

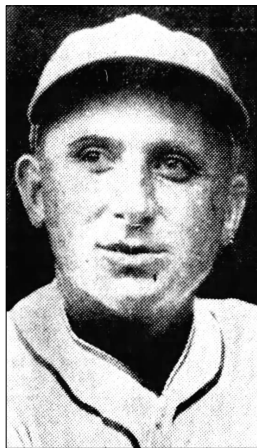
On This Date

March 21, 1934

On March 21, 1934, former major league pitcher **Pea Ridge Day**, reportedly distraught over not being in the big leagues any longer, commits suicide by slashing his throat with a hunting knife.

In Kansas City to visit former teammate Max Thomas, the 34-year-old right-hander had just been treated at a local hospital after complaining of frequent lapses in memory. Thomas says he attempted to stop Day but was pushed aside. The suicide occurs in Thomas' apartment.

Pea Ridge Day was a screwball pitcher - literally and figuratively. He was known for making loud hog calls on the mound following a strikeout, evoking memories of his childhood days on an Arkansas farm.



In parts of four seasons with the Cardinals (1924-25), Reds (1926) and the Dodgers (1931), Day is 5-7 with a 4.55 ERA and three complete games, the first being a six-hit complete game victory over the Boston Braves in his major league debut on September 19, 1924, and the second a 14-hitter on April 18, 1925 in a 20-5 rout of the Chicago Cubs.

In 1925, he sets a St. Louis Cardinals' record that stands for 88 years by opening the season with 29 2/3 innings without issuing a walk. Named after a little Arkansas town of Pea Ridge where he grew up, Day boasts that he was the champion hog-caller of Arkansas. When he reached the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1931, Wilbert Robinson was quoted as saying: "I made him stop that braying, because no man has any right to be any sillier than God intended him to be."

In 1930, he and his Kansas City Blues' teammates were forced to leave a fashionable Milwaukee hotel after Day unleashed his piercing yell in the lobby.