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### MAYOR'S ADDRESS



At the beginning of another baseball season, it is a pleasure for me to greet all those who will be attending the games, and rooting for "their" team during the next few months.

The City of London is proud of its London Pontiacs, and of the dedicated people who contribute so many hours of time and effort in the training of these players. To the players I would say, that besides acquiring knowledge and meritorious game form, the experiences gained through your training in healthful practices, discipline and good sportsmanship, will be treasures for a lifetime.

On behalf of the City of London, I wish to congratulate the London Pontiacs on the fine efforts of the team in the past, and to extend very best wishes for a successful year in 1968. Play ball, boys. Let's go!

HERB J. McCLURE, Mayor of London

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#### BIOGRAPHY OF RAY YELLE

Management's major asset towards the "new look" the Pontiacs are intent on creating this year. Ray returns to the manager's job after a 10 year absence. At the age of 17, Ray caught the eye of Clare Hoose, a scout with the Cleveland Indians. He spent four years in the Cleveland chain as a pitcher before arm trouble brought his career to an end in 1954.

Ray should be invaluable to the young but strong pitching staff the club has this year. His knowledge of the game and his ability to deal with people give the Pontiacs a big plus before they even take the field. Ray is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and is employed with Clarkson Gordon Company. He is married and the father of two sons.

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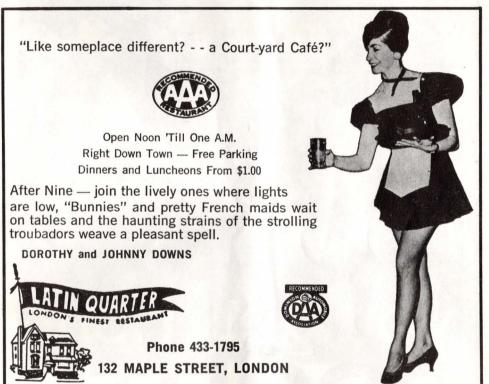
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#### BIOGRAPHY OF ROY McKAY



The oldest member of the Pontiacs, the 35 year old lefthanded pitcher has played senior ball for 15 years. After a brief try at pro ball, Roy's knowledge of the other teams in the league will be a great help to the manager and his overall knowledge of the game will be a great asset to the ball club. Undoubtedly one of the best in a "coaches box" he will probably be called upon to help out on the "mound" throughout the season.



#### BIOGRAPHY OF NORM ALDRIDGE



The man which no London senior ball club would be without. He's the old man of baseball in London. Norm has been with London teams as player, coach and trainer since 1948. At 42 he's the spirit, most often the spark and always reliable. He gets the players in shape, works at keeping them there and patches them when they need it.

He's an "Uncle Remus" in the club house, a showman on the field and a "helluva" guy to have for the club.



### BIOGRAPHY OF JOE NASH (INF.)



Playing in his fourth year with the Pontiacs, the 31 year old third baseman has been freed of the managerial burden that was responsible for a dismal batting average last season. He hit over .304 in 1965 and .306 in 1966 when he made the third base berth on the second all star team. One of the driving forces behind the Pontiacs, Joe expects to be back in the .300 bracket this season. A poor showing last year, he was second in runs batted in and third in runs scored.

### ORCHID

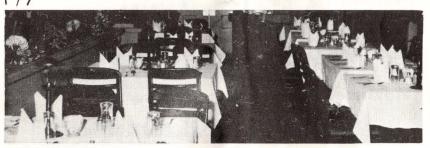
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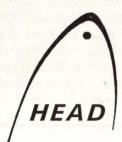
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### **BIOGRAPHY OF DAVE LAPTHORNE (INF.)**



Better known to his mates as Whitey, he plays a sound all round game. He throws right handed and bats the same way — and very well. Last year he made the second all-star team at first base hitting 333, fourth highest in the league. Whitey's a six year veteran with the Pontiacs and has become a leader both offensively and defensively. He hits the ball to all fields well and can play most infield positions completely. He's 27, teaches school at Byron Southwood and is married.

