

# BLACK SOX SCANDAL



Vol. 3, No. 1, June 2011

Research Committee Newsletter

## Leading off ...

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### Chairman's Corner

**By Jacob Pomrenke**  
buckweaver@gmail.com

One of the highlights of being a SABR member, to me, is being surrounded by so many people with different interests and perspectives.

I always learn so much by reading articles from the latest *Baseball Research Journal* or *The National Pastime*, because each author has something unique to contribute and their own areas of expertise.

That's why I enjoy the Baseball Biography Project so much — every player gets a different author, which means everyone's story has its own style.

In case you're not aware of the BioProject, which was formed by SABR members in 2002, its mission is to produce comprehensive biographical articles on any person who ever played or managed in the major

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Max Flack, center, of the Chicago Cubs, follows through during batting practice at Weeghman Field (later renamed Wrigley Field), circa 1921. Flack's poor play in the 1918 World Series — he was picked off base twice in Game 4 and made several fielding gaffes — has often left him the subject of suspicion that the Cubs' World Series loss to the Boston Red Sox was not on the level. The controversy was reignited in April 2011 after the Chicago Historical Society put a 1920 Eddie Cicotte deposition on its website, suggesting that some Cubs players may have been offered \$10,000 or more to throw the 1918 World Series. See story on Page 2. (Photo: Chicago Daily News negatives collection, SDN-062518, courtesy of Chicago History Museum.)

## Meet us in Greenville on June 18

Help celebrate the third anniversary of the Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum! An exciting event is planned from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 18 in Greenville, South Carolina.

The event includes the unveiling of a South Carolina state historical marker; the dedication of the Gene P. Carney Collection, the Black Sox-related books and

### **Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum and Baseball Library's 3rd anniversary**

- ◆ **When:** 10 a.m. June 18
- ◆ **Where:** 356 Field Street, Greenville, SC 29601
- ◆ **What:** Dedication of the Gene P. Carney Collection;

research material donated by the widow of the late founding chairman of this committee; baseball discussion, exhibits,

premiere of the "Shoeless Joe Cookbook"; Black Sox discussion; unveiling of historical marker; exhibits; museum tours.

◆ **Admission:** Free (donations to the museum are encouraged)

◆ **Website:** [shoelessjoejackson.org](http://shoelessjoejackson.org)

museum tours, and much more. Mark your calendar!

According to Arlene

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## ► MUSEUM

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Marcley, curator of the museum, activities on the day's agenda are expected to include:

◆ The unveiling of a South Carolina historical marker, ID No. 23-43, for the "Shoeless Joe"/Jackson House. The house, originally built in 1940 at 119 E. Wilburn Avenue, was where Jackson spent his final years.

It was moved in 2006 to its current location in the historic West End of Greenville, next to Fluor Field, home of the Single-A Greenville Drive minor league team.

The house opened in the summer of 2008 as the Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum and Baseball Library at 356 Field Street — with the address signifying Joe Jackson's career batting average of .356, third-highest in major league history.

◆ The dedication of Gene P. Carney Collection. Carney was the late founding chairman of this committee, and his Black Sox-related books and research material was donated to the Jackson Museum by his widow, Barbara, last fall. Through the help of dozens of SABR members, the collection was shipped from the Carney home in Utica, New York, to the museum in September 2010. Additionally, a donation of more than \$800 was made to the museum on behalf of the

Black Sox Scandal Research Committee.

◆ 1919 World Series experts Mike Nola, who runs the Shoeless Joe Jackson Virtual Hall of Fame at [BlackBetsy.com](http://BlackBetsy.com), and Jacob Pomrenke, the current chairman of this committee, will be on hand to answer questions and discuss the Black Sox scandal, its cover-up, the life and career of Jackson, and other recent developments in the story.

