



1996

# *Shoeless Joe Jackson Times*

I'm going to meet the greatest umpire of all - and he knows I'm innocent  
- Joe Jackson



Drawing by Blair Jenson, Culture House

## News From the Editor

Welcome to the 1996 Winter Edition of the "Shoeless Joe Jackson Times." I wish all of my readers a happy holiday season and I hope it finds you well.

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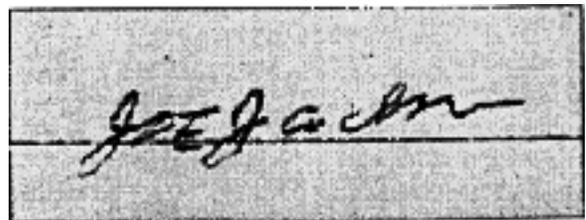
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In the darkness of winter, with the wind blowing cold and all the diamonds covered with a thick blanket of snow, baseball might seem a million miles away, and yet now is the time that baseball is on the tip of my tongue. For now you can guess and predict how the team will do next year, or what, or even where; you can argue if last years rookie sensation was a flash in the pan or the next Mantle or Gehrig. And of course, you can argue who was the best of all time. The answer will probably never be known. Too many questions exist that can never be answered - is the ball today livelier than it was in the 20's?, was the pitching as good?, who hit behind him? But perhaps an answer is not the point. Maybe by arguing for a certain player we make his spirit live on and by repeating his name he gets to play one more inning in a cornfield somewhere in Iowa. And while Jackson's fate is determined by an a man who decides whether or not to hang his plaque

on the wall in Cooperstown, perhaps that is just a means to an end that can be accomplished another way. When you visit the Hall and you stare at the wall, you see the men who were gods to the game, you remember their names and you remember their feats and what all they did for the game. This is what honors these men, not that they sit in a hall, but the remembering of their names and the repetition of their feats. Maybe for now they don't want to allow Jackson into the Hall, but I say that by remembering the great man he was and the amazing player he was, he is in the true Hall of Fame which lies in our hearts and our heads. No man can banish him from there no matter how hard they try. We will continue to fight for his rightful place among Williams and Mantle and Ruth, but successful or not, as long as we remember his name they will have failed in their attempt to ruin one man's good name.

### Memorabilia Update

Last issue we reported a court battle being fought over the ownership of Jackson's last will and testament which contains one of the very few of his signatures in existence. The American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society filed suit in South Carolina in an attempt to obtain the will so they could sell it. Experts



argue about its value but claim that it is worth at least \$30,000 and possibly could bring in over \$100,000. The charities claimed that since Jackson's wife, Katie, named them as beneficiaries, the will belonged to them. The State of South Carolina argues that wills must be kept on record for 75 years. This argument had dragged on for some time. Recently Circuit Judge Marc Westbrook of Greenville, South

Carolina ruled that the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association will not be able to sell Jackson's will. Westbrook based his decision on a 1990 South Carolina Supreme Court ruling requiring wills to be kept 75 years after they are filed. He wrote in his order, "The Supreme Court retention guidelines are clear and specific." So, one of the few known documents containing an authentic Jackson signature will remain locked up for another 41 years.

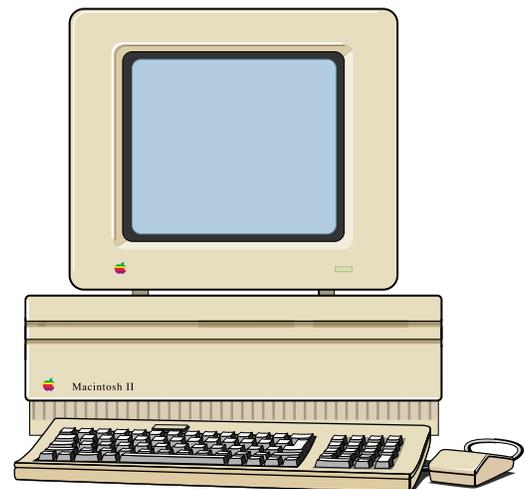
## Scandal

In issues to come, I will relate the popular versions of Jackson's role in the World Series fix of 1919, as well as my own personal theory of what "really" happened. First, I want to present as much of the raw data as I can to allow you, the reader, to draw your own conclusions as to what is fact and what is fiction. Jackson's complete grand jury testimony was published in the previous three issues. This is the largest piece of raw data that we know of.

