



SECOND ANNUAL
SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION
BASEBALL CONFERENCE



SEPTEMBER 17 • 2005

A Tribute To LARRY GILBERT

By The Southern Association in Recognition
of 27 Years of Valiant Service to the League

SEPTEMBER 8, 1943

ATLANTA
Harry Hughes Lincoln Deal
Ray Schoobald Ray Tava
Charles Cogswort Leonard Cross
Ray Hartfield Marshall Franklin
Merle Robbins George Tinkler
"Red" Treadway Rene Cortes
Robert "Red" Darr E. H. Deby Walls
Al Smith Robert Floss
Vernon Curtis Stanley Todd

BIRMINGHAM
John Riddle Chuck Allen
Bill Thapton Herbie Moore
Jack Massey Bob Ferguson
Tom Goldstein Fred Smith
Bob Waker Jodie Bueler
Tom Murray Ben Sady
Howard Fox Clifford Bartholomew
Dick Lipek Buck Polly
Bob Malloy Vernon Stone
Jake Baker

KNOXVILLE
Buddy Lewis Cy Roberts
Eldon Lindsey S. R. Dickoffman
Paul Busby Steve Marchol
Walter Beck Edmund Voshaki
Ceel Dunn Mack Pilgrage
James Matthews Stanley Ogden
Michael G. Claban Everett M. Bryde
Steve Collins Joe "Bibi" Banning
Dale Mathewson Andy Seminich

LITTLE ROCK
Buck Fawcett Mike Chapp
Fred Hancock Bob Seeda
Bruce Sloan Ben Cantrall
Ed Laprat Frank Popish
Mills Kudley W. Karkusik
Ed Greer Ralph Pate
Cliff Bolton Bill M. Shaw
Johnny Pate Kelly Roth



MEMPHIS
Ed. Ignaszak Luke Ginnelle
Roy Walker Harry Kelley
George Mitrus Brown Bowler
Wadey O'Neil Pete Gray
Buster Blatham Walter West
Johnny Duncan Hugley Holladay
Herman Duff Gilly Campbell
Gene Kame Gene Thorn
Allen McElvath George Brown
Vatt Brown

MONTGOMERY
Maurice Spang Johnny Foye
Norman Sager Morris Sandy Gooden
"Red" Barbary Jim Walsh
"Red" Lane Vance Smith
Harden Cady Charles Roberts
Ray Massey Gene Montague
John Wilson Ben Jacobs
Mene Smith Abbott Gilbert Torres

NASHVILLE
Johnny Mahala Charles Brewster
Bill Sahlen Glenn Gardner
Mal Hicke W. A. Lillard
Wally Liguier Bob Carlson
Dale Alderson Dutei McCall
Pete Elko "Mickey" Foster
Charlie Willmet King Fisher
Mack Stewart Eddie Sauer
Miguel Platt Cal Chapman
Jake Martin

NEW ORLEANS
Ray Bloder Bill Hart
Frank Canale J. W. Winfield
John Coriden Bert Williams
Trader Horn Roy Shaver
Bill Rogers Jack Cummings
Jesse Hanna Pat Anderson
Carson Holloway Bill Webb
George Washburn Hal Douglas
Earl Frigerio Al Simmons
Geo Miller Geo. Hannemann

LEAGUE OFFICIALS

Bryce Evans Kurtmann Edgar Allen Roy Lathrop Charlie Huth Joe W. Engel Th. Murray
Maudell Hinton Paul Bremer R. S. Allen Ray Minder Gil Laquette Thompson D. Butler J. M. Chandler

UMPIRES

Samuel Johnson Edward Hoffman James M. Fongelt Howard Camp-
Paul H. Blackwell Frank Gerard Robert E. Kober Red Jones

