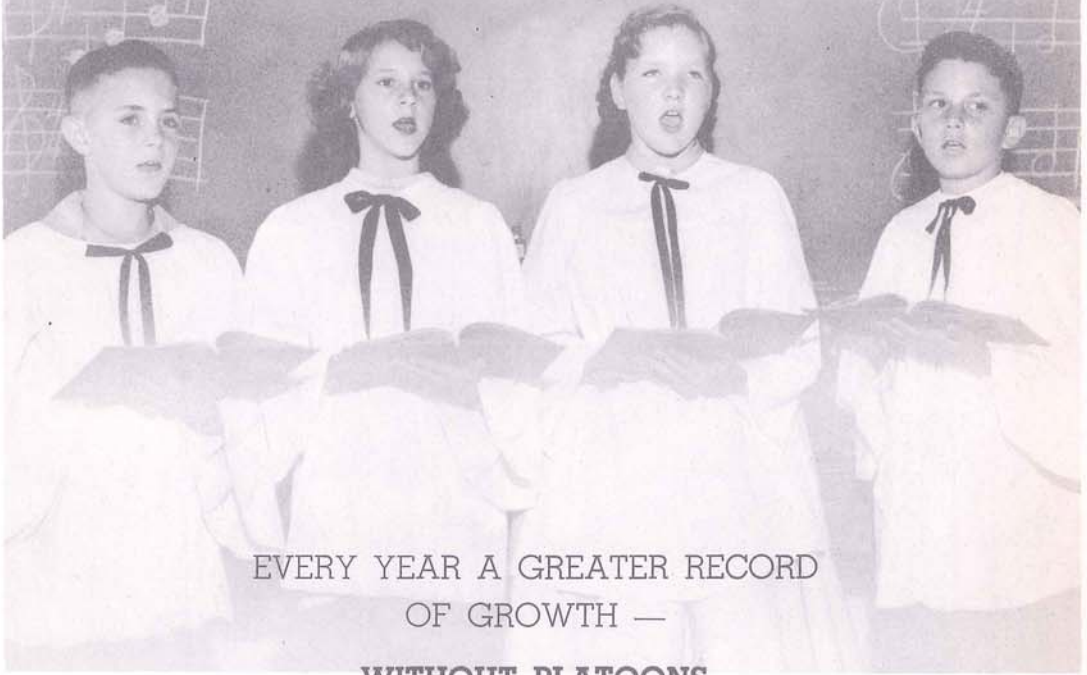


JEFFERSON'S *Public Schools*



EVERY YEAR A GREATER RECORD
OF GROWTH —
WITHOUT PLATOONS

A FOREWORD

By Lemuel W. Higgins

SUPERINTENDENT

For the past ten years the tremendous growth of our school population has presented a problem which, for many of us, tended to obscure all others.

Each year, it seemed that Jefferson Parish had grown beyond anyone's expectations, and enrollment in our public schools continued to increase faster than facilities could be provided. However, by the fall of 1956, we were able

to say proudly, "No platoon system exists in Jefferson Parish Public Schools. Every child has a full day's schooling each day, and a well trained, fully accredited teacher to see that the day is well spent."

Moreover we are now able to keep most of our classes small enough to meet the state-approved standards of pupil-teacher ratio. This means that we



JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD: from left, seated: Lemuel W. Higgins, superintendent; Mrs. Frances Banker; Mrs. Hazel Keller; Mrs. Edna Dufrene; Loney J. Authin, president; Julius Hotard, vice-president; James H. (Harry) Stevens; John Brunning; standing: Dave Dabria; Joseph Augustin; Abel Zeringue; W. Richard White; Horace Terrebonne; Jules G. Mollere; Thomas Collins; Louis Breaux; Donald Gillen; Bertrand LeBlanc.

are providing our future citizens with enough teachers so that every child can have individual help for his problems, giving him the opportunity to develop into a better educated individual.

This has been accomplished through the continued planning and working of all school board members, and executive personnel. We have learned to study our problems "in the round," to consider the needs of our parish as a whole, rather than the needs of its component parts, and, by co-operative thinking and

working, to meet these needs as they arise.

Certainly, this is no time for relaxing our vigilance, for Jefferson Parish continues to grow, and new problems appear as fast as old ones are solved, but we are (and justly so, I think) proud of the achievements of the last few years.

We feel sure that, with continued comprehensive planning and working, and with the fine co-operation of our citizens we are building a school system worthy of Jefferson Parish.

School Cat
School days
mouse teacher



LITTLEST SCHOLARS—A handwriting lesson occupies this quartet at the Westwego Elementary School. From left, Nathan Pitre, Adrienne Theriot, Renee Arnondin and Howard Hebert.

THE SCHOOL BOARD IS WORKING WITH AN EYE ON TOMORROW

(Editor's Note: Mr. Autin is a long-time member of the Jefferson Parish School Board, having first been elected when he was 21 years of age. He became president in September, 1956, at the beginning of the last school year. He has been especially active in supporting the effort for more schools to accommodate the enormous increase in enrollment during the past few years.)

By Loney J. Autin

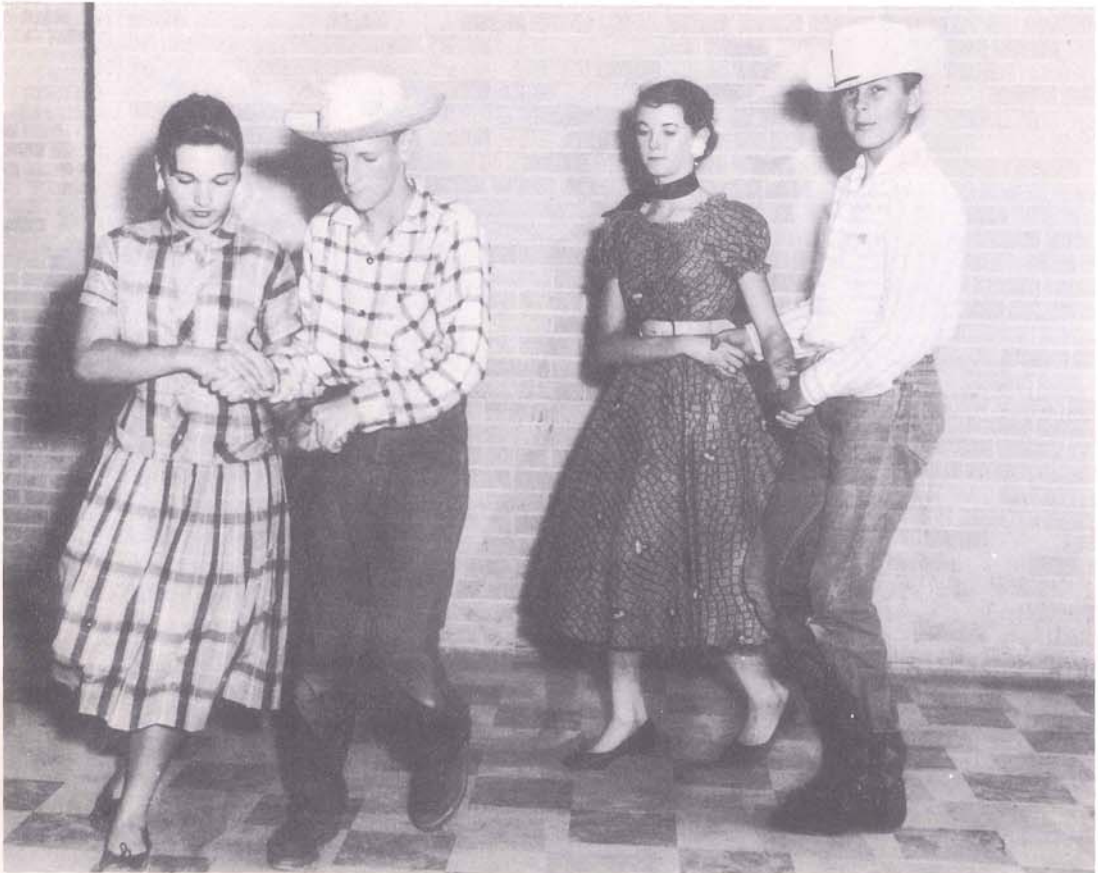
(PRESIDENT)

The year 1956-1957 has presented many and varied problems to the Jefferson Parish School Board.

Many of them have already been solved, while others are now in the process of solution. Our greatest dilemma has been, and continues to be, the provision of teachers and classrooms for our ever-increasing school population.

In less than ten years, the number of pupils in Jefferson public schools has risen from less than 11,000 to more than 26,000, an increase of about 136%. Obviously, it has been most difficult to keep pace with such tremendous growth.

A five-and-a-half million dollar building program was completed in 1955, and



SWING YOUR PARTNER! Square dancing is part of the physical education and recreation program of our schools. These couples attend the John Clancy school: from left, Shirley Quinn and David Powell; Genita McChristy and Carl Noto.

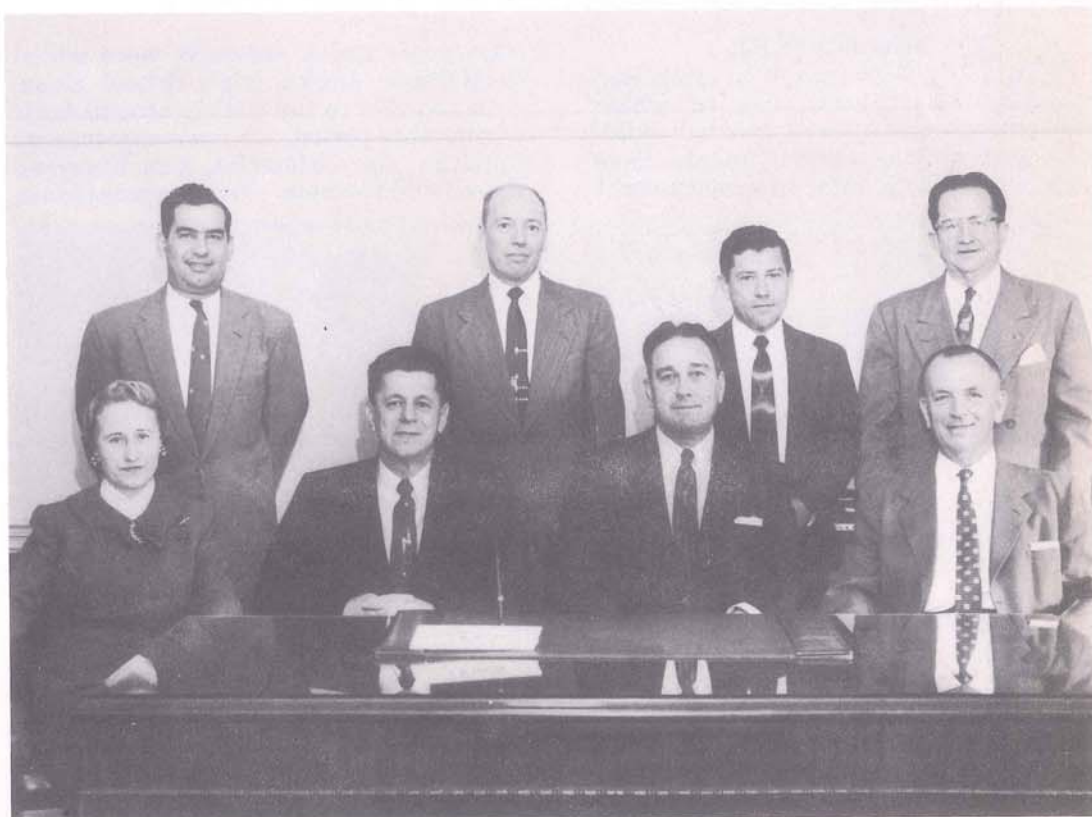
immediately plans were made for more building on the pay-as-you-go basis, using funds from the schools' share of parish sales tax revenue. However, by the end of 1956, it had become apparent that additional money must be obtained if we are to maintain our proud boast of "no platoon system in Jefferson Parish Schools."

The John Clancy School, which is located just off the Air-Line Highway below Williams Blvd., offers a graphic illustration of the rapid overcrowding in many of our new schools, and the need for a complete school survey and long range plans for the future.

The John Clancy was designed to be a ten classroom and cafeteria school, but before it was opened in December, 1954, an addition was already under construction. Twenty additional classrooms have now been built, giving the school three times its original capacity, and enrollment in two years has jumped from four hundred seven to nine hundred sixty-eight pupils.



Loney J. Autin



ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL: From left, seated: Miss Ruth Pitre, supervisor of elementary education; Paul Solis, first assistant superintendent; Lemuel W. Higgins, superintendent; Walter Schneckenberger, second assistant superintendent; standing: Peter Bertucci, administrative assistant; Lloyd Clancy, visiting teacher; Frank Ehret, visiting teacher; Edgar L. Stevens, auditor and comptroller.



***MUSIC IS FUN:** First graders keep time with handclaps while their music teacher, Mrs. Mary Frazier provides accompaniment at the J. C. Ellis school. The youngsters are, from left, Carol Bedford, Terry Smith and Keith Brecklin.*

17 NEW SCHOOLS

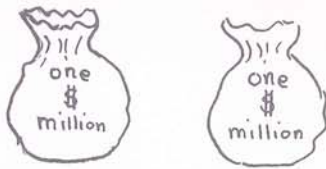
Since 1950, Jefferson has completed seventeen new schools, five of which were replacements for outmoded buildings, and nineteen school plants have been expanded. A total of twenty-eight

classrooms and a cafeteria were added to Metairie Junior High School alone.

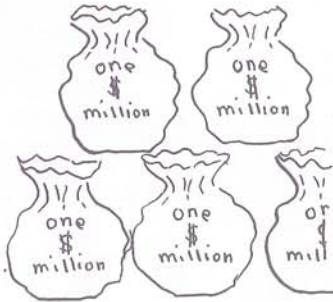
In addition to the 494 classrooms built during this period, we have constructed fourteen new cafeterias, two libraries, three auditoriums, five gymnasiums,



***YOUNG PLANTERS:** Members of the third grade science class at Bridge City school present a unit on the history of plants. From left are Virginia Wood, Aline Weigand and Linda Hodson.*



1950
\$2,057,295



1956
\$4,436,648

Comparison of the Parish
school budgets: 1950 and
present.

three cafeteria-gymnasiums, and two cafeteriums. (A cafeterium is a combination of cafeteria and auditorium combined as one room, serving both purposes at considerably less construction costs.) As rapidly as funds become available, we intend to continue building these very necessary elements of the modern school.

This year, still on the pay-as-you-go basis, we are building two new schools, and adding sixty-eight classrooms to existing schools. One new school, Hazel Park, in the ninth ward between Kenner and Harahan, on Jefferson Highway, will contain twenty-one classrooms and a cafeterium. It is to be completed by the first week in September of this year, will have a roofed area of twenty-one thousand square feet, and is being constructed by a Jefferson firm, Meyer Construction Company, Roland Meyer, President. At this writing, the new Gretna Park school is still in the planning stage, but it will be completed dur-

Conferring in photo below are members of the Student Council of East Jefferson High School. From left, seated: Gail Groff, vice-president; Ann Gillian, president; Harold Bartholoemw; standing: Merle Stokes, Pat Smith and Joyce Bergeron, secretary.





JUNIOR HONORED: Miss Joy Adams, shown on the steps of West Jefferson High School, where she is a junior, this summer was conference representative for the West Bank at the Junior Red Cross conference in Washington, D. C. She has been highly active in the organization of Junior Red Cross clubs in the parish.

ing the coming year.

In order to determine just what our needs are going to be in the next few years, the Board has employed School Architect Sol Rosenthal to make a detailed survey of the existing physical plants, movement and growth of population centers, and to project our needs for the foreseeable future. His final report will not be ready until some time this summer, but figures available to us at this time indicate that we **NOW** need one hundred sixty-five additional classrooms, as well as better lighting, better toilet facilities, and more adequate sewage disposal for schools which are otherwise in acceptable condition, and are, of course, in use at the present time.

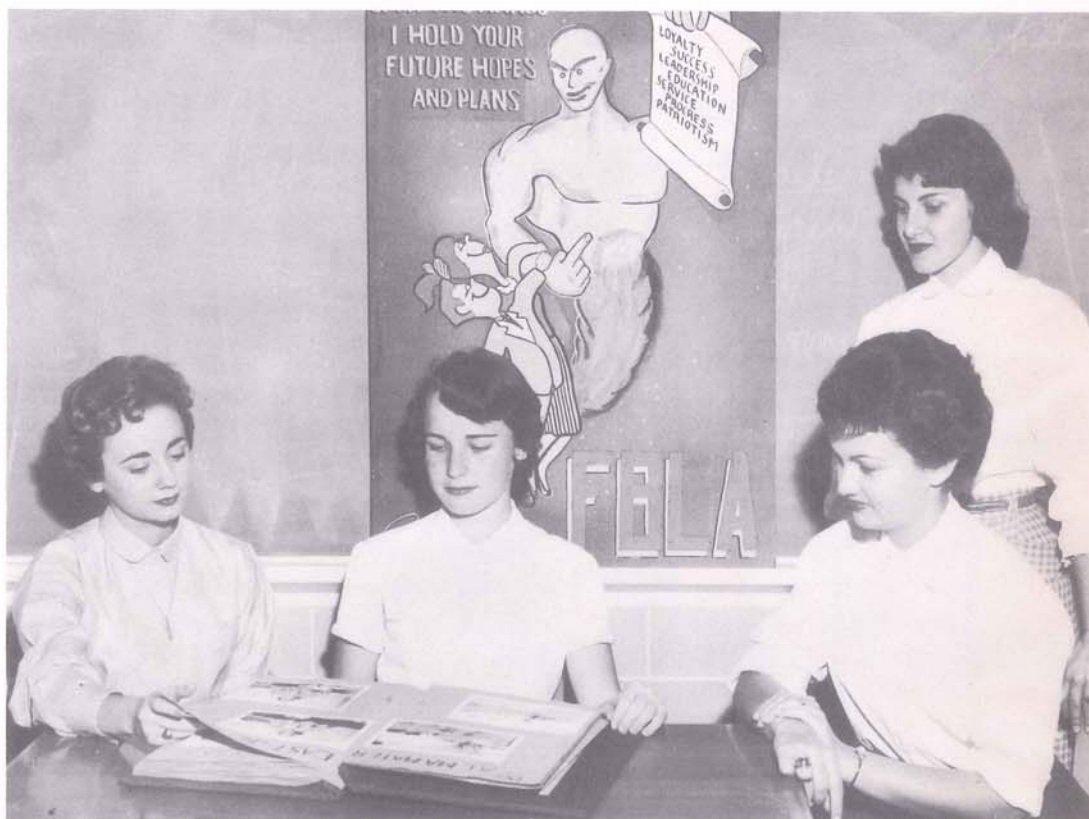
RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY

Mr. Rosenthal is a recognized expert on school planning and has done similar work for the Orleans Parish School Board. His findings will have considerable bearing on what the Board decides to do regarding new schools and additions and repairs to existing plants.

Your Board has demonstrated keen interest in the problems of construction and repairs. Experts in many fields have been consulted, and varying types of construction studied and compared as to suitability, initial cost, upkeep, etc. During the past spring, the board went as a body on a two-day tour of parish schools on both sides of the river, so that members could see for themselves just what was being done, and what could be done in the immediate future. This has been most helpful in planning the sixty-eight additional classrooms for which money is already available.

It has become increasingly apparent to most of us what we can not provide for the needs of Jefferson's children on the present basis of "build when the sales tax money is already at hand." To provide for the expansion which will, from all present estimates, be necessary in the next few years, we may follow either of two courses:

One: we may increase ad valorem taxes, and issue more ad valorem tax



OFFICERS CONFER: These girls are officers and leaders of the East Jefferson Future Business Leaders of America Club. They are: seated, from left, Barbara Thorpe, district and state delegate; Rissie Landry, state secretary; Barbara Confey, district and state delegate; standing, Ida Rose Hebert, president of East Jefferson FBLA.

bonds.

Two: (and this is the step favored by the majority of Board members) we may issue bonds on the schools, share of the parish sales tax, which is approximately one million dollars per year at the present time, and will increase proportionately as the population of the parish increases.

FRIENDLY SUIT FILED

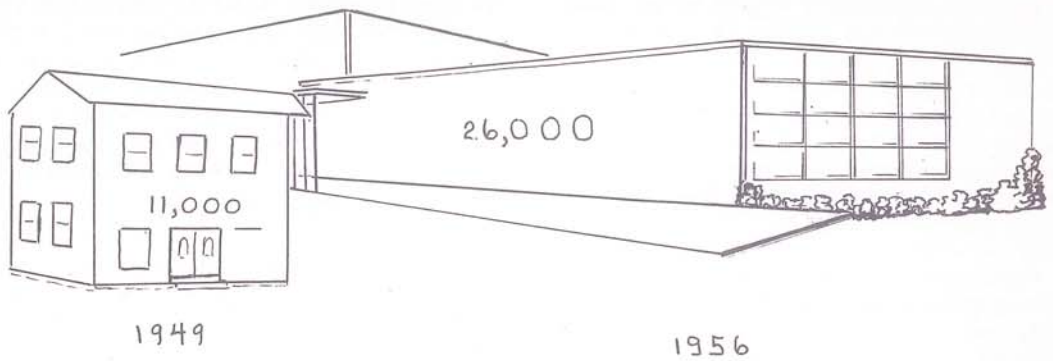
A friendly suit has been filed to determine the legality of bonding the sales tax revenue for school construction. This suit is still in the courts, and our

decision must naturally await its outcome.

Bonding the sales tax would enable us to meet our immediate need of eight new schools and the major expansion of others already built, and would give us additional funds for a long range program which would include two new consolidated high schools, one on each side of the river, two football and basketball stadia, also to serve each side of the river, and at least one stadium for the Negro schools, plus construction of more classrooms as they are needed.



