

# The Jefferson Parish Yearly Review

1969-1970 ISSUE



The  
Industrial  
Expansion  
Continues



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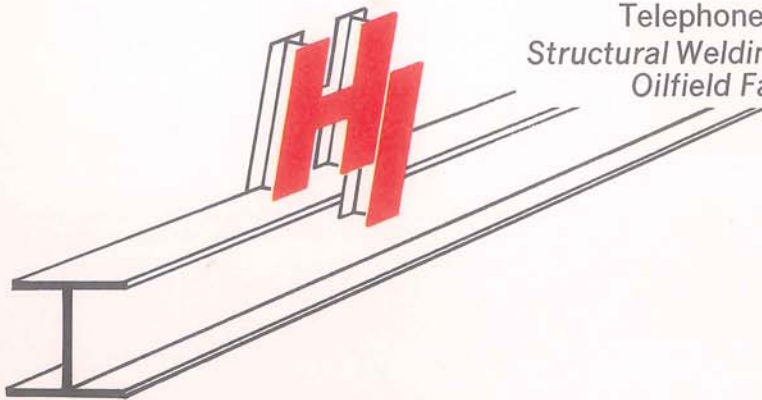
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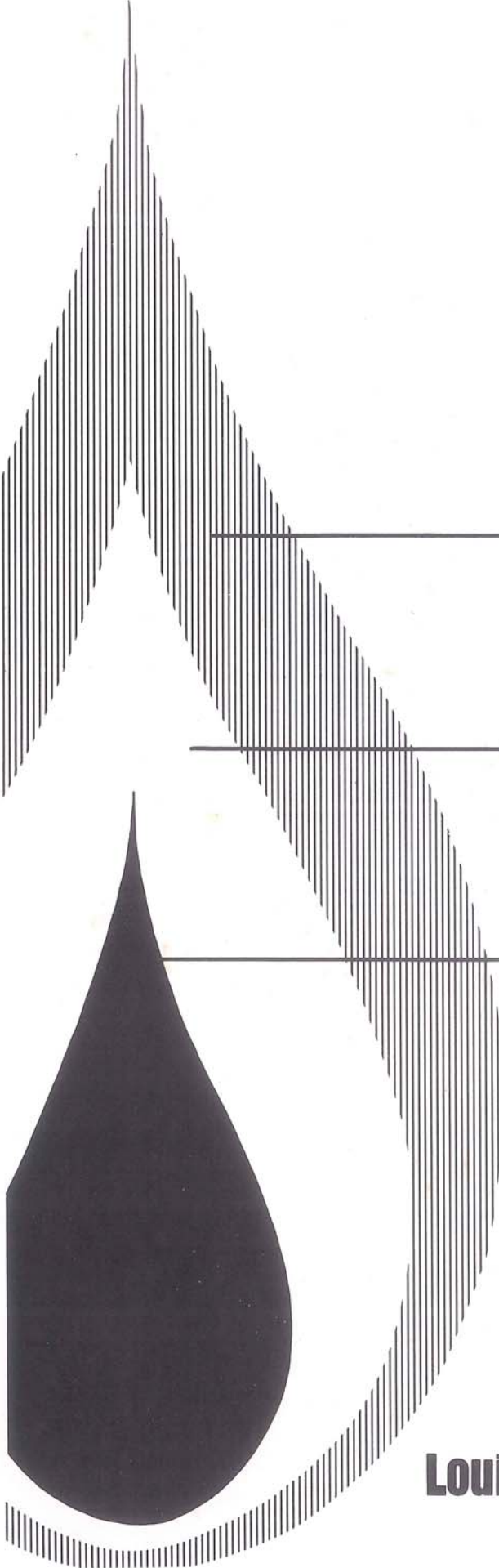
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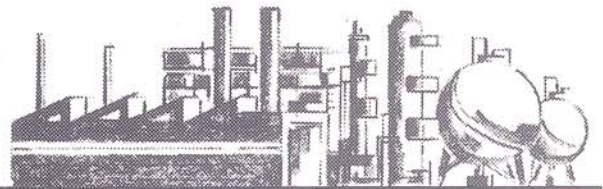




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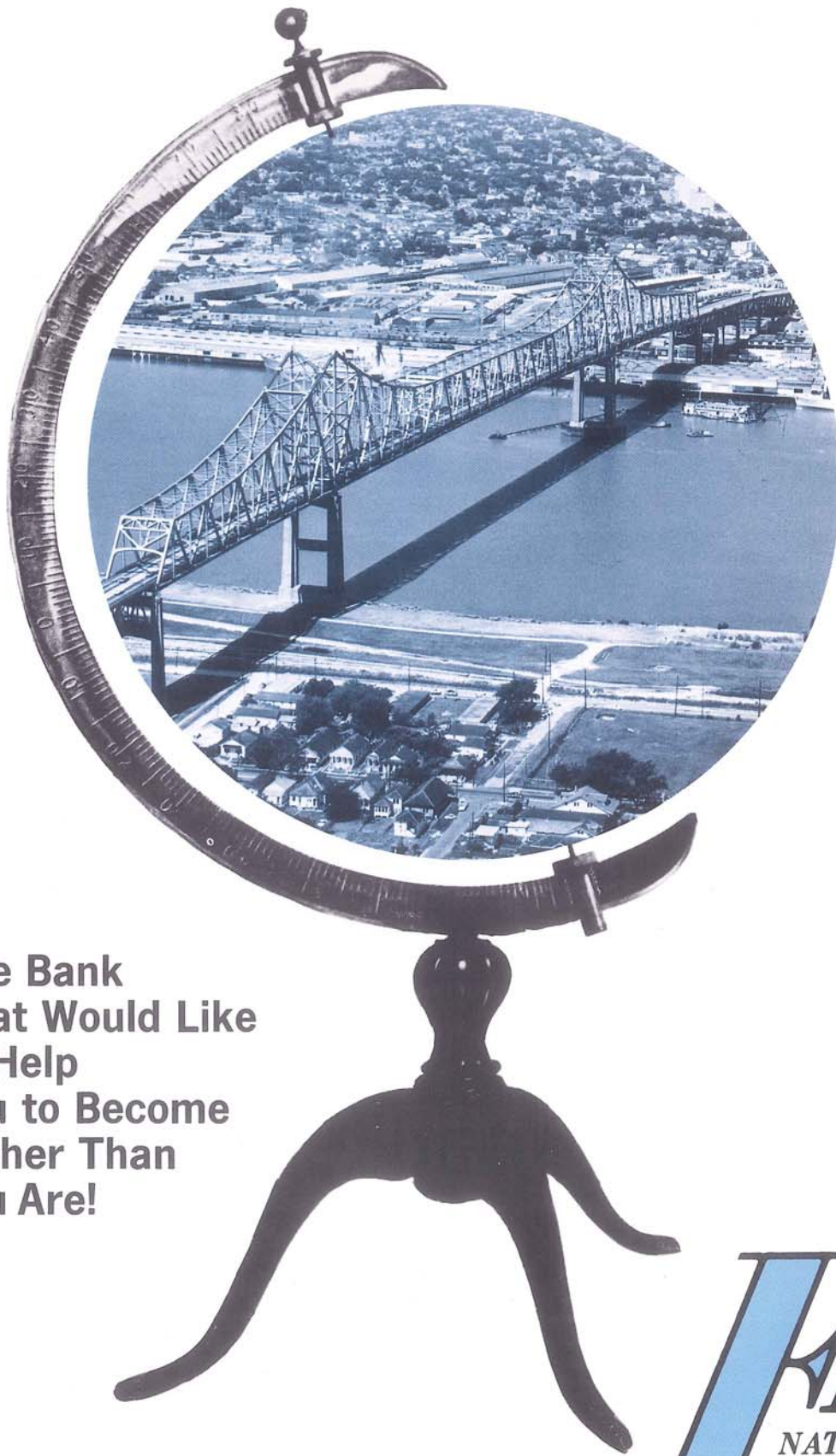
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1969-1970 ISSUE

Published with the approval and cooperation of the President and Council of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

Thomas F. Donelon..... Parish President  
 Charles J. Eagan, Jr..... Council Chairman (at Large)  
 Jacob H. Sciambra..... Council Vice-Chairman (East Bank)  
 Harold L. Molaison..... West Bank Councilman  
 Beauregard H. Miller, Jr..... First District Councilman  
 Charles M. Miller..... Second District Councilman  
 George J. Ackel..... Third District Councilman  
 Anton Pilney..... Fourth District Councilman

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**Municipalities of Jefferson:** Gretna, 23; Kenner, 30; Harahan, 34; Grand Isle, 36; Westwego, 39.

Cover:—A Freeport Sulphur Company employee monitors operations during the drilling of a sulphur well. In drilling a sulphur well many of the techniques used in drilling an oil or gas well are utilized. Production of sulphur in Jefferson Parish is by the Frasch (hot water) process.

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## Welcome to Jefferson, a Community on the Move!

Welcome to Jefferson Parish—a good place to live . . . A good place to work . . . And a good place to invest.

We think you'll enjoy what you see in Jefferson Parish—the fastest growing and most progressive community in Louisiana.

Today, one third of all the people in the greater New Orleans area reside in Jefferson Parish . . . Drawn by excellent new subdivisions and the most modern of gracious apartment complexes.

But Jefferson Parish is equally attractive to the industrialist or businessman. Four of the South's largest and most modern air-conditioned shopping malls are located here. Industrially, Jefferson Parish contains four of the largest manufacturing plants of their kind in the world. And the opportunities for new industries remain unlimited.

But the superlatives do not stop here, for Jefferson Parish is a great sportsman's paradise. Its marshes, lakes and wooded areas abound with game, fowl and fish.

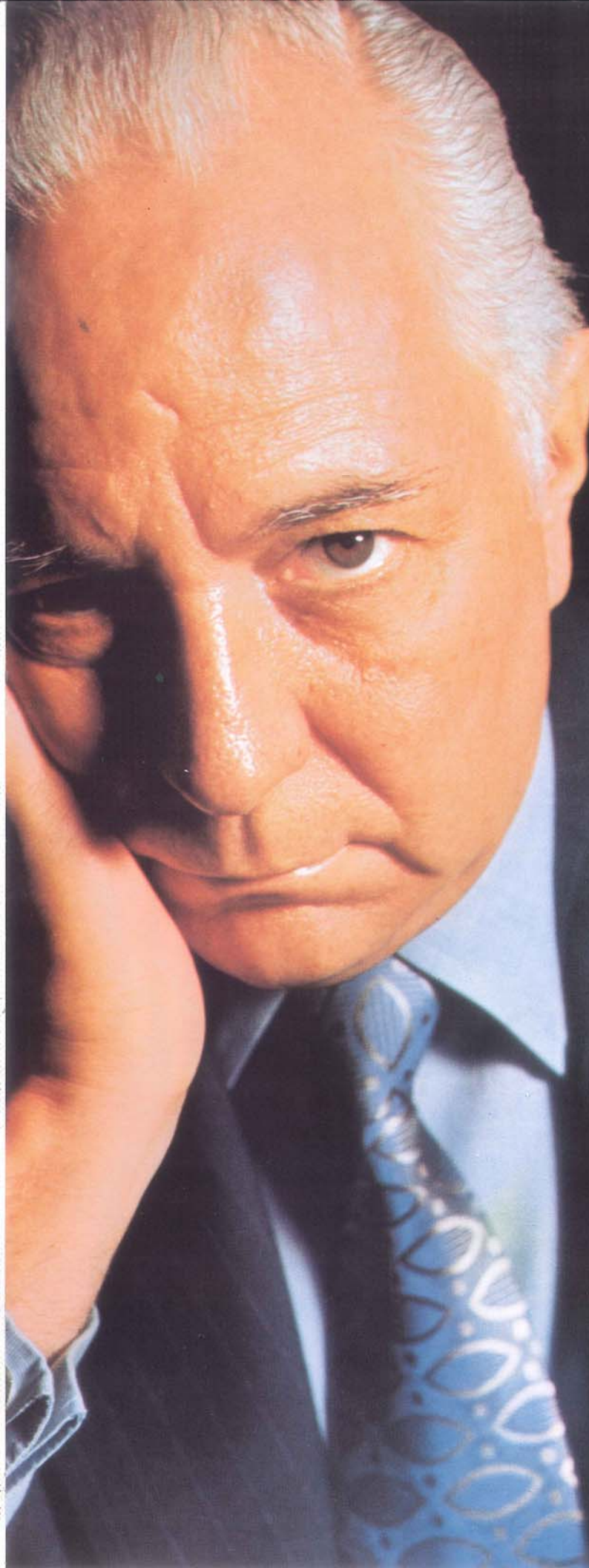


Jefferson Parish will continue to move. Providing the momentum is master planning and the vigorous, progressive leadership of the president-council team.

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Thomas F. Donelon  
Parish President



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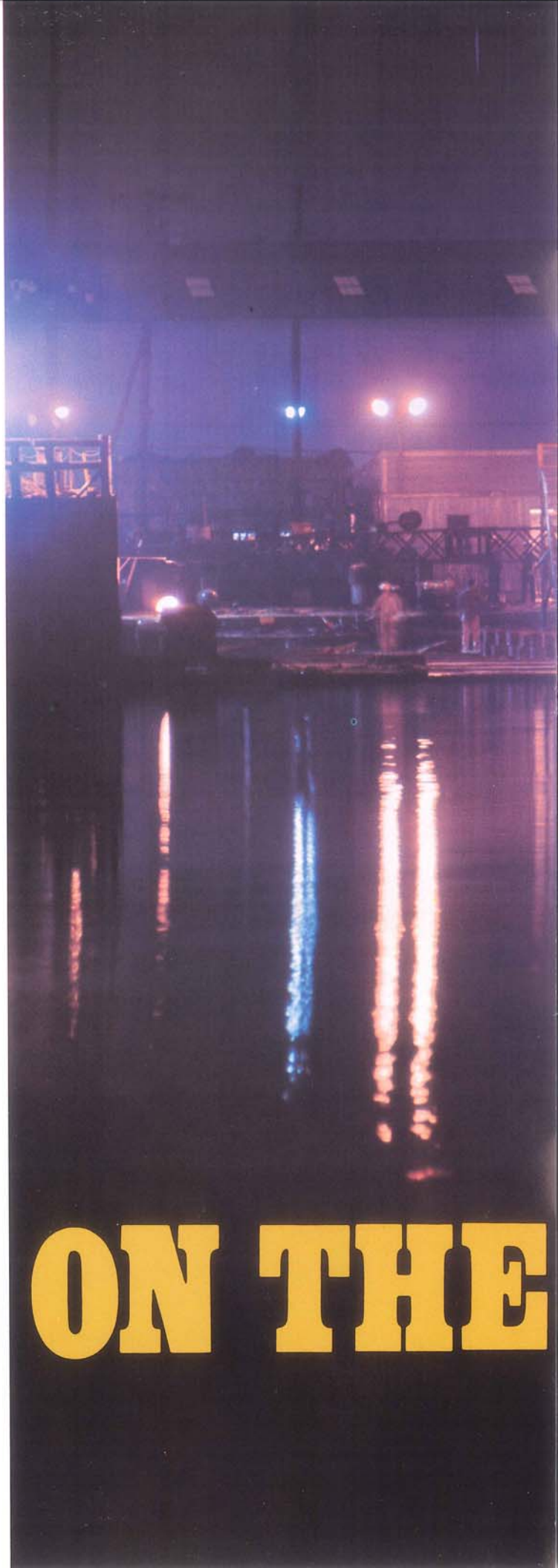
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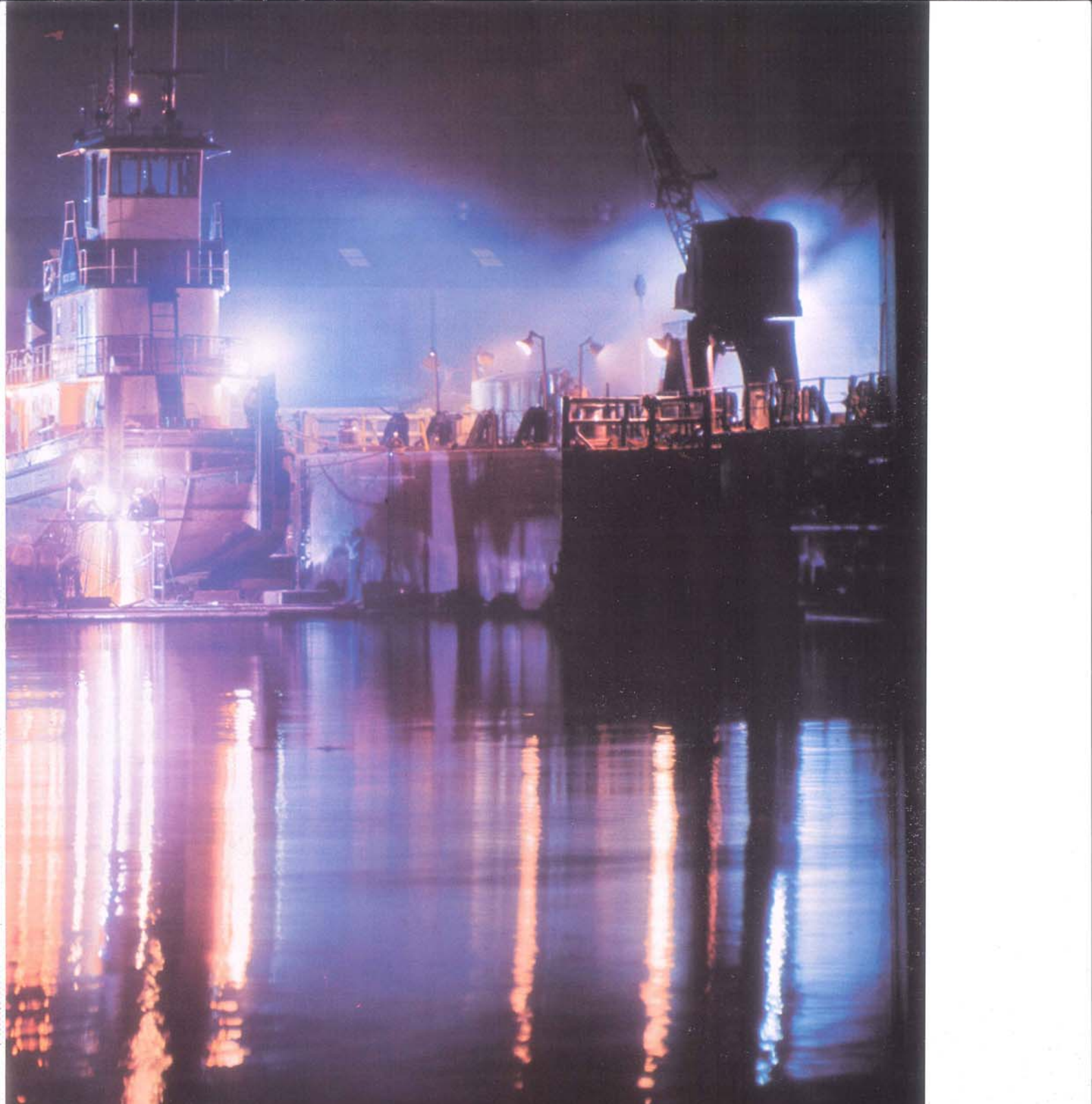
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# GIANT ON THE







# MOVE

Jefferson—Louisiana's fastest growing Parish, is a restless giant on the move. From the sandy beaches of Grand Isle to the wave-washed shores of Lake Pontchartrain, Jefferson Parish is a dynamic study in diversity. Rich in natural resources. A year-round paradise for the outdoorsman. Well-planned subdivisions and apartments for gracious living. And a climate attractive to new industry. Following is the story of Jefferson's progress during 1969-1970.



*While it is possible to bag many varieties of furred and feathered game in Jefferson Parish, the lion's share of attention is given to ducks and geese which abound in the marshes all the way down to the very shores of the Gulf of Mexico. Little Paul Kalman is pictured here at the end of a successful hunt.*

**P**ublic Improvements Jefferson Parish, under competent and dedicated leadership, moved ahead aggressively during 1969 with a broad program of public improvements. This list and range of public improvements was extensive.

In each area of improvement the Parish President, Council and department heads follow master plans developed painstakingly over a number of years. These project the Parish's anticipated requirements through the year 1974 and, while they are subject to review and revision, these goals represent a highly professional approach to the Parish's orderly development.

**M**ajor Road Projects A number of projects related to the Parish's major road plan were in progress or completed in 1969. A financial roadblock to the highly important Earhart Expressway, which will run from Hickory to Or-

leans Parish, was eliminated. Parish funds of \$12.5 million were found to be short by almost \$18 million. Persistent efforts by Parish officials resulted in securing the participation of the State Highway Department in the construction of this leg of the Expressway and construction will get underway at an early date. This is a key thoroughfare which will connect with Earhart Boulevard and S. Claiborne avenue in New Orleans and ultimately to the proposed Riverfront Expressway.

The State Highway Department has also included in its 5-year program several projects of significance to Westbank communities of Jefferson. The most recent was approval of the Lafitte-Larose highway. This important highway will shorten the trip to Grand Isle—the Parish's southernmost community, by 40 miles. A right-of-way for 6 lanes will be acquired and construction will provide for four lanes. The state will also undertake the widening to four lanes of 4th street to Ames Boulevard and the addition of two lanes to the Belle Chasse Highway, which has become one of the most heavily traveled roads on the Westbank.

Parish officials continue to watch carefully two projects which will have a deep impact on Jefferson. The location of the second bridge planned by the Mississippi River Bridge Authority is of deep interest since the Western end will undoubtedly be anchored in Jefferson Parish. The Parish also has keen interest in the expressways being planned at either end of the Bridge. The Dixie Freeway and Outer Belt has been approved by the Bureau of Public Roads and made a part of the Interstate system. The loop, after crossing the Mississippi River at Chalmette, will pass principally through West Jefferson

The completion during 1969 of Interstate 10 to Williams Boulevard and the opening of the two additional lanes on the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway cannot help but strengthen the economy of the entire Parish.

The S.S. Idaho, third of five cargoliners built for States Steamship Company, is side-launched into the Mississippi River at Avondale Shipyards, Inc., in Jefferson Parish.



Substantial progress was made during the year on the Parish's major street program. Completed or started during the year were improvements and extensions to the following streets: West Esplanade, Dublin Avenue, Veterans Highway, West etairie, David Drive, Transcontinental, Clearview Parkway, Cleary Avenue, Severn Avenue, Bonnalel Boulevard, Lake Avenue, Central Avenue, Deckbar, Clearview. All on the Eastbank. On the other side of the River, two lanes of LaPalco Boulevard were paved from Peters Road to the Belle Chasse Highway. Improvements to Gretna Boulevard, Ames Boulevard, Louisiana Avenue, Manhattan and Wall Boulevards were completed or in progress.

**M**edical Services Improved Medical facilities to meet the needs of Jefferson's growing population made impressive gains in 1969. The important East Jefferson Community General Hospital on a 50-acre tract in Metairie is nearing completion. This important facility, which should be open in the summer of 1970, will contain initially 250 beds. The long-range plan calls for gradual expansion to a 1000-bed hospital. Financing of the initial step was through a \$4 million bond issue and \$2.1 million from Hill Burton funds. Revenues will finance future expansions. This will be one of the most modern medical centers in the South and ultimately will take its place among the great hospitals in the country. It is located in the population center of East Jefferson and the site provides easy access to major streets and to public transportation.

On the other side of the river, the West Jefferson Hospital started a 54-bed addition and a new cardiopulmonary department. For the care of elder citizens the Westbank also saw the start of the 11-story Monsignor Wynhoven Apartments. They will provide 201 units with such central facilities as a cafeteria, recreation, barber and beauty shops, laundry and garbage disposal. It is being built in the vicinity of Hope Haven, Madonna Manor and Chinchuba Institutes in Marrero.

