

Otey Clark interview

Interview done by Bill Nowlin on September 24, 2003

BN: You came from Boscobel, Wisconsin?

OC: Yes. This is where the Gideon Bible was formed. Every place, whenever I went in a hotel, I would look and there was always a Gideon Bible there. Not as much anymore.

I was a fan of the Cubs. We were a fan of the Cubs from here. When I got in high school, I got more into it. I never got beat in a baseball game pitching for high school here. Never lost a game. I played freshman, four years, straight through. Then I started pitching for a semi-pro club, I guess it was, more or less, about 22 miles from here. I pitched there during the summer while I was still in high school and I won 43 and lost 3 over three years.

We were in LaCrosse playing the Heilemann Brewing Company with this team and a Minneapolis Millers scout asked me if he could talk to me that fall when the ball season was over and he did, and I signed a contract. Konetchy. He was a scout for the Minneapolis Millers, and then that fall, the reason I talked to him is because he was going to manage the LaCrosse team in Wisconsin, Class D that fall. And so I went there with him and pitched my first year for LaCrosse in the Wisconsin State League.

And then the Millers sent me to Eau Claire in the Northern League the next year.

BN: What was Mr. Konetchy's first name? Do you recall?

OC: Jim, I think. I think it was Jim Konetchy. Yeah. [In a later follow-up interview, he confirmed that this was really Big Ed Konetchy.] My second year I was with Eau Claire in the Northern League. Rosy Ryan was my manager. The third year, I trained with the Millers. They took me to spring training in New Braunfels, Texas. We come back through Dallas and Fort Worth, and we played Fort Worth there coming north, and they left three of us there with the Fort Worth club. So I spent the '42 season with the Fort Worth club and Rogers Hornsby was my manager.

BN: That's a good manager.

OC: Yeah, well, he was a terrific ballplayer. He hated pitchers. And maybe even his own pitchers, I don't know, but he didn't like pitchers. He was a great man for hitters and so forth. Anyway, that was '42. Then '43, I made the big club which was the Minneapolis Millers. I pitched there in '43 and half of '44 and they sold me to the Boston Red Sox and I ended up with Louisville the rest of that season. That was the Boston Red Sox farm club. The Triple A club.

I pitched for them the rest of 1944 and part of '45, and then they called me to the big leagues.

BN: In '45, looking at your record, you actually started in Boston and then went back to Louisville for most of the year.

OC: Yes. We came from spring training and stayed there a little while, three or four of us, and then they sent us to Louisville.

BN: But you actually appeared in the very first game of the season. April 17, 1945. But you were never intended to stay there?

OC: I don't know. There was some guys coming back from service and so forth, you know, in those days. I guess I wasn't quite ready for it, or whatever, so they sent me back to Louisville.

BN: Were you up for about a week or something like that?

OC: I assume that was it, yes. We were in Boston for...well, we got there earlier and we played the Braves and so forth back and forth for a few days.

BN: The City Series.

OC: Yeah. And then we had a guy come in...when we got back to Boston, there was news in the paper, like the *Christian Science Monitor* and stuff, there was a university student in town, college student in town. A very good baseball player and the Boston Red Sox should give him a look-and-see, see if he was a good enough ballplayer to play pro. His name was Jackie Robinson. So we did it. I happened to be...I had good control, so Joe Cronin asked me to pitch batting practice to this kid, and I did, and he hit the ball all over Fenway Park.

BN: Was this the famous tryout with him and Sam Jethroe?

OC: Yes.

BN: And Marvin Williams, I guess?

OC: Anyway, he hit the ball all over the ballpark, but then they worked him out at shortstop, of course. That's where he played in college. And I felt that he couldn't throw from over in the hole by third base. He didn't have quite that arm. And I said so the next morning to the press, and Joe Cronin said he'd never make it. (laughs)

Anyway, I went to Louisville, then. Louisville won the American Association, we did, at Louisville. And Montreal won the pennant at the International League. We played in the little world series that year and when we faced Montreal, Jackie Robinson was playing second base.

BN: Did he remember you?

OC: Yes. We just said hello, yeah.

BN: There's a famous incident that you probably heard about that supposedly occurred during that tryout, where someone yelled a racist comment onto the field, to get him off the field.

OC: Yeah.

BN: Did you hear that, or hear about it?

OC: I heard about it, yeah. I didn't pay any attention to it in them days.

BN: I just wonder if you might have had any idea who might have yelled that.

