

Pint of Grog: Clarence Beers

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On May 2, 1948, Kansas native Clarence Scott Beers makes his major league debut with the St. Louis Cardinals in a 13-4 loss to the Chicago Cubs.

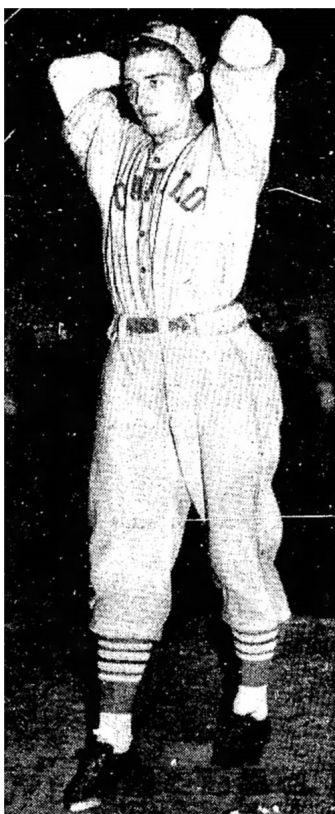
Relieving Ken Johnson with one out in the eighth inning, Beers allows three hits and walks a batter and is touched up for four runs (only one earned) in two-thirds of inning ... the 29-year-old right-hander ends the afternoon, and his major league career, with a 13.50 ERA.

Despite losing three years (1943-1945) to military service, Beers, who starts his career as a catcher, has eight double-digit winning seasons during his 13 seasons in the minor leagues.

Beers is one of three major league players from El Dorado, Kansas (Tom Borland, Beals Becker).

In 1947, pitching for the Houston Buffaloes, he becomes the first Texas League pitcher in a decade to win 25 games ... he completes 24 games, including six shutouts, and walks only 63 men in 286 innings.

In 1939, despite a 5.39 ERA, he wins 17 games for the Pocatello Cardinals, pitching 242 innings in a career-high 44 games ... in 1942, with the Sacramento Salons of the AA Pacific Coast League, Beers is 16-12 with a 3.81 ERA, completing 15 games in 33 appearances.



Clarence Beers
1939 Pocatello Cardinals



CLARENCE BEERS

Clarence Beers Major League Debut May 2, 1948

AT ST. LOUIS—Pounding out 19 hits, including six doubles, one triple and a home run, Cubs drubbed Cardinals, 13 to 4. Nicholson hit four-bagger. Meyer, who held Redbirds to one hit in previous appearance, was routed in third inning, but Chipman, limiting Cards to two safeties, including homer by Lang, breezed rest of way for decision. After forcing out Dickson in fifth inning with two-run rally, Cubs took lead against Staley in sixth and then fell on Johnson and Beers for seven tallies in eighth frame, manufactured from three doubles, passed ball, two walks, single, fumble and wild pitch.

Chicago	AB	H	O	A	St. Louis	AB	H	O	A
Schenz, 2b...	5	1	2	4	Schoenfeldt, 2b	5	0	5	3
Waltkus, 1b...	4	3	1	1	Moore, cf...	4	0	2	0
Jeffcoat, cf...	5	3	2	0	Musial, lf...	6	2	2	0
Cavarretta, if	6	1	2	0	Slaughter, rf	4	0	2	0
Nicholson, rf	4	2	4	0	Jones, 1b...	5	1	8	0
Lowrey, 3b...	5	4	0	1	Lang, 2b...	2	2	0	1
McCullough, c	6	2	3	0	Garagiola, c	1	0	1	1
Smalley, ss...	5	2	2	4	*Medwick...	1	0	0	0
Meyer, p...	1	0	0	0	Wilber, c...	2	0	2	0
Chipman, p	4	1	1	1	Yochim, p...	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	45	19	27	11	Marion, ss...	3	1	4	2
					Dickson, p...	2	1	0	1
					Staley, p...	0	0	0	0
					K. Johnson, p	1	1	0	1
					Beers, p...	0	0	0	0
					Bucha, c...	0	0	1	0
					Totals ...	35	8	27	9