In this issue, I present four smaller categories of data. First, the Comiskey letters, a series of letters that began with Jackson inquiring about the 1919 World Series check he was entitled to, but never received, and then turned into contract talks for the 1920 season. Second, the Landis letters, letters written by Jackson to Judge Landis asking for a hearing regarding his banishment and Landis subsequent replies to his request. Third is the anonymous telegram. This telegram was sent to Jackson from a still unknown person a few months after Jackson filed the civil suit against Comiskey to recover monies due to him. Fourth, I have republished Jackson's stats. There lies perhaps the very best argument for his deserving to be in the Hall of Fame. He is one of the greatest players to ever play the game, even though he might argue otherwise. I hope through this information you begin to form a theory of your own as to Jackson's involvement, or lack thereof, in the 1919 World Series fix. If you do come to a conclusion or see something that has not been mentioned in the newsletter, please, by all means, send in your thoughts. The more diverse the opinions expressed here the better we can understand the truth.

## Jackson on the Internet

For those of you connected to the Information Superhighway, information on Shoeless Joe is beginning to collect out there. A great picture archive of Jackson and his 1919 teammates is on the World Wide Web at <<http://www.mcp.com/people/mowen/shoeless.html>>. At <<http://www.mcn.org/MenComNet/Community/Personals/dmca/sjohmpg1.htm>>, you will find Joe's lifetime stats, and coming soon, thanks to Dennis McCroskey, you will be able to see the "Shoeless Joe Jackson Times" online. You can also visit Joe Chwaniec's homepage at <<http://www.ccinet.ab.ca/esaa/chwaniec.html>> where you can find a nice photo of Jackson along with some baseball related links. You should also check out the Hall of Fame over the World Wide Web at <<http://www.eneews.com>>. There is no specific information about Jackson there, but they



do have a place where you can send them a message. If you stop by, be sure to let them know your opinion of Jackson's lifetime suspension. You can also reach me over the internet by E-mail. I can be reached at either <[tkram01@emory.edu](mailto:tkram01@emory.edu)> or <[dakrame1@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:dakrame1@facstaff.wisc.edu)>. So if you have access to E-mail please drop me a line and tell me what you think about the *Newsletter* and Shoeless Joe Jackson. And for those of you who are not yet connected to the internet, I can always be reached by regular mail at TΔK Publishing, 10 Shiloh Court, Madison, WI 53705.

The Landis Letters

BASEBALL

KENESAW M. LANDIS  
COMMISSIONER  
LESLIE M. O'CONNER  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

122 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO

June 20, 1923

REGISTERED MAIL, deliver only to addressee.

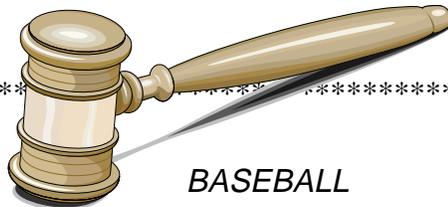
Mr. Joe Jackson  
Bastrop, La.

Dear Sir:

I have received a letter dated June 12, purporting to come from you and to bear your signature. In substance, it is an application for reinstatement.

The signature thereto does not appear to be yours; therefore, beyond this communication to you, no action will be taken thereon.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) Kenesaw M. Landis



BASEBALL

KENESAW M. LANDIS  
COMMISSIONER  
LESLIE M. O'CONNER  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

122 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO

July 16, 1923

Mr. Joe Jackson  
Bastrop, La.

Dear Sir:

Your letter, which is dated 7-29, came here in my absence and through an error in forwarding, was delayed in coming to my attention.

Before I can pass on your application for reinstatement, it will be necessary for you to forward me for consideration in that connection, a full statement in detail of your conduct and connection with the arrangement for the "throwing" of the World Series of 1919. I feel I should say to you that there will be no reinstatement of any player who had any connection therewith.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) Kenesaw M. Landis