OC: No, I don't.

BN: Some people think it was Cronin, some people think it was Tom Yawkey and some people think it might have been somebody like Mike Higgins or Eddie Collins.

OC: It could have been any of them, I guess. It wasn't Cronin, I'm sure. He was back of me giving me the balls to throw to....He took the sack of batting practice balls out behind, and he would tell me, you know, lower or higher or in here or there. It didn't make any difference.

BN: Were you pitching from behind a screen or were you just pitching from the mound?

OC: No, I was just pitching from the mound. We did in those days. We had no screen.

BN: So he was telling you where to throw the pitches.

OC: Yes, and I had good control. Just batting practice speed, not trying to strike anybody out or anything.

BN: As far as you could tell, was he giving it a sincere effort? Joe Cronin?

OC: Yes, I think so. You know, if he would have wanted him [Robinson] to be better, he would have just let me throw it down the center, or if he would have wanted him to be worse, put a little more on it or take a little off or something like that. But it was just a batting practice thing.

BN: In Boston baseball, they were the last team to have a black player.

OC: Yes.

BN: I'm from Boston and there's always been controversy - I'm in Boston now - there's always been controversy about that tryout, as to whether it was kind of a sham that they just did for political reasons....

OC: I have no idea.

BN: But as far as you could tell, Cronin was doing it half-heartedly. He gave it a sincere....

OC: I think he did. He really appeared that way to me.

BN: Well, it might have been somebody else.

OC: It was somebody maybe even higher.

BN: It might have been. Who knows? It's very interesting that you had that experience. Ted Williams... you mentioned Hornsby...he used to hate pitchers, too. He also played against Jackie Robinson way back in the 30s, in Southern California where they both grew up.

OC: Southern California, yup.

BN: You were up for a few days, because you had that brief appearance on Opening Day where you pitched, what, an inning and two-thirds...

OC: Yes, I think so.

BN: You came into a game that Rex Cecil was pitching.

OC: He was our starter, yes.

BN: He was cruising nicely in the game...he'd given up one run in six innings but all of a sudden, 7 runs in the 7th inning. So I guess they brought you in and you shut them down. You didn't give up any hits.

OC: Yes.

BN: You ended the game.

OC: I think so, yes.

BN: They lost the game but, yeah, you finished up the game without giving up a hit. But then they didn't try you again for a while, as far as I can tell.

OC: No. I think shortly after that, Jim Wilson and myself and a couple of other guys were sent to Louisville.

BN: They probably intended that all along.

OC: Probably. It's all mapped out.

BN: Did the season start later in Louisville?

OC: Yes. Just a few days.

BN: So that might have been what happened. You came up, they gave you a look, but then gave you the full season [at Louisville] but by early August, you were back sometime, August 12 or so, you came back up to Boston. How had you done at Louisville?

OC: I forget the record but we done real well. I think I was 14-7 or something like that.

BN: They had Dave Ferriss, who was having a tremendous year...

OC: Oh, he was a good pitcher. Boo.

BN: But they could always use more help. They could probably use your help today sometime!

OC: They won last night, though. It was a nail-biter, wasn't it? They were behind and then they tied it.

BN: I had a question about your nickname, because I was told it was misspelled in all the books.

OC: It was misspelled - O-T-I-E, they did. when they printed books. My nickname is O-T-E-Y, which is Otey. My middle name is Otis. They would never call you Otis, I guess. It was always Otey.

BN: But you always spelled it Otey?

OC: Yes.

BN: Was it a name that was used in the family? Did you parents call you Otey?

OC: Yes.

BN: And if your mom or dad...I don't know how long they lived, but if they were to write you a note or something, that's the way they would spell it?

OC: That's the way they'd spell it.

BN: So someone just made the assumption....

OC: Yes, when you hear the name, then you spell it...I've even seen it spelled O-D-I-E.

BN: Well, we'll try to see if we can get that corrected, in time. I would have normally spelled it O-T-I-E myself, if I had just heard it. So it's good to know what the real name was.

When you joined the team, then, in Boston - it wasn't that great a season, but it was well underway when you came along.

OC: Yes.

BN: Your first start was the 12th of August, I guess.

OC: In Chicago, I think.

BN: In Cleveland.

OC: Cleveland, right. Boudreau, yeah. That's right.

BN: Pete Center was pitching for the other team. He had a better day than you did.

OC: Yeah, right. The next one was Chicago, I think.

