

The Tragedy of Ban Johnson

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The hotel room door opened a few inches, a drawn, haggard man on the inside slipped a hand-written note through the opening to another man on the outside and then the door was quickly shut. The note read: "After 34 years as your president, I hereby tender my resignation, to become effective on or before November 1, 1927, or earlier, should I so decide, the compensation to end upon my retirement."¹ This moment in history, which took place at New York's Belmont Hotel on July 8, 1927, marked the fall of a giant. Ban Johnson, founder and first president of the American League, was for nearly a quarter of a century the guiding genius of our National Pastime. The "czar" of baseball, he more than any other man made the game respectable, popular, and profitable. Having served beyond his years of effective leadership, shunted aside by a more powerful "czar"--the new commissioner, Kenesaw Mountain Landis--and abandoned by his fellows, many of whom he had personally placed in positions of power, Johnson was a ruined man. His baseball career was over, his health was undermined, his spirit was broken. He lived on for a few more years, but it was a barren existence for a man whose life really ended when Organized Baseball cast him out.

Born in Norwalk, Ohio in 1864, Jonsnson attended Oberlin College in the early 1880's, but transferred to Marietta College because of what he called "too much chapel." He played ball at both Oberlin and Marietta, and might have developed into a professional catcher but his thumb was damaged by an errant pitch and his playing career came to an early end. He studied law briefly in Cincinnati, but then joined the staff of the Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette, where he quickly became a widely-respected sportswriter. In 1892, Johnson became acquainted with Charles Comiskey, the new manager of the Cincinnati Reds, and they were soon close friends. The American League was actually born in the "Ten Minute Club," a friendly Cincinnati bar which Ban and "Commy" frequented. The tavern derived its name from a rule requiring at least one person at each table to order a drink every ten minutes.²

Through Comiskey's urging, Johnson applied successfully for the presidency of the Western League in 1894. During his six years at that

The Sporting News, July 14, 1927.

²Lee Allen, *The American League Story*, p. 1-4.

post, 1894-1900, he transformed the Western League into a model minor league. He cracked down on rowdy behavior and the use of profane language by players, he declared war on gamblers, and gave full support to his umpires. In those days, baseball and baseball players had a poor reputation before the public. Johnson was determined to change that image, and make the Western League a reputable, as well as a successful organization.

Johnson never intended to remain the executive of a minor league circuit for very long; he was aiming at the presidency of a major league. In 1899-1900 conditions suddenly ripened for Johnson and he made his move. First, the unwieldy 12-team National League lopped off its four weakest teams--Louisville, Indianapolis, Cleveland, and Washington--which opened up valuable territory for a second big league. Moreover, at this time Adrian "Pop" Anson was attempting a reorganization of the old American Association, which had gone out of business after the 1891 season. Although the project finally collapsed, fear that it might interfere with or destroy his own big league ambitions, spurred Johnson on.

In addition, the five-year Western League Agreement expired at the close of the 1900 season, which made it a convenient moment to reorganize that league. Finally, in June, 1900, a group of National League players, unhappy over low salaries, the reserve clause, and "farming out," formed a union, the Players Protective Association, which fitted nicely into Johnson's plans. A Cincinnati writer stated that "Ban Johnson's organization is very strong with the players. They seem to like the methods which have been employed there."³

It was a fortuitous mix of these forces which prompted Johnson to convert the Western League of 1899 into the American League of 1900, and aim for major league status by 1901. He hoped to make the transition with the full approval and support of the National League, but if it opposed him he was prepared to fight. In preparing for the 1901 season, the American League established franchises in three unoccupied eastern cities--Baltimore, Washington, and Buffalo--and in one National League city, Philadelphia. In defending his eastern expansion, Johnson said, "While we wish to work in harmony with the major league, we have grown large and strong enough not to be dictated to, and will choose our own grounds and infringe on National League territory, even without its consent, if our wishes are not respected."⁴

³Eugene C. Murdock, "The Great Baseball War," (unpublished manuscript), p. 12-13.

⁴*Ibid.*, p. 15.

