

The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

The Presidential Issue

September, 2013

In the News

Meet & Greet with the President

Twenty years ago, courtesy of efforts by Dr. Bob and Zohura Hieronimus of Owings Mills, Maryland, former Negro League players were invited to the White House. The All-Star team, on February 8, 1993, was greeted by Vice-President Al Gore in the Roosevelt Room. The original team included Max Manning, Jim "Fireball" Cohen, Bill "Ready" Cash, Stanley "Doc" Glenn, Mahlon Duckett, Leon Day, Gene Benson, Russell Awkard, and Wilmer "Red" Fields. Duckett is the only surviving player from this historic meeting.

V-P Gore called the Negro League veterans, "*pioneers and heroes.*" He added, "*Had they been allowed to be a part of the major leagues, we would know their names as well the names of Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth.*"

Now, two decades later, there is a new sheriff in town. A new team arrived on the evening of August 5, for a "Meet & Greet" with #44, President Barack Obama. Along with a few historians and family members, the new line-up consisted of Mrs. **Geraldine (Leon) Day**, Mrs. **Audrey (Bert) Simmons**, pitcher Mrs. **Mamie Johnson** (Indianapolis Clowns), owner Mrs. **Minnie Forbes** (Detroit Stars), outfielder **Carl Long** (Birmingham Black Barons), catcher **Larry LeGrande** (Satchel Paige All-Stars), first baseman **James "Red" Moore** (Atlanta Black Crackers), pitcher **Cliff Layton** (Indianapolis Clowns), third baseman **Minnie Miñoso** (New York Cubans), pitcher **Bob Scott** (New York Black Yankees), pitcher **Pedro Sierra** (Detroit Stars), shortstop **Jim Robinson** (Kansas City Monarchs), and outfielder **Ron Teasley** (New York Cubans).

With the exception of Long, Teasley and Scott, all participants have appeared at the **Jerry Malloy Negro**

League Conference over the years. This historical moment was organized by the efficient, energetic and eloquent **Andrea McCoy-Carty** vice-president of Joe Mitchell's **Judy Johnson Memorial Foundation** out of Wilmington, Delaware. Mitchell was the recipient of the Jerry Malloy Conference's **Most Valuable Partner** (MVP) Award in 2009.

The day before our presidential meeting, she arranged for all the caravans traveling to D.C. for a pit stop at Baltimore's **Camden Yards** for players to be honored, as we enjoyed food and beverages in our luxury suite. The next day, we visited Howard University Hospital

and met with dignitaries for a reception. The hospital has a special **Homestead Grays** exhibit, with unique markings on the floor where home plate once laid in Griffith Stadium, the former stomping grounds of the dynasty Grays and the **Washington "first in war, first in peace, and last in the American League" Senators.**



After an extensive tour of the White House grounds by our bus driver, 49 cent, we entered the White House gates. As Rin Tin Tin sniffed the under carriage of the bus, homeland security checked our ID's. Once we departed the bus, we easily breezed through the body scanners and gathered in the Grand Forum outside of the Blue Room to meet the President.

Most of us were on our best behavior, as we didn't want a repeat of "*Down Goes Frazier, Down Goes Frazier, Down Goes Frazier!!!*"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZEIMQ42-oU>

Fortunately, no one had to go to the corner and take the mandatory eight count.

As the President entered the room, the "Cuban Comet" **Minnie Miñoso**, set the tone for the engagement when he broke out singing "Happy Birthday" with the rest of us following his cue. A surprised or choked up President gathered his thoughts quickly and replied, "Wow, you can sing too!" And while opportunity knocked I provided a presidential aide with birthday presents of "Black Baseball in Chicago" and my latest book, "Rube Foster in His Time." The group signed both a card and a **Louisville slugger** for Mr. President.

"Well first of all, let me just say, what an honor it is to have you all in the White House, I think everybody knows that I'm a pretty big sports fan, and I think that anybody who knows the history of the Negro Leagues knows that it was important not only because some great baseball was played, that you saw folks like Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson display unbelievable athletic talent, and many of the gentlemen who are here today, but it also changed our culture," expressed President Obama.

