

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. 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

## 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

#### 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 "Peturn 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

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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.

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 Abbatichio?) 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.

## 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 corew 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

## 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.

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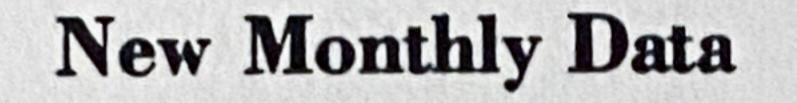
26th living nonagenarian.

## 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

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**Ouestionnaires Received:** 



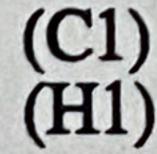
#### New Information Received:

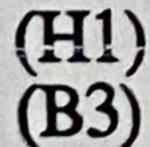
1990 Alou, Moises Rojas 1950 Avrea, James Epherium

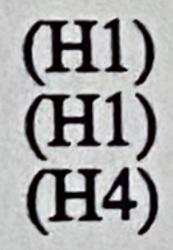
1990 Baerga y Ortiz, Carlos Obed 1912 Brady, William A.

1988 Castillo, Antonio Jose 1990 Cedeno y Encarnacion, Andujar 1900 Chambers, Jerome

Delete real name D: Jun 26 1987 Dallas, Texas B: Santurce, Puerto Rico Name: William Aloysius Brady B: Aug 18 1889 New York, New York BR Height: 6-01.5 Weight: 180 Name: Antonio Jose Castillo y Jimenez Name: Andujar Cedeno y Domastorq Name: Richard Jerome Chambers B: Aug 31 1875 D: Aug 30 1902 Weaverville, North Carolina







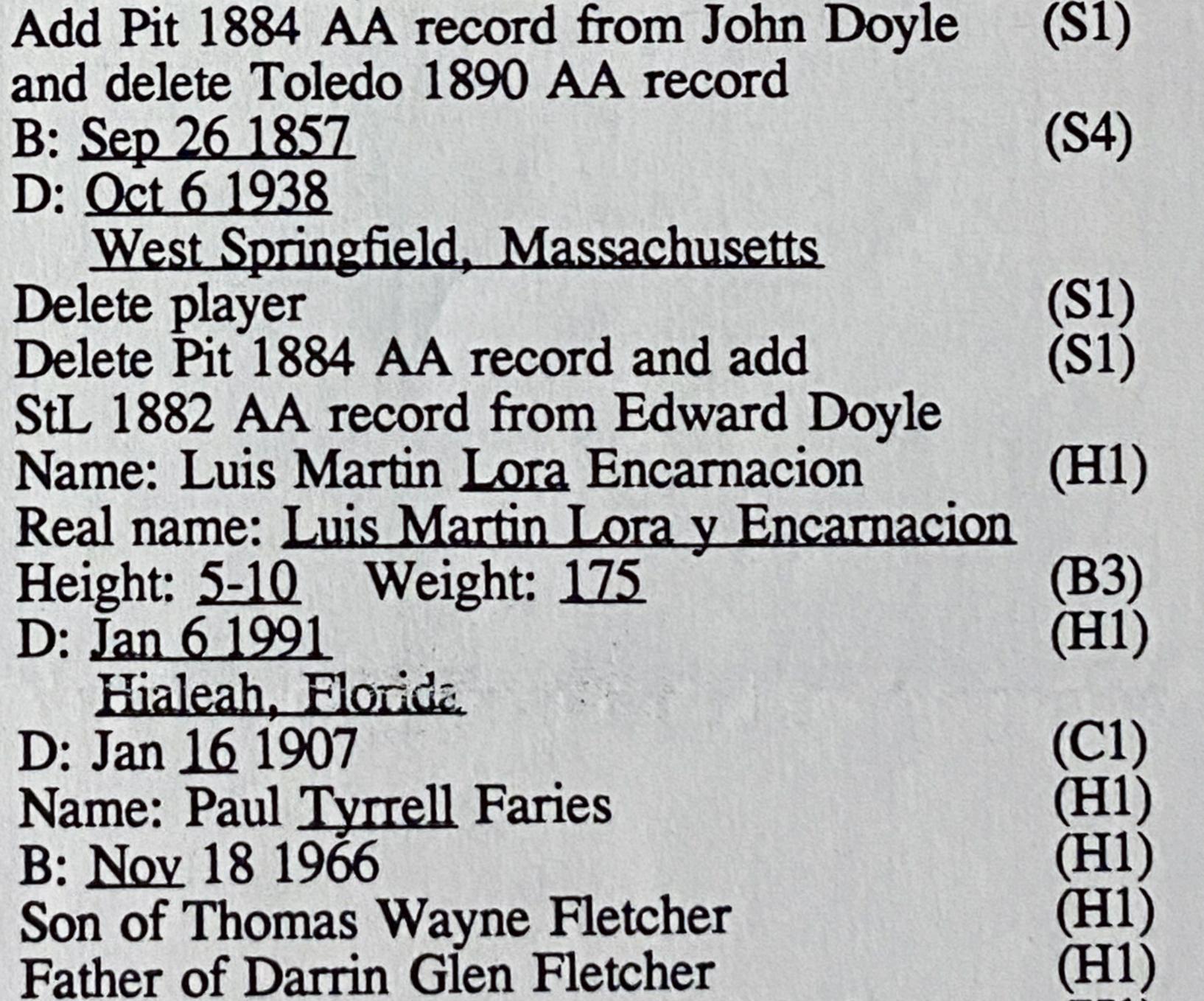
#### 1883 Doyle, Cornelius J.

