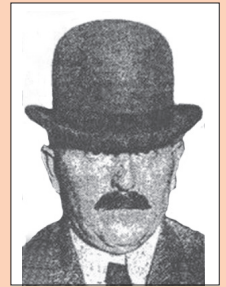


# Forgotten Washington Senators of the 1950s

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**“Washington: First in war, first in peace, and still last in the American League.”**

Baseball Hall of Fame sports writer Charley Dryden (right) coins the above utterance during the 1904 season, when the Washington Senators finished 38-113 and a distant 55 1/2 games behind the American League pennant-winning Boston Americans. For its first 11 years of existence, the luckless franchise in the nation’s capital does its best to live up (or down) to Dryden’s cynicism by finishing last, or second to last, in all but two of those 11 years.



## OUTLAW LEAGUE IS ON ITS LAST SHAFTS

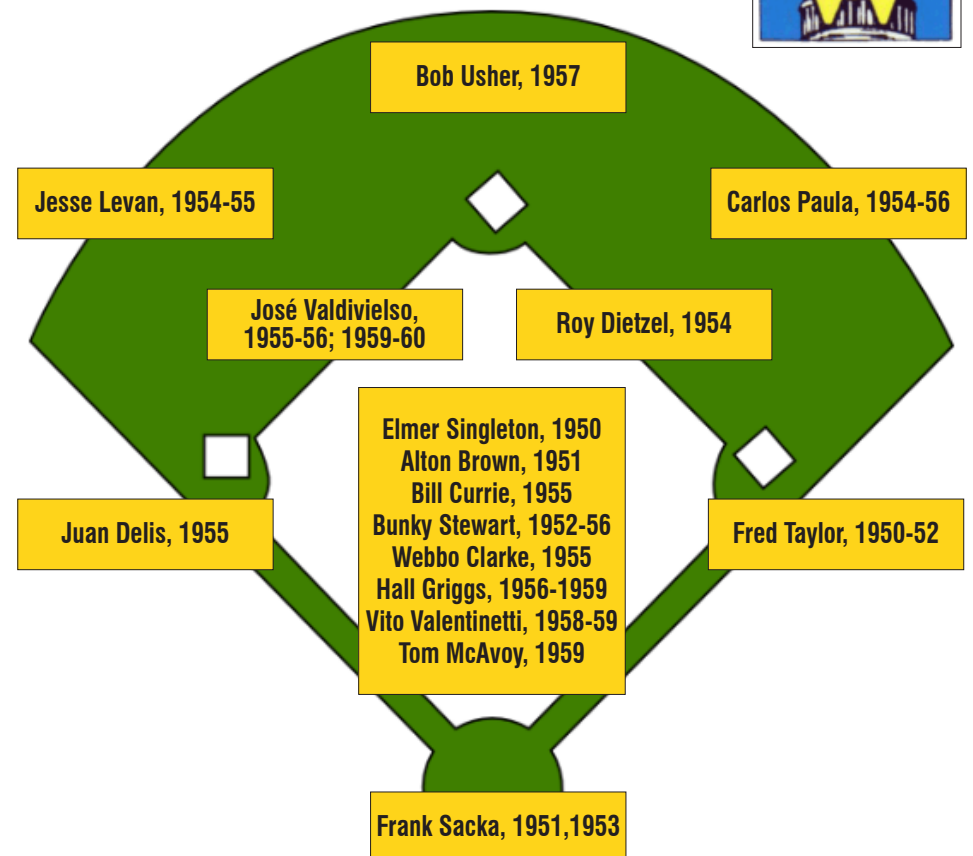
Even Washington’s entry into the ill-fated United States Baseball League in 1912, finishes in fifth place with a 6-7 record before the league ceases operation in June.

Forty years later, Washington’s “Boys of Summer” once again do themselves proud. From 1950 to 1959, the Senators finish as high as fifth only three times and seventh or eighth (in an eight-team league) six times, while going through three managers.

Where in my previous “Forgotten” article, Pittsburgh’s 1960 World Championship team clearly had its genesis from some of the bad Corsair teams of the 1950s, Minnesota’s American League championship team in 1965, does not derive itself from the previous decade. Only five players (albeit five good players) - Bob Allison, Jim Kaat, Harmon Killebrew, Camilo Pascual and Zoilo Versalles - played for the original Senators’ franchise.



## Forgotten Senators of the 1950s



In regards to the Forgotten Senators’ first team, I selected one player for each of the eight field positions and a eight-man pitching staff.

As with so many players of this era, characters of all types abound, including too-youthful youths, aging veterans and out-right cheaters.

Jesse Levan ran the 100-yard dash in 10 seconds flat, hit 216 home runs and won two batting titles in the minor leagues, but in 1959 he is banned from the game for life for conspiring to fix games in the Southern Association. Shortstop George Genovese plays in only three games before asking to be sent back down to the minors during his rookie season. His request is granted and he never plays in the major leagues again.

