

Back in Time

Seeing the 'Babe' at bat

Monday, September 3, 2007

South Bend Tribune B4

Ruth's return visit to South Bend wowed his fans.

By JOHN KOVACH
Part two of two

Even after his retirement from baseball, the 45-year-old Babe Ruth was still a draw wherever he would go. Fans who had seen him play before, as well as those who hadn't, flocked to hitting exhibitions just to see him hit the ball out of the park.

In June 1910, Ruth again came to South Bend. This time, it was in the role of coach or instructor with the "Babe Ruth School of Baseball." The Studebaker Athletic Association was a sponsor for this 10-day event, which took place at Lippincott Park. Ruth was joined by co-major leaguers Bob O'Farrell, Jim "Hippo" Vaughn, Otto Vogler, Wally Reuther, Gabby Street and Walter "Habbie" Maranville.

MORE FOR YOUR MONEY!

BABE RUTH will be there

But since he can't conduct a baseball school alone, School Manager Ray Dean got the Babe some celebrated helpers, such as:

RABBIT MARANVILLE
Former Chicago Cubs manager

GABBY STREET
Former manager of the St. Louis Cardinals

WALLY REUTHER
Former major league pitcher and coach

JIM "HIPPO" VAUGHN
Former manager of the St. Louis Cardinals

OTTO VOGEL
Former Chicago Cubs outfielder and coach

BOB O'FARRELL
Former Chicago Cubs New York Giants and Brooklyn Dodgers outfielder

all these and others will be on hand when the big games are played in Lippincott Park, June 11, 16 and 18

You Can See Them Men in Action Every Day For 10 Days For a \$1.10 Series Ticket

The ticket is good for admission every afternoon and for three games on June 11, 16 and 18 for the purchaser or any one member of his immediate family. Single admission tickets to practice session and any of three games. 50 cents per person.

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See your representative and Spotlight for further details

Babe Ruth taught a baseball school in South Bend in June 1910.

He refused to hit fastballs down the middle and preferred to swing at those that were on the inside part of the plate.

"Why hurt anyone by a hitting exhibition?" explained Ruth. "I see no reason to tie off on a knee-high pitch through the middle when I can hit an inside ball just as fast. I'll also take a few shots at those outside pitches but I won't take a chance on driving a line drive into an unsuspecting pitcher."

This visit to South Bend saw Ruth go to the plate twice for a hitting exhibition. The first came on June 11, the opening evening of the baseball camp, featuring a game between the South Bend All Stars and the

THROUGH THE YEARS is a Michiana history column. This week's column is provided by St. Joseph County Public Library's Local & Family History Services. www.libraryofstjoseph.org/localhistory. Are there any buildings in the county whose history you've wondered about? Are there local people or events you'd like to know more about? E-mail Libby Fell, manager of LHM, at libhistory@stjoseph.org with your questions about local history. We'll answer as many as we can in future columns.

structure by day and a baseball unsunder by night, traveling to local communities within driving distance of South Bend. One such stop included Edgewater Park in St. Joseph, Mo., where Ruth hit several balls over the fence between games of a St. Joseph Indians versus Muskegon Reds double-header.

Ruth's 1910 visit to South Bend may have also been a visit to a former Yankee teammate living here in town. Stanley Coveleski and Ruth both played on the 1928 Yankees. When the two were adversaries in the late teens, Coveleski, a pitcher for the Cleveland Indians, always claimed that it was him giving up a home run to Ruth in a member of the Boston Red Sox that led to his being put into the outfield on a full-time basis.

John Kovach is a historian and works in Local & Family History Services at the St. Joseph County Public Library in South Bend.

FROM OUR FILES

The following news items appeared in The Tribune 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.

1907: WARSAW — "Indiana's day" (late in 1908) is a slogan adopted by the Anti-Slavery League at its annual meeting held at Whiting Lake. The post-remembrance has greatly assisted the temperance movement in this goal.

1922: NEW YORK — Urging the re-election of President Hoover, former President Calvin Coolidge declares in the current issue of the Saturday Evening Post that "the safety of the country lies in the success of the principles of the Republican Party."

1927: LONDON — Russia served notice today she is ready

to go on discussing "basic questions of disarmament," in the five-power United Nations conference here, a British source reported.

The Western powers on the subcommittee, Britain, France, the United States and Canada — decided today to continue the negotiations as long as there is a chance the Russians might show serious intent to help end the arms race.

1922: SOUTH BEND — City and county engineers will be looking closely when dirt is scraped away from beneath East River bridges at LaSalle and Collins later this month to see how well the structures have withstood being buried for nearly 80 years.

A preliminary engineering study done in connection with the East Bank renovation project indicated that the bridges will not need major reconstruction, according to John Leszczynski, South Bend city engineer.

But the engineer acknowledged today that no one will know for sure how good the bridges are until excavation beneath them is complete and the structures can be examined.

CELEBRITY FLASHBACKS

Associated Press

Entertainment highlights during the week of Sept. 28:

1930: Buddy Holly was born in Lubbock, Texas.

1963: The CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite expanded from 15 to 30 minutes, becoming network television's first half-hour nightly newscast.

1966: The TV series "Star Trek" premiered on NBC. It ran for three years.

1997: The sitcom "The Flying Nun" debuted on ABC. Sally Field starred as a novice nun

who discovers she can fly.

1991: Director Frank Capra died at his home in California at 84, leaving a legacy of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" and "It's a Wonderful Life," which both starred Jimmy Stewart.

1986: Rap star Tupac Shakur and record company executive Suge Knight were shot while driving in Las Vegas. Shakur died six days later.

2005: Kanye West went to the scene during an NBA timeout to raise money for victims of Hurricane Katrina. He said, among other things, "George Bush doesn't care about black people."

A LOOK BACK

Sept. 6, 1951: President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded by anarchist Leon Czolgosz at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y. McKinley died eight days later; he was succeeded by Vice President Theodore Roosevelt. (Czolgosz was executed less than two months later.)

Sept. 2, 1945: Japan formally surrendered in ceremonies aboard the USS Missouri, ending World War II.

Sept. 4, 1967: Detroit TV station WKBD aired an interview with Michigan Gov. George Romney in which the Republican presidential hopeful admitted his previous support for the war in Vietnam to a "brain-



Romney

washing" he'd received from U.S. officials there during a 1965 visit — a comment that damaged his White House bid.

Sept. 7, 1976: The Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) made its cable TV debut.

Sept. 6, 1987: Former Democratic presidential candidate

Gary Hart admitted during an interview on ABC's "Nightline" that he had committed adultery, and said he had no plans to resume his White House bid.

Sept. 3, 2004: The three-day hostage siege at a school in Beslan, Russia, ended in bloody chaos after Chechen militants set off bombs as Russian commandos stormed the building; 354 people were killed.

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Session 6: Oct. 6-10
Session 7: Oct. 11-15
Session 8: Oct. 16-20
Session 9: Oct. 21-25
Session 10: Oct. 26-30

Session 11: Nov. 1-5
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