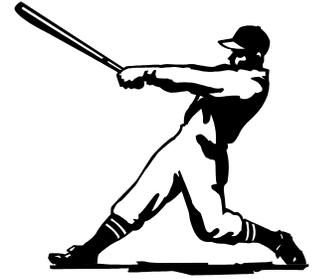




Baseball Lives



Volume 1, Issue 2
May 2005

New Biographies

- Edward "Red" Borom
- Ray Caldwell
- Miike Garcia
- Alexander Cartwright
- Denny Driscoll
- Tom Glass
- Al Burris
- Larry Sherry
- Arch McDonald
- Howie Pollet
- Pete Gillespie

Now Available for Biographies

The following major league player names have been returned to Lyle Spatz. They are available for assignment.

- Jim Tabor
- Spud Chandler
- Lefty Gomez
- Red Ruffing
- Jimmie Cooney
- James Cooney
- John Cooney
- Bob Oldis

Words from Mark Armour

A reminder from Mark - There are certain things all biographers should do. I am going to start off with one rule, and we can work from this.

The first thing every biographer should do is visit www.baseballindex.org, SABR's very own bibliography. Depending on your subject, there might be a handful or hundreds of citations to track down.

Then you should track the citations down.

For well known subjects, like Max Bishop or Al Rosen, one could easily write 2000 words just using a few other biographical sources and a few articles from the web. This is not what we want. We want you to find the interview with Max Bishop in 1927 in Baseball Magazine, or the article about Al Rosen in 1952 in Sport magazine. That's a start.

If the subject is a star, be prepared to read a lot. If the subject is lesser known, be prepared to dig deep.

- *Mark*



"He (Satchel Paige) came in the front door (of the hall of Fame), but the original plan was for him to go in the back door; into a special wing for Negro-Leaguers. A lot of people, black and white, were angry when that plan was announced and I think Satchel shook them up when he said "the only change is that baseball has turned Satchel from a second class citizen into a second-class immortal." The outcry was such that Commissioner Bowie Kuhn reversed the decision and put Satchel in the same room with Ruth and Mathewson and Jackie Robinson."

Buck O'Neil

From the Editor

If you noticed the list of new biographies, you noticed we haven't added very many in the past three months.

There are several reasons, none of them very good.

There are several bios that have been with an editor, or have been ready to be assigned to an editor for weeks, or months. *Editors* - We are doing our authors a disservice by not com-

pleting their work. (I am one of the guilty editors.)

There have been fewer bios completed and submitted for edit. *Writers* - Keep writing; keep submitting. There are a lot of interesting stories yet to be told.

Finally, some finished bios may have been lost in cyberspace—as was the "Red" Borom bio. Follow-up might prevent this - *Mike Cooney*

Charlie Bevis - Author of 13 Biographies



Having a fascination for a ball player, or category of ball players, helps immeasurably in writing a good biography for the SABR BioProject. Two categories of ball players that have drawn my fascination are: (1) born near my hometown, lived near my current residence, or attended my collegiate alma mater, i.e., players I have a vested interest in. (2) Had a short major league career with an underappreciated story or interesting post-baseball life.

Ball players in which the biographer has a vested interest can be readily identified and very often make excellent research candidates. Many times, no one has yet taken the time to research the

player's life, the most desired segments of the biography.

While the second category is less immediately identifiable, these players come about through my other baseball research projects. My biographies of Steve Kuczek and Luke Stuart are good examples here. My interest in Claude Davidson came from the research into my recent book, *Sunday Baseball: The Major Leagues' Struggle to Play Baseball on the Lord's Day*. Sometimes the two categories overlap, as in the biography of Wally Snell that was reproduced in the 2004 issue of SABR's *The National Pastime*.

Charlie

SABR 35
August 4-7
Toronto

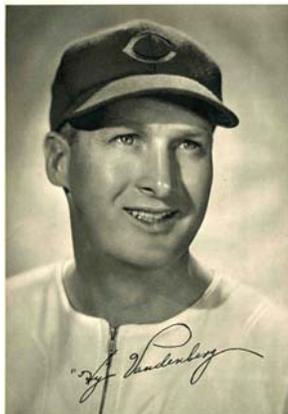
Including: George Bignell, Mickey Cochrane,

My favorite research tool is the hidden resource of college archives. Many of the more prestigious college and universities like the Ivy League schools maintain biographical files on their alumni. These files provide a wealth of information that may not otherwise be readily accessible to a biographer, including information reported directly by the graduate himself as well as newspaper and magazine clippings from obscure sources.

For example, the file maintained by Brown University for Wally Snell, a 1913 graduate, contained two "Graduate Record" forms, one at the time of

graduation and one a few years later for a class update. These forms detailed Snell's family members, preparatory schools, and early "positions held since leaving college." The file also contained a biographical sketch from a scientific journal that I would have never located on my own.

The ball player need not have actually graduated from the school, as often just attending the school is enough. Brown University maintained a sizeable file on Davidson, Class of 1919, even though he left school in 1917. A major find was a 1941 article in the features section of the *Providence Journal*. I would have never run across it.



