 Rafael Almeida Found

Although we had a month and year for Rafael Almeida's death, we did not have an exact date. The fact that he died in Cuba makes this particularly difficult to find out. Jose Jimenez located someone in Cuba who was a Cuban baseball historian who was able to provide Almeida's exact death date. Since this man may be able to help us on other Cuban ballplayers, Jose wins the December Find of the Month award.

New Members

Please welcome Dave Stevens to the biographical committee. Dave's address is 5225 N. River's Edge Terrace, #410, Chicago, Illinois 60630. Dave's code number will be X5.

Mitchum, Alabama

You'll recall a few months back that I published a list of towns that Fred Lenger was unable to locate. These towns had been listed as birth places or death places for various ballplayers. One of these was Mitchum, Alabama, listed as the birthplace of Thomas Long, the man who still holds the Cardinals team record for triples in a season.

Cliff Otto wrote the Alabama State Archives and received the following response:

"I have been unable to locate the town of Mitchum in The Historical Atlas of Alabama. There is, however, a Mitcham located in Clarke County. This is a variant name for the town more commonly referred to as Chilton. You can see the town of Chilton on a map to the south and west of Thomasville."

Perhaps someone would like to investigate Chilton as Long's birthplace.

Baseball and Baseball Players

Last month I mentioned a book called Baseball and Baseball Players which supposedly listed obituaries for former ballplayers. Bob McConnell writes that he has a copy of the book and that it contains 93 mini-obituaries, including 76 for ex-major leaguers. Only three of the players are players for whom we do not have complete birth and death information. The players in question are Pete Dowling, Mike Hines, and Ed Knouff. The book has little birth information and the death information for these three players differs slightly from what we list. This is not too surprising and we don't know whether the source of the author's information is any more reliable than what we have.

More One-Gamer Trivia

Greg Beston has done some research on one-game major leaguers. He sent along the following interesting notes:

On 10/05/1912 Homer Thompson caught for New York (AL) in his only major league game, but the pitcher for the Highlanders was his brother Tommy. This was the first brother battery in AL history.

On 05/10/1884, Alex Gardner of Washington (AA) had a record 12 passed balls in his only game.

As the starting pitcher in the 05/18/1912 Tiger protest game, Al Travers allowed a record 24 runs, 26 hits, and 5 triples.

Rex Hudson of the Dodgers gave up Hank Aaron's 726th home run on 07/27/1974.
Dave Bennett finished up in relief for the Phillies in a game started by his brother on 06/12/1964.

Johnny Pyecha of the Cubs was 1 out from winning his major league debut on 04/24/1954, but Wally Post hit a 3 run homer in the bottom of the ninth to win the game 6-5. He never pitched again.

Tom Yewcik (1957) was quarterback for the Boston Patriots from 1961-66.

Harry O’Neill (1939) was killed in WWII in Iwo Jima and Alex Burr (1918) was killed in WWI in France.

George Heubel (1876), Alamazoo Jennings (1878), John Magner (1879), John Dyler (1882), and Rip Egan (1894) were all full time major league umpires.

Charlie Mason (1883), Walter Alston (1936), and Cal Ermer (1947) were all major league managers.

Mel Kerr (1925), Red Smith (1927), Buddy Hancken (1940), Nick Testa (1958), and Bart Zeller (1970) were all major league coaches.

Jack Aragon (1941), John Corriden (1946), Guy Morton, Jr. (1954), and Charlie Lindstrom (1958) all had fathers who played in the majors.

Joe Berry, Sr. (1902), Bill Crouch (1910), Steve Partenheimer (1913), Barney Martin (1953), and Tom Fletcher (1962) all had sons play in the major leagues.

Marty Herrmann’s (1918) grandson played in the majors.

Lave Cross, Johnny Evers, Bing Miller, George Kelly, Joe and Luke Sewell, Wally Westlake, Tom and Jim Paciorek, Manny Jimenez, Phil Gagliano, and Robin Yount all had brothers who played in one game.

Bi-Monthly

As you know, beginning in 1998, I will start issuing the newsletters bi-monthly. I’m sorry to have to do this, but it is getting to be too much work to do it on a monthly basis and it’s getting harder and harder to come up with interesting reading material. Hopefully, it will improve the quality of the newsletter as well. Of course, your help in coming up with interesting articles is always appreciated.

Birthday List

Here is the list of nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in January and February. Be sure to send a card.