When the National League owners met for their annual meeting in New York in December, 1900, two matters demanded immediate attention: recognition of the Players Protective Association and recognition of the American League. It turned both down flatly, telling Johnson, in particular, that he could wait for recognition “until hell froze over,” but it would do him no good.⁵ The Great Baseball War was on. The American League head responded to this slap by transferring the Buffalo franchise to Boston, challenging the National League head-to-head in one of its strongholds. Next, Johnson compiled a list of 46 top-flight National League players, and sent a band of “raiders” into action to steal them away from the older league. So successful were these raids that all but one of the 46 were signed to American League contracts. Following the 1901 season Johnson’s agents netted 37 more National League stars.

The National League went to court to win back its lost heroes, and although it secured several apparent victories, it never regained its greatest players. In the battle for spectators, the National League won by a narrow margin in 1901--1,920,031 to 1,683,584--but in 1902 the American League ran far ahead, 2,206,457 to 1,683,012. In every two-team city, the junior circuit had a larger attendance, and in Philadelphia, the Athletics outdrew the Phillies by more than 300,000.⁶

Baseball fans gravitated to the new loop for several reasons. It supplied a superior product, having gained a corner in the player market. Furthermore, Johnson’s crackdown on rowdyism, brawling, drunkenness and profanity on the field, had transformed baseball into family entertainment. His sound, businesslike leadership had set the American League distinctively apart from the strife-torn National League. In August, 1902, one reporter observed:

The National League is unquestionably conducting a losing fight . . . By continuing the old methods now being carried on, the old league is getting more and more the worst of it . . . The American League has the call--by a great percentage--with the public, and will continue to retain it, because of its superior management and the popular methods in vogue.⁷

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 16-18.

⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 45, 122-24.

⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 120-21.

Running a poor second to the American League, the National League magnates decided to quit the fight at the close of the 1902 season. The so-called "peace conference" took place at the St. Nicholas Hotel in Cincinnati, January 9-10, 1903. Most of the disputed players were awarded to Johnson's organization, and the American League was granted the right to move into New York City, an important point of contention. "It was an American League victory," wrote Irving Sanborn, "and those principles for which 'Ban Johnson and Company' began the fight two years ago, are established." Although John Brush, owner of the New York Giants, still tried to prevent the American League from building a park in New York City, and although a few player disputes arose to threaten the peace, the American League had established itself as a second major league.⁸

Out of the peace conference emerged a new governing agency for Organized Baseball, the National Commission. The Commission was composed of the presidents of the two major leagues and a third member to be chosen by the first two. The third member and chairman of the Commission proved to be August "Garry" Herrmann, owner of the Cincinnati Reds. In some fashion, however, Johnson gained control of Herrmann's vote, which made him the dominant force in the National Commission. Herrmann was accused of being "Ban's man," and charged with siding with Johnson against the National League in player disputes. These allegations were probably untrue, but the fact is that Johnson became the "voice" of the National Commission, and soon was the acknowledged "czar" of baseball. Moreover, the next fifteen years, 1903-1918, was a period of growing popularity and profit for the sport, and Johnson became intimately identified with the game's burgeoning success.

In those "imperial years," Johnson held 51% of the stock of each American League club in the vault in his Chicago office. This power had been given him by league owners back in 1901 on the eve of the Great Baseball War, when it was feared that internal subversion might weaken the league in its fight. By transferring stock control to the president, no such defections could occur. With such authority in his hands, Johnson arranged for the sale of clubs, hired and fired managers, negotiated trades between clubs, and blacklisted players, managers, and umpires. It is no wonder that opposition to him

⁸*Ibid.*, p. 140-59.

developed, and that certain parties were anxious to bring him down. Examples of this unchallenged power are not hard to find.

At its annual meeting in 1909, the National League was compelled to choose a successor to president Harry Pulliam, who had committed suicide the previous summer. Among the contenders for the position was John Montgomery Ward former baseball star and now a prosperous New York attorney. Johnson was opposed to Ward's election because he held Ward responsible for shortstop George Davis' jumping a Chicago American League contract and re-joining the New York Giants during the Great Baseball War. Johnson denounced Ward in the public prints, and asserted that he would not sit on the National Commission with Ward if the latter should become the National League president. Whether Ban's opposition to Ward was decisive is difficult to determine, but it must have been an important consideration. After four days of futile wrangling, the deadlock ended when Thomas Lynch was picked as a compromise choice.⁹

