

Reymer's on the North Side!

The story behind Lemon Blendd

by David Grinnell

Over the ten plus years since I have been a member of the Allegheny City Society most of our events have been complemented by the refreshing beverage Reymer's Lemon Blendd. Many have said, "Well you know it was created right here on the North Side." But few have ever been able to recall who the inventor was.

As an archivist at the Heinz History Center, I'm always keeping my eyes open for interesting articles, ephemera, photographs and tid-bits related to Allegheny and North Side subjects. What a surprise when my work-phone rang one day and lady on the other end asked, "Would you be interested in some old pictures related to Reymer's? My grandfather and mother lived on the North Side and worked for them." Well that sure piqued my interest. Soon I met with Paula Trzcianke and her sister Dawn Heilman who were in possession of photographs and clippings related to their grandfather, Peter J. Schelreth, who worked as a manager in the shipping department and later as a salesman for Reymer Brothers. When Pe-



Anna Schelreth in front of Reymer's Austin-Bantam mini-coupe

ter's daughters Anna (Schelreth) Breckmiller and Catherine (Schelreth) Vey were old enough to work, he found them jobs with Reymer's as well. The Schelreths were longtime residents on Ley Street in Troy Hill and Peter worked for Reymer's until his death in 1938.

Even with this great family material from the Schelreth's, my question about who created the Lemon Blendd was still a mystery. About a week after I met with Paula and Dawn one of our History Center volunteers had a box of The Bulletin Index pulled for research. As I approached the table where the volunteer was working at, I caught a glimpse of the headline to the Business column "Reymer's Candy: How an old Family Business has struggled..." It was a story of how the company had been struggling through the years of the depression. The article states, "By 1932 Reymer's was losing as much as \$200,000 a year." Lemn-Blend (1936 spelling) to the rescue—in 1932, the company purchased rights to produce the tasty refreshment from North Side druggist, E. J. Keagy.

Edwin J. W. and Margaret M. Keagy owned and operated Keagy's Pharmacy at 2823 Perrysville Avenue at the corner of Kennedy Avenue. A cursory check of Pittsburgh city directories shows that the couple lived near the pharmacy at 276 Kennedy Avenue. The Bulletin Index reported that in 1935, Mr. Keagy received almost \$13,000 in royalties and salary



The Reymer's Banquet in April 1910. Peter Schelreth is in the center, just above the man wearing the bow tie.



2823 Perrysville Avenue today

as production manager for Reymers. That was twice the salary received by the head of the company! Who would have guessed that our favorite refreshment was so profitable and that the drink itself is the only remaining evidence of what was once a name associated with all things sweet in Pittsburgh—Reymer’s!

Every morning, while riding the 11D Perrysville Avenue bus into town I pass 2823 Perrysville Avenue. The building today houses a day-care facility. I wonder if the kids drink a carton of Reymer’s Lemon Blend with their afternoon snack. Perhaps they should!

Pud Galvin

Allegheny’s Forgotten Hall of Famer

by Emilia Boehm

The history of Pittsburgh baseball is rooted in—and since 2001, once again played in—Allegheny City. In the decades leading to the turn of the 20th century, Allegheny boasted numerous organized baseball teams, and was home to the men who filled their rosters. Long before Josh Gibson (certainly our most famous ballplayer) tortured the pitchers of the Negro leagues with his monster home runs, another future Hall of Famer turned opposing batters into “pudding” on the diamonds of Allegheny—James Francis “Pud” Galvin.

