

# **The Negro Leagues Courier**

**The newsletter of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee**

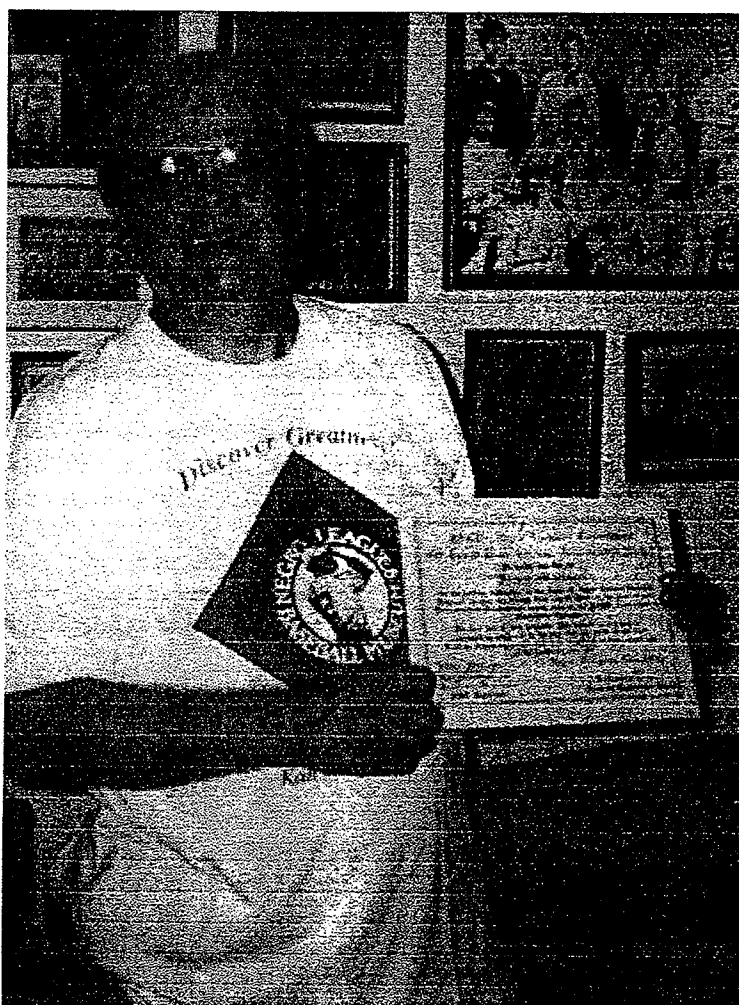
**"We are the Ship, all else are the Sea"**

**October 2000**

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**Editor: Sammy J. Miller**

**"It's a pity that life moves on."  
– Jerry Malloy**



**In Remembrance**

**Jerry Malloy  
1946–2000**

It is with great sadness that we, the staff of *The Negro Leagues Courier*, must report that long time and well loved NLC member, Jerry Malloy passed away on September 6, 2000 following emergency surgery for an aortic aneurysm at Condell Medical Center in Libertyville, Illinois. He was 54 years old.

Due to the great impact that Jerry Malloy had on both the study of the Negro Leagues and the people involved in the field, the first part of this news letter will be memorial to him. The regular newsletter features will follow.

Several obits and a tribute from his memorial service are available. The whole set, which is \*\*4 pgs, gives a fine account of Jerry's life. Therefore, we have decided to run a selection of the comments that were made by friends and fellow researchers of Jerry. In a way this is a more fitting tribute for Jerry than just another obit because, in the end, the true measure of a man are the friends he made and the lives he touched on his journey through life.

**Dick Clark, co-chair Negro Leagues Committee, SABR:**

September sixth will forever remain a day of deep sadness and reflection for me. The shock of receiving the news that Jerry Malloy had died in the early morning hours of that Wednesday was numbing. Jerry had an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm on Tuesday, the fifth. He beat heavy odds and survived the operation, but passed quietly in the early morning of the sixth.

A tragic loss for his family, countless friends, and the baseball community. Jerry was an ideal SABR member ALWAYS willing to help. Numerous times he passed along a wealth of information to people seeking knowledge of Black Baseball in the early days. Jerry was THE FOREMOST authority on 19th century Black baseball. That is anywhere! Who knew more on Frank Grant, Fleet Walker, Sol White, the Cuban Giants, than Jerry.

