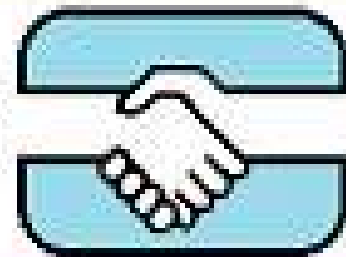


ACTIVITIES



UNLIMITED

Present

HISTORY CLUB

ONLY THE BALL WAS WHITE - THE NEGRO LEAGUES (1920-1950)

BY: ANTHONY MASTANDREA & MARTY VALERIO

GRAB A SEAT & HANDOUTS WITH TICKET ENJOY!!!



SIT BACK AND RELAX!



ACTIVITIES



UNLIMITED

Win Prizes!

YOU'RE INVITED

THE NEGRO LEAGUES

BY: ANTHONY MASTANDREA & MARTY VALERIO



1PM
SEPT 24 2024

ONLY THE BALL WAS WHITE
The Negro Leagues
(1920-1950)

By: Anthony Mastandrea

VFW Hall Midland
Park, New Jersey
admit one

Win Prizes!



HISTORY CLUB

09.24.2024

01:00PM

VFW HALL MIDLAND PARK NEW JERSEY





**WALTER FENNER
LEONARD**

“BUCK”

Walter Fenner "Buck" Leonard (September 8, 1907 – November 27, 1997) was an American first baseman in Negro league baseball and in the Mexican League. After growing up in North Carolina, he played for the Homestead Grays between 1934 and 1950, batting fourth behind Josh Gibson for many years. The Grays teams of the 1930s and 1940s were considered some of the best teams in Negro league history. Leonard and Gibson are two of only nine players in league history to win multiple batting titles.

Leonard never played in Major League Baseball (MLB); he declined a 1952 offer of an MLB contract because he felt he was too old. Late in life, Leonard worked as a physical education instructor and was the vice-president of a minor league baseball team. He and Gibson were elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1972. In 1999, he was ranked number 47 on the 100 Greatest Baseball Players list by The Sporting News.



Who was Jim Crow?

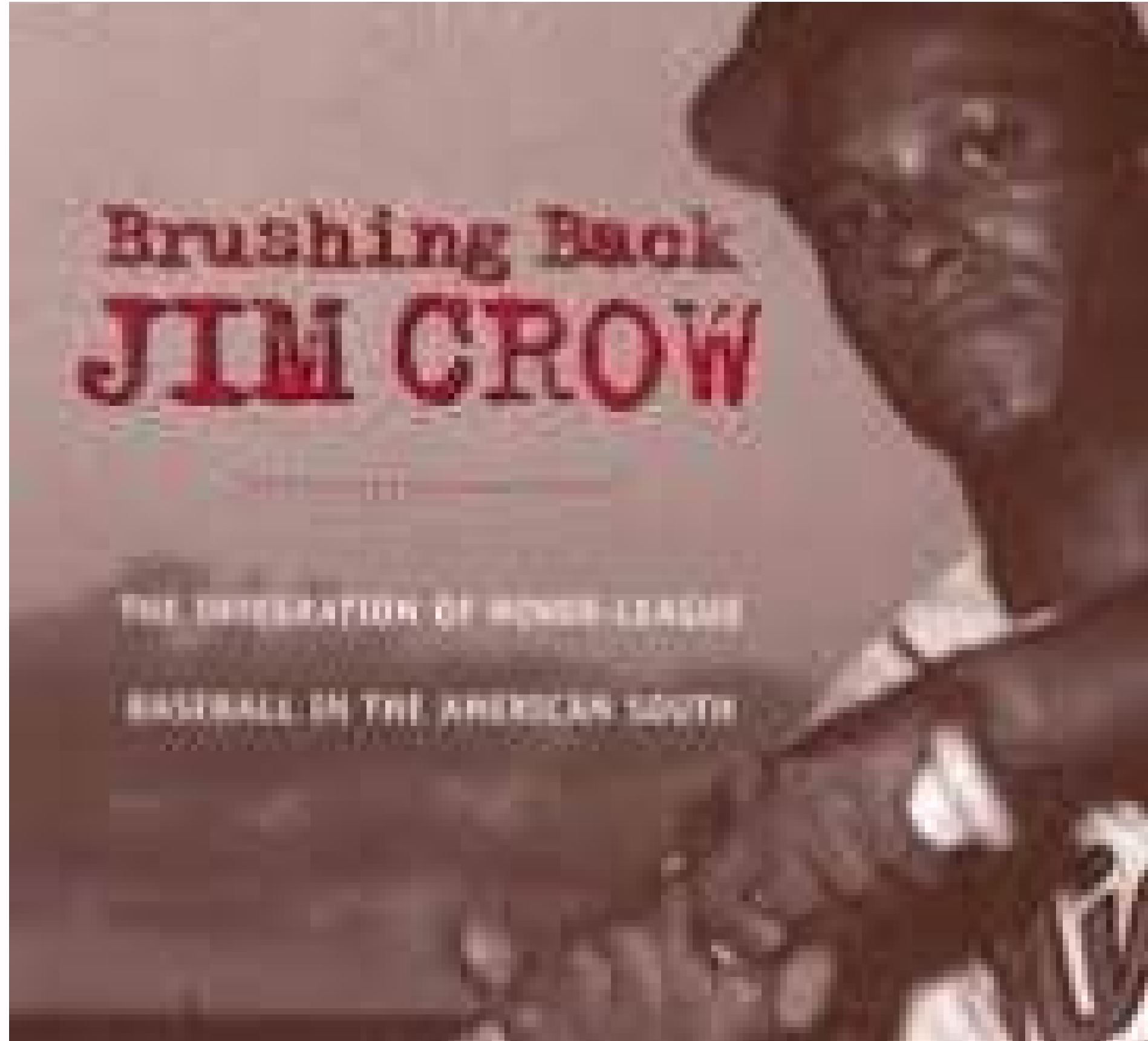
Origin - Thomas Dartmouth Rice (T.D. Rice)