"You gave opportunities for the African American community to feel pride about their athleticism and it slowly opened the doors for opportunities in the future." He added, "You brought a sense of pride to the African-American community during the tough social climate of segregation."

Afterwards, the President spoke briefly with each player, kissed a few ladies on the cheek, and later shook hands and joked with each attendee before he ran off to save the free world.

We hung out after Obama's departure and freely toured the Blue, Red and Green Rooms, taking photographs, as MSNBC did post-event interviews with Miñoso, Sierra, Forbes, Teasley, Johnson and Robinson. Earlier in the day, CBS telecasted interviews with **Mamie Johnson** and **Jim Robinson**. View the two minute interviews at: <http://www.thv11.com/news/article/274627/288/Negro-League-players-honored-by-Obama-in-DC>

Later, Miñoso delivered his mock "state-of-the-union" speech on PED's, steroids, the DH rule, his Hall of Fame omission, and, of course, world peace. →

President Obama stopped by [The Tonight Show with Jay Leno on Tuesday](#), part of his two-day West Coast trip to discuss housing and the economy, before calling off his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin; frustrated by Moscow's decision the previous week to give temporary asylum to American fugitive, alleged whistleblower, and NSA leaker Edward Snowden.

Confidently, I speak for all in thanking President Obama for taking time out of his busy schedule to engage in our 15 minutes of glory. With more than 315 million residents in America, we common folk were honored to be among the lotto winners to meet a sitting Commander-in-Chief. Yes, the one with the launch codes, veto and clemency powers.

Overall, a super great time with the country's first African-American President. It was an unforgettable moment that we will all cherish.

For more news coverage view:

Red Moore and other Negro League Stars Honored
<http://crossroadsnews.com/news/2013/aug/09/red-moore-other-negro-leagues-stars-honored/>

Obama Honors Negro League Players at White House
<http://www.blackvoicenews.com/news/news-wire/48961-obama-honors-negro-league-players-at-white-house.html>

When Barry Met Minnie
<http://www.baseballnation.com/hot-corner/2013/8/7/4599004/president-barack-obama-minnie-minoso-negro-leagues>

President Obama welcomes former Negro League Players to White House
<http://ftw.usatoday.com/2013/08/president-obama-welcomes-former-negro-league-players-to-white-house/>

Chuck Todd's MSNBC interview starts at 1:20 here:
<http://tv.msnbc.com/2013/08/06/amid-baseball-scandal-negro-league-players-reflect-on-their-love-of-the-game/>



Final Jeopardy Question: Name the African-American Hall of Famers that wore #44.

Answer: Hank Aaron (Braves & Brewers), Willie McCovey (Giants, Padres & Athletics), and Reggie Jackson (Yankees & Athletics).

The Malloy Conference Goes to Newark, New Jersey

With all due respect to our conferences in Portsmouth (2007) and Birmingham (2010), this year's conference was U-N-F-O-R-G-E-T-T-A-B-L-E! The committee in Newark made Nat King Cole proud.



Who will ever forget the outstanding and captivating performance by the 3-4-5th graders from Bowser Elementary School, as they stole the show with "**THE NEGRO LEAGUES WAX MUSEUM.**" The students mesmerized us all with their memorized dialogues about Negro League legends. They highlighted 12 players as wax figures that come to life on a visit to their museum. Read principal Brian Heaphy's account of this grand slam event on page 5 of the *Courier*.

Who will ever forget Belinda Manning's (Max's daughter) heart-warming presentation: "**Max: The Heart of the Matter,**" about her father's passion to excel in both baseball and education. What a treat! Go to her blog entitled, "**Conversations with Dad . . .**" <http://withdad.blogspot.com/2013/06/the-2013-sabr-jerry-malloy-negro-league.html> to read more about her experience at the Malloy Conference. An astonishing blog with great photographs.

Who will forget Nick Diunte's unique presentation, "**Ray Dandridge's Journey from Newark to the New York Giants.**" Unique in that it incorporated actual audio interviews from former players about the all-star, hall-of-fame third baseman. To hear the voices of Negro League legends really gave the presentation a reality show boost. Read Diunte's account of the conference at: <http://www.examiner.com/article/veterans-keep-flame-burning-for-the-negro-leagues-at-newark-conference>

Another lasting memory was from Professor Joseph Dorinson's "**Something to Cheer.**" Laced with self-effacing jokes, his perspective on the different styles and temperament of Paul Robeson, Monte Irvin and Larry Doby shared the formula for future crossover athletes of color.

