

The Negro Leagues Courier

The newsletter of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

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

January 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)

Contributors

Thanks to the following for their assistance in making this newsletter possible: Bob Bailey, Bijan Bayne, Bob Bluthardt, Rich Bozzone, Gene Carney, Dick Clark, Amy Essington, Geneva Ferguson, Leslie Heaphy, Loyd Johnson, Brent Kelley, Kit Krieger, Larry Lester, Jerry Malloy, Gary Maurer, Claudia Perry, Rob Ruck, Mark Rucker, Kaz Sayama, Lyle Wilson, and Andrea Woo.

Chairman's Comments

Once again it is time for spring house cleaning for the Committee. If I have not heard from you in the past year, you need to contact me. Those I have not heard from and do not hear from will be removed from the Committee list. This is not meant to cause anyone difficulties but rather to cut costs and keep in touch with those that wish to remain part of the Committee.

Finally, the January 5, 2001 announcement from The Hall Of Fame regarding the awarding of grant money for Negro Leagues project came and went without any news. The latest is around February 5th. Could be anytime now.

Committee News & Member Updates

The staff of *The Negro Leagues Courier* is pleased beyond words to be able to wish happy birthday to Bill Cash (Feb. 21st) and Monte Irvin (Feb. 25th). They both turn 82 this year.

Larry Lester's home fax number of 816-737-8806 is being disconnected. Future Faxes can be received at 816-358-0475, his regular telephone number. Also make note his new "revised" post office box number is 380146, and not 37046. Same box, but the post office decided to remodel and changed the box numbers, costing him, (and others), the additional expense of new business cards, new stationary and the return of some mail to the sender.

Long-time friend and Negro League follower Bill Dunstone will be inducted to the Wall of Fame at Tropicana Field on February 11, 2001. Way to go Bill!

Our man on the street Gene "Two Finger" Carney reports that: "At the regional SABR meeting in Cooperstown on January 20, HOF Library Director Jim Gates gave an update on the Negro Leagues Research Grant. Last summer, MLB announced it was awarding \$250,000 to the HOF Library for research into the Negro Leagues, and requests for proposals were sent out. Jim noted that the HOF Library had initiated this project, asking MLB for the funding. If successful, there will likely be more funding for research made available in the form of grants in the future."

Jim said that about twelve proposals were received; four were really good. The Board established to review them is now considering each, and we can look for an announcement in about two weeks. Jim said that SABR members were prominent among those who had applied, but mentioned no names."

Kaz Sayama, who reports that his health is much improved, has a new fax number. It is: (0739) 22-7149

Bijan Bayne (bbayne@cintechsolutions.com) is seeking a copy or how to obtain David Harmon's THAT OTHER BASEBALL TEAM: The Atlanta Black Crackers and Southern Negro Baseball. Address, Email address or phone? Bayne phone is (513) 351-7293

Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we must pass along the news of the death of the Reverend Harold Tinker on November 27, 2000 in Pittsburgh. A true gentleman in every sense of the word, Tinker, who played for the Pittsburgh Crawfords from 1928-1931, is best remembered as the man who "discovered" Josh Gibson. Articles available are "'Cry Prophet' Devoted To Faith, Baseball" from the 11/30/00 *Tribune-Review* **1pg.; "Harold Tinker: Crawfords Player, Coach, minister at Hill Church" from the 11/29/00 *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* **1pg., "Rev. Tinker: 'The Crying Prophet', Mourned" from the 12/2/00 issue of *The Pittsburgh Courier*, **1pg.

Eli Underwood, who played for the Pittsburgh Crawfords and the Detroit Stars, passed away in Aurora, Colorado on October 8, 2000.

Marv "Tex" Williams, a second baseman for the Philadelphia Stars and the Cleveland Buckeyes, died on Dec., 23, 2000 in Conroe, TX.

Earnest Long, who played for the Cleveland and Louisville Buckeyes from 1948-1950 passed away on Sept. 20, 2000 after a long illness. **1pg obit.

Recently discovered obits show that Pedro Miro, who played 2nd base for the New York Cubans from 1945-1949 died in Buffalo, New York on January 28, 1996 and that Arthur Lockhart, who pitched for the Philadelphia Giants from 1924-1926 died on February 10, 1993 in Buffalo, New York.

Final Resting Places

Kit Krieger, who runs tours of Cuba (*cubaballtour.com*), discovered that a number of former Negro League players are interred in vaults at Havana's largest cemetery, Christopher Columbus Necropolis. Most notable among these are the great Christobal Torriente and "El Diamante Negro" Jose Mendez.

Lyle Wilson sent us a number of gravesites including that of Cum Posey who is buried in Homestead Cemetery in Homestead, PA.

Harold Tinker is buried in Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh, PA.

Amy Essington has supplied us with pictures of the graves of James Raleigh Mackey and Effa Bishop Manley. **1pg.

Bob Bailey submitted the following research piece, concerning final resting places of Negro league players:

Who Else Is There?

