

@SABR - NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER  
October 1995

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\*\*Denotes items available for SASE-Please affix enough  
postage (usually 1 stamp/4 pages.)

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The tributes, reunions and appearances around the country by the Negro League veterans continue to bring terrific publicity to all of our efforts. Join in the fun.

We have two address changes: Leslie Heaphy has moved to 4834 South Blvd. NW Lake Cable Village #6 Canton, OH 44718 phone (216) 649-9318. Gregg Truitt has moved to 801 Partridge St. Hockessin, DE 19707; phone (302) 234-8288.

This newsletter reflects the worthy contributions of the following: Paul Bauer, Gai Berlage, Todd Bolton, Rich Bozzone, Jerry Casway, Pete DeCoursay, Jeff Eastland, Robert Eisen, James Floto, Larry Gerlach, Roger Godin, Daryl Grigsby, Leslie Heaphy, Bob Hoie, Larry Hogan, Reed Howard, Merl Kleinknecht, Joseph Lee, Larry Lester, Jerry Malloy, Max Manning, Gary Maurer, Andy McCue, Bill McNeil, Sammy Miller, Jim Overmyer, Kurt Peterson, Jim Riley, Tito Rondon, Mary Seematter, John Townsend, Gregg Truitt, Joe Wayman, Bill Williamson, and Lyle Wilson.

THE NEGRO LEAGUES BOOK

We would greatly appreciate anyone who can pass along game scores and dates for the NNL and NAL of 1940, 1941, and 1942, so we can determine accurate standings for those seasons which are sorely lacking in newspapers.

Bob Hoie has updated some records on Bob Thurman and Ray Dandridge. Bob also reports an article in THE SPORTING NEWS of 3-11-20 on Christobel Torriente.

The various get togethers of players has enabled us to identify even more addresses.

Contact me if you're interested in the Venezuelan Fan's Guide. I have some information from Tito Rondon.

Larry has put together total individual player records for East-West All-Star Games, along with an extended box score format. Larry has also done a Mileage Between Cities chart for the next edition of THE NEGRO LEAGUES BOOK.

Please contact Larry or myself if you are aware of a Eastern League All-Stars or ECL All-Stars team in the '20's.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

On August 6th San Francisco held a Tribute to the Negro Leagues. \*\*1pg preview, available.

The DISCOVER GREATNESS EXHIBIT is at the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis from August 20th to November 26, 1995. \*\*2pp copy of brochure.

On August 20th, the New York Mets had a cap day honoring Negro League players.

On Wednesday, August 23, 1995 Black Legends Night was held at the BATTER UP! exhibit at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland. Morris Eckhouse was the host and Merl Kleinknecht put on an excellent program before a large gathering. Sam Jethroe, Willie Grace, and Eugene Bremer Jr. told stories. A trailer was shown for the upcoming documentary on the Cleveland Buckeyes (to be shown on PBS in Cleveland on October 7, 1995 at 7:30 PM). Merl had outstanding visual display pieces to show and excellent printed background material on the players.\*\*12pp

The Seattle Mariners had a very successful Turn Back The Clock Night to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Negro Leagues on September 9th. The Mariners played in Seattle Steelhead uniforms while the Kansas City Royals again wore their nonauthicated unlicensed replicas. 10 players were honored: Joe Black, Sherwood Brewer, Sammie Haynes, Wilmer Fields, Clinton Jones, Willie Pope, Marvin Price, Bobbie Robinson, Artie Wilson, and Liomel Wilson. Also in attendance were James Allen, Jim Benton, Sonny McClendon, Norris Phillips, William Ponder, Charlie White, Earl Woodson, and Sanford Barnes ( a player who played for the Piney Woods Collegians and the 1936 St. Louis Blues who barnstormed through Washington). The players received a two minute standing ovation from the over 40,000 fans and brought good luck to the Mariners who swept the Royals that weekend on their way to the West title. The Mariner players especially Ken Griffey Jr were very receptive to the veterans and it was really an outstanding event. A banquet hosted by a local sportswear store was held on the 10th with all the honorees present. More players had been located by Gary Maurer but, unfortunately too late for the event. Jerry Cohen of Ebbet's Field Flannels did however send these players the replica Seattle Steelhead caps. I wish to thank Daryl Grigsby and Lyle Wilson for providing us with all the information and articles about the event. \*\*1pg listing of 1946 Steelhead Roster. SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCE 9-9-95, \*\*1pg, "Mariners, Royals taking hats off in tribute to Negro League Vets," & \*\*1pg from 9-10-95, "M's pay tribute to ex-Negro League players," EVERETT HERALD, 9-10-95, "Black lives life with zest," \*\*2pp. \*\*1pg newspaper AD for game. SEATTLE TIMES, 9-9-95, "Forgotten era of Black baseball returns to life," \*\*2pp. Finally, program from banquet \*\*10pp.

