



Workmen dig the trench to bury the 9 multiple telephone cable duct system on Gretna Blvd. from the Belle Chasse Hwy. to Manhattan Blvd. in Harvey, La. This duct system will contain large telephone cables to serve new residential subdivisions and an expanding industrial area.

interested ladies of the parish.

While telephone equipment is vital to furnishing efficient telephone service, there is a pressing need to obtain a large number of new employees.

Parish growth can be measured by the population increase from 156,300 in 1955 to 266,900 in 1965. Telephone growth has, in proportion, exceeded this increase. Just ten years ago, in 1955 there were some 44,000 telephones in service but by the end of 1965 the number increased more than 300 percent with a total of 125,000.

The recently completed transcontinental "Hardened Cable" with underground switching centers and repeater stations, separated routes, diversified circuit routings and diversified facilities helps to insure that the Bell System can fulfill its primary mission—to provide dependable telephone service.

In addition to furnishing telephone service, Bell pays its way as a corporate citizen having paid \$1,101,260 in ad valorem taxes for 1965. This amount is used to help pay for schools, police protection, sanitation and fire protection in the parish.

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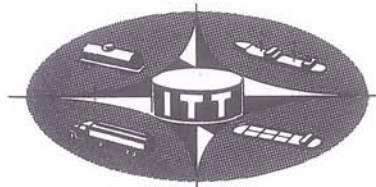
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The Clerk of Court



Above: Clerk of Court William M. Justice, Jr. directs the activities of over 110 highly skilled men and women who offer the public efficient, courteous service. Right: Jefferson Parish has 344 voting machines, 140 on the West Bank, 204 on the East Bank. These are kept in a warehouse and carefully maintained, under the direction of the Clerk of Court, to serve Jefferson's 101,919 voters on election days.

One of the oldest, busiest, most important branches of parish government is the Clerk of Court's office, headed by William M. "Bill" Justice, Jr., and a staff of highly trained workers.

Dating back to 1845, this office is unique because it receives no tax revenues, operating entirely on fees received for its services.

It has doubled in size in the past 10 years and now occupies two complete floors and a portion of two more in the West Bank Courthouse plus two East Bank offices, in the East Bank office building and at the First Parish Court building.

Duties and responsibilities include:

- Recording, classifying and filing of various notarial acts and cancelling of mortgages and liens.
- Microfilming of all civil records, notarial acts, mortgages and conveyances.
- Filing of suits and successions.
- Selection of Grand Jury and petit jury involving about 2000 prospective jurors annually.
- Providing administrative services for twelve judges including keeping of alimony and juvenile records, filing evidence of criminal and civil suits and assigning minute clerks.
- Supervising absentee voting, gathering and compiling of unofficial voting returns, warehousing and distribution of voting machines and instruction of poll commissioners.
- Issuing marriage licenses.

On the fourth floor of the West Bank Courthouse is the office of Clerk of Court William M. "Bill" Justice, Jr., who considers his employees the "best public servants I have ever known". He insists that his staff render fast, friendly, efficient service.

A tour of the operating sections of the Clerk of Court's office, begins on the fourth floor where all judicial matters are processed, including the selection of juries.

Here suits and successions are

filed, processed and allotted to a judge. Jefferson will have three additional judges in 1967 bringing the total to 12 including two ad hoc jurists. The Clerk of Court's office selects and assigns minute clerks to serve in all courts.

In one section of the fourth floor, evidence of civil suits is micro-filmed, then filed in locked vaults until the cases are tried. A separate section is devoted to keeping of criminal records, which in-

clude misdemeanor and traffic violations.

An intermittent but highly important job is supervision of absentee voting. This starts 20 days before and ends seven days prior to primaries and general elections. Extra office hours are maintained on Saturday mornings at three locations for the convenience of voters.

Other pre-election duties include checking voting machines for accurate ballot information, arrang-



The Clerk of Court



Chattel mortgages must be recorded and indexed in huge canvas-bound ledgers.



Clerk of Court "Bill" Justice checks microfilm master reels of subdivision maps. Original Grand Isle maps, lost in Hurricane Betsy, were replaced from "masters" on file.



Key-punch operators at work in Mortgages and Conveyances section.



Judicial unit on fourth floor has separate key-punch operators.



Arthur Acosta operates printer-reader machine which can reproduce subdivision maps up to 18 by 24 inch size from microfilm masters. Mortgage cancellations are processed on third floor.



Data processing clerks on third floor check IBM cards against master list.

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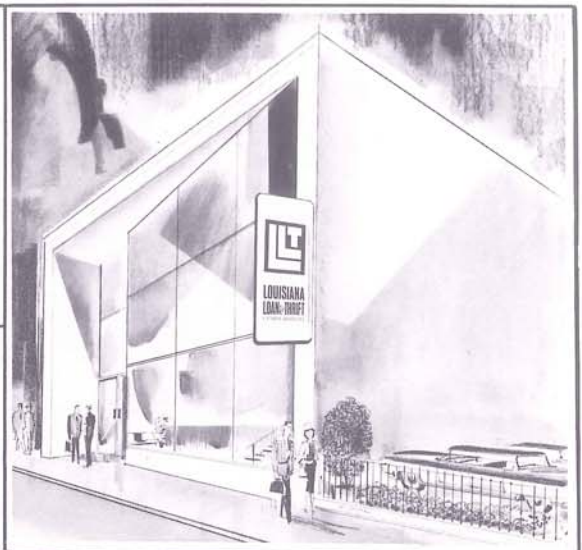
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ing for trucking them to the polls and instruction classes for poll commissioners.

But this is only a quiet prelude to the hectic election night job of tabulating "votes cast" sheets, representing unofficial precinct totals brought in by poll commissioners from 143 precincts.

With the candidates, the press and broadcast media eagerly awaiting the results, clerk of court employees do a highly professional job under pressure of compiling the "unofficial returns". In general elections, it takes a crew of 30 or more to do the job.

Next day, arrangements must be made to truck voting machines to the warehouses. One tally sheet remains in the machines which are locked on election night and officially opened three days later by the Clerk of Court. These are checked against official tally sheets for accuracy prior to official promulgation of returns by the clerk of council.

Grand Juries are selected every six months, a panel of 12 chosen in open court from 35 eligibles. Service on the grand jury is an important civic duty and careful

selection from the limited number of eligible citizens is necessary. Petit jurors are drawn as needed for criminal and civil courts from the registered voters list. With the additional courts, about 2500 jurors will be asked to serve next year. Per diem pay is \$12 for grand jury and \$8 for petit jury service.

The third floor of the Clerk of Court's Office is devoted exclusively to non-judicial matters. Here all the filing and recording of documents is handled.

In the mortgage and conveyance records room, conversion to data processing began this year. This is a giant step forward in streamlining the work of this important section. Eventually all mortgages will be grouped together by mortgagor, listed alphabetically by name on IBM cards and fed into a computer to provide instant service.

The recording and filing of notarial acts includes mortgages, mineral leases, charters, trade names, subdivision maps, federal and state tax liens, judgments, successions, adoptions, sheriff's auctions and tax sales, agreements to buy and

sell, utility liens, cash sales, quit claims and process verbal. Mortgage cancellations are also processed here.

Marriage licenses are issued here and, by contrast, alimony decisions dating back 100 years are kept on file.

The third floor houses the nation's largest collection of subdivision maps, invaluable in settling property disputes.

By-passing the fifth floor mimeographing and storage area, we go to the eighth floor juvenile court room where alimony payments, juvenile records and adoptions are processed.

On the East Bank, the clerk of court maintains an office which serves as an information center, handles absentee voting, and issues marriage licenses.

Absentee voting is also held at the First Parish Court building, 3027 Ridgelake Drive, Metairie. The first Parish Court handles traffic violations, misdemeanors and small claims not exceeding \$100.

Early next year, a similar court to be opened on the West Bank will serve as the Second Parish Court.



Top Left: Processing "minutes" of the First Parish Court is MRS. LIZ CLEMENTS (at left) while MRS. CRYSTAL ANDERSON prepares listings for micro-filming.

Top Right: Deputies CHARLES O'NEILL and EARL DANNER (l to r) with BILL JUSTICE and J. J. "FRENCHY" FERRAN, JUDGE GRACIANETTE'S minutes clerk, hold bills of information as they prepare the criminal docket.

Left: Index clerk WILLIAM FANGUY and Criminal Division Assistant MRS. CYNTHIA DRUFNER take a "picture break" in the First Parish Court Office.

The Coroner's Office

Dr. Charles B. Odom, who has been Coroner of Jefferson Parish for the past ten years, was the most decorated medical officer in the U. S. Army during World War II. He served 4½ years and was Chief Surgeon of General George S. Patton's Third Army. When the war ended in Europe he was assigned to Brooke General Hospital at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, as Chief of Surgery. He returned to Jefferson Parish in 1946 and has since conducted busy surgical practice. Dr. Odom is a member of the La. State Board of Medical Examiners, and was recently elected President of the La. State Medical Society.

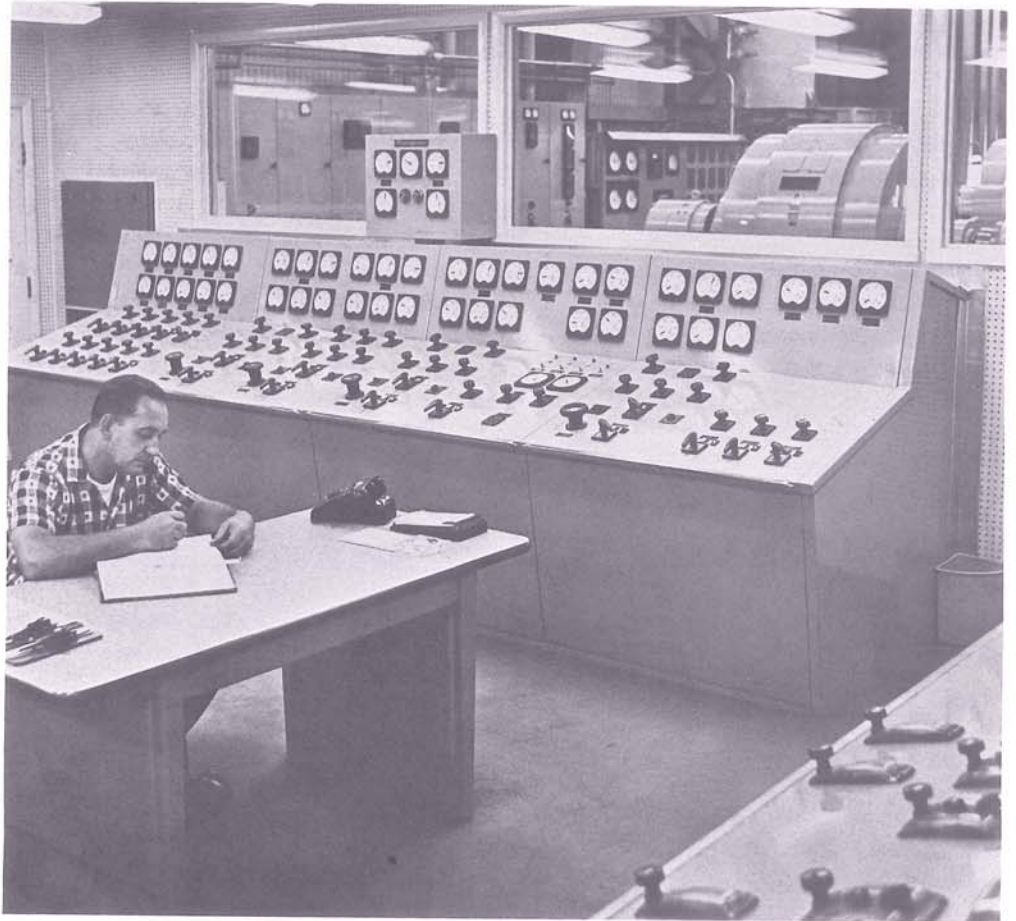
Jefferson Parish leads the state in services furnished by the Coroner's Office; not only does this office furnish all of the usual services of the Coroner's Office comparable to many of the larger cities of the country, including New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, but in addition a twenty-four hour, seven day a week Emergency Ambulance service gives all areas of this widespread parish emergency coverage with modern equipment and personnel specially trained in this field.

Each year since the inception of this service the number of cases handled has increased due primarily to the rapid population increase in Jefferson Parish. The rapid handling of all emergency cases has been facilitated by excellent liaison and cooperation between the State Police, Sheriff's Department, and officials of the Municipalities of the Parish with the personnel of the Coroner's Office.

Dr. Odom's staff consists of two assistant coroners, a pathologist, an executive assistant, a secretary, an investigator, a morgue clerk and 10 ambulance drivers. The executive assistant is also chief investigator and photographer and one of the ambulance drivers doubles as a junior investigator.

The office maintains 'round-the-clock ambulance service with four radio-equipped vehicles serving the East bank, West bank, Grand Isle and Lafitte. The ambulances carry resuscitators, oxygen, splints and complete first aid supplies.

In March of 1965 all of the personnel of the Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office were included under Civil Service through the efforts of Dr. Odom.



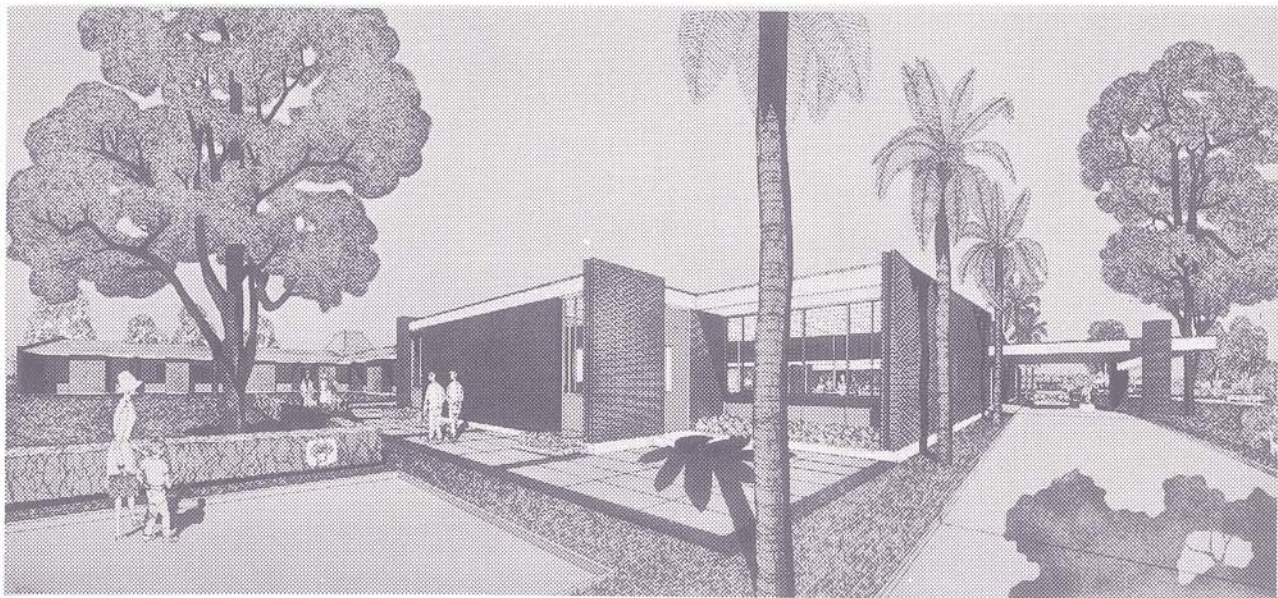
Structure on far right of adjoining photo houses this heavily automated console room where operator maintains fingertip control over machinery.



Freeport Sulphur Company's man-made steel island off-shore mine is shown in this pre-hurricane aerial view. Although heavily damaged when the eye of Hurricane Betsy passed over it, the \$35 million structure off Grand Isle was quickly repaired and put back into production.

GROWING WITH ...

Jefferson Parish



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HERE IS the first of a number of new facilities throughout Southeast Louisiana to be known as Morrison Convalescent and Nursing Homes. Location of this first home, a 100-bed facility to cost in excess of \$500,000, will be Baratavia Blvd., near Ames Blvd., on the Westbank of the Mississippi River in Marrero, Jefferson Parish, La.

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Dawn On The Harvey Canal

(Reprinted from NEW ORLEANS Magazine,
November 1966 issue)

There is about the Harvey Canal in the hours just before sunrise a ghostly quality. Like any other small stream, it is dormant and still. Except for the red lights on the oil rigs and dredging derricks, which look like skeletons in the first magenta light of dawn, it appears abandoned. Then as the sun rises, a sprawling industrial complex unfolds. The first tugs begin to move about and the illusion ends. By eight a.m. the Harvey Canal is one of the busiest bodies of water in the state.

The Canal runs from the Mississippi River's West Bank south and slightly west to Bayou Barataria, there connecting with the Intracoastal Waterway, linking the river to ports and inland cities from Galveston to the northeast United States. On a map it does not look like much: seven miles of stream barely fifty yards wide with dams and locks on the Mississippi end. But since 1936, when the oil boom began in southern Louisiana, the Harvey Canal has been growing in importance as an industrial complex. By the early fifties, sixty-two companies were located along its banks and by the sixties, some ten thousand people were employed by the companies located on the canal, turning an annual payroll in excess of \$25 million moving nearly twenty million tons of freight up and down its short span to the industrial centers of the country.

The industries located on its shores read like a *Who's Who* of American Commerce and are worth in the hundreds of millions: Avondale Shipyards, largest manufacturer of ships in the south; Evans Cooperage, maker of oil drums on a grand scale; Ayers Materials Company, Inc., movers of sand and gravel; J. Ray McDermott, oil field contractors; H. C. Price, piping magnate. Shoehorned in among the plants, which stand shoulder-to-shoulder along the canal are half a dozen parking strips for seaplanes, which connect the businesses of the canal to home offices and clients all over the south.

The Harvey Canal was not always this busy. Its history is a penny thriller, an historical novel spiced with romance and legend, adventure and tragedy, that goes back to 1720 when Louisiana was still a French territory.

In that year, Jean Baptiste d'Estrehan des Tours, royal treasurer and comptroller of a small empire south of New Orleans, began construction of a drainage ditch from the Mississippi River to the bayou. He used German laborers from the nearby village of Mechanickham (now Gretna) because it was cheaper than slave labor (a slave cost money, a white man did not). By the time the canal was finished, its use had already transcended a mere drainage ditch—it became the easiest and most heavily commercialized route from the Mississippi south to the agricultural lands of southern Louisiana. The canal remained in the family for two centuries and contributed handsomely to the family fortune, which was once one of the more formidable in the state.