The Negro League Committee has had an ongoing project to collect demographic data about the men who played or contributed in the Negro Leagues and other independent teams. On part of that effort is to record the burial locations for these men. Each month a listing of new finds is published. Over 120 sites have been reported. This has been an interesting project to me as for the past several years I have been collecting the burial locations of major leaguers, Negro Leaguers, umpires, executives, owners, sportswriters and anyone else with a connection to baseball (I have a separate list of over 120 actors who have appeared in baseball related movies). With about 2000 locations (only a quarter of the players) I began to look at cemeteries where Negro Leaguers were buried and see if any other ballplayers were "in residence." Here is a look at Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, Alabama.

Thus far four Negro Leaguers are reported buried in this, Birmingham's most prominent cemetery. They are Piper Davis, Wiley Briggs, Sam Hairston, and Freddie Sheppard. Thirteen other major leaguers are also at Elmwood. They include Ben Chapman, Joseph Conzelman, Spud Davis, Eliot Dent, Red Holt, Wilson Daniel Miles, Willard Morrell, Harry Swacina, Guy Tutwiler, Frank Welch, Yam Yaryan and Dixie Walker, father and son (Ewart and Fred).

A mixture of the well known and obscure. Some were top minor league performers with brief big league stays; a few had star-quality seasons; and some are only names in the Baseball Encyclopedia.

There are some non-baseball personalities at Elmwood also. Confederate General William Allen, a member of the Temptations, Eddie James Kendrick, jazz musician Sun Ra, and Alabama icon Paul "Bear" Bryant.

From time to time as new locations are reported we'll look at some other cemeteries and see who else is there. If you have any burial locations of people connected with baseball I would appreciate hearing from you. E-mail at _____ or regular mail at Bob Bailey, 121 South Drive, Newtown, PA 18940.

Negro League Related Articles

"Wisconsin Foundation Keeps Negro Leagues Alive" from the 11/9/00 issue of the *Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder* **1pg.

"In The Shadow of Greatness: Author Recalls Personal Visit With Buck Leonard" by Irvin Goldfarb from the Jan. 2001 issue of *The Vintage & Classic Baseball Collector* is available. **7pgs.

A review of Bill McNeil's "Baseball's Other All Stars" from *The Diamond Angle* is available. *1pg.

"Preserving History, Inspiring Others" from the 11/12/00 issue of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* concerning the opening of yesterday's League Restaurant is available. **2pgs.

"Team-by-Team: Players Who Broke Color Line" available. *1pg.

"Going, Going, Gone...and Not Forgotten" from the 10/18/00 issue of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, concerning Josh Gibson is available. **2pgs.

"Negro Leagues Baseball Celebrates 80 Years" from the 12/17/00 issue of *The Kansas City Star* concerning the Legacy 2000 reunion **1pg. Other articles available concerning the reunion are "Negro League Player Reunion: Gala Raises \$350,000" from 11/23/00 issue of *The Kansas City Globe* **1pg., and three pages of pictures from *The Kansas City Call* **3pgs.

**2pp story on Phelbert "Popcorn" Lawson, "The Satchel Paige of Canton. From *Canton Repository*.

SCD, Feb. 9, 2001, a short piece on Laron Auction for February 1, 2001. This includes many Negro League pieces. **1pg

Current Projects

Over the past few years, Patrick Rock (rock@psabdl.net) has been working to gather a box score for every official Negro League game played in 1923. As of now he is missing 9 of the 323 and played. Six of these are from Chicago. What Patrick needs is someone in the Chicago area that is willing to simply go through the 1923 Chicago papers and let him know which ones carried box scores from American Giants games. He can then get them through Inter Library Loan. If anyone can help him out, please contact Patrick.

The new on line version of *The Diamond Angle*, diamondangle.com, is looking for Negro League articles.

Rich Bozzzone supplied the Committee with a large amount of newspaper articles concerning baseball in Virginia. Many thanks to him.

Rory Costello has put together "Baseball in The Virgin Islands: Our Eastern outpost". It is a very nice 60 page book on the, what else, baseball in the Virgin Islands. It includes plenty of pictures as well as stories on S.K. Govern and Alfonso Gerard and many major leaguers. It is highly recommended by both Dick Clark

Dick Clark and myself. Copies can be purchased from Rory for \$6. His address is 115 Willow Street #4E, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

The Marketplace

Mark Rucker and Transcendental Graphics have produced a very nice poster of the 1923-24 Billiken Cigarros Cuban tobacco cards. The poster, limited to 300, shows all the cards, and is of very high quality. Some of those pictured are Oliver Marcelle, Oscar Charleston, Pop Lloyd, and Christobal Torriente. An ad detailing the poster is available. **1pg. Mark was kind enough to offer the poster to Committee members for \$50, which is 50% percent off the regular price, making this one of the few times you get something for good serving under that tyrant Clark. You can order the poster from: Transcendental Graphics, P.O. Box 3203, Boulder Colorado 80307. Phone (303) 494-6715.

The baseball card company Fleer is honoring the Negro Leagues with a 25-card "Stitches In Time" insert set. Two articles are available. "First View: 2001 Fleer Tradition" **1pg. And "Fleer Honors Negro Leaguers in Tradition" **1pg.

