

On This Date **September 23, 1949**

In one of the more unique promotions you'll ever see in major league baseball, the Cleveland Indians bury their 1948 American League pennant in a funeral ceremony in **Municipal Stadium** a few days after being eliminated from 1949 pennant contention.

Mired in fourth place and 10 1/2 games behind the 1st place New York Yankees, Cleveland owner **Bill Veeck** decides that his team and fans should mourn the "death" of the previous year's pennant prior to a game with the Detroit Tigers.



The pennant is placed in a pine coffin and carried to beyond the center field fence by a horse-drawn carriage. The funeral procession led by Veeck, also includes manager **Lou Boudreau**, team coaches and players. The coffin is buried with a cardboard tombstone that bears the simple inscription "1948 champs."

The Tigers, behind a five-hit pitching of **Virgil Trucks**, shutout the Indians 5-0 before 29,646 "grief-stricken" fans.

Municipal Stadium is demolished in 1996, and the whereabouts of the **1948 pennant** remain a mystery. No one associated with the team in the 1940s and 1950s has any idea of where the coffin, or the pennant ended up.

