

JEFFERSON PARISH

Yearly Review



1940

JEFFERSON PARISH

Yearly Review

(Official Publication of the Police Jury)

DEDICATED
TO THE PROGRESS
OF
JEFFERSON PARISH

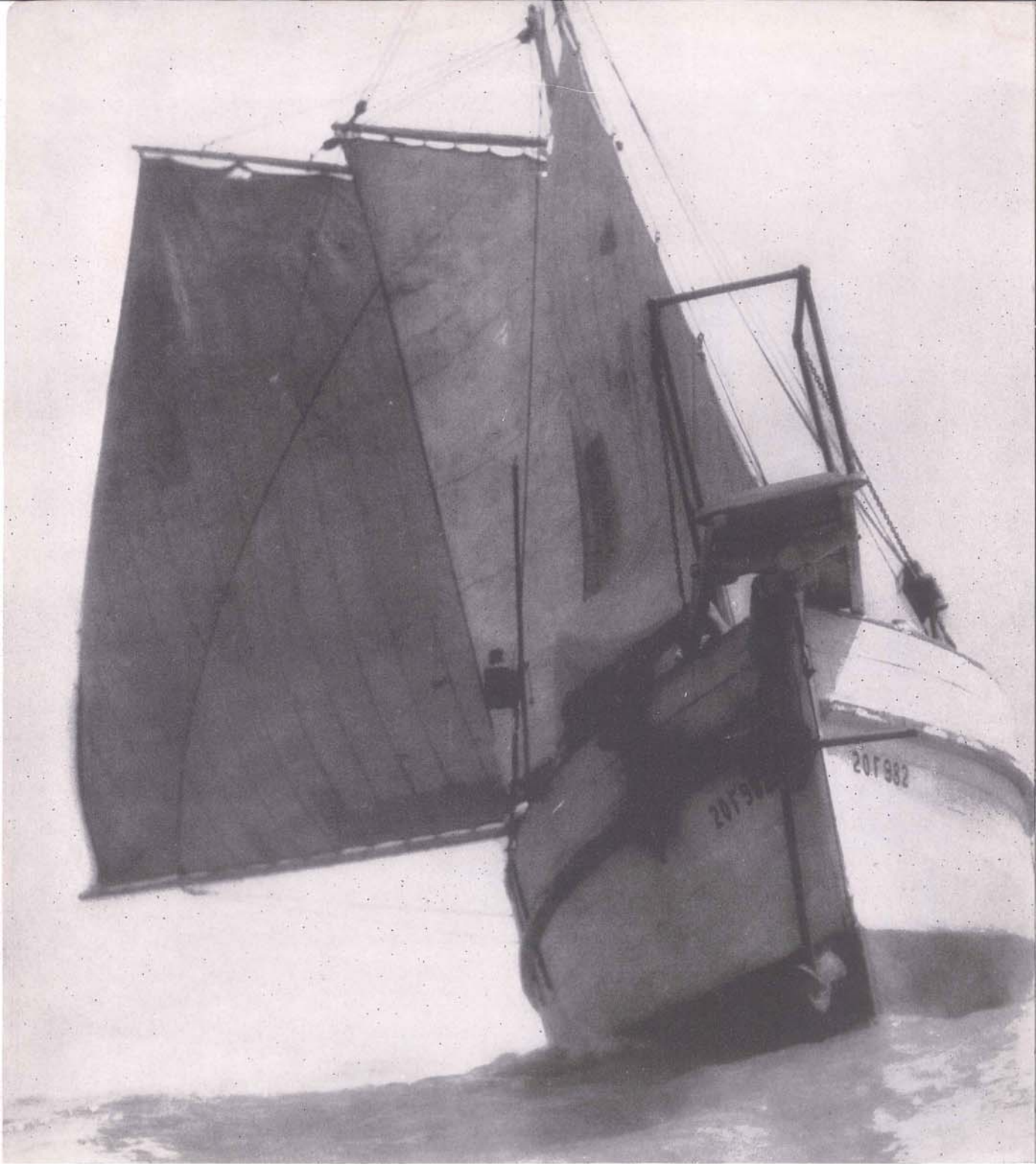
JUSTIN F. BORDENAVE
Editor and Publisher

WEAVER R. TOLEDANO
President of the Police Jury

JOSEPH H. MONIES
Business Manager

H. D. CHAMBERLAIN
Associate Editor

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"Like a stately ship
Of Tarsus, bound for th' isles
Of Javan or Gadire,
With all her bravery on, and tackle trim,
Sails fill'd, and streamers waving,
Court'd by all the winds that hold them play,
An amber scent of odorous perfume
Her harbinger."—Milton's Samson Agonistes.

"FLYING DUTCHMAN" OFF THE COAST OF GRAND ISLE.

—Fonville Winans, Photo.

Foreword

DREAMING along the bayous, sunning in the surf. Hooking a big one in the fish-teeming waters, and eating oysters in the raw where they grow. Casting for shrimp from a lazy little craft, sailing before a spanking breeze, or crawfishing in a sluggish stream along the roadside. Golfing all year round on a sunny and sporting course—come for these things and many others—let us lure you to Jefferson Parish.

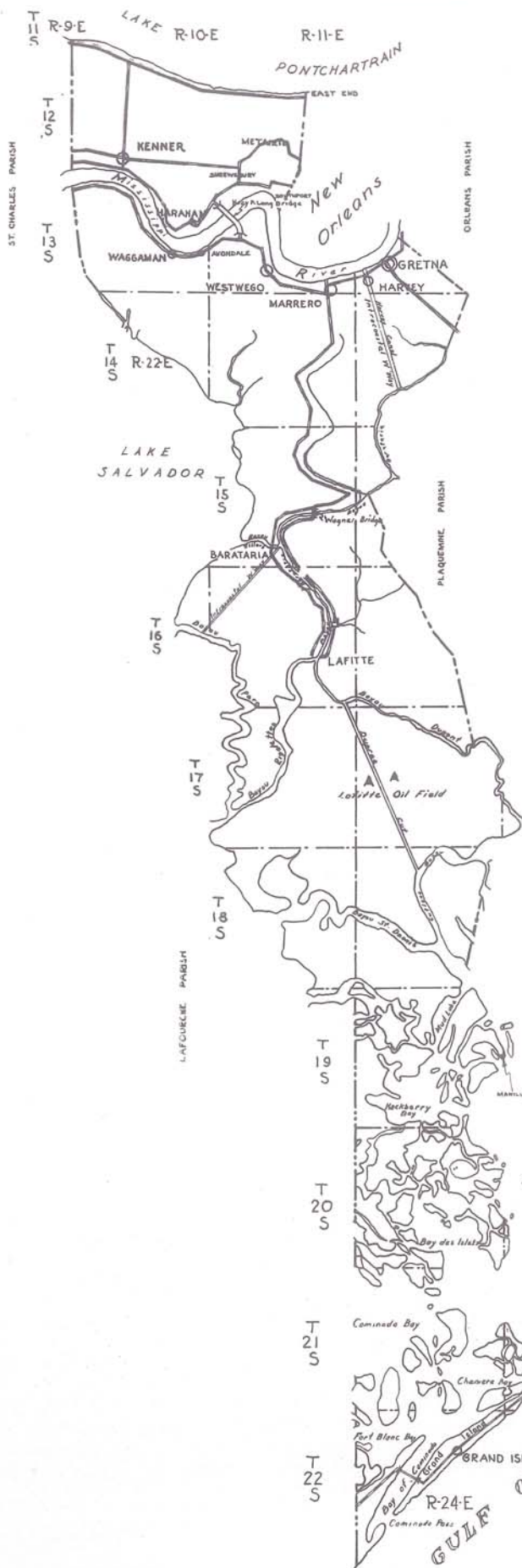
This is no Shangri-La or Never-Never Land we are describing, this place exists in deepest south of the Deep South. A playground, yes, but not that alone. A playground and a workshop so combined that its residents know the meaning of the good life that so many of us in the harried modern world have forgotten. Here in Jefferson is laughter, a precious commodity of which mankind has now all too little. The sun laughs on a wave-top, and the little wave gurgles merrily as it runs in from the sea. Workmen laugh while they are busy at their posts, and little children laugh on their way to school. There is no strain in this laughter, it is the natural ebullience of a happy people, happily going about their chosen tasks.

And there are a variety of tasks that these people of Jefferson may choose. The magic of oil is throughout the land. Agriculture plays a prominent part. Dairy farms are many. Industries dot the parish. Commercial fishermen, shrimpers and oystermen, along with trappers, have their own world in the lowlying swamp and bayou country.

Jefferson Parish has its doors open to the stranger who would simply come and visit, or who would come and stay and help build the Parish of Progress. Opportunities are many, and are available to all, with the full co-operation of the Parish authorities.

For the sixth consecutive year, the Jefferson Parish Yearly Review has attempted to provide at least a glimpse into the ways and lives, works and pleasures of this Parish of Progress and its citizens. The subject matter is fascinating and instructive, and if we have succeeded only a little in conveying this fact in our presentation, we will feel that our work is worth while. As always, the Yearly Review is deeply appreciative of the steadfast support of each and every advertiser and contributor, which from year to year has made it possible for us to tell our story of the Parish of Progress to the world.

THE EDITOR.



MAP of JEFFERSON PARISH LOUISIANA

showing
MAIN ROADS & WATERWAYS
CITIES & TOWNS

SCALE
0 1/2 1 2 3 4 5 6 MILES

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JEFFERSON BUILDS

W. R. TOLEDANO

President, Jefferson Parish Police Jury

Study the map of Jefferson Parish, and you will see a long thin section of Louisiana, extending from Lake Pontchartrain on the north to the Gulf of Mexico on the south, and including as varied a topography as is to be found in this section of the country. Roughly, the northern portion of the parish is industrial. Grouped about the Mississippi River, which cuts through this northern section, are bustling towns, industrial plants, factories, seven trunk line railroads, shipping points along the river itself, and the eastern terminus of the Intracoastal Canal, which, starting at the Harvey Locks into the Mississippi River, at Harvey, furnishes a safe, protected inland water route for barges and small craft from New Orleans to Houston and Galveston, Texas. If and when this route is completed, it will extend as far south as Port Isabel, Texas. Over the river itself, near Harahan, is the engineering marvel, the Huey P. Long rail and vehicular bridge, completely within the parish of Jefferson.

The southern section of the parish is bayou land—and has a completely different and individual life of its own. Here are the trappers, shrimpers, oystermen, fishermen, and crab fishermen, those who live by the output of the teaming lowlands. And here, at Grand Isle, is one of the finest resorts in the country, a sport fisherman's paradise, with excellent surf bathing, and boating. The island may be reached either by boat, or by automobile, on La. State Highway No. 620.

Out of this southern section of the parish come the best oysters in the world, a large percentage of the furs used by the whole United States, fish for New Orleans markets and for shipment outside, the delicacies soft and hard shell crabs, and shrimp for the whole country. Since the shrimp supply has

Recently completed Metairie Sewerage Plant, which serves the beautiful and rapidly growing Metairie area.





JEFFERSON PARISH POLICE JURY—MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Seated, left to right: Ed. E. Fettel, Ward 4, Harvey; Clem Perrin, Ward 6, Ladite; Wm. E. Strehle, Ward 2, Gretna; Ernest M. Conzelmann, Assistant District Attorney and Legal Adviser; W. R. Toledano, President, Ward 9, Kenner; John E. Fleury, District Attorney and Legal Adviser; Mrs. Jeanne Smith, Office Clerk; Wm. Hepfing, Secretary; Joseph Petit, Ward 5, Waggaman, and Albert J. Cantrelle, President Pro-Tem., Ward 4, Marrero.

Standing, left to right: Harold Heard, Ward 1, Gretna (McDonoghville); Hirsch Meyer, Ward 4, Marrero; Leon Gendron, Ward 3, Harvey; Alvin E. Holard, Parish Engineer; W. Richard White, Ward 3, Gretna; Clyde V. Bourgeois, Parish Treasurer; D. H. Roussel, West Bank Road Superintendent; Russel Ledoux, East Bank Road Superintendent; Ernest Riviere, Ward 8, Metairie; E. M. Gordon, Ward 4, Westwego; J. J. Holgreve, Ward 8, Metairie, and Robert Ottermann, Ward 7, Southport.

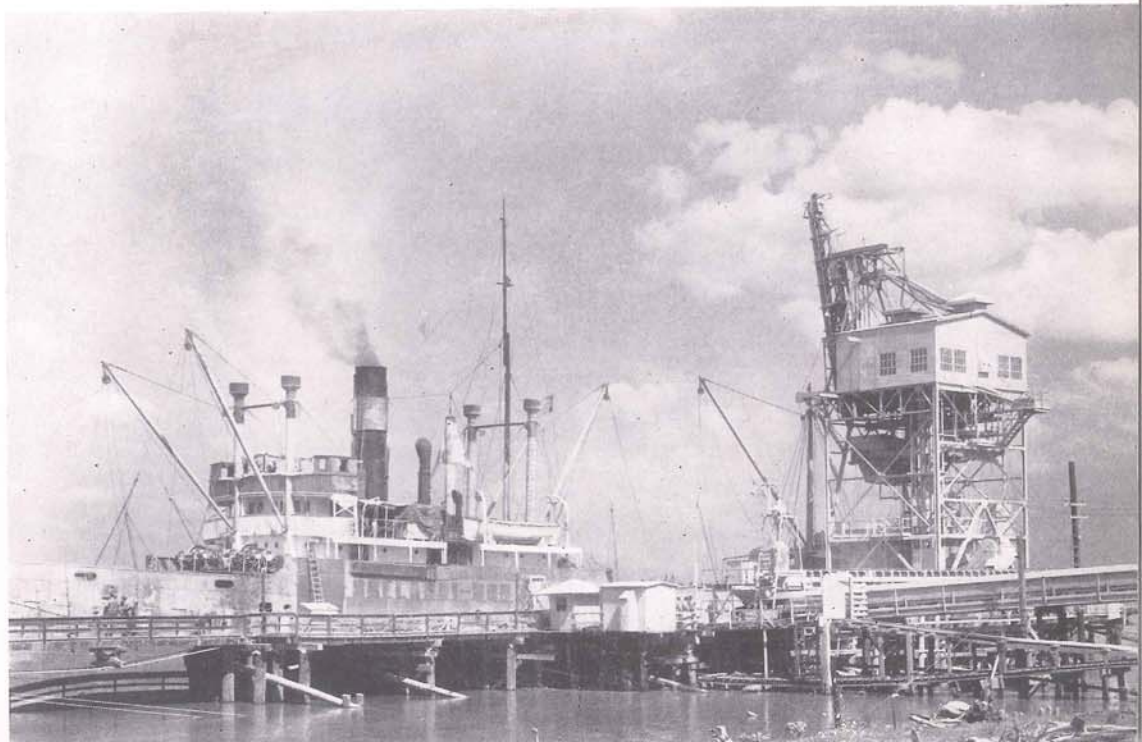
diminished along the Atlantic Seaboard, the Gulf area provides most of the market and canned shrimp in this country, and a large part of these are supplied by Jefferson Parish.

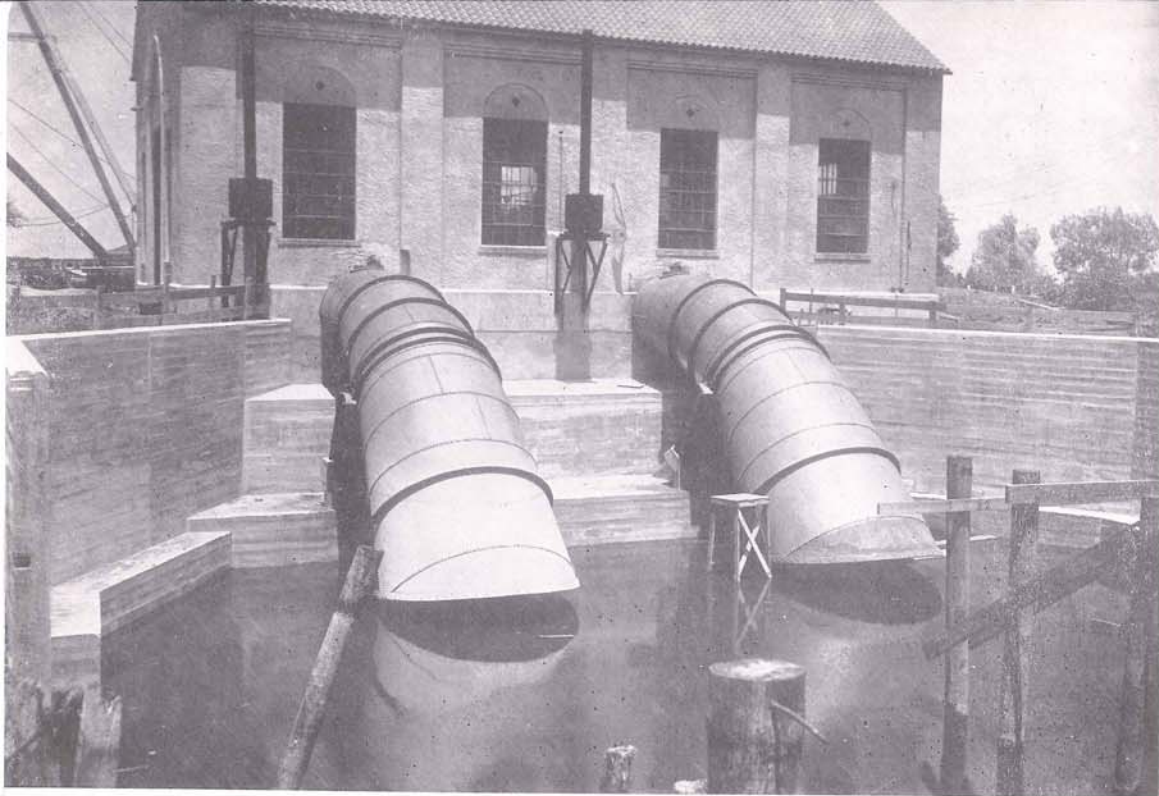
Romance abounds also here along the Gulf and among the bayous. Here Jean Lafitte and his pirates had their headquarters from which to raid merchantmen, and here at the upper end of the bayou country he sold his wares to the willing ladies and gentlemen of New Orleans, and posted his impertinent price on the head of Governor Claiborne. Here have come citizens from countries the world over, seeking haven and finding it, and their descendants today take pride in the upbuilding of the land of their refuge. Even now the bayou country is sparsely settled, and communication is difficult, but law and order have come to stay.

Between these two widely divergent sections is some of the best farm and grazing land in the country. With its moderate climate, and cool Gulf breezes, all manner of farm produce is raised, and here are located many prosperous dairies, serving not only Jefferson, but New Orleans as well. Scattered throughout the parish, in widely separated locations, oil is being produced. Explorations continue unceasingly, and the Lafitte oil field, already outstanding in production, is being enlarged year by year, with new producing wells.