BN: Tell me what you thought about joining that group of guys. You had done spring training with the Red Sox that year?

OC: Yes.

BN: Which was in Pleasantville, New Jersey, I guess, in '45.

OC: Yes. In '44, I was with Minneapolis in spring training. We took spring training in Terre Haute, Indiana.

BN: So you met the whole team at spring training.

OC: I knew the whole team, yes.

BN: How were the different players? Who do you remember?

OC: There were...they were a good bunch of guys, sure. They were all white boys, you know. We got along real well.

BN: During the course of the year, as you mentioned, some people started coming back from the service. Just about the time you joined the team again, the war was ending. The atomic bombs were August 6 and you had your first start on the 12th. Was it a concern for a lot of you guys who had just made the team, that "Oh jeez, we might not have this position next year, because, you know, people were coming back.

OC: I don't think we felt that way, no. If they deserved it, they'd be there.

BN: I don't mean that you held anything against them, but just you wondered where you'd be next year.

OC: Oh, you were going to be someplace....

BN: Because throughout industry, people were coming back to jobs - not just baseball. But people like Johnny Lazor and Eddie Lake and so forth, they were having their chance and then they sort of got...replaced. Johnny Lazor just passed away a few months ago.

OC: Did he? I get the thing once a year. I think he lived in Washington state.

BN: Do the Red Sox keep in touch with you? Are you on their alumni mailing list or anything?

OC: Not really, no. I belong to the baseball alumni, and I get that news all the time.

BN: But the Red Sox, you don't hear from them once a year?

OC: No.

BN: How was your experience with Cronin, then, as a manager, once you got up to Boston?

OC: It was fine. It was fine.

BN: He was a good guy?

OC: Yeah.

BN: He used you appropriately.

OC: Mm hmm.

BN: You didn't do badly. You did, by today's standards, extremely well. 3.07 earned run average, you'd be getting several million dollars a year these days.

OC: Yeah, that's right.

BN: I don't know, just too many guys coming back the next year? What happened in 1946?

OC: Well, I could explain a little bit. I shouldn't say this, maybe, but like when we were in spring training.

BN: In '46?

OC: Yeah. In Sarasota. We took a bus over to...31 of us took a bus over to St. Petersburg, to play the Yankees in the spring training. We got pretty close to where we were going to play, and Cronin said to the bussie, he said, "You stop here at the Catholic church. Some of us want to stop there, and we'll meet you at the hotel." It was walking distance. 28 of them got off the bus, and I was one of them that didn't. (laughs)

BN: He wanted you to go to church with him?

OC: Well, no. They were Catholics, all of them. Sure. That's why I was sold to the Red Sox, I think, from Minneapolis and not somebody else, because Cronin and Kelly were Irish Catholics and buddies. Cronin and Yawkey were buddies, so that's why I went there.

BN: Back in the early days, the Red Sox had some outfielders that I heard wouldn't even talk to each other because one of them was Catholic and one of them was Protestant.

OC: Oh, sure. That's why Ted Williams was at Minneapolis at first. Because Yawkey and Kelly were buddies and they did that back and forth. He got his first chance in Minneapolis.

BN: He didn't hit it off with Cronin at first.

OC: Well, I don't know. He just got his Triple A experience there.

BN: He did well. He won the Triple Crown there.

OC: Yeah, because of Yawkey and Kelly being buddies. Irish buddies.

BN: So did you get to know people like Bob Johnson?

OC: Yes.

BN: Who was your roommate? Did you have a steady roommate?

OC: I roomed with Johnny Lazor.

BN: Now, you went back to spring training in '46.

OC: Ted Williams, by the way, was one of the other guys [who didn't get off the bus at the church.] And Rudy York. There was four of us left on there. [The bus driver, Williams, York and Clark.]

BN: How was Williams?

OC: He was a terrific ballplayer, first of all. His hitting outshined everything else. He could run good. He threw good; he was accurate and had a strong arm. But he was different. He'd sooner talk to me about hunting deer at Ely, Minnesota or fishing in Lake Mille Lacs or something than he would about baseball. He was that kind of guy. I have a picture of the Red Sox in spring training of '46, and he's sitting between the clubhouse boy and somebody else. There was no ballplayer next to him.

BN: He tended to like to hang out with people who were in modest professions.

OC: That's right.

BN: Like a policeman, or an elevator operator.

OC: Yeah.

