

S A B R - NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
October 1991

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Negro League Reunion in Cooperstown was an unqualified success. Many NLC members were inundated with questions and requests for information prior to and after the event. The publicity surrounding the event was terrific. To paraphrase Bob Peterson "who would have ever expected to see Negro Leaguers on page 1 of THE NEW YORK TIMES." We must continue to build on it.

This newsletter reflects the worthy contributions of the following: Luis Alvelo, Bob Bluthardt, Todd Bolton, Don Brand, David Burge, Bob Eisen, Larry Epke, Leslie Heaphy, Tom Hill, Larry Hogan, Merl Kleinknecht, Neil Lanctot, Neil Leister, Larry Lester, Jerry Malloy, Gary Maurer, Andy McCue, Joe Murphy, Jim Overmyer, Claudia Perry, Bob Peterson, David Pietrusza, Jim Riley, Al Ritter, Jay Sanford, Charlie Tiano, John Townsend, & Tweed Webb.

NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE PUBLICATION

The work on the NLC publication proceeds along but we have not received any positive word on who will be publishing it or when.

Thanks to Bob Eisen and Neil Lanctot for again passing along more rosters and register updates.

Jerry Malloy contributed more Cuban Giants data.

Tom Hill sent photo copies of scorebooks on games involving the 1906 Philadelphia Giants and Brooklyn Giants. This was a great find by Tom.

Luis Alvelo was able to give us pertinent facts on many Latin American players along with clearing up some questions on some players.

Finally, Jay Sanford passed along data on Bud Fowler and George Taylor from their days in the Colorado area.

NEGRO LEAGUERS AND THE HALL OF FAME

It isn't too early to start our write-in campaign for the inclusion of more Negro Leaguers. We can take advantage of recent events and of increased public awareness. Contact me if you need addresses for Veterans Committee members. Regarding the Board of Directors of the Hall, be advised Charlie Gehringer has retired. Two new members are Robin Roberts and William Gladstone.**1p

BEN TAYLOR MEMORIAL FUND

Todd Bolton has made some important contacts on behalf of the fund. He has met with the Baltimore Orioles and the NAACP and things look good on receiving donations. The local cemetery, where Ben is buried, has said it will deduct \$100 from the headstone price. Contributions, however, have been slow. Only \$470 has been sent in. I would like to publicly thank the following newsletter readers for their donations; Bob Peterson, Dick Simpson, Gary Maurer, David Burge, Phil Grabar, Steve Thompson, John Morelli, Leon Day, Tom Garrett, David Skinner, Jim Costello, Wilmer Reid, and John Townsend.

Only 11 of our own NLC members have donated money, as of this date. I would expect, at least, 2/3 of us to contribute, something. So don't delay any longer. I'll announce all donators in December's newsletter.

SPECIAL EVENTS

On August 23rd The Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame inducted the class of 1991. Among the inductees were Moses Fleetwood Walker and Sam Jethroe. Our congratulations to all. "Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame inducts five", **2pp, SCD 9-27-91 "Two African-Americans inducted into Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame" **1p "Sam 'The Jet' Jethroe's career remembered" **2pp "Fleet Walker to get Hall of Fame honor" **1p Fleet Walker postcards are available from Jerry Malloy at 3 for \$1.

We would personally like to thank Merl Kleinknecht for his terrific efforts in making it all happen. Merl, with help from Leslie Heaphy, provided information to the Hall's committee. Merl initiated and followed through by providing overwhelming data on the players. Thank you Merl! If only Cooperstown was as receptive.

On August 11-13, 1991 Negro Leaguers held a reunion in Cooperstown. About 70 players were in attendance for the event, co-sponsored by Major League Baseball and Southern Bell. A grand time was had by all. Our thanks to Todd Bolton and Jim Overmyer who were there and were gracious enough to provide us with their observations.

The players arrived throughout Sunday. Double Duty Radcliffe was the life of the party, in the Otesaga Hotel lobby. The invitees were heavy on NAL veterans and lesser known stars, which was good since it brought many Western players to the East and enabled fans to speak with lesser known players. The prominent names were Hank Aaron, Buck O'Neil, Leon Day, Sam Jethroe, Radcliffe, and Joe Black. There was a special dinner for the players and their guests that was followed by a reception.

Monday was the big day. The players toured The Hall of Fame. The Negro League veterans were all uniformly dressed in red caps, red ties, and blue windbreakers and were besieged by Hall visitors. A group photo was taken at the Negro League Exhibit. The final phase of the visit was a private showing of a film which chronicles the history of baseball but doesn't show a Black face until Jackie Robinson. (This point didn't elude the viewers.)

After lunch proved to be the best time to speak with the players. Todd spent time conversing with Leon Day, Piper Davis, Andy Porter, and Jim Zapp. Jim was able to pick up a couple of short interviews with Red Moore and Chico Renfroe. He was also able to make a couple of good research connections. At 4:00PM they held a press conference with 3 players assigned to a table. A cocktail hour followed at a private home. That evening at the banquet, Hank Aaron, Fay Vincent, Bill White, and Buck O'Neil spoke. The players received commemorative medallions plus inclusion in a good-looking photo program put together for the event.

