

The Negro League Courier

The Newsletter of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

APRIL 1999

Editor: Sammy J. Miller

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

CYCLONE JOE TAKES HOF BY STORM!

In a move looked at by many as long (and really long by others) over due, "Cyclone" Joe Williams, better known as "Smokey" Joe Williams, (seen at right in New York Lincoln Giants uniform) was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame on March 2, 1999. Williams, who was voted in the 1952 Pittsburgh Courier Poll as the greatest black pitcher in history, will be inducted into Baseball's Hallowed Hall along with major leaguers Nolan Ryan, George Brett, Robin Yount, Orlando Cepeda, manager Frank Selee, and umpire Nestor Chylak.

Long time readers will remember that in an election held in 1995, Williams was voted as the NLC's top candidate for induction into the Hall. Williams, who died in 1946, was unavailable for comment.

There are two major points concerning the life of Williams that the Committee, as well as the Hall of Fame, really needs. Anyone that wishes to make a major contribution to both should head straight for the local libraries. What we need are a confirmation that March 12, 1946 was indeed the day of Williams' death and we need to know to where Williams is buried. An obituary should contain this information and a star the magnitude of Williams should have had one in the major black papers of the time.

"No Margin of Error: Cepeda Elected To Hall" from New York Times 3/3/99 **1pg. and "Cepeda Leads Four into Hall" from 3/3/99 (Hackensack, NJ) Record, **1pg.

Article from the *Jackson (MS) Advocate* entitled "Negro League's star pitcher Smokey Joe Williams Named to Baseball Hall of Fame" is available. **1pg.

Updated list of Negro League vets in the Hall of Fame **1pg.

HOF'ers DAIGE AND LEONARD LEAD TOP 40 NEGRO LEAGUERS

In a Negro League Courier exclusive the results of the balloting to name the 40 greatest individuals in the history of Negro League baseball are in and we have them here. The ballot contained 219 different players and 189 different players received votes.



Joseph Williams
April 6, 1885 to March 12, 1946
a.k.a. Smokey Joe a.k.a. Cyclone
a.k.a. Yank

"A sure 30 game winner" - Ty Cobb
"Did I use the emery ball? I'd have
won every game." - Joe Williams

The top forty Negro Leaguers are:

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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1T) Buck Leonard | 22) Lou Santop |
| 1T) Satchel Paige | 23) Cumberland Posey |
| 3) Cool Papa Bell | 24) Effa Manley |
| 4) Oscar Charleston | 25) J.L. Wilkinson |
| 5T) Rube Foster | 26T) Buck O'Neil |
| 5T) Josh Gibson | 26T) Jud Wilson |
| 5T) Pop Lloyd | 28) Hilton Smith |
| 8T) Martin Dihigo | 29) Dick Lundy |
| 8T) Turkey Stearnes | 30T) Larry Doby |
| 8T) Willie Wells | 30T) Gus Greenlee |
| 11T) Ray Dandridge | 32) Ted Radcliffe |
| 11T) Bullet Rogan | 33) Ben Taylor |
| 13T) Mule Suttles | 34) Jose Mendez |
| 13T) Smokey Joe Williams | 35T) Newt Allen |
| 15) Judy Johnson | 35T) Sol White |
| 16) Leon Day | 35T) John Beckwith |
| 17) Biz Mackey | 38) Sam Jethroe |
| 18) Willie Foster | 39T) Bingo DeMoss |
| 19) Monte Irvin | 39T) Bruce Petway |
| 20) Cristobal Torriente | 39T) Quincy Troupe |
| 21) Dick Redding | (T denotes tie) |

Everyone can rest secure in the knowledge that all aspects of this election were above board and without outside influences. Places on the list for certain players could not be bought. As always Dick Clark was completely honest in his duties. (I want my money back, Clark! What happened to "a hundred will get Larry Brown on the list"? I knew I shouldn't have sent cash!)

Special Announcement from the Chairman

Sincerest congratulations to Smokey Joe Williams upon his election to the hallowed Hall of Fame. Williams was the NLC's original choice to be put in during the special 5 year period. I am glad he made it although Turkey Stearnes and Biz Mackey are among a host of other overly qualified people. How long we will have to wait now that this special period is over is unknown. The Negro Leaguers are now back with officials, umpires and managers and only two were selected in a 15 year time frame before. We must redouble our efforts to regain special status and/or educate everyone on the super players still outside looking in. Regardless, a wonderful choice in Williams who now joins his rightful place alongside Matthewson, Johnson, Grove, Paige, and Rogan.

