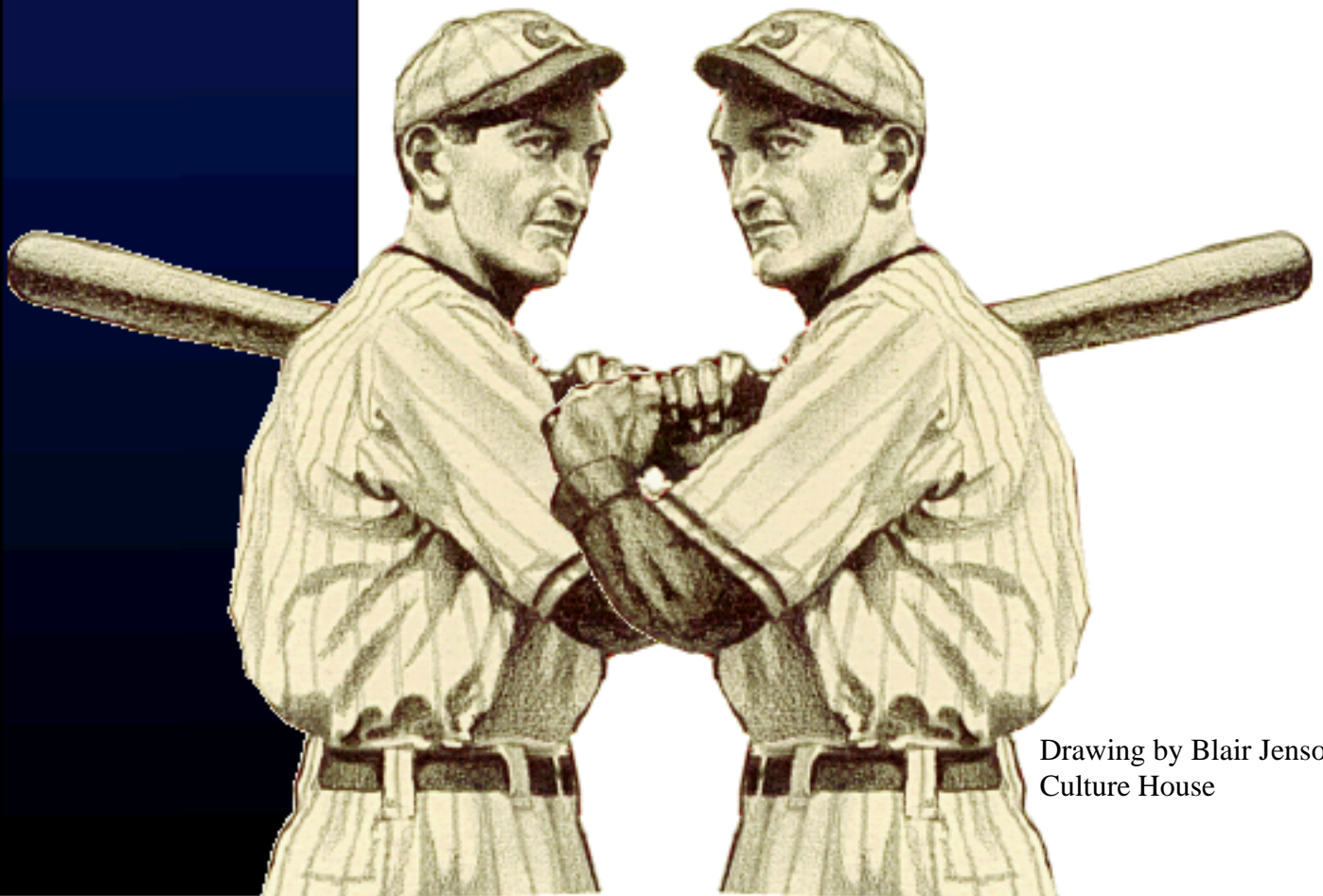


Spring 1997

SHOELESS JOE JACKSON TIMES

The game of baseball is a clean, straight game.
- William Howard Taft



Drawing by Blair Jenson
Culture House

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News From the Editor

Welcome to the Spring 1997 issue of the "Shoeless Joe Jackson Times." Beginning with this issue, the format of the newsletter will change slightly. Every issue will now include the following sections:

- News From The Editor
- Feature Article
- Recent Developments
- Editorials
- Source Material
- Reader's Theory
- Memorabilia
- Web Watch
- Readers Write
- Readers Write Form
- Petition
- Trivia

The Feature Article will vary in content from issue to issue but will be the main attraction for the newsletter. The Recent Developments column will report any new Jackson news or events. The Editorials section will feature articles written by the staff which express our opinions on various Jackson issues. The Source Material section will present raw data with no commentary to allow readers an unbiased look at Shoeless Joe. In the Reader's Theory section, we will choose among the various theories of the 1919 fix which readers submit and print them unedited. The Memorabilia section will report collection opportunities and highlight recently sold rare Jackson items. The Web Watch column will highlight web sites with information on Jackson. The Readers Write and Readers-Write-Form offer the reader a chance to express their views and opinions on Jackson and the Newsletter. The Petition will be reproduced on the back of the Readers-Write-Form every issue. It can also be signed on-line through our web site <userwww.service.emory.edu/~tkram01>. We hope you find this new format increases both the look and readability of the newsletter.

