



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
August 1996

Hensley Meulens' Birthplace Found

This is a pretty anemic *Find of the Month*, but it was a pretty dry month for new information and this way I can give the award to myself. It has always bothered me that we didn't have a city of birth for Hensley Meulens. They always listed him as being born in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. They are presently listing Braves phenom Andruw Jones the same way.

I have been to Curacao and it is an island nation of its own with its own cities. Willemstad is the capital. I located someone who is familiar with baseball in Curacao and he confirmed that both Meulens and Jones were born in Willemstad. By the way, if any of you ever decide to take a vacation in Cuba, let me know.

New Members

Please welcome Wayne McElreavy, PO Box 1154, Claremont, New Hampshire 03743 to the bio team. Wayne's code number will be M2. Also, Mike Welsh has moved. Mike's new address is 3011 Jules, St. Joseph, Mo. 64501.

Eddie Kasko

I received a letter today informing me that Eddie Kasko had died but did not list a date or a place. I can't imagine that Kasko could pass away unnoticed. Can someone check on this for me? Apparently, he lived in Richmond, Virginia.

O. Dodd Part Two

No, this isn't about the two players playing at the same time named George Burns. This is about two Dodds who played at the same time. Oran U. Dodd is the player we list as the 1912 Pittsburgh major leaguer. He was born September 14, 1889 in Bagwell, Texas and died March 31, 1929 in Newport, Arkansas. He played the bulk of his career in the Texas League from 1911-16.

Ona Melvin Dodd played in the Texas League from 1911-22. He was born October 14, 1886 in Stringtown, Texas. He died in December of 1956 in someplace other than Texas. Notes from the Sporting News would seem to indicate that Ona is our player. (Sometimes I think these guys were put on this earth just to drive us crazy.) Can anyone give me any evidence of the one true Dodd?

Chambers of Horrors

Similar to our Dodd problem, there is some confusion over William Christopher Chambers who pitched one inning with the 1910 Cardinals. Tom Shea seemed to think that this was Chester Cush Chambers, also from West Virginia and who died in 1973. Sporting News in 1910 did refer to him as "C C Chambers." Can someone check a St. Louis paper and shed more light on this?

Birthday List

There are several nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in September. Be sure to send a card.

September 5	William Musser	91
September 8	Frank Stewart	90
September 12	Leonard Dondero	93
September 13	Thornton Lee	90
September 25	Paul Hopkins	92

Flying After The Sparrow

Our *Mystery of the Month* for August comes courtesy of Bob Richardson. William P. (Sparrow) Morton pitched two games for Philadelphia in 1884. (Isn't it amazing how these two-game players come up with nicknames?)

Morton pitched in the New England League in 1886-87 and was identified as William H. Morton of Philadelphia, although several references called him William Martin. One note said he was a letter carrier in Philadelphia. Bob checked the Philadelphia city directory and there was no William H. or William P. Morton connected with the post office, but there was a William F. Martin, postal carrier, at 416 Quince in 1886-87, and continues through 1890 as a clerk. Could this be our ballplayer?

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14450	71	99.511
Total Complete Births	13774	747	94.856
Total Complete Deaths	7230	467	49.790
Total Assumed Alive	6824		46.994
Total Bats	13167	1249	91.336
Total Throws	13413	1003	93.043
Total Heights	13414	1002	93.049
Total Weights	13350	1066	92.605
Total Debut Dates	14521	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9980	4541	68.728
Total Completion			92.2115

William J. (Billy) Reed

By Cappy Gagnon

B: November 12, 1922
Shawano, Wisconsin

BLTR 5-10 175

Six decades after his high school athletic performances, Billy Reed is still considered the greatest athlete ever produced in Shawano, Wisconsin (and one of the greatest in Wisconsin annals.) Billy earned that designation both for the letters and championships he won in high school and also for playing both Major League Baseball and Professional Basketball.

Billy won 15 letters as a four-sport star for the Shawano High School Indians. Since Shawano did not have a baseball team, Billy won all those letters without playing the sport which he would play as a pro for 10 years!

