

# The Negro Leagues Courier

The newsletter of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, all else are the Sea"

June 2001

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Editor: Sammy J. Miller

Send all correspondence, both Committee and newsletter related, to  
Committee Co-Chairman Dick Clark, 1080 Hull, Ypsilanti, MI 48198-6472  
Home (734) 487-5273; Fax (734) 487-0807; e-mail TSTEARNES@aol.com  
\*\* Denotes items available for SASE from Committee Co-Chairman  
Dick Clark - Please affix enough postage (usually 1 stamp/4 pages)

## SABR Endorses HOF Negro League Project

Being a member of both the Negro Leagues Committee as well as The Negro Leagues Researcher/Authors Group that won the Hall of Fame's grant for a comprehensive history of African Americans in baseball it gives me great pleasure to announce that the following letter was received by Dick Clark on April 10, 2001 from the office of SABR Executive Director George W. Case III.

"Dick Clark - the SABR Executive Board has asked me to forward the following resolution to you:

Resolved, that the SABR Board congratulates members of SABR's Negro League Committee and their group on being awarded the Major League Baseball/Hall of Fame project for a comprehensive study of the History of African-American Baseball, and endorses their work as a SABR sponsored undertaking. This endorsement does not commit SABR to any expenditures toward this project.

This resolution was approved by the SABR Executive during the recent Executive Board meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, March 30, 31, April 1, 2001

George W. Case III  
SABR Executive Director"

When asked for his feelings on SABR's official endorsement, Dick Clark, NLC Chairman and Co-Director of The Negro Leagues Researchers/Authors Group gave the following statement.

"This endorsement of The Negro Leagues Researchers/Authors Group by the Executive Board gives me great pleasure. As a result of the Board's move, the two greatest institutions, in regards to the history of baseball, are now joined together in this landmark undertaking that will result in an official history of the Negro Leagues and the people that played in them. With the resources that this endorsement makes available, in addition to those that were already available through our connection with the Hall of Fame, guarantees that no group of researchers would be able to do a better job than we will do on this project. We are in the process of making history and it is only fitting that SABR, who brought us all together in the first place as members of the Negro Leagues Committee, should be involved."

Due to the fact that Hall of Fame project now has SABR as a partner, progress of the project will be reported on a regular basis in future issues.

## Contributors

You can't blame all this on me. Others responsible are: Bob Bailey, Tim Booker, Adrian Burgos, George Case III, Dick Clark, Terry Cannon, Mike Everett, Larry Hogan, Brent Kelley, Larry Lester, John Matthew IV, Bob Peterson, Bob Potts, and Lyle Wilson

## Member and Reader Updates

Dr. Adrian Burgos has taken a teaching position at the University of Illinois. As of July 1, 2001 he will have a new address. It will be: 2403 West Springfield Avenue, #x-9, Champaign, IL 61821.  
Eric Enders has a new e-mail address. It is: eenders@baseballhalloffame.org.

Tim Booker has a new e-mail address. It is: TWBookerswtsu@hotmail.com

### Research Requests

Mike Orban (orban@csc.clpgh.org) is looking for a photocopy of a Grays/Crawfords scorecard.  
John Matthew IV (john.matthew@home.com) is looking for information on the black Chatham (ONT) All Stars. John also reports that the Toronto Blue Jays will be honoring the Negro Leagues on July 15th.

### Obituaries

Former owner of the Kansas City Monarchs and the Detroit Stars Ted Rasberry died on Tuesday, April 17 in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the age of 89. Obit from The Kansas City Star\*\*1pg.

Riley Stewart, who pitched for the Memphis Red Sox, the Chicago American Giants, and the New York Cubans from 1946-1950, died on December 10, 2000 at the age of 81. Obit available \*\*1pg.

### Final Resting Places

Bob Bailey supplied the following burial sites:

Ted Page is buried at Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburgh, PA

John M. "Johnny" Drew is buried at Eden Cemetery, Collingdale, PA.

