

The **INSIDE GAME**

The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee

VOL. X, NO. 1: "LET'S GET THIS LUMPY, LICORICE-STAINED BALL ROLLING!" APR. 2010

THE CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by John McMurray

With this edition of the newsletter, I am pleased to welcome Mark Ruckhaus as the new Editor of *The Inside Game*. As most of you likely know, Charles Crawley decided to step down as Editor following the last issue after six years of dedicated service. Charles developed this newsletter into one of the best in SABR, and it is an understatement to say that everyone involved with the Deadball Era Committee appreciates his dedication and creativity.

Mark retired after 26 years working with CBS, where he edited news programs and won four Emmy Awards. He also worked for CBS in transmission for 26 years. Mark's baseball interests and involvement run the gamut: he has done everything from public address announcing for the Newark Bears to play-by-play for the team's Internet broadcasts. A SABR member for five years, Mark lists the Deadball Era as his favorite historical period, and he currently is writing an alternative history book, where Ed Delahanty does not die on July 2, 1903 and instead continues his playing career after jumping to the New York Giants.

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BOILING OUT

by R. J. Lesch (rjlesch_usa@yahoo.com)

What do railroad maps, geological surveys, and meteorology have to do with baseball research? Many of us in attendance at the fourth "Boiling Out" conference were surprised to find out how useful these disciplines can be in understanding baseball and its history.

"Boiling Out", that celebration of Deadball era spring training, returned to Hot Springs, Arkansas after a four-year absence. The biennial event is sponsored by SABR's Deadball Era Committee and the Robinson/Kell (Arkansas) Chapter, and was held for the first time in March 2002. We missed a beat in 2008 due to economic conditions. Those conditions were still in effect for some members who were unable to attend and maybe a handful who did, me included. But I'm glad I did.

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Killefer Brothers

Monument

by David Stalker

The Federal League of

Baseball Clubs:

The History of an

Outlaw League

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Catcher: How the Man

Behind the Mask

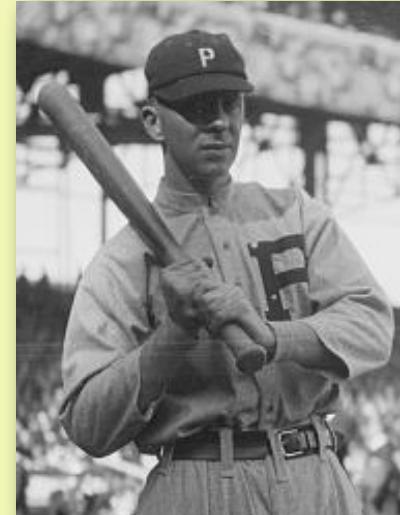
Became an American

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by Tom Chase

Roadside Baseball:

The Location of America's Baseball Landmarks



KILLEFER BROTHERS

MONUMENT

by David Stalker (attheballyard@yahoo.com)

On Saturday, August 8, 2009 in the midst of Paw Paw, Michigan's sesquicentennial celebration, a two-sided monument was unveiled honoring two former residents, baseball legends Bill and Wade Killefer. Members of the Killefer family and baseball historians traveled to join Paw Paw residents for the event.

Wade was born on April 18, 1885 and his younger brother Bill followed on October 10, 1887. They were both born in Bloomingdale, Michigan and moved to Paw Paw with their parents in 1888. They grew up there, attending school and graduating from Paw Paw High School.

Wade, better known as Red, was captain of the high school state championship team of 1900-1901. Bill, also known as Reindeer Bill, followed in his brother's footsteps, as catcher for another Paw Paw state championship team in 1904-1905.

After the two legends left Paw Paw with their lives dedicated to the game they loved, they had long, outstanding careers, careers that I am very pleased to recognize in my series of memorials, which honor players and teams from the Deadball Era.

Roman Plaszczak, the village president of Paw Paw, served as the master of ceremonies. Roman welcomed those attending and introduced the speakers, which included three SABR members, among them David Stalker.

Stalker remarked that, "The monument was made possible through the efforts of many, along with a passion for baseball and its history, and admiration for the Killefer brothers Bill and Wade." He spoke about his Deadball Monument Series that began in 2005, and mentioned that Wade and Bill became the ninth and tenth players honored. He said, "I often find that players from this Era, who have fallen short a few numbers to make it into the Baseball Hall of Fame as an official member, have almost been forgotten about in history. I consider them being honored in their hometown on a memorial, the next best thing. In memory, the Killefer brothers are once again back in their hometown of Paw Paw, Michigan, where they will be remembered forever."

