



Hall Is Half Complete Without Elder Veeck

By Paul Ladewski

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When the Chicago Baseball Museum launched its campaign for the induction of William Louis Veeck into the Hall of Fame at a public symposium last week, it didn't come a moment too soon.

The elder Veeck passed away prematurely 79 years ago, and unfortunately, his many contributions have gradually faded from memory since then.

For one, there was the influence that William Louis had on his son. If not for his father's values, vision and guidance, Bill might not have turned out to be a Hall of Famer himself.

No less significant was the pivotal role that William Louis played in the successful attempt to rid baseball of the corruption that had shaken its foundation.

As Veeck biographer Paul Dickson detailed the other night, William Louis went so far as to hire detectives to sniff out any illegal gambling activities. The Cubs president also was instrumental in the nomination of commissioner Keneshaw Mountain Landis, whose iron hand put the game on the straight and narrow again.

In our estimation, there should not be one Veeck in the Hall of Fame without the other.