

INTERVIEW WITH TOMMY LEACH

TOMMY LEACH - What I've often wondered at is what do they have these coaches for?

Ritter - I don't know. They didn't have the coaches much in your day, did they?

TL Coaches! They didn't/<sup>even</sup>have extra men!

R That's right. How many people were on a team in those days?

TL Well, I of course never give it a thought -- except one year -- when we reported to Thomasville, Georgia for spring training. Seventeen ballplayers. We never changed a man all year and won the pennant!

R Umph! <sup>(sic)</sup> Was that with Pittsburgh?

TL Yep. Yeah we won. I think the highest/<sup>that</sup>we ever had while I was there was 22. That was our playing limit.

R What year did you start playing professional baseball?

TL '98.

R With Louisville?

TL No, I started in Auburn, New York.

R. Oh, you were a New York boy, weren't you? You were born in NY, weren't you?

TL Yeah. But I was living in Cleveland at the time. My folks moved to Cleveland when I was 5 years old.

R How did you get to start. How did you get to be a professional baseball player? I ask you that because, you know, you were 5'6 or 5'7. Most ballplayers are six foot one or six foot two.

TL Well, we was in a sort of a Irish neighborhood in Cleveland and the only time we got a chance to play was Sundays. And then they had coppers all around because they didn't allow us to play Sundays.

305c  
BINGHAM

We had to get out, make a diamond, and play in an open field. As it happened, I had a brother older than I who was a player. I always said he ought to have been the professional and I ought to have been the amateur. But he wouldn't play, he wouldn't go out professional and they were on the big team. We had a team played anything under eight-teen. And it got so we couldn't get anybody to play us, we were -- nobody could beat us.

R Were you a third baseman then?

TL No, I never played any regular position.

R Played everything!

TL I was pitcher -- all but catcher.

R How did you ever get to sign a contract with a professional club? then, if you were playing all ...

TL Well, most all these fellas on the big home team were old professionals.

R Oh, yeah.

TL See, that they'd been out and there was, well there was only one out of the whole bunch that made the grade and got up, and that was Ed Delahanty.

R Oh, he played with you in Cleveland?

TL No, we had ... I played with Jim Delahanty in Cleveland.

Joe Delahanty and the others were younger. Let's see, there was Ed, Tommy, Joe, Jim, Frank and Willie. And every one of them <sup>made</sup> ~~had~~ <sup>the league</sup> ~~to leave~~. Now, they all talk about the gang of brothers, but that's one time they were all in the National League, but one, no, but two you might say, because one of them was drafted -- the youngest. He was drafted and a week before the season was over <sup>to report</sup> ~~in '34~~ he got hit in the head. He never played ball afterwards.

R Ed was ~~the~~ best hitter of the bunch, wasn't he.

TL He was the best ballplayer of all. Of course, I was a kid around in short pants then, but I had two brothers older than I and well, the Delahanty family and our family <sup>would</sup> ~~were~~ ... visit back and forth, you see. Now this is a funny story: They lived on a street where there was a Fire Department and we used to go down to see those horses come out -- what we called "Eight O'clock Call" - it was and/oh, about a half a block from the fire department to where the Dlahantys lived. We lived off maybe a half a mile or so away. "Course then Cleveland was only 250,000 population. Did you ever hear of

Handwritten notes in left margin: "He was drafted in '34" and "Doesn't make sense - does it?"

a player named Bradley? Bill Bradley, third baseman?

R Yeah, sure.

TL Well, he and I we played together, went to school together in Cleveland and I got him his first job playing ball. We'd get around together and we'd rig up a game from one Sunday to another. Through the week we'd always have a ball in our hands. We all wanted baseball -- that's all. It was Ed Delahanty, though, that started all of us. Because we all thought he was the greatest, and I still think he was.

R Who signed you to the first contract? I mean how did he ~~see~~ see...hear of you?

TL I tried every way I could to get in. And in '96, a fella that I played with around there, he was an older fellow -- they was trying to get a club, they had a league of four clubs: Hanover, Pennsylvania, that Indian school up there...

R Carlisle?

TL Carlisle, Hagerstown, and Hanover. Did I say Hanover?

R Hanover, Carlisle, Hagerstown, and one other.

TL Hage**s**town. What was the other town? Anyway, <sup>it</sup> ~~I~~ wasn't

a professional league, it was a semi-pro league. That'd be what they'd call it, I guess, now. Then, they called it an independent league. It was just the four clubs. Of course, Carlisle was all Indians. The whole club was an Indian ball club. I went along with this fellow and went up there, to Hanover. Well, it looks to me as if it was always funny, afterwards. I couldn't hit. I could do everything else, but they had me helpless. I was always trying to figure what I should do to make up for lack of hitting.

R           You never thought then that you'd get over 2,000 hits in the big leagues!

TL           No. No, that was my ambitions. I made up my mind I was going to -- I was 18 then -- if I couldn't get in the league by the time I was 21, I'd quit. Get into something else. 'Cause I never had a chance to go to school. Nobody did, in those days. You got about 12 or 14 years old and you were out of school, working. In August, I think it was, the whole league disbanded. Of course most of us, whatever we made we sent home, 'cause they needed it worse than we did. Now, we had five children, my father and mother...

R           What'd your father think about your becoming a professional?

TL        Aw, he pushed it.

R        He did?

TL        Oh yeah. I was working for him. That's another advantage I had. He says, "You get out of here and go!" He says "Look <sup>h</sup>where Ed Delahanty is!" That's all he could tell you: Delahanty. That's all we thought of: Delahanty. When Delahanty used to hang out in that firehouse and (I'm trying to think of the name of the town). He was a catcher around there. But he could always hit. They came up there -- somebody had recommended him. I remember the pitcher...he and Delahanty used to be a battery. They'd go around here and there. Maybe amke a couple of dollars apiece. That's how he got the reputation, you see? Then they come up there after him, but instead of going to his home, they went to this firehouse where they were told that he hung out all the time. So, he told them, sure, he'd go, if they'd take this pitcher. He wanted his buddy with him. Now this is the story my father told me: Well, he didn't come home one night and the old folks right away come to my father, wanting to know about it, what to do. They said they they found out he was playing in this

baseball in this town and they wanted him back home. Wanted my father to go get him. 'Course I was a kid in short pants, but I was always hanging around myself and by now we were sort of buddies. Working for him and everything, I was pretty close to him. I never will forget it -- Mrs. Delahanty, she was an old Irish woman and he was an old Irish Paddy . We used to sit around and we liked to hear them talk. She got on my father, "Now I want you, I want to you go get Ed and bring him home. He ain't got no business there." My father started to laugh. He says, "Listen, you got a boy who will never work. He tells you he's working and what's he doing, he's out playing ball someplace. Give him a chance. Maybe he can make that grade." And he wouldn't go after him.

Well, he played that season, and he was sold to Philadelphia as a catcher. Now a lot of this is hearsay. Of course, I was a great admirer of his, anyway. He liked the boys...we was always around together. Sundays we had to put a sentinel out. We had a couple of good policemen on the beat and if they got within hearing distance of us, they'd start to whistle. Well then we'd have to duck. Then they'd go on around, and look around, and go on about

their business. Then we'd come back and play our game.

R No Sunday baseball!

TL Yop. No Sunday baseball. The second year, Ed was sold, but they never let him catch. <sup>They</sup> Put him in the outfield.

Lord, he went right on, went right to the top in hitting.

That made it that much more that I wanted to play ball. So I went down with this fellow to Hanover. I couldn't hit a lick on earth.

One day, as young as I was, I never forgot it, I struck out four

straight times. A fellow had a ... well, that's when they used

to have these rail fences...and somewhere he got a piece of rail

about that long and he brought it out, presented it to me, at the

home plate. I didn't even have sense enough to <sup>(laugh)</sup> bat, I just went

along. Of course, the league disbanded and the next year I was

trying to get on someplace. That would be '97.

R How much money did you get in that league, by the way?

Do you remember?

TL How much what?

R Money...in that league?

TL I got \$35 a month and board.



R Just for the season, too, huh? \$35 a month and board!

TL 'Course the board, well if you'd get the board now it'd be worth about \$10 dollars a day, because they sure fed us. Well, there was a fellow named Pander, was the manager of one of those clubs add through the winter, he wrote me and asked me if ~~I'd go to~~ I'd go to Charleston, South Carolina. I'd go anywheres! I wrote back right away, yeah! Well he signed me up and they released me before reporting time, so I didn't get on there, but ~~in~~ Geneva, Ohio had a club that played, well we never played over two games a week. They had to pay my railroad fare from Cleveland to Geneva...it was 45¢, I think, and back. 45 each way. Never stayed over. I always went back home, because It was either Tuesday and Saturday or Wednesday and Saturday, so you'd have to stary there two or three days and I didn't want that because I was working those days.

