Harold Reilly Found

Harold Reilly, center fielder for the 1919 Chicago Cubs, has been found. Frankly, I'm a little surprised he hadn't been found before now since he came from a relatively prominent Chicago family.

When I was looking through 1920 South Dakota newspapers looking for James McGraw, another missing ballplayer, I was surprised to find Reilly playing for the same team. At the end of the season, the paper mentioned that Reilly was going back to Chicago to join his brothers in the real estate business. That sent me to the census where I was able to locate the family. I sent this information to Richard Topp, who was able to find an obituary for Harold's brother, Norman, who died in 1969. Rich then was able to locate Norman's son, who sent Rich a history of the family, written by Harold himself. Harold's obituary even mentioned that he played center field with the Cubs in 1919. Great work by Rich Topp, the winner of the Find of the Month award.

Pumping Up To 175

Special mention should go to Bill Weiss for finding the height and weight of Spencer Pumpelly. Bill got the information from Yale University. As you may know, Pumpelly is on our Top 20 list because he is the most recent player who is missing this information. I am keeping him on the list because we still need his bats and throws. Does anyone remember seeing him play?

The Lost Norseman And Other Discrepancies

I have recently received several letters that indicated possible discrepancies in our data that I would like for someone to check out.

1. John Joseph Anderson is listed with a birthplace of Sasbourg, Norway. Apparently there is no such place although there is a Sarpsborg. Since he died in Worcester, Massachusetts, can one of you Massachusetts researchers check it out? This guy is known as The Terrible Swede?

2. John Joseph Roseman is listed with a birthdate of July 4, 1856. I can't find the source for that and since his death date is July 4, 1938, I wonder if his death date and birth date have been confused.

3. We list Hubert B. Collins; however, I found a note from Lee Allen changing his name to George Hubbert Collins. Which is correct?

4. We list Tony Fernandez with a birthdate of August 6, 1962. Major league baseball lists June 30, 1962. I checked through old Baseball Registers and he was listed as August 6 through 1987 and then in 1988 it changed to June 30. Does anyone know which is correct?

Brown Not a Locke

Due to an apparent error in a box score in the New York Clipper, we have been listing Marshall Locke as the player in the July 29, 1874 game for Baltimore against Philadelphia. Actually this was Brown, the shortstop who was next used on August 31. Marshall Locke's debut then moves ahead 10 years to July 5, 1884. Now can anyone find either of these two guys?

Biographies

I hope that you all enjoy the biographies we try to feature each month. This month's is "Dasher" Troy, one of four players nicknamed after one of Santa's reindeer. ("Cupid" Childs, "Blitzen" Joe Benz, and Mickey "The Commerce
Comet" Mantle are the others.) I would like to see more of you send me these. Hopefully, these could evolve into a SABR publication. Try to keep them to about a page in length.

Birthday List

There are no nonagenarians (No, that's not a double negative) celebrating birthdays in February, but Cecil Bolton turns 89 on February 13, if you'd like to send a card.

This seems like a good time for a little nonagenarian trivia. The death of Charlie Gehringen took away our oldest living Hall-Of-Famer as well as the next player scheduled to turn 90. Currently, our oldest Hall-Of-Famer is Rick Ferrell, who will turn 88 in October. There have been 10 HOFers who have lived to be 90, including one non-playing manager. Oldest among this group was Elmer Flick, who died 2 days short of his 95th birthday. He is followed by Edd Roush and Stan Coveleskie, both 94, Connie Mack, 93, Burleigh Grimes and Bill Terry, both 92, Joe Sewell, 91, and Joe McCarthy, Rube Marquard, and George Wright, all 90. In fact, George Wright was the first major leaguer to live to the age of 90.

Mystery of the Month

Joe Simenic provides us with this month's mystery. We list James D. Curtis as being the 1891 player with Cincinnati and Washington. We list his birth as 12/27/1861 in Coldwater, Michigan and his death as 02/14/1945 in North Adams, Massachusetts. A note in Sporting Life on October 4, 1890 gave a biography of Curtis and listed his birthplace as Coldwater, Michigan and his age as 26. Harold Dellinger has several notes indicating Curtis is living in North Adams, Massachusetts. So far, it sounds good, right?