We have received numerous requests for past issues and we are sorry to report that all of the originals are out of print. However, we are discussing compiling all issues to date into a book printed in either black and white or color for a small fee to cover the costs of printing/ mailing. If this would interest you, please let us know.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions through:

Mail - TΔK Publishing
10 Shiloh Court,
Madison, WI 53705-2464

E-Mail - tkram01@emory.edu

WWW - userwww.service.emory.edu/~tkram01

Spirit of the Game

by - Trevor D. Kramer

The spirit of baseball is alive and well in Greenville, South Carolina. Last March, the city dedicated the old Brandon Mill Field, and a stretch of highway, to Shoeless Joe Jackson. The day of the dedication started out cold and overcast as people began to arrive from all over the country. Old men from the surrounding area who had played catch with Joe as young boys wandered through the gates remembering his patience and kind smile. People who had only heard stories about a baseball player who batted without shoes and people who fell asleep at night to stories of his glove and his bat were drawn here. Parents brought their children to pass on the legends they grew up with. Children walked around with wide eyes not quite knowing why this place felt special, but certain that it was. Old ballplayers came to pay their respects to the greatest hitter of all time. And Joe's crusaders were there. We wandered around with smiles on our faces seeing the turnout of support for our cause and amazed at the love of Jackson by his community. We are convinced that he is great not for his baseball records but for the number of lives he has touched, and here, on this day, it didn't matter whether or not he is in the Hall of Fame for we saw that he will always be inside these people's hearts and will survive there forever.



The cold damp day was hardly noticed as the spirit of baseball settled below the mist. No one seemed to notice the slight drizzle falling on their heads as they waited in line to buy a Comiskey brick, desperate to touch a part of their hero. The cold couldn't drive people away as they took pictures trying to brand the images in their minds, wanting to remember this day forever. The baseball spirit saturated the ground as strangers shared stories and memories of their hero and people exchanged phone numbers and addresses yearning for more legends and knowledge.



As the dedication ceremony ended and the crowd began to disperse I stayed and watched the beginning of the first Little League game played on Jackson's new field and I remembered what baseball is. Baseball is what the kids in front of me had inside them: an excited face as they step up to the plate, the joy they feel as they make a diving play, and the simple fun of having a catch. There is a part of Joe Jackson in all of them. He had a love of the game of baseball so passionate one might call it an addiction. He was addicted to the smell of a freshly oiled glove, the feel of the ball on the sweet-spot of the bat, and the joy of sliding head-first into third. He was not a complicated man, he was one of the lucky few to truly love his profession. It is us, the fans, who suffered from his banishment from baseball, for he supplied us with joy and filled our desire for greatness. On this field next to an old mill in the heart of Greenville, the baseball spirit is alive because Joe Jackson's spirit watches over it and reminds us of what is important about baseball and life.

Official Grand Opening Ceremonies

for

Shoeless Joe Jackson

Memorial Park

Old Brandon Mill Ballfield Site

West Greenville, South Carolina

March 30, 1996

Welcome/Opening Remarks

*Bob Murray, Western District Area Commissioner
Greenville County Recreation District*

Prayer

*Rev. Benny Durham,
West Greenville Baptist Church*

Soliloquy

Tom McDowell

KM Fabrics

Richard Heusel, CEO

Greenville County Recreation District

Bobby Burch, Chairman

Greenville County Redevelopment Authority

Fletcher L. Martin, Jr., Chairman

Textile League Baseball-S.C. Mill Teams

Thomas Perry, Author

Closing Remarks/Special Recognitions

Bob Murray

Prayer

Rev. C.L. Wright, Brandon Baptist Church

National Anthem/Presentation of Colors

James F. Daniel Post 3 American Legion

Narrative-Mill Village Life

Dr. Judy Bainbridge

(Immediately following ceremonies at Mill Site)

*Project Architect, Craig-Gaulden-Davis, Greenville
Contractor, Robinson Construction, Easley*

Not Just Another Road

On February 16th, 1996 the South Carolina Legislature passed legislation to change the name of a portion of Highway 123 near the Brandon Mill baseball field in honor of Joe to the Shoeless Joe Jackson Memorial Highway.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO NAME A PORTION OF UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 123 IN GREENVILLE COUNTY FROM THE GREENVILLE COUNTY LINE CONTINUING TO PENDLETON STREET IN HONOR OF JOSEPH JEFFERSON WOFFORD “SHOELESS JOE” JACKSON.

Whereas, Joseph Jefferson Wofford “Shoeless Joe” Jackson was born on July 16, 1889, in Pickens County; and

Whereas, Joe’s family moved to the Brandon Mill Community in Greenville County when he was six years of age; and

Whereas, by 1902, at thirteen years of age, he was working twelve hours a day in a cotton mill in Greenville County; and

Whereas, Joe’s only escape from the drudgery of the mill was in the fields playing baseball; and

Whereas, at the age of fifteen he was an outfielder for the Brandon Mill Baseball Team; and

Whereas, at nineteen years of age Joe signed a seventy-five dollar a month contract to begin his professional baseball career playing for the Greenville Spinners in 1908; and

Whereas, Connie Mack, upon discovering Joe’s talent, is credited with saying, “An apothecary down in that burg who had previously written me some good tips in regard to young prospects kept urging me to give this fellow a trial. But what intrigued me most was that this prodigy played without shoes. He doesn’t wear spikes or in fact any kind of covering for his feet, came the tip. He’s so fast that he can tear around those bases without any such help.”; and

Whereas, on July 19, 1908, Joe married his greatest fan and sweetheart, Katie Wynn; and

Whereas, he played for the Philadelphia Athletics during the 1908-1909 season and for the Cleveland Indians from 1910-1915; and

Whereas, while playing for the Indians, Ty Cobb said that Joe was the finest natural hitter he had ever seen; and

Whereas, at the end of the 1915 season, he was traded to the Chicago White Sox where he played on the White Sox’s 1917 World Series Championship Team; and

Whereas, the moment in history that “Shoeless Joe Jackson” unfortunately is remembered best is for supposedly throwing the 1919 World Series game between the White Sox and the Cincinnati Reds; and

Whereas, Joe and seven of his teammates were banished from organized baseball for life by Baseball Commissioner, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis for this alleged crime even though they were found innocent in a jury trial in 1921; and

Whereas, in 1929, Joe and Katie returned to Greenville County as heroes for giving their best to major league baseball and proceeded to open and operate several businesses; and

Whereas, Joe died on December 5, 1951; and

Whereas, there has been an ongoing battle to have his name entered into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, in an effort to demonstrate Joe's importance to baseball and to the community in which he lived, KM Fabrics, Inc., on December 7, 1993, donated and deeded the land known as Old Brandon Mill Ball Field to the Greenville County Recreation District. This is the field on which Joe learned to play the game he truly loved; and



