

# The Killer Feels Just Great; It's Harm-ful News to Hurlers

By BOB FOWLER

ORLANDO, Fla. — This spring, Minnesota's "Fat Boy" actually looks svelte . . . well, would you believe trim? As Harmon Killebrew put it, "I'm in good shape for the shape I'm in."

Killebrew reported at camp underweight and no one enjoyed seeing that more than Bill Rigney.

"We had a discussion at the end of last season," the manager said. "He said he didn't want to go through another spring like he had last year and I agreed it was painful to watch him."

"I told him it gets tougher each year you're over 30 and that the best thing for him would be to come to camp in the best possible condition."

As a result, the American League's leading active home-run hitter is having one of his best springs. In his first five exhibition games, he collected eight hits in 14 at-bats, including one streak of 7-for-7 over a three-game span. He also hit three homers and knocked in six runs.

## Wait Till Bell Rings

However, "The Killer" says a good spring does not indicate a long, hot summer for opposing pitchers.

"I've had good springs, and bad ones," he said after one 3-for-3 performance. "What I do in the spring has no relationship to what happens when the regular season starts, darn it."

However, his physical state should carry over into April, May and June and, perhaps, further.

"I feel much better than last year because my knee isn't swollen," he said. "It swells from pivoting when I swing."

"Usually, it's cold at the start of spring training, so the hot weather we had at the start of this spring could be one reason the knee hasn't bothered me."

Killebrew, however, has been bothering opponents, although not trying.

"I just try to concentrate on the pitcher and the ball," he said. "In the spring, I just want to try to hit the ball somewhere; I'm not trying to hit home runs."

## No. 11 on Homer List

Which, of course, makes many wonder what will occur when he swings for the fences.

And, friends, you could see a lot of that this year, for it is an important year for this man.

With 487 career homers, he ranks 11th on the all-time list. Directly ahead is Lou Gehrig with 493.

With a good season, say 40 homers, Ernie Banks (509), Mel Ott (511), Eddie Mathews (512) and Ted Williams (521) also would be passed.

He would need a superb season to pass Jimmie Foxx (534) and would need to hit 50 for the first time in his career (he hit 49 twice and 48 once) to pass Mickey Mantle (536). Such a season would leave him behind only Babe Ruth (714), Willie Mays (628) and Hank Aaron (582).

And of the active players competing for Ruth's record he is the

youngest at 34. He won't be 35 until June 29 and, at that age, Ruth had hit 516 homers.

"I think Hank Aaron has the best chance to catch Ruth," Killebrew said. "To me, he is the best hitter in baseball today. He has a smooth swing and uses his wrists a lot. I think he'll be able to hit home runs for a long time."

## He's Feeling Frisky

And how long will Killebrew be able to hit home runs?

"Why does everyone ask me how long I'll play?" he asked. "It makes me feel old."

"I just want to play as long as I remain healthy."

The way he is training this season, it's obvious Killebrew intends to stay healthy a long time.

"I imagine he'll hit 40 homers again," Rigney said. "And he'll do it playing in 50 games . . . the first 50."

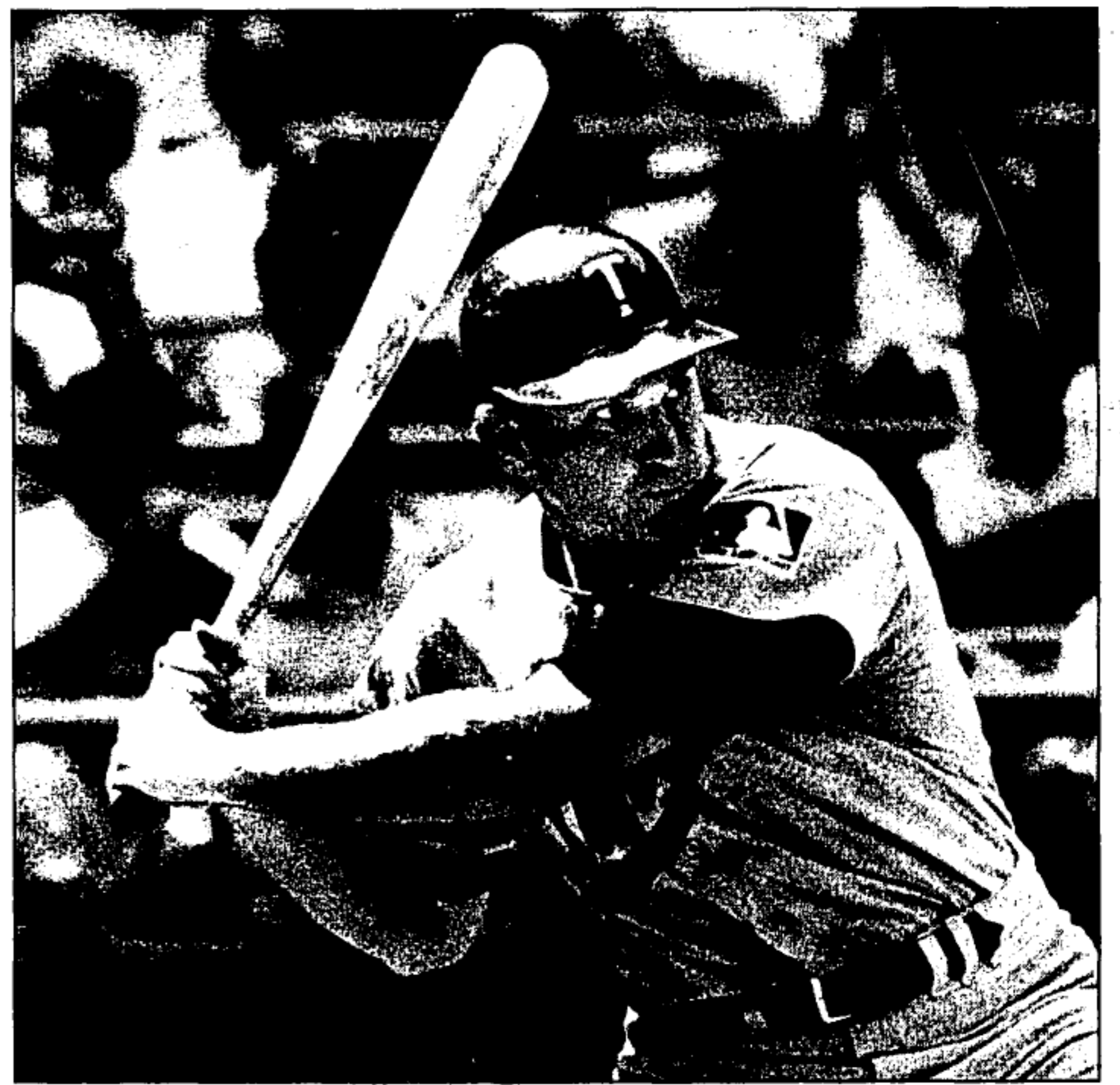
"I'd like to rest him more this season, but it's awfully hard to resist writing his name on that lineup card."

**Twin Tales:** Luis Tiant had a pulled back muscle and Dave Boswell had the flu and Rigney was irritated enough to say, since he couldn't rely on his veterans anymore, he would "look carefully" at five young righthanders—Steve Barber, Ray Corbin, Tom Norton, Steve Luebber and Mark Wiley—as possible replacements. "We went through this (injuries) with them all last year and we can't do it again," the manager said. "Unless we make a trade, and we haven't been able to make one yet, it looks like we're going to have to go with our young pitchers. At least they have strong arms and are healthy." . . . Leo Cardenas was at least two weeks late in reporting. He was located in Puerto Rico, where he said he had to go due to an "emergency." . . . Cesar Tovar signed 10 days late for an estimated \$50,000, or \$10,000 more than he received last year.

Twins' officials apparently have forgotten Bill Zepp, realizing he won't sign and they can't trade him. Now they are worried he will count on their 40-man roster. . . . Ron Perranoski signed almost three weeks late for an estimated \$60,000, another \$10,000 raise. . . . Camilo Pascual walked out of camp two weeks after arriving, apparently upset because he wasn't offered a contract quickly and upset about the money he would receive (\$20,000) compared to what he had been making (\$40,000). "It's too bad," Rigney said. "I wanted to look at him a bit longer, but all he had to do was look at our staff to see that he could have made it." . . . Rookie Steve Braun, who was a Class A third baseman last year, has been impressive with his play at second base, especially on the double-play pivot. "He's really got guts," Rigney said. "He hasn't flinched yet." . . . Rod Carew still was ailing one week after having his teeth extracted and hadn't played in an exhibition. . . . Rich Reese has a daily radio show in the Twin Cities, interviewing players from spring training camps.

## TV Helpful to Blyleven

ORLANDO, Fla.—Closed-circuit television has enabled the Twins' righthander Bert Blyleven to correct a fault in his follow-through. He had been crossing his right leg in front of his left after releasing the ball. It left him in an awkward position for fielding. "I've been concentrating on it," Blyleven said after seeing the pictures.



