

Emmett Ashford, umpire, to serve as regents lecturer

March 30, 1978

Emmett Ashford, who was to major league baseball umpires what Jackie Robinson was to major league baseball players, will serve as a regents lecturer at the at the University of California, San Diego April 10-14.

Ashford, who rose from a position as a postal clerk in Los Angeles to become the first black umpire in major league history, will be sponsored by the UC San Diego department of physical education and Third College.

During his stay on campus, the flamboyant arbiter will have dinner with Chancellor William McElroy, give a public talk reviewing his career in baseball, show highlight films of the 1970 World Series (which he umpired) and the 1977 All-Star Game, and umpire a baseball game between the UC San Diego Tritons and Southern California College at Lyle Olsen Field on the campus.

Ashford's schedule of public events at UC San Diego:

MONDAY, APRIL 10 5 P.M. "Only the Ball was White," a public lecture reviewing Ashford's career in baseball. Room 1330, Humanities and Social Sciences Bldg., Muir campus.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11 12 noon Visit San Diego Sportswriters and Sportscasters luncheon. 3 p.m. Umpire the UC San Diego-Southern California College baseball game at Lyle Olsen Field.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12 3 p.m. Viewing of the 1977 All-Star Game and the 1970 World Series Highlight films. Room 1402, Humanities-Library Bldg., Revelle campus.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13 3 p.m. Panel discussion: "Pros and Cons of Instant Replay as an Umpiring Tool." Room 1402, Humanities-Library Bldg., Revelle campus.

Ashford's career as an umpire began as a hobby on the playgrounds and sandlots of his native Los Angeles after World War II. He graduated to umpiring major college baseball which led to a professional tryout. In 1951, he became the first Negro umpire in organized baseball when he worked in the Southwest International League.

He progressed through several minor leagues until he was purchased by the American League at the end of the 1965 season. He remained a major league umpire until 1970.

Since his retirement from the big leagues, Ashford has toured the world as a lecturer and has given numerous umpiring clinics around the country and overseas.

For information contact: Paul Lowenberg, 452-3120

(March 30, 1978)