Guide to the Babe Ruth Scrapbooks, 1921-1935

National Baseball Hall of Fame Library

National Baseball Hall of Fame
25 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326

This guide to the scrapbooks was prepared by Howard Hamme, Intern 2007 and reviewed by Claudette Burke in October 2007.
Collection Number:
BA SCR 44
BL-156.56 – BL-165.56

Title:
Babe Ruth Scrapbooks

Inclusive Dates:
1921-1935

Extent:
10 linear feet (25 scrapbooks)

Repository:
National Baseball Hall of Fame Library
25 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Abstract:
This collection contains the scrapbooks of George Herman Ruth, created by his manager Christy Walsh. The scrapbooks cover the years 1921-1935, with a variety of materials documenting Ruth’s activities on and off the field. There were 10 original scrapbooks but increased to 25 after conservation.

Acquisition Information:
This collection was a gift of Mrs. Ruth in 1956.

Preferred Citation:

Access Restrictions:
By appointment only. Available Monday - Friday, 9am to 3pm. Microfilm copy available.

Copyright:
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Separations:
None

Processing Information:
This collection was processed by Howard Hamme and reviewed by Claudette Burke in October 2007.
History:
Christy Walsh was a pioneer of sports licensing. A 1911 graduate of St. Vincent's College in Los Angeles, Walsh first worked for the Los Angeles Express. In 1921, he started his own syndicate, creating a major industry for stars like Ruth, Gehrig, Rockne, and others. Walsh was sports director for the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair.

Christy Walsh was born December 2, 1891 in St. Louis, MO and died December 29, 1955 in North Hollywood, CA, at the age of 64. He was survived by his wife Margaret and son Christy Jr.

George Herman "Babe" Ruth (1895-1948) played for the Boston Red Sox (1914-1919) and the New York Yankees (1920-1934) of the American League, and the Boston Braves (1935) of the National League. He was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936.

Sources: Christy Walsh Biographical File, National Baseball Hall of Fame Library. www.baseballhall.org

Scope and Content:
The scrapbooks that make this collection are filled with newspaper and magazine clippings, photographs, telegrams, poster boards, schedules, endorsements/advertisements and cartoons concerning Ruth during the years of 1921-1935. Topics include: batting titles, contract negotiations, Ruth acting, family activities, barnstorming with Walter Johnson and Lou Gehrig, retirement, and his suspensions.

System of Arrangement:
This collection was originally in 10 books. After conservation, this became a 25 volume set.

Accession number/Volume order:
Volume 1: BL-161.56 (parts 1, 2, and 3)
Volume 2: BL-157.56 (parts 1 and 2)
Volume 3: BL-156.56 (parts 1 and 2)
Volume 4: BL-160.56 (parts 1, 2, and 3)
Volume 5: BL-165.56 (parts 1, 2, and 3)
Volume 6: BL-158.56 (parts 1 and 2)
Volume 7: BL-164.56 (parts 1, 2, and 3)
Volume 8: BL-162.56 (parts 1 and 2)
Volume 9: BL-163.56 (parts 1 and 2)
Volume 10: BL-159.56 (parts 1, 2, and 3)
Controlled Access Terms:

Personal Names
- Walsh, Christy, 1871-1955
- Ruth, Babe, 1895-1948
- Gehrig, Lou, 1903-1941
- Cobb, Ty, 1886-1961
- Ruth, Claire, 1900-1976
- Landis, Kenesaw Mountain, 1866-1944

Corporate Names
- New York Yankees (Baseball team)
- Yankee Stadium
- Boston Braves (Baseball team)

Subjects
- World Series -1928
- Tour- Japan
- Endorsements
- Barnstorming
- Salaries

Forms
- Scrapbooks
- Clippings
- Black-and-white photographs
- Advertisements
- Handbills
- Letterheads
- Telegrams
- Box scores

Content List:

BL-161.56 Volume 1 Part 1
See microfilm reel 2

This volume includes the years 1921-22. Articles and topics covered: Ruth acting on stage with Wellington Cross; Ruth’s silver crown and the subscription process used to raise the $1000 needed to fund it; a Red Cross membership drive where was Ruth the attraction; Ruth acting as the Sporting Editor for the Boston Daily Advertiser; the possibility of his suspension; the fines and suspension at the beginning of the 1922 season (and editorial pieces about it). Also in the book is a full page story highlighting the stars of various sports.