1882 Doyle, Edward H. 1884 Doyle, John Aloysius

1990 Encarnacion, Luis Martin

1906 Essick, William Earl 1935 Estalella y Ventoza, Roberto

1879 Evans, Uriah L. P. 1990 Faries, Paul Tyrell 1990 Farmer, Howard Earl 1989 Fletcher, Darrin Glen 1962 Fletcher, Thomas Wayne 1990 Garces, Richard Aron 1990 Garcia, Carlos Jesus 1990 Gomez, Leonardo 1955 Gonzales, Wenceslao O'Reilly 1989 Hale, Walter William 1967 Hardin, James Warren



1990 Hernandez, Carlos Alberto 1944 Jarvis, Leroy Gilbert

(H1) (H1) (H1) (H1) (H1) Name: Richard Aron Garces y Mendoza Name: Carlos Jesus Garcia y Guerrero Name: Leonardo Gomez y Velez Name: Wenceslao Gonzales y O'Reilly B: San Jose, California (C1)D: Mar 9 1991 Key West, Florida Name: Carlos Alberto Hernandez y Almeida (H1) (H1)D: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



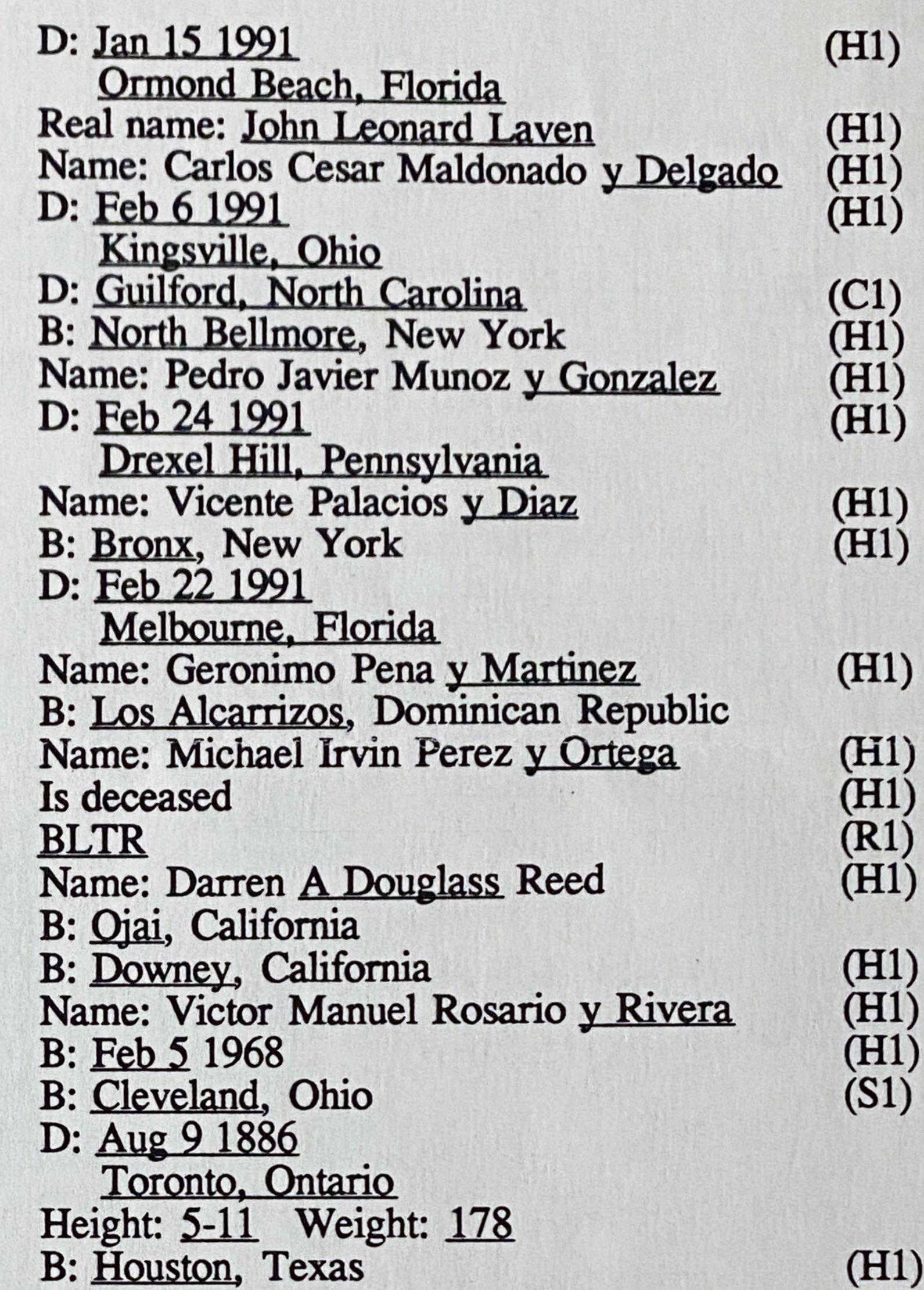
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#### 1935 Judy, Lyle Leroy

1913 Lavan, John Leonard 1990 Maldonado, Carlos Cesar 1933 McColl, Alexander Boyd

1935 McLean, Albert Eldon 1986 Morris, John Daniel 1990 Munoz, Pedro Javier 1925 Munson, Joseph Martin Napoleon