R What were you doing?

TL Trying to learn the printer's trade.

R Printer? Your father was a printer?

Tl Well, he had a job-printing shop. He was the outside man soliciting and then he had a printer, and I was the printer's devil. I ran one of those foot presses, you know? That's waht

I think between that and skating, that's what made my legs.

Well, anyway, I got that job down there. When that season was

over, that was in '98, I tried everyplace...no, '97 Youngstown.

Couple of fellows from Youngstown come over and wanted to know if

I'd like to go to Youngstown. Well I had a little bad luck there

because I<sup>only</sup> got in one game, got arrested for playing ball on Sunday

and sprained my ankle. That's the only game I got in and they

released me that night.

R Did you even get a hit to make up for all that?

TL NO, not even. Well, as soon as the game started they took the whole bunch of us down to jail. Of course, I left and went home, I don't know how it ever came out there. As soon as they released me, I just got on the train.

R That was 1897.

T '97. That was the year I was in Geneva, Ohio. In '98, ell you're too young to know this fellow....John H. Farrell...used to be the president, well he had the same job Trautman had. He was the first one in that job. He owned the Auburn ball club. So, I wrote him a letter (somebody told me about him being over there,

said he had a good manager on the ball club and try to get in there). So I just wrote him a letter and told him that if he would just give me a chance I would pay my own way there, providing, he would reimburse me if I made good. If I didn't, it was up to me. So he took me up on it and I was the only man that began the season and finished the season with him. He had a great racket...he never paid you. He'd let you go, oh two or three months and then he'd find some reason to release you. ( I've got to get some grease on this gad-damned chair in some way.) That's the way he handled every one of them. Well, he called me in one day and says, "I've got something I want you to do." I says I don't know what I can do any more than I'm doing. I'm trying, that's all anybody can do. But he says I want you to stay off the street nights. I looked at him funny, because I couldn't quite get what he meant, cause I was only, I think I was 18 then, and kids at 18 then were a lot different than they are now. So finally he says, "Listen, there were 3 fellows in town last week to see you play. And he says they saw you on the street and wouldn't even go to the ball park. Says "You're very small. Now you stay out of the street. I'm going to see you before

the season's over."

R So they saw you and they figured you were too small.

T Yep. And finally

R How much did you weight then?

T Around 140. Well, I'm a way light now to what I was then. First of all, all the muscles are gone.

R 140 is not very big for a ballplayer, though.

T But he called me in about 2 weeks before the season was over, again, and I thought "Oh, what the dickens is coming now!" So, he says, "You know, I told you I was going to sell you. I got a chance and i'm going to give you your choice. I got two clubs you can go to. " He says, "Washington or Louisville." Well, I says, I'd like to talk ot the manager first, before I make a decidion, if you're goigg to let me make it. I says, I don't know anything about these clubs. I want to get where I have a fair chance, that's all. He says that's all right, you don't go 'till the season's over. He says then you're going to join whichever club you pick. So, I went to the manager, he was a real old-timer. I don't never know what become of him. He was a drinking man and they let him go there. His name was Shinneg . Real old-timer.

I put it up to him. I says, if , I just want you totell me which I'd have the better chance with. Well, he says, I tell you. Knowing what I know, I'd say ~~take~~ take Louisville. Well, I says, can you give me any good reasons for it? He says, yes! He says if you go to Washington, there's a man over there on e of the best first basemen playing ball today. The only thing is he's erratic. He may not stay there. But, he says, you'd have an awful time breaking in there.

R. Who was Washington's third baseman?

T That's what I asked him. He said his name is Wagner. Well, I didn't know Wagner from beans, so I says all right, I'll take Louisville. So I went back to this old fellow, he sold me to Louisville. I had to report back soon as our season was over I think, if I remember right, we quit about a month before the big league did. So I was in Auburn NY and I had to go through Cleveland, you see so I just wired my father and told him that I wanted to see my mother and the kids on the way through ad I ~~found~~ found out I had a half an hour in Cleveland to change trains and have them at the depot. Which he did. So I went down to Louisville and I got in down there. You ~~take~~ taking all of this?

R Just so I don't have to take notes, that's all.

T Cause a lot of this, I'm just giving it to you...it is odd, but I don't know whether it will do to publish it or not.

R Now I wouldn't publish a thing that you didn't think I should.

T. Well, anyway, I went on down to Louisville. I come in town there and in those days you furnished your own bats, your own shoes, your own gloves, and anything that you used. They didn't furnish a thing. Well, I never had a pair of shoes of my own.

R How'd you play at Auburn?

d T I borrowed a pair.

R Every day?

T Borrowed a pair of shoes, a glove and I had a bat that some kid made in school, but he didn't give it to me. Course, I carried all of them along. I got these fellows that loaned me the shoes and glove and paid them, borrowed from them, because I was going to use them that month down here. So, all I did was shag for the hitters. You see, in those days, you ~~didn't~~ didn't go up to the plate for batting practice. You never got any batting practice at

the ball park, if you were on visiting grounds.

R. Oh really. If you were a visiting team, the visiting team didn't have batting practice?

T No batting practice. You had to go out in a corner of the park and get somebody to pitch to them, and us fellows that weren't really playing, we had to go out and shag for them.

R Just the home team had batting practice!

T Just the home team. If I remember right, we had 15 minutes infield practice. Infield and outfield. They cut that down to 10 I think, afterwards. But, anyway, I got dressed one day and the manager come over, he says I'm going to have to play you today. No, I'm a little ahead of myself. When I got down there, I reported in Brooklyn, that's how I got to <sup>go through</sup> ~~get~~ to Cleveland, I reported in Brooklyn and then went from Bklyn to Louisville. But the first thing that I had, the manager called me in from shagging. He says, go up there and hit one, let's see what you look like. So I walked over. I says, what bat will I use? He says, take any one you want. So I went over and looked them all over and I saw one I liked. I picked it up and went up and hit. I didn't have time to lay the bat down, somebody grabbed me. "What are you doing

with my bat!" I looked up and it was Dummy. We had a dummy playing center field. Dummy Hoy, you probably read of his living to be 99 years old. And I of course handed him the bat.

R He couldn't speak to you. I mean, he didn't say "What are you doing with my bat" what did he do?

T Yes, he did. He could talk.

R I thought He couldn't talk

T Not very much. But he was deaf and dumb, but he'd gone to school to learn.

R So he could say some words.

T Yeah. And he amrried a girl. They got a deaf and dumb school in Cincinatti and that's where he came from and he married one of the teachers ~~that~~ there. And ~~right~~ either one of them, like I'm sitting talking to you...of course they said I was an exceptionally good lip man. They could read everything I said and they could answer you back. They had a little squeaky vioce, but they could makde you understand. In fact, the manager, in Louisville, in 1899, put me in to room with this fellow. We never talked on the fingers. I couldn't get the one finger, but I could get the two ~~finery~~ hands.



If we got confused or anything, I could give it to him two hands.

R           The giants had a deaf and dumb player. too, didn't they?

T           Dummy Tayer. Bresnahan had him. He was back of that plate, giving signs. If you could read signs, read the fingers, you could get everything they were doing. But

R           Was Dummy Hoy a good ballplayer?

T           Yes, he was. He was up ther 10 or 12 years. A good hitter, ad the only thing you had to do with him, in the outfield you never called for a play, you had to listen for him.

R           He was centerfielder, wasn't he?

T           He was centerfield, yeah. And he would, well, of course I never played in the outfield when he was playig there that year, but it was this Wagner thing I wanted to get clear to you. The first play I saw Honus make....Honus was in Louisville! And I thought Wagner was in Washington, from what this fellow said, but twas his brother. And let me tell you something: if he'd played ball he'd have been just as good as Honus was.

R           I didn't know he had a brother.

