New Ballplayer Discovered

Our February Find of the Month award goes to Al Kermisch, who is not a member of the committee for his discovery of the new ballplayer Long as noted in the 1994 Baseball Research Journal. Al discovered that Daniel Long, who we had listed as playing with Louisville in 1888 and Baltimore in 1890, was actually playing in California at the time of the Louisville appearance.

The Louisville player was a yet unidentified player named Long. Al speculated that this might be Harry Long. If anyone can research Louisville and Philadelphia newspapers, they might want to track this one down.

The Gang of Four

Pete Palmer has informed me that the 1994 Baltimore Orioles did indeed set a record when they featured four players named Smith. There were several teams with three players.

The Eddie Gaedel Club

Bob Tholkes questions height and weight information we have on two players. Peter Burg is listed as being 5-01. Supposedly this is correct but can anyone send me any documentation of this height (or lack thereof)? We also list Harry Keenan as weighing 95 pounds or approximately as much as one of Cecil Fielder's legs. This was from an article in the 03/06/1894 Boston Globe which states, "Harry Keenan of Atlanta is the smallest player in history, he weighs 95 pounds..." Perhaps someone in Atlanta can check this out.

George Popplein

Charles Weaver verified that George Popplein, tracked down last month by Tom Hufford, was indeed a major league player. Popplein played in 1869 for the Pasunes or "Ponies" of Baltimore. The next year he is handling all chances in left field for the same club. Popplein joined the Olympics of Baltimore in 1872. On July 11, 1873, he debuted for the Marylands, playing in one game. He quit baseball to become a chemist. So only 122 years after his major league debut, he finally gets his appropriate credit.

New Members

We also have a new member of the biographical committee. Please welcome Bruce Markeson, 1303 Oswego Street, Apt. #6, Utica, New York 13502. Bruce's code number will be M8.

Some of you complained because the biographical committee member list that I promised I would print in the January newsletter was printed in invisible ink on invisible paper. Since some of you don't have the appropriate infrared reader to help you read such a document, I thought I would reprint it in the conventional manner this month.

A Prodigy

Greg Beston did some research into the life of a player with one of my alltime favorite names, Leonidas Pyrrhus Funkhouser, who played with St. Louis in 1877 under the name Leonidas Lee.

Greg was suspicious of the 1860 birthdate since he played in the majors at 16 and graduated from Princeton at 17. Greg checked Funkhouser's file at Princeton and his birthdate appears to be accurate. Funkhouser's birthdate appears on nearly every document in the file, many in Funkhouser's own handwriting. The
1878 yearbook makes the comment, "The summer was spent in various ways by most of the class. Funkhouser played with the St. Louis nine." So we have a rather amazing individual. Funkhouser entered Princeton at 13, played in the majors at 16, and graduated at 17. Even for the 1870s, that is rather amazing.

A New SABRite

Congratulations are in order for Richard and Barbara Topp who are proud parents of a baby girl, Mary Flora, born on March 1. (If it was a boy, they were going to name it Leonidas Pyrrhus Topp.) After the birth, like every good father, Rich bought Mary her first gift, a SABR membership. Best of luck to the Topp family!

Children and Grandpas

With the potential for seeing some rather new faces on the diamond in 1995, I thought it might be interesting to examine the top 10 youngest and oldest players to make their major league debut. This of course assumes that the birthdates we carry are correct.

The Youngest

1. Fred Chapman 14.66
2. Mike Kellor 15.82
3. Joe Nuxhall 15.86
4. Frank Ward 16.16
5. Jim Britt 16.18
6. Trick McCorley 16.39
7. Joe Stanley 16.44
8. Willie McGill 16.49
9. Franklin Pearce 16.51
10. James Curry 16.56

The Oldest

1. Satchel Paige 42.01
2. Diomedes Olivo 41.62
3. Chuck Hostetler 40.57
4. Alex McColl 39.41
5. Quincy Troupe 39.35
6. Lester Willis 39.28
7. Andy Swan 39.20
8. Connie Marrero 38.99
9. William McGhee 38.83
10. Sterling Stryker 38.71

Birthday List

There are two nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in March. Be sure you send a card.

March 2 Arthur Weis 94
March 21 Joseph Samuels 90

The Search For Burch

Earnest W. Burch played three years in the major leagues. He debuted with Cleveland in 1884 and then put in two years with Brooklyn in 1886-87. Our records show that he was born in 1856 in DeKalb County, Illinois. I do not know the source of that information. At various times the newspapers as well as the Spalding Guide spelled his name Birch. Notes from Sporting Life indicated that he owned a ranch in Oklahoma.

