

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

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

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

THE NEGRO LEAGUES BOOK is finished and mailed. We hope it will meet your expectations. First proposed in 1989 and an NLC goal since at least 1975, it has finally happened. We trust it will aid in your research or advance your knowledge. As stated in the book many of the pictures are being made available for reproduction for reasonable costs. Contact us for details. Tell everyone you know about it. Let's make this SABR's most productive publication.

This newsletter reflects the worthy contributions of the following: Steve Bennett, Todd Bolton, Kit Crissey, Morris Eckhouse, Robert Eisen, James Floto, Leslie Heaphy, Larry Hogan, Joe Lee, Larry Lester, Jerry Malloy, Andy McCue, Sammy Miller, Jim Overmyer, James Passannante, Robert Peterson, David Pietrusza, Bill Plott, Bob Potts, Jim Riley, Jay Sanford, John Schwartz, and Normal "Tweed" Webb, whom I called Norman, by mistake in the last ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Michigan's first Negro League reunion occurred April 9-10 at Dominoes Farms in Ann Arbor and was a huge success. It was a great weekend for me and my nephew Tom Monty as we headed to the hotel on Saturday to renew acquaintances with Hall of Famer Buck Leonard, Ted Radcliffe, Piper Davis, Nap Gulley, Lester Lockett, Frank Duncan, Josh Johnson, and Bobby Robinson. It was a pleasure to meet for the first time with Bill Beverly, Clint Jones, Tommy Sampson, Rufus Lewis, and Ron Teasley. To again be able to spend time with friends, Leon Day, Wilmer Fields, and Max Manning was a special treat. We also had a chance to get together with a host of local veterans including Cecil Kaiser, Harold Gordon, Ted Rasberry, and Rooster Smith. NLC member Bob Retort was in attendance, helping with the event and meeting new players.

As the players exchanged pleasantries with each other and renewed friendships I was able to meet new folks and help a little in directing everyone to the proper location for signing the multitude of mailed in items.

On Sunday everyone joined Buck in signing at the show in Ann Arbor. After a hour program where all 16 players spoke, autograph signing began in earnest. I left at 4:00 PM with people still in line.... A Terrific Show! A great deal of NL merchandise was on sale at various tables. I got my own Max Manning T-Shirt, individual photos and more. I strongly urge anyone who has not done so to attend an event like this to speak with these great men. A variety of articles are available; SCD, 5-13-94 "Negro Leaguers hold reunion in Michigan", **4pp. 5-20-94, "Negro League reunion in Michigan sets precedent," **2pp. MICHIGAN CHRONICLE, April 20-26, 1994, "The best from the bench." **3pp. **3pp, "Reunion of NL Baseball Players a celebration of culture, love for the game." **3pp, brief bios of the players. THE DETROIT NEWS 4-7-94, "Negro League show a sure hit," **1pg. ANN ARBOR NEWS, "Negro Stars meeting in Ann Arbor," **2pp and 4-11-94, "Negro League reunion a success." **1pg.

Leon Day was feted in Cleveland on Wednesday April 27th. I was very fortunate to be able to join Leon and Gerraldine along with Morris Eckhouse

for most of the festivities. The day started at 7:45 AM with a TV interview. Then off to Joseph Gallagher Junior High School where the Indians Academy is located. Here Leon, Morris, and I answered questions and promoted the NLC book (we had unedited proofs with us). The kids were sincerely interested in hearing of Leon's career and had many good questions. After lunch Morris and I recorded an interview for the Allen Davis Show on the All-Sports Radio in Cleveland. At 6:00 PM Glenn Shumate gave us a tour of the wonderful Jacobs Field. I got to hang out on the field and in the dugout and make Indian players wonder "who this guy was". Leon was involved in the pregame ceremony in which Albert Belle presented Leon with his personal check to SABR to cover the costs of giving each Negro League Veteran a free copy of THE NEGRO LEAGUES BOOK. This was no small amount; and I am now a big Albert Belle fan. My appreciation to Glenn Shumate for funding Leon and Gerry's visit and to Morris for showing me the sights of Cleveland and the SABR office (great library). Thanks to Leon and Gerry for being their usual gracious, fun selves.

The 24th annual SABR Convention is fast approaching. It is being held in Arlington, Texas June 17th to 19th. Get anything you wish discussed during the NLC meeting to me ASAP. I understand (no details) that a Negro League Player Panel is being planned for Sunday afternoon, prior to the tribute to the Negro Leagues later that evening. We will have complete coverage of all events in the August Newsletter, including the NLC meeting scheduled for 7-8:30 AM on Saturday. I hope everyone shows up at that hour, including myself. Perhaps we would be better off to have it from 11 PM to 1 AM Friday night. The NLC Annual Report will appear in the Convention program and is available from me. **1pg.

