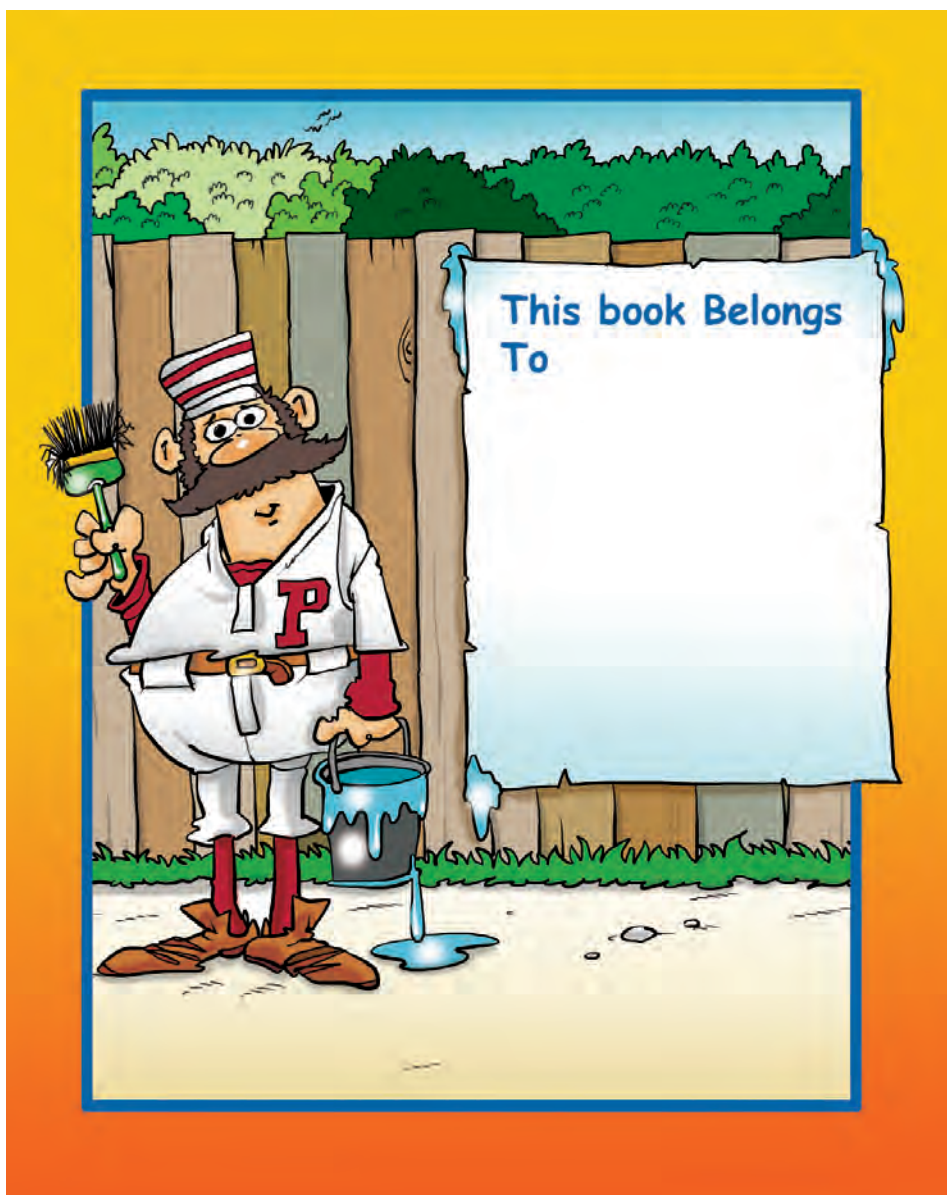


The
Phillie Phanatic's
Hall of Fame Journey



By Tom Burgoyne
Illustrated by Len Epstein



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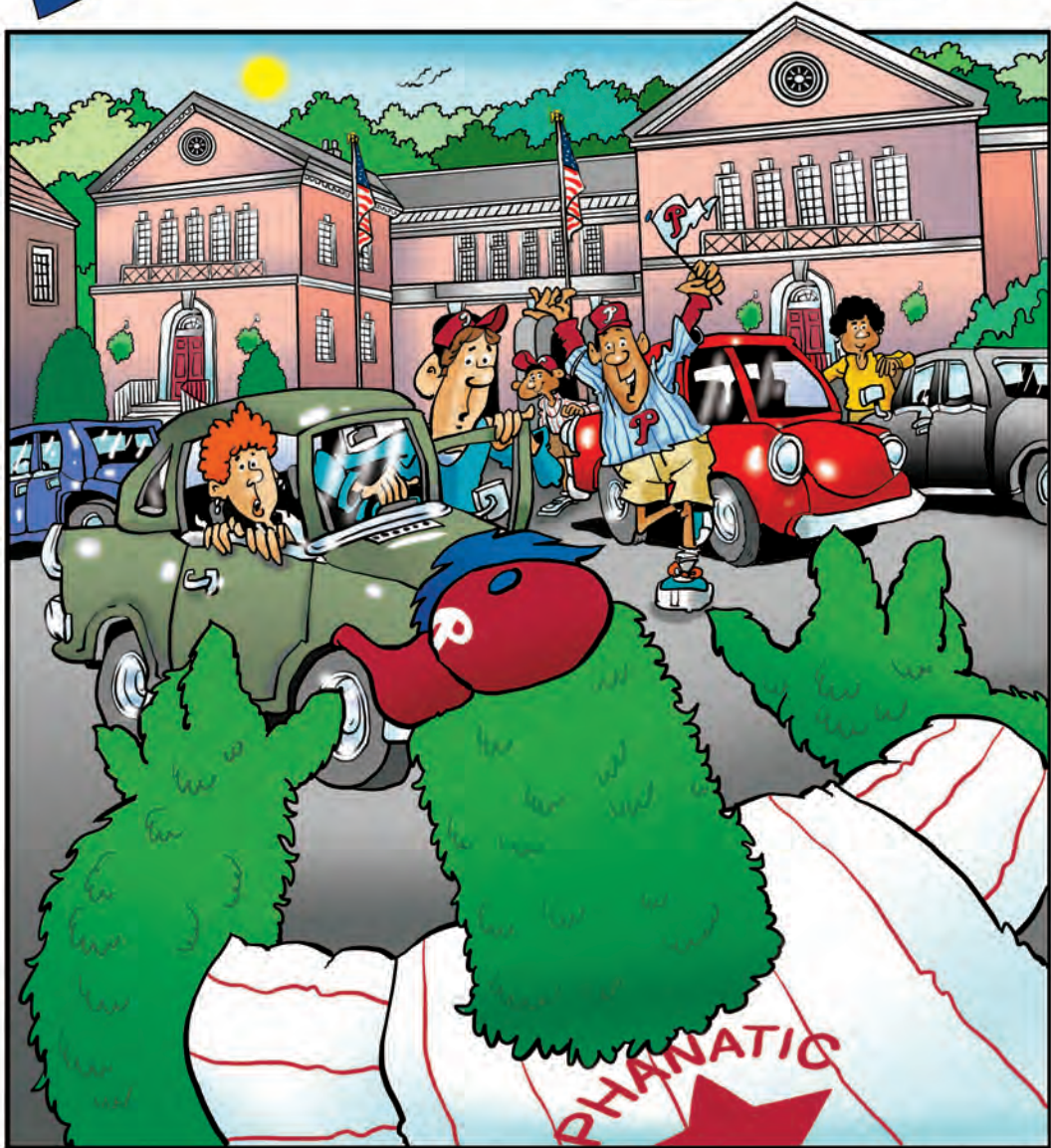
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Written by Tom Burgoyne
Illustrated by Len Epstein

