



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
July 1992

Walter S. Walker Found

On July 31, I was sitting at home lamenting the fact that I had no *Find of the Month*. Then I got a phone call from Richard Topp saving the day and informing me of the apprehension of Walter S. Walker of the 1885 Baltimore(AA) team. Rich wins the award not for finding Walker but for finding a college student at Michigan State who found Walker for us.

Rich sent him a list of missing Michigan players and he located Walter S. Walker, an attorney, who died in Pontiac, Michigan in 1922. His obituary said that his body would be sent to Ionia, Michigan for burial.

I called Joe Simenic to obtain corroborating evidence. Joe had a note from *Sporting Life* in 1893 that ex-player Walker, the attorney, was insane and being sent to Pontiac, Michigan. It also mentioned that he was born in Ionia. Looks like a winner to me.

Is Something Missing?

You will notice that there is no biography this month. No one has sent me any. Although I don't like typing them in, I do like reading them. Once again I appeal to you budding writers to send in a biography on whatever player or players you find interesting, and I'll feature them in the Biography of the Month.

Members Movements

Lou Jacobson has moved. His new address is 5809 Nicholson Lane, Apt. #503, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852. Delete Bob Boynton from the committee roster and add Myrl Swanson, Apt. #41, 4190 N. Sepulveda Avenue, San Bernadino, California 92404 (S6). Also

welcome Mike Welsh who has rejoined the committee. Mike's address is P.O. Box 1192, St. Joseph, Missouri 64502 and his code number will be W3. Finally, please welcome Skip McAfee to the committee. Skip's address is 5533 Colts Foot Court, Columbia, Maryland 21045 (M3).

No Dowd About It

You will notice that I again changed John Leo Dowd (O'Dowd). Cliff Kachline pointed out that he was listed as Dowd in the box scores for his major league career and he signed his questionnaire as Dowd. Hence, I am listing him as Dowd with the real name of O'Dowd.

Millionaire Ballplayers

Lou Jacobson sent along a list of several other ballplayers who became millionaires after leaving baseball. Cy Block made millions in the insurance business. Block lives appropriately enough in Lake Success, New York. Hank Greenberg married Carol Gimbel of Gimbel's Department Store, went into some sort of financial business, invested wisely, and became very wealthy. And Ed Wineapple became an executive for Russ Togs, Inc. He lives in an apartment on Park Avenue.

The Swales Collection

Scott Flatow has been at the New York Public Library recently inspecting the voluminous files of the Swales collection. For those of you unfamiliar with the collection, Swales was a gentleman who collected clippings, card files, and correspondence from ballplayers. Swales compiled most of this from 1920-1929. All of what he was able to collect, which cover players dating back to the 1870s, is stored in the New York Public Library. Scott would like someone to accompany him and help him go through the material. If anyone is interested, please contact Scott at 718-376-1007.

Was Ping Like Bo?

Richard Topp has been doing research for the PFRA and has been unable to identify a player named Bodie, who played for the Chicago Cardinals in 1921. Rich suspects that this is Ping Bodie. Can anyone confirm or deny this?

A New Manager

This isn't really biographical information but it seems like a good place to mention it. Toward the end of the 1938 season, the St. Louis Browns released manager Gabby Street. Oscar Melillo managed the last 10 games of the season and compiled a 2-7-1 record. Street had originally been listed as the manager for the entire season. Kudos to Bob Tiemann for discovering this.

USA Today Baseball Weekly

I hope you have seen our committee's influence recently in *USA Today Baseball Weekly*. Margaret McCahill contacted me recently for confirmation of some facts related to the article on nonagenarian Lucas Turk. Margaret mentioned that she is always looking for material for the nostalgia column, so if anyone is interested, send in your articles.

I also received a call from Lisa Winston who does the debuts every week. I suggested that she list the full name rather than just the use name and she agreed. Unfortunately, when she sent it to the editor, he took it back out. Lisa does a fine job with that column.

Finally, I see that Dave Vincent gave editor Paul White a list of all the players born on his birthday. He was able to incorporate that into his column. It's always nice to be able to help the media.

Birthday List

There are only two nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in August but the big news is that on August 15, Chet Hoff becomes the oldest living ballplayer ever, surpassing John Francis Daley. Congratulations, Chet!

