

@ SABR - NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER  
June 1996

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

### CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Exciting events have and will happen; I encourage you to get involved.

I continue to mess up Adrian Burgos's email it should be aburgos@umich.edu Other phone, voice mail, fax, or email information is as follows: Jeff Eastland bruth@ahoy.net Ed Cesarone Seabop@aol.com fax (206) 827-1153. Larry Hogan hogan@hawk.ucc.edu Jerry Malloy malloyj@ix.netcom.com and area code of 847. Paul DeBono new fax and voice mail (317) 266-8705. Bob Browning has completed his Masters in History at UNC-Greensboro and has moved to PO Box 203 Westtown, PA 19395 (610) 399-0142 with an email of Hcb@dolphin.upenn.edu We welcome two new members: Tim Booker PO Box 2603, Ft. Riley, KS 66442, home phone: (913) 782-3682 and work: (913) 239-9067 and also, John Murray 5727 156 Ave NE Redmond, WA 98052, phone: (206) 885-6972 and email of johnmur@earthlink.net John has long worked on umpires of the Negro Leagues.

This newsletter reflects the worthy contributions of the following: Todd Bolton, Tim Booker, Rich Bozzone, Ed Cesarone, Paul DeBono, Jeff Eastland, James Floto, Tom Gerbasi, Larry Gerlach, Phil Grabar, Leslie Heaphy, Alex Hernandez, Bob Hoie, Larry Hogan, Merl Kleinknecht, Joe Lee, Larry Lester, Jerry Malloy, Gary Maurer, Bill McNeil, Sammy Miller, John Murray, Eric Newland, Jim Passannante, Bob Peterson, Bill Plott, Bob Potts, Dottie Riley, Jim Riley, Rob Ruck, Jay Sanford, Brad Sullivan, Gregg Truitt, and Lyle Wilson.

The annual NLC report is available \*\*1pg.

### NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE PUBLICATION

Alex Hernandez contacted us by email seeking help to validate his grandfather's Negro League career. None of the other books had any information on him. His grandfather was Denio "Toto" Canton, whom we had as ? Canton for the 1941 New York Cubans. Now we have all the pertinent facts. This makes everything worthwhile. We also located Booker T. Robinson whom we had as Edward Robinson for the Homestead Grays. We also located Sam Taylor. We seek any info on Lynn Perry a '30s pitcher mainly with the Mohawk Giants.

Jeff Eastland discovered a August 27, 1939 All-Star program for a New York City game.

Thanks again to Bob Hoie for providing us with John Benesch's \*\*2pp listing of modifications to the OB records sections. It deals mainly with League Leaders. Bob has expanded upon the work of Mike Bergantino and has compiled an almost complete (lacking only my "where are they" notes to finish it up) 1946 West Coast Baseball Association Register. It should be available by the next newsletter (if I get my work done).

### SPECIAL EVENTS

The main topic of the NLC meeting at the SABR Convention will be how to change the "Quota System" at The Hall of Fame. I believe Larry has again insisted on a 7:30 AM Saturday meeting.

The Kansas City Royals have scheduled a Negro Leagues Tribute for June 29th and a Monarch Cap and Motown Night for August 24th.

Todd Bolton moderated a symposium at the Baltimore City Life Festival on April 13th. Guests were Russell Awkard, Earnest Burke, and Toots Ferrell. It was very successful. I have a \*\*2pp schedule of events.

On May 25th the following players appeared at the Philadelphia Convention Center; Gene Benson, Bill Cash, Mahlon Duckett, Wilmer Fields, Stanley Glenn, Harold Gould, Wilmer Harris, Larry Kimbrough, Joe Black, Dick Allen and Max Manning. It was the usual great time.

We have a lot of material available regarding the HBO premiere of SOUL OF THE GAME, April 20, 1996: USA TODAY 4/19/96 Advertising picture \*\*1pg & a short review \*\*1pg; DETROIT FREE PRESS 4/19/96, "A League of Their Own" \*\*2pp; JET, April 29, 1996, "Soul of The Game" \*\*3pp; N.J. DAILY RECORD 4/18/96, "Soul of The Game touches home with its stars." \*\*1pg; USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY April 17-23, 1996 "Capturing the "Soul" of the Negro Leagues" \*\*1pg; "Drama beats details in Soul of The Game" \*\*1pg from THE

ANN ARBOR NEWS 4/20/96; and PITCH WEEKLY (Kansas City, MO) May 2-8, 1996, "Soul of The Game" \*\*1pg. Special thanks to Jim and Dottie Riley for passing along the program from the special screening. \*\*3pp copy.

