

Ballparks in New Orleans

Presented by

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Member, Society for American Baseball Research



Southern Association Baseball Conference

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Birmingham, AL

New Orleans Ballparks

- **1859 – 1870:** Delachaise Grounds
- **1865:** Pelicans practice field
- **1865:** Algiers Green
- **1870s:** “The Meat Lot”
- **1885:** Audubon Park
- **1887:** Ferran’s Park



New Orleans Ballparks

- 1887 – 1899: Sportsman's Park
- 1901 – 1907: Athletic Park
- 1908 – 1914: Pelican Park
Crescent City Park
- 1915 – 1937: Heinemann Park
1938 – 1957: Pelican Stadium
- 1958 – 1959: City Park Stadium
- 1977: Louisiana Superdome



New Orleans Ballparks

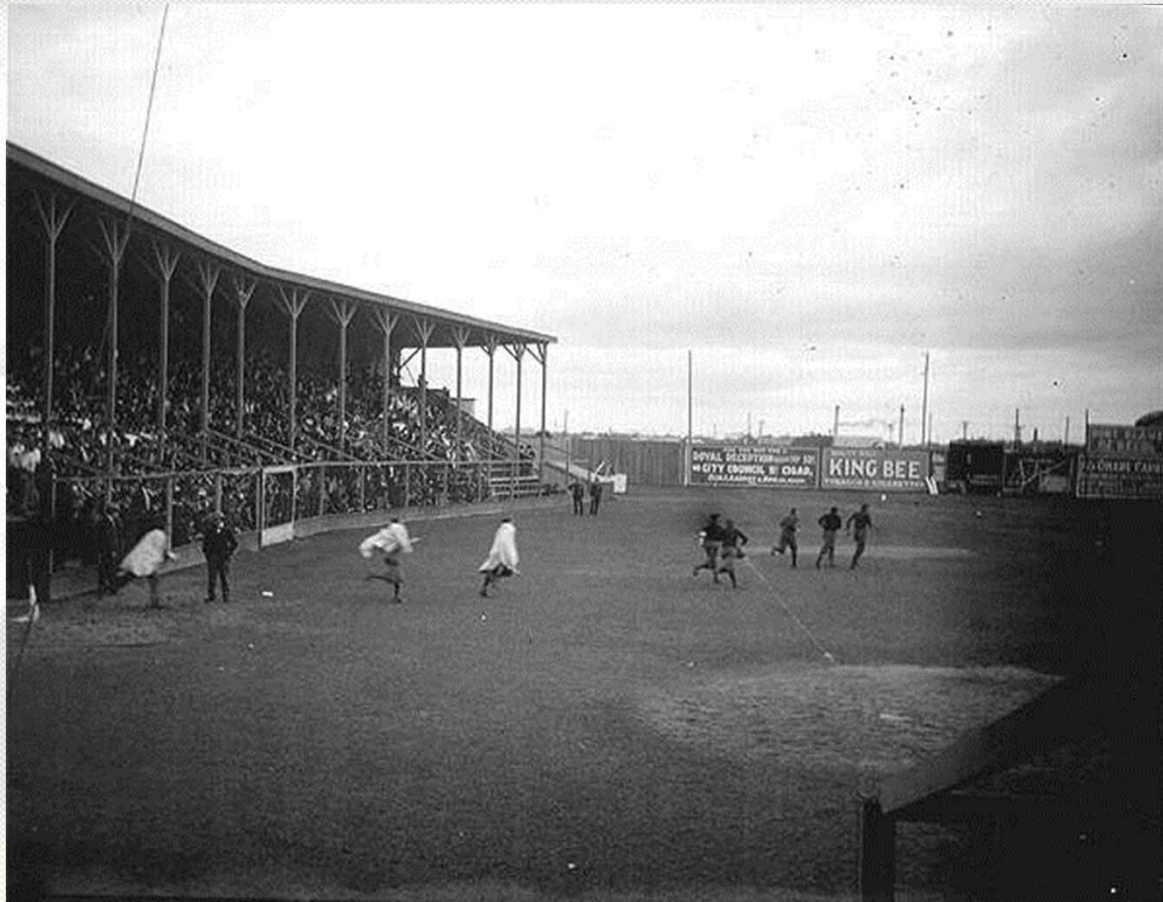


Athletic Park



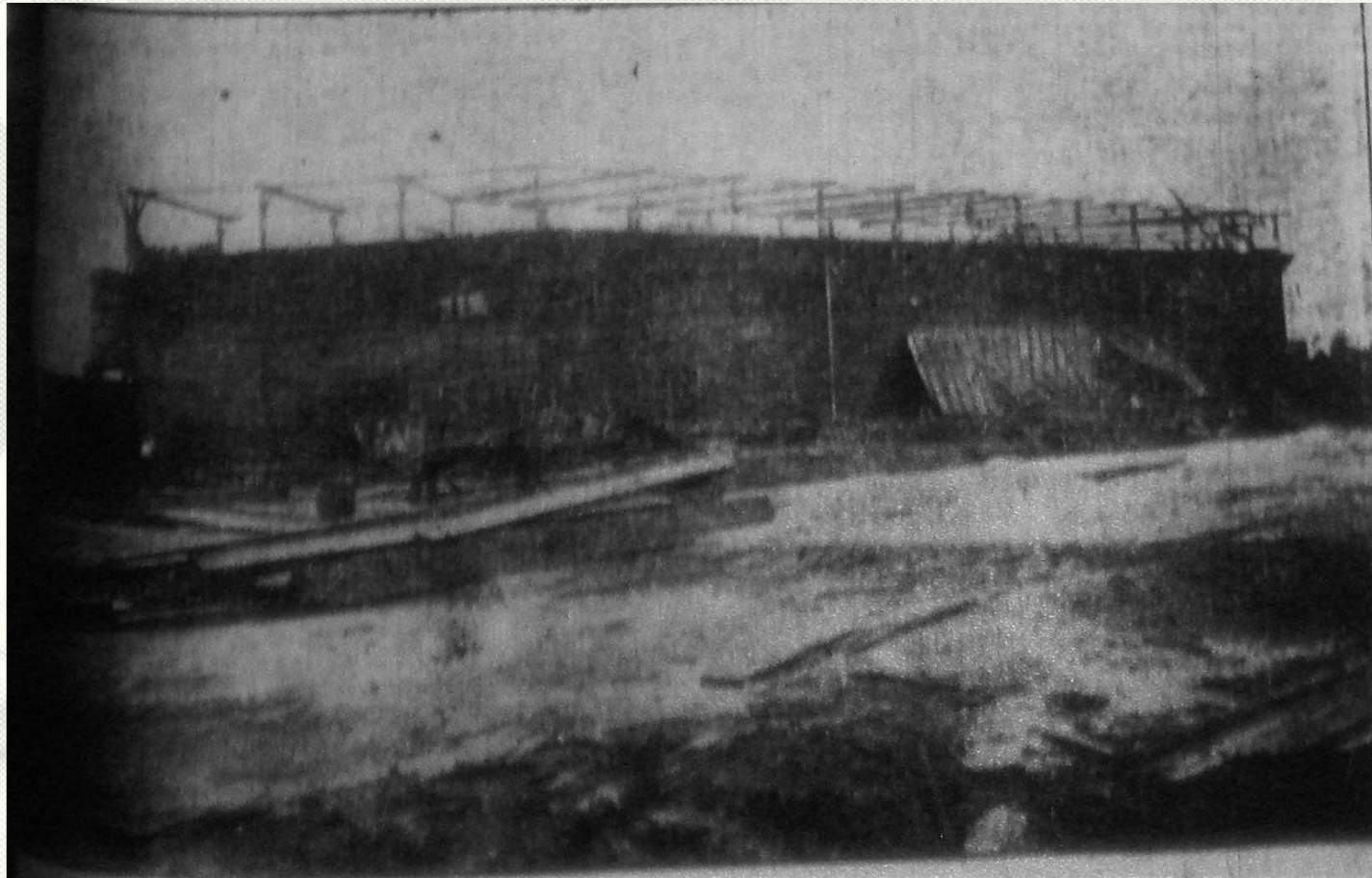
1905: The Pelicans played at Athletic Park from 1901 through 1907.

