



**Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report**  
**November 1997**

# An Errant Cannonball Misses the Kaiser

Our November *Find of the Month* is awarded to John Schwartz. John found obituaries which corrected the death dates of Cannonball Crane, Sam Moran, and Kaiser Wilhelm. Like the headline?

## Rube Waddell

I received a letter from a SABR member who is doing research on Rube Waddell. He would like to know anything about Waddell which may not be known. If you can help him, please write to him at the following address:

Lile Anderson  
15816 28th Avenue NE  
Seattle, Washington 98155

## Stars in Stripes

Bill Weiss writes that the San Quentin prison baseball team in the 1930s had back to back managers who were ex-major leaguers. Jerry Downs played second base for the Tigers when they appeared in the 1908 World Series and Pete Schneider is famous for hitting 5 home runs in a minor league game.

## An Evolutionary Marvel

Bill Weiss also has informed me that 1997 rookie Antonio Alfonseca has a claim to fame that no other major league player can make.

Alfonseca has 6 fingers on each hand and 6 toes on each foot. When the Marlins won the World Series, did you see him give the "high six" to each of his teammates?

## One Gamers

Tom Ruane, a SABR member from Poughkeepsie, New York, has done research on one game major leaguers. He sent me the following facts.

28 men made their only appearance as a pinch runner: Jack Aragon, Ivan Bigler, John Corriden, Bob Daughters, Otis Davis, Joe Evers, Charlie Fallon, Ralph Gagliano, Gary Hargis, Mickey Harrington, Eddie Hunter, Dan Jessee, Owen Kahn, Mel Kerr, Mike Kosman, Tom Maher, Danny Mahoney, Garth Mann, Bob Mavis, Ray Medeiros, John Oldham, Gene Patton, John Sanders, Hank Schmulbach, Ralph Shafer, Ray Shook, Leo Taylor, and Ollie Welf.

38 people played in the field but never made a plate appearance: Jesse Baker, Joe Bennett, Jim Boyle, Sam Brenegan, Alex Burr, Russ Ennis, Jack Feller, Archie Graham, Buddy Hancken, Bob Hegman, Joyce, Jack Karst, Duke Kelleher, Chris Kitsos, John Lickert, Matt Luke, Terry Lyons, Jim Mahady, Fred Marolewski, Charlie Marshall, Sandy McDermott, John Merritt, Cy Neighbors, Otto Neu, Johnny O'Connor, Harry O'Neill, Elmer Ponce, Arch Reilly, Bob Scherbarth, Jack Smith, Red Smith, Harry Stanton, Nick Testa, Homer Thompson, Frank Verdi, Fred Walden, Phil Wisner, and Bart Zeller.

20 people pitched but never retired a batter: Lou Bauer, Sid Benton, Joe Brown, Fred Bruckbauer, Bill Childers, Frank Dupee, Art Gardiner, Doc Hamann, Will Koenigsmark, Pat McGehee, Bill Moore, Mike Palagyi, Jay Parker, Jim Schelle, Jim Scoggins, Doc Sechrist, Gordie Sundin, Marty Walker, John Wood, and Larry Yount.

4 players were hit by a pitch in their only plate appearance: Harvey Grubb, Cy Malis, Fred Van Dusen, and Ham Wade.

The only 2 people to appear in the same game were Harry O'Neill and Jim Schelle, who both appeared for the A's on July 23, 1939. Two of the pitching performances deserve mention. Jim Scoggins started for the White Sox on August 26, 1913. He walked the leadoff man, was removed from the game, and was saddled with the loss. Bill Childers came into the game in relief for Louisville on July 27, 1895, faced 8 batters, gave up 2 hits, walked 6, and then vanished completely. Childers has not been seen since.

### Did You Know?

Did you know that there has never been a major league ballplayer named Heine? All the people known as Heine or Heinie, such as Zimmerman, Peitz, Groh, and Meine were all named Henry. I know of no one in the past 60 years of baseball who went by the name Heine.

### Renewal Time

It is time to let me know if you wish to remain on the committee in 1998. If you are a regular contributor, don't worry about it. However, if you have been too busy to contribute, please write and let me know if you wish to remain a member. Otherwise, you will be dropped. My address is 8220 E. 135th Street, Grandview, Mo. 64030 and my e-mail is Bbxpert@aol.com.

