

# #509A 1953, 1956 and 1957 - Purcell Jones

## Carteret County League – Played for the Salter Path Baseball Team

by Joe “Boy” Willis

1950



June 21, 2006



- ❖ From 1936-1940, pitched for Clinton High School where he was offered scholarships from such schools as Carolina and Duke
- ❖ However, out of high school, in 1940, Branch Rickey, President of the Brooklyn Dodgers, “Who liked the young boy who could throw hard”, signed him to pitch for the Dodgers for \$500 signing bonus
- ❖ Played Minor League ‘Class B’ ball for two years in Valdosta, GA and Troy, Alabama
- ❖ In 1943, he went into the ‘Famed Seabees’ building runways until joining the Naval Air Corp during World War II
- ❖ From 1946, he was member of the Monmouth College, Ill Basketball Team, and member of University of Georgia’s Pre-Flight School’s football team
- ❖ When at Carolina, in 1947 played Class B ball with the Coastal Plains League
- ❖ Move to Morehead, on a part-time bases, as Director of Camp Morehead in 1948 for Pat Crawford, who also was a baseball player. Pat, a South Carolina boy, who went to Davidson College, broke into the big leagues in 1929 with the NY Giants. Pat’s 4-year batting career was .372. Pat played major league ball with the likes of Dizzy Dean, an Arkansas boy who broke into the big leagues in 1930 with the Cardinals.
- ❖ Moved to Morehead on a full time basis in 1954; and purchased Camp Morehead in 1959
- ❖ Influenced by Irvin Smith and Tye Frost, he played for Salter Path in 1953, 1956 & 1957
- ❖ Led the League in 1956 with a .512 batting Average, and batted .363 in 1957; he also pitched some
- ❖ He said, “Baseball has been a big part of his life, has given him a lot of memories and has allowed him to meet and build a lot of great relationships throughout the County.”