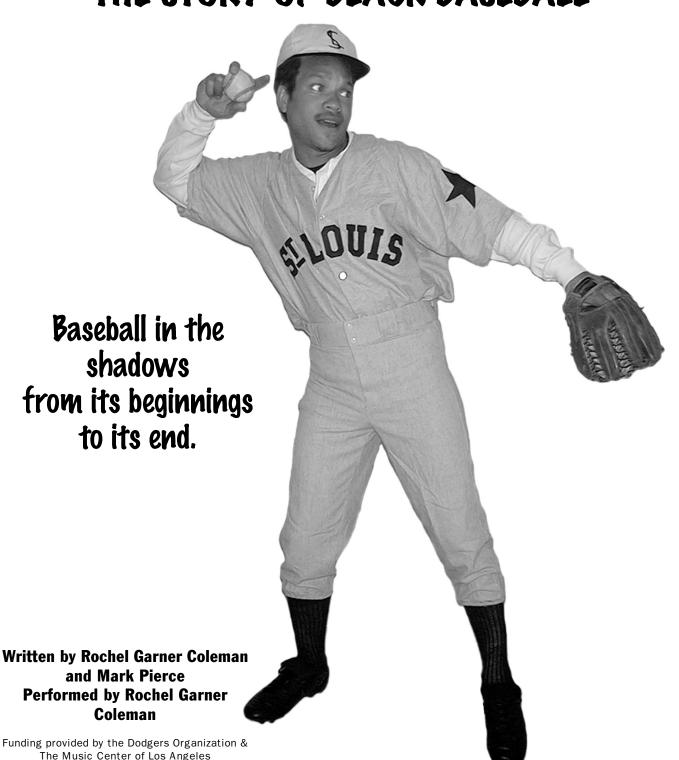
SHADOWBALL:

THE STORY OF BLACK BASEBALL



Funding provided by the Dodgers Organization &

SHADOWBALL: THE STORY OF BLACK BASEBALL

THE PROGRAM

Shadowball is a one man show about Negro Leagues Baseball. Between World War I and II, Americans were adrift in the pain of the Great Depression. Rochel Coleman recreates the life and times of James Thomas "Cool Papa" Bell and the men of the Negro Leagues who strived to overcome perception and economics. Dressed in the uniforms of the times, a changing America comes to life through the journeys of a baseball player on the road.

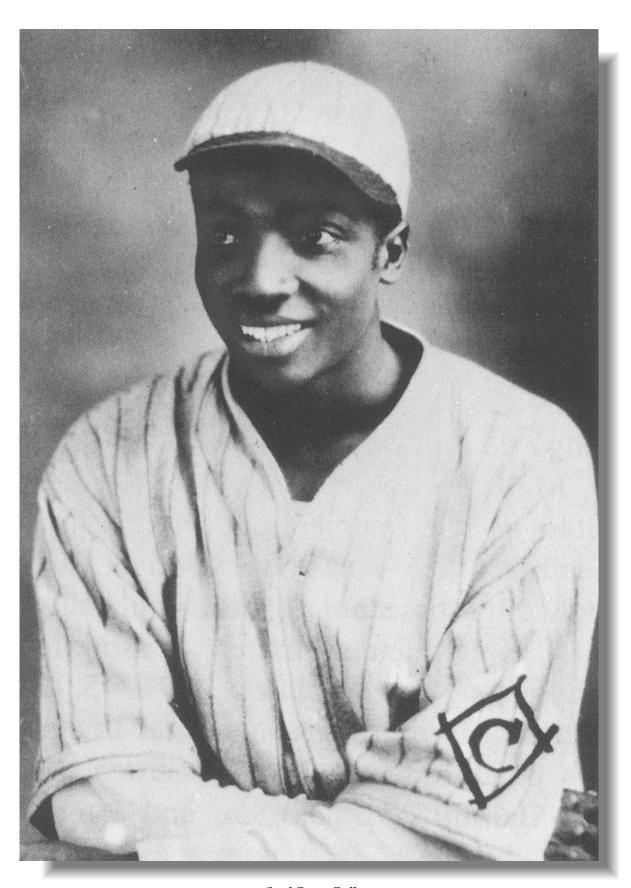
The focus of Mr. Coleman's program is the recreation of a historical character in his pursuit of freedom. Jim Crow segregation's growing rule coupled with economic hardship lead most of America to tighten it's belt. Jobs that had been previously available for blacks were few and far between. Battling these odds, possessing little else than a love for the game and some skills, the young men of the Negro Leagues strived to become a part of America's game.

