



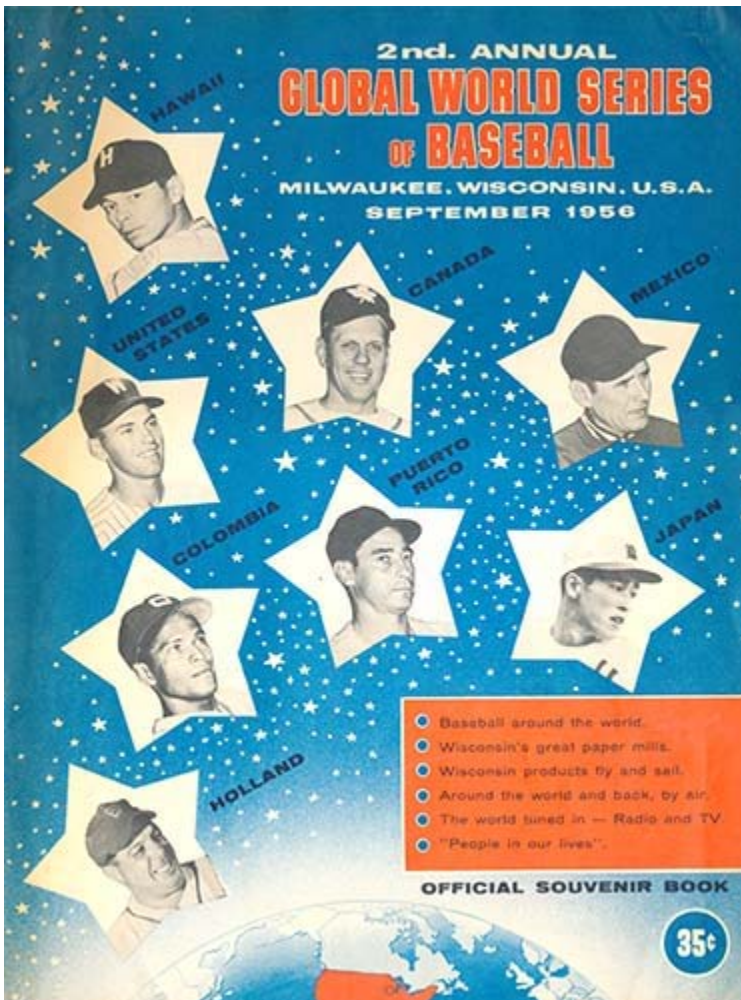
Ralph Hubert Mabee

Born : 19 August, 1912, Stoughton, Saskatchewan
Died : 26 August, 1986, Calgary, Alberta

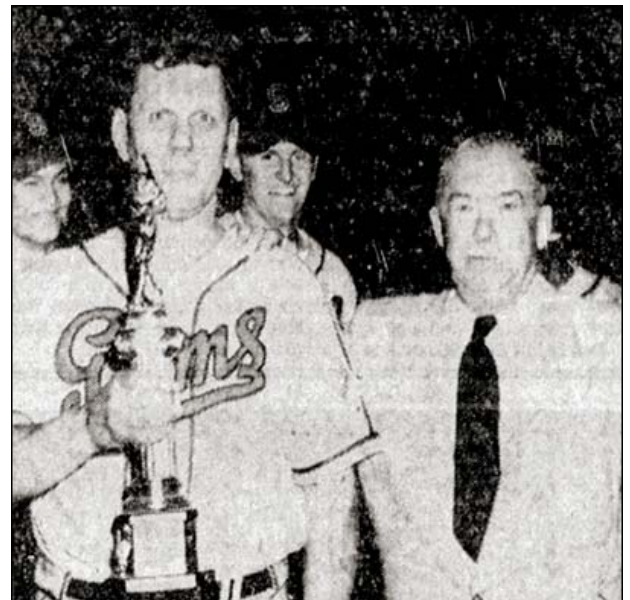
Player, Manager, General Manager

1920s – Winnipeg. MB
1925 - 30s - Benson, SK
1948- 1950 - Saskatoon Legion
1951 - Saskatoon 55s
1952 - 1957 - Saskatoon Gems
1960s -1980s Baseball Exec in Calgary (the city had a minor league farm team for the Expos and Cardinals. Ralph was on the Board of Directors and acted as a scout through his long relationship with Jim Fanning of the Expos. He also had a ladies' softball team, the Rockets, when he owned Rocket Car Wash in Calgary)

Born in Stoughton, Saskatchewan, Mabee spent his early years in Winnipeg, before settling in Saskatchewan and in particular, Saskatoon.



1955 might have been his best season, as his Gems captured the Western Canada League pennant and then represented Canada at the Global World Series.



Here Mabee is presented with the WCBL trophy by league President Cliff Henderson of Moose Jaw and is featured on the cover of the Global World Series program.

Introducing the Gems

One of the greatest baseball enthusiasts to hit Saskatoon in years is the general manager of the Gems, Ralph Mabee, a fellow who has done considerable for the improvement of the game here.

When Ralph appeared on the Hub City baseball horizon in 1947 the class of ball around Cairns Field was just so-so. It was pretty fair at times, but there was room for improvement.

He got into the game with the Legion team as a third baseman in 1948 and about mid-season took over the running of the club from Bill McPhail, who retired from the position and returned to umpiring.

Definite strides in the direction of improving baseball at Cairns Field were made by Mabee and his Legion club of 1949 and again in 1950, but Ralph still wanted something better.

The Legion withdrew its support after the '50 season and Mabee joined forces with Al Verner of the Cubs to form one club for Saskatoon.