As with all presentations, we came away with something learned and more respect for the many hours of labor involved in gathering substantial material for a short 30-minute mind melt. Such was the case with Bryan Steverson's "**Baseball's Seminal Event - Anson vs. Stovey.**" The question of the day was when the Chicago White Stockings played the Newark Little Giants on July

14, 1987, where was **Wright Street Grounds** located, which was previously mentioned in an old **Jerry Malloy** article. The locals didn't know about the park, but thanks to researcher extraordinaire, attendee **Bob Bailey**, tracked down the Sanborn Maps at the Princeton University Library, that revealed the site sat between Wright, Avenue B, Vanderpool and Avenue B Streets. Another mystery solved. Next batter!

We had so many excellent presentations . . . too many to write about, but one lasting memory was the presentation on **Hinchliffe Stadium** by Brian LoPinto. He had to pinch-hit for Dr. Lawrence Hogan. Hogan's excuse was he had a flat tire. My guess is he didn't know that AAA doesn't repair tires on golf carts. LoPinto brought home the winning run with insightful and successful efforts on how to secure National Historic Landmark status for the former home of the **New York Black Yankees** and the **New York Cubans**.

With focus on the conference theme "**POP, MAX, EFFA & BLACKBALL IN THE GARDEN STATE,**" other presentations included: Todd Peterson's "**The Rise of the Cuban Giants, 1880-1885,**" Rich Puerzer's "**The 1946 Negro League World Series,**" John Struth's "**The 1889 Cuban Giants in Trenton,**" Rebecca Alpert's "**Effa Manley and the Jews,**" Courtney Smith's "**Twilight Time: Manley, Bolden and the Flip Side,**" Tony Schuman's "**Daylighting the History of the Newark Eagles,**" David Krell's "**The Unsung Leadership of Biz Mackey,**" and Irv Goldfarb's "**The 1st Colored Championship: 1867.**"



The Yogi Berra Museum hosted our Meet & Greet event, where several copies of Berra's book "**I Really Didn't Say Everything I Said**" were given to fans who provided the source of selected Berra quotes. Yep, we had some wrong answers. We also gave away two DVD's "**Pitchin' Man: Satchel Paige Defying Time,**" courtesy of **Craig Davidson** from Refocus Films. Paige

once said, "How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?" The winner of one DVD was **Bob Richardson**, a 91 year old youngster, from Mt. Vernon, New York. He was the guest of **Tom** and **Barbara Cipolla**. And yes, we scanned his driver's license to validate this rookie's age.



Rick Puerzer shocked the field and won his first Malloy Conference trivia contest. Using a new College Bowl format, the tough questions came from the daily presentations, developed by moderator & quiz master **Ted Knorr**, a three time trivia champion. Puerzer beat out **Bob Bailey** and **Jim Overmyer** in a close competition to take home a goldmine of prizes.

In its fourth year, the **Authors Panel** hosted by Dick Clark was another informative session. The eminent **Lawrence Hogan**, chief editor of "Shades of Glory," **Al Hunter, Jr.**, (Thou Shalt Not Steal: The Baseball Life & Times of a Rifle-Armed Negro League catcher: Bill Cash), **Neil Lanctot** (Campy: The Two Lives of Roy Campanella) and **Jim Overmyer**, (Effa Manley and the Newark Eagles), all revealed their inside strategies for getting published.

At the Awards Banquet, who will ever forget the rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner by **Beth Kelly** and **Tysheka Pruett**, nee' Salt-N-Pepa. It was the best performance I have had heard, since Whitney Houston rocked **Super Bowl XXV** (1991) at Tampa Stadium. They hit evveerry note. The only missing ingredient was a fly over by F-16 Jets. The committee will work on adding this feature for future conferences.

