

## ***Veeck Would Have Been Life of this Celebration***

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*Posted on Thursday, May 3*

Publication of the book *Bill Veeck: Baseball's Greatest Maverick* was celebrated in downtown Chicago on Wednesday evening, and as far as I could tell, it was his kind of party.

There were enough good stories and wide smiles to fill The Casino until the next morning at least.

The event was hosted by Mary Frances Veeck, Bill's widow, and Fred Krehbiel, a nephew who ran errands for the 1959 American League championship team.

"A great night," said author Paul Dickson, whose 434-page biography is recommended even for the casual sports fan.

No one was heard to disagree.

I couldn't help but think about the many lives that Veeck had touched while he was here. Although known best for his promotional genius – one can only imagine what the former White Sox owner would have dreamed up for this one – he made greater contributions that will continue to leave their marks on the game for as long as it is played.

On Thursday, Sept. 20, the Chicago Baseball Museum will pay tribute to the Veeck legacy in a symposium at the Chicago History Museum.