

INTERVIEW WITH BOB O'FARRELL

I always thought it was pretty wonderful to be a ballplayer. I was plying with the local team here, going to high school at the time and we palyed the Cubs an exhibition game. They signed me up after the game! I joined the Cubs in '15, about the middle of the season and stayed there the rest of the year. They just let me sit around and watch them. (I was a White Sox fan!) Up till the day the Cubs signed me up I was a White Sox fan, then I was a Cub fan. ]

My Dad always encouraged me to play ball. They, my parents, thought it was just great. Worked out very good.

I think the catching equipment is about the same now. The mask may be a little different. Some of them don't use the wire mask, the bar that goes across is one solid piece. I don't like them as well, that wire mask will give a little, you know, its more than one piece. Better.

When I was a kid, I was younger than the rest of them and nobody would catch and the only way I could get in the game was to catch, so I became a catcher. There isn't many of them that like catching, you know. I think a young fellow'd be smart if he took up catching. They're always scaree. Supposed to have a good repuataion, too, you know, supposed to be smart. ✓

Well, of course you call the balls according to the hitter's weakness. You got to study the hitters' weaknesses. Comes pretty easy to you, you know if you're pitching pretty high and he's hitting them good, why you don't want to give him any more of those.

We never did get down on our knees, unless it was to block a low pitch. We always kind of sat...squatted. Never got down on the knee, because you can't get up fast enough to field a bunt or a foul ball if your'e down there. My legs never bothered me. Course you're not squatting all the time , just when the pitcher's actually delivering the ball. I never found it too hard on my legs. But you take a lot of hard knocks, catching.

Roger Bresnahan was the manager of the 1915 Cubs. He's the one that scouted me, see, he was a catcher too. He started the shin guards. First one to wear shin guards. Kind of ridiculed him for it. Laughed at him... but it developed that it was a great thing. He saved a lot of spike wounds with the shin guards, you know, blocking the plate and all.

These big gloves now. Not only the catcher's wear those big knuckle ball gloves, but the infielders, outfielders, everybody wears bigger gloves. I think the biggest trouble with them trying to catch a knuckle ball is they're not trying to keep their eye on the ball. You don't follow it.

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You take your eye off the ball for an instant, why, you'll miss it. It's the one that breaks the most...you got to follow it all the way. A fast ball or a curve when it starts to break, why you know just about where it's going to wind up in your glove and you unconsciously take your eye off it for a second. I think that's why they miss these knuckle ball pitchers. They don't follow it all the way into the glove.

The pitchers, you know the eyes in your glove, where the lacing goes? Well, they'd raise them up so they could scratch the ball up some. Those shine balls and emory balls, why they'd really take off.

An emory ball's the same as one you scratch up. You scratch it up. Some of them would hide an emory cloth inside the arm ~~of~~ or their glove and rub off the ball. Wasn't legal, you'd have to hide it. And well, a shine ball, I think Eddie Cicotte used the shine ball. He'd rub talcum powder on his trousers, you know, and every chance he'd get he'd rub the ball on there. Just one spot of it, you know. One side of the ball only. It could slide off of your fingers quicker than anything. We knew most of the time, when they were going to throw them. You don't always know what direction it's going to break. It's surprising, you know, how much you can make a ball break with just a slight roughness on one side, one spot of the ball. They really can break good. ✓

You just brace yourself for the ball, kind of naturally.

I was on a team with a lot of base stealers. Max Carey, Eddie Roush, Frankie Frisch, oh a lot of good ones. Let's see, we had Jim Vaughn, the pitcher, and Larry Cheeney (later on with Bklyn) George Humphries, the pitcher. We won the pennant in 1918.

Ever read about that strike. I don't know how it really come about. But, we weren't going to get much out of the series, because the war was on then, and baseball...they shortened the season and we weren't going to get a very big share of the World Series. We were playing the Red Sox then. Well, the players thought that they should get more money out of it some ~~what~~ way or another. So we just didn't go out on the field for about an hour or so after the game should have started. They settled it somehow. Course I was only more or less of a rookie then. That was really my first full season in the Big leagues, 1918. They didn't have any "Player representatives" or anything like that then. Players just didn't win any arguments then.

