

The Hank Utley Baseball Collection: Description

Manuscript Collection Ten

The Hank Utley Collections consists of the research materials gathered by Robert Gerald “Hank” Utley for his book *The Independent Carolina Baseball League*, which he co-wrote with Scott Verner in 1999. The collection includes the original typed manuscript; written transcripts of the oral interviews with the baseball players or their family; statistical information regarding the players; photographs, negatives, newspaper clippings, biographies and oral interviews with participants in the league other than baseball players, and audio-cassettes containing the taped interviews with the players or their relatives.

The Independent Carolina Baseball League: A Brief History

During the height of the Great Depression, baseball thrived in small textile mills throughout the south, especially in the two Carolinas. Civic and business leaders saw an opportunity to promote the favorite pastime of its citizens, as well as make a profit for the owners of these teams. The owners formed the Independent Carolina Baseball League, hereafter known as ICBL, in 1936. Some of the more popular teams include the Kannapolis Towelers, the Concord Weavers, the Valdese Textiles, the Lenoir Finishers, Gastonia-High Point Spinners, the Hickory Rebels, the Landis Cardinals, the Charlotte Hornets, the Shelby Cee Cee's ; the Cooleemee's Cools, the Durham Bulls, the Mooresville Moors, the Lexington Colonials and the Salisbury Greyhounds.

The persistent efforts of the team owners to attract the best baseball players from both the professional and minor leagues did not go unnoticed by the other leagues. Judge William G. Bramham, the President of the National Association of Professional Baseball League, coined the phrase “Outlaw League” to describe the ICBL. The Judge incurred the hatred of owners and players alike as he began blacklisting the ICBL players from other baseball leagues. Unlike most professional leagues, the ICBL did not fully honor other professional ball clubs' standard contracts that tied a player to the team he signed with as long as he played ball. Meaning team owners in North Carolina were not above signing players who already had professional baseball contracts. The lure of off-season jobs in the textile mills by the owners was too great for some players whose professional salaries were usually far less than the ICBL package.

The league created enormous excitement in the mill towns and team loyalties ran high. Numerous stories from some of baseball's greatest players emerged during the leagues brief history. The lack of a financial base and the decline of the number of teams in the league led to its demise in 1938. Most of the players joined teams with the North Carolina Sate League, a Class “D” baseball team. However, their stories live on in the pages of Utley's research, which will enable scholars to obtain a better knowledge of the sport of baseball in the 1930s and the impact the game had in small towns in North Carolina.

Robert Gerald “Hank” Utley Biography

Robert Gerald “Hank” Utley was born March 22, 1924 in Concord, North Carolina. He was the oldest son of Jack and Ruby Utley. As a young boy, Hank was a fan of Hank Greenberg, the famed first baseman with the Detroit Tigers. Greenberg’s personal integrity influenced the young Utley, as well as his baseball talents. Soon Gerald became known as Hank among his friends and family. Utley graduated from Concord High School where he played on two championship baseball teams.

Like so many young men in the early 1940s, Hank Utley served his country during World War II with the US army Air Corp as a 2nd Lieutenant Bombardier on a B-29. After his discharge, in 1946, Utley enrolled at North Carolina State University. While at State, Utley played baseball, receiving the first baseball scholarship in 1946. A third baseman on the North Carolina State Red Terrors, Hank Utley was on the 1946 championship baseball team, the first for State in eighteen years. In 1950, Utley graduated from North Carolina State with a BS in Textiles.

Hank Utley married Jean Ritchie in 1950 and they have two children, Linda and Robert, as well as five grandchildren. He is a retired textile engineer and served ten years as the Executive Director of the Cabarrus County Boys and Girls Club.

A baseball enthusiast and historian, Utley is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). He is nationally recognized for his collection of Hank Greenberg photographs and memorabilia, as well as his research regarding textile mill baseball and the Independent Carolina League (1936-1938). It is from this research that Utley co-wrote with Scott Verner, *The Independent Carolina Baseball League, 1936-1938, Baseball Outlaws* by McFarland Press in 1999.

The materials in this collection were gathered by Hank Utley in use for the book about the notorious “Outlaw” baseball league that formed in the late 1930s. The league received the dubious honor from the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, who refused to recognize the Independent Carolina League. Hank Utley continues to live in Concord. He frequently lectures on baseball history, especially the Outlaw League.

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The Collection - A Brief Annotation

Series 1

This part of the collection contains the original manuscript and a copy of the book *The Independent Carolina Baseball League* by Hank Utley and Scott Verner. In addition, there are press clippings covering the publication of the book and information about the authors, as well as an abstract of the book that Utley and Verner presented at the 59th Anniversary of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York on June 12, 1998.

Series 2

The interview and biographies of the players are the heart of this collection and are contained in Series 2. Many of the pieces are in Utley's handwritten transcripts of the oral interviews he conducted with the players or relatives of the players. This section features extensive research on the part of Mr. Utley.

Series 3

Information regarding owners and supporters of the teams.

Series 4

Umpire and Managers information

Series 5

Baseball statistics

Series 6

Miscellaneous includes programs and baseball magazines.

Series 7

Photographs.

Series 8

Oral interviews on cassettes.

Series 9

Negatives of baseball players and teams.

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Series 1: Box1

Folder 1

Original manuscript for *The Independent Carolina Baseball League, 1936-1938*. This is prior to editing and the working title was *Diamond Outlaws: The Independent Carolina Baseball League, 1936-1938*.

Folder 2

Published edition of *The Independent Carolina Baseball League* by McFarland Press.

Folder 3

Press releases from various publications concerning release of *The Independent Carolina Baseball League*.

Folder 4

Abstract of *The Independent Carolina Baseball League* submitted by Utley and Verner for the Baseball Hall of Fame's Symposium on Baseball and American Culture on June 12, 1998. This symposium was held on the 59th Anniversary of the Baseball Hall of Fame's opening.

