

This is the story of the 1911 Berlin Green Sox, but it begins as my story; for my story was responsible for unearthing their story.

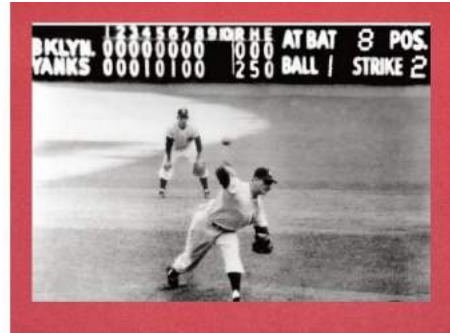
In 1953, I was an immigrant kid living in Mount Forest when I was introduced to this strange game called baseball. However, it wasn't until we moved to Kitchener for grade 2 that the game really grabbed me. Baseball was the be-all and end-all of life at St. Joseph's. We played before school, at lunch, after school and at every recess. On weekends and in the summer, we returned to the school to play



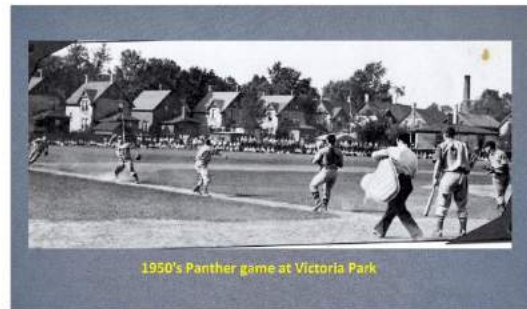
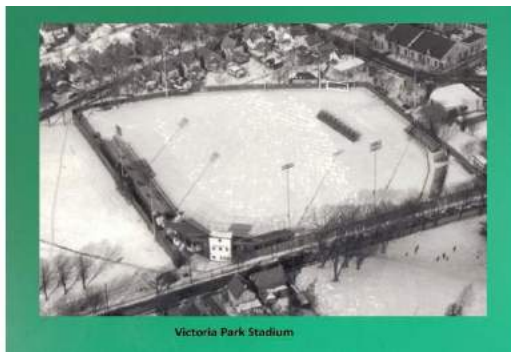


more baseball. We formed our own leagues, kept stats, and even made our own baseball cards by printing information in the inside of discarded cigarette packages.

Everyone was either a Yankee or a Dodger fan. Our teachers seemed to share our passion. Sister Mary Robert set up a radio in the classroom and let us listen to the 1956 World Series. We willingly stayed after school the day Don Larsen pitched his perfect game.



Our house was so close to Victoria Park Stadium that I could hear the Public



Address announcer introduce the batters and provide inning-ending summaries of the Kitchener Dutchmen InterCounty games. I could easily follow every game this way.

I began to play the game earnestly and eventually ended up playing in that



stadium. I looked pretty good too! But my dreams of becoming a major league player were shattered shortly after this photo was taken when my less than sterling play failed to impress the Cubs.

I continued to play in rec leagues

and fastball and then became an umpire. But first and foremost, I stayed a fan. As an adult, I went to as many major league games as I could afford.



In 1991, with four like-minded friends, I set out on our first annual baseball trip. Over time, these trips became more elaborate and we began to include baseball sites like old stadiums into our itinerary. One trip included three sites where the Dodgers once played while in Brooklyn.



It was in planning for one of these trips that I happened

upon the name Berlin Green Sox. Thinking this was an American city and team, I looked further to see if it might fit into one of our trips. To my surprise this Berlin was my home town, now known as Kitchener. Not only were the Green Sox from my home town, but they played in the same stadium I had played in, and in 1911 they were very, very good.



