



Names:

Dr. Pepper's women's softball team

Field of Memories

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper article

Dates:

Aug 9, 1992

Hts. Hist. 344 Optimist Park Marker Comm. 4A13

...irmingham motel after winning a game at the state softball championship. They're laughing and planning to buy candy bars, then sneak back to their room because the city is already under curfew.

Action.

They get as far as the lobby when they hear the familiar voice. It's their coach, Rison High School principal Cecil Fain. "Where you goin', ladies?" he bellows.

Listen to their stories and watch them together 33 years later, and you wonder if the Dr. Peppers didn't just step out of the women's baseball film, "A League of Their Own."

A month after the release of the top-grossing movie, some of the former Dr. Peppers, or Pepperettes, have seen it and have left the theater thinking about the fast pitches, stolen bases and team spirit that kept their team scoring from 1937 to 1943.

Their memories of six years of practices, games and tournaments resemble scenes from the movie. But the memories have a spin that shows that players in the film weren't the only ones with a league of their own.

The movie traces the start of the All-American Girls Baseball League in 1943. Men were away fighting in World War II, and a major league baseball executive formed the women's league for fear that the men's season would be canceled.

Actresses Geena Davis and Madonna headline as members of the Rockford Peaches. The Peaches get into mischief off the field but play hard and smart when they realize the league's existence depends as much on their girlish

Dr. Peppers

Seven of the Huntsville Dr. Peppers describe their former team as a local counterpart to the Rockford Peaches. But the Pepperettes had a character and story of their own.

Like the Peaches, the Dr. Pepper team was formed of the best players around, and each played hard and smart. Unlike the Peaches, the Dr. Peppers played amateur softball before the war, not professional baseball during it.

Like the Peaches, the Dr. Peppers were mischievous off the field. Unlike the Peaches, they got caught.

Like the Peaches, they see their years on the team as the best of their lives. Unlike the Peaches, the Dr. Peppers had a dedicated, serious coach who taught them to play fair, but play to win.

"The Dr. Pepper team must have started in 1937," says Doris Pike Layne, 69, a shortstop for the team. "Mr. Fain organized the team with the Rison team and county champions."

"It was an independent team," says Gertrude Hoover Satterfield, 73, a catcher. "We played in the summers."

"In the '40s, local teams were either high school or independent," says Aileen McGinniss Elledge, 70, a catcher and shortstop.

"Girls' teams used to be as popular as boys' (teams) are now," says Inez Hillis Thompson, 70, who played left field.

The 20 or so Dr. Peppers were in their teens and early twenties. Many were still in high school when they joined the team. Others

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Alan Warren/Huntsville Times

Some former team members gather at Joe Davis Stadium. Standing, from left are Aileen McGinniss Elledge, Bessie Hunt Dunham, Doris Pike Layne and Druce Hoover Barnett. Kneeling from left are Mildred Hunt Newby, Inez Hillis Thompson and Gertrude Hoover Satterfield.



In a team photograph taken between 1937 and 1943, members of the Dr. Pepper Girls Softball team at Optimist Park are, standing, from left, Clint Herndon, Gertrude Hoover Satterfield, Druce Hoover Barnett, Grace Tolen Horton, Doris Pike Layne, Ophelia Lee Ealy, the former Lorene Jones, Aileen McGinniss Elledge, Alma Trapp Wedgman, Mildred Reese Worley and Coach Cecil Fain. Kneeling, from left, are Mildred Trapp Banks, the former Margaret Taft, Mildred Hunt Newby, Ruby McGinniss (deceased), the former Lucy Short, Bessie Hunt Dunham and Inez Hillis Thompson. Other players not shown: Margarite Lockmuller Parker, Nan Denton, Grace Tabor (deceased) and Kathleen Vann.

