

# 1910 Northeast Arkansas League, "What a Riot"

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It ended with a riot.

In a season that began with promise and confidence, but ends in ignominious confusion, the 1910 Northeast Arkansas (D) League had it all.

Born in mid-July a year earlier from the ashes of the failed Arkansas State League, the small four-team circuit is beset by violence-marred games, financial woes curiously besetting all but the last-place Blytheville Boosters, charges of game-fixing against the owner of the Caruthersville Alfalfas (the league's best team), seemingly never-ending umpire problems exacerbated by a two-month vacation taken by the league president during the middle of the season, a mid-season change in the league by-laws and scheduling format, forfeits and double-forfeits, illegal players, players jumping from one league team to another, and some again to a third (i.e. Charles Streiker), and last but not least, occasional malarial infections unique to the region that exact their toll not only on players, but the league president as well.

## 1910 Northeast Arkansas League - Final Standings

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB	Manager
Caruthersville Alfalfas	68	48	.5862	--	A.L. "Dad" Ritter
Paragould Scouts	65	46	.5855	0.5	Howard Schaaf
Jonesboro Zebras	53	55	.491	11.0	Paul Graves
Blytheville Boosters	38	75	.336	28.5	J.K. Malone/Dan Crotty/Scoops Carey

First Half				Second Half					
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB	Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Caruthersville	40	22	.645	--	Paragould	31	22	.585	--
Paragould	34	24	.586	4.0	Caruthersville	28	26	.519	3.5
Jonesboro	29	27	.518	8.0	Jonesboro	24	28	.462	6.5
Blytheville	14	44	.241	24.0	Blytheville	24	31	.436	7.5
May 2-July 6					July 7-September 6				

**Playoff: Caruthersville tied Paragould at 2 games each  
The series is called off when the fifth game ends in a riot.**

## N. E. A. PENNANT GOES UNAWARDED

Caruthersville and Paragould  
Each Given "Rag" When  
Player Umpires Forfeit  
Game.

PARAGOULD.									
	A	B	R	H	P	O	A	E	
Bevill, lf.	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ward, 2b.	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Grogan, rf.	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Jansen, ss.	3	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0
Schaaf, 3b.	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Davis, lb.	3	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0
Kinser, cf.	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Hays, c.	2	0	1	6	0	1	0	0	0
Sloan, p.	2	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	0
Totals	22	2	6	18	9	4	0	0	0

CARUTHERSVILLE.									
	A	B	R	H	P	O	A	E	
Benham, lf.	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Goldby, 2b.	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Gardner, ss.	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Relney, lb.	3	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Ritter, c.	2	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0
Blackwood, p, rf.	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Hart, cf.	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Pique, 3b.	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nuding, p, rf.	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Blackburn, rf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	18	3	2	18	6	0	0	0	0

SCORE BY INNINGS									
Caruthersville	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paragould	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**SUMMARY.**  
Two-Base Hits—Schaaf, Davis, Hays.  
Ritter. Sacrifice Hits—Goldby, Gardner,  
Blackwood. Stolen Bases—Ward, Ben-  
ham, Goldby, Relney, Hart. Double  
Plays—Kinser to Jansen to Ward; Gold-  
by to Gardner to Relney; Hart to Ritter.  
Bases on Balls—Off Sloan 4, off Nuding  
1 off Blackwood 2. Struck Out—By  
Sloan 4, by Blackwood 5. Time of Game  
—; 00. Umpire—Robertson and Dickey.

And to cap it all off, a league pennant that was never awarded.

First, a little history.

In 1909, a fledgling Northeast Arkansas League picks up two franchises - Jonesboro and Newport - from the disbanded Arkansas State League and adds Marianna and Paragould for a compact four-team circuit. The league's first games are played on July 26, only 19 days after the Arkansas League called it quits.

Jonesboro, with its' 30-23 mark, captures the league's inaugural championship by 1 1/2 games over Newport.

For the 1911 season, Caruthersville, the lone non-Arkansas based league team is replaced by Helena, one of the original franchises in the Arkansas State League of 1909. Struggling financially, the league folds on July 5.

Following a 25-year hiatus, the league reinvents itself in 1936, as a six-team D-level circuit and will continue play through the 1941 season before folding as America enters into World War II.

But lest we forget, there was 1910.

Right from its May 2 opening day, the league has a problem - Blytheville.

Three weeks into the season, the Boosters, despite reputedly having the league's best attendance, are woefully short of quality players and with a 3-14 start are already eight games behind Caruthersville, and working on the second of three eventual managers.

On June 23, with Blytheville at 7-28 and a distant 19 1/2 games behind the Alfalfas, the league in an effort to have a more competitive season and improved attendance, agrees to "split" the season into two halves. Caruthersville (28-10), with a 7 1/2 game edge on second-place Jonesboro (19-16), reluctantly goes along with the three Arkansas-based franchises.

## Northeast Arkansas League [2 of 12]:

When the regular season comes to its conclusion on September 6 (following another forfeit by Blytheville because it has only eight players), Caruthersville, the first-half winner and Paragould, the second-half champion, are scheduled to begin a best-of-five championship series the following day.

### 1910 Northeast Arkansas League Statistical Leaders

Batting Average	Clyde Curtis, Jonesboro	.330
Runs Scored	B.B. Bevill, Paragould	68
Hits	Clyde Curtis, Jonesboro	118
Winning Pct.	"Rube" Robertson, Cauthersville	1.000 (9-0)

The first two games are to be played in Caruthersville, followed by two in Paragould. A fifth game, if needed will be played in "neutral" Blytheville. Anticipation by the players and fans alike runs high as car caravans are set to travel between the two towns, only 91 miles apart.

Only one problem, someone forgot to tell the umpires, so each of the five games in the championship series are arbitrated by two players, one from each team and generally pitchers on their off days. This will prove to be a problem later on.

Paragould wins the first game, 3-1, the fourth game, 2-1, while Caruthersville wins games two and three, 4-1 and 5-4.

For the championship game, league president Joe Bertig finds a local catcher to umpire the game. However, Caruthersville president A.L. Coppage objects to this change and insists the system of having two players as umpires has worked fine so far. It is finally agreed by both sides that "Rube" Robertson (Caruthersville) and Donald Dickey (Paragould) will call the game.

The Alfalfas hold a 3-2 lead in the sixth inning of game five when a "general row" ensues over a play at the plate. Local police are forced to come on to the field to quell fights and protect Robertson, who's "questionable" calls have led to three Caruthersville runs.

### Caruthersville and Paragould Did Not Determine Championship.

*(Associated Press Report.)*

PARAGOULD, Ark., September 12.—The post-season series between Caruthersville and Paragould to decide the 1910 championship in the Northeast Arkansas league ended today in a disagreement and no decision. Today's game, which was to decide the issue, progressed as far as the sixth inning with the score 3 to 2 in favor of Paragould, when objection was found with the umpire system, a player from each team acting as arbiter. Two forfeits followed, each umpire declaring the game forfeited to his team. Officials of the league declare that the game can not be replayed.

Twice more police come onto the field to stop fights and attempt to restore whatever little order could be had. Finally, after being punched by several Paragould players, Robertson stops the game and declares it forfeited to Caruthersville, 9-0. Not to be outdone, Dickey decides the game should be forfeited to his Paragould team, 9-0.

