you know.

23 INTERVIEWER: Did you take up a collection
24 at the game to pay expenses?

25 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, they charged, I think



1
2 they charged, or they took up a collection you might
3 say. They just had a ball diamond out on the prairie
4 somewhere, but we'd drive along the country roads,
5 you know and if we come to a stream, we'd go swimming,
6 and if we come to an apple orchard, we'd get apples,
7 you know, things like that, and we'd sleep anywhere.

8 We didn't sleep in a tent half the time,
9 we'd sleep anywhere. If we were in a fairgrounds we'd
10 sleep in some of the buildings. If we were near a barn
11 well --

12 INTERVIEWER: And you went around from
13 town to town in Nebraska challenging --

14 SAM CRAWFORD: We didn't have any uniforms.

15 INTERVIEWER: No uniforms.

16 SAM CRAWFORD: No uniforms, no. We had
17 baseball shoes maybe.

18 INTERVIEWER: And you challenged anybody
19 to a ball game?

20 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, anybody, but we had
21 a cook and this stove, and we lived on round steak,
22 beef steak, is it called round steak?

23 INTERVIEWER: Beef steak.

24 SAM CRAWFORD: Cost about a buck a pound
25 now don't it. Used to get three pounds for a quarter.



1
2 And all he could cook was this round steak and gravy
3 and break, that's all we had. Bread and gravy and
4 round steak.

5 INTERVIEWER: How long would you stay
6 away from home at one time?

7 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, several weeks. We had
8 a manager.

9 INTERVIEWER: What was the name of this
10 team?

11 SAM CRAWFORD: It was Wahoo.

12 INTERVIEWER: Just Wahoo, or Wahoo what?

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Just Wahoo. No name, just
14 the name of your town. Like we played Freemont, just
15 Freemont. If we played in West Point, we played West
16 Point.

17 INTERVIEWER: How did you get a ball
18 field to play on?

19 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, all the towns had
20 grounds, they had grounds.

21 INTERVIEWER: I'll be darned.

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, that was our first
23 tour.

24 INTERVIEWER: In a wagon with four horses?

25 SAM CRAWFORD: Two horses. We didn't go

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STENOTYPE REPORTING SPECIALISTS
CERTIFIED STENOTYPE REPORTER AND STAFF



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2 any fifty-sixty miles perhour. Course, the towns
3 weren't too far apart. You remember a wrestler by the
4 name of Steckeler, Joe Steckeler?

5 INTERVIEWER: Yah.

6 SAM CRAWFORD: He came from Nebraska.
7 From a place called Dodge, Nebraska, we hit his town,
8 but that was before, Joe was a little boy then and
9 later he came up, you know.

10 INTERVIEWER: Did you used to win most
11 of those games?

12 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, we done pretty well.
13 Of course, it's pretty hard to win a game, you know,
14 you'd go into a lot of those towns and they had their
15 own umpires you know. You had to beat them to death
16 to win you know.

17 That was tough.

18 INTERVIEWER: Were you an outfielder then?

19 SAM CRAWFORD: I would pitch and play out-
20 field too.

21 INTERVIEWER: You pitched?

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yeh, I was a very fine
23 pitcher.

24 INTERVIEWER: Then somebody saw you and
25 you wound up in the major leagues.



1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, I played, after we had
3 this tour, we played in West Point, Nebraska, and the
4 manager there, they had some hired players, a pretty
5 good team they had and we beat them, they had some
6 hired players that they paid.

7 INTERVIEWER: That's what you call a
8 ringer in those days?

9 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, no, they were hired
10 and they stayed right in that town, but they were older
11 than we were, they were men. After the tour was over
12 well I had a letter from the manager there at West
13 Point and he wanted me to come up and play with West
14 Point, so I went up there and then from there, there
15 was another fellow in Omaha, a pitcher who had been,
16 the year before had been in the Canadian League and
17 I knew him and he wanted me to go with him.

18 He wrote then to the manager, who was
19 going to be manager of the club in Ontario and he said
20 he wanted to bring me along with him, so they sent
21 transportation and we went up there. We didn't have
22 any money, probably between us we didn't have twenty
23 dollars. I know I had about ten dollars.

24 INTERVIEWER: What salary did you get
25 when you signed with Chatham?

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



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2 SAM CRAWFORD: Sixty-five dollars a month.
3 And I think we got our board, I don't remember, but we
4 might have got our board out of that.

5 INTERVIEWER: Did you play every day?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, no, we didn't play
7 every day. I think we played a series, maybe four
8 games, or something like that, same as -- they had a
9 schedule, it wasn't every day, I'm pretty sure it wasn't
10 every day.

