

SABR - NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
December 1993

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

We have three particularly upbeat items. First, congratulations to Leon Day upon his well deserved selection to The Puerto Rican Hall of Fame. Second, on January 10, 1994 Lou Dials will be the "BIG 90"!!!!. It's hard to believe and he can still outhit Larry and I. Finally, MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL will license Negro Leagues merchandise with no strings attached. Hallelujah!

Welcome new NLC member Kevin Grace. He can be reached at Archives and Rare Books, 8th Floor-Blegen Library; University Libraries; University of Cincinnati; Cincinnati, OH 45221-0113; (513) 556-1959. A special thanks to Kevin for locating Charles Grants' grave in Cincy and verifying that it has a marker.

As always our newsletter depends on the contributions of members and readers like the following people who submitted material: Luis Alvelo, Todd Bolton, Bob Browning, Ed Cesarone, Bob Eisen, James Floto, Kevin Grace, John Haddock, Leslie Heaphy, Jack Kavanagh, Merl Kleinknecht, Neil Lanctot, Larry Lester, Fritz Light, Jerry Malloy, Andy McCue, Sammy Miller, Keith Neeley, Jim Overmyer, Chris Pika, Bill Plott, Bob Potts, Jim Riley, Brad Sullivan, Eduardo Valero, and Tweed Webb.

NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE PUBLICATION

This newsletter is late since Larry and I have been trying to get final material to Mark Alvarez by December 1st. We're still working at it. The NLC and SABR are seeking funds to help with the production and promotion of the book. This enormous undertaking will result in the book going free to all SABR members. Fund raising ideas are needed. Anyone with ideas or contacts should let me know.

Much thanks to Brad Sullivan and Robert Eisen who have again provided new research for the publication.

NEGRO LEAGUERS AND THE HALL OF FAME

Leon Day and Artie Wilson were among nine inductees into The Puerto Rico Hall of Fame, on October 31st. It was a great honor for both who were in attendance at the Mayaguez ceremony. Also inducted were Tomas Quinonez, Jose Santiago, Luis Villodas, Carlos Santiago, Manolo Garcia, Demetrio Pesante, and Jose de la Vega. Special thanks to Luis Alvelo for passing along the program of the event. Articles; SCD 11-5-93, "Ex-Negro League Great Leon Day Elected to Puerto Rican Hall of Fame." **1pg. 10-30-93 BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN, two articles, **1 pg each. 10-15-93 THE SUN, **1pg. Related item from THE BALTIMORE TIMES, Oct. 4-10, 1993, "Baltimore's Leon Day deserves Hall of Fame nomination," **1pg.

Wendell Smith is the winner of the J.G. Taylor Spink Award and will be inducted into the Writer's Wing of the Hall of Fame next summer in Cooperstown. Smith died in 1972. This is a well deserved honor, long overdue, but could have been delayed until Sam Lacy was honored. **1pg item from THE DETROIT NEWS.

A six person advisory committee to THE HALL OF FAME, in Cooperstown, was formed to identify deserving players for election, with the blessing of

the Hall. Former players Monte Irvin and Buck O'Neil are joined by professor Jules Tygiel, long-time historian Tweed Webb, co-chair of the NLC Larry Lester, and former SABR President Lloyd Johnson. ** 1pg from THE KANSAS CITY STAR, 9-26-93. We are cautiously optimistic that their recommendations will be acted upon. We certainly wish them our best.

Regardless of the upbeat possibilities I urge everyone to write letters now to the Hall and/or Veterans Committee and/or each member of the committee. Let them know (as always) who you want to be honored and why. We must continue to exert pressure or The Hall of Fame will never be truly NATIONAL.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The BASEBALL HERITAGE forum at the University of Cincinnati was very successful with over 150 folks gathering. Kevin Grace reports they are keeping the database on the reading guide and that the possibility of a future collaboration on a book on Black Baseball in Cincinnati is real.