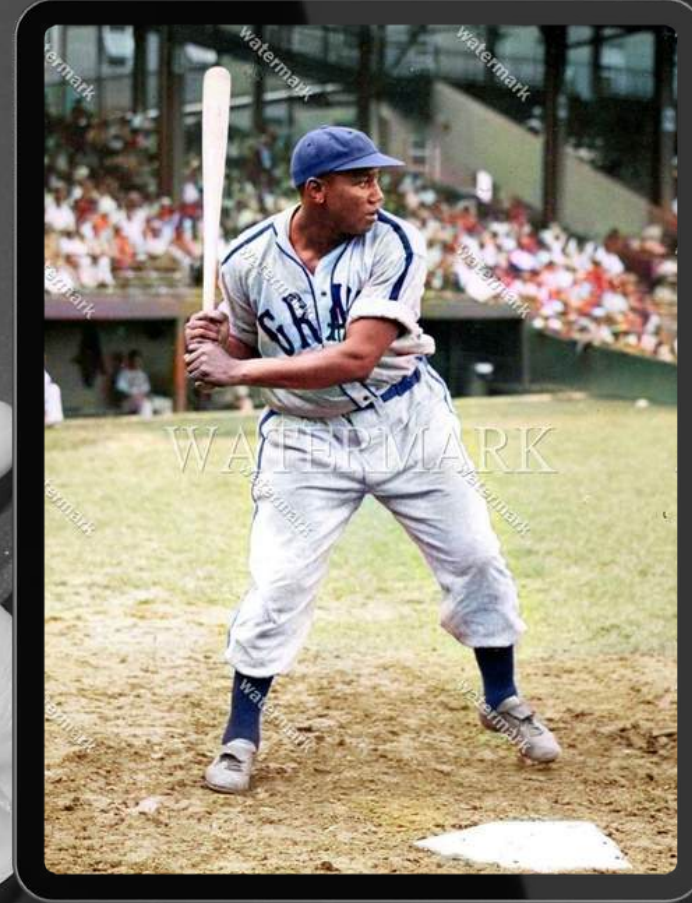
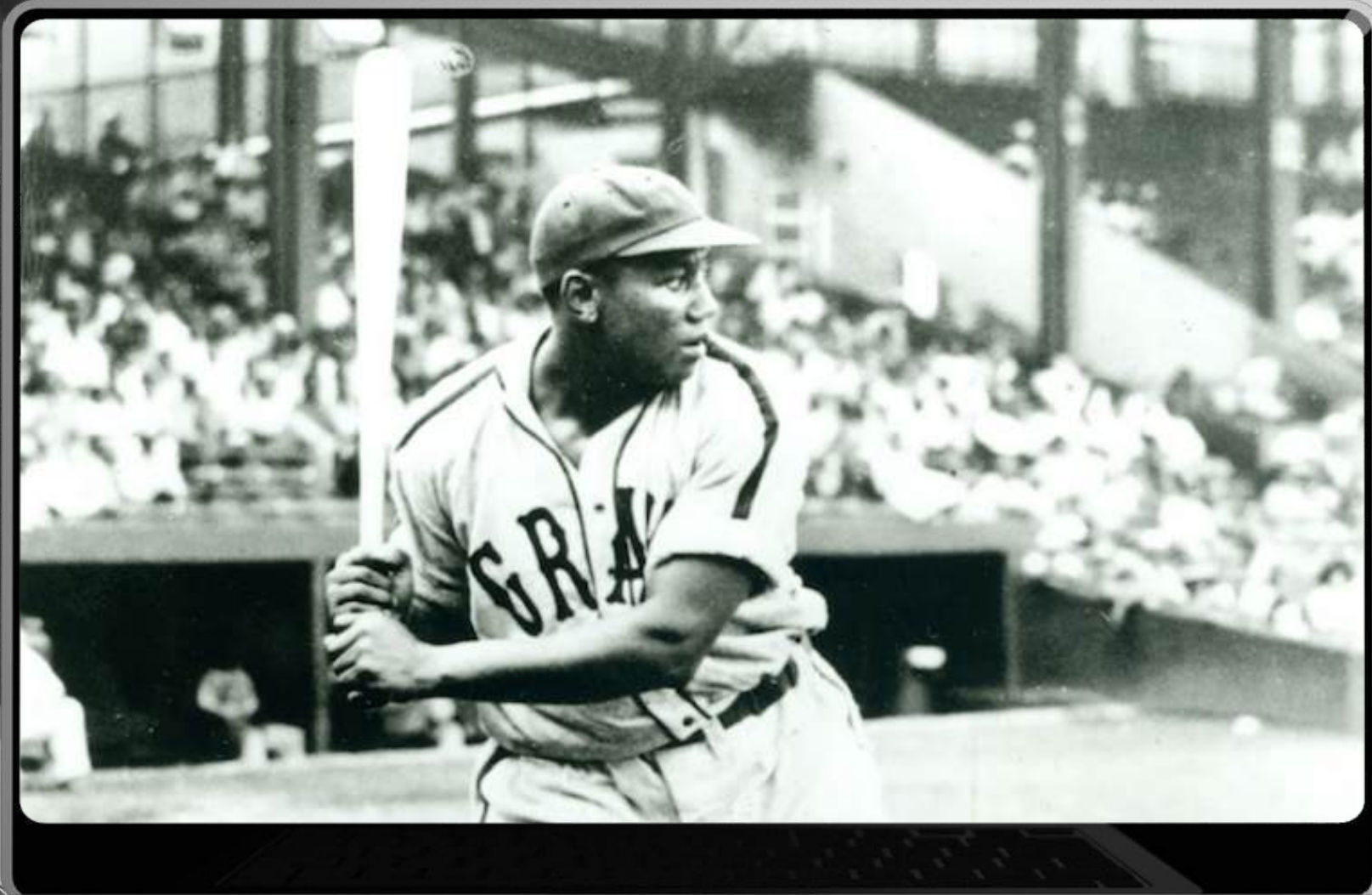
Minstrel Show, 1830's Put on "blackface."

Named his character Jim Crow or "Jumpin Jim Crow."

