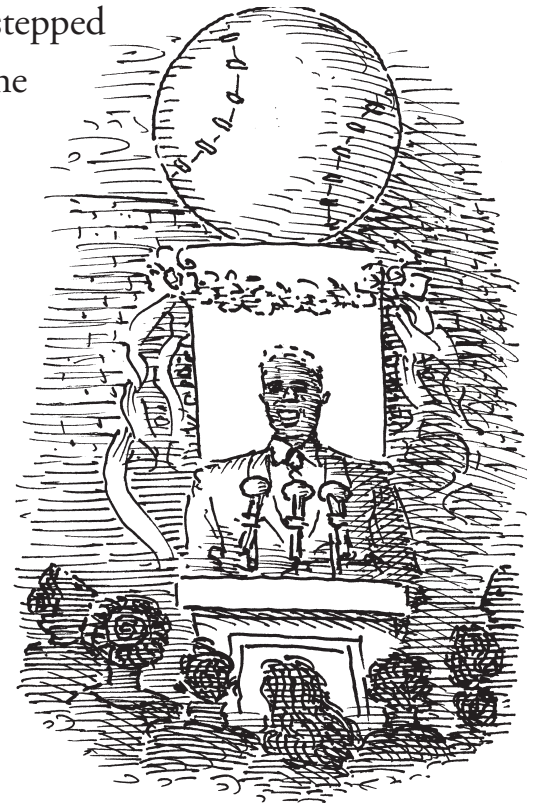

Who Was Jackie Robinson?

JULY 23, 1962: NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM, COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK

Jackie Robinson stepped up to a mic, not home plate. He wore a suit and tie, not a baseball uniform. At forty-three years old, Jackie had been retired from the Brooklyn Dodgers for five years. Yet the crowd cheered as loudly as if he'd



just hit a World Series home run.

Jackie faced the smiling crowd. About two thousand people had gathered on Main Street in Cooperstown, New York. They were sitting and standing on the lawn in front of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. Jackie's mother, wife, and children were there. So was Branch Rickey. He had hired Jackie. Many people who didn't know Jackie had also traveled long distances to see him enter the Baseball Hall of Fame.



Jackie felt proud and grateful. Growing up, he never thought something like this could happen to him. He thanked everyone: “all of the people,” he said, “throughout this country who were just so wonderful.”

Baseball is a game of highs and lows, streaks and slumps. It's a tough sport, and it was tougher for Jackie than for any other ballplayer of his time. Why?

Jackie Robinson was black. In 1947, when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers, he was the first and only African American on the team. No other major league team had black players. It was an all-white sport. And it had been that way for more than fifty years.

When Jackie was growing up, blacks and whites did not have the same chances in life. And in baseball? No blacks played on National or American League teams. Many people thought black athletes didn't have the talent, drive, or smarts.

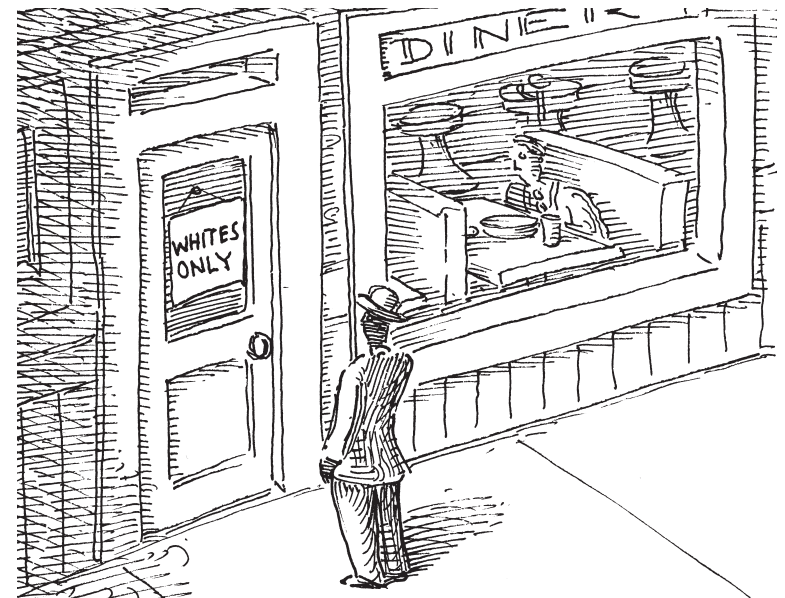
Jackie proved these people wrong and made history. Now, in Cooperstown, Jackie was making history again. He was the first black baseball player to enter the Hall of Fame. The plaque for Jackie listed all of his amazing stats. However, there was nothing about being the first black player. Jackie hadn't wanted any mention of that. He wanted the plaque to honor his ability, the same way it did for every other Hall of Famer.

