

0. 42 - Jackie Robinson - Story Preface

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Grandstands at Ebbets Field, in Brooklyn, on October 5, 1920. The crowd had gathered for the first game of the 1920 World Series between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Cleveland Indians. Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

*Life is not a spectator sport ...
If you're going to spend your whole life in the grandstand
just watching what goes on,
in my opinion you're escaping your life.*

Jackie Robinson, 1964

Lt. Robinson was not amused when a Texas bus driver told him to give up his seat.

It was the 6th of July, 1944 - two days after war-weary Americans had celebrated their Declaration of Independence. That document - the foundation of America - asserts that "all men are created equal."

Robinson wasn't feeling very "equal" on that hot July day, however. Why should he move to the rear of the bus? Because a white bus driver told him to do it?

Jack Roosevelt Robinson - known as "Jackie Robinson" - refused to move. By the time the bus reached the station, a white woman told the Army officer she planned to file charges against him.

It wasn't the first time that a white female had badgered Robinson about his race. To remember the first time it happened, however, the Lt. had to go back *many* years.

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Questions 2 Ponder

Is Life a Spectator Sport?

What did Jackie Robinson mean when he said: "Life is not a spectator sport ...If you're going to spend your whole life in the grandstand just watching what goes on, in my opinion you're wasting your life."

Do you agree, or disagree, with his observation?

Media Stream



Jack Roosevelt Robinson

Image of Jackie Robinson, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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