The d'Estrehans were not without the family eccentricities. The last of the d'Estrehan males, Nicholas Noel, built a minor Taj Mahal along the canal, a lavish mansion for his wife. Unfortunately the project stretched out over several years, and she died just as it was completed. D'Estrehan, with proper Shelleyian sentiment, promptly boarded the mansion up. It was never lived in and collapsed in disrepair years later.

Captain Joseph Hale Harvey entered the picture shortly thereafter, a peripatetic bon vivant and man of the sea.

A marriage was arranged between d'Estrehan's sixteen-year-old daughter Louise and the iron-willed sea captain. Nicholas d'Estrehan, in his own unique manner, informed his daughter of the nuptial arrangements by sending her a wedding dress and a note containing the gentleman's name. She obediently marched down the aisle with the sea captain. Harvey was more than just another sea captain. Ambitious and intelligent, he had a legendary sense of humor and once, when challenged to a duel, chose harpoons as the weapons. The duel was never fought. When d'Estrehan died, the canal went to Louise, and her husband quickly renamed it the Harvey Canal.

Harvey established some precedents for living in the grand style. Picking up a leaf from his father-in-law's

notebook, he also built a mansion for his wife along the canal, an unprecedented home three stories high, known as "Harvey's Castle." As part of the cultural attraction of the place, Harvey included a sculpture garden with statues purchased from all over the world. On occasions he opened the gardens to his nine children, but he draped the statues with Mother Hubbards before the children were permitted in.

But if the free-wheeling Harvey may have seemed rather a sport on the surface he was also an ingenious businessman. It was Harvey who conceived the idea to enlarge the canal and construct locks and dams along its length. Then he became involved in a running battle with the public that lasted for years. Many people feared such a canal would open the lowlands to flooding from the Mississippi. Harvey finally got legislative permission to build the dams, but the work was interrupted by the Civil War, and Harvey died before it was completed, leaving his widow deeply in debt. Louise Harvey, in traditional Scarlet O'Hara fashion, plunged into the business world at the age of seventy-six, directed the completion of the dam, put the family fortune back in the black, and then died. The canal was quickly taken over by another Harvey—Horace Hale Harvey—who, like his father, was a bon vivant and a seaman. It was the junior Harvey who actually promoted the canal as a means of cheap transportation to the Gulf of Mexico and thence to the Atlantic Ocean. By 1925, the federal government, realizing its potential as a connector to the projected Intracoastal Waterway system, purchased it and has been chiefly responsible for its development since then.

As for "Harvey's Castle," the last remaining monument to the d'Estrehan and Harvey heritage, it has been lost to posterity—a sad comment on days gone past. Through the years it was degraded gradually from a pleasure resort, to a flamboyant house of ill repute, and finally to a tumbling-down tenement. Today it is lost among the industrial giants which have pushed the commercial value of the canal far beyond the wildest dreams of the man whose name it bears.

The Assessor's Office



Busy at his desk in the Gretna Courthouse is Lawrence A. Chehardy, Assessor of Jefferson Parish. With the tremendous population increase in Jefferson, hundreds of sub-divisions developed (such as Willowdale, pictured at the right) almost overnight. This housing-property boom required a complete moderization of the assessor's office and vigorous leadership is now the number one requirement in this most responsible position.

The tremendous progress in our area requires public officials and their staffs to anticipate the taxpayers' increasing needs for service. For this reason, the Assessor is constantly on the lookout for new methods that may insure accuracy, fairness, and efficiency. Under Mr. Lawrence A. Chehardy's astute supervision, his office executes some 22,000 transfers and processes over 115,000 listings of property on the Jefferson Parish rolls. The types of rolls prepared include the following:

- (1) **THE REGULAR ROLL**—an alphabetical listing of ownerships, property descriptions, and assessments on ordinary taxable property.
- (2) **THE INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL ROLL**—a similar listing as above for corporations, businesses, and industries including the assessed value on merchandise and equipment, and furniture and fixtures.
- (3) **THE EXEMPT ROLL**—a listing of properties owned by religious, government and other non-profit agencies.
- (4) **THE PUBLIC SERVICE ROLL**—a listing of utilities, public conveyances, etc.
- (5) **THE OFFSHORE ROLL**—a listing of offshore oil rigs, etc., located in the Gulf of Mexico.

One of the most important services rendered by the Assessor's office is the filing of homestead exemptions. This office mails some 65,000 homestead exemption applications printed on IBM cards. The homeowners have only to sign these cards and return them to

the Assessor's office. After his first application, the homeowner need not appear in person. Anyone who owns and occupies a home in Jefferson Parish is entitled to a \$2000 Homestead Exemption on his assessment. Veterans enjoy a \$5000 exemption; that is, an additional \$3000 over and above the ordinary homeowner.

The Assessor's lot and block system is a record of all property according to Ward, Subdivision, Square Number, and Lot Number. This method provides for the determination of ownership by legal description alone.

The map department in the Assessor's office is of utmost importance to the proper assessment of property. Copies of Parish ordinances and re-subdivisions are kept on file, as well as re-subdivision plans and surveys

received from the various municipalities within the Parish. A recent addition to the map department is a tobin map showing aerial locations of photo mosaics and ownership overlays (used primarily for undeveloped acreage).

An act of sale recorded in the Clerk of Courts office is processed through the Assessor's office within 5 days after recordation, and then follows an abstracting system which transfers property into the new owner's name when a property is sold so that the new owner receives a bill at the end of the year; thereby eliminating the possibility of putting his property up for tax sale.

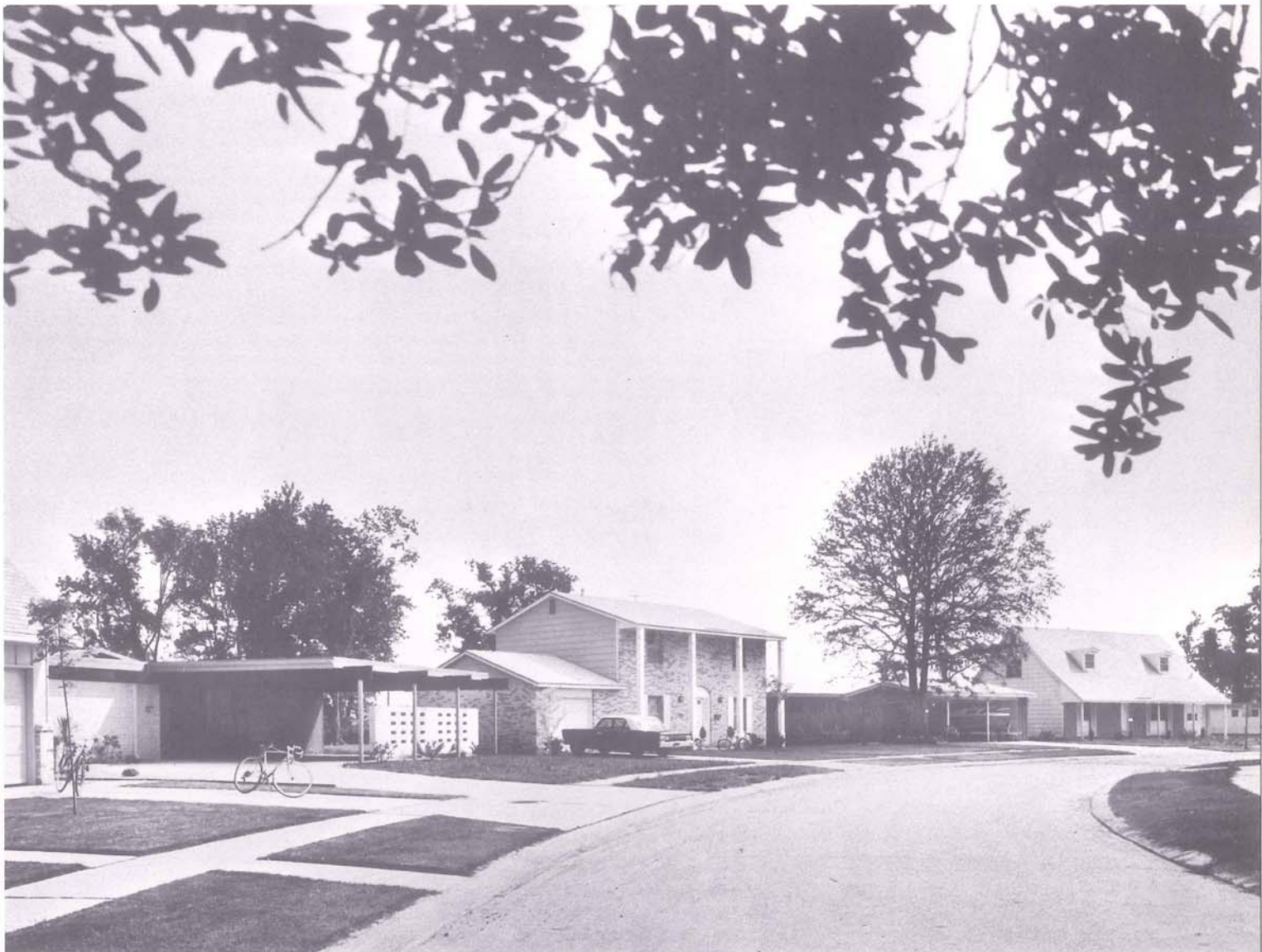
In keeping with his belief that the data processing equipment and its records should be available to other parish and municipal offices without charge, Mr.

Chehardy has introduced this year the following innovations:

- (1) Preparation of tax notices for the Sheriff's office
- (2) Preparation of tax notices for all municipalities
- (3) Preparation of listings for bond elections for the Parish
- (4) Preparation of listings for bond elections for the municipalities

These services are rendered with no additional cost to the taxpayers and many thousands of dollars for other citizen services are saved.

Mr. Chehardy plans to continue the above practices and at the same time continue to seek to update techniques and methods which will improve these services to the people of Jefferson Parish.



The Sheriff's Office



Above: Alwyn J. Cronvich, Sheriff of Jefferson Parish. Right Top: The Sheriff's well-equipped riot control squad is mobilized for emergencies. Right Bottom: Vital cog in sheriff's operation is Central Communications Center HQ on third floor of New Gretna Courthouse which receives all emergency calls. Increase from two to five transmitting frequencies has cut delay, speeds units to scene of emergency. Center is in continuous contact with other law enforcement agencies. Standby emergency center on first floor has auxiliary power, portable generators.

Alwyn J. Cronvich, tall and serious of manner, looks no different from any other successful young business or professional man. For that reason you'd never guess that he is responsible for four important jobs, which in New Orleans and other comparable municipal governments, are handled by four separate officials.

Cronvich must perform the duties of Criminal Sheriff, Chief of Police, Civil Sheriff and Tax Collector.

A practicing attorney, he sacrificed a highly successful practice to tackle the admittedly tough assignment of making Jefferson a safer and better place to live.

As chief enforcement officer, Cronvich is responsible for protecting the lives and property of 300,000 people who live on the East and West banks of the parish—a sprawling 450-square mile area extending from the shores of Lake Pontchartrain to Grand Isle on the Gulf of Mexico.

His first task after taking office May 8, 1964, was a sweeping reorganization of the once politics-ridden, inadequate and poorly equipped law enforcement division. He set high standards of performance for the department and began assembling a staff of qualified men interested in law enforcement as a profession.

Today, Jefferson Parish has one of the best trained, most efficient police units in the state, providing round-the-clock protection for its citizens. Approximately eight per cent of the sheriff's operating funds are spent on training.

Cronvich instituted modern, efficient employment practices to attract able men between the ages of 21 and 35 to join the department. The age limit is waived in the case of experienced applicants or retired career servicemen who meet other requirements.

Applicants for jobs as deputies undergo a thorough screening process before being hired. They are photographed and fingerprinted. Their credit background and character references checked, and tests given for physical fitness, mental alertness and psychological attitude.

A major Cronvich achievement has been the setting up of training courses to mould department recruits into professional career officers.

While waiting to begin formal training, the rookie deputy is usually assigned to a desk sergeant at the parish prison or to the communications center where he receives valuable preliminary background experience.

He is then enrolled in the next regularly scheduled course at the Sheriff's Academy at Airline Hwy. and Causeway Blvd., in Metairie. This involves a thorough five and one-half weeks instruction in fundamentals taught by ranking department officers and guest instructors.

The Plans and Training Division conducts in-service training with staff instructors and utilizes the services of the FBI, the New Orleans Police Department, LSU, Loyola, judges, attor-

neys, etc. Teaching aids also include the latest training films.

Cronvich brought about a closer liaison with all area law enforcement agencies and in particular with the New Orleans Police Department. As a result, all forces are now working in close cooperation for crime prevention and apprehension of violators who cross parish boundaries.

Another Cronvich "first" came last year when several Jefferson high school graduates enrolled at Loyola in the cadet "work-study" program sponsored by the Greater New Orleans Police Foundation. The sheriff's cadets work days in the lock-up or communications center at a beginning salary of \$250 a month and attend classes

leading to a B.A. degree in criminology. They become full-fledged deputies upon graduation.

Under the Sheriff's far-reaching recruiting policy, Jefferson high school students seeking careers in law enforcement are hired on a part-time basis to perform duties other than those of a deputy.

A new deputy is usually assigned to a two-man police unit or squad car in the road division, with an experienced deputy. Later, he may be detailed to a motorcycle or one of the new three-wheeled scooters. Whatever his assignment, the new deputy is encouraged to advance his career by taking advantage of the most extensive and varied training opportunities available.



The Sheriff's Office

Many colleges offer specialized training in advanced law enforcement subjects. Among those attended by members of the Sheriff's staff are LSU, Loyola and the universities of Georgia, Alabama, Indiana and Texas A. & M. Others have been trained at the U. S. Treasury Narcotics School in Washington, and in explosives and demolitions handling by Army experts.

Other incentives offered to the new deputy include pay raises every six months for the first two years, hospitalization, life insurance, a pension plan and 18 days vacation after two years.

Almost 400 people are involved in the two sections of the Sheriff's office—civil and law enforcement.

The civil section is responsible for the collection of sales and property taxes, all civil judicial matters including seizures, and the assignment of court criers to each of the twelve judges. As executive officer of the court, the Sheriff is also responsible for executing the orders of the court.

The law enforcement section has two major groupings—the patrol and plain clothes divisions. Operating separately under the direct supervision of the Sheriff are the intelligence, vice and narcotics units and the Police Bureau of Investigation.

The Patrol Division is the largest unit, with over 100 uniformed personnel assigned to squad cars and the new three-wheeled Cushman "scooters." These units patrol 10 "beats" or districts in the unincorporated areas of the parish. New vehicles purchased this year bring the patrol car fleet to more than 30 radio-equipped units.

The three-wheeled "scooters," purchased on a trial basis, have already proven their value in combatting daytime crime in the subdivisions. Four more have been ordered. The "scooter" gives the "beat" patrolman mobility that enables him to cover a greater area than previously. Those who once joked about these vehicles have come to appreciate their importance in the law enforcement picture.

Sixty trained men of the Patrol Division are ever ready for emergency riot control duty. Another innovation by Cronvich, this unit is equipped to "control crowds without weapons."

Deputies assigned to traffic duty operate under this division with two and three-wheel motorcycles and unmarked radar-equipped cars.

The 48-man Detective Division investigates homicides, robberies, burglaries, auto thefts, and forgeries, and include the Bureau of Identification, polygraph (lie detector), juvenile unit

and the "pawn shop" squad added by the sheriff. This new squad keeps a current list of stolen articles and beginning in 1967 will get IBM card information on identifiable stolen articles from the National Crime Information Center.

Other divisions added to the department include a rescue unit, motor pool and maintenance, and plans and training. Driver safety and defensive driving techniques, an integral part of in-service training, are taught by a consulting safety engineer to all members of the department.

The rescue unit responds to emergencies on land and water, carries a life saving oxygen supply and is equipped for first-aid.

A major economy of the sheriff's office was the establishment of an East Bank motor pool, with supervised safety check maintenance and repair. Savings of 40 per cent per gallon have resulted from the installation of gasoline pumps and tanks on both the East and West Banks. The East Bank motor pool and auto pound has been completely enclosed in a high chain-link fence and is under guard 24 hours a day.

The K-9 Corps recently ran checks on 10,000 homes in one month. Police dogs have proven invaluable during calls involving prowlers, burglaries, weapons offenses, holdups, etc. These dogs have won obedience awards, proving they are not vicious but respond exceptionally well to commands.

The new West Bank firing range, built by auxiliary deputies primarily for marksmanship qualification by deputies, will also be used to instruct organized groups of youngsters in the fundamentals of firearms, defensive tactics and first aid. All members of the department are required to use the firing range until they qualify as marksmen and monthly thereafter to maintain a high level of performance.

The Sheriff's Central Communications Center on the West Bank has been greatly expanded and the staff increased to 25. This is the nerve center of the parish law enforcement operation into which all emergency calls should be made. This reduces delay in dispatching units to the scene of an emergency.

The center has increased its transmitting frequencies from two to five with separate sending and receiving radio channels for East and West bank districts which can be linked for parish-wide emergencies. Also, Jefferson now receives all four New Orleans police channels. Plans are being completed now to add a mobile

emergency communications command unit containing frequencies used by all adjacent law enforcement agencies.

During 1967, the parish communication center will be tied into a nationwide electronically operated computer system to provide instantaneous contact with law enforcement agencies throughout the U. S.

The main standby communications center in the sheriff's office on the West Bank has been greatly improved. With auxiliary power, this unit operated continuously during Hurricane Betsy. Now, a portable generator and other vital emergency equipment has been added.

An important "arm" of the sheriff's department are the 160 auxiliary deputies who serve a total of 3000 hours a month under volunteer director Col. Roy Thomassie. Men serve at football games, parades and special events and regularly ride with patrol car deputies. Women perform clerical duties and assist in communications center work. All auxiliary deputies serve without pay and furnish their own uniforms.

Among innovations by the sheriff's department under Cronvich are:

- Increase in the number of school crossing deputies to 100 at a total cost of almost \$175,000 a year.

- A 160-page indexed "Book of Laws" issued to every deputy as an integral part of his equipment. It contains selected parish and state ordinances and statutes which affect law enforcement. Supplements will be added as existing laws are amended, repealed or added. Copies were sent to the Marshal of each municipality in the parish.

- Eighteen-week "Human Relations" course at Loyola University for sergeants, lieutenants and captains for better understanding between police officers and public.

- New deputy uniforms with dark blue Western hat, light blue Eisenhower jacket and trousers.

