

# Pinch Hits, "For Wife and Country, Insanity & 365 Days"

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George Wintherbotham  
Greenville Blues 1910

## GEORGE WINTHERBOTHAM

A semipro pitcher of some note in America's Northwest, **George Erol Wintherbotham** joins the United States military in June of 1916, in order to "win the hand and heart" of his girlfriend, the approval of a prospective father-in-law, and a \$50,000 "bonus." A cigar salesman in Vancouver, British Columbia, at the time of his enlistment, Wintherbotham was a key pitcher on the 1910 Greenfield (Oregon) Shoe Company team that captures the city championship. In 1911, the left-hander hurler toils for the Portland Pippins of the Northwestern (B) League.

Three years later, Wintherbotham resurfaces on the 1914 opening day roster of the Helena Senators of the Union (D) Association. In August 1917, five months after the United States enters World War I, Wintherbotham, now in Europe, writes a friend in Portland, "I have learned to hit the dirt. Your first time in the field under shell fire is not a pleasant one, but you get so you don't mind the bullets if they keep their distance. I'll be back all right to attend the next busher's wake." It is not known whether or not Wintherbotham got his woman, or his bonus.

## BALL PLAYER JOINS ARMY TO WIN BRIDE AND \$50,000 BONUS

VANCOUVER, B. C., June 20.—Geo. Wintherbotham, former pitcher in the Pacific Coast League, is a private today in the 211th battalion of the "American Legion." He joined in order to win the hand and heart of a lady fair—also \$50,000 of her papa's money.

Wintherbotham is a cigar salesman. When he duly requested parental consent for the marriage he proposed, the prospective father-in-law declared he must first prove his merit by going through the war.

## "PETE" LOHMAN IS INSANE

VETERAN OF THE DIAMOND IS  
COMMITTED TO ASYLUM.

Becomes Violent as Result of Repeated Strokes of Paralysis—Case Is Considered Hopeless.

LOS ANGELES, June 1.—(Special.)—George H. Lohman, known to baseball fans the country over as "Pete" Lohman, was committed to the state hospital for the insane at Highland today by the Superior Court. It is considered doubtful if he will ever leave the institution alive, his case having been pronounced hopeless by a number of physicians who were called in consultation on the case.

Since he was obliged to leave the diamond more than a year ago, Lohman has sustained three strokes of paralysis, and his mental condition became such that in March his wife was appointed his guardian. Lohman owns more than \$50,000 worth of property in Los Angeles, and there is some friction over its control.

Lohman showed signs of violence last night, when he accused a strange woman of having stolen his money, and then attacked his wife, who interfered. He struggled with the officers in court during his examination.

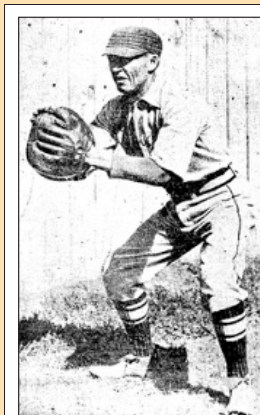
## PETE LOHMAN

On May 31, 1906, at a Superior Court hearing in Los Angeles, former major league catcher and Oakland Oaks manager **George (Pete) Lohman** is committed to the state hospital for the insane in Highland, California. Lohman is arrested by police the night before after accusing a strange woman of stealing his money and then later attacking his wife at their home in Ocean Park.

During the hearing, he has an altercation with the officers in the courtroom. The 16-year minor league veteran is diagnosed with paresis, a nervous system disorder probably caused by syphilis.

Considered to be one of the most "aggressive" players in the California League, Lohman jumps his contract with the Oakland Colonels during the first week in May, 1891, and signs with the Washington Statesman of the American Association for a monthly salary of \$300 per month. Lohman goes 0-for-5 in his major league debut on May 11, in a 12-4 win over Cincinnati before 1,500 at Washington's Boundary Field. Lohman is batting an anemic .193 with one home run and 11 RBIs in 32 games when last-place Statesmen release him on August 5.

Lohman dies on November 20, 1928, at the state mental hospital in Patton, California at the age of 64.

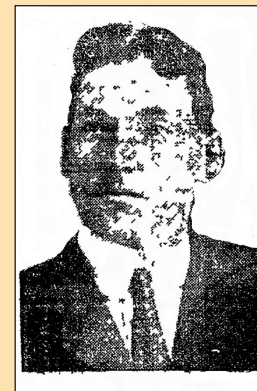


Pete Lohman  
1904 Oakland Oaks

## HARRY HARDY

On September 26, 1905, 29-year-old **Harry Hardy**, a 5-foot-6 southpaw, hurls a complete game in his major league debut against Cleveland, allowing the third-place Naps two runs on eight hits while striking out four and walking two in a 2-0 shutout win.

Exactly one year later to the day (September 26, 1906) after his major league debut, the Steubenville, Ohio native makes his *final* major league appearance in a 5-1 loss to the St. Louis Browns ... Hardy allows five runs on nine hits with two walks en route to his fourth complete game in five career starts.



HARRY HARDY.