

SABR - NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
February 1993

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

This edition will discuss some changes in future events and renews the call to support Negro Leaguers' selection to the Hall of Fame.

We welcome a new NLC member, Jeff Passehl. Jeff is also new to SABR and would appreciate assistance in expanding his Negro Leagues knowledge. Jeff's address is 510 Chipeta Rd. Montrose, CO 81401, (303)240-1640.

This newsletter reflects the worthy contributions of the following: Bob Browning, Bill Cash, Robert Eisen, Michael Foster, Leslie Heaphy, Bob Hieronimus, John Holway, Bill Hugo, William Jackson, Larry Lester, Jerry Malloy, Jeff Passehl, Bob Peterson, Robert Retort, Greg Stokesberry, Tweed Webb, and Bill Williamson.

NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE PUBLICATION

The project is proving to be harder than anyone thought. Minor program glitches and difficulties in finding the time to get everything in order has resulted in delays. The cost to produce the book is also higher than originally considered. But fear not, the SABR Board of Directors has reaffirmed its commitment to the NLC publication. The NLC and Publications Director, Mark Alvarez are determined to have a finished manuscript by April 1st. 1993 is not a certainty for publication but it will be published.

NEGRO LEAGUERS AND THE HALL OF FAME

Later this month or in early March the Veterans Committee of Baseball's Hall of Fame will meet to decide if anyone enters the Hall this year. Let us pray they will "see the light" and select at least one Negro Leaguer to honor. I trust everyone has sent their thoughts to Veterans Committee members or the Hall of Fame, itself. I've heard from many who have. Bob and Zoh Hieronimus have again sent a big package including video and printed materials. Thanks to everyone!

Perhaps "Frau" Schott's recent remarks and Reverend Jackson's meetings with Major League Baseball will help our cause. Who knows, perhaps the Hall of Fame will become enlightened enough to see that discrimination exists within their hallowed halls as it does within the hierarchy of baseball itself.

SPECIAL EVENTS

In the Fall of 1991 Stokesberry & Sons began to cultivate the seed of an idea to bring together the surviving players that integrated each of the teams of Major League Baseball to honor them and to present their stories as educational, motivational, and inspirational tools for learning to the school children of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The seed sprouted in the form of the Barrier Breakers Program originally scheduled for three days during Black History Month, February, 1992. As the 1992 event was being planned many opportunities for community wide involvement became apparent and compelled us to reschedule the program for Black History Month, February, 1993 and rename it Barrier Breakers Week.

Now that little seed we planted in the Fall of 1991 has been so kindly and carefully nurtured by such a committed group of individuals nationwide that we are pleased to announce THE YEAR OF THE BARRIER BREAKERS FEBRUARY 1993-FEBRUARY 1994. The year will culminate with the appearance of the surviving Barrier Breakers in Cedar Rapids during February, 1994. THE YEAR OF THE BARRIER BREAKERS will be comprised of events aimed at heightening public awareness of the achievements of these modern day pioneers while providing educators with programming and materials designed to enhance the presentation of their current curriculum. Here are just a few of the components that will highlight THE YEAR OF THE BARRIER BREAKERS:

MAJOR CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP we'll soon be able to announce our major corporate sponsor who will underwrite the cost of the program while bringing national attention;

NETWORK TELEVISION INTEREST one of the television networks has expressed interest in developing programming complimentary to the Barrier Breakers;

NATIONAL EDUCATION INTERFACE the Barrier Breakers Program has already started dialogue with a number of school systems across the country to help in developing this resource as a means of better communication, comprehension and retention;

INTERNATIONAL INTEREST Stokesberry & Son have been contacted by representatives of media and educational systems from abroad to help publicize and utilize the Barrier Breakers Educational Program;

THE BARRIER BREAKERS TRUST because of the financial commitment from corporate sponsorship to cover presentation expenses, the BB Program is able to pursue money raising initiatives to help fund other worthwhile programs locally and around the country including; The Art "Superman" Pennington Baseball League for Children, BAT (Baseball Assistance Team), SABR (Society for American Baseball Research), The Cooperstown Symposium On Baseball & The American Culture, the Negro Leagues Museum, and the production of educational aides to assist other educators in making similar presentations;

BARRIER BREAKERS: THE INTEGRATION OF MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL 1947-1959 Stokesberry & Son president Gregory Stokesberry has been solicited and is finalizing arrangements to author a book on the Barrier Breakers to be published and released February 1, 1994 to coincide with the program;

GREATLY ENHANCED LOCAL PROGRAMMING Cedar Rapids area cultural and educational institutions will be contributing substantially to the gathering and presentation of resource material. The Barrier Breakers Film Festival at Coe College, the production of an unpublished play about the opening day trials of Jackie Robinson and a Black Baseball Art Exhibition are only a few of the pilot projects in the works.

As you can see, our little seed has bloomed and is ready to blossom in ways we never thought possible as we work to achieve our goals of recognition of achievement and educational advancement by enhancement.

Dr. Larry Hogan will be teaching Black Baseball History, July 26 to 30 at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York-20 minutes from Cooperstown. Head on up I'm sure class monitors will be accepted.

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our fondest Happy Birthday wishes to Bill Cash (February 21st) and Monte Irvin (February 25th). Both will be 74!

We were recently made aware of the passing of C.L. Moore. **1pg story from the 11-19-92 ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES.

NLC address list is available **2pp.

Claudia Perry is recovering nicely from surgery in early December (just after deadline for last newsletter). We wish her the best and look forward to seeing her in San Diego, this summer.

