

Issue#2

Fall 1993

Shoeless Joe Jackson Times

God knows I gave my best in Baseball at all times and no man on earth can truthfully judge me otherwise.
- Joe Jackson



Drawing by Blair Jenson, Culture House

News From the Editor

Welcome to the 2nd issue of the Shoeless Joe Jackson Times. We started out with an original mailing of about 10 and now are at 35. We are growing and I encourage you to send in names of family and friends who you believe would enjoy this newsletter. I believe we had six people write in with comments, suggestions, poems, praise, and names. I want to thank those people and if someone has any comments or wish to counter or reinforce something that is published here or offer a suggestion for an article or a section please don't hesitate to write in. In this issue there is a section, on page 6, where most letters are published with a reply. If you wish to write something longer, like an article don't hesitate to send it in. I would like to offer a special thanks to David and Pat Malone both made great contributions to this newsletter. David Malone managed to get an advertisement in a local newspaper for this newsletter. Thank you very much. And Pat sent in a monetary contribution which greatly helped in the area of color copies. Once again I thank all my readers and hope you enjoy this issue.

TAK

Jackson's Grand Jury Testimony Part 1 of 3

Throughout the years there have been many stories of what actually took place during and before the World Series of 1919.

I will try to recount them all for you in issues to come, but I thought we should start out with Joe's story, or at least the one he told the courts. Now remember he was pressured by many people before this trial so everything he says may not be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth. But whatever is true here is the first third of Joe Jackson's grand jury testimony with the rest to follow in upcoming issues.

Q — What is your name?

A — *Joe Jackson*

Q — Where do you live, Mr. Jackson?

A — *You mean in the city here?*

Q — Where is your home?

A — *Greenville, South Carolina*

Q — What is your business?

A — *Baseball player*

Q — How long have you been playing professional baseball?

A — *Since 1908*

Q — Where have you played professional baseball?

A — *Why I started out in Greenville, South Carolina; went from there to Philadelphia, Philadelphia Americans*

Q — How long were you with them?

A — *I went in the fall of 1908, and went to Savannah, Georgia*

Q — How long were you there?

A — *Finished the season there, and I was called back by the Athletics; from there went to New Orleans, in 1910; 1910 in the fall I came to Cleveland and stayed with Cleveland until 1915, and I have been here ever since*

Q — Did you play with the White Sox from 1915?

A — *About the middle of the season I was there*

Q — Are you married or single?

A — *Married*

Q — How long have you been married?

A — *Been married thirteen years this coming July*

Q — Have you any children?

A — *No, sir*

Q — Is your wife present in Chicago at this present time?

A — *Yes, sir*

Q — Where is your Chicago address?

A — *Trenier Hotel, 40th and Grand Boulevard*

Q — You were playing professional ball with the White Sox in the season of 1919, were you?

A — *Yes, sir*

Q — You played in the World Series between the Chicago Americans Baseball Club and the Cincinnati Baseball Club, did you?

A — *I did*

Trivia

1) In what year did Joe Jackson win a batting title?

2) Which 3 teams did Joe play for?

3) Did he learn to read and write?

Answers on page 4

Continued on Page 4

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Q — What position did you play in the series?

A — *Left Field*

Q — Were you present at a meeting at the Ansonia Hotel in New York about 2 or three weeks before - a conference there with a number of ball players?

A — *I was not, no, sir*

Q — Did anybody pay you any money to help throw that series in favor of Cincinnati?

A — *They did*

Q — How much did they pay?

A — *They promised me \$20,000, and paid me five*

Q — Who promised you the twenty thousand?

A — *"Chick" Gandil*

Q — Who is Chick Gandil?

A — *He was their first baseman on the White Sox Club*

Q — Who paid you the \$5000?

A — *Lefty Williams brought it to my room and threw it down*

Q — Who is Lefty Williams?

A — *The Pitcher on the White Sox Club*

Q — Where did he bring it, where is your room?