Born on Christmas Day 1856, Galvin began playing baseball as a young boy in his native St. Louis. The stocky, 5'-8" right-hander purportedly trained as a steam fitter before turning to baseball full time in his late teens. In 1875 he pitched for a team in his hometown—though accounts of just which team, either the Red Stockings or the Brown Stockings, differ from source to source. Officially, Galvin is listed as

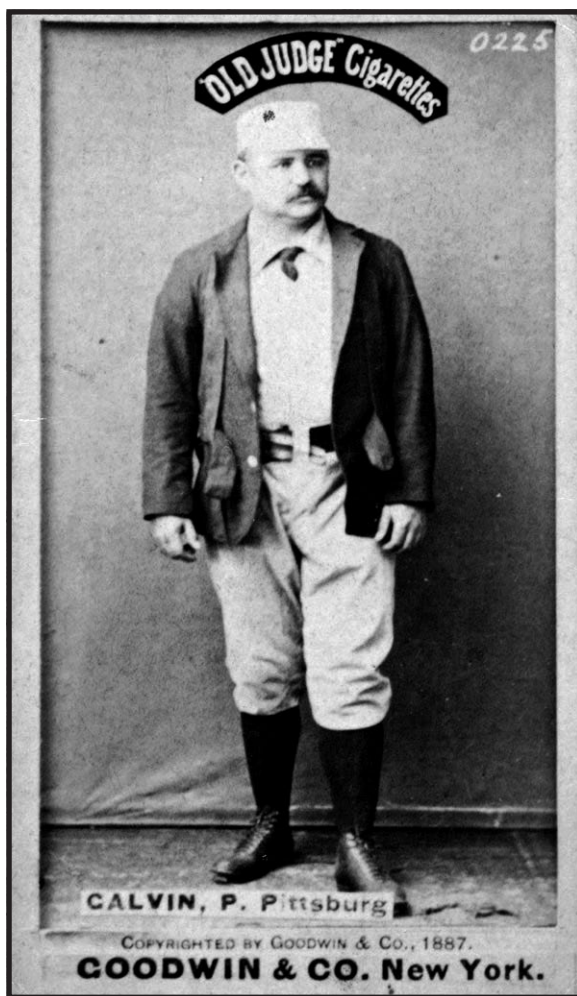
beginning with the St. Louis Browns, but an article from *The Pittsburg Leader* written at the time of Galvin’s death notes that one Thomas H. Clark of Allegheny signed Galvin to his first professional contract for the St. Louis Red Stockings in 1873.

From that first season, Galvin spent nearly 20 years in professional baseball. The National Baseball Hall of Fame records that Galvin played for the St. Louis Brown Stockings (1875); Buffalo Bisons (1879–1885); Pittsburgh Alleghenys (1885–1889); Pittsburgh Burgers (1890); Pittsburgh Pirates (1891–1892); and St. Louis Browns (1892). It appears that Galvin came to play ball in western Pennsylvania as early as 1876 to pitch for the then minor league Allegheny club. Over the course of his tenures with the Allegheny/Pittsburgh teams, it is likely that Galvin played in all of the city’s professional ballparks, including Recreation Park (originally Union Park) and all three versions of Exposition Park.

Reflecting on Galvin’s arrival in Allegheny, *The Pittsburg Dispatch* wrote, “Muscular and beautifully trained, he soon made a reputation with the Allegheny team, and from then on he was known to the world.” Indeed it was Galvin’s tenure with the Buffalo Bisons that made him famous in the baseball world. His dazzling pitching and durability quickly gained him notoriety. (As an aside, while in Buffalo, the young star pitcher struck up a friendship with future president Grover Cleveland, who was a prominent lawyer and also mayor of Buffalo during Galvin’s time there.) Following a contract dispute with the team in 1880, Galvin briefly headed west to a California league, but the Bisons soon brought him back—and got him on the mound right away:

James F. Galvin has been engaged by the Buffalo management, and has already left San Francisco. He will join the Buffaloes in Cincinnati this week, and pitch in Tuesday’s game. In her hour of need Buffalo calls and “Gentle James,” away off across the continent, hears and cries: “I come!” Truly, “little pitchers have long ears.”

