

@ SABR - NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
August 1998

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Although several great events have just concluded, there are more to come. The Harrisburg SABR NLC Research Conference begins August 6th; you can still register.

Welcome to new NLC member John Haffner and Rob Schober. John is at 1391 W. Oak St., Zionsville, IN 46077, Email is Haf705490@aol.com Rob's address is 660 Poppy Circle, Vacaville, CA 95687. Work phone (916) 480-5919; Fax (916) 487-3348. Email rschober@csus.edu Rob is News Director for Capital Public Radio in Sacramento, CA and has produced a video on Negro League veterans in Illinois.

As always our newsletter depends on the contributions of members and readers like the following people who submitted material: Paul Bauer, Todd Bolton, Tim Booker, Adrian Burgos, Chuck Carey, Kip Carlson, Kit Crissey, Bob Davids, Paul Debono, Cappy Gagnon, Tom Gerbasi, John Haffner, Leslie Heaphy, Bob Hieronimus, Larry Hogan, Darryl Houston, Nick Kekic, Ted Knorr, Neil Lanctot, David Lawrence, Joe Lee, Larry Lester, Tod Maher, Jerry Malloy, Gary Maurer, Sammy Miller, Bob Mitchell Sr, Joe Mitchell, Rick Morris, Jim Passannante, Robert Peterson, David Pietrusza, Bill Plott, Rich Puff, Jim Riley, Ray Schmidt, Rob Schober, Fred Schuld, David Skinner, Ronda Smalley, Aurin Squire, Dave Stevens, Wayne Stivers, Gregg Truitt, Eduardo Valero, Lyle Wilson and John Zajc.

NEGRO LEAGUERS AND THE HALL OF FAME

A brief recap of events in Cooperstown. I arrived on Friday July 24th and joined up with Rick Morris to begin recording the weekend for the Rogan family, son, Wilbur and his wife Maxine, grandson Carl and his wife, granddaughters Cassandra and Mary Kay and great-grandson Chris and his wife Christina. Rick Morris was the videographer and I was sort of a guide. Besides hanging out at the Otesaga Hotel and helping introduce different players to Mr Rogan, the first big event was a reception on the Otesaga Veranda. There was a great deal of mingling with famous baseball names followed by a fabulous dinner. Larry Lester arrived around 8:30 missing dinner but in time for the private Hall of Fame tour for all the invited guests and honorees. Sunday was the "Big Day" for the inductees. Sam Lacy led off the ceremonies with a splendid speech with great humor. After Jaime Jarrin accepted the Broadcasters Award, Wilbur Rogan

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accepted his father's Wilber Rogan's plaque and gave an excellent acceptance speech, covering the major points. Larry Doby also had a heartwarming talk about his thrill of being selected for this great honor. Later Sam Lacy signed autographs at The Hall. Wilbur also signed in town during the weekend along with 35 Hall-of-Famers. Rick departed after the ceremonies while Larry and I kept the local economy going. As Larry raced to beat his deadline to get his induction ceremony report to the Major League Baseball web site, I attended the SABR Cooperstown Regional meeting. Among the attendees were Rich Puff, Tom Shieber, Morris Eckhouse, John Zajc, John Thorn, Bill Deane, Fred Ivor-Campbell, and David Pietrusza. I had the pleasure to speak on the Rogan Induction and future Hall of Fame Veteran Committee elections. The "List" was discussed along with the Harrisburg Conference. On Monday the game featured Baltimore and Toronto. Larry used his press pass to interview several folks and speak with Edward Stack. On Tuesday I left while Larry stayed to use the Library facilities. A great weekend!!! There are a ton of articles.

THE WASHINGTON POST "For 70 years, restlessness, curiosity drove Sam Lacy to chronicle history," **1pg.

OBSERVER-DISPATCH (Utica, NY) 7/27/98, "Induction turnout lukewarm" **5pp.

THE COOPERS TOWN CRIER, 7/23/98, "Cooperstown's main event," **2pp.

TIMES UNION (Albany, NY) 7/27/98, "Long roads end in Cooperstown," **4pp.

THE FREEMAN JOURNAL, 7/24/98, "Don Sutton ready to join select group of baseball's elite Sunday," **2pp & "Broadcaster Jaime Jarrin and baseball writer Sam Lacy to be recognized," **2pp.

THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM 1998 YEARBOOK is available. Rogan and Doby drawings on cover. Doby, Rogan, Lacy writeups. **4pp total. Some induction merchandise available **3pp.

