



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
March 1991

Sporting News Drops Obituary Column

What is the first column you turn to when you get your *Sporting News* each week? If you are like me, you turn to the obituary column to see what players may have died recently. The *Sporting News*, a once-great baseball paper, has never been particularly helpful to researchers. And since Spink sold the paper to Times-Mirror, the quality and quantity of baseball news in the paper has deteriorated greatly. Members of this committee are encouraged to write TSN and urge the reinstatement of the obituary column. I also intend to write *Baseball America*, a terrific publication, to begin an obituary column and I will send them this newsletter to help get them started.

Straightening Out The Doyles

In August of 1989, the *Mystery of the Month* related to Cornelius J. Doyle. We have two death dates on him, one in 1927 in East Orange, New Jersey and one from 1938 in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Joe Simenic has looked in to the Doyles and determined that we had them all screwed up. Cornelius J. Doyle played in in 1883 with Philadelphia (NL) and in 1884 with Pittsburgh (AA). The Pittsburgh entry had been previously credited to John Aloysius Doyle. However, John was actually the 1882 pitcher with St. Louis (AA) which we had credited to Edward. Edward becomes the odd man out; he was never a major league player. Also the 1890 Toledo (AA) entry which we had credited to

Cornelius is deleted. No Doyle played with Toledo in 1890. The proper date of death appears to be the one in 1938 in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

It Just Isn't The Swaim

The death we had been carrying for John Hillary "Cy" Swaim is actually for a former PCL player by the name of Charles H. Swain. Swain was born in California in 1883 and began his professional career with Spokane in 1905. The real Cy Swaim apparently was writing about wanting to hear from old ball players during World War II. He may have been living in Florida at the time. At any rate, Swaim is now added to our list of missing players. Thanks to Joe Simenic and Tom Shea for providing this information.

New Members

We have two new members joining the bio team this month. They are Joe Dittmar, 3112 Hayes Road, Norristown, Pennsylvania 19403 (D5) and Andrew Voytek, 2044 East Main Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06610 (V2). Also, please delete the address for Sharon Roepke that I gave last month. The newsletter came back marked "Return to Sender."

Mothers' Maiden Names

As many of you know, Latin players generally use their mother's maiden name as a part of their own name such as Roberto Clemente y Walker. However it is often confusing as to when it should be used. I deleted the real name of Moises Rojas y Beltre for Moises Alou because Alou was born in Atlanta making him an American although he is of Latin descent. In contrast you have the situation of Robert Chandler Greenwood who is an American born in Mexico. Keep me honest on this but I will try to only list the mother's maiden name of Latin players born

outside the USA. That seems to be the most reasonable approach.

Errors By Committee Chairman

You will notice that I put back Edward J. Trumbull's real name of Edward J. Trembly. When Bob Richardson sent me his obit last month, I did the worst thing a researcher can do. I assumed. I assumed that because his entire family was named Trumbull that the Trembly name must have been a typo. Bob assured me that the real name of Trembly is correct. A valuable lesson learned.

Also, in last month's report I listed the death date of Uriah Evans as January 17, 1907. I had both the obituary and the death certificate and I didn't notice that the dates were different. The death certificate lists the date as January 16.

In addition, I had a typo in last month's report. Patrick Dealy's middle initial is E, not J.

More Possible Errors

I have been alerted to a couple more possible errors (*Oh no! That cannot be!*) via the vast files of Tom Shea. We list James William Byers (1904) as being born in Bridgeton, Indiana. Apparently, this should be Bridgeton, Maryland. I can't find either one on the map. Can someone check this out? Also, we list non-playing manager John B. Day (1899) as being born in Colchester, Massachusetts. This is quite likely Colchester, Connecticut. We need verification.

Birthday List

Wouldn't you know that as soon as I start a new feature in the newsletter, something happens to screw it up? I listed seven birthdays last month suggesting you send the players birthday cards. By the time you received the newsletter, two of them had died. I hope I'm not jinxing them. We have only one birthday in April. Bernie DeViveiros turns 90 April 19 thus becoming the 26th living nonagenarian.

Joe Overfield Featured In Bill James 1991 Baseball Book

It is always nice to see one of our committee members featured in an article and in Bill James 1991 Baseball Book there is a terrific article on Joe Overfield written by Jack Etkin. Jack Etkin is a fine sportswriter who in the past has authored

articles on Richard Topp, Bob Tiemann, and myself. Obviously he knows a good story when he sees one. Anyway, I would urge all of you to read this article as it tells a very poignant story of a fine writer and terrific researcher.

Rippy's Believe It Or Not

Benjamin Wesley Rippy was born April 3, 1850 in Alamance County, North Carolina to Abel and Delilah Rippy. In the 1860's Rippy moved to Cincinnati to live with an uncle, Reuben Jones. In order to make future baseball researchers' lives more complicated and to become the March 1991 *Mystery of the Month*, Rippy decided to change his name to Charles Wesley Jones. (Why couldn't his uncle have been named Abbaticchio?)

