

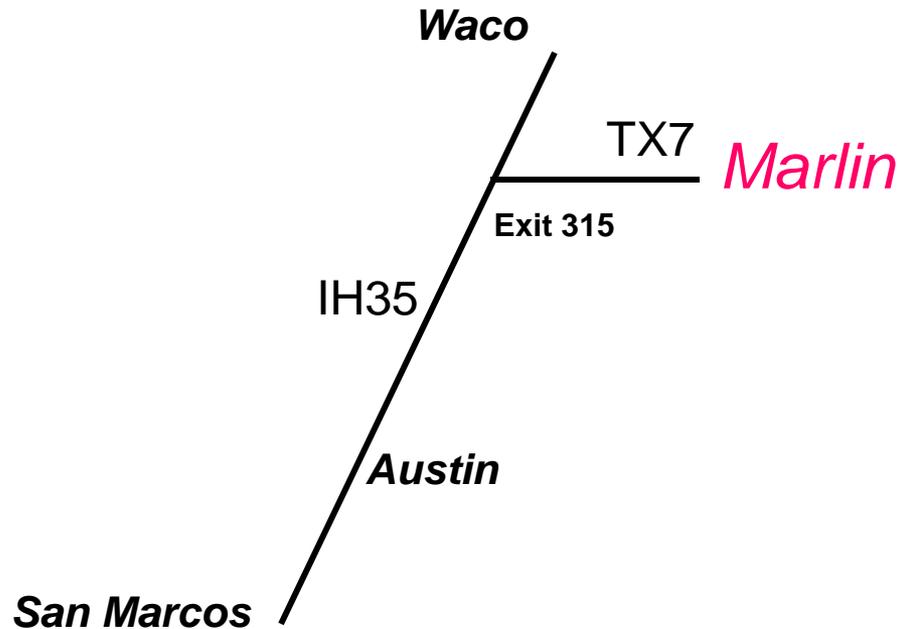
# *Spring Training at Marlin, Texas*



## **Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Major League Baseball in a Central Texas Town**

Monte Cely – Society for American Baseball Research

# ***Spring Training at Marlin, Texas***



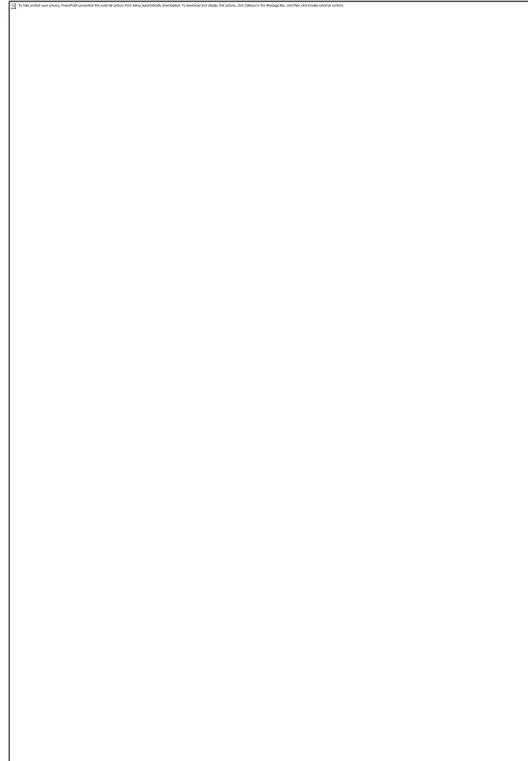
**Marlin is the county seat of Falls County.**

**It is located about 100 miles northeast of Austin,  
and 100 miles south of Dallas.**

# **Why Did Baseball Come to Marlin?**

## **“Taking The Waters”**

The hot mineral waters  
were  
discovered in 1892  
and the first bath house  
was built in 1895



## **Good Rail Service**

By 1902, three rail lines  
offered service into Marlin:

Houston & Texas Central

International – Great  
Northern

Missouri Pacific

## **First Class Hotels**

Due to the curative waters and health vacationers,  
Marlin built many fine hotels

# Early Major League Visitors to Marlin

1903

Discussions with Chicago Americans



1904

Improvements made to "ball field at Old Fairgrounds"