There are a number of various newspaper and magazine photos: Ruth with Lieutenant General Baron Jacques of Belgium (getting a lesson on batting stance); a photo of Ruth and Wellington Cross on stage; Ruth with Marshall Foch.

There are many advertisements for Ruth’s stage performances: B.F. Keith’s First Stage Appearance of the World’s Greatest Babe Ruth, the Bambino Himself and Wellington Cross in “A Satirical Home Run.”; Coming Nov 28th- His Majesty “Babe” Ruth “The King of Swat” and Wellington Cross, Dean Moore, Accomplice, in “That’s Good.”; B.F. Keith’s Theatre November 28th; a ticket/advert in the shape of a baseball for the week of Nov 7th,
B.F. Keith’s. There is also a newsletter from B. F. Keith’s Theatre, No. 14 Volume 24. Also included is a theatre schedule for Keith’s.

A full page newspaper advertisement from the Boston Post (11/7/1921) has Ruth selling Grafonolas, cigars, shoes, ties, cars, and overcoats.

**BL-161.56 Volume 1 Part 2**

*See microfilm reel 2*

This volume continues with the year 1922, containing articles about Ruth’s suspension for ‘barnstorming’ after the post-season. Many of the articles are opinion pieces either condemning the suspension or cheering it. One article calls for readers to sign a petition to have the suspension removed.

Other topics: Babe acting on the vaudeville stage in Cincinnati (Majestic Theater). Articles describe the act, the other performers (Wellington Cross is the co-star) where it can be seen and finally, how the show was judged by critics.

Scattered throughout the scrapbook are publicity shots and personal appearances. One publicity campaign aimed at kids was the ‘Find Babe Ruth Baseballs and Meet Him in Person’ contest. 30 autographed baseballs were hidden around the Cincinnati area for the kids to find. The winners met Ruth.

One of the amusing anecdotes found in the volume is the story of an Advertising Club luncheon where Commissioner Landis and Ruth were in attendance. Ruth gave his speech where he made slight jabs at the commissioner, who took it all with a smile. At the end of the speech the commissioner said, ‘Fine, Babe, fine.’ To which the Babe famously remarked, ‘Thanks, Judge, but I have had about all the fines from you I want.’

Items of interest:
- Flyer: ‘Enlist in the Army of Fun’. This is a poster board advertisement for a party for military personnel and their families with Babe Ruth as guest of honor.
- Kiwanis Club letter to its members, re: Come to the meeting and shake hands with Babe
- B.F. Keith’s Theatre Program, Cincinnati - Season 1921-22
- Empress Theater, Week of Feb 6. Ticket shaped like a baseball with ‘Babe Ruth’ in middle.
- Announcement from the Advertising Club, St. Louis, Babe Ruth personnel appearance.
- Playbill form the Majestic Theater
- ‘Christy Walsh Syndicate’- Postcard mailed to Harry Weber (Feb 1922) and Sporting Editors, campaigning to get Ruth re-instated for the 1922 season.
- Black and white photos with Emil Meusel and Commissioner Landis.
- Newsprint copy drawing of Babe Ruth by Robert Ripley.

**BL-161.56 Volume 1 Part 3**

*See microfilm reel 2*

This Volume continues the 1922 season. Topics covered are: Ruth’s suspension; his wife operation at the same time as his (Ruth had his tonsils removed); and his new Sudbury farm.

There are many examples of Ruth advertising products in this volume: the ‘Babe’ Ruth sweater for boys (with numerous advertising boards) manufactured exclusively by
Manhallon Knitting Mills of New York City; the ‘Babe Ruth’ cap for boys (advertising boards included); the ‘Babe Ruth cap for men and young men (with advertising photos) which was produced by a company called Victor (there is a circular piece of cloth in the volume that came from the inside of one of the hats; there is also an advert for a contest in which a free signed Babe Ruth baseball bat will given away for each of ten dozen sweaters sold.

There are two booklets in this volume: How Babe Ruth Learned to Swat, and “Homeruns of Babe Ruth”, both are biographical in nature.

