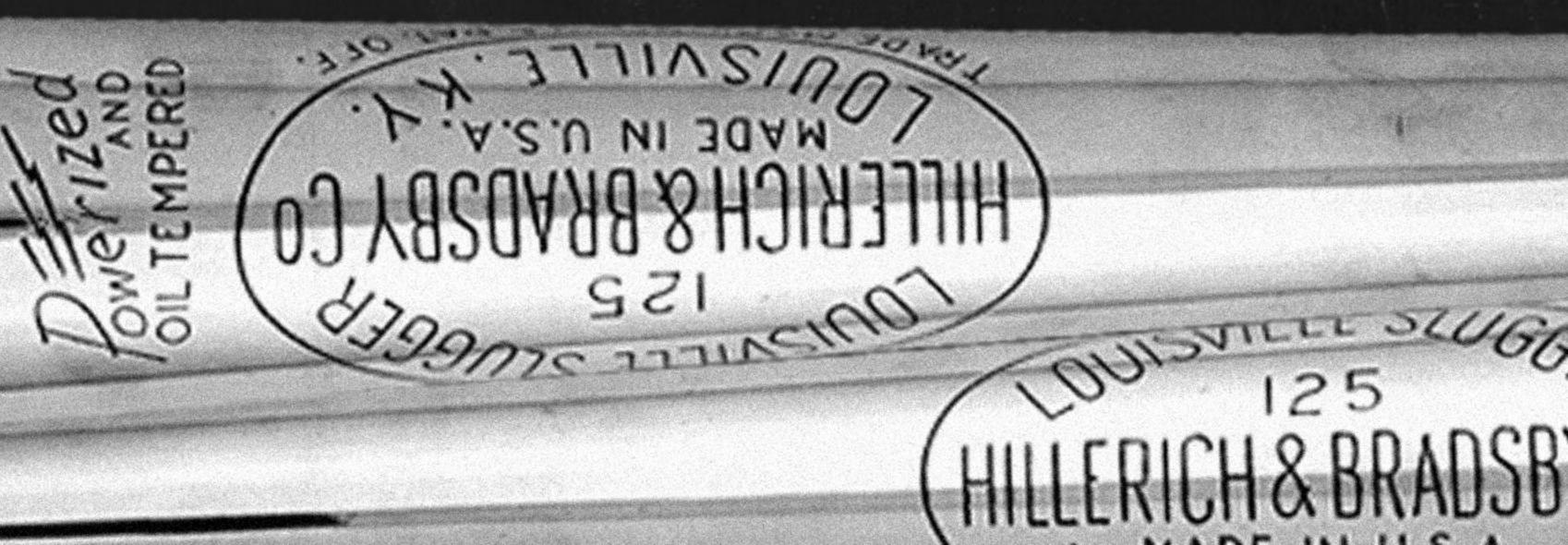
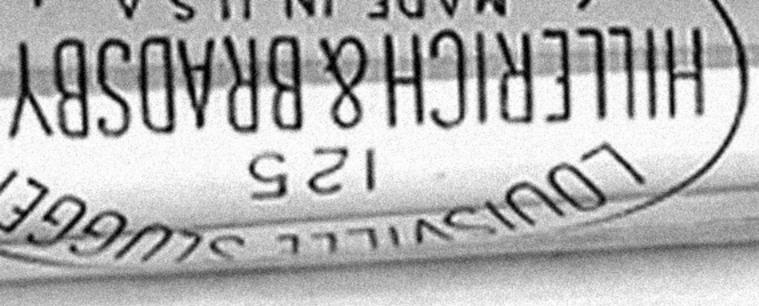
