

Clarence "Cack" Henley, "Human Flag Pole"

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**"Henley is like the little girl in the nursery rhyme. When he is good, he is very, very good, but when he is bad, he is horrid."
- The Spokane Press, September 1909**

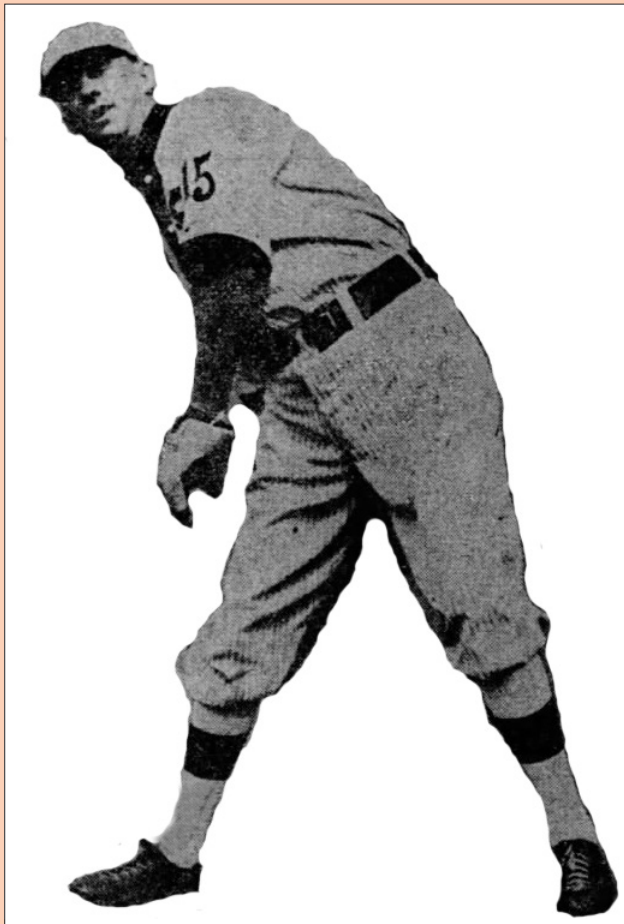
Some enterprising soul at Anchor Steam Brewery in San Francisco must be a baseball fan, and a knowledgeable one at that. An acquaintance mine sent me this internet image of a Anchor Steam Beer delivery truck. More impressively, adorning the truck's back panels are two T212 Oback baseball cards from 1911, one of which is none other than Cack Henley, one of the winningest pitchers in Pacific Coast League history and the subject of this treatise.

Once again, I happily return to the familiar haunts of the Pacific Coast League, this time getting to know the career of **Clarence Timothy "Cack" Henley**, yet another native Californian whose entire pro career and subsequent fame is limited to the environs of the West Coast.

The Pacific Coast League is the league that keeps on giving.

Born on June 21, 1884, in Sacramento, California, to Mary and Oscar Henley, Clarence, the fourth of six children, is born in a house built by his father, a noted brick mason. The Henley residence that remains on 13th Street is the oldest brick house in Sacramento today.

Following a standout high school career and several years of independent ball, Henley wins 25 games in his pro debut in the Pacific Coast League as a 21-year-old in 1905. He is so thin that he earns the nickname "Slivers," but throws so hard that his catchers are said to keep a piece of beefsteak in their gloves to soften the impact of the ball.



In 11 minor league seasons, Henley wins 225 games, including 217 in Pacific Coast League alone, with 53 shutouts. He has two seasons with 30 or more wins and totals 277 complete games in his career. Noted for his control, he has only 784 base on balls in 3,319 innings.

In 1909, Henley wins 31 games while leading the San Francisco Seals to their first Pacific Coast League championship. On June 8th of that year, Henley enters the record book when he pitches the longest complete game victory in baseball history, winning 1-0 in 24 innings over Oakland's Jimmy Wiggs in a game that takes only 3 1/2 hours to complete. Combined, the two pitchers allow only 20 hits.

A year later, Henley wins a career-best and league-high 34 games while working 459 innings. From March 30th to August 23rd, he has 33 consecutive complete games. In addition to his 1.76 ERA, he leads the Pacific Coast League in innings pitched (459), starts (48) and complete games (47).



