



**Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report**  
**January 1997**

# No Dodd About It. We Now Have The Right Man.

The first 1997 *Find of the Month* is shared by Ray Nemec and Bill Carle. As you'll recall from a few months ago, there was confusion as to whether Oran U. Dodd, whom we had listed as the 1912 Pittsburgh major leaguer was actually the right ballplayer. Research by Ray Nemec showed that the major leaguer was actually Ona Melvin Dodd. I used the Social Security death index and a letter to the Oklahoma Department of Vital Statistics to discover that Ona Melvin Dodd died December 17, 1956 in Carter, Oklahoma.

What had apparently happened to confuse the issue was the following. Old encyclopedias properly listed the 1912 major leaguer as Ona Melvin Dodd with a birthdate of October 14, 1886 in Springtown, Texas (which is correct). Sporting News in 1929 carried a death notice for Oran Dodd (a different ballplayer) and it was listed as Ona Dodd's death data. Somewhere down the road, someone researched Oran Dodd and discovered that he was born September 14, 1889 in Bagwell, Texas and changed the encyclopedia accordingly. Thus, Ona changed to Oran. However, I am now confident that we have the proper player.

## New Members

Please welcome Sara Mooney to the biographical committee. Sara's address is 3800

Parkview Lane #27D, Irvine, California 92612. Sara's code number will be M5.

## A Helpful Hint

I pulled this information off the web. Perhaps it will help track down a few missing players.

The Freedom of Information Act has made available copies of the original applications of those Social Security card holders who have passed away. Researchers must send \$7.00 (if SSNO is known) or \$16.50 (if number is unknown or incorrect) to the following address:

Freedom of Information Officer  
4-H-8 Annex Building  
6401 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21235

The SS-5 form will include an applicant's full name, address, age, birthday, birthplace, parents (including mother's maiden name), sex, race, and in some cases employment information.

## Strange But True

In 1901, Frank Chance, of Tinker-to-Evers-to-Chance fame, married Edith Pancake. I understand it was a rather syrupy ceremony. In 1916, A's pitcher Rube Schauer married Martha Chicken. The poor guy was henpecked for the rest of his life. Thanks to Joe Simenic for providing those amusing facts.

## Life Longevity of Players

The following article was written by Bob Davids:

The box score of the October 9, 1920 World Series game between Cleveland and Brooklyn helps to illustrate the long life of one team of players. The 14 Brooklyn Dodgers lived to the average age of 72, which is fairly typical. Rube Marquard reached 90 and Pete Kilduff died at

36. Jimmy Johnston died at 77 and that exceeded by 4 years the life span of his brother Wheeler of the Indians. Attention is now called to the Cleveland side of the box score where the 13 players lived to an average age of 83. That is a remarkable stage of maturity for players born in the 1880s and 1890s.

Joe Sewell was the baby of this group as he had reported to the club only a month earlier. This was his 22nd birthday. He became the last survivor of the 1920 Series, passing away in March of 1990 at 91. Preceding him in death were Smoky Joe Wood, 95; Stan Coveleskie, 94; Jack Graney, 91; Bill Wambsganss, 91; Elmer Smith, 91; and Larry Gardner, who died two months short of his 90th birthday.

If the 1920 Indians were the team with the greatest life longevity, what group of players had the shortest life span? It had to be the 1884 Chicago NL club. Rightfielder King Kelly, catcher Silver Flint, and third baseman Ed Williamson all died at age 36. Shortstop Tom Burns was 44 and pitcher John Clarkson, 47. The gifted hurler Larry Corcoran died at 32. Joe Brown and Sy Sutcliffe, who played only a few games late in the season, both died at 29. No box score contained the names of all those who died early. There were some players on that team who became senior citizens. They included Cap Anson, 69; Abner Dalrymple, 71; Fred Pfeffer and Billy Sunday, 72; George Gore, 78; and Fred Goldsmith, 86. That brought up the average age of team members to approximately 50 years, which was still low for the adult population of that era.

## Birthday List

Last month I neglected to mention the birthday of Ray Hayworth. Ray turned 93 on January 29. By the way, that counts as a 1996 mistake. There is only one nonagenarian celebrating a birthday in February. Robert Cremins turns 91 on February 15. Make sure you send him a card.

## Is This The Right Guy?

In 1884, a man named Thomas Farley played 14 games in the outfield for Washington(AA). Richard Topp has done some research on Farley in Sporting Life and has discovered the following:

02/13/1892 - Tom T. Farley, a catcher of the Chicago City League, has signed with the Lansing, Michigan club.

01/21/1899 - Tom Farley, the Chicago man who managed the San Antonio team last summer, has in mind a scheme of electric-light ballplaying.