Baseball historian Peter Morris spoke of Bill as a prototype of the new catcher, smaller, more agile and brainy. He cited a story by Billy Evans, who was behind the plate umpiring when Bill's collarbone was broken by a foul ball late in the 1909 season in NY. He advised Bill to remove himself from the game, but Killefer refused and

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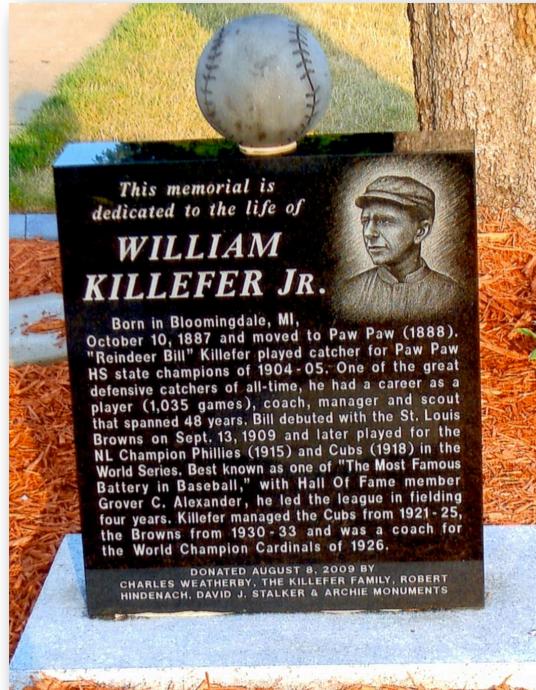
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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

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Dr. Gail Rowe is also joining *The Inside Game* editorial staff as its first Book Review Editor. Gail is a longtime member of SABR. He helped to organize the SABR Convention in Denver in 2003 and to edit the Rocky Mountain Chapter's Convention Publication. Gail is a former chair of SABR's Seymour Medal Committee. He is also an accomplished writer, having published seven books (three non-fiction and four fiction). His fictional books are baseball mysteries, focused on the Boston teams of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and based in historical research. Gail has also edited and assessed manuscripts for various presses as well as articles submitted to various quarterlies. In addition, he taught American History for more than thirty years at the University of Northern Colorado, where he was recognized for teaching excellence. Gail is also a professional artist, and his website is www.gsrowe.com.

I invite members of the Committee to contact the editors with suggestions about how to shape the newsletter going forward. Also, if you would like to be involved with writing articles or book reviews, we all would welcome your involvement. With the change in the editorial staff, now is the time to help us to determine the future of this newsletter. I am glad to report that Mark Dugo has agreed to remain with "The Inside Game" as Assistant Editor.

The Committee remains a hotbed of activity. In early March, DEC member R.J. Lesch helped to organize "Boiling Out" in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in conjunction with the Robinson-Kell Chapter, to commemorate spring training from a century ago. Also, the Ritter Award subcommittee has been considering eleven books written in 2009 that were primarily set in the Deadball Era as candidates for the 2010 award. The Committee also continues to grow and now includes more than 550 members.

Finally, the Deadball Era Committee meeting at SABR 40 in Atlanta has been scheduled for Friday, August 6 at 8 AM. Everyone involved with the Committee looks forward to seeing you then.

In the meantime, please let me know if you have any comments or questions or would like to become more involved with the Committee.

FROM THE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR...

by Gail Rowe

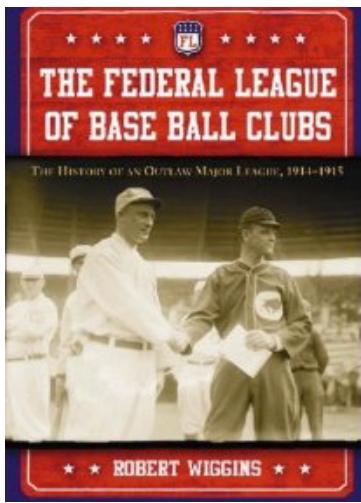
As the new Book Review Editor of *The Inside Game*, I am committed to ensuring that high quality reviews of important books related to the Deadball Era are readily available to members. Thoughtful and well-written reviews guarantee that our membership has at its disposal the ability to judge which books make significant contributions, and which are the most desirable on our shelves. I am also dedicated to making the review process open to our membership, and to working with reviewers to see that our reviews are well written and free of grammatical and historical errors.

