

BLACK SOX SCANDAL



Vol. 1, No. 2, July 2009

Research Committee Newsletter

Leading off ...

Carney was 'pre-eminent authority'

Portions of this news obituary appeared in *The Observer-Dispatch* on July 7, 2009.

By Anne Delaney
The Observer-Dispatch
(Utica, N.Y.)

Baseball author, researcher, scholar and historian **Gene Carney**, who earned national recognition for his research and writing on the 1919 Chicago Black Sox scandal, died July 5 while on vacation in Alaska.

Carney was 63. He is survived by his wife, Barbara L. Carney, and children, Mary

of Seattle, Wash., and Patrick of Utica.

Born May 6, 1946 in Pittsburgh, Pa., Carney was a lifelong Pittsburgh Pirates fan who turned an interest in the Chicago White Sox into an avocation. The author of three books, Carney's 2006 book on the Black Sox titled "Burying the Black Sox: How Baseball's Cover-Up of the



1919 World Series Fix Almost Succeeded," led the Utican to become a recognized expert on the subject.

The book was a finalist for the Dave Moore award for most important baseball of 2006.

"His book is considered to be as revealing as Mr. (Eliot) Asinof's," said Tim Wiles, the National Baseball Hall of Fame director of

research. "We've lost the pre-eminent authority on the Black Sox. He was the go-to guy."

Wiles and Carney also were members of the Utica-Cooperstown chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research, a national organization of more than 6,000 members interested in the research and preservation of baseball and its history.

Carney organized the local SABR chapter nine years ago with Clinton (N.Y.) High School Principal Richard Hunt. Because of

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Chairman's Corner

Editor's note: Gene wrote a column on June 20 to appear in this space for the "special edition" newsletter we had planned, in which we intended to highlight his trip to Chicago to study the new Black Sox-related documents at the Chicago History Museum. It is printed here in its entirety.

By Gene Carney

I enjoy classical music and sometimes the titles of certain pieces of music seem to fit my research and writings well. I know Sir Edward Elgar never saw the "new" Black Sox documents at the Chicago History Museum,

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A treasure trove of material

By Gene Carney

This is a preliminary report on my visit to Chicago, where, with the assistance of a SABR-Yoseloff research grant, I just spent parts of three days at the Chicago History Museum.

I doubt that this report will start a gold rush, but here are some tips up front for anyone who wants to go digging. And I do encourage anyone interested to do so. The CHMD is too much to read in one day or three. More and

different eyes will see more and different things. Not all the gold is laying on the surface in big nuggets that are easy to spot, there is a lot of panning to be done, too.

Make an appointment at the CHM Research Center. The RC is on the third floor of the museum, and its staff is very friendly. There is a fee, \$5 a day or \$15 for a year. The Center is not open every day, so check their schedule at their web site. Summer hours meant that I could visit only from

1-4:30 p.m. on a Wednesday, and 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. With a few extra morning hours that first day, I roamed the rest of the museum, expecting to spend most of my time at their Black Sox exhibit. But there was none, just a showcase or two on Chicago sports. So there is more info at their web site on the B-Sox than on display at the museum; nothing to hint at that new treasure upstairs. (Actually,

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► CHAIRMAN

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yet I can't help but wonder if he had *something like them* in mind when he wrote those variations, back in 1898-99.

Because when I sit back and look at the hundreds of papers in that collection, they are almost all variations on papers I've seen before. And they add to the mystery, as much as they help solve it. Some are recognizable from newspaper stories, others from books and articles, and some from material still not readily accessible to the researching public. I do not pretend to have mined every nugget from the CHM lode. I'm sure that I have not, so no one is more anxious than I am to see what different eyes will turn up.

The CHM collection will be a shock to many people, who have no idea that once upon a time, a World Series was "fixed" — that some ballplayers conspired with and accepted bribes from gamblers, and while we are still not certain that they did anything to earn the money, their careers were abruptly ended.

Because most people know of the Fix from the 1988 movie "Eight Men Out," they will be shocked to learn that the Fix was covered up by baseball for nearly a year; the film covers up that fact. The CHM documents add evidence for that delayed justice, and they also call attention to a still-obscure 1924 trial in Milwaukee, which shed

much light on the Fix and cover-up — more, perhaps, than the "Black Sox trial" of 1921, which made headlines.

I'm not sure I can be shocked anymore by anything in the B-Sox story. Surprised, yes. I was surprised that most of the detective reports from the White Sox' investigation, from right after the 1919 Series on into 1920, are intact. They make for fascinating reading, even though they turn up little of substance.

I was very surprised to see transcripts from the 1921 trial; their existence gives us hope of finding more. And there are transcripts from the 1920 *grand jury*, even more amazing. And notes connected with that 1924 trial which give us an insider's look at the strategy of the White Sox legal team, on the defense.

