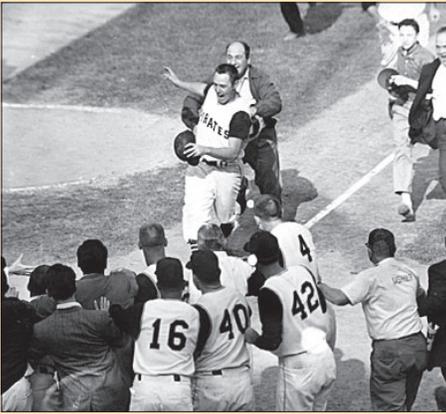


Forgotten Pittsburgh Pirates of the 1950s

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One could say that the foundation for the Pittsburgh Pirates' World Series title in 1960 has its genesis a decade earlier on July 19, 1950, when John Galbreath, a Pittsburgh real estate mogul, becomes the team's primary shareholder and assumes the team presidency.

Four months later, on November 6, 1950, Galbreath makes what maybe is the best hire in the franchise's modern day history when he signs Branch Rickey as the team's general manager.

Rickey, a general manager who had built dynasties in his two prior stops with the Cardinals and Dodgers, determines that the Pirates, who have had only one winning season (1948) over the previous four years and are headed for a last-place

finish in 1950, will have to be rebuilt from the ground up with youth.

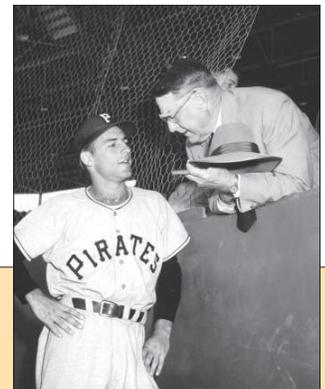
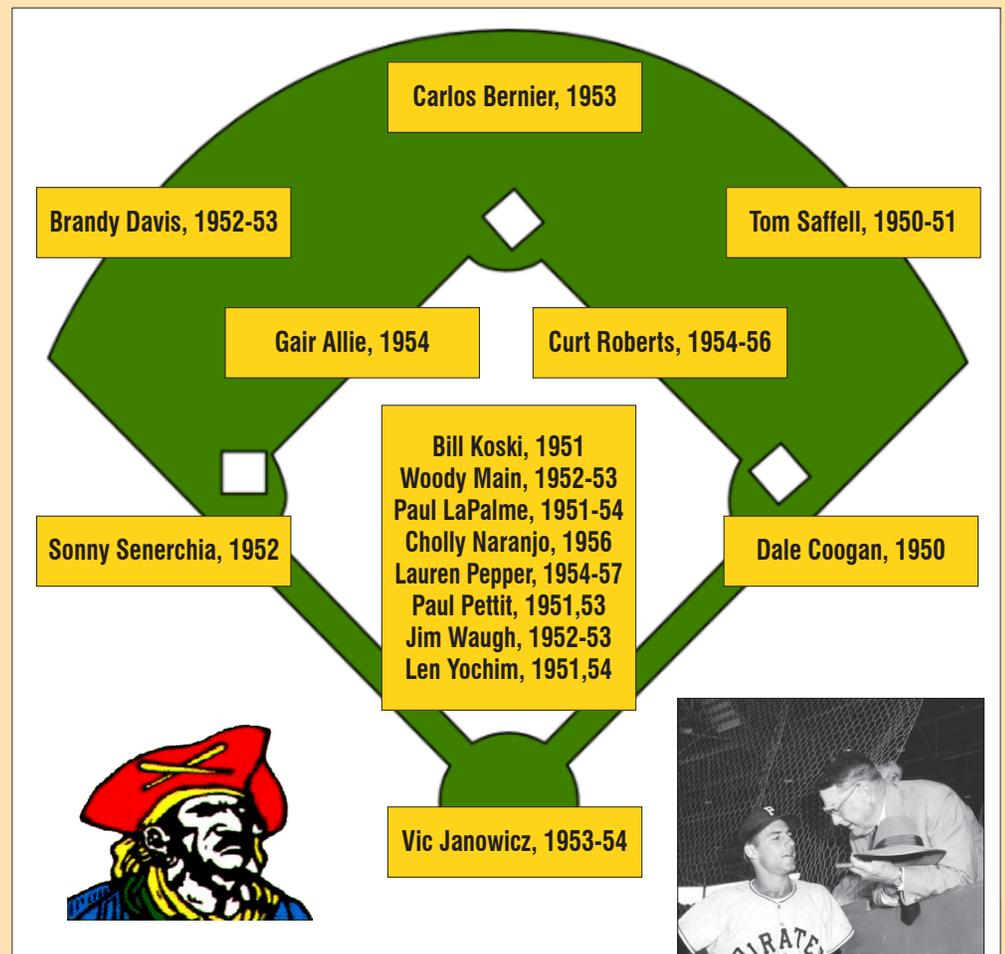
In 1951, Galbreath allows Rickey to spend nearly \$500,000 in bonuses to amateur prospects, yielding such prospects as Bennie Daniels, Dick Hall, Bob Skinner, Dick Stuart and Lee Walls.

