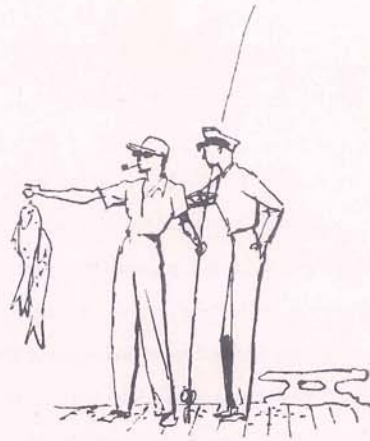




Shrimp trawlers like these, each averaging an investment around \$25,000, typify the Grand Isle Fishing Fleet that search for shrimp in the Gulf the year round.

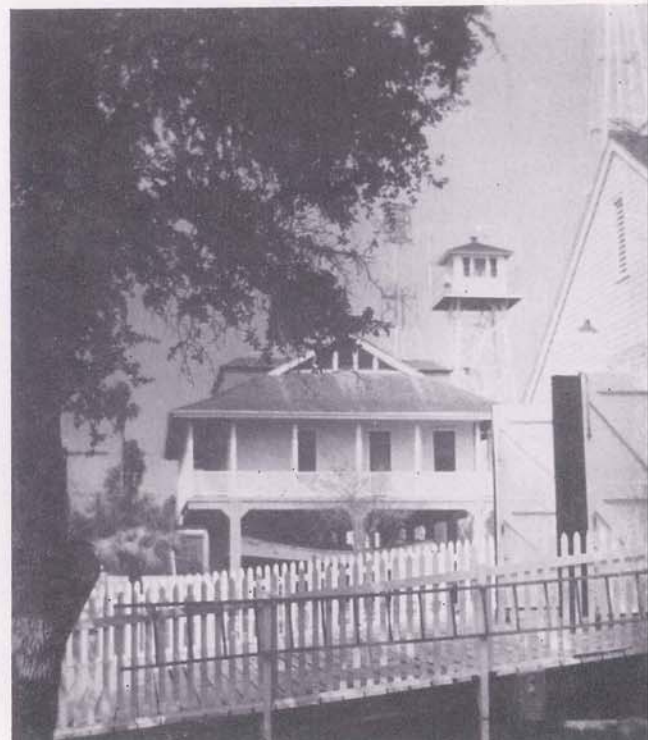
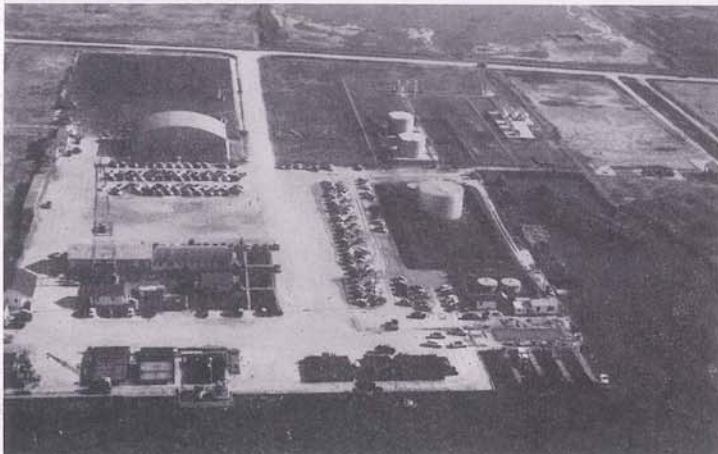


An aerial view of the always busy Grand Isle harbor at Bayou Rigaud where, all year round, in orderly confusion can be found commercial fishing boats, charter sport fishing boats, private yachts and sleek cabin cruisers.



To succor and serve Grand Isle's commercial and sport fishermen and all those who go down to the sea in ships from its shores, the U.S. Coast Guard maintains on the Island trained rescue crews and a constant vigil.

The growing importance of Grand Isle's oil drilling operations are indicated by this huge Humble Oil Company installation at Bayou Rigaud, complete with slip, docks, office headquarters, warehouses and tank storage.

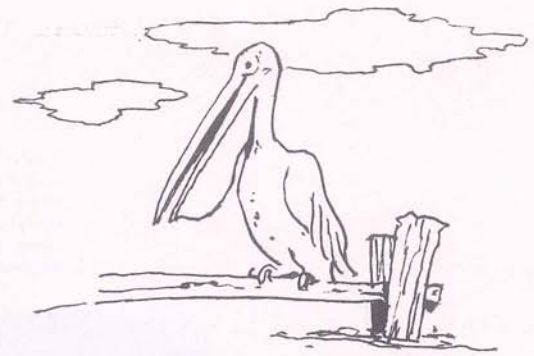


Less than twenty-five years ago there was no road to Grand Isle. Its few hundred people, although located only a hundred miles from New Orleans, lived in a primitive paradise a hundred years in the picturesque past. Its beautiful and beloved Beach of the Buccaneers was available only to those adventurous outsiders who came, like the corsairs came, by boat. It was still an undiscovered subtropical Pleasure Island . . . Then came the road, at first dusty and bumpy — but recently hard surfaced and smooth. Publicized by little more than the enthusiasm of its visitors, it has already become the mecca of sport fishermen, the sanctuary of low budget vacationists and the favorite weekend retreat of lovers of sun and surf and golden sand. As the dawn is coming up over the horizon on its long and lovely beach in the picture below, the dawn of its discovery by the rest of the nation simply awaits the rising Sun of the Seaway.





Following an exhilarating swim in Grand Isle's wonderful surf are Agnes Santangelo (Junior Miss New Orleans 1954), Caroline Santangelo (Junior Miss New Orleans 1953) and charming Temple Fleming — all residents of Jefferson Parish.



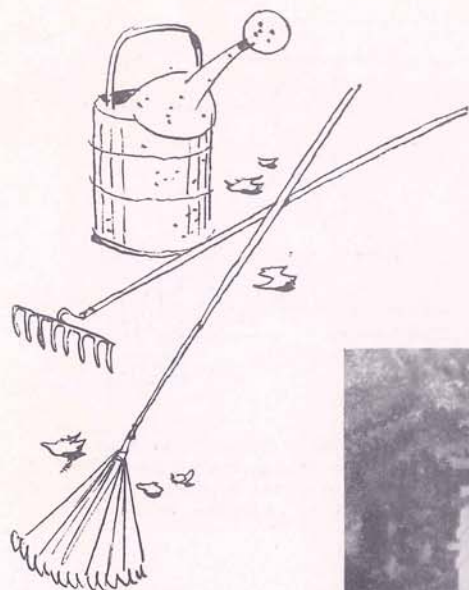
Merlin Garcia, Miss New Orleans and Miss Louisiana of 1955, accommodatingly poses to show how to acquire a golden Grand Isle tan. Miss Garcia is a resident of Gretna, Jefferson Parish.



Left: A Salute to the Dawn on Grand Isle's glorious golden beach, enacted by Merlin Garcia, who was both Miss New Orleans and Miss Louisiana of 1955.

Back from the beach, too lazy after their swim to even roll the ball over the warm sand dunes, are Temple Fleming and Agnes Santangelo, Junior Miss New Orleans 1954.



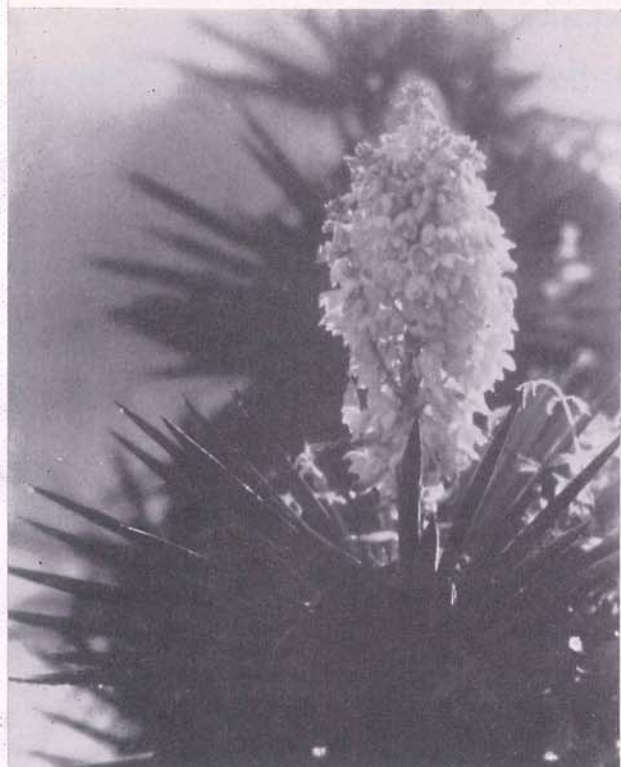


Right: Over these peaceful footpaths once trod Lafitte's Baratarians, more concerned with booty than beauty. The period and the people have changed but the background is still the same beautiful Grand Isle that sheltered the freebooters.

This is a flower draped arbored gateway to a typical Grand Isle home on Santiny Lane, where Agnes and Caroline Santangelo have just been served a friendly cup of that potent Island coffee and given a basket of Island blooms.



Left: Long a resident of Grand Isle, the Yucca or Spanish Dagger, waves a roadside welcome from unsuspected corners and crannies.



Caroline, Temple and Agnes rest on their hike in Chita Lane, one of the many tree canopied cathedral like rustic roads that beautify Grand Isle.

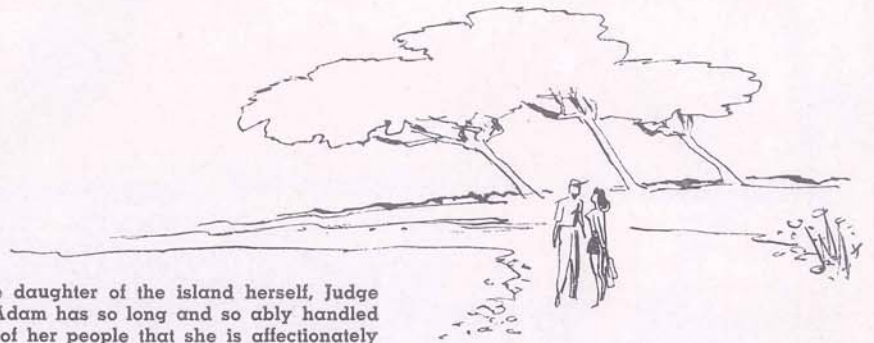




This is "Fairyland" — actually the name of a particular portion of Grand Isle, but really the description of the whole heart of the Island, that part concealed under the protecting limbs of giant patriarch oaks, bedecked with oleander and Yucca, and carpeted with fern and moss and all the infinite variety of Nature's shades of green lavishly interspersed with floral color. Along this backbone of the island, a long double row of oaks separates the back door beauty of Barataria Bay from the front door splendor of the Gulf of Mexico. Under these trees, amid these colors, the islanders have lived contentedly for countless generations and the visitors are awed with the majesty of an island wonderland which their eyes can almost encompass but their curiosity can never exhaust.



Judge Adam, the benevolent Justice of the Peace of Grand Isle for many long years, shows Temple Fleming the last of the once fabulous loot of Lafitte which, at the time the U. S. seized his pirate strongholds on Grand Terre and Grand Isle, amounted to almost a million dollars in contraband in the warehouses alone. This remaining ring was taken from a Spanish galleon by Nez Coupé, one of Lafitte's most trusted Lieutenants, who returned to his Grand Isle role of fisherman after the days of piracy were over, and it was Nez Coupé's granddaughter who presented the ring to Judge Adam. Yes, many of the present day island inhabitants are the proud descendants of these famous followers of Lafitte who, for ten long years, pirogued their plunder through the mysterious water wilderness between the Gulf of Mexico and New Orleans. And actually, the Island's greatest treasure still remains intact — its golden sand, its ruby red sunsets and the soft satin of its sea air.



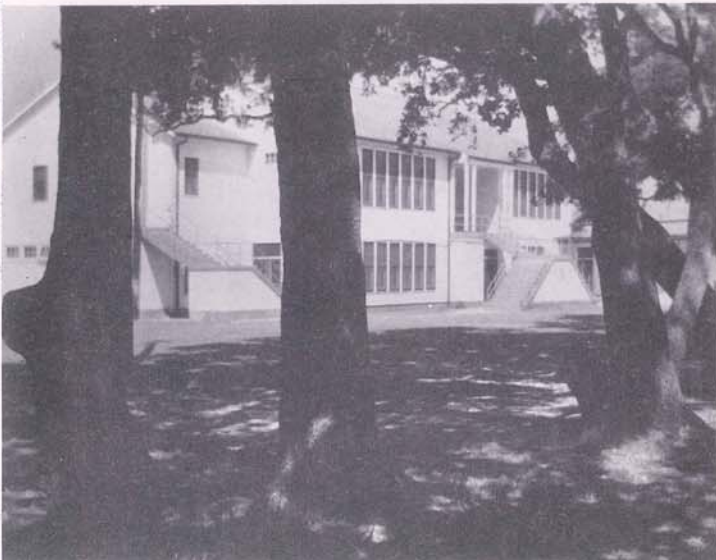
Left: A native daughter of the island herself, Judge T. Mercedes Adam has so long and so ably handled the problems of her people that she is affectionately known as "The Guardian Angel of Grand Isle."

Father Gerard Larouche of Our Lady of the Isle Church greets two Sunday visitors, for it's here that the Island's tourist Catholics attend mass.



Right: Reverend Don Minton of the Grand Isle Baptist Chapel shakes hands with his congregation after the inspiring Sunday morning sermon.

Today Grand Isle participates in the splendid Jefferson Parish School System — and here is where its children learn their three Rs and how to be good citizens.

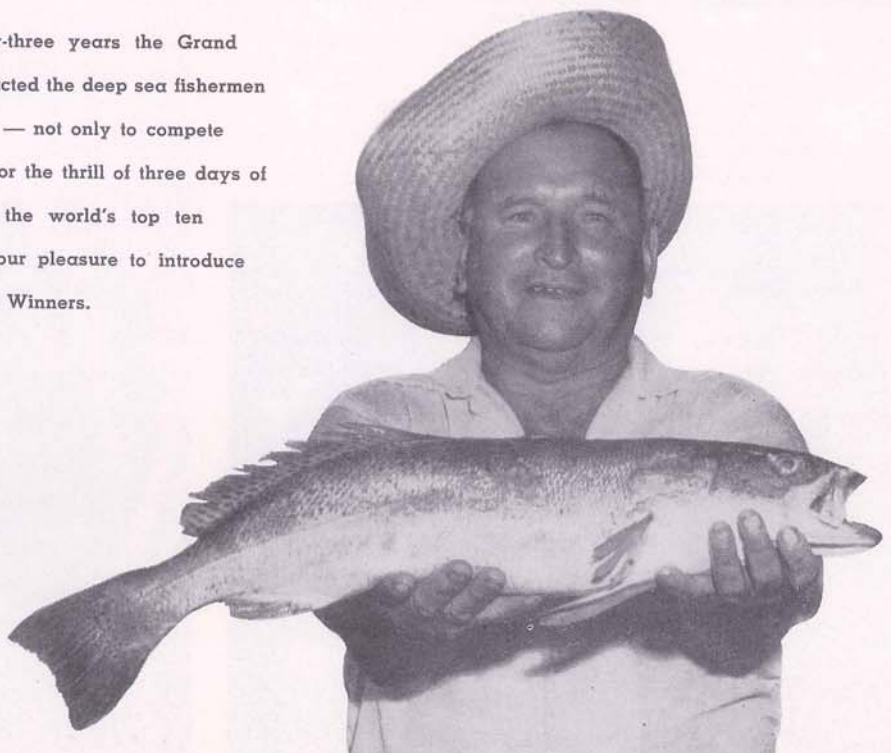


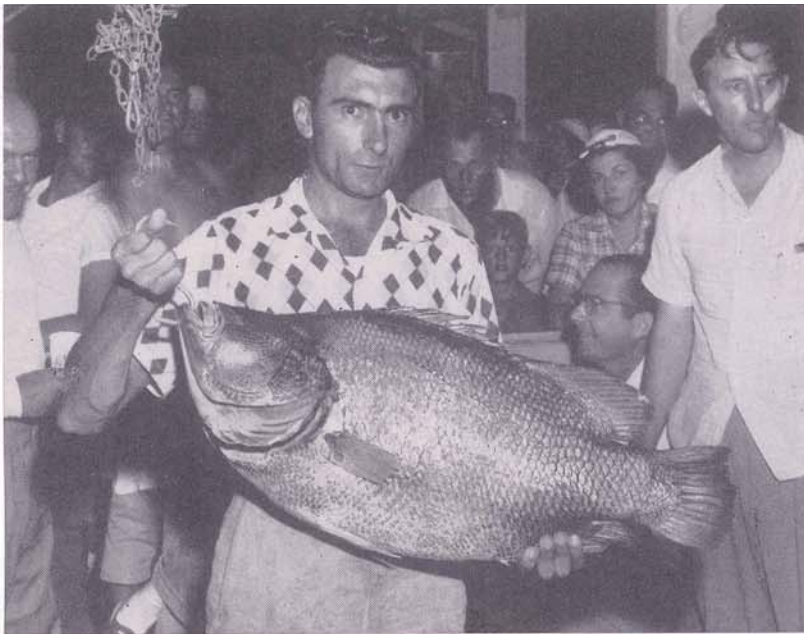


Part of the 10,000 Rodeo crowd of 1955 on the dock at Bayou Rigaud is fascinated by the fish on display caught during the exciting three days.

Every July for twenty-three years the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo has attracted the deep sea fishermen from all over the nation — not only to compete for the valuable prizes, but for the thrill of three days of exciting sport in one of the world's top ten fishing waters. It is our pleasure to introduce to you a few of the 1955 Winners.

This proud piscator is Joseph F. "Eustache" Lafont, Sr., of Grand Isle, with his prize winning 6 pound Speckled Trout. Up East it would be called a Weakfish.

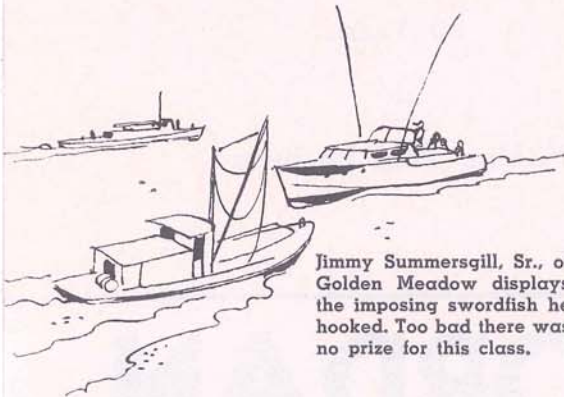




Joseph Boudreaux of Houma, Louisiana, holds up his 26½ pound Triple Tail or Black Fish that won First Prize in that class.



Helen Louise Smith of New Orleans, with two of the Speckled Trout she caught, is just as excited as if they had won a prize.



Jimmy Summersgill, Sr., of Golden Meadow displays the imposing swordfish he hooked. Too bad there was no prize for this class.



Skindivers Roland Riviere, Jr., J. Harry Bonck Jr., and Roy Smith, all of New Orleans, came up with these two massive Jewfish, one 157½ pounds, the other 159½ pounds. No prize for catching fish this unorthodox way.



Prize winning Tarpon (130 pounds, 4 ounces) was brought in by Brigadier General Raymond F. Hulft of New Orleans. It is the one he is touching.



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7, 7 $\frac{5}{8}$, 8 $\frac{5}{8}$, 9 and 9 $\frac{5}{8}$

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the TWO NEW
Jefferson Parish
Consolidated High Schools
in particular - - - -
and our School System
in general

by

MRS. A. C. ALEXANDER
PRESIDENT

JEFFERSON PARISH
SCHOOL BOARD

When school opened last September in Jefferson Parish over 2100 excited students proudly took their places in the two new Consolidated High Schools which Shelby M. Jackson, State Superintendent of Schools, rates "the most modern school buildings in the United States."

One thousand students were assigned to the one serving the West Bank at

Harvey and eleven hundred to its exact duplicate serving the East Bank at Metairie.

These two new High Schools, each costing around \$2 million, each occupying over 20 acres of ground, and each with a capacity of 1500 students from grades 10 through 12, are presented to you pictorially on the following pages.

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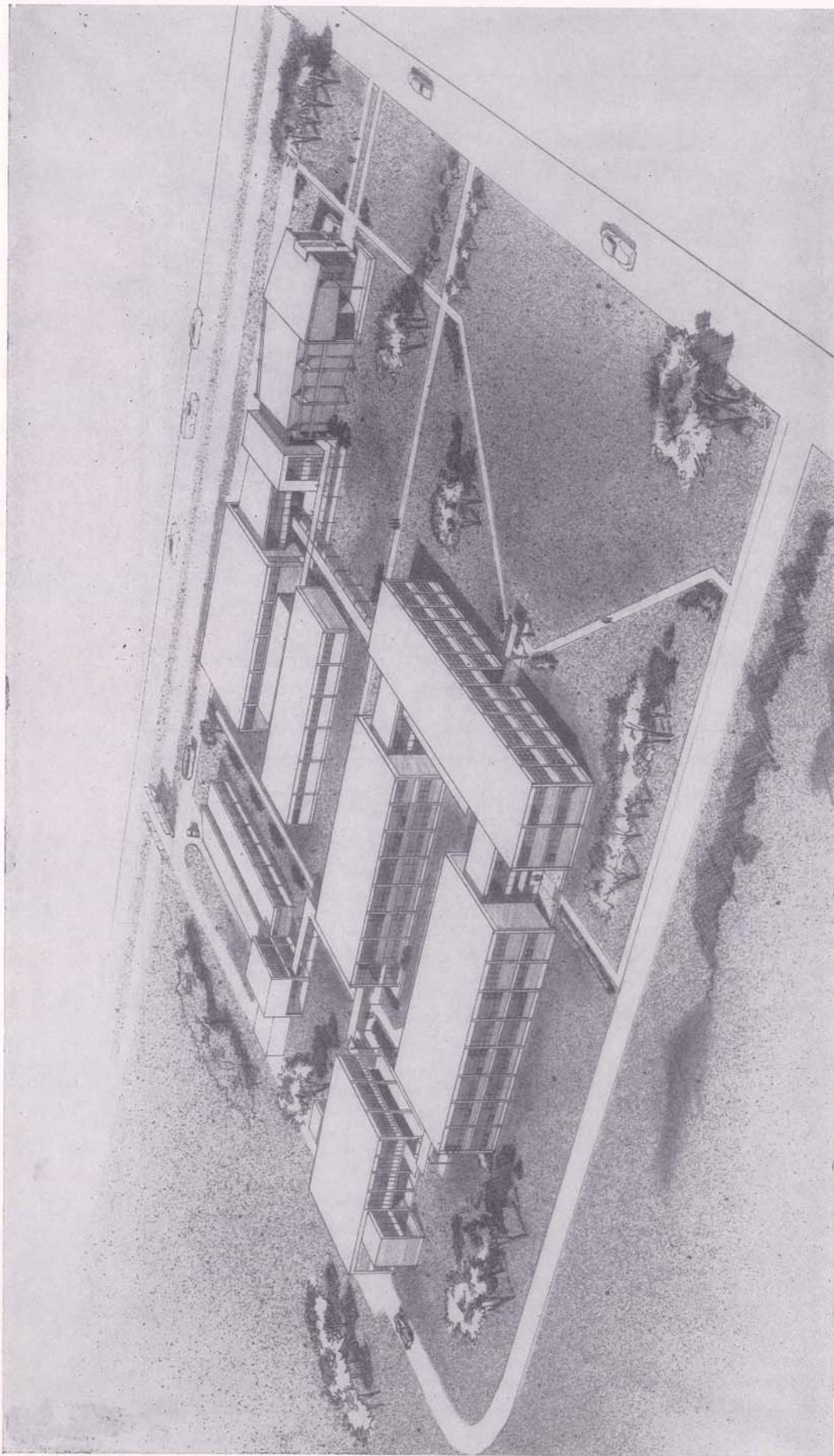
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WEST BANK CONSOLIDATED HIGH AT HARVEY

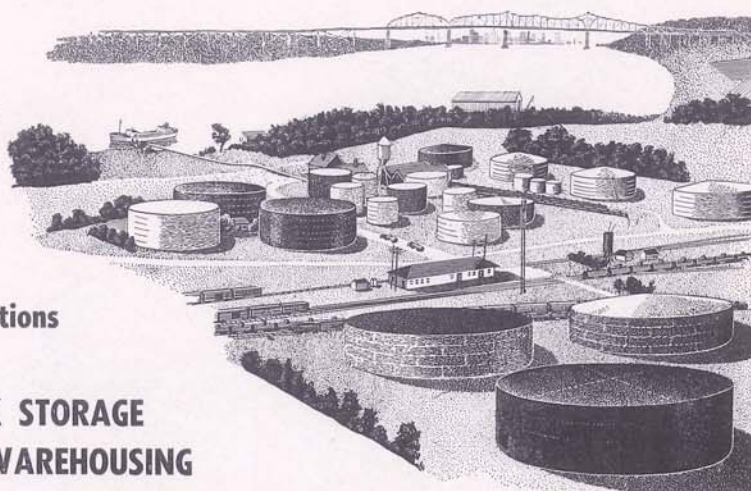
Above is the Wm. R. Burk Associated Architects' panoramic presentation of the new West Bank Consolidated High, which is about the only way we can give you an idea of how complete and comprehensive it is. The quadrangle of three buildings in the middle foreground comprises the general classroom wings and includes the administration and business offices, the library and science departments. The first building to the far left quarters the cafeteria on the first floor and the home economics department on the second. The next building immediately behind is the Industrial Arts section. And the final group of buildings in the right rear include the gymnasium, the band room and the auditorium. The front entrance is at the point of the triangle walkway in the right foreground.

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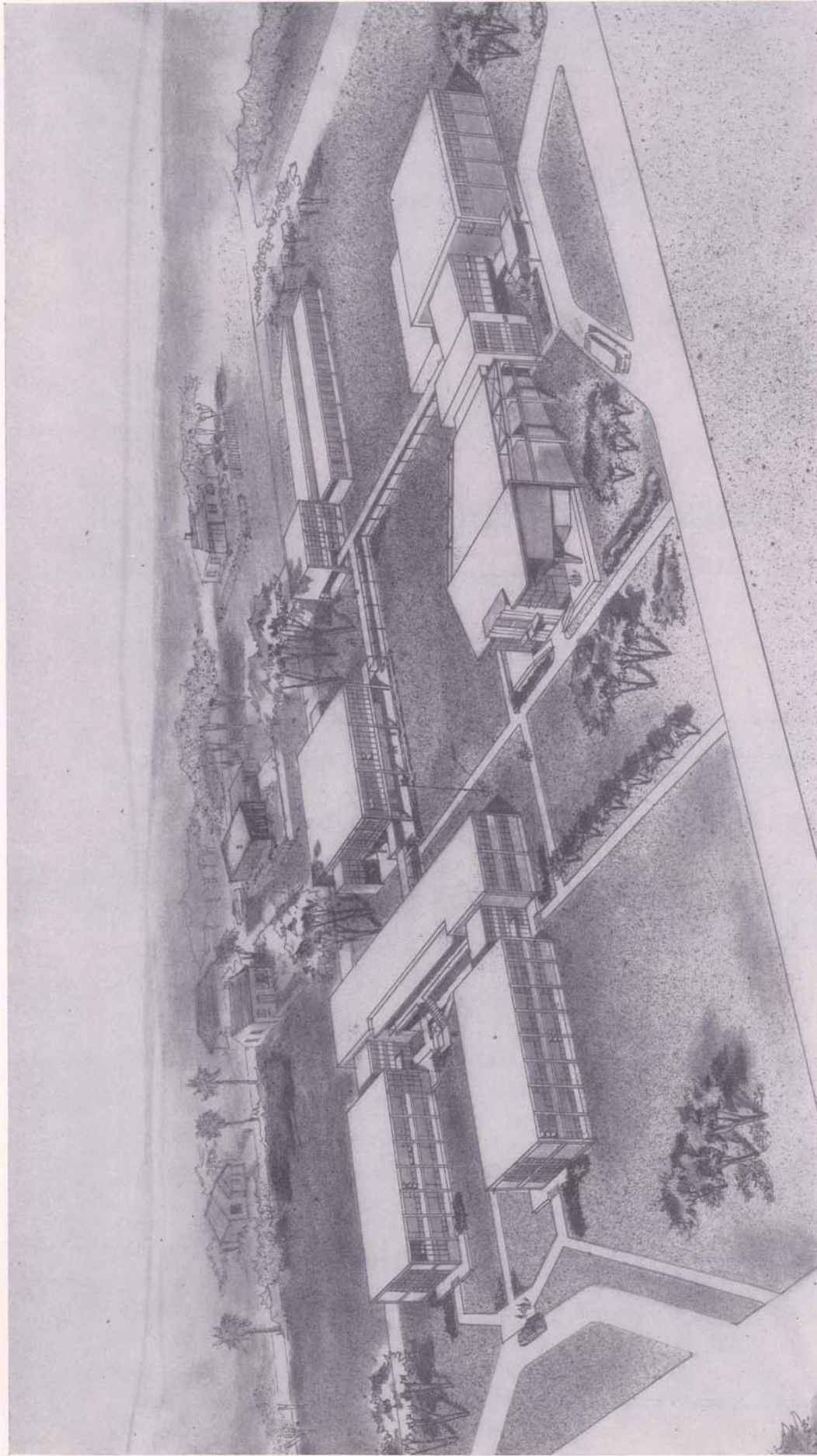
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RESOURCES		LIABILITIES	
Cash and Due from Banks.....	\$103,603,503.13	Deposits	\$404,496,159.05
U.S. Government Obligations....	160,246,234.55	Bills Payable	17,000,000.00
State, Municipal and Other Pub- lic Bonds	22,728,909.35	Acceptances	1,358,040.61
Other Bonds and Securities.....	689,414.35	Dividend Payable January 3, 1956	112,000.00
Loans and Discounts.....	159,905,806.57	Reserve for Taxes, Accrued Interest and Expenses.....	2,323,252.58
Bank Premises	3,568,189.38	Other Liabilities	76,409.65
Other Real Estate	274,604.71	Capital Stock	\$ 2,800,000.00
Customers' Liability Account of Acceptances	1,069,724.24	Surplus	17,200,000.00
Accrued Income and Other As- sets	1,683,718.66	Undivided Profits	8,404,243.05
			28,404,243.05
TOTAL	\$453,770,104.94	TOTAL	\$453,770,104.94

DEPOSITARY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, STATE OF LOUISIANA AND CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
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EAST BANK CONSOLIDATED HIGH AT METAIRIE

Above is the Wm. R. Burk Associated Architects' panoramic presentation of the new East Bank Consolidated High. The building units are the same size and design as those on the West Bank, but because of the ground shape are arranged differently. The quadrangle of three buildings at the left comprises the general classroom wings and includes the administration and business offices, the library and science departments. The next building in the middle rear quarters the cafeteria on the first floor and the home economics department on the second. The next building in the right rear is the Industrial Arts section. The compact group of buildings at the right front includes the gymnasium, the band room and auditorium. The front entrance is indicated at the extreme left.