BN: He'd have dinners and have some of those guys come to have dinner with him.

OC: That's about right, yeah.

BN: He was pretty close to Bobby Doerr, but I guess he's one of the few guys he'd just sort of go off with.

OC: Yeah, he and Bobby would go off and have lunch, or to a show or something. He was different, but he was a heck of a ballplayer. The greatest.

BN: If you were a hitter, instead of a pitcher, do you think he would have been asking you a few more questions?

OC: No. He would have been *telling* me something.

BN: OK! It seems as though he spent a lot of time talking to hitters, but he never spent as much time with pitchers. You'd think he would have been pumping them, trying to get the secrets.

OC: No, uh unh. He told us one time, when a few of us were talking, that he could tell what way the pitch was going to go. You know, like a screwball would go in. A curveball or a slider...when it leaves the pitcher's hand, he knew which way it was turning. He could see the spin of the ball and how much it was going to break, he figured. That's a pair of eyes. Rogers Hornsby had a pair of eyes like that, too. When he talked with you, it looked like he was talking to the guy twenty feet behind you. He

looked right through you. Rogers Hornsby was a terrific hitter. Right hand hitter. When I was with Fort Worth, somebody'd come back to the bench that had maybe struck out or popped up and would say something. He would say, "Quit feeling sorry for yourself! When I went out there to hit, the only person I felt sorry for was that guy out there trying to get me out." (laughs)

BN: Your first win was against Chicago. It was 8-2. You only gave up a few hits, I guess.

OC: Yeah, that was in Comiskey Park. I went the whole way.

BN: Steiner was your catcher.

OC: Jim, yes. He died not too long ago. He lived in California. He was a pretty good ballplayer.

BN: Boston had 14 hits that day, so that helped out.

OC: You bet!

BN: Then you had a game against...a four-hitter was the next game you pitched, but you lost the game. It was a 2-1 game in St. Louis.

OC: Yes. Against Nelson Potter.

BN: That's right, yes. That's a tough game, to give up 4 hits and lose the game.

OC: Yeah, it was, but that's baseball.

BN: One in the first inning, one in the sixth inning, and the Red Sox only scored one game. There was a game that you pitched against Bob Feller.

OC: Yes, there was. I beat him...I won that one.

BN: It was 2-1.

OC: In Fenway.

BN: Feller had only been back a few starts.

OC: I think this was his fifth start. [It was the fourth.] I think the score was 2-1.

BN: That must have been pretty exciting to win a game with Bob Feller going for the other team.

OC: Yes. I think he was the greatest pitcher I ever saw. When he wasn't pitching, he was the first one out there shagging flies and he was the last one to leave. He was a terrific trainer. He'd train all season long, I guess, all year long.

BN: He only struck out four games that game, so I guess he wasn't at his best.

OC: I got a hit off him, but I won't tell you where I hit it!

BN: You did, yeah. What was it, a little dribbler back to the mound?

OC: (laughs) It was a dribbler.

BN: You had a curve ball and a knuckle ball?

OC: I threw the knuckleball once in a while. Very seldom, though. I had good control.

BN: Not especially fast.

OC: No, just fast compared to when I'd throw a knuckleball or something, surprise...mix them up. I threw the slider, too.

BN: As I was saying, you had a pretty good year. Why do you think you didn't come back the next year? [1946]

OC: You'd have to ask somebody up in the upper chain. We went to Louisville and won the pennant down there in the Association. That's when we played Montreal in the little world series and Jackie Robinson played second base for them.

BN: Then you kept on for a few more years? How did you continue on from that point in time?

OC: I was sold to...the Red Sox traded me to the Cardinal organization.

BN: Who'd they get?

OC: Jack Griffore. He was a right-hander. He went to Louisville and I went to Columbus. That was late in the season, toward the end of '47. That winter, Minneapolis got me back. They traded me back, so I was with Minneapolis in '48.

BN: A friend sent me a clipping. Montreal Royals in 10 innings won the game to tie the little world series, and it was Robinson singling with the bases loaded that brought in their winning run.

OC: He was scared to death. We opened in Louisville, that series. He was booed. He was thrown at. Jim Wilson could throw hard. He was our starting pitcher. He floored

him a couple of times, and he just got right up and brushed himself off a couple of times. He just got right back in there.

BN: He did that intentionally? Wilson?

