

SPORT

BASEBALL

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Tape 69, 23

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Darlene Clyne - Researcher

- Little League commenced 1954 with Eric Anderson and Ken Carruthers, who was President of the Lions Club.
- They took one team into Marpole.
- Marpole had formed a league ahead of us.
- 1955 the League composed of four teams in Richmond.
- The age group was from 8 - 12 years.
- Ken Carruthers, Eric Anderson, and myself went around and got sponsors.
- The first sponsors were Frasersview Lands, Point Grey Towing, Dr. Ballar and Super Value.
- These sponsors were pretty well all from Central Richmond.
- Si Brent became the first President of Little League; he was also Vice-President of the Lions Club.
- This was started and controlled by the Lions Club for seven years.
- Ken Minns was the Players Agent; he passed away in 1956 so they asked me to take over as Players Agent.
- That's when I came into the picture.
- In 1957 the League expanded to include West, South and Central Richmond.
- In 1958 we expanded into other League called North Richmond.
- North Richmond was Sea Island to Bridgeport right through to Hamilton area.
- 1958 the boys coming out of Little League had nowhere to go so Eric Anderson formed the Babe Ruth League.
- He started out with four teams.
- Babe Ruth League was 13, 14, and 15 years of age.
- Eric Anderson put a lot of his own money into Babe Ruth League.
- When we found this out, we had the Lions Club step into the picture and took over.
- Explains the Lions Club's position in Little League.
- I carried on with Little League until 1962 then I went to Babe Ruth as Players Agent.
- I was in Babe Ruth for four years.

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- Stu Wilson formed the Connie Mac League for boys up to 18 years of age.
- After Stu Wilson left, I moved up to Connie Mac League as Secretary and Players Agent.
- Con Kinarski came in with me as President.
- Garry Gilmore at that time took over Connie Mac and pretty well controlled it from then on.
- Little League is American based and we had our problems with them.
- The first problem we had was discrimination.
- Southern States refused to allow Chinese and Negroes to join the Little League, so we broke away from them and formed Richmond Bantum League.
- I drew up the regulations and cards for it and we operated that way for about three years.
- When we got everything settled with the Little League in the States, we went back in again.
- Discusses the insurance problems with Little League of America.
- The final break away from Little League took place in 1963.
- Williams Port, the center of Little League in the States, insisted that all insurance for these teams be purchased through the Little League Head Quarters.
- Also all decals and signs and so on, had to be purchased through them.
- We couldn't do this because a lot of our sponsors were producing those stuff and we wanted to insure locally that our local merchants would continue supporting us.
- There were two reasons we broke away: (1)-We wanted to support our merchants who were supporting us; (2)-We wanted to get in on the Canadian money that had been set aside for transportation of minor sport
- We couldn't as long as the teams were going to the States, but we could as long as we stayed in Canada.
- After we broke away from the Little League of America, we formed our own league and became B. C. Minor League.
- Few years later Babe Ruth also broke away from the States and became Colts and Pony.
- When we first started Little League we had four teams and when I left in 1962 we had 48 teams.
- Bill McFarlane who has passed away was very active in baseball---he was Co-ordinator for all Little Leagues and he did a tremendous job.

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- We never had any problems getting sponsors but we did experience trouble getting umpires because there were so many teams.
- Fred Price became President of Babe Ruth when I was Secretary.
- The sponsors supplied all equipment and uniforms.
- Ernie Reeves was also very active in baseball---he formed an Umpires School and turned out some darn good umpires.
- He's the best umpire I'd ever seen.
- Describes what a Players' Agent does.