

Unwritten Letters

*Big League Correspondence That Might Have Been
But Never Was*

By R. W. HOEFER

Umpire William Byron, Esq.,
National League, U. S. A.

Friend Bill:—I trust you will permit me to offer you this apology for striking you on the chin. It was an outrageous thing for me to do, under any circumstances, but especially so in this instance, when you merely jokingly said that I had been run out of Baltimore.

I want you to know that I have always considered you the best umpire in the game, and especially like your quiet and modest demeanor on the field. Believe me, friend Will, that punch hurt me more than it did you

Affectionately yours,
JOHN J. McGRAW.

Mr. John J. McGraw,
Mgr. New York Ball Club.

Dear Friend John:—Pray forget that punching incident. What is one punch in an umpire's life, especially coming from such a dear friend as you. I appreciate your saying the blow hurt you more than it did me, and can quite believe it—though of course it didn't hurt you in the same place. I was extremely sorry to learn that you had been fined \$500 by President Tener because of certain alleged remarks, which I know a peaceful chap like you could never have uttered, and am using all my influence with the President to have the fine remitted.

As ever, your friend,
WM. BYRON.

National Commission,
Attention Mr. Garry Hermann.

Dear Mr. Hermann:—I feel that I must thank the National Commission, through you, for the fearless way in which you have decided the case of Pitcher Scott Perry, recently with my Athletics but since awarded to the Boston Braves.

It is true that Perry has been winning for me and that most people believe that morally he should remain the property of my club, but permit me to assure you that I do not share that opinion of the matter, in fact I believe such people are a bit mentally irresponsible.

I am glad to let Mr. Stallings have Perry, and know that Mr. Bancroft Johnson doesn't mind losing so good a twirler to the National League.

If Mr. Stallings desires any more of my stars, Messrs. Burns or Walker, for instance, I beg you to let me know as I am more than anxious to have your commission decide another case and discover some slight baseball technicality through which I can release them.

With best regards to George, I am,
Most sincerely yours,
CORNELIUS MCGILLICUDDY.

Mr. Edward Collins,
Chicago.

Dear Eddie:—I want to express my appreciation for the splendid race you ran in our World's Series, last fall, when you beat me from third base to the plate, incidentally just about deciding the series against us.

It is just such friendly little contests as this which are responsible for the good feeling of the Giants, even after losing the series. In fact I couldn't keep from laughing uproarously at the incident that evening and Mac and all the Giants chuckled and chatted over it until late that evening, saying that they would rather have you win the race than win any number of World's Series themselves.

With best regards from the Giants, and all say they hope you cho—I mean prosper.

Exquisitely yours,
HENRY ZIMMERMAN.

Manager of Any Ball Club,
Anywhere.

Dear Boss:—Kindly accept my resignation; this will come as a shock to you, I know, but I feel that I cannot draw a baseball salary under false pretenses any longer.

As you know, I have lost my last six games through wretched pitching, and although I have a two years' contract which protects me at a big salary, I wish to release the club from it.

As a matter of fact I have decided to go to work. I have always had a desire to experience work and believe this is a good time to discover what a job is like. If you know of any real hard position that I could secure with your influence, such as pitching hay instead of baseballs, or driving a truck instead of trying to drive out a hit, I wish you would let me know.

Yours truly,
A. LOSING PITCHER

Club Owners,
Everywhere.

Gentlemen:—I was delighted to learn that when the war tax of 10 per cent. was levied on amusement tickets, you increased the price of grandstand seats to 85 cents instead of to merely 83 cents, which would have covered the original cost of seat plus tax. We fans realize that you are thus saving us the trouble of dealing with pennies and being compelled to waste considerable time.

I have heard some coarse, cynical fans, who no doubt roost in the center field bleachers, say that you might have lowered the price of tickets a few cents and thus both covered the tax and obtained at the same time a ticket charge of 80 cents, in this way doing away with pennies. Or that you might allow the fans to save their stubs and collect the two excess cents for each stub at the end of the season, or that you might even have decided to donate the extra two cents we pay above the war tax, to some war fund, but of course their attitude is most illogical.

Very truly yours,
A. PHAN.

Any Player
Ballville.

Dear Mr. Player:—Your record this season has been so far in excess of your remuneration that I am voluntarily raising your salary, without waiting for you to speak to me of it or delaying it until the end of the season. Of course your present small salary has still another year to run, but I could not think of taking advantage of that fact.

Sincerely,
A.N. OWNER.