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The architectural photographs on this and the following page were taken by Frank Lotz Miller and furnished through the courtesy of Wm. R. Burk Associated Architects and Engineers.

Within our space limitations we will guide you through these two new magnificent educational institutions where today's teen-agers are trained for tomorrow's community leadership — each school comprising two wings of approximately 50 general classrooms, plus Gym, Auditorium, Home Economics Department and Cafeteria, Science Department, Administration offices, Library, Workshops and Vocational Building and Power Plant.

These two schools are our proudest achievement of 1956 and thoroughly deserve the featured pictorial importance we are giving them in our report this year to the readers of the REVIEW. But we ask you to overlook our enthusiasm and excitement and help us remember another very important fact — that throughout this parish, where the welfare and education of its young people always holds top priority, we are constantly completing, working on or planning many other projects affecting the entire 23,000 children enrolled in Jefferson's public schools.

We have discovered during recent years that our school enrollment almost automatically and unfailingly increased at least 10% each year, which means we are never finished adding to our facilities.

Contrary to the prevalent national shortages of schools, we are parish-wide about a year ahead of our enrollment capacity. In our six Junior Highs, we are about 3 years ahead. Our present schools are ample and modern — no children are on the platoon system, and every educable enrolled gets a full day's schooling — but to keep our school system that way our construction and expansion program can never stop or even slow down.

In addition to the two new Consolidated Highs, we have recently completed the following additions to present schools: 6 new classrooms at the John Clancy School; 4 new classrooms at the Kenner Colored School; 4 new classrooms at the John H. Martyn School, the Shrewsbury Colored; and 6 new classrooms at Lincoln High.

And, right now, on a pay-as-you-go basis from sales tax revenue, we are planning to complete by the end of 1956 a brand new school in the Airline Park Subdivision area to cost around \$350,000.



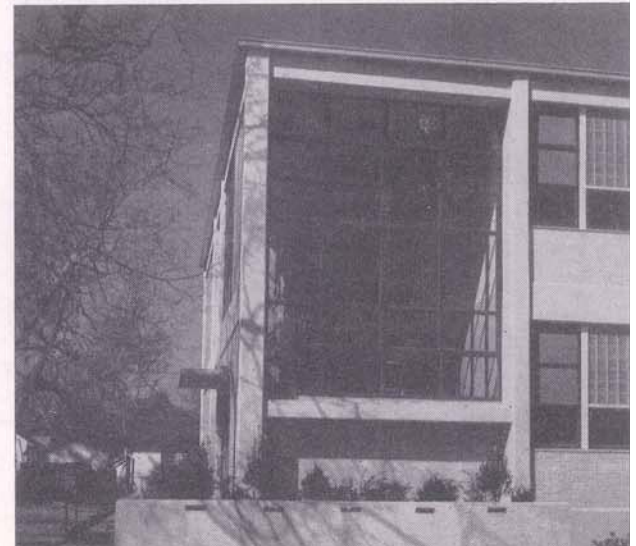
The central entrance stair of East Bank High, forming the focal point of the court made by the general classroom wings.

●

The same East Bank High stair sector pictured above, but from another angle, showing its design, beauty and harmony with the court formed by the buildings.



A close-up of one sector of the general classroom section of the East Bank Consolidated High.



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The School Board is also planning another elementary school in the rear of Gretna, one on the Jefferson Highway and one in the Hazel Park area of Harahan. And in the not too distant future our aggressive leaders in education envisage a Jefferson Parish Junior College on both the West Bank and East Bank of Jefferson Parish.

A part of our job of furnishing adequate free public education within the funds allowed us is the tremendous and often ignored responsibility of transportation. We safely bring to school in the morning and back home in the afternoon, every school day in the school year, the majority of the 34,000 children now enrolled in Jefferson Parish — and that includes all children going to public, parochial or private schools. To do this job efficiently we have recently added 12 new school busses, and our fleet now totals 60 vehicles, one for every mile of the parish length.

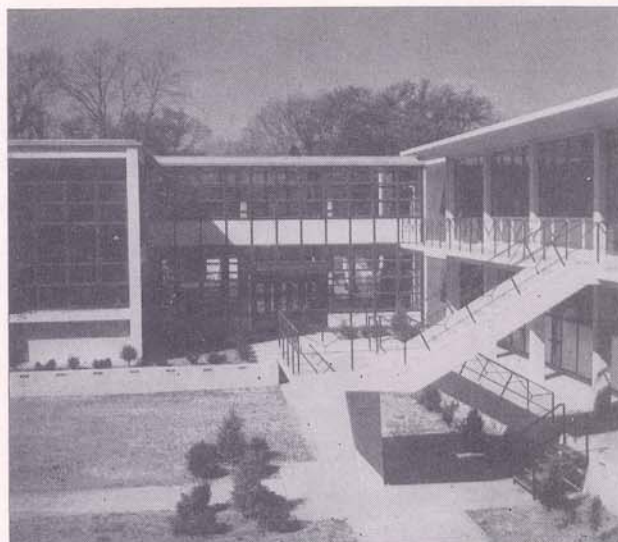
A new and little known innovation in education instituted this year by the Jefferson Parish School Board was the hiring of an itinerant teacher to visit the homes and give instruction to children immobilized by polio or some similar handicap. This is in addition to the class room instruction for physically and mentally handicapped which has long been a part of our school system.

1955 was the year in which, after a long weary struggle, we finally caught up with our major construction program. 1956 will go down in school history as the year the two new Consolidated High Schools focused the eyes of the education world on the ability of Jefferson Parish to take care of its own.

But neither of these red letter years has diminished our problems or minimized our projects. Our responsibilities keep growing larger in direct proportion to the growth of our parish population.

This is a multi-million dollar a year enterprise. Nearly two million dollars annually are expended on the education of our children alone, a figure which has nothing to do with the enormous capital investment in buildings and equipment.

We cannot ask you to take the time to visit our schools parish wide — but we do invite you to spend a day with us at one of the two new High Schools — and watch tomorrow's leaders learn today's lessons in two of the finest institutions of learning that a community can furnish its future citizens.

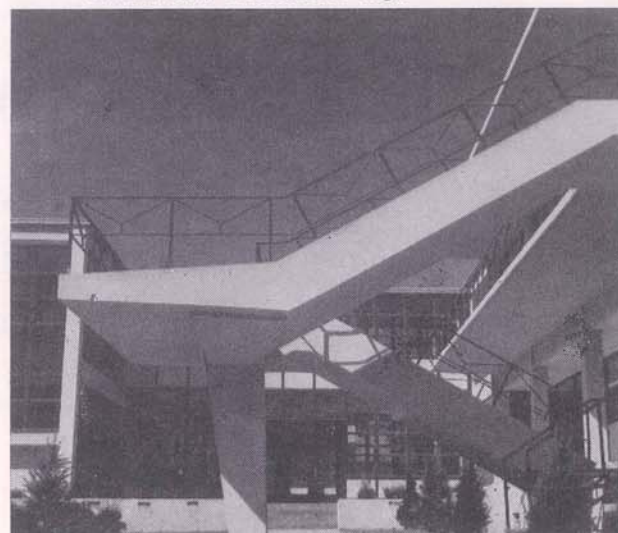


Looking toward the two level glazed passage between classroom unit wings at East Bank Consolidated High.

View from the bus shelter down the axis of covered walls between the gym and auditorium buildings and home economics and cafeteria building on East Bank.



Another dramatic view of the central entrance stair arrangement to the main classroom section of East Bank Consolidated High.



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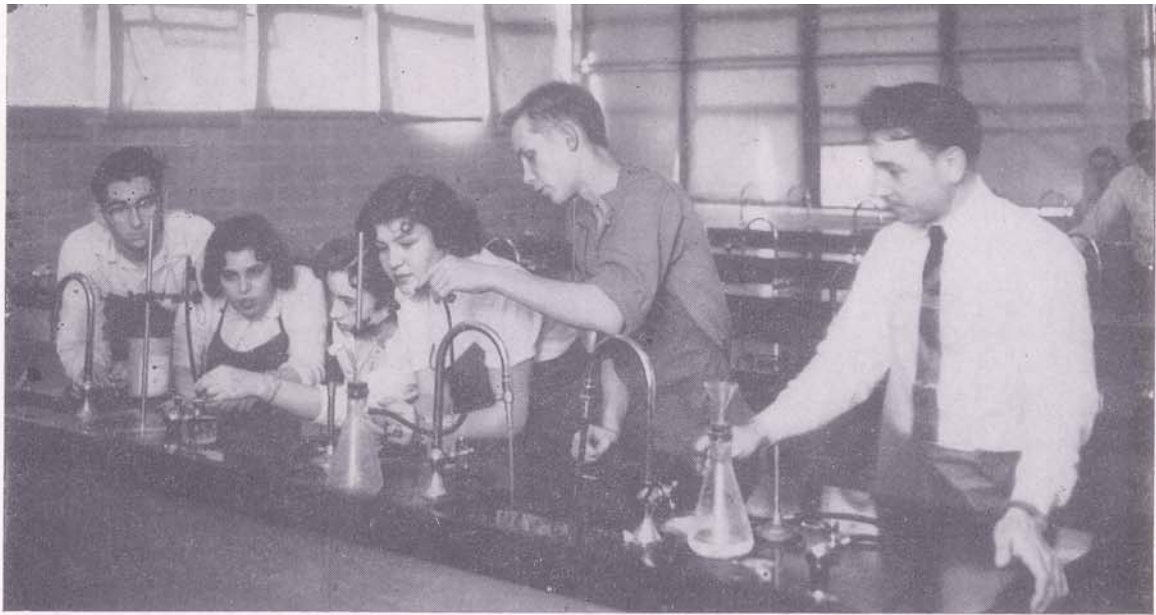
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With marvelous equipment to work with the chemistry laboratory at East Bank Consolidated High is an exciting and interesting land of learning. Here are shown one class of intent students and Mr. Varisco, their Science Instructor.



We introduce a few future home-makers from the spic and span Home Economics Department of West Bank Consolidated High. Left to right, they are: Seated, Mrs. Herman D. Calvin, Instructor; standing, Deanna Landry, Theresa Theriot, Clair D'Angelo and Gerald Lynn Orgeron. Seated are Myrna Cargol, Rose Ann Layacano, Carol Ann Sprauer and Mary Frances Savona.

Working at their drawings in the Art Class of Miss Corrine Oplatek are (left) Hubert Barrios and Carroll Boudreaux. Creating a papier mache figure on the right are Emma Lois Bruce and Marcia Kerner.





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PART OF OFFICE AREA OF WEST BANK CONSOLIDATED HIGH

Right: Photographed in the Industrial Arts Department of East Jefferson Consolidated High are shown Dominick Gerari, Henry Bruzean and John Frances cogitating over a problem of measurement on their project.



Below: Here they are in the West Bank Consolidated High Library engaged in that age old student activity known as "cramming"—under the helpful eye of Miss Salome Thalheim, Librarian.





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WEST JEFFERSON "SWEETHEARTS OF BEAUTY" CONTEST

Here she is—the Winner with her Maids of Honor! Miss Ann Buzzell on the piano bench, chosen the Sweetheart of West Jefferson High. The maids are, standing left to right: Myrna Cargol, Doris Taylor, Audrey Boudreaux, and Lanielle Taylor. Seated, first row: Geraldine Griffin, Jeanne Matilich and Marlyne Adams. Seated, second row: Juli Gulledge, Sylvia Marcomb and Gerald Lynn Orgeron. Standing, back row: Judy Cambre and Gail Pitre. The "Sweetheart of West Jefferson High" will be the Beauty Sweetheart of the School's Yearbook "The Buccaneer."

Just a peek in at one of the East Jefferson High Classes in instrumental music, conducted by Instructor Michael Clancy and thoroughly enjoyed by the Sousas of both sexes.



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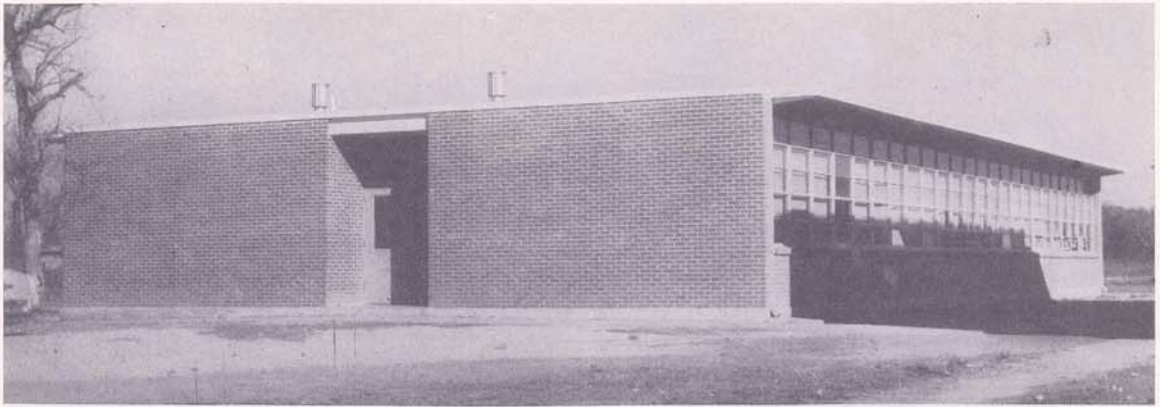
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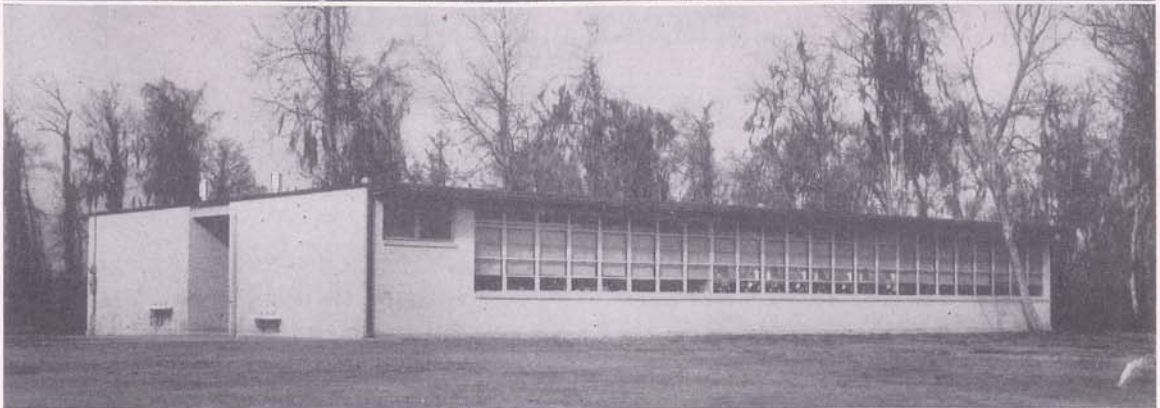
A



B



C



D



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- B—Classrooms added to John H. Martyn School of Shrewsbury.
- C—Classrooms added to John Clancy School at Kenner.
- D—Classrooms added to Kenner Colored School at Kenner.



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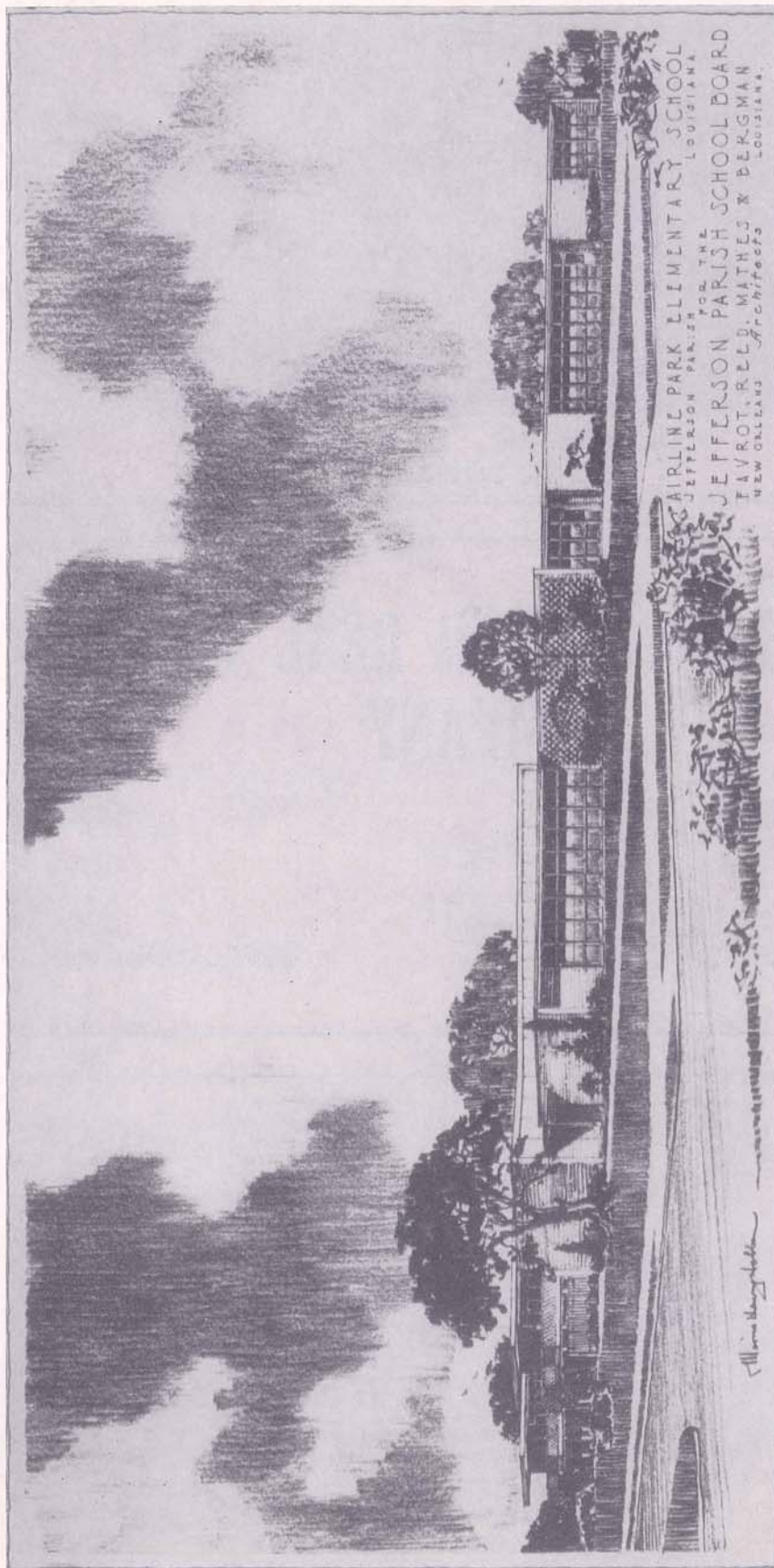
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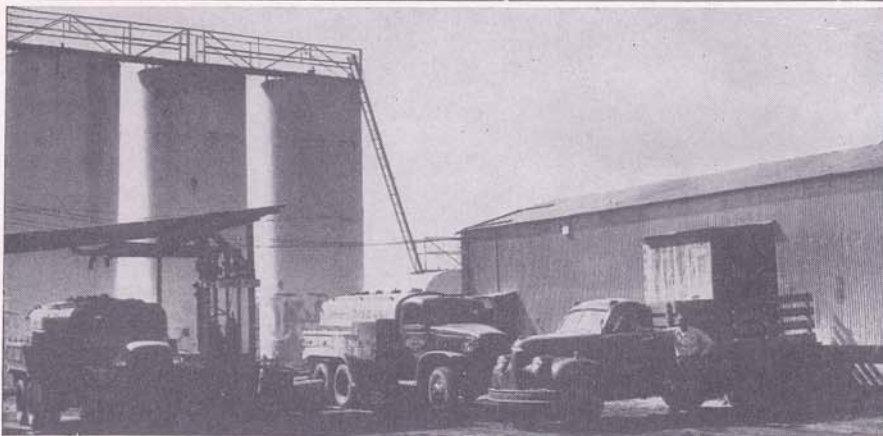
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An architectural preview of the planned new Airline Park Elementary School which will contain 14 classrooms for grades 1 through 6. It will also include a combination auditorium and cafeteria with kitchen attached, plus an administrative suite and principal's room, toilet rooms together with first aid rooms for boys and girls, and faculty lounge with toilet rooms for ladies and men. There is an inner courtyard for the protected play of the younger children. Each classroom will contain cabinets for the storage of materials, books, etc., and since there is no central library each room will have its own library corner. The entire property of the school will be fenced in for play protection and security against vandalism.



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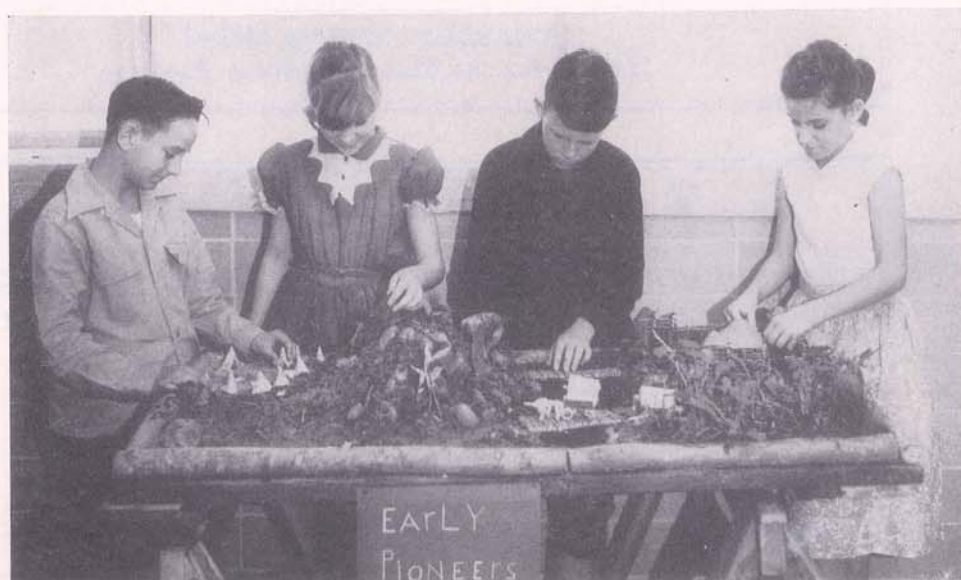
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Presenting a group of First and Second Graders at Waggaman School in Reading Class: left to right are Vernon Rainey, Linda Bostick, Connie Lauve, Gregory Rigamer, Grace Post and Jane Mack. Excitedly they are learning that reading is a round trip to all the wonders of the world.



At Westwego Junior High four Sixth Graders enjoy this practical method of tying in history with botany, science and biology. Studying the planting projects of the early pioneers are Ronald Plaisance, Brenda Granier, Roland Este and Mary Ann Bergeron.



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Discussing the dolls of foreign countries as part of their Social Studies Program (a \$64 phrase that means learning how the rest of the world lives) are these feminine First Graders of Gretna #2. Left to right are Dona Lynn Smith, Ruth Granein, Janice Johnson, Jean Johnson, Susan Hodos, Carol Boudreaux, Janet Schnell and Nancy Kerner. Seated in the middle is Brenda Fos.

First Graders at McDonogh #26 under Shirley T. Johnson are all set to demonstrate their recently acquired musical knowledge—with instruments. You guessed it, they play by ear yet. First row are Carol Lang, Russell Kraus, Karen Vicknair, Sharon Vicknair, and Kathy Harvey. Back row are Alton Guillot, Ruth Ann Rodgers, Glen Treadway and Russell LeBlanc.





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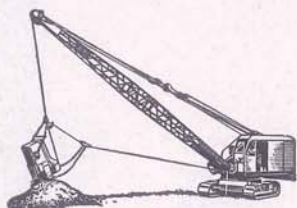


The Fourth Graders of Barataria Boulevard School practice political speeches, utilizing puppets, thus exercising their ability to dramatize their arguments. Orators in action are (left to right) Susan King, Thomas Bear, Ruth Jackson, Billy Haggard, Patricia Calloway and Gene Cavalier. Incidentally, notice the plates above the blackboard. They are souvenir plates, each showing an original winter scene, all handmade by this School's handicraft class.

At the Ames School Fourth Graders Barbara Bailey and Richard Falgoust learn geography by creating miniatures of the country side and characters they are studying. It's like visiting, for instance, the Andes in South America.



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Presenting the 4H Club at Marrero Junior High School of which Noll Taylor is Reporter, Veronica Roberts is Secretary-Treasurer, Yvonne Standridge is President and Wm. Crabtree is Vice-President. In the picture each is proudly displaying his or her particular 4H project.

Although this outdoor play period shot of East End School is the only playground photograph we have space to show you this issue, we want you to know that the play yards of our schools occupy many of the expensive acres of our school properties.



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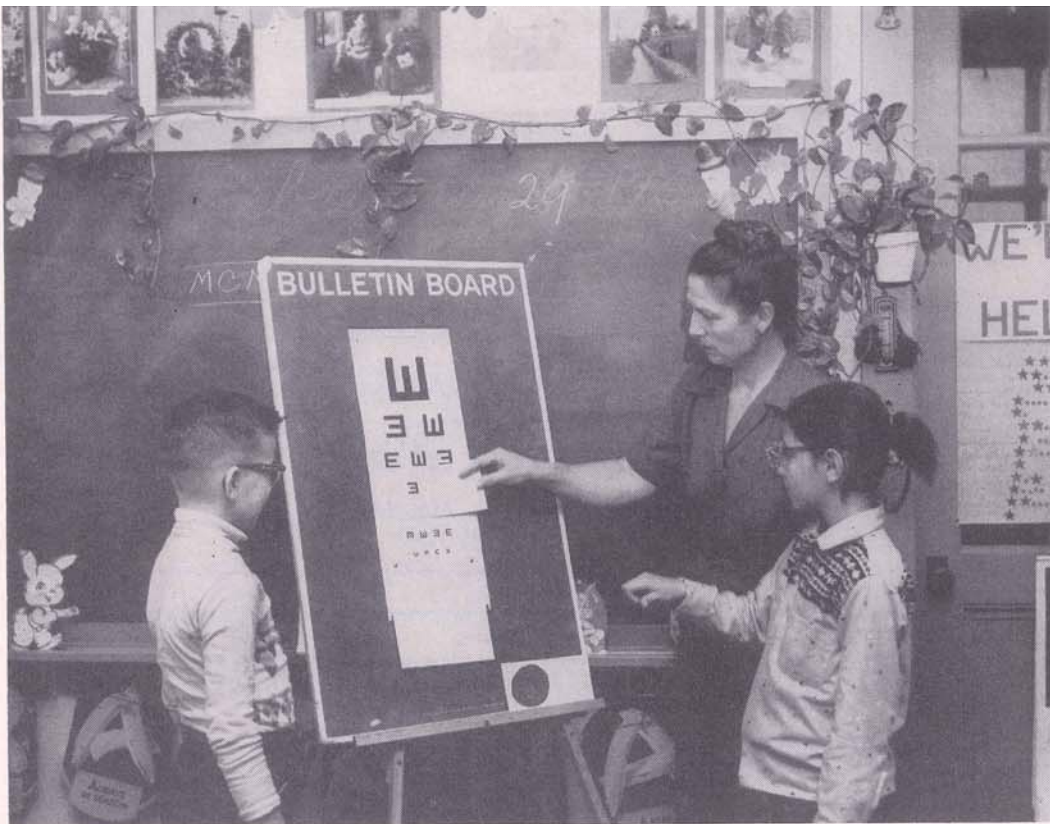
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Teacher Zorilda D. Rapp of Deckbar School is testing the eyesight of her Fourth Graders. Under examination are Michael Crow (left) and Jacquelyn Tusa.