A Few Words From The Editor

None of the items listed in this or any newsletter are available from the editor, Sammy J. Miller. Any requests for any information should be sent to Dick Clark at the address above. This includes requests for future or past newsletters, articles, committee information, etc. If you need to get in touch with the editor do so by e-mail or regular mail. Phone calls will not be accepted.

A Correction & Apology

Due to a communications problem, a mistake was made in the last issue of The Negro League Courier. Due to budget cutbacks, the chapter on the Negro Leagues and the Hall of Fame by Sammy J. Miller does not appear in *The Negro League Autograph Guide*.

The editorial staff of The Negro League Courier apologizes for any problem this mis-print may have caused.

Contributors

Those without whose help this newsletter would not have been possible are Davis Barker, Todd Bolton, Adrian Burgos, C. Baylor Butler, Dick Clark, John Haddock, Larry Hogan, John Holway, Frank Keetz, Brent Kelley, Mike Kolleth, Ted Knorr, Larry Lester, Norman Macht, Crestian Mendoza, McKinley Morganfield, Jim Overmyer, Robert Peterson, Philip Ross, Jay Sanford, David Skinner, Lyle Wilson, and John Zajc.

Member Updates

Larry Hogan asked that it be noted that the listing of his office number on the new address list is in error. His office number is (908) 497-4235.

Jeff Eastland is on the move, literally, having sold his home. Until further notice his mailing address and e-mail remain the same. If you need a place to store some pictures, Jeff, I'll be happy to help. It's the kind of selfless person I am. If you are really lucky, you might even get them all back.

Claudia Perry has a new address. It is 108 Mercer Street #1, Jersey City, NJ 07302-3511. Phone and e-mail remains the same.

New Committee address list is available. **2pgs.

Committee Announcements

In an attempt to expand the NLC's vast and ever growing collection of information on Negro League baseball, an attempt is underway to secure pictures of Negro league players grave sites. Currently, according to Committee Co-chair Larry Lester, the Committee's most wanted list of burial sites is Smokey Joe Williams, Martin Dihigo, Roy Campanella, Ray Dandridge, Willie Wells, Willie Foster, and Buck Leonard. Anyone who has snapshots of any of the above listed grave sites please be so kind as to forward a copy to Larry Lester.

Claudia Perry was nominated for a Grammy for album notes for "From Where I Stand: The Black Experience In Country Music." An official Negro League Courier pat on the back to Claudia.

Online Announcements

Everyone with Internet access should head to www.arlingtoncemetery.com/spottswow.htm (a privately owned and operated site). Once there you will see a very nice tribute to the great Spotswood Poles, who is buried, along with his wife, in Arlington. You will find a short biography and a very nice picture of Poles' headstone. The webmaster of the site is Michael Patterson who deserves and gets an official Negro League Courier pat on the back for his website. I had the opportunity to correspond with Michael concerning some very minor adjustments to the Poles page. He happily received the suggestions, which are already included in the site, and had some very nice words concerning people that work to make sure Negro League players are not forgotten. After you visit his tribute to Spots Poles be sure to look around at the rest of his site. It is very nice indeed.

Please make note that Paul Debono's correct e-mail address is pdebono@earthlink.net.

According to our illustrious leader, Bwana Clark, a interesting Negro League forum can now be found on the web. The Negro Leagues Conference is a Prentice Mills discussion forum. Find at <http://www.the-coop.com/cgi-bin/netforum/negroleagues/a/1>

Negro League Con II: Atlantic City Bash

The following was supplied by special correspondent to The Negro League Courier Larry Hogan.

"The Society for American Baseball Research's Negro Leagues Committee and the John Henry "Pop" Lloyd Committee of Atlantic City invite presentations and papers from scholars and baseball enthusiasts for a national conference scheduled for Atlantic City, New Jersey from Thursday, August 19 through Sunday, August 22, 1999. The general theme of the conference is the historical legacy of Negro League baseball placed in the context of the communal Black worlds in which that baseball was played. Conference organizers seek papers and presentations focused on some aspect of the Black baseball story or on relevant topics related to the communal world of which Negro professional baseball was integral a part. Please submit proposals for papers before June 1, 1999 to Dr. Lawrence Hogan, Union County College, Cranford NJ 07016 (hogan@hawk.ucc.edu) FAX 908-889-4007 - or to Sammy Miller, 3916 Archer Court, Florence, KY 41042 (poplloyd@juno.com)."