Harmon Killebrew . . . Would 40 HRs Be About Right?



Jerome Holtzman

## Pepi Sees His Barber . . . To Say Hello

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — I seem to have this knack of being in on history. I was at Scottsdale Stadium the other day when Joe Pepitone of the Cubs and Ken Harrelson of the Indians were saying their hellos. Here they were—the two beautiful leaders of the mod set—Harrelson, his golden locks shorn at the insistence of Manager Alvin Dark, and Pepitone with his raven tresses bobbing at the shoulders. I don't know what they said, but Harrelson was smiling when he walked away and declared, "Boy, isn't he something?"

Harrelson, incidentally, says this is the shortest his hair has been in 10 years and that it's going to help him at the plate. "Instead of hitting .240, I'm going to hit .250," he said with a laugh.

Whereas Manager Dark doesn't go for the long hair, Manager Leo Durocher of the Cubs seems unconcerned. Several times this spring Durocher, faking anger, has said to Pepitone:

"I thought I told you to see the barber."

"I did," Pepitone replies. "I saw him yesterday. I went into the barber shop and said, 'Hello, Mr. Barber,' then I walked out."

I'm sorry to say this, but it looks as if Ernie Banks is about to go the way of all flesh. He looks like he's just about had it, but you've got to give the 40-year-old Mr. Cub credit. He's fighting to hang on, and may make it through another season. This, to me, once again proves that Banks, despite that happy-go-lucky exterior, is one helluva competitor, and always was.

That reminds me of the '57 season when Banks was just about all the Cubs had. That year, four pitchers—Bob Friend, Bob Purkey, Jack Sanford and Jim Bunning—knocked him down with high hard ones. On each occasion, Banks got up and hammered the next pitch for a home run.

I saw Willie McCovey of the Giants in a little sandwich shop here the other night and the first thing I thought of was that last season he got 137 walks. To me, that's his most remarkable statistic since I believe a walk is as good as a hit. Add his 143 hits and that's the equivalent of 280-base-hits. Anyway, that's the way I think about it.

## Gaherin Briefs G.M.s on Key Issues

I guess if you keep your eyes open you might learn something every day. For instance, John Gaherin was watching a Cub exhibition the other day and when I went to say hello, he told me he was merely making his annual spring training tour of all the camps. Gaherin meets with all the general managers, and brings them up to date on player-management matters. Gaherin has been making this swing since 1967.

Marvin Milkes, the former Milwaukee G. M. who is now a West Coast scout for the Brewers, was telling of the days when he was a front-office executive with the Angels and how he used to help get people in to see the late President Eisenhower when Ike vacationed at Palm Springs, Calif.

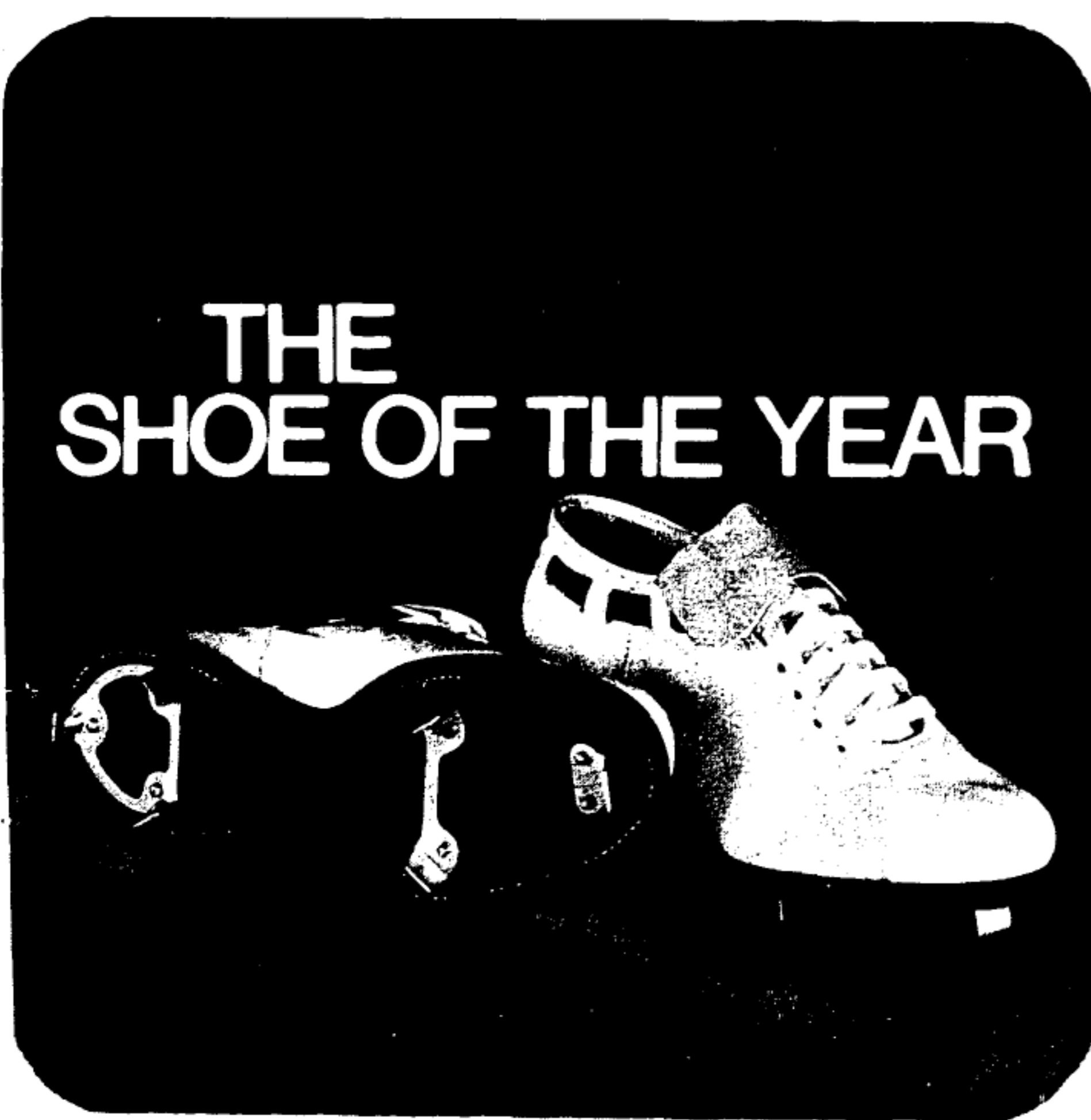
Milkes told how he got a few baseball writers an audience with Ike and how he also arranged a similar visit for General William Eckert, the former commissioner. Milkes said that Eisenhower was apparently Eckert's hero and that they spoke for more than an hour, mostly old Army talk.

The major leagues' planning committee has run out of money. The next research projects, if funds are appropriated, will deal with trying to cut the high cost of player development. With salaries and costs soaring, the thinking is that some savings are necessary for survival and maybe this can be made at the minor league level.

I'm not making any big suggestions here, but would like to cite another case of how statistics don't always tell the full story. For example: The Cubs are playing the Angels, have the bases loaded with no outs, and Billy Williams at bat. Lefty Phillips, the California manager, changes pitchers and brings in Heinbecher, a kid lefty, to test him.

Heinbecher wild pitches, a run scoring, throws three more wide ones and Williams walks to re-fill the bases. Ron Santo, next up, also walks, another run scoring and re-filling the bases.

Now, according to the rules, Santo gets an RBI but Williams doesn't because the first run scored on a wild pitch. Yet, it must be assumed that the kid pitcher was just as fearful, maybe even more so, of Williams, as of Santo, but no ribby for Williams. I'm not recommending a rules change and an RBI for a wild pitch, and don't want Allen Lewis or Ray Kelly to get excited. I'm merely pointing out something that never occurred to me before.



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# 50 Homers? 'Can Do,' Chirps Killebrew

## Harmon Doesn't Think He's Just 'One-Season Sensation'

### His Hits Back Confidence of Cal Griffith

Nats' Prexy Kept Insisting Idahoan Would Be One of Top Sluggers in A. L.

By BOB ADDIE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

It was in May of 1954, during one of the rare day games in Washington, that a United States senator, Herman Welker, a Republican from Idaho, sat in his favorite box over the Washington dugout. His companion was Clark Griffith, "The Old Fox," the long-time boss of the Nats and one of the most colorful figures in baseball history.

The Senators, as usual, were floundering and had compounded their ineptness with several infield errors. "I wish we had another infelder," Griff muttered. "Somebody who could field and hit."

Senator Welker, a rabid fan and a former sandlot player said: "Griff, I don't know if you want to spend any money. But I've known a family back in my home state which has produced many fine athletes. They have a 17-year-old boy who is a shortstop and he's one of the most powerful hitters I've ever seen. His name is Harmon Killebrew and I've known him since he was 6. Why don't you take a look at him?"