He was a terrific writer. His works included OUT AT HOME, THE BLACK BLUEJACKETS, and his brilliant introduction to the University of Nebraska reprint of Sol White's History of Colored Base Ball. He did many book reviews and also articles on the Cuban Giants, Frank Grant and Fleetwood Walker. I feel the following quote from "Another League of Their Own" illustrates this. Jerry wrote "The game itself is deeply ingrained in American society and tradition, having weathered the rigors of wars, depression, and scandals and basked in the warm glow of prosperous times."

Jerry pinch hit for Larry and I at several National SABR convention Negro League Committee meetings. In Florida, this year, he ran the Women In Baseball Committee meeting. Larry, Jerry, and I had some fun times. We will still be able to smile in remembering "The Lou Dials Chinese Dinner Trip" and the infamous "Joe Garagiola Car Trip To Comiskey Park" We have lost a treasured historian. He is irreplaceable.

Jerry's son, Brandon, has lost a father. His family is missing a brother, uncle, and nephew. His loss is felt deeply by his Rockford College friends. The "Chicago Seven" is missing his one of a kind personality. I have lost a true dear friend. Jerry's best quality was his ability to absorb all around him and to integrate himself with everyone. Quoting a friend "he clicked with everyone".

Thanks to the kindness and understanding of the family the NLC is currently working on obtaining all of Jerry's research. We will not allow his efforts to be lost. We must continue his legacy of excellence. No history of Black baseball could be done without Jerry's enormous input. His writing ability will be sorely missed. However, his research will still be the base for the 19th century history to be done. Jerry's loss leaves a huge hole that can't be fixed but we can work to try to mend this hole by continuing his legacy..

The NLC will be honoring Jerry with a future award. SABR and the University of Nebraska Press will co-sponsor an annual award for the best book-length nonfiction manuscript submitted by a member of SABR. It will be the Jerry Malloy Book Prize

I was able to attend the memorial for Jerry in Mundelein on Saturday, the 9th. Paul Debono of the NLC and Barry Evans and Dennis Bingham, of the Chicago Seven were also there. Brandon had selected a park, complete with a baseball field, behind the Malloy family residence of years past. Jerry's friends and colleagues from work took over and handled all the details of the memorial besides handling phone calls and errands. In this time of great sorrow they really came through. Various posters with pictures of Jerry, family, and friends surrounded the area and many of Jerry's many photo albums were on tables. The albums documented his life and the many National SABR conventions he attended. Everyone wore one of his hats from his collection. The solemn occasion was punctured by many laughs as folks got up to speak about Jerry. It would have been great if it was a roast instead of a memorial. We could have had a toast and some beers with Jerry. It was quite evident

that Jerry was a great friend to all who were there.

Dennis, Barry, and myself went back to Jerry's place after the memorial and spent many more hours with family and friends. I felt much, much better being around these folks. My personal grief eased by the outpouring of kind words, love, and remembrances of his life. I am still now saddened by this tremendous loss. However, it has become a little easier, I know now he is gone forever but I remember all the moments of discovery, laughter, adventure, sitting together at ball games. My only regret is that Jerry should have been with us longer. 54 is too young to die. I can speak for everyone in saying how glad we all are to have been a friend of Jerry's.

To all the Malloy clan and all the friends, our promise to carry on his work in his name. The 2001 National SABR Convention in Milwaukee will be missing a wonderful SABRite and number one contributor. We will miss a dear friend. I know Jerry is up there watching a game or keeping score for the Cuban Giants. Enjoy yourself dear friend.

**Larry Lester, co-chair Negro Leagues Committee, SABR:**

Jerry Malloy, in my opinion, was the foremost authority in the country on 19th century black baseball. His research is unsurpassed, his warm personality was contagious, and he is the biggest loss our Negro League committee has ever suffered.

The void he leaves in our committee cannot be filled. There will never be another Jerry Malloy for his persistence, dedication to research, and the strong belief that black players deserved a better fate in regards to the National Pastime.