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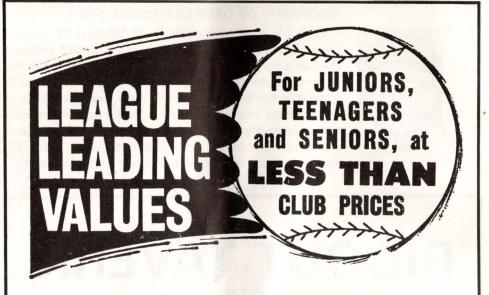
W. E. WARD

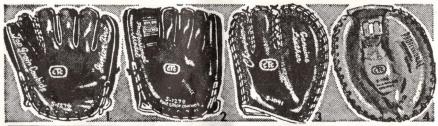
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#### **BIOGRAPHY OF PAUL ALLEN (O.F.)**

Paul is a six year veteran with the Pontiacs and has figured greatly in their attack, especially in the past two years. In 1966 he turned in his best performance, leading his team to the finals with a .356 batting average and for this he won an outfield birth on the first all-star team. Paul bats and throws right and is one of the fastest runners in the league. Paul is married and teaches High School in Petrolia.

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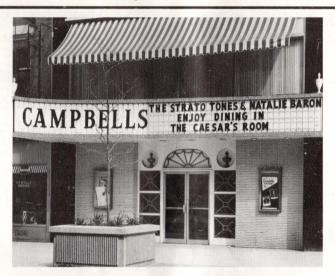
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#### **BIOGRAPHY OF BRIAN MURPHY (P)**

This is Brian's second year with the club. Prior to 1967 Brian played his junior ball in the Scarboro Baseball Association in Toronto. As a right handed pitcher, Brian holds a lot of potential, of which only a small portion was revealed last year because of a cronic soreness in his pitching arm. The 6' 3", 200 pounder had 45 strikeouts in 39.2 innings over five games. Brian should have just as big a ball season as he had with the London National's playing hockey. He is only 19 and single.



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#### **BIOGRAPHY OF WAYNE FENLON (C)**

A big cog in the Pontiacs youth movement, Wayne has attracted the attention of several pro scouts but turned them down to concentrate on his education. A strong-armed catcher, he hit .354 last year in his final year as a junior and was the Pontiacs number two batter with a .293 average. An outstanding high school athlete in basketball and football, he's 6-foot and weighs 173 pounds.

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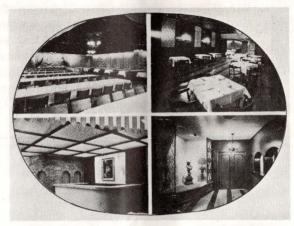
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#### **BIOGRAPHY OF DOUG POOLE (P)**



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### HISTORY OF THE SENIOR INTERCOUNTY

Shanty Clifford is gone, so is Wilmer Fields, Thumper Jackson and Russ Evon. The great pitchers, Ray Ripplemeyer, Bobby Simpson and Tommy White are heros of another erd.

The Senior Intercounty doesn't boast as many pro candiates today as then, but then baseball has continued to grow up. The league, however, is quick to point out that its still the best amateur baseball in Canada. And they've got plenty of statistics to support it.

Every summer the Intercounty rosters are strengthened by the addition of two or three outstanding U.S. college imports. Most of them will play pro baseball in some form or another

and almost all have received overtures from pro organizations.

Every team has six or seven local ball players that have attracted the attention of the scouts and almost every year one of these is good enough to sign a pro contract. Jim Rodigues of London Pontiacs signed with Detroit Tigers last year. Gary Ebel of Kitchener signed a pro contract the year before and Gary Jeffries of Guelph the year before that. All learned their baseball in minor organizations in their home towns before graduating to the Senior Intercounty.

In 1919 the Intercounty launched its inaugural season. The league consisted of four teams, Guelph, Galt, Stratford and Kitchener, the latter operating as a rival for the professional

team in the Michigan-Ontario league.