ABOUT ROCHEL GARNER COLEMAN III

Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, Rochel started singing professionally at the age of nine. With the Men and Boy's Choir of Christ Church Cathedral and then with the Berkshire Boy's Choir, he distinguished himself as a soloist, performing with Pablo Cassals, King's College Choir, and the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood. Opening the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Leonard Bernstein's **Mass**, he had his first taste of acting. He toured

with the show for two years ending the run at Lincoln Center in New York City. Rochel continued to study music and drama at Indiana University and toured several operas under the direction of the Indiana School of Music. Landing the role of Amahl in Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors, he did a national tour for three seasons. From St. Richard's School to Brebeuf Preparatory School, and finally at Colorado College, he continued to have an interest in drama, participating in regional theater productions. Moving to New York City after college, Rochel worked on a number of daytime dramas. When the opportunity came to study at Trinity Repertory Conservatory, he moved to Providence, Rhode Island. Rochel continues to expand his achievements through performing, writing, and directing at theaters and colleges throughout the United States and Europe.

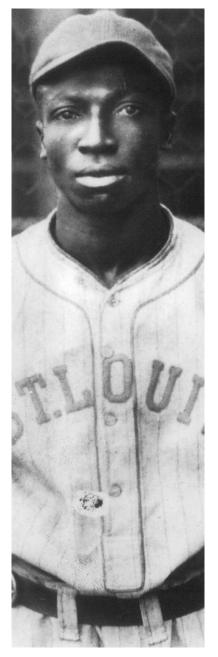




Cool Papa Bell

Shadowball: The Story

James Thomas "Cool Papa" Bell was considered the fastest man ever to play baseball and used his speed and daring to become its foremost base stealer. Born in Starkville, Mississippi, May 17th, 1903, into a farming family of six children, they all helped to cultivate corn and cotton to support their large family. James first played baseball with his four brothers and sister in sandlots around the area. Pitching seemed to come naturally to him and at seventeen the only one around who could touch his knuckle ball was his sister. He also played first base and in the outfield.



Cool Papa Bell

In 1920 with neither jobs in town nor a high school available, James went to St. Louis as his older brothers had, to stay with them and go to high school. In St. Louis, like most of the United States at this time, many companies had baseball clubs. James Thomas worked in a packing plant and played baseball with the Compton Hill Cubs, a semi pro team of the Old City League. At this time semi professional teams were comprised of men who had jobs and practiced as a team and were paid for Sunday games. James Thomas Bell made \$35 - \$40 a week at the packing plant and another \$20 for Sunday games which was more than he could make playing full time ball.

One Sunday after watching James pitch a game, the manager of the East St. Louis Cubs told him that their team needed a relief pitcher and offered the job to James. James had been considering getting out of baseball altogether and working a steady job but with some coaxing he agreed to play one game against the St. Louis Stars, a Negro League team.

The St. Louis Stars were part of the Negro National League concieved by Rube Foster, the father of black baseball. When the Stars saw how young Bell pitched against them, they immediately offered him \$90 a month to play ball and that began his full time professional career as a baseball player.

In his first month out on the road, The Stars noticed how "cool" the nineteen year old played in Indianapolis while striking out Oscar Charleston. In Ft. Wayne and Chicago, he demonstrated experience older than his years. By the time they played in Detroit, Bill Gatewood, the teams manager had added, 'Papa' to 'Cool' to just to make it "sound good".

