

BABE RUTH, TY COBB, YOGI, AND THE MICK "

BY PAT/SALTY

"AMERICAS PASTIME,"

OR, IT USED TO BE.

NUMBER ONE, THAT IS.

TODAY, IT HAS BECOME ONE OF AMERICAS PASTIMES.

BUT NO MATTER; IT STILL OWNS THE HISTORY.

I SAW YOGI AND "THE MICK" (MICKEY MANTLE)

PLAY - RUTH AND COBB WERE BEFORE MY TIME.

WELL, BEFORE MY TIME IN THIS PRESENT LIFETIME,

AT ANY RATE. (AS FOR BEFORE THAT, NO.

EUROPE NEVER TOOK TO BASEBALL. STILL HASN'T.

AND GERMANY HATES IT; SOCCER AND BOXING

ARE LIKE THEIR NATIONAL PASTIMES.

BUT I DIGRESS - AS USUAL - (SORRY VOLKS)

I DID SEE YOGI AND THE MICK PLAY, ALTHOUGH

LATER IN THEIR BASEBALL CAREERS (THE 1960'S).

YOGI ON T.V. AND MICKEY MANTLE IN PERSON

AT THE OLD ORIGINAL (1920'S VERSION)

YANKEE STADIUM. TWICE. IN TWO

AFTERNOON GAMES ~~BEFORE~~ DURING 1968.

WHICH WAS THE MICK'S LAST YEAR AS A PLAYER.

THE FIRST TIME I SAT OUT IN THE OUTFIELD

BLEACHERS IN THE HOT SUN WITH KIDS FROM

THE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE.

BY THAT YEAR MICK WAS ONLY PLAYING 1ST BASE.

BECAUSE HE WAS OLDER (37 OR SO) AND

COULDN'T RUN AS MUCH ANY LONGER.

OR HIT HOME RUNS LIKE HE USED TO.

I RECALL ONLY HIM STRIKING OUT 3 OR 4 TIMES.

BUT EVEN THEN, HIS LEGEND, WITH CITY KIDS, LIVED ON.

EVERY TIME BOB SHEPARD WOULD ANNOUNCE

"NUMBER 7, MICKEY MANTLE" ALL THE KIDS

IN THE BLEACHERS WOULD EAGERLY →

(2)

ALL STAND UP, SOME ON THEIR SEATS,
EXPECTANTLY HOPING TO CATCH ONE OF THE GREAT
MICKY MANTLES HOME RUNS,
BUT THOSE ONLY TWO YANKEE GAMES I EVER
SAW IN PERSON - THOSE TWO GAMES DURING
THE SUMMER OF 1968 - THE MICK ONLY
STUCK OUT, AND POPPED OUT A COUPLE TIMES,
AND THE YANKEES LOST BOTH GAMES.
FATHER TIME HAD INEVITABLY CAUGHT UP TO
EVEN THE GREAT MICKY MANTLE, AS
HE DOES TO ALL OF US EVENTUALLY,
THE DEPRESSING OLD SON OF A BITCH,
FATHER TIME, THAT IS - NOT THE MICK.
IN THE OTHER GAME, IN WHICH MY
"BIG BROTHER" TOMMY ~~BRUGGERS~~
(FROM THE CATHOLIC BIG BROTHER FOUNDATION)
TOOK ME TO THAT OTHER AFTERNOON YANKEE
GAME, WE SAT ABOVE AND BEHIND HOME PLATE
~~BEHIND~~ - FAR ABOVE AND FAR BEHIND IT,
AGAIN, MICKY MANTLE LAYED THE
BASEBALL EQUIVALENT OF AN EGG,
WENT OH FOR 4 OR 5, AS I RECALL,
BUT AT LEAST I CAN TRUTHFULLY SAY NOW
THAT I PERSONALLY SAW - IN PERSON! -
THE GREAT MICKY MANTLE PLAY - SO I DO,
I REMEMBER THEY PLAYED + GOT BEATEN
THAT DAY BY THE OAKLAND ATHLETICS -
WHICH TO ME AT THAT TIME WERE JUST
A BASEBALL TEAM ^{THAT} WORE ^{AND} RAN AROUND
PLAYING IN A BUNCH OF FUNNY BRIGHT GREEN
UNIFORMS, BUT ON THAT 1968 ATHLETICS
TEAM WAS A YOUNG PLAYER IN JUST HIS
SECOND YEAR NAMED REGGIE JACKSON. →

(3)

yes, THAT REGGIE JACKSON, WHO WOULD ONE DAY BECOME "MR. OCTOBER" HIMSELF. AND PLAY FOR THE ~~NEW~~ N.Y. YANKEES A DECADE LATER.

SO I CAN ALSO LAY CLAIM I SAW him IN PERSON PLAYING, TOO - IN FACT BOTH REGGIE JACKSON AND MICKEY MANTLE PLAYING AGAINST EACH OTHER ON THE SAME FIELD! IN THE ORIGINAL YANKEE STADIUM, NO LESS - SO THATS SOMETHING - HOW MANY CAN TRUTHFULLY SAY THAT? OF COURSE, BY THEN, YOGI HAD RETIRED AS A PLAYER. HIS LAST YEAR PLAYING FOR THE YANKEES HAS BEEN 1963, BUT I DID OF COURSE SEE HIM ON T.V. BACK WHEN HE DID PLAY.

HE WAS ALL OVER ADVERTISING AND RADIO AND T.V. SELLING A CONCOCTION CALLED "YOO-HOO" CHOCOLATE DRINK, BACK THEN. ALL US KIDS RAN OFF TO BUY IT.

IT TASTES LIKE SWEETENED CHOCOLATE WATER. IN FACT, THATS EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS, BASICALLY. I PERSONALLY WENT BACK TO DRINKING COLA, BUT YOO-HOO BECAME A SMASH HIT AND MADE YOGI ALL KINDS OF MONEY.

YOGI HAS ALWAYS BEEN BLESSED BY GOD THAT WAY; EVERYTHING HE EVER TOUCHED SEEMED TO TURN TO GOLD.

GOD LOVE HIM - OUR BELOVED "YOGI".
I NICER, FRENZLIER, MORE NATURALLY INNOCENT AND GOOD NATURED GUY YOU WILL NEVER FIND WALKING ON GODS GREEN EARTH. WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET; YOGI ^{JTB} BEING YOGI. →

(4)

he Got The KNICKNAME FROM AN INDIAN YOGI his CHILDHOOD FRIENDS SAW AT THE MOVIES ONE DAY (his LONG TIME FRIEND AND TEAMMATE PHIL RIZUTO WAS AMONG THE GROUP).

SO YOGI HAS ALWAYS BEEN RIGHTLY NAMED. AS ANY PROPER INDIAN YOGI - PAST OR PRESENT - IS.