Over the next couple of years during the rebuild, "The Mahatma" will trade away several popular players, including future Hall of Famer Ralph Kiner, infielder Danny O'Connell and outfielders Wally Westlake, Gus Bell.

Even though Rickey isn't around to savor the World Series championship over the New York Yankees in 1960, the players that he acquired by trade or the draft and groomed through the team's extensive minor league system, will be the foundation of the Corsairs' first world championship team in 35 years.

Six of the team's eight regular position players that championship season - Hall of Fame rightfielder Roberto Clemente, Hall of Fame second baseman Bill Mazeroski, shortstop and 1960 National League MVP Dick Groat, center fielder Bill Virdon, first baseman Dick Stuart and left fielder Bob Skinner - are either drafted, stolen (from Brooklyn) or traded for during Rickey's regime.

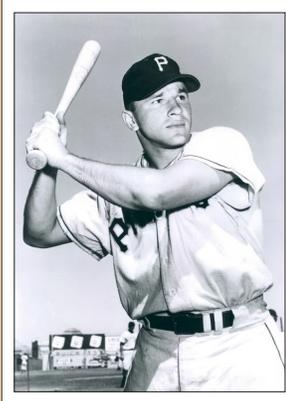
At first, success proves difficult for the once-proud organization. From 1950 to 1957, the Pirates are a miserable 454-777-7 (.369) with five last-place finishes.



Forgotten Pirates of the 1950s [2 of 7]:

However, for every Clemente and Mazerowski, there is a Dick Smith or a Sonny Senerchia. Before Groat (a Blue Devil) became a Steel City icon, there is a Gair Allie (a Demon Deacon) who disappears from the scene after one year, and for the most part, lost to memory.

Following are some of those forgotten Pirates of the 50s:

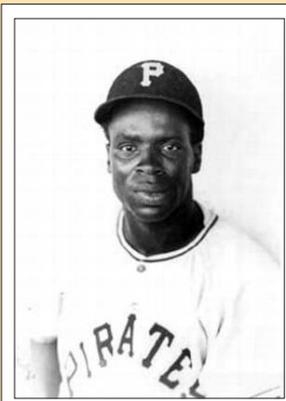
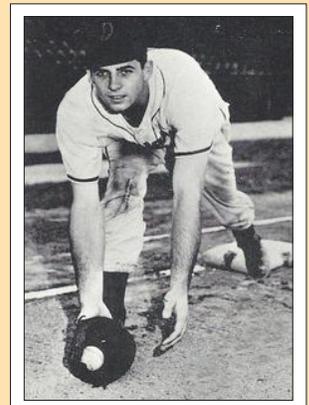


VIC JANOWICZ, CATCHER (1952-1953)

A seventh-round draft pick by the Washington Redskins in 1952, the Ohio State graduate is the first of two Heisman Trophy winners (Bo Jackson) to play major league baseball ... Janowicz signs with the Bucs on December 15, 1952, and is the first "bonus baby" signed under baseball's new rule requiring a player who signs for \$4,000 or more to remain on the team's major league roster for two years ... following a two-year stint in the Army, Janowicz makes his first start for the Bucs on June 6, 1953, against the Cincinnati Reds and is injured in the fifth inning following a collision with Andy Seminick ... Janowicz is hitting just .143 when he announces on July 16, 1954, that he plans on signing with the Washington Redskins at the end of the current season ... in his two years with the Pirates, Janowicz hits .214 with two home runs and 10 RBIs ... the Pirates release Janowicz from his contract on September 9, 1954, and he signs with the Redskins, where he plays for two seasons (1954-55) before suffering a concussion in a car accident in Los Angeles that ends his football career.

DALE COOGAN, FIRST BASE (1950)

One of five players to start at first base for the Pirates in 1950, Coogan gets credit for his first major league home run while playing in the minors ... Coogan hits his only major league home run on June 24, 1950, a three-run shot off of Brooklyn's Ralph Branca in the first inning of a game that is delayed by curfew and eventually won by the Dodgers 21-12 on August 1, at which time Coogan has been in the minors for the previous three weeks ... Coogan is demoted to Indianapolis on July 11, 1950, to make room for the return of catcher Clyde McCullough. "He'll be back, no doubt about it," says manager Billy Meyer ... Meyer proves to be no Nostradamus as Coogan will never play in the majors again ... a product of the Los Angeles American Legion program, the left-handed hitting Coogan is only 19 years old and the "showcase" of the Pirates' youth movement when he makes his major league debut on April 22, 1950 ... the Los Angeles native starts 27 games at first base, hitting .240 with six doubles, one triple, one home run and 13 RBIs.