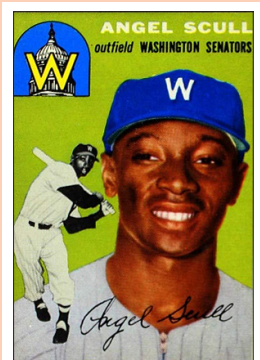
## Forgotten Senators of the 1950s [2 of 10]:

Seldom-used catcher Len Okrie was a naval intelligence officer during World War II. Carlos Paula is a strong-armed outfielder famous for throwing to the wrong base more often than not.

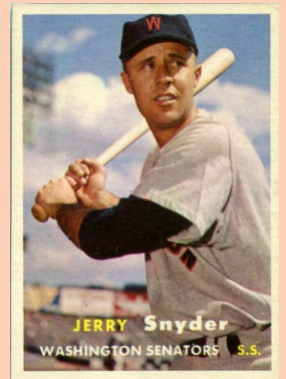
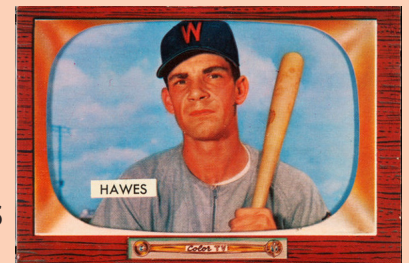
Mike Guerra is a 38-year-old light-hitting catcher brought in during 1951 to act as interpreter between manager Bucky Harris and the team's growing Cuban population. First baseman Fred Taylor is later known as the head basketball coach of Ohio State's national championship team in 1960.

Catcher Steve Korcheck was the 1953 Southern Conference Player of the Year and an All-American in football. Yo-Yo Davalillo was a Venezuelan Army vet and by one account, spent three days in the Miami airport because no one could understand his requests for assistance.

Second baseman Roy Dietzel had the misfortune of breaking his leg in three consecutive seasons while lefty Tom McAvoy's promising career is derailed when he breaks his throwing arm twice within six months. Bonus Baby outfielder Jerry Schoonmaker has his budding career come to a sudden end after three seasons when a sliver of metal injures his left eye, forcing his retirement at the age of 25.



Angel Scull appears on a 1954 Topps baseball card despite never having spent a day in the major leagues. Roy Hawes is on a 1955 Bowman card, four years after playing three games with the Senators in 1951. Jerry Snyder's 1957 Topps card is actually adorned with a photo of teammate catcher Ed Fitzgerald.



## Year by Year

Year	Record	Standing	Manager
1950	67-87-1	5th of 8	Bucky Harris
1951	62-92-0	7th of 8	Bucky Harris
1952	78-76-3	5th of 8	Bucky Harris
1953	76-76-0	5th of 8	Bucky Harris
1954	66-88-1	6th of 8	Bucky Harris
1955	53-101-0	8th of 8	Chuck Dressen
1956	59-95-1	7th of 8	Chuck Dressen
1957	55-99-0	8th of 8	Dressen/Lavagetto
1958	61-93-2	8th of 8	Cookie Lavagetto
1959	63-91-0	8th of 8	Cookie Lavagetto

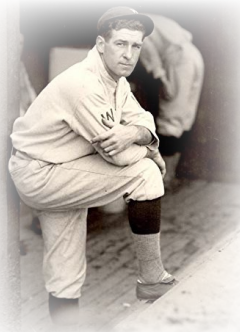
Cuban pitcher Webbo Clarke has a special family rub down mixture, consisting of moonshine and camphor. Hard-throwing Bob Wiesler leads three minor leagues in strikeouts, but once he gets to major leagues he is unable to throw strikes, effectively ending his once-promising career at the age of 27. It is said that pitcher Vito Valentinetti had the most Italian name in baseball annals.

And, of course, we have a pitcher named "Bunky."

## Griffith Stadium



## The Managers



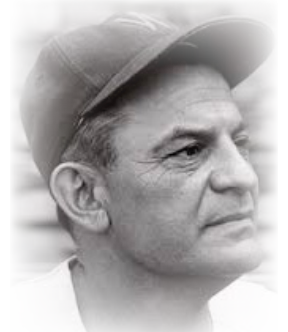
### Bucky Harris

Harris earns the nickname "The Boy Wonder" when as a first-year manager, he directs the Senators to their first pennant and World Series title in 1924 at the age of 27. He wins 2,158 games in 29 seasons as a manager and is elected to the Hall of Fame in 1975.



### Chuck Dressen

Despite his 5-foot-6 stature, Dressen plays quarterback for three seasons in the NFL with Decatur (1920) and Racine (1922-1923). In three seasons with the Senators (1955-1957), Dressen is 116-212 (.354). In 16 seasons overall, he is 1,009-973 (.509).



### Cookie Lavagetto

Lavagetto succeeds Dressen as the Senators manager 20 games into the 1957 season and is 51-83 the remainder of the season. He manages the team through its transition to Minnesota. Lavagetto was 270-385 (.412) in six years at the helm of the Senators and Twins.

