

Gary Stewart

Sports Editor



Aaron's Homer Feat
Lift For Baseball?

After-thoughts of Hank Aaron's record-breaking 715th career homerun:

-There are some, naturally, that say Aaron has not broken Babe Ruth's record but just set one of his own. The reasoning behind such a statement is that Aaron has batted 3,000 more times than Ruth did.

-There are some who have, or will, say that if Ruth had played in a "mini-park" like Atlanta Stadium, where the foul line fences are just slightly over 300 feet away from home plate, that the Babe would have hit 1,000 homers.

-At the same time, there are those who say that many of Ruth's clouts went over the short 296-foot right field fence at Yankee Stadium. But, again, there are those who'll argue that Ruth hit a lot of 450-foot blasts to dead-away centerfield in Yankee Stadium that were caught. Anywhere else they would have been homers.

-Still, there are others, like yours truly, who'll argue that if Mickey Mantle had played in good health throughout his major league career, he would have been the all-time homer king.

Whether you're a fan of Aaron's or not, you have to give the man credit, even though he has batted many more times than the legendary Babe. When a man hits over 700 career home runs (an average of just under 40 a season) and carried a lifetime batting average of over .300 (both Ruth and Aaron sport these figures) he has to have a lot going for him.

Aaron's achievement of breaking the Babe's record on the Braves' opening night in Atlanta generated a lot of excitement for a sport which many people feel is dying.

The biggest disappointment during Hank's road to glory was the way in which baseball commissioner (dictator?) Bowie Kuhn acted. Kuhn continuously made threats toward Braves' Manger Eddie Mathews and the entire Atlanta organization and ordered them to play Aaron in two of three games in Cincy, yet the commissioner didn't have the guts to be on hand when Aaron hit his 715th in front of the Atlanta fans. Instead, Kuhn sent Monte Ervin to Atlanta to face the boozing crowd.

The first thing I'll ask for in my letter to Santa this year will be a new baseball commissioner.

Rec Program Buzzing

With the end of school rapidly approaching, local recreation officials are busy lining up various summer softball and baseball leagues.

Walter Vess, who is serving as public relations director for the Babe Ruth League this summer, reports that if enough interest is shown the city will field a 13-year-old BR league this year. Any youngsters interested in playing in either the 13 year old or the 14-15 year old BR league are asked to contact any of the league coaches or the recreation department.

The industrial and men's church softball leagues are scheduled to open play this week and recreation director, Roy Pearson, says his staff is in the process of organizing the ladies softball league, tee league and little league.

If the locals fare as well this summer as last the season will have to be counted a success. The Babe Ruth all-stars won the state championship and represented the city in the southeast regionals in Florida, and the little league all-stars came within a game of winning the state championship.

The legion program could be on the upswing as Post 155 is expecting to have several good prospects from Bessemer City on the squad. BC decided not to field a legion club this summer because of financial burdens.

Coaches Barry Gibson and David Bolin will have several returnees from last year's team and every player acquired from BC and/or Blacksburg will be a plus.

Athletic officer Gene Tignor reports that City Stadium is still not yet in good playing condition. The ballpark has as many holes as ever and at least one light post is cracked and could fall over at any minute.

The city has apparently forgotten the promise it made last year to get the field in tip-top shape. I hope I'm not one of the ones electrocuted when the lights start falling during the middle of a ballgame.

And, speaking of legion baseball, it's time we get behind the program. Maybe the sport isn't as competitive as it once was, but still a good baseball game is hard to beat.

I'd like to see the legion open the season by letting the fans in the gate free and depend on concessions to foot the bill for umpires, lights, etc. A good performance might bring the fans back.

Another of my brilliant (?) ideas is for some of the merchants to sponsor a "night" at the ballpark and give free tickets to their customers. Anything to help build up interest would be a plus.

Season Hits Stretch Run...

Baseballers Host Lincolnnton And BC

Kings Mountain High's baseballers resume play this afternoon, hosting Lincolnnton in a key Southwestern Conference, Division One contest.

Coach Barry Gibson's Mountaineers, 3-3 in the division and 4-3 overall, stay home Friday for a game with Bessemer City, then travel to North Gaston next Tuesday.

Today's game will be a big one for both the Mountaineers and Wolves, who are trying hard for a playoff berth in the split SWC. At last report, the Wolves had lost just two games and were trailing East Gaston (7-1) and South Point (6-1) in the Division One race.

With three losses already against them and the season rapidly coming to a close, the Mountaineers cannot afford another defeat. They defeated Lincolnnton 4-2 in an earlier outing but reports are that

the Wolves have improved greatly since then.