CURT ROBERTS, SECOND BASE (1951)

Simply, he came first. A 5-foot-8, 165-pound native of Pineland, Texas, Roberts integrates the Pirates in style on April 13, 1954, when he triples to right field in his first major league at bat against Philadelphia's future Hall of Famer Robin Roberts ... signing with the Negro League's Kansas City Monarchs out of high school, Roberts plays with the Monarchs three seasons before signing with the Boston Braves, who assign him to Denver in 1951 ... after earning all-star honors in 1952 and 1953, the Corsairs announce the signing of Roberts on October 22, 1953, and he is asked to make the jump from A-ball to the majors ... he leads the team with 394 assists and errors (24) while hitting .232 with 18 doubles, seven triples and one home run in his only full season (1954) with the Pirates ... he will have only 79 more at-bats in the majors over the next two campaigns before returning to the minors for good in 1956 ... Roberts will play 12 minor league seasons before retiring after batting .284 with

the Lynchburg White Sox in 1963.

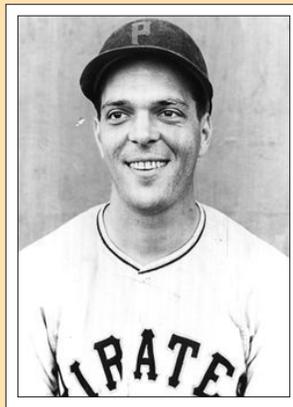
GAIR ALLIE, SHORTSTOP (1954)

If it hadn't been for Duke alumnus Dick Groat, Wake Forest product Gair Allie may have been the Pirates' shortstop for more than just one season ... a two-time all-state performer for Statesville (N.C.) High School, Allie is attending workouts with the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants in June of 1950, when he tells the *Greensboro News & Record* that if he signs



Forgotten Pirates of the 1950's [3 of 7]:

a pro contract (the Dodgers are the favorite) he will still attend the University of North Carolina in the off-season ... however, the lanky three-sport star elects not to turn pro and attends Wake Forest College instead ... Allie plays on the Deacon freshman team in 1951 before heading up North and leading the Nova Scotia semi-pro league in home runs with 19 ... he parlays his strong summer showing into a \$30,000 bonus from Branch Rickey and elects not to return to Wake Forest, signing with the Bucs on September 21, 1951 ... in his one season with the Pirates, a 22-year-old Allie hits .199 in 121 games with eight doubles six triples and three home runs.

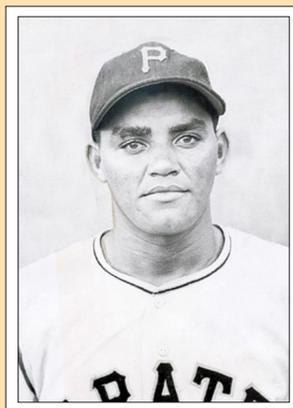
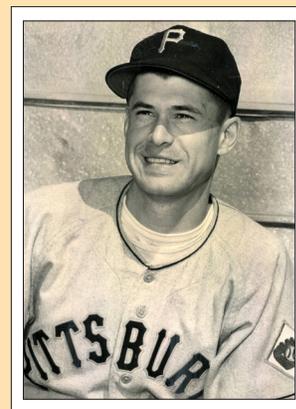


SONNY SENERCHIA, THIRD BASE (1952)

Senerchia is probably the only concert violinist to ever start a game at third base for the Pirates ... his three home runs in 1952 are off a Hall of Famer (Hoyt Wilhelm), a legendary baseball play-by-play announcer (Ernie Johnson) and a Hampden-Sydney College product (Bill Connelly) ... the 21-year-old Senerchia is hitting a team-high .296 with 13 doubles and seven home runs in only 62 games with Burlington-Graham of the Carolina (B) League when is promoted to the parent club on August 18, to replace the injured Jack Merson ... the rookie third baseman starts fast for the Bucs, hitting .308 (8-for-28) in his first eight games, but falters down the stretch collecting only 14 hits in 74 at bats (.189) in his final 21 games ... an accomplished violinist who plays seven different instruments and performs solo at Carnegie Hall at the age of 12, Senerchia will play in the minor leagues until 1958 when he retires at the age of 27 ... Senerchia is 72 years old when he is killed on November 1, 2003, while riding his motorcycle in Freehold, New Jersey.

BRANDY DAVIS, OUTFIELD (1952-1953)

Played at Duke University under head coach Jack Coombs in 1950, preceding Dick Groat to the Durham, North Carolina, campus by one year ... two years later, Davis again precedes Groat on the Pirate roster by two months when he makes his major league debut on April 15, 1952 ... one of 200 players signed by Branch Rickey in his first year in Pittsburgh, Davis, following a year in military service, sets a minor league single season record in 1951 for base stealing percentage when he swipes 83 bases in 85 attempts (.976) while splitting time between Bartlesville (69 of 71), Hutchinson (3 of 3) and New Orleans (11 of 11) ... a fleet-footed (a 9.9 100-yard dash time at Duke) right-handed hitting outfielder, who patterns himself after Ty Cobb, Davis earns all-star honors in the KOML (1951) and the Alabama-Florida League (1958) ... Davis hits .187 in parts of two seasons with the Pirates with nine stolen bases in 13 attempts ... named to the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame in 1989,