Phillies™



THE Phillie Phanatic's Hall of Fame Journey



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"Mom, have you seen my lucky baseball jersey?" the Phillie Phanatic asked.
"It's the one I wore when the Phillies won the World Series.
I can't find it anywhere."



Phoebe replied, "I forgot to tell you that I donated your jersey to the Baseball Hall of Fame." "But Mom, I love that jersey! Why did you give it away?"



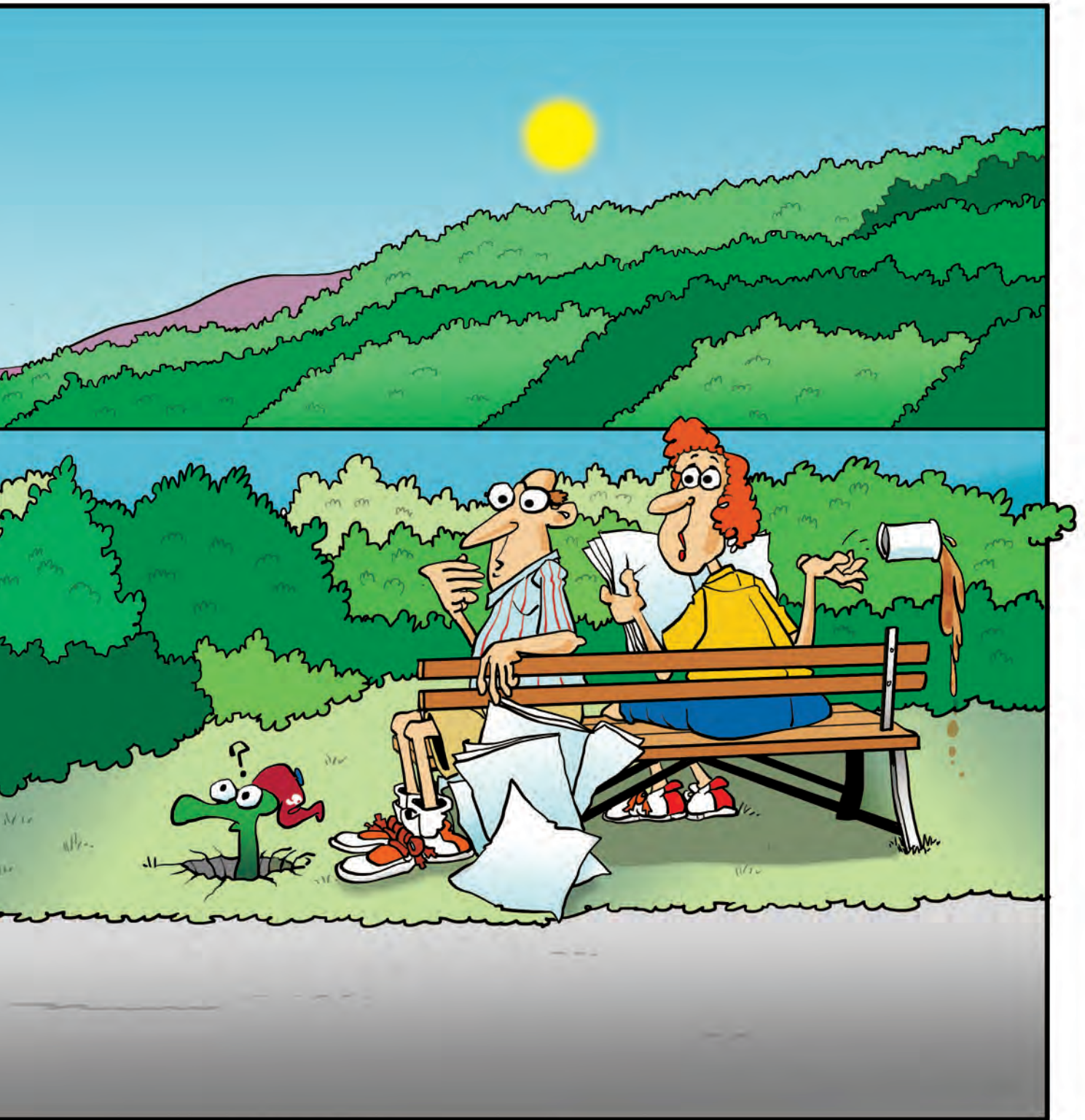
"The Baseball Hall of Fame is in Cooperstown, New York. It's a museum where they display all types of baseball memorabilia and where they honor some of the great players who played the game," Phoebe explained.



