



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
June 1994

Ralph Edwards, This Is Your Life

For several years, Bill Haber has searched for the identity of the mysterious player Edwards, who played second base in one game September 17, 1915 for the Philadelphia Athletics. The papers only identified him as a Chicago semi-pro. Bill researched several different players named Edwards and came upon Ralph Strunk Edwards, who played for several years in the Chicago vicinity.

Bill was able to track down Ralph Edwards' son who, although unable to confirm that his father definitely played in the game in question, did state that his father was recruited and signed by Connie Mack. So it would certainly appear that Ralph is the player in question. Amos Strunk was an outfielder on the 1915 A's and one might wonder if there is any connection between he and Edwards. Good work by Bill Haber, winner of the *Find of the Month* award.

William Pfann Pfound

In 1894, a man whom we listed as William F. Pflann pitched one game for Cincinnati. According to newspaper accounts, he was a local twirler from Brooklyn and his name was spelled either Pflann, Pfaun, or Pfann.

Joe Simenic found several notes that a William Pfann was pitching for Hamilton in the late 1880s and was a native of Hamilton, Ontario. I checked the Brooklyn city directories for 1894 to 1900. The only name I found that was close was William F. Pfann. In the 1900 census, Pfann was listed as being born in Canada.

Since this appeared to be the player we were

seeking, I asked Pete Morris to check in Ontario for Pfann. Pete found his death on June 3, 1904 in Hamilton which confirmed that he was the man living in Brooklyn in the 1890s. Undoubtedly, we have our man. Excellent work by all involved.

A Correction

In the March newsletter it was stated that Paul Schaal had been married 9 times. According to representatives of Mr. Schaal, he has only been married 5 times. We apologize for the error.

Convention News

We had a fascinating committee meeting in Arlington. Thanks to all who attended. We discussed several items.

First of all, we voted unanimously to eliminate Archie Galbraith as a major league player. There is no proof that Galbraith was ever on a lineup card and he did not appear in any box score.

We also discussed how to list places which had changed names or are now part of someplace else. We decided that the best way was to list them parenthetically, such as B: Eufaula, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). Those of you who know places like that are encouraged to send me those notes. When I get a new PC, I will load them in.

We also discussed how New York City should be listed. This was easily the most confusing of our topics. It was decided that we should be as specific as possible. For example, if he was born in Brooklyn, list Brooklyn whether it was technically part of New York City or not.

Finally, Dick Thompson suggested that I work up a more detailed player list, including notes that we have that may help newer committee members in seeking these players out. It was a good meeting and hopefully, more of you will be able to attend next year in Pittsburgh.

Scotch, Anyone?

Peter Morris has a sister in Scotland who is willing to help obtain birth information for any players born in Scotland. Does anyone have any information on the parents of any of these missing Scotch players? If so, please send them to Pete.

David Abercrombie
John Connor
Mike McCormick
James McCormick

First Out

1940 - Charles Frye	05/25/1945
1941 - Alvin Montgomery	04/26/1942
1942 - Hiram Bithorn	01/01/1952
1943 - Louis Parisse	06/02/1956
1944 - Howard Fox	10/09/1955
1945 - Byron LaForest	05/05/1947
1946 - John Carden	02/08/1949
1947 - Ralph LaPointe	09/13/1967
1948 - Vern Bickford	05/06/1960
1949 - Kurt Krieger	08/16/1970

Birthday List

There are four nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in July. Be sure to send a card.

July 1	Art Merewether	92
July 9	Lou Polli	93
July 20	Hunter Lane	94
July 24	Robert Adams	93

Can We Drive a Chevy To The Levy?

Joey Beretta sent me a list from 1974 of players that the New York Yankee Alumni Association was seeking addresses for. One of the players on the list has still not been found in 1994. He is Edward Levy, who played with the Phillies in 1940 and the Yankees in 1942 and 1944.