BUDDING ARTISTS: Three members of the sixth grade at Jefferson Elementary school inspect original drawings made by members of the class. In photo are, from left: Marlene Dollar, Dorothea Sawyer and Edmund Leroux.



Increased Enrollment



TRIP TO INDIA: These Fourth Graders at the Homedale School have been studying the customs and culture of far-off India. They are from left, Lorry Iguagiato, Karen Ryland, Gary Fortune and Tommy Salsbury.

A ten million dollar bond issue—and this is the maximum figure under consideration—would bring the total of bonds issued against the Jefferson School board to just over twenty million dollars. This figure includes a bond issue of 1938. Other parishes in the state with enrollment increases comparable to ours have bonded sums from two to three times as great as this within the past ten years.

Obviously, all the splendid physical plants which we hope to provide for the children of Jefferson will be of little benefit to them unless we can staff them with well-trained, efficient teachers.

With this in mind we have planned to keep teachers' salaries well above the state level, and have inaugurated a recruitment program designed to draw to our system the best teachers available, and especially to interest young teachers in joining their ranks and in becoming part of our growing communities.

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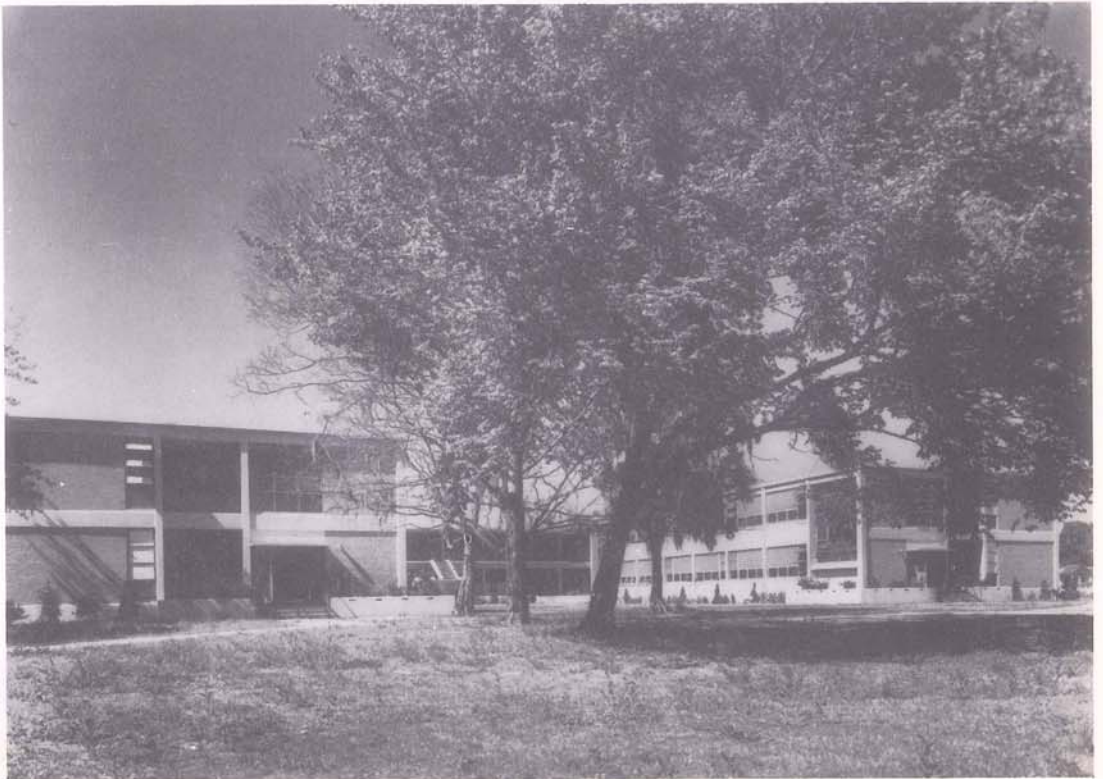
This year, also, we joined with Orleans Parish in the organization and support of an Educational TV program which began March 30, 1957. WYES-TV is part of a network of twenty-five educational TV stations in eighteen states. It serves all our metropolitan area of some one million, two hundred



CERAMICS IS FUN: Original art work and ceramics are part of the work done by the social studies unit on the Navajo Indian by the Sixth Grade at Bridge City school. In photo are, from left: Genelle Fornier, Becky Brown and Michael Piland.



LIKE A TEA HOUSE: Fourth graders at Homedale school wear costumes as part of their work in a unit on China. Shown with their teacher, Mrs. Beverly DeFrait, are Sam Ditta, left, and Stanley Gauthreaux.



Typical of the new, modern schools in Jefferson Parish is East Jefferson High, shown here.

thousand people, and schedules both live programs and films from the National Educational Television and Radio Center at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Designed for adults as well as for school age children, it will present scientific and cultural programs suitable for various age groups, business and economic programs helpful to adults, and will enter our classrooms during the school year for actual in-school programming, so that our own children and their teachers may participate in studies and discussions which will be telecast over the whole network.

Educational TV has been markedly

successful in other states, and we feel proud to have become one of its "founding fathers" in this area.

The many minor problems which plagued us at the beginning of the '56-'57 school year, have long since been solved to the best of our ability, and have faded into oblivion as we turn to face the many more which we know will await us in the fall.

As for our major problems, we confidently look to the near future, believing that the steps which we have taken this year have started us well on the way toward their final triumphant solution.



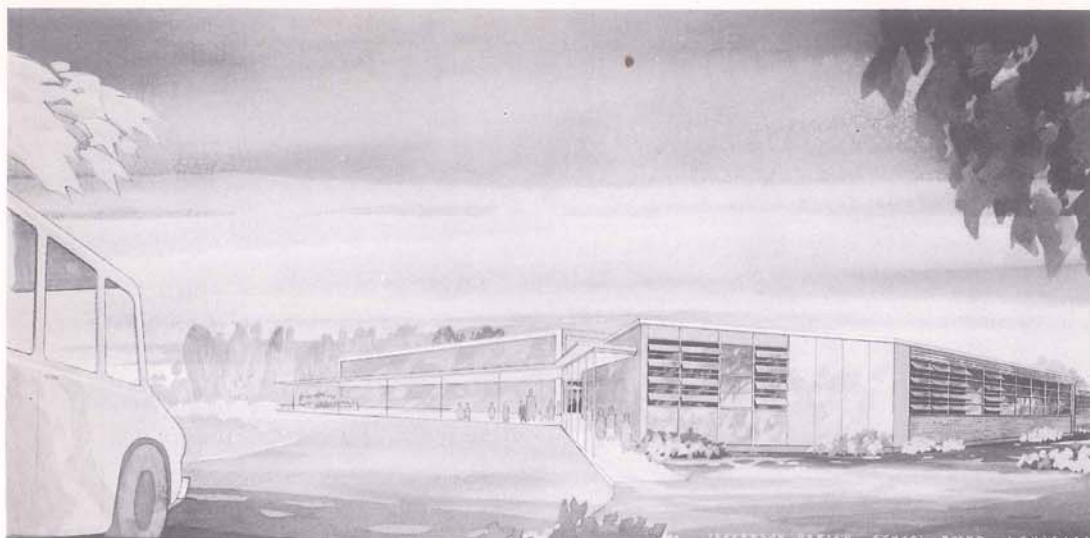
NEW SOURCE OF EGGS: Eggs grow on trees for these third grade pupils at William Hart school. They are, from left, L. Wayne Simon, Cheryl Bourgeois and Jane Pierce.



FILM INSTRUCTION: Miss Edith O'Donnell, Metairie Grammar school teacher, helps two of her pupils ready a projector for a film on Germany. Miss O'Donnell visited Germany last year. The pupils are Eileen Bonck and Skippy Stover.



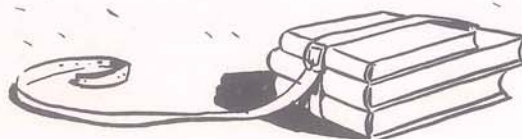
BUSY STUDENT EDITORS: Holding an editorial conference at West Jefferson High school are Carol Foster, editor of the "Jolly Roger," school paper, and Roy Shannon, editor of the "Buccaneer," the year book.



This is the new Hazel Park school which will solve many of our problems in the Harahan-Kenner area. The new plant, just off the river road, is scheduled for completion the first week in September, in time for the opening of the new school year.



Modern materials and conception will feature the new Gretna Park school, which has a high priority on the school board's plans for new construction. Gretna, as the largest incorporated city in the parish, has a constantly increasing school population which calls for more classrooms.



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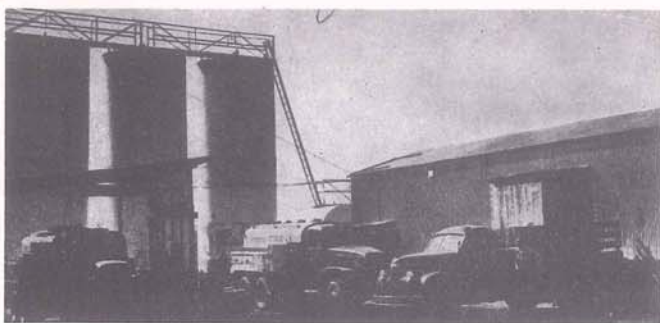
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Here's the entrance to the new police academy of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Department, with new East Bank parish office building in background.

AFTER ONE YEAR

A REMODELED Sheriff's Department



SHERIFF WILLIAM S. COCI

One of the most urgent tasks in expanding Jefferson Parish has been the reorganization and modernization of the sheriff's department.

The department is charged with the dual duty of law enforcement and tax collection.

And the law enforcement division itself must be adapted to two distinct types of work. First, metropolitan police service must be provided in the more populous areas; second, a basically rural service is needed in the lower, thinly settled portion of the parish.

Before Sheriff William S. Coci assumed office June 1, 1956, law enforcement was successful in spite of the fact that little had been done to modernize the department. This was due largely to the experience and ability of key

(See Page 135)



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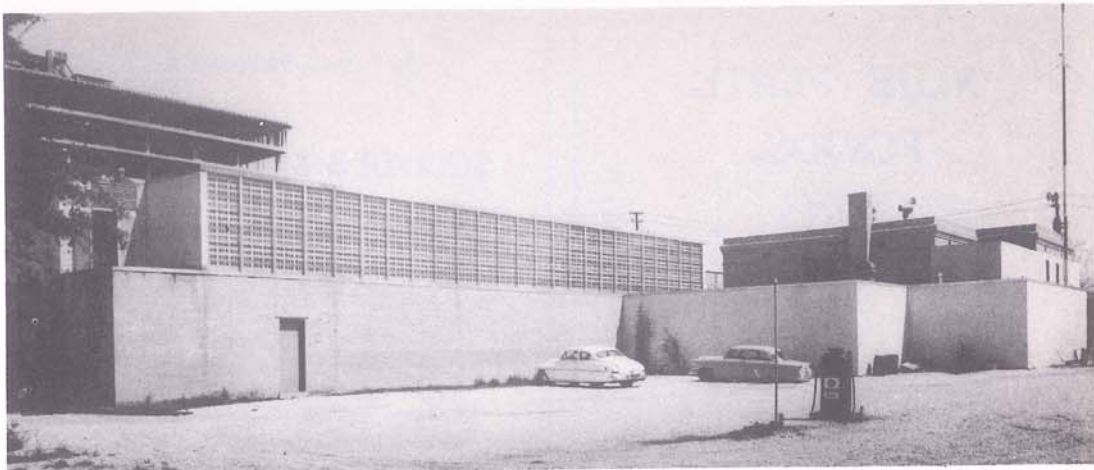
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The new Jefferson Parish Prison, administered by the sheriff, combines modern construction and the latest improvements in security measures.

officers. It became evident at once to the new sheriff that efficient service could be maintained only by a complete reorganization. Although the major phases of reorganization have been completed, the work is still going forward.

Within a few months, these changes had been made in the criminal division of the sheriff's office:

Establishment of a modern police training school — based on the conviction that the informed officer is more efficient.

Creation of a criminal investigation division for the solution of major crimes.

Drafting of a comprehensive juvenile program, with the emphasis on education and prevention rather than routine punishment.

Establishment of a gunnery range to train all officers in the use of small weapons.

Formation of a division of intelligence aimed at finding and suppressing subversive activities.

Establishment of a modern records division.

Formation of a uniformed patrol division.

Key officers have been placed in charge of each of these new units.

BETTER TAX METHODS

At the same time, modernization has been initiated in the civil division of the sheriff's office, which is charged with tax collections. Already, one significant result which has been an increase of 25 per cent in collections of sales, occupational and liquor taxes.

(See Page 139)



This photo shows one of the cell blocks, with a deputy ready to operate one of the remote controls.

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NEW ORLEANS 7

Automatic office machines have been installed and are part of the overall plan of modernizing tax collections.

At the same time, Sheriff Coci has instituted a program, in co-operation with Assessor Vernon J. Wilty, Jr., of paying property taxes by mail. The convenience to property owners offered by this change is apparent when one considers that there are some 51,000 assessments in the parish.

In charge of the civil division is James H. Arnoult, chief civil deputy.

The criminal division is in charge of Chief Deputy Malcolm F. Coci. His record in office is highlighted by the fact that Jefferson has a far lower incidence of crime than other portions of the metropolitan area. And this record is being achieved with only 140 deputies to serve a community of 180,000 people, or one officer for each 1280 people. Neighboring New Orleans, with police problems unique to larger cities, has approximately twice the number of officers per capita.

HIGHER PAY SCALE

Jefferson's 140 deputies have a base pay scale of \$325 per month, which is larger than the average for similar—or even many larger—communities. This advantage is reflected, Sheriff Coci points out, in the quality of officers he is able to employ.

Physical improvements have accompanied the reorganization of the system. A new parish prison at Gretna was completed last winter. Also, in Gretna, the new parish courthouse is nearing completion and will house, among other offices, a new headquarters for the sheriff.



M. F. Coci is chief criminal deputy.



J. H. Arnoult is chief civil deputy.

On the East Bank, a new parish office building will be placed in service by the end of the summer and will provide officers for the upper end of the parish for the sheriff and other officials. At the same time, the present headquarters of the criminal division, adjacent to the new building, will be retained, as will the police school in the same location.

In addition to those named, key men in the reorganized sheriff's department are Sam P. LeBlanc, assistant chief criminal deputy; Earl A. Rolling, chief of the C.I.D.; Deputy Cy DiLiberto, chief of the criminal intelligence division; Sergeant Hubert J. Badeaux of the New Orleans Police Department, a resident of Jefferson Parish, who is in charge of the police school, and Deputy George Gillespie, a graduate of the

(See Page 142)



The reorganized sheriff's department has qualified officers at the head of each specialized unit. From left, in photos at left, are deputies Cy Di Liberto, in charge of criminal intelligence; Earl A. Rolling, in charge of the criminal investigation bureau, and Sam P. LeBlanc, assistant chief criminal deputy.

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Beautifully caparisoned horses and riders in spectacular costumes feature the sheriff's posse. Here's the unit ready for the 1956 Veterans Day parade.

delinquency control institute of the University of Southern California, who is in charge of the juvenile division.

JUNIOR DEPUTIES

Deputy Gillespie directs an organization of more than 500 youths up to 15 years of age who comprise a junior deputy sheriff unit. These junior officers participate in group athletics, attend lectures and motion pictures and engage in other orientation aimed at improving the understanding between youth and officer and imbuing them with a sense of community responsibility. Some 300 youths serve on safety patrols as school traffic guards.

The police training school is designed

both to train recruits and to upgrade veteran officers. Subjects covered, under the supervision of Sergeant Badeaux, include the state criminal code, courtroom testimony and conduct, evidence, report writing, use of firearms and defensive tactics.

Sheriff Coci, the man responsible for these sweeping changes from the old-style sheriff's office to modern administrative methods, is a soldier and attorney. He had a distinguished overseas record in World War II and holds the commission of major in the organized army reserve.

Before his election as sheriff in February, 1956, he was a practicing attorney.



Smartly turned out officers comprise the motorcycle patrol assigned to traffic and emergency duty. Here's a section of the patrol ready for duty.

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One Step From Paradise — Bass Catching On Quiet Bayou

BY

W. McFadden Duffy

OUTDOOR COLUMNIST
N. O. TIMES-PICAYUNE

During his first year in office in 1801, President Thomas Jefferson dispatched Robert R. Livingston to Paris as Minister to get permanent rights of deposit or, if possible, to buy the City of New Orleans. Livingston was backed up by a Congressional grant of \$2,000,000 for the purpose.

At that time, the United States would have settled for permanent rights of joint use of New Orleans for transshipment of river and ocean commerce. New Orleans was then referred to as "located in the nub end of the Louisiana Territory and surrounded by worthless swamps inhabited only by alligators."

A surprising series of events culminated in the Louisiana Purchase and the



United States secured the entire territory. The price paid was 80 million francs, 60 million cash and absorption of 20 million francs of spoliation claims—the total being \$15,000,000. We bought an empire for four cents an acre.

As evidence of the wealth of fish and game in this area, statistics compiled by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reveal that sportsmen in the 17 states, formed in whole or in part by the Purchase, bought 11,272,188 hunting and fishing licenses in 1955 at a cost of greatly more than \$15,000,000.

And what of the "nub end" and the "worthless swamps inhabited only by alligators"? A good part of that area, Jefferson Parish, proved to be the heart of an outdoor paradise-abounding in natural resources worth many times the

purchase price of the then entire Louisiana Territory. One of these valuable resources is the abundance of fish, waterfowl, wild game and fur-bearing animals as well as the "worthless alligators" . . . whose hides are highly prized in the leather goods industry.

From the shores of Lake Pontchartrain to the pounding surf of Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish is a hunting and fishing paradise, with the waters of Grand Isle rated among the ten fishing hot-spots of North America. Every kind of wild game and fowl found in Louisiana — deer, rabbits, squirrels, ducks, geese, poule d'eau, snipe, doves, woodcock—inhabit this parish in abundance.

When it comes to fishing, there's an endless variety of fresh and salt water game and food fish. Bass, sac-au-lait



Duck Decoys Ride Realistically at Anchor In Deep Water

(crappie), bream (called perch), blue and yellow catfish, garfish, speckled trout, redfish, sheepshead, white trout, croakers, pompano, and a galaxy of other salt water game fish too long to list but including dolphin, bluefish, Spanish and king mackerel, bonito and the monarch of all tarpon, (silver king).

To properly visualize this outdoor paradise offered contained in a single parish, perhaps it would be best to start with fall and trace the attractions offered sportsmen.

Let's assume summer has held a heavy hand over Jefferson Parish but September is nearly spent and the dove season has launched the beginning of the hunting season but not the end of fishing. In the fields near Kenner, Harahan, Westwego, Marrero, Gretna, Barataria and Lafitte, the shortening afternoons of late September are shattered by the sound of shotguns as hunters

bag their limits of twisting, weaving, flaring doves. The shooting is good because the native doves, recently fledged, have gained in size and already flight birds are arriving in their annual migration.

Fast on the heels of the dove season comes a two and a half-month session of rail shooting. The short-grass salt marshes on Grand Isle and the surrounding area offers some of the sportiest shooting in the state for those big Clapper rails which local folks call "marsh hens".

While the dove and rail hunters are opening the season, there are other evidences of the unexcelled sport which can be found in the parish. In Lakes Cataouatchie and Salvador and along Bayou St. Dennis and in Little Lake, swift, nattily-feathered teal have begun to arrive. Always early, they serve as harbingers of the duck shooting which



The "King" In Action — Hooked Tarpon Leaps Off Grand Isle



*Hunter Bags Squirrel
Leaping Through Trees*

will come later. Also, the marshes toward the Gulf have begun to lose their bright greenness and have taken on a duller look, one which will turn to brownish gold.

September slips quickly into October and squirrel hunters take over soon after the first half of the split-season on doves ends. The clumps of oaks, the wooded spots, the willow thickets and the chenieres farther south in the parish give us a bountiful harvest of sassy little gray or cat squirrels as they are called. Occasionally hunters bag the big red fox squirrels.

The opening of the squirrel season also marks the start of the long season on rabbits. Jefferson Parish has a full supply of both the smaller cottontails and the big, but tender, marsh rabbits, commonly called "cane cutters". There are plenty of rabbits on hand when the season opens but the beagle owners are not over-anxious to start hunting immediately. It's field trial time for them and besides the brush is thick and the marsh grasses summer-high, a condition which makes it difficult to handle dogs properly and results in injuries to rabbit dogs from briars and sharp bladed grass.

Instead, the rabbit hunters hold off until there is frost. While they are waiting, they enter their beagles in the field trials. Some of the most important license trials are run on courses in Jefferson Parish.

And, for the died-in-the-wool fisherman, is it temporarily all over? Not by any means. Bass fishermen make some of their finest catches as the nights grow cooler and the days shorter. Both bass and bream go on a feeding spree, as though they sensed winter was on the way and they were storing away groceries. The trot lines produce big catfish. Generally speaking, fresh water fishing is in its prime.

At the same time, salt water fishermen are entering one of the most productive seasons of the year. In the lakes and bayous that stretch down to the Gulf, speckled trout are taken in huge numbers. Offshore from Grand Isle, charter parties make fabulous catches of Spanish and king mackerel. Fishing the rigs produce catches of spade fish, white trout, silver trout, and cobia, with the latter three species caught numbering in the hundreds for each party. It's only the beginning of the real winter fishing, with schools of delectable pompano and savage bluefish still to arrive.

As late November comes, pirogues are



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Big Whitetail Deer
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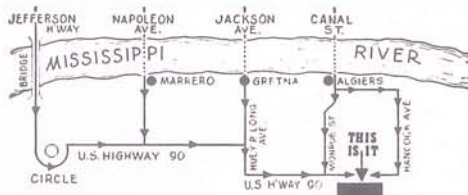
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repainted olive drab and decoys are touched up for the opening of the migratory season. Some of the early-arrived teal have migrated further southward to Mexico and Central America. But they have been replaced by huge flights of bigger ducks. The Mississippi Flyway, which starts up near the Arctic Circle, gradually narrows to cylinder bore in Arkansas, then scatters the load in Louisiana, brings every kind of duck found in that flyway to the lakes and ponds of Jefferson Parish. There are mallards, black ducks, gadwalls (gray ducks), baldpates (widgeons), pintails, green-wing and blue-wing teal, red-heads, canvasbacks, blue bills (dos gris) and the low-rated shovellers.

