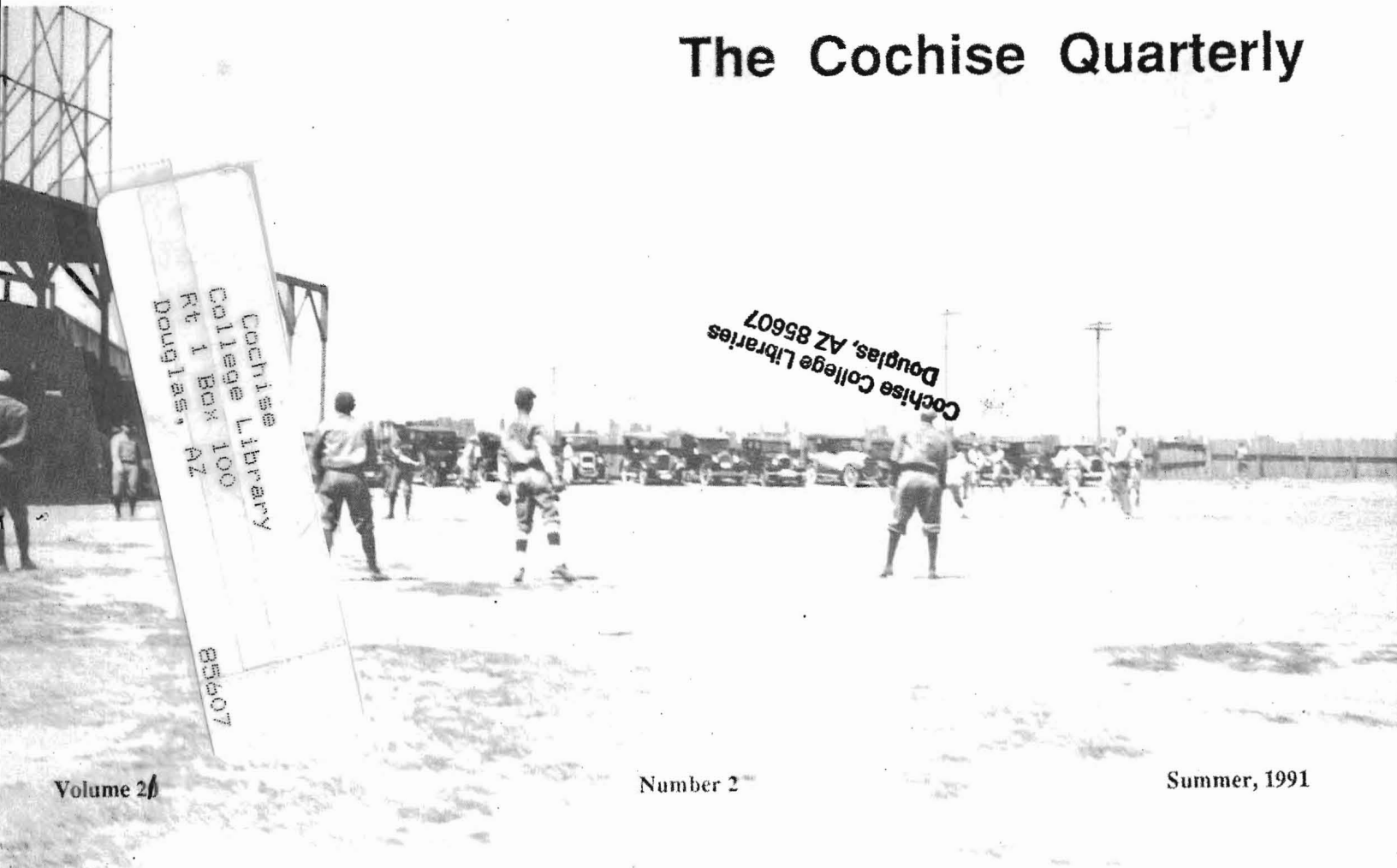


# The Cochise Quarterly



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About The Cover: Baseball was a popular sport in Douglas from the town's earliest days. This baseball park was built in the area of the 1700 block of 10th Street and was served by the Douglas Street Railway system. While this photo was taken in the 1920s, it's not known if this is the Douglas Blues team, which included several "outlaw" players. (Courtesy of Special Collections, University of Arizona Library)

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## OUTLAW BASEBALL IN THE OLD COPPER LEAGUE

By Lynn Bevill

During the summers of 1925 and 1926, Douglas joined with other towns in New Mexico, Texas, Arizona and Chihuahua in playing baseball. In 1925 the league was called the Frontier League and in 1926 the Copper League.

What was unusual about those two years was the use by Douglas of four former major leaguers who had been banned or outlawed from ever playing again in organized professional baseball. The man who introduced these banned or "outlaw" players on a grand scale to Douglas was one of the most enigmatic players to ever play professional baseball.

Harold Homer Chase was born in Los Gatos, Calif. and grew up in the San Jose area.<sup>1</sup> Called Prince Hal by those who felt he ruled the first base, in 1905 he joined the New York Highlanders (later to be called the Yankees). From then until his last season in 1919, he established a reputation as one of the best, if not the best, fielding first baseman to ever play the game.

He was part of a revolution that changed forever how a player would cover first base. During the 19th and even early in the 20th century, the first baseman stood on the base waiting to catch thrown balls to make outs. Chase moved off the bag and became a fourth fielder. This freed the second baseman to move closer to his base and changed forever infield strategy.

But it was more than this, for Chase was the consummate fielder. Left handed, he demonstrated the value of the port-sided player at that position and he brought a flair and daring to the position that changed forever how fans would view the position.

But there was a side to Chase that never allowed him to gain the standing his abilities seemed to deserve. He was never comfortable in organized baseball and was often at odds with the managers and owners of the teams he played for.

After engineering the firing of the Highlanders manager in 1909, he accepted a dare and assumed the position of manager and did an acceptable, although not outstanding, job for two years. In 1914 he jumped with several other players to the new professional Federal League. When the major leagues tried to stop him, he challenged them in court and won.

After the demise of the Federal League, he was left unemployed but his considerable talent could not be denied and he was quickly signed by Cincinnati where he won the 1916 National League batting championship. But rumors began to circulate that he was gambling heavily, even on his own games, and then attempting to fix the results. At least one hearing was held that cleared Chase, but still the rumors and allegations abounded.

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The year 1919 was a pivotal one for baseball in the United States. The 1918 season had been shortened by World War I. Many players had enlisted, been drafted or taken war-related jobs.

Expectations were high for the new season. Baseball was one of the social areas swept up in a post-war fervor of patriotism and enthusiasm for things American.<sup>2</sup>

Baseball had long been considered a man's game, complete with most of the manly vices of the day. On-field smoking and drinking were generally accepted, violence often exploded off and on the field and, perhaps most importantly, gambling was intertwined with the sport. Gamblers openly fraternized with owners, coaches and players. In some cases, they even traveled openly with the team much the same as reporters.

When baseball became caught up in post-war feelings, attempts began to downplay the seedier side of the game. Aware of strong feelings in America that eventually led to passage of Constitutional amendments supporting prohibition and women's suffrage, baseball officials worked at changing the sport's image.

In 1919, there was no stronger team than the Chicago White Sox. Graced with excellent players such as "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, Eddie Collins and Eddie Cicotte, the ChiSox also had a mix of strong veterans and evolving younger players. The team was considered a lock for the American League pennant and the World Series.

The White Sox were owned by the venerable Charles Comiskey, who built the team into a title contender while maintaining a low salary schedule that was the envy of many other owners. Comiskey did this by using the notorious reserve clause to the hilt.

The reserve clause bound every player to the team that owned his rights to play ball. The team owner could offer whatever salary he wished and the player could either accept the salary or not play anywhere in organized baseball. Thus the White Sox were a talented but volatile team ready to explode.

The explosion apparently came during the 1919 World Series. The Sox were expected to make short work of the National League champs, the Cincinnati Reds. Instead, the mighty Sox were pummeled badly and lost the series five games to three. Rumors quickly began to circulate that the Series had been fixed.

Little happened during the off-season, however, and the 1920 season opened as scheduled. Comiskey's salary offers were typically low and one Chicago player, Chick Gandil, refused to sign and retired to his California home. The rest of the team did sign contracts and made a strong run at the American League pennant.

Then shortly before the season ended, seven White Sox (Buck Weaver, Eddie Cicotte, Lefty Williams, Joe Jackson, Swede Risberg, Happy Felsch



During his years with several major league teams, Hal Chase revolutionized the way first base was played. The way he ruled the position and his flamboyant behavior led to his nickname "Prince Hal." But Douglas residents who remember Chase recall that he was reticent and his son, Hal Jr., who lived with his father in Douglas for a while, was also reserved. Chase roomed with Dr. Oscar D. Weeks and his wife, Dorothy, at 1305 11th St. (Courtesy of National Baseball Library, Cooperstown, N.Y.)

and Fred McMullin) were suspended by Comisky. A grand jury formed to study the alleged "fix."

