



New Heights and Weights Found

Bob Richardson wins the September *Find of the Month* for finding the heights and weights for three 19th century players, Charles McCullough, Francis McManus, and Francis Quinlan.

Tim and Tug

Well, several people have confirmed that country singer Tim McGraw is the son of Tug McGraw. In fact, Joey Beretta sent me a very interesting story explaining the whole thing. It seems Tim didn't find out Tug was his father until he was 11 years old and accidentally found his birth certificate. Interestingly, Tug had always been one of his favorite players even before he knew Tug was his father. Now maybe we can start a new category: ballplayers who were fathers of country singers.

Indiana and Texas

I recently sent for death certificates from Indiana and Texas. Neither will send you a certificate unless you are a relative of the person. I have admitted to having about 200 grandfathers over the years, but it is still quite annoying to have this happen. Texas was even more annoying. They cashed my check and kept the money.

Age At Death

Here is something with which you can amaze your friends. Someone called me and wanted to know the average age of baseball players at their death. Among all the players for whom we have

complete data, the average age is 66.62. Of course, as years go by, this is bound to increase. He wanted to prove that baseball players live longer. Must be all that clean living they do.

Do You Know These Guys?

What major league team featured an infield with the first names Dudley, Elliott, Dagoberto, and Colbert? Answer can be found below.

Newsletter To Go Bi-Monthly

This newsletter gets harder and harder for me to publish on a monthly basis. I have to really struggle to find interesting items to put in here and as you can see, most of them are not very interesting. I used to get quite a bit of mail from committee members, but I get very little these days. And I'm not clever enough to come up with everything on my own. So beginning with 1998, the newsletter will be published on a bi-monthly basis.

Partial Deaths

I am building quite a collection of players who have died recently, but who I do not have complete data for. Can you help find these guys? I am listing the player, date of death if known, and last residence. If a date is listed, we need the place of death.

Bill Wilson	08/11/1993 Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
James McDonnell	04/24/1993 Detroit, Michigan
Frank Smith	Unknown St. Petersburg, Florida
Roy Hawes	1987 Flat Rock, Alabama
Art Herring	1996 Marion, Indiana
Bill McWilliams	01/01/1994 Tyler, Texas

Prosper Blanche	Unknown
Michael Clark	Arlington, Massachusetts 01/25/1996
George Jumonville	Bellmawr, New Jersey 12/12/1996
Louis Scoffic	Mobile, Alabama 08/28/1997
	Johnston City, Illinois

Answer to Question

This infield belonged to the 1977-78 Texas Rangers. The four players were Dudley (Mike) Hargrove, Elliott (Bump) Wills, Dagoberto (Campy) Campaneris, and Colbert (Toby) Harrah. See what I mean about struggling to find filler?

Birthday List

Here are the nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in October. Be sure to send a card.

October 3	John Riddle	92
October 22	Isaac Kahdot	96
October 23	Lee Grissom	90
October 28	Henry Boney	94

Where is Slab's Slab?

Our *Mystery of the Month* for September is James (Slab) Burns. Burns pitched one game for the St. Louis Cardinals on July 6, 1901. Bill Haber tracked Burns for years and found him living in Steubenville, Ohio in 1945. What happened to him after that is unknown. This article appeared in the Steubenville Herald Star on June 22, 1945 and pretty much tells the life story of Slab.

'Slab' Burns Now Forgotten Hero

This reporter called on "Slab Burns" in his shack abode where he keeps "Bach" on North Eighth west side rear north of Franklin Wednesday evening and found him quite ill.

In his active days years ago he was a scintillating star of the baseball diamond, the football field, and the basketball floors. He was stocky built, a bundle of muscle, cool, courageous in his playing, unassuming, never got rattled or punched anybody in a game.

Burns was a player on the Y.M.C.I. basketball team when special trains went to Homestead and Old City Hall Pittsburgh. Both games broke up in a riot, but what did 1200 local

fans care whether they were there for a frolic or a fight. He played on the Acme football team when they played Holy Ghost college here. The visitors played a guards back game and won, but not until the Acme boys gave the Holy Ghost such a rough rolling that Editor McFadden of the Gazette ordered that no mention of the third person of the trinity for a football team was again to be made in his paper.

Burns featured in that unusual play, nothing like it before or since, when the Acme football team beat the famous Lalus team of Pittsburgh. When Acme got the pigskin to the Lalus 35 yard line Burns started with the ball under his arm, but tripped and fell. Tom Needhaw and "Gicks" Houser got him by legs and arms and aided by royal interference carried Burns and the ball over the line for a touchdown.

James Joseph Burns known as "Slab" was born in England of Irish parentage June 6, 1876. His parents, Peter and Catherine Condron Burns, both deceased came to this city when he was a child. He learned to play baseball on the sand lots of the "Old Fifth" where he was an Acme glassworker and a member of old time union local No. 8 A.F.G.W.U.

He played centerfield on the Gazette team as a kid, outfield for the Minker team. He was a pitcher for the Jake George team where in one game he had 16 strikeouts. He was a pitcher for the Acme team, pitcher for the Homestead team, pitcher for the Duquesne University team, pitcher for Jersey City of the Eastern League. He signed with St. Louis but was farmed out to Grand Rapids where he was a pitcher. While pitching he developed a slow drop speed ball that batters found it hard to connect up with.

He played fullback with Duquesne University, also with Washington and Jefferson college, and the old Acme teams. Burns was considered an all round athlete, quick on his feet, despite his bulk.

Burns won considerable fame as a pitcher, and is reported to be the first hurler to pitch the "balloon" ball which Rip Sewell of the Pittsburgh Pirates has made famous.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14647	69	99.531
Total Complete Births	13973	743	94.951
Total Complete Deaths	7336	465	49.851
Total Assumed Alive	6915		46.990
Total Bats	13365	1245	91.478
Total Throws	13617	993	93.203
Total Heights	13614	996	93.183
Total Weights	13550	1060	92.745
Total Debut Dates	14716	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9982	4734	67.831
Total Completion			92.1944

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1948 Ashburn, Don Richard	D: <u>Sep 9 1997</u>	(C1)
	<u>New York, New York</u>	
1940 Butland, Wilburn Rue	D: <u>Sep 19 1997</u>	(C1)
	<u>Terre Haute, Indiana</u>	
1927 English, Elwood George	D: <u>Sep 26 1997</u>	(C2)
	<u>Newark, Ohio</u>	
1952 Hardin, William Edgar	D: <u>Jul 28 1997</u>	(C1)
	<u>Rancho Santa Fe, California</u>	
1942 Hickey, James Robert	D: <u>Sep 20 1997</u>	(B3)
	<u>Manchester, Connecticut</u>	
1947 Knickerbocker, Austin Jay	D: <u>Feb 18 1997</u>	(S3)
	<u>Clinton Corners, New York</u>	
1890 McCullough, Charles F.	TR Height: <u>6-01</u> Weight: <u>185</u>	(R1)
1899 McManus, Francis E.	Height: <u>5-07</u> Weight: <u>150</u>	(R1)
1891 Quinlan, Francis Patrick	Height: <u>5-09</u> Weight: <u>180</u>	(R1)
1948 Sawyer, Edwin Milby (MGR)	D: <u>Sep 22 1997</u>	(C1)
	<u>Phoenixville, Pennsylvania</u>	
1934 Walkup, James Elton	D: <u>Feb 7 1997</u>	(S3)
	<u>Danville, Arkansas</u>	