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Gene Carney, Black Sox author, passes away at 63 years of age

Posted on Monday, July 13th, 2009

Longtime baseball writer and 1919 White Sox historian Gene Carney died on Sunday, July 5, at 63 years of age.



In 2006, Carney authored *Burying the Black Sox: How Baseball's Cover-up of the 1919 World Series Fix Almost Worked*, the most significant of his three books. The volume broke new ground on the well-chronicled scandal in the form of rare documents, the contents of which were made public for the first time.

Chicago Baseball Museum president Dr. David Fletcher remembered Carney as a passionate baseball fan and exhaustive researcher that went to great lengths to get the story.

"Gene loved to share a new piece of information or side angle," said Fletcher, who estimated that the two had exchanged more than 1,000 e-mails over the years. "His diligence will be missed."

Fletcher met Carney in June, 2003, when they were in Milwaukee to review a collection of transcripts and exhibits that detailed the legal battle between White Sox outfielder Joe Jackson and team owner Charles Comiskey, who were central figures in the Black Sox controversy.

"Gene and I were fascinated by the rare court documents that were a missing piece to the puzzle known as the Black Sox scandal," Fletcher recalled. "It was after the road trip



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that Gene took his interest in the subject to a level achieved by few authors before or since then."

Two months later, Carney and Fletcher sought the advice of Eliot Asinof in rural New York. Asinof had written *Eight Men Out*, which was published in 1963 and made into a movie 25 years later. The get-together motivated Carney to write his own account of the Black Sox scandal, which he originally titled *Never on a Friday*, a reference to the phobias of South Side Chicago residents of Irish descent.

"It was because of Gene's efforts that new light was shed on the Black Sox story," Fletcher said. "He investigated clues that had been unavailable or ignored by others previously."

[Read the story in the Utica Observer-Dispatch...](#)