The Official Newsletter of the PFRA

The Coffin Corner

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THE DAY THEY CLOBBERED THE BRONK

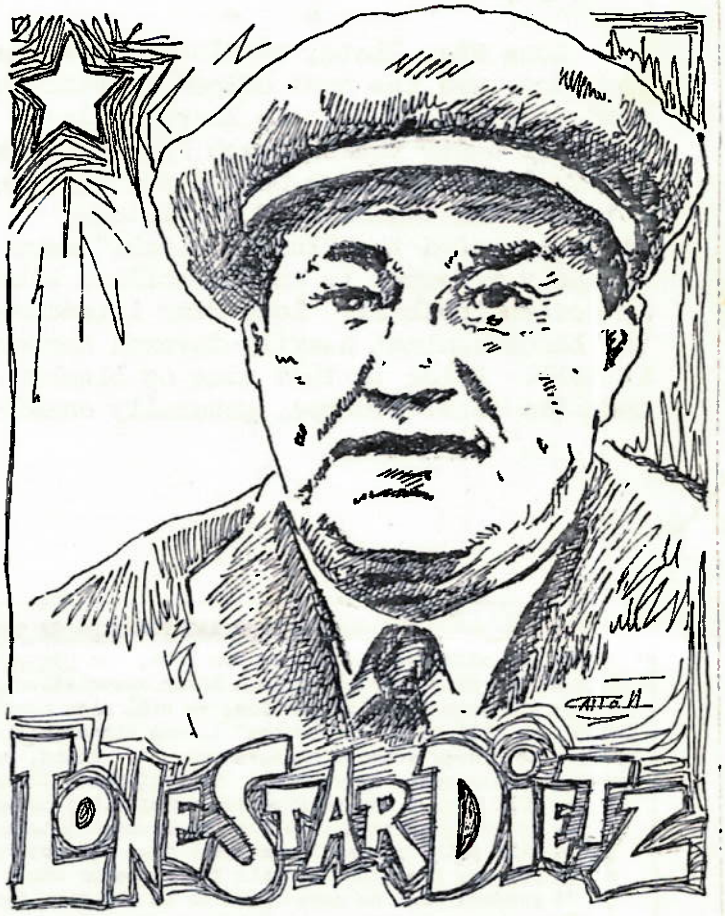
By Bernie McCarty

Jack Riley, All-american tackle at Northwestern and later a star lineman with the Boston Redskins of the National Football League, related the following story of how Boston's Indian coach, Willam "Lone Star" Dietz, figured out a way to get rid of the Chicago Bears' mighty fullback, Bronko Nagurski, in the final game of the 1933 season.

The 1933 Bears, perhaps the best pro club of all time, had defeated the Redskins 7-0 earlier in the season. And the name Nagurski was synonomous with raw power. The Bronk is still rated today as the strongest runner in the history of the game.

Prior to that last Bears-Redskins tilt, Lone Star called Riley in for a conference. Dietz informed Riley he would be at right guard for the game and every time Nagurski carried over his position, the Bronk's favorite hole, Riley was to let him through. "I almost spit in Lone Star's eye," said Riley. "I wasn't going to fall down for anybody. But I decided I better do what Lone Star said."

The contest was three minutes old when Riley spotted Nagurski leaning his way. Riley allowed himself to be shoved aside by his opposite number on the Bears. WHAM! As the Bronk hit the hole he was met head-on by Erny Pinckert, the old Southern California flash who was at a defensive halfback post. When Pinckert, reknowned as one of the hardest blockers and tacklers in football, saw Nagurski heading for Riley's position he took off at full speed. Bronko sat out the rest of the first half.



Nagurski was back in the Bear lineup at the start of the second half and soon charged for Riley's post. This time Riley literally sat down to get out of the Bronk's way. WHAM! Old-time grid fans who witnessed the contest swear they could

feel the impact in the bleachers. Again Pinckert, running at full speed, slammed into Nagurski and this time they had to help Bronko off the field.

The Redskins went on to score a historic upset. A wire service account of the game:

"Nov. 5, 1933 (AP) -- An efficient forward passing defense that clicked to perfection inside the 20-yard line today enabled the Boston Redskins to gain a 10-0 victory over the hitherto undefeated Chicago Bears, the N.F.L. champions. The largest crowd of the Boston season, 22,820, saw the Redskins check Red Grange and Bronko Nagurski four times after the Bears' spectacular overheads had carried them inside the 10-yard line. Musick scored Boston's touchdown in the first period and place kicked the extra point. Battles' field goal accounted for the other 3 points."

