



Ninth Annual  
Southern Association  
Baseball Conference



March 3<sup>RD</sup> | 2012



Spar Stadium, home of the Shreveport Sports, Southern Association members 1959-1961. *Courtesy of Tony Roberts.*



Baron teammates Billy Bancroft and Shine Cortazzo, 1930. *Courtesy of Mrs. Billy Bancroft & Chuck Stewart.*

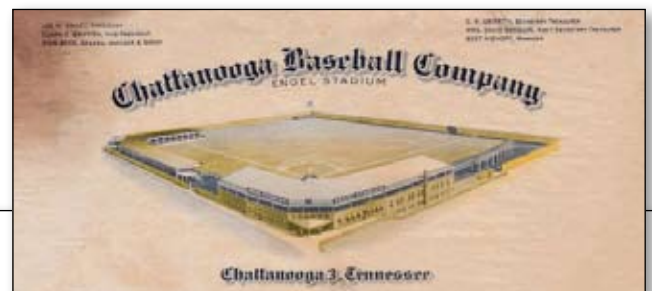


Birmingham Black Baron fans gather for game at Rickwood Field, late 1940's. *Courtesy of Memphis Shelby Public Library & Information Center.*



Night game at Chattanooga's Engel Stadium, home of the Lookouts. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*

Chattanooga Baseball Company letterhead, featuring Engel Stadium. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*



Capacity crowd fills Engel Stadium for the September 25, 1932 Dixie Series game between the Lookouts and Beaumont (TX) Explorers, pennant winners of the Texas League. *Courtesy of Josh Leventhal and "Take Me Out to the Ballpark."*

# Ninth Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference

Rickwood Field | Birmingham, Alabama  
Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

9:00	A.M.	Morning coffee and donuts
9:30	A.M.	Welcome and introductory remarks
9:45	A.M.	Clarence Watkins “Russwood: The Evolution of a Ballpark”
10:30	A.M.	Derby Gisclair “New Orleans Ballparks”
11:15	A.M.	Morning break – Collector Exhibits
11:30	A.M.	Skip Nipper “The Colorful, Quirky Confines of Nashville’s Sulphur Dell”
12:15	P.M.	Lunch with Special Guest Paul Seitz Former Birmingham Baron and Shreveport Sport
1:00	P.M.	Dan Creed “Chattanooga’s Engel Stadium: Heyday to No Play”
1:45	P.M.	Gary Higgenbotham “Mobile’s Historic Baseball Parks”
2:30	P.M.	Clarence Watkins “Baseball in Memphis”
3:15	P.M.	Closing Remarks, Book Signings and Collector Exhibits

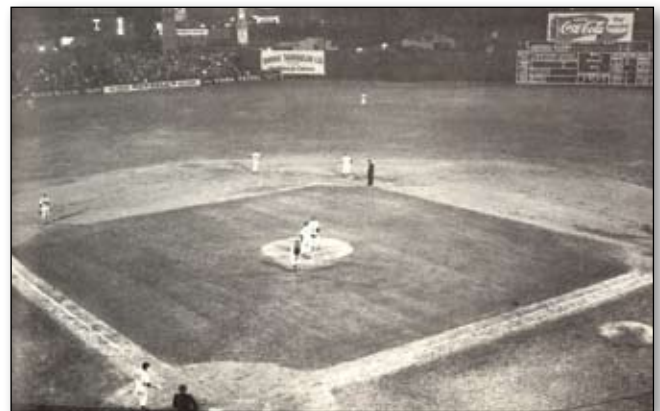




1957 streetscape in front of New Orleans' Pelican Stadium. *Courtesy of Derby Gislair.*



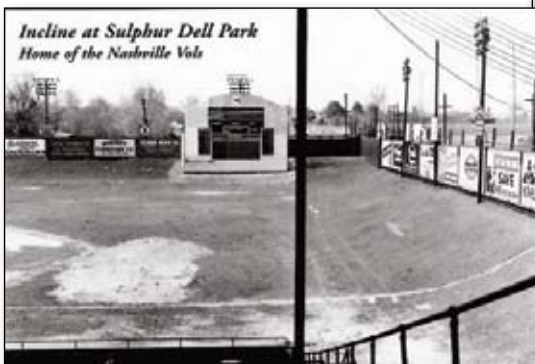
1920's first base view of crowd and umpire, Pelican Stadium, New Orleans, *Courtesy of Derby Gislair.*



Night game, conversation on the mound, Pelican Stadium. *Courtesy of Derby Gislair.*



Nashville's Sulphur Dell from the first base grandstand. *Courtesy of Skip Nipper.*



*Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*



Sulphur Dell outfield and scoreboard. *Courtesy of Skip Nipper.*



Night game view of **Luther Williams Field**, home of the **Macon Peaches**, Southern Association 1961. *Courtesy of Tony Roberts.*



Aerial view of **Russwood Park**, home of the **Memphis Chicks**. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*



Little Rock's **Kavanaugh Field** served as the home of the **Little Rock Travelers** until their 1932 move to Travelers Field, later renamed Ray Winder Field. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*