We have some articles from past Special Events: FLORIDA TODAY 2/4/96, "Black History Month has lessons for all Americans." \*\*1pg; ELIZABETHTON STAR 2/27/96 "Baseball in Black offers new perspective on favorite pastime." \*\*1pg; and a \*\*3pp copy of the program "Baseball in Black: In a League all their own" the symposium at East Tennessee State University on 2/28/96, chaired by Jim Riley.

Joe Lee has provided us a recap on the conference BREAKING BASEBALL'S COLOR LINE: JACKIE ROBINSON & FIFTY YEARS OF INTEGRATION 1946-1996, held in Daytona Beach, Florida, March 15-17, 1996. The BEFORE YOU CAN SAY JACKIE ROBINSON: BLACK BASEBALL IN AMERICA IN THE ERA OF THE COLOR LINE, 1885-1950, Larry Hogan's exhibit was instrumental to the success of the event and improves with each showing. Jules Tygiel's meticulous observations on society's state fifty years after the integration of professional baseball ignited a brief response from Joe Black. Mr. Tygiel's assessment was based on extensive personal research. Bill Schuman, a local historian produced and showed his video on Daytona's role in the Robinson story. Schuman and the local newspaper collaborated on a complement to Larry Hogan's exhibit. It featured the activities of the Negro Leagues in Florida. It was impossible to keep up with all the presentations on Friday and Saturday. Highlights for Joe were presentations by Arnold Rampersad and Jonathan Mercantini. There was also a round table discussion with Joe Black talking about being Jackie's rookie roommate. Black had a serious message related to his work with the Jackie Robinson Foundation. He did not hesitate to name the players who contribute substantially nor fail to mention those who don't. Sharon Richardson Jones related her story from little girl in awe of some hero she did not fully comprehend to becoming an executive with the Oakland A's. Ed Charles drove several folks over to his old neighborhood to show people his house and the Kelly Field where he watched Jackie and his Montreal teammates work out in 1946. Charles crossed town to perch on the left field fence to see the famous game between Brooklyn and Montreal. On Sunday Mrs. Robinson dedicated a memorial plaque to honor the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Brooklyn-Montreal game and posed with admirers as families took endless pictures.

The NLC thanks Joe Lee and Dottie and Jim Riley for passing along the following: "Before You Can Say Jackie Robinson..." Brochure \*\*2pp; Conference booklet \*\*4pp; Schedule of Events \*\*2pp; Dedication Service Program \*\*2pp;

BASEBALL AMERICA "Daytona Beach Remembers Robinson" \*\*1pg.

### COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Josh Johnson has recently lost his sight. He can be reached at (217) 544-6464.

We are sorry to announce the deaths of Jim Pendleton 3/10/96 in Houston \*\*1pg; Chester Gray 4/18/96 in Ann Arbor MI \*\*1pg obit & ANN ARBOR NEWS 4/19/96 "Former Negro Leagues player Gray dies of cancer at age 82" \*\*1pg; and Wilmer Fields's daughter passed.

Over 20 Negro Leagues related items were in the recent Leland's Auction of May 11, 1996.

Tom Gerbasi is offering a free issue of SIDELINES, an excellent publication that does reviews of games for all sports. Contact Tom at (212) 525-8547 8 to 4 and after 7 at (718) 982-5268. His address is 31 Westport Lane, Staten Island, New York 10314.

The following articles are from SIDELINES issues "The Negro Leagues: A retrospective \*\*3pp; "Recaps of the All-Time Negro Leagues Championships" \*\*4pp; part 3 \*\*2pp; along with \*\*1pg "Interrogation 2.1; Jim Riley SIDELINES is on the Web at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/sidelines>

\*\*1pg Dominicans in the Negro Leagues.

Four Negro Leagues related pieces are in the latest THE NATIONAL PASTIME: "Bill Thompson, pioneer" \*\*2pp; "The Monarchs and night baseball." \*\*5pp; "The Celoron Acme Colored Giants." \*\*3pp; and Lyle Wilson's excellent "Willie Foster and the Washington Browns." \*\*5pp.

With regards to Jackie Robinson's Organized Baseball arrival and play, we have the following from the THE JERSEY JOURNAL of Jersey City, New Jersey: 4/13/96 "Jersey City witnessed baseball history." \*\*5pp; 4/15/96, "A foot in the door." \*\*3pp; 4/16/96, "Casualty of war," (Irvin)\*\*3pp 4/17/96, "His preformance left us awed." \*\*5pp; 4/18/96, "It was a triumph." \*\*7pp.