Cack Henley [2 of 8]:

Henley finishes his 11-year career in 1915 as a 31-year-old with a 15-21 mark and a 2.78 ERA pitching for the Venice/Vernon Tigers. And then he was gone.

After toiling one final summer for the Chico Cubs and Reno Elks, he leaves the game for good in 1919. Returning to his home in Sacramento and working as a school bus driver, Henley dies on July 9, 1929, at his home. He was 44 years old.

HENLEY CHRONOLOGY

October 4, 1903

Pitching for the highly-regarded Mason's Laundry team in the opening game of the Sacramento's Mid-Winter league, Henley strikes out 10 in a 16-6 win over Hales Brothers Department Store.



Mason's Steam Laundry (circa 1893) started in 1880 and stayed in business for another 60 years.



April 2, 1905

Seattle Swiwashes at San Francisco Seals Recreation Park, San Francisco, California

San Francisco—					Seattle—					
A.B.R.	H.	P.A.			A.B.R.	H.	P.A.			
Waitrs,cf	4	1	1	0	Houtz,lf	5	0	2	3	2
Mohlr,2b	4	3	1	1	Kane,3b	4	0	2	0	2
Spencer,rf	5	2	2	1	Miller,cf	4	0	1	0	0
Hildebrand,lf	4	2	3	0	Curtis,c	4	0	0	3	0
Irwin,3b	5	2	3	0	McHie,cf	4	1	1	3	0
Nealon,1b	4	1	3	13	R. Hall,s	3	1	0	2	1
Gochner,s	4	1	2	0	Burns,2b	3	1	1	2	4
Shea,c...	4	0	1	8	Eagan,1b	4	1	0	11	0
Henley,p	4	0	1	1	Roach,p	4	0	0	0	2

Totals.38 12 17 27 16 Totals.35 4 7 24 11

RUNS AND HITS BY INNINGS.

Seattle	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	—4
Base hits	1	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	—7
San Francisco	1	0	0	5	2	4	0	0	x	—12
Base hits	1	1	1	5	3	5	0	1	x	—17

SUMMARY.

Stolen bases—Hildebrand (2), Mohler, Gochner. Errors—Henley (2), Nealon (2), Shea, Roach, Irwin. Three-base hit—Henley. Two-base hits—Walters, Nealon, Gochner, Irwin. Sacrifice hits—R. Hall, Burns, Nealon, Hildebrand. First base on errors—San Francisco 1, Seattle 4. First base on called balls—Off Roach 1. Left on bases—San Francisco 6, Seattle 6. Struck out—By Henley 7, by Roach 3. Hit by pitcher—Mohler. Double plays—Henley to Nealon; Houtz to R. Hall; Houtz to Eagan. Passed balls—Shea, Curtis. Wild pitch—Henley. Time of game—1:50. Umpire—Davis.

Henley makes his pro debut and picks up the first of 225 career wins with a seven-hit 12-4 win over visiting Seattle. In addition to collecting a triple in four at bats, the "elongated one" strikes out seven and does not walk a batter as the Seals win their fourth-straight to open the season.

◀ April 2, 1905 - Pro Debut

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June 21, 1905

Due to pitch that afternoon against Los Angeles, Henley, the "slim pill-propounder," injures his "firing gear."

July 12, 1905

Henley picks up his fourth shutout of the season and improves to 9-8 shutting out Seattle 2-0, on four hits.

April 3, 1906

The San Francisco Seals say Henley is a hold out and is asking for more money despite already signing a contract.

May 24, 1906

Henley is the benefactor of the season's first triple play when the Seals beat Fresno 2-1, in a game played in Oakland's Idora Park.

◀ June 15, 1906

San Francisco pitcher Cack Henley signs with the Sacramento Cordovas of the California State League and will split time between second base and the mound. Former Santa Clara standout and Boston Red Sox catcher **Charley Graham** will join the Cordovas one month later.



GRAHAM, Capt., Sacramento

NEW YORKERS DIE AND GO INSANE

TROPICAL WEATHER REMAINS
UNDIMINISHED

July 12, 1905

Undiminished heat and humidity in New York City causes 10 deaths and scores of prostrations. The high temperature of the day stands officially at 87 degrees.