No special activities happened on Monday as the players departed throughout the day.

This was truly a wonderful event reminiscent of the Ashland reunions. Try to make room on your calendar for it next year.

A list of players is available (**1page). Much appreciation to Jim and Todd for passing along the book from the event, FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME. It is 80 pages. I suggest contacting Southern Bell, in Atlanta, The Hall of Fame about obtaining a copy. A slew of articles are available regarding the event.

USA TODAY 8-9-91 (front page) "Finally, A Tribute" **2pg

USA TODAY 8-13-91 "Negro Leaguers cite exploitation" **1pg

USA TODAY 8-13-91 "Vincent lauds contributions Negro League players made" **1pg

USA TODAY BB WEEKLY 8/16-22,1991 "Negro Leaguers seek entry into Hall" **2pg and "Time wasn't right for Robinson to join Sox" **1pg
 NEW YORK NEWSDAY 8-18-91 "Basking in show time" **1pg
 NEWARK STAR-LEDGER 8-27-91 "Cooperstown covers a base" **1pg
 JET, 9-2-91 "Negro League stars celebrate reunion at Hall of Fame" **1pg
 KANSAS CITY CALL "Welcome to the journey" **1pg and "Seventy-five surviving Negro Leaguers attend reunion" **1pg
 NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, four-part series by Wayne Coffey, THE FORGOTTEN ONES, 8-11to13-1991 "Proud to play" **4pp "The Cuban flavor" **2pp
 "The rediscovery" **2pp
 THE NEW YORK TIMES by Claire Smith, 8-12-91 "Rejoicing, urgently for time long gone" **1pg "Belated tribute to baseball's Negro Leagues" **2pp

FUTURE SPECIAL EVENTS

On October 19th and 20th The Baseball Hall of Fame of Puerto Rico will induct it's first members. Activities on Saturday will include an old-timers game. On Sunday the following will be honored; Pedro "Perucho" Cepeda, Francisco "Pancho" Coimbre, Luis A. "Canena" Marquez, Roberto Clemente, Willard Brown, Robert Thurman, Victor Pellot (Power), Rueben Gomez, Orlando Cepeda, and Juan "Terin" Pizzaro. This will all take place in Ponce, P.R. Rafael Costas was selected as first President of the Hall. The first Caribbean expo and card show will be on Oct.24-27 in San Juan. 14 players are expected to attend **1pg

NEGRO LEAGUES RELATED ARTICLES

We're very sadden to pass along the news of the death of Othello 'Chico' Renfro, on September 3, 1991, of a heart attack. Chico was a leader among the NL veterans. A big loss. AP obit **1pg

Upper Deck Heroes of Baseball, along with B.A.T., honored Negro Leaguers, in Philadelphia on August 10th. There were 15 honorees **1pg and **3pp press releases available.

"Names, games are still vivid for this fill-in" (Jim Harris), 8-18-91 HARRISBURG SUNDAY PATRIOT NEWS **2pp and Pennsylvania Profiles on Josh Gibson **1pg

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED in their 8-5 and 8-12-91 issues explored the Black Athlete with many stories. You should check them out.

"Luke Easter and integration of the PCL" from PCL NEWSLETTER **1pg

Spanish to English translation for Spanish baseball records **1pg

"Field of broken dreams" (Bill Beverly & Willard Brown) 8-24-91

HOUSTON POST **3pp

"Bill Owens remembers when only the ball was White" INDIANAPOLIS STAR 8-15-91 **1pg

"Striking out at The Hall of Fame" **1pg

THE WASHINGTON POST, 7-7-91 "Paige's four-day rider does job" by John Holway, adapted from JOSH AND SATCH **1pg and "Baseball is outer limits for city youth" **1pg & "Fewer Blacks participate in baseball" **4pp

"Cuba: A land of rough-cut diamonds" 8-11-91 NEWSDAY **2pp

USA TODAY BB WEEKLY 8/2-6-91 "Dominican town could fill a franchise" by Rob Ruck **2pp

"Ring is nice, but pension's better, THE NEW YORK TIMES, 8-14-91 **1pg

We have the first press release for the Pop Lloyd Field Committee.

We Have 5 separate AP wire stories regarding the Boston Red Sox and Black fans, in Boston. I am unaware of when or where they appeared in print. **2pp, 4pp, 4pp, 2pp, 9pp

Tweed Webb has passed along several pages of various articles covering many years **10pp

We have the funeral program for Robert Griffith, who passed on 11-13-1977 **2pp and a **2pp article courtesy of Jay Sanford.

Also the funeral program for Eric Illidge, from Jim Overmyer**4pp
"Black sportswriter broke journalism barriers" (Sam Lacy) 8-25-91
HAGERSTOWN HERALD-MAIL **1pg

Joe Lee passed along news about an 8-23-91 edition of "The Locker Room" radio call-in show on WMAZ, in Macon, GA. Dudley Powell, the host, interviewed NL veteran Ernest Long.