Besides the ducks, there are geese. Practically all of the continent's blue geese, a good portion of the snow geese, and a sprinkling of Canadas and other species, winter along the Louisiana coast. The coastal marshes provide excellent goose shooting.

Then, there are coots. Called "poule d'eau" in Louisiana, they are controversial game birds but eagerly sought by many water-fowlers, either to be fashioned into a tasty stew of 'Cajun origin or for their over-sized gizzards and livers, to be used in stuffing for ducks and geese.

On the heels of the opening of the waterfowl season, comes the opening of the deer season and a plentiful supply of both species of whitetail deer found in Louisiana roam the woods and marshes of the parish. At the northern tip of the parish which runs like a finger from Lake Pontchartrain to the Gulf, deer hunters bag the larger, up-



*Huge Hammerhead Shark
Hangs Harmless After
Battle Off Grand Isle*



*Tasty Speckled Trout
Like These Are Common
In Jefferson Waters*

land whitetail (*virginianus louisianae*) and in the coastal areas the smaller, broad footer whitetail (*virginianus mcilhennyi*) can be found.

This season also brings the opening of the woodchuck and snipe shooting. Both of these tasty shorebirds are found in the parish in shootable numbers and, when it comes to snipe shooting, some of the best in the state is had in Jefferson Parish.

While the waterfowl and deer hunters pursue their favorite sports through December and early into January, what is happening in the coastal waters sorely tempts the hunter to swap his gun for a fishing rod. Pompano migrate at this season to the Louisiana coast in numbers that steadily increase as more offshore rigs and platforms are put into operation. Also, schools of voracious.

clashing, gorging bluefish prowl the coast or congregate around the flares and rigs. They'll strike at everything and anything thrown their way, and members of a fishing party who encounter a school of blues catch fish until they are weary of battling them.

That's what Jefferson Parish has to offer sportsmen from the shortening days of September until February takes over with its blustery days and last body blows of winter.

When February takes over, often with hints of spring ahead, things begin to happen in the fresh water realm. The bass begin to clear nests and get ready for spawning and the crappie (sac-au-lait) school up, offering prime fishing sports to the angler who encounters a school of sac-au-lait in any of the deep holes or deep spots they frequented.

What's left of winter slips quickly away for the sportsman. The winter-burned willows beg to bud out and the bleakness of winter fades rapidly away. Bass fishing picks up sharply following the spawning season and the perch fishing (bluegills and crappie) provides

sport for seasoned anglers and also family groups.

Another traditional harvest of the great outdoors soon attracts both family and commercial interests. The crawfish season arrives and family groups as well as commercial operators go after Dixie's little lobsters in earnest.

Along all of the highways in Jefferson Parish, families can be seen tending their nets and filling sacks and tubs with the twin-clawed junior cousins of the Maine lobster. Either with plenty of hot seasoning, or fashioned into a bisque which is world-famous, crawfish are a tasty delight. It is almost ironic to note that a single family can fill as many sacks or tubs with the tasty crawfish as they wish in Jefferson Parish, while in certain European countries authorities actually impose a creel limit. In Sweden, for example, they are highly prized for salads, yet the Swedish crawdad angler is only able to take enough for a few salads.

And, with the exception of the months when the season is closed for spawning, sportsmen go in quest of giant jumbo



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frogs, the legs of which bring delight to the gourmet and also provide tasty "swamp chicken" for the man in the street in Jefferson Parish as well.

Spring, always fairly early in Louisiana, races quickly into summer. Fishing, both fresh and salt water varieties, holds the spotlight of public interest. While the 'gator hunters and the moss gatherers reap a profitable harvest from the marshes and inland reaches of the parish, sport fishermen get into high gear.

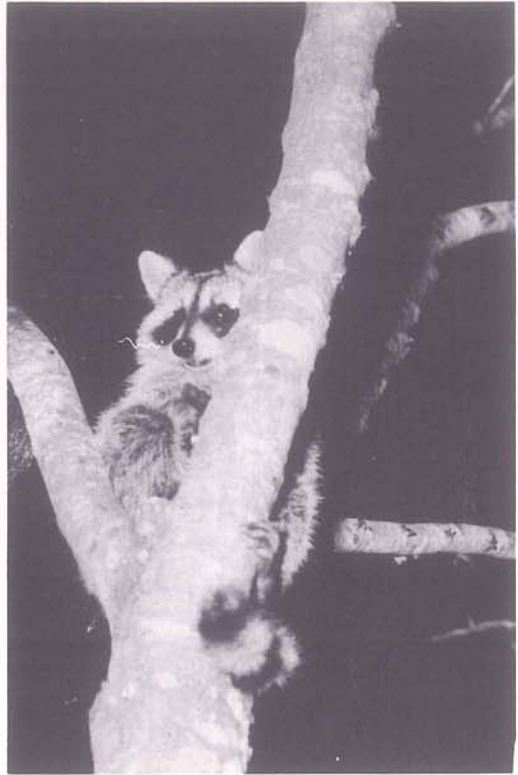
Speckled trout, migrating through Barataria Bay into the northernmost lakes of the parish, school up over the oyster reefs. Fishermen in skiffs and hulls roam these lakes out of Barataria and Lafitte and tremendous catches of school trout as well as other assorted salt water species are made. It's crabbing time, too, and families go after those delectable blue crabs which replace the crawfish of earlier months in the highly seasoned boiling kettles or in the thick, satisfying gumbo which is equally as famous as crawfish bisque.

It's fishing around Grand Isle that puts Jefferson Parish on the national and international sporting map as one of the North America's leading hot-spots.

The tempo of fishing out of Grand Isle, which slackens but little during winter and early spring, continues to build up. Tarpon put in their first appearance around Grand Isle in late May. Along with the tarpon come the large cobia and the schools of Spanish and king mackerel. There are also dolphin,



*Four Plump Squirrels
Attest Success of Hunt*



*Treed Crafty Raccoon
Peers At Night Hunters*

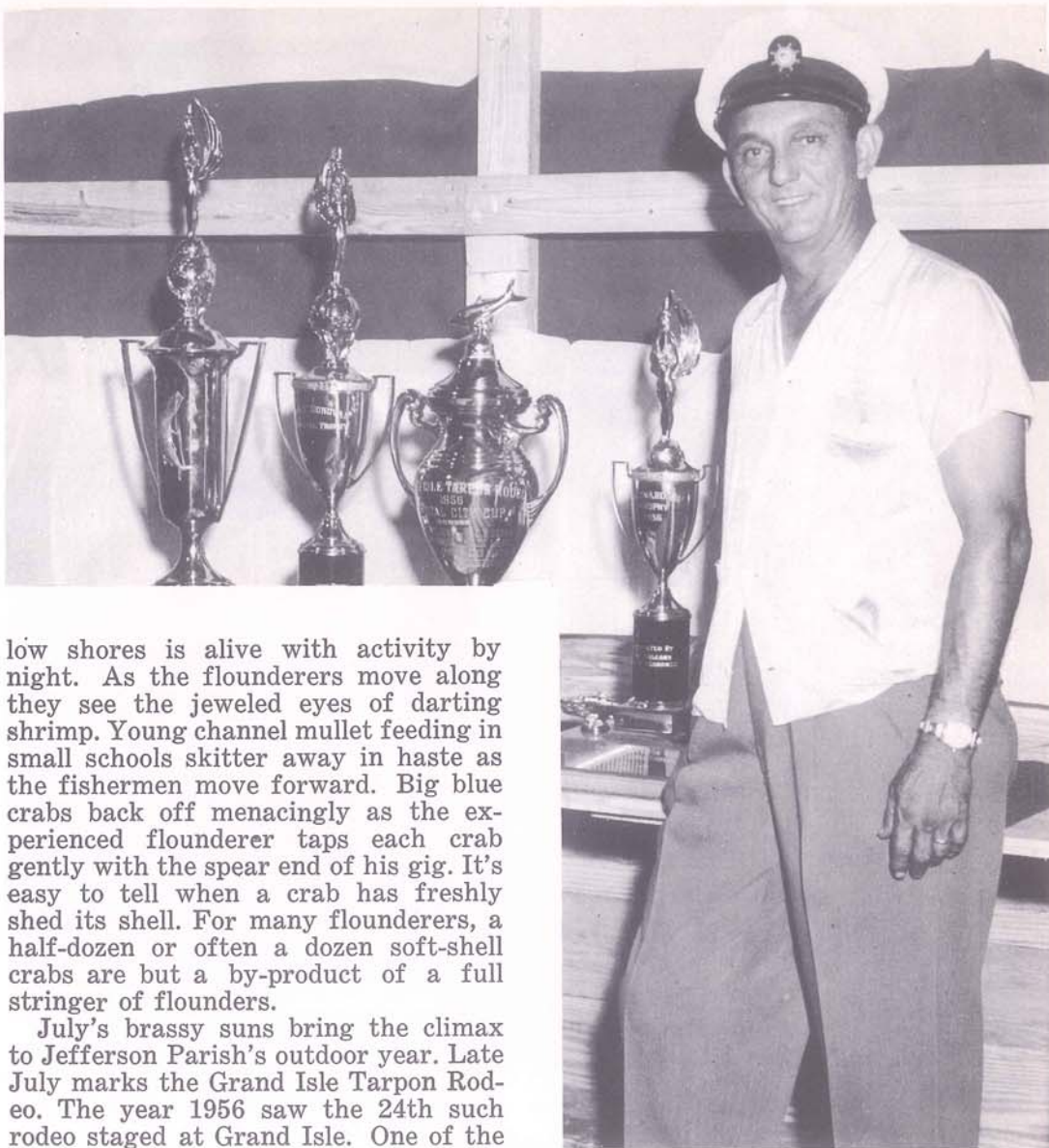
tripletail, bonito, jackfish (a nuisance but tackle busters if you like rough stuff), sheepshead, bluefish and flounders.

Flounders provide sport on hook and line but they are also the source of a unique but productive and satisfying sport — gigging at night. The big flounder runs start along the Gulf coast in late June or July and spearing the flatfish is a time-honored way of taking them. Oldtimers will recall the days when flounderers used to gather fat pine knots which they carried in baskets as torches but the twinkling offshore light of a gasoline lantern is today's badge of a flounderer.

There's something about wading a coastal flat on a pitchblack night with a rising tide pushed by a gentle offshore wind lapping about your feet that makes floundering downright companionable.

Flounderers generally work in groups of two or three. They spread out several yards apart and move forward in a line searching the shallow water for the tell-tale, leaf-like outline of a flounder buried under a half-inch of sand — eyes visible and watching for prey.

The floor of the Gulf along the shal-



low shores is alive with activity by night. As the flounders move along they see the jeweled eyes of darting shrimp. Young channel mullet feeding in small schools skitter away in haste as the fishermen move forward. Big blue crabs back off menacingly as the experienced flounder taps each crab gently with the spear end of his gig. It's easy to tell when a crab has freshly shed its shell. For many flounders, a half-dozen or often a dozen soft-shell crabs are but a by-product of a full stringer of flounders.

July's brassy suns bring the climax to Jefferson Parish's outdoor year. Late July marks the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo. The year 1956 saw the 24th such rodeo staged at Grand Isle. One of the classics among rodeos, it attracted anglers from all over the country. Nearly 2000 registered anglers competed for prizes in 15 various categories of salt water fish, including the lordly monarch, the tarpon.

Eligible fish in the annual rodeo staged each year at the very tip of Jefferson Parish include tarpon, dolphin, cobia, tripletail, jewfish, bonito, jackfish, sheepshead, bluefish, manta rays (devil fish), Spanish and King mackerel, redfish, speckled trout and sharks.

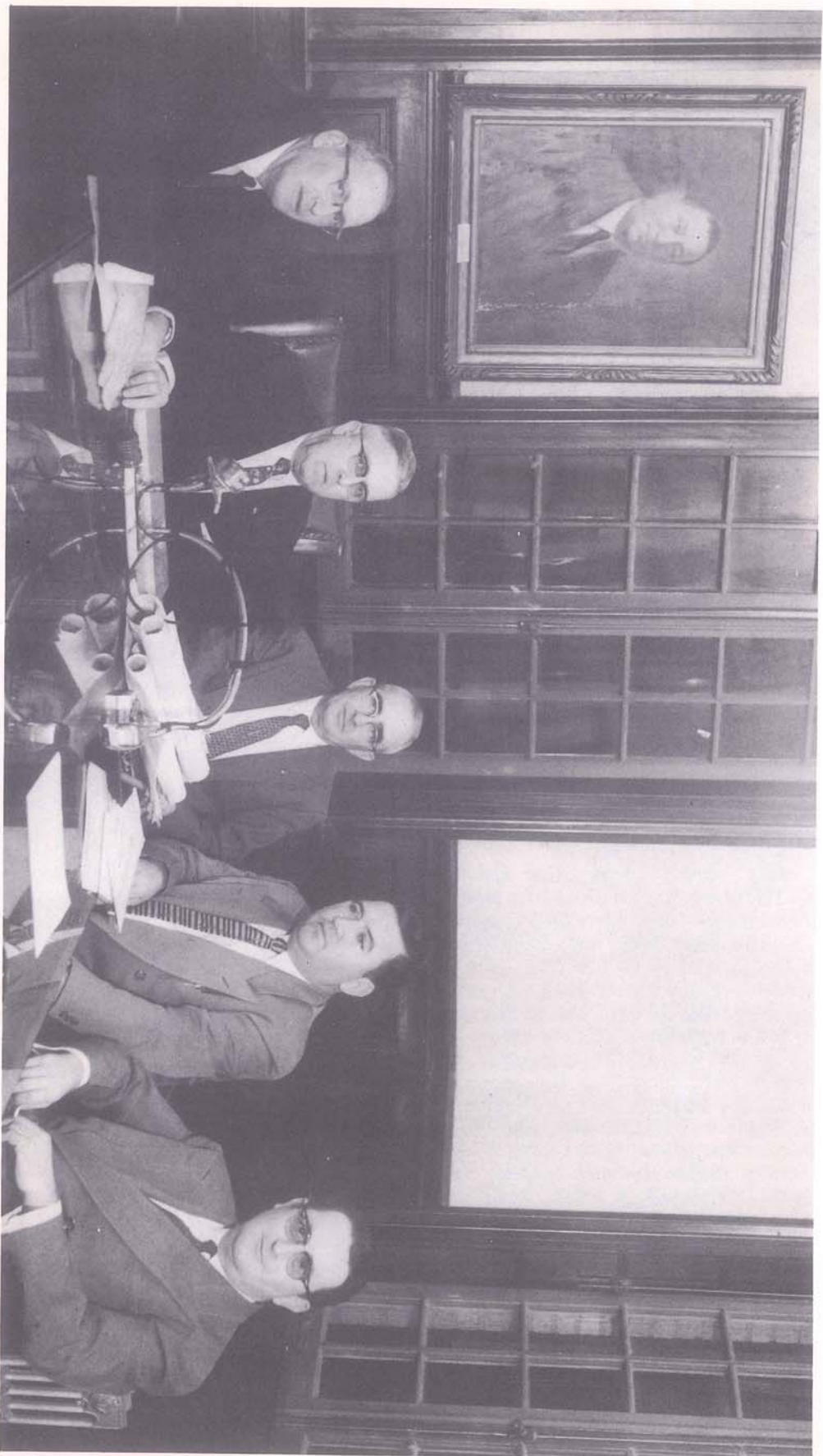
There are also prizes for sailfish, tuna and both blue and white marlin, relatively recent game fish discovered offshore in the Gulf and top-notch blue water fighters that are certain to make this area even more inviting to out-of-state anglers as time goes by.

The Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo is sym-

Lester J. Plaisance of Golden Meadow, won the 1956 Tarpon Rodeo and displays some of trophies.

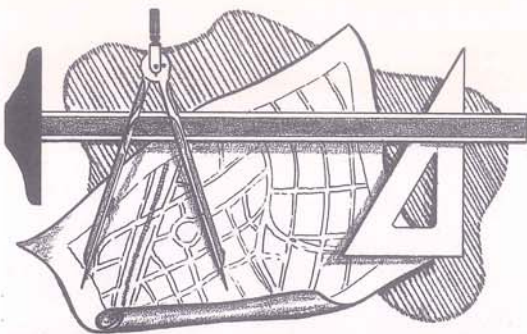
bolic in many ways of the unexcelled outdoor sport which Jefferson Parish offers residents and visitors alike. The fishing fleet that assembles at Grand Isle runs the gamut from luxurious yachts to outboard-powered speed hulls. The Goddess of Fortune smiles on the lucky anglers and everybody has a chance to win one or more of the thousands of dollars worth of prizes and scores of trophies.

The rodeo, with its festivities and determined fishing brings a gala climax to what might be called the sportsman's year in Jefferson Parish.



Planners at work: The five members of the Jefferson Parish Planning and Zoning Commission, group created in the summer of 1956, are shown here at a night session. From left, the

members are: Percy Goldenberg, secretary; Clyde Bourgeois, chairman; Richard McCarthy, Jr., member; Ross Centanni, member; James J. Culotta, vice-chairman.



PLANNERS, ZONERS

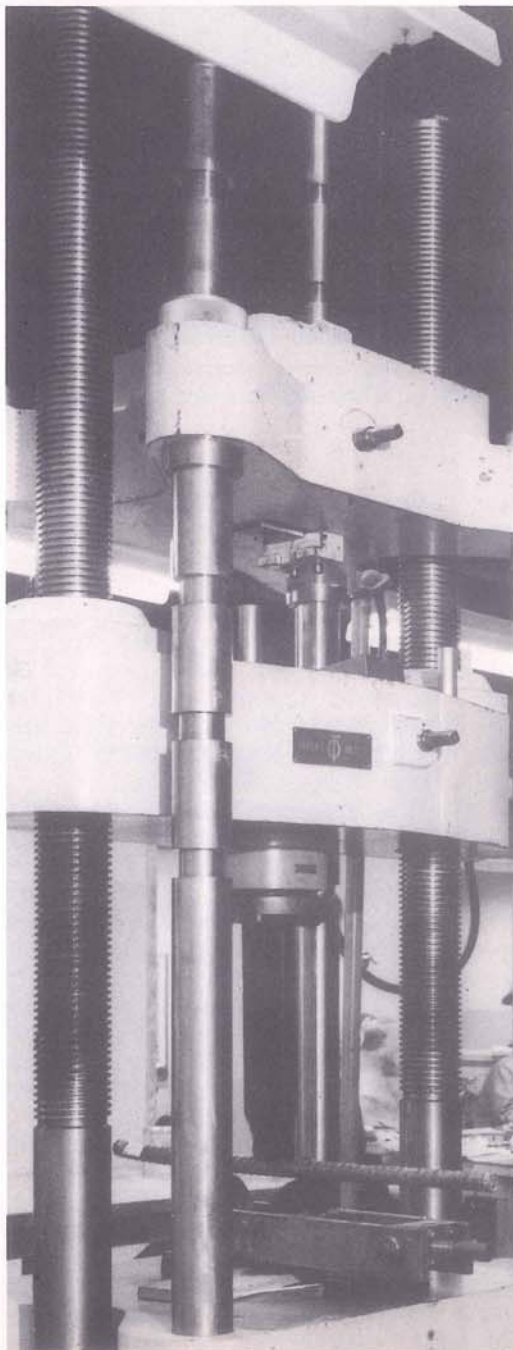
FACING HUGE TASK

Propelled by booming industry and petroleum development, by its matchless location and the general upswing in business conditions since 1941, Jefferson Parish set new records as it grew.

But for more than a decade — like Topsy — it just grew. Thoughtful observers, mindful of the dangers of uncontrolled, unplanned growth, recognized that this expanding giant of a community was stepping on its own feet. Immediately after World War II, these observers began calling attention to the imperative need for overall planning — for the plotting of a course which would lead most effectively toward an efficient and pleasing community as well as a vigorous one.

And, they explained, an inseparable by-product of community planning would be zoning, which would not only protect the investments of thousands of property owners but would oil the machinery of parish progress.

For several years, however, two factors worked against the creation of a modern planning and zoning authority



Modern precision machinery helps Palmer and Baker Engineers, Inc. lay the groundwork for planning the Jefferson Parish of tomorrow. Here a technician works at a machine testing the tensile strength of materials.



Engineers, draftsmen and other technicians are shown, above, working in the drafting room of the Palmer and Baker headquarters. Their job includes the first comprehensive survey ever made of the parish.

in Jefferson. First, the police jury was faced with solving more immediate problems; second, comprehensive planning requires substantial financing — and parish income was lagging behind the commercial and industrial growth of the area. Furthermore, public officials were understandably wary of voting sizeable funds for intangible improvements, which would bear fruit largely in the future, while immediate needs like streets and drainage went partially unfulfilled.

This was the situation which confronted LeRoy L. Hall last summer when he became president of the Police Jury. Nearly everyone was in favor of modern planning and zoning, but no one seemed prepared to take the lead in making these improvements a reality.

President Hall, however, was not only ready but eager to take the plunge. In July, 1956, he announced that he would ask the Police Jury to create a planning and zoning authority and to provide adequate funds for its operation. A few days later, the Jury approved his request, and named the five authorized members of the Commission.

Immediately thereafter, on August 8, 1956, the organization meeting of the Jefferson Parish Planning and Zoning Commission was conducted in borrowed offices. The members named by

the Police Jury were Clyde Bourgeois, retired Marrero businessman; James J. Culotta, Metairie contractor and real estate developer; Percy Goldenberg, railroad auditor; Richard McCarthy, Jr., corporation executive, and Dan C. Slate of Bridge City. Mr. Slate resigned at once to avoid a possible conflict with his Water Board No. 5 connection, and was replaced by Ross Centanni, salesman, who lives at Waggaman.