In spite of the differences in the ways of life of its citizens, Jefferson Parish, under a progressive Police Jury, is a prosperous and closely united whole, with an area of 426 square miles, and a population of approximately 50,000. No section is neglected for the good of another, and each part works harmoniously for the betterment of the Parish as a part of the State of Louisiana. Opportunities offered by the parish are unexcelled anywhere. Close proximity—across the Mississippi River—to the city of New Orleans is a distinct advantage, because it offers easily accessible markets for Jefferson products locally, and shipping facilities for exports and goods distributed to domestic markets throughout the country. On the other hand, Jefferson offers such obvious

Aluminum Line Steamer unloading bauxite at Westwego, Jefferson Parish. This terminal is a transshipment point, the ore being reloaded here, and shipped inland by rail or barge for manufacture into the innumerable aluminum products that are such an important part of daily living.



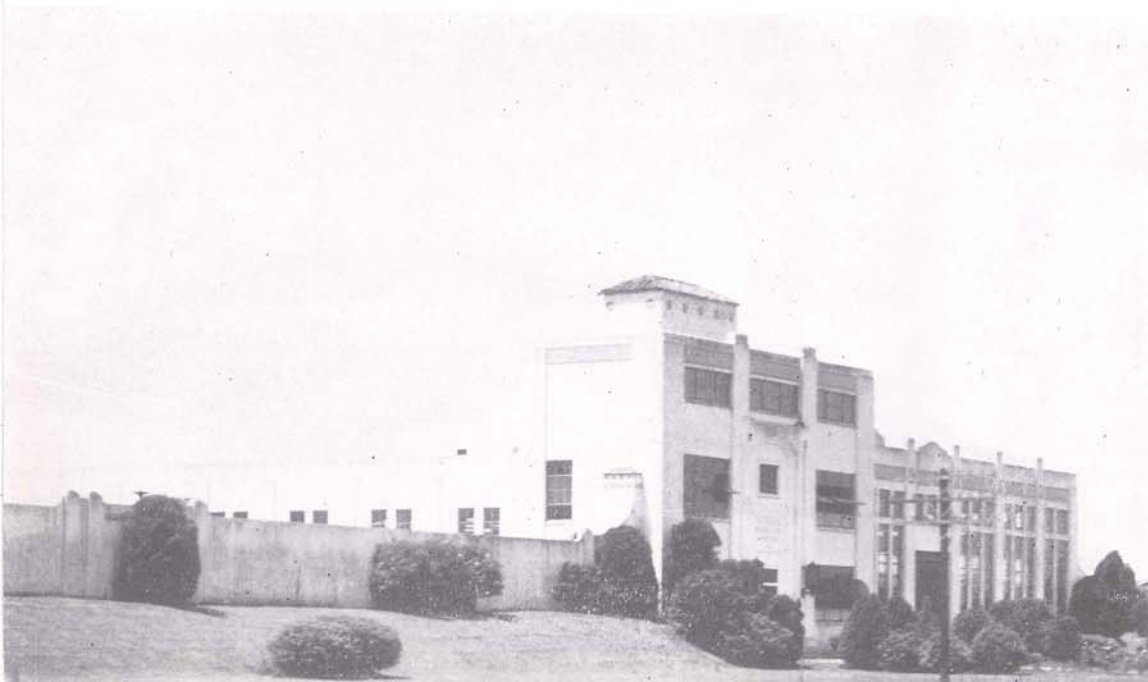


One of the four pumping plants of the Fourth Jefferson Drainage District on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain. Each plant is equipped with two pumps with a capacity of 250,000 gallons of water per minute, and the astounding total capacity of all plants of this district is 1,000,000 gallons of water PER MINUTE.

advantages to industry and manufacture, that the majority of factories serving New Orleans and its area, as well as factories exporting through the port of New Orleans, are located in Jefferson Parish. The Jefferson Parish Police Jury offers a ten-year tax exemption to new industry, or to additions to established industry, and the assessment and tax rates are very low. During the past year 558 new homes have been built in the parish.

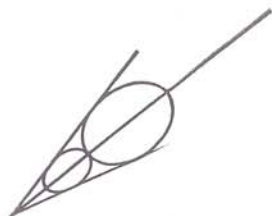
A nine months' school term is provided throughout the parish, and no matter how remote the section, schools are available for both white and colored children. In addition to the very progressive public school system, parochial schools are maintained by both the Catholic and Lutheran churches,

East Jefferson Waterworks Plant, supplying purest water to communities on the East Bank.





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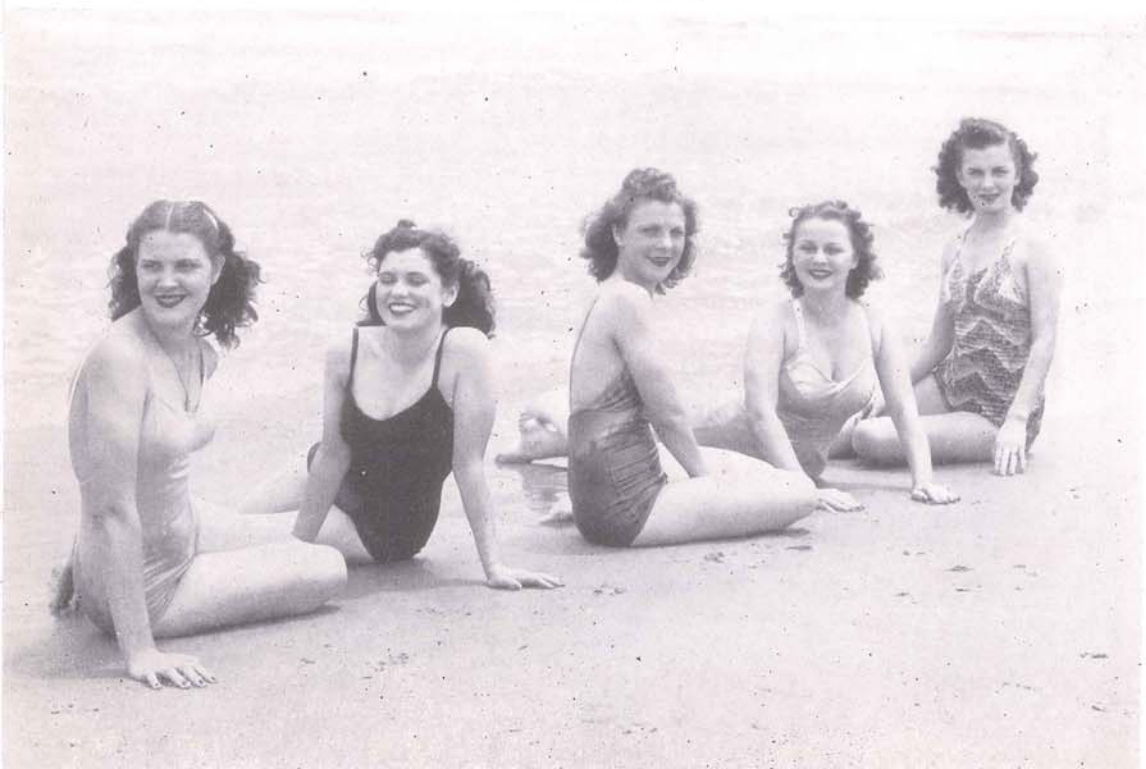
and private schools are located in the parish, in particular, the Metairie Park Country Day School, in Metairie, which is very modern, employing all the latest methods of teaching and child training. The Jefferson Parish School Board is currently spending \$1,600,000 in the construction of new schools. Students who desire to continue past high school to college or business training have New Orleans institutions easily at hand.

Many thriving communities dot the parish. On the east bank of the Mississippi are Metairie and East End, Southport, Harahan, and Kenner, with so much building between that it is difficult to determine where one ends and another begins. On the West bank are Gretna (the Parish seat), Harvey, Marrer and Westwego, each of these practically merging into the next. Throughout the lower parts of the parish are many villages, among the largest of these being Barataria and Lafitte, and Grand Isle.

On the East Bank, Parish officials maintain one drainage district, having four pumping stations, one waterworks plant, and the Metairie sewerage plant, which having been under construction, is now complete. On the West bank there are four drainage districts; Gretna has waterworks and sewerage plants; and Harvey, Marrero and Westwego have waterworks plants. A great deal of money has been spent recently by the different Parish Board, as sponsors, and the WPA, in improving and remodeling these various drainage, sewerage and waterworks plants, and in keeping the canals in perfect condition. Also, with the co-operation of the WPA, the Police Jury has repaired roads and streets, laid miles of concrete sidewalks and concrete curbs and gutter bottoms, and has remodeled and repaired the Court House in Gretna.

During the past year, therefore, progress has been made in the upbuilding of Jefferson Parish in all sections and all departments. The Police Jury is not content with static well-being, knowing well that there is no standing still, that not to advance is to retreat. The constant aim of the Parish, its citizens and officials, is a better place to live, and toward this goal of a fuller life for all we are exerting our every effort.

Jefferson Parish mermaids relax after a battle with the surf at Grand Isle. Left to right they are Misses Adele Charbonnet, Gretna; Orvella Lasnak, Marrero; Mable Dutreix, Kenner; Rita Mae Gegenheimer, Gretna, and Catherine Keller, Gretna.



— THE —
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THE RISING TIDE OF BLACK GOLD

THOMAS EWING DABNEY

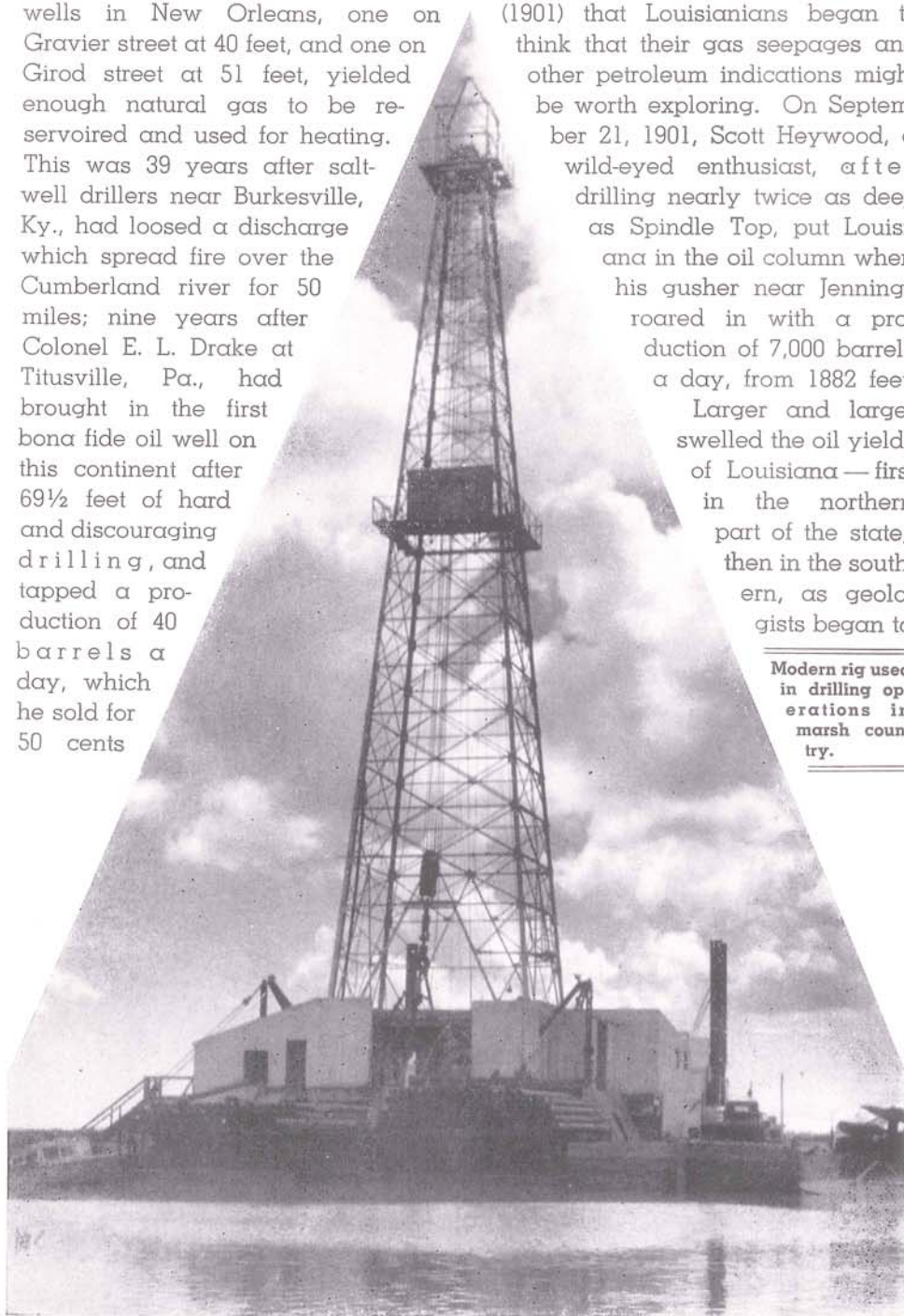
Metropolitan Press Feature Writer

Louisiana's petroleum possibilities were revealed in 1868 when water wells in New Orleans, one on Gravier street at 40 feet, and one on Girod street at 51 feet, yielded enough natural gas to be re-servoired and used for heating. This was 39 years after salt-well drillers near Burkesville, Ky., had loosed a discharge which spread fire over the Cumberland river for 50 miles; nine years after Colonel E. L. Drake at Titusville, Pa., had brought in the first bona fide oil well on this continent after 69½ feet of hard and discouraging drilling, and tapped a production of 40 barrels a day, which he sold for 50 cents

a gallon. But it was not until the mighty days of Texas' Spindle Top (1901) that Louisianians began to think that their gas seepages and other petroleum indications might be worth exploring. On September 21, 1901, Scott Heywood, a wild-eyed enthusiast, after drilling nearly twice as deep as Spindle Top, put Louisiana in the oil column when his gusher near Jennings roared in with a production of 7,000 barrels a day, from 1882 feet.

Larger and larger swelled the oil yields of Louisiana — first in the northern part of the state, then in the southern, as geologists began to

Modern rig used
in drilling op-
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marsh coun-
try.



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understand the salt domes of the coastal area—those mighty saline upthrusts from 15,000 feet below the earth's surface, or deeper, which formed the traps to catch and hold the oil in its slow migration through the previous strata of the earth, as faults did in structure formations. In time, the preponderance of production shifted to South Louisiana, which is now yielding 80 per cent of the state's oil. This evoked new techniques in geological exploration, new techniques in drilling. The movement reached Jefferson parish in the 1930s.

Up to that time, Jefferson parish had been notable principally because of the legends of Lafitte's piracy and hidden gold; for its sugar cane plantations; for its peltries; for its sea foods production; and for the hunting and fishing which made it famous among sports lovers. The industries indicated (except sugar cane, which is now a memory, more or less happy) still continue, and several others have been added by this most versatile of parishes; but the big yield today is the black gold of petroleum, which has already produced more wealth than Lafitte ever got together, even if all the stories and all the legends were true—and Jefferson is only at its present-day beginnings.

It was in 1933 that The Texas Company, after exhaustive geophysical exploration¹ of Jefferson's high lands and marsh lands—using the instruments developed during the World War to detect the presence of hostile vessels—came to the conclusion that deep beneath the surface of certain lands it held in lease, was a huge structure or salt dome. Of course, the skeptics—native sons and even oil men—had a big laugh; but the company re-checked its findings, and in November, 1934, staked a location.

For weeks, those trail-blazers labored at building huge mats to serve as the foundation, on that soft ground, that would sustain the weight of the derrick and drilling machinery. The bit began to plunge into the earth in January, 1935. Down and down it went, each furlong adding to the delight of the I-told-you-so's. Then, at 9,500 feet, it opened the oil sand—the St. Denis—with a production of more than 1,000 barrels a day.

So it was that on May 30, 1935, the Lafitte oil field came in, 20-odd miles from the parish seat of Gretna, just across the river from the city which 67 years before had looked, with unseeing eyes, at the first oil indications in the state.

¹Structure formations which lie close to the surface of the earth, tilted upwards by subterranean pressures, are frequently detected by the trained eye of the geologist. But in coastal Louisiana, where the salt plug lies thousands of feet below the surface and is covered with unstable deposits of earth and water, the seismograph takes the place of the geologist's eyes. The principle upon which the seismograph works is simple, but its operation is complex and expensive. Dynamite exploded near the surface of the earth sets up sound waves which travel deep into the earth until they strike a sand or shale or limestone bed, which bounces them back to the surface, like an echo. These reflected sounds are caught by sensitive instruments set at different distances from the explosion and recorded visually upon moving films. By studying these recordings and analyzing the time that passed between the explosion and the bounce-back, the geophysicist is able to determine with astonishing accuracy the shape, location and depth of the deep-lying stratum. If it appears that this subterranean formation, lying perhaps two miles below the earth surface, is humped up in such a way that it might cause an accumulation of oil, drilling is begun at what seems to be the most logical spot. Sometimes, the geophysicist makes a mistake in his interpretation of the recordings; sometimes there is a structure but it contains no petroleum. This is one of the hazards of the quest for oil, one of many factors which make drilling such a thrilling pursuit.

When In
METAIRIE

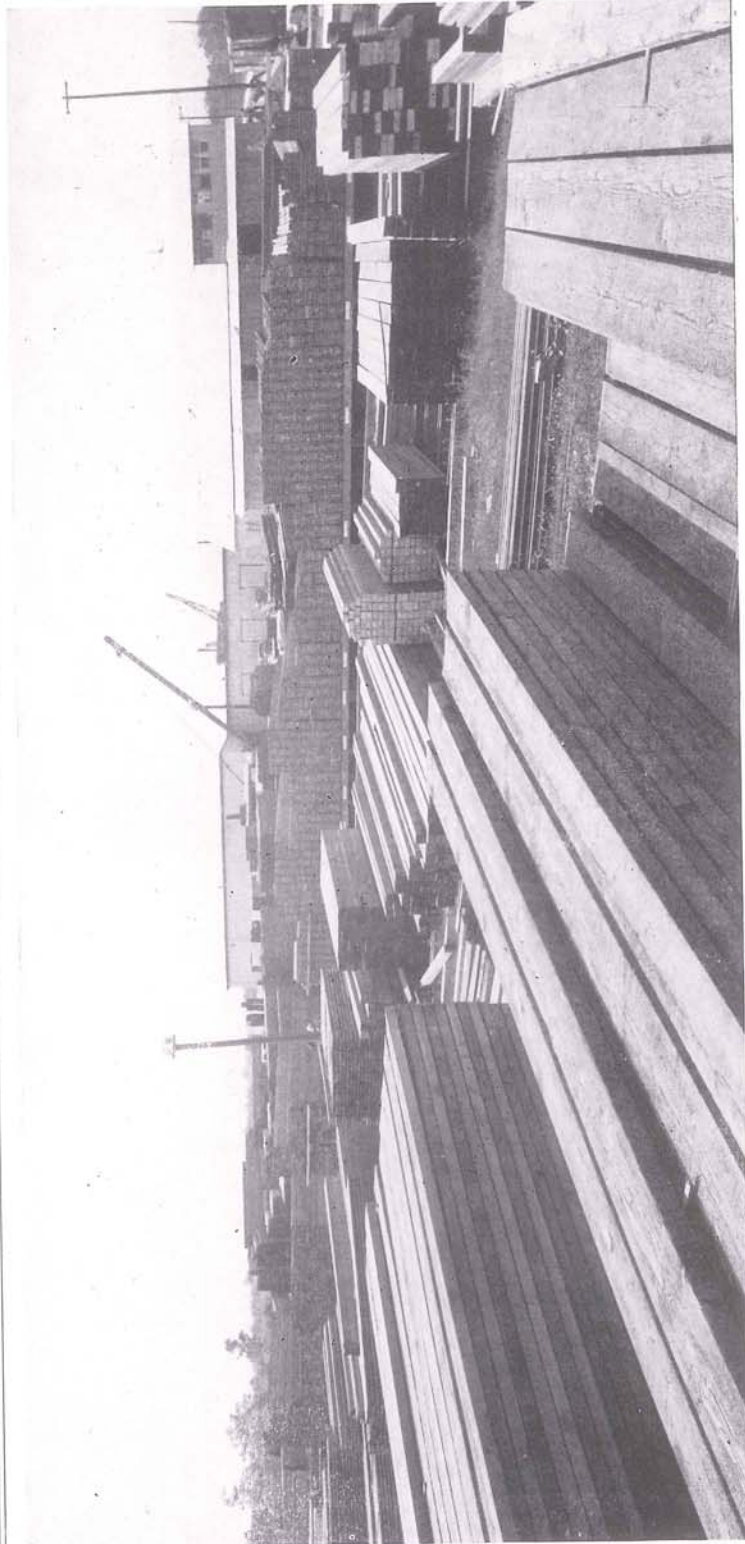
Visit
Louis E. Gruber



Gulf Refining Co.'s amphibian plane used to carry some supplies, and for quick contact between far-flung and inaccessible fields of operation. The plane is hangered at the Gulf's headquarters in Harvey.

