

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dennis Biddle

PERSON

Biddle, Dennis

Alternative Names: Dennis Biddle; Bose Biddle;

Life Dates: June 24, 1935-

Place of Birth: Magnolia, Arkansas, USA

Residence: Milwaukee, WI

Occupations: Baseball Player

Biographical Note

Retired social worker and former Negro League Baseball player Dennis "Bose" Biddle was born on June 24, 1935, in Magnolia, Arkansas.

Biddle's career in baseball began in 1953 when he was seventeen years old. He was playing in the state championship in Arkansas for the National Farmers' Association. A scout and booking agent for the Negro League Chicago American Giants saw him pitch a no-hitter in the championship and asked him if he would like to try out with the Chicago American Giants. Biddle played for the Chicago American Giants in 1953 and 1954. Because he was only seventeen years old when he played, Biddle was entered into the Congressional Record as the youngest person to play in the Negro baseball leagues. In 1955, the Chicago Cubs were interested in purchasing his contract from the Chicago American Giants. Unfortunately, on the first day of spring training, Biddle jammed his leg and broke his ankle in two places while sliding into third base. The injury never fully healed and Biddle's baseball career ended.

At the age of twenty-two, Biddle went back to school in 1958. He received his B.A. degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin. Biddle worked for the next twenty-four years with the State of Wisconsin as a social worker in the corrections system. After retiring from the corrections system, he began working for a social service agency in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, called Career Youth Development (C.Y.D.). In this capacity, he continues to work with underprivileged youth and juvenile offenders.

In 1996, Biddle founded the organization, Yesterday's Negro League Baseball Players LLC to support the surviving members of the Negro League baseball teams and defend their economic interests.

Biddle was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 18, 2008.

Related Entries

Magnolia High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

State of Wisconsin [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Social Worker

Career Youth Development [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Social Worker

Yesterday's Negro League Baseball Players [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

President

Chicago American Giants [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1953 to 1954]

Pitcher