"Cool Papa" Bell played with the St. Loius Stars for the next nine years, traveling around the country and winning championships in 1928, 1930, and 1931. The end of that final championship game in 1931 tolled the last season of the League and as it crumbled, Bell found himself playing with The Detroit Wolves. Their sister team, The Homestead Grays, fell on hard times. The Wolves were disbanded and members moved to other teams. Some players including "Cool Papa" Bell went

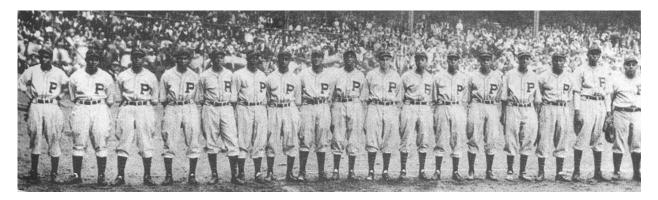
to the Grays but when he was taken off salery for a percentage of the gate, he jumped the team, moved to Kansas City and played for the Monarchs.

After a winter in Mexico, Bell played the 1933 season for the Pittsburgh Crawfords, often called the best team in black baseball. This team boasted Oscar Charleston, Judy Johnson, Josh Gibson, Ted Page, and "Double Duty" Radcliffe. "Cool Papa" Bell stayed with the Crawfords through 1938 and was voted to the all star East-West Game every year that he played in the Negro Leagues since its inception in 1933 through 1944.

Cuba, Mexico, The Dominican Republic, and other Latin American countries were popular winter baseball leagues for black and white players alike. Bell was recognized all over Latin America having spent almost 20 winter seasons there, playing against major leaguers Johnny Allen, Rogers Hornsby, and Steve O'Neill. He also played in the Mexican Baseball League from 1938 - 41.

By far 1937 was his most memorable winter. He and several of the Crawfords' players were convinced by Satchel Paige to come down to the Dominican Republic to play for the Trujillo baseball team. He and the other Negro Leaguers hadn't realized they had been brought down there for political reasons and soon found out that they might be executed unless they won the series. It proved to be one hot winter whose end launched a new black barnstorming team back to American soil known as the Trujillo All Stars.

In 1942 after returning from the Mexican League, Bell played with the Chicago American Giants for a season and then went back to his former team of 11 years prior, The Homestead Grays. From 1943 - 46 he played with The Grays winning the last three of their nine consecutive championships.



"1934 Pittsburgh Crawfords"

When Jackie Robinson stepped out of the dodgers' dugout in 1947, "Cool Papa" Bell was playing for the Detroit Senators. 1948 - 50 found him back in Kansas City with the farm team of the Monarchs, The Kansas City Stars.

The St. Louis Browns made him an offer to play the following season in 1951 at the age of 48 but James Thomas "Cool Papa" Bell declined that offer to scout for them and he continued to do so until the team moved to Baltimore in 1954.

Though "Cool Papa" Bell never played in the major leagues he earned his induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1974 for his distiguished career. He was inducted on the same day with Whitey Ford and Mickey Mantle.

Timelines 1900-1950

- 1900. William McKinley is elected for a second term as president.
- **1901.** McKinley is assassinated and Theodore Roosevelt succeeds him.
- **1903.** Orville and Wilbur Wright fly first powered airplane. Henry Ford opens Ford Motor Co.
- **1904.** Theodore Roosevelt elected President of U.S.
- 1905. 1907 Oklahoma becomes a state.
- **1908.** William Howard Taft is elected President of the U. S.
- **1910.** Boy Scouts are started. Mark Twain and William James die.
- **1912.** The Titanic sinks on its maiden voyage. New Mexico and Arizona become 47th and 48th states. Woodrow Wilson is elected President.
- **1913.** 16th amendment introduces federal income tax. Cubism introduced to U.S.
- **1914.** World War I breaks out in Europe.
- 1915. 1st transcontinental telephone call is made between New York and San Francisco.
- **1916.** Woodrow Wilson reelected President and appoints first Jewish Justice to the Supreme Ct. First Congresswoman is elected.
- **1917.** Congress to declare war on Germany, U.S. enters World War I.

