100th Anniversary of Rickwood Field: Hank Aaron to Jud Wilson!

There is only one place in America where you can step on the same field where more than 100 players and managers from the Cooperstown Hall of Fame chewed tobacco, cracked peanuts and ate Crackerjacks. It is in Birmingham, Alabama, at Rickwood Field!

This year, July 15-17, the Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference will celebrate the “Glory Days: A Salute to the Negro Leagues in the South & Rickwood Field.”. Come and join us for a fun-filled weekend with other Negro League researchers, fans, historians, former players, students and anyone interested in learning more about black baseball.

Join us on Thursday for an educational forum at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI), a large interpretive museum and research center that depicts the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s. The forum is lead by Dr. Leslie Heaphy of Kent State University. We plan to have a temporary Negro Leagues exhibit displayed in the months preceding the conference.

On Thursday evening, everyone is invited to the “Meet & Greet” event in the Rotunda of the BCRI. This social event will feature a light food and drinks menu, providing our attendees a chance to network and view the Institute’s six historically focused galleries that you will not want to miss.

Friday, we kickoff with presentations in the morning, followed by a Player’s Panel after lunch, before boarding the luxury tour buses to tour Rickwood Field, that afternoon, to celebrate 100 years of baseball. Later that evening, we have reserved the Frank “Big Hurt” Thomas picnic area at the Hoover Stadium, home of the Birmingham Barons, a White Sox affiliate. There will be a special tribute before the game for the Negro League legends in attendance.

If you would like to sponsor a player contact Wayne Stivers at: satchelpaige-hof@comcast.net

Saturday, is chocked full of scholarly and academic presentations with a second Player Panel that afternoon, followed by the Trivia Contest. Saturday evening we host the awards banquet at the Sheraton Hotel along with silent and live auctions of Negro League memorabilia to raise funds.

Funds generated will be used to satisfy several initiatives, including the purchase of headstones for unmarked graves, two $2,500 scholarships to high school seniors, and two $1,000 library book grants. The recipients, along with the winners of the Fay Vincent MVP, Robert Peterson Recognition, and Tweed Webb Lifetime Achievement awards will be recognized at the banquet.

Come and join us in Birmingham for the celebration of 100 years of baseball.

If you are interested in presenting, the “Call for Papers,” can be found at:
http://www.larrylester42.com/assets/Images/Events/Call-for-PapersBirmingham2010.pdf

Submission deadline is March 8, 2010. So hurry! We have already received several abstracts, so put this charge on your priority list, as presentation slots fill up quickly.

Registration & Hotel information can be found on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter. For the complete registration packet go to:
Welcome . . . .

Dick Clark and I would like to welcome 37 new members to the Negro Leagues Committee:

Jeff Allen (Walnut Creek, CA), Jack Anderson (Dollard-Des-Ormeaux, QC), Luther Anderson (Temple Hills, MD), Henry Blumenthal (New York, NY), Willard Blaskopf (Budd Lake, NJ), Jeremy Beer (Phoenix, AZ), Michael Braun (DeForest, WI), David Brooks (Greencastle, IN), Everett Chasen (Clifton, VA), James Currie (Sugar Land, TX), William Dahlberg (Lebanon, NH), Nichaolas Diunte (Middle Village, NY), Craig Donouhe (Hudson, OH), Enrique Gonzalez (Mayaguez, PR), Phil Hatlem (Wesley Chapel, FL), Ben Hill (Brooklyn, NY), Aaron Hutchinson (Mankato, MN), Scott Jarret (Alexandria, VA), Chris Kemmer (Columbus, OH), Leo Lange (Seattle, WA), Dan Lipstein (Parkton, MD), Rob Mann (Pacific, CA), Malcolm McLetchie (Gretna, LA), Allison Petonic (Columbus, OH), Jeff Roberts (Chanhassen, MN), Carl Rogan [Bullet Rogan’s grandson] (White Bear Lake, MN), George Savanick (Apple Valley, MN), Kathleen Shannon (Dallas, GA), David Starbuck (Kansas City, MO), William Taylor (Hernando, FL), Dale Voiss (Madison, WI), Jim Watson (Eugene, OR), Robert Webster (Hillsboro, OR), Mike Worley (Littleton, CO), Ed Williams (West Chester, OH), Drew Foster (Adair Village, OR), Scott Horstmeier (Cincinnati, OH).

