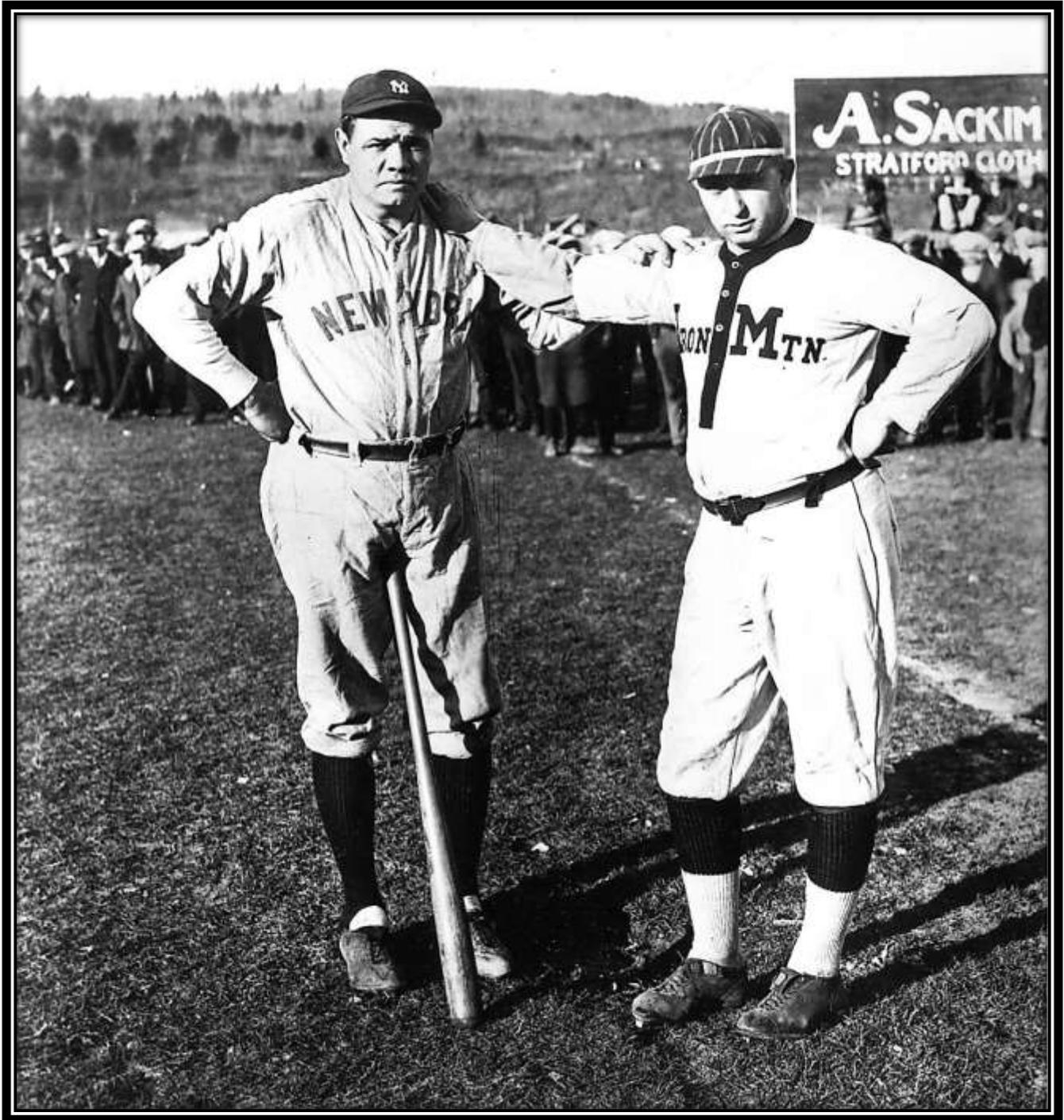


MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 33: THE ROARING TWENTIES – THE SULTAN OF SWAT VISITS IRON MOUNTAIN ON OCTOBER 28, 1926

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



George Herman “Babe” Ruth, New York Yankee outfielder, was dubbed the “Sultan of Swat” in 1922 due to his phenomenal hitting ability. On the afternoon of October 28, 1926, the Bambino demonstrated his batting skills in Iron Mountain, playing an exhibition game with area baseball players at Athletic Park on the West Side to a crowd of over 3,000 enthusiastic fans.

