

The Negro Leagues Courier

The newsletter of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, all else are the Sea"

June 2000

Copyright 2000 by SABR

Editor: 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)

Leonard Family To Appear At NLC Conference

The following report comes to us courtesy of *The Negro Leagues Courier's* collectibles editor Jeff Eastland.

"Lugenia Leonard and her daughter Floross Fox, will be attending the 3rd SABR Negro League Research Conference in Harrisburg Aug. 4-6. They will have a table and will be selling a number of items signed by Hall of Famer Buck Leonard, including books (Jim Riley's *Buck Leonard, the Black Lou Gehrig*), baseballs, t-shirts, photos, and cards. SABR members should bring a few extra dollars as this represents a special opportunity to buy a few items from the greatest Negro League first baseman of all time, direct from the family!"

NLC Member Tom Garrett Soon To Be Off The DL

A lot of items have been covered and reported in the past year and a half that I have been editor of this newsletter but none given me greater joy than the information that NLC member Tom Garrett who, as was reported in a previous newsletter had suffered a stroke, is doing very well. He recently sent a short message to NLC chairman Dick Clark that I would like to include part of here. Tom reported that:

"My rehab is coming along real well although at times I get impatient. I hope to return to work in about a month. I'm walking about 4 to 6 miles a day. Not bad for a guy whose wife and son were told I probably wouldn't make it through the night at one time and if I did I probably would be in a nursing home and probably wouldn't walk or talk any time soon. I guess the Lord has other plans."

One of the high points for me at the first NLC Conferences was the presence of Tom and I am happy to report that he is planning to attend again this year.

Contributors

Many people have made this newsletter possible. They are: Mark Alvarez, Todd Bolton, Greg Bond, Baylor Butler, Dick Clark, Paul Debono, Marianne DiMatteo, Jeff Eastland, Bob Eisen, James Floto, Ted Hathaway, Larry Hogan, John Holway, John Lee Hooker, Ted Knorr, Larry Lester, Jay-Dell Mah, Jerry Malloy, Andy McCue, Bill McNeil, Fred Mitchell, Bob Peterson, Bill Plott, John Russell, Jay Sanford, David Skinner, Gregg Truitt, and Lyle Wilson.

Committee News & Member Updates

Tom Garrett has a new area code. His number is now 757-686-0912. He also has a new e-mail address. It is tomgarrett@hotmail.com

The annual NLC Report is available. **1pg. It is, as always, truly riveting reading. (With a lie like that in the newsletter, I guess we are a tabloid now!)

Paul Debono has a new address and phone number. He can now be reached at 1946 Andina Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45237. Phone is 513-242-5634. His new e-mail is: pdebono@cinci.rr.com

Rick Morris has a new e-mail address. It is acebondage@earthlink.net. (I was afraid to ask.)

New Email address for John Russell is the27thson@aol.com

Sammy Miller has a new area code. His number is now (859) 525-1619.

A new committee address list is available. Contact Dick Clark for a copy.

We have come into contact with a great grandson of J.B. Martin

Obituaries

Albert "Buster" Haywood passed away on April 19 in Los Angeles, CA. He was 90 years old. Haywood was from the heyday of the Negro Leagues. He was all-star catcher, & a good manager. His sense of humor will be missed.

James "Bo" Wallace died Friday, April 14, 2000, in Elizabeth, NJ. Wallace was a catcher with the Newark-Houston Eagles, 1948-49. He is a member of the Union County Sports Hall of Fame. Condolences, and contributions can be sent to 1056 Anna Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201.

Coley "Carl" Logan passed away on November 8, 1999 in Hudson, NY. Logan played for the Bacharach Giants and the Philadelphia Stars.

Granville Gladstone passed on January 1, 1999 in Brooklyn at 73.

Resting Places Found

Todd Bolton, *The Negro Leagues Courier's* Latin American desk editor has found two new resting places.

Luis Villodas is buried in Cementerio Civil, Ponce, PR.

Luis Marquez is buried in Municipal Cemetery, Aquadilla, PR.

Pat Scantlebury is buried in Glendale Cemetery, Bloomfield, New Jersey.

