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Winchester Little League

In April of 1937 a new field was dedicated on Shore Road, where the high school currently sits. The first game played there was a baseball game in which Winchester lost to Concord. 500 fans attended the game. The opening ceremonies were handled by 3 men while representing their different roles in Town all happened to be Rotarians. George Davidson, Chairman of the Park Commissioners and our first President: James J. Quinn, Superintendent of Schools and a Charter Member of the club; and W. Allen Wilde of the Board of Selectmen and later to be president of Rotary in 1952-1953.

The field was also used for football and season tickets were available for \$2.00. The first football game was against Marblehead in September 1937. The field had several issues with flooding so over time the location fell out of favor.

In 1951 the Rotary Club thought that Little League should come to Winchester. Under the club's initiative the \$10 was spent for a charter and an additional \$250 was spent to sponsor a team.

When the club hosted the newly formed Kiwanis Club in October of 1951 the Kiwanis Club asked to sponsor one of the 4 teams in the newly formed Little League.

The club asked permission from the town to refurbish Shore Road field for the Little League and on Friday morning, October 12, 1951 Rotarians armed with rakes, sod cutters, shovels and a lot of enthusiasm took to leveling the field for a diamond.

The four original teams were:

Yankees sponsored by Rotary

Dodgers sponsored by Kiwanis

Red Sox sponsored by Moody Motors

Braves sponsored by Bonnell Ford

Al Elliott, President of our club, offered to provide a suitable score board.

The Parish Player's of the First Congregational Church in April 1952 dedicated one of their performance s of "Harvey" to the Little League and Rotary's Little League Fund.

Rotarians took over the performance with their wives and acted as ushers, hostesses and pourers for the evening. All fees associated with the cost of production were donated by the Parish Player's and Rotary donated every penny from the sale of tickets.

The turnout for the first year tryouts was 307 applications. The season opened on May 30th, 1952.

500-600 youngsters attended a rally at Town Hall on May 1st to kick off Little League. At the rally were Red Sox players, 1st Baseman Dick Gernert; Left Fielder Gene Stephens, who had just taken over for Ted Williams who was called to active duty; and 1st Base Coach and former Yankee great Earl Coombs who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1970. They answered questions from the assembled kids.

For all of their efforts the field could not be adequately prepared so the School Committee made a portion of Manchester Field available to Little League with the understanding that it be returned in the same condition as when it was turned over to them.

The Rotary Club challenged an All Star team to a game wanting to show the young players some of the finer points of the game.

Star Article – “Rotary Gird Loins for Fray” leading up to the game which had raised a lot of interest around town.

In one game account it was stated that the Rotarians did cheat a bit in shuffling their lineup but no one can prove it. They were in and out so fast it was hard to keep track of them.

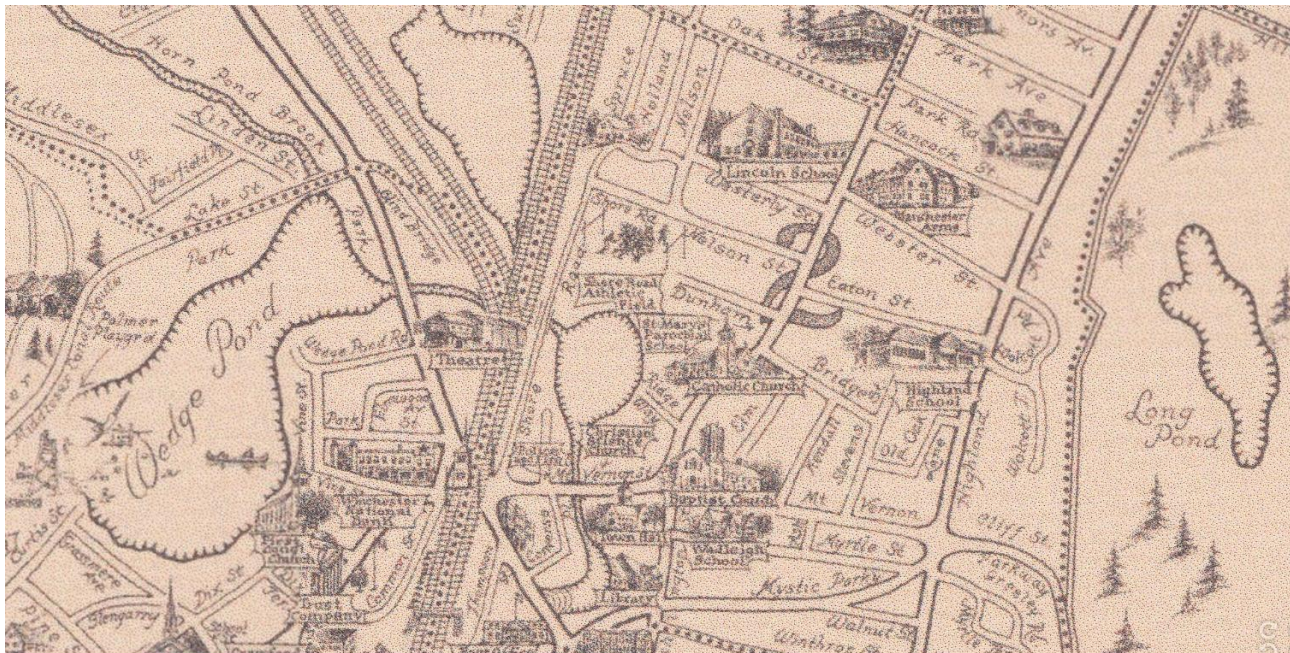
The fans forked over \$229.10 for the Jimmy Fund who was the big winner of the day.

