

@SABR - NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER  
December 1995

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Editor: Dick Clark, 1080 Hull, Ypsilanti, MI 48198-6472  
Telephone Number: (313) 487-5273

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\*\*Denotes items available for SASE-Please affix enough  
postage (usually 1 stamp/4 pages.)

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

I hope you all have recovered from Thanksgiving. Reports from many special events will follow. I'm sorry for the delay. What with a dead hot water heater and leaking toilet, flu, and vertigo, you could truthfully say November was not kind to us. I'm amazed we are close to normal. I'm weeks behind in accomplishing things.

We welcome new committee member Tod Maher. He can be reached at 1052-3 Padre Drive, Salinas, CA 93901. We also are glad to have Adrian Burgos aboard at 1528 Golden Ave. Ann Arbor, MI 48103. His phone is (313) 662-9099 and his E-mail is burgos@umich.com. We now have E-mail addresses for Paul DeBono and Leslie Heaphy, too. Paul is pdebono@indy.net and Leslie's is lheaphy@mail.stark.kent.edu and surprise Dick Clark has joined the "in crowd". Reach me on the Internet at TSTEARNES@AOL.COM and I have a Fax (313) 487-0807. Illness has been the big reason for my very slow response to E-mail messages.

As always this newsletter depends on the contributions of members and readers like the following people who submitted material: Todd Bolton, Bill Cash, Stephen Cotter, Paul Debono, James Floto, John Haddock, Leslie Heaphy, Larry Hogan, Lloyd Johnson, Merl Kleinknecht, Neil Lanctot, Larry Lester, Tod Maher, Jerry Malloy, Andy McCue, Sammy Miller, Jim Overmyer, James Passannante, Robert Peterson, Richard Puff, Jim Riley, Gregg Truitt, and Lyle Wilson.

Contributions are vital to the newsletter. We must pare down our mailings to members and readers. NLC members are required to contribute in some area, ie; research, education, interviews, etc. Readers of the newsletter are never asked for a commitment. Newsletters, phone calls, postage on NLC matters do cost money, however. Our 1996 budget has been cut back around 25%. I, therefore, must insist that I hear from all people who HAVE NOT communicated with me in the last year. If I do not hear from you I will drop your name from the mailing list. If you have spoken with me, passed along material, made a contribution to the NLC IGNORE the above. You can now reach me by E-mail, Fax, mail, or phone. Best call times are 5:30 PM to 10:30 PM EST. Leave a message if necessary; it is helpful in returning calls to have an idea what you may want. I

repeat: anyone, members or readers, who regularly communicate with me do not need to do anything different.

#### NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE PUBLICATION

Neil Lanctot answered the call for the ECL All-Star team mentioned in the last newsletter. The team was also called the Judy Gans All-Stars and formed the nucleus of the 1928 ECL Philadelphia Tigers.

Tod Maher has again found additional games between NL teams and semi-pro teams.

Merl Kleinknecht, thanks as usual.

Thanks to Mike Chamberlain for putting the NLC book on his top ten baseball books list.

The NLC is trying to compile standings for the Negro American League 1940, 1941, 1942, and 1943. League standings were never published for these years. We are requesting members and readers to (1) send in game scores and (2) game date, for these years. Complete box scores are not needed (but of course helpful). Teams in the NAL and their corresponding years are: KC, Memphis, Birmingham, Chicago, all four years. Cleveland Bears, 1940, Indianapolis Crawfords, 1940. Jacksonville Red Caps, 1941, 1942. St.Louis-New Orleans Stars, 1940, 1941. St.Louis-Harrisburg Stars, 1943. Cincinnati Buckeyes, 1942. Cincinnati Clowns, 1943. Cleveland Buckeyes, 1943. Cincinnati-Cleveland Bears, 1942. Updated League standings will be sent to all contributing members.

Larry Lester has solved the Ramon Bragana mystery of 1947. Ramon Bragana was in Mexico for the entire season. The Bragana for the Cleveland Buckeyes in 1947 is Alphonso Bragana an alias for Herbert "Doc" Bracken. Not exactly sure why Bracken did this.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

Jim Overmyer pitch hit for Larry Hogan at the Third Annual John Henry "Pop" Lloyd Lecture and Humanitarian Awards on October 8th. Humanitarian Awards were presented to Jerry Izenberg, NEWARK STAR-LEDGER sports columnist who heads up "Project Pride", a kids' recreation program in Newark, and to John Isaacs who played basketball with the Renaissance Big Five in Harlem and has logged about 30 years running youth sports programs in the Bronx. Izenberg gave the annual awards lecture, which focused on the importance of the Negro Leagues to the Black community in those days, and the importance of preserving that heritage for the youth of today.

In addition to the awards, about 25 Atlantic City area high school children received academic achievement awards from the Committee. In addition to a certificate, each received a signed copy of ONLY THE BALL WAS WHITE. Bob Peterson was present to sign each copy. Many thanks to Jim

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for passing along everything and to Max Manning for overseeing all. \*\*12pp photo copy of program is available.

