

Babe Ruth walked across my front yard many times!

When I was four years old, my family moved to the Azaleaville neighborhood of St. Petersburg, Florida (“the Sunshine City”). We lived there for fifteen years, through my freshman year of college.

It was common knowledge in the neighborhood that there had been a golf course in the area, years before most of Azaleaville was built. But only recently did I learn that **Babe Ruth** had often played golf on that golf course: The Jungle Country Club course.



Judging by the contented expression of Mr. and Mrs. Babe Ruth, as they paused a moment between rounds of golf, they are glad to be back in the Sunshine City. The above picture was snapped by The Times photographer at the Jungle course.

Babe Ruth probably walked across what eventually became our front lawn over 100 times between 1925 and 1934. Every time he teed off on the 15th fairway, he was standing in or near what became our front yard. And while putting at the 13th hole, he would have been within 50 yards or so of what became our backyard when we moved a couple of blocks north. Many of my elementary school friends can make a similar claim.

If you follow the first link below and scroll down a little bit, you'll see an overlay of the old Jungle Country Club golf course on a map of the Azaleaville neighborhood. The second link tells more about the Babe's golfing in St. Petersburg.

<https://junglecountryclubhistoryproject.blogspot.com/2020/06/golf-course-superimposed-on-current.html>

<https://junglecountryclubhistoryproject.blogspot.com/2019/09/the-jungle-country-club-was-important.html>

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