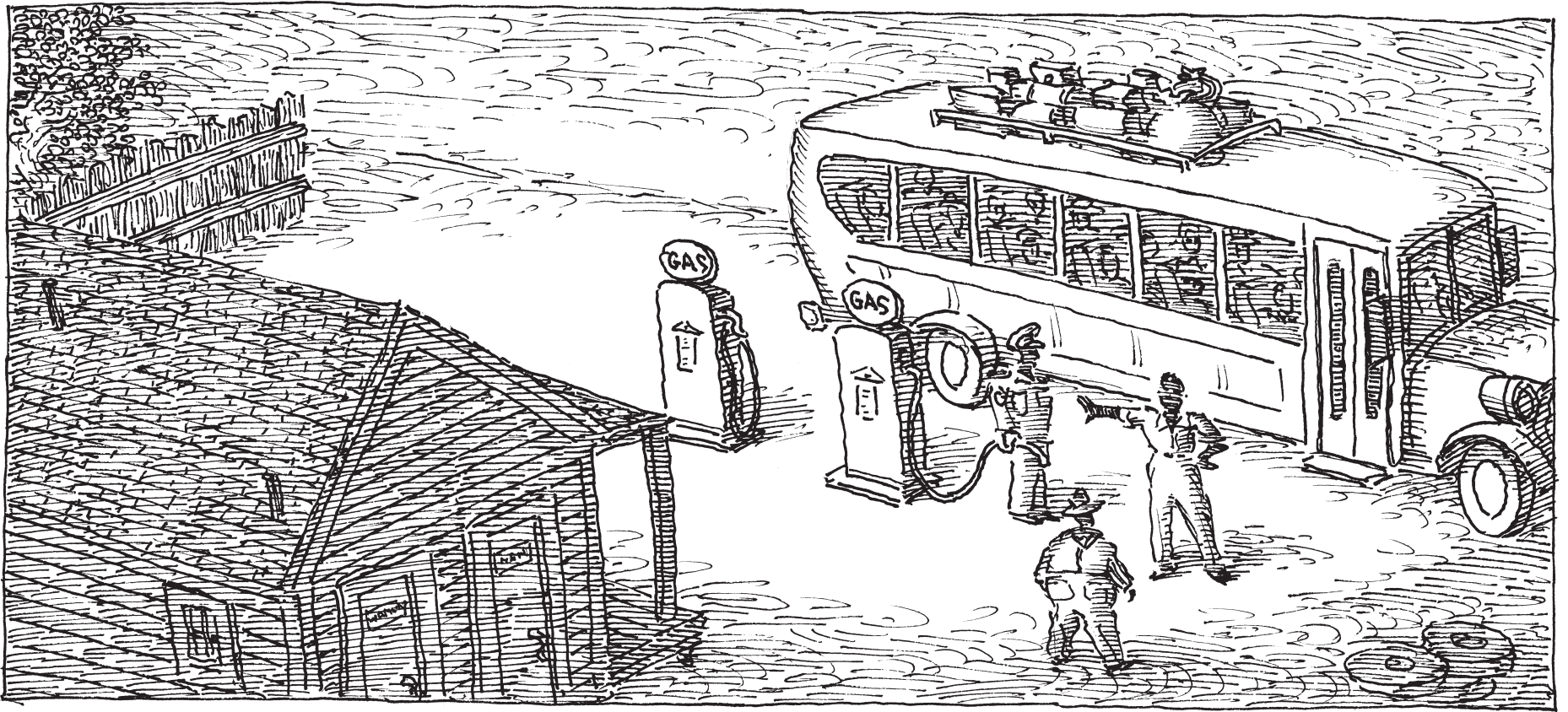
But there was no denying it—Jackie Robinson changed sports history. He was not only a baseball hero. He was a civil rights hero, too.



JIM CROW LAWS

IN SOUTHERN STATES, BLACKS AND WHITES MOSTLY LIVED SEPARATE LIVES. THERE WERE MANY RULES ABOUT WHERE BLACK PEOPLE COULD AND COULD NOT GO. THEY COULDN'T GO TO SCHOOL WITH WHITES. THEY COULDN'T EAT IN "WHITES ONLY" RESTAURANTS OR DRINK FROM "WHITE" WATER FOUNTAINS. EVEN IF BLACKS PAID FOR FIRST-CLASS TICKETS ON A TRAIN, THEY HAD TO SIT IN A SPECIAL CAR. THESE RULES WERE CALLED JIM CROW LAWS. MOST LIKELY, THE NAME "JIM CROW" CAME FROM A CHARACTER IN AN OLD SONG-AND-DANCE SHOW. JIM CROW WAS A FOOLISH, GRINNING CLOWN, MADE UP WITH A BLACK FACE.