President Bertig, who is present at the game, elects to throw the game and the double forfeits out. Over the next couple of days, Bertig tries to get the two teams to replay the game so the league can have an official champion. Finally, on September 16, a frustrated Bertig declares that the league will not recognize a champion for the 1910 season.

## NORTHEAST ARKANSAS LEAGUE CHRONOLOGY

January 1, 1910

Reorganization of the league is delayed because of an illness to league president Boswell Brown, who has been battling malaria and typhoid fever for the past two months.

February 17

At its' spring meeting in Brinkley, Arkansas, the Northeast Arkansas League initially organizes as a six-team circuit with franchises in Brinkley, Newport, Blytheville, Jonesboro, Paragould and Marianna ... two franchises remain to be granted to Batesville and Caruthersville.

### Unique Nicknames of the Northeast Arkansas League

#### Blytheville Boosters

Despite the team's poor won-loss record, Blytheville leads the league in attendance, so in recognition of its' loyal fans, the team adopts "Boosters" as its' nickname.

#### Cauthersville Alfalfas

The Missouri town located in the middle of an agricultural region with alfalfa as one of the chief crops.

#### Jonesville Zebras

The 1909 Jonesville team wore striped stockings, so the organization decided to go with the more unique name "Zebras" instead of "Tigers" as many other teams of the era did.

#### Paragould Scouts

During the 1880's, the U.S. Army in the area employed Seminole scouts to monitor the movements of the local Cherokee tribe.

### BLYTHEVILLE GETS READY

#### Will Have Strong Team in Northeast Arkansas League.

Special to the Gazette.

Jonesboro, March 5.—Harry F. Welch, the red commander of the champion Zebras, is at home again, after a flying trip to Blytheville and Cauthersville in the interest of the Northeast Arkansas Baseball League, and he reports speedy work in the organization of the Blytheville Infants for the 1910 race. He was asked to guide the club in its battles for the Doherty flag, but is tied up with Muskogee, in the Western Association.

Dwight Blackwood may be secured to pilot the new team in the center for the flag.

## Northeast Arkansas League [2 of 12]:

The constitution and by-laws from the previous year are simply adopted and a \$30 game guarantee is voted on ... Paragould buys John "Chewing Gum Willie" Russell from Jonesboro.

March 3

Construction begins on a baseball stadium in Blytheville ... unable to secure the services of Harry Welch, the Boosters name local pitching standout Dwight Blackwood to manage the team ... wanting to play rather than manage, Blackwood signs with the Caruthersville Alfalfas.

March 9

Big Ed Schaaf who played for the Paragould Scouts in 1909, is named the team's manager for the 1910 season.

May 2

Opening day games in the Northeast Arkansas League are played in front of "large crowds" ... Jonesboro beats Blytheville 8-3 before 1,000 hometown fans and Paragould's James Coleman strikes out nine and the Scouts score three eighth inning runs to rally past Caruthersville 4-3.

May 3

In the first extra inning game of the year, Caruthersville edges Paragould 9-8 in 13 innings.

May 14, 1910  
Jonesboro, Arkansas

### SUB ENGINEERS A TRIPLE PLAY

Pitcher Neeley, Filling In at Short for Blytheville, Starts One of Baseball's Rarest Spectacles.

JONESBORO	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Striker, lf	4	1	1	1	0	0
Graves, ss	3	0	0	3	1	1
Russell, rf	5	0	1	0	0	0
Miller, lb	4	1	2	5	0	0
Curtis, c	5	3	2	12	0	0
Willett, 3b	5	8	1	1	4	0
Moore, 2b	4	2	0	1	3	0
Brown, cf	5	2	1	1	0	0
Smith, p	4	1	2	0	2	1
Totals	39	13	10	27	10	2
BLYTHEVILLE	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Healey, lf, p	4	0	1	0	0	0
Cervenka, rf, lb	3	0	1	4	2	1
M. Walsh, 3b	3	0	0	4	1	1
Bruns, lb, rf	3	0	0	5	0	2
Blackburn, cf	4	0	0	1	1	0
Smith, c	4	0	1	4	1	0
L. Walsh, ss	2	0	0	3	3	1
Neely, ss	1	1	0	2	1	2
Wilson, rf	4	0	0	0	0	1
Burke, p	3	0	1	1	4	3
Totals	31	1	4	24	13	11

SCORE BY INNINGS  
Jonesboro 0 0 4 0 2 3 2 2 x 13  
Blytheville 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0-1

#### SUMMARY.

Two-Base Hits-Striker, Smith. Three-Base Hit-Miller. Sacrifice Hits-Willett, Graves, Cervenka, Walsh. Triple Play-Neely to Walsh to Cervenka. Passed Ball-L. Walsh. Struck Out-By Smith 8, by Burke 4. Bases on Balls-Off Smith 4, off Burke 6. Hit by Pitcher-By Burke (Smith). Time of Game-1:45. Umpire-unknown.

May 7

Jonesboro's Schweitzer shuts out Caruthersville 9-0 on six hits.

May 11

Caruthersville lefty Ralph Mortenson shuts out Jonesboro 5-0 on four hits.

May 12

Caruthersville and Paragould battle to a 5-5 tie in a game called at the end of 10 innings because of darkness.

May 14

The first triple play of the season takes place during the Blytheville at Jonesboro game ... Booster pitcher Joe Neeley, filling in for regular shortstop Larry Walsh, snares a hard hit line drive by Jonesboro's Jack Russell, touches second and then throws to first to complete the trifecta ... however, Jonesboro, behind Harry Smith's four-hitter, collects a 13-1 win.

May 22

Mired in last place with a 3-14 record, Blytheville removes J.K. Malone as manager, replacing him with Dan Crotty, who had began the season as an umpire in the Northeast Arkansas League.

## Blytheville Boosters



1. Matthews; 2. Carey, Mgr.; 3. Bergin; 4. Bruns; 5. Parrot; 6. Walsh; 7. A. Little, Pres.; 8. Neely; 9. Webb; 10. Striker; 11. Perritt; 12. Cervenka; 13. Walsh.

### BOOSTER ROSTER

Andrews.....	P	Parrott, Bill.....	C
Bruns, Harry.....	INF	Payne.....	P
Burgin, Dummy.....	P	Perritt, Madison.....	P
Burk.....	OF	Reynolds.....	P
Burks, Bob.....	P	Rusher.....	INF
Calhoun, Jack.....	OF,P	Ryan.....	INF
Carr.....	INF	Smith.....	C
Cary, George.....	INF	Striker, Charles.....	OF
Cervenka, Joe.....	OF	Tullar, Fred.....	INF
Crotty, Dan.....	INF	Underwood.....	P
Duncan.....	INF	Walsh, Larry.....	INF
Fenville.....	P	Walsh, Martin.....	INF
Flood, Gene.....	OF	Weaver.....	INF
Golby.....	INF	Webb, Jack.....	INF
Healey, B.....	OF	White.....	OF
Jehl, Otto.....	OF	Wilson.....	OF
Matthews (Rip) George....	P	Workmeister.....	P
Maynard.....	INF		
Neely, Joe.....	P		

### Blytheville, Arkansas (3,849)



Glencoe Hotel, 1913

Prone to tremors, Blytheville lies near the epicenter of the record-setting New Madrid Earthquakes of 1811-1812. Located on the low and flat Mississippi Delta, Blytheville is named for Methodist Reverend Henry T. Blythe (1816-1904) and its early growth was spurred by the harvesting of lumber to rebuild after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Blytheville was home to Eaker Air Force Base until its closing in 1992.