In addition to general medical facilities, the Parish saw the increase in private medical clinics in almost every part of the community. These have become increasingly important for routine health services and out patient treatment.

**C**onstruction Activity In a year marked nationally by downward pressure on all forms of construction, Jefferson continued to be a bright spot in the local area. Permit activity, although somewhat lower than in 1968, continued at a relatively high level. A total 5,429 building permits were issued, representing \$78,010,540 in new construction. Residential construction accounted for \$42,048,129 and commercial and industrial construction for an additional \$42,048,129. In the residential field, the movement towards apartments and housing for moder-

*This contemporary design is a striking example of the new homes that reflect taste, imagination and compatibility of form and function. Photograph courtesy of The Southern Pine Association, which has recently moved its offices to Jefferson Parish.*



ate income families was pronounced. Eastbank Jefferson now boasts one of the greatest concentrations of modern townhouse and garden type apartment complexes in the deep South. Accommodations range from luxury townhouse units to more reasonably priced units for "singles" and for young or small families. A number of equally-attractive apartment complexes are now scattered throughout areas of Westbank Jefferson.

While single family residential construction was slightly off, the quality of new homes and subdivisions developed on both East and West banks was excellent. The improvements to the 3,400 acres in Metairie neared completion in 1969 and construction of various types was extremely heavy. This area—known as Pontchartrain Shores, is rapidly becoming a great growth area for the Parish. Improvements were put in at a cost in excess of \$10 million.

On the Westbank several new attractive subdivisions were opened and construction activity remained at a high level. Impressive gains were made in both commercial and industrial expansion. Jefferson's role as a growing commercial giant was strengthened by the opening of the huge new Clearview Shopping Center along Veterans Highway, the expansion and air conditioning of the mall of the Lakeside Shopping Center and by impressive expansion to the Stumpf Shopping Center on the Westbank. Both Woolco and Schwegmann's announced large new stores in the Kenner area. These extremely large projects, plus the continued growth of smaller complexes of every type in virtually every section of the Parish, reflected Jefferson's ever-increasing population and the Parish's commercial might.

The year, 1969, witnessed completion of the 10-story Jefferson Bank Building on Causeway Boulevard—the tallest commercial structure in the Parish which has already become headquarters for regional offices of many national and local firms. The building contains over 600,000 square feet of office space. New industries continued to move into the 7,500 acre Elmwood Industrial Park located off the Jefferson Highway near Harahan. American Cynamid, one of the Parish's major employers, undertook a \$1 million expansion to its chemical complex. Avondale Shipyards, one of the largest employers in the state, relocated its foundry from New Orleans to Westbank Jefferson and Louisiana Power & Light continued a \$51 million project at its huge 9-Mile Point generating facility. This is the largest expansion program ever announced by LP&L and will increase its generating capacity substantially. This will be followed by another \$67 million expansion at 9-Mile Point to be completed in 1973. In perhaps a lighter vein, but still significant economically, was the completion of Jefferson Downs Race Track in Kenner. This now modern plant should increase the Parish's attractiveness to tourists and is expected to be in operation this year.

This continued economic expansion was reflected in a sharp increase in the Parish's population and in the creation of many new jobs. At the end of 1969 Jeffer-



*Offshore and onshore, underwater and underground, an invaluable abundance of oil combined with human resources, has made petroleum production a major industry in Jefferson.*

son's population was estimated at 375,000 an increase of 20,000 over 1968. And during 1969, 2,539 new jobs were created—one of the highest increases in Louisiana.

**M**aster Water Plan The Parish's master water plan, financed by a \$30 million bond issue approved in 1967, was nearing completion in 1969. The ambitious program on the Eastbank was 80% finished at year's end. Westbank projects were about 25% complete. Still in progress was the new line along the River Road and on the toe of the levee which will improve water service to communities along the East bank of the River. During the year the Parish Water Department laid 24 miles of new transmission lines costing \$3.5 million in East Jefferson, not including 56 miles of lines costing \$1.78 million in the 3,400 acre project; and new transmission lines costing about \$700,000 were laid on the Westbank.

The East Jefferson waterworks expansion, adding 34 million gallons per day to capacity, was completed in 1969, and a 34 million gallon expansion for the Westbank waterworks was started. The two projects represent a total investment of about \$4 million.

**D**rainage Projects The Parish suffered a setback early in 1969 when voters rejected a sweeping \$28.9 million drainage bond issue. This would have combined a highly desirable lakefront reclamation project with badly needed drainage improvements. A number of projects authorized by earlier bond issues were underway. The new pumping station on the Suburban Canal in Metairie was 70 percent complete and was expected to be in operation in June, 1970. It is being installed at a cost of \$2.5 million. Electrical motors in the Bayou Segnette pumping station were replaced by diesel engines and a new pumping station for Westwego was completed in 1969. To be completed in 1970 is the new \$1 million Cousins pumping station along the Harvey Canal on the Westbank. A smaller pumping station is being built at a cost of \$230,000 at Crown Point along the road to Lafitte.

Of equal importance from the point-of-view of protection and future land use were several major levee projects. The completion of the Lafourche levee during the year should make possible the ultimate reclamation of many acres of land on the Westbank. The levee along the Harvey Canal was improved to the extent of \$120,000. And on the Eastbank the Pontchartrain Levee District completed the raising of the protective levee by four feet along a 10-mile stretch.

Throughout 1969 Jefferson Parish held fast to its claim of being one of the fastest-growing communities in the U.S. With abundant land for residential, recreational, commercial and industrial expansion, the Parish enters the decade of the 70's under enlightened leadership and confident that it will continue to progress as one of the most attractive growth areas in the country. 11

# Help.

## It comes from the top in Louisiana when problems come up.

And come up they do, just as in any other state. But in Louisiana we believe the first step in solving a problem is to admit it exists. So we were the first state in the union to create a labor-management commission, with powers to investigate strife. The commission reports directly to the governor. *Whenever* help is needed, the governor keeps on top of the situation himself, personally joining in and alerting business, labor and industry as to what's being done. We don't have *all* the answers. But we have a good many. And we're trying to find more.

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Write for our factual color brochure, "Louisiana's Big Six Industrial Advantages," care of William T. Hackett, Jr., Executive Director, Dept. of Commerce and Industry, Dept. 112, P. O. Box 44185, Baton Rouge, La. 70804, (504) 389-5371.



# LOUISIANA

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# The President & Council of Jefferson Parish



**Thomas F. Donelon, Parish President**, was elected to two terms as mayor of Harahan and served as Parish Safety Director for two years.

Mr. Donelon graduated from Jesuit High (1938), LSU (1942); and acquired 30 hours credit in English and History at the University of Glasgow, Scotland.

He was an infantry captain in Europe through five campaigns during World War II and was awarded the Bronze Star and the Presidential Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster. He was discharged in January, 1946, and moved to Harahan to begin 14 years with Swift and Co.

He is a member of the Lions Club, VFW, Knights of Columbus and Colonial Golf and Country Club.



**Charles J. Eagan, Jr., Council Chairman**, is an insurance executive and a chartered life underwriter with Eagan Insurance Agency, Inc.

A 1940 Business Administration graduate of Tulane, and a Navy veteran, Mr. Eagan is a member of the YMBC, Jaycees, Audubon and Covington Country Clubs, and was former president of the N.O. Chapter of Chartered Life Underwriters and Louisiana Insurers Conference.

He and his wife have served as chair couple of the Archdiocesan executive board of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

Mr. Eagan has also served as treasurer of Kingsley House.



**Jacob H. Sciambra, East Bank Councilman-at-Large**, is an attorney and holds degrees in accounting and law from Loyola University.

A former assistant parish attorney, he has served as president of the Jefferson Parish Bar Association, and is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association.

A resident of Jefferson since 1950, Mr. Sciambra holds memberships in the Bridge Acre Lions Club, American Legion, Jefferson YMBC, Jefferson Businessmen's Organization, Colonial Golf and Country Club and the Knights of Columbus.



**Harold L. Molaison, West Bank Councilman-at-large**, is now serving his third term.

A 1931 graduate of Gretna High, he earned a B.A. degree from Louisiana State University in 1936 and a law degree from Loyola in 1948. He was a captain in the Military Police Corps for four years during World War II and also attended the Army Administration and Provost Marshal Schools.

He is a sustaining member of the Boy Scouts of America, a member of the West Bank Lions Club, the Gulf Intra-Coastal Canal Association, the Harvey Volunteer Fire Company #1, the Marrero VFW Post #4275 of which he is Judge Advocate, Chamber of Commerce of Greater New Orleans, American Legion, Jefferson YMBC, and is a charter member of the Timberlane Country Club. Mr. Molaison is an active practicing attorney and member of the American, Louisiana State, Jefferson and Jefferson Criminal Bar Associations. He served as a past president of the Jefferson Bar Association.



**Beauregard H. Miller, Jr., First District Councilman**, is serving his fourth term and is the only remaining member of the original President-Council team elected in 1958. Miller won election in 1956 to the commission council which never took office.

A real estate investor with various other business interests, he was educated in Jefferson and attended Louisiana State University before serving in the Navy.

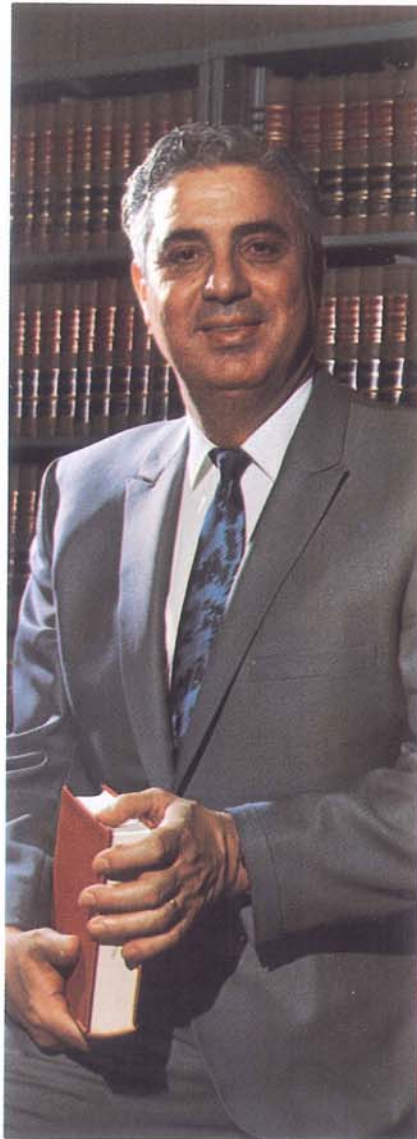
A native of Gretna, Mr. Miller is a member of the American Legion, VFW, Jefferson Sportsman's Club, Lions Club and the Gould Volunteer Fire Company.





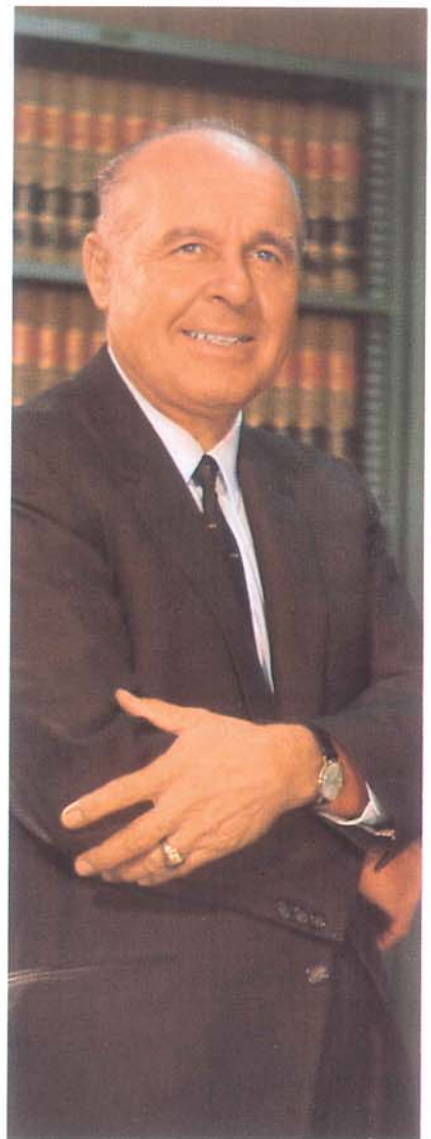
**Charles M. "Chuck" Miller, Second District Councilman for the West Bank,** is a real estate broker with various other business interests including Denney Miller Pest Control and Louis Eymard Touring Company of which he is Vice President. He is a former aide to the District Attorney, and a former Jefferson Parish School Board member.

A World War II veteran and a Warren Easton High School graduate, he attended Tulane University and is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute. Member of the Board of directors of the Community Welfare Council of Jefferson and Poseidon and Bacchus Carnival Clubs and Krewe of Louisianians, he was 1969 Commodore of the Lafitte Yacht Club. He holds memberships in the American Legion, VFW, Amvets, Loyola Order of Moose, Westwego Lions Club, Barataria Blvd. Civic Club, YMBC of Jefferson, and PARD and Belle Terre Boosters Clubs.



**George J. Ackel, Third District Councilman for the East Bank,** is now serving his third term. Ackel is branch manager for Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada covering Louisiana, Southern Mississippi and Southern Alabama.

He is a director of the Metropolitan Bank of Jefferson, former Vice President of the Kenner Rotary Club, past president and an organizer of the Harahan Rotary Club. He is a member of the Jefferson YMBC, East Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, VFW, Colonial Golf and Country Club, Tulane Univ. Development Program, Life Underwriters and Life Managers' associations and the Million Dollar Round Table.



**Anton Pilney, Fourth District Councilman for the East Bank** is Sales Manager for Orkin Exterminating Co.

He lettered three years in football at Notre Dame University and is a former head football coach at Tulane. He holds a B.A. degree from Notre Dame and also attended DePaul University.

Mr. Pilney holds memberships in the Jefferson YMBC, VFW Post No. 175, N. O. Traffic Club, Veterans Highway Businessmen's Association, Metairie Country Club and the Advisory Board of Community Welfare Council of Jefferson. He retains an active interest in sports as an amateur golfer.



*High fashion was previewed in Jefferson Parish during 1969 when WVL Television chose Freeport Sulphur Company's Grand Isle Mine, the first offshore sulphur mine in the world, as the setting for a segment of its award-winning style show, "Fashion Is . . ." The fashion extravaganza featured works by some of the Nation's leading designers.*

# The Industrial Expansion Continues

Jefferson Parish—already one of the great industrial giants of the Mid-South, remained one of the pacesetters in industrial growth in 1969 with over \$26.5 million invested in new or expanded industrial facilities. Over 2,500 new jobs were created, the highest increase for any Parish in Louisiana.

The Parish's attractions to industry are legend: a mild year-round climate; well-coordinated transportation by rail, water, highway or air; abundant low-cost fuel; an embarrassing wealth of raw materials; a tax rate favorable to new industries; and an alert, easy-to-train work force. These are the ingredients which have made Jefferson the ideal location for many industries. A partial list of those industries already located in the Parish would make an impressive "Who's Who" in American industry. There are presently more than 250 major industries located in Jefferson Parish and the number is increasing almost daily.

Several new industrial parks on the Eastbank of the Parish have proven attractive to processing and distributive industries both large and small. These model industrial communities are a look at the way of the future for industrial development. Complete with utilities and offsite improvements, they create a clean orderly environment for any industrial or commercial operation. The Westbank of the river has seen a market increase in the number of fabricating and service industries related to the mushroom-

ing mineral and petroleum based operations, which make Jefferson's offshore the nation's most productive area in sulphur, oil and gas. Late in 1969 the Parish Council by ordinance authorized formation of the Parish's first Commerce and Industrial Development Commission. It has been charged with drawing up a program of action to improve economic conditions throughout the Parish. The commission, which will identify new areas of growth opportunities and encourage more Jeffersonians to participate actively in Parish affairs, is composed of many of Jefferson civic, business and political leaders.

The Commission will encourage joint efforts by East and Westbank Councils of the Chamber of Commerce, other industrial development groups, private businesses, labor groups, civic groups, individuals, parish and state governments. It also will cooperate with others to prepare a development program for prospective investors. The commission will help publicize the Parish's many attractions: raw materials, manpower, transportation, public utilities, navigable waterways, industrial sites, markets which it serves, topography, taxes, climate, financial institutions, education, housing, medical facilities, recreational and cultural facilities, government, economic growth data, industrial activities, construction activities, cost of living and other information. In short—the commission aims to build a better business future for the Parish of Jefferson.

*The new courthouse in Gretna, seat of Parish Government*



# Jefferson on the Job...

Jefferson, today, Louisiana's fastest growing Parish was created, by legislative act, on February 11, 1825.

Its present boundaries were established in 1892.

Within its 426 square miles today are six governments—five incorporated municipalities, (Kenner, Harahan, Gretna, Westwego and Grand Isle) each with a mayor, marshal and five aldermen and the President-Council which replaced the police jury in 1958 as the governing body for the unincorporated areas.

Jefferson's first governing body consisted of an all powerful Parish Judge and twelve police jurors appointed by him.

In 1830, the Parish Judge was replaced by a Police Jury President elected by and from that body itself. An 1834 act set a minimum of eight and a maximum of twelve members. By 1958, Jefferson had a seventeen member police jury based on one from every ward plus an additional juror in each ward for every 5000 residents in excess of 2500.

A five member Commission Council approved by voters in 1952, was prevented

from taking office on the eve of inauguration in June 1956 when a state supreme court ruled it was unconstitutional because it was not set up by constitutional amendment.

Authorized by a 1952 legislative act, the council was to have a Commissioner-at-large elected parishwide and four district commissioners. Authority over all parish agencies and boards (except the School Board) was to be transferred to the council whose five commissioners would serve as full time officials elected every four years.

The Commissioner-at-large was also to be President of the Commission Council and head of the department of Public Affairs with authority over personnel, civil service, fire and police protection, play grounds and parks, public buildings, franchises and zoning.

The four district commissioners were scheduled to head the departments of Public Finance, Water and Sewerage, Health and Safety (including regulatory inspection and garbage disposal) and Public Works (roads, bridges, highways and drainage).

The present Parish President-seven man



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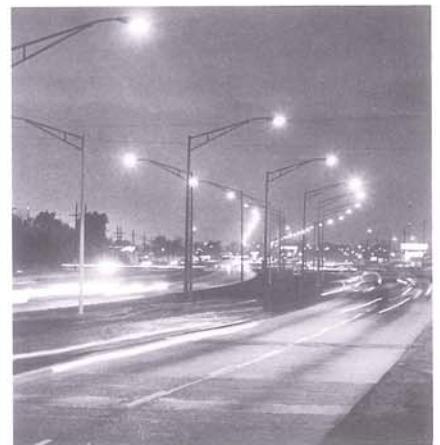
council form of government was recommended by a fifteen member citizens' Charter Commission in 1957 and approved by voters in a special election. Its members took office March 10, 1958 following primary elections on December 17, 1957 and January 7, 1958.

The charter authorized formation of four departments—Finance, Legal, Planning and Personnel. Five more—Water, Safety, Roads and Bridges, Recreation and Sanitation—were created by council ordinance on August 21, 1958.

The Safety department combined the division of regulatory inspections, road lighting and fire protection districts and the traffic engineering division. Recreation included the library division and Sanitation combined drainage, sewerage and garbage disposal.

Other parish government agencies include Civil Defense, Council Clerk, Garbage Collection and Disposal, Health Unit, Jeffcap (Community Action Program), Mosquito Control, Research and Budget Analysis and the Safety department's Taxicab and Fire Prevention divisions. Accomplishments of these departments are detailed in the following stories.

### Road Lighting



The Safety Department's Road Lighting Division move toward its goal to replace all incandescent fixtures in residential areas with 175 mercury vapor color corrected lighting during the next four years.

A gradual street by street replacement schedule is currently being implemented in the unincorporated areas at no increase in cost to the parish.

Mercury vapor fixtures are 150 per cent brighter, with four times longer

life and feature a new type of plastic glassware which is individually controlled by photo electric cells which turn them on at dusk, off at dawn.

Approximately 1,200 incandescent fixtures were replaced in 1969 with even more planned for 1970. All areas of east and west banks are being converted as quickly as possible. The change over should be completed in 1971.

Most major streets will have 400-watt mercury vapor "thoroughfare" lighting. 1969 saw the installation of this type of lighting on David Drive and West Metairie on the east bank and Terry Parkway on the west bank. Installation projects planned or completed include: west bank—Lapalco, Wall, Manhattan; east bank—Clearview, Transcontinental, West Napoleon and West Esplanade.

The parishwide lighting survey for all present and future streets is 90 per cent complete.

Since 1965, residential developers have been required to furnish and install 175 watt mercury vapor lights with underground wiring.

Negotiations were completed with the Highway Department for highway lighting installation along I-10 from the Orleans Parish line to Kenner.

Federal regulations require a minimum of 50 of the new type "break-away" standards per mile with 400 watt fixture at interchanges and 250 to 700 watt lights between.

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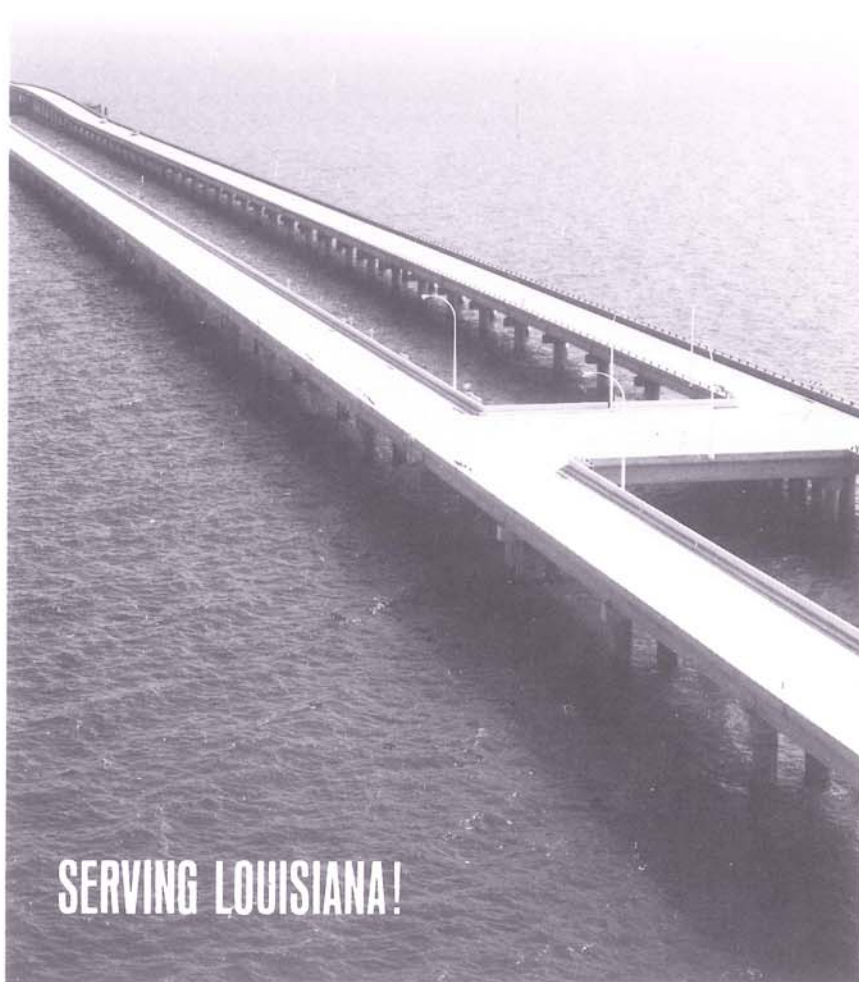
## Recreation

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Participation is the key to the Parish Recreation Department's year-around program of activities designed to reach young and old alike. In 1969, as in previous years, the department saw marked improvement in recreation facilities as part of a multi-million dollar capital improvement program approved late in 1968.