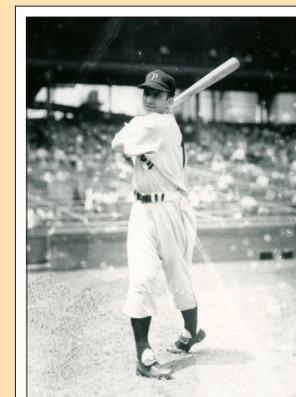


CARLOS BERNIER, OUTFIELD (1953)

One the brightest stars in Pittsburgh's minor league system, Puerto Rico-born Carlos Rodriguez Bernier is considered by some to be the Pirates' first black ballplayer ... nicknamed "Comet," Bernier leads a minor league in stolen bases six times, in triples three times and in 16 minor league campaigns he compiles a .298 batting average with 303 doubles, 123 triples and 200 home runs ... in 1952, Bernier hits .301 and leads the Pacific Coast League in stolen bases with 65 ... he gets his shot as the Bucs starting centerfielder in 1953 at the age of 26 (the Pirates think he is only 24, as a result of him being less than truthful in regards to his date of birth) ... Bernier hits .213 with three home runs and a team-high 15 stolen bases (in 29 attempts) ... following his one season in the Steel City, Bernier returns to the Hollywood Stars of the Pacific Coast League ... on August 16, 1954, Bernier attacks umpire Chris Valenti and is suspended for the remainder of the season.

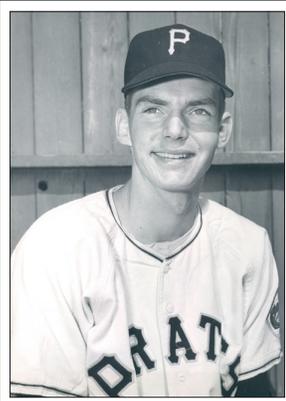
TOM SAFFELL, OUTFIELD (1949-1951, 1955)

Not an obvious choice having played 262 games for the Pirates in parts of four seasons, but anyone who flew 61 missions in a P-47 Thunderbolt in the European theater of war earns a spot on this team ... the Maryville (Tenn.) College product debuts with Pittsburgh in 1949, hitting .322 with two home runs and 25 RBIs in 73 games after debuting on July 1 ... despite his solid rookie campaign, the fleet-footed singles hitter fails to make the Bucs opening



Forgotten Pirates of the 1950's [4 of 7]:

day roster in 1950 because manager Billy Meyer prefers power-hitting outfielders ... after hitting .203 and .200 in limited action in 1950 and 1951, respectively, he plays the next three seasons with the PCL's Hollywood Stars ... returning to the Pirates in 1955, Saffell is hitting .168 in 113 at bats when, on September 14, he is sold to the Kansas City Athletics for the \$10,000 waiver price ... faring little better in the junior circuit (.216 in nine games), Saffell returns to the minors for the next four years, ending his full-time playing career in 1959 with the Spokane Indians.

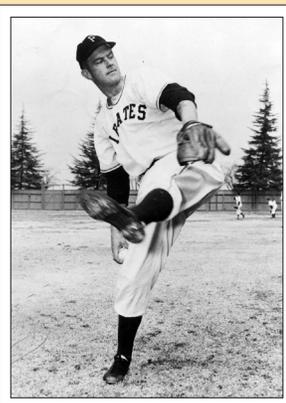
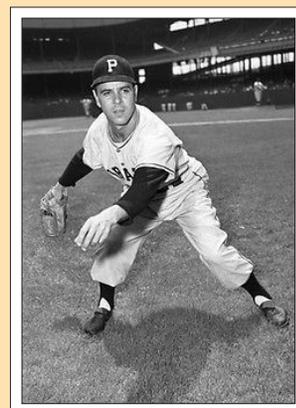


BILL KOSKI, PITCHER (1951)

On an April 28, 1951, in a game against the visiting Cincinnati Reds, 19-year-old Bill Koski is the third of three Pittsburgh pitchers to make his major league debut in the same game ... the 6-foot-4, 185-pound Madera, California, righthander follows Con Dempsey and Bob Friend to the mound in a 4-2 loss ... in three innings of work that afternoon, Koski strikes out one and walks one and does not allow a hit ... Dempsey, purchased from the San Francisco Seals of the Pacific Coast League at the end of the previous season for \$50,000, will pitch in only two more games before being sold back to the Seals for \$25,000 ... Friend, a product of Purdue University and an eventual four-time All-Star, will go to win 197 games in 16 major league seasons before retiring at the end of the 1966 season ... Koski makes his Pirate debut after making the jump from the Mayfield Clothiers of the Kitty (D) League, where he was 8-2 in 1950 ... Koski is 0-1 with a 6.67 ERA in 13 games for the Bucs in his only major league season.