At the organization meeting, Mr. Bourgeois was elected chairman, Mr. Culotta, vice-chairman, and Mr. Goldenberg, secretary.

Two imperative needs faced the new group. First was the assistance of professionals in the field of community planning, and second, as the commission members well knew, was the almost complete absence of accurate information about the parish on which to base their work.

With these requirements in mind, the firm of Palmer and Baker Engineers, Inc., of New Orleans and Mobile, Ala., was retained. Palmer and Baker not only qualified as experts in the field of community planning, but were familiar with the parish as engineers in charge of major expressway, bridge and other projects in Jefferson.

Total compensation of \$250,000 to the firm over a period of 28 months was approved by the commission and under-

written by the Police Jury as follows: \$50,000 for the months of September, October, November and December, 1956; \$100,000 for the year 1957, and \$100,000 for the year 1958.

Palmer and Baker assigned a team of six engineers to the planning and zoning project, with their efforts supplemented by at times more than a dozen technicians. George F. Williamson, contracting engineer, is acting as liaison for Palmer and Baker with parish officials, while L. B. Craig is planning engineer and Abner Beard is assistant engineer in charge of design.

Special equipment, too, has been installed, including a machine for testing stresses of materials and another, a large photostat machine, for map-making. Offices for the commission and engineers, and laboratories, have been set up in a new building provided by Palmer and Baker under its contract at Jefferson Highway and the new Expressway.

When Palmer and Baker started their task, they found scarcely any foundation material on which to build their work. Engineers of the firm reported that even existing maps of the parish were unreliable and had to be replaced by aerial and surface surveys to determine exact areas in various sections.

No accurate, up-to-date housing survey existed, knowledge of sub-surface conditions was lacking, except at points where bridges or other major structures had been built.

The list of facts lacking seemed endless. Thus the first task, before any actual parish planning could be attempted, was to ascertain what conditions presently existed. Because of this situation, the work of the engineers was broadened and outlined as follows:

1. Aerial photographs of so much of the parish as present planning indicates is necessary.
2. Maps of the more highly populous areas.
3. Population density maps.
4. Land use map as presently used.
5. Traffic accident map from available data.

6. Internal and external origin and destination maps.
7. Traffic counts on all existing arteries.
8. Major route congestion analysis.
9. Arterial street inventory, including right-of-way, street paving and marginal development investigations.
10. Street capacity analysis.

11. Recommendations for immediate traffic relief.
12. Economic studies and motor vehicle investigations leading to forecast of future motor vehicle density.
13. Recommendation for major street plan.
14. Recommendation for



Palmer and Baker engineers are shown here studying newly prepared maps of Jefferson. Pointing with rule to a significant feature of the map is George F. Williamson, contracting engineer and liaison man with the Planning and Zoning Commission.



Quick reproduction of key data is one of the essentials of the big job of scientific planning. Here a technician uses a large photostat machine at Palmer and Baker headquarters.

subdivision regulations and requirements. 15. Review of all subdivision submissions and recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission. 16. Analysis of existing platting in undeveloped areas.

17. Analysis of natural resources. 18. Review and recommendations for rail, port and industrial development possibilities. 19. Zoning map, land use map and zoning ordinances. 20. Co-ordination with Orleans Parish Planning Commission, appropriate agencies of the other adjacent parishes, state highway departments, and all Jefferson Parish Districts or public agencies.

21. Evaluation of present water, drainage, and sewerage capacities and recommendations for an orderly increase. 22. A program for every facility for step-by-step development with financial programming to permit realization. 23. A program for co-ordination of the several engineering activities of

the various governmental agencies of the parish.

Study of the topics in this outline reveals the complex nature of the work undertaken by the engineers and also the relatively minor position zoning occupies when compared with planning. It explains, also, the reason an undertaking of this nature requires more than two years and suggests that even when completed, it must be followed by continual work to keep the parish's master plan up to date.

It does not mean, however, according to parish officials, that they must wait until the entire survey has been completed before various phases of the work can be used as a basis for shaping the future of Jefferson. As the work progresses a continually increasing number of general conclusions will become available upon which to build a better future for the entire community.

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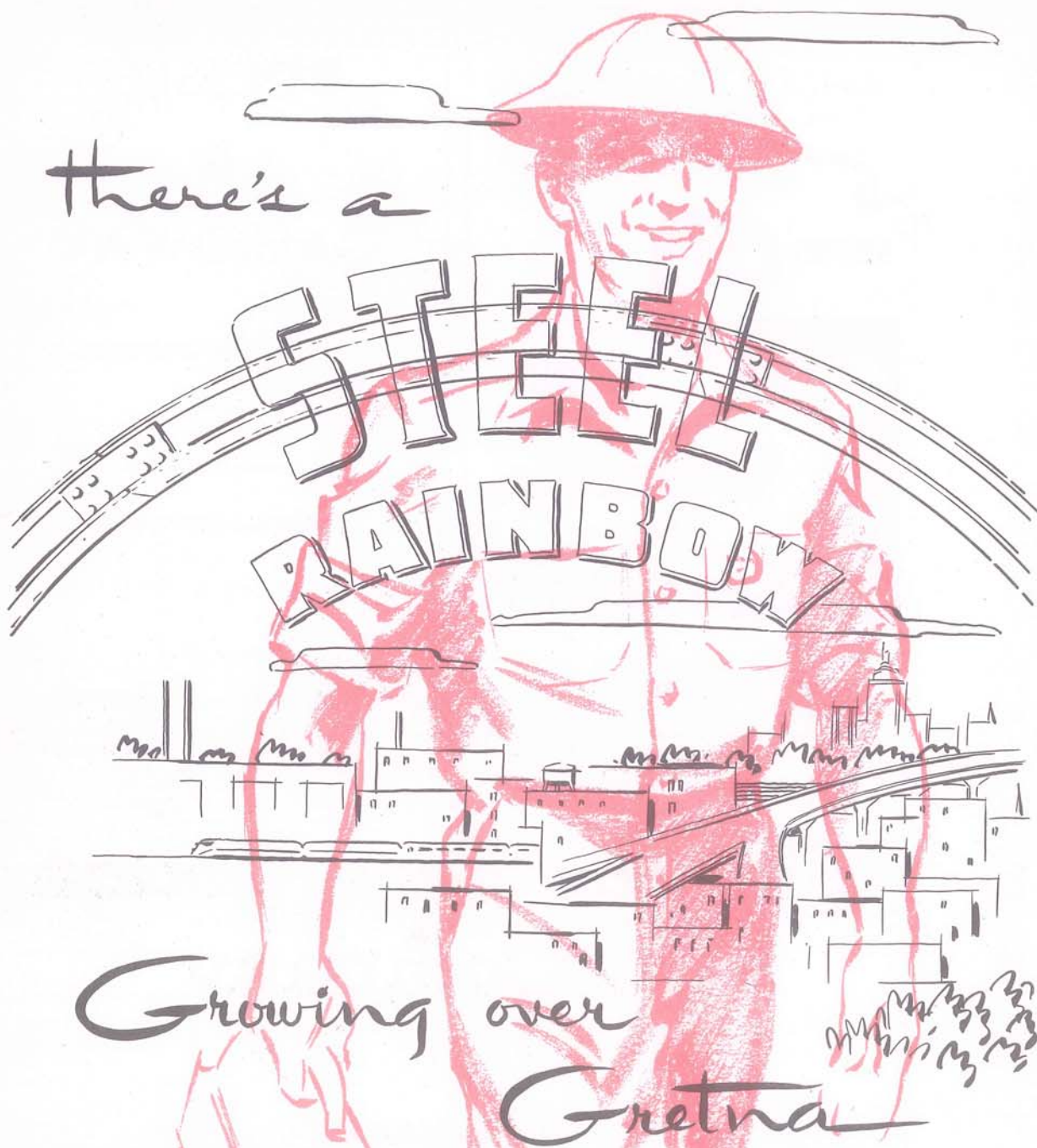
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GRETN, LOUISIANA



Growing over Gretna

By William J. White

(MAYOR)

Here in Gretna, Louisiana's largest city on the West Bank of the Mississippi River, there's a rainbow over our shoulder.

Like every glowing rainbow, ours shines with rich promise of the future. But our rainbow isn't the result of re-

flected sunlight after a shower; ours is made of steel and the promise of the future it reflects concerns things like growth and prosperity and better living for all our people.

Our steel rainbow is the huge new bridge that arches gracefully over the

New Expressway – Franklin Avenue Await Completion of River Bridge



Here's how the distance from Gretna to New Orleans is being cut to a mere 10 minutes, ending long, inconvenient ferry trips. The huge center span of the Mississippi River bridge (background) is now being put in place and within months traffic will speed along the expressway and over the bridge to New Orleans and return.

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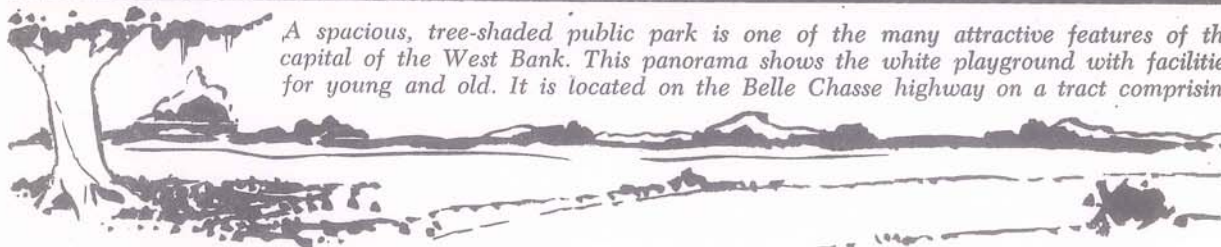


Officials of the City of Gretna: from left, seated: John P. Ray, alderman; Charles A. Huber, alderman and Mayor Pro-Tem; William J. White, Mayor; Eugene Gehring, alderman; G. Ashton Cox, alderman; Edward L. Hodge, alderman; standing, Andrew H. Thalheim,

city attorney; Beauregard Miller, city marshal and chief of the police department; Julius F. Hotard, city clerk; Andrew Kraus, city treasurer, and Henry F. Bender, director of the budget.



A spacious, tree-shaded public park is one of the many attractive features of the capital of the West Bank. This panorama shows the white playground with facilities for young and old. It is located on the Belle Chasse highway on a tract comprising



Mississippi River from Gretna to New Orleans and which will be in service next spring. Its appearance, like the natural phenonema, followed a storm: a storm of expansion which brought about an increase in Gretna's population of 14,000 in 1950 to more than 20,000 today.

At long last, within the next few months, the capital city of Jefferson Parish will be only 10 or 15 minutes drive from downtown New Orleans, the commercial center of the Deep South.

While the anticipation of the completion of the new bridge is the brightest star in our community's sky, it is by no means the only one.

OTHER STARS, TOO!

Here are some of the other stars which appear in our sky in this happy summer of 1957:

The multi-million-dollar West-side Shopping Center, comprising some 25 stores and 30 acres of land, will have several units in operation in October and is scheduled for



some 23 acres which contains also the municipal incinerator. City officials were able to purchase the tract for the low price of \$820 an acre. Continued development of the park is high on the agenda of public improvements for the city, Mayor White says.

completion in February, 1958.

The Gretna portion of the West Bank Expressway, which is designed to link the new bridge with the Huey P. Long Bridge and U. S. Highway 90 West at the upper end of the parish, is in operation.

More than half of our 60 miles of streets are hard-surfaced and your city government is making every effort to expand greatly this highly necessary program.

Gretna, the only area on Jefferson's West Bank with a modern sanitary sewer system, will soon have this system throughout the corporate limits.

Vital services of police protection,

garbage collection, fire protection, street maintenance and recreational facilities are being enlarged and modernized.

These and other improvements have come about not only without the imposition of more taxes but with an **ACTUAL DECREASE** from 21½ mills to 17 mills in 1956.

At the same time, our city, as the parish seat, is being improved and beautified by the construction of the new eight-story Jefferson Parish courthouse. The site of the new courthouse, near the present structure, will relieve congestion on crowded Huey P. Long Avenue by the diversion of traffic to the new building.

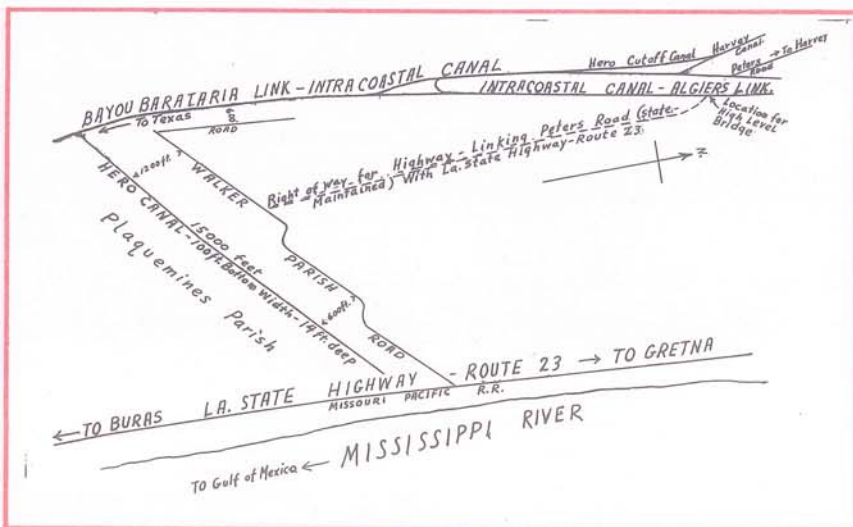
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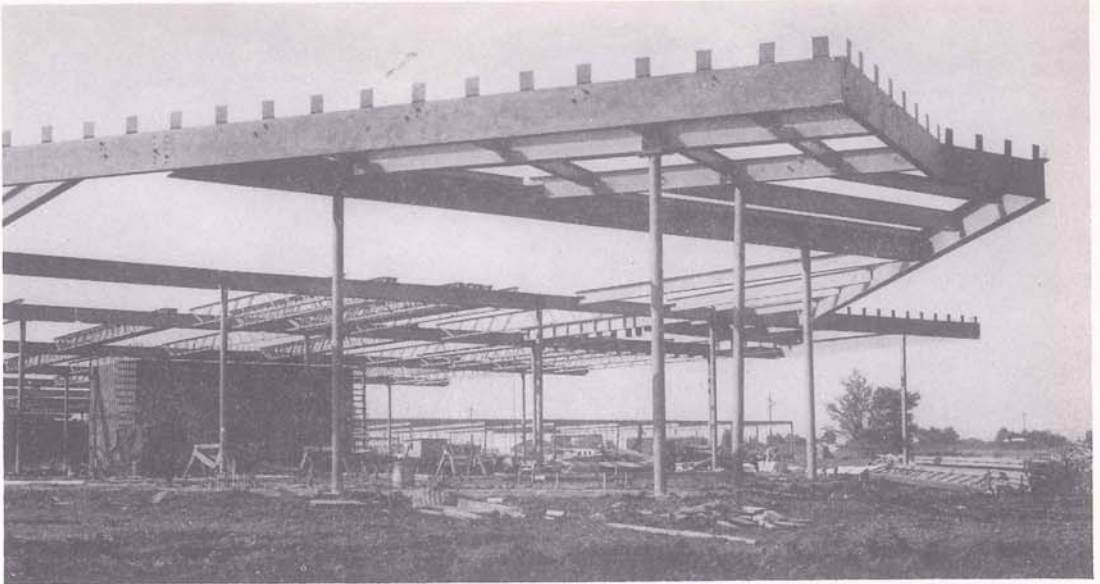


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BELLE CHASSE, LOUISIANA



The model, \$25 million Westside Shopping Center in Gretna is nearing completion. Here's a closeup of sturdy steel work, with masonry (background) being placed.

Another factor which will divert traffic from Huey P. Long Avenue will be the completion of the new bridge. This will abolish the present congestion at the ferry approaches.

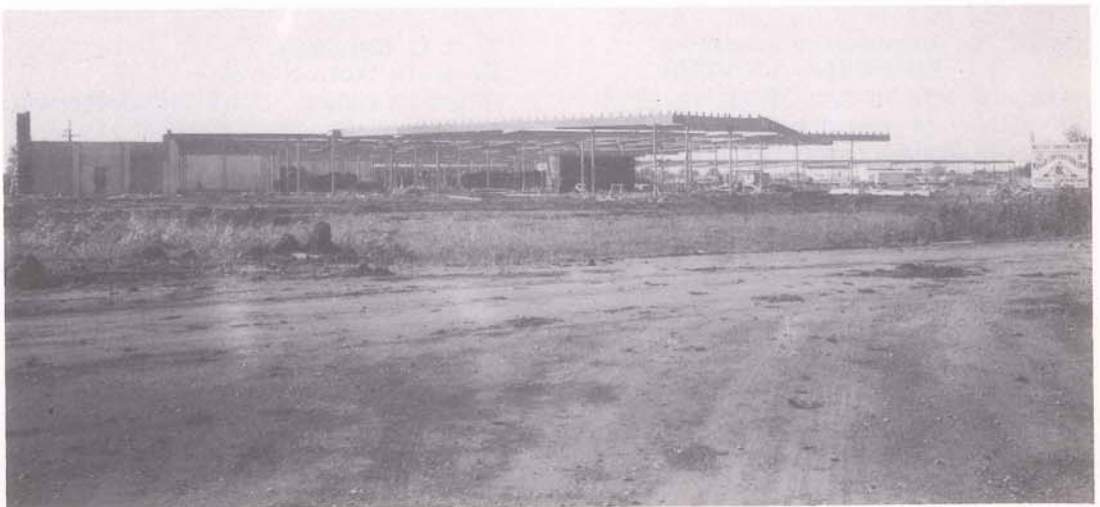
LONG BATTLE WON

Gretna leaders have been planning and working for a bridge across the river for decades but it was not until 1950 that these plans began to mature into today's reality. In that year, your city administration joined New Orleans officials in seeking financing and legal authority to carry the project through. At that time, resident property owners voted unanimously in favor of the proposed revenue bond issue.

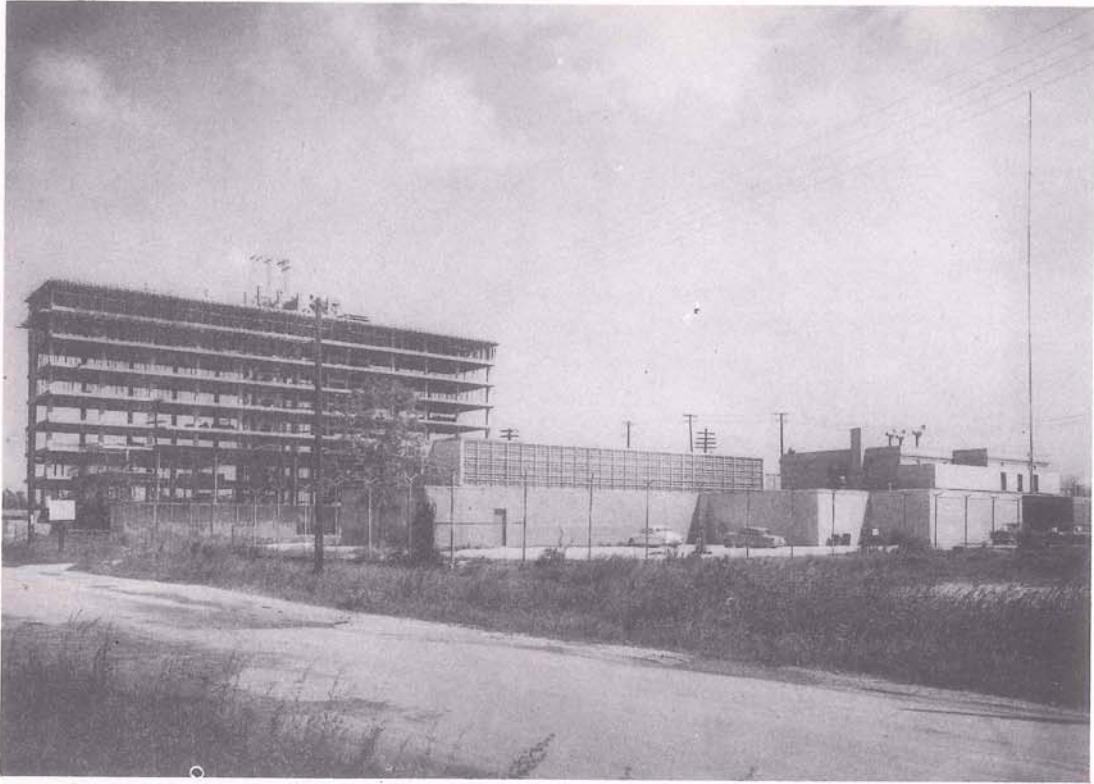
However, non-co-operating neighboring agencies were able to throw a tem-

porary roadblock across the path of the project. At this point, our administration took the lead in sponsoring legislation in Baton Rouge which created the Mississippi River Bridge Authority, which is presently carrying the project to completion.

Many pages would be required to set down here the numerous advantages we will derive from this project. But we should note that with the completion of the span, Gretna will have come of age as a modern city in today's — and tomorrow's — world. Not only have real estate values already increased, but numerous businesses are being readied for expansion and new enterprises planned in the wake of this improvement.



General view of the 30-acre shopping center.



The new Jefferson Parish courthouse, shown here under construction, will soon be added to Gretna's skyline. In foreground is newly completed parish prison, featuring the latest improvements in prisoner care and security.

Gretna will no longer be an important, but inaccessible unit of the metropolitan area. Instead, it will move closer economically as well as physically to New Orleans proper, serving as the focal point for the West Bank, which is already the South's most concentrated industrial complex.

This prediction is, I feel, strengthened by our excellent location within the triangle formed by the Mississippi River, the Harvey Canal and alternate link of the Intracoastal Waterway.