THE DAILY STAR (Oneonta, NY) 7/24/98, (Hall of Fame Special) "A long hard road to Cooperstown," **5pp (Doby). "Bullet Joe could do it all," **2pp. 7/25/98, "America's oldest sportswriter honored," **2pp. & 7/27/98, "Doby, Sutton enter Hall," **6pp.

NEW YORK TIMES, 7/25/98, Sports of the Times column, **2pp. & 7/27/98, "Hard work, hard times lifted Sutton and Doby," **2pp

THE RECORD, (Hackensack, NJ) 7/24/98, "Patersonians get set for Doby's Hall of Fame day," **1pg. 7/26/98, "The glory of his time," & "Second to none," **3pp. 7/27/98, "Sutton's fame finally arrives," **1pg & "Induction into immortality," **3pp.

THE NEGRO LEAGUES BOOK

We can really use any info on Black baseball and Black teams in Texas. Also, need info on Charles Dotson (Atlanta

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in '30's), Charles Arnold (Detroit '50's) and Richard Hemphill (KC late '50's). Finally, seeking info on Henry Boston from Cincinnati Tigers.

Thanks to Gary Maurer for some Cincy Clowns additions for 1943.

We received a great deal of data from Pedro Sierra.

Jerry Malloy found S. (Stanislaus) K. (Kostka) Govern's Obit.

Adrian Burgos's latest research of the NEW YORK AGE added many new players to the rosters.

SPECIAL EVENTS

On June 20th the Milwaukee "Brewers enshrine Negro League stars on Wall of Fame" AP story **1pg. Inductees were Rudy Fernandez, Willie Grace, Nap Gulley, Buster Haywood, Casey Jones, Jumbo Kimbro, Lester Lockett, Art Pennington, and Andrew Porter. **2pp program. Another program for Legends of the Negro Leagues Luncheon**2pp. MILWAUKEE JOURNAL, "Negro League stars honored at County Stadium," **3pp. Thanks to Gary Maurer for materials.

On June 27th the Second Annual Harrisburg Giant Tribute was a huge success. The Akron Aeros were the opposition in replica uniforms and fans received a replica Giant cap as Harrisburg paid tribute to Spot Poles. HARRISBURG PATRIOT-NEWS, 6/28/98, "Going to bat for the Negro Leagues, fans try to renew link in City's history," **3pp

Also, on June 27th the Detroit Tigers honored the Negro Leagues with their annual tribute. Mamie Johnson, Lester Lockett, and Double Duty Radcliffe (who played with the Detroit Stars seventy years ago) headlined the gala. In attendance at the pre-game gathering were Joe Douse,, Frank Duncan, Herald Gordon, Clarence Jenkins, Gene Johnson, Ray Miller, James Moore, Joe Moore, Ted Rasberry, Ron Teasley, Price West, and Larry Williams. A large crowd was on hand and the event was by all counts a success.

The following on the SABR-28 Convention was written by Jerry Malloy and is greatly appreciated.

A wonderful time was had, as usual, by SABR members attending the National Convention in San Francisco from June 25th to June 28th. Negro League Committee members who have never attended a SABR Convention should try to do so in the future. Research presentations, player panels, and various speakers are among the pleasures of these annual festivals of the Grand Old Game. The conventions also provide a great opportunity to meet and socialize with SABR members of all interests, and put faces to the names we encounter via letters, phone calls, email, and SABR-L. Besides the various formal gatherings, I've always had great times at SABR conventions getting together with members of various stripes at the local "Boom-Boom Room" of whichever hotel we occupy. I'm most grateful to Barry Mednich and all of his SABR colleagues in the Bay Area for their diligent efforts in putting together such a terrific event.

On Thursday evening, June 25th, a forum open to all convention attendees considered and discussed a proposal that SABR devise a plan to create a "Hall-of-Fame"-style list to recognize the accomplishments of the most significant contributors to the historical evolution of the game of baseball. Gene Sunnen, former president of SABR, has been working on this project for some time. Gene envisions various voting procedures to be sure that all of baseball's significant figures would be included. A two-tiered voting process (to nominate and elect) would enable all SABR members to vote on 20th century major league figures, but special consideration would be granted to four categories: African American baseball (to include both Negro League players and those who played prior to the creation of the black leagues), 19th century figures, the minor leagues, and umpires. Under Gene's plan, the NLC would be responsible for nominating, by a vote of committee members, five players/executives per year. As I understood the proposal, the committee's vote would be tantamount to placing these figures directly into SABR's roster of recognition.