Spending parts of three days with the CHM documents yielded more than 20 different items, some short and some long, which I thought were worth writing up in "Notes"; and three longer articles which will appear elsewhere first. These reports only begin to map a path through the CHM material.

And remember, my main interest is the B-Sox — someone else with a strong interest in the Lasker Plan, the Carl Mays case, the war among club owners that led to the ascent of Judge Landis, will spend hours with papers that I skimmed. These documents cover *baseball*, Ray, as it survived its darkest hours.

Special edition for a special man

As soon as we finished putting the final touches on the first Black Sox Scandal Research Committee newsletter in May, Gene Carney was sending me his ideas for the next one.

Before he had even returned from his recent trip to Chicago on a SABR-Yoseloff research grant to study the new Black Sox documents at the Chicago History Museum, Gene e-mailed to tell me he had more than enough material to fill up a "special edition" of the newsletter, which we planned to publish just before the SABR national convention at the end of July.

Sadly, the committee's first chairman — who was so instrumental in getting it formed in November 2008 — isn't around to see our second newsletter.

Instead, this edition is a tribute to the driving force behind the research committee, a kind and considerate man who made us all feel welcome, no matter our level of involvement or contributions. Many members have contributed their memories of Gene for these pages, and I want to thank you all for sharing your stories.

Gene's assistance to my own research has been invaluable, and his tireless work ethic has been inspirational. I will miss his spirit, his ideas and, indeed, his presence, terribly. I hope he finally has found all the "pieces of the B-Sox puzzle" he was searching for.

— Jacob Pomrenke

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► TREASURE

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there is another collection at the CHM, the papers of Eliot Asinof, related to Eight Men Out, but these are still in the process of being preserved, photocopied and catalogued.)

I think for many people, Box 1, Folder 1, will be a highlight. It contains 27 different reports from the detectives hired by the White Sox within a few weeks after the 1919 World Series ended.

The final report, a summary of their findings, was an exhibit in the 1924 Milwaukee trial, and I had seen that before. But I don't think I've seen anywhere, the

actual, very detailed reports. They range from three- and four-page letters, to brief telegrams (and one handwritten note).

In no special order, here are some of the other things in the CHMD that I look forward to expanding on:

◆ Transcripts from the 1921 trial. Just a fraction, but as far as I know, no one alive has seen any transcripts from 1921, and when Asinof went looking in 1960, they were thought to be long gone.

◆ A nine-page letter from Comiskey to John E. (Ed) Wray of the St Louis Post-Dispatch, protesting the newspaper's biography of Ban Johnson.

◆ Alfred Austrian pre-

served, bless him, his own testimony from the 1924 trial, which is fairly lengthy. I am guessing that he knew the value of having one's statements handy — in case he had to take the stand again, at a future trial.

◆ Probably the "juiciest" tidbit in the CHMD — and there's a book coming out soon, based on it — is the suggestion by Eddie Cicotte, before he goes to the grand jury, that the players came up with the Fix idea because they heard rumors that the 1918 Series had been the target of bribery, and some Cub or Cubs had received \$10,000.

There are lots of intriguing scraps in the CHMD, tantaliz-

ing items that stand alone, and beg for corroboration or amplification or clarification. I hope that this preliminary report, as helter-skelter as it is, gives readers a feel for what treasures the CHMD holds.

I think it is fair to say that there is plenty for everybody in the CHMD. It's a Disney World for B-Sox researchers, and I cannot imagine anyone coming away disappointed, or empty-handed. I do hope to hear from other prospectors. There needs to be not only a lot of note-taking, but a lot of comparing of our notes.

Read Gene Carney's reports of the Chicago History Museum documents at www.baseball1.com/notes.

► CARNEY

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Carney's attention to detail and studious nature, Hunt was able to recall his initial introduction to Carney.

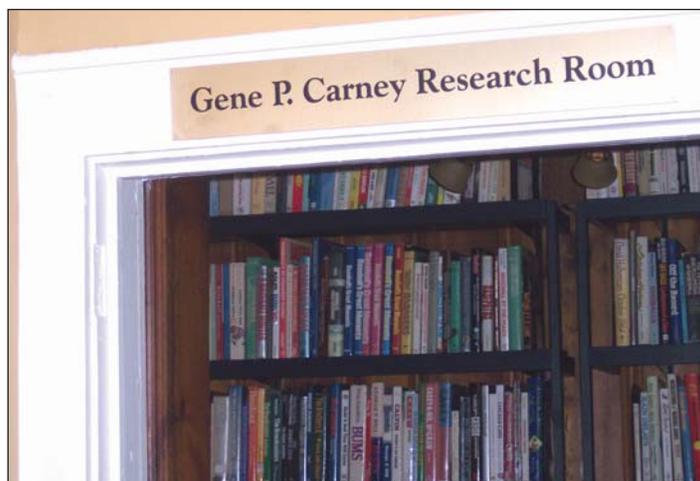
"We met Aug. 21, 2000," Hunt discovered. "Gene kept detailed records of each meeting."