I located a man named Earnest Birch in the 1900, 1910, and 1920 Oklahoma censuses who owned a farm near Guthrie. I sent to Oklahoma for the death certificate and this man was born in 1863 in Illinois and died in 1933 in Oklahoma City. His parents were William R. Birch, born in New York, and Helen Sartain, born in Kentucky. They were married November 4, 1860 in Mason County, Illinois. Mason County is in the central part of the state, while DeKalb County is in the northern part of the state.

Now it would appear that we have the right player, but the birth is a few years off, his middle name is Emanuel rather than a name beginning with a W., and we don't know if he was born in DeKalb county. I have been unable to locate an obituary. But since these questions beg for answers, I feel perfectly justified in making Earnest Burch our February Mystery of the Month.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>IN</th>
<th>OUT</th>
<th>PCT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Complete Names</td>
<td>14196</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>99.481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Complete Births</td>
<td>13510</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>94.674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Complete Deaths</td>
<td>7087</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>49.664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assumed Alive</td>
<td>6708</td>
<td></td>
<td>47.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Bats</td>
<td>12911</td>
<td>1254</td>
<td>91.147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Throws</td>
<td>13159</td>
<td>1006</td>
<td>92.898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Heights</td>
<td>13142</td>
<td>1023</td>
<td>92.778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Weights</td>
<td>13076</td>
<td>1089</td>
<td>92.312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Debut Dates</td>
<td>14270</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Questionnaires</td>
<td>9972</td>
<td>4298</td>
<td>69.881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Completion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>92.2045</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:
1895 Boswell, Andrew Cottrell TR (C1)

New Information Received:
1890 Baker, Kirtley D: Covington, Kentucky (C2)
1936 Bauers, Russell Lee D: Jan 21 1995 (W1)
1936 Burkart, Elmer Robert D: Feb 6 1995 (RC)
B: Hines, Illinois
Baltimore, Maryland
1873 Campbell, Hugh F.
1873 Campbell, Michael B: 1846 (M4)
B: 1850 (M4)
1971 Chiles, Richard Francis Debut: Apr 20 1971 (T1)
1943 Clay, Dain Elmer D: Chula Vista, California (H1)
1943 Elko, Peter D: Sep 17 1993 (H1)
R: Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
1934 Filley, Marcus Lucius B: Lansingburgh, New York (H1)
D: Jan 20 1995 Yarmouth, Maine (H1)
1934 Flohr, Moritz Herman D: Jun 2 1994 Hornell, New York (H1)
1929 Frey, Benjamin Rudolph D: Spring Harbor Township, Michigan (M4)
1903 Gessler, Harry Homer B: Greensburg, Pennsylvania (H1)
D: Dec 25 1924
1908 Graham, William James Name: William James Graham (M4)
1948 Hall, John Sylvester D: Jan 17 1995 (H1)
B: Midwest City, Oklahoma
1988 Johnson, Randall David BRTL (M4)
1883 Kennedy, Edward Height: 5'06 Weight: 150 (T1)
1888 Long, (C1)
Debut: Aug 29 1888 (C1)
1888 Long, Daniel W. Debut: Aug 27 1890 (C1)
1878 McClellan, William Henry Height: 5'05.5 (T2)
1876 McGuinness, John James Height: 5'10.5 Weight: 150 (T1)
1922 Merewether, Arthur Francis B: Jul 7 1902 (T1)
1946 Moulder, Glen Hubert D: Nov 27 1994 (H1)
Decatur, Georgia
1901 Murphy, Francis Patrick D: Nov 4 1912 Central Islip, New York (H1)
1873 Popplein, George J. Debut: Jul 11 1873 (W5)
B: Aug 1840 (H4)
Baltimore, Maryland
D: Mar 31 1901 Baltimore, Maryland
1879 Salisbury, Henry H. Height: 5'09 Weight: 170 (T1)
B: Danzig, Germany (T1)
Height: 5'08.5 Weight: 162 (T2)

Bio Report 4 February 1995
1950 Schacht, Sidney
D: Mar 30, 1991
Fort Lauderdale, Florida (H1)
1877 Smith, Harry W.
D: Queensville, Indiana (C2)
1955 Tettelbach, Richard Morley
D: Jan 26, 1995
East Harwich, Massachusetts (B3)
1966 Upshaw, Cecil Lee
D: Feb 7, 1995
Lawrenceville, Georgia (C1)
1938 Williams, Woodrow Wilson
D: Feb 24, 1995
Appomattox, Virginia (C1)
Members of Biographical Committee

