



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

John "Snookie" Walker scrapbook

1950-1985 [bulk 1950s]

Sc MG 535

Summary

Creator: Walker, John Snookie, 1919-1985

Title: John "Snookie" Walker scrapbook

Date: 1950-1985 [bulk 1950s]

Size: 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of John R. Walker, July 1985.

Abstract: John "Snookie" Rendall Walker was a Harlem business entrepreneur and organizer/manager of several Harlem-based youth and professional athletic teams. He lived his entire life in Harlem (1919-1985), opening the Sugar Bowl Restaurant on West 137th Street and Seventh Avenue in 1947, which he co-owned with his wife, Dolores. In 1950, he organized Snookie's Sugar Bowl Five basketball team, which featured semi-professional and professional players and had its glory years from the late 1950s to the early 1960s. In 1951, Walker helped to reorganize the New York Renaissance, or Rens, the well-known professional basketball team, and was the team's manager-coach through the mid-1950s. In 1957, he organized the boys' Biddy Basketball League of Metropolitan New York and became its first commissioner. Walker's "Biddy" teams went on to win national and international basketball tournaments from the mid to late 1960s. He also formed youth leagues in softball and baseball for pre-teens throughout the 1950s to the 1970s, and an all-women's basketball team, the Harlem Globe Travellettes, in the early 1950s. The John "Snookie" Walker scrapbook consists primarily of printed material relating to the activities of several of the athletic clubs Walker organized and managed from the early 1950s to the 1970s. Included are a history of the Renaissance Basketball Team and news clippings about the team under his management, as well as Snookie's Sugar Bowl Five, the Biddy Basketball League, and the Harlem Globe Travellettes. The articles discuss games and players. There are also programs for tournaments in which these teams competed in New York City and out of state, 1950-1974. The collection includes a file of letters written by executives in various athletic organizations as well as from Jackie Robinson (1961) during his tenure as vice president of personnel with Chock Full o'Nuts. Information about "Snookie" himself is found in news clippings in addition to letters pertaining to a salute honoring him in 1985, recognizing his many years contributing to Harlem life.

Preferred citation: [Item], John "Snookie" Walker scrapbook, Sc MG 535, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public

Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by Janice Quinter, November 2011.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

Creator History

John "Snookie" Rendall Walker was a Harlem business entrepreneur and organizer/manager of several Harlem-based youth and professional athletic teams. He lived his entire life in Harlem (1919-1985), opening the Sugar Bowl Restaurant on West 137th Street and Seventh Avenue in 1947, which he co-owned with his wife, Dolores. In 1950, he organized Snookie's Sugar Bowl Five basketball team, which featured semi-professional and professional players and had its glory years from the late 1950s to the early 1960s. In 1951, Walker helped to reorganize the New York Renaissance, or Rens, the well-known professional basketball team, and was the team's manager-coach through the mid-1950s. In 1957, he organized the boys' Biddy Basketball League of Metropolitan New York and became its first commissioner. Walker's "Biddy" teams went on to win national and international basketball tournaments from the mid to late 1960s. He also formed youth leagues in softball and baseball for pre-teens throughout the 1950s to the 1970s, and an all-women's basketball team, the Harlem Globe Travellettes, in the early 1950s.

Scope and Content Note

The John "Snookie" Walker scrapbook consists primarily of printed material relating to the activities of several of the athletic clubs Walker organized and managed from the early 1950s to the 1970s. Included are a history of the Renaissance Basketball Team and news clippings about the team under his management, as well as Snookie's Sugar Bowl Five, the Biddy Basketball League, and the Harlem Globe Travellettes. The articles discuss games and players. There are also programs for tournaments in which these teams competed in New York City and out of state, 1950-1974. The collection includes a file of letters written by executives in various athletic organizations as well as from Jackie Robinson (1961) during his tenure as vice president of personnel with Chock Full o'Nuts. Information about "Snookie" himself is found in news clippings in addition to letters pertaining to a salute honoring him in 1985, recognizing his many years contributing to Harlem life.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American athletes
African American basketball players
African American youth
Athletic clubs
Basketball
Sports -- New York (State) -- 20th century

Geographic Names

Harlem (New York, N.Y.)

Names

Walker, John Snookie, 1919-1985

Biddy Basketball League (New York, N.Y.)

New York Renaissance (Basketball team)

Snookie's Sugar Bowl 5 (Basketball team)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence 1952-1967
- b. 1 f. 2 Walker, John "Snookie" clippings
- b. 1 f. 3 A Salute to John "Snookie" Walker 1985 April 20
Renaissance Basketball Team
- b. 1 f. 4 History
- b. 1 f. 5 Clippings 1953-1954
- b. 1 f. 6 Snookie's Sugar Bowl Five 1951-1966
- b. 1 f. 7-8 Biddy Basketball League 1961
- b. 1 f. 9 Harlem Globe Travellettes
- b. 1 f. 10 Warner, Ed
- b. 1 f. 11 Programs 1950-1974