## Northeast Arkansas League [4 of 12]:

May 23

The Jonesboro Zebras refuse to play against last-place Blytheville "out of respect" following the death of William Puryear, father of Taylor Puryear, the team's director.

### Woodland College, Jonesboro



On April 11, 1910, one day after losing 10-2 to Memphis University to close out its' season with a 4-4 record, Woodland College baseball coach Paul Graves is named manager of the Jonesboro Zebras. Opened in 1904 and located in Jonesboro, Woodland will shutter its' doors in November 1912 "owing to the inactivity on the part of the people of this part of Arkansas" and a graduating class of two.

May 25

Last-place Blytheville, under new manager Dan Crotty, sweeps a doubleheader from first-place Jonesboro 11-9 and 3-0 ... the twin bill win improves the Boosters record to 5-15.

May 28

Nig Miller has four hits, including a triple and three singles, and four other players have three hits as Jonesboro has 18 safeties and nine runs off Paragould's Ed Schaaf in a 9-5 win.

June 4

Pitching rules the day in the Northeast Arkansas circuit as

the four teams total only five runs and 14 hits.

Caruthersville's Dwight Blackwood strikes out seven and allows only a lone single to Jonesboro's "Red" McClendon in a 2-0 shutout while the Scouts' Merrill yields only six hits in taking the loss ... James Coleman strikes out nine and allows Blytheville only two hits while mound opponent "Dummy" Burgin, allows only four hits in 3-0 Paragould victory.

Following the game, which drops the Boosters' record to 7-24, Blytheville manager "Scoops" Carey releases three players - Smith (who had just gone 3-for-3 in the loss to Caruthersville), outfielder White and infielder Weaver ... in addition, pitcher Joe Neely "jumps" his contract, leaving the team with only 10 players.

June 7

Caruthersville manager Al "Dad" Ritter is suspended for five for his "display of temper" at Jonesboro's League Park earlier in the week ... two Alfalfa players - Sam Jolly and Michael Pique, are also warned ... league president Joe Bertig also consider suspending Jolly but "disliked weakening the team too greatly."

## FORCED TO SEE GAME

And so a Young New Yorker Sued for False Imprisonment and Got \$500.

White Plains, May 18.—It is worth \$500 to be compelled to remain unwillingly in the Polo Grounds to see the New York Nationals play ball, according to a verdict returned in the Supreme Court here. Frederick L. Talcott Jr. of New York received judgment in this amount against the company which controls the grounds. Talcott alleged he was held by officers when he tried to leave the enclosure after his failure to obtain reserved seats. He declared he was detained for two hours and described it as false imprisonment and demanded \$5,000 damages.

In a pitcher's duel, Caruthersville edges homestanding Jonesboro 1-0, on a throwing error by center fielder Moore with two outs in the top of the ninth inning that allows Kelly to score from second on a single by Felix Blackburn ... Madison Perritt allows only four hits in picking up the win while the Zebras' Merrill yields seven hits in absorbing the loss.

June 9

Jonesboro manager Paul Graves announces that the team has reinstated suspended shortstop Jack Russell ... to

## Caruthersville Alfalfas



1, Benham; 2, Blackwell; 3, Hart; 4, Gardner; 5, Horner; 6, Pollard; 7, Coppage, Pres.; 8, Ritter, Mgr.; 9, Rainey, Capt.; 10, Nuding; 11, Robertson; 12, Pique; 13, Kerr.

### ALFALFA ROSTER

Benham, Herbert.....	OF	Meatte.....	OF
Blackburn, Felix.....	OF	Mortenson, Ralph.....	P
Blackwood, Dwight....	P, OF	Nuding, (Doc) Arion.....	P
Dodge.....	INF	Perritt, Madison.....	P
Finger.....	P	Pique, Muncy.....	INF
Gardner, A.T.....	OF, INF	Pollard, Walter (M.D.).....	P
Goldby, Frank.....	INF	Reiney, Senter.....	INF
Griffith.....	INF	Reeves.....	INF
Hart, Lee.....	OF	Ritter, A.L.....	C
Hawkins.....	INF	Robertson, Rube.....	P
Horner.....	C	Rollins.....	OF
Jolly, Sam.....	INF, C	Smith, Charles.....	INF
Kelly.....	OF	Streiker, Charles.....	OF
Kerr.....	INF	Tidwell.....	INF
Johnson.....	OF	Winters.....	P

## Caruthersville, Missouri (3,655)



### Downtown Caruthersville, 1919

Built on the banks of the Mississippi River, Caruthersville is established in 1857. Incorporated in 1874, the town is named after Samuel Caruthers, a popular Missouri lawyer and judge. It is located in the middle of an agricultural district with cotton, soybean and alfalfa as the chief crops. It is the country seat for Pemiscot County. "Pemiscot" comes from a Native American word meaning "liquid mud".

## Northeast Arkansas League [5 of 12]:

make room for Russell, utility infielder Eddie Moore is released and will return to his hometown Louisville.

June 10

A "general shake up" takes place in Blytheville where the Boosters are mired in last place with a 7-27 record and 19 games behind first-place Caruthersville (26-8) ... manager "Scoops" Carey releases Healey and Bob Burk and "probably a few more soon" ... the Boosters sign three pitchers, a left-hander named Reynolds, who recently tried out with the St. Louis Cardinals, Native American pitcher Andrews (who will play mostly shortstop) and a native of Mexico named Fenville ... Burk is unemployed for only a couple of hours and returns to the Boosters starting in center field and batting third the next day ... League president Bertig says that despite the Boosters' record, Blytheville is the "best baseball town in the league."

June 11

Big Ed Schaaf pitches both ends of a doubleheader as Paragould takes the measure of first-place Caruthersville 4-2 and 4-0 ... the "Smiling Dutchman" strikes out eight and allows only 12 hits and two walks in 18 innings.

June 12

Two hundred Jonesboro fans drive the 44 miles to Blytheville in expectation that the town's ban on Sunday baseball would be lifted for that afternoon's game between the Boosters and Zebras ... unfortunately, Judge Smith has other ideas and refuses to allow the game to be played.

June 13

At a special meeting in Blytheville, league owners agree to raise the salary limit from \$750 to \$850 and each club can carry up to 12 players until July 1 ... at the meeting, president Bertig tells the owners that he will be absent for "some time" and turns over his duties to vice-president Wendt.

June 17

Caruthersville turns in the second triple play of the season in the Alfalfas' 4-3 come-from-behind win over last-place Blytheville ... in the third inning with bases full, Caruthersville's Dwight Blackwood hits a line drive to left fielder Joe Cervenka who catches it at his "shoe strings" ... Cervenka then throws to second baseman Larry Walsh who completes the triple play with a throw to first baseman Maynard.

### NO GAME AT BLYTHEVILLE

Judge Refuses to Permit Lifting of the Sunday Lid.

Special to the Gazette.