THE KINGS ON THE HILL: BASEBALL'S FORGOTTEN MEN video by Rob Ruck and Molly Youngling was a huge success. Several people there commented on its brilliance. The Dec-Jan SABR BULLETIN will offer the video on sale. Please look for it, CONGRATULATIONS Rob, your efforts were worth it.

Coming up later in 1994 (Sept-Oct) an exhibit is tentatively scheduled for Memphis State by Dr. John Haddock, director of Research and Graduate Studies. Future possibilities of a permanent exhibit and a video tape that documents the Memphis Red Sox and the Negro Leagues is planned. **1pg release is available.

Follow-up on past events:

From THE BALTIMORE TIMES July 19-25, 1993, **3pp (All-Star weekend). THE PITTSBURGH COURIER 9-1-93, **5pp on Pirates saluting of Negro League. Also, from RENAISSANCE NEWS, 9-1-93 **1pg "Pittsburgh Pirates Honor Negro League Players."

On the Meadowlands reunion on 10-29-93 SCD piece "3,000 attend Negro League reunion show," **4pp

THE NEWARK STAR-LEDGER, 9-13-93, "Author swings into Black history with a book about the Newark Eagles." **4pp. Excellent article about Jim Overmyer's book. EFFA MANLEY AND THE NEWARK EAGLES will be available in the Dec-Jan SABR BULLETIN at a 20% discount. You should absolutely buy it. I finished reading it. Take my word, you'll be impressed. It's a terrific read, better than even I, expected.

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special birthday wishes to Lou Dials who turns 90 on January 10th.

Hopefully by the next newsletter we will be able to celebrate Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe's selection to the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame. He is a top candidate for enshrinement.

I am very sorry to report the following deaths. Howard Easterling 9-6-93 in Collins, MS. (no one was aware of his residence in Mississippi). Clarence "Pie Joe" King died 9-11-93, **2pp funeral program available. Enloe Wiley on Oct. 23, 1993 in Nashville. Johnnie Cowan passed on Oct. 24, 1993 in Birmingham, Al. 10-28-93 BIRMINGHAM NEWS story, "Glove man Johnnie Cowan remembered fondly by peers." along with obit **3pp.

"Major League Baseball Properties unveils Negro Leagues Licensing Program." **2pp press release. Same story appeared in SCD 12-17-93. And **1pg from USA TODAY 11-12-93 "Merchandise to benefit Negro League Players."

From Vol 2 # 1 of NINE: THE JOURNAL OF BASEBALL HISTORY, a **8pp story "Another Chink in Jim Crow; Race and Baseball on the Northern Plains 1900-1955." This is an excellent publication; this volume was 196 pages and includes "The political wars of Jackie Robinson."

Volume 2 #3, Fall, 1993 of SILHOUETTES, included listings of players at the All-Star Fan Fest; the White Sox and BAT Chicago reunion; and Pirate's honoring. Also, in this issue, the Essay and Rap Contest winners. Jim Riley was not eligible to win.

The travelling photo and research wizard, Jerry Malloy is offering prints of a recent trek which included photos of the Page Fence Company in Adrian, Michigan and the Fleet Walker Memorial in Steubenville. Contact Jerry at (708) 916-0821. Hopefully Jerry will bring his terrific Rickwood Field pictures to the Arlington SABR Convention next year.

Ed Cesarone was part of a Global Exchange Baseball Study Seminar in Cuba, November 5-14. He was able to play in friendly ballgames against the hosts and see the Habana National Sports Museum and interview Cuban Baseball Commissioner, Domingo Zabala. An historic trip for sure. Contact Ed at 13645 NE 100th St. Kirkland, WA 98033 for his views of Cuban baseball.

NEGRO LEAGUE RELATED ARTICLES

**1pg "Historically Speaking: Josh Gibson," from BLACK SPORTS, April, 1971.

SCD 11-26-93 "Sammie Haynes: Sports' Goodwill Ambassador," **3pp and 12-10-93, "Will the real Joe Scott please stand up," **2pp

AP wire story, "Women's Hall of Fame inducts first to play in male pro baseball," (Toni Stone) **2pp.