The next day, Griffith dispatched his farm director, Ossie Bluege, former manager and all-time Washington third baseman, to journey to the boy's home in Payette, Ida.

#### Kid Gave Ossie Real Show

Bluege came back looking like someone who had seen the Holy Grail. He reported, in awe, that he had watched Killebrew play in the Idaho-Oregon Border League in three games. Killebrew came to bat 12 times and collected 12 hits—four homers, three triples and five singles. One of the home runs cleared the fence at 435 feet.

Not satisfied with the marking, Bluege had measured the distance himself. It was correct. Ossie discovered the boy was hitting a fantastic, overall .847 and had batted .466 the year before.

"I've always been opposed to bonus players," Bluege said, "but I've got to admit this youngster impressed me. I think he swings a bat better than any other young fellow I've ever seen. He's a righthanded Mickey Mantle."

When Bluege reported to Griffith, the Nats' boss said: "Get him at all cost. The sky is the limit."

The "sky limit" originally was guessed at a \$65,000 figure for Washington's first bonus player in history. The Senators did nothing to knock down this figure, although it came out a few days later, in a telephone interview with the bonus boy's mother, Mrs. Catherine Killebrew, that Harmon had received \$30,000 to be paid over three years for a combination bonus-salary. Yet even \$30,000 was a lot of money for the Washington club to spend.

But now they have a home-run hero who was named the A. L.'s All-Star third baseman for this year's clash.

#### From Big Train's Country

There is the thread in this story of the great Walter Johnson, Washington's immortal "Big Train."

You may recall the legend of Walter Johnson. He was pitching for a semipro team in Weiser, Ida., only 15 miles from Payette, where Harmon Killebrew was to be born some 30 years later. But Johnson had a lot to do with Killebrew's destiny.

Senator Welker was graduated from Weiser High and had dedicated the Johnson Memorial Field in that town. The Senator used to love to say that he played with the same team (Weiser) that Johnson had played with—but, of course, many years later.

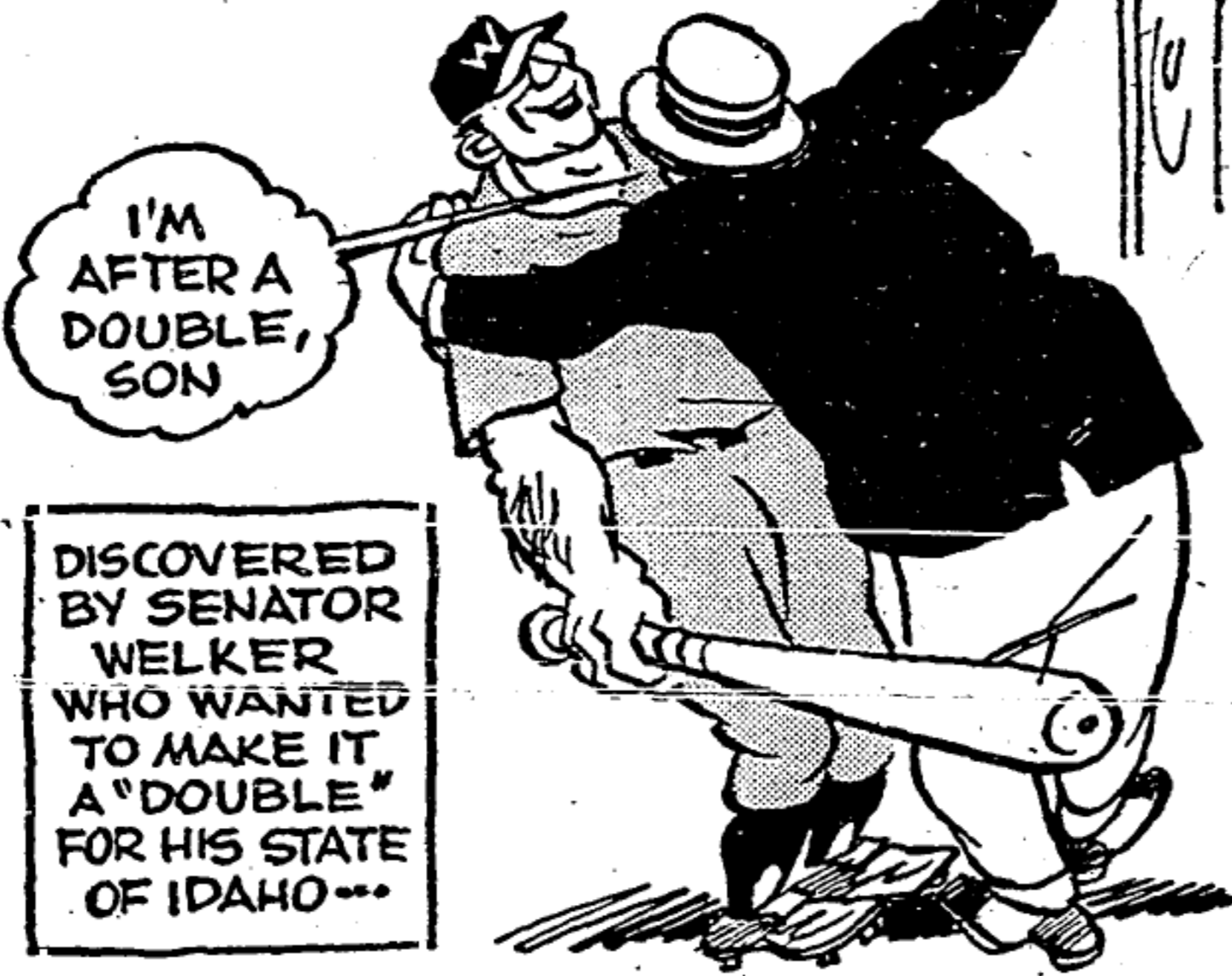
Johnson was discovered by Cliff Blankenship, a Washington catcher who had been injured and, not to make it a total loss, had been given scouting duties by Pongo Joe Cantillon, the Nats'

Another Capital Prize . . .

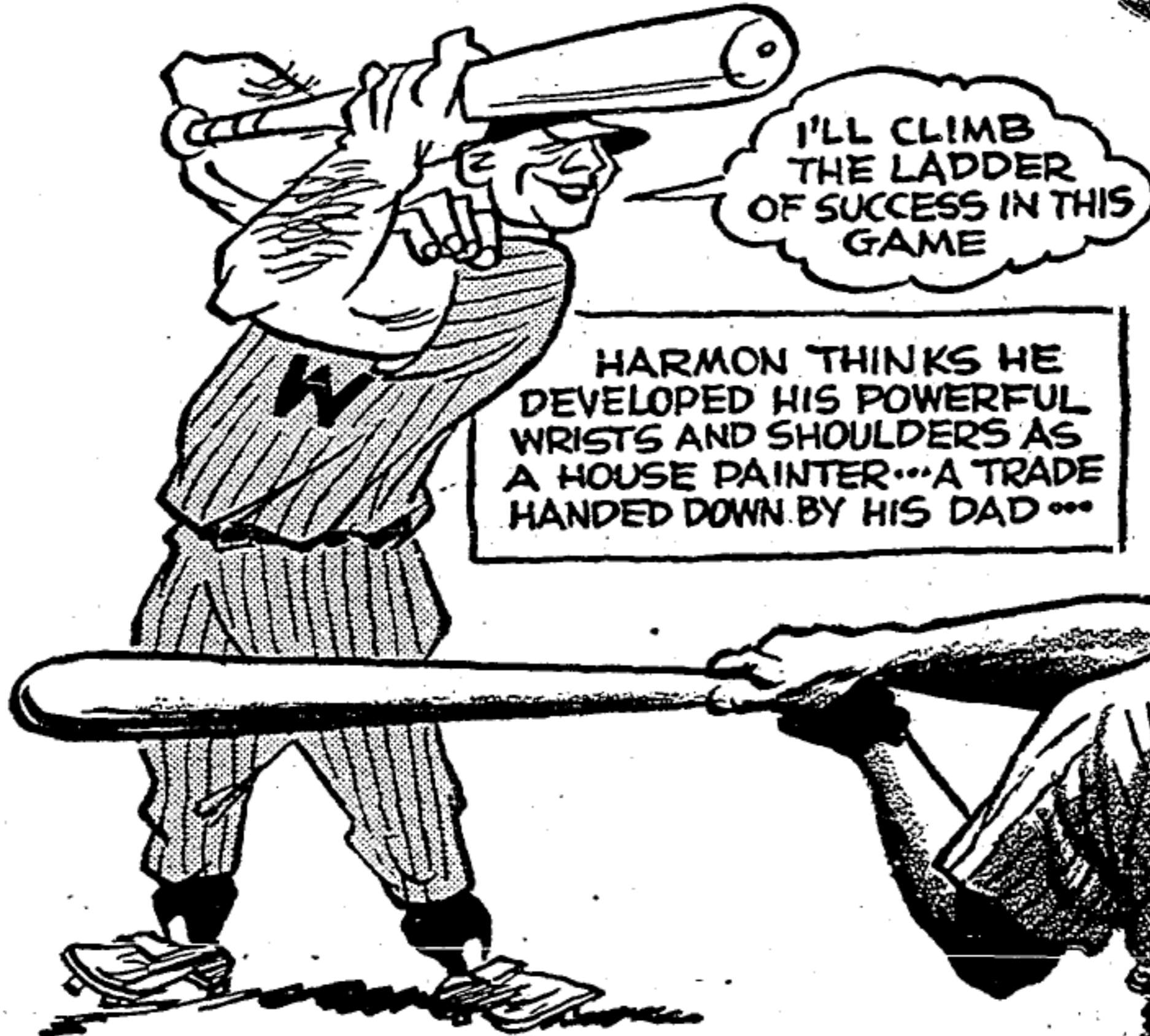
for Senators From Idaho

HARD-HITTING  
*Harmon*  
**KILLEBREW**  
FOLLOWS TRADITION OF "BIG TRAIN" AS IDAHO STAR FOR THE SENATORS

WALTER JOHNSON MEMORIAL FIELD WEISER, IDAHO



DISCOVERED BY SENATOR WELKER WHO WANTED TO MAKE IT A "DOUBLE" FOR HIS STATE OF IDAHO . . .