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Lone Star Dietz, of Sioux and German ancestry, was the most colorful coach the grid game has known. He learned his football under fabled coach Pop Warner at the Carlisle Training School for Indians. A tackle and teammate of Jim Thorpe, Dietz invented the "Indian block," more commonly referred to as the rolling block in modern football. Lone Star introduced the block against heavily-favored Harvard in 1911. Prior to that time no blocker left his feet. Thorpe, generally considered America's greatest all-time athlete, scored all the points as Carlisle upset the Crimson 18-15.

Reprinted from Reporter, April 7, 1977

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Author McCarty adds the following notes:

Dietz learned his lessons well under Warner and was named head coach at Washington State. The Cougars defeated Brown 14-0 when the Rose Bowl series was resumed in 1916 after a 14-year layoff. The contest is famous for two reasons. All-American Brown halfback Fritz Pollard played his only game outside the East, in one of the few sections of the country where he wouldn't be lynched for competing on the same field against Whites. And every newspaper in the country carried photos of Lone Star strolling the sidelines in full tuxedo, stove pipe hat and cane.

Dick Hanley, later Jack Riley's coach at Northwestern, was one of Dietz' players at Washington State. Hanley spoke so highly of Lone Star that Riley decided he wanted to play his pro football with a Dietz-coached club. That was before the pro draft was instituted, and players were free to pick their own teams.

"Dietz was a man of keen intelligence and fantastic ability and understanding," comments Riley today. "I could have played for George Halas (Chicago Bears), but wanted so much to play for Lone Star."

THE AIMS AND POLICIES OF THE COFFIN CORNER

As the official newsletter for PFRA, the Corner will try to fulfill three functions. First, we will serve as the main channel through which association news will reach the membership. In addition to more serious and essential information, we will also conduct special polls for the entertainment of our readers. Second, we will be a "connection" in the dissemination of pro football research information by directing readers to proper sources whenever we can. Third, we will publish each month one or more research articles contributed by members. To facilitate these aims, The Coffin Corner has adopted these policies:

1. We will accept for publication unsolicited material from members of PFRA only.
2. We do not guarantee that all unsolicited material will be published.
3. We will print primarily material that has not been previously published elsewhere.
4. We reserve the right to edit for space or other considerations.
5. No payment will be made or is to be expected for material published.
6. Publication is not to be taken as absolute endorsement or agreement with the views or conclusions of the originator.
7. Material will be returned when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed, envelope.
8. All rights are returned to the originator with publication.
9. We reserve the right to choose which issue will contain accepted material.
10. We subscribe without exception to the Code of Behavior for P.F.R.A. Members.

JOHNNY BLOOD:
THE VAGABOND HALFBACK

By Jack Henry

Most graybeard football fans are now willing to concede that the calibre of play in the National Football League has improved over the span of the past six decades. However, some continue to contend that the present-day performers are not as colorful as those in earlier years.

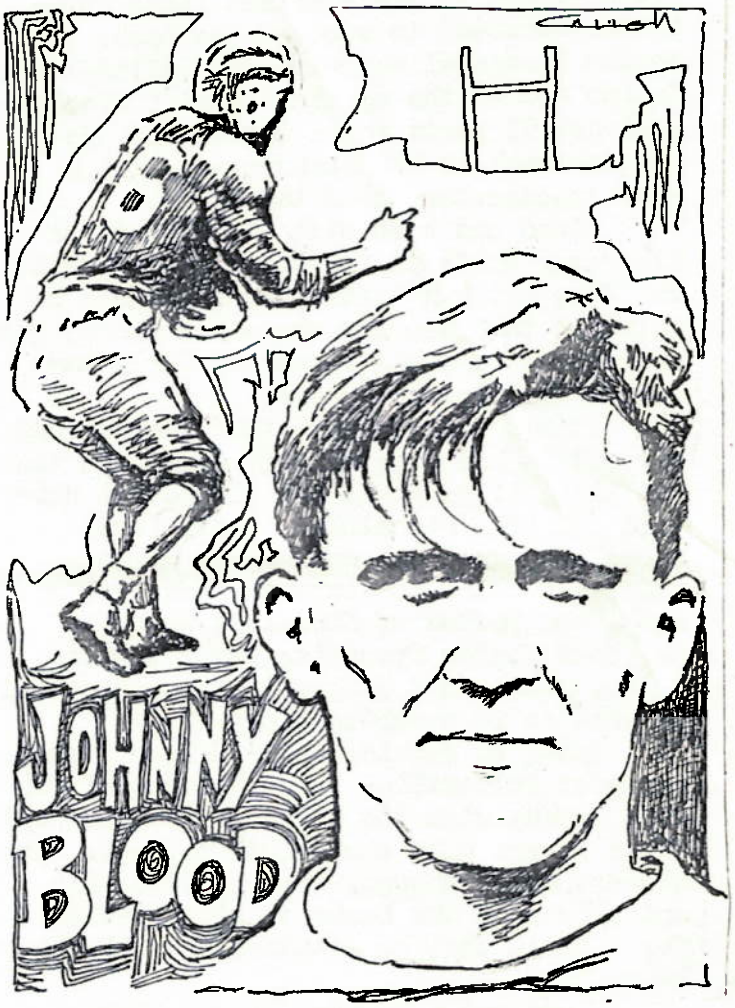
On such grounds that they may be correct and an illustration to prove such a point would be the former Steeler player-coach, Johnny Blood. In more modern times there have been such characters as Tim Rossovich, Dick Butkus and Joe Don Looney but none really matched the eccentric Blood, who was one of a kind.