Whereas, The Greenville County Recreation District conducted a "ground breaking" ceremony at this site on October 27, 1994, for the "Shoeless Joe Jackson Memorial Park"; and

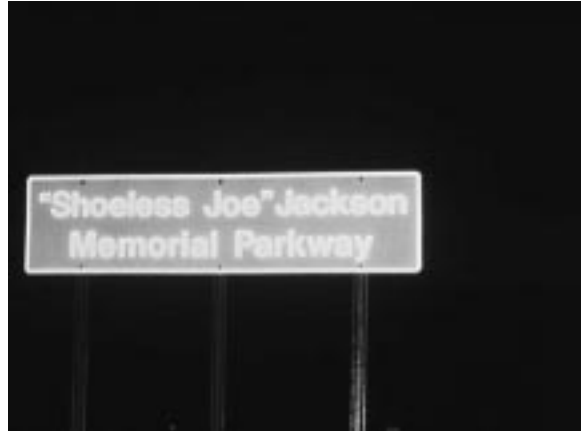
Whereas, a grand opening and dedication ceremony for the park will take place on Saturday, March 30, 1996; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper that a portion of United States Highway 123 in Greenville County from the Greenville County line continuing to Pendleton Street be named the "Shoeless Joe Jackson Memorial Parkway" as a lasting tribute to this distinguished South Carolinian. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly request that the Department of Transportation designate and name a portion of United States Highway 123

in Greenville County described in this resolution as the "Shoeless Joe Jackson Memorial Parkway" and to install appropriate markers or signs at places along the highway as the department considers advisable containing the words "Shoeless Joe Jackson Memorial Parkway".



Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and the family of Joseph Jefferson Wofford Jackson.

Editorials

Talk Back

by - Trevor D. Kramer

Sportswriters across the country voted players into the Hall of Fame recently and once again Jackson received zero votes. What stuns me most, however, is that Pete Rose received twenty write-in votes even though he too is on the permanently ineligible list and, more importantly, is guilty of the charges brought against him as proven in a court of law. If the baseball establishment is unwilling to look at its past, perhaps those who depend on baseball for a living should give something back to the game.

Sportswriters claim to uphold the game and make it more interesting to follow. With those claims comes a responsibility to protect baseball from it-

self. In 1919, it was the sportswriters who broke the story of a fix and in one sense it was the sportswriters who condemned Jackson and the others to their fates. It was their stories and propaganda which rocked the baseball world and scared the owners into hiring a baseball tyrant. Kenesaw Mountain Landis took his job very seriously. Prompted by the sportswriters' columns disparaging baseball, Landis performed the worst trade in baseball history. He traded baseball's soul for a clean public image. By throwing everyone involved in the scandal as far from the game as possible, he created the illusion that baseball was once again clean, pure, and holy. Baseball had never been clean since its inception. Players were paid less than day wagers and some supplemented their incomes with fix money. Not to say that every game was fixed, but the fix of 1919 was not the first time gamblers and players had met outside the ballpark. What separated this instance from all the others was simply the amount of interest and words the sportswriters put into it. It was they who called for the baseball world to be swept out and they who created the illusion that this one instance had tainted what once was pure. Their words turned a potentially fair investigation into a hysterical witch-hunt without regard to laws or ethics.

Sportswriters are our eyes and ears in the sports world. Today, ESPN is what Ring Lardner and the other newspaper writers were in the 1920's. We turn to them not only to tell us the scores, but to offer opinions on the state of the game and to explain the most recent scandal. When they report an issue a certain way the public has no reason not to believe them. We trust them. With that trust comes a responsibility, not only to the game but to the fans, to accurately report the news and treat issues fairly and justly. In 1919, the players were painted as rotten apples spreading disease throughout the American pastime, and soon the public took up the cry and called for drastic measures to be taken to assure baseball was clean again.

Baseball did indeed need to be cleaned up, but through a fair systematic investigation. Landis

abused his newly found power as lifelong ruler of baseball to take the easy way out and in one symbolic gesture he banned the "Black Sox" from organized baseball. It was the perfect solution to the sportswriters' cry, offer up a patsy to take the fall for baseball and restore "honor" to the game. The sad thing is that it worked. The sportswriters were appeased and applauded the decision and the baseball world swept the eight players underneath a rug and continued on as if nothing had happened.

It is time to look under the rug and confront baseball's past crimes. The Baseball aristocracy is unwilling to open its closet of skeletons; but perhaps the sportswriters can make up for their witch-hunt early in the century by looking in the mirror and giving back to the game they owe so much to, and truly earn the title of baseball's protectorate.

Shoeless Joe vs. Baseball

by - John Brattain

We allegedly live in an enlightened era, and baseball generally claims that it has followed suit in being enlightened. The era we live in is trying to redress the injustices committed by their ancestors. We hear about restitution to the African-American because of slavery and prejudice. We hear about the settling of long standing Native American/Canadian land claims and other grievances. The atmosphere in the workplace has been trying to make things equitable with the female work force, and so on. Has baseball tried to emulate, to fall in step with this trend? Sadly, no. The so-called 'Golden Rule' (He that has the gold rules) is as well established as it was when the National Association was first established in 1871.

There have been a number of injustices committed by those in power against 'the working class' in baseball. Heroes have been thrown to the wolves, and scoundrels have been placed on un-touchable pedestals, their actions above question, regardless of what their sins were and their effect

on others. Commissioner Landis, who systematically kept his black brethren off the diamonds of organized baseball for over a quarter century has never had his actions called into account. This bastion of intolerance is held up as one of the finest commissioners in the history of sports. To this day, the visage of Landis graces the hallowed halls of Cooperstown.

