

## MAN WINS HONOR OF SITTING IN SEAT OF ONE OF HIS HEROES

Gil Carter on scoreboard at Royals Stadium

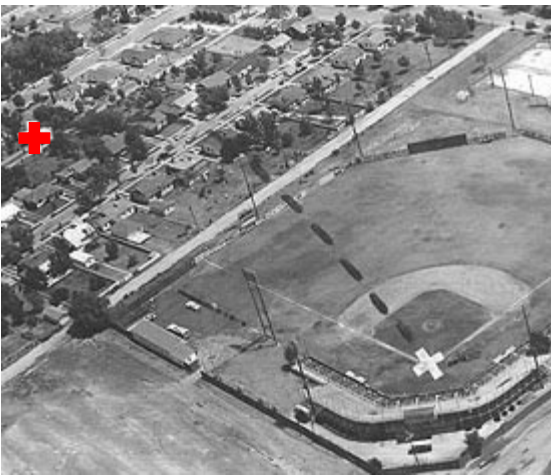


As a young man Topekan Gil Carter was recruited by Kansas City Monarchs' legend and Chicago Cubs scout Buck O'Neil to play for the Cubs. Now, more than 50 years later, Carter's name once again was associated with O'Neil.

Carter won tickets to the April 26 Kansas City Royals' game with the Seattle Mariners where he sat in the "Buck O'Neil Legacy Seat" at Kauffman Stadium.



Through an anonymous donation, Carter was able to rent a car to attend the game with his family. Community Action's Alice Schimmel, who had worked with Carter before, attended the game with him and his family.



On August 11, 1959, the right-handed hitting Carter hit what is still recognized as the longest home run on record, a 733-foot blast over the left-center field fence and light tower for the hometown Potashers (a Cubs minor-league affiliate) at Montgomery Field in Carlsbad, NM. The ball cleared the fence *and* two city blocks immediately beyond the fence. The home run came off Wayne Shaper, who later trained pitcher Roger Clemens. Carter still has the ball. His feat was announced at Kauffman Stadium on April 26.

manager Joe Torre.

Kansas City Monarchs great Buck O'Neil signed Carter to a contract with the Chicago Cubs in 1953. Carter said he played with some of the all-time greats, including Pittsburgh Pirates slugger Willie Stargell and Cardinals' great and current New York Yankees manager Joe Torre.

In that 1959 season Carter hit .286 with 34 home runs (a club and league record at the time) in 119 games (a home run every 12.36 at bats) and slugged .602, pretty good power numbers for a man standing just 5'11" and weighing 202 lbs.

Buck O'Neil, who passed away in 2006, was affiliated with the Royals' organization up to the time of his death. He played with a number of Negro League teams but most famously with the Kansas City Monarchs, where he also managed. He was a scout with the Chicago Cubs and is credited with signing Hall of Famer Lou Brock. He later became a scout for the Royals and, at 86 years of age, was named "Midwest Scout of the Year" in 1998. O'Neil played a role in establishing the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, MO.



## CARTER HONORS ONE OF COMMUNITY ACTION'S OWN

In appreciation for years of successfully working with the agency, Gil Carter honored Community Action Di-



Gil Carter and Alice Schimmel

rect Client Services Coordinator Alice Schimmel with a plaque reading, “in recognition and appreciation for your inspiration and dedication to the communities of Northeast Kansas.”

Schimmel attended the April 26 Royals’ game with Carter and his family. Schimmel has been working with Carter for about nine years, since the death of his father.

Schimmel said Carter’s father was a Community Action client about 20 years ago. Gil Carter became an agency client about nine years ago as his father was dying. Schimmel said Community Action was able to assist him with a number of services to help him after his father passed, including Weatherization, Commodities, Emergency Repair and Tax Prep and Assistance.

Schimmel said she was overwhelmed by the recognition and the fact that it came as a complete surprise. She accepted the award not just for herself, but for all Community Action employees who “help people help themselves.”