This Sixth Grade Class of Bridgedale, under the supervision of their teacher Mrs. Love, participated in the Annual Youth Concert State Wide Art Contest. The pupils painted in the tempera medium on newsprint, using the bright colors of red, blue and yellow to depict the flowers of Finland, Finnish landscapes and the "Swan of Tuonella." Theme was Art to Music by Sibelius. Left to right are Barbara Lee, Lydia Candela, Patricia Roshto, Bill Springer, Juanita Wiltz (teacher Mrs. John P. Love), and Eugenie La Mulle.



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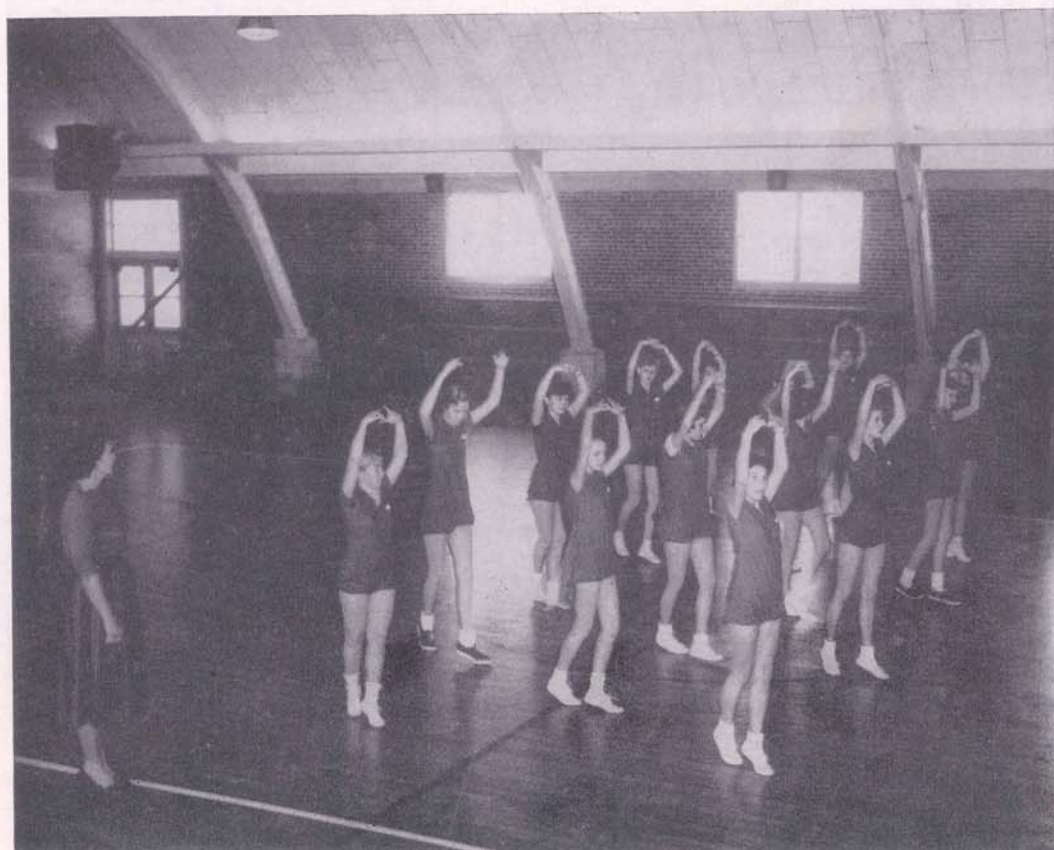
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At the Library of Gretna Junior High these students find reading and research a very pleasant path to learning. If in doubt, ask them! Left to right are Tommy Hamilton, Wayne Kimberly, Alvin Dugas, Sarah Loyocana, Ursula Allain and Karen Walter.

Showing the Kenner Junior High Ninth Grade Girls Physical Education Class dancing to Rustic Schottische to Winter Wonderland under the direction of Physical Education Director, Mrs. Elizabeth O. Easley.



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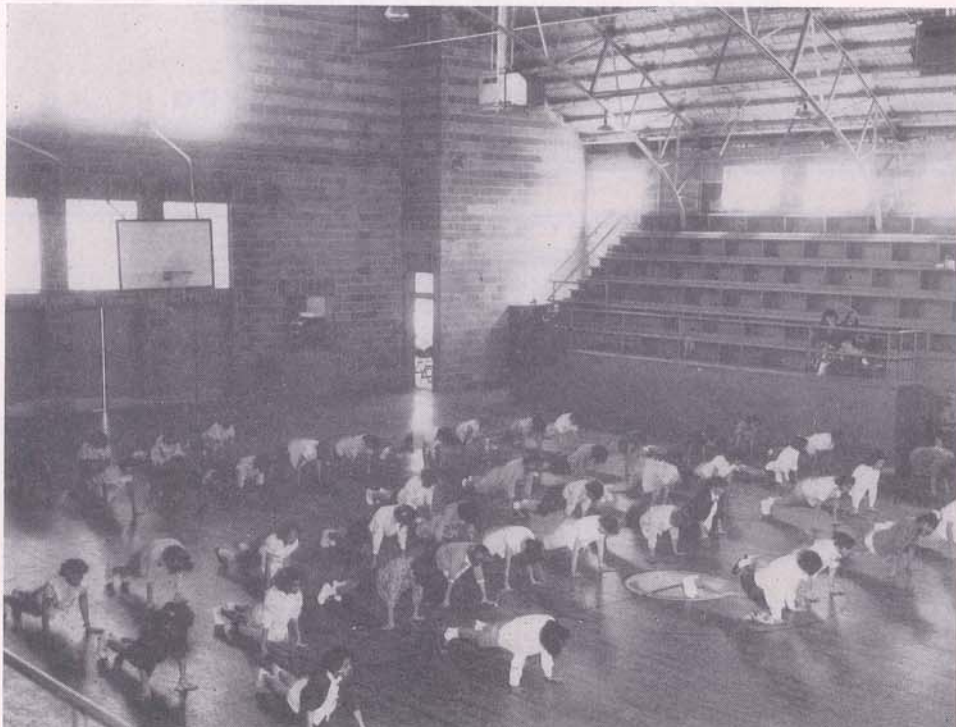
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The Jefferson Junior High Junior Red Cross has been very active this year. Among their many projects were an International Red Cross Album to a school in Greece, 150 Educational Boxes and favors for Christmas, George Washington's Birthday and St. Patrick's Day. Seated left to right are Virginia Harmeyer, Connie Eble and Sue Hebert. Standing, left to right, Pamela Hotard, Ray Gilcreast, Cheryl Slay, Sylvia Hodges and Kathlee Smith. Mrs. Flora Bradley, Jefferson Junior Red Cross Representative. Mrs. Westley Boyd, Classroom Teacher.

A Ninth Grade Physical Education Group at Metairie Junior High doing their regular warm up exercises before class under the supervision of Mrs. Mildred Williams, Physical Education Teacher.





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Rear row seated, left to right: Joseph Augustin, Ward 11, Grand Isle; Horace Terrebonne, Ward 4, Westwego; Abel Zeringue, Ward 5, Waggaman; W. Richard White, Ward 3, Gretna; Jules G. Mollere, Ward 8, Metairie; Loney J. Autin, Ward 1, Gretna (McDonoghville); Mrs. Jeanette Dorroh, Office Secretary; Lem W. Higgins, Superintendent of Schools; Julius F. Hotard, Vice President; Ward 2, Gretna; Mrs. A. C. Alexander, President, Ward 9, Kenner; Louis E. Breaux, Ward 8, Metairie; John C. Bruning, Ward 10, East End; and J. Harry Stevens, Ward 9, Little Farms.

Front row seated, left to right: John A. Angoussot, Ward 4, Marrero; Dave Dabria, Ward 4, Marrero; Donald T. Gillen, Ward 7, Jefferson Heights; Mrs. Francis J. Banker, Ward 8, Metairie; Mrs. Hazel D. Keller, Ward 7, Hymen Subdivision; and Evett R. Schieffler, Ward 6, Lafitte.

Standing rear, left to right: Peter Bertucci, Supervisor, Lunch Rooms; Walter J. Schneckenberger, 2nd Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Paul J. Solis, 1st Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

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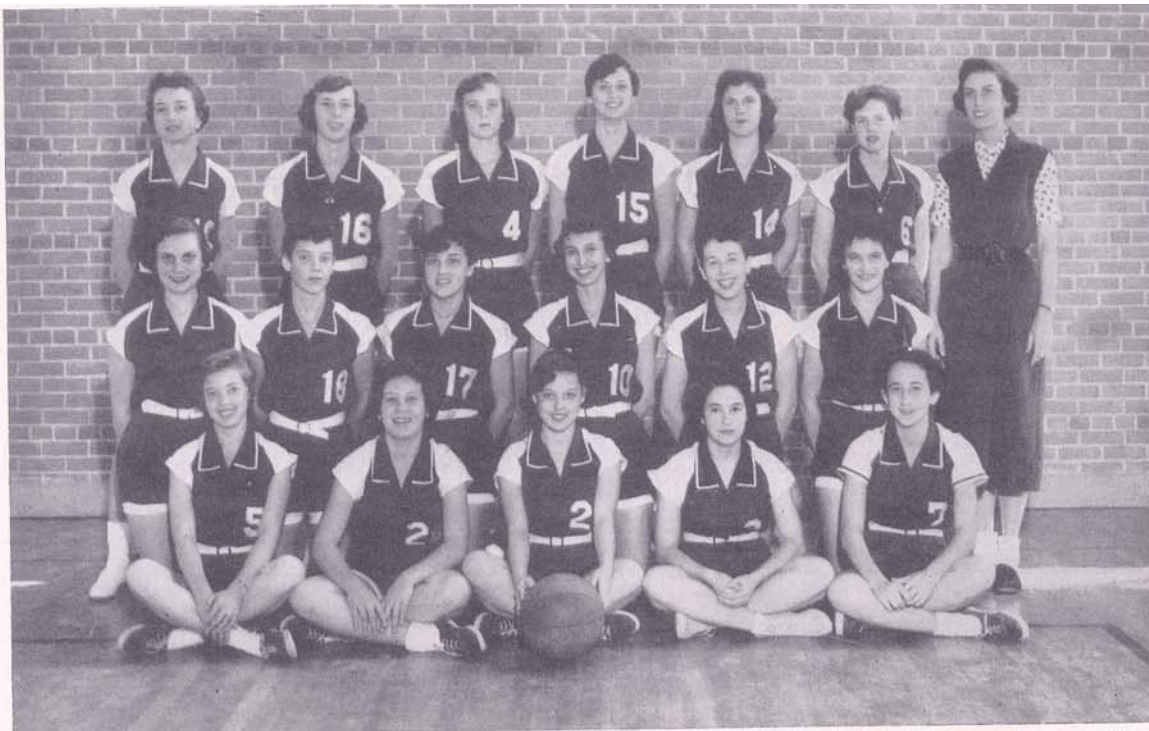
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SCHOOL BOARD PERSONNEL

Seated, left to right: Miss Ruth Pitre, Supervisor of Schools; Mrs. Jeanette Dorroh, Secretary; Lem W. Higgins, Superintendent of Schools; Paul J. Solis, First Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Walter J. Schneckenberger, Second Assistant Superintendent of Schools. Standing, left to right: Frank Ehret, Visiting Teacher; Edgar L. Stevens, Accountant; Miss Jo Ann Ceravola, Clerk; Peter Bertucci, Supervisor, Lunch Rooms; Miss Bertha Arcement, Clerk; Miss Dorothy Katicich, Clerk; Mrs. Mabel S. Mack, Clerk; Mrs. Dolores K. Enloe, Clerk; Arthur F. O'Neill, Supervisor of Maintenance; Mrs. Gertrude Lanier, Clerk; Mrs. Lena Keller, Payroll Clerk; and Lloyd Clancy, Visiting Teacher.



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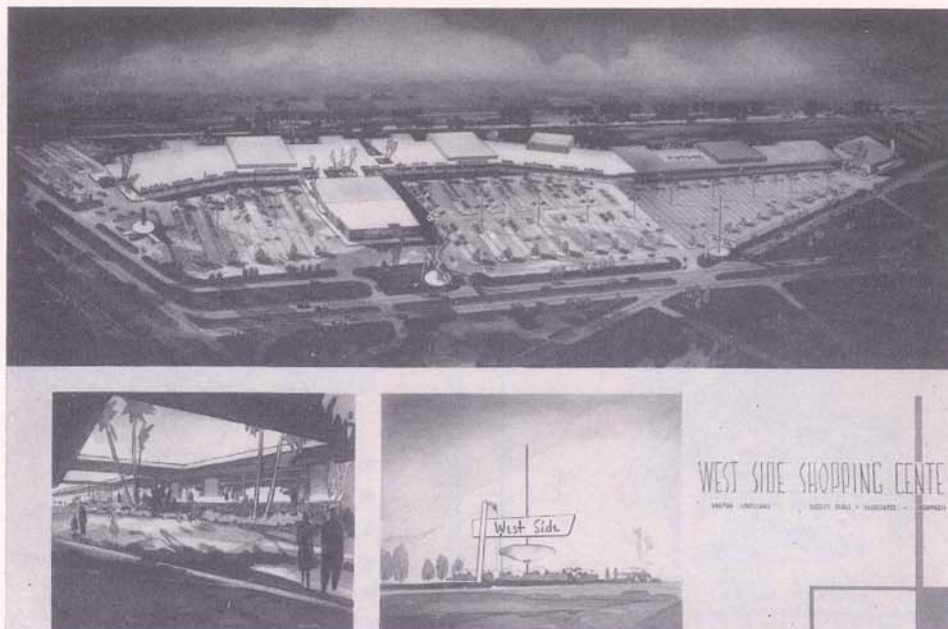
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Mayor of Gretna

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Here at Gretna, over the years, have congregated the generations of able leaders who have successfully guided Jefferson Parish from anonymity to the most highly concentrated and fastest growing industrial area in the Deep South.

Gretna is both the oldest and largest city of Jefferson Parish. It is the center of its banking, its business and its

law making activities. It is its capital and it is only right and proper that its outskirts should be the West Bank Gateway to the great new Mississippi River Bridge destined to be completed and in operation in 1958. Even more so is it right and proper, when we remember that it was Jefferson Parish officials, in Gretna assembled, who way back in 1926 first launched the idea of this Mississippi River Bridge and astutely picked almost the present spot of its location.

In two years time, when traffic starts across the new mighty Mississippi Bridge, it will be only ten minutes by automobile from the center of downtown Gretna to the center of downtown New Orleans. Only ten pulsing minutes

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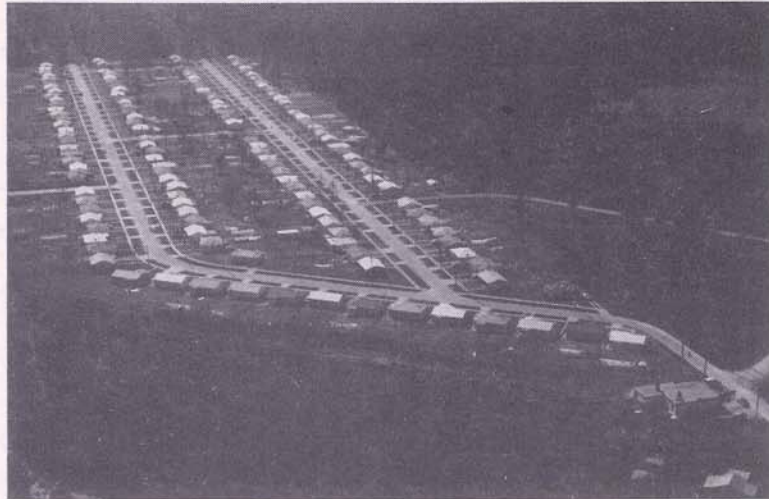
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Another view of Gretna's new building activity in another section



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Over a million people with common business interests, who have been frustrated and separated by the time wasting width of the river too long, will mingle and merge and multiply. A twinship and kinship between the two cities will soon be so completely cemented, and the resulting civic partnership will create a combined metropolis so be-

yond our present comprehension that the entire Greater New Orleans Area will wonder why it waited so long to accomplish something so important to its wealth and welfare.

Although the Bridge span, which is predicted will carry nearly nine million vehicles a year, is only fairly started Gretna already feels the expansion that is a preliminary part of it. The tremendous West Bank Expressway and Harvey Canal Tunnel, for instance, that will connect the West Bank with the two

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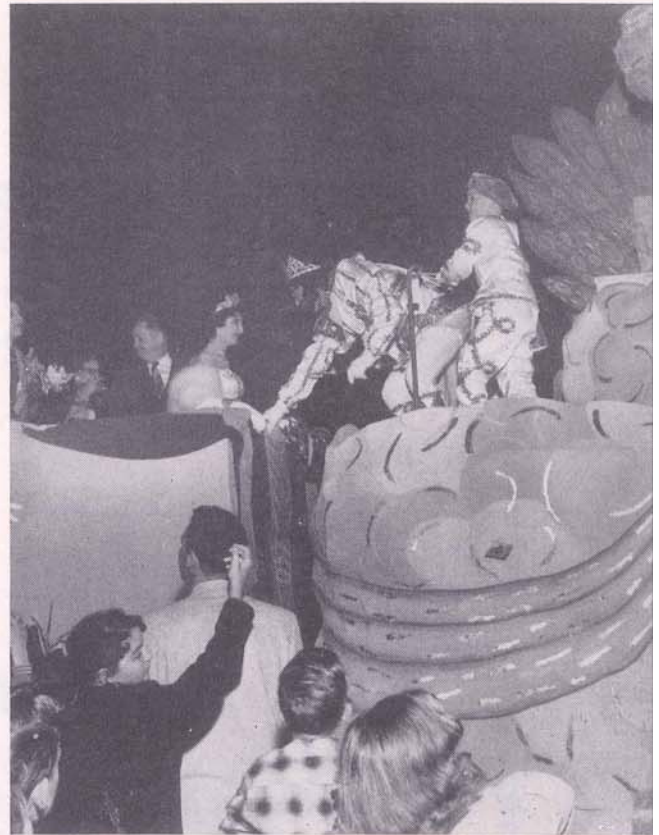
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bridges—the new Mississippi River Bridge and the Huey P. Long Bridge.

This project, which will be completed in 1956, will carry the West Bank Bridge traffic into and through Gretna along the new 4-lane Expressway and 4-Service Lanes which will run between 13th and 14th Streets in Gretna, under the Harvey Canal through the new fully automatic tunnel and on to the Avondale overpass to join with Highway 90 traffic. Traffic, however, that is headed direct for the downtown business and shopping area of Gretna will flow through the new thoroughfare utilizing the extension of Franklin Avenue in Gretna.

To serve the rapidly approaching Greater Gretna, a vast new \$25 million West Side Shopping Center (described and illustrated elsewhere in this issue) comprising 27.37 acres within the area bounded by the West Bank Expressway, Franklin Avenue and Hamilton Street, will soon break ground. It will concentrate all types of businesses together with adequate parking facilities. Several New Orleans big stores have already contracted for space in this quad-

King Midas greets his Queen in the 1956 Gretna Mardi Gras Celebration.



King Grela drinks to fun and festivity in the 1956 Gretna Mardi Gras Parade.



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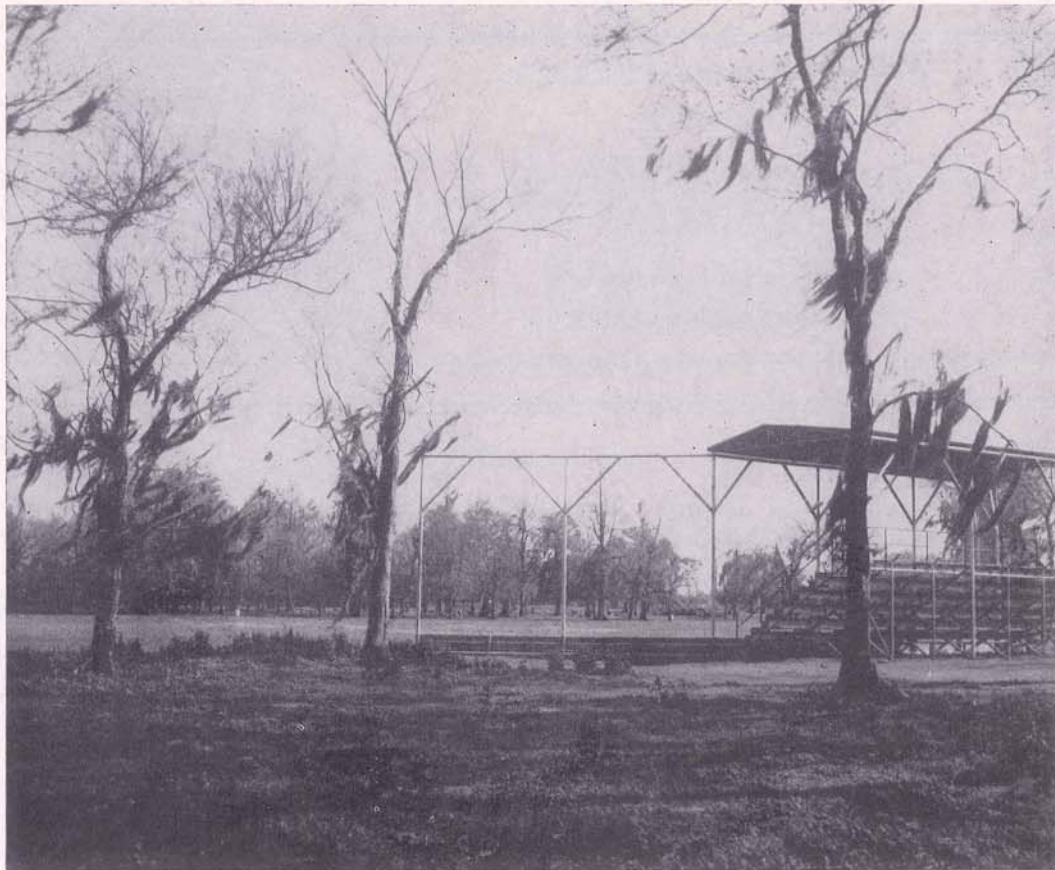
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A partial view (showing the ball park bleachers) of the Gretna White Municipal Playground.

range, among which is Maison Blanche which signed a \$2,000,000 lease almost a year ago.

Gretna, also, in other ways is hard at work preparing for the new business and the new people the surging Bridge traffic will bring. For its rapidly increasing juvenile population the Playground area will be completely cleared this year back to the Incinerator, pro-

viding a recreational area of 20 acres. New equipment, of course, will be added proportionately, including swimming pool.

Construction was completed this year, also, on the Negro Park and Playground at the end of Huey P. Long Avenue.

Gretna is the only Jefferson city that has sewage. To that distinct asset it has been busy paving and hard surfac-



Also showing the Baseball Diamond area of the Gretna Colored Playground now being developed.

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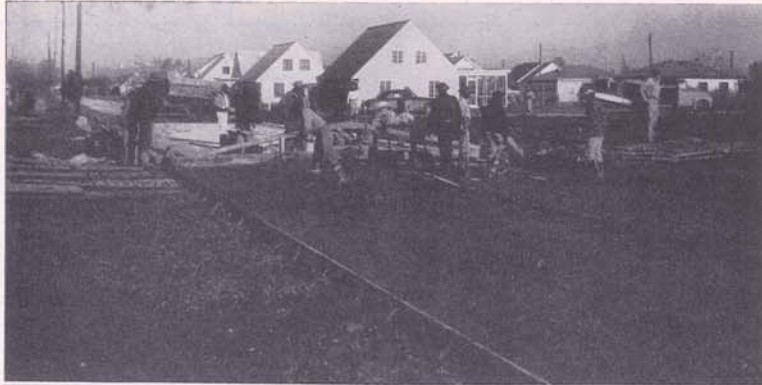
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1



2



3

1. Street Paving on Thomas Street, Gretna.
2. Street Paving on Tulip Drive, Gretna — a new subdivision of 52 three and four bedroom homes.
3. Street Paving on Huey P. Long Ave., Gretna, from 15th Street back.

ing its streets for well over a year. In 1955 the REVIEW listed in detail the many city streets that were being paved. This is one year later, and the work still continues and will continue until Gretna's traffic arteries catch up with its beautiful and broad new West Bank Expressway and Franklin Avenue Ex-

tension . . . and until the old city catches up with its expanding subdivisions.

A new ordinance of the City of Gretna requires that all new sections opened as subdivisions must be provided with paved streets and subsurface drainage. This means that as soon as the paving of the present streets of Gretna catches

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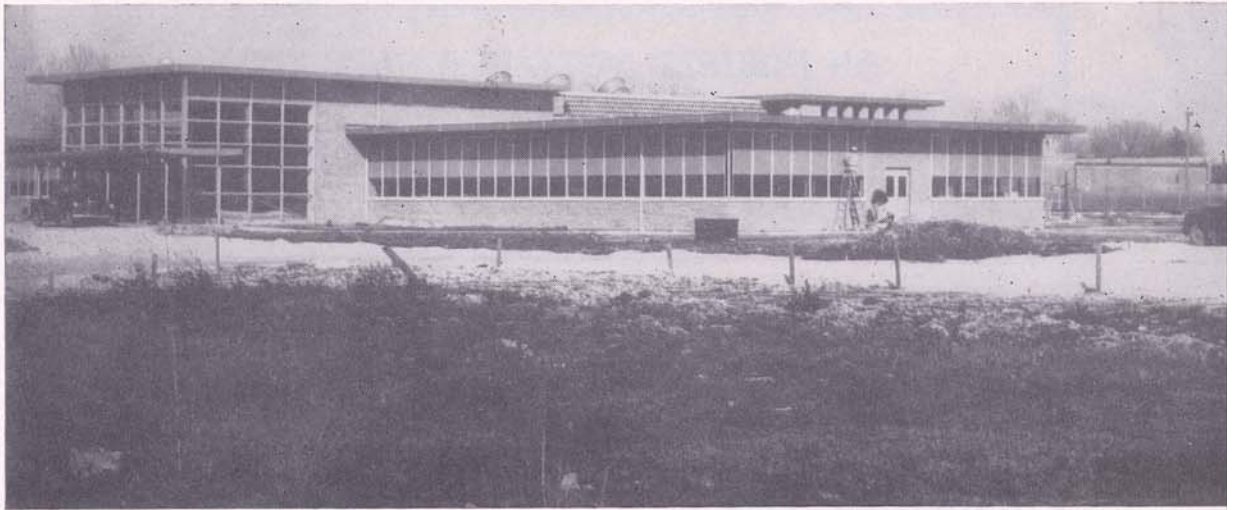
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Under construction when this photograph was taken early in March is the new District office of the Louisiana Power and Light Company in Gretna.

up with the new building activities, the city will be provided city wide with modern streets.

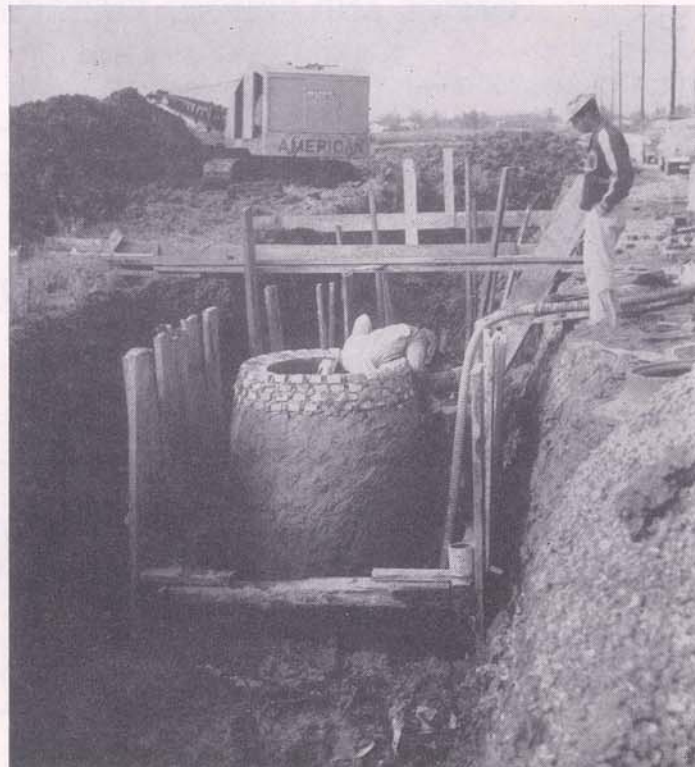
It is said that in Gretna some new edifice starts building every day. This is based on the fact that more than 300 building permits a year are granted within the city limits—a ratio that is not only handsomely holding its own but steadily increasing.