Names:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Banks, Mildred Trapp | Ealy, Ophelia Lee | McGinniss, Ruby | Thompson, Inez |
| Barnett, Druce | Elledge, Aileen | Newby, Mildred Hunt | Hillis |
| Hoover | McGinniss | Parker, Marguarite | Vann, Kathleen |
| Denton, Nan | Fain, Cecil | Lockmuller | Wedgman, Alma |
| Dr. Pepper Girls | Fain, Cecil, Coach | Satterfield, Gertrude | Trapp |
| Softball team | Herndon, Clint | Hoover | Worley, Mildred |
| picture | Horton, Grace Tolen | Short, Lucy | Reese |
| Dr. Peppers | Jones, Lorene | Tabor, Grace | Pepperettes |
| Dunham, Bessie Hunt | Layne, Doris Poke | Taft, Margaret | |

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper article photograph

Dates:

1937-1943 Aug 9, 1992



Names:

Barnett, Druce
Hoover
Dr. Pepper Bottling
Company

Dunham, Bessie Hunt
Elledge, Aileen
McGinniss
Herndon, Clint

Layne, Doris Poke
Newby, Mildred Hunt
Satterfield, Gertrude
Hoover

Thompson, Garnett
Thompson, Inez
Hillis

Places:

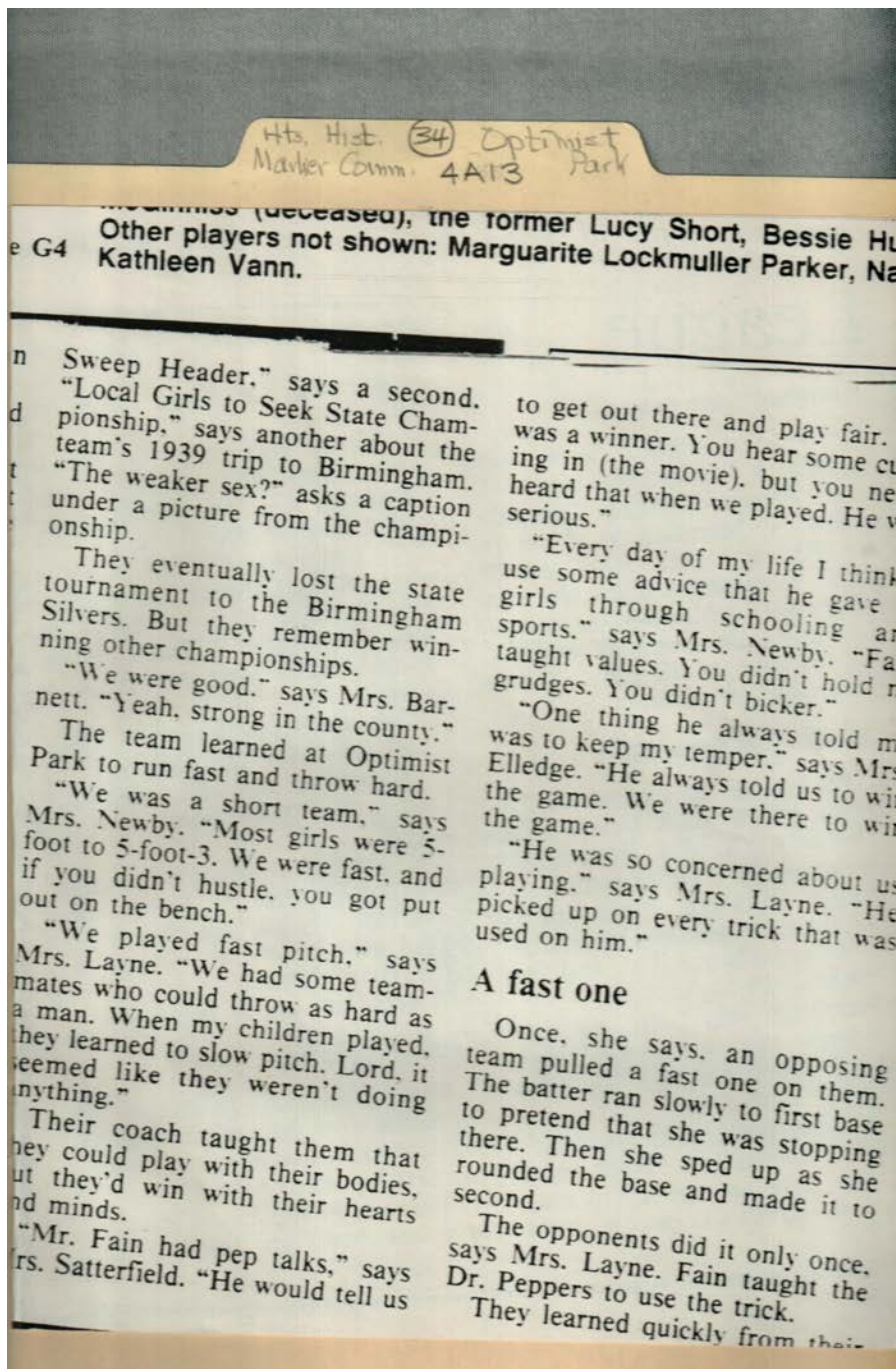
Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper article