Chicago	1	0	1	2	2	0	7	0	13
St. Louis	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	4

*Grounded out for Garagiola in third. R—Schenz, Jeffcoat, Waltkus 2. Cavarretta, Nicholson 2. Lowrey, McCullough, Smalley 2. Chipman 2. Slaughter, Lang 2. Marion. E—Wilber, Lowrey, Smalley, RBI Jeffcoat 3, Dickson, Schoenfeldt, Jones, Nicholson 3. Lowrey 2. Lang, Chipman, McCullough Smalley 2. 2B—Lowrey, Waltkus, K. Johnson, Smalley, McCullough Jeffcoat 2. Jones. 3B—Musial, Smalley, HB—Nicholson, Lang. BB—Dickson 1, Meyer 2, K. Johnson 3, Beers 1, Yochim 3, Chipman 4. SO—Dickson 3, Meyer 1, Yochim 1, Chipman 1. Hits—Meyer 6 in 2 1-3, Dickson 10 in 4 2-3, Staley 3 in 1-3 (none out in sixth), K. Johnson 3 in 2 1-3, Beers 3 in 2-3. HP—K. Johnson 1, WP—Beers, Yochim PB—Wilber. Winner—Chipman. Loser—Staley. Umpires—Reardon, Goetz and Conlan. Attendance—15,071.

In 1952, he losses 11 straight games with the Charleston Senators and finishes the season 7-19 with a 4.50 ERA, splitting time between Charleston, the Seattle Rainiers and the Toledo Mud Hens.

Beers completes his minor league career in 1953 with a 147-166 record, pitching 2,492 innings ... Beers later plays six seasons (1954-1959) in the Midnight Sun League in Anchorage, Alaska.

On February 15, 1956, Beers is found guilty of "culpable negligence" but not criminally responsible for the December 9, death of a six-year-old Harry Bowers.

Clarence Beers passes away on December 6, 2002, in Tucson, Arizona, just three days short of his 84th birthday.

Beers Chronology

August, 1938

Despite hitting only .227, with 10 home runs and 77 RBIs, Beers, a catcher-outfielder with the Midland Cardinals, is named to the managers' West Texas-New Mexico (D) League All-Star team.

Clarence Beers [2 of 4]:

April 3, 1941

Johnny Mize and Terry Moore hit home runs as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Columbus Red Birds 14-6 despite being held hitless for six straight innings by Red Birds' pitchers Clarence Beers and Stan Musial.

March 7, 1943

Coming of a 16-win season for the Sacramento Salons in 1942, Beers is involved in a multi-player transaction with the Columbus Red Birds of the American Association.

May 22, 1946

Beers, 0-1 with a 12.38 ERA in four games with Columbus, is sold to Houston of the Texas (AA) League.

September 3, 1946

Houston's Clarence Beers shuts out the Shreveport Sports 1-0 on three hits ... Beers strikes out five and scores the game's only run following a fourth-inning triple.



Clarence Beers, 25-game winner with Houston last season, winds up at the St. Louis Cardinals' training camp in St. Petersburg, Fla. The Durango, Colo., resident is an even six-foot, weighs 170 pounds.

August 13, 1947

Pitching for the first-place Houston Buffaloes, Beers allows six hits and strikes out three and becomes a 20-game winner for the first and only time in his career with a 3-1 victory over the Tulsa Oilers.

September 2, 1947

Beers and Oklahoma City third baseman Al Rosen are selected as the Texas League's most valuable players ... Beers is a unanimous choice in voting by sports writers in each league city ... the two players receive \$100 a plaque from the league.

