Hank Aaron: "The Man"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

drippng wth magnolia and molasses.

Ignore the Lacy metaphor and picture a pretty Dixie gal serving as a secretary in an office provided by the Braves in the club's building adjacent to Atlanta Stadium.

"It's my job to sift out the most vicious letters and cards for discarding. But Hank doesn't even want that. He says he wants to reply to all of them," says Miss Koplin, a graduate of the University of Georgia.

"I do it nevertheless, because he is such a warm human person that I don't like seeing the hurt look in his eyes. He would answer, if he could, and say that he's sorry anyone should resent his effort to do his job, and he'd add that he, too, has the utmost regard for the greatness of the Babe. Hank is really like that."

It was not the least surprising that Aaron would command such testimony from one working so closely with him.

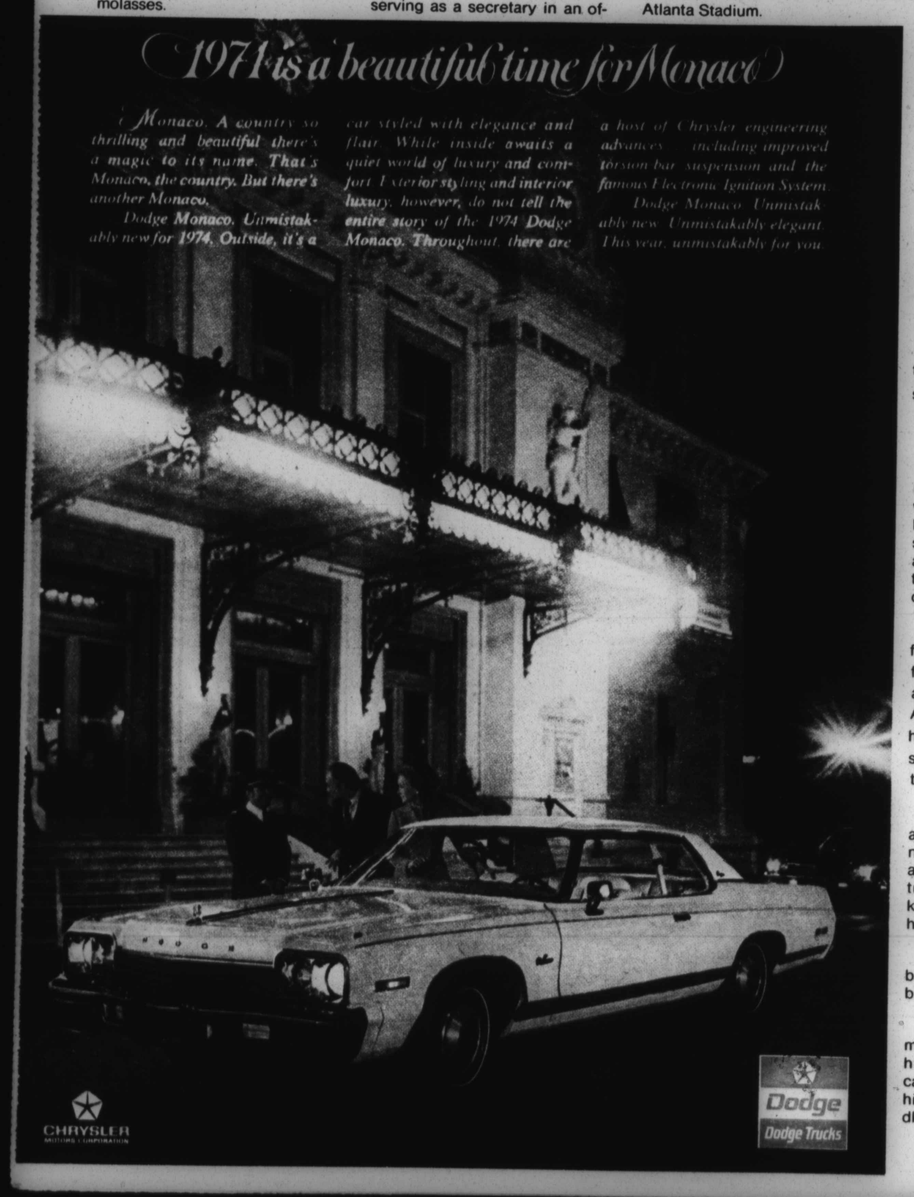
Not once in the 20 years that I have had the pleasure of knowing Aaron have I heard a word of criticism directed at him. Nor have I in my many personal contacts, experienced anything but the warm greeting, the friendly smile and the sincere handshake.

Interviews, which must be difficult for him considering their frequency and sameness, have always been made easy for me. And this is via telephone when he may be roused from a deep sleep, or in on-the-field confrontation.

He has managed to remain active in civil rights work — neither hiding nor offending — and he has participated in virtually every health campaign known to our time — cancer, heart, sickle cell, mental, etc.

This is something that cannot be said of a vast majority of black star athletes.

But perhaps the most commendable of the Aaron traits is his inner genuineness. He carries no politician's grin on his face, no uncle tom's handkerchief on his head.



Black Designers Stress Elegance

By Charles Farrow

A surprising endangered species is the black woman and her special brand of elegance. When our fashion conscious lady dresses voguishly and with sophistication, all viewers are apt to sit up and take notice.

Put her in something that is pure, decisive fashion and the interplay between skin tones and fabric is devastating. Yet for all intents and purposes, this image is on the verge of being rejected for the pick-up look, the exotic look, favored by the "getting it together" groups. This is a sometimes absurd mixture of hokey nostalgia and-or- psuedo ethnic looks.

Black fashion designers Scott Barrie, Stephen Burrows, Willie Smith and Wesley Tann, have created exquisitely styled gowns that pay particular attention to the figure that comes with the black woman.

The gowns fit beautifully in the critical areas, particularly the hips and waist. They flatter the bustlines and especially in the case of some designs by Willie Smith, the stylings take into consideration the allegedly individual "black shape" of the posterior (behind, to be blunt).

Black Beauty At Best

Pictured are gowns from the collections of Scott Barrie and Willie Smith. The designs worn by Washington model Toni Cox are intrinsically beautiful, softly mobile and basically feminine. They call does all good fashion, a reasonably symmetrical figure. Given that attractive body, the result is black beauty at its best.

The addition of a modest amount of accessories, jewelry, shoes and a head covering adds to the overall feeling of the rescue of an image that matches any fashionable look to be seen at your more gala occasions.

The fall and winter social gatherings can be terrifically expressive events. All it takes is reasonable and inventive selections to insure that glow of the truly colorful lady. It takes more than flashy, political fashion statements to keep the beauty of the black woman alive and electrically inspiring.

The photographs were taken in the home of Dr. and Mrs. David Pendergrast of Washington, D.C. The shoes are from Hart's of Washington and the fashions pictured are available in most large city stores and boutiques.

Toni Cox Models Barrie and Smith Gowns

Where They Meet

NOVEMBER 5

National Black Solidarity Day Committee in New York City (Site to be announced)

DECEMBER 27-30

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity's 59th Annual Conclave, Shamrock Hotel, Houston, Texas

FEBRUARY 6-7-8 (1974)

United Mortgage Bankers of America at Waldorf-Astoria, New York City.