- Crime bulletins for merchants such as "Burglary Prevention" and "Detention and Arrest of Shoplifting Suspects."

- Weekly training bulletins are distributed to each deputy.

- Films and speakers for PTA, civic and fraternal groups on duties of police officers, narcotics, K-9 corps, etc.

- Efforts to have employee pension contributions reduced from 5 per cent to 2 per cent. For those who do not qualify for pensions, social security benefits have been made available.

- Blood type file for employees for ready reference in emergencies.



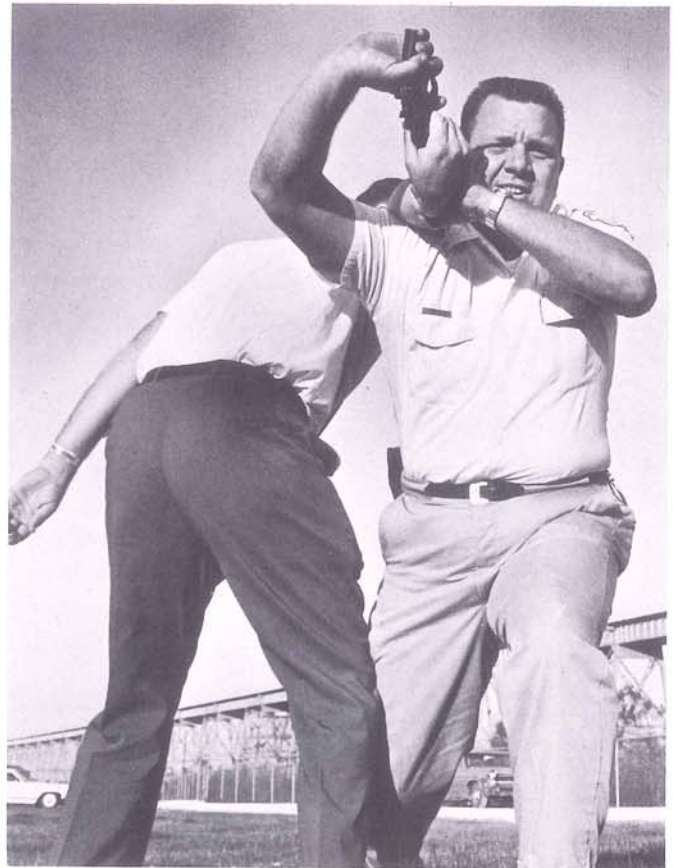
Highly mobile scooters are invaluable for subdivision patrolling. Sheriff has ordered four more.



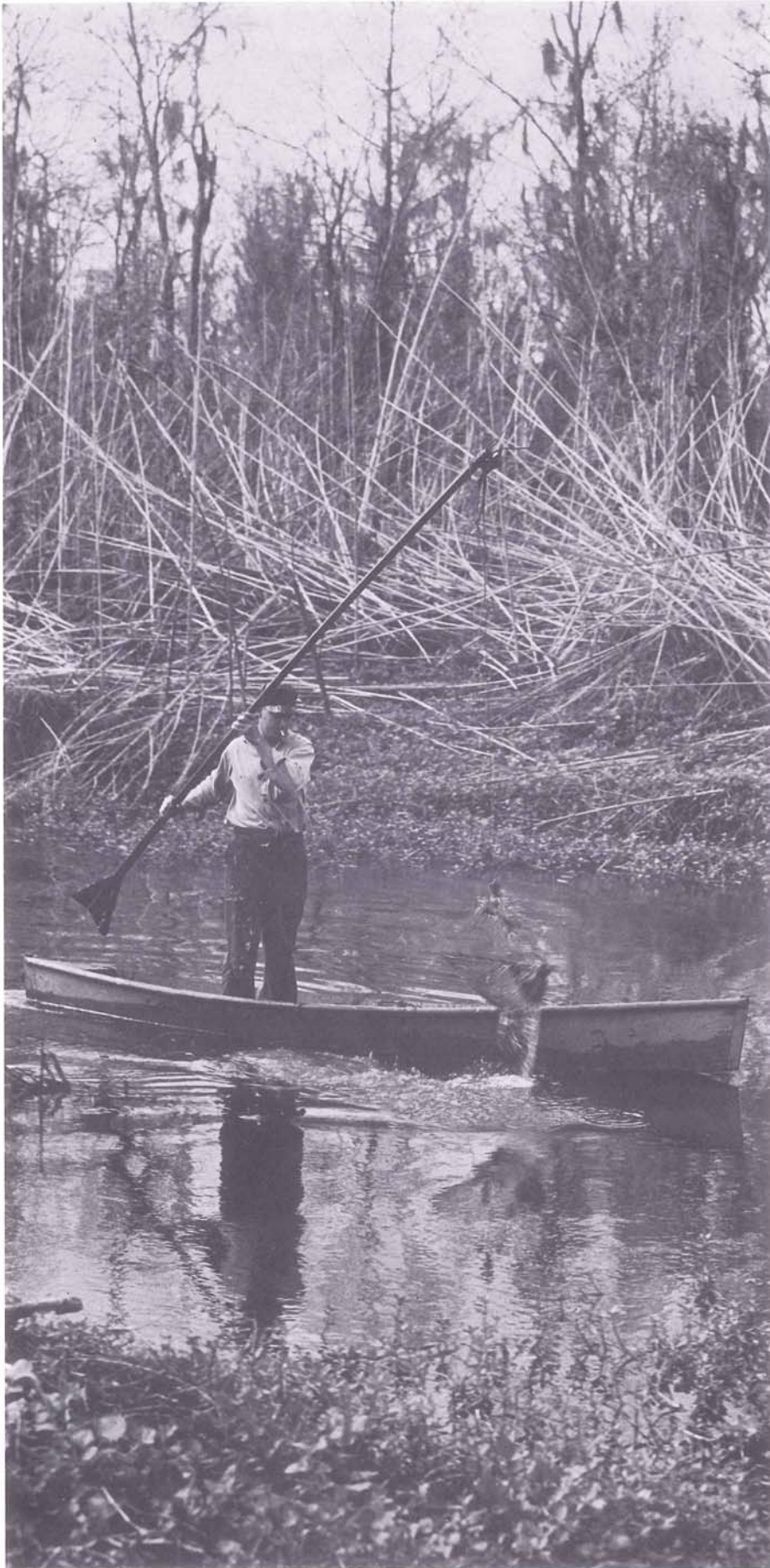
All law enforcement personnel are required to qualify as marksmen. New firing range was built by auxiliary deputies.



Police dogs of K-9 Corps are not vicious animals. Exceptionally well-trained, they have won obedience awards at dog shows.



Defensive tactics demonstration is part of training course of each law enforcement officer.



In booming Jefferson Parish — with its miles of factories, zooming population, expressways, subdivisions, shopping and business centers — purely pastoral scenes such as this bayou crawfisherman are becoming a rarity.

School Board

Continued from Page 60

(40) and in Live Oak-Avondale area (36-40).

One other senior high is planned in the vicinity of W. Esplanade and Williams blvd. This will be a co-institutional school (with separate classes for boys and girls with some joint facilities and 48 classrooms tentatively planned.



The board works with its new superintendent, Dr. Alfred Little, in pushing its aims for additions to existing plants and construction of new schools throughout the parish. Board-members are James M. Hornsby, president; J. Kenneth Leithman, vice-president, and Elmo Bergeron, Paul F. Dastugue, George C. Gibson, Charles M. Miller, J. Robert Murphy, Leon E. Soniat and Pope.

Judge Heebe

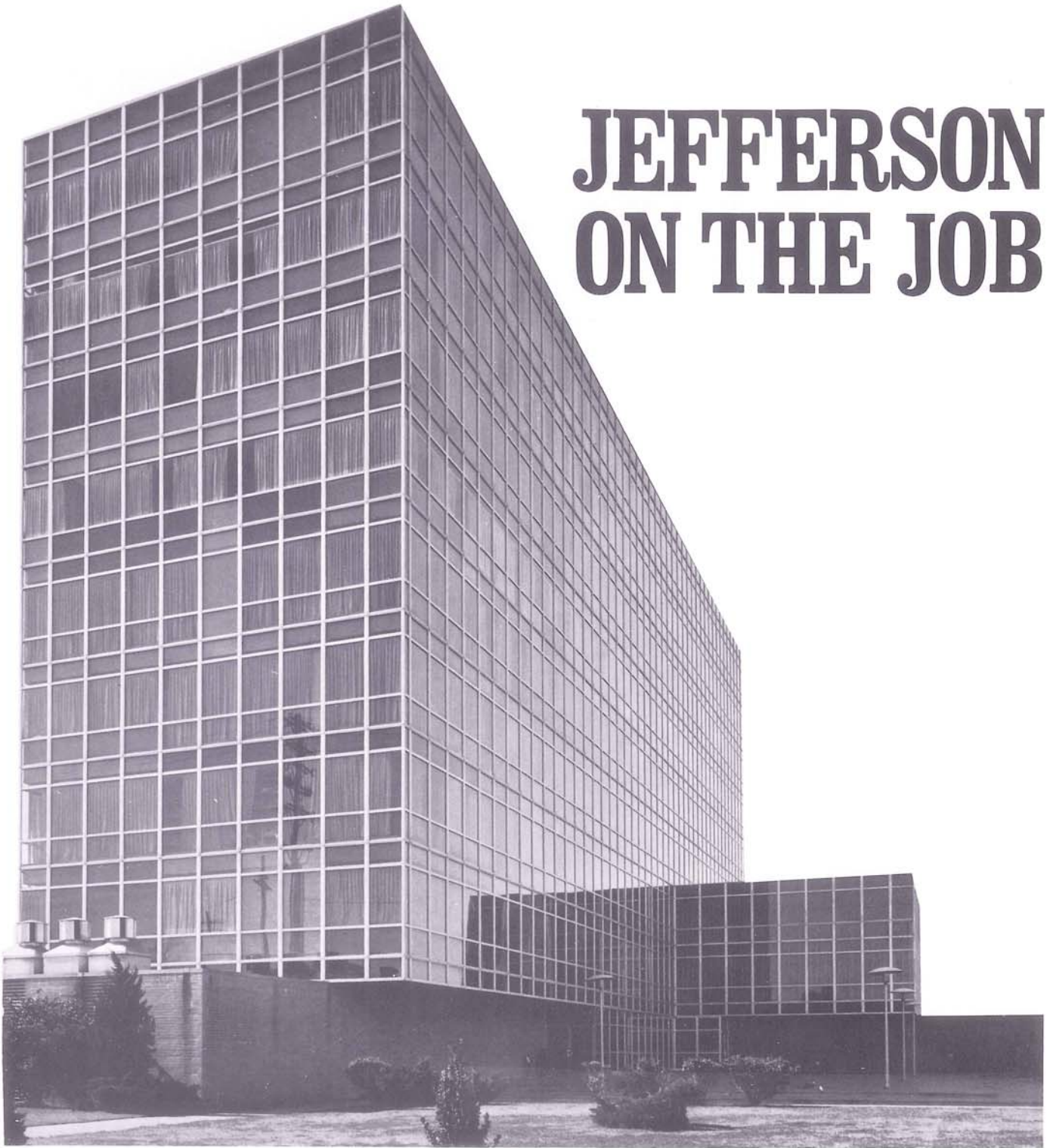
Continued from Page 61

is always willing to assist his fellow citizens in the interests of perfecting the American system of justice."

Boggs added: "Fred Heebe's service on the district bench in Jefferson Parish has increased his dedication and devotion to the people of the parish, sharpened his keen intellect, and broadened his wisdom. On the bench, he has displayed a fine sense of equity and justice, a fine judicial temperament, a sagacious manner — all offered with kindness and a helping hand."

Representatives of federal, state, parish and N. O. bar associations and the American Bar Association took part in the installation ceremonies.

JEFFERSON ON THE JOB



The new courthouse in Gretna, seat of Parish Government

Jefferson was created as a parish in 1825 and until 1958 was governed by a Police Jury. This involved 30 autonomous districts, each governed by its own board.

By the middle fifties, it became apparent that the responsibilities of parish government, increasing in diversity and magnitude every year, must be streamlined, coordinated and concentrated for greater efficiency and economy.

The result was the present President-Council form of government, approved by voters and providing for nine new departments directly responsible to the Parish President through the Council.

These are finance, legal, planning, personnel, water, safety, roads and bridges, recreation and sanitation. Four additional departments have since been created—research and

analysis, civil defense, garbage and mosquito control.

Other important functions of parish government, not formalized as departments, are provided by the Parish Health Unit and the office of the Clerk of Council.

In the following paragraphs, the accomplishments of each of these divisions of parish government, are detailed:

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Parish President Thomas F. Donelon and members of the parish council took a big step toward cutting operating costs in August, 1966, by authorizing the Finance Department to lease a Central Computer System. Minimum saving of \$63,000 a year will be realized when the system is installed.

The new central computer system, by streamlining and modernizing operation of all parish departments, will effect the following economies:

- Will save \$45,000 on data processing equipment and services presently contracted for.
- Provide a single bill for water, sewerage, garbage and mosquito control. In addition to convenience, this will save \$18,000 for postage by eliminating separate billing of utilities.
- Reduce tremendous work load in water department where 60,000 water bills are now computed individually.
- Compute entire parish payroll in 40 minutes.
- Provide tighter budget control.
- Provide vehicular maintenance and cost control records.
- Inventory parts control will be greatly improved in the operating departments where a tremendous number and infinite variety of parts must be warehoused.

In 1964, 1965 and 1966 parish employees received salary increases averaging five per cent.

The revised plan gives mandatory increases to about 90 per cent of employees whose salaries are less than \$500, and opens the way for salary increases among the various other pay ranges.

Primary objectives of the improved plan are to retain present career employees, offset high turnover and to attract new career employees with higher entrance salaries.

Features of the plan are:

- A boost in pay ranges up to four levels of five percent each.
- Uniform overtime pay for all employees and elimination of compensatory time formerly paid to exempt employees.
- Uniform sick leave and increases in annual leave each five years. Maximum accumulation of annual leave permissible remains at 90 days.

- Initiation of a "tenure award" by which employees, after two years of service, will be paid \$1 per month for each year service in a lump sum each December 1.

Generally, depending on meritorious work performance and the availability of funds, employees can reach the top of their pay scale in four-and-one-half years. After six years, they become eligible for the first of four longevity increases. The remaining longevity hikes come at two, three and four year intervals.

The Department helped to inaugurate a Career Award program. Service pins were given for each 5 years service up to 35 years.

Another significant accomplishment was the department's in-service training program, including a safe-driver training course and employee performance evaluation training course for supervisory personnel.

Vital statistics from the personnel department's annual report for 1965 include:

- 3217 applications for admission examinations, a decrease of 10 per cent over 1965 reflecting the record high employment rate in the metropolitan labor market.
- 514 entrance appointments, of which 417 were to non-competitive, high turnover jobs.
- 686 temporary (seasonal) and emergency appointments.
- 137 promotional appointments.
- 460 separations, mostly in high turnover unskilled classes of work.

The department continued its job studies of the 179 classifications to determine if duties and responsibilities had changed sufficiently to justify a change to another classification.



ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

Passage of the \$21.4 million parish-wide major streets bond issue in November 1965 provided the funds to begin construction of two major roadways.

Based on assessment ratios, \$12.5 million will be used to start Earhart Expressway on the East Bank and \$8.9

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Member F.D.I.C.

million to begin work on Lapalco Boulevard on the West Bank.

Preliminary planning and design studies for Earhart were authorized in November 1964 by the Parish Council following an advance federal planning loan of \$402,000.

The proposed Expressway consists of nine miles of four and six lane divided, controlled-access highway from the Orleans Parish line to New Orleans International Airport.

Earhart Expressway will be completed in 10 years at a total cost of \$45 million. It is a joint project between the parish and the state department of highways. Right-of-way acquisition is under way for the first phase of Lapalco Boulevard from Belle Chasse Highway to Westwego city limits.

The proposed Lapalco Blvd., project is planned as a major street linking the rear boundary of the built-up areas of Westwego, Marrero and Gretna.

The roadway will consist of a boulevard with 24-foot pavement strips and a 24-foot median with crossovers at intersections and at intervals of 1000 feet. Street lighting will be provided and there will be major bridges at the Harvey Canal and Bayou Segnette.

The projected \$4 million Harvey Canal Bridge is described as "a double leaf bascule structure" with a vertical clearance of 40 feet. When both leaves are open the vertical clearance is unlimited.

With this clearance, engineers estimate that marine traffic will require the bridge to be open only a small percentage of the time.

A \$1.7 million fixed level twin bridge is proposed for crossing Bayou Segnette.

Completion time for Lapalco Blvd. over its entire length depends on future bond issue monies and a pending application for federal assistance for bridge construction.

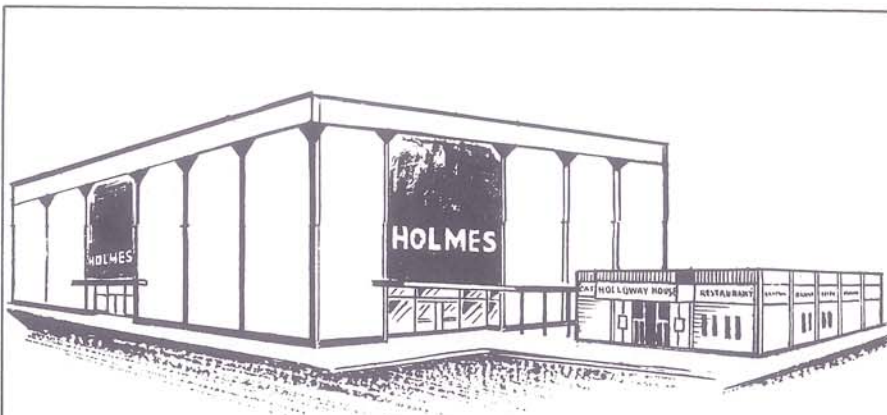
Streets, bridges, culvert improvements

Among the many projects completed or under construction by the Roads and Bridges department other than under property owners petition programs are these:

Ames Blvd.—Barataria to Lincoln High School. Culvert at Bayou Des Familles.

Carol Sue Ave.—Wright Ave. to Farmington. Bridge at Wright Ave. Canal.

