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Chairman's Remarks

I've received announcements for many important events around the country. I hope you will make a point to become involved in some of them. . . details follow in the newsletter.

I'm extremely happy to introduce a new committee member, Leslie Heaphy. Leslie has been an active contributor for quite a while. She currently is putting the finishing touches on an extensive bibliography of Negro Leagues material in conjunction with SABR's Bibliography Committee chairman, Frank Phelps. Leslie's address is: 2400 Robinwood Rd., Apt. 3, Toledo, OH 43620. Her phone no. is: (419) 242-9379. Welcome aboard Leslie!

Larry Hogan can also be reached at work at (201) 709-7176.

A new committee address list will be available after the new SABR directory arrives.

Negro Leaguers and the Hall of Fame

In less than a month the Veterans Committee of the Hall of Fame will be meeting, hopefully to select one or two persons for induction. If you've been intending to write, now is the time to do it. The committee has compiled lists for the all-time Negro League leaders in various batting and pitching categories. We have forwarded these lists to all members of the Veterans Committee for their consideration. I also know of other groups and individuals who have sent information regarding qualified living candidates: Chet Brewer, Gene Benson, Leon Day, Lou Dials, Clint Thomas, and Bill Byrd. We need to gird up our optimism and push NOW.

Special Events

April - June - Baltimore, Maryland

I am extremely pleased to announce that Larry Hogan's exhibit will be at the Enoch Pratt Free Public Library in Baltimore from early April to the end of June. This is wonderful news and a tribute to Larry's tireless efforts for close to five years. The exposure will be enhanced by the backing of television station WBAL through news stories and public service announcements.

Perhaps even better news is that the coordinator of the library presentation has applied for funding to stage a two day seminar on black baseball. Among the sessions planned are:

1. Newspapers as a source of history of black baseball; a highlight being the statistical presentation.
2. The film and documentary record.
3. Fact and Fiction - The Press
4. Doby and Robinson and Integration
5. A summary session covering research, production, preservation, & dissemination.

This grand event will be detailed completely in the April newsletter. If you want to attend you can check with Larry or me. Be advised that it may take several weeks for all the details to be available.

April 29, 1990 - Baltimore, Maryland

The Baltimore area will also be the scene of another event. On April 29th the Equitables Old-Timers Game will be held. At this time 10-12 Negro Leagues veterans will be honored along with other Major Leagues old-timers. This is a great opportunity for eastern shore area fans to learn about these veterans and for the veterans to receive some recognition. Make plans to attend and to talk with the players afterwards.

FENCES by August Wilson is playing in cities like Detroit, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Atlanta and will be coming soon to Washington, DC and Philadelphia. Starring James Earl Jones on Broadway this award winning fictional work was modeled after the life of Sam Bankhead, a man who played in the Negro Leagues. At a performance in Atlanta several veterans were honored: Norman Lumpkin, James "Red" Moore, Sonny "Jim" Echols, Willie "Stretch" O'Kelly, and Chico Renfroe. Marilyn and I plan to attend in Detroit. John Holway and Bill Cash will be part of the opening in Philadelphia on March 3. Don't miss the opportunity to experience what several people have already described as an outstanding production.

July 27-29, 1990 - Cleveland, Ohio

I'm sure everyone is already aware that the 20th annual 1990 SABR National Convention will be held in Cleveland July 27th to 29th. I certainly hope all of you are making plans to attend. It is always a great weekend to get to personally renew acquaintances with fellow SABRites from around the country. I have not been told the official meeting time yet for our committee but I'm sure it will appear in the BULLETIN. I'm happy to tell you that you can expect a publication at the meeting covering many aspects of Cleveland baseball. One of the research paper sessions will be devoted to baseball in Cleveland. Merl Kleinknecht will be handling this project for our committee. We definitely couldn't have found a better man for the job. Merl is an expert in black baseball and particularly in Cleveland. The 1945 champion Cleveland Buckeyes will be the focus of his presentation. There is a long shot possibility of an authors' panel on black baseball as one of the extra features during the convention. Stay tuned for April's newsletter and more details.