Final Score Little League **All Stars 15**

Rotary 5



Map 1954



Shore Road Field

Created during the 1930s on landfill at what had been the upper end of Judkins Pond, this field used to be located on the site of the current high school. It was named for the road that ran along the shore of Judkins Pond.



**"Mr. Rotarian", Al Elliott on the left and Abbott
Bradlee, Town Treasurer on the right.
Boston Traveler, October 12, 1951**

Shore Road Field

Alfred Elliott, President of Rotary
Abbott Bradlee - Town Treasurer

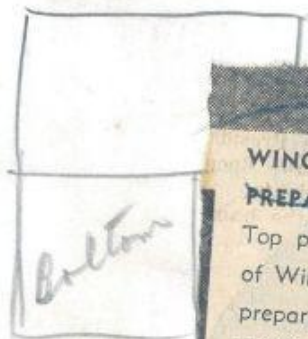
July 19

SEP 12 1951

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**WINCHESTER OFFICIALS
PREPARE BALL FIELD —**
Top photo shows members
of Winchester Rotary Club
preparing Shore road field
in Winchester for the Little
League baseball team they
are forming. Bottom (left
to right) are Alfred Elliott,
president of the club, and
(right) Abbott Bradlee,
town treasurer.

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Photo by
FRANK CUSHING



"Rotarians at Work" Shore Road Field - October 1951



Alfred Studio Photos

LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING TRYOUT SCENES AT LORING AVENUE PLAYGROUND

(Left to right) Top: Mgr. "Art" Johns, Dodgers; League President "Ted" Bartlett; Mgr. "Al" Plummer, Yankees; Mgr. Warren Branch, Braves; Coach John Stevenson, Red Sox. Center: League hopefuls. Bottom: Candidates watch "Bill" Schmink, catcher, and Richard Robnett, batter, do their stuff.

May 1952

August 8, 1952



Photo Courtesy of Alfred Studio

HERE'S THE MONEY FOR THE LOUD TALK, "CHARLIE."

ROTARY GAVE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

Alfred D. Elliott, Past President of the Winchester Rotary Club, is shown presenting a check to Little League Treasurer Charles A. Koch to cover the purchase of the loud speakers and amplifying system for use at Little League games. When Little League Board of Directors made known that they felt it would be desirable to have a public address system for use at the Little League field as a convenience in keeping the spectators informed as to the plays, decisions, players' names and general announcements as well as keeping control of the players in the field, the Winchester Rotary Club voted to furnish the necessary funds.

Winchester Rotary has been particularly active in organizing and supporting Little League as a part of its youth program under Chairman Edward Cullen. They have also provided funds to sponsor the Yanks Little League Team.

All Stars 1955



WINCHESTER'S LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STARS

Pictured above is the Winchester Little League All-Star team which has vaulted over rival teams in tournament playoffs. The All-Stars are: (front row, left to right) Paul Mulloy, 2b; Nelson Andersen, c; Joe Butare, cf; Gardner Gray, 3b, p; George Neville, utility. Second row: Mike Bellino, infielder; Dale Grinnell, ss; Bob Eaton, p; Vandy French, p, 1b; William Rogers, utility; Larry Capodilupo, p. Back row: Gordon Peckham, coach; Paul Del Rossi, p, 1b; Carl Arlandson, lf, p; and Arthur Johns, manager.

