



Receiving this painting as a gift would certainly brighten the holiday season. The awesome 26”x36” rendition of Matty, c1911, comes from the hand of artist Graig Kreindler who specializes in baseball historical paintings. You can see more of his work on his web site: www.graigkreindler.com. 

An Unhappy Year in Louisville

According to HoF curator **Tom Shieber**, the photo below appeared in the book *Athletic Sports* by Harry Palmer, published in 1889. It was identified as “The Louisville Team, September 1889.” This team endured a rocky season that featured a strike, a change in ownership, and a 27-111 record. There were no individual player ID’s provided by Palmer.

The photo has also appeared in at least two excellent modern books - first, in 1994, in *The Beer and Whisky League (BWL)* by David Nemecek, picture editor Mark Rucker, and later (1996) in Philip Von Borries’ *Louisville Diamonds (LD)*. The player names, as shown below the photo, were first given in *BWL*, and then repeated in *LD* except the Ewing and Weaver ID’s were therein reversed.



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME LIBRARY, COOPERSTOWN, N. Y.

back: Dan Shannon - Farmer Vaughn - Brown - John Galligan¹ - Chicken Wolf
front: John Ewing – Farmer Weaver - Scott Stratton - Red Ehret - Ed Flanagan

Closer examination shows these identifications to be in need of substantial revision. We start with three mis-identified players for whom we can determine correct ID’s.

The player from the team photo, shown near right, was identified as Dan Shannon, but comparison to Scott Stratton’s face from a solo photo in *LD* (center), and also from the 1888 Joseph Hall Louisville team cabinet photo (far right), shows that he is clearly Stratton.



not Shannon |----- Scott Stratton -----|

The player, near right, was identified as Scott Stratton, but he is Dan Shannon, as can be seen by reference to Shannon’s 1887 Oshkosh photo, far right. Note that 1889 was Shannon’s only year in Louisville.



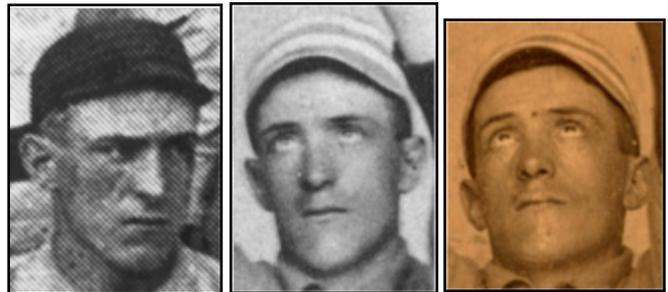
not Stratton Dan Shannon

The serious looking guy in the front row, shown near right, labeled John Ewing in *LD* does not compare well to Ewing's Old Judge card image, center. Nor does he match Farmer Weaver, far right, as claimed in *BWL*



not Ewing, not Weaver John Ewing Farmer Weaver

He can be seen to be Phil Tomney when compared to a solo shot of Tomney from *LD*, center, and Tomney's Old Judge card, far right.



Tomney -- yes Phil Tomney

Next are three mis-identified players for whom a match has not yet been found.

The player, near right, identified as Farmer Vaughn, may have a mustache similar to that of Vaughn, but he can be distinguished from the real guy by noting that the long right ear belonging to Vaughn, center (1894 Cin. scorecard) and far right (OJ card), is absent from the player in question. The chin structure is also different. At present, the correct name is unknown.



not Vaughn Farmer Vaughn

The face, near right, identified as Chicken Wolf, has absolutely no features in common with the real Chicken, as shown in a photo, center, and the Joseph Hall 1888 team photo, far right. Here the correct identity is also a mystery.



not Wolf Chicken Wolf

Likewise, the fellow near right, labeled John Ewing in *BWL*, is not Ewing. He was ID'd as Farmer Weaver in *LD*, but he looks nothing like Weaver's Old Judge image, 2nd from far right, nor his photo, far right. So we have another unidentified player.



not Ewing, not Weaver John Ewing Farmer Weaver

Surprisingly, for Red Ehret, right, it does appear that there is a match. That yields, so far, a correct ID percentage of .143, which is even worse than the club's .243 season winning percentage. This is an important point to keep in mind as the remaining two ID's are considered.

For the faces labeled as John Galligan and Ed Flanagan, just below right, there are no other reference images listed in the SABR Encyclopedia except for the 1889 team photo in *BWL* currently under discussion. Thus, as far as we know, there is no way to verify these ID's. With the other published identifications being so unreliable, it's difficult to have confidence that these are correct.