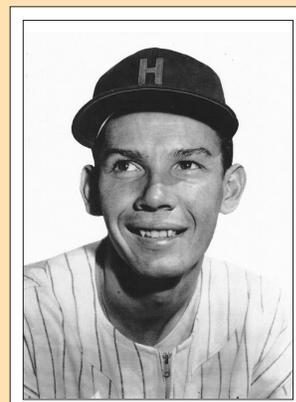
PAUL LAPALME, PITCHER (1951-54)

Despite a 14-33 mark in his four seasons with the Pirates, LaPalme's first career start on June 5, 1951, is one to remember when he fashions a five-hit shutout of the Boston Braves and Johnny Sain ... in only his third major league appearance, LaPalme lowers his season ERA from 10.12 to 3.77 ... his career ERA will climb in his next appearance and never be as low again in his 253-game career ... a left-handed knuckeball pitcher, he pitches 16 seasons in professional baseball from 1941 to 1959, despite losing three years (1943-1945) serving in the U.S. Military during World War II ... in his return from the military, LaPalme enjoys his best season at any level when he goes 20-2 with a 3.16 ERA for the Bristol Twins of the Appalachian (D) League ... in seven major league seasons with the Pirates, Cardinals, Reds and White Sox, he is 24-45 with a 4.42 ERA, 10 complete games (all with Pittsburgh) and two shutouts ... primary a reliever his last three seasons, LaPalme finishes with 13 saves, including a career-high seven with the White Sox in 1957.



WOODY MAIN, PITCHER (1952-53)

Pitching in parts of four seasons for the Pirates, Forrest Harry "Woody" Main's enjoys his best season in 1952 when he is 2-12 with a 4.46 ERA ... originally signed by the New York Yankees as an amateur free agent, a 19-year-old Main makes his professional baseball debut in 1941 with the Idaho Falls Russets of the Pioneer (C) League, finishing 8-17 with a 3.81 ERA ... Main serves in the Marine Corps for three years during World War II (1943-1945) ... returning to the Yankees' organization in 1946, Main is 10-17 in two seasons with Birmingham and Kansas City before being selected by the Pirates in the 1947 Rule V Draft ... the lanky (6-foot-3) right-hander is 1-1 for the Bucs in 1948 with an 8.33 ERA ... on May 13, 1953, Toronto Maple Leafs' owner Jack Kent Cooke spends \$30,000 (\$266,197 in today's dollars) to buy two major league pitchers - Washington's Lou Sleater (\$20,000) and Main (\$10,000) ... Main retires after the 1954 season after compiling a 54-72 mark with a 3.65 ERA, in nine minor league seasons.

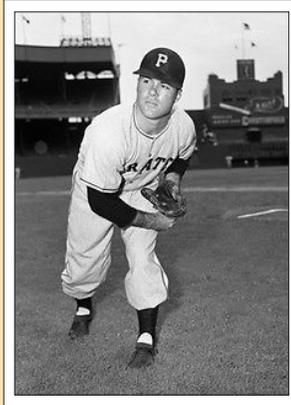


CHOLLY NARANJO, PITCHER (1956)

Lazaro Ramon Gonzalo Naranjo's career highlight was having a game of catch with President Dwight D. Eisenhower during warmups prior to the Washington Senators' 1954 season opener ... on the Senators' opening day roster, the 19-year-old Naranjo is then assigned to sit in the aisle by the presidential box and "stab" any foul balls that might come the president's way ... Naranjo's brush with fame is brief as he and second baseman Tony Roig are optioned to Chattanooga the following day ... in November, 1954, Naranjo's contract is obtained by

Forgotten Pirates of the 1950's [5 of 7]:

Pittsburgh in the minor league draft ... that July 4, Naranjo is 8-6 and a 3.05 ERA with the Hollywood Stars when he, pitcher Fred Waters and future Hall of Fame second baseman Bill Mazeroski are called up to the Pirates ... appearing in 17 games for the Bucs, Naranjo is 1-2 with a 4.46 ERA, striking out 26 and walking 17 in 34 1/3 innings ... plagued by arm problems, the slender right-hander will finish his career in 1961 in the White Sox organization.

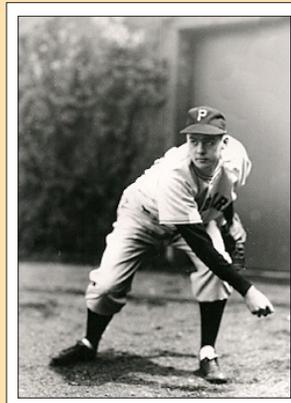
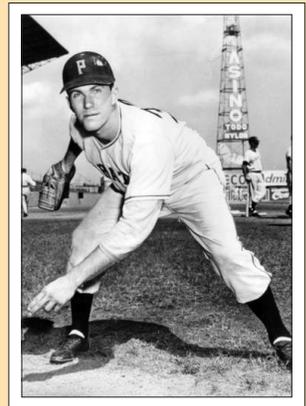


Laurin Pepper, Pitcher (1954-57)

Signed off the campus of Mississippi Southern (now Southern Mississippi) on June 16, 1954, following a stellar football and baseball career, Pepper reports directly to the Pirates, making his major league debut on July 4 ... a Helms Foundation All-American in 1953 and a sixth-round draft pick of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Pepper rushes for 1,868 yards and 20 touchdowns in two seasons under head coach Thad "Pie" Vann ... Pepper's record in his two-year collegiate diamond career is 16-1, including a 10-0 mark in 1954 ... as a bonus baby, Pepper is required to spend his first two years (1954-1955) on the Pirates' major league roster ... as a rookie in 1954, Pepper is 1-5 with an ERA of 7.99, allowing 43 walks and 63 hits in only 50 2/3 innings ... in four major league seasons, all with the Pirates, the Vaughan, Mississippi, right-hander is 2-8 with a 7.06 ERA ... things don't get much better for Pepper in eight minor league seasons, as he 51-63 with 34 complete games and a 4.37 ERA before retiring after a 1-2 mark with the Hawaii Islanders in 1963.