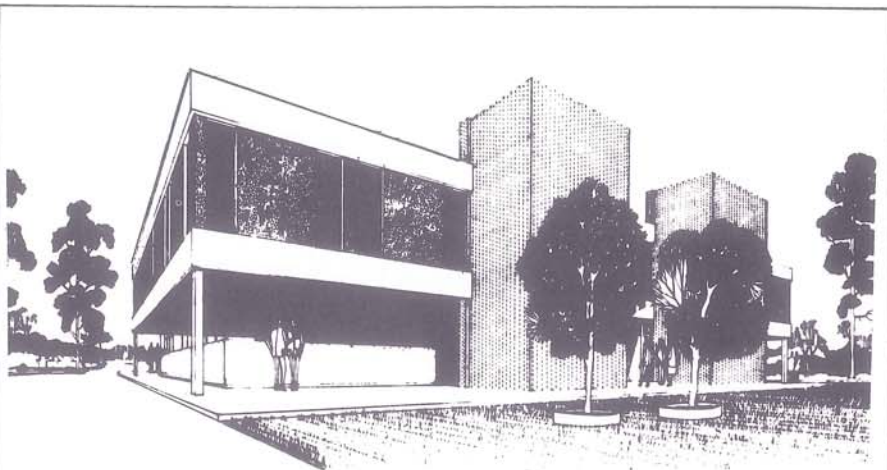
Causeway Blvd.—Turning lanes. Overlay-Airline to Lake Pontchartrain.



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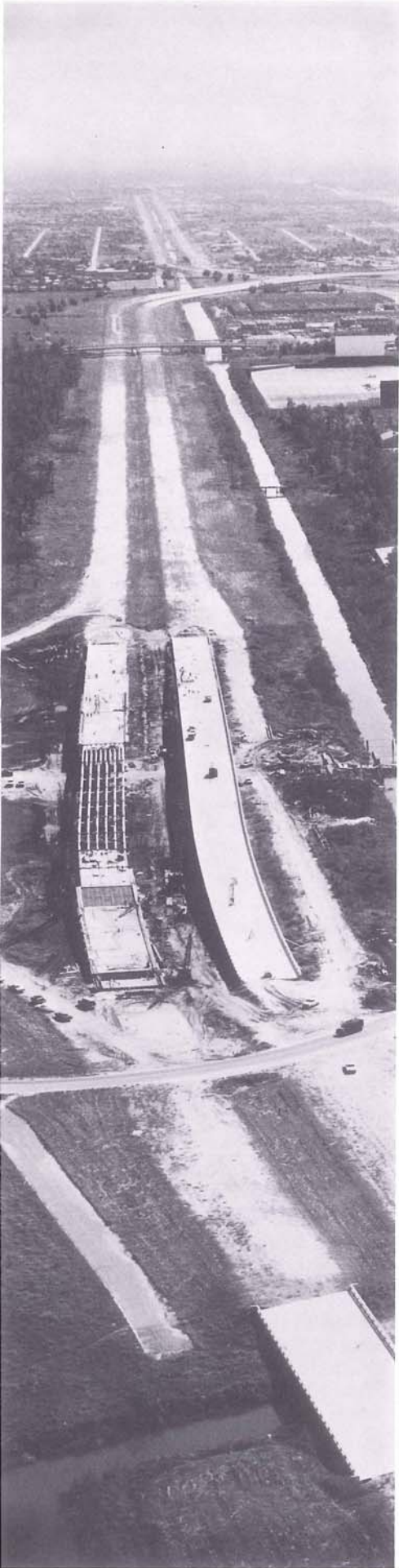
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Cleary—Culverts at Canals No. 2, 3 and 4, Airline to W. Metairie. W. Napoleon to I-10.

Club Dr.—Widening of bridge at Canal No. 3.

Colonial Club Dr.—Jefferson Hwy. to Hickory St.

David Dr.—Widening, Culvert at Canal No. 4.

Dublin St.—Widening, Bonnabel to Lake Ave.

Edenborn St.—Culvert at Canal No. 2 and 3.

Filmore St.—Jefferson Hwy to Airline Hwy.

Gretna Blvd.—Heebe Canal to Manhattan Blvd.

Hector St.—Bridge rebuilt at Wright Ave. Canal.

Lake Ave—Dublin to Hammond Hwy.

Lapalco Blvd.—Belle Chasse Hwy. to Meadowbrook.

Manhattan Blvd.—First St. to Lapalco Blvd.

Metairie Hts.— Bridge at Canal No. 4.

Oaklawn—Culvert at Canal No. 2.

Pomina—Bridge at Bonnabel Canal.

Power Line Dr.—Jefferson Hwy. to River Road.

River Road—Blacktopping Imperial Woods Dr. to O. K. Ave.

Roosevelt Blvd.—Airline Hwy to Canal No. 4.

Sauve Rd.—Blacktopping on Jefferson Hwy. to Soniat Canal.

Severn Ave.—Airline to Derbigny. Culvert at Canal No. 3.

Sixteenth St.—Barataria Blvd. to Destrehan Ave. Bridge at Destrehan Ave. and 16th St. Canal. Culvert at Penick-Ford Canal and 16th St. Canal.

Transcontinental Dr.—East side of Airline to W. Metairie. East and West side of W. Napoleon to Veterans Hwy. Culvert at Canal No. 3.

Veterans Hwy.—Widen 3 lanes. Suburban Canal to Green Acres Road including bridge. Add third lane and overlay Green Acres Road to David Drive. Overlay, Suburban Canal to Green Acres Road. Culvert at Canal No. 3.

W. Esplanade Ave.—Bridge at Suburban Canal. Power Blvd. to Driftwood.

W. Metairie Ave.—Kent to Williams Blvd. Airline Pk. Blvd. to Williams

Blvd., N. Turnbull Dr. to Causeway Blvd.

W. Napoleon Ave.—Culvert at Har- ing Rd.

Petitioned Projects

A majority of property owners in vari- ous areas of the parish petitioned for paving improvements which are either completed or still under construction as follows:

Alan St.—W. Esplanade to Lake Pont- chartrain.

Argonne St. — Transcontinental to Lemon St.

Cleary Ave.—Eldred to Vernon Ave.

Danny St.—Veterans Hwy. to I-10.

Edenborn Ave.—W. Esplanade to Lake Pontchartrain.

Eighteenth St.—Hessmer to Severn St.

Focis—W. Esplanade to Dublin Ca- nal.

Geneva St.—Dreyfous to Lake Louise Ave.

High Ave.—Park Dr. So. to Argonne St.

Highland St.—Newton to Lufkin St.

Houma Blvd.—Wichita to Canal No. 4. Veterans Hwy. to 85 ft. north of Teuton.

Kim St.—N. Arnoult to Division St.

Lake Ave.—Veterans Hwy. to Dublin Canal.

Lake Como Ave.—Geneva to Avron Blvd. Lucerne to Avron Blvd.

Lake Louise Ave.—Geneva to Avron Blvd.

Lucerne St.—Dreyfous to Lake Borgne Ave.

N. Arnoult Rd.—W. Esplanade to Lake Pontchartrain.

N. Atlanta St.—Claunch to Balter St.

N. Sibley St.—W. Napoleon to Da- kota St.

Nursery Ave.—Veterans Hwy. to I-10.

Oaklawn Dr.—Harrison to Dublin Canal.

Shellie St.—Edenborn to N. Arnoult Rd.

Wanda Lynn Dr.—Point 75 feet south of Virginia to Rockford Drive.

The Roads and Bridges department utilizes 149 pieces of equipment in its work including automobiles, dump trucks, rollers, sweepers, tractors, dig- ger machines, graders, ditching ma- chines, traxcavators, flushers and bull- dozers.

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RESEARCH AND BUDGET

The Jefferson Parish Council Research & Budget Analysis Staff has three primary duties:

- At Council request, it checks operations of the various administrative departments to determine their adherence to parish policies and procedures as set by Council action.
- It analyzes the annual budget and makes recommendations to the Council.
- It acts as a central agency for councilmen to gain detailed information on the many matters surrounding Parish Government, thus enabling them to more intelligently make decisions.

The Research & Budget Analysis staff acts independently of the Administration under the Parish President. Other than the office of the Parish Clerk, it is the only other office responsible to the Parish Council for its activity.



RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Jefferson Parish Council Chairman Charles J. Eagan, Jr. formally signed an agreement on September 20, 1966 with Charles Colbert, architect-planner, to provide, within six months, the first phase of a Comprehensive Parish-wide Recreation plan.

Under terms of the pact, the parish agreed to pay Colbert \$10,000 to prepare a thorough "sketch plan" which will include:

- A complete analysis of the character of the parish.
- A study of the existing parish recreational program.

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• Recommended projects for immediate action.

• A preliminary proposal of action for future development of the Comprehensive plan.

Colbert's staff will work closely with parish officials, department heads and related agencies, particularly the Jefferson Parish School Board, to develop the "base data" necessary for the detailed report.

The five municipalities in the parish will be asked to contribute information about their recreational programs to assure the parish-wide character of the overall study.

The architect-planner, who sees a tremendous potential for recreation in Jefferson, defines his concept of the program as follows:

• Active sports such as baseball, track, football and tennis, also wildlife, fishing, boating, camping, hiking, picnicking and birdwatching.

• Cultural and educational. All kinds of activities will be studied in this sphere, including drama, dance, art, music and discussion groups.

• Social activities for the elderly.

• Handicrafts such as pottery and leatherwork.

The recreational opportunities in Jefferson parish transcend those of almost any other area in the country, particularly on the West Bank with its beautiful water areas and plentiful land, according to Colbert.

The architect-planner will work closely with designers of the East Jefferson Lakefront Reclamation Project where many recreational facilities are planned.

The Jefferson Parish Recreation Department during 1965, in cooperation with 137 civic, social, fraternal and school groups, provided supervised activities for almost a half million people at neighborhood playgrounds.

Activities for both boys and girls include basketball, softball, track and field, volleyball, tennis, tumbling and gymnastics, roller skating and summer day camps.

For men and boys, weight-lifting, football and basketball are offered. Girls may receive instruction in ceramics, ballet and tap dancing and cheer-leading.

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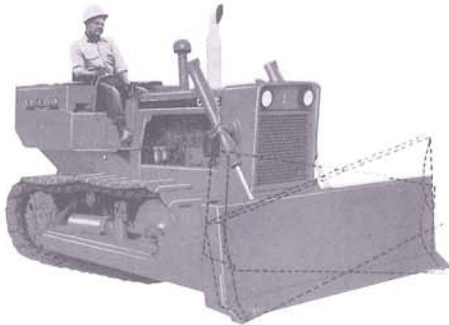
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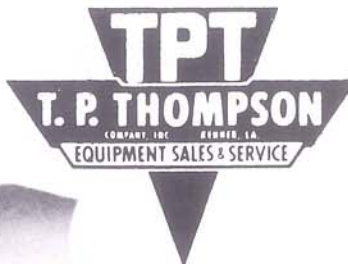
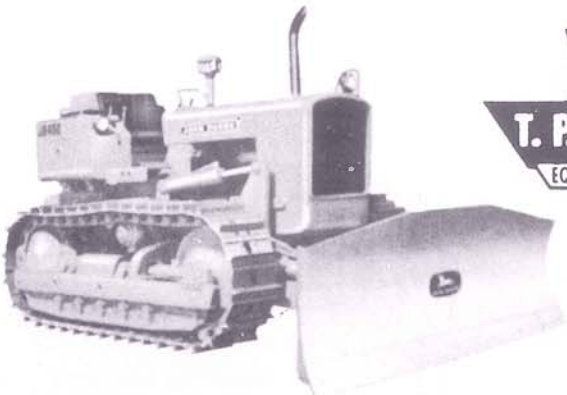


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Special activities also are offered for retarded children.

In June, 1965, the Girard Playground and gymnasium at 5300 Irving Street in Metairie was dedicated. It honors the memory of Louis "Noot" Girard who was "Mr. Everything" to the kids of East Jefferson for seventeen years. Various garden and civic clubs, including a Girl Scout troop, helped to landscape the area.

Another new facility, the \$100,000 Little Farms Community Center and Gymnasium was dedicated in 1966 and land was purchased to construct two concrete tennis courts.

The John J. Holtgreve gymnasium constructed on the 19-acre Airline Park Playground has been accepted but not formally dedicated.

The Metairie Boosters Club donated lights for the Metairie Playground tennis courts.

In December, 1965, the department sponsored its first annual Candy Bowl football game for 110 pound boys.

Team in Good Showing

An all-star Jefferson team made a good showing against the "Red Devils" of Atlanta, two-time National Champions of the nation-wide Pop Warner Program. Success of the 1965 game will probably make this an eagerly awaited annual event.

A pilot boxing program, including instruction and amateur shows, was highly successful at the Delta Center and will probably be expanded to other centers.

The department's annual Babe Ruth baseball program, sponsored by the Optimist Club of Jefferson Parish, includes a team from each playground. An all-star squad from the league is selected each July to try for the district, state, regional and national tournaments.

In 1965, the recreation department expanded its teen-age boys' basketball program. Each of the eight gymnasiums now has a league of its own.

Three new ceramics studios went into operation at Little Farms, Girard and Airline Community Centers.

Over 700 girls participated in ballet and tap dancing classes.

Several hundred teen-age girls were recruited and trained as volunteer leaders in the summer day camp program for girls 6 to 13 years of age.



**RECREATION DEPARTMENT
LIBRARY DIVISION**

A modern new library headquarters building at Causeway blvd. and 14th street in East Jefferson will replace the out-of-date cramped headquarters building in Gretna.

Here again is an example of what co-operation among government agencies can accomplish.

The new one-story brick structure was made possible by a two-acre site donated by the Pontchartrain Levee Board, a \$266,666 federal grant and \$150,000 in parish funds.

The air-conditioned and humidity controlled building will house many thousands of new books, administrative offices, a maintenance shop and individual bookmobile offices.



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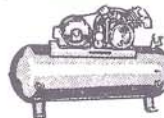
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The Library Division of the Jefferson Parish Recreation department, with a \$728,000 annual budget and 105 employees, operates 10 branches and four bookmobiles.

The four bookmobiles with a fifth serving as a standby replacement, are important because of the large geographical area served by the parish library system.

Circulation for 1965 totalled 946,383 books of which 531,090 were juvenile.

A library of 257 motion pictures (16mm sound) in color and black and white is available.

Microfilm copies of every issue of the New Orleans Times-Picayune and its predecessors are available with current issues being added monthly.

A seminar for staff employees, consisting of 16 weekly classes of three hours each, was conducted by the L.S.U. Extension Service and Library School during 1966. This was the fourth seminar sponsored by the library division in a continuing emphasis on the upgrading of professional library employees.

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In 1967, the Jefferson Parish Health Unit begins its second quarter-century as the official agency responsible for public health for the people of Jefferson Parish. The Unit has successfully kept pace with the rapidly expanding community by improved services and programs.

One of the outstanding achievements was the continued reduction in the number of cases of venereal disease—from 428 in 1962 to 272 in 1966. Infectious syphilis declined by 88 per cent during this same period.

Also, during the fiscal year 1965-1966, the greatest progress for a single year was made in bringing venereal disease education to community groups, and in all the school systems at the upper grade levels.

24,408 Dogs Vaccinated

Last year the number of animal bite cases dropped below the 500 mark for the first time in several years. A total of 24,408 dogs were vaccinated against rabies. The planned construction of additional kennel facilities at a central location should further alleviate the problems caused by stray dogs.

A large number of civic groups used the auditorium and meeting rooms of the Health Center for their programs and discussions. Health Unit personnel assisted in many of these meetings by leading discussions on health-related subjects.

The Health Unit provided the leadership to keep the parish a safe, healthy place to live and work after the damage of the September 1965 hurricane.

Best Milk Is Assured

The Milk Sanitation Division continues to assure that the best milk possible is processed and sold in Jefferson Parish.

The Mental Health Section extended its services and has trained many persons to recognize and cope with mental problems, especially in the early stages.

These and many other services are performed without cost by a staff consisting of a medical director, nurses, sanitarians, part-time clinicians, and other specialists.

Main office facilities and clinics are located at 1901 8th St., Harvey, and 111 N. Causeway Blvd., Metairie, a branch office in Grand Isle, and a rabies control center at 1969 Ames Blvd., Marrero.

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**COMMUNITY ACTION
PROGRAM**

Year-round employment for disadvantaged youth, summer classes for pre-school children and Medicare assistance—these are some of the benefits of the Jefferson Parish Community Action Program (JeffCAP) of the Office of Economic Opportunity, initiated in June, 1965.

Following the appointment of a director, the first year's funds were advanced by the parish council as the sponsoring agency to get the program started.

Currently operating on a six month OEO program development grant, which includes 10 per cent parish participation, JeffCAP offers:

- Ten hours a week employment for "disadvantaged youth" students aged 16-21 during school year at the minimum wage. Work is at school or in the parish recreation department.
- Summer work for same student group in government agencies and parish recreation department. Dropouts are not eligible.
- Operation Head Start summer educational program for pre-school children. Budget this year was \$225,000 with the parish School Board as delegate agency.

As required by OEO, JeffCAP is governed by a Board of Directors of 28 citizens selected by the organizations they represent.

Among the new programs planned for 1967 are neighborhood service centers to be set up in poverty areas to improve standards of living.

WATER DEPARTMENT

An abundant water supply is essential for the continued booming growth of Jefferson.

The Mississippi River provides a plentiful source of water. The problem is to purify it and pipe it to the mushrooming residential, business and industrial areas on both the east and west banks of the parish.

Jefferson now has two Master Fire Protection and Water Distribution plans . . . one for each side of the river.

Both plans are prime examples of sound long-range planning, for they are designed to serve the *ultimate* population growth of the parish.

By 1971 Jefferson's total plant purification capacity will be increased to almost 100 million gallons per day. Fresh, pure water will flow

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over a vast network of new and larger transmission lines to every corner of the parish, providing proper pressures and quantities of water for home, business and industrial needs.

The \$19 million East Jefferson Master Water Plan, already approved in a 1965 revenue bond issue and now being implemented, will increase capacity to 66 million gallons per day.

The proposed \$18.4 million West Jefferson Master Plan, to be offered as a revenue bond issue to voters early in 1967, will increase plant capacity from 10 million to 30 million gallons per day by 1971 and to 120 million gallons by 1987.

Consolidation of all water districts on the West Bank into one unit is a necessary first step to implement the Master Water Plan, which is divided into five phases over a 20-year period starting in 1967.

Both of Jefferson's Master Water Plans are designed to prevent serious water shortages and inadequate pressures, and accommodate residential, commercial and fire flow demands of the future.

The need for water on the West Bank is expected to double by 1971 when the first phase of the master plan is completed. This includes industrial consumers who now use nearly 42 per cent of the water volume.