Cack Henley [3 of 8]:



This May 1907 photograph is the first that I could find with Henley in a San Francisco uniform. In 415 innings that year, he will go 25-16 with 197 innings and a 2.13 ERA.

August 1906

Henley wins his first eight games for the Pueblo Indians. He loses his next five decisions.

March 13, 1907

Henley signs with the San Francisco Seals.

April 9, 1907

Henley, the "Human toothpick from Sacramento," allows Portland one eighth-inning hit and two walks in a 2-0 shutout.

April 30, 1907

As Henley pitches a 12-inning complete game as the Seals beat Portland 5-4, he unveils "a new spitter of his own invention." ... Henley's saliva promoter is shaving soap which he eats before the game.

June 22, 1907

Henley allows only six hits and strikes out six in a 16-inning complete game 5-4 win over Los Angeles ... the win improves his record to 12-4.



Recreation Park I



Also referred to as Central Park, the 15,000-seat Recreation Park I is opened in 1884 and is the home of the San Francisco Seals during their first three seasons in the Pacific Coast League until the great quake of 1906 destroys the ballpark.

Long, Lean, Lank 'Slivers'
Henley Is Seals' Mainstay



Cack Henley Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	GP	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA	Notes
1903	Placerville	Valley	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1903	Mason's Laundry	Mid-Winter	Amt.	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1904	Ryan Stars	City	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1904	Sacramento Cordovas	California	Ind.	3-1	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1905	San Francisco Seals	Pacific Coast	A	25-20-2	49	431.1	345	102	173	2.32	tied 6th wins; 7th Innings; started 44 of 49 games
1906	3 Teams	3 Leagues	A	12-9	22	188.0	208	54	89	--	walked only 54 batters in 188 innings
	San Francisco Seals	Pacific Coast	A	4-4-1	9	74.0	66	20	37	2.92	leaves the team in mid June
	Pueblo Indians	Western	A	8-5	13	114.0	142	34	45	--	started 8-0, finished 0-5
	Sacramento Cordovas	California	Ind.	0-2	2	17.0	18	3	7	--	loses both of his two appearances
1907	Tierney Stars	--	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	champions of Sacramento Valley
1907	San Francisco Seals	Pacific Coast	A	25-16-1	50	415.0	349	103	197	2.13	3rd strikeouts; tied 3rd wins; 4th innings
1908	San Francisco Seals	Pacific Coast	A	20-18	54	-	-	84	151	2.56	3rd 20-win season
1909	San Francisco Seals	Pacific Coast	A	31-10	46	386.2	271	73	188	1.56	led ERA; one of three 30-game winners in PCL
1910	San Francisco Seals	Pacific Coast	A	34-19	57	459.0	370	73	224	1.76	led wins & innings; averaging 24.5 wins first 6 seasons
1911	San Francisco Seals	Pacific Coast	A	17-14	46	320.2	310	76	158	2.39	11th innings; 10th ERA
1912	San Francisco Seals	Pacific Coast	AA	14-23	41	323.2	284	54	161	2.61	first losing season; one walk every 5.98 innings
1913	San Francisco Seals	Pacific Coast	AA	15-15	40	252.2	242	56	106	2.67	second on the Seals in wins and inning pitched
1914	Venice Tigers	Pacific Coast	AA	17-13	37	269.0	249	59	109	2.78	traded to Venice for 23-game winner Spider Baum
1915	Venice/Vernon Tigers	Pacific Coast	AA	15-21	42	275.2	252	50	96	2.78	waived by Vernon on December 4
1916	Cascades	Sacramento Winter	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1916	Sacramento Demons	Colusa Trolley	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1916	Colusa Prune Pickers	Colusa Trolley	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1916	Chico Colts	Colusa Trolley	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1916	Willows Giants	--	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1916	Diamond Match	--	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1917	Chico Diamonds	Colusa Trolley	Ind.	9-2	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1917	Wheatland Hop Pickers	Inter-County	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1919	Chico Cubs	Trolley League	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1919	Reno Elks	--	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
Minor League Totals		11 Seasons		225-178-3	484	3319.1	2880	784	1652	--	

Cack Henley [5 of 8]:



September 18, 1910 - Henley belts out a fifth-inning double off of Roy Willett in San Francisco's 4-3 win over visiting Vernon. Henley strikes out four and walks two en route to picking up the complete game win.