Further research by Tom Shieber yielded interesting clues, but no answers for Galligan and Flanagan, nor for the other three unidentified players.

Careful examination of the photo reveals that it was taken by Levytype Co. of Philadelphia. Tom found that it was easy to match up the photo's background with others taken in Philly.

Noting the photo date of "September, 1889" in Palmer's book, records show that Louisville was in Philadelphia to play the Athletic club on September 7, 8 and 9. A note on the club's road trip in *The Sporting Life* of September 18, 1889, states, "Hecker, Wolf and Weaver are all at home. Weaver joined the club...but his ankle had not sufficiently healed, and he had been sent back home ...Browning is taking things easy at home."

Tom noted that Toad Ramsey and Dude Esterbrook had been traded by that time, and that box scores indicate these men played in Philly: Paul Cook, **Red Ehret**, John Ewing, Ed Flanagan, John Galligan, Mike McDermott, **Dan Shannon**, **Scott Stratton**, Harry Raymond, Jack Ryan, **Phil Tomney**, and Farmer Vaughn. Also, Arthur Clarkson had reportedly recently joined the team, but apparently did not play in that series.

It's good to see that the four positively identified players, Stratton, Tomney, Shannon, and Ehret, are on the list of those who played. Also note that Galligan and Flanagan played. However, other rostered players who did not play in that series could be present in the photo.

Matching the faces of the unidentified players to those of team members for whom we do have reference images has not been successful. There are also a



Ehret -- yes

Red Ehret



John Galligan?

Ed Flanagan?

number of players on this team who could be in the photo, but for whom we have no known reference image. Along with Galligan and Flanagan, these include Charles Fisher, Ed Springer, Harry W. Smith, Harry Scherer, Bill Anderson, and Fred Carl. For Mike Gaule there is a recently found photo – but it is of very poor quality.

So, the Galligan and Flanagan issue and the names of the other three unidentified players (as well as Brown in civvies – is that one right?) are unresolved.

At this point we have --

As published:

Dan Shannon
Farmer Vaughn
Brown
John Galligan
Chicken Wolf
J. Ewing/Farmer Weaver
Farmer Weaver/J. Ewing
Scott Stratton
Red Ehret
Ed Flanagan

As revised:

Scott Stratton
not Vaughn, unknown
can't verify
can't verify
not Wolf, unknown
neither, unknown
Phil Tomney
Dan Shannon
Red Ehret
can't verify

If anyone thinks that they have a match for any of the unknown players, please let us know.

Endnote:

1. Earlier versions of *Total Baseball* list him as Jim Galligan. SABR bio committee has clarified his first name as John. 

Two Giant Postcards

by Brian Campf*

“Union Giants at Wheatfield, Aug. 18” and an August 25, 1908 postmark adorn this captivating real photo postcard (rppc), shown below. Wheatfield is about 55 miles from Chicago. “This is a picture of the negro ball team,” reads a part of the message on the back.



These are the 1908 Chicago Union Giants, with Joe Green (third from right, also just below), and educated guesses of Tom Washington¹ (third from left), and James Smith (first from left), according to Negro League historian **Todd Peterson**. Todd speculates that the photo was taken in the July-August time-frame.

Union Giants box scores that Todd provided from the *Chicago Tribune* might help identify who else is shown. A box score for a July 5, 1908 Union Giants game against the Artesians lists Toney (ss), Centre (2b),



3rd from right in rppc

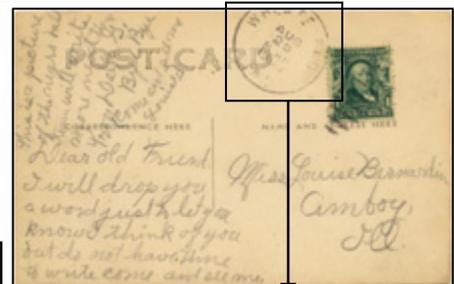


Joe Green

Robison (1b), Green (cf), Shaller (rf), Ramsey (lf), Primm (c), Bryer (3b), and Norman (p). (The Artesians won 3-2.)

A box score for a Sept. 12, 1908 game between the Union Giants
→Continued on next page

* Brian Campf was a contributing author for SABR's *Rain Check: Baseball in The Pacific Northwest*



and Rogers Park lists Toney (ss), Ramsey (cf), Pryor (3b), Rob'son (1b), West (p), Primm (rf), Young (2b), Wash'ton (c), and Taylor (1b) for the Union Giants². (Rogers Park won 6-1.)