- **1918.** Woodrow Wilson proposes his fourteen points for world peace. The 369th Black infantry is in France.
- **1919.** 18th amendment makes it illegal to sell, produce, or drink alcoholic beverages.
- 1920. Warren Harding elected President.
- **1922.** Investigations begin into the Teapot Dome scandal.
- **1923.** President Harding dies in office and is succeeded by Vice President Calvin Coolidge.
- 1925. Chrysler Corporation is founded. A. Philip Randolph organizes the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.
- **1926.** National Broadcasting Company is set up as a nationwide radio network.
- **1927.** Charles Lindbergh flies the Spirit of St. Louis from N.Y. to Paris in 33.5 hours.
- **1928.** Herbert Hoover is elected President.
- **1929.** Stock Market crash. World economic crisis begins. St. Valentines Day Massacre in Chicago.
- 1930. 1931 Empire State Building completed.
- **1932.** Franklin Delano Roosevelt is elected President promising a "New Deal" for Americans stricken by depression.

- 1935. F.D.R. signs U.S. Social Security Act.
- **1936.** F.D.R. elected to second term in landslide victory.
- **1938.** Orson Wells causes wide spread panic with his radio broadcast of 'War of the Worlds'.
- 1940. Roosevelt elected to unprecedented third term as U.S. President.
- **1941.** Pearl Harbor is attacked and U.S. enters war.
- **1943.** Jitterbug craze sweeps U.S.
- 1945. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt dies in office and Harry Truman assumes the Presidency. U.S. drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- **1947.** Marshal plan announced to help Europe recover from World War II. Jackie Robinson enters Major Leagues.
- **1948.** Democratic nominee Harry Truman upsets favored Republican Thomas E. Dewey.
- **1949.** NATO is formed and new 'Cold War' between Soviets and the Western World.
- 1950. Senator Joseph McCarthy urges congress to restrict communist activity. North Korean forces invade South Korea, beginning the Korean War.

Pre-Performance Activity

Note: Rather than the present day terminology of African American or Black the text uses the terminology common at the time: Colored or Negro.

Discussion Activities

- 1. Discuss the opportunities available for Negroes in the 1920's and thirties under Jim Crow segregation.
- 2. What was life like for the Negro League Baseball players?
 - Compare that to the lives of Major League players.
- 3. How was life different for the Negro community in the North and in the South? What was the Great Migration?
- 4. What was the Harlem Renaissance? How did The Great Depression change life in the United States?
- 5. How did World War II change life in the United States?

Theater Games

- Invent a shadowball routine
- 2. Work out a "deception play" routine.
- 3. Act out a scene in which a Negro League team comes in contact with Jim Crow segregation.
 - (i.e: hotel, restuarant, outskirts of town, locker room.)
- 4. Act out a scene in which ex Negro Leaguers gather and recall some of their experiences.

Vocabulary Words

Slider Negro American League Bill "Bojangles" Robinson

DoubleheaderFord FrickJim CrowCuban LeaguerBarnstormingChicagoEmery ballCivil RightsPullman CarLatin AmericaIntegrationSpitball

Kenesaw Mountain Landis East-West Game Duke Ellington

Branch Rickey Happy Chandler Negro Eastern League Shadowball

Post-Performance Activity

Language Activities

- 1. Discuss words that may be new to students.
- 2. Give an oral review of the program.

Discussion Topics

- 1. Compare the lives of the Negro Leaguers with those of other Negroes of the times.
- 2. Negro Leaguers were role models and reflected what values for the Negro community.

Writing Activities

- 1. Write a report on another hero of the time of your own choosing or pick from those listed below:
 - W.E.B. Dubois, Zora Neale Hurston, Jack Johnson, Leo Pinckney, Meta Vaux Warrick, Paul Robeson, Katherine Dunham, Nolle smith, Marcus Garvey, Mary McCloud Bethune, Ida B. Wells.
- 2. Write a poem or short story about baseball at this time.

Art Activities

- 1. Draw a map of baseball as it expanded from The Civil War through World War II.
- 2. Copile a list of Negro League quotes, players' pictures, and other items and create a collage or sculpture.

Reading Activities

- 1. Research the contributions to baseball by Negro Leaguers.
- 2. Compile a list of Negro League team names. How do these names reflect the times?