On the following pages are the forgotten Senators of the 1950s:

## Joe Albanese



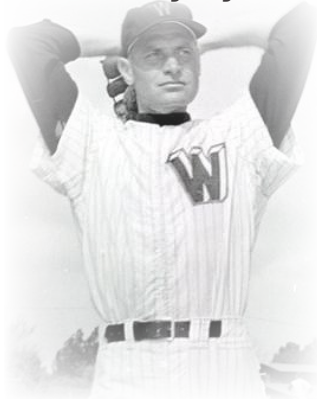
Joe Albanese's pro career spans eight seasons, including one brief six-game trial with the Washington Senators in 1958. The right-hander yields three runs on eight hits and two walks in six innings and allows one home run to Ted Lepico.

## Alton Brown



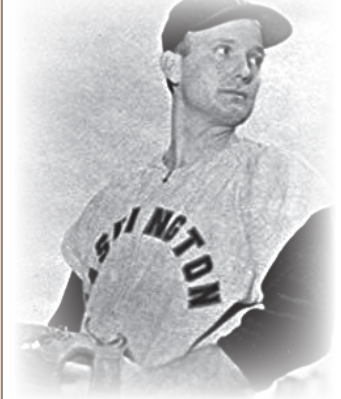
Prior to playing for an Army team during World War II, Brown had never played organized baseball at any level. Signed by the Senators, Brown pitches for three seasons at the lowest level of the minors. With the Roanoke Rapids Jays of the D-level Coastal Plain League in 1950, Brown is 28-11 and the league MVP. He makes the opening day roster in 1951 and is 0-0 with a 9.26 ERA over 11 2/3 innings.

## Bud Byerly



In an effort to bring some sort of stability to a battered pitching staff, Senators' manager Charlie Dressen brings up 35-year-old Bud Byerly from Louisville where he is 2-2 with a 1.47 ERA. "At least Byerly has some control and know-how," Dressen says in disgust with the others. Back in the majors after a four-year hiatus, Byerly responds with a 2-4 mark in 1956 with a 2.96 ERA in 25 relief appearances.

## Bob Chakales



The 27-year-old Asheville, North Carolina, right-hander, along with Johnny Groth and Clint Courtney, is acquired by the Senators on June 7, 1955, for outfielder Jim Busby. In parts of three seasons in the nation's capital, Chakales is 6-8 with a 4.58 ERA and four saves. A good hitting pitcher with a .271 career batting average, Chakales homers off of Chicago's Bob Cain in his fifth major league at bat.

## Webbo Clarke



Vibert "Webbo" Clarke makes seven mound appearances over a 21-day period in September of 1955. The 27-year-old Panamanian fashions a 4.64 ERA in 21 1/3 innings. It is rumored that Clark had a special family "rub down mixture," consisting of moonshine and camphor. Wary of flying, Clarke tells the *Charlotte News* in 1956, that he can't see good because years earlier a woman in Panama threw acid in his eyes.

## Bill Currie



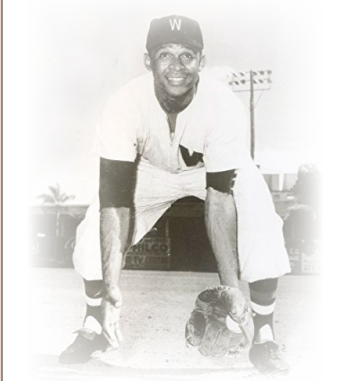
Following a 16-win season with Chattanooga the previous season, the 28-year-old right-hander makes the Senators' opening day roster in 1955. Currie is 0-0 with a 12.46 ERA in three games before being out-righted back to Chattanooga on May 5. He will pitch four more seasons before retiring.

## Yo-Yo Davalillo



Pompeyo "Yo-Yo" Davalillo is hitting .305 with the Charlotte Hornets in 1953, when he is brought up to the Senators on July 30, replacing regular shortstop Pete Runnels, whose recent "jittery" play prompts his move to second base. In his first three starts, the 5-foot-3, 149-pound Venezuelan is 7-for-12 (.583) with a double and seven runs scored. A Venezuelan Army vet, Davalillo hits .293 with a double and two RBIs in his only major league season.

## Juan Delis



A .284 hitter in seven minor league seasons, the Cuban-born Delis hits .189 with three doubles and one triple in 54 games with the Senators in 1955. In his first major league start against Detroit on April 30, he collects three hits in four at bats with a double, triple and a RBI. After the season, which ends on a 6-for-61 streak that lowers his average from .268 to .189, Delis is sold to Havana of the International League.

## Roy Dietzel



It was written in the *Charlotte News* that "Everyone has a hobby. Dietzel's seemed to consist of breaking his own leg." Hard-luck second baseman Roy Dietzel suffers a broken leg for three consecutive years (1951-1953). One of seven players to take a turn at second base for the Senators during the 1954 season, Dietzel hits .238 (5-for-21) with one RBI in nine September games during his only major league experience.

