



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
March 1997

Spencer Pumpelly Throws Right

Yes, earth shattering news but Bob Davids has found documentation that Spencer Pumpelly, 1925 Senators one-game pitcher threw right-handed. For this Bob captures the March *Find of the Month* award.

The reason this is so exciting is that Pumpelly is the most recent player whose bats and throw were unknown. We now need to know how he batted. Since he never batted in the major leagues, that may be difficult. Pumpelly's career is a curious one anyway. He played baseball at Yale, yet never played professional baseball until his appearance with the Senators a good ten years after his graduation from Yale. Nice that he kept the old soupbone in shape.

Help The Minor League Committee

Bob McConnell has asked for help in tracking down a long-time minor league player. The player's name is William G. Bottenus. He was an outfielder, second baseman, and first baseman with the following teams:

1888 - Toledo (Tri-State)
Logansport (Indiana St.)
1889 - Toledo (IL)
1890 - Toronto (IL)
1891 - Bay City/Detroit (NWL)
Jamestown (NY-P)
1892 - Peoria (IIL)
1893 - Springfield (EL)
1894 - Springfield (EL)
1895 - Buffalo (EL)
1896 - Buffalo/Rochester (EL)
1897 - Rochester/Wilkes-Barre (EL)

1898 - Hartford (Atlantic)
Utica (NY State)
1899 - Rock Island (WA)
Newark (NY State)
1900 - Elmira (Atlantic)
Elmira (NY State)
1901 - Spokane (PNWL)
1902 - Saginaw (Mich. St)
1903 - Schenectady (NY State)
1904 - Grand Rapids (Central)
1905 - Plattsburg (Northern NY)
1906 - Newark (Ohio-Penn)
Charleroi (POML)
Elmira (Atlantic)
1907 - Braddock (POML)

I hope that's enough of a career that something can be found about his birth date or death date.

And Another One

Ray Nemec also has a long time minor leaguer he is looking for. L. Mark (Marty) Purtell began his playing career in 1908 with Taylorville, Quincy, and Hannibal. In 1909, he was with Decatur and Kewanee, 1910 with Chillicothe, 1911-15 with Montreal, 1916-17 with Scranton, 1918 with Toledo, 1919 with Toronto, 1920-22 with Vancouver, 1922-24 with Hutchinson, 1925-26 with Springfield, 1927-28 with Joplin, 1929-32 with Independence, 1932-33 with Hutchinson, 1933-35 with Bartlesville, 1936 with Fremont, and 1938-39 with Mobile. He later scouted with the Giants, Braves, Yankees, and Pirates.

He was born in 1891 in Columbus, Ohio. He was the brother of former major leaguer Billy Purtell who died March 17, 1962 in Bradenton, Florida. Perhaps his obituary might mention the whereabouts of Marty. Let's see if we can help Ray track this guy down.

Kinsler/Kinsella

Bob Richardson tells me that Larry Kinsella

played a game with the University of Vermont on June 9, 1893 in Burlington, Vermont, the day after the mysterious Mr. Kinsler made his debut with the Giants in New York. This makes it somewhat unlikely that Larry Kinsella is our boy.

A Real Dog of a Trade

Karl Swanson, who turned 93 last December, was once traded from Moline to Rock Island along with his pet terrier, Rusty, for Frank Walczak and Sammy Schwartz. Rusty was named the mascot of the Rock Island club. However, Rusty had to be suspended by the league because his barking upset the other team. This strange but true tale was provided by Bill Weiss.

The Thin Man and the Perfesser

Did you know that Casey Stengel and William Powell were high school classmates at Central High School in Kansas City? Does anyone else know of any other famous classmates?

Spans Between Relatives

Last month's inquiry by Cliff Otto about the longest span between father/son combinations brought a couple of interesting responses from Scott Flatow and Bill Weiss.

Peaches Graham made his major league debut in 1902, 44 years before the debut of his son, Jack Graham. On the brother side of the ledger, Jesse Fowler made his debut in 1924, 30 years before the debut of his brother, Art.

Combos

Here are some interesting teammate combinations. The 1995 Cubs had (Kevin) Foster and (Mark) Parent, the 1937 Cubs had (Larry) French and (Lonnie) Frey, the 1908 Highlanders had (Harry) Billiard and (Neal) Ball, and the 1984 Tigers had (Glenn) Abbott and (Marty) Castillo.

A Suggestion

Lyle Spatz came up with a good suggestion. The 1975 Baseball Research Journal had an article based on the results of a SABR survey listing the best ballplayers by state of birth. Lyle suggested that we try that survey again and

perhaps generate a fresh article for the Journal. Does anyone else have any thoughts on this?

Birthday List

There are several nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in April. Make sure you send a card.

April 9	Howard Groszkoss	91
April 17	Edward Delker	91
	Robert Stevens	90
April 22	Ray Bengé	95
April 23	Dolph Camilli	90

Dialing For Dylers

John Dyer played one game for Louisville (AA) on July 22, 1882. Despite an 0-for-4 performance, he has now gained fame as our *March Mystery of the Month*.

Dyer appears in the 1900 Kentucky census living in Louisville. His birth is listed as June 1852 in Kentucky. His wife Otilia was born in April of 1866 in Louisiana and she had a son Moritz J. born in November 1888 in Kentucky. They were married in late 1887 or early 1888.

Bob Bailey did research on Dyer when he lived in Louisville but apparently Dyer did not die there. I wrote every Dyer living in the US (just 6 people) and none claimed to be his relative. Of course, that's nothing unusual. There are many of my relatives who don't admit it either.

I would think that there would be either a marriage record in Louisville or a birth record for Moritz that might provide some clues. Let's find him.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14646	70	99.524
Total Complete Births	13972	744	94.944
Total Complete Deaths	7286	468	49.511
Total Assumed Alive	6962		47.309
Total Bats	13364	1246	91.472
Total Throws	13614	996	93.183
Total Heights	13610	1000	93.155
Total Weights	13546	1064	92.717
Total Debut Dates	14716	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9980	4736	67.817
Total Completion			92.1800

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1884 Firth, John E.	B: <u>May 6 1855</u>	(R1)
	<u>Lowell, Massachusetts</u>	
1944 Gassaway, Charles Cason	B: <u>Gassaway, Tennessee</u>	(L5)
1931 Jurgens, William Frederick	D: <u>Mar 3 1997</u>	(W1)
	<u>Clearwater, Florida</u>	
1946 Karpel, Herbert	D: <u>Jan 24 1995</u>	(C1)
	<u>San Diego, California</u>	
1884 McElroy, James D.	B: <u>Nov 5 1862</u>	(C1)
	<u>Napa County, California</u>	
	D: <u>Needles, California</u>	
1934 Munns, Leslie Ernest	D: <u>Feb 28 1997</u>	(C2)
	<u>Cedar Rapids, Iowa</u>	
1925 Pumpelly, Spencer Armstrong	TR	(D1)
1896 Wheeler, George L.	Weight: <u>180</u>	(R1)