A — *At that time I was staying at the Lexington Hotel, I believe it is*

Q — On 21st and Michigan?

A — *22nd and Michigan, yes*

Q — Who was in the room at the time?

A — *Lefty and myself, I was in there, and he came in*

Q — Where was Mrs. Jackson?

A — *Mrs. Jackson -let me see- I think she was in the bathroom, It was a suite; yes, she was in the bathroom, I am pretty sure*

Q — Does she know that you got \$5000 for helping throw these games?

A — *She did that night, yes*

Q — You say you told Mrs. Jackson that evening?

A — *Did, yes*

Q — What did she say about it?

A — *She said she thought it was an awful thing to do*

Q — When was it that this money was bought to

your room and that you talked to Mrs. Jackson?

A — *It was the second trip to Cincinnati. That night we were leaving*

Q — That was after the fourth game?

A — *I believe it was, yes*

Q — Refreshing your recollection, the first two games that you remember were played in Cincinnati?

A — *Yes, sir*

Q — And the second two were played here?

A — *Yes*

Q — This was after the four games?

A — *Yes, sir*

Q — You were going back to Cincinnati?

A — *Yes, sir*

Q — What time of the day was it that he came to your rooms?

A — *It was between, I would say, seven and eight o'clock in the evening, right after the game*

Q — After the fourth game? Do you remember who won that game?

A — *Dick Kerr, I believe*

Q — Cincinnati won that game, Cicotte pitched and Cincinnati won; do you remember now? Cincinnati beat you 2 to nothing?

A — *Yes, sir*

Q — Were you at a conference of these men, these players on the Sox team, at the Warner Hotel sometime previous to this?

A — *No, sir, I was not present, but I knew that they had the meeting, so I was told*

Q — Who told you?

A — *Williams*

Q — Who else talked to you about this besides Claude Williams?

A — *Claude didn't talk to me direct about it, he just told me things that had been said*

Q — What did he tell you?

A — *He told me about this meeting in particular, he said the gang was there, and this fellow Attel, Abe Attel, I believe, and Bill Burns is*

Trivia Answers

1) Never, Ty Cobb always managed to come out a few points ahead.

2) Philadelphia, Cleveland, Chicago

3) Yes, he became a successful businessman.