An interesting item is a contribution card with a photo of Ruth. It is from the Playground and Recreation Association of America (also contains an envelope and letter from Ruth). Half of the volume contains telegrams wishing Ruth luck and later congratulating him on his stage performance. Some of the notable names are: Connie Mack, Jacob Ruppert, Waite C. Hoyte, Miller Huggins, Buster Keaton, Governor Tom Campbell, Helen Keller, and John Ringling (of circus fame).

The final pages of the book contain poster boards for Ruth’s film, Headin’ Home.

**BL-157.56 Volume 2 Part 1**

**See microfilm reel 2**

This book contains the beginning of the 1922 season until mid-season. Ruth begins the season on suspension (Ruth’s punishment for breaking league policy). There are many articles calling on Commissioner Landis to end this suspension. Many people attributed poor ticket sales to Ruth’s absence. Once Ruth returns to the game, there is great celebration. His team loses and he hasn’t hit one homer, but fans crowd to see him. There are a few articles describing that day.

Shortly after his return Ruth is suspended again. On May 25, 1922, after being called out at second base Ruth throws dirt in the face of Umpire Hildebrand. Ruth is ejected and returns to the dugout. A heckler irritates Ruth to the point where the Babe climbs the bleachers to attack him. Added to his suspension is a fine of $200.00 and he loses his team-captain status. Articles on this subject go back and forth between admiring Ruth and condemning his actions, to simply condemning Ruth as a rough character with the emotional stability of a child.

Upon his return to the season, Ruth begins to hit home runs, headlines such as, ‘Ruth Hits 14th’. Within the collection of game stats and scores is an article about the new style of baseball playing. Pitchers begin to lament the loss of the spit ball, and the new practice of replacing the game ball a few times per game.

There are a few newsprint photos of Ruth in the book. One of the more interesting one is of Ruth in an umpire outfit. Ruth had volunteered to umpire a charity game.

This book is a great source for background on Ruth’s suspensions and the public reaction to them. Despite nearly attacking a spectator, Ruth remained a public hero. Herein is also the changing of how the sport was played.

**BL-157.56 Volume 2 Part 2**

**See microfilm reel 2**

This volume continues the 1922 season. One of the main focuses is on the Home Run chase. There is a feature about the ‘Homerun Kings of American Baseball’. Another
interesting feature is about George Gore, the homerun king of 1880, who still plays amateur ball at age 63. Ty Cobb is discussed on a few occasions. As in other volumes, there are coupons to be collected and returned for a free Babe Ruth Base Ball Scorer. Numbered clippings a reader collected to receive the item (there is one newsprint photo of Ruth and umpire Bill Dineen looking at one of the scorers). Numerous magazine and newsprint photos are placed throughout the volume: Ruth with Rogers Hornsby; in an umpire outfit; sliding into home plate. A publicity stunt is featured where Ruth catches a baseball thrown from Bob Meusel from the top of a Broadway building (newsprint photos accompany this article); Ruth tossing a pitch to young Ray Kelly, the Yankees young mascot. One feature is an opinion piece where numerous people were asked to name the 12 Greatest Living Americans. Ruth is named in one of the lists.

BL-156.56 Volume 3 Part 1
See microfilm reel 1
This book covers the year baseball season of 1922. There are descriptions of individual games, stats and scores and of Ruth’s performance in those games. Ty Cobb is mentioned in a few articles. Throughout the book are coupons that readers collected and returned to the New York American to get a ‘Babe Ruth Baseball Scorer’. This was a small hand-held device for keeping track of balls, strikes, outs, runs, and errors. For a drawing of the scorer, see page 33. This book is a great collection of articles written about a season. The highs and lows of the team and of the individual are written. One article asks if Ruth is washed up. There are few newspaper photos in this book.

