The Quest Is Over

Joe Quest, the number one player on our Top 20 Most Wanted List, has been found. I found him with an assist from Pete Morris, so I am giving myself the Find of the Month award.

First of all, let's recap where we last left Quest. Quest was born in 1851 in New Castle, Pennsylvania. He played with a variety of teams until 1886 and is known to have coined the phrase, "Charley Horse." After his playing career, he took residence in Chicago. In 1907 he was implicated in an embezzlement scandal and skipped town, leaving for parts unknown.

Pete Morris suggested I check California for him since he played briefly in the minors there after his major league career ended. On my next trip to the library, I checked the 1920 California census and found this entry in San Diego:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph L. Quest</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>B: Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>B: Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>B: III.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>B: Ala.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This traced Quest's path perfectly. I then checked the 1910 Alabama census and found Quest living in Citronelle, Alabama. Interestingly, his occupation was listed as "own income." Translation: embezzlement money.

I then went to the Mormon library and checked the California death index where I found his death in San Diego on November 14, 1924. Replacing Quest on our Top 20 list will be Lou Sylvester who is featured as this month's Mystery of the Month.

New Members

Please welcome the following new members to the biographical committee:

Sigmund Menchel (M3)
P.O. Box 355
Miller Place, New York 11764

Alan Feinberg (F3)
P.O. Box 50569
Washington, D.C. 20091

David Nemec (N3)
1517 Irving Street
San Francisco, California 94122

Pete Cava (C2)
7143 Mohawk Lane
Indianapolis, Indiana 46260

Phonies

Often, as we try to track down missing players, we find an obituary and lament the fact that it doesn't mention baseball. On the opposite end of the scale are the obituaries which say that someone played baseball when he really didn't.

Richard Schrader recently sent me an obituary of a man named Robert Lawson. The obituary stated that Lawson played centerfield for the New York Yankees from 1938-40. Pure poppycock! And this happens all the time. Just another one of the hazards of biographical research.

Haber Sends Death Of Aber To Paper For SABR

I hope you all noticed that thanks to Bill Haber, Baseball America is now printing obituaries of former major leaguers. They recently published a list of all players who had died earlier in the year. Hopefully this will also lead to learning other player deaths that we might otherwise have missed. (Wasn't there another magazine that used to do this?)
Another Actor

Tom Hufford sends along the story of Jesse Baker, who was James Cagney's double for many years. Baker was actually a missing ballplayer until a few years ago when a clue from Wally Shaner led to his capture. Shaner, interestingly enough, ran the Lido show at the Stardust in Las Vegas. The Lido was Las Vegas's longest running show until it closed last year.

I Guess I should Have Studied

I never realized when I became chairman of this committee how many subjects I would have to know something about. I was a math major and the only time I use that is when I determine that if a player debuted in 1886, his 1879 birth date is probably wrong. Here are some examples of what I mean:

**Geography** - Pete Palmer recently sent me a list of all towns we have listed which do not appear on any map. When I have some spare time I intend to go through it. Some towns, of course, have changed their name.

**History** - Bob Tholkes sent me a list of all players we list as born in Germany before Germany was a country. A couple were born in Prussia, and one was born in Wurtemburg. For the sake of simplicity, I will leave these as Germany.

**English** - After all, I have to write this newsletter, don’t I?

**Spanish** - I have often had to write to Latin players or to Latin American countries. It helps to know Spanish.

**Medicine** - Ever try to decipher the cause of death on a death certificate?

**Birthday List**

There are several nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in October if you’d like to send a card.

| Oct 1 | Jimmie Reese | 92 |
| Oct 10 | Homer Peel | 91 |
| Oct 20 | James Uchrinscko | 93 |
| Oct 22 | Isaac Kahdol | 92 |
| Oct 28 | Henry Boney | 90 |

You will also notice that we are reporting the death of the second oldest living ballplayer in Robert Cassius Wright. Bob Wright died at 101 and is the oldest man never to be the oldest of all time as Chet Hoff is still going strong at 102. Hoff and Edward Gill are the two remaining survivors of the dead ball era.

**Sufferin' Succotash**

Our *Mystery of the Month* for September was one of Lee Allen’s favorite players, Lou Sylvester. Lou Sylvester was born February 14, 1855 in Springfield, Illinois, a birth date that would appear to be accurate. He was the son of Joseph and Mary Sylvester who were born in the Madera Islands, which were a part of Portugal. (There’s that geography again.) He had two sisters, Emma and Julia, and two brothers, Frank and George. In 1880, Lou was living in Elgin, Illinois with his wife, Jennie, and his daughter, Della. He had gotten married about 1876.

By 1900 he and his brother, George, had moved to San Diego where they had opened Sylvester Brothers Painting. He lived there until at least 1920 although I found a person I believe to be him in the 1926 San Diego city directory. Here he disappears and I could not find him in the California death index. George died in San Diego on August 19, 1946. I could find no obituary in the San Diego paper. I did find an obituary of George’s wife, Edna, when she died in 1944. She left two children, George and Maryjane, and is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale near Dave Rowe and Casey Stengel. Anyone have any ideas on where to go from here?

