



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
December 1991

William Karns Found

Bill Haber captures the last *Find of the Month* for 1991 by tracking down William Arthur Karns of the 1901 Baltimore Orioles. Armed with the knowledge that Karns was born in Iowa and ran a pool hall in Oakland, California, Bill was able to trace him to his death in 1941 in Seattle. His obituary fails to mention baseball (Gee, I hope mine does) but it is quite obviously our missing boy. Good work!

Beaver, I'm Worried About The Wards

My headlines get more ridiculous every month. Any way, we have a new major leaguer. We had listed John E. Ward as playing for Washington (UA) in 1884 and Providence (NL) in 1885. Ralph Horton has determined that these are two different players. The Providence pitcher was picked up in St. Louis to start in place of Dupee Shaw when Shaw was beset with arm trouble. Ward hailed from East St. Louis, Illinois. The Ward with Washington was a local Washington outfielder. Many years ago these were two separate players but somewhere along the way they were mistakenly combined. We needed another player to track down anyway.

1992 Arrives

I realize that to most of you that isn't news. (I worry about those of you who didn't know that.) But 1992 brings great news for the biographical committee. After 72 years of waiting, the 1920 census will be made public. It arrives in my library in Kansas City in March and I am looking forward to that like I look forward to going out with Michelle Pfeiffer. (Actually, I probably look forward to the 1920 census more since my

chances of finding Harry Decker are probably better than finding Michelle Pfeiffer.) Anyway, I am hoping that the 1920 census will lead us to many of our missing players.

New Members

Please welcome Robert Schulz, 629 Second Street East, Fort Frances, Ontario P9A 1N6 to the committee. Robert's code number will be X3. Also welcome Chuck Hershberger, 959 W. Drayton, Ferndale, Michigan 48220. Chuck's code number will be H7.

A New Employee

Our committee added another full-time employee on December 31 when Joe Simenic retired from the *Cleveland Plain-Dealer* after 44 years service. Joe began with the paper in January of 1948 and if you would like a little historical perspective on how long ago that was, the World Champions that year were the Cleveland Indians. The Indians obviously decided that they weren't going to win it again until Joe retired. Bet the Tribe in '92.

Help a Fellow SABRite

Darryl Brock would like any biographical information anyone has on Cal McVey. He would especially like to locate a surviving relative as he is doing research on the Cincinnati Red Stockings. If anyone can help him, please write Darryl at the address in the directory.

The Unsung Hero

We on the biographical committee owe a lot to the patriarchs of biographical research. Ernie Lanigan put out the *Baseball Encyclopedia* in 1922; S. C. Thompson and Hy Turkin put out the first *Encyclopedia of Baseball* in 1951; Lee Allen spent many years tracking down missing ballplayers. However, one name you seldom hear

mentioned in the same breath with those folks is our own Tom Shea.

Recently, Dick Thompson sent me a copy of some correspondence Tom had with S. C. Thompson, Lee Allen, and Ernie Lanigan, among others. It is amazing to see the quantity of information that Tom provided those people. In fact, in one letter Thompson tells Tom to take Hy Turkin "under his wing" and "show him the ropes." It seems obvious that we should be referring to the Shea/Thompson encyclopedia rather than Thompson/Turkin.

As many of you know, Tom suffered a stroke a couple of years ago and now lives in a nursing home. He might appreciate receiving a card because if not for people like him, our scoreboard would look pretty poor.

Birthday List

Well, again last month I gave you a nonagenarian who had already died since I was unaware that Allen Conkwright passed away in July. But we have several players celebrating birthdays in January. Feel free to send them a card.

Jan 6	Bob Barnes	90
Jan 12	Joe Hauser	93
Jan 16	George Fisher	93
Jan 27	Milt Gaston	96

Jan 28 Pat Crawford 90

Rowe, Rowe, Rowe Your Boat

The manager with possibly the worst record this side of Moose Stubing has been missing for many years and I can't believe we haven't found him. Dave Rowe is the brother of Jack Rowe, who died April 25, 1911 in St. Louis. Jack's obituary didn't list a surviving brother (or much of anything else) but he certainly could have still been alive. Dave is listed with the nickname of Eli which could imply that he attended Yale. At one time we listed a 10/12/1918 death date but no death place. I have no idea of the source for that. In 1915 he was living at 711 8th Street in Denver, Colorado. He apparently didn't die in Denver on that date. Rowe is on our *Top 20 Most Wanted List* and it doesn't seem like he would be tough to track down.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	13707	75	99.456
Total Complete Births	12959	823	94.028
Total Complete Deaths	6750	511	48.977
Total Assumed Alive	6521		47.315
Total Bats	12370	1311	90.417
Total Throws	12643	1038	92.413
Total Heights	12534	1147	91.616
Total Weights	12455	1226	91.039
Total Debut Dates	13782	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9902	3880	71.847
Total Completion			91.9101

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1937 Andrews, Nathan Hardy	D: <u>Apr 26 1991</u> <u>Winston-Salem, North Carolina</u>	(H1)
1947 Brown, Walter Irving	D: <u>Feb 3 1991</u> <u>Westfield, New York</u>	(S3)
1920 Conkwright, Allen Howard	D: <u>Jul 30 1991</u> <u>La Mesa, California</u>	(S3)
1909 Cooney, William A.	B: <u>Apr 7 1883</u>	(T3)
1871 Donnelly, Peter J.	D: <u>Oct 1 1890</u>	(D2)
1942 Flores, Jesse Sandoval	D: <u>Dec 1991</u> <u>California</u>	(W1)
1896 Friend, Frank B.	Real Name: <u>Frederick Freund</u> D: <u>Sep 5 1897</u>	(D2)
1939 Glossop, Alban	Is Deceased	(H1)
1901 Karns, William Arthur	B: <u>Dec 28 1875</u> <u>Richmond, Iowa</u> D: <u>Nov 15 1941</u> <u>Seattle, Washington</u> BL	(H1)
1964 Kelley, Richard Anthony	D: <u>Dec 12 1991</u> <u>Northridge, California</u>	(S4)
1937 Keltner, Kenneth Frederick	D: <u>Dec 12 1991</u> <u>New Berlin, Wisconsin</u>	(C1)
1991 Magallanes, Everardo	Name: <u>Everardo Magallanes y Espinoza</u>	(H1)
1906 Nealon, James Joseph	BRTR	(B3)
1947 Stephens, Bryan Maris	D: <u>Nov 21 1991</u> <u>Santa Ana, California</u>	(H1)
1888 Sullivan, Michael Joseph	D: <u>Jun 16 1929</u>	(T3)
1889 Traffley, John	Name: <u>John M. Traffley</u> D: <u>May 15 1900</u>	(D2)
1885 Ward, John	New Player. B: <u>East St. Louis, Illinois</u> Debut: <u>Sep 19 1885</u>	(H5)
1884 Ward, John E.	Delete 1885 Providence entry.	(H5)
1927 Wilke, Henry Joseph	D: <u>Hamilton, Ohio</u>	(H1)