◆ Cornell "Old Corn" Blakely, who played in the Negro Leagues at age 15 and was a former outfielder with the Greenville Black Spinners, talks with author Thomas K. Perry. Blakely, 85, went on to a long and illustrious career as a recording artist in the music industry. Perry is the author of *Textile League Baseball: South Carolina's Mill Teams, 1880-1955*, and *Just Joe: Baseball's Natural*, a fictional account of Jackson's life from the perspective of his wife, Katie.

◆ Fundraiser kickoff and premiere of the *Shoeless Joe Cookbook*, featuring favorite recipes sent in by Shoeless Joe fans from across the country.

◆ Museum tours, special exhibits, book signings, other guest speakers, and a new song about Shoeless Joe for the occasion.

For more information, contact Arlene Marcley at (864) 235-6280 or visit [shoelessjoejackson.org](http://shoelessjoejackson.org).

Hope to see you there!

# SABR 41 meeting

SABR's 41st national convention, scheduled for July 6-10 at the Long Beach Hilton in Southern California, will feature the third annual meeting of the Black Sox Scandal Research Committee.

**The committee meeting is scheduled for 12 p.m. Thursday, July 7 in the Pacific Room on the 2nd floor of the hotel.**

Agenda items for the meeting are still being finalized, but if you have any interest in making a presentation or have any ideas you'd like to discuss, please contact committee chairman Jacob Pomrenke at [buckweaver@gmail.com](mailto:buckweaver@gmail.com) or (602) 343-6453.

If you're planning to attend the convention, we encourage you to stop by.

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 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 7 (also in the Pacific Room).

◆ Committee member Steve Steinberg will make a research presentation titled "Organized Baseball Circles the Wagons and Silences the Whistle-Blower, 1912" — on Phillies owner Horace Fogel, who tried to warn baseball of a growing gambling menace — from 1-1:25 p.m. on Thursday, July 7 in the Catalina Room.

◆ SABR member John B. Holway will make a research presentation titled "Baseball's 7 Deadly Myths" — including a discussion of Babe Ruth "saving baseball" after the Black Sox scandal — from 11:30-11:55 a.m. on Friday, July 8 in the Catalina Room.

For more information on SABR 41, check out the SABR website at <http://sabr.org/convention>.

## Black Sox Scandal Research Committee

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**Post questions, discussion at**

**SABRNation:** <http://bit.ly/m1U1YT>

# Would Gandil have impacted the 1920 AL race?

By Andy Sturgill

asturge37@yahoo.com

One year after the infamous 1919 World Series, the White Sox of 1920 sat in second place in the race for the American League pennant heading into the final weekend of the regular season, one half-game behind the Cleveland Indians. Between the time the White Sox finished a 2-0 win at home over the Tigers on Monday, September 27 and the time they took the field in St. Louis against the Browns on Friday, October 1, seven members of the team had been suspended for their role in the '19 Series fix. The eighth member of that group of "Black Sox", Chick Gandil, refused to play the 1920 season following a salary dispute with owner Charles Comiskey.

Gandil went west and played the season with outlaw teams during the '20 season. Depending on who you believe, he either had no idea what happened to all the money that was supposed to have been paid to the players (his version), or he was flush with up to \$35,000 in cash (everyone else's version). Regardless of where he was, what he was doing, and how much money he had with him, what is certain is that Chick Gandil was not with the White Sox in 1920.

Aside from Gandil's absence, the only appreciable difference between the 1919 and 1920 Sox rosters was the healthy return of Hall of Fame pitcher Red Faber, who was limited in 1919 because of a bout with influenza. The '19 team won the pennant by 3½ games over Cleveland, while the '20 team eventually finished two games back of the Indians.

How much of a difference would Chick Gandil have made in the AL pennant race had he played until the



**Chick Gandil, shown here as a rookie in 1910 at South Side Park in Chicago during his first stint with the White Sox, may not have played much better than his replacement in 1920, John "Shano" Collins. But in an American League pennant race that went down to the final weekend, any upgrade at all may have made the difference. Seven of the "Black Sox" were suspended for the season's final three games after the 1919 World Series scandal was revealed, but Gandil was absent all season following a salary dispute with owner Charles Comiskey.** (Photo: Chicago Daily News negatives collection, SDN-055993, courtesy of Chicago History Museum.)

other seven alleged conspirators were banned?