When the seven White Sox (forever dubbed the Black Sox) were indicted in 1920, another name was on the indictment — Hal Chase. Chase spent the 1919 season as a member of the New York Giants so it's not clear why his name was on the indictment. Chase was in California when an order was sent for his extradition. California authorities refused to honor it and the matter was dropped.

The Black Sox and other individuals were finally formally charged with gambling and conspiracy to gamble. After a long and suspicious trial,<sup>3</sup> the seven were found not guilty of the associated crime of throwing a game in the first part of August, 1920.

The day after the decision was announced, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, the new Commissioner of Baseball, sent the seven players a letter informing them that regardless of the jury's findings, for the good of baseball they were banned for life from participating in any level of professional baseball. This meant the Black Sox couldn't play for any major league team nor could they play, scout, coach or manage for any of the minor league organizations across North America.

Other players who participated in the betting on the World Series were also banned. Most of the baseball fraternity of writers, fans, players and probably even Chase himself believed that he also was banned for life.

While the issue will most likely remain clouded, it's probable Chase was never officially banned but instead was blackballed and became a pariah. In that highly emotional, vindictive time, what counted was that virtually everyone believed Chase was banned. He was treated that way for the rest of his life.

\* \* \* \* \*

In 1923 Chase came to Arizona and accepted a position as manager of the Nogales Internationals. The Internationals played games on both sides of the border and the personable Chase was successful and popular as the team trumped all of its regular competitors, including a rousing tour through Mexico at season's end.<sup>4</sup>

When the 1924 baseball season opened, Chase had moved to Williams, where he was listed as captain and first baseman.<sup>5</sup> He was again very popular, but on June 20 it was announced that Chase resigned from the Williams team and was going to play for a powerful Jerome team. While Williams had a poor record, Chase must have impressed the Jerome management during the Jerome-Williams games the previous weekend.<sup>6</sup>

The primary competition for Jerome was the team from Clarkdale, the smelter town, less than five miles down the hill. During the 1924 season,

Jerome did not stack up to Clarkdale and Chase appeared to be just what Jerome needed. The Jerome nine quickly turned around and, more importantly, defeated Clarkdale in a titanic battle over Labor Day weekend. <sup>7</sup>

Chase did not return to Jerome for the 1925 season. According to historian and former agent for the United Verde Copper Co. Herbert V. Young, Chase was fired because he was so successful in whipping Clarkdale that it exacerbated long-time feuds between the two cities. The copper magnates were moved to de-emphasize baseball and sponsor one instead of two baseball teams.

Young says that Chase was among the "players who didn't care for honest-to-goodness working jobs (and) were dismissed." <sup>8</sup> Young adds that Chase was let go from his hospital job for pilfering hospital supplies.

No other evidence has been found to support Young's allegations. The newspapers make no mention of an end to the two-team rivalry the following year and Chase's name never appears in the paper. As Young makes other misinformed statements, such as placing Chase as one of the Chicago Black Sox and actually participating in the ill fated series, it is perhaps best to accept these statements with considerable reservations.

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Chase played baseball for the Douglas team in 1925 and eventually brought in three members of the Black Sox team — Chick Gandil, Buck Weaver and Lefty Williams. Like Chase, they would be viewed with awe because of their obvious skills but they would also be viewed with doubt. They were all rough and ready men who hung out at the Smokehouse, a billiard parlor on G Ave. In the words of one resident, they would do anything for a buck.

One of the Black Sox was undoubtedly already familiar with Douglas. Charles Arnold "Chick" Gandil was born in St. Paul, Minn. in 1887. A school drop-out, Gandil ran away from home at 17. He first went to Amarillo, Texas and then, probably in 1906, to Cananea.

The town was dominated by Anglo owners and managers who took sports very seriously. Gandil played baseball on Cananea's Cactus League team, fought in bare knuckle boxing matches and worked as a boilermaker in the mine.

Age and a successful marriage brought Gandil back to the United States. In the middle of the 1910 season, he joined the Chicago White Sox to play first base, as he did the rest of his major league career.<sup>9</sup> Gandil, as mentioned before, did not return for the 1920 season, claiming White Sox owner Charles Comisky would not give him a raise. When the Black Sox scandal broke, Gandil was indicted along with the other seven defendants. Testimony given at various times seems to indicate that Gandil was, if not the leader, one of the instigators of the conspiracy.

He was the only one of the eight to formally give his side of the story. In 1956, during an interview, Gandil stated that several of the accused players did indeed conspire to throw the series. He added that the gamblers did not come through with their promised money and so the series was actually played straight.<sup>10</sup>

George Davis "Buck" Weaver was born in Stow, Penn., in 1890. In 1912, Weaver joined the White Sox where he played shortstop and third base. A strong hitter, he batted .272 during his career, including an average over .300 during the last four years. A versatile player, he was known as a fast fielder.

When the eight players were indicted, Weaver loudly proclaimed his innocence. He admitted to attending the conspiracy meeting but until his death continued to plea that he played the series straight and that his only crime was in failing to report the meetings.<sup>11</sup>

Claude Preston "Lefty" Williams was born in Aurora, Mo. in 1893. After pitching briefly for Detroit, in 1915 he joined the White Sox where he was a regular pitcher in the starting rotation. During his short career he had a record of 81-45, including an amazing 45 victories during the 1919 and 1920 seasons.

After the indictment of the eight players, Williams said little about the scandal. He did indeed have a terrible series and was knocked out of three games he started. Of all of the conspirators, only Williams ever gave a clue as to the involvement of the gamblers. Years later, his wife talked to a young boy and told him that Williams did not really realize what he was doing and that he just fell in with the group. She said that he only got \$150 from the whole thing and had been "threatened" if he did not cooperate.<sup>12</sup>

Williams pitched on various outlaw teams in and around the greater Chicago area. Possibly as a result of his outlawing and the stress of the threats from the gamblers, he took to drinking heavily. Occasionally the players were forced to canvass bars to find him before a baseball game. <sup>13</sup>

His heavy drinking continued during his years in the Southwest. It was reported that he would often take a drink between innings and that during the later part of the game he was a devastating and intimidating pitcher. <sup>14</sup> During his stay at Fort Bayard, he frequented the "soda fountains" at Central, a small town two miles south of Fort Bayard. Sometimes when he was not scheduled to pitch, he would not even report to the park but stay in Central drinking. At least once he confused his pitching day. He was brought back from Central and proceeded to pitch one of his best games ever.<sup>15</sup>

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The 1925 Frontier League season began on a casual basis, as was the norm. El Paso was the first city to formally organize when local businessmen met to form the club. Dr. T.J. McCamant appears to have been one of the primary

movers.

Juarez, sister city to El Paso, apparently organized along similar lines. The moving force behind the Juarez club was Raymond S. Garcia.

Fort Bayard was organized no later than March 31 when it was announced that Dr. C.A. Couplin, of the hospital staff, was to be chairman of the club.

Douglas was well organized with Tom Glenn, chairman; J.W. Tardy, secretary; and Henry T. Williams, treasurer. Douglas was very interested in joining with the other teams in the Frontier League. However it was well known that the league, and particularly the El Paso club, opposed the use of outlaw players.

During the first week of March, members of the Douglas club offered the manager's job to Chase of Nogales.<sup>16</sup> Chase was well known in Douglas, particularly for his success with the Internationals during the 1923 season. He had made national news by negotiating for a position as commissioner of a new Mexican League. When Chase's hopes for working with the Mexican League dimmed, he quickly accepted the appointment as manager with Douglas.<sup>17</sup>

During the first week of April, representatives of the four cities, Douglas, El Paso, Juarez and Fort Bayard, met in El Paso. Santa Rita and Bisbee were also invited but for various reasons did not accept. This was not popular with the fans in either of these towns, particularly Bisbee.

Apparently one of the concerns in Bisbee was the feeling that the team would not be able to compete. A strongly worded editorial in The Bisbee Daily Review called for Bisbee to quit requiring its players to hold full-time jobs and to solicit money and form a competitive team.<sup>18</sup>

There were many issues to be decided at the meeting. The most controversial issue was the request by Douglas to use Chase as manager and player. Whatever the feeling of the other clubs, it was unilaterally agreed that Chase would join the team. According to The Review, McCament sent a letter to the Douglas management saying he heartily endorsed the selection of Chase as manager and expressing the opinion that the former major league performer would be a big drawing card not only to Douglas but to the other towns as well.<sup>19</sup>

With the Chase problem taken care of, the league got down to the actual organization. The league was to be officially called the Frontier League. The season was to be divided into a first half and second half with champions for each half. The league champion would be determined by a play-off between the winners of each half. This format was very popular in the Texas League during this time period.

Seven members were elected to the governing board. The officers were McCament as president, Simon Silva of Juarez as vice president and Tardy as treasurer. The representatives of the clubs to the board were Couplin, Glenn, Garcia and Bill Pelphrey of El Paso.

