

The INSIDE GAME



The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee

VOL. XI, NO. 1: "LET'S GET THIS LUMPY, LICORICE-STAINED BALL ROLLING!" JAN. 2011

THE CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by **John McMurray**

With the new year now upon us, it is worthwhile to recall the baseball season from 100 years ago, which proved to be one of most storied of the Deadball Era. Not only did Ty Cobb win the American League batting title with a .420 average, the highest of his career, but the Philadelphia Athletics also cemented their place as one of the premier teams of the period with their second consecutive World Series victory. The 1911 season was the year of Frank Baker's home runs in consecutive Series games against the New York Giants, of Vean Gregg winning the A.L. ERA title during his spectacular rookie season, and when Frank Schulte of the Chicago Cubs was one of baseball's most dominant players, almost doubling the home run total of the leader in the American League. The season contained, in other words, several of the events that gave the Deadball Era its unique flavor.

As we enter 2011, the Deadball Era Committee continues to cast a wide net. The Committee now includes almost 600 SABR members, an all-time high. DEC member Mark Dugo

continued on page 14

RETROSHEET

by **Dave Smith**
President, Retrosheet

The different professional sports vary greatly in the kinds of records they keep and what is seen as important to record. No sport has a longer history with detailed record-keeping than baseball, beginning with Henry Chadwick, who invented the box score in the mid-19th century. This robust statistical record of daily and seasonal totals provides a rich historical context for the analysis and enjoyment of modern day action by sportswriters, broadcasters and fans. Necessary reading for anyone interested in the statistical aspect of baseball and its development from Chadwick through people and organizations like Allan Roth and the Elias Sports Bureau on to contemporary "stat gurus" such as Bill James and Pete Palmer is Alan Schwarz' *The Numbers Game - Baseball's Lifelong Fascination with Statistics*.

continued on page 7

What's Inside...

***New Deadball Era Committee Project:
Deadball Era World Series Book***
by Steve Steinberg

The Major League Pennant Races of 1916
Reviewed by Steve Savage

Iron Man McGinnity: A Baseball Biography
Reviewed by Scott Longert

Chief Bender: A Baseball Biography
Reviewed by John Stodola

NEW PROJECT: DEADBALL ERA WORLD SERIES BOOK

by Steve Steinberg

Tom Simon and I are starting work on a Deadball Era World Series book, one that we hope will be a major collaborative effort of members of SABR's Deadball Era Committee.

Countless World Series books have been published over the years. I have eighteen in my library alone. Most are traditional accounts with few, if any, pictures. There have been several picture books, with some supporting text. There never has been a book dedicated to the World Series games played during the Deadball Era. However, *there has never been a book that combines rare, evocative images with colorful and descriptive prose from contemporary writers of the times, including legendary sportswriters such as Broun, Dryden, Lardner, Rice, and Runyon.*

Long before television, even before radio, baseball fans followed the World Series in the daily newspapers. Sportswriters were kings and kingmakers and had national followings (many

were syndicated across the country). They worked magic, conjuring up vivid images that were much more lyrical and expressive than what fans read today. Their accounts were accompanied by photographs that were often either portraits or far-away action shots. Wide-angle photography was used, but the zoom lens that brought action shots up close was still some years away.

Our book will be photo-laden and photo-driven—with both action and still shots—drawing on rare and seldom-seen images from both public archives and private collections across the country. These pictures will be accompanied by accounts from sportswriters (as well as some managers and players), vivid firsthand accounts that capture a “feel” for the times.



***Honus Wagner and Ty Cobb
at the 1909 World Series
(LOC, Bain Collection, LC-USZ62-28936)***

We will model our approach to the style of writing of the three classic books by G.H. Fleming. These writings detailed the 1908 National League pennant race; the 1927 New York Yankees; and the 1934 St. Louis Cardinals' Gas House Gang, respectively:

The Unforgettable Season, Fireside, 1981 (reissued by University of Nebraska Press, 2006)

The INSIDE GAME

The Official Newsletter of SABR's Deadball Era Committee

Committee Chair

John McMurray: deadball@sabr.org

Committee Vice Chair

Trey Strecker: tstrecker@bsu.edu

Newsletter Editor

Mark Ruckhaus: markruck@aol.com

Assistant Editor

Mark Dugo: claydad96@aol.com

Book Review Editor

Gail Rowe: growes36@comcast.net

Murderers' Row, William Morrow, 1985

The Dizziest Season, William Morrow, 1984

Fleming drew on day-to-day excerpts from newspaper accounts, which he supplemented with his own brief comments. His remarks appear in italics and provide context for the quotes that follow. Fleming's books did not contain photos, with the exception of a handful which were published in *The Dizziest Season*.

