



The Hunt & Poke column of the March 16, 1950 *Enterprise* noted how the 1915 Cokato team had a number of paid players, including Rube Ursela, a former U of M teammate of Marshall's. At the time of his Cokato playing days, Marshall also had a job as a grain inspector for the state of Minnesota, one he would hold until his retirement in 1950. It was that retirement which promoted the Hunt & Poke article, noting that testimonials for Marshall were actively being sought for his retirement party.

There are images of Marshall available at several on-line sources, which show why he was called a "giant". For that time, he cut an imposing figure at just over six feet tall and 180 pounds. Moorhead State University history professor, Stephen Hoffbeck, wrote in the Winter 2004-05 *Minnesota History* magazine that upon Marshall's death in 1958, scant attention as paid to his contributions.

"The newspaper tributes by then were short," wrote Hoffbeck, "devoid of the recognition due to one of the state's greatest athletes, as if the new generation of writers had lost some of the collective Minnesota memory." Marshall is now receiving, in our modern era, the attention he deserves. It does take, sometimes, a longer duration than it should for people to be given the adulation they earned.

We do not have any images of Marshall during his year with the Cokato team, but we do have a neat picture of the west side ball field where he, and many others, entertained the crowds. It was located in a grain field about two blocks southwest of the Cokato school building. Typical of ball fields of its time — calling it a stadium would be amusing — it featured a small grandstand and seating for each team. Spectators would sit on the grass or stand to watch along the base paths and would quite often line their cars up on the far reaches of the outfield.

While Bobby Marshall's life and career intersected for only an oh so brief time here in Cokato, we at the museum want to make sure it is chronicled. Much like the signs that say "Lincoln Slept Here", we can say that, with forthright honesty, "Marshall Played Here".