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The unexpected death of Lou Dials on April 1, 1994 in Modesto, CA was a severe shock to me and countless other admirers. He had recently celebrated his 90th birthday and seemed in great health. Lou was living alone and suffered a fatal heart attack. There has been a shocking lack of publicity. This has been due to the particular circumstances of his death and to the state of family relationships delaying notification. The 5-6-94 SCD has a nice remembrance. **2pp. I had nothing but total admiration for Lou and his life. He was a great asset for the Negro Leagues and the NLC in educating youngsters and adults about the fine players of the past. He was always upbeat and a joy to be with. He had a terrific and long life. I'm certainly glad I was a part of it. Sorry, Lou, I didn't say goodbye.

Other deaths to report are Juan Guilbe, April 29th in Ponce, PR at 79. **1pg from SCD 5-27-94; Lewis Donaldson, 4-21-94 in Philadelphia at 88, **1pg also 4-28-94 PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER **1pg; Martinez Jackson, 4-17-94 in Philadelphia at 89, SCD **1pg and 4-29-94 PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER **1pg; and Stephen "Rocky" Simmons, 4-5-94 at 78 in Canandaigua, NY, ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT CHRONICLE, 4-6-94 **1pg.

Sammie Haynes has suffered a massive heart attack.

Monte Irvin is home recovering from knee replacement surgery. Drop him a note at 11 Douglass Court South, Sugarmill Woods, Homosassa, FL 32646. We also have a **1pg story from the NEWARK STAR LEDGER 5-15-94 "NJ Legends Set To Enter Hall."

"Wilmer Fields to be acting President," (NLBPA) from SCD 5-20-94 **1pg. The new mailing address for the NLBPA is PO Box 244 Manassas, VA 22110.

As usual bad news gets headlines and follow-ups are buried. From AP wire service regarding Alfred Henry charges, (dropped) 5-4-94. **1pg.

**2pp listing of Negro League Division and League Champions to 1955.

Tweed Webb was honored at the 21st Annual Awards Banquet of the Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame, in St. Louis on April 9, 1994. Congratulations to a great historian.

On April 17th KRON TV in San Francisco presented the documentary "How We Played The Game." A one hour event, I have a **5pp pre-event news release on the event.

On April 18, 1994 WPBA TV in Atlanta screened their film "Safe At Home Plate", which has many NLC members comments. **1pg press release. Tape is available for \$20 from WPBA 740 Bismark Rd. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30324.

Ken Burns' BASEBALL will premiere Sunday September 18th at 8:00 PM. Last call for team articles for the NLBM Yearbook.

NEGRO LEAGUES RELATED ARTICLES

April 22, 1994 READER: CHICAGO'S FREE WEEKLY, "Lester Lockett a Living Legend of The Negro Leagues," **7pp.

THE DIAMOND ANGLE issue #41, April, 1994 **1pg "Stars in Their Time, 1994 Inductees. (Torriente & Lundy).

5-6-94 THE DETROIT FREE PRESS, "Turkey and Ty; Detroit's premier outfielders were Leagues apart." **5pp.

"Negro Leagues have unique ties to Jordan," CHICAGO SUN-TIMES 4-17-94 **1pg & "The Ballpark where legends were made," (Rickwood) **4pp.

SCHENECTADY GAZETTE, May 10, 1994, "Schenectady diamond will bear Spruill's name," **2pp.

THE DIAMOND, Jan/Feb, 1994, Jim Riley's latest article "63 years before Jackie Robinson" (Fleetwood Walker) **4pp.

CHICAGO TRIBUTE 2-28-94 "After a long season Negro League Stars get turn at bat," **1pg & 5-8-94 picture of McDowell and Guillen in CAG replica hats and short mention of event. **3pp

SCD 5-27-94 "George Crowe: an original two-sport athlete." **4pp

THE TOLEDO BLADE, 4-6-94, "A fashion hit," replica uniforms including Negro Leagues. **4pp.

"Baseball History Relived," **1pg on April 18th The Old-Timers Baseball Association Dinner.

SCD 4-22-94, "Negro League Great Leon Day Profiled," **4pp

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS 4-5-94 **4pp "Talkin Baseball" Byron Johnson.