Jonesboro, June 12.—The lifting of the Sabbath baseball lid at Blytheville today failed to materialize, and the crowd of Jonesboro fans made the excursion trip for nothing. Judge Smith this morning, over the telephone, positively refused to countenance the games and they were declared off, to the disappointment of 200 fans from this city.

June 21

League plays features a pair of two-hit shutouts ... Jonesboro's Babe Merrill whitewashes visiting Caruthersville 2-0 in a game played in a drizzling rain ... in Paragould, James Coleman strikes out seven and does not walk a batter in a 3-0 win over Blytheville.

June 22

Jonesboro's Harry Smith limits Caruthersville to two hits in a 2-1 win ... Red McClendon (.313), the league's leading

## Jonesboro Zebras



1, Corr; 2, Graves, Mgr. and Capt.; 3, Pophan; 4, Miller; 5, McClendin; 6, Randall; 7, Dearsdoff; 8, Lewis; 9, M. M. Warkle, Member Executive Committee; 10, Taylor Puryear, Member Executive Committee; 11, Sample; 12, Dodge; 13, Curtis.

### ZEBRAS ROSTER

Brown .....	OF	Merrill, Babe .....	P
Carroll, Nippy .....	P	Michael .....	OF
Conn, Granville .....	C	Miller (Nig) Robert .....	INF
Cuddinger .....	OF	Moore, Eddie .....	OF
Curtis, Chuck .....	INF	O'Brien .....	INF
Davis .....	OF	Popham .....	C
Deardorff, Dutch .....	P	Randall .....	P
Dodge, John .....	INF	Rusche .....	INF
Ewing, Buck .....	P	Russell, Jack .....	INF
Graves, Paul .....	INF	Sample, Charles .....	OF
Huntington .....	P	Schweitzer .....	P
Russell, Jack .....	OF	Smith, Harry .....	P
Lewis, Donald .....	OF, P	Streiker, Charles .....	OF
Mathews, Rip .....	P	Vatters (Little Germany) Jake .....	P
McClendon, L.A. (Red) .....	C	Willett .....	INF

## Jonesville, Arkansas (7.123)



Downtown Jonesville, 1910

The largest of the four towns that comprised the 1910 Northeast Arkansas League ... 12 years after the United States acquired this territory in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, a permanent settlement of Jonesborough was set up in 1815 ... Jonesville is named after State Senator William A. Jones ... originally spelled Jonesborough, the name was later shortened to its present-day spelling.

## Northeast Arkansas League [6 of 12]:

hitter, and Jack Russell (.191) of Jonesboro and Sam Jolly of Caruthersville leave to go play for an independent team in Marshall, Texas ... all three players are suspended ... McClen-don will later return to the fold.

### LEAGUE MAY BE CHANGED

#### Three Towns Are After Northeast Arkansas Franchise.

Special to the Gazette.

Jonesboro, June 28.—A meeting of the Northeast Arkansas Baseball League will be held tomorrow night at Blytheville and a change in the circuit may result, as three towns are anxious to gain franchises, and there is a chance of Caruthersville dropping out.

rumors that the league may take in two additional teams when the league begins its second half on July 7 and league president Bertig is "anxious" to secure another competent umpire.

July 4, 1910  
Jonesboro, Arkansas

## SCOUTS WIN ONE AND TIE ANOTHER

Morning Game Is Called at Noon With Score Tied in Twelfth—Paragould Wins Second.

JONESBORO.	A	B	R	H	P	O	A	E
Strieker, lf. . . . .	5	1	2	0	0	1		
Graves, ss. . . . .	5	1	1	3	4	2		
Miller, lb. . . . .	3	1	1	20	0	0		
Curtis, sb. . . . .	5	0	0	1	2	1		
Semple, cf. . . . .	4	0	0	3	0	0		
Carr, c. . . . .	4	0	0	4	1	0		
Willett, 2b. . . . .	4	0	0	3	7	0		
Michael, rf. . . . .	4	0	0	2	1	1		
Smith, p. . . . .	6	0	0	0	0	0		
Totals. . . . .	38	3	4	30	21	5		

PARAGOULD.	A	B	R	H	P	O	A	E
Franklin, cf. . . . .	5	0	2	4	0	2		
Bevill, lf. . . . .	6	0	0	4	0	0		
Grogan, rf. . . . .	6	1	2	0	0	0		
Jansen, 2b. . . . .	6	1	1	4	3	0		
Schaaf, sb. . . . .	4	0	0	0	4	2		
Davis, lb. . . . .	4	0	1	15	0	0		
Ward, ss. . . . .	4	0	0	1	1	0		
Dickey, c. . . . .	5	1	1	8	3	0		
Coleman, p. . . . .	4	0	0	1	0	0		
Totals. . . . .	44	3	7	37	11	4		

#### SCORE BY INNINGS.

Jonesboro. . . . . 1 0 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 0—3

Paragould . . . . . 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0—3

#### SUMMARY.

Two-Base Hits—Miller, Jansen. Stolen Bases—Strieker, Graves, Schaaf, Ward 2, Dickey. Struck Out—By Smith 5, by Coleman 8. Bases on Balls—Off Smith 7, off Coleman 1 Wild Pitch—Smith. Hit by Pitcher—Smith (Schaaf); Coleman (Miller). Passed Balls—Dickey. Double Plays—Graves, Willett and Miller 2; Schaaf to Jansen to Davis; Ward to Jansen to Davis. Time of Game—2:30. Umpires—Ponham and D. Kerr.

June 24  
The four Northeast Arkansas League teams vote unanimously to split the season into a first and second half with the first half ending July 6 ... in addition, there are

June 28  
A meeting of the Northeast Arkansas League has been called for the 29th ... a possible change in league membership is to be discussed as there is a chance of Caruthersville dropping out ... there are also indications that three other towns are anxious to get franchises.

Blytheville gets only two hits but its enough to beat Jonesboro 2-1 ... the Boosters "Dummy" Burgin allows only three hits in picking up the win.

June 29  
Caruthersville's "spitball surgeon" Aaron Nuding dims Paragould's first-half championship aspirations allowing six hits and striking out 10 in a 6-2 Alfalfa win.

**July 4 - Breaking for Lunch**  
Jonesboro and Paragould battle for 12 innings in the forenoon game of a scheduled doubleheader in Jonesboro ... the game is called at noon with the score tied at 3-to-3 in the 12th inning so the two teams "might rest and get lunch" in time for the afternoon game.

**July 6 - Underwood's Bad Day**  
The first half of the season comes to an end with Caruthersville capturing first-half honors by four games ahead of Paragould and eight tilts ahead of Jonesboro.

## Paragould Scouts



1, Coleman; 2, Grogan; 3, Schaaf, Capt.; 4, Davis; 5, Jansen; 6, Ritter, Mgr.; 7, Kinser; 8, Sloan; 9, Dickey; 10, Ward; 11, Kerr; 12, Bevill; 13, Kerr.