Larry Lester, Lloyd Johnson, Eric Newland, Jim Riley, and veterans Bill Cash and Monte Irvin were NLC members in attendance in Kansas City, October 27-29, 1995 for The 75th Anniversary Celebration of The Negro Baseball Leagues. Around 240 veterans attended the event which included press conferences, VIP receptions, "The Soul of Baseball" gala dinner, visits to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and a card and autograph show. NLBM President Randell Ferguson announced that the museum would move in April, 1997 to new quarters across the street from the present location at 18th and Vine. The reunion was a grand occasion which was poorly handled by the NLBM current leadership. Very poor public relations, high prices for events (because of no corporate sponsorship) left many fans confused and dismayed. As always, the players made the event special with hundreds of interviews, thousands of stories and millions of memories. I'm sorry I couldn't make it. Perhaps a change in direction will revive the goals and dreams of the NLBM before it's too late. The following are available. \*\*20pp photocopy of the program (sleek looking but with material reused from the DISCOVER GREATNESS exhibit.

AP press release \*\*2pp, "Looking back at Satch and the rest." TOLEDO BLADE 10/29/95, KC museum recalls early Negro Leagues," \*\*1pg. 10/30/95, Hackensack, NJ, THE RECORD, "A bittersweet reunion in KC." \*\*1pg. SCD 12/1/95, "200 attend gala Negro League reunion," \*\*1pg. USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY, November 1-7, 1995 "Sides entrenched on question of pensions," \*\*1pg. "Head to head Black teams outplayed Whites," by John Holway \*\*1pg. "A family reunion" \*\*2pp. 10/30/95 AP "Former Negro Leaguers recall 'the good old days' at reunion," \*\*2pp. "KC remembers the Soul of Baseball." \*\*3pp.

A final note on the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. If you are having or have had difficulties with the current executive director of the NLBM please write them down and send them to Alfred Surratt Jr. 3448 E. 54th St. Kansas City, MO 64130. This maybe the only avenue we patrons and supporters of the NLBM and the public will have to show our concerns. The executive director does not pass along anything to the Board of Directors. I have listened to numerous (40-50) complaints myself. Dozens and dozens (I believe over half) of players are unhappy with zero responses from the NLBM. When will an audit take place to account for funds of the NLBM? Most of the Board members are closing their eyes to the problems that are continuing to mount. Let's do what we can to return the NLBM to the glory it once envisioned.

Gregg Truitt reports the placing of the historical marker at the Judy Johnson house was a huge success. The Marshalltown Civic Association did themselves proud with

another first-class tribute to Judy Johnson on November 4, 1995. The day was perfect with between 150-200 people including Congressman and former Governor Mike Castle, Toots Ferrell, and Jimmy Dean, attending. SABRite Joe Mitchell set up a table showing some of his Judy Johnson memorabilia for all to see. Available are the following. WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL 9/28/95 "Judy Johnson's longtime home to be a landmark," \*\*1pg. 11/5/95, "Judy Johnson home named historic site," \*\*1pg. \*\*2pp copy of program An Dedication of Historical Marker. Thanks Gregg!

#### Future Special Events

Josh Gibson Jr. is working with several folks on Black Pittsburgh Baseball and a Josh Gibson Sr. Exhibit at the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh, January 3, 1996 to February 28, 1996.

On March 15-17, 1996 the Bethune-Cookman College Seminar BREAKING BASEBALL'S COLOR LINE: JACKIE ROBINSON AND FIFTY YEARS OF INTEGRATION, will be held. They are calling for papers by January 10, 1996. The keynote speaker is Jules Tygiel.

#### COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are sorry to announce the passing of Joe Barnes Sr. on 9-25-95 in Chicago, \*\*4pp funeral program. Bill Battles died on 10-21-95 in Edgewater, FL \*\*1pg from DAYTONA BEACH (FL) NEW-JOURNAL, 10/24/95. Sam Jethroe's 16 year old grandson was killed in an accident recently.

"Baseball Hall of Fame Cachets introduced" \*\*1pg.

\*\*2pp BASEBALL AMERICA, November 27-December 10, 1995, "Baseball On-Line".

We are very grateful to have received the booklet AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES. The 48 page booklet was used in Indianapolis Public Schools.

The Friends of Rickwood Field have put out a nice brochure. \*\*8pp.

A recent Leland's Auction featured several Negro Leagues articles.

\*\*1pg call for proposals for Second Indiana State University Conference on Baseball in Literature and Culture.

Anyone with info on DATAC ASSOCIATES Baseball-The Grand Old Game, please pass it along. How is it?

Photo costs at The Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum in Philadelphia are now at \$150 per photo.

#### NEGRO LEAGUE RELATED ARTICLES

\*\*1pg, "Second Annual Negro Baseball Celebration set for December."

DUGOUT, December, 1993, "Baseball's other history: the legendary players of the Negro Leagues." \*\*4pp.

