



WHAT HAPPENED

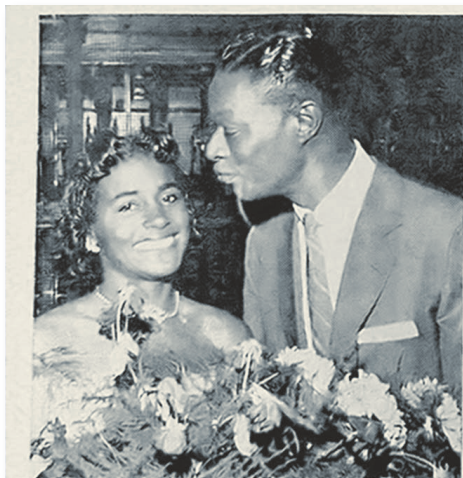
A redeveloped Lincoln Beach was opened on May 8, 1954.

Lincoln Beach was separate but definitely not equal.



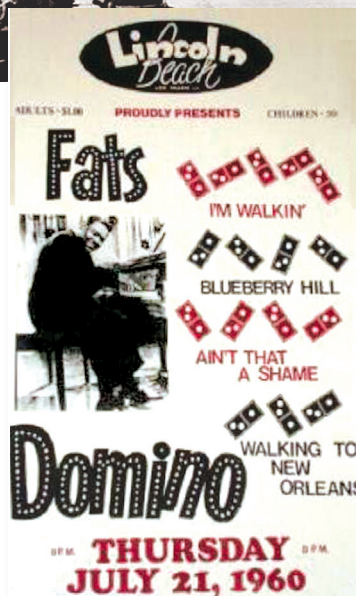
A rusted sign on Hayne Boulevard points to the former Lincoln Beach amusement park.

A revamped Lincoln Beach, with roller coasters and other rides, between 1954 and 1964,



Kingly Kiss For A Queen: Voted "Miss Lincoln Beach" in New Orleans, pretty high school senior June Foster gets set for a kiss from crooner Nat (King) Cole at Municipal Auditorium. June won title at ceremonies dedicating new beach on Lake Pontchartrain.

June Foster was crowned 'Miss Lincoln Beach' by crooner Nat King Cole at the beach's reopening in 1954.



A remnant of a swimming pool at Lincoln Beach.

Lincoln Beach booked popular local and national musicians including Fats Domino and Ike and Tina Turner.

The beach and amusement park in the eastern New Orleans area known as Little Woods started as a 2.3-acre tract deeded to the city by Sam "The Banana Man" Zemurray in 1938 as a beach for African-Americans. In 1939, the Works Progress Administration built a sand beach and beach house at the site, but it was not the equal of the whites-only Pontchartrain Beach closer to town. Visitors had to cross railroad tracks to get to the beach, and raw sewage from nearby fishing camps made the water unfit for swimming. In 1951, following public outrage over the conditions at the beach, the city and the levee board expanded it to 17 acres and built swimming pools and a new bathhouse. The revamped site was opened in 1954 and leased to an independent company that operated rides including a Ferris wheel and roller coaster. While it still didn't live up to Pontchartrain Beach, the entertainment was top tier. Nat King Cole, Ray Charles, Josephine Baker, Ike and Tina Turner, Fats Domino and Little Richard were among the entertainers who performed at the park. With the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pontchartrain Beach was opened to everyone, and Lincoln Beach closed later that year. Efforts to reopen or revitalize the Lincoln Beach site have failed.