Who is this Guy? Well we have a winner!

Chuck Forbes from the home of the Winter Olympics in Vancouver provided the correct answer to our mystery man below. He is Wesley “Whip” Pryor, a third baseman and pitcher for several teams from 1905 to 1917.


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Chuck Forbes from the home of the Winter Olympics in Vancouver provided the correct answer to our mystery man below. He is Wesley “Whip” Pryor, a third baseman and pitcher for several teams from 1905 to 1917.

Forbes is a retired librarian from the University of British Columbia, who collects baseball books on the Negro Leagues and the 1857 “original sixteen” (National Association of Base Ball Players), with an interest in digital photography. Congratulations Chuck!

Research Requests . . .

1888 Zanesville Tri-State League team.

It is claimed that the guy seated (middle row) far right is Richard “Dick” Johnson, aka Dick Male or Dick Noyle. Based on research by the late Bob Davids and Ocania Chalk, Johnson was thought to be an African American who played catcher from 1886-90 with the Syracuse Stars, Zanesville (OH), Lima (OH), Peoria (OH), and the Springfield (IL) Senators. Johnson’s all-around play helped the Senators win 60 of 111 games and the league championship in 1890.

Born in Cleveland in 1868, the light-skinned Johnson was 19 years old when he joined Zanesville in 1887. In 1888, he played every position except pitcher for the team. On September 4, 1888, Zanesville disbanded and Johnson finished the season with Lima, Ohio, which went on to win the Tri-State League pennant that year.

As a member of the 1889 Springfield Senators, it was reported on August 26, Johnson was leading the team with a .321 batting average. He ranked eighth out of 63 players listed in the league.

A drawing of a tanned Richard Johnson appears on page 32 of Chalk’s Pioneers of Black Sports. One spy-eye, The Sporting News of September 21, 1889, reported “Dick Johnson, the catcher of the Springfields, is a Negro, all reports to the contrary notwithstanding.”

James Weldon Johnson in his 1912 “Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man” could have thought of other Dick Johnsons when he wrote, “It’s no disgrace to be black, but it’s often very inconvenient.”

This photograph was provided by Mark Fimoff. If you have any information about this team or the photograph please contact Fimoff at: bmarlowe@comcast.net.
Dugout Reading . . . .

Our White Boy by Jerry Craft with Kathleen Sullivan

*Our White Boy* may be the most provocative eyewitness account of true southern racial animosity in Texas sports history during the Civil Rights era, told from a white man’s perspective . . . For two dollars, any Texan could see this vanilla drop in a sea of chocolate pitch like the mound master Jerry Craft was . . . Outs and hits had no color on the scoreboard. Published by Texas Tech University Press. [http://www.ttup.ttu.edu/](http://www.ttup.ttu.edu/)

Playing in Shadows: Texas and Negro League Baseball by Bob Fink

This is the untold story of black semi-professional baseball in the Lone Star State. From the 1880s Galveston Flyaways through Dallas shortstop Ernie Banks’ signing with the Chicago Cubs in 1953, *Playing in Shadows* brings to light an important but little-studied inning in American sport. Published by Texas Tech University Press. [http://www.ttup.ttu.edu/](http://www.ttup.ttu.edu/)


Considered to be “as monumental – and enigmatic – a legend as American sport has ever seen” (*Sports Illustrated*), Willie Mays is arguably the greatest player in baseball history, still revered for the passion that he brought to the game. Hirsch reports that Mays was a blend of power, speed, and stylistic bravado that enraptured fans for more than two decades. He also contributed to blacks’ assimilation during the turbulent civil rights era, a distinctive figure of ambition, sacrifice, and triumph who became a lasting cultural touchstone for a nation in search of heroes. *Willie Mays: The Life, The Legend* is the first authorized biography of this baseball immortal. For more information go to the author’s website: [http://www.williemaysthelifethelegend.com/the-book/](http://www.williemaysthelifethelegend.com/the-book/)