Jones' baseball career was an eventful one, beginning in 1875 and terminating in 1888. His career was marked by contract disputes, suspensions, and alcohol problems. (And they say baseball has changed in recent years.) In 1887, his son was born in Cincinnati. He also had at least one other daughter. Sometime in the 1890's he moved to New York City. And what would be a perfect job for a man with a drinking problem? He became the inspector of elections. In 1896 he also was an umpire in the Atlantic Association.

Jones was around as late as 1906 when Tim Murnane bumped into him at the bicycle races in New York City. Murnane said Jones was "connected with Billy Muldoon's sanitary farm up in New York state" and had been given the week off to help with the bike races. As far as I know, that is the last data we have on him. Thanks to Tom Shea, Harold Dellinger, and Bob Richardson for providing information on Jones.

Find of the Month

The *Find of the Month* award goes to Tom Hufford for tracking down Richard Jerome Chambers. Tom drove around the North Carolina countryside talking to the locals to find out about Chambers. They pointed out an old house, now used as a barn, which they referred to as "the Rome Chambers house." So in spite of the fact that he died 89 years ago, his home town has not forgotten him.

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1990 Alou, Moises Rojas	Delete real name	(C1)
1950 Avrea, James Epherium	D: <u>Jun 26 1987</u>	(H1)
	<u>Dallas, Texas</u>	
1990 Baerga y Ortiz, Carlos Obed	B: <u>Santurce, Puerto Rico</u>	(H1)
1912 Brady, William A.	Name: <u>William Aloysius Brady</u>	(B3)
	B: <u>Aug 18 1889</u>	
	<u>New York, New York</u>	
	BR Height: <u>6-01.5</u> Weight: <u>180</u>	
1988 Castillo, Antonio Jose	Name: <u>Antonio Jose Castillo y Jimenez</u>	(H1)
1990 Ceden y Encarnacion, Andujar	Name: <u>Andujar Ceden y Domastorq</u>	(H1)
1900 Chambers, Jerome	Name: <u>Richard Jerome Chambers</u>	(H4)
	B: <u>Aug 31 1875</u>	
	D: <u>Aug 30 1902</u>	
	<u>Weaverville, North Carolina</u>	
1883 Doyle, Cornelius J.	Add Pit 1884 AA record from John Doyle	(S1)
	and delete Toledo 1890 AA record	
	B: <u>Sep 26 1857</u>	(S4)
	D: <u>Oct 6 1938</u>	
	<u>West Springfield, Massachusetts</u>	
1882 Doyle, Edward H.	Delete player	(S1)
1884 Doyle, John Aloysius	Delete Pit 1884 AA record and add	(S1)
	StL 1882 AA record from Edward Doyle	
1990 Encarnacion, Luis Martin	Name: <u>Luis Martin Lora Encarnacion</u>	(H1)
	Real name: <u>Luis Martin Lora y Encarnacion</u>	
1906 Essick, William Earl	Height: <u>5-10</u> Weight: <u>175</u>	(B3)
1935 Estalella y Ventoza, Roberto	D: <u>Jan 6 1991</u>	(H1)
	<u>Hialeah, Florida</u>	
1879 Evans, Uriah L. P.	D: <u>Jan 16 1907</u>	(C1)
1990 Faries, Paul Tyrell	Name: <u>Paul Tyrrell Faries</u>	(H1)
1990 Farmer, Howard Earl	B: <u>Nov 18 1966</u>	(H1)
1989 Fletcher, Darrin Glen	Son of Thomas Wayne Fletcher	(H1)
1962 Fletcher, Thomas Wayne	Father of Darrin Glen Fletcher	(H1)
1990 Garces, Richard Aron	Name: <u>Richard Aron Garces y Mendoza</u>	(H1)
1990 Garcia, Carlos Jesus	Name: <u>Carlos Jesus Garcia y Guerrero</u>	(H1)
1990 Gomez, Leonardo	Name: <u>Leonardo Gomez y Velez</u>	(H1)
1955 Gonzales, Wenceslao O'Reilly	Name: <u>Wenceslao Gonzales y O'Reilly</u>	(H1)
1989 Hale, Walter William	B: <u>San Jose, California</u>	(H1)
1967 Hardin, James Warren	D: <u>Mar 9 1991</u>	(C1)
	<u>Key West, Florida</u>	
1990 Hernandez, Carlos Alberto	Name: <u>Carlos Alberto Hernandez y Almeida</u>	(H1)
1944 Jarvis, Leroy Gilbert	D: <u>Oklahoma City, Oklahoma</u>	(H1)