## George Genovese



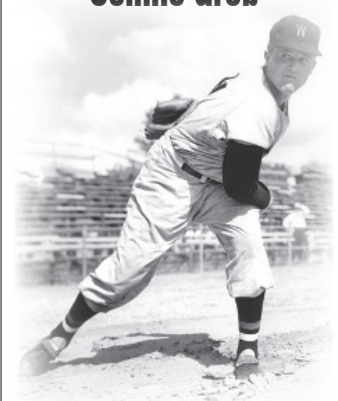
A 5-foot-6 left-handed hitting short-stop who plays three games with the Senators in 1950, he strikes out and walks in his only two at bats. Originally signed by the St. Louis Cardinals in 1940, Genovese makes the Senators' opening-day roster, but becomes frustrated by the lack of playing time and eventually asks manager Bucky Harris to send him back to the Hollywood Stars of the PCL. Instead, the Senators send the disgruntled one to Chattanooga.

## Hal Griggs



Griggs begins his pro career with Hickory in 1950, and leads the North Carolina State League in losses with 21. Nine years later, the Shannon, Georgia, native loses the last eight games in his four-year major league career, all with the Senators. That eight-game skid gives the 28-year-old a 6-26 career mark to go along with a 5.50 ERA. He will pitch three more years in the minors before retiring at the age of 34.

## Connie Grob



Twenty-three-year-old right-hander Connie Grob is 4-5 with one save and a 7.83 ERA in 37 appearances, including 36 games out of the bullpen in 1956. Over his last 21 games, Grob allows 86 hits and 55 earned runs (including nine home runs) in 46 1/3 innings for a nifty 10.68 ERA. Originally signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers, Grob debuts with a 24-5 mark for the Sheboygan Indians of the Wisconsin State (D) League in 1952.

## Mike Guerra



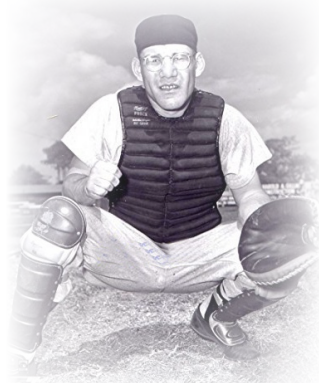
Most second-place teams don't buy a 38-year-old catcher hitting .156. However, that is exactly what the 12-6 Senators did on May 7, 1951, when manager Bucky Harris, needing an interpreter for his team's Cuban-born pitchers, purchases 38-year-old Mike Guerra from the Boston Red Sox. Guerra will hit a paltry .201 in 72 games for the Senators in the final season of a nine-year major league career.

## Roy Hawes



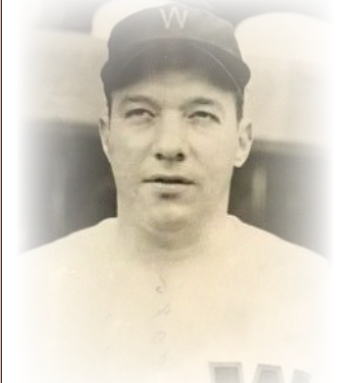
Roy Hawes appears on a 1955 Bowman baseball card four years after the end of his three-game major league career. A 14-year veteran of professional baseball, the lanky first baseman is drafted by the Senators after hitting .311 with 17 home runs and 100 RBIs for Sherman-Denison of the Big State League in 1950. Hawes singles in his first major league at bat against Philadelphia's Bob Hooper on September 23.

## Steve Korcheck



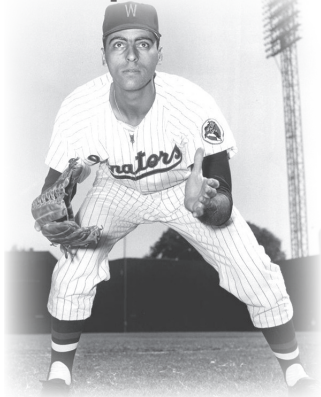
A two-sport standout, Korcheck stars as a catcher and linebacker at George Washington University. In 1953, he is named the Player of the Year in the Southern Conference and a second-team AP All-American. Drafted in the third round by the San Francisco 49ers, he elects to play baseball instead. In four seasons with the Senators, the right-handed hitting catcher hits .159 with six doubles, one triple and seven RBIs.

## Jesse Levan



On July 30, 1959, former Washington Senator utilityman Jesse Levan is banned from baseball for life for his role in a betting scheme involving Levan's Chattanooga Lookouts. Levan makes his major league debut in 1947 with the Philadelphia Phillies. It would be seven years before he returns to the majors with the Senators in 1954 and 1955. Levan hits .316 and 216 home runs in 14 minor league seasons.

## Ralph Lument



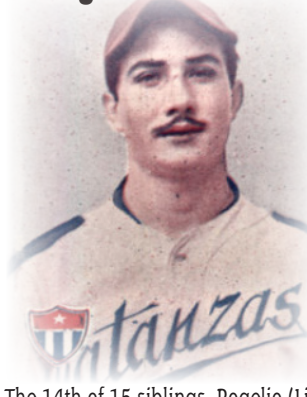
A 6-foot-3 left-hander, Lument attends UMass before signing with Washington in September of 1957. Five days later, he pitches a scoreless inning in a 4-1 loss to the New York Yankees. In parts of three major league seasons with the Senators (1957-1959), Lument is 1-3 with a 7.29 ERA. The Milford, Massachusetts, native is 1-0 with a 6.00 ERA in 1961 with the Charlotte Bees when he draws his outright release.

