

**Franklin W. Hurd Jr.
16416 Coco Hammock Way
Fort Myers, FL 33908
617-515-1760**

National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum
Ms. Sue MacKay
Director of Collections
25 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326

August 27, 2018

Dear Ms. MacKay,

I am writing to present to you an interesting and unique 1930's baseball story that you may feel is worthy of addition to your Baseball Hall of Fame Archive Collection. The story is about the Hurd Family 9 semi-professional baseball team of Arlington, Massachusetts. The team was comprised of the father Herbert C. Hurd and his eight sons: Arthur, Frederick, Charles (Gene), Herbert S, Franklin, John, Carlton, and Walter.

As you know, during the 1930's, baseball was extremely popular. By then, there were numerous semi-professional leagues around the country, and the Boston area was no exception. During that time the "Hurd Family 9" team played many local teams in the area and others as far away as Portland, ME.

What was so unique about the "Hurd Family 9" team was that it is believed to be the only semi-professional baseball team in the country that was made up of the family of father and his eight sons. Additionally, to add to the family involvement, the player's two sisters (Edna and Eva) and their mother Kate were often the cheerleaders at their games.

There are many family teams in the history of baseball that were comprised of family members such as: fathers, sons, uncles, and cousins, etc. none to our knowledge has been made up entirely of members of the immediate family.

One of those who had watched the team play on several occasions, Yankees Hall of Fame pitcher "Lefty" Gomez, wanted to take the team on a "barnstorming" trip around the country playing exhibition games against the locals. While that was discussed, some player's family obligations required their staying at home and the tour never came about. The team was competitive, and two of the players had tryouts with the Yankees and White Sox, and the youngest was scouted by the Boston Red Sox.

After their playing years some of the brothers continued their love for the sport by umpiring and coaching local teams. Six of the eight brothers served in WWII. Walter, the youngest, was wounded in Italy returned to his unit and was later killed in action in France in 1944. The town, in recognition of the family and Walter's heroism named the park they played at, the Walter G. Hurd Field.

My grandfather purchased the team uniforms from a family friend, Neil Mahoney, who would later become Director of Minor League Operations and Director of Player Procurement for the Boston Red Sox and is regarded as having an instrumental role in Boston's 1967 and 1975 American League championships. Three of those uniforms still exist and I would be willing to offer as a donation one of the uniforms to your archival collection.

To provide you with further information about this unique baseball team, I am including some newspaper articles describing the family and team, team photos, and several news articles about them and their play during that era.

We are extremely proud of the family history and its ties to baseball, and would be honored if you would consider your recognizing their accomplishments and contributions to the sport of baseball in your archives.

My name is Franklin Hurd Jr. Herbert C. Hurd was my grandfather and the players on the team include my dad and my seven uncles.

If you would like to discuss this submission in further detail, please feel free to contact me at 617-515-1760 (cell) or via email at Frank.Hurd@comcast.net.

Thank you for your attention.

Frank Hurd, Jr.

From: Frank Hurd frank.hurd@comcast.net
Subject: Fwd: Hurd Family 9
Date: Sep 20, 2018 at 11:27:14 AM
To: Frank Hurd frank.hurd@comcast.net

From: "MacKay, Sue" <smackay@baseballhall.org>
Date: September 20, 2018 at 11:09:48 AM EDT
To: 'Frank Hurd' <frank.hurd@comcast.net>
Subject: RE: Hurd Family 9

Frank,

The Acquisitions Committee met and voted to accept the Hurd Family Nine jersey into the permanent collection. You are welcome to send it to my attention:

Susan MacKay
National Baseball Hall of Fame
25 Main St.
Cooperstown, NY 13326
[607-547-0213](tel:607-547-0213)

After we receive the jersey, we will send a gift agreement form for your signature. Later, you will receive a copy of the form for your records, a lifetime pass to the Hall and a certificate of donation. If you have any questions about the donation process, don't hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks to you and your family for thinking of us here in Cooperstown.