Athletic Park



1905: This ballpark was demolished to make way for the White City Amusement Park in 1907. The Pelicans moved to Pelican Park.

Pelican Park



1909: Hurricane damage to grandstand at Pelican Park. This facility was also known as Crescent City Park.

Heinemann Park

THE DAILY



PICAYUNE

Price - One Cent

New Orleans, La – Friday, January 8, 1915

Price – One Cent

To Build New Park

New Orleans Club Will Abandon Old Site in 1915

New Orleans, Jan 7 – Southern Association baseball games in New Orleans will take place in the White City grounds at Carrollton and Tulane avenues, beginning with the 1915 playing season, according to an announcement here today by President A.J. Heinemann of the New Orleans club. Pelican Park will be abandoned and the owners of the local club immediately will begin construction of a steel grandstand and bleachers at the new location.

Supreme Court to Hear Case Steamship Collision in 1898

Washington, Jan 3 – The ongoing dispute between the Central American Steamship Co. Ltd and the United States government will finally have its day in court. This dispute, which will be heard in the Supreme Court of the United States in Washington, stems from the 1898 collision of the steamship *Stillwater*. The injuries were caused as follows: First, in June, 1898, there was a collision with another steamship in Tampa bay, it does not appear by whose fault. Three weeks later the *Stillwater* was driven against the rocks while unloading horses in Daiquiri bay, Cuba, during a gale, with other incidental damage. On July 27, in Gauanica Bay, Porto Rico, there was another collision with a steamer. On August 3, in obedience to orders against which the captain protested, the *Stillwater* assisted in lightering the United States auxiliary cruiser St. Paul, at Arroyo, Porto Rico, and while lying alongside the St. Paul, in rough water, was damaged by the after-gun sponson of the St. Paul being thrown down upon it. On August 4, in obedience to orders from the naval lieutenant in charge, against the protest of the captain, the *Stillwater* was made fast to the Massachusetts, then on the rocks at Ponce, Porto Rico, and attempted to pull it off. The weather was rough, and in consequence of rolling against the rocks,

Today's Sailing Port of New Orleans

From Canal Street wharf:
St. Louis – *Natchez*
Cincinnati – *Union*
Baton Rouge – *Empire*

Passengers may arrange for their fare at the offices of Geo. Thumper & Sons, Customs House, Canal Street between the hours of 8am and 3pm daily.



Telephone Service New York to San Francisco

New York, Jan 7 – The Bell companies have announced the expansion of their long distance telephone service between the cities of New York and San Francisco to commence later this month. Customers will be able to easily contact the Pacific Coast. President Wilson is expected to make the first call from New York to the governor of California.

Sinking of the *Formidable* 547 Hands Feared Lost

London, Jan1 – The British battleship HMS *Formidable* was sunk whilst on patrol in the English Channel with the 5th Battle Squadron. Your correspondent has learned that the marine formation had been steaming slowly at ten knots without destroyer escort when it was attacked by a German submarine. Admiral Lewis Bayly has been dismissed from his position over the incident which has resulted in the loss of 547 officers and crew.

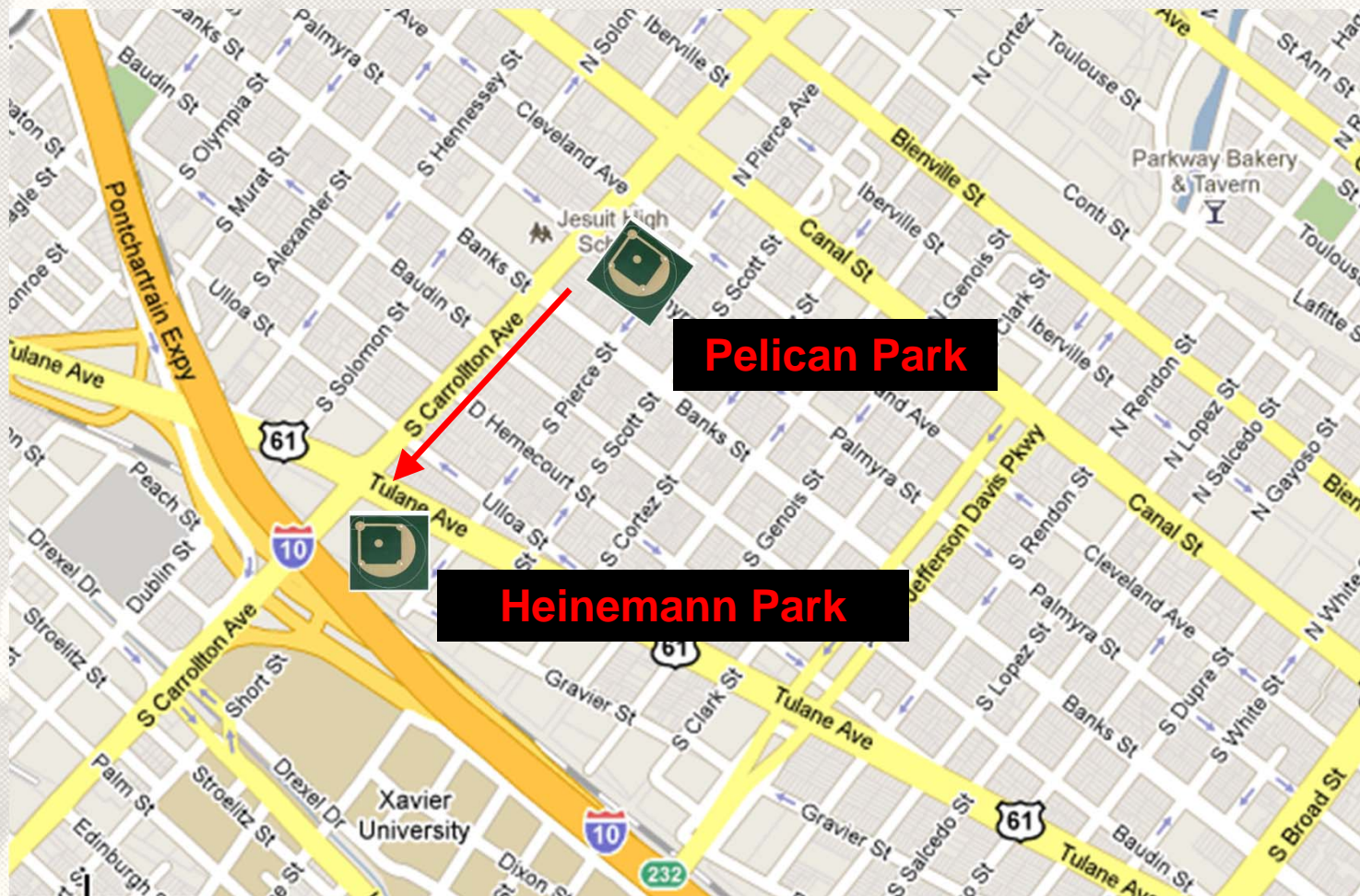
1915: A.J. Heinemann announces plans for the new baseball park.

