



**Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report  
August 1993**

## Michael Flynn Found

Michael J. Flynn, one-game catcher for the 1891 Boston (AA) club has been found by Bob Richardson. For this, Bob wins the coveted *Find of the Month* award. Bob was able to determine the names of Flynn's parents. Flynn's mother, Maria Crane Flynn died February 28, 1902 in Lowell, Massachusetts. Her obituary referred to her "son, Michael, the well-known ballplayer and now proprietor of a bowling alley in Fall River." The Fall River city directory listed him until 1925, at which point it says "removed to LA." Bob then sent to California for a death certificate. After the obligatory four month wait, the death certificate arrived. The parents matched and his occupation was listed as a bowling alley proprietor. Good work by Bob Richardson!

### California Death Index

Speaking of California, I now have access to the California Death Index from 1905-49. I intend to eventually order 1950 to the present, but if there is anyone you want me to look up in California, let me know and I'll see if they are there.

### Maybe Oprah Can Help

I was sitting in the doctor's waiting room the other day and the television was tuned to the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. (I would never watch it otherwise.) Out walked Bucky Dent (Remember him, Red Sox fans?). Bucky told the story that when he was 9 years old, he learned that the people who had raised him and who he thought were his mother and father were actually his aunt and uncle. The woman he thought was his aunt was actually his mother and no one would tell him who his father was. (This could only happen

on *Oprah*).

Bucky began a long search for his real father and eventually found him living in Georgia. His father's name was Russell Stanford. Apparently Stanford kept up with Bucky's career; Bucky didn't find Stanford until he was 27 and they now keep in touch. We list Bucky's real name as Russell Earl O'Dey. Now I'm really confused. I've written Bucky and asked him how he should be listed. When we have this much trouble getting the real name of a modern player, it's no wonder we have trouble with the old-timers. By the way, does anyone remember the Homer and Jethro song, *I'm My Own Grandpa*?

### There's No Business Like Show Business

Continuing last month's story of ballplayers who went into show business after their baseball careers, Dick Thompson sends along the following information:

Pop Lytle worked as a stage hand for Cecil B. DeMille.

Bill Rhiel appeared in the movie, *Fireman, Save My Child*.

Bill Phyle was a movie sound technician.

John Butler was a security guard at 20th Century Fox. (Is that show business?)

Toby Lyons had a vaudeville act.

Cyclone Ryan played Richard III on stage. (Is that Richard Topp, Richard Thompson, or Richard Puff?)

Finally, we can't forget Joe Cicero who was Clark Gable's cousin.

### An Electrifying Performance

I don't know if this is really biographical information but I found it fascinating nevertheless. We often see the modern player populate the disabled list far more than they used to. Players of old were a lot tougher. Witness the

story of Ray Caldwell. When he made his Indian debut in 1919, he was struck by lightning. He remained in the game and recovered to win 2-1. By the way, do gold chains and earrings conduct electricity?

### Matronymics

Many of you wrote me regarding the proper way to treat the mother's maiden name of Latin players called a matronymic. It is correct to include it and it should be included. The "y" designation (Spanish for "and") is generally only used for royalty. The customary way of writing it is to include the mother's maiden name in parentheses such as Juan Roberto Agosto (Gonzalez). To ensure that the names are properly sorted, I will list them in the database this way:

Agosto, Juan Roberto (Gonzalez)

In cases such as the Alous who use their mother's maiden name as their use name, I will list them this way:

Alou, Jesus Maria  
Real name: Jesus Maria Rojas (Alou)

### Birthday List

September is a rather austere month for nonagenarian birthdays as we only have Leonard Dondero who turns 90 on September 12. Dondero does hold a unique place in baseball history as the player who was once traded for a dozen doughnuts. It is unknown whether they threw in a bagel to be named later.

We also add a new nonagenarian this month as Ralph Lief Erickson recently revealed that he is two years older than originally thought. Erickson actually turned 91 on June 25.