### SCOUTS ROSTER

Bevill, B.B. . . . .	OF	Kinser, James . . . . .	INF
Carson . . . . .	C	Kerr, (Kid) Robert . . . . .	P,INF
Caruth . . . . .	P	Kerr, (Dickey) Richard . . . . .	P
Coleman, James . . . . .	p	O'Connell, Jimmy . . . . .	INF
Davis, E.A. . . . .	INF	Patterson . . . . .	INF
Dickey, Donald . . . . .	C	Reynolds . . . . .	P
Dobbs . . . . .	OF	Ritter . . . . .	INF
Griffith . . . . .	INF	Schaaf, Ed . . . . .	P,OF
Grogan, John . . . . .	P	Sloan, Joe . . . . .	P
Hays, Leslie . . . . .	C	Smith . . . . .	INF
Holland . . . . .	INF	Vogelsang . . . . .	C
Lister . . . . .	INF	Ward (Red) Ralph . . . . .	INF
Jansen, Ray . . . . .	INF		
Jones . . . . .	P		
Ketchum . . . . .	P		

## Paragould, Arkansas (5.248)



### Downtown Paragould, 1910

Paragould gets its name by a combining of the last names of J.W. Paramore and Jay Gould, the owners of the two railroads that originally crossed at that location ... Paragould, Arkansas, is believed to be the only city in the world with this name ... on February 17, 1930, an 820-pound meteorite strikes the earth four miles southwest of Paragould ... it takes five men and a team of horses three hours to dislodge it.

## Northeast Arkansas League [7 of 12]:

Blytheville's new pitcher Underwood allows Caruthersville only four hits but walks 11 as the Alfalfas post a 5-3 win ... following the game Underwood is released by manager Carey.

July 7

The second half of the season begins much like the first half for Blytheville as the Boosters forfeit a game to Caruthersville when infielder Marty Walsh refuses to leave the field after umpire Crotty ejects him at the end of the third inning for "persistent grumbling."

July 10

Caruthersville's Dwight Blackwood allows Blytheville only one safety en route to shutting out the visiting Boosters 6-0 ... Blackwood strikes out six, walks two and collects three of the team's nine hits.

Citing disorderly conduct, acting league president Wendt *dismisses umpire Dan Crotty.*

### \$1.00

During a league meeting in Jonesboro on July 21, team owners agree that for the next 15 days, each team in the league will send in \$1 to the league office, which when all received, will be sent to secretary John H. Ferrell of the National Association for protection during the 1911 season.

In addition, it was agreed that because of a big picnic in Paragould on August 1, that the Jonesboro Zebras should remain over to play the Scouts and that Caruthersville "stick to" Blytheville for an additional game with the Boosters.

### July 20 - \$1.00 Please

A "hurriedly called" meeting is scheduled for 11:00 p.m., in Jonesboro ... no one seems to know what is to be discussed but it is believed that the umpire situation will be the chief topic ... nothing is later reported about the meeting.

July 22

Berga Moon, a shortstop of some note for one of the state's top independent teams will be granted a tryout with the Jonesboro Zebras.

July 24

Jonesboro manager Paul Graves is out of the lineup with malaria, but the Zebras welcome back Red McClendon who had jumped the team earlier to play for an independent outfit in Marshall, Texas.

July 31

First-half champion Caruthersville moves back to .500 (12-12) in the season's second half with a 3-1 win over Blytheville ... Madison Perritt scatters nine hits and strikes out eight in picking up the win ... the St. Louis Browns have a scout in the stands looking at Alfalfa center fielder Lee Hart ... Hart is 2-for-4 and has a stolen base, but never signs with the Browns ... the Paducah, Kentucky, native will turn his attention to mound and will go 11-3 for the Clarksville (Tenn.) Boosters of the Kitty (D) League in 1913.

August 2

Caruthersville tops Blytheville 5-4 in 13 innings ... shortstop Fred Tullar, making his Booster debut is 1-for-6 with three runs scored ... following the game, Tullar is taken to the hospital suffering from paralysis.

August 5

Jonesboro fans are "wild with delight" after Zebra management completes a deal with the Fort Worth Panthers for pitcher Charles Deardorff ... the Carlisle School graduate is currently 7-13 in the Texas League splitting time between Waco and Fort Worth.

August 6

Catcher Leslie Hayes of the Argenta city league team signs with Paragould.

August 7

Big day in the Northeast Arkansas League as henceforth no team can add a player without the player that he is replacing be "adjudged" by the managers of the other three teams to be "so crippled" that this services cannot be used by his current team.

## CARUTHERSVILLE WINS PENNANT

First Season of Northeast Arkansas League Closes With Missouri Town at the Top.

### N. E. A. LEAGUE STANDING.

Clubs.	Won.	Lost.	Pct.
Caruthersville.....	40	22	.645
Paragould.....	34	24	.586
Jonesboro.....	29	27	.515
Blytheville.....	14	44	.241

## PARROTT HEADS NORTH

On July 6, the final day of the first half of the regular season, the last-place Blytheville Boosters not only lose a 5-3 decision to first-place Caruthersville, but also the services of their star catcher Bill Parrott. Parrott is forced to leave the team when representatives of the Peroia Distillers of the Three-1 (B) League see his photo in the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* and realize that Blytheville's Parrott is the same Parrott who left the team unannounced a year earlier after being obtained from the Pekin Celestials. After much discussion between Blytheville and Peroia, Parrott returns to the Boosters' lineup on July 20.

## OPENING AT JONESBORO

Team Anxious to Pay \$125 a Month  
For a Good Pitcher.

Jonesboro, July 9.—(Special.)—The Northeast Arkansas League is experiencing much difficulty and there is a fine opening at the pretty fair wages of \$125 a month and railroad fare in the job for some good man. That is better money than lots of small leagues in the D classification are able to pay and it is to be hoped that some able-bodied man, with a knowledge of baseball will put in an application at once. George Bennett of Texarkana might make a good man, and there are old-time ball tossers who would do well to grab such a position.

## Northeast Arkansas League [8 of 12]:

### NO CHANGES AFTER TODAY

#### N. E. A. League Clubs Can Take on No More New Players.

Special to the Gazette

Jonesboro, Aug. 7.—From today no club in the Northeast Arkansas League can add a player without that player being adjudged so crippled by the other three managers that his services cannot be used by the team to which he belongs. The players must also be down to the 12 club limit and it is of interest to see the new faces which pop up in three of the clubs Paragould switched so many players at the jump and through the early campaign that they are going to try to wobble along as they are, with the addition of Leslie Hays, the Argenta backstop.

Caruthersville has added a great quartet in Reiney, Robertson, Benham and Pollard of the El Reno club, but failed to get Riggs. That club is very weak in many points and will not be so much harder to beat, if any. Jonesboro has secured Deardoff to pitch, also Randall, and have Nippy Carroll, but have added no hitter. Still their club is the class of the show with teamwork and ginger. The Boosters are still underizing the strength of N. E. A. L. ball and even with the capable Scoops Carey in charge cannot figure with a hope to win. The second half appears to be between Paragould and Jonesboro, with the Alfalfas having a chance.



#### Dickey Kerr

Richard "Dickey" Kerr first enters professional baseball in 1910 as a 16-year-old pitcher with the Paragould Scouts of the Northeast Arkansas League, compiling a 13-8 mark in two seasons. Kerr plays 16 seasons including four with the Chicago White Sox finishing with a 53-34 career record in the majors and a 3.84 ERA. A member of the infamous "Black Sox" team of 1919, Kerr wins both of his World Series starts, including a three-hit shutout. Missed three seasons (1922-1924) after being suspended by Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis for playing with a semipro team while property of the White Sox.