Once, the team bus stopped for gas in Mississippi. That was okay. But the white owner wouldn't let the men use the restroom. Jackie stepped forward. He told the Monarchs' driver not to fill the tank. They could buy gas

somewhere else. The owner didn't want to lose money. He backed down and opened the restroom.

By late August, Jackie was wondering what to do next. He didn't know it, but one of his dreams was about to come true!



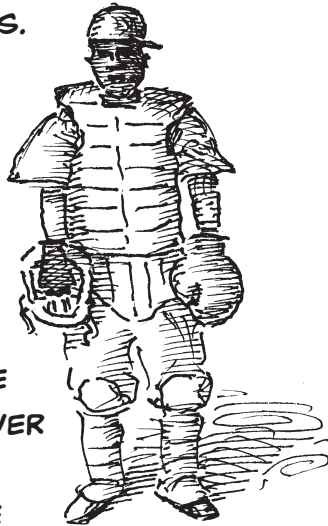
**SACHEL PAIGE
(1906-1982)**

SACHEL PAIGE IS REGARDED AS THE BEST PITCHER IN NEGRO LEAGUE HISTORY. SOME WOULD SAY HE'S THE BEST PITCHER EVER. HE PLAYED FOR A NUMBER OF

NEGRO LEAGUE TEAMS—INCLUDING THE MONARCHS WITH JACKIE ROBINSON. ONE SEASON, PAIGE PITCHED SIXTY-FOUR CONSECUTIVE SCORELESS INNINGS. FINALLY, IN 1948, HE BECAME THE OLDEST ROOKIE IN THE MAJORS, PLAYING FOR THE CLEVELAND INDIANS. HE WAS ELECTED INTO THE HALL OF FAME IN 1971.

JOSH GIBSON (1911-1947)

JOSH GIBSON STANDS AS ONE OF THE BEST CATCHERS AND POWER HITTERS IN ALL OF BASEBALL. HE WAS KNOWN AS THE "BLACK BABE



RUTH." FANS WHO SAW BOTH PLAYERS SOMETIMES CALLED RUTH THE "WHITE JOSH GIBSON." GIBSON NEVER MADE IT TO THE MAJORS. HE DIED AT THIRTY-FIVE, JUST THREE MONTHS BEFORE JACKIE ROBINSON BROKE THE COLOR BARRIER. GIBSON WAS VOTED INTO THE HALL OF FAME IN 1972.

JAMES THOMAS "COOL PAPA" BELL (1903-1991)

COOL PAPA BELL PLAYED CENTER FIELD IN THE NEGRO LEAGUES. HE IS CONSIDERED THE FASTEST MAN IN BASEBALL—EVER. FANS CLAIMED TO SEE HIM SCORE FROM FIRST BASE ON A BUNT. ONE TIME, ANOTHER STORY GOES, HE WAS CALLED OUT AS HE SLID INTO SECOND BASE AFTER GETTING HIT BY THE VERY BALL HE'D JUST BATTED. HE WAS VOTED INTO THE HALL OF FAME IN 1974.



AS MORE BLACK PLAYERS JOINED MAJOR LEAGUE TEAMS, THE NEGRO LEAGUE GAMES COULD NO LONGER DRAW BIG CROWDS. BY 1950, THE ERA HAD ENDED.

Chapter 8

Game Change

The Monarchs were playing at Comisky Park, the famous Chicago ball field. Jackie was out warming up when a white man waved him over.

