

On This Date **December 10, 1896**

Born on December 10, 1896, [Herrick "Spoke" Emery](#) plays in five games for the Philadelphia Phillies over a nine-day span in July of 1924. The [Bay City, Michigan](#), native collects two hits in three at bats and finishes his major league career with a .667 batting average.

Emery makes his major league debut on July 18, as a pinch-runner for [Clarence Mitchell](#) in the eighth inning of a 2-1, 10-inning loss to the Chicago Cubs. The following afternoon, Emery replaces Joe Schultz in leftfield and is 2-for-2 in a 9-3 setback to the same Cubs.

After hitting .304 with Birmingham in 1921, Emery re-signs with the Barons for 1922 and is rewarded with a \$50 raise. Traded to the Nashville Volunteers on March 28, he demands another \$50 raise and becomes a holdout when his demand falls on death ears. Told "that the mint is in Philadelphia, not Nashville," he signs with the Volunteers on April 2. After seeing his average drop to .278, the *Nashville Tennessean* opines, "Emery is prima donna - a fair weather performer. He never did have a wonderful arm. But his tendency to refuse to run out hits, the ease with which he slides into spores of temperment, are far greater liabilities to himself and to the ball club with which he performs."

Emery is set to play for Nashville again in 1923, when he sold to the Chattanooga Lookouts in mid-April. After failing to hit, the Lookouts return the disgruntled outfielder back to the Volunteers, who then sell him on April 23 to the Hartford Senators, where he is a teammate of 20-year-old Lou Gehrig. On May 18, Emery signs with the Wilson Tobs of the Virginia (B) League, where he hits .256 in 31 games. On August 25, Emery dons his fifth uniform of the season signing with the Memphis Chicks.