American League boss Ban Johnson was an expert in covering up the problem of gambling in baseball. One of the most crooked ballplayers ever to wear spikes, Hal Chase, was routinely cleared by Johnson in the face of undeniable evidence of wrongdoing. If Johnson had prosecuted Chase to the full extent of his crimes the general public would have come to the realization that gambling did indeed exist in baseball and that an average fan had no guarantee that the game for which he was putting down his hard earned money would be honestly played. In this case Johnson was only concerned with the money he could pick out of the fans' pockets, and the integrity of the game be damned. When the Black Sox scandal erupted in 1920, suddenly Johnson was all for tossing out the eight suspected players. He wasn't concerned with the game's integrity. Johnson's only interest was in trying to ruin Charles Comiskey with whom he had been involved in a bitter feud for a decade and a half. In his desire to ruin Johnson, Comiskey supported the appointment of Judge Landis as the game's first commissioner because he knew that it would severely undermine Johnson's power. Johnson too, enjoys enshrinement in baseball's hallowed shrine.

Charles Comiskey's tightfistedness was well documented. He used the 'infamous reserve clause' to the ⁿth degree. Despite having the most lucrative franchise in baseball, indeed the very cornerstone

of the American League, his players were poorly treated. He required that his players pay for the upkeep of their uniforms. When a player balked, Comiskey would have his uniform removed from his locker, laundered, and then deducted the cost from the player's paycheck. Ed Cicotte was promised a \$10,000 bonus in 1917 if he won 30 games. The Sox enjoyed a comfortable cushion late in that campaign, so when Cicotte had won 28 games, manager Kid Gleason on Comiskey's orders 'rested' Cicotte for the World Series. He never got the opportunity to try for 30. Before the Black Sox scandal broke, Comiskey, knowing full well about the fix, attempted to re-sign all eight of the suspected players. He was hoping that the whole thing 'would blow over.' Comiskey, in effect, covered it up by saying nothing. Third baseman Buck Weaver was blacklisted forever for following his owner's example.

The Black Sox are in official disgrace by baseball. Ban Johnson covered up the gambling infractions of players and owners for 20 years. The pecuniary practices of Comiskey and a great number of the other owners accelerated the process. Johnson and Comiskey were battling for control over the American League and the Black Sox were merely pawns in the whole sordid

affair. Landis banished the eight players long before the jury reached its verdict. He then cut off their Constitutional Right of appeal, and not much has changed in almost eighty years. The sins of Landis, Johnson, and Comiskey were forgiven merely because they were powerful and wealthy, and all three are revered members of the Hall of Fame, whereas the Black Sox's sins remain, in effect, unforgivable by those in charge, by the powerful and the wealthy. To this day, they refuse to even consider the well established facts of history and consequently nothing is done.

Trivia Questions
1) What were Jackson's line drives called?
2) What was Jackson's good luck charm?
3) At what position did Shoeless Joe begin his baseball career?
<i>Answers on page 16</i>

Constitution of Judge Landis

by - Trevor D. Kramer

Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis was a bitter old man. I say this not because we disagree on the part Joe Jackson took in the fix of 1919, but because he became disillusioned with his profession. To be a judge you need a concrete understanding of the Constitution. This one document more than any other defines our legal system. An entire branch of government is devoted to interpreting it. Judge Landis acted as if he had never read the Constitution. In handing down his decision, he violated more guaranteed rights than some people even know they have.

Landis seems to have forgotten about the Amendment guaranteeing no Double Jeopardy, which assures that no man can be tried for the same crime twice, when dealing with the Black Sox. The Amendment does not read, "No man can be tried twice by the same institution." Not only would this negate the benefits of the Founders intentions, but it would promote vigilantism. Which is ironic in itself, because a former judge sworn to uphold the rights of citizens becomes in effect a vigilante. In the Black Sox case, the players were tried for conspiracy to throw the World Series of 1919, and they were found innocent. Admittedly, the verdict was a farce. Some of the White Sox did throw the series, but that is the brilliance and the fault of our Constitution. The verdict does not matter, no man should ever be tried for that crime again. Judge Landis tried them again for the same crime and passed sentence in one broad sweeping motion. While he did punish the guilty players, the basis of our legal system is to 'let a hundred guilty men go free than to convict one innocent man.' Landis' actions were in direct contradiction to our legal system. His actions punished both the guilty and innocent to assure the guilty were caught. The White Sox were tried twice for the same crime in which they were deprived of their livelihood and certainly their pursuit of happiness. This crime is of a far greater severity than anything the Black Sox did.

The manner in which Landis 'tried' the White Sox also violated their Constitutional rights. They had the right to be present and confront those who testified against them, the right to a lawyer, and the right to be tried by a jury of their peers. They were denied all of these things. They were tried secretly by one man, who also did the sentencing, and were never given a chance to answer to the charges made against them or to offer evidence in their favor. Not only were they illegally tried twice for the same crime, but they weren't even really tried the second time. Trying implies the weighing of evidence and a decision of guilt or innocence based on facts. None of this took place in Landis' courtroom, only a vicious vendetta and his own personal agenda for cementing himself in power.

Baseball truly is a mystical and wonderful institution, but it and its players reside and play in the United States of America, and it is here that those crimes were committed, and here those crimes were tried, and here their rights were stomped on, and here where the current baseball establishment refuses to rescind their past crimes or even investigate the matter to at least restore honor to the families who suffered from their ineptitude. Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis was a bitter old man, and he was wrong.

Remembering Shoeless Joe

by - John Brattain

The movies, 'Field of Dreams' and 'Eight Men Out' served to educate the public somewhat to the tragedy that was the 1919 World Series in which eight players of the American League championship team Chicago White Sox conspired to throw the World Series to the Cincinnati Reds. Some of the eight implicated players' hands were more involved than others insofar as their contacts with the gamblers as well as their efforts in the best of nine tournament. Probably the best known of the 'Black Sox' as they are infamously known was one, 'Shoeless Joe' Jackson. The reason for his high profile was not that he was

the 'ringleader' but because he was the best player of that outstanding team. Such was the excellence of Jackson, that if not for the 1919 Fall Classic, he would likely have a plaque gracing the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. So superb was he, that when a young Boston Red Sox outfielder by the name of Babe Ruth was looking for a hitter to learn from, he thought that he couldn't do any better than to emulate Jackson.

