

SABR - NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
August 1993

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Negro Leagues events happened all around the country the last two months. We will provide brief recaps of many of these celebrations. Don't despair there are upcoming events you can still plan on attending.

Grab your committee lists, members are on the move. Luis Alvelo has a new phone (809) 258-1060. Lou Dials has moved to 1812 LaCorunna, same city, zip, and phone. Jim Overmyer has moved to 11 Fairview Ave., same city, zip, and phone. Scott Levy is still in Des Moines, IA 50311 (hopefully above water) and living at 1025 31st St. #2.

As always our newsletter depends on the contributions of members and readers. This time the following people submitted material: Todd Bolton, John Cunningham, Robert Eisen, Leslie Heaphy, Bob & Zoh Hieronimus, Larry Hogan, Darryl Houston, William Jackson, Larry Lester, Norman Macht, Jerry Malloy, Andy McCue, Sam Miller, Rick Morris, Luis Munoz, Jeff Passehl, Claudia Perry, Kurt Peterson, Robert Peterson, David Pietrusza, Rahman Shareef, Lyle Spatz, Greg Stokesberry, Brad Sullivan, John Townsend, Eduardo Valero, Tweed Webb, Mike Welsh, and Bill Williamson.

NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE PUBLICATION

Larry and I were able to select pictures for the book; so far 96 have been chosen with many others possible. Most all will be very rare and we believe you will be very happy with them. I'm combining this section with the stats update. Both Bill Williamson and Kurt Peterson are working to locate sources for microfilm for the California Winter League. Brad Sullivan passed along Cleveland Red Sox, Bears, and Buckeyes data. Leslie Heaphy provided five more newspaper sources for the project. Jeff Passehl continues researching the Pittsburgh Crawfords.

Anyone interested in obtaining an errata sheet regarding the 9th edition of The Big Mac Negro player stats please contact me and also send along your input.

NEGRO LEAGUERS AND THE HALL OF FAME

I strongly urge everyone to purchase the premier edition of Negro Leagues Baseball Museum 1993 Yearbook. Just \$10 from the Museum 1601 East 18th St. Kansas City, MO 64108. It includes The Negro League Dream Team and arguments for Hall of Fame hopefuls written by Bolton, Ocania Chalk, Clark, Holway, Kleinknecht, Sam Lacy, Malloy, and Riley. An excellent buy.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Five events took place since the last newsletter came out. Larry and I were able to make four of these including two together.

More than a dozen former players and several hundred enthusiasts were on hand for the 18th and Vine ground breaking ceremony for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. The festive occasion was highlighted by the showing of the original articles of incorporation of the Negro National League, recently discovered by Larry Lester and the unveiling of the traveling exhibit; DISCOVER GREATNESS--AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF NEGRO

LEAGUES BASEBALL. The occasion also marked the move into a 3000 square foot space in the same building allowing expanded display space. Articles available are as follows: Museum news release 5-23-93 **1pg & 6-5-93 **2pp THE KANSAS CITY CALL 5-28-93 **1pg & 7-2-93 **1pg "Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Finds Artifact." **1pg. THE KANSAS CITY STAR, 6-5-93 "Charter of Negro Leagues to be Shown at Ceremony," **1pg & 6-6-93 "18th and Vine Ground Broken," **2pp. 6-22-93 TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL, "Remembering The Negro Leagues," **3pp. THE CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER, 6-10-93, "A Present Look at Baseball's Past," **1pg. SCD 7-9-93, "Negro League Baseball Museum Breaks Ground in KC," **5pp.

Jerry Malloy and Andy McCue passed along information on the Oakland A's honoring of Negro Leaguers on June 18th. Articles include; THE OAKLAND TRIBUNE, 6-19-93 "Stars From Old Negro Leagues Get Their Due at Ballpark." **1pg. THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER 6-20-93, "Recalling the good times in baseball's blackout," **2pp. & AP and SF Examiner 6-18-93 story featuring Leandy Young. **3pp.

Next was the SABR Convention in San Diego from June 24th to the 28th. Fellow NLC members in attendance were Bob Davids, Leslie Heaphy, Bob Hoie, Lloyd Johnson, Jerry Malloy, Claudia Perry, and Brad Sullivan. My roommate for the convention was Bob Ruland and I thank Bob for a lotta laughs.