The following is from Mike Everett, our man on the scene in Atlantic City.

"The Conference dates are August 19-22 and will be held at the Clarion Bayside Resort, 8029 Black Horse Pike, West Atlantic City, NJ 08232. Reservations may be made by calling 609-641-3546 Fax: 609-641-4329 or Toll Free Reservations: 800-999-9466. When making reservations, individuals should indicate that they are with the SABR Negro League Baseball Conference. Room Rates are split. \$89 for Friday and Saturday. \$49 for Thursday and Sunday. The resort is located 2 miles off the Boardwalk in Atlantic City. It is complete with restaurant, banquet facilities, indoor tennis, swimming pool, exercise room, golf shop, and shuttle to Atlantic City.

The Conference registration fee is \$70 and includes admission to the Surf baseball game, Humanitarian Award dinner, Latin Exhibit, Negro League Art Exhibit and a play based on the life of Effa Manley. Checks should be made to the "Pop" Lloyd Committee and sent to Michael Everett, 1014 Maple Avenue, Linwood, NJ 08221 609-927-8914 or 343-7300-Ext. 138.

For those flying, US Air offers a 5%-15% discount with advanced booking and certain restrictions. Call 800-334-8644, select option 1 and refer to Gold File number 15610983. Listed under SABR Baseball. Inquire about additional discounts for seniors. Detailed information will be sent under separate cover."

Obituaries

Earl Thomas McMillan, an outfielder for the Toledo Cubs in 1923, died Jan. 28, 1999 in Chicago, Illinois. He was, at 98 years old, the oldest Negro League veteran in the world. Funeral program available **2pgs.

Casey Jones, a catcher for the Memphis Red Sox from 1940 to 1950 died Nov. 17, 1998 in Memphis, Tennessee. Obit from Memphis' *The Commercial Appeal* entitled "Jones leaves Memphis baseball legacy, stalwart for Red Sox behind the plate" available **1pg. Funeral program available **6pgs. Obit from unknown paper **1pg

John J. "Hank" Mainor III died on Feb. 19, 1998. **1pg. from the *Virginian Pilot*.

Undated obit for Jabe Brazzle Jr., an early black player in organized baseball in East Texas. **1pg.

John W. Brown, a pitcher for the World Champion 1945 Cleveland Buckeyes and numerous other Negro League teams died March 3, 1999 in Detroit, MI. He was 81 years old.

Special Events

Legendary Negro League brothers and Hall of Fame members Andrew "Rube" Foster and William "Willie" Foster were elected to the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. More info as it becomes available.

The 20th of February proved to be a very busy day for Negro League baseball enthusiasts. Two major events were held, one in Dallas, Texas, and one in Baltimore, Maryland. In Maryland, the African American Tourism Council, Inc. held a black history month luncheon to celebrate Buffalo Soldier Day in the state. Former members of the 9th & 10th Calvary Buffalo Soldiers, as well as former Negro League players and Tuskegee Airmen were in attendance.

Feb. 20th in Dallas was the Southwestern Bell Family Day at the African American Museum with the focus of the day being the Negro Leagues and involved the exhibit at the museum entitled Triumph Over Adversity. The guest curator of the exhibit is our very own Larry Lester. Former players Mamie Johnson, Bill Blair, Frank Ensley, John Miles, as well as other were present and told stories as well as signed autographs for those present. The exhibit ran from Sept. 18, 1998 to Feb. 28, 1999.

At the *Mega Baseball Card Show & Sale*, Feb. 19, 20, & 21 at the Cherry Hill Mall in Cherry Hill, NJ sixteen Negro Leaguers appeared to sign autographs.

Current and Future Individual Projects

Larry Lester is looking for any information on Ardie Tucker, who is believed to have played for the Birmingham Black Barons in the 1940's. Anyone who has or comes across info on Mr. Tucker, please be so kind as to pass it on to Larry.

While we are on the subject of Mr. Lester, could anyone with a current address and phone number of Pancho Herrera, who recently moved, please forward such to Larry.

Karla Farmer Stouse, e-mail : karla@port-to-port.com, is looking for the following information concerning Toni Stone. Stats from her tenure with the San Francisco Seals (approx. 1942-1948), stats from her

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time with the New Orleans Creoles (approx. 1949-1952), and verification as to whether or not Stone played with the New Orleans Black Pelicans. Anyone that has any of the requested info, please pass it along.