Babe Ruth pitched in that series, you know. I think he pitched two shutouts. I know it was a six game series. We won two games and they won four. I think we scored 10 runs and they scored 9, in the series.

I ~~there~~ think there was about three shutouts. Jim Vaughn shut them out <sup>once</sup> ~~one~~

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Ruth shut us out twice. See, we had Alex that season, but he went into service when the World Series started, so he didn't get to pitch for us. I played with Alex on the Cubs for quite a while. And I played with him in St. Louis. I caught him on the day he struck Lazzeri out. I called the pitches but he would always shake you off if he didn't like the pitch. Always. Didn't make much difference what you called for, he knew where he wanted to throw it anyhow. I think he was sure as good as anybody. He had perfect control, you know. Didn't make much difference whether you'd call for a curve or a fast ball, he used to call it a fade away, then, but that's really a screw ball today. He had a screw ball. But he'd pitch everything low and outside. And that 's the toughest ball to hit, especially a ball breaking down and away from you. Oh, but he had a bad problem with alcohol. I don't believe Alex was much of a drinker until he got in that service. When he come back from the service, why he ~~was~~ pretty heavy drinker.

In '26 with the Cardinals, we had really two drinkers with us: Quint Rem and Alex. I don't know ~~why~~ how they did it. Of course, Alex, he wasn't what you'd call a good fielder, or a good runner or anything, he just had a great arm and amazing control. If not <sup>for</sup> that, why he'd really never have been a big league ballplayer. But he dd have a good arm and good control. He lasted till he was better than 40! Last team he was ✓

with he didn't pitch much. Didn't pitch much after the world series of '28. Think they lost four straight fo the Yankees that year.

Now, when he struck out Lazzeri that time, he pitched all curve balls, low outside. The first one, we discussed how ~~w~~ were going to pitch to him, the three of us, Alex, Hornsby and me and well, we knew we were going to pitch him low and away, weren't going to give him anything up high. Well, the first ~~g~~all Alex threw was right up here. He hit it way up, almost in the bleachers. Fouled off by about 10 feet. It was fou~~r~~ all the way to me. Course behind the plate, you can re~~a~~lly see more, you know, if the ball curves a lot. Well, I ~~ran~~ run out there to Alex and I says, I thought you were going to pitch him low outside? He says, he'll never get another one like that! And he didn't. The rest of them were low outside. See, the bases were loaded and we were one run ahead of them. That was in the seventh inning. We were ahead 3 - 2 in the seventh and last game of the World ~~W~~eries. If they won that game, why they'd be the winners of the series. If we won that game, why , we'd win it all.

The last play of that game, and the series was when I threw Ruth out when he tried to take second. Y<sup>U</sup> know, I've often wondered why he tried to steal second then. A year or so later, I went on a few ex-

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hibitions with him and I asked him. He says, well , I thought Alex was sleeping. He wasn't watching me at all. But, course I threw him out easy. But Alex, he never had a good move to first base anyway...always got rid fo the ball quick, I mean, he never wound up or anything. Any man on base he had a quick arm. But Babe thought, oh, he's sleeping. And Bob Meusel was the next hitter. If he could have hit a two base hit, why the Babe could have scored on it. Meusel was a long ball hitter.

I was talking to Wayte H<sub>o</sub>yte, up there in NY a couple of weeks ago and Waite was discussing that and he said, well, when they try to steal second base, they probably thought, well we're not going to ge t two hits in a row off of Alex, so we might as well get in scoring position when we can. And that's another way of looking at it. The way Alex was pitching then, they really weren't going to get two hits in a row". I think he was on a drunk the night before, too. He had pitched the day before and we beat them pretty easily. After the game was over, we got together and told Alex ~~an~~ that if we got in any trouble tomorrow, why he's the relieg pitcher, so take care of yourself, tonight, Alex. He says, Oh, I won't go out and I won't take a drink. And he actually didn't intend to take anything, but some of his would-be friends got a hold of him and thought they were doing him a favor buying him a drink. Well, you weren't doing Alex any favor ✓

favor buying him a drink, cause he just couldn't stop. Didn't know when to stop. We were supposed to have rules, sure, but Alex was pretty independent. He was just a different character, that's all, I guess. No, he didn't intend to drink, at night. Wanted to go in and go to bed, that's all. That's when we just come in, at least.