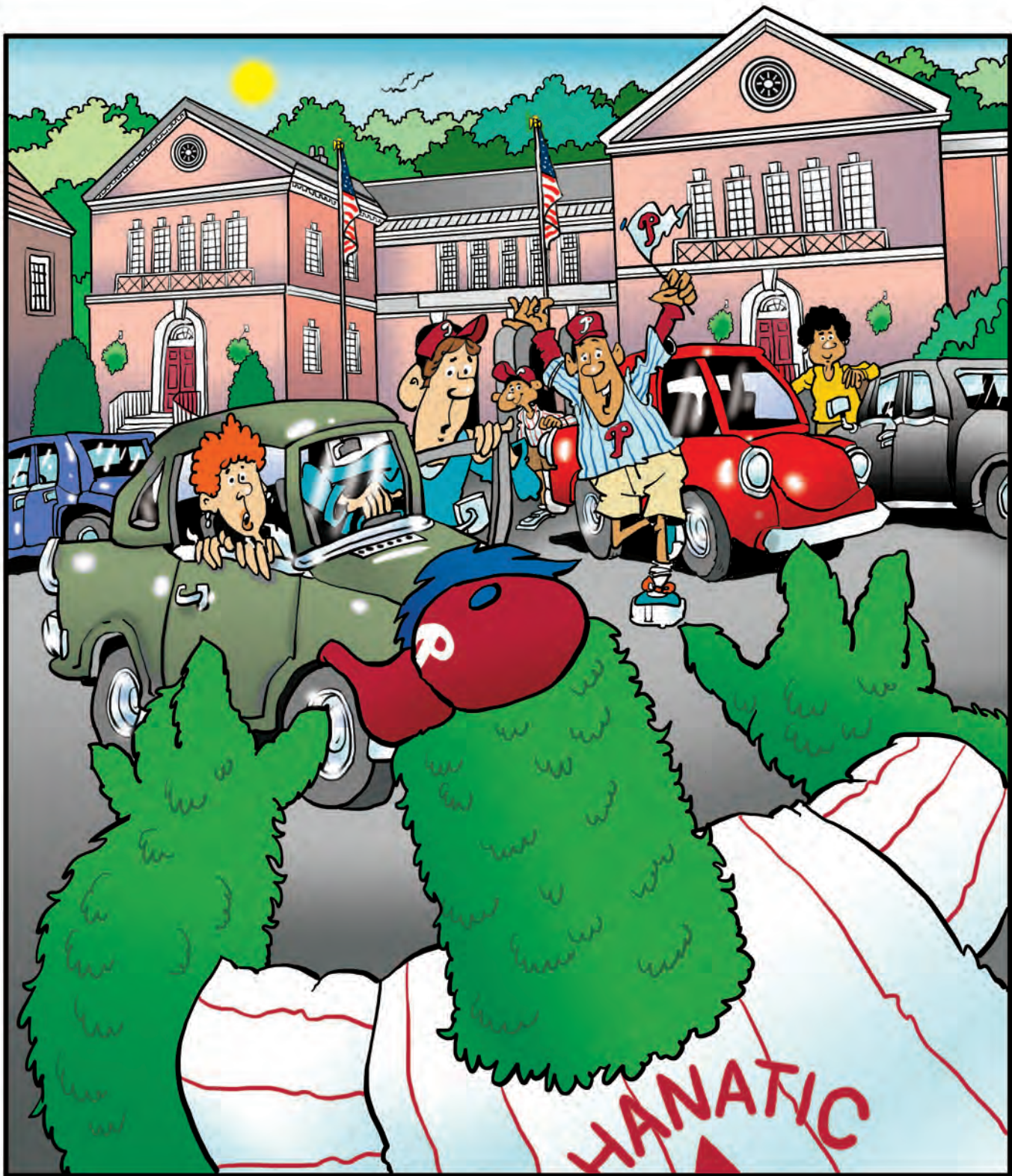
"I want my baseball jersey back, Mom. If I go to the Baseball Hall of Fame, do you think they will give it back to me?" the Phillie Phanatic asked.
"Why don't you go there and find out," Phoebe said.



The next day, the Phillie Phanatic jumped on his trusty red four-wheeler and started on his way. As he entered Cooperstown, he passed a beautiful lake called Otsego Lake.



All along Main Street there were stores selling baseball souvenirs and memorabilia. "I think I'm in heaven!" the mascot exclaimed.



At the end of Main Street there was a beautiful red brick building.
"There it is," the Phanatic shouted, "the Baseball Hall of Fame!"



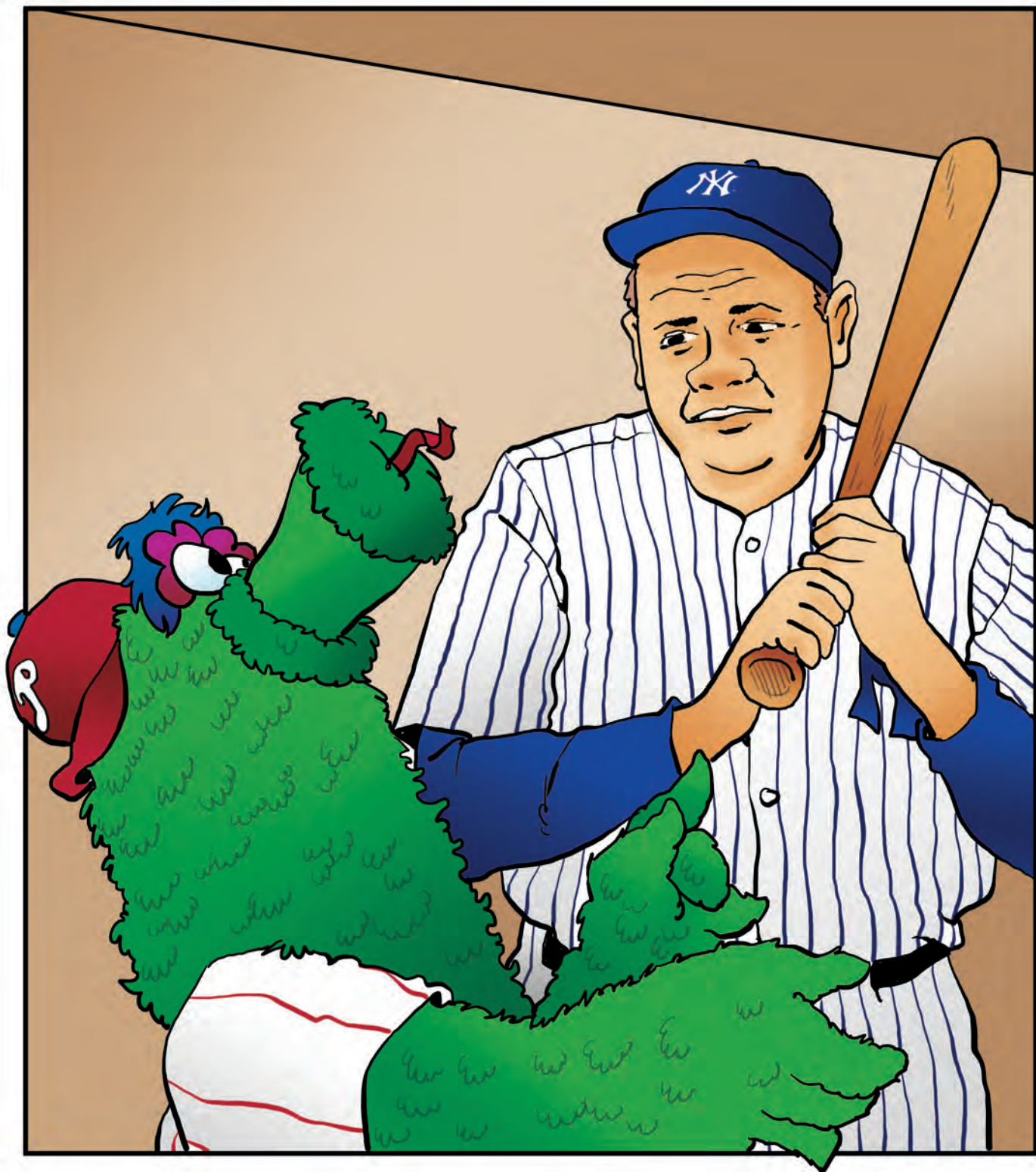
The Phanatic bought a ticket and rushed inside. "Now, I need to find my jersey," he thought to himself. As he walked through the museum, he noticed pictures and displays that described the history of his favorite game.