In the discussion that followed, the proposal did not generate overwhelming support. Various objections to the plan arose. Jan Finkel spoke strongly against the measure, fearing that it would deflect attention from the task of persuading the Hall of Fame to eliminate the ridiculous restrictions currently placed upon commemorating Negro League veterans. Furthermore, Jan felt that, by electing Black stars to a separate SABR entity, the society may be encouraging the Hall of Fame to disregard future inductions under the notion that Negro Leaguers have been recognized by SABR and, therefore, do not require similar accolades from Cooperstown. Jan applauded the Negro League Museum in Kansas City for steadfastly refusing to create a "Negro League Hall of Fame" for precisely this reason.

I think this is a valid concern. But the proposal of SABR recognition may not necessarily conflict with the committee's objective to throw open the doors at Cooperstown. The greatest value of Gene Sunnen's proposal is that those most knowledgeable about African-American baseball would be selecting the people who are most deserving without going through the tortuous procedure of educating members of the Hall's Veteran's Committee who know little and care less about the topic. It could possibly develop that SABR's Negro League Committee, by their informed endorsement of noteworthy Black figures, could assist the Hall of Fame by identifying key contributors, and serving a valuable advisory role. The issue of Gene's proposal remained unresolved at the conclusion of the convention, but may emerge again in the future. NLC members may want to consider the pluses-and-minuses of the project.

On the afternoon of Friday, June 26th, David A. Lawrence, who has served on the faculties of UCLA and Stanford, delivered a presentation entitled "The Negro

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Leagues: A Unique Problem in Historical Research." (**5pp)
Dr Lawrence, who has been researching Negro League baseball since 1983, is a member of SABR, but not of the NLC. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend his presentation, since I was under strict orders by the NLC Co-Chairmen to participate in the "Historical Site and Bar Tour" en route to Candlestick Park for Friday evening (chilly) Rangers-Giants interleague tilt, and by adhering to this firm command, I missed Mr Lawrence's presentation. My understanding is that David's presentation encompassed attempts to utilize various SABRmetric statistical tools to assess and evaluate the performance of Negro League players. I'm sorry I missed this presentation, since I'm not aware of anyone having taken this innovative approach to examining African-American baseball.

NLC members who have received Dick's SABR Convention reports in prior years may recall that he always attributes the early hour of our committee meeting to the fact that Larry Lester always insists upon meeting at 7 a.m. Perhaps he's correct about this, since, with Larry not in attendance, the NLC was scheduled to meet at the relatively late time of 8:30 a.m. Unfortunately, however, the meeting was scheduled for half-an-hour only, as opposed to the usual hour. Bill Williamson, Jan Finkel, and Rob Schober were NLC members among the present. There were others present, but I neglected to have them sign the attendance sheet—a shortcoming Dick and Larry never would permit. My estimate is that 15-20 people were present. David Marasco, of Evanston, Illinois, was present at the convention, taking the opportunity to scarf-down some of mom's home cooking, as his parents live in San Francisco. Unfortunately, he didn't realize how drastically the Bay Area's transit systems had changed in the ten years since he'd used them regularly, and missed the NLC meeting. In the brief time available, I urged those present to continue to send to Dick and Larry any statistical/roster data they may come across. THE NEGRO LEAGUES BOOK is not cast in stone, but a work-in-progress and additional material is continually sought. Remember: no detail is too small in compiling this extremely valuable information.

The remaining time was mostly spent considering the Negro League Convention in Harrisburg, a grand event scheduled for August 6-8. Dick sent me a stack of fact sheets compiled by Ted Knorr for this ambitious and exciting gathering. I am among the many committee members who shall not be able to attend the Harrisburg event, and all of those present at the NLC meeting oooh'ed-and-ahhhh'ed over the formidable list of fascinating papers to be read. I'm hoping that those papers that are composed on a word processor and can be converted into an email format that may be made available, to those of us who are online. The topics being addressed merit as wide an audience as possible, and I know I'd love to have them available, if at all possible. I also deeply regret not having the

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opportunity to meet with Bob Peterson whose seminal work, ONLY THE BALL WAS WHITE, remains one of the cornerstones of Black baseball research. I met Bob at a SABR convention several years ago, and he's a delightful and gracious gentleman.

A tip of my Chicago American Giants cap to Jim Riley, for conceiving the notion of a Negro League Convention; to Ted Knorr, whose diligent efforts have brought it to fruition; and to the various presenters and participants, for contributing to such a valuable program. Heck, it's almost worth the trip to Harrisburg just to see Ted, resplendent in the magnificent HARRISBURG GIANTS jersey he wears to SABR conventions.