Dates:

Aug 9, 1992



Names:

Barnett, Druce
Hoover
Birmingham Silvers

Elledge, Aileen
McGinniss
Fain, Cecil

Layne, Doris Poke
Newby, Mildred Hunt
Optimist Park

Satterfield, Gertrude
Hoover

Places:

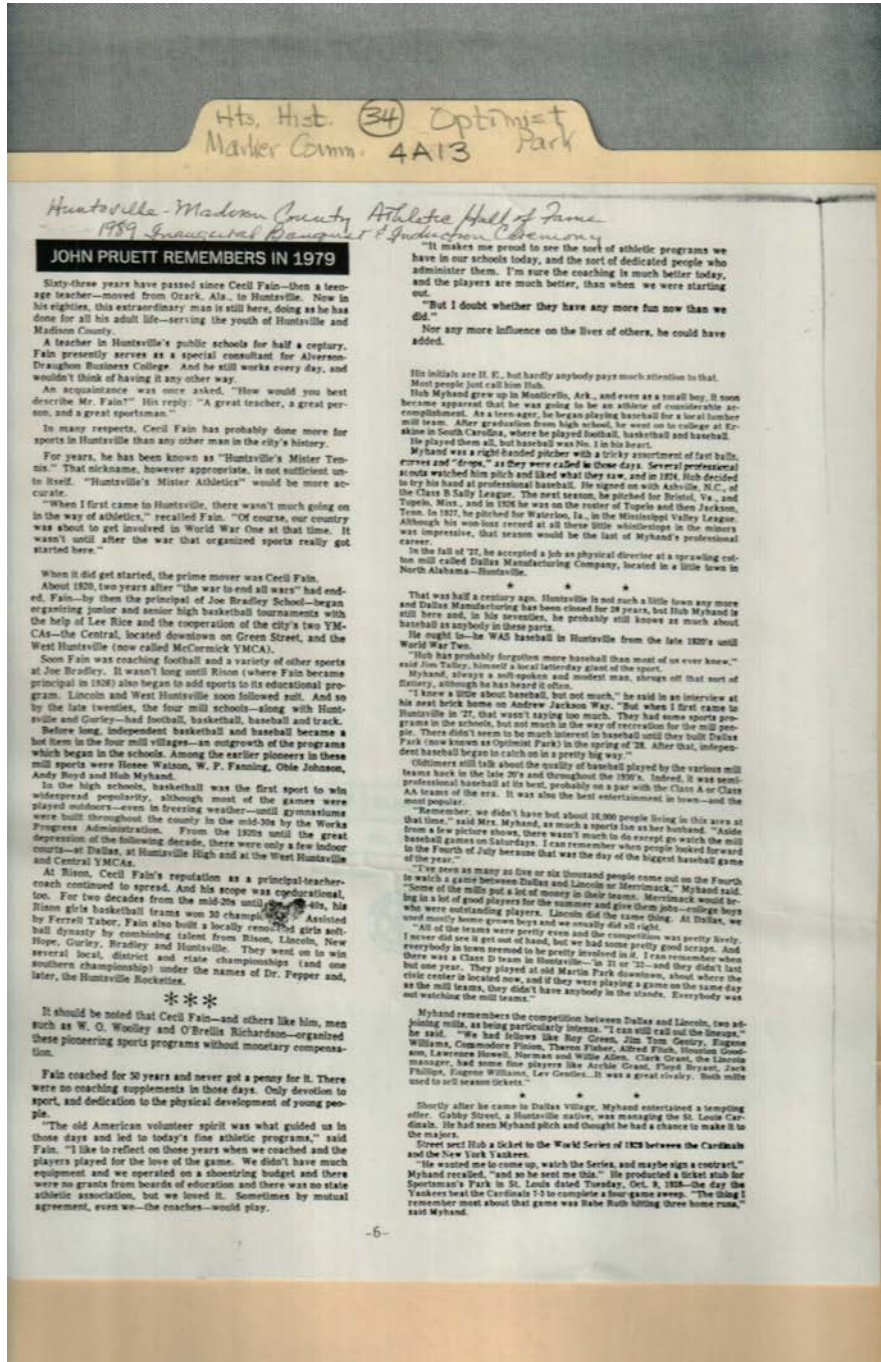
Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper article

