

EDITORIAL

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To Be Equal A Bountiful Legacy

By HUGH B. PRICE

**PRESIDENT
NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE**

The moment of meeting Jackie Robinson, baseball Hall of Famer, American icon, remains etched in my memory as if it occurred yesterday, not way back in the early 1950s. I don't need to look at the black-and-white picture I have of an awe-struck nine-year-old beside whom the Brooklyn Dodger star stands with an arm round his shoulders and a smile for the camera. Nonetheless, that picture continues to occupy a place of honor in my home.

It does so because Jackie Robinson was not just a wondrous athlete. He was a wondrous individual. He's not some star we should put away on a pedestal as the fiftieth-anniversary year of his breaking baseball's color barrier draws to a close. He is a man whom we should rightly think of as standing next to us, with an arm about our shoulders, offering us encouragement.

That's part of the message I've gotten from Arnold Rampersad's masterful book, Jackie Robinson: A Biography. Published last fall, this book, together with those published in 1996 by Robinson's wife, Rachel Robinson, (Jackie Robinson: An Intimate Portrait,) and his daughter, Sharon Robinson, (Stealing Home: An Intimate Family Portrait by the daughter of Jackie Robinson), Jackie Robinson than just the physical ability teammates, opponents and fans marveled at.

They tell us why it is that Jackie Robinson's name resounds in twentieth-century American history: he took after his mama.

By that I mean that, beyond the baseball statistics and feat of derring-do, Jackie Robinson's character is

really the reason he is so celebrated today.

It was his character--bolstered by the decency, and desire to win games, of Branch Rickey, the Dodgers' general manager who signed him, and some of his teammates--which enabled him to endure the vicious taunts and threats of opposing players and fans and press on.

That fortitude came from his mother, Mallie McGriff Robinson. She made it possible for Jackie Robinson to have a future in which achievement could be a possibility.

Mallie Robinson, who lived from 1892 to 1968, was an African-American Everywoman. Born near Cairo, Georgia, her formal education stopped at the sixth grade. She married for love, and it turned out to be a bad match. Her husband was an illiterate sharecropper--the kind of farming which, as Rampersad pungently observes, "smelled like slavery." He was bent so low by the burden of oppression that after ten years of marriage and five children with Mallie, he snapped. He deserted his family. They never saw him again.

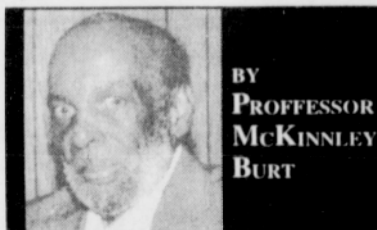
Mallie, taking the advice of a half-brother who had moved to Pasadena, California some years before, left Georgia in the spring of 1920 with her children--Edgar, Mack, Frank, Willa Mae, and Jack, then, little more than a year old--for that Los Angeles suburb.

Pasadena was not the Promised Land; racism was intensifying there, too. But there was more opportunity; and that degree of difference between California and southern Georgia was all Mallie Robinson needed to buy, on a domestic's salary, a spacious home and fashion a decent life for herself and her children.

Look For Martin Luther King, Jr. Issue Next Week In

The Portland Observer

p e r s p e c t i v e s



BY
PROFESSOR
MCKINLEY
BURT

The Best Of The Year?

Well, we don't know about all of that, but it is the case that recently there have been a number of requests for the particular Portland Observer articles of mine listed here. It may be that Black History Month is on the horizon, or just preparation for the balance of the school year.

I am submitting a partial list of those "most-requested" items, with the hope that the following process will facilitate the needs of teachers, students, history buffs and the general readership. For photo copies of any three articles of choice, send \$3.95 check or money order to cover handling and postage: McKinley Burt, 1635 N.E. Alberta, Portland, OR 97211.

A. "The Truth About Black labor [and brains]," (8/20/97).
The story of the Coleman Manufacturing Co, a huge black-owned linen mill and clothing firm set up in North Carolina just

before the turn of the century. Thoroughly documented account is a revelation of African American capabilities and motivations, though only recently freed from chattel slavery. Sets one to wonder 'just what did happen back there' to cut off black progress?
B. "The North Will Rise Again" (11/6/97)
C. "The North Will Rise Again; cont'd (11/12/97)

These two articles provide an excellent 'real' model for the research and design of medium-size community business operations (the actual experience of the author). This is an account of an attempt to implement an "Institutional Food Supply" firm in the 'Old Masonic Temple Building', N.W. Corner of N.E. Alberta at 19th.