1987 Palacios y Hernandez, Vicente 1929 Pattison, James Wells

#### 1990 Pena, Geronimo

1990 Perez, Michael Irvin 1936 Phebus, Raymond William 1888 Ray, Irving Burton 1990 Reed, Darren Douglas

1990 Rodriguez, Richard Anthony 1990 Rosario y Paredes, Victor Manuel 1990 Santana y Belonis, Andres Confesor 1884 Smith, William E.

1989 Stanton, William Michael 1897 Swaim, John Hillary 1884 Trumbull, Edward J. 1954 Upton, William Ray 1990 Valera, Julio Enrique

1990 Wagner, Hector Raul

1989 Wetteland, John Karl 1919 Zinn, James Edward

(S1) (R1) (H1) Delete death date. Wrong man. Real name: Edward J. Trembly Is deceased (H1) Name: Julio Enrique Valera y Torres B: Aquadilla, Puerto Rico Name: Hector Raul Guerrero Wagner (H1) Real name: Hector Raul Guerrero y Wagner B: San Juan, Dominican Republic B: Aug <u>21</u> 1966 (H1) D: Feb 26 1991 (C1) Memphis, Tennessee

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## **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:

Marv Goodwin 10-21-1925 Houston, Texas Len Koenecke Toronto, Ontario 09-17-1935

5.

