

SABR - NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
April 1993

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Another disappointing Hall of Fame Vote has more than just NLC members upset. Details later in this newsletter.

Jeff Passehl has moved to 419 Earl Lane, Montrose, CO. 81401, his phone is the same. Brad Sullivan's zip code is 44094 (omitted from list).

Our newsletter depends on the contributions of members and readers. This month the following people submitted material: Steve Bennett, Todd Bolton, Rich Bozzone, Michael Cooper, James Floto, Leslie Heaphy, Bob Hieronimus, Larry Hogan, John Holway, Darryl Houston, William Jackson, Merl Kleinknecht, Larry Lester, Norm Macht, Jerry Malloy, Patricia McAllister, Evan Meyer, Jim Overmyer, Bob Peterson, Bob Plapinger, Bob Potts, Jim Reisler, Al Ritter, John Roza, Oscar Sistrunk, Adie Suehsdorf, Brad Sullivan, Tweed Webb, and Bill Williamson.

NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE PUBLICATION

We've met our April 1st deadline and that's an achievement! All material is now in one place and current. We will keep everyone informed of developments.

NEGRO LEAGUERS AND THE HALL OF FAME

In case you were out of the country, the Veterans Committee selected no Negro Leaguers this year. In fact they selected no one. You might think the Veterans Committee would rather select nobody than select a Black. You might choose to think about this result differently though. It just maybe better that no one was selected. A lot of people have noticed and they are not happy. Perhaps the Hall of Fame will now change its voting rules under the pressure.

Three solutions offered to the Establishment by John Holway should be endorsed by the NLC. 1) give Negro Leaguers an equal vote on the committee; 2) put Negro League candidates on a separate ballot, or 3) reinstitute the special Negro League committee.

John has put together a **2 page Petition addressed to the Board of Directors of Baseball's Hall of Fame. Please send for it and get involved. The Board of Directors will meet during Hall of Fame weekend, the end of July. We should be deluging them with faxes, letters, etc. showing our disgust with their continued disregard for Negro Leaguers.

Reggie Jackson may be open to our concerns. He has the opportunity in his induction speech to make a difference. Write to Reggie and appeal to him to include some of his thoughts on the Negro Leagues players' plight.

I believe we as individuals must do even more to voice our displeasure, to join with others, and to generally be more forceful in expressing our opinion. Related articles available: 1-22-93 WASHINGTON POST, "Obstacles to fame for Negro Leaguers" by John Holway, **1pg; 2-24-93, NEW YORK TIMES, "Vets can't crack Hall of Fame," **1pg; USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY, March 3-9, 1993 "Veterans Committee comes up nameless" **1pg; USA TODAY, "Veterans fall short in Hall vote" **1pg; SCD, 3-26-93, reader reaction section. **1pg.

Jim Riley's comments from Volume 5 Issue 1 OLDTIME BASEBALL NEWS on "Cooperstown's Credibility Check: Leon Day-One Vote Away" **1pg. SPECIAL EVENTS

Some of the events that have occurred recently follow:

Russell Awkard, Leon Day, Elbert Israel and Dick Powell were on hand for the dedication of the month-long Stars of Early Black Baseball exhibit at Morgan State College in Baltimore on February 5th. **1pg Sam Lacy article available from BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN. This exhibit will be at Camden Yards in July.

Russell Awkard spoke with youngsters at New Market Elementary School on February 23, 1993. **1pg

On Sunday February 7th players Sam Jethroe and Willie Grace were joined by Dick Clark, Leslie Heaphy, and Merl Kleinknecht to entertain close to 100 folks on the Negro Leagues and the Cleveland Buckeyes at the Cleveland Indians Wahoo Winterfest. WKNR sportcaster Allen Davis hosted the event. Leslie did an overview of the Negro Leagues. Merl covered the history of the Cleveland Buckeyes. I covered Buckeyes into the Major Leagues and Negro Leaguers onto the Cleveland Indians. We had several handouts and everything went really well. The highlight was the interview of Willie and Sam. **2pp article from the CLEVELAND PLAIN-DEALER. A BARRIER BREAKERS poster card given to fans in attendance is available ** (must send envelope at least 9"x12") **15 pp Negro Leagues handout \$1 is available. "Busting the Barriers...Negro Leagues to Major Leagues" a photo exhibit went to the Western Reserve Historical Society for the remainder of February.

