Joe Bartlett

“Heck of a Good, Young Team”
Memories of Wilmer “Vinegar Bend” Mizell.
Interview recorded May 17, 2006

BARTLETT: The ball games, we had a good, young team after World War II. We had a lot of veterans who were real good ball players. And then, of course, later on, “Vinegar Bend” Mizell and I've talked to Vinegar Bend, bless his soul. He's gone on to his reward. But Vinegar Bend the other side was afraid of him, because he was a terribly good player. And he told the stories about when he was a professional baseball player, how he had been instructed to hit a batter. And it was a gruesome story, to me to think that Well, he said, it's going to cost you $200 if you don't. Well he said, I don't have $200. But when he got on the team they wanted him, they they were trying to think of all kinds of handicaps to even the playing field. {laughter}

JOHNSON: It just wasn't possible. {laughter}

BARTLETT: Oh, he was a tiger.