Sincerely,
Sue MacKay
Director of Collections

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



DEED OF GIFT

I Franklin W. Hurd Jr., hereby irrevocably and unconditionally give, grant, assign and donate to and bestow upon the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc., absolute, unconditional and unrestricted ownership in, to and of the property described below (the property described below, individually or in aggregate, the "Property"), together with all rights, title and interest in, to and of all copyright, renewal, derivative and associated rights existing in the Property. I represent and warrant that (i) I own the Property; (ii) the Property is free and clear of all liens, claims, encumbrances and restrictions; (iii) I have the absolute right and authority to give, grant, assign, donate and bestow the Property, together with all copyright, renewal derivative and associated rights, to and upon the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc. The Property may be displayed, exhibited, loaned and otherwise used at the unrestricted and sole discretion of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc. Such use shall include, without limitation, all rights of reproduction and publication.

Description of Property

Uniform shirt worn by a member of the Arlington Nine, a semi-pro team of father and eight sons in Arlington, MA that played in the 1930s and 1940s.

To be donated In Memory of the Hurd Family 9.

The name of the National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum and its Library are registered trademarks. Therefore, the donor(s) agrees that no reference to the National Baseball Hall of Fame or to the fact that the object(s) is/are in the Hall of Fame collections may be used in any commercial context, and the donor(s) agrees not to permit or condone any such use without the written permission of the National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum.

Signature of Donor Franklin W. Hurd Jr. Dated 10/26/2018
Address 16416 Coco Hammock
Telephone 239-590-0286 E-Mail FRANK.HURD@COMCAST.NET

Registrar Office Use Only

Accepted for Museum by Payton Tracy
Dated 10-26-18

A splendid record,

Franklin

Belle + Maude

The "Hurd Family Nine" -- A Credit To Arlington

A site in Arlington Heights known early in this century as the "Wiggins and Bowles Estate" was to provide the setting for one of the most unique baseball teams ever assembled.

In the early 1930's eight Hurd brothers led by their father and helped by a few friends (including the late Francis N. O'Hara) cut a baseball diamond out of the rough field and began to "play ball." A few years later the Town took the field by eminent domain and built it into a finished baseball park which was later to be known as Reservoir Field. The senior Hurd was an ardent baseball buff who instilled the love of the game in his sons, and they were the first organized baseball team to play on the new field.

Why the team? The early 1930's was a period of stress when it was quite easy and not uncommon for boys to get into trouble. To keep his sons on the "straight and narrow," Mr. Hurd formed the baseball team "Hurd Family 9" -- himself and his eight sons.

During the years from 1935 to 1941 baseball was a major part of their existence. They joined the Suburban Twi-Light League and soon became one of the best clubs in that circuit. Some of the largest crowds ever to see a baseball game at Reservoir Field were attracted there to watch the "Hurd Family 9" in action. Their uniforms, lettered "The Hurd Team" were purchased from Nell Mahoney -- now head of the Boston Red Sox farm system.

Each of the boys was capable of playing nearly every position. Mound duty was split between Carlton and Herbert, Jr. -- who is popularly known around town as "Rab." The starting infield lineup had Walter at first, Franklin ("Pud") at second, Fred at third, and -- when he wasn't pitching -- "Rab" at shortstop. Arthur played left field, John was in center, and Herbert, Sr. (Dad) held down the right field slot.



Seated, front row, Fred, Herbert, Jr. Center row, Arthur, Herbert Sr., Frank. Standing, back row, Walter, Carlton, John, Gene and Frank.

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uncommon for semi-pro Town teams to have one or more players of professional caliber. The Hurd team too, had a player with the possibility of breaking into the major leagues. The signature of young Walter Hurd -- only 18 at the time -- was sought on a pro-ball contract by Bucky Gaudette of Lewiston, Maine and Jack Onslow of the Boston Red Sox.

The highlight of each season was the Town Championship game played between the "Hurd Family 9" and Arlington's other semi-pro team, the Highland A. C. coached by Hank Doyle. Nearly everyone in town turned out for these games to root for their favorite team. Cheerleaders for the Hurd team were "Mom" Hurd and daughters Eva and Edna. The Hurd team won the championship twice -- once behind the pitching of "Rab" and once behind the pitching of Carl.

The championship game best remembered by the Hurd brothers is one in which Highland A.C. coach recruited Charlie O'Rourke of Boston College Sugar Bowl fame as his center fielder. The brothers were down by one run in the last inning -- two outs -- Frank was on second. "Rab" came up to bat and hit a ball so deep to dead center that nobody believed it could be caught, and some wondered if it would ever be found. But the swift O'Rourke got a good jump on the ball and made a spectacular catch while running up a pile of loam at the end of the field.

