

Finding Buck McHenry ○ By Alfred Slote

Mack Henry: 68, custodian at Eberwoods School; alleged to be Buck McHenry; lives at 322 N. 4th Avenue; small, white house with blue shutters

Buck McHenry: right-handed pitching star in the Negro Leagues

Jessie Henry: Mack's wife

Jason Ross: 11; catcher; captain of Grandstand team

Mr. Ross: Jason's dad; lawyer

Jen Ross: Jason's mom; artist

Aaron Henry: 11; Mack's grandson; pitcher; from Memphis TN; parents and brother killed in car accident

Louis Henry: Aaron's brother; died in car accident; wanted to be a football player

Mr. & Mrs. Henry: teachers; killed in car accident; Mr. Henry coached Louis's Little League team in TN

Chuck Axelrod: Channel 4 sportscaster; 11-year old league president; Saturday night Sportsline show anchor

Kim Axelrod: 11; parents divorced; just moved into town; 2nd base

Jerry Kelly: new kid from OH; first to respond to request on the Sportsline show for new players for the Grandstand team

Mr. Borker: Baer Machine coach; part owner of Baer Machine Co.

Jim Davis: owner of The Grandstand baseball card store

Andy Armstrong: biggest baseball card dealer in the country; from Wassau, WI

Members of Baer Machine team: Art Silver (1st), Tim Corrigan (1st), Pete Diaz (center), Kevin Kovich, Greg Conklin, Tug Murphy (catcher), Cal Borker (pitcher)

Arborville, MI: setting of story; southeast MI

Birmingham, MI: former residence of Kim Axelrod

Baer Machine: Jason's original team

The Grandstand: Jason's new team; expansion team

The Grandstand: baseball card store; sponsor's expansion team; corner State & Packard

Sampson Park School: Jason's new school (formerly attended Eberwoods School)

Sampson Park: meeting place for new Grandstand team members

Memphis, TN: former home of Aaron Henry

Pittsburgh Crawfords: best black baseball team

Diamond Stars Baseball cards: published in 1930's; gave hints about how to play ball

1. **Why was Jason kicked off the Baer Machine team?**
 - a. **He got in an argument with his coach.**
 - b. Every team had to give someone to the expansion team.
 - c. **He missed too many practices.**
2. **What does Jason like to collect?**
 - a. Baseball cards.
 - b. **Stamps.**
 - c. **Stuffed animals.**
3. **How many players should a team in the 11-year league have?**

- a. 12
 - b. 13
 - c. 14
4. **What does Mr. Borker ask Jason to return to Mr. Henry?**
- a. **The key to the locker room.**
 - b. **The catcher's equipment.**
 - c. The bases.
5. **Why did Willie Mays get cut from the NY Giants?**
- a. **They didn't want a black player on the team.**
 - b. He struck out too many times.
 - c. **He was too slow.**
6. **What question did Mr. Henry ask Jason about his baseball cards?**
- a. **Which card is worth the most money?**
 - b. Why is a Mickey Mantle worth more than a Willie Mays?
 - c. **Why aren't there any cards for the players who were in the Negro Leagues?**
7. **What did Mr. Henry teach Jason about baseball in the halls of Eberwood School?**
- a. How to run to first.
 - b. **How to improve his batting stance.**
 - c. **How to catch a fast ball.**
8. **Mr. Henry tells Jason that the coaches will always play someone who can _____.**
- a. **Run fast.**
 - b. Hit.
 - c. **Catch a fly ball.**
9. **Why does Mr. Henry tell Jason to take off his shoes?**
- a. **He can run faster without his shoes on.**
 - b. His spikes are ruining the school's floor.
 - c. **He wanted to see if the shoes fit correctly.**
10. **How much do Ace Bubble Gum cards cost?**
- a. \$0.50
 - b. **\$0.75**
 - c. **\$1.00**
11. **Why does Jason think Mr. Henry is Buck McHenry?**
- a. **Jason saw a picture of Mr. Henry playing in the Negro Leagues when he went to Mr. Henry's house.**
 - b. Buck McHenry's baseball card says he is a janitor in a school in Michigan.
 - c. **Mr. Henry told Jason he changed his name when he was younger.**
12. **What new kind of baseball card collection did Andy Armstrong just release?**
- a. **Major league black all-stars.**
 - b. Negro Leagues.
 - c. **All-American Girls League.**
13. **What reason does Buck McHenry's baseball card give for him leaving the Negro Leagues after only three seasons?**
- a. **He got sick.**
 - b. He got in trouble with the law.
 - c. **He was injured and couldn't pitch anymore.**