Series 2: Box 2

Folder 1

Tracey Hitchner (July 4, 1909 to May 22, 1999). Handwritten transcript of an interview between Tracey Hitchner (a.k.a. John Davis), a pitcher from Hickory and Charles Deal of the *Hickory News*. It provides a history of Hitchner's baseball career at the end of 1936 with Albany and the International League and his brief time with the Hickory team in the ICBL. He describes how he was suspended in 1937 from professional baseball, but eventually reinstated, with the assistance of the New York Giants in 1947. Also included are newspaper articles regarding Hitchner's career in Albany and information about Hitchner after his retirement from baseball.

Folder 2

George Barley (b.1914) interview with Hank Utley on May 31, 1995 in Southern Pines, North Carolina Originally from Long Island, New York, Barley's semiprofessional career began in high school when he played with the Bushwicks. Barley, who was a pitcher, played such teams as the Kansas City Monarchs, the Cuban All Stars and the New York Black Yankees. Barley was pitching against the likes of Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson before he was 18 years old. During his sophomore year in high school (c. 1931), Paul Krichell of the New York Yankees signed a deal with Barely, which enabled the latter to attend Duke University and then with the Yankees following graduation. Barley played for Duke University and a number of minor league teams in North Carolina during the summer months. In 1935, George Allan, from the Kannapolis Towlers, recruited Barely to play for him, which he did. Barley describes the players and the games. The interview concludes with his recollection of his professional career with the New York Yankees organization.

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Series 2 Box 2

Folder 3

Lawrence Columbus "Crash" Davis (July 14, 1919 – August 31, 2001). Interview took place on 20 August 1997 with Hank Utley. Davis was born in Canon, Georgia and his family moved to Gastonia at the age of 4. He played shortstop from an early age and with a number of different leagues in the summer, including the ICBL and the New England League. During this time, he spent the winter months at Duke University where he played under Coach Jack Combs. Following graduation in 1940, Davis signed with Connie Mack's Philadelphia A's where he mostly played second base. He played in the majors until he was drafted in 1942. Oddly enough, Davis spent his war years playing ball with Don DiMaggio, PeeWee Reese, Eddie Robinson and Hugh Casey. After the war, Davis came back to North Carolina and signed with the Durham Bulls. He played with the Durham team until 1952, returned to Gastonia and taught high school. Eventually, Davis became an executive with Burlington Industries. Today Davis is retired and lives in Greensboro, North Carolina. File includes an oral interview, newspaper clippings, and Davis' baseball statistics.

Folder 4

Ulmont Wesley Baker (November 11, 1908 to December 25, 1997) was born in Portsmouth, Kentucky and grew up in Portsmouth, Ohio. Baker's baseball career lasted from 1928 to 1942. He played in a number of semi-pro and professional baseball leagues, as well as in the ICBL. Drafted in 1942, Baker never played pro-ball again and moved to Swannanoa, North Carolina. File includes type transcript of interview that took place in Swannanoa on June 24, 1991 and baseball statistics for Baker.

Folder 5

Norman Small (November 6, 1913 – December 25, 1995) was born in Glen Cove, New York. His career began with one of the St. Louis Cardinals farm teams in Martinsville, Virginia. Small began his career as a pitcher, but a shoulder injury early in his career sent him to the outfield; however, his reputation as a power hitter made him valuable. Within one month in 1936, Small moved from this league to the semi-professional Carolina Textile League, then to the New York-Pennsylvania professional league to the Mooresville Moors in the ICBL. Small's batting average was so great that he joined the Durham Bulls in 1937. He had planned to marry his fiancée, Sara Sherrill (December 9, 1919 - September 19, 1994) in Mooresville, but the move to Durham was so quick the couple married August 29, 1937 at home plate in the Durham Athletic park. For most young ball players living in the south during the 1930s, it was more lucrative to stay in semi-professional ball and work in the textile mills during the winter. Small remained with North Carolina teams even after serving in the Army during World War II. He eventually retired from baseball in the fifties. Today Norman and Sara Small live in Mooresville, North Carolina. The folder contains newspaper articles, magazine articles, two oral histories, and a history of the Durham Bulls, baseball statistics, Small's and copies of correspondence between Small and a variety of baseball teams.

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Box 2 Series 2

Folder 6

Edwin "Cy" Williams played for the St. Louis Cardinals and a number of their farm teams, as well as in the Canadian-American League. Eventually Williams became a scout for the Detroit Tigers. File contains summary of oral interview, photocopy of newspaper article and letter.

Folder 7

William Houston "Bill" Carrier was born in Stone Gap, Virginia in 1907. He was an outfielder who played with the Charlotte Hornets and later with the ICBL. Carrier played for a number of teams until 1941. He died in 1974. Folder contains oral interview with wife Edna Carrier, statistics.

Folder 8

Lee Ravon "Buck" Ross (February 2, 1915 to November 19, 1978) was from Norwood, North Carolina in Stanley County. He pitched for semi-professional ball teams in the ICBL in such towns as Salisbury, Valdese and Kannapolis from 1933 to 1935.

In 1936, Ross signed with the Philadelphia Athletics. In 1941, he was traded to the Chicago White Sox and later went to the Milwaukee Brewers in 1946. One year later, Ross signed with the Toledo Mud Hens, and he hung his glove up at the end of the 1948 season. Folder contains newspaper articles and interviews with Ross' wife Mary Boyd Hawkins Ross and their son Michael, who live in Albemarle, North Carolina.

Folder 9

Frederick Marvin "Lefty" Archer (March 7, 1910 to October 31, 1981) was born in Johnson City, Tennessee. His career started in the industrial leagues in Tennessee and he played for teams in Kannapolis and Landis, North Carolina. He pitched for the Philadelphia Athletics under the legendary Connie Mack from 1935 to 1937. Traded to the Cleveland Indians, Archer spent two years with the Indians top farm team in Buffalo. By 1940, he was traded to New Orleans, but decided to resign from baseball and moved back to North Carolina. File contains copies of two newspaper articles.

Folder 10

James Virgil "Coddle Creek" Taylor (July 2, 1910 – September 15, 1970) was born in Coddle Creek, a community in northwest Cabarrus County. He played in the ICBL in Landis from 1936-1938. After the league disbanded, Taylor played in the Class "D" Coastal Carolina League. He was active in the sport and coached the Kannapolis American Legion Baseball Team to the state finals. Taylor died of cancer in 1970. File contains notes of oral interview with Taylor's wife, Winnie Taylor Watkins of Kannapolis, in January 31, 1992. Correspondence between Lenoir Rhyne College and the Cincinnati Reds Ball Club, including an unsigned copy of a baseball contract, photocopy of a newspaper clipping and the author's notes.

