The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester — June, 2010

Who's On First, when it comes to Black Baseball?

Come and join us in Birmingham and celebrate 100 years of baseball.

With apologies to Abbott and Costello, come and help us celebrate the **"Glory Days: A Salute to the Negro Leagues in the South & Rickwood Field."**

Who is on first: We are the first committee in SABR to host a conference dedicated exclusively to the history of Black baseball.

What is on Second: What our mission is is to research and preserve the history of blacks in baseball before the re-integration of the game and provide respect, redemption and recognition to this important chapter of American history.

I Don't Know is on Third: If you don't know about the Negro Leagues, Birmingham is the place to be. Some of the best baseball minds in the country will come together and share their knowledge and resources about this passionate period of Americana.

I Don't Give A Damn is at Shortstop: And you will miss out on the biggest and best Black Baseball Conference in America which features an educational workshop, scholarly presentations, a trivia contest, live and silent auctions, a player and author panels, and an Awards banquet.

Why is in Left Field: Why should you come? To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rickwood Field, where a record 107 players and managers from the Cooperstown Hall of Fame chewed tobacco, spit sunflower seeds and got busy.

Because is in Center Field: Also because we support several programs. We raise funds to purchase **headstones** for unmarked graves, two **$2,500** scholarships to high school seniors, and two $**1,000** library book grants, along with **$300** cash prizes for the best artwork. **Chad Richardson** at Lakota West H.S. in West Chester, Ohio, and **Lewis Pollis** at Cleveland Heights H.S., are our essay winners. The library grants went to **S.D. Lee Middle School** and **West Lowndes Elementary School**, both in Columbus, Mississippi.

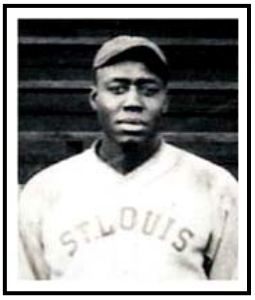
Naturally is in Right Field: Naturally we expect you to enjoy the conference, and so we have added some prizes and surprises for you this year. Fun, fun, and more fun.

Today is the Catcher: Don't delay, register **TODAY**. You will not regret it. Guaranteed!

Tomorrow is the Pitcher: Tomorrow may be too late to register at the Sheraton Hotel as discounted rooms are going fast.

Registration & Hotel information can be found on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter. For the complete registration packet go to this link and download your packet:
http://www.larrylester42.com/assets/Images/Events/Registration-Hotel-Packet-BirminghamJan2010.pdf

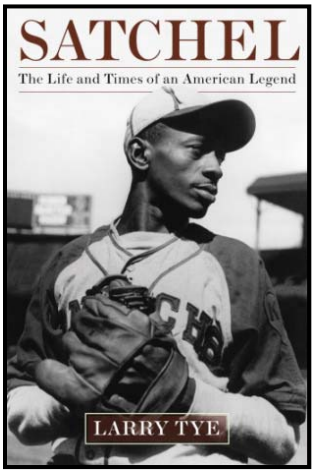
The conference is next door to the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame where **George "Mule" Suttles** was recently inducted on May 22nd. Born in Brocton, Alabama, Suttles played in five East-West All-Star games and has the highest slugging percentage (.941) in the classic's history. All registrants to the conference will receive **FREE** admission and view the tributes to several Alabama greats in all sports. See you there!



Congratulations . . .

Larry Tye wins the Seymour Medal for "Satchel".

In ***Satchel: The Life and Times of an American Legend***, Tye provides an exhaustively well-researched look at one of the most intriguing personalities of the 20th century. One of 12 children, Tye takes the reader through Paige's introduction to baseball in reform school, the years he spent setting unbelievable records in the Negro Leagues, his major league debut at an age (42) when most players are on the verge of retirement and his life after baseball.



The Seymour Medal selection committee said of the book that it's "***Written about a man who died 30 years ago, but it's like he's walking through the pages of this book***." ***Satchel*** was also a 2009 *New York Times* Notable Book.

Tye received his award at the Seymour Medal Conference, April 30-May 2 at the Radisson Hotel Gateway in Cleveland, Ohio.

Last year, he presented "Satchel Paige, a ball player at the Crossroads and in the Lead" at the 12th annual Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference in Pittsburgh. Tye was honored with the **Robert Peterson Recognition Award**, for bodies of work that increase public awareness of the Negro Leagues.

Market Place

Gary Joseph Cieradkowski, illustrator and designer, has produced a 20-card baseball set. Besides major leaguers like Moonlight Graham, the limited set of 1,000 includes several Negro League stars.

- Dave Brown
- Leon Day
- Josh Gibson
- Jackie Robinson
- Martin Dihigo
- Satchel Paige
- Jud Wilson
- & Bullet Rogan

Visit his website at www.infinitecardset.blogspot.com and place your order today before they sell out.

