

@ SABR - NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER  
APRIL 1994

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#### CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Veteran's Committee has again chosen to ignore deserving Negro Leaguers for induction into the Hall of Fame. I no longer have any hope in their deliberations or process. On the contrary I believe the Negro Leagues will be reborn before the Veterans Committee selects another Black.

We welcome John Russell to the Committee. His address is PO Box 454426 Miami, FL. 33245, (305) 859-9459. John has helped with early 1900's players and plans to research the "Hotel League" games. Welcome aboard!

As always our newsletter depends on the contributions of members and readers like the following people who submitted material: Luis Alvelo, Todd Bolton, Robert Brunson, Ed Cesarone, Kit Crissey, Bob Davids, Bob Eisen, James Floto, Phil Grabar, Leslie Heaphy, Dr. Bob Hieronimus, Larry Hogan, Neil Lanctot, Larry Lester, Jerry Malloy, Andy McCue, Sammy Miller, Jim Overmyer, Jim Passannante, Bob Peterson, Bob Potts, Jim Riley, John Schwartz, and Tweed Webb.

#### NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE PUBLICATION

Those of you who saw the special book section of the recent USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY got to see part of the cover of the NLC Book and a brief description. I guess we have to get it out now. Larry and I are editing galleys and Mark Alvarez is putting it all together (no exact release date as yet.) We think you'll be pleased with the content. It should greatly enhance research on the Negro Leagues. We are also pleased that we have found so many great unpublished photos and that many will be available for individual purchase. Needless to say, Larry and I are slightly behind in returning phone calls and letters; please bear with us.

#### NEGRO LEAGUERS AND THE HALL OF FAME

This will be the last time this section will appear in the newsletter since it is unlikely that Negro Leaguers will ever be selected by the Veterans Committee. If black players could dominate at the Major League level after integration how likely is it that only 11 players from 60 years of segregated play would be deserving? It's very unlikely. The Hall of Fame went to SABR for help in determining qualified candidates from the 19th century and the Negro Leagues but the Veterans Committee obviously didn't bother with reading any of the recommendations. The Hall of Fame should abolish the Veterans Committee before the public actually believes the Veterans Committee speaks for the Hall itself. The callous disregard the Veterans Committee has for Negro Leaguers and the Negro Leagues is truly unbelievable.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

On February 8, 1994 nine Negro League veterans were honored at the White House by Vice-President Al Gore. The event was organized by Bob and Zoh Hieronimus. The NLC's Todd Bolton was also in attendance. Some excellent write ups of the event are available. News release "White House

meets Black Ball 1994," 2-8-94 \*\*2pp and 2-22-94 "Al Gore Recognizes Negro League Pioneers and Heroes," \*\*2pp. \*\*1pg picture of Al Gore and players.

SCD 3-11-94 \*\*1pg, "Negro Leaguers Visit The White House." USA TODAY  
BASEBALL WEEKLY, "Negro Leaguers get executive reception," \*\*1pg. USA  
TODAY 2-21-94, \*\*1pg, " Overdue Praise."

Jim Overmyer shared a seminar with Jeff Suntala (who did the drawing that appears on THE NEGRO LEAGUES BOOK) in Cleveland on Saturday February 5th, at the Wahoo Winterfest. Jim talked about his EFFA MANLEY AND THE NEWARK EAGLES book and Negro League Baseball in general and fortunately sold some books also. Sorry I missed it. Contact Jim if you need a book.

Jerry Malloy had a great time in Omaha at The Missouri Valley History Conference on March 11th with his paper on Sol White.

Upcoming Special Events include the following: Monte Irvin will be inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame in May.

Leon Day will be a featured guest on Wednesday, April 27th in Cleveland as the Indians honor the Negro Leagues.

SABR's National Convention takes place in Arlington, Texas from June 17-19th. This is always a great time, with convention events and committee meetings (our meeting time is tentative at 8 AM, Saturday) and various get togethers of many NLC members. Please plan to attend. This year there could be an extra incentive. The Rangers are interested in holding a National Negro League Day at The Ballpark in Arlington on Sunday June 19th. Further details are sketchy at present but contact me if you need to.