In Gandil's absence, John "Shano" Collins stepped in and played 116 games at first base for the '20 White Sox, or 75.3 percent of the team's games. In 1917, Gandil played 95.5 percent of the Sox games at first base; that dropped slightly to 91.9 percent in 1918, and 82.1 percent in 1919. Given this progression, it stands to reason that the 32-year old Gandil would have played a similar number of games as Collins at first base in 1920.

For our purposes, we will compare Collins' actual performance to Gandil's potential performance, based on his career numbers and especially

on what he did during his three years (1917-19) with the White Sox. Offensively, in 1920 Collins posted a career-high batting average of .303 hitting in the sixth spot in the lineup previously held by Gandil. A .303 average sounds great until you remember that 1920 was the first year of the so-called "live ball" and he posted an OPS+ — the sum of a player's On-base percentage Plus his Slugging percentage, then compared to the league average — of just 94. (An OPS+ of 100 is considered league average.)

Collins' 32 extra-base hits matched Gandil's total from 1919, but he needed 57 more plate appearances with a

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## ► GANDIL

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much livelier baseball to accomplish the feat.

Gandil's career OPS+ was 102; however, he had not reached that number during his time with the White Sox, posting an OPS+ of 95 in his three years with the Pale Hose.

Collins' 1920 percentage stats (BA, OBP, SLG, etc.) are all higher than Gandil's White Sox averages, but this can almost certainly be attributed to the changes to the live baseball for the 1920 season.

Other modern-day baseball metrics seem to give Gandil a larger advantage. Offensive winning percentage — a Bill James-created statistic that measures the rate of offensive performance — puts Collins' 1920 contribution (.506) as worth 77.9 wins over a 154-game schedule, while Gandil's average White Sox contribution (.527) would be worth 81.2 wins over the same season. Additionally, Gandil's average White Sox offensive WAR — or **Wins Above Replacement**, which measures offensive, defensive and baserunning contributions — checked in at 1.2, while Collins in 1920 registered only 0.6. (For reference, a single-season WAR of 8+ suggests an MVP-caliber player, 5+ is an All-Star, 2+ is a starter and 0-2 is a reserve.)

The conclusions from this data, whether tradition-

al numbers or modern metrics, suggest that Chick Gandil would have been a better offensive player than Collins in 1920 — although not by much.

Defensively, Gandil was a standout among AL first basemen in the 1910s, leading the league in fielding percentage four times and assists three times. On the other hand, coming into the 1920 season, Collins had played only 236 of his 1,202 career games at first base, and 126 of these came nearly a decade earlier — in 1910-11. Perhaps part of the reason Collins moved to the outfield was the fact that in 1910-11 he committed 34 errors at first.

You would have to go back across the last four-plus years of Gandil's career to find his last 34 errors, a span in which he handled nearly four times as many chances as Collins in 1910-11.

Collins appeared in only 17 games at first from 1916 through 1919, so he didn't exactly carry a wealth of recent first base experience with him into the 1920 season. Having said that, Collins filled in for Gandil just fine. His range factor per game was nearly two full chances a game above the league average for first basemen, and his .988 fielding percentage was just slightly below the league average.

Of course, Gandil always had high range factor numbers, suggesting that the rest of the White

Sox excellent infield was largely responsible for the range factor of its first basemen.

Even with today's resources and advanced baseball metrics, fielding statistics are severely limited as compared to their counterparts in hitting and pitching. But Gandil's defensive WAR during his tenure with the White Sox was a neutral 0.0. Collins recorded a negative WAR of -0.4 in 1920, suggesting that even a replacement-level first baseman could have done better.