Recognition . . . . .

The Hank Aaron Museum is Officially Dedicated.

On April 14, 2010, the Hank Aaron Childhood Home & Museum opened in Mobile, Alabama. Five other Hall of Famers – **Willie Mays**, Reggie Jackson, Ozzie Smith, Bruce Sutter and Rickey Henderson – along with Commissioner Bud Selig dedicated the museum at Hank Aaron Stadium, home to the Mobile BayBears, a Double A affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The crowd of more than 600 toured the seven room museum that features exhibits ranging from how the house looked when Aaron was growing up, along with items about Aaron's start in baseball. A replica of the Aaron family kitchen and the room where he and his brother, Tommie, slept are featured. The Museum will also house several items from the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.

Welcome . . . . .

Dick Clark and I would like to welcome **26** new members to the Negro Leagues Committee:

Chris Cornell (Pleasantville, NY), **Shelby Coyle** (Minneapolis, MN), **Robert Dunkelberger** (Bloomsburg, PA), **Michael Eisner** (Highland Mills, NY), **Lisa Farbstein** (Arlington, VA), **Eric Feld** (Carrboro, NC), **David Fogel** (Denver, CO), **Steve Graves** (Albuquerque, NM), **Jonathan Kay** (Moscow, ID), **Marc and Michael Kelminson** (Dallas, TX), **Paul Lindgren** (Grantham, NH), **David McDonald** (Honolulu, HI), **Sheila McLaughlin Sikorski** (Turnersville, NJ), **John Mettler** (Niagara Falls, NY), **James Moynihan** (N. Attleboro, MA), **Robert Murray** (Alexandria, VA), **Rich Necker** (Regina, SK), **Irv Rell** (Aurora, CO), **James Robinson [Negro League veteran]** (New York, NY), **Galen Schroeder** (Fargo, ND), **Keith Sherwood** (Columbia, TN), **C. Winston Simone** (New York, NY), **Mitchell Stinson** (Evansville, IN), **Jacob Wilkes** (Indiana), and **Stephen Johnson** (Oakland, CA).

Sunrises!

SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUER A BIRTHDAY CARD.

JUNE

8TH – LIONEL EVELYN - 81
14TH – DON NEWCOMBE - 84
19TH – HANK MASON - 79
20TH – AL CARTMILL, JR. - 80
21ST – ART SIMMONS - 73
22nd – **TOMMY TURNER – 95**, BOB SCOTT - 80
23rd – ULYSSES HOLLIMON – 79
24TH – NEALE "BOBO" HENDERSON – 80
27TH – **CECIL KAISER - 94**
30TH – OTHA BAILEY – 80, RENDON MARBURY - 73

JULY

1ST – DONNIE HARRIS – 74, FRANK ENSLEY - 83
7TH – "JUMPING" JOHNNY WILSON - 83
16TH – CLIFF DUBOSE - 73
18TH – BILLY HARRELL – 82
19TH – JOHNNY FAIRLEY – 69
24TH – "BIRMINGHAM" SAM BRISON - 70
26TH – PEDRO SIERRA – 72
27TH – ART HAMILTON – 76
28TH – **ROSS DAVIS – 92**
30TH – WILLIAM BELL – 80
31ST – DON JOHNSON – 84, POP DURHAM - 79

AUGUST

1ST – A.J. JACKSON - 77
5TH – IRA MCKNIGHT, JR. - 75
8TH – GRADY MONTGOMERY – 79
11TH – JOHN "MULE" MILES – 88
12TH – RAYMOND LACY – 88
19TH – WALT "COACH O" OWENS – 77
22ND – CARL HOLDEN – 69
25TH – CLARENCE "CHOO CHOO" COLEMAN – 73
26TH – **IKE WELCH – 90**,
AL SPEARMAN – 84
29TH – RICH BOOKER – 81, **HERB SIMPSON – 90**
31ST – JAKE SANDERS - 76

CONGRATULATIONS to Nonagenarians **CECIL KAISER, TOMMY TURNER, IKE WELCH, AND HERB SIMPSON.**

Just In . . . . .

The new **Latino Baseball Hall of Fame** in Santo Dominco, Dominican Republic, announced on May 19th their first inductees at the Altos de Chavon amphitheatre in Casa de Campo. Among the 25 honorees several Negro League veterans were named: **Martin Dihigo, Jose Mendez, Cristobal Torriente, Alejandro Pompez, Pancho Coimbre, Tetelo Vargas** and the always energetic **Orestes "Minnie" Minoso**.

Congratulations to all!

Sunsets . . . .

JAMES ANDREW KASTRO, 55, died April 23, 2010, in Fairview Park, Ohio. Kastro served as the financial officer for the Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference for several years. He was also past president of SABR's Jack Graney Chapter based in Cleveland. Donations in Jim's memory can be made to the Trinity Special Olympics, SABR and the Second Harvest Food Bank. The humorous and articulate Kastro will be missed by all of us in SABR.