During their playing years the team was in action constantly. In addition to their local games they played in other parts of Massachusetts, and sometimes in other States. Once they ventured North to Lewiston, Maine where they lost to the Lewiston town team of the New England League. For that game they hired a "good" pitcher from Somerville. But he became ill in the third inning, -- after having allowed five runs. "Rab" then took over the mound and allowed only two runs during the rest of the game.

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After their playing days the brothers continued to distinguish themselves in service to their Town and country. Six of the eight brothers served in combat action simultaneously during World War II. Walter, youngest of the brothers, lost his life in that cause.

"Rab" and Gene are now retired from their positions with the railroad. Rab's love of baseball continued well after his playing days -- he was a baseball umpire in Arlington for 27 years.

Franklin "Pud" Hurd is now a tax examiner. From 1950 to 1953 he served as Park Commissioner, and from 1953 to 1959 he was a member of the Arlington Board of Selectmen. He is also a past president of the Middlesex County Selectman's Association. And he, too, continued to enjoy baseball well after his playing days -- he was a baseball umpire in Arlington for 17 years.

The two Hurd sisters are now Mrs. Eva Sugrue who lives in Cambridge and Mrs. Edna Tierney of St. Paul, Minn.

Some measure of the esteem in which the Hurd brothers and family are held is indicated by an honor they received from St. Agnes Church which is inscribed: "May God reward generously the selfless patriotism of this loyal family" -- Richard Cardinal Cushing.

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WALTER G. HURD -- picture taken shortly after his induction in 1943.

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After his baseball years, Walter, along with one Bill McCarty, managed a gasoline filling station here in Arlington. Early in 1943 they agreed to close the station and enlist in the Army to assist their country in World War II. Both were rejected for medical reasons. Both entered Symmes Hospital for corrective surgery so that they could pass the Army's physical examination.

In April, 1943 Walter was inducted into the Army and attached to Company F, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division. He then saw action in Italy, Africa and Southern France. As a result of wounds sustained on September 9, 1944, Walter was awarded the Purple Heart and Presidential Citation. On returning to active duty on October 3rd of the same year he was promoted to Staff Sergeant for meritorious achievement. Twenty-eight days later -- on October 31, 1944 -- he was killed instantly when struck by a shell during an attack on a strongly fortified enemy position in Southern France.

by CARL DeMATTEO
Photographs by T. J. Nigro

When ?

Arith Thanksgiving Day there are usually few thoughts about anything connected with baseball.

Sports fans are thinking mostly about the football games scheduled for the day. Town officials and Town Meeting Members are thinking about the advent of political campaign season and upcoming Annual Town Meeting. Mothers -- while preparing the turkey dinner in which we are all interested -- are thinking about Christmas shopping. Few are thinking about anything even vaguely connected with baseball.

But the Town does owe a debt of gratitude which might be given some thought on this Thanksgiving Day. And it involves sports -- and Town Meeting -- and Town officials -- and certainly baseball.

While the Town acknowledged this debt of gratitude by approval of a 1909 Warrant Article to rename Reservoir Field in honor of the late Walter G. Hurd, no action has been taken to appropriately dedicate the field.

And what's worse -- our several telephone calls to Town offices which should be concerned with the planning of a dedication ceremony failed to uncover any such plans. Did somebody drop the ball?

We dare say that few Arlingtonians know of the remaining of the field of the Hurd family's contribution to Arlington's history. We hope that this issue of The ARLINGTONIAN corrects that unfortunate situation.

Now, before the snow flies and another Town Meeting rolls by, we'd like to see some positive action taken to have the field formally dedicated with a fitting plaque to the memory of Walter G. Hurd.

And some "food for thought" for Town Meeting Members: Walter G. Hurd field is one of the best fields in Arlington. It's the only one with lights for evening activities. But it has two serious drawbacks -- access and parking. Many Arlingtonians now solve the parking problem by using the A & P parking lot between Mass. Avenue and Hurd Field. Then they "rough it" down the embankment and across the railroad tracks to get to the field. How about a foot-bridge between the A & P parking lot and Walter G. Hurd Field?

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The Hurd Family Team

Collins' Corner

By Leonard Collins



Tomorrow night the Park Commissioners have invited the citizens of the town to the dedication of what is now known as Reservoir Playground. Tomorrow it will be changed to Hurd Field.