In the drama that unfolded in those fateful days in the autumn of 1919 Shoeless Joe, while certainly one of the feature attractions of this contest, was nonetheless a bit player behind the scenes of the tainted series. What we will look at now are the compelling reasons why Joe Jackson's name should be removed from baseball's Permanently Ineligible list and the opportunity be given him to take his place among the other immortals in Cooperstown.

While there is no disputing that Joe Jackson shouldn't have accepted the gamblers' money, there are compelling reasons to keep the doors to Cooperstown open for this standout. In the matter involving Joe Jackson, Shoeless Joe's mistake was not throwing the 1919 World Series. After all, he didn't. It is a matter of record that he had an outstanding series. He batted .375, hit a home run, and played his usual remarkable defense. He was only guilty of being associated with a scandal that was damaging to the sport. The Black Sox are hardly unique in the category of inflicting harm on the national pastime. A good argument can be made for stating that baseball reflects society, so it should come as no surprise that criminal activity has existed within the game. Yet, it has shown a double standard in whom it chooses to punish and whom it chooses to overlook. If it chooses to exclude from the Hall of Fame persons who have wrought damage to the sport, then all players from the Players' Union in 1994 should be declared ineligible for Hall of Fame consideration. After all, I don't know of anyone who doesn't feel that severe damage was done to the game from the players' strike that caused the first World Series to be canceled since 1904. Not even the Black Sox scandal cancelled a World Series! In addition to dam-

age to the game, there are the financial repercussions inflicted on everyday people because of the action taken by the Players' Union in that ill-fated year. How many innocent people were affected adversely by the strike, not to mention many true blue fans for whom there was no post season and no World Series? All because old millionaires and young millionaires could not decide how to divide money supplied by persons making \$ 20,000-\$ 40,000 a year.

Some have argued that the integrity of the game has to be protected. What integrity? Again, it comes down to degrees. Did the integrity of the game keep Gaylord Perry from "loading up" the baseball? Did it prevent men like Greg Nettles, Billy Hatcher, Amos Otis or Albert Belle from corking their bats? Gaylord Perry stated in his memoirs, "Me and the Spitter," that he used everything except salt, pepper, and chocolate sauce topping on the baseball.

In how many of Perry's 314 career victories did he throw the prohibited spitball? Well then, for the sake of the game's integrity, the following things should occur: First, he should be removed from the Hall of Fame. Second, assuming he threw the spitter in all his career victories, his record should be amended to a mark of 0-579 from his current standard of 314-265. Third, teams that he defeated should be credited with wins, with appropriate adjustments made in the team standings as necessary. If any of these changes affect divisional or pennant results, then play-off and World Series games should be replayed as needed. After, all the integrity of the game is at stake here! Furthermore, any player from this point on found corking bats or doctoring the baseball should be banned for life to preserve the integrity of the game.

Noteworthy, too, is that the Baseball Hall of Fame did not exist at the time of Jackson's exile. Is it logical to banish someone from something that did not even exist? Obviously not. Would it make sense to execute a man for a crime that he has already served his full sentence for in prison if, at a later period of time, the crime was to become a

capital offense? It's good to bear in mind that when Commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis made his famous proclamation that: "No player who throws a ballgame, no player that undertakes or promises to throw a ballgame, no player that sits in conference with a bunch of crooked players and gamblers where the ways and means of throwing a game are discussed and does not promptly tell his club about it will ever play baseball again," was the only sentence passed onto the Black Sox. It wasn't until much later that they were declared ineligible for the Hall of Fame, in effect making that punishment retroactive.

It's also worth considering the evidence against Tris Speaker's and Ty Cobb's involvement with gambling. At the close of the 1926 season both Cobb and Speaker issued statements to the effect that they were retiring from the game. Word came out later that American League President Ban Johnson had recommended that both future Hall of Famers be dropped from the American League. Mr. Johnson had in his possession two letters written in 1919, one signed by Cobb, the other by Joe Wood, a fellow ball player and friend of Speaker. The letters were addressed to Tiger pitcher Dutch Leonard. The letter's subject involved a game between the Tigers and the Indians strongly suggesting that Cleveland had thrown the game. Although Speaker was not referred to in the letter, his close friendship with Wood would seem to show that he had a knowledge of the affair. This in itself may seem meaningless, but bear in mind Commissioner Landis agreed with Black Sox third baseman Buck Weaver that he had played his best in the 1919 World Series. Yet he had knowledge of the affair and neglected to report it. This was sufficient for Landis to bar him for life from the game.

Not insignificantly, when Speaker was dropped from the American League by Johnson, he made no attempt to have himself re-instated. When Commissioner Landis had a hearing, Dutch Leonard, despite being contacted by the Commissioner, refused to come East and testify. Due to not having "conclusive evidence," Landis dropped the matter

and currently both Speaker and Cobb are Hall of Fame members.

Interestingly, Landis, when questioned why he didn't take action against Cobb and Speaker, replied lamely that he couldn't bother himself with matters that happened before his commissionership. So the question needs to be asked: When did the 1919 World Series occur, before or after Landis took office? Let the record show: after. In fact, there has been persistent rumors that Landis cut a deal with Cobb on this. Cobb allegedly had knowledge of several of the game's biggest stars being involved with gambling and fixing games and threaten to go public with what he knew unless Landis dropped the matter. Although this is unconfirmed, it is well known that fixing games had been very prevalent in baseball up to that point and had been "swept under the rug" by those in charge so public suspicion would not be aroused.

Another point is that Landis was very weak-kneed when it came to making decisions that could adversely affect baseball. When the Baltimore Federal League club sued Organized Baseball for anti-trust violation, the suit landed in the court of Judge Landis. He deliberately avoided issuing a judgement on the matter because he fully knew that Baseball had violated anti-trust laws and was loathe to make that judgement, so he delayed until economic forces obligated the parties to settle out of court. One final point is that Landis' method of meting out justice was laughable to say the least. He ignored, in Jackson's case, the jury rulings on the Conspiracy trial of 1921 as well as Jackson vs Comiskey held in Wisconsin in 1924.