Paul Pettit, Pitcher (1951, 1953)

Pettit becomes baseball's first \$100,000 "bonus baby" on January 31, 1950, when Hollywood agent Frederick Stephani sells Pettit's \$85,000 "movie contract" (signed while the left-handed pitcher was in high school) to the Pirates ... Pittsburgh spends an estimated \$400,000 in bonuses in 1950, including \$15,000 to sign Bob Friend ... although the contract is highly irregular in nature, Commissioner Happy Chandler allows the transaction ... while at Narbonne High School in Lomita, California, Pettit hurls six no-hitters, including three in a row, and strikes out 945 batters in 549 innings of high school, American Legion and semipro ball ... plagued by arm problems as early as his junior year in high school, Pettit appears in only 12 games for the pitching-shy Bucs in 1951 and 1953, finishing 1-2 with a 7.34 ERA and 14 strikeouts in 30 2/3 innings ... switching over to first base and the outfield, Pettit enjoys two 20-home run, 100-RBI seasons with Salinas (1954) and the Hollywood Stars (1957) before retiring after the 1962 season.

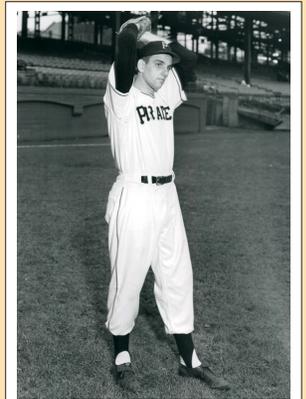


Jim Waugh, Pitcher (1952-53)

Waugh becomes the youngest pitcher in the history of the Pittsburgh Pirates to win a game, when in his first major league start on August 9, 1952, the 18-year-old pitches a complete game 4-3 victory against the Chicago Cubs ... the Lancaster, Ohio, right-hander, route-going effort is his only win during his rookie campaign against six setbacks ... signed by Branch Rickey on the same day as Bill Bell (June 20, 1951) for a reported \$20,000, Waugh is 5-11 with 88 walks, 41 strikeouts and a 6.43 ERA in his two major league seasons, both before his 20th birthday and both with the Pirates ... saddled with arm problems, Waugh will pitch three more years in the Pirates' minor league system before leaving the game at the age of 22, following a 1-9 season with the Kinston (N.C.) Eagles and the Williamsport (Pa.) Grays ... a 1963 graduate of Ohio State University with a degree in Industrial Engineering, Waugh passes away on February 16, 2010, in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Len Yochim, Pitcher (1951, 1954)

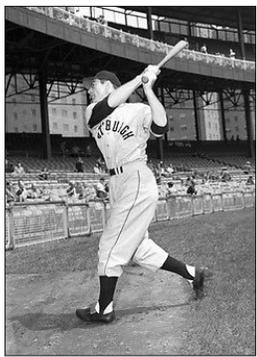
A 109-game winner in 10 minor league seasons, New Orleans native Len Yochim is never quite able to duplicate that level of success at the major league level, finishing 1-2 with a hefty 7.62 ERA in a dozen games with Pittsburgh in 1951 and 1953 ... signing with the Pirates as an amateur free agent in 1947, the hard-throwing lefty has immediate success, posting a 20-6 mark with a 3.25 ERA for the New Iberia (La.) Cardinals of the Evangeline (D) League ... the following year, despite making an ambitious jump to A ball, Yochim is 14-4 for the Eastern League's Albany (N.Y.) Senators ... in his first two years in professional baseball, Yochim is 34-10 with a 3.30 ERA ... on December 9, 1955, pitching for Caracas, Yochim turns in the first no-hit,



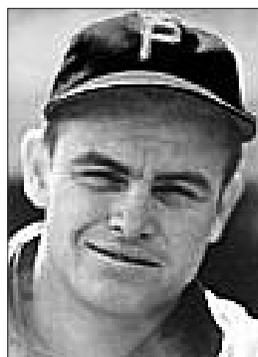
Forgotten Pirates of the 1950's [6 of 7]:

no-run game in the history of the Venezuelan League in a 3-0 victory over Magallanes ... in his last major league appearance on June 19, 1954, Yochim ties a National League record with four wild pitches in an three-inning relief appearance against the Milwaukee Braves.

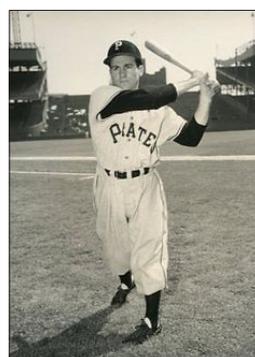
FORGOTTEN PIRATES BENCH



First baseman Dino Restelli makes his Pirates' debut in 1949, hitting seven home runs in his first 10 games ... unfortunately, he will manage only four more in another 83 career games ... five of his home runs are off of Warren Spahn (2), Robin Roberts (2) and Curt Simmons.