Co-author of the *Negro League Autograph Guide* Mike Kolleth asked the following to be included in the newsletter. "My heart felt thanks to all of the SABR Negro Leagues Committee members who gave so freely of their time and collections. This is an odd request when talking to historians, but I ask that you not view this as a history book. That was not our intention. The book is designed to trigger an interest in the Negro Leagues amongst those that may not necessarily be prone to pick up a history book. In that sense it's a primer which I hope will lead people into studying -- and appreciating -- the leagues on a higher level."

19th Century Committee Chairman John R. Husman, (5911 Jeffrey Lane, Sylvania, OH 43560-3619, (419) 882-3438, john.husman@sylvania.sev.org) is looking for info on a Carl Simpson (born Jan. 1909) who was a right handed pitcher for the Chattanooga Black Lookouts.

During the month of Feb., Crestian Mendoza had a Negro League display at the Air Mobility Terminal at Rhein-Main Air Force Base in Germany.

Also during Black History Month, clips of an interview with Todd Bolton concerning the life of Hall of Famer Leon Day ran on Maryland Public Television. The interview, used to filled open time between programs, was estimated to have run 40 times.

John Holway's latest book, *The Complete Book of the Negro Leagues*, is scheduled to be released next spring.

Philip A. Ross, a school teacher from New York, reports that he makes the history of the Negro Leagues a regular part of his curriculum.

John Schwartz, 166 Danforth Street, Rochester, NY 14611-2142, is willing to look up box scores for Negro league games that were played in Rochester. Send him the date and he will search for a box score in the local papers.

Paul Debono recently spoke to a Indianapolis Boy Scout troop and did a series of presentations at the public library on the ABC's. Paul supplied early reports that the owners of the Cemetery where Oscar Charleston is buried are planning to clean and remount his headstone.

Pleshette Askew, HC 74 Box 5093, Sugar Grove, WV, 26815 (PA5384@aol.com) is looking for information concerning John Thomas Bailey, a third baseman and catcher for the Ahsoskie (NC) War Hawks and the Chowan (NC) Bees.

Frank Williams, 476 Brewster Street, Bridgeport, Conn. 06605 is looking for any information anyone might have about black minor league star Harry Herbert. Any info with be appreciated but he is particularly interested in where Herbert was born as well as his background.

Anyone with any information about a white player named Billy Dunne that barnstormed with a team that might have included a pre-major league Jackie Robinson, please pass said information onto Carl Hall at cwhall@mediaone.net.

Rory Costello (rory1262@aol.com) is looking for Negro Leaguers from the Virgin Islands. Anyone one that can help, please do so.

Anyone with info as to why an ex-black player named Harry Wilson was honored at a San Antonio game in the 1950, please pass the info on to Davis Barker at dobarker@tenet.edu.

Warren Wilbert is working on a project "involving the best players of the 20th century at each position around the diamond." major League players are being chosen on the basis of the player's best seasons. Negro League players are being chosen by some of the NLC's best minds. More info as it become available.

Branham Hayes (DBrandHay@aol.com) is searching for information concerning the Nashville Cubs of the Negro Southern League. His father, Arthur "Nappy" Hayes played for the team in 1948. He posted this request on the Negro Leagues Conference forum mentioned above.

Upcoming Events

On April 14, the Main Branch of the Cincinnati, OH Public Library will host *Clowns, Red Sox, and American Giants: Life In The Negro Leagues*, a panel discussion with former Negro Leaguers Chuck Harmon, Charlie Davis, and Thomas Turner. The event will be moderated by *Cincinnati Enquirer* sports writer John Erardi. This publication is planning on having a special correspondent present so look for his report in the May newsletter.

On May 29th, the Detroit Tigers will be holding a Negro League Turn Back The Clock Night in which

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both the Tigers and their opposnentes, the Chicago White Sox, will appear in Negro League uniforms. Also, for the second consecutive year, Detroit Tiger first baseman Tony Clark will be handing out the Tony Clark Negro League Scholarship. A \$1,000 scholarship, it is awarded to a graduating senior from one of Detroit's public high schools that is involved and excels in athletics, academics and community service. A correspondent will be on the scene and will have a report in a future newsletter.

The Charles H. Wright African American Museum in Detroit, MI is planning a Negro League exhibit from April 3, to June 6, 1999. Details are sketchy at the moment but there is talk that our own Larry Lester will appear as a guest lecturer. More info in a future issue.