At the banquet we announced the winners of our \$2,500 scholarships; **Emma Charlesworth-Seiler** (Minnetonka, MN) and **Madison O'Shields** (Nashville, TN), and the \$1,000 Library Grants were awarded to **Randolph High School** (Randolph, NJ), and **Joseph L. Carwise Middle School** (Palm Harbor, FL). Art contest winners included **John Everett** (in the Amateur category), **Kathleen**

Flynn (Professional), and **Amy Steverson** (Youth). See her winning entry on this page.

Annual winners of the prestigious **Robert Peterson Recognition Award** for their outstanding books, were **Lisa Doris Alexander** for "When Baseball Isn't White, Straight and Male: The Media & Difference in the National Pastime," and **Jeffrey Laing** for "Bud Fowler: Baseball's First Black Professional".

The **John Coates Next Generation Awards** went to **Ryan Whirly** for his exemplary articles about Negro League Legends on the web, and **Courtney M. Smith** for her exemplary Masters' Thesis on the **Philadelphia Stars**.

Todd Peterson and **Peter Morris** picked up the **Tweed Webb Lifetime Achievement Awards** for their work in 19th Century baseball, while **Thomas U. Tuttle** from Minnetonka, Minnesota, received our highest honor, winning the **7th Fay Vincent Most Valuable Partner (MVP) Award** for his many years of dedicated services.

Finally, we missed you Missy, Lucky, Louis, Lisa, James, Jesse, Joe, Josh and Tom, Roger, Roberta, Rick, R.J., Michael, Dan, Karl, Chris & Brian, Jack & Maureen, Sam & Pete, Dwayne, Bob, Bob, and Byron, and of course Blind Billie Wayne. The rest of you, know who you are!



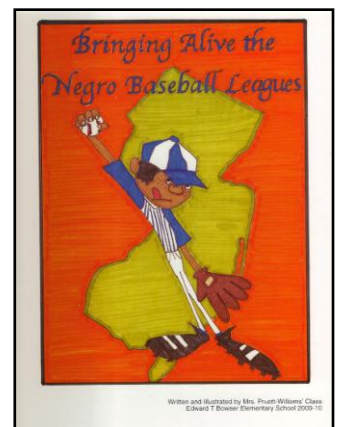
See you in Motown. Please consider the Malloy Conference in your travel plans for 2014.

U-N-F-O-R-G-E-T-T-A-B-L-E-!

Bringing Alive the Negro Baseball Leagues by **Aisha Pruett-Williams**.

This book was created by the students and staff at

Edward T. Bowser, Sr., Elementary School, in Newark, NJ. This historical work features the vivid imaginations of children through artwork, graphics and testimonials about such legendary figures as **Monte Irvin**, **Biz Mackey**, **Larry Doby**, **Willie Wells**, **Effa Manley**, **Lennie Pearson**, and of course, the **Newark Eagles**. This is a must-have book for any school library.

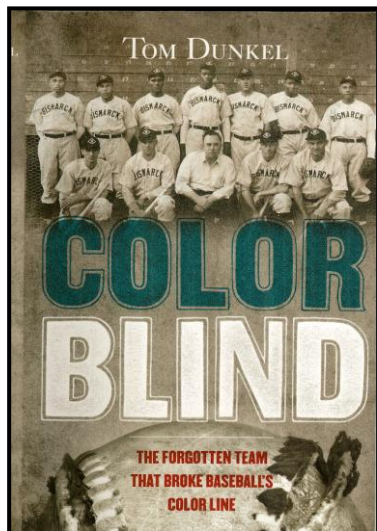


Go to www.studenttreasures.com for your personal copy.

Rain Delay Reading

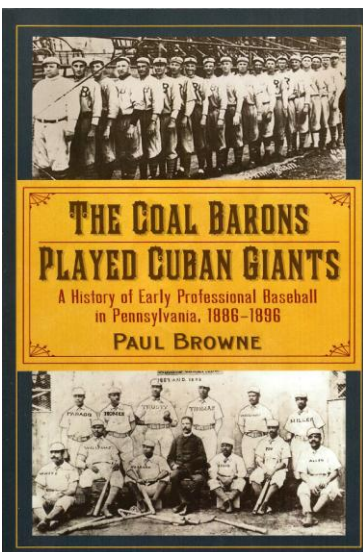
Color Blind: The Forgotten Team That Broke Baseball's Color Line by Tom Dunkel.