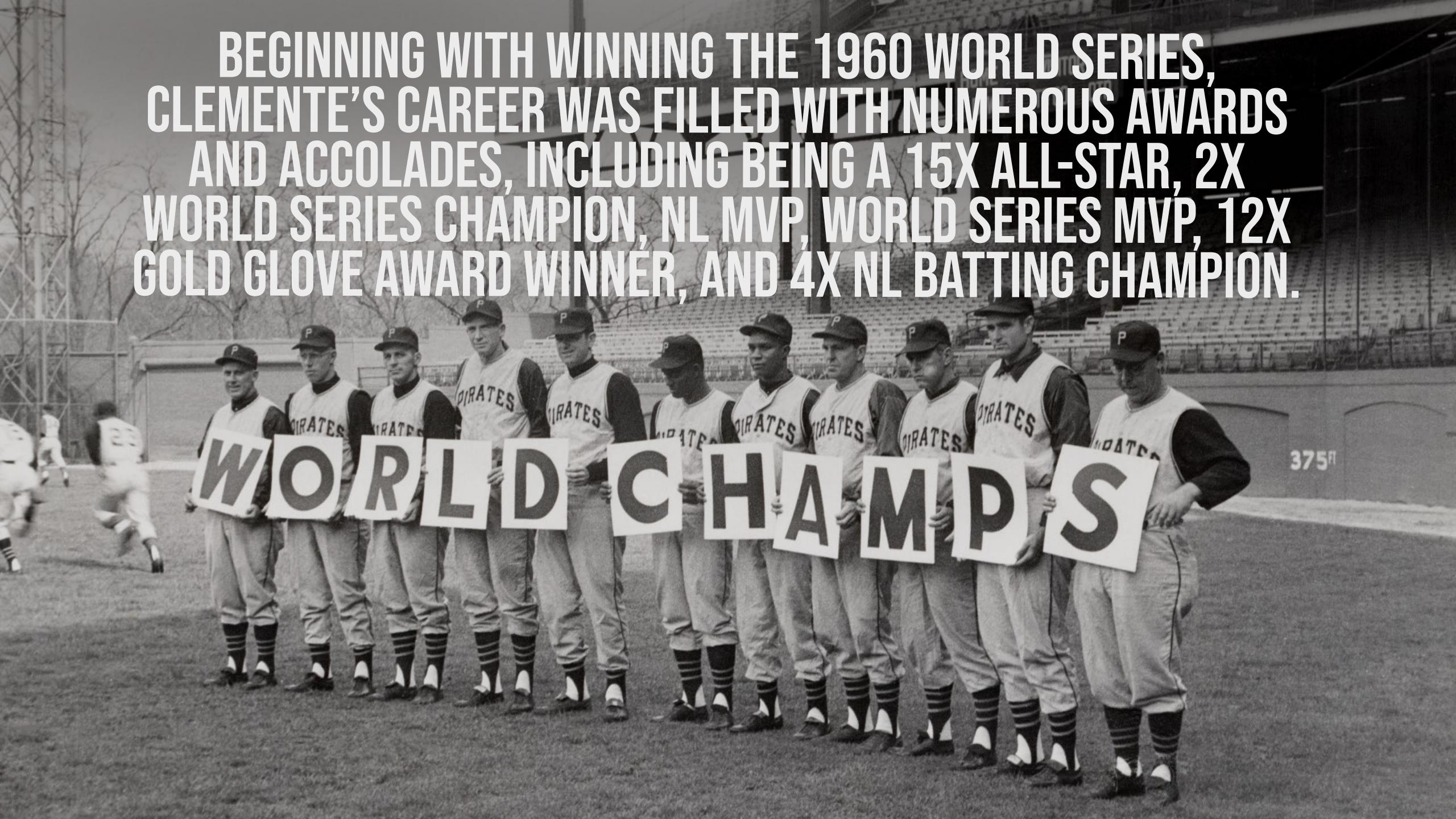
128..A.8 BATTING CHAMPION







