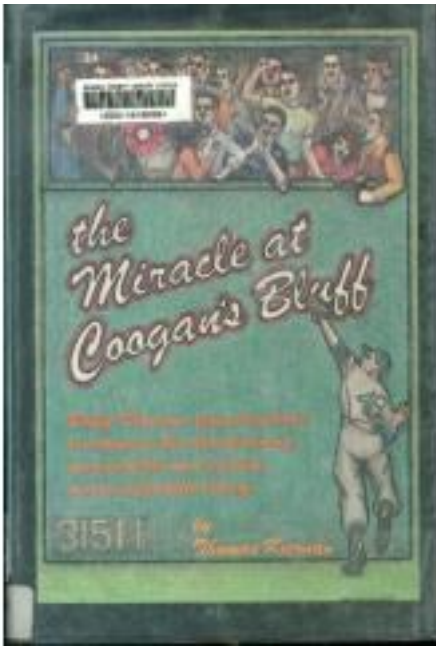


The miracle at Coogans Bluff



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"The Giants win the pennant~ The Giants win the pennant !..."

The delirious voice of announcer Russ Hodges screamed the sensational news over the airwaves and a nation erupted. Strong men wept and embraced perfect strangers, people danced in

the streets, and booze flowed like water. It was the Armistice, Lindbergh's homecoming, and the repeal of Prohibition all wrapped up in one crazy, unbelievable event.

October 1951 was not a happy time in American history. The country was deep in the grip of a Communist scare; embroiled in its second foreign war in ten years; President Truman had just fired General MacArthur and was himself under threat of impeachment by an outraged Congress. People were desperately looking for heroes and they found them in the Miracle Men of Coogan's Bluff and, in particular, a shy, unspectacular Scottish-American named Bobby Thomson.

The 1951 baseball season dawned much like any other year. The New York Giants lost eleven straight and the know-it-alls laughed, for this was the year they were supposed to get it all together, according to their manager Leo Durocher. Leo had been brought over from the Giants hated rivals, the Brooklyn Dodgers, and the latter were glad to see him go. Horace Stoneham had gambled that Leo's aggressive personality might breathe some life into his dying team (they hadn't won a pennant in fourteen years).

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