We also have: 4/18/96 NEW YORK TIMES, "50 years ago: Robinson's Jersey debut." \*\*2pp; "Over the line: memories of Jackie's first game," THE RECORD (Hackensack, NJ) 4/18/96. NEWARK STAR-LEDGER 4/18/96, "A golden day on the diamond," \*\*1pg; and "Robinson made debut 50 years ago today," \*\*2pp; "Here's to you, Mr Robinson," \*\*1pg; SEATTLE TIMES, 3/22/96, "Sing the praises of a baseball pioneer," \*\*1pg; INSIDE SPORTS, May, 1996 "A confidante to history." \*\*1pg (Benson & Jackie)

## NEGRO LEAGUES RELATED ARTICLES

The latest issue of THE DIAMOND ANGLE, includes Larry Lester's "What if.....Baseball had never been segregated" \*\*3pp and \*\*1pg review of Double Duty Radcliffe's book.

SCD 4/26/96, Mel Duncan \*\*3pp.

SCD 4/26/96, "Ted fingers five more for immortality" \*\*3pp.

SCD 5/3/96, Frazier Robinson \*\*3pp and Mahlon Duckett \*\*2pp.

SCD 5/10/96, Butch McCord \*\*3pp.

SCD 5/17/96, "Chester Gray was Jackie's roommate"\*\*\*1pg.

SCD 5/31/96, Thomas "High Pockets" Turner \*\*2pp.

"Sanford Barnes: Yakima's Baseball Great" YAKIMA HERALD REPUBLIC 2/4/96. \*\*1pg.

SILHOUETTES Vol 3 and 4 Fall/Winter, 1995-96 Special Double Issue is out.

THE WORLD & I, Culture Heritage section, Feb/1996 "Sacrifice Play: The Negro Baseball League Remembered" \*\*11pp.

June, 1995 EBONY, "50 Years of Blacks in Baseball"\*\*\*7pp.

"A White Umpire in The Negro Leagues" \*\*1pg from #6 May/June, 1996 THE VINTAGE & CLASSIC BASEBALL COLLECTOR. Also, \*\*1pg on private signings for Leonard and Fields. & "Kansas City Monarch Memorabilia discovered." \*\*1pg.

RICHMOND (VA) TIMES-DISPATCH 5/9/96, "No Major Disappointments" (Wilmer Fields) \*\*2pp. 5/7/96, "Negro Leagues team on video," \*\*1pg.

METRO TIMES, March 27-April 2, 1996 "Black Ball" \*\*1pg and April 17-23 "Tigers get to score with black fans," \*\*1pg

"Their turn at bat" (Greensboro (Goshen) NC Red Wings) GREENSBORO (NC) NEWS & RECORD 4/9/96 \*\*2pp.

THE BELLINGHAM (WA) HERALD 4/14/96 \*\*1pg "Negro Leagues Survivor," (Bill Owens).

ST. PAUL RECORDER, April 18-24, 1996 \*\*1pg "50 years after Robinson's debut, A Negro-Leaguer remembers," (Owens)

"The Supernatural" GENTLEMAN'S QUARTERLY with Ken Griffey Jr. and Buck O'Neil, \*\*8pp.

AP 5/2/96, "Baseball minority hiring lagging" USA TODAY 5/10/96, "Baseball minority hiring stagnant" CHICAGO TRIBUNE, 5/10/96, "Baseball takes a minority hit" \*\*3pp.

The latest of NINE includes Jerry Malloy's superb "The Strange Career of Sol White, Black Baseball's First Historian", 19 pages. Also, \*\*2pp on Horace Wilds and the African-American experience. Book reviews of GREAT TIME COMING, I NEVER HAD IT MADE, IT'S GOOD TO BE ALIVE, \*\*4pp total. Also, A HARD ROAD TO GLORY-BASEBALL and EARLY INNINGS, \*\*3pp. Finally, 14 pages on playing baseball in America; Puerto Rican Memories (an oral history article).

SCD 6/7/96 "Lou Creekmur, Wilmer Fields appear at Roanoke, VA, show" \*\*1pg

## CURRENT AND FUTURE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Bob Browning is submitting his historical analysis of the Asheville Blues, of the Negro Southern League, to the NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL REVIEW and he is working on a piece on Bill Greason.

Tom Gerbasi is beginning a project on Oscar Charleston and would appreciate any information.

Dr Richard Bailey is doing a book THEY TOO CALL ALABAMA HOME. It will include Negro Leaguers from the state. Contact him at (334) 272-4826.

The noted author Marc Okkonen is working on a new book MICHIGAN'S MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PARKS and will have Negro Leagues parks included.

Bill McNeil has completed his book on great home run hitters in baseball history (due 1997), Negro Leaguers included. He is now working on an all-time baseball all-star team, covering ALL leagues.

Please pass along any new material regarding the General Mills Wheaties promotion to Joe Lee Box 1778, Warner Robins, GA 31099-1778. He will be keeping a file for the NLC.