OC: Yes. Oh yeah. It was kind of an honor to be kind of brushed off or knocked down. These guys who hit .250, they wouldn't throw at them. They'd let them sleep. They wouldn't wake them up, you know. You wouldn't have to throw at them. It was kind of a society that was first class, that got pushed back.

BN: It could have been a racial thing, too, though.

OC: Then. He was the first one, and us white boys didn't like it, I guess.

BN: Then you ended up with Columbus at the end of '47. They traded you back to Minneapolis for Steve Gerkin.

OC: Yup.

BN: You were 27 by the time you came up to the Red Sox. Had you been in the service at all?

OC: No. I'll tell you. In our area here, when I was in high school and stuff, we took iodine pills. It was a goiter area here. We lacked iodine. When I went to get examination for the draft to go, the doctor here in LaCrosse said, "I can't make you 4-F. I can't make a decision on this at all. You have to go to a military doctor." So I went to Fort Snelling in Minneapolis and he said [the doctor there], "You are 4-F. You have a toxic goiter. You cannot go overseas. The shots would be very fatal for you. So I come home here that fall and here's Bun [Bernard, but we called him Bun] Eberts - he was a kid who played ball with me, and he said, "I have the same thing. They told me I have a toxic goiter and everything. I couldn't go in the service." Stan Burkhart, he was another boy. He lived in Detroit then. He said, "I talked to him the other day and he's 4-F for the same reason."

It was a toxic goiter thing. I could feel it in my throat before we would take these iodine pills and I said to a doctor in Minneapolis, I said, "How come?" He said, "Well, you never had any oyster or shrimp or lobster or anything then, down there. That's why you don't need those iodine pills now; you get it in your food."

BN: Did you ever have any problems later in life?

OC: No, not later in life. I could feel it once in a while but it didn't bother me like it did when we were in school.

BN: How many more years did you play in baseball?

OC: To '51.

BN: Through the '51 season?

OC: Yeah. I was with Minneapolis two of them and I ended up with Toledo in the American Association the last year.

BN: What made you stop? Obviously, you were getting older.

OC: Yes, that's right. I had had enough of it, I guess. I lived in Minneapolis all the time, and then I managed Rochester in the Southern Minnie [Minnesota] League - that was a semi-pro league - for a couple of years after that.

BN: What kind of work did you go into after baseball?

OC: I sold Buicks in Minneapolis for 25 years. It was all right.

BN: Have you stayed interested in baseball?

OC: Oh yes, more or less. I just can't consume how things go now. You can't pronounce their names. Some of them's got interpreters. When a baseball player makes more by coming to bat four times in a game than the President does in a year, there's something wrong. That A-Rod from Texas gets \$43,000 or something every time he comes to bat.

There's nothing we can do about it. As long as those seats are full. I predict that before long, Major League Baseball will be played in other countries, too. They're thinking about it.

BN: Did you have any children?

OC: No.

BN: Did you have any brothers or...

OC: Yes, I had brothers. They're both gone. They never played baseball.

BN: Was it something that just came up in the community? Did your father or mother throw pitches to you in the backyard?

OC: No. I picked it up all myself, I guess. But that's all we had to do! I can remember when we were in school, Saturday we'd go up to the baseball park with a couple of old baseballs and spend the whole darn day there. No television. No computers. No nothing. The only dope in those days was the guy that didn't get the signs, when he got on first base, from the third base coach. That's the only dope we knew.

BN: When you didn't make it back to the major leagues, were you disappointed?

OC: Not really. Not really.

BN: I mean, everybody kind of aspires to that, I guess.

OC: It would have been all right. I guess you make some wishes, or after it was over you [think], "I wish I could have been in that National League" or something like that, you know. Or with another club.

BN: But you feel overall that you had a fair chance, you had a decent time. It didn't disappoint you too badly that you didn't come back up again?

OC: No, not at all. I met a lot of nice people and saw a lot of nice country. My wife went with me and we had a good time.

BN: The transaction that was done that brought you to the Red Sox itself, was there another scout involved or was it just a team management thing?

OC: That brought me to the Red Sox? I assume...I had beat Louisville a couple of times, for Minneapolis. Impressed Louisville quite a bit, I guess, evidently. They wanted me there to finish out the season in 1944 to see if we could win the pennant, see, in 1944. Louisville had a chance. But they traded an infielder for me, to Minneapolis. And some money, I guess.

