

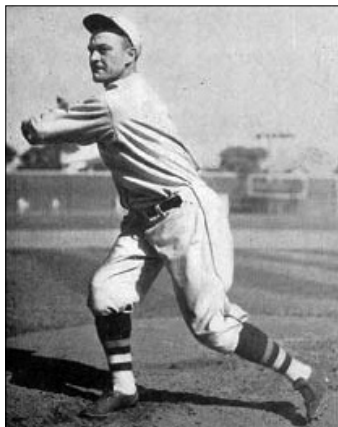
Veteran ex-major league pitcher Clarence Mitchell, entering his 31st season in an organized baseball, signs a contract to be the player/manager of the Southeastern (B) League's Meridian Bears.

Mitchell's signature on the contract comes only after every team in the league votes to allow the 49-year-old left-hander to use the spitball following similar permission granted by W.G. Bramham, president of the National Association.

A 125-game winner with over 2,200 innings pitched in 18 major league seasons, Mitchell is one of a select group of pitchers exempted from a rule outlawing the spitter back in 1920.

While Mitchell may be the Southeastern League's first spitballer, he will definitely be its last according to league president Stuart Stephenson who states the he will not allow another spitballer to play in the league. Stephenson opines that it is not likely that Mitchell will perform any miracles for Meridian because of his age, "but he will be a psychological star for a while anyway."

Mitchell, who broke into professional baseball in 1910 with Red Cloud of the Class D Nebraska State League, will pitch a total of two innings for the Bears before being released on May 16 with the Bears in last place with a 9-16 mark and replaced by Bill "Fibber" McGee. Returning to his home in Grand Island, Nebraska, Mitchell performs mound duties with Broken Bow, an independent team.



SPIT BALL VETERAN PILOTING MERIDIAN

Clarence Mitchell To Use
Outlawed Pitch