HARMON THINKS HE DEVELOPED HIS POWERFUL WRISTS AND SHOULDERS AS A HOUSE PAINTER—A TRADE HANDED DOWN BY HIS DAD . . .

#### 'When Killer Strikes Once, He Strikes Again,' Nats Say

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The nickname "Killer," which Harmon Killebrew carries, is one given him by his teammates. Harmon is constantly being kidded (in an admiring sort of a way) about his penchant for hitting two homers in one game.

Killebrew has had double homers five times this year. His teammates drone: "When the Killer strikes once, he strikes again."

"HE HAS A WONDERFUL SWING AND IS LAYING OFF THE BAD PITCHES . . . SHOULD HIT 50 HOMERS," SAYS ROY SIEVERS

KILLEBREW HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT HIS POWER IS NO FLASH IN THE PAN

KILLEBREW WAS HERE

manager in 1907. A traveling salesman had written Cantillon about a pitcher in Weiser, Ida., named Walter Johnson, who was "the strikeout king of the Snake River Valley League."

Cantillon dispatched Blankenship to sign Johnson. The convalescent catcher did—at a bonus of \$100 and a big league contract calling for \$350 a month.

As an amusing sidelight to this story, Johnson held out for return fare to Idaho, in case he didn't make it. Also, when the Washington newspapers heard of the young pitcher, they wrote: "Blankenship reports the signing of a new pitching phenom but doesn't say if this phenom is righthanded or lefthanded."

It didn't take the baseball world long to find out.

But Walter Johnson has a big part in the Harmon Killebrew story. Senator Welker, inspired by the memory of the greatest player ever to wear the Washington uniform, wanted to make it

a "double" for his state of Idaho and sign the greatest hitter ever to wear the Washington uniform.

#### "Paul Bunyan in Fayette"

Killebrew was something of a junior Paul Bunyan in Payette, where he attended high school. He was an outstanding student who gained the honor roll. He played football, baseball and basketball and was selected on the National Scholastic All-America football team as a quarterback. He batted .500 for four years in high school.

He was the son of the late Harmon Killebrew, Sr. The present Washington slugger bears his father's name but doesn't use the "junior." Kille-

brew, Sr., known as Clay, was himself an outstanding athlete.

The Killebrew family originated in Decatur, Ill.

Harmon's father was born when his daddy was 65 years old. Grandfather Killebrew, a Civil War veteran, was considered the greatest physical specimen in the Union Army from Illinois, according to Forrest R. Kyle, sports editor of the Decatur Herald and Review.

Clay (and here's the fantastic comparison) stood 5-11 and weighed 190 pounds—exactly the dimensions of son Harmon. Sports Editor Kyle interviewed some people who had known Clay

Killebrew when he attended Millikin University in Decatur.

One gentleman, Jimmy Ashmore, who had been a Millikin coach, said: "Clay Killebrew was the only man I ever saw who could run 40 yards for a touchdown through the center of the line and knock the tacklers out of the road himself."

Clay was a fullback who played on Millikin's first undefeated team in 1916. He had lost the sight of one eye before he went to college and it was because of this handicap that he never played baseball with his son.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4, COL. 1)

# Killer Gunning Home-Run Foes

## Slugger Makes Up for Late Start With Four in Four Games

By ARNO GOETHEL



Harmon Killebrew

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—The king is alive! Long live the King!

Scratched from the early running of the American League home-run derby, the Twins' Harmon Killebrew was coming on fast in late June to move into the pack of musclemen straining to replace him as the loop's power king.

Still suffering from a wrenched right knee when the season opened, Killebrew played the Twins' first five games, collecting one homer. When water formed on the knee, he was benched and missed 24 games before he returned to full-time duty.

After 17 games on the bench, the defending A. L. home champion (with 48 in 1962) made four pinch-hitting appearances and went the first four innings of a May 11 game.

His actual return, however, came on May 14. He slugged his second homer in the Twins' thirty-second game on May 17.

It was a slow start for The Killer, but he caught up with a rush when he compiled a fantastic slugging streak starting on June 18.

While running up a nine-game hitting streak, Killebrew included five homers and four doubles among 13

hits in 32 at-bats for 32 total bases. That's a slugging percentage of 1.000.

The surge started in typical Killebrew fashion with four homers in four consecutive games, three against Chicago and the fourth against Baltimore.

According to the Twins' system for measuring the length of homers, the blasts traveled 432, 430, 393 and 415 feet.

\* \* \*

### Harmon's Homer Paces 1-0 Win

Killebrew's hitting streak was boosted to nine games with one of his most important homers of the season, a 418-foot poke over the center field fence on June 25. It was only one of two hits yielded by Detroit's Jim Bunning and rewarded Lee Stange's five-single pitching with a 1-0 victory.

The .406 hitting streak hoisted Harmon's average 34 points to .259. The slugging spree gave him a percentage of .576 for the season.

"Sure, I'd like to repeat as the league's home-run champion," Killebrew agreed, "but there are a lot of good hitters in the running."

The general feeling, however, was that the others had their opportunities to get away to a flying start while Killebrew was cooling his bat on the bench.

As the season neared the midway mark, the Killer was coming.

## Twins Keep Fit on Daily Diet of Dailey Hill Feats

By ARNO GOETHEL

TWIN CITIES, Minn.

With apologies to the Huntley-Brinkley show, recent progress of the Twins must be presented as the weekly Dailey report.

As the Twins continued to press the Yankees, White Sox and Red Sox for the American League lead, they were doing it with Harmon Killebrew's booming bat, Earl Battey's backstopping, Shortstop Zoilo Versalles' glove and Johnny Goryl's emergence from the ranks of the scrubins.

Most of all, however, they were doing it with the rubber arm of their righthanded relief ace, Wild Bill Dailey.

With Camilo Pascual and Jim Roland nursing injuries that completely kept them out of action, and Starters Jim Perry, Jim Kaat and Dick Stigman restrained by minor hurts, the Twins went one stretch of 11 games without a complete game from the mound staff.

### Four Saves by Ace Fireman

They won five of the 11. Dailey saved four with the most remarkable fireman performances witnessed at Metropolitan Stadium since the Twins came to Minnesota.

The 28-year-old Virginian made six appearances in one span of seven days, starting June 16, allowing four hits and one run over ten innings.

His streak started in the opener of a double-header with Los Angeles on June 16. He entered in the ninth with the Twins trailing, 4-2, and Angel runners on second and third with one out. He walked Bob Perry intentionally before Battey nailed Hank Foiles at the plate on a missed squeeze bunt. On the same play, Bat-

### 'Grandpa' Query by Barber Clips Graying Skipper Mele

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—A local barber could have been called for clipping Manager Sam Mele recently.

While Sam was getting his locks trimmed, his five-year-old daughter, Marsha, was flitting about the shop and stirred the barber's interest.

Finally he asked Mele: "Is that your granddaughter, mister?"

Only 41 despite his graying hair, Mele was cut to the quick.

### Muscle Men Fail; Tiny Zoilo Paces Twins With 2 Homers

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—With Lefthander Mike McCormick pitching for Baltimore, Manager Sam Mele of the Twins packed his lineup with husky righthanded sluggers on June 22.

The 200-pound-plus club included Harmon Killebrew, Vic Power, Bob Allison, Wally Post and Earl Battey.

But it was 145-pound Zoilo Versalles who did the most damage to McCormick, poling his fourth and fifth homers of the season to decide the 3-1 victory. Vic Power's third homer accounted for the other run.

They had Lee Thomas vulnerable going into third, but the catcher's second error of the season sailed into left field, allowing Thomas to score before Dailey whiffed Julio Navarro. The Twins lost, 5-3.

