

**SABR**  
**Biographical Research Committee**  
**November/December 2002 Report**

### **A Brand New 1936 Ford**

This is hard to believe but Rick Benner discovered a new ballplayer who made his debut in 1936. Eugene Ford had been listed as pitching 2 games for the Boston Braves in 1936. One was in June and one was in September. Gene Ford, a former University of Iowa pitcher, made the start in June, then was optioned to the minors where he injured his arm and was out for the season.

On September 27, the Braves played a doubleheader and started a pitcher named Ford. Ford didn't retire a batter and was replaced by Guy Bush. The Boston papers clearly state that this was Bill Ford and he had attended Penn State. Rick contacted Penn State and obtained all the biographical information on him. He was Billy Southworth, Jr.'s college roommate. It's amazing that we actually have a new player from as late as 1936, but it was a great job of research by Rick Benner to discover this. Rick wins the *Find of the Month* award.

### **Sufferin' Succotash**

Louis Sylvester has been a mystery for years. We knew that he was born in Springfield, Illinois in 1855. He appears in the 1880 Illinois census with his wife Jennie and he worked in a watch factory. His parents are also there and they were born in the Madera Islands. In the 1900 census, he reappears in San Diego with his brother George. And is still there in 1920 listed as a painter. George dies in 1946 in San Diego, but Louis disappeared. A Louis Sylvester that was the right approximate age was run over by a car in Stockton, California in 1935 and for years we thought this was the ballplayer, but couldn't prove it. Richard Malatzky found this Louis Sylvester in the 1930 California census and he as born in 1967 in Italy and came to the US in 1890. Hence, this wasn't him.

Richard tried to find another Louis Sylvester in the 1930 census, but was unsuccessful. So he decided to get creative. He tried any Sylvesters born in Illinois and found Lenis J. Sylvester, age 75, living in Brooklyn. A look at the census image showed that this was really Lewis J. Sylvester, parents born in Madeira, wife Jennie, and he was a watchmaker. Obviously, this is our missing player. Richard then checked the New York City deaths and found that he died May 5, 1936 in Brooklyn. It's unusual for someone to move from California to New York that late in life. This is a great find.

### **Pulling a Fass One**

In 1887, a man listed simply as Fast pitched 4 games for Indianapolis. A note found in the Sporting News identified this player as Fred Foss, who had come to Indianapolis from Milwaukee and had been a teacher in the Milwaukee school system. Several years ago, Richard Topp was able to determine that this was Frederick P. Fass, born October 30, 1859 in Milwaukee; however, he disappeared from Milwaukee around the turn of the century. Richard Malatzky searched for this player in the 1920 census and found a likely candidate living in Pueblo, Colorado. Peter Morris found that he died July 5, 1930 in Pueblo County and informed Jay Sanford. Jay was able to contact the player's grandson, who not only confirmed that he was a ballplayer, but even had one of his old gloves! Great work by all involved.

## **Often Has Not Been Forgotten**

We listed Joseph G. Often as catching for St. Louis in 1895. Richard Malatzky found several citations in both Sporting Life and the St. Louis Post Dispatch that this was John G. Often. The key to the search was a note in the Post Dispatch that Often was from Chicago and was a bookbinder by trade. Richard found a listing in the 1888 Chicago city directory listing John G. Often as a bookbinder. Richard then was able to locate his death in Chicago in 1905 and his obituary confirmed that he was the man we are seeking.

## **A Dancing Daisy**

George Daisy played in one game for Altoona in 1884. Reed Howard found a note that Daisy had been a dance instructor in Altoona. Armed with this information, Richard Malatzky was able to find the Daisy family living in Gloucester, New Jersey. In the 1920 census, Daisy sprouts up in Cumberland, Maryland and is listed as a "dancing master." He is listed the same way in the 1930 Maryland census and Richard was able find the obituary for Daisy planted in the Cumberland newspaper.

## **James Burns**

Richard Malatzky was able to locate James M. Burns. He found an obituary in the Quincy, Illinois newspaper that was quite detailed. It delineated his baseball career, mentioning that he played for Kansas City and Washington. He died in Chicago and Richard had a long wait for the death certificate to arrive, but obviously, this is our missing player.

## **The Right Guy?**

Sean Forman forwarded me an e-mail from a lady that states the following:

"I am the daughter of Andrew John Bednar. He was born July 13, 1917 in Streator, IL. Andy played baseball. I am unaware of Andrew Jackson Bednar born in Streator. Is this a mix up with my father? Where do I find more about the man listed?"