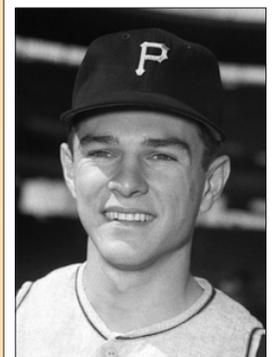
Backup catcher Jim Mangan hits .179 with seven singles spaced out over two seasons (1952, 1954) with the Bucs ... ends his major league career hitting .100 (2-for-20) for the New York Giants in 1956 ... in eight minor league seasons, the Santa Clara College product will hit .294 with 50 home runs.



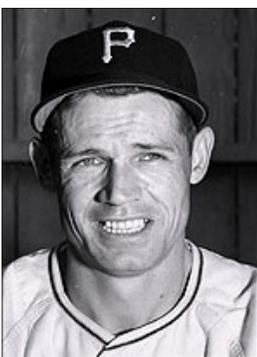
Since 1950, there have been three players named Dick Smith at the major league level ... the Smith trio combines to hit .166 (59-for-356) with eight doubles, four triples and 18 RBIs ... Pittsburgh's Dick Smith leads the way with his .134 average over the course of five seasons (1951-1955).



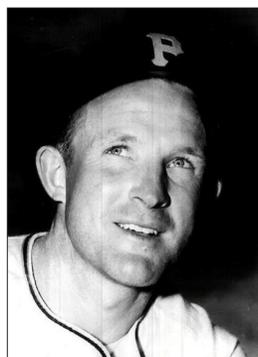
Left-handed hitting Paul Smith makes his Pirate debut as a 22-year-old in 1953, hitting an impressive .283 with only 23 strikeouts in 118 games ... named the MVP of the Southern Association in 1952 after hitting .323 ... hits .270 in three seasons with the Bucs before being sold to the Cubs on May 6, 1958.



Ken Hamlin makes his major league debut on June 17, 1957, pinch-running for Roberto Clemente in the seventh inning of a game against the Milwaukee Braves ... on December 14, 1960, Hamlin is drafted by the Washington Senators in the expansion draft, and then later on the same day is traded to the Los Angeles Angels.



Not noted for his power (only six home runs in 474 career at bats in the major leagues), on July 16, 1950, Pittsburgh's Ted Beard becomes only the second player (following Babe Ruth) to hit a home run over Forbes Field's right field roof ... in five seasons with the Bucs (1948-1952), Beard hits only .203 with 21 extra base hits.



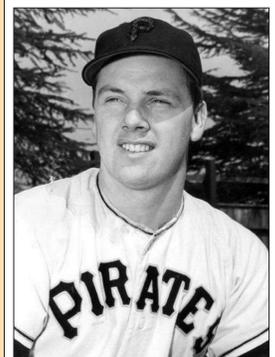
Trivia Time: Who was the last Pittsburgh player to wear No. 21 before Roberto Clemente? The answer is outfielder Earl Smith, who in keeping with other Smiths of Forbes Field lore, hits a meager .063 (1-for-16) in a five-game April trial in 1955 ... a year earlier with the Phoenix Stars, Smith hits .398 with 32 home runs and 197 RBIs.



Signing for \$20,000 after graduating from high school, catcher Nick Koback remains on the Pirate roster for two years because of the "bonus baby" rule ... in his first career start, Koback catches Murray Dickson's eight-hit shutout of the Chicago Cubs ... in three seasons with the Bucs, Koback hits .121 with four hits in 33 at bats.



"Spook" Jacobs is acquired from the Kansas City Athletics on June 23, 1956, in trade for Curt Roberts and Jack McMahan ... in 11 games with the Bucs, Jacobs has six hits in 37 at bats (.162) before he is one of six players optioned to Hollywood of the PCL ... in return, three Hollywood players report to Pittsburgh, including 19-year-old Bill Mazerowski.

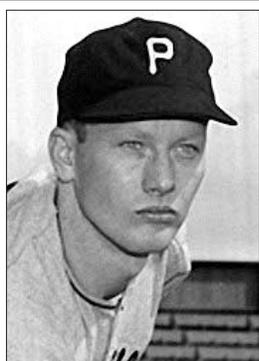


I know Gus Bell doesn't belong here, as this is a player who in three seasons with the Bucs hit 40 home runs with 201 RBIs while hitting .270 ... but, for some reason on October 14, 1952, Branch Rickey trades the 23-year-old outfielder to Cincinnati for Cal Abrams, Gail Henley and Joe Rossi ... Bell will go on to play nine years with the Reds and make the All-Star team four times.