Our book will have sixteen chapters, one for each Deadball Era World Series (1903, 1905-1919), as well as a short chapter for 1904, the year the Giants refused to play in the World Series. Each season will have a pre-Series introduction (which may include predictions), a section on each Series game, and a post-Series review. While the books will have many photos, as many as two hundred or so, they will not be evenly distributed—this will be a reflection of the pool of the available photos. Pictures from each game are not known to exist, and are hard to come by for some Series (especially the early ones and 1918, when the nation was at war).



We've come a long way from watching the World Series like this.

Large crowd in front of the New York Herald Building "watching" a 1911 Giants-Athletics World Series game. (LOC, Bain Collection, LC-B2-2319-3)

All of the quotes and photos should be in the public domain, having appeared pre-1923.

We will need submissions for each game of each World Series, as well as the pre-Series buildup, and post-Series analysis. Deadball Era Committee members across the country can contribute to this book by submitting choice excerpts from newspaper microfilm they have access to, and/or by serving as "editor" for a particular Series.

Some guidelines:

1. The excerpts will be a paragraph or two in length.
2. While excerpts from recognized "masters" are preferred, colorful quotes from any sportswriter can be submitted. The quote does not have to come from a "name" writer.
3. Excerpts will not be limited to reporters from the two competing World Series cities. For example, a New York writer may contribute to the Cubs-Tigers 1908 Series, and a St. Louis writer may comment about any Series. (A St. Louis team did not appear in any Deadball Era World Series).
 - a. Will we consider commentary from a columnist (probably a sports editor) who is not even present (in person) at the Series? Perhaps.
 - b. Will we consider commentary from "players" (ghostwriters who wrote under the names of well-known ballplayers)? Perhaps.
 - c. If you live in a non-MLB city, you can still contribute to this book, without necessarily resorting to ILL (Interlibrary Loan).

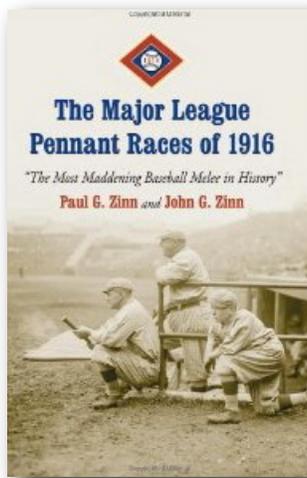
continued on page 12

NEW DEADBALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Deadball Committee is happy to welcome a newcomer to SABR who has expressed interest in the Deadball Era.

Robert Walker

He, as well as all who contributed to this issue, can be contacted through the SABR directory and, of course, all participation and contributions are most welcome.



**THE MAJOR LEAGUE
PENNANT RACES
OF 1916**

**BY PAUL G. ZINN AND
JOHN G. ZINN**

2009. Jefferson, NC:
McFarland and Company
[ISBN: 978-0-7864-3630-9
319 pp. \$32.00 USD.
Paperback]

Reviewed by
Steve Savage

John Zinn, CFO of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, as well as chairman of the board of the New Jersey Historical Society and author of a civil war history: *The Mutinous Regiment*, and his son Paul, a former sportswriter now working for a communications company and writing for the *Mets Fans Forever* blog, set out to describe an exciting pennant race involving the Brooklyn Dodgers, John's parents' favorite team. The Zinns settled on 1916, which featured close races in both major leagues and a championship for manager

Wilbert Robinson's Brooklyn club. The authors rely heavily upon 1916 newspaper columns and game accounts from forty-four newspapers, including several from each of the Major League cities. They also rely on national sporting papers, several representing minor league cities. The appendix listing the fifteen major columnists of the period on whom they have relied includes former players Sam Crane and Tim Murnane as well as Jim Nasium, Thomas S. Rice, Irving Sanborn, Damon Runyon and the legendary Fred Lieb. The book's text is sprinkled with literary examples by these columnists and beat writers. Each chapter's title is a pertinent quote from one of the newspaper stories.

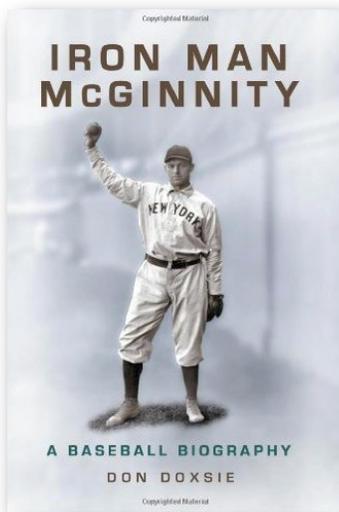
After analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of each club, the Zinns describe the year from the preseason through the World Series, with an epilogue covering the future of the clubs and the main characters. In this process, they discuss topics such as ballparks, betting, economics, Johnny Evers' temper, and McGraw's rebuilding of the Giants in the middle of the season. Using a multifactorial approach to explain the closeness of the pennant races, they explore the relative wealth of the clubs, the demise of the Federal League, managers' psychology, strategies and pitcher selection and

scheduling practices involving long road trips, exhibition games on most off days, and the ban on Sunday games in some cities. This book documents the practice of starting the hot pitcher as often as possible, including pitching both games of doubleheaders late in the season, and the widespread use of platooning, restricted only by the small roster sizes of the time.