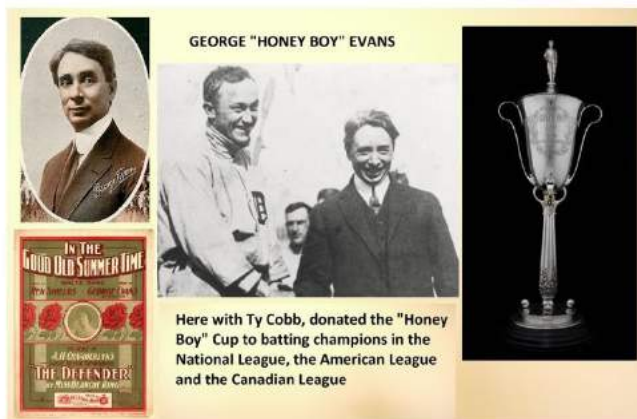
That's all the incentive I needed, and I immersed myself into 1911, by poring over that year's editions of the *Berlin Daily News Record*. In short order, I became a fan of a team that had played over 100 years ago, and of players who are long dead and forgotten.



In 1911, the President was William Howard Taft; The Prime Minister was Wilfrid Laurier. The flags were different and the populations were smaller. It was a baseball crazy society. In 1911, there were 42 professional baseball leagues in Canada and the United

States. We now have only 21. If we had the same ratio of leagues to population now, we'd have 144 professional leagues.

The 42nd league was created in 1911 as the Canadian Baseball League. The driving force behind this league was George "Knotty" Lee, a future Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame inductee. He worked endlessly trying to get franchises going, begging and cajoling leading citizens in Southwestern Ontario to support his effort.

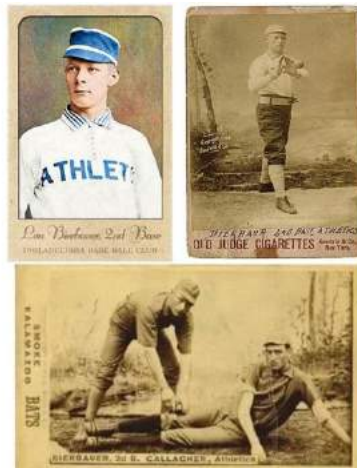
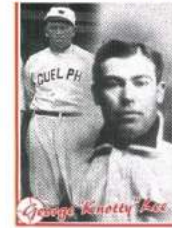


As the six-team league was coming to fruition, it came to the attention of a baseball obsessed singer named George "Honey Boy" Evans, who jumped on the bandwagon. Honey Boy had donated trophies to both the American and National League batting

champions. (He is shown above presenting to Ty Cobb.) He decided to donate an identical trophy to the Canadian League batting champion.

The teams lined up their managers. Knotty Lee managed the Hamilton Kolts, while the London Cockneys signed Lou Bierbauer. Bierbauer was

George "Knotty" Lee
Manager - Hamilton Kolts



LOU BIERBAUER
LONDON
COCKNEYS
MANAGER

famous for having jumped from the Philadelphia Athletics to the Brooklyn Ward Wonders of the Players League. When the Players League folded, he signed with the Pittsburgh Alleghenys rather than return to Philadelphia. This

apparent theft led to the Pittsburgh team's being named the Pirates, a name they soon adopted. Beirbauer did not last out the year, and was replaced by a Pittsburgh teammate, Jim Keenan, who had played for 6 teams in an 11-year



JIM KEENAN
LONDON COCKNEYS - MANAGER

major league career.

The Brantford Red Sox hired Harry Kane who had played with the Browns, Tigers and Phillies. The Guelph Maple Leafs went through two managers that year; both Abbie Johnson and Frank Shannon were former major leaguers.