They called him the Vagabond Halfback and the Magnificent Screwball but actually he was the one and only genuine Peter Pan of pro football. He put in 15 years in the NFL, was chosen for the Hall of Fame in 1963, and even attempted a comeback as a player when he was 42 years of age.

Johnny Blood's real name was John V. McNally and he came from a wealthy family of newspaper publishers and papermill owners and he never needed to play football for a living. But that didn't stop him. In fact when he still had a year of eligibility at St. John's College in Minnesota he decided along with his buddy, Ralph Hanson, to sneak in some pro activity with the East 26th Street Liberties of Minneapolis.

Both McNally and Hanson knew the custom of the day was for college players to dabble in pro football under such assumed names as Smith or Jones. Young McNally varied the routine. He spotted a theatre marquee billing Rudolph Valentino in the film "Blood and Sand" and immediately picked Blood as his name and induced Hanson to switch his to Sand. From that day forward Johnny signed all documents Johnny Blood.

Veteran Pittsburgh fans never will forget when Blood arrived in 1937 to be



JOHNNY BLOOD'S RECORD

Year	Team	Rush	Yds	PC	Yds	Pts
1925	Milwaukee	na	na	na	na	0
1926	Duluth	na	na	na	na	6
1927	Duluth	na	na	na	na	6
1928	Pottsville	na	na	na	na	19
1929	Green Bay	na	na	na	na	30
1930	Green Bay	na	na	na	na	30
1931	Green Bay	na	na	na	na	*72
1932	Green Bay	27	130	14	168	24
1933	Green Bay	14	41	7	214	19
1934	Pittsburgh	na	na	na	na	0
1935	Green Bay	42	115	25	404	24
1936	Green Bay	13	65	7	147	19
1937	Pittsburgh	9	37	10	168	30
1938	Pittsburgh	21	-5	2	5	0
1939	Pittsburgh	0	0	0	0	0
Totals - 15 years		126	383	65	1106	279

*-Led league

player-coach of the Steelers (then known as the Pirates) to succeed Joe Bach. The season inaugural was with the Philadelphia Eagles and on the opening kickoff Blood galloped 92 yards for a touchdown. No player-coach in NFL history ever had a more spectacular debut than that.

Blood had been with Pittsburgh earlier as a halfback for Coach Luby DiMelio in 1934, but his tenure was short and he returned to Green Bay where his memory was ever-green as a big factor in Curly Lambeau's championship years.

It was back in 1929 that Lambeau had figured he had a squad that could win the NFL title if he could add Blood, Cal Hubbard and Mike Michalske. Curly lured Blood away from the Pottsville Maroons, induced Hubbard to leave the New York Giants, and picked up Michalske when the New York Yankee franchise began to dissolve. Lambeau's judgment was correct and he went on to coaching glory.

Prior to service under Wilbur (Fats) Henry at Pottsville, Blood had played for John Bryant with the Milwaukee Badgers and Ernie Nevers with the Duluth Eskimos. His biggest days, though, were at Green Bay and it was on the basis of his exploits for Lambeau that he attained the Hall of Fame.

Blood was a scrawny kid in high school and disappointed his father by not excelling in athletics at that time. The explanation should have been obvious since Johnny graduated from high school at 14 and was not sufficiently mature to hold his own physically with his contemporaries. However, by the time he hit the NFL he was 6 feet 2 and scaled 198 pounds.

In his prime Blood was a superb runner, excellent kicker and passer, better than average blocker, a deadly tackler and the best pass-catcher in the pro league until Don Hutson came along. Some observers still argue that not even the brilliant Hutson could make more impossible catches than Johnny.

Blood held all the major NFL pass-receiving records until Hutson joined him on the Packer roster. When Hutson arrived Blood was 32 years old but the youthful Alabama sensation could only beat him by a foot or so in the 100-yard dash. Blood in his 20's would have outrun Hutson by yards to spare.