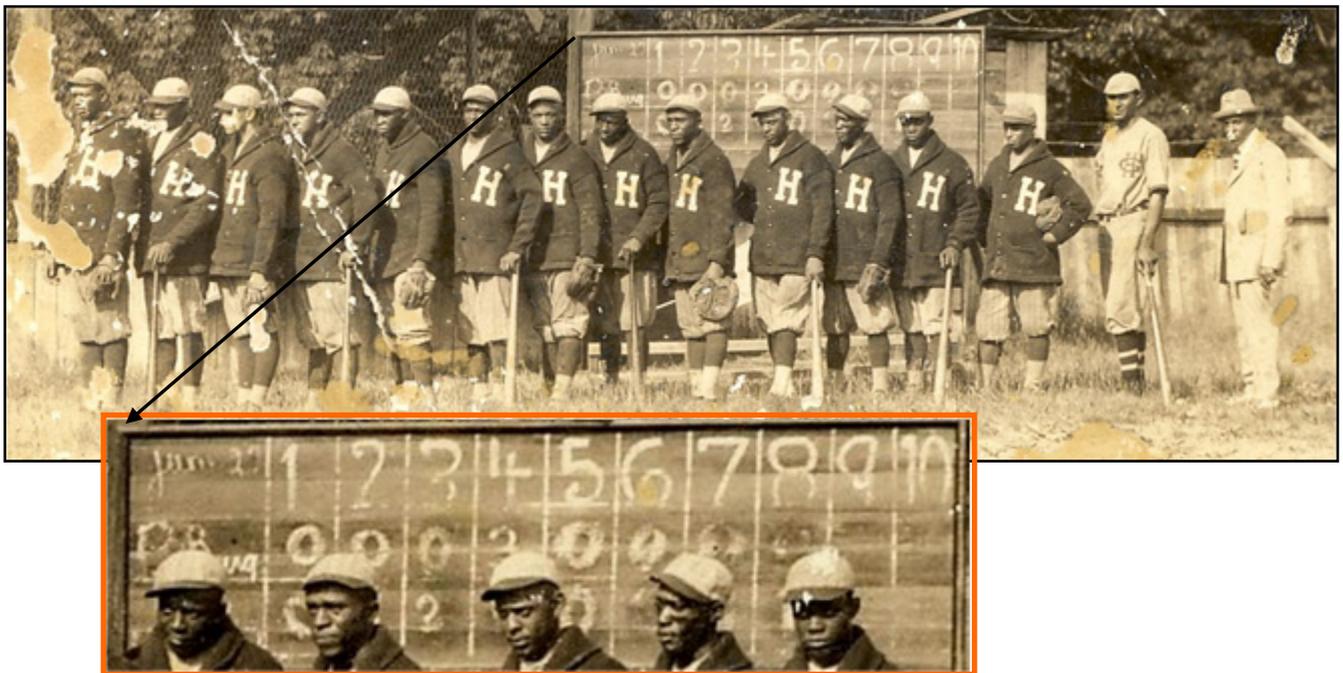
Five days after being at Wheatfield, on August 23, 1908, the Union Giants played the Indianapolis ABC's, according to a Saturday, August 29, 1908 newspaper article provided by the **Indiana Historical Society**. The article notes, "The A.B.C.'s defeated the Chicago Union Giants in two sensational games last Sunday"

If you have any further information about the postcard, the players, or the game at Wheatfield, please email me at the address given at the end of the article.

A second postcard, below, features the Homestead Giants, with "The Homestead Giants" lightly written vertically on the right front.

The uniforms bear an "H." Behind the players is a scoreboard with the tallies from a game. "June 20" appears to be written in the upper left of the scoreboard, though this is not certain. The visiting team listed on the scoreboard appears to be "P'Burg," though it is hard to read clearly. Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania have towns named Homestead and Pittsburg(h).

Please email me at briansandy3@msn.com if you have anything to share about this image.