On Thursday evening a buffet with Bobby Doerr was held. I had met a long-time friend Bill Dunstone, Florida's only attendee, and we shared a table with Bob Summers of Murfreesboro, TN who happened to know ex-player Clint McCord very well. Later that evening Leslie, Jerry, and I were able to get together and discuss several aspects of ongoing research. On Friday most of us were in attendance at Leslie's presentation "What About the ABC's" an excellent discussion of the Indy team from 1914 to 1926 with some very nice displays. I have copies of Leslie's ***14pp handout available for \$1. During Friday I met Lou Hunsinger, who discovered new info on George Stovey's later life. Also, I met the dynamic new chairman of the Latin America Committee, Eduardo Valero. Also, Dan Ross of the University of Nebraska Press. They have put out some excellent reproductions of classic baseball books including Satchel Paige's MAYBE I'LL PITCH FOREVER. Dan and Jerry told us that Nebraska Press will reprint the Sol White Guide with a long intro by Jerry, overviewing the book, and many appendices and seeable pictures. Look for it next year. A personal treat for me was the appearance of Ray Boone on the Major League panel. Ray was my childhood hero on the Tigers as I grew up. Saturday was the day of Leslie Heaphy's Woman in Baseball Committee meeting and the Latin America Committee meeting with Eduardo Valero. During the LAC meeting it was reinforced that close cooperation between our two committees is essential. **1pg LAC Newsletter available. Later that evening it was banquet time with emcee Kurt Bevacqua and speaker Dick Williams. It was one of the best speeches heard by me at a SABR function. Hats off to Phil Dixon for receiving a SABR-MacMillan Baseball Research Award. **1pg article from USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY. Our NLC meeting was Sunday morning at 8:00 AM. 20 SABRites were there and most areas of need were discussed. A recurring thought was timely reporting of upcoming events and/or stories about them. This is a valid concern because the newsletter is bi-monthly. We continue to rely on everyone reading this to send us articles from any source and to let us know what's happening in your area. Please don't assume we receive everything printed on the Negro Leagues. Sunday evening many of us, still enjoying the San Diego weather, went to the reception at the Hall of Champions. A very nice place in a great setting. Besides all the exhibits we met John Everett who had purchased a very intriguing Negro Leaguers card set. We are attempting to work with John through Greg Stokesberry for possible production.

After a July 4th weekend respite, Larry Lester and myself were off to Baltimore to join with NLC members Todd Bolton, Monte Irvin, Rick Morris, Luis Munoz, and Eric Newland. We also had the chance to meet in person Jeff Eastland, who showed us his original photos, several of which he is allowing us to use in the NLC publication.

25 Negro Leaguers, including Monte, former Elite Giant GM Dick Powell, and Afro-American Sports Editor Sam Lacy, were to be honored during the All-Star festivities **5pp press release available.

On Friday night there was an informal reception where everyone was able to mingle and enjoy old friendships. Some people hadn't seen each other in over 40 years. Todd Bolton, who was instrumental in having Juan Guilbe, Emilio Navarro, and Luis Villodas being invited from Puerto Rico, was busy videoing; Rick Morris and Eric Newland were doing interviews. Dr Bob and Zoh Hieronimus and Laura Courtner were as busy as ever. I was enjoying it all, particularly an excellent conversation with NLBM Executive Director, Don Motley. Larry and his better half Val arrived late Friday. Activities on Saturday included the Honorary Luncheon at the Warehouse. Among the speakers were the Mayor, Orioles President and a VP, President of BET, Sam Lacy, Buck O'Neil, and Sammie Haynes. An outstanding event **8pp copy of booklet is available. After that it was the pre-game ceremony with the 25 players in replica uniforms in a terrific emotional presentation with temperatures officially at 101. After the regular Orioles-White Sox game it was back to the Omni and that evening, an informal dinner for everyone at the Bethel A.M.E. where the Reverend Jesse Jackson was a guest. Later that evening Larry, Todd, and I were enthralled by looking through many of Luis Munoz's latest acquisitions from his Latin America ventures. He had never before seen baseball cards, publications and terrific pictures. Many will be in the NLC-SABR book.