A bright spot in the year's program was the opening in October of the new Terrytown Community Center on the west bank. This is one of the area's finest multi-use recreational centers and was financed by a \$500,000 bond issue and a \$140,429 federal grant. Indoor facilities include a gymnasium, air conditioned rooms for meetings and cultural attractions, arts and crafts and other group activities. Outside development of the 9.4 acre park includes lighting for a regulation baseball

*Continued on page 67*



**SERVING LOUISIANA!**

The world's longest bridge doubled its capacity, drawing the Florida and Greater New Orleans parishes closer together for the prosperity of all. Tourists, commuters, commercial travelers, freight haulers now cross on two-lane, one-way spans—at a saving of lives and time. The \$60 million roadway is a model of motoring safety—truly, second to none in the world.

## GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION



**May 10 Ceremony: South Toll Plaza Dedication** GNOEC members stand with the Hon. C. C. Aycock, Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana, as the new improved and doubled toll facility was dedicated to the progress of the region and the safety of the motoring public. Left to right are: Mr. Altobello, Gov. Aycock, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Bosco, and Chairman Lambert. Not pictured is GNOEC General Manager, Malcom T. Stein, Sr.







# Gretna

**By William J. White,  
Mayor**

Gretna—commercial, governmental cultural center of Westbank Jefferson Parish—continued its progress and growth on many fronts during 1969. With a population of over 28,000 people in an area of only  $3\frac{1}{3}$  miles, Gretna is the largest city south of St. Louis on the Westbank of the Mississippi.

Gretna is the Parish seat of Jefferson Parish—one of the fastest growing communities in the U.S., and most of the Parish officials and department heads make their headquarters in the new modern Parish courthouse located just a few blocks from Huey P. Long Avenue.

We are pleased that both commercial and residential construction activity remained at a high level during 1969. Permits for commercial construction during the first ten months reached \$2,340,343.00, substantially above those for 1968. Residential permits were at a satisfactory level of \$184,010.

Confidence by investors in commercial ventures was particularly gratifying to city officials. A number of noteworthy projects were in progress or started in 1969. One of the major ones nearing completion at year's end was the 90,000 sq. ft. expansion of the Maison Blanche Westside Store in Stumpf's Westside Shopping Center. The addition, added to the existing 60,000 sq. ft., will make it the largest store on the Westbank. The National Food Store also moved into new, larger quarters in the same shopping center.

Gretna's growing importance as a commercial center for Westbank New Orleans and Jefferson is the newly-completed Gretna Shopping Village at Lafayette & 19th streets. Built at a cost of over \$1,000,000, its 70,000 square feet of shopping space was almost completely leased before completion.

Major expansion of Maison Blanche's store in the Westside Shopping Center makes it one of the largest in the area. The huge center in Gretna is an important market place for Westbank residents.



## Gretna's impressive growth continues

Completed during 1969 was the new 70,000 sq. ft. Gretna Shopping Village at Lafayette and 19th streets. Built by B. H. Miller, Jr., Sam and Roy Gattuso, the new center was 90 percent leased by the end of the year with such important major tenants as Winn-Dixie, Walgreen's Drug Store, T.G.&Y. and AutoLec. The new center was built at a cost of over \$1,000,000.

The Coca Cola Bottling Company located on Burmaster proceeded with an expansion to their modern facility. The work now in progress involves an investment of \$837,000.

Firestone Tire & Rubber Company started work on a new \$120,000 facility and the Jefferson Homestead invested \$100,000 in their new building on Fourth street.

Gretna was also favored during 1969 with the conversion of the former Louisiana Power & Light building along the Westbank Expressway into the computer center for all of the utilities in the network of Middle South Utilities. The facility has brought to Gretna employment opportunities for many people in the highly skilled and technical field of the computer sciences.

Gretna's expanding commercial complex was reflected in the leasing out of the new 28,000-sq. ft. Gretna Plaza office building on Lafayette street. The complex now houses 40 commercial and professional firms offering a variety of services ranging from those related to the offshore oil industry to medical clinics.

While residential construction in Gretna proper remained at a moderate level, building activity was heavy in subdivisions in unincorporated areas adjoining the city. The rapidly expanding population in these adjacent areas strengthens Gretna's growing role as a commercial and service center.

The people of Gretna are rightfully proud of their community facilities and services. Our water supply system is one of the best. Two elevated water tanks with capacities of 500,000 gallons and 275,000 gallons insure constant pressure. The water plant has a capacity of purifying over 5 million gallons of

water per day. In case of greater need, we have a reciprocal valve arrangement with Marrero. The setup allows either community to give or take more water by merely opening a valve.

With our continuing program of street maintenance and improvement, almost all of Gretna's streets are paved with concrete or black-topped. In 1969, Certificates of Indebtedness were issued in the amount of \$471,755.63. Of this amount, \$389,344.45 was allocated for the blacktopping with asphalt surface of approximately 10 miles of streets. This work got underway late in November. The remaining \$82,411.18 has already been spent on the paving of 23rd street to the Belle Chasse highway.

The street improvements are paid by the property owners who are assessed on a front footage basis. But the City often shares in the expense from its General Fund, particularly where large subsurface drainage pipes are required.

Gretna also enjoys an excellent Garbage and Trash Collection service. City operated, it makes three pickups a week, plus a special pickup around churches on Saturday to avoid unsightly debris on Sunday. The equipment and labor for these collections are paid for out of the General Fund. No special assessment or tax is paid by the homeowners or businesses for these services.

Justly proud of our city's heritage and natural beauty, 125 acres of our land is dedicated as parks. The beautification commission appointed in 1968 by the Board of Aldermen to preserve and enhance our city has been active. This group of devoted and interested citizens under the direction of Mrs. Jim Ward has already conducted an anti-litter campaign, distributing litter bags throughout the city. The commission in combination with the City will soon undertake to beautify the grounds around the fountain at the junction of the Westbank Expressway and Franklin streets. The fountain was a gift of retired State Senator Alvin T. Stumpf.

Well-lighted streets both beautify at night and are a deterrent to crime. During 1969, we completed the conversion of our street lighting system to Mercury Vapor Lights.

## The Commercial and Industrial hub of the West Bank



These not only create a more attractive atmosphere on our streets, but provide for much greater illumination, giving more security to our residents.

For many years Gretna's volunteer fire department system has been a source of community pride. The volunteer units have a long history of service and an esprit de corps hard to find in a paid system. Over 340 townsmen donate their time to serve as volunteer firemen.

The David Crockett Volunteer Fire Department with 160 men on call has the distinction of being the oldest continuously operated volunteer fire department in the nation. It still retains some of its old pieces of firefighting equipment as curios for use in parades and other demonstrations. The Gould Volunteer Fire Company is the larger of the two companies with 180 men.

Between the two, we have five fire stations, 17 full time firemen and the latest in firefighting equipment. Thanks to the unselfishness and community spirit of these men, our citizens enjoy exceptionally low fire insurance rates.

To support our volunteer firemen, Gretna citizens earlier had approved six mills of additional taxes. Five mills were to be applied over a 10 year period to defray the cost of \$150,000 for a new fire alarm system. The additional five mill tax was to assist the volunteer fire companies in purchasing and maintaining firefighting equipment

and to increase the number and pay of fire engine chauffeurs. However, City officials cut back in other areas and funds for the improvements were found without increase in the millage rate.

Gretna's crime rate—one of the lowest in the nation, can be attributed largely to the experience and professionalism of Police Chief Beauregard Miller who has served as City Marshal for 44 years. His intimate knowledge of the people and neighborhoods of Gretna, provides a built-in deterrent against crime. Under him are 19 full time police officers.

Sharing in the credit for Gretna's low crime rate is the Gretna Recreational and Instructional Department program, commonly known as GRID. The outstanding dedicated performance of our GRID workers has surely served as a release valve for energetic youth.

It's popularity is reflected in the fact that each year the program expands. This year there were 88 baseball teams, 24 girls' softball teams, 27 football teams, 12 girls' volleyball teams, 40 basketball teams and a 12 team bowling league.

The City of Gretna purchases all uniforms and equipment and pays for the maintenance of the playing fields, excepting of course the bowling alley. For the past five years the City has co-sponsored an annual awards banquet with

erson Savings & Loan modern new  
rters on 4th street completed in 1969  
ifies the continuing investment in  
ina. This city is the commercial hub of  
Westbank.

community interest in Gretna's broad year-round recreation program is reflected in this huge turnout at the annual awards dinner.



tra modern computer facilities, serving more than one million customers of the Middle South Utilities System—Arkansas Power & Light  
company, Louisiana Power & Light Company, Mississippi Power & Light Company and New Orleans Public Service Inc.—are located in this  
ctional building at 200 Westbank Expressway, Gretna, Louisiana, just across the Mississippi River from downtown New Orleans.



Gretna city officials (seated l. to r.) Charles A. Huber, Building Inspector; Louis LeBoeuf, Jr., Alderman; Beauregard H. Miller, Sr., Marshal; William J. White, Mayor; Anthony J. Marchese, Mayor Pro-Tem; Ray Hotard, Alderman. Standing (l. to r.) Alvin Hotard, Chief Engineer; John L. Dulcich, Jr., Alderman; Frank P. Marchese, Tax Collector; John Ray, Treasurer; Gerard Schexnayder, Alderman; Mrs. Velma Bieber, Director of Budget; Alvin Baham, Attorney; W. L. Bush, Clerk and Lester Harper, Ass't. Building Inspector.



Leson Chevrolet. It is the highlight of the year as a championship team is named in each category.

To accommodate Gretna's expanding recreation system, there are 130 acres of land, which includes two parks, two swimming pools, wading pools and four playgrounds. The largest park is Mel Ott Park on Lafayette street. As the site of the American Legion Home, three baseball diamonds and our largest swimming pool, it serves as the nucleus of our recreation system. The American Legion plays all its baseball games there and semi-pro baseball games are played there each Sunday afternoon from early Spring to late Summer.

Another program popular with our young people is the Gretna Rangers

and Rangerettes. Organized in 1961, the two marching groups each has 75 members who range in age from five years to sixteen years. There is also a marching unit—the Gretna Golden Girls. This organization is restricted to girls from 14 to 18 years of age. The group has a membership of 35. All three groups are seen frequently in Mardi Gras parades and are in heavy demand for other activities.

The growth of our city has resulted naturally in increased personnel in the city's employ. By a policy of raising salaries and furnishing other benefits, we believe that the city is efficiently staffed and has competent employees. At the present time we have a comprehensive retirement plan and an insurance program which make

city jobs more desirable now than in past years.

During 1969, the City of Gretna lost a trusted servant with the retirement of Alderman Eugene Gehring. He was first elected in 1929 and served continuously for 40 years—an enviable history of service to his community.

Gretna, incorporated on June 3, 1913, is governed by a Mayor and Board of Aldermen. Traditionally, the Board of Aldermen and Mayor serve as a team to solve the City's problems and to furnish our people with the best possible municipal services. The Board of Aldermen consists of the following: John L. Dulcich, Jr., Raymond K. Hotard, Louis A. LeBoeuf, Jr., Anthony J. Marchese (Mayor Pro-Tem), Gerard E. Schexnayder.

*is gracious courtyard entrance to the Garden Lane apartments typifies the fine residential accommodations being developed in and around etna. Many excellent new subdivisions are located in areas adjoining Gretna.*



# Kenner



Top: The Kenner Auditorium-Gymnasium is near completion and when finished will be the center of Kenner's recreation facilities. Athletic events, civic meetings and cultural attractions will all be part of the schedule of events. Below: The City of Kenner Recreation Department offers to its citizens a variety of Recreational Activities to both children and adults. An approximate 1,000 girls participate in such activities as: Softball, Volley-ball, Track, Cheerleading, Baton twirling, Dancing, Junior Modeling and Ceramic's. Adult Classes in Ceramic's and Physical exercise. Public playground facilities for Basketball and Tennis. All activities are under the trained supervision of Instructors and Coaches. Many of our children have competitively participated in City, Parish and State meets.





1969 was a good year for Kenner. Even with inflationary control methods, progress continued at a notable pace. Construction of new homes equalled or surpassed last year's figures.

The city wound up a number of long range improvement programs. New projects were initiated. Bids were submitted for developing an enormous tract of land, for creating a recreational center unequalled on the East Bank of Jefferson Parish and for enclosing all open ditches in the City.

A \$2.5 million development will soon make habitable some 310 acres in West Kenner. At property owner's request, bids were let to develop this land; we are installing streets, sub-surface drainages, sewerage and water. The property is bounded by Williams Boulevard, Veterans Highway, Moisant Airport and the end of Veterans Highway.

We developed and lighted Westgate Playground for night ball games. Westgate is one of two city owned playgrounds. Westgate has three acres; Driftwood, five acres. There are 11 other parks and playgrounds used by Kenner, but they are owned by private concerns and leased to the City on a temporary basis.

In planning for our future, our engineering consultants have advised us that we cannot depend on the availability of these 11 parks. Their owners will want to develop them for other uses. So, plans were submitted to the City Council in November for bonding surplus tax monies for the construction of a \$2 million recreational facility. The new recreation center will have lighted football and baseball fields with stadiums and an auditorium-gymnasium complex. Parking space will be more than ample. The proposed 14-acre site is located just off West Esplanade Blvd.

The two-story building will have 47,000 sq. ft. of floor space. Its auditorium-gymnasium will seat 2,500 and will be equipped with a permanent stage. On the ground floor will be storage rooms for dramatic productions, meeting rooms for civic organizations—one seats up to 100 people—and rooms for displaying arts and crafts.

The recreation complex will not absorb the ceramics and arts and crafts center. It will remain at its current location at 20th Street between Kentucky and Roosevelt. The center is a popular place, for adults and children. This past summer, over 200 gathered at the center to learn new hobbies.

In the city's summer recreation program, some 1,250 boys played on 55 baseball teams. Other students took classes in bowling, baton twirling, cheerleading and dancing.

In the future, many of these activities will be held at the new recreation center. The new facilities are going to bring activity in culture, arts and crafts to Kenner. The center will be a showcase that will attract conventions, shows and displays that are now held outside the City.

A few years ago a tremendous boom was predicted for Kenner. Our population, now 29,000, was predicted to reach 75,000 by 1980. We aren't going to make it. But there is no doubt in my mind that Kenner will reach 60,000 by then, despite the tight money situation.

There is great potential in residential growth here. Out of the 8,321 acres in Kenner, approximately 3,500 are yet to be developed. Of the amount developed, we have 2,900 acres in residential area, 1,000 in commercial, 800 in industrial and 50 in public buildings and playgrounds.

In the first nine months of 1969, over \$8 million in residential permits were filed. This included 288 single family dwellings, 15 two-family dwellings and 32 apartment complexes.

But we can't survive on residential growth alone. We must have industry and commerce to provide jobs for the residents and taxes to operate the city. Their growth relieves the home owner of the burden of high taxation. Commercial permits for constructing new facilities from January through September totalled \$679,900.

Kenner has low taxes: 29½ mills as compared to as much as 90 mills in other areas. We intend to keep it low by bringing in new industries to our community.

An industrial area is now developing along the Jefferson-St. Charles Parish Line Canal. Transportation is ideal with the

Castillon Grocery on Williams Boulevard was completed in late 1969 at the sum of \$30,000.

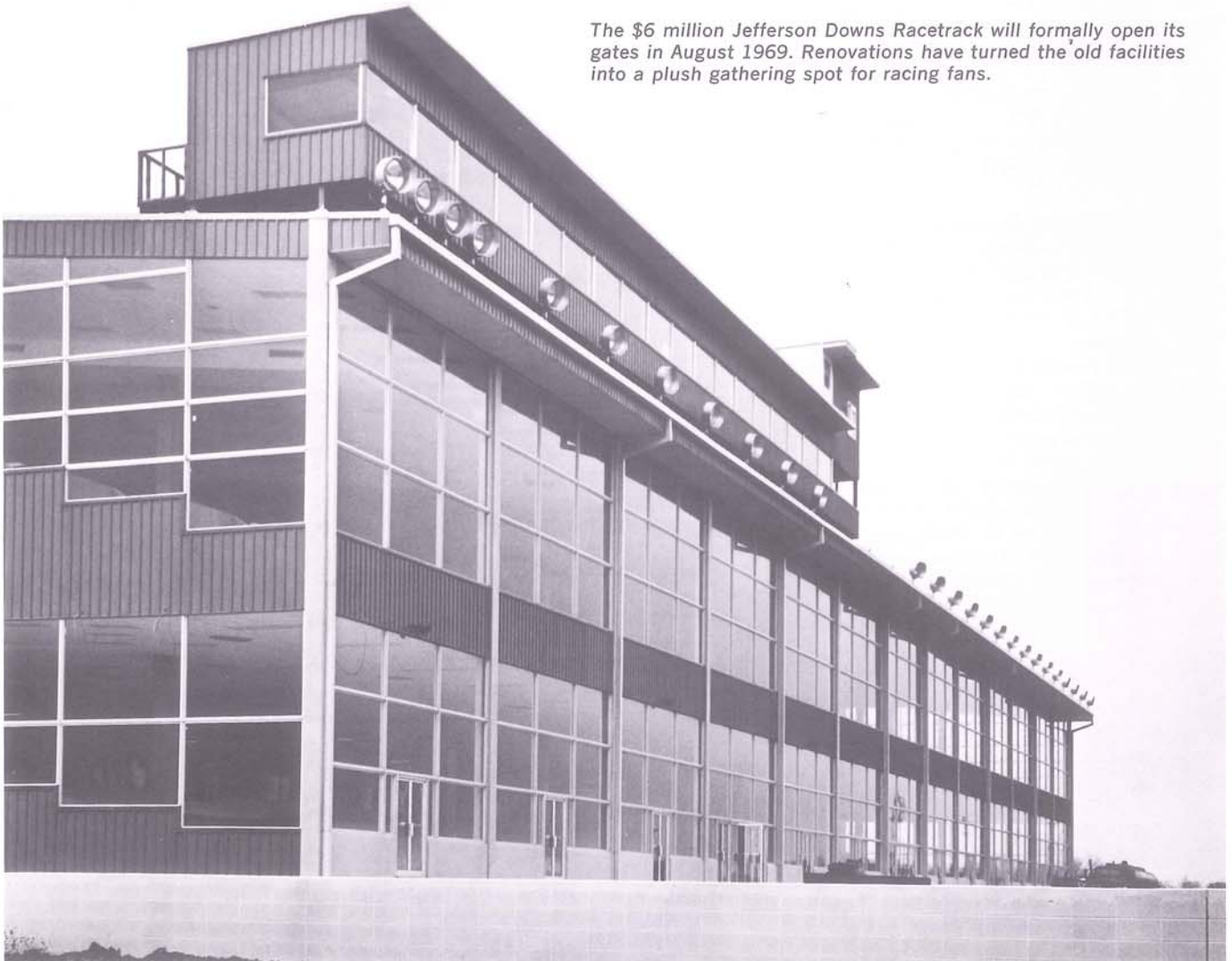


Now under construction in University Center is La Belle Maison, a 220-apartment complex, costing \$2,800,000.



Above: Some 200 apartments have been built in the Redwood Subdivision. This expanding residential area is located on 33rd Street.

The \$6 million Jefferson Downs Racetrack will formally open its gates in August 1969. Renovations have turned the old facilities into a plush gathering spot for racing fans.





*Standing: Harold E. Kytte-City Atty., Donald Murphy-City Clerk, Norma Robinson-Sec. to Marshal & City Clerk, Hilda Clement-Sec. to Mayor & Council, Joan Hebert-Tax Collector, Frank Foster-City Engineer, Frank Rodriguez-Planning & Zoning Consultant. Sitting: Salvador Lentini-Marshal, Joseph Yenni-Alderman, Libo Manuco-Alderman, Edward D'Gerolamo-Mayor, Ray S. Dupépe-Alderman, Anthony Bertolino-Alderman, Michael Damiano-Alderman.*

canal on one side and I-10 passing overhead.

Access roads to the overpass at Williams Boulevard and I-10 were completed last year, placing Kenner within 15 minutes of downtown New Orleans. Interstate 10 now runs the length of Kenner. By 1970 Williams Boulevard will be widened to four lanes from I-10 to Lake Pontchartrain.

With the completion of that project, Jefferson Downs Racetrack will be able to open for the season beginning August 3, 1970. The recently renovated \$6 million facility was forced to sit out the 1969 season because of insufficient traffic arteries for the huge crowds.

The grandstands will seat approximately 7,500 racing fans. The facilities are as good or better than those at the New Orleans Fair Grounds.

Projects completed this year include:

- A 3½ million sewerage treatment plant and collection system for drainage of District II. All populated areas within Kenner now have sewerage service.
- Asphalt surfacing all gravel and

shell streets in District II. We now have hard surfacing on all developed streets.

- Installation of mercury vapor lights for the entire city.
- A three-year study on comprehensive zoning for the city. The planning and zoning board submitted their recommendations to the people of Kenner in November. This rezoning of property safeguards the valuation of the individual's property.
- Renovation of the administration building to accommodate a new accounting system.
- Expansion of personnel and equipment in the fire and police departments. Three captains and several firemen were added to the staff of the fire department. Four new automobiles were purchased for the police department. A captain and a lieutenant and several officers were added to the law enforcement staff.
- A personnel evaluation of city employees. Alexander Grant and Assoc. analyzed all city personnel to place them in positions best suited for them.

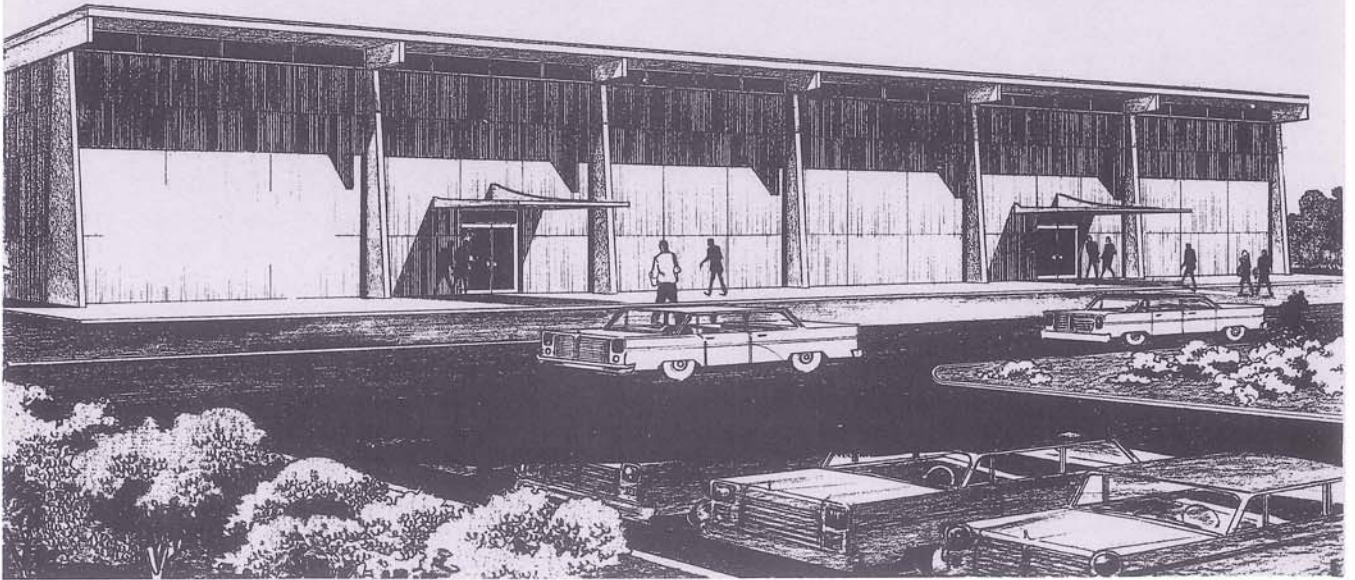
In 1968 we completed the first phase of our beautification program. We planted trees, shrubs and flower beds in all neutral grounds. It was quite successful. This year we were named first in our district in the state-wide beautification contest.