14. **What will Jim Davis give Jason if Mr. Henry is really Buck McHenry?**
 - a. **A Mickey Mantle card.**
 - b. The Negro Leagues card collection.
 - c. **A Honus Wagner card.**
15. **Why didn't Jason catch the first pitch that Aaron threw to him?**
 - a. **Aaron threw a wild pitch.**
 - b. **His mitt was broken.**
 - c. It was coming too fast.
16. **What historic house on 4th Avenue did Jason visit in 3rd grade?**
 - a. **The oldest house in Arborville.**
 - b. A house that was in the Underground Railroad.
 - c. **A house that Abraham Lincoln had stayed in.**
17. **Why did Jason bike over to Mr. Henry's house?**
 - a. **He wanted Mr. Henry to open the school so he could get a book he forgot.**
 - b. He wanted to ask Mr. Henry to coach the Grandstand team.
 - c. **He wanted to ask Mr. Henry for more advice on running the bases.**
18. **Why does Mrs. Henry insist that Mr. Henry coach Jason's team?**
 - a. **She knows Mr. Henry misses playing baseball.**
 - b. She wants Aaron to be on the team.
 - c. **The family needs to earn some extra money.**
19. **Why doesn't Aaron want to play baseball anymore?**
 - a. **He hurt his arm and can't throw a fastball.**
 - b. His family was killed while he was playing baseball.
 - c. **He wants to play football instead.**
20. **Why did Mr. Henry hang a mattress in his backyard?**
 - a. **He wanted to block the view of the baseball field behind his house.**
 - b. He wanted Aaron to practice pitching.
 - c. **The basement flooded and the mattress needed to dry out.**
21. **What does Jason promise to do if Aaron will pitch to him?**
 - a. Show him his grandpa's (Buck McHenry) baseball card.
 - b. **Give him a Willie Mays baseball card.**
 - c. **Let him play on the Grandstand team.**
22. **What does Jason say he has to do in order to catch Aaron?**
 - a. **Do exercises to strengthen his hand.**
 - b. Put sponges in his catcher's mitt.
 - c. **Wear a thick winter glove under his catcher's mitt.**
23. **Why does Mrs. Henry insist that Mr. Henry admit he is really Buck McHenry?**
 - a. **She wants him to be featured on the Sportsline TV show.**
 - b. **She thinks it is wrong to lie to children.**
 - c. She wants Aaron to play on the new team.
24. **What did Jason notice was different about the Negro League baseball cards?**
 - a. **They didn't have pictures of the players on them.**
 - b. They didn't have the player's statistics printed on them.
 - c. **They didn't list the player's position.**
25. **What is the most valuable baseball card?**
 - a. Honus Wagner

- b. **Mickey Mantle**
 - c. **Willie Mays**
26. **What did Mr. Henry make Aaron and Jason promise before he would coach the team?**
- a. **They wouldn't argue with his decisions.**
 - b. They wouldn't tell the kids he was Buck McHenry.
 - c. **They wouldn't tell anyone about Aaron's family.**
27. **Whose bike does Aaron use?**
- a. **Jason's old bike.**
 - b. **The neighbor boy's bike.**
 - c. His dad's old bike.
28. **Why do Jason and Aaron bike over to the Axelrod house on the first day they meet?**
- a. They are going to call possible team members about a meeting.
 - b. **They want to tell Mr. Axelrod that Buck McHenry will coach the team.**
 - c. **They are going to practice baseball with Kim.**
29. **Why does Chuck Axelrod have a 5 minute spot to fill in his TV show?**
- a. **The Tiger's game was rained out.**
 - b. Sparky Anderson cancelled his interview.
 - c. **One of the sponsors cancelled their commercials.**
30. **How did Jason break the promise he and Aaron made to Mr. Henry?**
- a. **He complained when Mr. Henry told him he couldn't be the pitcher.**
 - b. He told Chuck Axelrod that Mr. Henry was really Buck McHenry.
 - c. **He refused to give Aaron the Buck McHenry card.**
31. **Why did Kim Axelrod move to Arborville?**
- a. **Her mom got a new job.**
 - b. **Her parents wanted to live near her ill grandfather.**
 - c. Her parents got divorced.
32. **What did Jason say about the list of players who were available for the new team?**
- a. **He didn't know any of them.**
 - b. They were all bad ball players.
 - c. **He didn't like any of them.**
33. **Why did Kim, Jason and Aaron decide to make the calls to recruit players from Jason's house?**
- a. Jason's parents wanted him to come home for lunch.
 - b. **Jason's family had two separate telephone lines.**
 - c. **Chuck Axelrod was leaving and didn't want them to stay in the house.**
34. **Who made the All-Star League during last year's season?**
- a. **Jason & Aaron**
 - b. **Aaron & Tug**
 - c. Kim & Aaron
35. **What did Jason's mom feed him for lunch?**
- a. **Pizza**
 - b. PJB & milk
 - c. **Soup**