Umpires were chosen and paid by the league. A schedule was drawn up and it was decided that two games would be played each weekend. It was also decided to give first "crack" at Mexican citizens to the Juarez club.<sup>20</sup>

With Chase officially accepted by the league, the Douglas club announced its strategy for the year. The Chamber of Commerce was to act as the agent for the team. Chase was to be paid a monthly salary (no amount was stated), the players were to be given a cut of the gate receipts and an appeal was made to all employers of players not to cut their salaries for taking time off to play.<sup>21</sup> No official name was actually chosen for the team but the newspapers began referring to the team as the Douglas Blues.

At the beginning Chase had a difficult time. His hiring had been controversial. His status as an outlawed player bothered some and others were concerned about losing the home town feeling. The first day he arrived, he left his borrowed Chevrolet on the Douglas side of the line while he visited in Agua Prieta. When he returned that evening, the wheels of the car were missing. Fortunately, his suitcase with all his belongings was left untouched inside the car.<sup>22</sup> Two weeks later he received word that his mother was sick in San Jose. He arrived in time to be by her side when she died.<sup>23</sup>

The weekend of April 17 was the inaugural of the season. El Paso opened in Douglas and swept both ends of the series with the Blues. The following weekend at El Paso, Douglas was again swept. It was the sixth game on the weekend of May 2 before the Blues finally managed to win a game by beating the Fort Bayard nine.

In the season's third weekend a major controversy arose. Juarez had signed up a big, commanding, right-handed spitball pitcher by the name of Thomas Gordon Seaton. Seaton had been a major league pitcher until 1917. It's not known where Seaton went after his major league years but by 1923 he was living in Tucson and pitching for the Tucson Motive Power Team.<sup>24</sup> In 1925 Seaton was working for Southern Pacific Railroad in Tucson when the Juarez team signed him to a contract.

El Paso protested that Juarez could not use Seaton as he was an "ineligible player." Chase was to be the only "ineligible" to play said the El Paso Times because Douglas would not play in the league without him.<sup>25</sup> This gives a strong indication that, at least in the beginning, the majority of the league continued to oppose the outlaw players and were probably coerced into accepting Chase. The nature of what made Seaton an ineligible was never disclosed in the media but one week later it was reported that Seaton produced a letter from the San Francisco Seals club of the Pacific Coast League that released him from any contract he may have had with them.<sup>26</sup>

On the weekend of May 23, Douglas was scheduled to play in Juarez. But when the Blues arrived, they were unable to cross the border due to technical difficulties with immigration authorities. Fans were also unable to cross and finally the game was cancelled. The next day a double header was scheduled

but had to be played in El Paso and not Juarez.<sup>27</sup> This was to be a lingering problem for Juarez and games had to be relocated on several occasions.

By the second week of June, Seaton became manager of the Juarez club and the race was on between Juarez and the other strong team, Fort Bayard. El Paso and Douglas were simply not competitive.<sup>28</sup>

Chase was commended for running the program on a "shoe-string," but it was recognized that there were insufficient funds to attract and keep quality players.<sup>29</sup> Shortly thereafter Chase was reported as leaving for California to find new players.

Chase was the dominate player during the first half of the season. His batting average of .375 was sixth in the league. Included were 25 hits in 64 at bats, with seven doubles, three triples and three home runs. He was also the best fielding first baseman with a fielding percentage of .986 on 117 put-outs and only two errors.<sup>30</sup> What makes these statistics most remarkable is that Chase was 42 years old at the time.

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In spite of Chase's play, Douglas finished the first half with a dismal 4-16 record. El Paso was slightly better at 9-13. Juarez was second at 13-9. Fort Bayard threatened to make the year a runaway with an incredible 18-4 record.

<sup>31</sup>

In Douglas, rumors began to circulate that Chase had been successful in his search for new talent. The rumors became fact during the second week of July when Buck Weaver appeared in uniform and it was known that Chick Gandil was quickly to follow.<sup>32</sup> Apparently some time after the challenge of Seaton around May 2 and before June 13, Douglas received tacit or official approval from the league to use more outlaw players.

During the first week of August, word reached Douglas that the Nogales Internationals were defunct. Chase immediately travelled to Nogales and returned with "Cowboy" Ruiz, a highly rated infielder who'd played for Chase in Nogales. With Chase at first base, the Blues now had Gandil at second, Weaver at shortstop and Ruiz at third — a powerful infield by any standard.

With the infusion of these new players, the race for the second half crown was reversed from the first half. Only El Paso continued its losing ways. Fort Bayard fell on hard times and dropped below .500 in the second half. The race was between the resurgent Douglas squad and the strong Juarez team.

The problem that appeared to keep Douglas from walking away with the championship was lack of pitching. On several occasions Chase took the mound and at least once Gandil took a turn. It was the consensus of the Douglas fans that the team badly needed some hurlers.<sup>33</sup>

The race went down literally to the last day and the season ended with yet



Chick Gandil, who played baseball in Cananea when he was 20, was a member of the Chicago White Sox when this photo was taken. He undoubtedly had no inkling then that he'd return to Arizona-Sonora border when he was in his 30s to once again play baseball. Gandil played for Douglas and Fort Bayard before literally being chased off the Veteran squad by teammate. (Courtesy of National Baseball Library, Cooperstown, N.Y.)

another controversial act. The problem began Aug. 15 when Douglas played Juarez. Juarez was the apparent winner 8-3.

Douglas, however, filed a protest that a Juarez player named Allison had been thrown out of the game by the umpires but had refused to leave and had completed the game. The league upheld the protest, ordered a replay of the game and scheduled it as a part of the season ending series between the two teams on Friday, Sept. 18.

During the week before the scheduled series, Douglas sent word that it would not be able to make the game on Friday. The club proposed that the two teams go ahead and play the series. Juarez had to win all three games in the series in order to have a chance to tie Douglas for the second half championship. If the replay was necessary, Douglas agreed to play on Monday after the regular two-game series.

Juarez did win the needed two games but after the second game on Sunday, Douglas announced the season had officially ended that day and no further games could be played. The team returned to Douglas that evening.

Due to this scheduling irregularity, El Paso and Fort Bayard had each played 25 games, with El Paso ending up at 12-13 and Fort Bayard at 10-15. Douglas and Juarez, without replaying the disputed game, ended up 14-10 and 13-11 respectively. As Douglas had a better winning percentage than Juarez, the Blues declared themselves the winner of the second half championship.

On Monday, Sept. 21, Juarez showed up at the ball park at the appointed time. After 30 minutes the game was declared a forfeit and Juarez the winner by the umpire. Douglas and Juarez now had identical 14-11 records. <sup>34</sup>

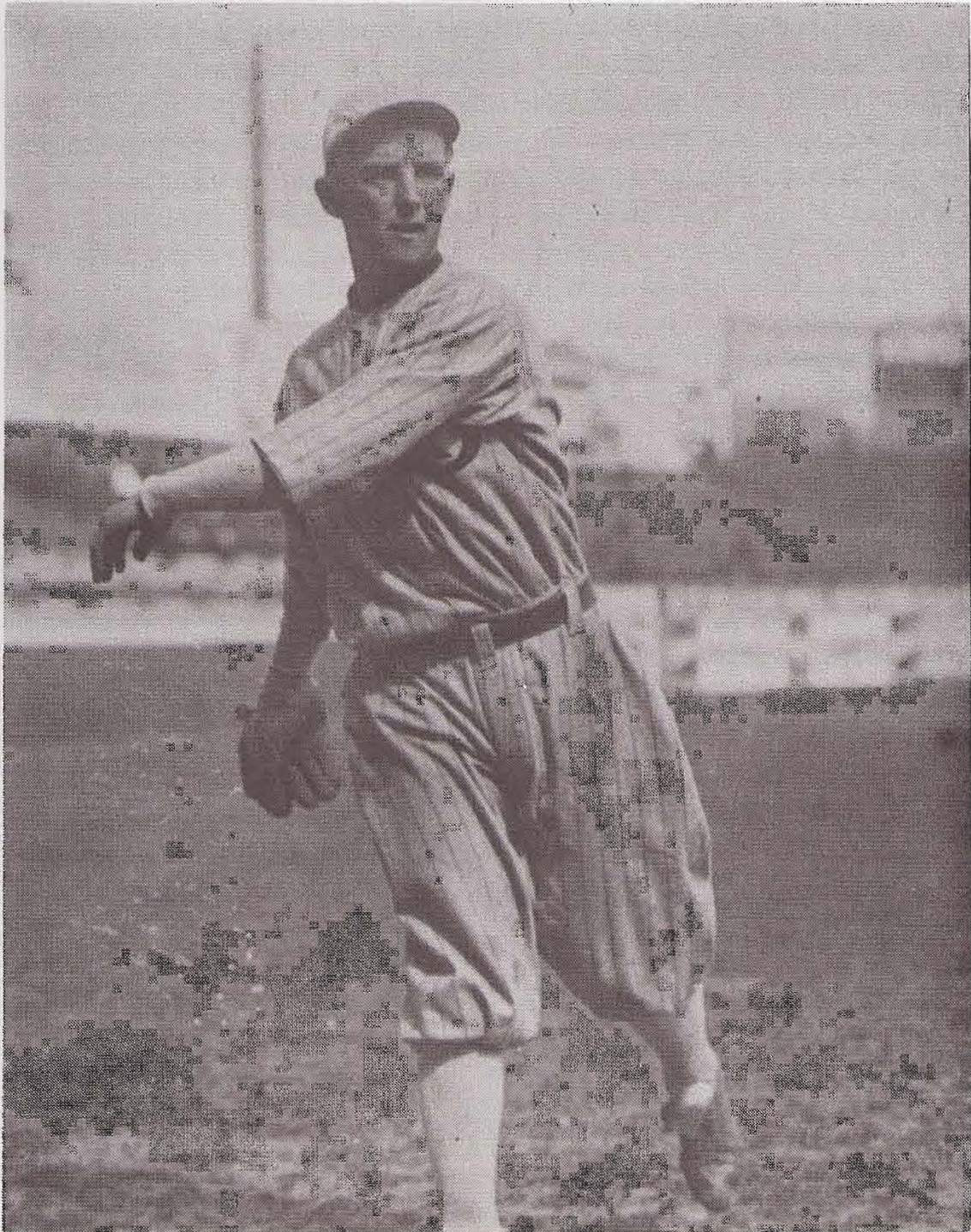
The Douglas team contended that when the replay was ordered, McCamant told Douglas that it was optional for it to replay the game. Douglas chose not to play. In any case, the directors of the club took full responsibility for the action.<sup>35</sup>