Coach Gibson said he'll probably start either Chuck Austin (1-0) or Kenny Farias (2-1) against the Wolves and whoever doesn't start today will open against Bessemer City Friday.

Farias hasn't started a game since March 26 when he went the distance in that victory over Lincolnnton but turned in a good relief job in saving a victory for Austin against North Gaston.

Gibson will likely shuffle his lineup a bit for today's game as he continues to look for a winning combination. The Mountaineers have won two of their last three games but were bombed 15-1 by South Point in their last outing.

Senior Jimmy Fitts will move back to first base from third and junior Richard

Gillespie will move from his rightfield spot to third base. Steve Southwell will stay at second, Hal Glass at short, Darrell Van Dyke at center and Tony Payne in left.

Sophomore Chris Johnson will move to Gillespie's right field spot.

Gibson is hopeful David Lancaster, a .300 hitter last spring, will be available for either pinch-hit or starting duty. A first baseman, Lancaster had been counted on to carry much of the batting load but suffered a broken foot in pre-season practice.

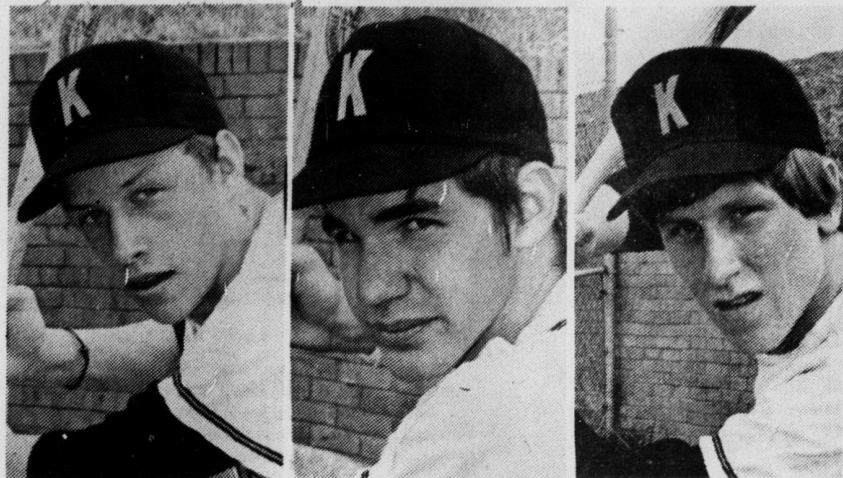
"If Lancaster's able to play, he'll certainly help us out," said Gibson. "We also need some improvement in our pitching staff. It's been a disappointment."

Fitts and Gillespie are the only regulars hitting over .300, Fitts leading the way with a .381 clip and Gillespie at .333.

Fitts is also the leader in runs batted in with six and is tied for the lead in runs scored

with six. The pitching staff has an unimpressive 6.25 earned run

average but Austin and Farias have respectable marks of 2.10 and 2.50, respectively.



TONY PAYNE

DARRELL VANDYKE

STEVE SOUTHWELL

REPAIR-REMODEL with PRICED-RIGHT LUMBER & BUILDING Supplies

PANELING CENTER
CLEVELAND LUMBER CO.

• Buys In Volume
• Sells At Low Prices

Through our affiliation with over 150 other independent Builder Mart dealers, we are able to get Truckload and Carload prices from our suppliers. When you buy from us... You Save!

PREFINISHED PANELING

- 1/4" Vermont Birch
- 1/4" Pecan
- 1/4" Plantation Antique

Many More Selections In Various Woods

BI-FOLD LOUVER DOORS
These doors make a decorative and practical addition to your home. Use for closets or dividers.

Cannon Craft Shutters
Good Selection Of Sizes

KV ADJUSTABLE SHELF HARDWARE
Helps You In Organizing Any Of Your Rooms!
Makes Re-Arranging Simple!
Wide Selection of Sizes and Finishes!

8" Bracket 10" Bracket
36" Bracket 48" Bracket

ALUMINUM EXTENSION AND STEP LADDERS
ALL SIZES IN STOCK

Masonite PEGBOARD
Ends Clutter In Garages, Utility Rooms, Workshops...Even Kitchens!

