

133 CONTINUED: (3)

OLD JANE (v.o. cont'd)

Whoaaaaaoooooooooooo!... so they stuck a cap on me (from the Brooklyn Dodgers,

Mister Robert mounted up but couldn't catch her.

mind telling you I was half blind when I made those caps didn't

MISTER ROBERT  
Horse! Horse! played real well anyway...

136

Nobody could stop it. Not Jane, not Etienne (although he was a whole lot younger in those days), not even Rags. Rags was completely out of control, running faster than he'd ever run in his life, breaking every speed record between the fields and the main house, and there was Miss Dean watching the whole time.

People along the sidelines would jump in and take part. It Finally Rags stopped in back of the main house. Jane thought he was going to tip over and she let herself hit the ground. and started talking to a striking creole girl named MARY AGNES LEPABRE.

It wasn't too hard because Jane landed in Miss Amma Dean's azaleas. OLD JANE (v.o.)

Peoples started noticing Tee-Bob and Mister Robert rode up right behind the two boys, Jane sitting there on the ground, parasol crushed beyond repair.

didn't mix with white or black, only with their own TIMMY They did their Jane sure can ride! their own cattles,

gived their own dances. No matter how white you was, TEE-BOB didn't have Best I ever did see! they didn't want you mixing.

(beat) MISTER ROBERT  
You two join me in the barn. serious at first...

CUT TO:

134

They just kept talking while some folks played baseball, INT. BARN - SAMSON PLANTATION - DAY (1927) blind old Jane right spang in the middle...

Mister Robert whupped the two boys like nobody ever got whupped before. Everybody could hear them yelp with each whack of the cane. And it didn't matter that one behind 137 was white and the other was black, because he hit both equally hard...

After the game was over and everybody started splitting up, Timmy and Tee-Bob headed back toward the house. CUT TO:

135

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND - SAMSON PLANTATION - DAY (1933)

Yup. She's a looker, alright... Damn Their baseball games were something to see. Usually fifty to a team, white against black. Scores would run something like 28 to 35, 33 to 41. Ridiculous! But they had fun...

OLD JANE (v.o.)

We always played baseball every Sunday afternoon.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)  
(CONTINUED)

135 CONTINUED:

OLD JANE (v.o. cont'd)

I was too old to play, so they stuck a cap on me (from the Brooklyn Dodgers, my favorites), and made me up. I don't mind telling you I was half blind when I made those calls! But it didn't matter, nobody played real well anyway...

136 GAME (MONTAGE)

There wasn't too much rough-housing, but every now and again the fists would fly. They always kept it white vs. white, black vs. black on these occasions.

People along the sidelines would jump in and take part. It was a real free-for-all, but no one would get too hurt. During one of those free-for-alls, Tee-Bob went over to the sideline and started talking to a striking Creole girl named MARY AGNES LEFABRE.

OLD JANE (v.o.)

Peoples started noticing Tee-Bob and Mary Agnes. Mary Agnes LeFabre was a Creole. The people of Creole place didn't mix with white or black, only with their own kind. They did their own farming, raised their own cattles, gived their own dances. No matter how white you was, if you didn't have Creole background, they didn't want you mixing.

(beat)

Nobody, not even me, took it serious at first...

They just kept talking while some folks played baseball, others wrestled right in the infield and blind old Jane right spang in the middle...

CUT TO:

137 EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND - SAMSON PLANTATION - EVENING (1933)

After the game was over and everybody started splitting up, Timmy and Tee-Bob headed back toward the main house.

TIMMY

Yup. She's a looker, alright... Damn near pass for white. They say her grandmother was kep' by a white man 'fore the War --

TEE-BOB

Timmy, what you jabberin' on?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

TIMMY

As if you didn't know!

Tee-Bob didn't say anything. Timmy smirked and kept at it:

TIMMY

Timmy co... should... Talkin' all up, down both sides the River, all way to Baton Rouge, 'Reason Robert Samson's son don't show more interest in Colonel Stanton's daughter 'cause he found somethin' better. Sowin' his wild oats with one o' them high yellas.'

TEE-BOB

That's what they say, huh?

TIMMY

Yup. That's what they sayin'.