On Saturday and Sunday the 15th and 16th of September, the annual reunion and autograph show took place in the Meadowlands in New Jersey. Todd Bolton, Larry Hogan, and Gregg Truitt were in attendance joining NLC member-players Bill Cash and Monte Irvin. Only Buck Leonard and Fran Matthews were unable to attend from the announced list of signees. It was the largest gathering of players yet. Plan now to attend next year.

On Saturday, September 23rd, The Seven Philadelphia Stars Awards Banquet Dinner was held. It was a first class affair in every sense and was held at the Philadelphia Convention Center. 500 to 600 people were there including our reporter, Gregg Truitt. The players were decked out in black tuxedos with bright red ties and cummerbunds, looking sharper than usual. It was truly a grand event. We have \*\*10pp from the program available.

#### Future Special Events

The Third Annual John Henry "Pop" Lloyd Celebration will be in Atlantic City, NJ on October 8th. Receiving the Humanitarian Award will be Jerry Izenberg, the great journalist, and John Issacs, Hall of Fame basketball player.

The reunion in Kansas City, sponsored by the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, will be October 27-28, 1995. A ticket request form is all I have received (and not from the NLBM). Tickets to the Friday press conference/reception and Saturday breakfast are \$50 each. The gala dinner on Saturday is \$150 per person. I was shocked by the prices. It makes it unrealistic for common people to attend. I suppose the fact that they couldn't get corporate sponsorship has an effect on the pricing. I hope they get enough big-shots there to fill the room. Almost all players are expected to attend; it should be an outstanding occasion to see everybody. I hope I win the Lotto so I can afford to go.

On November 4, 1995 at 10:00AM the State of Delaware will erect an historic marker at the Judy Johnson/Billy Bruton house and a dedication ceremony will be held. There will be a commemorative postal cancellation to honor the event. \*\*1pg press release.

#### COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

We extend the grandest birthday wishes to Gene Benson (Oct.2), Buck O'Neil (Nov.13) and Max Manning (Nov.18).

I'm sorry to report the deaths of Maurice Lisby, 9-7-95 in Jamaica, NY and Horace Garner, 7-6-95 in Cedar Rapids, IA  
\*\*1pg listing.

Short review of Sol White and Fleet Walker books by Fred Ivor-Campbell \*\*2pp from 19th Century Committee Newsletter.

Paul Bauer of Archer's Books has read and reviewed Buck Leonard, Fleet Walker, and Sol White works and thinks all are well done. He has also seen and sold the new Buck O'Neil book.

\*\*2pp from 8-25-95 SCD on SABR Convention.

We have a copy of Dave Jordan's Another Philadelphia Champion---The 1934 Stars, article \*\*5pp.

James Floto's THE DIAMOND ANGLE (TDA) mid-winter issue, due in early December, will have a profile of Leon Day, review of film, There Was Always Sun Shining Someplace, and an article on Sam Lacy and Pacific Coast League Black Ball.

Baseball on the Internet \*\*5pp.

I would appreciate hearing from everyone who has or is experiencing problems dealing with the NLBM in Kansas City.

Two\*\*1pg listings from PHILADELPHIA PRESS and PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER of 9-20-1871 on game between Pythians and Unique.

G. Reed Howard passed along three items from Utica, NY MORNING HERALD on Black umpire Jacob Francis through the SABR-L Internet.

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES 7-30-95 Viewpoint column, "As memory fades, Negro Leagues lose only record" \*\*1pg. Also, the \*\*2pg letter to the editor by Jerry Malloy complimenting the article and offering additional suggestions.

#### NEGRO LEAGUES RELATED ARTICLES

"Straight, no chaser," (Don Newcombe), \*\*3pp from LA WEEKLY, August 11-17, 1995.

"Prelude to greatness," (Branch Rickey) from SCD 9-1-95, \*\*2pp. also "Sports legends go to bat for B.A.T." \*\*2pp 9-30-94, SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS, "A dying breed" \*\*2pp WEEKENDER, 8-4-95, Harford Heroes, William Davis, \*\*1pg CHICAGO SUN-TIMES 8-16-95, Chicago profile; Sherwood Brewer, \*\*1pg.

