



Obama to Take Oath on Bibles Used by King And Lincoln

By Mark Hartsell

President Barack Obama next week will again take the oath of office on the Bible, drawn from the Library of Congress collections, that President Abraham Lincoln used at his first inauguration more than 150 years ago.

Obama also used the Lincoln Bible at his first inauguration, in 2009. On Monday, the small, burgundy volume will have a companion at the swearing-in ceremony staged on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol: A Bible that belonged to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Obama will place his hand on the stacked Bibles as he takes the oath of office administered by U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Roberts – symbolically linking the president who emancipated the slaves during the Civil War with the reverend who led the civil rights movement a century later.

“President Obama is honored to use these Bibles at the swearing-in ceremonies,” Steve Kerrigan, president and CEO of the Presidential Inaugural Committee, said on Jan. 10 in announcing the selections. “On the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, this historic moment is a reflection of the extraordinary progress we’ve made as a nation.”

The Lincoln Bible, housed in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, originally was purchased by William Thomas Carroll, clerk of the Supreme

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Host Ron Barr (left) interviews former Baltimore Ravens coach Brian Billick during a broadcast from Iraq.

Sports Byline USA

Library Acquires Archive Of Historic Sports Recordings

By Mark Hartsell

All Mickey Mantle wanted was a pat on the back and a “hang in there.”

The 19-year-old Mantle, struggling badly in the minor leagues, had suggested to his father that maybe he wasn’t cut out for professional baseball.

The response from Elvin “Mutt” Mantle contained a lot more tough love than TLC: He walked into Mickey’s hotel room, pulled out a suitcase, packed up some clothes and dressed down his son.

“‘I’m taking you home,’” Mickey recalled his dad saying. “He said, ‘You can go back and work in the mines with me. I thought I raised a man. You’re nothing but a coward.’”

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Mantle, of course, didn’t quit baseball, didn’t go back home and never had to work alongside Mutt in the lead mines around Commerce, Okla. The Mick played 18 seasons for the New York Yankees, won seven World Series, was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and is considered one of the game’s great players.

The recollection by Mantle about his dad’s cruel-to-be-kind approach to motivation is among more than 4,000 recorded interviews acquired last week by the Library of Congress that document, in their own words, the experiences of some of the most important figures in

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U.S. sports history.

The interviews, all made between 1988 and 2003, are drawn from broadcasts of Sports Byline USA, a daily radio network program based in San Francisco. Interviews recorded from 2004 to 2014 will be added to the collection over the next two years.

The recordings will be digitized at the Library's Packard Campus in Culpeper, Va., and gradually made available to the public online at www.loc.gov. An initial group of about two dozen will be placed online next month.

"It's an outstanding collection of primary sources that covers the range of American sports," said Matthew Barton, curator of the Recorded Sound Section. "It's really an extraordinary opportunity to go back and sample but also to study in-depth what some of the most important figures in these sports had to say about their own experiences."

The interviews cover more than six decades of athletic competition staged on fields, diamonds, courts and courses around the globe.

The collection includes interviews with great players, legendary coaches, controversial executives, prominent fans and sports pioneers, from Bill Russell to John Wooden to George Steinbrenner to political commentator and baseball fanatic George Will to Earl Lloyd, the Alexandria, Va., native who in 1950 became the first African-American to play in the National Basketball Association.

The collection also contains the largest archive of audio interviews with Negro League players in existence.

The voice asking the thousands of questions in the interviews belongs to Ron Barr, a Washington, D.C., native who started in journalism as a copy boy for The Washington Post in the 1960s, covered sports across the Potomac for the Alexandria Gazette and broke into radio at a station in Falls Church.

Over the course of a career covering and broadcasting sports on television in Boston, Seattle and San Francisco, Barr developed the ability to draw out people in interviews. Everybody, he found, has

They Said It

Excerpts from Sports Byline USA interviews with popular sports figures:

"You see the ball, you hit it."
—Willie Mays on his hitting philosophy



Hank Aaron stands in front of his locker with the Milwaukee Braves in 1955.

Prints and Photographs Division

"I knew that I was coming upon something that nobody else had ever done in sports, and I knew that it was going to cause some trouble. I was preparing myself. I said, if they come at me like they came at Roger Maris, I was going to try to handle it a little bit better than Roger did."

—Hank Aaron on his pursuit of Babe Ruth's home-run record

"A coach has the greatest ally in the world if he'll use it. I've found many, many coaches are afraid to use it: the bench. They all like to play. . . . You can't be afraid to use it."

—UCLA basketball coach John Wooden

"A lot of people don't know me. They don't know Oscar Robertson. I haven't been caught using drugs. I'm not an alcoholic, and I don't do a lot of other things. This is what, usually, gets you a lot of attention."