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Ruth and his manager, Christy Walsh, a New York newspaperman, left Des Moines, Iowa, the previous evening, traveling by rail throughout the night to Beloit, Wisconsin, and then on to Oshkosh by automobile, where they were met by Ted Kingsford and Joe Lannan, who brought them to Iron Mountain just in time for the exhibition. Ruth is pictured here with Nello “Fungo” Tedeschi, one of the pitchers for the opposing local team who, together with Jones, a Channing pitcher, succeeded in striking him out. [Gene Derwinski]

[NOTE: Dates, placed chronologically, are highlighted in boldface red letters for easier reading, and names of individuals and places are highlighted in boldface black letters to facilitate finding information.]

The 33rd installment of Menominee Range Memories, a series of articles by William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation historian, now available on the Dickinson County Library’s website, is titled “The Roaring Twenties – The Sultan of Swat Visits Iron Mountain on **October 28, 1926.**”

Ninety-two years ago the appearance of **George Herman “Babe” Ruth** on **Iron Mountain’s Athletic Field** (today’s Iron Mountain High School football field), on the afternoon of **Thursday, October 28, 1926**, was certainly the most exciting athletic event to occur on the Menominee Iron Range in the 1920s.

The 1926 World Series, the 23rd playing of Major League Baseball’s championship series, pitting the National League champion **St. Louis Cardinals** against the American League champion **New York Yankees**, had just finished. The Cardinals defeated the Yankees four games to three in the best-of-seven series, which took place from **October 2 to 10, 1926**, at **Yankee Stadium** and **Sportsman’s Park**.

This was the first World Series appearance, as well as first National League pennant win, for the **Cardinals**.

The **Yankees** were playing in their fourth World Series in six years after winning their first American League pennant in 1921 and their first world championship in 1923.

On **October 6, 1926**, in the fourth game of the World Series, **Yankee slugger Babe Ruth** hit a record three homers against the **St. Louis Cardinals**. The Yanks won the game 10-5, but despite Ruth’s unprecedented performance, they lost the championship in the seventh game.

(On **October 18, 1977**, **Yankee Reggie Jackson** became only the second player to hit three homers in a single World Series game, tying **Ruth’s** record.)

Just ten days after the last World Series game, on **Wednesday, October 20, 1926**, **Ruth** was signed to play in **Iron Mountain** a week later in what was termed “the greatest baseball attraction ever to be staged in the upper peninsula” in an article appearing in *The Iron Mountain News* the following day.

Promoters of the exhibition were **George Zieglebauer** and **Ned Fox**. The newspaper stated they deserved credit for “a lot of nerve and faith in upper peninsula fans” to turn out to see **Babe Ruth**. “The gamble was on the weather and fortunately, they won.”

George Ziegelbauer ran a grocery store on the **corner of Edsel Street and Fulton Street in Kingsford Heights** in 1925. **Ned B. Fox** was in partnership with **Thomas Lieungh** in the firm **Lieungh &**

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Fox, manufacturers and distributors of **Kyl-Fyr**, located at **207 East Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain**, in the 1925 city directory.

According to the agreement, the **Babe** would play here as a member of one of two **Upper Peninsula** all-star teams. One team was to be formed from **Dickinson County** players while the other team would be selected from other “baseball lights” from outside of the county.

As the promoters of the project assumed “heavy expenses” in bringing the Yankee star to **Iron Mountain**, players on the two all-star teams were asked to volunteer their services, “hoping that the opportunity to play with the **Babe** or against him and the chance of meeting him personally” would be enough compensation.

In preparation for the exhibition baseball game, goal posts were supplanted by bases at **Iron Mountain’s Athletic Park**.

On **Tuesday, October 26**, it was announced that “all employees of business places who desired to see the **Babe** in action” would be “permitted to leave their jobs during the hours of the game,” although there would be “no general suspension of business.” Barber shops of the city were closed for the event.

Several weeks earlier, when the **American League Stars** were to have played at **Iron Mountain**, a similar agreement was reached. Unfortunately the contest was “rained out.”