League ... the *Los Angeles Herald* however reports that Henley and shortstop McArdle are among many Seal players dissatisfied with their salaries.



For the first time in his first six full seasons as a San Francisco Seal, Henley fails to reach the 20-win plateau in 1911, dropping to a 17-14 mark with a 2.39 ERA.

June 13, 1909

Four days after pitching 24 innings against Oakland, Henley takes the mound against the same Oaks and allows six runs lasts 5 2/3 innings and takes the loss in a 7-5 decision.

February 21, 1910 - Cincinnati Reds

Badly in need of pitching, Cincinnati Reds manager Clark Griffith sends several wires to the San Francisco Seals in the hope that he can acquire star pitcher Cack Henley ... Griffith does not receive an encouraging reply.

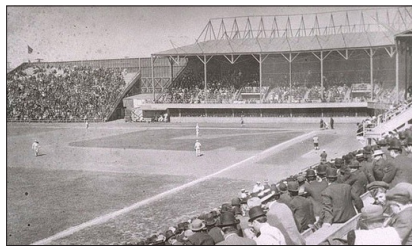
July 3, 1910

In addition to pitching a four-hit shutout, Henley hits two home runs and drives in four runs in a 4-0 win over Oakland.

January 24, 1911

San Francisco manager Danny Long tells the media that Henley has agreed to a contract for the upcoming season that will make him the highest-paid pitcher in the Pacific Coast

Recreation Park II



The Seals move into Recreation Park II in 1907 where they play until the construction of Seals Stadium in 1931, except in 1914 when they transfer to Ewing Field, where bad weather and bad attendance forces the team back to Recreation Park.



In 1910, Henley leads the Pacific Coast League in wins (34), innings pitched (459) and is third in strikeouts (224).

February 11, 1911

Henley tells the Seals that he wants more money than they have offered.

October 21, 1913

In his final game as a San Francisco Seal, Henley pitches three scoreless inning in relief of starter Hub Pernoll in the seventh inning ... Pernoll takes the loss in a 4-3 decision to visiting Venice.

November 1913

"One Time slim," Henley reported to have pitched his final game with the Seals, but owner J. Cal Ewing "thinks that Cack has plenty of baseball left in him."

Logan's Run



October 1, 1911

In a statement that eerily precedes the 1976 movie "Logan's Run," by some 65 years, Henley espouses his opinion that any baseball player 35 years or older should be banned from playing in the major and Class A leagues.



Cack Henley [6 of 8]:

Opening Day 1913



April 1, 1913 - For the first time in 13 years, San Francisco loses a season opener when the visiting Portland Beavers top Cack Henley's Seals 3-2 in 10 innings. Henley is touched for 14 hits, including four by Beaver third baseman Bill Lindsay. Portland will go on to finish first in the Pacific Coast League by seven games over Sacramento. The Seals will finish fourth 11 games back.

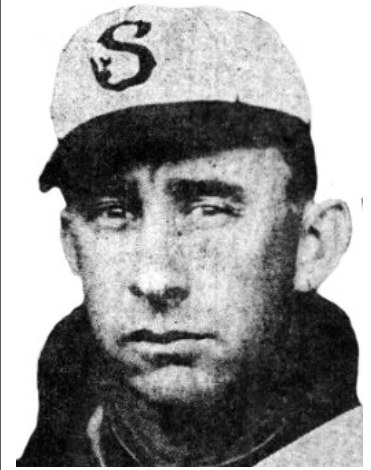
December 11, 1913

Henley can have his release for the asking if he promises not to join any other club in the Pacific Coast League. Seals' manager Del Howard says, "If he has a job outside of the league that he thinks it would pay him to take, we will give him his release. I will never stand in the way of an old player landing a job."

December 12, 1913

Henley refuses to approve any trade and now appears to be headed to the Woodland Oaks of the Trolley League.