During the 1930s, in drought-stricken North Dakota, one of the most improbable teams in the history of baseball was put together. In Bismarck, more than a decade before Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby broke into the Majors, a car dealer named Neil Churchill signed the best players, he could find, regardless of race. His integrated squad took



on all comers in spectacular fashion. Award-winning journalist Tom Dunkel tells this remarkable, and largely un-forgotten story of sports achievement in segregated America. Read how Double Duty Radcliffe, Hilton Smith, Quincy Troupe and Satchel Paige colored the game with a wide brush of justice in the Wichita State Tournament in 1934. Published by Atlantic Monthly Press.

The Coal Barons Played Cuban Giants: A History of Early Professional Baseball in Pennsylvania, 1886-1896 by Paul Browne



The Pennsylvania state leagues in the 1880s and 1890s rank among the most interesting minor leagues in the history of the game. The rules were ever changing, the economy was changing, and things that would seem impossible in a later time were happening every year.

These leagues had not only black players but also wholly black

teams. They had great major leaguers - on their way up but also on the way back down. The play was exciting, the players were exciting, and the owners, managers and league politics were often more interesting than the games. Published by McFarland Publishers.

Negro Leagues Wax Museum

For those attending this year's Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference they got an exceptional treat. One of the special presentations this year involved 30 students from Edward T. Bowser Sr. Elementary School and their presentation of a Negro Leagues Wax Museum.

With the help of their teachers, the students came to life with the push of a button and presented short vignettes about a number of famous New Jersey Negro Leaguers such as Monte Irvin, Leon Day, Max Manning, Biz Mackey, Charlie Biot and Effa and Abe Manley.



The students designed and produced a set, accompanying multi-media presentation, and original music as they brought these legendary men and women to life for the audience.

We owe a special thanks to each of these students as well as their teachers and supporters. Thanks to Principal Brian Heaphy, assistant Principal Beth Kelly and to the teachers Sharman Nittoli, Diana Ospina, Natasha Baxter, Aisha Pruett, and Maria Musano for encouraging and supporting these students and sharing their talents and gifts with our conference attendees.



Educator Derrick Jones from Virginia Beach, VA, added, "The participation from the youth was a highlight for myself.

"The children's presentation was very well done and it was great to see kid's that young so excited about anything let alone Negro League baseball," noted Rick Meister

"Thinking about what they did and how well they did it still brings tears to my eyes when I think about it. They are awesome kids!!" replied Belinda Manning.

Professor Joe Dorinson expressed, "To witness the young students in action produced a burst of inspiration in all of us with the reassurance that the Negro League legacy lives!" Indeed it does.

University of Maryland Announces Lacy-Smith Award

The University of Maryland has announced the creation of an annual award that will be given to a sports journalist or broadcaster who has made "**significant contributions to racial and gender equality in sports.**"

The **Sam Lacy-Wendell Smith Award** will be chosen by an eight-person panel and presented in conjunction with the **Shirley Povich Symposium**.

Lacy and Smith were prominent African-American journalists who are credited with pushing Major League Baseball owners to integrate and wrote extensively about the careers of Negro League stars.



Lacy worked for the *Washington Tribune*, the *Chicago Defender* and the *Baltimore Afro-American* and was the first African-American member of the **Baseball Writers of America Association**, in 1948, despite the movie "42's" claim to Wendell Smith. Lacy won the **Red Smith Award** for sports journalism in 1998.

Smith covered the Negro Leagues for many African-American newspapers and boxing for the *Chicago American*. He also worked in television and was a sports columnist for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. He wrote about **Jackie Robinson**, **Larry Doby** and others for the *Pittsburgh Courier*.

"Both men worked tirelessly over the years — writing, lobbying and cajoling MLB's owners, many of them resistant, into trying to see the importance of integration to the future of not only the sport of baseball but to the country," Povich Center director **George Solomon** said in a statement.

The committee making the selection includes Solomon, *USA Today* sports managing editor **Mary Byrne** and *South Florida Sun Sentinel* sports editor **Greg Lee**, who also is president of the National Association of Black Journalists, will select the winner.