## Tom McAvoy



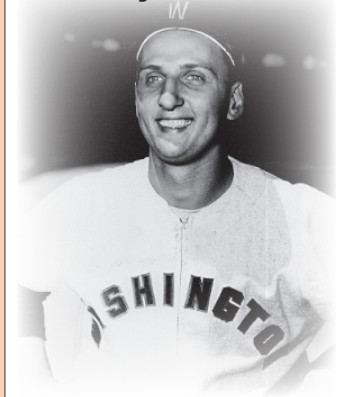
After the 1959 season, the Senators send McAvoy to play winter ball in Managua, Nicaragua, on a team owned by dictator Anastasio Somoza. While delivering a pitch, he suffers a double fracture between his left shoulder and elbow. Leaving the field, the left-hander is taken to a military hospital accompanied by Somoza's soldiers. That summer he sustains an even worse injury as the bone in his left arm shears off while he is warming up.

## Rogelio Martinez



The 14th of 15 siblings, Rogelio (Limonar) Martinez is born on November 5, 1918, in the town of Cidra, Cuba. Martinez is just the seventh pitcher in Cuban baseball history to pitch a no-hitter, while a member of the Marianao club in 1950 against Almendares. He makes two appearances for the Senators in 1950, posting an 0-1 record with a 27.00 ERA. In 1962, Martinez leaves Cuba and Castro's failed revolution and moves his family to New York City.

## Bobby Malkmus



Malkmus debuts in 1951 with the Bluefield Blue-Grays in the lowly Appalachian (D) League. He earns a spot on the circuits' All-Star and All-Rookie teams after hitting .273 with 10 home runs and 65 RBIs. The Senators make Malkmus the first selection in the 1958 minor league draft and begin the season with him as their starting second baseman. After eight starts, he is hitting .160 (4-for-25) and is benched.

## Julio Moreno



A member of the Senator's "Cuban Connection," Julio Moreno is 29 years old when he joins the team in 1950. Despite his 5-foot-8 stature, Moreno is known as "Jiqui" in his native Cuba for his renown fastball. Used both as starter and a reliever in four seasons (1950-1953) with the Senators, the right-hander is 18-22 with a 4.25 ERA in 73 appearances. His best year comes in 1952 when he is 9-9 with a 3.97 ERA.

## Tommy O'Brien



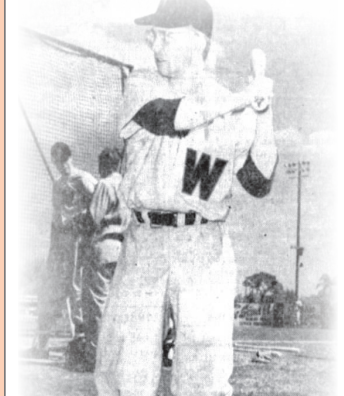
A 16-year veteran of professional baseball, O'Brien hits a solid .277 in five major league seasons with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Boston Red Sox and Washington. Attends the University of Tennessee for one year where he plays football and baseball. Despite hitting a career-high .335 in 58 games with the Pirates in 1945, O'Brien is sent to Hollywood of the PCL in February 1946 as part of a three-way deal that brings Wally Westlake to the majors.

## Len Okrie



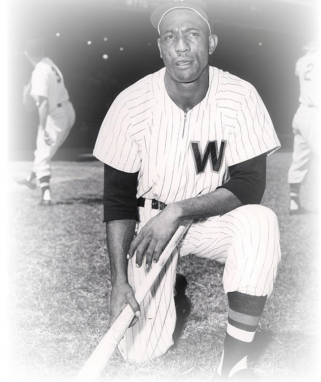
A native of Detroit and the son of Frank Okrie, a former major league pitcher with the Tigers in 1920, the good-field-no-hit catcher signs with the White Sox in 1942. He enlists in the Navy in 1943 and is assigned to Naval Intelligence where he becomes a code breaker and is shipped off to Adak Island in Alaska to intercept and break Japanese radio communications. In three seasons with the Senators, the future North Carolinian hits .221 with three RBIs.

## Ernie Oravetz



As a 19-year-old in 1951, the 5-foot-4 Oravetz makes his pro debut capturing the Florida State (D) League batting title with a .364 average. In two seasons with the Senators, Oravetz hits .263 with eight doubles and three triples. He has a .311 average in nine minor league seasons.

## Carlos Paula



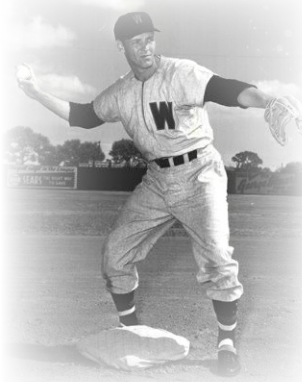
On September 6, 1954, more than seven years after Jackie Robinson breaks baseball's color barrier, the Senators became the 12th of 16 major league teams to integrate its roster when Cuban-born Carlos Paula starts in left field against the Philadelphia Athletics. In 1955, his only full season, he commits 10 errors while playing in 115 games, but hits .299 with 6 home runs and 55 RBIs en route to being named to the All-Rookie team.