Although the encyclopedia lists him as being

born with the name Edward Clarence Whitner, this is not true. His real name is Levy, but in 1941, he began calling himself Whitner, which was apparently his wife's name, although I am not sure of that. Anyway, he has been missing for a number of years and is mysterious enough to become the June *Mystery of the Month*.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14079	74	99.477
Total Complete Births	13384	769	94.567
Total Complete Deaths	7021	477	49.608
Total Assumed Alive	6655		47.022
Total Bats	12787	1262	91.017
Total Throws	13036	1013	92.790
Total Heights	13009	1040	92.597
Total Weights	12939	1110	92.099
Total Debut Dates	14153	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9971	4182	70.452
Total Completion			92.0694

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

1915 Edwards,	Name: <u>Ralph Strunk Edwards</u>	(H1)
	B: <u>Dec 14 1882</u>	
	<u>Brewster, New York</u>	
	D: <u>Jan 5 1949</u>	
	<u>White Plains, New York</u>	
	BRTR Weight: <u>5-09</u> Weight: <u>165</u>	

New Information Received:

1885 Bell, Frank Gustav	Height: <u>6-00</u>	(R1)
1884 Collins, Charles Augustine	BS	(M4)
1939 Dobson, Joseph Gordon	D: <u>Jun 23 1994</u>	(C1)
	<u>Jacksonville, Florida</u>	
1884 Dunn, Stephen	Name: <u>Stephen B. Dunn</u>	(M4)
1944 Fausett, Robert Shaw	D: <u>May 2 1994</u>	(H1)
	<u>College Station, Texas</u>	
1945 Flager, Walter Leonard	D: <u>Dec 16 1990</u>	(F1)
	<u>Keizer, Oregon</u>	
1902 Galbraith, Archibald Victor	Delete player	(C1)
1905 Hogg, William	Name: <u>William W. Hogg</u>	(S5)
	B: <u>1882</u>	
	<u>Battle Creek, Michigan</u>	
1894 Horner, William Frank	BR	(M4)
1978 Krol, John Thomas (MGR)	D: <u>May 30 1994</u>	(C1)
	<u>Winston-Salem, North Carolina</u>	
1879 Mansell, Michael R.	Height: <u>5-11</u> Weight: <u>175</u>	(M4)
1884 McKeever, James	B: <u>St. John, New Brunswick</u>	(R1)
1902 Miller, Dakin Evans	B: <u>Sep 3 1876</u>	(F1)
	D: <u>Apr 19 1950</u>	
1884 Morrison, Jonathan W.	B: <u>London, Ontario</u>	(M4)
1901 Murphy, Francis Patrick	B: <u>Apr 1875</u>	(D2)
	<u>North Tarrytown, New York</u>	
1943 Nieman, Elmer Leroy	D: <u>Nov 2 1993</u>	(H1)
	<u>Topeka, Kansas</u>	
1894 Pflann, William F.	Name: <u>William F. Pfann</u>	(M4)
	B: <u>Jun 1863</u>	
	<u>Hamilton, Ontario</u>	
	D: <u>Jun 3 1904</u>	
	<u>Hamilton, Ontario</u>	
1898 Puhl, John G.	B: <u>Jul 10 1876</u>	(D2)
	<u>Brooklyn, New York</u>	
1884 Pyle, Harry Thomas	TL	(R1)
1949 Stuart, Marlin Henry	D: <u>Jun 16 1994</u>	(H1)
	<u>Paragould, Arkansas</u>	
1955 Throneberry, Marvin Eugene	D: <u>Jun 23 1994</u>	(C1)
	<u>Fisherville, Tennessee</u>	

1895 Von Der Ahe, Christian F. W. (MGR)	B: <u>Oct 7 1851</u> D: <u>Jun 5 1913</u>	(S5)
1931 Weaver, Montie Morton	D: <u>Jun 14 1994</u> <u>Orlando, Florida</u>	(C1)
1943 Webb, William Frederick	D: <u>Jun 1 1994</u> <u>Austell, Georgia</u>	(H4)
1890 Wright, William Smith	<u>BL</u>	(M4)