Dates:

Aug 9, 1992



Names:

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 Allen, Willie
 Babe Ruth
 Boyd, Andy
 Bryant, Floyd
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 Fain, Cecil

Fanning, W. P.
 Firch, Alfred
 Fisher, Theron
 Gentles, Lev
 Gentry, Jim Tom
 Goodson, Houston
 Grant, Archie
 Grant, Clark

Green, Roy
 Howell, Lawrence
 Huntsville Rocketts
 Huntsville-Madison County Athletic Hall of Fame
 Johnson, Obie
 Myhand, Hub

Phillips, Jack
 Pinion, Commodore
 Pruett, John
 Street, Gabby
 Taber, Ferrell
 Watson, Hosee
 Williams, Eugene

Places:

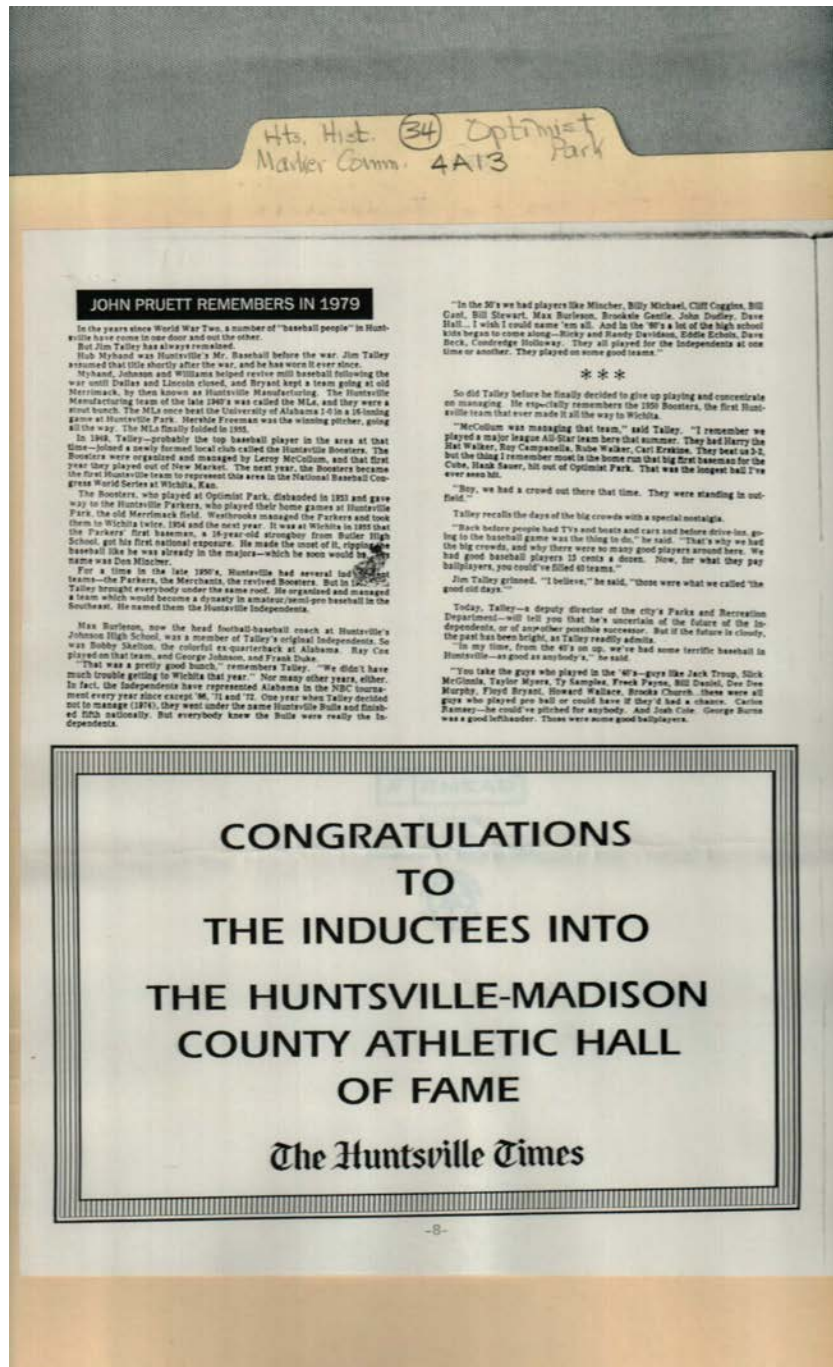
Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper article

Dates:

1989



Names:

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 Bryant, Floyd
 Burlelson, Max
 Burns, George
 Campanella, Roy
 Church, Brooks
 Coggins, Cliff
 Cole, Josh
 Cox, Ray
 Daniel, Bill
 Davidson, Randy

Davidson, Ricky
 Dudley, John
 Duke, Frank
 Echols, Eddie
 Erskine, Carl
 Gant, Bill
 Gentle, Brooksie
 Hall, Dave
 Holloway, Condredge
 Johnson, George
 McCollum, Leroy

McGinnis, Slick
 Michael, Billy
 Mincher, Don
 Murphy, Dee Dee
 Myers, Taylor
 Myhand, Hub
 Payne, Freck
 Ramsry, Carlos
 Samples, Ty
 Sauer, Hank
 Skelton, Bobby

Stewart, Bill
 Talley, Jim
 Troup, Jack
 Walker, Harry the Hat
 Walker, Rube
 Wallace, Howard
 Westbrooks,
 John Pruett
 Remembers in 1979

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper article

Dates:

1989



Names:

One of Hub Myhand's
Early Dallas Teams

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph

Dates:

1928



Names:

Adcock, Dick
Allen, Harvey
Benson, Forest
Cantrell, Shealy
Coble, Jim

Fisher, Theron
Fitch, Alfred
Goodson, Houston
Herrin, Ed
Koonce, H.

McBride,
Myhand, Hub
Potts, M.
Prentice, Dick
Schrimsher, Curtis

Williams, Eugene
One of Hub Myhand's
Early Dallas Teams

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

list

Dates:

May 1977

Market Comm. 4A13

Memories

Continued from page C1

up two or three dozen fruit jars full of lightning bugs and had just as much light," says Jim Talley, perhaps the foremost player to emerge during the mill village era.