T           Oh yeah, he had three or four. He had two brothers, one

was a barber in Carnegie, Penna., just by Pittsburgh, about 12 miles and this other one, his name was Al, he played up in the International Leagues for, ~~no~~ oh, a long time. Every once in a while they'd draft him and get him up in the big leagues and then he'd go home, he'd quit. He wouldn't play in there. I asked him one time. Well I got hurt bad in 1901 up there when I was transferred to Pittsburgh and they'd never won a pennant and we had a chance to win a pennant that year, but we couldn't get anybody to take my place. They ~~fix~~ finally had to take me out. I just couldn't go any further, but I went as far as I could and they sent me down to, I think it's Cambridge Springs, Pa. I think that's where it was. They left me down there for 2 or 3 weeks. Oh, I went down to almost nothing and back and the doctors advised me not to get in and play any more that year. We had a chance to win the pennant and everybody wanted to win the pennant. Had no....utility man, had a catcher playing third base, so finally I told them all right I'd stay. I think I weighed 125 lbs, by that time. I got in, that's when I hurt my leg, pulled somethings loose. But, anyway, the first ~~time~~ game that I saw Louisville play, Honus was playing 3rd and the first play I ~~may~~

saw him make...they had a fellow named Dowlan, Bill Dowlan, shortstop. Hitting down that third base line all the time. Honus played 3rd base with the first baseman's mitt. Course the first baseman's mitt then was nothing like it is now. He hit a ball down there and Honus run over and slapped it down. They' used the right ~~hand~~ hand then, now they only use the left. It comes out this way, but they'd go out and reach for it. And he knocked the ball over to the coaches box, got over there and threw the man out in two or three steps. I'm sitting on the bench and I thought to myself, what chance have I got, anyway. Well that ...right after that, he got hurt on the road. They never even took the utility men on the road. They left me at home. I was the ~~only~~ only extra man. So he says, you keep yourself in condition~~xxx~~ ~~that~~ cause if we need you, we're going to send for you. So I says, how am I going to keep myself in condition with nobody around? So I had to take the ball and bounce it up against the grandstand and run along back and forth, back and forth. Cause I got no hitting practice. But I did, I'd keep myself in condition. They come back off the trip and the manager says, How about you. Would you like to get in? I says, sure,

sure I would. I can't see any difference here than anyplace else. I says, if I can learn anything, I says, I think I got a chance. I says, I can throw as good as most of them. I says I can run as good as any of them. The only thing is, do I know what to do with the ball when I get it? Oh, he says, that will come to you. He says, Honus is out . I want you to go in at 3rd base, that's what you're used to. I played that day. Now here's where the funny part is: I got two hits. Which surprised me as much as anybody. But, come in , or course, kid-like, you know, I was felling pretty good. Well, <sup>I</sup> thought, it ain't so much different. Went on home , at the time I was staying at a little hotel there. Next day I went out. I didn't know whether I was going to play or not, but I got dressed. While I was dressing, I went over and there was my bat sawed in three pieces! Well that made me mad. And It might have been a good thing, too, because I challenged the whole ball club! I was sore! Because nobody let you use their bat and

R That was the only bat you had?

T That was the only one I had. I happened to look over

at the manager and there he was, laughing his head off.

R Who was the manager then.

T Fred Clark/

R Was he the manager of Louisville when you went to Louisville, too?

T Yeah

R You played for Fred Clarke for many, many years, didn't you?

T 13 years, yep.

R He was the manager when you first took the big leagues?

T Yep

R What was he like? Besides being a good outfielder and a good manager, what kind of a man was he?

T Oh, perfect. No better. I found he and Frank Chance. I worked for both of them. Of course I'd like to have worked for McGraw. Cause I thought he was a ...although I had more arguments with McGraw than anybody else, because Mac was a little on the dirty side. You had to watch yourself. I don't know whether I was fresh or what it was, but I never backed up to any of them. I told them, I says, you can likk me, but I says, ~~XXX~~ I'll get even with you.

And one fellow, I had to pick up a bat. I says, you're too confounded big for me. I says, I can't go with you, And they all let me ~~axng~~ alone. And after that, they were fore~~d~~ me.

R           You were a rookie and you were goig to take somebody's job. So how did they treat you?

T           Oh, we had noplac~~e~~. What they should have done with me was puit me in the outfield right off the reel. We had the opening there. Because the next year, well, we had three thrid basemen and they released Kid Elberfield, you've heard of him, he was one of them, I can't think of the other fellows name. He didn't stay long becuae he lived in Chicago and after we got..well when we started the season in 99 I was stil that extra man. I had to play wherever they needed anyone, except for first base, pitch or catch, they never asked me to play there. But I played every other place, sometime through that season. Course my first experience that they put me in, we had a shortstop named Kling and he got hit in the head and he was out about 2 or 3 weeks that I had to go in. My first game I only had 5 errors! Right after that they sent me to Wooster, Mass, with the understanding that I'd play shortstop. Well, 3rd base

was where I belonged, I knew that all the time. But who was I to argue about it. I was glad enough to get in there. Well by that time I was getting a little bit used to the position. I think I played 6 games up there. Course I was there longer than that because traveling back and forth and I got a wire to come back to Louisville at ~~xxxx~~ once. Well, we didn't have no money and I went to the manager of the ball club. ~~and said~~ I got this wire about 10 o'clock at night. I spent an hour or so hunting him up before I found him. Showed him the wire. Well, he says, how much money you got? I says I haven't got any. Well then, he says, you're not going back. He says, if you come to me thinking ~~xxx~~ I'm going to pay you're railway fare back, you're wrong. Well, I says, I'm going back. You see what you've got here. He says, you're going to stay here. He says, I need you. Well, I says, there ain't anything I can do except go home and go to bed. So I did. The next morning, though, he come around. He says, I got you your ticket, he says. It might be your chance. He says, I ain't going to hold you. So he did, he got me a ticket. I went back.

R. How did the veterants treat you on the club, as a rookie?

T            There was only one man that I had any trouble with and I stopped him quick so that was the end. That one thing in the clubhouse, was the year before, that might have had something to do with it. That and what they called the ~~They had~~ a field day, you know, they had all kinds of events, you know, run around the bases and all of that stuff. It wound up with the 100 yard race and that took in the whole ball ~~club~~ club. Well, after I was there a couple of days, I knew I could outrun any man on the ball club. Worrying about that speed and when we wound up in this 100 yard race I was about the width of this room in the lead and the manager ~~kept~~ kept on. They was all pretty fast. He kept on and come up to me and says did you cheat on us. I says no. I says I didn't have to ~~mix~~ mix with that bunch you got out there. He says if you can run that fast, He says, I'm going to find a place for you. So that settled that.

R. I mentioned that about the rookies because you always here all these stories about the difficulties of a rookie breaking in, especially about Ty Cobb, you know the trouble Ty Cobb had with Sam Crowforn and all the rest of them.

T. Well, I can tell you some of them. You heard about ~~the~~ Mube



Waddel.

R. You knew Rube Wadell, didn't you. He was at Louisville?

T I roomed three springs and spring training with him.

He was a big boy. Just an overgrown boy. About 12 years old. I've been in saloons with him. '99, 1900 and 1901 I roomed the whole training season with him and I never saw him take one drikk. If he ever drank anything, I don't know what it was.

R Was he pulling his pranks then? Was he taking off to go fishing then?

T Oh, we'd hear things. I can tell you a couple of them that I know. Now, they had a pretty good football player up there that tried to get a professional club going and that was in 1900. Bklyn beat us out. We had a good ball club but we just couldn't

work together and Bklyn beat us out. Well, in June we were in last place, 10 points behind the 7th place club and within 10 points

of tying them for the pennant. We had four of the best pitchers in baseball. We had Jack Chesboro, Jess Tannahill, Phillipi and

Lever. They still hold the <sup>records</sup> ~~recoes~~. I think it's <sup>54</sup> ~~54~~ or <sup>56</sup> ~~56~~ innings

without any runs scored on them. ~~E~~ Made in 1902, it's still a record!

We had Rube, too.

R Rube hadn't got to be a great pitcher yet?

T Oh no. He had the stuff, though.

R Jack Chesboro about that time jumped over to the Amer. League, didn't he?

T Yep. 8 of them went over one night.

R Did they aproach you about this?

T Yep, even Johnson said I jumped and jumped back.

R What happened? Why didn't you jump?

T Well, I didn't want to leave Pittsburgh.

R In fact, they probably offered you more money in the American League

T Double. I had sickness in the family and had to live in Cleveland. I could get home in two hours and night . I asked them, I says, they ~~waxx~~ want me to sign for the same salary and I says, no, baseball's my living now and I've got to make what I can out of it. I'm going to square with you, I says, here's what they will pay me, now I 'll take \$1,000 less and stay. Well, Mr. Dreyfuss, my friend, says , you ain't worth it. So I says,

Well, that's ok then I'll go over. He says, I don't care if you do go over. Well, I says, then don't come around bellyaching if I do. I says, I'm giving you a chance. He wanted to give me \$3,000 a year and he offered Bobby Wallace \$7,500 to come and take my place. Course that kind of galled me a little, too. But k Bobby told me that afterwards. That's all I know about that. Johnson come out because I wouldn't jump, he come out and said I already signed a contract and wouldn't keep it. Well, that's where I thought Dreyfuss should have give me side of it. I didn't think I had any chance telling my side. Who's going to believe a ballplayer against the president? I don't care what's been done, they'll ~~take~~ take the president's word that he ain't going to do it. But they finally, Barney did give me the, when he saw that I wasn't going to come, he give me the....