Dailey made a brief appearance in the nightcap, getting the Twins out of a seventh-inning jam with a strike-out and double-play pitch. The Angels won in 11 innings, 5-4.

The Twins, who dropped two notches to sixth place with the double loss to the Angels, returned to fifth by taking two of three decisions from the White Sox. Dailey saved the first victory for Jim Perry, 5-3.

He was back on the beam two days later, giving up only two hits over four shutout frames to preserve a 9-4 triumph over the Chisox for Jim Kaat.

The next day, June 21, Dailey rode to Lee Stange's rescue with one out and the bases full of Orioles in the ninth inning of a two-night opener. The bases stayed full and the Twins won, 5-2.

### Bill Rescues Jim Perry

On June 22, Dailey was beckoned from the bull pen when Perry was injured by an eighth-inning smash off the bat of Baltimore's Luis Aparicio. Wild Bill came in with one out, Orioles on second and third and the Twins holding a precarious 3-1 advantage.

Battey saved the bacon with a fantastic play on Russ Snyder's first-pitch nubber about 15 feet down the first base line, literally falling on his face after throwing a strike to first while the Oriole runners held their bases. Dailey racked up his sixth save of the season by getting Brooks Robinson on a called third strike and breezing through the 1-2-3 ninth.

Following this streak of six appearances within seven days, Dailey said: "I'm still eating breakfast with my right hand. I'll start thinking about taking a rest only if I have to start drinking coffee lefthanded."

Dailey wasn't among the four hurl-



Bill Dailey

ers Manager Sam Mele employed in a 4-1 loss to the Orioles the next day, but made his twenty-sixth appearance of the season on June 24 to chalk up his seventh save, the fifth in a period of nine days. He threw double-play pitches in the eighth and ninth to preserve a 6-4 verdict for Kaat.

### Seven Missions in Ten Games

Over the longer stretch of seven appearances in ten games, Dailey worked 11½ innings, yielding five hits, two walks (one intentional) and one run. He struck out 11.

**Twin Tales:** John Goryl came off the bench to relieve Bernie Allen at second base on June 22 and shored up the Twins' defense. . . . Trainer Doc Lentz had three cold-pack patients after the 4-1 victory over Baltimore on June 23. Zoilo Versalles was struck above the right ear by a one-hop grounder, Earl Battey was nailed on the left wrist by a pitch and Reliever Ray Moore was struck just above the left ankle by a line drive. . . . When Sam Mele started Vic Wertz (38), Wally Post (33) and Vic Power (31) in the same lineup for the first time on June 23, the Twins fielded a team averaging 30 years in age, their oldest in many seasons. . . . When Rich Rollins missed two days because of hip injuries incurred diving at balls hit into the hole, Power crossed the diamond to fill in at third base and handled eight chances—some of them difficult—without an error. "Guess I'm just an old pro," Power grinned. . . . A virus continued to bug Bob Allison, but the big righthander stayed in the lineup. . . . Camilo Pascual exercised the pulled muscle near his right shoulder blade and voiced some improvement, but still was unable to return to the mound. He was hurt on June 12.

## 'Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow' Battey Says of Man in Mask

By ARNO GOETHEL

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—Time was when Earl Battey of the Twins had a low boiling point and a lot more hair.

"I used to have quite a temper," the burly backstop reminisced in the dugout one day. "I remember one time in 1954, my second year in pro ball. I was playing at Waterloo, Ia.

"One game I came to the plate after the three guys ahead of me all had hit home runs. I knew I was going to have to go down. I told the catcher, 'You go out and tell that pitcher if he throws at me, I'm going to kick him in the seat of his pants, then I'm coming back here and do the same to you.'

"Sure enough—the first pitch came right at my head and I had to scramble out of the way. The catcher got a big kick out of it. He just squatted behind the plate and laughed like crazy.

"I couldn't see the funny side of it, so I lifted his mask with my left hand and POW!—punched him in the nose with my right.

"He went down and out. I was fined \$200.

"Yeah, I used to have a temper.

"I also used to have a lot of hair, but a catcher's mask is tough on the hairline. Rubs it off in the front. My eyebrows were heavy, too—even went right across this space over my nose.

"But you put this mask on and flip it off a few thousand times and it's hair today, gone tomorrow."

## BATTEY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Jim King on Memorial Day. The Senator's spikes gouged a four-inch slice of leather out of Battey's left shoe heel. "I thought I was cut," Battey said, "because my heel had that tingling sensation." The spikes, however, didn't penetrate his skin.

Actually, it was through an injury to another catcher that Battey became a backstopping bulwark.

\* \* \*

### Break Came in High School

It happened at Jordan High School in Los Angeles when Earl was a freshman and first reported out for baseball.

"I was a softball pitcher and had lettered in basketball," he recalled, "but never had been interested in baseball. But, since it was only our second year of baseball, I thought I could make the team.

"I went out for center field and sat out the first six games. Then our catcher split his finger. We had only 12 men on the squad and the other two extras were lefthanded pitchers so our coach gave me the catcher's mitt. That was it. When the other catcher came back, they put him in right field."

More valuable to young Battey than his high school baseball were his experiences as a week-end player in Los Angeles.

Between the ages of 14 and 17, Battey played with Watt's Giants, an adult men's team. "My uncle, Clifford Prelow, who had been in the Dodger system, played second base for Watt," Earl recalled, "and he helped me quite a bit.

\* \* \*

### Played Against Major Stars

"I went from there to a Sunday semi-pro league and played against major leaguers like Johnny Lindell, Bob Lemon, Duke Snider, Jim Bredeweser, Lou Berberet and Irv Noren. On Saturdays, I played for the Chicago White Sox team in a junior league sponsored by the majors against Billy Consolo, Albie Pearson, Joe Amalfitano and Ed Palmquist."

At 18, Battey signed with the White Sox in 1953. After a brief look at the tag end of 1955, the Sox brought him up in 1956. But the Sox had Sherm Lollar and Les Moss to do the catching, so sent him out to Toronto in 1956 and started him at Los Angeles in the Coast league in 1957, before he returned to the majors.

Even then, he ran into John Romano, who was Lollar's No. 1 understudy. When Battey did get into a game, he didn't hit too well.

"I was a second or third-string catcher," he said. "When they took Lollar out for a rest, they didn't expect me to hit. So I concentrated on defense and learning the hitters.

"Al Lopez, the manager, kept asking me questions about how I'd pitch to this guy and that guy. Ray Berres helped, too.

"Lopez broke me of bad habits, too;

### Battey's Tips to Catchers—Stand Up Close to Batters

TWIN CITIES, Minn.—Just how much, Earl Battey was asked, does a catcher need his mask? How often during a season will a foul tip strike the mask?

"Just once is enough to make it all worth while," he retorted.

"But I'd guess a catcher gets hit in the mask on the average of 12 times a season. Seems to go in streaks. You might go a couple months without ever being hit on the mask, then wham—all of a sudden you get hit several times in one game.

"That's why catchers get as close to the batter as they can. The closer you are, the less chance you have of getting hit because of the angle.

"The worst place to get hit is in the Adam's apple. Man, that'll kill you. I remember one spring I was hit in the Adam's apple five times. It's murder." GOETHEL.

I always had locked my elbows between my knees. Lopez taught me to keep my hands out in front while awaiting the pitch.

"Lopez is just like Paul Richards, one of my other managers at Chicago—they can tell you what to do and then get out there and show you how."

\* \* \*

### Got Little Chance to Play

With Lollar enjoying four of his best years during Battey's stay with the Sox, Earl spent most of his time picking up splinters and soaking up knowledge.

"I never got discouraged," he said. "It's different sitting on the bench for a contender than it would be for a second-division club."

Still, he admits one reason he wants to play every game—including both ends of a double-header and despite his numerous injuries—is because "after sitting on the bench for four years, you don't ever want to get that feeling again."

When Battey was traded to Washington just before the 1960 season—along with Don Mincher and \$150,000 for Roy Sievers—the Senators' first-string catcher was Hal Naragon, now a Twins' coach.

"He had the knowledge," said Earl, "which is the toughest thing to replace."

Cookie Lavagetto, then manager of the Nats, soon made Battey his No. 1 backstop and credited him with much of the Senators' success in rising from eighth to fifth in the 1960 season.

Battey hit .302 in the club's first year in Minnesota, 1961.

Since 1960, there's been no doubt about who's No. 1 behind the plate for Cal Griffith's clubs.

How long can Battey keep going? He says:

"It all depends on just how long Doc Lentz can continue to keep me in one piece."

# Killebrew Credits Painting for Big Wrists, Shoulders

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Harmon. Clay transferred from Millikin to West Virginia Wesleyan after his first year and gained All-America recognition under Coach Earle (Greasy) Neale.

The elder Killebrew died in 1953 at 59 years of age. He had moved his family to Payette, Ida., where Harmon was born, and had been a house-painter—a trade young Killebrew himself learned and which he thinks is responsible for his powerful wrists and shoulders.