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Follow-up interview done October 22, 2003

Big Ed Konetchy, yes. I don't know why I said Jim. He was a first baseman for St. Louis. He was my manager at LaCrosse. He lived there, I think, and he was one of the interviewers when I first signed up. 1940. They used LaCrosse as a farm club. They sent some Minneapolis boys down there and we had a pretty good club. That was the regular year [not the fall.] It was a 6-team Wisconsin State League. That was the first year that they first formed it.

I pitched for a semi-pro club a little ways from where I lived. That was at Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin. We played different clubs around. We played some club in LaCrosse and that's where the guy saw me pitch. I think it was the Heilemann Brewing Company at that time; we played several teams out of LaCrosse. [His team didn't have a name.]

He sponsored the club. He took several of us from out of town. He had a couple good ballplayers from Soldiers Grove but he picked men from other clubs around the area. He had to send somebody for me [in a car, to pick him up. This is the club he had a 43-3 record with.] We played the House of David. Pine Grove Colored Giants out of Mississippi. Teams out of LaCrosse. Whoever come along. There was traveling teams in those days. The Colored Giants were all black out of Piney Woods, Mississippi. [The actual team name was the Piney Woods Collegians, not the Pine Grove Colored Giants.]

[There probably weren't that many black players in your town in Wisconsin.]

There was none that lived there. Everybody came to see them (chuckles.)

[graduated from high school in 1937 - did not go to college. He pitched for that semi-pro club in the summer of '37, '38 & '39. That's how he got all those wins. Also worked by driving a truck.]

I was driving a truck. Delivery truck for...well, he sold candy and pop, in little towns around there.

[more about Jackie Robinson]

When we got back to Boston in 1946, the papers there - the Globe and the Christian Science Monitor - had headlines that there was a couple of black boys in town and the Red Sox should look at them, as they were college students and very good ballplayers. One of them was Jackie Robinson and I think the other one's name was Washington. I didn't pay too much attention to him. Two of them. I had good control, so Joe Cronin said, "Sure, we'll look at them." He was our manager. He asked me if I would pitch the batting practice, because I had good control, and I said, "Sure."

BN: There were three of them....

OC: No, just two that day. There were just two that came that day. And I think one of them's name was Washington.

BN: Marvin Williams?

OC: No. Different guy.

BN: I wonder if there were two different tryouts.

OC: There could have been. I don't know, but not to my knowledge. Hugh Duffy, he was a coach with the Red Sox. I'm sure he was there every day.

BN: Newspaper accounts of the day say that Cronin was in the stands, but I just wonder if it might have been Hugh Duffy feeding the balls to you and calling the pitches.

OC: Not that day. It was Joe Cronin. There was a writeup in The Sporting News. The next day they asked us what we thought of them, Cronin and I. Cronin said

FROM FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW OCTOBER 23, 2003:

Cronin says, "He'll never make it." I said, "He might make a good hitter but he doesn't have the arm to through from the hole in shortstop." That's when I was farmed with Jim Wilson and Al Widmar. We went to Louisville and we won the pennant in Louisville in the American Association, and when we played in the Little World Series that fall, it was Montreal and Jackie Robinson was playing second base and not shortstop. We just passed, kind of nodded.

He's the only one I think could have made that happen [successful integration of baseball.] He had the right personality and the guts, you might say. He'd get out of the first and brush off and get right back in the batter's box. All of a sudden, they quit throwing at him. No use. That was part of the game. It was an honor to get thrown at, 'cause the pitcher was scared of you. You didn't throw at the .250 hitter. You let him sleep.

After I was out of there, there was some racial things. There still is.

[Cronin wasn't trying to give Robinson a hard time.] No, no. He was just checking him out. [He could have been anti-black.] That could have been. I don't know. I wasn't aware of it, but it certainly could have happened, yes. He passed on him, you know. He as much as said, "I don't want him." He said he won't make it. Well, that's all wrong. He was signed by Brooklyn. I don't know why it was, because he was black or not but that's what he said. [But you feel he gave him a legitimate tryout?] He gave him a tryout. He worked him out at shortstop and everything. That's what he was. A shortstop out of college.

[Clark still thinks there was just one other player, and his name was Washington. He is definite the name was not Jethroe and that the name was not Williams.] A black ballplayer. Came with Jackie. And I think they were both Stanford. [Jackie was UCLA.] I can't think of his first name, but I'm sure he played with somebody after that. Cleveland or somebody. I don't want to name the team because I don't know for sure, but I'm sure they both made it. Jackie made it great and he made it somewhat.

--end