

Bethune, Rickey Cited At Philly Cotillion

Get 'Malta Crosses'; Honor Jackie Robinson

By ARNOLD de MILLE

PHILADELPHIA — Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, president emerita of Bethune Cookman college, Branch Rickey, former president of the Brooklyn Dodgers and now vice president and general manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates, and Jackie Robinson, star 2nd baseman for the spectacular "Bums," were honored last week by the Philadelphia Cotillion Society.

At the Society's sparkling annual Christmas cotillion, the biggest holiday show stage in the

"City of Brotherly Love," given at the Metropolitan Opera House on North Broad street, the Society presented Dr. Bethune with its "Ruby Cross of Malta." Mr. Rickey with its "Turquoise Cross of Malta" and Jackie Robinson was given a special award for his sportsmanship.

More than 4,000 "cream of the crop" jammed the historic opera house to witness the presentations. The three selectees were chosen by the Society as persons who, through the years, have championed the rights of man with much foresight.

Preceding the presentations, a fantasy ballet, "Winter Glory," was presented under the direction of Marion D. Cuyjet with more than 125 youngsters on the huge stage. The Cotillion Symphony, an interracial orchestra with several members of the Philadelphia Symphony, was under the direction of Raymond L. Smith. The Cotillion ended with some 150 young couples swaying across the stage in a waltz.

In presenting Mrs. Bethune with the "Ruby Cross," the Philadelphia Cotillion Society lauded her for having "championed the rights of all men with courage and foresight" for several decades.

The citation was made by Dr. Leslie Pinckney Hill, president emeritus of Cheney S. T. College, and the "cross" was draped around her neck by Judge Hobson Reynolds, member of the Board of Trustees of the Bethune Cookman college.

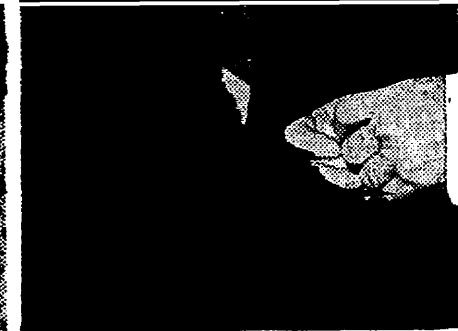
Rickey was cited for having "displayed in his dealings with his fellowmen, a fine sense of the true meaning of democracy."

Jackie Robinson, the first Negro brought into organized baseball and by Rickey, gave the citation. Mrs. Rose Norwood Stewart, president of the Society, made the decoration.

The special award presented to Jackie, the "L'Ouverture Award," was created especially for "fields other than humanities and the fine arts."

The presentation ceremonies were presided over by Judge William H. Hastie, judge of the 3rd U.S. Court of Appeals, and Judge Herbert E. Millen, chairman of the cotillion society. Eugene Wayman Jones, a brilliant impresario and only Negro instructor at Temple university (Philadelphia), is executive director and personally staged the cotillion.

The Philadelphia Cotillion Society was organized in 1949. Its first award went to concert singer Marian Anderson. Last year Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Noble Peace prize winner, was the recipient. Nine organizations were selected to benefit from the proceeds.



HONORED AT COTILLION—Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey are honored by Philadelphia Cotillion Society during society's glittering annual Christmas cotillion given at Philly's Metropolitan Opera House. In photo at left, Dr. Bethune is presented "Ruby Cross of Malta" by Judge Hobson R. Reynolds, board of trustee

member at Bethune-Cookman college. Dr. Leslie Pinckney Hill, president emeritus, Cheney S. T. College, holds citation. At right, Jackie Robinson presents citation to Rickey, who brought him into organized baseball. Jackie himself received the "L'Ouverture Award" for sportsmanship.—Defender photos by de Mille.