On Sunday, Larry, Val, and I ventured to the UPPER DECK FAN FEST. There were too many different things to comment on all. Two stand-out. A combination of folks including Sammie Haynes, Legends, and NLC member Phil Dixon were selling NL items. Phil's book was a big seller along with a large variety of other items. My purchases included a Cienfuegos cap. The NLBM's traveling exhibit; DISCOVER GREATNESS was a feature at the fest. It is outstanding with great pictures and full-size lockers displaying pictures and uniforms for a host of clubs. Write the NLBM for a brochure. Baltimore had also put together a nice local Black Baseball display which included the Baltimore Elite Giants bus. What a great overall display of Negro Leagues history! After the White Sox-Oriole game I followed the Boltons to Smithsburg to spend the night at their new abode. Todd and I were able to cover several items of importance. On Monday I had to head home and work as had most everyone else except Todd and the Lesters. On Monday it was the UPPER DECK HEROES GAME, after several home run contests. Again the players were honored, perhaps you caught the highlights on ESPN. Monday night was a All-Star Game Gala where normal people could mingle with retired players, current ones and Hollywood stars. Then on Tuesday Larry and Sam Lacy moderated an Educational Seminar. Then there was the All-Star Game Tuesday night which only those in attendance were able to see Brooks Robinson, Al Kaline, and Leon Day throw out first balls. CBS missed an excellent PR opportunity. Wednesday arrived and everyone went home. The following articles are available; THE ORIOLE GAZETTE, 7-8-93, "Negro League Players Faced Incredible Obstacles," **3pp. 7-12-93 AP story on Henry Kimbro **1pg 7-2-93 NEWSDAY, "A Moving Tribute," **1pg (NLBM traveling exhibit) THE WASHINGTON POST, 5-25-93, "Negro Leagues to be Honored at All-Star Week," **1pg. THE BALTIMORE SUN, 7-10-93, "Out of Shadows, Into Spotlight," **2pp THE WASHINGTON POST, 7-11-93, "Bo Jackson Gives His Thanks to Negro League Players," **1pg. From the OFFICIAL MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ALL-STAR GAME PROGRAM, a terrific Jim Riley story, "Negro Leagues: The Baltimore Baseball Nobody Knows," with a great Leon Day picture. **7pp. 7-14-93 USA TODAY, "Awkward situation doesn't stay the

fans," **1pg & '7-15-93, "All-Star Game purchases spare no expense," **1pg, both are columns by Taylor Buckley. Special thanks to Monte Irvin and especially Todd Bolton for taking care of me for this long weekend.

After finally spending a weekend at my own home it was off to Chicago, the weekend of July 23-25, to meet up with Larry Lester and stay with Jerry Malloy; our objective: The National Sports Collectors Convention but more importantly time to get together with Lou Dials. Jerry and I spent some quality time with Lou at dinner in his hotel room on Friday. Saturday morning we picked Larry up from the airport and headed for the show. Lou had a great show talking with folks and selling a bunch of merchandise. He has a couple of card sets and various pictures and balls. We also got to see a lot of extremely rare artifacts and memorabilia. We also had time to speak with Joe Black and Nap Gulley. After the show we saw some Chicago sights and made the "Chinese food take out excursion" (ask us sometimes) and back to spend the night conversing with Lou. It is always a great pleasure to spend time with Lou, a true gentleman. On Sunday Larry, Jerry, and I spent the day tying up loose ends in NLC business and selecting pictures. That evening it was back to home and reality. Much appreciation to Jerry for his eternal hospitality.

It was great fun and I can't urge everyone strongly enough that you will have a great time attending these Negro Leagues events. Plan on it!

FUTURE SPECIAL EVENTS

The following are scheduled to take place:

On August 12th Williamsport, PA will honor George Stovey, who spent his remaining years there. Contact Lou Hunsinger, 1137 High St. Williamsport, PA 17701 for details.

August 13th, UPPER DECK will honor Negro Leaguers at Comiskey Park.

August 21st, A Negro League tribute by UPPER DECK at Tiger Stadium.

The Pittsburgh Pirates will have a 3-day celebration for the Grays & Crawfords, August 27th Crawfords Poster Night; the 28th Fireworks Night; the 29th Grays Replica Cap Day; **1pg The Negro Leagues Baseball Fan Club will hold an autograph session for the players from the Grays & Crawfords during this time. For info call Rahman Shareef at (412) 371-2698 or Al Gordon at (412) 323-5089.

On Tuesday, September 14, 1993, The Friends of the Newark Public Library will introduce and honor Jim Overmyer's book EFFA MANLEY AND THE NEWARK EAGLES. The program will take place between 5 & 7 PM and copies will be available of the Scarecrow Press published work by Jim for \$29. Check with Jim for copies in later September.

