

Pinch Hits, "Fake News in Kalamazoo"

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On New Year's Day, January 1, 1910, Gabriel Strang, "a well-known and desperate character," and the son of "King" Strang, a one-time Mormon ruler of Beaver Island in upper Lake Michigan, is brought to the Michigan city of Kalamazoo, handcuffed and under arrest as a horse thief.

Earlier, following a shoot-out and subsequent capture near the small town of White Pigeon (pop. 600), the desperado with a split personality gives his name to the police as "George Sage."

However, Strang's friends say that the man they know is honest and a benefactor to many, and that the horse thief is the "Sage" side of his personality.

Little is known about our George Sage, the pitcher, other than he:

- Attended the University of Michigan, where he supposedly plays on the baseball team.
- Had an older brother, Leo, who also has a brief minor league career as a pitcher.
- Was regarded as a curveball specialist, with repeated references to as the "elongated curvester."



George Sage
1912 Sioux City Packers

JEKYLL AND HYDE IS SHOWN IS REAL LIFE

Puzzling Dual Personality is Worrying Authorities of Grand Rapids

THIS HORSE THIEF ALSO BENEFACTOR

Son of Mormon Ruler Has Confessed to Having Taken Horse

January 1, 1910

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George Sage
1909 Hibbing Rangers



Leo Sage
1910 Minneapolis Millers

- Earns the unfortunate nickname "Cannonball," because of the hard way the baseball is hit back through the box when he is on the mound,

- By all accounts, never stole a horse in his life.

Sage begins his baseball odyssey in 1907 with the Woodmen of the World semipro team. A year later, Sage debuts professionally with the Kalamazoo White Sox of the Southern Michigan (D) League, going 3-4 in 10 appearances.

Sage has his best season in 1914, finishing 15-4 in 29 appearances while splitting time between the Memphis Chickasaws of the Southern (A) Association and the Texas League's Waco Navigators.

Following a career-worst 6-14 record with the Waco Navigators in 1916, Sage returns to the semipro ranks and is last seen toiling for the Speed Boys, another semipro team. He fashions a nondescript minor league career, posting a 81-85 mark in eight seasons.

SAGE PITCHES GREAT GAME

Kalamazoo, Mich., August 24.—Kalamazoo hit timely and won from Lansing today, 3 to 0. Errors on the part of the visitors contributed to the local victory. In the fourth, with two men out, Furlong hit safely and scored on Kelly's triple. Kelly scored on Morrissey's bad throw of Bell's grounder to first, and Bell scored on Burns's muff of Hale's long fly. Sage pitched a wonderful game for the Sox. In the fifth inning, with the bases full and no one out, he managed to prevent a score. He duplicated the trick in the eighth inning. The score:

Innings.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Kalamazoo	...	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	*	3	5	1
Lansing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2

Batteries—Sage and Cote; Pierce and Harris. Umpire—O'Toole.

George Sage [2 of 2]:

SAGE CHRONOLOGY

August 24, 1908

Pitching for Kalamazoo, Sage pitches out of bases loaded jams twice en route to shutting out Lansing 3-0 on eight hits ... Senator lefty George Pierce allows only.

1908

Two of Sage's four losses on the year are by identical 3-2 scores.

September 13, 1911

Pitching for the Seattle Giants, Sage shuts out Portland 3-0, allowing only three hits and striking out five.

May 15, 1912

Sioux City sells pitcher Walter Miller to the Zanesville Potters of the Central (B) League and signs George Sage, a "tall youth and is said to have the goods" ... George joins his older brother Leo on the Packers' roster.

August 28, 1912

Sage is 6-11 when he is released by the Sioux City Packers and signs with the St. Joseph Drummers ... Sage is 0-2 with the Drummers.

February 1914

Sage undergoes an appendicitis operation in Rochester, Minnesota.

June 12, 1914

Waco purchases Sage from the Memphis Chickasaws.

June 21, 1914

Sage pitches a four-hit complete game, but drops a 1-0 decision to visiting Galveston.