FERNANDO ALBERTO "MAMAVILA" OSORIO, 83, died March 24, 2010, in Chitre, Panama. Osorio pitched for the 1949 Louisville Clippers.

JAMES "FIREBALL" COLZIE, SR., 89, died March 10, 2010 in Miami, Florida. Colzie pitched from 1937 to 1949 for several teams, including the Macon Colored Peaches, Albany Black Travelers, Atlanta Black Crackers and the Indianapolis Clowns. He also played for the 1943-45 United States Air Force Military baseball team.

Sol White' burial site needs a Marker

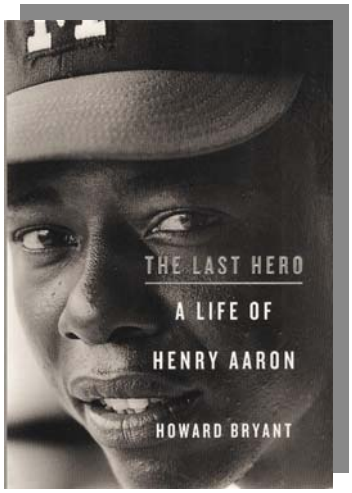
Efforts are underway to raise funds for a plaque or marker to honor Hall of Famer **King Solomon White** (June 12, 1868 - August 26, 1955). White is buried in an unmarked pauper's grave with five or six others in the **Frederick Douglass Memorial Park**, Staten Island, NY, in Section G, Grave 18, Row 7. The cemetery does not allow headstones for a person in a multiple grave. If you care to make a donation for this worthy project to honor one of black baseball's pioneers, go to the SABR store at: http://store.sabr.org/sabrstore.cfm?a=dnt

His 1907 book the ***History of Colored Baseball*** was the first definitive history to discuss black baseball. White's almanac begins with the organization in 1885 of the first professional colored baseball team. The executive, manager and former infielder was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006.

HELP us honor the great King Solomon White with an appropriate marker.

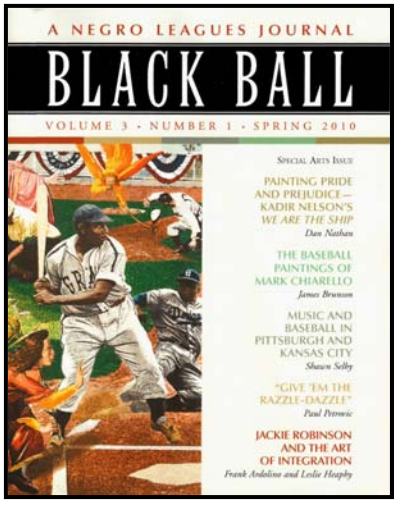
Dugout Reading . . . .

The Last Hero: A Life of Henry Aaron by Howard Bryant



Bryant, a finalist for the 2003 Seymour Medal for ***Shut Out: A Story of Race and Baseball in Boston,*** has published the ultimate biography on Hank Aaron. In his latest book, Bryant examines Aaron's most complex second act: his quest to become an important voice beyond the ball field when his playing days had ended, his rediscovery by a public disillusioned with today's tainted heroes, and his disappointment that his career home run record was finally broken by Barry Bonds during the steroid era, baseball's greatest scandal.

The ESPN writer reveals how Aaron navigated the upheavals of his time – fighting against racism while at the same time benefiting from racial progress – and how he achieved his goal of continuing Jackie Robinson's mission to obtain full equality for African Americans, both in baseball and society, while he lived uncomfortably in the public spotlight. Eloquently written, detailed and penetrating, this is a revelatory portrait of a complicated, private man who through sports became an enduring American icon. Published by Pantheon Books http://www.pantheonbooks.com



The latest edition of **"Black Ball: A Negro Leagues Journal"** is now available. The Spring issue highlights the artistry surrounding baseball. Discover and learn about the artwork of Kadir Nelson, David McShane, Mark Chiarello, Laura Baring-Gould, Benjamin Blackburn and others. The cover art was designed by renowned visual artist **Todd Peterson** from Kansas City, Missouri. See more of his artwork at: http://www.artaviary.com/

Order your copy of the **Black Ball Journal** today at: www.mcfarlandpub.com

SABR Chapter Named After John Jordan (Buck) O'Neil, Jr.

The Tallahassee/North Florida Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) is pleased to announce that it has officially been renamed the **Buck O'Neil Chapter**.

As SABR's newest chapter (established in August 2009), its members were eager to honor one of the many players of note with roots in or a connection to the north Florida area. Negro League great Buck O'Neil was born in Carabelle, a small fishing town on the Gulf Coast southwest of Tallahassee. Through the assistance of SABR's Negro Leagues Research Committee, the chapter was able to contact the heirs of O'Neil's estate and received formal approval for the name change on April 8, 2010.