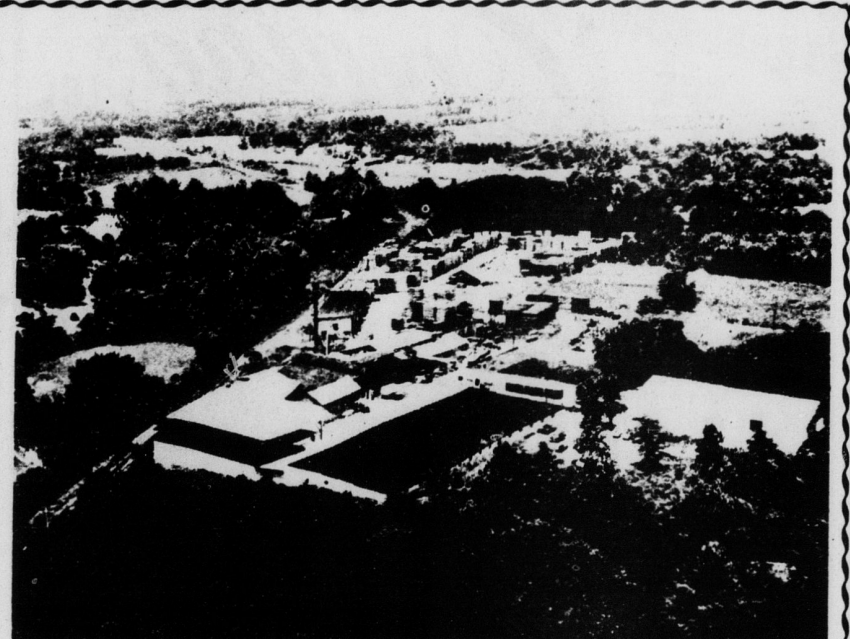
Just use your imagination. Pegboard has unlimited uses. With the many fixtures available, there are 1000 ways to conserve your limited space. Give it a try!

SLIDING PATIO DOORS
with Tempered Glass
6-0 X 6-8
8-0 X 6-8

Enjoy outside beauty from inside comfort! The finished touch to new and modern beauty. Heavy duty screen and latch. Finger tip operation with nylon guides and adjustable rollers.

Sprinkle Your Lawn With Arab

And Enjoy Outdoor Living—WITHOUT INSECTS



ROCKWELL POWER TOOLS

The lowest priced heavy duty saw you can buy!

- Totally failure-protected motor
- All ball bearing construction
- Safety kick-proof clutch
- Telescoping saw guard

Model 346 6 3/4" H.D. Saw
Model 315 7 1/4" H.D. Saw
Model 508 8" H.D. Saw

Where Quality Materials Can Be Bought At Reasonable Prices

SAVE UP TO 15% ON HEATING AND COOLING BILLS

Andersen Perma-Shield® Narroline®
MAINTENANCE FREE!
LOOKS GREAT... IS GREAT!

Exterior beauty!
Interior beauty!
The most maintenance-free window at a most reasonable price.

FEATURES:

- A core of warm, stable wood!
- Weatherproof vinyl!
- No annual maintenance!
- Easy fingertip opening and closing!
- No warping or sticking!
- Snap-in grilles for easy cleaning!
- Available in many sizes and combinations!

Come in today for a demonstration of the quality features of this window!

Big Hole Drilling
Rockwell 1 1/2 Reversing Drill

Shapes! Routes! Grooves! Mortises! Cuts Perfect Joints!

Rockwell 7/8 HP Router

- 6 1/2 Amp, 2000 RPM Motor
- 100% Ball Bearing
- Micrometer Dial Depth Control
- Extra-Large Control Knobs
- 1/4" Collet

Splinter-Free Cutting!
Rockwell Bayonet Saw

- Built-in Dust Blower
- Exclusive Base Insert for Splinter-Free Cutting
- Powerful 3.0 Amp Motor, Versatile Tipping Base

Guaranteed Swirl-Free Finishing
Rockwell Heavy Duty Finishing Sander

- Guaranteed to outperform all others in speed of stock removal and swirl-free finishing results
- Heavy duty 3.0 amp ball bearing motor, 15,000 orbits per minute speed
- Orbital pad action, interference-free sides, unique clamp mechanism
- Trouble-free direct "motor to sander" construction

TILEBOARD
Finish off the new tub enclosure with baked enamel tileboard. Many beautiful colors.

- Aluminum screen wire
- Weather Vanes
- Table legs for do-it-yourself (Various sizes)
- Stanley Power & Hand Tools
- Pre-Hung doors (inside and outside)
- Dry Yellow Pine Lumber
- West Coast Lumber
- Complete window units and a host of other supplies for Building, Remodeling, Repairing

DECORATE & COORDINATE
your entire home in easy stages

The Carriage House Collection
by Amerock

CLEVELAND LUMBER CO.
"WHERE SERVICE AND QUALITY ARE GUARANTEED"
217 Arrowood Street SHELBY, N. C. Phone 487-5263

BUILDER MART
Now over 150 Builders Marts