The Phanatic spotted a life-size statue of one of baseball's all-time great players - Babe Ruth.



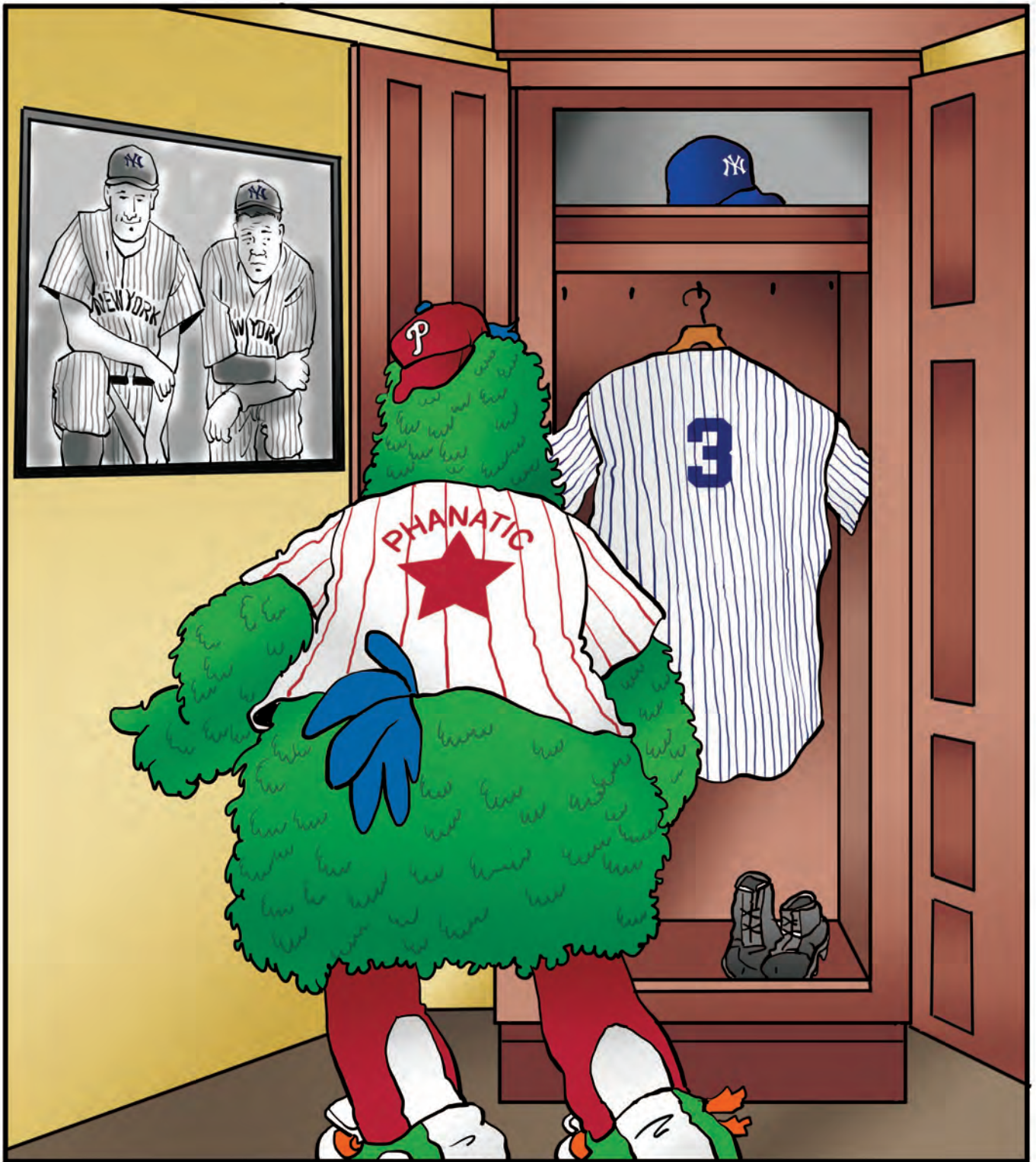
Suddenly, the statue came to life. "Hi there, Phanatic. What are you doing here?" The Phillie Phanatic was startled. The Babe Ruth statue was talking to him!