"Cool Papa Bell" Paul green interview from SCD April 29, 1983. \*\*5pp.

SCD September 16, 1983, Monte Irvin interview \*\*5pp.

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR, 10/23/95, "Negro League's Clowns were local heroes," \*\*2pp.

SCD 11/17/95 a great interview with our own NLC member Bill Cash, \*\*3pp. Also, Al Smith, \*\*4pp. Cover of SCD issue with NL Memorabilia, \*\*1pg.

USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY, October 25-31, 1995, "Robinson subject of upcoming Spike Lee film," \*\*2pp.

"Sukeforth under orders: see if Robinson can play," \*\*2pp

"Not so dazzling on Day One," \*\*2pp. "The day racism hit home," \*\*2pp.

From Vol 1 NO 1 HIERONIMUS & CO NEWSLETTER \*\*3pp, "Leon Day's Big Days: 3/7/95 & 7/30/95.

NASHVILLE BANNER 10/5/95 "Murfreesboro honors Negro League player with memorial park," \*\*1pg and NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN 10/6/95, "Carter Park honors memory of Negro Leaguers," \*\*1pg.

\*\*1pg review of Double Duty Radcliffe's book.

SCD 11/10/95, "More than 900 lots in Leland's 'Major League' auction," \*\*1pg.

WASHINGTON POST 10/3/95, "Going to Bat for the Negro Leagues," \*\*1pg.

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY SENTINEL, "Awkard remembering playing days with a little more joy," \*\*2pp.

DAILY NEWS (Palatka, FL) 10/4/95, "Thanks for the memories," (Lefty Turner) \*\*2pp.

Two other articles available from SABR's Research Papers Collection c/o Leonard Levin 282 Doyle Ave. Providence, RI 02906. (there are charges). "Baseball Cards and Race Relations" by Robert K. Fitts, is 11 pages. "Wendell Smith, THE PITTSBURGH COURIER-JOURNAL and the Campaign to Include Blacks in Organized Baseball 1933-1945" from JOURNAL OF SPORT HISTORY, Vol 10 No 2 (Summer, 1983) is 12pages.

## CURRENT AND FUTURE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Lloyd Johnson is working with BASEBALL AMERICA on a travel book for the real baseball fan. Covering EVERY baseball related place within a state in the entire USA. The home of Satchel Paige and the gravesite of Josh Gibson etc. would be included in the Negro League type entries. Contact Lloyd at Double Play PO Box 22481 Kansas City, MO 64113 (816) 822-2516 for more information and if you may know of unusual baseball related places.

James Floto seeks information on the famous KC YMCA meeting; the development of the NNL; first year records and standings for the 1920 Negro National League season. His book will also cover 1920 and the world at that time and Major League baseball developments. Contact James at THE DIAMOND ANGLE PO Box 409 Kaunakakai, HI 96748. James always is seeking articles on the Negro leagues.

Paul DeBono continues work on the McFarland & Co. publication on the Indianapolis Negro Baseball Teams.

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Anyone with any knowledge of the after baseball life of Steel Arm John Taylor should contact me immediately.

\*\*1pg press release for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. They are beginning a 5-year project entitled: AFRICAN-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS: A NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY AND UNION LIST. Send for news release or contact me for more details. You may be able to contact them for material in your area.

Philip Summers 10010 SW Conestoga #131 Beaverton, OR 97008-8427 is a teacher working on an historical novel in the 1939-1947 period of the Negro Leagues.

Benjamin E. Moser c/o Union College Box 1224 Schenectady, NY 12308 (515) 388-5518 is writing his senior thesis concerning the History of The Negro Baseball Leagues.

Please help out these folks with their projects which will further the education of the public.

#### THE MARKETPLACE

Larry Lester is offering for sale a 12-card set of modern day postcards of baseball's greatest pitcher Satchel Paige. 1 to 5 sets \$6 each plus \$1.50 P&H. Contact Larry at (816) 358-0475 or fax him at (816) 737-8806. to order.

I trust one of your 1996 calendar choices is on the Negro Leagues. BLACK BALL: THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES by What's A Face Productions is available for \$10.95. Important births and death dates along with quotes from various players make this a valuable purchase. IOKTS Production 7007 Carroll Ave. #2 Takoma Park, MD 20912 (301) 270-1920 is one place to get the calendar.

The latest Ebbet's Field Flannels Catalog #12 is available for \$1 call 800 377-9777, There are 12pp on NL's.

Greg Tucker, of Oklahoma has some Negro Leaguers autographs for reasonable prices. Contact him 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM CST at (918) 455-0383 for a catalog.

\*\*1pg AD Quality Autographs \*\*1pg AD Savoia's Ron Lewis Negro Leagues Lithographs. \*\*1pg AD 75th Anniversary Lithograph.

#### FINAL REMARKS

The next newsletter will be February's. Please get all material to me before the last week of January. A most joyous holiday season to all.

  
Dick Clark & Larry Lester