• and two hundred gamblers on a three hundred mile Texas wilderness rail odyssey.

The complex interplay of all of these are among the book's core qualities, though my guess is that those not already familiar with the era will find it as frustrating as Dan Stuart's quest. Such readers will nonetheless put the book down having a much greater insight into a fascinating time in American sport history.

Miletich's treatment is original and his love of, and expertise in American culture apparent. For students of American Culture Dan Stuart's Fistic Carnival is a must read.

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Reviewed by Ron Briley, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Lawrence Ritter, in his collection of baseball memories from the early twentieth century entitled The Glory of Their Times, remarked, "The strongest thing baseball has going for it today is yesterdays." Baseball fans of the mid-1990s, deprived of a World Series in 1994 and spring training in 95, certainly must agree with these sentiments. Fortunately, baseball has a rich historical legacy into which we can delve during this season of our discontent.

Building upon the pioneering work of Ritter and encouraged by his mentor, in the early 1970s Donald Honig, who has written extensively on the history of the game, conducted a series of interviews with major league baseball players who were active from the 1920s through the 1950s. These interviews, which were originally published in 1975 and 1976, have been handsomely reissued in paperback editions by the University of Nebraska Press. The inclusion of numerous photographs only enhances the value and appeal of the memories.

Honig is no social scientist and prefers to let the voice of his subjects be heard without editorial interference. Thus, the reader asking questions regarding methodology, or whether the author was able to meet a cross
section of players from the decades, will be disappointed. In his introduction, Honig simply states, "So in the spring of 1974 I set out across the country to meet and talk with former big-league ballplayers" (p. 13). There seems to be neither rhyme nor reason to Honig's subjects. The range from stars such as Bob Feller and Ted Williams to the more obscure Elbie Fletcher and Buddy Hassett. Perhaps Honig just used whomever was home. But he did not knock on too many non-white doors, as the collection contains no Latino voices and only two Afro-American representatives: James "Cool Papa" Bell and Monte Irvin.

Nevertheless, the titles of his two volumes, *Baseball When the Grass Was Real* and *Baseball Between the Lines*, do appear to provide Honig with some editorial perspective. With these titles, one is presented with the nostalgic image of a simpler time in which athletes loved and played the game for its intrinsic value and not for crass monetary compensation. Artificial turf, which is more absorbent of moisture and prevents costly rain cancellations, did not exist, and players focused on business between the chalk lines rather than outside financial interests. This imagery, however, does not necessarily hold up in a closer reading of the Honig interviews. There are crucial differences between the major league game of today and that of the 1920-1950 era selected by Honig (For example, in the willingness to pitch inside and push hitters off the plate.), yet the antagonism between management and the players is nothing new. Leaving the complex financial considerations of today's negotiations aside, one is left with a history of management manipulation and control to which ballplayers will not return. It is easy to criticize the contemporary confrontation between million dollar players and owners, but it is important to recall the voices of players who made sacrifices while playing the game so well.

For example, for his first interview in *Baseball When the Grass Was Real*, Honig selected pitcher Wes Ferrell, known for his combative spirit. During his rookie season of 1929, Ferrell won twenty-one games and demanded that his salary be increased from $3,000 to $10,000 annually. While Ferrell was successful with his negotiations, other players found management less accommodating. Hall of Famer Johnny Mize was especially critical of Cardinal negotiations under Branch Rickey, who, while a heroic figure for his role in the racial integration of major league baseball, was perhaps best known among baseball people for his penny-pinching practices. Still angry about his sale to the New York Giants from the St. Louis Cardinals, Mize often mentioned Rickey's miserly policies that were ultimately reflected in the decrease in attendance. However, Rickey's practices were not unique; many owners were content to keep costs down by any means necessary.

Despite the differences between the games of the past and present, Honig's interviews provide a unique perspective on the history of baseball. His subjects, while not a diverse representation of the sport, offer valuable insights into the changes that have occurred over time. The nostalgic imagery of a simpler time is appealing, but the reality of modern negotiations and management control cannot be ignored. Honig's work serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by past players and the challenges faced by those who followed in their footsteps.