

# A gift for Jesse

## Olympic poster donated to Owens Museum

By Deangelo McDaniel  
Managing Editor

When Paul Robinson saw the almost life-sized poster of Jesse Owens hanging in an Atlanta train station in 1996, he knew exactly where it should go after the Olympic games were over.

"I thought about the park in Oakville right away," the former Decatur resident said.

Getting one of the posters, however, proved to be another challenge. But more than two years after he spotted the image of the man who defeated Adolf Hitler's myth of Aryan supremacy, Robinson brought one of those posters to the Owens Museum in Oakville.

Owens Park Board members James Pinion and Therman White proudly added the poster to the growing collection of memorabilia that honors the 1936 four-time gold-medal winner.

"It's beautiful and we have a place for it," Pinion said as he pointed to a blank wall in the museum.

Robinson said the posters hung at several locations in Atlanta during the '96 Olympics. He said they were designed to honor former Olympic heroes.

"I spotted the one of Jesse when I was coming off an escalator," said Robinson, who now resides in Marietta.

"I had to have one," he added.

A lot of the posters were being stolen. Robinson decided to write



to Nation's Bank, the sponsors of the posters, to obtain one.

The bank, he said, didn't give much hope when he inquired about the posters, but six months later, Robinson got the news he wanted.

"I asked if they could give one for the museum, and they told me to come down to their building and get it," he recalled. "They told me that many of the posters of Owens were stolen during the Olympics."

Robinson wanted two, but received only one poster in early 1997. He said he was lucky to get one for the museum.

"I would love to have this, but this is where it belongs," he said of the museum. "This is something that should be shared with everyone."

"Mrs. (Ruth) Owens has told us that Jesse comes back to life every four years," Pinion said. "I can't imagine there ever being the Olympics without his name being mentioned."