Whether They be WEARING A WRAPAROUND WHITE CLOTH IN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE HINDU KUSH OR WEARING PINSTRIPES BEHIND HOME PLATE AT YANKEE STADIUM. OR SELLING SILLY TASTING CHOCOLATE WATER TO YOUNG TRUTHSEEKERS SEARCHING FOR ENLIGHTENMENT. OR FOR SOMETHING COLD TO DRINK.

The POINT BEING WE ALL ARE WHAT WE ARE AND DO WHAT WE DO AND EVEN DEATH ~~AND~~ ^{OR} REBIRTH ~~AND~~ CAN NEVER KEEP A GOOD YOGI DOWN.

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER HE IS BORN IN INDIA OR IN AMERICA,

~~was~~ is DRESSED IN LOINCLOTH OR IN PINSTRIPES, TALKS WHAT SOUNDS (AT FIRST HEARING) TO BE NONSENSE GIBBERISH OVER IN INDIA OR RIGHT HERE AT YANKEE STADIUM, A YOGI WILL ALWAYS be A YOGI AND YOGI BERRA IS ONE OF A KIND.

he ALWAYS WAS SPECIAL, YOU KNOW.

~~he~~ ALWAYS WAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE.

AN EXAMPLE; YOGI IS A WORLD WAR TWO VET WHO SERVED IN THE NAVY ON A SMALL GUNBOAT IN EUROPE DURING THAT WAR. JAST OFF THE COAST OF OCCUPIED FRANCE.



(5)

DURING THE JUNE, 1944 INVASION OF EUROPE.
JUST OFF THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY, FRANCE.
JUST OFF OF A BEACH CODE-NAMED "OMAHA".
WHICH WAS THE ONE BEACH OF ALL THE
BEACHES THAT DAY THAT SAW THE MOST "ACTION,"
THE MOST KILLING, DEATHS, ~~AND~~ CASUALTYS, AND HUMAN
PAIN; AN AWFULL GIANT KILLING GROUND OF
HORROR - FOR AND BY MEN OF BOTH SIDES.
A TERRIBLE THING THAT NO MAN SHOULD
HAVE TO EVER GO THRU OR REMEMBER,
AND OUR BLESSED YOGI DIDN'T.

AND DOESN'T.

REMEMBER THE ~~WAS~~ ~~THE~~ VIOLENCE AND
HORROR OF IT, THAT IS.

OF ANY OF IT.

EVEN THOUGH HE WAS THERE DURING IT.
BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE EVENT.

SERVING AS A MACHINE GUNNER OUT ON
THAT NAVAL PATROL BOAT RIGHT OFF THE BEACH.
LIKE AN INNOCENT CHILD,

AS IF GOD, OR THE YOGI'S DEVINE PROTECTOR,
MIRACULOUSLY CHOSE TO PUT A DEVINE
SHIELD AROUND HIM AND KEEP HIM SAFE
AND UNSCARED DURING THE WHOLE HORRIBLE
EVENT - AND TO AFTERWARDS WIPE HIS
MEMORYS OF IT ALL AWAY - ~~OR~~ LIKE A CLEAN SLATE.
YOGI REMEMBERS NONE OF IT.

EXCEPT BEING OUT IN THAT BOAT WITH
~~EXCEPT~~ THE CONSTANT WAVES OF THE
UNDULATING OCEAN UPON ~~BEHIND~~ HIS CRAFT.
AND EXCEPT FOR THAT, AS HE HIMSELF TELLS
IT "IT LOOKED BEUTIFULL - LIKE THE BIGGEST
FOURTH OF JULY YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE!"

THIS IS GODS GIFT TO YOGI; THAT IN →

(6)

his GREATEST MOMENT OF NEED,
GOD / THE DIVINE POWERS THAT BE,
SAW FIT TO EXTEND TO YOGI, ONLY IN
STRONGER AND GREATER ~~MEASURE~~ MEASURE
THAN HE EVER HAD BEFORE OR SENSE,
THAT SPECIAL "PROTECTIVE BUBBLE" HE
HAS ALWAYS HAD AROUND HIM HIS ENTIRE LIFE.
"THE BIGGEST FOURTH OF JULY YOU COULD EVER
~~EVER~~ IMAGINE", INDEED.

his OWN NATURAL PURE INNOCENCE - YOGI'S
NATURAL DIVINE NATURE - PROTECTED HIM,
SHIELDED HIM. FOR ~~GREATER~~ THINGS YET TO COME.
AND WIPE ALL THE VIOLENT + BLOODY AND
TERRIBLE MEMORIES CLEAN AWAY.

LEAVING HIM ONLY THE HAPPY, INNOCENT
SIGHTS AND SOUNDS TO FOREVER REMEMBER;
OF ALL THE FLASHING LIGHTS AND TRACER
BULLET STREAMS AND EXPLOSIONS.

"LIKE THE BIGGEST FOURTH OF JULY YOU EVER SAW",
AND OF THE GENTLE CONSTANT ROCKING OF
THE ETERNAL WAVES UPON HIS BOAT.

THAT WAS AND IS THE REAL YOGI BERRA.

OUR OWN VERY SPECIAL YOGI.

THE ONE WHO, AS THE OLD SAYING

GOES "WALKED THRU THE VALLEY OF
THE SHADOW OF DEATH" AND SAW ONLY
THE BEAUTIFULL BUTTERFLYS IN THE VALLEY.
ENOUGH SAID.

TO EXAMINE THE OPPOSITE END OF
THE SPECTRUM, I TURN YOUR ATTENTION
NOW TO BASEBALLS TY COBB,

WHO WAS A GREAT BASEBALL PLAYER BUT
A VERY BAD AND TROUBLED MAN. AS A
BALLPLAYER HE AND BABE RUTH WERE →

(7)

IN THE VERY FIRST ~~A~~ SMALL GROUP TO BE THE FIRST INDUCTED INTO THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME UP IN COOPERSTOWN, N.Y., IN 1936.

HE WAS A FIERCE "TAKE NO PRISONERS" COMPETITOR ON THE FIELD WHO PLAYED WITH DEMONIC ENERGY.

AND THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT, TOO.

THE DEMONIC PART, THAT IS.

HE WAS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF EVERYTHING YOGI WAS.

LIKE NIGHT AND DAY,

LIKE YIN AND YANG,

LIKE POSITIVE ENERGY AND NEGATIVE ENERGY,

~~LIKE~~ LIKE MATTER AND ANTI-MATTER,

EVERYTHING ABOUT THEM WAS DIFFERENT.

WHERE YOGI ~~SMILED~~ SMILED, COBB SNEERED.

WHERE YOGI CARRIED AROUND HIS

GOOD LUCK YOGI CHARMS IN HIS POCKETS

WHILE GOING ABOUT TOWN, COBB CARRIED

A LOADED GUN (AND NOT A FLARE GUN, EITHER!)

AND A KNIFE - AND A BRASS KNUCKLES.

WHEREAS YOGI HAS ALWAYS LOVED HIS WIFE,

COBB ~~YOU~~ USED TO BEAT HIS WIVES.