The fishing village on the live oak-lined Bayou Barataria, from which the field was named, perpetuates the memory of the pirate, whose route from the counting houses and cabarets of New Orleans to his stronghold and harbor at Grande Terre, where the marshes of Jefferson parish merge with the swells of the Mexican Gulf, lay through this section. No one save Lafitte and his adherents knew that labarinthine route. Where Lafitte once had a fort, the bayou people and the city people now gather, every May, for the annual pirogue race, and between heats, talk of the *feu follet* or marsh fire which portends disaster to the beholder, according to one legend, presages wealth, according to another. The less romantic but more legal descendants of the lawless days believed themselves lucky when, in the 1920's, the government dredged the Dupré canal, an eight-mile short cut which enabled them to take their fish and oysters and pelts to market in less time than it took Lafitte to paddle his loot through the marshlands; and it would give them more time to dig futile holes in search of the thousands of dollars which legend said the pirate had buried in every mound that could be distinguished from the surrounding ground. They were glad the public authority had bought the right-of-way, for that took the burden from the private purse. They did not know—and nobody else did—that this canal had been laid right across what was to be one of the most astonishing oil fields in the world; and that the parish would realize tremendous profits in royalties on that fisherman's canal when the oil wells, which line both sides for two miles, began to yield their millions.

That first well went down, we will say, by the grace of God. Every day, while the drill was plunging into the earth, the engineers trembled for the foundations, which, despite the care in their building, were too doubtful for the enormous weights and vibrations of a modern drilling rig.



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After that well came in, The Texas Company developed and patented a new drilling method. Boilers, machinery, derrick and supplies are mounted on huge steel barges; these are towed through canals dredged to the site of the operations, and there sunk. The vast spread of the bottoms resting on the ooze is the safe and solid foundation for the work.

Up to the middle of May, 1940, the Lafitte field had yielded 42 producers—all Texas Company operations. In that time, there has been only one dry hole, the No. 1 School Board. Production is from 8000 to 10,200 feet. So far, 12 different oil-yielding sands have been tapped.

Five new operations are drilling or have been staked in the Lafitte field. They are Texas Company's L.L.E. 16, L.L.E. 17, Marrero No. 6 and State-Bayou Norman No. 4; and Lafitte Oil Corporation's No. 1 Dupre Cut Canal.

From May 30, 1935, through April 30, 1940, the Lafitte field has yielded 19,554,386 barrels of oil, according to the records of the state Department of Conservation. Production has been as follows:

Year	Barrels
1935	644,944
1936	2,724,454
1937	4,138,111
1938	5,862,647
1939	4,748,479
	<hr/>
	18,118,635
1940	
January	379,501
February	347,828
March	334,599
April	373,823
	<hr/>
	1,435,751
	<hr/>
	19,554,386

Production could be a great deal heavier, but all fields, and all wells, are now given quotas, to keep the oil production of this country within the consumption demands, and to conserve the fields. The oil flow is choked down to dribbles smaller than a lead pencil. This not only spreads production over a longer period of time, but it also insures a larger total production, for the same pool will yield a great many more barrels of oil under restricted outlets than it would if the throttles were open wide. The technical reasons for this are too involved to be presented in this limited space.

The June, 1940, allowable for the Lafitte field is 12,750 barrels a day. That is one-seventeenth of all South Louisiana's allowables (219,269 barrels). Only the Ville Platte field in South Louisiana (15,459 barrels) and the Rodessa field in North Louisiana (20,000 barrels) are heavier producers.

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NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY

19

Every well that the Lafitte field has yielded is still producing. The operation of the dome calls for the employment of 150 men, for whom the company has built quarters with modern comforts and sanitation in mind. The men work 12 days and spend four days with their families. The oil is pipe-lined to a tank farm at Marrero, also in Jefferson parish, where it is loaded upon tankers for transportation to destination. At Lafitte, The Texas Company has built a high-pressure gasoline plant which has a recovery of about 4,000 gallons a day. Some of the residue gas from this plant is pipe-lined to Grande Ecaille, in Plaquemines parish, for use by the Freeport Sulphur Company.

No one knows, no one can guess at the ultimate production of the Lafitte field. Even the limits of the producing area have not been defined. Judging by the history of other fields, the drillers should have, before now, reached the limit in some direction, beyond which they could say with reasonable finality—there is no more oil. But extension after extension has opened up new production, while the oil world held its breath. Recent operations advanced the producing territory half a mile to the east, a quarter of a mile to the south and a quarter of a mile to the northwest. Future operations may contain still more astonishing revelations.

Jefferson parish opened the treasure house of its second oil field—the Barataria—in November, 1939, when the California Company brought in Ruttle No. 1, at 8,200 feet. The Barataria, named for the bayou which commemorates the cheap prices which Lafitte was able to put on merchandise costing him only the pleasant chore of throat-slitting, is closer to Gretna than the Lafitte, on the Intracoastal Canal route. No far away, is Lake Salvador, famous for duck hunting, for fishing, and for its soft-shell crab industry.

The "marsh buggy", a strange boat-automobile, perfected of recent years to meet the requirements of travel over the marshes of south Louisiana. This unique little affair is the property of the Gulf Refining Co. and travels with equal ease on land, on water, or over the prairie tremblant, which is neither one nor the other.





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And here again we meet the marsh buggy, this time complete with pirogue, shall we say "just in case"? Or perhaps when the buggy left the water, the pirogue couldn't follow, and so had to be carried piggy-back.

In January, 1940, the Gulf Refining Company brought in the second producer in this field, the J. Rathborne Lumber Company No. 1²; in April, Carter, Perrin and Brian brought in the third, its Ruttlely No. 1; that same month, California Company brought in the fourth, State-Danciger No. 1, in Bayou Barataria itself.³ The sands are 8,200 to 8,700 feet down.

Barataria has produced, through April, 1940, 83,351 barrels of oil—17,241 in November and December of last year, and 66,110 since then. The allowable for June is 900 barrels a day.

The northwest boundary of the Barataria field seems to be indicated in the recent abandonment of California Company's outpost test, No. 1 Zeringue Community, which yielded some oil, in the 8,200-foot discovery sand, but it was mixed with so much salt water that commercial production was not considered possible. This is the field's first dry hole. In other directions, the extent of the field is unknown.

²Gulf Refining Company plans to drill another well, in 1940, on the Rathborne tract. At Harvey, Jefferson parish, the company maintains its South Louisiana division office and warehouse, headquarters of operations in Jefferson, Plaquemines, Lafourche, Acadia, Cameron, Calcasieu, St. Landry, Rapides and Avoyelles parishes, besides Jefferson. It had 29 employes there, as of May 28. It also has an amphibian airplane, and hangar, there, for quickly servicing its far-flung operations. The plane has a cruising speed of 175 miles an hour, a top speed of 201 miles an hour. This ship has been of great service in carrying medical aid.

³The drilling rig was not erected in the bayou, first because of the depth of the water, second because of the interference with navigation, for Barataria is one of the principal waterways in that part of the state. It was erected on the bank, and the recently developed technique of directional drilling was employed. The hole was drilled straight down for 4,000 feet; a whipstock was placed in the bottom of the hole, and the deviation from vertical was started. A whipstock is a solid piece of metal, about 20 feet long, which fits snugly in the hole; one side has been cut away to form a slanting surface. When the bit strikes this surface, it is turned from the vertical at an angle of about two degrees. From time to time, the hole is "surveyed" by an instrument, a camera which takes the picture of a compass and spirit level at the bottom of the hole. The compass indicates the direction of deviation from vertical, the spirit level indicates the extent of that deviation. These pictures control the use of the whipstock. The drill is thus pointed with a high degree of accuracy. The bottom of the hole of this operation by the California Company is 200 feet west of the derrick site, under the middle of the bayou.



TRY A
TEXACO
DEALER
NEXT TIME



====The====
Texas Company

Three operations are now drilling in the Barataria field—California Company's Louisiana Truck and Orange Land Company No. 1, Carter, Perrin and Brian's Ruttle-Wiseman No. 2, and Westfeldt Penniman No. 1.

Lafourche parish is credited with the Delta Farms field, for the discovery well was in Lafourche parish, Tide Water Associated Oil Company's No. 1 Delta Farms, which tapped the pay at 11,300 feet. But this is close to Jefferson parish, the western boundary of which is Bayou Perot, and part of the large acreage which the company secured, before putting down the test, lies in Jefferson parish. The next operation, Delta Farms No. 2, will be about 2,500 feet southwest of the discovery well; but subsequent explorations will swing into Jefferson parish, towards the Lafitte field. There were oil and gas shows at several levels in Delta No. 1, and one or more of these strata may find their best production in Jefferson. Because of the marshy character of the ground, the development of the field will be slow. June's allowable for Delta Farms No. 1 is 150 barrels a day.

One wildcat operation is under way, in Jefferson parish, another is scheduled for the future. A wildcat is a test of unproved territory. Every well that brought in a new field was a wildcat.

The wildcat now being drilled is Vendome Petroleum Corporation's Coulon No. 1 in the Crown Point area. It was necessary to dredge a two-mile canal from a point on the Intracoastal waterway east of State Highway No. 1235 to the property of Whitney Coulon in Section 15, Township 15.

Vendome is the British corporation which brought in oil with its first operation, Kenilworth No. 1, in St. Bernard parish, a few miles below New Orleans—200 barrels a day from 10,600 feet. The same company owns acreage in West Feliciana parish. In the Crown Point area of Jefferson, it has 4,469 acres under lease. It conducted extensive seismograph and geological surveys before starting the drill on No. 1 Coulon.

The wildcat that is scheduled for the future is Shell Oil Company's State in Bay Ilettes, near Grand Isle, once the center of Lafitte's piratical state.

From May 30, 1935, through April 30, 1940—one month less than five years—Jefferson parish has produced 19,637,737 barrels of oil. Its June allowables are 13,650 barrels a day. This is premium oil, for the South Louisiana production, because of the heavy lubricant content, brings more, on the market, than the North Louisiana—about \$1.20 a barrel. A large part of that wealth stays in Jefferson—royalties to parish and private land-owners, wages and salaries in exploration, production, refining and transportation, and supplies. It costs money to put down a well, especially a well a mile and a half to two miles deep. The first well may cost a hundred thousand dollars, a quarter of a million dollars, even a million dollars, counting in all the expenses: subsequent operations, when the field is proved, are routine, and the hole may go down for from forty to fifty thousand dollars.

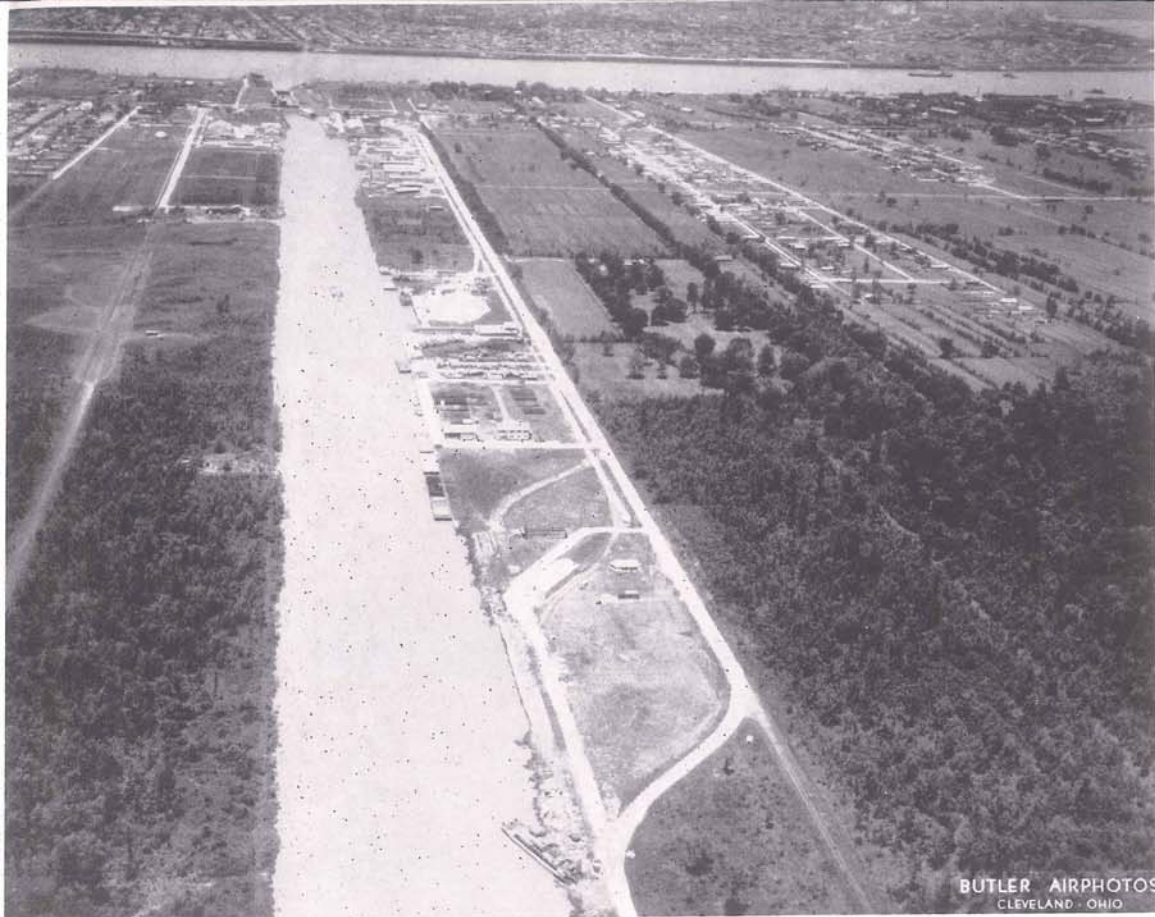
The romance of oil is just as exciting as it ever was, because of the element of the unknown, and because of the struggle with the forces of nature, though it has lost the spectacularism of the gusher days, when wells came in, helzapoppin', and sent up thick columns of oil which sometimes wrecked the

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GRETN, LOUISIANA



Harvey Canal link of the Intracoastal Waterway, which shows graphically the industrial development that has followed on the heels of oil production in the parish. Most of the plants along this canal service the oil industry, and where before there were three businesses located here, employing 50 people, today there are 20, with 600 employees. Two more are in process of erection.

derricks and always covered the ground with a sea of black gold. The efficient control measures of modern drilling methods have done away with that danger and that loss. Now a well goes down, like putting in plumbing, and it begins to yield with no more fuss than turning on the bathroom faucet. Every phase in the operation is planned with a view to conservation.

Jefferson parish, by the problems it imposed, has contributed enormously to the science of drilling. The development of the derrick barge has made marsh operations safe and makes it possible to carry the oil frontiers of Jefferson to the restless waters of the sea. The marsh buggy, which skims over trembling prairies and swims streams with the velocity of gasoline power, was developed to enable geologists and geophysicists to conduct their explorations through such difficult terrain as Jefferson offers, economically and expeditiously. Drilling techniques have developed so far and so rapidly that the man who is five years behind the times would be lost if he attempted an operation. Deeper and deeper into the ground goes the questing steel. What was considered a deep well, ten years ago, is today considered shallow. The drill can now reach three miles into the earth, and men are talking of five miles. Jefferson may have still heavier deposits of oil further down than even the Lafitte field has shown at almost two miles below the surface.

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Ever since it was created in 1825, Jefferson parish has revealed new and more startling sources of wealth. It began as a producer of sea foods and peltries; it made impressive agricultural achievement. New Orleans lopped off a large part of its area which on the east side of the Mississippi formerly extended to Felicite street and included Lafayette City, once the parish seat, which lay between Felicite and Toledano streets and had a population of 15,000 when it was absorbed by the larger city in 1852. Today, its Metairie Ridge, on the east side of the river, is the most beautiful residential section in the New Orleans area; its vegetable gardens and its flower nurseries are heavy producers of revenue; on the west side of the river, its industrial and port development rivals New Orleans; now the black gold is flowing from its back lands, the glow from the gas flares of its oil fields stains the sky that New Orleans may see the overflow of its richness—the **feu follet** of this modern day.