For years, he was my writing mentor. Often I asked his advice before going forward with a project. He was the wisest of wise men. My next book will be dedicated to Jerry Malloy, a family friend and brother.

His love for the game, its history, and more importantly, his love for people will not be forgotten by me.

**Jules Tygiel, author of "Baseball's Great Experiment" :**

This is very sad news indeed. At my first SABR convention, Jerry, in his unassuming way, introduced himself and engaged me in a discussion of the Negro leagues offering any assistance I might need. His articles for SABR were pathbreaking and exceptional and rank among the very best and most important this organization has ever published. Even more so, I doubt that the best among us have never been as generous with their research and support as was Jerry. I quote from David Zang's acknowledgments from the Seymour Award winning *FLEET WALKER'S DIVIDED HEART*:

"The largest debt I owe is to Jerry Malloy, a baseball researcher who has done extensive work on Walker. In an unprecedented act of generosity, Jerry shared not only his thoughts on Walker but his entire file of documents. They arrived at a point long after I thought this manuscript was complete. Their availability added detail and insight that would have been otherwise lacking."

I hardly saw Jerry over the years, but I miss him already.

**Bill Kirwin, Editor, "NINE: A Journal of baseball History & Culture"**

Jerry was a great guy always eager to learn more, always eager to help others, camera at the ready. A little story that says a lot about him:

Bob Boynton wrote a wonderful little piece about an interview he had with Jim Murray a month before Murray died entitled "Waiting for Jim Murray" that appeared in Vol 8 #1 of NINE. Jerry wrote to me telling me how much he enjoyed the article and also told me that he was also an admirer of Murray and how Dennis Bingham had gotten hold of a publisher's proof of Murray's autobiography and made a gift of it to Jerry. Jerry told me that after reading Bob's article that he passed the gift from Dennis on to Bob because "he deserves to have it more than I do." Somehow this sums up Jerry to me - always ready to help, always eager to learn more. Baseball has lost a great guy.

**Larry Gerlach, former SABR President:**

Jerry and I corresponded via e-mail frequently about a variety of subjects. Black baseball was a regular topic, but so too was women's basketball.

His tireless efforts on behalf of black baseball and women's basketball speak volumes as to his love of sport and his commitment to justice and equality for all.

Jerry Malloy was a good friend, an excellent historian, and a great human being.

### A Final Thought

As one that has faced the loss of many friends and loved ones in my life, the thing that always seems to bring the most pain, even after one has grown accustomed to the empty space in their heart that never truly goes away, is when the death of a loved one had been sudden and you never had a chance to say good bye. Instead you were planning to talk to the person about this or that tomorrow or next week. As I was typing up this memorial to Jerry, I began to wonder how each of the lives Jerry had touched would deal with his sudden passing and the fact that they had not been able to say good bye. I realized after a few moments thought, that although I did not know Jerry as well as some, it struck me that maybe Jerry would have wanted it that way.

What I remember best about Jerry was that he always seemed to end conversations on an up note, as if he strived to make the person he had been talking to better for having spoken with him. It seemed to me that you could talk to Jerry for the first time, talk to him for only thirty seconds, and have the impression that, as he walked away, he already considered you a friend. Jerry never struck me as an individual that would want to cause the small amount of discomfort that can be caused by such a simple thing as a good bye from a social gathering much less the good bye of a final meeting. So perhaps, if given a choice, Jerry wouldn't have changed things but instead would have gone "quietly into that good night" and left only a few parting words to those that treasured him. Perhaps those words might have even been something along the lines of these:

"Life! we've been long together,  
Through pleasant and through cloudy weather;  
'Tis hard to part when friends are dear-  
Perhaps't will cost a sigh, a tear;  
Then steal away, give little warning,  
Chose thine own time;  
Say not Good Night-  
But in some brighter clime,  
Bid me Good Morning."

"Life" by Anna Letitia Barbauld

\*\*\*\*\*Donations may be sent to: Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, 1616 East 18th Street, Kansas City, MO 64108, in memory of Jerry Malloy.