Proudly hallmarking the new and greater Gretna as the Capital City of the Parish will be the imposing ten-story two million dollar Jefferson Parish

Court House on which ground was broken on March 19, 1956. It will occupy the two square space between First and Third streets and between Derbigny and Dehonde.

Already, symbolizing its expanding facilities, the city is the proud possessor of the new Louisiana Power and Light Company Building and the new Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Building. Plus the new Production Offices of The California Company and Gulf Refining Company on its outskirts.

New residential areas are mushroom-



Constructing a manhole on Hamilton Street, Gretna — part of the program of extending the city's sewage system.

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Photographed during the Gretna Celebration in honor of Miss Louisiana of 1955 who was Gretna's own Merlin Garcia, are standing, left to right: Westwego's Joan Ann Tassin, runner-up for Miss New Orleans of 1955; Mayor White of Gretna; Miss Merlin Garcia of Gretna who was both Miss Louisiana of 1955 and Miss New Orleans of 1955. Kneeling is Lloyd Lerille from Harvey who was chosen Mr. New Orleans of 1955. We are proud that all of these winners are Jefferson Parish Young People.

ing all along the new sections opened up by the West Bank Expressway. New stores and new services are following the new subdivisions. Gretna is growing so fast that the milkman seems to follow right behind the bulldozer.

With three miles of river frontage and three trunk line railroads and served by the new West Bank Expressway that connects with the two great Mississippi River Bridges, Gretna has

a future unlimited.

It is already the home city of Southern Cotton Oil Company (the world's largest processor of cottonseed oil), the Sherwood Refining Company, Inc. (the only refinery in the U. S. engaged exclusively in the manufacture of white mineral oils, petrolatum jellies and petroleum sulfonates), the Bulk Storage Plant of Gulf Refining Company, the Davison Chemical Company (manufac-

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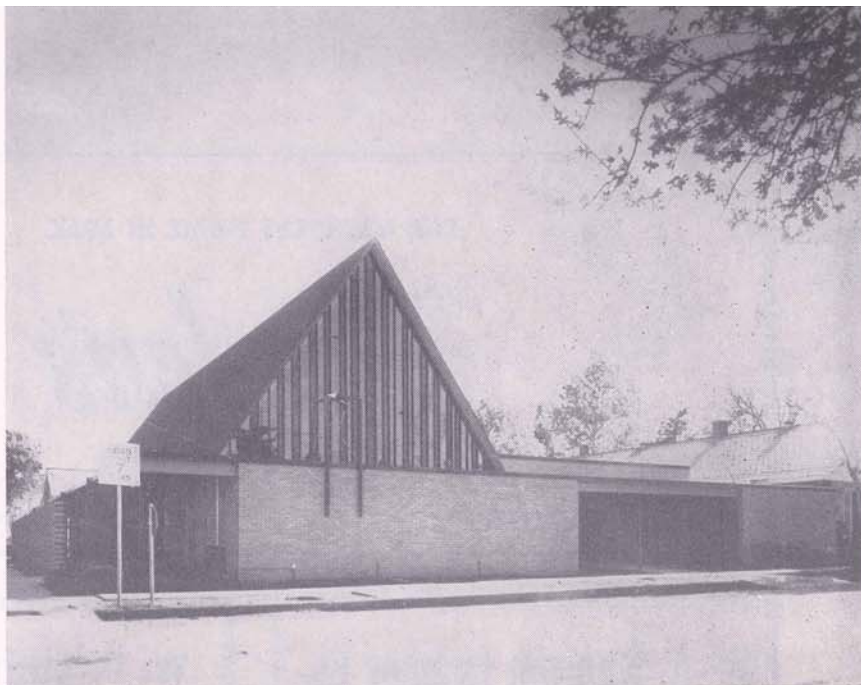
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Gretna Methodist Church completed in March, 1956. This edifice replaced one destroyed by fire in 1955.



turers of fertilizer) and the Publiker Chemical Corporation (producers of alcohol). In addition there are numerous small manufacturers, warehouses and wholesale concerns.

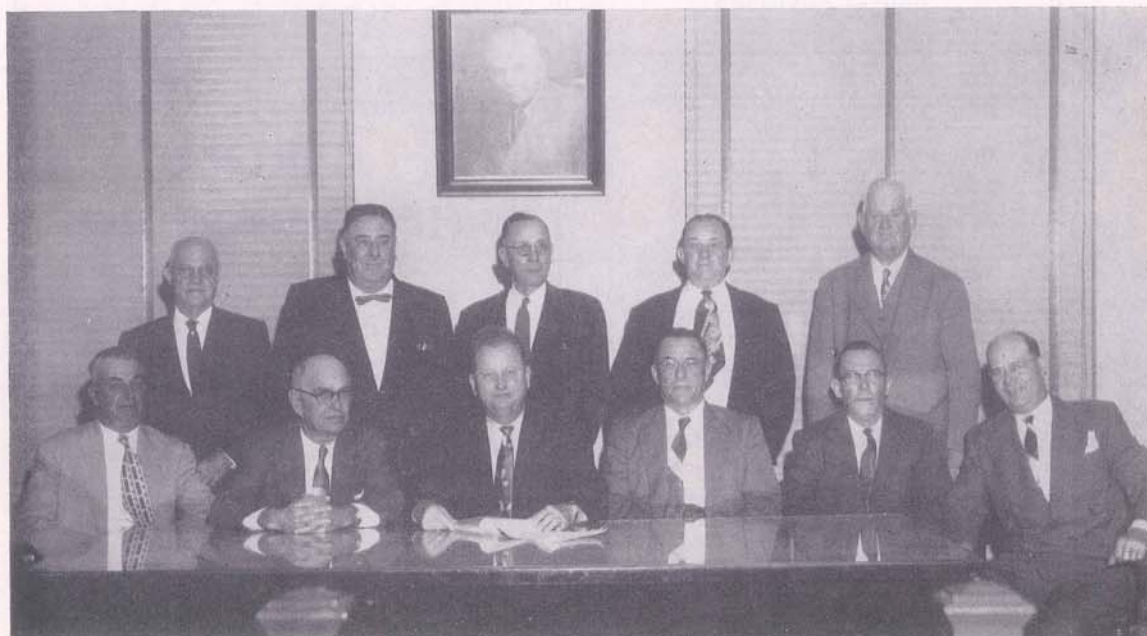
Gretna is strategically placed on the West Bank in the angle formed by the Harvey Canal, link of the busy, booming Intracoastal Waterway and the liquid highway of the Mississippi River. In its rear at Belle Chasse it has the new alternate Link of the Intracoastal Waterway which will bring to Gretna the prosperity of its new industries, new employees and new businesses. Gretna

is the key city of the tremendous industrial and transportation facilities which have combined to make Jefferson Parish the fastest growing industrial area in the South.

It will be to New Orleans what Brooklyn is to New York, what St. Paul is to Minneapolis. It will blend the industrial traffic of the West Bank with the commercial traffic of the East Bank. It will combine the Greatest Industrial Area of the Deep South with the No. 2 Port of the Nation. It will be the easily accessible, quickly reached and efficiently organized Gateway to the West.

OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF GRETNA

Seated, from left: John P. Ray, Alderman; Charles A. Huber, Alderman and Mayor Pro-Tem; William J. White, Mayor; Eugene Gehring, Alderman; G. Ashton Cox, Alderman; Edward L. Hodge, Alderman. Standing, from left: Andrew H. Thalheim, City Attorney; Beauregard Miller, City Marshal; Julius F. Hotard, City Clerk; Andrew Kraus, City Treasurer; Henry F. Bender, Director of the Budget.



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Entering upon its second century of corporate existence with the distinction of being "the fastest growing city in the state," Kenner points out, among other current accomplishments and projects, its Million Dollar Street Program, its Hundreds of New Homes, the addition of the Most Modern, Most Efficient Fire Fighting Unit in Louisiana for the protection of its citizens, its New City Hall and Fire Station, and the successful fund raising campaign that resulted in its new "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" Church.

Listening above to Mayor Kopfler make the first 1956 Report on these and other affairs of the city are the officials of Kenner, those individuals most immediately responsible for its present position and progressive spirit. Reading from left to right are: Edward J. D'Gerolamo, Alderman; Edward J. Stoulig, Attorney; Joseph J. Centanni, Alderman; Philomene Paasch, Secretary-Treasurer; Dr. Joseph S. Kopfler, Sr., Mayor; Fred J. Roth, Chief of Police; Joseph S. Maggiore, Alderman and Mayor Pro-Tem; Clifton J. McDonald, Alderman; and William R. Mancuso, Alderman.

With a High Pontifical Mass the City of Kenner climaxed and officially closed its 1955 Centennial Year. For the greater part of the century between 1855 and 1955 it had been the center of a prosperous truck farming community, and the outpost city of the parish in that long undeveloped area of East Jefferson between Metairie and the St. Charles Parish Line.

But during recent years it and the land around it have been steadily absorbing the residential and business expansion of the East Bank of Jefferson and the Greater New Orleans area. As a result, it entered its second century on January 1956 in the strategic position of being Jefferson's key city straddling the booming Airline Highway and the brand new Veterans Memorial Highway. One hundred and one years young, Kenner is just beginning to flex its muscles and stretch its legs.

Now constantly outgrowing its census Kenner is straining at 15,000 and expects to officially tally around 30,000 people as soon as its big house building program, started a year ago, is completed. This program provides, in addition to many new individual houses, subdivisions for 2,000 new white families and units for 1000 new colored families in the rear area of Moisant Airport.

The present unpaved streets of Kenner only prove how recently this city



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has emerged from the small town status—but that, too, is being corrected—and fast. Backed up by its new sales tax revenue which it can use for city streets, Kenner has launched a permanent and continuous paving and surfacing project that will, when it is finished, cost around a million dollars but will mod-

ernize every street in the city limits of Kenner. Kenner now thinks like a city, acts like a city and is wasting no time in looking like a city.

Once Kenner has caught up with the present in its street paving program, the future expenditures of money and effort will not be so arduous—because

Setting a manhole cover for sub-surface drainage on a Kenner street—part of the city wide paving program now going on.



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KENNER'S CAPABLE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Left to right: Fred J. Roth, City Marshal; Anthony R. Tramonte, Louis Cambre, Joseph Paul Fourroux, Sam Bonura, Joseph Wool, Jake Gemmolva, Peter S. Ceravola and Leo Marino, Patrolmen.

a recent City Ordinance, passed in 1955, now makes it mandatory for every new subdivision operator to pave the streets and provide curbs and sub-surface drainage before the subdivision can be offered to the public.

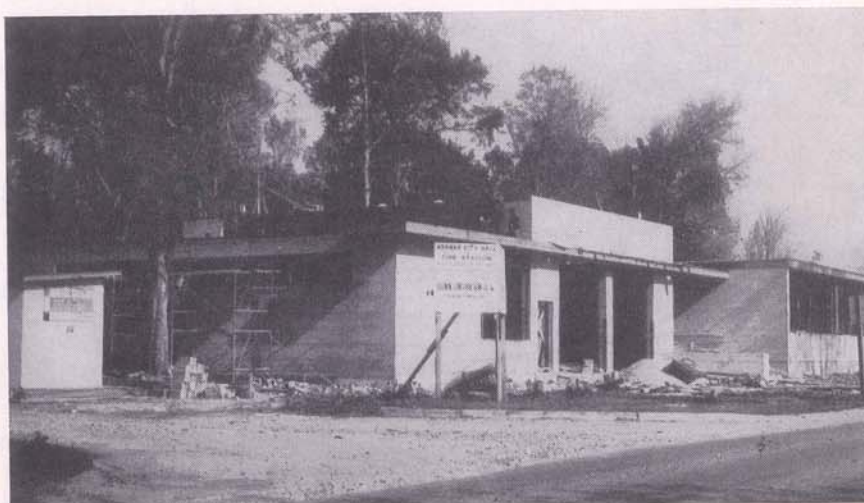
Further in connection with the roads and highways program Williams Boulevard, which is Kenner's main street, has been recently opened up and completed to the Lakeshore and has been improved with a third lane of traffic from the Airline Highway to Jefferson Highway. This valuable traffic artery through the heart of Kenner now bisects the three main highways of East Jefferson—the equally heavy traveled Airline Highway and Jefferson Highway and the new

Veterans Memorial Highway. Williams Boulevard from Jefferson Highway to the Lake is fast becoming the crossroads of East Jefferson.

Plus everything else now in progress or projected for Kenner's roads and streets, Mayor Kopfler and Sheriff Frank J. Clancy are considering the ways and means of securing a Lake Shore Road leading into Kenner.

In addition to the new Fire Station in connection with the new City Hall at 18th and Williams Boulevard, Kenner has just added — for the protection of its rapidly increasing population — the most efficient and most modern fire fighting unit in Louisiana, at a cost of over \$25,000.

Now under construction are Kenner's new City Hall and Fire Station.



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1905 METAIRIE ROAD



This is a happy group of craft contestants of the Kenner Recreation Department. The whole operation is under the supervision of Walter J. Schneckenberger, plus competent teachers and directors who, when this was written, were planning for the summer months. The Department uses Kenner Junior High stadium for its outside activities and sports and its buildings for crafts, folk dances and indoor games. On the lake side of Airline Highway a quonset hut and another field are being prepared for expanded Recreation activities.

As Fire Chief W. R. Mancuso says, "With this fire truck we have everything everybody else has, with more of it — plus some things they don't have." Head of Kenner's Fire Department that answered 55 rolls last year, Chief Mancuso, unpaid but untiring in his job, is the only Charter Member in the Kenner Fire Department. He was there when it drew its charter in 1926 and he's been there ever since. Incidentally, Mr. Mancuso is also a City Alderman and one of our leading industrialists.

With 64 veteran volunteer firemen (averaging 25 to a call), plus 3 paid chauffeurs who work around the clock and trained regularly by Capt. Frank Serio, Retired Captain of the New Orleans Fire Department, the Kenner Fire Fighters, especially with this new unit, are capable of handling whatever natural causes and the carelessness of Kenner's citizens may ignite.

Following through on community protection — this time police protection — Kenner has recently added two new police patrol cars, one of their jobs being to supervise the safe speed of 30 miles per hour on Airline Highway through Kenner.

As illustrated elsewhere in this report one of the constant high priority considerations on the annual agenda of Kenner is the recreational facilities for its nearly 4000 school age children, both teens and tots. To synchronize and supervise all of Kenner's school year playgrounds together with summer activi-

ties and programs the City has secured the able services of Walter J. Schneckenberger, Assistant Superintendent of Parish Schools, at the huge salary of \$1 a year. All of Kenner's recreational activities are financed out of general funds with no additional taxation to parents or property holders.

Digging trench to lay subsurface drainage pipe.



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LAFITTE, LA.



Kenner's busy, booming crossroads at Williams Boulevard and Airline Highway, past which roll 26,000 cars a day—and where five new traffic signal lights have been installed.

Kenner this year salutes Father Arjonella of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" whose prayer, persistence and pluck made possible the success of a fund raising campaign for the purchase of a square of ground, the erection of a temporary church just built costing \$225,000 (which will be used later as a gym or auditorium) and the construction of a brand new edifice in the near future to cost \$400,000. All of which points out that Kenner's swift paced progress reflects not only the energy and efficiency of its public leaders, but also the resourcefulness and aggressiveness of its ordinary citizens.

Entering upon its second century in a new City Hall, with the old City Hall converted into a jail and courtroom, Kenner naturally faces more problems than ever before, the natural responsibility of growth. But it is also entering upon its new hundred year record with huge projects that not only reflect its ability to handle and solve those problems but its ability to plan big.

Kenner's status as the fastest growing city in Louisiana is not only the result of favorable circumstances and conditions but also the outgrowth of the stability and spirit of its citizens.

Partial view of the new Kendale Subdivision in Kenner, east of Williams Boulevard and in the rear of the new John Clancy School.



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WESTWEGO

The Gateway to the Seaway

By Roy C. Keller, Mayor

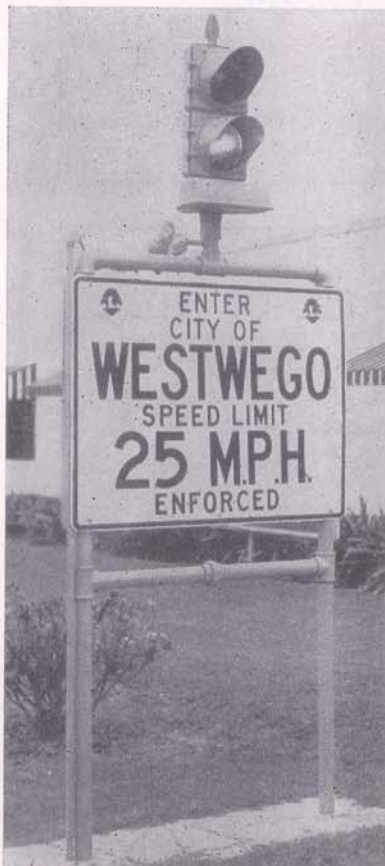
Westwego draws closer to its destiny every day!

Late in 1955 the preliminary engineering was authorized on the long dreamed Jefferson Parish Seaway, and soon this safer, shorter Ship Channel will enter the Port of Greater New Orleans on the outskirts of this busy little city whose very name is prophetic—WEST WE GO. For to the aggressive West Bank via Westwego will gravitate, when the Seaway is completed, the greatest surge of industry and commerce the South has ever seen.

However, Westwego not only has a very bright future, but a brilliant present. Originally the West Bank market

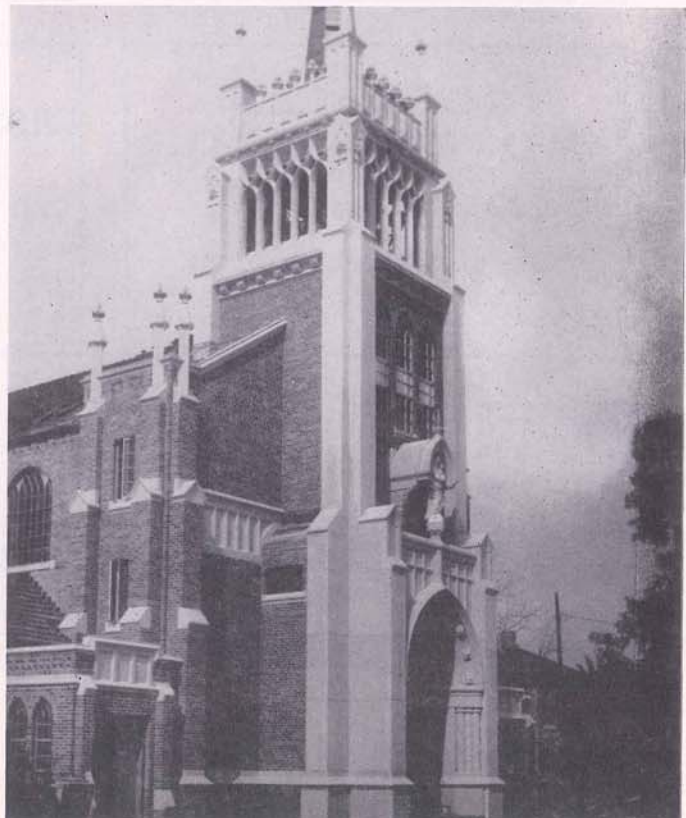
place for the parish fishermen, it has developed over the years into a seafood packing and canning center and is today more than ever the Seafood Capital of Jefferson. Its seven seafood concerns employ over 500 people, and its well known brands of canned shrimp and oysters and frozen shrimp and crabmeat delight the palate of millions of Americans who have never seen these crustaceans or bivalves in their natural element.

But in the last several decades, by reason of its rail and river facilities and available acres for plant sites, Westwego has also developed into an important industrial sector of Jefferson,



One of the new City Limit signs furnished by the Westwego Lions Club and maintained by the city of Westwego.

The beautiful new Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Westwego, the largest on the West Bank. This is the historic church whose original West Bank edifice was moved piece by piece from New Orleans many years ago.



FL 1-2161

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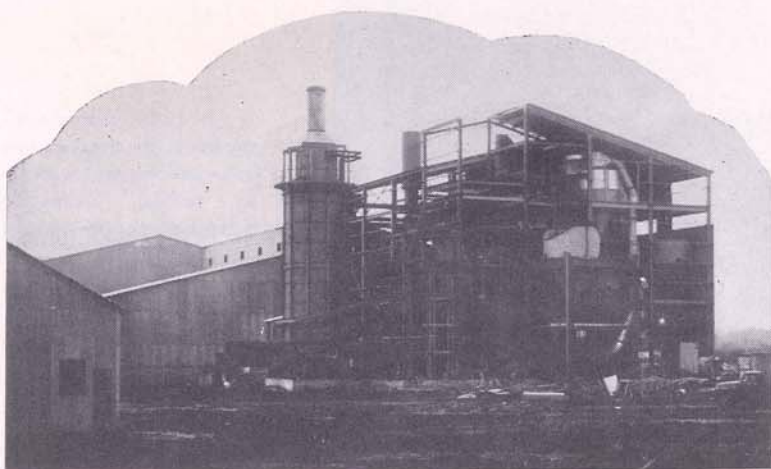
Harvey, Louisiana



GENERAL MARINE CORP.

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Construction picture of the new Westwego multimillion dollar quarter-mile long National Gypsum Plant. When completed it will be able to produce enough building products for 50,000 homes annually and will bring to the area an annual payroll of more than \$750,000. Its operation is expected to relieve the present shortage of gypsum building materials in the South.

listing such important plants as Commercial Solvents Corporation; Publicker Chemical Corporation; North American Trading and Import Company; Sinclair Refining Company; Tidewater Associated Oil Company; General Gas Corporation; T-P-M-P Railroad Yards, Wharf and Ore Tipple; and the Steam Electric Plant of Louisiana Power and Light Company at Nine Mile Point which is served by Westwego's water supply.

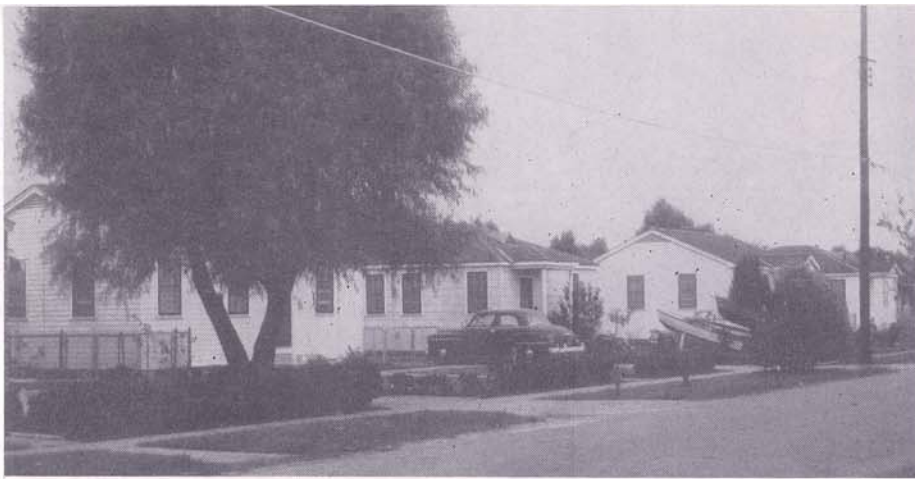
To these have been added this year the new \$6 million plant and million dollar annual payroll of the National Gypsum Company, and the only combination private seaplane and landing field in the entire New Orleans area, constructed and operated by Oil Field

Seaplane Service, Inc.

New enterprises bring new people and the surge of its growth is reflected in the city's accelerated improvements and new construction. Westwego's recently completed up-to-date system of street signs and highway stop signs and signals, plus its 24-hour police service for the convenience of its growing traffic, has been augmented this year by its new network of 60 conveniently placed fire alarm boxes for the protection of its growing population and increased property valuation. This will back up the recently built Central Fire Station and the city's other two strategically located sub stations. And the City Planners are already working on a method of detouring the city's through

The new mechanical Sort-Rite shrimp grader recently installed in the Ed Martin Seafood Company plant at Westwego. This machine takes the washed and inspected shrimp and automatically classifies them to size, dropping them in the correct basket. This machine, shown here with the Government Inspector on duty, can process 3,000 pounds of shrimp per hour.





A brief photographic glimpse of the constant new home building that is steadily pushing Westwego's permanent population past the 10,000 mark.

and heavy traffic around its congested area.

In 1954 Westwego completed its Drainage Program, which extends high and dry ground in all directions. In 1955 it finished paving with concrete or asphalt every street in Westwego. And it is now ready to go ahead on an approximately one and one half million dollar sewage program as soon as the Federal Government bill to guarantee loans to communities its size for such improvement projects has passed. Westwego's mayor and aldermen have already authorized application for funds for preliminary planning of their sewage system.

Civically, Westwego mirrors its

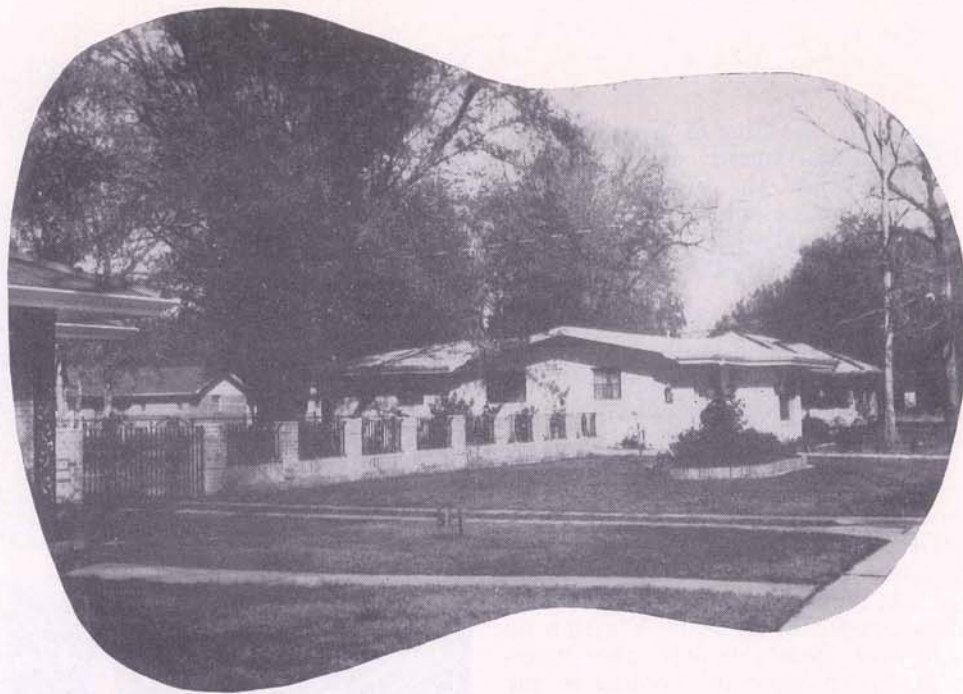
growth and expansion in the completion of its new \$600,000 "Our Lady of Prompt Succor" Catholic Church—and in the activities of its new Park Commission, appointed in 1955, for the building of a recreational center for the young people of Westwego and for the further equipping of the Westwego Park and Playground.

Now crowding a population of 10,000 people, this bristling industrial community is so busy keeping ahead of present expansion that it has had no time, as yet, to anticipate the flood of projects and people that will pour through its portals when the Seaway slices through its city limits and enters the Mississippi River close to Nine Mile Point.

OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF WESTWEGO

Left to right: George Fonseca, Alderman; Sidney Richoux, Alderman; Clarence LeBauve, Mayor Pro-tem and Alderman; Antoine Alario, Alderman; Willis Delhommer, Alderman; Roy C. Keller, Mayor; M. J. Pitre, Office Manager; and Mrs. Adeline Martinez, Secretary and Tax Collector.





Typical of the new subdivisions springing up around and in Harahan.