With the existing plant in Marrero already operating close to capacity, future residential and industrial expansion can't be accommodated by the existing system. Yet residential development is accelerating, and further industrialization is projected. For these reasons alone, Phase One of the Master Plan is over-due.

Inadequacies Revealed

In addition to the overloaded condition of the existing treatment plant, an inspection of the *distribution system* reveals serious inadequacies. Existing trunk lines were designed to accommodate a much smaller population on the West Bank than the 55,000 people who live there now.

As more connections are tapped on the mains, water pressure and quantity for each consumer will decrease, and water to fight fires will not be available. As this situation becomes critical, it will be necessary to ration the use of water, and to retard development by denying building permits. The true value of comprehensive plan-

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ning is in avoiding water shortages and bottlenecks in the system. To build a balanced system, with reserve capacity, will benefit both present and future residents on the West Bank.

New Construction in 1965

New construction in 1965 in the East Jefferson Waterworks District No. 1 was as follows:

- A reinforced transmission system in Harahan, Camp Plauche Industrial Area, Little Farms and a portion of the Kenner System was placed in service in May, 1966.

- The Water Filtration Plant was increased 16-million gallons per day capacity, boosting the plant's capacity from 20-million gallons to 36-million gallons per day. The increase in daily capacity will provide sufficient water to prevent a crisis during droughts and freezes.

- A 12-inch water main was installed on the South side of West Metairie Boulevard from Airline Park Boulevard to Williams Boulevard. Installation of this main eliminated the dead end lines and formed a loop system of all mains North and South from Airline Highway to West Metairie.

- A 12-inch water main was installed on the North and South sides of Interstate Highway 10 from Severn Avenue to Clearview Parkway. These transmission mains are to provide water service to Interstate Highway 10 frontage and to connect all North-South mains discontinued by the construction of the highway.

- Water mains were installed in all streets in Pontchartrain Shores Subdivision in 1965 and in Pontchartrain Gardens Subdivision in 1966.

- Water main installations in fifty-one sundry streets in East Jefferson were completed in the spring of 1966.

- A 12-inch water main was installed on Sauve Road from Jefferson Highway to Hickory Street, to increase pressure and volume to this area.

- Adjustment and relocation of water mains to accommodate Interstate Highway 10 construction expense was borne by the State Highway Department.

A total of 45,853 water customers were served by the East Jefferson Water System in 1965, an increase of 2,252 over 1964.

New Construction Projects

The following projects under construction and new projects scheduled to begin were made possible by ap-

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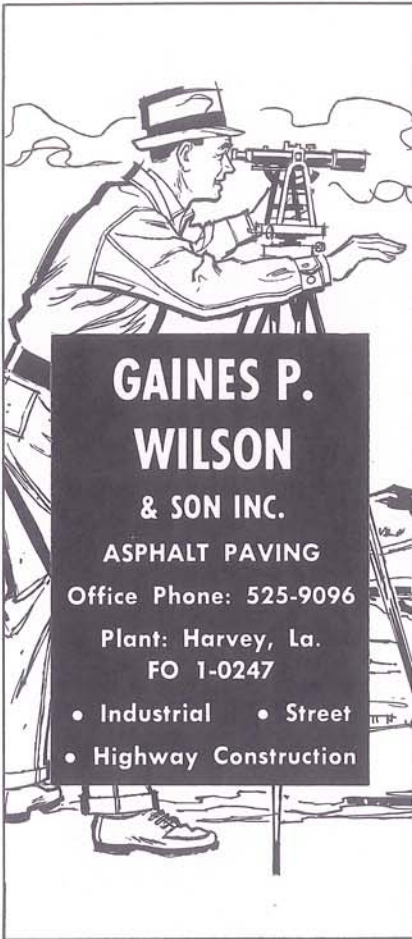


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proval of the \$19 million East Bank Water Bond Issue:

Installation of Transmission mains from Harahan to Kenner, now 37 per cent completed. This phase will cost \$2.1 million when completed in May, 1967.

Construction and installation of transmission lines on Transcontinental and David Drives, from the Illinois Central Railroad to Lake Pontchartrain, will be completed in September, 1967. Cost is estimated at \$2.5 million.

Bids have been received to construct a Stand-by Power Generator to cost \$120,564 and for a station and electrical work estimated to cost \$350,000.

Two additional elements of the Master Plan are scheduled for this year, costing \$3 million to provide mains to service the area of Severn Street (East) to the Orleans Parish Line.

Plans and specifications are ready and bids will be received to increase the East Jefferson plant's capacity from 36-million gallons to 70-million gallons per day. This contract is estimated at \$4.5 million.

Water mains also will be installed in the area known as "3400 Acres." This project will cost approximately \$2 million. Construction is expected to begin early in 1967.

WEST BANK WATER DISTRICTS

New construction during 1965 on the West Bank was as follows:

A transmission line from the Marrero Water Plant along the West Bank Expressway and Highway 90 to the St. Charles Parish Line.

Reinforcement of the water line along River Road from Bridge City to St. Charles Parish Line.

These mains will supplement the supply of water to serve Waterworks District No. 5, between Bridge City and St. Charles Parish Line. Construction is scheduled to be completed in December, 1966. Cost of the transmission lines and a pumping station is \$1.5 million.

A water line was installed on Stumpf Boulevard and Costanza Drive in Waterworks District No. 7.

Subdividers also installed approximately 22 miles of water mains in West Bank Districts.

There were 1,719 new customers added to the system in 1965, making a total of 14,712 customers in Waterworks Districts 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7.

Continued on Page 120

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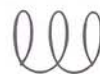
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GRETNA

By William J. White, Mayor

Gretna, capitol of Jefferson Parish since 1884 and the parish's oldest city, is growing like a youngster.

The population more than doubled since 1949 and is now close to 27,000.

Apartment complexes, a relatively unusual sight in the past, are springing up in great numbers.

The value of permits given for commercial construction in the first six months of 1966 were already some \$1 million over the entire 1965 figure. (\$3,205,126 through June, 1966; \$2,275,540 during 1965.)

The value of residential construction permits through June, 1966 came to \$1,105,370 as compared to \$1,583,720 during the whole of 1965. This despite the general decline of construction activity throughout the nation.

Remodeling, addition and repair permits with a total value of \$179,260 were given by the end of the first half of 1966. The 1965 total figure came to \$231,542. Both figures include work resulting from Hurricane Betsy which, while it badly damaged Gretna with its winds, didn't flood the city.

Why is Gretna enjoying such

growth?

Centrally located on the Parish's West Bank, the city is the commercial and industrial hub of that area.

The toll free Mississippi River Bridge and the fast, four-lane West Bank Expressway that runs through the center of Gretna brings it within minutes of the New Orleans central business district. Also serving as a link to the East Bank are the Huey P. Long Bridge and the free Gretna-Jackson Avenue ferry. A third bridge is currently being given serious consideration.

But while Gretna is, as stated, growing like a youngster, it is assuming the accompanying responsibilities with the maturity of its years.

Not one proposed bond issue has been rejected by Gretna voters within the past 30 years. This remarkable record stands alone as strong evidence of the faith our citizens have not only in their elected officials, but in the future and potential of the community as a whole.

Additions that increased the production of Gretna's water plant from 2 million gallons per day to over 5 million per day were completed in June, 1965. Three months later a new Operational and Administration Building was put into opera-

tion. Also recently completed was a 500,000 gallon elevated tank that gives the city greater water pressure.

That planning was farsighted is further shown in Gretna's unique valve arrangement with the rest of Jefferson Parish. In an emergency, the city can open a valve and secure water from the West Bank Marrero water plant and vice versa.

Similarly, Jefferson Parish and the New Orleans-Algiers plant can borrow from Gretna. However, in case of a malfunction of either plant or equipment at Marrero, New Orleans-Algiers or Gretna, the flow of water will not be cut off.

Installation of 12-inch water lines between the new plant and various parts of the city was recently completed, thus assuring increased pressure and flow that is also equalized throughout the city.

The ambitious paving and sub-surface drainage program that started in June, 1963 is continuing at a fast pace.

Work on Gretna Boulevard was concluded this year and 17 other streets scattered throughout the city are slated for completion by the end of 1966. At this time, almost all the city's streets in Gretna proper will be paved and have subsurface

"The Commercial and Industrial hub of the West Bank"

drainage. Gretna was until recently the only corporate community in Jefferson Parish with a city wide sanitary sewerage system and the present work required only extensions of the system.

It should be noted that although property owners are assessed according to front footage for the paving and drainage, Gretna itself contributes a large sum toward same. Because the cost to each individual property owner would be prohibitive where large subsurface drainage pipes are concerned, the city pays the difference between normal cost and assessment and the actual cost.

The Gretna Recreational Program is also growing with the times and in 1966 increased considerably the number of teams it sponsored. It also added in February a Bowling League for boys and girls between 14 and 18 years of age that attracted approximately 500 participants.

The other leagues sponsored included 33 boys' basketball teams, 23 girls' basketball teams, 39 boys' baseball teams, 17 girls' softball teams, 18 Bantam Football teams and 15 girls' volleyball teams.

The equipment and uniforms for each is paid for by the city of Gretna.

There is no question of the program's popularity. The last annual Grid-Lesson Banquet of Champions, which is held for the championship teams in each category, attracted over 1000 persons.

The city can boast of 130 acres in its recreational park system. Included are the Mel Ott Park and the Huey Long Park, each of which has both a swimming pool and a wading pool, and four playgrounds. They are the McDonogh, Bellevue, Eighth Street and McDonogh 27.

Night lights were recently installed at the Huey P. Long Park at a cost of \$11,000.

The baseball diamond in Mel Ott Park is used by the American Legion for all games played in this area. It is also the site during the Spring and Summer of two semi-pro baseball games each Sunday afternoon. The well attended games are the only ones offered in the New Orleans area.

Gretna now has two units avail-

able to represent the city in parades and other special events. Organized in the latter part of 1965 were the Gretna Golden Girls, a group of about 35 young ladies ranging from 14 to 18 years in age, who specialize in high stepping. Their gold sequined uniforms are provided by the city.

The Gretna Rangers and Rangettes, a long favorite marching unit in Mardi Gras parades and such, have grown in size and now have about 300 boys and 150 girls participating.

Our active youth program is, we feel, one good reason for the low rate of juvenile delinquency in Gretna.

As a matter of fact, Gretna can pridefully lay claim to having one of the lowest crime rates in the entire United States. Here again, there is a good reason: the outstanding efficiency of the city's Police Department under the capable direction of Chief of Police Beauregard Miller. Chief Miller, who has over 40 years service, also holds the title of City Marshal.

The Police Department is composed of 19 men who have five patrol cars and a motorcycle at their disposal. Communications are tied-in with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's office in order to insure fast, efficient cooperation between the two law enforcement agencies during emergencies.

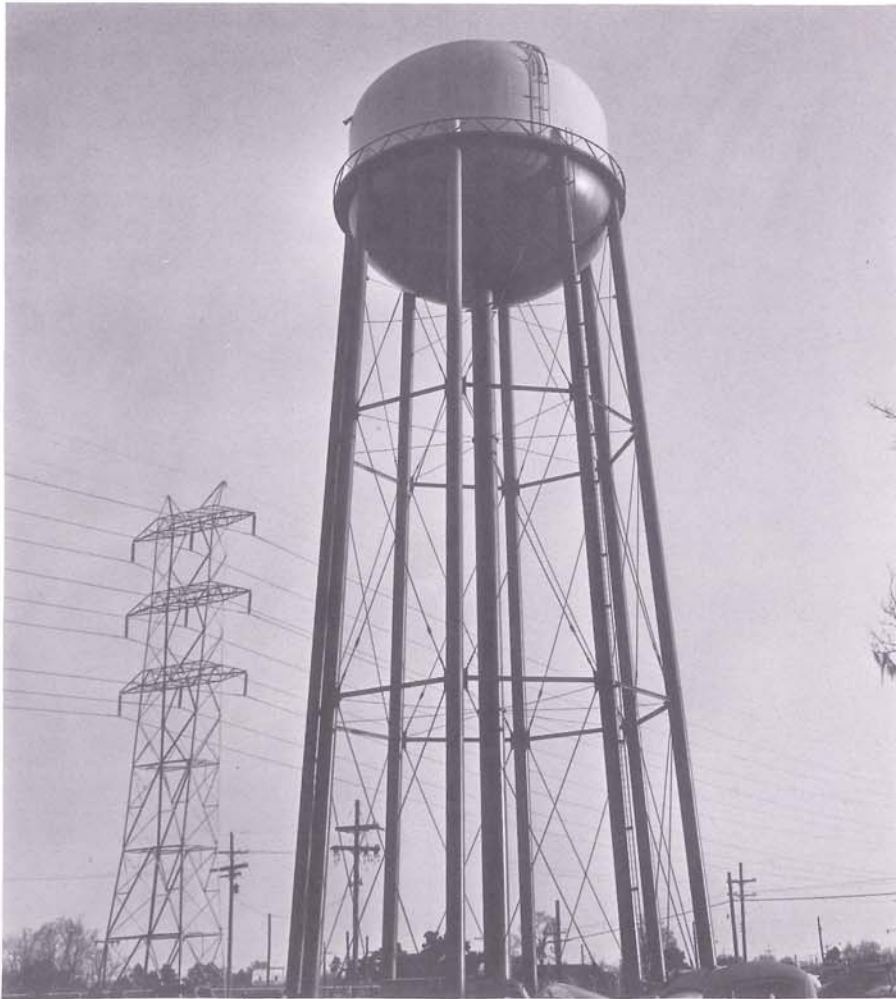
It is to those 300 responsible citizens who serve as volunteer firemen for Gretna's five fire stations that the city and citizens owe a great deal of gratitude for an efficient fire fighting record. So outstanding has been their work that Gretna enjoys exceptionally low fire insurance rates. The city also has nine full-time firemen and modern fire fighting equipment.

Gretna is especially proud of the David Crockett Volunteer Fire Department, the oldest volunteer fire department still functioning in the entire United States. Organized in 1841, it is celebrating its 125th year of continuous service. The Gould Volunteer Fire Company and David Crockett Department provides some of the best fire-prevention in the nation.

Gretna's drainage system is one of the best in the state and its street



Gretna city officials (seated l. to r.) are Louis Le Boeuf, Jr., Alderman; Beau-regard H. Miller, Sr., Marshal; William J. White, Mayor, and Anthony J. Marchese, Alderman. Standing (l. to r.) are Charles A. Huber, Building Inspector; Lester Harper, Ass't Building Inspector; John Ray, Treasurer; Alvin E. Hotard, Engineer; John L. Dulcich, Jr., Alderman; Eugene Gehring, Mayor pro-tem; Wil-fred Bush, Clerk, and Andrew Thalheim, Attorney.



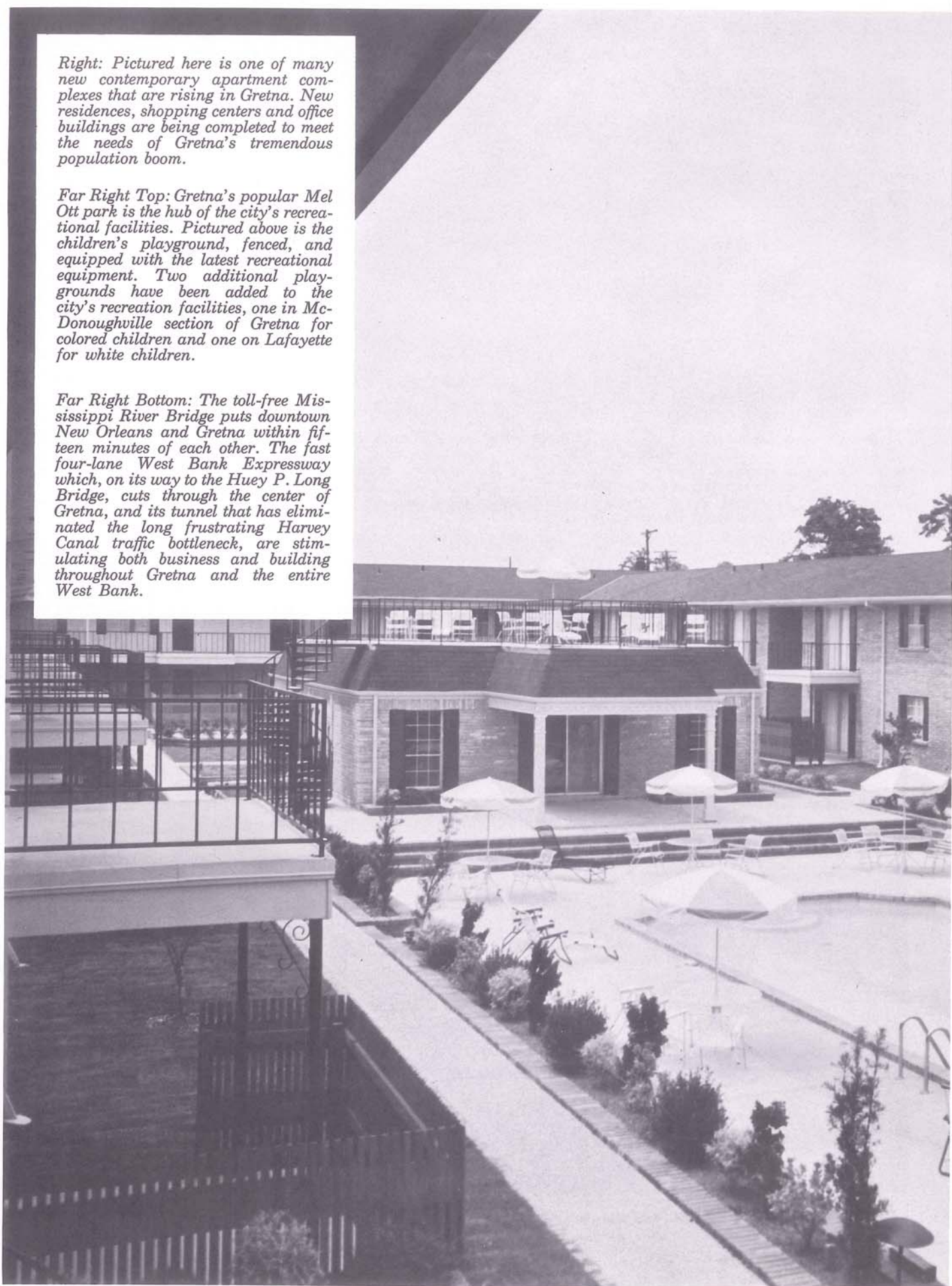
Construction of this half million gallon capacity water tower at Belle Chasse Highway and Gretna Boulevard was completed in 1966. It is an integral part of the vast expansion of the present Gretna Waterworks System.

