

A Strong Right Arm

By Michelle Green

Mamie 'Peanut' Johnson – born around 1935; right-hand pitcher in Negro Leagues for Clowns; 5'2", 98 lb

Lyle 'Toni' Stone – Mamie's teammate on Clowns; 2nd base

Connie Morgan – 2nd base replacement for Toni on Clowns

Cendonina Belton – Mamie's maternal grandmother; cared for her while she was young since her mother was working in Washington, DC

Della Belton – Mamie's mother; lived/worked in Washington, DC

Leo 'Bones' Belton – Mamie's uncle, but close to her in age; inherited grandma's place

Aunt Mozell, Uncle Caleb – lived near grandma in South Carolina

Mary Alice Quales – childhood best friend in South Carolina

'No Legs' Levi – principal in South Carolina

Aunt Dorothy/Uncle Ed – teacher/Safeway truck driver; took in Mamie when her grandmother died

Officer Campbell – coach of Mamie's PAL baseball team

Rita Jones – black; 1st base; went to tryouts for All-American Girls team with Mamie; Alexandria All-Star and St. Cyprian teammate

George Wilson – catcher on St. Cyprian; printer; married, 2 children

Savoy – black family of superior athletes; Mamie struck him out in front of Clowns scout

Bish Tyson – scouted Mamie for Clowns

Mr. Haywood – coach of Clowns

Gordon 'Hoppy' Hopkins – outfielders; Clowns teammate

Jackie Robinson – Brookfield Dodger; 1st black man in majors; 1947

Satchel Paige – excellent black pitcher; taught Mamie curveball; played in the Negro Leagues and for the Cleveland Indians; started own team, Satchel Paige All-Stars

Brother Gary – owner of Negro League Baseball Shop

Negro League Baseball Shop – Mamie met the author at this shop

County Stadium, Milwaukee – torn down to make Miller Stadium; Negro League Wall of Fame with Mamie's name on it

Thorntree School – Mamie's school in South Carolina

Chester's Funeral Home – prepared Grandma for burial

Ridgeway, SC – location of grandmother's house; 18 rooms; 81 acres; fruit trees

Long Branch, New Jersey – Aunt Dorothy/Uncle Ed lived here

Washington, DC – Mamie's mother lived here; Mamie joined her eventually

Freedman's Hospital – Mamie's mother worked here as a dietician

Liberty Elementary – Mamie's school in NJ

Police Athletic League – 1st organized baseball Mamie played (in NJ)

Alexandria All-Stars – semi-pro team Mamie played for at age 16

All-American Girls Professional Baseball League – girls baseball team started in 1943

Virginia – location of the All-American girls tryouts

St. Cyprian – sandlot, recreational baseball; Mamie played after high school

Bannecker Field – location of St. Cyprian games; place for blacks to play sports; located near Howard University in Washington, DC

Indianapolis Clowns – Mamie's Negro League team; royal blue with red stripes/letters

Portsmouth, Virginia – Clowns spring training; on Chesapeake Bay

Miss Purdies Rooming house – Mamie's home during spring training

Community Field – location of Clowns exhibition games during spring training

New York University – Mamie attended during off-season winter term

North Carolina A&T – after 3 years on Clowns, Mamie went to school here for registered nursing degree