## Joe Jackson's Stats

<u>Year</u>	<u>Games</u>	<u>At Bats</u>	<u>Hits</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>Runs</u>
1908	5	5	3	0	0	0	0
1909	5	17	5	0	0	0	3
1910	20	75	29	2	5	1	15
1911	147	571	233	45	19	7	126
1912	152	572	266	44	<b>26</b>	3	121
1913	148	528	<b>197</b>	<b>39</b>	17	7	109
1914	122	453	153	22	13	3	61
1915	128	461	142	20	17	5	63
1916	155	592	202	40	<b>21</b>	3	91
1917	146	538	162	20	17	5	91
1918	17	65	23	2	2	1	9
1919	139	516	181	31	14	7	79
<u>1920</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>570</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>105</u>
13yrs	1330	4981	1774	307	168	54	873

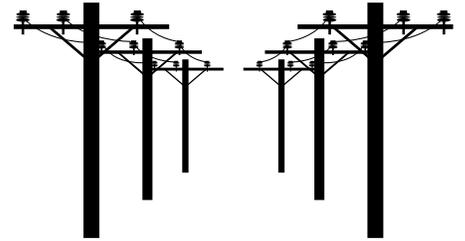
<u>Year</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>BA</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>OBP</u>	<u>SLG</u>
1908	3	0		.130	0	.130	.130
1909	3	1		.294	0	.333	.294
1910	11	8		.387	4	.466	.587
1911	83	56		.408	41	.468	.590
1912	90	54		.395	35	.458	.579
1913	71	80	26	.373	26	.460	<b>.551</b>
1914	53	41	34	.338	22	.399	.464
1915	81	52	23	.308	16	.385	.445
1916	78	46	25	.341	24	.393	.495
1917	75	57	25	.301	25	.375	.429
1918	20	8	1	.354	3	.425	.492
1919	96	60	10	.351	9	.422	.506
<u>1920</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>.382</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>.444</u>	<u>.589</u>
13yrs	785	519	158	.356	158	.423	.518

**Bold print indicates he led the league in that category.**

No.15 on the lifetime list for Highest Single Season Batting Average .408  
 No.3 on the lifetime list for Highest Lifetime Batting Average .356  
 No.31 on the lifetime list for Highest Lifetime Slugging Average .518  
 No.27 on the lifetime list for Highest Lifetime Triples 168

*The Anonymous Telegram*

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM



RECEIVED AT  
13X M 185 NL

CHICAGO ILL JUL 29 1923

JOE JACKSON  
AMERICUS GA

COMMY SENT DICKS TO SAVANNAH TO SCARE YOU I AM IN POSITION TO KNOW BECAUSE I AM IN OFFICE WHERE REPORTS COME IN LAST REPORT WAS THEY HAD NOTHING ON YOU I ALWAYS FELT SORRY FOR YOU BOYS AND AM TIPPING YOU OFF TO GO RIGHT AFTER THIS FELLOW AS YOU HAVE GOT THE GOODS ON HIM AND THEY KNOW IT YOUR LAWYER IN MILWAUKEE JUST WON A BIG POINT AGAINST THEM AND THEY ARE SCARED TO DEATH THAT THE CASE WILL BE TRIED BEFORE A JURY KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT—(PLA?)Y BALL AND LISTEN TO YOUR LAWYER AS HE IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE (BEST IN ?) THE WEST IF ANYTHING ELSE COMES IN HERE I WILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU BY WIRE BUT HAVE GOT THEM ON THE RUN NOW AND GIVE THEM A GOOD BEATING AND DONT LET THESE CHEAP DICKS SCARE YOU AS THEY HAVE GOT NOTHING ON YOU TO DATE AS I KNOW FROM REPORTS I HAVE SEEN AND THEY HAVE REPORTED THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO GET ANYTHING ON YOU WILL WIRE LATER IF ANYTHING TURN UP.

A FRIEND  
905A JUL 30

*The Comiskey Letters*

Savannah, Georgia, October 27, 1919

Mr. Charles A. Comiskey:

As I haven't heard anything from the club in Regards to my Saries check and would like to know why you are Holding it as I kneed the money Would like to have something as earley as possiable. And if possiable send it to me this week.

Joe Jackson  
621 W. 39th Street,  
Savannah, Ga.

(On White Sox Letterhead)

Nov. 11, 1919

Mr. Joe Jackson,  
17 Congress St.,  
Savannah, Ga.

Dear Friend:

In answer to your recent communication, wish to state that there has been a great deal of adverse talk in which your name has been mentioned, along with several others, referring to and reflecting on your integrity in the recent World's Series. One or two players took the stand and they would gladly return to Chicago at any time to uphold any reflection cast on them.