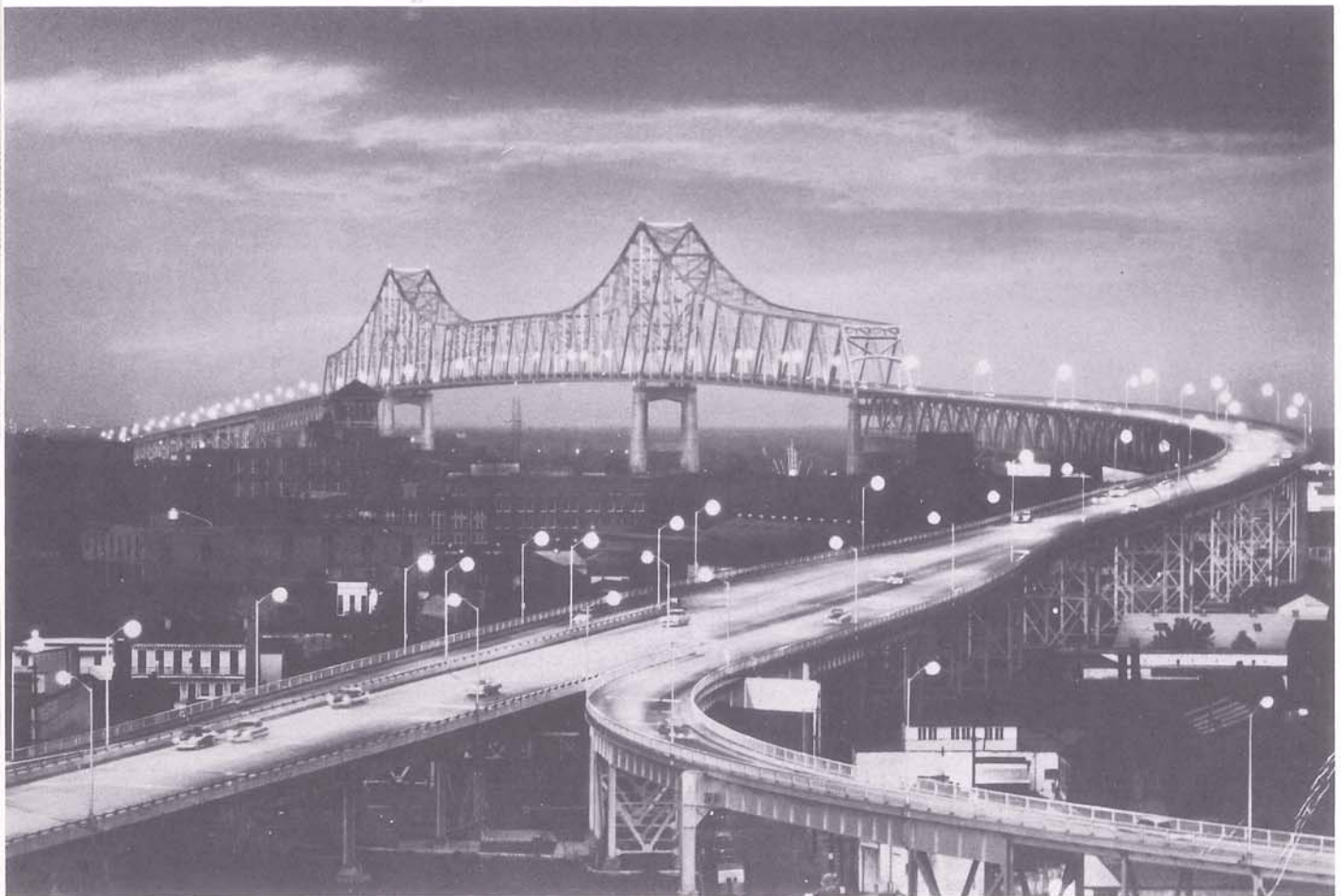
**"A Sensational
Growth in
prosperity and
population."**

Right: Pictured here is one of many new contemporary apartment complexes that are rising in Gretna. New residences, shopping centers and office buildings are being completed to meet the needs of Gretna's tremendous population boom.

Far Right Top: Gretna's popular Mel Ott park is the hub of the city's recreational facilities. Pictured above is the children's playground, fenced, and equipped with the latest recreational equipment. Two additional playgrounds have been added to the city's recreation facilities, one in McDonoughville section of Gretna for colored children and one on Lafayette for white children.

Far Right Bottom: The toll-free Mississippi River Bridge puts downtown New Orleans and Gretna within fifteen minutes of each other. The fast four-lane West Bank Expressway which, on its way to the Huey P. Long Bridge, cuts through the center of Gretna, and its tunnel that has eliminated the long frustrating Harvey Canal traffic bottleneck, are stimulating both business and building throughout Gretna and the entire West Bank.





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a straight
course to
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Stumpf's Westside Shopping Center

lighting system ranks among the best in the country among cities of its size.

Equally efficient is the city's garbage and trash collection service. Regular collections are made three times a week at no additional cost to the individual home owners and businesses.

The men most responsible for the city's fine services are the aldermen in charge of each. They are: Eugene Gehring, who is in charge of both the garbage and trash collection program and superintendent of the water department; G. Ashton Cox, chairman, Finance Committee; Louis A. LeBoeuf, Jr., recreation department; Anthony J. Marchese, park activities; and John Dulcich, office administration.

With such a record of well planned progress, growth and responsibility it's no wonder that Gretna is viewed favorably by an increasing number of businesses. Many of the companies long established in the city are expanding and still others have announced plans to build here.

New business construction announced during the year includes a \$145,000 supermarket and drug store by the Gretna Development Company . . . a new office on the Westbank Expressway by the Mercantile Bank and Trust Co. . . . 49

four-plex apartment units at a cost of \$931,000 by the Gretna Village Apartments . . . a \$100,000 21 unit apartment complex called Casa La Rosa on the Westbank Expressway . . . a new warehouse by the Mechanical Supply Company . . . a new office for West Bank Printers, Inc. West Bank Guide) on Belle Chasse . . . a new warehouse at a cost of over a quarter of a million dollars by the Malter Supply Co. . . . a \$320,000 office for the Mothe Life Insurance Co. on the West Bank Expressway . . . a new cabinet works factory, the Carl E. Woodward, on McDonogh . . . the new Harris Paint Store on Franklin and an American Rent-All on Wil-
low.

Among the larger expansions announced this year were a \$592,000 addition to the Westside Shopping Center . . . a \$586,000 addition to the recently established Coca-Cola plant . . . a \$65,000 addition to Cavaretta's Furniture store on the Westbank Expressway . . . and a \$300,000 addition to the Guaranty Bank and Trust Co.

We're proud of the progress we've made in Gretna and have every intention of maintaining what we feel is proving to be a sure, straight course to continued growth and prosperity.

The Gretna Courthouse Building has been remodeled recently and is now the beautiful new Gretna City Hall . . . offices for the Mayor, Chief of Police, Regulatory Inspection, Director of the Budget, Bookkeeping Department, and general offices for the collection of water bills, taxes, paving assessments and occupational licenses. On the second floor is the Courtroom used for Night Court and meetings of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.



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The East Bank and West Bank Councils of the Chamber of Commerce of the New Orleans Area were formed during the decade of the 1950's as a direct result of the rapid industrial, commercial and residential development of the areas adjacent to Orleans Parish.

West Bank Council

The first Council, the West Bank, was founded in 1951 following a reorganization of the New Orleans Association of Commerce, which changed its name to the Chamber of Commerce of the New Orleans Area, and simultaneously broadened its scope to promote development of the entire adjacent region.

The West Bank Council's area of interest includes, generally, those portions of Jefferson, Orleans and Plaquemines parishes which lie on the West Bank of the Mississippi River. It was felt that both the problems and opportunities presented by this region differed in many respects from those of East Bank Orleans Parish, and could best

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be approached by business and professional people who resided or had substantial business interests in this area.

Consequently, the West Bank Council—while still an integral part of the Chamber of Commerce of the New Orleans Area—is specifically concerned with development of the West Bank area.

The Council's membership is made up exclusively of men and women who reside in the West Bank area, or who have substantial business or industrial investment in the area. A chairman and two vice-chairmen are elected each year, and a 21-member Executive Committee—the governing body of the Council—is elected annually from the membership, and represents various geographic sections of the Council area. The Council is also represented, by a minimum of six members, on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, and is also represented on the Chamber's Executive Committee.

A number of Committees, each appointed to make studies and recommendations in certain fields, are appointed each year. They are concerned with such aspects of the West Bank area as highways, waterways, industrial and commercial development, legislation affecting the Council region, business climate and many others.

Since the economy and influence of the New Orleans area are constantly expanding, the West Bank Council's geographic area of interest is not rigidly fixed. Considerations which jointly affect the West Bank area and the parishes adjacent to it are frequently discussed during the periodic Executive Committee and membership meetings.

The Council is non-political, although Council members often meet with parish political bodies for discussions and recommendations. Like the Chamber as a whole, the West Bank Council is concerned with issues affecting its region, and not with political personalities. Its primary function is to promote the orderly development of the area's economic life.

East Bank Council

The second area Council founded within the Chamber of Commerce is the East Bank Council, which was organized in 1954. This Council is

Continued on Page 128

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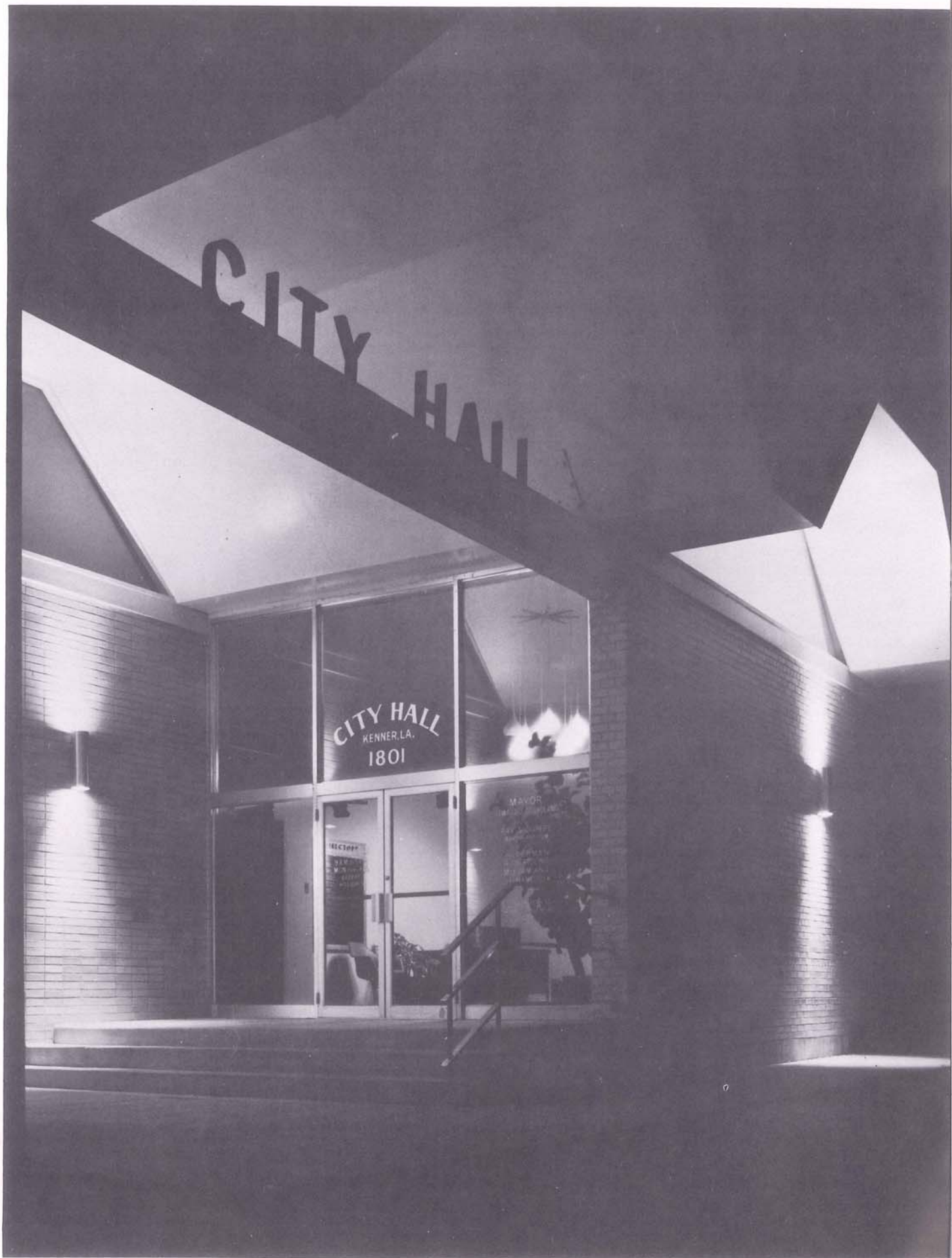
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KENNER

**By Edward J. D'Gerolamo,
Mayor**

The Sixties, and especially 1966, have simply been sensational for Kenner, now recognized as the fastest growing city in Louisiana.

Our population has climbed to more than 26,000 compared to 23,000 in 1965, 21,000 in 1964, 17,000 in 1960, 5500 in 1950 and about 2400 before World War II.

As Pie Dufour of the New Orleans States-Item wrote, Kenner doubled its population from 1940 to 1950, tripled it from 1950 to 1960 and is on the way to at least doubling it again by 1970. Such growth has amazed people. Mr. Dufour called it "fantastic growth." Judge Robert L. Rivard of Gretna said, "I never thought I'd live to see the day that Kenner would grow to a city like this."

But Kenner has not just grown in size. It has matured into a modern city. Its services have grown tremendously. Business and industry have increased in number and size. Our people have prospered and won honors. They have geared themselves to meet the inevitable problems that face any growing city.

This interest in our city was manifested in our spirited elections of the past year, elections in which

city officials had to account for their past services and outline their platforms for the continued growth and welfare of Kenner. The city, happy with its growth, gave our administration an excellent vote of confidence. Now we are ready to work together in peace and harmony for the benefit of our city.

In addition to electing me to a second term as mayor, the people re-elected Anthony J. Bertolino, Michael J. Damiano, Ray S. Dupepe and Lebo Mancuso as aldermen; elected Joseph Yenni to a first term on the board; and re-elected Salvador Lentini as marshal. The board has reappointed Harold Kytile as city attorney and Rene Harris as city engineer and retained Andrew Hoffman, a certified public accountant, to keep the city's books.

We have a master plan for the growth of Kenner and we plan to follow it.

In 1966, we had an operating budget of \$860,431.43, our biggest ever. It provides \$114,000 for police salaries and expenses; \$100,000 for fire department salaries and expenses; \$48,000 for our recreation department; and a \$5,000 contribution to the new police pension fund. The budget provided for four new police cars, four additional firemen,

a city ambulance, a \$6,000 increase for the recreation department and about a \$20,000 surplus. We were able to carry over a \$66,000 surplus from 1965 and previous years.

Our 1966 capital improvements budget provided for these major improvements, all scheduled for completion within the year: \$180,000 for the city hall addition; \$102,000 for the new city jail; \$65,000 for a new fire station; \$29,000 for a new fire engine; \$74,000 for a new garage and new buses; \$3.5 million for the Sewerage District No. 2 plant and facilities.

In 1966, we dedicated our \$5.1 million sewage treatment plant and collection system for Drainage District No. 1. It provides 66 miles of sewer collection lines, 934 sewer manholes and 4800 sewer connections. It is serving 18,000 residents and ultimately will serve 32,000.

A similar system for District No. 2, which will serve remaining areas of Kenner, is nearing completion.

The city has obtained a \$1200 per year reduction on its lighting bills, a result of the installation of Mercury vapor lights on Jefferson Highway, Williams Blvd. and city playgrounds. We plan to use these savings to install additional vapor lights. Eventually we plan them



Kenner city officials, seated left to right, are Salvador J. Lentini, Marshal; Lebo Mancuso, alderman; Edward J. D'Geralamo, Mayor; Ray S. Dupepe, Mayor pro tem and Mike Damiano, alderman. Standing (l. to r.) William Mancuso, fire chief; Harold Kytte, city attorney; Frank Rodriguez, planning consultant; Joseph S. Yenni, alderman; Mmes. Joy Morales, Eileen Palumbo, Caroline Louvier, Philomene Paasch, Joan Hebert, Hilda Clement, clerks; Anthony Bertolino, alderman; Andrew Hoffman, Sec.-Treasurer and Roy Cartier, city engineer.



Spacious council chamber-courthouse highlights new Kenner municipal building.

throughout Kenner, which would help us prevent crime and would give us the best lighting system in the South for a city our size.

In 1967, because of our growth and the increase in the parish sales tax, we expect to receive more than \$200,000 in additional revenue for Kenner. We are studying ways to use this money to strengthen our police and fire departments and other departments of city government. We are suggesting an increase of from \$315 to \$400 in base pay to attract more men to police and fire work.

The Board of Aldermen has also initiated a study into the feasibility of hiring a private contractor to make simultaneous garbage and trash collections, three pickups per week. This two-year contract would cost \$168,000, considerably less than the \$104,000 we have been paying Jefferson Parish annually for garbage pickups alone.

Our master plan for capital improvements also includes:

- A new building for ceramics, arts and crafts, to be completed in 1966.
- A new police complex.
- A civic auditorium and gymnasium.
- Hard surfacing of all Kenner streets.

The auditorium and gymnasium would supplement our already expanded recreational program. Our Kenner Marina on the lakefront is already operating. We hope to appoint full time supervisors for all of our playgrounds.

The state highway department has started the hard surfacing of 12 miles of gravel streets south of Airline Highway. All streets north of the Airline have already been resurfaced. The city has obtained assurances that interchanges on Interstate 10, which is coming through Kenner, will be located in the most feasible places.

We have added two new buses to our Kenner Loop Bus Service, providing hourly service to all parts of the city in heated, air conditioned vehicles. They were obtained with the help of a grant from the U. S.

Office of Transportation.

To help keep crime out of Kenner, the Board of Aldermen has established a Police Call Board, which will hire police on a temporary basis for special duties. These men will be selected from applicants who have applied for full time police work. The City of Kenner has a \$73,000 per year contract to provide police protection at the New Orleans International Airport. We will use the Police Call Board to help carry out some of the assignments there.