Individuals who are interested in writing book reviews for *The Inside Game* should contact me with information on which aspects of the Deadball Era are of particular interest to you.

Readers of reviews expect that reviewers will, among other things, address the strengths and weaknesses of the work, suggest comparisons with similar works, the degree to which the book contributes to the literature of the field, the author's or authors' main conclusions, the types of sources consulted and, perhaps, evidence omitted.

Currently there are a number of important Deadball Era books in the hands of reviewers who have not submitted reviews. Publishers who provide us complimentary copies in exchange for reviews have every right to expect that their works will be reviewed expeditiously. When reviews do not appear, or do not appear in a reasonable time, publishers and authors are cheated. Such failures on our part not only violate the implicit agreement we have with publishers, but they deny our readers critical information as fans and scholars of the Deadball Era. In addition, when

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**THE FEDERAL LEAGUE OF
BASE BALL CLUBS
THE HISTORY OF AN
OUTLAW MAJOR LEAGUE,
1914-1915**

BY ROBERT PEYTON WIGGINS

2009. Jefferson, NC:
McFarland and Company
[ISBN 978-0-7864-3835-8.
362 pages. \$49.95 USD,
hardcover]

Reviewed by **Susan Dellinger**
(drsusandell@verizon.net)

At last. We now have a definitive history of that infamous and somewhat esoteric subject that haunts baseball trivia contests – the Federal League (FL). For the last twenty years when historians mentioned this stolen moment in baseball history, it was Marc Okkonen's book, *The Federal League of 1914-1915* (1989) that instantly came to mind. And so it was this same book that "piqued the interest" of current author, Robert Wiggins.

The structure of this new tome is lengthy without being repetitive (362 pages of small print in 51 chapters); well-

documented without being dry (average of 20 footnotes per chapter); well researched with primary reliance on periodicals such as *The Sporting News* and including a bibliography of 48 books by 20th Century baseball literati; and written in pure expository style that is enlivened with 30 excellent period photographs. (Perhaps the next edition will contain photos of all the FL teams.)

Robert Wiggins' thesis is clearly stated in his Introduction [page 3]: "The impact of the Federal League on major league baseball was significant." He proceeds to provide evidence to support his claim: (1) Player salaries skyrocketed an average of 92% as the American League (AL) and the National League (NL) were forced to compete for the best players (*Editor's comment: ...while possibly/likely attempting to price the Federal League out of the market as they had a larger war chest than the upstart league and could survive a "salary war" far better than the Feds*) ; (2) Competition from the FL forced several minor league teams to fold thus leveling the playing field; (3) The inequity of the player/owner relationship via the Reserve Clause was challenged when the new league offered dramatic concessions to players; (4) When the FL folded in 1915 and those concessions were rolled-back, the "seeds of baseball scandals at the end of the decade may

have been sown" – a provocative observation for Black Sox fans.

Wiggins develops his subject in chronological order beginning with the vision of John Powers in February, 1913. The author positions the Feds as one of several "outlaw leagues" springing up to compete with Organized Baseball (code name for the NL and AL). With irony he acknowledges that Ban Johnson's American League (AL) was itself an outlaw league prior to winning legitimacy in 1901. The story ends with the dissolution of the Feds by President James Gilmore a mere two years later, December, 1915.

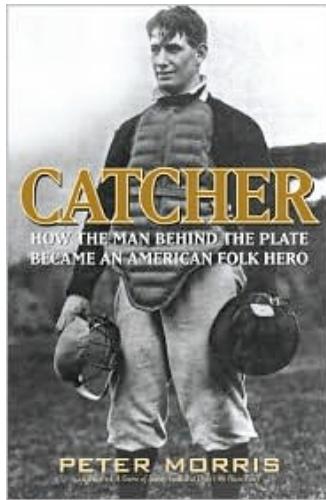
Along the way we learn in detail about the creation of each of the FL teams in eight major cities including the failed start-ups in Covington, KY (across the Ohio River from Cincinnati) and Cleveland, OH. Special emphasis is placed on owner Charlie Weeghman and the ChiFeds (Chicago Whales) throughout the book with an excellent description of the pennant race of 1915 between Chicago, St. Louis and Pittsburgh. Manager Joe Tinker seems ubiquitous - appearing in almost every chapter.