But we really had a great ball club. Not standout players on the team, but just real teamwork, everyone working together. It was wonderful. Great fun. To play ball was great fun anyhow, especially if you're on a winner. Then is just wonderful. Course you get a little discouraged sometimes if you get in that slump and the team don't win, but those things happen. I certainly enjoyed those years. I did get a little discouraged at times, but I guess you do in any job. Course when you play every day it gets to be work....but somehow it's still play. Just as they say, "Play ball" It is , it's play.

We didn't travel as much then, you see, as they do today. We'd play a three or four game series in a city . We didn't have as much ~~as~~ traveling as they do now. Course when we'd play in NY, we'd play Bklyn after we played them, and we'd be there about a week, or so. And then, we'd only go to Phila. or Boston, which weren't far. Those were very short jumps.

We'd play every day, of course. But no night games, of course. We had every night to ourselves. I don't think you can play quite as good at night as you can in the daytime. You get the attendance at night, so that's it. I sure think it's here to stay. Not going to change it. More people can get a chance to see a ballgame, too, that way. I'll say one thing, though, you don't have a bad background at night, like you do in the daytime. You take with the bleachers in center field. On a hot day with the sun shinging down, ~~there~~ their sitting there with the white shirts on, it' kind of illuminates a little and kind of blinds you. It don't give you a good background. I would say it was easier to hit at night in that respect. But I think the ball is up on you quicker at night. You don't pick it up as quick as you can in daylight.

Course, we always tried to follow that ball right to where it hit the bat. We always tried to see our bat hit that ball. I think I could see the ball up to the bat. I tried to concentrate on seeing the bat hit the ball, anyhow. Now, that's what I was saying about catching knuckleballs. You have to see the ball right into your glove or you can't catch it. Same thing with hitting. If you take your eye off of it you're not going to be too good a hitter. Well, of course, alot of us weren't too good hitters! I kept up there pretty good in the 280's/ ✓

Course in the last couple of years I didn't hit too good.

We tried to get as close to the plate as we could without interfering with the hitter, or having him swing the bat around into the catcher's head. But we tried to get as close as possible. You'd try to talk to all the hitters up at the plate. Course some of them wouldn't pay any attention to you. I think yogi's the one that chattering all the time. They do try to get the mind off the hitting. Get their mind onto something else. Just say anything to a hitter. I've never had many of them talk back to me, I must say, they really were trying to concentrate on the ball. They knew you were trying to get their mind off of it. That's why they didn't pay much attention.

I think the umpires behind the plate get most of them right. A good umpire will. He'll get better than 95% of them right. Course, a good umpire lets a wrong call go, and calls the rest of them the way he sees them. A good umpire never evens up. Never. Course they accuse a lot of them of that. Course they claim that if you squawk enough why the umpire might give you a break on a couple of pitchers. Yep, I think everyone has been thrown out of a game at least once. Nobody always agrees with the umpire, you know. Very seldom that you agree with him, for that matter! Course the quickest way to get thrown out of the game is to

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is to let the fans know you're having an argument with the umpire and turn around to him and argue face to face. You don't turn around, he'll overlook a lot. But if you turn around, why, he knows you're trying to show him up, get the fans on him, or something. Bill ~~KE~~ Klem was the best I ever saw. He's the best ball and strike umpire that ever lived! He wouldn't miss them. No, he wouldn't miss them. And he admitted he wouldn't miss them. ~~Claimed~~ Claimed he never missed one in his life. I never saw him miss once in all the time I was catching. He was a really great umpire. Great umpire. He wasn't so good on the bases as some others, but he was the best ball and strike umpire you could possibly have. Couldn't argue with him. He liked me fairly well, cause I didn't say much to him. But it was always understood that any time ~~he~~ you started arguing with Klem, you were right out of the game. He didn't fool around. Some of them would argue with him. I remember one pitcher started in and Bill would get up and draw a line with his foot and he says, "Don't come over that line" And if you come over that line...you were gone. You were out! Yep, he was quite an umpire. I always thought that wally Stark was the best base umpire I ever saw, too. He was always right on the job. Right on top of every play! Bounced around there like a young rookie would! And it's tough, you know. You can't