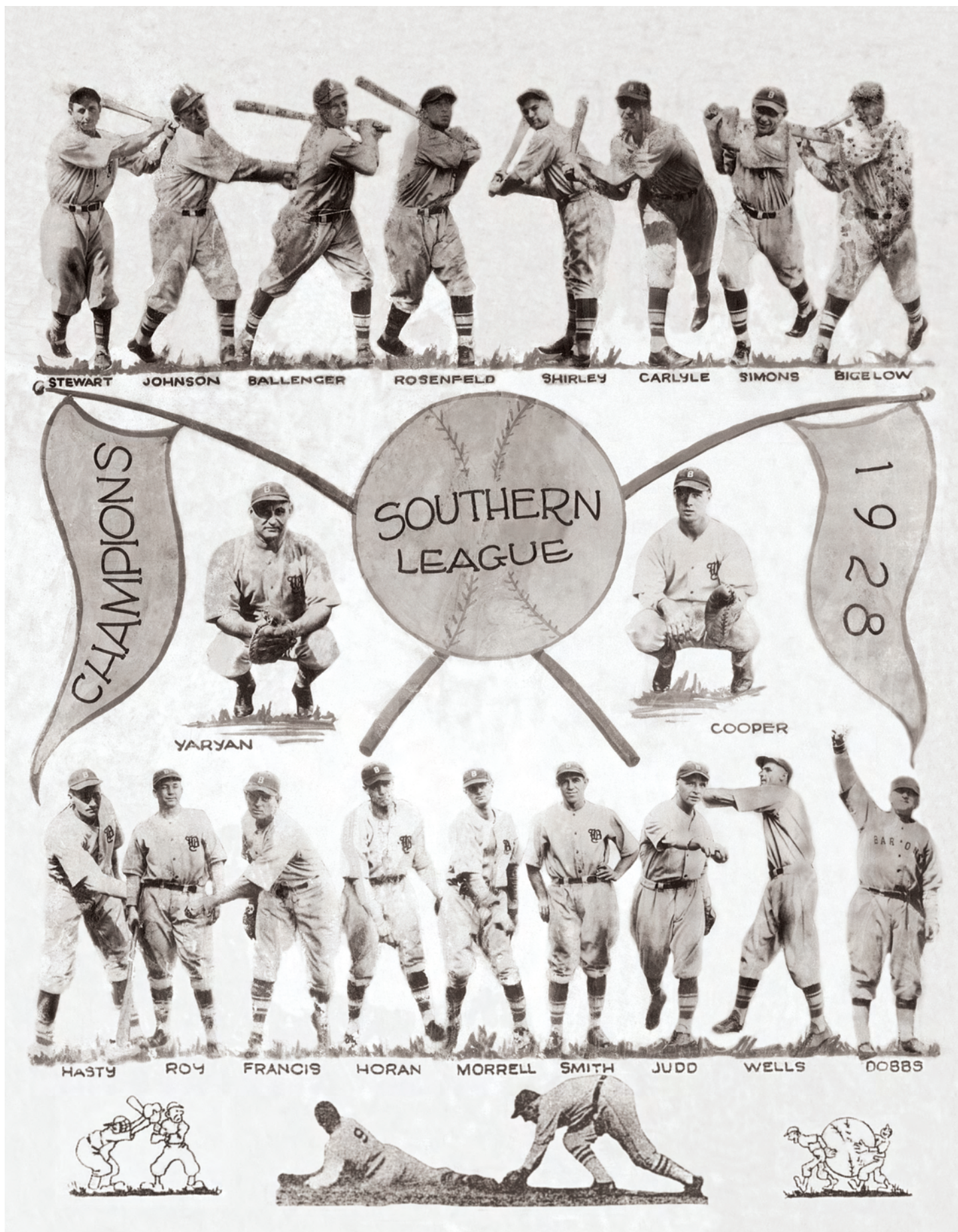
1943 tribute to longtime Southern Association player and manager Larry Gilbert. A former member of the 1914 Boston "Miracle Braves," he was sold to New Orleans in 1917, beginning a Southern Association career that spanned more than three decades. Courtesy of the Birmingham Barons.

Second Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference

Rickwood Field Birmingham, Alabama

Saturday, September 17, 2005

9:00 A.M.	Morning coffee and donuts
9:30 A.M.	Welcome and introductory remarks
9:45 A.M.	Bill Traughber “The Greatest Game Played in the South: Nashville 1908”
10:15 A.M.	Phil Lowry “The Southern Association’s Longest Games”
10:45 A.M.	Morning break
11:00 A.M.	Player Discussion Panel: Tentative: Jim Atkins & Bud Lively (Barons)
11:30 A.M.	David Jenkins “Chattanooga’s Amazing String of Batting Champs”
12:00 P.M.	Lunch
12:45 P.M.	Skip Nipper “Legendary Larry Gilbert”
1:15 P.M.	Turner South Blue Ribbon Presentation
1:45 P.M.	Clarence Watkins “1928 Barons: Opening Day”
2:15 P.M.	Player Discussion Panel: Tentative: Lenny Yochim & Mel Brookey (Pelicans)
2:45 P.M.	Afternoon break
3:00 P.M.	Ben Cook “Good Wood: A Fan’s History of Rickwood Field”
3:30 P.M.	Closing remarks
3:45 P.M.	Book sales & exhibits



Under the guidance of manager Johnny Dobbs, the 1928 Birmingham Barons swept the Memphis Chicks in three games to capture the pennant. The Birmingham club also led the league in hits, total bases, stolen bases, runs, fielding, and fewest strikeouts. Courtesy of Mickey Newsome.