The famous and the infamous take their places on these pages with full chapters devoted to select members of the "outlaws": Joe Tinker, Hal Chase, Mordecai Brown,

Fielder Jones, Lee Magee, Russ Ford, Tom Seaton, Walter Johnson, John McGraw, Bill McKechnie, Eddie Plank, Ad Brennan, Dave Davenport and Benny Kauff. Note: Kauff, "the Ty Cobb of the Federal League," is a tantalizing character. Perhaps he was the Pete Rose of his time...a small, feisty Buckeye whose arrogance earmarked him for infamy. [Editor's comment: Kauff, though he might have been a 'fast talker' and a showboat (expensive jewelry, fancy clothes), and who may have had knowledge of the 1919 World Series fix, was eventually blackballed, not for baseball-related transgressions but for being involved in a stolen car ring for which he was eventually found 'not guilty' in the same manner that Judge Landis blackballed the 'not guilty' 'Black Sox'.] Wiggins devotes the better part of three intriguing chapters to Kauff's escapades causing us to postulate receptivity for a full book on this player in the future.

Some enjoyable trivia tidbits include Harry Sinclair's introduction of girl ushers in the grandstand of the Newark Peppers, Branch Rickey's attempt to form his own Continental League in 1959 and Highlander Manager George Stallings' accusation of Hal Chase throwing games as early as 1910. The most

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**CATCHER: HOW THE MAN
BEHIND THE PLATE
BECAME AN
AMERICAN FOLK HERO**

BY PETER MORRIS

2009. Chicago:

Ivan R. Dee.

[ISBN: 978-1-56663-822-7.
386 pages. \$27.50 USD,
hardcover]

Reviewed by **Tom Chase**
(tchase@kih.net)

One of the Deadball Era's defining games was played on October 10, 1904. The front running Boston Americans led the New York Highlanders by a game and a half with two to play, a doubleheader between the teams in New York. Seeking his forty-second win in a record-setting season, righthander Jack Chesbro toed the slab for the Highlanders in the opening contest. Chesbro was the grandmaster of the spitball, the revolutionary new pitch that was neutralizing the advantage hitters had enjoyed since the pitching distance was lengthened a decade earlier.

But with the score tied in the ninth and Boston's Lou Criger on third with two outs, Chesbro's best spitter zoomed over the mitt of rookie catcher Red Kleinow. After the ball skipped to the press box, allowing Criger to trot home with the game's final run, Chesbro would wear goat horns for the rest of his days.

A few observers insisted that Chesbro's wild pitch was really a passed ball. If anyone should be vilified, they said, it was Kleinow. But as fans assigned blame, baseball men sought solutions to the central problem this incident represented. An unhittable pitch could not be an effective weapon if it were also uncatchable. Thus began the rediscovery of the catcher's value and the restoration of his prestige.

Peter Morris's groundbreaking and substantial tome (289 pages of text, plus appendices, bibliography, index, and 68 pages of footnotes) traces the evolution of the catching position from baseball's earliest days to the end of the Deadball Era. In the early game, Morris argues, catcher was the most important of baseball's nine defensive positions, and the most celebrated.

Originally, catching presented challenges that were uniquely difficult and dangerous. A skilled catcher, who handled every pitch without gloves, masks, pads, or shin guards, was the game's first hero,

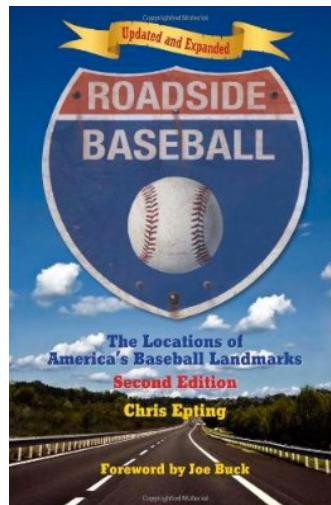
lauded for his courage, toughness, and athleticism. Teams were built around him because a team couldn't win without him. But such men were hard to find, and if you found one you couldn't keep him on the field indefinitely.

The punishment catchers endured led inevitably to the development of equipment that would protect them. Disguised behind this equipment, catchers found their contributions devalued almost to invisibility. As the nineteenth century progressed, and as the position became the haven for overweight specimens like Tub Welch and Fatty Briody, fans came to regard catchers as passive "receivers" or "backstops."

Catcher details both the evolution of catching technique and the position's changing public image. The image that has endured to this day, the catcher as a tough and intelligent team leader, finally stabilized in the early decades of the twentieth century.

