A Brand New 1936 Ford

This is hard to believe but Rick Benner discovered a new ballplayer who made his debut in 1936. Eugene Ford had been listed as pitching 2 games for the Boston Braves in 1936. One was in June and one was in September. Gene Ford, a former University of Iowa pitcher, made the start in June, then was optioned to the minors where he injured his arm and was out for the season.

On September 27, the Braves played a doubleheader and started a pitcher named Ford. Ford didn’t retire a batter and was replaced by Guy Bush. The Boston papers clearly state that this was Bill Ford and he had attended Penn State. Rick contacted Penn State and obtained all the biographical information on him. He was Billy Southworth, Jr.’s college roommate. It’s amazing that we actually have a new player from as late as 1936, but it was a great job of research by Rick Benner to discover this. Rick wins the Find of the Month award.

Sufferin' Succotash

Louis Sylvester has been a mystery for years. We knew that he was born in Springfield, Illinois in 1855. He appears in the 1880 Illinois census with his wife Jennie and he worked in a watch factory. His parents are also there and they were born in the Madera Islands. In the 1900 census, he reappears in San Diego with his brother George. And is still there in 1920 listed as a painter. George dies in 1946 in San Diego, but Louis disappeared. A Louis Sylvester that was the right approximate age was run over by a car in Stockton, California in 1935 and for years we thought this was the ballplayer, but couldn’t prove it. Richard Malatzky found this Louis Sylvester in the 1930 California census and he as born in 1967 in Italy and came to the US in 1890. Hence, this wasn’t him.

Richard tried to find another Louis Sylvester in the 1930 census, but was unsuccessful. So he decided to get creative. He tried any Sylvesters born in Illinois and found Lenis J. Sylvester, age 75, living in Brooklyn. A look at the census image showed that this was really Lewis J. Sylvester, parents born in Madeira, wife Jennie, and he was a watchmaker. Obviously, this is our missing player. Richard then checked the New York City deaths and found that he died May 5, 1936 in Brooklyn. It’s unusual for someone to move from California to New York that late in life. This is a great find.

Pulling a Fass One

In 1887, a man listed simply as Fass pitched 4 games for Indianapolis. A note found in the Sporting News identified this player as Fred Fass, who had come to Indianapolis from Milwaukee and had been a teacher in the Milwaukee school system. Several years ago, Richard Topp was able to determine that this was Frederick P. Fass, born October 30, 1859 in Milwaukee; however, he disappeared from Milwaukee around the turn of the century. Richard Malatzky searched for this player in the 1920 census and found a likely candidate living in Pueblo, Colorado. Peter Morris found that he died July 5, 1930 in Pueblo County and informed Jay Sanford. Jay was able to contact the player’s grandson, who not only confirmed that he was a ballplayer, but even had one of his old gloves! Great work by all involved.
Otten Has Not Been Forgotten

We listed Joseph G. Otten as catching for St. Louis in 1895. Richard Malatzky found several citations in both *Sporting Life* and the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* that this was John G. Otten. The key to the search was a note in the *Post Dispatch* that Otten was from Chicago and was a bookbinder by trade. Richard found a listing in the 1888 Chicago city directory listing John G. Otten as a bookbinder. Richard then was able to locate his death in Chicago in 1905 and his obituary confirmed that he was the man we are seeking.

A Dancing Daisy

George Daisy played in one game for Altoona in 1884. Reed Howard found a note that Daisy had been a dance instructor in Altoona. Armed with this information, Richard Malatzky was able to find the Daisy family living in Gloucester, New Jersey. In the 1920 census, Daisy sprouts up in Cumberland, Maryland and is listed as a “dancing master.” He is listed the same way in the 1930 Maryland census and Richard was able find the obituary for Daisy planted in the Cumberland newspaper.

James Burns

Richard Malatzky was able to locate James M. Burns. He found an obituary in the Quincy, Illinois newspaper that was quite detailed. It delineated his baseball career, mentioning that he played for Kansas City and Washington. He died in Chicago and Richard had a long wait for the death certificate to arrive, but obviously, this is our missing player.

The Right Guy?

Sean Forman forwarded me an e-mail from a lady that states the following:

“I am the daughter of Andrew John Bednar. He was born July 13, 1917 in Streator, IL. Andy played baseball. I am unaware of Andrew Jackson Bednar born in Streator. Is this a mix up with my father? Where do I find more about the man listed?”

Are we sure our information on Bednar is correct? Obviously Andrew John Bednar is not the major leaguer, but perhaps we have the birth information on Andrew Jackson Bednar incorrect. Bedner died in an auto accident November 26, 1937 in Graham, Texas. Can someone check into that? I will make this one our *Mystery of the Month*.

Another Brother

In addition to the relatives listed among the 2002 rookies last month, Wil Nieves is the brother of Melvin Nieves. Thanks to Joe Naiman for providing this information.
Birthday List

The following players are celebrating birthdays in January and February. Be sure to send them a card.