Jan 2    Tedd Gullic     91
Jan 3    Gus Suhr        92
Jan 17   Ray Cunningham   93
Jan 29   Ray Hayworth     94
Feb 15   Bob Cremins     92

Turn of the Century Confusion

Our final Mystery of the Month for 1997 comes from Bob Richardson. It regards the player we list as Patrick James Hannivan.

"From 1893-96 one of the New England League starts was a left-handed throwing shortstop named James J. (Jimmy) Hannivan. Now that I’ve begun wading through 1897 newspapers, I’ve discovered that he was the 1897 Brooklyn 2B-OF we list as Patrick James Hannifan. I’m not certain our ID is wrong, but he was always James J. or Jimmy Hannivan during his NEL years and Tom Shea has notes on him through 1905 as Jimmy Hannivan. Patrick James Hannifan (or Hannivan) was definitely a ballplayer, but his obit makes me suspicious too. It says he played for New York ‘when the National League was young’ and Providence ‘when it was in the league.’ Even though there is no record of him playing for NY-NL or Providence-NL, this suggests an earlier timeframe than 1897 and would be consistent with Partick J.’s 1866 birth. This ID actually goes way back; the 1909 Reach Guide necrology notes the passing of ‘James Hannivan, well-known minor league player, in his 35th year.’ Patrick was 42 when he died in 1908.

Unfortunately, I can’t pin down the 1893-96 NEL player. Notes indicate he was from Hartford and Springfield, but there is no James Hannivan (or any of the other possible spellings) - or Patrick, for that matter, in the city directories for either city during that span. I did find one fellow born about the right time and living in the vicinity in the right years, but I have been unable to establish that he was a ballplayer - his obit tells about his business career but doesn’t mention baseball.

Tom Shea’s notes have James J. Hannivan living in Appleton, Wisconsin in 1903 and show
him playing for Grand Rapids of the Western Association in 1901, Binghamton (NY State) in 1904, and Montgomery (Southern) in 1905. Perhaps somebody could check these locales for a line on Hannivan."

### The Scoreboard

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New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:
None

New Information Received:

1911 Almeida, Rafael D.
1971 Armstrong, Samuel
1947 Baumholtz, Frank Conrad
1871 Bevans, E. P.
1949 Bowers, Grover Bill

1934 Clifton, Herman Earl
1960 Clinton, Luciean Louis
1928 Cox, George Melvin
1961 Hamilton, Steven Absher

1937 Harshany, Samuel
1959 Hunt, Kenneth Lawrence
1945 Lombardi, Victor Alvin

1933 Lovett, Merritt Marwood
1953 Martin, Barnes Robertson
1943 McDonnell, James Joseph
1931 McWilliams, William Henry

1994 Oliva, Jose (Galvez)
1945 Picciuto, Nicholas Thomas
1930 Samuels, Joseph Jonas
1875 Smith, Thomas N.
1955 Templeton, Charles Sherman

1958 Thacker, Morris Benton
1997 Whisenant, Matthew Michael
1969 Wilson, William Harlan

D: Mar 19 1968
D: Dec 14 1997
D: Sep 17 1996
D: Dec 22 1997
D: Dec 6 1997
D: Dec 17 1995
D: Dec 2 1997
D: Sep 19 1995
D: Oct 30 1997
D: Apr 24 1993
D: Jan 21 1997
D: Dec 22 1997
D: Jan 10 1997
D: Oct 28 1996
D: Oct 9 1997
D: Nov 13 1997
D: Aug 11 1993

Name: Robert Armstrong
Name: Edward P. Beavans
Name: Samuel Harshaney
D: Cincinnati, Ohio
D: Wichita, Kansas
D: Morehead, Kentucky
D: Jun 1997
D: Dec 3 1997
D: Fremont, California
D: Downers Grove, Illinois
D: Columbia, South Carolina
D: Garland, Texas
D: San Cristobal, Dominican Rep.
D: Irving, Texas
D: B R

W: Winter Springs, Florida
W: Wynn, Arkansas
W: (J1)
W: (W5)
W: (S1)
W: (W5)
W: (S3)
W: (X4)
W: (C1)
W: (C1)
W: (SS)
W: (T1)
W: (S3)
W: (O2)
W: (T1)
W: (D6)
W: (C1)
W: (C1)
W: (C1)
W: (C1)
W: (C1)
W: (M4)
W: (S3)
W: (N1)
W: (MC)
W: (C1)