11 INTERVIEWER: Then how did you wind
12 up going to the Western League from there?

13 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, then that was another
14 deal there. They, the Columbus Club, they were in the
15 Western League, Columbus, and later they were transferred
16 to Grand Rapids, that's where I really was, I never
17 got to Columbus at all, because that club was transferred
18 while they were on the road and I joined them on the
19 road, see.

20 Well, anyway, the Columbus Club had a
21 pitcher, name of Joe Cross. He came to Chatham, the
22 Columbus Club loaned him to Chatham, I don't know what
23 the deal was at that time, anyway he came to Chatham
24 and he was to pitch for Chatham for a certain length
25 of time and he was to have the pick of the club for his



1
2 services, see. The Columbus Club did that. He came
3 over there and he took me back to Grand Rapids, that's
4 how I got to Grand Rapids.

5 Then from Grand Rapids, when that season
6 closed in September, early September, I think it was
7 the first, then I was sold to Cincinatti.

8 INTERVIEWER: All in one year.

9 SAM CRAWFORD: I think in Grand Rapids,
10 I think I got about a hundred and a quarter a month
11 and about two hundred when I got to Cincinatti. That
12 was big money in those days. I had never been away from
13 home hardly before.

14 That was a lot of money and I came back
15 loaded, you know, with a few hundred dollars and boy I
16 was set.

17 INTERVIEWER: Were you barbering all this
18 time or had you stopped being a barber?

19 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, no, well -- I stopped
20 then when I went there, but up to that time I was still
21 barbering and playing ball.

22 INTERVIEWER: You picked up being a barber
23 on your own?

24 SAM CRAWFORD: No, I learned the trade
25 there in Wahoo. The hard way, cleaning cuspidors and



1
2 washing windows and mopping the floor, things like that,
3 and then once in a while they'd let you lather somebody
4 and you know, get them ready for there work by the
5 real barbers, and then sometimes maybe there'd be a
6 tramp come through and they wanted a haircut and you
7 could get practice on them.

8 That's the way we learned in those days.

9 INTERVIEWER: Do you still give a good
10 hair cut?

11 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, well -- I got some
12 tools yet --

13 (Laughter)

14 I got an electric clippers, but I can
15 cut hair, I cut "Tiller's" hair all the time.

16 INTERVIEWER: Oh, yeh.

17 SAM CRAWFORD: I cut it for the past two,
18 three years. I can't see two dollars for a haircut,
19 it's still the same old fifty cent haircut. They got
20 fancy with electric clippers and all, we didn't have
21 that. And you worked all day Saturday and up to twelve
22 o'clock Saturday night, standing on your feet around
23 that chair, it was a long day.

24 INTERVIEWER: Saturday was a big haircut
25 day?



1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, all the farmers used
3 to come in there on Saturday night, you know, with their
4 hair around their shoulders, manure in their hair,
5 and hayseed, and when I think of this two dollar hair-
6 cut and a dollar and a half for a shave and things like
7 that, we used to give -- I haven't told you this before?

8 INTERVIEWER: No.

9 SAM CRAWFORD: We used to give a haircut
10 and a shave, and a shampoo for thirty-five cents.

11 INTERVIEWER: Wow.

12 SAM CRAWFORD: Thirty-five cents, ten
13 cents for a shave, twenty-five cents for a haircut and
14 they'd throw in the shampoo, you know. Thirty-five
15 cents. That was real labor, but, of course, a dollar
16 was a dollar.

17 INTERVIEWER: Stand on your feet from ten
18 in the morning or nine in the morning --

19 SAM CRAWFORD: From seven o'clock in the
20 morning, they opened about seven.

21 INTERVIEWER: Mr. O'Toole was managing
22 that?

23 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, he was a good ball
24 player too, he should be in the Hall of Fame, he hit
25 pretty near four hundred there once.

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1
2 INTERVIEWER: Did you ever see Mays play?

3 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, I saw him.

4 INTERVIEWER: How would you compare him
5 to the old ballplayers?

6 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, he'd be all right with
7 any of the old timers. Although he might have -- he's
8 pretty good, he's one of the few that really takes a
9 cut at the ball and means it.

10 INTERVIEWER: You didn't swing with all
11 your might though, did you?

12 SAM CRAWFORD: I never thought about home
13 runs or anything like that. We were up there to hit
14 that ball. That's all. Hit it somewhere. Weren't
15 thinking about home runs. Looks to me like these guys
16 are swinging you know and all they want is to hit it
17 out of the park. Of course, it's a lively ball and
18 that changed the whole situation.

19 INTERVIEWER: Yeh, but Mays he would have
20 been a great outfielder no matter when?

21 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yes, there's no doubt
22 about that.

23 INTERVIEWER: Where did Salzsinger get
24 his records from, he didn't make them up, so the question
25 is where did he get them from?

