

# On This Date **September 23, 2011**

On September 23, 2011, former minor league pitcher Raymond Ernest Flaim passes away in Beckley, West Virginia, following a 30-year battle with Parkinson's disease. He is 81 years old at the time of his death.

Born on September 9, 1930, in Wyco, West Virginia, Flaim plays two years in the minors, with the Lumberton Auctioneers of the Tobacco State (D) League in 1949, and the Sioux Falls Canaries of the Northern (C) League and the Janesville Cubs of the Wisconsin State (D) League a year later.

Signing with the Chicago Cubs to an Appalachian League contract following a standout three-sport high school career at Mullens High School, a 19-year-old Flaim makes his pro debut in 1949 with Lumberton, a small town in the Coastal Plains region of southeastern North Carolina. The hard-throwing lefthander fashions a 10-10 mark for the third-place Auctioneers (75-61) with 15 complete games, allowing 174 hits in 173 innings pitched with 82 strikeouts and 83 base on balls.

A year later, the Cubs assign Flaim to the Sioux Falls Canaries of the Northern (C) League, where he appears in three games before being sent down to Janesville of the Wisconsin (D) League. Canaries' manager Lee Eilbracht considers Flaim his "ace relief pitcher," but with the parent Chicago Cubs sending more pitching help down from higher classifications, there is no longer room on his pitching staff for him. In 14 games with the Cubs, Flaim is 3-2 with a 4.11 ERA.

In 1951, Flaim's diamond career comes to an end when he is drafted into the military and serves in the Korean War.