HARAHAN

FIRST CITY IN JEFFERSON PARISH TO ESTABLISH
A PERMANENT PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

By Frank H. Mayo, Mayor

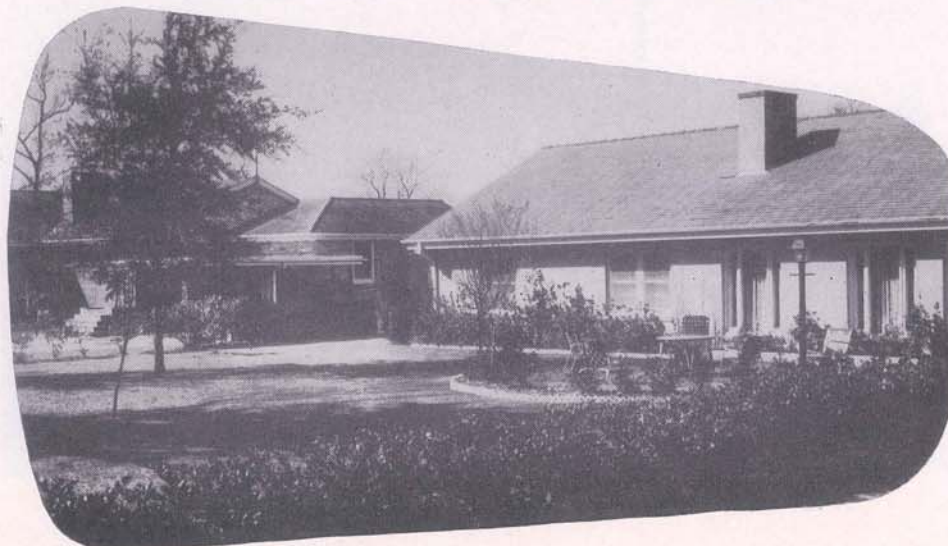
Harahan is primarily and proudly a city of homes, its restful and convenient suburban acres providing ample and ideal living space for those who work in the contiguous industrial area. Remember last year in the REVIEW we reported that Harahan is averaging a new home every three days.

Harahan also is a city that is determined its phenomenal residential and business section growth shall not be haphazard, but organized and con-

trolled. So . . . in addition to its City Officials it has created a Planning and Zoning Board, working under the authority of a Planning and Zoning Ordinance which went into effect in November 1955.

The members of this Board, who serve without salary, are appointed by the Mayor on staggered terms. They are advised and assisted by the Planning Expert, William Singleton of Baton Rouge, whose salary is coopera-

A cross section of the new Colonial Park Subdivision in Harahan.



tively paid by the City of Harahan, the Louisiana Department of Commerce and Industry and the Federal Government. The present Master Plan now before this Board calls for uniform streets and the elimination of all dead ends throughout Harahan.

Ever since 1939 Harahan has needed and wanted a continuation of Hickory Avenue, giving the city a short cut into the Airline Highway. That beeline route is now under construction, a new 2½ mile long two-lane asphalted thoroughfare with subsurface drainage, a road that now puts Harahan in direct contact with the main flow of traffic between New Orleans and Baton Rouge and points North.

Its successful Bond Issue Election on Sewage and Drainage will also guarantee Harahan city-wide sewage in the near future, and will help expedite the city's vital planning program of closing Harahan's open canals.

New and important to Harahan this year is its recently opened 16 acre Park at Tenth Street, providing for its residents and their families a baseball diamond, large recreational areas and picnic grounds. This valuable new civic asset was achieved by the concerted efforts of the City Officials and Harahan's live-wire Lions Club. In the sponsoring of community athletic events, Harahan has another aggressive and able organization in its Harahan Sportsmen's Association.

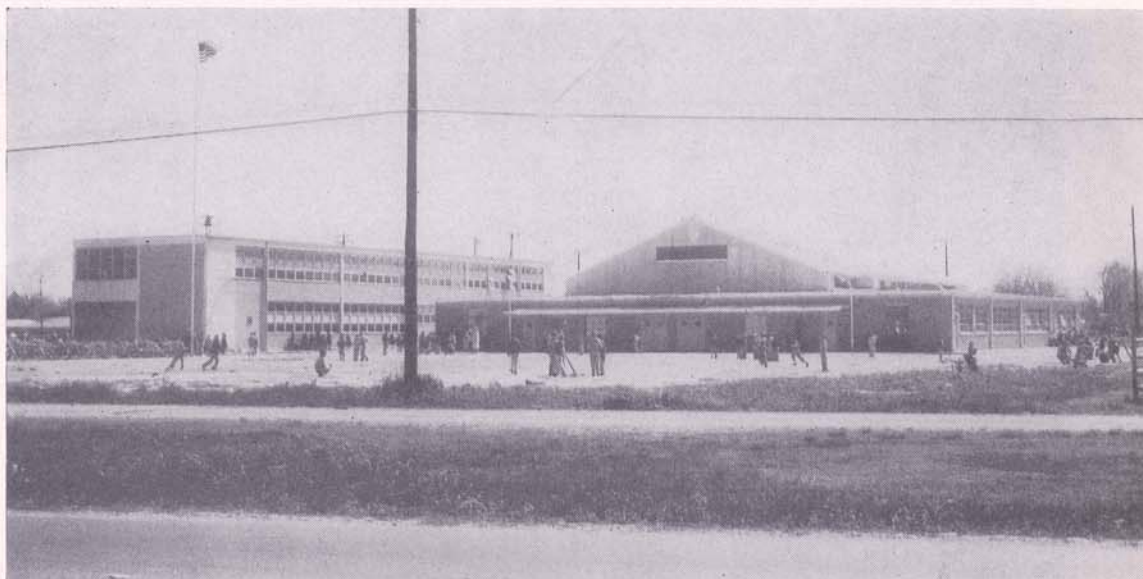
With so many new homes Harahan's efficient Volunteer Fire Department of 75 volunteer firemen and round the clock paid chauffeurs becomes every day a more vital civic asset. Especially does it deserve a salute for the very unique and effective way of financing itself it



Above is the new Harahan Branch of National Bank of Commerce in Jefferson Parish. Shown at the October dedication ceremonies are left, Mayor Mayo of Harahan; middle, Dale Graham, President of National Bank of Commerce in Jefferson Parish and National Bank of Commerce of New Orleans; right, Frank Greco, Assistant Vice-President and Manager of Harahan Branch.



Recently completed street paving on West Gordon Drive of Harahan.



A panoramic view of the new St. Rita's School, Church and Gymnasium in Harahan. Notice the extensive playground and athletic field area.

has adopted. The volunteer firemen themselves visited the homes of Harahan with pledge cards asking for maintenance contributions of only 25c a week for 3 months. The response was an immediate and enthusiastic 98%

Harahan in 1956 will begin construction of its smart new \$50,000 Public Library at the corner of Soniat and Monroe, only a half block off Jefferson Highway. This new Harahan Branch of the Jefferson Parish Library System will be one of the finest in the state and will provide the first building in the parish wide library system actually owned by the Library Board. It will provide, in addition to its excellent book facilities, a meeting room for civic organizations.

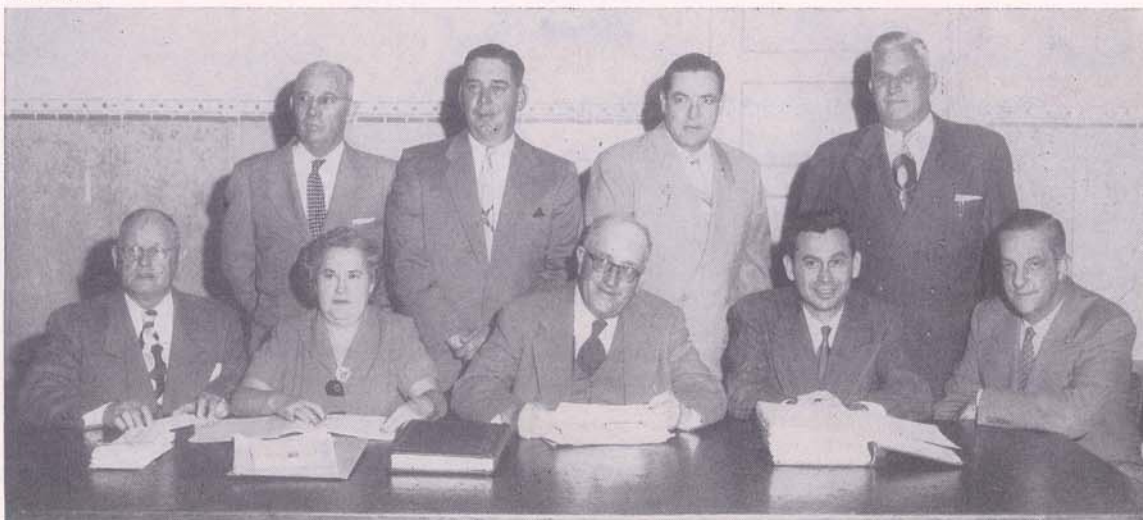
In this red letter year of 1956 Hara-

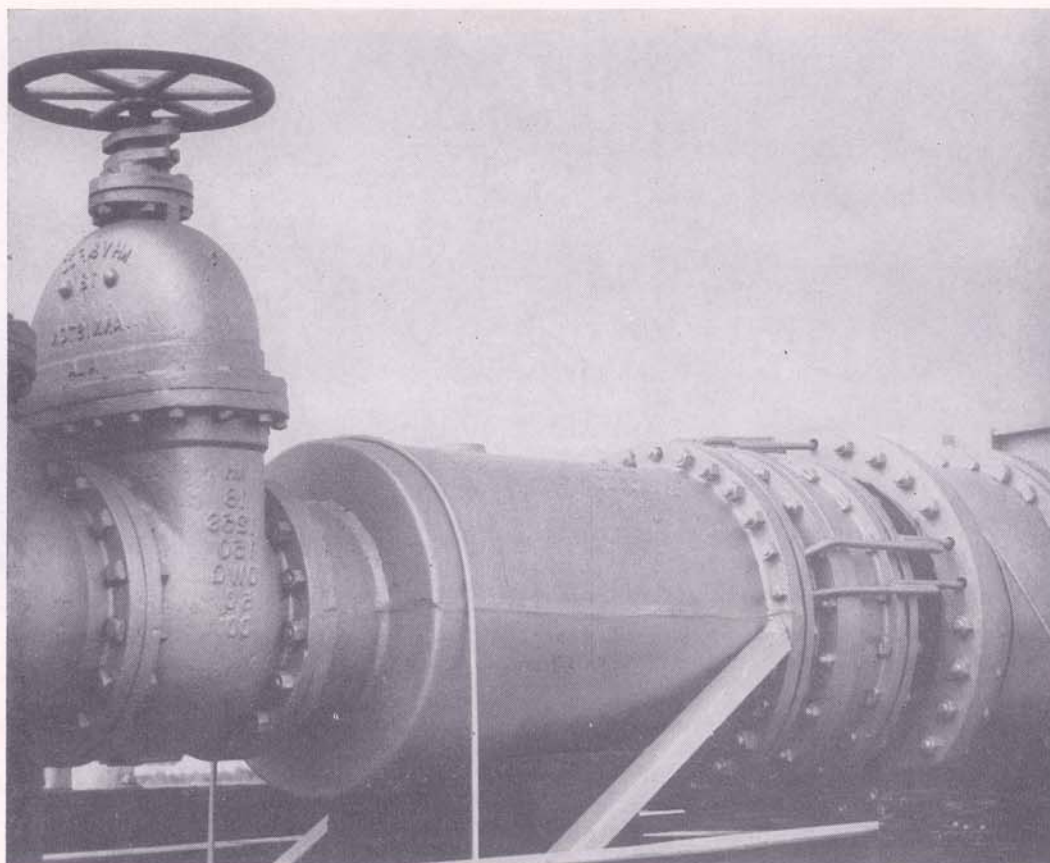
han also proudly presents the new gymnasium of the St. Rita Catholic Church, completed in late 1955 and the first gymnasium in the Harahan area. This project was conceived and carried through by the able leadership of Father Roy Joseph Champagne, who came to Harahan in 1950 when St. Rita parish was formed.

With its new community assets, such as park, library and gymnasium; with its new modern National Bank of Commerce right in the center of town significantly symbolizing its increased business; with its Planning Board and City Officials systematically changing its sprawling beginning into a well ordered, well arranged modern city, Harahan is busy at work providing a fine place to live for the fine people who are pouring into Jefferson Parish.

OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF HARAHAH

Seated, left to right: Charles A. O'Neill, Alderman and Mayor Pro-tem; Mrs. Francis Bourg, Secretary-Treasurer; Frank H. Mayo, Mayor; Harold A. Buchler, City Attorney; Paul Marcotte, Alderman. Standing, left to right: Carl Gibson, Auditor; Henry Witte, Alderman; James Alexis, Alderman; John Coutrado, City Marshal and Chief of Fire Department. Francis Bourg, Alderman, not present when this picture was taken.





WATER

YOUR MOST INEXPENSIVE AND MOST INDISPENSABLE DAILY SERVANT

By
J. W. HODGSON, SR.
President and General Manager
East Jefferson Waterworks
District No. 1

See that huge pipe pictured at the top of the page!

Every day two king size soda straws like this suck into the plant of East Jefferson 20,000,000 gallons of Mississippi River water to be properly purified, stored, and subsequently delivered to over 23,000 customers scattered along 294 miles of pipeline.

For East Jefferson Waterworks District No. 1 has just recently completed

the doubling of its plant capacity and has just finished a \$5,000,000 project of plant expansion and extending water mains — all made necessary because our customers are increasing at the rate of over 2,000 a year, of which 98% are new East Jefferson home owners.

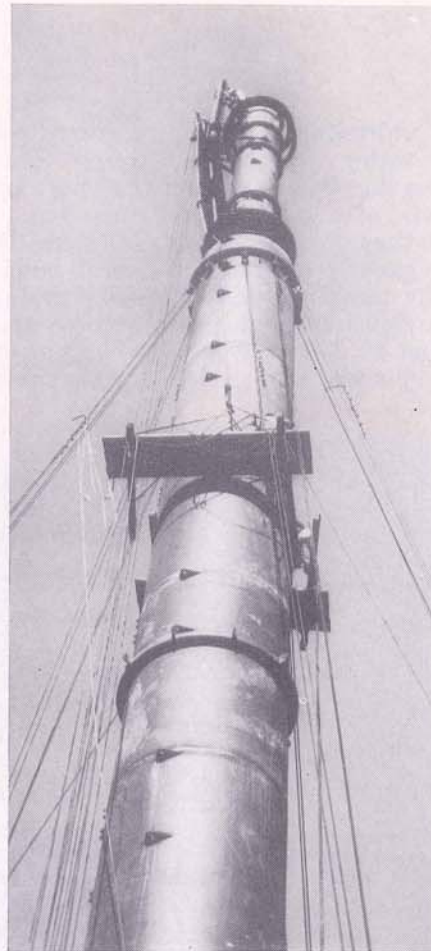
But in spite of all this expensive expansion, we were able at the beginning of September 1955 to put into effect a dollar reduction on our customers' bi-

monthly water bills, which means over the year a minimum reduction of 25% of the income of East Jefferson Waterworks District No. 1. Water is more so than ever your home's most inexpensive daily servant.

Have you ever stopped to figure how much water you use — and waste and take for granted? We could not live at all without it internally and we live a lot longer by its frequent use externally. We wash ourselves, our clothes, our dishes, and our car in its constantly. We put through the meter from 3 to 14 gallons every time we flush the toilet. We utilize a little to ice our drinks and a lot to sprinkle our lawn. On an average we'll consume in various ways around the home about 300 gallons a day. But because it takes only a glass at a time to quench our thirst, we calmly forget that we may need on a second's notice countless thousands of gallons to stop a fire.

Below: Foundation for new million gallon overhead water storage tower under construction at Veterans Memorial Highway and Soniat Canal.

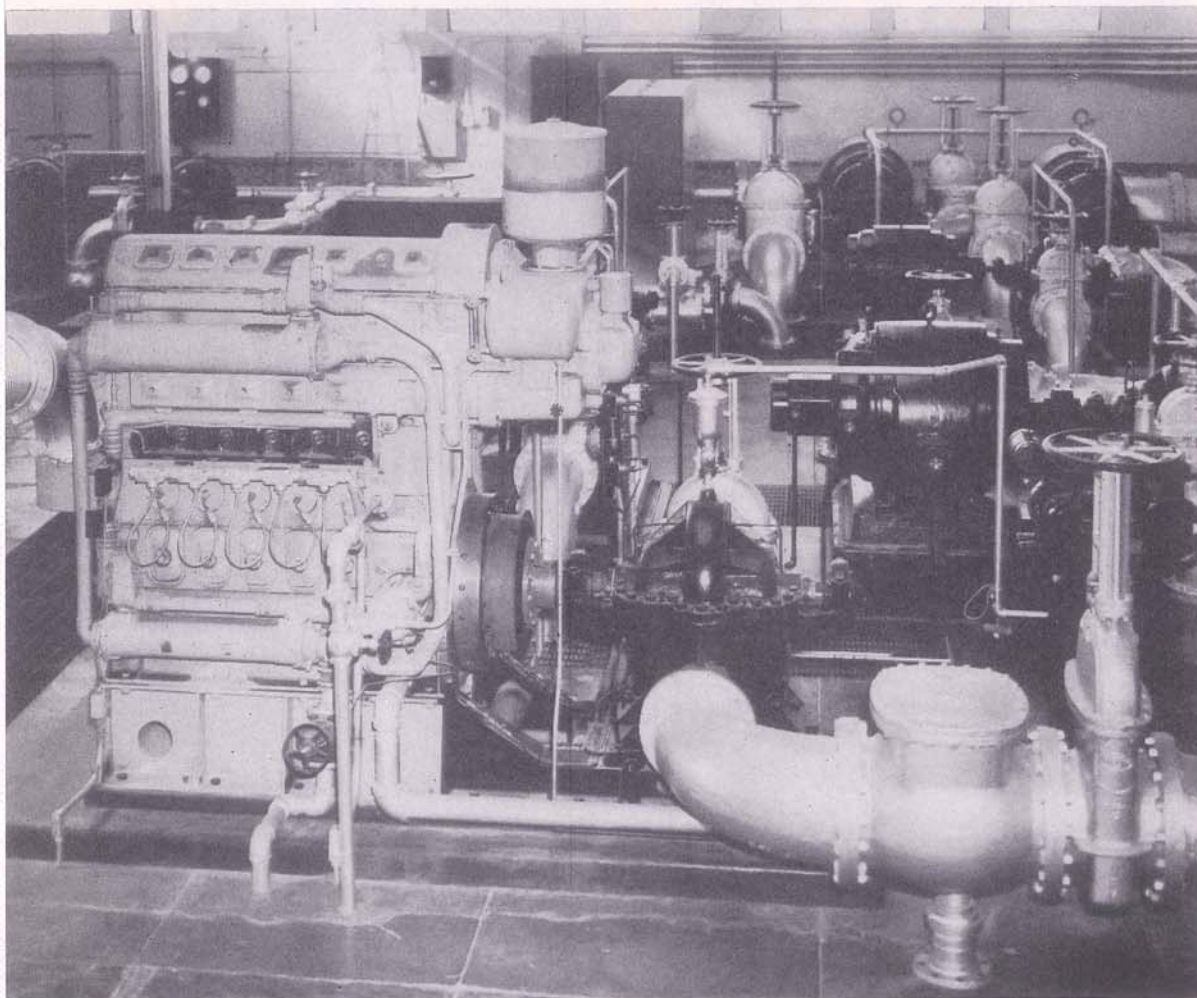
At right: Center piece for this tremendous and towering water tank being put in place.



An unlimited quantity of pure, potable water — available twenty four hours a day 365 days a year simply by the twist of a faucet — has caused us to forget that our high standard of health is due greatly to the existence of scientifically purified, state inspected water which flows through miles of pipe and millions of dollars worth of equipment to every home at a cost so low that few

East Jefferson has grown so rapidly and so steadily because East Jefferson Waterworks District No. 1 has always had the water ready and waiting to serve the new home owners and new subdivisions.

To do this we have expanded and increased our facilities several times. And even now, when we anticipate no further bond issues and are convinced our



New and recently installed 10,000,000-Gallon Standby Diesel Pump Engine.

householders bother to even check what it is.

And yet this unfailing service and purity, which the users accept so casually, is a great compliment to the men and machinery of East Jefferson Waterworks. Only if the tap failed would people miss it, and that has not occurred to our customers in the 25 years we have been struggling to keep up with the demand and, at the same time, prepare for the newcomers swarming into our District. We sincerely believe that

present capacity can take care of the population increase over the next ten years (provided we do not get too many large quantity customers), we are still building, still extending mains, still enlarging.

Even while this report is being written we are remodeling and painting a pump that was originally installed in 1931, and are building an addition to our plant garage to accommodate our increasing mobile equipment.

We have also just recently installed a

new 10,000,000 gallon Diesel Pump Engine. This is an extra engine — a stand-by engine — in preparation for the unforeseen.

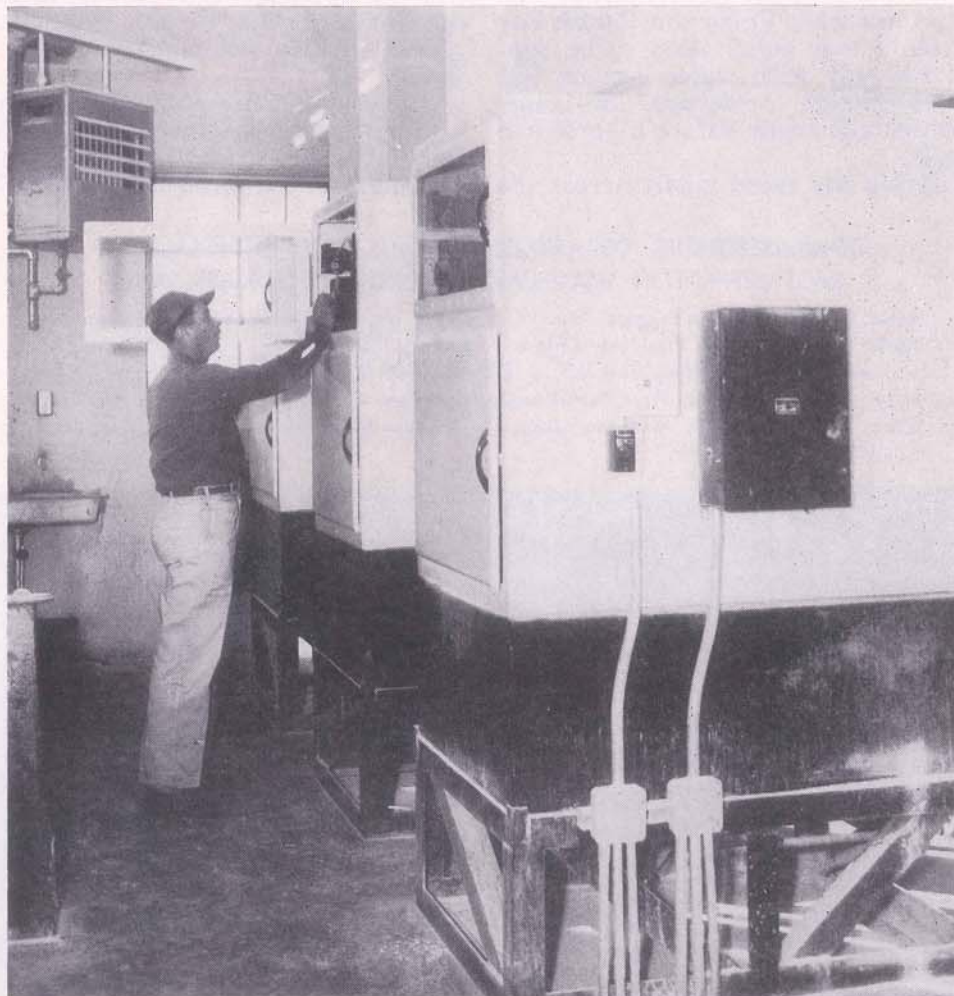
When the two new million gallon capacity overhead storage tanks now being built are completed — one at Soniat Canal and Veterans Memorial Highway and the other at 32nd and Athania—we will have attained a total overhead storage capacity of 8,000,000 gallons. This is, of course, supplementary to our present total underground storage capacity of 30,000,000 gallons, which is a 50% increase over our previous underground tank storage.

East Jefferson Waterworks District No. 1 serves a tremendous area. Although we had on the books as of September 30, 1955, a total of 23,237 customers, they averaged only about 76 to the mile. (New Orleans has 110 custom-

ers to the mile). This means far reaching and expensive tentacles of from 4" to 36" pipe, stretching out constantly into the new unpopulated areas of the District. As this was written pipe was being laid into West Gate subdivision on Veterans Memorial Highway, into Green Acres backing on the Lake, and into numerous other housing projects. In the planning stage is a new water main, extending about a mile and a half to Lake Pontchartrain along new Causeway Boulevard.

Our charter calls for water service — pure and plenty of it — to the whole East Bank of Jefferson Parish as fast as the demand arises. And it's been a rough and rugged and intensely exciting period since those days in 1929, when we started operations and when people had been previously dependent almost entirely on cisterns for water, to

The process of producing potable water so that it constantly meets the most rigid health requirements demands an expensive and expansive array of technical equipment. Below is shown one section of the mixing Chamber Room.





A panoramic photograph of the main plant and office of East Jefferson Waterworks District No. 1.

the present time when we must be prepared to supply a million and half gallons a day to one customer — for example, the new Anheuser-Busch plant when it arrives.

It's a far cry from a quarter of a century ago, when a man built his cistern and his house at the same time, to this modern era when Jefferson Parish law requires a new subdivision to be supplied not only with water service, but gas, electricity, sewerage, drainage, sidewalks and roads before a home can be built.

Progress has raced madly across the

once open spaces of East Jefferson in the last twenty-five years of our corporate existence, but we've been right on its heels with our pipe laying crews.

Yes, it's taken us a quarter of a century of hard work and the cooperation of the voters of Jefferson Parish in approving repeated bond issues to catch up, but now that we are just a trifle ahead we are not relaxed — just relieved.

Pardon me while I answer the phone — a new customer wants to be tied into the line today — right now! Which shall be done, because water is indispensable!

COMMISSIONERS, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS OF EAST JEFFERSON WATERWORKS DISTRICT NUMBER ONE

Seated, from left: Commissioners John W. Hodgson, Sr., President and General Manager; Charles A. Boutall, Vice President; Charles J. Kieffer; Blaise Camel; and Paul D'Gerolamo, Purchasing Agent. Standing from left: J. Edward Ernst, Engineer; Octave P. Garsaud, Secretary; Oscar P. Gaudet, Plant Superintendent; William C. Wolf, Outside Superintendent; Archie J. Miller, Office Manager; Jacob J. Amato, Attorney; and William D. Young, Assistant General Manager.





A view of the Settling Tank at Waterworks District No. 2 Plant—before the water is purified.

WATER WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

25th Anniversary Report of Jefferson Parish
Waterworks District No. 2 at Marrero

By
Ed E. Feitel, President

District No. 2, the second oldest Waterworks System in Jefferson Parish, was established in 1931 to serve the expanding Harvey-Marrero area with what was then an adequate capacity of 300,000 gallons a day.

The most dramatic proof of our amazing growth and the section we serve during this last quarter century lies in these figures: - - - that by 1945, we had increased our capacity to 5,000,000 gallons daily and that we are now preparing to double that daily capacity of potable water to 10,000,000 gallons, with facilities for again dou-

bling to 20,000,000 gallons a day as soon as needed.

This will be accomplished by the building of a new plant, adjacent to our present location, facing the new West Bank Expressway. Complete plans for this immediate doubling of our capacity is now being studied by the members of the new Commission Council, in advance of their taking office in June, with the possibility of authorizing a \$3,000,000 Revenue Bond Issue election as soon as possible to procure the funds for its construction.

Our present plant has been paid for



Pure water and plenty of it whenever she needs it! Mrs. Cleo Toups of 608 Olive, Harvey—representative housewife of Waterworks District No. 2—says the average water bill for her and her husband is only \$2.40.

since 1950, and, due to what we consider efficient operation, we have been able to maintain at Waterworks District No. 2 a very low water rate. 70% of our volume, which are industrial consumers, receive even a lower rate—for they buy water on a graduating quantity basis. The more they use the less per thousand gallons they pay.

We are also engaged in selling water wholesale. We have been supplying Water District No. 3 for over eight years. It borders our southern boundary and uses around 13,000,000 gallons a month. We are now serving the newly incorporated Waterworks District No. 6, Lafitte, Barataria and Crown Point Area, an area 26 miles from our plant and pumping station; which at present uses about 250,000 gallons a day.

In addition to the planned construction of our new plant, we will install a new water main from the Harvey Canal to Westwego along the route of the new West Bank Expressway to take care of the new businesses and the new homes that will swarm in to locate on

this new highway. This main will tie in with the 16" emergency line from the plant under the Harvey Canal which we have just completed recently and which was laid in case something unforeseen should break or disrupt the regular service—at no additional cost to our water consumers.