Twelve other clubs were after Harmon but he signed with Washington for the reason a lot of bonus kids give—they have a chance to make the big leagues sooner with the Senators.

Harmon was signed by Bluege when the Nats were in Baltimore. A few days later, on June 22, seven days before Killebrew's eighteenth birthday, the club was in Chicago. E. B. Eynon, Jr., the Washington road secretary, came into the Del Prado Hotel in Chicago with a bashful youngster in tow. Eynon took the boy up to the suite of Bucky Harris, then the Washington manager, and had invited the newspapermen to meet the new phenom from practically the same area which gave the club Walter Johnson.

## Velvety, Hazel Eyes

We were waiting for the boy to come in and we whiled away the time listening to Bucky's reminiscences of Johnson. The door opened and in came Eynon with Killebrew. Bucky stuck out a gnarled hand and said: "I'm Bucky Harris."

"I know," the kid replied, then looked at his feet.

Harmon has velvety, hazel eyes with dancing specks. He said the name Killebrew was Scotch-Irish. He had sandy brown hair which rippled in tight curls and white, even teeth. Even then, his hair was starting to recede and his "brow" was getting higher each year—although he's just turned 23.

"Just last week," he said, "they told me Mr. Bluege was scouting me for Washington. I was thinking about fall and college coming up. I had no idea of becoming a professional ball player. I had a baseball scholarship for the University of Oregon under Don Kirsch, who used to play with Johnny Pesky. All of a sudden, I'm in Chicago. I'm scared to death, but I'm walking on air."

Harmon was sorry that his late father couldn't have shared his big moment. "Dad died last year," he said with a catch in his voice which gave way to pride. "He turned me to sports, all right. He was crazy about sports. He was a great athlete and he even wrestled."

The boy looked at the floor and continued: "He died last year at 59 from a heart attack. Mom and I wish he could have been around."

Killebrew revealed, that day, that the Idaho-Oregon Border League was more amateur than semi-pro. "I never got paid," he explained, "because I didn't want to threaten my eligibility. It was a pretty good league. Andy Carey of the Yankees played there."

## Played on Johnson Field

Killebrew was conscious of the affinity with Walter Johnson. "I always admired Walter Johnson," he volunteered. "I played on the Johnson Memorial Field and now I'm with his team. It's still a dream. Harmon Killebrew and Walter Johnson. Silly, isn't it?"

It's become less "silly" this season since Killebrew has set the baseball world afire with his booming shots. Many people think he's an overnight sensation, but he's hardly that. A lot of observers knew he had the potential. For instance, Killebrew started his first game in Philadelphia against the Athletics in August of 1954. He faced a good pitcher in Alex Kellner and hit two singles and a 400-foot double to left-center. It was then that Bucky Harris observed: "The kid's fielding isn't all it should be, but he certainly can sting that ball."

There were other evidences of Killebrew's power. On May 29, 1955, he was inserted at second base when Pete Runnels was spiked by Billy Gardner. The Senators were playing in Baltimore and Killebrew connected for two homers. The first time up, Harmon hit a two-run homer over the new wire barrier in center field, only the second drive to clear that boundary up until that time. Bob Cerv had hit the first.

Killebrew was up and down like a yo-yo, but some of the tales of his long homers were unbelievable. Harmon hit one over the center field fence at Chattanooga (Southern), a drive estimated at 500 feet. He was sent down to Charlotte (Sally) in 1956 and hit 15

## 'Lot of People Think I Wear Boxing Gloves at Third Base'

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Harmon Killebrew looks like a serious young man on the field, and he is. But he has a sense of humor.

When Paoli Rosi, the lightweight boxing challenger who lost to Champion Joe Brown in a Washington fight, came to Griffith Stadium one afternoon, he and Killebrew posed for "gag" shots. Rosi waved a bat and Killebrew put on boxing gloves and began to dance around.

"You box much better than I swing this stick," the Italian boxer told Killebrew.

"Maybe," commented Harmon, "but a lot of people think I wear boxing gloves when I play third base."

homers there. He moved up to Chattanooga the next year and led the league with 29 homers.

Harmon was sent to Indianapolis last season and, of all things, couldn't make the grade. But he's a boy who needs to play regularly and he has demonstrated that his power is no flash in the pan.

Harmon's original sponsors, Senator Welker and Clark Griffith, are dead. So is Eddie Eynon, who first brought the shy boy to Chicago, the first time he had even been in a big league park. But there are those who never lost faith in Killebrew.

One is Calvin Griffith, the foster-son of The Old Fox who now heads the Washington club. Griffith insisted that some day Killebrew would be one of the great home-run hitters in the league. It was Calvin who told Manager Cookie Lavagetto last year: "I'm going with Killebrew at third base in 1959, so I'm going to try to make a trade for Eddie Yost."

## Big Nemesis to Bengals

Killebrew first attracted attention in Detroit when he hit a pair of homers in two successive games. The second double-homer game was on May 2, when the Senators walloped the Tigers, 15 to 3, and precipitated the firing of Bill Norman, who was succeeded by Jimmie Dykes.

Killebrew hit two homers in one game against the Yankees and then repeated against the White Sox. He hit 15 homers in May and, after a drought of ten games, started his barrage again. Killebrew hit his first homer in June off Herb Score in Cleveland. It was on June 3 and gave him 19 for the season. Harmon hit No. 20 off Herb Score but that was rained out. But Killebrew did get the official No. 20 off Mike Garcia and then tagged Score for No. 21 and got his twenty-second off Bud Daley. Nos. 23 and 24 came off Ray Herbert of the A's and Paul Foytack of the Tigers, respectively.

Since his new-found fame, Killebrew has been dogged by interviewers and photographers. But he hasn't changed too much. He's not as shy as people think.

Observers thought he was showing rare bursts of temper when he occasionally argued with umpires, but Killebrew is a determined young man and is no softie.

In a recent Chicago series, Nellie Fox barreled into Harmon at third base and Killebrew gave Nellie a tongue-lashing. There have been other evidences—such as the pitchers' penchant for knocking Killebrew down. A couple of pitchers have tried dusting off Killebrew, but he doesn't flinch. Jim Bunning tried it and was hammered for a homer. The same thing happened to Frank Lary.

## Sievers High on Kid

Roy Sievers, the Washington field captain who seems destined to be replaced by young Killebrew as the Senators' home-run champion this year, is lyrical in praise of Harmon.

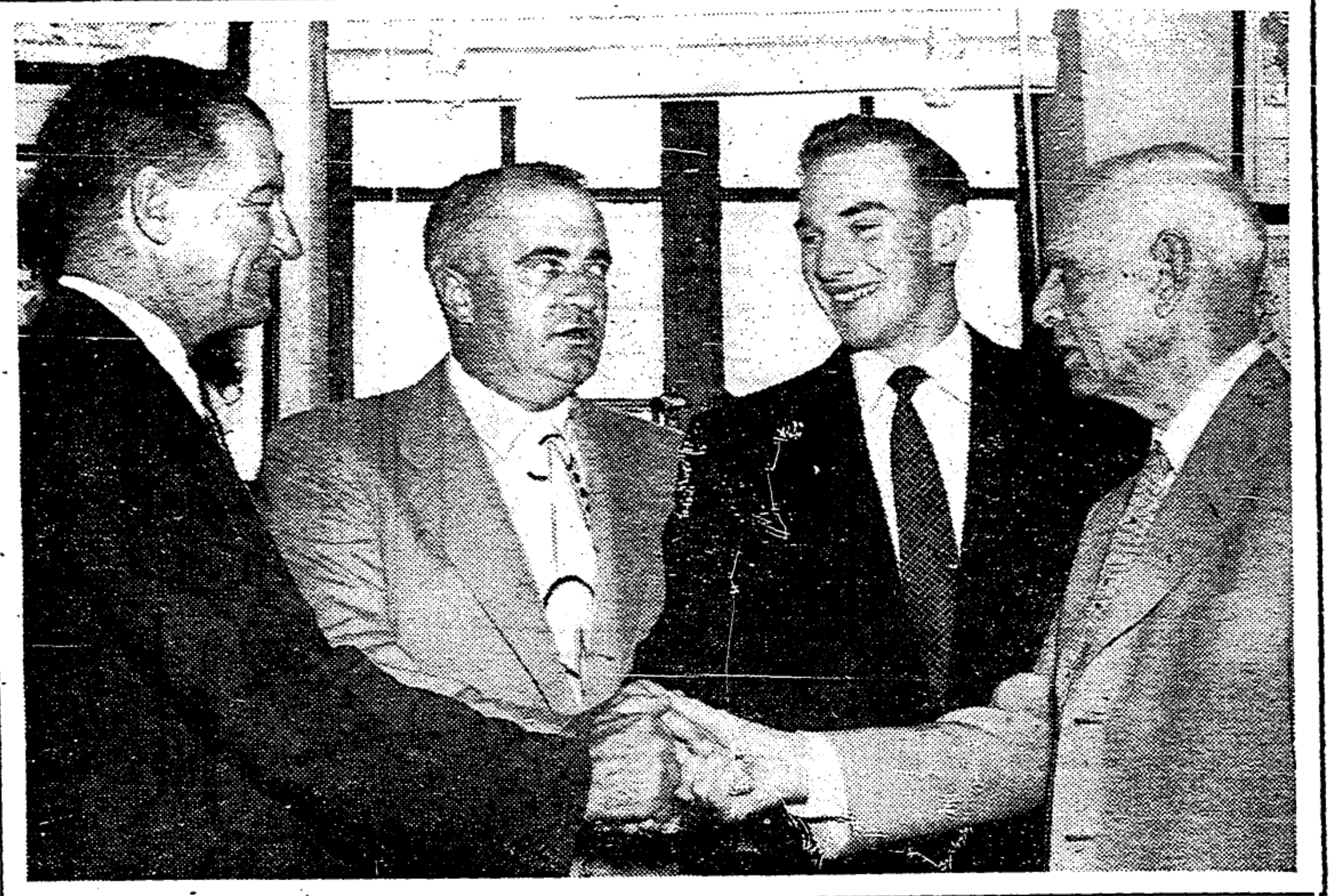
"He should hit 50 homers easily," Roy says. "Harmon has a wonderful swing and he's laying off the bad pitches."

