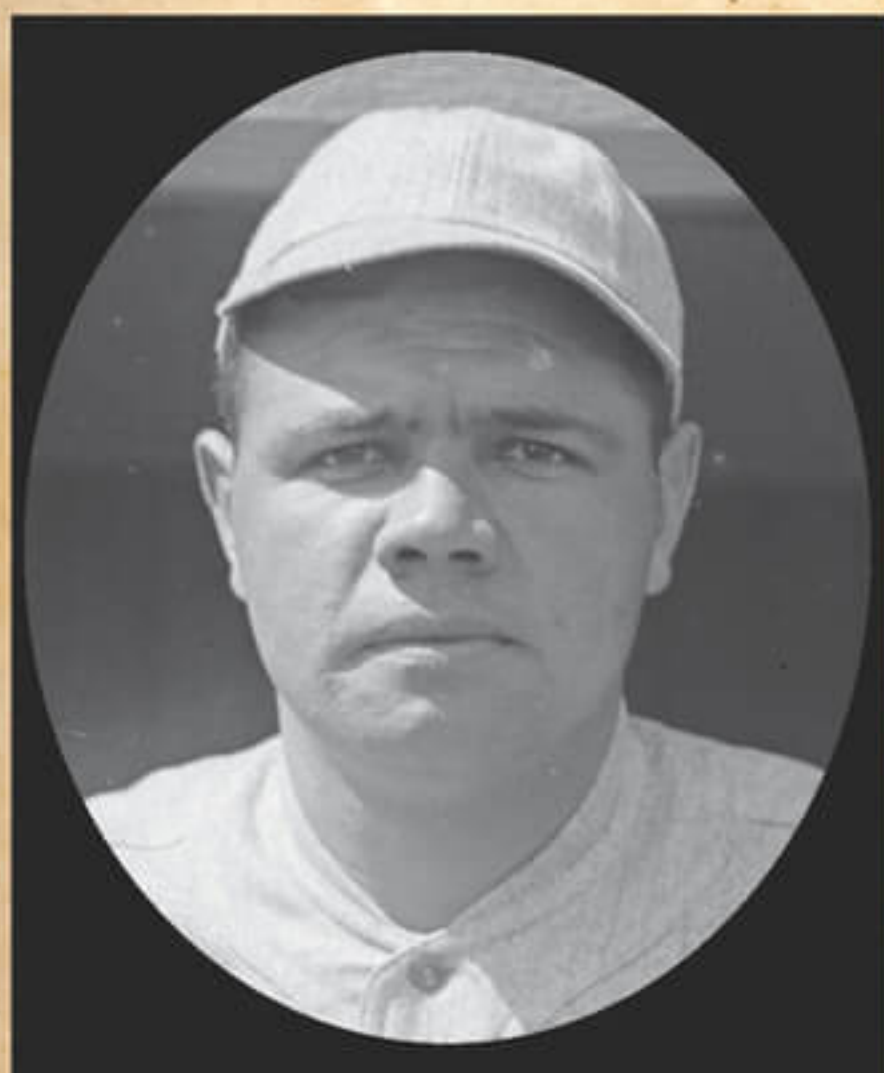


Before They Were Famous

Babe Ruth



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Sent Away

The seven-year-old boy stared up and up and up. A five-story tall building stood in front of him. Other smaller buildings sat nearby, and they were all surrounded by a tall wall. The gray stone looked firm and **fierce**. And maybe a little scary.



The name of the place was *St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys*. It sounded a little scary, too.

DELINQUENT



St. Mary's was a home for orphans, as well as *delinquent* boys.

Early Facts

St. Mary's had opened in 1866 and remained open until 1950.



Little George Herman Ruth, Jr., wasn't actually an orphan. But he was delinquent and wayward, and his parents no longer thought they could take charge of him. "**Incorrigible**" was the word often used to describe his behavior.