1905



1906

Expecting at least two teams, further improvements made and second field added

1907





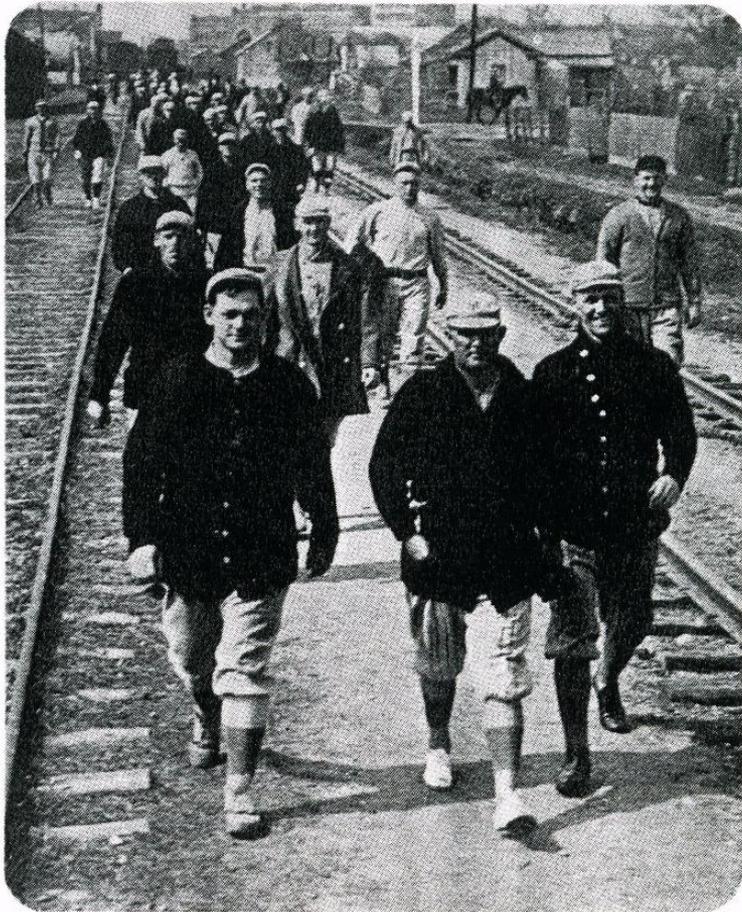
# *Giants Arrive in Marlin*



Arlington Hotel – Baseball HQ in Marlin

- Arlington Hotel was contacted in September 1907 about “..giving exclusive accommodations..” to Giants for following Spring
- NY press coverage “... great amount of advertising...” for Marlin’s health industry
- Giants manager John McGraw announced in December that team would come in '08; he arrived in Marlin on Washington’s Birthday, February 22, 1908

# **Giants in Marlin 1908-1918**



**Giants walking  
Houston & Texas Central RR  
tracks to Marlin practice field**

**Over eleven seasons, Giants became a part of the Marlin community:**

- **Numerous benefit games for local groups and charities**
- **Played against the Marlin High School team**
- **Annual fish-fries at the Falls**
- **“Thank You Ball” held at the Arlington each year before leaving town**