11/02/1901 - The Decatur, Illinois Baseball Association voted to engage Tom Farley, of Milwaukee, who was president of the Wisconsin State League last season, as manager.

02/01/1902 - Manager Tom Farley is at present in Tampa, Florida, where he recently underwent an operation.

03/08/1902 - About two months ago, Tom Farley left Milwaukee without notifying the Decatur Association, and, as mail addressed to him began coming back undelivered, there was considerable speculation as to what had become of him. Later word came that he was sick at Tampa, Florida, and a week or two ago it was announced that he could not manage the team.

03/15/1902 - Ex-manager Farley writes from Florida that he is a sick man and that his condition is even worse than he had supposed when he went to Florida. His physician says that Farley has valvular heart trouble and advises against his leaving that climate for some time. Farley is hopeful that he will be able to recuperate, but does not expect to come North before the last of March.

04/26/1902 - Manager Tom Farley is in Cuba for his health. He will return to the States May 1, via New York.

11/08/1902 - Tom Farley, former president of the Wisconsin State League, is again in Florida and has been manager of the Tampa ball team for the past two months. He spent the summer in Jamestown, New York and wanted to come West this fall, but went south again when he was advised that his health would not stand a winter in the North. He will live in Tampa through the winter and will return to Wisconsin next spring. Farley is making a big success of baseball in Florida, where the game is played in all seasons of the year.

Rich found a death certificate for a Thomas Farley, who died in Chicago of a lung hemorrhage on February 26, 1903. In spite of the encyclopedia listing him as such, it is unsure whether this is the right man. It would seem that either Milwaukee, Decatur, or Tampa

newspapers would carry some mention of his death. Would someone like to check it out? This is our first *Mystery of the Month* for 1997.

### The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14646	70	99.524
Total Complete Births	13970	746	94.931
Total Complete Deaths	7277	468	49.450
Total Assumed Alive	6971		47.370
Total Bats	13364	1246	91.472
Total Throws	13613	997	93.176
Total Heights	13610	1000	93.155
Total Weights	13545	1065	92.711
Total Debut Dates	14716	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9980	4736	67.817
Total Completion			92.1769

## New Monthly Data

### Questionnaires Received:

None

### New Information Received:

1955 Amor, Vincente (Alvarez)	Name: <u>Vicente Amor (Alvarez)</u>	(T1)
1937 Daniel, Handley Jacob	D: <u>Apr 23 1996</u> <u>LaGrange, Georgia</u>	(S3)
1909 Devoy, Walter Joseph	<u>BRTR</u>	(D7)
1912 Dodd, Oran U.	Name: <u>Ona Melvin Dodd</u> B: <u>Oct 14 1886</u> <u>Springtown, Texas</u> D: <u>Dec 17 1956</u> <u>Carter, Oklahoma</u>	(C1)
1950 Donovan, Richard Edward	D: <u>Jan 6 1997</u> <u>Weymouth, Massachusetts</u>	(T3)
1956 Flood, Curtis Charles	D: <u>Jan 20 1997</u> <u>Los Angeles, California</u>	(C1)
1884 Foutz, David Luther	D: <u>Waverly, Maryland</u>	(D7)
1899 Houtz, Fred Fritz	D: <u>St. Marys, Ohio</u>	(C2)
1901 Jones, Charles C.	Name: <u>Charles Claude Jones</u> Debut: <u>May 2 1901</u> D: <u>Jan 30 1997</u> <u>New Hampton, Iowa</u>	(S1)
1965 Josephson, Duane Charles	Debut: <u>Jun 7 1876</u> D: <u>Jan 19 1997</u> <u>Allentown, Pennsylvania</u>	(S3)
1882 Kelly, John Francis	B: <u>Washington County, Minnesota</u>	(S1)
1943 Kuczynski, Bernard Carl	Name: <u>Frank Louis MacCormack</u> D: <u>Jan 10 1997</u> <u>Toronto, Ontario</u>	(C2)
1891 Lohman, George F.	Name: <u>Milo May Marshall</u>	(T2)
1976 MacCormick, Frank Louis	D: <u>Sep 16 1993</u> <u>Salem, Oregon</u>	(T1)
1940 Marchildon, Philip Joseph	B: <u>Bad Schwalbach, Germany</u>	(C1)
1942 Marshall, Milo Max	<u>RS</u>	(C1)
1902 Miller, William Alexander	D: <u>Dec 31 1996</u> <u>Middlesex, North Carolina</u>	(D7)
1884 Morris, Edward	B: <u>Krum, Texas</u>	(PH)
1935 Narron, Samuel		(C1)
1917 Naylor, Roleine Cecil		(L5)