Catcher is Morris's sixth book. His special area of interest is nineteenth century baseball. Twenty-first century fans, misled by lazy sportswriters to believe that baseball time began in 1901, will find *Catcher* a bracing eye-opener. The breadth and depth of Morris's research, and the liveliness of his writing, demonstrate to readers that they can know the nineteenth century game and ought to take the trouble to learn about

it. Even the knowledgeable fan will be entertained and will find something he didn't know on practically every page.



**ROADSIDE BASEBALL:
THE LOCATION OF
AMERICA'S BASEBALL
LANDMARKS [2ND. EDITION]**

BY CHRIS EPTING

[2009. Santa Monica, CA
Santa Monica Press.
ISBN: 1595800417.
312 pages. \$16.95. USD
Paperback.]

Reviewed by **David Stalker**

Chris Epting's passion for the game of baseball and its history comes alive in the updated and expanded second edition of *Roadside Baseball*. The book features the locations, along with many photos and facts of America's baseball landmarks, and a chapter on Canada's baseball landmarks. This is the ultimate baseball traveling guide, in a state-by-state format, making for easy look-ups.

current ball fields, monuments, plaques, and final resting places of Hall of Fame players. The book also shows where some of the players attended school, lived, got married and operated businesses.

Many minor and major league ballparks of yesteryear and today are recorded with their locations, photos, memorable moments, and historical facts about the ballpark. From some of our less populated areas, we learn about our country's classic wooden grandstands that have been preserved, such as Cardines Field in Newport, Rhode Island, believed to be America's oldest ballpark. Another classic ballpark featured is Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama, built in 1910 where such stars as Ty Cobb, Christy Mathewson, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner and Rogers Hornsby once played.

[Editor's comment, and only because my curiosity was piqued as there's something magical about those old parks : <http://www.newportgulls.com/cardines.html>. While double-checking whether the name Cardines was possessive or not, though play on the site dates back to 1908, the grandstand dates back to only 1936. Also, what about Wahconah Park in Pittsfield, MA? Baseball on the site since 1892, which would predate Cardines by a few years. <http://www.jimbouton.com/fdocs/WahconahTimes1.pdf>

That field is still oriented west, as nobody knew about night baseball when the field was built and the setting sun meant it was too late to play day baseball either and so field orientation wasn't a factor. Jim Bouton went through a well-known brouhaha with some of those in power in Pittsfield to preserve the park. Only other known professional field oriented in this way is Sam Lynn Ballpark in Bakersfield, CA opened in 1941 (California League Bakersfield Blaze).]

You can also read about the great ballparks from the Deadball Era, where they were located, and what remains today, such as home plates, outfields walls, ticket booths and markers, each telling their history. Some of the places included are Hilltop Park, Huntington Avenue Grounds, Shibe Park, League Field, Comiskey Park, Ebbets Field and the Polo Grounds.

The locations of the final resting places for Hall of Fame players are shown in each state. See Alexander Cartwright's grave marker and discover he is buried at Oahu Cemetery in Honolulu, Hawaii. Sixteen Hall of Fame players are buried in the state of California. Two Deadball era greats, Bobby Wallace and Sam Crawford, share Inglewood Park Cemetery in Inglewood, CA.

Many players across the country are remembered in their hometowns with plaques

and monuments and with baseball fields, parks, bridges, highways named after them. In some cases Epting has included photos of players' homes. Some of the notable players and personalities from the Deadball Era include, Jack Chesbro (North Adams, Massachusetts), Charley Faust (Marion, Kansas), Walter Johnson (Humboldt, Kansas), Connie Mack (East Brookfield, Massachusetts), Fred Merkle (Watertown, Wisconsin), Babe Ruth (Baltimore, Maryland) and Jim Thorpe (Prague, Oklahoma).

A couple of interesting games recorded on plaques include the first perfect game which can be found in Worcester, Massachusetts, and a 9 inning, no-hit, 27 strike out performance by Ron Necciai, which is located in Bristol, Virginia. In Fairbanks, Alaska, there is a story told about an annual game that is played at midnight with natural light, called The Midnight Sun Game.

Hans Lobert raced a horse around the baseball diamond in Oxnard, California on November 11, 1913, and Gabby Street caught a ball dropped off the Washington Monument on August 21, 1908. These are a couple of fun, baseball stunts that are found in this book.

Not only is this America's baseball atlas that belongs in every baseball fan's glove compartment as a travel

guide, but it belongs on the researcher's / historian's bookshelf because it is packed with 335 pages of historical information, that will inform and entertain baseball fans of all levels.