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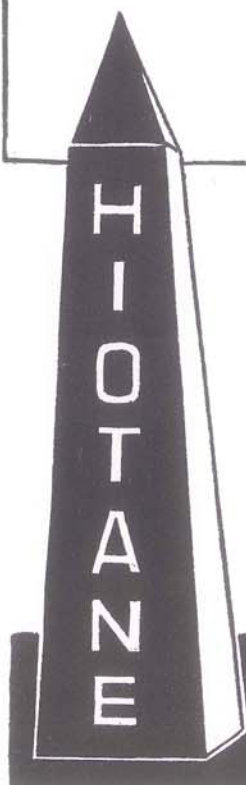
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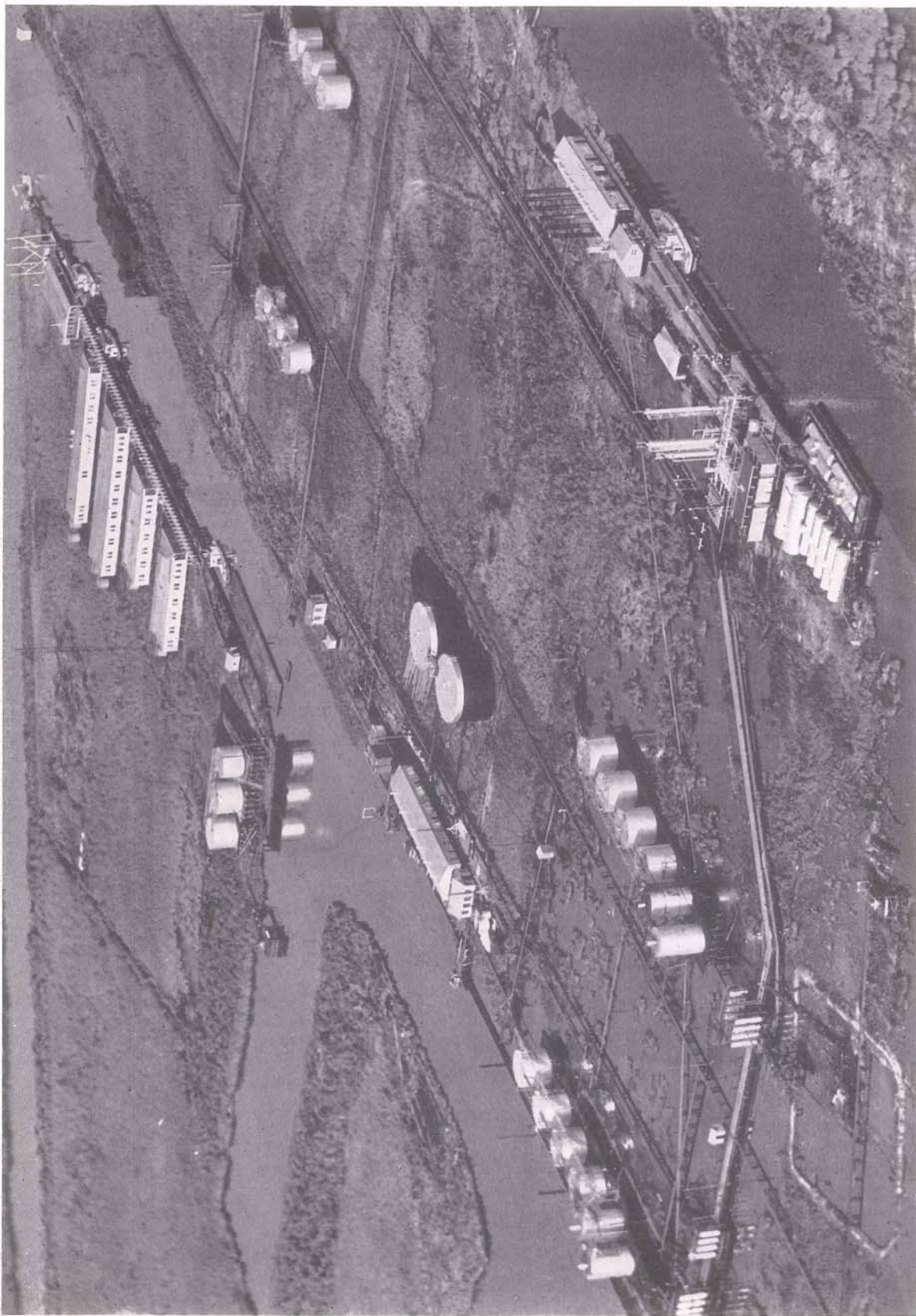
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As in other locations where Johns-Manville does business, the Marrero factory tries to contribute to the welfare of the parish and to perform its rightful civic duties with a high sense of community responsibility.

THEIR FACES TELL THE STORY

LYLE SAXON

Internationally Famous Author

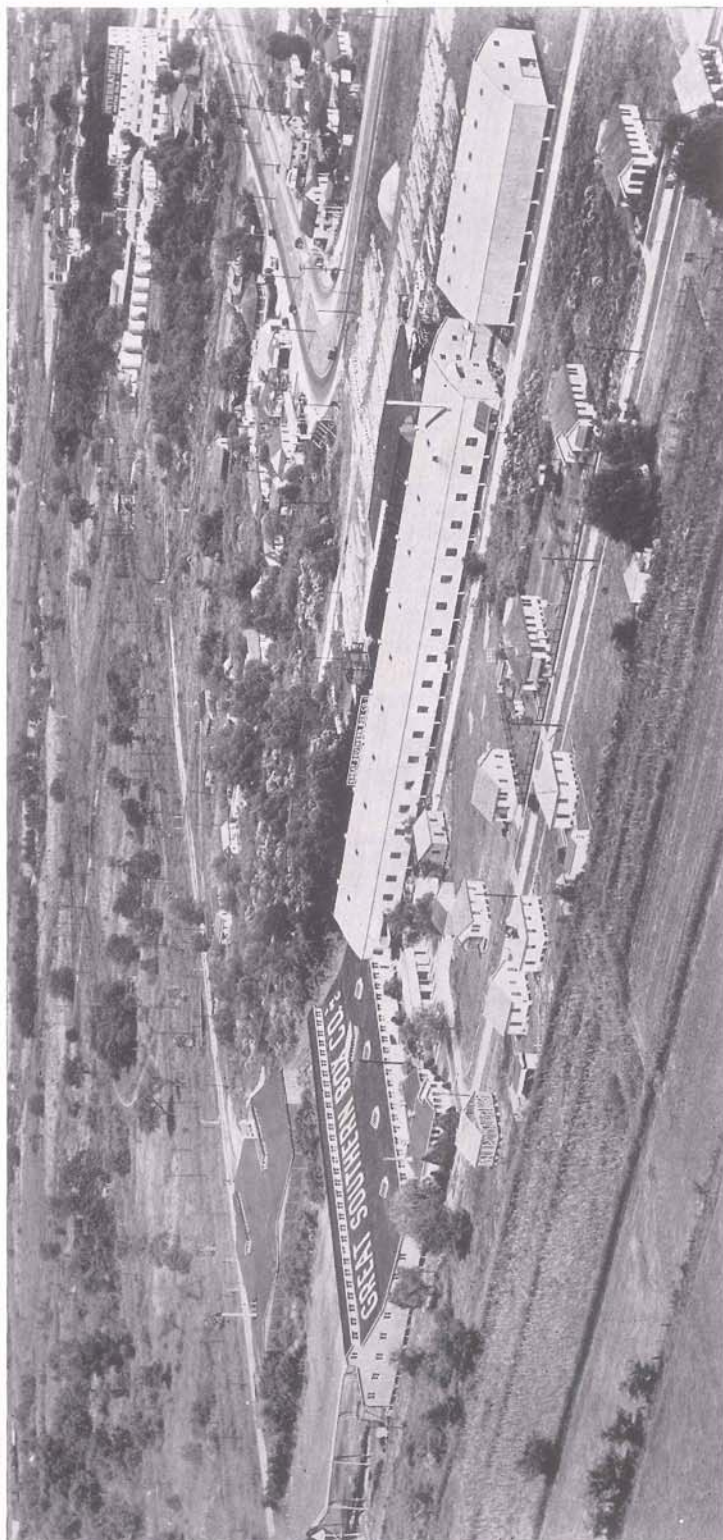
Two of Mr. Saxon's works are "Lafitte the Pirate" and "Fabulous New Orleans". The setting for "Lafitte the Pirate" is Jefferson Parish.

To those who have studied Louisiana History, Jefferson Parish is as interesting as any portion of the state. Surely it is more colorful than nearly any other, and it is more varied. It stretches its narrow length from Lake Pontchartrain southward to the sea, and it presents incredible contrasts. One end of the parish is a rich and fashionable suburb with fine residences, huge estates and magnificent gardens, while the other end is as primitive a place as can be found in the United States today. For in the sea marsh of Barataria there lives a strange and polyglot people, men and women who dwell in palmetto thatched houses in isolated places, and who live as simply as their ancestors did a century ago.

Many notable names are connected with Jefferson, names which stand out in any history of the South. Here lived such men as John McDonogh—

Mrs. Gustave Jaud, descendant of the Houma tribe of Indians, whose land south Jefferson used to be, uses the native palmetto in weaving the beautiful baskets for which her people are famous.





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Berthoud's Cemetery at Berthoud's Cove, Barataria. This ancient Indian Burying ground has been used for centuries.

too well known to make it necessary to say more than a sentence about him here. But the name is as familiar as any in Louisiana, for McDonogh left a

This "Manilaman", as he is called by the bayou people, is a shrimper, and lives at Manila Village. The Philippine forbears of these people settled in this section of the country generations ago.



JEFFERSON DEMOCRAT

Official Journal of the

PARISH

OF

JEFFERSON

SINCE 1896

Gretna, Louisiana



Stefano Tramonte, Italian farmer of Kenner. A great many of the Italian families that immigrated to this country have stayed on the land.

vast fortune to the schools of New Orleans, and thousands of school children still decorate his statue each year. In Jefferson, too, lived the Kenner Brothers whose names are linked with the state history. And in the old days, even longer ago, lived D'Estrehan with his vast plantations, and it was D'Estrehan who in 1737 brought many German families to his estate to dig the Destrehan canal (now called Harvey's canal), Germans who had come to Louisiana at the time of John Law's fantastic "Mississippi Bubble" and who found themselves destitute and starving when Law's scheme collapsed. The Germans had been sent to what is now Arkansas, but they found conditions there with which they could not cope, so they built rafts and floated down the Mississippi to New Orleans. The Colonial governor could not provide for them—it was hard enough to provide for the French people who were sailing across the Atlantic to Louisiana. Accordingly the Germans were given tracts of land along the Mississippi River above New Orleans, and they settled there, wrestling a living from the wilderness. There were no farm implements, no plows. They used their bare hands, and the primitive implements which they could make for themselves. These Germans were the prey of marauding Indians, they sickened with fever, they died by scores. But the strong survived, made homes and farms for themselves, and at last they became prosperous. It was because of their sturdiness and their ability to do heavy work that D'Estrehan,

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one of the richest of the early Creole planters, brought a group of them to dig the canal.

In 1737, thirty-nine years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, John Baptiste D'Estrehan needed a means of getting wood from the swamps south of his lands, and the lands needed draining. He contracted with a number of German settlers living in Mechanickham, now Gretna, to dig a canal from the Mississippi River to Little Bayou Barataria, a distance of more than five miles. Small tracts of land were given to them for their labor. They dug the canal with wooden spades! The job was completed in 1741.

Destrehan's canal became important as a means of transportation. It not only drained the rich acres of the Creole planter, but it served, too, to carry sea foods, furs, moss, freight and passengers to the city of New Orleans and adjacent territory.

Descendants of those sturdy German pioneers remain; some of them are living today in Gretna. For example there is Mrs. Mary Fried who lives at 227 Huey P. Long Avenue. The name of the street has been changed, and the street has become important commercially, but Mrs. Fried will not move. She was once offered a large sum for her modest home and garden, but she refused it. She was born in that house 83 years ago, and she was the daughter of a German called Meisner. It is the Meisner place, and Mrs. Fried loves it. The vegetable garden has supplied food for the family for

Mrs. Mary Fried, descendant of the early German settlers, proudly displays her stand of corn in her kitchen garden. This garden has supplied the Fried family for over a hundred years, and has never known commercial fertilizers.



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"And here Napoleon was buried by Jean Lafitte". Mrs. Mary Perrin, 73, who was born and has lived her life in Lafitte, tells tall tales of the unmarked graves in Perrin cemetery.

more than a hundred years. Commercial fertilizer has never been used in it. In the picture that accompanies this article you will see Mrs. Fried in her garden standing beside the corn stalks. It is difficult to believe that she is really 83 years old, for she is strong and vigorous. She is proud of the fact that her father was one of the organizers of the David Crockett Fire Company which is said to be the oldest active volunteer fire company in the United States. Mrs. Fried likes to talk about that. Sometimes in the late afternoon you will find her tending her garden. She likes to talk about old times, and she likes to remember that she springs from an honest, sturdy stock. She belongs to the land, and the land belongs to her.

But Mrs. Fried is but one type. Take the case of Mrs. Perrin for example. Mrs. Perrin lives where the Bayou of the Geese meets Bayou Barataria. And her greatest pride is in the Perrin cemetery which lies beside the slow flowing stream. Mrs. Perrin is the oracle of the countryside. She is the keeper of legends as well as keeper of the cemetery. One of her most extraordinary legends concerns Napoleon, John Paul Jones and Jean Lafitte.

Historians are all wrong, Mrs. Perrin will tell you. All that business about the death of the Little Corporal on St. Helena—all nonsense. Napoleon was saved by his kinsman Jean Lafitte, kidnapped. A double was buried in his place. Lafitte was bringing him to Louisiana, and he was accompanied by none other than John Paul Jones. But Napoleon died. So Lafitte brought him secretly to the little cemetery beside the Bayou and buried him there. Later he brought the body of John Paul Jones there too, and buried him

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80 years have left Horace Perrin strong and fit to paddle his piroque and run his trapping lines.

secretly. And finally Lafitte came home to die, and he lies there too. Mrs Perrin knows all about it. Those unmarked graves could tell tall tales if they wanted to! And Mrs. Perrin sees to it that passers-by hear the stories. She keeps that cemetery as clean as a pin. The tombs are whitewashed each year, and the tombs of her ancestors are repaired from time to time. And as for those others, those legendary graves, why Mrs. Perrin guards them with her life. Here you see her standing in the cemetery, pointing to the grave of Napoleon Bonaparte. And if you don't believe me, why you can ask Mrs. Perrin! In fact Mrs. Perrin will tell you that she knows what she knows, and that Manuel Perrin, the first of her family to settle in Louisiana, was a first cousin of Jean Lafitte's, and often accompanied the corsair on his expeditions. Oh those stories! How Mrs. Perrin likes to tell them. There are ghosts in the cemetery too, but she pays no attention to them. "They don't do me nothin'" she says, "When I go up to them, they just walk into the bayou, or melt away like swamp fog."

As the traveler goes deeper and deeper into the Barataria region he meets stanger types. For instance, look now at the picture of the native oysterman. It is just sunrise and he is making ready for his day of toil. Notice the long oyster rakes, and observe too that the sun is just rising above the horizon. The day is beginning, and our Barataria oysterman is off to his work. The mark of the country is upon him, and his face tells his story. He is a native, and proud of it. He is a man and there is no foolishness about him. He can earn his living as well as anyone, and nothing scares him.

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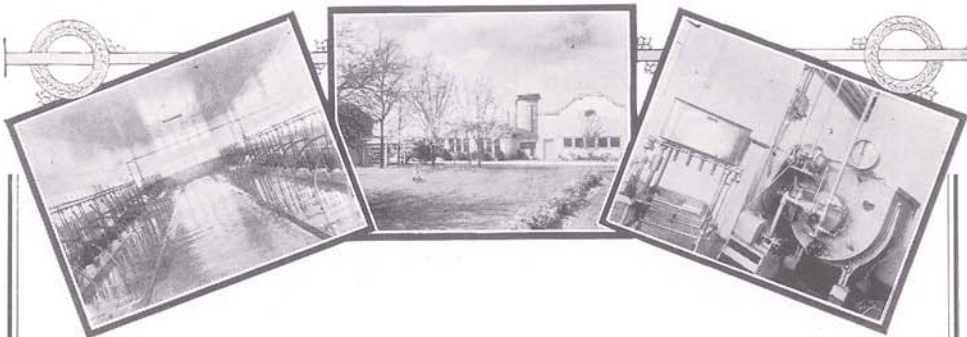
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This is his country, and that is his dog, and those are his oyster rakes. Let any man try to disturb him or his possessions, or his wife or his family. They will see what they will see. And they will be sorry people, too.

To penetrate the Barataria country the traveler must proceed by boat, first through Harvey's Canal, already mentioned, into Little Bayou Barataria, past Mrs. Perrin and her cemetery and beyond into lakes and other bayous. As the traveler goes Southward, Manila Village comes into sight, a town built upon stilts, where great shrimp drying platforms stretch out, and where the houses are connected by runways above the water. Here live men of many nationalities. It is not unusual to meet a boat manned by Chinamen puffing along the slow-moving waters of Bayou Barataria, although the Chinese live further out in the Gulf on the little island of Bassa-Bassa, an island which is somewhat similar to Manila Village, although the population is smaller. The Chinamen are picturesque with their slanting eyes, and their yellow skins are bronzed by the sun and water. They wear large Chinese straw hats. They are shrimp fishermen, and they catch and dry the shrimp and ship it back to China. For years these Chinese have been in the Barataria section,

A man and his dog. Even among the waterways, men have their pets, and this pup looks lovingly at his oysterman master.





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MARRERO, LOUISIANA



Manila Village from the air, giving a splendid view of the platforms used to sun-dry shrimp during the season.

and there has been a sort of Chinese dynasty, one family owning Bassa-Bassa for several generations. Some of the Chinese have married women native to the Barataria section, and the second and third generations are really Eura-

Some of the many Chinese inhabitants of the bayou country, shown with Senator Jules Fisher, who is himself from Manila Village. These Chinamen were either born in this country, or immigrated here long before our immigration laws forbade entry of the yellow races.



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Where the bayous meet the Gulf, at the extreme southern tip of Jefferson Parish. Fort Livingston, on Grand Terre, with Grand Isle in the background.

sians, handsome, exotic people who add an Asiatic touch to the melting pot of the Jefferson Bayou country. The group picture shown is typical.

Bayous open up into lakes, only to narrow again to bayous, and at last, sailing ever southward, the boat enters Barataria Bay. One can smell the sea. The sky is an inverted bowl of gold and blue and it is hard to say where water ends and sky begins. Still the boat goes on through the golden light, and at last a bright archipelago appears—low-lying islands, with masses of green trees and strips of shining sand. Beyond the islands are the blue waters of the Mexican Gulf, and the overtones of sound are the rustling of the palm trees, and the pounding of the surf. Two large islands lie close together: these are Grand Isle and Grande Terre, and on clear days, toward the west, another island is visible—Cheniere Caminada.

This is a country of strange and passionate moods. Nature itself is capricious, changing in a moment from calm to storm. A warm, sweet breeze which seems redolent of orange flowers blows all day from the south; yet in a moment it dies. A blanket of blistering heat falls upon the islands. Not a leaf stirs. The islands wait, silent, inert. And then, suddenly, the sun draws in and a whistling wind comes out of the Gulf; lightning flashes, and a tropical storm breaks with quick fury, lashing the twisted oak trees with salt spray, and bending the tall palms away from the sea. Rain rattles down upon the wide leaves of banana trees, a torrential downpour.

Then, as quickly as it came, the storm passes. The sun shines again with blinding light, and the wet leaves of the banana trees shine like burn-

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ished metal. The palms right themselves, dripping like slow-running fountains, and the soft breeze blows again from the Gulf. Once more there comes that mysterious scent of orange blossoms.

And as the land is, so are the dwellers therein.