Upcoming events by City:

ATLANTA

The Cascade Youth Organization (CYO) "Home of Negro League Baseball" had 11 veterans join in their 1993 Negro League players clinic on Saturday March 27th. The CYO will have its homecoming/Opening Day Activities on April 16 & 17, 1993. A Friday dinner, a Saturday parade, dedication of a new baseball field and opening games. **4pp

WPBA Atlanta Public Television is putting together a documentary on the Negro Southern League for local showing. The producers have spoken with many NLC members. Dr. Bob and Zoh Hieronimus have passed along their audio and videotapes to the producers.

BALTIMORE

Bob and Zoh are working towards another White House reception for Negro Leaguers and a possible Oprah Winfrey show. They and other area folks are working with the Orioles on the Stars of Early Black Baseball Tribute on July 10th. They have contributed a great deal of Negro leagues and Leon Day memorabilia to the Benjamin Franklin Middle School along with arranging a visit by Leon on February 26th. The Hieronimus's also applied for and received a \$10,000 Grant from the Harvey and Lynn Meyerhoff Foundation. They are joining with many Baltimore people on a committee that will put, at minimum, five Little League teams in uniforms of the Negro Leagues and contribute to the financial costs. A 3-1-93 BALTIMORE SUN article is available **1pg.

They have also produced a Leon Day baseball card sold only by Leon, for \$5 autographed. Thank You Bob & Zoh!

Also, BARNSTORMING THROUGH BALTIMORE CITY is being organized. It is an Outreach Program for minority children in Baltimore. **4pp overview.

NEW YORK

The NLBPA will have a special day at Yankee Stadium to coincide with a Negro League Reunion Card Show and Educational Forum at the Meadowlands Convention Center this August.

SAN DIEGO

The premier event of SABR will be the convention in San Diego, CA June 24-28th. Please plan to attend details available in the last SABR

Bulletin. This is always a great time and many NLC members and Negro leaguers enthusiasts have a grand time. Remember to get all material to be discussed at the annual NLC meeting by the June Newsletter.

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Perry Hall passed recently in Chicago. No specific information is available as yet. I just got the sad news that Jimmie Crutchfield passed March 31st.

Lou Dials continues to educate fans with recent speeches at Kennedy College in the Bay area and at Modesto and Oakland high schools. He also did collectors' shows in Las Vegas and Anaheim.

Negro League Super Show #1, Saturday & Sunday April 17th, 18th at the Crossgates Mall, Albany, NY. Appearing will be Ray Dandridge, Leon Day, Buck Leonard, Lester Lockett, Double Duty Radcliffe, Bobby Robinson, and Armando Vasquez.

Monte Irvin will be signing autographs on Sunday April 25th at the West Tampa Convention Center, in Tampa, FL.

The Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame is in the process of planning their 1993 programs and activities. Contact Kathleen Gardner at (419) 893-9481. They are looking for individuals to make presentations on a variety of topics. **2pp of background information on the Hall.

David Pietrusza spoke on Hispanic and Black Baseball at the Hispanic Heritage Institute on March 24th, in Albany, NY.

Thanks to Bob Potts for passing along info on the Piney Woods Collegians.

We have a **8page list of Negro League Players with Photo Files at The National Baseball Library. Also, a **14pp list of Negro League and other related team photographs at the library. Bob Browning has passed these listings along in the hope they may aid researchers in their future search for visual aids. If requesting both lists please send along \$1.00.

The NLBM has extended the deadline for essays for potential Hall of Famers. Contact Larry Lester immediately if you wish to write on a deserving player. The NLBM Negro Baseball League Reference Books List is available. **1pg.

