



Baseball Lives



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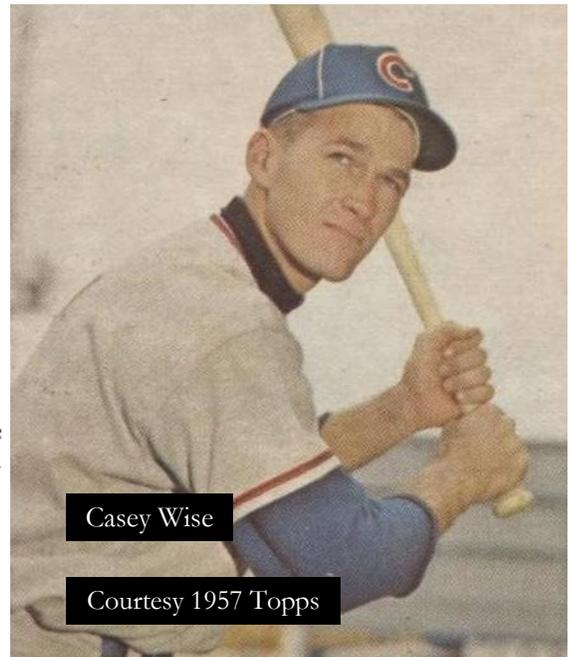
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Words from Mark Armour

A year or more ago I sent a note out to the list urging that people try to keep their biographies under 4000 words. I got a bit of pushback on this, from people who thought that *their* long bios included material not to be found elsewhere and it needs to be there, etc. Where we left it was, "please be careful."

I am writing today to reinforce this point, and to mention that some people perhaps are not being careful enough. This project requires, depending on the subject, some combination of research skills and writing skills. When we started I suggested that the more prominent players (like Willie Mays) were easy to research but hard to write--the skill is distilling all of the readily available information down to a compelling story. The one-gamer from Altoona is 99% research, though good writing is appreciated and desired.

In the past eight years this has changed dramatically, and people can readily find game details and in-season accounts on virtually every 20th century player and many from the 19th as well. Some authors have taken this as an opportunity to, as one of our editors put it, "empty the notebook"-- if a nugget is found, it must make it into the bio. For one thing, there is often far too much season or game detail, things I can easily find myself. (The following is a made-up example.) If you are researching Casey Wise, a utility infielder from 50 years ago, you now have play by play for every game he ever played, and another several dozen references in the Sporting News and various online newspapers. If you tell me that Wise hit .217 with 9 doubles, 2 triples, and 21 RBI, but hit particularly well in a six game stretch in May when he went 7-20 with four RBI, you really haven't told me anything. What would be more interesting to me is if you put me in Wise's shoes: as he is working his way up the ladder or playing on various benches, who were his competition? What did he need to do to improve, to advance? Who did he have to beat out? Tell me that Wise was a shortstop, and was playing behind Ernie Banks, so he worked on playing third base in the spring. Let me know realistically what is going on. I don't really care that he hit .265 in spring training, and I don't think readers will care either. Show me how his career progressed or regressed, and what he might have been feeling about it. (Continued on Page two)



Casey Wise

Courtesy 1957 Topps

Words from Mark Armour (Continued)

Similarly, all of these guys' minor league stats are on-line, which is new. Although their minor league experience is part of their story (and most or their entire story in some cases), there is no need to regurgitate the details unless something particularly interesting happened. There is nothing wrong with writing, "John spent the next four years inching his way through the Orioles system, never hitting higher than .271 but flashing occasional power and drawing good reviews for his glove work at third base." Often times, I read bios where the author feels compelled to spend a paragraph on each minor league season even when there is nothing to add other than player's statistical record. Even beyond that, I appreciate the research involved in finding your guys travels from Peoria to Little Rock in 1907, but why is this interesting? What makes this story different than everyone else's story from the period?

In the early days of the project, we worked at reminding people that this was a research project--we did not want "profiles" like one would find in a baseball game program. Looking at it from the other side, I am now reminding our researchers that it is also a writing project. Try to tell the reader why this guy was different than the other 17,000 major leaguers. Why are you telling me his story? If there are only 1500 compelling words to tell, then leave it there. Personally, I believe that the sweet spot for a well-written biography is 2000 to 3000 words. If the player has a lot of good first-hand stories or memories, or if there are a lot of good stories told about the player by others, or if there is a lot of off-field material, it can go higher and still be a tight read. I recently finished a bio of Jackie Jensen which came in around 3500 words. I think I could make the case that Jensen's life and career had more interesting subplots than a typical player.

Some of this, I believe, is just a big misunderstanding. As bios have grown, writers have thought that this is a new requirement. A friend recently wrote to me that he was struggling with a bio he was doing for a team project that he only had 2500 words but he was still digging for more. My response was that 2500 words was plenty, and that he should review the bio to remove any padding he might have done to stretch it that far. There is nothing wrong with a 2000 word bio on a utility infielder from the 1960s. In fact, that is probably about the right size, assuming he did not fly in the Apollo program in the off-season or something.

I still do not want to impose a hard cap, though there are people I respect who think I should do this. But again, I ask you to keep this in mind. We ask for 1500 or more words, and I think 2000-3000 is perfectly fine for most subjects. Please be careful beyond 4000. If it is much beyond that, I am going to ask our editors to be on the lookout for padding.

This all said, by the time you read this we will have posted more than 1400 bios. Every year at the SABR convention I put up a slide that shows our progress, and I write a "goal" for the next convention. Believe it or not, we have never reached the goal I set. The problem is not that we aren't doing enough; it's that I set unrealistic goals. Last year I said 1400, which it looks like we will reach. This is particularly impressive since much of our progress the past few years has been from team books, and we only published one in the past year (the 1969 Mets) and might not publish any in the next 12 months. So all of our progress has come from bios being sent through our editors and Jan. Remarkable.

Submissions have actually slowed down quite a bit. A few months ago we often had 50 or more bios with editors or waiting for editors, and much of our momentum this spring has been the editors whittling down the pile. Over the weekend we actually had just a handful with editors and zero waiting. So if you are ready to submit something, the lines have never been shorter.

Mark Armour

Ben & The Babe - Lessons Learned By Steve McPherson



Babe Ruth

I don't pretend to be either baseball historian or writer; however, in writing and researching Ben Egan, it became apparent I could not accept any significant factual information without first checking it out, whatever that means, whatever that takes.

During the summer of 2007 my wife Susan arrived home from a tour she had given at the Oneida Community Mansion House in Oneida, New York, and plopped down a business card belonging to Gene Carney. "Do you know this guy?" She asked. "You should call him."

She went on to say Gene and his companion questioned dates and information on display in a Sherrill community exhibit at the Oneida Community Mansion House. The exhibit had been put together by the Sherrill city historian and Mansion House curator. The photos and information related thereto had likely been passed on by those who had gone before and the contents never questioned.

One display contained a photo of Babe Ruth and Ben Egan and stated: "In 1910, a professional team from Baltimore played here. Its catcher was Sherrill native Ben Egan; its pitcher would soon be known as the Sultan of Swat. Babe Ruth started out in Noyes Park."