I wish to advise you that I have nothing whatever to do with the handling or issuing of same, as the National Commission turned over to Manager Gleason the players' share for distribution so would suggest you take the matter up with him direct.

Would gladly pay your expenses to Chicago and return if you wish to come on in reference to the matter pertaining to the talk emanating from the World Series.

With kindest regards, I remain,  
Yours very truly,  
(Signed Mr. Comiskey)

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Savannah, Ga.  
Nov. 15, 1919

Mr. Charles A. Comiskey:

Your letter just came, and I sure am surprised to hear that my name has been connected with any scandle in the recent World Saries, as I think my playing proved that I did all I could to win, and I wrote Mr. Gleason yesterday and as soon as I hear from him I will be onley to glad to come to Chicago or any place you may say and clear my name and whoever started this will have to prove his statements, and that has nothing whatever to do with holding our checks, and as soon as I hear from Mr. Gleason as to why he is holding the checks I will come to Chicago if you say. But in the first place the National Commission is responsible for our money and why is Gleason holding it as I am under no contract to him, I am not looking to him for the money, and I don't see why they make a lot of fus because we Lost as it isent the first time a Series was lost and I am sure I did all I could to win and I think my record for the Series Will Show if you Look at it, I didn know Gleason's address in Philey, so had to write to the Club there and hope it will be forwarded to him at his home adress.

And let me hear from you as to when you want me to come to Chicago as I expect to hear from Gleason in a few days.

Joe Jackson  
621 W.39th St.  
Savannah, Ga.

(On White Sox Letterhead)

Nov. 11, 1919

Mr. Joe Jackson,  
17 Congress St.,  
Savannah, Ga.

Dear Friend:

I am formulating plans for the season of 1920 pertaining to the personnel of the White Sox, and would like to hear from you at your earliest convenience as to you playing terms for the coming season. Kindly give this matter consideration, and let me hear from you.

Trusting you have been spending a very pleasant winter and wishing you the compliments of the season, I remain,

Yours very truly,  
(Signed Mr. Comiskey)

P.S. Kindly treat this matter confidential

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Savannah, Ga.  
Jan. 24, 1920

Mr. Charles A. Comiskey:

Your received in Regards to my contract. First I Diden get the Nine days pay for the Series that i understand the other Boys got, and also a pare of Shoes and new Glove that was stolen in the Club House when Bill James trunk was stolen. Mr. Gleason had the club House Boy to make a list of things that was stolen and send to the office. But I never heard anything from it, and unless I get this and a three year ironclad contract for ten thousand a year I cant signe as living expenses are going up all the time and I dont rate myself the class of player Eddie Collins or Buck Weaver, I think that if Eddie is worth fifteen thousand and Buck ten that I am also worth ten thousand a year. I can't live in Chicago at what I am getting pay a Hundred for a flat. Besides, other living expenses there, as I am going to open up a nother Billiard parlor in Birmingham and can make more by Beeing with the Business all the time then I can at my present Salrie there.

Yours Respectfuley,  
Joe Jackson  
621 W. 39th St.  
Savannah, Ga.

(On White Sox Letterhead)

Jan. 29, 1920

Mr. Joe Jackson,  
17 Congress St.,  
Savannah, Ga.

Dear Friend:

Your letter of recent date received, and contents noted. I wish, to advise you that your last season's contract was fulfilled to the letter. You received the amount that was agreed upon in full, namely, \$6000.00.

Herewith enclosed please find contract for the season of 1920 for \$7000.00. which is a very liberal increase over that of the past season.

I am completing all my plans for the personnel of the club for 1920, and of course no one will be taken on the spring training trip who has not signed a contract.

In reference to the part of you letter pertaining to something being taken from the Club House, I have heard nothing regarding that up to this time and that matted can be adjusted with Manager Gleason after your arrival here in Chicago.

Trusting you have been spending a very pleasant winter, I remain,

Yours very truly,  
(Signed Mr. Comiskey)

Reg. Enc.

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Savannah, Ga.  
February 1, 1920

Mr. Chas. A. Comiskey,

Your letter and also contract Received and am returning the contract. You may think a thousand dollars is a liberal increas. But I don't as I know what other players are getting that isent any Better player than I am, as I consider myself as good a Ballplayer as you have on the club, and as I stated to you Before I can make more money in the Billard Buisness then you offer me, as Mr. Sullivan and I just checked up and Did make more the past year with one place, and will open up another one soon. So if I Don't get ten thousand and a three year ironclad contract, I will not signe.