Second Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference|PRESENTERS:

Bill Traughber A Nashville sports history researcher and writer, Bill Traughber has published approximately 225 feature sports stories in numerous publications, including among others Athlon Baseball Annual, Nashville Sports Weekly, The National Pastime, and Sports Nashville. He is a member of the Tennessee Sports Writers Association, the society of American Baseball Researchers, and the Nashville Baseball Old Timers Association.

Phil Lowry Phil Lowry is the author of Green Cathedrals, the only detailed history of every one of the 400 ballparks used for official Major League and Negro League games since 1871. He is currently completing his Ph.D. in Arabic Language and Middle East Studies.

Skip Nipper A graduate of Memphis State University, Skip Nipper is a member of the Sporting Goods Agents Association, the National Sporting Goods Association, and the Society for American Baseball Researchers. His commitment to collecting and preserving memories of Nashville's SulphurDell Park resulted in the creation of his website, sulphurdell.com.

David Jenkins A former long-time sports journalist for the Chattanooga Free Press, David Jenkins spent much of his career covering the Chattanooga Lookouts.

Clarence Watkins A Memphis native, Clarence Watkins is a graduate of Memphis State University and lifelong baseball fan. His work related travels across the Southeast have allowed him to pursue his interest in the history of the Southern Association, including collecting and gathering information on all of the league teams and ball parks.

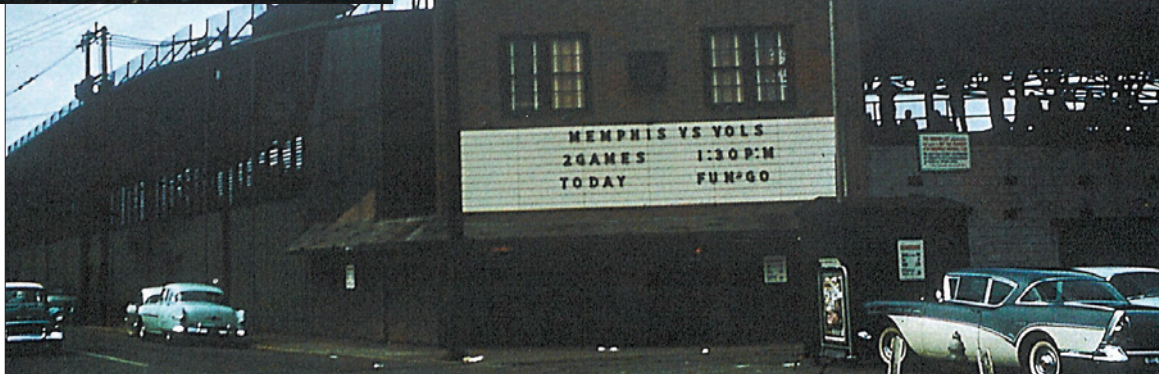
Ben Cook Sports columnist for the Birmingham Post-Herald, Ben Cook has covered sports in the Southeast for over three decades. During his journalism career, he has also written for the Birmingham News, the Sporting News, and Sports Illustrated among others. The author of three books on college football, his fourth book, Good Wood: A Fan's History of Rickwood Field, will be available this Fall.



1951 Barons pitching staff, seated here at Rickwood, led the team to a Dixie Series championship over Houston of the Texas League. (l-r) Roger Higgins, Norman Brown, Mickey Haeffner, Ralph Brickner, Robert Rancey, Jim Wallace, Hershell Freeman, Louis "BoBo" Newsome. Courtesy of Rocky Brown.



Game action at Nashville's storied Sulphur Dell. Due to the park's unusual topography, the right fielder had to play on the "shelf" between the incline and the outfield wall. Courtesy of Metro Nashville Archives and Skip Nipper.

