

The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

June, 2007

In the News

Steel Arm Gets a Headstone

Last month, in Peoria, Illinois, through the efforts of YWCA of Pekin's Coalition of Equality and Dr. Jeremy Krock, a headstone for Jonathan Boyce "Steel Arm Johnny" Taylor was installed at the Springdale Cemetery.

Taylor is one of four brothers, Candy Jim, C.I., and Ben who played in the Negro Leagues at the turn of the century. First baseman Ben was recently inducted in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006.

Steel Arm Taylor pitched from 1903 to 1921 with several teams including the St. Paul Colored Gophers, Leland Giants, Chicago Black Sox, St. Louis Giants, Lincoln Giants, West Baden Sprudels, Bacharach Giants and the Chicago American Giants to name a few.

After retiring from baseball, Steel Arm Taylor moved to Peoria and created the Peoria Turkish Bath, meanwhile managed a local team called the Black Devils.

A few years ago, the initiator, Dr. Krock, a Peoria anesthesiologist, was instrumental in researching,

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Upcoming Events

June 6th (PITTSBURGH, PA)

The Josh Gibson Foundation unveils a new exhibit honoring Josh Gibson and the Negro Leagues. Major league players from the Washington Nationals and the Pittsburgh Pirates are scheduled to attend the event at the Mayflower Hotel in the nation's capitol.

June 14-17th (PORTSMOUTH, VA)

The 10th Annual Jerry Malloy Negro Leagues Conference. The Society for American Baseball Research's Negro League Committee and the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame & Museum celebrate barnstorming baseball, during Jamestown's 400th anniversary. 12 players are expected to attend, along with scholarly presentations and trivia contest. Contact Tom Garrett at portsmouthbuck@aol.com to register, ASAP.

June 23rd (MILWAUKEE, WI)

This year's "Wall of Fame" inductees include Jim Cobbins (New York Black Yankees), and Art Hamilton (Indianapolis Clowns). The celebration will take place in the dome-covered Miller Park.

July 1st (KANSAS CITY, MO)

The Royals will pay tribute to Buck O'Neil at the annual Salute to the Negro Leagues Day on Sunday, July 1, when they play the Chicago White Sox. The first 20,000 fans will receive a Monarchs cap with a "22 O'Neil" emblem stitched on the back..

August 10th (CLEVELAND, OH)

The Cleveland Indians will recognize the legacy of Larry Doby and honor No. 14. As the first African American player in the American League, every Cleveland player will wear his retired number. Larry Doby, Jr., will throw out the ceremonial first pitch. While each honored jersey will be autographed and auctioned off by the Cleveland Indians Charities to benefit the Larry Doby RBI Program.

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finding funds and installing close to 20 headstones on unmarked burial sites in Burr Oak Cemetery in Chicago, including Steel Arm's brother Candy Jim.

"These guys played in anonymity," Krock said, "and I hate for them to be buried in anonymity."

If you know of a Negro Leaguer buried in an unmarked grave, anywhere in the country, please contact us. Donations are also welcomed and they are tax-deductible through the SABR office. ❖

St. Louis Stars Honored

On May 1, the Bob Broeg Chapter of SABR dedicated a plaque at the former site of the Negro National League Stars' Park, now a part of the Harris-Stowe State University baseball field, located at 3100 Market Street.

The Stars won Negro National League pennants in 1928 and 1930. Through the years, the park was home to several Hall of Fame Stars, Willie Wells, Mule Suttles, Satchel Paige, Oscar Charleston and Cool Papa Bell. ❖

Discovering Eddie Smith

Recently, Carlos Bauer completed compilation of statistics for the 1903 Cal State League. Surprisingly, a part-time pitcher and middle infielder Eddie Smith (an African American) led the league in batting with a .320 average. ❖

Topp This!

Topps card company recently announced the issue of four Negro League baseball cards. They are honoring Ted Toles (Pittsburgh Crawfords), Stanley "Doc" Glenn (Philadelphia Stars), Joe B. Scott (Memphis Red Sox) and John "Mule" Miles (Chicago American Giants). ❖

An idea hatched by Clay Luraski, a senior manager at Topps, the cards will be inserted along with other Major League baseball cards. They plan to produce 200 cards that will be signed, numbered and authenticated with the Topps stamp. ❖

Traveling Exhibit

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum announces a \$300,000 gift from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation to create a photographic history of black baseball to tour historically black colleges and universities over the next three years. A tour schedule is being created. Stay tune for details. ❖

Upcoming Events continued

August 18th (WILMINGTON, DE)

The 12th Annual Judy Johnson Night will be held at the home of the Wilmington Blue Rocks. Players will don Negro League uniforms, with commemorative Negro League baseball cards to be passed out. Several former Negro League players are expected to attend. Contact Greg Truitt at gregg.truitt@astrazeneca.com for details. The Judy Johnson Memorial Foundation is a 501-c-3.

October 5th-6th (ATLANTIC CITY, NJ)

The 15th Annual Pop Lloyd Dinner & Awards Program to honor Negro League veterans will be held at the Richard Stockton College Sport Symposium and the Taj Mahal Casino. Expected honorees include Olympian Joetta Clark Diggs, broadcaster Irv Cross, tap dancer Savion Glover, community leader Marvin Hill and everyone's favorite the Cuban Comet, Minnie Minoso. Contact Mike Everett at Meveret@aol.com for details.

SUNRISES!

SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUER A BIRTHDAY CARD.

