

SABR PICTORIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Bill Hickman, Chair
bdhickmn@aol.com

Cary Smith, Vice Chair
zinnbeck@aol.com

October 2011
Copyright © 2011 Society for American Baseball Research

FORMERLY MISSING PLAYERS FOUND SINCE JUNE NEWSLETTER

John O'Neill (major league debut 1899) -- by Rich Bowering in the New York University team photo as published in the 1910 Reach Guide on page 292. O'Neill was the NYU baseball coach in 1909. We previously thought we had an image of O'Neill in a Milwaukee paper, but Rich was able to prove that that image was of Bill O'Neill. The John O'Neill image may be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/43edhoq>

Hervie Aden Dobson (umpire) -- by David Vincent. Dobson umpired one game in 1871 as a substitute umpire in the National Association. He was a Civil War veteran who had only one leg. His photo was found on the Wisconsin Historical Society webpage at: <http://tinyurl.com/3tmgd2x>

Michael J. Kelly (debut year 1926). Credit goes to Rich Bowering for figuring out that a photo previously believed to be Kelly (and appearing in 2000 CUPS OF COFFEE) was actually of career minor leaguer Bernard "Michael" Kelly. Rich is working on a book featuring Michael J. Kelly, and he has accumulated several valid photos of Michael J. One of them may be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/6a9gjud>

Chris McFarland -- by Bob Richardson as a head shot obituary photo in the New Bedford (MA) Standard of May 25, 1918, on page 5. The photo may be viewed on the OOTP Developments website at <http://tinyurl.com/6jz5oq5>

Clifford V. Matteson -- by Scott Brandon and Bryan Krantz on a blog at <http://johnladden.blogspot.com/2009/07/hometown-boys-story.html>. The source photo is located at the Seville, Ohio, Historical Society. Matteson is pictured in a Seville team uniform.

Patrick "Packy" Dillon -- by Paul Batesel. Paul obtained a copy of a portrait photo from a third party who had received the photo from Dillon's great granddaughter. The head shot from this photo may be viewed on the OOTP website at <http://tinyurl.com/3h83ayd>

Will Foley -- by Paul Batesel in the July 10, 1910 issue of the Chicago Tribune, on page C4. Foley is seen in a photo of the 1874 Franklin Baseball Club of Chicago.

There are currently 544 players for whom we have not been able to locate an image. There have been 17,732 players who have appeared in the major leagues. So we're nearing the 17,200 mark in players whose images we have located!!

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: Chuck McGill, Bryan Krantz, and Phil Michel. This now brings the total of people who have contributed to the building of the Player Image Index to 152. 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

REQUEST FROM A CHAPTER FOR PHOTO ASSISTANCE

The SABR Field of Dreams Chapter in Iowa has requested the assistance of Pictorial History Committee members in identifying the date and place of a photo in which Bob Feller appears. The photo is displayed on their website at <http://chapters.sabr.org/fieldofdreams/>. As you'll see, the four individuals in the photo have been identified from left to right as Bob Feller, Earl Whitehill, Hal McKain, and Hal Trosky. Although the fellow in the business suit bears some resemblance to McKain, one has to accept the assumption that he is standing on a lower step than the uniformed players in order for it to be he, because McKain was 5'11" and Whitehill was only 5'9.5". Rich Bowering is convinced that if one takes into consideration the way Trosky is leaning and the proportion of the suited man's legs showing in the photo, it is very plausible that the fellow is standing on a lower step.

If you have any comments about the photo, including identifications, the place, and/or the date, please submit them to Steve Smith in Iowa. Steve's email address is ssmith2084@aol.com

THEY ALMOST MADE IT

For some time, I've been interested in those professional ballplayers who appeared on major league spring training rosters but failed to stay with the big league clubs into the regular season. More recently, I've begun an attempt to accumulate photos for as many of these spring training non-major leaguers as possible if they appeared on spring rosters during the 1946-2000 period.

A couple of them became famous in sports for reasons other than playing baseball. Basketball HOFer Bill Sharman was an outfielder on the Dodgers' spring rosters in 1951, 1952, and 1953. HOF manager Earl Weaver was a second baseman on the Cardinals' spring roster in 1952. Some were relatives of players you would recognize, like Whitey Ford's son, John Olerud's father, and Tim Lincecum's brother. In all, there were 2,211 such spring roster players during the 1946-2000 period. To date, I've collected images for over 1,900 of them. If you would like any of these images, in reasonable quantities, or simply a copy of the list of these players, you're welcome to write to me with your request.

CHARLES CONLON PHOTOS

Recently published was a book with the title THE BIG SHOW: CHARLES M. CONLON'S GOLDEN AGE BASEBALL PHOTOGRAPHS. This book was authored by the brother-sister team of Neal McCabe and Constance McCabe. The book contains the mandatory photos of HOFers like Ruth, DiMaggio, Gehrig, and Feller, but it also includes some obscure players like Arthur "Pat" Veltman, who played in only 23 major league games over 6 seasons. You'll also find Paul Schreiber, with his 23 year gap between major league pitching appearances (1922 to 1945). Another curiosity is Pete Sivess, mainly due to his post-baseball career. Hint: he had something in common with Moe Berg. Other obscure players include Pinky Pittenger, Joe Klinger, and one-game major leaguer Rufus Smith. The McCabes' gallery does not limit itself to players. The photos include one of a scout, several of umpires, one of a trainer, one of an owner, one of Judge Landis, and one of Charles Conlon himself. There are over 200 pages of photos in the book.

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.

"A mysterious baseball cabinet card appeared at a Southern auction earlier this year, and it remains a curious one. The image features an African-American player, probably a pitcher, posing in a Mobile, Alabama studio in the early 1890s. The date is based on the style of mount the photo is attached to, a standard 1890s style. The player appears to be wearing a uniform shirt that reads 'Oklahoma.' This is particularly strange since Oklahoma was still a territory at this time, and did not achieve statehood until 1907.

There is a Copley Circle in Mobile today, but the studio was probably named after the photographer, since the following information appears Mobile, AL photographers on the LangdonRoad.com site, where an index of 19th and early 20th C. photographers is listed.

Here were likely locations for the studio:

WILLIAM S. COPLEY. Copley, William S., photographer, 459 Dauphin, 4 N Bayou, Mobile, AL (1890) (1891) (1892); 459 Dauphin, 6 N Bayou, Mobile, AL (1890) (1891) (1892); William S. Copley, photographer, SE cor Dauphin and Warren; E side Bayou 2 N Dauphin, Mobile, AL (1890) (1891) (1892)

WILLIAM S. COPLEY JR. Copley, William S., Jr., photographer, east side Bayou 2 N Dauphin, Mobile, AL (1890) (1891) (1892)

The picture presents a whole list of questions, for which I enlist the help of photo researchers who see this image. Any information about the photo could be helpful, though the connection between Alabama and the Oklahoma Territories and baseball could prove a distinctly difficult discovery.”

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. Mark has also posted it on a separate website at http://www.gamefront.com/files/20873948/Mysteryphoto_10_11_pdf where it can be downloaded at the orange "download now" button. If you are unable to download the Mystery Photo Column using one of the first two approaches, you may write to Mark Fimoff at bmarlowe@comcast.net and he will send it to you as an attachment to an email.

The column is considerably longer than usual. In it, you will find a serious debate over the identification of a key individual in an important photograph. Both Mark Fimoff and Corey Shanus have devoted a substantial amount of effort to engaging in this debate and in the preparation of this column. I want to thank them for this pursuit. I hope you as readers consider both sides of this debate carefully and develop your own conclusions.

Regards,

Bill Hickman