Aerial view of Atlanta's **Ponce de Leon Park**. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*

Left field view of grandstand and game action at Atlanta's **Ponce de Leon Park**. *Courtesy of Paul Crater.*



Aerial view of grandstand and diamond, Mobile's **Hartwell Field**. *Courtesy of Derby Gislair.*



View from the right field grandstand of game action at **Hartwell Field**, home of the **Mobile Bears**. *Courtesy of Clarence Watkins*



## Ninth Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference | Special Guest:

**Paul Seitz**, a ten-year veteran of professional baseball, spent part of the 1960 season with the Selma Cloverleafs, of the Alabama Florida League, before joining the Shreveport Sports the following year. He also spent four seasons in Birmingham as a 1960's team member of both the Barons and the A's. Seitz's first year in Birmingham began by pitching the 1964 home opener for Birmingham's first integrated team. But the young right-hander's second year in Birmingham produced perhaps his fondest memory, an April 1965 no-hitter against Chattanooga, resulting in a 2-0 Baron victory over the Lookouts. Following the strong showing in his first two seasons in Birmingham, he spent two seasons with AAA Vancouver of the Pacific Coast League. Seitz returned to Birmingham in 1968 as part of the A's pitching staff that also included future Hall-of-Famer, Rollie Fingers, and in 1969, future Cy Young Award recipient Vida Blue. Seitz retired from baseball following the 1969 season, and in 1973 opened the Little Professor Book Store in Homewood, Alabama.



Paul Seitz, **Vancouver Mounties**,  
1966 – 1967.

*Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*

1964 **Birmingham Barons**,  
featuring pitcher Paul Seitz,  
standing back row, fifth from  
right. Seated in front row,  
first on right, is fellow pitcher  
Johnny "Blue Moon" Odom.

*Courtesy of  
the Birmingham Public Library.*



Postcard view of **Engel Stadium**,  
home of the **Chattanooga Lookouts**.  
*Courtesy of Clarence Watkins.*



Atlanta's **Ponce de Leon Park** was home  
of the **Atlanta Crackers** from 1924 to  
1964, and was torn down in 1967.  
*Courtesy of Mike Gora and [midtownatlanta.com](http://midtownatlanta.com)*



Postcard view of opening day at  
**Rickwood Field** on August 18, 1910.  
*Courtesy of Friends of Rickwood.*

## Ninth Annual Southern Association Baseball Conference | Presenters:

**Clarence Watkins** Author of the recently published *Baseball in Birmingham* (Arcadia Press), Clarence Watkins is a member of the Friends of Rickwood Board of Directors and is a long-time collector of Southern Association history. A 1972 graduate of Memphis State University, he is a member of Birmingham's Triple Play Club and SABR. He also presented his research at the 2010 SABR National Convention and the 2010 Jerry Malloy Conference. His second Arcadia book, *Baseball in Memphis*, will be released on March 26, 2012.

**Derby Gisclair** A native of New Orleans and a protégé of Arthur O. Schott, Derby Gisclair is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) and its Minor League, Deadball Era, Collegiate Baseball, Biographical Research, 19th Century, Oral History, and Pictorial History committees. He is the author of *Baseball in New Orleans* (2004) and *Baseball at Tulane University* (2007), both through Arcadia Publishing, and is still compiling material for two future books on 19th century baseball in New Orleans and a history of the New Orleans Pelicans. He has participated in the Southern Association Baseball Conference nearly every year since its inception and is a frequent speaker at regional and national conferences on baseball history. Derby also serves on the Nominating and Selection Committee for the Greater New Orleans Professional Baseball Hall of Fame..

**Skip Nipper** A graduate of Memphis State University, Skip Nipper is past-president and current secretary of the Nashville Old Timers Baseball Association. He is also president of the Grantland Rice-Fred Russell Chapter of SABR, and the author of *Baseball in Nashville* (Arcadia Publishing, 2007). A sporting goods sales representative with New Era Cap Company and frequent participant in previous Southern Association Conferences, he has presented his research at the Conference on Baseball and Literature at Middle Tennessee State University and the 2010 SABR National Convention.

**Dan Creed** Chattanooga resident and graduate of Covenant College (Lookout Mountain, GA), Dan Creed is an avid collector of Lookouts memorabilia and longtime advocate for the preservation and redevelopment of Engel Stadium. His baseball accomplishments include 25 years as a college umpire, having hosted the 2006 Southern Association Conference at Engel Stadium and the 2008 Chattanooga Baseball Conference, as well as serving as a presenter at the 2010 SABR National Convention.

**Gary Higgenbotham** A native of Galveston, TX, Gary Higgenbotham is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, and has conducted research on Mobile baseball, especially the Mobile Bears of the Southern Association, as well as Southern Association teams, the Cotton States League, and college football.

2012 Southern Association Conference

dedicated to the memory of

**William “Bill” Ross, III.**

*July 25, 1964 – January 27, 2012*

Special thanks to:

The Woodward Family

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Triple Play Baseball Club

Skip Nipper and sulphurdell.com

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