... in addition, a 12-player team limit is now mandatory ... Jap Mead of Paragould is signed to be a league umpire for the remainder of the season.

August 8

Newly-acquired pitcher Charles Deardorff makes his Jonesboro debut and loses 6-5 to Blytheville, on "Deardorff Day" nonetheless.

August 11 - Death in Blytheville

Blytheville's veteran shortstop Fred Tullar dies at the St. Joseph's Hospital in Memphis ... after playing a 13-inning game on August 1, the St. Joseph, Missouri, native takes a "cold shower bath" and is stricken with paralysis a few minutes later ... he remains in a coma until the time of his death.

August 12

Rube Robertson hurls the season's first no-hitter with a 1-0 decision at Jonesboro.

August 13

Paragould's Joe Sloan allows Blytheville only one hit and strikes out three as the Scouts maintain their three-game lead on Caruthersville with a 7-1 win.

August 24

In the Blytheville at Paragould doubleheader, both opposing pitchers - Madison Perritt for the Boosters and Big Ed Schaaf for the Scouts - pitch complete games in both ends of the twin bill., allowing only 17 hits total.

In the opener, Perritt allows only a lone single by a Ward in a 1-0 shutout while Schaaf yields but three safeties ... in the afternoon affair, Schaaf turns the table on the Boosters scattering five hits in a 5-0 whitewashing ... Joe Bertig returns from "a visit to the East" and reassumes the "business of the league."

August 25

Jonesboro forfeits a doubleheader to Caruthersville when Zebra manager Graves argues with umpire Mead on three different occasions causing the first game to be forfeited to the Alfalfas ... the second game is also forfeited when Graves refuses to take the field.

August 26

Paragould trims visiting Blytheville 14-0 ... Booster losing pitcher Joe Neely is handed his pink slip following the game.

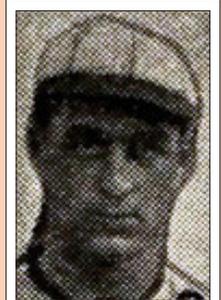
August 27

In only his third day back from his Eastern visit, president Joe Bertig has his hands full following a forfeited game between Caruthersville and Jonesboro ... Bertig suspends the Alfalfas' Lee Hart for his assault on the Zebras' John Dodge ... following the assault, Jonesboro manager Graves, in fear for the safety of his team, pulls his players from the field, resulting in a forfeit, and then takes his team out of Caruthersville to prevent more trouble.



#### Rube Robertson/Robinson

Born in 1887 or 1889, John Henry "Rube" Roberson begins his lengthy 23-year pro career with the Argenta Shamrocks of the Arkansas State (D) League in 1908. Robertson is 9-0 for the Caruthersville Alfalfas in 1910, after being obtained from the El Reno Packers of the Western (C) Association when that team folds on July 31. A year later he is 28-7 with the Texas League's Fort Worth Panthers. In a career spanning 22 years (1908-1929) the talented lefty wins "approximately" 332 games at both the major and minor league levels. Known as Roberson, Robertson or Robinson during his playing days, his career comes to an end when he is released by the Atlanta Crackers on June 3, 1929. It is later reported that he was put on the "voluntary retired" list until his pitching "comes around."



Charles Deardorff

#### A Fatal Bath

Fred Tullar, shortstop of the Blytheville baseball club in the Northeast Arkansas league, died Thursday night in a Memphis hospital. After playing a ten inning game on August 1, Tullar took a cold shower bath. A few minutes later he was stricken with paralysis and was brought to this place for treatment.

## Northeast Arkansas League [9 of 12]:



### Madison Perritt

Arcadia, Louisiana, native Madison Floyd "Poll" Perritt splits the 1910 season toiling for both Caruthersville and Blytheville before leaving for the Fort Worth Panthers of the Texas League a year later. Not to be confused with William Dayton "Pol" Perritt, a 10-year (1912-1921) major league veteran, I believe that our Northeast Arkansas League alumnus (listed as M.F. Perritt by the *Sporting Life*) pitches for Fort Worth in 1911 and 1912 before having his contract bought by the PCL's Los Angeles Angels on August 5, 1912. Perritt is famous for his "squid pitch."

1909	Newport Pearl Diggers .....	--
1910	Caruthersville, Blytheville .....	--
1911	Blytheville Boosters .....	--
	Fort Worth Panthers .....	8-7
1912	Fort Worth Panthers .....	24-11
1912	Los Angeles Angels .....	3-6
1913	Los Angeles Angels .....	20-19
1914	Los Angeles Angels .....	17-14
1915	Los Angeles Angels .....	9-12
1916	San Francisco Seals .....	4-3
1916	Waco Navigators .....	6-5
1917	Waco/Fort Worth .....	16-8
1918	Fort Worth .....	1-1
1918	Los Angeles Angels .....	0-0

Affidavits are introduced by Jonesboro by most of its players, reporting "mistreatment" by citizens of Caruthersville ... some of the "best citizens" of Caruthersville lodge their own complaint saying that their town has been done a "great injustice" by Jonesboro withdrawing its team.

Blytheville introduces a resolution exonerating the citizens of Caruthersville but requests that the three games of the previous Saturday and Sunday be "thrown out" and replayed at the Boosters' park September 7-8-9 ... Jonesboro and Blytheville vote for the resolution, Caruthersville and Paragould against ... Bertig breaks the tie, siding with Jonesboro and Blytheville and then tells Caruthersville that he will suspend the entire team if they do not consent to play Jonesboro at a neutral site.

In a game decided "on the field" Blytheville edges Paragould 1-0 in 15 innings ... Perritt continues his outstanding pitching striking out 11 and allowing only nine hits in picking up his third shutout win in his last four starts.

### August 30 - Business as Usual

Jonesboro beats Blytheville 3-2 in a game protested by both teams ... first the Boosters protest because Jonesboro's Deardorff (or his teammates) refuse to go after a ball he has thrown into the stands in anger ... then following the game the Zebras file their own protest because Blytheville has a man in uniform (Franklin) who is not signed up.

Over in Paragould, Caruthersville's win over the Scouts is thrown out by president Bertig because the Alfalfas play the suspended Sam Jolly at catcher ... Jolly had left the team earlier in the season.

### September 2

As the league staggers to its conclusion, Jonesboro files another protest during a 7-2 loss to Blytheville ... in the fifth inning, the Boosters' Marty Walsh refuses to run to first base after hitting a ball back to the pitcher, returning instead to the Blytheville bench where he sits down ... while Jonesboro pitcher Deardorff is waiting for the next batter, Walsh decides to leave the bench and returns to first base where is allowed to remain, later scoring.

### September 6 - The Finale & Another Forfeit

The regular season comes to an end with one game being played and one game forfeited.

