

Bottomley, Ex-Card Great, Dies of Heart Attack at 59

Star First Baseman Played on 4 Flag Winners, Drove in 12 Runs in One Game

James Leroy (Sunny Jim) Bottomley, one of the most popular Cardinals of all-time, died of a heart attack in St. Louis, December 11.

The 39-year-old former batting and fielding star, who had suffered from a heart ailment for several years, was found dead in his car on a downtown parking lot. He and his wife had driven to St. Louis from their home near Sullivan, Mo., to purchase Christmas presents.

Sunny Jim, while with the Cardinals, was a hero among such stars as Rogers Hornsby, Frank Frisch, Pepper Martin, Chick Hafey, Bob O'Farrell, Jesse Haines, Burleigh Grimes, Bill Hallahan and Jimmy Wilson. He was nicknamed because of his ever-present smile and pleasant disposition and his swaggering stroll and cocked hat were trade-marks which were remembered by St. Louis fans as clearly as his playing ability.

In addition to being an outstanding slugger in 16 major league seasons, 11 with the Cardinals, Bottomley was a brilliant fielding first baseman. He appeared in four World's Series with the Redbirds, 1926-28-30-31. The slugger also played for the Reds and Browns and managed the latter club briefly.

Lifetime Bat Mark of .310
Boasting a lifetime batting average of .310, Bottomley accumulated 2,313 hits, 1,422 runs batted in, 219 home runs, 151 triples and 465 doubles. His fielding average was .988.

A lefthanded hitter as well as thrower, the wiry 175-pound six-footer won the National League's Most Valuable Player award in 1928. He shared the N.L. homer crown with the Cubs' Hack Wilson that season. Each hit 31.

Bottomley also figured in the closest batting race in National League history. He hit .3482 in 1931, but finished third behind Cardinal teammate Chick Hafey with .3489, and the Giants' Bill Terry, who batted .3486.

Sunny Jim drove in 111 or more runs in six straight seasons, beginning in 1924. He topped the league in RBIs with 120 in 1926 and 136 in 1928. After batting 345 with ten hits in his first World's Series in 1926, Bottomley never had much luck in the post-season classic. He had just one hit in 22 at-bats in the 1930 Series and finished with an even .200 for his four World's Series.

Bottomley, the first baseman of THE SPORTING NEWS' 1925 All-Star team, established a major league record which still stands when he drove in 12 runs at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn, September 16, 1924, while the Cardinals, with Bill Sherdel and Flint Rhem sharing the pitching duties, defeated the Dodgers, 17 to 3. Sunny Jim accomplished the feat with two homers, a double and three singles in six times at bat.

Twice Hit Six-for-Six
Oddly, the former mark of 11 had been set by Wilbert Robinson, the manager of the Dodgers then, while with the old Baltimore Orioles in 1892. In 1931, Sunny Jim set a National League record when he connected safely six times in six trips for the second time in his big league career.

He was a special favorite of members of the Cardinals' Knothole Gang. When he was presented with his 1928 Most Valuable Player award by National League President John Heydler, 10,000 youngsters cheered their approval.

Another big event for Sunny Jim was in August of 1936, while with the Browns, when he was given a "day" by his friends. Given a choice of gifts, he asked for a Jersey cow for his farm

Kept His Sunny Side Up



JIM BOTTOMLEY . . . Top-Notcher in St. Louis Affection

at Bourbon, Mo. The cow and other livestock he received gave Sportsman's Park the appearance of a barnyard that afternoon.

An eligible bachelor during most of his playing career, Bottomley was married to the former Betty Brawner of St. Louis in 1933. They had no children.

Bottomley was born April 23, 1900, in Oglesby, Ill. His father was a coal miner and the family lived in several Illinois coal centers, including Nokomis, where Sunny Jim made his home for many years.

Brother Killed in Mine
After quitting school at the age of 16, Bottomley worked as a grocery clerk, truck driver, railroad yard clerk and later above the ground for a coal mine. His younger brother was killed in a mine cave-in.