In an era where starting pitchers were expected to complete each game and most teams only carried one or two starters, Galvin is credited with 646 complete games during fourteen big-league seasons. He became baseball’s first 300-game winner while amassing an overall record of 365 wins and 310 losses, and earned 20 or more wins in ten seasons (including two seasons where he reached 40 wins). A tough pitcher to hit, he is credited with at least two no-hitters, including the first one thrown on the road (in 1880). Galvin was also known to have a nifty pick-off move—as the Brooklyn squad found out when, in an 1886 match, Galvin walked the bases full and summarily picked off all three runners. He threw a mystifying change-up and blazing fastball said to turn opposing batters into “pudding,” earning Galvin the nickname



An 1887 Pud Galvin baseball card

“Pud.” Most often called Jim or Jimmy, Galvin’s other sobriquets included “Gentle Jeems,” likely a nod to his easy-going nature, and “The Little Steam Engine,” befitting his strong work ethic, stocky physique, and his steam fitter training.

After many great seasons for Buffalo, the team released Galvin in July 1885, apparently dissatisfied with his performance. (As an unnamed Buffalo director explained, “The public demanded a change. We couldn’t lose any more games if a pitcher was taken from the grand stand.”) Galvin signed with the Pittsburgh club and settled in Allegheny, where for the next seven seasons he would continue to add to his astonishing numbers. His teammates here included future Hall of Famers Joe Kelley and Connie Mack, the colorful (Reverend) Billy Sunday, and Louis Bierbauer, the second baseman who was “pirated” away from Philadelphia.

In 1878, Galvin married Bridget Griffin, whom the pitcher was fond of referring to as “Griff.” Early in their time in Allegheny, the Galvins were listed at several locations in Manchester, including 36 Central (1887–88), 36 Nixon (1888–89), 62 and 67 Manhattan Street (1889–1892). They later resided

at different addresses on W. Robinson and Lacock. The couple had eleven children, six of whom lived to adulthood. On a sad note for the family, one of the Galvin children lost his life in an accident near the family’s home in Manchester. In June 1892, *The Pittsburgh Press* reported that Eugene Galvin, son of the “popular and well known baseball pitcher, fell into a vat of boiling salt water in the salt works of Haller, Beck & Co., at the foot of Rebecca street, Allegheny. The boy survived his injuries until 2 o’clock this morning, when death ensued.” The drama of the event was enhanced by the fact that the Pud Galvin, recently released by the Pirates and picked up by the St. Louis Browns, had left for St. Louis only just before Eugene’s death. Returning to Allegheny immediately, the father was described as “almost heartbroken when the players went to see him.” A floral pillow was ordered by some of his former teammates, with whom “little Gene was a great favorite.” Eugene Galvin’s death later prompted Pud to enter suit for \$10,000 in damages against Haller, Beck & Co. Additional research could perhaps yield more information about this interesting episode between an adopted son of Allegheny and one of the city’s noted manufacturing firms. It appears that the suit was dropped or settled privately, as no court records exist to detail the proceedings.

Less than a week after his son’s death, Pud pitched his first game for St. Louis—a loss to the Cleveland Spiders. Galvin’s effectiveness had been questioned for some time, and his previous success and popularity with other players seems to have carried him through his final seasons. He was released by the Browns in August 1892 and elected to retire at the end of the season. Galvin was not ready to leave the game entirely, though. He briefly worked as an umpire, but the abuse to which his former colleagues subjected him proved too much for “Gentle Jeems.” The pitcher reportedly made more than one comeback attempt, and was even involved with organizing a team to play in the Pittsburgh area. Pud himself believed “he could still fool the hard hitters,” and was slated to pitch for this team that apparently never materialized.

When Galvin returned to Pittsburgh from St. Louis, his residency changed to the Oakland neighborhood for a time as he pursued a new career as a saloon owner. But the ballplayer was not well suited for this endeavor. By several accounts, Galvin was too generous to customers and not diligent enough in bookkeeping, and his “first-class establishment” on Sixth Street quickly failed. Galvin also tried his hand as a contracting firm foreman, and his last employment came as a bartender in a hotel run by former Alleghenys teammate Eddie Morris.