WHEREAS YOGI WOULD LOVINGLY OIL UP

HIS CATCHER'S MITT TO BETTER CATCH THE BALL,

COBB WOULD ~~SHARPEN~~ SHARPEN ~~KNIVES~~

THE SPIKES ON HIS SHOES TO A RAZOR-LIKE

FINISH IN ORDER TO HURT AND INJURE

ANY OPPOSING PLAYER WHEN HE SLID IN TO ~~ALL~~

~~STEAL~~ ~~BASES~~ A BASE (COBB JUST LOVED STEALING - BASES OR ANYTHING ELSE).

YOU ALL GET THE PICTURE, I'M SURE.



(8)


IT NEVER WAS ROCKET SCIENCE, TO
SEE THE OBVIOUS THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN
RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE WORLD
TO SEE (TO THOSE WHO KNOW HOW TO "SEE")
IT WAS ~~WAS~~ - IS - JUST AS PLAIN AND AS
SIMPLE AS DAY AND NIGHT, REALLY;
YOGI BERRA REPRESENTED GOOD.
TY COBB REPRESENTED EVIL.
THEN, NOW, AND FOREVERMORE.
AND NOW, LAST BUT NOT LEAST,
OUR HISTORICAL BASEBALL CLINIC WILL
CLOSE WITH THE ONE, THE ONLY,
THE ~~WAS~~ SULTON OF SWAT,
THE BAMBINO HIMSELF, THE
IMMORTAL BABE RUTH. ~~REPRESENTED~~
WHILE, IN A VERY REAL WAY WE CAN
SAY THAT EVERYBODY IS ONE OF A KIND,
NOBODY - EVER - CAN COME CLOSE TO BEING
~~BE~~ ANYTHING LIKE THE ONE AND ONLY RUTH.
THE MAN WAS A FORCE OF NATURE.
AS POWERFULL AND AS UNCONTROLLABLE
AND AS UNPREDICTABLE AS A HURRICANE.
HIS WHOLE LIFE, HE REALLY WAS.
WHERE DO I EVEN BEGIN TO TELL HIS
STORY? THE MAN POSITIVELY DEMANDS
AN ENTIRE BOOK, RATHER THAN JUST
A CHAPTER, AND I WILL EVENTUALLY
WRITE IT AND TELL THE WORLD ABOUT IT
FOR HIM BY WRITING IT - IF HE CAN WAIT.
FOR NOW, A FEW PAGES WILL HAVE
TO SUFFICE;
I WILL SKIP OVER THE ALREADY WELL
KNOWN + COVERED FACTS ABOUT HIS
LIFE STORY AND TRY TO GET RIGHT TO THE UNTOLD PARTS. →

(9)

AND NOT WASTE A LOT OF OUR PRECIOUS TIME WRITING ABOUT ALL ~~THE~~ THE SAME OLD SAME ^{OLD} STUFF ABOUT BABE RUTH THAT 1001 OTHER WRITERS HAVE ALREADY HASHED AND RE-HASHED AND RE-RE-~~HASHED~~ HASHED BECAUSE THEY DID ^{NOT} HAVE THE BAMBINO ~~TO~~ TO FILL THEM IN ON ALL THE BLANKS. MOST OF YOU WHO ALREADY KNOW ABOUT RUTH KNOW, FOR INSTANCE, THAT HE WAS BORN IN BALTIMORE IN 1899, WAS PUT INTO A "BOYS SCHOOL" (SOME MIGHT EVEN REFER TO IT AS A "REFORMATORY") LEARNED TO PLAY BALL THERE, EXCELLED AT IT, AND SO ON, AND ABOUT HOW HE EXCELLED AS A PITCHER BEFORE BEING TRADED BY BOSTON TO NEW YORK SO THAT THE OWNER OF THE RED SOX WOULD BE ABLE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO FINANCE A BROADWAY MUSICAL (AND, WHAT THEY NEVER TELL YOU, TO ALSO CO-FINANCE A BOOTLEGGING OPERATION RUN OUT OF BOSTON IN THE EARLY 1920'S THAT INVOLVED A CERTAIN FATHER OF A FUTURE U.S. PRESIDENT)

THE MONEY HE RECEIVED FOR BABE RUTH - SOME \$100,000, AN ENORMOUS SUM OF CASH AT THE TIME - HE ALSO USED TO BUY AND COLLECT BROADWAY SHOWGIRLS, FOR WHICH HE HAD A ~~VERY~~ FONDNESS. SELLING A STAR LIKE RUTH FOR \$100,000 WAS A REAL HEADLINE SHOCKING SPORTS STORY AT THAT TIME.

SELLING OR BUYING ANYONE FOR THAT MUCH



MONEY - IN OR OUT OF SPORTS - WAS UNHEARD OF, WAS AN "EARTH SHATTERING" KIND OF EVENT AT THE TIME, NOW-A-DAYS, WELL INTO THE ERA OF MULT-MILLION DOLLAR DEALS ALL THE TIME, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE TODAY TO "GET" JUST ~~to~~ how BIG A DEAL IT WAS BACK ~~then~~ IN THE 1920'S.

RUTH WAS SO OUTRAGED THAT THE RUMOR TOOK ROOT THAT HE USED ALL OF HIS POWERS TO PUT A CURSE, OR "HEX", ON THE BOSTON RED SOX AND THEIR OWNER. THE ONLY THING I CAN TELL ALL OF YOU IS THAT AFTER THAT POINT EVERYTHING WENT TOTALLY DOWNHILL FOR BOSTON,

A) THE OWNERS BOOTLEGGING DEAL WENT BELLY UP WHEN THE HUGE BOATLOAD OF BOOTLEGG HIGH END WHISKEY GOT "MYSTERIOUSLY" HIJACKED AND HE LOST EVERYTHING ON THE DEAL (THAT FUTURE U.S. PRESIDENTS FATHER ENDED UP MAKING MONEY ON THAT DEAL)

B) THE SHOWGIRL WHO HE HAD FINANCED THE BROADWAY MUSICAL FOR LEFT HIM AFTER IT FLOOPEd,

AND, C) THE BOSTON RED SOX - PERENIAL WINNERS AND WORLD CHAMPIONS BEFORE THAT, NEVER WON ANOTHER CHAMPIONSHIP ~~FOR~~ UNTILL ~~2004~~ THE YEAR 2004. FOR OVER 80 YEARS! ALL MUCH TO THE ETERNAL DELIGHT OF MR. RUTH.

SO ABOUT THAT CURSE OF THE BAMBINO; A "CO-INCIDENCE" OR - SOMETHING MOORE ?

ANYWAYS, RUTH WENT ON TO EVEN GREATER FAME AND FORTUNE WITH THE NEW YORK YANKEES. 714 LIFETIME HOMERUNS, CHAMPIONSHIPS, BLAH BLAH BLAH. →

I WILL NOT BEAT A DEAD HORSE
 BY TRYING ALL MY READERS WITH THE
 ALREADY MORE THAN WELL KNOWN DETAILS.
 RUTH WAS AN "ANIMAL".