Perhaps Gandil was overrated as a fielder, perhaps defensive WAR is a bad metric, but by any subjective or objective measure Chick Gandil was a superior defensive first baseman to Shano Collins, and there is no reason to believe that this would not have continued in 1920.

Of course, baseball is a game played by humans, not just statistics. As such, there are intangible and psychological qualities that each player can contribute to the success of the team — or vice versa. Chick Gandil's presence on the 1920 team would have presented an interesting dynamic. Would Gandil's presence have been no different than that of Happy Felsch or Eddie Cicotte or any of the other conspirators? Would Gandil have been resented by the other conspirators because of the supposed financial windfall he realized from the '19

Series, while other conspirators were short-changed their promised payments? Would Gandil have tried to use his gambling connections to fix even more games in 1920, possibly snaring more White Sox in the process? Obviously, we can never know the answers to these questions, but it is hard to envision a scenario in which Gandil's presence would have had a positive effect on the psyche and morale of the club.

The purported ringleader of the Black Sox scandal in 1919, Chick Gandil was the only significant piece of the White Sox not to return in 1920. Gandil's replacement at first base, Shano Collins, filled in admirably, perhaps even better than could have been expected and performed at a level comparable to what Gandil likely would have.

While Gandil probably would not have been that much better than Collins in 1920, in a pennant race decided on the season's final weekend, any upgrade at all may have been enough to make the difference in the ultimate winner of the American League pennant.

### Sources

- ◆ [Baseball-Reference.com](http://Baseball-Reference.com)
- ◆ Ginsburg, Daniel, "Chick Gandil", SABR Baseball Biography Project.
- ◆ Gandil, Chick, as told to Durslag, Melvin, "This is My Story of the Black Sox Series", *Sports Illustrated*, September 17, 1956.

# Controversies marked pivotal 1920 campaign

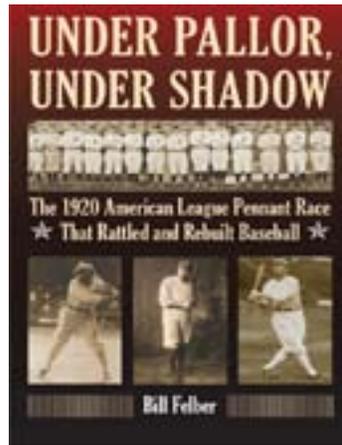
**“Under Pallor, Under Shadow: The 1920 American League Pennant Race That Rattled and Rebuilt Baseball”, by Bill Felber**  
Nebraska Press, 2011

**By Mike Lynch**  
seamhead@hotmail.com

The 1920 major league baseball season was a pivotal and intriguing campaign, replete with scandal, controversy, cover-ups, a murder plot, gambling and tragedy.

Throw in a hotly contested and allegedly tainted American League pennant race, and a bribe in the National League that led to an investigation — which in turn led to confessions by members of the Chicago White Sox that they had, indeed, thrown the 1919 World Series to the Cincinnati Reds — and you have a story that Hollywood would reject as being unbelievable. But life is often stranger than fiction, and the 1920 campaign was the epitome of that.

After nearly two decades dominated by pitching and offenses scratching for a run at a time via the bunt, steal and hit-and-run, baseball saw a spike in offense in 1920 thanks in part to a phasing out of trick pitches, umpires introducing new baseballs on a more frequent basis and a man named Babe Ruth — who captured the adoration of fans all across



the American League when he shattered the single-season home run mark in 1919 with 29, then obliterated it again in 1920 when he hit a then-unheard of 54. Despite protestations from men such as John McGraw, who still favored “small ball,” the tide was clearly shifting toward the long ball, which could plate runs in bunches and Ruth was the man who would single-handedly take baseball in that direction.