Current and Future Individual Projects

Bob Eisen is continuing his battle with the Department of Health of the city of New York over the death certificate of Smokey Joe Williams. Reports are that New York city officials are afraid that Eisen intends on selling the obviously sensitive document to foreign powers.

Paul Rinier pdtp@supernet.com is looking for any information on the great Negro League pitchers motions, pitch selections and deliveries.

Bill McNeil is busy working on another book. This one will cover the California Winter League and the Florida Hotel League. He seeks anyone with info and/or pictures related to the topic. Bill is at mcneil@vgernet.net or in Directory.

A video on the life and times of Judy Johnson is in development. The goal is to tell Delaware children about Judy's life and his dedication to youth. Joe Mitchell is heading up the project. They seek any vintage and contemporary photos, film, memorabilia, personal remembrances regarding any phase of Judy's life. Joe can be reached at locojoem@aol.com or in the Directory.

Negro League Related Articles

"A Question of Black and White" from the 5/19/00 issue of *SCD*. **1pg.

"Black History Month" from the March/April issue of *Buddy Guy's Legends*. **1pg. The article has what might be the greatest description of Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe ever written.

"Beisbol Behind The Veil: The Latin Baseball players in the Negro Leagues" from the 3/15/00 issue of *City News* (Newark, NJ). **1pg.

"Exhibit Honors Latino Players" from the 3/20/00 issue of *The Courier News* (Bridgewater, NJ). **1pg.

"Beisbol Scores Big: Exhibit Honors Latino Ball Players" from the 3/20/00 issue of *The Home News Tribune* (East Brunswick, NJ). **1pg.

"Perth Amboy To Host Latin Baseball Exhibit" from the 3/31/00 issue of *Perth Amboy Gazette*. **1pg.

"Exhibition Commemorates Salutes Negro Latin-American Baseball Players" from the 3/17/00 issue of *Home News Tribune*. **1pg.

"Latinos Recall Their Role In Negro Baseball" from the 3/20/00 issue of *The Star Ledger* (Newark, NJ). **1pg.

"Commemorating Negro League Legends" from *The Seattle Times* website. **3pgs.

"Baseball Hall of Fame Settles The Score: After Decades of Neglect, Turkey Stearnes Gets His Due" by Richard Bak from the May 2000 issue of *Hour Detroit*. **1pg.

"From Page To Screen: Ann Arbor Author's Tale of Former Negro Leagues player Becomes Showtime Movie" from unknown paper. **2pgs.

"New Exhibit Scheduled in New Jersey: Beisbol Behind The Veil Exhibit Highlights Players in the Negro Leagues" from *NegroLeagueBaseball.Com*. **1pg.

"Historic Baseball Game To Be Re-Enacted in Piscataway, New Jersey" from *NegroLeagueBaseball.Com*. **1pg.

"A Legacy Remembered" concerning Jackie Robinson's time as a basketball coach from the 4/15/97 issue of the *Austin American-Stateman*. **2pgs.

"Memories Of When Only The Ball Was White" concerning Stanley Glenn from the 3/16/00 issue of *The Courier-Post* (Cherry Hill, NJ). **1pg.

"Negro League Players To Visit Museum Sunday" concerning on exhibit of Ernest Wither's photos. Article is from the 4/14/00 issue of *The Virginian Pilot*. **2pgs.

The latest newsletter from the Friends of Rickwood is available. **4 pgs.

"Municipal Stadium Marked For History" from the 4/7/00 issue of *The Kansas City Star*. **1pg.

"Before Jackie Robinson & The Latino Racial Experience" from the book *Ballpark Sourcebook: Diamond Diagrams* by Oscar Palacios, Eric Robin, and Stats Inc. **4pgs.

THE JERSEY JOURNAL 4/27/00 "Wall of Honor" (Negro League Mural at Newark Stadium) **4pp

"Hometown Heroes" THE NEWS JOURNAL 5/12/00 **1pg on Delaware Sports Hall of Fame. Howard "Toots" Ferrell was recently inducted.

The State of New Jersey's Visitor's Guide To African American Hertiage and Attractions contains an article concerning the Negro Leagues in the Garden State. For a copy call 1-800-VISITNJ, extention 0973 or goto www.visitnj.org.