HE WAS A LION AMONG PUSSYCATS!
 HE WAS A BIG LITTLE BOY IN A MANS BODY.
 HE WAS - AS I SAID - A REAL FORCE OF NATURE.
 A LIVING HURRICANE THAT ROCKED AND ROLLED
 ALL THE LITTLE TOY BOATS IN HIS WAKE.

~~REMEMBER~~ THE ~~LEGENDS~~ LEGENDS YOU HAVE ALL
 HEARD ABOUT HIM HAPPEN TO BE THE TRUTH;
 ABOUT HOW DURING THE WORLD SERIES
 HE PUT HIS NUTS OUT ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK
 IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE WORLD AND
 POINTED TO THE FAR OUTFIELD WALL
 SAYING THAT THE NEXT PITCH HE HIT
 HE WOULD HIT OUT OF THE PARK THERE,
 WHICH HE DID.

IF HE HADN'T HE WOULD HAVE BEEN A
 UNIVERSAL LAUGHING STOCK - AND HE KNEW IT, TO!
THAT'S PUTTING IT ALL ON THE LINE.

OR ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK, SO TO SPEAK.
 ABOUT THE LEGEND OF HOW BABE RUTH
 WOULD WOLF DOWN A DOZEN BALLPARK
 HOT DOGS AND WASH IT ALL DOWN WITH BEER
 BETWEEN DOUBLE HEADERS AT THE STADIUM?
 AND THEN GO RIGHT ON OUT AND PLAY THE SECOND
 GAME AS USUAL?

NOT ONLY DID IT HAPPEN - ON A REGULAR BASIS,
 I MIGHT ADD - BUT THAT LEGEND IS NOT
 THE HALF OF IT; IT WOULD BE CLOSER TO
TWO DOZEN HOT DOGS WASHED DOWN WITH
 COLD BEER + A NIP OF GIN - PLUS A SMALL BOX
 OF CRACKERJACK FOR GOOD MEASURE. →

(12)

Hey, people; How did you THINK RUTH GOT THAT BIG STOMICH he ENDED up with?

By EATING SUSHI AND OATBRAND BARS?? AND DRINKING POLAND SPRING WATER?? C, MON - Give me a BREAK. The BAMBINO, ~~ADDI BAMBINO~~; he WAS LIKE AN ANIMAL. Like A NATURALLY WILD ANIMAL WHO COULD BE ONLY PARTIALLY TRAINED AND CONTROLLED.

PROHABITION DIDNT MEAN SQUAT TO RUTH. HE WENT RIGHT ON HITTING ALL THE SPEAKEASYS. AND HOT DOG STANDS, AND CAT HOUSES, yep - he LIKED WOMEN.

LOTS AND LOTS AND LOTS OF THEM.

ONE AT A TIME, TWO AT A TIME, AS MANY AS he COULD FIT IN THE ROOM AT A TIME - IF YOU GET MY DRIFT.

HE WAS CONSTANTLY GETTING INTO TROUBLE WITH AUTHORITY FIGURES,

WITH HIS MANAGERS, COACHES, OWNERS, ETC. BUT OF COURSE THE PEOPLE + FANS + REPORTERS ALL LOVED him - COULD NEVER, EVER GET ENOUGH OF him.

HE HAD WHAT IS OFTEN CHARACTERIZED AS "CHARISMA" IN SPADES. he REALLY DID. "Hi, there! How ya ~~doing~~ DOIN'?" AND A HEARTY LAUGH AND SMILE + HANDSHAKE WOULD BE OFFERED TO ALL. TO EVERYONE he MET. NO MATTER WHO THEY WERE OR WHAT THEIR STATION IN LIFE WAS; BLACK, white, Rich, POOR, LITTLE CHILDREN OR OLD people, HE TREATED EVERYONE he MET EXACTLY THE SAME.

→

AND THIS IS SOMETHING THE REAL GOD REALLY RESPECTS IN PEOPLE AND, SADLY, IS TOO OFTEN ~~OFFERED~~ NOT FOUND IN MANY. BUT RUTH HAD MORE THEN ENOUGH.

AND OF COURSE HE COULD GET AWAY WITH SAYING OR DOING ALMOST ANYTHING, OF COURSE! HE EVEN TREATED COPS AND CRIMINALS THE SAME WAY. LIKE "Hi, There, OFFICER, GLAD TO MEET YA, I'M BABE RUTH, COULD I GIVE YOU MY AUTOGRAPH? MAYBE FOR YOUR KID OR NEPHEW?"

HELL, IN 3 MINUTES FLAT THE BAMBINO WOULD HAVE THE COPS EATING RIGHT OUT OF HIS HANDS (PEANUTS, AS A RULE).

BUT SERIOUSLY, EVEN GANGSTERS AND THE LIKE THAT HE MET, HE WOULD TREAT ~~THEM~~ EVEN

Them THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE HE MET, AND - YES - THEY, TOO, WOULD BE GRATEFULL.

EVEN THE NOTORIOUS AL CAPONE OF CHICAGO - "SCARFACE" AL HIMSELF (WHO WAS A FAMOUS & BIG & POWERFULL GUY IN HIS OWN WRITE AND WHO COULD BE - AND WAS - EVERY BIT AS FREANDLY AND OUTGOING AS RUTH WAS - WHEN HE WANTED TO BE) WAS CHARMED BY THE BABE.

"Hey, There, how ya doin' Guy - Hey, I KNOW YOU - AL CAPONE! - I see your PICTURES IN THE PAPER ALL THE TIME - CAN I GIVE YA MY AUTOGRAPH, AL?"

AND DO YOU KNOW HOW BIG FEARSOME TUFF TOP GANGSTER AL CAPONE ACTED WHEN RUTH INTRODUCED HIMSELF TO HIM?

HE SMILED AND QUIETLY BLUSHED JUST →

School

Like a ~~boy~~ Girl, he Quietly ~~then~~ ASKED BABE RUTH - RUTH AND EVERYONE HAD TO ACTUALLY STRAIN TO HEAR HIM, BIG AL'S VOICE BEING SO QUIET & SUDDENLY LOW - he ASKED BABE RUTH if he could get RUTH'S AUTOGRAPH, FOR HIS SON, AL JR. IT WAS A TOUCHING AND VERY TELLING ENCOUNTER, ACTUALLY, CONSIDERING ALL THE UNSEEN HISTORICAL FORCES GOING ON BEHIND THE ~~scene~~ SEEMS (IF ONE KNOWS HOW TO "SEE" AND PICK UP ON ALL THE CUES)

RUTH JUST HEARTILY LAUGHED IN HIS USUAL WAY AND PROCEEDED TO SIGN TWO BASEBALLS FOR BIG AL. ONE FOR BIG AL AND ONE FOR AL, JR. THATS JUST THE KIND OF MAN RUTH REALLY WAS. AND BIG AL NEVER FORGOT IT, EITHER. NOT TO THE DAY HE DIED IN 1947. YOU SEE, BABE RUTH DIDN'T JUDGE ANYBODY, AND TREATING EVERYONE THE SAME MEANS TREATING EVERYONE THE SAME; IT IS WHAT IT IS - NOT WHAT IT ISN'T. AND RUTH DIDN'T JUST TREAT CAPONE THAT WAY BECAUSE A FEW THOUSAND PEOPLE & REPORTERS WERE AT WRIGLY FIELD THAT DAY, EITHER.