In a semi-pro game for which he was paid \$5, Bottomley pounded two home runs and three triples in five times at bat. A St. Louis policeman named King happened to be watching the game and recommended Sunny Jim to General Manager Branch Rickey of the Cardinals. Rickey, also apprised of the prospect by Harry Miller, a Nokomis lawyer, sent Scout Charley Barrett to look over the youth.

Bottomley signed for \$150 a month and finished the season at Sioux City in the Western League. He was released as "too awkward" at first base. He batted .312 for Mitchell in the South Dakota State loop in 1920, then slipped to a mere .227 at Houston the

Small Bag, Shirt, Sundries and Jim Was Ready for Road

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Although he was a farm system product, Jim Bottomley was a throw-back to an earlier era of baseball, a man whose life started and ended at the ball park. During his career with the Cardinals, he had no other interests.

In those days, the Cardinal bachelors stayed at a west end hotel in St. Louis. There every night you could see Jim and his cohorts seated in chairs out in front of the hotel, holding court with the fans.

When the Cardinals went on a long trip, Jim threw an extra shirt, a change of underclothing and a few sundries into a small bag and he was set for the journey. "Why load up with a lot of clothes?" he often said. "I'm not going anywhere except to the ball park and I wear a uniform there."

late in the season. Bottomley took over as pilot, then suffered a mild heart attack after the season.

Sunny Jim played before the era of inflated salaries, but he earned \$15,000 a season during his prime and invested a large portion of his salary, plus all of about \$22,000 he received in four World's Series, in his successful livestock farm.

While with Cincinnati, he once considered retiring from the game because of an aching back. Larry MacPhail, the Reds' explosive general manager, sputtered, "Jim can't afford to retire."

When told of MacPhail's remark, Bottomley snapped, "I'll bet him \$50,000 I can."

Scouted for Cubs in '37
After many years away from the game, Bottomley signed on as a Cubs' scout in 1937, then filled in as manager of the Pulaski (Appalachian) club. After his second game at the helm he suffered another heart attack and had to give up the job.

Reminiscing with friends after he recovered from that attack, Bottomley told why he switched from the coal mines to the diamond.

"My only brother was killed in a mine accident years ago," he related, "and I know how hard that kind of work was on my father and how much my mother worried about it. When I went into baseball, it was a choice of making good at that or returning to the mines. So it hardly was any choice at all.

"I don't have a regret in the world," Sunny Jim continued. "If I had to do it all over again, I wouldn't change a thing. I've loved every minute of my life, the excitement of baseball, the friends I've made, the laughs I've had and the happiness I've enjoyed. "What else could a fellow want?"

Dr. William R. Marshall

Dr. William R. Marshall, a major league catcher from 1904 until 1909 who practiced medicine for 45 years after retiring from the game, died at his home in Clinton, Ill., December 11, after being in failing health for two years. He was 84.

Dr. Marshall, a native of Butler, Pa., began his professional diamond career with Des Moines (Western) in 1903 and the following season was with Philadelphia, Boston and New York in the National League. He remained with John McGraw's Giants until traded to the Cardinals in 1906 and in 1908 joined the Cubs during the era of the famous Tinker-to-Evers-to-Chance double play combination. He was with Brooklyn in 1909 and with Milwaukee and St. Paul in the American Association from 1910 to 1913.

A graduate of Slippery Rock (Pa.) Normal College, Dr. Marshall began studying for a medical degree at the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery in 1908, while with the Cubs. Following his graduation he began practicing in Clinton in 1913 and six years later was joined by his brother, Dr. Edward H. Marshall. He retired in 1938 due to ill health.

He was a past president of the DeWitt County Medical Association and served as its secretary for 26 years.

In addition to his brother, Dr. Marshall is survived by his wife, Mrs. Alma Marshall, a sister, Mrs. Emma Pierce of Corpus Christi, Tex., and another brother, James Marshall of Butler.

Roberti Petri, a western Nevada sports writer, died of multiple sclerosis at the Reno (Nev.) Veterans Hospital, December 4. He was 28.