Look now at another picture in our gallery. Here we have a native shrimper of Grand Isle. His history, and the history of the country is written upon his face. And what a face it is! He knows the caprices of the island weather; he is at home on the Gulf of Mexico. His face is burned from a thousand sun-drenched noons, and toughened by a hundred storms. The salt spray has burned deep into his bronzed skin, and the blazing sun, reflected from the water, has taught him to live with half-closed eyes. But his eyes see to the distant horizon, and his body responds to a boat in much the same way that a rider's body responds to his horse. The sea and the beaches are equally familiar to him. He knows the signs of good and bad

Grand Isle shrimper, burned by a thousand noon-day suns. The history of this country is written in his face.



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weather. He is not deceived by clouds or winds. We may think that the day is fair, and that it will continue so, but he knows that there is a squall out yonder and that it may overtake us soon. He knows what he knows and he knows it well. Then too there is a sort of arrogance about the man. Look again at that face. He is not afraid, he can manage. Let the storms come, let the wind blow. He will survive somehow. And he knows the way.

Here, then, we see a few of the characteristic people of the Barataria country. They are characteristic of the country itself. In their faces you can read the story of the country, and I believe you will find that story a good one.

BARATARIA

There has been much discussion among historians concerning the name Barataria, that former haunt of pirates and smugglers. "It will be remembered," writes Grace King, "that Barataria was the name of the island presented by the frolicsome duchess to Sancho Panza, for his sins, as he learned to consider it. How or when the name came to Louisiana is still to be discovered, whether directly from "Don Quixote," or from the source which supplied LeSage with it, the etymology of the word—**barateur**, meaning cheap, **barato**, cheap things."

Webster's dictionary offers another suggestion in the definition of the word "barratry." The French word is **barraterie**, and the Provençal equivalent is **barataria**, and there are two definitions: first, "The practice of exciting and encouraging lawsuits and quarrels," and, second, "A fraudulent breach of duty or willful act of known illegality on the part of a master of a ship, in his character of master, or of the mariners, to the injury of the owner of the ship or cargo, and without his consent. It includes every breach of trust committed with dishonest purpose, as by running away with the ship, sinking her or deserting her, etc., or by embezzling the cargo."

It is a common belief in Louisiana that the name Barataria was given to that section of the country because of Lafitte and his lusty corsairs who once dwelt there, but the old maps disprove this designation. The section was known by that name for more than half a century before Lafitte set foot there.

For fifty years before Lafitte saw it, men and women, many of them smugglers, had been living on Grand Isle, and there was a cluster of houses half buried in the rank undergrowth. Dwarfed oak-trees, curiously twisted by the wind and their outer leaves scalded by the salt spray, grew in dense groves, their gnarled trunks leaning all in one direction, away from the sea. The houses were hidden beneath these trees, each house with its thicket of shrubs and oleanders which served as a protection from the wind that blew almost ceaselessly from the Gulf.

The houses were small and unpretentious. They contained only one or two rooms. The windows were closed, not with glass, but with heavy batten blinds which served as protection from the sudden storms. Orange groves dotted the island, the golden fruit shining like lanterns among the dark, polished leaves. And flowers grew before the doors of the cottages.

For half a century the smugglers' women had lived there, cooking, sweeping, laughing, crying, giving birth to children. . . . They were quiet, submissive

Karger
AND
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—and—

OAK STREET



Manila Village, built, as are all the marsh homes, on stilts, with the fleet in. Note that the pirate flag still flies, but this time as a house flag, and with no sinister connotations.

women who obeyed the men blindly, women who had little thought beyond their men and their children.

Smuggling was only a part of the islanders' lives, for they were also trappers and fishermen. Their luggers made the long journey to the New Orleans market over and over again, carrying loads of fish and shrimp and oysters. They knew these curving bayous as the average city-dweller knows the streets between his home and his office; the reedy labyrinths of Barataria held no mysteries for them. They had learned a hundred hiding places for themselves and their boats in the vicinity of the city, and when their luggers were loaded with contraband goods, rather than with fish, they felt safe from pursuit or attack.

For nearly fifty years, then, they had pursued their dual interests; it was an accepted thing. But the passionate moods of the islands had left their trace upon these men and upon the children born there; and they were as suddenly moved from careless mirth to quick and unreasoning fury as a child is moved from laughter to tears.

Then all was changed. A sterner, rougher group of men invaded the peaceful bayous and made homes for themselves among the islands. These newcomers were, for the greater part, seafaring men. They were men who had sailed under many flags, and war had taught them to hold life cheap. They were outlaws by choice and they had cast their lots upon the sea. Men of many races and many tongues—Spanish, French and Portuguese; men from the West Indian islands, men of mixed blood, Maltese, Catalans, men from God-knows-where who had drifted from near and far to find a haven in the sea-marshes of Barataria.

Jefferson Inn

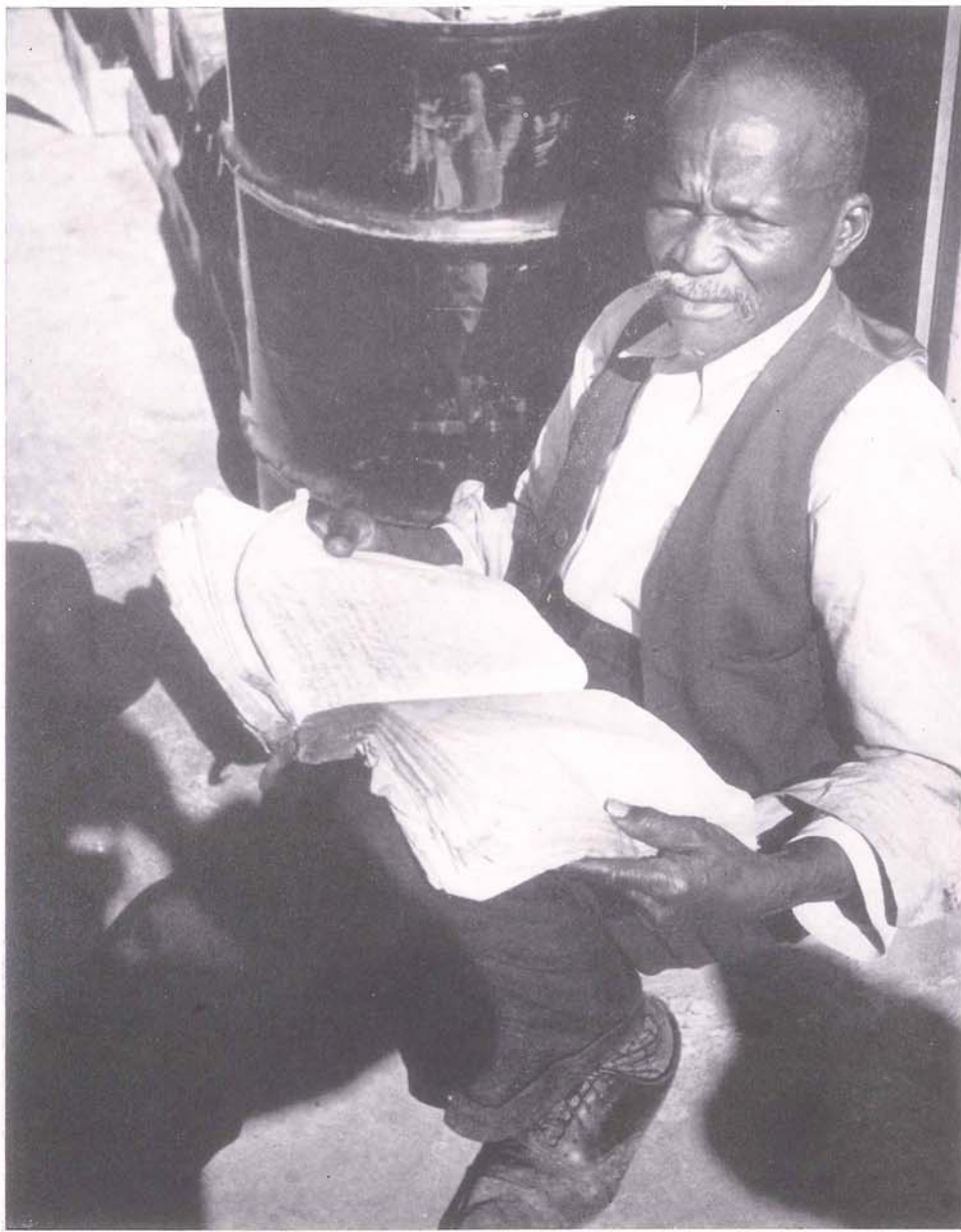
SOUTHPORT,
JEFFERSON PARISH,
LOUISIANA

But there were others, too. We have seen that those thrifty Germans came to the Jefferson section as early as 1737. Some English people settled there too, and there were many French families.

What can one say of such a country? There is this that can be said: It is American. Although the blood of many nationalities flows in these people, they are as much a part of the United States as any other. And they are loyal Americans. I do not believe that you will find that the "fifth column" will make headway there. For the dwellers of Jefferson remember the history of their own Jean Lafitte, who brought his strange and motley crew to the aid of Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. They were loyal then and they are loyal now. They remember their American traditions of more than a century ago.

Yes, you have seen their faces and they are good faces. No foolishness there, no dissatisfaction with the land that is theirs. They are Jeffersonians, and they are Louisianians and they are Americans, and they intend to stay that way.

Sammy Sparks, unofficial vital statistician of Gretna. He knows all about everybody in the town, and it is mighty hard for the ladies not-so-young to drop a few years if Sammy hears about it.



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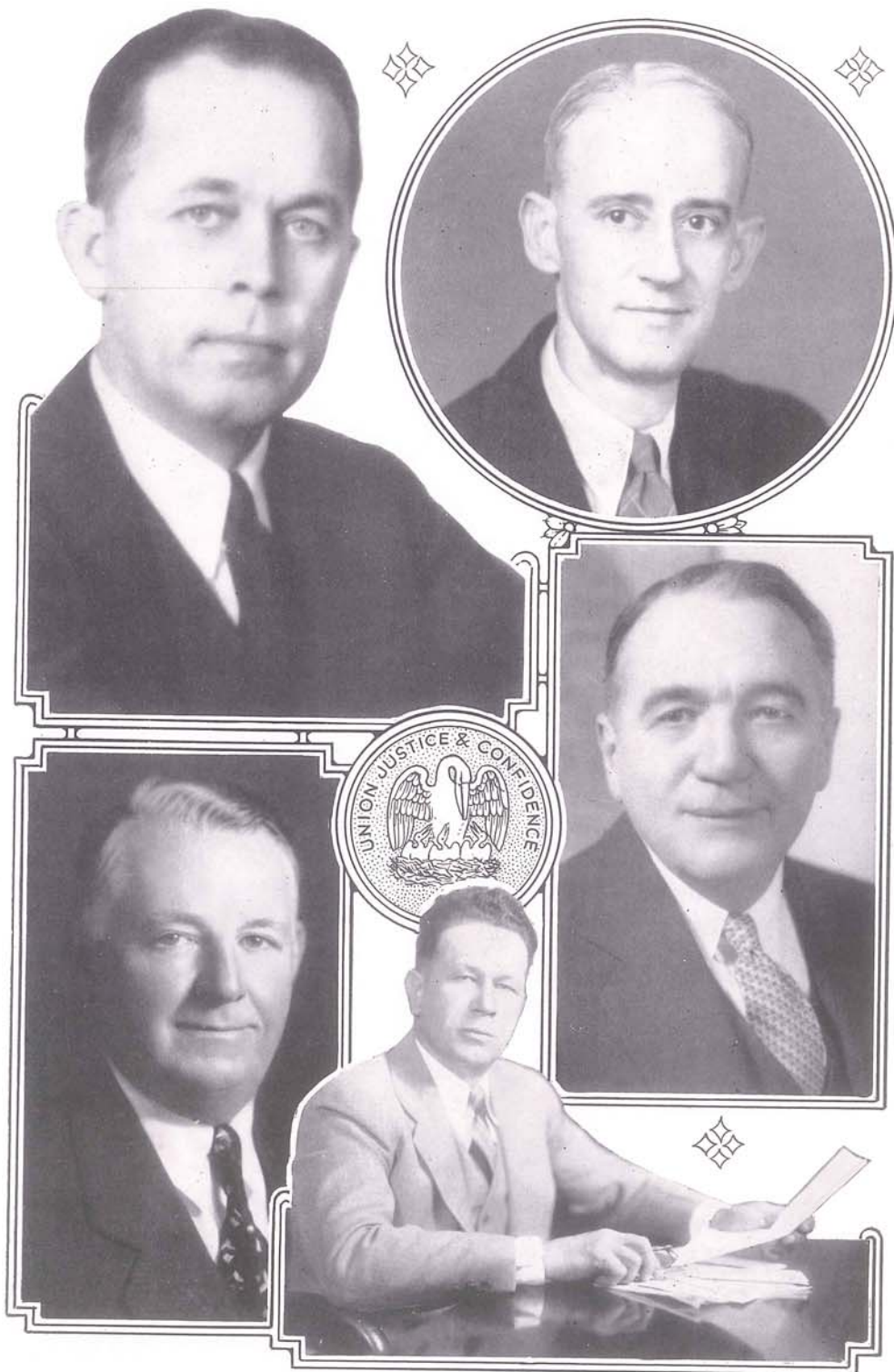
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 Right Center—Hon. John H. Overton, United States Senator from Louisiana.
 Lower Left—Hon. Paul H. Maloney, Member of Congress, Second Louisiana Congressional District.
 Lower Center—Hon. Allen Ellender, United States Senator from Louisiana.

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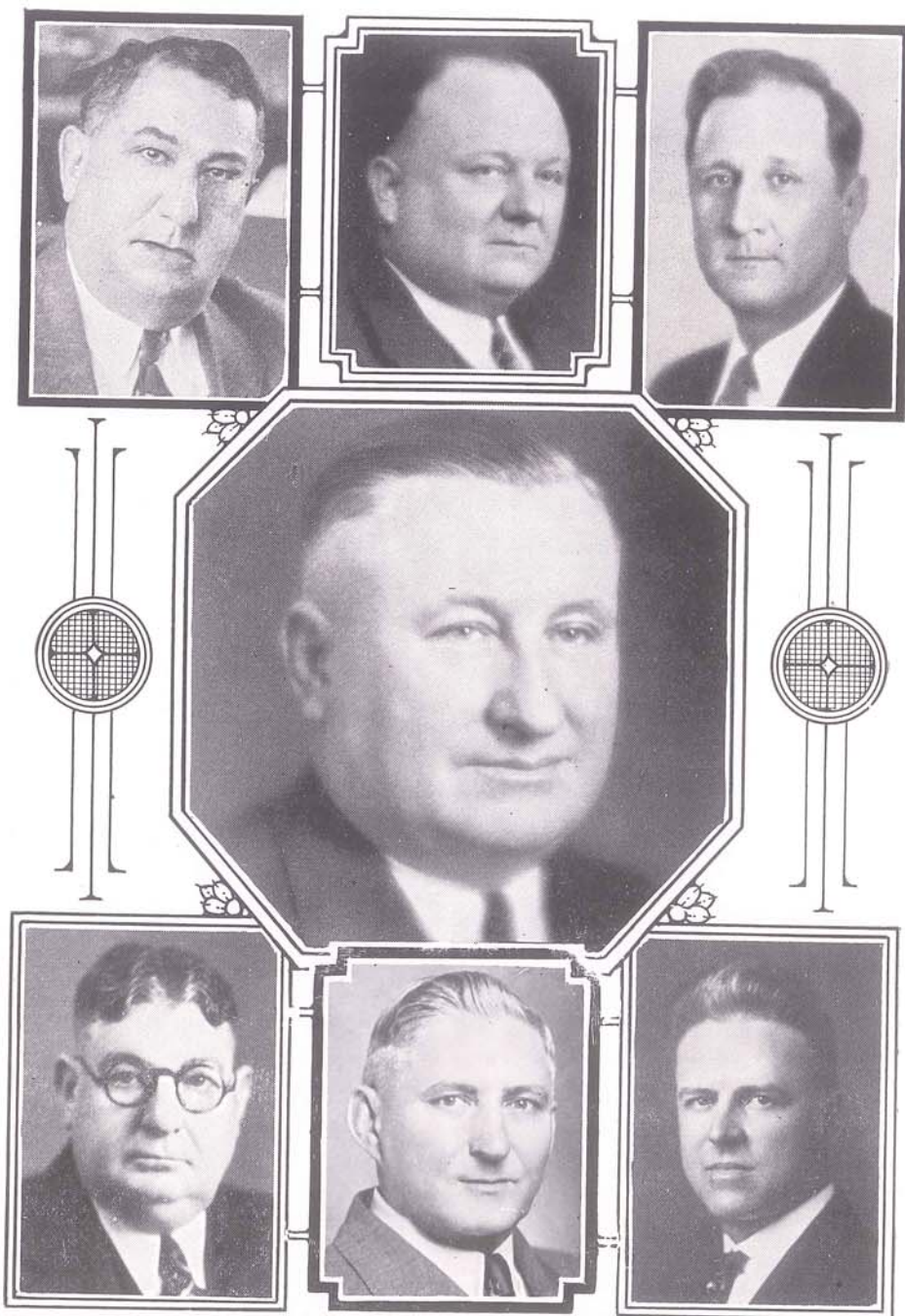
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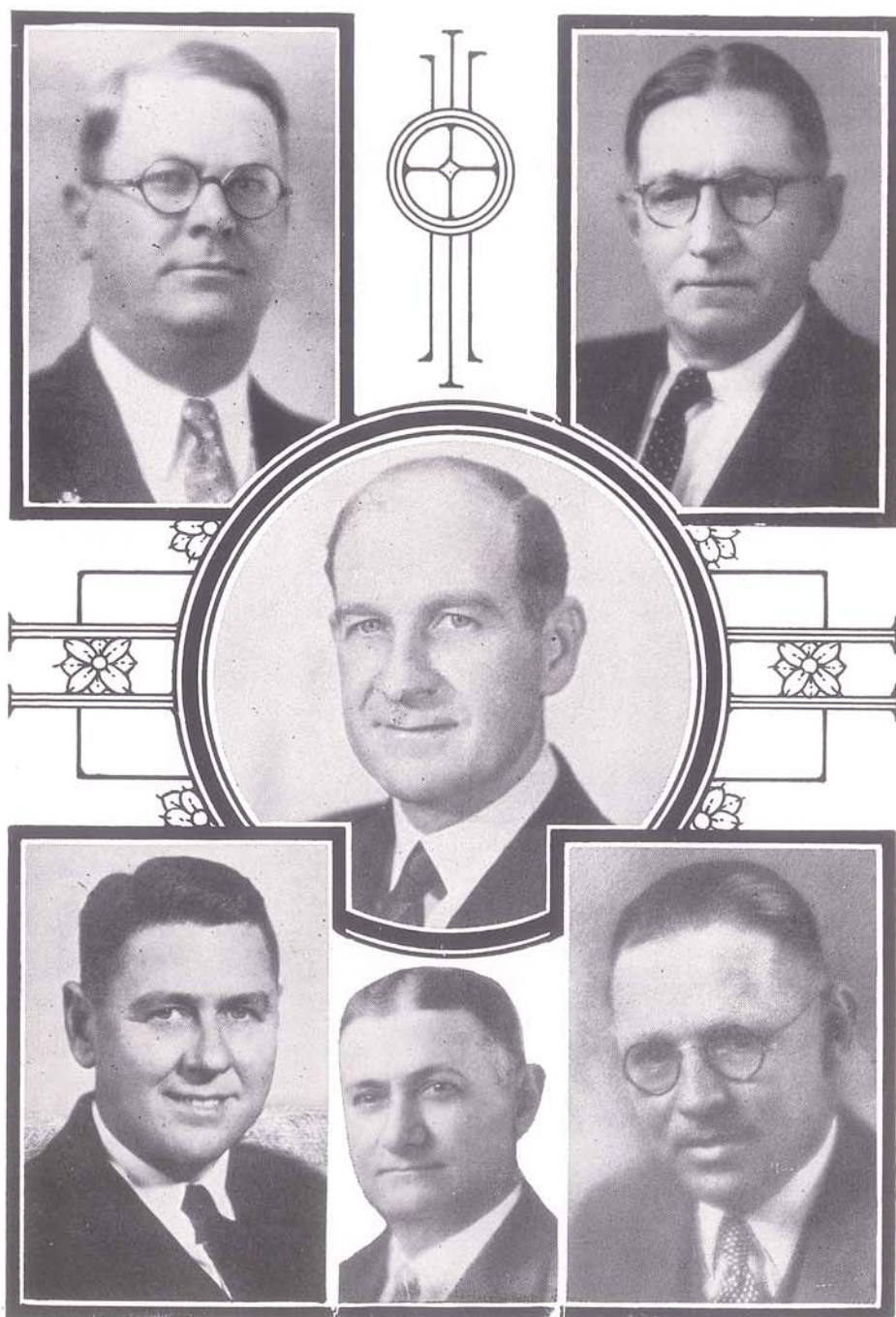
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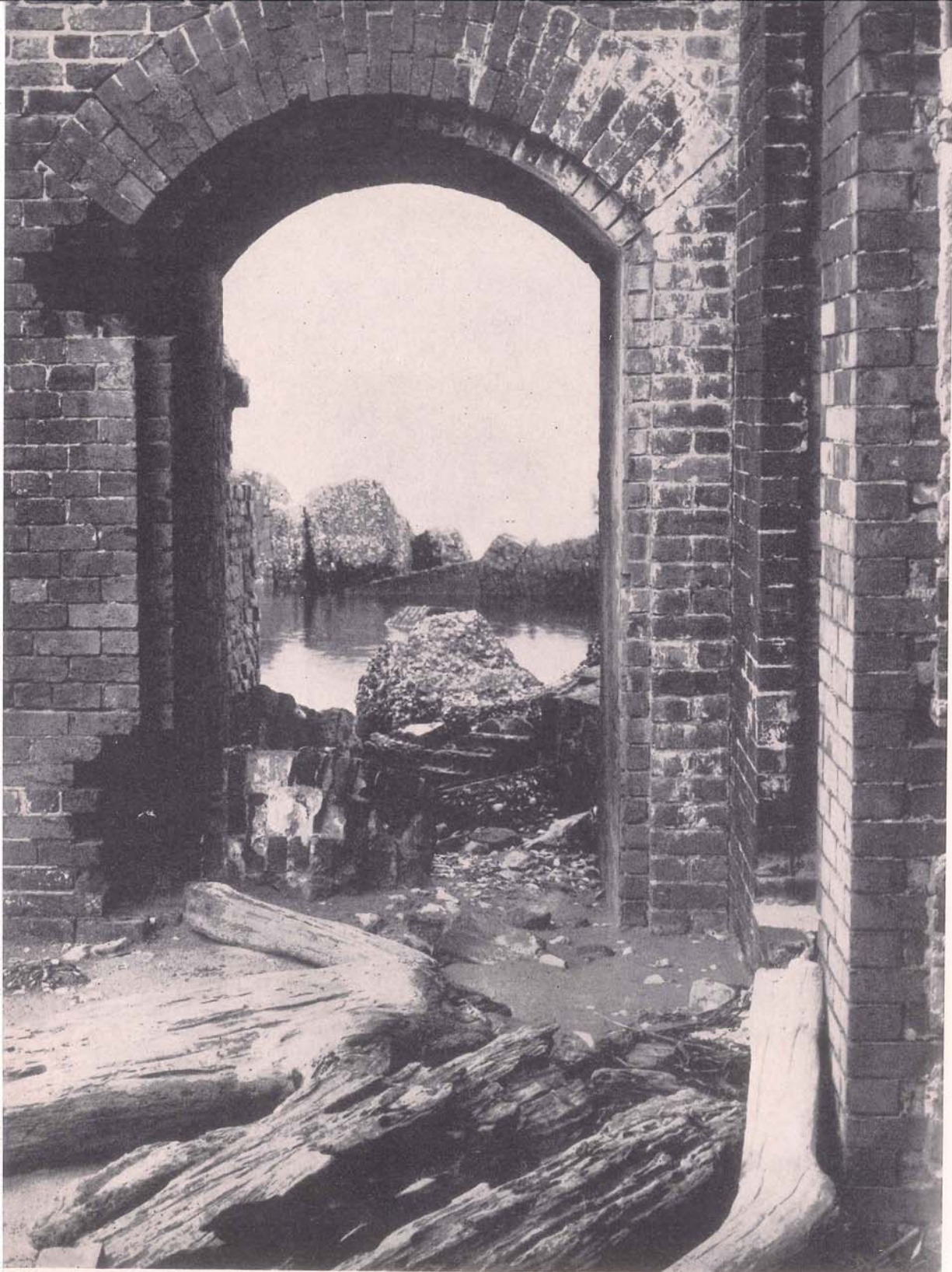
The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.