Look for the TV airing of Larry Hogan's BEFORE YOU CAN SAY JACKIE ROBINSON video on Channel 13 in New York City in May or June; check your local PBS station for possible air dates.

#### COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cancer has taken Hall of Famer Ray Dandridge from us on February 12th in Palm Bay, Florida. He battled hard staying with us longer than we could have hoped. He was able to return to his home days before and had his family's future planned for. He will be deeply missed. The Committee is very grateful to all who passed along articles from around the country and especially thankful to Jim Riley who sent along a copy of the funeral program and local articles. The following are available: SCD 3-11-94. WASHINGTON POST 2-14-94, NEW YORK TIMES 2-14-94, USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY \*\* all 1pg. Articles: Richmond, VA TIMES-DISPATCH 2-14-94, "Dandridge's Journey to Hall began in Church Hill cornfield," \*\*2pp. FLORIDA TODAY, 2-13-94, "Hall-of-Famer Ray Dandridge Dies," \*\*1pg. 2-14-94, "Friends recall Dandridge's greatness," \*\*1pg. 2-15-94, "Dandridge's life a lesson," \*\*1pg. 2-17-94, Obit, \*\*1pg. NEWARK STAR-LEDGER, 2-14-94, "Dandridge recalled with respect by baseball, hometown of Newark," \*\*1pg. & 2-21-94. "In a League of His Own," \*\*2pp. 2-15-94 Jerry Izenberg at large column, "The end of a dream denied," \*\*1pg. Funeral Program-\*\*4pp. News release from Hieronimus & Co. 2-13-94, "Another Great One Bites The Dust," \*\*2pp.

Saul Davis had been the oldest living Negro league Veteran when he passed February 8, 1994 (the correct date) in Minot, N.D. He was a very charming young looking person. Obits, each \*\*1pg, SCD, USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY, and WASHINGTON POST. Also, MINOT DAILY NEWS, 2-10-94, "Davis Leaves Minot With Memories," \*\*1pg. Also available, an excellent \*\*2pp story done last year on Saul in Minot, "Living for the moment for more than 91 years."

We are also saddened to pass along the death of Paul Dixon, 86 who was buried January 24, 1994 in Harrisburg, PA. and Leonard Pigg who passed on August 22, 1993 in Seattle WA.

On a cheerier note Al Wilmore is home recuperating from by-pass surgery. Send him a card at 3751 N. Bouvier St. Philadelphia, PA 19140.

Congratulations to Leonard Coleman upon his selection as the new National League President. We hope he will be more active in pursuing minority hiring and take an pro-active position on the Negro Leagues. Bill White did little and had no influence in Veterans Committee actions on Negro Leaguers, unless it was negative. \*\*1pg NEW YORK TIMES of 3-11-94 piece on Coleman.

Tweed Webb is making available HISTORICAL DATES IN BLACK BASEBALL HISTORY. 20 pages compiled by Tweed who has chronicled black ball for 82 years. \$6 + \$1 P&H, \$7 total to Norman "Tweed" Webb 4574 Enright Ave. St. Louis, MO. 63108. I got mine.

The 1994 edition of THE NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL MUSEUM YEARBOOK will focus on "Greatest Teams". Write to Larry Lester, PO Box 414897, Kansas City, MO. 64141-4897 for details. This is a great outlet for Negro League material. Submit that article on your favorite team, even pre-League teams.

Check the April SPORTS ILLUSTRATED FOR KIDS for an article on Toni Stone.

Lou Dials will be in Tulsa, OK. on April 16th & 17th. He will be in San Francisco on Memorial Weekend and in Anaheim in July.

From the BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE of Monday, March 29, 1909, "A benefit game will be played at Meyerrose Park on the morning of April 25 in aid of the veteran colored player, Bud Fowler. Bert Williams of Williams and Walker will umpire the game, and in the lineup will be such oldtimers as George Williams, the first captain of the original Cuban Giants, Ben Holmes, Bob Jordan, John Nelson, "Pop" Watkins, Clarence Williams, Sol White, Frank Grant, Nat Collins, Bob Jackson, and Oscar Jackson." (quite a lineup.)