I believe the week of September 17-19 at the Meadowlands in New Jersey, another reunion and autograph show will be held.

September 25th, UPPER DECK will have a tribute to the Negro Leagues at Joe Robbie Stadium.

Rob Ruck's eagerly awaited documentary will hopefully premiere the middle of October on a local PBS station. I expect more info by October.

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Additional information from previous events. A copy of the program of the first annual John Henry "Pop" Lloyd Humanitarian Award of May 18, 1993. **4pp and two stories from THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY, 5-18-93, "Lloyd Award to Feature Mays Today" **1pg & 5-19-93, "Lloyd Award Honors Ashe For Preserving Sports History," **1pg.

6-11-93 SCD "Autograph session raises money for Little League," (Baltimore Little League Program) **1pg

William Jackson provided us with articles from the CYO players clinic of March 22th and Opening Day Activities of April 16-17th. All are from

the ATLANTA DAILY WORLD, 3-25&26-93, "Memories of Negro League Come Back To Life," **2pp; 3-30-93, "Negro League Players Give Back at Baseball Clinic" **2pp; 4-1&2-93, "Negro League Players Reunited," **1pg; 4-20-93, "CYO Begins 2nd Negro Little League Season Here," **2pp; 4-22&23-93, "The Legacy Continues," **1pg. Oscar Sistrunk and the CYO were also featured in an ESPN report on June 24, 1993.

We are saddened to pass along the deaths of Jimmy Hill, May 31st in Sarasota, FL., article **1pg; funeral program **2pp. Leonard "Bo" Walker died in a car accident in April in Cincinnati. Maceo Breedlove died on May 12, 1993 in Minneapolis, **1pg; Eugene Hogan, May 27th in Detroit, **1pg. We also have a copy of Perry Hall's funeral program **2pp. From THE CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, 4-5-93, Jimmie Crutchfield article **1pg & 4-13-93 article **1pg.

We have the following obits on Roy Campanella who died June 26th in Woodland Hills, CA. AP **1pg; SCD **1pg; WASHINGTON POST **1pg; SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE, 6-28-93 (article) **1pg; CHICAGO TRIBUNE **2pp; WASHINGTON POST **2pp; USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY 6-30 to 7-6 **1pg; LOS ANGELES TIMES 6-27-93, **2pp; CHICAGO TRIBUNE, 7-1-93 **1pg; DETROIT NEWS, 6-28-93 **2pp; SPORTS ILLUSTRATED 7-5-93 "Baseball's Best Ambassador," **1pg; SCD 7-23-93 "Campy: A Great Player, A Great Human Being," **3pp; SCD 8-13-93, "Remembering The Late Roy Campanella," **4pp.

Tom Alston has terminal cancer. He can be reached at Human Service Alliance 3983 Greensboro Rd. Winston-Salem, NC 27101. **1pg

Jerry Malloy discovered that the papers of owner Tom Hayes were donated to the Memphis Shelby County Public Library. Contact me for info.

Our own Gene Benson was featured again in the nationally syndicated comic strip JUMP START by Robb Armstrong from June 22 to June 26th. **2pp.

NEGRO LEAGUES RELATED ARTICLES

The 7-19-93 classic edition of SPORTS ILLUSTRATED has a **1pg story "The Time of a Lifetime," by Monte Irvin in the Point After section.

NLC member Bill Plott's Where Are They Now column in THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS featured Lyman Bostock SR recently **2pp.

**1pg story on Piper Davis in BIRMINGHAM NEWS.

**5pp, "Where are all the Black faces," from May, 1993 YSB

The July SPORTS ILLUSTRATED FOR KIDS has a **6pp article on the Negro Leagues by Timothy Bohus, "Banned From The Big Leagues," try to get the real thing for the color pages.

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS 3-26-93, "It's a New Ballgame," (Willie Greason) **2pp & 5-23-93 "Restoring Rickwood," **2pp and "500-foot homer became stuff of Rickwood legend," **2pp.

