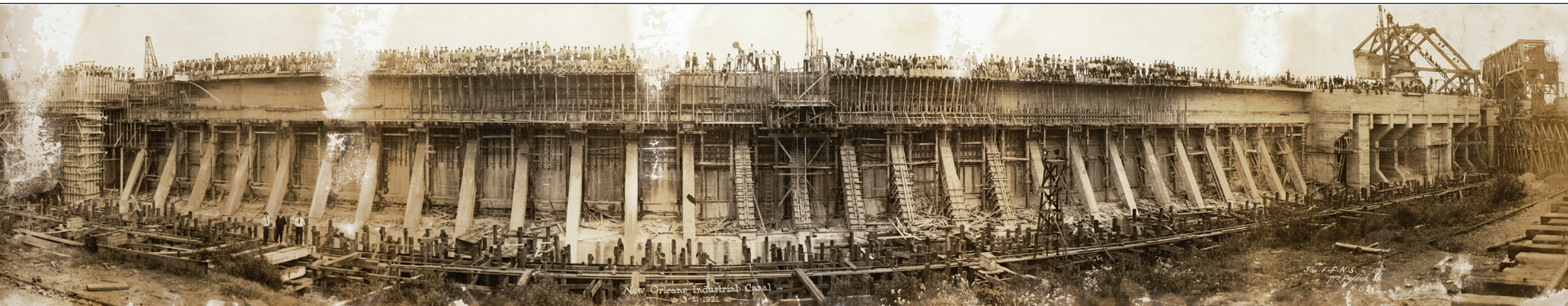




WHAT HAPPENED

The Industrial Canal officially opened on May 5, 1923.

By the time the Industrial Canal was completed in 1923, the canal was already considered too small because the locks were narrower than those on the Panama Canal, which opened in 1914.



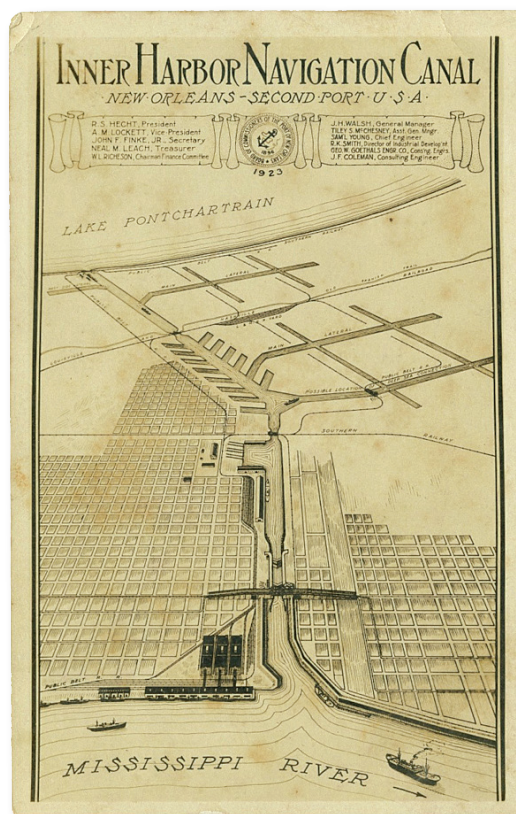
It wasn't until 1923 when the full potential of New Orleans' location between Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River was realized with the completion of the **Industrial Canal**.

Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville chose the location of the city in part because of its proximity to the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain. The 5.5-mile Industrial Canal finally linked the two bodies of water.

The Industrial Canal, officially known as the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal, uses locks to raise ships up to the level of the Mississippi River, or lower them to the level of Lake Pontchartrain. The canal was a success for businesses, which built dry docks and harbor facilities on the canal.

In 1965, a shortcut from the Gulf of Mexico to the canal, the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, was completed and was expected to bring additional business, which never materialized. But the outlet, known as "MR-GO," did provide a shortcut for storm surge when Hurricane Betsy struck in 1965 and again when Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005.

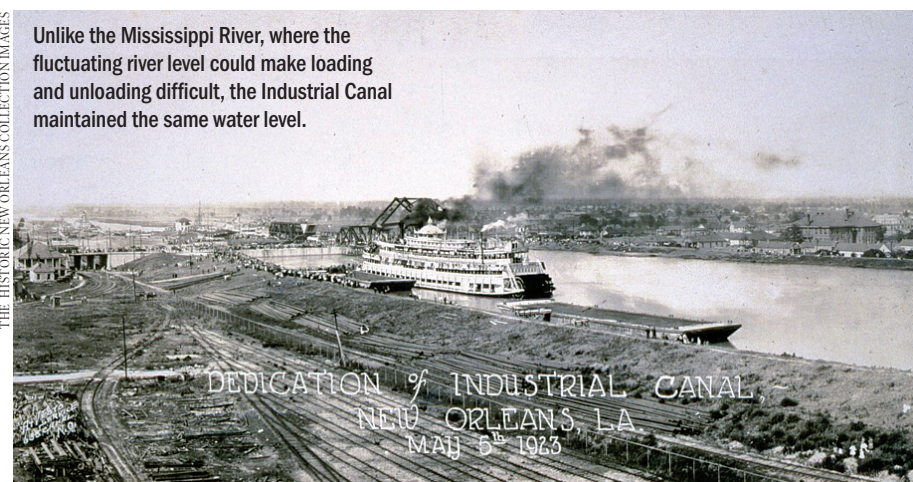
Because it contributed to Hurricane Katrina flooding, MR-GO was shut to maritime traffic in 2009. The Industrial Canal remains open. The Army Corps of Engineers has proposed a \$951.3 million widening of the lock between the canal and the Mississippi River to accommodate more modern vessels and improve traffic on the Industrial Canal.



The Industrial Canal, formally known as the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal, was called New Orleans' 'second port.'

THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION IMAGES

Unlike the Mississippi River, where the fluctuating river level could make loading and unloading difficult, the Industrial Canal maintained the same water level.



The canal's levees were breached by hurricanes in 1947, 1965 and in Hurricane Katrina in 2005.