### **Announcing the Jerry Malloy Book Prize**

*The following announcement was recently made by Daniel J.J. Ross, Director, University of Nebraska Press:*

The Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) and the University of Nebraska Press (UNP) are pleased to co-sponsor an annual award for the best book-length nonfiction manuscript submitted by a member of SABR. Memoirs, biographies, historical monographs, analyses, and essays are eligible for consideration. Professor Richard Crepeau of the University of Central Florida; Steve Gietschier, research director of the Sporting News; and Bill Kirwin, editor of Nine, make up the judging committee.

#### **Prize Guidelines:**

1. Entries must be received by November 1 of any year and be named as best manuscript by at least two of

the Judges, who shall report by January 31 of the following year.\*

2. The winning manuscript shall be published by UNP, who will contract directly with the author of the winning entry.

3. Winners will be given a cash prize of \$1000 by UNP as an advance against royalties.

4. Manuscripts must be prose, book-length (at least 150 double-spaced manuscript pages) and nonfiction. Works of narrative, analysis, and argument are desired. Eligible manuscripts will include, but are not necessarily limited to, history, biography, autobiography/memoir, literary analysis, essays, and political, social, and economic commentary. The award is not intended for purely celebratory, statistical, or speculative manuscripts. Novels, short stories, drama, and poetry will not be considered.

5. Manuscripts must not have been previously published in book form. They may include reasonable portions previously published in journals, but the author must secure all necessary rights and permissions.

6. Manuscripts may not be simultaneously under consideration by any other publisher.

7. Manuscripts must be submitted double-spaced, on one side of the page only, in clean and legible format.

8. A prepaid mailer must accompany submissions if authors wish to have them returned.

9. The competition and award are limited exclusively to SABR members in good standing at the time of submission.

10. Either sponsor may consider any submission for publication on its own merits outside of the contest, after the winner has been chosen.

11. A currently serving judge may not submit manuscripts for the award.

12. No fee shall be charged for entry or consideration of a manuscript.

Send queries and submissions to:

Publications Director,  
SABR Editor  
SABR Publications Office  
P.O. Box 736  
Woodbury, CT 06798

or

Sports History  
University of Nebraska Press  
233 North 8th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0255

\* In the event no single manuscript is so selected, SABR's publications director and the appropriate UNP editor shall make determination of the winner from those named by the judges as best manuscripts. In the event that the judges or the sponsoring organizations believe no manuscript submitted demonstrates sufficient merit for selection, no award will be made in that year.

\*\*\*\*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 available for SASE from Committee Co-Chairman Dick Clark. Please affix enough postage (usually 1 stamp/4 pages).\*\*\*\*

### Contributors

As always this publication would not be possible without the help of many others, who, for some strange reason, are never around when it comes time to type all this up. Those that assisted in gathering info for this newsletter, and then scurried for cover when the real work began, are: Ron Baraff, Todd Bolton, Gene Carney, Ralph Christian, Dick Clark, Laura Cortner, Bob Davids, Barry Evans, Mike Everett, Larry Hogan, Larry Lester, Jerry Malloy, Bill McNeil, Rick Morris, Bob Peterson, Dan Ross, Fred Schuld, Dave Stevens, Gregg Truitt, and Lyle Wilson.

### Committee News & Member Updates

We would like to welcome Carlos Bauer to the NLC. Carlos' address is 6315 Mercer Street, San Diego, CA. Telephone: (858) 453-1088 Fax: (858) 625-0980 E-mail: carlosb@inetworld.net  
 Dr. Adrian Burgos has a new e-mail address at work. It is burgosjr@msu.edu  
 Ray Schmidt has a new mailing address. It is P.O. Box 6460, Ventura, CA 93006.  
 Rod Nelson has a new e-mail address which is RockyMtnSABR@aol.com

### Obituaries

I regret to report that Rudy Fernandez passed away 9/6/00 in New York City at the age of 89. Fernandez pitched in the Negro Leagues from 1932 to 1946 for the NY Cubans, Cuban Stars and the NY Black Yankees.

William "Big Bill" Matthews died on September 9th in Memphis, TN. Matthews pitched for the Detroit Stars and the Kansas City Monarchs in the late fifties. He finished his career in the All-Memphis League with the Basatti Dodgers. Matthews was 66 years old. Obit \*\*2pgs.