White City Grounds



White City was an amusement park functioning from 1907 to 1913. It was located in what became part of Mid City New Orleans, only recently opened for development at the time after improvements in drainage. Promoter Charles C. Mathews advertised the opening of the park on May 4, 1907. In addition to amusement rides, the park offered musical performances, including opera.

On the Move



1915: The wooden grandstand was hauled from Pelican Park up the street by mule teams to the former White City grounds.

Heinemann Park

- Completed in 1915
- Cost: \$50,000 (*\$1.1 million today*)
- Owned by A.J. Heinemann
 - First Job: Peanut vendor in Pelican Park
 - President and Treasurer of the N.O. Pelicans
- Renamed Pelican Stadium in 1938
- Demolished in 1958



Heinemann Park



A.J. Heinemann

- Sold concessions in Sportsman's Park
- Bought concession rights in Athletic Park
- New Orleans Pelicans
 - 1901: Employee
 - 1904: Secretary
 - 1912: Vice-President
 - 1914: President
- Committed suicide in January 1930

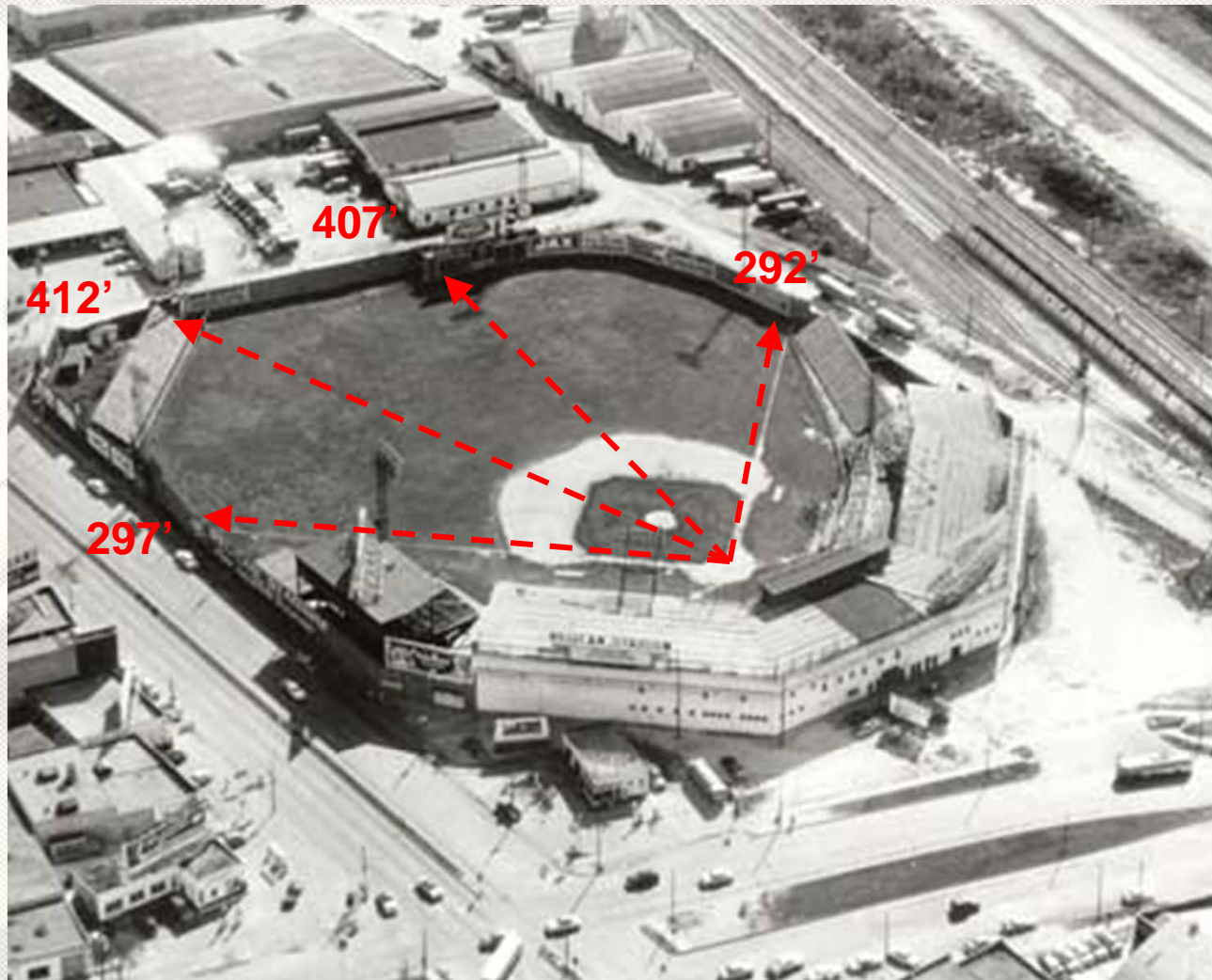
Heinemann Park



Charles Somers

- Financed the American League
 - Cleveland Indians (1901, 1910-1916)
 - Boston Red Sox (1901-1910)
- Minor League Farm System
 - New Orleans Pelicans (*Southern Association*)
 - Toledo Mud Hens (*American Association*)
 - Portland Beavers (*Pacific Coast League*)
 - Waterbury Contenders (*Eastern Association*)
 - Ironton Nailers (*Mountain States League*)
- Financial trouble following the Federal League