Petri, a graduate of the University

Robbie Cut Off Jim's Free Chaws After 12-RBI Stunt

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The day after Jim Bottomley drove in 12 runs in a game in 1924, eclipsing a mark held by Wilbert Robinson, he followed an old habit and stopped by the Dodger bench, figuring on picking up some chewing tobacco from Robbie, then Dodger manager.

"You'll get no more chaws from me," Uncle Wilbert told Jim. "Do you know what you did yesterday? You chased me right out of the record book. Now get outta here."

following campaign. However, a .348 showing at Syracuse (International) in 1922 earned Bottomley a shot with the parent club.

Bottomley, along with Outfielder Ray Blades who was brought up from Syracuse at the same time, represented the first players harvested by Branch Rickey from the Cardinals' budding farm system.

Rickey had devised the idea of developing his own players in the minors in an effort to compete with the wealthier clubs.

As everyone knows, it was a highly successful season. In the next 20 years, a steady flow of eager youngsters kept filing up to the Cardinals, giving them nine pennants.

Bottomley actually fell victim to the system of which he was the first product. When he moved on to Cincinnati, it was to make room for another farm product, Jim (Ripper) Collins.

The 1934 season was Bottomley's only successful one of three with the Reds. He drove in 95 runs that season. As the Browns' regular first sacker in 1936, Sunny Jim batted .298 and drove in 95 runs in 140 games. He was a Browns' playing coach in 1937 until Rogers Hornsby was fired as manager

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Ex-Indian Fatally Stricken at Diamond Group Meeting

Ferd Eunick, former infielder who was with Cleveland for a portion of the 1917 season, collapsed while attending a meeting of the Maryland Professional Ballplayers' Association in Baltimore, December 9, and was pronounced dead at Baltimore General Hospital. He was 67.

He was with Frederick and Easton of the Eastern Shore League and also played in the Western League before joining the Indians late in 1917. He retired from O. B. in 1918.

Eunick, a standout as a semi-pro in the Baltimore area before and after his O. B. career, was elected to the Old Timers' Sandlot Hall of Fame in Baltimore in 1957.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Eunick, two sons, Edward and Charles Eunick, and a daughter, Mrs. Margaret Robinson.

of Nevada, formerly covered the Reno (California) Silver Sox' games for the Sparks (Nev.) Tribune and was a past president of the Sierra Nevada Sports-writers and Broadcasters Association. He previously was employed in the Reno bureau of United Press International and as publications director of the University of Nevada Bureau of Mines. While serving in the Army as a captain, he published a daily servicemen's newspaper on Okinawa.

Mrs. Freda Vietor

Mrs. Freda Vietor, the first woman to be employed full time in the public relations office of a major league club, died at Bethany Hospital in Kansas City, December 15. She was 59.

Mrs. Vietor joined the Athletics' public relations staff in May, 1956, and spoke before women's organizations in behalf of the Athletics until she resigned the position in August, 1957. She recently had been employed by the Board of Public Utilities of Kansas City, Kan.

She is survived by her husband, Hye Vietor, and her mother, Mrs. Fred Carpenter.

Al Weatherly, veteran Texas publisher and printer and a correspondent for THE SPORTING NEWS prior to 1922, died at the home of a son in Kaufman, Tex., December 7. He was 77.

He published newspapers at Clarendon, Quanah and Seymour, Tex., soon after the turn of the century. After World War I, he went to Fort Worth as a printer for the Star-Telegram. He was a proof reader for the newspaper before he retired six months ago.

Weatherly and his late wife were well known in Fort Worth for huge Christmas parties they had for youngsters. Following Mrs. Weatherly's death in 1953, he continued the custom alone.

In addition to his son, Lon Weatherly, he is survived by a sister, Mrs. F. M. Montgomery of Bellingham, Wash.

Mrs. James J. Dykes, wife of the manager of the Tigers, died at their home at Ardmore, Pa., near Philadelphia, December 10. She was 60.

Mrs. Dykes, the former Miss Mary McMonagle, and her husband were married in October of 1920, after Jimmie, as an infielder for the Athletics, completed his first full season in the majors.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Dykes is survived by two sons, James J., Jr., and Charles Dykes; a daughter, Mrs. John Finnegan; four brothers, two sisters and 13 grandchildren.

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