The problems noted by Gene and his companion were obvious to most any baseball historian since Babe Ruth didn't turn professional until 1914 when he was 19: he was only 15 in 1910. The Babe Ruth in the photo appears older

than 15 or even 19.

I found three sources dating back to 1935 which convincingly suggest that the date and facts in the Ruth-Egan exhibit are correct (if they were not so obviously wrong).

In 1997 Geoff Noyes wrote in the Sherrill City Newsletter: "On September 1, 1910, Babe Ruth pitched a baseball game in Noyes Park in Sherrill. He was playing for Baltimore of the Eastern major league at the time. His team played against the Oneida Community Ltd. team, mostly drawn from workers from the trap shop (now the Oneida Ltd. main factory)."

In 1966 Sherrill's Golden Anniversary, author and Oneida Community historian Constance Noyes Robertson wrote in the Sherrill anniversary publication: "In 1910 the Hardware Department was authorized to back the guaranty of the OCL Baseball Team to enable them to procure a game with the Baltimore Eastern League Team (later the Baltimore Orioles) at Kenwood Park on September 1st. The game was duly played, Ben Egan of Sherrill was first-string catcher for Baltimore at that time and Babe Ruth, then just starting baseball, pitched part of the game for Baltimore."

In 1935, Holton V. Noyes, the first manager of the OCL baseball team, circa 1900, and later the OCL baseball team's fiscal manager, began working on a manuscript detailing the Oneida Community Limited business and related affairs. An entry he made regarding that game versus Baltimore on September 1, 1910, stated, "Ben Egan of Sherrill was 1st string catcher for Baltimore at that time and, incidentally 'Babe Ruth' (then just starting in baseball) pitched part of the game for Baltimore."

So what is a historian supposed to do? How much research is enough? Who do you trust? When do you stop?

I and others easily verified the game played September 1, 1910. I located four more timely sources, three newspaper accounts published the day after the game or within days of the game and an entry in an Oneida Community publication, *The Quadrangle*, published in October 1910. (Continued on Page Four)



Ben Egan

Ben & The Babe - Lessons Learned By Steve McPherson (Continued)

Two local papers had brief one or two sentence stories but no box score. But the *Utica Daily Press* had a complete game summary and box score. Baltimore defeated OCL 5-0. Ben Egan caught, drove in one run with a sacrifice fly, and singled in four trips to the plate. Babe Ruth's name does not appear in the box score. Nor does his name appear in *The Quadrangle* piece.

Although I now had proof Ruth didn't play in Sherrill on September 1, 1910, I felt confident that he probably did play in Sherrill in 1914, when he and Egan were Baltimore teammates. But I was wrong.

Though Baltimore did visit Sherrill on Tuesday, May 19, 1914, the exhibition box score reports that Egan played but Ruth didn't. Moreover, further research disclosed the Orioles played the very next afternoon in Rochester. Ruth started for the Orioles but pitched ineffectively versus International League opponent Rochester.

So Holton V. Noyes, writing in 1935 in his unpublished manuscript, has two facts: Baltimore of the Eastern League played the OCL team on September 1, 1910, and Babe Ruth and Ben Egan were once teammates on the Baltimore Orioles. From these two facts Holton Noyes unwittingly creates a popular community myth.

The Ruth-Egan photo appears to have been taken in Baltimore during the early 1920s while Egan was with the Orioles and Ruth with the Yankees. The photo sometimes offered as evidence to corroborate Ruth's appearance in Sherrill, doesn't--wrong uniform, wrong age, wrong park.

While doing my Ben Egan research, I also discovered a few other Ben Egan related inaccuracies in books and newspapers. Some are easily checked, some not so. Here are a few:



- The *Oneida Daily Dispatch* interviewed Ben Egan in 1961 and reported that Egan *played* for the Philadelphia Athletics in the 1912 World Series and *won* an International League MVP award in 1913 while with the Baltimore Orioles.

- In 1968 UPI reported Ben Egan was *traded* to the Philadelphia Athletics at the end of the 1910 season and *played* in the World Series against the Cubs.

- Nearly all of Ben Egan's many obituaries reported he died in Sherrill in 1968, a fact confirmed by many sources including the *Baseball Encyclopedia* and *The Sporting News*, but not his Death Certificate which indicates he died at the Utica State Hospital in Utica, New York.

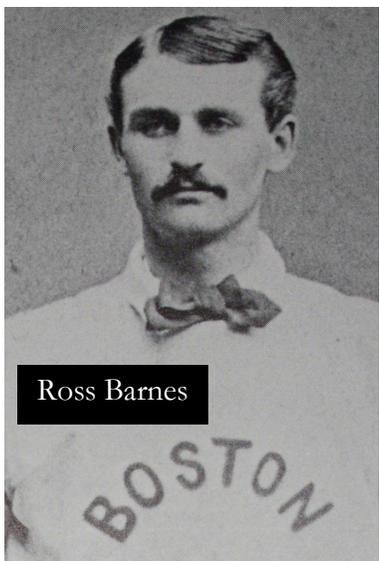
Additionally, I learned from an internet article, and later *confirmed* in both editions of *The Baseball Timeline* that Ben Egan had also served as an American league Umpire in 1911 (the same year he played for Baltimore). This was probably John J (Jack) Egan, an American League umpire in 1911.

Researching the life and times of Ben Egan reinforced the importance of performing my own research, not merely relying on the research of others. When practical, I use the research of others to point me in the right direction even when such backtracking consumes valuable time. This is especially important when a historian uses new, recent sources to try and corroborate old facts.

For example, a historian writing today about the 1919 Black Sox should not be satisfied citing and relying on facts offered in a 2004 publication. He or she should try and locate the writer's original source. The Ruth-Egan dilemma a further example of what can happen when historians take too many short cuts or base their conclusions on assumptions and on the unverified statements of others. Secretaries type it up; historians look it up.

Steve McPherson

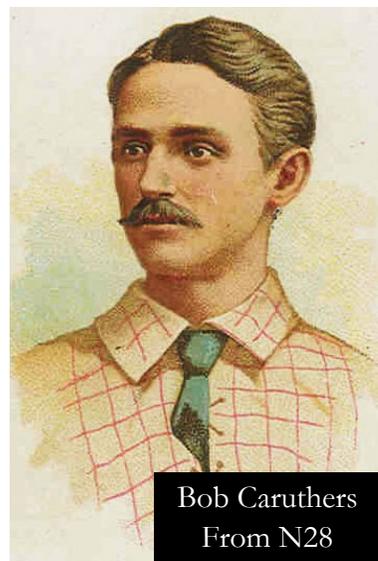
Overlooked 19th Century Legends - Trey Strecker



Ross Barnes

In June 2010, members of SABR's Nineteenth Century Committee were invited to vote on this year's Overlooked Nineteenth-Century Baseball Legend (results will be announced during the Nineteenth Century Committee meeting at SABR 40 in Atlanta).