Heinemann Park

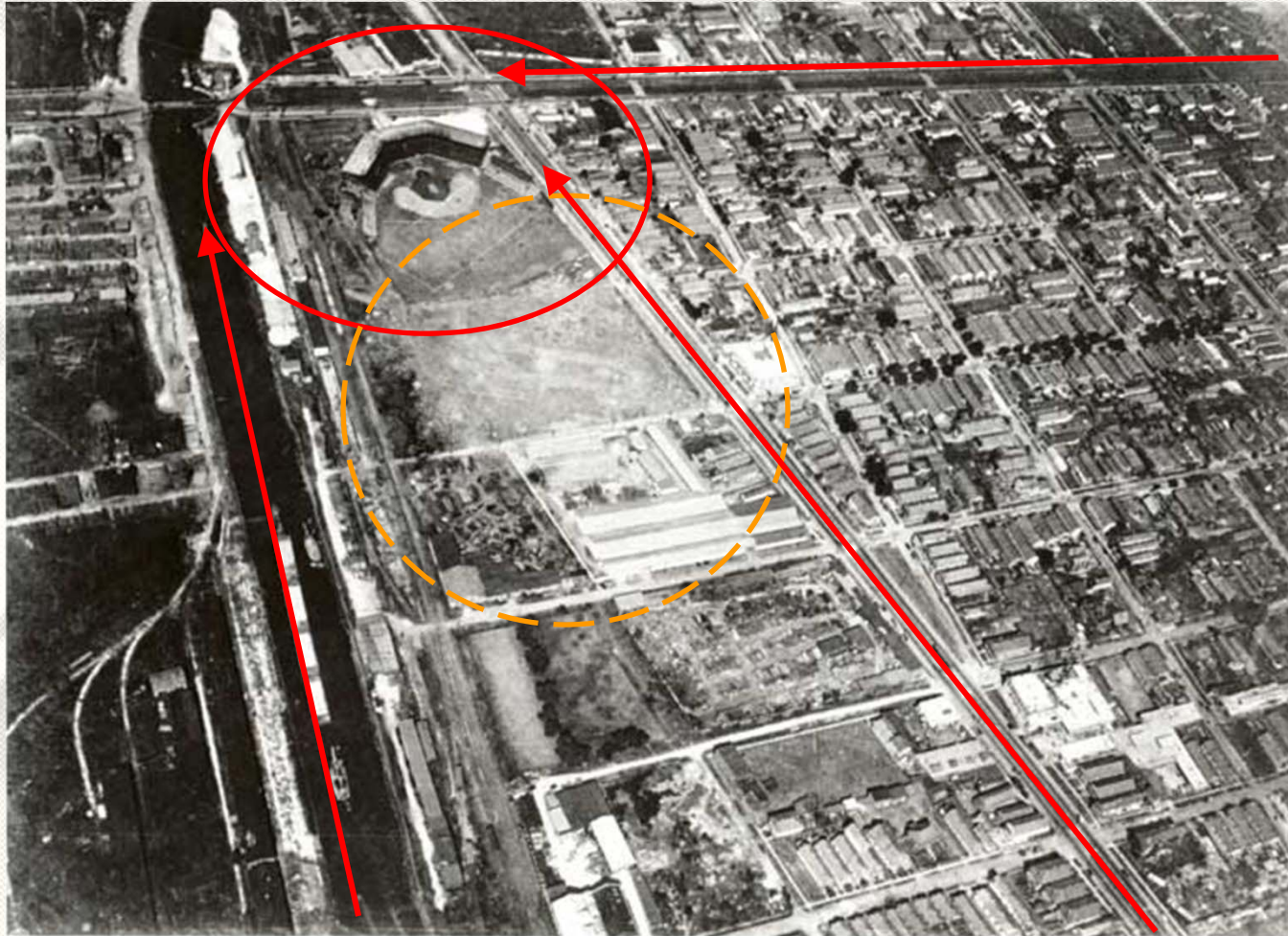


Heinemann Park



The left field bleachers were 352' to 412' from home plate.

Heinemann Park



Pre-1923 aerial photo showing Heinemann Park at top left and the New Basin Canal running along the left side of the picture.

Heinemann Park



Pelican Stadium



1917: Traveling Liberty Bond billboards were placed throughout the outfield during a bond rally.