The majority of public schools “would declare a half holiday” Thursday afternoon. Other schools would “dismiss their classes at 2:00 p.m. so that the students would be able to attend.”

According to *The Iron Mountain News*, on **Wednesday, October 27**, “a telephone conversation with the **Bambino** yesterday (Tuesday) completed the last minute detail

plans” so there would be no hitch in Thursday afternoon’s proceedings.

Ruth played an exhibition game in **Des Moines, Iowa**, during the afternoon of **October 27**. Plans were for **Ruth** to immediately “climb aboard a plane to be dashed to **Chicago**,” where he would spend the night and begin his journey north the morning of the **Iron Mountain** exhibition.

Somewhere between **Iron Mountain** and **Milwaukee** “**Ted**” **Kingsford** would meet **Ruth**’s party and bring them to Iron Mountain, arriving in time for the opening of the game at 2 o’clock. **Ruth** indicated that there would be four in his party, including his secretary.

Also in Wednesday’s edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, the following players who would participate with **Ruth** in the exhibition game were listed as follows: pitchers – **Jack Rahoi, Jab Murray (Menominee), Tom Jones, Joe LaForce, “Fungo” Tedeschi, D.E. Lancey**; catchers – **Frank Valenti, Bert Werley, Youngquist (Norway), Charles Crocker**; outfielders – **Bunzie Rahoi, Soderberg (Norway), Hayden, George Rahoi, Miller, Si Saxon, Johnson (Crystal Falls)**; infielders – **Teabault (Marquette), Engblom (Marquette), Belanger (Marquette), Ashenbrenner, Bud O’Conner (Oconto, Wis.), Pultz, Web Jacobsen [sic – Jacobson], and Saxon**.

Interest in the game – which had been only lukewarm the first few days following the announcement – gradually increased as the date approached. By **Thursday, October 29**, the day of the event, “even the most doubting of ‘Doubting Thomases’ had to admit that the big deal was going to be pulled off after all.”

The weather conditions were ideal, especially considering the event was held in

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late October. A dry field and warm temperatures were all the promoters could have wanted.

Ticket sales began at noon at **Athletic Park**. The crowd began to gather well before 2 p.m. when the affair was to begin. According to the newspaper article, “the ones more confident of the fact that the **Babe** would actually appear going inside the park and selecting their seats and the more dubious remaining outside and keeping possession of their coin until their doubts had been removed by the sight of the **Bambino**. And he did come.”

While the crowd, numbering about 3,000, was not the largest on record to gather at **Athletic Park**, it was the biggest in recent years. It was, however, easily the most representative gathering of **Upper Peninsula** athletic fans ever seen in **Iron Mountain**.

Copper Country newspapers predicted that their sports lovers would be down “in large numbers” and **Escanaba** and **Menominee** were also well-represented. Cars bearing name plates of cities from miles around were seen at the grounds.

Ruth’s actual trip to **Iron Mountain** from **Des Moines, Iowa**, where he played Wednesday afternoon, was an accomplishment in itself. The **Babe** and his manager, **Christy Walsh**, **New York** newspaperman, “left **Iowa City** at 9:30 Wednesday night and were carried to **Beloit, Wis.**, by train,” according to a telegram received from Walsh on the morning of the event.

Ruth and his party were rushed to **Oshkosh** by automobile, where they were met by **Ted Kingsford** and **Joe Lannan**, completing the final leg of the trip with their arrival in **Iron Mountain** at about 2:30 p.m.

Once inside the park “the Yankee star had to fight his way through the crowd and

out into the open spaces which ceased to be open spaces as soon as he arrived. The throng was good natured, but it absolutely refused to stay back.”

The Iron Mountain News sports reporter summarized the event as follows which has been compiled from two different accounts:

“**Babe Ruth**, who has been more or less intimately identified with the **New York Yankees** and home runs during the past few years, dropped over from **Des Moines, Ia.**, yesterday afternoon to hoist a goodly number of **Mr. Spaulding’s** official cork centers over the fence of the **Athletic park** and incidentally give an assemblage of some 3,000 enthusiastic fans their money’s worth and a bit more.

