

# Pinch Hits, "September 7, 1941"

©DiamondsintheDusk.com

## WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?

Nothing against Paul Dyke, I'm sure he was a fine outfielder, but what were the sportswriters and team managers of the Arizona-Texas (C) League thinking when five days before the end of the season they selected Dyke, a 22-year-old outfielder with the Albuquerque Cardinals, to the league's 1941 all-star team in lieu of El Paso's Burl Horton.

All Horton did to get left off the honors team is lead the league in hitting (.375), slugging percentage (.563), triples (29), base hits (219) while finishing second in home runs (10), runs scored (127) and RBIs (122).

Signing with Albuquerque after his previous team, the Riverside Reds of the California League that ceased operations on June 29, Dyke hits .265 in 55 games for the Cardinals with 14 doubles, four triples, two home runs and 29 RBIs.

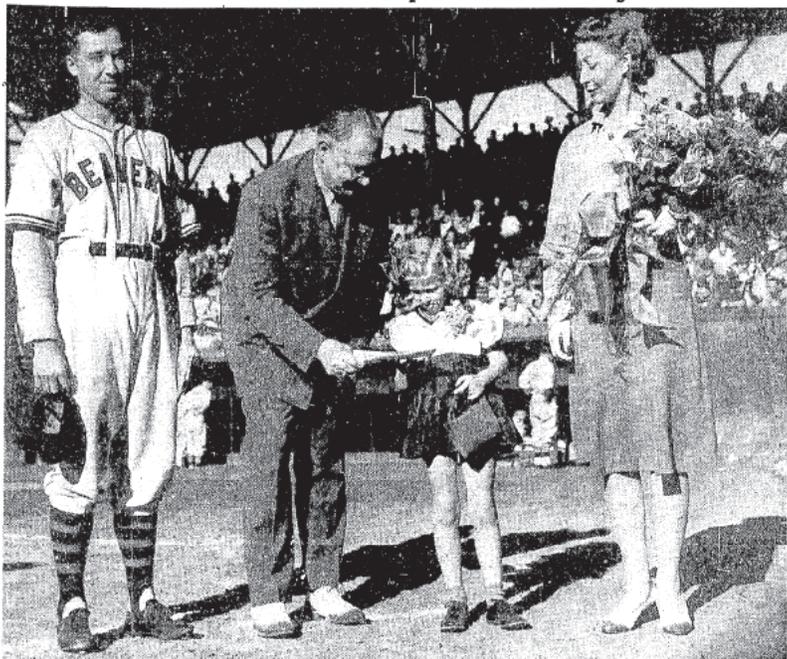
Dyke must have been one outstanding defensive outfielder, but then again the sportswriters and managers also manage to leave off the league's winningest pitcher, Albuquerque's "Happy" Harry Parks (24-9 with a 3.43 ERA) in lieu of Tucson's George Burpo, who was 10-8 for a team that finishes 40 games above .500 at 86-46. Go figure.

A .313 career hitter in four minor league seasons (1938-1941), Horton is one of seven El Paso players sold to the Philadelphia Athletics on December 7, 1941, the same day that Japanese planes attack the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Territory.

## AD LISKA DAY

It was Ad Liska Day in Portland and the 34-year-old ex-major leaguer is "showered" with gifts in between games of a double-header with the visiting San Francisco Seals. In front of 6,754 appreciative fans on a sun-drenched afternoon, the popular right-handed submariner receives gifts ranging from a \$400 U.S. defense bond, to a prized shotgun in a leather carrying case.

Portland's No. 1 Baseball Family Honored at Vaughn Street



Ad Liska, who has pitched the Portland Beavers to 101 Pacific Coast league victories in six years, was showered with gifts between games of Sunday's Liska day double-header.

Mrs. Liska and little daughter Joyce Liska were also honored. Here Mayor Riley presents a \$400 defense bond to Joyce while her parents and almost 7000 fans look on.

## A-T All-Stars For 1941 Season

PLAYER	POSITION	CLUB
W. Williams	1b	Bisbee
Jodie Beeler	2b	Tucson
Hal Clements	3b	Tucson
Jim Estrada	ss	Albuquerque
Clutchee Maddern	lf	Bisbee
Paul Dyke	cf	Albuquerque
Al Lawrence	rf	Tucson
George Gallogh		El Paso
John Hetki	rhp	Albuquerque
George Burpo	lhp	Tucson
Williamson	utility	El Paso
Williamson	mgr.	El Paso
Honorble mention: R. Williams, Sparacino, Case, Horton, LaPlana, Rodriguez, Pieretti, Johnson and Peden of El Paso; Benevise, Toddhunter, Bezdek, Smith, Ramsey, Kellaer and Patterson of Tucson; Gray, Lehninger, Faeco, Yarrehman and Dittmar of Bisbee; Wailman, Zielinski, Trusky, Parks, Zinn and Forsyth, Albuquerque.		

## Beavers Lose On Liska Day 12-2 and 2-0

In addition, Liska accepts a 35-pound Columbia river royal chinook salmon, a bevy of Newport crabs, luggage, a tobacco pipe and a sack of flour. Alas, the visiting Seals prove to be unruly visitors, sweeping the Pacific Coast League twin bill 12-2 and 2-0.

The first major leaguer from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Liska is a teacher in a rural Nebraska school and playing semipro ball before beginning a 19-year in professional baseball career with the Lincoln Links in 1927.

Liska spends five seasons in the major leagues with the Washington Senators (1929-1931) and the Philadelphia Phillies (1932-1933), finishing with a 17-18 record.

A four-time 20-game winner, Liska is 248-228 in 20 minor league seasons. From 1936 to 1949, Liska plays for the Portland Beavers and is elected to the Pacific Coast League Hall of Fame in 2003.