1969 saw the development of 1200 acres of land and the initiation of a project to close all open ditches in the City. Phase I will cost approximately \$200,000. Phases II and III, totalling \$500,000 will be completed in 1970. At that time, all ditches will be enclosed.

Kenner's elected officials include the mayor, Aldermen Anthony J. Bertolino, Michael J. Damiano, Ray S. Dupepe, Lebo Mancuso, Joseph S. Yenni and Marshal Salvador Lentini. Board appointees are Harold Kytte, city attorney; Forest Sabier Assoc., engineer; Donald Murphy, city clerk and secretary-treasurer; Alexander Grant and Assoc., C.P.A.'s. and Mrs. Joan Hebert, Tax collector.

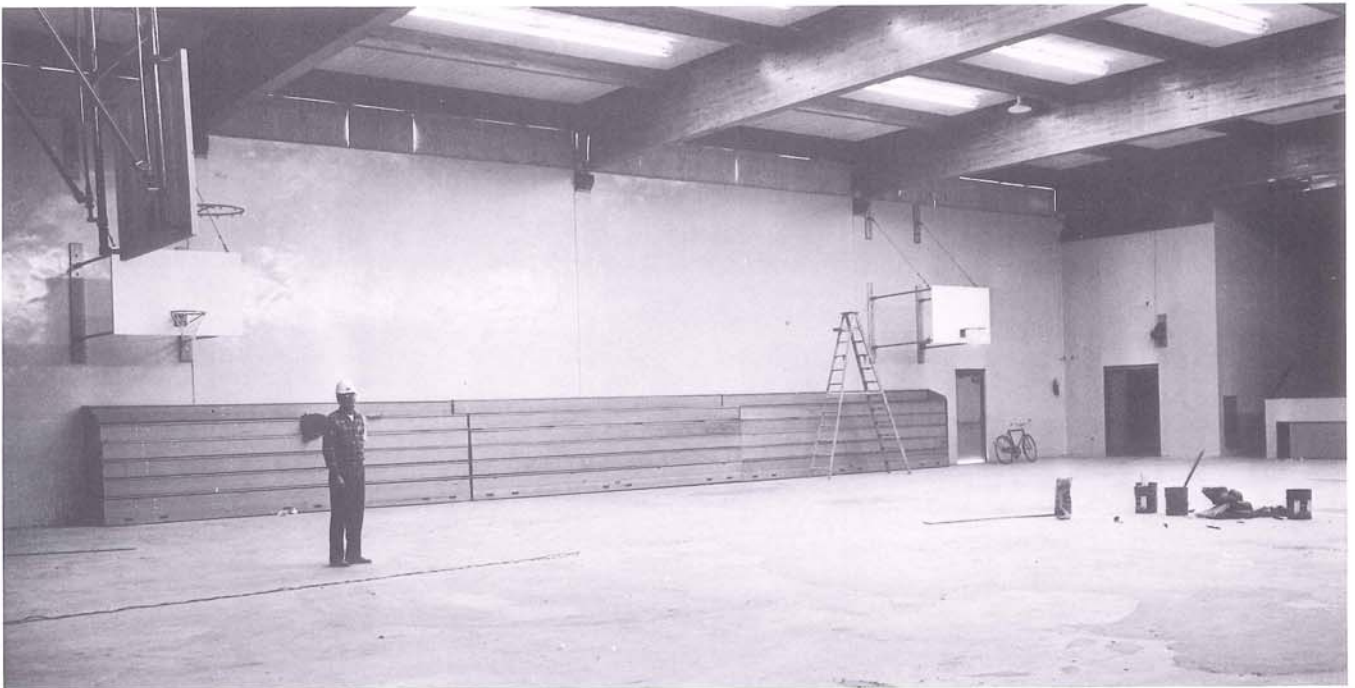
It has been a good year and a good decade for this city. The Official Family of Kenner is dedicated to surpassing it in the '70's.

# Harahan



*For years, the city of Harahan, through the Boosters Club, has provided an organized program of outdoor athletics for youngsters. Lack of a gymnasium and other necessary outdoor facilities, however, had prevented them from offering a complete, year 'round program of recreational activities.*

*Recognizing the problem, city officials proposed the solution in a bond issue election in which the construction of a Community Recreational Center and gymnasium was approved.*



Harahan is a quiet suburban community located on the Eastbank of the Mississippi on land previously devoted to gracious plantations. With a population of over 11,000 people, Harahan is a well-ordered community with a growing commercial center, excellent schools and fine recreation facilities.

Nearby are several large industrial parks containing modern distributing and processing facilities which provide year-round employment for several thousand people. Many make their homes in Harahan.

At the end of 1969, city officials and citizens alike were looking forward eagerly to the completion of the new city recreation center and auditorium, construction of which was approved by voters in 1968. The center, being built on the "horseshoe" ring portion of the Soniat playground, will contain an official basketball court, a stage, three large meeting rooms, a ceramic workshop, lockers, showers and restrooms opening to outdoor play areas. The concrete and steel structure will seat 432 for gymnasium events and up to 1,000 for stage presentations. We expect to start using the new center early in 1970.

Over 500 youngsters took an active part in the continuing program of the Harahan Recreation Department. Highlight of the year was the annual awards program at which Jack Faulkner and Tom



*Looking over plans for Harahan's proposed new Community Recreational Center are (l. to r., seated) 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.*

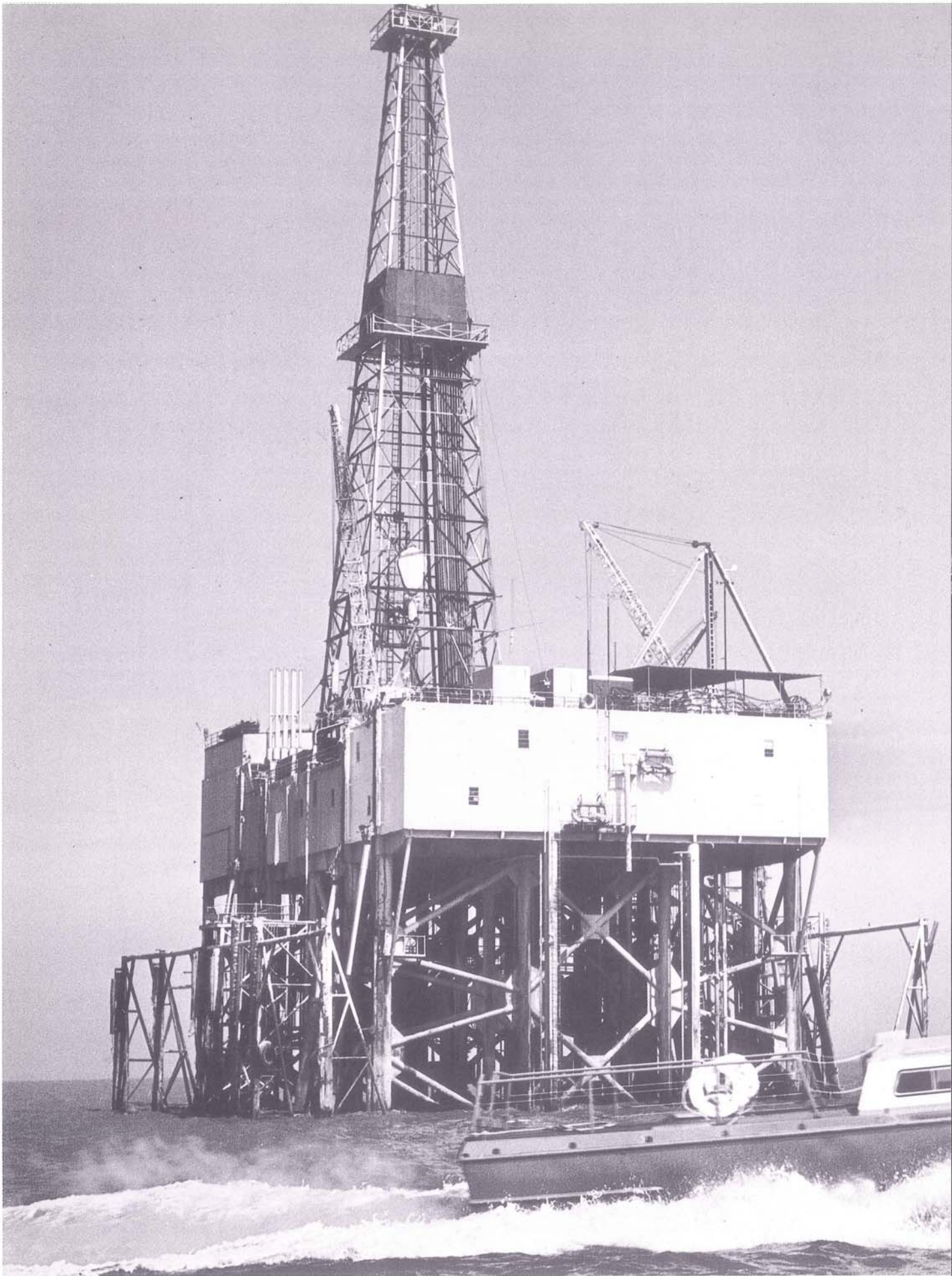
Barrington of the New Orleans Saints appeared. As in the case of 1968, our 85-pound football team—the Harahan Owls, won their divisional championship.

The Harahan Garden Clubs continued with their efforts to beautify our city and to help keep Harahan clean. The annual City Golf Tournament at nearby Colonial Country Club was its usual success with over 125 golfers participating.

The widening and improving of Hickory street continued during 1969 and, in line with its continuing program of street improvement, the city finished the blacktopping of all streets during the year. The city also installed attractive blue and white street

signs which are much more legible than those used previously. The program to replace incandescent street lights with mercury vapor 175 watt fixtures continued with the installation of 100 new units. In 1968 we had installed 74 mercury vapor units. These generate more light which is a deterrent to crime.

The installation of a new water line to serve Harahan should be completed in 1970. It will provide stronger pressure strengthening the city's fire department, which earlier had been equipped with the latest "smoke ejector" and self contained air pack to improve fire fighting capability. The improved new water supply will have a beneficial effect on insurance rates in the city limits.



# Grand Isle

*a grand place to live, work and play*

Here, where Louisiana meets the Gulf of Mexico, nature has provided Jefferson Parish with the rich lore of pirate history . . . fishing unsurpassed . . . and natural deposits of oil and sulphur.

Special events, such as the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo, Grand Isle Redfish Rodeo, Caminada Redfish Rodeo and many others are staged each summer. A new library building symbolizes the growing year-round residential community, as many motels attest to the growing tourist trade. Industrial growth is marked by offshore oil and sulphur service facilities. Charter boats abound as more and more people say "Let's Go-Go Grand Isle!"

MAYOR Clyde Pregeant, Sr.

COUNCILMEN • Carl T. Santiny • Joseph E. Lafont Jr.

• Robert Collins • Ralph Adams • John Adams



# The Most Progressive Bank in Jefferson Parish



# **JEFFERSON** **BANK** and **TRUST** **COMPANY**

3525 N. Causeway Blvd. • 3600 Veterans Blvd. Phone 837-3333

*Member F.D.I.C.*





**Ernest J. Tassin  
Mayor**

We celebrate 50 years as a city in 1969 but 1968 was probably our most dynamic and progressive year—new industries, homes, businesses, apartment complexes—our successful L.S.U. (Let's Spruce Up) campaign—new equipment, efficient workmen and office staff—cooperation from city, parish and state officials—meeting budget problems and demands for better service—fulfilling the dreams of the past 45 years—my thanks to all who helped make Westwego a safer, happier, cleaner city!



**1**



**2**



**3**



**4**



**Sidney J. Guillot  
Marshal**

Through continuous training, practical experience and hard work, the Westwego police department has developed into one of the best equipped, most competent in the state. Now under civil service, our neat, courteous officers are trained in criminology, first aid, riot control and target shooting and have earned the respect of our citizens. Our auxiliary police force is a tremendous asset to the department. We acknowledge the wonderful cooperation we have received from parish, state and adjacent city law enforcement agencies.



**5**



**6**



**7**



**8**

## Members of The City Council



**Antoine A. Alario  
Sanitation**

Garbage pickups twice a week and weekly trash collections were made on a strict time schedule with new and larger equipment during 1968 which helped make the L.S.U. campaign a success. And we are still striving to improve our service!



**Horace J. Boudreaux  
Parks & Playgrounds**

With four playgrounds and a year round program of activities, the recreation department has not only fostered championship teams but is helping to develop clean, healthy, alert minds and bodies. Our new grandstand and daily playground maintenance are invaluable aids.



**Rudy P. Brown  
Sewage, Safety**

Improved maintenance and up date life station equipment have helped to solve our sewage problems. The seafood industry and city, parish, state and federal officials are working shoulder to shoulder to eliminate air and stream pollution.



**Henry Gauthreaux  
Waterworks**

Water purification plant expansion plans are underway to meet growth demands. Meanwhile, renovation of water intake system, new protective pilings, replacement of inadequate water lines, good housekeeping practices and 2 way radio communications have increased efficiency.



**Andy P. Valence  
Streets & Drainage**

A systematized street by streets and drainage improvement program is replacing problem drainage areas with free flowing ditches and dusty, shelled roads with hard surfaced (blacktopped) streets through property owners cooperation. Two way radio communications assures prompt, efficient service for this department proving once again that Westwego is "The City That Knows How."



**Office Staff**



**The Fleet**



**Working Crew**

\*State Senator A. W. "Kellye" Gravlot, 26th Senatorial District which includes Wards 1-2-3 of Jefferson Parish, died October 24, 1968. His successor, Rep. Samuel B. Nunez, Jr., had not been officially sworn in at year end. \*Ad Hoc Judge J. Bernard Cocke retired at year end and was not replaced.

**The Westwego Officials, Office Staff, and Working Crew Are Constantly On The Move To Make Your City Better. 1. Our City Attorney 2. Improving Drainage 3. Expanding Water Supply 4. A Top Notch Police Dept. 5. Keeping Our City Clean 6. Keeping Up With Progress 7. Healthy Recreation, 8. Calvin Galiano, A Working Office Manager**

# The Clerk of Court



Thirty years ago when Jefferson Parish shared a judge and a district attorney with two other parishes, only a handful of people staffed the Clerk of Court's office.

Now, with ten judges and a district attorney's office with nine assistant attorneys, the volume of services provided by the Clerk of Court has greatly increased.

To Clerk of Court William M. "Bill" Justice, Jr. now in his fourth consecutive term, volume is important.

Dating back to 1845, his is the only parochial office which receives no tax revenues, depending entirely on fees received for its services, and these services are many and diverse. **The Clerk (of the District Court) is a court officer, a jury commission member, notary public, recorder of mortgages and conveyances (sales), adoptions, etc. He is custodian of voting machines, instructs poll commissioners, clerk and custodians, supervises absentee voting, election night vote tabulations, etc.** Duties of the judicial section include receiving and filing of civil and criminal suits and successions, their assignment for judicial action, recording alimony decisions, adoptions and juvenile records, drawing of about 2500 grand and petit jurors annually for criminal and civil cases, selecting and assigning minute clerks, providing administrative services for all courts and filing court evidence.

**Evidence of civil suits is micro-filmed, then filed in locked vaults until the cases are tried. A separate section handles criminal records which include misdemeanor and traffic violations.**

Jefferson, which averages six elections a year, keeps both the clerk of court and his election supervisor and voting machine administrator busy.

Absentee voting is held at three locations, starting 20 days before and ending 7 days prior to primaries

and general elections. Instruction classes are held for poll clerks, commissioners and custodians.

Each voting machine (there are 358 of them) is checked for accurate ballot information and are trucked to Jefferson's 151 polling places.

Tabulating "votes cast" sheets on election night is an exacting and tedious job. Up to 30 clerk of court employees (on the night of a general election) compile the "unofficial" returns. Promulgation of returns—the final, official results—follows a long day at the warehouse where three days after the election, tally sheets are checked for accuracy by a task force supervised by the clerk of court's office.

Bill Justice as Clerk of Courts serves on the five-member Jury commission which selects the juries as required by the judges. The other four members of the commission are selected by the judge.

Grand and petit jurors must be English speaking male U.S. citizens, over 21, with one year or more of Parish residency. Some citizens are exempted from serving for various reasons. Women are not eligible unless they request jury service in writing.

For grand juries, impaneled twice a year, 35 names are drawn by lot from a "General Venire Box" a sealed container with the names of at least 600 eligible persons each on a separate slip of paper. Twelve of the 35 are chosen by lot to serve a minimum of 6 months. Then the names of petit jurors, who serve for one week, are drawn.

**Lists of grand and petit jurors (for criminal cases) are published in the official journal of the parish. Grand jurors are paid \$12 per day and petit jurors \$8.**

An important and highly functional new addition to the civil records room in the annex is the "Lektrevier"—huge "escalator" type filing complex with a capacity of 8000 files.





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a 549,000-kilowatt unit that raised the capability of that station to 1,229,000 kilowatts.

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## CLERK OF COURT

Another "first" for Jefferson's clerk of court, the "Lektriever" has electronic finger-tip control allowing an operator to quickly locate files as they come into view while seated at the controls.

The clerk of court has retained a corner of the fourth floor of the main courthouse for locked storage of evidence.

He also maintains a branch on the East Bank which serves as an information center, handles absentee voting and issues marriage licenses.

The Parish's judges serve in Divisions A through G, the Juvenile Court and the First and Second Parish Courts. The First Parish Court on the East Bank has experienced an extremely heavy case load. Since 1964 when it was established, the court has handled well over 70,000, more than 50,000 traffic cases and a heavy civil docket.

Case volume for all courts in 1969 was as follows:

### CIVIL CASES

24th Jefferson District Court	7,354
Juvenile Court	168
1st Parish Court	2,897
2nd Parish Court	1,863

### CRIMINAL CASES

24th Jefferson District Court	1,398
1st Parish Court	29,421
2nd Parish Court	8,097

Other activities of the Clerk of Courts in 1969 included the issuance of 2,106 marriage certificates, the filing of 106 appeals and the recording of 1,162 cases of criminal evidence.

Operating costs for the new courtroom came from parish funds.

Earlier, the legislature approved two new district judgeships for the parish but has not yet appropriated operating funds.

**Following the 1970 census, fast growing Jefferson is expected to qualify on the basis of population, for still more judgeships.**

This is progress, of course.

It also means that the clerk of court's office will have to expand

its volume of services to keep in step with progress.

But no matter how large his office grows, Justice knows that his employees whom he calls "the best public servants I have known" will continue to render fast, friendly, efficient service as they have for the past 12 years.

On the third floor of the main courthouse building in Gretna is the mortgage and conveyance section which handles all non-judicial matters.

Various notarial acts which are recorded and filed here date back to 1827. They include sales and purchase agreements, real estate and chattel mortgages, mineral leases, charters, trade names, successions, adoptions, federal and state tax liens, judgments, sheriff's auction and tax sales, utility liens, quit claims, process verbal and subdivision maps.

Mortgage and conveyance certificates are issued to clear titles before a sale or mortgage. Here, too, mortgages and liens are cancelled.

# The Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Alwynn J. Cronvich, the first sheriff to be re-elected in Jefferson Parish in sixteen years, began his second term of office on July 1, 1968. A record of proven performance and outstanding achievement in law enforcement won for Sheriff Cronvich nomination and re-election in the first Democratic primary. More than six years ago, Sheriff Cronvich pledged to the people of Jefferson parish a law enforcement agency which would be second to none in the State of Louisiana, and his energies have been concentrated on fulfilling that pledge. That goal has been achieved.

Because Jefferson Parish has experienced such phenomenal growth during the past several years, it was necessary that the services of the Sheriff's Department be increased in all of its major functions. Conditions throughout the United States have pointed out the need for increased law enforcement activities, and law and order has become an issue of paramount interest to all of our citizens.

To meet these needs, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Department has increased its law enforcement capability and extensive recruitment, thorough training, effective use of modern equipment, increased salaries and benefits for the deputies has enabled Sheriff Cronvich to wage a vigorous campaign in all areas of criminal activity. Although the qualifications have been increased so that all deputies must have a minimum of a high school education, recruiting has been so successful that there is a waiting list of applications for employment in the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office. All recruits are trained in basic law enforcement courses at Louisiana State University and in courses conducted by ranking officers in the department. Through the use of visual aids and lectures, the recruits are taught procedures in conducting investigations of all types of crimes, including burglaries, armed robberies, homicides, accidents, traffic control, patrol duties and human relations.

Continuing in-service training programs with required participation of all members of the department are provided within the department. The more experienced members of the department are sent to specialized training schools including Louisiana State University, University of Georgia, Indiana University, Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs in Washington, the Traffic Institute at Northwestern University, California State College and other recognized train-

ing institutions throughout the United States.

Of particular interest is the participation of the members of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Department in the Police Foundation through which members of the department are enrolled at Loyola University working toward a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminology. At the present time thirty-eight members of the department are enrolled in this program and last year three ranking officers received these degrees, one of the officers graduating "Cum Laude." The Police Foundation program is supported entirely by citizens' contributions and the Sheriff's Department actively seeks the financial support of the citizens of Jefferson Parish for this program.

All ranking officers have received one week of riot training at Fort Gordon, Georgia under a program conducted by the United States Army and supervised by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. To implement this training the Sheriff and his staff met with the staff of the Louisiana National Guard and formulated plans to coordinate area control in the event of civil disorders. A 60 man Emergency Crowd Control Squad, especially trained and equipped, is maintained.

The law enforcement responsibility of the Sheriff's Department is effectively maintained by two major divisions, the Detective and Patrol Divisions, and specialized units, including Vice, Narcotics, Intelligence, Emergency and Rescue, Communications, Planning and Training, and Bureau of Internal Investigation.

A unit most important in the conduct of the affairs of the Sheriff's Office is the Community and Public Relations Unit. One of the more essential functions of this unit is the administration and direction of the Junior Deputy Program under the full-time direction of two officers specially trained in juvenile work. This program is designed to instill the members' respect for law and the rights of others and to encourage them to consider the law enforcement officer as a friend. This program is open to boys and girls from the ages of 9 through 16 years. They receive instruction in first-aid, self defense and the use of firearms. During the summer more than 1000 boys and girls attend summer camps and are taken on trips to various parts of the country. Many weekend campouts and field trips are sponsored for the members.

The protection of the greatest asset of this parish, the youth, is not



limited to the Junior Deputy Program for more than 100 school crossing guards are employed for the safety of all of our school children. The young boys and girls who assist the adult school crossing guards throughout the year take part in many of the activities of the Junior Deputy Program, and the outstanding school crossing girl or boy of each school is rewarded with a trip to Washington, and the next two receive a trip to a summer camp.

Any article about the law enforcement function of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office would be incomplete if we did not pay tribute to the members of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Auxiliary. These men, well-trained, contribute more than 7,000 hours each month riding with the regular patrol deputies, providing traffic patrol at football games, parades and special events, motorcycle escorts and communications assistance. To them is owed a sincere debt of gratitude by all of the citizens of Jefferson Parish, as well as by the regular members of the Sheriff's Department.

