

On This Date

November 8, 1975

Ray Shepardson, the only Little Falls, New York, native to play Major League Baseball, passes away on November 8, 1975, at the age of 78.

Some 51 years earlier, on September 15, 1924, Shepardson is hitting .290 for the Oneonta Indians of the New York-Penn League when he is told by team President Wilbur to report to St. Louis Cardinals' manager Branch "Rixey" at the Brunswick Hotel in Boston. Wilbur's announcement comes two days before the popular catcher is due to recite his marriage vows to an "unnamed" girlfriend.



Shepardson is behind the plate when he makes his major league debut on September 19, 1924, in an afternoon's game against the Boston Braves in Boston. His battery mate, Henry "Pea Ridge" Day, is also making his big league debut. The 27-year-old Shepardson goes 0-for-4 and strikes out three times in a 4-1 Cardinal win, keyed by Day's six-hit complete game.

The following afternoon, Shepardson gets his second start in game two of that day's doubleheader against the same Braves. He does not play the entire game, going 0-for-1, but he does score his only big league run. In three games with the Cardinals, he is 0-for-6 with one run scored. His major league career comes to an end on September 24.

Prior to his call-up, in 107 games with Utica/Oneonta, Shepardson hits 17 doubles and eight triples for them. Following his brief pro career, Shepardson plays the next eight years for semipro teams in Utica, New York, Shamokin, Pennsylvania, Poughkeepsie, New York and Elmira, New York.