Talley was a burly sort, a tough and rugged figure who never backed away from confrontation. He had served in the Navy for two years before playing for the Emm Ells and the Huntsville Boosters in the late 1940s and early '50s. If power was needed, Talley provided it.

But one day, when it seemed the home runs would fly out of Optimist Park, Talley couldn't do anything with a lanky left-hander from Birmingham. Neither could his teammates.

By the bottom of the sixth inning, the Boosters were thoroughly frustrated. The pitcher had been throwing lazy curve balls all afternoon. Same thing. Every inning.

The guy couldn't throw any faster than Bobby Myers or Eddie Myhand, the Boosters' batboys. Still, there were no runs, few hits.

Now, more than four decades later, the pastor is telling the tale with glee. He is chuckling, laughing even harder as he approaches the story's climax.

"The guy comes out to start the bottom of the inning and he reaches into his back pocket," Daniel recalls. "Now, it's a very hot summer day. What the guy is doing is reaching into his back pocket for an umbrella. He pitches the inning with an umbrella over his head.

"And then he reaches down toward his belt buckle and he drops his pants. He lets his pants fall below his knees."

It's a true story

True story, swears the pastor, who rushes up the stairs to call Talley, breaking the silence in the sanctuary. True story, swears Talley. True story, swears Jack Troupe, the Boosters' center field-



The 1950 Huntsville Boosters was the first city team to go championship. From left on the front row are H. Wallace, McGinnis, and G. Myers (batboy). On the middle row are m Troupe, C. McMurtrie, J. Rogers, A. Landers, B. Daniel and business manager J.D. Pettey, R. Cottle, J. Tubbs, G. Lillie a

and he's looking for the ball under the bases and everything else. The second baseman and the shortstop told him, 'It's not out here, it's out there.' Taylor says, 'It's not out there; I just came from there.'

"The ball had rolled to the wall and the guy circled the bases for a home run."

Do not be led into temptation. Do not be led into thinking that the people of Huntsville didn't take their baseball seriously. The competition was especially intense

squads.

Listen to the reverent tones Mincher's voice, and it sounds as if his mill village memories are precious as any World Series moment.

"My dad, all those guys, took it just as seriously as these guys do here," says Mincher, his eyes fixed to a Stars' game against Chattanooga Lookouts. "Baseball was the thing in the mill village. Football was a passing thing and basketball was just something

Names:

Huntsville Boosters
baseball team

Mincher, Don
Myers, Bobby

Myhand, Eddie
Talley, Jim

Troupe, Jack

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper article

photograph

Dates:

1950

May 1977



Names:

Church, Brooks
Fritts, W. O.

McCollum, Leroy
Myers, Taylor

Myhand, Hub
Ramsry, Carlos

Talley, Jim
Thompson, John

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper article

Dates:

May 1977



Names:

Daniel, Bill

Talley, Jim

Troupe, Jack

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph

Dates:

May 1977



Names:

- | | | | |
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| Church, Brooks | McGinnis, Slick | Talley, Jim | Only Memories |
| Daniel, Bill | Mincher, Don | Troupe, Jack | Remain of Mill |
| Gaught, John | Mincher, George | Wallace, Howard | Teams |
| McCollum, Leroy | Myers, Taylor | | |

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper article

Dates:

July 5, 1992



Names:

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 Daniel, Bill
 Gaught, John
 McGinnis, Slick