In addition to the law enforcement function, the Sheriff's Office serves as the tax collection agency for the Parish of Jefferson and in that

capacity collects more than \$37 million to be distributed to all of the taxing bodies in the parish, to the State of Louisiana, and to the Levee Districts within the parish. The other civil functions include the function of Executive Officer of all of the courts within the Parish of Jefferson, the Juvenile Court, the seven District Courts, and the two Parish Courts. The service of all legal process in the parish is made through the Sheriff's Office as the Executive Officer of the Courts. To the administrative staff of the Sheriff's Office falls the responsibility for acting as the financial arm of the department, and provide the logistical support necessary to operate a \$40 million business. To this most difficult position, Sheriff Cronvich devotes his experience as an attorney, accountant, and lecturer in finance.

The leadership, dedication, and integrity of Sheriff Cronvich has been recognized on a national level, as well as on the state and local level, and he has held and is now holding executive office in many National, State and Metropolitan Law enforcement organizations. The citizens of Jefferson Parish owe a debt of gratitude to the sheriff for a job well done.

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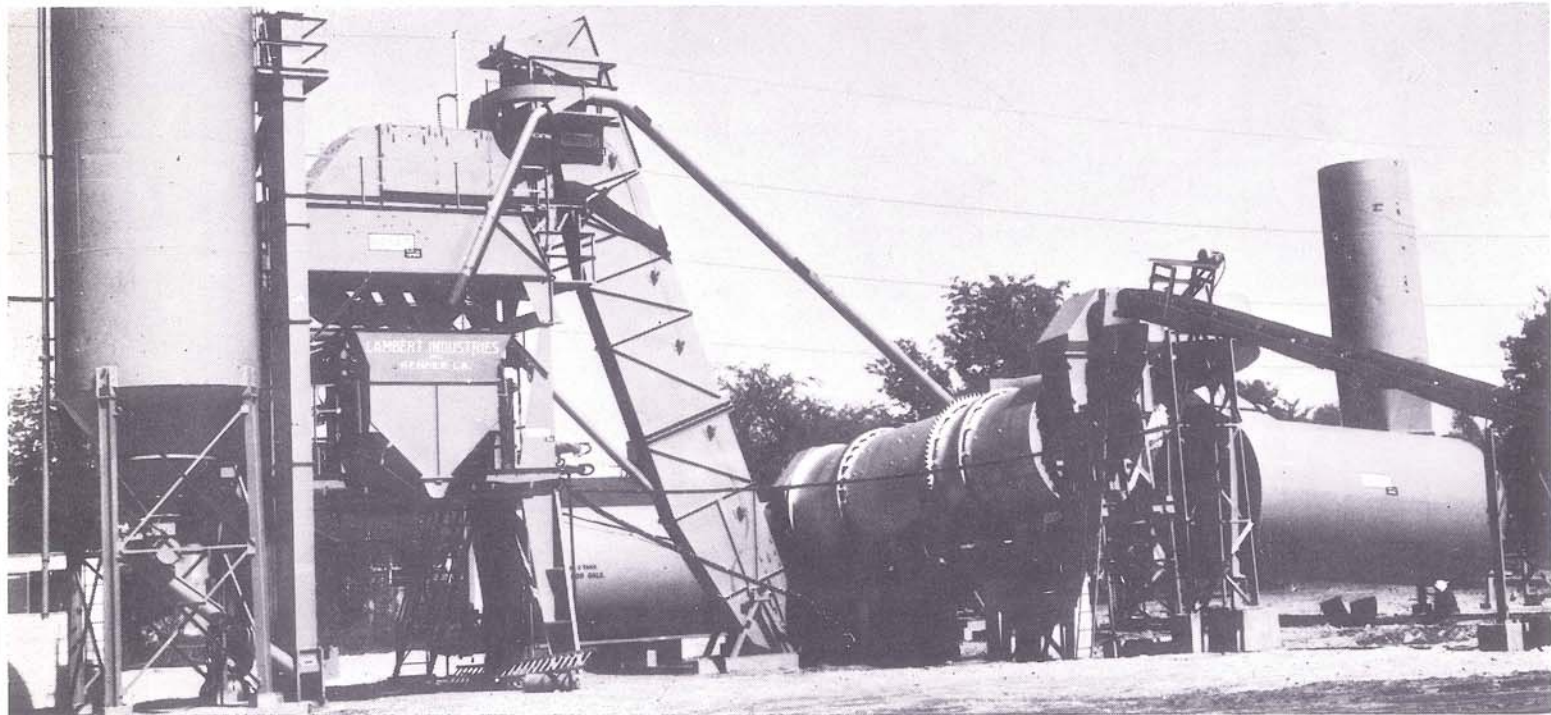
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## JEFF GETS CALL TO WAR AGAINST UGLINESS

In early 1970 Parish President Thomas F. Donelon stated that Jefferson has declared "total all-out war against ugliness and environmental pollution."

The all-out effort will start immediately with a five-point basic program, which includes:

1. Beautification through plantings of trees, shrubbery, flowers and grass on major streets throughout the parish;
2. A "get tough" policy by the parish sheriff's office in enforcing parish anti-litter and abandoned automobile laws;
3. Distribution of some 50,000 litter bags, and location of 250 litter barrels, suspended from poles in such a way they can be easily utilized from inside passing automobiles;
4. Control of weeds with the largest force of weed cutting machinery ever assembled in Jefferson, according to Donelon; and
5. Increasing the present program of poison baiting known nesting places for rats.

### 'MANY MEANINGS'

"We are all aware that the pollution of our environment has become a

tremendous national issue," Donelon said. "It means many things besides air and water pollution.

"It means lack of beauty in our cities and parishes; it means all forms of ugliness; it means the tons of litter that are thrown on our streets, the junked cars that are abandoned in the dark of night; it means vacant lots overgrown with weeds; canals and drainage ditches illegally used as convenient garbage cans, and it means rats that thrive in this cesspool of human carelessness. "It has been said that winning the battle against ugliness and environmental pollution is next to impossible, because some people in every community simply don't give a damn," Donelon said.

"We don't believe this, but in any case, we are about to find out."

The five-point program represents an immediate beginning to meet the problem, he said, which will be followed by other phases such as air pollution, pollution of Lake Pontchartrain, covering of open canals and ditches, as soon as plans for this costly work have been formulated.

"It is my sincere hope that every man, woman, child and civic associa-

tion in Jefferson will enthusiastically join with their elected officials in this five-point program," Donelon said, "and by their actions, let it be known throughout Louisiana that Jefferson Parish was the first to stop talking and to start doing something constructive about the environmental pollution and the few 'don't give a damn' people who cause it."

### PLANNING STARTS

Donelon said a beautification program has been planned by James Fondren, a landscape authority from Tulane University.

The parish is already in the process of planting 570 crape myrtles, 437 palms, 210 cypress, 230 magnolias, 1,010 azaleas, 210 live oaks, 175 viburnum, 50 bridal wreaths, 1,500 shore junipers, 200 photinia and 100 oleanders, he said.

Some 4,450 pounds of Bermuda grass seed and 35,500 pounds of winter rye grass have been planted, he added.

Donelon noted the parish council has increased the penalty for littering to a maximum \$100 fine and 30 days imprisonment, and the parish ordinance on abandoned cars carries the same penalty for violation.

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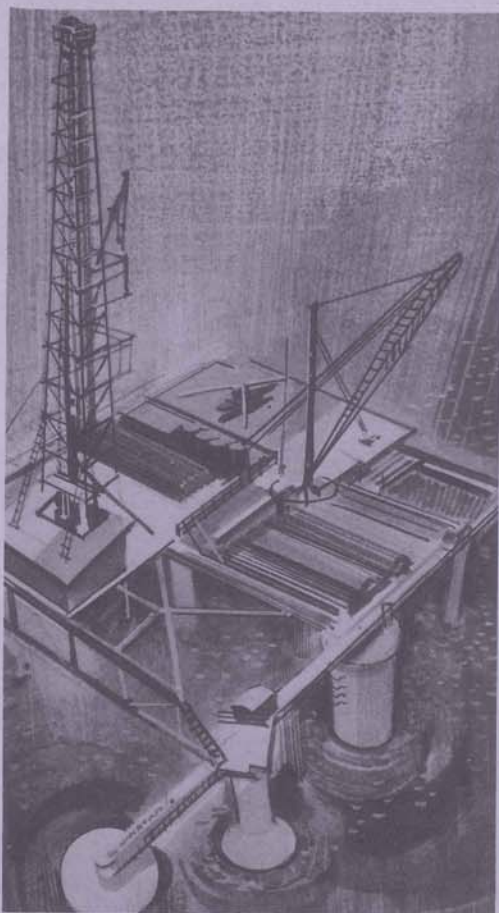
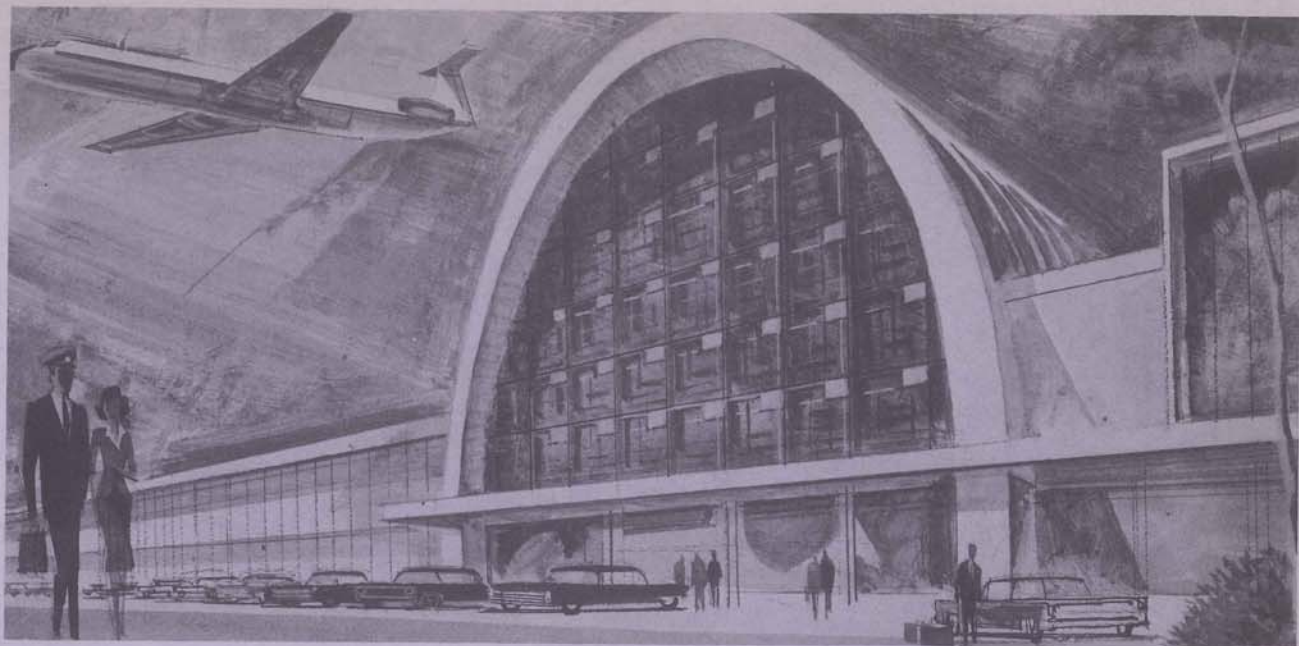


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**THIS IS  
JEFFERSON PARISH**



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### GEOGRAPHY:

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Jefferson Parish is located West of the City of New Orleans in the State of Louisiana. It is bounded by the Parishes of Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Charles and Lafourche and includes the incorporated areas of Gretna (The Parish Seat), Kenner, Westwego, Harahan and Grand Isle. The shores of Lake Pontchartrain border it on the North as it stretches 60 miles to the Gulf of Mexico on the South, with St. Charles and Lafourche Parishes on the West and Orleans and Plaquemines on the East. It straddles the Mississippi River, and covers 608 square miles of area. 445 square miles of this represents actual land area, which is twice the 199.4 square miles of land area of neighboring Orleans Parish.

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### TOPOGRAPHY:

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The land is flat and fertile, with much remaining prairie and swamp-land, and is interlaced with numerous bayous, bays and waterways. It is divided by the Mississippi River, with the salt waters of the Gulf of Mexico splashing on its long stretch of sandy beach at Grand Isle on the South and the shores of Lake Pontchartrain on the North. The scenic beauty of Bayou Barataria, which runs from Grand Isle to the populated area of Jefferson Parish, with its historic moss covered oaks is interrupted now and then by the towering oil and oil distillation tanks that dot the horizon to proclaim the vast oil reserves which have been found to be almost inexhaustible.

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### CLIMATE:

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A mild, semi-tropical climate, with the surrounding bodies of water preventing extremes of temperature. The sun shines most of the time, and the average monthly temperature goes from 55.1° in January to 82.7° in July. During one of its warmest summers, in 1951, the June to August temperature averaged 84.7°. During one of its coldest winters, 1885, the December to February temperature averaged 50.9°. Snow has fallen only three times during the 20th Century: 0.1" in January 1935, 1.3" in January of 1958, and 4" in December of 1963. The rainfall averages 63.54" a year, with the monthly average running from 3.66" in October to 7.09" in July.



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## JEFFERSON PARISH TIMES

Official Journal for the Parish  
of Jefferson  
City of Kenner — Metairie, La.

**GROWING WITH LOUISIANA'S  
FASTEST GROWING PARISH**

SAMUEL D. REEKS Editor & Publisher  
ZEPHYR REEKS  
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ESTABLISHED 1944

### HISTORY:

In 1803, when Napoleon sold the State of Louisiana to the United States, New Orleans was already a city eighty-five years old. The thriving metropolis that is now Jefferson Parish was a veritable wilderness of swamp, prairie, woodland and water with a handful of Choctaw Indians roaming the thicket and a band of rough and tumble pirates prowling the waterways.

The parties, under the ruthless leadership of a colorful and legendary rogue named Jean Lafitte, established headquarters at Grand Isle and Grand Terre, two small islands in the Gulf of Mexico. Their warehouses and barracoons were often filled with more than a million dollars worth of plunder pillaged from richly laden merchantmen and galleons. Their loot included huge sums of gold, silver, precious stones, and slaves being transported from Africa. They also took possession of all women aboard; and the fate that they met was worse than that which befell the slaves. Most of the slaves were auctioned off on the slave blocks in nearby New Orleans where they stood a chance of falling into gentle hands. But the women were herded on to the islands of Grand Isle or Grand Terre where they were either killed outright, or kept for the pleasure of the pirates. Native rumor persists that their terrified screams can still be heard on dark and quiet nights from the banks of Grand Isle and Grand Terre.

For many years these burly buccaneers paddled their pirogues, laden with contraband, through the intricate maze of bayous, bays, lakes and waterways from Grand Isle to New Orleans. They laughed at the law as they brazenly marketed their illicit merchandise, through agents and depots as far east as Pensacola, Florida, and as far north as Natchez, Mississippi.

Thus, in 1812, when Louisiana became the eighteenth state to join the Union, among the first inhabitants of what is now Jefferson Parish were these buccaneers, the women they had ravished and

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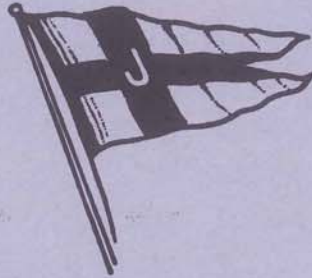
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### HISTORY:

kept, the children born of these weird unions, and a few slaves and surviving Choctaw Indians. In 1815, when the British attempted to seize New Orleans, it was Jean Lafitte and his thousand or so swashbuckling freebooters who helped General Andrew Jackson and his small army defeat the large expeditionary force of Major General Sir Edward Pakenham and win the Battle of New Orleans. Colliers Encyclopedia asserts that the British losses amounted to over 2,000 men, including Pakenham and most of the other general officers in the field, while American casualties numbered only 71. According to some military strategists, the battle formation and type of fighting done by these pirates was the basis for today's military tactics. With the dramatic participation of Lafitte and his followers in the successful defense of New Orleans, they were transformed forthwith from pirates to patriots. President James Madison issued pardons for their crimes and made them citizens as a reward for their part in the fighting. A few of these pirate-patriots lived the remainder of their lives and are buried within the confines of the scenes of their former iniquitous pasts. The career of the famous pirate, Jean Lafitte, appears to have ended in this area shortly after he was exonerated by President Madison. While his name is still legend in these parts, and many tales are told about his bold and romantic adventures, what actually happened to him after his vindication is shrouded in mystery and filled with supposition. Some say that after being snubbed by the social element of New Orleans, he left, swearing never to return, to go to Galveston, Texas, where the lure of easy money soon overcame the encumbrances of a reputable course and turned him back to the nefarious trade of pirateering. But while the natives of Galveston solemnly insist that his body lies buried in a secret spot on the shores of that city where he died of wounds received at sea, others maintain that his bones are adrift on the sandy bottom of the Gulf of Mexico. Ask anyone in the Grand Isle-Lafitte area, however, and they

will swear that his final resting place is in the little cemetery on the banks of Goose Bayou in Lafitte.

On February 11, 1825, during the administration of Governor William C. Claiborne, Jefferson Parish, as such, came into being. This came about through the division of the State of Louisiana into Senatorial Districts in accordance with the State's first Constitution. And although John Quincy Adams had been elected that same year as the Sixth President of the United States, and former Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and James Monroe were still living, Louisiana's Third Senatorial District was named in honor of Thomas Jefferson, the Third President of the United States, under whose Administration the Louisiana Purchase was consummated.

This new Parish was largely agricultural because of the rich alluvial deposits laid down by the Mississippi River in prehistoric times. It remained so for many years, with its early French settlers gradually developing large plantations along the banks of the Mississippi; and in 1830, when the first census was taken, the total population was 6,846.

As the Parish grew and prospered, several incorporated towns began to form. Among the first were Lafayette, Jefferson and Carrollton, all located between Felicity Street in New Orleans, (the then existing Parish boundary) and the 17th Street Canal. (The present boundary). These little cities were created between 1833 and 1846; and the Police Jury which then governed the affairs of Jefferson Parish performed its governmental duties in the first Jefferson Parish Court House, located in the City of Carrollton, in what is now the Benjamin Franklin School on Carrollton Avenue in New Orleans. Oddly enough, this part of New Orleans is still referred to as "Carrollton".

In 1862 when New Orleans was captured by Federal Forces, Jefferson Parish lived under military occupation with its civil authorities stripped of all power. It was not until 1877, with the election of Rutherford B. Hayes to the Pres-



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## HISTORY:



idency of the United States, that the occupying Federal troops were removed, free elections were held, and Jefferson Parish was once again able to take over its own affairs. During this interim of military occupation the small incorporated cities of Lafayette, Jefferson and Carrollton were annexed to the City of New Orleans, and the present Jefferson-Orleans boundary was established at the 17th Street Canal, where it is today.

From that time until about forty or so years ago, Jefferson Parish was little more than a thin scattering of farms, pastures and fishing villages, with several large plantations dotting the banks of the Mississippi River. Then, gradually, with the New Orleans population overflowing into Jefferson Parish, industry began to develop. With industry came the discovery of vast oil reserves and other natural resources. Add this to its key location, and all it needed was the war boom of the 1940s to start the chain reaction that mushroomed it into a hub of tremendous activity. Cowpastures blossomed into subdivisions; cowpaths became roadways; and as traffic changed from a meager trickle to a steady stream, main traffic arteries began to wind their way through the whole Parish. Manufacturing plants and industry grew throughout the parish and on the West Bank the Harvey Canal,

which leads from the river to the Gulf of Mexico, became the site of Jefferson's major manufacturing and shipping center. Thus it was that Jefferson Parish started its quick but steady stride toward the present.

Today, Jefferson Parish stands as a monument to progress and prosperity. It is as modern as tomorrow in its populated regions, having been for many years one of the finest residential sections in the Greater New Orleans Area. Its homes, businesses, subdivisions, shopping centers and highways make an uninterrupted transition from one to the other.

It is a community for the young (Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, Inc., gives the median age as 26.5 years) and for the young in heart. It is a friendly place in which to live, for there is blended the gracious hospitality of the South with the warm friendliness of the West.

Its population has increased fourfold within the past few years and is expanding at an even more rapid rate. It is over 98% industrial, having four industrial enterprises for every mile of its length; and it offers unlimited possibilities in the field of skilled labor.

With its tremendous industrial capacity, Jefferson Parish is one of the most commercially active Parishes in Louisiana.

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## GOVERNMENT:



The affairs of Jefferson Parish were first administered by a District judge and 12 Commissioners. This was changed in 1834 to a single Police Jury form of government which governed the community for 24 years. In 1858 discord developed within the ranks of the Police Jury and this split caused the formation of two Police Jury Districts: One for the Right Bank and one for the Left Bank. The Police Jury Districts governed the Parish until 1862 when Jefferson Parish was placed under military occupation and its civil authorities were without power. In 1877 when Rutherford Hayes became President of the United States, the carpetbaggers were ousted, and with the election of a new Governor (Francis T. Nicholls) and Legislature for the State of Louisiana, local Parish Governments were reinstated, and representative Jefferson Parish Police Juries resumed control of their own affairs. In 1884 the two Police Juries were consolidated into one, consisting of one President and 17 Jurors, and they managed Jefferson Parish affairs until 1958.

In 1956 an abortive attempt was made to convert the governing authority to a Commission Council form of government. Candidates were elected and ready to take office; but the Legislative Act empowering the election was held

unconstitutional by the Louisiana Supreme Court, and the preceding Police Jury (whose term had expired in the interim) held the reins of the Parish during the period in which a decision was made.

After a study was made by a legislatively empowered charter commission, the Parish secured a Home Rule Charter through a Parish-wide election. Under this Charter, a President who is Chief Administrator, and a seven member Council, which acts as the legislative and policy-making body were elected. This is the present form of government of Jefferson Parish today.

The Parish President and Council Chairman are elected Parish-wide. The other six Councilmen are elected according to Districts: In order to give equal representation to all areas the Parish is broken up into four Council Districts with a Councilman elected from each District and one Councilman at Large from the East Bank and one Councilman at Large from the West Bank. The Parish President, as the Chief Administrator, is responsible to the Parish Council for carrying out policies adopted by it, and for the administration and supervision of all Parish Departments, Offices, Agencies and Special Districts. The Parish Council, as the Legislative

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and Policy-making Body, is responsible, except in the incorporated areas, for adopting such ordinances and resolutions as may be proper in the exercise of the powers of the Parish. Although its authority is confined to the unincorporated areas of the Parish, the citizens of the incorporated areas participate in elections to Council office and are eligible to run for election to that office. Under this Charter, the authority of the President and the Council is limited with respect to the offices of Sheriff, Clerk of Court, Assessor, Coroner, and the School Board.

The incorporated areas: Grand Isle, Gretna, Harahan, Kenner and Westwego, are governed by a Mayor and Board of Aldermen elected by the citizens of their respective cities.

A system of civil service, both merit and classified, has been instituted for the employees of all Departments coming under the jurisdiction of the Parish Charter.

### MUNICIPALITIES:

There are five incorporated municipalities in Jefferson Parish, each governed by an elected Mayor and a five-man Board of Aldermen. All have their own Police Force and Fire Department, and although each one is an integral part of Jefferson Parish, they have their own governing body.

### GRETNA:

Gretna, the seat of the Jefferson Parish Government, is located on the West Bank of the Mississippi River. It has a population of some 30,000 people which continues to soar because of its proximity to downtown New Orleans via the toll free Expressway Bridge; and because it is a neat, quiet, yet modernly streamlined community of orderly subdivisions, thriving shopping centers, and the gateway to the oil industry.