In Robert W. Creamer's introduction to Cait Murphy's *Crazy '08* (2007), he remarks that Murphy writes in a non-traditional manner "without clogging her story with the tedious detail that can hamper so much history" (p. xi). The Zinns employ the traditional approach. Though their early and late chapters flow well, some of the middle chapters are tedious. Some sections report just the facts and some tell stories which are entertaining and informative. The authors also include copious notes and an excellent index in this well-documented book.

The Zinns do make some mistakes, as might be expected in a book densely packed with facts. An example of a trivial one is the reference to Shaman's, rather than Shannon's brass band (p. 30) playing at Brooklyn's opening day festivities. A surprising error is the authors describing Bullet Joe Bush as a rookie pitcher (p. 90). Bush had already

continued on page 8



**IRON MAN MCGINNITY:
A BASEBALL
BIOGRAPHY
BY DON DOXSIE**

*2009. Jefferson, NC:
McFarland & Company
[ISBN:978-0-7864-4203-4.
224 pp. \$29.95 USD.
Paperback]*

Reviewed by
Scott Longert

Deadball Era diamond feats were legendary: batting averages over .400 and pitchers winning 40 games in a season. These events occurred all with the benefit of tiny gloves barely covering their hands and bats that seemed to weigh twenty pounds. The players were men with little formal education. Some were hard drinkers while others would fight at the slightest provocation. Fans themselves were part of the action, often charging the field to argue with umpires or flinging soda bottles and other debris at their favorite villain.

Among those ballplayers who excelled over a century ago was Joe McGinnity. McGinnity had all the traits and characteristics that defined the Deadball Era. He was raised in a coal mining family where his father died in a horrible mining accident when Joe was eight. To make up for the lost income, the oldest McGinnity boys (Joe included) went straight to the mines, handling the mules that carried the coal wagons. Fortunately for Joe, his talent for throwing a baseball got him out of the mines and on to a baseball diamond.

According to Doxsie, McGinnity started playing professional baseball as a teenager. Doxsie carefully documents the teams, players and managers that Joe worked with all the way to the Major Leagues. He does an exceptional job in uncovering names, dates and places in the early days of McGinnity's career.

McGinnity did not get a shot at the big time until he was 28 years old. He signed with the Baltimore Orioles which began a long association with John McGraw and Wilbert Robinson. McGinnity thus received his baseball education from two of the greatest characters the Deadball Era has known. He learned the fine art of umpire baiting from McGraw, even to the point of throwing a punch or two when necessary. As Doxsie illustrates, the Orioles were a rough bunch, doing

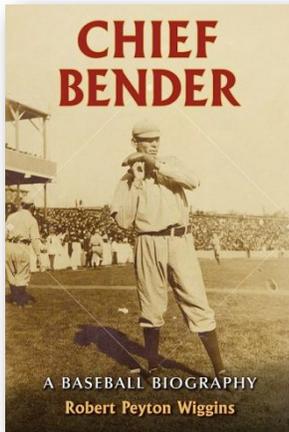
anything possible to win a game. The various descriptions of the battles on the field are well done.

McGinnity's off-field activities are treated in great detail. The author clears up the misconception that the nickname of "Iron Man" came from Joe's ability to pitch over 400 innings a season. The name was adopted when McGinnity toiled in his father-in-law's iron foundry. Toil he did. Joe was a tireless worker both during the season and off. He never seemed to sit still. In his semipro days, McGinnity sometimes worked all week in the coal mines or at a local saloon and then pitched two games on the weekends. One umpire claimed that McGinnity occasionally pitched eight games a week.

In the late 1890's McGinnity developed his signature pitch that he named "Old Sal." This was basically an underhand curve ball that sailed on batters. McGinnity's right arm nearly touched the ground when he released the pitch. It quickly became the best pitch in his arsenal that baffled hitters for more than a decade. Apparently this style of pitching saved wear and tear on the arm, allowing Joe to pile up the innings at an amazing rate.

Although reaching the Major Leagues at an advanced age, the inventor of "Old Sal"

continued on page 8



**CHIEF BENDER:
A BASEBALL
BIOGRAPHY**

**BY ROBERT PEYTON
WIGGINS**

2010. *Jefferson, NC:*
McFarland & Co.
[ISBN: 978-0-7864-4229-4
272 pp. \$29.95 USD.
Paperback]

Reviewed by
John Stodola

Robert Peyton Wiggins' biography of Charles Albert Bender focuses on Bender the baseball player rather than on "Chief" Bender the American Indian baseball player. Wiggins does an adequate job of chronicling Bender's baseball career. Only the first 37 pages are devoted to Bender's life before Major League Baseball. These pages include the seven years of Bender attending Carlisle Indian Industrial School which was the first United States Government off-reservation boarding school exclusively for American Indian children. According to

Wiggins, "Bender jumped at the chance to go to Carlisle" (p. 16).