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1
2 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, he must have got it
3 the same as been in my mind all the time, way back there,
4 maybe a little article in the paper or something about
5 it and that was the end of it see, and then it just
6 died. It had to be my word, and of course, Keener, he
7 was the Secretary at the time, even he, when I protested,
8 when I was nominated, first thing I started in on that
9 you know, and Mr. Keener, he was Secretary, and I wrote
10 letters back and forth to him about that deal about the
11 number of hits and he was pretty vicious about it and
12 he was very positive that the Hall of Fame, the record
13 would not do anything about it even then and that was
14 in -- February we were nominated, and of course, the
15 installation wasn't till July, but I spoke about it
16 then.

17 I didn't have anything, you know, only
18 my word, I didn't have any proof, so I finally let it
19 go. I had the wife on my neck too, she, well, it was
20 a wonderful thing you know and all that, so I just let
21 it go, but when I got Salzsinger's piece, I thought that
22 was it you know, so that's the way it stands.

23 But I told her I was going to have my say.
24 You know he says there in one of these letters he's
25 sorry I'm going to take it to the press and all that but



1
2 I'll take it to the press, it doesn't make any difference
3 to me, and now I'm thinking seriously of seeing if I
4 can get my plaque out of this too, I'm thinking about
5 it.

6 I was put in there, they didn't ask me.
7 I didn't solicit to get in that Hall of Fame, because
8 I had forgotten all about the Hall of Fame, it's been
9 so long, forty years you know, and I had telegrams
10 at that time from, oh from the President of the League,
11 now they all said in the telegram, this should have
12 happened long years ago.

13 They all said the same thing. Those things
14 they're in the back, we're not living back there. Those
15 people, I don't know any of those people back there
16 anymore. They're gone. In the future is where you're
17 going to spend the rest of your life, not back. That's
18 why I always admire Robert Ingersoll, "Let the dead
19 past bury it's dead." Two thousand years ago.

20 INTERVIEWER: Robert Ingersoll, I haven't
21 heard that in years.

22 SAM CRAWFORD: I've got his lectures --
23 smart man. He was supposed to be an atheist but he
24 wasn't.

25 INTERVIEWER: Oh, I don't know, he claimed

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1
2 he was an atheist.

3 SAM CRAWFORD: He -- no, he never claimed
4 that. All he said in all his lectures, I read all his
5 lectures, I got the book, if you want to take it I'll
6 give it to you.

7 INTERVIEWER: Famous atheist of the
8 1800s.

9 SAM CRAWFORD: That's what the claim but
10 he says no, and he never claimed to be an atheist. He
11 said, if there is a God, he always had that in there,
12 if there is a God, why does this happen? He was
13 skeptical you see. If there is -- he's also got a
14 lecture in there called Gods, that's the heading of it,
15 Gods, and in those days they had a God for everything
16 you know, a God of Rain, when the Gods were mad they'd
17 send a storm, a God of the Sea, dozens of Gods, and he
18 says, they finally got it down to one, see, down to
19 one.

20 So he never --

21 INTERVIEWER: He was a skeptic?

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Well, he was skeptical, he
23 wanted proof, you know, that's all he wanted.

24 INTERVIEWER: He never found it.

25 SAM CRAWFORD: No, he never was able, but

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1 he would always have that in there, I noticed that in
2 his lectures, if there is A God, see.

3
4 When I broke in in '99, 1899 and 1900,
5 they were big then, they were down in Philadelphia,
6 Delahanty, Marty Cross, oh there was a bunch of them
7 there, and those fellows they were all 300 hitters,
8 I guess everybody on the club hit three hundred. You
9 know why they hit three hundred, did I ever tell you?

10 INTERVIEWER: No.

11 SAM CRAWFORD: They had the signals, they
12 were giving the signals all the time. And they were
13 all three hundred hitters anyway, they didn't need
14 them, and yet they had a system, now this is quite a
15 story, I don't know if I told you this or not.

16 INTERVIEWER: No.

17 SAM CRAWFORD: There used to be a man,
18 there used to be a catcher name of Walter Murphy,
19 catcher for Philly and he'd always be out in the batting
20 practice, he'd be around there and then when the game
21 was started he'd disappear, see, and you'd say where
22 is Murphy, well -- he's not around anywhere.

23 That went on for some time and then when
24 the Cincinatti Club, we were playing there, and Tommy
25 Corcoran, I told you about Corcoran a shortstop, and

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1
2 John O'Sullivan, you know, well, anyway, this Murphy,
3 the clubhouse was right straight in center field and
4 it wasn't too big a park, brick wall , later on, here's
5 Murphy down in centerfield in the clubhouse with
6 binoculars reading the signs.

7 INTERVIEWER: In the Phillies Clubhouse.

8 SAM CRAWFORD: Yeh, he'd disappear,
9 you know and you'd wonder, where'd he go, he was out
10 there in the field taking batting practice, then he'd
11 be gone.

