Aaron to get $200,000 year while chasing Ruth HR mark

In light-hearted circles it is called "nice work if you can get it."

The "work" in this case is the job the Atlanta Braves have given their hard-hitting rightfielder-first baseman, Hank Aaron.

The nature of the "work" is hitting homeruns for the next three years until he may have totalled 76. That is the number Aaron wants, and the Braves want. And the club is paying him $200,000 a year to make it "nice" work while he's at it.

• • •

Something else that makes it "nice work" is the fact that Hank's boss, William Bartholomay is happy to shell out the $600,000.

Following contract signing in Atlanta Tuesday, the Braves' president said: "This is my most exciting moment in my 10 years with the Braves.

"Not many club owners get a chance to come to terms with a man like Hank Aaron. This is a historic day for the Braves.

"In my opinion, Hank is the greatest player in the game today. His record speaks for itself."

As for Aaron, he beamed:

"I feel fine. Barring injury, I see no reason why I shouldn't be able to pass Ruth within the next three years. It will depend in part on the people who bat behind me in our lineup.

"If Rico Carty and Orlando Cepedea are both healthy this season, I should have a pretty good year."

• • •

The Atlanta slugger has 639 career homers, 75 short of the all-time record of 714, set by Ruth.

It is felt that the only thing standing between him and the Babe's mark is his right knee.

Aaron injured the knee early last season in a play at home plate and had to have it drained several times during the remainder of the season.

Braves officials tried to get Aaron to have the knee operated on — but he refused.

"If I were younger, the operation might be the thing to do," said Aaron. "But, at my age, I don't feel I should take the chance. The operation might hinder me more than the knee itself."

Hank joined the Braves in Milwaukee in 1954 and won the National League batting title just two years later. He has been selected to play in the All-Star Game 14 consecutive times and received more All-Star votes the past two seasons than any other player.

Aaron was the first player to reach both 3,000 hits and 500 home runs, his 13 grand slam homers is only one shy of the National League record, he is one of only five players to have as many as 30 home runs and 30 stolen bases the same season, and he is only 20 home runs away from the record of most home runs with one team, the 659 mark Ruth hit while with the New York Yankees.

Aaron holds five major league and 11 National League batting records. He is fifth all time in runs scored with 1,901; sixth in hits with 3,272; second in total bases with 5,941; third in runs batted in with 1,960; third in extra base hits with 1,296; and eighth in doubles with 562.

MARCH 5

Irvin Turner, managing director for the Arena Players, is guest lecturer for the Vagabond Players Workshop today from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Langsdale Library at the University of Baltimore. The subject of Turner's talk, which is open to the general public, is "Black and Interracial Theatre."

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Lincoln 84, Phila. Pharmacy 39
Bethune 95, Fla. A and M 94
Ala. State 106, Morehouse 61
Bethune 95, Albany State 91
Lincoln 94, Salisbury St. 88
Tenn. State 100, Bethune 89
Ky. State 102, Northwood (Ind.) 79
Steubenville 94, Central State 81
Fla. A and M 86 Fisk 79
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W. Carolina 101, Allen 76
Newberry 89, Claflin 87
Prairie View 85, Miss. Valley 79
Ark. AMN 88, College of Ozarks 82 (OT)
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Prairie View 124, Wiley 100
Wayland 98, Bishop 93

Friday
MEAC tourney at Durham
Bryce tourney at Essex, Md.

Saturday
MEAC tourney at Durham
Bryce tourney at Essex, Md.

NBA SCHEDULE

Friday
Boston at Detroit
Atlanta at L.A.
Chicago at Seattle
N.Y. at Buffalo
Baltimore at Portland
Mil. at Phil.
Houston vs Warr at S.D.

Saturday
Philadelphia at N.Y.
Cleveland at Houston
Seattle vs Warr at Oak
Atlanta at Portland

Sunday
Cincinnati at Boston
N.Y. at Phila.
Baltimore at L.A.
Buffalo at Phoenix
Atlanta at Seattle
Chicago at Houston

Monday
Boston at Milwaukee

Tuesday
Phoenix at Detroit
Milwaukee at N.Y.
Phila at L.A.
Cleve. vs Warr at Oak.
Baltimore at Seattle
Buffalo at Portland

Plan basketball marathon to aid penitentiary program

A 56-hour Safe City basketball marathon designed to raise funds for the establishment of a law library and legal education courses at the Maryland Penitentiary will be staged by area college students, March 24 at the new University of Baltimore Academic Center and gym complex on North Charles Street, downtown.