FINE SHOPPING CENTER

Construction of the Westside Shopping Center is one of several reactions of Gretna leaders to the promise of the future.

State Senator Alvin T. Stumpf, his brother, Archie C. Stumpf and the latter's son, Dr. John Stumpf, are the men behind this development.

The center is located on the triangle formed by the Expressway, Franklin Avenue and Hamilton Street. The 25 stores will occupy a floor space of more than 200,000 square feet at this strategic location, which will be convenient not only to citizens of Gretna but to their neighbors from Algiers and other West Bank centers.

By June 1, 1957, more than 90 per cent of the steel-work involved was in place, while paving, building masonry and other phases of the development were moving rapidly ahead.

Among the major firms which will occupy space are:

Maison Blanche.

National Food Stores (the firm's largest Louisiana outlet).

F. W. Woolworth and Co.

Labiche's, Inc.

A & G Cafeteria.

Western Auto Stores.

First National Bank of Jefferson Parish.

Stumpf's Pharmacy.

SERVICES ENLARGED

We have noted that your city administration has been able to enlarge its improvement program while actually reducing taxes. This has been possible because of increased business activity which has, in turn, led to greater revenues from the sales tax and our share of the state's beer and cigarette taxes.

It seems appropriate to call attention, also, to some of the concrete gains we have been able to make in vital services.

In 1944, our police department consisted of the City Marshal and one po-



This \$8,000 garbage truck is one of several new machines added during the past year to improve municipal services.

lice officer. Today, the force includes the marshal and 11 officers, working with modern police vehicles. Within the next year, we plan to add another police car and additional officers. The effectiveness of the department is shown by the city's freedom from major crime.

Construction of the West Bank Expressway came about through co-operation with the Louisiana Department of Highways. And soon Hamilton Street will be paved and the Lafayette-Belle Chasse Highway, beginning at Eleventh Street will be widened to four lanes and subsurface drainage installed.

During the past year our fire alarm system has been extended to outlying sections and your administration has made every effort to co-operate with the David Crockett and Gould Volunteer Fire Companies. These companies today maintain four fire stations in Gretna.

Without any additional taxation, we have been able to provide garbage collection three times per week and make regular trash collections.

SEEK MORE SEWERS

The increase in total assessed property makes it possible for us to issue \$500,000 in bonds to extend the sewerage system to all parts of the city. As soon as our engineers complete their current surveys we plan to offer this bonding proposal for the extension to the people.

The city administration is continuing the development of our recreational and parks program. Our park site was acquired in conjunction with the purchase of land for an incinerator. The sites occupy 23 acres of land along the Belle Chasse Highway, which were purchased for the low price of \$820 per acre. Included in our immediate planning for the recreational facility is the construction of two swimming pools.

Within the past year the city has purchased a grader, for \$8,000; a trenching machine, \$6,000; a mobile air compressor, \$3,300; a modern garbage truck, \$8,000; and a street sweeper, \$13,000. We are presently operating three garbage trucks, five trash collecting trucks, which double in hauling street materials, and three trucks used by the water department.

Gretna has indeed been moving ahead. But we are confident that our city and our parish have only started toward the realization of our potential. Indeed, there is a rainbow over our shoulder!



This photo shows how the new West Bank Expressway expedites traffic for Gretna motorists and was taken opposite the business section. In foreground is service road, a feature of the expressway which adds to the convenience of local traffic.

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PASTURES INTO SUBDIVISIONS

KENNER



Dr. Joseph F. Kopfler, Sr., the late mayor of Kenner, assumed office in 1942. In September, 1956, four months before his death, he presided at the dedication of the new Kenner City Hall, climaxing one of the most spectacular periods of growth in the history of Louisiana municipalities. The dedication coincided with the 43rd wedding anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. Kopfler.

KEEPS CLIMBING

The distaff side is proving itself well qualified to soothe the growing pains of Kenner, Louisiana's fastest growing city.

When she was appointed mayor last winter to fill the unexpired term of her late husband, Mrs. Joseph F. Kopfler, Sr. was confronted with the job of carrying out the conversion of Kenner from a small town to a modern, expanding city.

Kenner had grown from a mere 2,300 people in 1942 to 6,000 in 1951 and then to more than 14,000 in the current year.

Not only had the northernmost of Jefferson's East Bank cities snowballed as a residential area, but new industries and other enterprises were springing up almost overnight.

One factor which helped was the completion last September of the new \$400,000 City Hall and Central Fire Station, providing an efficient, modern headquarters for the city's government. And staffing the officers, except for fire and police, is an all feminine roster, headed by Mrs. Kopfler.



Two of the keys to meeting the needs of Kenner's amazing growth are a paving program amounting to \$1 million and a long range major street plan prepared by the firm of Dan S. Martin and Associates of New Orleans.

MORE SPACE SOUGHT

More growing room is needed, too. Efforts are being made now to annex the area immediately east of the city which was once a part of Kenner and was separated from the corporate limits several years ago.

The major street plan has been approved tentatively by the Kenner Planning Commission. The greatest problem posed by the long-range plan is adjustment to the route of the federal interstate expressway.

Indications early this summer were that the expressway will bisect Kenner on a line some 500 feet north of Veterans Highway, certainly not an ideal situation. If this occurs, plans call for an interchange at the expressway and Williams Boulevard. Crossings probably would be near the St. Charles Parish line with an underpass and at Bainbridge Parkway with an overpass.

The master plan calls for creation of a parkway system bringing wedges of open areas into the heart of the city. Another feature is the proposed construction of a lakeshore parkway, to be carried out with the development of lakeshore property.

PAVING MOVES AHEAD

While the major plan is taking shape, Kenner is busy with its street paving



* *Kenner's Busy Officials* — Mrs. Joseph F. Kopfler, Sr. (seated, center), mayor, members of the board of aldermen and other officials, take time out for their photograph. From left: seated, Miss Philomene Paasch, secretary-treasurer; the mayor, Joseph S. Maggiore, alderman and mayor pro-tem; standing, City Attorney Edward J. Stoulig, Alderman Clinton J. McDonald, Alderman William R. Mancuso, Alderman Joseph L. Centanni, and City Marshal Fred J. Roth.

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Two-way radio has been installed by the Kenner fire department as an added protection. Upper photo shows Fire Chief William R. Mancuso using new radio. Lower photo is a view of the Council Chamber in Kenner's new City Hall.



program. Contracts were let during the past spring for the paving of seven streets, which would bring the number to 19. This total is exclusive of arteries in new subdivisions. Under city ordinance, these must be paved and sub-surface drained by the developers.

At the same time, other municipal services are being improved. With the completion of the new building, the fire department has a new station, centrally located. And two-way radio communication has been installed on the fire trucks. This permits Fire Chief William R. Mancuso, who is also an alderman and serves the department without pay, to keep in constant touch with headquarters.

The city has also recently purchased a new ditching machine for \$7,000 as an aid to street maintenance and drainage.

Kenner's woman mayor is busy, too, with efforts to obtain a new postoffice and is being assisted in this connection by U. S. Representative Hale Boggs.

All these activities add up to a full-time job of municipal housekeeping for Mrs. Kopfler.

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ESTABLISHED 1944

WESTWEGO...

A GREAT PLACE

for Kids...and Commerce

By Roy C. Keller

MAYOR

The important economic news about Westwego is its continued industrial expansion which has pushed the population well beyond the 11,000 mark.

But the biggest human news about this thriving West Bank center is what the entire community, led by the city government, is doing for its youngsters.

This was pointed up the last Saturday in May when a gala parade wound through the principal streets and then to the Westwego Park and Playground. Guests of honor were the 150 or so boys who are participating in league baseball, one of the finest barriers known against juvenile delinquency.



Smartly uniformed players on Little League baseball teams march in the May, 1957, parade in downtown Westwego which officially opened the season. This is one of the ways the West Bank city is helping mould its youngsters into the citizens of tomorrow.



This new shopping center delights Westwego housewives.

Eight teams have been formed in age groups from seven to 15 and each plays its regular schedule. Peter Palmer, a volunteer, is in charge of this healthful and popular undertaking.

Alderman George N. Fonseca, represents the city, with parks and playgrounds coming under his jurisdiction.

The City of Westwego equipped the park and recent renovations and improvements have been made. Our planning includes enlarging and further improving the park.

USE BRAKE TAG FEES

Most of the money for the recreational program comes from the proceeds of our brake inspection system.

Late spring and summer are the peak times for the little league baseball activity, but the park also offers tennis and basketball courts and other facilities and is a busy and popular center.

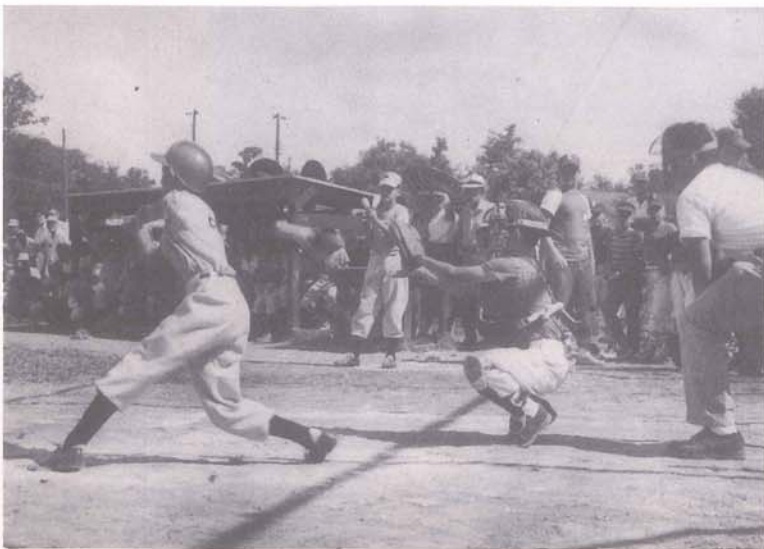
Activities for youngsters is not the only field in which Westwego's public spirited citizens take a hand.

Fire protection is completely volunteer and as this is written the Westwego Volunteer Fire Departemnt No. 1 is raising money to purchase another fire truck.

Westwego's civic clubs are particularly active in projects to make the city a more pleasant place to live. Currently, the Lions Club has a project under way to build shelters in the park.

Residential and commercial building is going ahead at full speed, led by the construction of new homes and in late 1956 a new enterprise, the Wego Shopping Center, was opened with excellent stores at the lower end of the city.

The city is co-operating with the Louisiana Historical Landmarks Society



A budding Mickey Mantle takes his cut, left photo, as Westwego's Little League competition gets under way at city playground. At right, Mayor Pro-Tem Clarence LaBauve shows good form as he throws out the first ball of the official season.

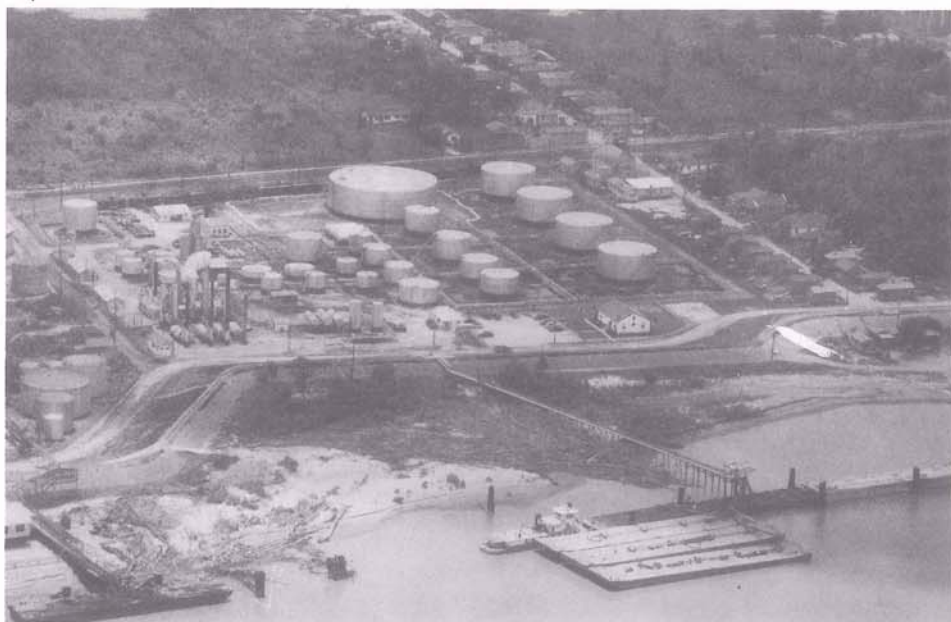
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Officials of Westwego: from left, George Fonseca, alderman; Sidney Richoux, alderman; Clarence LaBauve, Mayor Pro-Tem and alderman; Antoine Alario, alderman; Willis Delhommer, alderman; Roy C. Keller, Mayor; M. J. Pitre, office manager, and Mrs. Adeline Martinez, secretary and tax collector.

and the American Liberty Marketing Company in efforts to rehabilitate the Seven Oaks Plantation house which stands on the tract leased by American Liberty.

During May, when the Landmarks Society invited the general public to visit the former plantation house, more than 2,000 visitors were present during one afternoon.

BUILT IN 1840

The site is owned by the Missouri Pacific Lines and efforts are being made to have the railroad guarantee the integrity of Seven Oaks in the event the present lease is changed.

The handsome old manor house was built in 1840 and was owned by the Camille Zeringue family. The site, however, was occupied as a plantation as long ago as 1720. During the past two years, Seven Oaks has been unoccupied

and stands neglected among the units of a petroleum tank farm.

All factors point to the continued growth of our key West Bank city. But an unprecedented expansion will occur when the Jefferson Parish Seaway becomes a reality, because Westwego will be the northern terminal of the waterway.

Even before that event, however, the city prospers from solid, dependable industrial payrolls which have been added to the basic seafood processing business. Among the industries are the new National Gypsum Company plant, Commercial Solvents Corp., Publicker Chemical Corp., North American Trading and Import Company, Sinclair Refining Company, General Gas Corp., Tidewater Association Oil Company, and the electric generating plant of the Louisiana Power and Light Company.



City officials and members of the Louisiana Historical Landmarks Society have joined forces to restore the noted old Seven Oaks Plantation house, which in disrepair still bears the hallmarks of beauty of another day. The house was built in 1840 on a site where a plantation was established in 1720.

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OFFICES AND FACTORIES IN PRINCIPAL CITIES

BUILDING

Harahan

AS A PLACE TO LIVE

Like the other three incorporated areas of Jefferson Parish, Harahan has been growing steadily since World War II.

But the city's watchword is "quality" rather than quantity. There are two reasons for this: first, nearly all of the available land has been put to use, and, secondly, Harahan is primarily a city of homes whose owners are chiefly interested in a better place in which to live and rear their children.

Less than 130 acres remain which can be developed for homes and industrial sites are virtually non-existent. For the resident of Harahan, this constitutes no handicap because the city is surrounded by industrial and commercial enterprises, ranging in size up to the huge plants of American Cyanamid and Avondale Marine Ways directly across

the river.

The city is taking the lead in improving the appearance and convenience of this East Bank center with a project for a new City Hall and Central Fire Station on an extension of the present site.

At the same time, property owners will soon be asked to vote on a proposed bond issue to extend sewerage to all parts of the Community.

Veteran Mayor Frank H. Mayo explains that inauguration of a comprehensive street paving program is being deferred until a modern sewerage system is installed.

Mayor Mayo is the oldest municipal head in the parish in point of service, having held office for nearly 33 years. A veteran of World War 1, the mayor celebrated his 64th birthday on June 1.



Officials of Harahan: from left, Frank H. Mayo, mayor; Harold A. Buchler, city attorney; Mrs. Francis Bourg, secretary-treasurer; Francis Bourg, alderman; Charles A. O'Neill, Mayor Pro-Tem and alderman; Paul Marcotte, alderman; Henry Witte, alderman, and John Coutrado, city marshal and chief of the volunteer fire department.

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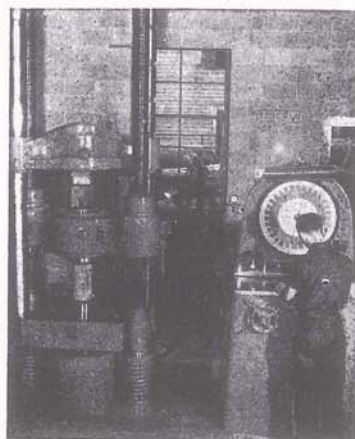
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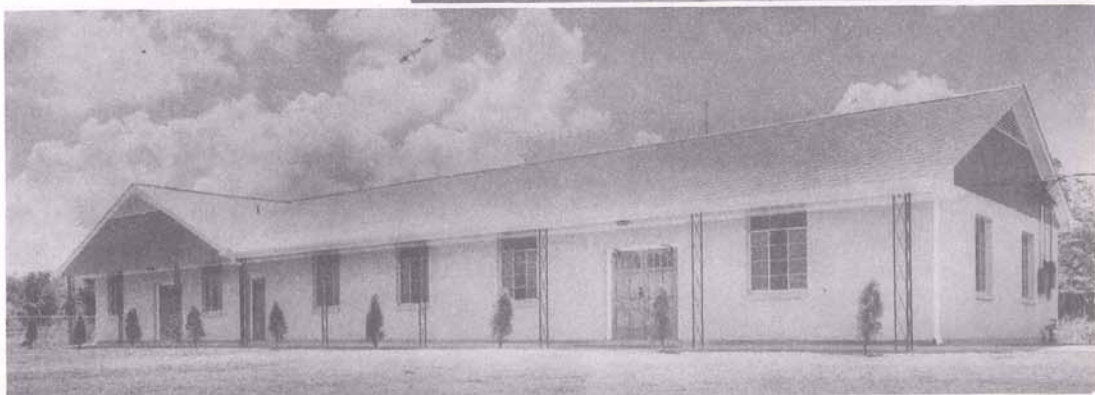
BATON ROUGE

LAKE CHARLES

ALEXANDRIA



Harahan is proud of its churches and homes. Here are three new church buildings: top, the Faith Lutheran Church; center, the gymnasium and part of large playing field, St. Rita's Catholic church; lower, the recently completed Riverside Baptist church.



He's proud that "Harahan is a city of homes and a city of fine churches in which our people worship."

During the six months ending May 1, there were 400 new homes built in Harahan and the population is now estimated at 8,000. The growth has been carefully planned under the direction of the Harahan Planning and Zoning Board, which employs a professional administrator and planner.

New churches have been built by the Faith Lutheran Congregation, and Riverside Baptist and the Methodist Church has added an educational building. Also recent is the fine gymnasium of St. Rita's Catholic Church.

Mayor Mayo is proud, too, of "the fine transportation we have," pointing out that schedules are good and the fare, in tokens, to transfer points in New Orleans is only 13 cents.

MORE AND MORE

The big, modern plant of East Jefferson Water District No. 1 is built for tomorrow — many tomorrows—as well as today. Capacity of the plant, which serves the entire East Bank area, is 24 million gallons per day, compared with an average use of 9 million. Here's the story of

EAST JEFFERSON WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 1

By John W. Hodgson, Sr.

(President & General Mgr.)

During the past year East Jefferson Waterworks District No. 1 has not only kept pace with the amazing growth of our section but has been able to return a dividend to our customers.

This dividend came in the form of reduced fire insurance rates for most

of our property owners and resulted directly from improved water facilities and better fire protection.

For several years we have been working toward this reduction and were naturally highly gratified when, last November 9, it was announced by the



Purification Plant and Administrative Offices of East Jefferson Waterworks No. 1 on Jefferson Highway.



Members of the Board: from left, John W. Hodgson, Sr., president and general manager; Charles A. Boutall, vice-president; Charles J. Kieffer; Blaise Camel, and Paul D'Gerolamo, member and purchasing agent.

National Board of Fire Underwriters through the Louisiana Rating and Fire Prevention Bureau.

Behind this action is the story of the continued growth and improvement of our water district since it was organized 26 years ago.

Our plant on Jefferson Highway in Shrewsbury is generally recognized as the most modern in this part of Louisiana. And during the past year we have improved our physical facilities still further by increasing our above-ground storage, our plant capacity and by laying still more miles of mains.

SPARSELY SETTLED AREAS

In last year's issue of *The Review*, we estimated that East Jefferson was adding more than 2,000 customers per year. Now we must revise that figure upward because during this past year our patrons have increased from slightly more than 23,000 to over 26,000.

One of the most serious problems, from the standpoint of keeping pace with the growth of the East Bank, is the steady march of new subdivisions away from the plant and our source of supply. This fact means many more lines of mains must be laid to reach these sections. And, for the present at least, it means also that we have fewer customers to the mile of mains than most metropolitan areas. Naturally, this is a problem that will solve itself as the intervening sections are built up and population density increases.

On the other hand, all of the water boards in Jefferson Parish, including our own, are blessed by the proximity of the huge Mississippi River, which assures us an almost unlimited supply of raw water. It is impossible to conceive of growth, granting that much of it proves to be industrial, which will ever seriously tax this source. This fact

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Since 1912 Freeport Sulphur, oldest producer in the United States, has pioneered the production of the "magic mineral." Its work has resulted in the use of salt water in Frasch process mining, successful mining of marshland deposits, the development of numerous techniques applicable to offshore mining operations and other important advances.

Over the decades, this pioneering has helped to assure sulphur's availability for the betterment—and the defense—of our way of life.

FREEPORT SULPHUR COMPANY

is one of the basic causes of the amazing expansion of our parish, a growth that is constantly increasing in geometric proportion.

Another cheerful note was struck in 1955 when we were able to grant a reduction in water rates despite the cost of our expansion.

For the record, we serve the entire East Bank of Jefferson, comprising an area of nearly 30,000 acres. Our plant capacity is presently 24 million gallons per day, while average daily use is some 9 million gallons.

FIRE RATE CUTS

Our board was especially happy with the announcement of the reduction in fire rates, which affect Fire Districts One and Two, covering the Seventh, Eighth and Tenth Wards. The cities of Harahan and Kenner were not covered in the reductions because they have populations of less than 25,000, the minimum the underwriters consider for ratings.