With all that happening in 1920, it's hard to criticize Bill Felber for penning yet another book about that particular campaign and adding to a growing list of tomes that have already gone into great detail about said season. But though my own research has given me more insight about 1920 than almost any other season in baseball history, I was pleasantly surprised to glean a few tidbits of information I didn't already know. That the book is well-written and well-researched made it even more enjoyable. If I have one criticism, it's that the

book sometimes gets bogged down by game accounts, but it's nearly impossible to write about an entire baseball season without recounting the action on the field.

What I especially appreciate about Felber's work, though, is that he informs the reader about suspicions surrounding the same members of the White Sox who were rumored to have fixed the 1919 Fall Classic without condemning them based on circumstantial evidence.

According to some of the “Clean Sox,” including future Hall of Famer Eddie Collins, the 1920 AL pennant race wasn't on the level. Collins insinuated that certain members of the team were playing to the scoreboard in an effort to keep the pennant race close without actually winning it, supposedly at the insistence of gamblers who threatened to go public with what they knew about the 1919 World Series fix. In fact, the 1920 White Sox finished only two games behind the eventual champion Cleveland Indians. According to legend, that's more or less how it was supposed to work out.

Yet despite baserunning blunders, crucial errors, failing to hit in the clutch and hurlers getting knocked around by teams they should have easily beaten, no actual proof exists that baseball, and particularly the White Sox, was still under the influence of gamblers.

Felber points out suspicious plays and decisions, and questions a late-season series against the Red Sox in Boston that the remaining Black Sox supposedly threw, but he does so without stating as fact that the 1920 White Sox were playing just well enough to stay close to the Indians but not well enough to win the pennant.

While this was all going on, White Sox owner Charles Comiskey and AL president Ban Johnson were trying to sweep the previous year's scandal under the rug.

Then, popular Cleveland shortstop Ray Chapman was struck in the head by a pitch delivered by reviled Yankees submariner Carl Mays, and died early the next morning, throwing the Indians into a brief tailspin and center fielder and manager Tris Speaker into a deep depression.

In September, an investigation into a Cubs/Phillies game that was reported to have been tampered with by gamblers led to the end of a handful of careers, most notably that of Shoeless Joe Jackson.

Whether you're an expert on the beginning of the “lively ball era” or you're just beginning to learn about it, Felber's book is an informative and entertaining read, and a very good complement to previous books written about the Black Sox Scandal and that fateful and pivotal 1920 campaign.

# The changing of the guard in baseball history

**"1921: The Yankees, the Giants, and the Battle for Baseball Supremacy in New York", by Lyle Spatz & Steve Steinberg**  
Nebraska Press, 2010

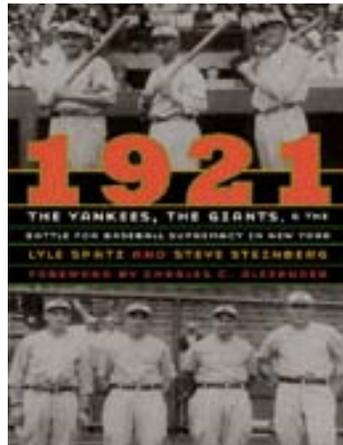
**By Bill Lamb**

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In many ways, 1921 was a watershed year in major league history. As the teams assembled for spring training, the health of the game was uncertain, as it was an open question whether the surge in fan interest that followed the end of World War I could be sustained in light of the recent revelation that the 1919 World Series had been corrupted. And how the game itself was to be played hung in the balance, with the "inside baseball" of the Deadball Era facing challenge from the long-ball bashing of a larger-than-life pitcher turned outfielder named Babe Ruth.

In *1921: The Yankees, the Giants, and the Battle for Baseball Supremacy in New York*, Lyle Spatz and Steve Steinberg skillfully weave commentary on these issues into a stirring account of the 1921 season. The end result is a work both informative and a pleasure to read, a deserving winner of the Seymour Medal for outstanding baseball history.

