

On This Date **December 17, 1956**

On December 17, 1956, two months after his 70th birthday, former major leaguer Ona Dodd dies from pneumonia in Carter, Oklahoma.

The second of 47 players from Texas Christian University to appear in the major leagues (through the end of the 2023 season), Dodd makes it to "the show" for a five game trial with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1912 ... in only his second year of professional baseball, the 25-year-old Springtown, Texas, native goes hitless in nine at bats for Fred Clarke's Corsairs ... he strike outs three times and draws one walk and records one RBI.



1912 Pittsburgh Pirates

In eight minor league seasons (1911-1918), including seven in the Texas League, Dodd finishes with a .274 career batting average with 164 doubles, 42 triples and 19 homeruns ... in 1916, Dodd hits .288 in 142 games for the Beaumont Oilers and is named to the Texas League All-Star team ... acquired from the Waco Navigators after the 1911 season, the Springtown, Texas, native is expected to replace 23-year-old Alex McCarthy at second base for Pittsburgh in 1912 ... however, Pirate manager Fred Clarke tells the media that McCarthy is his second baseman until, "a faster and better man," shows up.

Despite the pre-season expectations, Dodd opens the 1912 season with the Wheeling Stogies of the Central (B) League ... he is among league leaders with a career-high .343 batting average with 30 doubles and eight triples when, on July 18, he is "exchanged" to the Pirates for outfielder Frank "Stump" Edington ... on the same day that Dodd departs for the Steel City, the Stogies release 25-year-old Garnet "Midge" Craven, whom local scribes say "has been playing the greatest game of his career and will have little trouble finding new berth" ... Craven is hitting .170 with one homerun in 171 at bats, but is later picked up by the Grand Rapids Black Sox, his fourth team of the season.