Chapter President, Matthew Keelean, states, *"We are most grateful to Buck and Ora Lee O'Neil's family and heirs for their support and kind consideration of our request and are honored to be able to rename our chapter the Buck O'Neil Chapter. We look forward to carrying on Buck's legacy through our activities and events, promoting the richness and diversity of the game beloved by our chapter's inspirational namesake."*

Other SABR chapters honoring the Negro Leagues are the **Oscar Charleston** chapter in Indianapolis, Indiana and the **Monarchs** chapter in Kansas City, Missouri.

SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

Larry Lester Co-chair, Editor
Dick Clark Co-chair (Tstearnes@comcast.net)

The Courier is a quarterly newsletter published by the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR); in March, June, September and December. Inquiries, submissions and research requests can be sent to Larry Lester at NTresearch@comcast.net.

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To receive your personal copies of this newsletter join SABR by clicking here. And for back issues of ***The Courier*** click here.

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the

The Sheraton-Birmingham Hotel

2101 Richard Arrington,Jr., Blvd. North - Birmingham, AL 35203
205-324-5000

REGISTER AT THIS SPECIAL ONLINE LINK:
http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/jerrymalloy

Download Hotel Fact Sheet below:
Website Overview

Room rates for this Four-Star Hotel are:
Single or Double: $125 a night plus taxes
Triples: $135 a night plus taxes
Quads: $145 a night plus taxes

Ask for "Jerry Malloy Negro League" when you call.

Bonuses:

- Complimentary high speed internet access in the lobbies of the Sheraton & Business Center
- Adjacent to **Casey's Sports Bar & Grill**
- Indoor Heated Pool
- Fitness Facility
- Next door to the **Alabama Sports Hall of Fame** - **www.ashof.org**
- Next door to the **Birmingham Museum of Art** - **www.artsbma.org**
- Within walking distance of the **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute** - .93 mile or six blocks. **www.bcri.org**

Standard King

Parking:

- Self Pay Parking Facilities

Your Sheraton's in-house Reservation Supervisor **Cynthia Plummer** is at: Cynthia.plummer@sheraton.com or **205.324.5000 extension 5179**

Other nearby Attractions:

- Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame **www.jazzhall.com**
- Barber Motorsports Park. **www.barbermotorsports.com**
- McWane Science Center **www.mcwane.org**
- Vulcan Park & Museum Exhibition. **www.visitvulcan.com**

Registration Form - 13th Annual – contact LarryLester42@gmail.com with questions.

July 15-17, 2010

The Sheraton-Birmingham Hotel
2101 Richard Arrington, Jr., Blvd. North
Birmingham, AL 35203
205-324-5000
205-307-3045 FAX

Jerry Malloy
NEGRO LEAGUE
CONFERENCE

NAME(S): _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER(S) _____ **EMAIL**: _____

REGISTRATION FEE (by July 7th)

COMBO SPECIAL – Thursday, Friday & Saturday _____**$180** X ___ person(s) _____

Thursday's Educational Program **only** (all day) _____$**65** X ___ person(s) _____
(includes curriculum materials and boxed lunch)

Single Day registration (Fri. or Sat.) _____$**90** X ___ person(s) _____
*(Includes conference presentations, **does not include** "meet & greet," dinner, or ballgame)*

Full conference registration (Fri & Sat) _____$**150** X ___ person(s) _____
(Includes all conference events, Thursday's "Greet & Meet," Friday's Barons game, Rickwood Field tour, & Saturday's Dinner)

Full Student registration (***with ID***) _____$ **90** X ___ person(s) _____
(Includes all conference events, Thursday's "Greet & Meet," Friday's Barons game, Rickwood Field tour, & Saturday's Dinner). Note: For full time grad or undergrad students.

ADDITIONAL COSTS for Guests or for those not getting Full Registration

Saturday Night Dinner	_____	$**50** X	____ person(s) _____
Friday Night baseball game	_____	$ **8** X	____ person(s) _____
Bus from Sheraton to Rickwood Field to Hoover Stadium	_____	$ **8** X	____ person(s) _____
Thursday's *"Greet & Meet"* Reception at BCRI	_____	$**15** X	____ person(s) _____

You may also donate funds for:

_____ Grave Markers _____ Scholarships _____ Library Grants _____ Player Sponsorship

Total $ _____

***After Satchel Paige's birthday, July 7th, there will be $25 late registration fee.**

You May REGISTER at the SABR Link Below

SABR Store for Registration

Or pay by mail: Make your checks or money orders out to **SABR – Malloy Conference**.

SABR accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover Card

c/o **John Zajc - 812 Huron Road East, Suite 719 - Cleveland, OH 44115 - (216) 575-0500**