Before becoming the Parish Seat, Gretna was a small German community called Mechanicsham (Mechanicsville) that was noted for

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its speedy-one-stop marriages similar to those obtainable in the Scottish town of Gretna-Green on the English border. Because of this, Mechanicsham was nicknamed Gretna Green, and this name has stuck in part to what is now officially named Gretna, Louisiana.

### KENNER:

Kenner, located on the East Bank of Jefferson Parish has a population of close to 25,000, and is the home of the New Orleans International Airport. It is the oldest town in Jefferson Parish with an historical background dating back before the Civil War. Its incorporation as a town dates back to 1855.

Its first settlers were of Irish and German descent and the cultivation of sugar was the most important industry in this section until after the Civil War when the sugar planters were forced to divide their huge plantations into smaller tracts in order to save them from complete ruin and abandonment. Two of the largest plantations, Belle Grove and Oaklawn, were owned by brothers, Minor and William Kenner. In 1853 during the yellow fever epidemic William Kenner died. After his death, his brother and the Executor of his Estate, Minor Kenner, divided both plantations into small farms. These were sold to new settlers. Thus it was that the town got its present name of Kenner. Prior to that time it was known as Cannes Brules, or Burnt Cane.

During the late Eighteen Eighties and early Nineties, after the Cotton Exposition in New Orleans, many Italian families settled in Kenner. During this period truck farming came into prominence, and the growing and shipping of vegetables is still one of the chief industries of this city.

Since many of Kenner's older residents are of Italian descent, the Italian feast of St. Rosalie, usually celebrated on the first Sunday in September, is still a traditional event. On that day hundreds of members of St. Rosalie's Society may be seen marching through the streets carrying banners and statues of their patron saint. In the old days, this day was climaxed by the

lighting of a large fireworks display on the church grounds. It is understood, however, that this practice has been discontinued.

### WESTWEGO:

The town of Westwego, located on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish, was incorporated in the year 1918. Its population at that time, according to the 1918 Census, was 1,583. From a small village, Westwego has grown to a city of more than 15,000 inhabitants. Today it is a modern city in every respect with practically every street paved, and with sub-surface drainage and curbing on all main thoroughfares throughout the town. Because of its modern water plant, it ranks as a first-class city in fire risk, since the basic rate is lower there than in most other places.

The fishing industry is the backbone of Westwego. With seven seafood packing plants now in operation, this charming little city is the seafood center of Jefferson Parish. Ships from all over the world dock here to receive and unload cargo.

Westwego was once called Salaville in honor of Pablo Sala, a local colonist, Spanish by birth. It was thus named in 1893 after an extremely bitter storm devastated Cheniere Caminada on the Gulf of Mexico killing 1800 of its inhabitants. Refugees of the catastrophe came in sailing craft and canoes to the banks of Bayou Barataria and the Lafourche Canal. To each bereft survivor Pablo Sala donated a plot of ground. He later returned to Spain, and today only Sala Avenue in Westwego remains in memory of this gallant little Spaniard.

There have been many stories as to how Westwego acquired its present name. One that is as good as any is the case of a wrong way railroad. It seems that the Chattanooga Railroad was developed from New Orleans to Mobile, Alabama. After the tracks were laid, and as work progressed, it was finally discovered that it was no longer headed for Chattanooga as planned, but was instead going toward Texas. Undaunted, and in all probability trying to turn an error into an advantage, the New York office

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located suitable property for a river crossing on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish and then wired the New Orleans office its approval saying: "West We Go". Thus the name "West We Go" was given to this west bank locale, and it has been Westwego ever since.

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## HARAHAN:

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Ten miles above the city of New Orleans on the East Bank of the Mississippi River, lies the original Village of Harahan. It was incorporated in 1920, and now, with a population of well over 12,000, it offers all the conveniences of both city and country living.

Harahan, named for one of the Presidents of the Illinois Central Railroad, at the time of its incorporation had a population of approximately 400, mostly railroad people, working in what was considered one of the largest railroad freight yards in the South. In 1935, when the population had increased to 1,500, it still retained its predominance as a railroad town.

Today, the City of Harahan is primarily a residential community with 46% of its population under the age of 18 years. There are no industrial areas within the city limits, and only a limited number of commercial sites; but just East of the city, on a former WWII Army Camp is located one of the largest industrial centers in the Parish.

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## GRAND ISLE:

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Grand Isle, with its miles of white coast line on the Gulf of Mexico, is known far and wide for its historical background as the main haunt of Lafitte, the Pirate, and his Band of Profiteers. Of equal importance is the fact that it is rated one of the top ten sport fishing spots in the world.

Although it has a population of only 2,000, and is small enough for its visitors to walk and enjoy its patriarch oaks and twisting shell lanes, it is large enough to

attract a prosperous fishing industry that shelters its fleet in its bayous.

Grand Isle is a fascinating family vacation spot with a varied recreation program for its residents, visitors and vacationers. For the sport enthusiasts there are the Tarpon Rodeo, Boat Racing, Scuba Rodeo, Redfish Rodeo, swimming, boating, skiing and casting.

Announcement has recently been made that plans are presently being made for development of campsite lots on 160 acres of Grand Isle, with another 104 acres to be set aside for other projects, including a multi-million dollar motel and marina.

Grand Isle is rich in history, steeped in folklore . . . and with its centuries old moss-draped trees and its eight mile beach, it offers food for the soul as well as relaxation for the body.

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## UNINCORPORATED AREAS:

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The unincorporated area of Jefferson Parish comprises all that area outside the incorporated cities of Gretna, Kenner, Harahan, Westwego and Grand Isle.

Many communities, both large and small, have sprung up within the unincorporated area. Quite a few designate their location within the Parish, such as Bridge City, at the foot of the Huey P. Long Bridge; Avondale, the location of Avondale shipyards; Baratavia, on the banks of Bayou Baratavia. Others populated and grew and include the following:

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## METAIRIE:

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Metairie is the home of the Parish Government's East Bank Office Building and has for years been known as one of the finest residential sections in the Greater New Orleans Area. For this reason it has often been referred to as a suburban "bedroom" community next to a large urban center. It contains the largest concentrated population in Jefferson Parish with more than half of the Parish's total population residing in this community. Located about eight miles West of the

heart of the City of New Orleans, it can be entered from New Orleans via the Airline Highway, the I-10 Expressway, Jefferson Highway, Veterans Highway, Metairie Road and River Road.

In the very early days of New Orleans, a bayou which connected the Mississippi River with Bayou St. John meandered through the lush green wilderness of what is now Metairie. From the river to Bayou St. John it coursed its way past several large plantations, one of which was located in the area then known as Tchoupitoulas, and was owned by the famous Chauvins (Four brothers who figured prominently in New Orleans history.)

The bayou was ridged on both sides and the most pronounced of these ridges became a road used by the farmers to go to and from Chauvin "metairie", a French word meaning farm. Because of this, both the bayou and the road came to be called Metairie Bayou and Metairie Road. The settlement that subsequently sprang up and spread along this bayou and road was quite naturally called Metairie.

Metairie Road is still an important traffic artery, but all that remains of the bayou is a lagoon in Metairie Cemetery, which is now in Orleans Parish, but was, before the annexation of that part of Jefferson Parish to New Orleans, one of the country's most famous race tracks. It was at the Metairie track that Lexington, the pride of Kentucky, won the famous race in 1854 against the entries of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. In 1873, after its annexation to New Orleans, the Metairie race track was converted into a cemetery.

Herbert Asbury in his book "The French Quarter" says that during the French and Spanish days in New Orleans, a favorite spot for dueling was a place on the Metairie Road called "Les Trois Capelines" which was thus called because of three large trees that grew there, so draped with Spanish moss that they resembled the capes worn by women of that period.

While the exact location of these trees on Metairie Road is not known, a few moss draped oaks with huge gnarled trunks, large enough to be well over a hundred years old,

remain standing along this busy thoroughfare. As to which of these could be "Les Trois Capelines", if indeed any of them are, is worthy of speculation.

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## MARRERO:

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Marrero, once called Amesville because of its location on the old Ames Plantation, was one of Louisiana's leading milk producing and truck farming areas.

Just after the Civil War, Louis H. Marrero, a Confederate Army Colonel, settled there and opened a general store. He began acquiring vast land holdings and later became very active in both State and Parish politics, serving concurrently as President of the Jefferson Parish Police Jury, State Senator, and Sheriff of Jefferson Parish. Because of his vast holdings, and in recognition of his many accomplishments, this part of Jefferson Parish acquired the name Marrero in his honor.

Today, Marrero is the home of such great manufacturing giants as The Celotex Corporation, which turns a by-product of sugar cane into miles of beautiful wall board; the Johns-Manville Roofing and Siding Plant; and many other huge plants and factories. It is one of the most heavily industrialized sections in Jefferson Parish.

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## HARVEY:

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Harvey, once the seat of the Jefferson Parish Government, was at one time called Cosmopolitan. This was later changed to Cosmopolite City. Its first owner, Jean Baptiste d'Estrehan de Tour, laid out an indigo plantation on his landgrant from the King of France; and in 1724, with slave labor, had a canal dug to drain his vast lands. This plantation with its canal was handed down from generation to generation; and in 1844, Captain Joseph Hale Harvey built "Harvey's Castle", for his wife, Louise, on the banks of the canal which ran through the lands which she had received for her dowry. This remarkable building, a two turreted

baronial castle patterned from a faded picture of Captain Harvey's grandfather's home in Scotland, served as the Jefferson Parish Court-house from 1874 to 1884.

It was Jean Noel d'Estrehan de Beau-pre, grandson of the original owner, who in 1737 contracted with German settlers of Mechanicsham (now Gretna) to enlarge the canal in return for small farm lands in Gretna. These German settlers, using wooden shovels, toiled three and a half years, and in 1741, when it was finally completed, d'Estrehan's Canal, as it was first called, extended nearly six miles from the Mississippi River to Little Bayou Barataria.

Captain Joseph Hale Harvey changed the name of the canal, along with that of the town, to Harvey. Since then traffic on the canal has increased steadily, both in volume and variety, and today with its rich and colorful caravan of commerce, it is one of the finest and most important water thoroughfares in the nation. Its modern locks connect the Mississippi River with the nation's busy intracoastal waterway which is Jefferson's prime East-West inland channel for waterborne traffic.

More than a million tons of cargo per month is transported over the Harvey Canal, an estimated 75% of which is crude oil, gasoline, and other petroleum products. Many industries are located on its banks, representing a wide variety of businesses, including one of the largest shrimp canning factories in the nation.

The development of the oil industry in this area has accentuated the importance of the Harvey Canal and today Harvey can well be considered the nucleus of Jefferson's oil empire.

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## POPULATION:

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The earliest census taken in Jefferson Parish was in 1830 and showed a population of 6,846. Today Jefferson Parish ranks among the highest in the nation in terms of rate of increase in population. For almost twenty years these figures have been spiraling upward. The 1950 Census showed a total of

103,873. This doubled in the next ten years when the 1960 Census totaled 207,891. According to a 1967 report issued by the Census Bureau in Washington the population of Jefferson Parish increased at the rate of 32.2% from 1960 to 1965, to reach an estimated 274,800. Because of existing vast land areas for desirable home sites, and dock facilities on both sides of the river still available for business and industry, predictions are that it will increase by 48% from its 1965 estimate to reach a figure of nearly a half million by the end of 1975. The 1969 population is estimated at 355,000, with 255,000 on the East Bank and 100,000 on the West Bank. Census Bureau figures show that 85% is native-born white, and that the non-white population is 15%.

The West Bank, with one-half the population of the East Bank, has twice the land area. In 1967 its rate of growth exceeded that of the East Bank for the first time. With its easy accessibility to downtown New Orleans over a toll-free bridge the West Bank of Jefferson Parish accounts for a large portion of the rapid increase in population. With the prospect of a new Mississippi river crossing from New Orleans to the West Bank it is expected that this rate of growth will increase at an even greater rate until its population will catch up with, or even exceed, that of the East Bank. The overall population per square mile in Jefferson Parish is estimated at 550.

The median age of Jefferson Parish residents is 26½ years; and the over-all level of education of adults is relatively high. Jefferson Parish ranks fifth among the Parishes with 8.2% of the adults having four years or more of college. This is above the national average which is 7.7%.

Over 75% of the new home buyers or builders in Jefferson Parish are under the age of 40 years; and 95% of these have three or more children.

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nials, cape cods, ranchers, and extremely modern designs with all the conveniences of built-ins, etc., to moderately priced frame and brick bungalows.

Tree-lined streets with luxurious estates give way to numerous well placed, skillfully planned subdivisions, many with their own community centers with swimming and tennis clubs. Apartment complexes, both moderate and luxury types, are liberally interspersed throughout the entire Parish; while large, modern, attractively landscaped Shopping Centers are conveniently placed within easy accessibility of every location in the Parish.

Sound master plans for systematic growth have been developed for both East and West Jefferson. Comprehensive planning, anticipating needs for the next 30 years, have been completed for water, drainage, sewerage, major streets and bridges, fire protection, recreation and hospital facilities.

Since 1964 Jefferson Parish citizens have approved over \$100 million in capital improvements. These massive public improvement programs are preparing Jefferson not only for continuous residential growth but for commercial and industrial expansion as well.

## FISHING AND HUNTING:

Although it is as modern as tomorrow in its populated regions, the vast marshes and prairies of Jefferson Parish supply a good deal of the country's muskrat furs; and the crayfish caught in these same marshes are some of the biggest and best in Louisiana. Here, hunting and trapping opportunities flourish, since opossum, raccoon, mink, otter, nutria; and huge numbers of game birds including coot, snipe, rail and quail abound.

Along with the hunting and trapping, the fishing in Jefferson Parish, both salt and fresh water, is practically without equal.

In the Gulf of Mexico in the Grand Isle area may be caught tarpon, mackerel, sea trout, flounder, pompano, red fish, marlin, hard shell crabs, soft shell crabs, terrapin, and many other species of fish and shellfish.

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**Annual World's Championship Pirogue Races.** Scheduled annually on the Sunday following Mother's Day, the pirogue races are held over a four mile elliptical course between the beautiful shaded banks of Bayou Barataria. This three hour long race is performed in specially hand built pirogues running up to 22 feet long by only 25 inches wide, with less than 2 inches of freeboard. The men and women contestants must be able to exceed and maintain over fifty strokes a minute to compete for this world's championship. When the idea of the Pirogue Races was born, on October 13, 1934, and strangely enough it was the brain-child of the Barataria Womens Club, the announcement of the fete leaked out of the bayou country, by word of mouth, into the nearby parishes. The result was that an exceedingly large crowd was attracted. The post positions for the contending pirogues at that first race was determined by the Commodore for the races calling the nine contestants into a tavern in Barataria. He then stripped the ace to the nine of hearts from a new deck of cards, called for four of the nine contestants to cut the nine cards, and then dealt them out. Thus, the first pirogue race was in the making. When the date was set, and the time came, nearly five miles of spectators lined the bayou and listened for the blast of the double barreled shot gun that signaled the start of the race. Fifty-one minutes and nine seconds later, a 39 year old grandfather completed the then four and three-quarter mile course and crossed the finish line in all his glory in a borrowed pirogue. He not only won the race that day and received a monetary award and a silver cup, but won for the bayou country the respect of everyone.

Today, in contrast to the first race that was limited to mostly bayou folks, paddlers from all over the country come to take part in, or to watch, this great and festive event.

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**Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo.** One of the greatest sporting events in the South is America's oldest organized Deep Sea Rodeo. The Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo is held annually the third week in July, and thousands of sportsmen from all over America plan a portion of their vacations to conform with this time in order to participate in the rodeo, and to renew old acquaintances and swap fish stories about those they caught and those they almost caught. There is an entrance fee for all contestants, and they are governed by a standard set of regulations as to when the fishing will begin and end each day, how the fish shall be measured and weighed, which fish are eligible, and the approved methods by which the fish shall be taken. The fishing area includes all Louisiana coastal waters, and there are no regulations as to the types of boats or other transportation to be used in the catching of the fish. Trophies for the winners of the various contests are sponsored by sundry individuals, organizations and business firms from all over Louisiana. The Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo

Association which operates the Rodeo is a non-profit civic organization, chartered under the laws of the State of Louisiana; and it produces this event solely for the purpose of providing one of the most outstanding fishing tournaments in America. This Rodeo not only affords to sportsmen a chance to exercise their skill and pursue their favorite sport, but an opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie and pleasurable diversion that is par for the course of the Tarpon Rodeo in Grand Isle.

**World's Champion Gar Fish Rodeo.** This tournament is held annually on Labor Day at Lafitte, Louisiana; and together with the Pirogue Races, makes Jefferson Parish unique in that it is one of the very few places in the United States that boasts of holding two World Championship events. The Gar Fish Rodeo is a most exciting, highly unusual, and extremely popular affair. Both native and out-of-town contestants and spectators look forward with anticipation to this great spectacle which is ruled

over by the same queen and court that reigns at the Pirogue Races. There are Eight Categories for First Place Trophy Winners: One each for the largest gar caught by an adult male and an adult female; one for the largest caught by either a male or female teenage high school student; one each for the boy and girl under 13 years old who catches the largest gar; one for whichever individual of either sex who catches the most gar by weight; and finally, one each for the smallest gar caught by a male and a female. There is a \$2.00 entrance fee to this spectacular occasion which not only covers the cost of admission, but entitles the entrant to a chance to win an entrance prize and to eat all of the boiled shrimp and drink all of the beer or soft drinks the happy consumer can hold.

**The New Orleans Grand Isle Scuba Divers International Spearfishing Tournament.** This contest is held in Grand Isle during the month of June of each year. Very early in the morning of each day the boats leave the dock and head for the oil rigs in the deep water of the Gulf of Mexico. By mid-afternoon they begin to return to weigh in their fish. A New Orleans jazz band is on hand each afternoon to entertain the ever-increasing crowd of intensely interested spectators. During the three days of the exciting event the whole area is a beehive of activity with the divers coming in with their fish, the band playing, and the crowd gathering around the weighing scales each time a diver returns. The Officials of this tournament distinguish themselves by donning colorful red and white uniforms with a diagonal strip across the shirt front, representing the scuba diver flag, well known to all fishing, boating and diving enthusiasts. Each year there are three trophies awarded; and these coveted awards are not only symbols of the prowess of the winners, but are so beautifully done that they can well be considered original works of art. They are made of carefully selected, thoroughly seasoned Honduran Mahogany of rich coloring and exotic grain which is artfully hand carved and rubbed to a lustrous finish, after which the sterling "Nogi" (which is the name



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given to the trophy) silver plates are affixed. Along with the Scuba Diving Division of this tournament there is also a Line Fishing Division; and for the lucky winners of this event has been fashioned a companion trophy to the "Nogi" which is called the "Sporti". This award features a minutely detailed replica of the ten species of fish in the Line Fishing Division. Both the "Nogi" and the "Sporti" are copyrighted and patented and are the sole property of the New Orleans Grand Isle Scuba Diving International Tournament.

**The Grand Isle Redfish Rodeo.** This three day event is also held in Grand Isle during October of every year. Sponsored by the Red Fish Rodeo Association, first, second and third place trophies are awarded at the close of each day's fishing, with the final grand prizes being awarded at the close of the Rodeo for the five largest and two smallest redfish caught during the three day period. This event got its start in 1960, and although it is only now in its ninth year, it is attracting more than three hundred fishermen annually. The 1967 Redfish Rodeo was held on October 14th, 15th and 16th, and a record turnout was there. If what has gone on in the past is any indication of what is to follow, the prospects for this event promise to be outstandingly successful.

**Blessing of the Shrimp Fleet.** The blessing of the Barataria Shrimp Fleet takes place annually. It is sponsored by St. Anthony's Church in Barataria, and usually occurs in August of each year, or when the shrimp season begins. The shrimp boats are gaily decorated for the occasion and a queen and court are chosen to preside over the event. Prizes are given for the best decorated shrimp boat in each vessel-type category; and with much pomp, ceremony and solemn fervor the fleet and its rugged crew are blessed from the shore by the officiating priest as they put out for the Gulf of Mexico in search of their succulent quarry. To attend this ceremony is indeed a most colorful and rewarding experience.

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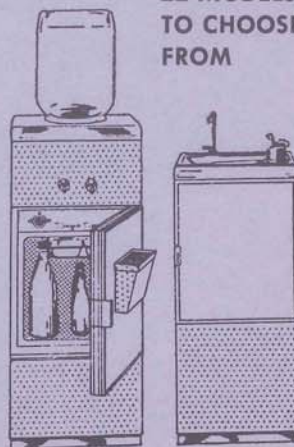
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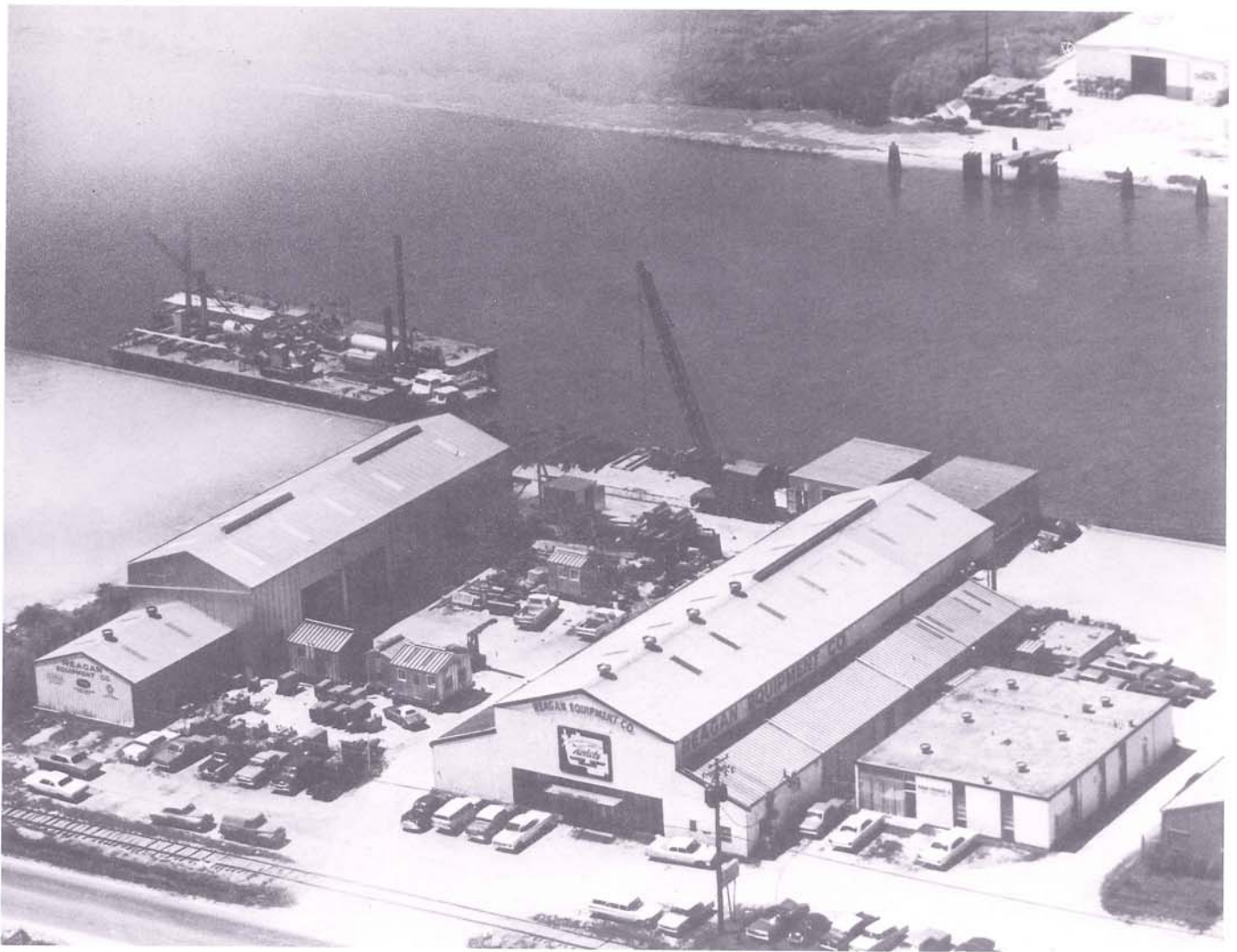
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## ***The Reagan Story at Harvey, La.***

For more than 20 years Reagan Equipment Company has been growing with the oil industry in the states of Louisiana and Mississippi. The expanding scope and complexity of the offshore oil industry in the Gulf of Mexico has produced ever-increasing demands for custom design, engineering, installation and service of Waukesha gas and diesel engines.