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always be in the right position to see every play, either, you know. You don't know just where he's going to catch the ball or where the man's going to slide, inside or outside. Got to always be in position and a good position to see it, too. At least you're supposed to be.

I think the toughest play a catcher makes is the double steal. That's about the toughest play, with a man on first and third and the man on first starts for second and the man on third base, he's leading off and you've got to decide pretty quick whether you're going to throw to second base, or bluff the throw, or throw back to the pitcher, ~~or~~ or what you're going to do. We used to, in the same motion, we'd take a glance at third and throw to second base, course you had to look at second too, but you'd always glance at third to chase him back, so ~~we~~ he wouldn't get a good jump off there. That's a tough play. That double steal. Course, a man coming in to score is always a tough play, you know. Got to knock him off the plate. Especially in a close play...that's always tough. Especially on a ground ball to the infield and he throws to the plate and the runner is free and pretty much on top of you by the time you get the ball... and the catcher should hold the ball in his right hand and if he possible can, use both hands to tag him, cover the ball with the glove to hold on to it. But you can't always use both hands to keep the ball. And you ✓



you're sure going to get bumped. You're going to get bumped! I think the best way is to...he's got to make the first move and then you ride him in. Well, sometimes if he gets there the same time the ball gets there, why you've got to stay with with him. It's you or him.

When they traded Hornsby, ~~I traded~~ he was traded for Frish, and I managed the Cardinals, then. 1927. We had a good ball club that year, but our short stop broke his leg the first month of the season and we never really had a shortstop the rest of the year. But Friesch had the greatest season of anybody that ever lived. He hit pretty good, about 350, and he really did everything right. He was the greatest ballplayer I ever saw, that year. He was under pressure, too, taking Hornsby's place. And he really come through. It was remarkable that he played such great ball cause we had about 8 different shortstops that played with us then. And you ~~in~~ can't get very far without a shortstop, you know. We had tried George Toporcer at short. He was a good utility ballplayer, but he couldn't play every day. (Saw him recently. Totally bline. ~~Stank~~ Shame. Swell Fwllow.) He was the only ballplayer, outside of a pitcher, I believe, who wore glasses. Lee Meadow wore glasses, he was a pitcher. I think he was the first infielder to wear glasses.

Why, we even had a kid brought up by Branch Rickey, Heinei Schuple.

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supposed to play shortstop for us. Came up from nowhere. I don't think he had minor league ~~or~~ experience, or anything. Makes me laugh to think about it. Well, he tried, but he didn't have any experience. Rattle-brained, boo. Kid, you know. Didn't know what it was all about.

We tried Les Bell, our third baseman, too, at short. Tried them all.

Rabbit Maranville

Finally Rickey brought us ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~, from Rochester. He'd been up and went down, too. He was a pretty heavy drinker. That's why he went back to the minors. He got to Rochester and everything was going great so we got him up about the last six weeks of the season and he played 3 games. I think if we could have kept rabbit we'd have won the pennant cause we only lost by one game.

Hornsby, of course, was a great manager, as far as I'm concerned. That year at St. Louis, he was tops. He didn't bother anybody. Just let you go your own way. He figured that if you were a big league ballplayer you knew how to play ball, and he let you play ball. If you were going good, didn't say a word. Course if you made a few mistakes, why he'd get at you. But he was very good then. Later on I think he got a little chesty and they traded him to NY and Robbie put him in to run the club when he'd leave and I think he got a little chesty after that. Ballplayers didn't like him much after that. They don't like the bossing. He

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managed a lot of temas, but he never got along with the ballplayers after that year in St. Louis. Seemed like he changed. He was always a good fiend of mine. He and I always got along swell. Lives in Chicago, or did, the latter part of his life. He was from Texas and I think he lived in St. Louis for awhile, too.