Endnotes:

1. The player 3rd from the left in the Wheatfield rppc, shown near right, appears to match the face, center, that was ID'd as Tom Washington in *Black Baseball In Chicago*. But, clearly a different person, far right, was also ID'd as Washington in that book. Author **Larry Lester** is currently looking into this issue.
2. Todd Peterson believes the best list of candidates for the photo (not in ID order) are Toney; Robinson; Primm; Green; Young; Ramsey; Pryor; Smith; and Washington. 🏆



3rd from left in rppc



both ID'd as Tom Washington



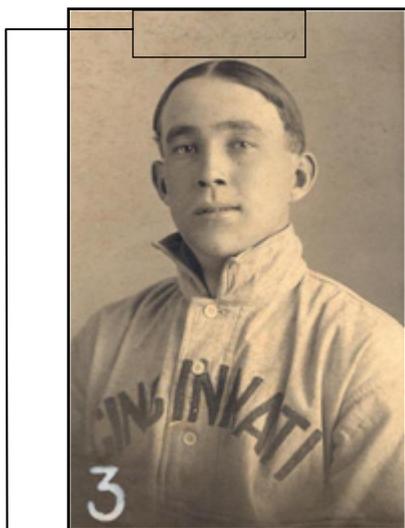
Auction Watch

The photo, below left, taken by the well-known photographer Carl Horner, was recently offered by a major auction house. It was identified as Miller Huggins, and “Huggins” can be seen written faintly on the photo.

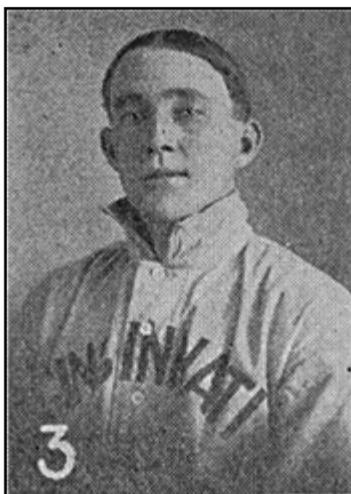
The auction was noticed by a reader who has researched Huggins’ history with the Cardinals and the Yankees. He did not think the player pictured was Huggins.

The very same photo, below center, appeared in the 1906 *Spalding Guide* as part of the 1905 Cincinnati team head-shot composite. It was identified as Al Bridwell.

A different though very similar image of Bridwell can be seen on Bridwell’s “Colgan’s Chips” card, below right. The auction photo is clearly Bridwell.



auction photo



Al Bridwell –
1906 Spalding Guide



Al Bridwell –
Colgan’s Chips card

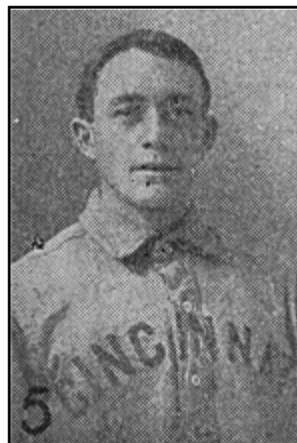


The same 1906 *Spalding Guide* composite includes a photo of Huggins, near right. That same image was used for the Huggins 1904 “Fan Craze” card, far right.

There was also a lively discussion of this photo on the popular **Net54** internet forum for collectors, which included postings of the above Bridwell images.

In spite of this, and in the face of considerable public criticism, the auction listing was not changed. Of course, not all bidders were aware of the mis-identification, and the photo was “won” for a bid of \$3178.02 – a rather high price even if it was Huggins.

According to collectors, the Horner photo of *Bridwell* is actually worth only a few hundred dollars. 📷



Miller Huggins –
1906 Spalding Guide



Miller Huggins –
Fan Craze card

A Straight Answer

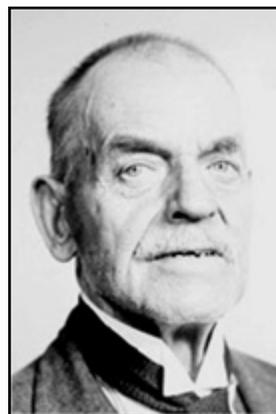
I had wondered for a long time what was going on in this excerpt, below right, from a 1912 White Sox team photo. We see veteran catcher Billy Sullivan holding a bat over rookie catcher Walt Kuhn's head. Was he about to break the bat over his teammate's head? Was he worried about losing his position to a younger player? Those Deadballers were sure a tough lot, and catchers were especially hard-headed.

Then I saw a post from **David Stalker** on the SABR Yahoo Deadball e-group. It included a request for information about a *curved bat* he had located, along with its original case, that had belonged to Billy Sullivan. David provided a photo of the bat and its case, below right, as well as a photo of Sullivan's induction into the **Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame** where he is seen holding the bat.