Today, with some 2,000 platforms in the Gulf and a steadily increasing demand for more equipment and service, Reagan is performing feats of design, installation and service that would have been unheard of 20 years ago in the Gulf.

Visit the Harvey Canal plant of Reagan Equipment Company and see the bustle of men working on giant Waukesha units mounted on platforms with houses built around them in complete packages weighing up to 100 tons. See a giant derrick barge pick up the Reagan power package, and swing it around to a barge docked on the Harvey Canal where it begins its journey out to the Gulf of Mexico.

There the giant derrick again hoists the hefty package and sets it in place on a platform 40 miles out in the Gulf. Again Reagan is on the scene with a trained serviceman to provide initial start-up.

Visit also the large parts and services department where thousands of spare parts vital to the operation of these offshore units are kept current by data processing inventory control, and trained servicemen are dispatched 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to insure continuous operation of the Waukesha power units.

Examine Reagan's complete transportation facilities: a booming, barge-laden industrial canal at one doorstep, a railway at the other. Seaplanes landing and taking off in the Harvey Canal; trucks rolling in and out, minutes away from main west bank arteries.

Study the whole Reagan picture in Harvey like Sherlock Holmes. Among the many clues:

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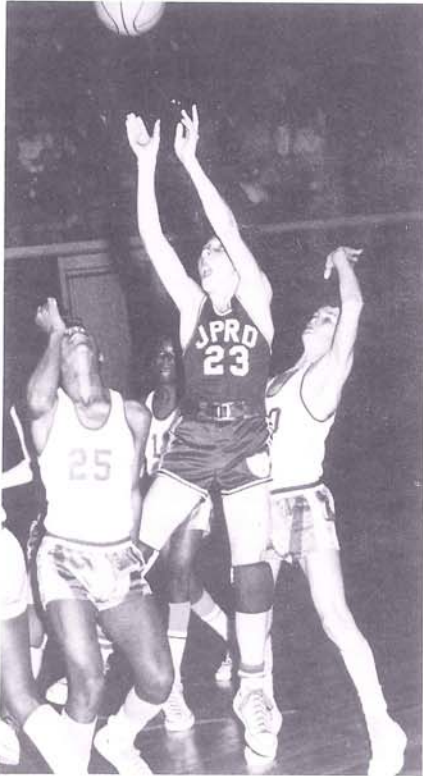
**4409  
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# Jefferson on the Job...

Continued from page 21

## Recreation/



diamond convertible to football, a youth size diamond, tennis courts, skating and kiddie areas and an outdoor pavilion resembling a giant carport. Walkways connect all play areas.

The five year program of capital improvements (1969-1973) calls for expenditures of \$2,459,676 with approximately \$1,225,000 in Federal matching funds. Another badly needed center is the Rosethorn park facility for the Lafitte-Crown Point-Barataria area. This was approved in 1968 and plans for its construction moved ahead in 1969 after submission of the first plans in June. Improvements to physical plants were also made at the Cleary Community Center, Jefferson Playground, Airline Park, Bunche Village, Delta Girard, Lakeshore and Bright playgrounds and at the Metairie Community Center.

The recreation department staff was strengthened during the year by the employment of permanent women supervisors for all playgrounds, the appointment of Jim Quigley as Area

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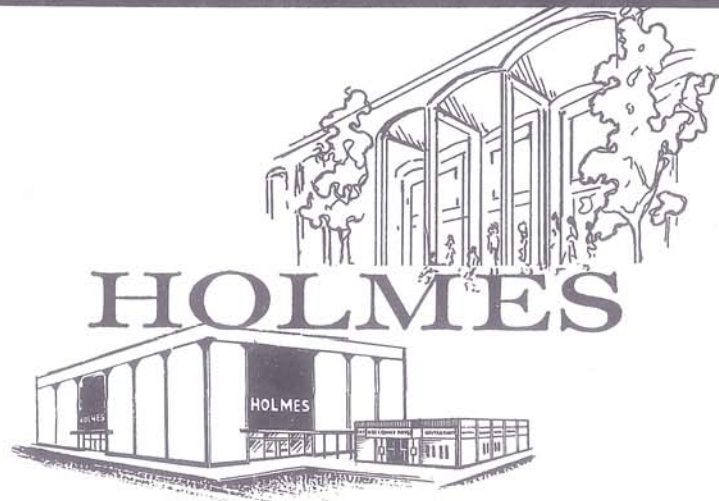
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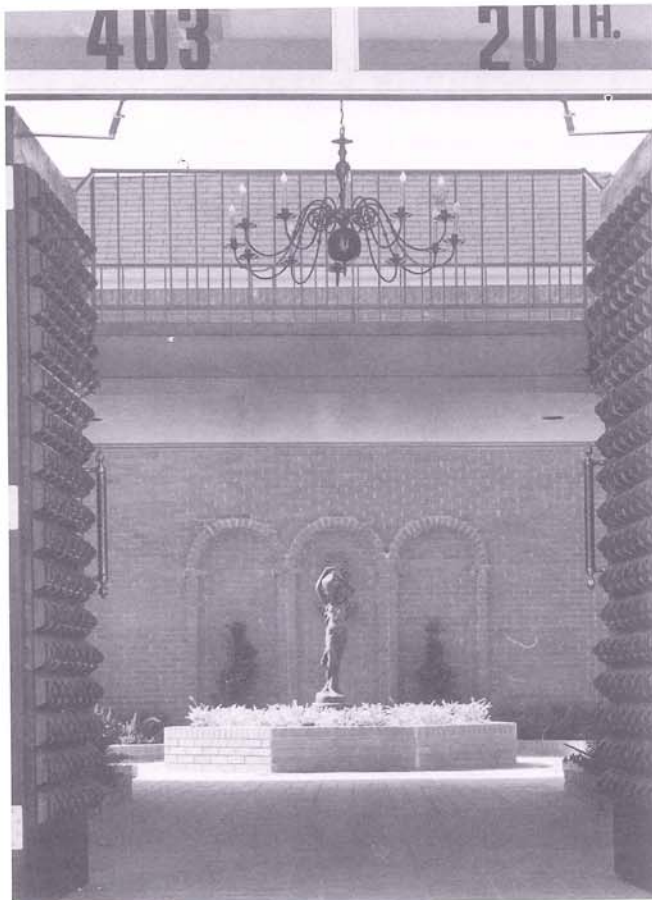
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Coordinator and the hiring of additional maintenance personnel. The maintenance section's effectiveness was improved with new trucks and equipment. A new business office was added and a new trailer office was opened on the west bank.

Among the outstanding events of the year was the 11th annual Golden Age Carnival Ball and the 12th Annual Ceramic Show. Both have become colorful features of the Recreation Department's annual program and are attracting increased attention.

Some of the year's programs which attracted the participation of thousands of Parish youngsters as well as their parents were as follows:

- Twelve tap and ballet dance revues which concluded dancing classes at twelve Community Centers.

- Provided a complete Summer program including girls and boys from 6 years of age and up in day camp activities, tennis, baseball and softball. Highlight of these programs was the Section Tournament held at Metairie Playground plus the winning team which traveled to Houston, Texas to represent the Parish.

- Fall football programs took place on all playgrounds from ages 6 thru 14 with a total of 135 teams being organized on the east bank.

- This year a new program was added in the form of Touch Football with 24 teams participating under the new lighting system.

- During this same period of time, 66 girls Volleyball teams participated in leagues on all twelve recreation centers.

- Additionally, during the Fall and Spring of 1969, 683 ladies were involved in Ladies Adult open league conducted at nine of our centers.

- The Spring of this past year showed the largest number of participants ever serviced by the Recreation Department for a Track season in both boys and girls from 6 years of age and up.

- A basketball program has been started and should far surpass the program of last year in terms of participation.



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## Water Department

Jefferson Parish moved ahead methodically in 1969 with one of the most ambitious programs of improvements ever undertaken by a community in this area. It is part of the Parish's Master Plan, which will provide to residents the finest in municipal services.

Progress on specific projects in the Master Plan in 1969 was as follows: Specific areas of progress in the execution of the Master Plan in 1969 were as follows:

- The eighth phase of the Master Plan consists of 48", 36", 24", and 20" or 6 miles of transmission mains installed along Avron Boulevard from Transcontinental Drive to Suburban Canal, Canal No. 2 from Suburban Canal to Severn Avenue, Severn Avenue from Veterans Memorial Boulevard to Canal No. 2, and Severn Avenue from Illinois Central Railroad to River Road. The cost of this phase of the Master Plan is \$1,144,294.20. This project was completed in July 1969.

- The ninth phase of the Master Plan consists of 36", 30", 24", and 16" or 8 miles of transmission mains installed in the City of Kenner. The mains were installed along Canal No. 1 from David Drive to Duncan Canal, along Duncan Canal from 35th Street to Sunset Boulevard, along Sunset Boulevard from Duncan Canal to the west side of University City, thence along the west side of University City from Sunset Boulevard to Veterans Memorial Boulevard, thence along Veterans Memorial Boulevard from

Loyola Drive to Canal No. 17. This cost of this phase of the Master Plan is \$1,165,000.00. The project was completed in November 1969.

- The tenth phase of the Master Plan consists of 30", 24", 18", and 12" or 5 miles of transmission mains to be installed on River Road from Arnould Road to West Imperial Wood Drive in Harahan, along Avenue E in Camp Plauche from River Road to Avenue I, along LP&L right-of-way from River Road to Jefferson Highway, along West Imperial Wood Drive from River Road to Jefferson Highway. The cost of this phase of the Master Plan is \$950,000.00. This project started in June of 1969 and will be completed in March of 1970.

- The eleventh phase of the Master Plan consists of 12", and 8" or 5 miles of transmission mains to be installed along Veterans Memorial Boulevard from Williams Boulevard to Elmwood Canal, along Canal No. 2 from Duncan Canal to St. Mary Street, along Interstate Highway from David Drive to Elmwood Canal. The cost of this phase of the Master Plan is \$300,000.00. This phase will be completed in March of 1970.

- The Master Plan of East Jefferson Waterworks District No. 1 provides for expanding the Water Filtration Plant from 36 million gallons per day to 70 million gallons per day. A contract for expanding the Water Treatment Plant's capacity by an additional 34 million gallons per day began in June 1967, and completed in July 1969. The cost of this phase of the Master Plan was \$4,325,000.00.

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- The installation of 56 miles of water distribution mains in the 3400 Acre Project was 90% complete in 1969. The owners of the property in the 3400 acre area petitioned the Parish to install water mains on a front foot cost basis. The cost of this project is \$1,780,000.00. This project was to be completed by March 1970.

- The installation of Water Mains in 40 Sundry Streets on a Front Foot Cost Assessment. This project is for the installation of 8 miles of water distribution mains on 40 sundry streets. The owners of the property on sundry streets petitioned the Parish to install water mains on a front foot cost basis. The cost of this project is \$235,000.00. This project was completed in August 1969.

- The installation of 1½ Miles of Water Main on Hickory Street. This project called for the installation of a 12" main on Hickory Street from Jefferson Highway to 10th Street. The cost of the project was \$92,000.00. This project was completed in September 1969.

- The installation of 2700 feet of 12" main on Phlox Street from Airline Highway to West Metairie Avenue. This project was completed in September 1969 at a cost of \$36,000.00.

- The installation of 5000 feet of 12" water main on Clearview Parkway from West Metairie to West Napoleon. The cost of this project is \$55,000.00. This \$55,000 project was completed in September 1969. On the West Bank Master Plan projects included:

- The installation of 36", 30", 24", 20", 16", and 12" or 3 miles of water mains on LaPalco Boulevard from Peters Road to Belle Chasse Highway. The cost of the first phase of the Master Plan was \$535,634.31. This main was completed and put into active service in May 1969.

Master Plan Transmission Lines:

- The installation of 3000 feet of 24" water main on Westwood Drive from Westbank Expressway to Mayronne Canal. The cost of this phase of the Master Plan was \$92,000.00. This main was completed in December, 1969.

- The Master Plan of Consolidated Waterworks District No. Two provides for expanding the Water Filtration Plant from 10 million gallons per day to 44 million gallons per day. A contract for expanding the treatment plant's capacity by an additional 34 million gallons per day began in June of 1969, and is projected to be completed by De-

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ember of 1970. The cost of this phase of the Master Plan is \$4,000,000.00.

- The installation of 3600 feet of 8" transmission main on Ames Boulevard from Breaux's Trailer Court to Estelle Heights Subdivision. This project was completed in May 1969 at a cost of \$20,000.

- The installation of 3050 feet of 12" transmission main on Modern Farms Road from River Road to Southern Pacific Railroad. This \$21,000 project was completed in October 1969.

Distribution System Water Mains.

- The installation of 5000 feet of 8" and 6" of distribution mains on Heritage, Lafayette and Carol Sue Streets. The cost of this project was \$33,000.00. It was completed in September 1969.

## Sanitation Department



During the year of 1969 several major drainage ditches were closed on the Eastbank. Main Canals were excavated and embankments sheet piled to prevent further erosion. The major improvements are the construction of the new Suburban Canal Drainage Pumping Station No. 2 which is presently 70% completed and is anticipated to be in operation by June of 1970 at a cost of \$2,500,000.

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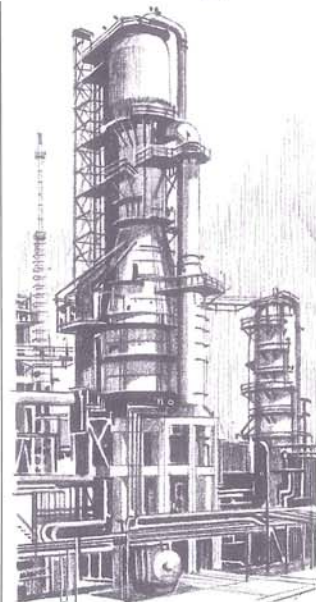
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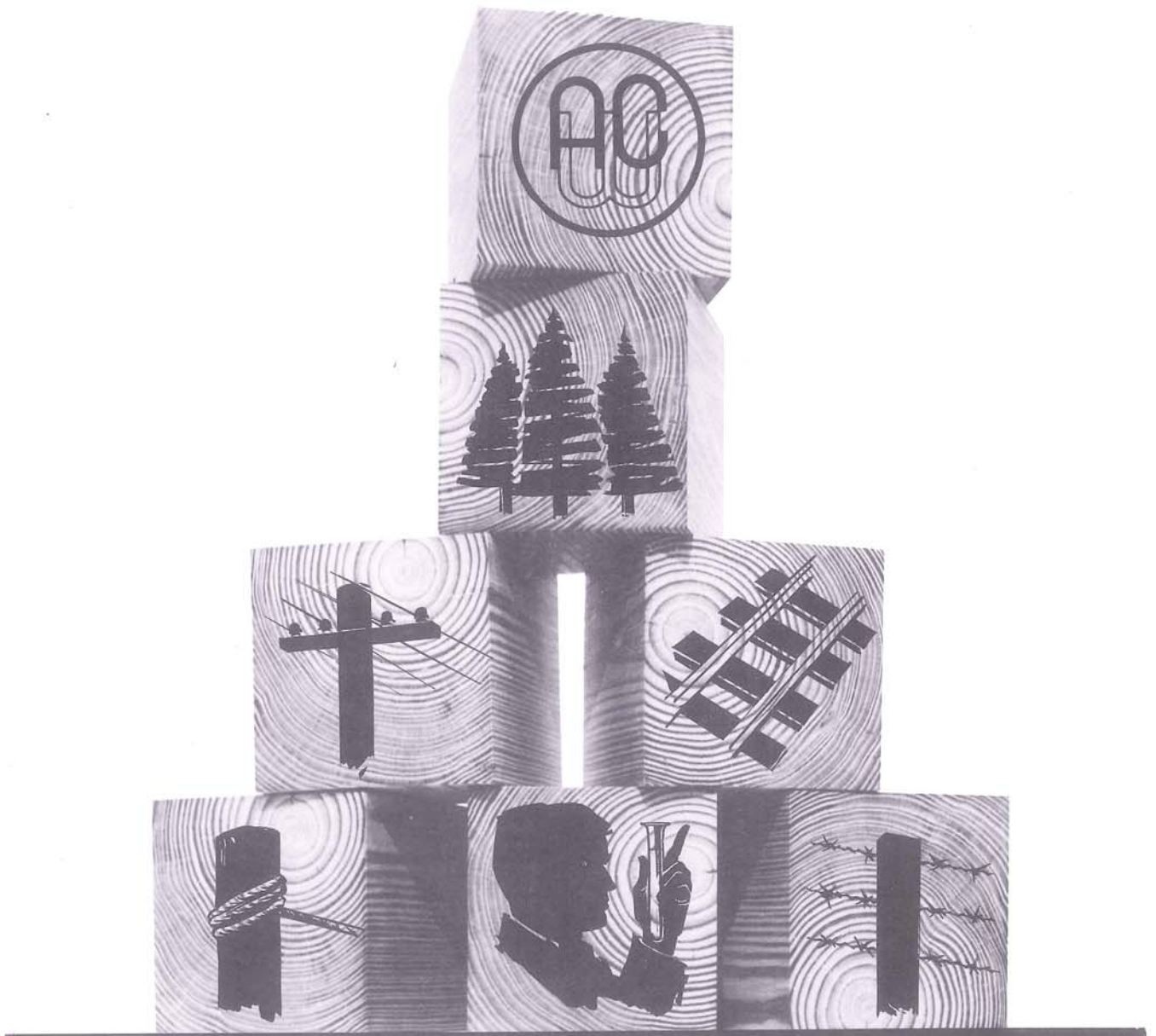


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The capacities at New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board Pumping Station No. 6 enabled the Parish to properly drain the 7th Ward Area. This project was contracted at a cost of 1.2 million dollars and is presently 85% completed. Federal participation was a part of this project.

Stop gap measures were taken at Pumping Stations No. 1, 3 and 4 wherein hurricane protection levees were extended to the stations structure in conjunction with the Pontchartrain Levee Board.

Major improvements were made in Consolidated Drainage District Numbers 7 and 1. In District 7, a temporary pumping station was installed near the St. Charles Parish Line to drain the area presently leveed. The water level has been reduced two to three feet. In Consolidated Drainage District No. 1, the electrical motors at the Bayou Segnette Pumping Station were replaced by diesel engines, thereby increasing the reliability of this station during a period of heavy rainfall and electrical storms.

A new pumping station was completed in Westwego which has doubled the capacity of the old station. The protection levees south of the pumping station were reinforced to prevent any failures as has occurred in the past due to high tides from Bayou Segnett. Main canals and outfalls were excavated to increase the flow to this Station.

The old Jefferson-Plaquemine Drainage District was dissolved and a new Drainage District, namely: District No. 9 was created to drain the area East of the Harvey Canal. A bond issue has been passed for the new District which includes a new pumping station to be located at the Planter-By-Pass Canal. Also completed was the 2500 GPM capacity low lift pump installed on Gloria Drive in Lafitte.

The Sewerage Collection System, Treatment Plant, and Sludge Incinerator to serve the 3400 Acres on the Eastbank of Jefferson has been completed. This will open new areas for home development and eliminate the need for septic tanks on the Eastbank. The new Incinerator should assist in reducing odors emanating from the various plants. Sixty-five miles of sewer lines were installed together with thirty-nine lift stations. Pending the sale of bonds, sewerage for the Bridgedale area will be under construction shortly at an approximate cost of \$567,012. The same is applicable to the Shrewsbury area at an approximate cost of \$97,833.50.

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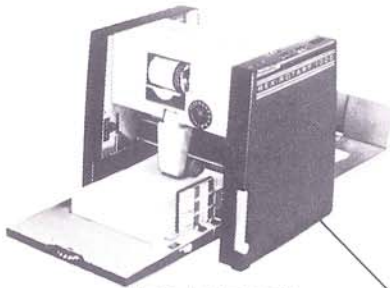
AREA OFFICE

KENNER, LA.

PHONE: 729-2511



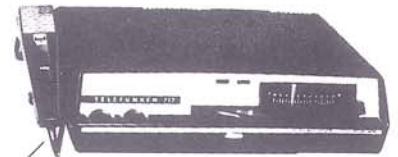
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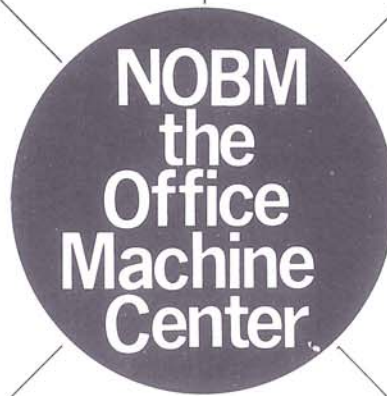
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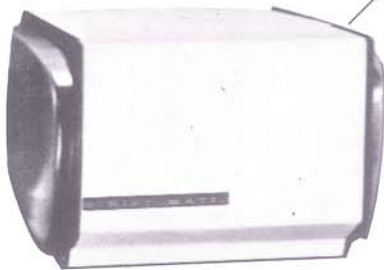


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## Traffic Engineering



The Traffic Engineering Division of the Roads and Bridges Department installs and maintains necessary vehicular and pedestrian traffic control devices such as traffic signals, stop signs, school zone signs and beacons, speed signs, one-way and no parking signs and crosswalks.

The Division also recommends changes or new ordinances needed to promote or enforce traffic safety and reviews conceptual and geometric design of all new major streets and modifications to existing major streets.

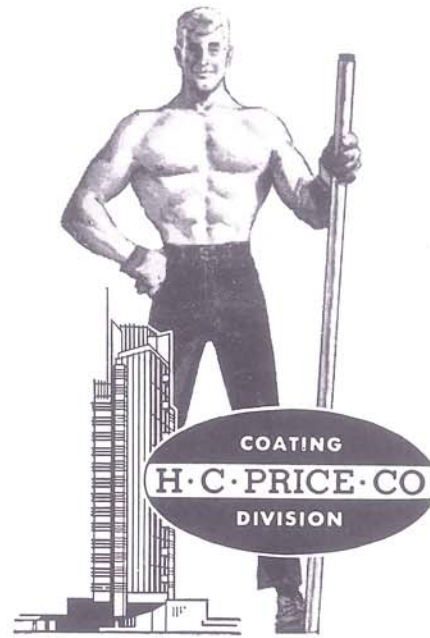
The Division has a continuing program of upgrading traffic signals belonging to the Parish of Jefferson. The uniform manual on Traffic Control Devices, revised since many of the existing traffic signals were installed, requires the installation of additional signal units.

Underground wiring is being used to prevent electrical failure from damaged signal cable due to wind storms. Additional intersections are presently on the drawing board for modifications.

Jefferson's antiquated school zone ordinance has been updated and flashing school zone beacons have been installed in school zone areas on major streets with normal speed limits over 30 miles per hour.