The first season was a rocky one with hassle after hassle disrupting on and off field activities. But the league survived. Guelph won the pennant and went into the Ontario Amateur

Baseball Association finals before bowing to Hamilton.

In the early years, first one team then another took turns dominating the league. Guelph won the first three titles followed by Galt's three straight. Then London broke the spell in 1925. The next year St. Thomas won but then it was time for another streak of Guelph-Galt victories before St. Thomas again triumphed.

By the mid-30's the Intercounty had grown into a power to be reckoned with. Strat-

ford's OBA championship in 1934 was the fifth straight for the Intercounty.

Following World War II, the Intercounty was listed in professional ranks as an outlaw league competing in the money market with the minor pro clubs for talent. Operators poured in cash in an effort to build better teams. The player calibre improved and several major leaguers roamed the league. The league was certainly superior in class of play to many minor pro groups.

So much emphasis had been placed on the senior series that the Intercounty no longer operated one as an association. The senior operators did so as the Senior Intercounty Baseball League, an affiliate of the association. They even went to the extent of having a league commissioner, John Gillies, a London lawyer and former pitcher with London Majors. The Majors by this time had become the league's dominant factor.

Then the downhill trend started. Dissolution of the Senior Infercounty Baseball League came in 1957 when London, the 1956 pennant and playoff champ, and Brantford joined the Great Lakes-Niagara District League. The remainder of the Intercounty clubs continued as a

senior series under the association banner.

The following year, London, Brantford and Hamilton rejoined the Intercounty. Oakville Oaks won the pennant in the nine-team circuit then withdrew from the league. The downhill trend continued until 1963 when only five teams entered, Brantford, Galt, Guelph, London and Kitchener-Waterloo. That was the Intercounty's lowest ebb. A rebuilding program started in 1964 with Stratford rejoining the league. Listowel returned in 1965 and in 1966 Hamilton lifted the number of teams to eight. This season Brantford dropped out but indications are its only for one season.

With major league expansion, the search for major league talent has spread into the untapped resources of Southern Ontario and the Intercounty is once again attracting the pro scouts. More and more good college players are spending their summers playing in the Intercounty and the day of pro affiliation may not be too far away.

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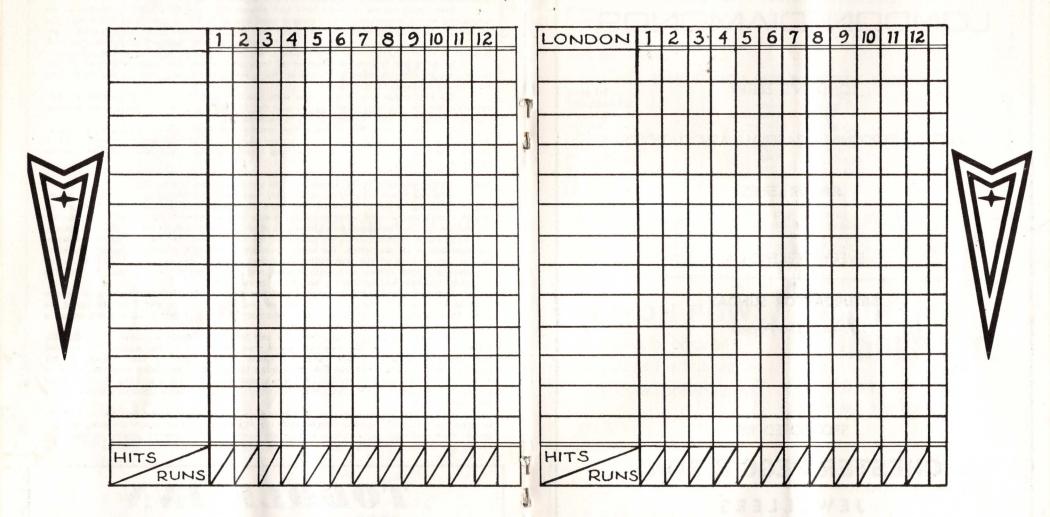
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Second Baseman 4	Right Fielder 9
Third Baseman 5	