BECAUSE HE AND BIG AL RAN INTO EACH OTHER MORE THEN ONCE WHEN RUTH ~~W~~ WOULD HIT THE GAMBLING HALLS AND SPEAK EASYS, TOO. THE A FEW MONTHS AFTER ~~THE~~ DAY RUTH AUTOGRAPHED THE 2 BASEBALLS FOR HIM, →

(15)

BIG AL STRUTTED UP TO BABE when BABE AND A COUPLE OF "DAMES" he MET WERE SITTING AT A FANCY V.I.P. TYPE TABLE IN ONE OF AL CAPONE'S CHICAGO NIGHTCLUBS.

BIG AL WAS IN his ELEMENT NOW, PERHAPS he WAS TESTING RUTH AS he OFTEN "TESTED" people ALL his LIFE (SOMETIMES WITH MACHINEGUNS, TO BE SURE)

"HOW YA DOING, ~~BABE~~ BABE?"
(THE 'MR. RUTH' WAS GONE NOW, YOU'LL NOTICE)

"I SEE YOU BROUGHT TWO SWELL LOOKIN' LADY FREANDS INTO MY PLACE WITH YOU"
— HOW DID BABE RUTH RE-ACT?

WHY, AS he ALWAYS DID ALL his LIFE;
"Hi, There, AL! FINE LOOKIN' PLACE you HAVE HERE - Hey, HOW'D AL, JR. LIKE THAT BASEBALL I SIGNED FOR him?"

BING-BAM-BOOM;

BIG AL FOLDED FASTER THEN A CHEAP CHINESE CAMERA.

HE INSTANTLY PLOPPED RIGHT DOWN INTO THE SEAT NEXT TO RUTH AND, LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE, SUCCEEDED TO THE BAMBINO'S CHARMS. ^{EXACTLY} ~~JUST~~ LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE, he PRETTY MUCH IGNORED THE TWO GIRLS RUTH WAS WITH AND, JUST LIKE THEM, FOCUSED ONLY ON THE BAMBINO AND PROCEEDED TO TAKE IN AND EAT UP EVERYTHING he HAD TO SAY (AND RUTH ALWAYS HAD PLENTY TO SAY) - WHY, BIG AL CAPONE LOOKED ADORINGLY AT RUTH ^{JUST} LIKE THE TWO LADYS DID. he LOOKED LIKE A GIRL IN LOVE HIMSELF. →

(16)

BABE RUTH HAD THE POWER, THE CHARISMA, TO DO THAT TO PEOPLE. BY JAST BEING HIMSELF,

BIG AL ASKED BABE IF BABE THOUGHT HIS BELOVED CHICAGO CUBS HAD A REAL SHOT AT WINNING IT ALL NEXT YEAR. BABE ANSWERED HIM "DO YA WANT THE TRUTH, AL - OR DO YOU WANT ME TO BULLSHIT YOU?"

CAPONE TOLD HIM "THE TRUTH, BABE - I CAN TAKE IT - GIMME THE LOWDOWN!" AND BOY DID RUTH EVER.

GIVE BIG AL THE "LOWDOWN", THAT IS; WELL, AL, THE CUBBS HAVE A GOOD TEAM OF GREAT BALLPLAYERS - AND A SMART BUNCH OF COACHES, TOO - WE ALL KNOW THAT MUCH (AT WHICH POINT CAPONE EAGERLY NODDED HIS HEAD YES - HE WAS A BIG TIME GAMBLER WHO ALWAYS BET ON THE CUBS -)

"BUT LOOK, AL - DO THE CUBS HAVE A SHOT AT WINNING IT ALL? SURE; EVERYBODY ALWAYS HAS A CHANCE - BUT IF YOU'RE ASKING ME IF I PERSONALLY THINK THEY HAVE A SHOT NEXT YEAR OF GOING ALL THE WAY - NO, I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE A SNOWBALLS CHANCE IN HELL OF DOING THAT - OR THEY HAVE ABOUT AS MUCH A CHANCE OF WINNING THE WORLD SERIES AS THOSE IRISH GUYS HAVE OF GETTING UP AND WALKING OUT OF THAT GARAGE." EVERYBODY JAST STOOD + SAT THERE OPEN MOUTHED - THEY COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT RUTH JAST SAID TO AL CAPONE. →

who ("Those Irish Guys" in "That Garage" referred to the 7 members of Bugs Moran's Irish North^{side} Chicago Gang ~~and what~~ had all been gunned down, on Capone's-alleged-orders, in the ~~the~~ infamous "St. Valentine's Day Massacre of 1929")

Ruth just sat there with a slight smile on his face sipping his drink. Capone sat totally expressionless for what seemed like an eternity but was in reality only a couple of seconds or so.

Capone's ~~the~~ bodyguards, who followed him around everywhere he went - even stood outside the bathroom when Big Al used it - all tensed up; How would Big Al react (the two girls at the table seemed oblivious to what had just been said).

Then - suddenly - it happened!

Big Al started to giggle; then he just exploded in waves of uncontrollable laughter, joined in by Ruth, the bodyguards, even the girls and the patrons who couldn't hear what was said; all joined in the laughter, everybody just broke up laughing; Ruth had won the "duel" (such as it was) he had - again, out of the blue and on the spur of the moment - taken another risk and made a joke that was the social equivalent of hitting that famous called shot homerun right out of the ballpark. Capone found the joke →

SO UNEXPECTED, SO ~~VERY~~ DAMNEDLY HILARIOUS, SO "RUTHIAN" IN ITS DARING AND POWER, THAT HE LITERALLY COULDN'T STOP LAUGHING.

HE LAUGHED HIMSELF SICK. LITERALLY. FOR YEARS AFTER BIG AL WOULD REGAL HIS LISTENERS WITH THE STORY ABOUT HOW BABE RUTH HIMSELF HAD PLAYED A JOKE ON HIM. THEN BIG AL WOULD REPEAT THE JOKE TO ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN, TO HIS FAMILY, TO HIS HENCHMEN, TO HIS LAWYERS, TO COPS, TO OTHER PRISONERS ~~AND~~ (AFTER HE GOT SENT OFF FOR FEDERAL TAX EVASION FOR 10 YEARS)

BIG AL NEVER GOT TIRED OF REPEATING ~~THE JOKE~~ RUTH'S JOKE ABOUT HOW "THE CUBS HAD LESS CHANCE OF WINNING THEN THOSE DEAD GUYS ~~IN THAT GARAGE~~ HAD OF WALKING OUT OF THAT GARAGE." ... ONLY AL COULDN'T TELL A JOKE ~~AS WELL AS~~ AS WELL AS RUTH COULD.

