

Baseball was a popular Orleans pastime

By MATT BALLARD

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ALBION — Two photographs show the baseball grounds in Albion located on Caroline Street on land now occupied by the ARC of Orleans.

A popular pastime in Orleans County, baseball teams commonly played on fields located at the County Fairgrounds until the site in the photo was created in the early 1900s. The top photograph shows the grandstand, situated in the northeast corner of the lot. A 1911 map shows the grandstand situated at an angle and a small structure to the immediate west of the grandstand. Based on the bottom photograph, we can presume that the small building on the map is the structure occupied by Robert Clark, who is selling

popcorn and peanuts to those watching the game. Behind the grandstand, the peak of a house on the north side of Caroline Street is slightly visible. One would venture to guess that this is 137 Caroline St.

In addition to the field itself, the photographs show the 1905 baseball club consisting of Howard Kilborn, 1st base; James Crafey, 2nd base and team captain; Frank VanStone, 3rd base; Ralph Vick, Shortstop; Herbert Reed, left field; Homer Brown, center field; Walter Radley, right field; Robert Clark, Jr., pitcher; Pete Galarneau, catcher; Arnold Donovan, mascot. Standing in the bottom photograph (left to right) are Howard Kilborn, McGarnwell, Robert Clark, Jr., "Doc" Davis, Homer Brown, Frank VanStone, Walter Radley, Pete Galarneau, "Doc" Timothy Donovan, a local furniture store clerk and father of

Clark attempted to form a train and lost one of his legs.

Although he was "reformed" through his work with the Salvation Army, the local community took up a collection to purchase Elmore a wooden leg to ease his mobility issues. It was with this prosthesis that he was able to play at least one season with the team. He died several years later at the age of 32 from Addison's Disease, a rare condition impacting the adrenal glands.

Clark was well known throughout the area as a proficient pitcher, having signed a contract with Rochester's Eastern League team in 1896 as the league's youngest player at 17 years old. The same year this photograph was taken, Frank VanStone was offered a tryout with Erie, Pennsylvania's baseball club, although no further note of his time with the team is mentioned.

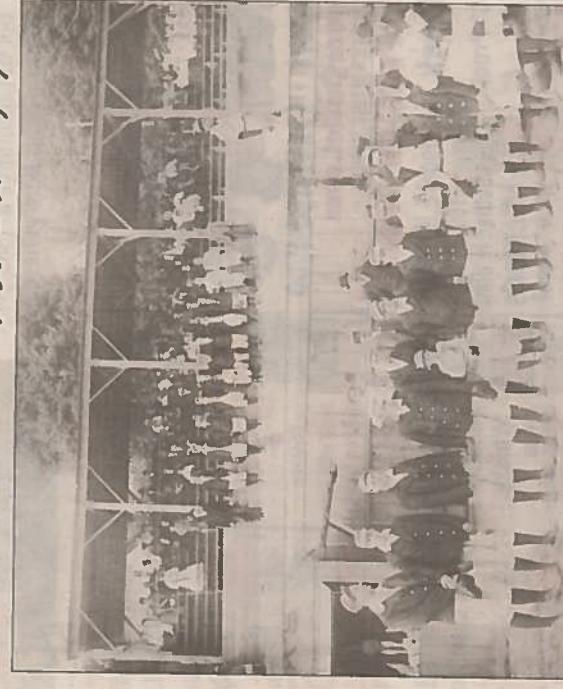
In 1895, notice appeared in

the local papers regarding Si-

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Two images show the former baseball fields in Albion. People once wore their best attire to games.

the tall man in the back wearing a derby is approximately 8 years old in the photograph. It was in 1905 that Robert

the team's mascot, Arnold is dressed in their best attire and although a number of women are visible, they are seated together for the most part.

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