Heinemann Park

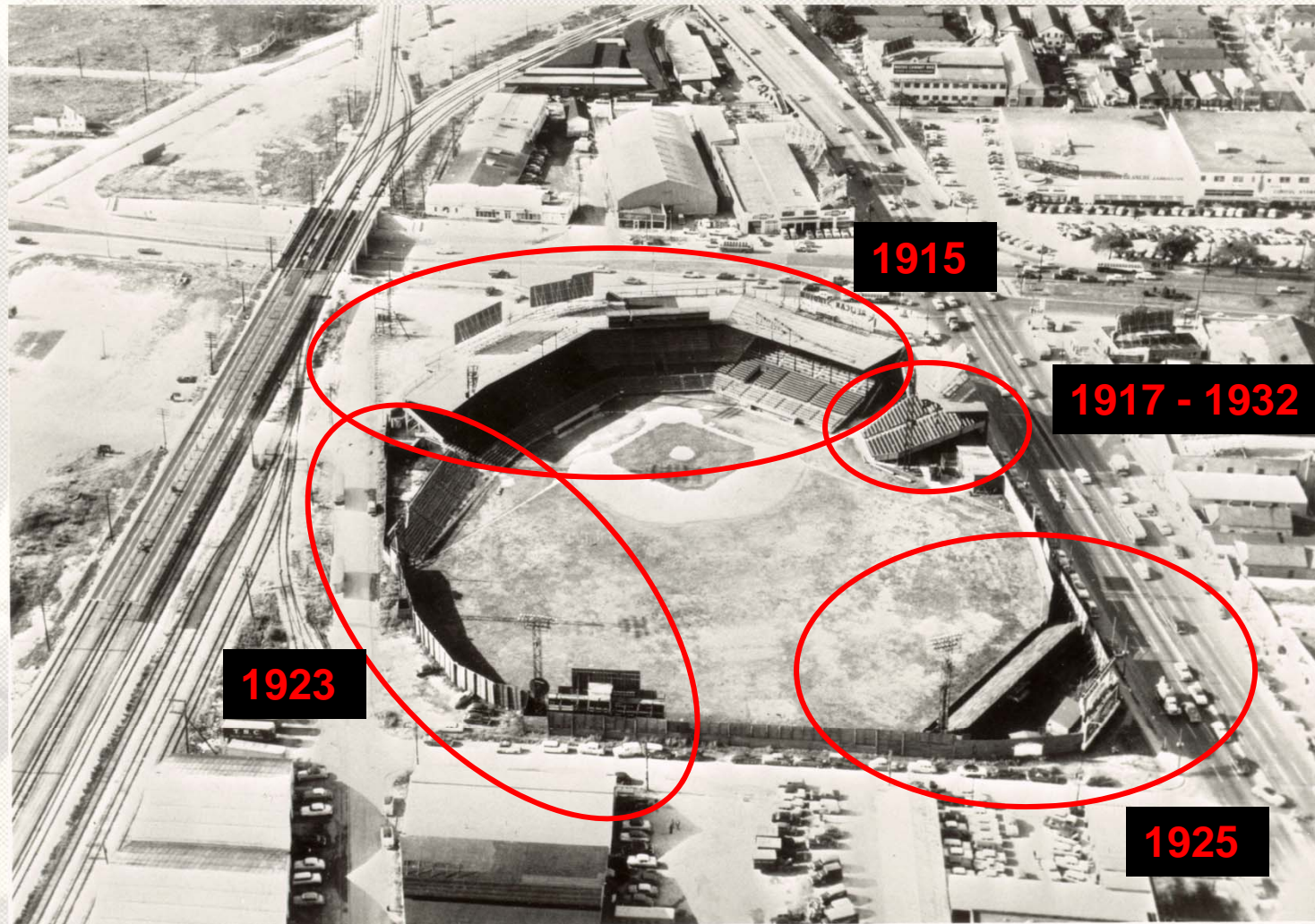


1920s: View of grandstand from right field, no press box visible in front of the rooftop foul ball screen.

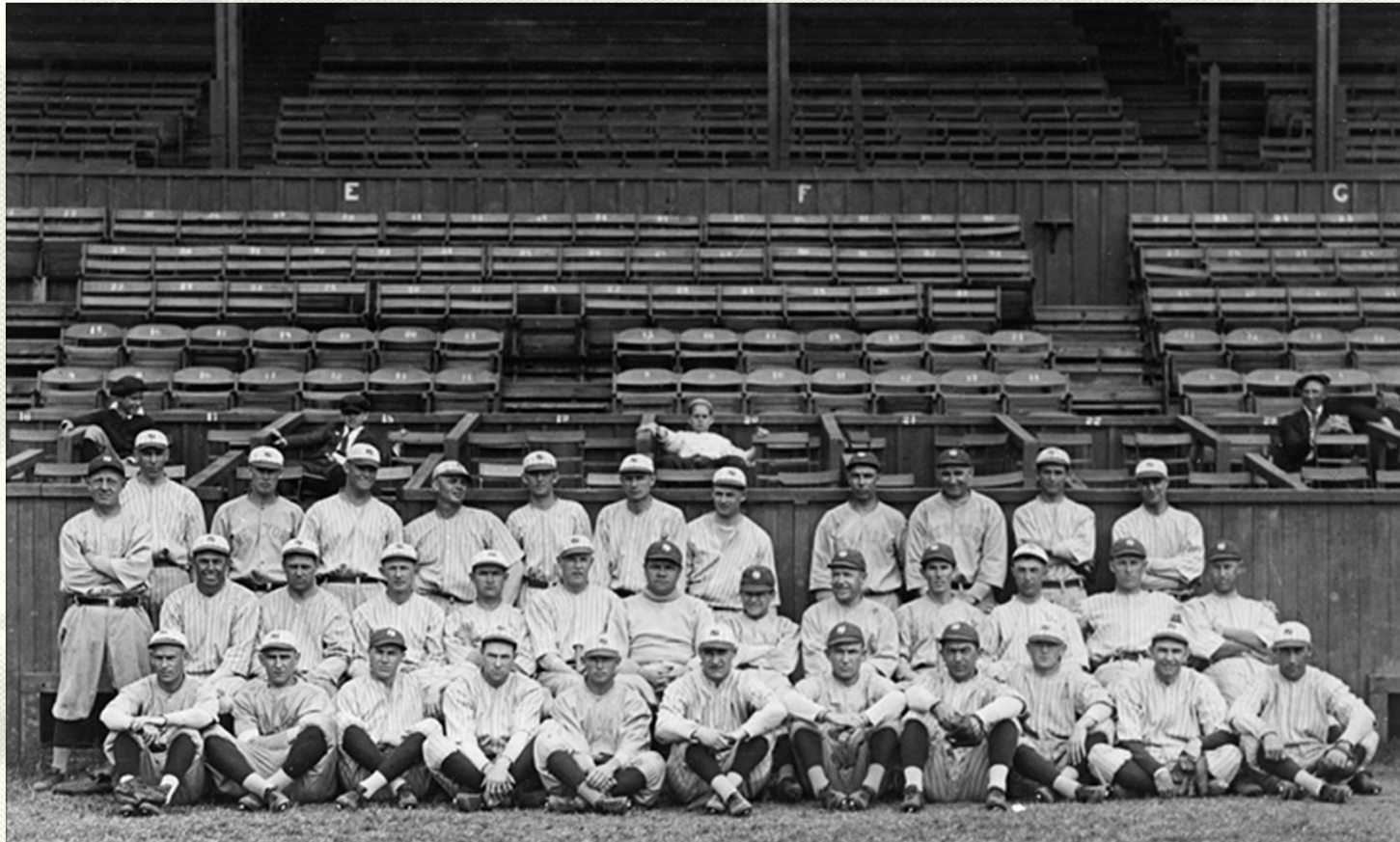


1920s: View down third base line from Pelicans' dugout. The structure in the center was eventually demolished in the early 1930s.

Heinemann Park



Heinemann Park



1921: New York Yankees hold spring training in New Orleans. They played several games at Heinemann Park against the St. Louis Browns, the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New Orleans Pelicans.

Heinemann Park



1923: Temporary outfield bleachers added for the Dixie Series.

Heinemann Park



1923: Overflow seating for the Dixie Series against Fort Worth.