**Citizens of Marlin deeded practice field to the Giants**

**Practiced in Marlin during week, took train to other cities for weekend “split squad” games**

# **Giants in Marlin 1908-1918**

**John McGraw**

Manager



**First permanent spring training camp**

**Made a great impression on the people of Marlin**

**Enjoyed golf, poker, bridge, and jazz in Marlin**

**“If we do win the flag this year, much of the credit will go to Marlin.”**

Spring, 1908

**First manager to fly?  
Marlin to Waco in 1918**

# **Giants in Marlin 1908-1918**

**Christy  
Mathewson**

**Pitching Ace**



**Baseball superstar and  
team's "ace" pitcher**

**Early "college man" in  
professional baseball**

**Photographic memory**

**Checkers champion,  
took on all challengers  
at Arlington Hotel**

# **Giants in Marlin 1908-1918**

**“America’s Greatest Athlete” AP poll 1951**

**Jim Thorpe**

Olympian

Football  
Hall of Famer



**Won 2 Gold Medals at  
1912 Stockholm Olympics**

**Played in 1912  
Carlisle vs. West Point  
football game**

**Spent parts of 6 seasons  
with Giants, but excelled  
on the gridiron**

**Golfed and took tennis  
lessons in Marlin**

**Returned to Marlin in 1951**

# **Giants in Marlin 1908-1918**

**“Rube”  
Marquard**

Pitcher



**Was he  
“trigger happy”  
in Marlin ?**

# **Marlin's Ball Parks 1904 - 1918**

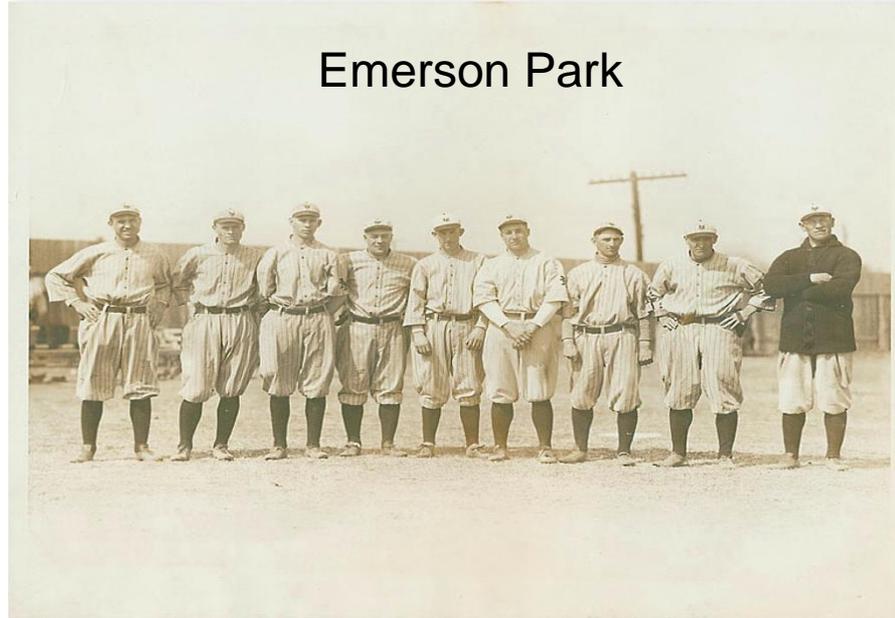
**East Side Field at the Fairgrounds – used by White Sox, Cardinals, Reds and Athletics – 1904 – 1907; used when Giants first arrived**

**Emerson Park – Most famous of the Marlin fields. Giants' permanent facility – 1911–1918; named after Marlin Postmaster Dunn R. Emerson**

**Rimes Park – secondary field used by Giants to accommodate large contingents in 1915, 1917 and 1918; named for Rimes family that included several lawyers and judges.**