McCamant declared the forfeited game to be a win for Juarez and a loss for Douglas, certifying the second half championship as a tie. He ordered a one-game playoff to determine the championship.

Douglas appealed this decision to the board of directors, then announced it had already scheduled first half champion Fort Bayard to play the championship series during the weekend of Oct. 2. The directors upheld McCamant's ruling. The Douglas-Fort Bayard series was declared to be an exhibition and the play-off game was scheduled for Oct. 1.<sup>36</sup>

That day Juarez beat the Blues 3-1 and officially became the second half champion. Immediately the league scheduled a three-game play-off between Fort Bayard and Juarez for the following weekend.

By the time the series began, Fort Bayard had acquired the services of Gandil. In what was obviously an anticlimactic series, Juarez swept the once mighty Veterans in straight games.<sup>37</sup>



Lefty Williams arrived in Douglas at the start of the 1926 season to pitch for the Blues. Williams won more than 20 games in each of his last two major league seasons — 1919 and 1920. Banned from baseball with the rest of the Black Sox, Williams apparently was recruited by Weaver. By the middle of the season, however, Williams defected to the Fort Bayard squad. (Courtesy of National Baseball Library, Cooperstown, N.Y.)

This disastrous ending to what had been, up to that point, a highly successful season caused immediate problems. Some individuals in Douglas apparently speculated that Chase was to blame for the controversy, for during the winter it was rumored that Chase would not be back.

The season ending strategy was a calculated risk. After losing the two games to Juarez, Douglas was going to have to play another game with Juarez if it lost the appeal. If the Blues won the appeal, they did not have to risk playing the game. The decision to leave and not play the game was not the type of judgment made by a field manager but rather by the front office. Indeed, when the board vote was taken, the Douglas representative of management voted to support the move.

The only possible criticism of Chase would have to be his on-field playing or managing but no hint of criticism has been found to support this possibility. The unfortunate ending seems to have evolved from thinking that when a controversy occurred, Chase was a controversial individual, so Chase must have been in some way involved. During the three years of the league, this negative halo around the outlaw players always seemed to be just below the surface and whenever controversy arose, questions about the integrity of the outlaw players quickly surfaced. <sup>38</sup>

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After the end of the 1925 season, the future of the Frontier League did not look rosy. One team was looking for another league (El Paso) and one team was torn by dissension (Douglas). Only Juarez and Fort Bayard appeared to have an optimistic future.

The depression and estrangement following the 1925 season did not last long. The winter of 1925-26 brought rumors that Class D baseball was a possibility for some cities in the Southwest but this news was received with little enthusiasm. Even El Paso, with its interest in the Texas League, found the prospect of little advantage. J.W. Tandy of the El Paso club wrote a letter saying that the league would not give up its outlaw players and that Class D is "little better than sandlot."<sup>39</sup>

Other rumors flowed between the various cities. Following the perceived fiasco at the end of the 1925 season, Douglas was said to be interested in removing Chase as manager and cutting him completely out of the league. Weaver, the always popular infielder, was rumored to be in the running for replacing Chase as the field manager.

The most exciting rumors came out of El Paso where the win-hungry directors of the Giants were said to be looking with serious eyes at the greatest and certainly the most famous outlaw player of all, Joseph (Shoeless Joe) Jackson. Reliable sources in El Paso stated "it is understood he is in a receptive mood."<sup>40</sup>

In this air of enthusiasm and optimism, the directors of El Paso, Juarez, Douglas and Chino (Hurley and Santa Rita, N. M.) met in El Paso on Feb. 20, 1926 to form the new league. Unanimous approval was quickly given for unlimited use of outlaw players.

Recognizing potential problems involved with escalating costs, a salary cap of \$2,250 per month, per team was instituted. In support of this cap, each team could carry only 14 players on its roster.

The first draft set the limit at 13 players. Superstition among those assembled at the meeting caused them to feel this number unlucky and so they voted to raise the allowed number to 14. In a masterful stroke of diplomacy, a non-playing manager was allowed to be counted among the 14. In a further attempt to lend credibility and organization to the league, all players and umpires were to be under contract to their team and the league. <sup>41</sup>

El Paso continued to negotiate with Jackson to manage and play for the Giants. The primary stumbling block appeared to be Jackson's demand for what at that time was an unbelievable \$500 a month salary. In spite of El Paso's desire for a competitive team, the directors balked at this, leading to lively debates among many fans in the El Paso-Juarez area. <sup>42</sup>

One continuing problem was how the league would be organized. Located at a higher altitude and with spring coming later than the other cities, Chino wanted to have the season start later and last just four months. By playing four games every week instead of three, the same number of games could be played as under the traditional schedule.

The other cities, still holding to some concept of a semi-professional league, held out for a five-month schedule with three games to be played on the weekends. Just then, Bisbee indicated a strong interest in joining the league. With its bluff called, the Chino team acceded to the other teams and accepted the five-month, three-game format. <sup>43</sup>

In quick fashion, Bisbee and Fort Bayard expressed interest and joined the league. The six cities were grouped in three locales — El Paso and Juarez, Fort Bayard and Chino and Douglas and Bisbee. With careful planning each of the three locales would have baseball every weekend for the entire season.

With the new teams now officially a part of the league, rumors again swept the league towns. Jackson was reported ready to sign. Weaver reportedly left Chicago with Jimmie O'Connell, Ed Cicotte, Fred McMullin and others ready to join the league. <sup>44</sup> Outlaw mania was fanned when national newspapers printed an interview with Ty Cobb and he listed his choices as the greatest players of all time. Cobb's choices included Chase as first baseman and Jackson as an outfielder and one of the greatest hitters. <sup>45</sup>

One rumor was stopped when Douglas announced March 22 that it signed Chase to a new contract to play but not to manage. Weaver was confirmed as returning from Chicago to manage and play. Hope was expressed that other players could be found to support these two. <sup>46</sup>

On March 22, representatives of all six cities met officially to elect league officers. Attending the meeting from Fort Bayard was C.A. Couplin, president of the Veterans. From Chino came Twins' vice president Garlock. Indians president Robert Arias attended for Juarez and Giants president D.M. Poe for El Paso. Blues president William Alberts represented Douglas and Bisbee voted proxy through Douglas secretary Frank Work.

The first order of business was to elect a league president. Charles J. Andrews of El Paso was nominated and received unanimous acceptance.

The majority of the rest of the meeting was spent confirming previous edicts and establishing a schedule. Again the season was divided into two halves, with the winner of the first half playing the winner of the second half for the league championship.

As expected, the schedule had a game played in each geographic area every weekend. No team was scheduled for more than two consecutive weekends away from home. There was one game each on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. In the event of cancellation, it was hoped that double headers could be played to avoid having to reschedule games at later dates.<sup>47</sup>

"The question of outlaw players was discussed at the meeting at which the league was organized. It was decided that players ineligible in the big leagues could be used in this league," the Silver City Enterprise reported.<sup>48</sup> The meeting adjourned with a feeling of optimism and enthusiasm.