Green Bay patrons remember a game against the Providence Steamrollers when the Packers had the ball on their own 15-yard line. One play -- called the 69 -- was one in which the fullback would take a handoff from Blood while the end faked taking a handoff on an end-around. Another version was the 69-X in which Blood would fake a handoff to the fullback and instead give the ball to the end on the reverse.

In the huddle Blood called 69-XX. His teammates quickly reminded him that they had no such play.

"You do now," said Johnny. "Just go through with the 69 sequence and I'll do the rest."

The play worked when Blood faked to the fullback and then faked to the end on the end-around. Blood then tucked the ball under his arm and whirled his way 85 yards for a touchdown. During his career with the Packers, Blood reached pay dirt 37 times.

Once when the Packers clinched a league championship a victory party was held on the train back to Wisconsin. Blood reeled off some antics that enraged the towering end, Lavern Dilweg. Lavern chased Blood from the club car through all the other cars and figured he had him trapped on the rear platform. Football's Peter Pan then hoisted himself on top of the moving train. Dilweg sensibly gave up pursuit and Blood made his way back on the top of the train and dropped into the cab to startle the engineer and fireman. They were entertained by him for the remainder of the trip.

Although Blood never had the need to make money from football he was not against turning a quick maneuver. For example late in the 1932 season he figured an American pro team would be an attraction in Hawaii. He cabled the sports editor of the Honolulu Star-Advertiser and suggested a New Year's Day event matching Green Bay with a Hawaiian All-Star outfit.

Meanwhile Blood delivered a sales pitch to Lambeau, who said he would be in favor of a post-season game as long as Green Bay received a $9,000 guarantee. Blood then sent a second cable to the Honolulu newspaper explaining that the Packers would perform for a $10,000

guarantee or 50 per cent of the gate, whichever was higher.

The offer was okayed and the game was played. Blood turned over $10,000 to Lambeau, who was delighted to pick up more than he had bargained for. The 50 per cent of the gross brought in $1,200 additional, which Blood cheerfully pocketed.

The story is often told on one occasion Blood while player-coach for Pittsburgh, attended a Sunday game in Los Angeles. Friends in the pressbox questioned Blood as to why he was on the West Coast and Blood replied that the Steelers had an open date. The scoreboard showed otherwise and Pittsburgh was in action without the boss being present. Such memory lapses or nonchalance frequently kept Johnny in hot water.

Getting back to collegiate days Blood, at the close of his junior year at St. John's, suddenly decided he would like to become a Knute Rockne protege at Notre Dame. Reasoning that Notre Dame officials knew nothing about him, he enrolled as a freshman and eventually reported for the yearling squad handled by George Keogan.

Keogan, who became better known in later years as the varsity basketball coach of the Fighting Irish, believed Blood could be useful but wanted him to be a tackle. Blood insisted he was the fastest man on the South Bend campus and wanted no part of an assignment in the line.

Keogan tossed Blood off the squad, but he remained for a spell at Notre Dame, playing basketball at the South Bend YMCA and helping quarterback Harry Stuhldreher with his poetry assignments.

After World War Two service in the China-India-Burma theatre Blood returned to pro football. He was 42, but he finally became convinced that he was too long in the tooth and returned to St. John's College to earn his degree 26 years late.

His mind evidently returned to the closing days of his player-coaching tenure at Pittsburgh. It was then his habit to inject himself into the lineup in the late stages of a game, annoying his teammates who wished to reject him as an incoming substitute.

In retrospect few members of the pro Hall of Fame can show better credentials than Blood did when he was honored in 1963. Certainly no other member was as unpredictable. Probably his wife, Marguerite Streater McNally, put it best when she said:

"Even when Johnny does the expected, he does it in an unexpected way."

This was true even when publishers convinced him to write a book. Everyone figured it would be a saga on football. Instead it was a highly rated effort on the Malthusian theories of economics.

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Reprinted from Pittsburgh Steelers Weekly, Vol. 1, No. 2, Aug. 4, 1979

** Johnny Blood was named as a wide receiver on the PFRA All-Time Green Bay Packer Team. Don Hutson and Ray Nitschke were unanimous choices by responding members.

Coach - Vince Lombardi, 1959-1967

OFFENSE

WR - Don Hutson, 1935-1945
WR - Johnny Blood, 1929-33, 35-36
TE - Ron Kramer, 1957, 1959-1964
OT - Forrest Gregg, 1956, 1958-1970
OT - Cub Buck, 1921-1925
OG - Jerry Kramer, 1958-1968
OG - Mike Michalske, 1929-1937
C - Jim Ringo, 1953-1963
Q - Bart Starr, 1956-1971
RB - Jim Taylor, 1958-1966
RB - Paul Hornung, 1957-62, 64-66
K - Don Chandler, 1965-1967

DEFENSE

DE - Willie Davis, 1960-1969
DE - Cal Hubbard, 1929-1935
DT - Henry Jordan, 1959-1969
DT - Dave Hanner, 1952-1964
ML - Ray Nitschke, 1958-1972
LB - Dave Robinson, 1963-1972
LB - Bill Forester, 1953-1963
CB - Herb Adderley, 1961-1969
CB - Willie Buchanan, 1972-1978
S - Willie Wood, 1960-1971
S - Bobby Dillon, 1952-1959
P - Verne Lewellen, 1924-1932

Clarke Hinkle and Fuzzy Thurston were the top vote-getters who did not gain positions on the team.