“Well over a dozen balls were sent outside the yard by the prodigious **Babe**, including one clout of the home run variety with two on base. But that was while they were still playing something that resembled baseball. In the seventh inning – (or was it the sixth? – who knows, or cares?) the **Bambino** came to the plate and remained there for 15 minutes or so showering the outfield with horsehide until his brow became damp in spite of a cool breeze and the arm of **LaForest** began to weary. The ball game had been forgotten, but the crowd – the biggest in recent years at the park – wended its way home satisfied.

“The score? That, too, is a mystery. Just one more detail lost in the enthusiasm which was centered upon **Ruth**. They sent him to the plate in almost every inning and what happened in the meanwhile was a total loss.

“‘**Dutch’ Kochendorfer**, **Norway** hurling ace, opened up things by tossing ‘em over while the **Babe** lofted fly after fly deep into right field and over the fence. Somebody finally picked two teams from

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the players who had volunteered their services and a ball game was started.

“**Fungo Tedeschi** opened on the mound against **Ruth**’s team. The first two men to face him went out and the **Babe** did likewise, **Miller** to **Bresenham**. That was not so good – with the crowd.

“**Ruth** went out to first base instead of his regular outfield position and the inning was ended without anything of importance. On his second trip up the **Babe** struck out. The third time, with **Pitcher Jones**, of **Channing**, in the box, he again was retired and the crowd was getting peeved. **Jack Raho**i then went to the mound and **Umpire Gould** held the **Babe** to the plate until he had hit safely.

“At about the seventh inning **Ruth** went to the plate and with the unspoken consent of all players he stayed there for about 15 minutes, clouting the offerings of **LaForest** high, wide and far. Which was what the crowd wanted. And when it was done the audience went home satisfied with the fact that it had seen **Ruth** in action at close range. And for some of those who stood along the sidelines and onto the field, it was real close range.

“To **Bunzie Raho**i went the honor of catching the first ball hit inside the **Athletic park** by **Ruth**. And, while we are speaking of the local players it is worthwhile to mention that fact that **Raho**i, **Soderberg** and **Web Jacobson**, each came through with catches which were among the best seen on the local field this season. They looked like real big leaguers.

“The following players took part in the play while there was a ball game going on: **Youngquist**, **Norway**; **Bunzie Raho**i; **Soderberg**, **Norway**; **Jacobson**; **Bresenham**; **Miller**, **Crystal Falls**; **L. Keekendorfer**, **Norway**; **Hayden**; **Tedeschi**; **Valenti**; **Pults** [*sic* – **Pultz**],

Ashenbrenner; **Werley**, **Escanaba**; “**Dutch**” **Kechendorfer** [*sic* – **Kochendorfer**], **Norway**; **J. Hayden**; **Jab Murphy**, **Menominee**.

“The **Caseys’ Clown band** added much to the day’s entertainment.

“At the park **Ruth** was presented with a basket of flowers by the **Knights of Columbus** and then he spent a while autographing balls for the fans.

“Several balls which are to be disposed of for charitable purposes were autographed for **Mrs. Louise Coriagliotte**. [*In an earlier article it was noted that immediately preceding the game **Ruth** was be asked to autograph a number of balls which would be disposed of later by **Mrs. Louise Coriagliotte**, a charity worker, and the funds would be used to aid crippled children of the city.*]

“**Ruth** had a sweet time getting out of the field after the game. He was literally mobbed by small boys who tackled him about the legs in an effort to hold him with them for a while longer. And, despite the fact that he had been through a trying journey, he kept his good nature.”

In a sports column titled “Home Brew by Mark,” one item noted:

“**Tuck**,’ our star reporter, says he’s now ready to die, having lived a useful and glorious career. Now that he’s interviewed **Vice President Dawes**, **Henry Ford** and **Babe Ruth**, he feels that there’s nothing more to live for. [*“Tuck” would have been **Lawrence D. Tucker**.*]

Following the exhibition game, the **Lions Club** hosted a dinner with **Babe Ruth** as the honored guest, together with **Christy Walsh**, his manager and head of the **Christy Walsh** newspaper syndicate of **New York City**.

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Frank O. Morett, president of the **Lions Club**, presided at the dinner and **T.J. Masterson** served as toastmaster.

