Seeing Stars

Readers share stories about their close encounters with celebrities:

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Back in 1963, when I was in the eighth grade in Los Angeles, my family lived across the street from WALLY MOON, an outfielder for the Dodgers. The Dodgers had just won the World Series that year. My friends in the neighborhood got the word that Wally was going to have an afternoon party for the team at his house. We waited around and, sure enough, cars started arriving and turning into Wally's uphill driveway. Some of us got autograph books and stood at the end of the driveway, hoping to get a signature. Wally saw us and walked down the driveway and very politely told us that the team was there to relax and he would get us team autographs later. We retreated to my lawn and imagined the likes of Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale and Maury Wills driving by. Weeks later, Wally dropped off a sheet of L.A. Dodger stationery to every one of us, with the signatures of the team and manager Walter Alston. We had some other interesting and famous people that lived in the neighborhood, including John Wayne and George Gobel, but Wally Moon was the best. Unfortunately, I misplaced the stationery. If I hadn't, I would probably not have a mortgage now.

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