September 7, 1947

On the final day of the regular season, Houston clinches first place, by a half-game over Fort Worth Cats, with a 6-3 win over the Beaumont Exporters ... 7,613 watch Beers twirl a six-hitter en route to picking his league-best 25th win.

Clarence Beers Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA
1937	Hobbs Drillers.....	West Texas-New Mexico	D	5-13	147	208	70	-	7.71
1938	Midland Cardinals.....	West-Texas-New Mexico	D	-	-	-	-	-	--
1939	Pocatello Cardinals.....	Pioneer	C	17-13	242	282	107	-	5.39
1940	2 Teams.....	2 Lgs	B-A1	8-13	145	147	57	-	3.41
1940	Houston Buffaloes.....	Texas	A1	0-1	0	2	0	0	inf
1940	Asheville Tourists.....	Piedmont	B	8-12	145	145	57	-	3.41
1941	Columbus Red Birds.....	South Atlantic	B	14-14	261	279	85	139	3.90
1942	Sacramento Solons.....	Pacific Coast	AA	16-12	210	234	56	72	3.81
1943	Kirtland (N.M.) Air Field.....	Military	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1944	Kirtland (N.M.) Air Field.....	Military	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1945	Kelly (Texas) Air Field.....	Military	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1946	2 Teams.....	2 Leagues	AA-AAA	10-10	181	140	63	6	3.08
1946	Columbus Red Birds.....	American Assoc	AAA	0-1	8	17	10	6	12.38
1946	Houston Buffaloes.....	Texas	AA	10-9	173	123	53	70	2.65
1947	Houston Buffaloes.....	Texas	AA	25-8	266	231	66	156	2.40
1948	St. Louis Cardinals.....	NATIONAL	ML	0-0	0.2	3	1	0	13.50
1948	Columbus Red Birds.....	American Assoc	AAA	10-12	158	188	68	80	5.35
1949	Houston Buffaloes.....	Texas	AA	11-14	235	236	84	86	3.49
1950	2 Teams.....	Texas	AA	7-7	126	131	38	41	3.71
1950	Houston Buffaloes.....	Texas	AA	0-2	-	-	-	-	--
1950	Beaumont Roughnecks.....	Texas	AA	7-5	126	131	38	41	3.71
1951	Beaumont Roughnecks.....	Texas	AA	14-15	268	266	41	81	2.79
1952	2 Teams.....	2 Leagues	AAA	7-19	212	247	40	64	4.50
1952	Seattle Rainers.....	Pacific Coast	Open	0-0	11	13	3	4	4.91
1952	Toledo Mud Hens.....	American Assoc	AAA	2-1	21	8	3	-	1.50
1952	Charleston Senators.....	American Assoc	AAA	5-18	180	226	34	60	4.47
1953	4 Teams.....	4 Leagues	B-AAA	3-6	49	57	9	16	4.22
1953	Charleston Senators.....	American Assoc	AAA	0-2	-	-	-	-	--
1953	Paris Indians.....	Big State	B	-	-	-	-	-	--
1953	Beaumont Exporters.....	Texas	AA	3-2	49	57	9	16	4.22
1953	Lincoln Chiefs.....	Western	A	0-2	-	-	-	-	--
1954	Anchorage Labor Council.....	Midnight Sun	S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1955	Anchorage Labor Council.....	Midnight Sun	S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1956	Anchorage Labor Council.....	Midnight Sun	S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1957	Sportland Bees.....	Midnight Sun	S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1958	Sportland Bees.....	Midnight Sun	S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1959	Sportland Bees.....	Midnight Sun	S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	--
Major League Totals.....				0-0	0.2	3	1	0	13.50
Minor League Totals.....				147-156	2492	2646	781	-	--

Bold denotes led league

1938 - West Texas-New Mexico League All-Star team (UT)

Rosen, Beers Voted Texas Loop's Best



Clarence Beers has already pitched four shutouts.