Heinemann Park



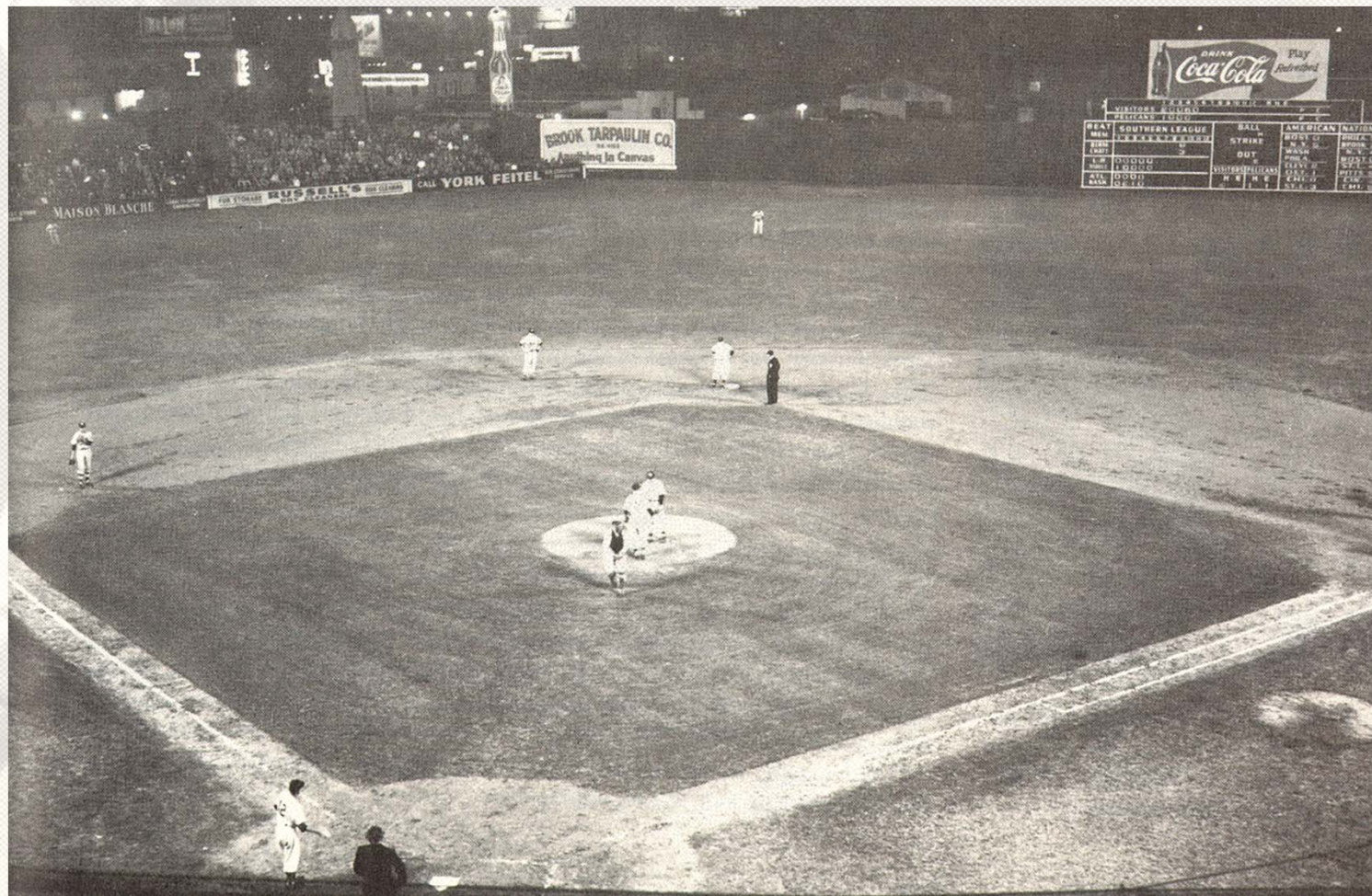
1932: Interior of the park from right field taken between games of a New Orleans Pelicans Fourth of July doubleheader. Notice the small temporary press box on the roof of the grandstand.



Pelican Stadium

1938: Heinemann Park was renamed Pelican Stadium.

Pelican Stadium



1936: First night game at Pelican Stadium on May 15th.