1995 All-Star Game Program, \*\*1pg "Some grand names" THE RECORD, (Hackensack, NJ) 7-31-95, "Newark Eagles ace has day at Cooperstown," \*\*1pg.

BASEBALL AMERICA, #9518 9-17-95 "day inspired those around him," \*\*1pg.

TOLEDO BLADE, 5-8-45, "Colored baseball starts here soon," \*\*1pg.

READING EAGLE/READING TIMES 8-14-95, "Phils should honor Negro Leaguers," \*\*1pg.

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER 8-3-95 "Negro League Stars haven't received their share of fame," \*\*2pp.

AP release "For Buck O'Neil, a lot of perfect days," \*\*2pp.

DUGOUT, April, 1994, "The turnstiles clicked, the lights went out" \*\*6pp.

SCD 9-22-95, "Buck Leonard of the Homestead Grays," \*\*2pp.

THE EVENING SUN (Baltimore) 9-1-95, "Remembering when only the ball was white, " \*\*1pg.

BOSTON GLOBE NEWS SERVICE, 9-8-95, "A time to reflect on those failed by baseball," \*\*1pg.

SCD 9-22-95, Negro Leaguers get tip of the hat from White Sox and Comiskey Park crowd," \*\*1pg.

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, 7-30-95, "Love of game drove Negro League Stars," \*\*1pg.

\*\*1pg "Proceeds from Day memorabilia sales benefit his estate," \*\*1pg.

"No money, no glory but they loved the game," \*\*1pg, NEWS & RECORD, Greensboro, NC. 7-27-95.

RAGTYME SPORTS, July, 1995, "Piper Davis: Willie's Father," \*\*4pp.

SCD 9-1-95 news brief on Sam Jethroe's new house" \*\*1pg.

SCD 9-8-95, "HOF induction ceremonies draw record crowds," \*\*1pg & "SABR's annual meeting in Cooperstown" \*\*1pg

#### CURRENT AND FUTURE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Dr Gai Berlage, 193 Rivergate Dr., Wilton, CT 06897 is seeking any information on African-American Women who played baseball. She has a wonderful chapter in her book WOMEN IN BASEBALL on the subject and seeks additional information.

We'll be looking for Lyle Wilson's articles on the Harlem Globetrotters Baseball Team and one on Willie Foster and the Washington Browns in an upcoming BRJ.

NINE is calling for papers for the Third Annual Spring Training Conference, March 8-10, 1996 in Phoenix, AZ.

Bill McNeil will have his book KING OF SWAT published by McFarland & Co. and it will include many Negro Leaguers.

Joseph Wayman, who produces the outstanding GRANDSTAND BASEBALL ANNUAL (GBA) is planning a Jackie Robinson special for the 1997 issue. It will be about 50-70 pages. He is seeking contributions. Contact him at PO Box 4203, Downey, CA 90241-1203, (310) 806-2734.

The Women in Baseball Committee is working on the possibility of having the three veteran women players in Kansas City at next year's SABR Convention.

James Floto is working on a book about 1920 and will include Negro Leagues references, especially the beginning of the NNL.

#### THE MARKETPLACE

Larry Lester is offering a Negro Leagues Screen Saver for IBM-PC only for \$16, (regular price), just \$10 to SABR members postpaid. Order from Larry PO Box 411312, Kansas City, MO 64141-1312.

The 1996 BLACKBALL CALENDAR is available and is again an eye-catching and informative item Sammy Miller reports

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any miscues on the 1996 BLACKBALL CALENDAR are caused by non-Negro League editors.

BUCK O'NEIL: A BASEBALL LEGEND, by Sean P. Wheelock and published by Amereon House is out. (I haven't seen).

A Josh Gibson signature recently sold for \$1089.

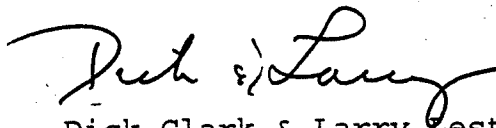
Pre-paid phone cards available with Buck O'Neil, 1936 All-Star team, or ticket to 1935 All-Star Game, on them are available, call 1-800-655-7656 for info.

All the following are \*\*1pg ADS:

Cuban Collectibles; Cotton's Sports Collectibles; All Guts, No Glory; Legends of the Black Diamond; Buck Leonard mail-order items; Quality Autographs; & Negro League items.

#### FINAL REMARKS

The next newsletter will be December's. Please get all material to me before the last week of November. Happy Thanksgiving to all.



Dick Clark & Larry Lester  
NLC Co-Chairpeople