The Negro League exhibit in Middlesex County, New Jersey at its museum in New Brunswick involving Larry Hogan, which was detailed in the last newsletter, will now be opening May 2, 1999 and hopefully running for an entire year. According to reports, NLC members, Jerry Malloy, Jim Overmyer, and possibly Lou Hunsinger will also be involved.

Jim Overmyer will be speaking at the National Baseball Hall of Fame on June 19 as part of the Hall's author lecture series.

Anyone interested in making a research presentation at the National SABR Convention in Scottsdale this summer should contact Bill Suphan, (4949 East Dahlia Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254, (602) 996-4331, gsuphan@aol.com) and request a presentation profile sheet.

Anyone that will be in the Secaucus, NJ area April 17-18 needs to make their way to The Salute Meadowlands Classic Card Show. It will be highlighting Rookies of the Year from 1947-1959. Players who will be present to sign autographs will include Joe Black, Don Newcombe, Sam Jethroe, and Willie Mays. **2pg.

Negro League Related Articles

Committee member Brent Kelley out did himself with his Negro League interview that appeared in the 2/19/99 issue of the Sports Collectors Digest. Brent spoke with Marvin Williams from the Philadelphia Stars, who in 1945, along with Jackie Robinson and Sam Jethroe had a "try out" with the Boston Red Sox. An excellent interview. **2pgs. Also available is Brent's interview from the 2/26/99 issue of SCD with Josh Gibson Jr. **2pgs., as well as his 3/5/99 interview with Nap Gulley **2pgs., 3/26/99 interview with Ted Radcliffe **2pgs., his 3/26/99 interview with Bob Mitchell, **2pgs., and a interview with Charlie Biot from the 4/2/99 SCD.

An article from the Sports Collectors Digest, 2/19/99 "Shoeless Joe and Josh Gibson featured" which discusses a new exhibit at the National Sports Gallery which includes Josh Gibson's 1932 Homestead Grays contract is available. **1pg.

"Nashville Parks of the Past" from the *Sounds News*, a publication about the Nashville Sounds. **1pg.

"Legends Of The Game Come To Life In Exhibit At Portsmouth Gallery" by Tom Robinson **1pg.

An article from the 2/24/98 *Ann Arbor News* on Mamie Johnson entitled "For the Love of the Game" and written by Eugene Meyer is available. **2pgs.

"Slick, Strong, And Steady", a two page article about Slick Surratt from the *Kansas City Star* **2pgs.

"At Long Last, Black Heroes of Sports Find A Home" from the *Wilmington News Journal*, about a sports Hall of Fame at the new African American museum in Wilmington, Delaware. Leroy "Toots" Ferrell, one of the inductees, is interviewed. **1pg.

"Humble Beginnings" by Jim McConnell, an article detailing Jackie Robinson's role as a bat boy for the 1929 semi-pro Pasadena Bucks is available. **1pg.

A letter to the editor that appeared in the Winter 98-99 issue of the *Diamond Angle* was most enlightening. It tells the story of a All Star charity game with players from the 1950 Manitoba-Dakota League and the large number of former Negro leaguers that played in it. **1pg.

The Diamond Angle Quarterly has been hold elections for it's "Stars In Their Time" Hall of Fame. The results will be in their April issue. Anyone interested in subscribing should contact The Diamond Angle Quarterly, 706 So. Alu Rd., Wailuku, HI 96793.

An article from Volume 14 of *Grandstand Baseball Annual* entitled "Baseball's Dark Past" by Jim McConnell is this month's recommended item. A well researched and written piece on Hank Thompson and Willard Brown's time with the St. Louis Browns in 1947. **3pgs.

On The Television & Movie Screens

Airing sometime in April, a date was unavailable at press time, an episode of the "X-Files" will have a story line concerning the Negro Leagues. Reportedly, the episode, written and directed by show star David Duchovny, concerns an alien's (the outer space kind) love of the game of baseball. The X-Files airs on Fox on Sunday nights at nine Eastern and Pacific Time.

It has recently been brought to the attention of the editor that former Detroit Star and all around fine gentleman Pedro Sierra was a consultant for the movie *Major Leagues II*. An official Negro League Courier pat on the back to Mr. Sierra.

Reports are that actor Denis Leary will star in "The Eddie Klepp Story." More information as it become available.

The Marketplace

The two following reviews were supplied by Dick Clark.