Pelican Stadium



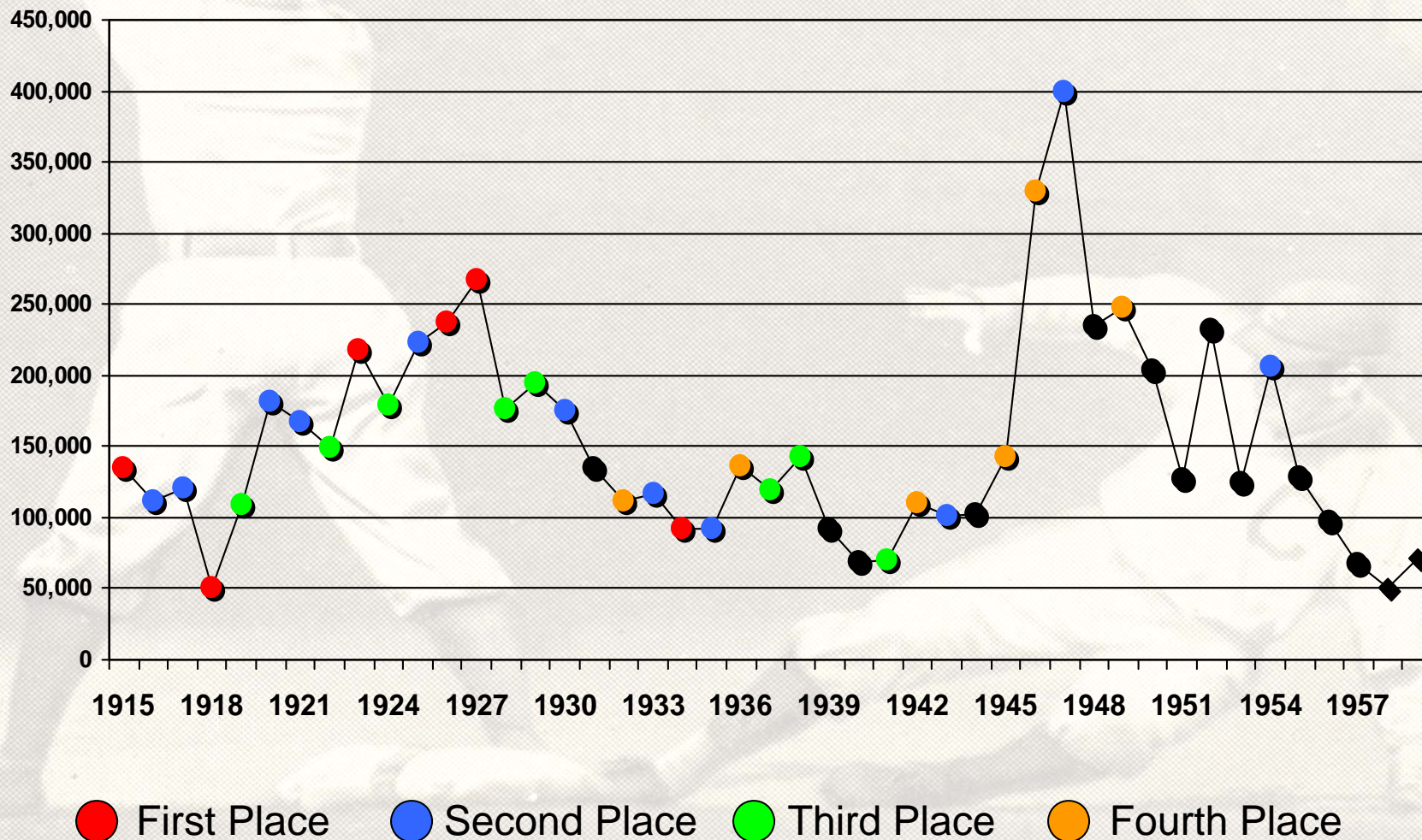
1938: April 14, 1938 Opening Day crowd

Pelican Stadium



1938: April 14, 1938 Opening Day drew a crowd of 21,025

Attendance



Pelican Stadium



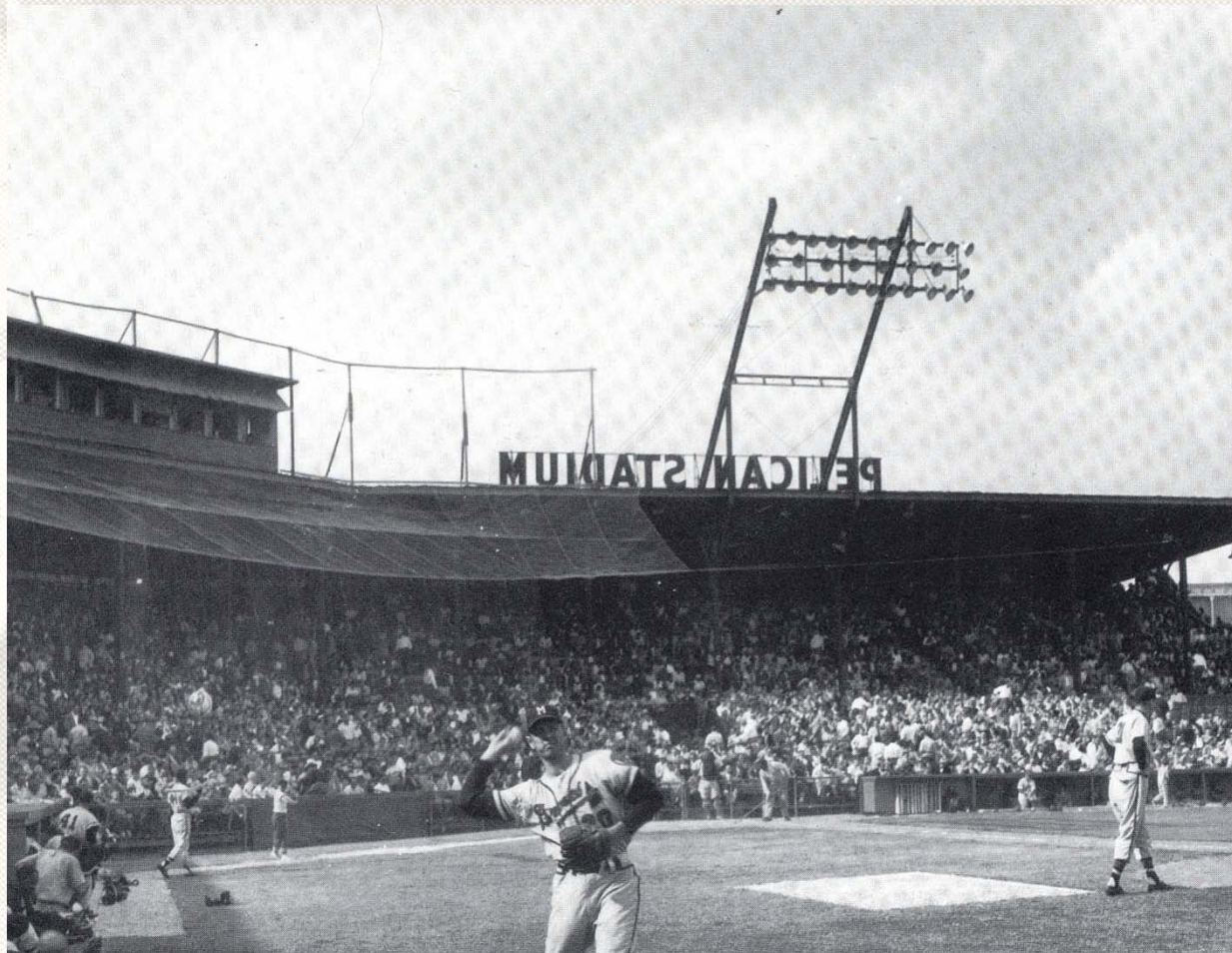
1947: Front of stadium looking down Tulane Avenue

Pelican Stadium



1947: Taken from the South Carrollton Avenue side of the stadium behind centerfield. The New Basin Canal that ran along the backside of the stadium behind right field was being filled in.

Pelican Stadium



1955: March 31st exhibition game between the Milwaukee Braves and the Brooklyn Dodgers

Pelican Stadium

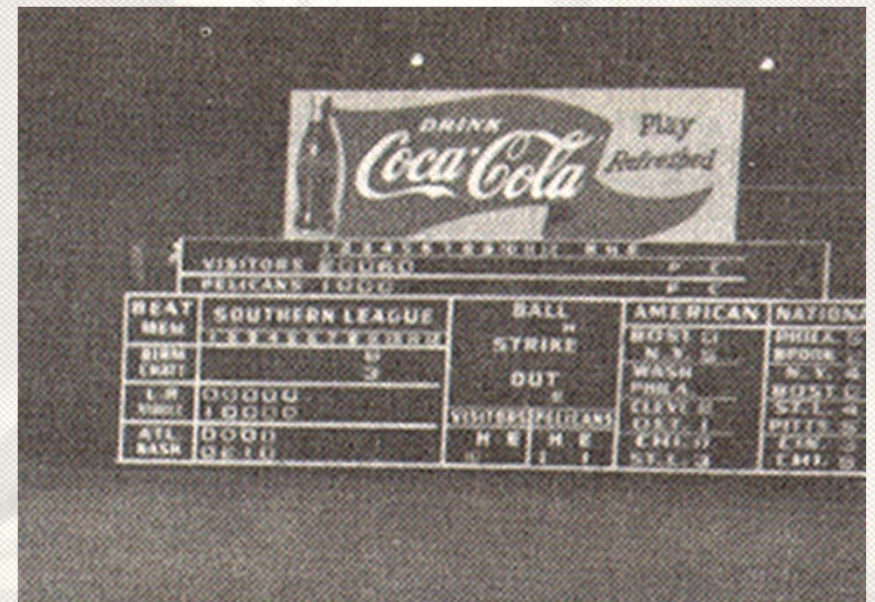


1955: Baseball clinic conducted by the New Orleans Creoles

Pelican Stadium



1923: Scoreboard in centerfield



1938: Updated Scoreboard

Pelican Stadium



1955: New Scoreboard

Pelican Stadium



1955: A Pelican player shows the neighborhood kids how to slide into third base.