The men met at Utica College and went to a Blue Sox game. The local SABR chapter grew to 30 members from the Utica area.

"He was such a gentleman and so passionate," Hunt said. "I feel terrible."

Carney wrote an online column "Notes from the Shadows of Cooperstown" for the Web site www.baseball1.com since 1998.

In the entries, Carney



On July 19, the Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum in Greenville, S.C., dedicated its baseball library to Gene Carney. Curator Arlene Marcley said, "I will be eternally grateful for his articles, books and relentless efforts to get to the bottom of the 1919 World Series scandal." (Photo credit: Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum)

would opine on baseball issues from the past and present.

In his final posting, dated June 15, Carney wrote about some of the valuable information he

found in Chicago.

"I suspect that once these transcripts 'get around' — maybe on the internet — we will see a lot of folks sympathizing with the players, whose side, I think, most

fans instinctively take. ... In the end, we are all put in the jury box. We listen (read), then talk amongst ourselves, and only much later, make up our own minds."

Carney came to the Mohawk Valley with the intention of joining the Marianist order of priests at its novitiate in Marcy. He trained with the brothers and priests for about a decade, Mary Carney said, but eventually changed his mind about pursuing a religious life.

"He was very professorial in a good way," Wiles said.

"He was a gentleman and scholar. He had a lot of depth and he was a helping person. He wanted to leave the place better than how he found it."

REMEMBERING GENE CARNEY

We “met” in a coincidental way. Something that I was searching out led me to him and his Notes from the Shadows of Cooperstown. He helped me find what I was looking for, naturally.

He was blogging about baseball and history (his own observations, personal experiences from his upbringing in the shadows of Forbes Field and beyond, even some fiction and poetry) before anybody knew what a blog was. (It was a hobby — his writing was very literate. He must have made a great teacher.) ...

Gene's qualities of kindness, openness to ideas and intellectual curiosity and rigor should be examples to us all. The Notes and this very Yahoo group are among the legacies of this unique and irreplaceable individual.

— **JEFF KUTLER**
Brooklyn, NY



Each of us will remember Gene in a special way, but in all of these remembrances and tributes there is a common thread. It made no difference whether Gene had ever met you in person, nor how little or great your interest in the Black Sox Scandal, or even the game of baseball itself, he was your friend for life.

He would do anything he could to embrace you and make sure you felt a part of the group. Your interests became his interests. I only knew him for five or six years, but I felt I knew him for much longer. I am sure that was true for all of us.

Given the suddenness and untimeliness of his death, it is difficult to put a positive spin on Gene's passing. However, we must remember that when he died Gene was enjoying life to the fullest, traveling in Alaska with his wife Barbara and friends. He had plans to see his daughter Mary who lived in Seattle.

Before he left he was enjoying his retirement to the utmost, fully immersed in his baseball work, just returned from a very fruitful trip to Chicago to see the newly uncovered material at the Chicago History Museum. ... I can only hope to be this happy and involved when my time comes.

So as we each deal with Gene's loss in our own special way and sympathize with his wife, son and daughter in their tragic loss, I hope we can also celebrate Gene's life and accomplishments.

One way would be for all of us to work hard to make the Black Sox Committee the enjoyable experience and valuable research tool that Gene intended. Through his considerable efforts the framework is already in place. I'm sure he will be with us in spirit every step of the way.

— **RICK HUHN**
Westerville, OH

I first “met” Gene in 2003 shortly after my website 1919BlackSox.com went live. ... I suddenly began receiving question after question about what I knew, my sources and an assortment of other inquiries pertaining to the Black Sox Scandal. Back then, I began to wonder “Who is this guy?” Of course, as time went on we developed a rapport and frequently exchanged info. Always patient in answering each of my questions in a timely manner, he was a gentleman in every sense of the word. I clearly recall when his book got published how proud I was of him, and in a small way, being a part of his research team. I will permanently keep his autographed copy of his book as a token of our friendship.

I will miss receiving NOTES. I will miss the enthusiasm Gene brought with him in his quest to unravel the tangled knot we know as the Black Sox Scandal. And I will also miss my friend.

— **ERIK VARON**
chi1919blacksox@aol.com

Like everyone else, I'm deeply shocked and saddened to hear of Gene's passing. As we all know, Gene was a researcher and writer par excellence, and, even more, a friend, mentor, and role model to many of us. He will be sorely missed.