R           How come you didn't jump to the Federal League, too, back in '14 or so?

T           I don't know. I kind of hate talking about that. Bill McKechnie through the first world war Bill McKechnie got a hold of a club named Toronto ,Ohio, on e of those mill towns and every Sunday,

we had a bunch, well there was Honus, myself, fella named Shaw and Scoops Carry, Slapnika, oh, some of them I can think of , some of them I can't. Walter Cooper, was it Walter cooper? Anyway that left-hand pitcher from Pittsburgh. We had a ball club could play most anyplace. We went down to Toronto every Sunday. We ~~played~~ paid the pitchers \$50 a game and us fellas \$25 . That's how we would build up men and nobody could beat us. I don't know what I played. <sup>in</sup> <sup>in</sup> ~~Somet~~ies I was playing 3 base, sometimes in the outfield. Now I remember I played 2nd base one game down there. They told me I was going to play in 2nd base and I was playing right field! Cause I was playing too deep for them..for the hitters. OWhen the war was over <sup>and</sup> ~~w~~ad they all got going back into baseball, that's when Bill McKechnie went in as Manager of Pittsburgh. That give him his start.

R Do you think a manager's very important to a ball club?

T It depends on the ball club. Now we had a ball club up in Pittsburgh with Fred Clarke, I could show you the difference in one that wantshelp and one that says you do what I tell you to do! Now Fred Clark I don't believe ever told me, after we got

to Pittsburg and I got in playing, ever told me what to do. And I don't think he told many of them. I know he never told Honus. He might say something to him and then sit down and laugh, cause Honus was going to do what he wanted to do anyway. Course, I always preferred them to tell me what they expected me to do. But there was one thing that he told me. He says now you like to think. When you go up to that plate. You look to see what you think they're looking for you to do -- ~~and~~ and don't do it, do something else. He says, you won't get away with it every time, but you'll get more than you will the other way. Well, I says, Fred, that might go, but now I work a funny way with Mathewson. I see where he places his players where he wants them to play when he's pitching to me, and I know I can't hit a ball any other place, so I try to hit where he pitches for me to hit, and, I says, I've had pretty good luck with it. He says, you sure have. But , he says, I'm going to leave it all to you from now on. But I never went up to the plate that I didn't go to him and ask him.

R Did the ballplayers call him Fred, or Mr. Clark?

T Fred.

R

R Did tyey call McGraw, Mr. McGraw? I think they did.

T Mac.

R To his face, I mean.

T Oh, yes. Frank Chance was another one, the same way.

Nobody wanted you to call him Mr.

R Did Clark have a sense of humor?

T Yep. He was with the boys all the time. Don't you think he wouldn't fight for them.

R What about Frank Chance?

T frank, if he told you to do something, you do it.

R He was a tougher guy than Clark, wasn't he?

T Well, I don't know. In a way, yes and in a way, Fred was tougher. Frank would take more from a player than Fred would, in carousing about. Fred, if he ~~xxxx~~ caught a drinking man on his club, he didn't stay long. He was gone. We had one time there was only three ment on the ball club would even drink a bottle of beer! But Dreyfuss used to get letters just the same say, somebody'd write a letter saying that he saw a certain player being dragged into the hotel and put to bed and he better look into it. But one thing about Dreyfus <sup>at</sup> about that, when he got one of those

letters, he'd call you in and show you the letter, and laugh 'cause he knew it was a lie, that they had you mixed up with somebody else.

R           remember I mentioned before about Ty Cobb and all the trouble he had when he broke in? Was that just mainly because Ty Cobb ~~was~~ Ty Cobb and a kind of a....

T           All Ty Cobb wanted was a room. He never went out of his way. If he slid to a base, he didn't slide to the base, he slid around the base.

R           Why did he have so much trouble. Why was he so unpopular?

T           Jelousy, mostly. "Course, for my part, I was for Cobb for one reason. I expect he saved me from a pretty good beating one time.

R           How's that?

T           Well, it was in the World Series.

R           In 1909?

T           Yeah. They had Moriarity playing third base. They had another infielder, O'Rielly, I think his name was, Larry or something like that.

R           One of the Delahanty bros. was on that Detroit team.

T He played 2nd base. That was Jim. That's the one I went to school with. We sat either in the same seat or across from each other for a full term. Both of us were about the same age. Might have been a couple of months difference between us. But this game, I don't know, my hair was starting to fall out. Every once in a while, I'd get it clipped all over. Somebody told me, which is foolishness, if I'd do that (they had some kind of liniment they were putting on you r head then -- wasn't horse liniment) and this Moriarity, he was a pretty good sized fellow. ~~I k g h k k k~~ I got on base one day, got onto third base. That was the day that Jones was playing first base. I think Chief Wilson run into him and knocked him cold. They had to take him off. He never come to -- they had to carry him off the field. They put Sam Craford playing first base. Well, I was on first when this play come up and I went all the way to 3rd. I was standing there, not thinking about anything, when this Moriarity comes over and kicks me in the shin. I looked at him and asked him what was the meaning of it! He just walked away; he didn't say nothing. Well, I stood there 'cause I didn't dare get off the base 'cause in those days unless somebody called time (which they wouldn't do



once a month) they kicked you out! I had my back turned to him and he come over and grabbed my cap. Well, I started to laugh and I says, well, I just had it clipped off yesterday! I was taking it as a joke. Then he reached up and slaped me on top of the head! Then I turned around and kicked him in the shins. Klem was umpiring. Klem and the fellow who used to write newspaper stuff, I'll think of his name. I walked <sup>in</sup> to Klem and I said, Bill ( you see Burniff got hurt and I had to come in to third base after that, that's what I was looking out for) I says Now, Bill, I don't like to complain, I says, but I don't want to be run out of this ball game. That boy is tryigg to pick a fight. ~~Nexxer~~ Now, ordinarily, two fellows get into a fight, you want to through them both out, no matter who's to blame. I says, I don't like that at all. I says, I 'm not going to stand there and let this fellow rough me up! He says, what do you mean? I says, he's trying to get into a fight with me and we'll both get out and they've got a 3rd baseman sitting on the bench, we've got nobody!. Well, that passed off and then Bill Offstein got around there in a later inning and he started on him. Afstein, of course this is laughable afterwards, Moriarity

got the ball in his hand and he come over and kicked it to Abstein and Abstein off the bag after him! Moriarity run away from him.

Instead of going up and touching him and getting him out of there, and the score was tied at the time, and we were trying to get that winning run over and the series would have been over. Well, after that game, I don't know Moriarity and I started riding each other

After the game we used to come out , in what we called sneakers

and we'd put these on and take our ball shoes off to go to the

cab or whatever we was riding in. I was sitting on the bench,

looked up and they was all gone but me and I just wound up, put

my sneakers on and I got up and Looked up and Moriarity's half-way

across the field, coming over. Well, I couldn't run, that's all.

Looked around to see if I had any help anywhere. My fellows all

gone. I got up off the bench and took a step or so towards him

and heard this voice says, where you going? He says, I'm going

The voice says  
to give this fellow a lesson! ~~Ixsaid~~ no you're not. Says, I don't

know why it is that you're always ready to pick on the littlest

fellow you can find! He says, you see what he thinks of you now,

ain't running  
He ~~ixsaxxxxx~~ away from you, but you got to take me first! Well

that stopped him . He says to Moriarity, go back to the clubhouse

where you belong. Says you ain't got no business out here! Well, 'course the next day we wound up the series. Nothing happened that day.

R           You think the ballplayer that day was a tougher character than the ballplayer of today?

T           He might have been[ in a way because he didn't have the...the ballplayers, what we called sandlotters then, none of them had an education( oh, a few like Roy Thomas, he was a college man and Fred Tenney was a college mand and oh I guess it might have been 4 or 5 boys that went to college and come up to the league. Now, Tenney I think come right up from college into Boston.

R           Mathewson

T           Yeah, Matty come from...

R           Bucknell, I think.

T           Yeah

R           Were the ballplayers of that day more durable kind of people. That is, tougher in the sense that they could continue playing day after day despite physical injuries.