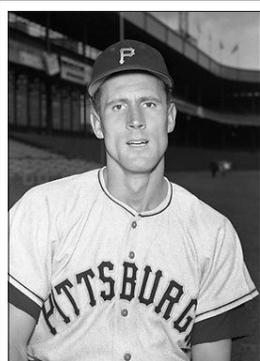
Forgotten Pirates of the 1950's [7 of 7]:



Pittsburgh lefty Al Grunwald has the unique distinction of having the cycle hit against him in his major league debut against the New York Giants on April 18, 1955, ... relieving Max Surkont in the fourth inning, Grunwald yields a triple to Willie Mays, a double to Monte Irvin, a single to Don Mueller and a home run to Whitey Lockman.



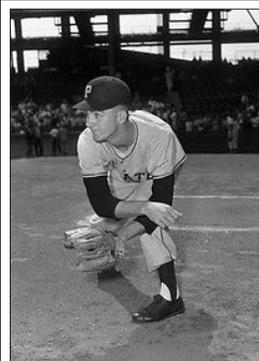
On May 3, 1955, righthander Ed Wolfe walks away from the game rather than accept being demoted to the Mexico City Azules of the Mexican (AA) League by the Hollywood Stars where he is 0-0 with a 5.19 ERA in 8 2/3 innings ... Wolfe, who served two years as a paratrooper in the Army (1947-48), is 0-0 with 7.36 ERA in three games with the Bucs in 1952.



Bob Hall's 1955 Bowman card can be bought for \$3.95 in excellent condition ... the preseason favorite as the Pirates MVP for the 1953 season by Pittsburgh's Jaycees, Hall responds to the challenge by going 3-12 with a 5.39 ERA ... on May 13, Hall is sold to the Seattle Rainiers for \$15,000, but the transaction is voided as the amount is in excess of league rules.



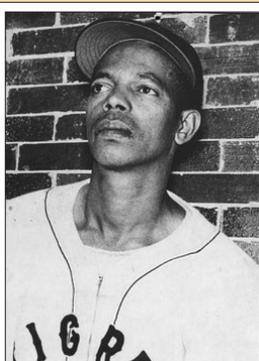
Acquired from the Giants on May 13, 1953, for \$10,000, pitcher Roger Bowman is welcomed to the team by Branch Rickey's ringing endorsement, "I know Fred (Haney) isn't high on Bowman and I'm not sure I am either." ... the left-hander performs down to the Mahatma's expectations by going 0-7 with a 5.60 ERA in parts of two seasons (1953, 1955) with the Bucs.



Signed on August 23, 1955, Arthur "Red" Swanson becomes one of five "Bonus Baby" players on Fred Haney's roster ... 0-0 with an 11.20 ERA in his first two years with the Corsairs, Swanson makes the team's opening day roster in 1957 and in his first major league start on June 23 pitches a 4-hit complete game win against the St. Louis Cardinals.



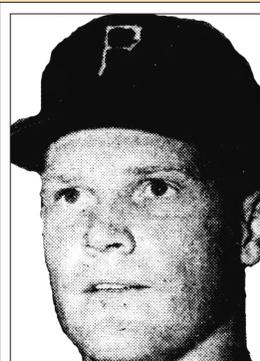
Another one of Pittsburgh's teenage signees, 18-year-old right-hander Bill Bell writes his name into the record books on May 26, 1952, when he becomes only the third pitcher in the history of professional baseball to hurl back-to-back no-hitters while pitching for the Bristol Twins of the Appalachian League ... Bell will later pitch a third no-hitter on August 25.



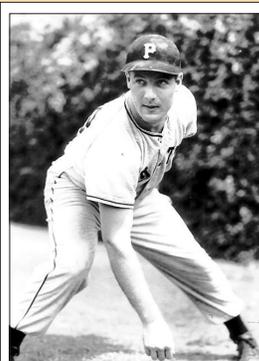
One of the top pitchers in the Pacific Coast League in 1954 after finishing 19-8 for the Hollywood Stars with a 2.37 ERA, 32-year-old Cuban-born Lino Donoso fails to make the Pirates' opening day lineup in 1955 but is brought up in June and makes his major league debut on June 18 ... Donoso finishes 4-6 with a 5.31 ERA and three complete games in 10 starts.



On the same day that the Pirates announce that 20-year-old right-hander George Perez has made the team's 1958 opening day roster, it is also revealed that two players - Ronnie Kline, Paul Smith - have dysentery from the team's recent trip to Mexico City ... Perez will pitch in only four games for the Bucs, finishing 0-1 with a 5.40 ERA.



One of 20 pitchers to toil for the last-place Pirates in 1952, James "Bill" Dunn pitches a 1-2-3 inning in his major league debut against the New York Giants on August 26, 1952 ... 10-3 in his two seasons at the University of Alabama in 1951 and 1952, Dunn will appear in three games for the Bucs, going 0-0 with a respectable ERA of 3.38 in 5 1/3 innings of work.



One of only a couple of players to have played their entire professional baseball career at the major league level, Paul "Jake" Martin is signed to a \$30,000 bonus contract on June 27, 1955 ... the 6-foot-8 right-hander and ordained preacher goes 0-1 with a 14.14 ERA and 17 walks in seven innings ... Martin voluntarily retires the following March because of arm troubles.