The following year, 1910, found Larry Lajoie of Cleveland and Ty Cobb of Detroit engaged in a close race for the American League batting championship. Interest was intensified when the Chalmers Automobile Company offered an automobile to the winner in each league. On the last day, Cobb had a nice cushion, but since many players did not like Cobb, a small conspiracy was hatched to ease Lajoie in. Cleveland played a double-header at St. Louis that day, and Lajoie came up with 8 hits in 8 times at bat. Under orders from St. Louis manager Jack O'Connor, rookie third baseman "Red" Corriden played back on the edge of the outfield grass, so that Lajoie could bunt safely. Six of his 8 hits were bunts down the third base line. Furthermore, Harry Howell, St. Louis pitcher-coach, offered the official scorer a new suit of clothes to score all doubtful batted balls by Lajoie as base hits rather than errors.

When Johnson heard that the 35-year old, slow-footed Lajoie had beaten out six bunts in one day, he wanted to know why. As a result of his investigation, he fired O'Connor and forever barred him from baseball, and ordered that Howell be dismissed. Howell later returned as a minor league umpire, but never returned to the big time. Corriden was exonerated because of his youth and innocence, and because he acted under O'Connor's orders. Although Cobb won the

⁹*Sporting Life*, May 20, 1911; Fred Lieb, *The Baseball Story*, 183-84.

batting title despite Lajoie's 8 hits, the Chalmers people gave a car to both players.¹⁰



Byron B. Johnson

Johnson played an active role in interesting businessmen in acquiring franchises, in raising funds to assist those owners who had fallen into financial difficulty, and in arranging for the transfer of clubs to new owners. For example, in 1915 Charles Somers, a Cleveland industrialist who had poured large sums of money into the Boston, Philadelphia, and Chicago franchises in the league's early years, and was still the sole owner of the Cleveland club, was in straitened circumstances. A number of investments had gone bad and creditors were demanding that he dispose of the Indians. After failing to save the franchise for Somers, Johnson induced a Chicago contractor, James Dunn, to buy the team, and advanced money to help Dunn make the purchase. A year earlier Johnson arranged for the sale of the New York Highlanders Yankees from Frank Farrell, who was also experiencing financial embarrassments, to the two colonels, Jacob Ruppert and Tillinghast L. Huston.¹¹

Besides arranging for the sale of franchises, Johnson personally handled a number of important player transactions. When Connie Mack decided to break up the Athletics after they were humiliated by the Boston Braves in the 1914 World Series, Johnson negotiated the

¹⁰Lieb, *ibid.*, pp. 186-87: Interview with Fred Lieb, October 3, 1969.

¹¹Herold Seymour, *Baseball*, II, pp. 54-55.

sale of Eddie Collins to the White Sox. A year later, while trying to salvage Somers' Cleveland franchise he played a part in the cash sale of Shoeless Joe Jackson, Cleveland's great outfielder, also to the White Sox. In 1916 he played a similar role in the trade which brought Tris Speaker from Boston to Cleveland.¹²

This is not to say that baseball would have collapsed without Johnson; but it is important to note that the game grew and prospered greatly in the first two decades of the century when Johnson was at the peak of his power. His firm hand at the helm was an important factor in baseball's success. While he developed a horde of friends and supporters who recognized the value of his contributions, he also built up an army of enemies, people jealous of his power and offended by his rulings.

Between 1915 and 1919 Johnson made four controversial decisions which led directly to his downfall. The first two cases were inter-league in nature, and thus fell under the jurisdiction of the National Commission, while the other two were strictly American League affairs. Their collective effect however, was to cut the ground from under Johnson both as American League president and as a member of the National Commission.

In the summer of 1911, George Sisler, a 17-year old high school star in Akron, Ohio, signed a contract with his home town club. Akron assigned the contract to Columbus of the American Association, and Columbus later transferred it to Pittsburgh. Sisler was a minor when he signed the contract, he neither performed for Akron or Columbus, nor did he receive any pay. He changed his mind about playing professional baseball and entered the University of Michigan in the fall of 1911.