T           Yes! Yes they were. I played a game one afternnon.,

I had a fever of 105! We were going to NY that night, open up the next day. The doctor where I was living, they got a doctor in because I was going out there, we didn't leave till 10, and he stuck with me all evening and he come down to the train and Dreyfuss and Clark, he got both of them and tried to talk them into leaving me home, but Dreyfuss said he had his doctor in Ny and he'd have him in the next day, soon's we got in he'd have this doctor in. He did. The doc looked at me and says, you can't get out of here today. Says I going to give you something to kill that fever. Well, by nightfall the fever was gone. He did it. He killed the fever. Well that evening, Dreyfuss came in to see me. Wanted to know how I felt. I says well I thik the fever's gone. He says ~~ixkx~~ I'm going to ask you to play tommorrow. Well, I says, I don't know whether I can or not, I'm awful weak. Well, he says, we had ~~a~~ to put Honus on 3 base today and he lost the game for us! I says you're taking a pretty poor man out there, put me in there. But I went out. I played that series there, we went to Boston, I played that series and then come ofer to Bklyn. In the second game in Bklyn, I fell down right between 2nd and 3rd. He had to take me out then. He sent me home, we were to go to Phila. and I went right

on through to Pittsburgh. He sent me up to a hotel, I think it was Cambridge Springs. I stayed there a couple of weeks. But that's the way it was. I played after that, that's when I hurt my leg and I couldn't play any more. But we got down ten days before the season was over and we were out in the lead. All we had to do was win 3 more games and we win the pennant. The first pennant they ever had in Pittsburgh! So, we were playing Chicago and they asked Chance if he would give me a runner if I got on base. Well he did, the first day. We won the game and that put us one less we had to win. That day he said he couldn't do it. Said if I would get in there and play, circumstances won't let me. Well, along in the latter part of the game, I remember I get a base on balls and I got down to first base and Frank was that kind of a fella if he did something he felt hurt somebody, he'd try to make it up to them. So, he apologized then, explained why. They were in second place and fighting us. I told him, all right, I didn't expect to be....but he give me a runner yesterday, I got no business out here.

R           What was the matter with your leg then?

T I pulled the cord or something.

R You couldn't hardly run, but you were playing 3 base!

T I couldn't run. If I run any further than from here to that door, I'd fall down, my feet would drop out from under me. But I could field , I could move ~~xxxx~~ with men coming around the bases. Well, he shifted me down next to the pitcher in the batting order. Chesboro was pitching this game and Jack was,.....no I was ahead of the catcher, then the catcher and then Chesboro. So, O'Connor was our catcher and he made a hit ordinarily would have been a 2 base hit. I got to second base. Then Chesboro came out and he hits one. Got between the outfielders. I got to third base. Took three hits to get me from first ....and any one of them was more than a single! We won the game and it set us all right, so he said I could go home, so I did.

R But you were on a pennant-winner then, for the first time. 1901, I guess.

T. That was it.

R. Then you won the pennant that year and the year after that. How did you feel when you played in the first world series, I guess,

that there ever was?

T That was in 1903.

R Yeah. Were you nervous before that?

T Well, now I could honestly say I never got nervous.

R Not even before a world series game!

T Nope. I can't say that I felt nervous. I might, waiting for a game, but as soon as that umpire got out there, to me, it's fight to win. In fact, that's been a bad habit of mine all the way through: I can't play in a game - - I can't play. I got to win

R Maybe that's why you liked Ty Cobb/

T I don't think that Ty Cobb ever hurt a man in his life, intentionally.

R Was he the best ballplayer you ever saw?

T Honus.'

R Honus was.

T Honus could play anyplace. Cobb would only play the outfield. And honus could run the bases, if he went for a record, just as good as Cobb! Cobb will outhit him, that's the only point I could give him.

R What kind of a person was Honus Wagner?

T Another big boy. Just a big boy. He wouldn't hurt anybody!

R Was he a friendly person/

T Oh yeah

R Did he talk much?

T Not very much. He wasn't very....he'd pick his man.

Some kid come on the club....well I was with him 13 years and never roomed a day with him. Course Fred had an idea there and stuck by it: he wouldn't put us old fellows rooming together. He'd put us with a young fellow, but he always asked us. Some kid that just come in. Because in those days, you talked baseball. Now you can't talk baseball to these kids. Well, the people today now they're wrong on a lot of things on the old-timers. They say the old timers made it tough for a young fella to break in. It was just the other way. If they saw you make a mistake, from Clark down, they wouldnt say a word to you until they got you by yourself. Then they'd say, do you remember this play come up today. You made it wrong this way, now this is the way you should have made it. Today, well, these young fellas don't want you around at all! But I tell you, two different things, even the newspaper men don't



want you around. UNless, the club owners or anyb9dy, unless you can give them some information about a ballplayer. Then, it's all right.

R You said they used to room together like that so they could talk baseball all the time. Don't they talk baseball all the time now?

T Well I've talked to ...no Al Lopez will, 'cause I <sup>there</sup> managed Al down/in town. (or that town, could be Tampa, B.) Cuccinella, in Boston, those are two fellows that I generally go, if I get a chance, to say hello to <sup>them, I do.</sup> ~~xxxxxxx~~ 'Cause I ~~kn~~ know them all this while. Most of the rest of them, I stay away from altogether.

You know I was 42 years old before I ever tasted liquor!

R You played for Clark, you played for Chance, you played for Evers, Hank O'Day, couple of others, I guess....Who

T Buck Herzog

R Buck Herzog, with Cincinatti, right?

T Yeah, it was in my last year, regular.

R Who was the best manager you ever played for?

T Well, naturally, I would favor Clark. But I'd take, there's three ~~xxxxx~~ there: McGraw, Chance, and Clark. Any one of the three of them, you'd like to play for.

R Did you play with McGraw when he was a player?

T UM HUM

R He was a third baseman, wasn't he? How good a 3rd  
baseman was he?

T The Average. But he was a confounded good hitter! He  
hit that ball wherever he wanted. He stand up at theat plate and  
he just tapped at the ball, this way. You could pitch a ball  
outside to him and he'd pull it down that first base line.

R ~~Was~~ Was that Baltimaore Oriole team a rough team, like  
they say it was? You know they say that was the roughest team  
of all!

T Aw, they say all of them are rough! It wasn't the  
team that was rough, it was the spectators! Yeah!

Tom Clark said come on down on the bench. I said, I know the ~~rules~~ rules  
Tom. I says, they don't want nobody in civilian clothes down there.  
He says, they don't come out for battin' practice for over a half an  
hour yet. Come on down, he says, I want to talk to you. So, I  
went down and we're sitting there talking a little bit. He looked  
over to the other end of the bench and he says, Say, see that kid

up there? He was putting on his shoes, just lacing them up. I says, yeah, he's pretty young, ain't he? He says, yop, he's a little older than what he looks, but he says, as far as ideas go, he is young! He says, I want to tell you something about him. Now this is a sample of what the kids are today: and he's a good sample. He says, we were in Pittsburgh, just like we are now, he's putting on his shoes and this kid edged over to me and says, who's that bow-legged, grey-headed fellow over there? Clark looked at him and says, don't you know who ~~wx~~ that is? No, he says, I don't. He says, how long have you been in the League? Well, he says, I guess I'm goin on my third year. And you don't know who that is? His name is Wagner, Honus Wagner. The kid finished his shoes and sat there studying him a minute, looked at Tom, and says, did he ever play ball. Now that's how much they know. Did he ever play ball! Now I could see that with me. I've sat around hotels, and I've had a lot of fun, in the mornings, you see, especailly in NY, we'd stay at the one hotel for NY and Bklyn, 'cause both of them had dressing rooms and we'd go there either underground, or over, to the park. This one day in particular, I was sitting down in the lobby (I always got up around 8 o'clock, not much later

than that) maybe before that) and I was sitting there in the lobby and the fellows come down and they'd all say, hello Tom, as they went by. There was a fellow sitting in a chair beside me, well, he was sitting two or three chairs away, and he finally come over and sat down aside of me. He says, do you know all those fellows. I says, I know most of them. He says, aren't they the ball club. I says, Yeah. About that ~~the~~ time, this is way back, Rube Waddell come through the lobby and he says, hello Tom. I says, hello Rube, how are you this morning? Oh, fine, he says, going out to get something to eat. See they used to give us meal money, they'd pay our room and give us meal money, So when he'd gone, he says, you called that fellow Rube. Is that Rube Waddell? I says, yeah, that's Rube. And he says, you know all of them! Yes, I know pretty near all of them. Well, he says, you mentioned pretty near all of them, but there's one fellow you haven't mentioned. He says, where's Leach! Well, I says, if he hasn't gone out, he'll be down here pretty soon! But I used to get that every once in a while. Now here's another one: this is really funny!

R           He didn't believe you were a ballplayer ,eh?