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When the season opened, two new outlaw players joined the Copper League. Gandil continued his 1925 post-season affiliation with Fort Bayard and was the Veterans permanent first baseman. With him was the youthful O'Connell, former Pacific Coast great and New York Giant, banned for trying to influence a game.

When Weaver arrived at Douglas, he brought with him Williams. Pundits hoped Williams would supply the pitching so lacking the year before.

Attempts to sign Jackson fell through and El Paso was again without any outlaw players. Jackson apparently visited the Southwest during these negotiations. Probably after his negotiations with El Paso broke down, he visited Fort Bayard and even worked out with the team one day. But Fort Bayard was unable to come to terms with Jackson and he moved on, possibly to visit other Copper League teams.<sup>49</sup>

The league opened play with a series between natural rivals. The Douglas-Bisbee series was postponed because Bisbee couldn't field a team.<sup>50</sup>

The Douglas team attracted strong support. The Daily Dispatch called for "The red blooded fans of the city ... to report to the city ball grounds Sunday equipped ... to put up new bleachers and repair fences where it (sic) has fallen down."<sup>51</sup>



Buck Weaver, one of the seven Chicago Black Sox banned from baseball in 1920, came to Douglas in July, 1925 at the urging of Hal Chase. Weaver's fast reactions made him a notable player on the left side of the infield. Weaver became the Blues' player-manager during the 1926 Copper League season. (Courtesy of National Baseball Library, Cooperstown, N.Y.)

Before the series on the weekend of April 16, the merchants of Douglas and Agua Prieta, as well as government and customs offices, closed from 3-6 p.m. for the game with the El Paso Giants. This celebration began with a huge parade through both towns.<sup>52</sup>

Bisbee, after not being ready for the initial weekend, hired S.E. Stradley as its manager and imported seven players from the Pacific Electric Company of Los Angeles. Excitement was high in Bisbee and sell-out crowds were expected for all games there.<sup>53</sup> Stradley, however, had a very short tenure as manager. He resigned three weeks into the season after Bisbee lost the first week make-up series with Douglas and then was swept in the May 6 weekend series by Juarez.<sup>54</sup>

In spite of attempts by officers to make the league appear organized and professional, problems occurred, especially with officiating. On May 8, the Bisbee team argued so strongly and the fans became so enraged over a call, that the umpire, Campbell, abdicated and left the field. The remainder of the game was called by the base umpire.<sup>55</sup>

During the weekend of June 11, an even more serious problem occurred when El Paso came to Fort Bayard. Veterans' manager Roy Johnson became so enraged by an umpire's call that he assaulted the umpire and had to be physically restrained.

With feelings running high, fielder Roy Counts also showed a visible lack of restraint. Becoming increasingly enraged by heckling from a fan in the stands, Counts turned and threw the baseball at the offending fan. No mention was made as to any injuries.

The league moved swiftly. It suspended Johnson from playing and managing and fined Counts \$10.<sup>56</sup> It was later discovered that Counts was actually an escaped convict from a prison in Oklahoma where he played baseball. Two officers eventually came to Fort Bayard and arrested Counts after a game.<sup>57</sup> Johnson, a former major league pitcher, went on to establish himself in the Chicago Cubs organization and during the late 1930s was manager of the Tulsa Oilers in the Texas League.

By June 19, two major changes occurred among the outlaw players. Williams left the Douglas Blues and joined the Fort Bayard Veterans. Williams replaced the volatile Gandil.

Gandil and O'Connell had not worked well together and there was a clash of egos. Gandil kept riding O'Connell about his play. At first the good natured outfielder took the ragging quietly but the problem boiled over one day on the field.

When Gandil was again riding O'Connell, the young man turned to the former boxer, announced that the team was not big enough to hold both of them and that Gandil was going to be leaving. Then to everyone's surprise, O'Connell picked up a baseball bat and chased Gandil across the field and out the player's entrance.<sup>58</sup> The move was popular with the Fort Bayard

management and Veterans fans and Gandil was quickly "released."<sup>59</sup>

During the next week, the struggling Chino team signed Gandil. The Twins also reportedly signed other new players, including Cicotte, star pitcher of the White Sox and key member of the Black Sox conspiracy. The Twins also reportedly tried to attract Weaver to jump from the Blues.<sup>60</sup> But Weaver did not leave the Blues and Cicotte never appeared in any game with the Twins or any other Copper League team.

\*\*\*\*\*

When the first half of the season ended after the weekend of June 18, Juarez, led by Tom Seaton and an all Mexican contingent, won the championship with a record of 25-12. Fort Bayard followed closely with a record of 22-14. El Paso, with its strongest start in years, was above .500 at 20-16.

The Douglas team, after high expectations from fans and management, struggled to a record of 16-19. Weaver took responsibility for the situation and resigned as manager but remained as a player. Chino, with a record of 13-23, and Bisbee, with a slightly more dismal record of 12-24, filled up the cellar.

All the outlaw players had strong seasons. O'Connell became a dominating hitter and in the process became a huge crowd favorite. During Fort Bayard's 36 games, O'Connell had an incredible batting average of .558 and hit 12 home runs. Seaton, serving Juarez both as manager and pitcher, led the league with a record of 8-1.<sup>61</sup>

The surface achievement of the league and popularity of the outlaw players could not compensate for the underlying instability of the league's organization and particularly the organization of member cities. Both Juarez and El Paso continued to draw poorly, even when a highly popular team such as Fort Bayard came to town.

Douglas, with its almost populist approach to financing and managing the club, was not successful at the gate or on the field. When Williams left Douglas for the friendly confines of Fort Bayard, the Blues lost their only pitcher with the potential to dominate opposing hitters. They also lost one of the individuals who could attract the financial support necessary to maintain the fiscal solvency of the team. Although it was never stated, it is highly likely that money was at the root of Williams' move.

Bisbee suffered through a managerial change and mediocre record. But while their pedestrian season on the field persisted, support from the mining companies and fans continued unabated.

Fort Bayard, with the addition of Williams and O'Connell, was both entertaining and successful. The departure of Gandil seemed to have little or no effect upon the Veterans.

Chino suffered though a poor first half of the season. The same as Bisbee,

neither the fans nor mining companies lost their enthusiasm for the game and continued to support and encourage the Twins.

The second half of the season opened with few surprises. Problems with debt began to surface quickly. By July 8, Blues president William Alberts announced the team was anticipating an \$1,100 loss. Alberts pointed to the Blue's payroll and the club's inability to raise money as the primary causes for the financial problems.<sup>62</sup>

The financial woes in Douglas led Mrs. Lynn Palmer, with the assistance of other local ladies, to start a fund raiser. They planned to circulate 2,000 "tags" for fans to buy, with all proceeds to go to the retirement of the Blues' debt.<sup>63</sup> The same as most other money raising schemes of the time, nothing further was reported in the newspaper.

Douglas' program continued to unwind when Weaver severely injured his ankle and was sidelined for several weeks. The management tried to institute cost saving measures by allowing an individual to use his vehicle to transport players to and from away games. This resulted in problems when the team rode in a truck to Hurley to play Chino. The truck broke down eight miles south of town and the players were forced to walk to the ball park and play with no rest.<sup>64</sup>

By the first week of August, El Paso was reported as going through a top level reorganization due to a debt of \$1,800 for the year to date. At the same time, Juarez was also in serious financial difficulty. The players were completely off any payroll and were reduced to dividing gate receipts. The team officially disbanded and Juarez finished the season using amateurs from the area.