In 1903, as Bender started his Major League career, he traveled to the port of New York City where he saw passengers boarding a steamship. "As I walked up to the gangplank," he later recounted, "I heard someone say, 'There's the big chief.' That is how I got the nickname of 'Chief'" (p. 38).

Bender won 212 games in fifteen full seasons of Major League Baseball. He also won six games in five different World Series. When his Major League career ended, Bender played nine years of minor league ball, winning another 91 games. In 1907, Bender won 11 consecutive starts. The author describes this feat in great detail, even including a chart that lists the date, opponent, opposing pitcher, score and site of each game. Bender signed with the Federal League after Connie Mack released him following the 1914 World Series. He then played one year for the Federal League in 1915 and two years for the Philadelphia Phillies, before returning to the minors. Besides being a

good pitcher, Bender had his moments as a hitter. On May 8, 1906, he had two inside-the-park home runs in consecutive at bats.

Though Wiggins' focus is on baseball, any biography of Chief Bender needs to include the racist comments directed toward him, and Wiggins offers examples to give readers the flavor of these observations. After Bender escaped a ninth inning jam on opening day in 1905, a sportswriter provided one of the least obnoxious comments, writing that Bender "had won a new turkey feather for his head piece, and then for a wind-up came within a half inch of letting the champions scalp him alive." Others were more personal and scurrilous.

The author concludes the book by describing how Mack and Bender reconciled after their bitter parting following the 1914 World Series. In June, 1939, Mack signed Bender to be a talent evaluator. Eventually he became a pitching coach. Bender remained on the Philadelphia Athletics' payroll for the rest of his life.

The problems with this book arise in part from the fact that two books had already been published about Bender shortly before Wiggins' book appeared. Tom Swift wrote *Chief Bender's Burden* in 2008 and won SABR's Seymour Medal in 2009 for

continued on page 8

*Publishers' contacts for
books reviewed in this
issue:*

McFarland
Box 611
Jefferson, NC 28640
(336-246-4460)

RETROSHEET

(continued from page 1)

However, there has long been a void at the very heart of this mountain of data, namely the actual play by play events of each game from which all else is derived. For understandable logistical reasons, there was no good method for recording, much less distributing these detailed accounts for most of baseball history. As a result, the summaries of each game are all that was available. Retrosheet was formed in 1989 to fill the gap in play by play data, using a straightforward data storage system to preserve this information which is then distributed via the Internet (www.retrosheet.org).

The advent of the personal computer in the 1980s made it possible for the first time to imagine the creation of a digital record that could be used by everyone. The data format was established and appropriate software created by a small group of dedicated and highly capable programmers who were also baseball historians. Once these technical issues were resolved, then the real work could begin, which is the collection of play by play accounts and the painstaking work of translating them into the standard format. A typical game can be entered into the computer in about 15 minutes, but some may take much longer.

Play by play accounts have been obtained from many sources: individual Major League teams, sportswriters, broadcasters, scorecards kept by fans, and daily newspapers. The last category may be unfamiliar to modern fans, but up to World War II (and on a decreasing scale thereafter), most cities with Major League teams had one or more newspapers which printed the complete events of games in a narrative form (*see image on p. 9*). In the era before radio coverage was commonplace, this was the only way a fan who did not attend the game could know what had happened. The details of perhaps 25,000 games have been obtained in this way.

Current teams are very uneven in their retention of play by play data prior to 1970 although each team has now graciously made available to Retrosheet the scorebooks they have so that they

could be copied and used for data input. Many sportswriters and broadcasters kept their own scorebooks and have kindly permitted copies to be made as well. Scorecards from individual fans are available with surprising frequency through on-line auctions. The combination of all these sources for games played from 1901 to 1983 has yielded play by play information for over 86,000 of the nearly 117,000 games played in that span (74%), some of which are only partial accounts. From 1984-2010, full play by play detail is available for all of the almost 61,000 games played, bringing the 1901-2010 totals beyond 147,000 games (82.9%). The accounts for this latter era are from commercial sources.

Simply compiling and computerizing all this material has been daunting enough, but Retrosheet goes further and does not release any data files until they have undergone careful proofing by comparing the daily totals for each player from each computerized game to the official data. The official numbers were recorded by each league and are archived on microfilm at the National Baseball Hall of Fame library. Retrosheet has been able to purchase copies of these microfilmed records and the images have been digitized by volunteers transcribing them into spreadsheets (*images of second pages of Cobb and Lajoie "dailies" from 1910 on pp. 10-11*). Text files are then created to use in the day by day proofing. One consequence of this careful process has been the discovery of literally thousands of discrepancies with the official data. Some of these discrepancies reflect flaws in the game accounts collected by Retrosheet while some are clearly errors in the official totals. Retrosheet is still working on the proper way to identify and report the differences that have been found.