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Box 2 Series 2

Folder 11

Houston Hines (1930 of Union, South Carolina began his professional career pitching baseball in 1930 with the Greenville (SC) Spinners. During tryouts with Jersey City, Hines briefly signed with the Yankees Farm Team in 1931 with the stipulation that he live in the south so he could have a winter job in the mills. Hines asked to be released when it became evident that he would have to move to Jersey City. He returned to Woodruff, South Carolina and played for a variety mill teams in both North and South Carolina. By 1934, Hines moved to Kannapolis at the invitation of Henry Whitley. Working in the mill shop in the winter, he had the opportunity to play ball and did so with a number of "all-star teams. File contains information regarding the players, and the Gastonia textile strike, as well as comments about his own pitching style. Also contains transcript of one interview with Hines in Kannapolis on February 21, 1992, four newspaper articles and one photocopy of correspondence from W.W. Bonds to Houston Hines.

Box 2 Series 2 Folder 12

Marvin Watts (June 14, 1905 to August 11, 1997) was from Watts Cross Roads in Cabarrus County. He attended Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute from 1921 to 1925, but left school to pursue a pitching career in baseball. By 1926, Watts played in a number of states, but returned to North Carolina where he joined his brother Herman "Ginger" Watts, who was a catcher, with the Charlotte hornets from 1927 to 1934. Marvin Watts played in the ICBL as well with the Concord Weavers, the Kannapolis Towelers, and in Triple "A" ball, just to name a few. Hank Utley interviewed Watts on January 14, 1991. The transcript reveals many details about the players, teams and managers in baseball during the 1920s and the 1930s. Also contains statistics, obituaries, and a newspaper article regarding Marvin Watts' brother, Ginger.

Box 2 Series 2 Folder 13

Mack Arnette (September 21, 1902 to December 15, 1997) was born in Wagram, North Carolina. He was a 2nd baseman while enrolled in at Wake Forest University between 1923 and 1924. Eventually Arnette played with a variety of other teams in the SALLY League beginning in 1925. He also played shortstop and third base. He was with the Valdese team until it folded in 1939. He eventually became a manager of a number of semi-professional baseball teams. File contains Utley's notes from an interview that took place July 18, 1991 in Asheville, North Carolina as well as Arnette's statistics.

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Box 2 Series 2

Folder 14

Glenn Allen “Razzy” Miller (November 7, 1909 to May 13, 1981) was born in Rockwell, North Carolina. A 1930 graduate of Lenoir Rhyne College, he played baseball, football and basketball. After graduation, he taught in the Landis, North Carolina school system. Miller played and coached baseball on the side. He decided to enter the ministry and graduated from Lutheran Seminary in June of 1934 and served two parishes, while still playing centerfield in semi-professional baseball. Two years later, Miller made the decision to leave the ministry and join the Kannapolis Towelers in 1936. The Towelers were part of the ICBL. Miller worked at Cannon Mills in Kannapolis, North Carolina during the off-season. The ICBL folded in 1938 and Miller signed to play with a professional ball club, the Martinsville, Virginia Manufacturers, which was a Class D Bi-State League. Miller began teaching again in Lexington, North Carolina. He played ball with a number of Class “D” teams, while teaching until 1943 when he became a principal. During that same year, Miller decided to give teaching and return to the ministry. File contains notes from extensive notes telephone interviews between Hank Utley and Miller’s son, the Reverend Hollis Miller of Concord and Elaine Hegler Honeycutt on August 1, 1999. Also included a biography from Calvary Lutheran Church: a History, newspaper articles a memorial article and baseball statistics.

Folder 15

Charles M. “Bud” Shaney (January 9, 1900 to May 1982) was born in New Albany, Indiana. After serving in World War I, Shaney left the service in 1920 and signed with a Milwaukee team in the American Baseball Association that sent him to Florida. While playing in Florida, Shaney contracted malaria and was shipped off to Asheville, North Carolina, where he began his career as a legendary pitcher. Shaney eventually joined the Class “B” Piedmont League in 1931 and remained with the Charlotte Hornets until the team left the Piedmont League and joined the ICBL. Folder contains transcripts of interview between Utley and Mrs. Charles Shaney on July 18, 1991 in Horseshoe, North Carolina; photocopies of a 1936 *Observer* with clippings about Shaney; and one article by Scott Verner and includes Shaney’s statistics from 1922 to 1955.

Folder 16

Richard “Dick” Broadus Culler (January 25, 1915 to June 16, 1965) was born in High Point, North Carolina. A gifted athlete, Culler was a shortstop for Cooleemee in 1935 and played with the Concord team as part of the ICBL, even after signing with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1936. Culler played in a variety of leagues and during the 1940s; he played with the Boston Braves. Eventually, Culler retired from baseball in the 1950s. He ran a sporting good business in High Point from 1946 until his death in 1964. This extensive file contains notes about his professional baseball career, newspaper clippings, obituaries, a cartoon featuring Culler, statistics, correspondence from the 1950s and a baseball contract between Culler and the Jersey City Ball Club. (Many of these items were copied from the Culler’s family scrapbook.)

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Box 3 Series 2

Folder 17

William R. "Bill" Steinecke, a.k.a. Bill Selph (February 7, 1907 to July 20, 1986) was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. He began his professional baseball career playing catcher in 1925 with the Waterloo, Iowa Hawks before playing with a number of Class "D" baseball teams throughout the United States. In 1935, he played with the Northeast Florida League that was also known as the North Florida League. He played with the ICBL during the 1937 and 1938 seasons under the name of Bill "Selpha." Steinecke had an extensive career in baseball as a catcher, an outfielder and as a manager. One of three files-this one contains excerpts from newspaper accounts from 1936, statistics, photocopies of contract, record in National Baseball Hall of Fame, photocopies from the 1938 *Concord Tribune*, excerpts from *A False Spring* by Pat Jordan, and obituaries.

