

SABR PICTORIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL BE RECEIVING ADDITIONAL PHOTOS

It appears that the work of Mark Stang and members of the Pictorial History Committee in identifying players in photos within the Leslie Jones Collection of the Boston Public Library has made both the Library Staff and the Jones Family happy.

Back in 1971, when the original Leslie Jones Collection was donated to the Library, there wasn't enough room on the truck to take everything, so some of it was left behind at the Jones house and the Library didn't arrange for a second pickup to retrieve the rest. Now the Jones Family is expressing interest in turning over the remaining negatives to the Library. The report from the Library staff is that the Jones family is "amazed at what SABR has been able to uncover." We don't yet know the timeframe for the additional negatives to be transferred to the Library, but when it happens, it appears that there will be some additional baseball photos which will require identification work on the part of this committee.

My congratulations go to Mark Stang for getting this project started and for shepherding it all the way along.

PICTORIAL LINK IN BIOPROJECT BIOGRAPHIES

The biographies which appear on the BioProject portion of the SABR website have a new feature. Each biography has a hyperlink called "Pictures" which enables the user to get to the Player Image Index data for the player being featured in that particular biography. This is a nice way of integrating data from the SABR Encyclopedia into the BioProject.

FORMERLY MISSING PLAYERS FOUND SINCE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Charles "Pussy" Tebeau -- by Bob Richardson in the Berkshire Eagle, December 4, 1915, page 5. It's a head shot photo showing Tebeau as a candidate for Alderman in Pittsfield, MA. The photo may be viewed on the OOTP Developments website at <http://tinyurl.com/7pjmzu7>

Edward F. Flanagan -- by Bob Richardson in the Lowell (MA) Sun of November 11, 1926, page 18. It's a head shot photo showing Flanagan in a police uniform. The photo may be viewed on the OOTP Developments website at <http://tinyurl.com/7pjmzu7>

Umpire William "Duffy" Finnegan -- by Lefty Blasco in THE SAGA OF ERIE SPORTS, by John G. Carney, on page 70. The photo may be view on the OOTP Developments website at <http://tinyurl.com/6rj2u2a>

Manager Fred L. Thomas -- by Scott Brandon in an 1887 Indianapolis Hoosiers team photo. The Thomas image may be viewed on the OOTP Developments website at <http://tinyurl.com/42ghahw>

Andy Sullivan -- by Scott Brandon, who discovered that the image we had previously catalogued for Andy Sullivan was erroneous. Scott found a valid Andy Sullivan image in a Fall River (MA) team photo in the 1909 Spalding Guide. The Andy Sullivan image is displayed on the OOTP Developments website at <http://www.tinyurl.com/6mwpgu9>

PARTICIPANTS IN DEVELOPING PLAYER IMAGE INDEX

The following have contributed the finding of at least one image which has been catalogued into the Player Image Index, and their names have not been mentioned in previous newsletters: Mark Aubrey, Gary Gillette, and Rory Costello. This now brings the total of people who have contributed to the building of the Player Image Index to 155. The Player Image Index is the foundation for the pictorial data which is in the SABR Encyclopedia. If you would like to participate in the hunt for images of missing players or missing managers, just send me an email asking for the Missing Players List or Missing Managers List. The email address is bdhickmn@aol.com

BOOK PROJECTS BEING CATALOGUED

The paragraph which follows has been inserted at the request of Andy McCue, Bibliography Committee Chair, who has been seeking to communicate this information through all research committee newsletters.

At the suggestion of newsletter editor Ron Kaplan, SABR's Bibliography Committee is beginning an effort to catalog all book projects which are being done by SABR members. Notices could cover anything from a book which is on the cusp of publication to, at the other end of the spectrum, a book where a substantial amount of research has been done.

We will run 100-word synopses of the projects in this newsletter and keep a catalog of what we have received. Authors can update the information when they get a publisher and when a publication date is set. This should give authors some nice advance publicity and create an archive members can use to find others working on similar material. Please send all submissions to agmccue44@earthlink.net AND to RonK232@comcast.net. Thanks.

PHOTO DISCOVERIES COLUMN

Mark Rucker once again is sharing with us a special photo he has found of interest and this time he is asking for comments about it. As most of you know, Mark operates a sports photo service called The Rucker Archive and he is the most recent Bob Davids Award winner. Mark Rucker's column appears in quotes below, followed by the photo.

“Carte-de-Visite from St. Louis, Missouri, circa 1865.

This fine little photograph was made by Cramer & Gross, whose studio was located on Fourth Street in St. Louis, Missouri during and after the Civil War. At this time St. Louis was among the most advanced of all US cities, and would be the second city a tourist would want to visit, after New York.

In this carte we see a young ball player, perhaps ten to twelve years old, wearing a complete, up to date base ball uniform, with a late-1850s style hat. He holds a bat, and brought two others with him, which lie at his feet. The studio where the boy poses is most interesting. It seems to be set up as a 3-dimensional space with leaves overhead, and a real wooden fence, behind which is the backdrop. Or is it a studio? Could this photo have been taken outdoors? After studying this CdV, I cannot tell whether the camera was inside or outside. In this unusual setting the young player is imitating for the camera what he does on the field.



The cool thing for me about this photo is the way the boy poses. He is imitating playing in a game, and is watching an invisible approaching pitch. He is looking up, which indicates the feeder would be offering a high lob pitch, much like slow pitch softball today. He has his bat cocked, and is anticipating the approach of the imaginary ball.

Baseball photos from 1880s photographers' studios might have shown a ball hung from a string, creating a tableau similar to this one. Cabinet photos of '80s baseball players would often depict a batter about to hit a ball, or a fielder about to catch a suspended ball. But 20 to 30 years earlier, in circa 1865 St. Louis, this surprising picture expresses the same thing.”

If you have comments on the photo, please send them to Mark Rucker's email address at tgraphic@shaw.ca

MYSTERY PHOTO COLUMN

Mark Fimoff's Mystery Photo Column is available for download on the Pictorial History Committee section of the SABR website. It can be found at <http://sabr.org/research/pictorial-history-research-committee-newsletters>