BL-156.56 Volume 3 Part 2
See microfilm reel 1
This book is a continuation of the 1922 baseball season. In this book, however, there are a few newspaper photos, one of which is of the new Yankee stadium (later known as ‘The House that Ruth Built’) under construction. There are articles about Ruth being suspended for using foul language toward Umpire Connolly later in the season. Ruth is made out to be both hero and villain in the articles about him. Again there is a coupon offer for a free ‘Babe Ruth Baseball Scorer.’ This offer is made by the Washington Times. Throughout the book there are numerous references to the home-run race. Ruth was not in the lead, but was always in the top five. One of the publicity shots comes from a game of the Boys League of Syracuse where the ‘Babe Ruth Stars’ played against the ‘Guilds’. Ruth joins the game as an umpire. News photo and caption about the Guilds’ ace pitcher John Brennan who pitched against Ruth and struck him out. There is also an amusing piece written by an English woman named May Christie. She comes to the United States and is taken to her first baseball game. Here she learns that ‘Babe’ Ruth is a man, not a woman. Also she begins to understand why baseball has become the major sport in America.
BL-160.56 Volume 4 Part 1
See microfilm reel 4
This volume begins midway through the 1922 season. The race for first place is the main focus of many articles. There are a number of cartoons in the collection that illustrate the race for the homerun crown and the pennant race. Ruth discusses in one article that he is worried about losing his homerun title.
A Minneapolis newspaper had a contest that challenged readers to match their wits against the Babe. Ruth created an all-star team and readers were called upon to create their own. The three that came closest were ranked and were given prizes of $25.00, $15.00, and $10.00.

BL-160.56 Volume 4 Part 2
See microfilm reel 4
Highlights of the 1922 season continue. Ruth selects his own All-American Baseball team (including himself on the list). The batting championship is followed throughout. The building of the new Yankee stadium is detailed in a few articles as well. Other notable articles: the first year the A.L. will break the 1000 homerun mark in one season; the new ‘lively’ ball now being used; many articles are devoted to the Yankee outfielder Witt, who was hit on the head by a bottle (thrown from the stands) while standing in the outfield. There are numerous editorial cartoons and newsprint photos of games played between the Yankees and the Browns.

BL-160.56 Volume 4 Part 3
See microfilm reel 4
A continuation of the 1922 season. There are box scores, game recaps and a close watch on who is going to win the homerun crown. Homerun king contenders are discussed as well as who is believed to be the one that will take the crown from Ruth. Other articles discuss Ruth becoming a father. There are numerous newsprint photos of Ruth’s wife holding their young daughter. There are also newsprint photos of Ruth wearing a crown.

BL-165.56 Volume 5 Part 1
See microfilm reel 5
This volume begins with the year 1924. The original cover is included and reads: ‘1924, My California Tour’. Black and white photographs include: mountains; a waterfall at Shasta Springs, CA; Babe with a member of the Girls’ Club; a barnstorming team shot; Babe and others at the ‘Babe Ruth Luncheon’, Los Angeles Biltmore; Babe at the train station; publicity shots at numerous hospitals; Ruth waiting for the train at the station; Ruth standing with a Girls Baseball team, and another with him and the Girls’ Club team. Other items of interest: advertisement for a Babe Ruth and Bob Meusel exhibition game at Dunsmuir, Wednesday 10/22 Under Auspices Dunsmuir Lions Club (partial handwritten notes on back); a full page advertisement for the Walter Johnson vs. Babe Ruth ‘Elks Big All-Star Base Ball Game, Brea Bowl, Brea, CA, dated 10/31/1924; a ribbon with ‘American League Official’ across the front; an advertisement for ‘Babe Ruth’s Pacific Coast Tour’ with schedules on back with photos printed on back.
The news articles in this volume mainly document the various stops on the tour, and how the cities received Ruth and the other players. There are announcements of arrival in various newspapers: *The Anaconda Standard, The Tacoma Sunday Ledger, The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, to name a few. Newsprint photos of Ruth with General Pershing, and Christy Walsh can also be found throughout. One headline reads: ‘Ruth Back on Buffalo Diet.’


**BL-165.56 Volume 5 Part 2**

**See microfilm reel 5**

Items in this volume from 1924 include: Oakland Club batting order and the San Francisco Club batting order scoring cards (cards have a Ruth bio on back), souvenir program with scorecards and bio (scorecards bound into a packet), a ‘closed sign’ with the message: ‘This Store Closed, Friday Afternoon, October 31, 1924, on Account of Walter Johnson - Babe Ruth Ball Game, Brea Bowl, Brea, California, Auspices Anaheim Elks 1345, Programs from the Grauman’s Million Dollar and Rialto Theatres for 11/17/1924.