It must be emphasized that Retrosheet is a completely non-profit organization and that all labor has been freely volunteered. Several hundred individuals have volunteered during the past 20 years, with a core of perhaps 50 who have done the lion's share of the work. The only expenses for Retrosheet are related to acquiring accounts (copying fees, postage, etc), the purchase

of microfilmed official data and the upkeep of the website. No one receives a salary. Data files are distributed free of charge on the organization's website along with a few programs to facilitate the processing of the files into a format suitable for import into a spreadsheet or database.

1916 *(continued from page 4)*

pitched over 500 major league innings before the start of the 1916 season. (There was another Joe Bush in 1916 but he was a minor league second baseman spending his last year in organized baseball with Dallas in the Texas League.) The authors also omit mention of the National League's announcement to investigate McGraw's public claim that his Giants did not follow his instructions in Brooklyn's pennant-clinching victory at Ebbets Field, and the ensuing public speculation about players throwing that game.

The Zinns have accurately reflected the ebb and flow of these two exciting major league pennant races and the tenor of the times through their use of contemporary commentaries, in this book, one of the nine nominees for the 2010 Ritter Award

MCGINNITY *(continued from page 5)*

made the most of his ten years as a pro, averaging a 24 wins a season while pitching over 400 innings twice in his career. As a New York Giant he combined with Hall of Famer Christy Mathewson to form one of Baseball's great pitching staffs. They won a World Series in 1905 With "Matty" throwing three shut outs and McGinnity one. The two Giant aces dominated the National League in the first decade of the 20th century, but only managed to win one World's Championship.

The story does not end here. Doxsie follows McGinnity's post-Major League career through

countless cities and towns until his retirement at age 54. Doxsie treats his readers to an odyssey of colorful characters and places that make his book a fun and rewarding experience for any fan of the game, even those who don't live vicariously in the Deadball days.

BENDER *(continued from page 6)*

this work. William Kashatus published *Money Pitcher: Charles Bender and the Tragedy of Indian Assimilation* in 2006. Swift's book is much better than Wiggins'. Swift is very descriptive in his Bender biography and offers his readers a better feel for what Bender went through as an American Indian in a mostly white environment. Wiggins is upfront that his focus is on Bender's baseball career. Still, Swift does a superior job of writing about Bender's life—on and off the field. Reading Swift is like reading a *Sports Illustrated* version of a baseball game; reading Wiggins is like perusing a newspaper account.

Comparing similar stories in the Swift and Wiggins books is instructive. For instance, Swift has seven pages describing Bender's 1902 year as a pitcher for the semipro Harrisburg Athletic Club, a year that so impressed Connie Mack that he offered Bender a contract to start his Major League career in 1903 with the Athletics. Wiggins deals with that year in a single sentence. Swift's treatment of why Connie Mack released Bender after the 1914 World Series is also much more comprehensive than Wiggins'. Neither Wiggins nor Swift agree with Kashatus' conviction that Bender intentionally compromised his performance in the 1914 World Series in retribution for the poor treatment he suffered as an American Indian baseball player.

Wiggins' work will be attractive for anyone unfamiliar with Bender's baseball career and looking for a good overview. For those seeking a more comprehensive account of Bender's personal and professional life, Swift's book is the one to read.