1935 Judy, Lyle Leroy	D: <u>Jan 15 1991</u>	(H1)
	<u>Ormond Beach, Florida</u>	
1913 Lavan, John Leonard	Real name: <u>John Leonard Laven</u>	(H1)
1990 Maldonado, Carlos Cesar	Name: <u>Carlos Cesar Maldonado y Delgado</u>	(H1)
1933 McColl, Alexander Boyd	D: <u>Feb 6 1991</u>	(H1)
	<u>Kingsville, Ohio</u>	
1935 McLean, Albert Eldon	D: <u>Guilford, North Carolina</u>	(C1)
1986 Morris, John Daniel	B: <u>North Bellmore, New York</u>	(H1)
1990 Munoz, Pedro Javier	Name: <u>Pedro Javier Munoz y Gonzalez</u>	(H1)
1925 Munson, Joseph Martin Napoleon	D: <u>Feb 24 1991</u>	(H1)
	<u>Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania</u>	
1987 Palacios y Hernandez, Vicente	Name: <u>Vicente Palacios y Diaz</u>	(H1)
1929 Pattison, James Wells	B: <u>Bronx, New York</u>	(H1)
	D: <u>Feb 22 1991</u>	
	<u>Melbourne, Florida</u>	
1990 Pena, Geronimo	Name: <u>Geronimo Pena y Martinez</u>	(H1)
	B: <u>Los Alcarizos, Dominican Republic</u>	
1990 Perez, Michael Irvin	Name: <u>Michael Irvin Perez y Ortega</u>	(H1)
1936 Phebus, Raymond William	Is deceased	(H1)
1888 Ray, Irving Burton	<u>BLTR</u>	(R1)
1990 Reed, Darren Douglas	Name: <u>Darren A Douglass Reed</u>	(H1)
	B: <u>Ojai, California</u>	
1990 Rodriguez, Richard Anthony	B: <u>Downey, California</u>	(H1)
1990 Rosario y Paredes, Victor Manuel	Name: <u>Victor Manuel Rosario y Rivera</u>	(H1)
1990 Santana y Belonis, Andres Confesor	B: <u>Feb 5 1968</u>	(H1)
1884 Smith, William E.	B: <u>Cleveland, Ohio</u>	(S1)
	D: <u>Aug 9 1886</u>	
	<u>Toronto, Ontario</u>	
	Height: <u>5-11</u> Weight: <u>178</u>	
1989 Stanton, William Michael	B: <u>Houston, Texas</u>	(H1)
1897 Swaim, John Hillary	Delete death date. Wrong man.	(S1)
1884 Trumbull, Edward J.	Real name: <u>Edward J. Trembly</u>	(R1)
1954 Upton, William Ray	Is deceased	(H1)
1990 Valera, Julio Enrique	Name: <u>Julio Enrique Valera y Torres</u>	(H1)
	B: <u>Aquadilla, Puerto Rico</u>	
1990 Wagner, Hector Raul	Name: <u>Hector Raul Guerrero Wagner</u>	(H1)
	Real name: <u>Hector Raul Guerrero y Wagner</u>	
	B: <u>San Juan, Dominican Republic</u>	
1989 Wetteland, John Karl	B: <u>Aug 21 1966</u>	(H1)
1919 Zinn, James Edward	D: <u>Feb 26 1991</u>	(C1)
	<u>Memphis, Tennessee</u>	

Air Disasters

The death of Jim Hardin in an airline crash makes him the 13th former major league player to die as the result of an airline tragedy. Courtesy of Bill Haber, here is the complete list:

10-21-1925	Houston, Texas	Marv Goodwin	Plane crashed after takeoff from Ellington Field, Houston.
09-17-1935	Toronto, Ontario	Len Koenecke	Went berserk in plane over Toronto. Beaten to death with fire extinguisher.
04-20-1944	St. Pol, France	Elmer Gedeon	Died in combat in World War II. Plane shot down over France.
09-20-1956	Riviera Beach, Md.	Tom Gastall	Private plane crashed over Chesapeake Bay. Body found in water five days later.
11-27-1956	Caracas, Venezuela	Charles Peete	Killed with wife and three children en route to play winter baseball.
07-08-1958	Culpeper, Virginia	Bill McAfee	Private plane crashed in heavy storm. Returning home from All-Star game.
02-13-1964	Provo, Utah	Ken Hubbs	Private plane crashed in heavy snowstorm. Body recovered in Utah lake.
03-16-1969	Maracaibo, Venezuela	Nestor Chavez	In plane crash claiming 155 lives.
12-31-1972	San Juan, Puerto Rico	Roberto Clemente	Private plane crash on mercy mission to Managua, Nicaragua.
09-03-1975	Wheeling, Illinois	Irving Medlinger	Private plane crash at airport.
08-02-1979	Canton, Ohio	Thurman Munson	Private plane crash while practicing take-offs and landings at airport.
11-24-1987	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Jim Russell	Suffered heart attack on plane en route from Tampa to Pittsburgh.
03-09-1991	Key West, Florida	Jim Hardin	Private plane crash while returning home after fishing trip.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	13511	75	99.448
Total Complete Births	12747	839	93.825
Total Complete Deaths	6660	527	49.021
Total Assumed Alive	6399		47.100
Total Bats	12162	1324	90.182
Total Throws	12440	1046	92.244
Total Heights	12308	1178	91.265
Total Weights	12233	1253	90.709
Total Debut Dates	13586	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9899	3687	72.862
Total Completion		91.8606	