



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
November/December 1999

Birthplace of Byung-Hyun Kim Identified

When Byung-Hyun Kim made his major league debut in 1999, his birthplace was listed as Kwangsan-ku Songjungdong, South Korea. I spoke with a Korean friend of mine, who told me that a town listed like that is an area of a larger city and not really a town itself.

Cliff Otto did some research into Korean cities and consulted some Koreans he knew and found that Kim was really born in Kwangju. So for saving me all that typing, Cliff wins the November/December *Find of the Month* award.

New Members

Please welcome Brian Wigley to the biographical committee. Brian's address is 1001 Winding Road, College Station, Texas 77845. Brian's code number will be W6.

Member Renewal

Speaking of committee membership, now is the time to let me know if you wish to remain on the committee in 2000. If I don't hear from you by January 31, you will be dropped from the mailing list. Either write me or send me an e-mail at Bbxpert@aol.com.

What's in a Name?

Ted DiTullio sent me an interesting note about meanings of names. For example, in French, Lajoie means "the joy." DiMaggio means "the month of May" in Italian. Torre is "tower" in Italian and Larussa is "the red one." (good thing

he manages the Cardinals) DuBois in French is "wood" while Arroyo is "ditch" in Spanish. Del Greco is "the Greek" in Italian. Pasqua means "Easter" in Italian and Piniella means "little pin." (That doesn't seem to fit Lou, does it?) Antonelli means "little Anthony." Monteleone means "mountain lion." Finally, I'm sure there is some language where Carle means "handsome."

Hello, Happy Birthday, So Long

The following article was written by Rich Thurston.

What did Bucky Harris, Joe Tinker, Gabby Hartnett, Del Howard, Bobby Byrne, Swede Risberg, Bill Delancey, Clyde Shoun, Jim Prendergast, Bob Moose and only twenty other major leaguers have in common? They all died on their birthdays. This group of thirty men whose lives showed this fearful symmetry comprises an interesting collection. They include five nineteenth-century bit players (Bill Tobin, Hickey Hoffman, Charlie Baker, Abe Wolstenholme, and Frank Millard), another seven from the deadball era (Lefty Davis, Cy Ferry, Larry Pape, Pat Hynes, Medric Boucher, Ray Boyd, and Fred Bailey), and eight more from the twenties through fifties (Ole Olsen, Jim Riley, Billy Riel, Art McLarney, Emil Bildilli, Andy Karl, Chico Hernandez, and Dutch Romberger), in addition to the more notable ten that were listed first.

Of course, any randomly selected group of thirty ballplayers would yield some statistical oddities, but some things about this group are truly weird. All three of the Hall of Famers were playing managers in several seasons. Risberg and Moose are remembered more for dubious distinctions than for positive performances: the youngest participant in the Black Sox scandal, and the originator of the wild pitch ending the 1972 NLCS. Delancey was Dizzy Dean's catcher in the 1935 World Series, and Shoun was the man the Cubs traded for Dizzy. Howard backed up Frank Chance on the

1907-1908 world champs; Byrne started on the 1909 and 1915 NL pennant winners. Prendergast contributed a win and a save as a thirty-one-year-old rookie for the league-leading 1948 Boston Braves. The other twenty are probably remembered only by their families (with the possible exception of "Hill Billy" Bildilli, a nickname for the ages).

As of the end of 1998, we knew the dates of birth and death for 7093 major leaguers, give or take a few. Statistically, we would expect that about nineteen of these would fit this category of dying on their birthday; instead we find thirty. There seems to be something about leap years that encourages this phenomenon: one fourth of thirty occurrences is 7.5, but of this group, ten were born in a leap year, and thirteen died in a leap year.

No one born in June is in this group. No one who ever played on the Yankees is in this group. The phenomenon has only happened once so far in the 1990's, but six times in the 1970's, and five times in the 1980's. Chico Hernandez precisely lived out his biblical three score and ten, 1/3/16 to 1/3/86; Bobby Byrne, "by reason of strength, four score," from the last day of 1884 to the last day of 1964. Del Howard was born and died on Christmas Eve. Frank Millard checked in and checked out on the Fourth of July. A model of consistency, Abraham Lincoln Wolstenholme was born on March 4, 1861, the day of the Great Emancipator's first inauguration as president; played three games during the 1883 season; and died on March 4, 1916, all in the City of Brotherly Love. And Clyde Shoun, the man they called "Hardrock" long before the Cafes emerged, must have liked the higher elevations. He was born in Mountain City, in the extreme northeastern corner of Tennessee, just outside the eponymous community of Shouns, on March 20, 1912; exactly fifty-six years later he died, a few miles to the southwest in the town of Mountain Home.

Another Hall of Fame

Cappy Gagnon was in Norcross, Georgia recently and stopped in at the Norcross Baseball Hall of Fame. I'm sure all of you have that on your itinerary for your next baseball excursion. They list 4 major leaguers as being from Norcross, Cleo and Roy Carlyle, and Red and Ivy Wingo. Red Wingo is the only one actually born there. And for the record, Red Wingo is also the only player with the first name of Absalom. I'm going to go out on a limb here and

predict he will be the last.

Birthday List

2000 shapes up as a banner year for nonagenarians. We have no less than 20 former players who will turn 90 this year. Here is the birthday list for January and February.