News articles cover Ruth’s shattering long distance batting marks, injuring his hand on a car door, and his choice in sleepwear. There is an ad for a ‘Signed Babe Ruth’ baseball for two new 6 month subscriptions. Ruth is shown in various black and white photographs: dancing, wearing a top hat, wearing a cap and gown and also with assorted gentlemen at publicity events, holding a box of Spalding baseballs, visiting a hospital, and also in mid swing. There is a newsprint photo of Ruth with his manager Christy Walsh.

**BL-165.56 Volume 5 Part 3**

**See microfilm reel 5**

This book covers the years 1924 and 1927, with the emphasis on 1927. Most of the articles are centered on Babe Ruth and his barnstorming with Walter Johnson (1924) and Lou Gehrig (1927). There are many black and white photos of the Bustin’ Babes and the Larrupin’ Lou’s. Many of the shots feature both players at publicity functions: Babe holding the egg-laying champion ‘Lady AMCO’ of Norfolk; Ruth and Gehrig wearing Indian headdresses taken 10/19/1927. There are poster boards from the Auspices Anaheim Elks 1345 advertising the All-Star game between Walter Johnson and Ruth at Brea Bowl, Brea CA, and dated 10/31/1924 which display ticket prices and participating players. Items include: a souvenir program dated 10/16/27, Western League Park, Omaha; a newspaper photo of Ruth wearing a crown, Denver CO.; newsletter “Six-Twenty-One” Los Angeles, Knights of Columbus with an events calendar advertising Ruth, Gehrig, Walsh and Dundee to attend meeting.
Other items of interest: a Japanese newspaper (in English); an envelope and letterhead stationery from ‘Christy Walsh Management’ advertising the tour; a train ticket (Northern Pacific Railway) with the name ‘Ruth’ hand-written across the front. The ticket is dated for 11/6/27.

A few of the cities contained in the book are Kansas City (includes hospital visit photos), Sioux City, Denver, and Oakland. All Cities have publicity photos with fans and newspaper publishers. This is a good book for researching a barnstorm tour. Both articles and photos give a good account of what those exhibitions were all about.

BL-158.56 Volume 6 Part 1
See microfilm reel 3
This volume includes the years 1925-1927. There are magazine and newspaper photographs in this book. There are photos of Ruth at home on the farm, feeding chickens, ice-fishing, walking with his daughter, chopping wood, signing autographs. One article compares his batting swing and stance to his golf swing. There are newsprint photos of him in military uniform. Ruth had signed up to be in the New York National Guard, 104th Field Artillery. There is a newsprint article of Ruth saluting General John J. Pershing. Much of the scrapbook is focused on Ruth being hospitalized after an extreme case of the flu exhausted him during the pre-season of 1925. On his way back home, he fell in his train compartment and was unconscious. Later he had a surgery to remove a ‘bad abscess’. Concerns were that he fractured his skull in his fall. There are numerous newsprint photos of him in his hospital bed at St. Vincent Hospital. There is the story of 11 year-old Johnny Sylvester being laid up in a hospital bed. Ruth hits three home-runs during a game, but loses the series. Ruth later visits Sylvester in the hospital. See the ‘Daily News’ article from October 12, 1926. Much of the 1927 season is followed in this book. Included are articles about Ruth’s 60 home-runs of the 1927 season. Overall, this book is a good source of articles and photos of Ruth of the field between the years 1925 and 1927.

BL-158.56 Volume 6 Part 2
See microfilm reel 3
This book continues to cover the 1925, 1926 and 1927 seasons started in Volume 6, Part 1. Topics included: the Johnny Sylvester story, Ruth in Japan, his recovery in the hospital, an examination by a doctor where Ruth is found to be ‘super human’, whether his career is now in decline, his race to beat his homerun record, his eventual 60th homerun, and a full page article about the Yankees winning the 1927 World Series. Newsprint and magazine photos include: game photos of the 1926 World Series, Ruth and Gehrig barnstorming (Babe is on a pony, Gehrig holds a child), a crowd of boys seeking autographs, his family on the farm with some cattle, departing from a train station heading for Hot Springs, AK to be rid of his excess fat. There are numerous editorial cartoons of the Babe as the Homerun King.