We are also planning to increase our clear water storage to a 5,000,000 gallons reserve. One and one half million gallons will be in three elevated towers and the remaining 3,500,000 gallons as ground storage. In case of a plant failure we will have 5,000,000 gallons of water ready to use.

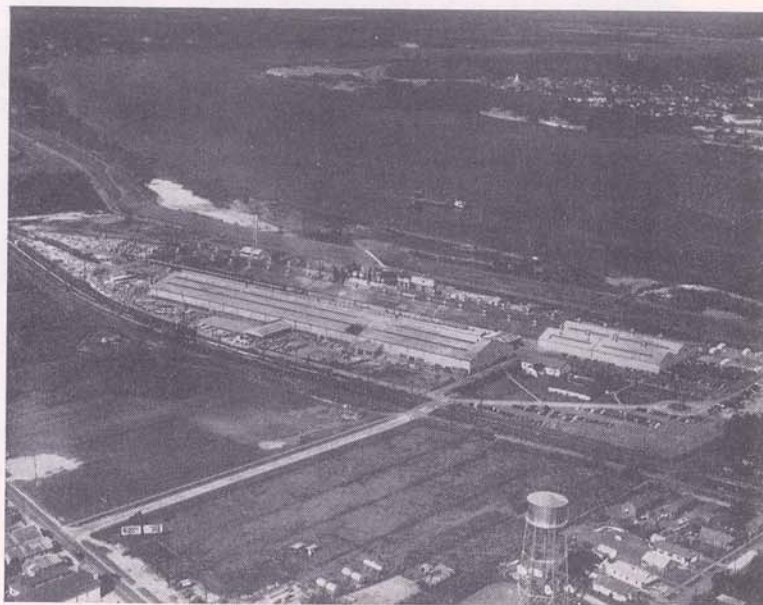
Also in the planning stage is a raw water intake line and increase of our river pumping station to 10,000,000 gallons per day.

Waterworks District No. 2 is strategically located right in the midst of the greatest industrial concentration in the parish, including several of its largest plants. The list is imposing: The Celotex Corporation; Johns-Manville Products Corporation; General Chemical Divi-



Pure, clean, fresh water always available keeps our school children healthy. Seeing these youngsters at the water fountain—a dozen times a day—we begin to realize the vital importance of our inexpensive, but indispensable daily supply of Health Department approved water.

The Johns-Manville Plant pictured here purchases from Waterworks District No. 2 an average total of 46 million gallons of pure water a year. This is used primarily for Boiler feed water, sanitary, cooling and air conditioning and employee services—and is over and above its yearly usage of industrial water.



sion, Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation; The Texas Company; Clark Oil & Refining Corporation; Southern Cotton Oil Company; Swift and Company; Commercial Solvents Corporation; Southern Shell Fish Company; Avondale Marine Ways; Sherwood Refinery Company; Stauffer Chemical Company; as well as numerous smaller ones.

We are very proud, on the completion of our first quarter century of service to our industrial, residential and commercial customers, that our anniversary year marks the expansion point where we double (and can redouble if necessary) our capacity. It is a praiseworthy record to mark on our 25th milestone.

COMMISSIONERS, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS OF JEFFERSON PARISH WATERWORKS DISTRICT NUMBER TWO

Left to right: Peter J. Russo, Secretary-Treasurer; Anthony Peperone, Commissioner; Ed. E. Feitel, President and General Manager; Jacob D. Giardina, Vice-President; Curry J. Juneau, Commissioner; Carlo Siragussa, Commissioner; T. Edward Ernst, Engineer on Designing of new plant; and Nezem J. Lorio, Plant Superintendent.





The mechanical digger nonchalantly chews out the ditch for a new water main on Manson Drive in Marrero.

METERED PROGRESS

The 1956 Report of Jefferson Parish
Waterworks District Number Three

By Mirtile Dugas, President

The best way in the world to discover what is going on in that sprawling 36 square mile area of Jefferson Parish from the Gretna Line to the Westwego Line, and from Tenth Street to the 6th Ward line, is to follow the meter installing crew of Waterworks District No. 3.

Part of this broad expanse is the pastoral peace of truck and dairy farms and suburban homes. Part of it is hectic, concentrated industrial activity, like the

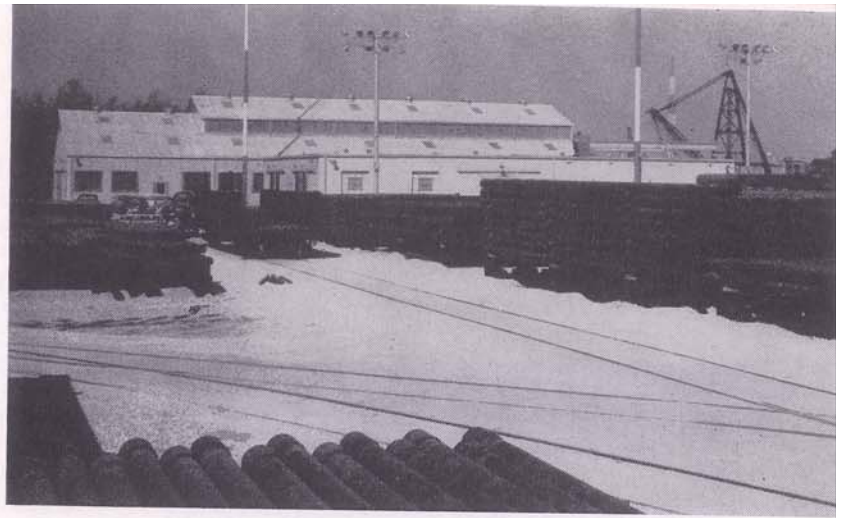
76 firms lining Peters Road on the east side of Harvey Canal. And part is the permanent institutions of Hope Haven, Madonna Manor, and St. Josephs Deaf Mute Institute. But the meter crew will prove to you that there is constant new construction in every corner of it.

Waterworks District No. 3 was established seven years ago to serve this area, which was just then beginning to feel the surging expansion of the parish. Five years later the District had in-



We are now serving new homes such as this in the new Manson Drive Subdivision in Marrero for which the water main pictured above was laid.

This is part of the new million dollar Shell Company operation in Waterworks District No. 3, the picture showing the well stocked pipe yard. Refer to illustration on page 220.



Homes, homes, and more homes are popping up in District No. 3. This shows part of the Garden Plaza All Colored Subdivision on Silver Lily Lane in Marrero.



And this is one of District No. 3's new white subdivisions — the Shady Moss Homes on Richland Drive in Marrero.

stalled 1777 meters, which included all the customers of all classifications using water. But in the last two years the pace has sharply accelerated. The total now is 2600 installed meters, and last year alone the crews installed 450 new ones — nearly two every working day. In spite of the sprawling expanse of the area, District No. 3 is already serving over 100 customers a mile along its 25 miles of main line, and furnishing 13,000,000 gallons of water a month.

The pipe laying crews have just finished laying 2500 feet to Shell Oil

Company's new office building, warehouse, pipeyard and garage — a million dollar operation on Destrehan Avenue on the West Side of Harvey Canal. Other new and recent industrial concerns in the District are Pro-Tekto-Kote Corp. and Petroleum Distributing Co., the last of which is using 300,000 gallons a month.

As fresh as the ink of this report are the housing projects of Manor Heights on Belle Terre Road with 80 new homes under construction; Richland Drive with 12 new homes; and Shady Moss

Laying pipe on Destrehan Avenue, on the West or Upper Side of Harvey Canal; to the new Shell Oil Company Million Dollar Operation. (See top illustration page 219).



Homes Subdivision with 12 to 15 new units. These are all white. There is also the new Garden Plaza Colored Subdivision of 97 new units in Marrero.

These examples — plus the fact that the pipe crews have replaced the former 2" pipe of Allo Avenue in Marrero with 250 feet of 4" pipe, just twice the capacity — are indications of the residential boom that is hitting Water District No. 3.

While District No. 3 purchases water wholesale from District No. 2, the definite indications of a rapidly increasing future demand has caused the Commissioners to plan for an additional water tower for storage, and a reciprocal tie-in with adjoining Water District No. 6 on a standby valve that feeds water either way in an emergency.

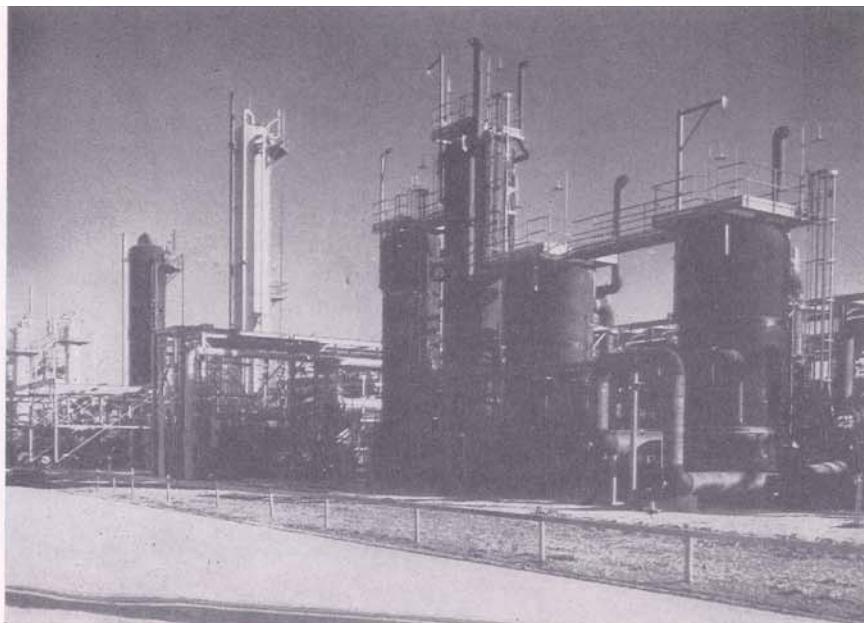
Being able to furnish a 55 lb. pressure clear to Estelle, where District No. 6 starts, Water District No. 3 gives its customers excellent fire protection with 40 strategically located fire plugs and 75 smaller 2-inch standby plugs as a supplementary protection.

Based on its present demands and its available supply from No. 2, Waterworks District No. 3 is entering its seventh year of efficient service, under the active management of O. A. Barnewold, Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Commissioners, with the guarantee to its customers that it can and will continue to supply all the clean, healthful water they want — or can use.

COMMISSIONERS, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS OF JEFFERSON PARISH WATERWORKS DISTRICT NUMBER THREE

Left to right: Ivy Savoie, Vice President and Commissioner; Sidney Bourgeois, Commissioner; Mirtile Dugas, President and Commissioner; Joseph Percle, Commissioner; Joseph Calzada, Commissioner; and O. A. Barnewold, Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent.





Two of the largest industries in Jefferson Parish are located in Waterworks District No. 5.

Above is a sectional view of the American Cyanamid Company and below is a section of Avondale Marine Ways, Inc.

Keep Your Eye On Water District No. 5

By ABE H. HOWELL, President, Commissioner and
Superintendent of Jefferson Parish Waterworks
District No. 5

This is the industrial and residential frontier of Jefferson's West Bank — extending a mile deep along the Mississippi River from the Westwego City Limits to the St. Charles Parish Line.

Already it claims a half dozen important industries, including two of the largest in the parish — the \$75 million Fortier Plant of the American Cyanamid Company at one end, which, after only a little more than a year of operation, has found it necessary to add a \$39 million enlargement — and, at the other end, the constantly expanding Avondale

Marine Ways. But even with its excellent industrial representation its available eleven miles of river front factory sites have hardly been touched.

And behind this eleven mile stretch of industrial area is the convenient mile deep expanse of future home and garden sites for the future employees of future factories — on high, dry and fertile land with natural drainage from the sloping river bank, created by all those centuries of the river's overflow before this seasonal recurrence was halted by our modern and massive levees.



The capable Fire Officers of Bridge City Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, elected for 1956, as pictured above are: Left to right, Earl J. Ledet, President; Edward Vedros, Chief; Dennis Autin, Vice President; Lawrence Dufrene, Assistant Chief; Edison Dufrene, Captain; Henry Grabert, Lieutenant; and A. L. Gullledge, Secretary and Treasurer. And opposite is the company's new \$15,000 High Pressure Fire Engine with a 500 gallon per minute capacity — acquired through the untiring efforts of the Company's 60 members and the citizens of Bridge City and the Fire District.

Right at this moment the Morning-side Subdivision of 70 houses, the Fortier Subdivision of 30 houses and the Bostick Subdivision of 30 houses are being constructed in the South Kenner area. But although these are indicative of what is happening in Waterworks District No. 5, the ground has barely been scratched on its far reaching suburban acres.

A little over 4 years ago Parish leaders foresaw that Jefferson's tremendous industrial and residential growth would soon move upstream along these eleven miles of what was then practically virgin riverbank.

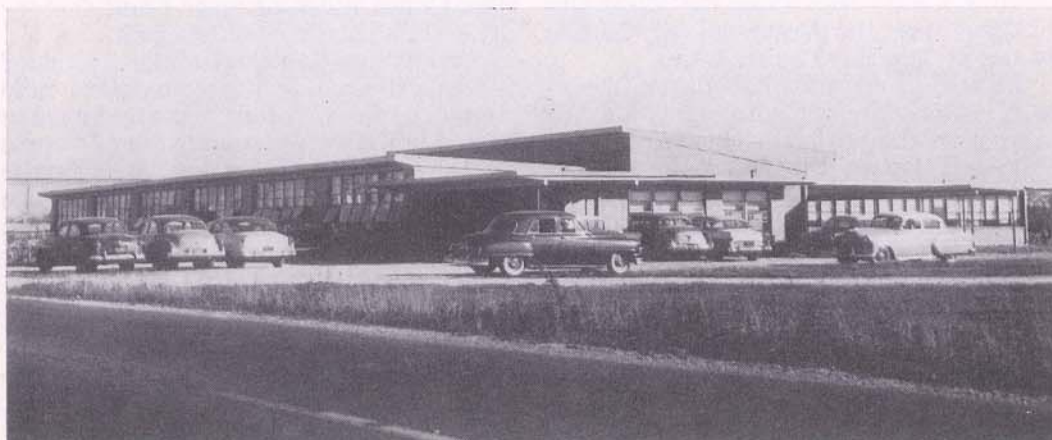
To prepare for that inevitable and rapidly approaching expansion it was

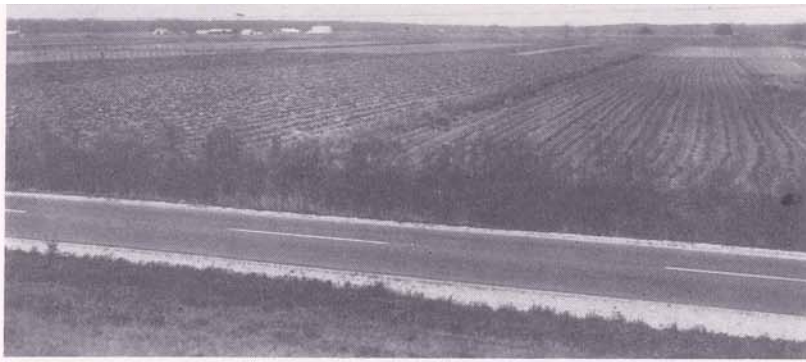
decided to establish Water District No. 5 in this area, so that its coming factories and homes would have available ample water and fire protection.

And so enthusiastic were the residents already located here that many contracted for meters they were not yet ready to use in order to get the initial 800 customers necessary to bring water to their district — a district which could still distinctly remember the expense and inconvenience of trucking their drinking supply at the fantastic price of 50 cents for a 52-gallon barrel. Compare that with Waterworks District No. 5's present minimum rate of only \$2.25 for 2000 gallons, and no service fee.

Approved, organized, pipe laid and

The new Bridge City Elementary Public School.





A partial panoramic view of the huge future industrial frontier already served by Waterworks District No. 5.

plant constructed, Jefferson Parish Waterworks District No. 5 started operations in May of 1953 with more than its required 800 customers and a contract with the City of Westwego to purchase at least 6,000,000 gallons of water wholesale per month. Today — about five years and 200 additional customers later — it is already distributing nearly 16,000,000 gallons a month.

Today not only the communities of Bridge City, Avondale, Waggaman and South Kenner, but the lone house in the very limits of its jurisdiction has fire plug protection. By running a few hundred feet of pipe the three new subdivisions we just mentioned, and all that are built in the future, will have city water service at city water rates.

Because of the availability of plenty of potable water the highway in our District is now served by the new half million dollar 45-unit Holiday Motel and its adjoining modern Wisp Restaurant.

And because of the existence of Waterworks District No. 5 industries are intrigued not only with our excellent river front factory sites but also with the unlimited amount of industrial water we can so economically supply.

District No. 5, being a frontier area with one foot in the past and the other in the future, runs the gamut from dairy farms to tremendous industrial plants, from a skeet club and rifle range and duck pond to modern subdivisions. Look out across its still unoccupied acres and you think you are in the country. Listen in on its Board Meetings and you realize that it is clicking and planning with city quick precision.

And nobody knows better than the employees of Water District No. 5, who install the meters and place the fire-plugs and watch the new construction contractors yell for water lines, that this is the section toward which Jefferson's future is racing.

OFFICIALS OF JEFFERSON PARISH WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 5

Seated, left to right: Dan C. Slate, Vice President and Commissioner; Mrs. A. L. Gullledge, Commissioner; E. J. Ledet, Commissioner; Abe H. Howell, President, Commissioner and Superintendent; Wilfred Berthelot, Jr., Commissioner; Mrs. Margarette S. Muller, Secretary-Treasurer; William J. White, Attorney for the District. Standing, left to right: Clarence G. Guillot, Maintenance; Lawrence Grabert, Maintenance; and Eugene Hemard, Office Clerk.



FAREWELL TO CISTERNS AND BUTANE TANKS IN JEFFERSON PARISH WATERWORKS DISTRICT No. 6

By Clem Perrin, Sr.
President

Jefferson Parish Waterworks District No. 6, which extends from a point 5 miles below Marrero to the lower end of Lafitte Village, was created in 1952 and financed by a \$1,055,000 Bond Issue. Construction work on the installation of water and natural gas service into this 15 mile long district, serving the Crown Point-Lafitte-Barataria Area, was begun last year and has just recently been completed. Already 700 water and 500 gas meters have been installed with constant requests from new customers.

In addition to the modern gas and water convenience which this new service brings to this last stronghold in the Parish of the old fashioned cisterns and butane gas tanks, there is the vital factor of adequate water for fire protection.

Water will be purchased wholesale from Waterworks District No. 2 in Marrero, and the limit of the District represents the farthest south water can be carried by pipeline under existing financial limitations.

Paradoxically, here was a region that was almost half water and yet people had to resort to rainwater cisterns. Also this was and is one of the richest nat-



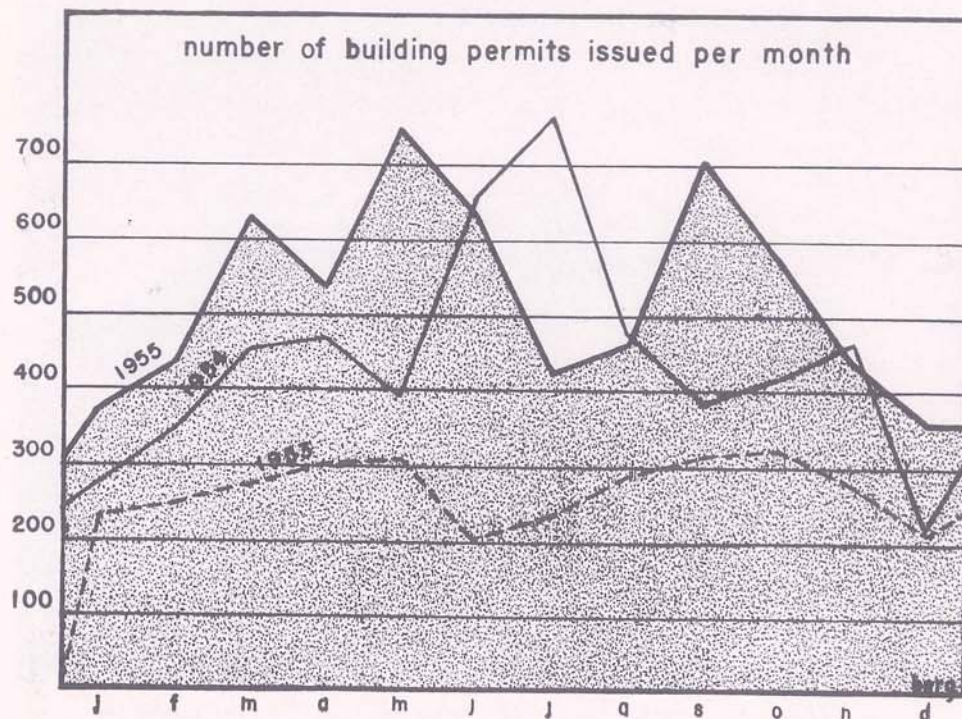
The new water tower of Waterworks District No. 6 on the road to Lafitte Village.

ural gas fields in the country, yet its residents have been compelled to use butane gas up until now.

Waterworks District No. 6 brings to them now what they had always had a lot of but couldn't use.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD: Left to right—Clem Perrin, Sr., President and Commissioner; Warren Lavelle, Secretary-Treasurer and Commissioner; Robert A. Pitre, Sr., Commissioner; Gus Carmadelle, Sr., Commissioner; John W. Dufrene, Commissioner; E. H. Arnold, Superintendent.





Graph showing the month by month record of new building permits issued since the organization of the Department of Regulatory Inspections. Prepared by Wm. J. Berg, Chief Building Inspector.

SERVES THE PEOPLE AND SUPPORTS ITSELF

A resume of the Department of Regulatory Inspections of Jefferson Parish,
Whose Primary Purpose Is To Protect Property Owners.

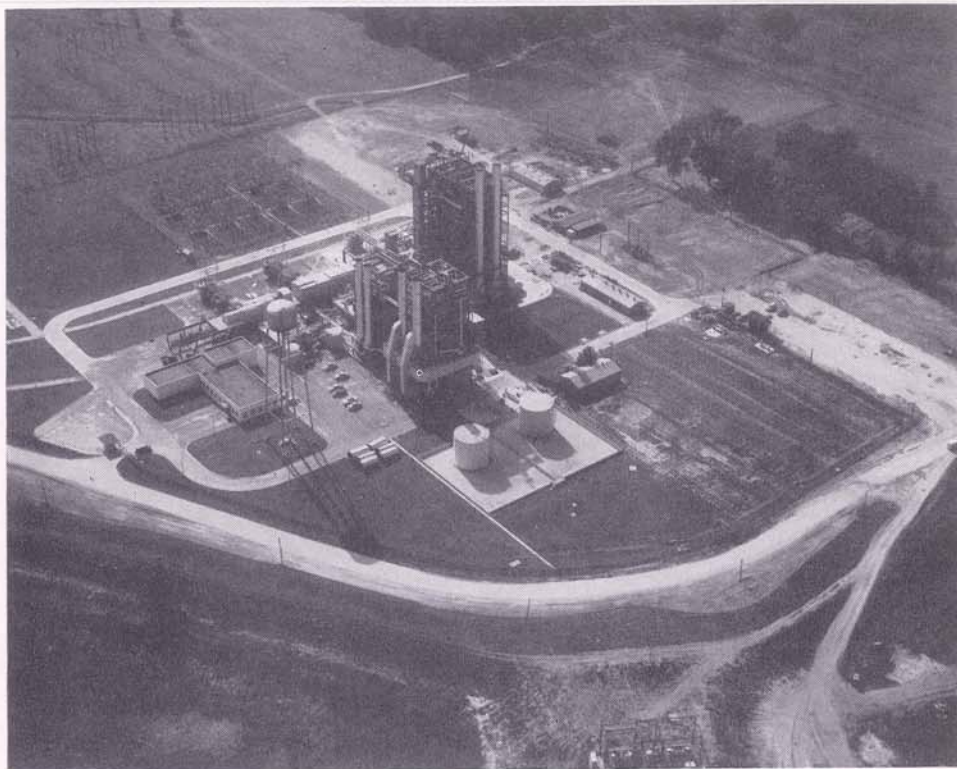
By LeRoy L. Hall, Director

Several years ago the business and public leaders of Jefferson faced a problem of parish progress that demanded swift solution. They were proud to see new construction developing so rapidly in the suburban areas — but, unfortunately, there existed at the time no requirement of inspections or permits (since they were outside the incorporated communities) for protecting the individual builders from making costly mistakes or becoming the victims of the misjudgment of others.

Taking prompt action, the parish officials drafted the necessary legislation, which was introduced in the 1952 Ses-

sion of the State Legislature by Representative James E. Beeson and passed as Act 520. Immediately the Police Jury set up a committee, with LeRoy L. Hall as Chairman, to consult with all the available experts in the building field, and to create the necessary organization for the issuing of building, plumbing and electrical permits for new construction and remodeling in all the unincorporated area of Jefferson Parish.

This vital organization, known as the Department of Regulatory Inspections of Jefferson Parish, completed its third year of successful operation in January 1956.



The Nine Mile Point plant of the Louisiana Power and Light Company, constructed during the Department's first operating year of 1953—the biggest single industrial construction project in Jefferson's unincorporated area under the Department's jurisdiction.

Successful — not only from the standpoint of being self supporting from the very beginning, able to pay for all the projects it has undertaken entirely from its revenue from permits, fees for inspections and licensing of contractors — but also successful from the standpoint

of its enthusiastic acceptance by the people it was designed to serve.

The residents and business men of the suburban sections now know that not only is any building or remodeling they do safe and sanitary and in strict conformation with the building code, but so

The new land and seaplane base of Oil Field Seaplane Service, Inc., near Westwego, started two years ago from nothing but swamp—now the only private seaplane base and landing field in the entire New Orleans area. The canal is seven feet deep and will accommodate any amphibian up to a Grumman Mallard, with a waterway runway 5,000 feet by 125 feet. The landing strip is 5,000 feet by 270 feet. Landing is free—the only charge being for hangar space and necessary services.





Architect Edward Van Amerongen's rendering of the new Jefferson Highway Branch of Metairie Savings Bank and Trust Company, which will be completed in May 1956. Located at 3639 Jefferson Highway it will cost \$125,000 and will replace the old headquarters at 2821 Jefferson Highway. It will be operated under the managership of Milton T. Barker, Vice President of the Bank. Designed under the direction of J. Fred Muller, Sr., Chairman of the Board, this Branch has been constructed to absorb the community growth of at least 10 years.

is that of their neighbor and everyone else in the unincorporated area.

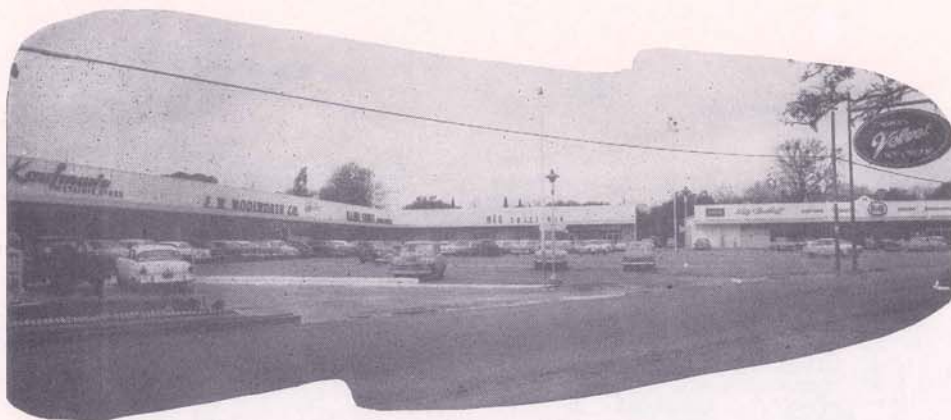
Today, after three years of operation, the Department's most ardent supporters are those whom it most strictly supervises—the contractors. They know that in Jefferson Parish they are pro-

tected from the competition of unscrupulous operators who, if there were no regulation, could low bid on any specified product and furnish another of inferior quality.

In addition to its primary job of issuing building, electrical, plumbing, gas

Representative of the diversified new construction in Jefferson's unincorporated area are these new buildings of St. Martins Episcopal School on the Airline Highway.





Symbolic of the steady commercial growth of Jefferson's unincorporated area, motivated by the many new homeowners swarming into its residential sections, is this large, modern shopping center on Metairie Road in Metairie.

and air conditioning permits — making several inspections before construction is finally approved — and licensing all contractors doing business in the parish, the Department also took upon itself the major job of properly identifying streets and allotting house numbers throughout the parish.

Although this is a perpetual and never ending assignment, the biggest part of the job was bringing the parish up to date, identifying each existing building and house by number, making 122 street name changes for clarification (every one of which required formal notification to 17 different offices, including the Chamber of Commerce of the New Orleans Area) and posting over 14,000 street identification signs — as well as the additional supplementary task of establishing 2000 traffic control signs. On these combined details the Department had spent over \$100,000 at the end of 1955.