Folder 18

William R. "Bill" Steinecke a.k.a. Bill Selph (February 7, 1907 to July 20, 1986) Folder contains copies of newspaper articles describing Steinecke's suspension from organized baseball while managing the Florida Tars and his career with the Concord Weavers beginning in 1937. Also includes correspondence.

Folder 19

William R. "Bill" Steinecke, a.k.a. Bill Selph (February 7, 1907 to July 20, 1986) Folder contains numerous photocopies of newspaper reports documenting Steinecke's career in 1935 and local reports from January-February that appeared in the *Concord Tribune*.

Folder 20

William [?] Carl Doyle (July 30, 1912 to September 4, 1951) was from Verdala, Kentucky. His claim to fame in the ICBL is he played for twenty-seven days with the Concord Weavers while signed to the Philadelphia Athletics. While on his way to Philadelphia to try out for the Athletics, several Concord textile executives invited him to sign with the Weavers when Doyle's train stopped in Hickory. Less than a month later, one of the scouts for the Athletics recognized Doyle as their long-lost pitcher. In order to get Doyle's release from Concord; although he already was the "A's," Connie Mack sent two pitchers down from Philadelphia to finish out the Weaver's season. File contains account of Doyle's alleged kidnapping and numerous photocopies of Doyle's brief career in Concord.

Folder 21

Arthur "Art" Buren Hord (February 25, 1906 to April 9, 1953) was from Kings Mountain, North Carolina. He began his career in 1927 when he moved to Concord to play in the ICBL with the Weavers. Hord went to Wake Forest University before beginning his professional baseball career as a second baseman, playing with a number of leagues throughout the country before retiring in 1935. Folder contains photocopies of obituaries, newspaper articles from the 1930s, statistics and Hank Utley's notes.

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Box 3 Series 2

Folder 22

Robert Elwood Hipps (September 2, 1904 to January 31, 1980) was born in Canton, North Carolina. A 1926 graduate of Furman University, Hipps signed with the Philadelphia Athletics and began playing with their farm team, the Hartford Senators in 1927. Throughout the 1920s, Hipps played second base and became a power hitter for different North Carolina professional clubs. In 1935, he left organized professional baseball and joined the ICBL, which eventually became the Carolina Independent League. Hipps served double duty as both second baseman and manager until 1938. He remained active in baseball by scouting for teams and other duties, while working for Central Motor Lines. File contains four-page typed biography, photocopies of newspaper articles, chronology of Hipps' career, laser prints, from a Furman University annual and other materials.

Folder 23

Willie Eleanor Duke (July 5, 1909 to January 31, 1993) was born in Franklinton, North Carolina and graduated from North Carolina State University in 1933. He was an outfielder with a number of teams in different leagues from 1934 to 1950, but his professional baseball career actually began in Concord in 1929. By the 1940s, he was managing teams as well. Duke was a well-known baseball enthusiast in Raleigh until his death in 1993. Folder contains obituaries, newspaper accounts, Duke's statistics, Utley's notes from the Duke interview, as well as Duke's handwritten accounts of his baseball career.

Folder 24

Ken Chitwood (vital information not available) apparently played with the ICBL and later tried to become reinstated with the professional league. Folder contains photocopy of a *Concord Tribune* article that appeared March 9, 1939. The article describes the attempts of Chitwood to get reinstated by Judge W.G. Bramham, President of the National Association Professional Baseball in Durham, North Carolina. Other articles are also included in folder.

Folder 25

Frank Hopkins (vital information not available) was from Watts Cross Road, a community in northeast Cabarrus County. He played first base with the Landis team in 1935 and the Kannapolis Towelers in the ICBL. The file contains transcripts of Hopkins interview with Utley that took place on January 14, 1991. Hopkins describes a number of players' baseball incidents and a description of his own career.

Folder 26

Richard Grey Clarke, Sr. (September 26, 1912 to November 23, 1993) was born in Fulton Alabama. He played with the St. Louis Cardinals farm team in Houston, Texas before moving to Asheville with the Piedmont League. In 1936, Clarke was a third baseman for the Kannapolis Towelers. The next year he played in the SALLY League in Macon. Eventually Clarke went onto play with the Chicago White Sox in 1944. File contains incomplete transcript that took place on July 12, 1991 between Clarke and Hank Utley, as well as two obituaries.

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Folder 27

Walter French (July 12, 1899-May 1984) An All-American halfback at West Point, French left school in 1922 to play football with the Rochester Jeffersons of the NFL. He tried baseball the next year, and spent six seasons as a substitute outfielder and pinch hitter/runner with the Philadelphia Athletics. In 1925, he played both football (Pottsville Maroons) and baseball at the major league level. French later became a left fielder with the Concord Weavers. Folder contains news articles, career statistics, and handwritten biographies.

Folder 28

Edwin Collins "Alabama" Pitts (1911 to June 7, 1941) began his baseball career while in Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, New York. Pitts was lucky in a way because Warden Lewis E. Lawes was an innovator in prison reform. He believed in using baseball and other sports to build character and "reform" the inmates. When Pitts, a power hitter, left Sing Sing, he immediately signed a professional baseball contract. A national controversy began over Pitts' eligibility because of his prison stint. Eventually he was allowed to sign and play with the Albany Senators. Pitts also played football. Unfortunately, Pitts struggled against the fast action of the professional baseball pitchers. After moving to North Carolina, he played outfield in the Piedmont League in Charlotte and later in the ICBL. Pitts was living and working in a spinning mill in Valdese at the time of his death in 1941. (He died from stab wounds received in an altercation during a dance in Valdese.) Folder contains photocopied, contemporary accounts of Pitts' attempt to enter professional baseball. As well as several articles, Utley's handwritten biographical draft and excerpts from Lewis E. Lawes book, *20,000 Years in Sing Sing*, which was written prior to Pitts' arrival in Sing Sing.

Folder 29

Tracy Hart (February 29, 1910 to January 6, 1985) was a pitcher with the Kannapolis Towelers. File includes article from the 1940 *Concord Tribune* when Hart received his reinstatement into professional baseball.