D. "Who Told You That You Were Naked, Part II" (12/18/96)
This time a much older model of business enterprise in the Northeast Community; the story of the black railroad workers who

pooled their salaries to build the real estate and business structure that served black people so well until the "Urban Renewal program" destroyed it. Critical of Dr. Carter G. Woodson's "miseducated."

E. "That Good Summer Reading III" (8/13/97)

This article gives a new perspective to the role of African American Seaman and naval officers in the commercial and military operations of this nation--beginning with the Revolutionary War ("Old Ironsides" crew). Excellent available documentation cited. F. "Oregon's Black Smoke Jumpers" (9/20/97)

This was an extremely interesting story of a combination U.S. Military and U.S. Forest Service Operation during World War II--and with a Northwest background. This previously-hidden role of the "555th Parachute Battalion" (Triple Nickels) was based at Pendleton, Oregon.

Later, while contracting with

the Forest Service in a 'diversity program', I met the son of one of these soldiers; I described his helicopter firm in Spokane, Washington.

G. "How Gifted And Dedicated Were Our Beautiful Sisters" (8/27/97)

The title of this article says it all as we detail the illustrious careers of two notable African American women at the turn of the century (1890's). We have Dr. Halle Tanner Johnson, "the first lady, white or colored to receive a certificate to practice medicine in the State of Alabama."

Our second woman of accomplishment is 'Miss Hattie A. Gibbs' who entered the Oberlin Conservatory of Music at age 11. One of ten black students out of a total of five hundred, she excelled in piano, pipe organ, violin and harmony.

Later, founded a conservatory of music of her own (striking photos).

Sore Throat By Mark Thompson, MD

During the fall and winter months, sore throat is one of the most common reasons for people to visit their doctor according to Mark Thompson, MD, a family physician at Providence Family Medicine - North Portland. Almost all patients with any sort of head or chest cold will have a dry, "scratchy" or painful throat at some point during their illness.

Sore throat (also known as "pharyngitis") is most often caused by one of a variety of different viruses, but can also be caused by a bacteria named Streptococcus pyogenes (Group A Strep). If a friend or family member has a sore throat, you may be able to see some of the signs of that infection. Redness, swelling, and blisters may all appear in the back of the throat,

and a thick white-colored film may be found on the tonsils.

Although there is no medicine to cure those sore throats caused by viruses, penicillin is extremely effective against the streptococcus bacteria. Penicillin should be an important part of the treatment of any Strep Throat infection for two reasons. First of all, if your sore throat is caused by Strep, then you will probably start to feel better more quickly if you are taking the antibiotics. Secondly, untreated Strep Throat can occasionally progress to more serious infections such as an abscess, ear infection, sinusitis or pneumonia, and it may more rarely lead to "Acute Rheumatic Fever", an illness that can cause permanent heart disease.

When you visit your doctor's

office for a sore throat, he or she will check you for evidence of infection with the Streptococcus bacteria. They may need to perform one or two simple tests. If Strep is found, they will prescribe antibiotics that must be taken for a full ten days to help clear your infection and prevent it rare complications. If no Strep is found, then a virus has caused your sore throat, and antibiotics will not help.

You might wonder why doctors do not treat all patients with sore throats with penicillin. If the sore throat is caused by a virus, it will not be cured by any medicine, and the antibiotics may cause more harm than benefit. "Minor" side effects from the penicillin such as nausea, diarrhea, and yeast infections may only leave you feeling

worse than before you started the medicine.

Whether your doctor has decided that your sore throat is caused by Strep or not, there are other things that you can do for relief during the illness. It is important to drink plenty of fluids and to eat when you feel able to. Resting will help you save your strength. Salt water gargles (one teaspoon of salt per cup of warm water) can help soothe your throat, and pain relievers such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen are often helpful.

Mark Thompson, MD, is a family physician practicing at Providence Family Medicine North Portland. Anyone with questions or concerns can contact the office at (503) 285-7953.



Letter To The Editor

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