August 3	Joe Sprinz	90
August 7	Edward Gill	96

This might be a good time to list the top 20 oldest living ballplayers. This list is good as of

August 1:

1. Chet Hoff	101
2. Robert Wright	100
3. Milt Gaston	96
4. Edward Gill	96
5. Sam Hamby	95
6. Lucas Turk	94
7. Tim McNamara	93
8. John Kerr	93
9. Joe Hauser	93
10. George Fisher	93
11. Charles Rowland	93
12. Elton Langford	92
13. Walter Shaner	92
14. Lou Brower	92
15. Rudy Miller	92
16. Hunter Lane	92
17. James Uchrinscko	91
18. James Marquis	91
19. Bernie DeViveiros	91
20. Lou Polli	91

The Quest to Find Joe Quest

Our July *Mystery of the Month* and the Number 1 guy on our Top 20 Most Wanted List is Joseph S. Quest. Joe Quest actually had a rather lengthy career beginning in 1871 with the Cleveland Forest Citys and ending in 1888 with Lowell of the New England League. In between he had a somewhat undistinguished career yet is responsible for adding the phrase "charley horse" to the English language.

Quest was born in November of 1851 in New Castle, Pennsylvania, the son of Jacob and Mary Jane (nee Lewis) Quest. Jacob Quest died in May of 1883 in New Castle and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Quest's mother died in 1857. I contacted Greenwood Cemetery and didn't get any information; however, the person I spoke with was not very knowledgeable. It might behoove us to try again.

Joe Quest did have an older brother and sister. Mary S. Quest, who was born in 1845, married John A McConnell. Also, Homer J. Quest, Joe's brother, was born in 1847. I could find nothing on either one of them in the Pennsylvania census but Richard Topp suspects that they may have moved to Indiana.

The last anyone has heard of Quest he was working as a bookkeeper for the City Clerk of Chicago, a man named Cap Anson, in 1907. He was implicated in an embezzlement scandal and disappeared. I had heard that he may have gone to Georgia but that has not been proven. I have

contacted a relative of the Quest family who has been unable to track him as well. Hopefully, tracking his brother and sister might provide a clue to Joe's whereabouts. Thanks to new committee member Myrl Swanson for providing much of the new information on Quest.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	13710	73	99.470
Total Complete Births	12969	814	94.094
Total Complete Deaths	6804	501	49.365
Total Assumed Alive	6478		47.000
Total Bats	12371	1311	90.418
Total Throws	12645	1037	92.421
Total Heights	12544	1138	91.683
Total Weights	12468	1214	91.127
Total Debut Dates	13783	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9905	3878	71.864
Total Completion			91.9471

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

1893 McNabb, Edgar J.	B: <u>Cochocton, Ohio</u>	(HF)
	<u>BRTR</u>	
1913 Pfeffer, Monte	No New Information	(HF)

New Information Received:

✓ 1890 Adams, John J.	Name: <u>James J. Adams</u>	(S1)
1916 Brottem, Anton Christian	B: <u>Halstad, Minnesota</u>	(F1)
1970 Gullett, Donald Edward	Weight: <u>190</u>	(P1)
1879 Kennedy, Michael Joseph	Height: <u>5-09.5</u> Weight: <u>185</u>	(R1)
1891 Lake, Frederick Lovett	Height: <u>5-10</u> Weight: <u>170</u>	(R1)
✓ 1901 Livingstone, Jacob S.	B: Jan 1 1880	(T1)
	<u>St. Petersburg, Russia</u>	
1896 Lizotte, Abel	Height: <u>5-08</u> Weight: <u>174</u>	(R1)
1934 Mills, Colonel Buster	D: <u>Arlington, Texas</u>	(H1)
✓ 1912 O'Dowd, John Leo	Name: John Leo Dowd	(K1)
	Real name: <u>John Leo O'Dowd</u>	
✓ 1939 Parsons, Edward Dixon	D: <u>Oct 31 1991</u>	(H1)
1871 Quest, Joseph L.	Name: Joseph S. Quest	(S6)
1979 Rainey, Charles David	Weight: <u>190</u>	(P1)
✓ 1944 Rice, Leonard Oliver	D: <u>Jun 13 1992</u>	(H1)
	<u>Sonora, California</u>	
✓ 1922 Schnell, Karl Otto	D: <u>Jun 5 1992</u>	(H1)
✓ 1888 Smith, Samuel J.	Height: <u>6-02</u> Weight: <u>170</u>	(W3)
✓ 1885 Walker, Walter S.	B: <u>1860</u>	(T1)
	D: <u>Mar 1 1922</u>	
	<u>Pontiac, Michigan</u>	