In an unrelated incident, former Federal League star Benny Kauff was blacklisted by Landis for Grand Theft Auto, despite the jury finding Kauff not guilty. Landis' reasoning? He figured that he was probably guilty. So Landis ignored three jury verdicts when he made his decisions and this from a former Federal Judge.

Joe Jackson's Performance in 1919 World Series Losses

Game 1 Score: Cincinnati 9, Chicago 1

2nd inning, score 0-1, leading off, Jackson is safe at second on Kopf's wild throw to first. He later scores on Gandil's single to right.

4th inning, score 1-1, 1 out, Jackson grounds out to short.

6th inning, score 1-6, 1 out, up with runners on first and second, Jackson grounds out to first, advancing the runners.

9th inning, score 1-9, leading off, Jackson flies out to deep right field.

Game 2 Score: Cincinnati 4, Chicago 2

2nd inning, score 0-0, leading off, Jackson lines double to center, Felsch sacrifices him to third, Gandil grounds out to short, Jackson holds third. Risberg flies out to right.

4th inning, score 0-0, up with Weaver on first, Jackson singles, Weaver goes to second, Felsch sacrifices both runners up. Gandil safe on

fielder's choice as Weaver is thrown out at the plate. Jackson goes to third. Gandil steals second. Risberg pops out to short.

6th inning, score 0-3, 1 out, up with Weaver on second, Jackson takes called third strike.

8th inning, score 2-4, up with 2 outs, Jackson singles to right and advances to second on a throwing error. He is left there.

Game 4 Score: Cincinnati 2, Chicago 0

2nd inning, 0-0, leading off, Jackson doubles to right-center. Felsch sacrifices him to third, Gandil pops out to second, Risberg walks and steals second, Schalk walks to load the bases, Cicotte grounds out to second.

3rd inning, 0-0, 2 outs, runner on second, Jackson is safe on error by Rath. Felsch grounds to third.

6th inning, 0-2, leading off, Jackson grounds out to short.

White Sox Batting Statistics for the 1919 World Series							
Players	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	BA
McMullin	2	0	1	0	0	0	.500
Jackson	32	5	12	3	0	1	.375
Weaver	34	4	11	4	1	0	.321
Schalk	23	1	7	0	0	0	.304
J. Collins	16	2	4	1	0	0	.250
Gandil	30	1	7	0	1	0	.233
E. Collins	32	2	7	1	0	0	.219
Williams	5	0	1	0	0	0	.200
Felsch	27	1	5	1	0	0	.185
Kerr	6	0	1	0	0	0	.167
Risberg	25	0	2	0	1	0	.080
Liebold	18	0	1	0	0	0	.056
Cicotte	8	0	0	0	0	0	.000

8th inning, 0-2, 1 out, Jackson strikes out.

Game 5

Score: Cincinnati 5, Chicago 0

1st inning, 0-0, 1 out, runners on first and third, Jackson pops out to third.

4th inning, 0-0, 1 out, Jackson bounces back

to the pitcher for second out.

7th inning, 0-4, leading off, Jackson grounds to second.

9th inning, 0-5, 2 outs, runner on third, Jackson grounds to short.

Game 8 Score: Cincinnati 10, Chicago 5

1st inning, score 0-4, 1 out, up with runners on second and third, Jackson pops to short left field.

3rd inning, score 0-5, 2 outs, up with no one on base, Jackson homers into right field bleachers.

6th inning, score 1-9, 1 out, up with runner on first, Jackson flies out to deep center.

8th inning, score 2-10, 1 out, up with runners on second and third, Jackson doubles to right, scoring both runners, Jackson later scores.

9th inning, score 5-10, 2 outs, up with runners on second and third, Jackson grounds out to short, ending the 1919 World Series.

BBWAA Rules for Election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame

1. Authorization — By authorization of the Board of Directors of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc., the Baseball Writers' Association of America (BBWAA) is authorized to hold an election every year for the purpose of electing members to the National Baseball Hall of Fame from the ranks of retired baseball players.

2. Electors — Only active and honorary members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America, who have been active baseball writers for at least ten (10) years, shall be eligible to vote. They must

have been active as baseball writers and members of the Association for a period beginning at least ten (10) years prior to the date of election in which they are voting.

3. Eligible Candidates — Candidates to be eligible must meet the following requirements:

(A) A baseball player must have been active as a player in the Major Leagues at some time during a period beginning twenty (20) years before and ending five (5) years prior to election.

(B) Player must have played in each of ten (10) Major League championship seasons, some part of which must have been within the period described in 3 (A).

(C) Player shall have ceased to be an active player in the Major Leagues at least five (5) calendar years preceding the election but may be otherwise connected with baseball.

(D) In case of the death of an active player or a player who has been retired for less than five (5) full years, a candidate who is otherwise eligible shall be eligible in the next regular election held at least six (6) months after the date of death or after the end of the five (5) year period, whichever occurs first.

(E) Any player on Baseball's ineligible list shall not be an eligible candidate.

4. Method of Election

(A) BBWAA Screening Committee — A Screening Committee consisting of baseball writers will be appointed by the BBWAA. This Screening Committee shall consist of six members, with two members to be elected at each Annual Meeting for a three-year term. The duty of the Screening Committee shall be to prepare a ballot listing in alphabetical order eligible candidates who (1) received a vote on a minimum of five percent (5%) of the ballots cast in the preceding election or (2)

