

# DUSTY ROADS®

## STORIES OF KEWANEE PAST & PRESENT

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### *A Florance Norman Story.*

*Or The Things You Discover Inadvertently Which Prove the Rule.*

I'm working today on my presentation on Florance Norman, the Kewaneean who scouted for the

Chicago Cubs in the 1930s. I'll give it at the 27th Annual Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference at Ottawa

University next month. (You can read my article about Florance at the link below. It includes a story about Florance and Dizzy Dean, pictured.)

Today I finally put together a timeline of newspaper stories about Florance discovering Don Conrads and arranging for a spring training try-out with the Cubs.

Lo and behold, it seems like our hometown's press didn't give Florance her due until **AFTER** the



*“There’s Florance .  
I better change my stories!”  
Dizzy Dean*

Chicago press picked up on the story. (It's also possible that the Cubs themselves never gave the press the full story.)

In any event, it seems there was a reluctance to give a "girl" credit for her prowess as a talent spotter.

Of course, at the time, there was only one woman scout in baseball, and she was part of a team with her

husband. The next came along in 1946, the first fulltime woman scout, and then another 50 years or so passed before another woman took on fulltime scouting duties. That makes Florance's story more amazing!

So glad we've moved passed gender equality issues, eh?

Date		Event
1933	<i>Summer</i>	<i>Florance "discovers" Don Conrads.</i>
	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Florance writes many letters to Cubs about Conrads.</i>
	<i>Nov. 3</i>	<i>Kewanee paper reports Cubs to give Conrads a tryout in 1934 after team returns from spring training.</i>
	<i>Nov. 24</i>	<i>Kewanee paper reports Cubs call to paper for it to arrange tryout "soon." (tryout occurs November 26).</i>
1934	<i>Jan. 2, 9, 13, 15, 22, 29,</i>	<i>Kewanee newspaper mentions of Conrads.</i>
	<i>Feb. 21</i>	<i>Chicago morning papers give Florance credit for discovering Conrads.</i>
		<i>Kewanee afternoon paper mirrors Chicago reporting in its first mention of Florance discovering Conrads.</i>
	<i>Feb. 23</i>	<i>Peoria paper reports other "local" papers took credit for Conrads' discovery, implying the Kewanee paper ignored Florance.</i>