

**THE BIRTH OF LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL INC..  
IN WALPOLE, MASS.**

In August 1950 Dick Harrison had just returned from a business trip which took him to Williamsport, Pa. at which time the Little League World Series was being played. He came to my house and said " Les we've got to get Little League Baseball started in Walpole " I agreed and we immediately started contacting people we felt would be interested in helping us get it organized.

We had many meetings at my house that fall and winter to discuss how we could get Little League Baseball started.

The initial group that spent a lot of hours during the winter months of 1950 was comprised of myself, Dick Harrison, Herb Lewis, John Glebus, Bob Graney, John Ryan and Jim Sullivan. We were later joined by Arthur Nilson, Vaughn Allen, Charley Rafuse, Ed Roach and Charley Hall.

As a result of these meetings a letter titled "A LETTER IN 5 PARTS" dated May 16, 1951 was distributed to the citizens of Walpole.

We started unofficial Little League Baseball in the summer of 1951 with 223 players. It was made up of two leagues with 6 teams in each. They were named The Industrial League and The Residential League. In addition there were 4 Farm teams.

In 1952 we received our official Little League Baseball Charter. This year we had 250 Little League players organized in 6 major league teams and 10 minor league teams.

May 17 1952 we had a parade of all the teams and the Chartered Walpole Little League Baseball Inc was officially started.

Bernice Harrison Dicks wife threw out the first ball and we were off and running.

The 1953 season started May 16 with Janice Wilkins throwing out the first ball

Detailed data and information is included in this SCRAP BOOK.

LESTER J TARBELL .