The other panelists are **Kevin Blackistone** (visiting professor, Merrill College and commentator, ESPN's "Around the Horn"), **Garry Howard** (editor, *The Sporting News*), **Diana Huffman** (*Baltimore Sun*, lecturer, Merrill College), and **Rick "Doc" Walker** (commentator, ESPN-980, Comcast SportsNet).

San Diego Padres make donation to N.L. Grave Marker Project

On Friday, May 31, 2013, the San Diego Padres made a generous donation to the **Negro Leagues Grave Marker Project** at the 10th annual Salute to the Negro Leagues Luncheon at the Omni Hotel San Diego.



The Negro Leagues Grave Marker Project, founded in 2004 by SABR member Jeremy Krock, raises funds to buy headstones for unmarked graves of Negro League players. More than two dozen headstones have been installed at cemeteries throughout the country for black baseball stars such as **John Donaldson**, **Jimmie Crutchfield** and **Dink Mothell**. For more information, [click here](#). The limited-seating first-class luncheon, was emceed by the Mighty 1090 radio host John Kentera, was hosted by Padres Executive VP/Senior Advisor and Hall of Famer **Dave Winfield**. The 2013 Salute to the Negro Leagues, themed **Game Changers**, honored former Negro League players, including **George "Jo-Jo" Altman**, **Neale "California Comet" Henderson**, **Don "Groundhog" Johnson**, **Ray "Boo Boy" Knox**, **Minnie Minoso**, **Charley Pride**, **Mack "The Knife" Pride**, **Jim Robinson**, and **Ron "Roomie" Teasley**. Prior to the game, **Minnie Miñoso** threw out the Ceremonial First Pitch.

Winfield wrote, "We had nine men attend from as far as NYC, Detroit, Chicago, Missouri, Texas, Colorado, etc. They had a ball." He added, "What you would've gotten a kick out of is the look on their faces, and the enjoyment that the Negro Leaguers (and their wives) had from this day. It was very special indeed."

Sunrises!

SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUER A BIRTHDAY CARD.

SEPTEMBER

- 3RD – REV. BILL GREASON – 89
4TH – JOSE SANTIAGO – 85
5TH – BILLY RAY HAGGINS – 84
7TH – RICKY MAROTO – 81
9TH – JIM PROCTOR – 78
11TH – CLYDE PARRIS – 91
16TH – OLLIE BRANTLEY – 82
21ST – LOUIS CLARIZIO – 82
22ND – SWEET LOU JOHNSON – 79
27TH – MAMIE “PEANUT” JOHNSON – 78
30TH – ARCHIE YOUNG – 83

OCTOBER

- 7TH – HANK PRESSWOOD – 92**, RAY MADDIX – 85
13TH – DIRK GIBBONS – 85
17TH – BILL BLAIR – 92
20TH – REV. CLIFF LAYTON – 84
25TH – WARREN O’NEIL – 96

NOVEMBER

- 4TH – ERNIE “SCHOOLBOY”
JOHNSON – 85
13TH – B.G. STEVENS – 78
16TH – “SKEETER” BANKS - 93
17TH – ROBERT ROSELL WILLIAMS – 81
18TH- JAMES “RED” MOORE – 97, BOB
“PEACHEAD” MITCHELL – 81
20TH – BUDDY OWENS – 86
23RD – WILLIAM “BABA” RICHARDSON – 79
25TH – CLEO BROWN – 80
28TH – CAL IRVIN – 89
29TH – MINNIE MIÑOSO – 91
30TH – ERNIE WESTFIELD – 74

CONGRATULATIONS to Nonagenarians, **CLYDE PARRIS, HANK PRESSWOOD, BILL BLAIR, WARREN O’NEIL, SKEETER BANKS, RED MOORE & MINNIE MIÑOSO.**

Recent donations for the Grave Marker Project have been received from: Dave Anderson, Jack Anderson, John Blackman, Melissa Booker, Lelia Bridgeforth, Richard Butler, Center for African American Genealogical Research, Joe DeFrancesco, Kent Fredrickson, Margot Hayward, Jane Hewitt, Suzanne Joblonski, Dave Keenan, Keepers of the Legends, Doug Kenison, Jeremy Krock, Larry Lester, McFarland Publishers, Rick Meister, Dan Nathan, Dan Orazio, Dave Polich, Erin Randolph, Paul Rogalsky, Tim Rook, Michael Rosenband, Phil Ross, Dave Winfield & the San Diego Foundation, Michael Sass, James Sivacek, Colin Sullivan, David Walowitz, Anvil Welch, John Young, Patrick Zazzi and Amy Lynn Zimmer.