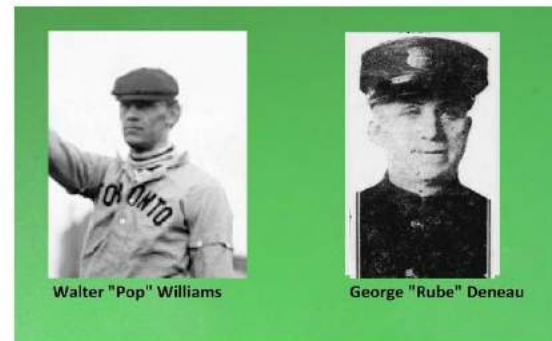
HARRY KANE
BRANTFORD RED SOX - MANAGER



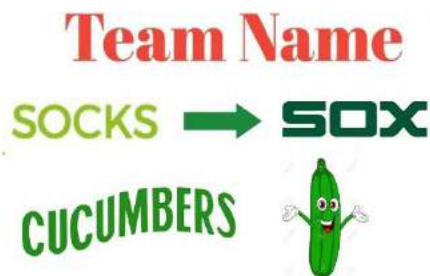
GUELPH MAPLE LEAFS
MANAGERS



The St. Thomas Saints hired Chaucer Elliott, who would be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame as a referee. Berlin owner Walter "Pop" Williams opted for a baseball journeyman from Windsor, George "Rube" Deneau.



The team was named the Green Socks (S-O-C-K-S) for one day before switching to the S-O-X spelling of their name.

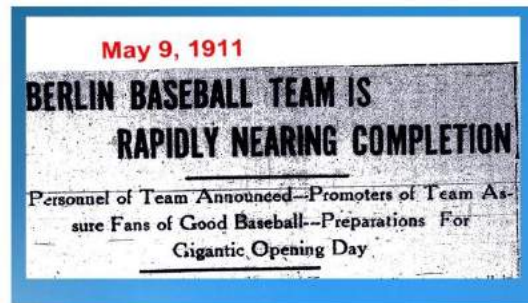


Shortly after opening day, their fans affectionately nicknamed them "The Cucumbers".

Assembling the team was another matter. Players from all over tried out. Several locals, including two

Elmira Mennonite brothers, worked out, but none made the team. Two American players, when cut, absconded with their uniforms, but were arrested at the border.

Slowly, the Berlin team took shape with the last player, catcher Jack Dunn, arriving on the eve of opening day. They ranged in age from the 16-year-old Dunn



to 37-year-old Curtis Templin. Some were rookies, some had checkered careers; all were average players at best, the flotsam and jetsam of baseball, and none had any inkling of how good they would become for one glorious year.

In all 25 players suited up for the Green Sox. Of these, ten played fewer than ten games and 5 of these were “one game wonders”. Another 4 played in fewer than 25 games. For most of these players, only their last names appeared in the paper, and then often only in the box score. This was part of the problem in doing the research, as well as the fact that different spellings of names were used: for example Meier and Meyer were one and the same, as were Cambray and Cambria.

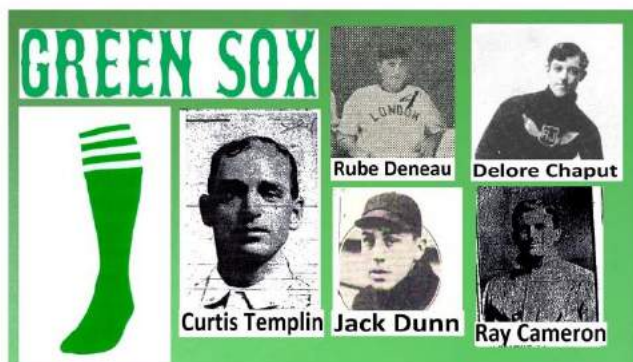
THE NAME GAME

Meier = Meyer

Chapin = Chaput

Cambray = Cambria

There was a core of 13 players that played the bulk of the games. The best



baseball pedigree belonged to manager/first baseman George “Rube” Deneau, a Windsor, Ontario native who started his career with a team called the Jacksonville Convicts. Second sacker Curtis Templin was a 16-year veteran of baseball’s minor

leagues. A Cherokee Indian, he went to the same school as Jim Thorpe. He was planning on making 1911 his swan song. Ray "Scotty" Cameron had played in Canada in 1905 but had only played sporadically until 1910. This was the completion of his come-back. Completing the infield was Albert "Biddy" Burns, a 4-year vet.

The catching duties were turned over to a 16-year-old from Michigan named Jack Dunn, who dropped out of Holy Cross High School to pursue his baseball dream. The outfield was anchored by speedy center fielder Joe Cambria, an Italian immigrant from Boston who was waiting to take over his father's shoe repair shop. Fred Bramble from Kansas and Dusty Bullard from Ohio were the corner outfielders. Jack Miller was a utility man who played every position except pitcher.