(beat)

How you and Mary Agnes gettin' on, anyway?

Tee-Bob looked at his brother, as they walked, and wondered if he should say anything at all. Then he got the courage and blurted it out before he could stop himself.

TEE-BOB

I love her.

TIMMY

What?

TEE-BOB

(stronger)

I love her.

Timmy smirked and spat to the side of the road.

TIMMY

That's a bad joke.

TEE-BOB

She hardly talks to me. Doesn't even let me touch her. But I love that girl more than anything I ever known before ... I never told any of this to nobody.

TIMMY

138 EXT. SIDEWALKS/STORES - DAY (1933)  
Tee-Bob... the open sidewalk... Y'all jus' sowin' your wild oats 'fore marrying Judy Stanton. Everybody knows that. Everybody understands.

TEE-BOB

I ain't touched her. I'm going to marry her.

(CONTINUED)

137 CONTINUED: (2)

TIMMY

(pause)

That woman's a nigger, Robert. She just look white, but she got Africa running through her vein.

Timmy could see Tee-Bob was serious. He grabbed him by the shoulder and made him stop right there.

TIMMY

Dammit, ain't I your brother? Don't you think I know about these things here? Your people won't have it! Her people won't have it!

But he could see Tee-Bob wasn't even listening.

TIMMY

Listen, Robert. You want her, you go to that school house there and you make them childrens go out into the yard and wait. Take her out in a ditch if you can't wait to get home. But she's for that and nothin' else --

He never saw it coming. Tee-Bob sent his fist slamming hard into Timmy's mouth.

Timmy fell to the dirt; looked up at his brother. Tee-Bob couldn't have been mad for more than a second. Next thing he knew he was looking at his hand.

TEE-BOB

I... sorry, I...

Tee-Bob turned and ran away, away from the house, into the cane field.

TIMMY

What's the matter with you?

(calling after him)

You crazy? You crazy? You don't go in there messin' with those people! You know how them octoroons act...

DISSOLVE TO:

138 EXT. SIDEWALKS/STORES - BAYONNE - VARIOUS CUTS - DAY (1933)

Tee-Bob followed her everywhere. He walked with her out in the open, even into Negro stores. White folks walking on the sidewalk would stop and stare and talk...

OLD JANE (v.o.)

Peoples have a way of thinking.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

138 CONTINUED: TELD - DAY (1933)

Tee-Bob and Mary Agnes OLD JANE (v.o. cont'd) They rode horses  
They get set in their ways. When Tee-Bob and Mary Agnes finally brought their love out into the open, it was more than some peoples could stand. Or allow. The rules just didn't accept their kind of love... She turned to Old Jane.

Mary Agnes never allowed herself to let anything happen. If he got too close, she'd push him away -- playfully. But the more she tried to shake him, the more Tee-Bob hung on and the more they both enjoyed the game.

CUT TO:

139 INT. DINING ROOM - MAIN HOUSE - SAMSON PLANTATION - NIGHT (1933)

Jane was serving dinner, as always. Mister Robert sat at the head of the table, Amma Dean at the other. The two boys sat across from each other, listening to them argue...

OLD JANE (v.o.)

Mister Robert and Amma Dean would go at it cats and dogs about what to do. They blamed it on the heat of summer. They blamed it on Mary Agnes. Finally they blamed it on Timmy...

Mister Robert started to shout at Timmy. Tee-Bob came to his brother's defense, but it was no use. And Old Jane could only watch the break-up of this family, helpless to interfere.

CUT TO:

140 EXT. TRAIN DEPOT - BAYONNE - DAY (1933)

There wasn't much of a station. Just a small wooden shack and a platform. Train stopped for four minutes twice a week to haul cane, haul people to New Orleans.

141 PLATFORM

Tee-Bob had driven Timmy down there and waited with Miss Jane to see him off. Timmy was dressed in a suit, too small of course, as it belonged to another some years before.

Just before the train pulled out, Timmy ran to Miss Jane and kisses her goodbye. Tee-Bob shook Timmy's hand -- then they embraced, the way brothers do, and Timmy climbed up on the car just as the train started moving out.

CUT TO:

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)