Pud Galvin clearly had a difficult decade after leaving the game he loved. Ruined financially, overweight, and long-suffering from pneumonia (alternately referred to as “catarrh of the stomach,”) Galvin died at home on March 7, 1902, “in a

dreary little room at the rear of 414 East Lacock street.” His death was reported around the country, and the Pittsburgh papers gave extensive coverage to the once great player’s inglorious end. Several articles reported that Galvin, in a delirious state, relived his baseball days in his final hours. He would “clutch nervously for an imaginary baseball and mumble words regarding the famous batsmen he had faced,” said *The Pittsburg Leader*. Galvin’s home was in an area affected by spring floods, commented *The Post*, “and this had much to do with his rapid decline.” For the funeral, a large group processed from the Galvin home to St. Peter’s Roman Catholic Church, where Pud was a member, and “the obsequies were of the most unostentatious character.” Four of the six pallbearers were former ballplayers: Edward Swartwood, Tun Berger, Thomas Quinn, and Sam Gillen (who replaced Eddie Morris, who was unable to perform the duty because of the death of his own wife). James Francis Galvin was buried at Calvary Cemetery in Greenfield, with an equally unostentatious grave marker that revealed nothing of his legendary days on the diamond.

Immediately following Galvin’s death, a benefit was arranged by James R. Mason to raise money for his widow and children. The event, which featured boxing matches and was held at Allegheny’s Old City Hall on Saturday, March 22, 1902, raised a “considerable sum” for the family, reported *The Leader*. “All the events were closely contested and the hall was packed with an enthusiastic crowd, many of them admirers and friends of the former pitcher.” In addition to Galvin’s friends and former teammates, other individuals from the baseball world also sent money for the family, including former player and equipment magnate Albert G. Spalding, who sent \$100.

In 1965 Pud Galvin’s tremendous baseball career received the ultimate recognition when the Veterans Committee unanimously elected him to the Baseball Hall of Fame. At the time, Galvin was fifth on the all-time wins list, with the four pitchers ahead of him (Cy Young, Walter Johnson, Grover Cleveland Alexander, and Christy Mathewson) already in the Hall. Galvin’s two living children, son Walter and daughter Marie, attended the ceremony.

Despite the sum of his accomplishments, Pud Galvin is most frequently mentioned in conjunction with baseball stories examining the early history of performance enhancing drugs. The pitcher was known to have taken “the elixir of Brown-Sequard,” a substance usually described as animal testosterone (often monkey or goat) and thought to offer curative and energizing powers. Following a successful effort for the Alleghenys in 1889, *The Washington Post* reported:

“Galvin was one of the subjects at a test of the Brown-Sequard elixir at a medical college in Pittsburg on Monday.

If there still be doubting Thomases who concede no virtue to the elixir, they are respectfully referred to Galvin’s record in yesterday’s Boston-Pittsburg game. It is the best proof yet furnished of the value of the discovery.”

While the validity of the elixir was debated extensively at the time, this lauded use of a (supposedly) performance enhancing substance is an interesting note in baseball’s early recorded history. Galvin was hardly alone in seeking to gain advantage on the competition through chemical (or other) means, but the Brown-Sequard association does not tarnish the career of “The Little Steam Engine,” whose life is best remembered in his incredible baseball career and the high esteem in which his fellow players and friends held him. *The Pittsburg Leader* provided a fitting summary of Galvin’s legacy when they wrote:

“With a heart as big as himself, he never refused aid to anyone in need, he was everybody’s friend and in his death the community loses an athlete who helped lift baseball to its present unparalleled prominence, who was a diamond marvel in his day, a loyal comrade under any conditions, an affectionate and indulgent husband and father, and, in all that the world (sic) implies, a man.”