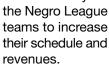
The Negro Leagues

At a time when America dismissed athletes of color, The Negro Leagues were the African American community's remedy for their love of baseball. From the time of the Civil War, the game of baseball raced across the United States becoming the most popular game played in the country.

The first documentation of African Americans playing baseball comes from the collected papers of a slave brought to the front lines of the Civil War by his owner. He learned the game from soldiers he watched playing the sport. Baseball was played in American Colleges by 1880 and team pictures suggest that integrated teams were relatively common. As Jim Crow segregation expanded definitions of white to Celts, Sicilians, and Eastern Europians, it spread its segregationist poison across state boundaries North and South. Negroes were prevented from playing on the same teams with white athletes.

Rube Foster, the father of Black baseball, founded the first Negro League in 1920. He organized some of the best Negro League teams around the country into a body with an interteam council of owners to govern them. Pennant races developed rivalries as the teams traveled from town to town by train or car or bus.

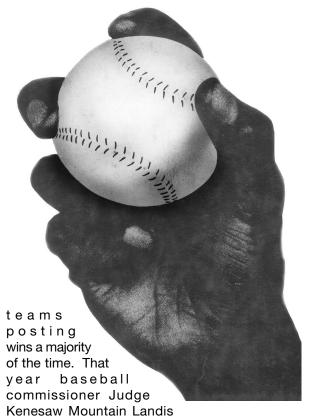
Each town had its own team and sometimes while on the road these professional teams would stop and play a local semi pro team. These games were called barnstorming games and became a way for



Before 1925 sometimes Negro League teams would play major league teams. These games would draw enthusiastic crowds with the Negro League



"Rube Foster"



decreed that "no intact major league

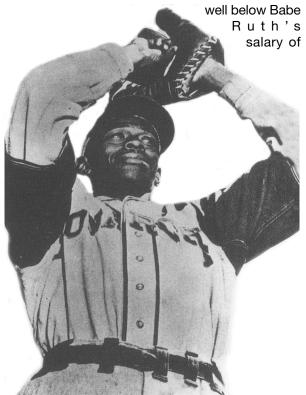
team" could play a Negro League team. Even before this decree racist major league team owners and players had expelled Negro baseball players from their ranks. Men like Charlie Grant attempted to get around this by claiming to be "Chief Tokahoma", an Indian. His charade was only uncovered when the exuberence of his friends in the stands ripped away his mask. The first black professional team was a group of nine waiters from the Argyle Hotel on Long Island, N.Y. The team was bought by Walter Cook and moved to Trenton, New Jersey were their name was changed to the Cuban Giants to conceal their backgrounds. On the field, Cook encouraged his men to speak gibberish that he hoped fans would assume was spanish. These de facto rules kept men like Josh Gibson, Oscar Charleston, and Buck Leonard from competing in the big major league stadiums against their equals: Ruth, Dimaggio, or Rizuto.

In the off season it was a different story. After the regular season many American baseball players of all races went to Latin America to play winter ball. Cuba became a place where black players could test their skills against their white countrymen. Major leaguers like Dizzy Dean returned to the

States telling stories of the Negro Leaguer's skills. Others scare by what they saw came back to America reinforcing the false accusations of an inferior brand of baseball.

Strangely enough though Negro Leaguers like Martin Dihigo were in the Cuban, Mexican, and Dominican Baseball Halls of Fame long before he was posthumously elected to the American Baseball Hall of Fame in 1977.

For all the games and traveling, payday was a welcoming gesture at the end of the week. Salaries differed from team to team and to individual player. In the twenties monthly salaries averaged about \$230.00 and in the depression ridden 1930's salaries fell to about \$170.00. The big name players who attracted the crowds to the fields were paid more. Satchel Paige was salaried \$350.00 a month in 1937 but brought in much more than that in his off days barnstorming. In the early forties Josh Gibson was recognized as the highest paid black baseball player at \$1000.00 a month. Salaries paid to white professional baseball players averaged about \$5000.00 - \$6000.00 per year in the 1920's and reached about \$7000.00 in the 1930's. This was



"Sachel Paige"

\$80,000.00 a year at the same time. Although Negro Leaguer's were paid far less than their white counterparts they were still better off than their black contemporaries outside of baseball. Playing baseball was a way of not washing windows or floors; Of not waiting on tables or working in a stable for \$12.00 to \$15.00 a week.