KILLEFER

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soldiered on, throwing out a base runner on an attempted steal in the process. When Bill went to the bench between innings, he nearly fainted and a doctor was called out of the stands. He missed the last few games of the season. Evans said, "Killefer has the spirit and the nerve that makes great players (which) was proved by (this) very unfortunate accident."



SABR members at the monument dedication in Paw Paw, Michigan.
L-R: Peter Morris, Killefer historian Charles Weatherby and David Stalker

FROM THE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR...

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reviewers fail to submit reviews when agreed upon, it complicates our publication schedule and creates extra work for others.

Professional courtesy dictates that, if upon agreeing to provide a book review by a certain date, a reviewer discovers that he or she cannot meet that commitment, another deadline should be quickly negotiated or the book should be returned so that another reviewer can be assigned. Books provided by publishers are not gifts; they are offered in exchange for a service, and any failure on our part to provide that service jeopardizes our access to books in the future. Obviously, an inability to obtain review copies would seriously compromise our ability at *The Inside Game* to bring the latest scholarship to you, our readers.

At present we have a need for reviewers of specific books. If you are in possession of a copy of *Shoeless Joe and Ragtime Baseball*, *Harry Frazee, Ban Johnson and the Feud that Nearly Destroyed the American League*, *The Major League Pennant Races of 1916*, or *The Detroit Tigers: A Pictorial Celebration*, and wish to provide a review, please contact me.

I look forward to your suggestions for books to review--including older books that perhaps have escaped review by SABR members--as well as suggestions regarding potential reviewers.

In forthcoming months *The Inside Game* not only plans to offer reviews of single books, but also reviews that compare works on similar subjects, and reviews that survey and assess the current literature in order to identify neglected areas and subjects.

I welcome comments on past and future reviews.

THE FEDERAL LEAGUE...

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original chapter title is “The Big Train almost becomes the Federal Express.

Interspersed throughout, the author gives coverage to the events that plagued this outlaw league: (1) Raids: early efforts to recruit major league talent by raiding the AL and NL (Christy Mathewson turned down a 3-year contract for \$65,000 offered by Gilmore himself), (2) Fan/Player Injuries: ballpark rowdyism and lax umpires, (3) Low Ticket Sales: creative promotions to increase attendance at the ball parks, i.e. parades, bicycle races, ladies' days, and (4) Manipulation of public opinion by the Press: Joe Vila mounted attacks on the “Lunchroom League” via *The Sporting News*. (5) Noting that farm systems were about fifteen years in the future and as most of minor league baseball operated under the National Agreement, the outlaw Federal League had fewer avenues in which to acquire players to fill out rosters or replace injured players.

Some of the most interesting information is located in the final chapters. Herein we learn about the auctioning of players to the major league teams, the future of the former owners and what happened to the ballparks and efforts to preserve them (Weeghman Park exists today as Wrigley Field). Some owners landed on their feet (Phil Ball took over the St. Louis Browns) while others suffered personal losses and disappeared from baseball forever (Gilmore lost \$200,000 & Sinclair \$500,000). Weeghman got his hometown Chicago Cubs only to lose them three years later. [p. 316] “I suppose I should have stayed out of the Federal League which cost me \$3,000,000.” His career was a sad and compelling roller coaster ride that ran parallel to the story of the Federal League itself.

It seems appropriate that Wiggins ends his final chapter with the death of one of six future Hall of Famers produced by the Feds. “Edd Roush was the last surviving Federal League player when he passed away at age ninety-four in March 1988” [p. 335]. With humans as with their institutions, what starts with a bang must often end with a whimper.

Photo on page 1 - Bill Killefer, in his days with the Phillies, 1915
courtesy Library of Congress, Bain Collection.
LC-B21- 3088-11[P&P]

BOILING OUT

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Twenty people attended the 2010 soiree, less than in 2006 but more than the previous two. Three of our presenters were new to “Boiling Out,” though not new to baseball research or SABR, as were six of the attendees. Another dozen sent their regrets.

The research presentations included the usual suspects: Deadball Era baseball, spring training, and combinations of both:

“Spring Training in Georgia” by Bill Ross: Bill makes a compelling case that Ned Hanlon, manager of the Baltimore Orioles of the 1890s, originated the modern concept of spring training: a multi-week on- and off-field skill- and team-building activity intended to do more than just get players back in shape. Hanlon’s acolytes, Hughie Jennings, Wilbert Robinson and John McGraw, took this concept and ran with it, but the concept, Bill argues, began with Hanlon in Macon, Georgia, in 1894.