### Negro League Related Articles

"Background Check: Was Babe Ruth Black? More Important, should we care?" from an unknown publication is available. \*\*1pg.

"A Good Time Had By T-Ball: White House Opens Play In Its Backyard" from the 5/7/01 issue of USA Today. Article about T-ball game between the Memphis Red Sox and the Capitol City Rockies that took place at the White House.

Riverfront Stadium in Newark New Jersey, home of the Newark Bears of the Atlantic League, was recently renamed "Bears & Eagles Riverfront Stadium" with Yogi Berra and Larry Doby present. Three articles are available. \*\*4pgs.

An excellent piece about Buck O'Neil from 5/6/01 issue of The Kansas City Star. 8pgs.

"Council Votes To Honor Smokey Joe" from Seguingazette.com is available. \*\*2pgs. Its concerns the decision to rename a field at the local fairgrounds after Williams.

A copy of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame Biographical Profile of James "Cool Papa" Bell is available. \*\*2pgs.

"Baseball On The Radical Agenda: How Communist Newspaper The Daily Worker Campaigned to Desegregate Major League Baseball" sportsjones.com is available. \*\*5pgs.

"Negro League Players Wall of Fame Set Is Issued In Milwaukee" from the 4/20/01 issue of SCD is available. \*\*1pg.

"Robinson's Legacy Lives In Daughter" from USA Today \*\*1pg.

"Stepping Out of The Shadows" about the Page Fence Giants from the premier issue of Sport Detroit is available. \*\*1pg.

\*\*3pp THE STAR (Kansas City) online site 5/16/01, "We Need To Work Together For Buck."

### The Marketplace

BLACK BASEBALL IN PITTSBURGH by Larry Lester & Sammy Miller and published by Arcadia is now in the bookstores. In is the fourth in the series with the fifth, which will cover New York, is in the works.

THE MANDAK LEAGUES 1950-1957: THE MANITOBA-DAKOTA LEAGUE by Barry Swanton is an excellent book that details each season of this league. In addition there is a section entitled "Profiles of Players Who played In The Negro League". This 80-page book is an excellent resource for anyone

interested in players that moved from the Negro Leagues to other leagues. You can send requests for information regarding orders to Barry Swanton, 6168 190th Street, Surrey, BC V3S 8H7 Canada.

A new Scholastic Book by Walter Dean Myers is MY NAME IS AMERICA: THE JOURNAL OF BIDDY OWENS.

At a recent auction a letter sign by C.I. Taylor went for \$4,281 dollars while a 1907 copy of Sol White's History of Colored Baseball went for \$14,920. At a February Hunt Auction, a baseball signed by Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson sold for \$36,300.

The latest issue of Silhouettes: The Official Newsletter of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, the Winter 2001 issue, is out. While the newsletter looks great, as always, the news items it covered are much behind the times. Some of these items are Turkey Stearnes being inducted in the Hall of Fame, the naming of a park after Ted Rasberry (which took place over 15 months ago), and Toots Ferrell's induction into the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame (which took place over a year ago). If, for some reason, you want a copy, you should contact the Museum.

### On the Web

Every one should check out the Negro League's All-Time Team at Philly.com.

### SABR Con

The National SABR Convention will be held in Milwaukee July 11-15. The NLC meeting will take place on Thursday, July 11, from 8-9 am. At 8 pm, Thursday night a Negro Leagues player panel will be held. For more information, contact the SABR office at (216) 575-0500.

### Negro Leagues Conference IV

The 4th annual Society for American Baseball Research Negro League Committee Research Conference will be held in Kansas City, MO on June 22-24, 2001. The Conference brings together many of the leading researchers/historians in the field of Negro League baseball as well as several former players from the Negro Leagues.

The initial such conference drew approximately 60 attendees in Harrisburg in 1998. In 1999 approximately 90 attended in Atlantic City. 74 researchers, scholars, and historians attended the conference in Harrisburg in 2000. People have come from around the world to attend; Japan is the farthest distance to date.