May 23, 1916

A typical George Sage effort as he limits Houston to three hits and fails to strikeout anyone in a 2-0 shutout of the Buffaloes.

George Sage Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	GP	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA
1907	Woodmen of the World	Port Huron City	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1908	Kalamazoo White Sox	Southern Michigan	D	3-4	10	-	63	12	30	--
1909	Hibbing Rangers		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1909	Brandon	Northern								
1910	Regina Bonepilers	Western Canada	C	10-12	27	201.0	-	53	109	--
1911	2 Teams	Northwestern	B	13-13	41	-	-	-	-	--
1911	Seattle Giants	Northwestern	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1911	Victoria Bees	Northwestern	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1912	2 Teams	1 League	B	7-13	21	162.0	180	86	37	--
1912	Sioux City Packers	Western	A	6-11	19	153.2	170	80	36	--
1912	St. Joseph Drummers	Western	A	0-2	2	8.1	10	6	1	--
1913										
1914	2 Teams	2 Leagues	B-A	15-4	29	208.0	162	52	46	--
1914	Memphis Chickasaws	Southern	A	2-1	6	47.0	41	17	10	--
1914	Waco Navigators	Texas	B	13-3	23	161.0	121	35	36	--
1915	Waco Navigators	Texas	B	14-9	34	223.2	195	84	57	--
1916	Waco Navigators	Texas	B	6-14	29	208.0	192	-	43	--
1918	Speed Boys		-- SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
Minor League Totals		7 Seasons		81-85	191	1002.2	792	287	322	--

**June 30, 1912
St. Joseph Drummers at Sioux City Packers
Riverside Park, Sioux City, Iowa**

Sioux City.	A	B	R	H	P	O	A	E.
Clarke, cf	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Smith, ss	1	1	1	5	5	0	0	0
Myers, lf	5	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Tennant, 1b	4	1	2	10	1	0	0	0
Breen, rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Andreas, 2b	3	0	0	4	3	0	0	0
T. Reilly, 3b	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Cadman, c	4	0	0	3	2	0	0	0
Sage, p	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
*French	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	34	4	8	27	13	0	0	0

***Batted for Sage in the ninth.**

St. Joseph.	A	B	R	H	P	O	A	E.
Kelly, 2b	5	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Powell, lf	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Watson, rf and cf	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Zwilling, cf and lf	4	3	4	0	0	0	0	0
Borton, 1b	4	0	1	15	1	0	0	0
E. Reilly, 3b	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Meinke, ss	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Gossett, c	4	2	2	6	1	1	0	0
Johnson, p	4	0	1	0	3	0	0	0
Totals	36	8	12	27	8	1	0	0

Score by Innings:

Sioux City	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1-4
St. Joseph	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	3	0-8

Two-base hit—Powell. Home runs—Clarke, Zwilling (3), Gossett (2), French. Stolen bases—Andreas, Watson. Left on bases—Sioux City, 8; St. Joseph, 2. Double plays—Andreas to Tennant; Johnson to Kelly to Borton. Bases on balls—Off Sage, 1; off Johnson, 5. Struck out—By Sage, 3; by Johnson, 6. Time—2:20. Umpire—Johnson.

1908 Kalamazoo White Sox



1. H. Taylor, 2. Waterman, 3. Hale, 4. Bell (captain), 5. Sage, 6. Furlong, 7. Andrews, 8. H. Frank (secretary), 9. Steimle, 10. Method, 11. J. Frank (president), 12. Cote, 14. E. Taylor, 15. Kelly Drmmers.

Sioux City's "miniature" Riverside Park is the site of St. Joseph's 8-4 win over the host Packers. Sioux City starting pitcher George Sage takes the loss after being tagged for 12 hits, including five home runs by surging Drummers. Sage's control was near perfect (one walk), but if his "outfielders had been given room to exercise their pedal extremities the chances would have been favorable for a victory." Dutch Zwilling has three of St. Joseph's five home runs and drives in five runs. The future major leaguer has only four home runs in 162 games in 1912 for the Drmmers.