100 Huey P. Long Ave.

Gretna, La.

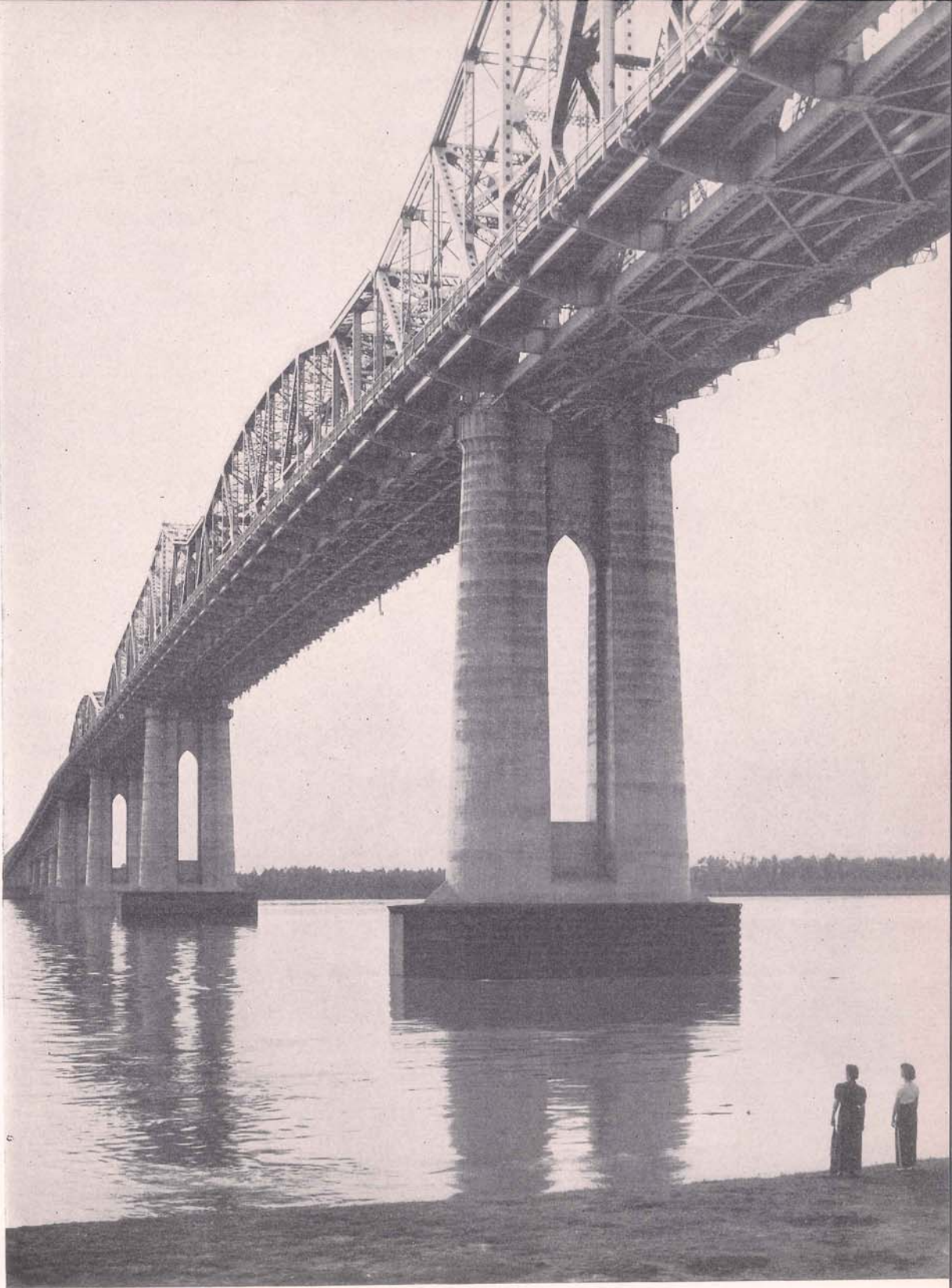
Pictorial Section

THE FOLLOWING pages contain a series of pictures of Jefferson Parish, presented for their sheer beauty, their unusual interest, or a combination of both. Jefferson is extremely photogenic, a paradise for either the artist-photographer, or the garden variety of candid-camera fan. To stimulate appreciation of the beauty of Jefferson, the publishers of the Yearly Review are interested in all pictures taken of parish scenes, and with this issue are announcing a contest, winning pictures to be used in the Review. Full details will be found elsewhere.



"O'er the ramparts we watched—" An arched sally port in old Fort Livingston on Grande Terre is partly blocked by cypress knees and drift-wood in sharp contrast to its ancient gallantry.

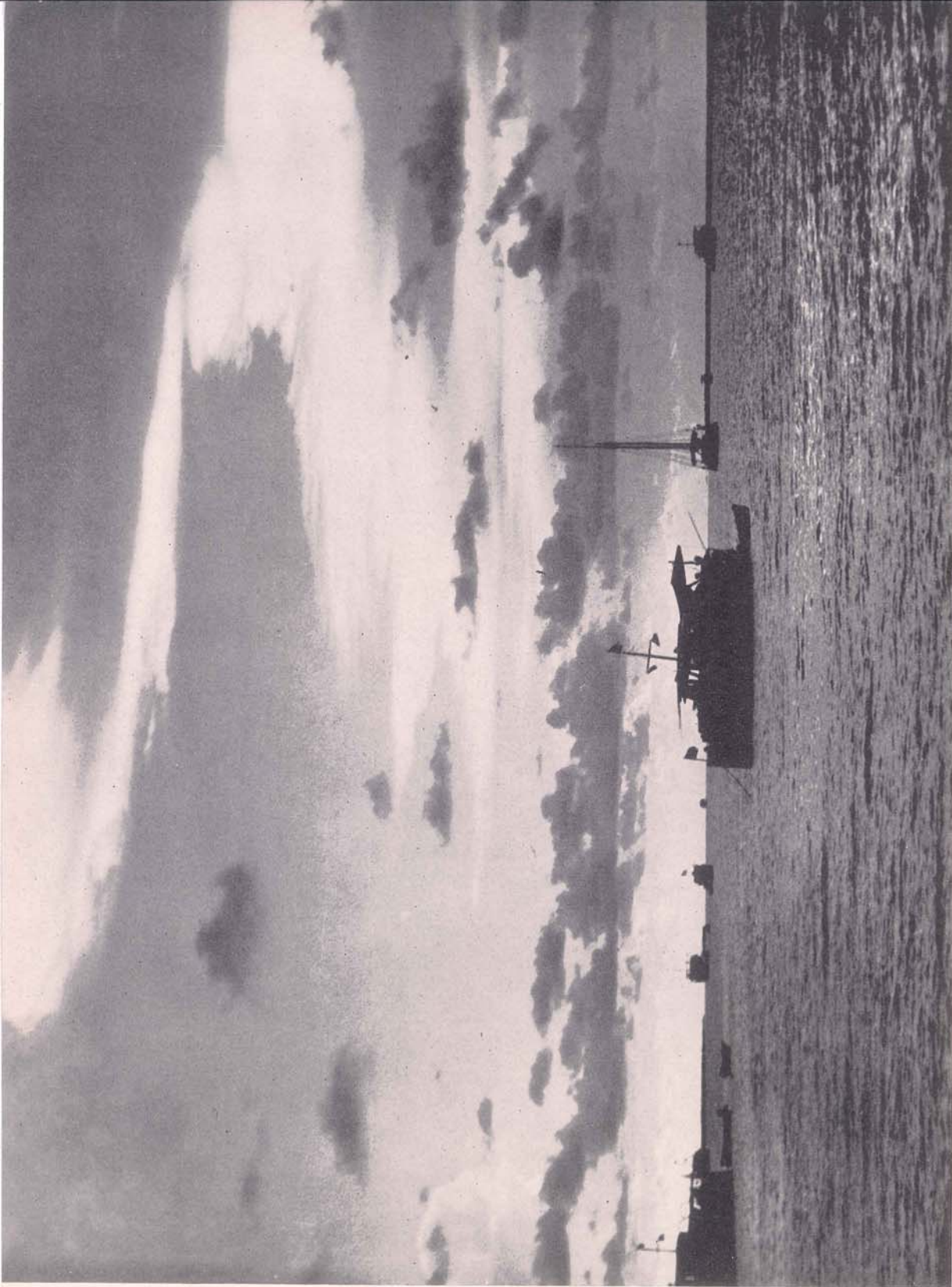
—Fonville Winans, Photo.



Two Jeffersonians gaze eastward over Big Muddy, dwarfed by the steel and concrete marvel of the Huey P. Long bridge, which spans the Mississippi River just above New Orleans, where since Bienville, men have said no bridge could possibly be built. Now a reality, and fast becoming a commonplace, this rail and vehicular bridge, completely in Jefferson Parish, stands as a monument to the imagination and sheer daring of American engineers.

—F. A. McDaniels, Photo.

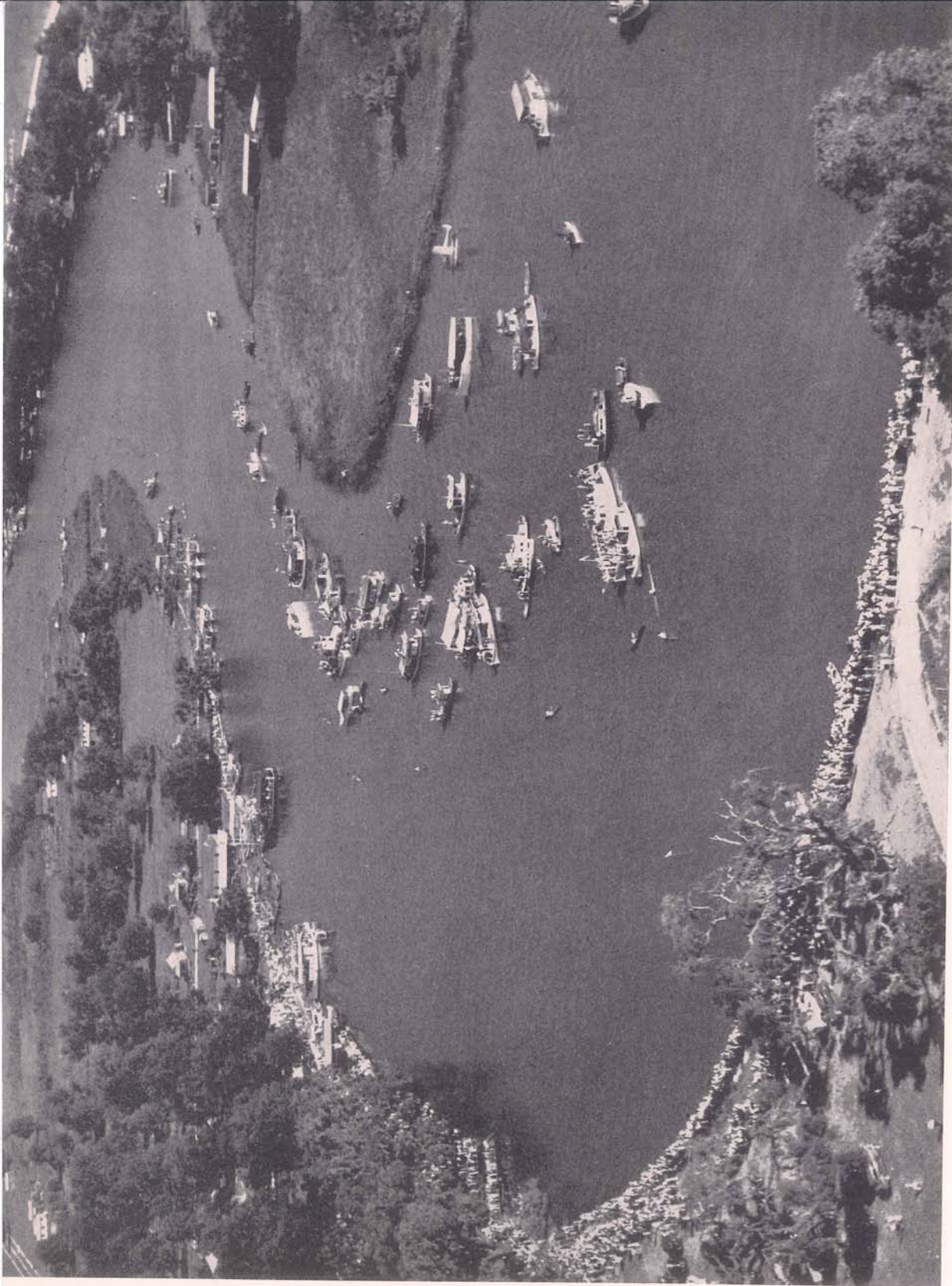
The tarpon fleet at anchor at Grand Isle. The annual tarpon rodeo, held at Grand Isle is one of the high spots of the anglers season, bringing together numbers of local and visiting sportsmen who thrill at the sight of a mighty Silver King "walking the water on his tail".



—Fonville Winans, Photo.

