

July 9, 1907

Innocent...

Mrs. M. Hatchett an Atlanta, Georgia, widow appears in court after being charged by local police with selling permission to "outsiders" to watch baseball games at Piedmont Park through holes in her fence without a license.

A police officer at the park claims that Mrs. Hatchett is charging five cents per person to watch games through "cracks and holes" in the outfield fence.

One boy testifies that he paid Mrs. Hatchett's daughter a nickel to watch a game, but demanded his money back because he was not pleased with the location ... Hatchett denies that she charges any money to watch games.

Judge Broyles decides that there is a lack of evidence and dismisses the charges on the condition that Hatchett refrains from accepting money from people whom she allows into her yard to watch the games.

Built in 1896, Piedmont Park is the home field for the Atlanta Crackers of the Southern Association from 1902 to 1906 ... because of its limited seating (2,000) the Crackers move into newly-constructed Ponce de Leon Park starting with the 1907 season.

PAID MONEY FOR A PEEP

Children Alleged Woman Sold Holes in Baseball Fence.

Charged with selling permission to outsiders to come into her yard and look through the holes in her fence at the baseball game at Piedmont park without a license, Mrs. M. Hatchett appeared in the police court at Atlanta, Ga., and after a hearing she was allowed her freedom by the Recorder.

Detective Lockhart made the case at the instance of the police officer at the park. It was stated that Mrs. Hatchett charged five cents a head to look through the cracks and holes in her fence, which is part of the fence enclosing the baseball ground, and see the games. One little boy was in court as witness, and testified to having paid Mrs. Hatchett's little girl a nickel to see the game, but not being well pleased with the location had his money refunded and left.

Mrs. Hatchett denied that she charged any money for looking through the holes. There was no evidence produced during the trial that Mrs. Hatchett was engaged in such a business, and Judge Broyles dismissed the case on condition that the lady did not accept any pay from those people whom she allowed to go into her yard and see the games.