Other noted guests included: **George Zieglebauer** and **Ned Fox**, who brought the **Babe** to **Iron Mountain**; **Dr. F.O. Logic**, president of the **Kiwanis Club**; **J.A. Payant**, head of the **Knights of Columbus**; **Wells Hallenbeck** and **W.J. Cudlip**, representing the **Rotary Club**; and **Joseph Lannen**.

The **Babe** entertained with one or two stories and a few chatty remarks. **Ruth** stated he was very pleased to have been in **Iron Mountain**, noting that while here he had been offered the purchase of **Pine Mountain** at a price of \$100,000 “for the iron that’s in it.”

“The entire meeting was quite informal and the **Babe** established himself a real fellow devoid of any ‘high hat’ characteristics, despite the fact that he is a national character and about as well known as **President Coolidge**.”

Both **Ruth** and **Walsh** were life members of the **Lions Club**.

Following the dinner the **Babe** autographed a number of baseballs, a task which he was frequently called upon to perform while he was in the city, and conversed with club members.

Late in the evening, **Ruth** and his party were taken to Pembine to catch a train for Minneapolis, where he was to open a vaudeville engagement the next day.

The following are verbatim accounts of the news articles regarding Babe Ruth’s visit to Iron Mountain as they appeared in *The Iron Mountain News*:

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6,

Number 163 [Thursday, October 21, 1926], page 10, columns 1-2

Babe Ruth to Play at Iron Mountain

Clouting Yank Star Is Signed Yesterday

He’ll Be Member Of Dickinson County Team With All-U.P. Players As Opposition

Babe Ruth, slugging Sultan to the Swat of the New York Yankees, was signed yesterday afternoon to play in **Iron Mountain** one week from today, Thursday, October 28, in what, without question, is the greatest baseball attraction ever to be staged in the upper peninsula.

The **Babe** will play here as a member of one of two upper peninsula all-star teams, the personnel of which is to be announced Tuesday. It is likely that one of the aggregations will be selected from **Dickinson county** players while the other will be named from baseball lights who have shown on teams outside of the county. Thus, the game itself ought to be a real attraction.

Cross Country Dash.

Ruth will come here Thursday after making a cross country dash from **Des Moines, Ia.**, where he is to appear on Wednesday. Investigation of rail schedules

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were being made today with the likelihood looming that Ruth will be rushed to **Iron Mountain** Thursday morning by auto. The race will be another of the features of the affair.

His exhibition here will be his final showing before he enters upon a vaudeville tour on the following Sunday at **Minneapolis**.

Despite the fact that negotiations with **Ruth** were completed only last evening, plans for the game are rapidly nearing completion. Sale of tickets is to be commenced immediately. The **Ford band** will be secured to add a bit of color to the program. An effort is to be made to have merchants cooperate in the manner they planned to do when the **American League Stars** were to have played here several weeks ago by closing during the hours of the game. The contest was “rained out.”

Ticket Contest.

Sale of tickets will be carried on with the aid of school boys who are anxious to win a real, honest to goodness baseball autographed by the “**Babe**” himself and to have their picture taken with him. No plans for the contest has [*sic – have*] been formulated yet, but last night it was stated that the three boys selling the most tickets for the game would probably be given the balls and have their picture taken with **Ruth** as their reward.

It is likely that the biggest crowd ever to see a baseball exhibition in the history of the city will be on deck in the **Athletic park** next Thursday. Fans from near-by cities are expected to make the trip to the city in

large delegations and there is every indication that the local enthusiasts will turn out en masse.

The promoters of the project will be under heavy expenses in bringing the Yankee star to the city and for this reason are asking for volunteer players for the two line-ups. It is thought that the opportunity to play with the **Babe** or against him and the chance of meeting him personally will be incentive for donation of services. Several local players have expressed their willingness of playing under those [*conditions*] and, if there are not sufficient volunteers from outside the city, it is likely that these offers will be accepted.

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 168 [Wednesday, October 27, 1926], page 8, columns 1-2

Stage is Set for Babe’s Appearance Tomorrow

Bases Supplant Goal Posts at Ball Park

Schools Declare Half Holiday; Clerks May Leave Jobs To See Bambino in Action

Iron Mountain baseball fans tonight are sitting back with a smug, contented [*sic – contented*] feeling in the knowledge that the

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sport treat of the season is to be staged right in their own front yard tomorrow afternoon. And those fans who are not so favorably located, geographically, are packing up their toothbrush and handkerchief preparatory to a little jaunt down here.