1. How many women played baseball in the Negro Leagues?
 - a. 2
 - b. 3**
 - c. 4
2. What were the bases in the baseball games Mamie played with her uncle in South Carolina?
 - a. Large flat rock; tin can; bush; garbage can lid
 - b. A tire; schoolbook; dog house; frying pan
 - c. A pie plate; broken flower pot; large root; white lid**
3. What did Mamie always bring to the neighborhood baseball games in South Carolina?
 - a. The baseball.**
 - b. The bases.
 - c. The bats.
4. How did Mamie make the ball for the games in South Carolina?
 - a. Cotton stuffed in the toe of an old boot.
 - b. A rock wrapped in sticky tape.**
 - c. Rags wrapped very tightly.
5. What did they use for bats when they played in South Carolina?
 - a. They borrowed bats from school.
 - b. Old broom handles.
 - c. Tree branches.**
6. How did Mamie's grandmother die?
 - a. Stroke**
 - b. Hit by a car.
 - c. Heart attack.
7. What did Mamie's grandmother tell her to do when she couldn't sleep?
 - a. Say her prayers.
 - b. Count sheep
 - c. Count stars.**
8. What did Uncle Bones teach Mamie just before she left for New Jersey?
 - a. How to throw a knuckleball.**
 - b. How to hit a fast ball.
 - c. How to pick off someone stealing 2nd base.
9. What did Bones give Mamie when she left for New Jersey?
 - a. A new baseball bat.
 - b. A real baseball.**
 - c. His old baseball glove.
10. Where did Bones get the baseball he gave Mamie?
 - a. From Satchel Paige.
 - b. At an exhibition game in Columbia, SC**
 - c. He won it in a contest at school.
11. Who took Uncle Bones to the exposition game in South Carolina?
 - a. Grandpa**
 - b. Grandma
 - c. Mamie's mother
12. Who bought Mamie her first glove?
 - a. Her grandmother
 - b. Her mother
 - c. Uncle Ed**
13. What did Mamie play for three weeks in New Jersey and then quit?

- a. Baseball.
 - b. Softball.**
 - c. Basketball.
14. Why did Mamie go to the police station in New Jersey?
- a. The neighbor boys were being mean to her.
 - b. She wanted to know if it was illegal for girls to play baseball.**
 - c. She asked directions to the baseball field.
15. How did the PAL athletic league team do the first two years Mamie played on it?
- a. Won the division championship both years.**
 - b. Went to the Little League World Series the second year.
 - c. Won every game Mamie pitched.
16. What was Mamie thrilled to watch on TV in 1947 at her mother's new house in Washington?
- a. The Yankees vs. the Dodgers in the World Series.
 - b. Jackie Robinson's first hit.**
 - c. The first All-Star Game.
17. Why was the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League started?
- a. Because the men were needed to fight in the war.**
 - b. Because attendance was poor at major league baseball.
 - c. Because of a law that said women should have a chance to play baseball.
18. Why did Mamie and Rita sit in the back of the bus on their way to the All-American Girls Professional Baseball tryouts?
- a. There was more room for their baseball equipment in the back.
 - b. Blacks were not allowed to sit in the front seats.**
 - c. The front seats were already filled.
19. Why did Mamie not join the All-American Girls League?
- a. They didn't need any pitchers.
 - b. She threw the ball too hard for the other girls to hit.
 - c. Blacks were not allowed in the league.**
20. Where did Mamie work after she graduated from high school?
- a. As an usher at the Washington Senator's stadium.
 - b. Scooping ice cream at the soda fountain.**
 - c. As a nurse's aid at the hospital.
21. Why did Mamie quit playing for the Alexandria All-Stars?
- a. She had to travel too far to the games.**
 - b. The games conflicted with her work schedule.
 - c. Her mother asked her to quit.
22. What could Mamie smell when she pitched at Bannecker Field?
- a. Bread baking at the Wonder Bakery**
 - b. The ocean.
 - c. Fish from the near-by outdoor market.
23. What did Mamie think was an advantage to being a girl pitcher in baseball?
- a. She got paid more than the male players.
 - b. The male players didn't expect her to be smart about baseball.**
 - c. Her uniform was more comfortable.
24. What was George Wilson thinking about when he dropped Mamie's breaking ball?
- a. His wife's dumplings and hot rolls for dinner.**
 - b. Fishing.
 - c. Visiting a friend.
25. How did Mamie get the Savoy hitter out when the Clowns scout was watching?
- a. Popped up a foul ball to the catcher.
 - b. Fooled him with her knuckleball.