Jan 1	Charles Devens	90
Jan 2	Tedd Gullic	93
Jan 3	Frenchy Bordagaray	90
	Gus Suhr	94
Jan 17	Ray Cunningham	95
Jan 29	Ray Hayworth	96
Feb 13	Ernest Rudolph	91
Feb 14	Alex Sabo	90
Feb 15	Bob Cremins	94
Feb 28	Roman Bertrand	91

Did Meaney Skirt Around Us?

Our final *Mystery of the Month* for the millennium is Patrick Meaney, who supposedly played one game for the Tigers in 1912. His game was the game that the Tigers went on strike and used replacement players to fill out the squad.

Patrick Meaney had been a long time minor leaguer, accumulating more than 2000 hits in the minors. He finally made his major league debut at the age of 41 in his home town, yet there was no mention of him in the Philadelphia papers. His obituary never acknowledged that he played in that game. The New York Times apparently showed that the Detroit shortstop that day was Joe Harrigan, an amateur player from the Southpark section of Philadelphia. This sounds like a good one for someone to research.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	15252	68	99.556
Total Complete Births	14585	735	95.202
Total Complete Deaths	7561	439	49.354
Total Assumed Alive	7320		47.781
Total Bats	13965	1247	91.803
Total Throws	14223	989	93.499
Total Heights	14227	985	93.525
Total Weights	14164	1048	93.111
Total Debut Dates	15320	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9984	5336	65.170
Total Completion			92.1083

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1950 Aloma, Luis (Barba)	B: <u>Jun 19 1923</u>	(D7)
1953 Baker, Eugene Walter	D: <u>Dec 1 1999</u>	(O2)
	<u>Davenport, Iowa</u>	
1963 Bearnarth, Lawrence Donald	D: <u>Dec 31 1999</u>	(C1)
	<u>Seminole, Florida</u>	
1998 Beltre, Adrian (Perez)	B: <u>Apr 7 1979</u>	(C1)
1960 Bertell, Richard George	D: <u>Dec 20 1999</u>	(C1)
	<u>Mission Viejo, California</u>	
1946 Budnick, Michael Joe	D: <u>Dec 2 1999</u>	(O2)
	<u>Seattle, Washington</u>	
1957 Dotterer, Henry John	D: <u>Oct 9 1999</u>	(C1)
	<u>Syracuse, New York</u>	
1941 Goletz, Stanley	D: <u>Jun 7 1997</u>	(C1)
	<u>Temple, Texas</u>	
1946 Guintini, Benjamin John	B: <u>Jan 13 1919</u>	(C1)
	D: <u>Dec 2 1998</u>	
	<u>Roseville, California</u>	
1999 Hackman, Luther Gean	B: <u>Columbus, Mississippi</u>	(L5)
1931 Hebert, Wallace Andrew	D: <u>Dec 8 1999</u>	(O2)
	<u>Westlake, Louisiana</u>	
1943 Heltzel, William Wade	D: <u>May 1 1998</u>	(C1)
	<u>York, Pennsylvania</u>	
1948 Kazak, Edward Terrance	D: <u>Dec 15 1999</u>	(C1)
	<u>Austin, Texas</u>	
1999 Kim, Byung-Hyun	B: <u>Jan 19 1979</u>	(O2)
	<u>Kwangju, South Korea</u>	
1941 Kurowski, George John	D: <u>Dec 9 1999</u>	(B6)
	<u>Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania</u>	
1907 Lanford, Lewis Grover	Height: <u>5-07</u>	(D7)
1926 Langford, Elton	B: <u>May 21 1901</u>	(D7)
1920 Lefevre, Alfredo Modesto	Name: <u>Alfred Modesto Lefevre</u>	(D7)
1999 Maddon, Joseph John (MGR)	B: <u>Hazleton, Pennsylvania</u>	(L5)
1914 Meara, Charles Edward	B: <u>Apr 16 1891</u>	(D7)
1937 McLaughlin, Patrick Elmer	D: <u>Nov 1 1999</u>	(D6)
	<u>Houston, Texas</u>	
1948 Milne, William James	D: <u>Apr 11 1999</u>	(C1)
	<u>Mobile, Alabama</u>	
1929 Narieski, William Edward	D: <u>Jun 20 1964</u>	(B6)
1922 Olsen, Arthur	Name: <u>Arthur Ole Olsen</u>	(D7)
1941 Patrick, Robert Lee	D: <u>Oct 6 1999</u>	(D6)
	<u>Fort Smith, Arkansas</u>	
1999 Ramirez, Julio Cesar (Figueroa)	B: <u>San Juan de la Maguana, DR</u>	(L5)

1935 Rogers, Orlin Woodrow	D: <u>Feb 20 1999</u>	(M3)
	<u>Winston-Salem, North Carolina</u>	
1999 Romano, Michael Desport	B: <u>New Orleans, Louisiana</u>	(L5)
1932 Spognardi, Andrea Ettore	D: <u>Jan 1 2000</u>	(T3)
	<u>Dedham, Massachusetts</u>	
1948 Turner, Earl Edwin	D: <u>Oct 20 1999</u>	(PP)
	<u>Lee, Massachusetts</u>	
1999 Veras, Wilton Andres	B: <u>Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic</u>	(L5)
1940 Williams, Robert Fulton	D: <u>Fort Myers, Florida</u>	(L5)
1952 Wolfe, Edward Anthony	B: <u>Jan 2 1928</u>	(C1)