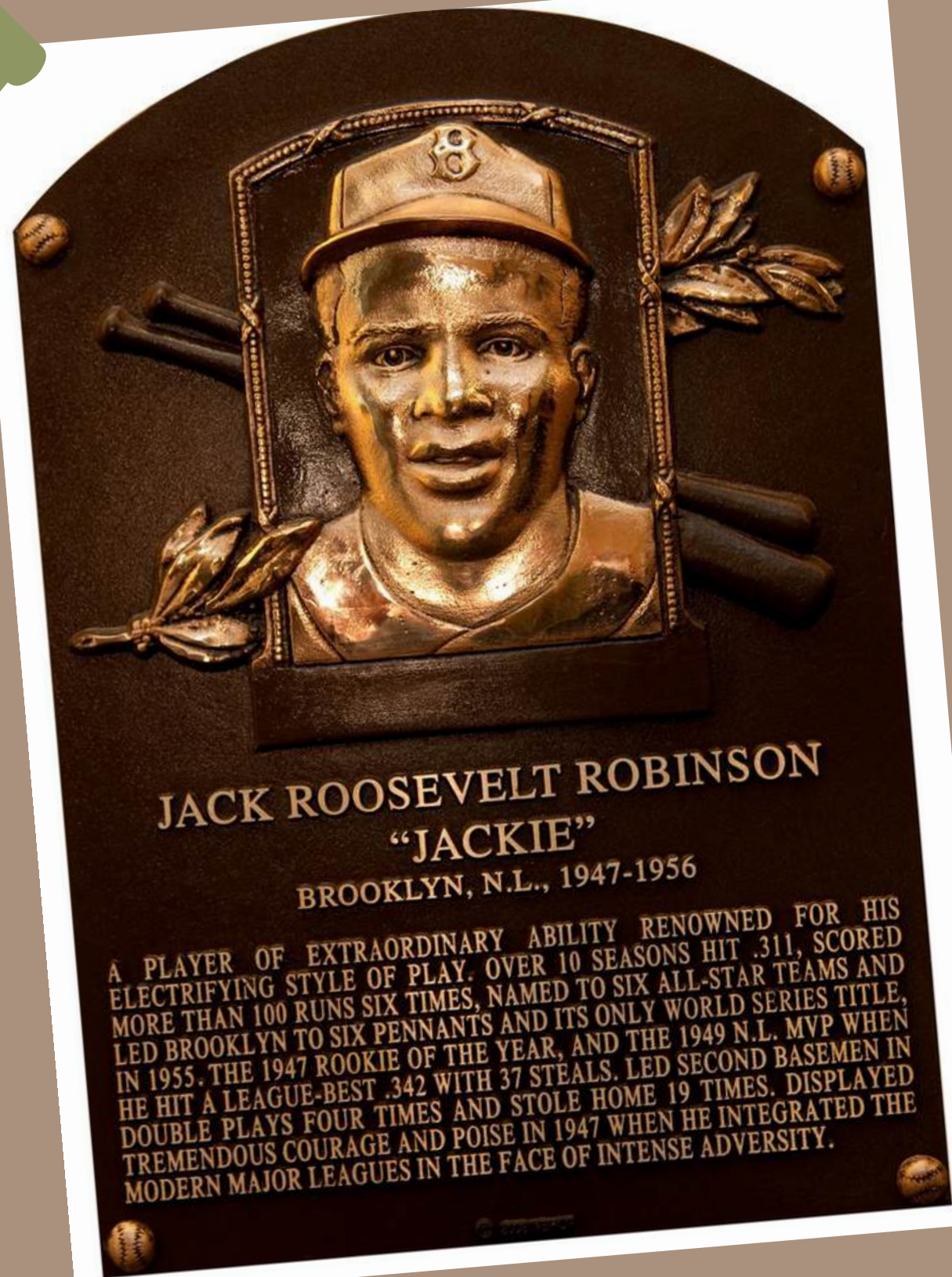
Jim Crow was a harmful caricature. The show exploited stereotyped speech, movement, and Physical features attributed to Black people to mock them. It entertained and miseducated whites at the expenses of Blacks all for Rice's financial benefit.

Later, People drew sketches of a skinny black face guy named Jim Crow dancing on stage. Thus, Jim Crow became synonymous with all Black people.





JOSH GIBSON



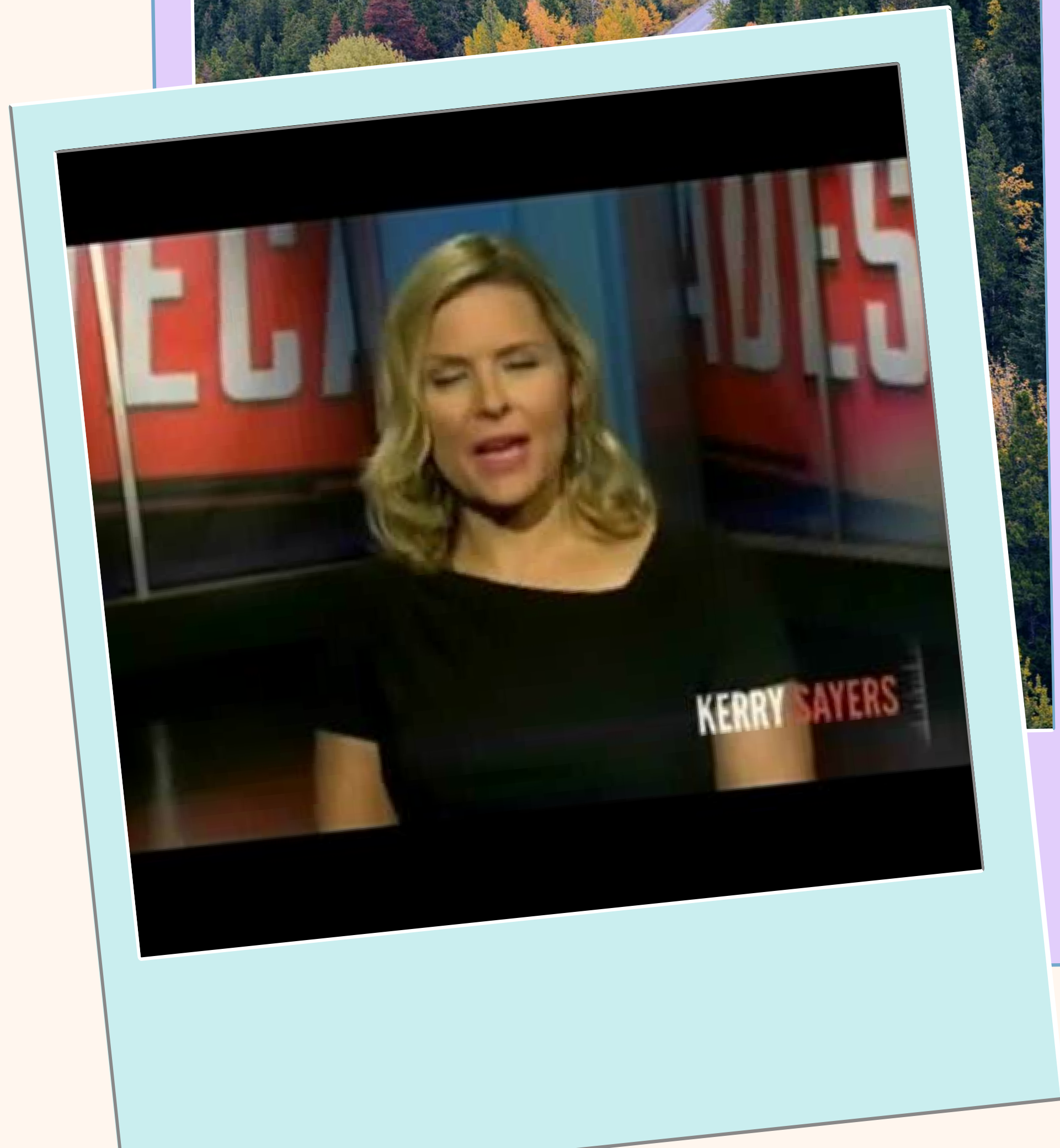
JACK ROOSEVELT ROBINSON
"JACKIE"
BROOKLYN, N.L., 1947-1956