AND HE'D GET MAD WHEN SOMEBODY DIDN'T "GET" THE JOKE WHEN HE TOLD IT.

AND - IN CHICAGO - GETTING BIG AL CAPONE MAD WAS - WELL - NOT A VERY GOOD THING. GET HIM MAD ENOUGH, OR LONG ENOUGH, OR AT THE WRONG TIME - NOT GOOD, AT ALL. IT COULD ~~BE~~ SHORTEN ONE'S LIFE EXPECTANCY CONSIDERABLY, LIKE, ~~BY TOMORROW~~ BY TOMORROW.

LIKE, BANG-BANG-BOOM,
"THAT FUNNY ENOUGH FOR YA?!?"
THAT KIND OF CONSIDERABLY.

BUT LET US NOT DIGRESS TOO MUCH →

(BIG AL AND COMPANY WILL GET ~~THE~~ THEIR OWN CHAPTERS AND BOOK AT A LATER DATE, I ASSURE THEM) BECAUSE THIS IS ABOUT BABE RUTH - THE FINAL SUBJECT OF THIS CHAPTER DEALING WITH "RUTH, COBB, YOGI, AND THE MICK". RUTH, UNLIKE CAPONE, ~~TOOK~~ TOOK THE CHANCE AND TOLD THE JOKE AND LAUGHED ALONG WITH BIG AL AND EVERYONE ELSE, THEN, AFTER HE GOT DRUNK LAUGHING & DRINKING WITH AL AND THE GIRLS AND FRIENDS, LEFT BIG AL'S PLACE THAT NIGHT AND ~~PROBABLY~~ PROMPTLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT (IT'S CATEGORIZED AS "ALCOHOLIC BLACKOUT")

PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE THAT NIGHT AND HEARD IT, HEARD HIS DARING JOKE TO AL CAPONE, WOULD TELL RUTH ABOUT IT MANY TIMES AFTERWARDS AND RUTH WOULD JUST LAUGH AND SAY "THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D SAY, ALRIGHT".

BECAUSE HE WAS ALWAYS HAVING PEOPLE COME UP TO HIM AND TELL HIM HOW HE SAID, OR DID, THIS OR THAT THING - THAT RUTH, WHO LIVED MOSTLY IN THE PRESENT - HAD ALREADY FORGOT ABOUT ALREADY.

RUTH, UNLIKE CAPONE, HAD ALREADY "MOVED ON" AS THEY SAY - TO OTHER THINGS. I RELATE THIS STORY ABOUT RUTH VIS A VIS AL CAPONE ~~A~~ TO ILLUSTRATE MY MAIN POINT THAT BABE RUTH REALLY LEFT AN IMPRESSION UPON ~~ON~~ PEOPLE, AND NOT JUST ON THE BASEBALL DIAMOND, BUT IN LIFE.

BABE RUTH - WHEN WITH BOSTON - WAS ACTUALLY A PITCHER.
 AND NOT JUST "A PITCHER" BUT A GREAT PITCHER OF WORLD CLASS PROPORTIONS.
 AS IN SEAVER / RYAN / GIBSON / CY YOUNG CLASS (THE BEST).
 HE SET WORLD SERIES PITCHING RECORDS WHILE PITCHING FOR BOSTON THAT WERE SO GOOD HIS PITCHING RECORDS STOOD UNTIL 1961 (MORE THEN 40 YEARS AFTER HE SET THEM).
 THIS WAS, AND IS, UNHEARD OF.
 AND - IN THOSE DAYS LONG BEFORE PITCHERS IN THE AMERICAN ~~LEAGUE~~ LEAGUE GAVE UP HAVING TO HIT FOR THE D.H. -
 RUTH WAS A GREAT PITCHER WHO WAS ALSO A GREAT HITTER!
 AGAIN, UNHEARD OF - TO THIS VERY DAY. HOW INHUMAN WAS THAT?
 IMAGINE IF THE GREATEST PITCHER IN BASEBALL TODAY ALSO HAPPENED TO BE THE GREATEST HITTER, TOO.
 THATS HOW STRANGE IT WAS.
 ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE. INHUMAN.
 EXCEPT FOR BABE RUTH.
 SO IN ORDER TO GET RUTHS BAT INTO THE LINEUP EVERY DAY - AND NOT JUST ON THOSE FEW DAYS WHEN HE WAS THE STARTING PITCHER - THE RED SOX CONVERTED HIM INTO AN EVERYDAY STARTING PLAYER.
 THIS IS HOW UNUSUAL + STRANGE + ONE OF A KIND RUTH WAS. THEN OR SENSE. FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, EVEN TY COBB LIKED HIM!



(21)

AND TY COBB HATED EVERYBODY!
EVERYBODY EXCEPT BABE RUTH.

DURING WORLD WAR TWO THE JAPANESE
SOLDIERS AND MARINES - THOSE OF THEM THAT
COULD SPEAK EVEN A LITTLE ENGLISH -
COULD THINK OF NO GREATER INSULT TO
SHOUT OUT ON OVER TO U.S. MARINES THEN
TO YELL OVER; "BABE RUTH SUCKS!"

BECAUSE TO THEM IT WAS LIKE INSULTING
AMERICAS EMPEROR OR AMERICAS GOD.
(WHEN RUTH HEARD ABOUT IT - HOW DID
HE REACT? HE LAUGHED.) ~~about~~

BABE RUTH WAS ARGUABLY THE FIRST
WORLDWIDE "CELEBRITY" OF THE 20th CENTURY.
WITHOUT A DOUBT THE FIRST POP CULTURE / SPORTS
CELEBRITY. EVEN PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T FOLLOW
SPORTS OR BASEBALL KNEW OF HIM AND WHO
HE WAS.

IN TODAY'S AGE OF ASSEMBLY LINE MASS
PRODUCED CELEBRITIES WHO ARE ALL CONVINCED
- AS ~~are~~ ^{are} THEIR FANS - THAT THEY ARE ALL "SPECIAL",
RUTH STANDS OUT LIKE A TOWERING GIANT
(OF YESTERDAY) IN A LAND OF CELEBRITY
MIDGETS (OF TODAY).

EVEN TODAY'S GREATEST AND BIGGEST CELEBRITY
SPORTS STARS CAN ONLY COMPETE IN HIS SPORTS
SHADOW, WHEN COMPARED.

TO THIS DAY HE STANDS ALONE IN A CLASS
ALL BY HIMSELF.

THIS IS JUST SIMPLY THE WAY IT IS,
AND IT IS WHAT IT IS.

A YEAR AFTER THE GREAT DEPRESSION HAD
HIT IN THE EARLY 1930'S A REPORTER FAMOUSLY
ASKED RUTH; "DON'T YOU THINK ITS →

STRANGE THAT YOU'RE MAKING MORE MONEY THAN EVEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES?"