Questions on page 2

- the man that gave him the double crossing, as Gandil told me*
- Q** — Then you talked to Chick Gandil and Claude Williams both about this?
- A** — *Talked to Claude Williams about it, yes, and Gandil more so, because he is the man that promised this stuff*
- Q** — How much did he promise you?
- A** — *\$20,000 if I would take part*
- Q** — And you said you would?
- A** — *Yes, sir*
- Q** — When did he promise you the \$20,000?
- A** — *It was to be paid after each game*
- Q** — How much?
- A** — *Split it up in some way, I don't know just how much it amounts to, but during it would amount to \$20,000. Finally Williams brought me this \$5000, and threw it down*
- Q** — What did you say to Williams when he threw down the \$5000?
- A** — *I asked him what the hell had come off here*
- Q** — What did he say?
- A** — *He said Gandil said we all got a screw through Abe Attel. Gandil said that we got double crossed through Abe Attel, he got the money and refused to turn it over to him. I don't think Gandil was crossed as much as he crossed us*
- Q** — You think Gandil may have gotten the money and held it from you, is that right?
- A** — *That's what I think, I think he kept the majority of it*
- Q** — What did you do then?
- A** — *I went to him and asked him what was the matter. He said Abe Attel gave him the jazzing. He said, "Take that or let it alone." As quick as the series was over I left town, I went right on out*
- Q** — Did you ever meet Abe Attel?
- A** — *Not to my knowledge, no sir. I wouldn't know him if I saw him*
- Q** — Did you ever meet Bill Burns?
- A** — *Yes, sir*
- Q** — Where did you first meet Bill Burns?
- A** — *When I first came in the American League to play ball I first met him*
- Q** — Where was he then?
- A** — *He was at Detroit when I met him*
- Q** — Do you know whether or not he was in on this deal?
- A** — *Well, I know what Gandil told me, that he and Attel was the men that -*
- Q** — Bill Burns and Abe Attel?
- A** — *Yes*
- Q** — Were the men that what?
- A** — *And some other gentlemen, I can't recall their names. There was three of them*
- Q** — A Jewish name, if you know, would you know if you were to hear it?
- A** — *No, sir, I would not*
- Q** — Do you know whether or not Gedeon of St. Louis was in on this in any way?
- A** — *No, sir, I only know he was with Risberg and McMullin all the time*
- Q** — Whom, Gedeon?
- A** — *That's all I know. I seen him around with them*
- Q** — What was his first name?
- A** — *Joe*
- Q** — Joe Gedeon? Do you know whether or not Rawlings of the Philadelphia National League Club was in on this in any way?
- A** — *No, sir, I do not*
- Q** — You know Rawlings?
- A** — *I only know him by name*
- Q** — You know Gedeon?
- A** — *Yes*
- Q** — Where did you see McMullin and Risberg together?
- A** — *In Cincinnati one night in the smoking room of a Pullman car*
- Q** — Where else?
- A** — *And I saw them on the street together in Cincinnati. I didn't see them in Chicago here, because I don't live in that neighborhood, though I would see Joe at the ball grounds*
- Q** — You saw Gedeon?
- A** — *Yes*
- Q** — At the park during the World Series?
- A** — *Yes I saw him here one day, I saw him in here*
- Q** — And you were to be paid \$5000 after each game, is that right?
- A** — *Well, Attel was supposed to give the \$100,000. It was to be split up, paid to him, I believe, and \$15,000 a day or something like that, after each game*
- Q** — That is to Gandil?
- A** — *Yes*

- Q** — At the end of the first game you didn't get any money, did you?
- A** — *No, I did not, no, sir*
- Q** — What did you do then?
- A** — *I asked Gandil what is the trouble? He says, "Everything is all right," he had it*
- Q** — Then you went ahead and threw the second game, thinking you would get it then, is that right?
- A** — *We went ahead and threw the second game, we went after him again. I said to him, "What are you going to do?" "Everything is all right," he says, "What the hell is the matter?"*
- Q** — After the third game what did you say to him?
- A** — *After the third game I says, "Somebody is getting a nice little jazz, everybody is crossed." He said, "well, Abe Attel and Bill Burns had crossed him, that is what he said to me*
- Q** — He said Abe Attel and Bill Burns had crossed him?
- A** — *Yes, sir*
- Q** — After the forth game, did you talk to him then before Williams brought you the money?
- A** — *No, sir; I didn't talk to him then, no, sir. Williams and I talked*
- Q** — Who was your best chum on the team, who did you go with in the club?
- A** — *Williams and Lind. I hardly ever pal with any of them there except those two*

The rest of Jackson's testimony will appear in future editions. . .

Reader's Write

Please include a return address on the readers write page. Congratulations on your first issue of S.J.J. "Times." I thought the style of the times was very readable and professional. I would suggest that you include a trivia section for all us trivia buffs.
Bill Phillips

Thanks for the letter and suggestions Bill. As you may have seen I have added my address to the

Readers Write and also included a trivia section. I hope you enjoy it.

I enjoyed reading issue #1 and look forward to further issues. Nice job on the cover - kudos to Blair Jenson. How was it reproduced so sharply in color. I like baseball brain teasers. I suggest you start a trivia section. Keep up the good work — and go Braves
Pug

Thanks for the letter and compliments. Blair Jenson and Culture House did a great job didn't they? It is reproduced thanks to Bob's copy shop. Your suggestion about the brain teasers seems to be popular and it has been incorporated in this issue on page 2. Thanks again for writing.

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Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Lester Erwin

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