

SABR - NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
June 1993

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Another exciting Summer is upon us with the prospect of many Negro Leagues related events. Please make a special effort to attend the player events as opportunities to meet these special people, personally are limited.

Steve Bennett has moved to 1321 Broad, Grinnell, IA 50112, phone to come. Greg Stokesberry's correct Zip Code is 52406; some idiot had the Cooperstown zip by his name on the address list.

This newsletter reflects the worthy contributions of the following: Luis Alvelo, Paul Bauer, Steve Bennett, Todd Bolton, Paul DeBono, Lou Dials, Larry Epke, James Floto, John Haddock, Dr. Bob & Zoh Hieronimus, Larry Hogan, John Holway, Darryl Houston, John Kovach, Larry Lester, Val Lester, Joe Lee, Jerry Malloy, Luis Munoz, Jeff Passehl, Rob Ruck, and Tweed Webb.

TAPED/PRINTED INTERVIEWS WITH NEGRO LEAGUERS

Our thanks to Darryl Houston for passing along a tape done recently with Bob Feller. We also have a **2 page listing of tapes and transcripts available on Black Baseball from The University of Pittsburgh; there are costs involved.

SPECIAL EVENTS

"Passing The Bat" took place on Tuesday March 30th. The Baltimore City Little Leagues paid tribute to the Negro Baseball Leagues with a press conference and reunion jointly held by the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and the Associated Black Charities. This was the official beginning for a program designed to honor Negro Leagues Veterans and educate and help local Little Leagues. The program is outfitting four Little League teams in uniforms of Baltimore's two great Black teams; the Black Sox and the Elite Giants. 12 Negro League players were on hand for the event: Gene Benson, Bill Cash, Jim Cohen, Leon Day, Mahlon Duckett, Wilmer Fields, Stan Glenn, Wilmer Harris, Larry Kimbrough, Max Manning, Bert Simmons, and Al Wilmore. Our roving reporter Todd Bolton was also on hand, as was Bob and Zoh Hieronimus who spearheaded the entire effort which included pursuing the grant to fund the program.

Bob and Zoh graciously passed along a video of the entire event and media coverage. They have also sent pictures of all the activities. Hieronimus & Co. is offering special autographed items, Little League wood bats, Little League balls, Memorabilia Tickets, and Black Sox & Elite Giants uniforms. Send for **1pg listing, or write for details to Hieronimus & Co., 3203 Hunting Tweed Drive, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

The complete **2pp detailed listing of all available audio tapes (11) and videos (5) from 21st Century Radio's Hieronimus & Co. is worth having. Articles available include:

THE EVENING SUN 3-1-93 "Negro Leagues Sew Up Some Fans" **1pg;
3-31-93, "Clowns could put on show, but talent wasn't a baseball joke, Cohen recalls," **1pg; 3-31-93 "Little Leaguers get big

inspiration from Negro Leaguers" **2pp; and THE JEWISH TIMES, 4-2-93, "Sign of the times"& "The color of spring" **3pp.

We have several items regarding the Committee to Restore Pop Lloyd Stadium: a 12 page ** copy of the booklet regarding the First Annual John Henry "Pop" Lloyd Lecture and Humanitarian Award presented posthumously to Arthur Ashe, 3-25-93 THE PRESS ATLANTIC CITY, NJ **1pg "Funding secured to restore Pop Lloyd Stadium", and 4-7-93 **1pg "Rebuilding season, and about time."

A groundbreaking ceremony for the 18th & Vine historic district redevelopment and the premiere exhibition of DISCOVER GREATNESS: An Illustrated History of Negro Leagues Baseball will take place in Kansas City on Saturday June 5th.

I'm looking forward to the annual SABR National Convention in San Diego. I do hope many of you will be joining us there. The NLC meeting is Sunday. Leslie Heaphy will be making a presentation on the Indianapolis ABC's and expanding it for a feature piece for the INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS.

Upcoming July 10th is a Negro League celebration in Baltimore. The Baltimore event will be part of the UPPER DECK FANFARE & FANFEST from July 9-13 ending with the All-Star Game on the 13th. On Saturday July 10th an Early Black Baseball Tribute will take place with about 25 players on hand. This is a big event, try to attend.