** Tony Cusher has some information on the mysterious Tom Whelan, the Canton end from 1919-20 who, it has been suggested may have been a Notre Dame man who played baseball at Boston. "In the book The Georgetown Hoyas," Tony writes, "a Tom Whelan is listed as playing end for 1916 and 1917." Tony also identifies a Jim Whelan as a non-letterwinner at guard for N.D. in 1925.

* Meanwhile, Stan Grosshandler has asked a SABR member to check the obituary of the baseball Whelan who died in Boston 1957. However, he points out that obits are often unreliable.

* Finally, there's a photo of the 1920 Canton Bulldogs on page 19 of The NFL's Official Encyclopedic History of Professional Football. One man is identified as "Whalen."

** PFRA has acquired a limited number of Robert W. Wheeler's definitive biography of Jim Thorpe, Pathway to Glory. The book usually retails at $10, but we can offer it to members at a super discount of $2. Write to PFRA, 218 Wise St., N.E., North Canton, Ohio, 44720.

** The final results of PFRA's "10 Best Pros Not in the Hall of Fame" Poll are in, with nearly seventy names receiving votes. Perhaps we should have made that "100 Best." At any rate, here are the winners:

* John K. Brallier was not the first pro player as most record books had it for many years. But he was quite likely the best pro player between 1895 and 1905. He was a fine runner and kicker, but most of his fame rested on his leadership and reputation as a field general. No individual stats exist, but the almost continuous success of Brallier's Latrobe team underlines his effectiveness.

* Jack Butler was a constant choice on All-League teams and for the pro bowl while playing for less-than-sensational Steeler teams from 1951 to 1959. Most Pittsburghers believed he would have been a top receiver had he not been too valuable to move out of the defensive secondary.

* Lavvie Dilweg was a great two-way end with the Packers' championship teams of 1929-30-31. At 6:03 and better than 200 pounds, Lavvie was a fine target for Arnie Herber's passes and devastating on defense. He played from 1926 to 1934.

* Benny Friedman played before accurate passing statistics were kept. Otherwise, he might already be in the Hall. In eight years he tossed 71 TD passes, including 19 in 1929. He was also an elusive runner and adequate kicker, totalling 179 points over his career. News stories of the time make it clear that an opponent's first task was to stop Friedman. Few of them did.

* Paul Hornung scored more points in one season than any other pro ever, 176 in 1960. The next year he slumped to a "mere" 146. A fine kicker and receiver, his devastating running of strongside sweeps coupled with Jim Taylor's slants made Green Bay's rushing attack irresistible during the Lombardi years.

* Verne Lewellen was a fine all-around halfback for the Packers from 1924 to 1932, good enough to rack up 50 TDs. But it was as a punter that he really made his mark. Almost fifty years after hanging up his spikes, Verne is still remembered for his great, great kicking.

* Ted Nesser had to be a great player just to get by in his own family. One of six footballing brothers, Ted was the leader and coach. By most accounts he was also the best player, whether at end, guard, tackle, center, or in the backfield. He first showed up as a pro with Massillon in 1904 and he finally called it quits in 1922.

* Peggy Parratt kept pro football alive in Ohio almost singlehandedly from 1907 to 1915. An outstanding player,

he was a better coach and best of all an organizer who built strong rivalries -- resulting in large crowds -- across the state.

* Fritz Pollard missed being the first black to play in the NFL by a week (Rock Island with Bobby Marshall began its season a week before Pollard's Akron team took the field). But that was about all he missed. He was THE star of Akron's 1920 champions even though he weighed less than 150 pounds. Before he hung 'em up in 1926, he also had served as the first black coach in NFL history. Although he starred at all phases of the game, Fritz's twisting, slicing runs made him pro ball's most feared rusher during the early 1920's.

* Al Wistert was a perennial all-pro for the great Eagle teams of the late '40s, despite his modest 214 pounds, small for a tackle even thirty years ago. He opened holes for Steve Van Buren and closed them against the opposition. The only rap against Wistert is that his Eagle teams were wing-high in great players and he got lost in the stars.

* The top vote-getter in the poll was Pollard, with Friedman a close second.