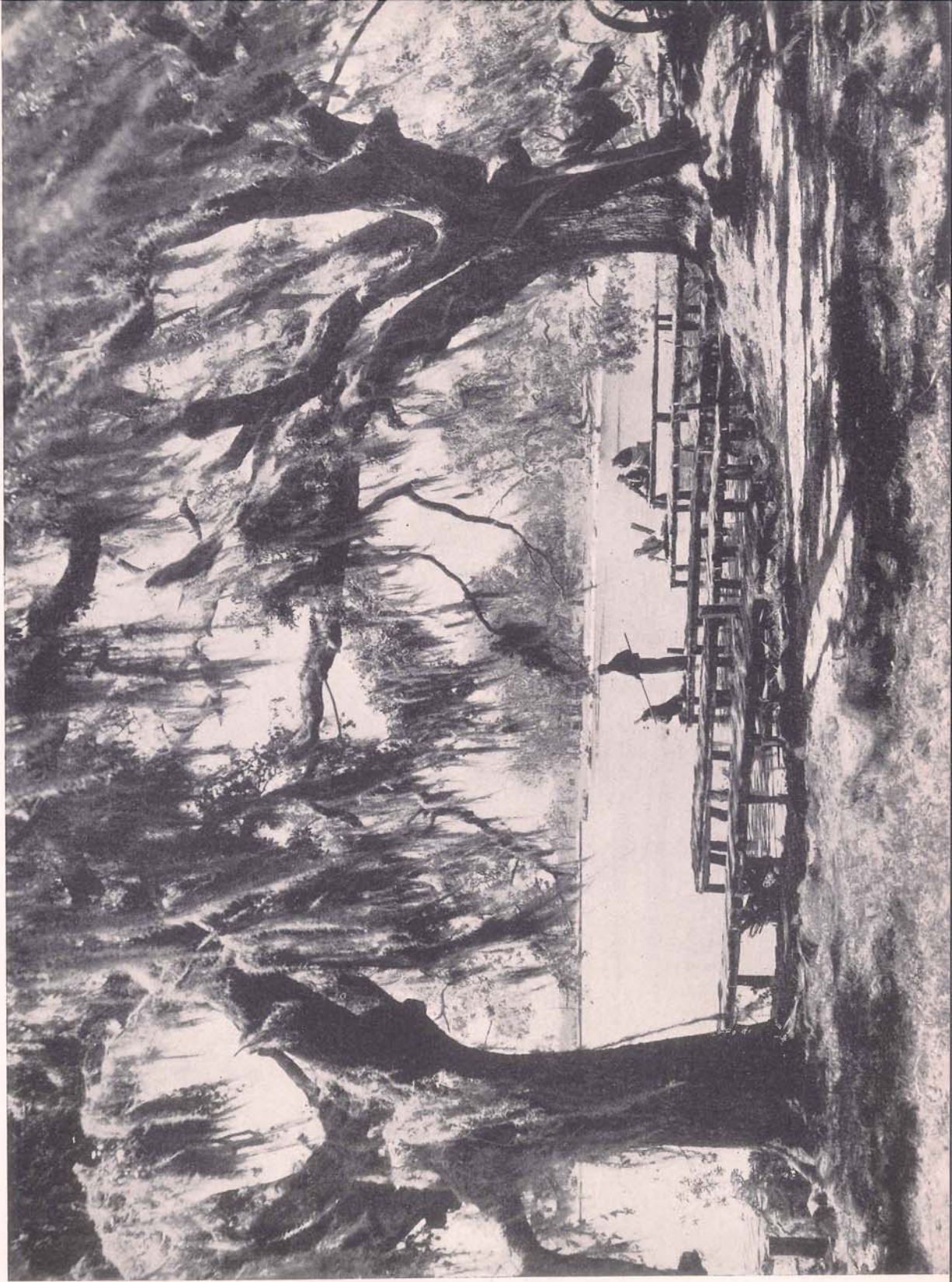


Big Bayou Barataria rip-
ples a tune against the
gunwales of a trapper's
piroque as the sun silhou-
ettes him on his homeward
way.



Sons of the bayous of Jefferson Parish churn the smooth waters of Big Bayou Barataria with flashing paddle blades as they drive slim proques along the course of the annual races. Cheers of families and friends shake the top leaves of live oaks on the bank as "win, place and show" near the finish line.

—Fonville Winans, Photo.



Big blue-clawed crabs abound throughout the waterways of Jefferson. In this picturesque setting at Berthoud's Cove, at the intersection of three bayous, Big Bayou Barataria, Little Bayou Barataria, and Bayou Villars, the late evening sun sees picnickers trying their luck at providing the main ingredient for tomorrow's gumbo.

Home-on-the-half-shell. An oyster shell island in Barataria Bay itself takes the shape of one of the shells of which it is "made".



—Fonville Winans, Photo.



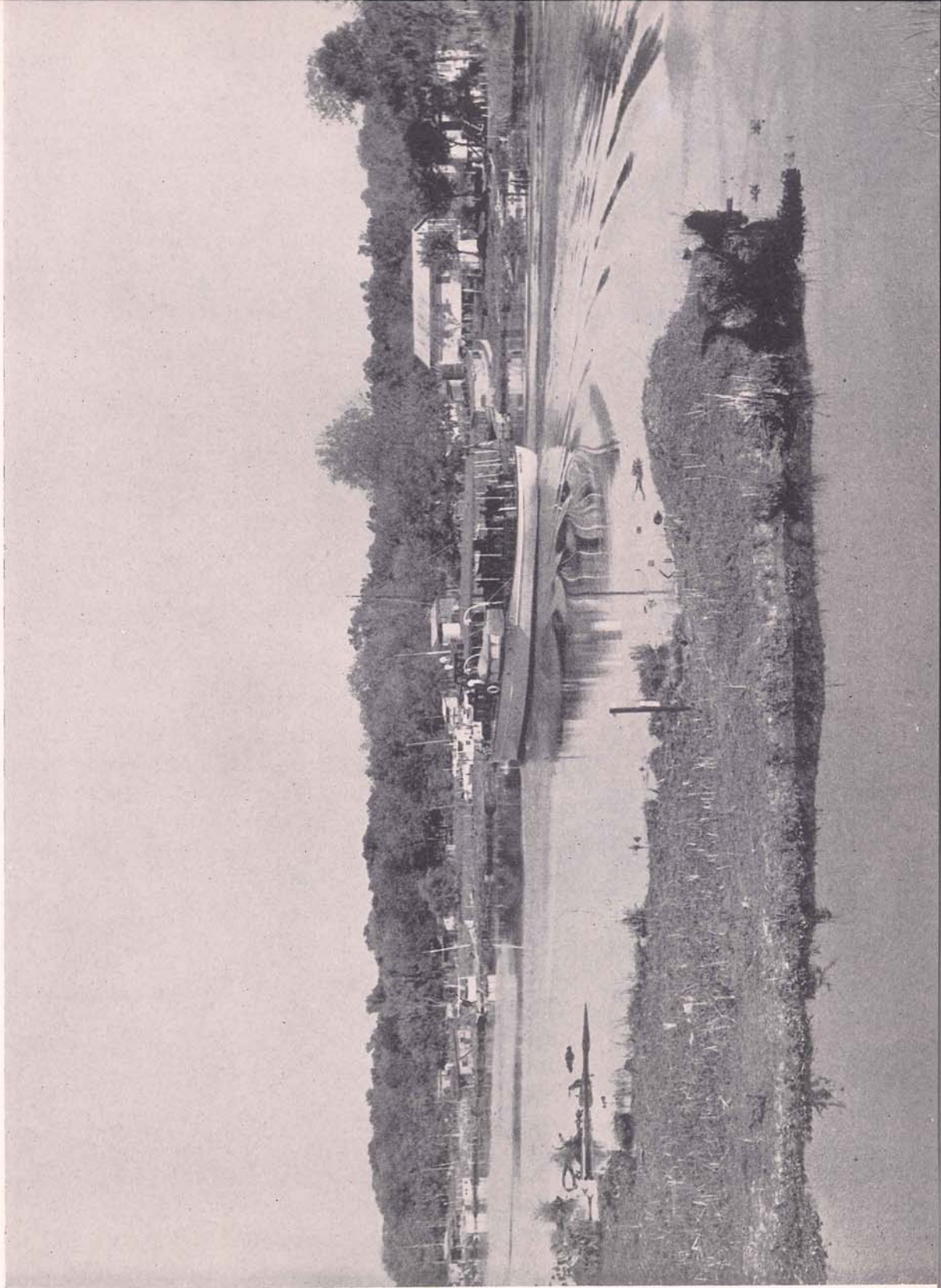
Bows-on to the tide, each of these three "skiffs" are loaded by oyster fishermen with one hundred and fifty sacks of oysters longed from the shallows of Barataria Bay. The oysters are culled in the skiffs. Small ones are dumped on the spot and the larger ones are rebedded in salt water areas where they are conditioned for market.

Trade winds of the Caribbees barber the trees of Jefferson's coast with a military hair cut. Day after day these winds blow from the same direction shaping the tree tops to their fantastic whims.



—Fonville Winans, Photo.

Inbound from a fishing trip out Grand Isle way, where they catch the fabulous "fish that got away", this pleasure craft makes its way in Little Bayou Barataria, near Wagner Bridge, en route Harvey and the Mississippi River.



Sail-ho! Sail boats, speed boats, fishing sloops, and pleasure craft of all descriptions are a part of the life of Jefferson Parish, which is bounded on the north by Lake Pontchartrain, and on the South by the Gulf of Mexico, with beautiful waterways thickly scattered in between. This group is all set for a day on the water, sailing from Grand Isle.



—L. L. Martin, Photo.

Not Brighton, and far from Coney, this is Grand Isle, where bathers leave their cars at the very water's edge on hard packed sands while they tussle with the booming surf.





Not a bathing beauty contest, just girls of Jefferson Parish smiling prettily for the cameraman on the beach at Grand Isle, Jefferson's Seaside Resort. P. S. They all really can swim.

L. L. Martin, Photo.



These Huckleberry Finns of Grand Isle usually know where the big ones are biting. Like most kids they can do more with a willow branch, a piece of string and a worm on a hook than you or I could with the latest in stream-lined tackle—and in half the time.

—L. L. Martin, Photo.



"Suffer the little children, and forbid them not to come to me: for the Kingdom of Heaven is for such." This statue of the Lord Jesus keeps kindly vigil over the work and play of the little ones who live in the beautiful setting of Madonna Manor.

F. A. McDaniels, Photo.



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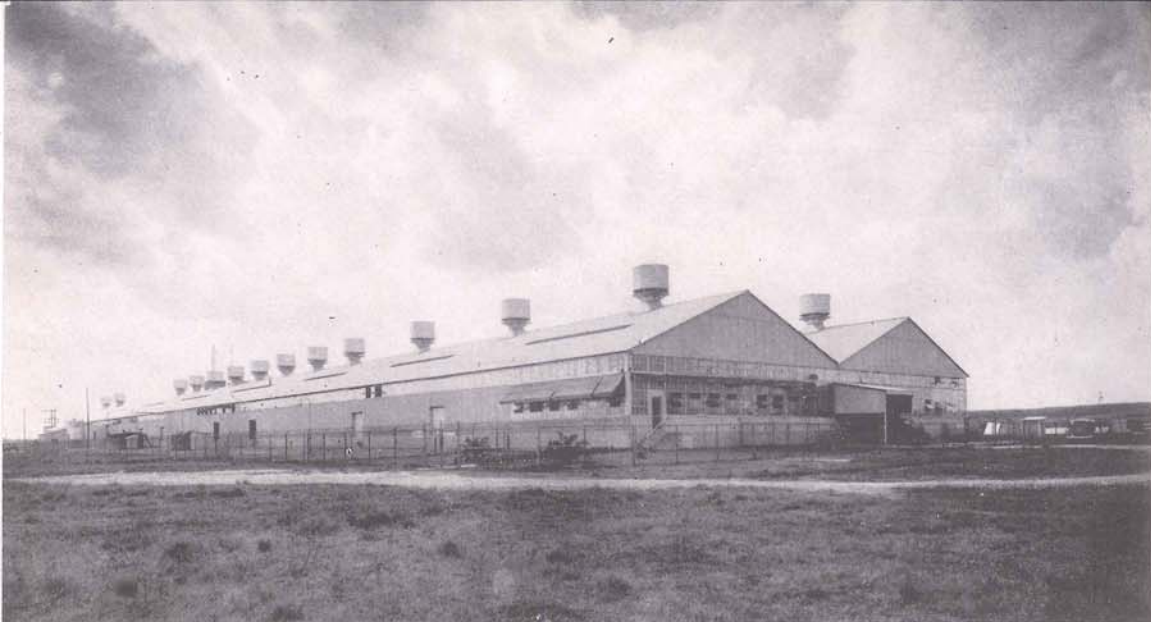
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Main manufacturing building of the Johns-Manville plant in Marrero. Over 800 feet long, this building is modern and thoroughly equipped to manufacture the building products produced in this area by the Johns-Manville Co.

INDUSTRY KEEPS PACE WITH JEFFERSON PROGRESS

JOHN M. TAYLOR

Regional Vice President, Johns-Manville Sales Corporation

Johns-Manville is a striking example of an industry growing with a community. Fifteen years ago the company leased a factory in Jefferson Parish. Five years ago, that particular factory building in Gretna became inadequate to meet the expanding needs of the area it served and is now a storage depot for the greatly increased output of the new and modern Johns-Manville plant in Marrero.

The site of the older plant in Gretna was not large enough for the proposed buildings, so sixty acres of land, with a 2,000 foot front on the river, were acquired in Marrero where the new plant now stands.

While this new plant spends in Marrero more than a million dollars each year for payrolls, supplies, freight, and marks another forward step in the progress of Jefferson Parish as well as Johns-Manville—there is still another important point to be considered.

It is significant that the new plant manufactures materials for the Building Industry. And since no company would erect a new plant unless the management was positive that it would be profitable, it is another and emphatic indication that this parish and the surrounding territory are soon due for an even more accelerated business and industrial upturn.

For a long, long time, Jefferson was handicapped by a lack of capital needed to develop its tremendous stores of natural resources, low cost power and adequate supplies of labor. It was most gratifying to me per-



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sonally when the J-M directors agreed that Jefferson Parish was the most satisfactory spot for the new factory, thus helping to overcome this handicap.

The plant in Marrero serves an area containing more than 18 per cent of the homes in this country. Moreover the South is growing industrially and as it grows, salaries, wages and standards of living will grow also, bringing a demand for more and better homes. And practically every economist agrees that filling this need for more housing, with its attendant increased employment, could very easily mean a business recovery of tremendous proportions. Strategically located in Jefferson Parish, this new Johns-Manville plant is prepared to serve and further this expansion throughout its territory and its parish.

By October, 1936, the modern equipment and machines had begun turning out over two hundred styles and colors of fireproof asbestos roofing and siding shingles, asphalt shingles, roll roofings, as well as roofing paints and putties.

The Marrero factory also warehouses and redistributes a number of new building materials produced in other J-M factories. These other products, decorative Asbestos Flexboard, Asbestos Wainscoting and Glazecoat Insulating Board come in large sheets for each application in new houses or remodeling old ones and qualify under FHA building and modernizing plans.

We all look forward to the time when demand in the South reaches the point where it will be necessary to install the equipment to turn them out here. As a matter of fact, J-M only last year dedicated another southern factory—located in Jarratt, Virginia—to manufacture Insulating Board products exclusively and it is the largest plant of its kind in the world.

At present the Marrero plant comprises a main manufacturing building eight hundred feet long, a boiler house, a paint plant, a pump house, a battery of silos for slate used in roofing and four 35-ton stills for heating and blending asphalts. A large new clubhouse also has been erected on the ground for employees.

Many of J-M's standard industrial building materials have been employed in the construction work of the various buildings. A steel frame-

Interior of plant, showing manufacture of J-M asphalt shingles. Thousand of Southern homes are roofed with this material.





H. G. Hill Stores Inc.

New Orleans, Louisiana



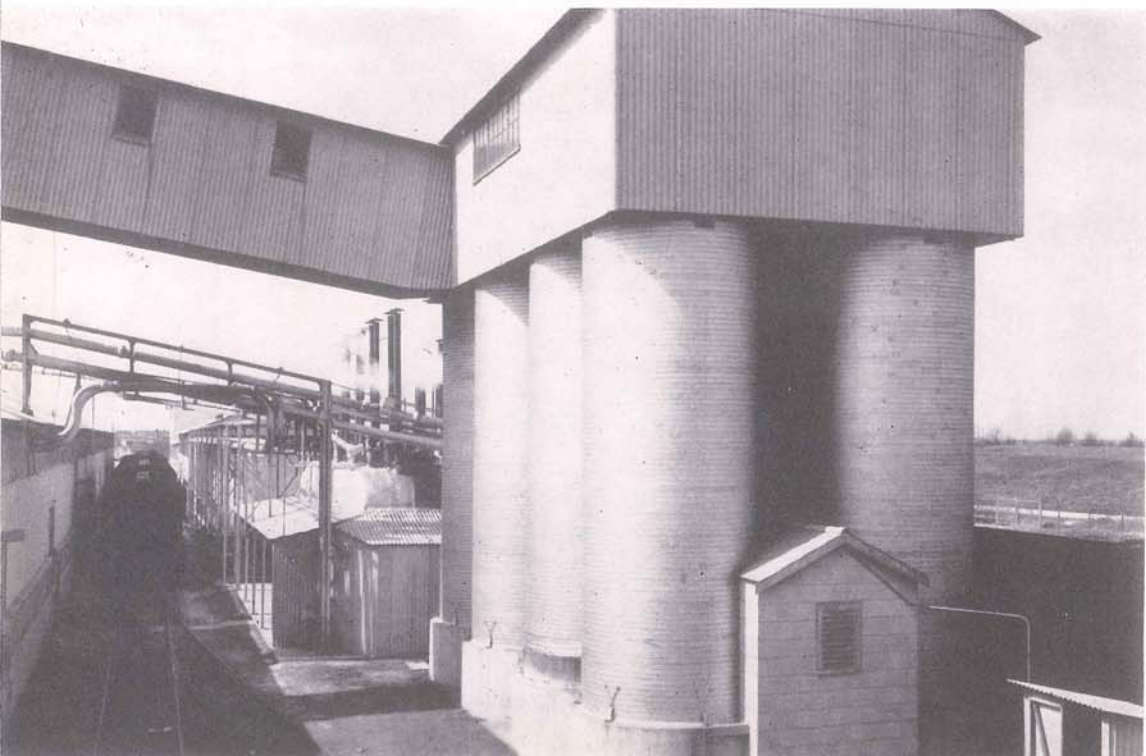
Five Stores In Jefferson Parish



Handling J-M products after packaging. Modern equipment such as this lift easily takes care of heavy handling and storage work.

work on the long manufacturing building is covered with Johns-Manville Corrugated Transite roofing and siding, an asbestos-cement sheet material widely used in industry because of its high resistance against weather-

Silos holding slate granules used in the manufacture of asphalt shingles. In the background are four 35-ton stills used to pre-heat and blend the asphalts used in certain roofing and shingles and felts.



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In neighboring Plaquemines Parish, millions of gallons of superheated water are pumped into the earth each week to extract a yellow mineral that not only links Louisiana to the industries of the world but aids actively in the state's own industrialization program.

This mineral is sulphur, mined by a unique process from deposits more than 1000 feet below the earth's surface. The hot water melts the solid sulphur in its underground stronghold, and compressed air pumps the mineral in molten form to the surface. Here, it cools and solidifies, to be broken later into lumps and shipped to consumers everywhere.