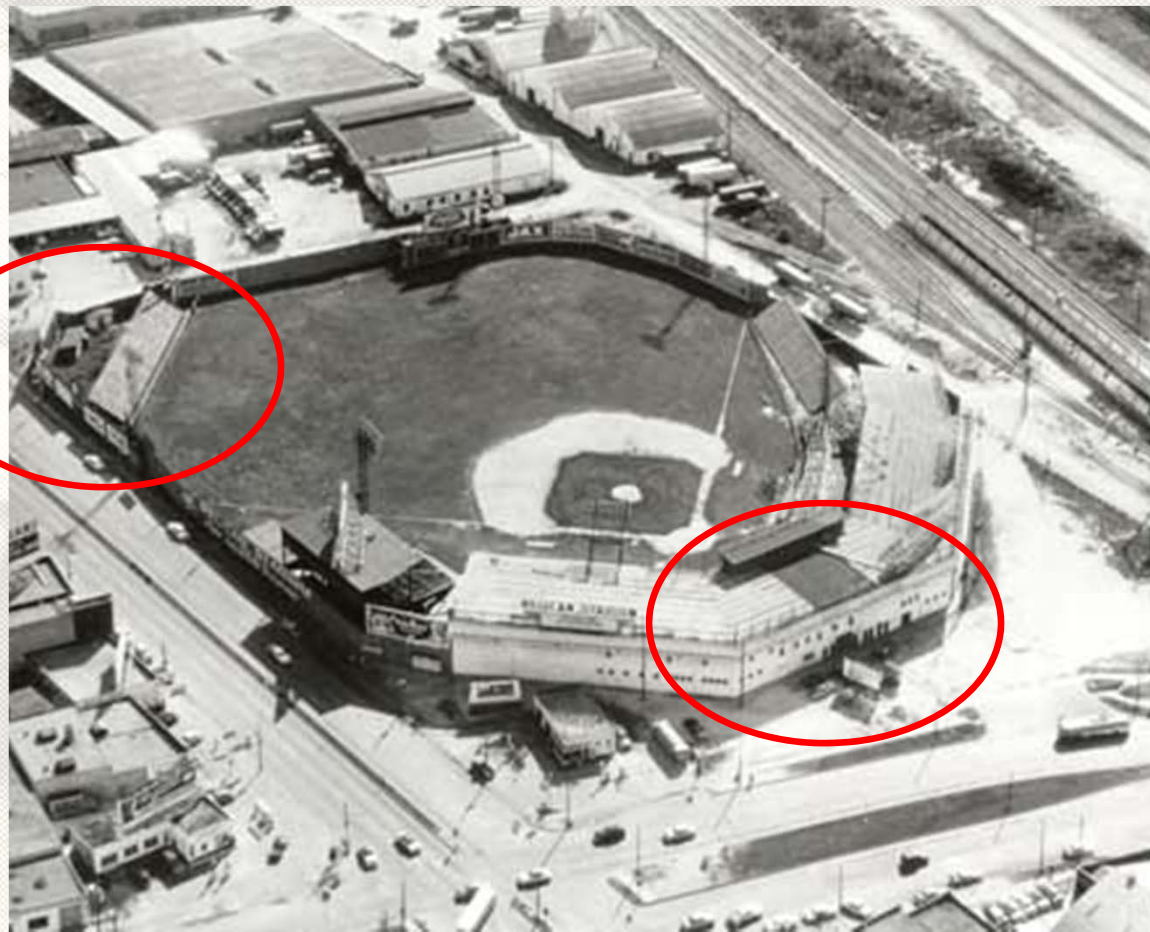
Pelican Stadium



Early 1950s photo of stadium looking back toward downtown. Once on the edge of town, the stadium was now in mid-city. The New Basin Canal has been filled in and construction on the new I-10 highway is underway.

Pelican Stadium

Entrance for
black fans



Main Entrance to
Pelican Stadium

1956: The impact of segregation.

Last Game



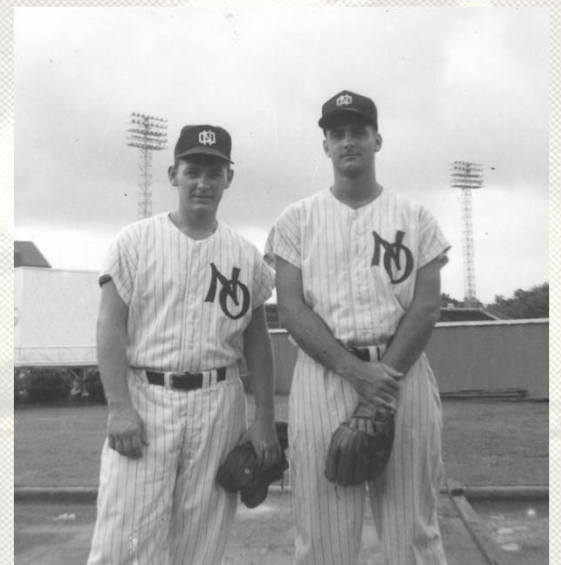
1957: The New Orleans Pelicans hosted the Memphis Chicks before a sparse crowd of 941 for a Labor Day doubleheader.

Pelican Stadium

- 1915 – 1958
- Replaced by the Fontainebleau Motor Hotel



City Park Stadium



1958: Players in City Park Stadium

Louisiana Superdome



Group Eyes A's For Superdome

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 13 (UPI)—A group of investors has raised \$1.5 million to purchase the Oakland A's and move them to the Louisiana Superdome but still is \$2 million short of its goal, a baseball executive said today.

A. Ray Smith, owner of the New Orleans Pelicans of the American Association, said the investors need \$3.4 million—29 per cent of the \$12 million A's owner Charlie Finley is asking—before the deal can be consummated.

"The road has been cleared," Smith said. "Finley wants to sell, and the American League owners are ready to vote on moving the franchise."

Smith said Finley originally wanted to retain ownership of 20 per cent of the A's, but he now wants to sell out completely because of heart trouble.

The Hyatt Corp., which operates hotels internationally and the Superdome through a subsidiary, has expressed interest in owning part of a major league team in New Orleans, but Smith said none of the shares in the investment group has been purchased by Hyatt.

1977: Pelicans return to New Orleans

Zephyr Field



1993: Zephyrs relocate from Denver. First game was played at University of New Orleans.

1997: Zephyr Field opens in suburb of New Orleans.

Zephyr Field



The Zephyrs draw over 500,000 every season.

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