12 Well, it goes on, so one day --

13 INTERVIEWER: He went out there with bino-
14 culars and --

15 SAM CRAWFORD: He sat in the clubhouse ,
16 that's all he did, just set there and take the signs,
17 see. Well, it was a very elaborate system that they
18 had at that time, they had it wired, electric wired
19 right to third base. Now get this, to third base it
20 was wired and down in the coaches box, underground,
21 maybe a little bit underground, they had a box under
22 there with a buzzer. Well, the coaches for the Phillies
23 would stand in the coaches box and dig now in there
24 with his spikes on this board, and he'd get this tap, see.
25 Two taps for a curve, one tap fast ball. They knew



1
2 every ball that was pitched, the batter up there, he'd
3 holler see, come on for a curve, if he didn't say any-
4 thing they knew it was a fast ball, and those hitters
5 like Dullahan and those fellows, well this went on
6 and Corcoran got on to it somehow or other, he dis-
7 covered it, he went over there and pulled that thing
8 right out of the ground, pulled the whole thing right
9 out.

10 Boy did they get that out of there in
11 a hurry. There wasn't any scandal or anything, but
12 they had a very elaborate system you know. All Murphy
13 was doing there, he'd sit there and press a button,
14 tap.

15 INTERVIEWER: My God.

16 SAM CRAWFORD: That's true, that's a true
17 story, I was there. There was no scandal about it,
18 nobody said anything, but we kidded Murphy about it,
19 you know, what a fine ball player you are, you're the
20 detective, you're not a ball player.

21 The Yankees used to do that in New York,
22 you don't remember that do you? Up in Centerfield,
23 do you remember Young's Hats, that's a big sign right
24 in centerfield, right over the pitcher's shoulders.
25 Young's Hats and the H, the cross piece in the H, that

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1
2 was a piece of iron, painted black, and you looked down
3 there, and whoever was running the thing, binoculars
4 and all, they'd turn that see, they'd look down and
5 see that H and see it wasn't connected, up and down
6 instead of being cross, they got the signs that way.

7 The Detroit Club discovered that. They
8 had Oberfield down in there, you know, when he was out
9 of the game.

10 INTERVIEWER: I guess they're still trying
11 to steal signs.

12 SAM CRAWFORD: I don't know how they do
13 it now. Sometimes they catch a pitcher's weakness
14 or a certain little mannerism that a pitcher has, they
15 can be taken into consideration.

16 INTERVIEWER: You pitched against Wadell
17 that day?

18 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah, I guess Frank was in
19 there and Wadell, I know.

20 INTERVIEWER: You knew Wadell before he
21 came to --

22 SAM CRAWFORD: Ya, he was in Grand Rapids
23 when I was there.

24 INTERVIEWER: Was he just a big kid then?

25 SAMCRAWFORD: Just a boy, yep. They say

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1
2 there's a story that Connie Mack used to pay him in
3 silver dollars you know, give him a lot of silver dollars,
4 to load him down and make him feel like he had a lot
5 of money.

6 (Laughter)

7 INTERVIEWER: Remember when he used to
8 go chasing fire engines in those days?

9 SAM CRAWFORD: Oh, yeh, he'd go fishing
10 or he'd be out on a lot playing with the kids, you
11 know and all that. He really wasn't vicious or any-
12 thing like that but he'd disappear, you know, but
13 I don't think he was much of a drinker. He might have
14 been.

15 He pitched one day and I never saw him
16 for a week, he'd disappear, maybe gone fishing or some-
17 thing. People liked him, he was a likeable fellow.
18 He used to pour ice water on his shoulders. We're always
19 kidding him you know, and they'd say, come on Lou,
20 what's the matter, you dont seem to have much, what's
21 the matter with you? And we had the barrel with the
22 dipper you know, and he'd dip the dipper in the barrel
23 and fill it with ice water and he'd pour it on his arm
24 and then he'd go out there and start throwing, he say
25 I'll show them whether I got anything or not.



1
2 You don't want to get him mad, you don't
3 want to get him mad, because he pitched like everything
4 when he got mad.. I can remember Tom saying, don't
5 get him mad when I'm up there, don't get him mad when
6 I'm coming up. If you didn't say anything to him
7 he'd just go along softly you know, but if you got him
8 mad, well then he'd really pitch.

9 INTERVIEWER: And you knew Lou Bardell
10 in the minor leagues?

11 SAM CRAWFORD: Yah. In Grand Rapids,
12 yah. When the American League was born he went to
13 Pittsburgh, he went to National, he went to Pittsburgh
14 for a while and then I guess, I don't know where he went
15 from there, I guess he was out on the coast here one
16 time, with Los Angeles I think, somewhere out here, and
17 then he came back, I think with Connie. He had a
18 career.

19 (End of tape.)
20
21
22
23

24 (Transcript of taped
interview)
25 BL-97.69

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