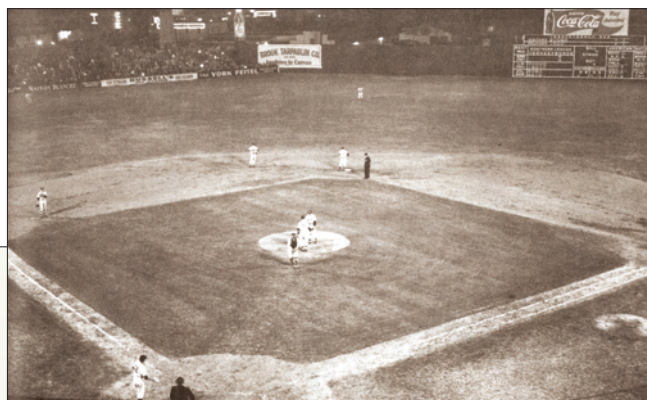


1950's game-day view of the famed Sulphur Dell marquee. Courtesy of Metro Nashville Archives and Skip Nipper.



Southern Association play at Pelican Stadium. Courtesy of Derby Gisclair.

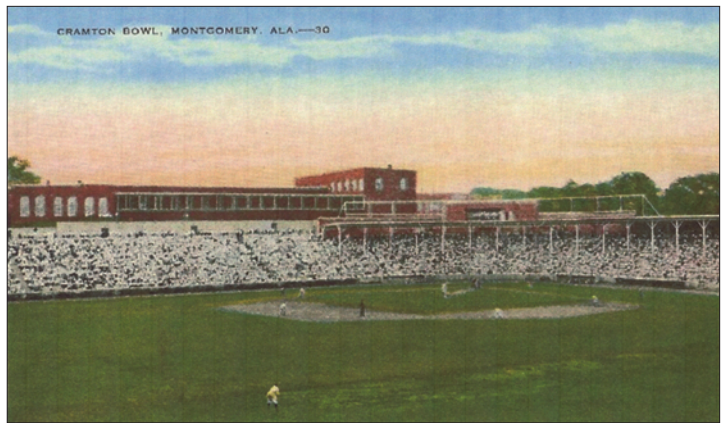
On the Cover: 1954 capacity crowd at Birmingham's Rickwood Field anticipates the tag at third on a Nashville base runner, with the home plate umpire covering the call. The shoulder patch worn that year by Baron ball players commemorated the 50th anniversary of Birmingham's iconic Vulcan statue, originally cast for the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. Courtesy of Birmingham News.



Streetscape outside New Orleans' Pelican Stadium, circa 1950s. Built in 1915, the stadium hosted its last game on September 1, 1957, with the Memphis Chicks defeating the hometown Pelicans 7-3. The park was razed the following month, October of 1957. Courtesy of Derby Gisclair.

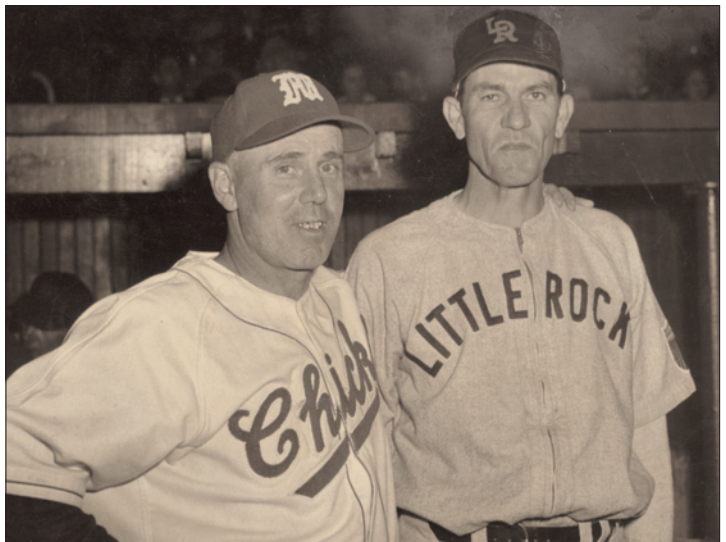


1923 Southern Association champion New Orleans Pelicans. Under the guidance of legendary manager Larry Gilbert, the 1923 Pelicans outpaced the Mobile Bears to capture the pennant. *Courtesy of Derby Gisclair.*

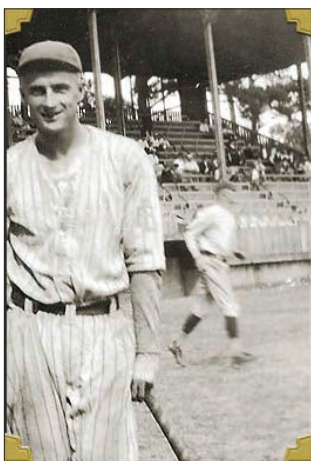


Cramton Bowl, home park of the 1943 Southern Association Montgomery Rebels. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*