While basketball games will be the central activity, a special series of lectures, seminars, films, displays and other programs will be conducted to educate Maryland residents in areas that focus on the "Safe City" theme.

Eight local colleges and universities including the University of Baltimore, Loyola, Towson, Morgan, Catonsville Community College, Coppin, University of Maryland (Baltimore County), and the Community College of Baltimore will field six teams each. These will include one girls team and one faculty team.

Inmates at the Maryland Penitentiary will participate in the activities as well. They will be competing with a celebrity team comprised of local sports celebrities, local radio announcers, and local college alumni.

Ralph Nader coming for April 13 speech

Student at the University of Maryland at Baltimore have pooled their resources to sponsor a lecture by Ralph Nader at the Baltimore Civic Center Thursday, April 13, at 11 a.m.

Student government associations at each of the university's six professional schools — dentistry, law, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and social work and community planning — have contributed toward Mr. Nader's speaking fee, which goes toward underwriting his rapidly expanding battleground in defense of the public interest.

Since his 1965 best seller Unsafe at Any Speed (a devastating account of dangers built into American automobiles), Ralph Nader has become a household word.

With a group of young lawyers dubbed "Nader's Raiders," he has attacked issues ranging from pollution to corporate monopolies.

Besides being an indefatigable lecturer (he has three other speaking engagements in Baltimore April 13), the 36-year-old Nader is a prolific writer and frequent witness before Congressional committees.

Key punch course has openings

Men and women over the age of 16 can enter a free program in key punch training by going to the Opportunities Industrialization Center at 2519 E. Preston St. or by calling Mrs. Goldie Henderson at 752-2052.

A six-week course in key punch operation will be taught Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. beginning March 13.

The classes are job oriented and students are trained to function as employees on a real job.

Businesses interested in participating in this federally funded program should contact Michael Williams.

Mrs. Ruth J. Norris is the chief program coordinator.

MEMPHIS — Judge W. Otis Higgs Jr. was recently named an outstanding young man of the year by the state Jaycees. The honor makes the Criminal Court Jurist eligible for the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Year of the national Jaycees. He was cited for his first offender program which provides volunteer counseling for such defendants.

Square dance expert holds clinic at Morgan

Rudy Franklin spends his day teaching team sports, gymnastics and track and field to his youngsters at the Gotham Avenue elementary in Elmont, Long Island.

However, at nights and on weekends, just as he was this particular weekend on the Morgan State College campus, he becomes Rudy Franklin, the clinician or professional square dance caller.

• • •

Surrounded by more than 100 participants, Franklin, mike in hand, occupies the attention of the group, which is composed primarily of elementary school physical education teachers from throughout the state of Maryland and the nearby areas of Delaware and Pennsylvania.

The clinic, the first of three in an elementary school physical education series being sponsored by the department of health and physical education at Morgan, focuses on teachers and supervisors in the elementary school physical education program, according to Dr. Frank Langsner, the clinic director.

• • •

"We attempted to bring in outstanding clinicians to present current trends and programs that are relevant in our schools today," he said. "Rudy Franklin's ability to work with teachers is remarkable. He's considered one of the best at teaching square dance," Langsner added.

Langsner, a Springfield College graduate who has been on the physical education faculty at Morgan State since 1965, feels that the clinics provide a necessary kind of in-service experience that that teachers need.

• • •

Franklin, the clinician who is believed to be one of the few black professional square dance callers in the country, fits square dancing into his physical education activities at the Gotham Avenue School in Long Island because he firmly believes it ought to be an acceptable part of the physical education program.

"Many teachers use square dancing as a kind of fill-in activity," Franklin said, while on the Morgan campus.

"They don't evaluate it as they do other activities and they don't hold the youngsters accountable for it. I don't see why they shouldn't because it is a form of physical activity . . ."