### Edward Whiting/Zieber

We list Edward Whiting as playing with Baltimore in 1882, Louisville in 1883 and 1884, and Washington in 1886. Both Joe Simenic and Pete Morris have looked into Whiting and it would appear that the 1886 player is a different man. While he was often listed as Whiting in the 1886 Washington box scores, several newspapers indicate that his real name was Zieber and that he was a New York amateur. Joe found a biography of the 1882 player and he was definitely born in Philadelphia. This is our *Mystery of the Month*

for August. We need to find who Zieber was and also a death date for Whiting. I am going to hold off splitting these guys up until we find more information.

### The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	13875	72	99.484
Total Complete Births	13160	787	94.357
Total Complete Deaths	6915	482	49.581
Total Assumed Alive	6550		46.964
Total Bats	12566	1278	90.769
Total Throws	12825	1019	92.639
Total Heights	12774	1070	92.271
Total Weights	12699	1145	91.729
Total Debut Dates	13947	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9910	4037	71.055
Total Completion			91.9818

## New Monthly Data

### Questionnaires Received:

None

### New Information Received:

1946 Armstrong, George Noble	Name: <u>Noble George Armstrong</u> D: <u>Jul 24 1993</u> <u>Orange, New Jersey</u>	(B6)
1957 Barnes, Frank	B: <u>Aug 26 1926</u>	(C1)
1952 Bishop, Charles Tuller	D: <u>Lawrenceville, Georgia</u>	(H1)
1951 Boyd, Robert Richard	B: <u>Oct 1 1925</u>	(C1)
1935 Coscarart, Joseph Marvin	D: <u>Apr 5 1993</u> <u>Sequim, Washington</u>	(C1)
1910 Cunningham, William James	Name: <u>William John Cunningham</u>	(T1)
1909 Curtis, Clifton Garfield	D: <u>Utica, Ohio</u>	(B6)
1912 Delhi, Lee William	D: <u>San Rafael, California</u>	(C1)
1890 Demarais, Frederick	Height: <u>5-09</u> Weight: <u>168</u>	(M4)
1884 DePangher, Michael Anthony	BL	(M4)
1871 Donnelly, Peter J.	B: <u>Oct 8 1849</u>	(D2)
1903 Dunleavy, John Francis	D: <u>Apr 11 1944</u>	(B3)
1929 Erickson, Ralph Lief	B: <u>Jun 25 1902</u>	(BL)
1890 Fessenden, Wallace Clifford (MGR)	B: <u>Oct 5 1861</u> <u>Windham, New Hampshire</u>	(M4)
1886 Flynn, John A.	TR	(M4)
1891 Flynn, Michael J.	B: <u>Mar 15 1872</u> <u>County Kildare, Ireland</u>	(R1)
	D: <u>Jun 16 1941</u> <u>Los Angeles, California</u>	
1899 Flood, Timothy A.	Height: <u>5-09</u> Weight: <u>190</u>	(W3)
1884 Gastfield, Edward	BR	(M4)
1935 Gomez, Jose Luis (Rodriguez)	Name: <u>Jose Luis Gomez (Gonzalez)</u> D: <u>Dec 1 1992</u> <u>Nuevo Laredo, Mexico</u>	(H1)
1898 Hall, Robert Russell	Height: <u>5-10</u> Weight: <u>170</u>	(W3)
1905 Hart, James Henry	B: <u>Everett, Massachusetts</u>	(C1)
1902 Hess, Otto C.	B: <u>Oct 10 1878</u> D: <u>Feb 25 1926</u>	(S1)
1885 Hiland, John William	B: <u>Baltic, Rhode Island</u> Height: <u>5-08.5</u> Weight: <u>165</u>	(M4)
1905 Hinchman, William White	D: <u>Feb 20 1963</u>	(B6)
1890 Honan, Martin Weldon	B: <u>Apr 1871</u>	(D2)
1941 Hughson, Cecil Carlton	D: <u>Aug 6 1993</u> <u>Austin, Texas</u>	(C1)
1912 James, William A.	D: <u>Glenroy, Ohio</u>	(B6)
1884 Jones, Frank M.	BL	(M4)
1890 Jones, Michael	B: <u>Jul 6 1865</u> Height: <u>5-11.5</u> Weight: <u>168</u>	(M4)