A 16"x10" framed picture of the 1928 St. Louis Stars recently sold at auction for \$19,200. Other recent auction sales include a Cumberland Posey letter on Homestead Grays letterhead that went for \$5,983 and a 1944 Cuban/Latin stars autograph book that went for \$1,903.

Black Baseball In Kansas City by Larry Lester and Sammy J. Miller and published by Arcadia is now available. It is the third in a planned series of five. The first two in the series, *Black Baseball In Chicago* and *Black Baseball in Detroit* are currently available at . The newest will be available there soon. Whether you plan to buy the books or not, head to the site, look up either the Chicago or Detroit book, which Dick Clark co-authored, and read the bio of Clark the website has up. It is fascinating reading.

The 100 Greatest Baseball Players of the 20th Century by Mark McGuire and Michael Sean Gormley and published by McFarland is available. Negro League players who made the cut are #9 Josh Gibson, #33 Satchel Paige, #38 Oscar Charleston, #74 Cool Papa Bell, #76 Martin Dihigo, and #81 Buck Leonard. It should be plainly obvious, in my opinion, that, despite the best efforts of the authors, this book, like so many others like it, have not done justice to the Negro Leagues. Gibson, Leonard, and Dihigo are listed too low and the absence of Pop Lloyd and Smokey Joe Williams is inconceivable.

"Catching Dreams: My Life in the Negro Baseball Leagues" by Frazier Robinson with Paul Bauer is now available in paperback for \$16.95.

The latest offerings from Ebbets Field Flannel are available. **4pgs.

"Louisville Slugger Presents Batting Around: A comprehensive Collection of Hitting Achievements, Anecdotes and Analyses" by by Doug Myers and Brian Dodd is out and contains some Negro League stories. **5pgs.

"Negro Leagues Players' Reunion Alumni Book" is a 94-page book containing short bios of 169 players. Folks can obtain the LEGACY 2000: Negro Leagues Players' Reunion Alumni Book free with a \$29 donation the NLBM **4pp

"Baseball Extra: A Newspaper History of the Glorious Game From Its Beginnings to the Present" from the collection of Eric C. Caren is a large collection of newspaper article reprints that has 8 references to the Negro Leagues including articles from *The Indianapolis Freeman* and the *Washington Afro-American*.

"Splendor On The Diamond: Interviews With 35 Stars of Baseball's Past" by Rich Wescott includes interviews with Monte Irvin and Billy Bruton.

Upcoming Events

The 4th annual NLC Research Conference will be held in Kansas City, MO on June 22-24, 2001. The conference will consist of research presentations, a panel on Satchel Paige, participation in Negro leagues appreciation night at Kaufmann Stadium, and a tour of the Negro Leagues museum, with side trips to the cemetery to view the graves of Satchel Paige and Bullet Rogan, a trip to the Jazz Hall of Fame, and a stroll down 18th and Vine.

The registration will be \$75 and include conference, museum ticket, ball game, banquet and a Sunday brunch.

Lloyd Jonhson has not yet sent us info on where to send registration or the name of the hotel. The upcoming 105th annual meeting of The Texas State Historical Association, March 1-3, 2001 in Houston will have a talk by Robert C. Fink on Professional African American Baseball In Texas: The Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana League.

To celebrate Black History Month Negro Leaguers will be signing three straight weeks. February 9-11 at Plymouth Meeting Mall, Plymouth, PA (Ferrell, Mincy, Duckett, Glenn, Burke, Cash, Teasley, Kaiser, Harris, Sierra, and Hopkins) February 16-18 at Chery Hill Mall, Cherry Hill, NJ (Deck, Peace, Gould, Kimbrough, Pennington, Herrera, Vazquez, Robinson, Jenkins, Scott, Burrows, Battle, and Mamie Johnson). On February 23-25 in Owings Mills Mall in Maryland (Cohen, Tom Johnson, Simmons, Fields, Geraldine Day, Irvin, Carter, Durham, Dudley, and Gould). ** 1pg ad for events.

The Annual Pop Lloyd Conference will be August 24-26, 2001 in Atlantic City and held in conjunction with The Surf event at The Sandcastle. The Pop Lloyd Committee is also seeking a person to help them set up a web site and help to maintain it. Please contact Larry Hogan at (908) 889-4361.

The National SABR Convention will be in Milwaukee, July 11-15, 2001. To be held at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Milwaukee Airport. Official airline of SABR 31 is Midwest Express. Discounts on airfare and car rentals are available. Contact Dick Clark for additional information.

Remembering Jerry Malloy

As was reported in the last issue of *The Negro Leagues Courier*, an effort s underway to dedicate a bench to the memory of our late friend and fellow researcher Jerry Malloy at Rockford College. At last report, the fund had not yet reached the price of the bench. Therefore, we, the staff of *The Courier* ask that all of our readers step forward and make sure our friend is remembered. If everyone who reads *The Courier* would donate whatever they can afford, I am sure we could push the fund over the top. Please take a moment after you finish reading this issue and send a small donation to:

Rockford College Development Office
5050 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108-2393

Be sure your check is clearly marked for the JERRY MALLOY MEMORIAL.

The Final Pitch

A strike over the outside corner.

Sammy J. Miller