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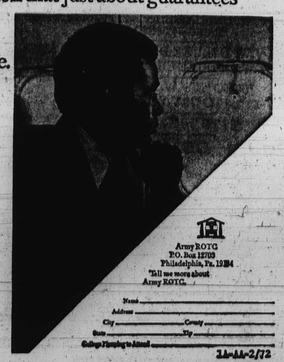
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Dunbar Poets trained at Lafayette Courts

By GEORGIANNA MOODY

Leon Howard, senior leader, Department of Recreation at Lafayette Courts, is very proud to say that he laid the background training for several of the boys who are now playing basketball at Dunbar High School.

Dunbar's Poets is an undefeated 1972 team which has played all games away from home.

Larry Gibson, Donnie Joy, Charles Richardson and Allen Wise received their training under Mr. Howard at the Recreation Center. However, we all know that Sugar Cain is the coach at Dunbar and he is a very good one.

• • •

McKim, the defending Maryland Junior Wrestling League and Tournament Champions of 1970-71 remain undefeated as they lead the league with 9-0 record.

McKim has been a strong competitor for many years in the M.J.W.L. Many of its former wrestlers have gone to become champions in the M.S.A. Wrestling Division.

Coaches of McKim team are Dwight Warren and Robert Franklin. They attribute the success of the team to the individual effort of each boy to work together as a team on and off the mats.

McKim is located, 1120 East Baltimore St. It is sponsored by the United Presbyterian Church and Society of Friends.

Best wishes to Miss Deborah Diane Fountaine who will be married to Robert Franklin on March 4th.

Happy birthday wishes goes to: Carolyn Jacobs, March 11; Gregory Stanley, March 3; Sharon Distance, March 8th; Ernest Davis, March 10th;

Also, Christine Savoy, March 2nd; Eva Richardson, March 1st; Ann Richardson, March 12th; Geraldine Ash, March 1st; Thomas Alston, March 10th; James Alston, March 11th and Wilson Staples, March 1.

• • •

Get well cards to Mrs. Minnie Hatchet, 1220 Caroline St.

• • •

The Willing Workers of Leadenhall celebrated their 37th Annual Day on Sunday. Many persons from throughout the city were on hand to hear the pastor, the Rev. Eddie Wilson speak on "Willing to Work."

Mrs. Clara Gordon is president; Mrs. Odessa Johnson, vice president; and Mrs. Hazel Lee, secretary of the group were very pleased with their planned program.

Music was directed by Mrs. Mary Brown and Mrs. Mary Carwile.

• • •

Waters A.M.E. Church's, 417 North Aisquith St., Day Care Center is open to serve children 2 through 5 years old.

Waters has feels committed to be a part of the education of the pre-school child. The church plans to present quality learning experiences to help the children grow in all areas physically, mentally and socially.

Your child must be toilet-trained and have a medical form filled out by a physician. The child must have basic immunization and booster inoculation.

The staff of the center is composed of a director, teachers, aides, pediatrician, dentist, nurse, social worker, dietitian and housekeeper.

Call Mrs. Sarah Harley at 675-0570.

Monday was open house at Broadway Library No. 5. It was a well planned day with activities for the community.

The East Baltimore Social workers began the day with their monthly meeting. Steve Snyder, Quency Jefferson and John Wilson from Community Relation Department were guests. He spoke on and explained the functions, and the many services the department has to offer.

Later, there were puppet shows, dance troupes, arts and crafts planned and proper facial care and hairstyling techniques and slide shows were demonstrated.

Mrs. Lillie Sewell is senior librarian.

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OUT OF RETIREMENT for one night only, famed baritone Todd Duncan will be starred at the Kennedy Center this weekend in the world premiere performance of "Job" (based on the Biblical character). Here, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan relax at their Washington home. Mr. Duncan, now 69, attained fame 37 years ago with 1800 performances on Broadway in "Porgy and Bess." (AFRO Staff Photo by Cabell)

Todd Duncan, now 69, returns to concert stage

By CHARLES FARROW

'Baritones are men with substance and guts!" Is this a drop out speaking?—No way!

This uninhibited, lively statement comes from Todd Duncan, the 69-year-old gifted singer whose accomplishments have left an indelible imprint upon the American and international musical scene.

After years of retirement from the concert stage spotlight, Mr. Duncan will be starred this weekend in a one-night performance of "JOB" (based on the Biblical character) in its world premiere at Washington's Kennedy Center.

To visit the celebrated baritone is to take a trip back into the world of music that was peculiarly American as it was effected by Todd Duncan, and his contemporaries, Roland Hayes, Paul Robeson. The hand that greets you at the door of the quietly gracious house on 16th Street, NW Washington has exchanged greetings with U.S. presidents and leading figures of the world.