Folder 30

Virgil "Fire" Trucks (b. 1919). File contains *Concord Tribune* article describing the one game that Trucks played with the Concord Weavers before returning to the semi-professional team that owned his contract. Trucks pitched for five major league teams, including the New York Yankees before retiring in 1959.

Folder 31

Herman Holshouser (January 20, 1907 – July 27, 1994) was born in Rockwell, North Carolina. He was the son of George T. and Lizzie Miller Holshouser. Holshouser played professional baseball for nine years with the St. Louis Browns.

Folder 32

Vincent "Vince" David Barton (February 2, 1908 to September 13, 1973) was born in Edmonton, Alberta and played outfielder with Baltimore and the Chicago Clubs until signing with the Kannapolis Towelers. Barton also played for the Hickory Rebels.

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Box 4 Series 2

Folder 33

William "Fred" Chapman (July 17, 1916-March 27, 1997) was born in Liberty, South Carolina. He was the son of Ira T. Chapman, Sr. and Nancy Wham Chapman. A gifted baseball player from his childhood, Chapman attended Wingate College for one year before signing with the Kannapolis Towlers as a shortstop during the 1934 and 1935 seasons. He played with the Washington Senators' farm team in Albany, New York until 1939 when he signed with Toronto in 1941. His professional career ended with the war. However, he did return to semi-professional baseball. He eventually went to work for Cannon Mills.

Folder 34

James C. Lyle (July 24, 1900-October 10, 1977) pitched for the 1936 Valdese Textiles.

Box 4 Series 3

Folder 1

Clement Manley Llewellyn (August 1, 1895 to November 27, 1969) was born in Dobson, North Carolina. He enrolled at UNC Chapel Hill in 1918 and was a valued player of the school's baseball team. Llewellyn's college career indicates twenty-three wins and two losses. This caught the eyes of baseball scouts. He signed with the New York Yankees, and joined the ball club in 1922 following graduation. Llewellyn's professional career with the Yankees was short-lived due to an injury. By 1924, he signed with the Greenville Spinners. Two years later, the Spinners released Llewellyn, and he returned to North Carolina. In 1926, Llewellyn signed with the Kannapolis Towlers and opened a law practice in Concord. From 1927 to 1950, Llewellyn played an active role in the development of baseball, the ICBL and other professional baseball leagues. File contains good account of the 1927 Championship game that ended in a riot because of rain. Also information regarding Art Hord (see Box 3 Series 2 Folder 21), handwritten biographies of Llewellyn by Utley, photocopies from the UNC Chapel Hill 1922 *Yackety Yack* (the school annual), as well as newspaper accounts and statistics of Llewellyn's career.

Folder 2

J. Eris Cassell was the principal of Concord High School and secretary-treasurer of the Concord Weavers.

Folder 3

Aubrey Hoover (d. September 2, 1936) was the founder of Hoover Hosiery mill and the 1935 President of the Concord Weavers ball club. He is credited with signing Carol Doyle who was on his way to play for the Philadelphia Athletics. Doyle played with the Weavers for one month before the Athletics located their missing pitcher. Contains biography of Hoover and newspaper accounts of his death.

Folder 4

William Havanna "Penny" Brown (March 11, 1916 to April 7, 1996) was a local boxer and worked concessions at baseball games during the 1930s. He was a fixture to many at the games. File contains a brief article, a poem, and a newspaper article from the *Concord Tribune*.

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Box 4 Series 3

Folder 5

William Henry "Mr. Baseball" Whitley (June 4, 1890 to December 23, 1979) was a civic leader in Kannapolis, North Carolina and owner of the Whitley Funeral Home. From 1923 to 1938, Whitley was the President of the Kannapolis baseball team. File includes handwritten biography, newspaper articles, and copies of Whitley's notes regarding the player's statistics.

Folder 6

Utley's handwritten notes of Umpire, Bud Shuler's All-Star selection of 1935.

Folder 7

Biography of LC Harmon, Cannon Mill Executive who was a great supporter of the baseball league.

Box 4 Series 4

Box 4 Series 4 Folder 1

Includes information regarding local baseball umpires from a *Charlotte Observer* article published June 7, 1936, as well as humorous poems about umpires.

Box 4 Series 5 Statistics

Box 6 Series 5

Folder 1

Baseball statistics for a number of ICBL ball players.

Folder 2

Complete statistics for the ICBL, 1935-1938.

Box 5: Series 8 Taped Interviews

Interview between Hank Utley and baseball player, Tracy Hitchner. (n.d.)

Interview between Hank Utley and baseball player, Frank Hopkins. (January 14, 1991)

Interview between Hank Utley and baseball player, Marv Watts. January 14, 1991)

Interview between Hank Utley and baseball players, Bill Stewart and Fred Chapman.
(March 6, 1991)

Interview between Hank Utley and baseball players, Bobo Boger and Hollis Miller.
(March 7, 1991)

Interview between Hank Utley and baseball player, Rube Wilson. (June 17, 1991)

Interview between Hank Utley and baseball player, Ulmont Baker. (June 24, 1991)

Interview between Hank Utley and baseball player, D. Ray McEachern and wife Cora.
(October 18, 1991)

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Box 5: Series 8 Taped Interviews

Interview between Hank Utley and Winnie Taylor. (January 31, 1992)

Interview between Hank Utley and Bill Whitley, son of Henry Whitley, Mr. Baseball in Kannapolis. (April 27, 1992)

Interview between Hank Utley and Mrs. Buck Ross. (June 30, 1992)

Interview between Hank Utley and the Reverend Fred Archer, son of Fred "Lefty" Archer. (January 1, 1994)

Interview between Hank Utley and baseball player, George Barley. (May 31, 1995)

Interview between Hank Utley and baseball player, Crash Davis. (August 20, 1997) two tapes.

Interview between Hank Utley and newspaper writer, John Derr. (October 29, 1999)

Interview between Hank Utley and baseball player Mack Arnette (July 18, 1991) in Asheville, North Carolina (one tape).

Box 6 Series 6

Folder 1

Photocopy of 1939 baseball program which marks the first year the teams of the former ICBL joined the North Carolina State Class "D" League.