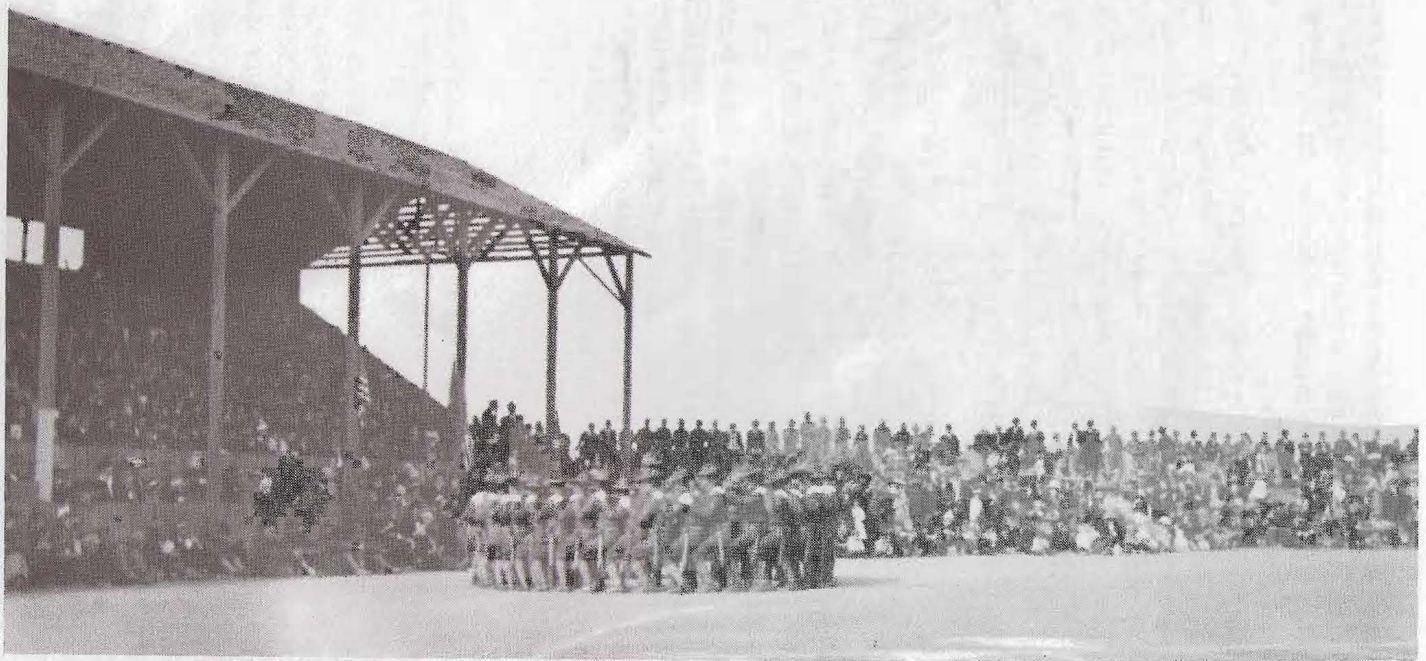
About this time, the Blues had a series with the high-flying Fort Bayard Veterans. Former Douglas ace Williams hit the first batter, but then threw him out when he tried to extend the play by going to second base. <sup>65</sup> Williams retired the next 20 batters in order, the only reported no-hitter of the season.

The team's financial problems continued in spite of the ladies aid society and other civic groups. The management announced the league was in danger of disbanding and the Blues were two weeks in arrears for players' salaries.

The Douglas management felt there were three alternatives to consider. The first was to finish the season as originally planned; the second was to modify the schedule to drop out-of-town games; the third was to drop out altogether. A mass meeting for all fans was called for Aug. 12 to consider the choices.<sup>66</sup>

The response from the fans was encouraging and the management announced that Douglas planned to finish the year as scheduled. Three "loyal fans" volunteered to drive players to all out-of-town games, saving the team the cost of travel.<sup>67</sup> This decision was to have disastrous results only 10 days later.

After leaving Silver City following a series with Fort Bayard, the car carry-



The Douglas baseball stadium was the site of other functions, including this drill demonstration by troops from adjoining Camp Harry J. Jones. Douglas High School football games were also played on the field. Dr. Joe Causey, who played in the 1920s, remembers the sand burrs that grew on the field. If a player slid into the burrs, they'd stick in the skin until they festered, Causey recalled. (CCHAS photo)

ing Chase slid off the road. He received extensive cuts on his face and arms. He was knocked unconscious and suffered a serious injury to his right knee.<sup>68</sup> Chase was unable to play again for the remainder of the year and his career in the Copper League was effectively finished.

Mercifully, the season ended after the first weekend in September. Fort Bayard made the second half of the season a runaway by posting an astounding 25-5 record. The resurgent Chino team, under the leadership of Gandil, made a strong second place showing with a respectable record of 18-12. Douglas, in spite of its financial woes and injuries to its stars finished at .500 with a record of 15-15. El Paso likewise was able to overcome fiscal problems and went 14-16. Bisbee, in spite of strong financial and fan support, won seldom and was 11-19. The Juarez team was just a shell of its former self and finished with a dismal 7-23. <sup>69</sup>

The league now faced a unique dilemma. Fort Bayard had taken the second half championship in an overwhelming fashion. League rules called for Fort Bayard to play the first half champion, the Juarez Indians. But that team was totally disbanded with its players distributed to other teams in the league or even in other leagues. The amateur team, the Juarez Brewers, obviously was not the caliber that could compete in the league championship.

A compromise was worked out that allowed Juarez to draft former players still in the Copper League and any other players available. In essence, Juarez became an all-star team pitted against Fort Bayard.<sup>70</sup> In spite of the availability of players to Juarez, Fort Bayard proved to be the class of the league when it quickly dispatched the all-star team in the best of five games.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Copper League lasted one more year with El Paso, Fort Bayard, Chino and Bisbee offering a rather lackluster 1927 season dominated by Fort Bayard.

Of all of the cities, Douglas appears to have been the big loser and Bisbee the big winner. The Blues led in introducing outlaw players. The team consistently supported their use and most moves to develop a more professional-like league. But continuing money problems seemed to drain fan interest and especially that of the sponsors, the Douglas and Agua Prieta chambers of commerce.

After the 1926 season, Douglas returned to having a local league. Although the town continued as the trade and commerce center of southeastern Arizona, it never developed another team that competed outside the local area, except during the late 1940s and early 1950s when the Bisbee-Douglas Copper Kings played in the Arizona-Texas League.

On the other hand, the Bisbee Miners emerged as the Bisbee Bees in the newly formed Class D Arizona State League in 1928. Bisbee professional



The fifth outlaw to play in the Copper League was Jimmie O'Connell. A New York Giant until the Black Sox scandal tainted his life, O'Connell was a Fort Bayard Veteran in 1926 and 1927. Of all the outlaws, O'Connell was the only one to remain in the area after the demise of the league. (Courtesy Baltimore Sun)

teams competed into the 1950s.

The five outlaw players that participated in the Copper League went on to other pursuits. Buck Weaver left after the 1926 season and likely never returned to the southwest. He made his living as a paramutual clerk on Chicago's south side and died on Jan. 31, 1956.

Chick Gandil played for three different teams — the Douglas Blues, Fort Bayard Veterans and Chino Twins. He also managed the Twins. But of the five, Gandil appears to have had the least following by fans. He spent the rest of his life in California where he worked as a plumber. He died on Dec. 13, 1970 in Calistoga, Calif.

Lefty Williams remains one of the least understood members of the Black Sox and outlaw players in the Copper League. With the competition of the Copper League gone after the 1927 season, Williams left the area. He returned to Chicago at some point, but later moved to California where he ran a nursery. He died on Nov. 4, 1959 in Laguna Beach.

Jimmie O'Connell was the only outlaw to never play for Douglas. He also was the only outlaw to remain in the southwest and play baseball after the abandonment of the Copper League, probably because he was the youngest of the five and still in prime baseball playing age.

He continued to work at Fort Bayard and his wife became the Fort Bayard postmistress. O'Connell, along with Harry Althouse, was instrumental in organizing youth teams. To many in Silver City, O'Connell came to be a figure of gigantic proportions and is still revered today among the generation that came to know him so well.<sup>71</sup>

O'Connell remained at Fort Bayard at least until 1934 and possibly until 1935 or 1936 when he returned to his native California. He died in Bakersfield on Nov. 11, 1975.

Of the five players, the saddest case was undoubtedly that of Hal Chase. Unable to play due to the knee injury suffered during the 1926 season, Chase remained in the Douglas area during 1927 and probably 1928 since he had a job selling Marmon cars.

He returned to California some time after that and stayed there until 1930. That summer he returned to Williams, where he played baseball and lived for two years.<sup>72</sup> Sometime in 1932 he moved to Tucson where he played more baseball and stayed until 1934 or 1935. He then moved back to California to live with a niece.

Long a heavy drinker, it appears that he started using alcohol at an alarming rate around 1930 and was most likely an alcoholic by that time. He stopped drinking totally in 1936, but the damage to his body was extensive. He was hospitalized in 1941 in California for treatment of beriberi, a disease often associated with chronic alcohol ingestion. He was totally destitute and had no idea how he would pay his hospital bills. He died on May 18, 1947 in Colusa, Calif., of alcohol abuse related effects.

Chase worked as a plumber's assistant, a car salesman, in pool halls and in bars. Ever popular, he never lost his love of the game. In 1935 when Chase was 52, he was listed in the Tucson City Directory. It gave his name, address and occupation, which was listed simply as "ballplayer."

## NOTES

1. Robert Hoie, "The Hal Chase Case," *Baseball Research Journal*, 3(1973), 26-34. This article provides an excellent description of Chase and is the basis for this biography except where otherwise footnoted.

2. Eliot Asinof, *Nineteen Hundred & Nineteen*, New York: Donald I. Fine, 1990. Asinof is the author of *Eight Men Out*, considered by many to be the authoritative text about the 1919 World Series scandal. *Nineteen Hundred & Nineteen* explores much of the social turbulence of 1919, including the Black Sox scandal.

3. Confessions made by at least two of the players were lost by the prosecuting attorney's office. The players were represented by high-powered lawyers that were far more expensive than the players could afford. Who paid the lawyers' fees is still unclear, although it is likely that the White Sox footed the bill.