On The Web

The SABR Index to Baseball Literature (formerly RBI) has made available a ** 2pg brochure on the project. It is also located on the web at www.sabr.org/rbicdrom.shtml They passed along to us a nice 16 page sampling of what they have on the Negro Leagues. They have referenced over 800 books and articles on Negro League Baseball. It is a great tool for researching projects and I urge all to avail themselves of the index.

SABR's *Research Baseball Index* now includes index s of several African American publications from the 1940's and 50's. These are *Color*, *Our World*, *Our Sports*, *Sepia*, and *Jet*.

Articles from *The Baseballplayers* are now available online at <http://cbs.sportslines.com/u/baseball/bol/baseballplayers/lists/negro.html>

Jay-Dell Mah continues his research on semi-pro baseball in Western Canada, where many Negro Leaguers played late in their careers. Check these two sites for the latest.

[Http://www.attheplate.com/wcbl/negro.htm](http://www.attheplate.com/wcbl/negro.htm) and

<http://www.attheplate.com/wcbl/barnstorming.htm>

Also check out some personal photos from collection of Toni Stone at <http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~johmw/>

The Marketplace

Listing for a new book for \$29.95 by Nick Wilson VOICES FROM THE PASTIME: ORAL HISTORIES OF SURVIVING MAJOR LEAGUERS, NEGRO LEAGUERS, CUBAN LEAGUERS AND WRITERS, 1920-

1934. Must be a Larry Hogan title.

The latest issue of NINE has reviews of *Jackie Robinson: Race, Sports, and the American Dream* by NLC member Jerry Malloy, *The Pride of Havana: A History of Cuban Baseball* by NLC member David Skinner, and *Brushing Back Jim Crow: The Integration of Minor League Baseball in the American South* by Ron Riley

The upcoming ABOUT TIME auction will feature 19 lots of Negro Leagues related items. Contact them at (413) 253-9630 to get a booklet. Auction is set for June 8th.

The advance/copies of *Black Baseball In Detroit* by Larry Lester, Sammy J. Miller, and Dick Clark are out and the book should be available in stores within the next couple of weeks.

Recent Events

Sammy J. Miller recently took part in a press conference at Cinergy Field (a.k.a. The Toilet Bowl On The River) concerning the RBI (Reviving Baseball In The Inner City) Program in Cincinnati, OH. Also Present were John Allen, Chief Operating Officer of the Cincinnati Reds and former Negro Leaguers Charlie Harmon and Don Johnson.

Although no dates have been set, tentative plans are for Miller to appear before Cincinnati City Council to introduce a proposal for the city to name two baseball fields after Harmon and Johnson. Miller was also approached about appearing on a sports call in program on WCIN radio.

Gary Mauer passed along some nice photos from the recent Breaking Barriers Night/ May 24, 2000 in Milwaukee. Excellent **1pg player handout. Honored were Sherwood Brewer, Pancho Herrera, Cecil Kaiser, Ira McKnight, Pat Patterson, and Al Smith.

Upcoming Events

The Negro Leagues Committee meeting at the SABR Con this year will be chaired by Dick Clark and is scheduled for 9am to 10am on Friday, June 23.

The 5th Annual Judy Johnson Night will be held on Saturday, August 26th at 6:30 PM in Wilmington, DE at the park.

Carl Long Day will be celebrated June 24, 2000 in Kingston, NC. **1 pg flyer

NLC Y2K

Third Annual Society for American Baseball Research-Negro League Committee Conference
An outreach service of the Penn State Harrisburg School of Humanities

Conference Features:

13 consecutive sessions of individual presentations and panels

Interactive forums with former Negro League players

Numerous networking opportunities

A banquet on Friday evening

A day packed with free Negro League-related activities at Harrisburg's City Island

The Fourth Annual Negro League Commemorative Night at the Harrisburg Senator's baseball game

A Sampling of Conference Sessions:

In the Shadow of Greatness : Irvin Goldfarb

Questioning Negro Leaguers: A Look at Questionnaires in the Hall of Fame Library : Amy Essington

James Leslie Wilkinson: The Iowa Years, 1874(?) - 1915 : Ralph J. Christian

Lazaro Salazar-Baseball's Most Underrated Winner : Jeff Eastland

Who was a Better Negotiator, Monte Hall or Monte Irvin? : Rick Morris

Tentative Conference Schedule:

Friday, August 4, 2000

8:00 a.m.-12 noon Morning Sessions and Breaks with vendors
12: noon Lunch (on your own)
1:30-5:00 p.m. Afternoon Sessions and Simulation Tourney/Trivia Contest
6:30 Banquet : Presentation to the Honorable Stephen R. Reed, Mayor of Harrisburg
Kazuo Sayama Japanese baseball historian, will reminisce about Steelton native Rap Dixon's role in popularizing baseball in Japan
After hours Chris Waller Blues Band at the Pep Grille

Saturday, August 5, 2000

8:00 a.m.-12 noon Morning Sessions (NLC meeting & Preview of upcoming events at City Island; Breaks with vendors)
11:45 Lunch with the players at Dewey's Dry Dock & Deli
1:00 p.m. Post-session activities at Harrisburg's City Island Pavilion: Open to the Public
(Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council)
Dramatic Reading of Sammy Miller's "A Victim of the Line"
Women and the Negro League: On and Off the Field
The Negro League: Discover Greatness
Trivia Contest
The South Side Steppers, a Drill and Dance Team
Fantasy Baseball Tourney Final
5:00 Fourth Annual Negro League Night at the Harrisburg Senator's baseball game
Evening baseball game including a ceremony honoring Oscar Charleston
After hours Jimmy Woods Quartet at the Harrisburg Hilton and Tower

Sunday, August 6, 2000

10:00 a.m. Informal Tours of local baseball fields and other sites

Accommodations

Accommodations are the responsibility of the program participant. A limited block of reduced-rate rooms has been reserved at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers. To make your reservations, call the Hilton at 1-800-HILTON or click on www.hilton.com by Tuesday, July 4, 2000 and receive special room rates of \$75 single and double, plus 8% occupancy tax. After July 4, the hotel's regular room rates will apply. Be sure to mention that you are with the SABR Negro League Committee Conference to receive the special rate.

Transportation

The Harrisburg Hilton & Towers is about 15 miles from Harrisburg International Airport. Complimentary shuttle service is available between the hotel, airport, train station and bus station. The shuttle bus departs the hotel on the hour and the airport on the half-hour. To schedule shuttle service, request the hotel's Bell Captain when making hotel reservations.

Register Now with attached form.

REGISTRATION FORM

The Third Annual Society for American Baseball Research Negro League Conference

Please duplicate for additional registrations.

(HUM 6100, Schedule #507330)

Name (please print clearly) Social Security Number

Occupation Title

Business Name

Business Address

City State Zip Code

Business Phone Fax

Home Address

City State Zip Code

Home Phone Date of Birth

Male Female

E-mail Address Gender

(over)

REGISTRATION FEES

Conference Fees, Inclusive:

SABR Members \$74.00

Non-members \$86.00

Conference Fees, Separate Events:

Conference sessions \$50.00

Banquet \$30.00

Baseball Game \$ 6.00

Total \$ _____

PLEASE INDICATE METHOD OF PAYMENT:

☐ Enclosed is a check for \$ _____, payable to The
Pennsylvania State University.

☐ Bill my sponsoring organization. The Bursar will bill
an employer only if a letter on its organizational letterhead
is attached to the registration stating the student's name,
social security number, and tuition and fees billable.
Letters containing academic performance conditions will not
be accepted.

☐ IDCC# _____ (Penn State Employees Only) Please submit your
IDCC to supplier ID: EVC4

☐ Charge \$ _____ to my _____ Visa® _____ MasterCard®

Account Number

Exp. Date

Cardholder's Signature

Mail completed registration form with payment to: Noncredit Registration, Enrollment services,
Penn State Harrisburg, 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-5898

Fax with credit card or billing information to: (717) 948-6324

Cancellation and Refund Policy

The University reserves the right to cancel or postpone any program because of insufficient enrollment or for other unforeseen circumstances. Registrants will be notified by telephone and refunds processed if a program is cancelled. Refunds will be made only if cancellation is received by July 20, 2000. Substitutes are welcome. To cancel your registration, mail or fax a written notice to Karen Wasielewski at the address and fax number listed below. If the program is postponed or cancelled, the University will refund conference fees, but cannot be held responsible for any other costs, charges, or expenses.