Luis Alvelo produced a beautiful Spanish postcard on Pancho Coimbre for a March exhibit in Ponce, on Puerto Rican Baseball.

Thanks to Bob Davids who passed along biographical data on William H. Selden, 19th century player, gathered by Bob Richardson. \*\*1pg.

16 players including Leon Day, Wilmer Fields, Max Manning, Ted Radcliffe, and Buck Leonard are scheduled for a Sports Card & Memorabilia Show in Ann Arbor, Michigan at Dominoes Farms, April 9th & 10th.

#### NEGRO LEAGUES RELATED ARTICLES

ORLANDO SENTINEL, 2-6-94, "Museum Honors Black Players," \*\*2pp.

AP wire story by Janita Poe of THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, "Two Negro League stars find deserved adulation, late in life," (Radcliffe & Lockett) \*\*1pg.

THE POST-STANDARD of Syracuse, NY 2-28-94, "Trials of Fleet Walker," \*\*3pp.

\*\*1pg from Vol 4 #1 January, 1994 ORIOLE GAZETTE, "Negro Leaguer Leon Day Honored," (the December 5th event).

From BLACK BALL NEWS: THE JOURNAL OF NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL HISTORY. \*\*1pg article by Todd Bolton, "Puerto Rican Hall of Fame Soars Past Cooperstown."

"Was a part of the 'Black Living Legends of Negro Baseball'," (Eugene Williams). \*\*1pg from the 2-5-93 THE OAK RIDGER (Oak Ridge, TN)

USA TODAY 2-7-94 Tom Weir commentary, "Smith a Baseball Pioneer Worthy of Honor," (Wendell Smith) \*\*1pg.

2-5-94 KANSAS CITY STAR \*\*1pg, "Negro Leagues get financial lift."

THE DIAMOND ANGLE issue #40 has 8 pages of articles in its special issue. \$2.50 available from TDA PO Box 409, Kaunakakai, HI 96748.

USA TODAY 2-1-94, "Rizzuto merits next Hall of Fame nod," \*\*1pg.

Hieronimus & Co. News Release, \*\*1pg 1-24-94, "Success!! Negro League Baseball Veterans and Major League Baseball Come to Terms."

USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY, Feb 23 to March 1, 1994, \*\*1pg "Day Looking to join a Paige in History."

THE DIAMOND ANGLE issue #39, a short piece on Leon Day. \*\*1pg.

SCD 4-1-94, "The Color Line Fell Too Late For Many Black Players," (Bruton & Minoso), \*\*7pp.

ATHLON BASEBALL, 1994 has Jim Riley's, "For The Love of The Game," \*\*3pp.

THE DIAMOND, November issue has Jim Riley's "The Thunder Twins" (Gibson & Leonard) \*\*4pp.

\*\*1pg copy of box score of game of July 31, 1947 between New York Black Yankees and Rochester Stars (not a black team) as noted on page 1 of WHEN THE GAME WAS BLACK AND WHITE.

USA TODAY 1-31-94, "Robinson's Widow continues his work through Foundation," \*\*1pg.

Bill Plott's latest 'Where Are They Now' column is on Willie Smith, \*\*2pp from the 1-9-94 BIRMINGHAM NEWS.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER article on old-timer, Louis Donaldson. \*\*1pg

Volume 2 Number 2 Spring, 1994 NINE: A JOURNAL OF BASEBALL HISTORY AND SOCIAL POLICY PERSPECTIVES, has three more articles and a book review \*\*1pg. The articles are Jerry Malloy's The Birth of The Cuban Giants: The Origins of Black Professional Baseball. \*\*8pp. From Giants to Monarchs: The 1890 Season of The Colored Monarchs of York, Pennsylvania, by Jerry Jaye Wright. \*\*6pp. The Year Cool Papa Bell Lost The Batting Title, part I \*\*9pp.

Satchel Paige's 10 greatest pitchers of all time from THE BOOK OF LISTS #2. \*\*1pg.