Clarence Beers [3 of 4]:

September 24, 1947

The Houston Buffaloes beat the Dallas Rebels 1-0 before 12,019 fans in Buffalo Stadium, to win the Texas League post-season series 4-games-to-2 ... Beers, despite fighting a "persistent cough" and throat ailment, pitches a four-hitter for his second shutout of the championship format ... walking three and striking out two, Beers allows only two runners as far as second base.

Sacramento In Player Trade With Columbus

SACRAMENTO, March 8.—(AP)—President Phil Bartelme of the Sacramento Baseball Club last night announced that the contracts of Jack Sturdy, first baseman; Clarence Beers and Jack Creel, pitchers, and Edward Malone, catcher, had been transferred to Columbus of the American Association.

In return, the Solons will get Earl Petersen, catcher with Pocatello of the Pioneer League last year; Hugh Orphan, pitcher with Allentown of the Interstate League in 1942; Charles (Jake) Sutar, first baseman from Houston of the Texas League, and George M. Jenkins, pitcher-outfielder with Springfield of the Middle Atlantic League last season.

Beers Trips Buffs for Roughs, 4-1

HOUSTON, Texas, Sept. 11 (AP).—Clarence Beers is no ghost, but the hero of Houston's 1947 baseball season came back to haunt the Buffs Tuesday night as he pitched Beaumont to a 4-to-1 victory in the first game of the Texas League Shaughnessy play-offs before a crowd of 6,557 fans.

Beers got the assistance, however, of a fidgety Buff defense that committed five errors. Two of the Beaumont runs were unearned. But two earned runs by the Roughnecks in the sixth were enough for Beers as he put the straight-through Texas League champs down with six hits.

Freddie Martin was the losing pitcher, allowing eight hits and three runs in the eight innings he worked. He retired for a pinch hitter in the eighth and Jack Crimian finished up.

September 11, 1951

Pitching for the Beaumont Roughnecks, Beers pitches a six-hit, 4-1 victory over regular season champion Houston in the opening game of the Texas League Shaughnessy playoffs before a disappointed crowd of 6,557.

October 4, 1947

Hal Epps' two-out single in the bottom of the ninth inning tallies the game's only run as Houston defeats the Mobile Bears 1-0 to capture the Dixie World Series ... Beers yields only four hits in winning his 30th game of the year.

November 16, 1947

The *Sporting News* names Oklahoma City third baseman Al Rosen as the MVP of the Texas League ... Beers is second.

May 2, 1948

Making the opening day roster of the St. Louis Cardinals, Beers makes his first, and only, major league appearance in a 13-4 loss to the Chicago Cubs ... relieving Ken Johnson with one out in the eighth inning, Beers allows three hits and walks a batter and is touched up for four runs (only one earned) in two-thirds of inning.

May 19, 1948

Beers' major league career is short-lived when the Cardinals get down to the 25-player limit by optioning pitcher Ken Johnson to Rochester of the International league, catcher Johnny Bucha to Houston, and Beers to Columbus of the American Association.

April 12, 1949

The Houston Buffaloes sell second baseman Solly Hemus to the St. Louis Cardinals in exchange for pitcher Clarence Beers and an undisclosed amount of cash.

◀ May 25, 1949

Houston's Clarence Beers enters the ninth inning with a perfect game but loses 4-3 when San Antonio's Joe Frazier hits a two-run home run highlighting a four-run rally ... Beers will finish the 1949 season 11-14 with a 3.49 ERA.



Clarence Beers
1943 Kirtland (N.M.) Field "Flying Kellys"

Soldier Hurler Makes Good Boast

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., Aug. 8. (INS)—Clarence Beers, pitcher for Kirtland Field's "Flying Kellys" soldier nine, today made good his pregame boast that he would put down the great Joe DiMaggio, former Yankee slugger, without a hit.

The great DiMag went hitless as his Santa Ana, Cal., Army Air Base club suffered a 7 to 6 defeat in the hands of the "Kellys." A ninth inning rally gave the "Kellys" their victory.