T Oh no. The first year, first couple of years, the Polo Grounds was the only place we ever dressed. And we had these little , we called them, uniform rolls, you could roll your uniform up and just pick it up any carry it. We had to carry them ourselves. So, I used to always wait and, at the Polo Grounds, and catch one of the other fellows and go out with him. 'Course, I had the roll and they never asked me who I was, or what I was, or anything. 'Cause I was with one of the players, they knew. But this one day, for somereason I didn't get anybody. I just come out by myself. So <sup>when</sup> ~~went~~ I got up to the pass gate, ~~ixxay~~ he says, well, who's roll've you got, buddy. Well, I says, it happens to be my own! He says, ~~your~~ own. I says, yeah! I started to go and he grabbed my arm and says, You're so confounded fresh now you just wait here and when the fellow who owns that comes along and he wants to take you in, all right. Well, I says, you better make up your mind, mister, 'cause you're going to be in trouble if you keep me. I says that's my own uniform and I should be in there getting dressed now. Yea, he says, it's your uniform! We'll find out! He kept me there an hour and a half. Then the only way I got in, one of the Giants come along and he started through the gate

and he stopped and he says, well what are you doigg out here, who ya waiting for. I says, I'm just waiting for this numbskull to let me in! He won't let you in? I says, noooooooo. He even made me lay my uniform down there. He looked at the fellow and he says you better let him in.

R I bet he let you in after that!

T Oh, yeah. He had to be sure, though. He says, you mean to say, he's a ballplayer? Well, he says, he is, and you better be a ticket-taker, because if you keep him out here you won't be taking tickets much longer. So he finally let me in.

R You said something before that interested me...you said it wasn't the ballplayers that were so rough, it was the fans.

T Oh, yeah. After the game. They didn't bother you through the game, call you names or anything, but after the game! In St. Louis one day, the worst I ever run into, we used to (we didn't have sweaters, we had coats, regular coast made) ride out in a bus.

R In your uniforms.

T Dressed in our uniforms. We got dressed at the hotel.

This day it was a good thing we lost. That was one game I was tickled to death to lose! St. Louis had a lot of old-timers, all good ballplayers. We were 3 games ahead of them; they were in second place. We had what, I thought, was the best ball club I was ever on, until we got Honus on at shortstop...I changed my mind. He changed it for me. They had Jess Burgess, Henreigh, Jack, Lou Kruger(he was the catcher), Jack O'Connor (another catcher), Bobby Walsh was at short. I ~~g~~ forget who was second and they had most of the time big Schrekenghost as the catcher that used to catch Rube Waddell. They had him playing first base. Then a fellow named Dunovan in right field. That's about all I can remember. That was back in 1900. It was ding-dong all the way through. Fight, fight. One riding another and all that stuff. When the game was over, they'd win, we come into the bench to change into our sneakers and I happened to look around and I'm alone. I hadn't had my sneakers on yet, so I put them on and started down the field. The bus was clear down to the ~~e~~ left field fence, back of a stand down there and we had to walk that whole distance down. Oh, I guess I had walked from here to the door and I felt something pull on my coat. I never looked around at all.

Just stood there. When they loosened up on it, I started on.

They walked me the whole length of the field that way. I never saw who they were or anything else. I knew that if I looked around somebody was going to take a punch at me!

R           It was fans!

T           Yeah. Stand, and they wouldn't do nothing. Well, when I got down to the bus, they let loose of me. Everybody moved up in the bus. They knew there was going to be things thrown at us. So I had to take the end seat. We had a bat boy always used to meet us there and take care of our bats. I got up in the bus and this bat boy was standing on the steps. And another fellow was standing at his side. I just looked at him and said, who are you, fella. Oh, he says, I'm helping the bat boy. Oh, I says, all right, and I turned around and just as I did, he gave me a punch and jumped. And the fella hit the horses at the same time and this bat boy off on top of the kid. I guess they had it because the police took them in and that night in the hotel we had the secretary go down to the station and get this kid ~~in~~ out. Told him, pay any fine and we'd make good. But they didn't fine him, they turned him loose. So, that was what you had to watch for when the



game was over. Baltimore was a bad town. The others were so bad. Baltimore was no good. But we had a fast <sup>ride</sup> ~~ride~~ back to that hotel, I'll tell you that!

R It was a horse{drawn bus!

T Yeah.

R The 1909 World Series...you weren't nervous before that one either?

T No, we had a ball game to play and that's all there was to it/ The only thing, we got on the pitcher. We didn't have a pitcher to go. We had pitchers we were going to depend on and all three of them were sick. Something wrong. We had this youngster that had a good season. Well, Clark was this way: he couldn't exactly make up his mind. He got three or four of the fellows together that he thought were dependable and asked their opinion what to do. I see where somebody, some outsider claimed, he was connected with baseball, but he claims that he told Fred to pitch Adams in that first ball game. I don't know whether he did or not, but I know there was three of us that told him. When he got us together and asked what to do, we told him to put in Adams in there. He had the control and we had a good

big ball park and we could roam around out there. We thought , we always thought that's what made him pitch Adams. Well, they hit Adams pretty hard the first ~~time~~ two or three innings, but we were going hitting . Along about the second or third inning they got a couple of men on base and Cobb got a ~~whiz~~ hold of one and it was really hit, but it was caught. Went out and got it. When we come in, he walked over to this fella and says, well if you fellows can go and get them like that, I can get them in there if you'll keep getting them! Well they beat us, I don't remember the score.

R           That was the year  
          Adams won three games in that series, didn't he?

T           Yop. None of those fellows got fright.

R           Was it LifieldWillis, Camnitz

T           Camnitz, Willis, and Lifield. See, we'd had a good pitching staff without this kid. He'd probably never have got into a game.

R           That's the series, too, where Cobb didn't get to steal but one base all series. Honus stole about six.

T                    they  
          Well ~~I~~ give Cobb credit for stealing home base. He never stole home base. Gibson had that ball in his hand away

from him and he slid right into him. It was called safe.

R           Gibby drop the ball?

T           No . Oh, no. They put up a hubbub, but it didn't do any good. I don't remember whether it was Klem or the other fellow who was the American League umpire. Funny I can't think of his name.

R           Is it true that Klem never missed a ball or a strike?

T           No, none of them, none of them could do it.

r           Did you argue with him a lot?

T           Well, you know you're limit with him. Bpth of us did. But, fred Clark ~~was~~ could call him more things". Those two fellows! What cursing there was. Fred Clark and Frank Chance. I asked Frank one day, I says, Frank were do you learn that stuff!

R           They said McGraw ~~was~~ prett6 good at that.

T           Klem....well, I got a compliment one time, from Mrs. Clark. I don't know...for some reason she and Fred always liked me. I could do anything and not matter what I'd do they'd find some excuse for it. Well, they never questioned me. I went out for practice when I felt like it. I asked him one day, why? Well, he says, you're in good condition. You know how to keep in shape, and

and I've never seen you out of shape. So I'm going to let you go. Well, I thank~~ed~~ him for it. I said, I'll probably play longer for it. One time he did. He asked me, he says come out tomorrow. Three or four days now I heard a couple of them discussing you not having to come out and I'd like you to come out. So I did. 'Course, I never questioned anything he said. If he told me to do anything, I'd try. I would tell him...we had a bunch that wasn't afraid to go to Fred and tell him when we though he was wrong, and that's what he liked. He said, you fellows know as much as I do. I don't know ~~at~~ it all. You come and tell me. And if he made a mistake and we didn't jump all over him, he'd come in to the bench and cuss us out. What's the matter with you fellows. You saw me make a mistake, why don't you say something? I don't think that Fred Calrk ever fined a man on the club! I don't think so/ He said one time he never would fine a man. He'd get him off the ball club, though, if he didn't behave himself/

R           How come....was Wagner a particularly fast man? Could he run?

T           I think I was the only man ever beat him on a start race

R He was 200 pounds, though! He was a big man.

T No, 190 when he was playing. He was 5'11.

R When I see pictures of him with his bow legs, see how he looks like a beer keg...squatt...and I always find it hard to figure how he could be so fast.

T Honus was a peculiar fellow. When Honus, he joined the club in, in think, '97. "Course, I wasn't there. All I know about that part of it is what I heard talk and different things. He was playig second base. They had a felow they got from Cincinatti with Dummy Hoy for a couple of pitchers. Then Ritchie and they switched Ritchie to second base and Honus to third. 'Course Honus played anyplace. I've seen him play first base that you couldn't beat!

R You said before that you couldn't hit. How did you learn to hit.

