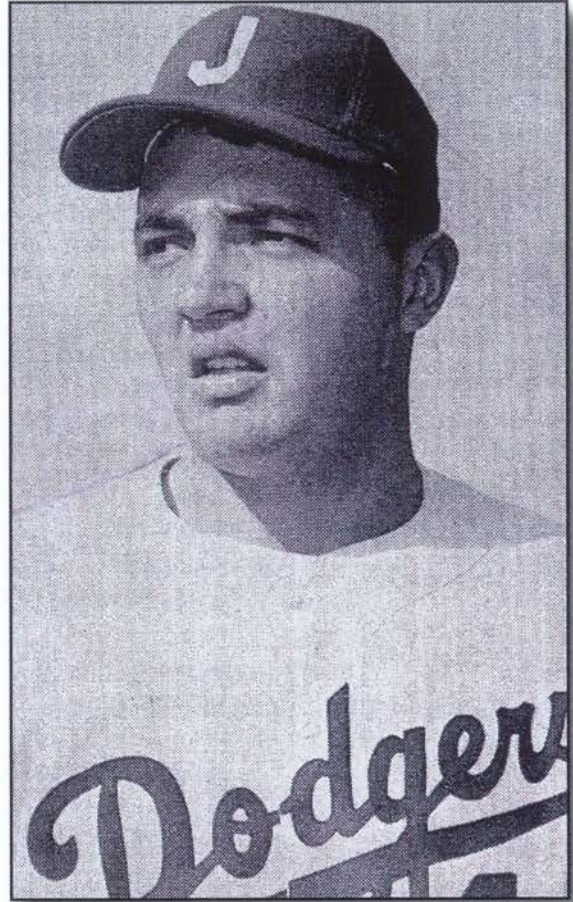


JAMES HORACE ROBERTS

JAMES HORACE WAS BORN MARCH 10, 1946, IN DORA TO HORACE AND DORIS ROBERTS.

His father was a merchant and founded the youth baseball league for East Walker County, and James was his star performer from little league through colt league. The hard throwing pitcher and third baseman began his high school career at Dora High School where he excelled as both a baseball and football player. While only a sophomore in high school, he played with his father's adult team in the Birmingham Amateur Baseball Federation (BABF). During his high school career, there were no high school play-offs and few Walker County schools even fielded a team. Therefore, Dora played a heavy Jefferson County schedule and held their own with such powers as Phillips, Ensley and Bessemer. He was a perennial All-County performer and had several classic pitching duels with Bobby Daniels of Ensley High School.

James Horace graduated from Dora in 1964 and was awarded a full grant in aid baseball scholarship to the University of Alabama. He pitched that summer for his father and began receiving professional offers from various teams. During that pre-draft era, he carefully weighed his offers and ultimately chose to forego college and signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers.



As a rookie, he pitched for Class A Jamestown in the New York - Pennsylvania League and posted a very respectable 6-3 record. In 1967, he pitched for the Class AA Albuquerque team which was managed by Dodger Hall-of-Famer Duke Snider. In one game with Albuquerque, the "flame throwing" pitcher struck out 13 batters and won a 12 inning game 1-0. He was a fan favorite as one local sports writer hailed him as "one of those FINDS that rarely come along in a professional sport." During that same season, he had a 5-6 record when he suffered, what would prove to be, a career ending shoulder injury. Although on the disabled list, he joined his Texas league Championship team in the final Dixie Series against the hometown Birmingham Barons. Some of those teammates he played with included future major leaguers Charley Hough, Mike Kekick, Willie Crawford and Bill Sudakis. After his baseball career was over, he became an avid softball player whose services were coveted by teams all across the country.

James Horace was married to his high school sweetheart from Dora, Tyra Mayberry, for 40 years and they were blessed with one son: Damien Roberts.