Joe Jackson  
Congress Billard Parlor  
17 Congress St.  
Savannah, Ga.

(On White Sox Letterhead)

Feb. 9, 1920

Mr. Joe Jackson,  
17 Congress St.,  
Savannah, Ga.

My dear Friend:

Your letter of recent date received and contents noted.

Of course, if you intend remaining in baseball, I consider myself in a good position to know just what this club can afford to offer in the way of salary, but if you are putting yourself on the basis of retiring from baseball and entering the billard business, why of course I am no criterion as to what you are worth. Your future intentions as to what you are going to do rests absolutely with yourself, and you yourself must be the sole judge of that.

I am returning to you the contract which you sent, and the further condition that I am satisfied to make the enclosed contract read for the season of 1920, and 1921. I wish to know your final intentions at once, as I am making up the personnel of the club at this time preparatory to our departure for spring training.

With best wishes, I remain,

Yours very truly,  
(Signed Mr. Comiskey)

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February 13, 1920

Savannah, Ga.

Mr. Chas. A. Comiskey,

Please find enclosed contract as I can't signe a contract for what you offer, and you must remember By the time I pay encome tax and live out of the Salrie you offer I dont have anything Left and as far as the Billard Buisness I have been in it for the Past two years and have Played for you for less money then any player on your club of my class of player, and I think I was very fair with you Last year, and if you dont think you can pay me what I am worth as a player I think it Best you trade or sell me as there ar other clubs that will.

And I will not signe a contract unless the ten Day clause is cut out and a three year contract.

Joe Jackson  
17 Congress St.  
Savannah, Ga.

(On White Sox Letterhead)

Feb. 14, 1920

Mr. Joe Jackson,  
17 Congress St.,  
Savannah, Ga.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of Feb. 13 received, together with returned contract.

I note your statement that your billiard business will not interfere with your playing baseball. Up to the present time, have not received any offer to trade or buy your services from any club, and if we did receive such offer, I have not the slightest idea of trading or selling. Neither do I intend to enter into a contract with the ten-day clause eliminated.

The matter of the length of the contract is one for decision after the salary terms have been agreed upon. Kindly advise me your lowest playing terms for the season of 1920, and upon hearing from you will advise you immediately whether or not we can get together.

I note by the papers this morning that you are a hold out according to your own statement, even after you were asked to keep the matters of terms confidential.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,  
(Signed Mr. Comiskey)