Of particular interest to committee members will be the authors' take on newly installed Commissioner



Landis' handling of the Black Sox scandal. While indiscriminate and punitive, the commissioner's swift post-acquittal banishment of the players had salutary deterrent effect. Also noted is Landis' reluctance to probe too deeply the longstanding connection of professional gambling to the game, lest same confound the commissioner's campaign to portray the fixing of the 1919 Series as an aberrant event.

Here, Landis was abetted by a baseball fandom that, by and large, did not share punitive indignation about the scandal and by the irresistible force of Ruth's exploits.

In the authors' view, the Babe's "timing could not have been better for the national pastime. . . . Ruth's surging popularity drowned out negative news (as he became) the face of the game and its savior to many."

The core of *1921* is alternating monthly accounts of how the season progressed for the New York teams, each locked in a gripping pennant chase. The narrative

recaps significant game events but does not overwhelm the reader with minutiae. Among its features is an appreciation of long-forgotten role players such as the Yankees' Mike McNally, filling in capably for aging, oft-injured third baseman Home Run Baker, and mid-season acquisition Elmer Miller, patrolling the outfield expanse between the stationary Ruth and erratic fly catcher Bob Meusel. The Giants were not without unsung heroes either, with journeyman infielder Johnny Rawlings and spot starter Pat Shea making valuable contributions to their success.

But the dominant figure on the Giants' side was manager John McGraw, resident genius of the dugout and lionized by the Gotham press. Secure in the wisdom of his own opinions, McGraw did little to conceal his disdain of the new slugging style of play or its foremost practitioner, Ruth.

The deference shown to the Little Napoleon in the press contrasted sharply with the treatment of Yankees skipper Miller Huggins, beset by illness and a fractious roster. Huggins' leadership was largely unappreciated in New York, save for the person who mattered most, dominant team ownership partner Jacob Ruppert, unswerving in his support of the diminutive Yanks leader.

With the Polo Grounds serving as home field for

both teams, the authors proceed to a particularized account of the 1921 Series.

As the games progressed, an interesting role reversal became apparent, with the slugging Yankees frequently resorting to the bunt, steal, and other small ball strategies while McGraw generally had his Giants play for the big inning. In the end, the Giants' slight edge in pitching depth made the difference, with Art Nehf outdueling Waite Hoyt in a thrilling 1-0 Series finale.

In a brief epilogue, Spatz and Steinberg observe that McGraw, whatever his aesthetic preferences, employed lively-ball tactics far more readily than is commonly recognized. A thorough student of the game, McGraw understood that baseball was changing and that he would need to adapt his outlook to remain competitive. In the short run, this attitude change permitted the Giants to remain on top of the MLB world in 1922, as well. That outcome was reversed in 1923, the third consecutive postseason battle of the New York teams, and from there the Yankees would go on to dominate the city and popular imagination.

The season that presaged this changing of the baseball guard has been vividly recaptured by Lyle Spatz and Steve Steinberg. Their *1921* is a well crafted and enjoyable read that is highly recommended.

# 1918 World Series fix scandal resurfaces

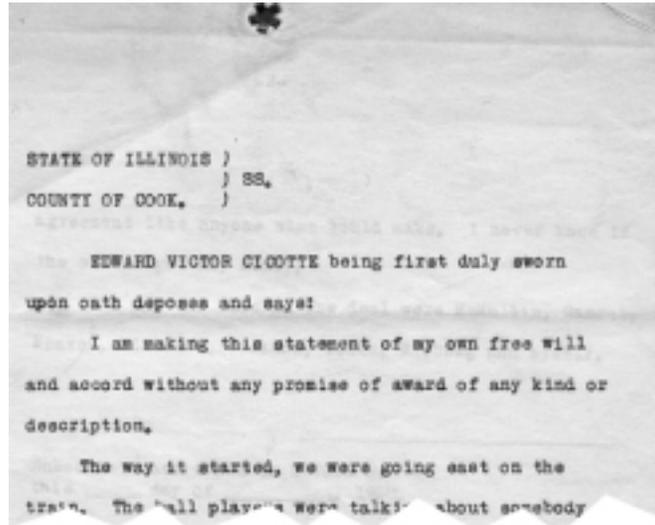
By Jacob Pomrenke  
buckweaver@gmail.com

According to legend, at one point during the 1926-27 hearings involving Ty Cobb and Tris Speaker's alleged betting of a late-season Tigers-Indians game nearly a decade earlier, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis got exasperated and said something to the effect of, "Will all these events that happened before I became commissioner ever go away?"

