

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bobby Robinson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Robinson, Bobby, 1903-2002
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bobby Robinson,
Dates:	September 22, 2001
Bulk Dates:	2001
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:21:46).
Abstract:	Baseball player Bobby Robinson (1903 - 2002) played in the Negro Leagues for eighteen years and is considered to be one of the game's greatest third basemen. Robinson grew up in Whistler, a town outside of Mobile, Alabama, with fellow Negro League baseball player, Satchel Paige and Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe. Robinson is particularly well known for his stellar defensive play, earning him the nickname "The Human Vacuum Cleaner". Robinson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 22, 2001, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2001_066
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Legendary third baseman Bobby Robinson was born on October 25, 1903. He grew up in Whistler, a town outside of Mobile, Alabama, with fellow Negro League baseball player, Satchel Paige and Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe.

Robinson was scouted for the Negro League while playing baseball with the semi-professional Pensacola Giants. The Giants made a trip to Birmingham, Alabama, when a scout who had been watching him for several weeks approached Robinson. The scout offered Robinson a contract to play professionally with the Indianapolis ABC's. Robinson accepted the offer, but instead of joining the team mid-season, waited until the next season's spring training to start.

Robinson made his Negro League debut in 1925. Over the course of his eighteen-year career, Robinson played with eleven Negro League teams including the Birmingham Black Barons, the Chicago American Giants, and the Memphis Red Sox. During those years Robinson also played against many of the best Major League players. Robinson is particularly well known for his stellar defensive play, earning him the nickname "The Human Vacuum Cleaner". He is considered by many to be one of the greatest third basemen to ever play the game. Robinson retired from baseball in 1942.

Robinson lived in Chicago, Illinois, until his death on May 17, 2002.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Bobby Robinson was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on September 22, 2001, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Baseball player Bobby Robinson (1903 - 2002) played in the Negro Leagues for eighteen years and is considered to be one of the game's greatest third basemen. Robinson grew up in Whistler, a town outside of Mobile, Alabama, with fellow Negro League baseball player, Satchel Paige and Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe. Robinson is particularly well known for his stellar defensive play, earning him the nickname "The Human Vacuum Cleaner".

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Robinson, Bobby, 1903-2002

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Robinson, Bobby, 1903-2002--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Negro American League

Occupations:

Baseball Player

HistoryMakers® Category:

SportsMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bobby Robinson, September 22, 2001. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 6/7/2022 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Bobby Robinson, Section A2001_066_001_001, TRT: 0:30:56
2001/09/22

Negro league baseball star Bobby Robinson recalls growing up outside of Mobile, Alabama, where he loved to swim and play baseball. He describes how talent scouts recognized his baseball talents early in life, and how he was signed to play for the Pensacola Giants of the Negro Leagues. Robinson also talks about playing for the Indianapolis ABCs.

Video Oral History Interview with Bobby Robinson, Section A2001_066_001_002, TRT: 0:30:35
2001/09/22

Negro league baseball star Bobby Robinson shares stories of his playing days, recalling the personalities of many of his teammates and opponents. Robinson tells the story of his most famous play, a barehanded triple play, and explains how he learned to hit a curveball. Robinson then discusses life on the road, where he experienced racial discrimination. He also talks about a surrogate family he lived with while playing for the Memphis Red Sox.

Video Oral History Interview with Bobby Robinson, Section A2001_066_001_003, TRT: 0:31:10
2001/09/22

Negro league baseball star Bobby Robinson shares more stories of his playing days, including his barnstorming trips to Cuba and Mexico, his mentors, and the exhibitions all-black teams would play against the all-white major league teams. Robinson recalls more of his teammates and opponents and reflects on his baseball career.

Video Oral History Interview with Bobby Robinson, Section A2001_066_001_004, TRT: 0:28:35
2001/09/22

Negro league baseball star Bobby Robinson discusses his life after baseball, including his family, moving to Chicago, and starting a second career as a bricklayer, which he pursued for fifty years. Robinson reflects on his life and career, discussing the importance of the Negro leagues.

Video Oral History Interview with Bobby Robinson, Section A2001_066_001_005, TRT: 0:20:30
2001/09/22