



**Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report**  
February 1997

## Smiling Mickey's Real Name

Jim Pereira was attempting to find the gravesite of Smiling Mickey Welch. However, the cemetery where he was supposedly buried, Calvary in Queens, New York, insisted there was nobody there by that name.

Jim contacted the Hall of Fame, and in Welch's file was a letter from his daughter explaining that his real name was Walsh and he became Welch during his baseball career.

Jim went back to Calvary Cemetery and was then able to find the gravestone. On the gravestone was inscribed:

"Erected by Michael Walsh in memory of his beloved mother Bridget Walsh died October 1, 1887, aged 63 years. Also her daughter Mary, died November 9, 1862, aged 5 years, 3 months, and 3 days. His beloved father John Joseph Walsh native of Toomevara, division of Nenach County, Tipperary, Ireland, died December 11, 1900. Also his beloved wife Mary Whelihan Walsh, died October 12, 1935, aged 74 years. Smiling Mickey Walsh, born July 4, 1859, died July 30, 1941."

This proof of Mickey Welch's real name earns Jim the February *Find of the Month* award.

### Princeton Players

Greg Beston is a student at Princeton and has volunteered to do research on ballplayers from Princeton. If anyone needs any information, they can contact Greg at:

73 Spelman Hall

Princeton University  
Princeton, New Jersey 08544  
(609) 258-9857  
gmbeston@princeton.edu

### Member Movement

Rick Johnson has moved. Rick's new address is 4110 205th Place SW, Lynnwood, Washington 98036. Please welcome Woody Wilson to the committee. Woody's address is PO Box 160104, Sacramento, California 95816 and his code number will be W6.

### A Question

Cliff Otto noticed that Earle Brucker, Jr. made his major league debut in 1948, only 11 years after his father, Earle, Sr. He wonders if that is the shortest period of time between father-son debuts. What is the longest period of time? Readers?

### More On Farley

You'll recall last month's *Mystery of the Month* on Thomas Farley. Joe Simenic found a note that indicates we may have the wrong man. This is from the 12/03/1892 edition of Sporting Life:

"Lawrence Farley, an ex-member of the Washington Base Ball club, on Thursday last (November 24) shot and instantly killed Michael Minnaugh, a saloon-keeper at Second and Cherry streets, Alton, Illinois. The men were brothers-in-law and business partners, and differences growing out of the partnership led to the tragedy." Anyone want to check in Alton for this?

### Presidential Trivia

Here is an oddity. In 1962 and 1963, The Washington Senators had an infielder by the

name of John Kennedy. Also in Washington those years was another John Kennedy, who happened to be President. (I'm filling you guys in who just follow baseball.) Anyway, both of them had the same birthday, May 29.

## More Presidential Trivia

This note appeared in the April 13, 1921 Paris, Texas newspaper:

"No lesser person than the President of the United States was responsible for Wilbur Cooper, star lefthander with the Pittsburgh Pirates, getting his first big league tryout. Mr. Harding was one of the principle backers of his hometown club in Marion, Ohio. Cooper was just starting and the future president decided that Cooper's pitching in Marion was so good that he ought to have a chance to go ahead. Mr. Harding got him a chance with the Cleveland club and the Indians were dropping him when the Pirates picked him up."

Did you ever think you'd see Warren Harding's name mentioned in connection with baseball?

## Art Merewether

Art Merewether, who had been one of our oldest living former players, died on February 2 at the age of 94. Merewether's baseball career consisted of one pinch-hitting appearance with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1922. Len Levin sent me a copy of Merewether's obituary and it seems that playing major league baseball was not Merewether's main claim to fame. Here is an excerpt from his obituary:

"A 1922 graduate of Brown University, he excelled in baseball and in 1971 was inducted into the Brown University Athletic Hall of Fame. He had one at bat with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

In 1925 he received a master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was captain of the baseball team.

He served in the military from 1929 to 1946, and was chief of the Army Air Corps Weather Service from 1939 to 1942. From 1942 to 1946 he commanded the 8th Weather Region in the North Atlantic. After his retirement, he served as chief meteorologist for American Airlines for 20 years. He was president of the American Meteorological Society from 1954 to 1956.

In 1943, on a routine flight over Labrador, he

discovered a meteor crater, later officially named Merewether Crater and Merewether Lake.