- c. Three straight fast balls for strikes.**
26. What did Mamie eat the morning of her Clowns tryout?
- Eggs and bacon.
 - Cereal and toast.
 - Nothing, she was too nervous to eat.**
27. How was the weather at the Clowns spring training?
- Hot and humid.**
 - Cold and windy.
 - Warm and pleasant.
28. What kind of uniform did the All-American girls team wear?
- Red, white and blue knickers and blouses.
 - Skirts.**
 - Shorts and T-shirts.
29. What did one of the players do to Toni Stone at her first scrimmage?
- Hid her glove.
 - Locked her in the bathroom.
 - Spiked her as she slid into 2nd base.**
30. What were the results of the first game Mamie pitched for the Clowns?
- The Clowns won.**
 - The Clowns lost.
 - The Clowns won, but Mamie was injured and only pitched one inning.
31. Besides pitcher, what else did Mamie do while she was with the Clowns?
- Utility infielder.**
 - Team trainer.
 - Team cook.
32. If black fans wanted to _____ during a Major League game in the South they had to leave the stadium.
- Eat.
 - Smoke.
 - Go to the bathroom.**
33. Black players in the majors were not allowed in the _____ in the South.
- Clubhouse.**
 - Press box.
 - Box office.
34. What was the penalty for white and black people playing sports together in Birmingham Alabama?
- A day in jail.
 - \$100 fine or 6 months in jail.**
 - Two months of hard labor.
35. What did Mr. Haywood tell the players after Toni was spiked?
- Anyone who hurt her would be off the team.**
 - He was sure female players wouldn't last long.
 - He would fine anyone who tried to hurt her again.
36. How much was Mamie paid to play on the Clowns?
- \$400/season
 - \$400/month**
 - \$40/game
37. What percentage of the gate did the winning team get?
- 75%
 - 65%
 - 60%**
38. How many games did the Clowns play in a season?

- a. 125
 - b. 150**
 - c. 175
39. What did Maime study in college?
- a. Sports training.
 - b. Medicine and engineering.**
 - c. Sports reporting.
40. Why did the Clowns have to worry about having enough gas when they traveled in the South?
- a. There was a gas shortage because of the war.
 - b. Blacks were sometimes not allowed to buy gas in the South.**
 - c. The gas tank on the bus leaked.
41. How much did Satchel Paige make at his peak in baseball?
- a. \$40,000/year**
 - b. \$100,000/year
 - c. \$400,000/year
42. Which pitch did Satchel Paige teach Mamie?
- a. Knuckleball.
 - b. Curve ball.**
 - c. Fast ball.
43. What is Mamie's nickname?
- a. Shorty.
 - b. Sweetie.
 - c. Peanut.**
44. Who gave Mamie her nickname?
- a. The kids she played with in South Carolina.
 - b. Her friend Toni.
 - c. Hank Baylis, a player on the Kansas City Monarchs**
45. What career did Mamie take up after three years of baseball?
- a. Engineer.
 - b. Nurse.**
 - c. Doctor.
46. Why did Mamie first start going to college in New York?
- a. Her mother suggested she could live with her cousins.**
 - b. She got a baseball scholarship.
 - c. It was the only college that would accept blacks into nursing.
47. What does Mamie regret?
- a. She never played in the Major Leagues.
 - b. She couldn't play with the All-American Girls League.
 - c. Her Uncle Bones didn't get to see her pitch with the Clowns.**
48. How did the author first meet Mamie?
- a. Mamie coached the author's daughter's team.
 - b. They met at the Negro League Baseball Shop.**
 - c. They met at an old-timer's exhibition game.
49. What did Hoppy advise Mamie to do with the money she earned from the Clowns?
- a. Save it.**
 - b. Invest it in Satchel Paige's new team.
 - c. Let him borrow some for his wife's operation.
50. Why did the Negro League teams eventually fold?
- a. A law was passed allowing the blacks into Major League ball parks.
 - b. They were shut down because of a betting scandal.
 - c. The better players all left for Major League baseball.