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Joe Jackson Chronology

1888	Joseph Jefferson Jackson is born in Pickens County, South Carolina, the first of six boys and two girls brought into the world by George and Martha Jackson
1893	George Jackson moves his family to a textile mill village outside of Greenville, SC, called Brandon Mill.
1901	Joe begins to play ball on the Brandon Mill team.
1906	Joe begins his semipro career with the Greenville Near Leaguers.
1908	Enters professional baseball with Greenville in the Carolina Association and leads league in batting with a .346 average; the same year he marries his sweetheart Katherine Wynn and makes his major league debut with the Philadelphia Athletics.
1910	Traded to Cleveland after playing two years in the minor leagues; Joe hits .387 over final 20 games of the season.
1911	Bats .408 during his first full major league season, highest batting average ever by a rookie.
1912	Bats .395 and leads American League in triples; Joe signs a contract with Hillerich and Bradsby to have his signature appear on their famous Louisville Slugger baseball bats.
1913	Leads American League with 197 hits and .551 slugging average.
1915	Joe is traded to the Chicago White Sox in August, a move that would forever change his life.
1917	Joe bats .307 and stars in the field, leading the White Sox to victory over the New York Giants in the World Series.
1918	Joe takes a job in the ship yards during World War I.
1919	Jackson bats .351 during the regular season; posts .375 average at bat and a perfect 1.000 fielding average in the World Series as the White Sox lose to the Cincinnati Reds.
1920	Bats .385 during regular season and leads league in triples for third time; Joe is suspended after allegations that 8 members of the White Sox conspired together to throw the 1919 World Series.
1921	Chicago jury acquits Jackson of helping to fix the 1919 World Series, however Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, first commissioner of baseball, goes against the court ruling and commits what amounts to contempt of court and bans Jackson and seven other Chicago players from organized baseball for life.
1922	Jackson moves to Savannah, Georgia, and opens a dry-cleaning business which becomes very successful. Joe plays baseball in the summers with any team willing to pay for his services.
1929	Joe returns to Greenville, South Carolina, where he lives quietly as a businessman and plays semipro ball for several more years.
1951	Joseph Jefferson Jackson dies at home on December 5th.

Continued from page 13

are eligible for the first time and are nominated by any two of the six members of the BBWAA Screening Committee.

(B) An elector will vote for no more than ten (10) eligible candidates deemed worthy of election. Write-in votes are not permitted.

(C) Any candidate receiving votes on seventy-five percent (75%) of the ballots cast shall be elected to membership in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

5. Voting — Voting shall be based upon the player's record, playing ability, integrity, sportsmanship, character, and contributions to the team(s) on which the player played.

6. Automatic Elections — No automatic elections based on performances such as a batting average of .400 or more for one (1) year, pitching a perfect game or similar outstanding achievement shall be permitted.

7. Time of Election — The duly authorized representatives of the BBWAA shall prepare, date and mail ballots to each elector no later than the 15th day of January in each year in which an election is held. The elector shall sign and return the completed ballot within twenty (20) days. The vote shall then be tabulated by the duly authorized representatives of the BBWAA.

8. Certification of Election Results — The results of the election shall be certified by a representative of the Baseball Writers' Association of America and an officer of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc. The results shall be transmitted to the Commissioner of Baseball. The BBWAA and National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc. shall jointly release the results for publication.

9. Amendments — The Board of Directors of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc.

reserves the right to revoke, alter or amend these rules at any time.

Reader's Theory

by - Ed Nixon

It has been said that we will never know the REAL FACTS surrounding the Black Sox scandal, the issues were too clouded, the "facts" were confused, etc. etc. I would like to put forth my interpretation of what happened.

It is a foregone conclusion that the Black Sox case was mishandled by Kenesaw Landis. Landis ignored a court verdict of "not guilty," when he (illegally) banished the eight White Sox players for life. What Landis did amounted to contempt of court. Why did the legal community not cry, "foul?"

It is my belief that Landis, Alfred Austrian, Comiskey, and Arnold Rothstein, all had a "back room" agreement to protect their interests in the wake of the scandal. Landis' decision to ban the eight Black Sox for life was a public relations gimmick to show the public he was thinking of the best interests of the game. Landis, being the glory hog that he was, wanted to make a name for himself right off the bat. Alfred Austrian wanted to do what was best for his client, Comiskey, and to hell with the eight White Sox. Austrian did not care that the players would be banished by Landis, and yes, Austrian knew this would happen. Charles Comiskey knew about the extent of the scandal. He had detectives working for him. Comiskey would not call off the Series, even when Joe told him it was crooked. Comiskey did not want to suffer the economic ramifications of lost ticket sales. Arnold Rothstein didn't want his name connected with the Series, he just wanted to collect his winnings and go back to his rat hole (his share of winners money was substantial, some think around a million dollars). Publicity was something Rothstein did not want.

So, what would have been fair punishment for the Black Sox? I think one year suspensions for Cicotte, Williams, Flesh, Risberg, and Gandil would have been appropriate. McMullin, even though he attended the meetings of the gamblers and players, should have been fined only. Jackson and Weaver should have been completely exonerated and returned to Major League Baseball. Their playing record in the 1919 World Series is proof enough that they played to win.

Memorabilia

The Conlon Collection

by - Joe Chowaniec

In 1991, Megacards introduced the “Conlon Collection” to the sports card industry. This collection featured the black and white photography of Charles Martin Conlon. Conlon photographed baseball from 1905-1942 for “The Sporting News.” The backs of the cards contained the complete career statistics and biographical information on players during this era. Megacards had originally planned to release 330 cards each year for 10 years, but in 1995 only half of the cards were released when the company was forced to cease the production and marketing of this collection.

The demise of this beautiful and artistic set of cards was partially due to the changing sports card market and the baseball strike. The quality of material produced was first class and it was apparent that each piece of baseball history that Megacards produced was done for the love of the game.

The 1994 set of cards featured a subset highlighting the 1919 Black Sox Scandal. Cards 1019 to 1042 focus on the players involved in this black time for baseball. Card 1030 features Joe Jackson and card 1042 features the White Sox outfielders. Along with each set, Megacards released colored card inserts. Card 21 features a portrait shot of Joe Jackson and the caption “Why Not in Hall of Fame?” This color card is truly a must for all Jackson collectors.

Megacards released other cards of Joe Jackson including promotional and prototype cards. They also released a poster of Joe Jackson warming up in 1920 and a color Conlon portrait of Jackson from 1913 when he was with the Cleveland Indians.

In the first half of the 1995 set, inserts called “In The Zone” were released. One card features Jackson and Ken Griffey, Jr.

