

Week of April 21, 2024



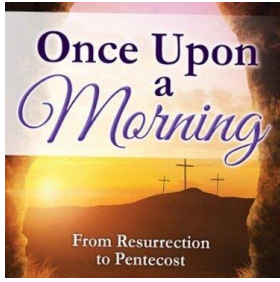
From Woody: The world lost a good man last Tuesday. He was a star pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers in the 1950's, one of the Boys of Summer in Roger Kahn's wonderful book of that title. I tell this story to tell you about the mystery of memory. You will probably hear more about Mr. Erskine in next Sunday's sermon. On May 12, 1956 Carl Erskine became the first major league pitcher to throw a no-hitter on national television. It was the Saturday game of the week on TV, the Dodgers hosting the then

New York Giants. My friend Terry Smith and I were batboys for the Garden City High School baseball team, a big deal for two 6th graders who loved baseball. The team was invited to a clinic for high school baseball teams at Ebbets Field on that Saturday morning and then were given free seats to the afternoon game with the Giants. Terry and I got to go with the high school team. We were seated in left field and it was an amazing experience.

Now about 20 years ago, I got Carl Erskine's telephone number and called to see if I could interview him on my morning talk show. He was very kind and quickly agreed to do it. I was thrilled. The next day we got him on the air from his home in Anderson, Indiana. We talked about the game and I mentioned that there were two balls hit that almost ruined the no hitter. I said the first one was hit by Willie Mays...a line drive that Jackie Robinson caught on his knees at third base. Carl Erskine then told me the count on Mays and the pitch he threw him. The second one was a long drive to the corner where the right field wall met the centerfield wall and right-fielder Carl Furillo cut behind Duke Snider to catch the ball before it would have hit the wall for a sure double. Again, Carl Erskine told me the count on Bill White and the pitch he threw him. I was astounded and said, "That was about 50 years ago, how do you remember those details?" He said that he didn't understand it himself. He said, "My wife sends me to the store to get 5 items and I forget 2 of them."

I know that many of us have similar shopping experiences. It was a thrill to get to talk with him and I have come to realize what a wonderful human being he was. You may hear a bit more next Sunday. His 97 years of life have a lot to teach us.. In the meantime, cherish your good memories even if they don't include pitching a no-hitter.

ANNOUNCEMENT



One Upon a Morning: A Resurrection to Ascension Cantata will be performed by the combined voices of area churches and GHS students—including our own wonderful choir—and directed by Minister of Music, Sam Gorton. It will be held at the Congregational Church in Goffstown on **May 4 at 3:00 pm. Plan to attend!**



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Peace Quote: .It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it.....*Eleanor Roosevelt*