March, 1994 TLB-TEAM LICENSING BUSINESS, "Late Inning Heroes" MLBBP commemorate and preserve the former Negro Leagues. **3pp.

THE BISMARCK TRIBUNE, 8-25-85, "Paige in Bismarck History," **4pp.

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS 11-7-90 **2pp story on James "Jake" Sanders. & 4-24-94, Bill Plott's latest WHERE ARE THEY NOW column on Ray Haggins. **1pg

"When Eagles Soared," (Newark), ASBURY PARK PRESS, 3-6-94, **5pp **1pg article on Wendell Smith recipient of the J.G. Taylor Spink award of the Hall of Fame for this year.

SCD 6-3-94 "Don Newcombe makes pitch for HOF," **6pp.

CURRENT AND FUTURE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Larry Hogan is seeking any pictures of Negro Leaguers with Major Leaguers, particularly a picture of Pop Lloyd and Babe Ruth in a dugout.

Minor League Committee Chairman David Kemp and Phil Dixon are beginning documentation of the games between organized Minor League teams and Black or integrated teams. They are concentrating on the Upper Midwest currently. If you are interested in becoming involved, contact David at (605) 338-8006.

Sammy Miller is working on an article about Oscar Charleston, Jud Wilson, Chippy Britt, and Vic Harris and how they gained their "Bad Boy" reputations. He needs addition facts on Harris and Britt.

Christopher Lewis, is coordinating an exhibit about the Negro Leagues and their presence in the Washington / Baltimore area. It was set up on

4

May 25th in The American University Library in Washington D.C.. For further details contact him at 4400 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington D.C. 20016-8046.

A complete **2pp listing is available of the current and future tour schedule of the DISCOVER GREATNESS: A ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL, exhibit. In Memphis, TN May 29 to July 10, 1994. July 31, to Sept. 11, 1994 in Savannah, GA.

Jim Overmyer is working with the local historical society in Williamstown, MA on a June exhibit on local high school sports stars. Jim is providing information on Frank Grant.

THE MARKETPLACE

With the long last issuance of THE NEGRO LEAGUES BOOK, 4 of the 7 major works for 1994 are now available. Jim Riley's THE BIOGRAPHICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES was reviewed in the NEWARK STAR LEDGER, 5-18-94 **1pg. I find out something new everytime I open this book. A "must-have" reference work.

TURKEY STEARNES AND THE DETROIT STARS should be in your local stores, 300 pages, 72 pictures 24.95. **2pp promotional release and order form available. There are plenty of statistics and data on the Stars and Black Detroit; I highly recommend it.

**1pg review of DON'T LOOK BACK: SATCHEL PAIGE IN THE SHADOWS OF BASEBALL, from the DETROIT NEWS.

Many of you got McFarland's 1994 catalog which will have two other works available, Neil Lanctot's FAIR DEALING AND CLEAN PLAYING and Jim Reisler's BLACK WRITERS/BLACK BASEBALL, both expected in June.

WHO'S WHO IN BASEBALL HISTORY by Lloyd Johnson has 53 Negro League profiles in it.

I recently purchased THE NEGRO LEAGUES: THE STORY OF BLACK BASEBALL by Jacob Margolies, nice easy read which describes some greatest games and times and events in the players own words; only \$6.95.

**1pg article on "Masters in Miniature" small Baseball cards honoring legends including Negro Leaguers.

Two SCD articles on the 1994 Ted Williams Baseball Card Set. 5-6-94 "Negro League historian and author Phil Dixon to advise TWCC on this year's Negro League subset," **2pp & 5-27-94, "TWC 1994 Baseball expands to 224 cards," complete listing also, **3pp. We still have extras of the 1993 set, all cards not just Negro Leaguers. Let me know if you need any.

FINAL REMARKS

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

The updated NLC address list is enclosed for members. Let me know of any changes. Keep it with you at all times!!!!

I certainly appreciate everyone's feedback in regard to dropping the HOF section from the newsletter, nevertheless I will not write further on it without a noticable change of attitude from the Veterans Committee. The 1994 edition of The BASEBALL HALL OF FAME YEARBOOK has pictures of all Veterans Committee members and rules for election. THE POLITICS OF GLORY by Bill James (haven't read) also covers the election process. Jim Overmyer asks if any members of the SABR advisory group to the Hall are allowed to discuss what they were asked to do, what they did and what they think of what happened. Perhaps we can report on this in a future newsletter.

Dick & Larry
Dick Clark & Larry Lester