Cack Henley
1912 San Francisco Seals



January 2, 1914

After nine years in San Francisco, Henley and shortstop Roy McArdle are traded to Venice for veteran pitcher "Spider" Baum. McArdle hit a lowly .212 in 192 games for the Seals while Baum toils 361 innings en route to a 23-19 mark for the Tigers.

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October 22, 1916
Oroville at Diamond Match
Chico, California

**HENLEY ACHIEVES
NO HIT, NO RUN
HALL OF FAME**

Veteran Cack, on Mound for Diamond Match Team, Has Best of Big Bill James.

OROVILLE.						
	ab.	r.	bh.	po.	a.	e.
Hamilton, ss.....	4	0	0	1	1	3
Scruggs, 3b.....	4	0	0	0	0	0
Coleman, cf.....	3	0	0	0	0	0
Laloe, lf.....	3	0	0	1	0	0
McLean, rf.....	2	0	0	0	0	0
Meador, 2b.....	3	0	0	5	4	0
Hall, 1b.....	2	0	0	9	1	0
Tobin, c.....	3	0	0	8	0	0
James, p.....	2	0	0	0	1	9
Anderson, p.....	1	0	0	3	1	0
Totals	27	0	0	24	8	0

DIAMOND MATCH.						
	ab.	r.	bh.	po.	a.	e.
Kerns, 3b.....	4	1	1	2	1	0
Carman, cf.....	3	1	3	2	0	0
E. Carrigan, lf.....	4	0	2	1	0	0
Henry, ss.....	3	0	1	2	2	0
T. Carrigan, 1b.....	3	0	0	13	0	0
Lohman, 2b.....	3	0	0	0	6	0
Aillon, rf.....	3	0	0	0	0	9
French, c.....	2	0	0	7	1	0
Henley, p.....	3	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	29	2	7	27	11	0

Score by innings:
 Oroville000 000 000—0
 Base hits000 000 000—0
 Chico000 000 02*—2
 Base hits161 101 03*—7
 Summary: Double plays—Hamilton to Meador to Hall, Hamilton, Meador, Hall. Two-base hit—E. Carrigan. Three-base hit—Kerns. Stolen bases—Meador, Carman 3, E. Carrigan. Struck out—By James 3, by Henley 5. Bases on balls—Off James 2, off Henley 1. Left on bases—Oroville 2, Chico 5. Hit by pitcher—By Henley, McLean. Umpire—Frazer Baily.

On the same day when his former team, the Colusa Prune Pickers lose the Colusa Trolley League championship with an 8-1 loss to Maryville, Henley pitches a no-hitter in a 2-0 win over the Oroville Olives. Henley strikes out eight and walks one and allows only two runners to reach base.

'Cack' Henley Refuses to Pitch on Friday, Jinx Day

EVER remember having seen Cack Henley pitch on Friday?

No, it never happens. Cack claims that Friday is his jinx day, and for that reason he does his mound work on other days in the week. Cack has not been saying much about it, but on last Thursday his superstition came to light. Manager Bill Reidy was counting on having Deihl work Thursday and save Henley for Friday. It made his plans known, but Cack was there with a protest.

"If it is all the same," said Cack. "I would rather work Thursday, for I know that I would be beaten Friday, for I have never won a game on my jinx day."

Under the circumstances, Reidy let Cack pitch on Thursday, and he held the Oaks to four hits, but was beaten just the same. However, Cack declares it would have been worse on Friday, so Bill will see to it that the tall pitcher doesn't have to pitch on his jinx day.

August 22, 1914

Pitching for Venice, Henley shuts out his former teammates 4-0, on five hits ... the pitcher that he was traded for - "Spider" Baum - yields seven hits and takes the loss.

March 22, 1915

Henley says he is in better shape now than any other period during his long career. The reason given is his playing of volleyball on the playground courts of San Francisco.

House Money

CLAUDE BERRY ASKS \$250 BONUS IF HE HITS .250 AVERAGE



January 13, 1913

Coming off a season where he hits a career-low .145 in 277 at bats, catcher Claude Berry asks the Portland Beavers for a \$250 bonus if he were to hit .250-or-better in the upcoming season. Management declines his request and the 33-year-old responds by hitting .245 in 101 games.