Al Ritter will be managing a Little League team this year in Portland and promises to have his team continue the Negro league tradition of exciting, daring baseball.

Anyone who saw a recent You Bet Your Life show with Bill Cosby that had a former Negro Leaguer, Mr. Lisby as a contestant, let us know. Check for reruns on this syndicated program.

I issue a formal apology to Larry Shane. A misunderstanding caused by a third party's delay in providing agreed upon materials caused the problem. I should have investigated the situation more fully. I deeply regret putting Larry Shane's name in a poor light. Larry is a valued baseball person and I hope he will accept my sincere apologies and the complete retraction of previous statements.

NEGRO LEAGUES RELATED ARTICLES

Front page of the March 15, 1993 NEW YORK TIMES under various titles **2 or 3pp, "Baseball Gold Still Eludes Jim Crow's Victims".

Rob Ruck's article about the Negro Leagues, "Baseball in its Hey Day" appeared in the February issue of PITTSBURGH magazine.

Three items from USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY, March 3-9, 1993, "Baron's 1910 Home Makes Sites Register" **1pg; "Tribute Paid to Old Crackers" **1pg; "Immortals Missed Negro Leaguers" **1pg.

SPORTS LICENSING INTERNATIONAL, 2-1-93, "Negro League Museum tells VLEP to back off on licensing idea." **1pg.

SCD, 2-19-93, book review column by NLC member Richard Miller covers Wilmer Fields book. **1pg SCD, 3-5-93 "Double Duty Radcliffe Has Fond Memories" **2pp SCD, 4-9-93, "Joe Black's Philosophy-Live and Learn" **4pp THE NEWS JOURNAL (Wilmington, Del.) "Judy Johnson may live again on movie screen" **1pg

LCS ANGELES TIMES 2-14-93, "Remembering their League and their own", **2pp

"I wish I could call them back." (Frank McAllister) **2pp.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, "81-year-old player a field of dreams" (Bryon Johnson) **1pg.

"The All Nations vs. The Soos" **3pp from MINOR LEAGUE HISTORY JOURNAL II, available from SABR.

USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY, February 10-23, 1993, Dave Pietrusza's articles "Robinson's breakthrough not first" "Catcher Walker had credentials like Robinson". "Bitterness was aimed at players" **3pp total

February, 1993 AIRMAN magazine had a **4pp article "In The Game" on John 'Mule' Miles.

Latest LEGENDS SPORTS MEMORABILIA magazine March/April, 1993 in Letters Section has respond from Buck Leonard and NLC. **1pg "Bobbin Heads Bounce Back", Tom Owens article from Jan/Feb, LEGENDS **4pp.

Tweed Webb's 1973 tribute to John Coates, an original NLC member who died much too young. **1pg

From SPORTS ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NORTH AMERICAN, Vol #5, 1993, Cool Papa Bell entry done by Leslie Heaphy. **2pp

2-23-93, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, "Ending baseball's All-White bastion in Boston", (Pumpsie Green) **2pp and "West's short lived Black League" **3pp. Also, 3-1-93 edition "Breaking the PCL Color Barrier", **3pp.

I strongly urge readers to buy (\$2.50) Vol4 #2 Feb/March, 1993 issue of THE DIAMOND ANGLE. They have over eight pages of Negro League related material including a Rube Foster profile.

April, 1993 DETROIT MONTHLY Chronicle section, "Swinging with the Page Fence Giants", **1pg

TOLEDO MAGAZINE, 3-21-93, "Those were the days" **3pp (Black semi-pros in Toledo).

March 23, 1993 KANSAS CITY STAR, "Hitter-Fielder Will Find Real Fame in 'Baseball'", (Buck O'Neil) **2pp

SANTA-CLARITA DAILY NEWS, March 1, 1993, "Transcending Segregation" (Sammie Haynes), **2pp

Finally to celebrate the induction of Lorenzo 'Piper' Davis into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, we have three articles available from THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS & BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD. "Memories are Many in H of F" **1pg "State's sports heroes hear crowd's applause one more time" **3pp; "Davis gets due after years of segregation." **2pp.