The moundsmen were headed by Delore "Frenchy" Chaput, a two sport athlete who used his athletic skills to escape the iron mines of Minnesota. At age 24, he was coming into his prime. Walter Teed was an erratic fireballer from Michigan. Chick Mueller was a junk ball pitcher from Iowa. Ken Tracy and outfielder Fred Bramble rounded out the pitching staff.

As the league and team were preparing for the season, favourable response was growing in town. Berlin was a town on the rise, and was in a celebratory mood. It had become the first municipality in Ontario to get hydro-electricity in October of the previous year, 1910. Berlin had applied for city status, which was scheduled to be formally bestowed in 1912. A professional baseball team was just another symbol of a thriving progressive town.



Newspapers and the population were awaiting Opening Day of May 17th not

knowing what to expect. Gregarious mayor William Schmalz, a man who never saw a parade he didn't want to lead, declared opening day a public holiday. A parade was organized from the town hall to the stadium. Players rode in open carriages, accompanied by the Berlin Musical Society Marching Band.



The Berlin Musical Society Band led a parade from the town hall to the ball park. Players travelled in open carriages

OPENING DAY



W.H. Schmalz Mayor



E.W. Clement

Mayor Schmalz threw the first pitch to Alderman Clement who hit a dribbler to left. Catcher Jack Dunn was impressed with His Honour's Style

Mayor Schmalz threw the ceremonial first pitch to Alderman Clement, who hit a dribbler to the left of the infield. With the speeches and ceremonies over, the season was now on; it was time to play for keeps.



The only game in the league that day was Sox versus Sox, Brantford's Red against Berlin's Green. Both pitchers were named Conley. Both Conleys pitched well, but the Red Sox bunched their eight hits into two innings and

won 6-5. The crowd of over 1500 was enthusiastic and highly appreciative of the calibre of play. Catcher Jack Dunn, who had arrived the day before, was concerned about his inability to communicate with this battery





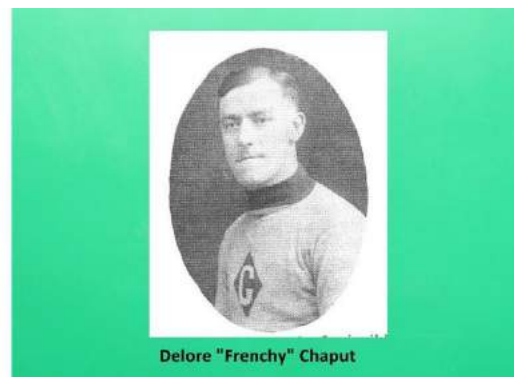
mate. He was unaware that “Dummy” Conley was a deaf-mute.

The Green Sox won their second game in a 13-6 rout. Their third game win, thanks to a ninth inning home run, put them into first place, albeit only

alphabetically. A game 4 victory put them into sole possession of first place, a spot they would never relinquish. They were in the midst of a 7-game win streak. They would have another seven-gamer later in the season, as well as two eight-game win streaks.

Although they were never out of first place after their third win, the last two games of the win streak were almost lost. On May 24th, starter Clauss was relieved in the 9th by Delore Chaput. Chaput was battered around but survived to preserve the win. He did the same thing two days later with another terrible 9th inning of relief. For some reason, Rube Deneau, who was quick to release players, kept him around.

The seven-game win streak ended with an extra-inning loss to the Guelph Maple Leafs in the first game of a double-header. Chaput was given the start in the second game. On the verge of his release, he went the distance for the win and was 4-for-4 at the plate. It was the first of 28 wins (versus only 4 losses) for Chaput, who quickly became the



Green Sox' ace.