The long road to the integration of baseball was sparked by the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his "New Deal" politics. The growing political strength of Negroes brought with it a number of significant positions in the national government. By 1941 A. Philip Randolph, President of the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, began to organize and protest many defense industries to hire Negroes. These demonstrations were a major factor in motivating President Roosevelt to sign a executive order forbidding discrimination in hiring in government and defense related industries.

During World War II although most fighting units were segregated, for the first time Blacks en masse were accepted into officer candidate schools, the Air Force, the Marines, and in 1945 integrated fighting units were introduced in Germany.

Basesball was integrated (reintegrated) with the Dodges' signing of Jackie Robinson and by 1949 as Satchel Paige was signed to the Cleveland Indians, few black teams were making money. With the top black players signing to major league teams, attendance at black games dwindled. Fans wanted to see those players who had made it to the majors. Only by selling players to the major league franchises could the Negro League teams stay afloat. When the major league franchises started signing young black players right out of high school, the Negro League teams had no role in developing talent and by 1960 only four teams existed.

Integrating the Major Leagues

Segregation in baseball started to crumble as soon as Branch Rickey became president of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Many people were of the opinion after World War II that since Negroes had proven themselves serving in the war, they were entitled to the full benefits of citizenship. Branch Rickey numbered among those who had for a long time questioned the unwritten agreement that banned Negroes from the major leagues.

On August 28th, 1945, Jackie Robinson was invited to meet with Rickey at the Dodger's offices. Speculation around the offices suggested that Robinson's new contract

would be with the Dodger's organization. It might be to lead the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers. At the meeting Rickey began to describe insults that a Negro would face from racist fans and biased umpires as he attempted to play major league baseball. Branch Rickey played the rolls of a racist waiter to a segregated hotelier. He asked Jackie how he would handle pitchers throwing balls at his head and runners trying to injure him with their spikes. Jackie had seen all this before while playing with the Negro Leagues. The thing that would be different was the intensity and fierceness of it all as "that someone" stepped into the spotlight of national attention.

Robinson asked the Dodgers' General Manager, "Mr. Rickey, do you want a ballplayer who's afraid to fight back?" Rickey pitched, "I want a player with guts enough to not to fight back. You've got to do this job with base hits, stolen bases, and fielding ground balls, Jackie. Nothing else."

Jack Roosevelt Robinson, a shortstop for the Kansas City Monarchs, had been a baseball, football, basketball, and track star at UCLA. Rickey signed Robinson late in 1945 and was sent to Canada's



"1970's photo taken of Branch Ricky, of the Dodgers, and Jackie Robinson at the National Rookie of the Year Awards."

International League where Brooklyn had an all white farm club. The following year Robinson led his team to the pennant and also led the league in batting.

On Tuesday April 15th, 1947, at two o'clock in the afternoon, Jackie Robinson stepped out of the Dodgers' home dugout at Ebbets Field to take his position at first base. He was the first black player in the major leagues though some historians of the game dispute this title.

As soon as it was known that Jackie was a Dodger four of his teammates asked to be traded. Some players said that they would strike rather than play with or against a black man. National League President Ford Frick countered, "I don't care if half the league strikes. Those that do will be suspended and I don't care if it wrecks the league for five years. This is the United States of America and one citizen has as much right to play as another." Resistance quickly collapsed. In his first season with the Dodgers Robinson led the National League in stolen bases and was voted rookie of the year.

Other Negro Leaguers who Crossed the Color Line

Roy Campanella Played catcher, third base, pitcher. "Campy" started playing with the Baltimore Elite Giants at the age of fifteen, learning his trade from Biz Mackey. As a high school student he had

been invited by the Philadelphia Phillies to try out but when they found out he was black the offer was rescinded. In 1945 he was signed by the Dodgers but didn't play in the major leagues until 1948. His career was prematurely shortened by an automobile accident that left him paralyzed.