Early Facts

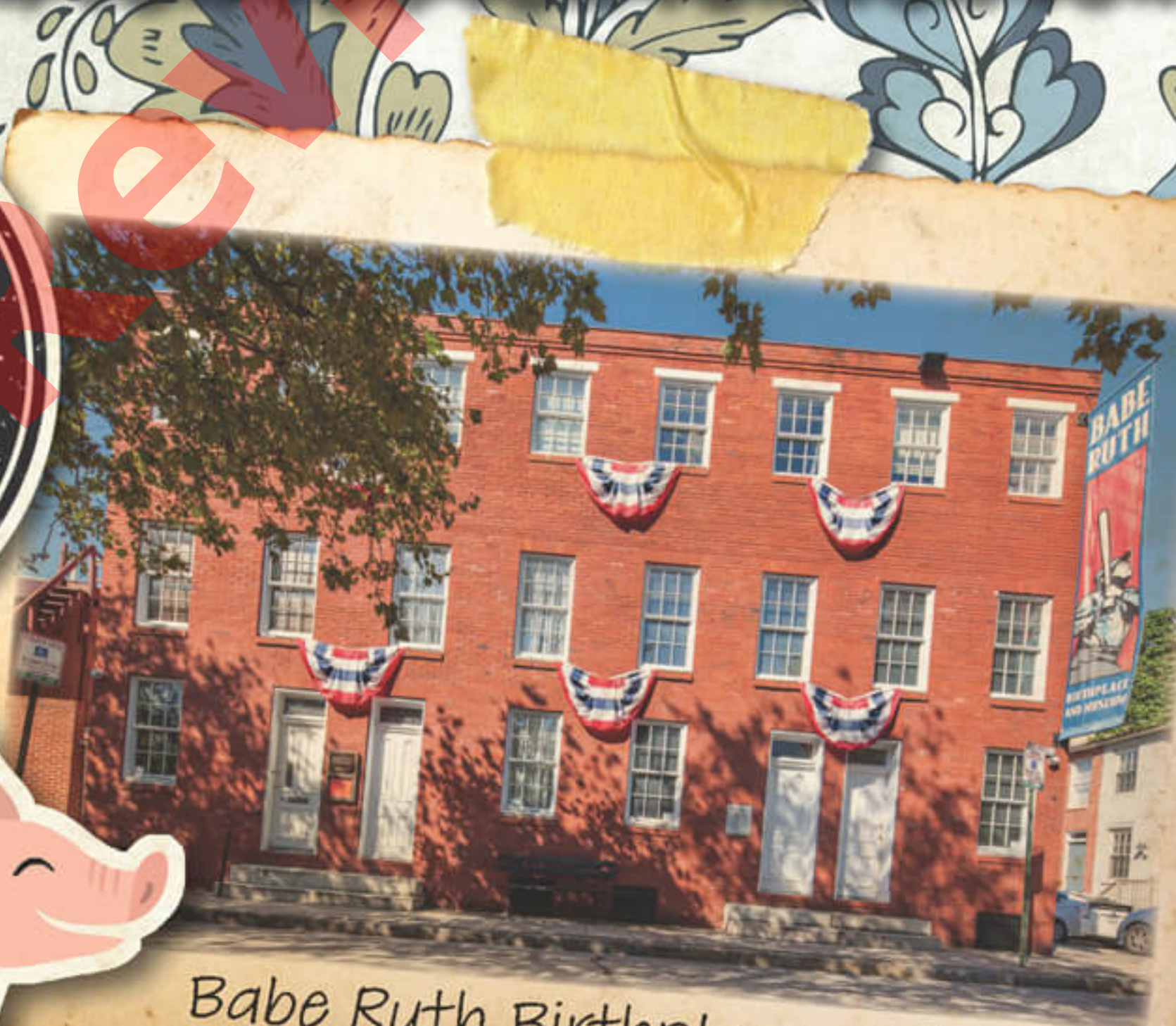
Young George rarely saw his family after he moved, and his mother died when he was twelve.

"BAD" BOY



The Orphanage

The Ruth family lived in a part of Baltimore, Maryland, called Pigtown. It had earned that name because hundreds of pigs were often herded through the streets from a stockyard to a slaughterhouse nearby.



Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum at 216 Emory Street.

George spent most of his time on the street getting into mischief. He stole apples and eggs — and sometimes he ate them. Other times he threw them at people passing by.

Sadly, George's parents didn't have the time or the patience to deal with George. And so, they had made the big decision to send him away.

"I was a bum when I was a kid," George later recalled.



Early Facts

The Ruths had eight children, but only George, Jr., the firstborn, and his younger sister Mary survived to adulthood.