Cobb

1910

Date	Pos.	No. Games	A. B.	Runs	1st. B.	S. H.	S. B.	P. O.	Ass't.	Errors	P. B.	2 B. Hits	3 B. Hits	H. R.
July 26	C.F.	88	331	66	126	11	46	178	12	9		25	11	3
27			4		2			3						
28			3					3						
29			4	1	3		2	2						
30			4	1	2		1	2						1
31			4	2	2			1						
1			4		1			3						
2			4					3						
3			4					3						
4			4					3						
5			4					3						
6			4	1	2		2	1						
7			4	2	2		2	1		1		2		
8			4		2			1						
9			4		1			1						
10			4		1			1						
11			4	2	2		1	1						
12			4		1			2		1				
13			4		3			1						
14			4	1	3			1						1
15			4		1			1						
16			4	3	1		2	4		1				
17			4		1			3						
18			4	1	3			3						
19			4		1			1						
20			5	3	1		3	5						
21			5	1	1			1						
22			4		3			2						
23			4	1	3			2		1				
24			4		1			1						
25			4	1	3			4						
26			4		1			1						
27			4	2	2			3						
28			4	1	2			1						
29			4		2			1						
30			4	1	2		1	1						
31			4	1	3			2						
1			4		2			1						
2			4		3			2						
3			4		2			1						
4			4		1			3						
5			4	1	1			1						
6			4		1			3						
7			4	1	1			3		1				1
8			4	1	1			3		1				
9			4		2			2						
10			4		2			1						
11			4		2			1						
12			4		1			1						
13			4		2			1						
14			4		1			1						
15			4		2			1						
16			4		1			1						
17			4		2			2						
18			4		1			1						
19			4		2			1						
20			4		1			1						
21			4		2			2						
22			4		1			1						
23			4		2			1						
24			4		1			1						
25			4		2			1						
26			4		1			1						
27			4		2			2						
28			4		1			1						
29			4		2			1						
30			4		1			1						
31			4		2			1						
1			4		1			1						
2			4		2			2						
3			4		1			1						
4			4		2			1						
5			4		1			1						
6			4		2			2						
7			4		1			1						
8			4		2			1						
9			4		1			1						
10			4		2			1						
11			4		1			1						
12			4		2			1						
13			4		1			1						
14			4		2			1						
15			4		1			1						
16			4		2			1						
17			4		1			1						
18			4		2			1						
19			4		1			1						
20			4		2			1						
21			4		1			1						
22			4		2			1						
23			4		1			1						
24			4		2			1						
25			4		1			1						
26			4		2			1						
27			4		1			1						
28			4		2			1						
29			4		1			1						
30			4		2			1						
31			4		1			1						
1			4		2			1						
2			4		1			1						
3			4		2			1						
4			4		1			1						
5			4		2			1						
6			4		1			1						
7			4		2			1						
8			4		1			1						
9			4		2			1						
10			4		1			1						
11			4		2			1						
12			4		1			1						
13			4		2			1						
14			4		1			1						
15			4		2			1						
16			4		1			1						
17			4		2			1						
18			4		1			1						
19			4		2			1						
20			4		1			1						
21			4		2			1						
22			4		1			1						
23			4		2			1						
24			4		1			1						
25			4		2			1						
26			4		1			1						
27			4		2			1						
28			4		1			1						
29			4		2			1						
30			4		1			1						
31			4		2			1						
1			4		1			1						
2			4		2			1						
3			4		1			1						

AMERICAN LEAGUE.

Cleveland and St. Louis Divide Double Header, Closing the Season.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Oct. 9.—Cleveland and St. Louis divided a double-header to-day, the locals winning the first 5 to 4, and the visitors taking the second 3 to 0. Lajoie got eight hits in eight times at bat. Today's games closed the local season. Scores:

FIRST GAME.

ST. LOUIS.					CLEVELAND.						
A	B	R	H	P	A	A	B	R	H	P	A
Fru'd'e, 2b.	5	0	0	1	3	Bronkie, 3b.	3	1	1	1	1
Cor'den, 2b.	5	2	3	1	1	Graney, lf.	4	1	1	4	0
Stone, lf.	5	0	2	1	0	Jackson, cf.	4	1	2	1	0
Griggs, 1b.	3	1	0	15	1	Lajoie, 2b.	4	1	4	4	1
Wallace, ss.	3	0	1	3	6	East'ly, rf.	4	0	0	1	0
Northen, cf.	4	0	0	2	0	Stovall, 1b.	4	0	2	7	0
H'thall, rf.	3	2	1	1	0	Smith, c.	4	0	0	4	1
Stephens, c.	3	0	2	4	4	P'k'p'h, ss.	4	0	0	2	6
Nelson, p.	3	0	1	1	6	Brand'g, p.	4	0	0	0	1
Total...	36	5	10	27	21	Total...	35	4	10	24	10

*None out when winning run was scored.
 Errors—Truesdale, Wallace, Bronkie.
 St. Louis.....1 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 1-5
 Cleveland.....3 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0-4
 Two-base hits—Jackson, Corriden, Griggs, Graney, Stephens. Three-base hits—Lajoie, Griggs. Sacrifice hit—Stephens. Stolen bases—Bronkie, Stovall, Griggs. Wild pitch—Blanding. Bases on balls—Off Nelson, 1; off Blanding, 4. Struck out—By Nelson, 4; by Blanding, 4. Left on bases—St. Louis, 12; Cleveland, 5. Time of game—One hour and forty-two minutes. Umpire—Mr. Evans.

Graney, Stephens. Three-base hits—Lajoie, Griggs. Sacrifice hit—Stephens. Stolen bases—

The box score from the first game of that dubious closing day doubleheader.

Ed. note: This version comes from the New York Times. I tried to reproduce The Sporting News version as well but the original .pdf was difficult to read and attempting to crop it and place it here only made it worse. You can find it in on page four of the October 13, 1910 issue.

Under "Three-base hits" you can clearly see the names of both Lajoie and Art Griggs.

Yet, if you look below...

Game	At-Bats	Runs	Hits	Doubles	Triples	Homers
1	159	59	91	9	27	21
2	26	38	7	1	1	1
3	387	419	28	149	51	7
4	4					

The final two games of Lajoie's 1910 season are highlighted above along with his season totals. The last three columns on the right are for doubles, triples and homers. While the eight hits are clearly indicated, there's no mention of an extra-base hit in either game. As a matter of fact, if you look at the previous page, Lajoie's last triple appeared to have come on October 1.