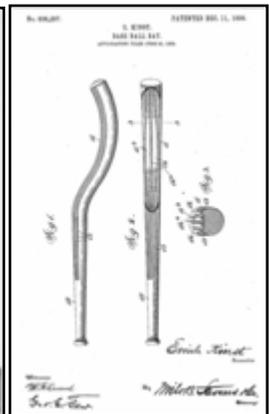


Upon seeing David's request, the 1912 photo suddenly came to mind – aha, Sullivan was about to *bend* the bat over Kuhn's hard head, and Kuhn's brief major league career did decline after 1912, and...well, OK...this is silly. We need another explanation for that bat.

A clue can be found in the 1/18/1911 *Chicago Tribune*. An article mentions “Emil Kindt, inventor, manufacturer, exponent, promoter, and friend of the curved bat, was among those who visited Cubs' headquarters.....four hundred of the funny looking bats are being turned and will be distributed among the different clubs...” David learned from HoF that they were called banana bats, and that a date stamp on this bat of “Dec. 11, 1906” is a patent date. A search turned up the patent, far right, issued to Emil Kindt.



Emil Kindt



So, what was Sullivan doing in that 1912 photo? For that I don't have a straight answer. Readers are encouraged to submit captions. 

Blues Mystery Photo

The team photo below was presented in the last issue. A collector had claimed that it was the 1884 Indianapolis Blues of the American Association. However, the faces don't match up well with the members of that club. **Nigel Ayres** had been doing research on this image, and he speculated that it may be an earlier Indy Blues team, perhaps the 1877 Alliance League club.



Nineteenth century Indianapolis baseball expert **David Ball** provided some useful insight. With the absence of Edward “The Only” Nolan from the photo, David thought it very unlikely that this photo could be the 1877 Indy team. Given the Terre Haute studio mark on the photo, he stated, “...if there was a team known as the *Terre Haute Blues*, I think that would make the supposition that they are the ones in the picture pretty likely.”

Picking up on that suggestion, Nigel found a fascinating 1980 oral history interview of Terre Haute resident **Paul Frisz**. Frisz stated

that in 1882 there were 2 prominent teams in existence in Terre Haute. One was known as the Terre Haute Awkwards, and significantly, the other was the Terre Haute Blues.

Quoting Mr. Frisz, “...1882...they weren't really professional, but they imported some players, outstanding players...we had two teams...one was called the Terre Haute Awkwards...the other one was the Terre Haute Blues.”

The entire interview can be found at:
www.vigo.lib.in.us/archives/OralHistory/frisz/part01.pdf

Wrong Pitch

Boston Red Sox owner John I. Taylor was featured in this Oct. 27, 1910 supplement to *The Sporting News*, right. While Taylor was eventually successful in pitching the idea of a new ballpark for his team (Fenway Park), as far as we know, pitching baseballs was not one of his skills.

In spite of that, in at least three books, this photo has been identified as John “Jack” W. Taylor, well-known and controversial NL pitcher (of baseballs) with the Cubs and Cardinals from 1898 – 1907.

Though John I. looks nothing like Jack W., the wrong ID has appeared in *Chicago Aces – The First 75 Years*, by Mark Rucker and John Freyer, the informative and entertaining *Cubs Journal – Year by Year and Day by Day with the Chicago Cubs*, by John Snyder, and the well-researched *Baseball in St. Louis*, by Steve Steinberg.

A good rule of thumb for authors is to *always* check the face. No matter what the source of the photo claims, if it doesn’t seem right, it probably isn’t. 🤖

SUPPLEMENT TO
The Sporting News
ST. LOUIS, OCT. 27, 1910



Taylor the pitcher



Taylor the owner



JOHN I. TAYLOR
owner, president

BASEBALL MEMORIES 1900 -1909, Marc Okonen

San Bernardino Urbita Stars – Who Are These Guys?

Reader/author **Brian Campf** also provided this 1912 real photo postcard picturing the San Bernardino Urbita Stars of California Winter League. It can also be seen in the *Arcadia Press Postcard History Series – San Bernardino* by **Stephen Shaw**.



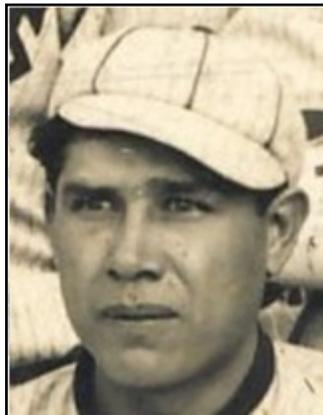
Box scores and rosters for CWL teams are hard to find. Apparently the league received very little newspaper coverage. That makes identifying the players in this photo much more difficult. So far we have:



