



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report  
June 1992

## Toot Toot Tootsie Goodbye

The June *Find of the Month* goes to Bill Carle and Bill Haber for tracking down Toots Coyne of the 1914 Philadelphia Athletics. (What chance did Coyne have when he was being double-Billed?)

At the time of Coyne's debut, the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* stated that he had starred at Yeatman High School in St. Louis three years previous. I consulted a 1916 St. Louis city directory to find the location of Yeatman High School (it no longer exists). I then checked the 1910 St. Louis census to find a Coyne family who lived near the high school who had a son who was high school age. The only Coyne who fit was Martin A. Coyne, who lived two blocks from the school.

I traced him through the city directories until he disappeared in 1939. I then told Bill Haber of my theory. Bill obtained a death certificate and then asked a friend of his in St. Louis to track down a relative. Coyne's son was located in Houston and he confirmed his father was indeed the ballplayer. In fact, Coyne worked at a Buick dealership because Buick had a baseball team.

### James E. Powell

James E. Powell, a member of our Top 20 Most Wanted List, has been found. I began my search for Powell when I saw an article in a 1902 *Sporting Life* that mentioned he was living in the Bitter Root valley in Montana. I consulted the 1910 census and found Powell living in Stevensville. Several calls to Stevensville indicated that Powell had left Stevensville at some point.

I then "patiently" waited for the 1920 census to come out. When I checked it, I found him living in Twin Bridges, Montana, a town of about 200. I called the Twin Bridges library and spoke with a woman who was quite elderly. When I mentioned Powell, her response was, "I knew him." She referred me to another woman who stated that he was known as "Lou" Powell and that he died in June of 1929.

I sent to Helena for a death certificate, giving them both names. They wrote me back and said that they had both a Lou Powell and a James E. Powell who died in 1929. I called them and discovered that James E. Powell was the one I wanted. So it was an amazing stroke of luck that he died the same year as Lou Powell. Otherwise, I would probably still be searching. Replacing Powell on the Top 20 list will be Charlie Hoover, featured as the September 1989 *Mystery of the Month*.

### Baseball America To Publish Obituaries

The Biographical Research Committee and the Minor League Committee have teamed up to provide information on player deaths to *Baseball America*, who has agreed to publish them in an obituary column. We, of course, will provide the major league deaths and the Minor League Committee will supply the minor league deaths. This is welcome news to our committee and it is nice to see these players get their final recognition. Hopefully, this will also assist in learning of recent player deaths. Congratulations to *Baseball America* on this decision!

### Thompson Trivia

Dick Thompson asks what Boston Red Sox first baseman was born in a cemetery? Answer: Phil Todt, whose parents were cemetery caretakers. And they thought that Dracula had risen from the grave.



## New Members

In conjunction with the *Baseball America* deal, we can add Jim Sumner of the Minor League Committee to our committee roster. Jim is the liaison to the magazine for both committees. Jim's address is 3215 Warwick Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27606 and his code number will be S2.

We will also be providing death information to the *Baseball Blue Book*. Their address is 263 Western Avenue, Sherborn, Massachusetts 01770 and their code number will be SS.

Another new member is Jonathan Dunkle, 19L St. Croix Place, Greensboro, N.C. 27410. Jonathan is researching the 1884 Altoona Unions. His code number will be D8.

Finally, we picked up two new members at the SABR convention, Gary Skoog, 1527 Basswood Circle, Glenview, Illinois 60025 (S5) and Mike Bender, 18 Westwood Drive, North Babylon, New York 11703 (B5).

## Convention Report

The St. Louis convention was one of the best ever. Highlights were, of course, our committee meeting, the surprise appearance of Stan Musial at the player panel, and, as always, seeing all of your baseball friends. The St. Louis organizing committee did a great job! And congratulations to biographical committee member Bob Tiemann, a very deserving winner of the Bob Davids Award.

## Birthday List

We have quite a few nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in July. Be sure to send a card.

|         |                   |    |
|---------|-------------------|----|
| July 1  | Lou Brower        | 92 |
|         | Arthur Merewether | 90 |
| July 9  | Lou Polli         | 91 |
| July 12 | Rudy Miller       | 92 |
| July 19 | Mark Koenig       | 90 |
| July 20 | Hunter Lane       | 92 |
| July 23 | Charles Rowland   | 93 |
| July 24 | Bob Adams         | 91 |
| July 29 | Sam Hamby         | 95 |

## A Mystery From Philly

We list a player named Al Sauters who debuted at third base with Philadelphia in the

American Association on September 8, 1890. We list a birthplace of Philadelphia. This all could be wrong, and hence, Sauters is our June *Mystery of the Month*.

The player in question played 14 games with the Athletics. In box scores in *Sporting Life*, his name was spelled Souders, Sowders, Souters, and Souder with the prevalent spelling being Sowders. His name was never spelled Sauters. In the *Sporting Life* of September 13, 1890, it states, "Carman put up a very clever game at shortstop, and a smooth faced youngster who hails from Allentown, and whose name is Sowders, fielded well at third."