June 3, 1915

Henley shuts out Salt Lake City 1-0 on one hit, a second inning double by former major leaguer Tom Tennant ... 36-year-old Bees' pitcher Louis LeRoy allows only three hits in taking the loss.

Cack Henley [7 of 8]:

Folsom Alumni

JURY FINDS FRANK ESOLA GUILTY OF BUNCO GRAFT



On June 6, 1913, San Francisco detective Frank Esola, a 16-year veteran of the city police force and a former catcher with the PCL's San Francisco Seals, is convicted of grand larceny in collusion with a bunco ring run

by Michael Gallo. Esola, who played with the Seals for three seasons (1906-1908), led the team in home runs with three, as a 33-year-old in 1907. He is sentenced to five years in Folsom Prison, where in 1915 he plays left field on the prison team.



October 29, 1915

Vernon Tigers' owner Ed Maier decides that Henley is not in his plans for the 1916 season and releases the 30-year-old pitcher, making him a free agent.

March 12, 1916

Still under contract with Vernon and in the best shape of his career, but facing a possible 50 percent cut in salary, Henley refuses to report to Vernon's training camp.

March 28, 1916

Henley, Dick Bayless, John Kane and Joe Berger are turned over to the Wichita club in the Western league ... claiming that several other clubs in the Pacific Coast league would have been able to use them if they had been made free agents, Dick Bayless claims that he, Kane and Berger have been "railroaded" out of the Pacific Coast League.

July 16, 1916

Despite receiving interest from several Pacific Coast League clubs, Henley has no interest in leaving his current team - the Colusa Prune Pickers ... making \$50 each Sunday pitching and \$6 a day as a brick layer during the week, he figures is making around \$350 a month, which is better than he can draw in the PCL.

September 14, 1916

Now the winningest pitcher in the Trolley League, Henley is released by the Colusa Prune Pickers and replaced by Frank Arellanes, a former Sacramento coast leaguer ... it is opined that Henley is released because of the poor showing of his teammates, who registered 17 errors behind him over the last two games.

September 15, 1916

Henley signs with his third Trolley League team of the season, inking a contract with the Chico Colts ... the Colts release standout pitcher Mickey Shader because the team can't afford to carry two pitchers.

July 10, 1917

Facing financial problems in the midst of World War I, the Trolley League disbands ... problems in Chico are attributed to Henley's \$45 Sunday paycheck, which leaves almost nothing for the rest of the players ... Henley is 9-2 when the team disbands

July 9, 1929

Henley passes away at his home in Sacramento, at the age of 44.

Former Star of Coast League Is Accused of Dry Law Violation

Clarence (Cack) Henley, for 12 or 13 years the star pitcher of the San Francisco Seals in the Pacific Coast league, was caught in the net of the prohibition laws yesterday when he was taken in custody in raids conducted in Oak Park under the supervision of W. W. Greer, prohibition enforcement officer.

December 13, 1921

Henley is taken into custody when his soda shop is found to be in violation of prohibition laws by having liquor on the premise.

MALICIOUS MISCHIEF.

Boys Arrested for Destroying a Jap's Watermelons.

Yesterday evening three boys, named Clarence Henley, Albert Bauer and Ed Lannigan, invaded a watermelon patch conducted by a Japanese at Eighteenth and Q streets and amused themselves by kicking holes in the melons.

A couple of special officers were called in and the youthful marauders were rounded up and lodged in the City Prison, though not before the officers were obliged to fire a shot over their heads to stop the sprint they made.

July 30, 1897 - Thirteen-year-old Clarence Henley is one of three Sacramento youths apprehended by the police for vandalizing a watermelon patch. One day later a city judge discharges them with a warning after each of them testifies that they were simply walking down the street and not in the watermelon patch. Judge Davis also says that there is a possibility that the owner's identification was not to be relied on.