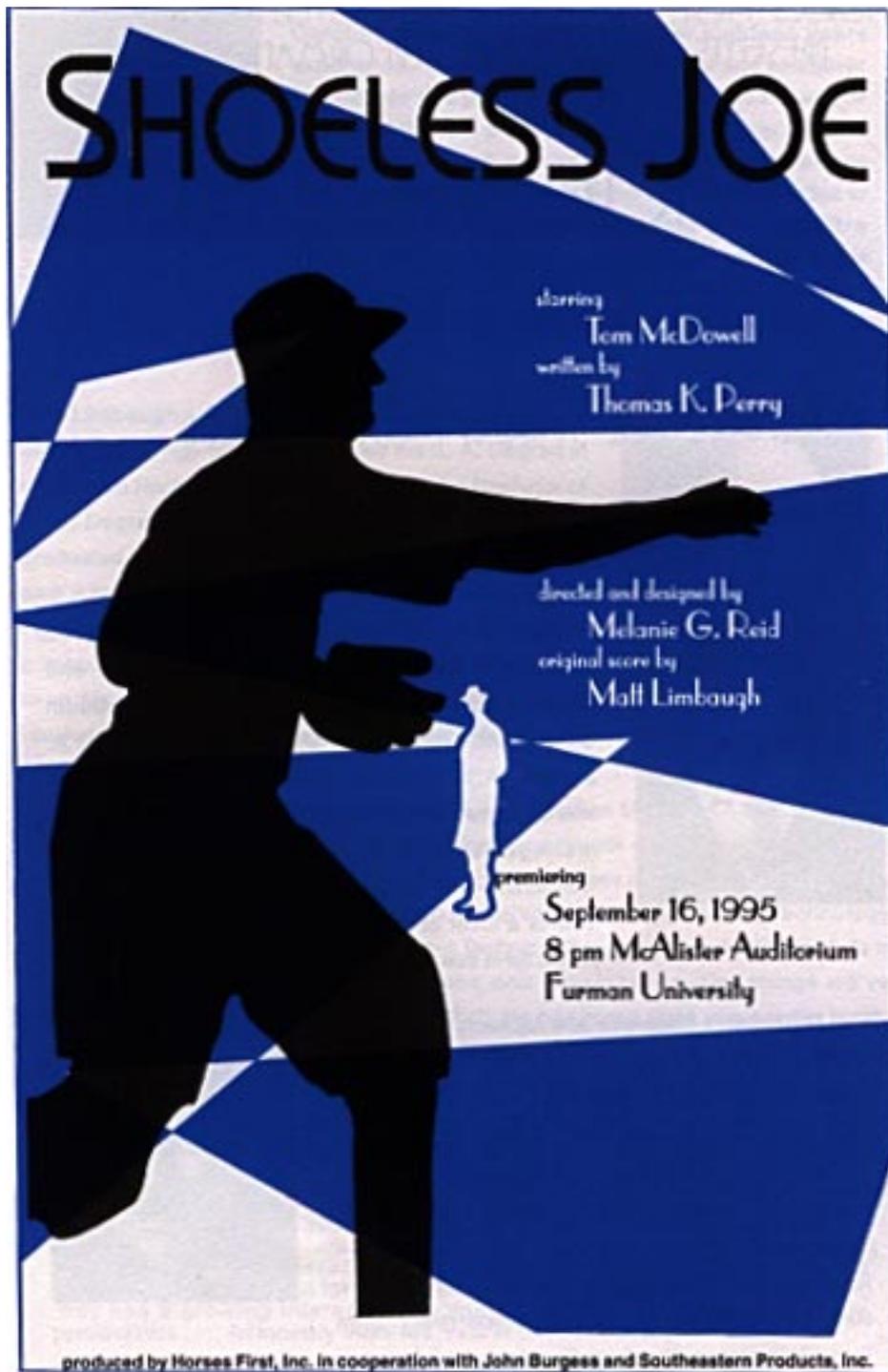
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Savannah, Ga.  
Feb. 18, 1920

Mr. Charles. A. Comiskey:

Your Letter Received and note the contents. I wrote you before that I would play Ball for ten thousand and nothing Less, and I will not play for Less. I understand you have Raised some of the players without asking. I know of one you offered \$2300 Hundred raise that Didn't make any showing in the Series and I think my Past Record entitles me to what I ask and I don't think I am asking any more than I am worth as a player so will not sign for less.

Joe Jackson



### *A New Play*

A new theater production about Joe Jackson was brought to life this past fall. "Shoeless Joe" was written by Thomas K. Perry and adapted for the stage by director Melanie G. Reid. This one-man play, starring Tom McDowell, features a middle-aged Jackson throwing a ball against the wall of his Greenville liquor store all the while remembering his playing days. This play was put on at Furman University and received great reviews. For those of you who, like me, have a passion for memorabilia and items relating to Jackson, I have enclosed a copy of an order form for a commemorative poster for this production. I just ordered mine a few days ago and am anxiously awaiting its arrival.



a bid for one of Joe's game used bats made by Louisville Slugger, our bid price was \$100,000.00 and it was turned down by the gentleman in New York City who owns it. Can you believe that!!!!!! I currently have several bats from players who played with Joe during his career. I am focusing on Joe's era for my collection now, I know I gentleman in New York City that bought the archives of Louisville Slugger and he has player bats from the 1880 - 1940. This is the source of most of my collection.

Mike

*Thank you for your letter. The amount of interest in Jackson memorabilia never ceases to amaze me, as does the amount people are willing to pay for it. I only wish I could afford such priceless artifacts as they truly are special.*

## Readers Write

I collect player game worn jerseys and game used bats and thought it was interesting that you knew about the Black Betsy bat being put up for auction. An investment group that I am involved with made

-----Cut Here-----

### Order Form

#### **Shoeless Joe Premier Production Commemorative Poster**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Check  Cash

Payable to Horses First, Inc.

Please don't mail cash.

\_\_\_\_\_ #Posters at \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Cost includes shipping. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Horses First, Inc.  
PO Box 366  
Due West, SC 29639