BL-164.56 Volume 7 Part 1
See microfilm reel 5
This volume contains many black and white photographs: Ruth with the orphans at Superior Orphanage, Superior, Wisconsin; Elks Championship Band, Minnesota Elks;
playing football; signing autographs at the Children’s Settlement Home, B.C.; Ruth being fed turkey by children; umpiring a charity game; as editor; at bat with a child catching; hospital visits, signing a baseball bat; eating at an orphanage; and with a group of boys; golfing; playing football, standing in front of a turkey farm.

There are newsprint photos of Ruth on stage; signing autographs; with Herbert Hoover; and with his wife and children. The subject of his contract is revisited here again (there are numerous articles and editorial cartoons).

Many articles are announcing the public appearance of Ruth to various cities: Vancouver and Seattle (where Ruth was a guest editor for the Post-Intelligencer) are the most extensive. There is a Saturday Evening Post feature about Ruth’s activities on and off the field. It discusses his family and also relates an abbreviated biography.

Other items of interest: a piece of stationary and an envelope from the Christy Walsh Management Company (there is a copy of Ruth’s photo on back); an advertisement for his appearance at Pantages Theatre; and also a full page advert with Ruth holding a doll (the doll is a prize for anyone who sells enough subscriptions).

**BL-164.56 Volume 7 Part 2**

**See microfilm reel 5**

This volume contains many black and white photographs: golfing; signing autographs for a child in the hospital; posing with a boy; visiting kids at the Shriners hospital with Santa; shaking hands with an orangutan; dropping money into a charity collection bucket; the Portland Hotel (with a banner welcoming Babe Ruth); handing out candy (Ruth’s Homerun Candy); demonstrating batting techniques; riding in a parade; close-up of Ruth holding a snowball; and mid-throw of snowball.

News articles cover a wide range of topics: Ruth arriving in Tacoma; guest editing for the Tacoma News Tribune; visiting Jack Reese, who was hit by a car and missed Ruth’s personal appearance; arrival in Portland; his not signing a contract; hunting (with newsprint photos); arrival in Los Angeles and San Diego; his signing a $100,000 contract for the stage; being arrested for a child labor violation; stage appearances; his weight; and salary comparisons between Ty Cobb, Calvin Coolidge and Babe Ruth.

There are advertisements for free ‘Babe’ Ruth Base Balls, another subscription-based prize offer; free tickets for boys and girls to see Baseball’s Greatest Character “Babe” Ruth at the Pantages Theatre. Ruth is also shown advertising various wares in the San Diego Union newspaper.

There is also an original editorial cartoon drawing (16 ¼ x 19 ½). It depicts two newspaper editors decided if they will run the same old Ruth ‘in the best shape of career’ story again this year.

**BL-164.56 Volume 7 Part 3**

**See microfilm reel 5**

This volume covers the years 1927-1938. One of the main topics covered is the contract negotiation. Editorials and cartoons discuss whether Ruth is worth the money he is requesting. Fueling the debate is the contract negotiations between Ty Cobb and Connie Mack (who is also seen in a few other articles) was alleged to have signed. Ruth is shown to present an ultimatum: pay me or I quit. One article compares the salaries of other high-
profile athletes in a few different sports. Ruth’s physical condition is discussed again. Ruth is shown in Japan and Hawaii with his family. 

Other items of interest include a postcard from a fan (the front of the postcard is a picture of Jack Dempsey and his restaurant). There is a floor plan for the MS TJINEGARA TJISADANE, with rooms circled and the ‘Mr. Ruth’ written in pencil. This volume also contains envelopes from the Christy Walsh Management company. These envelopes have “Babe’ Ruth’s Coming to Town” printed on the front. There is also a telegram and envelope in the collection.

Other articles include discussion of Ruth’s age, his search for a manager’s position, and his feelings of betrayal on the part of Judge Fuchs. One article highlights a few dedicated fans that waited for days to be the first ones allowed into the stadium to watch the World Series. Also interesting is the story about Ruth playing his first night game under electric lighting. There is also brief mention of Ruth being questioned about a hit and run auto accident. Newsprint and magazine photos include Ruth working out, playing the part of umpire in a charity game, at home with his family. The volume also contains Ruth and Gehrig Barnstorming photos. A large photo of Ruth at the World’s Fair Preview parade is also in this volume. Other supplemental photos of that event are included. An article by Ford Frick which discusses how Babe is still a great player though he is getting older.