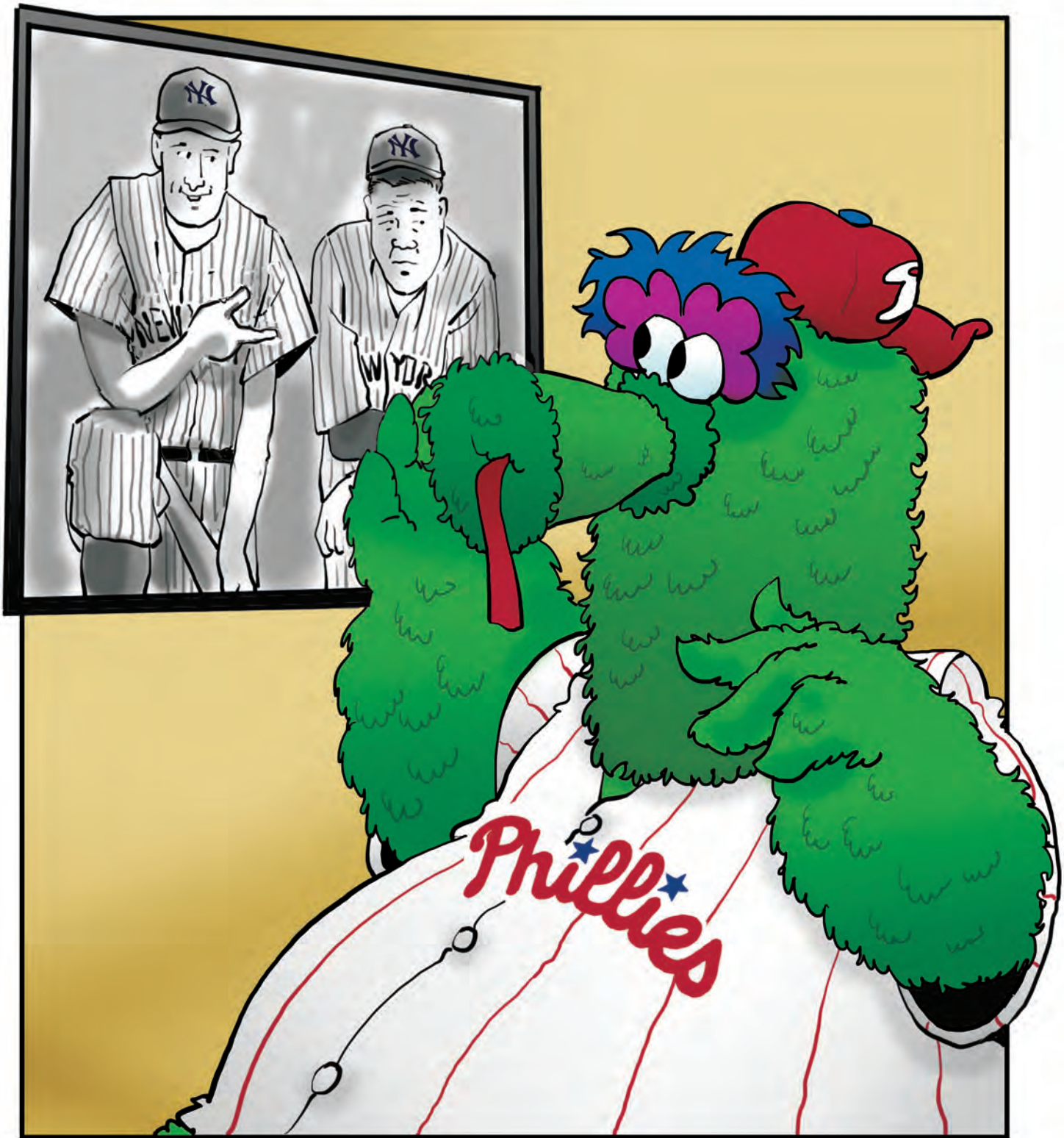
"My mom sent my favorite Phillies jersey to the Baseball Hall of Fame and I want it back. Do you know where it is?" the Phanatic asked.



Babe pointed. "I think I saw your jersey over there by my locker."
The Phanatic thanked Babe and hurried on his way.



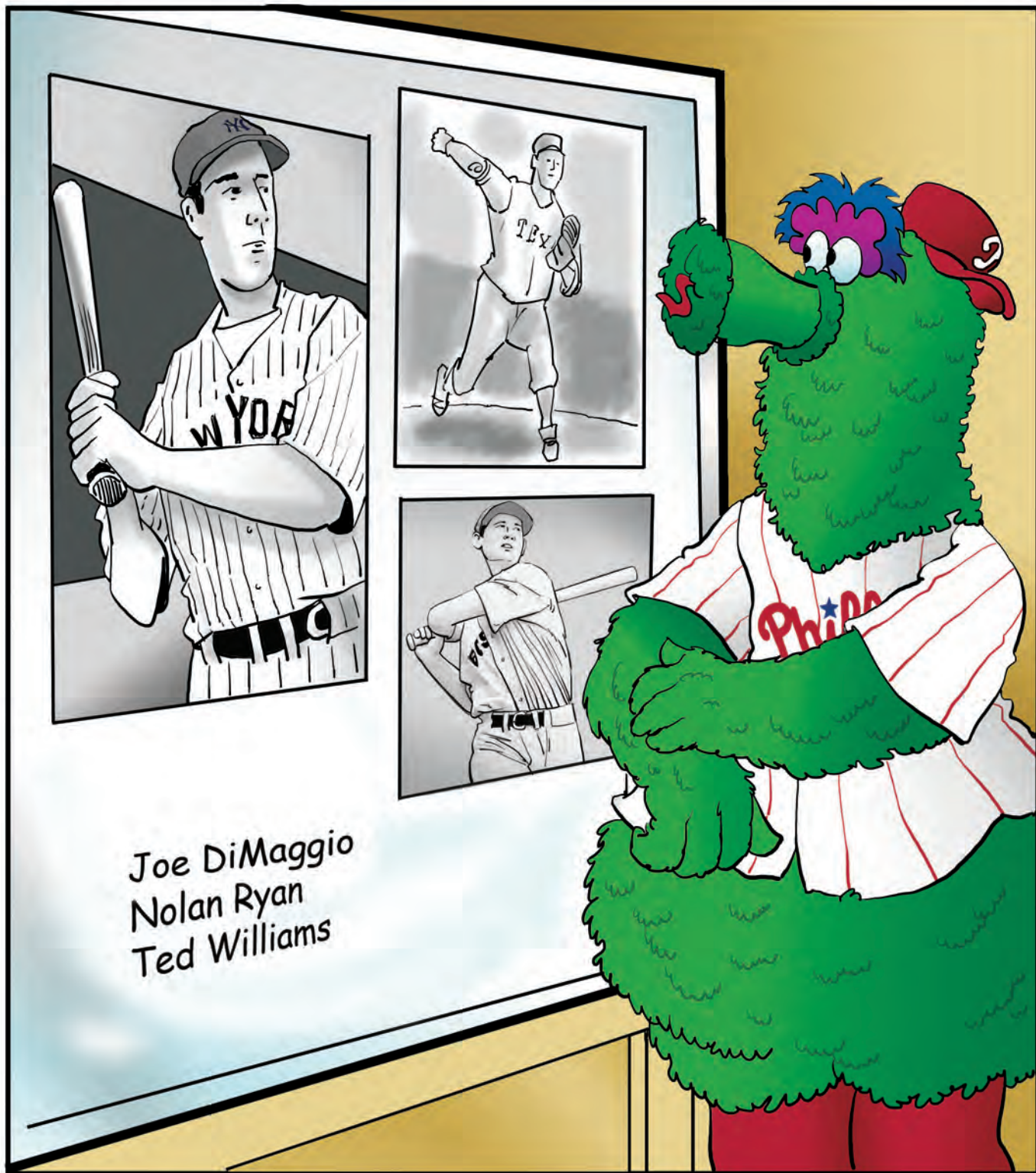
When the Phanatic arrived at Babe's locker, he saw Babe's uniform and spikes but he didn't see his jersey. Next to the locker was a picture of the Babe with his best friend, Lou Gehrig.