After corresponding with him numerous times over the past few years, I finally had the chance to meet him this last May on his trip to Chicago. I picked him up at his hotel and we went to the Cubs game that night ... which, by the way, was Gene's first and only trip to Wrigley Field.

The next night, I picked him up again and drove him through rush-hour traffic clear across the north side of Chicago to Shoeless Joe's Sports Bar. This place is full of Joe Jackson and Black Sox memorabilia, including many original newspaper front pages from 1919. I knew Gene would love this place, and I'm glad I made the effort to get him there. He seemed to really enjoy it.

Years ago I told myself if Gene would ever come to Chicago, I was going to take him to Shoeless Joe's. We had a great time, talking all the whole

evening about the Black Sox and his latest research discoveries at the Chicago museum. The time just flew by, as we were both in our glory!

As we said goodbye that night, he autographed my copy of “Burying the Black Sox,” thanked me repeatedly for driving him around the city and then gave me a gift of an autographed copy of his book of baseball poetry. Needless to say, I was very grateful.

My deepest condolences to his family.

— **GARY LIVACARI**
Park Ridge, IL



I had the pleasure to have met Gene in person and corresponded with him numerous times. He was a great guy in person.

As a researcher and writer he was first class. I will very much miss his columns and his encouraging e-mails.

I was really looking forward to the SABR national convention in D.C. to see him again.

I hope his family finds strength in this difficult time.

— **JIM ELFERS**
Newark, DE

REMEMBERING GENE CARNEY

Gene was one of the SABR members I most wanted to meet. I have enjoyed reading his Notes from the Shadows and other forms of communications for the past few years and feel as though I've lost a close friend. I will miss him. My best to his family.

— **STEPHEN ABLE**
Indianapolis, IN



Gene was a man who shared everything: the ultimate collaborator. But in the end, he took the lead to become the most renowned and respected Black Sox scholar of the last quarter century.

Thank goodness he got to enjoy the respect he so richly deserved for "Burying the Black Sox."

I can't tell you all how much I will miss him.

— **STEVE KLEIN**
Fairfax, VA



He was such a good man, kind and generous with his information. He told me much about fantasy baseball while I was preparing my new book. I admired his talent in playwriting, too. Most of all, he uncovered (and understood) more about the Black Sox than any of us ever knew. He followed the scent wherever it took him, finding things some of us had been looking for but never found.

Because of him, we understand the events of that Scandal much better. I liked him very much as a person. I'll miss him.

— **DOROTHY SEYMOUR MILLS**
Naples, FL

I did a lot of reflecting on my friend Gene Carney last night and early this morning. I went back through my old email messages and realized that Gene first contacted me in 2001 as he was doing some research for an article about Buck Weaver and Joe Jackson.

From there, our friendship grew and Gene and I talked almost weekly from that time until my last message from him on June 21 ... his mind still trying to come up with new angles ... even proposed a play (a musical) that he was wanting to debut ... said he was going to write Joe Jackson in for a cameo.

Gene came to me early on for answers about Joe or about this question or that, but Gene actually pushed me to do more than I had in the past 25 years of researching this stuff. He had that way of making you question your findings and to dig a little deeper to get at the real meat of whatever it was you were researching.

The guy used to send me questions asking if I had an article on this person or that ... and I would think "Who??? That guy can't possibly be related to the Black Sox Scandal." Sure enough, I had an article and Gene and I would piece the parts together ... and he was usually right in the end ... that the guy DID have something to do with the scandal.

Gene was fascinated by the written word and he focused on a lot of what was written during and after the Black Sox Scandal, which helped me a lot in my research. He helped me go back and look at newspaper articles I had read 20 plus years ago and didn't get much out of, but when

taking a second look ... found that gem ... that put another piece in the puzzle. He picked those articles apart ... piece by piece ... stuff that I read and passed over ... he picked up on key points that I missed ... he just had a knack for it.

I finally got to meet Gene in person last summer during the opening of the Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum in Greenville. Gene and his brother Mike went to supper with me on the Friday before the opening. I spent most of the day with he and Tom Perry on that Saturday and then I met he and his brother at the Greenville Drive baseball game that night, sat with them ... just had a great time talking baseball, having a beer and burger.

I was deeply sadden by the news yesterday and as I said ... thought a lot about my friend yesterday and early this morning ... probably will for many days to come. It's not often that strangers can come together over a simple question and become great friends on the other side of that question ... Gene Carney was one of those people for me and I will miss him dearly.

As I sat this morning in my little pity party ... a smile came to my face when it dawned on me ... that my friend now knows all the details of that scandal that I have been searching for, for over 25 years. I assume right about now ... the sun is coming up over a corn field in Iowa and Gene Carney has just come out of the corn. Stepping up to the mound and is about to make his pitching debut against the great Shoeless Joe Jackson.

I will miss you Gene Carney!!!

