Joe Visner Found

We had another great month with several difficult ballplayers tracked down, but the Find of the Month goes to Bob Tholkes for locating Joseph Visner, another member of our Top 20 Most Wanted list. Bob teamed up with SABR member Brent Peterson of Stillwater, Minnesota to help follow the trail. Brent was able to locate Visner’s marriage record and the death date of his wife which led to Visner’s death record in 1945. Interestingly enough, this was another case of Visner’s family not knowing his whereabouts. It took an expert baseball researcher to solve the puzzle.

However, Visner is well-remembered by his family as somewhat the “black sheep.” He frequently deserted his wife and family. At some point, Joe moved his family from Rochester, New York to Fosston, Minnesota on land he was entitled to through his grandmother, a Chippewa Indian. Visner is quite possible the first ballplayer of Indian ancestry. Eventually, Joe’s wife and children left him and moved back to Rochester. He lived by himself or with relatives after that. At least one relative made him move because of his habits. He was described as a drunk and slovenly. (Funny, that’s how my relatives describe me.)

An excellent job of research on the part of Bob Tholkes! Replacing Visner on our Most Wanted list will be Joseph Peploski, who was feature in last month’s Mystery.

More on Robert Allen

It seems that Rowdy Elliott (a/k/a Bob Allen) had a longer minor league career than we thought. Tom Hufford sends along the following additions to his minor league career:

1923 York (Ny-Penn)
1924 York (NY-Penn)
    Reading (International)
1925 York (NY-Penn)
1926 Scranton (NY-Penn)
1927 Newark (International)

Birthday List

There are no nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in June but Harold Laverne Smith turns 89 on June 30 if you’d like to send a card.

New Members

Joey Beretta of 149 Reiten Road #2, Kent, Washington 98031 has joined the committee. Joey’s code number will be B8. Also, Martin Lacoste has moved. Martin’s new address is 247 Erb Street West, Apt. #20, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 1V8.

Members in the Media

Richard Topp recently appeared on a radio call-in show on WLS in Chicago to talk about SABR. He received calls from all over the country including one from a Kansas City caller grilling him about why he did not have a death date for Harry Decker. Rich was unable to come up with an answer and for some reason thought that I was the caller. Would I do something like that?

Convention News

Our committee meeting is Friday, June 28, at 9:45 A.M. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend. Please send any items that you would like to discuss. There is also a committee chairmen’s meeting on Thursday evening. One of the topics will be committee financing. Another will be guidelines for committee membership. Please send me any thoughts you have on these subjects. I’ll look
forward to seeing you all in New York.

**Mystery of the Month**

I have been wanting to get a more recent player for the *Mystery* so this month we feature Bill Froats. William John Froats was born October 20, 1930 in New York City. He pitched two innings on April 22, 1955 for the Detroit Tigers. This was the extent of his major league career. He attended Notre Dame University and was nicknamed "Nutsy" according to a college teammate. In 1983, Cappy Gagnon tracked him to Edina, Minnesota where he was living with a woman named Beverly Nelson. Froats took Cappy's call and promised to answer his letter. He didn't and then he and Beverly both disappeared. His brother Bob lives in Yorktown, New York and has only periodic contact with Bill. Bill moves around a lot and his family can not keep track of him. Can anyone locate Mr. Froats?

**The Scoreboard**

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Bio Report 2 May 1991
New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1919 Allen, Robert
1928 Blackerby, George Franklin
1886 Boyle, John Anthony
1909 Brown, Paul Percival
1938 Cullenbine, Roy Joseph
1955 Donoso y Galeta, Lino
1881 Flaherty, Martin
1888 Freeman, Julius Benjamin
1888 Gamble, Robert J.
1931 Garland, Louis Lyman
1887 Gruber, Henry John
1913 Hanson, Joseph
1904 Hickey, John William
1888 Hoover, Charles E.
1924 Jones, Kenneth Frederick
1946 Jones, Sheldon Leslie
1912 Ketter, Philip
1937 LaMaster, Wayne Lee
1954 Leja, Frank John
1871 Leonard, Andrew Jackson
1931 Mallon, Leslie Clyde
1890 McGuckin, Joseph W.
1885 McVey, George W.
1887 Murphy, Patrick J.

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1883 Orr, David L.
1912 Pennock, Herbert Jeffers
1936 Phebus, Raymond William
1884 Price, James L. (MGR)

1887 Roach, John F.
1951 Runnels, James Edward
1918 Sanders, Roy L.
1887 Sommers, Joseph Andrews
1885 Visner, Joseph Paul

1875 Weaver, Samuel H.