

# Negro League players hit home run with visit

John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

The Homestead Grays. The Kansas City Monarchs. The Indianapolis Clowns. The Chicago American Giants.

The names of these baseball teams may not sound familiar, but to a lost generation of ball players, they are. These teams were family.

The aforementioned ball clubs were part of the Negro Baseball League, which formed around the 1920s and folded in the mid-1950s.

"I was determined to play baseball," said 70-year-old Jim Robinson who played shortstop and infield for the Kansas City Monarchs. "I was doing something I love."

Fellow Monarch, 76-year-old Sherwood Brewer, played second base.

"It (baseball) was fun,"

Brewer said. "Our biggest problem was accommodations. We had to go as much as a 100 miles to find a place to sleep. Balony got to be a delicacy."

The ball players were an added attraction at an antique show held at Cashman Field over the weekend. Friends, family, fans, and curious sports nuts all clamored around the Negro League's booth for autographs and stories about the game during segregation.

"Segregation, I think, was a much part of it (baseball)," said Walter "Walt" McCoy, 76-year-old former pitcher for the Chicago American Giants. "Everything fell off my back like water."

"Most of our fans were white," Brewer said. "They would fill up the stands to see you play and wanted you out of town when the game was

over."

"We were enemies on the field, but one big happy family off the field," McCoy said.

The salaries were drab — between \$250 and \$400 dollars a month. A good adult seat cost \$1. Children paid half that.

"We played for the love of the game," Brewer said.

"I would of played for nothing," McCoy added.

Negro Leaguers played more than 100 games from April to September, including many three-game days with doubleheaders.

"Well, we knew he (Jackie Robinson) had a job to do — we anticipated what he would do," said John "Mule" Miles, 77-year-old former third baseman for the Chicago American Giants.

"They picked Jackie because he knew he could



Sentinel-Voice file photo

Former Negro League Baseball player Maurice Peatros displays old baseball posters.

take the pressure. We had radio and we wanted to see how he (Jackie) fared with the news."

"(Black and White baseball men) playing together was a no-no," at the time, Brewer said.

Unbeknownst to many, three women played in the

league. Toney Stone, Mamie Johnson and Connie Morgan were just as good as the guys.

"We were ball players. We didn't get any special treatment," said 64-year-old Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, a former pitcher for the Indianapolis Clowns. "No one emphasizes it — no one

wants to give us the credit we are due."

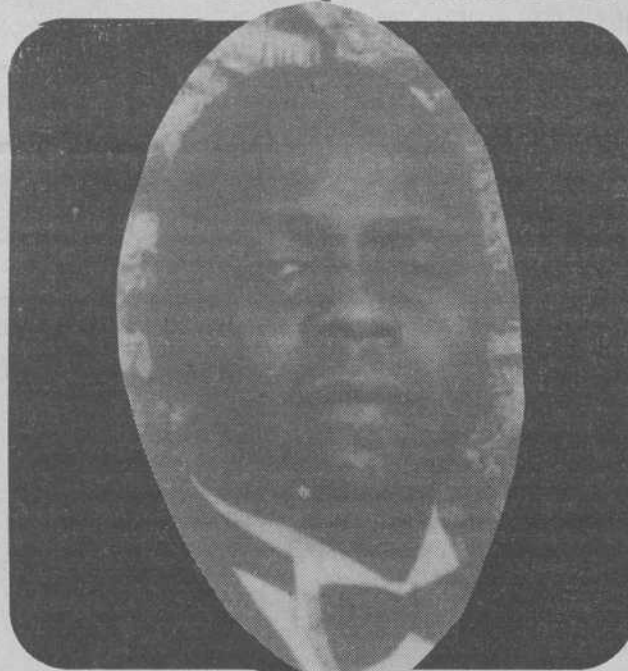
"We are the last living group," said 72-year-old Maurice "Babyface" and "Big Pete" Peatros who played for the Homestead Grays. "We're the only ones left behind that can carry the story to the youth."

## Slain son of NAACP president laid to rest

John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

Andre "Drekey" Lavell Collins, son of NAACP President Gene Collins, was laid to rest this week after he was found murdered at a local recording studio. Rows and rows of cars circled the Greater Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church at 1915 Lexington St. as family, friends, and well wishers packed the holy place to say goodbyes and offer condolences to the deceased young man with a promising music career.

