

The Negro Leagues Courier

The newsletter of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

We Are The Ship, All Else Are The Sea

December 2003

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

Grave Marker for Jimmie Crutchfield

The NLC was recently contacted by an individual interested in our help in raising money for a grave marker for former Negro league legend Jimmie Crutchfield. After inquiries to insure that the undertaking met all of the standards laid down in the NLC's policy regarding involvement with such undertakings, we agreed to run the following:

"Growing up, I had often heard about Jimmie Crutchfield. He was born in the same tiny Missouri mining town that my maternal grandparents came from. As a child, I spent a great deal of time visiting relatives in Ardmore, Missouri and nearby Moberly where Crutchfield grew up. He was a great source of pride for all who had a connection to Ardmore, which is now but a ghost town. It was a rough and segregated coal-mining town but whites and African Americans alike spoke of Jimmie Crutchfield fondly.

After finding out that after his playing career ended that he lived the remainder of his life in Chicago, I became interested in finding out where he was buried. With the help of Dick Clark, I have traced Mr. and Mrs. Crutchfield to unmarked graves in Chicago Burr Oak Cemetery. Following a visit this past fall, I have become committed to getting a grave marker placed there. Chicago Burr Oak Cemetery and their parent company, Perpetua Incorporated have been very helpful and generous in allowing me to proceed with this endeavor.

I am seeking monetary donations to complete my plans to purchase a grave marker for Mr. Crutchfield. The balance due on the basic marker is \$330 after the \$100 contribution/deposit I made. If anyone would care to take part in this effort to honor Mr. Crutchfield in this manner, I would greatly appreciate it and will personally keep the contributors aware of the progress. My hopes are to have raised all the funds by spring of 2004.

Questions can be directed to me, Jeremy Krock, at 309-692-8056, 309-369-6784, or JLKROCK@insightbb.com. Ms. Carolyn Townes at Chicago Burr Oak Cemetery, 773-233-5676, is also available to field inquiries. Checks can be made out to Chicago Burr Oak Cemetery and forwarded to me at the address below.

In the event that more than the needed \$330 is needed, a larger or more detailed stone will be purchased. In addition, the owners of the cemetery have graciously agreed to match the marker of Mr. Crutchfield with a donated one for Mrs. Crutchfield.

Thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeremy L. Krock, D.O., 733 West Brookforest Drive, Peoria, IL 61615-1069

New Step For The Courier

For a time, there were plans for *The Courier* to take a big step forward with this issue, which would increase the number of people it is sent to from over 200 to nearly 700. This plan however was delayed so that an announcement could be in this issue so that everyone would know what to expect.

Each issue of this publication is sent out to roughly 175 people via e-mail at the current time. This number includes individuals who have requested this service as well as all SABR board members and committee chairs. This electronic mass mailing is handled by *The Courier* electronic distribution office with a mailing database that is maintained by said office. This will all change with the first issue of 2004. While the same people will handle the mailing, the NLC's electronic mailing list will no longer be used. Instead, we will be mailing the newsletter out via the SABR website to everyone individual in SABR that listed the Negro Leagues as a field of interest. It is my understanding that if you did not list the Negro Leagues as an interest or are not sure if you did, you can check on this and make changes at www.sabr.org.

Everyone that works to bring you this newsletter is looking forward to expanding our readership and making *The Courier* available to new readers. At the same time however, we do not want to leave anyone behind. That is the reason for this announcement.

The next newsletter should be out around the first of February. If you usually receive the newsletter via e-mail and do not receive one by the second week of February 2004, please contact us and we will send you a copy.

For those that receive printed copies of the newsletter, this change will not affect you in any way.

Contributors

They say a man cannot achieve greatness without the help of others. That's wrong. Some of us can. Nonetheless, I am forced by The Powers That Be to work with others so here are their names: Bob Bailey, Dick Clark, Jeff Eastland, Amy Essington, Leslie Heaphy, Tom Garrett, Dillan James, Ted Knorr, Signe Knutson, Larry Lester, Jerry Malloy, Golda Mabovitch, Gary Maurer, Sammy Miller, Rick Morris, Robert Peterson, Wayne Stivers, and Lyle Wilson.

Well, it seems that the individuals (you know who you are) that have picked out my "additional" names in the contributors list in the past were stumped this time around. Just to refresh everyone's memories, in the last issue, I put in two extra names. One was a real person, the other a fictional person and someone was supposed to come up with the real person's name. The fictional person was Robert Dillon. The real person was Joe Hill, a labor organizer in the early part of the 20th century.

This time around, same rules, one fictional person, one real. Find the real one and tell me what they were famous for.

Find of the Month

Bob Bailey found Christobal Torriente's death certificate. His full death date is April 11, 1938. He died in the Bronx, NY. According to Bob, "His birth date is given as November 16, 1893 in Cuba. He was buried April 15, 1938 in Calvary Cemetery, Queens, NY. The burial line on the death certificate first listed City Cemetery (Potters Field) but this was crossed out and Calvary inserted. I know that there are several sources that say he was buried in Christopher Columbus Necropolis in Havana and there is a cenotaph there that includes his name. Does anyone know if he was disinterred and sent to Cuba? It seems unlikely to me."

Obituaries

An obit on Josh Gibson Jr. from SCD is available. **1pg

On November 21, Cowan "Bubba" Hyde, formerly of many teams including the Cincinnati Tigers and the Memphis Red Sox, passed away at the age of 95. An obit from the CINCINNATI ENQUIRER is available. **1pg

Wilbur "Little Bullet" Rogan, former Kansas City Monarch batboy, and son of Wilber "Bullet" Rogan, passed away November 24, in Kansas City, MO.