In a Sporting News obituary of February 22, 1945, Irving B. Curtis, outfielder for the Cincinnati Reds of the American Association in the '80s died in North Adams, Massachusetts. The death certificate lists his name as Ervin Duane Curtiss. The 1900 Massachusetts census lists Irvin D. Curtiss with an occupation of a clothes folder. (Gee, I fold mine for free.) Yet all through his minor league career, he was always referred to as James or J.D. Notes from Vern Luse indicate that in the 1890s, James Curtis was in business in Savannah, Georgia. (Maybe they had a lot of wrinkled clothes down there.)

I suspected that Ervin and James might have been brothers, but I could not locate the family in the 1870 Michigan census. Can anyone determine this player's true identity?

The Scoreboard

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John Joseph "Dasher" Troy
By Reed Howard

B: May 8, 1856, New York, New York
D: March 30, 1938, Ozone Park, New York
BRTR

Johnny "Me Dasher" Troy was one of the most popular and pugnacious nineteenth century ballplayers. Popular, that is, with the home crowd. To opponents and umpires he was tough and sometimes abusive.

His baseball career began in 1877 with the Alaskas, the champion amateur club in New York City. In 1878 and 1879 he starred at second base with the Jersey City, New Jersey amateur club. He entered the admitted professional field in 1880 with the Dubuque, Iowa team.

A contemporary description of his skills was glowing, "He ranks second to none in his position... He is a sure catch on balls hit to the short outfield, and faces pluckily the hardest hits, some of his catches and stops being remarkable... (He is) able to cover with wonderful alacrity a great extent of ground about second base, and (is) a swift and accurate thrower... He is a fair batsman, a clever baserunner, and enjoys the reputation of being a thoroughly reliable player." It also referred to his "quiet and gentlemanly deportment", which may have been premature judgement, or he may have changed with experience in the rough life of nineteenth century baseball. He played without a glove, and after retirement joined those who urged the outlawing of gloves except for catchers and first basemen.

Troy broke in with Detroit of the National League in 1881, played there two years, finishing 1882 at Providence. In 1883 he became a member of the first New York National League team, shifting to the Metropolitans of the American Association in 1884. His major league career ended there in 1885, with major league totals of 5 years, 292 games, mostly at second base, and a batting average of .243.

In 1886 he was recruited by Dan "Hustler" O'Leary. Seldom has a man wore a more descriptive moniker than the "Hustler." O'Leary was quoted as saying, "I've organized more ball clubs and got less for it, except hell, than any other manager in the country." He hustled everything, including drama, wrestling, roller skating, etc. In 1886 he became manager simultaneously of teams at Elmira, New York, in the International League, and at Scranton, Pa., in the fledgling PA State League. He took Troy and others first to Elmira, where the citizens had subscribed for the team, then moved to Scranton, leaving citizens owed over $1700, a few unpaid bills, and a "few fairly played games." O'Leary later returned to Elmira in custody to answer for some of the bills.

Meanwhile Troy remained hugely popular. He was awarded a diamond ring by the Elmira cranks for a few wins over the hated Binghamtons. And he was the first baseball hero on Scranton's first fully professional team. On a team that fielded a couple of fair major league quality second baseman, including Cupid Childs, Cub Stricker, and Joe Ardner, he was the second baseman, captain, leading hitter, and star. When the team was reorganized in late July, Troy moved on to Binghamton, but he returned to lead the team in its last games and through the season ending exhibitions. His return was heavily advertised to boost attendance.

Troy's abusive nature began to attract national attention the next year. In 1887 he joined New Haven of the Eastern League, as second baseman and captain. He didn't retain his captaincy. In June he was fined for being abusive to an opponent, refused to play the next day and was fined again, which led to more abusive behavior and more fines.. His friends and cranks thought this unjust and raised money to pay his fines. In July he was let go, and was picked up by Manchester of the New England League, again being named captain. By September he was in trouble again. When called out at second base by Umpire Lynch he refused to leave the base, drawing a $10 fine. That caused him to threaten the umpire, "I'll smash you in the nose for this," bringing another $10 fine. He then advanced on the umpire and hit him under the left eye, adding an additional $25 in fines. Umpire Lynch left the field, and possibly because the friends of the "Dasher" passed the hat and paid his fines, the well-respected umpire resigned his League position.