**Coming Attractions**

Be sure and read next month’s newsletter as we will list all of the 1993 rookies. Due to expansion we will have over 200 this year. Stay tuned.
## The Scoreboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IN</th>
<th>OUT</th>
<th>PCT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Complete Names</td>
<td>13875</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>99.484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Complete Births</td>
<td>13162</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>94.372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Complete Deaths</td>
<td>6921</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>49.624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assumed Alive</td>
<td>6542</td>
<td></td>
<td>46.906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Bats</td>
<td>12575</td>
<td>1269</td>
<td>90.834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Throws</td>
<td>12826</td>
<td>1018</td>
<td>92.647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Heights</td>
<td>12783</td>
<td>1061</td>
<td>92.336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Weights</td>
<td>12708</td>
<td>1136</td>
<td>91.794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Debut Dates</td>
<td>13947</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Questionnaires</td>
<td>9910</td>
<td>4037</td>
<td>71.055</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Completion: 92.0042
New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:
None

New Information Received:

1926 Allen, Ethan Nathan
1875 Arundel, Harry
1936 Atwood, William Franklin
1882 Burke, James
1912 Cather, Theodore P.
1885 Coliver, William J.

1907 Craig, George McCarthy
1944 Dantoneio, John James
1903 Deering, John Thomas
1893 Donahue, Francis Rostell
1898 Donovan, William Edward
1904 Dougherty, Thomas James
1900 Eason, Malcolm Wayne
1893 Garry, John Thomas
1872 Hall, James

1890 Halligan, William E.
1944 Hamner, Granville Wilbur

1935 Hill, Jesse Terrill
1879 Houck, Sargent Perry
1886 Hudson, Nathaniel P.
1912 Irvin, William Edward
1896 Johnson, Albert J.
1907 Jones, Elijah Albert
1891 Letcher, Thomas F.
1945 Maier, Robert Phillip

1902 McCarthy, Archibald J.
1872 McDonald, Daniel
1907 McDonald, John Joseph
1912 McGarvey, Daniel Francis
1912 Meany, Patrick J.
1921 Merritt, Herman G.
1931 Moore, Eugene, Jr.
1909 Moriarty, William Joseph

D: Sep 15 1993
Brookings, Oregon

B: Feb 1855
(D2)

D: Sep 14 1993
Snyder, Texas
(S1)

B: Attleboro, Massachusetts
(M4)
Name: Theodore Physick Cather
(D2)
Name: William J. Coliver
(M4)

B: Mar 21 1867
Clyde, Ohio

Debut: Jul 19 1907
Is Deceased
(H1)
Weight: 180
(M4)
Weight: 187
(M4)
BS
(M4)
Weight: 195
(M4)
Height: 6-00
(M4)
TL
(C1)
Delete death date. Death belongs to a woman named Jane Hall.

BL
(D2)

D: Sep 12 1993
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

B: Mar 1856
(M4)
BR
(M4)
(1)

D: Aug 31 1993
Pasadena, California

Height: 5-09.5  Weight: 165
(M4)
Height: 5-11.5
(M4)
BL
(M4)

D: Aug 4 1993
South Plainfield, New Jersey

Height: 6-00  Weight: 160
(M4)
Height: 5-11
Weight: 154
(M4)
Debut: Sep 3 1907
(P1)
BR
(M4)
BR
(M4)

Debut: Aug 24 1921
(M4)
Debut: Sep 19 1931
(P1)
B: Aug 1883
(D2)

Bio Report 4 September 1993
1884 Morrison, Jonathan W.  B: Ontario
1903 Nicholls, Simon Burdette  Height: 5-11.5  Weight: 165
1883 Pirie, James Moir  B: Ontario
1871 Quest, Joseph S.  Name: Joseph L. Quest
D: Nov 14 1924  (C1)
San Diego, California
Weight: 210  (M4)
Is Deceased  (H1)
Delete 1888 death date.  (S1)
Name: Michael Stephen Roach  (D2)
B: Dec 23 1873
D: New York, New York
Name: Rudolph Charles Roach  (M4)
Weight: 188  (M4)
D: Jacumba, California  (C1)
Name: Edward Tilden Siever  (M4)
B: Oct 7 1921  (H1)
D: Aug 17 1993
Suffern, New York
B: 1863  (M4)
Name: E. William Smith  (M4)
New Orleans, Louisiana
Delete death data. The Guelph death belongs to a different man.
Height: 5-08  Weight: 152  (M4)
Height: 6-01  (M4)
Height: 5-10  (M4)
D: Cambridge, Massachusetts  (R1)
B: Dec 1870  (D2)
W:  (M4)
B: 1863  (M4)
D: Decatur County, Indiana  (H1)
Carmichael, California
Weight: 185  (M4)