—Basketball great Oscar Robertson

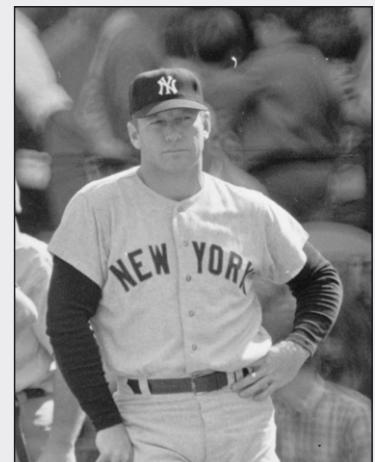
"You had to look the other way a little bit because if you didn't you wouldn't progress

along. Jackie [Robinson] proved that the first two years that he came into the league — he couldn't say nothing hardly. I think he was a very, very smart guy to do that. It takes a lot of courage to say no. It takes a lot of courage to back up a little bit. It takes a lot of courage when a man slaps you going to back up and not hit him. That's strong."

—Mays on playing baseball in the era of integration

"The way they behave is obviously a lot different. There is a certain sense of decorum that you don't see in New York growing up. It's such a different environment that I was taken aback by the fact that people thought that I was so different. There was this immediate clash between what they thought I should act like and what I thought they should act like."

—John McEnroe on his introduction to the traditions of Wimbledon



Mickey Mantle in uniform in 1968, the final season of his career.

Prints and Photographs Division

"I was just kind of in a fog or something. It did hurt my game when my dad died. . . . I've always felt like that if he would have lived longer that I would have been much better. I know I wouldn't have been over the hill at 33 or 34 years old."

—Mickey Mantle on his alcoholism and the impact of the loss of his father to Hodgkin's disease in 1952

NEWS

a story to tell – even those who don't get the glory and the big-money contracts.

Once, a frustrated Boston Celtics player skipped out on a scheduled live interview following a tough loss. Desperate to fill time, Barr brought on air a man he'd spotted tidying up the arena with a push broom.

The man, it turned out, had worked at Boston Garden for 40 years and seen every great moment in the history of the storied arena.

"It was a great interview," Barr said.

In 1988, Barr founded Sports Byline USA as a call-in sports talk program broadcast over a network of only 12 stations.

He had no idea whether the show would work.

"I didn't know if anybody would call," Barr said. "But I knew that even if they didn't call, I could always interview."

As host of Sports Byline USA, Barr interviewed all kinds of people in all kinds of situations.

Barr's first guest was baseball hall of famer Willie Mays, who flew in from Reno, Nev., just for the occasion. Barr broadcast his show from Iraq on about a half-dozen separate trips. He interviewed Bobby Knight, the great Indiana Hoosiers basketball coach, while Knight fished in a trout stream in Montana.

He once got a call from a fan in Nebraska who wanted to discuss Cornhusker football – then-Gov. Ben Nelson, who went on to serve two terms in the U.S. Senate and became an occasional guest on the show.

Many of the veteran athletes reflect – with the benefit of years of hindsight – on their beginnings, their glory days and their dark days, and the drive that it takes to compete at the highest level of sport.

"If I fail, I'll take the blame," Chicago Bulls superstar Michael Jordan once told Barr. "If I succeed, I want the glory."

John Wooden describes the methods that helped him mold young men into a team – and win 10 national champion-

ships as basketball coach of the UCLA Bruins.

Hank Aaron and Mays discuss their early days in baseball, just after the era of integration got under way.

"We knew that if we failed that it was going to fall upon the players that were coming behind us," Aaron said. "We didn't have time to get angry. We had time to reflect on what we needed to do and how we would go about doing it."

Twenty-five years after that first show, when Barr wasn't sure he'd get even one phone call from a listener, Sports Byline USA has more than 200 affiliates around the country and the globe.

Barr said he is thrilled that the collection of interviews – the product of a show he's nurtured for so many years – will be preserved in the Library of Congress and made available to the public.

"I'm honored, I'm proud, and I'm happy it has such a wonderful home," Barr said. "It's a little bit like having a child and knowing that it's growing up." ♦

OIG Would Like to Know

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Library of Congress Regulation 211-6 explains the functions, authority and responsibilities of the inspector general. Regulation 2023-9 explains the rights and responsibilities of Library employees regarding the inspector general.

A link to all Library of Congress regulations is available on the staff intranet at www.loc.gov/staff/ogc/.

Contact the OIG hotline at 7-6306 or oighotline@loc.gov. Or report anonymously by mail to: P.O. Box 15051, Washington, D.C., 20003-9997.

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For more information, visit the IT security website at www.loc.gov/staff/security.

Clock Removal Project

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) at the end of January will begin to remove most wall and ceiling clocks from the Madison Building, a project that eventually also will include the Jefferson and Adams buildings. The only clocks that will remain in place are those currently mounted in public areas – elevator lobbies, public reading rooms and public meeting rooms, for example.

The AOC will not reset any clocks except for the ones in public areas. The AOC asks Library employees not submit requests to have a clock reset unless it is located in a public area.

Calling All Curators!

Got a favorite find, a cool resource or rediscovered treasure in your collections? The Gazette wants to write about it! Send suggestions to gaze@loc.gov for possible inclusion in a future issue.