



**Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report**  
**March 1995**

# Haber and Carle Find Hoar

## (Intercourse the Beginning)

If ever a headline should catch your eye, it should be that one. But our *Find of the Month* involves the mysterious John McGraw, pitcher for the Brooklyn Tip Tops of the Federal League in 1914 and you will understand the meaning of the headline shortly.

We always knew that John McGraw was not this player's real name. His Sporting News index card showed his real name as R. E. Heir. Various references to him in the Pittsburgh and Brooklyn newspapers referred to him as Ray Heir and said he was a "Carnegie Tech collegian." Inquiries to Carnegie Tech showed no record of him. I found a Raymond Hoerr, who I felt was a remote possibility since he did attend school in Pennsylvania, but turned out not to be the player. There was also a George "Lefty" Heir who pitched in South Dakota in 1920. He was too young to be the player. I called up the name Ray Heir on the Social Security Death Index and found nothing.

Then in November Bill sent me a copy of an article from the June 11, 1915 Springfield (Mass) Union about pitcher Roy Heir who had pitched for Brooklyn in 1914. Bill thought the name Roy was likely a typo, but just for the heck of it, I ran Roy Heir through the Social Security Death Index and came up with one who was born December 8, 1890 in Pennsylvania and died April 27, 1967. I thought that looked extremely likely and gave that information to Bill.

Bill sent to California for the death certificate and found that Heir was actually born with the

name Hoar. I was able to find the Hoar family in the 1900 Lancaster, Pennsylvania census. Roy changed the name to Heir later. This was all well and good but it didn't prove that Heir was our ballplayer. Bill was able to track down two sons of Heir living in California.

They confirmed that their father was indeed a pitcher and while they had no concrete evidence that he pitched for Brooklyn, they did say that the Federal League "sounded familiar" and that their father attended Carnegie Tech. They even sent Bill a picture of their father in mid-windup. One of the sons filled out a questionnaire for us and listed his father's birthplace as Intercourse, Pennsylvania. Hence, the headline. A tough guy to find, but we tracked him down.

## Bill Haber's Worst Nightmare

As you know, each year Bill Haber sends in all the biographical data on the players that debuted that year. This year with the replacement players a possibility, that job would have been quite an undertaking. There quite likely would have been close to 500 new players. Rumor has it that Bill Haber was heard muttering "500 new players and a postal increase, 500 new players and a postal increase....."

## A Possible Correction?

We currently list Charles "Chappie" McFarland as being born in White Hill, Illinois. Chuck Hershberger sent me a note that indicates that there is a not a White Hill, Illinois but there is a White Hall, Illinois. Can someone check this out to see if we have a typo?

## Can Anyone Help?

Guy Stanley, 1704 Serena Dr. E., Jacksonville, Florida 32225 is looking for any biographical information on Red Treadway or Spud Chandler for a history of the Jacksonville Sea Birds he is working on. If you can help him,

please drop him a line.

Mike Patchen, 1700 Knollwood, Gillette, Wyoming 82718 needs information on the following players with a Wyoming connection:

Ed Kennedy  
Claude Hendrix  
Ed F. Murray  
William T. Meehan

Once again, if you can help Mike, please contact him.

Continuing on, Robert Bobo, 37 Champlain Road, Marlton, NJ 08053 is looking for a descendant of Kid Gleason. Hopefully, one of you can help Robert.

Finally, Chris Boults, P.O. Box 432, East Canaan, Connecticut 06024 needs information on George Derby, who is apparently related to his wife. Please help Chris if you can.

### New Members

Please welcome Mike Dugan, 106 Nassau Avenue, Kenmore, New York 19217 (D6) to the committee. Mike also is looking to obtain pictures of Walt Chipple (1945) and Billy Kelly (1920) if anyone can help him.

### Sad News

I'm sorry to report that Tom Shea, one of the original 16 SABR members and one of the leading biographical researchers of the 20th century, died at the age of 90.

Tom became a traveling salesman after his graduation from Boston College in 1926. His travels took him to various small towns around the northeast. In each town he collected biographical data about that town's local ballplayers. He kept the information on little scraps of paper, which he stored in shoe boxes. Tom also provided much of the information for the original Turkin/Thompson encyclopedia in 1951. Tom corresponded regularly with Lee Allen and Ernie Lanigan, providing them with information as well. Tom will be missed by all who knew him.

### Birthday List

There is only one nonagenarian celebrating a birthday in April. Ray Bengé turns 93 on April 22. Be sure to send him a card.

### I'll Have A Double Pete Burger

From information sent by Dick Thompson and Joe Simenic, we have figured out the story behind Pete Burg's 5-01 height. It seems there were two Pete Burgs playing at the same time who were brothers. (Why do parents do this to us?) Joseph Peter Burg was born June 4, 1882 in Chicago and died April 28, 1969 in Joliet, Illinois. Peter G. Burg has no birth or death information that I am aware of.

Joe is the one we list as the major league player. He was playing in Quincy, Illinois in 1910 and a Sporting Life note says that the major leaguer came from Quincy. Pete was playing in Lynn, Massachusetts in 1910, a more likely location for someone who winds up with Boston but he was not the major leaguer. It was Pete who was supposedly 5-01. A picture of Pete in the Brockton Times shows him shaking hands with Simeon Murch, who was 6-04. Burg was short but he didn't look 5-01. (Has anyone ever seen the picture of Fred Patek standing next to Frank Howard?) Anyway, Joseph Peter Burg filled out a questionnaire for Lee Allen in 1963 and listed his height as 5-10. I have made that correction.

