

### Ledbetter News

#### Manheim Wins Protest . . .

Manheim, nosed out in a 10-inning game at the Homecoming in Ledbetter at 6 - 5, filed protest against the eligibility of Travis Etzel and H. A. Hall, members of the Ledbetter team who also play with La Grange in the South Central circuit, but mostly in night games, which are not played in the Lee County League.

Managers and officers of the League met in Warda Friday evening, the meeting being presided over by an alternate, President Fred Placke having voluntarily disqualified himself because Jackie Placke is a member of the Ledbetter team. Manheim's protest was based on Section 6 of Article II of the by-laws of the League that:

"No player or players may be hired or allowed to play in this league who are now under contract with any organized baseball league or club or if they are affiliated with professional baseball except signed for spring try-out and released."

Ledbetterites based their defense on the statement of La Grange manager Kenney Stork that the players were not under contract with him and that he had merely submitted their names to his own league secretary along with other players on his roster. The locals further pointed out that they had duly signed these players in early April, before La Grange had a club and that further they had not been released nor requested such release as provided by Sec-

tion 3 of Article II of the League that:

"No player shall be considered as released until his written release from his manager shall be filed with the secretary."

Ledbetterites, who won their first four games by top-heavy scores and shutouts, met scant consideration from the heads and hands of the 5 voting managers, Lincoln being the lone supporter of the locals' contention that they had a clear and prior right to the players.

Lee County League rules make no provision for appeal from manager voting, which obviously shifts in sentiment with the changing baseball fortunes of clubs in dispute, but Ledbetterites, who have never filed a protest, agree with the sentiment of the press that these protests are highly detrimental to the sportsmanship and prestige of the League as well as to spectator interest, which is the factor that pays the freight and which should receive first consideration. Believing that the public wants to see games decided on the field of play rather than over conference tables, the locals suggest the election of a board of baseball directors to rule the varying neighbor leagues as well as the Lee County League, rather than the erratic, changing sentiment of manager voting.

#### Dime Box 4, Ledbetter 3 . . .

Sizzling, summer solstice heat set the stage for hotly contested baseball battle in Dime Box Sunday in which the locals were edged 4 to 3 with the outcome in doubt

enz in the mound duel at 8 hits to 4, but highly ragged umpiring favored the winners. Scintillating on the locals' defense, was veteran Alfred Kunkel who twice snatched bunts hot off the bat for a throw to second to annul attempted sacrifices, and Jackie Placke twice killed scores with throws to the plate and made a sensational jump to block Schultz off second. The field umpire, engaged in an argument at first failed to see the play, but Placke who had the base squarely covered with his anatomy and the ball against Schultz' midriff froze the position long enough for the umpire to call the play.

Lincoln invades Ledbetter next Sunday, June 28, and the welcome mat is out for the lone supporters of the locals at the League meeting. Umpires may get shot, blonds bashed and brunettes bruised, but the official assurance is that no protests will be filed for such trifles. Only adult admissions are charged, and league officials and the Press are honored with passes. A newly erected wire fence protects the spectators from the hazards of sharply driven fouls.