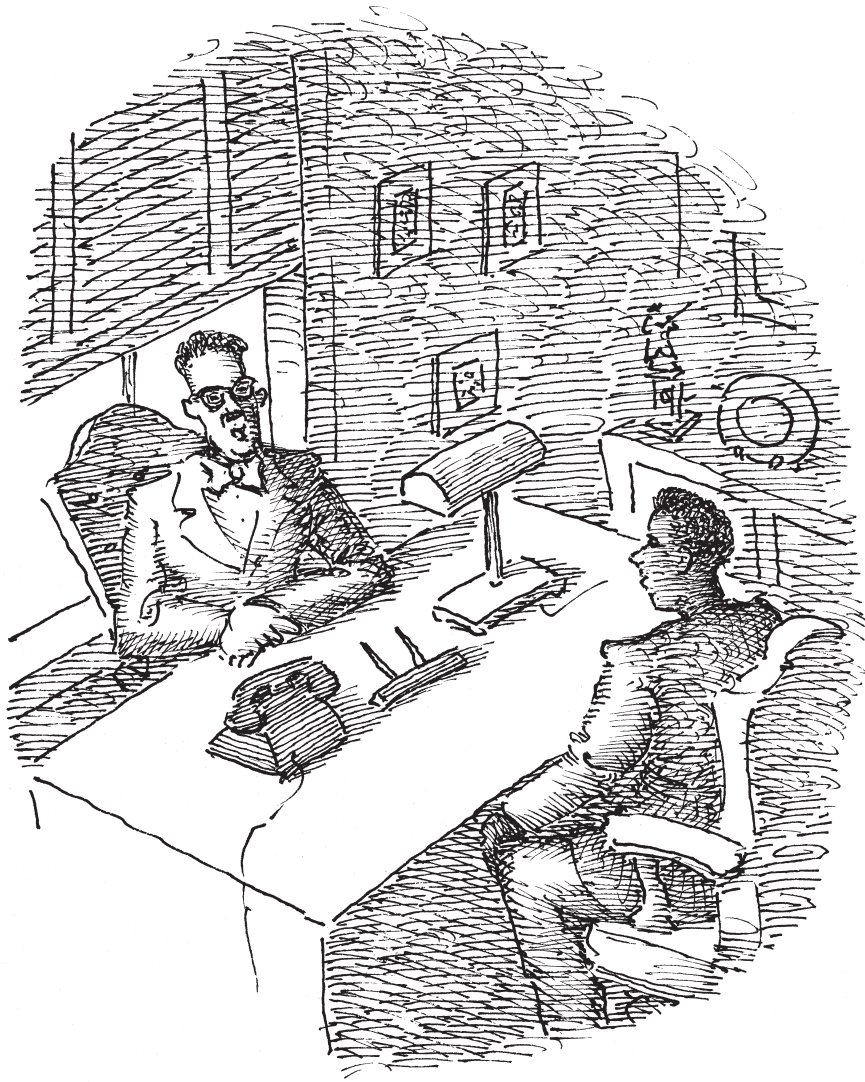


He was a scout looking for new players to join the Brooklyn Dodgers.

That season the Dodgers had finished third in the National League. Somehow, it seemed like the team was always struggling. In fifty-five years, they'd only been in three World Series and had never won. The team's president, Branch Rickey, wanted to turn the Brooklyn Dodgers into a powerhouse team.

The scout told Jackie that Branch Rickey wanted to meet him. He was thinking of starting a new Negro League team. "Why only me?" Jackie asked the scout. After all, a new team would need lots of players. Still, he said yes to the scout. Maybe there was something bigger on Branch Rickey's mind.

Jackie took the train to Brooklyn, New York. On August 28, 1945, he stepped into Branch Rickey's office. The men stared at each other. Branch Rickey asked, "Do you have a girl?"



“Yes,” Jackie said. “I do.”

Why did Branch Rickey ask that question? He

wanted to know if Jackie was likely to settle down and have a family. To Branch Rickey, that said a lot about a man.

“Do you know why you were brought here?” the Dodger president continued.

Jackie said he heard there might be a new Negro League team.

Then Branch Rickey said no. Jackie was brought to talk about playing for the Brooklyn ball club.

“Me?” Jackie said. He couldn’t believe it!

Rickey had made up the story about a new black team because he didn’t want newspaper reporters finding out the Dodgers were interested in a black player. It would make headlines. And Rickey wanted to make changes quietly. His plan was for Jackie to start playing for the Dodgers’ minor league team in Montreal. They were called the Royals. Good players in the Royals moved up to the Brooklyn Dodgers. That was Rickey’s hope for Jackie.

THE BROOKLYN DODGERS

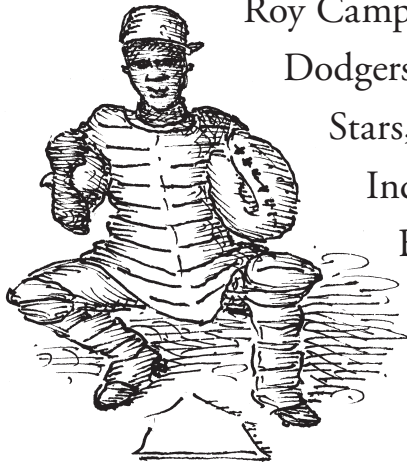
WHERE DID THE NAME FOR BROOKLYN'S MAJOR LEAGUE TEAM COME FROM? IN THE EARLY 1900S, TROLLEY TRACKS RAN IN CRAZY PATTERNS THROUGH THE STREETS OF BROOKLYN. PEOPLE HAD TO "DODGE" THE TROLLEYS AT EVERY TURN. BROOKLYN FANS HAD THEIR OWN NAME FOR THE TEAM, "DEM BUMS." EACH YEAR THE EXCITEMENT WOULD BUILD . . . WOULD THE DODGERS WIN THE PENNANT? WOULD THEY WIN THE WORLD SERIES? AND THEN . . . DISAPPOINTMENT. ALTOGETHER, THE TEAM WOULD PLAY IN NINE WORLD SERIES.