The picture of Lou Gehrig blinked and began to talk. "What are you looking for, Phanatic?" "Babe Ruth told me that I could find my jersey by his locker," the Phanatic replied.



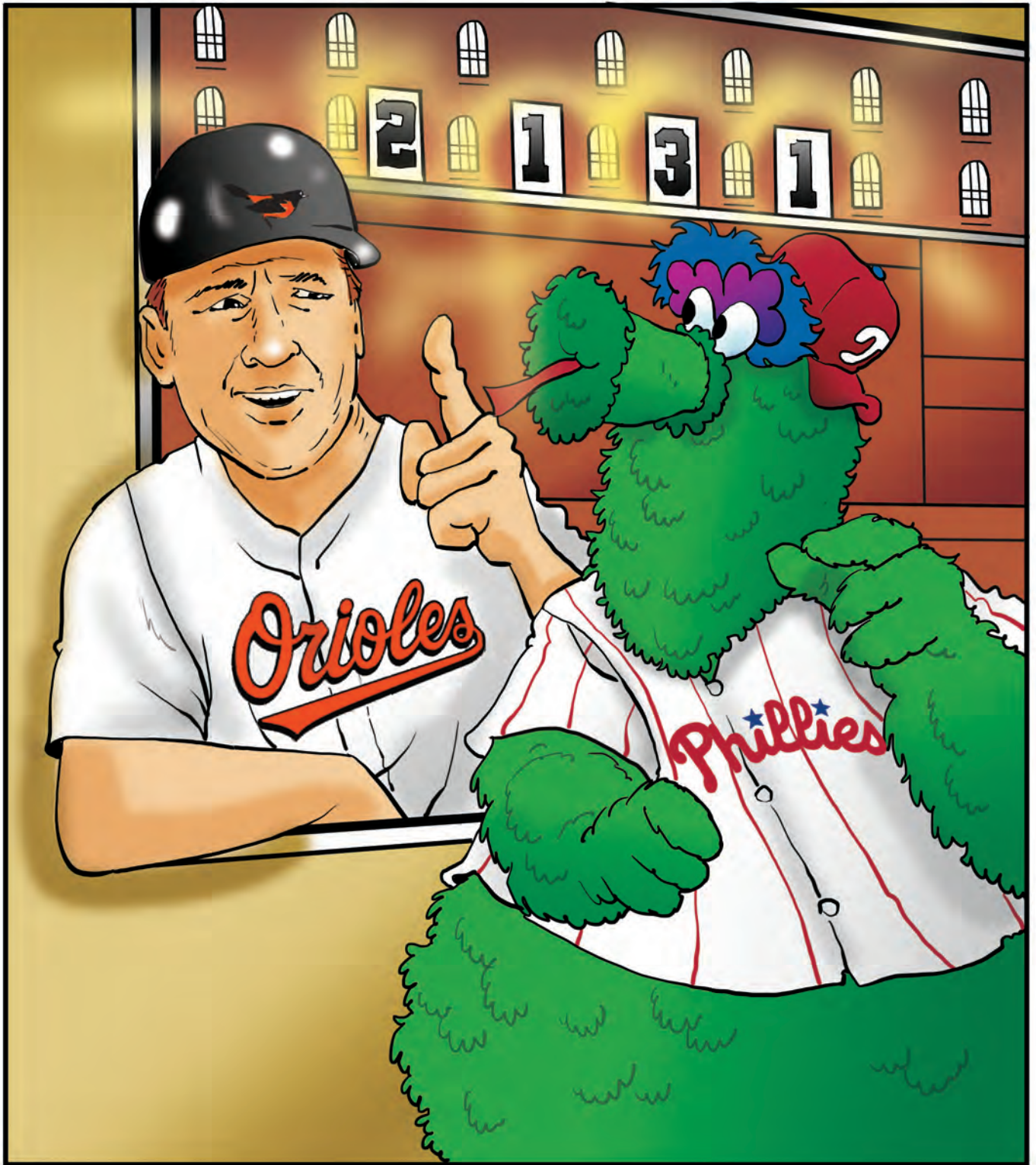
"The Babe is always clowning around. Your jersey's not here. The last time I saw it, your jersey was on the first floor at the One for the Books exhibit," Lou said.



The Phanatic searched for his jersey at the special exhibit about some of baseball's most notable records. He saw displays honoring Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams and Nolan Ryan.



The Phanatic watched a video of Baltimore Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken Jr. breaking Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games played.



Just then, Cal Ripken Jr. called out to the Phanatic from the TV screen. "Hey, Phanatic, I hear Lou Gehrig sent you here. If you are looking for your lucky jersey, it's down the hall and to the right."



The Phillie Phanatic ran down the long hallway but soon got lost in the big museum.



"Hola, amigo," a voice called out to the Phanatic. The Phanatic turned to see another statue come to life. It was Pittsburgh Pirates great, Roberto Clemente. Roberto was not only a great player but he was known for always helping people who were in need.



"Hi, Roberto! I need your help. I'm looking for my lucky Phillies jersey. Have you seen it?" the Phanatic asked. "Yes, keep going straight until you get to the Hall of Fame Gallery," Roberto replied.



The Phanatic couldn't believe his luck. It seemed like everyone at the Baseball Hall of Fame was helping him look for his special jersey.



The Phillie Phanatic came to a sunlit room with a high vaulted ceiling. On the walls hung bronze plaques of all of the great players who have been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.



The Phanatic knew that he was in a special place. As excited as he was to be there, he still saw no sign of his jersey.



The Phanatic spotted plaques of two of his favorite Phillies players - Mike Schmidt and Steve Carlton - hanging on the wall with all the other great players.