### Murphy's Law (Take 27 Beers And Call Me In The Morning)

Our *Mystery of the Month* for March was sent by Bob Richardson. William Murphy played with Cleveland and Washington in 1884. Several sources indicate he was from Springfield, Massachusetts, and there is a birthdate there that matches - March 23, 1864, son of William and Ellen. His age in bios is given as 22 in 1886 and 21 in 1885, so that corresponds. There's also an address for him in Sporting Life (February 18, 1885) - North Main Street, Springfield, and that's where William, Ellen, and young William lived.

During his time in Cleveland, a note indicates he's married. There's an April 25, 1883, marriage of William Murphy to a Katie Mulloy in Ludlow, Mass. Murphy played for the Rockets of Ludlow in 1882, so this appears likely. The only problem is that this fellow, while the son of William and Ellen, gives his age as 21 and his birthplace as Canton, New Jersey. I suppose he might have fudged because he was underage (19).

Bob found death data for Murphy's parents, two brothers, and three sisters and he isn't buried with them. When his father died in 1895, Willie

is listed as living in New Jersey. When one of his sisters died in 1919 and a brother died in 1921, Willie is listed as living in Newark, New Jersey. Another sister died in 1930 and Willie is not listed among the survivors so he quite likely died between October 25, 1921 and October 3, 1930. However, Debbi Dagavarian-Bonar checked New Jersey deaths during that time period and couldn't find him.

Bob also couldn't find him in the 1900 or 1920 New Jersey census. There was no William Murphy the right age born in either New Jersey or Massachusetts, nor any William Murphy who had a wife named Katie.

Murphy was reported running a shooting gallery in Plainfield, New Jersey in 1893. There was a William Murphy in Plainfield in the 1900 census but his age did not match Willie's. The descendants that Bob was able to locate could provide no further assistance. However, one note that Bob found seems to belie a long life: "in 1885, while with Meriden (Conn), Murphy on one occasion had 27 beers inside of him." (Sounds like me at a SABR convention.)

### The Scoreboard

|                       | IN    | OUT  | PCT     |
|-----------------------|-------|------|---------|
| Total Complete Names  | 14197 | 73   | 99.488  |
| Total Complete Births | 13513 | 757  | 94.695  |
| Total Complete Deaths | 7092  | 477  | 49.699  |
| Total Assumed Alive   | 6701  |      | 46.959  |
| Total Bats            | 12911 | 1254 | 91.147  |
| Total Throws          | 13159 | 1006 | 92.898  |
| Total Heights         | 13144 | 1021 | 92.792  |
| Total Weights         | 13077 | 1088 | 92.319  |
| Total Debut Dates     | 14270 | 0    | 100.000 |
| Total Questionnaires  | 9973  | 4297 | 69.888  |
| Total Completion      |       |      | 92.2092 |

## New Monthly Data

### Questionnaires Received:

|                   |  |      |
|-------------------|--|------|
| 1914 McGraw, John | Real Name: <u>Roy Elmer Hoar</u>       | (H1) |
|                   | B: <u>Dec 8 1890</u>                   |      |
|                   | <u>Intercourse, Pennsylvania</u>       |      |
|                   | D: <u>Apr 27 1967</u>                  |      |
|                   | <u>Torrance, California</u>            |      |
|                   | Height: <u>5-09</u> Weight: <u>160</u> |      |

### New Information Received:

|   |   |      |
|---|---|------|
| 1924 Barnes, Robert Avery               | D: <u>Dec 1993</u>                        | (S3) |
| 1910 Burg, John Peter                   | Name: <u>Joseph Peter Burg</u>            | (S1) |
|   | Height: <u>5-10</u>                       |      |
| 1884 Conway, James P.                   | B: <u>Oct 8 1858</u>                      | (D2) |
|   | <u>Clifton Heights, Pennsylvania</u>      |      |
| 1937 Fallon, George Decatur             | B: <u>Jul 8 1914</u>                      | (H1) |
|   | D: <u>Oct 25 1994</u>                     |      |
|   | <u>Lake Worth, Florida</u>                |      |
| 1929 Frey, Benjamin Rudolph             | D: <u>Spring Arbor Township, Michigan</u> | (M4) |
| 1928 Goodell, John Henry William        | D: <u>Sep 21 1993</u>                     | (S3) |
| 1935 Hughes, Roy John                   | D: <u>Mar 5 1995</u>                      | (C1) |
|   | <u>Asheville, North Carolina</u>          |      |
| 1878 McCormick, James                   | B: <u>Nov 3 1856</u>                      | (M4) |
| 1889 McDermott, Michael H.              | Height: <u>5-10</u> Weight: <u>152</u>    | (R1) |
| 1952 Moore, Raymond Leroy               | D: <u>Mar 2 1995</u>                      | (RC) |
|   | <u>Clinton, Maryland</u>                  |      |
| 1935 Moore, Terry Bluford               | D: <u>Mar 29 1995</u>                     | (C1) |
|   | <u>Collinsville, Illinois</u>             |      |
| 1951 Nichols, Chester Raymond Jr.       | D: <u>Mar 27 1995</u>                     | (T3) |
|   | <u>Lincoln, Illinois</u>                  |      |
| 1943 Sauer, Edward                      | B: <u>Jan 3 1919</u>                      | (M1) |
| 1875 Stevens,                           | Name: <u>Robert Stevens</u>               | (T4) |
| 1883 Sweeney, John J.                   | Delete death data. Wrong man.             | (M4) |
| 1895 Von Der Ahe, Christian F. W. (MGR) | B: <u>Hille, Prussia</u>                  | (M4) |
| 1913 Wagner, William George             | B: <u>Lilley, Michigan</u>                | (M4) |
| 1913 Wares, Clyde Ellsworth             | B: <u>Vandalla, Michigan</u>              | (M4) |
| 1938 Williams, Woodrow Wilson           | B: <u>Aug 21 1912</u>                     | (H1) |