

SABR PICTORIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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PLAYER IMAGE INDEX MISSING FEWER THAN 1,300

Submissions of photo references for missing players are continuing to come into the Committee. We have now reached the point where fewer than 1,300 major leaguers are missing from the Player Image Index. The number of men who have appeared in major league games is approximately 15,900. The difference between these two numbers will give you a round estimate of the numbers of individual major leaguers now catalogued into the Player Image Index.

PARTICIPATION IN THE PLAYER IMAGE INDEX PROJECT STILL GROWING

In addition to those individuals mentioned in the January and March 2003 Committee Newsletters, the following individuals have contributed the finding of at least one photo image which has been catalogued into the Player Image Index: Shawn Murray, David Nemecek, Rick Thompson, Fran McGarr (grand-daughter of player James V. McGarr), Matt Fulling, Carl Bunch, Marvin Scott, Bob Richardson, and Jerry Mellen.

A special round of thanks goes to Marc Okkonen, Richard Ulrich, Lefty Blasco, and Marvin Scott, who have submitted photos multiple times since the last newsletter was issued. Thanks also to Cary Smith, who has been investing a great deal of time in making sure that the Player Image Index database is as thorough and accurate as possible.

In mentioning contributors to this project, I try to keep track of everyone who has submitted at least one photo. If you have been inadvertently omitted from mention in this Newsletter, please let me know, since it is likely a mistake on my part.

COMMITTEE MEETING AT SABR 33

The 2003 meeting of the Pictorial History Committee has been scheduled for 11 am on Thursday, July 10, at SABR 33 in Denver. We'll be discussing strategies for finding photos of the remaining 1,300 players and ideas for new Pictorial History Committee projects will be welcome, assuming that we can get some volunteers to tackle them. I've had some preliminary exploration with the Ballparks Committee about the possibility of a joint effort regarding stadium photos. We might consider developing a Manager Image Index, now that the Player Image Index is so far along. Hope you can come to the meeting, contribute ideas, and join in the efforts.

AD HOC REQUESTS FOR PHOTOS

Thanks to those who have responded to the ad hoc requests I've sent to this distribution list. There are occasions when relatives of former big leaguers contact the national office of SABR and their requests for photos are forwarded to this committee. It's a fine service when we can use the committee resources to help these requestors with familial links to major league history. Since we're all baseball fans at heart, I suspect that we all get some satisfaction from helping relatives of those who were on the playing fields.

WEBSITES OF PICTORIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Some of our Committee members are associated with impressive collections of photos which are available for display and/or purchase on the Internet. A few of these websites follow:

Tom Shieber, founder of this committee, has a website which focusses on 19th century baseball photos. Its address is <http://www.bluecurl.com/ncbbp/index.htm>
(Note: The original June newsletter mistakenly gave the address is <http://www.19cbb.com/>. There is a nineteenth century baseball website there, but it is not Tom Shieber's).

Mark Rucker, the previous chair of this committee, heads Transcental Graphics, a firm which specializes in providing baseball photos. The address of his website is <http://www.ruckerarchive.com/>

Pat Kelly heads the photo department of the National Baseball Library at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The address for the photo department website is <http://www.baseballhalloffame.org/library/photos.htm>

Steve Gietschier is Director of Research at The Sporting News. His organization has an archive of photos which are for sale to the public. The following webpage will get you started on your way into the baseball section of "The Vault," which is The Sporting News archive of photos and other goodies: <http://www.sportingnews.com/archives/baseball.html>

Shawn Murray heads the photo enterprise known as the Bruce Murray collection, named after the noted photographer in his family. The website address is <http://www.brucemurray.com/>

Although Mary Brace is not a Committee member, she has been very helpful to many of us in our searches for baseball photos. Therefore, I'm going to include the website of Brace Photo in this section. It can be found at <http://www.bracephoto.com/>

If there are other Committee members who have websites and would like the addresses of your sites to be communicated through this newsletter, please let me know about them.

MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYERS CURRENTLY MAKING THEIR DEBUTS

While we are searching for photos of the obscure players of the 19th Century and the early 20th Century, the roster of players who have made appearances in the majors continues to expand. Probably the easiest source of photos for the new debuters is Major League Baseball's website, www.mlb.com. Within that site, go to the team with which the player has debuted, and get to the

roster of that team. Once you see the debuter's name on that team's roster, click on his name and that will usually bring you to a head shot of him. This will not work in all cases. When it doesn't work, try doing a Google search on the player's name. That often results in finding a photo of him in a minor league uniform.

KEEPING UP WITH BIOGRAPHICAL COMMITTEE UPDATES

In initially putting together a list of missing players for the Player Image Index project, I used the encyclopedia TOTAL BASEBALL VII as the basic data base to indicate who had played in the majors up through the year 2000. SABR's Biographical Committee continues to research the lives of the more obscure players, and this activity sometimes results in changes to the names of those who purportedly played in the majors. David Vincent kindly provided me with a file of all the major leaguers as matters stood with the Biographical Committee in February. I've been going through that file line-by-line in an attempt to reconcile it with TOTAL BASEBALL VII entries and to update our Missing Players List to comport with the Biographical Committee's findings. In another 2 or 3 months, I should be finished with that exercise and will strive to keep us up to date as the Biographical Committee comes up with new findings as published in its periodic newsletters.

That's it for now. Hope to see many of you in Denver.

Bill Hickman