— **MIKE NOLA**
Tallahassee, FL

I interviewed Gene for the second of my two documentaries on the Black Sox for ESPN Classic, back in the era when we produced original documentaries by staffers rather than celebrity directors. Gene's insight and research were the driving force behind, "Top 5 Reasons You Can't Blame: 1919 White Sox for Throwing the World Series" in 2005.

He had just e-mailed me a couple of weeks ago about whether I was going to suggest a story on the 90th anniversary of that World Series. I said that I had mentioned it to my supervisor and that we would talk again upon his return from his vacation.

People like Gene who yearn and dig for knowledge just for its own sake are way too few and far between in this society of instant gratification. I hope now that he is getting the answers to his questions firsthand from the sources themselves.

— **BARRY ABRAMS**
Bristol, CT



I was shocked to learn just this moment from Gabe Schecter's SABR-L post that my friend Gene Carney had died while on holiday, with evident suddenness.

His book was great, as was his newsletter, but the best thing about Gene were his enthusiasm and generosity. He was definitely one of SABR's best.

— **JOHN THORN**
Kingston, NY

REMEMBERING GENE CARNEY

I first heard Gene Carney speak at the SABR convention in Cincinnati, I believe it was, and naturally it was as part of a panel dealing with the Black Sox. I thought at the time, that he had more information at his fingertips on this subject than I could ever hope to accumulate.

A couple of SABR conventions later, I was lunching at the hotel coffee shop and saw Gene eating alone. I wanted to discuss his favorite topic with him, but aware that my knowledge of the scandal paled in comparison to his, I was almost afraid to approach him. As anyone who spent any time with Gene no doubt knew, however, he was eminently approachable; I introduced myself and we talked Black Sox for a little while.

When I volunteered to write the Charles Comiskey bio for "Deadball Stars of the AL," you know who the first person was that I went to for help: I e-mailed Gene and told him I had the daunting task of writing Commie's biography; Gene gladly e-mailed me back a number of chapters of his upcoming book (the since award-winning "Burying the

Black Sox") that dealt directly with my subject.

When "Deadball Stars" was published, I wrote to him again, asking if I had slipped up anywhere in my article, or made any statements that were factually incorrect. Gene not only liked it, he commented that he had learned a few things in it about Commie that he didn't know. Now THAT was a compliment!

At a subsequent SABR convention, I thanked Gene for his help and he in turn, threw out the idea that maybe someone should pen a "dual biography"— a bio of Comiskey and Ban Johnson, written perhaps in alternating chapters, culminating with their feud. I loved the idea and told him that anytime he was ready, I would be thrilled to write the Comiskey half. "One of these days when I'm not so busy," he told me, and since then I tried to remind him of it every time I saw him.

No doubt, wherever he is, Gene can now totally immerse himself in the subject he loved.

Rest in Peace, Gene.

— **IRV GOLDFARB**
North Woodmere, NY

On May 30, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of "The Greatest Game Ever Pitched" and the life of Harvey Haddix in Harvey's home county Clark County, Ohio. As part of the celebration we created a 32-page magazine program. In his career, Gene had written a couple of pieces on this game and graciously gave us permission to use them in the publication.

Unfortunately we did not have

the space to use his article "The Accomplice," but we were able to use his poem "Harvey on the Mound." He actually went out of his way to contact me when he heard of the planning of the event because the game had meant so much to his boyhood baseball memories. We will always appreciate his efforts. What a great loss to our baseball community.

— **MARK MILLER**
Springfield, OH

It is with a stunned sadness that I write these words about my friend Gene. Over the years, we spent many an hour talking about baseball, and other topics, while riding together from our homes to Cooperstown or sitting at a ballpark watching a game or signing books somewhere.

In September of 2001, Gene, fellow SABR member Bob Palazzo and I attended the final game of the Utica Blue Sox season, knowing it might be the final game ever as it was rumored the team would be sold.

I wrote a newspaper column about that night and how Palazzo mentioned it had the feel of a funeral. There was a photo of the three of us in the column. Well, the team was sold and moved.

Then, last year, Bob passed away much too young, and

now we have lost Gene. The tremendous sense of loss I feel is tempered by the fact that I did get to spend much time with Gene in the last few months as we made many trips to Cooperstown. I can't even begin to imagine making that trip now without his always pleasant company.

Perhaps the best we can all hope for in life is that the world is a slightly better place for our being here — and that certainly was the case with Gene's life. The ground he broke with his research and writing on the Black Sox scandal is a staggering achievement. While many people supplied vital pieces, Gene put the puzzle together.

He will be missed by many. May we meet again on a field of dreams, my friend.

— **SCOTT FIESTHUMEL**
Clinton, NY

"A gentleman and a scholar" is what the article says. I would have liked to have said that first about Gene.