A PLAYER OF EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY RENOWNED FOR HIS ELECTRIFYING STYLE OF PLAY. OVER 10 SEASONS HIT .311, SCORED MORE THAN 100 RUNS SIX TIMES, NAMED TO SIX ALL-STAR TEAMS AND LED BROOKLYN TO SIX PENNANTS AND ITS ONLY WORLD SERIES TITLE, IN 1955. THE 1947 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR, AND THE 1949 N.L. MVP WHEN HE HIT A LEAGUE-BEST .342 WITH 37 STEALS. LED SECOND BASEMEN IN DOUBLE PLAYS FOUR TIMES AND STOLE HOME 19 TIMES. DISPLAYED TREMENDOUS COURAGE AND POISE IN 1947 WHEN HE INTEGRATED THE MODERN MAJOR LEAGUES IN THE FACE OF INTENSE ADVERSITY.

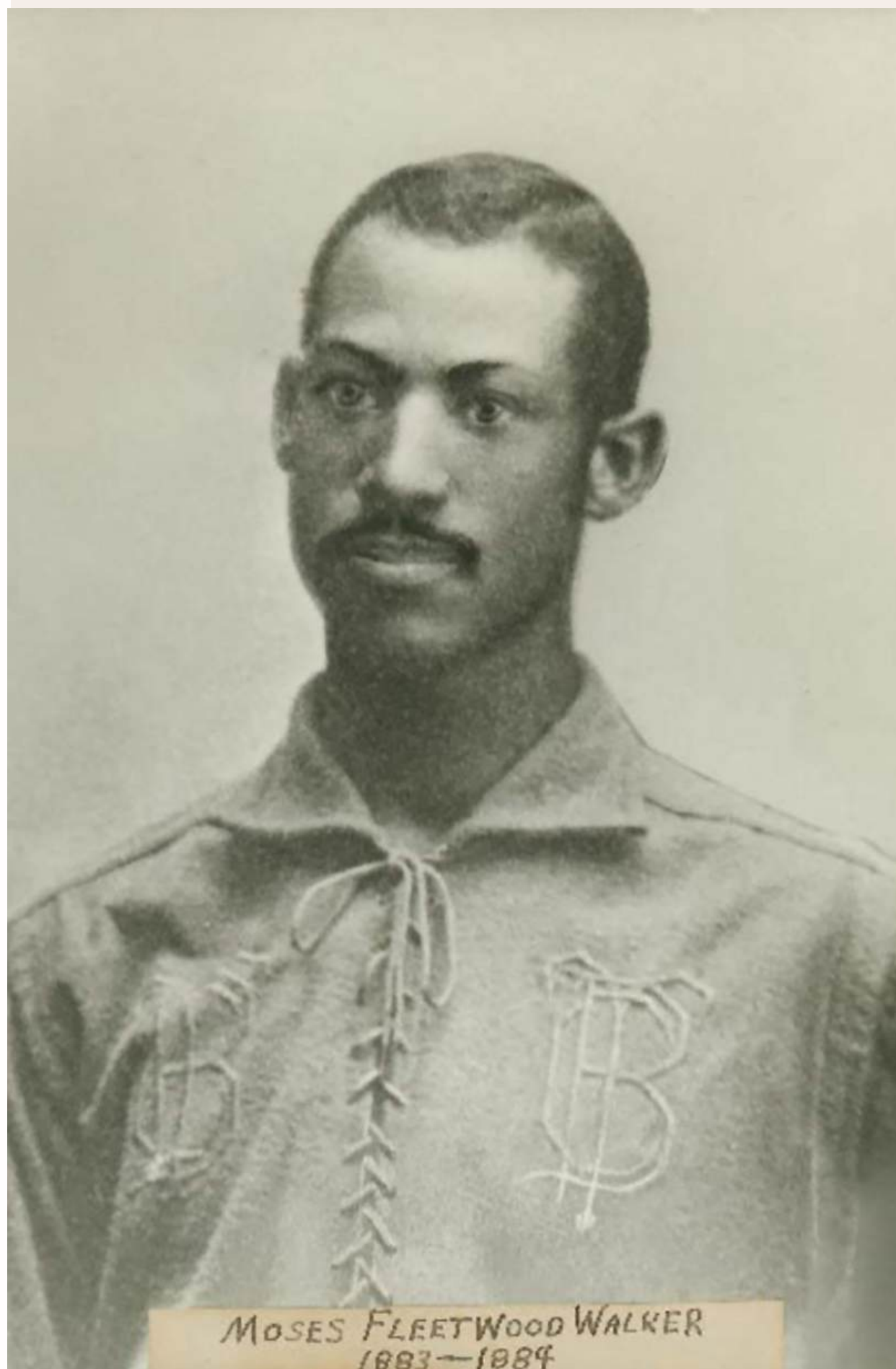
JACKIE ROOSEVELT ROBINSON

JACKIE ROBINSON

INTERVIEWED DICK CAVETTE

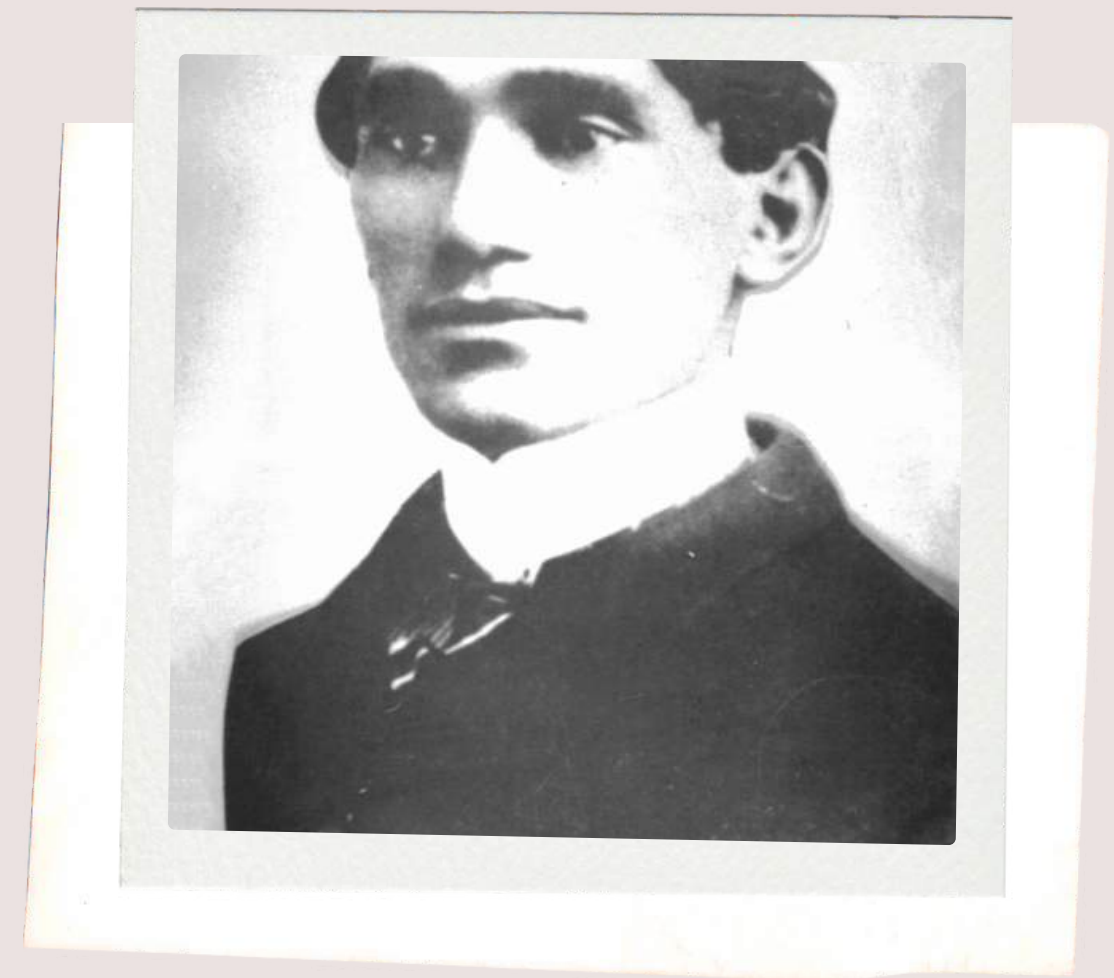
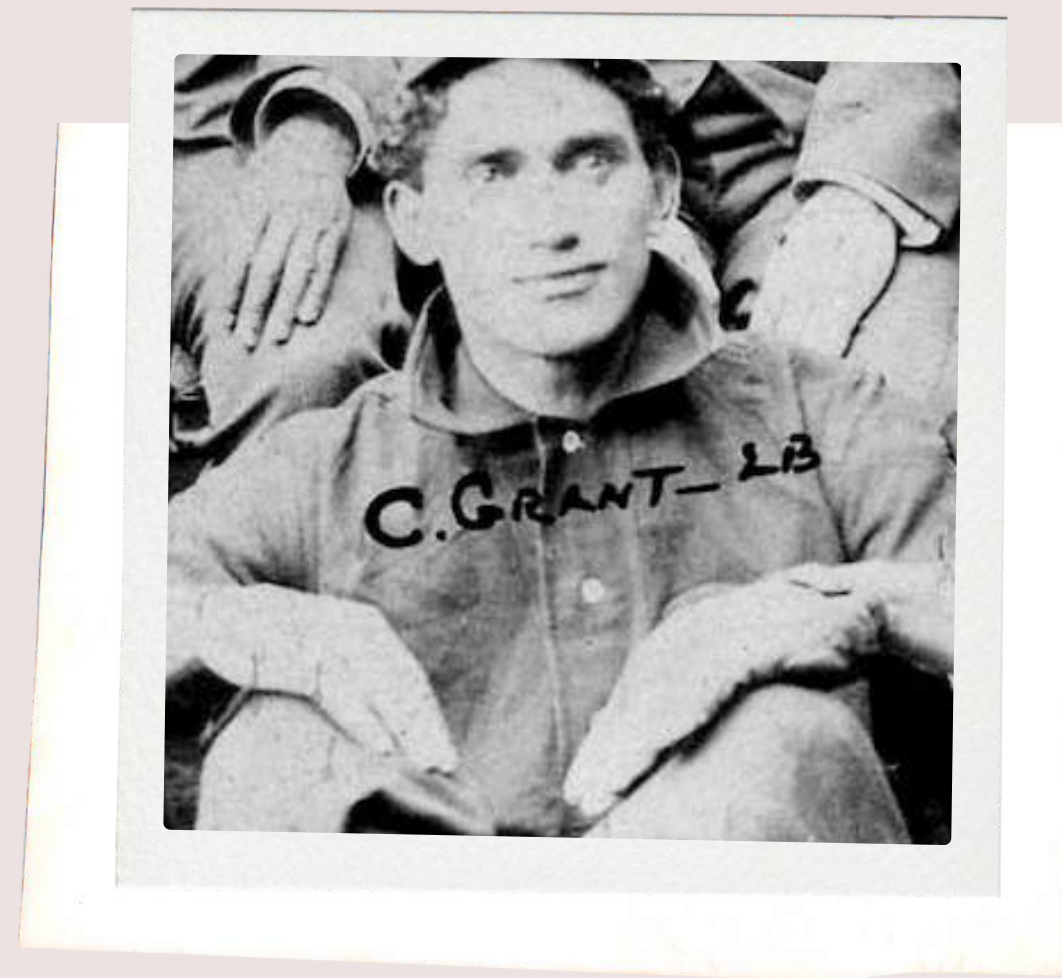
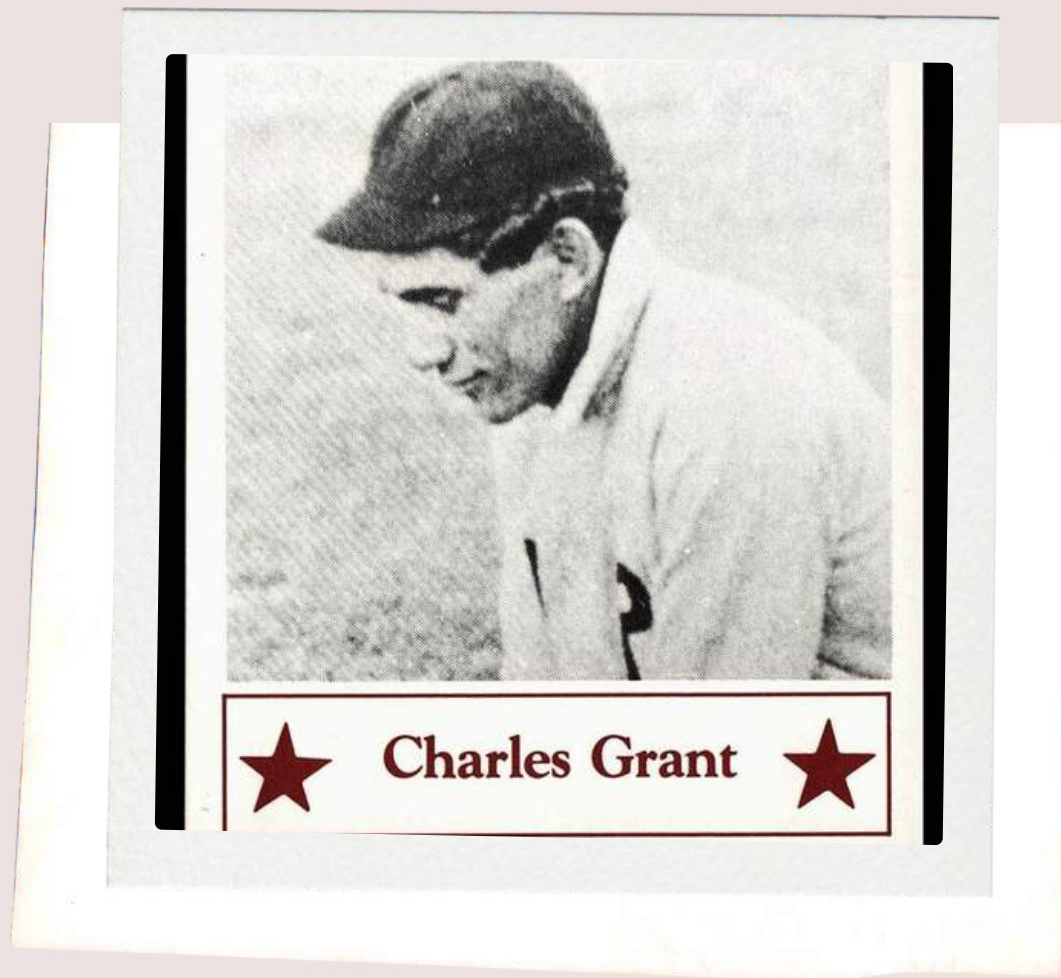