After Mr. Duncan hangs up your overcoat, he slides back the glass door to his music studio and ushers you into a room that contains a wonderful collection of musical history.

In a gallery of autographed photographs, there is the picture of George Gershwin, composer of "Porgy and Bess," the folk opera that brought fame to Todd Duncan. Some of the other celebrities seen in favored places in that small gallery are the composer William Grant Still; Hall Johnson, director of the great choir; Alan Paton, author of the novel, "Cry, the Beloved Country"; from which the musical "Lost in the Stars" was adapted and former U.S. President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Todd Duncan is a man of substance, and he combines the courtliness of another decade with a surprising candor. Lighting a thin brown cigar he talks quickly and easily about his life.

It has been more than five years since the full voice of Todd Duncan has been heard in public. During the past years, the Duncan studio has been active with students studying voice. During the summer months, Mr. Duncan teaches Master classes at Temple University and vacations at his home in Arundel.

The volume of his work keeps him constantly on the go and the quality of his work has satisfied him and so what was supposed to be a retirement turned into a second career.

The world that Todd Duncan left was one in which he had achieved most of his goals. He began his public career in 1935 as the cripple in "Porgy and Bess" and Mr. Duncan smiles quietly as he recalls the denunciations leveled against the production by the black press and other individuals. Yet when the production played here in Washington, at the National Theatre, fear of a boycott by the black actors led by Duncan, forced the playhouse to abandon its policy of refusing admission to blacks.

Mr. Duncan pointed out that the artist fights in his own way, all the time.

He said that when the script of "Porgy and Bess" was first presented to the cast, the word "nigger" was used 39 times. On opening night that word was used only four times!

The musical career of Todd Duncan includes performances with the New York City Center Opera Company, a role in "Cabin in the Sky" with Ethel Waters and several movies.

It was as a concert singer, that he achieved international fame. He has traveled extensively, to Australia, Scotland, Belgium France and the Scandinian sections and many other countries. In this country he has performed concerts in almost every state in the union.

But now he says that "I'm doing something I like," Teaching is a full time job and he stays busy and his days are very full.

How can he become available after all of these years? "I'm not going to tell you that I won't sing publically again—because you might make me eat my words." But if the right thing, posing the kind of challenge that turns him on, comes along, then maybe it would be enough to get him back into the demanding role of the public performer.

The fact that Todd Duncan will sing again publicly after so many years indicates that in Herman Berlinski's new music drama, "JOB," there was enough of a challenge to coax him back out for one night. "JOB" will be performed this weekend at the Kennedy Center's Concert Hall, the world premiere of this new work.

This is a new art form for the famed baritone. The work is called a music drama, but it is in fact, a version of the orthodox oratoro based upon the story of Job from biblical texts.

The story of "JOB" is one that has really stimulated Mr. Duncan as he prepared for his role and he is totally caught up in the music written by a composer for who he has high personal respect.

Mr. Duncan says, "JOB complained a bellava lot to God." His voice is deeply earnest as he says, "The story of JOB is tremendous and I believe that all men have a bit of JOB in them. It's an absolute confrontation with God."

Mr. Duncan believes that music created by Herman Berlinski is strong enough to carry the full range of the story and the drama of the trials that beset the Job of the Bible.

Many of the problems that fall to Job seem visited upon the main character in the musical, "Lost In The Stars." This was one of Todd Duncan's greatest triumphs after more than 1800 performances in "Porgy" on Broadway.

Mr. Duncan was in the audience for the recent Washington performance of the musical and he says that he can remember when the current star, Bruce Peters sang in the chorus of the revival of "Porgy and Bess."

He admitted to a certain feeling of nostalgia as he listened to familiar lines and music and followed closely the Brock Peters interpretation of the agonies of Stephen Kumalo. Could he have handled the role for his revival? A deep puff on his cigar, a pause and another of those bright smiles, that leaves no doubt that this singer is still in control of his equipment.

What does he think of today's popular musical scene? The kind of singing popular today is "beastial and it's based upon the lowest abilities of man." But it has its redeeming factors, "I enjoy the lyrics, the nostalgia, the loving one another." The words of the songs "have more depth than those of 25 years ago."

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