Bob Retort is asking everyone to please pass along to him at 800 544-5766 or by mail Rd#8 Box 800 New Castle, PA 16105, any additions, corrections, mistakes, etc. you may have caught in THE PICTORIAL NEGRO LEAGUE LEGENDS ALBUM. He is working on an expanded updated version and wants it to be historically accurate.

We try to refrain from this type of statement but I feel it is necessary. Be warned DO NOT deal with either Mike Smith of Glendale, CA or Larry Shane of Villanova University. Both gentlemen have ripped-off members of the NLC and totally misrepresented themselves. Be careful, there are people who really have no regard for the history and players of the Negro Leagues.

NEGRO LEAGUES RELATED ARTICLES

Gene Benson was in the SUNDAY COMICS (nationwide) on January 17, 1993. The strip JUMPSTART featured Gene. **1pg check your local paper.

Jim Riley's latest from OLDTIME BASEBALL NEWS is "The Dean of The Monarchs", Buck O'Neill **2pp

The TOLEDO BLADE, 12-14-92 "Black players owe Robinson" **1pg

USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY 1/13-1/26, 1993, "Generation gap closes as 'Skip' Jackson gets a card." **1pg

"No place in the shade", (Cool Papa Bell) **7pp, an old piece source unknown.

"Local great recalls another world", (Leonard) **1pg

From NEW ODYSSEY, Fall, 1992, remembering the Negro Leagues with Byron Johnson, "Satchel, Buck, and Me" **3pp

QUEEN CITY HERITAGE, Volume 50 Summer, 1992 #2, "Fleet Walker in the Twilight Zone", **11pp

**1pg Spanish listing of members in the Cuban Hall of Fame.

From BOOK WORLD, 12-6-92 "Stars og Might", reviews of the Dixon and Chadwick books. **1pg

12/4 to 12/10, 1992 LA WEEKLY, "A view from the press box", (A.S. 'Doc' Young) **3pp

9-18-92 CINCINNATI ENQUIRER, "Former Ballplayer Gets Major-League Help", **1pg Follow-up on last newsletter article.

Vol 7 #1 Summer, 1992 OAH MAGAZINE OF HISTORY **4pp "The Negro Leagues", by Jules Tygiel, adapted from TOTAL BASEBALL.

SCD 1-15-93, "Robert Retort: an expert in Negro League Memorabilia", **2pp

SCD 1-29-93 "Negro League Great Artie Wilson Profiled", **2pp

CURRENT AND FUTURE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Larry Hogan is seeking any information on Franklin 'Doc' Sykes. Contact Larry at 20 Rainier Rd. Fanwood, NJ 07023.

William Jackson has done research at Tuskegee University, Fulton County Library (Chico Renfroe scrapbook) and is setting up video interviews with former Atlanta Black Crackers for the coming months. He has been in touch with the Montgomery, AL Dept. of History and Archives but they had nothing on the Montgomery Grey Sox. Contact William if you have anything on the Grey Sox at (205) 745-7676.

Oscar Soule seeks information in the Piney Woods Collegians (as does the NLC). Contact him at The Evergreen State College, Ecology Dept. Olympia, WA 98505

THE MARKETPLACE

The Jan-Feb issue of LEGENDS has a complete run down on Bobbin Heads and includes pictures of the Leon Day and Satchel Paige dolls. I wrote a congratulatory letter to the editor of LEGENDS, Michael Godfrey, regarding the excellent NL coverage, in the last issue. They received good response from readers and future articles and a card insert are very possible.

"Eclipse to release Leon Day lithograph", from SCD 1-1-93 **1pg. I have heard conflicting reports on this item. Eclipse's number is (707) 887-1521 to check out.

Bob Retort is offering THE PICTORIAL NEGRO LEAGUE LEGENDS ALBUM for a 10% discount (\$27) or free when purchasing THE NEGRO LEAGUE LEGENDS POSTCARD SET (\$85). Call 800 544-5766 to order these terrific items.

The December SABR BULLETIN discussed the 3-audio cassette BLACK DIAMONDS. We have mentioned this pricey but historically significant oral history collection in the past. It is recommended. SABR members receive a 10% with another 10% donated to SABR if you mention the BULLETIN ad. Order from TAPES FOR READERS 5078 FULTON ST. NW, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016. Cost, after discount would be \$45 + \$2.75 postage.

The 1-8-93 issue of SCD had a **4pp article "Bringing back uniforms of the past", on Ebbets Field Flannels.

I have received copies of three books mentioned in the last newsletter. Wilmer Field's autobiography MY LIFE IN THE NEGRO LEAGUES is terrific. It was like sitting down with Wilmer and listening to his great stories. Leslie Heaphy is writing a review for THE JOURNAL OF SPORT HISTORY. I thought it was wonderful; the only objection could be it was too short and I wanted it to go on and on.

WHEN THE GAME WAS BLACK AND WHITE, has many color photos of hard to attain publications and memorabilia. It also has a comprehensive listing of most all Black semi-pro teams around the country. It should be a part of anyone's library and is worthwhile. This book and the Phil Dixon-Amereon House THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES are nominees for the 10th annual CASEY Award.

ENCICLOPEDIA DEL BEISBOL MEXICANO is very comprehensive. The history from 1937 to the present is covered. All Negro League player data is included. It fulfills all requirements for an encyclopedia. The only drawback is it is in Spanish; fortunately understanding of stats is not a problem.

FINAL REMARKS

Our next newsletter will be April's. Please get all items to me before the last week of March. Let us hope we can celebrate a new Hall of Famer.

Dick Clark & Larry Lester

Dick & Larry
NLC Co-Chairpeople

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