'CACK' HENLEY DEATH VICTIM

Clarence T. "Cack" Henley, formerly one of the best known Coast League pitchers, died in a Sacramento hospital Tuesday at the age of 44 years. Henley was well known in Woodland where he frequently appeared on the diamond years ago. He played in the Pacific Coast League 10 years, eight seasons with the San Francisco Seals and two with Vernon. One of his greatest games was a 24-inning contest which he pitched and won for the Seals against Oakland in 1909.

Cack Henley
1909 Obak #35



HENLEY, San Francisco

Cack Henley
1910 Obak #13



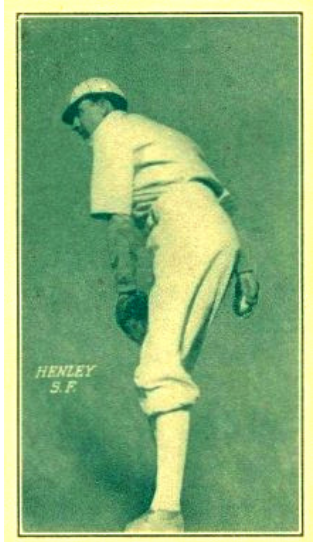
HENLEY, SAN FRANCISCO, P. C. L.

Cack Henley
1911 Zeenut #56



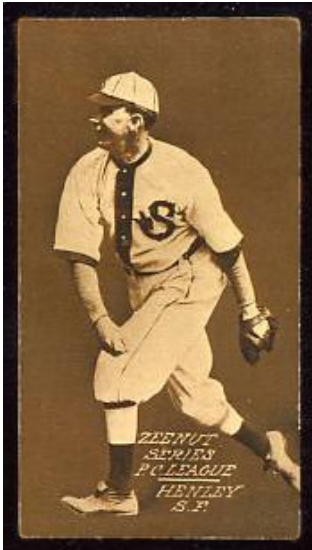
ZEENUT
SERIES
P.C. LEAGUE
HENLEY
S.F.

Cack Henley
1911 Pacific Coast Biscuit #25



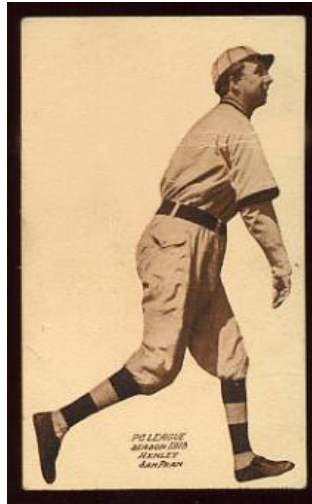
HENLEY
S.F.

Cack Henley
1912 Zeenut #65



ZEENUT
SERIES
P.C. LEAGUE
HENLEY
S.F.

Cack Henley
1913 Zeenut #55



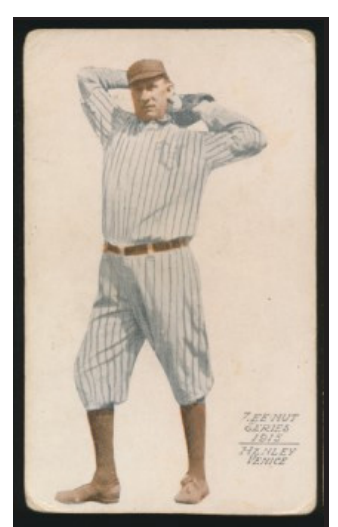
P.C. LEAGUE
HENLEY
S.F.

Cack Henley
1914 Zeenut #60



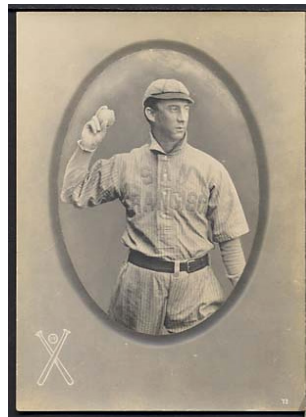
ZEENUT
SERIES
P.C. LEAGUE
HENLEY
VENICE

Cack Henley
1915 Zeenut #25



ZEENUT
SERIES
1915
HENLEY
VENICE

Cack Henley
T4 Obak Premium #73



In a recent auction, Henley's T4 Obak Premium card No. 73 in near-mint condition was sold for \$2,148.