

Subj: August Newsletter
e: 01-07-29 20:02:53 EDT
From: TSTEARNES
To: TSTEARNES

The Negro Leagues Courier
The Newsletter of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee
"We are the Ship; All else are the Sea"

August 2001

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 available for SASE from Committee Co-Chairman Dick Clark. Please affix enough postage (usually 1 stamp/4 pages).

New Policy Regarding Requests For Information

Since the Negro Leagues Researchers & Authors Group has received the endorsement of the Society for American Baseball Research, as well as the fact that many of the members of the group are members of the Negro Leagues Committee or are readers of this publication it has been decided that important news regarding the group and its work will be covered in The Negro Leagues Courier. The following is statement from the Co-Chairmen of the NLC, Dick Clark and Larry Lester, regarding a new policy of the Committee.

Normally, we, the Negro Leagues Committee, would be happy to share any statistical data available on any player, or any team. However, since January, we have been under contract with Major League Baseball and the National Baseball Hall of Fame to produce a complete analysis of Negro League statistics.

Lately, we have been overwhelmed with requests for box scores of various teams, seasons, and leagues. In the past, we have always provided our research for just the cost of postage. However, with the recent award of the Major League grant to study black baseball, these particular requests have come at an awkward time.

In order for us to complete this monumental and ground breaking task in a timely manner, we need to dedicate our precious hours to the project, and no longer provide unofficial statistical data for your worthy projects. With thousands of box scores to be entered into the database, and thousands of boxes yet to be found, we hope you will allow us this grace period.

We need your understanding and cooperation in this component of the study, in hopes that in the near future, we will have the most definitive and accurate statistical account of the players from the black leagues.

Until the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Major League Baseball release us from this obligation, we are not at liberty to share incomplete box score data. We hope you understand our concerns. Thank you for your interest, and would appreciate your patience in hopes that someday we will have an encyclopedia of Negro League data to share with the world.

Hall of Fame Project

After much time spent trying to get the administrative issues settled and the framework in place to insure everything will run smoothly, the Hall of Fame project concerning the history of black baseball is finally beginning. The first two projects to get underway are the statistics and the oral history sections. If you wish to help with the statistical box score project or have any oral tapes done with players and have not received any recent mailings please contact our fearless leader, Bwana Dick.

Contributors

You can't blame all this on me. Others responsible are: Bob Bailey, Carlos Bauer, Todd Bolton, Tim Booker, Adrian Burgos, Dick Clark, Jeff Eastland, Eric Enders, Amy Essington, Larry Hogan, John Holway, Lou Hunsinger, Lloyd Johnson, Ted Knorr, Signe Knutson, Larry Lester, Jerry Malloy, Gary Maurer, Dick Miller, Joe Mitchell, Rick Morris, Jim Overmyer, Bob Peterson, Bill Potts, Jay Sanford, Prior Smith, Wayne Stivers, and Lyle Wilson

Member and Reader Updates

For some strange reason, people who can do amazing things in the field of baseball research just can't seem to get an address right. Co-Chairman Larry Lester changed his mailing address over a year and a half ago but he is still receiving mail at the old address. So we will try this yet again. The new address is P.O. Box 380146, Kansas City, MO 64138.

We welcome the following new NLC members:

Amy Essington, 7043 Hanbury St., Long Beach, CA 90808 (562) 421-4305 Email aessington@aol.com

Signe Knutson, 2431 S. 66th St., West Allis, WI 53219 (414) 546-3418, Email tgimp@execpc.com

Dick Miller 8010 Nob Hill Drive, Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1493 (859) 441-8646 Email ragsmill@aol.com

Wayne Stivers, 1153 Bergen Parkway M-205, Evergreen, CO (303) 674-3718 Fax (303) 674-8798 Email wstivers2@aol.com

The following are changes to the address list:

Tim Booker has Email TWBookerswtsu85@hotmail.com

Adrian Burgos has moved. Home 2403 W. Springfield Ave, #X-9, Champaign, IL 61821 (217) 359-1170 Email nycubans1947@aol.com. Work Dept. of History, 309 Gregory Hall, 810 S. Wright St., Urbana, IL 61801 Email burgosjr@uiuc.edu.

