



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
May 1991

Joe Visner Found

We had another great month with several difficult ballplayers tracked down, but the *Find of the Month* goes to Bob Tholkes for locating Joseph Visner, another member of our Top 20 Most Wanted list. Bob teamed up with SABR member Brent Peterson of Stillwater, Minnesota to help follow the trail. Brent was able to locate Visner's marriage record and the death date of his wife which led to Visner's death record in 1945. Interestingly enough, this was another case of Visner's family not knowing his whereabouts. It took an expert baseball researcher to solve the puzzle.

However, Visner is well-remembered by his family as somewhat the "black sheep." He frequently deserted his wife and family. At some point, Joe moved his family from Rochester, New York to Fosston, Minnesota on land he was entitled to through his grandmother, a Chippewa Indian. Visner is quite possibly the first ballplayer of Indian ancestry. Eventually, Joe's wife and children left him and moved back to Rochester. He lived by himself or with relatives after that. At least one relative made him move because of his habits. He was described as a drunk and slovenly. (Funny, that's how my relatives describe me.)

An excellent job of research on the part of Bob Tholkes! Replacing Visner on our Most Wanted list will be Joseph Peploski, who was feature in last month's *Mystery*.

More on Robert Allen

It seems that Rowdy Elliott (a/k/a Bob Allen) had a longer minor league career than we thought. Tom Hufford sends along the following additions to his minor league career:

1923 York (Ny-Penn)
1924 York (NY-Penn)
Reading (International)
1925 York (NY-Penn)
1926 Scranton (NY-Penn)
1927 Newark (International)

Birthday List

There are no nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in June but Harold Laverne Smith turns 89 on June 30 if you'd like to send a card.

New Members

Joey Beretta of 149 Reiten Road #2, Kent, Washington 98031 has joined the committee. Joey's code number will be B8. Also, Martin Lacoste has moved. Martin's new address is 247 Erb Street West, Apt. #20, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 1V8.

Members in the Media

Richard Topp recently appeared on a radio call-in show on WLS in Chicago to talk about SABR. He received calls from all over the country including one from a Kansas City caller grilling him about why he did not have a death date for Harry Decker. Rich was unable to come up with an answer and for some reason thought that I was the caller. Would I do something like that?

Convention News

Our committee meeting is Friday, June 28, at 9:45 A.M. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend. Please send me any items that you would like to discuss. There is also a committee chairmen's meeting on Thursday evening. One of the topics will be committee financing. Another will be guidelines for committee membership. Please send me any thoughts you have on these subjects. I'll look

forward to seeing you all in New York.

Mystery of the Month

I have been wanting to get a more recent player for the *Mystery* so this month we feature Bill Froats. William John Froats was born October 20, 1930 in New York City. He pitched two innings on April 22, 1955 for the Detroit Tigers. This was the extent of his major league career. He attended Notre Dame University and was nicknamed "Nutsy" according to a college teammate. In 1983, Cappy Gagnon tracked him to Edina, Minnesota where he was living with a woman named Beverly Nelson. Froats took Cappy's call and promised to answer his letter. He didn't and then he and Beverly both disappeared. His brother Bob lives in Yorktown, New York and has only periodic contact with Bill. Bill moves around a lot and his family can not keep track of him. Can anyone locate Mr. Froats?

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	13512	75	99.448
Total Complete Births	12756	831	93.884
Total Complete Deaths	6689	517	49.231
Total Assumed Alive	6381		46.964
Total Bats	12167	1320	90.213
Total Throws	12446	1041	92.282
Total Heights	12312	1175	91.288
Total Weights	12235	1252	90.717
Total Debut Dates	13587	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9899	3688	72.856
Total Completion			91.8858

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1919 Allen, Robert	B: <u>Oct 13 1894</u>	(B3)
1928 Blackerby, George Franklin	B: <u>Luther, Oklahoma</u>	(M1)
1886 Boyle, John Anthony	BR	(S8)
1909 Brown, Paul Percival	BRTR Height: <u>6-01</u> Weight: <u>172</u>	(B8)
1938 Cullenbine, Roy Joseph	D: <u>May 28 1991</u>	(C1)
	<u>Mt. Clemens, Michigan</u>	
1955 Donoso y Galeta, Lino	D: <u>Oct 13 1990</u>	(H1)
	<u>Veracruz, Mexico</u>	
1881 Flaherty, Martin	Name: <u>Martin J. Flaherty</u>	(R1)
	B: <u>Sep 24 1853</u>	
	D: <u>Jun 10 1920</u>	
	<u>Providence, Rhode Island</u>	
1888 Freeman, Julius Benjamin	BR	(S8)
1888 Gamble, Robert J.	TR	(S8)
1931 Garland, Louis Lyman	D: <u>Idaho Falls, Idaho</u>	(H1)
1887 Gruber, Henry John	TR	(S8)
1913 Hanson, Joseph	Name: <u>Harry Francis Hanson</u>	(H1)
	B: <u>Jan 17 1896</u>	
	<u>Elgin, Illinois</u>	
	D: <u>Oct 5 1966</u>	
	<u>Savannah, Georgia</u>	
1904 Hickey, John William	Height: <u>5-10</u> Weight: <u>170</u>	(B8)
1888 Hoover, Charles E.	BL	(S8)
1924 Jones, Kenneth Frederick	B: <u>Apr 13 1903</u>	(B3)
	D: <u>May 15 1991</u>	
	<u>Hartford, Connecticut</u>	
1946 Jones, Sheldon Leslie	D: <u>Apr 18 1991</u>	(C1)
	<u>Greenville, North Carolina</u>	
1912 Ketter, Philip	Real name: <u>Philip Ketterer</u>	(C1)
	B: <u>Apr 1883</u>	
	<u>Missouri</u>	
	D: <u>Apr 9 1965</u>	
	<u>St. Louis, Missouri</u>	
1937 LaMaster, Wayne Lee	Name: <u>Noble Wayne LaMaster</u>	(H1)
1954 Leja, Frank John	D: <u>May 3 1991</u>	(S4)
	<u>Boston, Massachusetts</u>	
1871 Leonard, Andrew Jackson	D: <u>Boston, Massachusetts</u>	(R1)
1931 Mallon, Leslie Clyde	D: <u>Apr 17 1991</u>	(H1)
	<u>De Cordova Bend, Texas</u>	
1890 McGuckin, Joseph W.	B: <u>Mar 13 1862</u>	(D2)
1885 McVey, George W.	BRTR	(S8)
1887 Murphy, Patrick J.	TR	(S8)

1883 Orr, David L.	BR	(S8)
1912 Pennock, Herbert Jefferis	B: Feb 10 1894	(T1)
1936 Phebus, Raymond William	D: Bartow, Florida	(H1)
1884 Price, James L. (MGR)	D: Oct 6 1931	(T1)
	Chicago, Illinois	
1887 Roach, John F.	BR	(S8)
1951 Runnels, James Edward	D: May 20 1991	(C1)
	Pasadena, Texas	
1918 Sanders, Roy L.	B: Jun 1895	(C1)
	Missouri	
1887 Sommers, Joseph Andrews	TR	(S8)
1885 Visner, Joseph Paul	D: Jun 17 1945	(T2)
	Fosston, Minnesota	
1875 Weaver, Samuel H.	Height: 5-10 Weight: 175	(R1)