

Cups of Coffee: Spencer Pumpelly

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One of 116 players to make their major league debuts during the 1925 season, 32-year-old Spencer Pumpelly is second only to Boston's 35-year-old outfielder Tex Vache as the second-oldest rookie in that year's rookie class.

With injuries thinning the Washington pitching staff, the defending world champions and first-place Senators take a chance on the Yale graduate and sign him to a major league contract on July 5.

Not one to waste time, manager Bucky Harris brings the "lanky slabster" in during the fifth inning of an exhibition game the following afternoon against Pittsburgh Pirates in Forbes Field. He allows two runs, only one earned, on four hits, including a home run by the Corsairs' Clyde Barnhardt, in four innings in a 5-4 loss.

Pumpelly makes his only major league appearance on July 11, against the St. Louis Browns in Sportsman Park. Relieving Allen Russell at the start of the sixth inning, Pumpelly promptly yields a lead-off home run to second baseman Marty McManus. Following a walk to Baby Doll Jacobson, Pumpelly settles down and retires the next two men, including an inning-ending double play.

The career of Owego, New York's lone major leaguer comes to an end the next inning when Harris sends Mule Shirley up to pinch hit for him. A rarity in that he was able to skip the minor leagues on his way up and down from the major leagues, Pumpelly's professional career comes to a quick demise when he is released the next day.



Spencer Pumpelly
1925 Washington Senators

July 11, 1925
Washington Senators at St. Louis Browns
Sportsman Park, St. Louis, Missouri

Wash.	ab.	r.	h.	po.	a.	St. L.	ab.	r.	h.	po.	a.
M'N'ly m	.4	1	3	0		H. Rice r	.2	0	2	1	
S. Harris	2.5	1	0	1		L'motte s	.2	0	3	0	
S. Rice r	.4	0	0	1		Sisler 1	.5	2	10	2	
Goslin 1	.4	2	4	0		Williams 1	5	0	0	0	
J. Harris 1.4	2	3	1		M'M'us 2	4	1	3	3		
Bluege 3	.4	1	3	0	J'bson m	.2	1	2	0		
P'kin'gh s	0	0	0	0	Hargrave c	.4	2	4	0		
Scott s	.3	1	4	1	R'tson 3	.3	0	1	4		
Ruel c	.2	2	5	0	Giard p	.4	0	2	5		
S'v'ied c	.2	0	2	0							
R'ether p	.1	0	0	0							
Russell p	.0	0	0	0							
P'p'ley p	.0	0	0	0							
Ogden p	.0	0	0	0							
xShirley	.1	0	0	0							
*L'bold	.1	0	0	0							
Totals	.35	10	24	4		Totals	.31	6	27	13	

xBatted for Pumpelly in seventh.

*Batted for Ogden in ninth.

Innings	.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	—T.
Washington	.....	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	5
St. Louis	.....	0	0	0	3	6	1	0	0	0	10

Two-base Hits—J. Harris, Hargrave.
Three-base Hits—Sisler, J. Harris, Home
Runs—Goslin, Sisler, McManus. Sacrifices—Ruether, H. Rice. Double Plays—Giard and Sisler; Robertson, McManus and Sisler; Scott and J. Harris. Left on Bases—Washington 6; St. Louis 7. Base on Balls—Off Ruether 6; off Russell 2; off Pumpelly 1; off Giard 2. Struck Out—By Ruether 2; by Giard 2; by Ogden 1. Hits—Off Ruether 4 in 4 1-3 innings; off Russell 1 in 2 1-3 innings; off Pumpelly 1 in 1; off Ogden none in 2 innings. Losing Pitcher—Ruether. Umpires—Geisel, Rowland and Ormsby.



Yale football star Harold Pumpelly becomes the subject of national interest in March of 1914, when he disappears from the Yale campus after being quarantined because of scarlet fever. At the end of the month, he lets the school know that he has returned to his parents' house in Owego.

The youngest member of a noted athletic family, Pumpelly follows in the footsteps of his older brother Harold, a standout on the Yale's football team, and enrolls in the fall of 1913. The younger Pumpelly, along with upperclassman standout Pie Way, is of the top pitchers for the Bulldogs as a sophomore in 1915.

"He is the master of about every shoot, drop, rise and floater known to the game, and it is expected that he will soon be able to bear the brunt of flinging with Pie Way."
- Elmira Star-Gazette (May 1, 1915)

In the summer of 1915, Pumpelly is one of 10 current or former Yale players to play for the Quogue Field Club on Long Island. With the "blessing of the various Yale coaches and of Walter Camp, head of Yale athletics," the players are provided board and lodging in the local Copper House Annex. They were not paid cash.

On July 28, following a meeting with George B. Case, chairman of the Yale alumni committee, it is decided that the players should pay their own way or quit the team. They chose to pay their room and board and continued to play.

