

# Vincent J. Rizzo

1913 – 1997



A lifelong resident of New Orleans, Vincent Rizzo grew up in the Mid-City area, just blocks from Heinemann Park. From the age of 11 Rizzo worked at the ballpark selling soft drinks and ice cream. At different times in the 1930s he served as usher, ticket taker, manager of the box and reserved seat sections and traveling secretary.

He was a scout for the New Orleans Pelicans and the St. Louis Cardinals from 1938 until he served in the Army in World War II.

Rizzo returned to New Orleans as the General Manager of the Pelicans in 1946 and continued in that role until 1949.

Rizzo scouted for the Chicago Cubs until 1955. Having scouted for several teams, he is credited with signing some of New Orleans' brightest baseball talent to

professional contracts. Among those Rizzo is said to have signed are Nelson Nocheck, George Strickland, Hal Bevan, Ray Yochim, Lenny Yochim, Mel Rue, Ed Lavigne, Billy Adams, Jesse Danna, and Pete Modica.

Rizzo returned to the Pelicans as their General Manager for the final five years of the franchise. They were sad years, however, as the old ballpark was torn down, and Rizzo presided over the club's ill-fated move to City Park Stadium.

After his baseball career ended, Rizzo became general manager of the Fountainbleu Motor Hotel during the 1960s, which ironically stood on the very ground where Heinemann Park had once stood.

He became deputy director of the New Orleans Aviation Board in 1970 and later served as business manager at the New Orleans International Airport.

Rizzo lived through the brightest and the darkest years of the New Orleans minor league baseball scene, and he even lived long enough to see minor league baseball come back to his hometown in the form of the New Orleans Zephyrs.

He passed away on January 26, 1997 at the age of 83.