BL-162.56 Volume 8 Part 1
See microfilm reel 3
This volume begins with the early months of 1926. Ruth is shown training for the upcoming season. A list of his New Year’s resolutions is found in one of the articles. Comparisons to previous years are given, that he is in better shape now than ever before, how he has ‘turned a new leaf’. Cartoons editorialize on this point repeatedly. Salary negotiations are another topic explored in the volume.

Magazine photos include Ruth working out, hunting, fishing, in a steam box, sliding into a base, in a Police Reserve uniform. Newspaper photo pictures show the 12 hot dogs that gave Ruth ‘the stomach heard round the world’, his skinning of a deer, playing in a charity auction game, and catching a baseball from an airplane.

A recurring theme of some of the articles is the homerun pace Ruth is making in the 1926 season as compared to 1921. Ruth proclaimed he will break his own record that year. Also found in this volume is a magazine insert with a short biography of Ruth.

BL-162.56 Volume 8 Part 2
See microfilm reel 3
This volume covers the years between 1927 and 1938. One of the main topics is Ruth’s contract negotiations. Articles and editorial cartoons explore the possibility of Ruth making $100,000 per season (articles cover the process and also the eventual signing). Tied closely to the contract negotiations are articles discussing the Babe’s physical condition, with many cartoons satirize Ruth’s physical shape. One article compares his weight and inches of girth for the current season and two prior. A number of newsprint photos and articles discuss Ruth’s life away from baseball. There are numerous references to his movie (Babe Comes Home) with newsprint photos of him on the set and in the make-up chair. In one feature, Ruth can be seen playing football in full uniform with the University of Minnesota team. Numerous articles detail the adoption
of his daughters Dorothy and Julia. There are black and white photographs of Ruth attending Dorothy’s graduation. Ruth is even discussed donating blood to his daughter. The New York Times printed a few photos and stories about Ruth visiting Johnny Sylvester, throwing horseshoes, sitting with Col. Ruppert. Other newsprint photos show Ruth holding a bat with his wife, his wife working out, playing cards with his children and him kissing one of his children.

On the first page of the volume is a full color newsprint copy of Ruth in the World (dated 4/10/1927). This volume shows Ruth away from the baseball field and his family. There are many articles and photos about Ruth’s home life and his activities as he gets closer to retirement.

BL-163.56 Volume 9 Part 1
See microfilm reel 4
Volume opens up with a 17 X 24 sheet of register paper with the heading: Daily Batting Avg., April 11, 12. This volume covers the year of 1928. It begins with an article profiling the ‘outstanding figures of the past year in various fields of sports’. Jack Dempsey and Ruth are compared in another article, also discussed is the influence the two men had on their respective sports. Ruth’s birthday is discussed, as well as his training and salary (as compared to Calvin Coolidge). The rivalry between Ruth and Lou Gehrig is also explored in the newspapers.

Topics that appear in other years also come up again: Ruth training hard, how he changed his ways, wanting to have a great year, determined to break his single season homerun record. Once again Johnny Sylvester is a news item (there is a news print photo of him playing golf with his father.

This volume holds many cartoons, both editorial and comic strips. One strip features Ruth as a character that accidentally hits a fan with a foul ball and eventually visits him in the hospital. Another cartoon depicts Ruth through the ages of time (Ruth in ancient Egypt, etc.). Editorial cartoons vary on topic.

Newsprint and magazine photos include Ruth with his sister, Ruth golfing, spring training, with a group of boy scouts, and a team pose. Also included is a full page article by Joe Massaguer. The article is in Spanish with an inscription signed by the author.

There is also a torn piece of poster board with the words ‘so blind as won’t see!’ written in pencil.

BL-163.56 Volume 9 Part 2
See microfilm reel 4
This volume covers the years 1928-1931. The articles cover various topics: recaps and highlights of the 1928 World Series, Ruth and his new wife, sports champions of 1928 (various sports), Ruth excels in minor sports as well as baseball, opening of the 1927 season. One article discusses Ruth’s retirement (predicted to be in two years from 1931, the date it was written. Another article is biographical in nature: ‘And along Came Ruth’, which was published in the Saturday Evening Post.