At the Annual Town Meeting in 1969 the Town Meeting voted unanimously to so change the name to do honor to Walter G. Hurd who was killed in action on October 31, 1944, in Southern France. He was awarded in September of that year the Purple Heart and Presidential Citation for wounds received and was appointed Staff Sergeant for meritorious achievement.

The photo on this page is that of a very unusual baseball team with the Hurd father and eight sons all playing. Seated, front row Fred Herbert Jr., Center row Arthur, their dad, Herbert Sr. Back Row Walter, the boy the field is being named for, Carlton, John, Gene and Frank.

Walter was the youngest, and at the time of this picture was considered a real future major league player. Even though he was only 18, he was sought by Red Sox Scout Jack Onslow. However, that all ended when his folks received word of his tragic death.

It seems very fitting that this field be named for this young man as he lived upon the hill opposite Mass. Ave., and that is where the kids from the Heights played. Before the town took this property the athletes marked off a diamond and played their games. Today it is the only field with lights, and it is a very busy area during the baseball season.

around the Center and East Arlington felt Arlington Heights was way out in the sticks, but if a group began talking about the folks living there, the conversation would eventually come around to the Hurds. Yes indeed, they were an institution up there, but known to fans all over New England.

When Mr. Hurd handled the club he was the boss, but when his playing days were over the team had 8 captains, and it was a fine take-in for people who attended their games, as each told the other exactly what they were doing wrong, but if anyone else moved in, then the team operated like a very close unit. Umpiring these games was an education in itself and some very funny incidents took place. They drew large crowds and the two sisters, Eva and Edna, took up the collection and Mother Hurd was the chief cheerleader.

At the time of this photo Town Baseball was tops in local interest, and Arlington received great publicity as having the only semi-pro team of a father and eight sons all playing together. That was one dad who knew where his kids were, and he was one person who could talk back to T.V. today and answer the question, "Do you know where your boys and girls are tonight?"

So tomorrow night, if you can make it, drop up to the Heights and take part in this nice gesture voted by our Town Meeting Members. And then stay and see our Police and Fire Departments play a softball game where the money collected will be given to the Arlington Association of Retarded Children.



350th Anniversary Planning Committee
Settlement of Menotomy / Arlington 1635~1985



Invitation to
the
Rededication of the
Walter G. Hurd Memorial Field
Veterans' Day

Monday, November 11, 1985

1:15 P.M.

The Town of Arlington is celebrating the 350th Anniversary of its settlement. The 350th Celebration Committee has included this rededication as one of its activities in commemoration of and symbolic of its salute to Veterans and Sports Figures - of which Walter Hurd's life is an outstanding example. As a family member or friend, you have been chosen to attend this ceremony and we hope you will be there.

A collation will follow the rededication at the Arlington Lodge of Elks, 56 Pond Lane, Arlington, MA.

350th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

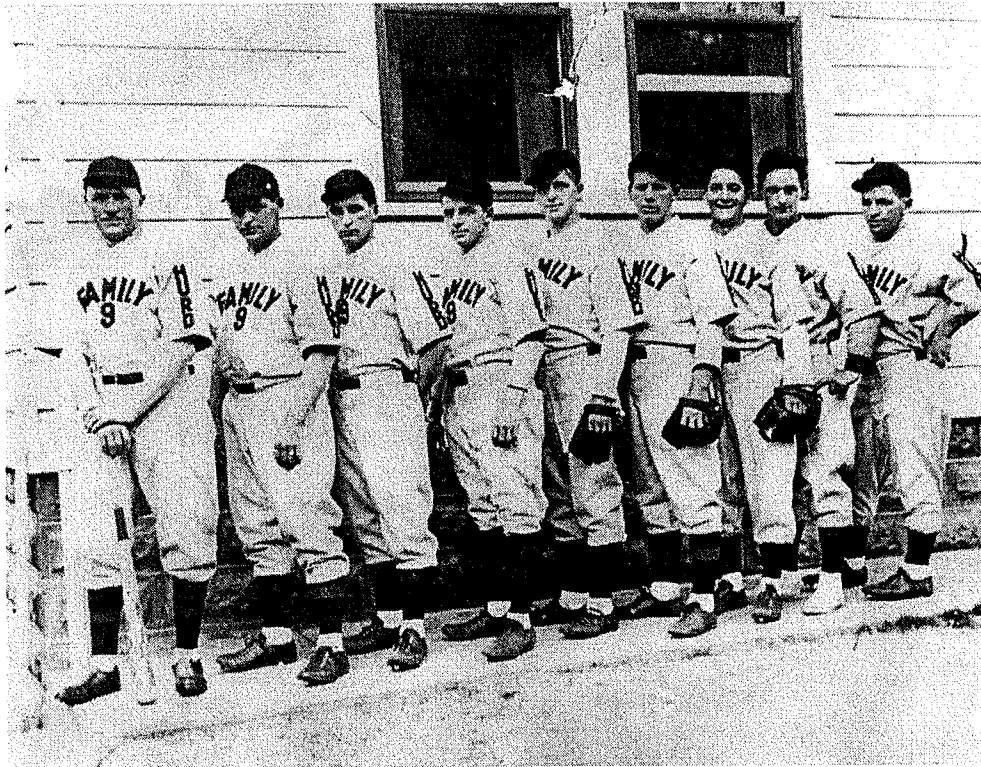
Mrs. Margaret H. Spengler, Chairman
Mr. Phillip H. Hagar, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Joyce Radochia, Secretary
Mr. Owen R. Carrigan
Mrs. Helen M. Devine
Mr. George P. Faulkner
Mrs. Patricia C. Fitzmaurice
Rev. Charles W. Grady
Mr. Robert B. Walsh
Dr. David D. Hall, Advisor
Mr. Joseph G. Keefe, Artist