36. Why doesn't Jason want to drink milk?
- He is in a hurry to go to the park and play baseball.
 - He read on a baseball card that drinking milk cuts down your wind.
 - He doesn't like milk.
37. What is the most valuable card in Kim's baseball card collection?
- Honus Wagner
 - Signed Mickey Mantle
 - Babe Ruth
38. Jason is surprised that Kim owns which collection of baseball cards?
- Detroit Tiger All Stars
 - Negro League Baseball Stars
 - All American Girls League
39. How many kids were Aaron, Jason and Kim able to recruit to play on the new team from the list of cut players?
- None
 - 1
 - 2
40. How did Jason fool Kim while they were calling the players on the list?
- He pretended to talk to the real Buck McHenry.
 - He pretended to talk to a ringing phone.
 - He pretended to talk to a family with 11-year old triplets.
41. How does Kim suggest they should recruit players for the new team?
- Put up a sign in the Grandstand.
 - Advertise on the Sportsline TV show.
 - Tell everyone that Buck McHenry will be their coach.
42. What kind of car does Mr. Henry drive?
- Red mini-van.
 - Black sports car.
 - Yellow pickup.
43. Who showed up at the Grandstand team meeting at Sampson Park?
- Several players who had been cut from the other teams.
 - The Baer Machine team.
 - A girl's softball team.
44. Why did Mr. Henry say he stole some money after a baseball game?
- His team needed gas money to leave town.
 - He needed money for food.
 - He needed money for his wife's medicine.
45. Why did Jason give out his phone number on the Sportsline show?
- He wanted to sell some baseball cards.
 - He was recruiting players for his team.
 - He wanted to get a job.
46. Why did Mr. Henry's baseball team lose on purpose?
- They made bets that their team would lose.
 - It was against the law for black players to beat white players.
 - They only got paid if they lost.

47. Which team did Mr. Henry coach when the 3-person Grandstand team played the Baer Machine team?
- Grandstand
 - Baer Machine
 - Both teams.
48. Who was the umpire at the 3-person Grandstand vs. Baer Machine game?
- Buck McHenry
 - Chuck Axelrod
 - Mr. Ross, Jason's dad.
49. What was Satchel Paige's fastball called?
- Trouble
 - Rocket
 - Pain
50. What was the final score of the 3-person Grandstand vs. Baer Machine game?
- Tied, 0-0
 - Baer Machine won 5-0
 - Grandstand won, 2-0
51. How did the Grandstand score two runs in the 3-person Grandstand vs. Baer Machine game?
- Aaron hit two home runs.
 - Aaron hit a home run when Kim was on base.
 - Jason & Kim both hit home runs.
52. Why was Jason's hand sore after the 3-person Grandstand vs. Baer Machine game?
- His hand was hit by a pitch.
 - Aaron's fastball was hard to catch.
 - He was spiked sliding into home.
53. What did Calvin ask Aaron after the 3 inning game?
- He asked Calvin to join the Baer Machine team.
 - He asked Calvin why he moved to Arborville.
 - He asked to join the Grandstand team.
54. What does Jason want to do when he grows up?
- Professional baseball player.
 - Lawyer
 - Own a baseball card store.
55. What does Kim want to do when she grows up?
- Professional baseball player.
 - Teacher
 - TV news reporter.
56. What was Aaron doing when Jason & Kim biked over to his house right before Sportsline was about to start?
- Practicing throwing pitches into the mattress.
 - Eating dinner.
 - Washing the dinner dishes.
57. How did Jason & Kim find out that Mr. Henry is not Buck McHenry?
- They looked up the real Buck McHenry's address on the internet.

- b. **Jim Davis told them.**
 - c. They heard Mr. Henry tell his wife.
58. **How did Chuck Axelrod find out that Mr. Henry wasn't Buck McHenry?**
- a. **The real Buck McHenry called him.**
 - b. Kim told him.
 - c. **His assistant told him Buck McHenry had died 10 years ago.**
59. **After the Sportsline show aired, how many kids called about being on the new team?**
- a. 5
 - b. 10
 - c. 15
60. **How did Aaron and his grandma know who told Chuck Axelrod that Mr. Henry was not Buck McHenry?**
- a. **Mrs. Henry told Chuck Axelrod herself.**
 - b. They saw Jason and Kim running away from their house.
 - c. **Buck McHenry had talked to Aaron's grandma.**
61. **How did the Grandstand team do in the 11-year league?**
- a. **First place.**
 - b. Third place.
 - c. **Last place.**
62. **Who made the Aborville All-Star team?**
- a. Aaron & Kim
 - b. **Jason & Aaron**
 - c. Aaron & Jerry
63. **What did Jim Davis give to the players on the Grandstand at the end of the season?**
- a. **A Negro Leagues baseball card collection.**
 - b. Baseball cards with their pictures on them.
 - c. **Ice cream from the Dairy Queen.**
64. **What did Aaron do with the Buck McHenry card?**
- a. **Gave it back to Jason.**
 - b. Glued it to the back of his Grandpa's Grandstand card.
 - c. **Gave it to his Grandpa.**