RUTH'S INSTANT ANSWER?

"I HAD A BETTER YEAR THAN HE HAD."

PEOPLE LAUGHED, PEOPLE CRINGED, PRESIDENT HERBERT HOOVER, WHO HAD JUST LED AMERICA THROUGH A YEAR OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION, WAS NOT AMUSED. BUT THAT WAS CLASSIC RUTH.

JUST THE BABE BEING THE BABE, AS USUAL.

THIS IS WHY SO MANY OF "THE POWERS THAT BE" AMONG THE RICH AND THE "POWERFUL" WOULD SO OFTEN BE ON "PINS & NEEDLES" (VERY UNEASY) WHENEVER BABE RUTH WAS AROUND.

BECAUSE THE BABE WAS LIKELY (TO THEM) TO SAY ANYTHING. ("NOBODY CAN PREDICT WHAT THE MAN MIGHT SAY!") AT ANY TIME.

AND BE QUOTED BY THE PRESS WORLDWIDE. MADE UNEASY ~~WORDS~~ IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT, HIS VERY PRESENCE AT AN EVENT CAUSED MANY OF THEM TO SHIT THEIR OWN PANTS. PRESIDENTS INCLUDED.

SO WHAT REALLY DROVE BABE RUTH?

THERE WERE INDEED "ISSUES" (OF THE PERSONAL KIND) THAT DROVE HIM;

- A) his miserable childhood "drove" him to get on and up and away as far from it as he possibly could and to never ~~EVER STOP~~ look back;
- B) he was blessed with a VERY UNUSUAL genetic composition that combined UNUSUAL STRENGTH with UNUSUAL ACCORDINATION.



These were what "drove" Babe Ruth. The former ~~one~~ ('A') is well documented. The latter ('B') is NOT DOCUMENTED AT ALL;

SO I WILL TURN OUR ATTENTION TO IT AN AN ATTEMPT TO FURTHER EXPLAIN IT; THAT RUTH WAS - AS AN ATHLETE - UNUSUALLY STRONG AND ACCORDINATED; IS THIS NOT OBVIOUS TO THE OBSERVER?

BY THE SPORTS BOOK RECORDS THEMSELVES? ARE THEY NOT THE STATISTICS AND MEASUREMENT CRITERIA THAT SERVE AS THE PROOF THAT THIS WAS THE CASE? RUTH'S SPORTS RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. IT WAS WHAT IT WAS AND IS WHAT IT IS.

FOR PEOPLE NOT BORN BACK THEN, FOR ALL THOSE WHO WEREN'T EVEN ALIVE, THE STORY OF BABE RUTH SEEMS LIKE ONE OF THOSE ANCIENT GREEK MYTHS. LIKE THE STORY OF HERCULEES OR SOMETHING. PASSED DOWN BY PEOPLE FROM ~~THE~~

ANOTHER TIME, FROM AN EARLIER ERA.

SURELY - THESE IGNORANT PONDER -

THE LEGENDS HANDED DOWN ABOUT RUTH MUST BE EXAGGERATIONS, AT LEAST.

Oh, SURE - THE IGNORANT SAY - THERE WAS A REAL MAN NAMED BABE RUTH BACK IN THE 20th CENTURY - "I'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM - WHO HASN'T?"

THEY JUST CAN NOT BRING THEMSELVES TO BELIEVE, THEY ARE JUST SO HANICAPPED BY ALL THE IGNORANT INFORMATION THEY HAVE HAD CRAMMED INTO THEIR HEADS,



They JUST CAN'T "GET THEIR MINDS AROUND" THE FACT THAT REAL BEINGS SUCH AS RUTH ~~BEFORE~~ REALLY EXISTED, HERE, ON THIS EARTH, IN AMERICA OR ANYWHERE ELSE, NOT REALLY, NOT AS THE LEGENDS SAY, TO THEM IT JUST "DOESN'T MAKE SENSE" (BECAUSE THEY ~~BEFORE~~ BELIEVE UTTER NONSENSE IS "SENSE") TO THEM, BABE RUTH MUST HAVE BEEN A WALKING, TALKING, BREATHING, LIVING IDOL, BECAUSE "THE PEOPLE BACK THEN" WERE "BLINDED BY *IDOL WORSHIP" (BECAUSE THEY THEMSELVES ARE BLINDED TODAY ^{BY} CELEBRITY IDOL WORSHIP AND MASS MEDIA / HOLLYWOOD IDOL WORSHIP) SO MANY JUST DON'T "GET IT" ABOUT RUTH. THEY HAVE EYES BUT CAN NOT "SEE". THEY HAVE EARS BUT CAN NOT "HEAR". THEY HAVE BRAINS BUT CANNOT "THINK". TO THEM - TO THE IGNORANT - IT'S LIKE THIS, "BABE RUTH"; OH, I'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM; WASN'T HE A BASEBALL PLAYER LIKE, YEARS AGO?" (RIGHT EINSTEIN - HOW'D YOU GUESS?) OR, TO ASK AN EVEN MORE ACCOMPLISHED IGNORAMOUS - ACCOMPLISHED IN IGNORENCE, 'NATCH' -; "BABE RUTH"; "WASN'T HE THE GUY THEY NAMED THAT CANDY BAR AFTER? OR, LIKE, ~~IS~~ IS HE THE ONE WHO INVENTED IT OR SOMETHING?" (WELL, YES; OR SOMETHING)

THESE WERE ~~BE~~ REAL SUBJECTS, FOLKS, PEOPLE THAT WERE SELECTED AT RANDOM AND TESTED FOR THEIR RESPONSES ABOUT WHAT THEY KNEW, WHEN THE NAME 'BABE RUTH' WAS →

OFFERED, OF COURSE THEIR WERE SPORTS NUTS WHO, WHEN ASKED WHO WAS BABE RUTH, COULD RATTLE OFF, LIKE ~~SOME~~ ~~KINDS~~ UNTHINKING HUMAN ADDING MACHINES OR CALCULATORS, ALL KINDS OF ~~NUM~~ (ACCURATE) NUMBERS AND STATISTICS PERTAINING TO BABE RUTH.

JUST LIKE ALL THE REAL HONEST TO GOLLY SPORTS REPORTERS + "EXPERTS" CAN DO.

(THEIR EFFORT TO MEMORISE ALL SUCH STATISTICS OBVIOUSLY TAKES THEM TIME AND EFFORT, SO AT LEAST THAT IS ADMIRABLE) BUT TO WHAT END?

WHAT GOOD IS IT FOR THEM TO BE ABLE TO RECITE THAT BABE RUTH HIT

EXACTLY 714 LIFETIME HOMERUNS, IF

THEY DON'T REALLY KNOW WHO AND WHAT HE WAS ON THIS EARTH IN REALITY?

THEIR JUST HUMAN ADDING MACHINES, OTHERWISE.