We have received news that Lacy Ellerbe, who played for the Baltimore Elite Giants in 1950, has passed away. We will pass on any information that is forthcoming in a future issue.

### Negro League Related Articles

Two excellent pieces are available from the SABR Research Exchange. One is the 31 page "Making A Pitch For Equality: Wendell Smith and His Crusade to Integrate Baseball" by Chris Lamb, Ph.D. and Assistant Professor, Media Studies at the College of Charleston. It is a paper presented to History Division, 1999 AEJMC (Don't have any idea what all those letters mean but I would bet Larry Hogan came up with the title) National Conference in New Orleans, LA in August 1999. Also available is the 8 page "L'affaire Jake Powell: The Minority Press Goes To Bat Against Segregated Baseball" also by Chris Lamb and from the Spring 1999 issue of J&MC Quarterly.

"Learning (By The Seat Of Their Pants); Students Barnstorm 5,000 Miles Across The U.S. (By Bike)" from the *Chicago Tribune* of Sunday, August 27, 2000. \*\*5pgs.

"High School Historians Relive Barnstorming Days" from the August 30 issue of *USA Today's Baseball Weekly*. \*\*1pg.

"Exhausting Tour And An Improbable Tribute" from the *New York Times* of 8/20/00. \*\*1pg.

"Negro League Still Teaching Young Players Game's Lessons" from the 8/19/00 *Chicago Tribune*. \*\*2pg.

"Era For Trio: Only The Ball Was White" from the Aug. 4, 2000 issue of the *Patriot News* (Harrisburg, PA.) \*\*2pgs.

"Negro Leaguer Turkey Stearnes Inducted Into Baseball Hall of Fame" from the July 27, 2000 issue of the *Jackson Advocate*. \*\*1pg.

"Negro Leagues Remembered: Visiting Exhibit Recalls Era of Black Baseball In Boston" from the 7/28/00 issue of the *Cambridge Tab*. \*\*2pgs.

"A Signature Event" from *The Plain Dealer* (Cleveland OH) concerning Todd Bolton's *Beisbol Behind The Veil* exhibit. \*\*1pg.

Info concerning the "Legacy 2000 Reunion & Awards Banquet" being held this November and sponsored by the Negro leagues baseball Museum is available. \*\*2pgs.

"He Just Keeps Rolling Along" from the 6/23/99 issue of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* concerning former Birmingham Black Baron catcher Floyd Culver is available. \*\*3pgs.

"Norman "Turkey" Stearnes: Former UAW Local 600 Member To Be Inducted Into Baseball Hall of Fame" from the June 2000 issue of *Solidarity* is available. \*\*1pg.

"Connie Johnson's Long and Winding Path" from the Sept. 7, 2000 issue of the *Kansas City Kansan* \*\*4pgs.

"Negro Leaguers Honored By Orioles", a press release from Hieronimus & Co. \*\*1pg.

"No Riches, No Regrets for Athlete", an article about Connie Johnson from the *Kansas City Star* \*\*1pg.

"Baseball Showcase: Jeweler Plans Museum Of Negro, Latin Leagues" from the Sept. 13, 2000 issue of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* \*\*2pgs.

From the *Chicago Sun Times* 9/17/00 "Safe At Home" \*\*3pgs on Double Duty Radcliffe

From the *Kansas City Star* 9/19/00 \*\*1pg "At baseball museum, it's a guided tour"

9/25/2000 *Sports Illustrated* \*\* 1pg "Faces In The Crowd" on Vanessa Thompson, granddaughter of Turkey Stearnes.

The e-mail version of "'Buck O'Neil Makes Hall of Fame Case For Negro Leaguers--But Not Himself" \*\*4pgs

Gene Carney, in the past two issues of his newsletter, *Notes From The Shadows of Cooperstown*, devoted a great deal of space to the Negro Leagues and the Harrisburg Convention. You can contact Gene at carneya6@borg.com to inquire as to how to get copies.