OIL IEMPERED



PSP052103-5/21/62-PITTSBURGH, PA: National League president Warren Giles presents silver bat to Pirate rightfielder Roberto Clemente who won the National League batting championship in 1961. Pirates' Dick Groat also won the coveted award in 1960. UPI TELEPHOTO -jjh-



IN 1961, HE WON THE FIRST OF FOUR SILVER BAT AWARDS WITH A .351 BATTING AVERAGE. THE SILVER BAT AWARD WAS GIVEN ANNUALLY TO THE TWO MLB PLAYERS WHO LEAD EACH AVERAGE.

CLEMENTE AGAIN WON THE SILVER BAT AWARD IN 1964 WITH A .339 BATTING AVERAGE.



CLEMENTE ALSO WONA 4TH CONSECUTIVE GOLD GLOVE AWARD THIS YEAR

LOUISVILLE SLUGGER GE MU. BATTING CHAMPION 1961 ROBERTO CLEMENTE'S 1961 AND 1964 SILVER DISPLAYED AT THE CLEMENTE MUSEUM.

IN 1965, HE WONATHIRD SILVER BAT AWARD WITH A.329 BATTING AVERAGE.





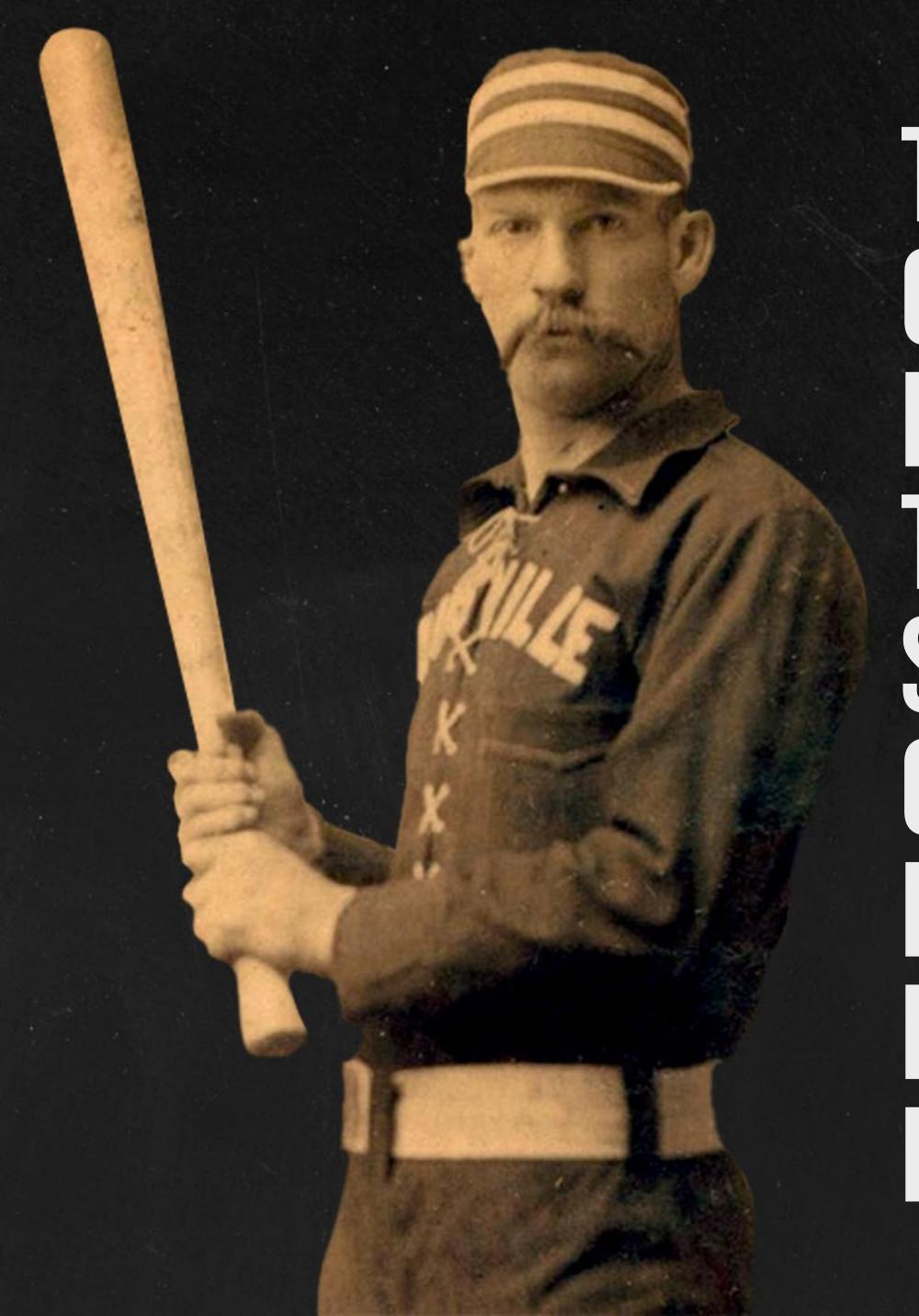
AGAIN, CLEMENTE WINS A GOLD GLOVE ALONGSIDETHE SILVER BAT, PROVING HIS DOMINANCE BOTH IN THE FIELD AND AI IHE PLAIE.



CLEMENTE WON HIS 4TH AND FINAL SILVER BAT AWARD IN 1967 WITH A CAREER-HIGH BATTING AVERAGE OF .357

DESPITE NOT WINNING THE AWARD AGAIN, CLEMENTE MAINTAINED IMPRESSIVE BATTING AVERAGES IN HIS FINAL FOUR YEARS.

1969 - .345 | 1970 - .352 | 1971 - .341 | 1972 - .312



THE AWARD WAS ORIGINALLY CALLED THE JOHN A. "BUD" HILLERICH AWARD, NAMED FOR THE FOUNDER OF LOUISVILLE SLUGGER, AND WAS FIRST GIVEN OUT TO MINOR LEAGUE BATTING CHAMPIONS STARTING IN 1934. IN 1949, IT WAS EXPANDED TO THE MAJORS.

THE SILVER BAT AWARD CONTINUED TO BE PRESENTED TO EACH NL AND AL BATTING CHAMPION UNTIL 1980, AT WHICH TIME IT BECAME KNOWN AS THE SILVER SLUGGER AWARD, WHICH HONORS THE BEST OFFENSIVE PLAYER AT EACH POSITION IN EACH LEAGUE.