In one or another of its forms, this Louisiana sulphur takes part in the production or processing of thousands of products—from petroleum to paper, clothing to foods, tires to paints, cotton to chemicals, skyscrapers to stockings.

Through its widespread uses, sulphur helps bring many industries closer to the state. And, by providing a vital and economical raw material for Louisiana's own growing industries, it furthers the state's industrialization program seeking gains in productivity, commerce, employment and the general standard of living.

Freeport Sulphur Company

Port Sulphur

New Orleans

ing and corrosion. Transite, which does not require paint to preserve it, was also used to cover the other buildings.

Transite Pressure Pipe, another J-M asbestos-cement product, has been used for the heater distribution system. Incidentally, over ten miles of Transite Pipe, after it had passed many rigorous tests devised by the Fair management to insure safety and economy, was used by the New York World's Fair to distribute drinking water.

Throughout the concrete work J-M Steeltex Welded Wire Reinforcement has been used to protect the concrete slabs against progressive cracking due to sudden temperature changes, vibration or unusually heavy wear as well as against settlement.

The principal items of equipment in the Marrero plant are the large machines required to produce Asbestos and Asphalt shingles, and they represent an investment of more than \$150,000.

During 1939 orders were filled from the plant for more than fifty thousand tons of building material products, which provided employment for about 250 people, most of whom live in Jefferson Parish.

Of the more than a million dollars spent in Marrero each year, about a quarter of a million goes into payrolls of the employees who work a five day, forty hour week. The employees also participate in group life, health and accident insurance.

Although there are no unusually hazardous jobs in Marrero, J-M has always been conscious of the need for safety measures. A three-year safety program has been actively supported by the management and employees hold accident-prevention meetings each month to consider safety suggestions made by employees and to emphasize the importance of protective clothing such as goggles and even safety shoes where they are required. First aid rooms and sanitary wash rooms also have been provided for employees at strategic places throughout the plant.

No story about the Johns-Manville plant at Marrero could ever be complete unless it included some expression of thanks for the earnest, friendly, and whole-hearted assistance tendered by members of the Police Jury of Jefferson Parish. Building a new factory plant never will be a picnic and their thoughtful and most welcome aid helped enormously to overcome many difficult problems.

J-M clubhouse and recreation center, erected by the Johns-Manville Co. for use by its Marrero employees.



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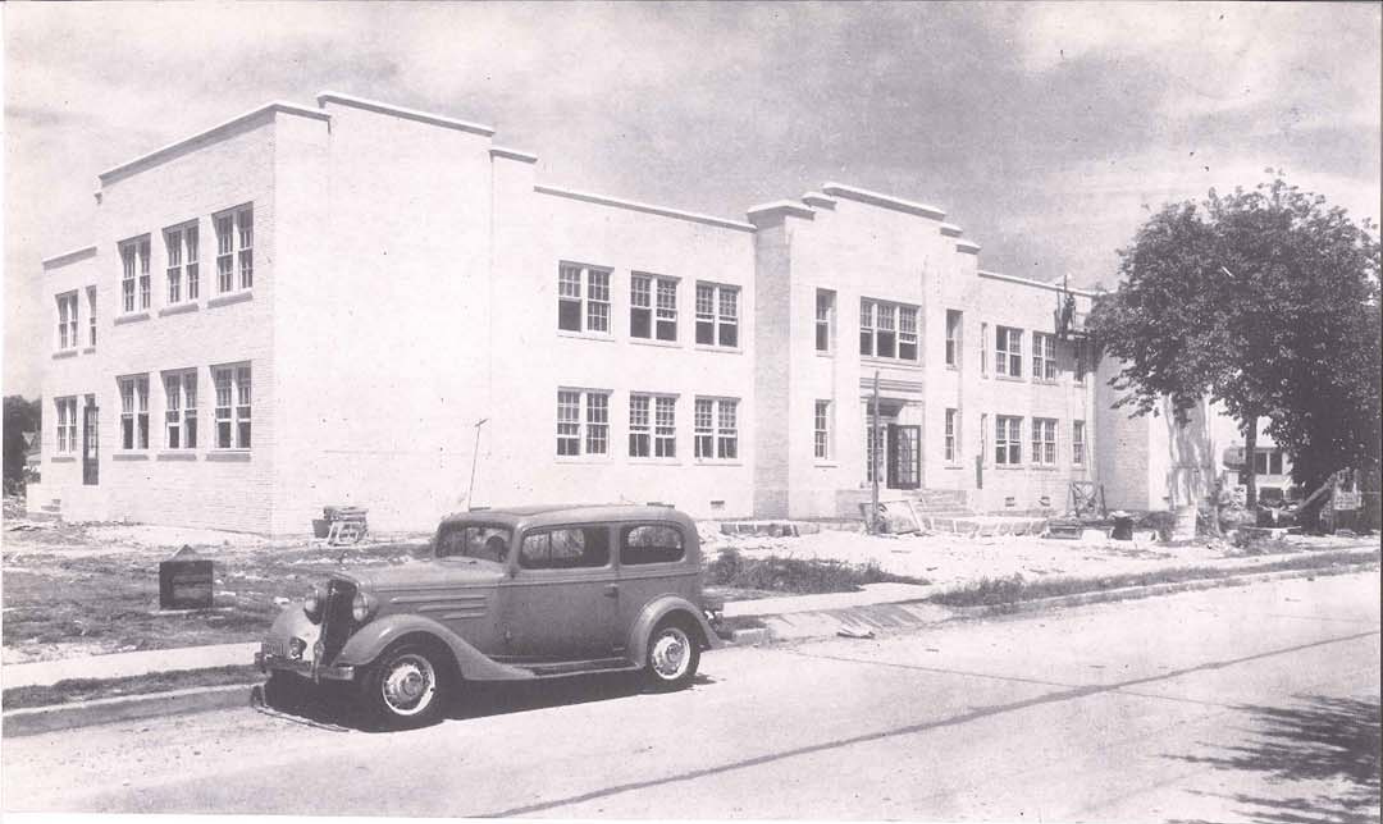
GEORGE P. RICE CONSULTING ENGINEER

NEW ORLEANS

S. V. Applewhite

George P. Rice

L. A. Staples



New Gretna Elementary School, located on Huey P. Long Ave. This building replaces the present school, located on the neutral ground, also on Huey P. Long Ave. Its full square of ground provides plenty of play space for pupils, and removes traffic hazards which menaced children in the old location.

EXPANSION IS KEYNOTE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

LEM HIGGINS, B. A., M. A.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

In Collaboration with Edward M. Comiskey

President of the School Board

If it were necessary to give a complete one word picture of the progress of the Jefferson Parish school system during this school year, it would only be necessary to employ the word "expansion". It is a well established fact that the policy of the Jefferson Parish School Board has been, since its incipency, one of perpetual progress. As soon as there is a need for new innovations, the Board has engendered methods for carrying them out.

By reason of the rapid growth in population on both sides of the river, and therefore, the increased school population, the already modern educational plant needed to be expanded. A bond issue of \$1,600,000 was put before the people of our parish, to be dedicated entirely to a building program. The thinking citizenry of Jefferson clearly saw the value of such an enterprise and the bond issue was readily accepted.

The Department of Administration took a census in order to determine

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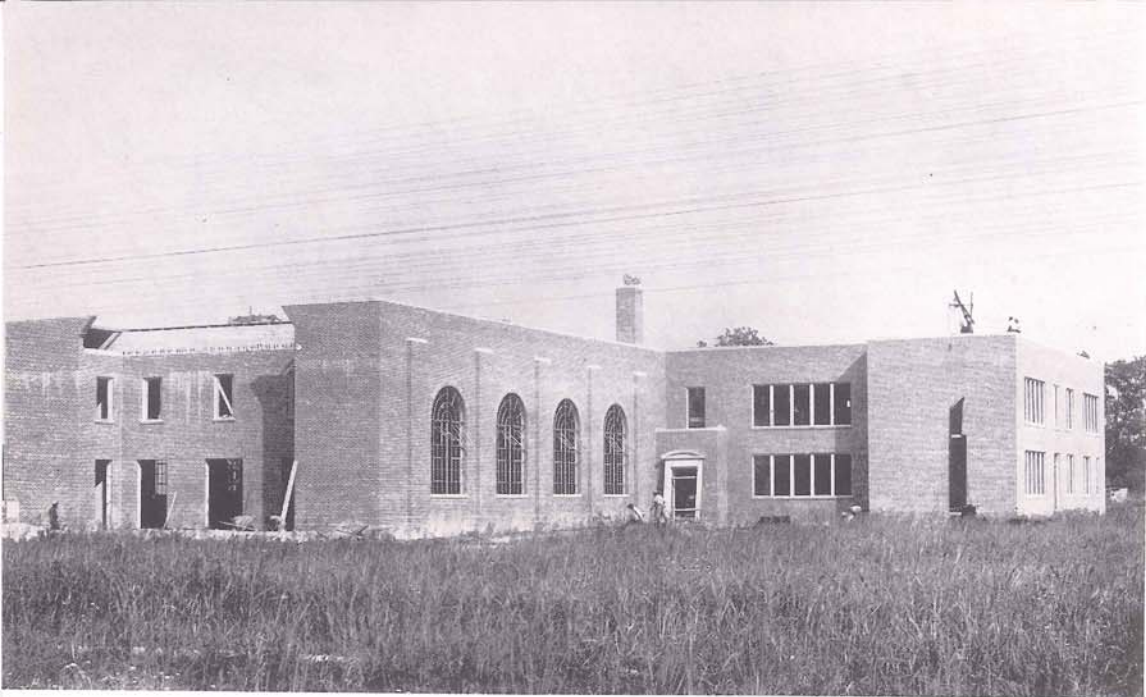


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J. C. Ellis High School, on Jefferson Highway, above Shrewsbury. Increased settlement and building in this part of the parish has made this new high school necessary.

the overcrowded centers in school population of the parish. In this way we were intelligently able to allocate the funds at our disposal.

At Metairie there is being constructed a new, modern grammar school facing the Metairie Road. The elementary students now attending the Metairie High school will be transferred to the new grammar school, thus increasing the facilities to be offered at the high school.

At East End a fine new grammar school of ten rooms is being built. This school will tend to relieve the congestion at Metairie as well as being a new center for children living in that area.

Suburban Acres will likewise be the proud possessor of a new fifteen room high school. The school will be called the J. C. Ellis High School in commemoration of the many years of service rendered the parish by Superintendent of Schools Ellis. This structure will be equipped with all modern conveniences including a Gym-Auditorium for extra-curricular activities.

On the West Bank, the City of Gretna has come in for its share of improvements. A new gymnasium has been added to the Gretna High School. The space formerly used by the old gym will be turned into class rooms thus increasing the capacity of the school. Likewise a new grammar school is being built there. In this way, a new center is created and the children will not have to go so far to get to school. At McDonogh 26 we are adding a recreation hall to facilitate the progress of athletics about which we shall speak later on.

At Marrero an ultra-modern educational plant is being constructed. This school will offer to our youth every conceivable opportunity for advancement. There will be a large cafeteria, gymnasium and auditorium. The Jefferson Parish School Board is contemplating the addition of an agricultural unit in the plant in order to train students in scientific farming.



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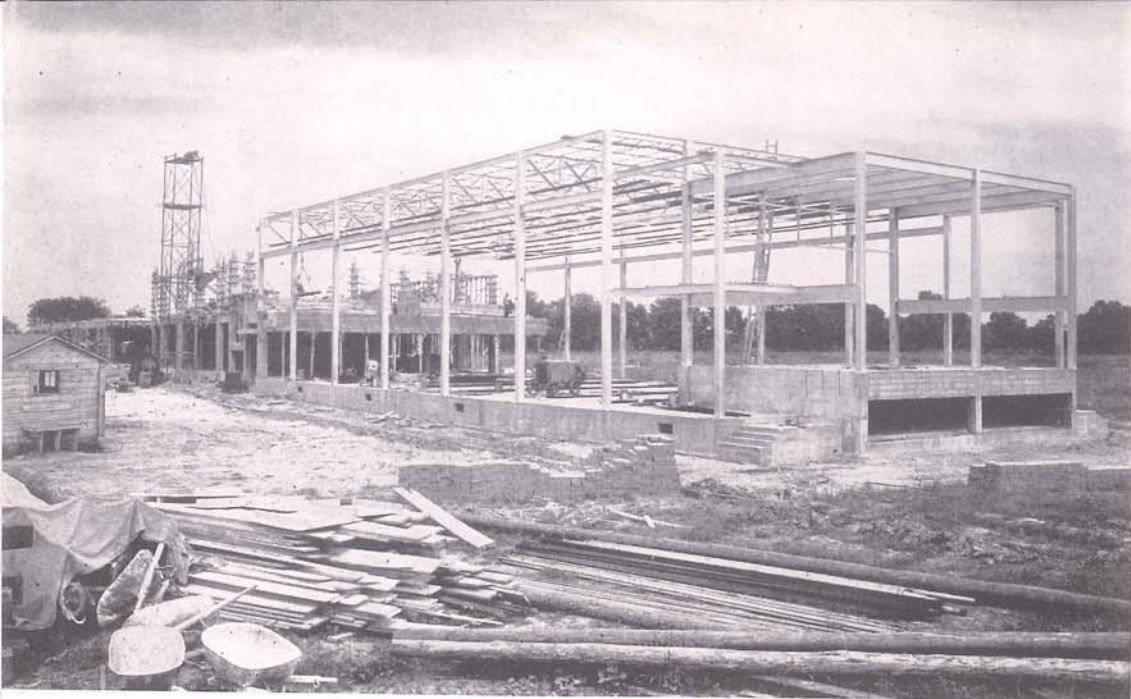
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A new, modern and thoroughly equipped building to replace the old Marrero High School. This building is designed to accomodate all school grades from kindergarten through four years of high school.

A new grammar school is being built at Westwego as well as a new gymnasium for the Westwego High school.

The south end of the parish has not been neglected. At Lafitte and at Barataria are two new elementary schools, modern in every respect. At Fleming's, the Fisher No. 1, has been replaced by a new edifice. Finally, at Grand Isle, a new grammar school is being built.

The building program has also been extended to the negro schools. We are building an annex to the colored school at McDonoghville. At Gretna a

Westwego elementary school. Increasing numbers of pupils have made this building necessary to provide space for elementary classes, thus relieving congestion in the Westwego High School. Formerly all classes were held in the latter building, which will now be used for seventh grade and high school classes.





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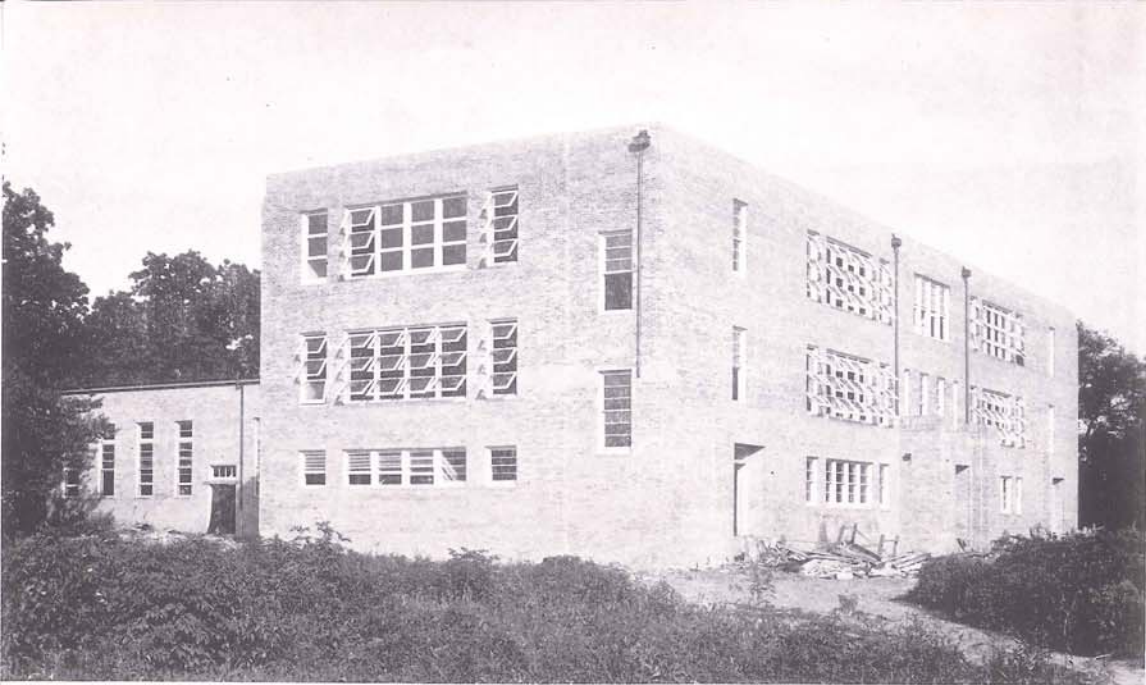
CONCRETE PIPE—CONCRETE CURB

CONCRETE SEPTIC TANKS

CONCRETE PRODUCTS CO.

Claiborne Highway and Brooklyn Avenue

JEFFERSON PARISH



Metairie Elementary School. At the present time, elementary classes are held in the Metairie High School. By removing most of these classes to this new and modern building, Metairie High School will have an imperatively needed increased space.

new consolidated school is being constructed. Westwego is getting a new colored grammar school and Kenner a consolidated high school. The southern part of the parish has Crown Point colored.

Before the present bond issue, the educational facilities of Jefferson Parish were valued at approximately \$1,400,000. With the present additions the School Board will have a \$3,000,000 plant to supervise.

The teaching corps consists of 285 white and 70 colored instructors.

The Parish has a system of school transportation which equals the best in the state of Louisiana. Large, comfortable, steel-bodied buses carry the children from their homes to school and back again.

New Bonnabel School at East End, which replaces outdated former school building.





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New school for negroes in Kenner, replacing the old building which was no longer adequate for the education of Kenner's colored children.

The educational policy of the Administration has always been a balanced one. In addition to the all important core-curricular we have deemed it necessary to further the fine arts. There are musical instructors for all the high schools. Here a talented student may pursue his love for music to his heart's content. Likewise in the elementary schools vocal and instrumental training is offered.

A new course, begun this year in the high schools, is journalism. With this training a student can secure a position with some newspaper after graduation if he so desires.

Adult education is carried on throughout the parish under the direction of the WPA. This year the WPA has taken over the task of educating aliens for American citizenship.

Physical education has by no means been neglected. The old Greek maxim, transliterated into Latin, 'Mens sana in corpore sano' can truly be applied to our athletic department. The boys participate in football, basketball, baseball and track while the girls play basketball, volleyball, baseball and track.

The Riverside League, a class B prep sports league, has been formed to further junior sports. Members of the league include schools in the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans and St. Tammany. Because of his interest in these activities, Mr. Comiskey, president of the Jefferson Parish School Board, was named to head the league and it has materially added to the development of interest in sports in the three parishes.

The Administration Department looks with pardonable pride on the accomplishments of the past year. We feel that education in Jefferson equals if not excels that of the other parishes in Louisiana. We consider, however, that much yet remains to be done, and we pledge ourselves to its accomplishment.