R.S.V.P. to the Board of Selectmen
646-1000, Ext. 4062

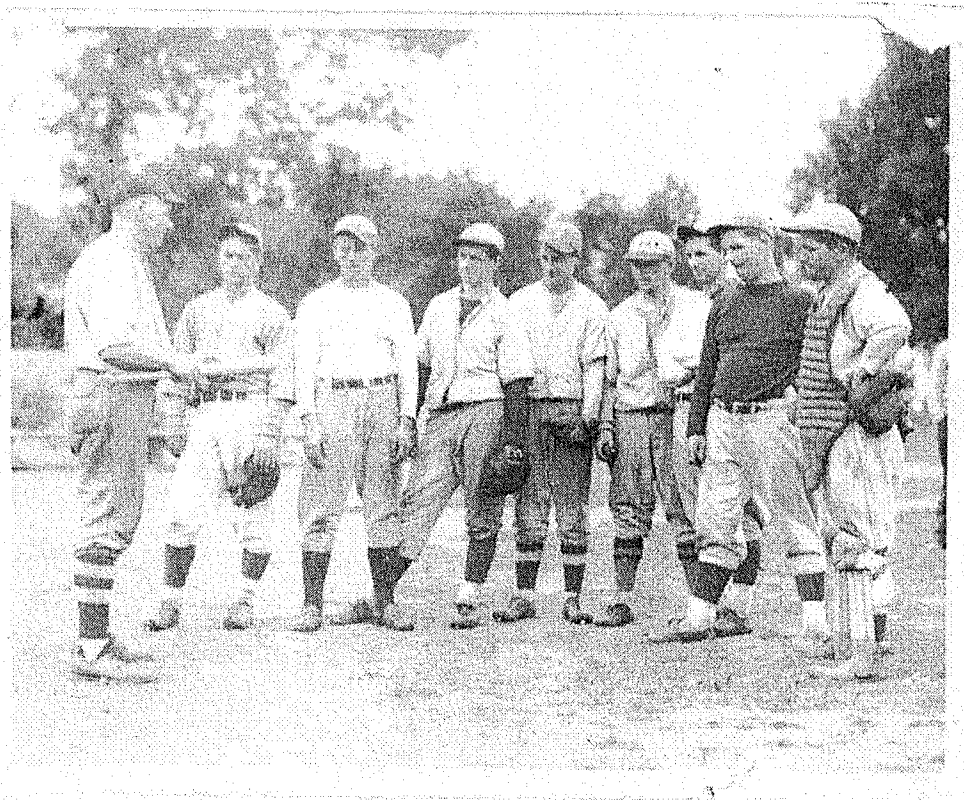
OFFICE: JASON RUSSELL HOUSE • SMITH MUSEUM • 7 JASON ST., ARLINGTON, MA 02174

TELEPHONE: 643-2605





Left to Right: Herbert C (dad). Arthur, Fred, Herbert S., Frank, John, Carlton, Walter, Eugene.