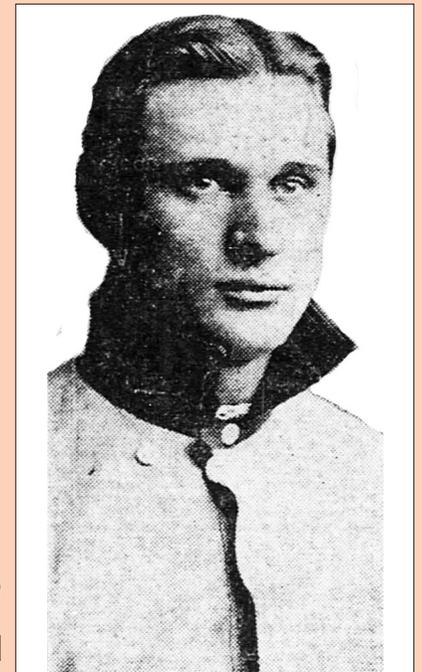
In Paragould's South End Park, with the second half championship assured, the homestanding Scouts rally from a 7-0 deficit to beat Jonesboro 10-8 ... over in Caruthersville, Blytheville, with the early departure for home of outfielder Otto Jehl and the "indisposition" of manager Carey, the Boosters are able to field only eight players and are forced to forfeit their game with the Alfalfas.

In addition, the two previously postponed games between Caruthersville and Jonesboro are called off by mutual consent.

## -- 1910 Northeast Arkansas Championship Series --

### September 7 - Game 1

Paragould's "midget twirler" Kid Kerr, strikes out seven, walks two and yields only four hits as Paragould posts a 3-1 win ... Caruthersville's Rube Robertson strikes out nine but allows 11 hits and suffers his first defeat of the year.



### Ed Schaaf

Paragould manager "Big" Ed Schaaf fills out his roster primarily with players from the St. Louis area. The Scouts even conduct their spring training at St. Louis' Kulage Park. During his year-and-a-half in Paragould, Schaaf is a popular player/manager. On September 29, 1927, Schaaf, now a Detective Sergeant on the St. Louis police force, is among 20 people killed when an 80-mile per hour tornado strikes the city, collapsing the building he is in.

## Northeast Arkansas League [10 of 12]:

### September 8 - Game 2

"Dad" Ritter and Felix Blackburn each steal home as Caruthersville evens the series with a 4-1 win ... Paragould E.A. Davis accounts for the Scouts' lone run with a home run off of "Doc" Nuding.

### September 9 - Game 3

Caruthersville spots Paragould an early 4-0 before rallying for a 5-4 victory to take a 2-1 series' lead ... Alfalfa third baseman Goldby is 1-for-3 and scores three times.

### September 10 - Game 4

Paragould's crafty left-hander "Kid" Kerr allows only four hits, including a second inning home run by Caruthersville's Dwight Blackwood as the Scouts even the series at two games apiece with a 2-1 win ... James Kinser's two-out single in the bottom of the ninth inning scores Ray Jansen with the winning run.

## CLEVELAND GETS GOOD PITCHER

The Cleveland club has secured one of the most phenomenal pitchers in the college ranks in B. Harrison De Mott, of the Lafayette College team.

De Mott is the man who blanked the Princeton team with one scratch hit recently. He also has two no-hit shut-outs to his credit this season, besides.

### Benyew Harrison DeMott

On June 1, 1910, the American League's Cleveland Naps announce that they have signed Lafayette College pitcher Benyew Harrison DeMott.

"One of the most phenomenal pitchers in the college ranks," DeMott is coming off a senior season where he has two no-hitters to his credit. Unfortunately success proves fleeting for the Green Village, N.J., native as the right-hander is 0-4 in seven games for the Naps in 1910 and 1911. He will win 16 games in the minors before leaving baseball for good after the 1913 season.



DeMott, who passes away on July 5, 1963, has an unorthodox delivery. A shot putter on the Lafayette track & field team, DeMott delivery is described as a combination of pitching and shot-putting, drawing "away back" during his wind up.

### September 12 - Game Over - Set, Match, Forfeit

Caruthersville leads 3-2 in the sixth inning when the game's two umpires issue opposing forfeits.

### September 13

Caruthersville president R.F. Coppage has "formulated no plans" to obtain the championship trophy as a result of his team being ahead in the fifth inning in the deciding game with Paragould when it is ended with a double-forfeit ... there is sentiment in the Caruthersville camp that with the Alfalfas being the only non-Arkansas team in the four-team circuit that it has labored under a "three-to-one handicap" all season.

### September 15

Caruthersville's Coppage releases most of his players while at the same time he informs the league office that has signed a group of players from the Western Association at a "stiff salary" ... the other three teams in the league want nothing more to do with Coppage and indicate that there are several Arkansas towns willing to take the place of the Missouri franchise when it leaves the league.

### September 16 - Officially Over

It's officially over in the Northeast Arkansas League after league president Joe Bertig fails to get the two teams to replay the fifth and deciding game ... Bertig says the pennant will not be awarded to either team.

### October 21

Bertig indicates that Caruthersville probably will not be a member of the league in 1911 ... Bertig is proven correct and Helena takes the Alfalfas' spot in the circuit ... unnamed sources charge Coppage with attempting to "buy-off" Paragould players during the championship series.

### November 7

Boswell Brown, former president of the Northeast Arkansas League believes that the league had another good season, but believes that the fact that statistics were never released, if ever figured, impaired the reputation of the league and impacted the value of the league's better players in drawing the attention of the major league teams.



### Ray Jansen

Less than three weeks after playing Paragould in the league championship series, Ray Jansen makes the considerable jump from the Northeast Arkansas League to the major leagues, when he debuts with his hometown St. Louis Browns against the Chicago White Sox. In what will be his only major league game, the 21-year-old Jansen goes 4-for-5 off against 10-game winner Fred Olmstead, but commits three errors while tending the hot corner. He will finish his MLB career with a .800 batting average.

## EPILOGUE

Only four players from the 1910 Northeast Arkansas League - Rube Robertson (later Robinson), Dickey Kerr, Ray Jansen, John Dodge - eventually made their way to the major leagues (Jansen in three weeks after the close of the season). However, several other players enjoy lengthy minor league careers, some more successful than others.

Some players just disappeared and others moved on.

## COPPAGE BAFFLED OVER THE PENNANT

President of Caruthersville Club  
Feels Team Has Fairly Earned  
"Rag" and Should  
Have It.

Special to the Gazette.

Caruthersville, Mo., Sept. 13.—R. F. Coppage, president of the local baseball club, one of the contenders for the pennant of the Northeast Arkansas League, for which the deciding game was played at Blytheville yesterday against Paragould, has formulated no plans for obtaining the trophy.

He claims having won this game, after playing for six innings, by a score greater than that made by Paragould in the same number of innings. Paragould, at that point, refused to take the field and finish the regular nine innings, and the game, having gone more than five innings, was justly and fairly won by the Caruthersville team, is his contention.

He says that he must of necessity rely upon the justice of those upon whom devolves the awarding of the pennant.

Those who have supported the team here feel that Mr. Coppage has labored under a three-to-one handicap from the beginning of the season in all matters which were settled by vote of the league presidents, beginning especially with splitting of the season. Then the Alfalfas were well in the lead and the predominating sentiment among them seems to be that, having won the pennant, they have no way to get it except asking a vote of the three other clubs.

## N. E. A. PENNANT GOES UNAWARDED

Crauthersville and Paragould  
Each Given "Rag" When  
Player Umpires Forfeit  
Game.

Sender Wilson Reiney, Caruthersville's popular first baseman, will resume his managerial career the following summer with Blytheville and coach various teams over the next six years. Reiney will eventually settle down in Caruthersville, marry and start a business. He will die of a heart attack on July 8, 1931, at the age of 51.