Forgotten Heroes is a series of biographies about unheralded stars who played both stateside and in Latin America such as; Perucho Cepeda, Pancho Coimbre, Alejandro Oms, Tetelo Vargas, Alonzo Perry, Al Pinkston, Lazaro Salazar, Wild Bill Wright, Dobie Moore, and Adolfo Luque. The 200 plus page book is loaded with vintage photographs and statistics. Order your copy from the Center for Negro League Baseball Research, 1409 Carroll Street, Carrollton, Texas, 75006, or email: lfrevel@hotmail.com for a copy.

He Came from Gouldtown by Harold Gould with Dr. Bob Allen.

Former pitcher for the Philadelphia Stars has just published his autobiography. Born and raised in his native Gouldtown, NJ, Gould pitched for the Stars in the late 40s and against Satchel Paige. His book is an oral history of conversations with Dr. Allen, formerly of Penn State and now teaching at Cumberland County College of New Jersey. To order your signed copy of this limited edition contact: Gwen Gould, P.O. Box 63, Rosenhayn, NJ 08352-0063. Or reach her at: 856.451.6653.

Market Place

Did you know that Hartland of Ohio LLC has already produced 10 autographed statues of Negro League Legend players? Among those available are:

- Monte Irvin,
- Cecil Kaiser,
- Minnie Minoso,
- James “Red” Moore,
- Emilio Navarro,
- John “Buck” O’Neil,
- Art “Superman” Pennington,
- Hank Presswood,
- Joe B. Scott &
- Ted Toles.

Visit Hartland at [www.hartlandllc.com](http://www.hartlandllc.com) and place your order today before they sell out.
Sunsets . . . .


**Lester “Red” Rodney**, 98, died December 20, 2009, in Walnut Creek, CA. Rodney was the sports editor for the American Communist Party newspaper “The Daily Worker,” who crusaded a major fight to end segregation in Major League baseball. His daily columns, more than 100 of them, called the ban against blacks in the majors “un-American” and “the crime of the big leagues.” He wrote several open letters to then Commissioner Kenesaw Landis calling for the end of Jim Crow baseball under the banner “Can You Read Judge Landis.” In the mid-forties, Rodney was more than a sports writer. He was a soldier for civil rights and belongs in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. “Press Box Red” by Irwin Silber is an excellent account of this courageous pioneer.

**Edward Scott, Sr.**, 92, died January 11, 2010, in Mobile, AL. Born in Twin Lake, Florida, Scott is known as the Indianapolis Clowns’ scout who signed Hank Aaron. He scouted for the Pittsburgh Pirates (1955-60) and the Boston Red Sox (1961-1990), signing such stars as Amos Otis, Big George Scott and Dennis “Oil Can” Boyd. Before becoming a scout, Scott played semi-pro ball with the Mobile Black Shippers, and the Miami Clowns in the 40’s.

**Arthur George “Art” Rust, Jr.**, 72, died January 12, 2010, in Manhattan, NY. Rust was a radio sports talk show host, famously known for his 1976 book, “Get That Nigger Off the Field!” a history of black baseball. He was the ghost writer for Joe Louis’s 1978 autobiography, “Joe Louis, My Life.” Rust gained most of his notoriety when he collaborated on “Darryl” with Darryl Strawberry in 1992.


**Alfred “Slick” Surratt**, 87, died February 16, 2010, in Kansas City, MO. Surratt played outfield for the Kansas City Monarchs and the Detroit Stars from 1949-51. As one of the founders of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Surratt served as an advocate for veterans to receive retroactive Major League pensions.


Voices from baseball’s past

Tell us about Bill Byrd.