#### SOME SYMBOLS USED BY SCORERS FOLLOWS

Base Hit		Sacrifice Hit	н
Two-Base Hit		Passed Ball	В
Three-Base Hit		Balk	BK
Home Run		Struck Out	K
Fumbled Grounder	Α	Base on Balls	BB
Fielder's Choice	FC	Muffed Fly	0
Hit by Pitcher	HP	Wild Throw	W
Wild Pitch	WP	Forced Out	XX
Stolen Base	S	Error	E
Left on Bases	L	Foul Fly	F

An illustration will show the method of recording a play. In the upper left-hand corner opposite batter's name A—4 means batter reached first on fumble by second baseman. In the upper right-hand corner S means he stole second. In the lower right-hand corner B means he reached third on passed ball. In the lower left-hand corner 6 2 means he was thrown out to catcher at plate by shortstop.

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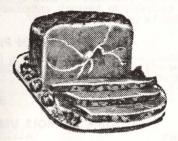
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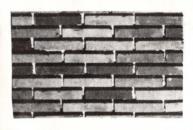
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LONDON PONTIACS	1965	BRANTFORD RED SOX
GUELPH CJOY'S	1966	GALT TERRIERS
GUELPH CJOY'S	1967	K-W PANTHERS
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1964	SPUD BUSH (BRANTFORD)
1962	JOHN POLHOSKEY (GUELPH)
1963	RON STEAD (BRANTFORD)
1964	ROLF SCHEEL (LONDON)
1965	RON STEAD (BRANTFORD)
1966	AL GREENBURG (LONDON)
1967	RON STEAD (GUELPH)

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STAN ANDERSON (LONDON)	.391	1960	ROSS PATON (HAMILTON)	1.53 ERA
DON MAYES (LONDON)	.400	1961	RON STEAD (BRANTFORD)	1.33 ERA
HANK CZERWIENIEC (LONDON)	424	1962	GARY FIELD (GUELPH)	1.35 ERA
JIM REEVES (BRANTFORD)	.444	1963	RON STEAD (BRANTFORD)	0.63 ERA
BOB GILHOOLEY (STRATFORD)	374	1964	ERIC LOMAX (GALT)	1.35 ERA
BRIAN PEARSEN (LONDON	.405	1965	GEOFF ZAHN (STRATFORD)	1.31 ERA
PAUL GIROUX (GUELPH)	.404	1966	BOB McKILLOP (K-W)	0.93
TOM HOCH (K-W)	.359	1967	RON STEAD (GUELPH)	0.35 ERA

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#### **BIOGRAPHY OF GRAHAM BALLANTINE (P)**

A hard throwing right-hander, in his rookie year as a senior. He spent the past 3 years with the junior London Diamonds. He made his presence felt in the junior series climaxed by an invitation to help Sarnia Drawbridge Knights in the Canadian Junior Championships last year. His ability and potential was realized as far back as 1965 when he was offered a pro contract from Baltimore. He turned this down in favour of another goal — he has since graduated from Western and now teaches at Beal High School. He's 22, strong, loaded with ability and full of desire.

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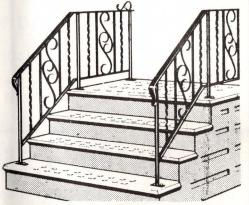
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#### **BIOGRAPHY OF LARRY ROOKS (INF.)**

In his third year with the Pontiacs and two seasons removed from a very serious accident inflicted during a game here, he is looking forward to this season with confidence. The 24 year old infielder showed the hitting he's capable of towards the close of last season and is expecting to carry right on this season. A student at Western Michigan University who is about a year removed from married life.

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#### **BIOGRAPHY OF BARRY BOUGHNER (O.F.)**

Known as a holler guy, Barry backs it with steady hitting and all-round versatility. He played in the outfield and at second base last year with Chester Pegg juniors and the Pontiacs. At 20 years, he's still junior aged but with a .310 batting average he'll see plenty of senior action. A solid 5' 9", 165 pounds. Barry also plays Junior "A" hockey with London Nationals.