Spring training visits to Georgia were common in the Deadball era but, over time, Georgia lost ground to Florida. Minor league camps popped up again in Georgia during the 1950s at former military bases leased by the Federal government. Efforts are now underway to catalog the photographs and identify the players and sites depicted.

Bill’s research also showed how some of the seemingly more obscure spring training destinations made sense given the dominant form of travel: railroads. A small town might be more desirable than a big city, the latter with its many distractions. But it still had to be accessible and it still had to have some sort of ballpark. Towns like Thomasville, on a major rail line, and having its own, albeit small, ballfield, could attract a big league club in those days. While much has been written about rail travel and its effect upon the game at the major league level, it would be interesting to explore this at other levels of the game, notably the lower minor leagues, and upon spring training practices.

“The REAL Dead Ball(player) Era” by Fred Worth: Fred’s interest in cataloguing and visiting player grave sites has taken him to over 1,300 such sites and counting. This time, Fred took us through some of his latest findings in Iowa and Texas. He shared photographs of grave markers ranging from elaborate baseball-themed headstones (Earl Whitehill, Duane Josephson, Willie Wells) to none at all. He also shared examples of detective work required in tracking down elusive graves.

Deadball era photography exhibit, by Gregg Patterson: A very recent addition to the Hot Springs Convention Center is a 24-piece exhibit of photographs depicting Deadball era spring training in Hot Springs. Pictured are the Boston Red Sox of Tris Speaker, Smoky Joe Wood and Babe Ruth, the Philadelphia Phillies of Pete Alexander and the Pittsburgh Pirates of Fred Clarke and Honus Wagner. The photographs are on display through May but might be included in the Convention Center’s permanent exhibit. Gregg put together the exhibit through various sources and talked us through the origins of many of the photographs. We enjoyed Speaker riding an alligator, Boston players climbing the nearby mountains in full uniform and the Flying Dutchman literally flying through the air to reach home plate.

Of particular note is the use of geological features to identify many of the ballpark locales. Some of the Hot Springs training sites, notably Whittington Park, had very distinct rock formations nearby or old trees which are still standing. The mountains in and around Hot Springs National Park also have distinct profiles. These were conclusive in identifying one Brooklyn Dodgers photograph as having been taken in Hot Springs and not, as one prominent baseball publication put it, in Brooklyn, which has no mountains.

“Weathering Spring Training: The Trials and Tribulations of the Chicago Federals in Shreveport, Louisiana, 1914” by Peggy Gripshover. Peggy is researching the life and times of Charles Weeghman, the man who built what is now Wrigley Field. As fascinating as the

tales of high-living, free-spending Weeghman are, and as much as I look forward to learning more about him, I was fascinated by another aspect of the presentation: the use of meteorological research. Dr Gripshover, a professor of geography at the University of Tennessee, used National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data which shows that 1914 was what we would now call an “El Nino” year. The freakish weather, combined with the unusual soil found on the Shreveport Fair Grounds (where the Feds trained) made for a disastrous spring training experience. It opens up many possibilities: What role have weather and climate played in baseball history? Was weather (along with the after-effects of the 1913 recession) a factor in the demise of the Federal League? This seems like a fruitful area for further research.

“Almost Great: The 1907 Harrisburg Senators” by Jon Dunkle. Jon’s research into the Tri-State League uncovered this gem about the second place club which reeled off an 18-game winning streak. Jon has also been reconstructing the statistics of the league through box scores and game accounts, which can be painstaking work but useful for future researchers.

As part of the workshop that typifies the “Boiling Out” gatherings, we shared our research interests. In addition to the type already listed, Marc Bleuer is seeking information about the Vapor City Tigers of Hot Springs. Don Duren is researching the Hot Springs Bathers and seeking stories from those who attended games, work for the club in some capacity and, of course, from players and managers. Several researchers are interested in learning more about the Negro League clubs that trained in Hot Springs; several are known to have trained there but details are sketchy.

The University of Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans (<http://www.ualrtrojans.com/>) hosted Indiana University Purdue-Fort Wayne (IPFW) at Gary Hogan Field. We were treated to an extra-inning thriller, which the home team won thanks to a bases-loaded walk. Even with the ping of aluminum bats and the unnatural green of the infield artificial turf, those of us who left our snow-covered northern towns were delighted to

experience our first taste of live baseball!