Statistics Project Update

We want to thank Bill Plott for data on 1944 Memphis and Larry Hogan for data from the 1927 BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN.

Another excellent source of updated stats is now available, John Holway's latest book, BLACK DIAMONDS: LIFE IN THE NEGRO LEAGUES FROM THE MEN WHO LIVED IT is now available. It includes league leaders for the East and West and stats on the players featured. Two of our committee members, Gene Benson and Chet Brewer are included. There are also stories on Jake Stephens, Willie Powell, George Giles, Buck O'Neil, Willard Brown, Max Manning, Dave Barnhill, Verdell Mathis, Johnny Davis, and Wilmer Fields. This is another "must" addition to everyone's library. John's BLACKBALL STARS was the winner of SPITBALL MAGAZINE's Casey Award for the best baseball book of 1988. BLACK DIAMONDS is even better. Look for it at a bookstore or contact Meckler Publishing. The cost is \$18.95. You won't be disappointed with your investment.

Committee Announcements

We mourn the death of Francisco "Pancho" Coimbre who died at 80 in a fire in Ponce, Puerto Rico November 4th. Coimbre was one of the greatest players ever from Puerto Rico. He could have been the first Hall of Famer from there if there hadn't been a color barrier. Courtesy of Luis Alvelo I have English and Spanish stories on his untimely death and career.**

I'm sure everyone joins me in extending our sympathies to Jerry Malloy on the passing of his mother on January 9th.

We also wish to extend our sympathy to the family of former Homestead Gray, Clarence Bruce who passed on January 23rd in Pittsburgh. A copy of the obituary is available thanks to Mike Mastrangelo and Paul Adomites.**

Willard Brown is back in the hospital in Houston reports Claudia Perry.

Todd Bolton passed along that Jesse Williams had a stroke on January 11th and is in Minora Hospital in Kansas City. Remember him in your prayers along with these other veterans suffering health problems.

I've had several requests for the address of Dick Powell, former Baltimore Elite Giants official. It is: Richard D. Powell, 124 W. Franklin St. Apt 607, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. He has a wealth of information on black baseball and is well worth speaking with.

Lou Dials is recovering quickly from his December surgery. He no longer needs a walker (he's using a cane) and also no longer needs a therapist. He will be doing a card show in Sacramento on February 16-19.

Larry Lester has put out a 5 postcard series on Satchel Paige. It is available for \$2.50 a set. The pictures include Satchel, Josh, and Bill Perkins in the Dominican Republic; Satchel, Dizzy Dean, and Cecil Travis at a war-charities game in 1942; Satchel with the Monarchs at the 1942 World Series; Satchel Paige Memorial Stadium; and finally, Satchel's monument and the inscription at his gravesite. This is a terrific set. Contact Larry to get yours.

Jerry Malloy has available pictures** he recently took of the tombstones of Rube Foster and of the famous aviatrix, Bessie Coleman. Copies of the pictures are available from Jerry. In addition, Jerry has been in contact with the Chicago White Sox, attempting to have them honor Chicago area Negro Leaguers in the final season of Comiskey Park.

Our thanks to Larry Hogan for passing along the NEW YORK TIMES article by Ira Berkow, "Jackie Robinson? Who's That?"** Another item from Larry was a letter to the editor, "Radicals Fought the Color Bar."**

Our thanks to Bob Hoie who passed along a copy of a questionnaire filled out by Alonzo Perry upon his entry into organized ball.**

Todd Bolton passed along the address of player Zac Clayton for our list. Thanks Todd.

Mike Mastrangelo's terrific story on the Cumberland Cubs was published in the 11/19/89 CUMBERLAND SUNDAY TIMES-NEWS**. Congratulations Mike.