## J.W. Porter



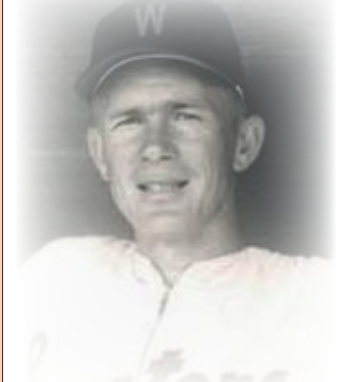
After leading his American Legion team to back-to-back national titles in 1949 and 1950, Porter signs with the Chicago White Sox for \$67,500. With Cleveland in 1958 he rooms on the road with future Hall of Famer Larry Doby. On October 27, 1958, the Senators obtain Porter from the Indians for Ossie Alvarez. He hits .226 in 37 games with Washington before being picked up on waivers by the St. Louis Cardinals on July 25.

## Tony Roig



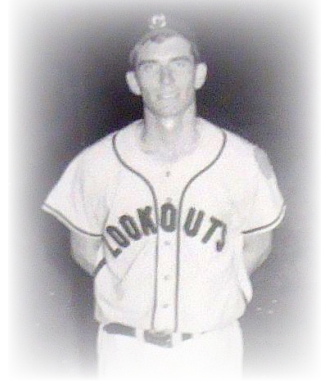
One of nine children, Roig starts his professional career in 1948 when he signs as a pitcher with the Philadelphia Phillies. Enlisting in the US Army he becomes an MP and misses two seasons (1951-1952). He hits a meager .212 with 10 extra base hits and 11 RBIs in three seasons (1953, 1955-1956) with the Senators. Roig plays six seasons (1963-1968) in Japan, hitting .255 with 126 homers and 418 RBIs.

## John Romonosky



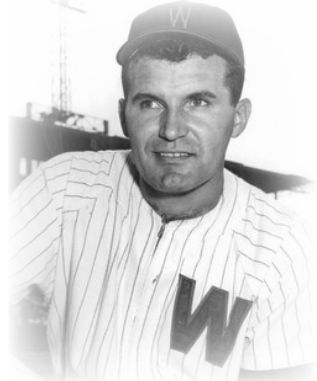
In his final major league appearance on September 11, 1959, Washington pitcher John Romonosky is used as a pinch runner for Roy Sievers. Romonosky debuts as a 19-year-old in 1949, with the Fresno Cardinals and despite walking 141 batters in 235 innings, he manages to win a career-best 18 games. In parts of three seasons with the Senators and St. Louis Cardinals, he is 3-4 with one complete game and a 5.15 ERA.

## Bob Ross



A 13-year veteran of pro baseball, including three at the major league level, lefty Bob Ross is 0-2 with a 7.11 ERA in his two seasons (1950-1951) with the Senators, walking 36 in 44 1/3 innings. Ross is 5-7 with a 3.16 ERA in his pro debut as a 16-year-old with Thomasville of the North Carolina State (D) League in 1945. He has a career year in 1947, finishing 10-7 for Santa Barbara of the California (C) League.

## Frank Sacka



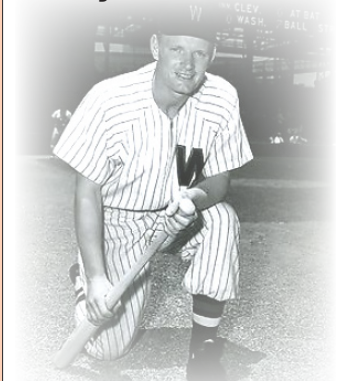
One of six catchers on the Senators' roster in 1951, Sacka is drafted from Anderson of the Tri-State League where in 1950 he hit an even .300 with 23 home runs and 123 RBIs. He opens the season as the team's No. 3 catcher behind Mickey Grasso and Len Okrie. Sacka is hitting .250 when he is sent to Chattanooga on June 14 to make room for pitchers Tom Ferrick, Fred Sanford and Bob Porter-field acquired for lefty Bob Kuzava.

## Ron Samford



Four-year major league veteran and utility infielder, Ron Samford has his best season with the Senators in 1959, hitting .224 with five home runs and 22 of his 27 career RBIs. In 14 minor league seasons, the Dallas native has 1,584 hits, including 86 home runs.

## Jerry Schoonmaker



An All-American baseball player and captain of the football team at the University of Missouri, Schoonmaker signs for a \$30,000 bonus and is required to remain on the Senators' roster for two years, 1955 and 1957, wrapped around a one-year hitch in the Army. In 1958, he is sent to the minor leagues, but hits only .222 with 10 home runs. That off-season, a sliver of metal injures his left eye and he retires at the age of 25.

