

# GLORY DAYS

Former major-leaguer played in the good 'old days

By Geoffrey Ooley  
Staff Writer

OCEANSIDE — It was a kinder, gentler time in many ways.

The 20th century was a teenager and Woodrow Wilson was president. The United States had yet to become swept up in the war across the ocean — the one that was fought to end all wars. The Great Depression was more than a decade away.

It was 1915 and young Franklin Burns was facing his moment of truth.

The country and professional baseball were still young. Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth had yet to set the records every player would dream of breaking.

They played baseball in the daytime, all the time. With no radio and no television, the only way to see or hear a game was to be there.

Road trips meant a day coach seat on a passenger train, not a cross country airline flight. The Braves were in Boston and hadn't even thought of Milwaukee, let alone Atlanta. The Dodgers were in Brooklyn, the Giants in New York, the Athletics in Philadelphia and the major league world stretched only as far west as St. Louis.

It was 1915 and baseball still seemed innocent. It would be decades before the Pete Rose scandal would bleed across the headlines. Indeed, the disillusionment of the Black Sox Scandal was still four years away.

However, not every mother wanted her baby to grow up to be a baseball player. Neither did some fathers.

So it was on that October day Franklin Burns was finally owning up. Many of the memories have dimmed for Burns, now 95, and living in retirement in Oceanside, but this is one that hasn't.

"My father was against my playing professional

**"They should have been shot for going on strike in the middle of the season. When I played, \$800 was tops for the season. I'd like to see those guys try to play for one month for \$800."**

— Franklin Burns

baseball," Burns remembers. "He wanted me to be a lawyer."

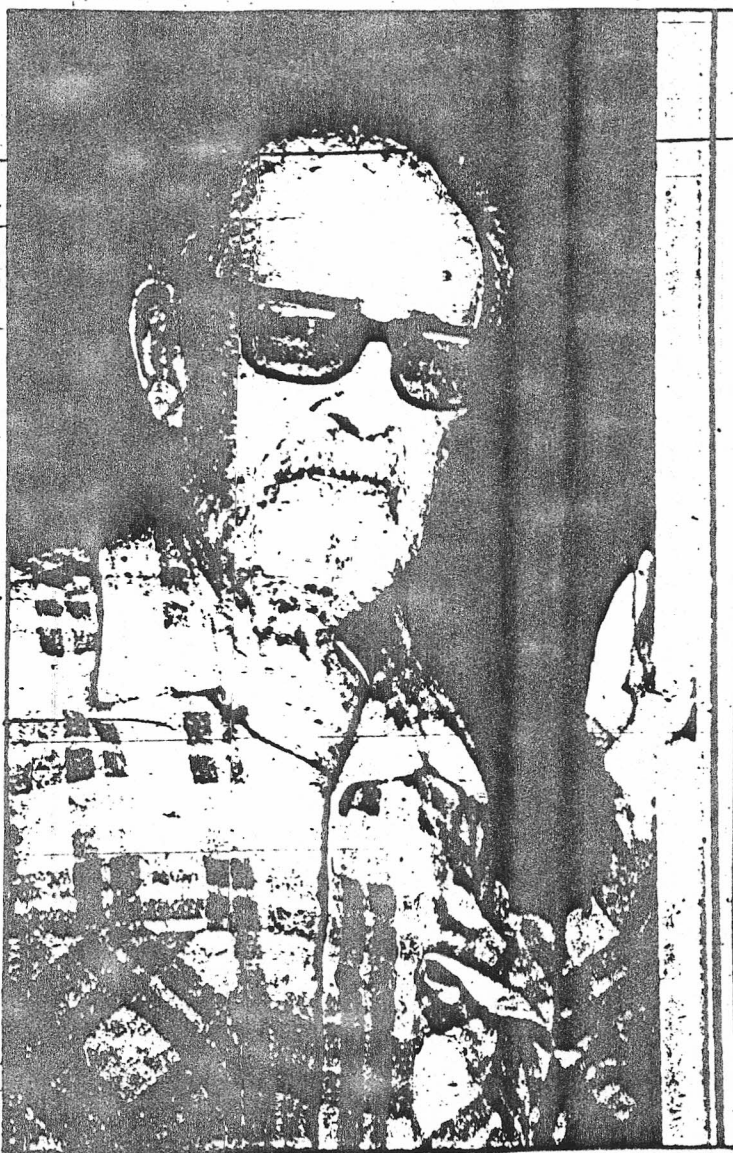
Burns had gone against his father's wishes after playing both baseball and football at Penn State. He had been with the Philadelphia Phillies for three seasons — playing under the name Eddie Burns. Now the Phillies were in the World Series against the Boston Red Sox.