January 1  Charles Devens  93
January 3  Gus Suhr  97
January 17  Ray Cunningham  98
January 20  James Outlaw  90
February 13  Ernest Rudolph  94
             Herbert Hash  92
February 15  Bob Cremins  97
February 20  Tommy Henrich  90
February 22  Bill Baker  92

New Address And Phone Number For Committee Chairman

I have moved and my new address is: Bill Carle, 909 SW Corine Court, Lee’s Summit, Missouri 64081. My new phone number is 816-554-9820.

New Members

Please welcome Rob Martindale to the committee. Rob’s address is 1423 Oakbrook St., Lancaster, TX 75134 and his code number will be M2. Also welcome Dave McNeal, 822 Poppy Drive, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895. Dave’s code number will be M9.

Scoreboard

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New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:
None

New Information Received:

2002 Alvarez, Victor
Name: Victor Aurelio Alvarez (W1)
2002 Amezaga, Alfredo
Name: Alfredo Amezaga (Delgado) (W1)
1948 Arft, Henry Irven
D: Dec 14 2002
St. Louis, Missouri (C1)
1960 Barber, Stephen David
B: Feb 22 1938 (CL)
1872 Barlow, Thomas H.
B: 1852
New York (M3)
2002 Bedard, Erik Joseph
B: Mar 5 1979 (H9)
1924 Begley, James Lawrence
D: Feb 22 1957 (B6)
1954 Buillard, George Donald
D: Dec 23 2002
Lynn, Massachusetts (D6)
1888 Burns, James M.
B: St. Louis, Missouri (M3)
D: Feb 17 1909
Chicago, Illinois

1871 Carleton, James Leslie
B: Aug 20 1848 (M4)
1884 Daisey, George K.
Name: George R. Daisy (M3)
B: 1857
Gloucester, New Jersey
D: Apr 27 1931
Cumberland, Maryland

2002 Davis, Jason T.
Name: Jason Thomas Davis (W1)
1996 Dessens, Elmer
B: Jan 13 1971 (P1)
2002 Diggins, Benjamin H.
Name: Benjamin Howard Diggins (W1)
1905 Disch, George Charles
TR (M4)
2002 Eckenstahler, Eric R.
Name: Eric Ryan Eckenstahler (W1)
1910 Elliott, Harold B.
Name: Harold Bell Elliott (B6)
1887 Fast.
Name: Frederick Peter Fass (M4)
B: Oct 30 1859
D: Jul 5 1930
Burnt Mill, Colorado

1936 Ford, William B.
New Player (B7)
B: Oct 14 1915
Buena Vista, Pennsylvania
D: Apr 6 1924
Jefferson, Pennsylvania
BRTR Height: 6-02 Weight: 200
Debut: Sep 27 1936

1942 Freed, Edwin Charles
D: Nov 15 2002 (C1)
Rock Hill, South Carolina
1871 Goldsmith, Warren M.
D: Washington, D.C. (M4)
1916 Hasbrook, Robert Lyndon
Real Name: Robert Lyndon Hasbrouck (D7)

Nov/Dec Biographical Report
2002 Hendrickson, Mark A.
1937 Henrich, Thomas David
1944 Henry, Earl Clifford
1936 Henry, James Francis
1977 Hernandez, Guillermo (Villanueva)
1941 Hughson, Cecil Carlton
1871 Jackson, Samuel
1911 James, William Henry
1916 Johnson, William Lawrence
1922 Knight, Elma Russell
1912 Lamline, Frederick Arthur
1943 Lazor, John Paul
2002 Lewis, Colby P.
1923 Lucas, Charles Frederick
2002 Lunsford, James L.
1962 McNally, David Arthur
1890 Millard, Frank E.
1895 Otten, Joseph G.

Name: Mark Allan Hendrickson
B: Feb 20 1910
D: Dec 10 2002
Zanesville, Ohio

Name: Danville, Virginia
Debut: Apr 9 1977
D: San Marcos, Texas
A: Aug 4 1930
D: May 25 1942
D: Nov 15 1950
Name: Elmer Russell Knight
Name: Frederick Arthur Lamlein
Delete real name
D: Dec 9 2002
Renton, Washington

Name: Colby Preston Lewis
Name: Charles Fred Lucas
Name: James Lewis Lunsford
D: Dec 1 2002
Billings, Montana
D: Dallas, Texas
B: Aug 1870
Netherlands
D: Oct 17 1905
Chicago, Illinois
Weight: 175
Name: Terry Bobby Gene Pearson
Name: David Joseph Pember
Name: Oliver Perez [Martinez]
B: Nov 18 1910
D: Nov 10 2002
York, Pennsylvania
B: May 30 1935
D: Aug 26 2000
West Palm Beach, Florida
D: Mar 22 1960
B: Guayubin, Dominican Republic
BL
B: Sep 30 1910
D: Dec 10 2002
Minter City, Mississippi
D: Dec 15 2002
Redwood City, California
D: May 5 1936
Brooklyn, New York
Name: Andres Vungo Torres [Feliciano]
Name: Cory Wade Vance
D: Dec 2 2002
Los Angeles, California
1944  Wood, Joseph Frank

Name: Joe Frank Wood
D: Oct 10 2002
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

1926  Yarnall, Waldo William

Name: Waldo Ward Yarnall