Upcoming Special Events

Harrisburg on August 6th: A one page fact sheet is available but let us hope you are on your way to the event just after receiving the newsletter. The following NLC members are expected to attend; Bolton, Booker, Burgos, Cash, Clark, Debono, Eastland, Garrett, Heaphy, Hogan, Holway, Hunsinger, Knorr, Lester, Miller, Mondore, Morris, Overmyer, Perry, Plott, Sayama, Schmidt, Smith, Sullivan, and Truitt. Not too Bad. There will also be many other researchers and enthusiasts and at least 7 players.

On Saturday August 15, 1998 the city of Wilmington and the Wilmington Blue Rocks will sponsor the Third Annual Judy Johnson Night. **1pg flyer. Many members of the Philadelphia Stars will be honored. Replica uniforms will be worn and much much more. Contact chairman Joe Mitchell at (302) 478-8763 for further details.

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recent passings have been Lee Moody 7/4/98 in Ferguson, MO at 81. **2pp Obit. Charles White 5/26/98 in SeaTac, WA at 70. Charles "Teenie" Harris in Pittsburgh 6/12/98 at 89. Former NLC member Paul Doherty died earlier this year. Zachary Redden and John Kennedy obits from SCD **1pg.

THE DISCOVER GREATNESS Exhibit will be at the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, FL from 7/26 to 9/6. In Shreveport, LA from 10/3 to 10/10. Call me for details.

Be sure to vote in the Centennial Survey. Dick Lundy is a great candidate for the award.

Larry Hogan in THE NEW YORK TIMES 7/5/98, "The man who opened Yankee Stadium to Black baseball" **1pg (Lloyd).

The Atlanta Braves wearing Black Crackers uniforms entertained the St. Louis Cards (Stars) the weekend of July 31st to August 2nd. The MLB Negro League Exhibit was also shown there along with other activities.

The latest THE NATIONAL PASTIME has 3 excellent NL related articles. Our own Lyle Wilson's "Mr Foster comes to Washington" also "Remembering Mr Brewer" & "A baseball myth exploded" (Bill Veeck and the 1943 sale of the Phillies).

Short listing of some studies done on racism in baseball, put together by Seah Lahman. **1pg.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BASEBALL HISTORY, the publication of the San Francisco convention had an article on Jimmy Claxton by Steve Lavoie, "Oakland pitcher broke color line in 1916 game".

With all Deliberate Speed: The Slow Process Of The Integration Of Philadelphia Baseball by Chris Threston is available from the SABR Research Library.

The latest issue of THE DIAMOND ANGLE #59, Summer, '98 has articles by David Marasco "Before Jackie: Tales From The Negro Leagues". Also, Welcome Home Jackie; S.I.T.T. HOF stories on Max Manning and Jud Wilson and Larry Doby. 52 pages on baseball. Contact TDAQ 706 So. Alu Wailuku, HI 96793, \$4 an issue.

ONLINE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Look for Larry Lester's write-ups on Hall Of Fame inductees and the induction ceremonies on the majorleaguebaseball.com web site.

New Email address for Paul Bauer archers@megsinet.net
KANSAS CITY STAR Buck O'Neil's appearance on LATE SHOW with David Letterman. **4pp.

Oscar Charleston Memorial web page is
<http://www.indy.net/~pdebono/oscar1.htm>

Check out Wall of Fame at chicago.tribune.com
SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE 6/28-7/4/98 "Learn about the Negro Leagues" online column **1pg.

NEGRO LEAGUE RELATED ARTICLES

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL 6/10/98, "Baseball player a hit with kids" **1pg (George Davis)

UPI 10/26/45 "Negro who turned down playing offer has hopes for Robinson" **1pg (Billy Williams).

THE SUN (Baltimore) 5/10/98, "Women made major pitch," **1pg (Mamie Johnson).

From 1996 NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR SPORT HISTORY PROCEEDING **2pp, an overview of David Harmon's "That other baseball team: The Atlanta Black Crackers and the World of Southern African-American baseball."

THE RECORD (Hackensack, NJ) 6/8/98, "Hometown hails Hall of Fame hero," **1pg (Doby).

MACON TELEGRAPH 6/24/98, "In Campanis case, actions should speak louder than words," **1pg.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL-BULLETIN 5/21/98, "Being color blind formed bond of lasting friendship," **2pp (Aaron)

THE KANSAS CITY STAR 6/23/98, "Campanis had to pay for remarks," **1pg 7/4/98, "Museums' attendance falls short, but hope lies in coming attractions," **2pp. & 7/15/98, "As I see it: 18th and Vine is a success story," **1pg.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER Spring, 1998, "Lessons from Jackie Robinson's life," **1pg (Sharon Robinson)

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USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY July 22-28, 1998, "Numbers game hurting the Hall," & stories on Doby, Sutton, Rogan, Davis, and Lacy. **3pp.

