

A Man, a Dog, a Baseball Team

Barbara Gregorich, author of *Women at Play: The Story of Women in Baseball* (Harcourt), which won the SABR-Macmillan Award for best baseball research, has written a book about a little-known subject: Cleveland major leaguer Jack Graney and his bull terrier Larry, the team's official mascot from 1912-1917. *Jack and Larry: Jack Graney and Larry, the Cleveland Baseball Dog*, is for ages 10 - Adult, and the year 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of Larry joining the Cleveland team.

As leadoff batter for the Cleveland American League team (now known as the Indians), Graney's life was full of firsts, particularly first hit and first run scored in a game or a season. He was the first batter to face a new Red Sox pitcher named George Herman Ruth — and the first batter to collect a hit off the soon-to-be-famous Bambino.

Graney was also the first, and only, major leaguer to own a dog that was his team's mascot. That dog was Larry, a bull terrier won on a bet.

Larry not only entertained baseball fans in American League stadiums, he helped build team identity and spirit. Newspapers reported on Larry's antics, including his historic meeting with President Woodrow Wilson . . . as well as his banishment from Griffith Stadium, where his mighty howl upset and distracted Senators batters.

All that Jack Graney and Larry did to help forge a team that could win the pennant and World Series culminated in 1920 when, despite the heart-rending loss of shortstop Ray Chapman (killed by a pitch hurled by Carl Mays), the Indians went on to victory.

In 1922 Jack Graney retired from baseball. But another big first lay in wait: in 1932 he became the first major leaguer to turn sports-broadcaster, a job he performed to the delight of Cleveland fans young and old. Today the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame bestows the Jack Graney Award on a member of the media who has greatly contributed to baseball, and on August 11, 2012, Jack Graney will be inducted into the Cleveland Indians Distinguished Hall of Fame.

JACK AND LARRY: JACK GRANEY AND LARRY, THE CLEVELAND BASEBALL DOG

by Barbara Gregorich

CreateSpace

nonfiction, 100 pages

Ages 10 - Adult

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

An Ohio native and graduate of Kent State University and the University of Wisconsin, Barbara Gregorich took postgraduate courses in the History of American Civilization at Harvard University. She also worked as a typesetter for the Boston Globe, and the Chicago Tribune. Her award-winning nonfiction title, Women at Play: The Story of Women in Baseball (Harcourt, 1993), was taught in both baseball literature courses and women's studies courses and is still used as a reference book.

Gregorich writes for both children and adults. In 2006 Houghton published her early reader, Waltur Buys a Pig in a Poke and Other Stories, which was a CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center) Choice. In 2007 Houghton published Waltur Paints Himself into a Corner and Other Stories. She is the author of many School Zone Start to Read titles and Workman's Brain Quest Workbook Grade 4. Her most recent adult title is Sound Proof, a mystery set at a folk music festival. Jack and Larry is written for ages 10-Adult.

A member of the Author's Guild, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the Mystery Writers of America, and the Society for American Baseball Research, Gregorich lives in Chicago. Her website is www.barbaragregorich.com

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