4. *Border Vidette* (Nogales, Ariz.) Summer, 1923. The newspaper regularly reported on the Internationals' games as well as describing the town's feeling for Chase. A.M. Beck, "In the Memory of a Man," (unpublished manuscript, Pimeria Alta Museum, Nogales, Ariz., n.d.) p. 466. Mrs. Beck quotes from the *Border Vidette* and reaffirms the town's feelings for Chase.

5. *Williams News*, Williams, Ariz., May-June, 1924. The paper carries accounts of all games played by Chase from May to the July 4 weekend.

6. *Williams News*, June 20, 1924.

7. *Verde Valley News*, Jerome, Ariz., July-August, 1924, reported the results of the various games.

8. Young, Herbert V., *They Came to Jerome: The Billion Dollar Copper Camp*, Jerome, Ariz.: The Jerome Historical Society, 1972. p. 117.

9. Arnold (Chick) Gandil, "This is My Story of the Black Sox Series," *Sports Illustrated*, 5 (Sept. 17, 1956), p. 62-68.

10. *ibid.*

11. James T. Farrell, "Did Buck Weaver Get a Raw Deal?" *Baseball Digest*, XVI (Aug. 1957), 69-78. Reprinted in Charles Einstein ed., *The Second Fireside Book of Baseball*, (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1958), pp. 127-132.

12. J.M. Flagler, "Requiem for a Southpaw," *New Yorker*, XXXV (Dec. 5, 1969) p. 234. Mrs. Williams stated that if her husband did not throw the eighth and concluding game, then a hired gun would shoot her. When

gambler Billy Maharg testified before the grand jury in 1920, he also intimated that Williams had been threatened. Harold Seymour, **Baseball: The Golden Age**, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1971), p. 304.

13. Peter Dexter, "Black Sox Blues; in 1919 Scandal Touched the White Sox. Then it Touched Darby Rathman and it Never Went Away." **Esquire**, October, 1984, p. 267.

14. Frank Duran, personal communication, July 28, 1988.

15. Thomas P. Foy Sr., personal interview, Bayard, N.M., Dec. 28, 1988. Mr. Foy was the assistant to the bat boy, Meyers, for the Fort Bayard Veterans from around 1924 until 1927. He described himself as more of a mascot. When the Copper League failed in 1927, he became the bat boy for the new Fort Bayard Vets team and remained so until he left for college in 1933.

16. **Douglas Daily Dispatch**, March 8, 1925.

17. *ibid*, March 14, 1925. There was some controversy accompanying Chase's appointment as the team already had a player manager. The sponsors, however, appeared to be strongly committed to Chase and his appointment went smoothly.

18. **Bisbee Daily Review**, April 17, 1925.

19. **Bisbee Daily Review**, April 3, 1925.

20. **El Paso Times**, April 6, 1925.

21. **Douglas Daily Dispatch**, April 3, 1925.

22. **Douglas Daily Dispatch**, April 2, 1925.

23. **Douglas Daily Dispatch**, April 28, 1925.

24. **Border Vidette**, July 28, 1923.

25. **El Paso Times**, May 4, 1925.

26. **El Paso Times**, May 9, 1925.

27. **Douglas Daily Dispatch**, May 24, 1925.

28. **El Paso Times**, June 13, 1925.

29. **Douglas Daily Dispatch**, May 9, 1925.

30. **El Paso Times**, July 4, 1925, p. 8 and July 11, 1925.

31. **El Paso Times**, June 26, 1925.

32. **El Paso Times**, July 13, 1925.

33. **Douglas Daily Dispatch**, July 28, 1925.

34. **El Paso Times**, Sept. 22, 1925.

35. **Douglas Daily Dispatch**, Sept. 22, 1925.

36. **El Paso Times**, Sept. 23, 1925.

37. **El Paso Times**, Oct. 12, 1925.

38. O'Carroll Arnold, "Copper League Baseball Drew Some of the Best 'Outlaws,'" **Arizona Daily Star**, Oct. 16, 1983. Arnold reports that he remembers Chase and later Jimmie O'Connell as being the recipients of numerous taunts about whether they were trying to throw the game.

39. "Slam Bangs," **El Paso Times**, Feb. 10, 1926.

40. "Slam Bangs," *El Paso Times*, Feb. 12, 1926.
41. *El Paso Times*, Feb. 21, 1926.
42. *El Paso Times*, Feb. 2, 1926.
43. *El Paso Times*, March 6, 1926.
44. *Douglas Dispatch*, Feb. 25, 1926 and *El Paso Times*, March 9, 1926.
45. *El Paso Times*, March 11, 1926.
46. *Douglas Dispatch*, March 16, 1926.
47. *Douglas Dispatch*, March 23, 1926.
48. *Silver City Enterprise*, March 26, 1926.
49. Thomas P. Foy Sr., personal interview, Dec. 28, 1988.
50. *Douglas Dispatch*, April 10, 1926.
51. *Douglas Daily Dispatch*, March 26, 1926.
52. *Douglas Daily Dispatch*, April 16, 1926, p. 6.
53. *Douglas Daily Dispatch*, April 15, 1926.
54. *Douglas Daily Dispatch*, May 9, 1926.
55. *El Paso Times*, May 9, 1926.
56. *Silver City Enterprise*, June 18, 1926. Johnson pitched briefly in 1918 for the Philadelphia Athletics. He later joined the Chicago Cubs organization and, in addition to coaching for the home team, also managed the Tulsa Oilers of the Texas League.
57. Thomas P. Foy Sr., personal interview, Dec. 28, 1988.
58. *ibid.*
59. *El Paso Times*, June 19, 1926.
60. *Silver City Independent*, June 22, 1926.
61. *El Paso Times*, June 22, 1926.
62. *Douglas Daily Dispatch*, July 8, 1926.
63. *Douglas Daily Dispatch*, July 15, 1926.
64. *Douglas Daily Dispatch*, July 31, 1926.
65. *El Paso Times*, Aug. 9, 1926.
66. *Douglas Daily Dispatch*, Aug. 12, 1926.
67. *Douglas Daily Dispatch*, Aug. 13, 1926.
68. *El Paso Times*, Aug. 22, 1926.
69. *El Paso Times*, Sept. 7, 1926.
70. *El Paso Times*, Aug. 12, 1926.
71. Frank Duran, personal interview, July 28, 1985. Thomas Foy Sr. still calls him one of the kindest, gentlest men he has ever known.
72. It is very unclear during how much of 1930-32 Chase actually lived in Williams. According to accounts in the *Williams News*, Chase arrived in mid-July of 1930. With him playing in his old spot, the Williams Merchants became a power in northern Arizona. Given the title captain for the Labor Day weekend play-offs, Chase led the team to a championship over seven other teams. During 1931, however, he was not a part of the team. In 1932, Chase didn't appear in any games until the weekend of Aug. 8-9: Chase was

now 50 years old but still collected two hits in three at bats. He did not appear in any other games.

**About the Author:** Lynn Bevill has been a social worker, teacher and university professor. He now is a librarian with the Tucson Pima Library. He continues to search for little-known baseball stories and legends along the U.S.-Mexico border.

# Flying with Badger Clark

Dear Editor:

I certainly could not improve upon the article, "Badger Clark in Arizona" (Autumn, 1990), by Harry Woodward.

Badger used Hot Springs (where Harry and I grew up) as his "mailing and library address," particularly since his stepmother (really the "mother" who raised — or as Badger would say — "The earth raises sage and the cowboys raise and herd animals, but mothers 'rear' children.") was Anna Morris Clark, who indeed made Hot Springs her home. In fact in the 1920s, a short poetically written history of Hot Springs, commissioned by the several womens' clubs of town, was the best selling book in the Black Hills: "When Hot Springs was a Pup" by Charles Badger Clark.

Badger was a striking person — tall by the standards of those days, certainly 6-feet, 3-inches at least. He was as articulate in speaking as in writing. He had a deep, mellow-toned voice — perfect as a reader and as a singer. He did not have a British accent but spoke with the articulate clarity of what we have come to call the mystique of the Britisher. His tone range and dramatic pauses made him a one man show.

From the time I was in the third grade in the Hot Springs public schools and for the entire rest of my

public schooling, Harry's father, "Woody" to everyone including students and townspeople and educators and outdoors persons and elected officials, etc., was Hot Springs' Superintendent of Schools. Every year, Woody would have Badger come and talk to the combined junior-senior high school assemblies. You could hear a pin drop when he spoke or read his poetry or spoke about what a wonderful part of the world in which we are privileged to live. He was almost a preacher, himself — but a character unto himself....

My mother was the librarian and a divorcee (when I was two, she came back to her family home where her father, a pioneer and the local banker, reared me). I have no doubt that if Badger (who always harbored the thought that he had a communicable respiratory disease that he should not share) had decided he would marry and my mother would have been given that opportunity, it would have happened. I would describe him as a loner who shared himself with the world, much to the benefit of thousands of people. I know he truly believed that "I am so much a bachelor now that I could not inflict myself on any worthy woman."