# Marlin's Ball Parks 1904 - 1918

Emerson Park



Rimes Park



# A Closer Look at This Famous Marlin Photo

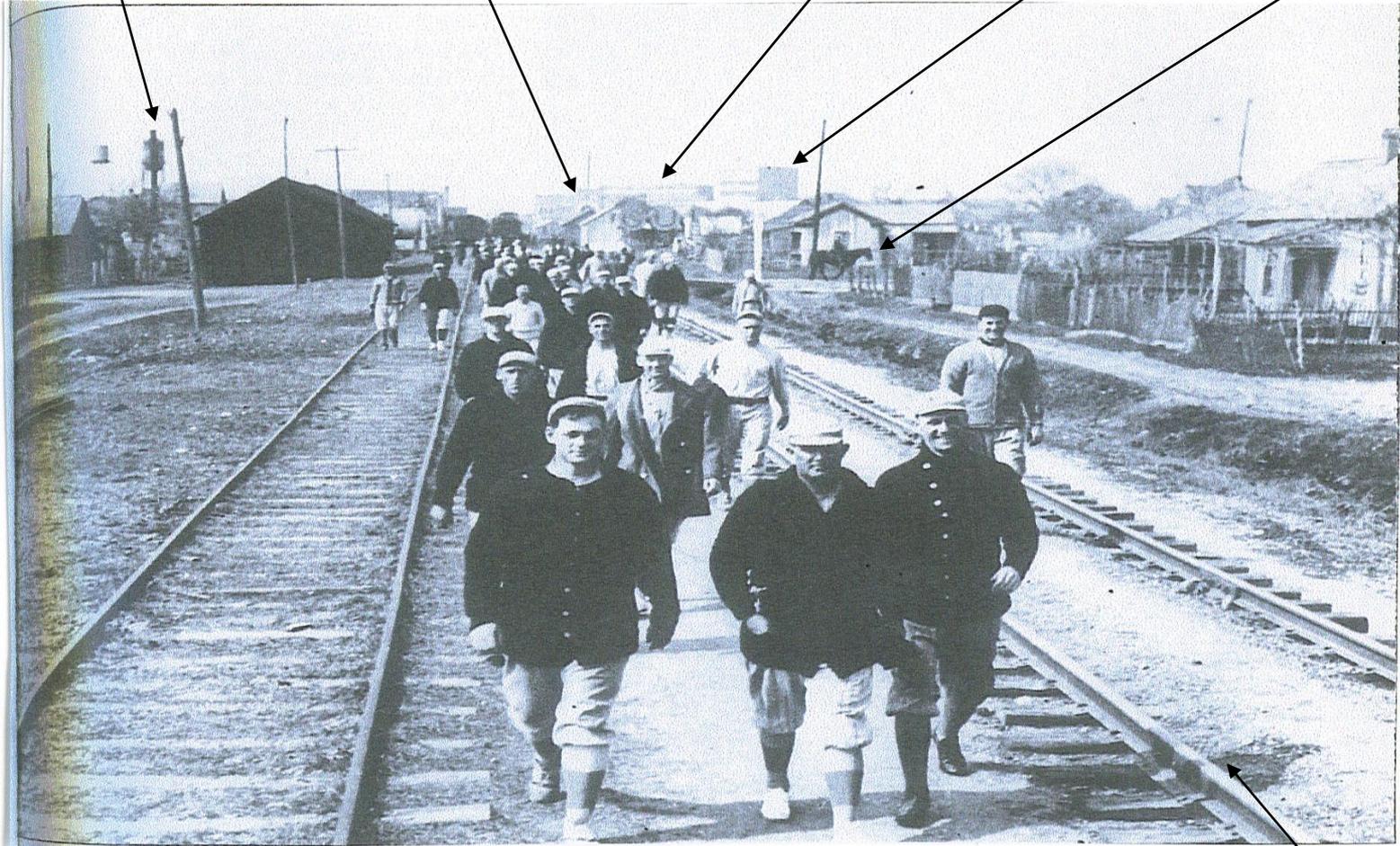
Marlin Oil Co.  
Cotton Gin  
tower

Nash Robinson & Co.  
Building (Lumber)

Majestic  
Hotel & Bath

Imperial  
Hotel

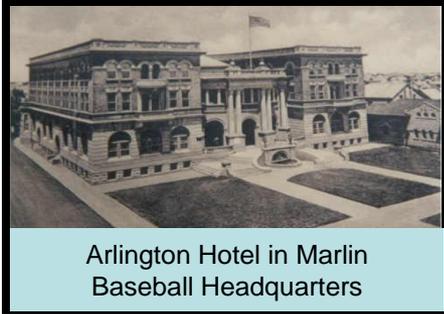
Man on horse is  
on Aycock Street



Christy Mathewson is  
probably standing on a wagon or auto  
on the Jones St. crossing to take this picture

Sun is in the west, so  
this was afternoon<sup>13</sup>  
practice

# Baseball Sites Around Marlin



Arlington Hotel in Marlin  
Baseball Headquarters

Now the Marlin  
Post Office

Arlington  
Hotel

Bath  
House

Majestic

Imperial

Coleman St.

Houston & Texas Central Tracks

Fortune St.  
Bridge St.

**Rimes  
Park**

Court  
House

Live Oak - TX7

Bounded by Vance, Bridge,  
Bartlett and Fortune Streets

Fannin St.

I&GN  
Depot

H&TC  
Depot

Wood St.

Park St.

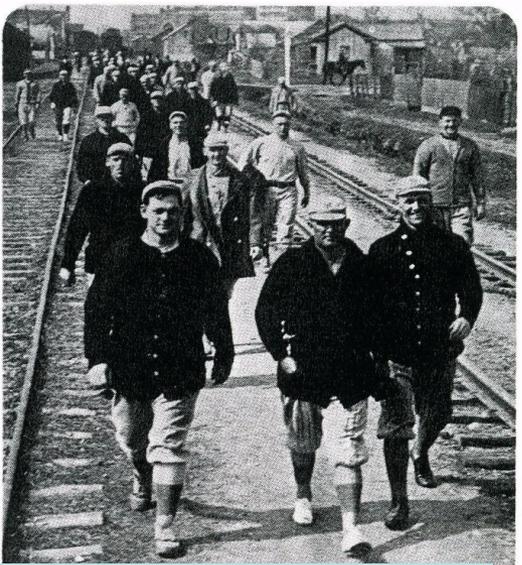
Aycock St.

**East Side  
Fairgrounds**

South of Park St.  
east of Gresham

**Emerson  
Park**

Bounded by San Antonio St.  
Bernard Ave. and Kennedy St.