A1 Bob Anderson, 2 Fenway, Derry, New Hampshire 03038
A2 Paul Adamotes, 669 Sherwood Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15204
A3 David Arcidiaco, 72 Charles Mary Drive, East Hampton, Conn. 06424
B1 Clarence Blasco, 14949 Blythe Street, Van Nuys, California 91402
B3 Richard Bozzone, 9 Elm Road, Tolland, Connecticut 06084
B4 Greg Beston, 31 Trafalgar Court, S. Weymouth, Mass. 02190
B6 Bob Bailey, 12129 Briargate Lane, Goshen, Kentucky 40026
B7 Dan Bonnett, 1616 5th St. W., Great Falls, Montana 59404
B8 Joey Beretta, 149 Relten Road #2, Kent, Washington 98031
B9 Frank Phelps, 253 Bernard Drive, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406
B10 Andy McCue, 4025 Beechwood Place, Riverside, California 92506
B11 Bob Bluthardt, 244 North Oxford, San Angelo, Texas 76901
B12 John Schwartz, 166 Danforth St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611
C1 Bill Cale, 8220 E. 135th St., Grandview, Mo. 64030
C2 Pete Cava, 7143 Hobkaw Lane, Indianapolis, Indiana 46260
C3 Derek Carlson, 150 Hanley Road, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55425
C4 Dick Beverage, 1244 Brian Street, Placentia, California 92670
CH Jim Johnston, P.O. Box 205, Athens, West Virginia 24712
D1 L. Robert Davids, 4424 Chesapeake St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016
D2 Jack Dougherty, 111 Green Ridge Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19805
D3 Harold Dellinger, 3225 E. 10th St., Kansas City, Mo. 64127
D4 Debbie Dagoverlan-Bonner, 105 Baylor Road, Hamilton, New Jersey 08610
D5 Joe Dittmar, 3112 Hayes Road, Norristown, Pennsylvania 19403
D7 Dan Dishley, 81 Virginia Avenue, Ronkonkoma, New York 11779
D8 Jonathan Dunkle, P.O. Box 19703, Greensboro, N.C. 27419
D9 Bill Deane, P.O. Box 47, Fly Creek, New York 13337
D10 Morris Eckhouse, P. O. Box 93183, Cleveland, Ohio 44101
F1 Gary Fink, 4205 Mira Loma Drive, Reno, Nevada 89502
F2 Scott Flintow, 1701 West 3rd, Brooklyn, New York 11233
F4 James Floto, P.O. Box 409, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96748
G2 Cappy Gagnon, 3321 41st Way S.E., Olympia, Washington 98501
G3 Jerry Gregory, 3409 Reedy Drive, Annadale, Virginia 22003
H1 William Haber, 1518 East 29th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229
H5 John R. Husman, 5911 Jeffrey Lane, Sylvania, Ohio 43560
H6 Thomas Hufford, 1356 Linley Trace, Marietta, Georgia 30066
H5 Ralph L. Horton, 9230 Grant Farm Trail, St. Louis, Missouri 63126
H6 Tim Herron, 20 Shady Lane, Fairport, New York 14450
H7 Chuck Hersberger, 959 West Drayton, Ferndale, Michigan 48220
H8 Scott Henderson, P.O. Box 590, Cooperstown, N.Y. 13326
J1 Dr. Jose J. Jimenez, Calle Maximo Gomez 34, Santiago, Dominican Republic
J2 Lou Jacobson, 5809 Nicholson Lane, Apt. #503, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852
J3 Richard Johnson, 3852 Howard Ave. #1, Los Alamitos, Cal. 90720
K1 Clifford Kochline, RD 2, Box 414, Cooperstown, N.Y. 13326
K2 Bob Keeler, 3005 SW Westwood Drive, Portland, Oregon 97225
K3 Ed Koller, 6336 Teesdale Avenue, North Hollywood, Cal. 91606
L2 Fred London, 3716 S. Country Club Way, Tempe, Arizona 85282
L3 Erwin Lynn, 9 Deb Street, Plainview, New York 11803
L4 Eduardo Valera, 670 Ponce De Leon, Apt. #916, Santurce, Puerto Rico 00907
M1 Robert McConnell, 210 West Crest Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19803
M2 Peter Morris, 706 Shepard, Lansing, Michigan 48912
M6 Daniel Mumford, 12102 Sheffield Road, Ocean City, Maryland 21842
M7 Paul Moore, P.O. Box 264, Perryville, Missouri 63775
M8 Bruce Markoski, 1303 Oswego Street, Apt. 8, Utica, New York 13502
M14 Ken Sanson, MacMillan Publishing, 866 3rd Avenue, New York, New York 10022
M10 Carlos Bauer, 6315 Merced Street, San Diego, California 92122
W1 Gary Nuthall, 1155 Mather Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303