In fact, the Department has shown

such a fine record of efficiency and economical results in its own unincorporated area that the City of Harahan contracted with it on March 1 of 1955 to handle its inspections and zoning.

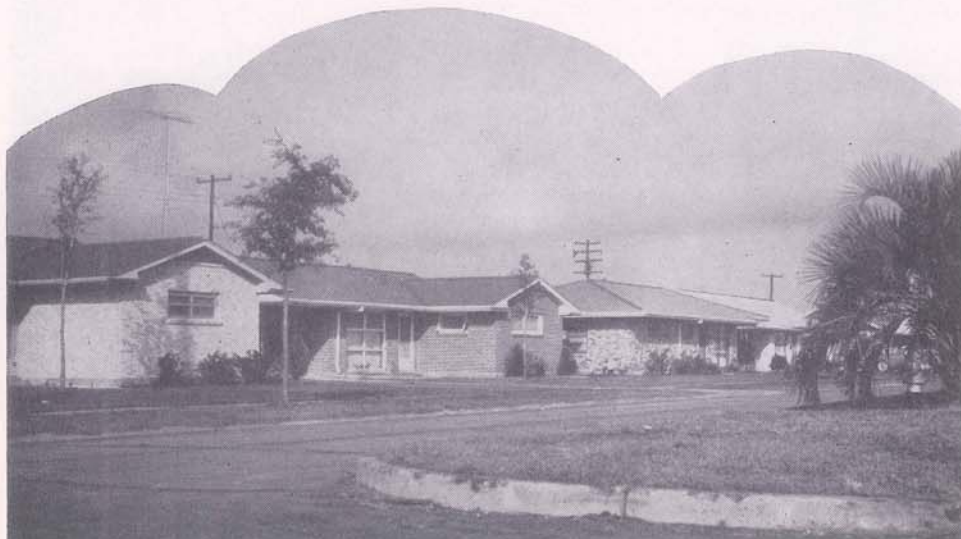
And, as a mirror held up to the sensational growth of the unincorporated area of Jefferson Parish — those former wide open spaces outside the cities — the records of the Department are revealing and amazing.

For instance:—During the first year of its operation in 1953 the Department issued 1210 residence building permits. In 1954 that figure jumped over 100% to 2495. And in 1955 the annual total mounted to the imposing figure of 2736.

The total number of permits (including residences, commercial buildings, industries, churches, schools and public institutions) showed an equally imposing increase in 1954 over 1953. From a total of 3196 permits in 1953 to a total of 5308 in 1954 is over 60% increase.

In 1955 the total number of permits

And these new homes, in the new Airline Park Subdivision off Airline Highway North, are symbolic of the residential growth mentioned above.





The new, modern and efficient Jefferson Parish Branch of the National Bank of Commerce at 2400 Jefferson Highway at Labarre Road. This is the head office of the three new banks constructed by the National Bank of Commerce in Jefferson Parish in 1955. The other two are at Harahan and Metairie.

issued ran 6338. This was another 20% increase over the previous year. In 1955 there were more residences constructed but not so many commercial buildings. This simply means that the business houses rushing in to serve the new home owners had caught up temporarily with the surge of population to the suburban sections.

With its main office located at 1627 Metairie Road the Department of Regulatory Inspections also maintains a Branch Office at Westwego, under Assistant Director Sidney Pertuit; another Branch Office at Grand Isle, under Miss T. Mercedes Adam, Clerk in Charge; and an office in Harahan under Mrs. Lillian Bourg, in connection with its contract with that city.

In September of 1954 a sign shop, affiliated with the Address Co-ordination

Section and under the auspices of the Department of Regulatory Inspections, was put in production at 1516 Seminole Street. Equipped with the newest and finest of machinery and staffed with expert workmen, this shop turns out, delivers and erects at the expense of the Department as fast as they are needed, all the signs required by the parish.

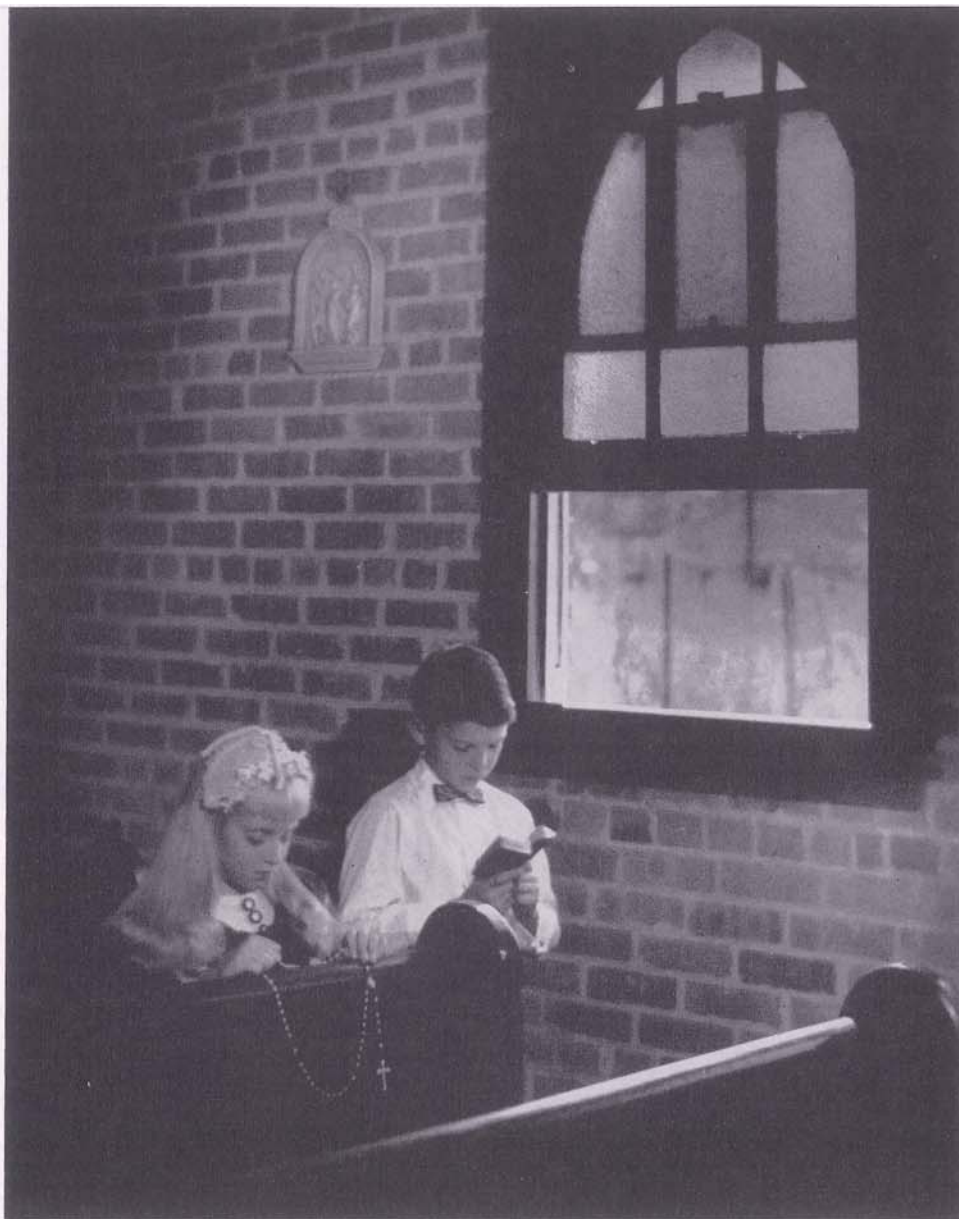
Proud of its vital job of seeing that each new structure, large or small, conforms to the Jefferson plan of a healthy, sanitary, safe and well organized parish — proud of the part it has played in the development and improvement of the unincorporated area of the parish, the Department of Regulatory Inspections calls to your attention, on the accompanying report, a total of well over a hundred million dollars worth of new construction it has supervised within the last three years.

DOLLAR VALUE OF THE NEW CONSTRUCTION IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF JEFFERSON PARISH IN THE LAST THREE YEARS

YEAR	RESIDENCES	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	CHURCHES, SCHOOLS & INSTITUTIONS	OTHERS	TOTAL
1953.....	\$13,880,000	\$2,960,000	\$10,500,000*	\$5,500,000**	\$1,287,996	\$34,127,996
1954.....	28,181,843	4,880,268	3,579,109	628,250	3,732,701	41,002,171
1955.....	35,918,207	2,909,550	3,736,948	967,700	5,154,754	48,687,159

*This figure included the new Nine Mile Point Plant of Louisiana Power and Light Co.

**This figure included the new \$5 million Ochsner Foundation Hospital.



Typical of new church construction is Saint Philomena Catholic Church on Barataria Boulevard at Estelle.

DEEP SOUTH MERCURY, Inc.

JERRY BROOME,
PRESIDENT

MINNIE HEFNER,
OFFICE MANAGER

"YOUR FRIENDLY MERCURY DEALER"

Fifth and Gelbke

FOrest 6-4365

Gretna, Louisiana

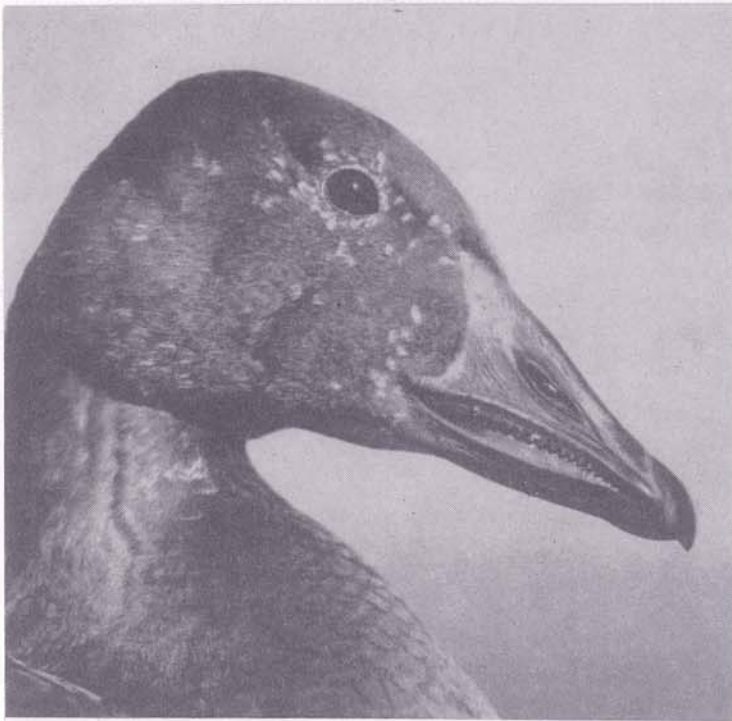


The Land of the Blue Goose

by **LEANDER H. PEREZ**
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes

The paradoxical story of Plaquemines Parish . . . with an area 984 square miles on both sides of the Mississippi River to the outer Gulf limits of the State of Louisiana . . . in the wilderness heart of which hundreds of thousands of Blue Geese and other feathered migrants winter in safety . . . which is the largest sulphur and oil producing and the only orange growing parish in Louisiana and contains the world's second largest sulphur mine . . . which is probably the least known and least visited part of Louisiana, but nationally recognized as the richest in resources of any comparable section its size in the United States.



Interviewed in Plaquemines by cameraman E. P. Haddon of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this typical Blue Goose remarked: "Yes, that's right, I came from around Baffin Island. The Eskimos call me Kungovik. I just love your Southern food and when I leave here I'll average in weight a little over 5 lbs. See you next year!"

Back in the early part of the century Plaquemines was populated almost entirely by a few hundred fishermen, trappers and farmers. And, although it was recognized as one of the most valuable fur producing areas in America, and its black Mississippi River loam was richer than the famed valley of the Nile, the tax income was less than \$24,000 a year. Plaquemines had no public money as yet for roads, schools, drainage, water — any of the by-products of prosperity.

It was during this period of poverty that a Chicago multimillionaire sportsman by the name of Joseph Leiter (who, incidentally, lost about \$10,000,000 in an attempt to corner the wheat market in 1898) owned 12,000 acres of Plaque-

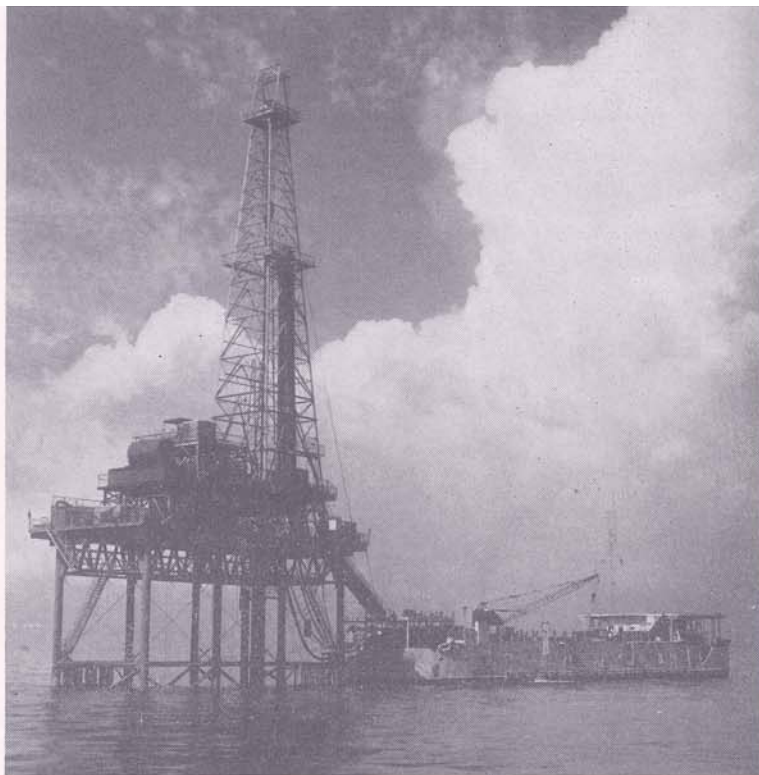
mines Parish east of the river below Venice. There he had built his famous Chateau Canard, and his equally famous heated duck blinds for the convenience of his wealthy guests during hunting season.

Some years after Leiter's death in 1932 the U. S. Government acquired this 12,000 acres, added the old Delta Duck Club property comprising another 36,000 acres to it, and established the Delta Wildlife Refuge — which in the last two decades, in addition to being the haunt of white tail deer, pelicans, herons, ibis and egrets, has become the favorite, almost the exclusive, winter headquarters of the fabulous Blue Geese. Indispensable — because before this sanctuary

This photograph by John J. Lynch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shows just one camera's view of the hundreds of thousands of blue and snow geese that winter in Plaquemines Parish between October and March.



The new \$1,500,000 ERNIE MILLER Drilling Tender, photographed on location south of Buras in Plaquemines Parish. Designed for offshore drilling in water from 15 to 100 feet, where it is too deep for conventional type submersible drilling barges, the ERNIE MILLER is operated by the Continental Oil Company for the CATC Group which spudded its first well in March 1953 in Plaquemines offshore waters.

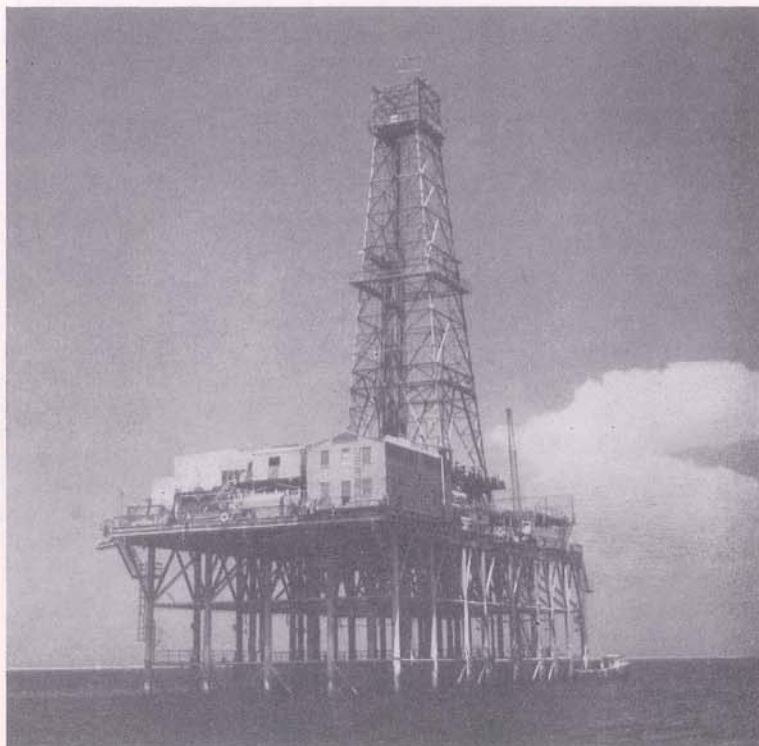


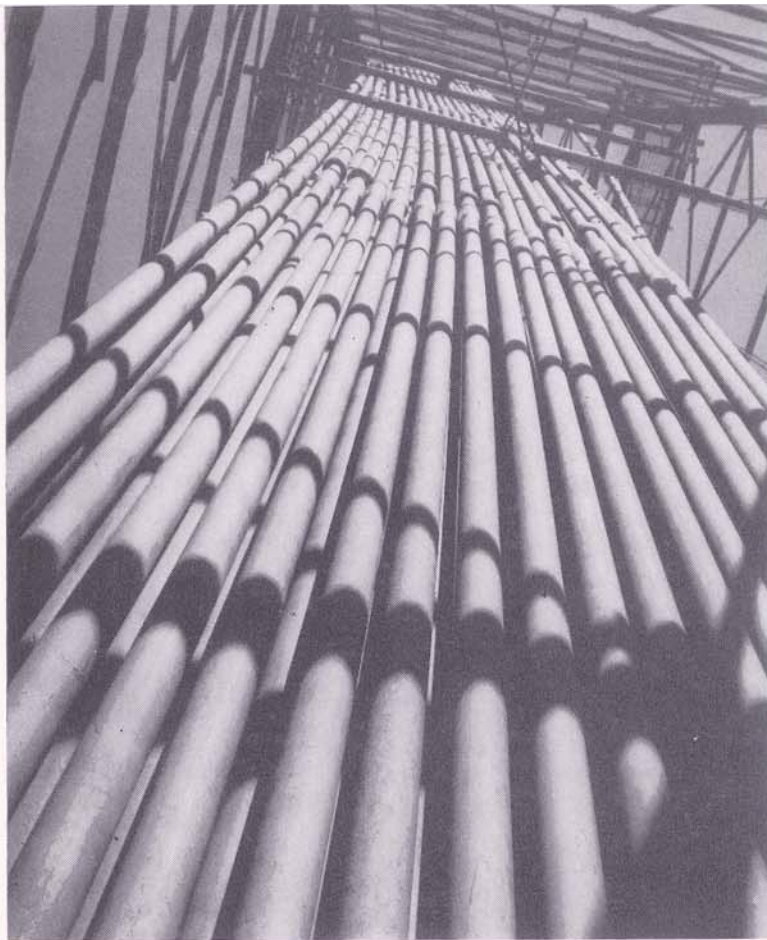
was established the Blue and Snow Geese had practically disappeared from this area. It has taken over twenty years to reach this present point where their annual migration again approaches the million mark.

Early in October hundreds of thousands of them leave their Arctic homes and start down the Mississippi Flyway in an annual unaltered path — seldom seen, for they follow water as much as possible, frequently flying at night, sometimes resting after 100 miles, often continuing 500 without a stop.

And most of them head straight for the huge Wildlife Refuge near Pilot-town, where they settle down to a protected life of leisure, eating to their craw's content their favorite three cornered grass, so prolific in Plaquemines and which remains green all year round. That is, it would remain green if the hungry birds did not devour it completely, root and stem. After a few days' feeding in the thickest cluster they will have cleaned out not only their food but the hiding place it afforded. Then they move to another.

The first permanent, self contained drilling platform built by Shell Oil Company for Louisiana offshore drilling is shown in operation in Plaquemines Parish in 72 feet of water in East Bay near the mouth of the Mississippi. This huge structure, reaching as high as a 50 story building, is capable of drilling 12 directional wells — and, upon their successful completion, it can be turned into a giant production platform, simply by removing the drilling equipment.





A dramatic view of over 22,000 feet of pipe taken from the deepest hole in the world — drilled by Richardson and Bass in the Lake Washington Field of Plaquemines Parish.

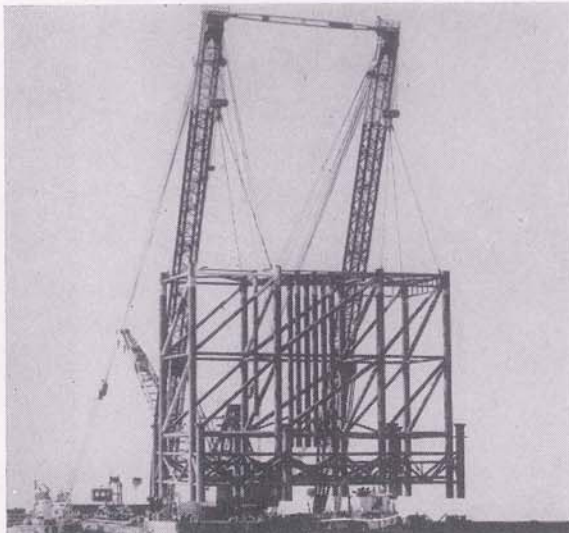
The broken shells and the sand found here are also reasons for Plaquemines' popularity with the wild geese. They must have sand and lime in their craws to digest their forage.

But come March, the urge to go North and mate strikes the entire Refuge almost simultaneously and the long flight back home to reproduce their kind begins. In the Northland, where it is again Spring, the geese build their nests and lay their eggs. But both mother and dad lose their flying feathers when the eggs are hatched — and do not get them back until the young geese begin trying their own. Nature's precaution, presumably,

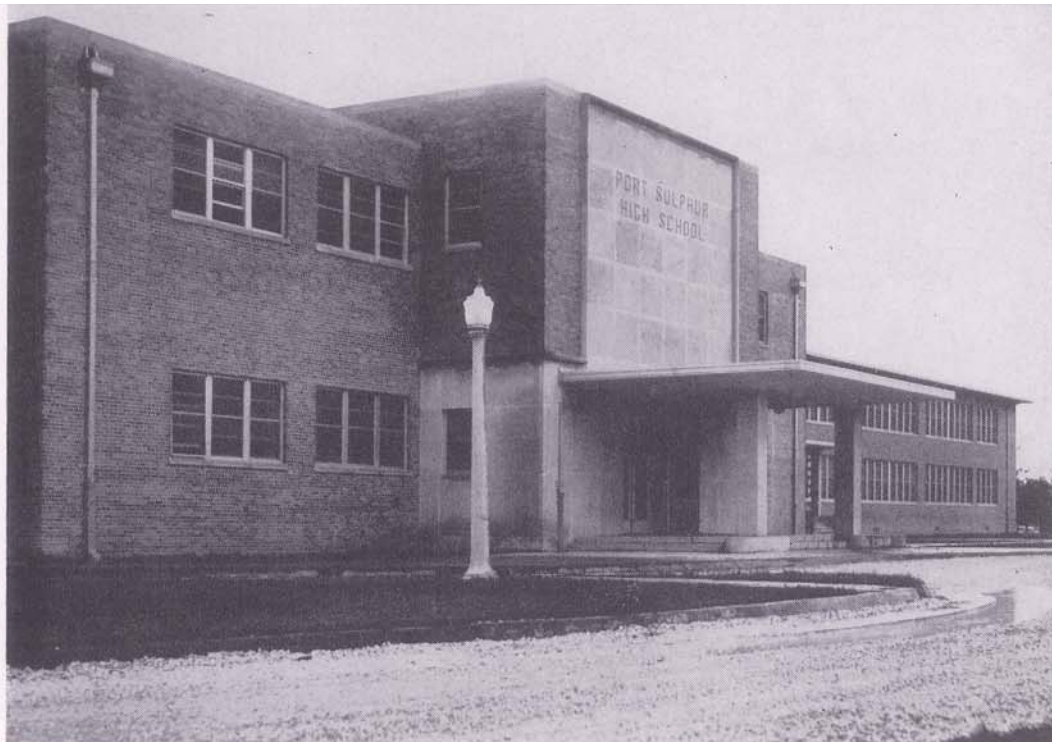
to prevent adultery among Blue and Snow Geese parents.

It is astonishing that in Plaquemines' Wildlife Refuge the geese feel so secure that not even a helicopter coming to the oil fields can cause a flight of any great numbers. At the 66,000 acre Pass a L'Outre State Hunting Preserve — also in Plaquemines Parish and just below — duck and geese and all game can be hunted, but the geese have learned that in their own Refuge they are absolutely safe.

Once in awhile, however, something besides fright will cause a large group to rise in unison from a shell beach, for



This is the world's strongest derrick barge — built for the requirements of California Company by J. Ray McDermott and Company. It has a rated lifting capacity of 600 tons, actually hoisted 800 tons on its test trial and is shown here handling 425 tons on its first assignment, when it placed firmly on location the "Super Structure" California had constructed for its drilling operations in 61 feet of water at the newly acquired leases in South Pass Block 39 of Plaquemines Parish, and which was too big for the conventional 250-ton lift barges.



Entrance to Port Sulphur Consolidated High School — just one segment of this huge up to the minute factory where Plaquemines turns out many of its citizens of tomorrow — finished products of which the parish can be very proud.

instance. When that happens their flight literally obscures the sky. A Blue Goose will measure 28 inches from beak to tail, and when thousands rise and take off together, the sound and the sight are an experience never to be forgotten.

So carefully protected is the welfare of the geese and other wildlife that in the busy Plaquemines Romere Pass Oil Field of the California Company, located in the heart of the Refuge, only one drilling rig is operated at a time in the winter months, so as not to unduly disturb the feathered visitors. And California Company also, back before it be-

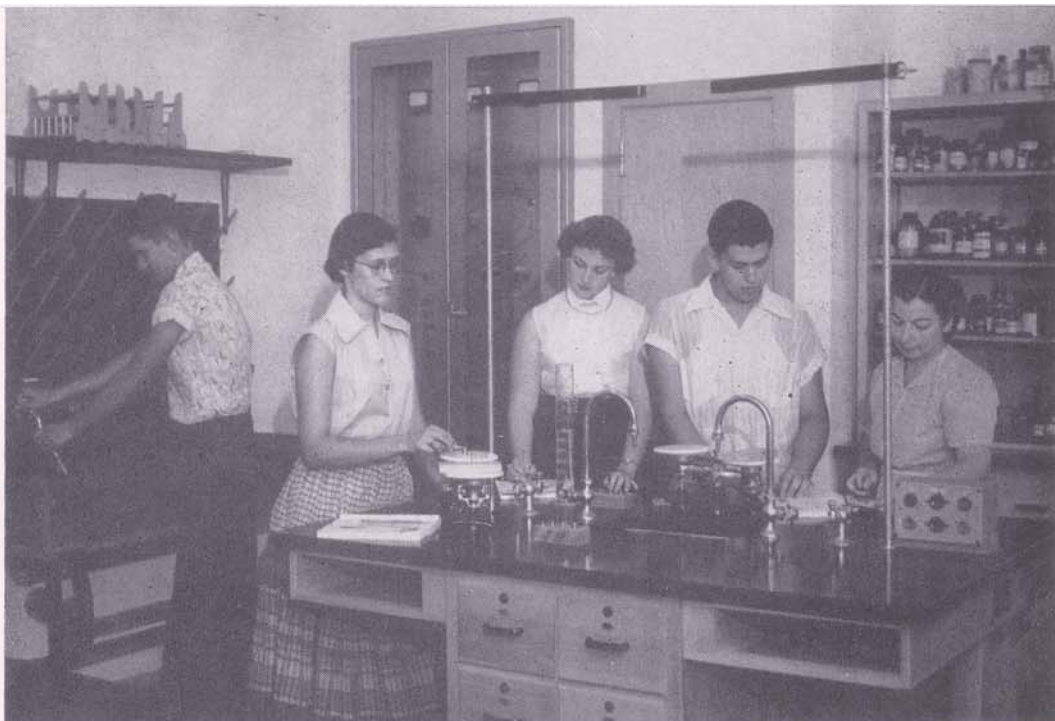
gan selling its gas, did not flare it within the confines of the Refuge (which would have seriously frightened the wildlife) but installed stacks high enough to safely dissipate it into the upper air without the necessity of burning.

Plaquemines was once known as the Empire Parish, a fabulous fifty year period of fabulous fortunes which began with the crystallization of sugar and ended with the secession of the South.

But before that . . . long before that . . . it was on Plaquemines Parish terra firma that La Salle in 1682 planted the French flag and took over for his King

This picture was taken in the gymnasium of Port Sulphur High during Fire Prevention Week. A section of the student body is being instructed on fire protection and safety by Jack Pryol, Deputy Fire Marshal of Louisiana.