** We are happy to announce that PFRA has 33 Charter Members. All those who joined before August 15, 1979, received a special membership card identifying them as charter members. Those joining after August 15 will receive a regular card. Membership runs from July 1, 1979, to June 30, 1980.

* Members joining after August 15 will receive all privileges to which membership will normally entitle them, including 12 issues of The Coffin Corner beginning with issue number 5 (July). Anyone wishing to obtain the first four issues of the Corner can do so by sending $1 for each issue ordered. Write to the address below.

* PFRA was founded as a non-profit organization on June 22, 1979, at Canton, Ohio. The Association intends to foster the study of professional football as a significant social and athletic institution. It further hopes to establish an accurate historical account of pro football and disseminate research information.

* Membership is open to anyone with a sincere interest in the history of professional football or related subjects. Reasonable dues have been set to defray operational expenses of the Association ($12.00 per year).

* To join, send your name and address, along with the membership fee to:

PFRA
218 Wise St., N.E.
North Canton, Ohio 44720

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Mike Swanton - New York
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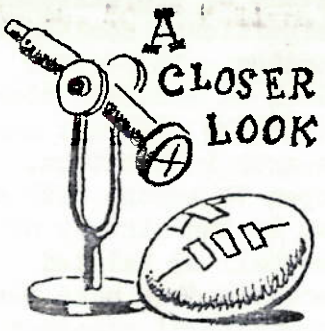
* Note that we are represented in 18 states and the District of Columbia



50-yd DKs

The dropkick, as oldtimers are always saying, is a lost art. Like any other art, it was limited by its material. In other words, a sculptor can't carve bubblegum out of granite, a musician will never coax Stardust from a snaredrum, and a kicker can't drop the modern, pointy end football with any hope of knowing where the darned thing is going to bounce.

Arrivederci, Dropkick!

Although it couldn't be a joy forever, at one time it was a thing of beauty. Back in the dim days, the placekick was sometimes preferred as more accurate for in-close booting, but when a real cross-country shot was called for the kicker usually opted for a dropkick. Four dk's are listed in most standard pro reference works as having traveled 50 yards!

But did they?

All four occurred -- if they occurred -- between 1919 and 1925. At that time, the posts were on the goal line, so all we need to know is what yard line the kick was taken from. That, and if the boot was really a dropkick.

* * *

NOVEMBER 30, 1919, AT CANTON: Jim Thorpe's kick gave Canton a 3-0 win over the Massillon Tigers and the professional championship of the world. Old Jim played with a lame back that finally forced him out in the fourth quarter, according to the Canton Repository the next day. His most remarkable kick was a punt that got his team out of a hole in the third quarter. Standing on his own five, he took advantage of a tailwind to boot one over the head of the Massillon safety. The ball rolled over the goal line at the other end of the field! The same tailwind wasn't enough on his first two field goal tries. He missed a placekick from the 40 and a dropkick from the 45. The third time proved the charm. With the wind still at his back, Jim connected from the 40 yard line. But, the 40-yarder wasn't a dk after all. Pete Calac held while Jim placekicked the Bulldogs to a championship.

* * *

NOVEMBER 13, 1922, AT CANTON: For many years the NFL Record Manual carried Wilbur Henry's name as co-holder of the top mark for dropkicks, asserting that he belted a 50-yarder against Toledo on this date. Actually, November 13 was a Monday. The day before Ed Shaw beat Buffalo, 3-0, with a 30-yarder. A week before that Canton and Toledo played to a scoreless tie. So where did the phantom field goal come from? Perhaps from a December 10 meeting with the Maroons at Toledo. The Repository gave Wilbur credit for a matched set of 45-yard dropkicks in that game. The Chicago Herald Examiner said one was "only" from the 40 yard line, but, either way, it was a good day's work for Wilbur.

* * *

SEPTEMBER 28, 1924, AT CHICAGO: Paddy Driscoll did it twice, the NFL Manual used to say. The first time was against Milwaukee on this date while Paddy was performing for the Chicago Cardinals. The best source here would be the Chicago papers, and I blush to admit I have not had a chance to check them. However, the Milwaukee Journal said unequivocally that Paddy placekicked his field goal. And that it was for 52-yards!

* * *

OCTOBER 11, 1925, AT CHICAGO: Paddy's second entry in the Manual is against Columbus. He booted four field goals with distances listed as 23, 18, 35, and 50 yards. But, again there's some confusion. The Chicago Tribune praised Paddy for four successful kicks but somehow overlooked one of them being of gargantuan length. The Rock Island Argus, which usually covered all the Illinois pros pretty well, said that all four were from placement.

* * *

Paddy was a heck of a dropkicker, but he was also a fine placekicker. It may be that later researchers simply assumed that his longest kicks were dk's. It may also be that a careful check of Windy City papers would verify Driscoll's kicks. We're not ready to write him off yet.