BUT THEY'D WIN ONLY ONCE, IN 1955, WITH THE DREAM TEAM OF PEE WEE REESE AND JACKIE ROBINSON IN THE INFIELD, DUKE SNIDER IN CENTER FIELD, CARL FURILLO IN RIGHT FIELD, ROY CAMPANELLA BEHIND HOME PLATE, AND DON NEWCOMBE PITCHING. "WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR," THE LOYAL FANS SAID EACH YEAR. THEY WERE USED TO HEARTBREAK. BUT THEY FINALLY GAVE UP HOPE—ONCE AND FOR ALL—IN 1958. THAT'S WHEN THE TEAM LEFT BROOKLYN AND MOVED TO LOS ANGELES.



EBBETS FIELD

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK



ROY CAMPANELLA
CATCHER BROOKLYN DODGERS

Roy Campanella both joined the Dodgers. They became All-Stars, too. The Cleveland Indians and the St. Louis Browns both signed black players soon after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier.

During those years, the civil rights movement grew stronger. People fought for blacks to be treated fairly. Even though Jackie was the highest-paid Dodgers player of all time, in the South he still couldn't stay in the same hotels as his white teammates.

As time went on, Jackie decided that he had kept his promise to Branch Rickey. Now he could speak up off and on the field.

Jackie began to shout at umpires. He talked back to rival teams. Some people thought he was



too loud. But others defended him. They said Jackie was doing what any player would do. It was just making news because of his color.

In 1955, Jackie was thirty-six years old. He was turning gray and losing speed. He was playing outfield now. People thought his best days were over.

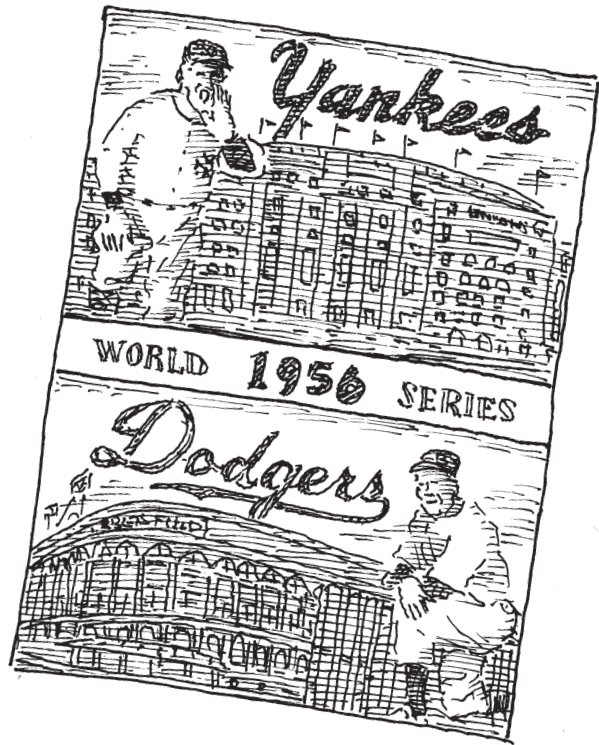
Once again, the Dodgers were facing the Yankees in the World Series. And in the very first game, something amazing happened—



Jackie Robinson stole home, right under the glove of catcher Yogi Berra!

It was a hard-fought series that went to a seventh game. Jackie sat that one out.

Game 7 turned out to be a Dodgers victory. The Brooklyn Bums had won their first World Series! And how sweet that it was against the Bronx Bombers!



THE YANKEES

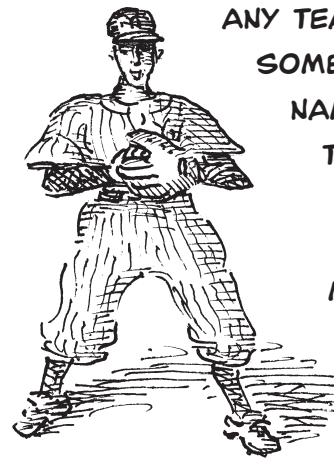
IN 1913, A TEAM CALLED THE HIGHLANDERS MOVED TO THE BRONX AND WAS RENAMED THE NEW YORK YANKEES. WHEN BABE RUTH JOINED THE TEAM SEVEN YEARS LATER, THE YANKEES BECAME THE STRONGEST TEAM IN BASEBALL—AND “THE BRONX BOMBERS” HAVE BUILT ON THAT LEGACY EVER SINCE. THEY’RE THE TEAM OTHER FANS LOVE TO HATE.



BABE RUTH

WHY? THEY’VE WON MORE CHAMPIONSHIPS THAN ANY TEAM IN ANY SPORT EVER.

SOME OF THE MOST FAMOUS NAMES IN BASEBALL HAVE WORN THE YANKEES PINSTripES: BABE RUTH, LOU GEHRIG, JOE DIMAGGIO, AND MICKEY MANTLE, JUST TO NAME A FEW. TO THIS DAY, THE YANKEES ARE THE TEAM TO BEAT.