Quotes are sometimes questionable, especially when someone is attempting to recall events of long ago. But this one from Lajoie is pretty fresh, considering it appeared in the October 11, 1910 Cleveland Plain Dealer, just two days after the doubleheader, and which was quoted in Dennis Manoloff's column, also in the Plain Dealer, of this past October 8:

"The talk about my not earning those eight hits in St. Louis, though, makes me tired. The first time up I smashed one to the outfield that went over (Hub) Northen's head, yet some say he misjudged it. Then I hit one that (Bobby) Wallace was lucky to knock down. If that wasn't a hit, there never was one. Then we get down to those six bunts that I beat out. Suppose (Red) Corridon (sic) did play fairly well back. If he had played in for a bunt and I had swung hard on the ball, I suppose the youngster would have been roasted to a turn be cause he did not play deep."

Looking at it a hundred years later, the results of that 1910 American League batting race still appear sketchy. And it appears as if Lajoie is missing a three-bagger. What else is missing?

WORLD SERIES BOOK *(continued from page 3)*

- I. The sports editor or columnist of your local paper may have had worthy contributions.
 - II. Your town's paper often carried syndicated columnists from other larger cities.
4. The photographs in this book present a chicken-and-egg challenge for the selection of excerpts. We will consider thousands of images, and will not finalize their selection until well into the process. Obviously, an excerpt that ties in with a photo that we do select will warrant special consideration.
 5. Overlap: There will be some inevitable overlap in excerpt submissions. This is both unavoidable and perfectly acceptable. For example, a committee member in San Francisco or Des Moines may submit the same Damon Runyon quote that a New York committee member submits. Such duplication in selection will reinforce consideration of that quote by the editor for that Series.

In the October 4, 2010, issue of *Publishers Weekly*, Glenn Stout, longtime editor of the annual *Best American Sportswriting* series, talks about modern-day sportswriting:

"I don't think either TV or radio can approach writing for its ability to get inside, around, and underneath a subject. A writer, through the use of words, can go places cameras and microphones cannot. The best writing about any subject is always transcendent. . . Sports writing will do what it has always done: make sense of things."

Our goal is to make sense of the World Series of the Deadball Era—and to make them come alive—through vivid images and revealing words of the scribes who covered them.

While Tom Simon and I will work together on the book, I will serve as the photo editor and Tom will serve as the overall text editor.

If you are interested in participating in the photo collection process, please contact me at ssteinberg@trinorth.com.

This can be as specific as one particular Series or one particular city whose team or teams were in one or more Deadball Era World Series. Any leads to collections we can draw on—private or public—will be greatly appreciated.

If your interest and knowledge revolves around ballparks of the Deadball Era, that expertise will be important in working with ballpark images.

If you are willing to participate as either a contributor or editor of text for a particular Series (or both), please contact Tom at tps@mc-fitz.com. We would like to have an editor for each Series by the time of the 2011 convention, and we are aiming for publication sometime in 2012 or 2013.



***What's that about white elephants?
John McGraw and Connie Mack
exchanging pleasantries at the
1911 World Series
(Google Images)***

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN (continued from page 1)

has recently overseen the sale and distribution of t-shirts and hats with our Committee logo, which have been very popular thanks to the stellar printing of our vendor, Amalgamated Culture Works. Should you have an interest in purchasing a Deadball Era Committee t-shirt or hat, you may contact Mark at claydad96@aol.com.

Tom Simon and Steve Steinberg are now heading a project to tell the story of the Deadball Era World Series in photographs. This photographic approach will allow for a new perspective on these games. Moreover, they plan to use the words of contemporary sportswriters to provide essential details of many of the games, which dovetails nicely with one of the more popular project ideas that the Committee has been considering, namely telling the story of the Deadball Era through the writings of sportswriters from the period. Tom and Steve describe their intended approach in an article elsewhere in this issue of *The Inside Game* and would welcome your thoughts on and participation in the project.

Other DEC initiatives are also in the works. A small panel made up primarily of those involved with the past and present leadership of the Deadball Era Committee is taking steps to determine the next major Committee project, taking into account the results of the recent survey completed by DEC members. The Ritter Award subcommittee, which has added two new members this year, is in the process of determining the winner of this year's award and will announce the results in April. Trey Strecker, the Vice-Chair of the DEC, is also expanding the section of our website devoted to the Ritter Award.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Gail Rowe will be taking over as Chair of the Ritter Award subcommittee, which annually presents the award to the best book set primarily in the Deadball Era written during the prior year. Gabriel Schechter, who has led the panel which votes on the award since late 2007, has decided to step down following the presentation of this

year's award, and the Committee is grateful for his distinguished work. With his background in writing and editing, Gail will make an excellent chair of the subcommittee, and we look forward to his involvement to begin following the presentation of the 2011 Ritter Award.

