F. C. Hansford Found

F. C. Hansford, one of our most mysterious missing players, who pitched one game for Brooklyn in 1898 has been found. With help from Jay Sanford, I found him and am awarding myself the Find of the Month award.

We had little to go on with Hansford and he was always listed as being from Colorado. Jay Sanford had done some research into his career in Colorado and found a note indicating that his first name was Frank. Meanwhile, another bio committee member (I forgot who sent this to me and I apologize for not remembering) sent me a note that Hansford hailed from Fort Scott, Kansas.

Armed with this information, I searched through the census and found a Frank C. Hansford listed in 1880 in DuQuoin, Illinois as a 6 year old, in 1900 in Ogden, Utah, born 12/1874 in Illinois, in 1910 in Wichita, age 35, and in 1920 in Fort Scott at age 45. These were all obviously the same guy.

I made a call to Evergreen Cemetery in Fort Scott, a cemetery I had dealt with before when seeking out another player, Lon Ury. Hansford was buried there in 1952. The caretaker told me to call the funeral home which was fortunately still in existence. They told me that his full name was Frank Cicero Hansford, he was born December 26, 1874 and died December 14, 1952 in Fort Scott. As of yet, I haven’t been able to track down his place of birth and am still waiting to receive his obituary. Many thanks to all who helped me find Frank Hansford.

New Members

Please welcome Bob Schenkel to the committee. Bob’s address is 28 Northampton B, West Palm Beach, Florida 33417 and his code number will be S2.

Baseball and the Olympics

Since this is an Olympic year, it is only fitting that we have a fact that relates to baseball and the Olympics. What ballplayer had both a father and a brother that competed in the Olympics? It was Jackie Gutierrez whose father Campo competed in the hurdles in the 1936 Olympics and brother Freddie ran the 100 meters in 1964. Thanks to Scott Flatow for this bit of trivia.

Another Related Question For You Bird Lovers

Jamie Selko was reading the book "Hope Is A Thing With Feathers: A Personal Chronicle of Vanished Birds" (for those of you who know Jamie, you know he has a wide variety of interests) and he learned that the last wild Passenger Pigeon was shot in Ohio on March 24, 1900 by Pressley Clay Southworth, the brother of longtime major league manager Billy Southworth. It makes me wonder who shot the second to the last one.

Convention News

We had a pretty good turnout for our committee meeting in West Palm Beach despite our meeting being scheduled at 8:00 Sunday morning. We decided to carry the last date each player appeared in the major leagues in addition to the debut date. Dave Smith will provide all of the end dates back to 1977. If any of you do any research on end dates, for now send the results to Dave Vincent, who is in the process of redesigning the biographical database.
Cashing Your Bonds In Early

Barry Bonds was called up by the Pirates May 30, 1986 and made his major league debut that night. On August 11, he pinch hit in a game that was the completion of a suspended game from April 20. The official records record the date of the suspended game as April 20, so even though Bonds appears in the box score of the April 20 game, his debut was actually May 30. One hundred years from now, when someone discovers this and tries to change his debut date to April 20, please remember this note.

Obituary Help

I know that when any of you spot the obituary of a major league player, you send that to me. However, other SABR committees are interested in obituaries as well. If you see an umpire obit, please send it to Phyllis Otto and if you see a minor league obit, please send that to Ray Nemec. Their addresses are below:

Phyllis Otto
200 N. Pickett St. #415
Alexandria, Virginia 22304
phyll@ottoexec.org

Ray Nemec
1424 Heatherton Drive
Naperville, Illinois 60563
Basebalray@aol.com

The Baseball Digest List

The 10 players listed in the July 1962 Baseball Digest were:

David Brain - Died May 25, 1959 in Los Angeles

Jacob Aydelotte - Died October 22, 1926 in Detroit


Elmer Pence - Alive in 1962. Died September 17, 1968 in San Francisco


Michael Hayes - Still missing

Oliver Brown - Died September 23, 1932 in Brooklyn

Wingo Anderson - Died December 19, 1950 in Fort Worth, Texas

John Wienke - Died March 16, 1933 in Pleasant Ridge, Michigan

World Series Survivors

Here is some trivia that you can bring up in your next baseball discussion. The oldest World Series team which still has a participant living is the 1932 Yankees with Frank Crosetti. The oldest team to still have all of its players living are the 1975 Reds and 1975 Red Sox. All participants in that World Series are still alive.

Birthday List

There are several nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in July and August. Make sure you send them a card.