The Reed family dominated Shawano athletics for many years. Older brothers Al, Bud, and Johnny preceded Billy in the athletic limelight. In one of Billy's most memorable moments, he threw a touchdown pass to brother Johnny to win the championship of the Northeastern Wisconsin Conference, 7-0. The losing team was coached by older brother Al. Billy was a single wing tailback. He won three conference scoring titles in basketball and two in football.

Billy also was a state high school singles tennis champion three times. It was not unusual for Billy to win a tennis match and then head to the track to compete in the 100, 220, and broad jump. Billy played baseball for the Oconto Falls Legion team, which made it to the state finals in 1940.

After graduating from Shawano High, Reed attended Notre Dame briefly, before returning home to a ROTC unit at Ripon College. When that unit got called up, Billy served in the Army for four years. Reed again was a multiple sport star, playing football, basketball, and baseball for Camp Grant. Billy finished up his college career at St. Norbert's College, where he also served as freshman basketball coach during the 1950-51 season.

During the 1946-47 season, Billy played 17 games as a forward for the Oshkosh All Stars. Billy began his pro baseball career with Green Bay in 1946. He hit .363 as a shortstop. He moved up to Ball the following year and hit .326 for Evansville. Reed then spent two years with Hartford, hitting .285 and a league-leading .338, while settling in at second base.

Billy returned home to Wisconsin for the next three years, playing for AAA Milwaukee, and hitting between .311 and .313 each year. At the beginning of the '52 season, Billy was the starting second baseman for the Boston Braves. Although he hit a credible .250, Billy was sent down in favor of Jack Dittmer's .193 average.

For the 1953 season, the Braves were now in Milwaukee, but Billy was with the new top farm club, the Toledo Mud Hens. Billy hit .290, .296, and .307 before retiring after the 1955 season. His composite minor league batting average was .314. He was also a pretty good glove man, leading five different leagues in fielding, with one fielding title as a shortstop and one as a third baseman.

While in Toledo, Billy went to work for the American Can Company for whom he worked until his retirement in Houston. As an interesting sidelight to this research, I was unable to locate Billy's whereabouts for a couple of years. While I was working in law enforcement, I met Nashville Police Chief Joe Casey, who happened to mention that he played some minor league baseball. I told him of my research. He asked me if he would know of any of the players I was searching for. I mentioned Billy Reed. Joe replied, "He was my roommate when I played for Hartford."

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1947 Brown, Willard Jessie	D: <u>Aug 8 1996</u>	(C1)
	<u>Houston, Texas</u>	
1950 Busby, James Franklin	D: <u>Jul 8 1996</u>	(N4)
	<u>Augusta, Georgia</u>	
1884 Donnelly, James B.	Height: <u>5-10.5</u> Weight: <u>155</u>	(O2)
1934 Frink, Fred Ferdinand	Name: <u>Frederick</u> Ferdinand Frink	(C1)
	D: <u>May 19 1995</u>	
	<u>Miami Springs, Florida</u>	
1910 Lush, Ernest Benjamin	Debut: <u>Jul 20 1910</u>	(K3)
1884 McCauley, James A.	Name: James <u>Adelbert</u> McCauley	(S7)
1989 Meulens, Hensley Filemon Acasio	B: <u>Willemstad</u> , Curacao	(C1)
1904 Needham, Thomas J.	Name: Thomas <u>Joseph</u> Needham	(D2)
	B: <u>May 17 1879</u>	
	<u>Steubenville, Ohio</u>	
1888 Nichol, Samuel Anderson	B: <u>County Antrim</u> , Ireland	(D2)
1938 Reninger, James David	B: <u>Mar 7 1915</u>	(C1)
	D: <u>Aug 23 1993</u>	
	<u>North Fort Myers, Florida</u>	
1946 Shore, Raymond Everett	D: <u>Aug 13 1996</u>	(B6)
	<u>St. Louis, Missouri</u>	