MINNESOTA WOMEN'S PRESS 10/15-28/97, Tony Stone Field picture **1pg.

BASEBALL AMERICA, August 3-16, 1998 "Hidden treasures of the Hall of Fame," **3pp & "Robinson Crusader Lacy heads to Hall of Fame," **1pg.

CURRENT AND FUTURE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Thanks to Neil Lanctot and Lyle Wilson, who both helped greatly with Jesse Owens' baseball connections question.

Davis Barker is seeking any info on the San Francisco Cubs, Oakland Beavers and Los Angeles Coasters of the '40's.

Aurin Squire, who works for Black Voices Chicago, an AOL site with the CHICAGO TRIBUNE is working to incorporate a wide variety of items into a Negro League Baseball Website

Neil Kekic is continuing his research which will culminate in a Rube Foster book. Any info would be appreciated call (616) 388-8011.

Dave Stevens has finished his bio of John Ward BASEBALL'S RADICAL FOR ALL SEASONS, available inn September from Scarecrow Press.

THE MARKETPLACE

"Memphis Red Sox spotlighted in new video" SCD 6/2/98 **1pg on the video BLACK DIAMOND BLUES CITY. It is available for \$24. Call Dr John Haddock at (901) 678-3162.

SCD 8/14/98 "Gehrig jersey and Negro League artifacts highlight Hunt auction" **2pp and **2pp AD

Ebbets Field Flannels catalog 800 377-9777.

I mention again the beautiful art work done by Jennifer Ettinger. To see more contact www.intergate.bc.ca/ettinger or call (604) 873-2050 for info.

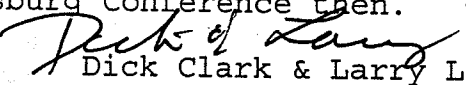
"New Ernie Banks figurine scores with collectors" 4/17/98 THE CHICAGO SUN-TIMES **1pg AD **2pp. **1pg Brochure of Banks items available.

Dean Sullivan's latest book is MIDDLE INNINGS: The Documentary History of Baseball 1908-1949, has several Negro League items within.

Recent auctions--autographed copy of MAYBE I'LL PITCH FOREVER (Paige) \$1628. Willie Foster signed 3x5 card \$4175.

FINAL REMARKS

Our next newsletter will be October's. Please get all information to me before the last week of September. Larry and I will report on the Harrisburg Conference then.


Dick Clark & Larry Lester
NLC Co-Chairpeople

Dean Sullivan has begun work on LATE INNINGS, from 1945 on. Negro Leagues material will again be included. He is looking for coverage of the 1948 NL World Series; 1949 documentary done in Cleveland on Satchel Paige; Emmet Ashford's integration of any minor league; & Elimination of the Hall of Fame's Negro League Committee.

John McReynolds seeks Nate Moreland's 1945 KC appearance (date and location).

Bill McNeil is finishing up a book for 2000 release BASEBALL'S GREATEST PLAYERS. It will have chapters on the Negro Leagues and many of the great players.

Lyle Wilson passed along 21 pages of articles to Davis Barker on West Coast Black teams.

Jim Overmyer seeks any info on a Pontiac Black team.

Frank D'Amico, 14 Rodgers Ave. Dedham, MA 02026-1606 is beginning the long process of trying to get a commemorative stamp honoring the Negro Leagues. Contact Frank for petitions to help the process.

THE MARKETPLACE

Brent Kelley's latest book VOICES FROM THE NEGRO LEAGUES: Conversations with 52 baseball standouts is well worth the price, a tremendous accumulation of information **2pp Table of Contents.

Latest issue of NINE has Jerry Malloy's review of this book. **2pp and review of JACKIE ROBINSON: A Biography by Arnold Rampersad, **2pp. Rob Ruck's 14 pages piece, Baseball and Community: From Pittsburgh's Hill to San Pedro's Canefields, is also in NINE.

"1998 Negro League Jerseys" **1pg AD Cincy & Detroit.

"Negro League Private Signing" **1pg AD

Chuck Brodsky has a CD available which includes The Ballad Of Eddie Klepp. CD is Letters in the Dirt.

Many amazing prices from the Hunt, Inc. Auction of 8/21-22, 1998 on Negro League items. SCD **1pg.

FINAL REMARKS

The next newsletter will be December's. Please get all material to me before the last week of November. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Dick Clark & Larry Lester
NLC Co-Chairpeople