### The Marketplace

The Spring/Summer 2000 copy of *Silhouettes: The Official Newsletter of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum* is out. It is twelve pages long and has lots of color. While the newsletter looks great, it is a little outdated with the news it reports, such as detailing a visit to the museum by jazz great Lionel Hampton from Jan. 14 of this year, or the story concerning the museum's 3rd annual "Night of the Harvest Moon Festival" which was held October 29th of last year. Seems to me, in my humble opinion, they could use a new editor. I might know of one, if the price was right.

### Recent Events

On August 27, 2000, the Yakima (WA) Bears, a Single A franchise of the Los Angeles Dodgers, held a Negro League Commemorative game. The team wore a variety of Negro League uniforms which included the Memphis Red Sox, and some other, less important teams, such as the New York Cubans, the Kansas City Monarchs and the Homestead Grays. An article from the *Yakima (WA) Herald Republic* from Aug. 27, is available, \*\*2pgs., as well as two items that were handed out at the game with the history of the Bears. \*\*\*\*4pgs for both.

The following was reported to us by Dick Clark:

The Detroit Tigers had a celebration honoring Norman "Turkey" Stearnes on Saturday September 2, 2000. It was a wonderful experience and the Tigers put on an outstanding show and presentation.

I arrived and met up with Cecil Kaiser (great Homestead pitcher and a teammate of Turkey's in the late 30's and early 40's), Lucky Smith and Louis Manley, long-time Negro League enthusiasts and friends. We had a interesting time making our way over to pre-game reception area. Ron Teasley, who played with Turkey around Detroit and with the Toledo Cubs, and Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe joined us there. Duty is recovering well from a minor stroke. He celebrated his 98th birthday in July. The honored family arrived soon after.

It was great to see Nettie Stearnes (wife of Turkey) Joyce Thompson, and Rosilyn Brown, the daughters, and other family members. All were in attendance and it was a lot of fun. A splendid poster of Turkey was handed out to all of us. I was introduced to Gussie Weaver, who saw every home game Turkey ever played in Mack Park. What a memory! Joe Black, Vice-President of B.A.T. (baseball assistance team) and Earl Wilson, former Tiger and Detroit area head of B.A.T., were also mingling with everyone.

Then it was off to the field, where Dan Dickersen (Tiger radio voice with Ernie Harwell) emceed the

event. Tiger President John McHale spoke as did Ron Teasley, for the players, Ted Spencer, Vice-President of The National Baseball Of Fame, for The Hall, and Joe Black accepted a \$10,000 check from the Tigers on behalf of Turkey Stearnes for B.A.T..

Joyce Thompson, representing the family, thanked everyone. She read Nettie's acceptance speech given in Cooperstown on Induction Day. It was great to hear it again. Presentations to Nettie and the Family were a framed Detroit Stars #8 jersey, the original painting used for the terrific poster on Turkey by Michael Taylor. Also, a fabulous necklace with an eight within a Star, along with a plaque commemorating the day.

Then Rosilyn got to throw out the first pitch for the ball game, which the Tigers won. After all this the family was escorted to a private luxury box for refreshments. The Tigers had also given tickets to excellent seats in the Tiger Den for all of us attendees. I sat with Adrian Burgos and his lovely wife Dolly and Ted Spencer to watch the game, after getting together with Nettie, Joyce, and Rosilyn for a bunch of pictures.

A great time, a long-time coming but worth it. Many thanks to the Tigers, particularly, Director of Community Relations, Celia Bobrowsky, Tyler Barnes and Hunter Logan.

A one page article from *The Michigan Chronicle* of Sept. 13-19, 2000 regarding the celebration is available. \*\*1pg.

### Upcoming Events

From Feb. 1 to Sept. 1 2003, the Public Museum of Grand Rapids, MI will host the exhibit "Leagues Of their Own" which will detail Michigan's connection to the Negro Leagues and the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. \*\*2pg. press release available

The 8th Annual John Henry "Pop" Lloyd Humanitarian Awards Dinner will be held at the Atlantic City Convention Center on Oct. 7, 2000. One of the recipients will be Robert Peterson. Info sheet available. \*\*2pgs.

### The Final Pitch

With recent events still fresh in our minds, as we each celebrate Thanksgiving in our own way, let us remember to raise a glass of something to absent friends.

Sammy J. Miller