McGraw was rough as a manager. Hard to play for. Couldn't seem so do anything right for him, ever. Anything went wrong, why it was your fault, not his, ever. He was the best manager I ever saw for getting runs. He knew how to get runs. He'd give the hitter every advantage in the world. He always let you hit the triple, 3- 1, 3- 0. If there was a good pitcher out there, like Dazzy Vance, or someone like that that could overpower you, he'd always say, if you get ahead of him, don't let him get even with you. If you get a ball, don't take the next one and wait for a base on balls. Hit it. He really let the hitters hit. Nearly all the managers I ever played for, they were playing for a base on balls. You don't win many games with a base on balls, now. First two men in an inning maybe get on, but..... That's why McGraw always had good hitters, he gave them every ~~ex~~ advantage. He was great for the hit and run, too. It was really that he would start the runner and expect you to hit. You didn't necessarily put the hit and run on, he'd give the

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runner the steal sign and he'd expect you to hit behind him, wherever the ball was pitched. He always said that if you have the hit and run on, don't try to hit behind the runner to right field, necessarily, hit the ball to where it's pitched, cause you'll get the man to second base anywya. He's got a good jump, he'll get to second, no matter where it's hit. If he had the man on first, with no hit and run on, he'd have you hitting instead of bunting. He always wanted you to try to hit behind a runner. Most of us would try to hit too far behind them, you know, between first and seond. He says, ~~kaxx~~ you aim that ball right at second base position. 90% of the time you won't hit it right there, but that's the area.

The main thing about a manager, is more or less strategy and playing good baseball, back in those days. But today, I think it's handling man. More than it is playing good smart baseball. They're more independent today than they used to be. Ballplayers are really independent today. Manager can't tell them what to do, they're probably telling the manager. Harder to handle. Got to handle them with kid gloves. In the old days, they knew that if they didn't do the job, you would fine them and it kept them pretty well in line. Salaries weren't so big, see. You hit them in the pocket,, that's where it hurt the most. See, in 1915, my salary was \$200 a month when I come up <sup>with</sup> the Cubs! Just for the season. NThey didn't pay ✓

you for the winter. About \$1200 for the year. Course I was only 18 years old at the time and it looked like a lot of money to me. Course, I would have played for nothing. They wouldn't have had to pay me! I was so glad to get ~~xxxx~~ the opportunity....why I'd have played for nothing!

Roger Bresnahan was a really great catcher, and hemore or less showed me the ropes. He helped me a great deal. None of the others would help though. They didn't want to help you. They didn't want a rookie to come in and take one of their buddies jobs. But they weren't too bad. Jimmy Archer was on the club, then, and Bubbles Hargrave and Roger, himself, those were the three catchers. He was still catching then. He didn't catch as much as he had before. I think he managed the St. Louis Browns before he came to the Cubs, too. The rest of the ballplayers didn't pay any attention to me. They more or less ignored me. If a rookie picked up a bot and looked like he wanted to get up in batting practice they would yell: Get out of there and chase those balls! Sure, you were lucky to get up to hit in batting practice. The only way would bet up to hit was to get out there before practice, but then when the regulars came out, you'd duck back in away from there!

We didn't have specialty coaches like they have today, but we did have coashes. It would be one of the ballplayers who wasn't on the lineup



that day, he'd stand in the coachig lines, or the manager would.