T Well, I had two or three fellows up home, like I told you, the old professionals. I put it up to them. I'd study all their form and all. All the time, thinking, why I'd go down here and hit any place I want to hit and i'd go up there and can't get a lick on it. Finally I went to one old fellow

I put it right straight to him. I says, why can't I hit that better pitching. He says, it's too fast for you. He says you're out on the end of that bat hitting these kids and you hit them wherever you wanted. Now, you got to shorten up on that bat and punch. I says, all right, I'll try. And that's the way I wound up hittin.

R           I haven't mentioned the fact that you led the league in home runs once.

T           Oh.

R           How did you do that. How did you lead the league in home runs?

T           Well I tell you, there were big fields and if you hit a ball between them , if you was fast enough, you had a home run. It was no over the fence. I played in that damn ball park 10 years and I never saw but one ball hit over the fence in the 10 years. That was the old Exposition Park in Pittsburgh. That was a real big field.

R           You hit between them and made 6 home runs you led the league with, I remember.

T           Well, I didn't hit them all....I think I hit two of

them in one day up in Boston. I think I hit three of them in one series over there. And that was funny. 'Course, I was ~~funny~~ young. All I was ~~making for was~~ playing for was trying to hit. It was five years after till I knew I led the league. I had something happen in the world series.

R in the 1909 world series?

T no, 1903 this was. I think I hit eigher 8 or 9 runs in that series, 9n 1903. You know when I first heard of it? 1920! Somebody hit one more than I had and it come out in the papers that this fellow hit the one to beat my record that had been held up since 1903. We didn't keep no records in those days.

R You hit four triples in that 1909 world series.

T 1903.

R That was in 1903?

T Now, my first salary was \$35 a month and board. My first salary in the big league was \$5 a day/

R \$5 a day!

T \$5 a day. \$150 a month.

R How much did they get when they sold you to Louisville.

T I never was sure. I wouldn't want to say.

R You didn't get any cut out of it?

T No, no. They never thought of giving you anything out of it.

R Why do you think it says on that newspaper clipping that you were the brainiest player in the big leagues?

T On account of my size, and everything. Well, I don't know. I just couldn't help it. If I'd see Clark....something I didn't like...none of my business, but I had to tell him. I couldn't help it. And he looked to me for it and thanked me for it, a lot of times. But, I don't know. I always thought everybody played as much with their head as they did with their hands and feet in those days. You couldn't do anything.

R What is different about baseball today, compared to baseball all the way back in 1900.

T Well, I'll tell you one thing: I don't call it baseball today! I played a man. And when I shifted for a man, I didn't shift from here to the door there, like you see them now. They'll move just about from here to the door. Nap Rucker asked me one time on that: he says, I never saw you move for one player to another field for another one, if you went at least 100 feet! Well, I



says, I'm still in the zone. And I says, if I am playig a man in left field and the next man comes up he's a right field hitter, what good is it to me to move over 10 feet. When I move over, i want the distance, anyway, half-way between this right firlder and this left fielder. I can cover as much ground this way as I can this way, instead of having a big gap in there.

R You figure they played more with their head back in the old days?

T More, yeah. They had to.

R You were twlling me about Cy Young. Hew good a pitcher was Cy Y<sub>o</sub>ung?

T Well, in those days, there were big ball parks. And we had a dead ball. You're outfields could draw.

R How good a pitcher....did he have a good fast ball?

T That's what he had. Kept it right up here all the time. And he was hitting long fly balls. That' was the difference in the pitching. Today, you got to pitch down and make them hit it on the ground. That's ~~waxax~~ <sup>where</sup> I say, the infielders are rotten!

R Who but that man ever won 500 games in his career?

T Well, now take for instance, well we'll go back to 1900.

Cy was in in '90. He come in in '90. Or take 1900. We had Chesboro, Tannhill, Villify and Lever. And one extra. We had five pitchers. ~~Each~~ These four went in rotation.

R These boys pitching every fourth day, every fourth day/

T And if one of them got in trouble, say, there was a chance to save the game, the fellow who it would be to f[pitch to-morrow would be the fellow who was going to take his place and try to save the game. They didn't have no buddy in the bull pen to come up. It was the next pitcher's turn. That's the way they worked it. But this one spell we had there. I don't know who started it. We went four straight games without a run that we 'd made. No, it went more than that because we went 54 or 56 innings, I don't know which it was.

R Without beig scored on ! You said Matthewson and Young were the two best pitchers you saw?

T I liked them. I liked Waddell, though. I never will forget the first game I saw him pitch. In '99, that was Louisville and Baltimore, we got three balls to start a ball game, three new balls, and, ~~somet~~ sometimes we get a little <sup>shy a</sup> ~~shy~~ ball and we'd put in a used ball. They'd give them two and then the first

chance you get, you slip in an old one. The ball was hit. There were all old wooden stands, then. If a ball wa hit up on the stands, it sloped towards the infield. You <sup>w</sup>sent over and wished for that ball to come down and you threw it over to the pitcher and went back to position.

Only had one umpire. Didn't have 2 or 3 or 4 umpires. Only had one. He umpired behind the pitcher until he got two strikes on you and then he'd go behind the plate. And with men on base this is the umpire was behind the pitcher. Umpire looked around he threw the pitcher out of the ball game. By that time, Clark was so sore, I guess he didn't care what he did or said. But, anyway, he turned arond on the bench, Rube had just come in that morning.

*new story*

R He was just a rookie?

T No, it was the second time he was in.

R But this was his first year?

T No, the year before washis first year. This was '99.

The year before he was in. Because I didn't play ..... '99 was the first year I played. I'd joined them in '98, but never was on the roll. But, anyway, ~~Rube~~ Fred hollers at the bench, Who wants to

finish this ball game. They were taking it away from us anyway. Rube jumped up and says, I do! Fred said, come on out here then. So he come out. Now, that happened, <sup>they'd</sup> ~~They~~ let him throw as many balls as he wanted to warm up. Then, he had 3 balls to throw. That's all he was allowed. So, when Rube threw his 3 balls, he threw a fourth one and he called it a ball. That stopped Rube from warming up. He'd only had 4 balls to warm up. Well, the first fellow took a swing at a foul ball and that went over 12 feet foul and was caught. They never touched another ball! He got three men out with the side, and three the next inning! They never touched the ball. I was watching him throw. I wasn't playing! I said, how can a man throw that hard!

R It was mainly speed he had?

T Yep. But he had a good curve ball.

R Did he ever do what you read about him doing? Calling in the outfield and striking out the batter?

T Well, an exhibition game we played one spring coming up from the south, over in Ohio, some town over there, he did that.

R You saw him do that?

T Yeah.

R           What did he do? Tell me about ~~it~~.

T           He just waved them come on in. Told them to go to the bench. The outfielders. And somebody, it was an Easter Sunday, somebody threw an egg at him. Hit him right here. You couldn't phase him though.

R           And he struck out the side?

T           I don't remember what he did then.

R           You saw Willie Keeler play.

T           Yeah I played against him.

R           Was he a great a place hitter as the legend has it?

T           ~~NOX~~ Yeah. He was. They didn't give him any more than he deserved! There's only one thing about that that I can't agree with. Joe DiMaggio never hit 65 straight hits, add they did it just to beat Willie Keeler's....if you go back, look it up on the records. It's 28, yet it took 2 days to make up their minds was it foul or fair.

R           DeMaggio.

T           Yeah, Joe. No, whether it was a base hit or an error.

R           How big was Willie Keeler?

T           He weighed 135 pounds.

R Was he as tall, as big as you.

T Just about the same.

R Why is it always Wee Willie Keeler, and not Wee Tommy Lead

T Well, around Pittsburgh, it was. I was 10 pounds heavier than he was.

R He was 135 and you were 145.

T Well I weighed 148 most of the time. Very seldom I'd go over, very seldom I'd go under.

Winter, I'd go down to 140. 'Stead of getting fat, I got thin.

R Willie Keeler really could hit that ball where he wanted?

T He and McGraw are the two best I ever saw.

R McGraw was that good a place hitter?

T Oh, yes. McGraw hadn't gotten hurt, he'd have played a long time, I'm sure.

R Was he the best 3 base<sup>s</sup>man you ever saw?

T No. I would say as a fielder, he was just a fair 3 baseman.

R But he was a great hitting 3 baseman.

T He was a good, smart ballplayer! We looked more at that than the natural ability.

R How many ballplayers used to ~~chalk~~<sup>choke</sup> the bat then?

T Oh, a lot of them. That helped you on that speed pitch.  
See, we weren't ~~sxxxx~~ supposed to hit home runs.

R Did Honus choke?

T No Honus was out pretty close to the end.