Newsprint and magazine photos include: game play, Ruth at the Baseball Writers’ Club Banquet, Ruth sitting in an empty stadium, fans in line waiting to buy tickets to a game, Ruth wrestling, golfing, signing a contract, working out, hunting, in a police reserve uniform, shaking hands with Warren G. Harding, throwing baseballs to a crowd, boxing
with wife, chatting with fans, leading St. Mary’s Industrial School Band, the faces of 1928 (story of the big names of 1928), and Ruth receiving a medal from the boy scouts. There is a 14 x 17 ½ color drawing (newspaper print) of Ruth standing in a crowd of kids. The caption reads: If kids could vote - A presidential possibility. This was taken from the Times-Picayune April 10, 1932.

Also found is a newsprint copy of a painting of Ruth and Gehrig in mid swing, with a caption that reads: Who is the homerun king?

BL-159.56 Volume 10 Part 1
See microfilm reel 1
This volume covers mainly the year 1934. It opens with a hand-written request from a fan for an autograph. The fan also wishes Ruth good luck in his salary contract stating that she hopes that Ruth gets what he wants, but that he should be a ‘good sport’ if he doesn’t get his raise. Interestingly, the enveloped is addressed without a street number or name, but with a picture of Ruth and below that the city name of St. Petersburg, FL.

There is a 15” x 22 1/2” magazine photo of Ruth and Lou Gehrig with career stats. The majority of the work is centered on Ruth considering retirement and what he would do. There is a full page spread from the ‘Boston American Sports’ on his last appearance in Boston dated 8/13/34. Another article, called ‘Goodbye, Babe Ruth,’ also touches on the idea that Ruth is beginning to consider retirement.

Photos include Ruth on vacation in Honolulu with his wife, Claire, and her daughter, Julia. There is also an advertisement called ‘Babe Ruth on the Air!’ Articles discuss the contract Ruth signed for the 1934 season. He was to make $35,000, which was a $17,000 cut from the year before. When he is sold to the Boston Braves the following year, there was some tension between Ruth and Dizzy Dean. This feud and the subsequent apologies are found in this book. With 1935 come the articles about Ruth’s decline. It is clear that he is no longer an active player and the writers of the day begin to debate his next move. Ruth makes clear that he wishes to have a manager position. This is a collection of Ruth in the latter days of his playing days. The Yankees sold him to the Boston Braves. The Braves use him, but they are a dismal team.

BL-159.56 Volume 10 Part 2
See microfilm reel 1
This volume includes the years of 1933 and 1934. News topics include: Ruth predicting the Yankees to win the season; his eventual retirement; rejecting a contract proposal and then later signing another contract; pitching in a game; his farewell game in Boston in front a full stadium.

Magazine photos and newsprint photos show Ruth dressed as Santa Claus, exercising with his wife, playing in a game, posing with his wife and daughter, his 38th birthday, and reading a book called, ‘Life begins at Forty’.

Editorial cartoons explore Ruth’s upcoming retirement and his age. An advertisement announces the chance to hear Ruth on the radio program, Inside Story. In the back of the book, there is a 13 ¼ X 17 ¾ newsprint photo of Ruth and Gehrig holding a baseball bat. It is captioned, ‘The Heart of Murderers Row’.
This volume covers the years 1934, and 1935. Articles in this volume cover a diverse area of topics: Ruth’s twenty years of hits and headlines, being sick with a cold, still hitting homeruns at his age, contract negotiations and holding out, replacing Harris as the Tiger’s manager, how his wife supervises his diet, signing a one year contract, the American league and the National league game, signing a contract with the Boston Braves, and Ruth ‘Growing Up’.

One other article highlights the heroic deed of six orphans who prevent a train wreck. The reward given to these boys was meeting Ruth in person. A second feature article tells of a young boy named Walter Cyr, who rushed out into the outfield to get Ruth’s autograph in his book. Game play was halted as Ruth posed for pictures. There are numerous newsprint photos of Ruth hunting, playing baseball, fishing and posing with his wife and daughter. This volume also contains many editorial cartoons about Ruth going to play for the Boston Braves.