MINDLESSLY RECITING NUMBERS AND STATISTICS

AS A KIND OF PARTY TRICK TO IMPRESS

THEIR FRIENDS, THEIR CO-WORKERS, OR

TO GET ON A CALL IN SPORTS RADIO

TALKSHOW AND RECITE ENOUGH NUMBERS

TO KEEP UP WITH THE EVEN MORE ACCOMPLISHED

NUMBERS DUMMY WHO IS THE ~~REAL~~ HOST.

THEY DON'T REALLY KNOW SHIT, TO BE BLUNT.

IF YOU COULD GATHER THEM ALL TOGETHER

AND FILL UP AN EMPTY SPORTS STADIUM

WITH ALL OF THEM (UNDER THE PRETENSE

OF AWARDING THE "MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE" AMONG

THEM AN ALL EXPENSE PAID VACATION + NEW CAR)

YOU WOULD ALL BE ABLE TO HEAR →

FOR YOURSELVES WHAT WORTHLESS
 IGNORANT MASS HYSTERIA AND MEANINGLESS
 NUMBERS CHATTERING INSANITY IT ALL
REALLY IS ANY REALLY AMOUNTS TO,
 THE REAL BABE RUTH, IF HE WERE
 TO ~~SEARCH~~ FIND HIMSELF ON A
 FIELD SURROUNDED BY SUCH A NUMBERS
 CHATTERING BABBLING CROWD OF
 MODERN SPORTS "FANS" AND "EXPERTS" —
 AS THEY ARE — WELL, THE BABE WOULD
 TAKE OFF OUT OF THAT PLACE RUNNING
 FASTER THEN JESSE OWENS RAN IN
 THAT 1936 BERLIN OLYMPICS AFTER
 ADOLF HITLER GAVE OWENS A GOOD
 STARE HE DIDN'T MUCH LIKE.

IN OTHER WORDS, FAST, VERY, VERY FAST.
 BABE RUTH WOULD TAKE ABOUT 5 SECONDS
 TO SIZE UP A BIG CROWD OF MODERN
 SPORTS NUMBER FANATICS SUCH AS
 THEM AND RUTH WOULD KNOW WITHIN
 THAT 5 SECONDS THAT HE WAS SURROUNDED
 BY 40 OR 50 THOUSAND HUMAN ROBOT
 LUNATICS AND BOLT FOR THE OUTFIELD
 FENCE, LEAP OVER IT, AND TAKE OFF
 RUNNING IN SEARCH OF THE NEAREST
 SPEAKEASY.

JUST HAVE TO SETTLE ~~FOR~~ FOR THE NEAREST BAR,
 WHERE HE WOULD ~~BE~~ LIKELY ~~TO~~ FIND
 FIND ANOTHER 1 OR 2 OR 3 OR MORE MODERN
 SPORTS NUMBERS FANATICS BLABBERING AWAY
YET MORE MEANINGLESS STATISTICS, →

MEANING RUTH WOULD HAVE TO KEEP GOING UNTILL HE COULD FIND HIMSELF SOME WINOS DRINKING SOMEWHERE IN THE WOODS, TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL AND FIND HIMSELF ANY PEACE. SO TO SPEAK.

THE SERIOUS POINT BEING THIS, THEY DON'T KNOW JACK SHIT ABOUT BABE RUTH THEY KNOW THE NAME, MANY OF THEM KNOW ABOUT THE NUMBERS, BUT THEY DON'T KNOW THE REAL TRUTH. ANYMORE THEN THAT VALLEY GIRL WHO THOUGHT 'BABE RUTH' WAS A CANDY BAR. "OR SOMETHING" WELL,

GOD KNOWS,
I KNOW,

AND NOW - HOPEFULLY - SOME OF MY READERS (WHO HAVE TAKEN THE TIME TO READ ALL THIS) NOW KNOW, ALSO, IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR BABE RUTH TO GET THIS ALL OUT. HIS STORY.

THE UNKNOWN AND NEVER READ PARTS OF IT - WHICH IS WHY I ~~WROTE ONLY~~

WROTE ONLY A FEW OF THE FIRST PAGES OF THIS CHAPTER OF MY BOOK - ~~OF~~ OF OUR BOOK - TO BERRA + COBB + MANTLE AND ALL THE ~~THESE~~ FOLLOWING PAGES TO BABE RUTH AND HIS STORY. NO DISRESPECT INTENDED, BUT THE BABE IS STILL LIKE THE 600 POUND GORRILA IN THE ROOM, STILL LIKE THE BIG NEEDY CHILD DEMANDING ATTENTION, AND HE ENDED UP - IN "DEATH" AS IN LIFE, MONOPOLISING THE WHOLE CHAPTER - OR MOST ALL OF IT - BY - HOW DO I PUT THIS? →

BY "OUT TALKING AND KIND OF
 "ELBOWING AWAY" COBB AND MICK
 IN ORDER TO DO SO. AND LET ME TELL
 MY READERS, IT HAS BEEN EXHAUSTING.
 FOR ME TO WRITE OUT THIS CHAPTER
 - BY HAND! - UNDER SUCH PRESSURES.
 YOGI BERRA, ON THE OTHER HAND,
 IS IN NEW YORK OR NEW JERSEY
 SOMEWHERE AND (BEING ALIVE STILL)
 HAS NO IDEA THAT I AM WRITING
 ABOUT HIM IN THIS BOOK. NONE. ZILCH.
 I HAD TO RELY - IN HIS PARTICULAR
 "NOT DEAD YET" CIRCUMSTANCE - I HAD
 TO RELY EXCLUSIVELY ON THE OTHER
 SOURCES; I OFFER THIS IN EXPLANATION
 KNOWING FULL WELL HOW CONVOLUTED
 THE WHOLE THING SOUNDS - OR COMES
 ACROSS, ON PAPER.

BECAUSE SUCH PHENOMINA AS THIS
~~IS~~ - TO PUT IT MILDLY - IS VERY, VERY,
 VERY HARD AND DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN
 TO PEOPLE - EVEN, SOMETIMES, TO MYSELF.
 I USUALLY JUST SAY - WHEN PEOPLE ASK -
 THAT "I'M WRITING A BOOK,"
 WHEN THEY ASK ABOUT "WHAT" I JUST SAY
 "I DON'T EXACTLY KNOW" THAT "THE THING
 JUST WRITES ITSELF" - ONE CAN IMAGINE
 THE TYPE OF LOOKS I GET, WHICH GETS
 TIRING - SO I NOW JUST USUALLY SAY MY
 "BOILERPLATE" EXPLANATION; IT IS WHAT IT IS.
 THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING; YOGI STYLE!

SO, IN CLOSING, LET ME JUST SAY THAT I DEDICATE
 THIS CHAPTER OF MY ~~THE~~ BOOK TO ETERNAL YANKEES RUTH, MANTLE, AND YOGI;
 TY COBB DOESN'T DESERVE ANY DEDICATION - TAKE THAT, COBB!

X X X X [THE END] X X X X