The 1891 *Reach Guide* showed that Sowders had played in 12 games with Allentown. The reserve list published in the October 18, 1890 edition of *Sporting Life* listed Al Sauters on the Philadelphia list. Can someone check Philadelphia or Allentown and determine the true identity of this player? Thanks to Joe Simenic for providing this month's *Mystery*.

### The Scoreboard

|                       | IN    | OUT  | PCT     |
|-----------------------|-------|------|---------|
| Total Complete Names  | 13710 | 73   | 99.470  |
| Total Complete Births | 12969 | 814  | 94.094  |
| Total Complete Deaths | 6801  | 501  | 49.343  |
| Total Assumed Alive   | 6481  |      | 47.022  |
| Total Bats            | 12370 | 1312 | 90.411  |
| Total Throws          | 12645 | 1037 | 92.421  |
| Total Heights         | 12540 | 1142 | 91.653  |
| Total Weights         | 12464 | 1218 | 91.098  |
| Total Debut Dates     | 13783 | 0    | 100.000 |
| Total Questionnaires  | 9903  | 3880 | 71.849  |
| Total Completion      |       |      | 91.9382 |



## **Pete Lamer**

By Lefty Blasco

Real Name: Pierre Lamere

B: December, 1873, New York, New York

D: October 24, 1931, Brooklyn, New York

TR 5-10 170

Frank Chance came to the Cubs as a catcher in 1898 and was still manning this position during the 1902 season. Late in the year of 1902, Chance was injured and could not play. The Cubs were playing in New York at the time and decided to recruit some temporary help to fill in until Chance could return. The Cubs heard of a local player that had a fair minor league career and was well known in the baseball hot bed of Hoboken, New Jersey. The player's name was Pete Lamer and the Cubs signed him to catch the games of September 10-11, 1902. Lamer debuted batting third for the Cubs against star pitcher Christy Mathewson. Although he committed two errors, Lamer managed to go one-for-three off Mathewson. On the 11th, facing Joe McGinnity, Lamer went one-for-five with a passed ball.

Pete was born in New York in December of 1873 and passed away October 24, 1931 at St. John's Hospital in Brooklyn. His minor league career began with 71 games with New London in 1898, 69 games with Providence in 1899, 75 games in 1900 split between New London and Syracuse, and four games with Poughkeepsie in 1903 as battery mate to his good friend Ernie Lindemann.

As a semi-pro player, he played with Hoboken as battery mate to both Lindemann and William "Dummy" Deegan. The Hoboken team played several exhibition games against big league teams. In 1903, they knocked off Boston twice and Brooklyn once, while dropping two games to the Giants. Pete continues with Hoboken in 1904 and then seemingly "hanged them up" until another surprising chance came. Cincinnati, confronted with a catcher problem on August 20, 1907, pressed Pete into service in a game against Brooklyn. Pete went hitless in two at bats against Harry McIntire in what was to be the finale of his major league career.

An interesting side light is to be noted. Pete's brother, Edward, was owner and manager of the Cuban X Giants and many references to him are noted in Sol White's Baseball Guide as well as other recent works on black baseball.

## New Monthly Data

### Questionnaires Received:

✓1889 Duryea, James Whitney

Name: James Newton Duryea  
B: Sep 7 1859  
D: Aug 19 1942

(C1)

### New Information Received:

✓1952 Amoros y Isasi, Edmundo

60

D: Jun 27 1992  
Miami, Florida

(C1)

✓1889 Bates,

✓1908 Blue, Bird Wayne

N

Name: John Bates

B: Dec 9 1877

D: Sep 2 1929

Is Deceased

Debut: Aug 23 1890

Name: Martin Albert Coyne

B: Oct 20 1894

St. Louis, Missouri

D: Sep 18 1939

St. Louis, Missouri

D: Mar 8 1992

El Dorado, Arkansas

B: Aug 28 1898

D: Apr 20 1992

Carmichael, California

B: Jun 1870

Pennsylvania

Name: William Henry Holbert

D: Mar 20 1935

D: Feb 13 1992

Springfield, Missouri

D: Jun 15 1992

Darien, Connecticut

D: Mar 19 1928

D: Dec 1 1991

Debut: May 27 1890

Name: James Edwin Powell

B: Aug 30 1859

D: Nov 20 1929

Butte, Montana

B: Mar 5 1904

San Francisco, California

D: May 1 1992

Leon, Mexico

D: Dec 20 1991

(H1)

(C1)

(H1)

✓1923 Rosenberg, Louis

✓1972 Sanchez y Perez, Celerino

73 N

✓1963 Williams, Donald Reid

only

as is

1916 Grimm, Charles John

1940 Grove, Orval Leroy

49

✓1894 Hodson, George S.

N

1876 Holbert, William H.

N

✓1938 Humphrey, Byron William

only N

1944 Lopat, Edmund Walter

1955 N

1885 Lovett, Thomas Joseph

✓1934 Mills, Colonel Buster

1946 N

1890 Murphy, Robert J.

✓1884 Powell, James E.