Pud Galvin's gravesite in Greenfield's Calvary Cemetery

Select Sources

Microfilm and online archives of *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Pittsburg Dispatch*, *The Pittsburg Leader*, *The Pittsburg Post*, *The Pittsburgh Press*.

Biographical Dictionary of American Sports, Baseball. Ed. David L. Porter. (Greenwood Press: Westport, Conn.), 2000.

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West Virginia: The Child of Rebellion

All-day field trip scheduled for May 1st
by Ruth McCartan

The Allegheny City Society and the Pittsburgh Civil War Roundtable will be taking a local all-day field trip on May 1. The area we will be discovering this trip will be Greater Wheeling, West Virginia. We will car pool from Pittsburgh traveling down the Historic National Road exploring the sites and cemeteries found along this byway.

When Virginia succeeded from the Union in 1860, the residents of the northwestern counties of the state disagreed with this action. Wheeling, Virginia was the second largest city of the state and had a strong loyalty to the Union. We will learn by visiting locations relating to the creation of the new state of West Virginia carved from Confederate Virginia.

Tour the renovated courtroom at the Independence Hall Museum where the *Restored State of Virginia* met and later the legislature of the new state of Western Virginia. See the first capital of the state and the Centre Market built in the 1850s where slaves were bought and sold.



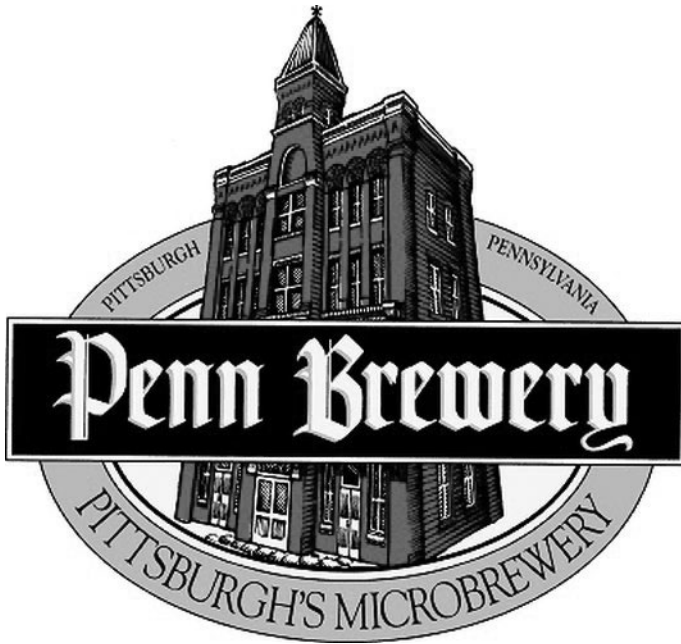
Wheeling Centre Market

Lunch will be on your own at the Artisan Centre, a renovated industrial building with a three-story atrium, in the heart of downtown Wheeling. Time will be available to visit the gift shop *Made in Wheeling* showcasing the best of West Virginia regional artisans, located on the second floor.

More specific information is available by calling 412 364-6132. Mark your calendar now and join us for a trip on the historic rebellious side in wild and wonderful West Virginia.



The Western Pennsylvania Penitentiary (shown c.1910) was one of the stops on the April 17th 'Architects in Allegheny' bus tour



Annual Meeting of the Allegheny City Society

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

The Penn Brewery

800 Vinial Street, North Side

Dinner 6:00 pm & Program 7:30 pm

Come find out what's new in *your* Allegheny City Society! An all-inclusive German dinner will be served buffet style—with a balanced selection—at a cost of \$25 per person.

Michael Shaughnessy, Ph.D., professor of German at Washington & Jefferson and author of the Arcadia Press book, *The Germans of Pittsburgh* will present a talk and slide program focusing on the Germans of Allegheny City and their contribution to the culture and life of Allegheny. The President's Award and the William Rimmell Award will also be presented.

Come meet old friends and make new friends!

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