The Cucumbers won the next two games to go to 10 - 2 in their first dozen games. Large crowds attended their home games; one game saw 2,500 fans in attendance. This was a significant

portion of Berlin's 1911 population of 15,000. The Green Sox were so popular that the *Berlin News Record* carried a story about the pastor at St. Andrews complaining that although all the girls had memorized their catechism lessons, none of the boys had: they were too busy memorizing Green Sox batting averages.

The large crowds accentuated the problem of lack of seating in Victoria Park. Pop Williams had asked the Parks Board for a grandstand. They agreed, but, using good old world fiscal frugality, decided to wait until the fall to begin construction, for that was when the wages of carpenters went down from their summer high. As well, the provincial government would not contribute to the cost unless a referendum was held. That seemed to settle the grandstand issue, but it was an issue that would not go away all season long, and was a major factor in the fate of the team.



As the team kept winning and running away with the pennant, the players were unaware that they were unwittingly sowing the seeds of their team's demise. Crowds in other towns swelled when the Sox came to town. People wanted to see this powerhouse team, the team that others loved to hate. But crowds at home remained static, as Berliners became a bit blasé about winning, and the lack of grandstand space forced many to stand for the entire game.

At the start of June, Pop Williams decided to bolster his team by picking up a pitcher named Turner, who was known to be a "ham andegger", or a junk ball finesse pitcher. Williams made him the highest paid player on the team, giving him a salary one and a half times that of his other pitchers. Turner did not work out and was gone after four starts.

However, to make room for him, the Green Sox parted ways with their opening day starter, Conley, who was the pitcher of record in three losses. Conley moved on to the St. Thomas Saints. "Dummy" Conley, a man whose nickname would not fly today, was a deaf-mute from Boston. His given name is known to his family, but appears nowhere in the record. The fact that he was able to make a career out of baseball was an outstanding accomplishment.

He had one shining day which is incredible at any level of baseball. Today, we baby pitchers using pitch counts, and stroke their egos with statistics like Quality Starts. On August 3rd, Conley won both games of a double-header, pitching 18 innings of shutout baseball. He scattered 11 hits while on the mound. At the plate he gave himself all the help he needed. He went 4-for-7 including a triple, and walked three times. As a final touch, he stole two bases.

Ex-Green Sox' Great Day
Dummy Conley a One Man Show

	First Game:	
Brantford	000000000-0	5 2
St. Thomas	50011002x-9	11 1
	Second Game:	
Brantford	000000000-0	6 3
St. Thomas	20012030x-8	10 3

In 1911, the Berliners had two 8-game winning streaks and two seven-game win streaks. They never lost more than two games in a row. They could win in so many ways. On the Dirt Pile they were led by Delore Chaput, who led the league with 28 wins. Walter Teed was 12-6 with 94 strikeouts. Chick Mueller was 11-5 and Fred Bramble and Ken Tracy each won 10 games.

WINNING "ON THE DIRTPILE" **NEW PITCHER WINS GAME**

TURNER, NEW PITCHER, SHUTS OUT KNOTTY LEE'S KOLTS
A Good Game at Southbury Yesterday Afternoon. Was by score of 3-0. Green Sox Played Excellent Ball and let when the Stagers Combed.

TRACY PITCHED NO RUN GAME
His Berlin Turnout Field Chatter Elliott's Batters to Free Hits Yesterday.

CHAPUT ALLOWS BUT 3 HITS

TRACY FANNED ELEVEN MEN

TEED HAD BEST OF TASKER

COULD NOT HIT MUELLER

ANOTHER WIN FOR CHAPUT
His Team A Was Goodest Game Had Facing Fighters-Score

WINNING "WITH THE WILLOW"

DUNN'S HOMER WON THE GAME
With Three On Bases, The Local's Back Step Placed One in The Right Spot.

GREEN SOX BATTED OUT A WIN IN NINTH INNING
With the Score 5 to 3 against them, These Teams came back strong in the Last (Princeton) Inning and Threw Home Beating Lee's Kolts.