They combined the best material from the former Legion and Cub lineups, added a few imports and reached out and got themselves a hustling manager in the person of Roy Taylor from Visalia, Calif. Mabee made the deal with Taylor, who had toured through here the previous season with California Mohawks. The Saskatoon combines were known as the 55s. They gave way to the name of Gems the next year when Delisle decided to pass up semi-pro ball.

Mabee rounded out a pretty fair outfit for the Gems in '52, improved upon it for 1953 and hopes to go one better again this year. "Formerly I set my sights on beating North Battleford," said Ralph the other day, "but this year it looks as though we'll have to do some hustling to beat Moose Jaw, Rosetown, Lloydminster and Indian Head besides the Beavers. They're all lining up good clubs, or, at least, it seems that way."

Mabee was born in Stoughton, Sask., played a little baseball there, but got his main start in Winnipeg, where he moved with his

parents. In the late 20s and early 30s Ralph played some ball with the Winnipeg Maroons. Prior to that he participated in the diamond game through school days in the Manitoba capital. He attended Mulvey public school, Gordon Bell junior high and then Kelvin. Bill Nairn, former Blue Bomber and now a well known football referee, and the late Roy Musgrove, who will be remembered here as goalie for Flin Flon Bombers at one time, were two of Ralph's teammates at Gordon Bell and Kelvin.

Before coming here in 1947 he played a bit of ball around Regina and Estevan. He was farming near Regina and acting as a blockman for Minneapolis-Moline on the side.

In Saskatoon he joined Elmer Paulson in partnership of the firm of Mabee and Paulson, where M-M is the password.

Elmer is almost as keen on baseball as Ralph, but as half of the partnership is sufficient to have managing a ball team one of them has to remain on the sidelines. The arrangement seems to work well.

Ralph said he wanted to get out of baseball this year, but if you know Mabee he just wouldn't be happy unless mingling with a flock of ball players. He loves the game and everything that goes with it. He's been an asset to Saskatoon baseball.



Mabee

Mabee, with Benson Black Hawks in 1938



This Mabee profile appeared in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix in the Spring of 1954.

For more than a decade in the 1940s and 1950s, Ralph Mabee was the face of the Saskatoon franchise and an ambassador for baseball on the prairies.

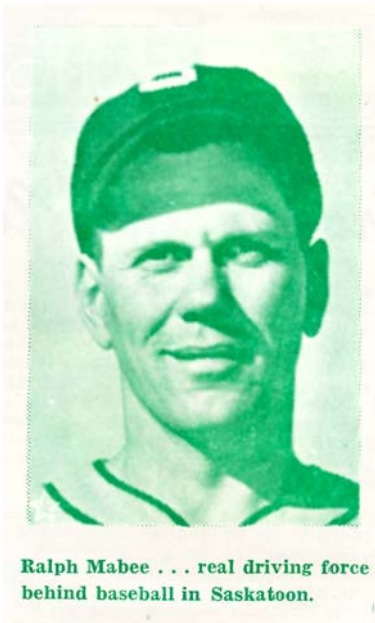
He had begun to hone his diamond skills in the Benson area after his family returned to Saskatchewan in the 1930s. He moved to Saskatoon in the late 1940s.

First he took on the Saskatoon Legion of the old Saskatoon & District League and then continued through to the high calibre Western Canada League of the Saskatoon Gems (while also contributing to hockey in his affiliation with the Saskatoon Quakers).

Over the next decade or more, Mabee was perhaps the key baseball figure in the community capping his tenure as the manager of Canada's 1955 entry in the Global World Series in Milwaukee and then selection as All-League by the National Baseball Congress in 1957.

MABEE GETS HIS MAN
(BASEBALL)
Tracks Down Ace Catcher

(BASEBALL)
Ralph Mabee
On Warpath



Among his players in Saskatoon were Bob Sasseville, Jules Swick, Gordie Howe, Lefty Arnold, Johnny Maroniuk, Murray Coben, Bob Herron, Jim Shirley, Sherman Watrous, Doug Bentley, Max Bentley, Len Breckner, Bennie Griggs, Leopoldo Reyes, Mario Herrera, Cliff Pemberton, Percy Trimont, Jackie McLeod, Lew Hobson, Len Tucker and movie star Cameron Mitchell.

As a player, Mabee played at the infield corners, third and first and on the base paths even showed some speed !

(September 8, 1948) Bunny Clouston's Legion baseball club came through in the clutch Wednesday night at Cairns Field to tie up the Saskatoon city baseball championship with a 5-4 win over Cubs ... Legion getting the nod on a disputed run when Mabee stole home just as Stan Currie was taking a third strike pitch for the final out. The umpire ruled Mabee home before the third out was made. (Saskatoon Star-Phoenix)



After three years with the Saskatoon Legion, Mabee and once-time rival Al Verner joined forces in 1951 to field the Saskatoon 55s with Saskatchewan Hall of Famer Roy Taylor at the helm.

He also worked as a scout for his teams and General Manager and represented the Gems at league meetings.

While also running a business, Mabee & Paulson Ltd (Minneapolis Moline dealer) the genial Ralph Mabee found time to volunteer to help out minor ball in the city, acting as Commissioner of the Optimist Sandlot League.

On Thursday August 29, 1957 it was "Ralph Mabee Night" at Cairns Field. Prior to the game, Mabee was presented with a watch and plaque from the directors of the Saskatoon Gems, and a gift from fans, in appreciation for his long service to baseball in Saskatoon.