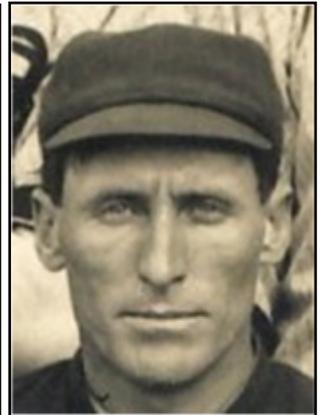
Robert Ashley Smith



Heinie Heitmuller



Chief Meyers



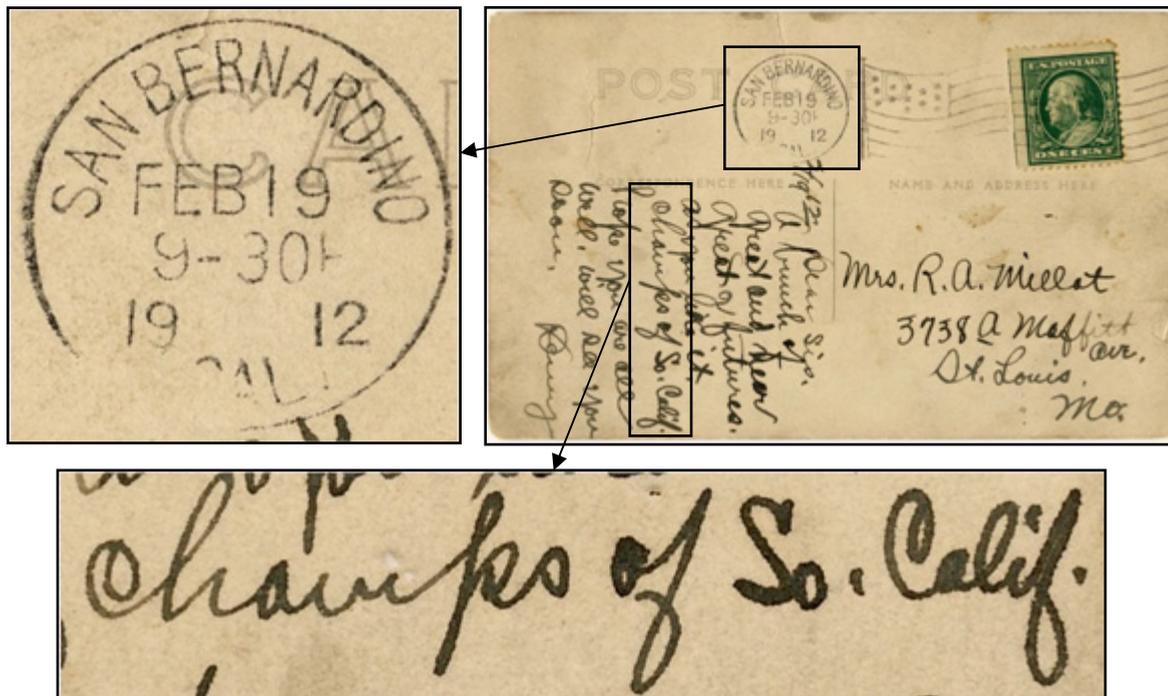
Dave Altizer

The ID's for Heitmuller and Altizer were facilitated by their A's and Red's uniforms, respectively. Chief Meyers is hard to overlook. Pitcher Bob Smith along with battery-mate Meyers were in fact reported to be on the team in a short newspaper story dated 2/11/1912.

→Continued on next page

In his 2008 book, *The California Winter League*, author **William F. McNeil** did not identify a league champion for 1911-12 because of insufficient data. Noting the February 1912 postmark on the postcard, below left, and the phrase in the message “champs of So. Calif.,” there is at least some evidence that the Urbita Stars won the title that year.

If anyone has any further information about this photo please let us know. 🇺🇸



Mystery Photos

The head-shot, near right, comes from the collection of **Dennis Goldstein**. Identity, date and uniform are unknown.

The Cardinal, far right, was submitted by a reader. It was claimed to be dated 1905, but it appears to be a 1930's Cards uniform. On the mat it says “Habana” and “O’Reilly”. The player ID is unknown.

If anyone has any thoughts about either of these, please let us know. 🇺🇸



Thanks to Nigel Ayres, David Ball, Brian Campf, Bill Hickman, Graig Kreindler, Larry Lester, Todd Peterson, Tom Shieber, and David Stalker for their assistance with and/or contributions to this issue. If you have a comment on this issue, or a photo or a relevant article that you would like to submit for a future issue, please send it to Mark Fimoff, bmarlowe@comcast.net.