RUBE DENEAU'S HITTERS TOOK ANOTHER FROM LEE'S KOLTS

DENEAU KNOCKED OUT A HOME RUN

GREEN SOX BOUNCED HITS AND WON FROM BRANTFORD

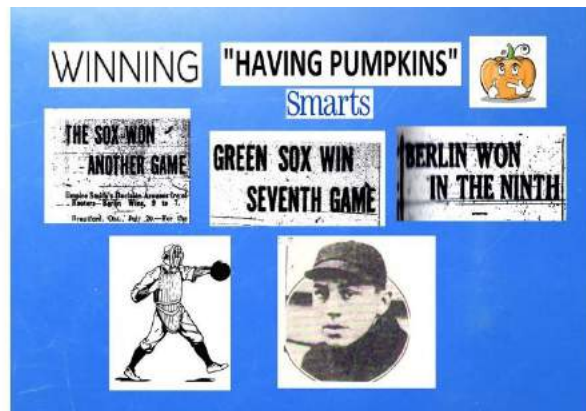
HITTING

With the Willow, the Cucumbers were led by MVP Scotty Cameron and his .340 batting average. Rube Deneau supplied the power with 7 home runs. That was a lot in the dead ball era, as the American League leader, Frank "Home Run" Baker, had only 11. Left fielder Fred Bramble led the

league with 7 triples. Five regulars batted over .300. Rube Deneau hit only .285, but 35 of his 102 hits were for extra bases. Eleven Green Sox had career years in 1911.

As well, they had “The Pumpkins”, as baseball smarts were called then. Jack Dunn was the leader on the field despite his youth, center fielder Joe Cambria had a great knowledge of the game and became a scout when his playing days were over.

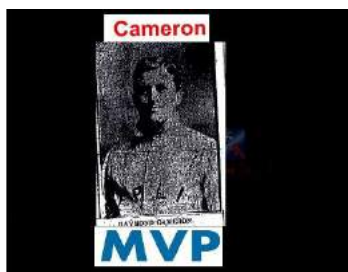
Curtis Templin and Rube Deneau shared the insights they’d gained in many years on the diamond.



The Pennant was clinched by the Green Sox on September 2. They won the pennant by 11 games over the second place London Cockneys. Their strength up the middle was obvious in the All-Star selections. The Green Sox placed catcher Jack Dunn, pitcher Delore Chaput, the keystone combo of Curtis Templin and



Scotty Cameron, and center fielder Joe Cambria on the elite squad. Three additional Berliners made the team as bench strength.



Ray Cameron was the league’s Most Valuable Player, hitting .340 with 4 home runs, and was considered the fastest man in the league.

Their play did not go unnoticed at higher levels of baseball. Major league teams

sent scouts to the Green Sox games. The St. Louis Browns and the Chicago Cubs were very interested. None could match the Detroit Tigers, whose scout not only travelled with the team, but sat on the bench wearing a Green Sox uniform. His persistence paid



Moving Up **CANADIAN LEAGUE PLAYERS ARE DRAFTED**

Walter Teed	→	Detroit Tigers	
Jack Dunn	→	Baltimore Orioles	
Chick Mueller	→	Detroit Tigers	
Delore Chaput	→	Philadelphia Phillies	
Ray Cameron	→	Philadelphia Athletics	

off as two players, Walter Teed and Chick Mueller, eventually signed with the Tigers. Both Philadelphia teams signed a player: Delore Chaput went to the Phillies and Ray Cameron to the Athletics. The Triple A Baltimore Orioles signed Jack

Dunn.

However, despite all the wins and great individual performances, things were not going well in other areas. The Parks Board was sticking to its guns in not building a grandstand. Pop Williams decided to play his trump card: he threatened to move his team. Williams had a winning team, the pride of the Canadian League, and moving them out of Berlin would be a blow to civic pride. The Parks Board called his bluff, but did agree to improvements in the playing surface.

Williams tried another ploy. He agreed to a hare-brained scheme of the other owners to revise the schedule in the middle of the season. The Green Sox were a major drawing card in other cities. The schedule was changed by taking away many



of Berlin's home games and moving them to other league cities.