## Johnny Schaive



Johnny Schaive is one of three players (Rudy Hernandez & Hector Maestri) whose entire major league careers are to have played for only both the original and expansion Senators. Schaive dons an "original" Washington uniform for three seasons between 1958-1960 and again with the expansion Senators in 1962 and 1963. In his five major league seasons, the Springfield, Illinois native hits .232 with six home runs and 32 RBIs.

## Hal Schult



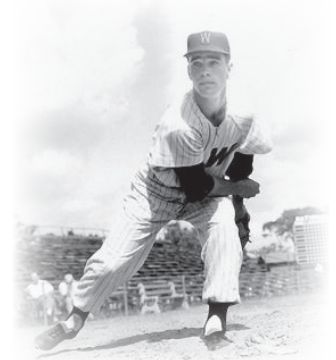
Returning from a two-year stint in the Military in 1953, Schult is classified as a returning serviceman and is put on the New York Yankees' roster to start the season. Due to make more money on the Yankees' roster than he would in the minors, he refuses a demotion. He pinch runs in seven games, scoring three times, before eventually agreeing to report to Syracuse, but only after receiving a guarantee to have a share of the World Series payout.

## Angel Scull



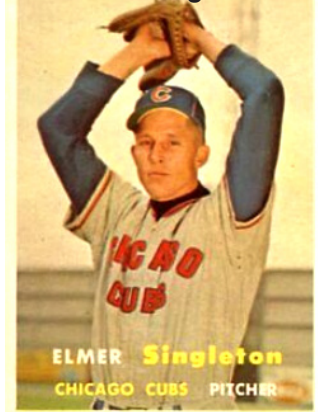
Anticipating that Angel Scull will make the Senators' major league roster in 1954, Topps Baseball Card Company issues a card of the Cuban-born outfielder in its 1954 set. Coming off a 1953 season where he hits .286 with 29 stolen bases for the Charleston Senators, Scull had also been to spring training several times with the Senators.

## Garland Shifflett



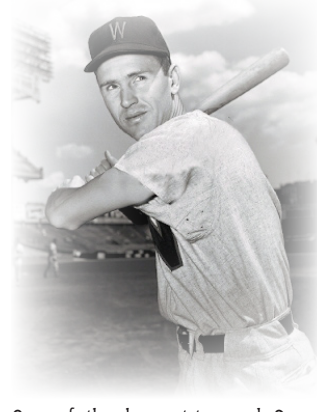
A 144-game winner in the minor leagues, Garland Shifflett is continually missing from the team's dinner meal (jacket required) at an upscale spring training hotel in Winter Park in 1955. Shifflett tells team officials that he had arrived in Orlando with a shirt, a pair of dungarees and trousers and is not able to afford a jacket. When queried about the \$4,000 signing bonus he received earlier, Shifflett says he spent it on a home for his mother and father.

## Elmer Singleton



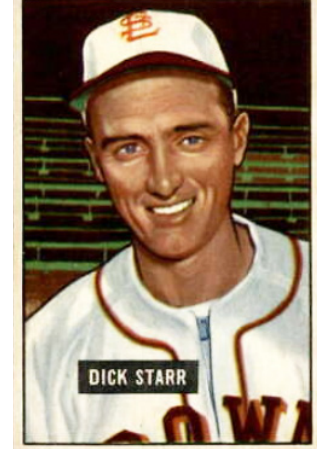
One of my favorite baseball cards, Elmer Singleton's 1957 Topps card No. 378 will cost you anywhere between \$1.99 and \$8.00. Its a small price to pay for a pitcher who is 11-17 with a 4.83 ERA in parts of eight major league seasons spanning from 1945 to 1959. Singleton is 5-10 for the San Francisco Seals when he is traded to the Senators for pitcher Steve Nagy on June 27, 1950.

## Jerry Snyder



One of the longest-tenured Senators after coming over in the Jackie Jensen/Irv Noren trade, Jerry Snyder toils seven seasons (1952-1958) in the nation's capitol, hitting .230 with three home runs and 47 RBIs. Following a career year (.270, 2 HRs, 14 RBIs) in 1956, Snyder hits only .147 (15-for-107) in his last two seasons in Washington. His 1957 Topps baseball card is actually a photo of teammate catcher Ed Fitzgerald.

## Dick Starr



Coming off a career-best 7-5 mark (with a 5.02 ERA) for the St. Louis Browns in 1950, pitcher Dick Starr's 1951 Bowman card is worth \$5.00 in good condition. In five major league seasons, Starr is 12-24 with a 5.25 ERA. He is 1-7 with an ERA of 5.58 in 11 starts for the Senators after being acquired from the Browns where he was 2-5 with a 7.40 ERA.

## Bunky Stewart



Stewart pitches parts of five seasons (1952-1956) for Washington, finishing his major league career with five wins, eleven losses, three saves and a 6.01 ERA over 72 games. In 1951, the East Carolina University product is 15-2 with a 1.16 ERA for the New Bern Bears. Stewart misses out being named the Coastal Plain League Rookie of the Year by one vote to Roanoke Rapids third baseman Jerry Thomas who hits .257 with three home runs.