Downward revisions in rates were generally for dwelling units only.

In Fire District Number One, which is Ward 7, the reduction was from National Board 7 to National Board 5 rating. In Fire District Number Two, the adjustment was from National Board 8 to National Board 5.

This means that on a frame house with acceptable roof, which is used for residential purposes only, Ward 7 property owners who had been paying 34 cents per hundred are now paying 28 cents per hundred. The reduction in Wards 8 and 10 were even greater, from 36 cents per hundred to 28 cents per hundred.

Those are dry figures until the homeowner prepares to write a check for his insurance agent, when the statistics are transformed into actual dollars saved because his water service and fire protection have been improved.

However, neither our board nor our fire district officials will be satisfied until we have helped effect still another insurance rate reduction.

Until November, 1956, the last reductions in our fire insurance rates had been back in 1953.

STEADY EXPANSION

Enlargement of our facilities has been moving steadily forward during the past 12 months.

The most readily seen additions have been the two new above-ground million gallon storage tanks. One is on Veter-

ans Highway near the Soniat Canal and the other is on Athania. These big tanks have increased our above-ground storage from six to eight million gallons.

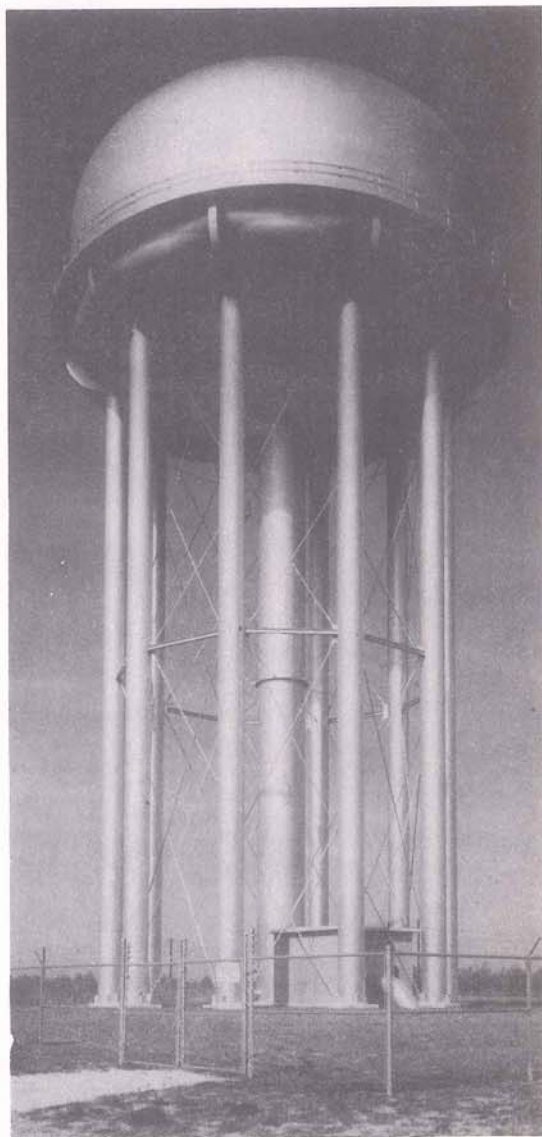
Also during the past year we have:

Completed a 20-inch main from Shrewsbury to Williams Boulevard and Veterans Highway in Kenner.

Laid two eight-inch mains along Veterans Highway to the Orleans Parish line.

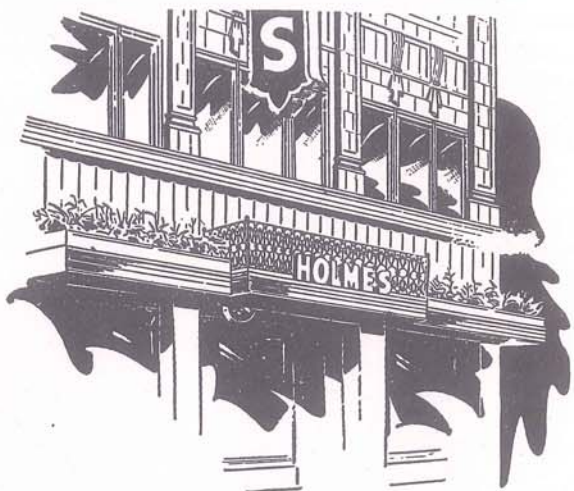
Laid two eight-inch mains from Williams Boulevard in Kenner to the St. Charles Parish line.

Let contracts for two eight-inch mains on Causeway Boulevard from Canal No. 4 to Lake Pontchartrain.



This soaring structure is one of the two new 1,000,000 tanks completed during the past year by the water board. It's on Athania.

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MONROE, LA.

1101 Louisville Ave.,

Phone: FA 2-6146

Started seeking easements for the installation of a 12-inch main along the lakefront from Bonnabel to Green Acres.

These are considerable extensions of our facilities and emphasize the fact that our greatest period of expansion has been since 1950.

I would like here to list a few facts about our physical plant, comparing the year 1956 with 1950, remembering that the 1956 figures do not include the quantities listed above, since some of them represent work completed early in 1957:

Plant: Maximum pump delivery: 1950, 4.8 million gallons per day; 1956, maximum delivery, 24 million gallons per day.

Total pipe: 1950: 678,000; 1956, 1,540,000 feet. The largest pipe used in 1950 was 20-inch, and there was only 2,580 feet of this, compared with 9,600 feet in 1956. Now the system has 18,000 feet of 36-inch pipe and 4,000 feet of 24-inch pipe. At the same time we are

eliminating all dead-end pipe of four and six inches.

Fire hydrants: 1950, 882; 1956, over 2,700.

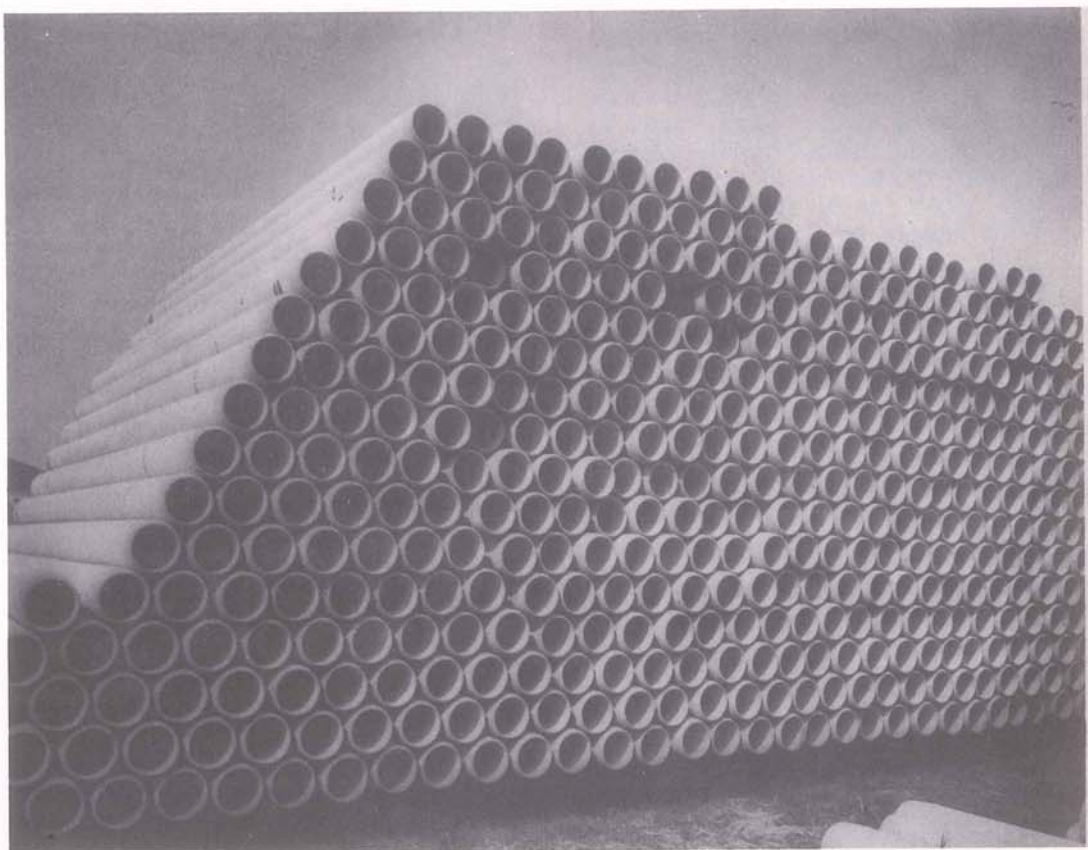
Our plant was designed to king-sized specifications with an eye on the future, so that we can now produce 24 million gallons compared with average daily needs of 9 million. Moreover, simply by adding filtration tanks we can increase this output to 30 million gallons.

An added safety factor was the installation of two separate electric circuits to insure continuous service, supported by a standby diesel power plant for use in the unlikely event that both regular circuits should go out.

AHEAD OF DEMAND

I believe that these figures add up to a justification of the belief that we have stayed ahead, rather than abreast of, the dazzling growth of the East Bank which now exceeds 7,000 persons per year.

And we believe that careful planning



This photo looks like any pile of pipe, but appearances, in this case, are deceiving. This is "Transite" pipe which joins by rubber joints simply by pushing into place with the knee. Board No. 1 is using it extensively in sizes from 6 inches to 20 inches in diameter. It's a Jefferson product, too, being manufactured by the Johns-Manville Corp.

Subdivisions spreading north and west toward the lake and the St. Charles Parish line require extended water service. Here is a 1,000,000 gallon tank on Veterans Highway near the Soniat Canal which was erected during the past year. Alternate red and white paint was used to warn aircraft using Moisant International Airport at nearby Kenner. Unseen are the thousands of feet of water main extensions needed to supply the tank and lead its stored water to nearby homes and businesses.



in the past will enable us to stay ahead of foreseeable growth.

Improved industrial processes have given us a helping hand in this direction. For example, in average sized pipe work it is no longer necessary to use tediously fitted joints. Right here in our parish, the Johns-Manville Corporation plant in Marrero is manufacturing pipe which can be linked with rubber joint simply by pressing the pipe

with the knee. The product is known as "Tansite" and eliminates hundreds of man-hours in laying mains.

All of us working at East Jefferson No. 1 hope that the day is not far distant when our parish's industrial progress shall have reached a point where our materials will be as close at hand as our source of supply, the bountiful Mississippi!



Two water board workmen are shown setting a fire hydrant near Causeway Boulevard and Veterans Highway. The hydrant is supplied by a new water main installed during the yast year to serve the huge development made possible by construction of Veterans Highway. A 20-inch main leads from the water purification plant in Shrewsbury to the new area, terminating at the highway and Williams Boulevard.

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WATER DISTRICT NO.

3

Is Rebuilding To Meet The Harvey Canal Area Boom

By Ivy Savoie

(PRESIDENT)

Pulling rabbits from a top hat is supposed to be a magic performance.

But it's mere routine compared with the sensational expansion of the Harvey Canal area, where bustling new processing and service plants spring up almost overnight.

This has become not only one of the blue ribbon industrial and commercial areas of the Deep South, but every recent month its growth has moved for-

ward on more throttle. No recent nose count has been made but reliable estimates are that the number of enterprises along the canal will soon pass the 200 mark.

The Harvey Canal area's development has been a key reason for the mounting success of Water District No. 3. But it is not the only reason, as witness the continued expansion of housing in the West Bank area served by the



This is the plant of Tube-Kote, Inc., one of the new plants responsible for the amazing growth of the Harvey Canal area.

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LEO O. BACHER, Owner



Another new plant in the Harvey Canal complex: the Superior Iron Works and Supply Company, Inc.

board, an area extending from Gretna to Westwego and from the river to the point where District No. 6 begins.

Mere extension of the facilities of our board to meet this development was not enough. Water District No. 3 needed not only more mains, but larger ones, king-sized storage and a new building to house our administrative staff.

PROPERTY OWNERS HELPED

The members of the board are happy



that the voters of our district approved our recommendations and in a special election last spring voted a \$1,325,000 bond issue to get the necessary job done.

As soon as the bonds have been sold, our reconstruction work will begin.

Wherever present or anticipated demand warrants, the existing two and four-inch mains will be removed and replaced with a series of five new lines ranging in size from six to 20 inches. We will install 378 six-inch fire hydrants, a total which compares with 40 hydrants last year.

A one-half million gallon storage tank is to be installed and in addition to the new administrative building, we plan to construct a new warehouse.

The members of your board, in addition to providing a more efficient water service to consumers, have their eyes on reduced fire insurance rates and we believe that the enlarged water service, together with improved fire protection, will bring about such a reduction. Similar results have been achieved by two



Officers of Water District No. 3: from left, Joseph Percle, commissioner and vice-president; Ivy Savoie, commissioner and president; O. A. Barnewald, secretary-treasurer and superintendent; Joseph Calzada, commissioner; Sidney Bourgeois, commissioner; Sherrill Banquer, commissioner.

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MAIN OFFICE: VETERANS HIGHWAY AT HELOIS



Expansion of industry in the area served by Water District No. 3 is spreading upriver toward Marrero as well as along Harvey Canal. Here's the plant of the Cunningham Tool Company, Inc., on the new Expressway which is scheduled for opening this summer.

East Bank areas and we hope and believe that we can match their efforts in the near future.

New plants along the Harvey Canal, of course, mean more demands on our water system.

NEW CANAL PLANTS

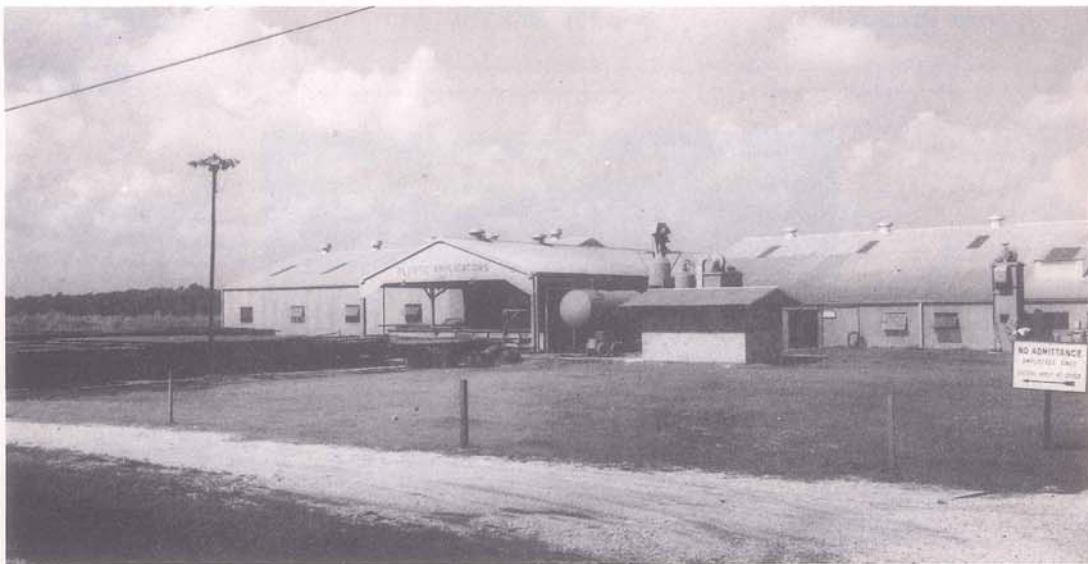
Among the recent additions to our long list of clients, all in the canal area, are:

**Plastic Applicators, Inc.
Tube-Kote, Inc.
Cunningham Tools Company, Inc.
Superior Iron Works
and Supply Company, Inc.**

A request for service that helps explain the entire picture of our mounting industrial and commercial expansion came from the warehouse of a refining Company on Harvey Canal. The firm loads water there on barges for delivery to distant drilling rigs, some offshore, which are leading the way toward a more prosperous Jefferson Parish.

Our board during May, 1957, stepped up its water output to more than 26 million gallons and meter installations to over 2,900, compared with 2,600 last year.

—o—



This is the recently built plant of Plastic Applicators, Inc., located near the Harvey Canal. An enlarged water system was a must to serve this and many other new industries in the area.

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WATER DISTRICT NO.

Choice Sites Made To Order
For Major Industries

5

By **Abe H. Howell**

(PRESIDENT AND SUPERINTENDENT)

Situated as we are, with miles of available water front locations for industry and thousands of acres nearby for home-sites, Water Board No. 5 could probably sit idly by and let nature take its course in bringing us prosperity.

Our 11 miles of riverfront on the West Bank constitute by far the largest, as well as one of the most attractive, places for large industry to settle in the

entire metropolitan area.

Yes, perhaps we could grow by simply waiting until our choice locations were put to use.

Instead, we have been doing our best to improve our service and modernize our equipment.

One reassuring step was taken in that direction last spring. Because of improvements in our service and as a result of progress by the fine Bridge City Volunteer Fire Company, the area



Officers of Board No. 5: From left, seated, Wilfred Berthelot, Jr., commissioner; Dan C. Slate, vice-president and commissioner; Abe H. Howell, president, commissioner and superintendent; Mrs. A. L. Gullledge, commissioner; E. J. Ledet, commissioner, and Mrs. Margarette S. Muller, secretary-treasurer; standing, Clarence G. Guillot, maintenance; William J. White, attorney for the district; David Macaluso, accounts receivable clerk, and Lawrence Grabert, chief of maintenance.

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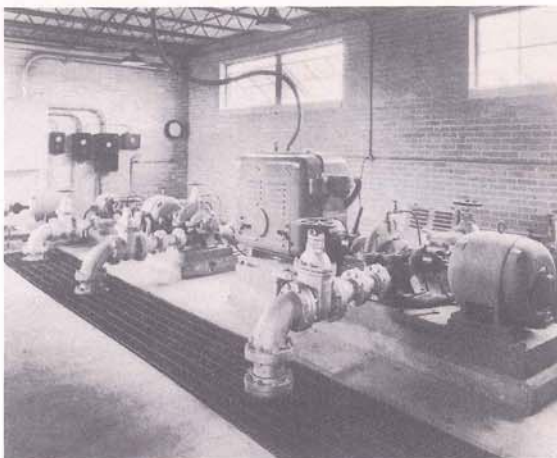
MARSHALL J. DAVID

JOS. B. DAVID III

Phone CAnal 9654

631 Poydras St.

New Orleans



This is the new 450-gallon per minute pump installed by Water District No. 5 in its Bridge City Station. It replaced a 100-gallon pump, which was inadequate for the volume. Change helped reduce insurance rates.

served by our board has been classified by the National Board of Fire Underwriters as National Board 8. This means that for buildings which qualify a substantial savings has been effected in fire rates.

AREAS AFFECTED

Our board was notified of this reduction on April 25, last, by the Louisiana Rating and Fire Prevention Bureau. In advising us of this step, the Louisiana

Bureau cautioned:

"We wish to call your attention to the fact that protected rates will be applicable only to those buildings that are within:

"a. 600 feet of standard fire hydrant, and,

"b. 3 miles running distance from the Bridge City fire station."

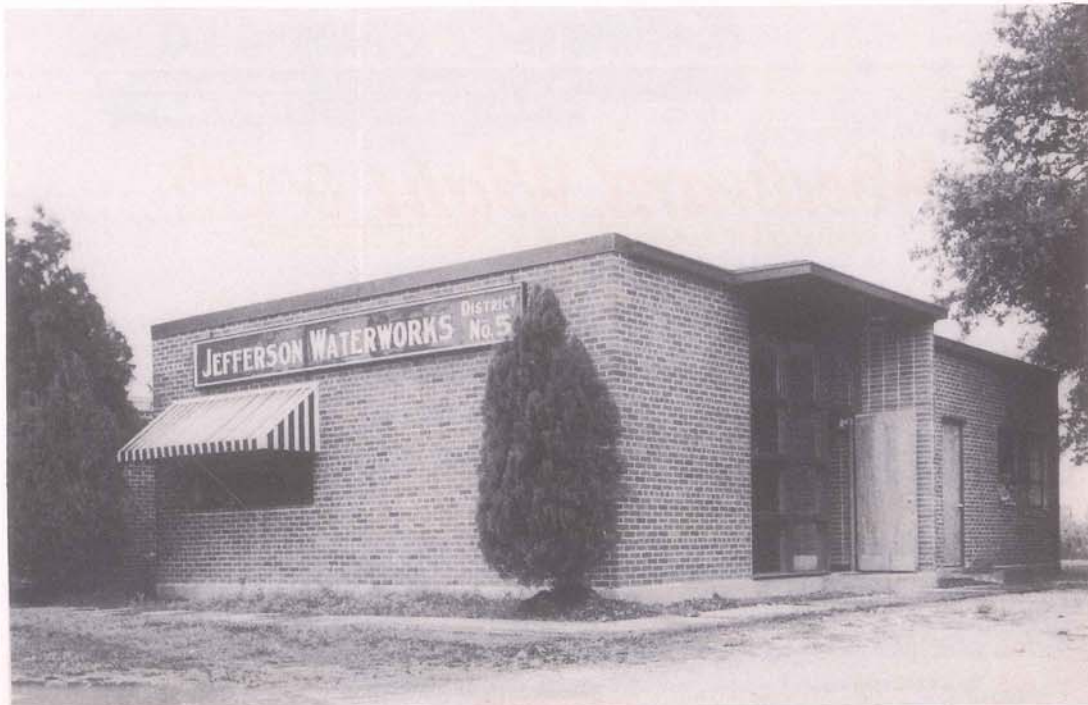
The Bureau added that the rates would apply only to buildings which met minimum safety standards.

It would seem appropriate to remind readers that the areas served by our board include Nine Mile Point, Pecan Grove, Normandy Park, Avondale, Bridge City, Waggaman, Willswood and South Kenner.

By the end of the summer we will have in service a new pump rated at 450 gallons per minute at our main station in Bridge City, replacing the 100 gallon pump the system has outgrown.