Looking at the slate of candidates from 2009 and 2010, I noticed that the following players are not yet represented with biographies in SABR's BioProject: Bob Caruthers, Bill Dahlen, Paul Hines, Tony Mullane, Harry Stovey, George Van Haltren, and Deacon White. I'm optimistic that SABR members might step forward to write the biographies of these Overlooked Legends. Authors might begin with the sketches from the spring 2010 edition of *Nineteenth-Century Notes* as well as the biographical



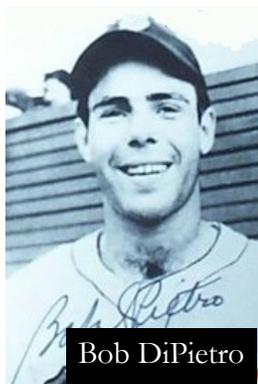
Bob Caruthers
From N28

profiles from *Baseball's First Stars* and *Nineteenth-Century Stars*. Excellent bios of the other Overlooked Legends, including 2009 winner Pete Browning, Doc Adams, Ross Barnes, Jack Glasscock, George Gore, and Bobby Mathews, have already been published on the BioProject's website.

Any authors interested in writing the biography of one of these Overlooked Legends should email me at tstrecker@bsu.edu.

Trey Strecker

Bob DiPietro by Nick Diunte



Bob DiPietro

I chose to write a biography on Bob DiPietro after transcribing an interview that I conducted with him for a book that I am developing. As I was listening to the interview, I went to the SABR database to see if there was any extra information I could discover about his short major league career. When I saw that there wasn't a biography yet written for him, I felt that the interview could potentially provide a sufficient amount of material to write his entry. After some deliberation, I sent a draft off to Bill Nowlin who was pleased with the initial draft and with the help of Jan Finkel, I was guided through the editing process until it was acceptable for publication.

What I found interesting about the interview with DiPietro was that he played in the 1945 Esquire All-American game. As an unintended result of focus of my book, I interviewed three other participants in that game, Curt Simmons, Davey Williams and William Glane. Glane, who was the winning pitcher for the East team, delivered a great story about Cobb being the opposite of what the media portrayed him to be. Glane saw Cobb take a liking to him, being from the Detroit area. He found Cobb to be friendly and engaging for the week that he was there for the game. DiPietro however saw Cobb to be a disappointment and unfriendly. It is funny how two players who spent a similar amount of time with Cobb during that week had differing opinions on his persona.

In the future I plan to further contribute to the SABR Bioproject, as I continue to interview living players from the 1940's and 1950's. Each interview provides an opportunity to unearth some new memories that may not have been published and establish connections such as the budding high school stars playing under the watchful eye of one of baseball's greatest players who made their debut over 100 years ago.

Nick Diunte

A Baseball Family? - By Carole J. Olshavsky

I must confess that although I have seen my share of baseball games, I have never been an avid fan of the game. So, imagine my surprise when I discovered that five of my relatives, past and present, had been major league baseball players. And not just one long family line of athletes, but three players from my great great grandmother's family; one from my grandfather's; and one from my husband's. Rounding this out are three minor league players and an umpire not to mention a few other relatives that played amateur ball - a veritable baseball dynasty that was virtually unknown to my family as well as just about everyone else.

As an amateur genealogist, I have been researching my family history a little bit at a time over the last 20 years. Most recently, I have focused my efforts on my great-great grandmother's family, the Moffets. Margaret Moffet was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1850 and was one of 11 children in this family of Scots-Irish immigrants. The challenge of tracking down the history of all 11 siblings was somewhat daunting and it was questionable as to whether I could even find all of them. In researching the lives of the six brothers, I did find references to baseball, but certainly not related to major league baseball. Then a random search on the Internet for information on Sam Moffet, led me to the SABR website and the world of baseball statistics. After many hours of reading old issues of *The Sporting News*, *The Sporting Life*, and searching *Baseball Almanac*, *RetroSheet*, *Baseball-Reference.com*, and other on-line newspaper records, I started to build a fairly complete profile of the baseball careers and history of these family members. With additional help from Bill Akin and his book, *West Virginia Baseball*, as well as John Husman's book, *Baseball in Toledo*, I've now documented three siblings and three cousins (McNichols) in the Moffet family who played minor or major league baseball in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. All started their baseball careers on Wheeling Island, West Virginia, home of several other early baseball stars.

But beyond the Moffet family, I've also found the baseball records of three other family members including two significant 20th century major league players. My line-up of family members includes:



Sam Moffet

Samuel R. (Sam) Moffet (1857-1907) started playing baseball as a teenager first for the Wheeling Buckeyes and then in 1876 for the Wheeling Standards. In 1883 he was recruited by the Toledo Blue Stockings as a pitcher and 2nd baseman. In 1884 he moved up to the majors playing for the American Association Cleveland Blues. After a three-year absence, he returned to baseball playing for the Indianapolis Hoosiers in 1887 and 1888. Following the 1888 season, Sam moved to Butte, Montana, to join his older brother in several silver mining ventures.

Joseph William (Joe) Moffet (1859-1935) like his older brother, played for both the Buckeyes and the Wheeling Standards. In 1880, he headed west to join his older brother, James, in a silver mining venture and played ball with a local team, the Butte Nine. In

1884 he returned to Ohio and followed Sam to Toledo where he was signed to play with the Toledo Blue Stockings in their first year as a major league team. But in late fall of 1884, he again returned to Montana and mining.

Abraham Lincoln (Link) Moffet (1862-1907) also followed his older brothers to Montana in the 1880's where he played for the Butte Nine for several years. In February of 1887, he joined the Nashville Blues in the Southern League playing 2nd and 3rd base. He didn't have much success with the Nashville team and they released him in April of that year. Link was quickly picked up by the Wheeling Greenstockings and played their debut game in Wheeling. He rejoined his family in Butte at the end of the season.

Robert (Bobby) McNichol (1852-1901), Moffet cousin and Wheeling neighbor, also played minor league ball in Wheeling as a young man. He started his career as an umpire for the Wheeling Standards in 1885 and was hired in 1887 by the American Association as a league umpire. Robert served as Chief of Police in Wheeling for several years before opening his own detective agency. Two of Robert's sons played professional baseball.

The oldest son, Edwin Briggs (Ed) McNichols (1879-1952) began his baseball career in Wheeling, but moved up to the majors as a pitcher for the Boston Beaneaters in 1904. He finished his career the following year playing in the minors for the Wheeling Stogies. Ed went on to become a successful businessman in Salineville, Ohio.

A Baseball Family? - By Carole J. Olshavsky (Continued)

Younger brother, Joseph M. (Joe) McNichol, (1888-1950) was a catcher in minor league baseball teams as a young man.

James Howard (Howdy) Caton (1894-1948), my grandfather's cousin, was a colorful short stop with the National League Pittsburgh Pirates from 1917-1920. Prior to that, he spent three years in the minors playing for the Portsmouth Cobblers and Birmingham Barons. Nicknamed Buster, he was well known for his eccentric personality and antics as much as for his short height (5'-6"). He was released by the Pirates in 1920 but continued to play for local teams in the Midwest League including the Zanesville Greys for several years.