Elijah "Eddie, Buddy" Williams, an outfielder for the Kansas City Monarchs, Newark Eagles, New Orleans-St. Louis Stars and the Cleveland Clippers passed away on October 25, 2003 in Mary Esthe, Florida. He was 86 years old.

The NLC lost a valued friend and special person in the death of Gordon Ross. A copy of the obituary is available **1pg. Gordon was a frequent attendee of The Pop Lloyd Weekend and had played against barnstorming Negro League teams. Farewell!

Committee News & Research Requests

Sammy Miller was recently interviewed by John Erardi of *The Cincinnati Enquirer* for an obituary he was doing on Cowan "Bubba" Hyde. The piece ran in the November 28 issue of the paper. If interested in the obit, please see the above obituary section.

Negro League Related Articles

THE ANN ARBOR NEWS, 11/22/2003 **1pg "Diamond is this study group's best friend" about recent SABR meeting in Ann Arbor (and it quotes Dick Clark)

THE RECORD of Hackensack, NJ, 10/28/03 **1pg "Shades of Greatness: Negro Leagues Museum Installs Teen's Artwork"

The Marketplace

Wayne Stivers has a new list of the Negro League related items and autographs that he has available for sale. The list is quite impressive and includes autographs of legendary players such as Newt Allen, Dave Barnhill, Andy Cooper, Rats Henderson, Satchel Paige, and Willie Wells just to name a very few. Anyone interested in receiving the list can contact Wayne at wstivers2@aol.com or 1153 Bergen Parkway, Suite M-PMB 205, Evergreen, CO, 80439.

We interrupt this newsletter for the following commercial announcement.

Dear Santa,

Even though I have not been completely good this year, I think you will agree that having to deal with Dick Clark all year long more than makes up for it. All I want for Christmas this year is a Larry Brown autograph. Wayne Stivers has one for sale.

Your pal,
Sammy

PS - If it is not under the tree by midnight on Christmas Eve, it is open season on reindeers and elves.

We now return to our regularly scheduled program.

Recent Events

The Eleventh Annual John Henry "Pop" Lloyd Humanitarian & Youth Awards event was another outstanding accomplishment. Hats off to Michael Everett, Dr Larry Hogan, Belinda Manning, and the entire Pop Lloyd committee. It was an exciting three days.

On Friday at Richard Stockton College, Robinson, Ashe and Ali: The Athlete as Social Activist, a part of the annual lecture series, was presented. Monte Irvin, Ed Charles and Joseph Dorinson had a wonderful discussion on Robinson. Frank Deford a terrific Arthur Ashe remembrance. After lunch, Dr Ralph Wiley spoke on Ali. Several hundred students in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the sessions. Later that evening everyone was enthralled by the one-man play A Tribute To The Greatest (Ali) by Geoffrey C. Ewing. A really outstanding achievement.

Saturday included a lunch at the Everett's, which is always a treat. Saturday evening the dinner and awards ceremony were held at the Taj Mahal Tiara Ballroom. Larry and Val Lester arrived from Philadelphia, where they had visited with daughter, Tiffany.

Players in attendance where, Stanley Glenn, Mahlon Duckett, Wilmer Harris, Harold Gould, James Robinson, Robert Scott, Andy Porter (all the way from California), Lionel Evelyn, Bert Simmons, Ernest Burke, Gordon Hopkins, James (Red) Moore, Armando Vazquez, Pedro Sierra, Jose Pereira, Monte Irvin, and Geraldine Day.

The National Baseball Hall Of Fame was an award winner and Bowie Kuhn presented to Jim Gates. John Isaacs was his usual sharp self. There was wonderful singing by Karla Simmons and 24 Youth Awards were given out, as well.

An excellent tribute to the beloved Max Manning by Monte Irvin, Mahlon Duckett and Ted Dobson was a highlight. A 33-page program is available **.

On Sunday, the Atlantic City Community All-Stars got together and had a great game at Pop Lloyd Field. Among the players Mike Everett (quite good) Kathy Whitmore (terrific) and Larry Hogan (not bad for an old guy) (but the base running???)

It was really enjoyable being a part of it all and I strongly recommend it to everyone to attend. It is a lot of fun and educational. Special thanks to Kathy Whitmore, Brittany Everett, Andrew Everett, Sally Hogan, Michael Everett, and the good Dr Larry.

A copy of the program from the recent 2003 Smokey Joe Williams Scholarship Banquet is available. **2 pgs. We will run more info on the event if it becomes available to us.

Upcoming Events

As I am sure you all know by now, the 2004 SABR National Convention will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio. The following is the information we have available as of press time.

DATES: July 15 to 18, 2004

PLACE: Westin Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio

ROOM RATE: \$99/night plus tax for single through quad; \$15 fee for rollaway bed

CALL FOR ARTICLES: The deadline for submission of first drafts has been extended to December 15, 2003. Send all submissions to (or for more information), contact publications committee co-chairs: Mark Stang, mmstang@insightbb.com and/or Dick Miller, Ragsmill@aol.com.

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS: Submission deadline is February 1, 2004. All submissions should be directed to: Paul Herbert, barnes429@aol.com.

Visit www.sabr.org and click on Convention to learn how to reserve your room, as well as getting updates on the convention schedule.

Additionally, a highly placed source at SABR headquarters has informed *The Courier* that the NLC meeting will be held Friday morning at 8:00 am.

Finally, it is indeed true that I live very close to Cincinnati. Anyone who has given any thought about saving the cost of a hotel room by staying with Sammy should remember that prospective guests will be dealt with on a first come first serve basis. Rest assured however, there will be enough buckshot to pepper the backsides of everyone that comes knocking on my door looking for a room.

Final Pitch

Everyone here at *The Courier* and the NLC would like to wish you and yours the very best this Holiday Season.

Col. Sammy J. Miller