From OLDTIME BASEBALL NEWS vol 5 # 4, Lawrence Ritter's book review of THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES and WHEN THE GAME WAS BLACK AND WHITE. **2pp.

Our own Bill Cash is featured in a WASHINGTON POST story. "Negro Leaguers recall Philly as Baseball hotbed," **1pg

From THE DIAMOND, August issue, "Make room for Leon Day," **5pp by Jim Riley. September issue has Polo Grounds story by Monte Irvin. **4pp and the October issue has 1 **1pg report on BAT.

7-31-93 DEPORTES, two Spanish articles, "Norte era mejor que el Sur," **4pp and "Cuando los refuerzos venia de los Ligas Negros," **4pp.

12-19-08 SPORTING LIFE, (Appeal for Fowler) **1pg & 6-30-15, "Marvelous Negro Pitcher," (Donaldson). **1pp

Oct 8-Nov 7, 1993 CENTERSTAGE combined articles, "August Wilson's FENCES" & "Black Baseball in Baltimore: The Black Sox, The Elite Giants, and Satchel Paige," **3pp.

NLBM articles; "Negro League Museum could be one of the city's most important assets." **1pg. ABOUT...TIME, October, 1993 "Negro Leagues Baseball Museum," **2pp. KANSAS CITY CALL, 10/15-10/22, 1993, "Black citizens want 18th and Vine to be built as planned," **1pg.

KANSAS CITY STAR 11-14-93, "A legend remembered; Satchel Paige inducted into the Kansas City Sports Walk of Stars," **2pp

KANSAS CITY STAR 10-30-93, "Negro Leagues Museum awards scholarships," **1pp

From PROFILES OF BLACK FOLKS IN ANDERSON COUNTY, 1993, a short profile of Benjamin Harrison Taylor. **3pp.

CURRENT AND FUTURE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Please contact me with any information on the following: Quincy D. Jones (played in Chicago & Charleston, SC); Alonzo (Lonnie) Davis (Memphis Red Sox and later into OB); Alonzo McBride (played in teens with Buffalo Black Legs); and Bill Robinson (upstate New York player).

Sammy Miller who writes much of the What's A Face Productions Negro League material is seeking a publisher for a book of poetry A LINE IN THE SAND, aimed at introducing people to the Negro Leagues.

THE MARKETPLACE

The January issue of THE DIAMOND ANGLE will have a feature on Satchel Paige. The Feb-March issue will again be a Negro League special. Anyone wishing to contribute, please contact James Floto at PO Box 409 Kaunakakai, HI 96748.

The Ted Williams Card Set is really beautiful with various subsets making it very collectible. I'll serve as a clearing house for trading extras among us. Let me know what you need and tell or pass along your extra cards to me for redistribution.

A book on Turkey Stearnes and the Detroit Stars will be out this Spring.

From Nov. 3-16, 1993 USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY Gift Guide section **1pg, "Negro League Apparel fits niche."

**2pp ad for Gartlan Figurines, which feature Bell, Dandridge, Irvin, and Leonard.

SCD 10-15-93, "Minoso featured in collectible bat series," **1pg & also from this issue, "Another look at Baseball newsletters," **4pp covers some we have mentioned in our newsletter.

The APBA Game Company will be issuing team sets of great Negro League teams which will be available the end of January. Look for them.

**1pg listing of books on the Negro Leagues from A&R Books.

**1pg copy of Satchel Paige poster available from Megacards.

Call 1-800-377-9777 for the latest Ebbets Field Flannels catalog #8 **8pp of Negro & Latin team jerseys, jackets, and caps for sale.

From the catalog GREYLAG **2pp of Tina Hoggatt T-Shirts.

FINAL REMARKS

The next newsletter will be February's. Please get all material to me before the last week of January. Larry, Val, Marilyn, and I wish everyone the happiest of holiday seasons.

Dick & Larry

Dick Clark & Larry Lester
NLC Co-Chairpeople