Our city jail was designed so that it could be used as a civil defense building in case of emergency, a designation that made it eligible for up to 50 per cent financing by the Federal government.

In March, 1967 the nine-mile, \$19 million water trunk line system is expected to be completed in our area. This will improve water pressure and service in Kenner and should do away with water shortages during freezing periods or summer drouths.

And the Jefferson Parish Mosquito Control Division assures us that it intends to remove mosquitoes as a major pest in our area.

All of our city employes have been given raises in the last few years. In four years the raises have totalled more than 20 per cent.

Part of this has been made possible through the wise investment of the city's idle funds. In 1965 alone, interest on this money amounted to \$5,000. In my first term it totalled about \$20,000.

The firemen's pension and relief fund had a cash balance of more than \$16,000 going into 1966.

Signs of our new prosperity appear throughout the parish:

— Developers have proposed a 13-acre luxury apartment complex on the Kenner lakefront. The 300 apartment complex would be the first of its kind on Lake Pontchartrain and developers say it would provide another beauty spot for our city.

— The Board of Aldermen has accepted plans for the 600-home Driftwood Subdivision located east

of Williams Boulevard and north of West Esplanade. Many other new homes are being built in Kenner, the last major growth area remaining on the East Bank of Jefferson.

— New businesses continue to open in Kenner. The Sears Roebuck store on Williams Blvd. is just one example of the continued growth and expansion of our shopping center areas.

With construction continuing on Interstate 10, we expect more people and more business to move to Kenner.

It has been a proud year for our people.

In September, 1965 Hurricane Betsy hit many homes and many businesses very hard. But our people did not run away. They have rebuilt, repaired and remodeled. Signs of the hurricane today are hard to find in our city.

Our people participated in such worthy programs as the United Fund, in Heart Month, in the observance of National Maritime Day and of Captain Ronnie Rod Month. In February the Board of Aldermen called upon citizens to donate money, soap and medical supplies for South Viet Nam in honor of Captain Rod, who died in Viet Nam. Residents made splendid contributions at the fire station.

The Kenner Bluebellies, a product of our recreation department, placed third in the All-American Parade competition during Mardi Gras season. This young twirling corps, directed by Mrs. Lynn Kirby, was competing for the first time and even greater accomplishments are expected in the future.

In May, 1966 Kenner won the "cleanest city competition" conducted by District II of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation. The victory was scored among cities of 10,000 population or more. To keep Kenner clean and attractive, the Board of Aldermen has established a city beautification committee.

We have achieved a great deal. Few cities have accomplished so much so quickly. But much remains to be done through the cooperation of all our citizens.

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Senator (Ret.) Alvin Stumpf of Gretna Holds Annual Party for Legislative Pages

Hundreds of youngsters—legislative pages for the entire session, gathered on the evening of June 29, in the State Capitol cafeteria for a chicken dinner with all the trimmings as guests of former Sen. Alvin Stumpf of Gretna, who entertained at his annual party for pages in Baton Rouge. As usual he presented gifts to pages and had help from many state officials with the affair.

Sen. Stumpf has been holding the parties for more than 20 years, and they have grown more and more elaborate as time goes by. Wednesday's was a particularly gala affair although late meetings of the House and Senate kept some officials from attending.

Not the pages though. There was a general exodus of the youngsters from both House and Senate as 5 p.m. approached and by a few minutes after the cafeteria was a riot of noise and horn blowing as the boys and girls whooped it up.

Some of the children came from their homes elsewhere in Louisiana for the party. They were pages who served for short periods in early days of the session and came back for the party.

Prizes ranging from U.S. savings bonds to bicycles were given to the children at the party. There were also watches and best of all a poodle pup and a pekinese pup which drew admiring exclamations from the children.

Gov. McKeithen, accompanied by his daughters, Rebecca and Melissa, headed an imposing list of state officials who attended the party. Lt. Gov. C. C. (Taddy) Aycock, busy presiding over the Senate, was represented by his wife.

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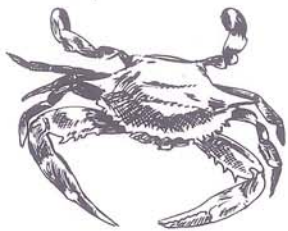
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PROGRESS

Continued from page 7

Within these boundaries today are six governments—representing five incorporated municipalities headed by a mayor, marshal and board of aldermen and the President-Council which replaced the police jury in 1958 as the governing body for Jefferson's unincorporated areas.

Kenner Is Oldest City

Kenner, the oldest of Jefferson's five cities, was incorporated in 1855 when Minor Kenner gave up part of his plantation at the town site of Kennerville. It lost its charter due to political machinations in 1886 but got it back in 1913.

Westwego began in 1882 as a fishing village known as Salaville. Salaville was one of four loading docks on the Mississippi. When longshoremen assembled in the afternoon to be assigned to a location for the next day's work, those assigned to Salaville would pass the word "West We Go" and eventually the town became known as Westwego.

Gretna, a shortening of Scotland's famous marrying town of Gretna Green, became a town by proclamation of the governor in 1913 but was not incorporated by legislative act until 1916. It was formed from the two adjoining villages of Mechanickham and McDonoughville.

Harahan, incorporated in 1920, gets its name from the original Choctaw word meaning "those who live by the river".

On June 19, 1959, the people of Grand Isle incorporated themselves as a town, taking in both the island of Grand Isle and the mainland community of Cheniere Caminada.



Richard A. Cousins, *Editor*

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HARAHAN

By Mayor Freddie A. Wilcox

Only three months after inauguration, the new Harahan administration can report significant progress in their comprehensive program of improvements and civic betterment as follows:

Streets — Preparation for black-topping of Tyler, Harris and Wilson streets has begun, first step in plans to blacktop 15 miles of streets in a property owner's petition program. River Road has been widened from Imperial Woods to Colonial Country Club and repairs were made on O.K. avenue and East and West streets. State assistance is being sought to widen Hickory street and improve drainage with uniform culverting according to engineer's recommendations.

Lighting — Twenty-four new mercury lights were installed on Colonial Club Drive. Others are replaced throughout the city as needed.

Beautification — A tractor was purchased for \$3600 for weed cutting and lawn mowing and a maintenance department employee assigned to a continuous year 'round job of keeping city property and neutral ground areas well-groomed and litter-free.

The Harahan Businessmen's Association donated litter barrels to aid in the city's participation in the parish-wide November anti-litter drive.

Plans are under way for development of battures, another goal of the present city administration.

Drainage and Ditches — An emergency appropriation of \$4000, matched by the parish, has solved two serious drainage problems.

A crushed drainage line at Lauricella ditch was replaced and the Crochet sewer line cleared.

Closing of all open ditches is projected with property owners paying for the culverts and installation costs absorbed by the city.

Sewerage — Harahan now enjoys modern city-wide sewerage, a vital necessity to Jefferson's "City of Homes."

Recreation — Additional lighting (24 mercury vapor fixtures) was installed at Soniat Field and additional acreage cleared across Hickory street making several new fields available.

Improved facilities not only gave the city's Dixie League Senior Boy's team its first league-approved field for home games but increases Harahan's chances to host the state tournament next year.

Other planned recreation innovations: a large picnic area, football and baseball teams for 6 and 7 year olds and animated rides for children.

New Construction — A new shopping center on Jefferson Hwy. near the Colonial Country Club opened in November and rezoning in the 8300 block clears the way for a modern medical clinic.

Police Protection — A raise in base pay for deputies, new uniforms, intensive training, two new patrol cars, remodeling and enlarging of

office and jail facilities — all of these have been accomplished in only three months by new city marshal George R. Picone.

The number of tickets for traffic violations has doubled because of more diligent 24-hour patrolling.

A 96-hour basic training course has been completed by eight paid deputies and 14 auxiliary deputies. Instructors came from the sheriff's office, state police and FBI.

Responsibility for 24-hour operation of Harahan's oxygen-equipped ambulance has been transferred from the fire department to the Marshal's office. Primarily for use by the city, the vehicle responds to emergencies on a reciprocal arrangement with other law enforcement agencies.

Fire Protection — Three paid employees and over 50 volunteers man Harahan's two fire stations at the City Hall and at Randolph and Lincoln.

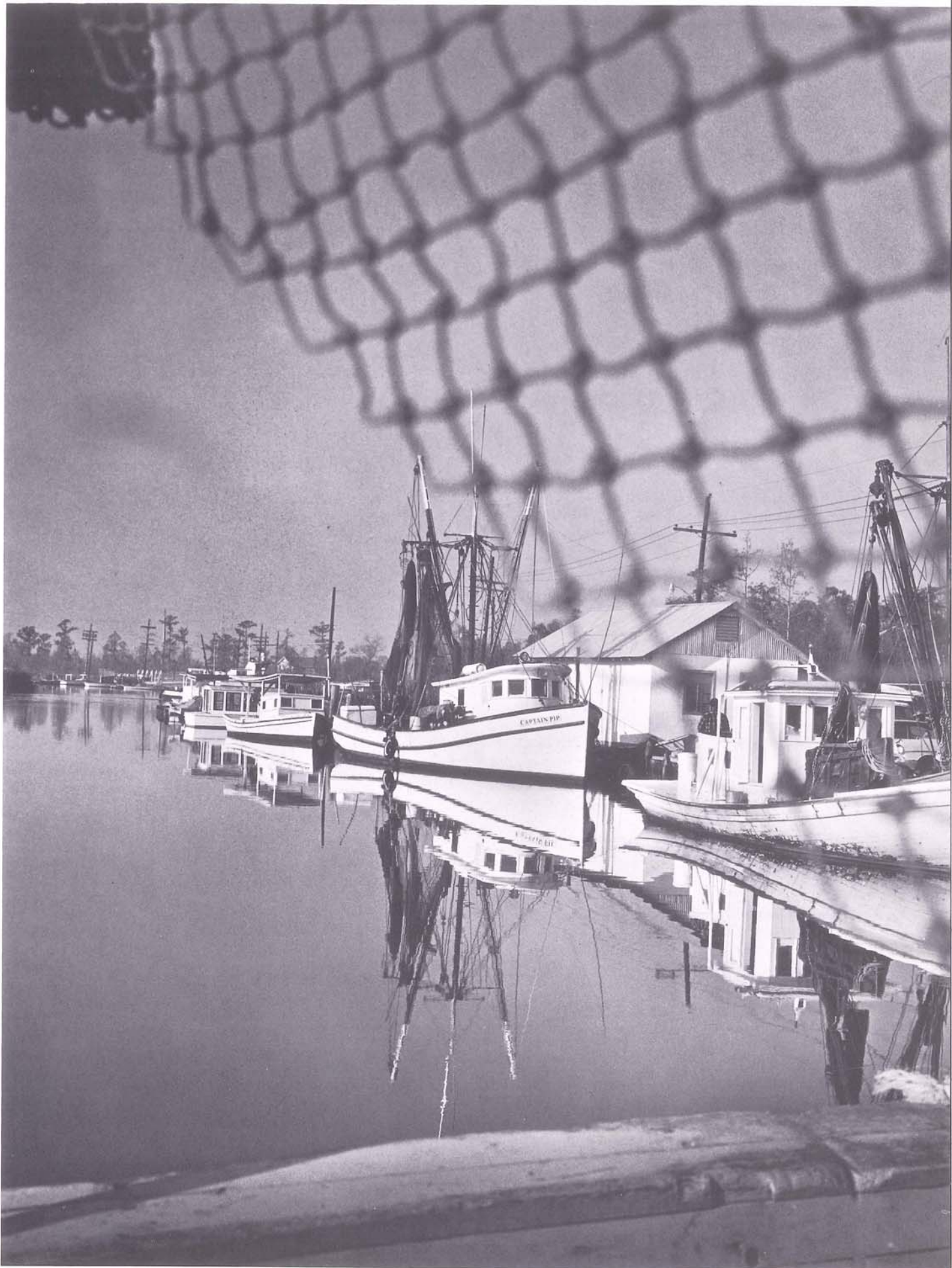
Residential Harahan (2600 homeowners) with its adjoining Industrial area is a city on the move. Among its 13,000 people are 4300 civic minded voters who expect nothing less than the best for their city.

Within the limits of its budget (\$209,000) and with citizen participation in utility petition programs Harahan's mayor, marshal and board of aldermen are pledged to a non-stop program of public improvements to keep Harahan—ON THE MOVE!



Harahan officials (seated l. to r.) are Alderman Fred. J. Barocco, Mayor Freddie A. Wilcox and Mayor pro-tem Clinton C. Cressionne. Standing (l. to r.) are Aldermen Maurice P. Bowler, Al Barousse, Alton L. Bourg and Marshal George R. Picone. All, except Cressionne, are newly-elected.

Harahan's new Colonial Shopping Center on Jefferson highway opened in November with a grocery, drug, variety, department and catalog store. Apartments will rise soon at rear of center.



WESTWEGO

With plans for numerous multi-million dollar projects and public improvements completed or underway, the job of Westwego Mayor Ernest J. Tassin has become a full-time responsibility.

The energetic Tassin sees a bright future for his city, despite its growth problems, thanks to the cooperation of the board of aldermen and parish, state and federal agencies.

With a population of 13,000 people and over \$5 million assessed valuation, Westwego is a fast growing community. But the cost of additional city services is growing faster and must be paid in advance.

Utility improvements have been installed in four new subdivisions totaling 550 homes. These include sewerage, water, sub-surface drainage and concrete paving with rollover curbs in Shady Oak Park, Emerald Park, West Park Heights and Dumone Subdivision and completes city-wide sanitary sewerage.

One of the nation's largest moderate income rental housing developments will be built soon in Westwego by private enterprise with FHA financing. The \$3.5 million 300-unit development will be increased later to add more units. Construction has also begun on a \$2 million six block complex of four riverfront warehouses by the D. H. Overmyer Co., Inc., to be completed late in 1967.

With the city's hurricane-damaged water intake landing rebuilt at a cost of \$40,000, Mayor Tassin and the board of aldermen have authorized feasibility and growth studies for a million dollar Water System improvement program.

Present water plant capacity of three million gallons would be doubled, storage capacity increased by 2.5 million gallons and a 12-inch trunk line loop added. Expansion will be financed by revenue bonds and a hoped-for federal grant of \$882,000.

The city has received approval of a \$6,840 federal planning grant for a municipal incinerator. This \$292,000 facility will eliminate health problems now caused by the open dump and landfill, and will curb pollution of the Westwego Canal and Bayou Segnette.

With the purchase of five dump trucks, a trash truck, a back-hoe for ditch digging and a grass tractor with grader blade, officials have launched

a "Let's Spruce Up Westwego" campaign. Garbage and trash ordinances are being enforced and non-resident property owners asked to clean up their vacant lots.

Now that the Westwego Volunteer Fire Company has moved into a new all-steel building, the old city hall-firehouse building is being converted into a maintenance garage, including the city waterworks new radio controlled communications center.

Pay raises for all city employees were given on September 1, 1966. Three veteran city employees, each with 43 years of service, were presented handsome pocket watches last year in appreciation of their devoted service.

Westwego's business community is growing with two diesel plants, a concrete plant, an auto accessory store and beautification of the Wego Shopping Center. Also planned is a \$225,-

000 luxury apartment complex on the Expressway.

A joint city-state project to eliminate the infamous River Road "suicide curve" on La. 541 near Avenue D is under way. Preliminary right-of-way acquisition has been announced.

Westwego's 100-pound bantam football team, the Trojans, are 1966 West Jefferson champs. Sharing this honor are the city's 30 Volunteer coaches headed by playground director Shelby Bolotte. The new Westwego Playground and Sports Association is rebuilding the hurricane-damaged grandstand with the help of civic and fraternal organizations.

City Marshal Sidney J. Guillot, with nine patrolmen and three new patrol cars, is doing an excellent law enforcement job in Westwego. He recently cracked a teen-age burglary ring, clearing up five burglaries.



Westwego's city officials, seated left to right, are Aldermen Andy P. Valence and Kennedy L. Croom, Mayor Ernest J. Tassin, Alderman Rudy P. Brown and mayor pro-tem Horace J. Boudreaux. Standing (l. to r.) are city attorney Nestor L. Currault, Jr., Alderman Antoine Alario, Marshal Sidney J. Guillot and democratic committeemen John Alario, Jr., Nelson Perkins and Lionel Guise.

Framed in a silhouette of fish netting, Bayou Segnette's shrimp boats lie quietly at anchor. This peaceful stream begins at the bustling West Bank Expressway in Westwego and is an integral part of Jefferson's seafood industry.

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Continued from page 99



CIVIL DEFENSE

Residents of Jefferson can feel a sense of security in the protective program of its Civil Defense Department.

The operating budget for 1965 was \$86,000. Federal funds received included \$23,498 under the administrative program and \$44,427 through the hardware program.

Surplus property, with a value of \$155,783 was purchased for only \$8,605 for Civil Defense use by various parish departments.

The department was staffed by seven full-time, two part-time employees and 286 volunteer workers.

Despite the death of Director Harry E. Evans in October, 1965, the department was able to fulfill the objectives of its various programs as required for federal matching funds.

These included warning, communications, shelter, radiological, resource management, engineering, emergency welfare and medical.

1965 Accomplishments

Among important 1965 accomplishments were the following:

- Installed five outdoor warning system sirens at a cost of \$21,000.
- Compiled a complete list of available shelters including public buildings, schools and even the Harvey Tunnel which has a capacity for 5705 people.
- Developed, printed and distributed to key departments and agencies a revised basic civil defense plan.
- Conducted seminars for architects and others responsible for design of schools and other public buildings in a continuing effort to get these buildings constructed to fallout shelter standards.
- Set up 78 equipped monitoring stations for Radiological Defense, involv-



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system.

Responded In Emergencies

- Produced "Can We Help?" booklet to advise other civil agencies that civil defense stands ready to aid in emergencies other than those for which civil defense is directly responsible. For example, parish civil defense responded to calls for help in seven emergencies during 1965, including a school bomb scare and a search for lost fishermen on Lake Pontchartrain.
- Maintained unbroken radio communication system throughout Hurricane Betsy in September, 1965, with exception of 20-minute interval during hurricane night when a collapsed antenna was restored to service by volunteers. Estimated total of all radio transmissions was 8,500 to 10,000.
- Handled 7,580 telephone calls from the Parish Control Center for more than 100 continuous hours before, during and after Hurricane Betsy.
- Coordinated efforts of rescue and civil defense auxiliary police, other trained volunteer workers and parish department personnel who compiled 10,000 man hours in combating effects of the hurricane.

- Distributed 7,500 pieces of literature, sponsored or participated in 38 meetings attended by a total of 1305 people from various civic groups.