The baseball coach while Sisler was at Michigan was Branch Rickey. Rickey urged the National Commission to nullify Sisler's Akron contract so that his college eligibility would not be jeopardized. The Commission vacillated on the question until Sisler's senior year, when it finally declared him a free agent. This antagonized Pittsburgh owner Barney Dreyfuss who claimed that Sisler was Pirate property because the original Akron contract had been transferred to his club. His wrath was not lessened when a few months later Sisler signed with the St. Louis Browns, now managed by Branch Rickey.¹³

¹²*Chicago Tribune*, March 3, 1929; *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, February 22, 1929; *Baseball Magazine* March, 1916.

¹³Seymore, *op cit.*, pp. 259-61; *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, February 13, 1929.

The second case centered on Scott Perry, a journeyman pitcher, who was purchased by the Boston Braves from Atlanta in 1917. Perry was with Boston a few days when he jumped the club. The following winter Connie Mack purchased Perry from Atlanta and he won 21 games for the eighth place Athletics in 1918. Boston complained and the National Commission awarded Perry to the Braves. But Mack, with Johnson's approval, secured an injunction blocking the transfer. Both Boston and the National League were furious at this defiance of a National Commission ruling, especially in view of their recent acquiescence in the Sisler case. John Tener, league president, insisted that his circuit should sever relations with the American League, but when the owners refused to go that far, he resigned. The issue was finally resolved when the Athletics payed an indemnity to the Braves, but National League bitterness at Johnson was intensified.¹⁴

While the Sisler and Perry cases irked the senior circuit, the other two cases were strictly internal, American League matters, which badly rent the domestic establishment. 1918, the second war year for the United States, was a difficult time for baseball. Many players were in service and General Enoch Crowder, draft administrator, had issued a "work-or-fight" order to those still carrying on. A number of minor leagues quit in mid-year, but by agreement players in the disbanded circuits were permitted to finish out the season with any club still in business. However if they did join another team for the remainder of the season this in no way interfered with their contractual obligations with their original club.

Jack Quinn, a pitcher with the Vernon organization of the Pacific Coast League, which had closed down in July, 1918, hooked on with the Chicago Americans. The Chicago White Sox, 1917 World Champions, had suffered badly from losses to the military service and industry, and needed all the help they could get. Quinn won five games and lost one before the end of the season, and immediately became very much in demand. The following winter the New York Yankees purchased Quinn from Vernon, which still owned his contract despite his service with Chicago. Comiskey protested that Quinn belonged to the White Sox, and the case went to Johnson. Johnson correctly awarded Quinn to New York, and Comiskey became irate. Johnson and Comiskey once had a warm relationship, but it had steadily cooled, and with the Quinn ruling the break became final. Comiskey viewed it as a deliberate stab in the back.¹⁵

¹⁴Lieb, *op. cit.*, pp. 213-14; Seymour, *op. cit.*, pp. 262-63.

¹⁵Lieb, *op. cit.*, p. 216; Lieb, Interview.

On July 13, 1919, in a game between Chicago and Boston, Carl Mays, submarine-spit ball pitcher for the Red Sox, quit the club. Harry Frazee, the Boston owner, had several offers for Mays while he was away from the team and on July 29 he traded him to the Yankees for \$40,000 and two forgotten players (Allen Russell and Bob McGraw). Johnson took no action against Mays when he jumped Boston, expecting Frazee to either suspend or take disciplinary action against him. When the news of the trade reached Johnson he cancelled it, suspended Mays, and ordered the umpires not to allow the pitcher to play for the Yankees.



**Byron B. Johnson
as former
President (1927)**

Ruppert struck back with a court order prohibiting Johnson from prohibiting the Yankees from pitching Mays. The latter made his first appearance on August 7, and proceeded to win eight games for New York. Johnson responded by nullifying the eight victories, which dropped the Yankees from third to fourth place in the league standings. This hurt because fourth place clubs received no cut of World Series money. The Yankees then filed a \$500,000 damage suit against Johnson, and joined forces with Frazee and Comiskey--the "insurrectos" --to drive him out of baseball. The crisis was resolved at a stormy session in Chicago in February, 1920. In a stunning defeat for Johnson, the Yankees' claim to Mays was upheld, the club was awarded third place in the 1919 standings, and a two-man board of Clark Griffiths and Ruppert was set up to review all major fines and suspensions which Ban might hand out.¹⁶

¹⁶Seymour, *op. cit.*, pp. 264-72; Lieb, *op. cit.*, pp. 216-17; Allen, *op. cit.*, p. 95; *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, February 25, 1929.