A handsome brochure put out by the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is available for an SASE. Sent to NLBM 1601 East 18th St. Suite 206 Kansas City, MO 64108 (816) 221-1920

8-16-91 SCD article on Jerry Hairston (son of Sam) **2pp

Jim Riley's latest piece from OLDTIME BASEBALL NEWS vol 3 #3 is on Bill Wright **2pp

"Negro League still seeking deserved recognition" (John Miles & Clyde McNeal) 8-6-91 SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS **1pg

8-11-91 SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS "Female player was a minority of one" (Toni Stone) **4pp. Also from the 8-23-91 SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, "Baseball's 'intruder' loved game" **1pg

"White writer says our baseball players superior to Big Leaguers" copy of an article by DETROIT NEWS sports editor H.G. Salsinger which appeared in 1941 **2pp

Scott Levy's 2 part series on Chicago's role in NL history **4pp

**5pp book review of THE ORIGINAL COLORED HOUSE OF DAVID (fiction)

On September 24, 1991 Robert Eisen presented a slide show on Dexter Park (home of the Bushwicks) at the Woodhaven Library **1pg pre-event art.

Two articles by Michael Santa Maria from AMERICAN VISIONS, April, 1990 "One Strike and You're Out" **6pp and "King of the hill" (Greenlee) June, 1991, **4pp

USA TODAY BB WEEKLY 9/20-26-91 "Majestic Home Runs Have Long History" by John Holway **2pp

From the JOURNAL MESSENGER of Manassas, VA, we have "Manassas' Fields would have made it in Majors". 1-19-90 **1pg and "Fields' dreams chronicled for upcoming autobiography". 9-14-91 **1pg

7-14-91 CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, "Blacks turn backs to baseball". **2pp

CURRENT AND FUTURE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Charlie Tiano's 61 years in the newspaper business and his career in various sports will be the subject of an upcoming book. Charlie a SABR member from Woodstock, NY has played barnstorming games against the likes of Redding, Holland, Williams, Dihigo, etc. I look forward to reading it.

Sharon Johnson of 4115 N. Leclaire, Chicago, IL 60641 (312) 777-4518 is doing research for a book on woman baseball players by Barbara Gregovich. She needs info on Carrie Nation from the 1912 All Nations team; Lucille Herbert, coach for the New Orleans Creoles, in 1947; Maggie Riley, Chicago player in the 1920's; and Laura Johnson recruited by a New York team in 1924. Please see if you can help out.

Our thanks to Bob Bluthardt for providing names and addresses to our recent query on the 87th Artillery at Ft. Bliss

Dan Ginsburg, of Jupiter, FL, is researching all scandals in baseball from the earliest days. He is seeking any info on incidents from the Negro Leagues. Let him know if you know of any.

Tommy Bogger is finishing up an article on Tommy Burt, an Indy Clowns teammate, of Toni Stone.

Brett Barrougue is researching the Southern Negro League, seeking any information. Contact me if you can help.

THE MARKETPLACE

JOSH AND SATCH: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOSH GIBSON AND SATCHEL PAIGE, by John Holway, is now out. It is 238 pages with an index and appendix.

Lifetime records for Gibson and Paige are included along with single season and career batting and pitching leaders. I do not know the price. Meckler is the publishing. Check with them, John, or a bookstore. It is certainly a book you should have and is highly recommended.

Robert Peterson's ONLY THE BALL WAS WHITE will be reissued again, in the spring of 1992, by Oxford Press. Bob would appreciate knowing of any glaring errors in the text.

The NLC and NLBM have been in contact with Sandlot Legends 4627 Martinique Dr. Stow, OH 44224 (216) 929-3281. The company is reproducing Negro Leagues Pennants. They are of excellent quality and great collector items. The teams are Homestead, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New York Black Yankees. Cost is \$17 plus \$2 p&h. Send for a brochure or call. I have seen the pennants, they are highly recommended.

BENDERS! TALES FROM SOUTH BEND BASEBALL PAST by John Kovach, 80pp w/photos (Black baseball included) is available. Order from Greenstocking Press 119 Lapointe Ave. South Bend, IN 46616

A new T-shirt and sweatshirt are available through The Hall of Fame gift shop, in Cooperstown, I have a photo copy of the front. Todd Bolton says the quality is excellent, cost is \$14 & \$23 Call or write them for details; PO box 590A, zip is 13326.

The NLBPA Ron Lewis Card Set is available now, according to reports. Contact the NLBPA 425 Park Ave. Suite 16-24 New York, NY 10022 (212) 874-3228.

I have the August NLBPA Newsletter available **3pp

On Oct. 19-20, in Mt. Laurel, N.J., a host of Negro Leaguers will be in attendance for a card show.

As a follow up to recent requests, the address for R.D. Retort Enterprises is Rd # 8 Box 800 New Castle, PA 16105 (800) 544-5766 Series I is listed at \$85.

FINAL REMARKS

Once again I implore everyone to please make their contribution to the Ben Taylor Fund, now.

The next newsletter is December's. Please get all material to me before the last week of November.

Dick & Larry

Dick Clark and Larry Lester
NLC Co-Chairpeople