The Canadian League had a salary cap of \$1,200 (the equivalent of \$31,500 in 2019). Admission to games was 25 cents (\$6.50 in 2019). For teams at the cap,

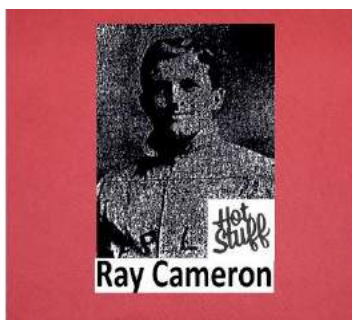


and none were, 8,000 fans worked out to be a good profit. The more bums in the seats, the more money. With the larger crowds the Green Sox brought in, other teams' bottom lines improved. In fact, every team except Brantford turned a profit in 1911. Brantford broke even.



What was in it for Williams? Taking games out of town put pressure on the Parks Board to act on the grandstand. Financially, Williams was able to take his share of the expanded gate receipts. As well, players were only paid for home games. With only 7 home games in August, Williams' overhead was greatly reduced, and his visiting team money made up for his take at home.

Much like teams in independent leagues today, teams made money by selling player contracts to other teams in higher divisions. Williams had the best players and he saw this as another way to make money. Knotty Lee arrived with his team in mid-August with \$600 to buy Ray Cameron. Lee thought that he still had a



chance at the pennant, and that Cameron would make the difference. Williams held out for more money. However, Lee's Kolts were swept by the Green Sox, virtually eliminating them from contention, so he withdrew his offer. Cameron stayed in Berlin, but he was a hot item. The Buffalo

Bisons offered \$1,500 for him, topping a Chicago offer of \$1,200. Williams, sensing a bidding war, proposed \$1,800. Then Cameron got hurt, and both offers were withdrawn. In the end, although five of his players moved up, Williams never got one cent for them, as they all signed as free agents after the season was over.



By September, the Green Sox were no longer front page news in the Berlin papers. Their games were relegated to the back pages. With so few home games, Berliners had lost interest. On September 7th only 100 fans showed up to see Delore Chaput win his 25th game with a masterful 4-hit shutout. A double-header drew only 400 fans. Berliners were disillusioned.

Williams decided on a bold move: he would finish the season's home games in



Galt. He reasoned that fans there would flock to see the league's premiere team. He was wrong, as the team played to fewer than 100 fans in Galt. The Green Sox played their last games in London and finished the season as they has started, with a loss. Sad bookends to a wonderful season. The final game was interrupted

twice as dignitaries presented awards to Cockney players. There were no ceremonies or awards in Berlin. The players went home disillusioned and dispirited, just as their fans had been a month earlier.

Pop Williams made good on his promise and moved the team to Peterborough, where they became the Whitecaps. Curtis Templin was the only player to follow him there; he became the team's playing manager. Before the 1912 season started, Williams realized his mistake and sold the Whitecaps to local interests. Then, using Rube Deneau as a front man, he got an expansion franchise in Berlin, which he named The Berlin Busy Bees. Both teams were filled with

fringe players and were dreadful throughout 1912, with the Whitecaps beating the Busy Bees for last place.

One Year Later

The transplanted franchise in Peterborough as the White Caps finished last.



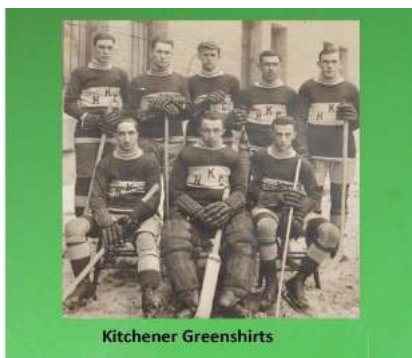
One Year Later



What's This, a Toboggan Slide? Berlin Drops Another

Berlin had another bad team in 1913 and then dropped out of the league; Peterborough dropped out in 1914, and the league folded in 1915. In 1919, after the war, the InterCounty League replaced the





None of the Green Sox made it to the big leagues. Jack Dunn got as far as Triple A in a career that was hindered by injuries. However in Baltimore, he did get to be the battery mate of a young pitcher named George Ruth, later known as the Babe.