Sunsets

THOMAS "HIGHPOCKETS" TURNER, 97, died June 17, 2013, in Georgetown, Ohio. The ninth of 13 children born to Samuel and Ada Wilson, Tommy Turner became the first black player in the 1936 **Indiana/Ohio Baseball League**, as a shortstop for the **Cincinnati Stars**. He later spent five years with the U.S. Army at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and became an expert marksman. He was captain of the Army's 9th Service Command Unit (SCU) football and baseball teams.



After military duty, he pitched, played outfield and first base for the **Hermosillo** team (pictured) in Mexico from 1945-47. After his stay south of the border, he joined the **Chicago American Giants** for one season.

The Krock Watch

In 2013, the Negro Leagues Baseball Grave Marker Project continues with its mission to identify the final resting place of Negro League Baseball players, and mark the graves of those found unmarked.

Recently, on August 17th, a headstone was dedicated at Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh, to honor **Theodore "Terrible Ted" Page**. Paige played on 12 teams in the Negro Leagues during his 14-season career. A solid hitter and tough competitor, it has been said that Page *"could beat you at the plate, on the bases or in the field."* As one of the fastest, most feared and intense base runners in the Negro Leagues, he played for two of the greatest teams of all times; the **1931 Homestead Grays** and the **1932-34 Pittsburgh Crawfords**.



Page was inducted to the **Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame** in 1977. Retired, he was brutally beaten to death by a handyman in his home, at age 81, in 1984.

Since 2004, the Negro Leagues Grave Marker Project has worked to identify unmarked graves of players, and raise funds for headstones. This is the Committee's fourth marker placement in the Pittsburgh area.

Minnie Miñoso receives the Roberto Clemente Award

Chicago White Sox legend Minnie Miñoso was honored with the Roberto Clemente Award for Sports Excellence by the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) at the organization's Annual Conference Awards Gala on Tuesday, July 23 in New Orleans.

Each year, the NCLR board of directors presents the **Roberto Clemente Award for Sports Excellence**, named in honor of the Hall of Fame Puerto Rican outfielder, to an individual or organization celebrated in the sports industry, as well as dedicated to the advancement of Hispanic Americans. This year's keynote speaker at the organization's annual gathering was **First Lady Michelle Obama**.

Miñoso, nicknamed "The Cuban Comet," was a trailblazer for integration upon becoming the Major League's first black Latino. Signed as an amateur free agent in 1948 by the **Cleveland Indians**, Miñoso cemented his place in baseball history when he joined the **White Sox** in 1951, becoming the first black baseball player on the team and in the city of Chicago. Later that season, Miñoso would also become the first black Latino player to appear in an All-Star Game.

Prior to joining Major League Baseball, Miñoso played professional baseball in his native Cuba before departing to play for the **New York Cubans** in the Negro National League. During three seasons in the Negro Leagues, Miñoso helped the Cubans win a pennant and appear in four East-West games.

Over the course of his first 10 years in the Majors, Miñoso ranked in the American League's top 10 in on-base percentage nine times, batting average eight times, slugging percentage six times and RBI five times. He was a seven-time All-Star and three-time **Gold Glove** recipient.

Miñoso holds an impressive .298 career batting average and a career on-base percentage of .389. His number 9 was retired by the White Sox in 1983 and a sculpture of his likeness was unveiled on the concourse of **U.S. Cellular Field** in 2004.

Today, Miñoso remains a fixture at the ballpark and continues to serve as a **community relations ambassador** for the White Sox.

Ernie Banks to receive Presidential Honor

Ernie Banks said nine years ago that his ultimate goal in life was to become the first professional athlete to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

For now, the baseball Hall of Famer from the Chicago Cubs gladly will settle for the **Presidential Medal of Freedom**, which is the nation's highest civilian honor.

Banks, 82, and former North Carolina basketball coaching legend **Dean Smith** will be the recipients of this prestigious award from President Barack Obama.