At the same time, use of water in our district has risen steadily since we began operations just over four years ago. We are presently supplying in the neighborhood of 17 million gallons per month, a total which represents an increase of some 70 per cent over the 1954 gallonage.

When we say that the finest continuous strip of riverfront sites in the met-



Office building of the Jefferson Waterworks District No. 5 is shown here and is a familiar land mark along the river road.

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JOS. J. MIRANNE, President

ADAM JUNKER, Vice-President

ropolitan area is available in Water District 5, we are not speculating about mere empty land.

SUCCESSFUL SITES

The value of these sites has been proven through the successful and economical operation of three of the largest plants in the parish.

These plants, all located within our 11 miles of river frontage, are the Avondale Marine Ways, Inc., the American Cyanamid Company and the Nine Mile Point generating station of the Louisiana Power and Light Company.

Neither of the first two named plants could operate practically at a landlocked location. "Big water" is a must for the ever-growing Avondale firm because it provides transportation and American Cyanamid placed a bountiful

water supply first on its list of requirements. The fact that American Cyanamid first constructed a \$75 million plant and then built a \$39 million addition should be proof of the desirability of their site.

In addition to unlimited water, the industrialist searching for the superior plant location will find in our area abundant natural gas, proximity to markets, good transportation and a plentiful supply of co-operative, able labor.

There is no doubt about our future—and we are doing our best to step out and meet it somewhere along the road leading to our district!

—o—



One of the major industries served by Water Board No. 5 is the Nine Mile Point generating plant of the Louisiana Power and Light Company, shown here. In left background is the Huey P. Long bridge over the Mississippi River.

JEFFERSON DEMOCRAT



Official Journal of the

PARISH

OF

JEFFERSON

SINCE 1896



Gretna, Louisiana

No. . . .

6

**WILL BE READY
WHEN THE RIVER
BRIDGE OPENS**

By Clem Perrin, Sr.

(PRESIDENT)

When the new system for the operation of Water District No. 6 was completed last year, the official survey showed that approximately 700 meters would be needed.

Already, in mid 1957, the number in service is 722.

And this is before the completion of the Mississippi River bridge, which will bring us at least one hour closer in time and still closer in the elimination of irritations in crossing the ferries, to the metropolitan area.

Which means, to the members of the water board, that a general expansion is in store for our entire area, extending from a point five miles below Marrero to the Lafitte-Barataria area.

At the same time, our companion project of providing natural gas to our area—which was already sitting on a

huge gas reserve—has proven a success, with 495 meters installed at last count.

The installations were provided through a \$1,055,000 bond issue and made possible provision of water and gas service to the most southerly points practical, at least until the Jefferson Seaway becomes a reality and lines can be run along the seaway's spoil bank.

While we await the bridge opening, we haven't been idle. New housing has been added and at Barataria a new crab picking plant has been added by Sidney Fabre and Son with a capacity of 200 bushels per day.

Your board recently fenced the areas around the booster stations and the storage tank, one of several activities which are keeping us busy until the cork is pulled on expansion with the opening of the bridge.



Officials of Board No. 6: From left, 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.

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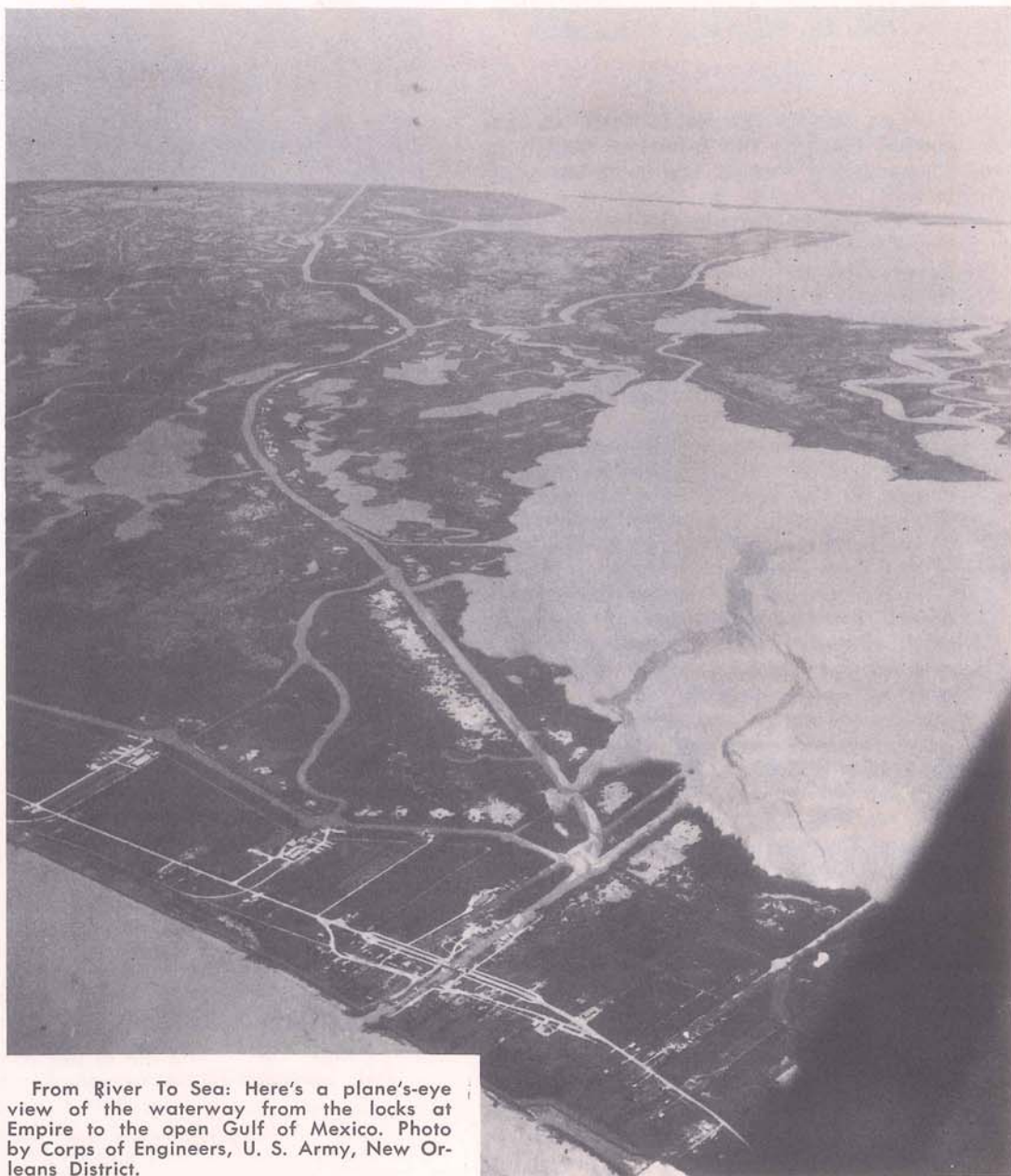
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BRIDGE CITY, LA.

LaSalle Would Be Amazed . . . !!

THE STORY OF

Plaquemines Parish



From River To Sea: Here's a plane's-eye view of the waterway from the locks at Empire to the open Gulf of Mexico. Photo by Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, New Orleans District.

A LAND OF FABULOUS BOUNTY

WHERE THE MISSISSIPPI MEETS THE SEA

By Leander H. Perez

(DISTRICT ATTORNEY, PLAQUEMINES
AND ST. BERNARD PARISHES)

Ages before the beginnings of recorded history, the fabulous wealth of Plaquemines Parish began to accumulate.

Rich willow forests flourished along the spreading banks of the Mississippi River, died and their residue was added to countless generations of vegetation already buried by the torrents of the vast river delta, hurricanes from the Gulf of Mexico and silt laden floods generated by the melting of the far north snows and icecaps.

Century by century this ever expanding accretion, mixed with mineral riches of the sea, mingled to form a thick crust under the ascending surface of the land mass which ran to the edge of the vast continental shelf.

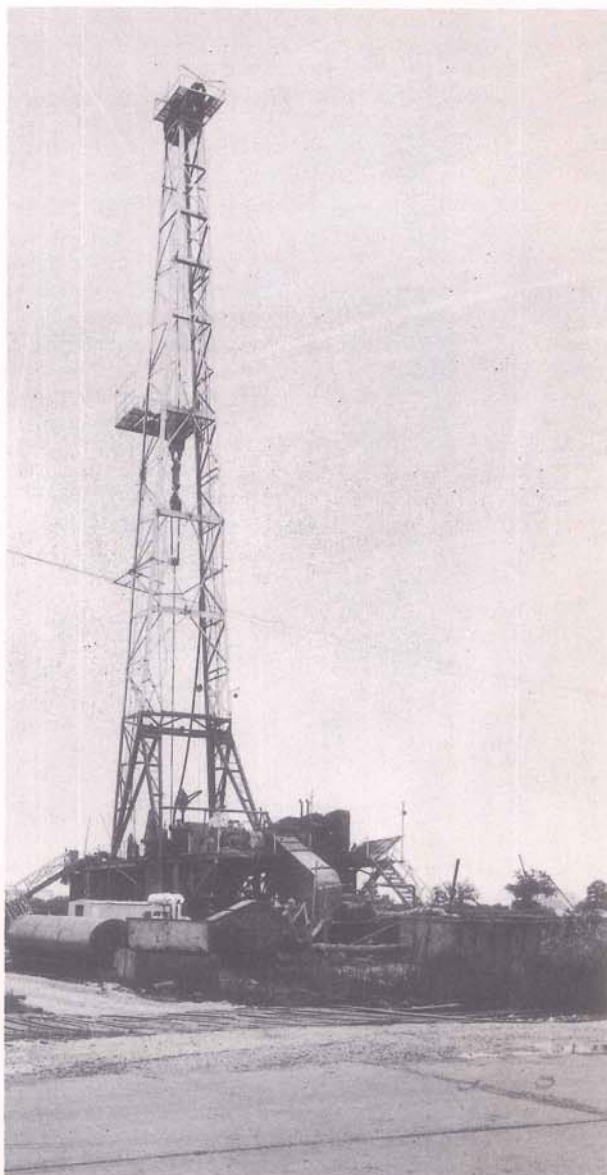
The forces of chemical change, reinforced by concentrations of minerals from the sea and enormous pressures created as the land mass thickened, were at work.

Long before Columbus ventured upon the formidable Atlantic, these changes thousands of feet below the surface had created the riches in minerals — oil and gas and sulphur — which were to become the heritage of Twentieth Century man.

These ponderous, awesome changes spread over most of the coastal lands of the Gulf of Mexico. But nowhere did they bestow such generous bounty as in the lower reaches of Plaquemines Parish, where the world's greatest river reaches the sea.

LAND BUILDS UP

The conquest of the north American continent added still another asset to the balance sheet nature was preparing



More Oil? — The site of this wildcat drilling operation is conveniently located on the highway upriver from Port Sulphur. It's an odds on bet that a well will be successful almost anywhere in Plaquemines.

for this southernmost land of the Mississippi Valley. As trees were felled for farmlands and cities, the great river and its tributaries collected the finest topsoil of the great central plains and deposited it over the surfaces of our parish.

And this enrichment continued until, at long last, the river was harnessed by our present levee system. The result almost justifies the claim that our land is so rich that a planted button will yield a coat.

The history of Plaquemines Parish as we know it began when LaSalle, the French explorer, planted his nation's flag on the west bank of the river, below Venice in this Parish, in 1682 and proclaimed for France sovereignty over all of the areas drained by the Mississippi River, the seas, bays and shores adjoining, which LaSalle named Louisiana in honor of King Louis XIV.

Settlement of the territory came a few years later when, in 1701, a small colony sprang up at Fort Mississippi on the site of what is now the town of Phoenix.

By 1719, the first serious attempt at farming was made through the leadership of a Scotsman, John Law, who held grants from the French king. Law developed the area on the East Bank of the river opposite the present site of Belle Chasse.

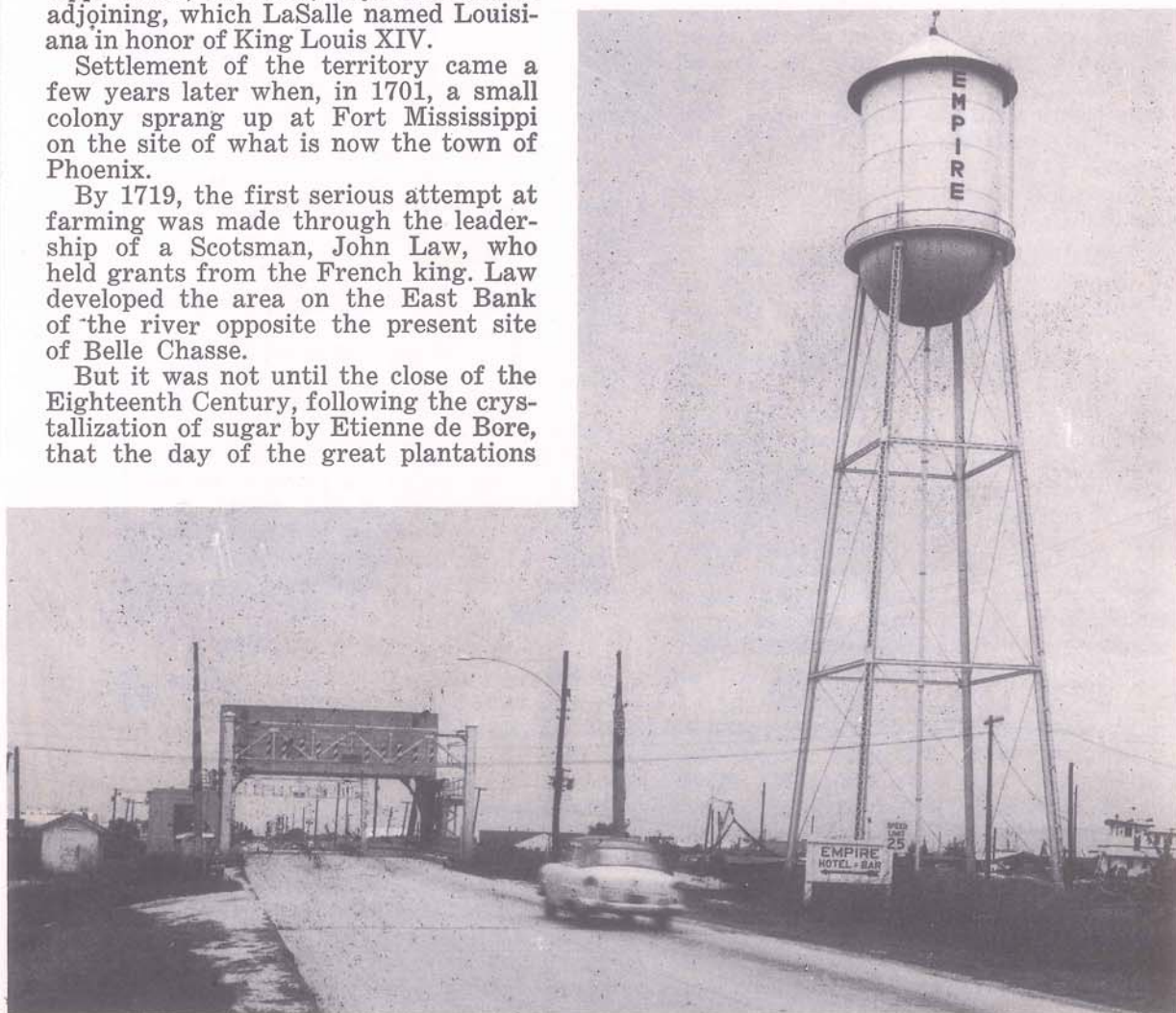
But it was not until the close of the Eighteenth Century, following the crystallization of sugar by Etienne de Bore, that the day of the great plantations

began. Sugar, rice and other crops flourished and the Jesuit Fathers imported orange trees and proved that citrus would thrive in Plaquemines — and nowhere else in the Louisiana territory.

BATTLE FOR TERRITORY

The Eighteenth Century was marked, of course, by a prolonged feud between France and England and finally resulted, in 1763, in the seizure of parts of the Louisiana territory by the British Crown.

It is ironical that the two world powers, while struggling over possession of large sections of the Gulf Coast for their agricultural, trapping and fishing resources, should be completely unaware of the far vaster riches of minerals beneath the earth. And it



Water—All Kinds: This photo at Empire shows storage tank of the new water system beside highway, with bridge crossing the river-to-gulf waterway in left background. Locks leading to the Mississippi River are a few hundred feet to left of bridge.

is certain that had the French been aware of this undiscovered wealth that the Louisiana Purchase would never have been consummated in 1803.

Following the Louisiana Purchase, the area now occupied by Plaquemines Parish became a part of the territorial government of the fledgling United States and was made a territorial parish in 1807. It attained its present political identity in 1812, following the admission of Louisiana as a state of the Union, by Act of Congress.

Despite the fact that virtually every means of conveyance in the civilized world is used in Plaquemines Parish, and also the fact that it offers unique attractions for the tourist, the naturalist and other scientists, it is seldom visited except by those who have specific business here. Part of this contradiction is explained by the fact that the highways end on either side of the river at points many miles from the mouth of the Mississippi. Although the land terminates with the river's mouth, Plaquemines extends several miles into inland bays and sounds and three leagues out therefrom into the Gulf of Mexico.

SHOULD LASALLE RETURN

Except for levees and the huge oil rigs which are the trademark of the unprecedented coastal oil boom, a resurrected LaSalle would find little changed during the first few miles of a voyage up the Mississippi today. Sailing through one of the passes through which the river flows through the inland water channel to the Gulf, he would find the water muddier, perhaps, but essentially the same mighty, implacable current he encountered three centuries ago. The land would seem much the same: vast salt marshes stretching to the horizon on either side; clamoring flocks of birds, and, in the winter months, huge concentrations of wild geese and other migratory species; a few moccasins and water snakes and perhaps an alligator; deer and other game now and then moving through tall grasses of the higher ground, and, overall, a sense of lush, pulsating life and vegetation, mingled with an overpowering but pleasant loneliness.

Occasionally, he would pass a bayou winding from the river through the endless marshes and flowing, in the far distance, into lagoons and bays that are known almost entirely to cartographers.

Indeed, for the most part, it would seem an unchanged country, a return



Plaquemines Parish is constantly improving its road system. Here's a new section of concrete paving on the river road from Buras downriver.

to the day of the nation's tumultuous beginnings.

But it would only seem so, since nothing could be further removed from today's reality of Plaquemines Parish coming of age.

This land and water treasure-house has become one of the busiest and most significant areas in the world.

Its economic value is pointed up by facts which impress even those accustomed to think in enormous terms. For example:

OIL OUTPUT GROWS

Plaquemines Parish, exclusive of areas which are presently in dispute as a result of the federal government's desire to seize lands off the Louisiana coast, in 1955 produced over 55 million barrels of crude oil. This was more than double the 23 million barrels produced in 1950 and nearly 10 times the production for 1940. And it must be remembered that this production was in the face of stringent allowables and by no means reflects the impressive reserves which are growing each year as new wells come in and new oil fields are discovered.

This production of crude is more than twice that of any other parish in Louisiana.

The Freeport Sulphur Company operates the world's second largest sulphur mine.

Under construction, near Braithwaite, is the largest nickel plant in the United States and the largest cobalt plant in the Western Hemisphere. A new project of Freeport Sulphur, it is linked with ores development in Cuba and will assure this nation of a domestic supply of these two metals critical for defense.

Reserves of natural gas are increasing at a rate commensurate with that of oil and already three major pipelines lead from Plaquemines Parish.

The impact of these minerals development has resulted in a near doubling of the parish's permanent population of more than 15,000 persons.

While this impressive economic record is being set—and reset every year—Plaquemines Parish is unique among Louisiana political subdivisions in the operation of local government.

LOWEST TAX RATE

It has the lowest tax rate in the state and probably in the South, the parish ad valorem tax being a mere 10 mills against a millage approaching 100 in nearby sections.

In the past five years the parish government has added some \$10 million

in new school buildings including over a million dollars of furnishings and equipment, and more than a million dollars towards school operations cost, without the imposition of more taxes and without the issuance of a single bond. In addition, more than 100 high school graduates are given financial aid to attend State Colleges and Universities.

Also, roads are being built and widened on a pay-as-you-go basis with the proceeds of the parish's share of its Royalty Road Fund provided in the



Perfect port for a storm: the big inner harbor at Empire proved an excellent, safe refuge for commercial craft during rough seas when hurricane Audrey struck in June. Top photo shows shrimp boats moving from the locks to quiet anchorages. Lower, several of nearly a score of Mehaden boats which sought refuge are shown at the docks of the Quinn Menhaden Fisheries Company.

State Constitution. Under a 1952 Amendment, which I authored, our Parish Police Jury bonded \$15 million dollars of this Road Fund, and, supplemented with a \$900,000.00 Federal grant for bridge construction, we built the first tunnel in the state, under the Intracoastal Canal extension at Belle Chasse.

Purified water facilities are being extended to every section of Plaquemines where possible. Three fourths of the Parish is provided with water distribution systems and in another year we hope to have completed water distribution systems in the 5th and the 1st and 2nd Wards.

Plaquemines Parish, under provisions of a 1932 Constitutional Amendment, which I authored, assumed the debts of all local taxing boards: levee, road, drainage and school, in 1933 and later. This made possible a unified system of parish financing which resulted in all these public improvements and many more. Our parish bond and debt assumption is under attack in the courts. But we are hopeful that a favorable solution will be worked out and are confident of the legality of our situation.

LAND RECLAIMED

During the immediate past, more than 17,000 acres of the most productive land in the United States have been reclaimed by the parish government and the various drainage districts.

Some \$50 million is being invested in the current development of Alvin Callender Airport at Belle Chasse, which is to be used by the armed services and which will be the first field for jets in this part of the South.



Brand New: This is the administrative headquarters of the new water system at Pointe a la Hache. Right background is concrete storage tank.

