Entertainment

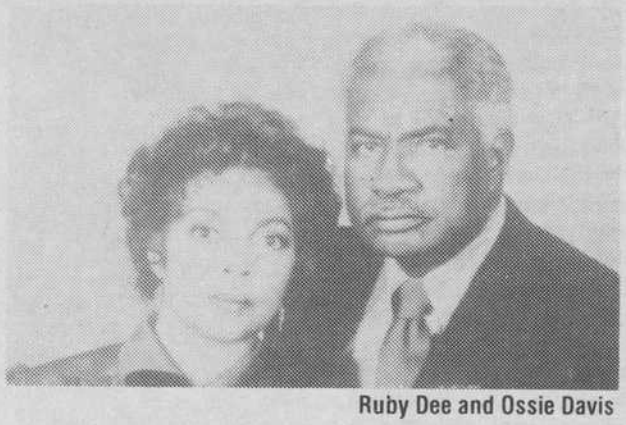
BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

JACKIE ROBINSON'S DIAMOND SAGA IS STILL SHINING.

Daytona Beach, Fla.:-- The late Jackie Robinson's accomplishments on the green growth of the baseball diamonds continue to shine. In fact so bright, he is still not without honor in his hoetown and afar. Perhaps this vacation targeted ocean city, once a "non equality" white haven of signs, "whites" here and "coloreds" there, noticeably those which separated the races, since Robinson touched its watery shores, has become converted and acceptable of the full measures of democracy. However, this scribe is still convinced that "mr. charlie" isn't ready to give his daughter's hand in marriage to any of us, as he's still not convinced that the vast number of us would prefer a Lena Horne, Eartha Kitt, or Whitney Houston types, to say nothing of the current "Miss America." On the other side of logic, Daytona was selected as Robinson's headquarters because of the power and respect accorded the late Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of the college, in her name. Returning for the first time since the spring 44 years ago, Rachel Robinson found the trip vastly different. Instead of being plane bounced and shifted to the back of the bus for the final leg of the journey, she and her travelling companion, Betty Adams, president of the Jackie Robinson Foundation, were jet upgraded and pomp and ceremony media greeted upon landing here. "It feels strange being here after all these years," she said. She further iterated that even those who are familiar with the stirring story of Jackie's triumph over racism were probably not aware how close the great experiment to erase major league baseball's racism came to failure in those trying days. Recalling coming here just three days after her wedding told of the bus trip from Pensacola after again being plane bounced. "The bus driver told her husband to move to the back of the bus. Jackie had always been assertive, but he meekly got up and moved to the back of the bus..."I saw," she said, "how tradition reduced my man to a boy." She further stated that returning after 44 years has given her a fresh perspective and encouragement about the possibility for progress. "This has been a very unique and moving experience for me. Though I am one of these people who never come back. I'm happy I did. I love the statue."

The Jackie Robinson statue idea here is the brain child of Bill Schumann, perhaps one of the best known radio commentators in the Florida broadcast arena. His allegiance to Jackie Robinson was oddly enough nurtured by his grandmother, who was a staunch fan. To show his continuing love and respect for what he called one of democracy's foremost human beings, he started what has developed into one of this city's shining hours, "The Jackie Robinson Statue" marking the entrance to the Jackie Robinson Baseball Park.

NEWS NOTES: -- The unsettled situation on Liberia is hurting Jim Cuffee's foreign bank balance. In real estate and goods his account could well be million high...Film maker Bill Greaves is developing a new format that could mean expansion in the make believe arts...The time is now for all sepia artists to come to the aid of African-American Guild of Performing Artists. Check out Fred O'Neal, Dick Campbell, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Rosetta LeNoire, Honi Coles, or this scribe...It's high time a B'Way theatre is named in honor of Ethel Waters, Josephine Baker, Paul Robeson, Sammy Davis, Jr., Marian Anderson, or Lena Horne...The naming of a street after Sammy Davis, Jr. attracted his mom, Elvera "Baby Sanchez" Davis and sister, Ramona, to Chi-town for the ceremonies. Maybe Mayor Dinkins should follow suit. After all Sammy was a New Yorker by birth....Karl Hofer, general manager of the just completed Japanese owned Rihga Royal Hotel, voiced his disapproval on the recent derogatiry remarks of Japan's Justice Minister Seiroku. He likened the deterioration by prostitutes of Tokyo's neighborhoods to the effects of the racial integration of U.S. neighborhoods.



Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis

CONVERSATION ROWE: -- The Rev. Jesse Jackson scored again. His teevee debut on the plight of the American Indian has aroused the silent ones who allow evil to thrive. How come the producers allowed the interview to sneak up on the tube viewers? They must be on the side of the status-quo...Geneva Hudson, owner of New Rochelle's Elimu Book Store, is gung-ho for Calvin Walton, who switched from the Democrats to the Republicans, to run for State Assembly. She didn't flinch when several party members reneged when time arrived to put up some cash. She just dug deeper into her pocketbook...Jeffrey Richards, praise agent, is using his best adjectives to describe "Theme and Variation." Moscow audiences laid it on the line during the past decade for "Theme and Variation." By all that, you know it's coming to our town.

Rev. Jesse Jackson

END NOTES:-- The distinguished Jackie Robinson Statue Committee included: J. Saxton Lloyd (Honorary Chairman), Mayor Lawrence J. Kelly, Jr. (Honorary Vice Chairman), Dr. Richard V. Moore (Chairman), Senator Edgar M. Dunn, Jr., Mrs. Janet Hamer (Secy.), Mrs. Fran Worthen (Asst. Secy.), Mr. Bill Schumann (Treasurer), Rev. Ernest C. Cook, Sr. (Chaplain), Mr. Jay Adams, Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, Mr. William Faust, Mr. Donald Karshan, Dr. James E. Huger, Dr. Rabie J. Gainous, Dr. Carl Lentz, Mr. Robert Lloyd, Mr. Robert D. May, Dr. Sarah H. Pappas, Mr. Joseph C. Petrock, Mr. Glenn Ritchey, Mrs. LeRosa H. Smith, Mr. Herbert Sussman, General Kenneth Tallman, Mr. George Thune, Mr. Al Williams, Mr. Charles S. Johnson, Mr. George Engram, Sr., and Suzanne Keuhn. The city of Daytona Beach will take care of the maintenance to keep the statue ever glowing...Hey, Arsenio Hall, why don't you come home sometimes? The African-American Guild of Performing Artists, Inc. could sure use your help...What journalist has Jack "The Rapper" Gibson so teed off that we came out punching in his nationally "write" hand manner? The Toro Poo Poo, as he was say, deals with an alleged sub of

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