Gary Hogan Field, incidentally, is described on http://ballparks.baseballyakker.com/?page_id=192. The website is maintained by Caleb Hardwick who, at 16 years old, was the youngest active participant at the “Boiling Out” conference.

We left Hot Springs, as always, ready for a new season of baseball research. Every year, researchers break camp saying, “This will be the year I finish that book” or “This year, I’ll find that ballplayer grave/photo/statistic/autograph/anecdote I’ve been seeking.” Major league teams all break camp hoping for a World Series ring, knowing only one in 30 will get it. Baseball researchers are luckier; every one of us can achieve the goals we set when we break camp. Here’s hoping this is true for all the “Boiling Out” attendees – past, present and future – and, indeed, for everyone else in SABR.



Don Duren stands about where home plate would have been at Fogel Field in Hot Springs, spring training site for the Phillies in 1912. His outstretched arms indicate where the foul lines would have run.

THE LAST WORD

by Mark Ruckhaus
Editor, *The Inside Game*

Michael Shapiro, who followed his excellent book *"The Last Good Season"* with another--*"Bottom of the Ninth,"* said, very eloquently, in the introduction to the latter:

"Baseball has always lived in the present, which is fitting for a game that measures time by the pitch and by the inning. When confronted with change or challenge, it has not looked to the future but to the past, and there has found the best and reassuring reflection of itself in the sepia images of the men and the teams that came before."

Whether the powers that be in Major League Baseball have learned anything from the past is open to conjecture. Three strikes, three collusion cases and a PED epidemic which was only dealt with when it had to gives credence to a famous quote, noted at the conclusion of this column.

With that in mind, those involved with this newsletter--from editing, to contributing, to reading--are the past. And, though we may be looked at as dinosaurs, that's a good thing.

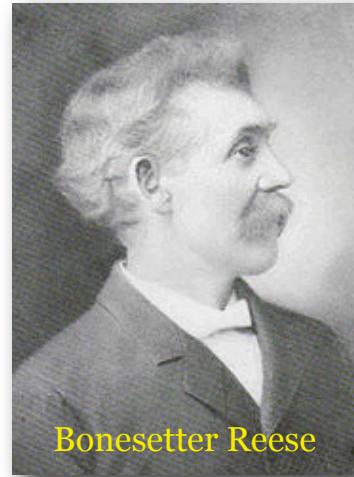
It's up to people like us to put things in perspective. The word "perspective" has, unfortunately become a misused and therefore hackneyed one. It's misused in the broadcast booth far too often. "You know, Joe, John Smith's father died yesterday and he's out here today giving it his all." "Well, that puts things in perspective, Jim." But I'll attempt to keep the cliche out.

Without the past, and people like us reminding how things once were and how issues were confronted, how could we make parallels with issues going on in today's game, issues such as PED and how it compares or contrasts with other issues which have affected the sport over the years--gambling, racism and player/owner relations being three?

Specifically, I've been reading in recent weeks about a doctor who, though he might be skilled, might also be lacking in scruples if not operating on the wrong side of the law altogether--Tony Galea. Reportedly, star players such as Alex Rodriguez, Jose Reyes and Carlos Beltran

have traveled north of the border to receive some dubious blood-swapping treatment with some HGH possibly thrown in. Galea has treated others, most notably Tiger Woods, who has had his own well-publicized non-medical issues, reportedly traveling to Florida, where he isn't licensed, to treat the noted golfer.

And what was the first thing I thought of when I read of Dr. Galea? Bonesetter Reese, whose wonderful and concise biography was written by accomplished author and SABRite David W. Anderson. That's the way my mind works.



Bonesetter Reese

To Reese's credit, he never got involved with any sort of drug treatment or performed any treatment which involved using anything but his hands. He may have acquired a sort of honorary license from the state of Ohio to practice something resembling chiropractics, like abortion, a form of medicine and treatment which existed mostly behind closed doors a hundred years ago. And he "treated" some of the top names in the game: Mathewson, Wagner, Young, Johnson and Cobb, to name five, as well as non-baseball people such as Teddy Roosevelt and Will Rogers.

The point of this column is not to compare Tony Galea with Bonesetter Reese or to speculate what approach Reese would have taken if he were alive today. Rather, it's to point out that, thanks to the knowledgeable and intrepid people of SABR, those who keep the past alive through biographies, research, statistics and newsletters, we can place current issues into context and can learn from the past and point others who have yet to learn in the right direction or, as George Santayana said in his famous quote, "Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it."