MOSES FLEETWOOD WALKER



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CHARLIE GRANT



ANTHONY
MASTANDREA

Plessy vs Ferguson Case (1896)



Homer Plessy

- The plaintiff. Challenging the Louisiana segregation law - separate cars pertaining to race, etc. Plessy 7/8ths “white.” Ferguson, the Louisiana judge in the original decision against Plessy. Case eventually goes to Supreme Court

Supreme Court ruled 7-1, against Plessy

- Legal Segregation established - “separate but equal” doctrine established. “de jure” (of the law) segregation.

Finally, overturned in the famous Brown vs, Board of Education (Topeka, Kansas), 1954. Unanimous decision.



Plessy
v.
Ferguson



Some General Tidbits About the Negro Leagues

1. Contracts were not "sacred." Players would frequently "jump" from one team to another. It all depended how much money the player could make. Not only this "jumping" phenomena, but teams would often fold during the season because they didn't have enough quality players. Players would often go to Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela to make more money. Satch went to North Dakota. Also, owners, black owners, would raid each others Teams.

An "old Satch" selfish move

Rafael Trujillo incident - "win or else." Dominican Republic Locked in your rooms - but allowing you 1 hr. with a woman (I like that.)

1937- "the soothing rustle of \$\$\$" for old Satch

Satchel got \$30,000 for his endeavors - suppose to "share" with other teammates. Kept \$20,000 for himself.

Trujillo's team, with Satch, won.

2. Salary for least talented player - \$150-250 - a month

Talented players - \$350-450 a month

Top three Negro players - Salaries

Satchel Paige - \$40,000 - a year

Josh Gibson - \$20,000 - \$25,000

Monte Irvin - \$10,000 - \$15,000

"Hundreds came out to see the black Babe Ruth - Josh Gibson, but thousands came out to see the showman, Satchel Paige."

Gibson, died at 35. Stroke. Drinking problem. Some say he was greatly hurt the he wasn't considered to be the first black man In he Major Leagues.

Paige - Negative Negro stereotypes. Not a good choice.

Irvin - shell shocked (post traumatic syndrome)

Gibson died, 1947, the same year Jackie Robinson broke the "color line." with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

SOME GENERAL TIDBITS ABOUT THE NEGRO LEAGUES



Branch Rickey - owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers - and the man to break the "color barrier."

1. Had to be a talented baseball man - above the norm.
2. Speak like a "white man." No "jive" talk. No zoot suits. No green and red suits. No 3-4 Cadillacs. Who am I talking about?
3. He cannot perpetuate negative stereotypes. Preferably a college man.
4. White people have to respect him - not frightened by him
5. Has to have inner toughness.
6. With all the racial crap he will have to endure, had to 'turn thy cheek' for the first year.

"... Mr. Rickey - do you want a ballplayer who's afraid to fight back?"

"I want a ballplayer with guts enough not to fight back. You got to do this job with base hits and stolen bases and fielding ground balls. NOTHING ELSE."

"Jungle Bunny"

"N word"

"Go back to the cotton fields"

"Spear chucker"

"Black face boogie"

And many others

First Black to enter the Hall of Fame - 1962. Satchel Paige, first black player from the Negro Leagues to make the Hall of Fame, 1971.

Jackie Robinson - a terrific player. In my top all-time 10. (those that I have seen.)

Number (42) retired by MLB in 1997

April 15, 1947 - Jackie Robinson breaks the color line. Plays first base, not second. Why? Any smart baseball guys out there???

SOME GENERAL TIDBBITS ABOUT THE NEGRO LEAGUES



7. In December, 2020, Major League Baseball officially recognized 7 professional Negro Leagues that operated from 1920-1948.

- Negro National League 1 (1920-1931) - Rube Foster
- Eastern Colored League (1923-1928)
- American Negro League (1929)
- East-West League (1932) **
- Negro Southern League (1932)
- Negro National League 2 (1933-1948) - Gus Greenlee Cum Posey
- Negro American League (1937-1948)

1924 - First Negro World Series. Kansas City Monarchs vs. Hilldale Daisies (Philadelphia). Monarchs won. But next Negro World Series, 1927, and next, 1942. Monarchs won 10 League Championships and 2 W.S. Monarchs last year, 1965. (Marty's Team)
The Homestead Grays (Pittsburg) won 9 League Championships and 3 W.S.
Josh Gibson played several years for the Grays. Grays last year, 1951.