CURRENT AND FUTURE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Todd Bolton is seeking any crisp images of the following; Ben Taylor, not commonly seen; the 1940 New York Cubans; or the 1941 spring training photo of the Newark Eagles. Call Todd at (301) 824-2375.

Patricia Ann McAllister is seeking any information on her father Frank "Chip" McAllister. Please send through me

Nelson Eddy is seeking still photography of Sulphur Dell Ballpark in Nashville and any info on Negro league play there. Contact him at (615) 244-1818.

The NLC is seeking the death dates of Ray Brown and Mule Suttles. We also seek knowledge of Meckler's Baseball History 3 & 4 for Negro Leagues articles. Anyone having this book please contact me.

Jim Overmyer expects to have his Effa Manley/Newark Eagles book by Scarecrow Press, available this summer.

Jim Reisler is doing a book FORGOTTEN VOICES on eight Negro Leagues beat writers, which is due next year from McFarland. Jim seeks any photos of Black writers.

There have been several movie and documentary inquiries from around the country. I will share more details as they become available.

THE MARKETPLACE

Congratulations to Phil Dixon, Patrick Hannigan and Amereon House for winning the 1992 CASEY AWARD, a great honor. These articles available: USA TODAY, "Photo Book Honored". SCD, "Phil Dixon wins '92 CASEY AWARD" **1pg. KANSAS CITY CALL, "Black Baseball Author Phil Dixon Gets USA TODAY Book Award", **1pg.

An 16x22 Negro League Lithograph featuring 10 Negro Leaguers has been made available by A & H Fine Arts of Indianapolis, In. The print sells for \$30, call 1-317-897-2861 for details. Two articles on the subject are USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY, March 3-9, 1993, **1pg and SCD, 3-26-93, "Chuck Person Involved with Negro League Litho." **2pp

The third edition of TOTAL BASEBALL has a new 30 page section which is an updated version of ONLY THE BALL WAS WHITE's register. They use the terminology 'rosters' but it is the 'register'. This is not the final expanded version that will appear in the NLC book but it contains thousands of changes and provides a great starting point for researchers and hopefully will answer questions still unsolved. We suggest purchasing this through the SABR offer along with the next book.

The ninth edition of THE BASEBALL ENCYCLOPEDIA, (Big Mac) is out and again the Negro Leagues Players section is included. This edition updates stats for many with new people added and totally new playoff and World Series stats.

PLAYING AMERICA'S GAME: THE STORY OF NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL by Michael Cooper is in stores for \$15.99. It is for young readers and quite nice. And I recommend it.

Rob Ruck's THE TROPIC OF BASEBALL is out in paperback at \$10.95. A great book now made affordable.

BASEBALL TREASURES: MEMORABILIA FROM THE NATIONAL PASTIME, has some nice pieces of Negro Leagues related items.

Also scheduled for publication but not seen as yet are the following:

For young readers, THE FORGOTTEN PLAYERS: THE STORY OF BLACK BASEBALL IN AMERICA, from Walker Publishing.

University of Nebraska reprint of Satchel Paige's MAYBE I'LL PITCH FOREVER, available through SABR

Amereon House has John Holway's VOICES FROM THE GREAT BLACK BASEBALL LEAGUES, scheduled as a reprint.

Amereon also will be releasing a new book, BUCK LEONARD: IN HIS OWN WORDS, by Buck and Jim Riley.

Neil Lanctot's Hilldale book will not be published by Meckler this year because of cutbacks but by McFarland in 1994.

I also saw a listing on a book entitled THE NEGRO LEAGUES by Craft, 112pp, \$15.99.

The Satchel Paige and Leon Day Bobbin Heads are available from Stokesberry & Son for \$35 plus \$3 P&H.

FINAL REMARKS

Our next Newsletter will be June's. Please get everything to me before May 27th.

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