I received a catalog from Ebbets Field Flannels. They make historic baseball apparel. They have jerseys available for black teams from \$120-\$150 and Cooperstown caps for \$40. Write them at P.O. Box 23010, Seattle, WA 98102 for a catalog.

The winners in Larry Lester's puzzle in the October newsletter were: Bob Hoie, Brook Treakle, Phil Grabar, David Skinner, and Dick Clark. Each received an all-expenses paid trip to Hawaii. It pays to read the newsletter and enter any contests. If anyone would like the answers, contact any of the winners or Larry.

I have another excellent article on Lou Dials from the 11/9/89 OAKLAND TRIBUNE.**

A fine article by James Bankes, "Baseball's Cool Papa Bell," appears in the March SPORTS HISTORY magazine.**

On March 2nd in the IRONBOUND section of Newark, N.J. a play will be presented: MR. RICKEY CALLS A MEETING. I don't have any other details. Drop a line to Larry Hogan if you are interested in attending.

Larry Hogan informs me that sports anchor, Fred Cohen, of channel 29 in Philadelphia will be airing interviews with Negro Leaguers prior to Phillies broadcasts this year. Among the interviewees are Gene Benson, Charles Biot, Bill Cash, Bob Harvey, Max Manning, and Pat Scantlebury. These 5 minute vignettes should be very educational. Perhaps we can have some videos available later in the year.

The entire Negro Leagues Committee owes a debt of gratitude to Luis Alvelo who has recently passed along to me enormous amounts of information in the form of articles, statistics, and pictures regarding black players and their seasons in the Puerto Rican Leagues. This data is very valuable in attempting to compile complete winter league statistics for Negro League players. He was also kind enough to present us with a terrific book published by Rafael Costas: ENCICLOPEDIA BEISBOL PONCE LEONES 1938-1987. This is the complete record of the Ponce club with seasonal and individual records. Written in Spanish, the names and stats are, nevertheless, decipherable. (This 344 page book is available from Rafael Costas, P.O. Box 7824, Ponce, Puerto Rico 00733 for \$13 postpaid.) Luis' generosity with his personal collection fulfills the truest sense of our committee's goal of exchange of information for the benefit of all. It would be great if we could help him out with his need for pictures of Puerto Rican players, New York Cubans, and other latin players. Unfortunately my meager picture collection isn't enough to meet his needs. I would be happy to pay for making a copy for Luis if you can send a photo to me on loan or you can send pictures directly to Luis Alvelo at JJ-9 Calle 26, Bonneville Heights, Caguas, Puerto Rico 00625. If you read Spanish and would like copies of some of the articles Luis has sent, contact me about cost. There are over 200 articles. Again, our most sincere thanks to Luis Alvelo for his contributions toward preserving Negro Leagues history.

Current and Future Individual Projects

Reader Tom Voll of Toronto, Ohio continues to pass along newspaper articles ** from 1906 and 1907 regarding black teams gathered from his research of the East Liverpool, Ohio DAILY REVIEW and a project he is working on.

John Kovach continues to pass along research discovered on black games and players in South Bend. John found a story regarding the radio broadcast of Cleveland Buckeye games on station WSRs. He is following up on this and would appreciate any leads or help.

Joe Garagiola has enlisted the help of Larry Lester to help secure photos of players for the potential issuance of a Perez-Steele series of cards on Negro Leaguers.

SABR Intercommittee News

Re: Oral History Committee - Norman Macht reports that Tom Heitz at the Hall of Fame has the equipment to make copies and return originals of all tapes passed along. Norman is still seeking any stories regarding Connie Mack trying to sign black players in 1929 only to be stopped by Judge Landis. Please pass along any possible leads.

Final Remarks

There looks to be many worthwhile events taking place in the coming year. Please make your plans to be involved in some of them. The next newsletter will be April's. Please get all information to me before the end of March.

Finally, our most sincere birthday greetings to Bill Cash, 71 on February 21st and Monte Irvin, 71 on February 25th. May you both enjoy many more!

Dick

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