Eric Enders at 19 Beech St., Cooperstown, NY 13326 (607) 547-1871 Email research@ericenders.com

Larry Hogan, home Email is Benhogan6144@aol.com

We can send an updated address list via Email or snail mail as requested.

Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we must pass along the news of the deaths of the following players:

Sam Jethroe, who played for the Indianapolis ABC's and the Cincinnati and Cleveland Buckeyes, died on Saturday, June 16, 2001, in Erie PA. He was 83. Obit from the Detroit Free Press **1pg., Obit from SCD **1pg., Obit from The New York Times **1pg.

Al Fennar, who played infielder for a number of teams including the New York Black Yankees, died on June 15, 2001. He was 90. Obit from The Record (Hackensack) **1pg.

Former Kansas City Monarch Ike Brown died in Memphis, TN on May 17, 2001 at the age of 59. Brown held the distinction of being the last Negro League

player to make the majors. Obit from Detroit Free Press **1pg. Obit from The Record (Hackensack) **1pg. Obit from the Kansas City Star **1pg.

Santos Amaro died in Vera Cruz, Mexico on May 31, 2001. **1pg. Obit from Baseball America.

Felix Delgado recently passed away. **3pgs. Are available but they are in Spanish.

Final Resting Places -

Bob Bailey supplied us with the following sites:

Sam Jethroe is buried in Erie Cemetery, Erie, PA

Ike Brown is buried in New Park Cemetery, Memphis TN

Lennie Pearson is buried in Rosedale Cemetery in Orange, NJ

We are able to send individual states burial sites for your use. The complete list is not available as yet.

Research Requests -

The latest issue of The SABR Bulletin, in case you didn't read it, included the following research requests. Since the requests fall into our field of endeavors, we thought we would include them here.

Marvin A. Cohen, 416 Main Street, Vestal, NY 13850-1536, Phone (607) 786-9018; e-mail mcpro416@aol.com is looking for in on former Negro League player Robert R. "Bob" Taylor. Taylor played for the Grays and the Crawfords.

Peter Toot, 329 Delgado Street, Apt. B, Santa Fe, NM 87501, Phone (505) 944-4744; e-mail ptoot@newmex.com is looking for information on the 1905 Cuban Stars, 1905 All-Cubans, and the 1923 Cuban Stars.

Time To Vote

It is time once again for the Centennial Celebrity Candidates voting. This year we have four Negro Leaguers vying for the award. They are LARRY BROWN, Frank Duncan, Bill Holland, and Turkey Stearnes. The votes must be received no later that Aug. 6, 2001, so get busy. Rank your top three candidates in order of preference (i.e. 1) Larry Brown, 2) Larry Brown, 3) Larry Brown) on a piece of paper or a postcard to: SABR Centennial Survey, 812 Huron Rd E #719, Cleveland, OH 44115 or e-mail them to SABRJohn@aol.com.

Negro League Related Articles

"Stearnes Made A Lasting Impact" from the 5/16/01 issue of The Detroit News lists Turkey Stearnes as number 8 in the paper's listing of Detroit's 20 Best Athletes. **2pgs.

The NLC's own Jeff Eastland had an article about Jud Wilson published in The Free Lance-Star of Fredericksburg, VA. **3pgs.

"Ex-Negro Leaguer (Mel Duncan) Recalls His Career" from the 6/12/01 Ann Arbor News. **2pgs.

"Robinson Didn't Break All The Barriers" from the Everett Washington, Herald of 6/12/01. **2pgs.

"God's Country: Former Negro Leaguers Found Their Fields of Dreams In Small Towns Across Canada" from the 5/14/01 issue of Maclean's which is, according to our resident Canadian, Prior Smith, "Canada's equivalent to Time or Newsweek." **3pgs.