Media magnate **Oprah Winfrey** also received the award for her philanthropic work, especially with young women, as did Illinois civil rights leader **Cordy Tindell "C.T." Vivian**.

The award is bestowed on individuals "*who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests to the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.*" The award is not limited to U.S. citizens and, while it is a civilian award, it can also be awarded to military personnel and worn on the uniform.



Smith, also 82, coached the Tar Heels from 1961-97. He won two national championships. A civil rights advocate in the '60s, Smith was the winningest coach in college basketball history when he retired.



Negro League players who have previously been awarded the Medal of Freedom include **Hank Aaron** in 2002, **Buck O'Neil** (2006), and **Jackie Robinson** (1984, posthumously).

Congratulations to Mr. Cub

William "Big Bill" Smith's Scrapbook

Last quarter, we shared the discovery of **Big Bill Smith's scrapbook** by the National Baseball Hall of Fame. The scrapbook included lots of undated box scores, game accounts, articles and some photographs were included. Unfortunately, no biographical information was available on this commonly-named athlete. A challenging name for any genealogist to research.



Our call for help was answered by: **William C. Dellinger** of 8430 Villa Circle in Sellersburg, IN 47172. His email address is: w.dellinger@twc.com His findings reveal that "Big Bill" was born on October 15, 1869 in Dyer County, Tennessee and died November 6,

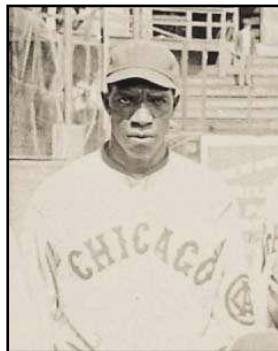
1939 in Tipton County, Covington, Tennessee. Smith is buried in Hurricane Hill Cemetery, Dyer County, Tennessee. Great job William!!

Congratulations to Dellinger for finding the son of Polk and Ina. His discovery details will be mailed to **Claudette Scrafford** at the Hall, for archiving.

Bingo into the Shawnee County Baseball HOF

On July 17, the newly formed Shawnee County Baseball Hall of Fame Committee, of Topeka, Kansas, inducted its inaugural class. The list includes two major leaguers from Topeka, two coaches and organizers, an umpire, a radio announcer and the great **Chicago American Giant** second baseman, **Elwood "Bingo" DeMoss**.

Jan Johnson reported: "A Topeka native, DeMoss started his career as a teenager for the **Topeka Giants** in 1905. He enjoyed a long career in the Negro Leagues from 1910-1930. He earned the nickname "Bingo" for his ability to place the ball anywhere he wanted on the field. He was a line-drive spray hitter, who was also an excellent bunter and base runner, but may be best remembered for his defensive abilities. He was considered the greatest second sacker in black baseball during the first quarter of the 20th century."



Research Request

Chuck Hildebrandt, chair of SABR's Media Committee is requesting a co-operative effort to tap into the rich, little-explored subject area of media coverage in black baseball. Suggested possibilities to explore include:

- Historical database of Negro League beat writers and columnists.
- The differences between how the black press covered black ball versus how the white press covered white ball.
- How the white press covered the Negro Leagues, when they covered it at all.
- The relationships between Negro League beat writers and the teams and players they covered
- The black press's role in growing the Negro League game in the early part of the 20th Century.

Currently, we only have the following unconfirmed data to share. On June 19, 1946, the **N.Y. Black Yankees** played the **Newark Eagles** at Ebbets Field in a televised game. TV station unknown.

On May 4, 1947, **A.S. "Doc" Young** and **Danny Landau** broadcast the **Cleveland Buckeyes & Chicago American Giants** game for WSRS radio (1490 AM and 95.3 FM) in Cleveland. This may be the first known broadcast of a Negro League game. It was sponsored by **Benny Mason's Farm and County Resort** in Solon, Ohio. "Doc" Young filled in between innings with highlights and player personality notes, while Landau provided the play-by-play. **BATTER UP!**

SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

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The Courier is a quarterly newsletter published by the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR); in March, June, September and December. Inquiries, submissions and research requests can be sent to Larry Lester. **P.O. Box 380146 - KANSAS CITY, MO 64138**
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