St. Pol, France Elmer Gedeon 04-20-1944 09-20-1956 Riviera Beach, Md. Tom Gastall 11-27-1956 Caracas, Venezuela Charles Peete 07-08-1958 Bill McAfee Culpeper, Virginia 02-13-1964 Provo, Utah Ken Hubbs 03-16-1969 Maracaibo, Venezuela Nestor Chavez 12-31-1972 San Juan, Puerto Rico Roberto Clemente

Plane crashed after takeoff from Ellington Field, Houston. Went berserk in plane over Toronto. Beaten to death with fire extinguisher. Died in combat in World War II. Plane shot down over France. Private plane crashed over Chesapeake Bay. Body found in water five days later. Killed with wife and three children en route to play winter baseball. Private plane crashed in heavy storm. Returning home from All-Star game. Private plane crashed in heavy snowstorm. Body recovered in Utah lake. In plane crash claiming 155 lives. Private plane crash on mercy mission to Managua, Nicaragua. Private plane crash at airport.

#### Thurman Munson 08-02-1979 Canton, Ohio Jim Russell 11-24-1987 Pittsburgh, Pa. Jim Hardin 03-09-1991 Key West, Florida

Wheeling, Illinois

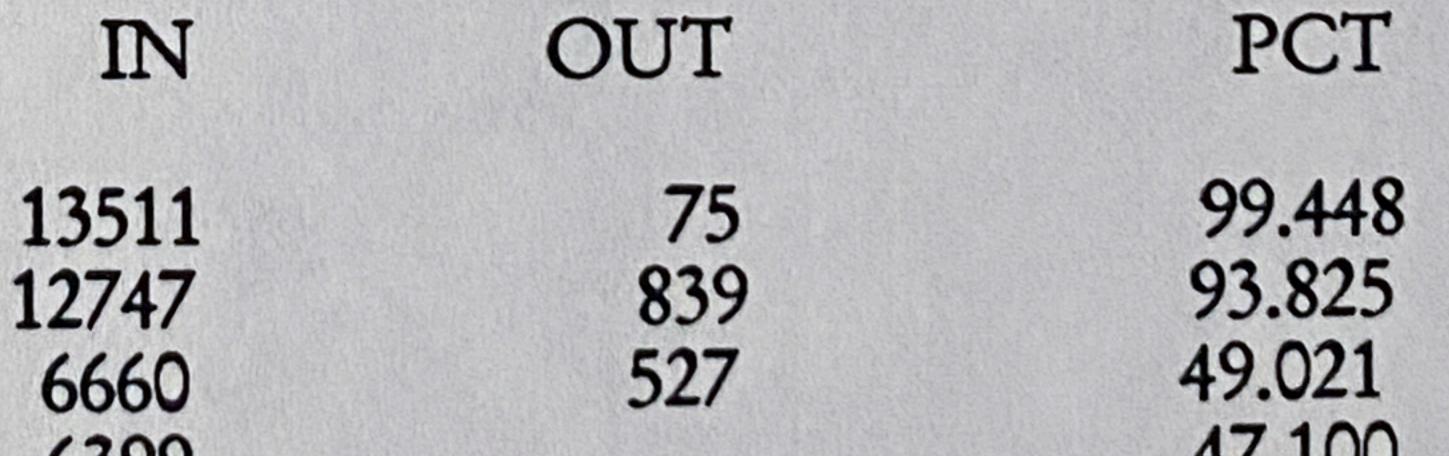
Private plane crash while practicing take-offs and landings at airport. Suffered heart attack on plane en route from Tampa to Pittsburgh. Private plane crash while returning home after fishing trip.

# The Scoreboard

Irving Medlinger

Total Complete Names Total Complete Births Total Complete Deaths

09-03-1975



Bio Report		5		March 1991	
	Total Completion		91.8606		
	Total Bats Total Throws Total Heights Total Weights Total Debut Dates Total Questionnaires	12162 12440 12308 12233 13586 9899	1046 1178 1253 0 3687	92.244 91.265 90.709 100.000 72.862	
	Total Assumed Alive	6399	1324	47.100 90.182	