That winter, Princeton comes forward to protest the eligibility of the Yale players in intercollegiate play. With Walter Camp having resigned his position, the school elects to rule the players that are still in school, ineligible for one year.

Spencer Pumpelly [2 of 2]:

YALE BALL STAR AVOIDS TAP DAY

Pumpelly Delays Bones
Balloting, Then Passed By
—Editor Not Picked.

In the spring of 1916, Pumpelly causes quite a stir on the Yale campus when he refuses to commit to one of the school's secret societies by simply staying away. Considered "a sure-fire election" to Skull and Bones, Pumpelly avoids Tap Day by spending the day riding in his automobile. He never does commit to one of the societies.

Ten days later, Pumpelly continues his indifferent behavior when he turns down membership to the Elihu Club, a senior honor society.

Following his college days, he plays for various semipro nines in the New England area while running his tobacco growing business in his hometown.

In July 1917, Pumpelly becomes an orderly in the War Department.

The *Binghamton Press and Sun-Bulletin* reports that Pumpelly is pitching for the New Haven club in the Eastern League. However, no evidence of him playing in the Eastern League can be found. It's possible that the paper probably mistakes him playing for the independent New Haven Colonials.

Following his release from the Senators, Pumpelly returns to Owego and joins the Giants, a local semipro team, and later coaches the local high school basketball team.

In 1927, Pumpelly is a stock holder in the Domestic Manganese Products Company of Butte, Montana, and later is employed in the production end of the business.

Spencer Pumpelly Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA
1912	Hotchkiss School	--	HS	-	-	-	-	-	--
1912	Owego Giants	--	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1913	Hotchkiss School	--	HS	-	-	-	-	-	--
1914	Yale Freshman	Ivy League	College	-	-	-	-	-	--
1915	Yale Varsity	Ivy League	College	-	-	-	-	-	--
1916	New Haven Colonials	--	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1917	New Haven Colonials	--	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1917	Naval Reservists	--	Military	-	-	-	-	-	--
1918	Crescent Athletic	--	Amt	-	-	-	-	-	--
1920	Binghamton Imperials	State	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1920	Owego Giants	--	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1925	Charlotte Hall Military Academy	--	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1925	Washington Senators	AMERICAN	MLB	0-0	1.0	1	1	0	9.00
1926	Owego Giants	--	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
Major League Totals		1 Season		0-0	1.0	1	1	0	9.00

Press and Sun-Bulletin, Binghamton, N.Y. - April 23, 1967



CABIN IN THE SUN—This cabin of hand-hewn logs stands along Pumpelly Creek in Tioga County and is owned by Spencer A. Pumpelly, 44 Front Street, Owego. Mr. Pumpelly discovered the cabin, built about 1815 by a settler named Bill White, near the settlement of Waits close to the Pennsylvania border. Mr. Pumpelly took the cabin apart, log-by-log, in 1939, moved it to its present location and reassembled it.

On October 9, 1942, Harold and Spencer Pumpelly join with Senator James Murray (D-Montana), to recommend construction of a manganese concentration plant in Butte. The plan is expected to be approved.

Returning to Owego, Pumpelly either works for, or is the part-owner of the Pumpelly-Howe Tobacco company. From the late 1800s to the mid-20th century, tobacco brings wealth to a number of families in Tioga County, New York, including the Pumpellys. Pumpelly-Howe Tobacco is one of the first companies in the United States to produce

Spencer Pumpelly, Industrialist, Dies

OWEGO — Spencer Armstrong Pumpelly, a former Owego industrialist, died yesterday at the Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pa. He was 80.

Pumpelly, who lived at 44 Front St., Owego, was affiliated with the former Pumpelly-Howe Tobacco Co. which

was located in Owego, and played professional baseball with the former Washington Senators.

He was also vice president of the Domestic Manganese and Development Co. of Butte, Mont.

Pumpelly, a life-long resident of Owego, served during World War I in Naval Intelligence.

He was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Owego and a member of American Legion Post 401.

He attended Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn., and was a graduate of Yale University.

Pumpelly is survived by two nieces, Mrs. William F. Dyer and Mrs. Clarke C. Fitts, both of Owego; and a cousin, Mrs. John Fitzgerald of Sparrow Bush, New York.

The funeral will be held at Pumpelly's residence, with the Rev. Ralph Johnson, pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, officiating.

Funeral arrangements are by Estey and Munroe Funeral Home of Owego.

Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery, Owego.

a lower-end machine-made cigar. On May 6, 1921, the company has a capital stock total of \$200,000 and is incorporated by cowner Spencer and Harold Pumpelly and H. Howe.

On December 5, 1973, Pumpelly passes away in Sayre, Pennsylvania at 80 years of age.