Folder 2

Research articles regarding North Carolina Baseball History used by Utley for background.

Folder 3

Newspaper article, handwritten transcription describing the "rain riot" that occurred in 1927 during a game between Kannapolis and Concord. Also includes other newspaper articles.

Folder 4

Information printed from the Website created by Central Piedmont Community College during the 8th Annual CPCC Literary Festival in 2000.

Folder 5

Anecdotal story involving Murray Greeson, Wake Forest University baseball coach in 1929.

Folder 6

The *Independent Tribune* ran the following reprint on May 31, 1998. The photocopied article originally appeared in the *Kannapolis Tribune* on May 14, 1937. The piece describes the violent reaction of the crowd when the game between the Kannapolis Towlers and the Concord Weavers was called on account of rain.

Folder 7

Ragtime Sports Magazine containing articles on Hank Greenburg, the famous Detroit Tiger first baseman and the greatest right hand hitter of his time. Robert Gerald Utley was such a fan of Hank Greenburg that his friends started calling him Hank and the nickname stuck.

Folder 8

Original scorecard of the 1938 Concord Weavers.

The Hank Utley Baseball Collection: Description

Manuscript Collection Ten

Box 6 Series 6

Folder 9

Photocopy of scorecard of April 26th, 1940.

Folder 10

A collection of baseball cards of the Cooleemee Cools with photographs of former baseball players both black and white, who played for the Cools during the 1940s. These are reproductions published by the Cooleemee Historical Association.

Folder 11

Newspaper clippings from various years of the Hickory baseball team. All clippings are from the mid-to-late 1930s.

Folder 12

Handwritten drafts for the book.

Folder 13

Newspaper clippings from the 1990s describing the baseball league.

Folder 14

Roster for Kannapolis Baseball team and photocopies of autographs of some of the baseball players.

Folder 15

Clippings of the Valdese baseball team and a history of the town.

Folder 16

Reference sources.

Folder 17

Newspaper clippings used for the book.

Folder 18

Richard "Atley" Donald (August 19, 1910- October 20, 1992) File contains correspondence from Donald seeking employment with the Concord Team, while playing ball in Norfolk for one of the Yankees' farm teams. He was advised to remain with the Yankee organization, which he did so until 1945. He is well remembered as a strong pitcher.

Folder 19

Clippings for the Concord Weaver baseball team from various years.

Folder 20

Dates and notes from taped interview with John Derr. Also includes written permission to use interview for book.

The Hank Utley Baseball Collection: Description

Manuscript Collection Ten

Box 7: Series 7: Photographs

Folder 1

Photographs of the 1929 and the 1935 Concord Weavers Baseball Teams. Players are identified. Three 8 x 10 in Black and white.

Folder 2

Photographs of the 1926, 1935, 1936, 1937 Kannapolis Baseball Teams. Players are identified. Includes four 8 x 10 black and whites and one 5 x 7 photograph from the *Kannapolis Independent* May 14, 1937.

Folder 3

Photographs of Judge Manley Llewellyn during his baseball career with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the New York Yankees, as well as a photograph of the Judge in later years. **(Restrictions of the use of the 5 x 7 featuring the UNC Baseball team of 1922. This image is the property of the North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.)**

Folder 4

Photographs of Buck Ross, including photographs with his wife and family, as promotional shots when Ross played with the Philadelphia Athletics (1936) and the Chicago White Sox (1942) Five 5 x 7 photographs.

Folder 5

Contains photographs of the following players: Eric Tipton, Trace Hart, Glenn (Razz) Miller, Virgil (Coddle Creek) Taylor, Ginger and Marvin Watts, Carl Doyle, Ed Cross, Herman Fink, Ken Chitwood, Bill Voight, and Witt "Lefty" Guise. Photographs are 5 x 7 reprints from the 1930s.

Folder 6

Three snapshots of Willie Duke from November 5, 1992. (All 5 x 7's).

Folder 7

Photographs of Edwin c. "Alabama" Pitts. One print of Pitts and mother taken in June 1935 upon his release from Sing Sing Prison. The second print is a promotional photograph for the Albany Senators. Two 5 x 7's.

Folder 8

Five photographs (5x7) of Bud Shaney. The 1932 photograph features Shaney and his family, the remaining four prints are from 1936 and show Shaney's ability to "eat" a baseball. Shaney is shown in his Charlotte Hornet's uniform.

The Hank Utley Baseball Collection: Description

Manuscript Collection Ten

Box 7: Series 7: Photographs

Folder 9

Photographs of some of various team managers, including George "Pick" Biggerstaff.

Folder 10

Francis Garrou and his nephew Albert Garrou were the owners of the Valdese Manufacturing Company in Valdese, North Carolina. Both Garrous supported the Valdese Textiles Baseball Team. Two 5 x 7's, black and white.

Box 7 Series 7 Folder 11

Roy Prospt, Department Manager of Cannon Mills in Kannapolis, North Carolina. He hired many of the players at the mill during the off-season. Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Elmer Spence. Black and white, 5 x 7.

Box 7 Series 7 Folder 12

Grey Clarke when he played with the Dallas- Texas League in 1941. He played third base with the Kannapolis Towelers in 1936. Photograph courtesy of Grey Clarke of Kannapolis, now deceased. Black and white, 5 x 7.

Box 7 Series 7 Folder 13

Edwin "Cy" Williams played third baseman for the Salisbury Greyhounds in 1935. Black and white, 5 x 7.

Box 7 Series 7 Folder 14

Fred "Lefty" Archer in Philadelphia Athletics Uniform in 1936. He later pitched for the Landis Cardinals in 1935 and the Kannapolis Towelers in 1936. Photograph courtesy of Reverend Fred Archer, son of Fred Archer, of Landis, North Carolina. Black and white photograph, 5 x 7.

Box 7 Series 7 Folder 15

Mitch Church, Valdese businessman and member of the Valdese Textile Baseball Team's Board of Directors. Laser print courtesy of John Church of Valdese, North Carolina.

Box 7 Series 7 Folder 16

Photographs of Crash Davis in his later years taken in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The Hank Utley Baseball Collection: Description

Manuscript Collection Ten

Box 8: Series 9: Photographs

UT.2001.A1.01

Negative of ball players around fake tombstone in Concord.