“I pitched against Bill Byrd and I felt honored to know that I lost to Bill Byrd. I pitched a whale of a game, but he pitched a better one. Yeah, he was the only guy that was recognized in all the leagues as in the grandfather clause about throwing spitballs. He was like a Sunday pitcher. In the black leagues they used to try to accommodate crowds by having certain pitchers to pitch because they knew the crowd wanted to see them. On our team we had Barney Brown. And if Barney Brown wasn’t pitching, then Roy Partlow was pitching. And that’s what the crowd came to see. They wanted to see them because they knew it was gonna be a whale of a ball game.”

**Harold (Big Red) Gould**

1947-48--p, Philadelphia Stars

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Sunrises!
SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUEER A BIRTHDAY CARD.

MARCH
1ST - VERNELL JACKSON - 80
2ND - FELIX GUILBE – 87, SONNY SMITH – 83
4TH – CHARLES MIDDLEBROOK - 74
5TH – BERNARD FERNANDEZ - 92
7TH – JAMES WOODS – 76; ANDY PORTER - 99
11TH – BOB MOTLEY - 87
12TH – HERALD “BEE BOP” GORDON - 82
13TH – LEROY HANCOCK - 79
15TH – ALBERT JEFFCOAT – 78; CHARLIE DAVIS - 83
18TH – CHARLIE PRIDE – 75; EZELL KING - 80
19TH – WILLIE LEE - 75
20TH – GEORGE ALTMAN - 77
21st – BENNY RODRIGUEZ - 83
22ND – GEORGE CROWE – 89
31ST – MEL DUNCAN – 81

APRIL
5TH – MARVIN PRICE - 78
6TH – HAL HAIRSTON - 88
15TH – J.C. HARTMAN – 76
16TH – JOHN GIBBONS - 88
18TH – JIM ZAPP - 86
23RD – CHUCK HARMON – 86; GENE SMITH - 93
25TH – JERRY BENNETT – 89; SAM ALLEN – 74
26TH – BUDDY WILLIAMS – 96
27TH – TONY LLOYD – 74
30TH – JOE DOUSE – 80

MAY
1ST – PIANO RED WALKER - 78
6TH – WILLIE MAYS – 79
9TH – CARL LONG - 75
13TH – JESSIE MITCHELL – 76; J.W. WINGATE - 81
17TH – GENE SCRUGGS – 72; IRVIN CASTILLE - 84
18TH – ART “SUPERMAN” PENNINGTON - 87
22ND – GEORGE SPRIGGS – 73; MAURICE PEATROS – 71
23RD – RAY HOLMES - 74
25TH – LARRY LEGRANDE – 71; CURLEY WILLIAMS - 85
29TH – HAROLD HAIR – 78; ROBERTO VARGAS - 81

CONGRATULATIONS to Nonagenarians:
BERNARD FERNANDEZ, ANDY PORTER, BUDDY WILLIAMS, & GENE SMITH.

Teams with the Most Negro League Hall of Famers in Cooperstown
1934 Kansas City Monarchs
James “Cool Papa” Bell – of
Andy Cooper – p
Willie Foster – p
Wilber “Bullet” Rogan – p
Norman “Turkey” Stearnes – of
Willie “Devil” Wells – ss
J.L. WILKINSON – OWNER

1942 Newark Eagles
Ray Dandridge – 3b
Leon Day – p
Larry Doby – 2b
Monte Irvin – cf
Geo. “Mule” Suttles – 1b
Willie Wells – ss
EFFA MANLEY – CO-OWNER

Teams listed are the courtesy of Bob Hoie.

Runner-up teams include the 1931 Homestead Grays with Oscar Charleston (1b), Josh Gibson (c), Jud Wilson (3b) and pitchers Willie Foster and Smokey Joe Williams; and the 1935 Pittsburgh Crawfords with Cool Papa Bell (cf), Oscar Charleston (1b), Josh Gibson (c), Judy Johnson (3b) and Satchel Paige on the mound.

SABR’s Negro Leagues Committee
Larry Lester Co-chair, Editor
Dick Clark Co-chair (Tstearnes@comcast.net)

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 at NTresearch@comcast.net.