## Fred Taylor



As a 25-year-old senior in 1950, Taylor becomes Ohio State's first baseball All-American and leads the Big Ten Conference in hitting with a .477 average. He hits .191 (9-for-47) in parts of three seasons (1950-51-52) with the Senators. In 1958, he becomes the head basketball coach at Ohio State and in 18 seasons his teams win 297 games and seven Big Ten titles. In 1960, his Buckeyes win the NCAA championship and are finalists in 1961 and 1962.

## Dick Tettlebach



Signing with the Yankees in 1951, Tettlebach spends five years in the minors, hitting better than .300 four times and being named to an All-Star team on three occasions. After a two-game trial with the Yankees in 1955, he is traded to the Senators where he runs afoul of manager Chuck Dressen. In parts of two seasons with the Nats, Tettlebach hits .156 in 1956 and .182 in 1957 before calling it quits when he is sent to the minors.

## Faye Thornberry



The older brother of "Marvelous Marv" Thornberry, Faye Thornberry is acquired by the Senators on April 29, 1957, in a five-player trade with the Boston Red Sox. Inserted as the team's starting center fielder, Thornberry collects only four singles in his first 58 at bats (.069) with the Senators, during which he loses his job to Whitey Herzog. The Fishersville, Tennessee native hits .184 in back-to-back seasons (1957-1958).

## Tom Umphlett



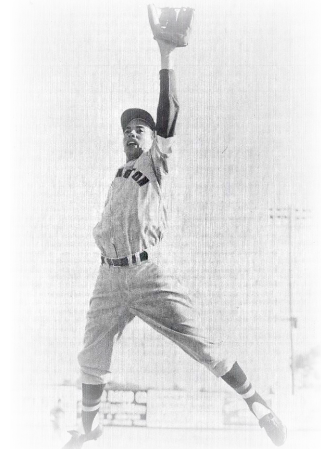
After hitting a solid .283 as a rookie with Boston in 1953, Umphlett is traded along with Mickey McDermott to Washington for Jackie Jensen. In his two years with the Senators, Umphlett will hit a combined .218, while McDermott will go 17-25 in two seasons with the Senators before being traded to the Yankees. Jensen will play eight years with the Red Sox, hitting .282 with 170 home runs and 733 RBIs and earn MVP honors in 1958.

## Bob Usher



Usher is hitting .125 (1-for-8) when the Senators purchase the 32-year-old outfielder from the Cleveland Indians on May 16. Inserted into the team's starting lineup immediately, he hits five home runs and 27 RBIs in 96 games in his final major league season. Released from the Army on March 30, 1946, Usher joins Cincinnati on April 7 and is good enough that he makes his major league debut nine days later versus the Chicago Cubs.

## José Valdivielso



A light-hitting, good-fielding, public address challenging shortstop, Valdivielso hits just .219 in five seasons with the Senators and Minnesota Twins. At the start of the 1956 season, Washington manager Chuck Dressen lets the media know that he doesn't care for Valdivielso's attitude, but the Matanzas, Cuba, responds with a career year (.236, 4 HR, 29 RBIs).

## Vito Valentinetti



The first of four major leaguers to come from Iona College, Valentinetti earns a berth on this team simply because I enjoy announcing his name when managing the 1956 Cubs in Strat-O-Matic. It's been said that he has the most Italian name in baseball annals. In five major league seasons, Valentinetti is 13-14 with three complete games, three saves and a 4.73 ERA. He plays two years (1958-1959) with the Senators.

## Murray Wall



It all depends on how you look at it, but it can be said that Murray Wall was traded for himself in June of 1959. On June 11, Wall is traded by the Boston Red Sox, along with Billy Consolo, to Washington in exchange for Herb Plews and Dick Hyde. Three days later, after pitching 1 1/3 innings for the Senators, Hyde and Wall are exchanged again when Hyde complains of a sore arm. Wall commits suicide on October 8, 1971.



## Bob Wiesler



It must have been culture shock for the hard-throwing Wiesler when he is traded from the defending American League champion Yankees to the cellar-dwelling Senators just four days prior to the start of the 1956 season. The St. Louis native responds to his new surroundings by going 3-12 with a 6.44 ERA and walking 112 batters in 123 innings. Wiesler leads his league in strikeouts in each of his first three minor league seasons.

## Ken Wood



Ted Williams once described Ken Wood as having the best arm for any right-fielder in the American League that he had ever seen. With the Senators in 1953, Wood caught and kept the first pitch of the new season thrown out by President Dwight Eisenhower. In his six-year major league career, Wood hits .224 with 34 homers and 143 RBIs in 342 games. In 278 games played in the outfield, the North Carolinian had 31 assists.

## Norm Zauchin



Zauchin plays in more than 100 games only once in his six-year major league career. In 1955, with the Boston Red Sox, he achieves career-highs in home runs (27), RBIs (93) and hits (114). He also leads the American League in strikeouts (103). In the rest of his career, he hits only 23 home runs (including 15 with the Senators in 1958) and driving in 66 runs before being sold to the Miami Marlins on May 12, 1959, ending his major league career.