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### **BIOGRAPHY OF FRAN FORD (O.F.)**



Fran can play any position and well. He's spent the last 4 years with St. Thomas Tomcats in the Junior Intercounty and in addition, he played the '65 and '66 seasons with the Pontiacs. He was a member of the '65 and '67 All Ontario Jr. "A" Champ. In 1965 he signed a pro contract with the Phillies as a catcher. Last year he had a 5-2 record as a pitcher with St. Thomas. He always hits around .300 and is just as accomplished in his defensive play. Very versatile and is leader material.



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#### BIOGRAPHY OF RICH McCLENAHAN (C. & INF.)

A versatile player who can catch, play the infield or outfield and has done just that for the past 3 years with St. Thomas Tomcats (Jrs.). Rich was a member of the '65 and '67 All Ontario Jr. "A" champs. He bats and throws right. Very good on defense and was a .300 hitter in junior baseball. Rich is an ideal utility man because of his accomplished versatility.

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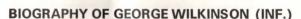
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A "hard nose" player, the kind every club needs. He spent the last 4 years with the St. Thomas Tomcats (Jrs.). Also a member of the '65 and '67, All Ontario Jr. "A" champs. He bats and throws right. A very good fielder who has played most of his ball as a third baseman. Known as a slow starter with the bat, but very much there at the end of the season — is also tabbed a "streak hitter". We're hoping his streak will run from May through August this year.

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Wish the Pontiacs...

"GOOD LUCK"



#### **BIOGRAPHY OF FRED FICKLING (INF. & O.F.)**

A long ball hitter, Fred is also in his first season of senior baseball. A powerful 6-footer, 245 pounds, he led Pontiacs in home runs last year with three, third highest in the league. Plays first base and the outfield and has surprising speed for his size. He batted .364 last year in his fourth term as a junior. Given a chance to play full time, he should prove a valuable asset to the Pontiacs.



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#### **BIOGRAPHY OF ARDEN EDDIE (O.F.)**

Another junior with plenty of senior experience this 19-year-old slugger is back for his second season with London juniors and the Pontiacs. He also played two years senior ball in his native Wallaceburg before moving to London. A switch hitter, Arden batted .280 while holding down the centre field job last year for the juniors. He's 5' 9", 165 pounds and single.



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#### **BIOGRAPHY OF JIM RODRIGUES (S.S.)**

One of the finest baseball players to come out of London in many years, Jim was signed by the Detroit Tigers last year and assigned to Class "A" training camp this June. A sure-handed shortstop, and top flight outfielder hits over .300, batting .364 last year and .351 in 1966. At 5' 11" and 170 pounds, Jim plans to teach physical education after a fling at pro ball.

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



The London Pontiacs are embarking on the 1968 season with a "new look" - No, not new uniforms, but rather a tighter, more close-knit administrative organization that will help to make London's entry in the Senior Inter-County Baseball League a power for some time to come.

Assuredly, the Senior Inter-County is Canada's foremost amateur baseball league and the London team has always been a potent force in it. To enable the Pontiacs to remain so, the support and confidence of you, the fans, is essential. To this end, our "new" organization is hard at work coming up with new and different ideas for a series of sound promotional features.

The "place to stand" this summer will be the Labatt Park watching London's Pontiacs in action. Our new manager, Ray Yelle, is doing his utmost to produce a winner for you, the fans - let's all support him.

> **EDWARD (TED) EARLEY** President & General Manager

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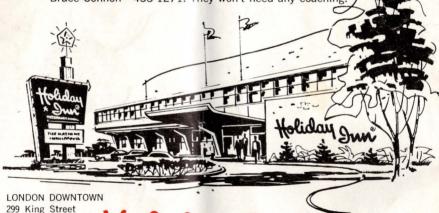
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