Canadian League. Berlin, now named Kitchener, fielded a team that year and they have been in the league ever since. For years, green remained the colour of Kitchener teams, primarily hockey teams like the Greenshirts.



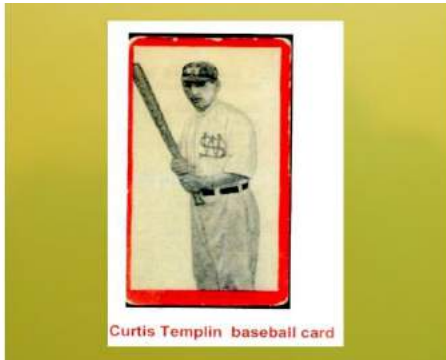
Delore Chaput continued to pitch in the minors, and then enlisted in the army in 1917, serving in France. When the war was over he was assigned by the army to teach baseball to the French because of his skills and the fact he could speak French. He was one of two men to get this assignment;

the other was future Baseball Hall of Famer Johnny Evers.

Rube Deneau stayed in Berlin and managed the Busy Bees for one year. Then he moved to London to take the helm of the Cockneys. He retired from baseball to become a policeman in his home town of Windsor. His most famous arrest was Ty Cobb, whom he once caught speeding. He is inducted into Windsor's Sports Hall of Fame.



Curtis Templin also became a policeman when he retired from baseball after 1912, joining the Reading, Pennsylvania force. MVP Ray Cameron did not fare well



the following year and retired. He likely returned to his home town to take a day job, although nothing appears in the record about him after 1912. The same can be said about the rest of the players: they went as they had come, from unknown places, and then returned there.

However the most successful Green Sox was Joe Cambria. He was not signed by scouts after 1911 and returned to Berlin to play for the Busy Bees until he was injured tripping on the railway tracks. He never played again. After serving in World War I, he relocated to Baltimore and his laundry sponsored a minor league team. He became more involved in baseball management, and owned several

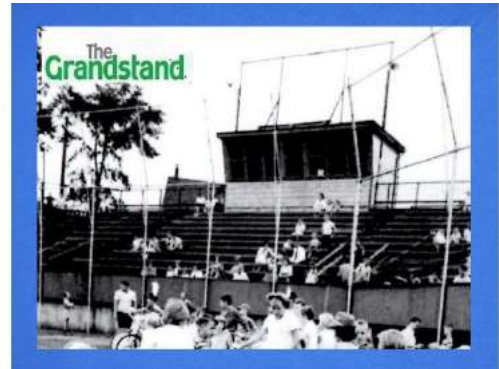
teams in the minors and the Negro Leagues. His Negro League connection led him to Cuba and to Latin America, where he became a super scout for the Washington Senators and Minnesota Twins. Among his signings were Tony Oliva, Zoilo

Joe Cambria Super Scout



Versalles, and Luis Tiant. According to legend he almost signed a radical young pitcher named Fidel Castro. Cambria is the subject of a book currently being written by Paul Scimonelli of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., scheduled for release in 2020.

The Parks Board eventually built a grandstand which served the InterCounty



teams. These wooden stands were replaced in the 1940s; this is the stadium I played in.

How do the Green Sox fit into history? Were they a great team, or merely a one-year wonder? The answer is a little of both. Although they existed for only one



year, they were a great team. They were a team in the true sense of the word, not some players surrounding a superstar. Each player contributed to the success of the team. They all excelled and they made each other better. Eleven players had their best

years. They caught something: lightning in a bottle, maybe a vibe. Whatever you want to call it, it produced a result that was far greater than the sum of its parts.

They made the Canadian League viable that inaugural year, first by getting the Berlin fans fired up and then by drawing large crowds to other towns. They provided the best baseball north of the border for one shining year. Unfortunately their magic did not last long. However, I am very glad to have found their story, and hopefully to have made them live a little longer.



Benno Rosinke
November 2019