JUNE

- 1ST - JOHN WESLEY JACKSON, JR.
- 8TH - LIONEL EVELYN
- 14TH - DON NEWCOMBE
- 19TH - REV. HENRY "PISTOL" MASON
- 20TH - AL CARTMILL, JR.
- 21ST - ARTHUR SIMMONS
- 22ND - TOMMY TURNER, & BOB SCOTT
- 23RD - ULYSSES "SLIM" HOLLIMON
- 24TH - NEALE "BOBO" HENDERSON
- 26TH - JAMES LEE NEWBERRY
- 27TH - CECIL KAISER
- 30TH - RENDON MARBURY, & OTHA BAILEY

JULY

- 1ST - FRANK ENSLEY, DON HARRIS
- 7TH - JUMPIN' JOHNNY WILSON
- 9TH - GEORGE "CHIN" DAVIS
- 12TH - JIM "FIREBALL" COLZIE
- 16TH - CLIFFORD DUBOSE
- 18TH - BILLY HARRELL
- 19TH - JOHNNY "CASINO" FAIRLEY
- 24TH - BIRMINGHAM SAM BRISON
- 26TH - PEDRO SIERRA
- 27TH - ART HAMILTON
- 28TH - ROSS "SATCHEL" DAVIS
- 30TH - WILLIAM "LEFTY" BELL
- 31ST - DON "GROUNDHOG" JOHNSON, & JOE "POP" DURHAM

AUGUST

- 1ST - A. J. JACKSON
- 5TH - SONNY RANDALL, & IRA MCKNIGHT, JR.
- 8TH - GRADY MONTGOMERY
- 11TH - JOHN "MULE" MILES
- 12TH - RAYMOND "SKIPPER" LACY
- 13TH - EUGENE "FIREBALL" WILLIAMS
- 19TH - WALTER "COACH O" OWENS
- 20TH - ARMANDO VAZQUEZ
- 22ND - CARL HOLDEN
- 25TH - CLARENCE "CHOO CHOO" COLEMAN
- 26TH - AL SPEARMAN, IKE WELCH, & FRANK BARNES
- 29TH - RICK BOOKER, & HERBERT "SUITCASE" SIMPSON
- 31ST - JAMES "JAKE" SANDERS

SUNSETS in 2007

"THERE IS NO GOOD IN GOODBYE"

Ralph Burnett "Big Cat" Johnson, 82, died January 29 in Atlanta, GA. Johnson played shortstop from 1950-52 with the Indianapolis Clowns, and Kansas City Monarchs

Russell "Columbus" Ewing, Sr., 76, died February 12 in Grand Rapids, MI. Ewing was business manager, officer, outfielder for the Louisville White Sox & Black Caps, Nashville White Sox and the Colored House of David.

Jackson Owens, 78, died February 24 in Decatur, IL. Owens pitched from 1950 to 1954 for the Chicago American Giants and the Detroit Stars.

William "Cool Breeze" Van Buren, 71, died March 10 in Fulton, MO. Van Buren played outfield for the 1953 Kansas City Monarchs.

Hubert "Country" Glenn, 90, died March 16 in Hickory, NC. Glenn pitched from 1943-49 for the New York Black Yankees, Brooklyn Brown Dodgers, Indianapolis Clowns and the Philadelphia Stars.

Dr. Thomas "L'il Professor" Johnson, 90, died March 21 in Silver Spring, MD. Johnson pitched in 1940 for the Philadelphia Stars and in 1950 for the Indianapolis Clowns. He later scouted in 1963 for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Dr. Johnson taught at Howard University in Washington, DC.

William "Jimmy" Barnes, 87, died April 12, 2007 in Detroit, MI. Barnes pitched in 1937-43, 1946-47 for the Baltimore Elite Giants, Memphis Red Sox, Indianapolis Clowns and the N.Y. Black Yankees.



Leon Day



Ray Dandridge



Jud Wilson

Virginia-born Hall of Famers

THE MARKETPLACE :

BOOKS, CDS, DVDS, ETC.

Dr. Peter Bjarkman, **A History of Cuban Baseball, 1864-2006.** McFarland & Company, Inc., 2007.

Dr. Adrian Burgos, **Playing America's Game: Baseball, Latinos, & the Color Line,** University of California Press, 2007.

Dr. Brian Carroll. **When to Stop the Cheering? The Black Press, the Black Community and the Integration of Professional Baseball.** Routledge, 2007.

Paul Debono. **The Chicago American Giants.** McFarland & Company, 2007.

Dr. Leslie Heaphy, **Satchel Paige & Company: Essays on the Kansas City Monarchs, Their Greatest Star and the Negro Leagues.** McFarland & Company, Inc., 2007.

Monte Irvin with Phil Pepe. **Few and Chosen: Defining Negro League Greatness.** Triumph Books, 2007

William McNeil, **Black Baseball Out of Season: Pay for Play Outside of the Negro Leagues.** McFarland & Company, Inc., 2007.

Bob Motley with Bryon Motley. **Ruling Over Monarchs, Giants & Stars: Umpiring in the Negro Leagues & Beyond.** Sports Publishing, L.L.C, 2007.

SABR's Negro League Committee

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Research Requests:

What are you searching for? Let us know and we will post your request here.

The Committee would like to thank Sammy "Colonel" Miller for his years of exemplary service as Chief Editor of *The Courier*, as he takes a sabbatical to pursue other interests.

For articles about the Negro Leagues, contact Len Levin, 282 Doyle Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906-3355. Or 401.351.3278 or lenlevin5@hotmail.com. See the latest SABR Bulletin for a list of available articles..

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