Babe Ruth is to play here tomorrow.

A telephone conversation with the **Bambino** yesterday completed the last minute detail plans so that there is no possibility of a hitch in the afternoon's proceedings. **Ruth** is playing this afternoon in **Des Moines**. Immediately following the game he is to climb aboard a plane to be dashed to **Chicago**. There he is to spend tonight and early tomorrow morning he will begin his journey north.

Shocker Here Also?

"Somewhere" between here and **Milwaukee** he will be met by "**Ted**" **Kingsford** in an auto and be taken the remainder of the way into **Iron Mountain**, arriving here in time for the opening of the game at 2 o'clock. Over the phone yesterday the **Babe** stated that there would be four in his party, including his secretary. **Urban Shocker**, Yankee pitcher, has been with the **Bambino** on a part of his tour and it is possible that he is still a member of the party.

Yesterday it was announced that all employes [*sic – employees*] of business places who desire to see the **Babe** in action will be permitted to leave their jobs during the hours of the game although there will be no general suspension of business. All barber shops, however, will be closed and a

majority of the public schools will declare a half holiday for tomorrow afternoon. The others will dismiss their classes at 2:00 so that the students will be able to attend.

The Players.

Following are the players who will participate with **Ruth** in the game: Pitchers – **Jack Rahoi, Jab Murray (Menominee)[,], Tom Jones, Joe LaForce, "Fungo" Tedeschi, D.E. Lancey**; Catchers – **Frank Valenti, Bert Werley, Youngquist (Norway)[,]** **Charles Crocker**; Outfielders – **Bunzie Rahoi, Soderberg (Norway)[,]** **Hayden, George Rahoi, Miller, Si Saxon, Johnson (Crystal Falls)[,]** Infielders – **Teabault (Marquette)[,]** **Engblom (Marquette)[,]** **Belanger (Marquette)[,]** **Ashenbrenner, Bud O'Conner (Oconto, Wis.)[,]** **Pultz, Web Jacobsen [*sic – Jacobson*], and Saxon.**

Sale of tickets will begin at noon at the Athletic park.

Immediately preceding the game **Ruth** will be asked to autograph a number of balls which will be disposed of later by **Mrs. Louise Coriagliotte**, charity worker, and the funds will be used to aid crippled children of the city.

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 169 [Thursday, October 28, 1926], page 10, column 1

Fans Flock to See Babe Ruth in Action

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SUMMER WEATHER GREETES BAMBINO AND U.P. CROWDS

Event Will Go Down As Biggest Sporting Event of City

A record crowd of spectators was expected to be at the **Athletic park** this afternoon to witness the ball-clouting exhibition of **Babe Ruth**, slashing New York Yankee outfielder.

Weather conditions at the time of the start of the affair were almost ideal – a remarkable state of things when upper peninsula fall temperatures are considered.

A dry field and warmth were expected to pep up the play much.

Ruth's appearance here will go down as perhaps the greatest baseball event in recent years in the peninsula. It is doubtful if any other such attraction pulled fans from farther portions of the peninsula than the **Bambino**. **Copper Country** papers have predicted that their sport lovers would be down "in large numbers" and it is known that the **Escanaba** and **Menominee** districts are well represented.

24 Hour Dash

Ruth arrived in **Beloit, Wis.**, last night or early this morning, a telegram from the swatter's secretary received this morning stated. He was rushed to **Oshkosh** by auto and there he was met by **Ted Kingsford**[,]

who completed the final 24 hour dash from **Des Moines, Ia.**, to **Iron Mountain**.

Interest in the game, which has been only luke warm the first few days following the announcement, gained volume as the days went by and today even the most doubting of "Doubting Thomases" had to admit that the big deal was going to be pulled off after all.

Schools were to be dismissed early to permit children to see the game and employes [*sic* – *employees*] of business houses were told that they would be permitted time off to witness it. Barber shops of the city were closed for the event.

