Jackie's widow passes the Robinson torch along

By Japice F. Munson "I would tell them to sort of hang loose."

Those are the words of wisdom Rachel Robinson, widow of Baseball Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson, had for Frank Robinson, the new manager of the Indians, and his wife, Barbara.

She spoke with the peaceful voice and easy smalet she brought to Cleveland last week for the opening game at the Stadium_

Those who met Rachel

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Robinson 52, g were amazed by what they called her graciousness and charm. They also spoke of her beauty and elegance. Black women said they felt proud.

She was asked, during an interview with The Plain Dealer, if "hanging loose" is the only advice she had for the Robinsons "I think that's enough," she said.

Rachel Robinson was invited here by the Indian to throw the first ball of the season's opening

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game. For her, it was the "culmination of a dream" - major league baseball's first black manager.

"I wanted to participate in this historic day," she said. "I was very elated. And I wanted to wish them (the Robinsons and Indians) success. For the first time in my life, I'll be rooting for an American League team.

"I can't say what Jack would have said. He would have been pleased. He was always one to press for more. He was one who never thought progress was fast enough

"Frank's hiring (as manager) is a symbol of progress in opportunities. Change usually takes place in token ways. This is a great day for all of

Jackie Robinson, who became the first black player in major league baseball in 1947, hoped to see black ownership of major league teams, she said. He died in 1972. "In the '40s," she said, "all public accommodations were closed to blacks in the South and many places in the North. We don't have that kind of problem now. You have supports now, but subliminal problems still exist.

Asked if she was affected by Jackie's notoriety as a black pioneer in baseball, Mrs. Robinson said. "I never wanted him to quit. There were traumatic things that happened to us, but we never discussed giving up. We got a lot of satisfaction, a lot of excitement out of that life. We had a good life."

Barbara Robinson said, Frank and I both are so grateful (to Jackie). If it weren't for him, we wouldn't be standing here today," she told Rachel Robinson.

"I thought it would never happen," she said of her husband's becoming the Indians' manager. "And it's still hard to be-The "Robinson women"

watched the game from a Stadium loge with Barbara's children, Kevin, 12, and Nichelle, 9. "Boy, he's really laying the wood on that ball today," Rachel Robinson said of playermanager Robinson's batting performance.

Rachel Robinson.



. Mrs. Frank Robinson, left, and Mrs. Jackie Robinson.

psychiatric nurse, retired as an assistant professor of Yale University's School of Nursing when her husband died. A month later she became presi-

by Jackie in 1971. The company builds multi-family, federally subsidized housing in restoration areas, she said.

dent of Jackie Robinson

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ing Corp.; a firm founded

Her son, David, is one of and oppressing them as the property managers. human beings. We were of Her daughter is a nurse. necessity concerned with housing, welfare, family

'Since I worked in community psychiatry," she said, "I feel that it was a good preparation for the work I am doing now. In community psychiatry, we were trying to change those institutions that have negative effects on people's personalities and growth, that are stifling

Fans to dine and dance with swat king Aaron

"A Community Tribute to Hank Aaron," baseball's home run king, will be held Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Palace Theater on Playhouse Square.

Guests at the dinner dance benefit, at \$15 per person, will be able to meet Aaron of the Milwaukee Brewers. Indians manager Frank Robinson will also be at the dinner and will join Aaron at a private cocktail "Reception for Hank and Frank" before the event.

The Prince Hall Masons and the Cleveland Indians are co-sponsoring the tribute which expects to draw over 2,500 Indians fans and supporters.

Co-chairmen of the event, which will follow the Indians-Brewers game at the Stadium that afternoon, are Paul Woodring of the Prince Hall Masons and Indians president Alva (Ted) Bonda.

Reservations are being taken by Madelyne Blunt, coordinator of the tribute. 932-3161 or 932-1042.

Shark is big catch for the dinner table

SAN FRANCISCO (AP), With the supply of shrimp and crab dwindling, thoughts in this seafood-crazy city have turned to that much feared denizen of the sea, the

"At about 99 cents a pound, you can't beat it for a price," said Ron Pirotto, head of a group trying to promote shark and other lesser consumed seafoods as

"There's a lot of shark out there, and it's beautiful eating-meat that's nice and firm, a lot better tasting than halibut," he said.

Pirotto, who runs a fish and poultry market, said that he now sells all the shark he can get. "There's now a take of about 400 pounds of shark a

day locally," he said. "The catch - mostly the thresher and leopard shark — is a kind of accidental dividend. It gets caught in the nets of fishermen who are going out for rock

Other fish experts joined in backing the shark as suitable for the most discerning palate.

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