Are we sure our information on Bednar is correct? Obviously Andrew John Bednar is not the major leaguer, but perhaps we have the birth information on Andrew Jackson Bednar incorrect. Bednar died in an auto accident November 26, 1937 in Graham, Texas. Can someone check into that? I will make this one our *Mystery of the Month*.

## **Another Brother**

In addition to the relatives listed among the 2002 rookies last month, Wil Nieves is the brother of Melvin Nieves. Thanks to Joe Naiman for providing this information.

## Birthday List

The following players are celebrating birthdays in January and February, Be sure to send them a card.

January 1	Charles Devens	93
January 3	Gus Suhr	97
January 17	Ray Cunningham	98
January 20	James Outlaw	90
February 13	Ernest Rudolph	94
	Herbert Hash	92
February 15	Bob Cremins	97
February 20	Tommy Henrich	90
February 22	Bill Baker	92

## New Address And Phone Number For Committee Chairman

I have moved and my new address is: Bill Carle, 909 SW Corine Court, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64081. My new phone number is 816-554-9820.

## New Members

Please welcome Rob Martindale to the committee. Rob's address is 1423 Oakbrook St., Lancaster, TX 75134 and his code number will be M2. Also welcome Dave McNeal, 822 Poppy Drive, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895. Dave's code number will be M9.

## Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Names	15875	57	99.642
Births	15242	690	95.669
Assumed Alive	7650		48.017
Deaths	7907	375	49.630
Bats	14628	1193	92.459
Throws	14864	957	93.951
Heights	14942	879	94.444
Weights	14900	921	94.179
Debut Dates	15932	0	100.000
Questionnaires	9984	5948	62.666
Total			92.2907

## New Monthly Data

### Questionnaires Received:

None

### New Information Received:

2002	Alvarez, Victor	Name: Victor <u>Aurelio</u> Alvarez	(W1)
2002	Amezaga, Alfredo	Name: Alfredo Amezaga <u>(Delgado)</u>	(W1)
1948	Arft, Henry Irvn	D: <u>Dec 14 2002</u>	(C1)
		<u>St. Louis, Missouri</u>	
1960	Barber, Stephen David	B: Feb 22 <u>1938</u>	(CL)
1872	Barlow, Thomas H.	B: <u>1852</u>	(M3)
		<u>New York</u>	
2002	Bedard, Erik Joseph	B: Mar <u>5</u> 1979	(H9)
1924	Begley, James Lawrence	D: Feb <u>22</u> 1957	(B6)
1954	Bullard, George Donald	D: <u>Dec 23 2002</u>	(D6)
		<u>Lynn, Massachusetts</u>	
1888	Burns, James M.	B: <u>St. Louis, Missouri</u>	(M3)
		D: <u>Feb 17 1909</u>	
		<u>Chicago, Illinois</u>	
1871	Carleton, James Leslie	B: Aug <u>20</u> 1848	(M4)
1884	Daisey, George K.	Name: George <u>R. Daisy</u>	(M3)
		B: <u>1857</u>	
		<u>Gloucester, New Jersey</u>	
		D: <u>Apr 27 1931</u>	
		<u>Cumberland, Maryland</u>	
2002	Davis, Jason T.	Name: Jason <u>Thomas</u> Davis	(W1)
1996	Dessens, Elmer	B: Jan 13 <u>1971</u>	(P1)
2002	Diggins, Benjamin H.	Name: Benjamin <u>Howard</u> Diggins	(W1)
1905	Disch, George Charles	<u>IR</u>	(M4)
2002	Eckenstahler, Eric R.	Name: Eric <u>Ryan</u> Eckenstahler	(W1)
1910	Elliott, Harold B.	Name: Harold <u>Bell</u> Elliott	(B6)
1887	Fast,	Name: <u>Frederick Peter Fass</u>	(M4)
		B: <u>Oct 30 1859</u>	
		D: <u>Jul 5 1930</u>	
		<u>Burnt Mill, Colorado</u>	
1936	Ford, William B.	New Player	(B7)
		B: <u>Oct 14 1915</u>	
		<u>Buena Vista, Pennsylvania</u>	
		D: <u>Apr 6 1994</u>	
		<u>Jefferson, Pennsylvania</u>	
		<u>BRT</u> Height: <u>6-02</u> Weight: <u>200</u>	
		Debut: <u>Sep 27 1936</u>	
1942	Freed, Edwin Charles	D: <u>Nov 15 2002</u>	(C1)
		<u>Rock Hill, South Carolina</u>	
1871	Goldsmith, Warren M.	D: <u>Washington, D.C.</u>	(M4)
1916	Hasbrook, Robert Lyndon	Real Name: <u>Robert Lyndon Hasbrouck</u>	(D7)