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 170 [Friday, October 29, 1926], page 2, columns 1-2

BAMBINO GUEST OF LIONS CLUB; FIND HE'S ONE

Ruth and Manager Are Entertained Here By Local Group

George Herman "Babe" Ruth, king of swat, bambino of the ball lot, clouter of home runs and just a big overgrown kid, was the guest of the Lions club at a dinner held last evening following his batting expedition at **Athletic park**.

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With the **Babe** was **Christy Walsh**, his manager and head of the Christy Walsh newspaper syndicate of New York city. The guests also included **George Zieglebauer** and **Ned Fox**, who brought the Babe to **Iron Mountain**; **Dr. F.O. Logic**, president of the Kiwanis club; **J.A. Payant**, head of the Knights of Columbus, and **Wells Hallenbeck** and **W.J. Cudlip**, representing the Rotary club, and **Joseph Lannen**.

Frank O. Morett, president of the Lions club, presided, and **T.J. Masterson** was toastmaster.

Brief remarks were made by **Dr. Logic**, **Mr. Zeilgelbauer [sic]**, **Mr. Hallenbeck**, **Mr. Walsh** and the **Babe** himself. The Babe entertained with one or two stories and delivered himself of a few chatty remarks.

Both Lions

It was revealed at the meeting that both **Ruth** and **Walsh** are members of the Lions organization, holding life membership cards.

Following the dinner the **Babe** autographed a number of baseballs, a task which he was frequently called upon to perform while he was in the city, and conversed with club members. Late in the evening he motored to **Pembine** to catch a train to **Minneapolis**.

Ruth expressed himself as being very pleased to have been in **Iron Mountain** and said while here he had been offered the purchase of **Pine mountain** at a price of \$100,000 "for the iron that's in it."

The entire meeting was quite informal and the **Babe** established himself a real fellow devoid of any "high hat"

characteristics, despite the fact that he is a national character and about as well known as **President Coolidge**.

A basket of flowers sent by the Kiwanis club adorned the dinner table.

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 170 [Friday, October 29, 1926], page 14, columns 1-2 and columns 7-8

Big U.P. Crowd Sees Babe Hoist Horsehides Out of Lot

'Mob' Wants to See Ruth All the Time so Game Busts Up in 7th Frame

Fungo Gets First Strike Out And Bunzi Rahoi Cops First Fly From Bambino's Bat

Babe Ruth, who has been more or less intimately identified with the New York Yankees and home runs during the past few years, dropped over from **Des Moines, Ia.**, yesterday afternoon to hoist a goodly number of **Mr. Spaulding's** official cork centers over the fence of the **Athletic park** and incidentally give an assemblage of some 3,000 enthusiastic fans their money's worth and a bit more.

Well over a dozen balls were sent outside the yard by the prodigious **Babe**, including one clout of the home run variety

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with two on base. But that was while they were still playing something that resembled baseball. In the seventh inning – (or was it the sixth? – who knows, or cares?) the **Bambino** came to the plate and remained there for 15 minutes or so showing [*sic – showering*] the outfield with horsehide until his brow became damp in spite of a cool breeze and the arm of **LaForest** began to weary. The ball game had been forgotten, but the crowd – the biggest in recent years at the park – wended its way home satisfied.

Who Knows Score?

The score? That, too, is a mystery. Just one more detail lost in the enthusiasm which was centered upon **Ruth**. They sent him to the plate in almost every inning and what happened in the meanwhile was a total loss.

The day was ideal. Considerably before 2 o'clock, the time when the affair was to have gotten under way, the crowd began to gather, the ones more confident of the fact that the **Babe** would actually appear going inside the park and selecting their seats and the more dubious remaining outside and keeping possession of their coin until their doubts had been removed by the sight of the **Bambino**. And he did come.

Fights Way Through Crowd

Inside the park the Yankee star had to fight his way through the crowd and out into the open spaces which ceased to be open spaces as soon as he arrived. The throng was good natured, but it absolutely refused to stay back. "**Dutch**" **Kochendorfer**, **Norway** hurling ace, opened up things by

tossing 'em over while the **Babe** lofted fly after fly deep into right field and over the fence. Somebody finally picked two teams from the players who had volunteered their services and a ball game was started. **Fungo Tedeschi** opened on the mound against **Ruth's** team. The first two men to face him went out and the Babe did likewise, **Miller** to **Breshenham**. That was not so good – with the crowd.