Left to Right: Herbert C. (dad), Carl, John, Frank, Walter, Herbert S., Fred, Arthur, Genie.

The Early Years - A Future Team



Rear: Herbert and Gene

Middle: Walter, Arthur, Herbert C., Fred

Front: John, Frank, Carlton

Lewiston Daily Sun, Lewiston, ME
August 17, 1934

Hurds Had Big League Tryouts This Spring

Sunday's game at the LAP—the Hurd family vs the Buccaneers is sure to give Lewiston fans an interesting afternoon. A checkup of the Merchantile league, one of the better Boston leagues shows that two members of the Hurd family Herbert Jr. and Arthur have been leading the league in hitting all this season.

Herb, a pitcher was tried out by

the Yankees this Spring while his brother had a tryout with the White Sox.

The team itself started playing as a family unit last August but did not move out of their Arlington field to take to the road until this summer. Arthur, who is a hurler has engaged in many hurling duels with Danny MacFayden and has bested the Yank hurler on several occasions.

THREE TEAMS TO BATTLE FOR TOWN TITLE SUNDAY

The largest crowd of the season is expected to witness the three Arlington baseball teams battle for the championship of Arlington Sunday afternoon at the Arlington Heights Reservoir playground in a benefit doubleheader for Joseph Miller, injured St. James player.

At 1.45 the strengthened St. James Catholic Club nine will meet the suburban league team, the Highland A. C. and the Hurd family will meet the winner of this game for the championship at 3.45.

The entire proceeds of this game will go to Joe Miller, star pitcher of the St. James club who received a broken leg last week at Nuttings when struck by a hit and run driver.

Among the stars playing for St. James Sunday are Cashman, Al Lennon, Quinn, Bart Madden, Joe Sweeney, Tom Waters and Roger Keefe. The St. James team has made a wonderful record for its first year, winning seventeen out of twenty-one games and much credit should be given to its managers, Jack Cashman and Tony Camerano.

The youthful Highland A. C. nine with all local boys in its lineup made a wonderful showing for the first year in the suburban league, finishing within a half game of the first division and is considered a championship club

for next year.

Among their stars playing Sunday are Art Oliverio and Frank Lowry, considered by their manager as the best third and second basemen in the league. Ed Gallucci, Bart Madden, Chippy Gaw, Pat O'Brien, Tom Prior and Win Oliverio, 16 year old shortstop who made a remarkable showing for his first year in the league.

Among the Hurd stars playing Sunday are: Gene, Walter, Rabbit, Arthur, Mortimer their sensational shortstop and Carl their star pitcher. Mr. Hurd's boys have been playing fine ball the past month and expect to win the championship Sunday.

With all three teams at full strength, the finest baseball of the year is in store for the fans in this benefit Sunday doubleheader at the Reservoir playground.

HERE'S A FLOWER!

Talking of flowers, take a glance at the sunflowers at 28 Wildwood ave. The stalk on one of the mammoth flowers stands 10 and a half feet.

Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Cripps of 26 Foster st, accompanied by Mrs. Cripps' sister, Mrs. A. W. Stultzand, Mr. Stultz of Watertown, have returned from Milford, N. H., where they were guests at the Laurel Hill Inn over Labor Day.

Boston American, Boston, MA

Hurd Family Nine to Play for Charity
September 10, 1936

BOSTON AMERICAN
NEW ENGLAND'S GREATEST EVENING NEWSPAPER
BOSTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1936

LOSES \$54,000 FEDERAL

Hurd Family Nine to Play for Charity



DAD ART FRED HERB FRANK JOHN CARL WALT GENE

"If you have nine sons in a row, baseball teams make money, you know?"— Remember that line in a song that was popular not so long ago? Herbert Hurd of Arlington had the idea long before the song writers put it to music, and the Hurd family baseball team has been playing together for several years. This unique baseball nine, made up of a father and his eight sons, will donate their services next Sunday to battle an All-

Star team of former Cambridge high school and college stars for the Christmas basket fund of the Cambridge Clover Club. The game was arranged by Councillor Edward H. Donovan of Ward 9. The game will be played on the Rindge Field diamond next Sunday afternoon, starting at 3 p. m. The Hurd team lineup is, left to right, Herbert Hurd, the father, Arthur, Fred, Herbert, Jr., Franklin, John, Carleton, Walter and Eugene.

Hurd Family 9
Uniform