Filene's Window 1955

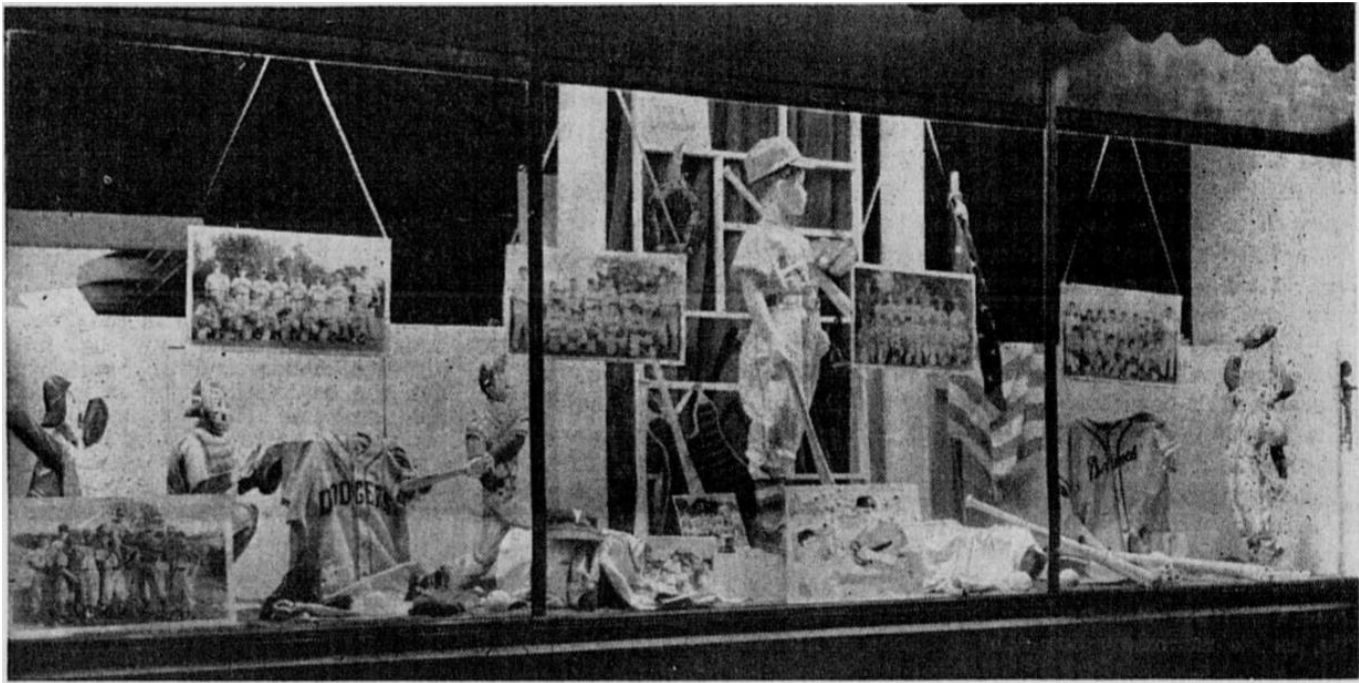


Photo by Bill Ryerson

WELCOME HOME DISPLAY

Part of the welcome mat Winchester spread out for its Little League All-Stars last Saturday afternoon was this window display in **Filene's**. Saturday's welcome home celebration was one of the biggest outdoor gathering in Winchester's history.

Winchester Star 1955



All Stars 1956



Photo by Bill Ryerson

LITTLE LEAGUE ALL STARS

Left to right, back row: Coach Gordon Peckham, Richard Bond, Jack Brenner, Rodney Gay, Ken Hall, player agent and business manager; Mike Bellino, George Neville, Paul Mulloy, Manager Art Johns. Front row: Tommy Callahan, Tom Mooney, John Peckham, Robert Colelough, "Butch" Franson, Jimmy Flaherty, Richard Casalnuovo, Bobby Hanley, Tommy Johns, mascot.

Filene's Window 1956



Photo by Ryerson

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL WINDOW AT FILENE'S IN WINCHESTER Decorated by Rita Mucera

THE WORLD SERIES — by Draper Hill

ROSWELL, N. M., 6 — WINCHESTER, 3



Sponsored by **filene's** of WINCHESTER

REGION 1 CHAMPIONS AGAIN



Camera Shots by Star Photographer Bill Ryerson of Winchester's Win Over Stratford, Conn., August 16, at Woburn.