JOE DIMAGGIO

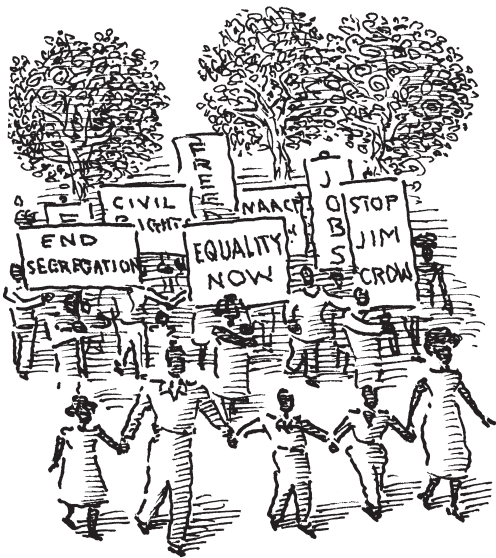
Chapter 14

Beyond Baseball

The following year, 1956, Jackie was traded to the New York Giants. But Jackie had already decided to retire. He was tired of the travel. He wanted to be closer to his family. Jackie, Jr., was ten, Sharon was six, and David was four. He

wanted to be home for dinner.

Plus he wanted to devote a lot more time to civil rights. He also became involved in politics. In 1963, he marched in Washington, D.C. with Martin Luther King, Jr.



THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

ALTHOUGH THE CIVIL WAR (1861-1865) ENDED SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES, MANY AFRICAN AMERICANS STILL DID NOT HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS WHITE PEOPLE 100 YEARS LATER. THEY WERE OFTEN TURNED AWAY FROM GOOD JOBS, FROM BUYING HOUSES IN WHITE NEIGHBORHOODS, AND EVEN FROM VOTING. THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT PUSHED TO STOP THESE INEQUALITIES.

THE 1963 MARCH ON WASHINGTON WAS AN IMPORTANT MOMENT IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. MORE THAN 250,000 PEOPLE GATHERED AROUND THE REFLECTING POOL NEAR THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT WHERE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., GAVE HIS NOW FAMOUS "I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH.

ON JULY 2, 1964, PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON SIGNED THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 INTO LAW. IT MADE SEGREGATION IN PUBLIC PLACES ILLEGAL, SPELLING AN END TO THE OLD JIM CROW LAWS OF THE SOUTH.

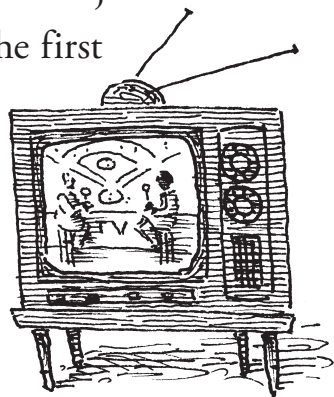


Jackie, along with his family and thousands of others, held a peaceful protest for equal rights.

Dr. King and Jackie admired one another greatly. “He is a legend in his own time,” Martin Luther King, Jr., said of Jackie.

Jackie was busier than ever. He worked for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He helped found an African American–owned bank. He started a company to build houses for poor families.

Jackie kept breaking color barriers: He was the first black vice president of a major American company. He was the first black TV analyst for major league baseball. Meanwhile, Rachel kept busy, too. She received another degree from New York University and became an assistant professor at Yale University School of Nursing.