Herbert Benham signs with the Western (C) Association's Fort Smith Twins for the 1911 season on the condition that his new bride does not object him from playing again. However, it appears that Mrs. Benham does object as fleet-footed outfielder does not play professionally again. The Benhams move to Los Angeles and eventually have three children.

Arkansas native, Caruthersville pitcher and future sheriff Dwight Hale Blackwood becomes entangled in the controversial 1921 lynching case of Henry Lowery when newly-elected Arkansas Governor Thomas McRae criticizes Blackwood for not stopping the abduction and death of Lowery by a local mob. Others praise Blackwood for saving the lives of two other prisoners in his jail. Blackwood passes away on June 18, 1953, at the age of 66.

President Bertig reassumes the same position when the league reforms 25 years later in 1936 ... one of the leading citizens of Paragould, Bertig dies of a heart attack on October 18, 1941. He was 69 years old.

The owner of a profitable mercantile exchange, Caruthersville's R.F. Coppage becomes a successful horse breeder and thoroughbred owner for many years.

Blytheville, Sept. 12.—The post-season series between Caruthersville and Paragould to decide the 1910 championship in the Northeast Arkansas League ended today in a disagreement and no decision. Today's game, which was to decide the issue, progressed as far as the sixth inning with the score 3 to 2, in favor of Paragould, when objection was found with the umpire system, a player from each team acting as arbiter.

Two forfeits followed, each umpire declaring the game forfeited to his team. Officials of the league declare the game cannot be replayed. The crowd was one of the largest and most enthusiastic ever assembled in Cypress park. Every train that pulled into the city today brought enthusiastic fans.

The Paragould special arrived at 12:20 p. m. with 500 fans singing and cheering the Scouts. The Caruthersville special arrived at 1:20 o'clock with about the same number of fans.

The game was a wrangle from the start. Heneker, a catcher out of the Texas League, was called by President Bertig to umpire the game, and President Coppage of the Alfalfas would not agree to this and insisted on two players umpiring. Finally it was agreed by both teams that Rube Robertson and Dickey should hold the indicator and the game was called at 3:30 p. m.

Robertson started in bad by making a bad decision at second base in the first inning and then calling a man safe at home after three men were down, giving the Alfalfas a total of three runs in the first inning, which caused much wrangling. The game was delayed for at least 10 minutes.

Then the Scouts came to the bat in the second and hammered on Nuding for three two-baggers and a single. Then he was replaced by Blackwood, who held the Scouts safe till the sixth, when he filled the bases. Grogan, the first man up, singled, Jansen beat out a bunt and Kinser went to first on a fielder's choice trying to catch Grogan at third, filling the bases.

Davis came to bat with no one out and the balls were three and two and Robertson called him out on a wide one. This decision caused a great confusion, as Davis threw his bat at the umpire and then went out into the diamond and slapped him in the face. Robertson called for police protection and had Davis put off the grounds. After much delay and wrangle the game was again started.

Kinser hit a long fly to center field, which was caught by Hart. Grogan came home on the throw and was called out at the plate. This caused another wrangle and much confusion and it was again necessary to call the police to quiet the riot as Sloan was trying to get at Umpire Robertson and was hit by Gardner. This stopped the game.

Robertson declared it forfeited to Caruthersville, 9 to 0, while Dickey forfeited it Paragould, 9 to 0. President Bertig was present and saw the game and as soon as the game was declared over he threw the game out and declared neither team winner of the pennant. It will remain this way as the game will never be played off.

## Northeast Arkansas League [12 of 12]:

Following the fractious 1910 season, Blytheville, Jonesboro and Paragould join with Helena to form a short-lived Northeast Arkansas League in 1911 ... Citing continued financial problems, the Northeast Arkansas League disbands on July 5.

Following the league's demise in July, Blytheville and Jonesboro will not field a team in professional baseball for 14 years until both towns join the six-team Tri-State League for a two-year stint in 1925-1926. For Paragould, the wait is a little longer (25 years) when the little town born at a railroad crossing, rejoins with lost-long brothers Blytheville, Caruthersville and Jonesboro in 1936 to form the basis of a new Northeast Arkansas League.

**JULY 4, 1911**

### **N. E. A. LEAGUE DISSOLVES TODAY**

**President Bertig Announces That  
League Will Pass Into His-  
tory After One More  
Game.**

Special to the Gazette.

Paragould, July 4.—By tomorrow night the Northeast Arkansas League will have passed into history. Those who have been promoting the classy article of ball furnished to the fans in this section have grown weary of the financial strain necessary to keep the league going and have decided to throw up the sponge. Tomorrow's games will be played as per schedule, but they will be the last of the season.

The immediate cause of the break-up is said to be the poor support accorded the Blytheville team. The Paragould, Jonesboro and Helena teams have been self-supporting, but the Blytheville management faces a heavy deficit.

President Bertig said tonight he felt confident the sport could have been kept going, but believed it to be too late in the season now to get a city to take up the Blytheville purchase. He stated that several of the star players belonging to the four clubs have already secured berths in other leagues and that the other players would no doubt be able to get employment for the remainder of the season.

## **Two Sign Odd Contracts.**

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 30.—Manager Riggs, of the Fort Smith Western Association team, on a visit here today secured unique contracts from two ball players, Herbert Benham, a recent benedict, signing for the 1911 season on condition that his bride does not object to his playing professional baseball. The other was from Catcher Bill Parrott, of Peoria, Ill., who signed with a "water wagon" clause inserted.

**FEBRUARY 27, 1936**

## **Arkansas Gets Fourth Professional Ball League**

(By The Associated Press)

JONESBORO, Ark., Feb. 27.—Arkansas had a fourth professional baseball league today—the northeast Arkansas league with headquarters at Jonesboro.

The loop was organized here last night by club owners from Jonesboro, Paragould, Osceola and Newport. Other clubs will be added and a schedule adopted March 10. Negotiations are under way for clubs at Batesville, Wynne, Walnut Ridge and Forest City.

Judge Houston Johnson was elected temporary president and Kenneth Riddle temporary secretary. Both live at Jonesboro.

## **Northeast Arkansas League**

BY J. K. MALONE, JONESBORO, ARK.

Four teams comprised the Northeast Arkansas League circuit in 1910—Jonesboro, with Paul Graves as manager; Blytheville, with George Carey; Paragould, Ed Schaaf; Caruthersville, Dad Ritter. The president of the league was a well-known businessman of Paragould, Joseph R. Bertig; J. G. Wendt of Blytheville was vice-president, and J. K. Malone of Jonesboro secretary. The towns in the league were all live and wide awake, especially Blytheville, which enjoyed its first season of professional ball, and though handicapped by a losing team never lost interest, the attendance being better than at any other town in the circuit.

The race at the start was very interesting for about a month, but after that time, the Blytheville team, through many disadvantages, lost a greater part of their games, so it was decided at a meeting of the league to split the season after July 6 and award to the team then ahead the first race and start a second section, the winners of each to play a post-season series. Caruthersville won the first race, with Paragould second, and, by agreement, the post-season series was to be played at Blytheville, but a misunderstanding arose, and the series was not finished.