Web version of "Dodgers Signed Teasley, Too." From The Detroit News.

**3pgs.

"House of David Lives On: Museum Preserves Colorful History of Southwestern Michigan Sect" from the 1/10/01 issue of the Chicago Sun-Times. **3pgs.

Web version of "We Need To Work For Buck (O'Neil)" from The Kansas City Star. **3pgs.

Web version of "Buck O'Neil Negro Leagues Baseball Classic Begins Next Week" from The Kansas City Star. **2pgs.

Web version of "Questions About Buck O'Neil Need To Be Answered" from The Kansas City Star. **3pgs.

Web Version of "Negro Leagues Great Connie Johnson Recalls Facing Ted Williams" from The Kansas City Star. **2pgs.

"Jackie Robinson's Daughter Continues Job Of Conquering Obstacles" from the 7/15/01 issue of The New York Times. **1pg.

"Remember Forgotten Yankees" from the 7/12/01 issue of The New York Times. **1pg

"To Senators Scout 'Papa Joe', Cuba Was His Personal Island" about Baltimore Black Sox owner Joe Cambria, from the 5/3/01 issue of the Baltimore Sun. **1pg.

**4 pp from HARDBALL ON THE HILL, on Lacy Ellerbe

The Marketplace

In a recent auction a large studio photo of Josh Gibson sold for \$12,806, while a post card of the 1932 Pittsburgh Crawfords sold for \$12,788. Interestingly enough a 1944 Havana team baseball signed by Martin Dihigo sold for only \$2,875.

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF BASEBALL'S NEGRO LEAGUES: THE OTHER HALF OF BASEBALL HISTORY by John Holway is available now.

Our very own Lou Hunsinger, along with James P. Quigel, Jr. has written GATEWAY TO THE MAJORS: WILLIAMSPORT (PA) AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL. The section I have read (on the ballpark) was very good indeed. You should check this book out.

Negro League Bobbin Head porcelain figurines. These hand painted collectibles sell for a very reasonable forty dollars each, with discounts for purchases of 5 or more or the entire set. Rick is also offering a beautiful autographed print of Leon Day for \$60 dollars to SABR members. The limited edition print is truly worth the price. Number 133 (of 300) is hanging in the offices of The Negro League Courier. The **1pg. Add shows examples of several of the Bobbin Heads.

THE COOPERSTOWN SYMPOSIUM ON BASEBALL AND AMERICAN CULTURE, 2000, published by McFarland is out. Included in it are: "Black Baseball In The Ocean State: Rhode Island Black Baseball, 1886-1948 by (as if the mile long title didn't give it away) Larry Hogan and Jeffery L. Statts, "She Loved Baseball: Effa Manley and Negro League Baseball" by Amy Essington, and "Black Players on the Field of Dreams: African American Baseball in Film" by George Grella.

The latest issue of Elysian Fields Quarterly is out. The Summer, 2001 issue includes "Slinging Hash Balls: Nineteenth-Century African American Amateur and Semiprofessional Baseball In Buffalo, New York" by Kevin Grzymala.

On the Web

Eric Enders has a site at www.ericenders.com Triple E Productions, check it out.

Signe Knutson has "A Look At The Negro Leagues" site at <http://www.execpc.com/~sshivers> Sections include: A Negro League Wall of Fame, Some Thoughts on Baseball, A Brief History of the Negro Leagues, Bibliography very good links to other sites. Excellent drawings, by Signe, throughout. I urge everyone to check out this site. Request that Signe

make her work available commercially, it is THAT good. Very Impressed! .
(Obviously our leader is once again supplementing his income by selling ad space.)

SABR Con

Our roving reporter Dick Clark sent in this report. It was another excellent National Convention. The Milwaukee group put on a top-notch get together. We got to see two ball games, plenty of presentations, had a successful NLC Meeting, met new folks and renewed friendships with old hands.