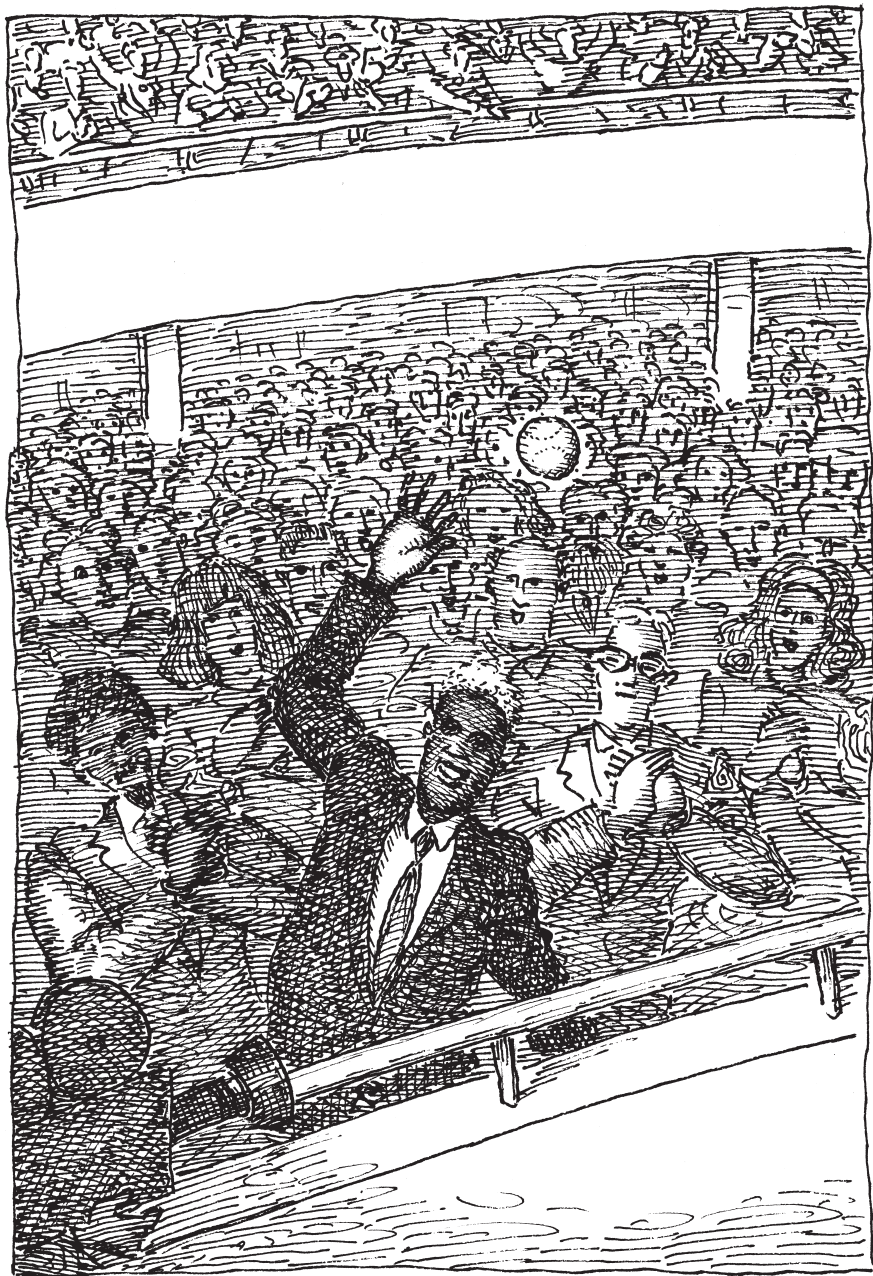


Mallie Robinson lived to see all these successes. But she collapsed outside her Pepper Street home in Pasadena in 1968. By the time Jackie arrived in California, she had passed away. Jackie gazed at her still face and realized she had died in peace.

Year after year, Rachel and Jackie made a difference in people’s lives. But Jackie’s health was failing. The same year he retired, doctors told Jackie he had diabetes, a kidney disease. He had heart problems, too.

Even harder for him to bear were his son’s problems. Jackie, Jr., fought in the Vietnam War. When he returned home, he was addicted to drugs. It took time, but Jackie, Jr., managed to kick his addiction. In fact, he was working as a drug counselor when he died in a car accident. He was just twenty-four years old.

That same year, 1972, the nation celebrated Jackie and the Brooklyn Dodgers again. It was the twenty-fifth anniversary of Jackie Robinson



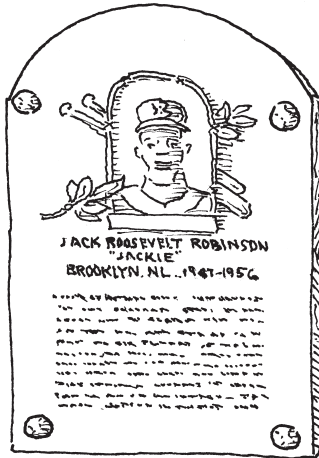
breaking the color barrier. On October 15, Jackie threw out the first pitch at the World Series. Just as they had before, fans cheered and rose to their feet for Jackie Robinson. It was a glorious moment.

Nine days later, Jackie died at home. He was fifty-three years old.

Chapter 15

The Legend Lives On

MAY 3, 2008: NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM, COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK.



Forty-six years after Jackie was voted into the Hall of Fame, a new plaque went up in his honor. The plaque noted his great skills in the sport of baseball. But this time, it also paid tribute to Jackie's bravery.

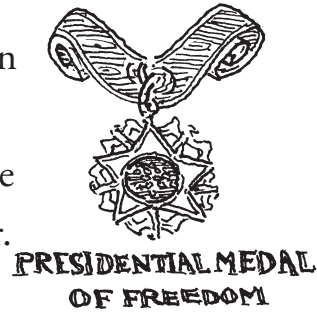
At the ceremony, Rachel Robinson spoke. She said she knew that Jackie would approve of the change.

The plaque now reads:

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 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.

After his death, Jackie Robinson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The award honors people who have made our country better. Helen Keller, Neil Armstrong and the Apollo 11 astronauts, and President John F. Kennedy have all received the medal, too.