They say Thorpe used to amaze the crowds before games by standing at the 50 and first dropkicking between one set of goalposts and then turning and dropkicking through the opposite set of posts. But, so far, there's no proof that he ever made one from there during a game.

So, what's the bottom line?

At this point, we'd have to say that the longest, adequately documented dk was by Wilbur Henry against Toledo on December 10, 1922. The distance? 45 yards.

To add spice to the cake, if we believe the Canton Repository, he did it twice in the same game.

But the oddest part of all is this: Wilbur had been playing as a pro since 1919. He played one game for Massillon that year and then went back to Washington & Jefferson to complete his college career. In 1920, he signed with Canton. He then played 35 consecutive league and non-league games for the Bulldogs without once kicking a field goal! He was forced to sit out Canton's December 3, 1922, game against Milwaukee with an injury. The next week he returned to boot his first two pro field goals -- the pair of 45-yarders against Toledo! And, what was the wound that kept him out the week before? An injured leg!

** Fielding "Hurry Up" Yost was no friend of pro football. Although he played a few games for pay at Latrobe in the 1890s, he never missed a chance to knock the pros. Yost was never kind to his roots. In 1900 he coached at Stanford, but in 1902 he took his "Point-a-Minute" Michigan team to the coast to humiliate the Indians, 49-0, in the first Rose Bowl. However, his acme in biting the hand that once fed him came in 1904 when his Wolverines chewed up West Virginia U., 130 to 0. W.V.U. was Yost's alma mater!

** Being the number one draft choice in all of pro football is no guarantee of ultimate success. But three numero unos have climbed all the way to the Hall of Fame. Can you name them?

** The Coffin Corner is interested in locating Robert Lee Gronemeyer, a grad student at St. Louis U, in 1963, in relation to his research into pro football in the city of St. Louis. Anyone having information please write to the Corner.

JIM THORPE'S TRACK AND FIELD RECORDS

100 yard dash (Carlisle)	10 seconds
100 yard dash (practice sprint at Carlisle)	9.8 seconds
120 yard high hurdles	15 seconds
220 yard low hurdles	23.8 seconds
440 yard race	51 seconds
1,500 meter run	4 min. 40.1 sec.
High jump	6 ft. 5 in.
Broad jump	23 ft. 6 in.
Pole vault	10 ft. 8 in.
Hammer throw	138 ft.
Shot-put	47 ft. 9 in.
Javelin	138 ft.
Discus	125 ft. 8 in.

Pro Football Hall of Fame Adds 4

"It's beyond my wildest dreams, beyond the words of a poet", commented Ron Mix as he reflected upon the festivities leading up to his enshrinement into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Mix, the former San Diego Chargers offensive tackle, was joined by three other gridiron greats to complete the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 1979 Enshrinees. In addition to Mix, this years class includes, Chicago Bears linebacker Dick Butkus, Detroit Lions defensive back and punter Yale Lary and Baltimore Colts quarterback Johnny Unitas. The four were officially enshrined during an emotion filled ceremony conducted on the front steps of the Hall of Fame.

A crowd of 12,000 plus listened as the latest members of the Hall's "immortal roll" expressed feelings of pride, humility and gratitude.