My mother's first plane ride was with a World War I fighter pilot who set up a barnstorming service out of Rapid City to "view the Black Hills and the Bad Lands from the air." His name was Clyde Ice (I don't know how many planes he shot down in World War I, but a

goodly number). He never had an accident.

He was a bachelor too when in 1922, he invited my mother, whom he really liked and occasionally courted, to barnstorm the Hills on a beautiful summer's day and bring whom she would like. She invited Badger to come down from the Badger Hole (about 30 miles from Hot Springs) and Clyde flew the three of them for three hours — at that time over 200 air miles — over the favorite countryside of all three of them. My mother raved about that for years after — and how Badger would peer down and talk above the noisy open-seated airplane with “created” and already “composed” poetry as he viewed the world from “on top.”

My mother had Badger come at least twice each summer to her “children’s reading hours” at the library. They were events.

As I look at the poetry Harry picked out for *The Cochise Quarterly*, probably he could hear, as I yet hear, the tall and lanky poet from the Badger Hole speak and twirl his Rs and “apostrophe” his words — elegant, clear and with a wistful smile and twinkling eyes.

“There is some that like the city — but for me, it’s a hawse and saddle ... On hundred miles of range ... Just a-ridin’, a-ridin’.” If the article could only have conveyed his oral readership — the poems would be ever so more striking.

As for errors, I am certain that Harry caught the glaring one

—Badger Hole is in the middle of the largest state park in the country, Custer State not National Park.

Harrick S. Roth  
Denver, Col.

## Memories of Hilltop

Dear Editor:

I thank you for publishing the Hilltop article written by Maryan Williams Thompson Stidham (Summer, 1990). I was one of her students at Hilltop. I did not rate a mention by name, but there is no reason that I should have been mentioned by name. Her story is a wonderful, integral part of my life.

I was not a pupil of Mary Fritz at Hilltop, but later I was her pupil in Douglas. Our paths crossed several times through the years. Our first encounter was at McNeal during my preschool years, then at Hilltop and then in Douglas. Our closest encounter was in Grammar School in Douglas. All her students know that the proper terminology is “my son John” when mentioning John Fritz. Few class periods passed without her referring to “my son John” as a role model.

I am greatly indebted to Maryan Stidham and Mary Fritz for their part in developing my character. I appreciate them.

My grandmother, Sarah Roach Kendrick, and three of her orphan children were early migrants from Texas to the Rodeo-Apache area in

a covered wagon. My parents, Jesse H. and Edna (Childs) Kendrick, followed in 1913. Sarah Kendrick is buried at Apache beside her daughter, Mary Morgan. I have two sisters buried at Douglas. We lived on the same shelf as Ruth and Blackie Stidham while at Hilltop. I was born in Douglas. My ties with Cochise County are very strong.

The article in *The Cochise Quarterly* brought back many pleasant memories. It left me misty eyed. My heart belongs to the Chiricahuas and to Cochise County.

I am curious about other Hilltop students who may have responded to the article. I would appreciate having their names and addresses.

Thank you for the wonderful memories.

**John B. Kendrick**  
Mineral Wells, Texas

**Editor's Note:** I sent John Kendrick Maryan Stidham's address and they are now corresponding. Any other Hilltop student who'd like to write to Stidham or Kendrick, feel free to write to the Society and I'll send you their addresses.

## Galeyville site of novel

**Home Mountain, A Novel of the Frontier**, by Jeanne Williams. St. Martin's Press, New York, 1990. 406 pages, \$19.95.

Honors keep coming Jeanne Williams' way following publication of her latest novel. She first learned that "Home Mountain" was a Reader's Digest condensed book selection.

Then she received a Golden Spur Award given by the Western Writers of America. "Home Mountain" beat out three other books, including "Coyote Waits" by the popular Tony Hillerman.

Williams, who is president of the Cochise County Historical and Archaeological Society, deserves such recognition for "Home Mountain" is truly what its title proclaims — a novel of the frontier. What's more, it's a frontier familiar to readers of *The Cochise Quarterly* because the home mountain of the title is a peak on the eastern side of the Chiricahua Mountains.

The book's protagonist is Katie McLeod, the latest in a series of determined, spunky women Williams has brought to life in some of her more than 50 books.

Orphaned Katie shepherds her siblings from Texas to the Chiricahuas in 1881. There the McLeods are befriended by the residents of Galeyville, the then-booming mining town that also served as a hang-out for ruffians

such as Johnny Ringo and the Clantons.

Katie is intent on establishing a ranch stocked with dairy cattle and Steel Dust horses. With the help of Galeyville's denizens and much hard work, she does just that.

"Home Mountain" was inspired by stories Williams heard from area rancher Peggy Boss. Katie's love, Bill Radnor, is based, Williams says in an afterword that lists her sources, on Curly Bill Brocius.

It's interesting to note that Williams comes down firmly on the side of Brocius and other outlaws. When Katie encounters Wyatt Earp she notices his "hard" eyes but it's the rowdies in Galeyville who help with her ranch.

Although "Home Mountain" has a romance in it, it does not take a romantic view of life around Galeyville. Williams writes about the every day life of miners, cowboys and homesteaders with a matter-of-factness that doesn't take away from an absorbing story.

One reason the story has holding power is the characters, be they historical and fictional, are clearly drawn. There's Ed Larrimore, a neighboring rancher who covets Katie as well as her ranch; John Diamond, a gambler with a hidden past; and Geronimo, who makes an appearance that sparks the book's final plot twist.

Another character, the preacher Amos Chenoweth, is the focus of an excerpt of "Home Mountain" that's scheduled to appear in "Arizona Humoresque," a collection of western humor compiled by

C.L. Sonnichson. It's one more honor for Williams' tale of one piece of Cochise County in the 1880s.

— Cindy Hayostek

## **Cochise's biography engrossing**

**Cochise, Chiricahua Apache Chief** by Edwin R. Sweeney. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Ok. 1991, 501 pages, 3 maps, 42 photographs, notes, bibliography, index, \$27.95.

Until this year, no one had written a definitive biography of Cochise, one of the most famous Apache leaders and the man for whom Cochise County is named.

Now Ed Sweeney has remedied this deficiency with a book that's part of a series on great Indian leaders put out by the University of Oklahoma. Sweeney's book is a straight forward, chronological account of Cochise's life and the times in which he lived.

Just a look at the latter topic would make for an interesting book for Cochise provided some of southern Arizona's and northern Mexico's most turbulent times. But Sweeney's work is doubly interesting because Cochise's remarkable personality is amply displayed.

This is especially true when Sweeney reaches the point where he can use predominately American

sources. That's apparently because more Americans than Mexicans lived to tell about their encounters with Cochise and they were impressed enough to write down their recollections.

This is not to say Sweeney ignored Mexican sources. In fact, the opposite is true; his reading of Sonoran and Chihuahuan newspapers looking for mention of Cochise was time well spent.

The depth of research Sweeney undertook is obvious. For the New England accountant, "Cochise" seems to be a hobby and labor of love. It's his first book.

One strength of "Cochise" lies in its examination of the forces that shaped the man. One was the rocky relations between the Mexicans and Apaches that varied in extremes between the Mexicans regularly rationing the Apaches to murdering them.

Another is the new material Sweeney uncovered. For instance, Cochise spent six weeks as a captive in Fronteras in 1848. Sweeney takes pains to establish that "Negrito Cucchisle" was Cochise and makes a good case.

Sweeney also points out that this captivity undoubtedly was one reason Cochise reacted so decisively when Lt. George Bascom tried to detain him in 1861. In this famous incident, Bascom insisted Cochise had a captive and tried to imprison the chief until the captive was released.

Cochise slit the wall of the tent in which he was conferring with

Bascom and escaped. He left behind a brother, a wife and several other relatives.

Fifteen days later, Bascom hung Cochise's brother and some other warriors and released the women and children after finding the remains of some Americans Cochise captured to trade for his people. How and why the trade went awry is clearly explained by Sweeney.

This Bascom affair resulted in a decade-long war in which Americans felt the brunt of what Sonorans had put up with for close to 100 years—devastating raids and killing. It was only when Cochise realized about 1870 that his war with the Americans had too high a price that he made peace overtures.

One reason Cochise is remembered is the way in which he went about obtaining a peace. The process involved Tom Jeffords, the man who became the agent for the Chiricahuas' reservation.

As with any good history book, Sweeney debunks a few myths. One concerns the time and circumstances under which Cochise and Jeffords met. The novel "Blood Brother" popularized the idea that Jeffords cut a deal with Cochise when Jeffords had a mail delivery contract.

Sweeney offers an alternative, perhaps not as romantic a story as "Blood Brother," but still a satisfying option. Readers will find that's typical of this biography that will stand as "the" source on Cochise.

— Cindy Hayostek