The conference consists of academic presentations, a player panel, Negro League Appreciation Night at Kaufmann Stadium, a tour of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Bourbon Street entertainment and lunch at QuincyFs, plus two Major League ball games. The schedule reads:

**Friday** 6:30-11:00 ball game at Kaufmann Stadium  
**Saturday** 8:30 - 12:00: Papers on Statistics and Performances and Negro Leagues and Society in two sessions.

At noon, a New Orleans style lunch at QuincyFs in the Adams Mark is served.

Afternoon, 1:00 - 5:30: Player Panel and Papers on Media and Negro League research followed by a ball game at Kaufmann Stadium from 6:00 - 11:00

**Sunday** 10:00- 12:00: Tour of Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and Brunch (not included) and Farewell at Adams Mark?

Side excursions can include trips to view gravesites of Hall of Fame members such as Satchel Paige and Bullet Joe Rogan, a visit to the Jazz Hall of Fame, as well as a stroll down the legendary 18th and Vine area with all of its historical significance.

Registration is \$75 and includes the conference, goody bags, museum ticket, two ball games, lunch, a special publication, and transportation to and from both the ballpark and Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. Rooms at the Adams Mark, across the highway from Kaufmann Stadium, are \$79 per night plus tax.

For additional information, call Lloyd Johnson at 816-822-2516 or Adams Mark to reserve a room at 816-737-0200.

### **Ninth Annual Pop Lloyd Weekend Celebration**

August 24-26, 2001

Atlantic City, New Jersey

Friday, August 24th - Turn Back The Clock Night 7:00 PM at the Sandcastle Stadium

This annual event honors the legacy of "Pop" and those that played Negro League baseball. Veteran Negro League players will be honored guests at the Surf Sandcastle Stadium. Our evenings theme will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Bobby Thompson's epic "shot heard round the world" home run that won the 1951 National League pennant for the New York Giants. We will celebrate this anniversary by recognizing the Negro League veterans of the 1951 Giants and Dodgers - Willie Mays, Monte Irvin and Don Newcombe. Plans for the evening include a special Surf give away for fans, a fireworks display, and the presentation of the Max Manning Scholarship.

#### **Saturday, August 25th - Ninth Annual John Henry "Pop" Lloyd Lecture and Humanitarian Awards Program**

6:30 PM Reception - 7:30 PM Dinner at the Atlantic City Convention Center

The 2001 "Pop" Lloyd Lecture and Humanitarian Awards dinner program will feature noted entertainer Byron Motley. Mr. Motley will deliver a historical monologue and a special musical performance that celebrates the contribution of Negro League baseball to the American culture. This year's Humanitarian Award honorees include:

Dionne Warwick

Legendary Recording Star

Patti Harris

Founder of the Atlantic City Dance Theatre

Dolores Benjamin and the North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club

Our nation's oldest African American male chorus

Emilio Navarro

1929 New York Cuban and Member

of the Puerto Rican Baseball Hall of Fame

#### **Sunday, August 26th - "Pop" Lloyd Commemorative Church Service**

10:00 AM at historic Asbury United Methodist Church

#### **Mayor's Trophy Game and Family Day Festivities**

1:00 PM at Pop Lloyd Stadium, Huron Avenue & Martin Luther King Blvd. Come worship at the church where "Pop" and Nan Lloyd were congregants then bring the entire family to "Pop" Lloyd Stadium for the game, food and entertainment. Free admission

For additional information, please contact: Michael Everett, "Pop" Lloyd Committee, Projects Coordinator

1014 Maple Avenue, Linwood, NJ 08221 609-927-1597 Meveret@aol.com

### **Upcoming Events**

The Baseball Reliquary has elected Satchel Paige to the Shrine of the Eternals for 2001. The induction will take place in Pasadena, California on July 29th of this year. \*\*5pgs

The Wilmington Blue Rocks annual Negro League night will be held August 18th this year. More info as it becomes available.