July 23rd in Chicago many players will attend the National Collector's Convention. The week of July 26-30 Larry Hogan will be at Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY.

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Luis Munoz passed along the sad news of the recent deaths of Horacio "Rabbit" Martinez and Carlos Colas in Cuba. Also Joe Wiley died March 31, 1993 in New Orleans at 74. We have ** five obits for Jimmie Crutchfield.

Congratulations to long-time NLC member Leslie Heaphy who has taken over the Women in Baseball Committee for SABR.

The following Negro Leaguers will be in attendance at the 14th National Sports Collector's Convention July 23-25 in Chicago: Nap Gulley, John Johnson, Lester Lockett, Ted Radcliffe, and Bobby Robinson.

Look for a NEWSWEEK article on race in baseball scheduled for a June issue. Also, an upcoming SPORTS ILLUSTRATED FOR KIDS will have a story on Negro Leagues Baseball.

Southern Bases: Baseball Before The Braves, a 3 month exhibit at the Atlanta History Center included a section on the Negro Southern League and Atlanta Black Crackers. I'll try to have more info by the next newsletter.

Bryon Johnson threw out the first ball at a recent Colorado Rockies game.

The Michiana Over-Thirty Baseball League (South Bend, IN. area) has expanded to eight teams and two divisions. One of the divisions is the Ted Radcliffe Division, named after "Double Duty".

The Black Student Association and the College of Arts and Sciences of Memphis State University co-sponsored a reception in honor of former players from the Memphis Red Sox, on February 22th. More events are in the works.

The NLC annual report is available. It will be in the Convention Booklet for the SABR conventioners.

On June 19th NBC will air a reedited version of the 1985 syndicated A HARD ROAD TO GLORY with ad revenues going to The Arthur Ashe AIDS Foundation. HBO is planning a new special based on Ashe's writings and is expected in 1995.

NEGRO LEAGUES RELATED ARTICLES

The Rob Ruck piece from PITTSBURGH MAGAZINE is available **7pp.

April 25, 1993 THE KANSAS CITY STAR, "Museum is cashing in on interest in Negro Leagues," **2pp

THE WASHINGTON POST, 4-4-93 "Baseball Blackout" **2pp and 4-13-93 THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, "Bringing Blacks Back to Baseball. **1pg both by John Holway.

THE MACON TELEGRAPH, 4-23-93, "A baseball institution is lost with death of Smokey Glover," **2pp & "Glover made ballpark a home." From the 4-29-93 edition, "Smokie a rich part of Macon history," **2pp

NOVO NEWSWEEKLY by Paul Debono "Baseball Racism: The Indy Connection" **1pg

"Loss of the Negro Leagues was part of the price for integration" by Rob Ruck **1pg from BILL MAZEROSKI BASEBALL 1993.

From the May, 1993 OHIO MAGAZINE, "Hounded out of Baseball," by Lonnie Wheeler about Fleet Walker **8pp.

THE CINCINNATI INQUIRER, April 5, 1993, "Baseball '93, The Negro Leagues & Cincinnati," **16pp \$1.00

**3pp oldie from September, 1938 ESQUIRE, "Unrecognized Stars."

A previous newsletter mention the NEW YORK LINK Todd Bolton story in Japanese. We now have a **2pg translation.

The following are from USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY, April 21-27, 1993, "Omissions an injustice to Negro Leaguers", **1pg; May 5-11, 1993, "Negro League Veteran touches all the bases," (Don Johnson) **1pg; May 19-25, 1993, "Talent pool grows faster than the jobs," **2pp by John Holway.

USA TODAY, May 5, 1993, "Ashe Books Blueprint for VA Project," **1pg & "Athletes, Mentors Recognized", **1pg. From May 6, 1993, "Negro Leagues Museum Eyes Partnership", **1pg

CURRENT AND FUTURE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

I'm using this section to elaborate on the 2 baseball encyclopedias currently on the market.