Funds are being provided as this is written to build a million-dollar, 50-bed hospital at Port Sulphur by private subscription of local industries, small business concerns, and funds allocated under the Hill-Burton Act. The hospital will be built to permit ready conversion to 70 beds.

Off our shores in the Gulf of Mexico are what many experts, including specialists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, consider the finest fishing grounds — mile for mile — in the world. These experts include in their estimates both commercial and sporting fishing potentials.

These facts have been known to professional fishermen for years and we have two thriving Menhaden firms in operation at Empire. I believe it is a little known fact that Menhaden constitute the largest catch of any species in the Western Hemisphere. These fish are among the world's richest in vitamins for commercial preparation, and have virtually replaced several other fish, including sharks, as a source of commercial vitamins and minerals.

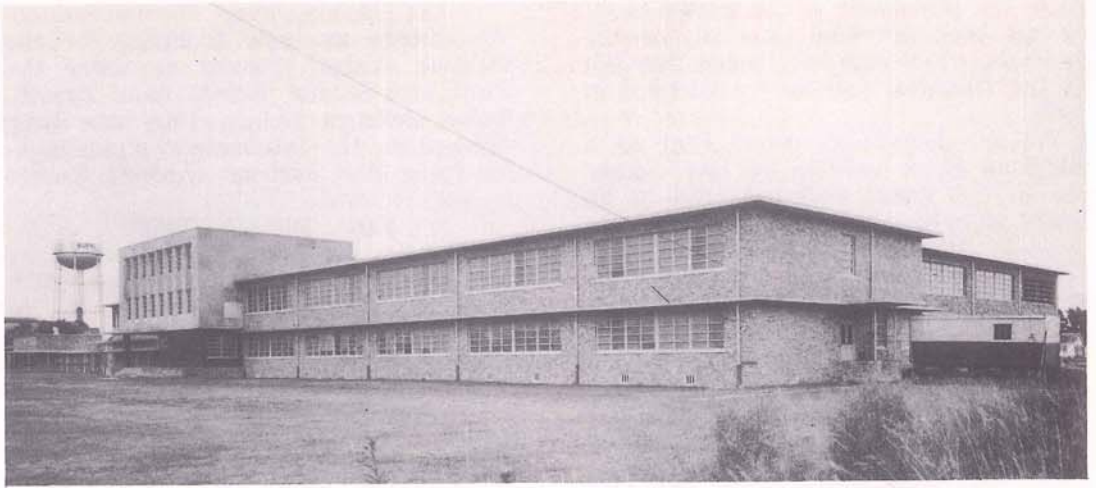
OYSTER MEN HELPED

For generations, shrimp fishing has been almost synonymous with Plaquemines Parish. A recent aid to our oyster industry has been the construction of three 10-foot sluice gates to carry fresh water from the East Bank of the river to American Bay and adjoining bays for the culture of seed oysters. This is the only area of its kind in Louisiana where seed oysters are propagated.

For the sportsman, nearly all of the celebrated varieties of game fish abound in our off-shore waters and in the Gulf, and big runs of tarpon are commonplace in early summer. The presence of the Silver Kings and scores of other varieties of gamefish have resulted in an annual fishing rodeo at the mouth of the river, as well as the inclusion of our parish off-shore waters west of the river in the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo.

Another annual event, our largest community celebration, is the Orange Festival at Buras, held each December. One visit to the festival is convincing proof that Plaquemines Parish has the soil, climate and people to produce some of the finest oranges grown. Louisiana sweets and navels, although limited in volume because there is just so much available land below the frost line, are a favored delicacy in every part of the country where they have been shipped.

Yes, LaSalle would find quite a



\$10 millions has been spent on new or enlarged schools in the past few years. Here's the Buras school, with recent additions extending across to the right and at rear. Final interior touches were being made when this photo was taken.

change, once he came ashore in Plaquemines Parish today.

SCHOOLS FIRST

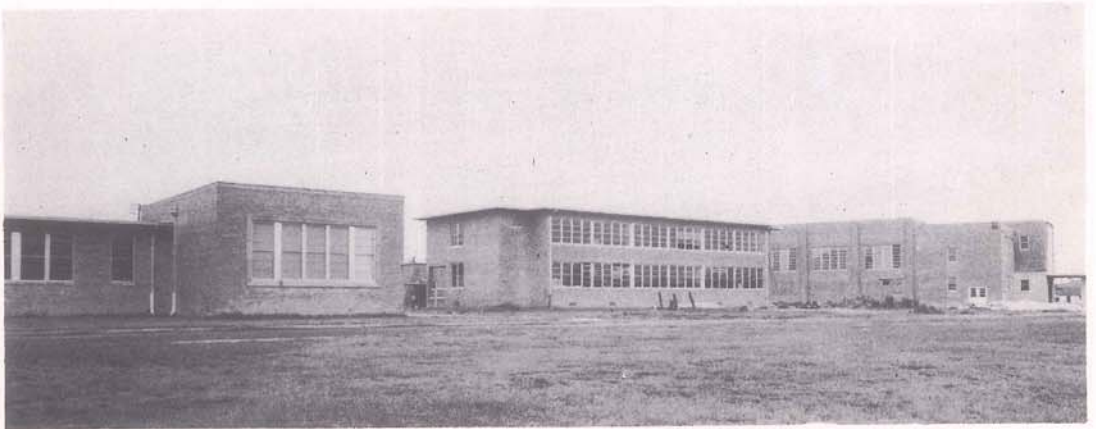
Among our many recent accomplishments, most of us feel, has been the improvement of our school system, not only as a mark of physical accomplishment in erecting modern, well equipped buildings, but because in this field we are working for the youngsters who are destined to carry on after our work is done.

In the past few years we spent over 10 million dollars on seven new school plants and two major additions.

These large modern, thoroughly equipped schools and auditoriums were built at Woodlawn to serve the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Ward children, east of the river; at Buras, for the 10th and 5th Wards; at Port Sulphur, for the 8th and 9th Wards, and now building at

Belle Chasse for the 6th and 7th Wards, and a neat two-room school for Pilot Town in the 4th Ward. Already planned and ready to build will be a large elementary school and auditorium for Boothville-Venice in the 5th Ward. We built three large modern consolidated schools and auditoriums, one east and two west of the river, to serve all negro children living in the parish.

Visitors often ask how this considerable program was accomplished without increased taxes or the issuance of bonds. The answer is that we began the creation of a substantial surplus for school purposes during World War II, when materials and labor for construction were unavailable. This money was invested, largely in government bonds, and grew into a fund which was augmented before our expansion program was set in motion at the beginning of



Work was just being completed on the two buildings at left when this picture was made. This is the plant of the expanding, modern Port Sulphur school.

1950. The remainder of the money needed has been provided on a pay-as-you-go basis, which has been made possible by the financial policies we adopted in 1933.

We are justifiably proud that as a result of these policies we have today one of the finest school plants to be found anywhere in this country.

WATER SYSTEMS

We have made rapid progress, too, in providing water facilities to our more populous sections. To date we have invested \$4,195,580 in water purification plants and water distribution systems. A new water plant has been completed at Pointe a la Hache, extending to Nero on the north and downriver some four miles. The installation cost \$157,000 and will include a 100,000 gallon above-ground storage tank.

On the West Bank, a distribution system has been provided for the Port Sulphur area in the 8th and 9th Wards; for the Nairn-Empire-Buras to Fort Jackson area on the West Bank. Also on the West Bank, the Belle Chasse water system has been doubled to a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons a day, as a result of the growth of population and industry and in anticipation of the expanded needs of Alvin Callender field.

In the planning stage for the immediate future are new facilities for the Dalcour Water District to serve the First and Second Wards from Braithwaite through Belair. Pipe has been ordered for the extension of water service from Fort Jackson through Venice to the Tidewater Camp.

FIRE PROTECTION

We have provided fire protection by the construction of fire houses, with modern fire-fighting equipment at Buras, Venice, Port Sulphur and Pointe a la Hache at a cost of \$385,000.

HIGHWAYS

Considerable improvements have been made in our highway system during the past year, all of which have been paid for with the constitutional parish royalty road funds.

Roads to be constructed or improved are selected by the parish and the work is done by the State Highway Department. Construction or improvements during the past few years include concrete paving of three and one-half miles in the Old River Road from Buras to Gulftown and a 20 foot concrete highway from Fort Jackson to Venice, and new black-topping of the five miles from Pointe a la Hache to Bohemia.

DRAINAGE

Areas which have been drained and



Here's the excellent school for negroes at Phoenix. Almost before the original building was completed, the plant proved too small and additions were speedily constructed.



The excellent old courthouse at Pointe à la Hache sits beside the levee overlooking the Mississippi River.

added to the agricultural production of the parish total more than 17,000 acres, both on the East and the West Banks of the river.

It is idle, of course, to estimate our complete mineral resources until after the courts decide the controversy over ownership of the offshore oil lands, probably the richest in the world. The fact that I have devoted more of my time and energies to state ownership of its tidelands than any other subject during the past few years to help se-

cure a just settlement of this great issue is important only because of the enormous benefits which will accrue to our parish and our state if the state is recognized as the rightful owner of its tidelands and natural resources within its historic boundary, three leagues from the outer boundary of our historic bays and sounds, or from the coast, in the Gulf of Mexico.

Exclusive of these offshore lands, which are subject to controversy, our known reserves of oil and gas have been mounting by leaps and bounds during the past two decades.

Even the production figures, which represent only a fraction of the reserves, are impressive, especially when they are considered progressively from 1940 on.

PRODUCTION COMPARED

Here are some of the production comparisons:

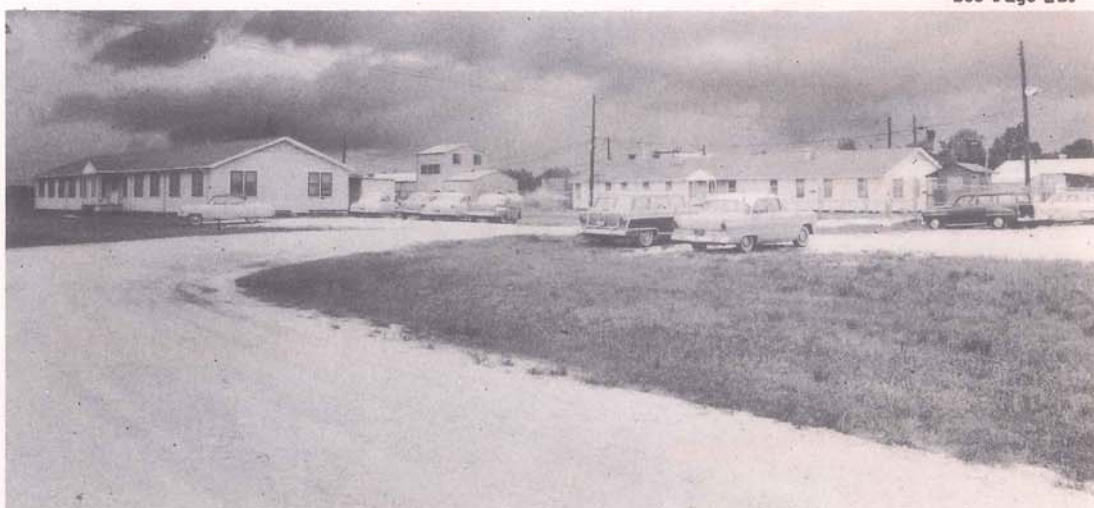
Crude oil barrels: 1940: offshore, none, inshore, 5,228,040; 1950: offshore 1,575,694, inshore, 21,497,959, total, 23,073,653; 1955: offshore, 41,479,471, inshore, 10,068,676, total, 51,648,147.

Natural gas, thousand cubic feet: 1950: none; 1950: offshore, none, inshore, 2,346,720; 1955: offshore, 13,834,735, inshore, 8,134,304, total, 21,969,039.

Casinghead gas, thousand cubic feet: 1940, offshore, none, inshore, 5,228,040; 1950: offshore, 1,233,950, inshore, 23,481,168, total, 24,715,118; 1955: offshore, 33,500,653, inshore, 21,881,699, total 55,382,352.

The nickel-cobalt development, in-

See Page 221



Huge Plant Scheduled: The largest nickel plant in the nation and the largest cobalt plant in this hemisphere will be constructed adjacent to this site. In photo is the pilot plant of the Freeport Sulphur Company, firm which will operate the nickel-cobalt installation.

THE PARISH FAIR AND ORANGE FESTIVAL



Here's the brilliant court of the annual festival, held at Buras. From left, Miss Ann Marie Trieul; Joseph P. Sendker; Miss Theresa Lavolpicella, queen; K. T. Price, king; Miss Florence Cook, and Sidney Kern.

Three officials of the festival admire a crate of delicious Plaquemines citrus fruit. From left, Mitchell Lulich, vice-president; Sheriff Chester A. Wooten, president, and H. Barney Schoenberger, secretary-general manager.



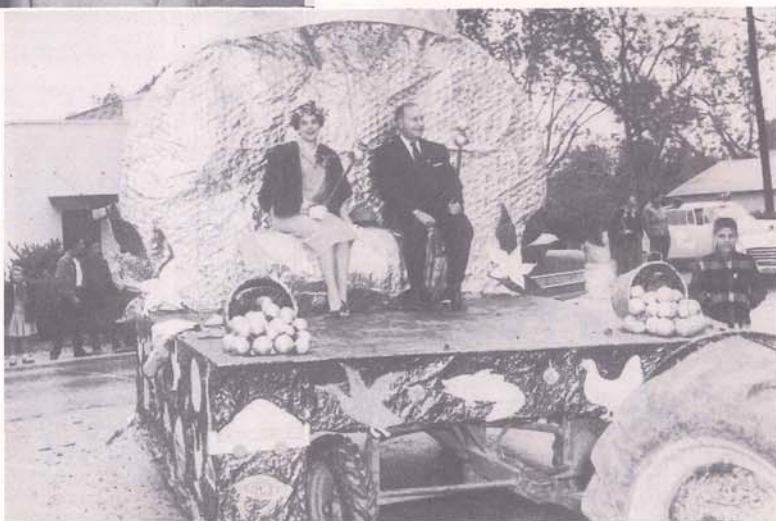
AN ANNUAL EVENT OF DISTINCTION



Leander H. Perez, left, Plaques and St. Bernard Parishes district attorney, presents a trophy to Nick Bubrig. The latter's citrus booth was judged best of the festival.



At right, royalty rides the leading float in the annual festival parade. The pair are Queen Theresa Lavolpicella and King K. T. Price. In lower photo, pretty mapporettes cavort with the Belle Chasse High School band.





OFFICIALS AND STAFF OF MONTALDO INSURANCE CO.

Meet the... Montaldo Agency

From left: front row: Mrs. Martha Grace, receptionist; Miss Sylvia Jensen, fire insurance clerk; Miss Mary N. Mule, clerk-typist; Mrs. Theresa Callahan, bookkeeper; Mrs. Frances C. Pflueger, bond department and secretary; Mrs. Amelia Couvillon, clerk, casualty department; back row: Lee Howard, solicitor; George J. North, manager, fire department; Joseph S. Montaldo, president; Justin F. Bordenave, secretary-treasurer; George K. Stark, credit manager.

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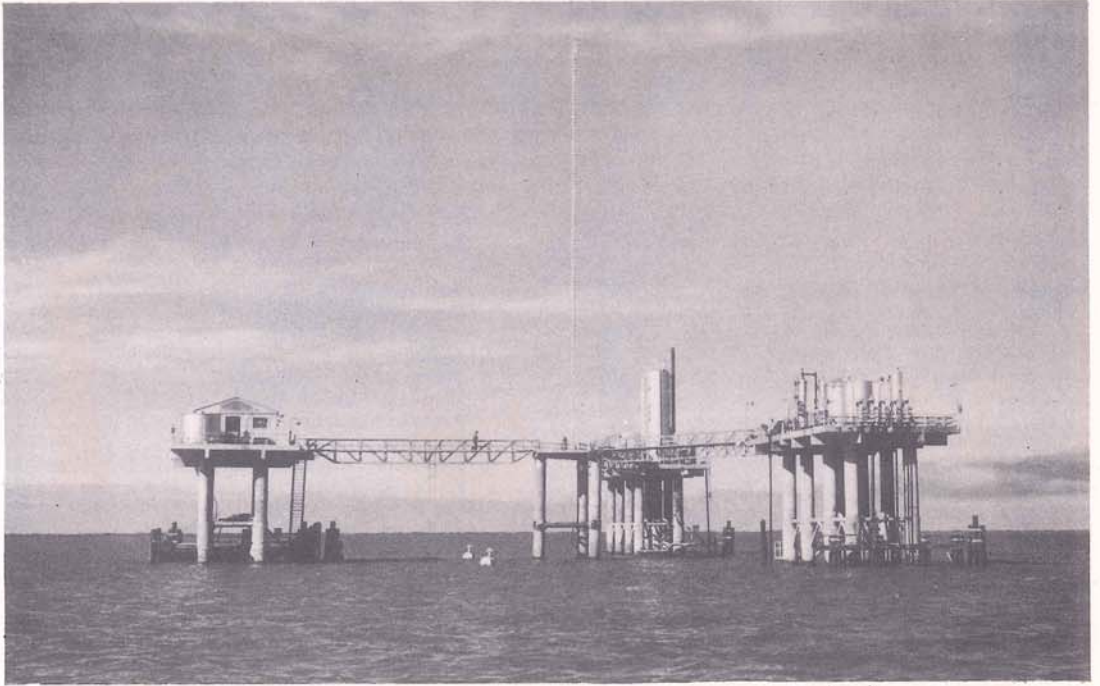
FIRE AND ALL KINDRED LINES OF INSURANCE

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NEW ORLEANS, LA.

PHONE TU 4461



Big, self-sufficient rigs like this Shell Oil Company installation in East Bay are writing new production history in the waters of Plaquemines Parish.

cluding both the facilities at Braithwaite and at Moa Bay on the northeastern coast of Cuba, will cost an estimated 100 million. Freeport officials state that the annual capacity of the plant here will be 50 million pounds of nickel and 4,400,000 pounds of cobalt.

In speaking of the plant, E. D. Wingfield, Freeport vice-president in charge of Southern operations, stated:

"The new industry will not only be of immense importance to the security of the nation, but it should also contribute much to the strength and diversity of Louisiana's growing economy."

Yes, LaSalle's eyes would probably pop open, should he return today to the land he discovered. But so would the eyes of our contemporaries in Louisiana and elsewhere, should they visit Plaquemines Parish for the first time!



This is a familiar — and welcome — sight to residents of Plaquemines. It's the free ferry operated by the parish across the river between Point a la Hache and West Pointe a la Hache.

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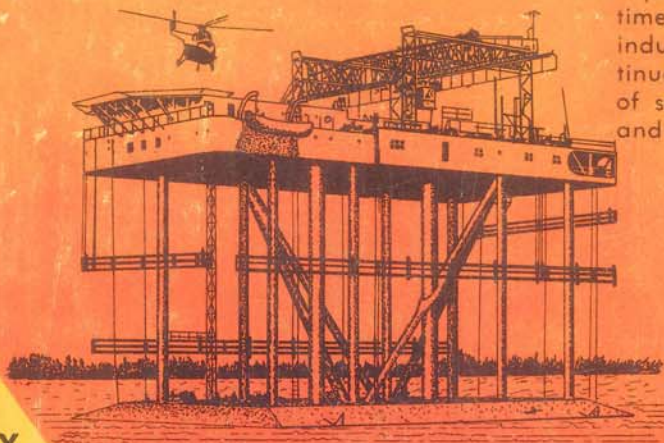
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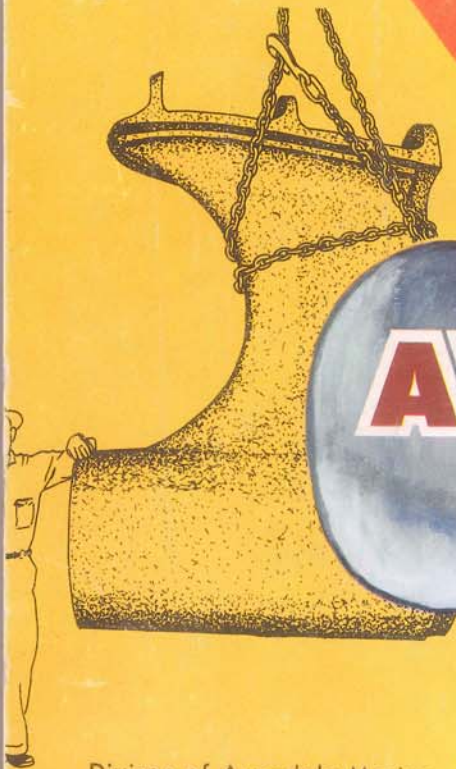
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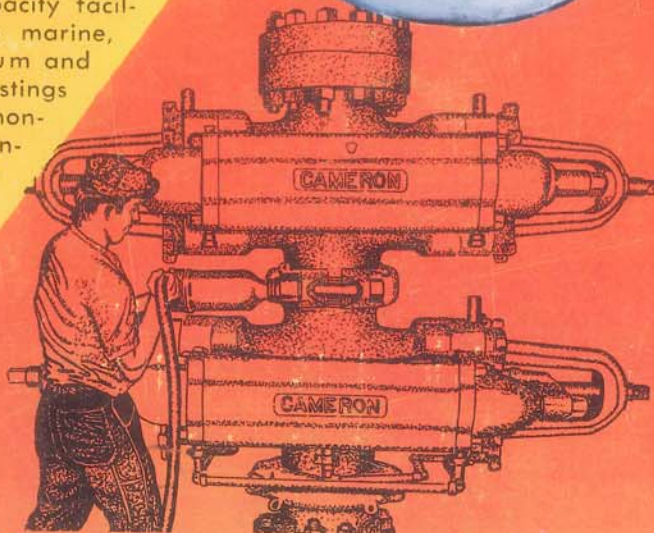
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