July 9  Lou Polli 99
July 19  Henry Kinzy 90
July 25  Joseph Zapustas 93
July 29  Fran Healy, Sr. 90
August 8  Tot Pressnell 94
August 11  Forrest Jensen 93
August 20  Al Lopez 92
August 22  Robert Keely 91
August 23  Lonny Frey 90
August 27  Herbert Pyle 90
August 31  Ray Berres 93
Michael Haslin 90

Speaking of Nonagenarians....

Elden Auker, who will turn 90 on September 21, was the keynote speaker at the SABR convention in West Palm Beach. For a man about to turn 90, he looked like he could still pitch. He gave a wonderful talk and told about the first 2 hitters he faced in the majors, a couple of guys named Ruth and Gehrig. Auker is also one of the oldest living World Series participants, having pitched in the 1934-35 World Series with the Tigers. It was a very enjoyable evening that culminated with Lyle Spatz winning the Bob Davids award. Congratulations, Lyle!
We Need To Look Higher And Lower For Lauer

John Charles Lauer played several positions, none of them well, for Pittsburgh (AA) in 1884, Pittsburgh (NL) in 1889, and Chicago (NL) in 1890. He was later signed by Quincy, Illinois in 1896. Lauer married a Pittsburgh girl on September, 10, 1891 and definitely appears to be from Pittsburgh. He comes from a large family as in the 1880 Pennsylvania census, John and Dora Lauer are listed with 10 children: Mattie (16), John (15), Marion (14), Elizabeth (13), Henry (11), Charles (9), George (7), Edward (4), Dora (2), Emelia (5 months). The 1920 Pennsylvania census lists John Lauer, 55, and his wife, Mary, living at 437 Walnut in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. With all those Lauers floating around Pennsylvania, it seems like we would be able to find some clues on his family. Lauer is our May/June Mystery of the Month.

The Scoreboard

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New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:
None

New Information Received:

1884 Baldwin, Charles
    Busted
1884 Berkelbach, Frank P.
1934 Bordagaray, Stanley George

1884 Burns, Thomas P.
1904 Byers, James William
1884 Carroll, John E.
1933 Chapman, Edwin Volney

1956 Cimoli, Gino Nicholas
1895 Clark, William Otis
1942 Clary, Ellis

1902 Clay, Frederick C.
1948 Conatser, Clinton Astor
1899 Dowling, Henry Peter
1932 English, Charles Dewie

1995 Estes, Aaron Shawn
1915 Fluhrer, John L.
1884 Flynn, Joseph

1893 Garry, James Thomas
1896 Garvin, Virgil Lee
1997 Green, Bertram Scarborough
1901 Hallman, William Harry
1898 Hansford, F. C.

1905 Hershey, Frank
1900 Hustig, Berthold Juneau
1885 Kennedy, Theodore A.
1956 Keough, Richard Martin
1897 Leahy, Thomas Joseph
1953 Liddle, Donald Eugene

1939 Loane, Robert Kenneth
1928 Martin, John Leonard Roosevelt

Bio Report  May/June 2000
1951 Merson, John Warren
1994 Mordecai, Michael Howard
1897 Nance, William G.

1969 Perez, Martin Roman
1904 Rementer, Willis J.
1889 Reynolds, Charles Lawrence
1887 Roach, John F.
1949 Robinson, John Edward

1944 Ruszkowski, Henry Alexander
1889 Shannon, Daniel Webster
1901 Smith, Harry Thomas
1897 Sparks, Thomas Frank
1952 Tiefenauer, Bobby Gene

1962 Tillman, John Robert
1990 Vatcher, James Ernest
1901 Waldron, Irving J.
1980 Yost, Edgar Frederick

D: Apr 28 2000
   Elk Ridge, Maryland

   BR
   Eliminate 1904 St. Louis (AL) record
   Game belongs to Mike Kahoe
   B: Feb 28 1946
   BR Height: 5-06.5 Weight: 180
   TR
   D: Mar 2 2000
   Ormond Beach, Florida
   D: May 31 2000
   Cleveland, Ohio
   D: Oct 24 1913
   Height: 5-08.5 Weight: 165
   D: Jun 13 2000
   Desloge, Missouri
   D: Jun 23 2000
   Gallatin, Tennessee

B: May 27 1965
   BL Height: 5-05.5 Weight: 155
   B: Aug 19 1954

(P1) (S1) (P1) (M4) (M4) (Q1) (H4) (H4)