One story from before Landis' time that continues to make the rounds today is the idea that the 1918 World Series was fixed — specifically, that some Chicago Cubs players were offered \$10,000 or more to throw the Series to the Boston Red Sox. Author Sean Deveney made a case for the fix in his book, *The Original Curse* (McGraw-Hill, 2009), which he based in part on a deposition given by Eddie Cicotte in 1920 during the Black Sox grand jury hearings.

The deposition is one of about 200 documents related to the Black Sox scandal that were acquired by the Chicago History Museum in a 2007 auction and made available to the public.

Cicotte's deposition read: "The way it started, we were going east on a train. The ball players were talking about somebody trying to fix the National League ball players or something like



A portion of the Eddie Cicotte deposition, 1920.  
(Courtesy of the Chicago History Museum)

that in the World's Series of 1918. Well, anyway there was some talk about them offering \$10,000 or something to throw the Cubs in the Boston Series. There was talk that somebody offered this player \$10,000 or anyway the bunch of players were offered \$10,000 to throw this series. This was on the train going over. Somebody made a crack about getting money, if we got into the series, to throw the series. The boys on the club got talking over there in New York about the fellows getting too much money and stuff as that and said that they would go ahead and go through with it if they got this money."

In April, the CHM posted a copy of that deposition on its website, reigniting the debate all over again. The fact that the Cubs were about to travel to Fenway Park for the first time since the 1918 Series only increased the

media attention.

SABR members John Thorn, Bill Nowlin and Bill Lamb were quoted in a *New York Times* story about the 1918 World Series "scandal": <http://nyti.ms/jNU0IW>. Jacob Pomrenke and Thorn were also quoted in an MLB.com preview of the Cubs' series at Boston in May: <http://atmlb.com/ICN725>.

One name which has not been mentioned in recent media reports is that of Henry "Kid" Becker, a St. Louis gambler who supposedly hatched a plot to fix the 1918 Series but could not come up with the money in time. Becker was shot to death in April 1919, and other gamblers from St. Louis are said to have become involved in the White Sox scandal later that fall. Becker's plan is mentioned in David Pietrusza's book *Rothstein* and Gene Carney's *Burying the Black Sox*.

In the 1918 Series, the man whose play on the field raised the most eyebrows was Cubs outfielder Max Flack, who was picked off base twice in Game 4 and made several fielding gaffes.

"There isn't anything inherently suspicious to me," Lamb told *The New York Times*. "You're telling me the right fielder threw the Series? Seems to me you would want the pitcher or the catcher instead. ... I am aware people do bad things, but just because something is conceivable doesn't make it so. Where's the proof?"

The Cicotte deposition should be familiar to long-time members of this Black Sox committee. Carney posted an excerpt on the Black Sox Yahoo! group after he viewed it in Chicago in April 2009, noting that the statement was "unsigned and undated," and that it didn't seem like hard evidence of a fix to him.

Members of this committee are encouraged to view the CHM's Black Sox collection and report back with their findings. There are so many documents to go through that everyone notices something different.

It costs \$5 to visit the CHM Research Center; more information can be found here: <http://www.chicagohs.org/research>.

A finder's guide is available here: <http://chsmmedia.org/media/fa/fa/M-C/Scandal1919-inv.htm>.

