

The Chicago Union Giants will play their thirtieth season when the game opens.

RAN BUTLER PLEADS GUILTY.

A. B. C. Baseball Team Owner Confesses Terrible Crime.

With handcuffs tightly clasped, Ran Butler, owner of the A. B. C. baseball team, was dragged to his home by two city patrolmen last week. Butler was quietly seated in his saloon in West Fifteenth street thinking over the future prospects of his fast team, when he was suddenly pounced upon by the police in whose district Ran's place of business is located. Again his will he was forced to leave his place and go with the police. With tears flowing down his cheeks, pleading for his wife and children, saying

that he did not know what they would do for the necessities of life if he were placed in jail, Butler was seen mournfully bidding his bartender farewell. He was taken to his home, where his wife praised the police for capturing her husband, and asked that they do all in their power to force him to plead guilty of being 50 years old.

On his arrival home Mr. Butler was surprised by a large number of friends and relatives from all over the city who were assembled in honor of his fiftieth birthday. Speechless and dumbfounded he stood, his tears of sorrow turning into those of joy.

The house was decorated in a tasteful manner, and a large bell on which hung fifty small ones swung overhead in the center of the parlor. Everything imaginable to eat satisfied the palate in the dining-room, in which stood a well-filled and beautifully arranged table. Speeches of congratulation were made and an enjoyable time was had. Though the affair was for the men folks, several of their wives occupied the rear rooms. Pipes and small jugs tied with blue ribbons were given the guests as souvenirs.

CHICAGO UNIONS' PROSPECTS.

Several Hoosier Players Will Try to Make Good.

Special to THE FREEMAN.

CHICAGO, Ill.—Special.—The Chicago Unions are no longer known as an independent team. W. S. Peters, president of the team, has entered it in the Lake Shore and Wisconsin League. The Unions are expected to be a strong contestant for the pennant. The team will be composed of some fast young players with two or

three exceptions, and indications show that these will make a fast bunch to pick from.

The following boys will try for positions: Shawler, left field; Young, second

base; Blankenship, right field; Reeves, center field; Talbert and Dougherty, pitchers. All of these boys are from Indianapolis. Among others there will be: Tooley, first base; Knight, of St. Louis, catch; Pryor, of Chicago, third base; Lindsey, of Kansas City, Mo., shortstop; West, of Danville, Ill., pitch; Johnson, of Champaign, Ill., pitch; Lolla, first base, and Thompson, of Indiaanpolis, catch.

Reeves, the new manager, hails from St. Louis and was a member of the Unions in 1906. He is one of the fastest outfielders on the team and is a fast base runner.

FAST TEAMS WANT BOOKING.

The Brooklyn Royal Giants (colored champions season 1908) of Brooklyn, N. Y.; the Philadelphia Giants (colored champions seasons 1905-06-07); the famous Cuban Giants, the oldest colored organization in the United States, and the wonderful Cuban Stars of Havana, Cuba, the pick of the crack Cuban players from the National League of Cuba, are at present laying out their routes and arranging their schedules for the coming

season and will be in your vicinity at different periods during the year. Should you desire to book any of these high-class attractions, apply immediately for dates and terms to Nat. C. Strong, World Bldg., New York City. Long distance telephones 3407 or 2475 Beekman.

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