1892 Keeler, William Henry	Real Name: <u>William Henry O'Kelleher</u>	(D1)
1890 Kelty, John James	B: <u>Jun 1866</u>	(D2)
1957 Kennedy, John Irvin	B: <u>Oct 12 1926</u>	(C1)
	<u>Jacksonville, Florida</u>	
1884 Knight, Joseph William	D: <u>Oct 16 1938</u>	(M4)
	<u>Lynhurst, Ontario</u>	
1889 Krumm, Albert	B: <u>Jan 1865</u>	(D2)
	<u>Pennsylvania</u>	
1926 Langford, Elton	D: <u>Jul 31 1993</u>	(C1)
	<u>Plainview, Texas</u>	
1890 Lyons, Patrick Jerry	B: <u>Mar 1860</u>	(D2)
1945 Maier, Robert Phillip	Is Deceased	(H1)
1943 Malloy, Robert Paul	Is Alive	(B6)
1884 Manning, James H.	BS Height: <u>5-07</u>	(M4)
1940 Marion, Martin Whitford	Name: Martin <u>Whiteford</u> Marion	(H1)
1905 McCarthy, William John	B: <u>Feb 14 1886</u>	(D2)
1912 McGehee, Patrick Henry	D: <u>Paducah, Kentucky</u>	(H1)
1884 Meinke, Frank Louis	BR	(M4)
1957 Miller, Robert Lane	Real Name: <u>Robert Lane Gemeinweiser</u>	(H2)
	D: <u>Aug 6 1993</u>	(C1)
	<u>Rancho Bernardo, California</u>	
1884 Moriarity, Eugene John	B: <u>Jul 1855</u>	(D2)
1883 Mountjoy, William R.	B: <u>London, Ontario</u>	(M4)
1887 O'Neill, Frederick James	Name: Frederick James <u>O'Neil</u>	(M4)
1901 Owen, Frank Malcolm	BS	(M4)
1884 Parsons, John S.	Height: <u>5-06</u> Weight: <u>138</u>	(M4)
1884 Phillips, Marr B.	BR	(M4)
1883 Pirie, James Montgomery	Name: James <u>Moir</u> Pirie	(M4)
1871 Pratt, Thomas J.	B: <u>Feb 1844</u>	(D2)
1883 Ringo, Frank C.	BR	(M4)
1882 Scott, Milton Parker	BR	(M4)
1903 Shannon, Owen Dennis Ignatius	B: <u>Dec 22 1879</u>	(C1)
1917 Shaw, Benjamin Nathaniel	D: <u>Cleveland, Ohio</u>	(B6)
1984 Smith, Michael Anthony	B: <u>Jackson, Mississippi</u>	(P1)
1886 Smith, William S.	TR	(M4)
1883 Sweeney, John J.	B: <u>New York, New York</u>	(M4)
1907 Sweeney, William John	D: <u>Watertown, Massachusetts</u>	(B6)
1875 Terry,	B: <u>Attleboro, Pennsylvania</u>	(R1)
1906 Towne, Jay King	BR	(C1)
1952 Trouppe, Quincy Thomas	D: <u>Aug 12 1993</u>	(H2)
	<u>Creve Coeur, Missouri</u>	
1881 Troy, John Joseph	Height: <u>5-05</u> Weight: <u>154</u>	(M4)
1888 Walker, George A.	B: <u>1863</u>	(M4)
1888 Weaver, William B.	D: <u>Jan 23 1943</u>	(B6)
1951 Williams, Richard Hirschfeld	B: <u>May 7 1929</u>	(C1)