Upper left: Rod Gay slides safely into third as Stratford's Al Lewis takes throw after passed ball. Upper right: Pitcher Johnny Peckham holds ball aloft after four-hit victory. Middle left: Bobby Colclough is mobbed by teammates after sixth-inning home run. Middle right: "Mike" Bellino receives championship trophy from "Ken" Kalligan, representing the donors, the U. S. Rubber Co. Lower left: Manager "Art" Johns watches his team from Winchester dugout. Lower right: triumphant Winchester leaves for home on Woburn C. D. fire truck.

Off to Williamsport, PA 1956



Photo by Bill Ryerson

WILLIAMSPORT, HERE WE COME!

Winchester's New England Little League champions entrain at South Station.

World Series 1956



Photo by Bill Ryerson

Neville crosses plate after home run in the 3rd at World Series game at Williamsport Wednesday.

Welcome Home 1956

Visitors' Welcome for Winchester

Little Leaguers Met At Airport

The Winchester Rifles were met by an eager, cheering crowd at Logan International Airport in East Boston Saturday evening when they returned as third-place winners of the Little League World Series at Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

In the welcoming throng were not only many Winchesterites who were proud of their team, but also parents who were anxious to see their boys after an absence of nearly a week. The boys alighted from a TWA Constellation at 7:22 after a two-hour flight, and posed for pictures around the steps leading from the plane. It was rumored that a couple of the stalwart Leaguers were a little pale after the ride, but this indisposition was soon replaced by smiling faces and waving blue and red caps.

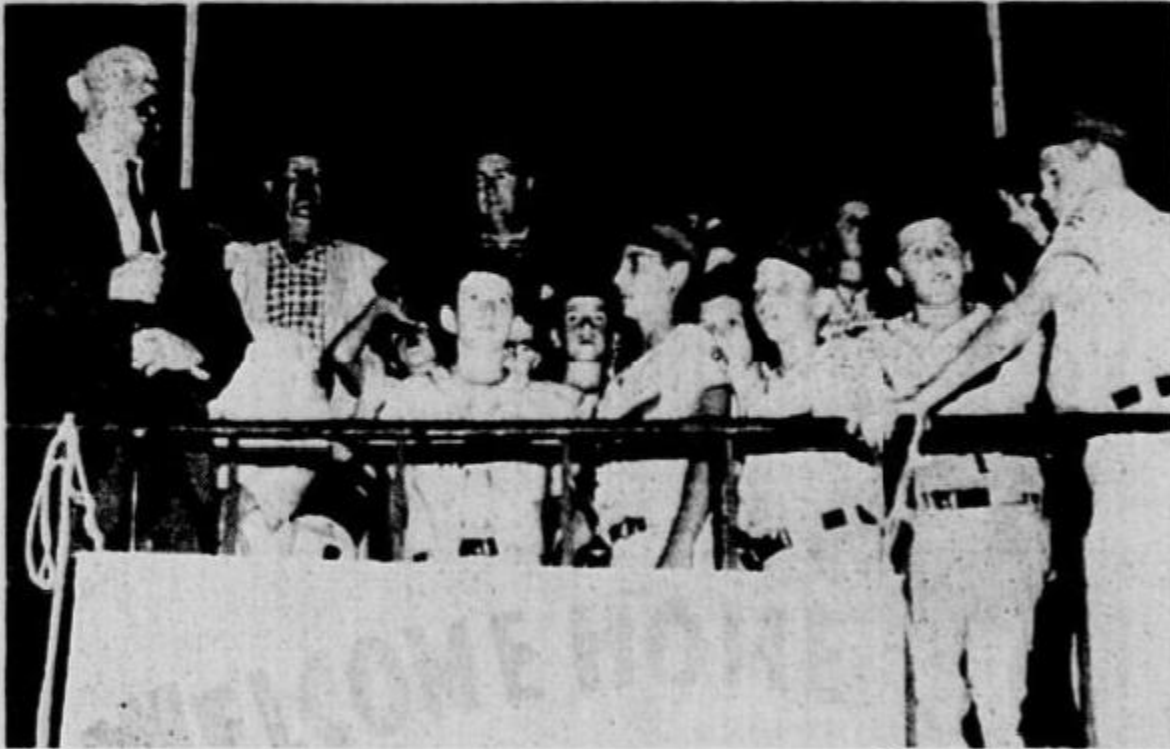


Photo by Bill Ryerson

ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN!

Chairman George Redding of the Board of Selectmen greets Little Leaguers at the town hall during official welcome home from Williamsport.

Touchdown at Logan 1956



Photo by Bill Ryerson

STILL OUR CHAMPS!

Returning Little Leaguers at Logan Airport Saturday evening, August 25. With the boys are Coach Gordon Peckham (left), Player Agent "Ken" Hall (center) and Manager "Art" Johns.