"I sent tickets for him and the rest of my family right behind the dugout. He didn't even know I was playing professional baseball. If he had, he would have broken my neck — until he saw me in the World Series. I guess he figured if I was good enough to play with the best, it was all right," says Burns.

He didn't have a record-breaking Series. But then, neither did most of the other Phillies. They won the first game at home, 3-1, behind-pitching great Grover Cleveland Alexander — then lost the Series to Boston in five games.

Burns played in all five games and had three hits in 16 at-bats. It worked out to just a .188 Series batting average, yet only two Phillies players collected more hits.

Burns spent most of his six-year career with Philadelphia as the Phillies' backup catcher. "Yes, I wore the tools of ignorance," he says with a chuckle. His highest batting average came in 1914 when he hit .259 in 70 games.



Staff Photo / Don Boomer

Burns played in the 1915 World Series.

tiveros decided to have surgery on his injured pitching elbow and will not play the rest of the season.

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Jose Canseco, assigned to Huntsville to recover from an injured left wrist, did not play in the Stars game against Columbus Monday night.

NEW YORK — Frank Viola, last year's American League Cy Young Award winner, was named AL player of the week Monday, the third straight Minnesota player to earn that honor.

ed former Cal forward Leonard Taylor to a c

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Prep basketball sta apparently the center of a preliminary NCA the University of Illinois' recruitment practice nor the school did anything wrong.

MOBILE, Ala. — South Alabama bask Estaba says he will file a lawsuit next week a which ruled he was ineligible for another

## Burns

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He didn't face a young Boston pitcher in the 1915 series. Babe Ruth was in his first full season with the Red Sox and had put together an 18-8 record. However, he didn't pitch against the Phillies.

He would encounter Ruth later, after Burns' playing days were over. He was helping to put together a sports night for a church organization. Burns asked Ruth to put in an appearance.

"I got in touch with Babe Ruth and asked him to come," says Burns. "When he came out he had Lou Gehrig with him. They entertained the kids like nobody's business. Babe Ruth loved the kids and wherever Babe went, Lou went."

Over the years, Burns has lost a step or two. His hearing and his memory aren't what they once were. He's also lost some of his enthusiasm for the game. The players' strike in 1981 contributed to that.

"I got disgusted when they went out on strike," he says. "The money they were making, they should have been shot for going on strike in the middle of the season. When I played, \$800 was tops for the season. I'd like to see those guys try to play for one month for \$800."

Burns doesn't follow the game closely anymore. He's never been to a Padres game. But he still has a favorite team.

"Naturally my own," he says. "The Phillies."

It's one of the beauties of baseball — some things never change.

## Unknowns ir

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — John McEnroe and Tim Mayotte were expected to reach the quarterfinals at Wimbledon. But Dan Goldie and Paul Chamberlin?

The two unseeded Americans scored straight-set victories Monday to give the United States four men's quarterfinalists for the first time since 1984.

Chamberlin, who recently moved to Del Mar and is ranked No. 91 in the world, ousted fellow American Leif Shiras 7-5,

6-4, 7-6. (Yugoslav 6-4, 7-6.

The 25-year-old had never won three pre-Grand Slam titles. The Australian Open in 1983.

"Grass Goldie, the from Star



John McEnroe is surrounded by security guards

## McEnroe deser

By Gil LeBreton  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

## Dodgers

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row with our pitching staff." The Dodgers lead the majors