Howdy's younger brother, Charles (Chick) Stanley Caton (1898-1986), never made it to the major leagues, but played four seasons (1920-21, 1923, 1925) in the minor leagues as short stop and at 3rd base. He played for three Blue Ridge League teams as well as one year with the Bristol State Liners (Appalachian League) and a year with the Alexandria Reds (Cotton State League).

My husband's 2nd cousin, Alex Monchak, (1917-) is a well known 20th century player and coach, with a career beginning in 1937. Al played short stop and 2nd base for fourteen different minor league teams between 1937 and 1957, with a break from 1943-1945 when he served in the military. He was a player coach for several of those teams. He broke into the majors for one year in 1940, playing for the Philadelphia Phillies. Al is probably best known as a major league coach, working under Chuck Tanner with the Chicago White Sox, Oakland Athletics, Pittsburgh Pirates and Atlanta Braves. In December 2009, he received the Roland Hemond Award from Baseball America. At 93 years old, He is recognized as one of the oldest living major league baseball players.



HOWDY CATON

For my own "field of dreams" baseball team, I now have a full line-up of ancestors with all positions covered:



COACH AL MONCHAK

1982

Sam Moffet, pitcher, 2nd base, outfielder
Joe Moffet, short stop, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd base
Link Moffet, 2nd & 3rd base
Robert McNichol, umpire
Ed McNichol, pitcher
Joe McNichol, catcher
Howdy Caton, short stop
Chick Caton, short stop, 3rd base
Al Monchak, short stop, 2nd base, coach

Sam's biography has been completed, submitted to SABR and accepted. I'm now working on Joe Moffet's biography and hope to eventually tackle the others. With luck, I may even find a few more family baseball players.

Continuing to uncover the stories and facts and piecing together the individual histories is certainly the challenge; discovering who your ancestors really were is definitely the reward.

Carole Olshavsky

A Cup of Coffee by Joe Schuster

Last July 23, when Mark Buehrle threw his perfect game against Tampa Bay, I was even more intrigued by DeWayne Wise, the ninth inning White Sox defensive sub who made the leaping, back against the wall catch of a Gabe Kapler fly ball, robbing Kapler of a home run and preserving the perfect game.

Until that moment, Wise was virtually anonymous. More than nine years after his major league debut, he had played with five different clubs and accumulated only slightly more than 600 plate appearances in his career. His lifetime batting average was under .220, his lifetime OBP hovering around .250 and 16 home runs. Yet for that one moment in July, Wise moved into the spotlight. In December, *The Los Angeles Times* cited his catch as one of the top ten moments in sports for 2009 and a home video of The Catch that a fan posted on YouTube has reached almost 100,000 viewings. But when the season ended, Wise was a free agent, able to sign only a minor league deal with Philadelphia. In June, without his getting out of the minor leagues, a clause in that contract made him a free agent and he signed another minor league deal, with Toronto. As I write this, just past mid-June, this year he's come to the plate in 2010 in the major leagues a half dozen times.



Charlie Peete

The history of baseball is filled with players like Wise—players who are good enough to reach the pinnacle of the sport but who, for any number of reasons, hang at the edges of the game or manage to spend only a week or two in the major leagues and then disappear back into the minors or get out of the sport. As a writer, these are the players I find most interesting, players like the focus of my first biography for the SABR BIO-PROJECT, Charlie Peete, who lasted a month with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1956 and whose career (and life) ended abruptly in an off-season plane crash when he was on the way to play winter ball in Venezuela, or the focus of the second biography I wrote, Rich Beck, the starting pitcher for three games for the New York Yankees in 1965. Johnny Keane, the Yankees' manager, was enthusiastic about Beck's potential for the next season but Beck never again appeared in the major leagues. Drafted by the military just after the season, he spent two years handling payroll at an Army base in Texas and when his stint ended he found that he'd lost the fine control that separates the pitchers who make it to the major leagues from those who get stuck in the minor leagues.

I came to my specific (and perhaps somewhat peculiar) interest accidentally. In 1988, the Arts and Entertainment editor at a newspaper where I worked assigned me to write an article about the new edition of the classic Macmillan *Encyclopedia of Baseball*. Hefty, almost 3,000 pages long and largely rows of statistics, it presented a formidable task. What could I say about it: "Well, there sure are a lot of numbers."

It struck me, however, that the numbers represented a narrative of the careers of all of the men in it—there were the half-page long entries for players like Babe Ruth, ribbons of boldfaced type running through them signifying the times he had led the league in home runs or rbi. That block of statistics said, "this man was great." There were, however, the more meager entries, players who had a single line representing the one season they spent in the major leagues. Who, I wondered, were these people who had gotten to where a good portion of the male population dreamed of getting but who couldn't or didn't stick? Skimming, I found the entry for Doug Clarey: one season with the Cardinals, 1976, nine game, four at bats, one hit, a pinch hit home run. A pinch hit home run in a major league game is one of the most iconic American fantasies and so I went through microfilm game accounts from the 1976 season and learned that not only was Clarey's home run a pinch hit dinger but that it came in the seventeenth inning to win a game against the Giants. The local newspaper, the *Post-Dispatch* called him the "Cinderella home run hitter," but after that one moment in the spotlight, his career in the major leagues ended. Three weeks later, he was back in the minor leagues and two years after that gave up the game.

After Clarey, I became fascinated with players like him and over the years have had the chance to interview and write articles about quite a few others, including Bill Southworth, who appeared in three games for the Milwaukee Braves on the last weekend of the 1964 season, going 2-7 with a home run and two RBI and who told me that he left the game when he was 22 because he

(Continued on Page 9)



Doug Clarey

A Cup Of Coffee by Joe Schuster (Continued)



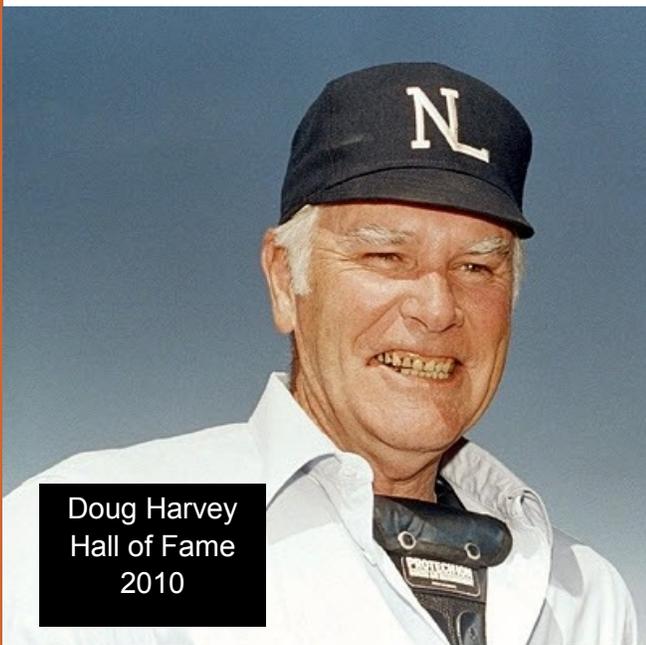
Glen Gardner

decided that being a doctor was more important than playing ball; Chip Coulter, who went 6-16 in six games for the Cardinals in 1969, highlighted by a 4-5 day against Montreal with a double and three RBI and who told me that, years after he left baseball, he would still wake up on some days in February and realize he'd been dreaming about having to go to spring training; Al Olmsted who earned no decision in his debut game in 1980 although he pitched 9 1/3 shutout innings against the eventual World Champion Phillies, before finishing the season 1-1, 2.86 in five starts.

