

# The Negro Leagues Courier

The newsletter of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

We Are The Ship, All Else Are The Sea

Dec 2004

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Editor: Col. 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)

## Grave Markers Update

The report that appeared in the last issue of *The Courier* regarding the dedication of gravestones for three former players in Chicago is not the end of the story. According to Jeremy Krock, the man behind the marker movement in Chicago, it is possible that due to continued donations and help from a local tombstone company, the remaining players without graves in Chicago's Burr Oak Cemetery will soon have markers for their final resting places.

Some more articles concerning the dedication ceremony are available. \*\*7pgs. for all

Unconfirmed reports from a source in Lorman, Mississippi, tell me that Hall of Fame pitcher Willie Foster's grave was finally marked by a stone last fall. An athletic booster group at Alcorn State, where Foster was Dean of Boys and baseball coach, paid for the stone. We will keep following this story and report any new info to you in a future issue.

The Texas State Cemetery in Austin Texas, which is reserved for people who are deemed "to have made a significant contribution to Texas" was the site of a "re-burial" ceremony on October 5 when the Negro Leagues "El Diablo" was laid there to rest before such dignitaries as Texas Governor Rick Perry and other Negro League veterans including Buck O'Neil. Wells, who died in 1989, was originally buried at another Austin cemetery.

Several articles are available. \*\*6pgs for all.

## Contributors

They say a man cannot achieve greatness without the help of others. That's wrong. Some of us can. Nonetheless, I am forced by The Powers That Be to work with others so here are their names: Bob Bailey, Tim Booker, Dick Clark, Jeff Eastland, Amy Essington, Leslie Heaphy, Signe Knutson, Jeremy Krock, Larry Lester, Jerry Malloy, Gary Maurer, Joe Mitchell, Robert Peterson, Patrick Rock, Wayne Stivers, and Lyle Wilson.

What is the matter with you people? Only one person knew the name James Baskett! (Kudos to Larry Lester.) For all the rest of you pitiful people James Baskett was Uncle Remus in Disney's *South of the Song*. You should all hang your heads in shame.

By the way, a kudos to Ted Knorr for recognizing that the fake name, Arlen Street, was the combined names of two politicians.

## Committee News & Research Requests

Amy Essington has a new address and phone number. Amy's new address is 3207 E. 2nd St, #11, Long Beach, CA 90803. Her new phone number is 562-438-8300.

Jim Overmyer has a new e-mail address. It is [jimovermyer@verizon.net](mailto:jimovermyer@verizon.net)

Included on the final list of players eligible for the 2005 Veterans Committee Election are 200 players. They include former Negro League stars, Minnie Minoso, Don Newcombe, Elston Howard and Sam Jethroe. This is the time for those write-in letters of support for your favorite candidate.

### Negro League Related Articles

"A Pair Of Aces" (O'Neil & Finch) 11/18/2004, KANSAS CITY STAR \*\*2pp from MLB.com, "NLBM announces Legacy winners" 11/4/2004

"Forgotten Part of Fort Wayne's Past" from the 9/19/2004 issue of THE JOURNAL GAZETTE, \*\*3pgs.

"Former Negro League Player Shares Memories With Class" from the 6/3/04 issue of THE VIRGINIA PILOT \*\*2pgs.

"Stars Are Out Again: Negro League Team Honored At Park Groundbreaking" from the 10/18/04 issue of the PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS \*\*1pg

"KC Connection Began Baseball's Globalization: Monarchs Owner First To Hire Japanese Player" from the 10/26/04 of THE KANSAS CITY STAR \*\*1pg.

"Shadow Series: 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Negro League World series" from NEWSDAY.COM \*\*3pgs.

### Obituaries

Two obits for Bob "The Rope" Boyd are available. "The Rope' Delighted in Fooling Pitchers" from KANSAS.COM \*\*2pgs. and one from SPORTS COLLECTOR'S DIGEST \*\*1pg

"Negro Leagues Baseball Executive Richard Powell, Managed Elite Giants" from the 2/8/2004 issue of the WASHINGTON POST \*\*2pgs

Raymond Miller, Jr. who played first base for the 1954 Detroit Stars died November 18, 2004 at the age of 77.

### Recent Events

#### **The 12th Annual John Henry "Pop" Lloyd Weekend Celebration**

The weekend celebration began on Friday with conference at Richard Stockton College entitled After the Cheering Stops: Athletes Contributing to Society. Students for area high schools as well as the college attended the conference. Keynote speaker, former New England Patriot Keith Lee, spoke enthusiastically of an athlete's obligation to society and the necessity to give back something to society in a meaningful way. John Isaacs, NY Rens star forward, Olympians, Larry James, and Herb Douglas shared their personal struggle to overcome adversity in both their athletic and professional careers. The final conference session featured Negro League veterans, Monte Irvin, James Moore, Armando Vazques and Carl Long. Students were particularly amused by Armando's anecdotal account tiring of eating ham and eggs because those were the only foods he knew how to order in English when first starting out in the Negro Leagues.

Participants were also treated to excerpts from the documentary, Before You Can Say Jackie Robinson. A reception and dinner players hosted by the Athletic Department of Stockton College for the 19 veteran Negro Leaguers followed the conference. The evening concluded with a jazz performance by the Steve Wilson Quartet and Grammy nominated vocalist, Carla Cook. Their

performance paid tribute to the music legacy of Count Basie and to the veteran Negro League players attending the event. Their inaugural rendition of Did You See Jackie Robinson Hit That Ball was extraordinarily impressive and well received.

Saturday afternoon found the players exchanging laughs and conversation at the home of Michael Everett and Kathy Whitmore. This year's traditional South Jersey fare was supplemented with Cuban sandwiches inspired by the recent trip of Monte, Michael, Belinda and David to Havana, Cuba. It is also worth noting that it was rumored Pedro Sierra and Armando Vasques left with a few much sought after Cuban cigars.

The Annual Pop-Lloyd Dinner & Awards Program honored a number of unique athletes and humanitarians. Each of these honorees stirred those who attended with their remarks and the dignity found within their personal journeys. Each spoke of how they were inspired and the honored to be in the presence of the Negro Leaguers who attended the dinner. Those honored were Calvin Hill, Dallas Cowboys All-Pro, Olympians Herb Douglas, Billy Mills, Peter Westbrook, and local educator, Joe Brown. Students from area high schools were given youth awards that included an inscribed copy of Bob Peterson's Only The Ball Was White.

A commemorative church service at Asbury United Methodist Church where Pop and Nan Lloyd had been members was a fitting beginning to the last day of the annual celebratory weekend. Stanley Glenn of the Philadelphia Stars spoke to the congregation from the pulpit. The service was followed by the Atlantic City Community All-Star Game at historic Pop Lloyd Stadium where the fun filled afternoon paid tribute to Pop and all those who played Negro League baseball.

Photocopies of the Awards program are available. \*\*37 pgs. (That is not a mistake. I really meant 37 pages.)

### **The Final Pitch**

I have just recently learned of a perk that comes along with being the editor in chief of a publication with a worldwide circulation. Come to find out, as a result of an obscure federal court ruling in the case of U.S. v. Kringle, I have access to the infamous "Naughty/Nice" list of holiday legend. I must say that I expected to see a few more committee members on the nice list. While it is true that only two of the three NLC officers were on the list, I don't think anyone really expected Dick to be on it. What I am leading up to is this; start looking for antique heating stoves, my loyal readers, especially Mr. Clark and Mr. Stivers, because some of you are going to be in contention for the record for the world's largest lump of coal.

As for the rest of you, may you and yours enjoy a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Col. Sammy J. Miller