Kansas Memory



Virgil and Della Barnes with granddaughter

This photograph is of Virgil and Della Barnes and their granddaughter Melany. The photo was taken in Wichita, probably in 1957.

In his prime during the 1920s, Barnes was a right-handed pitcher who played seven complete seasons at the major league level, primarily for the New York Giants. He had 61 major league wins, with a career ERA of 3.66; his best year was 1924, when he had an ERA of 3.06 and a record of 16-10. Barnes made World Series appearances in 1923 and 1924, including the starting assignment in Game 7 of the 1924 World Series.

Virgil Barnes was born in Ontario, Kansas in 1897 and was raised in the nearby community of Circleville. He married Della Barnes, also of Jackson County, in 1920. During the early years of their marriage, the couple made their off-season home in rural Jackson County. In the mid-1930s, Virgil, Della and their two children, James and June, moved to Wichita. Melany is the daughter of James Barnes.

Virgil Barnes died of a heart attack in Wichita in 1958. Della lived until 1984. Both Virgil and Della are buried in the Holton Cemetery.

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