New Ballplayer Discovered

Our Find of the Month award for January goes to Joe Simenec and it is the kind of thing that I hate to report because it opens up another mystery rather than closes one.

We had listed Charles F. Jones as playing in 1884 with Brooklyn and in 1885 with New York. The game with New York in 1883 took place on April 30. However, Charles F. Jones had signed with Newark after leaving Brooklyn and was playing second base for them in Newark on April 30, 1885. The man who played for New York was described this way by Sporting Life:

"A new man covered third base for the local team. He is an amateur and gave his name as 'Jones'. He played a very good game."

In the box score his name was listed as "Jones" with the apostrophes. That would seem to indicate that he was playing under an assumed name. Even if Jones was his real name, that doesn’t exactly make him easy to find. But at least we now have straightened out the record.

The 1927 Yankees

Jim Kreuz is interested in learning what happened to members of the 1927 Yankees who were with the team in spring training yet never played in a game. There were 5 players who fit this category:

Shep Cannon - Born about 1905. Home was listed as Stamford, Texas.

Roy Chesterfield - Died in Seattle in May of 1972.

Hugh Ferrell - Born 06/09/1904 in Bedford, Massachusetts. Listed as living in Vardaman, Mississippi.

Don Flickinger - Born about 1907. Listed as living in Phoenix.

James Wiltse - Born about 1902. I believe he died in January of 1982 in Tannersville, N.Y.

If anyone has any information about these players, please contact Jim at 70 Bayberry Court, Lake Jackson, Texas 77566.

Lou Gehrig

Another player the Yankees had in 1927 who did get in a few games was Lou Gehrig. The spring training roster sent me by Bill Weiss lists Gehrig’s age as 22. This would seem to be in error since we list Gehrig’s birth as 1903. However, Gehrig’s headstone lists his birth as 1905. This information was provided by his wife. Does anyone have documentation of Gehrig’s correct date of birth?

Mack Attack

I have often written about Connie Mack being a real thorn in the side of our committee. Mack consistently threw fly-by-night players into a game, often under assumed names, making our work exceptionally difficult.

Jame Selko did some research on one and two game pitchers in the majors from 1901-50. The A's used 53 such players. Not counting the A’s, there were 376 players scattered among the other 15 teams. (Isn’t it nice to remember baseball with 16 teams?) That averages out to 25 per team. So Mack used over twice as many as the average team. Those interested in the statistics on the hitters are urged to write Jamie and get him to research that as well.
I Think We Got a Boo Boo

We list James Korwan as dying in August of 1899 in Brooklyn, New York. I thought this would be an easy one to wrap up so I sent for the death certificate. I received a certificate for Johanna C. Korwan, who died August 5, 1899 in Brooklyn. Johanna was a 62-year-old woman who never played baseball. I suspected that the death date on the ballplayer was actually this woman. However, Joe Simenic told me that Sporting Life of September 2, 1899 reported Korwan's recent death. Korwan had played in Springfield, Massachusetts the preceding year so it is possible he died there. Of course, we could still have the wrong man. Does anyone have any ideas?

Last In, First Out

1890 - Augustine Williams
   Tom Corcoran
   10/14/1890
   06/25/1960

1891 - Nick Reeder
   Frank Burrell
   09/26/1894
   05/08/1962

1892 - John McMahon
   John Hollison
   12/30/1894
   08/19/1969

1893 - Edgar McNabb
   Edward McFarland
   02/28/1894
   11/28/1959

1894 - James Ritz
   Ernest Mohler
   11/10/1896
   11/04/1961

1895 - John Gilroy
   James Gannon
   08/04/1897
   04/12/1966

1896 - Martin Bergen
   Charles Emig
   01/19/1900
   10/02/1975

1897 - Thomas O'Brien
   Joseph Stanley
   02/04/1901
   09/13/1967

1898 - John Puhl
   Ralph Miller
   08/24/1900
   05/08/1973

1899 - James Duncan
   Fred Parent
   10/16/1901
   11/02/1972

Birthday List

Once again, there are no nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in February, but Bob "Crooked Arm" Cremins turns 88 on February 15 if you'd like to send your regards.