Bob Allison, Killebrew's roomie on the road, and himself no slouch of a home-run hitter, thinks his pal will lead the major leagues in homers this year.

Killebrew, a Mormon, is a quiet boy on the road. His hobbies are movies and television and he's always in the hotel long before curfew.

Harmon is the youngest in a family of three boys and one girl. His mother surprised him recently by flying in from Idaho to attend a "night" the Idaho State Society gave for Harmon. The young slugger received a shotgun, an

# When Herman Handed Harmon to Nats



**HARMON KILLEBREW**, slugging Washington third sacker, is probably the only major leaguer who was scouted by a United States Senator. Harmon joined the Nats on June 28, 1954, and was photographed a short time later with Bucky Harris (left), pilot of the Capital club; Senator Herman Welker of Idaho, who discovered the phenom, and Clark Griffith, then club prexy.

## Ermer Recalls Harmon's HR—One-Hand Sock Over Wall

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Harmon Killebrew's almost superhuman power with a bat is anything but surprising to Cal Ermer, who managed Harmon when both were with Chattanooga (Southern) in 1957.

"We were playing Birmingham one day," recalled Ermer, now managing Columbus (International), "and the opposing pitcher was only one out away from a shutout."

"He had two strikes on Killebrew and on the next pitch fooled Harmon with an outside pitch. Harmon reached across the plate with only one hand and drove the ball over the center field fence."

Bob Allison, who played with Harmon at Charlotte (Sally) and Chattanooga, remembers a drive that the Killer unleashed at Columbus, Ga., three years ago.

"He hit a drive over the center field fence that was rising when it left the park. And the fence at that point is 407 feet from the plate."

The young phenom seldom shows emotion, a fact that has frequently amused his teammates.

After Killebrew smacked a 450-foot homer in Chicago recently, Coach Ellis Clary reported: "He grinned just a little, and that's showing emotion for him. Generally it seems like he's embarrassed when he hits one and would like to apologize to the pitcher. I think he'd like to say, 'Excuse me.'"

air-conditioner, an electric shaver, a \$150 suit and 565 feet of "gold" wool from Idaho. The latter represented the goal the Idahoans want Killebrew to reach in Griffith Stadium—the 565-foot tape measure homer Mickey Mantle hit off Chuck Stobbs on April 17, 1953.

Killebrew is feeling the heady wine of adulation. Recently, he was a guest on Capitol Hill of Senator Henry Dworshak, Republican of Idaho. But this was strictly a bi-partisan affair, because the Democratic Senator from Idaho, Frank Church, also came to the luncheon, as did Vice-President Richard Nixon.

Harmon married the former Elaine Roberts after the 1955 season. They have two boys, Cameron, 3, and Kenneth, 1.

How does Harmon Killebrew feel about Harmon Killebrew?

"I don't like to make any predictions," he says. "I'll take each game as it comes along."

"Will I hit 50 home runs? I think I'm capable of reaching 50. I always knew I had power; it was just a question of learning how to use it. I haven't got the pitchers solved by a long shot, but I don't think I'm any one-season sensation, either. I like to hit home runs, but I'll keep swinging naturally and they'll come. I have no fear of the future."

Neither, it may be said, has Calvin Griffith any fear of the future, with one of the hottest gate attractions in the majors.

# ALL-STAR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

ningham drawing the largest number, nine.

In the only close race for the National League squad, the Dodgers' Wally Moon nosed out the Cardinals' Bill White for left field, 67 votes to 64. Oddly, both players were swapped during the off season, Moon by St. Louis and White by the Giants.

Also named to the N. L. squad were: Willie Mays, Giants, center field; Orlando Cepeda, Giants, first base; Johnny Temple, Reds, second base; Eddie Mathews, Braves, third base; Ernie Banks, Cubs, shortstop, and Del Crandall, Braves, catcher.

Cleveland's Rocky Colavito defeated Detroit's Harvey Kuenn, 105 votes to 97, and the Tigers' Al Kaline beat the Yankees' Mickey Mantle, 118 to 100, in the only close battles in the American League. Colavito was chosen for right field and Kaline for center field.

**Triandos Picked Behind Plate**  
Colavito and Kaline will start along with the following: Minnie Minoso, Indians, left field; Bill Skowron, Yankees, first base; Nellie Fox, White Sox, second base; Harmon Killebrew, Senators, third base; Luis Aparicio, White Sox, shortstop, and Gus Triandos, Orioles, catcher.

All players selected must be in the starting lineup. The rival managers, Casey Stengel of the Yankees and Fred Haney of the Braves, will choose the pitchers and the remaining players to fill out 25-man squads.

Of the 16 starters, just three have never appeared in an All-Star Game. They are Killebrew, the Nats' home-run sensation; Cepeda and Colavito, Cepeda, at 21, is the youngest on either squad and Killebrew, at 23, is next.

As for past performance in the mid-season classic, the selected junior circuit batters have a decided edge with

## Allen, Prince, Brickhouse, Gowdy to Air All-Star Game

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Mel Allen and Curt Gowdy will handle the television broadcast of the All-Star Game here, July 7, and Jack Brickhouse and Bob Prince will be at the mike for the radio broadcast, Commissioner Ford Frick announced, June 24.

Both the television broadcast and the radio broadcast will be on the NBC networks under the sponsorship of the Gillette Safety Razor Co. The broadcasts will begin at 12:45 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, 15 minutes before the start of the classic.

Allen is the sportscaster for the Yankees, Gowdy for the Red Sox, Brickhouse for both the Cubs and the White Sox on TV and Prince for the Pirates.

Preceding the telecast, Leo Durocher and Lindsey Nelson will have a 15-minute program called "All-Star Game Leadoff." It will be sponsored by Midas Mufflers.

## THE BALLOT BOX

NEW YORK, N. Y.

The starting lineups for the 1959 All-Star Game, and the runners-up in the voting by players, managers and coaches, were announced by the commissioner's office as follows:

### American League

C—Gus Triandos, Orioles, 171 votes; Sherman Lollar, White Sox, 29.  
1B—Bill Skowron, Yankees, 153; Vic Power, Indians, 72.  
2B—Nellie Fox, White Sox, 175; Pete Runnels, Red Sox, 48.  
3B—Harmon Killebrew, Senators, 158; Frank Malzone, Red Sox, 43.  
SS—Luis Aparicio, White Sox, 178; Rocky Bridges, Tigers, 20.  
LF—Minnie Minoso, Indians, 143; Jim Lemon, Senators, 36.  
CF—Al Kaline, Tigers, 118; Mickey Mantle, Yankees, 100.  
RF—Rocky Colavito, Indians, 105; Harvey Kuenn, Tigers, 97.

### National League

C—Del Crandall, Braves, 134; Smoky Burgess, Pirates, 80.  
1B—Orlando Cepeda, Giants, 181; Frank Robinson, Reds, 26.  
2B—Johnny Temple, Reds, 153; Bill Mazerowski, Pirates, 37.  
3B—Eddie Mathews, Braves, 165; Ken Boyer, Cardinals, 47.  
SS—Ernie Banks, Cubs, 191; Roy McMillan, Reds, 28.  
LF—Wally Moon, Dodgers, 67; Bill White, Cardinals, 64.  
CF—Willie Mays, Giants, 187; Vada Pinson, Reds, 41.  
RF—Hank Aaron, Braves, 208; Joe Cunningham, Cardinals, 9.

a .370 mark on 20 hits in 54 times at bat. The eight N. L. players have hit a mere .245 with 13 hits in 53 chances.