But the East-West All - Star Game started in 1933, was the biggest draw of the Negro Leagues. (MLB also started its first all-star game in 1933.) Fans would send in their ballots to Black newspapers - i.e. Pittsburgh Courier, Amsterdam News, Chicago Defender, Chicago Bee.

First East-West Game drew 20,000+. Comiskey Park, Chicago
Following years: 30,000, 40,000, 50,000.

A busy week in Chicago. Game mid-week - Jazz Club at night.

Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong
Ella Fitzgerald
Billie Holliday

A week of frolicking and partying.

SOME GENERAL TIDBBITS ABOUT THE NEGRO LEAGUES



Satchel Paige.
(Teams)

Chattanooga Black Lookouts
Birmingham Black Barons.
Baltimore Black Sox
Cleveland Cubs
Pittsburg Crawfords
Homestead Grays
Kansas City Monarchs
Paige's Dominican All-Stars
Philadelphia Stars
New York Black Yankees
Satchel Paige's All Stars
Cleveland Indians (AL).
St. Louis Browns (AL)

Taylor Swift
(Lovers)

Joe Jonas
Taylor Lautner
John Mayer
Jake Gyllenhaal
D. Gene Wilburn
Doug Dunton
George Lewis
Connor Kennedy
Ralph Kramden
Tom Middlestone
Ricki Bravo
Harry Styles
Terry DeCosmo
Calvin Harris
Joe Alwyn
B. Chales Gorga.
Robert Dauer
Harold Green
Travis Kelce

N.Y. Giants Fight Song 1950s

We're calling all fans
All you Giant ball fans
Come watch the home team
Going places
'round the bases
Cheer for your favorites
Out at Coogan's Bluff
You'll see those Polo Grounders
Do their stuff

ast game at the Polo Grounds, 1957. Fans outside dressing room in
enter field yelling "Stay team, stay." Sad moment. 11,000 at game.

SOME GENERAL TIDBBITS ABOUT THE NEGRO LEAGUES



SATCHEL PAIGE (ISMS)

Satchel Paige.
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Chattanooga Black Lookouts
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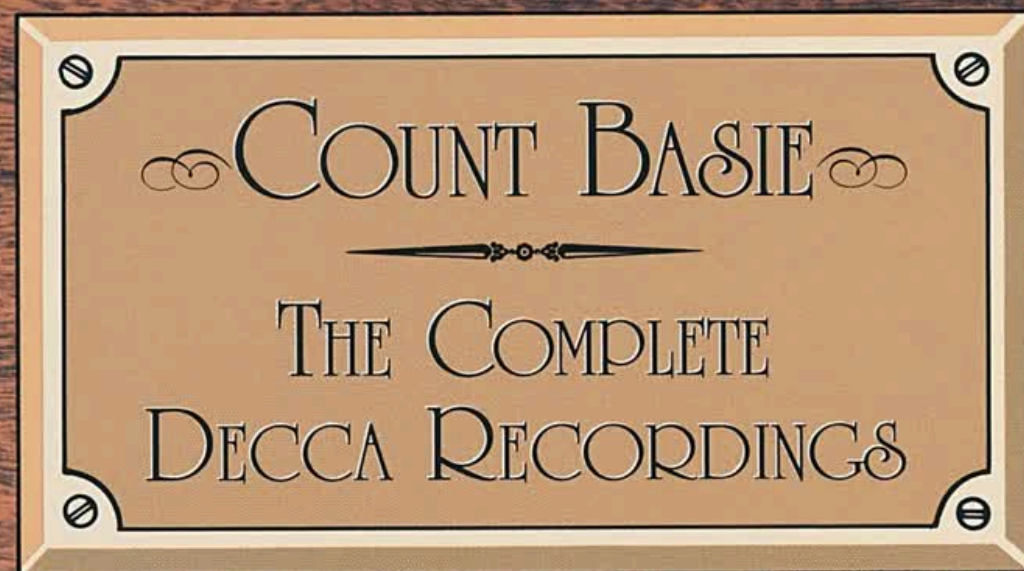
SATCHEL PAIGE (ISMS)



9. "Don't pray when it rains, if you don't pray when the sun shines."
10. "Smile well and often, it makes people wonder what you'e been up to."
11. "The game can't start until I get there."
12. "You win a few, you lose a few. Some get rained out. But you got to dress for all of them."
11. "Never let your head down. Never give up and sit down and grieve. Find another way."
12. (To a ballplayer - maybe borrowed from. "Amos 'n Andy)
"What are you complaining about? I sold you a stucco house, and you're the stucc-ee."
13. "What's scary in life is not what people know (or don't know), but what they know ain't so."
14. And his most famous saying: **DON'T LOOK BACK.
SOMETHING MIGHT BE GAINING ON YOU.**