To continue Jackie's work, Rachel started the Jackie Robinson Foundation in 1973. The foundation helps young people stay in school and go to college. To this day, the foundation is going strong.

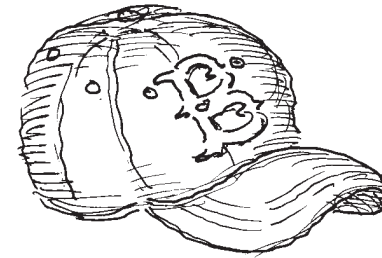
Fifty years after Jackie broke the color barrier, his number, forty-two, was retired from both the National and American Leagues. In 2004, April 15, the date of his first game for the Dodgers, was named Jackie Robinson Day. To honor Jackie, every player on every team wore the number forty-two. Jackie Robinson Day is still celebrated today.

And today more than one-third of major league ballplayers are men of color. But it all started with one brave man: Jackie Robinson.

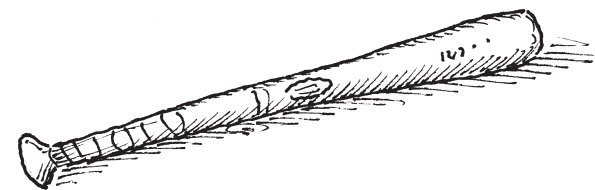
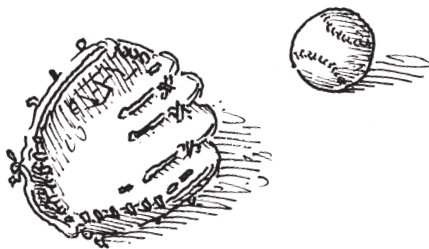


JACKIE'S STATS

THIS CHART LISTS STATISTICS FROM JACKIE'S YEARS PLAYING BASEBALL WITH THE BROOKLYN DODGERS IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE STATISTICS FROM HIS YEARS PLAYING WITH THE NEGRO AND INTERNATIONAL LEAGUES.



YEAR	BATTING AVERAGE	GAMES PLAYED	HITS	HOME RUNS	RUNS BATTED IN	STOLEN BASES
1947	.297	151	175	112	48	29
1948	.296	147	170	12	85	22
1949	.342	156	203	16	124	37
1950	.328	144	170	14	81	12
1951	.338	153	185	19	88	25
1952	.308	149	157	19	75	24
1953	.329	136	159	12	95	17
1954	.311	124	120	15	59	7
1955	.256	105	81	8	36	12
1956	.275	117	98	10	43	12
TOTAL	.311	1382	1518	137	734	197



TIMELINE OF JACKIE ROBINSON'S LIFE

- 1919 — Jack Roosevelt Robinson is born in Cairo, GA
- 1920 — Robinson family moves to Pasadena, CA
- 1939 — Jackie enrolls in UCLA
Brother Frank dies in motorcycle accident
- 1941 — Jackie plays football for the Honolulu Bears
- 1942 — Jackie is drafted into the US Army
- 1945 — Jackie joins the Kansas City Monarchs
Jackie signs a contract to play for the Montreal Royals
- 1946 — Jackie marries Rachel Isum
Son Jackie, Jr., is born
- 1947 — Jackie becomes the first black player on a modern
major league baseball team
- 1949 — Jackie is named MVP of the National League
- 1950 — Daughter Sharon is born
- 1952 — Son David is born
- 1955 — Brooklyn Dodgers win their first World Series
- 1957 — Jackie retires from baseball
- 1962 — Jackie is voted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame
- 1971 — Jackie, Jr., dies in a car accident
- 1972 — Jackie dies on October 24
- 1973 — Rachel Robinson starts the Jackie Robinson Foundation

TIMELINE OF THE WORLD

- 1919 — First nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean
takes sixteen hours and twelve minutes
- 1920 — Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution
gives women the right to vote
- 1929 — New York Stock Market crashes
- 1931 — Empire State Building opens in New York City
- 1939 — Germany invades Poland and World War II begins
- 1941 — Japanese planes bomb Pearl Harbor and
US enters World War II
- 1942 — Anne Frank and family go into hiding in Amsterdam
- 1945 — World War II ends
- 1947 — Chuck Yeager pilots first plane to travel
faster than the speed of sound
- 1950 — Korean War begins
- 1955 — Polio vaccine is announced
Disneyland opens in California
- Montgomery Bus Boycott is held to end segregation
- 1961 — John F. Kennedy becomes first Catholic president
- 1964 — Beatlemania hits the US
- 1967 — Thurgood Marshall is appointed to the US Supreme Court,
becoming the first black Supreme Court Justice
- 1968 — Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated
in Memphis, Tennessee
- 1972 — Title IX is signed into law, giving girls and boys equal
opportunities in all school programs, including sports

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*Starred books are for young readers.