TOTAL BASEBALL has the ONLY THE BALL WAS WHITE register update. We urge everyone to please pass along any corrections, updates, etc. to me or Larry so we can have a corrected and expanded version for the NLC publication. We have already expanded The Register to include up to 1955.

THE BASEBALL ENCYCLOPEDIA 9th edition by MacMillan, is still the place to go to find updated stats. This time more players and playoff and World Series stats have been added. John Holway continues to spearhead the recognition of Negro Leaguers achievements and eventual honoring by Cooperstown and having the stats in MACMILLAN is very important for that cause. Typos will happen and we apologize for them. Please let me know and I will put out an errata sheet by the next newsletter. I've found some myself. Let's make the 10th edition the best yet.

One of the items missed was the editors wished to thank the following persons who helped with the 1993 edition: Susan Baldwin, Todd Bolton, Harry Brunt, Elizabeth Cale, Michael Campion, Bill Cash, Paul Doherty, Larry Hogan, Matthew Hogan, John Holway Jr., Joshua Hojvat-Gallin, Tim Joyce, Merl Kleinknecht, Neil Lanctot, Larry Lester, Mary Lockhard, Jerry Malloy, Bill Plott, Dave Renfrow, and Mike Stahl.

John Holway is the point man for the AMERICAN NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY ENCYCLOPEDIA. They need writers to do 1000 word bios on 8 Negro Leagues players: Dandridge, Day, Bill Foster, Pete Hill, Mendez, Poles, Redding, and Stearnes. They pay \$50 per bio. Contact John at 703 764-3294 if you are interested.

THE MARKETPLACE

Jim Riley's Biographical Encyclopedia will not be published by Meckler but Jim does have a new publisher and everything is on line for I believe 1994.

SANDLOT SEASONS by Rob Ruck about Black Sport in Pittsburgh should be available in June in paperback from University of Illinois Press.

THE NEGRO LEAGUES: 40 YEARS OF BLACK PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL IN WORDS AND PICTURES by David Craft is available at major book stores for \$15.99. Check the bargain and/or sale books sections.

THE FORGOTTEN PLAYERS: THE STORY OF BLACK BASEBALL IN AMERICA by Robert Gardner and Dennis Shortelle from Walker & Co, gives the history of the Leagues from beginning to end, a wonderful book for young readers and first-year students of Black Baseball. It sells for \$12.95.

INTERESTING ATHLETES: BLACK AMERICAN SPORTS HEROES by George Lee is a 165 page paperback with text and drawings including baseball players and sells for \$5.99.

BALTIMORE SUN, March 21, 1993 has a review of Michael Cooper's PLAYING AMERICA'S GAME. **1pg.

Various praise for the Dixon & Hannigan book THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES **1pg

Excellent **1pg article from the March 28, 1993, THE KANSAS CITY STAR "Publisher's know nostalgia is a hit" reviews 4 books; MY LIFE IN THE NEGRO LEAGUES, PITCHIN MAN, WHEN THE GAME WAS BLACK AND WHITE, and PLAYING AMERICA'S GAME.

I was remiss in not putting THE DIAMOND ANGLE address in the last newsletter; it is TDA PO Box 409, Kaunakakai, HI 96748, \$2.50 a copy or \$20 a year..... Good baseball and plenty of Negro league stuff.

Call 1-800-377-9777 for the latest Ebbet's Field Flannel catalog.

Look for African-American Heroes Negro Leagues All-Stars cards, 12 per pack in stores, let me know if you find them.

The Ted Williams Card Company has been launched and will have a 200 card set out this year which will include Negro Leaguers, selling for \$1.59 for a pack of 12.

"Baseball on Film" stamps have been issued by the country of Gambia **1pg

**1pg advertisement for Negro League Legends private signing. 35 players and the prices for various items.

Contact me if you are seeking books on the Negro Leagues. We have book lists available and can also steer you toward sources for the books.

FINAL REMARKS

The next newsletter will be August's. Please get any information to me by the end of July. See you in San Diego, Baltimore, and Chicago.

Dick & Larry
Dick Clark & Larry Lester
NLC Co-Chairpeople