#### CURRENT AND FUTURE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Anyone with knowledge of a player in the '40's Lorenzo Clark, please let me know.

John Murray, 5727 156th Ave. NE, Redmond, WA 98052-5134 of SABR's Umpires and Rules Committee is working on a roster of Negro League Umpires. Please pass along or contact him with any data you may have.

Please contact me immediately if you would be interested in a possible future involvement with an On-Line computer service. You need a computer. This is in the early stages but I would like to know of any interest out there. Also, let me know if you might be interested in being involved in a SABR Speakers Bureau and your area of expertise.

#### THE MARKETPLACE

Jim Riley's, THE BIOGRAPHICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES is out in stores and a must have tome. Sale priced at \$29.95 until the end of the year. Call libraries and bookstores in your area to be sure that they have ordered this book and all the rest mentioned below.

Neil Lanctot's book is due in May, FAIR DEALING AND CLEAN PLAYING: THE HILLDALE CLUB AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF BLACK PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL 1910-1932. by McFarland 304pp 36 photos, \$25.95

Another McFarland book is Jim Reisler's BLACK WRITERS/BLACK BASEBALL: AN ANTHOLOGY OF ARTICLES FROM BLACK SPORTSWRITERS WHO COVERED THE NEGRO LEAGUES. 160pp.

Richard Bak's TURKEY STEARNES AND THE DETROIT STARS: THE NEGRO LEAGUES IN DETROIT 1919-1933 is due in April.

Tony George of STRIKE ZONE is making available to collectors Negro League Classic Team Logo Pins. There are 34 in total. I have several and they are quite nice. Write to Tony for a listing of them. 22431-B160 Antonio Pwky #252, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688. (714) 589-6075.

WHO'S WHO IN BASEBALL HISTORY by NLC member Lloyd Johnson and his wife Brenda Ward is in stores. It includes brief bios of 3000 people including many Negro Leaguers. 480pp \$25

DON'T LOOK BACK: SATCHEL PAIGE IN THE SHADOWS OF BASEBALL by Mark Ribowsky is out, 351pp 32 photos, \$23. Haven't read yet. \*\*1pg review from the 2-20-94 KANSAS CITY STAR.

JUST CALL ME MINNIE: MY SIX DECADES IN BASEBALL from Sagamore Publishing is scheduled for April at \$20. Contact me for \*\*2pp flyer.

APBA Game Co. has a special offer on the Negro Leagues 20 team card set. Call them at 800 334-2722. \*\*1pp list of teams, available.

17 new players will be featured in the Negro League subset of the 1994 edition of The Ted Williams Card Set. The subset will be written by Phil Dixon. \*\*4pp from SCD 2-18-94.

Two other McFarland books with topics related to our interests are Peter Bjarkman's BASEBALL WITH A LATIN BEAT: A HISTORY OF THE LATIN AMERICAN GAME. 336pp. Also, CROSSING THE LINE: BLACK MAJOR LEAGUERS 1947-1959. 256pp.

Two videos are available by calling 800 228-4336. There are ONLY THE BALL WAS WHITE, narrated by Paul Winfield, \$19.95 30 minutes and JACKIE ROBINSON; 2 Nightline tributes including the 4-6-87 Al Campanis esipode, 70 minutes for \$19.95

Saw a ad for a \$199 uncut sheet of collector cards Legends of The Negro Leagues in USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY \*\*1pg.

Only Son of Chicago is licensed by the NLBPA and is putting together a video on the Negro Leagues. It's purpose will be to educate students on the League and it's players and contributions to the game and African-Americans. They seek information on previously produced videos on the subject. Contact Robert Brunson 309 South Leavitt Chicago ,IL 60612, (312) 666-9237.

We have a \*\*6pp copy of a brochure from Drew Pearson Companies that feature Negro League Baseball caps, jerseys, T-shirts, and sweatshirts.

#### FINAL REMARKS

Our next newsletter will be June's. Be sure to get items to me before the last week of May, particularly anything you want discussed in Arlington.

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