Monte Irvin Played center field, short stop, third base. He won the Negro National league batting title in 1941 and then after returning from World War II service, he lead the Newark Eagles to the pennant in 1946. As a teenager he overcame a near fatal illness to become an outstanding athlete. He had been Branch Rickey's first choice to integrate the major leagues but while he was in the army Rickey chose Robinson.

Ernie Banks Played short stop. He was discovered by Cool Papa Bell who saw him playing for a black barnstorming team working for \$15.00 a game. Ernie started with the Kansas City Monarchs and entered the Army from 1950 to 1953. After returning from the army he improved his batting average an was discovered by the Chicago Cubs.

Elston Howard Played catcher, outfield, first base. In 1948 at the age of nineteen he started playing for the Kansas City Monarchs. This future New York Yankee star had good hitting power and posted batting averages of .283 and .319. After two years of military service and a couple more in the International League, he spent the next 14 with the Yankees.

Satchel Paige Became legendary in the Negro Leagues and one of the oldest rookie major leaguers ever. Born around 1906, Robert LeRoy Paige began and ended his career in the Negro Leagues. In 1967 Satchel was still playing with the Indianapolis Clowns. A pitcher that many times let his skill speak for him, stories about his performances are a mixture of fact and embellishment.

Hank Aaron Played short stop and started his career with the Indianapolis Clowns. In this legend's 25 year history are 755 homers and a lifetime batting average of .305.

Willie Mays Started his career with the Birmingham Black Barons playing left field in 1948. Willie became known as the "Say Hey Kid" later during his career. He started playing for the New York Giants in 1951 at the age of 21. At the end of his career he had stolen 338 bases.

Hank Thompson

Played second base, out field, short stop. This hard hitting Kansas City Monarch had his ups and downs with the majors before finally playing for the New York Giants. He came from reform school in Dallas to the major leagues and struggled to walk the walk that was expected by the Negro Leagues.

Connie Johnson

Played pitcher and first base. Connie started with the Indianapolis Crawfords and later received more recognition with the Kansas City Monarchs.

Willard Brown

Played center field. Hit the first ever home run by a black in the American League in 1947. The bat belonged to another teammate who broke it rather than allow Brown to use it again.



"Willard Brown"

The Men Who Entered the Majors



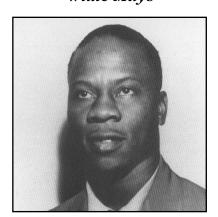
Roy Campanella



Elston Howard



Willie Mays



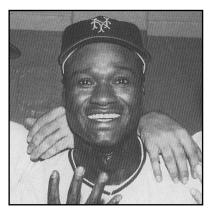
Willard Brown



Monte Irvin



Satchel Paige



Hank Thompson



Ernie Banks



Hank Aaron



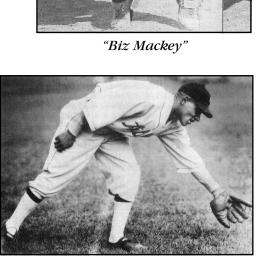
Connie Johnson



Jackie Robinson

Composite of Negro Leaguers





Paul "Country Jake" Stevens

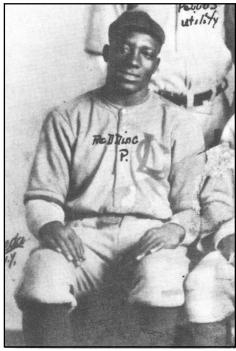




"Bullet Rogan"



"Josh Gibson"



"Cannonball Dick Redding"



"Jobn Lloyd"