I only knew him in cyberspace, but he treated me a newcomer, and an obscure one at that, with kindness while giving me the benefit of his formidable intellect. Then the everyday affairs of life

got in the way, and now I will only have the memories.

Even in this impersonal medium his extraordinary qualities were evident. I wish I had the opportunity to meet him. I would like to offer my sincerest condolences to his friends and family.

— **STEVE IMGRUND**
West Columbia, SC

Being somewhat of a beginner when it came to research, I would e-mail Gene asking for research tips and his opinion on things that I posted. He always found time to get back to me with valuable insight.

It is great to see that with everyone else's encounters with him, he did the exact same thing when it came to giving his

time. For someone who I knew for only 6-7 months, I thought of him as a friend and it felt good to have someone I admired act as a type of mentor in researching the game that I love.

My prayers go out to all of his friends and family.

— **MATTHEW ABER**
mattaber2007@gmail.com

REMEMBERING GENE CARNEY

I was deeply saddened to learn about Gene's passing.

Although we never met in person, I considered him a friend. We had corresponded by e-mail for many years and I'm happy that I saved a number of messages and was able to read them again today.

We had assisted each other with research and traded books across the U.S./Canadian border. We also exchanged news clippings including some where I

was able to confirm for Gene that Black Sox players Swede Risberg and Happy Flesch had played in Manitoba.

I laughed when Gene mentioned on the list before he left on his vacation that he might try to find out more about their time in Canada while he was out west. I thought about reminding him that Manitoba is located north of Minnesota and North Dakota, not "out west."

I've never made it to a SABR

convention, but when I finally did, Gene and incoming president Andy McCue were the two people I wanted to track down immediately and say hello and thanks for their friendship and help over the years.

He'll be missed and I'll miss seeing a message that a new issue of Notes From the Shadows of Cooperstown is online.

— **T. KENT MORGAN**
Winnipeg, MB

Gene welcomed me to the club with open arms, even though I had only a passing interest in the Black Sox. Over the months and years, I've come to appreciate the high level of discourse and insight, and Gene led by example. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family — he will be sorely missed.

— **PHIL MELITA**
Richmond, VA



I just received word that my good friend Gene Carney passed away in his sleep yesterday while vacationing in Alaska. Words cannot express the sorrow I feel. Gene began posting his "Notes" here at Seamheads.com in March 2008 and we'd developed a friendship that was steeped in respect and admiration. We exchanged ideas, discussed the Black Sox scandal, shared information, clarified things we'd written, talked about the future, and shared a good laugh or two. I never had the pleasure of meeting Gene in person and hoped to see him at a future SABR convention so I could shake his hand.

I hope wherever he is now, he has a season ticket, cold beer, warm hot dogs, and it never rains. And if there really is a God, the Pirates will always win.

Rest peacefully, my friend.

— **MIKE LYNCH**
Portland, OR

I wish I had the words to really articulate what Gene Carney has meant to me in my life. I am quite sure that "Red Legs and Black Sox," the story of my grandfather, Edd Roush, would never have been completed without the help of Gene Carney.

I would not be an active member of SABR were it not for Gene Carney. I would not belong to this listserve were it not for Gene Carney. I would not continue to be obsessed with the Black Sox moment of history were it not for Gene Carney. I suspect that I would not be as gracious with my limited knowledge and time with other baseball nuts if it were not for Gene Carney.

He was such an incredible man. Oh, Barbara and Mary ... he was SO special. My heart bleeds for you ... and for the loss that we all feel.

At the very beginning (2003?), I remember being

shocked that this man was so generous with his information and his time. I was used to a competitive academic atmosphere where an author would NEVER share info with a author of a competitive subject. It was disconcerting ...

Then Gene asked me to direct his original play, "Mornings After," in Toronto and really became "one of the boys." (smile) I was a lousy director — but the cast was GREAT. Gene was always kind. I think he knew no other way.

My most recent exchanges with Gene have been some of the most wonderful. Because of the Chicago Museum collection, he found renewed confidence in many of his hypotheses and also in my research on the 1919 Cincinnati gambling characters described in my book. I was thrilled.

— **SUSAN DELLINGER**
Tampa, FL

"Sad news" does not begin to describe it, but it is typical of Gene's own under-stated persona. I can't remember ever being more shocked about a death. I guess that is the way to go but, gosh, not at 63 and so full of positive energy.

I don't think anyone will feel slighted by my saying that Gene has been the heart and soul of our local Utica-Cooperstown SABR chapter since its inception. I was proud to present him with our Cliff Kachline Award in 2007. Gene was an exceptional baseball researcher with a genial personality and droll sense of humor.