Willie Miranda, Chattanooga Lookouts. Signed by the Washington Senators as an amateur free agent in 1948, Miranda played 2 full seasons (1949 and 1950) in Chattanooga before being called-up after 80 games in the 1951 season, making his Major League debut on May 6, 1951. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*



More than half a century of baseball is represented by this pair, and they were on opposite ends of a lot of pitches. Mickey O'Neill (left) a, Memphis catcher, had been in baseball for 29 years when this was photographed, and Ed (Beartracks) Greer, Little Rock Pitcher, had 23 seasons under his belt. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*

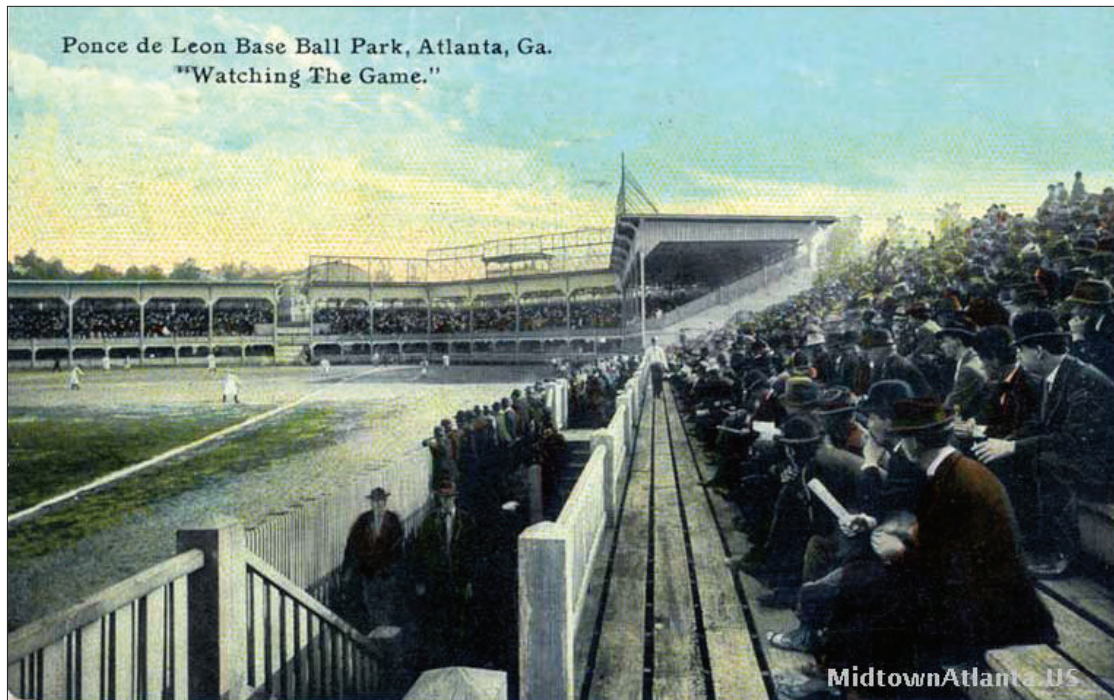


Scrapbook image of an unknown Arkansas Travelers ballplayer, circa 1922. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*

Unidentified manager, Montgomery Rebels. *Courtesy of Chattanooga News-Free Press and Clarence Watkins.*



League champion Birmingham Barons, captured in this September 24, 1928 Associated Press photo, defeated the Houston Buffalos in the first 2 games of the 1928 Dixie Series, before losing the next 4 straight. *Courtesy of Chuck Stewart.*



Built in 1924, and originally named Spiller Park, Ponce de Leon Park served as the home field for the Atlanta Crackers until 1964, and was torn down in 1967. Courtesy of Mike Gora and MidtownAtlanta.us

Special thanks to:

Dr. Johnie Grace and Martin Grace Benefit Group
 Mickey Newsome and Hibbett Sports
 The Slaughter Group
 The Birmingham Barons
 Joe DeLeonard and the Triple Play Baseball Club
 Lamar Smith and Alagasco
 Skip Nipper and sulphurdell.com
 Derby Gisclair and neworleansbaseball.com
 Bill Cather
 Liz Rybka



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