## THE MARKETPLACE

A & R Books & Collectibles has Negro Leagues books and Bobbin Heads. Contact Rich Chew at PO Box 285 Tiverton, RI 02878 or call (401) 624-8947.

We have reviews of NICE GUYS FINISH FIRST by Monte Irvin and Jim Riley. BASEBALL AMERICA April 15-28, 1996 \*\*1pg "Irvin biography covers many topics." PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY \*\*1pg. NEW YORK POST, \*\*1pg. KIRRUS REVIEW \*\*1pg. Jim also had book signings in Merritt Island, Florida and Wilmington, Delaware and was on TV, the SUNDAY EDITION show and FOCUS programs in Melbourne, FL.

After reading NICE GUYS FINISH FIRST, Jim Passannante did a little research on Monte's javelin record. Monte Irvin held the All New Jersey High School Record of 192 feet in 1937 (with a wooden javelin). The record lasted for 7 years. Jim truly believes Monte could have made the 1936 Olympic Team if he had tried out and I wholeheartedly agree.

"Buyer Beware" if you purchase any "fiction" done by Ribowsky. We have a review from BASEBALL AMERICA, "Biography sheds little light on Gibson The Man". This was done by someone unfamiliar with the Negro Leagues. \*\*1pg. PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE 4/14/96, Rob Ruck's review of THE POWER AND THE DARKNESS, \*\*2pp. A scholarly thoughtful review by someone who knows Gibson. Ruck tells it as one should; the book is trash. Another review \*\*1pg from MINNEAPOLIS STAR-TRIBUNE, 5/5/96, "Lack of data harms biography of great black ballplayer."

Bob Hoie recently checked out of the library Ribowsky's HISTORY OF THE NEGRO LEAGUES (a most misleading title). Bob said he was able to learn the following: The 1883 American Association had 13 clubs (not 8). Bud Fowler played with Birmingham in 1887 (not Binghamton). Fans were "gorging on hot dogs" in 1889 (years before they were invented). Chief Bender was signed by John McGraw in 1903 (not Connie Mack). Grover Cleveland Alexander was the ace of the Philadelphia Athletics. The NEW YORK AGE was a white paper, the OAKLAND TRIBUNE was a black paper. Jackie Robinson was an All-American football player at the University of Southern California (not All-Conference at UCLA). There was a car called the "Pierce Arrow Cadillac". Nashua was a Dodger Class AA farm (New England League was Class B). Hank Aaron went from the Indianapolis Clowns to Jacksonville in late June 1953 (who was that imposter with Eau Claire in 1952 and how did Hank get into 137 games with Jacksonville). Sportswriters (not the fans) picked the 1933 (White) Major League All-Star teams (how did Al Simmons get 346,000 votes?) Another highlight for Bob were quotes from Rogers Hornsby after Rube Foster faced the Cardinals in a 1910 exhibition game (it's not clear whether Hornsby was a player or spectator since he was only 14 years old). Bob Hoie closed by saying "I'm sure the same cutting edge research, scholarly attention to detail and informed analysis and commentary will characterize Ribowsky's book on Josh Gibson."

BLACK ENTERPRISE November, 1995 \*\*1pg "Carrying Negro League gear is a marketing home run for House of Nubian."

\*\*4pp from THE APBA JOURNAL, March (April 8), 1996 edition we have articles "Blackball stars who should be in the Hall of Fame" and the Negro League APBA playing set.

Two books on the market have Negro Leagues sections: A HISTORY OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN PEOPLE: THE HISTORY, TRADITIONS & CULTURE OF AFRICAN AMERICANS (1995) has \*\*4pp on "The African American in professional sports." CREATING THE NATIONAL PASTIME: BASEBALL TRANSFORMS ITSELF by G. Edward White has a chapter on The Negro Leagues which is 33 pages and footnoted.

\*\*1pg "Paige, Smith cachets introduced"

\*\*1pg "Quality autographs" AD

\*\*1pg article "The Bambino visits Cuba" and "Baseball newspaper catalog published".

\*\*1pg "Jackie Robinson Teddy Bear issued by Cooperstown"

I recently saw an ad for a John Henry Lloyd signed baseball for \$4995 (there is no decimal point).

THE NEGRO LEAGUE DREAM TEAM CD-ROM by Computerized Educational Resources Inc. can be ordered from NoirTech Research PO Box 37046, Kansas City, MO. 64138 or call (816) 358-0475. Price is \$54 for PC & Mac.

## FINAL REMARKS

The next newsletter will be August's. Please get all items to me before the last week of July. See you in KC!

Dick Clark & Larry Lester