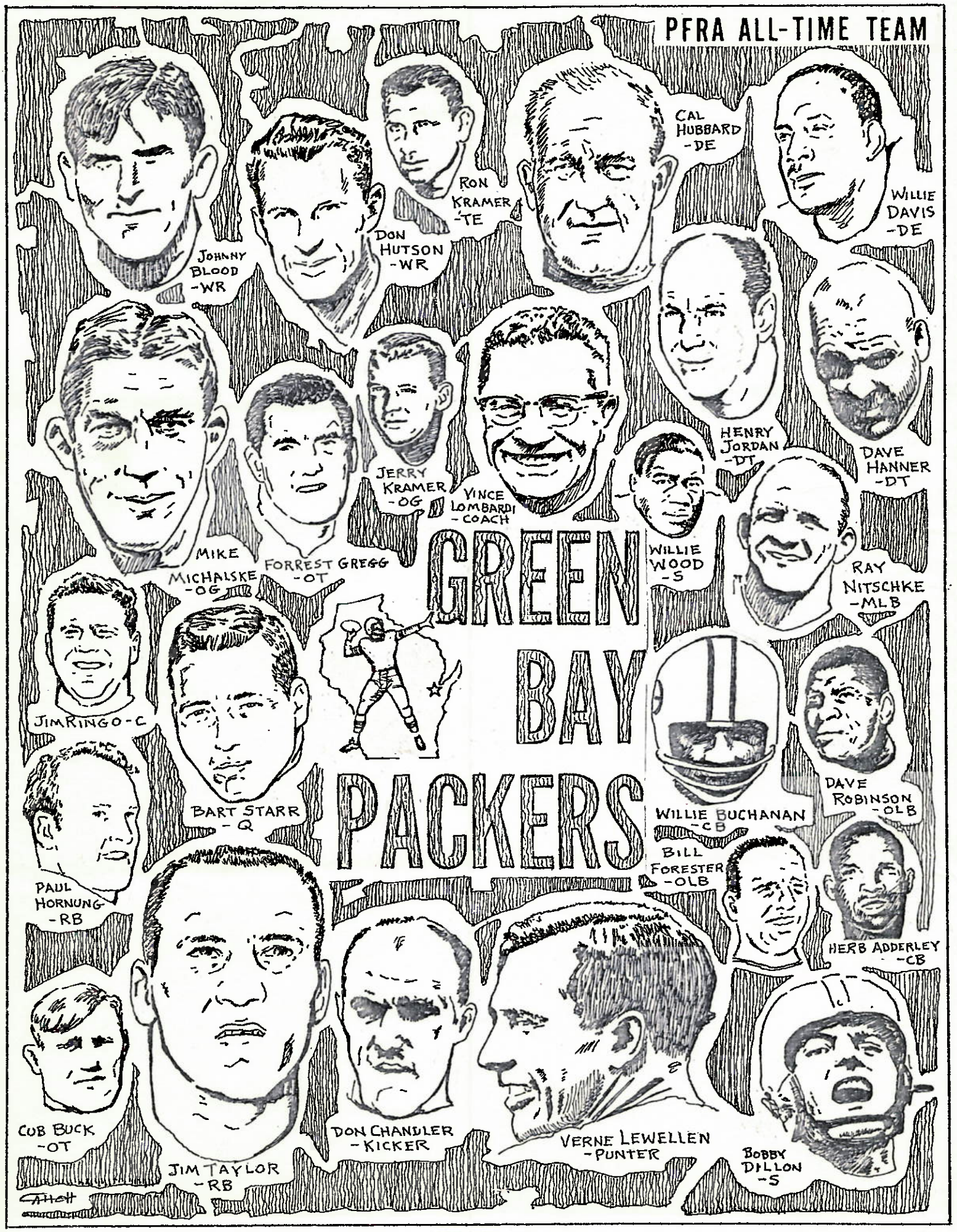
Dick Butkus, who had to stop to wipe the tears from his eyes, showed that as Alex Karras' book states, "Even Big Guys Cry". Yale Lary, expressed his gratitude to his friends and to "the best cheerleader a man could have, my wife Jane", while Johnny Unitas saluted his teammates and coaches, crediting them with his being enshrined.

The enshrinement ceremony is the high point of a weekend-long festival celebration which includes six standard events: 1) the Mayor's Breakfast 2) the Womens Fashion Show 3) the Civic Dinner 4) the Civic Parade 5) the Enshrinement Ceremony 6) the Annual AFC vs. NFC Hall of Fame Game. Each event this year drew capacity crouds and a new attendance record of 20,648 was set at the Hall of Fame Game.

The Hall of Fame Game this year matched the defending NFC champion Dallas Cowboys against the always strong AFC Oakland Raiders. The Raiders began their 1979 pre-season on a winning note, defeating the Cowboys 20-13.

The games' big play came not from a proven veteran, but an unknown Oakland rookie named Henry Williams. Just seconds before the half, Williams gathered in a blocked Dallas field goal attempt and raced 46 yards for a touchdown.

It certainly was fitting for a little known rookie to steal the show from the tested veterans after just witnessing another once "unknown", Johnny Unitas, being enshrined in the Hall of Fame. Who knows maybe the Hall of Fame got a sneak preview of a future candidate.


PFRA ALL-TIME TEAM
GREEN BAY PACKERS
JOHNNY BLOOD -WR
DON HUTSON -WR
RON KRAMER -TE
CAL HUBBARD -DE
WILLIE DAVIS -DE
MIKE MICHALSKE -OG
FORREST GREGG -OT
JERRY KRAMER -OG
VINCE LOMBARDI -COACH
HENRY JORDAN -DT
DAVE HANNER -DT
WILLIE WOOD -S
RAY NITSCHKE -MLB
JIM RINGO -C
BART STARR -Q
PAUL HORNUNG -RB
WILLIE BUCHANAN -CB
DAVE ROBINSON -OLB
BILL FORESTER -OLB
HERB ADDERLEY -CB
CUB BUCK -OT
JIM TAYLOR -RB
DON CHANDLER -KICKER
VERNE LEWELLEN -PUNTER
BOBBY DILLON -S