Buras High Science Teacher Mrs. Johnson leads her students along the complex paths of biology and chemistry, made fascinating by the laboratory's excellent equipment and extensive array of chemicals for experiments.

and Country what was later the half continent we purchased from Napoleon for \$15 million.

At the little Plaquemines town of Phoenix the first white settlement in the present state of Louisiana was established. It was the French "coureurs de bois" roaming out of this first fort who established Plaquemines' oldest industries—its fishing and trapping—two industries which have survived prosperity and weathered adversity.

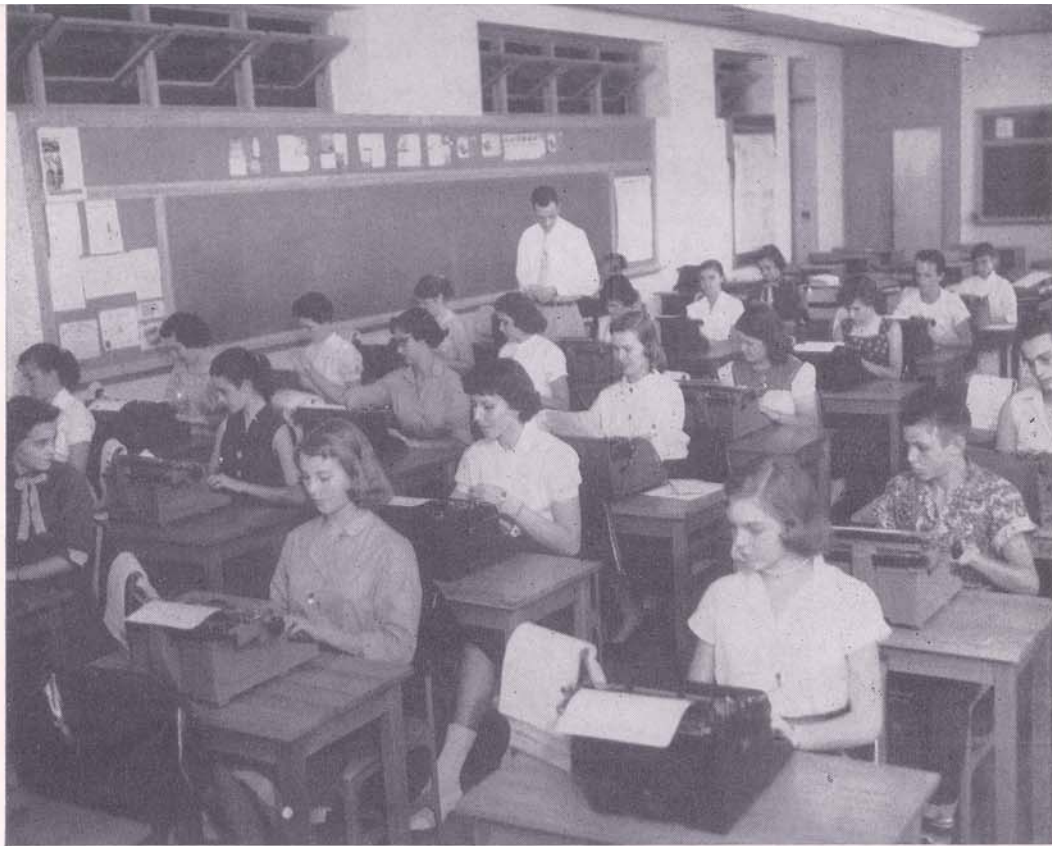
Today Plaquemines fishing industry contributes over 200,000 barrels of oysters a year to the national larder, and

sends out over 350 trawlers, owned and operated by independent parish fishermen, to trawl and haul to market the annual catch of millions of pounds of delicious shrimp. And Plaquemines trappers every year remind the nation again that this one parish alone furnishes around one fourth of all of Louisiana's fur pelts, the total of which is greater than all of Alaska and Canada combined.

It was the early French Jesuit Fathers, with seedling lovingly transported over the seas and skilfully transplanted on church ground at what is

Full front view of Buras High, to the left of which, out of the picture, is the Buras Elementary School. These two combined serve 1100 pupils, the largest group in the parish. Buras High, under the direction of Principal S. E. Niles, is completely equipped and staffed for the regular academic courses, as well as Commercial, Science and Home Economics.





Here Mr. John Toney, Instructor of the Commerce Department of Buras High, teaches 5 classes a day in the intricacies of typing, shorthand, and bookkeeping and clerical practice.

now Jesuit Bend, who discovered that there is an ideal citrus belt on the lower river and founded Plaquemines third oldest industry—its orange groves where are raised the juiciest and sweetest oranges in the land.

Twice in its history this exclusive Plaquemines industry has been almost totally wiped out. Once, in the terrible hurricane of 1893, from the effects of which it took nearly fifty years to recover. The second time, just recently in 1947, when an 18° sudden and unnatural freeze ruined 80% of all the trees. But this time the recovery was ten times quicker. In fact, the Plaquemines Parish

Fair and Orange Festival held in December 1955 celebrated the industry's complete recovery.

As is obvious Plaquemines started its economic history with its fishermen, its trappers, its few farmers and its orange growers. A completely rural parish lining the Mississippi on its last hundred miles to the sea. A parish more water than land, but whose good earth, wrested from the ever encroaching river in front and marshes behind, was and still is the richest in this entire land.

But in the 1790's Etienne de Bore discovered the secret of successfully crystallizing sugar, and former struggling

Mrs. John Toney, Home Economics teacher, instructs the future wives and mothers of Buras High on the proper cutting of cloth to the pattern.





Under the guidance of Librarian Mrs. Whitehead, some of the students of Buras High not in class are shown digging into the supplementary books that make their subjects more interesting — for studying is work, but reading is fun.

sugar planters suddenly acquired fortunes. Their expanding acres of cane began to move down the Mississippi River into Plaquemines Parish. The plush Plantation Era arrived and Plaquemines added to its ancient industries fields of purple prosperity.

And along with the success from sugar, came also the riches derived from the rice fields tended by slave labor and flooded gratuitously by the Mississippi's spring overflows. Between these two products Plaquemines achieved a peak

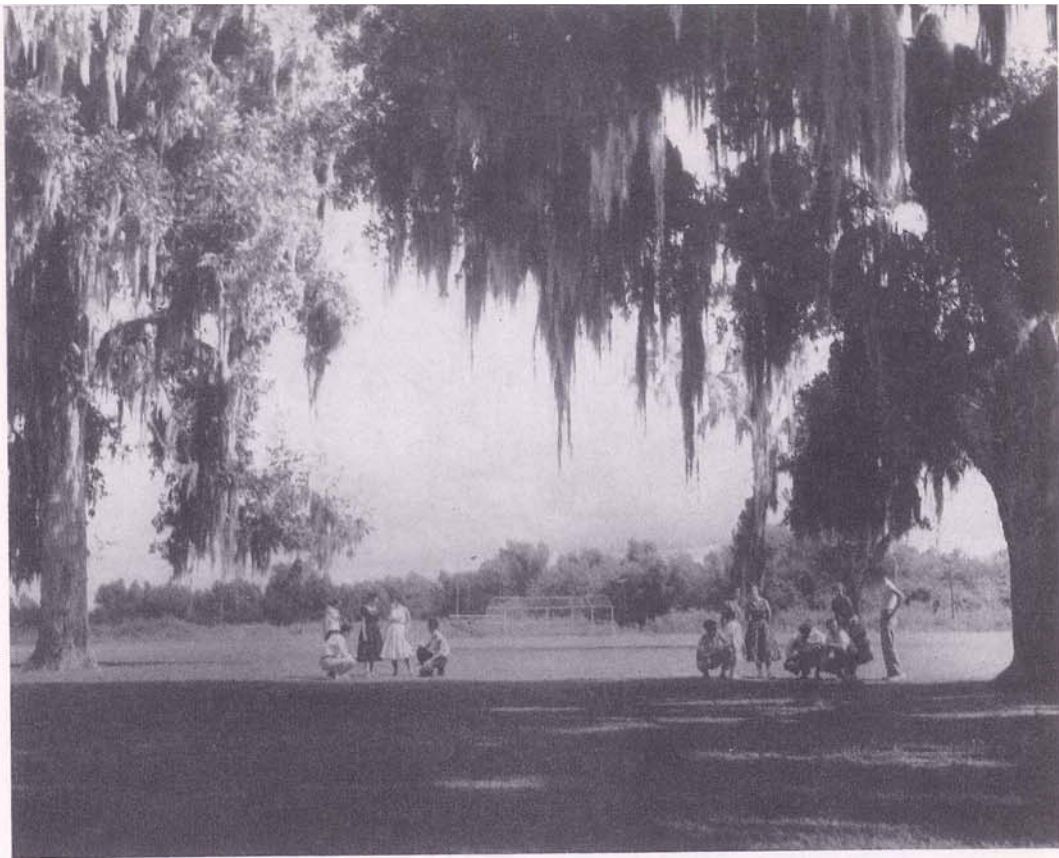
of prosperity that earned for it the sobriquet "The Empire Parish."

But as every student of history knows, conditions beyond Plaquemines control ended the fifty year plush period. The necessity for higher levees curtailed the easy profits of the rice planters. The centralization of sugar mills decreased the profits of the sugar planters. And to top it all, the War Between the States ended forever the Golden Age of the Plantations.

Like all the South, Plaquemines Par-

To transport its school children to and from school Plaquemines Parish operates 29 school busses (10 for negro children, 19 for white children) — plus a boat at Buras for the transportation of Ostrica pupils.





A group of Plaquemines Woodlawn High students enjoying their beautiful tree shaded campus during a free period. Notice the athletic field in the background.

ish managed to survive the Reconstruction years. In 1893, as we have mentioned, it was hit hard by the hurricane that destroyed its orange groves. And it stoically entered the new century supported solely by its original industries and sustained only by the indomitable courage of its hardy inhabitants who had been fighting the river and adversity and the elements all their lives.

Then one day the people of Plaquemines learned that their parish was a treasure trove. That under their feet, under the waters they traveled every day, was more wealth than Croesus ever dreamed existed.

In 1930 oil was discovered at Lake Washington. Close upon the heels of this glorious news came the announcement in 1933 that the Freeport Sulphur Company had begun successfully mining sulphur at Grand Ecaille in this same Lake Washington area, from what later was learned was the world's second largest deposit.

And so it was, that within three short years — after nearly a half century of doldrums—Plaquemines Parish entered upon its present period of prosperity which has now been gaining momentum for the last twenty-five years.

Symbolic of the modern school facilities which Plaquemines Parish provides for its over 4,000 school children is this Woodlawn High School. In the parish are now 7 white and 3 colored schools, plus 10 parochial and private schools with enrollments totalling around 360.





The well trained Belle Chasse High School Band in their snappy new uniforms.

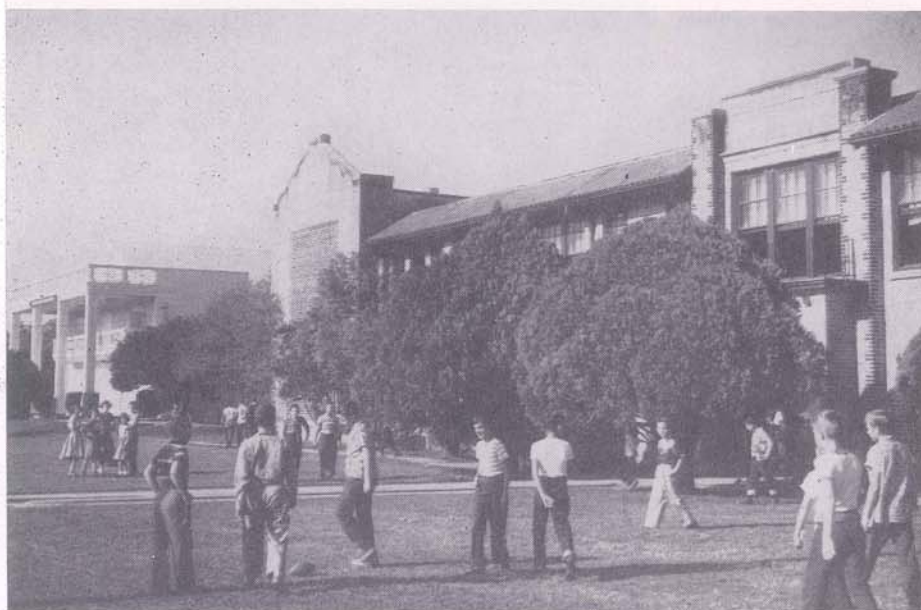
Today — Plaquemines Parish is the largest oil producing parish in Louisiana with a production last year of 51,842,542 barrels. And it was the first parish in the state to produce all three of the vital resources of oil, sulphur and natural gas. Plaquemines' town of Port Sulphur, built around the activities of the Freeport Sulphur Company, is one of the important communities of the parish.

The amazing story of present day Plaquemines, however, is not in its new found prosperity — but how its people have handled that prosperity — how they have intelligently used their severance tax money and other revenues to

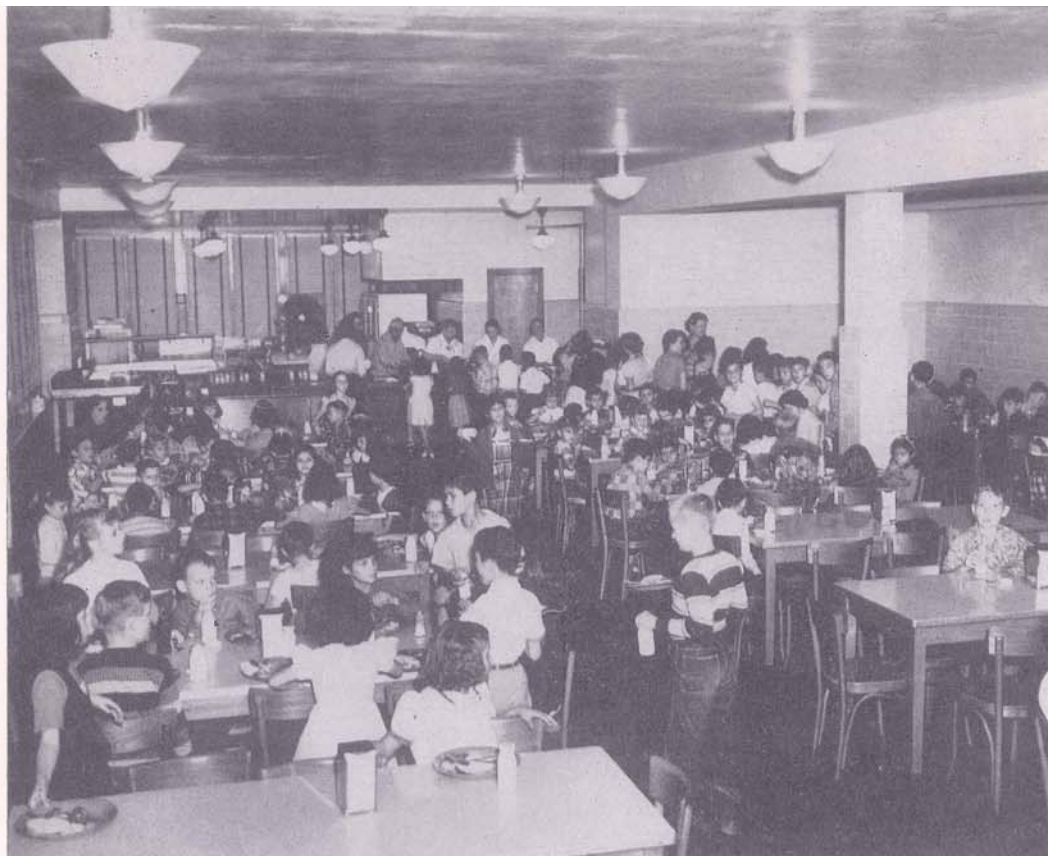
procure the community comforts and conveniences they have long lacked.

One of the first moves of their elected leaders, when this new revenue from natural resources became available, was to work out a master plan for public improvements that would not impose a tax burden on the people themselves.

The first step in that program was to introduce in the State Legislature a constitutional amendment and enabling acts permitting Plaquemines Parish (or any parish in Louisiana) to assume the tax obligations of its various local taxing bodies and combine them under its elected parish governing body — thereby eliminating or reducing several un-



This is the 27 year old Belle Chasse High School, once the finest in the parish and proud of its years of service, but patiently waiting to be replaced by a new and modern structure in the near future.



Representative of the entire Plaquemines School System is this lunch time scene at Woodlawn School in Braithwaite—where around 250 pupils are getting a delicious well balanced meal, including milk, for a dime, and all the additional milk they want at only 3c a bottle. The menu varies, of course. They were being served pork roast, brown gravy, sweet potatoes, vegetable salad, buttered peas, bread, cranberry sauce and milk the day this picture was taken.

necessary or overlapping public boards and overheads—and placing its entire parish program under the elected Parish governing body for economical and unimpeded execution.

The wisdom of that move lies in the public record. Since the middle Thirties, when Plaquemines put into operation its long range parish controlled program, it has not only lowered its tax rate from $37\frac{1}{2}$ mills to $15\frac{3}{4}$ mills—a drastic reduction of 60%—giving the people of Plaquemines the **LOWEST TAX RATE IN THE STATE**—but has maintained a steady succession of public improvements that have lifted its communities out of the mashes and have lifted its people out of the past.

Let's look at **PLAQUEMINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS**—one of its proudest accomplishments! It has undertaken a Construction Program of new schools, including three Negro Consolidated schools on both sides of the River. With a parish wide enrollment of 2700 white children in its seven white schools, and 1440 colored in its three Negro schools—served by 29 school busses—supplied with 10c hot lunches—provided

with the most modern classroom, laboratory, recreational and library facilities—and fully accredited under the Southern Association—Plaquemines is providing modern schools for its increasing population.

Fighting the encroaching marshes in the back has always been a problem too big for the pocketbook of the individual Plaquemines farmer. But the Parish Master Plan has financed, in the last few years, the rescue of over 25,000 acres of Plaquemines rich loam—providing new priceless land for the growing of Plaquemines nationally famous vegetables and citrus and for the development of Plaquemines recently added cattle raising industry.

Also serving the Plaquemines farmers, cattle raisers and truck gardeners are the office of County Agent Murphy W. McEachern and the L.S.U. Experimental Station, located in Plaquemines for the study of its citrus and truck farming problems and for the development of its products. Serving the housewives of the parish is the competent Home Demonstration Agent, Miss Lena Robertson.



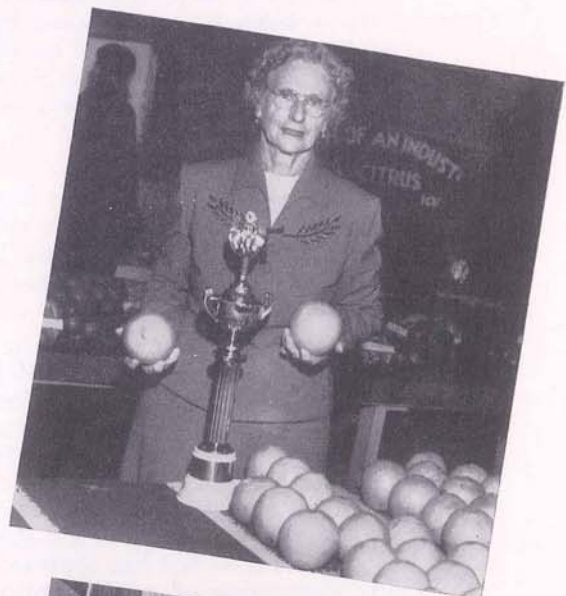
PLAQUEMINES PARISH FAIR AND ORANGE FESTIVAL AT BURAS DEC. 3-4, 1955

Above: King and Queen of the Festival and Fair: Sheriff Chester Wooten and Bobbie Ann Mistich.

Middle Right: For prize winning citrus booth and Washington navels Mrs. Josephine Collette of Triumph was awarded this beautiful trophy.

Lower Right: 4-H member Joe Eggleston of Venice, winner in the Junior Poultry Division, is shown with his champion and cup.

Lower Left: Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Schoenberger of Buras, winner of Fancy Pack Display, is shown with County Agent Murphy W. McEachern and the prize winning pack.



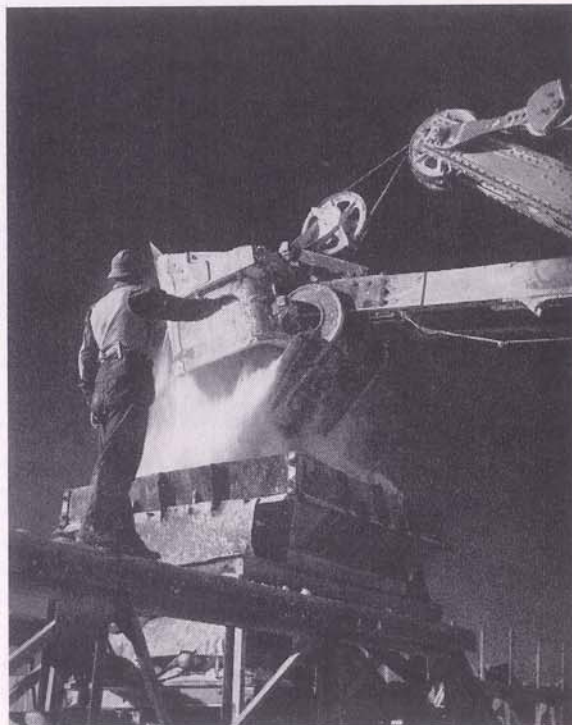
Construction of canals and repair ways for those hardy Plaquemines oystermen, shrimpers and trappers has been going on for years . . . and for those who travel by land, Plaquemines Parish, with its program of parish financing, has matched the State dollar for dollar in the paving of nearly fifty miles of highway, now extending to Venice on the West Side and to Bohemia on the East Side, joined at Pointe a la Hache by the famous Parish Free Ferry.

The citizens of Plaquemines in its West Bank populated areas now enjoy constant availability of fresh potable water for all their household uses — PLUS fire protection — supplied by the newly completed water plants and towers.

Because of proximity to Plaquemines' limitless water supply and its natural gas, several industries have clustered around its New Orleans end during the last few years. The most recent is the new pilot plant for the extraction of nickel and cobalt from Cuban lateritic iron ores, being constructed at English Turn by Freeport Sulphur Company under an agreement with the United States Government.

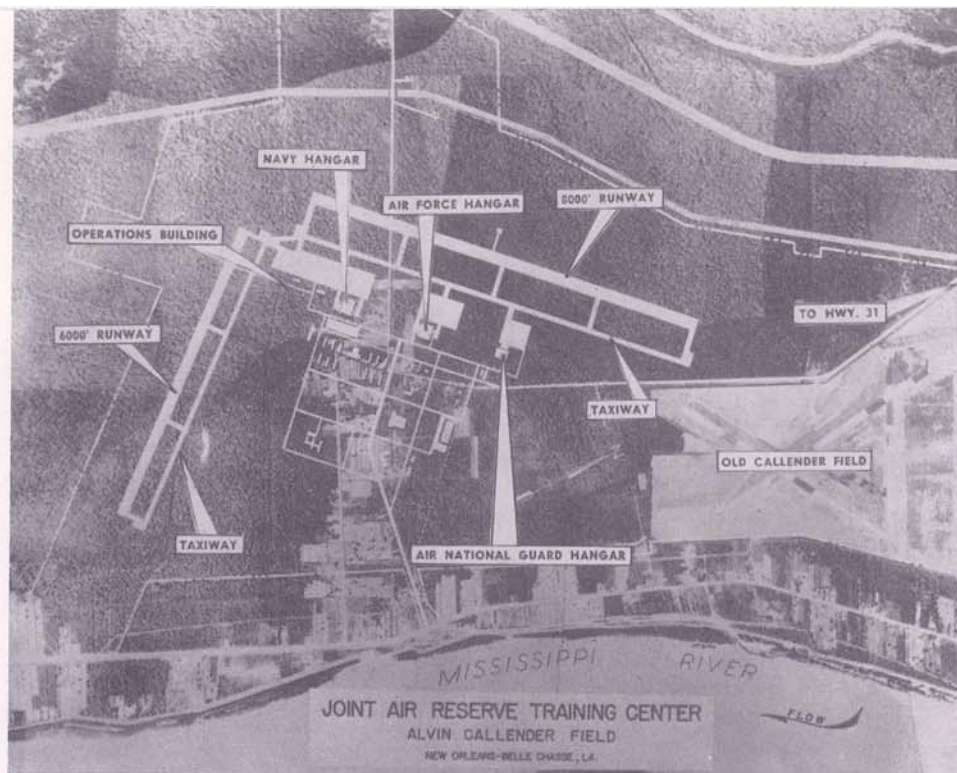
But strangely — and fortunately —

Showing sulphur (the element, incidentally, which enters into the manufacture of practically everything we use) being loaded on a conveyor belt at Freeport Sulphur Company's Grand Ecaille mine, the world's second largest. This conveyor will, in turn, transfer it to barges for transportation upstream as illustrated on the front cover of this magazine.



At Products Research Service, which manufactures marine finishes and industrial coatings and which is Plaquemines' newest industry, a chemist is shown test coating steel samples.





One of the largest naval air reserve training bases in the country is under construction at Alvin Callender Airport near Belle Chasse in Plaquemines Parish. And the drawings over this aerial view of the location indicate the location of the many facilities at this new air training center. When this \$53 million project is completed there will be facilities for Navy, Air Force and Air National Guard Aircraft maintenance and personnel training. The overall facility will be under administration of the Navy. This 3,215 acre air base will be completed late in 1956.

prosperity has not changed the parish or altered the ancient occupations of its people. Oil derricks and gas wells dot the lower reaches of its water wonderland, but the trappers still set their traps, the Blue Geese still come in increasing thousands to winter and the fishermen still follow the calling of their fathers. School busses, trucks and motor cars streak its two main highways but the farmers are too busy working out a new, more hardy type of vegetable to care particularly—and the boom has inspired them to raise blooded

cattle, instead of discouraged them.

Scratch an oil field worker and you'll find a part time farmer or fisherman. Talk to one of these modern educated Plaquemines school children and you'll recognize the strain of independence and self reliance that has helped these people take both hard times and good times in their stride.

It can all be summed up in one sentence.

Prosperity came to Plaquemines—Plaquemines didn't have to leave home to get it.



Completed late in 1955 the \$2,750,000 Belle Chasse Tunnel is part of an overall project of the Federal Government to improve traffic movement through the Intracoastal Canal east and west from New Orleans. A railroad trestle bridge, about 500 feet from Belle Chasse Tunnel, diverts rail traffic over the canal.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ART

COVER PAINTING BY TILDEN LANDRY

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Art over aerial photograph on page 244 by U.S. Eighth Naval District.

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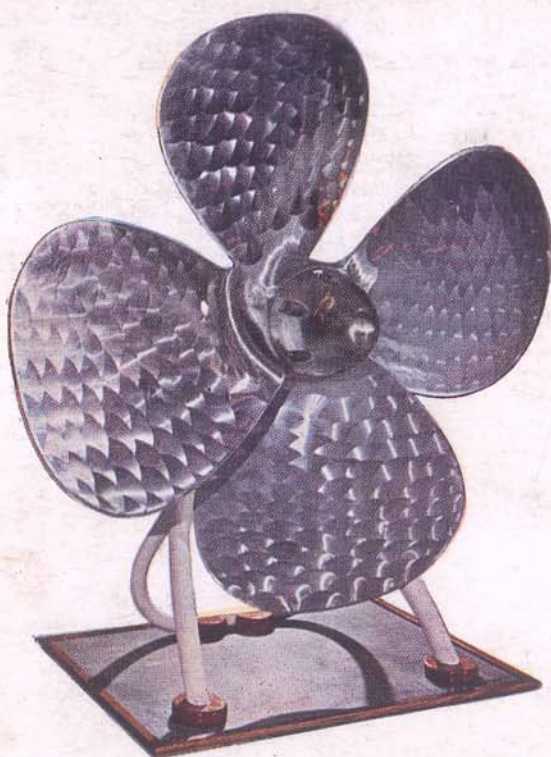
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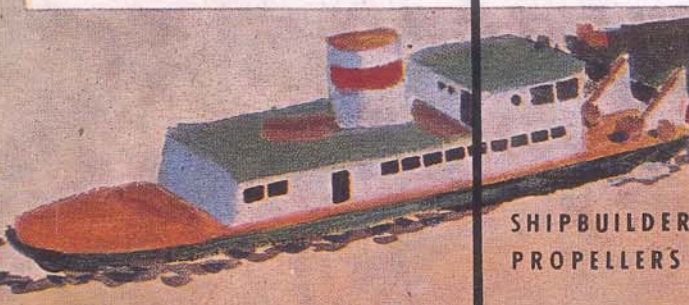
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