



Charles N. Billington

Wrigley Field's Last World Series presentations

“I went to my first Cubs game in 1945. Your presentation brought it all back to life . . . I feel like it just occurred yesterday!”

—comment to author after a presentation at the Acorn Public Library, April 14, 2005

- ☞ Do you remember how much World War II affected everyone's life?
- ☞ Do you remember how good the Chicago Cubs were back then?
- ☞ Does anyone know why they have done so poorly since that time?

Charles Billington, author of *Wrigley Field's Last World Series: The Wartime Chicago Cubs and the Pennant of 1945*, has a one-hour program that recreates the Chicago Cubs last year of glory from a range of interesting perspectives. More than just a chronicle of a baseball season, Billington's work analyzes the social fabric of the United States during World War II, the important role FDR felt recreation and diversions played in the home front, the effects World War II had not just on baseball but on all of America's entertainment industries, and of course the 1945 season, which marked the end of a half-century of baseball success for Chicago's North Siders.

The presentation is flexible to meet the needs of your venue and your group. It includes the following topics:

- Baseball's place in the American culture of the 1940s
- The devastating effects of World War II on organized baseball
- A slide presentation/biographical sketch of the 1945 Chicago Cubs
- A contrasting look at the game and its players differed: then vs. now
- Why the team's half-century of success was followed by a half-century of failure
- Rare film footage of 1940s Cubs baseball, including the 1945 World Series, is available if your facility has a television monitor and VCR player.

Author and baseball historian Charles Billington has spoken to groups of all sizes at many public and private venues. He is willing to travel anywhere in the Chicagoland area and beyond.

Recent appearances (in person and media) have included:

- ☞ *Chicago Tribune*, *Sports Fan Magazine*
- ☞ Peoria Chiefs baseball game
- ☞ ESPN Radio and several national programs
- ☞ WSCR Radio, "The Mike Murphy Show"
- ☞ PBS Television, Springfield, Illinois
- ☞ WTTW Television, "Chicago Tonight"
- ☞ Illinois Author's Book Fair, Springfield, Illinois
- ☞ Numerous community public libraries

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