



# WHITE RAT!

(Contains excerpts from the book "WHITE RAT-A LIFE IN BASEBALL" by Whitey Herzog and Kevin Horrigan (c) 1987 Harper and Row, Publishers Used by permission).

September, 1952. Thirty years before the St. Louis Cardinals would be playing to win the 1982 World Series, a young man joined a baseball team on Fort Leonard Wood. The team he joined was the Fort Wood Hilltoppers, a team which still exists today. The man who played for the Fort Wood team would eventually go on to become one of the great baseball managers of the game. He is the WHITE RAT, Whitey Herzog.

On Sept. 15, 1952, Whitey Herzog was inducted into the Army at Camp Crowder, Missouri. Whitey was assigned to an armored division and was made an engineer on post.

He also played baseball with "a damned good team," according to Whitey.

During his two year hitch, the team had great success. The Hilltoppers won the National Baseball Congress tournament in Wichita in 1953 and Whitey hit .483 with 6 home runs and made the All-American team. Eddie Kasko and Jerry Lumpe were also on the team, and they both had pretty good careers in the major leagues.

It was in 1954 that Whitey was given his first managing job. Now a corporal, the Hilltoppers new manager had a doubleheader scheduled on

the 4th of July. According to Whitey, "It was hotter than hell, and we all wanted to go up to St. Louis to see the Cardinals doubleheader." "We snuck out that morning, turned the fire hoses on, and soaked the field." "We told the captain we didn't have any idea how it happened and took off for St. Louis."

Herzog's wife, Mary Lou, transferred to Fort Leonard Wood and worked in the PIO (Public Information Office) office, writing press releases and stories about the baseball team. "I always got a lot of publicity," Whitey said.



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