

On This Date

February 2, 1930

On February 2, 1930, looking to improve on their 56-106 record and a last-place finish in the always competitive Texas League, the San Antonio Indians acquire 33-year-old right-handed curveball artist **Leon (Boots) Alter** from the Augusta Tygers in exchange for 23-year-old second baseman **Art Schacht**.

The trade proves to be a bust for the Indians as Alter, bothered by a sore arm (possibly from pitching 530 innings the previous two seasons) is one of the last players cut by manager **Raymond Haley** on April 21. Returning to Sioux City, Iowa, he plays the remainder of the summer with the semipro Cowboys.

Alter is 9-12 in 26 appearances in his pro debut in 1923 with the Fairbury Jeffersons of the Nebraska State (D) League.

Described as a talented pitcher with a "holdout disposition," is 6-10 with a 4.96 ERA in his second season with the Tygers in 1927, when he sold to the Philadelphia Phillies on September 8. He declines to report to the National League team after Augusta refuses to give the **Persia, Iowa** native \$500 of the purchase price.

After a 15-win season with the Wichita Larks in 1928, Alter is reclaimed by Augusta in mid-October. Donning a Tygers' uniform for the third time in four years, Alter leads the team in wins (18) and innings pitched (281).

On June 5, 1931, Alter's pro career ends when he and **Lefty Schumann** are released by Raleigh Red Birds' manager **Odie Strain**.