A Manager in an Asylum

Most managers probably feel like they are in an asylum but our first Mystery of the Month for 1994 did spend some time there. Horace B. Phillips had a fairly lengthy managerial career for him to still be missing. We list his birth as May 14, 1853 in Salem, Ohio, although other profiles have listed it as May 20, 1856. While a small child, his family moved to Philadelphia, where he began playing with local amateur teams in the early 1870s.

In 1873 he played for the Syracuse Stars, spending time there and in Philadelphia through 1878. In 1879, he managed Baltimore and Troy as well as San Francisco in the winter. 1880 found him managing Baltimore and Rochester, following that up with a stint back in Philly before taking over the reins of Columbus in 1882. In 1884 he managed Grand Rapids and in 1885 he became skipper of Pittsburgh where he stayed through 1889.

Poor health forced his replacement in 1889 as Pittsburgh manager and at this point his trip becomes clouded. He was admitted to a hospital in Merchantville, New Jersey with what was first described as pariesis. Later he was diagnosed with "acute mania" brought on by the stress of trying to prepare for an off season theatrical tour of California. Horace was released from the hospital and spent the winter at the home of his father-in-law, Dr. Henry G. Saunders. (Horace had married Anna Saunders in 1884.)

By late 1890 he was back in the Merchantville hospital, being visited daily by his brother, and apparently dying. However, Joe Simenic found notes as late as 1894 that his wife was divorcing him. There apparently are no records in Merchantville of his death. Also, his father-in-law died in 1899 and Horace's wife is not mentioned as a survivor. Perhaps she was dead by then. If anyone could find the names of Horace's family it would be quite helpful, but at the moment we seem to be at a dead end. Thanks to Pete Morris for providing this information.

Bio Report 2

January 1994
# The Scoreboard

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### New Monthly Data

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<td>Batchelor, Richard Anthony</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Blosser, Gregory Brent</td>
<td>B: Manatee, Florida</td>
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#### New Information Received:

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<td>1954</td>
<td>Alston, Thomas Edison</td>
<td>B: Jan 31 1926</td>
<td>Winston-Salem, North Carolina</td>
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<td>1884</td>
<td>Bahret, Frank J.</td>
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<td>Briggs, Grant</td>
<td>Height: 5-11 Weight: 170</td>
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<td>1938</td>
<td>Buxton, Ralph Stanley</td>
<td>D: California</td>
<td>B: Jul 5 1875</td>
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<td>1926</td>
<td>Carter, John Howard</td>
<td>D: Jul 24 1991</td>
<td>New York, New York</td>
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<td>1914</td>
<td>Coles, Cadwallader Jones</td>
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<td>Flanigan, Raymond Arthur</td>
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<td>1981</td>
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<td>Phelan, Daniel T.</td>
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<td>1932</td>
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Bio Report 4 January 1994
1939 Rowell, Carvel William
1978 Sample, William Amos
1989 Sanders, Deion Luwynn
1939 Schelle, Gerard Anthony
1940 Schulte, Herman Joseph
1939 Scott, LeGrant Edward
1944 Shemo, Stephen Michael
1936 Smith, Edgar

1875 Somerville, Edward
1930 Sprinz, Joseph Conrad
1898 Sullivan, Suter G.
1931 Sullivan, William Joseph, Jr.
1952 Temple, John Ellis

1882 Tilley, John C.
1922 Turk, Lucas Newton
1948 Vico, George Steve

Is Deceased (H1)
B: Apr 2 1955 (T1)
Debut: May 31 1989 (H1)
D: May 4 1990 (M4)
B: St. Louis, Missouri (H1)
D: Birmingham, Alabama (H4)
D: Eden, North Carolina (H1)
B: Mansfield, New Jersey (H1)
D: Jan 2 1994
Willingboro, New Jersey

Name: Edward G. Somerville (S1)
D: Jan 11 1994 (C1)
Fremont, California
Height: 6-00 Weight: 170 (M4)
D: Jan 4 1994
Sarasota, Florida (S1)
B: Aug 8 1927
D: Jan 9 1994
Anderson, South Carolina

BR
D: Jan 11 1994
Homer, Georgia (C1)
D: Jan 13 1994
Redondo Beach, California (C1)