Troy finished out his baseball career in 1888 with Troy, NY in the International League, and Wilkes-Barre, PA in the Central League. He maintained a connection with New York and baseball,
but again his temper was to cost him. In 1894 he had the refreshment concession at New York's Polo Grounds. In June of that year he became incensed at a gate tender who refused to admit some of his friends to the grandstand without orders. He assaulted the gate tender and broke his nose. For that the concession was taken away from him, and given to a fellow by the name of Harry Stevens. Who knows what fame and fortune Troy might have earned through the concessions in baseball's largest market.

"Dasher" Troy died at his home in Long Island, New York at age 81, being survived by a widow and two sons. Two younger brothers were playing baseball with the New York Monitors in 1887, but they never matched their brother’s career.

Anyone with additional details on the life of "Dasher" Troy is asked to please contact Reed Howard, 619 Mt. Lebanon Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19803-1707, or 302-478-1004.
New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:
None

New Information Received:

1890 Abbott, Leander Franklin  
B: Portage, Ohio
Real name: Reinhardt Boeckman
D: Dec 5 1974
Montgomery, Ohio

1927 Beckman, James Joseph

1936 Bokina, Joseph
B: Portage, Ohio
Real name: Reinhardt Boeckman
D: Oct 5 1991
Montgomery, Ohio

1912 Brady, William Aloysius
Debut: Jul 9 1912
(S1)

1874 Brown,
Debut: Jul 29 1874
(T4)

1931 Craghead, Howard Oliver
D: San Diego, California
(W1)

1917 Driscoll, John Leo
D: Jun 28 1968
(T1)

1924 Gehringer, Charles Leonard
D: Jan 21 1993
(Bloomfield Hills, Michigan)

1937 Guerra y Romero, Fermin
D: Oct 9 1992
Miami Beach, Florida

1897 Hannivan, Patrick James
Real name: Patrick James Hannifan
B: Beard, Indiana
(R1)

1914 Johnson, Elmer Ellsworth
B: Moores Hill, Indiana
(OT)

1905 Justis, Walter Newton
D: Jan 28 1993

1934 Kennedy, Lloyd Vernon
Mendon, Missouri

1990 Lankford, Raymond Lewis
B: Los Angeles, California
Debut: Jul 5 1884
(S1)

1874 Locke, Marshall
Is Deceased

1948 Main, Forrest Harry
D: Jul 20 1920
(Woodhaven, New York)

1904 O'Neil, William John

1991 Perez, Yorkis Miguel
Name: Yorkis Miguel Vargas Perez
Real name: Yorkis Miguel Vargas y Perez
B: Oct 4 1992
Shreveport, Louisiana

1929 Prudhomme, John Olgus

1925 Pumpelly, Spencer Armstrong
Height: 5-11
D: Jan 11 1993
Weight: 175
Boyon Beach, Florida

1949 Quinn, Frank William
Name: Harold John Reilly
B: Apr 1 1894
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

1919 Reilly, Harold J.
D: Dec 24 1957
Chicago, Illinois

1889 Reynolds, Charles Lawrence
BLTL Height: 6-00
B: Williamsburg, Indiana
Weight: 180

1944 Rochelli, Louis Joseph
B: Staunton, Illinois

1991 Sanders, Reginald Sanders
D: Victoria, Texas
Name: Reginald Laverne Sanders
Is Deceased

1944 Schanz, Charley Murrell

Bio Report

January 1993
1932 Smith, Harold Laverne

1940 Stewart, Walter Nesbitt
1928 Tauscher, Walter Edward
1941 Wilkie, Aldon Jay

1871 York, Thomas J.

D: Sep 27 1992
   Fort Lauderdale, Florida
D: Jun 8 1990
Is Deceased
D: Aug 5 1992
   Tualatin, Oregon
Name: Thomas Jefferson York
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C34 Gary Nuthala, 1155 Hather Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303
C35 Fred Ivor-Campbell, 21 Martin Street, Warren, Rhode Island 02885
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C37 Joe Overfield, 21 Pinegate Avenue, Tonawanda, New York 14150
C38 Norman Macht, 3 Graham Court, Newark, Delaware 19711
C39 Pete Palmer, 12 Farmcrest Avenue, Lexington, Mass. 02173
C40 Richard Puff, 1494 New Scotland Road, Slingerlands, New York 12159