Among the important presentations were: Barry Mednick's presentation on Bonnie Serrell; Brian Carroll, "Jackie's Friend, Jim Crow's Enemy" on Wendell Smith; Ken Fenster, "Nat Peeples and the Failure of Integration in the Southern Association"

Our NLC meeting took place at 8:00 AM Thursday morning (Larry Lester conveniently arrived in the afternoon). NLC Members Claudia Perry (newly elected president of SABR), Wayne Stivers, Jan Finkel, Jim Riley, and Dick Miller were joined by fifteen other SABR folks for an excellent meeting. Larry and I shared two tables with Wayne Stivers, selling various Negro Leagues items. Dick Miller was also selling books, along with many other dealers and publishers. John Holway was selling his latest, The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues.

When everyone returned to the Hotel from the American League Centennial Party, a Negro Leagues Panel began at 8:30 PM Thursday evening. Sherwood Brewer, Carl Long, and Dennis Biddle entertained a packed room. Most of Friday was spent traveling to and from Chicago, and a great game at Wrigley. Saturday night's game at Miller Park was preceded by a Tailgate party in the parking lot by Signe Knutson and David Hoon for Larry and myself. I now understand why Wisconsin folks have so much fun at athletic events. Unfortunately, all good things do come to an end and I was on the road home Sunday morning.

I was so glad to meet new folks and see old ones. It was especially nice to see the "Chicago Mob". A huge hole was the absence of Jerry Malloy. At committee meetings, panels, a White Sox game at Wrigley, just talking. It was tough, I'm glad so many of Jerry's friends were along to ease the situation. We had some tears but ended up on a positive note talking of all the good times. Good times are the norm for SABR Conventions, come along next year, you'll enjoy yourself.

Those that attended the NLC meeting were: Andy, McCue, Claudia Perry, Wayne Stivers, Kevin Saldana, Fred Meister, Len Olbinsky, Jan Finkel, Lloyd Johnson, Barry Mednick, Dick Miller, Jim Riley, Barry Evans, Peter Richardson, Cary Smith, John Matthew IV, Rodney Johnson, Nick Wilson, and Eduardo Valero.

Negro Leagues Conference IV

It was recently announced at a special press conference that the governing body of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee has voted to officially make the name of it's yearly conference The Jerry Malloy Negro Leagues Committee Conference. "Since his untimely death last year," said NLC chairman Dick Clark, "we have been discussing many ways to honor our late friend and committee member, who touched so many. Since one of the fundamental aspects of our conference is to renew and strengthen friendships among the attendees, we, the officers of the NLC, feel that naming the conference after Jerry would be the most fitting tribute to his memory."

Dick Clark also submitted the following report on the recent conference held in Kansas City. "It was a pleasure getting together again with NLC members, and a lot of new faces, in Kansas City, July 22-24th. The Fourth Annual

Negro Leagues Conference was another success. My congratulations to the KC group led by Lloyd Johnson for putting on a fine show. Many regulars were in attendance, Eric Enders, Amy Essington, Ted Knorr, Eddie Bedford, and SABR President Jim Riley. Leslie Heaphy had a presentation on "Women in Negro League Baseball". John Holway, "What Next for the Baseball Hall of Fame?" Eddie Bedford interviewed Minnie Minoso and also did a presentation on "Teaching Baseball as History". Phil Dixon made two talks, one on "Bullet Rogan, Greatest Player Ever" and the other on the "1910 Leland Giants, Greatest Team Ever". Larry Lester and Dick Clark talked about the Hall Of Fame, Negro League History Project."

ROBERT PETERSON AWARDS were given to John Holway for his latest book and to Larry Lester for Black Baseball in Kansas City and Pittsburgh. Larry Lester emceed all events with his usual panache. We had Buck O'Neil for our lunch, two ball games, player panel, and guided tour of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. A wonderful time!

Other NLC awards were given to the following people. Peterson Recognition Awards went to: Bill McNeil, Rory Costello, and Bob Bailey, while the John Coates Next Generation Award went to Sammy Miller. Since these people were unable to attend the conference the United States Postal Service, the official carrier of The Negro Leagues Courier, will deliver their awards to them. (HA! HA! Two people can play this game, Clark!)