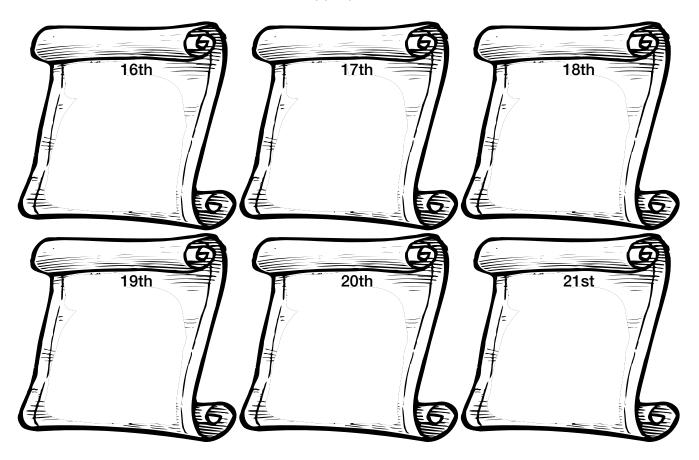
"Louis Santop"



"Jose Mendez"

Amendments to the Constitution

Research and highlight the points made by the amendments to the constitution at this time. Write them on the appropriate scroll.



List the philosophies and inventions that occurred 1900 -1950 beneath the corresponding subject. How did these things affect the United States.

Transportation,	Mechanization,	Industrialization,	Ideology
•			

Use the study guide as well as other sources of information available to you.

WORD FIND puzzle

Words in the puzzle may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal (forwards or backwards). Circle each word in the puzzle as you find them.

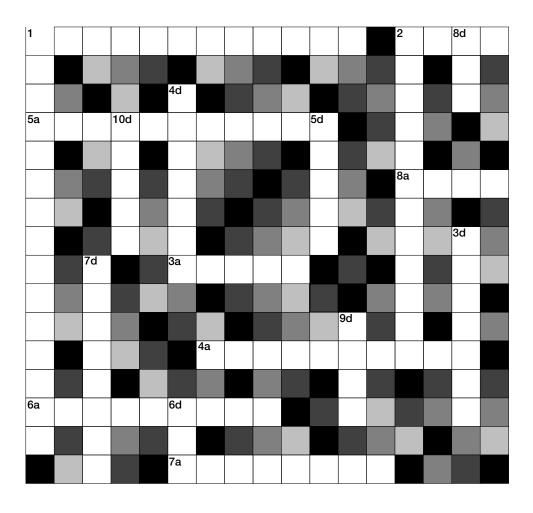
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Ε	В	0	J	A	N	G	L	Ε	S	Ε	В	Ε	G	Ε	Н	Ε	Ε	R	Ε	Ε	Ν	Ε
Ε	M	Ε	R	I	C	A	Ε	C	Ε	Ε	A	S	T	W	Ε	S	T	G	A	M	Ε	Ε

Slider
Doubleheader
Cuban Leaguer
Emery ball
Latin America
Kenesaw
Branch Rickey

Negro
Ford Frick
Barnstorming
Civil Rights
Shadowball
East-West Game
Happy Chandler

Bojangles
Jim Crow
Chicago
Pullman Car
Spitball
Duke Ellington
Integration

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



Down

- 1. Rival of Gus Greenlee; Owner of the Grays.
- 2. Entered the major leagues under the name of "Chief Tokahoma".
- 3. Slang term for segregation at this time.
- 4. Teammates said he was so "Country" that his breath smelled like cord wood. Last name.
- 5. Term used to descibe African Americans at this time.
- 6. At first Negro League teams traveled by train, then by car, and then finally by _____?
- 7. Famous Negro All-star Game in which players were elected by fans.
- 8. Catcher Macky; famous for giving opposing teams "The business". First name only.
- 9. The most famous black Babe Ruth. First name only.
- 10. Last name of home run hitter and short stop called "Pop".

Across

- 1. The nickname of James Thomas Bell earned on his first road trip.
- 2. Country where black and white American baseball players were on the same team.
- 3. Major league ball centered around the longball or the hit. Negro League ball centered around s____.
- 4. Father of black baseball.
- 5. Negro Leaguer, fast as a speeding _____, which became his nickname.
- 6. A ball pitched with a filed down blemish.
- 7. Games played outside the normal league rosters were called barn_____ games.
- 8. Abreviation for town which hosted five Negro League teams from 1913-1967 and is also famous for a 500 mile race.

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