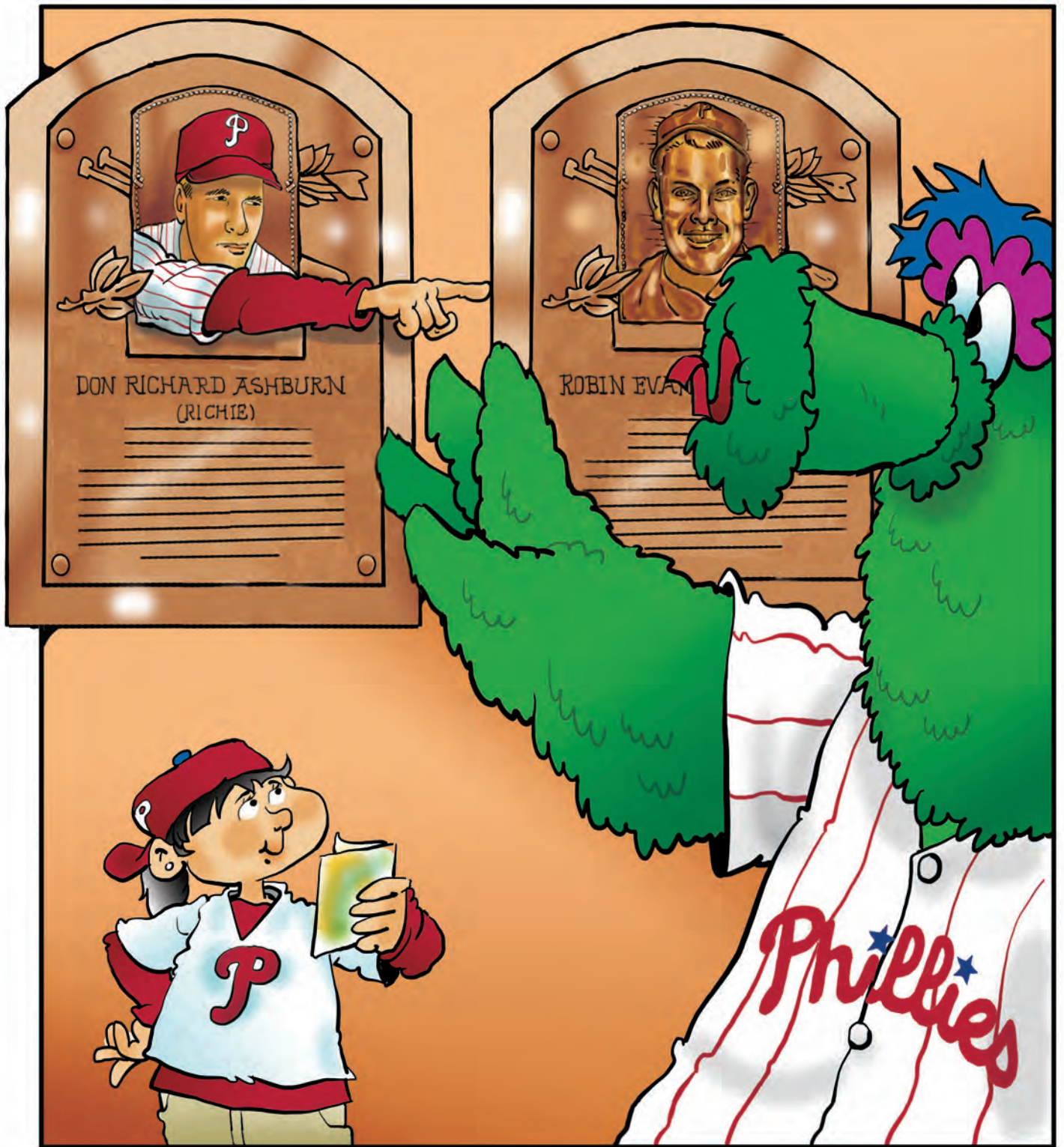
"Yo, Phanatic, what are you doing here?" The Phanatic couldn't believe it. The Mike Schmidt plaque was talking to him! "I'm looking for my lucky jersey, Mike," the Phanatic replied. "It's on the third floor," said Mike.



Just then, the Steve "Lefty" Carlton plaque spoke. "No Schmitty, you're wrong. It's on the second floor," Lefty said. "No, it's on the third floor," Mike said. "Second floor," Lefty argued.



"Psst... up here, Phanatic." The Phillie Phanatic looked up and saw Phillies all-time great, Richie "Whitey" Ashburn.



The legendary center fielder called down, "I know exactly where your jersey is. Go up the steps and past the broadcaster exhibit."
"Thanks, Whitey," the Phanatic said.



The Phanatic waved to his friend Harry Kalas as he ran by his picture. "Keep going, Phanatic, you're almost there!" Harry called out.



When the Phanatic turned the corner, he couldn't believe his eyes.
He found his lucky jersey, but he also found much more.



In the middle of the room stood a likeness of him!
The Phillie Phanatic was part of the Hall of Fame!



The Phanatic watched as baseball fans of all ages gathered around the colorful statue, pointing and giggling and taking pictures.



Just then, another statue came to life and walked over to the "real" Phanatic. "My name is Abner Doubleday and I helped invent the game of baseball. I invented the game because I wanted people to have fun."



"And guess what, Phanatic? When you dance and lead cheers for the Phillies, you make the game of baseball fun, too. That's why you are in the Hall of Fame," Abner said.



The Phanatic was honored. "Please keep my jersey at the Hall of Fame, Mr. Doubleday. It belongs here," the Phanatic said. Abner Doubleday smiled at the Phanatic and said, "And so do you, Phanatic. So do you."



Fun Facts!

- ⓧ The Baseball Hall of Fame first opened its doors to the public on June 12, 1939.
- ⓧ The first five players inducted into the Hall of Fame were Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson and Walter Johnson.
- ⓧ Babe Ruth was the all-time leader in home runs with 714 until Hank Aaron broke his record in 1974.
- ⓧ Lou Gehrig's nickname was the "Iron Horse" because he played in 2,130 consecutive games.

- ⊗ On September 6, 1995, Cal Ripken Jr. broke Lou Gehrig's consecutive games played record. Cal's streak lasted an amazing 2,632 games!
- ⊗ The Roberto Clemente Award is given annually to the player who best exemplifies the game of baseball, sportsmanship, community involvement and contributions to the team.
- ⊗ Mike Schmidt is the all-time Phillies home run leader with 548 home runs.
- ⊗ Richie "Whitey" Ashburn played center field for the Phillies, collecting 2,574 hits and batting .308 for his career.
- ⊗ Richie Ashburn and Mike Schmidt were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1995.
- ⊗ Steve "Lefty" Carlton won the Cy Young Award four times. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1994.
- ⊗ Although Abner Doubleday is credited with inventing the game of baseball, Alexander Cartwright crafted the first rules of the game in the 1840s.
- ⊗ The Phillie Phanatic was enshrined as a permanent exhibit at the Baseball Hall of Fame on July 27, 2002.