- Arranged for one-week showing of Army Mobile Civil Defense Display Unit at shopping centers on Veterans Highway and West Bank Expressway.

Hundreds Are Trained

- Trained over 200 people in first aid, medical self-help, shelter management, radiological instrument operation and other subjects.
- Arranged for training of 150 paid and volunteer firemen in "Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance" by 45th Ordnance Detachment Group. Also trained volunteer firemen in "Radiological Hazards of Firefighting."
- Sponsored various civil defense training sessions with the co-operation of the General Extension Division of L.S.U. in Baton Rouge, which provided instructors and equipment.
- Sent the parish assistant civil defense director to one-week Army staff school in "Advanced Civil Defense Management" and a Medical Aid Section Volunteer worker to a chemical warfare seminar at Fort McClellan, Ala.

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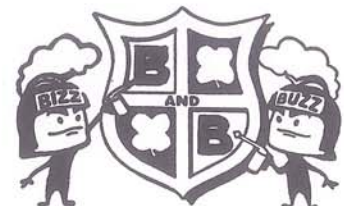
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MOSQUITO CONTROL DEPARTMENT

Jefferson got its first officially appointed Mosquito Control director on March 1, 1965.

Parish voters three months before had authorized a 35-cent monthly service charge to finance a five pronged attack aimed at:

- Determining types of mosquitoes.
- Locating breeding sources.
- Preventing breeding by drainage, filling in or insecticides.
- Controlling the adult mosquitoes after they emerge by fogging.
- Informing the public about progress of program.

With a 10-month budget of \$230,511 in 1965 and \$290,259 in 1966, the Jefferson Mosquito Control Department achieved a 75 per cent reduction in the numbers of mosquitoes during the first year of operation.

Parish-wide fogging began in July, 1965 and a full scale program to permanently eliminate breeding sites started six months later.

West Bank Area Sprayed

First major breakthrough came in mid-summer 1965 when an immense 200-acre "salt water bog" mosquito breeding ground was discovered close to Bridge City at the intersection of U.S.

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A second 200-acre area and a 50-acre area capable of breeding billions of mosquitoes was discovered a year later in East Jefferson. The breeding grounds were spotted in August, 1966, by a helicopter leased for a year by the Jefferson Mosquito Control Department.

Teams of inspectors travelled 28,800 miles through the parish two months before and a month after Hurricane Betsy, locating and "treating" breeding sites.

Volunteers Recruited

Volunteers were recruited to help locate breeding areas on private property and citizen "light-trap tenders" helped to determine type and quantity of mosquitoes collected in residential areas.

At Grand Isle, 56 acres of water surface were treated and 25 million mosquitoes eliminated during the five months after Hurricane Betsy. As a result, the Island enjoyed a mosquito-free weekend for the famed Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo.

Outstanding benefits to Jefferson have exceeded the 9 reasons given for the program when it was conceived:

- Prevention of infectious diseases such as encephalitis, yellow fever, dengue fever or malaria.
- More productive man-hours in "outdoor" employment, including farm employment.
- Increased land values and more rapid land development.
- Reduction in medical bills for treatment of infection or allergies.
- Reduced cost of insect repellants or household insecticides.
- Greater enjoyment of outdoor recreational areas.
- Reduction of heartworm infection among dogs.
- Reduction in livestock losses.
- Reduction in fowl-pox in poultry.

With 31 full-time employees and 26 vehicles, including draglines, ditch diggers and marsh buggies, about 50 per cent of the stagnant water sources in the developed areas of the parish should be eliminated by the end of 1966.

The remaining sources, except for standing water created by new roads and building construction, should be eliminated in two years.

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An educational program to eradicate breeding sites around the home such as clogged roof gutters, automobile tires, tin cans, etc., can result in almost total destruction of the mosquito population in Jefferson.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Following two years of study and public hearings, the Jefferson Parish Council adopted an amended comprehensive zoning ordinance to become effective in February, 1966.

The immediate effect was to add long-needed stability to parish zoning, modernize the master land-use plan and solve 98 per cent of the zoning problems in Jefferson's unincorporated areas.

The zoning revisions, involving map and text changes, were the result of two years of effort by parish officials, the Planning Department, the Planning Advisory Board and a nine member Citizens Planning Committee set up in November, 1963.

The overall study moved into high gear in 1964 when the former council provided \$15,000 to review parish zoning. From November, 1964 to March, 1965, public hearings were held to receive comments on tentative recommendations.

Final revisions by the Planning Department and the Planning Advisory Board were discussed at twelve area meetings on the East Bank and three on the West Bank.

Overall, the revisions included in the zoning ordinance affect principally the East Bank where new areas of commercial and multiple zoning as well as heavy industrial zoning were established. The previous industrial classification was divided into Light and Heavy districts and the commercial classification was separated into "general" and "neighborhood" groupings.

The Two-Family Residential (R-2) zoning classification was increased in older, established sections of East Jefferson where duplexes and apartments already existed to make land use conform to the law and to give equal zoning privileges to all. The R-3 multiple family residential district was redefined and expanded to meet increasing demand for apartment buildings.

A new classification RR-3 covering three and four family residences was added to bridge the gap between two family and multiple family districts.

During 1965, 161 applications for re-

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classification were received, seven studies were made at the Council's request and 24 public hearings were held.

Proposed zoning adopted by the parish reveals the highly residential character of the East Bank and the vast potential of the West Bank.

Percentage tables are as follows:
RESIDENTIAL

	EAST BANK	WEST BANK
(R-1) Single Family	58.34 %	23.85 %
(R-2) Two Family	7.33 %	5.54 %
(RR-3) Three, Four Family	2.24 %	2.35 %
(R-3) Multiple Family	5.93 %	3.03 %

SANITATION DEPARTMENT, SEWERAGE DIVISION

Ninety per cent of the developed area in Jefferson now has modern sewerage.

This was accomplished by completion of over 250 miles of sewer lines early in 1966 with bond issue funds.

In East Jefferson, a majority of the property owners in the "3400-acre tract" petitioned the parish to provide a \$25 million public improvements program which will bring sanitary sewerage, water, paving and subsurface drainage to the last sizeable unimproved area remaining on the east bank.

A contract for \$6.2 million for paving and drainage was awarded in August, 1966, for the "3400-acre tract." Sewerage construction in the area is expected to begin in March, 1967. (Sewerage would be provided first, but all utilities should be completed within two years.)

In West Jefferson, as large tracts of land are sub-divided, developers are required to install sanitary sewerage systems in conjunction with expansion of the necessary sewer treatment facilities.

With this requirement and with the two-year completion schedule for installation of sewerage in the "3400-acre tract," Jefferson should have a complete, modern sewerage system in all developed areas by 1969.

SANITATION DEPARTMENT, DRAINAGE DIVISION

The Drainage Division is responsible for prevention of flooding in the inhabited area of Jefferson Parish

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which is approximately 75 per cent below sea level. This is accomplished by a protection levee system, drainage canals and major pumping stations.

A consulting engineering firm has been appointed for an overall drainage study for the West Bank of Jefferson. This study will include the design requirements of the present drainage system and the orderly drainage development of the vast uninhabited area on the West Bank.

An agreement is now in progress between the various railroads, Louisiana State Highway Department and Jefferson Parish to provide drainage facilities which, when completed, will greatly improve the drainage and mosquito control of the area between Westwego and Avondale.

Pass \$5.2 Million Bond Issue

In order to keep pace with the growth of the parish, a \$5.2 million dollar bond issue was passed on the east bank for major improvements to the canal and pumping station system.

In addition, the Parish entered into a \$2.9 million agreement with the City of New Orleans for construction and improvements to the Seventeenth Street Canal System and pumping station. This will greatly increase the drainage capacity of the Hoey Canal which serves both the Metairie and 7th Ward area. This project is made possible by Federal matching funds.

In addition, the U. S. Corps of Engineers, which is responsible for the levees on the East Bank of Jefferson, has completed raising the Lake Pontchartrain Levee three feet to provide added protection against hurricane tides.

The Lafourche Levee District has completed a protection levee four feet above the maximum record against hurricane tides from Bayou Segnette Pumping Station and around Lake Cataouatche back to Highway 90 at the St. Charles Parish Line. This will offer major flood protection for the area west of Westwego.

The Drainage Division is also responsible for maintenance of the canal system of Jefferson. Approximately 65 miles of major canals and 72 miles of secondary drainage outlets are maintained on a periodic schedule by drainage forces.

SAFETY DEPARTMENT

With the Traffic Division transferred on January 1, 1966, to the Road and

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Bridges Department, the Parish Safety Department continues to supervise operation of four divisions—fire, regulatory inspection, road lighting and taxicabs.

Building permits issued by the regulatory inspection division showed a record increase estimated at \$51 million over the previous year.

A total of 112,447 building, plumbing, electrical and mechanical inspections were processed by the department and the Parish Building Code was researched and updated.

FIRE DIVISION

The fire division, with a superintendent and 110 employees, operates seven stations in the East Bank Consolidated Fire District with two more planned.

Ground was purchased, construction bids asked and two engines ordered for a new station at Causeway Blvd. and 13th street which will be ready early in 1967. Another building site, in the Camp Plaque area, has been donated and funds to build a fire station will be included in the 1967 capital budget.

There are 33 volunteer fire companies in the parish plus the Kenner fire department which is staffed by paid and volunteer firefighters. The parish contributes a portion of each volunteer company's operating funds and provides 300 feet of hose to each fire station.

The fire division has installed new dual-channel radio equipment and acquired three new 1000 gallon-per-minute Diesel pumpers and two new station wagon emergency units. Bids are out now for two new 1250 GPM Diesel pumpers.

The fire prevention section made 1700 safety inspections of commercial, industrial and 200 school buildings.

ROAD LIGHTING DIVISION

This division, which supervises the operation and maintenance of 2856 parish-owned standards and fixtures, spent \$11,655 during the fiscal year to repair or replace defective circuits. The division inspects lighting standards installed by residential developers before recommending that the parish council accept them for maintenance.

Extensive hurricane damage in the Lafitte, Crown Point, Barataria and Grand Isle areas resulted in the replacement of entire lighting systems

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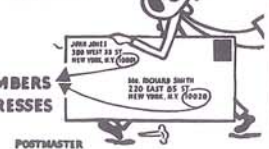
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with modern Mercury Vapor fixtures, thus providing better lighting at about the same cost. It was partially financed by a \$40,000 rebate for lost lighting time from Louisiana Power and Light Company.

Installation of new lighting has been approved for Causeway Blvd. from the River Road to Lake Pontchartrain. Other major streets are being surveyed for future lighting.

TAXICAB DIVISION

The number of taxicabs in the parish increases every year. In 1965, 261 driver permits were issued and 9 suspended or revoked and 273 Certificates of Public Necessity and Convenience were issued and 21 recalled. Over 400 inspections of taxicabs were made during the year.

PARISH ATTORNEY

Primary duty of the parish attorney and his six assistants is to act as official counsel in civil matters for the parish president, the council and the various departments and boards under their supervision.

This office prosecutes and defends all law suits in which the parish has an interest in district court and with associate counsel in federal courts.

The parish attorney, who coordinates the work of parish title researchers, added a part-time assistant in 1966 to expedite the volume of research.

Research has become increasingly important because of the many public improvement projects under way which require site acquisition either by purchase or expropriation.

Update Research Volumes

Research volumes in the law library have been updated and their number increased, particularly those dealing with federal legislation.

A new system has been devised to improve bid procedure. Wording of all proposals must now be approved by the parish attorney before bids are sent out to avoid misunderstanding and delays.

In addition, all contracts, agreements, abstracts, leases and real estate purchases must be submitted to the parish attorney. Resolutions and ordinances must be cleared before submission to the Council.

Monthly staff meetings are conducted by this office at which progress reports are reviewed. The parish attorney also confers daily with his assistants and

maintains liaison between the municipal governments and the parish.

GARBAGE DEPARTMENT

One of the biggest headaches in almost every municipal government is garbage collection and disposal.

In East Jefferson, recurring problems caused by lack of funds and manpower and costly equipment breakdowns brought prompt action from the parish president and the council early this year.

Bids were solicited from private haulers and referred to the parish president, finance, legal and garbage departments for a review and a report. Terms of the agreement specified that the successful bidder would collect garbage and trash from 39,000 "units" in the unincorporated East Bank and operate the parish incinerator on a contract basis.

No Increase in Cost

In July, following four months of study and investigation, an agreement was signed with Jefferson Disposal Co., Inc., to do the job for the same amount it cost the parish—about \$1 million a year.

Parish President Thomas F. Donelon announced in October that the company would start operating soon with new equipment and uniformed drivers. He stressed that there is no time specification on the contract and that it can be broken at any time if the parish is not satisfied with the firm's work.

An engineering survey is underway on the West Bank to see if a similar move should be made for the 18,000 "units" there.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

The parish clerk of council is responsible for notification of council meetings, usually held on Thursday afternoon at the West Bank Courthouse building's council chambers.

This office keeps the minutes of council meetings and sessions, makes copies of all ordinances, acts, resolutions and motions.

Serving as a clearinghouse for parish official business, the clerk's office forwards department directors' requests to the council after recommendations by the parish president. Council action then becomes part of the minutes.

Requests for information from the citizens of Jefferson parish about the various departments are courteously received and handled by this office.

CHAMBER

Continued from page 109

primarily concerned with the booming East Jefferson Parish area, one of the most rapidly developing regions in the country.

Like the West Bank Council, the East Bank Council is governed by a 21-member Executive Committee, and is represented on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

Early in 1961, the Chamber of Commerce opened a branch office on the East Bank. During the opening ceremonies Chamber president W. O. Turner said: "The opening of this new facility is a testimonial to the importance the Chamber of Commerce attaches to the rapidly-expanding East Bank area. I am sure that this new office will create more interest and result in more support for the activities of the Chamber in this area. This section of the New Orleans area has great commercial and industrial potential, and what benefits one part of our metropolitan area benefits the others."

The new branch office, in addition to being an information center on industrial, commercial and residential opportunities on the East Bank, serves also as a meeting place for East Bank Council committees.

Summary

A third area Council was established in 1958—the St. Bernard Council organized and governed in the same manner as the East and West Bank Councils.

Membership in any of these area Councils of the Chamber comes automatically with membership in the Chamber of Commerce, providing the requirements of residence or business interests in either of the three regions are met, and no additional membership dues are needed.

The organization of the Chamber on an area basis—Councils for the East Bank, West Bank, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, and the main Metropolitan New Orleans section—has proved extremely efficient for and representative of the entire community's development. Creation of these Councils allows their members to work more intimately with the particular projects and problems of their area, within the framework and with the support of the Chamber as a whole.

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with other private enterprise utilities in atomic research toward the practical use of nuclear sources for electric power.

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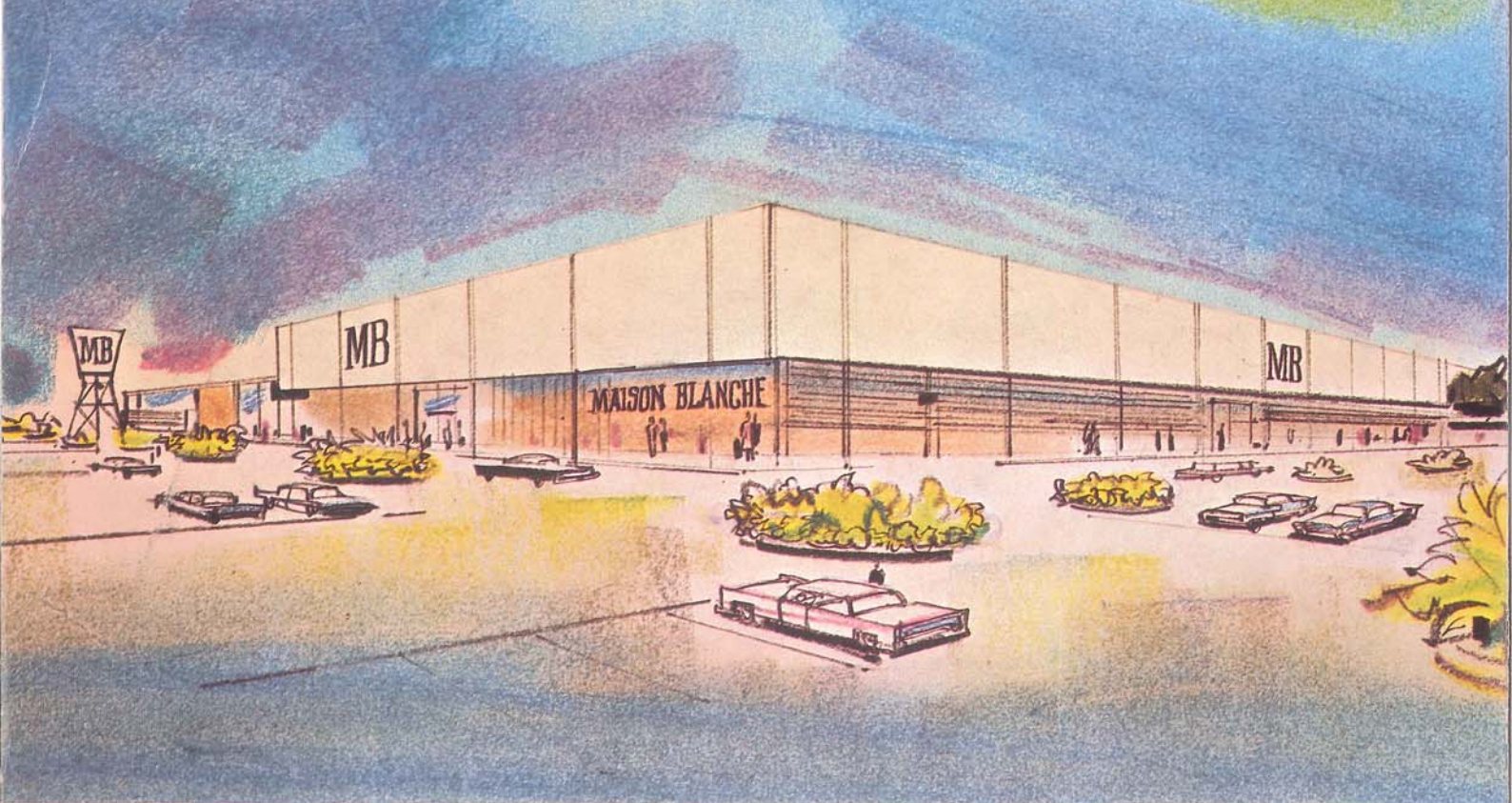
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