

# RODGER H. PIPPEN

**SPORTS EDITOR, SAYS:**

## 80-Year-Old Ex-Cop Remembers Babe Ruth As Boy

With the papers full of Babe Ruth's gallant fight for life, Harry C. Birmingham, 2541 West Lafayette avenue, is moved to a few reminiscences of the Babe's Baltimore boyhood. Birmingham, now nearing eighty, is a former policeman whose post was in the neighborhood where the Babe was born and raised. As a matter of fact, he and the Bambino's father were boys together.

Birmingham recalls that Ruth was only eight or nine years old when he was placed in St. Mary's Industrial School. As the cop on the beat, as well as an old friend of the family, he was called in and



Officer Birmingham when Babe Ruth was young,  
and as he looks today.

consulted by the Babe's father when sending the boy to the institution was considered.

"I remember that Babe was a little rascal," says Birmingham. "Although he was not a bad boy—just mischievous, and no more so than other boys his age. He certainly never gave the police any trouble. But his father decided to send him to St. Mary's because he just couldn't make him mind at home. Babe had a will of his own and was never one to take orders."

Oddly enough, when Ruth was a youngster playing around his neighborhood, he evidently had not formed any interest at all in baseball. Birmingham declares he never saw the Babe playing the game as a little fellow.