In five previous All-Star games, Mays hit .438 with 7-for-16. His seven mates for '59 have a .162 aggregate mark in All-Star play. Aaron is 3-for-9.

### Minoso Graybeard at 36

Minoso, at 36, the oldest starter on either squad, owns a .600 mark in All-Star competition with 6-for-10. Fox, at 31, the only other over-30 man on either squad, is at .333 with 7-for-21.

Moon, a mediocre outfielder defensively, has batted just once in All-Star competition. He pinch-hit in vain in '57. White, whose torrid pace at bat shot him into second place behind Aaron, apparently was overlooked by numerous voters because first base is his natural, and strong, position. The ex-Giant has alternated between first base and left field.

Frank Slocum of Commissioner Ford Frick's office visited all clubs except the Cubs and Phillies to supervise the voting. Dave Grote, manager of the N. L. Service Bureau, assisted by conducting the voting procedure of those two clubs.

For the second All-Star Game in Los Angeles, August 3, the managers may pick a starting lineup from the entire 25-man squad, plus three additional players who may have starred since the July 7 game.

# ADIRONDACK BATS INC.

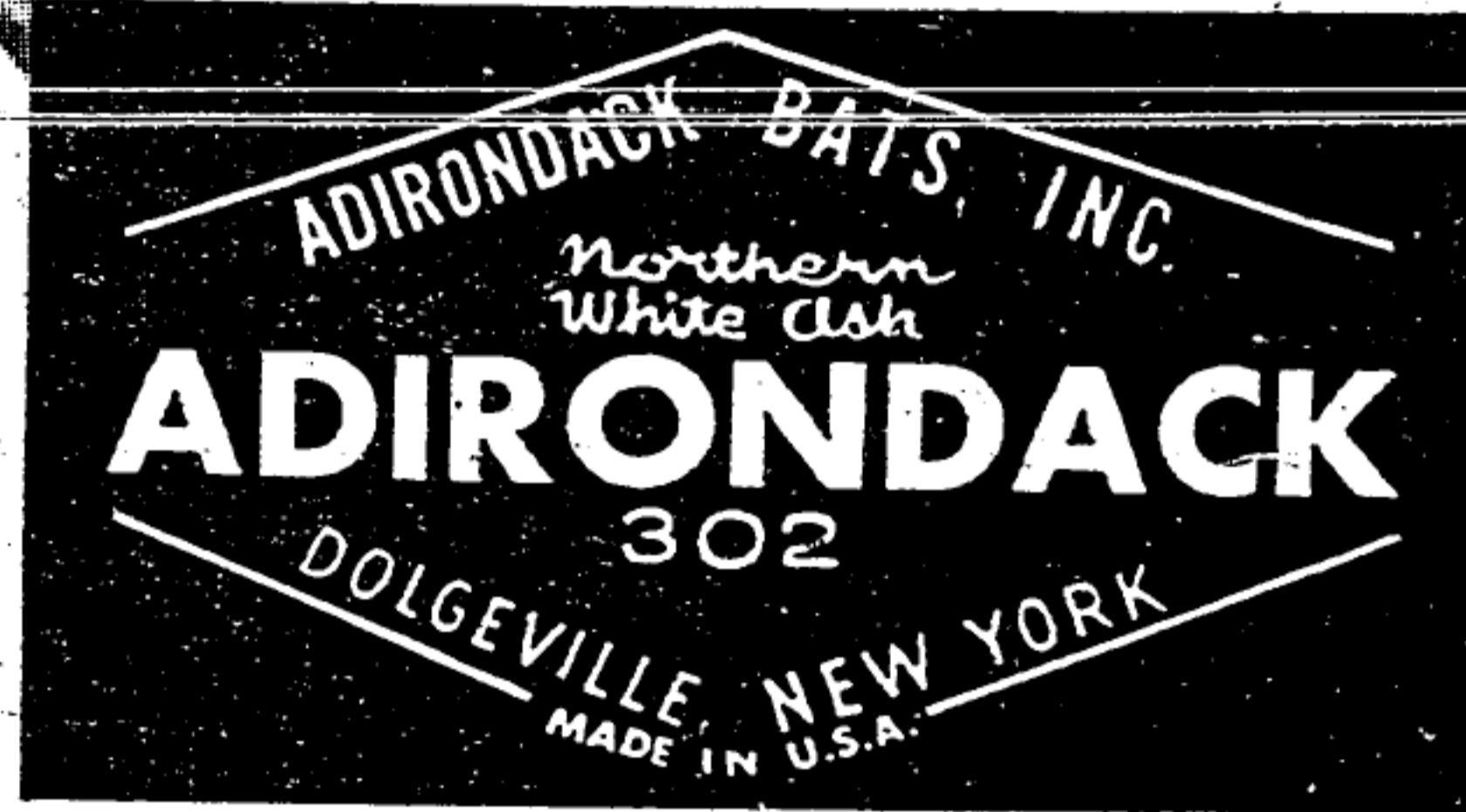


## Salutes The ALL-STARS of 1959 at

## PITTSBURGH'S Forbes Field



**ADIRONDACK**  
THE BAT WITH THE MOST ON THE BALL



### Until Nats Swapped Yost, Killebrew Was a Nobody

When Eddie Was at Third, Harmon Was Doomed to Bench or Kept in Minors

By SHIRLEY POVICH  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

There is no evidence on the surface that the Washington Senators were whopping winners on the three-for-three trade with Detroit last winter. To discover that the Washington club came off handsomely in that one requires some prying for a name that didn't even figure in the deal—Harmon Killebrew.



Ken Aspromonte

The facts of the deal, it must be remembered, are these. The Senators sent Eddie Yost, Rocky Bridges and

Spink Airs All-Star Views in 'Phone Chat With Wolff

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Bob Wolff, ace sportscaster of Radio Station WWDC, discussed the All-Star Game and inquired about features in the All-Star issue of *The Sporting News* in a recorded long-distance telephone interview with Publisher J. G. Taylor Spink in a broadcast over his station, July 2.

When Wolff asked Spink about the second All-Star Game, the publisher of *The Sporting News* replied that he hoped the contest in Pittsburgh would not be one-sided since such a victory would dim the second game in Los Angeles.

Neil Chrisley to the Tigers. In return, they acquired Reno Bertoia, Ron Samford and Jim Delsing. None of the ex-Tigers is playing regularly with Washington, one has been released. Bridges and Yost have been key men with the Tigers.

How, then, did the Senators profit well from the deal? Ah, it enabled

### Now He's Star



Harmon Killebrew

them to discover Harmon Killebrew, the league's leading home-run hitter and RBI man, who was doomed to the bench or a minor league farm club as long as Yost was Washington property.

Killebrew was languishing in a Washington uniform or on a farm club, his talents unexplored, as long as Yost was available to the Senators. Manager Cookie Lavagetto couldn't gamble on the rookie's greenness, plus his admittedly slovenly play as a third baseman. He had to go with the percentages, which meant Yost.

But with Bertoia and Samford unable

### Nixon Bats 5 for 5 as Nat Charmer

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Vice-President Richard Nixon exercised his good-luck charm over the Senators for the fifth time this season, June 30, when he joined more than 10,000 other fans at Griffith Stadium.

Nixon, in shirt sleeves, watched Pedro Ramos hurl the Nats to a 6 to 1 victory over the Red Sox, marking five victories in as many trips to the park for the veep this season.

to hold down important roles in the Washington infield and Delsing shipped back to the minors, Killebrew has taken up all the slack. Given his chance, he gave the Senators a batting punch they never knew before, gave them a box-office magnet unmatched since the days of Walter Johnson, and, just as magically, learned to play third base with a skill not suspected of him.

A recent sour note in the Detroit deal was the benching by Lavagetto of Bertoia, who had been holding down the second base job. It happened after a recent tenth-inning loss to Kansas City in which Lavagetto was furious at Bertoia's handling of a ground ball that let in the winning run. He knocked the ball down, but was slow in its recovery.

The next day, Lavagetto installed Ken Aspromonte as his regular second baseman and began to get good performance from him. Aspromonte's average at the time was .245, the same as Bertoia's. It was a rebuke to the ex-Tiger.

Aspromonte's story with the Senators this year is a courageous one. He is

still with the club only because he literally demanded the chance to stay with it. He was actually farmed out to the Miami Marlins in March, but obstinately refused to report saying, "I can play big league ball." He convinced President Calvin Griffith, who rescinded the transfer.

Because of these events, the Senators now have a second base-shortstop combination which once performed for the Red Sox, who also shunted off Billy Consolo to the Washington club. Consolo was off to a slow start with the Senators, but he has been getting his hits in recent games and making all the plays required of him. In addition, he adds speed to a club that had been woefully lacking in that commodity last season.

The brightest new development on the Senators, however, has been Faye Threberry, the once-discredited outfielder who zoomed to the top of the club standings in hitting with his surge to .311. Lavagetto is vastly pleased with the performance of the big left-handed swinger to whom he gave a "last chance" ultimatum a month ago.

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