Over the past half-year, I have been working closely with Gene on a large research project for hire. Without his participation, it never would have succeeded. He consistently outworked and outproduced the rest of us to keep the project going forward. He was looking forward to resuming his efforts after returning from Alaska this week. I honestly don't know how we will continue without him. My heartfelt condolences go to Gene's family and to the many others whose lives he touched. I will miss him dearly.

— **BILL DEANE**
Cooperstown, NY

I am deeply saddened by the news of Gene's passing. He was one of the kindest, sweetest people I ever met. Working with him on baseball matters was a great pleasure and privilege.

I've known Gene for about 12

years, although we met only infrequently. I helped edit the some of the early few chapters of "Burying the Black Sox," for which he generously gave me more credit than I deserved.

Like everyone else, I was

stunned by the news of Gene's death. Somehow I thought the B-Sox research and "Notes" would go on forever — or as long as "forever" is likely to be for most of us.

— **DAVID SHINER**
Grayslake, IL

REMEMBERING GENE CARNEY

Gene Carney and I first met on the B-Sox trail in June 2003 in Milwaukee to look at Tom Cannon's collection of transcripts and exhibits for Shoeless Joe Jackson's 1924 Milwaukee trail. Gene and I were fascinated to look in this treasure trove of rare court documents and transcripts that was a missing piece of the puzzle in the maze that is commonly known as the Black Sox Scandal.

It was after this Milwaukee road trip that Gene really took up following cold-case leads in the Black Sox scandal. We had a fun day on 8/31/03 in rural New York to visit "Eight Men Out" author Eliot Asinof and talk to Eliot how he went about writing this classic book, finally made into a movie in 1988. (see attached picture).

Soon, Gene would embark on writing his book, "Burying the Black Sox," a well-researched account of the cover-up by MLB concerning the Black Sox scandal. I really liked the book's original title, "Never On Friday," which captured the Southside Irish superstition phobias.

I know the joy he had when I told him that I discovered the world's last copies of "Collyer's

Eye" in January 2005 less than two miles from my Champaign medical office. The publication had been hidden in the stacks of the University of Illinois library and provided first hand accounts of the Black Sox scandal that not been unearthed in more than 85 years.

"It took Gene Carney's efforts to really shine light on the (Black Sox) story. Gene was a generous researcher who loved to share the various new secrets or side angle."

Gene was harkened in December 2007 when additional rare Black Sox court documents surfaced.

These papers were believed to be the property of Charles Comiskey II and became available after he died that summer. It was not until May 2009 that Gene got to see these rare documents. He wrote to me wanting to know where to stay and visit while in Chicago and he had dinner with CBM attorney Paul Duffy, who was publishing an account on the Black Sox in "Chicago Lawyer."

Our time with Eliot in 2003 had really cemented our relationship and I immediately contacted him in April 2009 when Paul Duffy and I had the privilege to get a

sneak preview of the Asinof papers at the Chicago History Museum. Gene fired off a series of e-mails and questions regarding my time reviewing the documents, which he had hoped had provided documentation to the previously un-footnoted 8MO book.

I always wondered if Gene's interest in the Black Sox had started earlier and Gene had been able to hook up with James T. Farrell before he died in 1979. I am sure Gene would have loved to ask Farrell if Cicotte really did try to muff Jackson's throw home in Game 4 to cut down Pat Duncan.

One of Gene's last private exchanges with me in May 2009 was one of his greatest laments: "I only wish James Farrell had been a little older at the time of the 1919 Series because he would have written the definitive account of B-Sox."

I shared Gene's lament because James T. Farrell was the classic diehard Southside Sox fan that I identified with and Farrell

would have shed more light on this murky story that is more than exacting revenge on a stingy owner.

It took Gene Carney's efforts to really shine light on the story. Gene was a generous researcher who loved to share the various new secrets or side angle. I know we exchanged more than 1,000 private e-mails since 2003 and he will be sadly missed for his diligence to find the answers to long-standing questions

about baseball's darkest days.

Now, Gene is up in baseball heaven with Eliot Asinof learning all the secrets to this fascinating story that is still being unraveled. He finally gets to read "Harry's Diary" — one of the last pieces of the puzzle he never got to uncover.

When the CBM opens in April 2011, there will be a section on the Black Sox. I look forward to a posting a permanent memorial to a diehard Pirates fan — Two Finger Carney — that will forever mark his contributions to his detective work on the unearthing new information about this tragic story that still affects baseball 90 years later.

— DAVID FLETCHER
Chicago, IL

As we've gotten a good sense in the past week, Gene and his work touched many people. He was a fine researcher and a great guy, down-to-earth and unassuming, with that dry and subtle sense of humor.

He was one of the most relentless and dogged researchers I knew, and I mean that as a real compliment.

He kept boring in on a story,

peeling the layers of the onion, as he pursued the "holy grail" of each Black-Sox related enduring mystery.