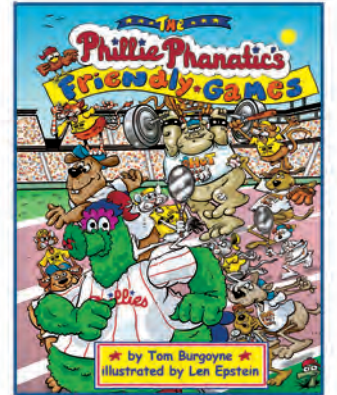
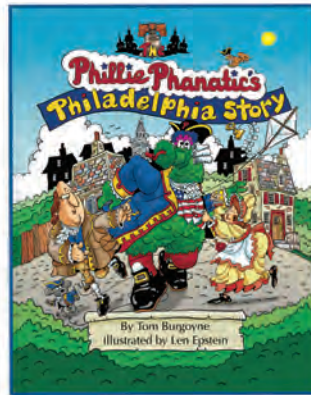
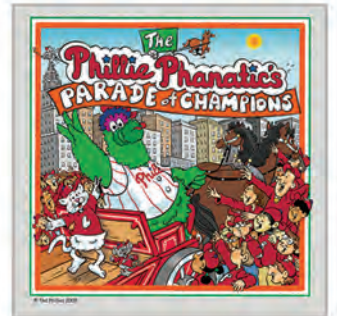
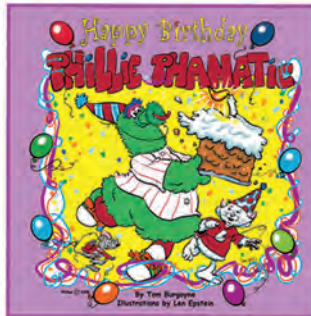
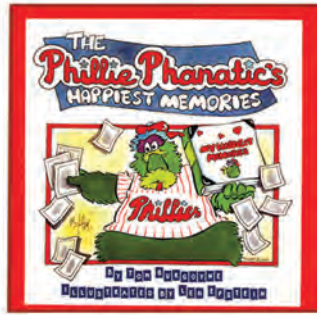
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The Be a Phanatic About Reading program encourages students in grades K through 8 to read for a minimum of 15 minutes a night. Participation in the program is through schools. Email fandev@phillies.com for information on how to register your school.



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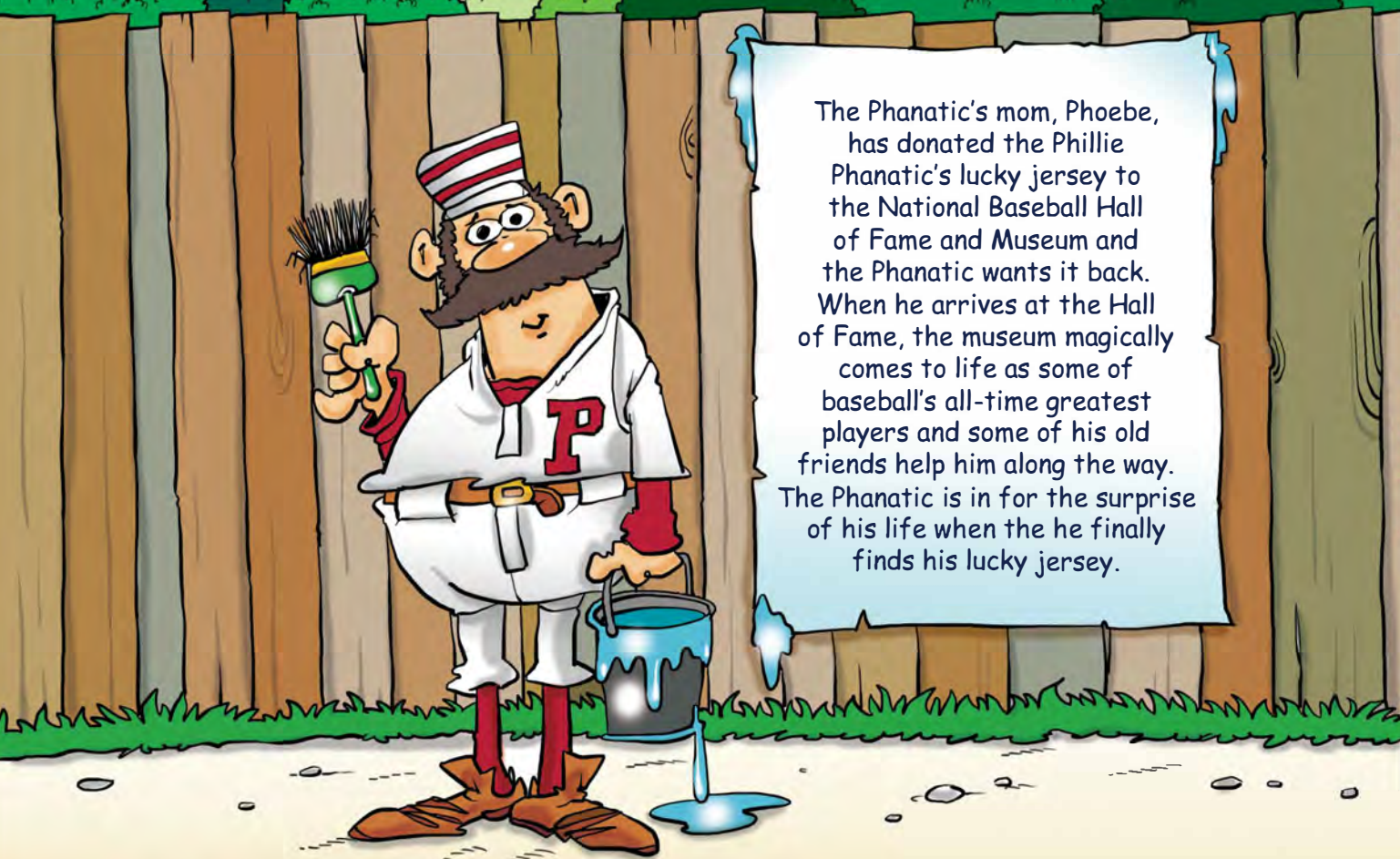
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The Phanatic's mom, Phoebe, has donated the Phillie Phanatic's lucky jersey to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and the Phanatic wants it back. When he arrives at the Hall of Fame, the museum magically comes to life as some of baseball's all-time greatest players and some of his old friends help him along the way. The Phanatic is in for the surprise of his life when he finally finds his lucky jersey.

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