McGraw would signal the pitches, yeah. But I didn't when I managed. It was funny about McGraw...he'd signal for the pitches and he'd get you in a jam, get two or three ~~on~~ base, but then he ~~x~~ couldn't fine you, he'll leave the dugout. <sup>We'd</sup> ~~XXXX~~ stop the game to go over to see the play on the pitch, and he wasn't there! He's down in the runway, leaving. He didn't always call the pitches, of course, but he did most of the time. If he wasn't calling the pitches , he call for something for the batter to hit. He'd ask you, when a ball ~~was~~ was hit, what'd you ~~xxx~~ throw him, and you'd say, a curve ball. Well, he'd say, why didn't you throw him a fast ball? Or, he'd call for a curve and the batter would hit it, and he'd say, ~~wasxif~~ well, who ever heard of a good curve ~~xxx~~ high? Well, there isn't a good curve, high, for that matter. Maybe it was a good pitch, but he'd always say it was high, if the fella hit it. I don't think that McGraw himself was a very good curve ball hitter, cause he didn't think anybody could ever hit a good curve! He really didn't. That was the pitch he wanted most of the time.

McGraw wasn't very cheerful with his ballplayers. But I guess he was very good, after he left the ball field. But his friends and fans and so forth...they think...but he wasn't very cheerful with his ballplayers



I remember one time, he let Terry hit with 3 - 0 and Bill hit a home run. Hit it out of the park. By the time he come in, McGraw says, I'll take half of that one! I think Bill says you can have it all! Terry was a very independent type fellow. He didn't play up to the sportswriters at all. Just kind of ignored them. Well, I think it was more of less his way, I don't think he meant anything by it. He didn't mean to pick at them or anything...it was just his way.

Dad had always drumed into me, don't get the big head. Dpn't get the big head the first thing that happens. The fans might overdo it alot of times, but we could always stop them. If they had a scorecard or a ball or something like that, we'd always sign. But if they handed you just a slip of paper, we'd very seldom sign. Then if you see the same kids out there every day asking for the autograph, why you'd....

The thing we heard moston the field was when they were razzing us. We sure didn't like that. You could get a pretty good earful out there. Course if you made a bad play or something, that's when they'd really jockey you from the bench. That's when you'd really get mad. You know, you felt bad enough about making a bad play, without being reminded of it. But I don't think jockeying hurts many ball players. You got to overlook it

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I think the manager had a tough job. At first I didn't want to be a manager. I was still right in my prime ~~and~~ as a ballplayers and it always takes something away from your playing. I got so I ~~would have~~ really liked it. I liked managing. Course the manager is always the goat, you know.

When I went to the Cardinals after all those years with the Cubs, see, I wasn't playing much then. They'd push me aside, cause Gabby had come up by then, by 1925. 1922 and '23 I'd hit over 300 with the Cubs. 323 one year and nearly 319 the next , and was catching nearly all the games. Gabby come up in '22 I think. They started him off as the regular catcher in '24, I got in a few games only then. Got my skull fractured then. Foul tip broke my mask. I didn't play much the rest of the season, that was in '24. Then the next season, well, I was still second string. Well, it was an old mask, they hadn't brought the new masks out yet. I knew I should not have worn it, cause it wasn't the regular masks that we were using. But I waited for the clubhouse boy to bring the other mask down, about the third pitch of the inning, and the ball hit me. Was really fate, though, can't help it. Would'n't happen again. Should never have ever happened. Course I made sure after that that I always had a good mask. You know, alot of times the mask gets so much banging, it gets dented in and if you try to bat it out, why it weakens it. If we had a



we'd throw it away.

We'd never throw any balls out of the game. Oh, now. I don't think we'd use over half a dozen balls, most games. Some of those balls would really get pretty black before they'd throw them out. Batter would ask for the new ball.

If you needed a relief pitcher in those days, you know, you usually used your regular starting pitchers. Or, if you were really way behind, you could use the second string pitchers. But we didn't really have any relief pitchers. We used those that were just coming up and trying to work into the team, used them in games you figured you were either out of or...or if you had a really big lead. I think one of the first real relief pitchers I can remember was Buck Hadley with Washington. Marbury was one too. Actually I think Marbury was the one I was thinking of. And the Gaints had Gennard.