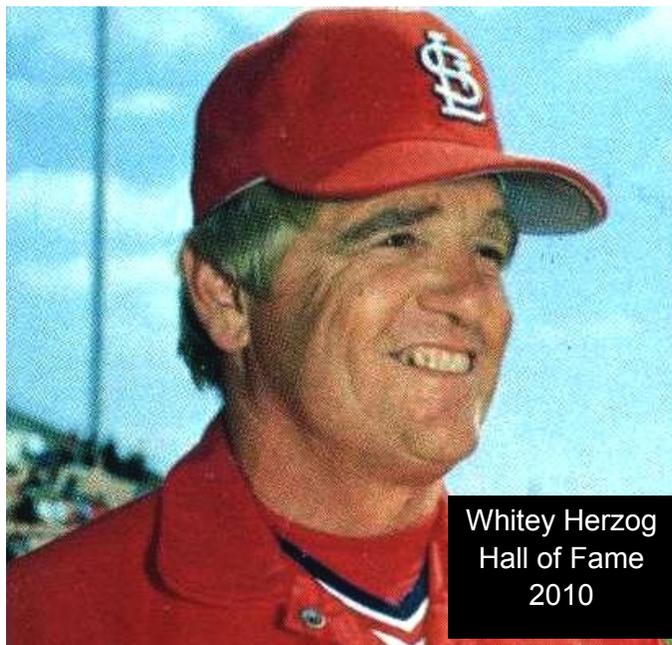
While most of the "cup-of-coffee" players I've interviewed say something along the lines of, "I may have been there only a short time but at least I got there, which is something most people only dream about," it seems to me that stories like theirs are in some ways more interesting than the stories of a good many players who stick for years, who make All Star teams, win MVP awards or end up in Cooperstown. They're stories about unfulfilled promise or frustration. Sometimes there's sadness, as in the story of Glen Gardner, who appeared in 17 games over ten weeks for the 1945 Cardinals, going 3-1, 3.29, and then tried to hang on, having a minor league career lasting sixteen seasons, ending up spending his last two, when he was in his mid-30's, at class C ball. Two summers ago, my wife indulged my interest in this particular subject by agreeing to take our vacation in Cooperstown, New York, where I spent several days in the library researching a dozen players whose major league careers lasted less than a full season while she went to museums and gardens. There, I came across a letter that Gardner's widow sent to the Hall of Fame after Gardner's death at 48 in 1964. She wrote, "I was wondering if I were entitled to any kind of benefits from the Hall of Fame which I certainly can use." A short while later, in a letter she enclosed when she sent the Hall a copy of his death certificate, which showed that Gardner had worked as a bartender and died, in part, from cirrhosis, she asked again, "If you will please let me know who to contact, I would like to write to them if there are any benefits involved."

Stories like Gardner's and Peete's and the less sad, like Beck's and Clarey's, deserve telling; they allow us a more full picture of the history of the game, filling in the spaces around the stories of the players with longer, more successful careers. This is, I think, the greatest value of SABR's BIOPROJECT, preserving the details and the narratives of players most of us never knew or have forgotten, and I'm happy that I will be able to be a small piece of this ambitious but important project.

Joe Schuster



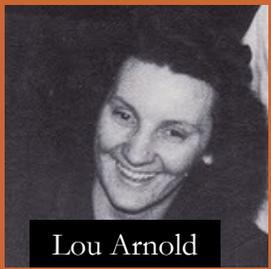
Doug Harvey
Hall of Fame
2010



Whitey Herzog
Hall of Fame
2010

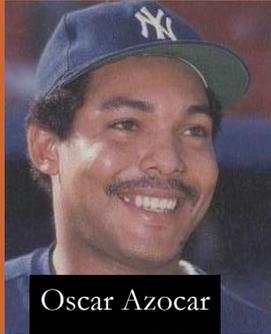
Baseball Lives congratulates Doug Harvey, Whitey Herzog and Andre Dawson (back page) on their election to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Baseball Passings by Tom Owens with Dave Lambert



Lou Arnold

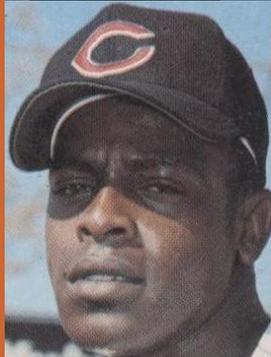
If autograph collectors field an all-star team in 2010, David Allen Lambert should be first on the roster. A collector since 1981, Lambert is serving the hobby, and baseball world, by forming the Facebook group "Baseball Passings." He's offering a respectful, meaningful way to note the obituaries of anyone connected to the majors, Negro Leagues or the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Additionally, online tributes can be left for those who have died. Lambert, a talented online genealogist for the New England Historic Genealogical Society, detailed the origins of "Baseball Passings."



Oscar Azocar

Q: I'd like to know what inspired you to create Baseball Passings. One individual player's death?

A: Since I was a teenager I was interested in the oldest living baseball players. This came into play when I first wrote to Smoky Joe Wood of the (debut 1908 Red Sox). After that I wrote to all players from 1910-1919, then 1920-1929 and so on. Long before a regular list of the older players was provided on a regular basis to the Hall of Fame I was doing it still in high school.



Frank Baker, Jr.

From a variety of sources from SABR, to collectors I started a round robin email regarding the passings of former MLB, AAGPBL, and Negro League players. I thought in the age of social networking I would give it a try on a Facebook group. This enables others to post passings, and I have made the leaders in the Baseball research field and hobby field who have joined my group as honorary group administrators.

Q: Have teammates or family members of the deceased contacted you?

On Facebook I am friends with the daughters of George Cisar, and Jim Roland. They both have responded to the posts either on the wall of the page, or personally to me. I am also honored to have my friend who is Babe Ruth's grand-daughter be part of the group.



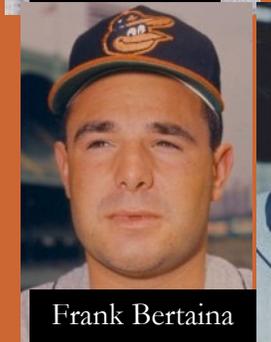
Edith Barney

Q: Some collectors might think, 'Why do this? It's too late to get autographs from someone who's died.' How has this helped you as an autograph collector?

A: I think more just saving postage for collectors regarding writing to some who has died. I feel like we are providing a service to have the widows, and or family of the ball players from having to reply to requests after their loved one is gone.

Q: How can readers join the Facebook group or help you as you keep gathering info about Baseball Passings?