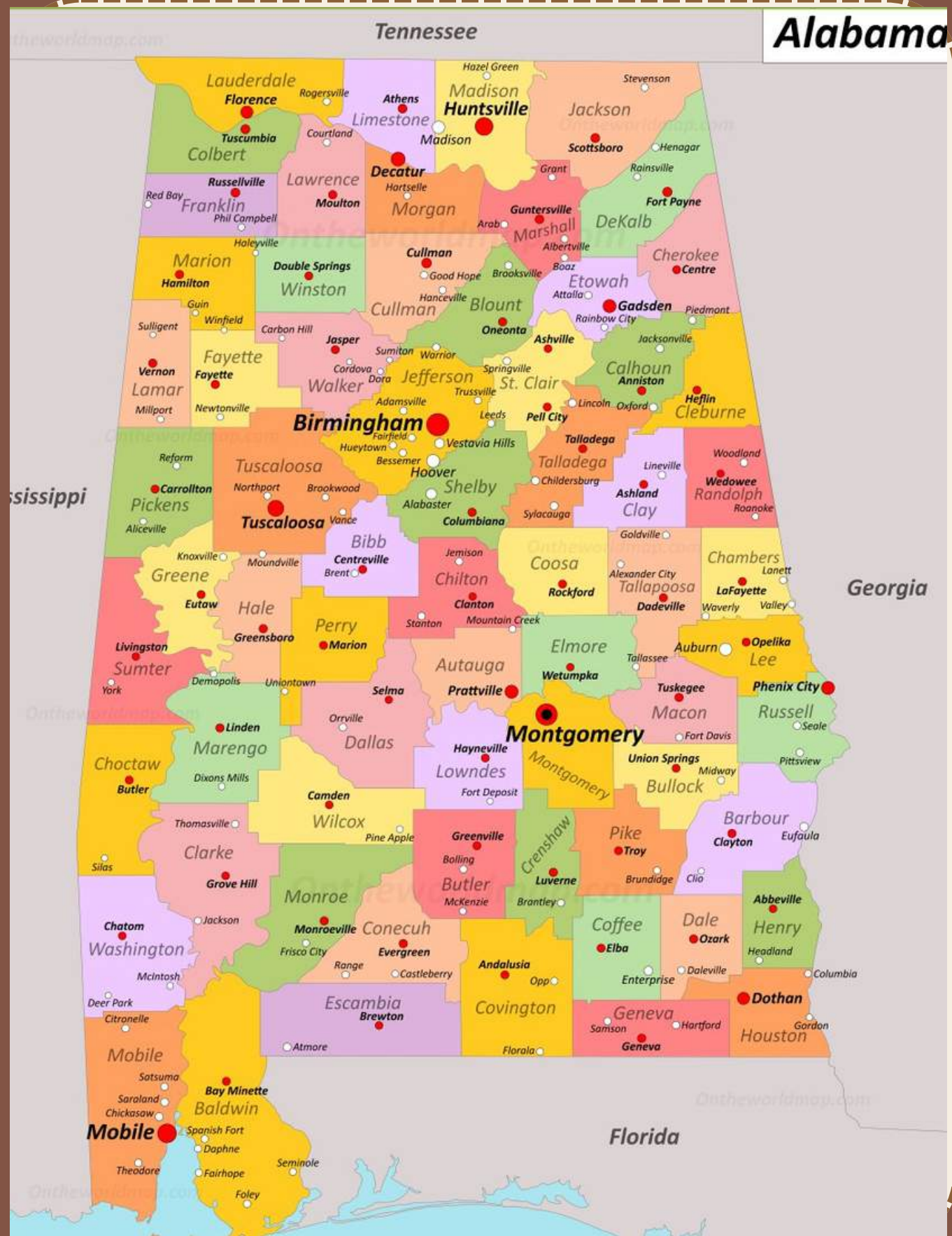
1 O'CLOCK

JUMP

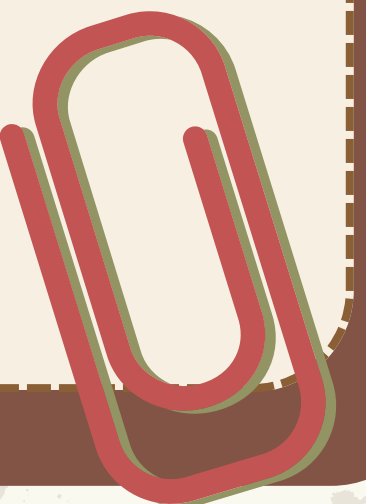


LET'S DANCE!





MAP OF ALABAMA



ON THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND THE SANTA FE



ANTHONY
MASTANDREA

On The Atchison, Topeka and The Santa Fe

J.L. WILKINSON
EXECUTIVE

Born: May 14, 1878, Algona, IA
Died: August 21, 1964, Kansas City, MO

A native Iowan, J.L. Wilkinson was the innovative creator and owner of the Kansas City Monarchs, the longest-running franchise in Negro National League history. His teams won an unprecedented 17 pennants as well as two Colored World Series. Wilkinson is credited with developing the first successful lighting system for night games — five years before Major League Baseball played its first night game in 1935. His club supplanted the once-segregated major leagues with more players than any other Black ballpark. Prior to the Monarchs, Wilkinson owned one of the first all-girls barnstorming teams, as well as the multi-ethnic All-Nations squad.



CLASS OF
2006



EFFA MANLEY
EXECUTIVE

Born: March 27, 1897,
Philadelphia, PA
Died: April 16, 1981, Los Angeles, CA

Co-owner and business manager of the Newark Eagles from 1936 to 1948, Effa Manley was noted for running one of the most professional organizations in the Negro Leagues. Using her position with Newark to crusade for civil rights, Manley made the Eagles a social force off the field and a baseball force on it, as the club was usually a top-division team and won the Negro League World Series in 1946. With the sale of Monte Irvin to the New York Giants, Manley established that major league clubs should respect the contracts of the Negro Leagues by offering financial compensation. Manley's personal connection with race was complicated. Her light-skinned (and possibly mixed-race) mother was married to a Black man, but Manley's biological father was white. Regardless of her racial background, Manley claimed the Black community as her own and always embraced it.



CLASS OF
2006

38

HALL OF FAME IN NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES

CUMBERLAND POSEY
EXECUTIVE
Homestead GRAYS

Born: June 20, 1890, Homestead, PA
Died: March 28, 1946, Pittsburgh, PA

As a player, manager and owner, Cumberland "Cum" Posey was the driving force behind the Homestead Grays — one of the most successful teams in Negro Leagues history — for 25 years. Posey's business acumen and organizational skills made the Grays a perennial powerhouse and money-making machine. Skilled at talent evaluation and development, Posey's teams produced a number of future Hall of Famers. Homestead split its "home" games between Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C., regularly drawing 25,000 to 30,000 fans at Forbes Field and Griffith Stadium. His teams won nine consecutive Negro National League pennants from 1937 to 1945, including three championships.



CLASS OF
2006

RUBE FOSTER
EXECUTIVE

Born: September 17, 1879, LaGrange, TX
Died: December 9, 1930, Kankakee, IL

A player, manager, owner, commissioner and unsurpassed visionary, Rube Foster was one of baseball's greatest renaissance men. In his youth, Foster was a star pitcher of the Dead Ball Era. Later, as owner-manager of the Chicago American Giants, the burly Texan instilled in his players the daring, aggressive, yet disciplined, style of play for which the Negro Leagues became famous. Saying, "I cannot let such talent go to waste a day longer," Foster founded the first successful Negro League, the Negro National League, in 1920. It flourished until the Great Depression and demonstrated that baseball with Black ownership and players could succeed.

NEGRO NATIONAL LEAGUE I



CLASS OF
1981

Gus Greenlee

William Augustus Greenlee (December 26, 1893 – July 7, 1952) was an American businessman in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who was born and raised in Marion, North Carolina. After migrating to Pittsburgh as a young man and working in the steel industry, he started to acquire his own businesses.

Negro leagues

In 1933, Greenlee organized the annual East-West Classic, an all-star baseball game in Chicago at Comiskey Park, between Negro league stars; it became the centerpiece of the baseball season. That same year he was the primary founder of the second Negro National League, which he served as president for five seasons.

PITTSBURGH

For a while, the Crawfords were the best-financed team in black baseball. Revenue generated from his gambling and bootlegging operations enabled Greenlee to sign black baseball's biggest names. The 1935 squad may have been the best ever to play in the Negro leagues, as it fielded five Baseball Hall of Fame players.



HALL OF FAME IN NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES

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ANTHONY MASTANDREA

DIRECTOR

PRODUCER

SPEAKER



HISTORY CLUB