Mincher, Don
 Mincher, George
 Myers, Taylor
 Payne, Erk

Sims, Dan
 Talley, Jim
 Troupe, Jack
 Wallace, Howard

Yeager, Curtis

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper article

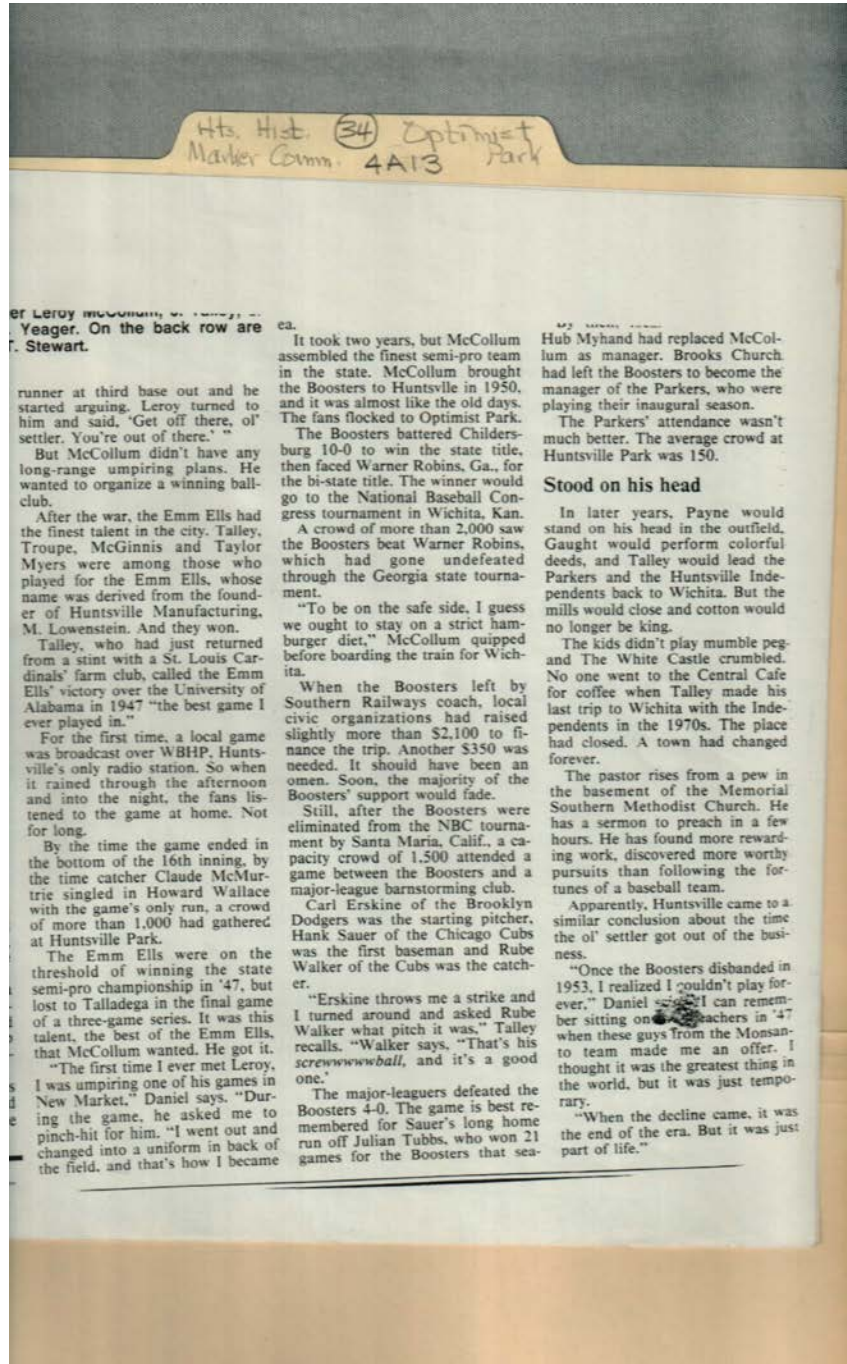
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Erskine, Carl
McCollum, Leroy

McGinnis, Slick
McMurtrie, Claude
Myers, Taylor
Sauer, Hank

Talley, Jim
Troupe, Jack
Tubbs, Julian
Walker, Rube

Wallace, Howard

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper article

Dates:

July 5, 1992

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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

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Collection Scope and Content: The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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