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To receive your personal copies of this newsletter join SABR by clicking here. And for back issues of The Courier click here.
Hotel reservations should be made directly with the

The Sheraton-Birmingham Hotel
2101 Richard Arrington,Jr., Blvd. North - Birmingham, AL  35203
205-324-5000

REGISTER AT THIS SPECIAL ONLINE LINK:
http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/jerrymalloy

Download Hotel Fact Sheet below:
Website Overview

Room rates for this Four-Star Hotel are:
Single or Double: $125 a night plus taxes
Triples: $135 a night plus taxes
Quads: $145 a night plus taxes

Ask for “Jerry Malloy Negro League” when you call.

Bonuses:
- Complimentary high speed internet access in the lobbies of the Sheraton
- Casey’s Sports Bar & Grill
- Business Center
- Indoor Heated Pool
- Fitness Facility
- Next door to the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame - .1 mile  www.ashof.org
- Next door to the Birmingham Museum of Art - .1 mile  www.artsbma.org
- Within walking distance of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute - .93 mile or six blocks.  www.bcri.org

Parking:
- Self Pay Parking Facilities

Your Sheraton’s in-house Reservation Supervisor Cynthia Plummer is at: Cynthia.plummer@sheraton.com or 205.324.5000 extension 5179

Other nearby Attractions:
- Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame www.jazzhall.com
- Barber Motorsports Park. www.barbermotorsports.com
- McWane Science Center www.mcwane.org
- Vulcan Park & Museum Exhibition.  www.visitvulcan.com

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Registration Form - 13th Annual – contact LarryLester42@gmail.com with questions.

July 15-17, 2010

The Sheraton-Birmingham Hotel
2101 Richard Arrington, Jr., Blvd. North
Birmingham, AL 35203
205-324-5000
205-307-3045 FAX

NAME(S): _________________________________________________________________

STREET ADDRESS:  ________________________________________________________

CITY, STATE & ZIP _______________________________________________________

PHONE NUMBER(S) ___________________________ EMAIL: ____________________________

REGISTRATION FEE (by July 7th)

COMBO SPECIAL – Thursday, Friday & Saturday _____ $180 X ___ person(s) _________

Thursday’s Educational Program only (all day) ______ $65 X ___ person(s) _________
(includes curriculum materials and boxed lunch)

Single Day registration (Fri. or Sat.) _______ $90 X ___ person(s) _________
(Includes conference presentations, does not include “meet & greet,” dinner, or ballgame)

Full conference registration (Fri & Sat) _________ $150 X ___ person(s) _________
(Includes all conference events, Thursday’s “Greet & Meet,” Friday’s Barons game, Rickwood Field tour, & Saturday’s Dinner)

Full Student registration (with ID) ___________ $ 90 X ___ person(s) _________
(Includes all conference events, Thursday’s “Greet & Meet,” Friday’s Barons game, Rickwood Field tour, & Saturday’s Dinner). Note: For full time grad or undergrad students.

ADDITIONAL COSTS for Guests or for those not getting Full Registration

Saturday Night Dinner ___________________________ $50 X ___ person(s) _________
Friday Night baseball game _____________________ $ 8 X ___ person(s) _________
Bus from Sheraton to Rickwood Field to Hoover Stadium _______ $ 8 X ___ person(s) _________
Thursday’s “Greet & Meet” Reception at BCRI ________ $15 X ___ person(s) _________

You may also donate funds for:

_____ Grave Markers _____ Scholarships _____ Library Grants _____ Player Sponsorship

Total $ ____________________

*After Satchel Paige’s birthday, July 7th, there will be $25 late registration fee.

You May REGISTER at the SABR Link Below
SABR Store for Registration
Or pay by mail: Make your checks or money orders out to SABR – Malloy Conference.
SABR accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover Card
C/o John Zajc - 812 Huron Road East, Suite 719 - Cleveland, OH 44115 - (216) 575-0500

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