He received several honors and awards, including the Legion of Merit, an honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire, the Gorrell Award of the Air Transport Association, and the Losey Award of the Institute of Aeronautical Services. A scholarship for meteorology, in his name, is being established by the American Meteorological Society in Boston."

## Birthday List

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

March 2	Arthur Weis	96
	Woody English	90
March 10	Arthur Herring	90
March 11	William Lawrence	91
March 21	Joseph Samuels	92
March 24	Gus Dugas	90

## Wasn't This Guy In *Field of Dreams*?

Our *Mystery of the Month* for February comes from Joe Simenic. The encyclopedias show that an outfielder named Kinsler played in one game (June 8, 1893) with the New York Giants and that he was born in Staten Island, New York.

Sporting Life (June 17, 1893, page 4) wrote: "New York vs. Pittsburg at New York, June 8 - Kinsler, a youth who caught in some of the preliminary games early in the spring, covered right field."

The late Tom Shea once wrote: "I've always thought this fellow might be Kinsella, a contemporary ballplayer at the University of Vermont. As I recollect, he came from the New York area - Staten Island?"

Sporting Life in the spring of 1893 carried college box scores as well as box scores of major league spring training games. On April 11, the University of Vermont played the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and Kinsella was Vermont's catcher. The following day (April 12) in Newark, New Jersey the New York Giants played the Star Athletic Club and Kinsler was New York's catcher. Is this where Tom Shea got to thinking about the similarity of names?

Several years ago, Joe wrote to the University of Vermont requesting information about Kinsella and he received the following reply from the office of Alumni Relations:

"We researched our records from 1893 to 1899

and only found one person with the last name Kinsella (Dr. Lawrence Kinsella). Kinsella's index card from our necrology file showed Ex. 1895. The 'Ex' stands for expired. It is possible that this is the person you are looking for even though his death date, according to our records, is only two years after your records show him as playing baseball at our school. Unfortunately, this is the only information we have."

It sounds like it might be worth checking the Newark newspapers for April 13, 1893 to see if they have any further information on the exhibition game. Anyone want to take that on?

### The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14646	70	99.524
Total Complete Births	13970	746	94.931
Total Complete Deaths	7283	468	49.490
Total Assumed Alive	6965		47.329
Total Bats	13364	1246	91.472
Total Throws	13613	997	93.176
Total Heights	13610	1000	93.155
Total Weights	13545	1065	92.711
Total Debut Dates	14716	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9980	4736	67.817
Total Completion			92.1769

## New Monthly Data

### Questionnaires Received:

### New Information Received:

1949 Abrams, Calvin Ross	D: <u>Feb 25 1997</u> <u>Et. Lauderdale, Florida</u>	(C1)
1946 Adams, Robert Henry	D: <u>Feb 13 1997</u> <u>Gig Harbor, Washington</u>	(C1)
1945 Bosser, Melvin Edward	B: <u>Feb 8 1914</u> D: <u>Mar 26 1986</u> <u>Crossville, Tennessee</u>	(Q1)
1884 Firth, Theodore John	Name: <u>John E. Firth</u> B: <u>1856</u> <u>Massachusetts</u> D: <u>Jun 23 1902</u> <u>Tewksbury, Massachusetts</u>	(S1)
1922 Genewich, Joseph Edward	Debut: <u>Sep 3 1922</u>	(T3)
1930 Gullic, Theodore Jasper	Name: <u>Tedd Jasper Gullic</u>	(D6)
1914 Howard, Ivon Chester	Name: <u>Ivan Chester Howard</u>	(S1)
1937 Huffman, Benjamin Franklin	Name: <u>Bennie F Huffman</u> B: <u>Jul 18 1914</u>	(C1)
1959 McCardell, Roger Morton	D: <u>Nov 13 1996</u> <u>Perry Point, Maryland</u>	(C1)
1922 Merewether, Arthur Francis	D: <u>Feb 2 1997</u> <u>Bayside, New York</u>	(C1)
1939 Salvo, Manuel	D: <u>Feb 7 1997</u> <u>Vallejo, California</u>	(C1)
1880 Welch, Michael Francis	Real name: <u>Michael Francis Walsh</u>	(P5)