

On This Date

February 7, 1942

On February 7, 1942, 41-year-old former major league pitcher **Joe Poetz** passes away in his hometown of St. Louis, Missouri, from complications of a heart disease. Poetz appears in two September games in 1926 with the New York Giants, where he is 0-1 with a 3.38 ERA. Making his major league debut on September 14, he pitches a scoreless ninth inning in a 5-0 loss to the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Encouraged by the righthander's debut, Giants' manager John McGraw decides to give Poetz a starting assignment eight days later against the visiting Chicago Cubs. The 5-foot-10 Missourian allows three runs on

only five hits in seven innings, but walks eight, including leadoff hitter Sparky Adams three times and pitcher Percy Jones twice. He also allows solo home runs to rightfielder Pete Scott in the sixth inning and catcher Gabby Hartnett an inning later.

Poetz begins his professional career in 1922 playing briefly with the Terre Haute Tots. In 1923 he is 11-3 for the Paducah Indians and 9-10 a year later for the Mayfield Pantsmakers, which includes three-straight shutouts to end the season as the team's player-manager. On September 3, 1925, Poetz, pitching for Portsmouth of the Virginia (B) League, pitches a no-hitter against first-place Richmond, snapping the Spiders' 16-game win streak. Eleven days later he will make his New York debut. A year later, Poetz is 21-13 with a 3.79 ERA for Portsmouth, with the 21 wins marking a career-high total as he will finish 12-25 over the final four seasons of his career.