## ON THE STAGE

If you're in Greenville, South Carolina, between May 27-June 11, check out "Something More Than A Game," a new play about Shoeless Joe Jackson written and performed by Jayce Tromsness and directed by Chip Egan. Tickets and showtimes are available on the Warehouse Theatre website at <http://www.warehousetheatre.com>.

## ► CHAIRMAN

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leagues, as well as other persons who touched baseball in a significant way.

Back in January, I proposed that this committee produce a BioProject book focusing on all the players on the 1919 White Sox roster.

A number of you expressed interest in writing the bios that had not been assigned yet, or helping with editing and other tasks associated with publishing a book.

As you well know, there are so many fascinating personalities on that team, not only the famous players such as Joe Jackson and Eddie Collins, but even the benchwarmers like John "Lefty" Sullivan and "Honest" Eddie Murphy.

As of June 1, we've assigned all but a few of the players' biographies (most of the Black Sox players were taken when the Deadball Era Committee produced the *Deadball Stars of the American League* book for the BioProject back in 2007).

But if you would like to contribute to the 1919 White Sox book, here are the players who are still

awaiting a biographer:

- ◆ "Big" Bill James
- ◆ Joe Jenkins
- ◆ Harvey McClellan
- ◆ Tom McGuire
- ◆ Eddie Murphy
- ◆ Win Noyes
- ◆ Charlie Robertson
- ◆ Roy Wilkinson

The format for these biographies is pretty straightforward: We're looking for somewhere between 1,500-4,000 words, and the story should cover a player's entire life — on and off the field — not just his time with the White Sox or his playing career.

You can check out previously written biographies on the BioProject website at: <http://bioproj.sabr.org>.

There are many resources available for you to use on the SABR website in the "Research" section. And there is a special page devoted to resources specifically to help BioProject authors here: <http://sabr.org/content/bioproject-resources>.

If you are interested in contributing to the 1919 White Sox BioProject book, please get in touch with me at the e-mail address below.

**For more information about SABR's Black Sox Scandal Research Committee, contact chairman Jacob Pomrenke at [buckweaver@gmail.com](mailto:buckweaver@gmail.com).**

## A response to Peter J. Nash

*Editor's note: An interview with Peter J. Nash, who runs the Hauls of Shame website investigating memorabilia fraud, was published in the October 2010 edition of the Black Sox Scandal Research Committee newsletter. Afterward, Jason Halper asked for space in the next newsletter to respond to allegations that Nash made against his father. His e-mail from December 2010 is reprinted here:*

### By Jason Halper

I am a SABR member and my father was Barry Halper. I saw the interview you had with Peter Nash in the most recent Black Sox newsletter (October 2010). Mr. Nash made some pretty troubling statements and accusations against my father in that interview. There are a few things that you (and the readers of your newsletter) should be aware of:

My family has not received any communications from the Baseball Hall of Fame questioning the authentication of the Joe Jackson uniform jersey, or any other item that was formerly part of my father's collection.

My father was a collector and a baseball fan, whose reputation for honesty and integrity was second to none. He assembled

the greatest private collection of baseball memorabilia in the world — a collection that literally included over a million items. Such an accomplishment may never be repeated.

My father was not, however, an authentication expert. Thus, with so many items in his collection, which took over 50 years to assemble, it would be surprising if there wasn't an authenticity issue here or there over the years. That's not unusual in large collections, baseball or otherwise.

But Nash's statements that my father was "a liar" and that he was intentionally gathering "fake" and "fraudulent" items are simply baseless and, quite frankly, are defamatory.

Attached for your consideration are various documents (<http://nydn.us/kBYBZP> and <http://bit.ly/m5F6wz>) showing, among other things, that Mr. Nash is an admitted fraudster who also happens to have an outstanding warrant for his arrest.

I'm sure the readers of your newsletter would be interested in knowing that the person throwing around fraud accusation against others is an admitted fraudster himself. I also note that it is interesting that Mr. Nash is making these types of allegations some five years after my father died — when he is no longer around to defend himself.