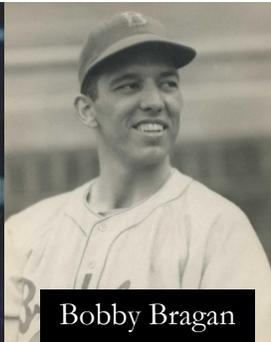
A: If you are a member of Facebook, simply type "Baseball Player Passings" in the search bar.



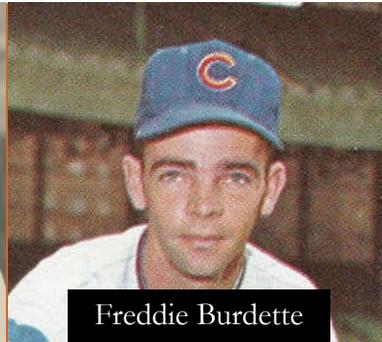
Frank Bertaina



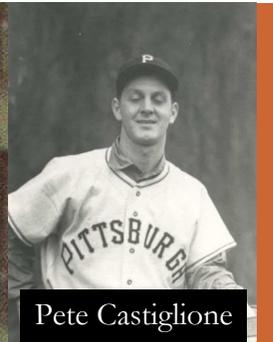
Jim Bibby



Bobby Bragan



Freddie Burdette



Pete Castiglione

Baseball Passings by Tom Owens with Dave Lambert - (Continued)

Q: Who have you met or discovered in your baseball research?

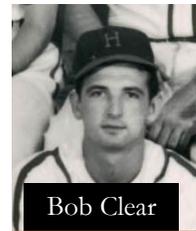
A: I was responsible for re-discovering this former Negro League Ball-player back in 2005. I was honored to be at his birthday celebration and present him a plaque from SABR(Society of American Baseball Research).

I was also responsible for exposing the fact a Florida man who died was not the real baseball player Bill Henry from the Red Sox, and other teams of the 1950s and 1960s which made national news.

Thanks to David Allen Lambert for one potent reminder: write **to your favorite retired players TODAY**.

Tom Owens

(<http://baseballbytheletters.blogspot.com>)



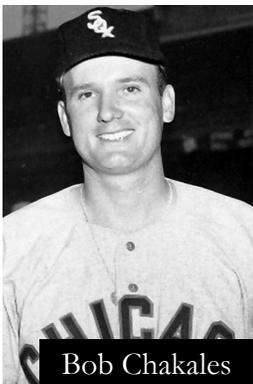
Bob Clear



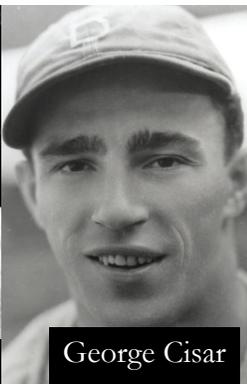
Jim Colzie



Ruth
Ries- Zillmer



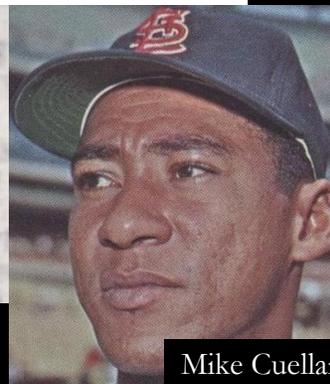
Bob Chakales



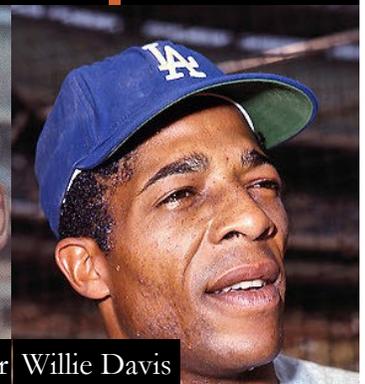
George Cisar



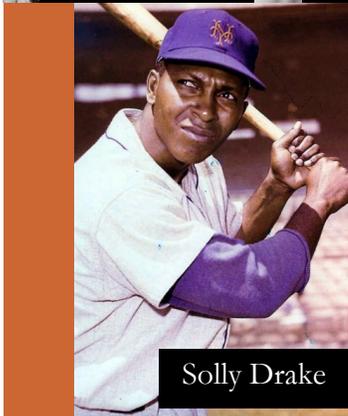
Penny O'Brian
Cooke



Mike Cuellar



Willie Davis



Solly Drake



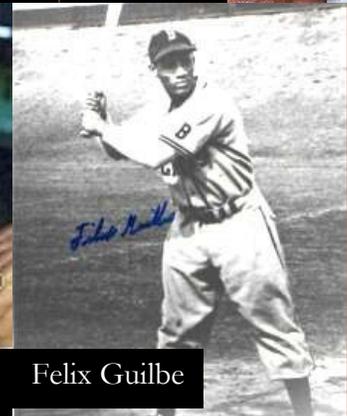
Jerry Fahr



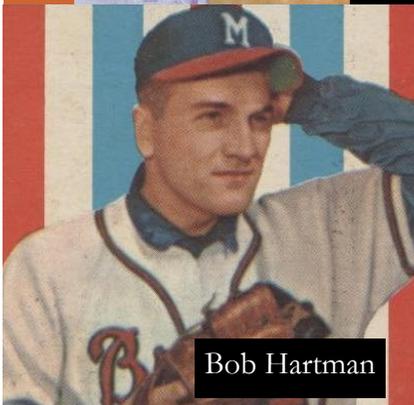
Van Fletcher



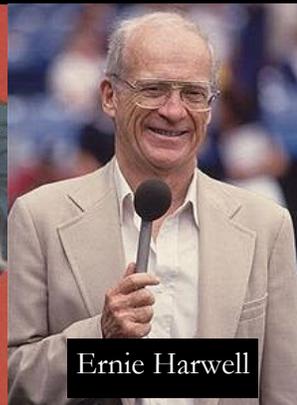
Joe Gates



Felix Guilbe



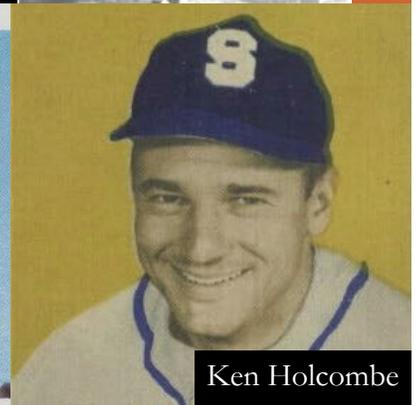
Bob Hartman



Ernie Harwell



Billy Hoelt



Ken Holcombe

Notes from Editor In Chief - Jan Finkel

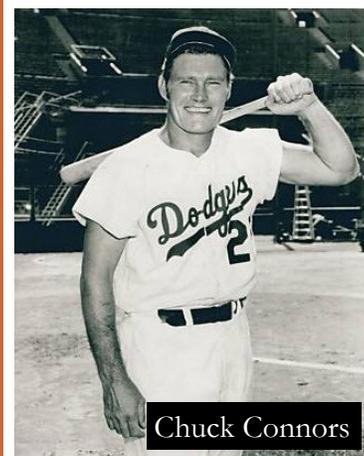
A few days ago, probably to avoid actually working, I began wandering through our website and marveling at the incredible variety we have there—from high-profile Hall of Famers to one-game participants and every possibility in between. It astonishes me that I now know something about players few people have ever heard of. Who knew that Harry Kingman was the first big league player born in China and that his private papers are archived at the University of California at Berkeley? That Wally Snell coached the baseball team at Brown while serving as professor of botany? It works the other way, too. There's always an undiscovered nugget about a famous player, owner, manager, and so on. I must have read it somewhere and forgotten it, but Allan Wood reminded me that first base was Babe Ruth's favorite position. Taken all around, it had been a good day even if I'd blown off work. I had a renewed appreciation of just how much we've accomplished in eight years—or, to put it another way, 1400 biographies later.