The "Flying Kellys" were named in honor of the late Capt. Colin Kelly, Army air-force hero, who had trained at Albuquerque's Kirtland field before going to the Philippines.

WHAT WAS HE THINKING?

June 12, 1953
Seattle, Washington

Roland J. Reeves, 32, corrected police testimony yesterday in Traffic Court that he had drunk "20 or 30 beers" before his arrest April 25.

"I told the officers I had 30 or 40 beers — not 20 or 30," Reeves told Judge Roy De Grief.

Reeves, a mechanic, 3141 W. Raymond St., was convicted of driving while under the influence of liquor and reckless driving. He was fined \$100, lost his license for a year and was sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended. A charge of having no valid license tab was stricken.

Clarence Beers [4 of 4]:

Paris Club Buys Clarence Beers

CHARLESTON, W. Va., June 23 (AP).—The Charleston Senators have sold Pitcher Clarence Beers to the Paris, Texas, club of the Class B Big State League.

Beers, 31, had an 0-2 record with the Senators this season. He won five and lost eighteen with Charleston last year.

April 26, 1952

The Seattle Rainers remove three players from their roster ... Beers (0-0, 4.91) is sold outright to the Toledo Mud Hens.

◀ June 22, 1953

Saddled with an 0-2 mark with the Charleston (W. Va.) Senators, Beers is sold to the Paris Indians of the Big State (B) League ... Paris is the second of four clubs that Beers will pitch for in 1953 ... he later twirls for the Beaumont Explorers and the Lincoln Chiefs.

December 13, 1955 ▶

A warrant for Beers' arrest is issued for the December 9, death six-year-old Harry Bowers ... Beers is arraigned in the Commissioner's Court with bail set at \$3,000 ... Bowers, on his way to the grocery store near his home, is killed after being struck by a car driven by Beers ... admits to having four or five beers during the course of day.

February 15, 1956 ▶

Beers is found guilty of "culpable negligence" but not criminally responsible for the December 9, death of six-year-old Harry Bowers.

April 13, 1961

Beers is named to the umpiring staff of the California League.

December 6, 2002

Just three days shy of his 84th birthday, Clarence Scott Beers passes away in Tucson, Arizona.

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
December 14, 1955

Driver Blamed For Death of Boy on Road

Warrant Issued For Arrest of Clarence Beers

Clarence S. Beers Jr., 36, was found criminally responsible for the death of six-year-old Harry T. Bowers III by a coroner's inquest jury yesterday afternoon.

A warrant for the arrest of Beers on a charge of manslaughter has been signed by U.S. Commissioner LaDessa Nordale. Beers was arraigned in the commissioner's court at 1:30 p.m. today, with bail of \$3,000 being set.

Beers was represented at the arraignment by the Taylor and Taylor law firm.

Boy Struck by Car

Young Bowers, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Bowers was struck by a car driven by Beers Friday shortly after 6 p.m. as he was going to the store near his home on Badger road. At the time of the accident, Beers was traveling toward his home in Pile-driver park from Fairbanks.

The territorial police brought out at the inquest that Beers was under the influence of intoxicating liquor after the accident. He volunteered to take a Harger drunkometer test.

Beers has not been held in custody.

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
February 15, 1956

Beers Guilty Of Negligence In Boy's Death

The grand jury Tuesday found Clarence Beers guilty of culpable negligence, but not criminally responsible for the death of six-year-old Harry T. Bowers III, last December 9.

They returned with "not a true bill."

Beers was charged with being criminally responsible for the death of the young boy by a coroner's jury which convened Dec. 13.

A car driven by Beers struck young Bowers as he was walking to a grocery store on Badger road from his home a short distance away.

At the time of the accident Beers was traveling towards his own home in the area and had just passed another car. Beers claimed this was probably partly responsible for his not seeing the boy.