Ruth went out to first base instead of his regular outfield position and the inning was ended without anything of importance. On his second trip up the **Babe** struck out. The third time, with **Pitcher Jones**, of **Channing**, in the box, he again was retired and the crowd was getting peeved. **Jack Raho** then went to the mound and **Umpire Gould** held the Babe to the plate until he had hit safely.

Game Busts Up

At about the seventh inning **Ruth** went to the plate and with the unspoken consent of all players he stayed there for about 15 minutes, clouting the offerings of **LaForest** high[,] wide and far. Which was what the crowd wanted. And when it was done the audience went home satisfied with the fact that it had seen **Ruth** in action at close range. And for some of those who stood along the sidelines and onto the field, it was real close range.

Bunzie Got First

To **Bunzie Raho** went the honor of catching the first ball hit inside the **Athletic park** by **Ruth**. And, while we are speaking of the local players it is worth while [*sic – worthwhile*] to mention that fact that **Raho**,

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By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

Sodeberg [*sic* – **Soderberg**] and **Web Jacobson**, each come through with catches which were among the best seen on the local field this season. They looked like real big leaguers.

The crowd, while not the largest on record at the local park, was the biggest in recent years. It was easily the most representative gathering of upper peninsula fans ever seen here, however. Cars bearing name plates of cities for miles around were seen at the grounds.

Ruth's trip here from **Des Moines, Ia.**, where he played Wednesday afternoon, was in itself a feature. The **Babe** and his manager, **Christy Walsh**, New York newspaperman, left **Iowa city** at 9:30 Wednesday night and were carried to **Beloit, Wis.**, by train. In the wee, small hours of Thursday morning they started from Beloit to **Oshkosh** by motor and in that city they were met by **Ted Kingsford** and **Joe Lannan** and driven to **Iron Mountain** where they arrived about 2:30 o'clock.

At the park **Ruth** was presented with a basket of flowers by the Knights of Columbus and then he spent a while autographing balls for the fans.

He left the city last night going to **Minneapolis** where he is to open a vaudeville engagement tomorrow.

The following players took part in the play while there was a ball game going on: **Youngquist, Norway; Bunzie Rahoi; Soderberg, Norway; Jacobson; Bresenham; Miller, Crystal Falls; L. Keekendorfer, Norway; Hayden;**

Tedesschi; Valenti; Pults Ashenbrenner; Werley, Escanaba; "Dutch" Mechendorfer, Norway; J. Hayden; Jab Murphy, Menominee.

Home Brew

–By Mark–

"Tuck," our star reporter, says he's now ready to die, having lived a useful and glorious career. Now that he's interviewed **Vice President Dawes, Henry Ford** and **Babe Ruth**, he feels that there's nothing more to live for.

* * *

The policing of the crowd at the park yesterday was terrible. None but those crowded within a small area near him could see the **Babe** in action, but still no efforts were made to get them back.

* * *

Ruth had a sweet time getting out of the field after the game. He was literally mobbed by small boys who tackled him about the legs in an effort to hold him with them for a while longer. And, despite the fact that he had been through a trying journey, he kept his good nature.

* * *

The school officials played a nice piece of diplomacy yesterday by letting the students get out early. There would have been little chance of keeping them in their classes. About two-thirds of the crowd were [*sic* – *was*] "kids." Still the school officials were mighty good sports about it

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 33: THE ROARING TWENTIES – THE SULTAN OF SWAT VISITS IRON MOUNTAIN ON OCTOBER 28, 1926

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

and deserve credit. For many of the children it was the change of a lifetime to see **Ruth** in action. **Norway's** schools were dismissed as were all of those of **Iron Mountain**.

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Several balls which are to be disposed of for charitable purposes were autographed for **Mrs. Louise Coringliotte** [*sic – Coriagliotte*].

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The **Caseys' Clown band** added much to the day's entertainment.

* * *

Ruth went into the pitching for an inning and everybody had a good time. Hits were many and fielding was clownish, but this was finally retired.

* * *

George Zieglebauer and **Ned Fox** promoted the **Ruth** exhibition and deserve credit for a lot of nerve and faith in upper peninsula fans. The gamble was on the weather and fortunately, they won.