Then the *SABR Bulletin* came to my laptop today, rudely jolting me out of my euphoria by bringing the sad news of the deaths of several members of SABR. All of the notices evoked a sense of loss, but two in particular stood out to me—Cliff Kachline and Fred Stein. The paradox and irony struck me that we have so many writers and editors whom I know but don't know. Let me explain.

I had met Cliff Kachline briefly many years ago, and he certainly wouldn't have remembered me, but he was one of the founders of SABR, and I'm grateful to him.

Fred Stein was another matter. I had never met him but knew him through his work on Mel Ott and the New York Giants of the 1930s. When I looked up his bio of Ott, I noticed that he'd done bios on a number of his beloved Giants: Dick Bartell, Frankie Frisch, Carl Hubbell, and Bill Terry. He strayed from the Giants long enough to contribute our biography of Al Simmons. My first reaction was, "Wow, only the best for him, five Hall of Famers and Bartell wasn't exactly corned beef hash." My next thought was, "You'd win a few games with this bunch in your lineup." Then I wondered how, being so devoted to the Giants, he'd become interested in Simmons. Finally came the inevitable conclusion that I'd never have the chance to ask him. So I knew Fred Stein but didn't know him.

So it is with so many of our writers and editors. Barbara Flanagan wrote to me when bypass surgery flattened me several years ago; it's impossible to forget kindness like that. Tom Schott, one of our newest editors—and I hope writers—and I have never met, but we're becoming acquainted through e-mail. It turns out that we



Chuck Connors

each have our favorite large handful of poets and agree only on Emily Dickinson. That kind of friendship is priceless. There's Charlie Bevis, who's contributed so many bios on New England players, all of them unfamiliar except Mickey Cochrane. The only other familiar player among Charlie's entries, to me, is Chuck Connors. Charlie and I have exchanged emails; that's it. How can I miss Ralph Berger? Ralph has contributed over forty bios ranging from Jewish standouts to Negro leagues stars to members of the 1950 Phillies to alumni of Girard College in Philadelphia. Here's a trivia question for you. What place (institution) sent more players (13, to be exact) to the majors before 1920? Girard College. Ralph and I have met only through e-mail and a handful of phone calls. We don't always see eye to eye, but the breadth of his interests amazes me. If you want to know about Virgin Islanders or Williams College alumni (known as Ephmen) in the ball playing fraternity, look in on Rory Costello's work. Just to keep you on your toes, he'll throw in the occasional Cotton Nash or Clint Courtney bio. We've never met, but I've seen snapshots of Rory and his little boy Kai; both practically burst

out of the picture.

I could go on and on, and apologize to everyone I couldn't name here, but you get the point—a multitude of good people I both know and don't know.

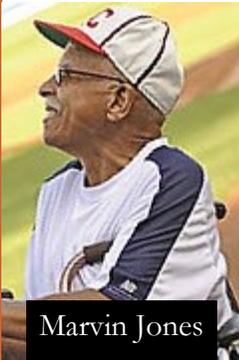
Now if I can just reduce the number in the "don't know" column . . .

Jan Finkel



Harry Kingman

Baseball Passings (Continued)



Marvin Jones



Dottie Kamenshek



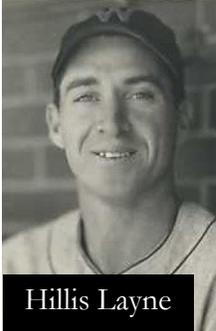
Dick Kenworthy



John Kibler



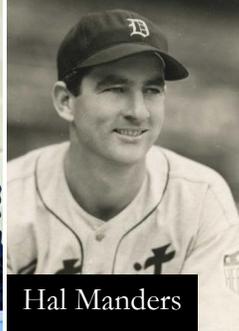
Paul LaPalme



Hillis Layne



Jose Lima



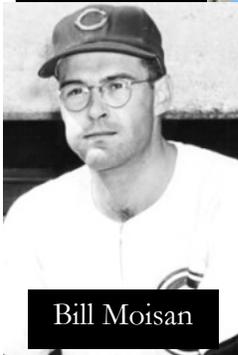
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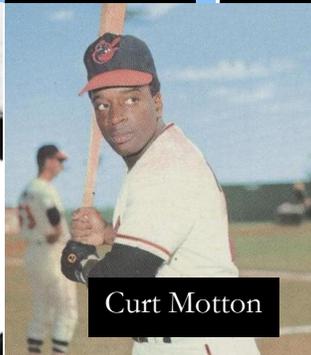
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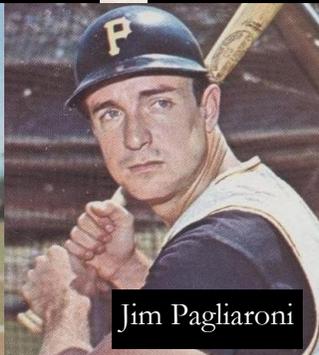
Rogelio Martinez