However, the worst was yet to come. The National Commission had ceased to function effectively during the 1920 season. John Heydler, the National League president, refused to accept Carry Herrmann any longer as chairman, so Johnson and Heydler muddled along themselves. The chaos within baseball's ruling classes, accentuated by the Black Sox disclosures at World Series time that year, made clear that changes were needed at once. Albert D. Lasker, a Chicago advertising executive, proposed a new three-man ruling body for baseball, composed of distinguished citizens outside the game. Such names as General John J. Pershing, former president William Howard Taft, Senator Hiram Johnson, and Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, were mentioned as possible members. The National League magnates approved the Lasker Plan, but Johnson, for the American League, rejected it.

At this point the Insurrectos--Ruppert, Frazee, and Comiskey--met with the eight National League leaders, and agreed to join with them in a "New National League" of 12 teams, Detroit receiving the twelfth franchise. Bluff or not, this threat to the very existence of the American League frightened the "loyal five" backers of Johnson, and they decided to make peace with the National League. At a joint meeting without Johnson, held in Chicago on November 12, 1920, Judge Landis was unanimously elected Commissioner of baseball.¹⁷

The "imperial years" for Ban Johnson were over; his decline was a sad, slow slide to oblivion, or if not oblivion, it was certainly exile. Along with the erosion of his power, his health began to fail. As he struggled to carry on as before, he found the former drive and the strength to persevere had left him. He began to make mistakes and alienate even his most sympathetic supporters. Landis was a tough, blunt autocrat. He seemed the sort of person necessary to save baseball from itself. When the 16 club owners tendered him the post of commissioner, he demanded that his power be absolute, and the demand was readily granted. He never hesitated to use this authority, and clashes with the failing, but stubborn Ban Johnson appeared inevitable.

The first of two cases, which brought the Landis - Johnson rivalry to a head occurred at the close of the 1924 season. The Giants needed two victories to win the National League pennant. On September 27, before a Phillies-Giant game, the New York outfielder Jimmy O'Connell approached Phillie shortstop Heinie Sand and offered him

¹⁷Lieb, *op. cit.* pp. 223-25.

\$500 for not bearing down during the game. Sand reported the bribe attempt, and the case was before Landis two days later.

At the hearing O'Connell said he had merely followed the instructions of Giant coach "Cozy" Dolan in approaching Sand. This was not good enough for Landis who promptly banished both O'Connell and Dolan from Organized Baseball. Johnson irritated Landis by urging that either the World Series be called off entirely, or that the second place Brooklyn club be substituted for the Giants as the National League entry. Landis rejected the idea and the series went ahead as planned. So strongly did Johnson feel about the affair that for the first time in his life he refused to attend the World Series.¹⁸

Adding fuel to the fire was an off-the-cuff tirade by Johnson at his home in Chicago. This occurred the night before the series opened when a reporter arrived for an interview. While the interview was in progress, Johnson got a phone call from Washington to the effect that Landis had refused to supply the American League with its allotment of World Series tickets. Johnson exploded, and made a withering attack on Landis to the party on the other end of the line while the reporter listened. The next day the substance of the remarks about the Judge appeared in the newspaper.¹⁹

Johnson continued his assault on the Commissioner throughout the fall of 1924 until the Judge finally had enough. In an ultimatum to the American League owners, he ordered that either Johnson be muzzled, or a new commissioner be hired. Privately, Landis confided to friends, "I have tried to get along with that man, but it is just impossible . . . They've got to choose him or me."²⁰ The thought that baseball might revert to the chaotic conditions of the National Commission was sufficient to convince the owners that Johnson must be silenced. In a statement to Landis dated December 10/17, 1924, all the magnates except St. Louis' Phil Ball -- who stood by Johnson through the long ordeal--promised to keep a close rein on Ban. His first act of misconduct would result in his "immediate removal from the office."²¹

¹⁸*Ibid.*, pp. 236-37; *Sporting News*, October-November, 1924; *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, February 19, 1929.

¹⁹*Marietta Sunday Times*, January 27, 1929. This is the ninth installment of Earl Obenshain's ten-part biography of Ban Johnson.

²⁰Lieb, Interview.

