

On This Date

March 8, 1902

An 18-year career minor leaguer, **Robert E. Lee "Bobby" Goff** is born on March 8, 1902, in Dallas, Texas.

■ Goff is acquired by the Atlanta Crackers in 1932 to replace Blondy Ryan as the team's starting shortstop. Ryan had hit a solid .276 in 130 games for the Crackers the year before, but committed 56 errors and had a less-than-stellar fielding percentage of .923. So Goff's arrival is heralded by *The Atlanta Constitution*:

Crackers Have Landed REAL Shortstop Now

■ Interestingly enough, the 30-year-old Goff starts the season as Atlanta's starting shortstop, but eventually moves to second base in lieu of former major leaguer Buster Chatham, who takes over the shortstop duties. The Texan responds to his new surroundings with a stellar year, hitting .291 with 28 doubles and nine triples.

■ Five times the 5-foot-7, 140-pound middle infielder will hit over .300, including a career-best .354 in 1937, as the player/manager of the Evangeline League's Lafayette White Sox, with a league-high 46 doubles, six triples and two home runs.

■ Goff will hit a .293 over 18 seasons, accumulating 1,989 hits. Following several minor league managerial stints, Goff will scout for Cleveland.