### Ever See This Book?

Bob Richardson saw an article the other day which mentioned a book called Baseball and Baseball Players by Elwood A. Roff (1912). It is described as a "history of the game with a history of everyone on and off the field ever connected with baseball and where and how they died." Sounds like it would be right up our alley. Does anyone know anything about this book?

### Birthday List

There are four nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in December. Be sure to send a card.

December 1	Red Badgro	95
December 5	Ray Moss	96
December 11	Alfred Weston	92
December 17	Karl Swanson	94

### The Wrong Brother?

Our November *Mystery of the Month* comes from Dick Thompson. Henry Edson Matteson debuted with the Phillies in 1914 and later played with the Senators in 1918. We list his birth as September 7, 1884 in Guys Mills, Pennsylvania, a small town in Crawford County. According to Ray Nemec, Matteson's first professional experience was in the major leagues at the age of 29. He then pitched with a variety of minor league teams until he was 43.

He could have played semi-pro ball, but it does seem odd that he would break in at the major league level at 29 and pitch until age 43. Where was he before? Matteson had a brother George who also pitched professionally from 1912-15. Is it possible that we have the birth date attached to the wrong brother? Anyone know anything about the Mattesons?

## The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14827	69	99.537
Total Complete Births	14154	742	95.019
Total Complete Deaths	7362	464	49.423
Total Assumed Alive	7070		47.462
Total Bats	13546	1244	91.589
Total Throws	13798	992	93.293
Total Heights	13795	995	93.273
Total Weights	13731	1059	92.840
Total Debut Dates	14896	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9982	4914	67.011
Total Completion			92.1588

## New Monthly Data

### Questionnaires Received:

None

### New Information Received:

1884 Baker, Charles A.	B: <u>Sterling, Massachusetts</u>	(R1)
1997 Casey, Sean T.	Name: Sean Thomas Casey	(W1)
1884 Crane, Edward Nicholas	D: Sep 20 1896	(BX)
1997 Crowell, James E.	Name: James <u>Everette</u> Crowell	(W1)
1936 Dickshot, John Oscar	D: <u>Nov 4 1997</u>	(T1)
	<u>Waukegan, Illinois</u>	
1997 Franklin, Micah Ashanti	Name: Micah <u>Ishanti</u> Franklin	(MC)
1909 Getz, Gustave	D: <u>Red Bank, New Jersey</u>	(B6)
1951 Hairston, Samuel Harding	D: <u>Oct 31 1997</u>	(C1)
	<u>Birmingham, Alabama</u>	
1997 Hasegawa, Shigetosi	Name: <u>Shigetoshi</u> Hasegawa	(MC)
1915 Hickman, David James	B: May 19 1892	(N4)
1997 Hurst, Jimmy O'Neal	B: <u>Tuscaloosa, Alabama</u>	(B6)
1892 Kennedy, William P.	Name: William <u>Park</u> Kennedy	(T1)
1997 Kotsay, Mark Steven	B: <u>Whittier, California</u>	(MC)
1954 Lary, Alfred Allen	B: Sep 26 1928	(C1)
1911 Lewis, John David	B: Feb 14 1884	(T1)
1950 Littlefield, Richard Bernard	D: <u>Nov 20 1997</u>	(S9)
	<u>Detroit, Michigan</u>	
1997 Long, Ryan Marcus	Weight: 215	(MC)
1951 McMillan, Roy David	D: <u>Nov 2 1997</u>	(C1)
	<u>Bonham, Texas</u>	
1946 Meyer, Russell Charles	D: <u>Nov 16 1997</u>	(C1)
	<u>Oglesby, Illinois</u>	
1895 Moran, Samuel	D: Aug 27 1897	(BX)
1876 Morrill, John Francis	D: <u>Brookline, Massachusetts</u>	(R1)
1876 Pierson, David P.	D: <u>Newark, New Jersey</u>	(B6)
1952 Pope, David	B: Jun 17 1921	(C1)
1997 Tatis, Ramon Francisco (Medrano)	B: <u>Guayubin, Dominican Republic.</u>	(MC)
1997 Valdez, Mario A.	TL	(MC)
1903 Wilhelm, Irvin Key	D: May 22 1936	(BX)