The Conlon Collection is a relatively cheap investment and can still be found at a few dealers throughout the United States. The color cards and promotional and prototype cards will be a harder find.

Trivia Answers

- 1) Blue Darters
- 2) Joe said hairpins brought him good luck and he would pick them up wherever he saw them, the rustier the better.
- 3) Catcher. He moved to the outfield after a pitch slammed into his face-mask, denting his forehead.

Questions on page 8

Other Notes on Joe Jackson Memorabilia

by - Joe Chowaniec

At the recent Robert Edward Auctions, two notable pieces of memorabilia were sold. A Joe Jackson Autographed 1919 World Series Home Run Ball sold for \$32,351 and a 1915 Cracker Jack Complete Set of 176 cards sold for \$46,301.

Web Watch

The “Shoeless Joe Jackson Times” web page is located at <<http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~tkram01>> where you can view all the issues of the “Shoeless Joe Jackson Times,” sign the online Jackson petition, browse through the picture gallery containing photographs and drawings of Joe, download past and current newsletters for offline viewing and printing, start a subscription for a friend interested in the newsletter, and link to other Shoeless Joe related web pages. The web site was designed by Will and Trevor Kramer, who can be reached at tkram01@emory.edu.

Readers Write



Over the Internet

Are there any new books out about Joe Jackson or baseball in its prime?

- Douglas Levin

I have seen four new books about Jackson recently:

- “Blue Ruin” by Breden Boyd, a novel based on the 1919 World Series
- “Never Just A Game” by Robert F. Burk, covering baseball history through 1920
- “Shoeless Joe Jackson” by Jack Kavanagh
- “Shoeless Joe and Ragtime Baseball” by Harvey Frommer.

- Trevor D. Kramer

This web site is great for those of us who enjoy the lure of old-time baseball. Keep up the good work and I’m looking forward to reading more about Shoeless Joe.

- Jefferey Anderson

I feel the evidence is overwhelming that Jackson did not do anything to harm the greatest game in the world in 1919 or any other year. He deserves to have his rightful place in the Hall of Fame. If anyone should be banned from the game it is the current owners who voted against acceptance of the contract they hired their negotiator to pencil out. Those no voting owners ought to be banned. They are the one’s damaging the game.

- Richard A. Zaikovsky

Through the Mail

I believe that “Shoeless Joe” is one of the greatest stories in the history of American culture. It is one of the best examples of the struggle between the powerful economic forces in this country and an individual’s desire to better himself or herself through hard work, dedication, and the love of a profession. The rich and powerful see us, the

people, as pawns, in their quest toward greater riches and power. We, the people, see greatness in individual effort.

I was most willing to sign your petition. But I like to think in far greater concepts. The will of the people is the greatest force on earth. Once the average person knows the importance of a cause, he or she has been the most willing to join to support that cause. Once people know the importance of Shoeless Joe's story, that greatest force will be unleashed upon organized baseball. The word "petition" does not express the ferocity and certainty of the will of the people.

- Edward Meyer

- 1) Do you know what happened to Black Betsy?
- 2) Do you know if there exists any game used bats?
- 3) Do you know if there exists any signed bats?

- Frank Ceresi

Joe gave Black Betsy to the former mayor of Greenville, South Carolina as a gift after he retired. Black Betsy appeared recently in November of 1994 when it was put up for auction, expected to bring around \$50,000. Surprisingly, the minimum bid was not reached so it was not sold.

- Trevor D. Kramer

SHADOWS FALL ON COMISKEY,
THE CROWDS HAVE DISAPPEARED.
NO CRACK OF THE BAT IS HEARD,
NO SMACK OF BALL ON GLOVE.

A STRANGE CALM FILLS THE AIR,
SOMETHING STIRS UPON THE FIELD;
SLOWLY, A FORM COMES OUT OF THE NIGHT,
A BASEBALL PLAYER OF A TIME GONE BY;

HE TAKES HIS PLACE IN THE LEFT FIELD
SPOT, A PLACE WHERE IN LIFE HE HAD NO
PEER; HE CROUCHES AND WAITS, WITH HANDS
ON HIS KNEES, FOR THE INEVITABLE FLIGHT
OF THE HORSEHIDE SPHERE.

A CRACK IS HEARD OF BALL ON BAT, THE FIELDER
RACES TO THE OUTFIELD WALL, AND JUST AS THE
BALL, IT SEEMS WOULD CLEAR, AN OUTSTRETCHED
HAND AND GLOVE APPEAR, AND ANOTHER WOULD BE
HOMER DIES IN THE GLOVE OF SHOELESS JOE.

- "THE OUTFIELDER" BY EDWARD NIXON

Readers Write Form

Write any questions or comments in the space below. We will print them with a reply. Please send to TΔK Publishing, 10 Shiloh Court, Madison, WI 53705-2464.

Other Readers Interested:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

The Petition Statement

We the undersigned fans of Major League Baseball are strongly opposed to the lifetime ban on Joseph Jefferson Jackson, and regardless of guilt or innocence believe he should be eligible for induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

We formally protest the manner in which the eight players of the Chicago White Sox organization were banned from baseball. We request a formal inquiry into the World Series of 1919 before a judge and jury with a representative of each player standing trial.

We urge the Baseball Hall of Fame to investigate this matter before the years past become too many, and there is no chance to discover the truth and restore honor to those families to which honor belongs.

Signed:

Name: _____ Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Country: _____

Comments: _____

PRIVACY POLICY: Information collected during this campaign will not be used for any purpose other than delivering a list of signers to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. It will not be reused, sold, rented, loaned, or used for any other purpose. All records will be destroyed immediately upon completion of this project.

Petition Rationale

We oppose baseball's lifetime ban on Shoeless Joe Jackson for the following reasons:

- He was stripped of his livelihood and his pursuit of happiness without a trial before a jury of his peers.
- His lifetime ban was a public relations maneuver to restore faith in Major League Baseball and not based on fact or evidence.
- There are players currently enshrined in the Hall of Fame whose baseball transgressions are certainly worse than Joe Jackson's.