Andre Collins was born March 5, 1969 in Las Vegas Nevada. He was a graduate of Gorman High School in 1987 where he was an All-Star football player. After graduation, he attended



ANDRE COLLINS

Antelope Valley Junior College in Lancaster, California to earn his

associates degree.

Upon completion of his two-year study, Andre

enrolled into Grambling State University in Louisiana where he received a B.A. in Psychology. While studying at the historical Black university he pledged Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity Inc.

"Drekey", as his friends and family knew him had a strong passion for music. He had just begun writing and producing his own music before his life was snuffed out April 25.

A practicing Muslim, Andre accepted Allah in his life as his personal savior. Collins is survived by his parents Gene and Ruby Collins, his grandmother Mary Allen, sister Sheila Davis, brother Lou Collins and sister-in-law Rose Collins and a host of other family and friends.

## Holiday

(Continued from Page 1)

"And the people we're talking to are also against it."

The bill was passed amid a related fight over the flying of the Confederate battle flag on the Statehouse dome.

Hodges signed the bill at Rosewood Elementary School, which planted a seedling from the Brown AME Church in Selma, Ala., where King used to preach and where he started his famous march from Selma to Montgomery.

The Democratic governor said lawmakers "reached out across racial and party lines

to forge the compromise that made this day possible."

Lt. Gov. Bob Peeler was the only Republican at the bill-signing ceremony. House Speaker David Wilkins and Majority Leader Rick Quinn were invited.

Hodges' spokesman, Morton Brilliant, said Sunday night the governor also "would have preferred a clean bill" without the Confederate holiday. But if it's a "choice between all or nothing, he'll take something."

Gallman said in a letter delivered to Hodges on Saturday that the state would

be better off without the bill.

"What a tragic irony this legislation presents for us: a chance to honor the doctrine of brotherhood and acceptance while embracing the most notorious separatist campaign in our Nation's history," Gallman wrote.

"I believe that many in South Carolina would join me in concluding that the climate of defiance and mean-spiritedness present in the General Assembly is responsible for this bill," he wrote.

The Legislature passed the King holiday bill in April after

a bitter fight in the Republican-controlled House.

Besides the MLK debate, lawmakers have struggled with the NAACP's call to remove the Confederate flag from the dome. The Senate has passed a bill that would move the banner to a monument on the Statehouse grounds that honors Confederate soldiers.

The House is set to debate a similar bill.

The NAACP, which has enacted an economic boycott of the state since Jan. 1, is (See Holiday, Page 7)

## Gates seeking re-election

Sentinel-Voice

Two-term County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates wants another term as District D representative

"I'm extremely proud to announce my candidacy," Atkinson Gates said. "I take my commitment very seriously to make this community a better place to live for our families, seniors and working men and women."

Gates has worked to obtain federal funds for her district and focused on increased community safety and more youth programs, job training and small businesses. Her area includes the federally designated Enterprise Community.

Atkinson Gates said she was involved with various activities, including getting a new police substation, expanding the Howard Cannon Center and supporting the West Las Vegas Cultural Arts Center, Reynaldo Martinez Early Childhood Development Center, Variety Day Home, Walnut Cecil Community Center, Mash Village, Shade Tree Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, and the Reachout Day Care Center, which caters to children with AIDS.

"These and other projects will provide our residents with the help and assistance they need," Atkinson Gates said. "In addition, if we can get our youth involved in constructive, fun activities and keep them away from drugs and gangs, then it benefits the community as a whole."

Atkinson Gates was born and raised in Clark County. She is married to Judge Lee Gates and has four children.

**ABC Insurance Agency**  
High Risk? Accidents?  
DWI? Cancelled?  
Low Down Payment • Low Monthly Payments  
IMMEDIATE SR-22's  
FREE QUOTES • SE HABLA ESPAÑOL  
Aubrey Branch Broker/Agent  
Quincy Branch Consultant  
1700 Civic Center Drive  
N. Las Vegas 649-1029  
BUSINESS • HOME • HEALTH • LIFE 310-6055