"THE MOHAWK COLORED GIANTS OF SCHENECTADY is the fourth and final volume on the history of professional baseball in Schenectady New York by Frank Keetz and is outstanding, absolutely fabulous. 164 pages and over 90 photos, a yearly review of the black baseball presence in this city from 1914 to 1943. You will really enjoy this book. Get it from Frank at 1556 Lexington Pkwy, Schenectady, NY 12309-5121 or call (518) 377-5058. Just \$18 postpaid.

THE NEGRO LEAGUES AUTOGRAPH GUIDE is "The book" for collecting these hard to find signatures. Kevin Keating and Mike Kolleth have done an excellent job obtaining sample autographs on hundreds of players and putting them together into a splendid reference in this field. 271 pages, lots of player pictures, published by Tuff Stuff \$24.95 look for it in bookstores and card shops. A great Rube Foster cover photo and five appendices put things at your fingertips. According to Mike Kolleth, one of the authors, "the most cost effective way to order a copy is via www.amazon.com." For those that do intend to buy from Amazon.com, the easiest way to find the book is to do an author search for the name Kolleth."

They Called Us Cornfield Boys: Black Baseball, Hertford County, N.C. 1940-1950 is the "true story of 3 sandlot teams in Hertford, Co. N.C. that Beat Willie Mays, Satchel Paige. & teams from Negro Major Leagues". The book has 101 pgs. and is available for \$25 pp from Meherrin River Press, 301 East Broad Street, Murfreesboro, North Carolina 27855. Phone (252) 398-3554; FAX ((213) 912-9193. You can also order from their website : www.carolinabooks.com.

All the Negro League Bobbin Heads are still available as well as basketball players Pop Gates and Johnny Isaacs. Anyone interested should contact Dick Clark.

Everyone needs to make plans to buy the new history of Cuban Beisbol. *The Pride of Havana: A History of Cuban Baseball* by Roberto Gonzalez Echevarria and published by Oxford University Press is going to contain 496 pgs with 75 photographs. Guest book critic for the Negro League Courier, David Skinner said "I had the good fortune to sneak a peek at an advance copy of the forthcoming Oxford University Press book *The Pride of Havana: A History of Cuban Baseball*. Tons of previously unpublished Negro League material. It will be a must read for all of us." Pre-publication orders from Barnes and Noble's web site had been shipped at press time, so it should be available at stores now.

Baseball In 1939: The Watershed Season of the National Pastime by Lawrence S. Katz contains some information on the Negro Leagues in chapter 7 which is entitled "Worlds Apart".

Jackie Robinson: Race, Sports, and the American Dream edited by Joseph Dorinson and Joram Warmund and to be published by M.E. Sharpe is due out in the spring and will sell for \$34.95

Catching Dreams: My Life in the Negro Leagues by Frazier "Slow" Robinson with Paul Bauer in due out this April. It will be published by Syracuse University Press and will sell for \$27.95.

The Tropic of Baseball: Baseball in the Dominican Republic by Rob Ruck is being released by Bison Books with a \$12 price tag.

Brushing Back Jim Crow: The Integration Of Minor League Baseball In The American South by Bruce Adelson and published by University Press of Virginia is available now. It sells for \$27.95 with 275 pgs and 19 pictures.

Dean Sullivan forwarded the following onto us. "*The African-American Experience* edited by Jack

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Salzman, is part of the MacMillian Information Now Encyclopedia Series, in which multi volume reference sources are distilled into a single volume for sale. This book is a condensed version of *Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History*, and contains essays on players like Henry Aaron and Jackie Robinson, along with a dozen or so other athletes, plus in-depth essays on baseball and other sports. I highly recommend to committee members." Thank you, Dean.

**1pg. list of books for sale about baseball related advertising cards and the game in Schenectady.

Final Remarks

I would like to thank everyone for their kind comments regarding the first issue of the "Negro League Courier". Those of you that received the newsletter via regular mail were most kind in not mentioning the large number of typos that could be found in it. Those of you that get the newsletter via e-mail owe a debt of gratitude, as I do, to Larry Lester who took the time to remedy my spelling. I am currently looking into a twelve step program for bad spellers, so be patient and maybe I'll get better, I mean better.

Due to the fact that the first of June falls in the middle of a week, the next newsletter will not be on time due to the fact that it must go Ypsilanti for distribution. Those of you that get it by regular mail should look for it the second week of June. Those that receive it by e-mail should not be affected.

Since it is almost Opening Day, let me be the first to say, Let's play two!

Sammy J. Miller