

"Gosh, darn it, Wilbur!" by Dave McKane

"Gosh, darn it, Wilbur!" Granma Cheever shouted at Pa. "This new fangle dangle baseball thing won't last. And do you know how much those sticks cost? Money doesn't grow on trees, ya know!"

Pa has never tired of retelling that story, and how the new photographer in town was so determined to get a shot of the bat that all the kids wanted.

But he reserved his biggest grin for when he told of the auction last year, then one held in the MLB headquarters. It turned out this was the earliest known surviving example of a baseball bat, and this was the earliest known photo of one. "A million dollars sure buys a lot of baseballs," he would chuckle. "Ma sure would have been pleased with that!"