4-13-93 CHICAGO SUN-TIMES **2pp on the play THE FIRST (Jackie Robinson), Also from SCD 6-11-93 a **2pp on the play (above) and another "The Jet Could Fly Like The Wind," **3pp

As part of the Boston Red Sox tribute to the Negro Leagues on May 29, 1993 the following are available. BOSTON HERALD 5-28-93, "The Sin of '45 Haunts Sox," **2pp; BOSTON GLOBE, 5-28-93, "He ran into a Fenway Wall," **4pp; 5-28-93, PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, "Not so good old days revisited," **2pp & from 5-30-93, "A pioneer returns to Fenway," Earl Wilson **2pp.

"Baseball's Black Problem," 7-19-93 NEWSWEEK, **2pp.

July, 1993 BECKETT BASEBALL, "The Color of Courage," (Jackie Robinson) by Norman Macht, **2pp and from August, 1993 BECKETT BASEBALL **1pg "They Remember," (Hieronimus program).

TEAM LEADER magazine July, 1993, "A Hard Road to Glory," Buck O'Neil **5pp and "Amazing Grace," **3pp.

6-9-93 KANSAS CITY STAR, "A Home of a History Lesson," **2pp

SCD 6-25-93, "White Sox pay tribute to Negro Leaguers," **1pg

**7pp, "The Man Who Made Mays," (Piper Davis) by Jim Riley from THE DIAMOND, The Official Chronicle of Major League Baseball, July, 1993.

CURRENT AND FUTURE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Hemant Dambe is documenting the social history of the Birmingham Black Barons as part of the history of Rickwood Field as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Please contact him with any help at (W) 205 323-3592 or (H) 205 326-8718.

Dave Moriah is writing for SPORTS SPECTRUM a bi-monthly Christian sports magazine. He is seeking Negro Leaguers with a strong Christian faith. Contact him at (612) 933-5706.

Bill Hanna is seeking all information on Tommy Dukes, contact me.

Jeff Passehl would like info on Chester Williams, call Jeff at (303) 240-1640.

Berry Tramel, 1-800-375-6397 or (405)360-2871 is compiling an All-Oklahoman Team. Contact him with any data on Negro Leaguers born in Oklahoma except for Bullet Rogan.

THE MARKETPLACE

The first two of eleven sets of THE NEGRO LEAGUE HALL OF FAME SERIES Bobbin Heads from All-Star Bobbins are available. Each Hall of Famer is paired with a player who should be in. The First was Satchel Paige and Leon Day. Each Bobbin is \$35 plus \$3 P&H and can be ordered from Stokesberry & Son PO Box 442 Cedar Rapids, IA 52406. The second set has Buck Leonard and Ben Taylor. **1pg flyer is available. The depictions are uncanny, the absolute best ever for Bobbin Heads. Both Leon and Buck and their families have been overjoyed by the likenesses. Also from Stokesberry & Son are reprints of the 1945 NEGRO BASEBALL PICTORIAL YEARBOOK. All 36 pages are absolutely superb and a must for everyone and for only \$12. Flyers covering many products will be sent to all SABR folks

"Checklist Finalized by Ted Williams Card Co.," is a **2pp listing of cards in the premier edition including Negro Leaguers, from 7-23-93 SCD.

SCD 7-30-93 has **2pp ad on America's Largest Supply of Negro League Autographs.

University of Illinois Press has reissued THE BINGO LONG TRAVELING ALL-STARS AND MOTOR KINGS, by William Brashler with the introduction written by Peter Bjarkman.

Kelly Russell Studio's Inc. has issued a Satchel Paige print **1pg. Limited Edition Silver Card of Satchel Paige **1pg ad

6-7-93 THE DETROIT FREE PRESS, **1pg piece on TV series ROC and his Negro League apparel.

The 1993 COOPERSTOWN BALL CAP CO. catalog is available write PO Box 1003 Cooperstown, NY 13326 (607) 264-8294

**1pg article, "Negro League Players Look Back on an Era," about Stephen Banker's Black Diamonds tapes.

**2pp, "More Addresses of Negro League Players," from July, 1993 BASEBALL HOBBY NEWS.

Rahman Shareef; A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN; is marketing apparel and memorabilia of the Homestead Grays and Pittsburgh Crawfords. Contact him at 505 Holmes St. Pittsburgh, PA 15221.

FINAL REMARKS

Our next newsletter is October's. Please get all material to me before the last week of September. Marilyn and I will be on vacation from 9-4 to 9-18. Please don't call just write and be patient.

Dick & Larry
Dick Clark & Larry Lester
NLC Co-Chairpeople