

The Prairie Light Review

Volume 22
Number 2 *Aspirations*

Article 23

Spring 5-1-2002

Old Timer

Robert Gockman
College of DuPage

Follow this and additional works at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr>

Recommended Citation

Gockman, Robert (2002) "Old Timer," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 22 : No. 2 , Article 23.
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol22/iss2/23>

This Selection is brought to you for free and open access by the College Publications at DigitalCommons@COD. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Prairie Light Review by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@COD. For more information, please contact koteles@cod.edu.

Old Timer

by Robert Gockman

Prologue:

He recalls Dizzy Dean's pitching record better than what he had for breakfast this morning. He dotes on Comisky Park and the streetcars that brought him there in 1928. He enjoys going to 35th Street to look at the new stadium, but won't go inside. He lives in the past better than the present and has more years behind him than whatever lies ahead.

He had several close calls
But none that he answered
Two strokes brushed him by
But none "done him in."
He mixes his genders
With "he's, she's and babies"
But I know what he means
When recalling his kin.

Babe Ruth, the slugger
Adorns his back entrance
His hero of old
When baseball was "it"
His sole avocation
Was his interest in baseball
And he played throughout life
With a worn fielders mitt

His wife tried to set him
A course he could follow
But his habits were formed
A long time ago
Ambition and money
Were not things he could fathom;
They eluded his grasp
Like a wild over-throw

He's prepaid on his gravesite
His service - his ending
He fears not the Umpire
The last inning - his call
He only wishes
That heaven can promise
For his last reward
He still can play ball.