Another side of Gene that not as many people knew was his poetry and playwriting.

A few years ago, on a Saturday night at one of the SABR national conventions, Gene scored, directed, and acted in a lovely little play about an Irish ballplayer from the

early 20th century. It was an unexpected jewel of an evening.

As someone who spends most of his time in the 1910s and 1920s, I then saw in Gene a kindred spirit who in some ways was part of that earlier era.

The tragedy of his passing at such a young age (yes, as I approach 60, 63 seems very young) is difficult for the SABR community to accept, as is the

loss to the research world. He will continue to be an inspiration for me and, I'm sure, others who pursue stories that ultimately honor the men who have long since left the baseball stage.

Yet our sadness and sense of loss must pale as compared to that which his immediate family must feel.

— STEVE STEINBERG
Seattle, WA

BSRC NEWS & NOTES

These six groups were formed in order to organize and coordinate future projects. If you would like to contribute — or just to stay in the loop — please contact the group coordinator listed below:

■ CRIME &

PUNISHMENT: Focused on the legal aspects of the Black Sox event, including anyone with special interest in the gamblers/fixers.

Coordinator: **Jason Hinners**, hinnersjr@yahoo.com.

■ GAMES AND

PLAYERS: Focused on the game accounts and all issues related to the 1919 Series as it played out. Also, anyone interested in players and personnel involved. Coordinator: **Matt Aber**,

mattaber2007@gmail.com.

■ INDEX PROJECT:

Focused on sorting out and identifying all the sources for Black Sox research.

Coordinator: **Rod Nelson**, rodericnelson@gmail.com.

■ NEWSLETTER:

Focused on writing and editing all content for what you're reading right now. Coordinator: **Jacob Pomrenke**, buckweaver@gmail.com.

Coordinator: **Mat Kovach**, mek-sabr@mek.cc.

■ WRITERS & PAPERS:

Focused on the written record involved in the scandal. Coordinator: **Irv Goldfarb**, irvin.j.goldfarb@abc.com.

Set your alarm for SABR 39

By **Jacob Pomrenke**

buckweaver@gmail.com

SABR's 39th national convention, set for July 29-Aug. 2 at the J.W. Marriott in Washington, D.C., will feature the first meeting of the Black Sox Scandal Research Committee.

The meeting of the committee, which was approved in November, is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Friday, July 31. Agenda items for the meeting include: discussion on the BSRC Web site; feedback on our first newsletter, published in May; and a brainstorming session about the Index Project and other special-interest groups within the committee (*see left*).

Chairman **Gene Carney** prepared a poster display on "Collyer's Eye" to be presented at the meeting, and a video of the 1961

BLACK SOX SCANDAL AT THE SABR CONVENTION

■ Our meeting is scheduled for **9 a.m. on Friday, July 31.**

■ Other meetings in that time slot include the Baseball Records and Negro Leagues research committees.

■ Features include Gene Carney's poster on "Collyer's Eye," a video of the 1961 "Witness" TV episode (time permitting) and discussion of committee projects, newsletters and the Web site.

■ For more information, go online to convention.sabr.org.

"Witness" TV program about the Black Sox that aired on CBS — with Eliot Asinof among the writing credits — may be viewed, time permitting.

So if you're attending the convention, please stop by. (I won't be able to attend,

but **Rick Huhn** and **Irv Goldfarb** will be leading the way and happy to see you.)

Also of particular interest to Black Sox Scandal Research Committee members may be these scheduled features at the convention:

■ The Deadball Era Committee meets at 1 p.m. on Friday, July 31.

■ SABR member **Chris Jaffe** will make a research presentation titled "The Baseball Philosophy of Charles Comiskey" from 12:30-12:55 p.m. on Friday, July 31.

■ SABR member **Jill Singleton** will make a research presentation titled "Deadball and the Silent Filmmaker" from 3-3:25 p.m. on Friday, July 31.

For more information on SABR 39, check out the Web site at convention.sabr.org.

Presidents and pitchers

I got a chuckle out of hearing during the broadcast of this year's All-Star Game that President Obama had met Tim Wakefield before the game and asked him how he threw his knuckleball.

That exchange came as the centennial of another one between a sitting president and a Red Sox knuckleballer approaches.

On April 29, 1910, the Boston Globe reported that

during the club's visit to the White House, President Taft held Eddie Cicotte's hands and examined his knuckles while asking about his knuckleball.

According to Tim Murnane's account, Cicotte responded "Oh, nothing very much."

Cicotte's circumspection was, perhaps, a sign of things to come.

— **Peter Morris**

RED SOX AT WHITE HOUSE

All Shake Hands With
the President.

Mr Taft Interested in the
"Knuckle Ball."

Cicotte Doesn't Give Up
His Secret.