As our Committee website continues to grow and develop, we invite you to share your original research on it. We would like the site to serve as a resource for historians. In that spirit, if you have contributions to make, please let me know.

It is also the time to think about making hotel reservations for this year's convention, SABR41, in Long Beach, California. The Convention will be held from July 6 to 10. The time of the annual Deadball Era Committee meeting has not yet been set, but information can be found at convention.sabr.org as it becomes available.

As always, we invite your contributions, large and small, which contribute to understanding the Deadball Era and look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

WHICH DEADBALLER WAS IT?

(Hint: This came from an obituary which appeared in The Sporting News, Feb. 6, 1930)

"He was one of men of the old school who was a personality in the game of baseball, because he loved it. He cherished it, not for the mere purpose of gaining a livelihood out of it, but for the sake of its fascination as a competitive sport, as something worthwhile to the player and to the spectator. He did not believe in coddling the man in the stands that this or the other monetary fad might be exploited for show purposes; on the contrary, he wanted each game to be a fighting contest that should fire the blood of the non-contestant, as well as the contestant.

"His idea of baseball was something which induces the patrons of the game to fidget, fuss and worry over each play as if it were they who were personally waging the battle on the diamond, instead of the men who caught and batted the ball."

Answer: Joe Cantillon, manager, umpire and player, who had passed away six days previously at the age of 68.

Thanks to Dennis Pajot for supplying the above.

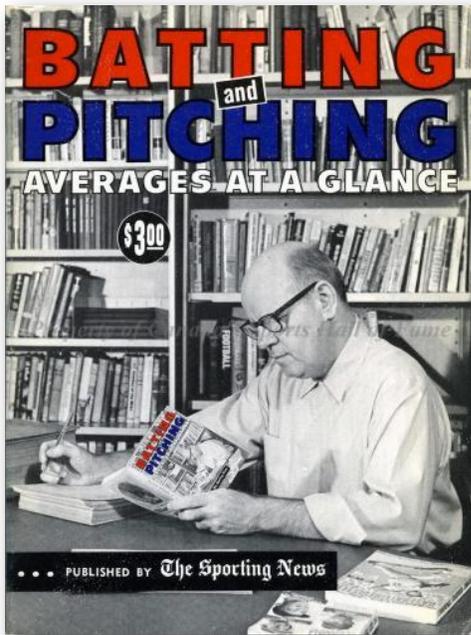
THE LAST WORD

by **Mark Ruckhaus**
Editor, *The Inside Game*

We should all be grateful to gentlemen like Dave Smith and his crew at Retrosheet along with the folks over at places like Sperry and IBM who invented behemoths which filled entire rooms and which begat handheld devices that are infinitely quicker and more powerful.

Without them, we'd be stuck with dailies and antiquated stat compilation and would never be quite sure if Ty Cobb won the 1910 batting title, how many hits Cap Anson had or how many runs the Babe drove in.

Then again, if we still depended on the TSN batting average book, would we care? After all, we'd still be living in the dark ages.



How primitive!

*(Cover courtesy of the
Canada Sports Hall of Fame website)*

In my retirement, I'm honored to be helping out Retrosheet in any way I can. Initially, it was digitizing dailies so others could have access to them and the numbers could be added up properly, which wasn't always the case, assuming the initial data was entered correctly in

the first place. Recently, it's been taking occasional trips to the New York Public Library, going through old microfilms and scanning *Daily News* write-ups of the three New York teams from the early '50s.

Why do I do it? Two reasons: The first is that Retrosheet, unlike something like, say, Elias, doesn't operate on a for-profit basis, making their major reason for being to be altruism—sharing baseball history with anyone who has access to a computer. The other comes from noted author Jacques Barzun, whose famous quote started "Whoever wants to know the heart and mind of America had better learn baseball..." And, if the information is scattershot or, like an unfound fossil, still stuck in the ground (or dusty file cabinet or attic in the case of baseball), the better the chance that the information will never be found and therefore lost forever.

Having done both this and official scoring for the Newark Bears in 2009, what I find fascinating and mind-boggling is that, after making a few keystrokes, I can share the information I have just supplied or reported on with pretty much the entire civilized world. OK, with the Atlantic League it was sometime after the game. But you get the idea.

Many of you who read this are already involved with something at SABR. It could have been turning up some obscure factoid on up to doing extensive research and writing articles and books. For those who would like to contribute but don't have the time or desire for extensive research and writing, getting involved with Retrosheet is the perfect outlet.

After all, you'd be contributing to baseball history, which will benefit people today and in future generations. Additionally, judging by the Cobb and Lajoie "dailies" reproduced in this issue, it appears you'd get the chance to correct the mistakes of those who should have gotten it right in the first place. Then again, those people making and then certifying those mistakes were also the same people who certified the results of the Mills Commission.