Giants walking to Emerson Park - 1913

International &  
Great Northern Tracks



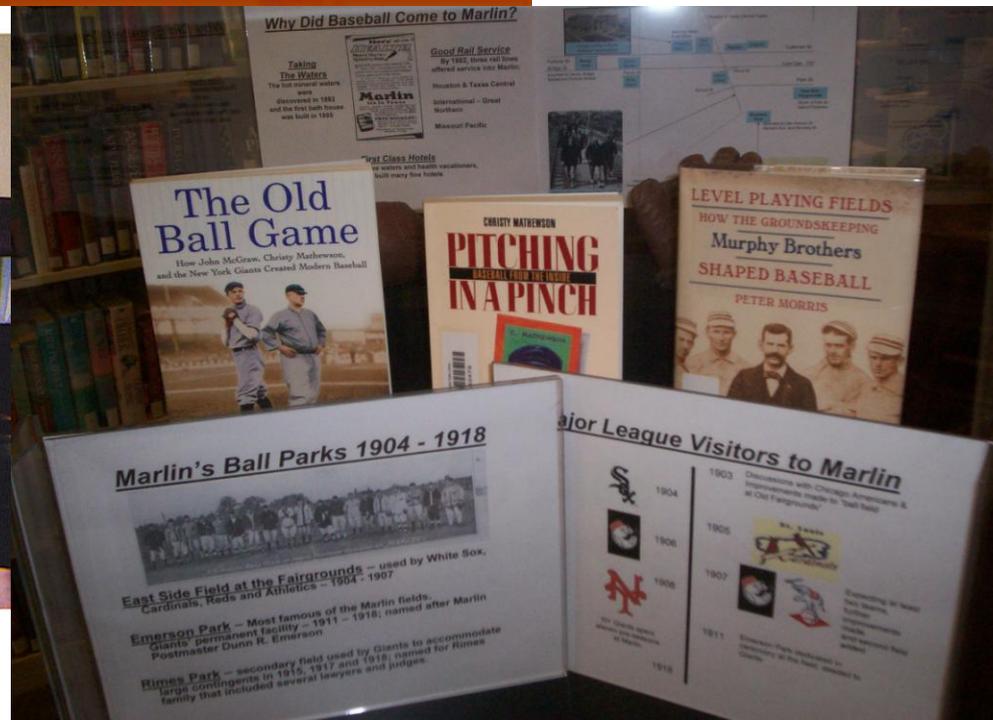
NY Giants at their Training Grounds at Emerson Park, Marlin

# **Major League Baseball Leaves**

## **Central Texas**

- Post World War travel and schedule restrictions in 1919
- Gradual development in Florida
- Slowly, Major League teams left Texas for Florida and eventually Arizona
- Giants and White Sox both made brief returns to Marlin in 1923
- Last two teams were in San Antonio in early 1940s

# Baseball Commemorative Display at Marlin Public Library



# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Baseball Series in the Marlin Democrat



Three-article series in local newspaper (Feb. 6, 13, 20, 2008 issues) celebrating John McGraw's arrival in Marlin on Feb. 22, 1908

# **Spring Training at Marlin, Texas**

**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ?**

Monte Cely – Society for American Baseball Research

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## Credits for Pictures Used in this Presentation

- Slide 1 – Giants at Arlington Hotel (1913) – Dr. James Bryan & Falls County Historical Commission
- Slide 3 – Marlin Chamber of Commerce Ad – [www.marlintexas.com](http://www.marlintexas.com)
- Slide 4 – Team Logos – [www.sportslogos.net](http://www.sportslogos.net)
- Slide 5 – Arlington Hotel (1904) – Dr. James Bryan & Falls County Historical Commission
- Slide 6 – Giants on Tracks in Marlin (1913) – Life Magazine, 1963
- Slide 7 – Image of McGraw – Rupert Robertson personal photo collection
- Slide 8 – Image of Mathewson – Rupert Robertson personal photo collection
- Slide 9 – Image of Thorpe – Rupert Robertson personal photo collection
- Slide 10 – Image of Marquard – [www.sportsecyclopedia.com](http://www.sportsecyclopedia.com)
- Slide 12 – Giants at Marlin Training Grounds – (top) Baseball Fever web site  
(bottom) - “Marlin 1851-1976”, Marlin Chamber of Commerce
- Slide 13 – Giants on Tracks in Marlin (wider angle) – “New York Giants, A Baseball Album”, R. Bak
- Slide 14 – as credited above
- Slide 16 – Marlin Public Library web site; Linda Cely photos
- Slide 17 – Linda Cely photo