Collectors go crazy over Al's autograph

By MIKE SCANLON

Right off the bat - so to speak - let's get the tough stuff out of the

way.

Early Wynn and Nolan Ryan; Phil
Rizzuto and PeeWee Reese; Bill
Freehan and Dick McAuliffe; German-frish.

The first two are the toughest pitchers Al Kaline ever faced. The

pitchers at Kaine ever faced. The second two are — except, of course, for George Kell — the guys he would most like to see elected to the Hall of Fame, but who haven't been. The next two are the Tigers Kaline most admired.

mired.
The last entry is Kaline's extraction. One old gentleman was sure he was Lithuanian.
Albert William Kaline, who will be formally inducted into the Hall of Fame Sunday, made a timely promotional appearance last week at Detroit & Northern Savings' Livonia off-

ice.

Now, if you think financial institu-tions routinely deal in blizzards of paperwork, you're right — but noth-ing like what Kaline got Monday af-ternoon.

Kaline does television commercials for the savings company, and as part of the deal, he's obligated to spend five days a year in autograph ses-

five days a year in autograph ses-sions...d you make it to Glenn, with two N*3". The folks in the office had a stack of Al Kaline photos ready to sign, but some of his fans weren't satisfied with the canned stuff.

He also signed a couple hundred baseballs cards, a baseball glove or two, and a bunch of just plain base-fulls. See his "Hunau Thirik Rithday."

us. "Sign it, 'Happy Third Birthday,

He signed one baseball already au-tographed by many of the players he

broke into the majors with in 1953. Kaline read them off in a tone that said he knew them well, but the names must have sounded like a foreign language to the 8- and 8-year-oids standing in line. Next came a 1979 baseball already scrawled with autographs.

Kaline read it carefully for a moment or two.

"I don't know half these people," Al concluded.

A WOMAN approached with two children, one of whom was wearing a Detroit Express T-shirt and squirming through an apparently terminal attack of shyness.
"They don't know you, but I do," said the woman.
"They don't know you, but I do," said the woman.
"They don't know you, but I do," said the woman.
"This raised an obvious question—the II-year-olds who cruised up on their bikes for an autograph were 4 years old when Kaline rettler din 1974. Do they think of him as the Tiger's "That was probably true a year or two ago, but since the Hall of Fame thing, they pretty much know I was a saliplayer and probably a good one," said Kaline.
Ray Vasas showed up with his base-Ray Vasas showed up with his base-

ballplayer and probably a good one," said Kaline.
Ray Vasas showed up with his base-ball card collection — every card on which Kaline appeared, from 1954 to 1974.
"One of the disadvantages of playing too long — you've got a lot of bubblegum cards to sign," said Kaline as he went to work.
"Could you sign it, 'Happy Anniversory, Don?"
Some poor soul a desk away was actually trying to conduct some banking while 15 or 20 awestruck children waited patiently a foot or two away.
"You have to sign the check, sir," a loan officer was telling him.
"I wish I could play forever," said Kaline.



Left to right, you're looking at Fred Buc-hold, 8, Christopher Jiordano, also 8, Jill Buchold, 11 and Sandy Jiordano, 9. Oh, yeah. The guy signing the baseball on the right is Al Kaline. (Staff Photo by Bill Bresler)

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Charter number 15049 National Bank Region Number 7

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Cash and due from	depository institutions		2,783
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