2002	Hendrickson, Mark A.	Name: Mark <u>Allan</u> Hendrickson	(W1)
1937	Henrich, Thomas David	B: Feb 20 <u>1910</u>	(C1)
1944	Henry, Earl Clifford	D: <u>Dec 10 2002</u>	(H9)
		<u>Zanesville, Ohio</u>	
1936	Henry, James Francis	B: Danville, <u>Virginia</u>	(N4)
1977	Hernandez, Guillermo (Villanueva)	Debut: Apr <u>9 1977</u>	(V1)
1941	Hughson, Cecil Carlton	D: <u>San Marcos, Texas</u>	(F4)
1871	Jackson, Samuel	D: Aug 4 <u>1930</u>	(A3)
1911	James, William Henry	D: May <u>25 1942</u>	(B6)
1916	Johnson, William Lawrence	D: Nov <u>15 1950</u>	(B6)
1922	Knight, Elma Russell	Name: <u>Elmer</u> Russell Knight	(F4)
1912	Lamline, Frederick Arthur	Name: Frederick Arthur <u>Lamlein</u>	(H9)
		Delete real name	
1943	Lazor, John Paul	D: <u>Dec 9 2002</u>	(O2)
		<u>Renton, Washington</u>	
2002	Lewis, Colby P.	Name: Colby <u>Preston</u> Lewis	(W1)
1923	Lucas, Charles Frederick	Name: Charles <u>Fred</u> Lucas	(Q1)
2002	Lunsford, James L.	Name: James <u>Lewis</u> Lunsford	(W1)
1962	McNally, David Arthur	D: <u>Dec 1 2002</u>	(C1)
		<u>Billings, Montana</u>	
1890	Millard, Frank E.	D: <u>Dallas, Texas</u>	(M2)
1895	Otten, Joseph G.	Name: <u>John G.</u> Otten	(M3)
		B: <u>Aug 1870</u>	
		<u>Netherlands</u>	
		D: <u>Oct 17 1905</u>	
		<u>Chicago, Illinois</u>	
		Weight: <u>175</u>	
2002	Pearson, Terry G.	Name: Terry <u>Bobby Gene</u> Pearson	(W1)
2002	Pember, David J.	Name: David <u>Joseph</u> Pember	(W1)
2002	Perez, Oliver	Name: Oliver Perez ( <u>Martinez</u> )	(W1)
1938	Potter, Maryland Dykes	B: <u>Nov 18 1910</u>	(F4)
1939	Raffensberger, Kenneth David	D: <u>Nov 10 2002</u>	(C1)
		<u>York, Pennsylvania</u>	
1960	Rakow, Edward Charles	B: May 30 <u>1935</u>	(S3)
		D: <u>Aug 26 2000</u>	
		<u>West Palm Beach, Florida</u>	
1929	Rhodes, John Gordon	D: Mar <u>22 1960</u>	(B6)
2002	Rodriguez, Ricardo Antonio	B: <u>Guayubin</u> , Dominican Republic	(L5)
1895	Sheehan, Timothy James	<u>BL</u>	(M4)
1935	Skaff, Francis Michael	B: Sep 30 <u>1910</u>	(M1)
1947	Spragins, Homer Franklin	D: <u>Dec 10 2002</u>	(O2)
		<u>Minter City, Mississippi</u>	
1958	Stuart, Richard Lee	D: <u>Dec 15 2002</u>	(D6)
		<u>Redwood City, California</u>	
1884	Sylvester, Louis J.	D: <u>May 5 1936</u>	(M3)
		<u>Brooklyn, New York</u>	
2002	Torres, Andres	Name: Andres <u>Vungo</u> Torres ( <u>Feliciano</u> )	(W1)
2002	Vance, Cory	Name: Cory <u>Wade</u> Vance	(W1)
1948	Wade, Benjamin Styron	D: <u>Dec 2 2002</u>	(C1)
		<u>Los Angeles, California</u>	

1944 Wood, Joseph Frank

Name: Joe Frank Wood

(S3)

D: Oct 10 2002

Old Saybrook, Connecticut

1926 Yarnall, Waldo William

Name: Waldo Ward Yarnall

(O4)