²¹Unidentified newsclipping, January 18, 1927, in the Alumni Office Files at Marietta College.

Humiliating as this was for Johnson, it appeared that this might settle the issue. No major or minor clashes occurred for almost two years. The American League owners showed their appreciation by honoring Johnson in December, 1925, with a new ten-year contract at \$40,000 per year. However, the calm was broken in December, 1926. At that time Landis released two letters from Hubert “Dutch” Leonard, former major league pitcher then living in California, which implicated Ty Cobb and Tris Speaker in the fixing of a game seven years earlier.

A shocked nation learned that Leonard and Cobb of the Tigers and Speaker and Smoky Joe Wood of Cleveland had met under the stands before a game on September 25, 1919, and allegedly plotted to throw the game to Detroit, which would have guaranteed the Tigers a third place finish. Cleveland had already clinched the second spot. Johnson had originally purchased the letters from Leonard for \$15,000, and held a secret hearing for the accused players before the league owners. While he seemed convinced of the guilt of Cobb and Speaker, it was decided to allow them to quietly retire from baseball. This would preserve their image as national heroes, and spare their families from disgrace. Johnson then turned the letters over to Landis.²²

It was at this point that Landis held his own hearing--late in November, 1926--and released all the testimony to the press. He fully exonerated both Cobb and Speaker on the grounds that Leonard refused to come East to testify against the two men. This was undoubtedly a wise decision by Leonard because had he ever confronted Cobb, the “Georgia Peach” promised to take him apart piece by piece. Johnson now unleashed a savage attack on Landis for publishing the details of the case and asserted that neither player would ever play again in the American League. Landis retaliated quickly, ordering Johnson to appear at the commissioner’s office, Monday, January 24, 1927, and explain himself.

The Landis-Johnson showdown never occurred. The American League magnates met in the Blackstone Hotel on Sunday morning, January 23--the day before--determined to force Johnson’s resignation. But when they heard Ban’s physician report that his health was poor and that he needed a rest, they decided to give him a “temporary vacation.” It was said that Ban nearly collapsed at the meeting, and that he was later observed wandering aimlessly in the hotel lobby and mumbling to himself. Frank Navin of Detroit was

²²Lieb, *op. cit.*, pp. 246-47; Lieb Interview.

chosen to serve as interim president. At another meeting Sunday afternoon, with Landis present but Johnson absent, Landis accepted the new arrangement, stating that he would not press for Johnson's resignation.²³

The expectation was that even though Johnson did not resign at that time, he would slowly fade away. His health was obviously bad and he had been humiliated and stripped of all his power, so it was assumed that he would quietly withdraw from an active role in baseball administration. He did go South for a rest cure for several months, but when opening day 1927 arrived, to the wonderment of all, there he was back at his Fisher Building desk.²⁴ No protest was made at first because Ban behaved himself, but soon trouble developed. Cobb, now of the Athletics, and Al Simmons were involved in an umpiring-bumping incident in June and Johnson suspended both of them, evoking the wrath of the old "loyalist" Connie Mack. Later he suspended Ray Schalk of the White Sox, which revived Comiskey's anger.

The owners called for a special meeting, which met in New York on July 8, to deal with the new crisis. What followed was the poignant scene, described at the beginning of this paper: the once mighty Ban Johnson submitting his resignation, written in pencil, through a crack in the hotel room door. It was a sad and tragic end for a man who had contributed probably more than any other to the establishment of baseball as our national game.

While Johnson's central role in building baseball remains unchallenged, it must be conceded that by the 1920's there was no longer a place for him in the game's administration. Times had changed, but he had not, and his authoritarian methods were out of place. He had antagonized too many people, people who, now that the balance of power had shifted, were eager to topple him to the ground. Failing health and frustration over his lost influence led him into errors and tactless confrontations with Landis and he was doomed. It would have been better had Johnson either adjusted to the new dispensation, or gracefully retired when he saw the parade pass him by. The tragedy was that he did neither, and sought desperately to hang on.

²³*Sporting News*, December, 1926-January, 1927.

²⁴Lieb, Interview.

But he was not forgotten. When the Baseball Hall of Fame was established at Cooperstown, New York in 1936, one of the first men elected for enshrinement, and properly so, was Byron Bancroft Johnson.