Tim, Donahue, Tony Lupien, Wally Snell, Bill Weir

The process for obtaining the contents of an alumni biographical file is fairly simple.

- Find out if the college, or prep school, maintains archives on its' alumni. Check the school's web site or ask for the archivist.
- Determine the approximate year of graduation, or attendance for the subject.
- Inquire to the archivist about the procedure

to obtain an alumni file. E-mail is an effective approach.

- Follow the procedure specified by the archivist staff. Be Patient.
- Use the file contents for their unique elements and to pursue other research sources found within the file.

Charlie Bevis

From the Editor in Chief

Comment: It would certainly be helpful to indicate just what has been changed whenever a BIO is revised. - Ron Henry

Answer from the desk of Jan Finkel:

Editors should tell writers what, how and why they've changed anything in any project. That's a given. How they inform writers is something they have to work out between themselves.

I can't speak for other editors because I see a bio only when it comes in and when the editor and writer have agreed upon the finished product, but I can tell you what I do.

It begins as the writer and I set our ground rules. Some writers want to know everything their editor does, the number of every streak on the tulip.

More From Jan

The central principle, to me, is not to over-edit, as I've found some people who over-teach, over-coach, and over-manage. Every writer has a distinctive voice, and it's my job to help the writer find that voice or maintain, sharpen, and polish it. Too much editing makes the piece mine, not the writer's - the diametric opposite of what we both want.

Jan

We Salute Our Biography Authors

James Forr

- Author of Bob Prince and Bob Ramazzotti
- SABR member since 2001
- Masters Degree in Business Administration from Penn State University
- Lives in State College, PA
- Works as a senior associate with Olson Zaltman Associates, a consulting firm specializing in marketing strategy
- Long-suffering Pirates fan
- Raised by a pack of slobbering basset hounds

Others aren't interested in minor details, just wanting the job done. Most fall somewhere in between.

I handle little matters - fixing quotation marks, correcting typos, changing the occasional word, and so on - silently. Radical restructuring, stylistic overhauls, questions of facts, significant deletions and/or additions and the like - that's where I earn my keep. My general practice is to make the revisions and give the writer my reasons in a cover note. I also highlight major revisions in **bold print** and ask questions (also in **bold**) placed inside squiggly brackets in the text. Seasoned writers seldom need drastic help; new writers sometimes need a firm but gentle hand.

Tentative Schedule For SABR 35

The Committee meetings for SABR 35 in Toronto, Canada include on Saturday, August 6:

- 4:00 p.m. Bio Project
- 5:00 p.m. Bio Research

Make plans now to attend SABR 35. We look forward to seeing you at the Bio Project Committee meeting.

From the Biography of Bob Prince

By James Forr

"Hall of Fame broadcaster Bob Prince was a man of Paradox. *He* was often brash and loud, but tender and caring around the disabled children who meant so much to him; a carefree playboy who enjoyed a drink or two (or three), but a devoted family man who raised two children with his wife of 44 years; proud and sometimes arrogant, but gracious in his relations with players and younger broadcasters; occasionally hated, but ultimately loved by Pirate fans who invited him into their homes, offices, and cars every day of the baseball season for 28 years." (*For more go to www.bioproj.sabr.org and search for Bob Prince.*)

"Babe Ruth and I are alike in only one way. We are both hard losers."
Ty Cobb

"It aint like football. You can't make up no trick plays."
Yogi Berra

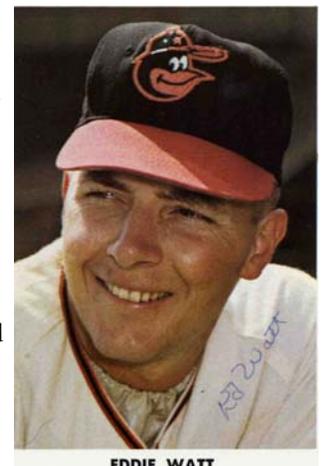
"Of all the teams I played on, the Yankees were the team that drank the most."
Joe DeMaestri

From: Quotable Baseball Fanatic

SABR 35

August 4-7

Toronto



EDDIE WATT

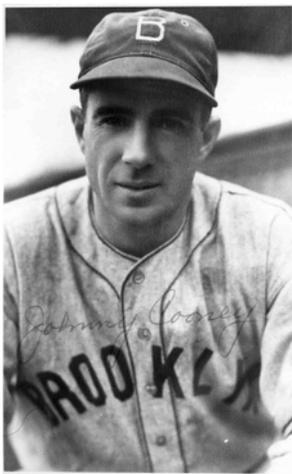
SABR BioProject Committee



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Bioproject.sabr.org

SABR Biography Project



The Baseball Biography Project (TBBP) is an ongoing effort to produce comprehensive biographical articles on every person who ever played or managed in the major leagues, as well as any other person who touched baseball in a significant way. The project is run by the BioProject Committee of the Society for American Baseball Research. (SABR)

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