UT.2001.A1.02

Joe Doljack – Concord Weaver outfielder. Courtesy of Tommy Means.

UT.2001.A1.03

Ken Chitwood, pitcher with the Concord Weavers in 1938.

UT.2001.A1.04

The 1937 Kannapolis Towelers baseball team with identification.

UT.2001.A1.05 and 05a

Concord Scorecard front and back.

UT.2001.A1.06

1936 Kannapolis Towelers with identification.

UT.2001.A1.07

1935 Kannapolis Towelers baseball team.

UT.2001.A1.08

Art Hord, Manager and Second Baseman for the Concord Weavers in 1935.

UT.2001.A1.09

1935 Concord Weavers Team with names.

UT.2001.A1.10

1926 Kannapolis Team

UT.2001.A1.11

Buck Redfern, Third Baseman Concord Weavers, 1936-1937, and Manager for Kannapolis 1938.

UT.2001.A1.12

Cy Williams, Third Baseman for Salisbury in 1935.

UT.2001.A1.13

Virgil “Coddle Creek” Taylor and wife Winnie.

UT.2001.A1.14

Blackie Carter, 1936 Charlotte Manager, with Robby Burns on the left, Sybil Seercy on the right.

UT.2001.A1.15

Barron Hinson, 1936 Charlotte General Manager

The Hank Utley Baseball Collection: Description

Manuscript Collection Ten

Box 8: Series 9: Photographs

UT.2001.A1.16

1938 Board of Directors for the Concord Weavers.

UT.2001.A1.17

L.C. Harmon, Cannon Mill Executive

UT.2001.A1.18

Ulmont Baker of Concord Weavers

UT.2001.A1.19a

Sara Sherill Small, wife of Norman Small.

UT.2001.A1.19b

Norman Small, Mooresville Moors outfielder.

UT.2001.A1.20

Clarence "Stuffy" McCrone, first baseman and Manager for the Hickory Baseball Club.

UT.2001.A1.21

Kannapolis newspaper headline describing first night game.

UT.2001.A1.22

Five Carolina League Managers from 1936.

UT.2001.A1.23

Carl Doyle

UT.2001.A1.24

Norman Small in a Durham Bulls uniform catching a fly ball.

UT.2001.A1.25

Norman Small in hitting position.

UT.2001.A1.26

Norman & Sara Small wedding program at Durham Bull's Stadium.

UT.2001.A1.27

Herman Fink

UT.2001.A1.28

Grey Clarke in a Dallax, Texas uniform.

UT.2001.A1.29

Walter French

The Hank Utley Baseball Collection: Description

Manuscript Collection Ten

Box 8: Series 9: Photographs

UT.2001.A1.30

Lefty Archer

UT.2001.A1.31

Eric Tipton and Tracey Hart of the Kannapolis Towelers

UT.2001.A1.32

Red Evans was a pitcher with Valdese Textiles.

UT.2001.A1.33

Pick Biggerstaff Manager and Outfielder for Valdese Textiles

UT.2001.A1.34

Mitch Church Team Director for Valdese Textiles.

UT.2001.A1.35

Slim Ingram, First baseman for the Concord Weavers inside the new 1935 Concord grandstand.

UT.2001.A1.36

Bobby Hipps, President of the Tri-State League in 1957.

UT.2001.A1.37

Bobby Hipps, Manager of the 1936 Concord Weavers Team

UT.2001.A1.38

Bobby Hipps, Manager of the 1935 Kannapolis Towelers Team.

UT.2001.A1.39

Tracey Hitchner, pitcher for the Hickory Team during 1936 and 1938 seasons. Also played under the name of John Davis in 1937.

UT.2001.A1.40

Vince Barton of the Kannapolis Towelers.

UT.2001.A1.41

Vince Barton of the Kannapolis Towelers in civilian clothes during recuperation of a gun shot wound.

UT.2001.A1.42 and 42a

Buck Ross and wife Mary Boyd at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania in 1937 and later with wife and son, Mike in Chicago.

UT.2001.A1.43

Ed Cross of the 1935 Landis Team

The Hank Utley Baseball Collection: Description

Manuscript Collection Ten

Box 8: Series 9: Photographs

UT.2001.A1.44, 44a, 44b

Buck Ross posing with Philadelphia Athletics Team

Buck Ross pitching for Chicago White Sox

Buck Ross with Chicago White Sox

UT.2001.A1.45

Infield of the Nashville Vols. Set double play records. From left to right: Bob Boken (Third Baseman), John Mihalic (Second Baseman), and Mickey Rocco (First Baseman)

4x5 Negatives Box: Series 9

UT.2001.A1.46

Richard Broadus Culler in Boston Braves uniform during 1946 spring training.

UT.2001.A1.47

Richard Broadus Culler in Nashville Vols. Uniform.

UT.2001.A1.48

Family of Richard Broadus Culler around 1950. Standing - Broadus, Jr., and Nancy. Sitting – Broadus, Sr., Larry and Broadus' wife Evelyn.

UT.2001.A1.49

Century Furniture Company Executives of Hickory. From left to right: Harley F. Shuford, Sr. Samuel Hemphill, Ernest Woodard and Tracey Hitchner. The latter was the first purchasing agent the company hired after World War II.

UT.2001.A1.50

1930 Norcott Mill # 10 (Cannon Mills) Team organized by L.C. Harmon. First row: L.C. "Bud" Harmon, Jr., batboy. Second row, left to right: Clyde Whitely (C), Cotton Miller (SS), Tip Andrews, (2B), Lefty Lentz (1B), Marvin Watts (3B), Swendell Hall (1F). Third Row: left to right: John McInnis (P-OF), Willie Duke (OF), Lewis "Luke" Ross (P), Virgil "Coddle Creek" Taylor (P), Reid Brown (MGR-OF), Fred Parnell (OF), Arch White (P). Negative courtesy of Marvin Watts.