Recent Events --

The Negro League Research/Authors Group (NLRAG) was up in Cooperstown during the Thirteenth Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture, June 6-8, 2001. Lou Hunsinger along with Larry Lester, Jim Overmyer, Larry Hogan, Dick Clark, and Eric Enders were NLC members in attendance. Dr. Hogan made a presentation, The House That Ruth Built and Pop Opened: Negro League Baseball at Yankee Stadium, 1930-1948 (long enough title, I think) Other papers presented, pertaining to our field were the following. Diversity on the Diamond: The Disappearance of African-Americans from Midwestern Youth Baseball by Dave Ogden. Peter Rutkoff reading from his novel, Shadow Ball: a novel of baseball and Chicago. Wendell Smith's Last Crusade: The Desegregation of Spring Training by Brian Carroll. "Your" Bears to "Our" Bears: Race, Memory and Baseball in Newark, New Jersey by Robert Cvornyek.

Hogan, Lester, and Clark also discussed the African-American Baseball Research Project and answered a multitude of questions about it.

A truly wonderful time was had by all. I strongly recommend the trip next year for this event.

The following is from a press release that we thought we would include. HUMBOLDT- Local organizers have hit a home run as far as this year's third annual Walter Johnson-George Sweatt Baseball Classic goes. Guest speaker for the Saturday, July 14, banquet will be Buck O'Neil.

Other special guests that night for the 7:30 dinner at the Humboldt Elementary School will be Johnson's daughter, Carolyn Johnson-Thomas, her son, Hank Thomas, author of "Walter Johnson, The Big Train," and Bill Miller to the Bill Miller Show on KKOY Radio.

Limited tickers, at \$8.00 apiece, are available at the Humboldt Union office, from Dick and Gloria Davis, 205 N. Steuben, Chanute, 620-431-7504, Dorene Homewood and the Allen County Museum.

Baseball action for the tournament will be Thursday night, July 12, Friday night, July 13, Saturday, July 14, and Sunday July 15.

A tailgate party is planned on Friday night at Walter Johnson Field. Everyone is invited to come and meet Carolyn Johnson-Thomas and Hank Thomas and to bring a grill or picnic basket.

On Saturday noon, the first-pitch ceremony will be held at George A. Sweatt Park. There will be ceremonial pitches by O'Neil and Carolyn Thomas. The Johnson-Sweatt tournament was born in 1999, recognizing the 75 anniversary of the 1924 World Series in which both participated Johnson for the Washington Senators in the Major League and Sweatt for the Kansas City Monarch of the Negro League. O'Neil, Kansas City, Mo., was a first baseman and manager of the Monarchs and witnessed the beginning and end of the Negro League.

The New York Mets recently held a Negro League Tribute Day at Shea Stadium. The Mets wore New York Cubans uniforms while the Toronto Blue Jays wore the uniforms of a barnstorming team, the Chatham All Stars. **4pgs worth of articles available.

Gary Maurer sent in the following. Wall of Honor ceremony Tuesday 7/24/01. This year the Brewers changed the program. No more Yesterdays Negro League Baseball Players Foundation, Wall of Fame like they had at County Stadium. That was really nice. Huge downsized exhibit at Miller Park. The players were really disappointed. Still the event was nice. Two players Enrique Maroto and Frank Williams (Billy's brother) were honored. Oh well, still thanks to the Brewers. It is very much appreciated. No mention of the ceremony in Milwaukee newspaper.

Upcoming Events

The sixth annual "Judy Johnson Night" will be held on August 18th at Judy Johnson Field at Frawley Stadium in Wilmington, Delaware. This year the Wilmington Blue Rocks will wear the uniforms of the Kansas City Monarchs while their opponents for the game, the Myrtle Beach Pelicans will wear Homestead Grays uniforms. In addition, the team will be honoring Leon Day, with all fans receiving a free Leon Day card.