R How heavy a bat did you use?

T I never knew.

R You didn't care?

T No, I didn't care whether it was....i didn't want it  
light, didn't want it too light.

R Probably pretty heavy. Probably compared to today, heavier

T Oh, yeah.

R What ~~ab~~ about the gloves that you wore.

T Oh, they just fit your hand. You played with your  
hadds, now you play in here, that web, that's ~~wxx~~ where you catch  
the ball now. We used to catch the ball with our hands.

R You used to catch the ball in the palm of your hand?

T In the fingers, in here, right about there.

R You think they had better fielders those days than  
they are today.

T On the average, yes.

T I guess I choked a bat as much as anybody else. For quite a while there, I didn't swing at all. I found out , and that's where I would fluctuate, one year and another year

R Were you a line drive hitter?

T Yeah, mostly. 'Course, I would bunt a lot.

Well, I never swung. Once in a while I would. But I never swung at the ball. I went this way. I'd never swing any ~~km~~ further than that, because I found out that you didn't have to hit hard at that ball, if you could meet that ball you could drive that ball straight. If you were swinging at it you hit it on the handle or at the end, <sup>it</sup> ~~you~~ didn't travel.

R Did you have your hands together, or did you have space between them  
[after ~~xxxxx~~ hands together]

T No, sometimes I..... I never set myself anyway, at all.

R Cobb always kept a few inches between his hands, didn't he.

T Yeah. Because he was a....one of these guys. So was McGraw. I think ~~xxxxxxx~~ Cheo was too.

R Yeah, in the picture he has several inches between his....

T Yeah. Another thing, they do today. We'd run a ballnlayer out of the ballpark if he'd do it: catch a ball up here!



R How did you catch

T Caught them down here.

R That's what they call a basket catch?

T Well, that's what they call it with Willie Mays, but we'd catch a ball up. We'd play a ball to catch it up. We play a ball to come up over us and come out here this way. Now they come around this way.

R So, essentially, all of your catches were basket catches.

T Yeah.

R What was the surfact of the playing field like when you broke in.

T Bad. Well, you're lowest minor leagues have better fields to play on than your top big leagues had then!

R Was the infield rough?

T Occasionally. Some of them tried. And some of the players would get a rake and go out and rake their own position. I've done it!

R What about the outfield?

T Well, you'd never know how a ball was going to bounce. You had to set yourself, unless it was a big long bounce! Oh, there

were a lot of things! It's hard to make a comparison, hard as can be! It's just like Detroit newspaperman who was around here trying to get some comparisons between Lajoie and Gehringer. Well, 'course the old-timer, naturally, goes for Lajoie. Because, if you ever saw him play you couldn't help but think so. Everything was so graceful and easy. He had you blocked off the base all the time. You never could get by. Always laughing at you. Always kidding you about something. You had to like him. Of course Gehringer I never saw. I saw him play a couple of exhibition games. But I wouldn't have given you a nickel for him in the games that I saw. And I knew there was a difference, because he didn't try in an exhibition game where I knew he would in a regular game. A lot of fellows...a shortstop named Red Dowl, way back, he was the same way. I don't know as I ever saw him pick a ground ball up completely without any fumbling or anything in practice. But when the game started, you couldn't hit one through! He was always over there in front of them.

R Did you ever fool around and try to figure out what the best for each position you ever saw play?

T Player? Well, they've asked me that several times

The last one was a professor in a school out West someplace. I still have his letter someplace around here. He asked several questions and wanted me to pick an all-star all-time bunch. Well, thats...outside of the infield...I'll pick the infield with any of them: I'll take Jimmy Collins, Honus Wagner, Larry Lajoie, and Lou Gehrig.

It's like I told that fellow in Detoit when he wanted to an all-star-all-time game...no it was a fellow in Atlanta, he was talking about Ty Cobb and Honus Wagner. I says, I wouldn't make a comparison! But, I says, I will do this: You tell me anything that Cobb could do and Wagner couldn't do, and that 's your man. I can tell you a lot of things Wagner could do that Cobb couldn't go. Well, Cobb wasn't a great outfielder. Wagner could go out there and play the outfield with any of them. Feidling and hitting and everything you want.

R Cobb didn't have such a good arm, did he?

T No, and Wagner, when he threw a ball, it went where he threw it. I saw him one day in Phila. ~~I didn't play~~ You can't help but think about those things, when you see them. I was playig third base. Let's see who we had in center field....Roy Thomas...

No..it wasn't Roy....before Roy. Well, anyway, the ball was hit.

Were you ever in the old National League Park in Phila?

R Bakers' Field? Yeah

T Well you know ~~whxxxxwhxxx~~ how that fence was in right field.

R Little...practically at home plate.

T Yep. Well, Honus was playing right field, you see, and I was playing thrid. Somebody hit a ball between Honus and the centerfielder...Beaumont, that 's who it was, Beaumont... Well, Honus cuts across over there, pushes this fellow out of the way, picked the ball up at the fence, and threw him out at third base. Happened from here to that door! I just looked at that ball, is this the same ball he threw??

R That reminds me, if I look at the old-time record, I see outfielders have a lot of assists. Today outfielders haven't, very ofter haven't got assists. Also outfielders used to be part of double plays, very often. I don't see it often any more How did that work?

T Well, you can look at it one way: and this was the way these present-day ballplayers like to look at it, the ball

was dead. Dead ball. you didn't have to throw as far. Now, I was considered to have a good arm. And I did, for an infielder, but there was a hundred others could throw better than I could. I used to have a fellow along side of me, many a time we'd be going after a ball coming over and I'd see he had a chance to get it and I'd stop and say, you take it, and tell him where to throw it, because his arm was so much better than mine, 'cause we might get the man. You see, you don't see that today. That word....today it ain't baseball. Today is brute strength. It's the man can hit the ball the hardest.

R Did your father see you play? Your mother?

T No, my father....yes, My mother saw me play an exhibition game in cleveland. We went in there one time we played an exhibition game and I got word to her to meet me at the ball park.

R Your father, you say encouraged you so much.

T Oh, yeah. But he died.

R Oh that's too bad, before you were a big league ball player

T Yeah

R Think back to that very first world series. Was that

How different was that from the event that's now the world series?

T        ~~Wasn't~~ Wasn't publicized as much. First place, we didn't have the big ball parks. Second place, the prices. 25, 50, 75 and \$1 and \$1- 1/2. Now it'd go up as high as \$10.

R        But the rivalry was pretty keen then?

T        Yeah. Of course, we didn't want the American League to win. But we didn't have the pitchers. That's when we lost Chesboro and Tannhill. If we'd had Chesboro and Tannehill, I believe we'd have won it. But we didn't.

R        How does Chesboro compare with Cy Young as a pitcher?

T        Just as good. Chesboro had something Cy Young didn't have. He had a spitball. Cy didn't.. Cy, I laughed one time, Cy up in Atlanta (I was in there one time) somebody I was talking to asked me if I saw Cy Young. I said, no, where is he. He says, he's upstairs. I says, Where, I want to see that one. I used to send him a box of greatfruit every year. In '53 they had us up there at the world series. There was only 6 of us living that played in the first world series.

R        Who was it, you and Cy Young and who else?

T        Let's see, there was Bill Dineen (?), Cy Young ,

Fred Clark, Otto Kruger, that's four, Freddie Perrentz, five and someone else.

But that bunch of newspaper men....I don't know whether it's the newspaper men themselves, or what it is, but they never liked me. The only time, I always said the only time I got my picture took was when I kicked one in the ballgame.

R           Yeah that's an interesting point. Don't you think that how well known a ballplayer is and what his reputation is depends to a large extent on newspaper men and how he gets along with them?

T           Want to know something about that? ....till he ~~wound~~ wound up, and this fellow, he asked some question, whatever it was, Well, he says, I'll tell you, if the ballplayer is good copy, sure we give him the best of it. There's the whole answer. If you're good copy/ See, I never was good copy.

R           I have another example. You know Fred Snodgrass, his famous muff? Well, it seems to me that this guy has been done a great injustice by the newspapers. Nobody remembers Fred Snodgrass for anything except the fact that he dropped the fly ball.

T           Same with Fred Clark.

R Don't you think that's terrible?

T It's awful!

R These guys, playing for years dependable baseball.

They made a mistake that other people have made many many times.

As a matter of fact if you just look at the record, Fred Snodgrass

didn't loose that game, it was about the first out of an inning

and there was many things happened after that, including a pop fly

dropping between Matthewson and Chief Meyers. You never head

about this. Snodgrass' muff.

T You'll never hear anything wrong about a yankee, anyway.

E N D