UT.2001.A1.51

1927 Carolina All Stars All-Star Players. Front row, left to right: Lewis P. Troutman, Walter P. Sifford, Floyd Fink, Hubert C. Lentz, Penny Brown (batboy), Opel P. Goodman, Pat Yost, Ceph Safrin. Second Row: Matt Kirk, Dub Allman, Mutt Miller, Marvin Watts, Charlie Cleaver, Glen Scott, John McInnis, Left Farrell (mascot). Third row: Rube Wilson, Herman, Buford Moose, Fred Faggart, Clint Fisher, Frank Hopkins, W. H. "Bub" Sullivan. Photograph courtesy of Frank Hopkins.

UT.2001.A1.52

Albert Garrou was a Valdese textile executive who funded baseball team.

4x5 Negatives Box: Series 9

UT.2001.A1.53

Francis Garrou was the nephew of Albert Garrou and also a Valdese executive.

UT.2001.A1.54

The 1938 Kannapolis Towelers baseball team. Front to row, left to right: Mickey O'Neil (C), Wilbur McGill (SS), Stinky Davis, (Batboy), Buck Redfern (2B & MGR), "Chic" Suggs, Herman "Ginger" Watts(C). Second Row: Jake Daniels (1B), Chief Daney (P), Marvin Watts (3B), Terry Terhune, (P). Missing: Eric Tipton, Tracey Hart (P), Dale Mills (P-OF), _____Cindric (OF). Some players missing because they did not want to risk their eligibility by being identified as playing in an "outlaw" league.

UT.2001.A1.55

Bill Steinke aka Bill Selph was the catcher and manager for the Concord Weavers.

UT.2001.A1.56

Roy Prospt was the Department Manager at the Kannapolis Cannon Mills. Ballplayers were able to draw paychecks through his department without working during the winter.

UT.2001.A1.57

The 1930 Forest City baseball team. Front row, left to right: Carl H. Verner, unknown, Furman Bragg, Potsie Ingle (3B), unknown, Pete Fowler (P) Johnny Branch (2B), four local baseball leaders. Middle row: Bill Collins (P), Tim McKeithan (P), Bill Goodson (2B), Dick McKeithan (SS). Backrow: Grady Harrel (C), unknown, Mel Friday (1B). Photograph courtesy of Hugh Verner of Montreat, North Carolina.

UT.2001.A1.58a, b, c, d

Crash Davis in Greensboro, North Carolina.

UT.2001.A1.59a, 59b

Left field foul line of the Landis (NC) Ballpark of 1935.

Landis Bench and grandstand along with the crowd of July 4, 1935. Manager Ginger Watts standing on the left. Photograph courtesy of Bernie Edwards.

UT.2001.A1.60.

George Barley at 1941 New York Yankees spring training. He pitched for Kannapolis in 1936.

UT.2001.A1.61

Ginger and Marvin Watts from Watts Cross Roads in Cabarrus County.

UT.2001.A1.62

Concord Weavers of 1929.

The Hank Utley Baseball Collection: Description

Manuscript Collection Ten

4x5 Negatives Box: Series 9

UT.2001.A1.63

Valdese Textiles – 1936 Carolina League Playoff Champions.

Left to right: First Row: Selby Keller (OF), Tolar Ransome (3B), Julius Parise (Batboy), Chuck Nalbock (2B), Cline Lee (INF.) Left to right. Second Row: Louis “Babe” Viau (SS); Bob Hall (P), Coyt “Red” Murray (C), Woodrow “Woody” Rich (P), Back Row: “Buzz” Phillips (P), Roy Brannon (OF), “Pick” Biggerstaff (OF & Manager), Claude Capps (1B), Mack Arnette (3B), Ernest “Red” Evans, (P), Jim Lyle (P). Photograph courtesy of Mack Arnette of Asheville, NC. Players identified by Lee Harris, Boots, Small, J.P. Cannon and John Church of Valdese, North Carolina. (Woody Rich pitched for Boston Red Sox, 1939-41 and 1944)

UT.2001.A1.64

Aubrey Hoover, Concord Weavers President of 1935. Supposedly “kidnapped” Carol Doyle.

UT.2001.A1.65

Bud Shaney with Asheville team c. 1928.

UT.2001.A1.66a, 66b,66c

Three pictures of Bud Shaney eating a baseball from 1936.

UT.2001.A1.67

Bud Shaney with wife Alice, who is holding Richard and another son Charles in 1932.

UT.2001.A1.68

Alabama Pitts, first on left back row in Pilot Mills Basketball team in Valdese, North Carolina.

UT.2001.A1.69

Alabama Pitts being released from Sing Sing.

UT.2001.A1.70

Alabama Pitts in Albany uniform.

UT.2001.A1.71

Alabama Pitts playing for Albany, NY team in 1935.

UT.2001.A1.72

Alabama Pitts’ death reported in Charlotte Observer. c. June 6-9, 1941.

UT.2001.A1.73

Catcher Hal Burris of the Concord Weavers 1935. Member of Erisken (Erskine) College Sports Hall of Fame.

UT.2001.A1.74

Pitcher Rube Wilson of Hickory. Also served as Manager.

4x5 Negatives Box: Series 9

UT.2001.A1.75

Crash Davis with 1941 Philadelphia Athletics.

UT.2001.A1.76

Crash Davis in first suit of clothes – awarded for Winning 1935 American legion.

UT.2001.A1.77

Crash Davis in Philadelphia Athletics uniform.

UT.2001.A1.78

Crash Davis in high school portrait.

UT.2001.A1.79

Portrait Gaston American Legion uniform

UT.2001.A1.80

Judge Manley Llewellyn commenting in newspaper, “work of the Lord rained out baseball game.”

UT.2001.A1.81

Judge Manley Llewellyn as a young lawyer in his first office in Concord January 1928.

UT.2001.A1.82

Judge Manley Llewellyn in c. 1930.

UT.2001.A1.83

1922 New York Yankee Bull Pen (pitchers.) Left to right. First row: Bobby Shawkey, “Bullet Joe” Bush, Second row: Frank “Lefty” O’Doul, Wait Hoyt, Clement Manley Llewellyn, Sam Jones, and George Murray.

UT.2001.A1.84

1922 New York Yankees Baseball Team with names.