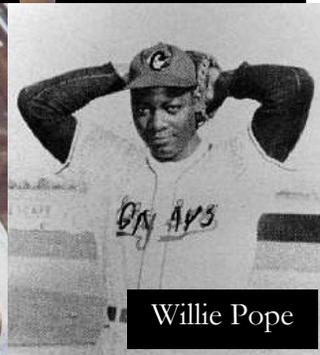
Bill Moisan



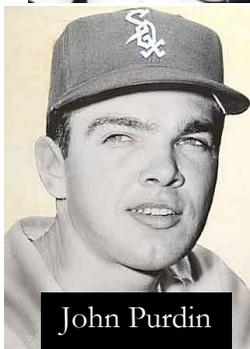
Curt Motton



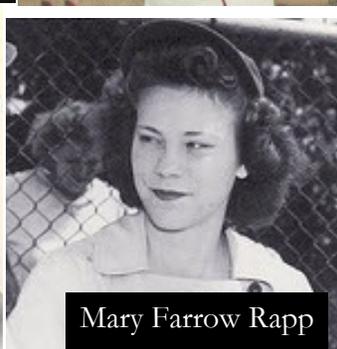
Jim Pagliaroni



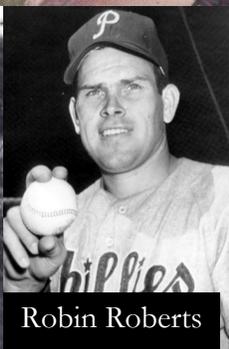
Willie Pope



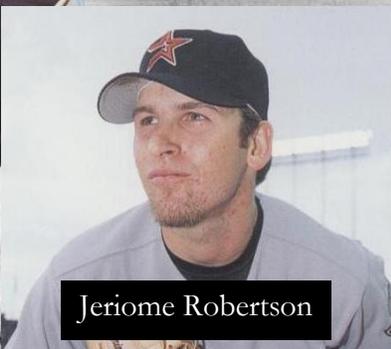
John Purdin



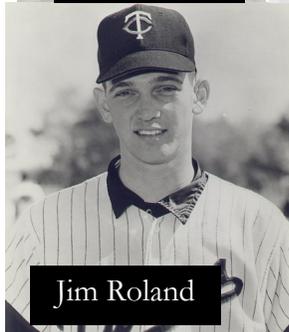
Mary Farrow Rapp



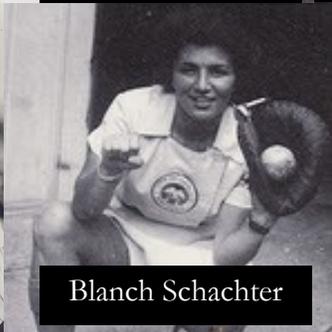
Robin Roberts



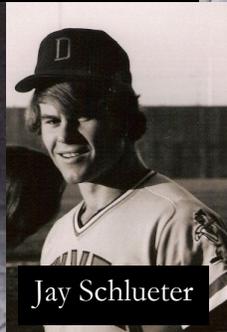
Jeriome Robertson



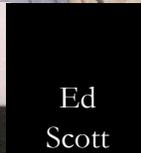
Jim Roland



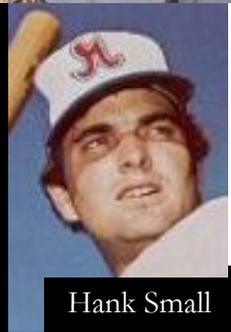
Blanch Schachter



Jay Schlueter

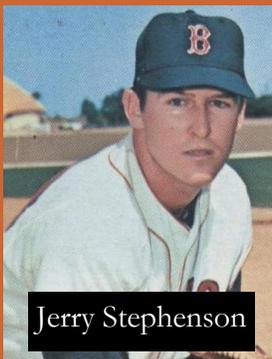


Ed
Scott

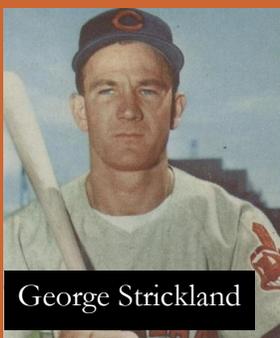


Hank Small

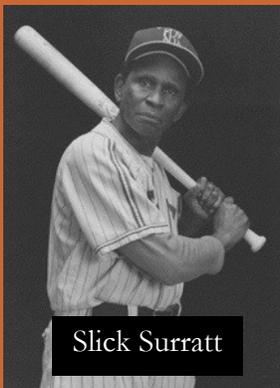
Baseball Passings (Continued)



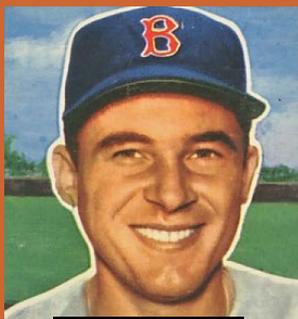
Jerry Stephenson



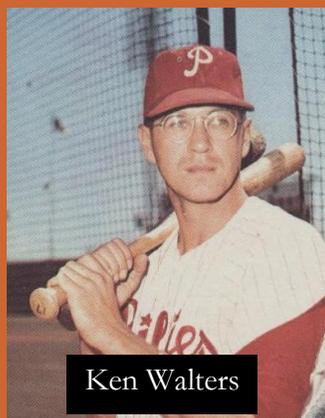
George Strickland



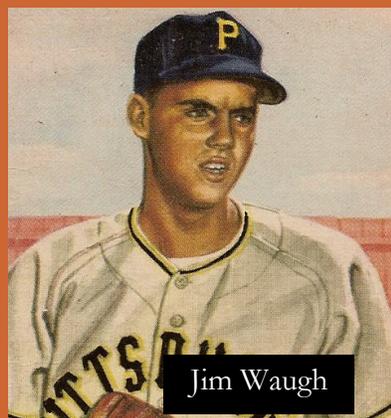
Slick Surratt



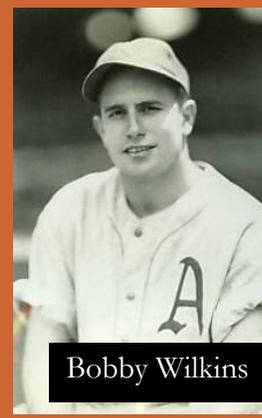
George Susce



Ken Walters



Jim Waugh



Bobby Wilkins

Baseball Lives — Thoughts from the Editor

This Summer 2010 issue of *Baseball Lives* reflects the power and the passion of baseball fans and baseball researchers. I want to thank four of our newest contributors to the BioProject — Nick Diunte, Steve McPherson, Carole Olshavsky, and Joe Schuster — for their contribution to *Baseball Lives*. Each has provided thought provoking ideas along with an insight to their research.

I also want to thank Tom Owens for sharing his interview with Dave Lambert, the founder of the Facebook Page “Baseball Passings.” I also thank Dave Lambert for allowing me to use “Baseball Passings” in developing the necrology photo spread. I hope to make this a regular part of future issues of our newsletter. I think, as stated by Dave in his interview, looking at the photos of those we lost the first six months of 2010 should remind us that now is the time to phone or write your favorite retired players.

This newsletter would not exist without the day to day efforts of Mark Armour, Jan Finkel, and all of the writers and editors who have completed over 1400 posted biographies. And it would not exist without the insight Mark and Jan give us issue after issue.

Finally, T. Scott Brandon continues to find most of the photographs that are found on the pages of *Baseball Lives*. Without him, I could not do the necrology photo spread. (By the way — does anyone have a photo of Ed Scott, Sr.? If so, email it to me and I will include it in the fall issue.) Speaking of pictures, I have to again thank many of the writers who have contributed photographs along with their article to *Baseball Lives*.

Don't forget Trey Strecker's article — Don't overlook our “overlooked legends.” **Thanks to All** — *Mike Cooney*

Baseball Lives Thanks the following for the use of images used in “Baseball Passings:” Topps (Frank Baker, Jr., Freddie Burdette, Mike Cuellar, Bob Hartman, Billy Hoeft, Morrie Martin, Curt Motton, Jim Pagliaroni, Jerry Stephenson, George Susce, Ken Walters, Jim Waugh) — Bowman (Ken Holcombe, George Strickland) — Score (Oscar Azocar) — Fleer (Jerrome Robertson)

SABR BioProject
Committee



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**Andre Dawson
Hall of Fame
2010**

The Baseball Biography Project 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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