Today, of course they all try to hit the ball out of the ballpark, while in the 20's they'd play for one run more often. Now they play for that big inning. But I think ballplayers are pretty much the same now as then. We punched at the ball. Here[and there, wherever. We all choked up. Hardly anybody swung from the end of the bat in my day. I used a 42 ounce bat at one time. And I'd choke up. I'd try to hit to right field, cause

I wasn't too fast, and if they had a man on first or second, I'd try to hit behind the runner, instead of in front of him. That's one of the things they don't do today, they just get up and swing. They don't try to move a man up or avoid a double play or anything. They just hit straightaway. Hit to second base or shortstop and it's a cindh double paly, but they do that a lot today. They're just gambling on a gong one. If you don't hit 20 home runs today, why youre a powder puff hitter! Nearly everybody hits, or is supposed to hit, anyhow, 20 home runs!

You know in the days when I played the pitcher didn't want any one to relieve. If you had to tell the manager that he should be out of there, well, he didn't like it. They wanted to win or lose the ball game themselves. It was a hard thing. I don't think the pitchers mind that as much now as they used to. They get so as they expect it. They're looking for help at the end of 5 or 6 innings. Why you'd never get ~~xx~~ old Burley Grimes or Alex out of a game if you asked them if theywere tired, like they do Whitey Ford. They just wouldn't go out. Anybody can get them out, I can they'd say. I don't want anybody to try to save the game for me. I'll ~~xx~~ stay in there, they'd say.

1928 I opened my Bowling Alley. Worked out pretty good. Just sold the whole works two years ago. Waukeegan. Samall alley, only 8 alleys.

We went through a depression and we went through a boom. Just after I got it, the bottom dropped out, '29. But I was lucky in being able to keep it through the depression. I was there most of the time in the off season. And after I stopped playing, why I was there most of the time, though I did have a manager ~~mf~~ for it. Somebody had to be there.

I think I was in the big leagues longer than any other catcher. Mep, I put in more years than any other catcher. And I also participated in more double plays, 22 I think, not much, but ok for a catcher. Till a few years ago, I don't know whether it's been broken or not.

Well, in the National League, I'd say the Chick Hafey had about the best arm. Mel Ott was awful close to him. Pretty hard to say. Course in the American League, Babe Ruth had it. Best throwing outfielder. For accuracy and everything else. He was a great shot. Bobby Meusel had a great arm, but he wasn't near as accurate as Ruth. Those ~~mxkhex~~ are the four standouts of the great throwers.

Course, I'm a Cardinal fan now. Follow it on the TV, but I don't like the crowds at the game, so I don't go to many. Crandall's a good catcher, but I guess Battey's about the best catcher today. This Carrion is pretty goo, with the White Sox. Martin's doing a wonderful job catching Wilhelm, the other catcher's cant catch him. Just made a catcher out

of him. Keeps his eye on the ball.

When you get ~~to~~ so you ~~a~~ can't do the job anymore, you get tired of playing. Yeah, when I retired, I was really ready. See, I went to Rochester for two years after the big leagues. Branch Rickey was the one who talked me into that. It was the Cardinal farm. Actually I was thinking of taking up umpiring. But I was 45 years old, so I don't know if I'd have made it. But I liked baseball and I didn't want to leave it entirely. And I figured I'd seen so many balls at the plate as a catcher, that'd I'd have made an ok umpire.

Bill Klem's the one, you know, that started the umpires in the National League to umpire on the inside, instead of over the catcher's head, over the catcher's shoulder. Quite close. But they're not supposed to touch.

I think the ballplayers really played harder twenty years ago. Seems to me that they did. The attitude of the ballplayers. I mean, they'd do more to win in those days, than they do today.

I remember when I was about 8, my Dad took me to see the White Sox play. Lou Sullivan was the pitcher. I thought that was really something. I wanted to be another Billy Sullivan, after that. Nothing in my mind but that.

When I first came up , I had an awful lot of confidence. I thought if someone else could be ~~known~~ in the big leagues, so could I. I was chesty, I guess, I thought I was just as good ~~as~~ as anyone else. I don't recall being nervous at all, that first game. The pitcher against us, I think was Chalmers, or something, Phila. I got a hit. I think i got a hit the first time up. I only got in about 3 games that whole year, and that might have been the only hit i got.

My Dad saw almost every game I was in with the Cubs.