The new school zone ordinance, approved in 1968 after a three-year study, replaces the 15 mph school zone limit which was in effect for all roadways with a 25 mph limit on major streets and highways and a 20 mph limit on residential streets.

The 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. school speed limit has been discontinued in all school zones since the study showed less than one per cent of the students attending elementary school left the school yard at lunch time.



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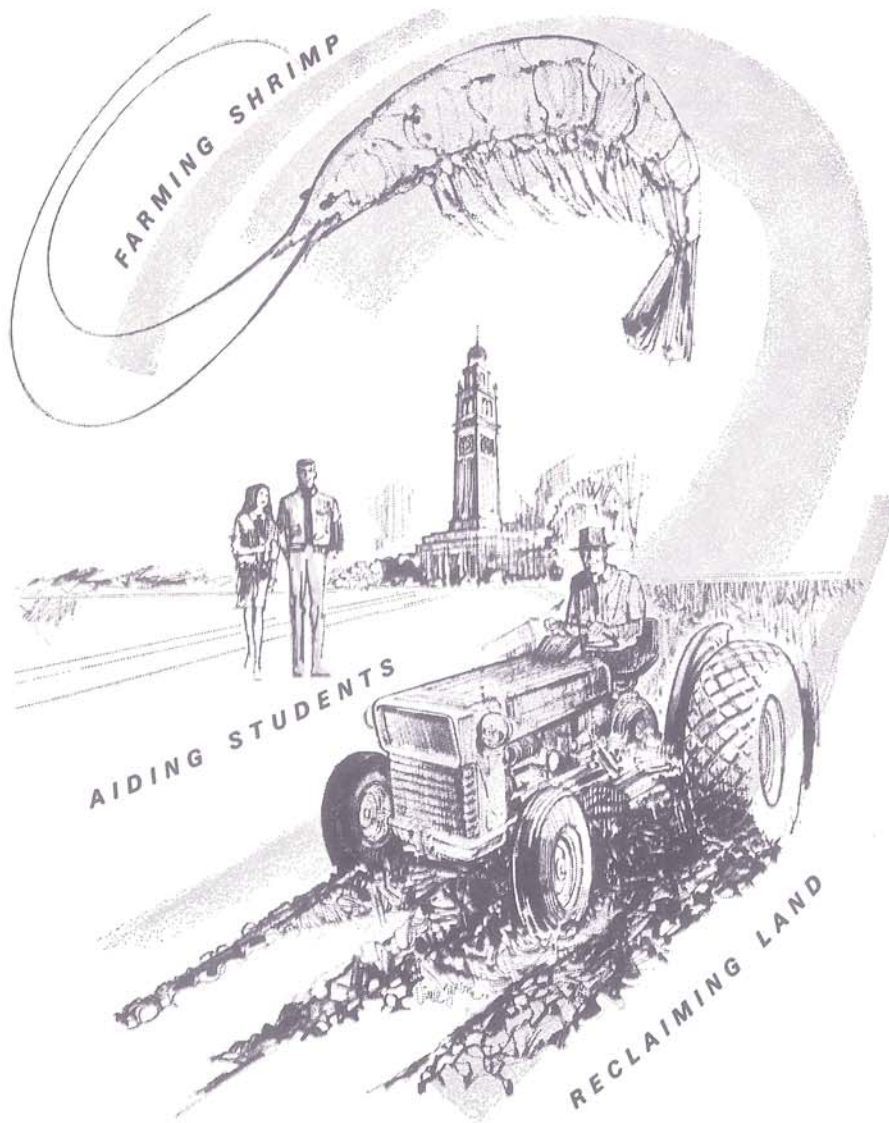
Grants of \$93,000 to LSU's School of Forestry and Wildlife and \$35,000 to Nicholls State College to study the feasibility of shrimp and other commercially important seafood production in Louisiana marshes.

An annual award of scholarships to deserving students. At present 42 students are studying under L L & E tuition grants.

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Houma, Louisiana



The new speed limit is in effect only when the beacons are flashing. Each school zone was thoroughly studied and the beacons set to flash only when needed.

Average school zone time at these schools is 35 minutes in the morning and 25 minutes in the afternoon. Previously, it was an hour and fifteen minutes in the morning and one hour and thirty minutes in the afternoon. Now, school zones are in effect for a total of only 60 minutes a day instead of four hours and fifteen minutes a day under the previous ordinance.

At those schools where flashing beacons have not been installed, the school zone hours are from 7:45 to 9:00 a.m. and from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. The Division installed 30 more beacons in 1969 and plans for 22 in 1970.

Other specific projects in 1969 were: (1) Finalization of the geometric design of Earhart Expressway from the Jefferson-Orleans line to Hickory Street. (2) Negotiation of an agreement with the Bureau of Public Roads and the Louisiana Department of Highways for participation in the TOPICS Program wherein Jefferson Parish will receive approximately \$750,000 annually of Federal and State funds for traffic engineering improvements on certain arterials in the Parish of Jefferson. (3) The letting of contracts for the installation of pedestrian signals on Lapalco Blvd. (4) The letting of contracts for the installation of traffic signals on West Metairie Avenue and Clearview Parkway. (5) The letting of contracts for the installation of traffic signals on Veterans Boulevard at Cleary Avenue.

Other specific projects in 1969 were: 1. Finalized the geometric design of Earhart Expressway from the Jefferson-Orleans line to Hickory Street.

2. Negotiated an agreement with the Bureau of Public Roads and the La. Department of Highways for participation in the TOPICS Program wherein Jefferson Parish will receive approximately \$750,000.00 annually of Federal and State funds for Traffic Engineering improvements on certain major arterials in the Parish of Jefferson.

3. Contracted for the installation of pedestrian signals on Lapalco Blvd.  
4. Contracted for the installation of traffic signals on West Metairie Avenue and Clearview Parkway.

5. Contracted for the installation of traffic signals on Veterans Blvd. at Cleary Avenue.

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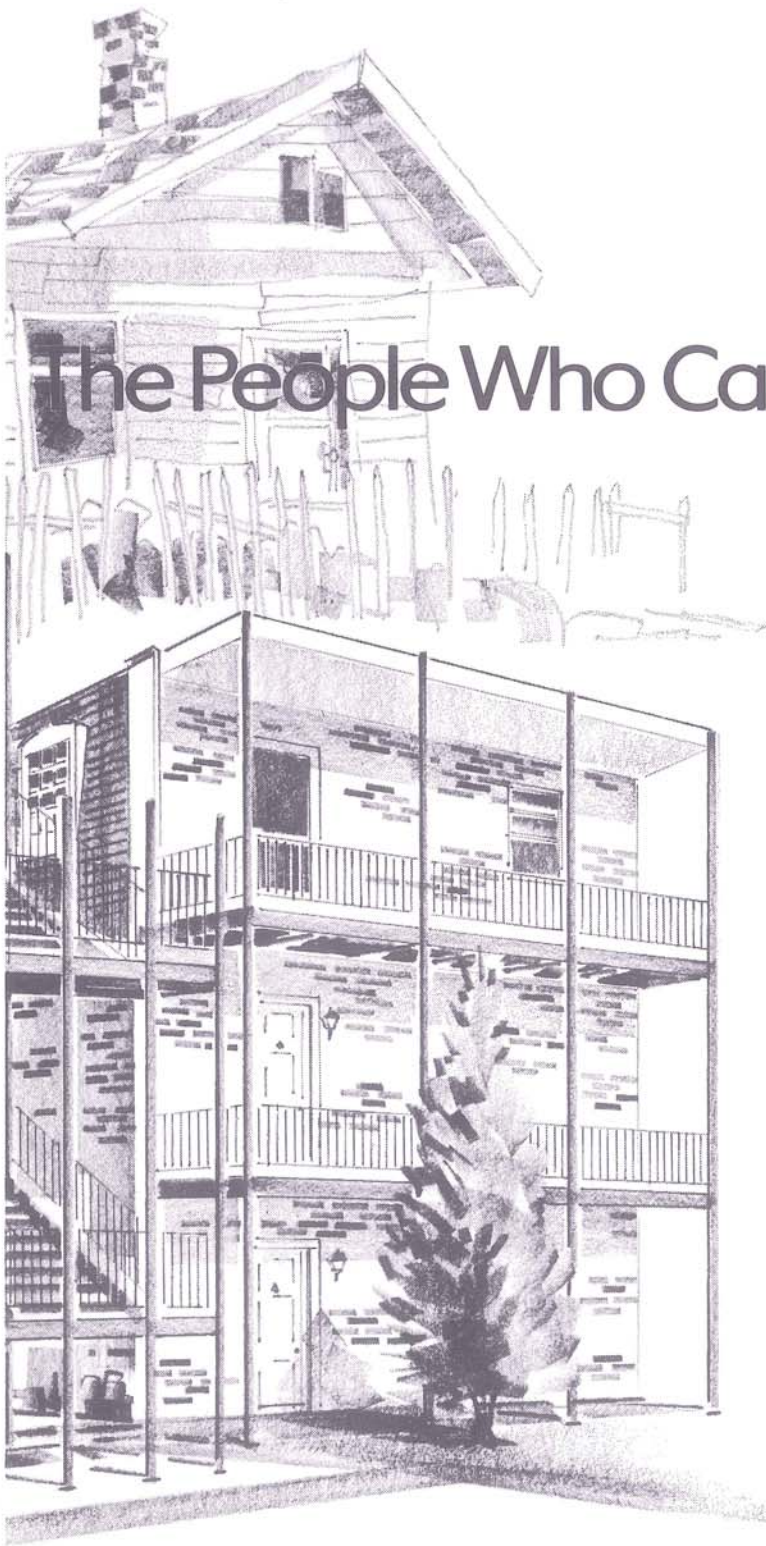
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Pan-American Life, the only Louisiana based insurance company investing in this program, is participating in the construction of low-income housing in blighted areas of New Orleans and a five-story, 124-bed addition to Sara Mayo Hospital. Both projects fulfill the concept of the Urban Investment Program.

Much has yet to be done to improve the well-being of all our citizens. Pan-American Life will continue to do its share, because we are "The People Who Care About People."

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The Cat 922B was purchased for the Dept. of Roads

and Bridges. In addition to its regular duties, Jefferson Parish has this machine clearing away junk cars. In the last year, over 3,000 junk cars have been disposed of in this manner at a great saving to the parish over the conventional wrecker method. When a junk car must be removed, the 922B simply crushes the top, picks it up, and loads it into a waiting dump truck.

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## Garbage Collection



Unlike many large urban areas throughout the nation where garbage collection has become a major municipal problem, Jefferson continues its smooth, efficient, year 'round service.

Since November, 1966 a private hauler—Jefferson Disposal Company—has provided garbage pickup and disposal in East Jefferson's unincorporated areas. Recently the incinerator at David Drive was shut down, and the refuse is now being carried to a nearby landfill. This method of disposal eliminates the smoke and odors previously emitted by the incinerator. With a fleet of modern heavy duty compaction trucks, and trained employees, the company provides dependable service for the citizens on the east bank.

Staffed by neat, uniformed, competent personnel who are paid the highest wages in the area, the company offers incentive programs for pickup crews and bonuses for cleanliness and maintenance of trucks, fewest complaints and fewest accidents.

Trucks are thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and deodorized every day. Customer complaints are handled quickly and courteously by radio-equipped "trouble trucks."

The company also offers a commercial and industrial waste disposal service.

On the west bank, the parish garbage department provides efficient pickup and disposal service for residents in unincorporated areas.

## Housing Improvement

This division of the Safety Department, directed by Rollon I. Kennedy, administers Jefferson's "Minimum Housing Standards Code" adopted early in 1967. The new division is a prerequisite for federal housing funds. Need for the division was established by extensive surveys which revealed the existence of large numbers of sub-



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standard dwellings in Jefferson's unincorporated areas.

Purpose of the new code is to "protect and promote decent, safe and sanitary residential buildings and dwelling units for the health, safety and welfare of the general public and the owners or occupants of the dwellings."

Dwellings judged unfit for human habitation are vacated and closed by order of the Housing Administrator.

He is also empowered to require a property owner to make necessary repairs to bring a dwelling unit up to minimum standards.

Decisions of the administrator can be appealed to the Board of Standards and Appeals whose judgment is final.



A committee of fifteen persons appointed by the parish president serves as the Citizens Advisory Committee for the parish's "workable program" required by the federal government.

The committee selects three of its members to serve on the Executive Committee to help in planning programs and establishing policy.

During 1969 a total of 1818 inspections were made and 678 substandard units were brought into compliance. There were 20 demolitions and 19 violations were pending at year's end. The division also undertook a housing environmental survey of Harvey.

### Personnel/

In 1969, Jefferson Parish rounded out a full decade of Civil Service for Parish employees and the Personnel Department in combination with the Personnel Board continued to refine its professional approach to the recruitment and training of Parish employees and the administration of personnel policies.

The Personnel Board met on twenty-one (21) separate occasions during the year. Twelve (12) regular monthly business meetings were held for the purpose of conducting routine Board and Department business, as well as for pursuing appeals matters

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and other special considerations as time permitted. In addition, nine (9) special meetings were called; four (4) for the purpose of considering Classification and Pay Plan proposals, and five (5) for the purpose of hearing employee appeals. A total of sixteen (16) employee appeals were received. Seven (7) formal hearings were conducted, seven (7) appeals were dismissed for procedural and technical reasons, and two (2) appeals were pending (having been received too near the end of the year to be set for hearing during the year). Of the seven appeals which were heard, three (3) resulted in judgements for the Parish, one (1) judgement was rendered in favor of the appellant, and three (3) judgements are pending.

As a result of its special meetings to consider Pay Classification proposals, the Board recommended a number of specific amendments and, in December, submitted to the Parish President for transmittal to the Council a proposal to revise the pay ranges for all classes of work in the classified service.

The Personnel Department announced examinations for a total of 104 classes of work in order to create eligible lists to fill anticipated vacancies on both a promotional and original entrance basis. 1671 applicants were examined, and, of this number, 1489 were found eligible for Parish employment (including 656 for employment in non-competitive positions such as Laborer and Custodial Worker).

The average monthly turnover rate was 2.38%. One hundred and forty-six positions were filled on a promotional or transfer basis; and 576 were filled by original employment. There were 144 new positions created in the classified service during the year, some 13 of which resulted from the acquisition by the Parish of a portion of the former Jefferson-Plaquemines Drainage District.

Terminations of employment resulted from: 379 resignations, 15 retirements, 15 deaths, 77 dismissals, and 621 for other reasons such as layoff or end of temporary ap-



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pointment (the bulk being seasonal positions in the recreation program). In addition to examination and recruitment activities, and the routine administration of the personnel system, the department continued the preparation and distribution of the employee newsletter, completed numerous administrative, organizational, and job-duty studies, conducted two (2) major training programs, and continued arrangements for the presentation of Service Pin Awards. The two training programs comprised a Developmental Reading Program for top-level administrators and supervisors, and Telephone-Courtesy training for employees required to use the telephone in their daily activities; both programs proving to be very successful. Service pins were awarded to some 227 employees with five or more years of service; including eleven (11) twenty-year awards, and two (2) each in the twenty-five, thirty, and thirty-five year categories.

## Finance

During 1969 the Bond Index, which reflects the condition of the money market, soared to the highest point in history. In spite of this Jefferson Parish was able to sell in excess of \$20 million of various purpose bonds within the 6% interest rate limited by Louisiana law.



Our program of investing funds has earned \$2 million during this year. The Finance Department assisted in the negotiations with Plaquemine Parish for the dissolution of the Jefferson Plaquemine Drainage District. The plan for the distribution of all of the assets of the dissolved district, which plan was accepted by both Parishes, was the one proposed by the Finance Department.

During 1969 the Computer Center began the processing of the combined utility bills on the entire West Bank for water, sewerage, garbage and mosquito control. Greater efficiency and reduced losses in revenues have already resulted.

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A new standard form for Engineering and Architectural contracts was devised; with the cooperation of other Departments, and adopted by the Council.

The voter registration file, which is used to sell lists of registered voters of Jefferson Parish, has been completely updated to agree with the records of the Registrar of Voters. These lists are prepared by the Computer.

Payroll checks—number 53,145

Payroll Total—\$10,313,555.31

Purchase Vouchers—number 29,195

Purchases Total—\$25,734,194.67

Payments—Construction—  
\$24,273,928.69

Special Assessment Accounts—  
number 44,670

The Finance Director attended approximately 20 meetings as a guest speaker for Civic and Service Clubs, to explain the finances of Jefferson Parish.

### Civil Defense

The Jefferson Parish Civil Defense Department with ten full-time employees and one part-time employee and 230 volunteers operated on an approved parish budget of \$142,448 during calendar year 1969. Gretna and Grand Isle also participate in the parish civil defense program.

The primary goal of civil defense, as outlined by the federal government, is the maximum survival of the civilian population in the event of a nuclear attack.

However, constant preparedness for such man-made disasters keeps the department prepared and ready to meet natural disasters, its secondary goal.

Responding to an urgent request for help the chairman of the Hancock County Board of Supervisors, the parish CD department and six other parish departments brought over 200 men, 50 vehicles and much equipment and material to the Bay St. Louis area and worked four days there around the clock from August 19-22 to help our Sister State.

The Civil Defense Department brought 13 pieces of equipment to the scene. Every CD vehicle was used from the two command station wagons up to the huge communications van and the heavy duty rescue truck.

This included providing communications on weekends for the AFL-CIO and American Red Cross who built many new homes for residents of

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the Empire-Triumph area whose homes were literally swept away by Hurricane Camille.

The department also maintained its standard readiness condition hurricane watch during the threat from "Laurie".

Early in 1970, a tri-parish community shelter plan will be printed and distributed to all residents of Jefferson, Orleans and St. Bernard parishes.

The \$200,000 federal survey, funded by the U. S. Office of Civil Defense was compiled with the assistance of parish civil defense personnel.

It pinpoints on a master map present and future public shelters throughout the parish, best access routes to them by day and night depending on traffic conditions, etc.

Also on a multi-parish level, the department actively participated in the April 30, 1969 hurricane preparedness seminar conducted by the state CD agency for twelve parishes.

The department's system of warning sirens was expanded from 15 to 17 with the addition of a manually operated siren at Grand Isle and a remotely controlled siren installation for Terrytown at a cost of \$5933. The sirens are part of the national warning system.

Other statistics of interest include:

Acquisition of \$63,855.50 of surplus property for various departments at a cost of \$8,510.33.

875 man hours in Gulf Coast area and 2068 man hours in Plaquemines area in hurricane disaster relief work.

2320 hours of in-service training (on the job operations whether practice or during actual emergencies).

856 people trained in medical self-help basic and advanced first aid, shelter management, radiological monitoring, rescue, auxiliary police. 100 hours spent in giving civil defense talks to various groups.

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The Taxicab Division of the Safety Department issues "CPNC" permits for taxicabs and sightseeing buses which must meet strict me-



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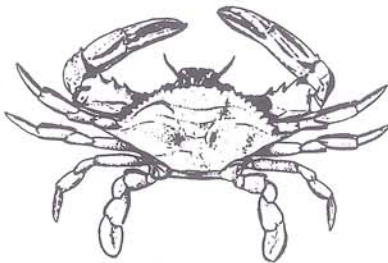
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Last year 291 inspections were made and 438 "CPNC" and driver permits issued.

**Research, Budget Analysis**



The Department of Research and Budget Analysis was established by the Jefferson Parish Council in 1960 for the purpose of providing an independent method of obtaining information regarding any matters of interest to the Council.

It was never intended that its duties be limited to specifics, as such, but rather, the department would operate within any area of local government at the request and direction of the Parish Council. In addition to the many projects and reports prepared at the Council's request, statistical data of a general nature is compiled and updated on a routine basis and is readily available to the members of the Parish Council.

Information regarding functional problems of local government can be obtained through the Department of Research & Budget Analysis. Numerous other important activities are routinely performed such as; budget analysis, Council budget preparation, precinct boundary changes, etc.

The department, now staffed to meet the research needs of the Parish, is headquartered in the New Courthouse building in Gretna.

**Council Clerk**

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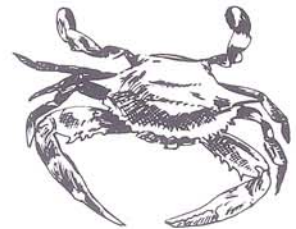
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Recognized as one of the most knowledgeable men in municipal government, he was police jury secretary before becoming the first clerk of the parish council in 1958. He was reappointed in 1960, 1964 and in 1968.

At Thursday afternoon council meetings on the West Bank, he is the "recording secretary", keeping detailed minutes of council action for later publication as required by law.

Duties include tabulating bids, processing ordinances, acts, resolutions and motions. Election results are usually promulgated at council meetings under his supervision.

Between meetings, Deemer's office serves as a clearing house for official parish business.

Department director's requests are forwarded to the council for action after recommendations by the parish president. Wording of ordinances and resolutions to be introduced is checked with the parish attorney.

All matters to be considered at the next scheduled council meeting are then itemized into an agenda and copies made for use at the meeting.

### Planning

The orderly development of Jefferson Parish is the prime responsibility of the Planning Department under the direction of Planning Director Hugh N. Ford. Professional planning has become a critical function, particularly for communities such as Jefferson with rapidly expanding economies and populations.

Aiding Ford in the planning function is Principal Parish Planner Donald Terranova, who brings to the department over 13 years of experience in city, state and private planning agencies.

During 1969 in connection with zoning activities, the Planning Department processed 88 proposed text and map changes to the Com-



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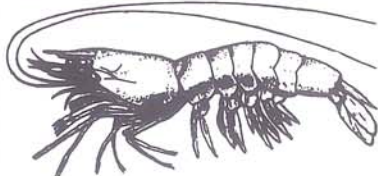
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prehensive Zoning Ordinance of Jefferson Parish. This included conducting 22 public hearings as well as preparing land use maps for neighborhood and zoning reports on each request. Twenty-four special use applications were also processed by the Planning Department which included 10 as a beauty shop as home occupations in residential areas, 3 clubs in residential areas, 5 applications to establish kindergartens or nursery schools in residential areas and six additions to non-conforming structures were processed.

In connection with subdivision or resubdivisions, the Planning Department processed 225 applications which created 1950 lots and 53 street dedications for public use. Five street revocations applications were processed as well as five applications to release servitudes and six street name changes were processed.

Other activities by the Planning Department included:

- Preparing the 1970 Capital Budget and Five-Year Capital Program.
- Considered certain revisions to the Subdivision Regulations of the Parish.
- Prepared a Housing Report for Jefferson Parish in connection with an application for a grant from HUD to prepare a comprehensive plan for the future development of metropolitan New Orleans which is being undertaken by the Regional Planning Commission of Jefferson, Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes.
- Corrected and updated coding maps for the 1970 Federal Census in Jefferson Parish which will assure Jefferson Parish of getting statistics on a block front basis.
- The Major Street Plan of Jefferson Parish was reviewed by the Planning Department and the De-



partment of Roads & Bridges with certain tentative recommendations made for revisions.

- An application was prepared for the recertification of the Workable Program for Community Involvement in Jefferson Parish.
- A feasibility study of fees for

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zoning and resubdivision was made and recommendations were accepted by the Council whereby for the first time a fee to process resubdivisions was established.

- The Printing Division of the Planning Department provided central printing services for all departments and agencies at a tremendous saving to the Parish as well as provided a new telephone directory for the east and west bank Office Buildings.

- Participated in all of the Technical Committee meetings of the Regional Planning Commission of Jefferson, Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes to review applications for Federal assistance in the metropolitan area of New Orleans.

- Attended many civic association and business club meetings to report on activities of the Planning Department in connection with the growth of Jefferson Parish.

- Are presently preparing base maps of Jefferson Parish at a scale of 1" to 200', which will be used by the various departments of Jefferson to compile information on all phases of improvement in Jefferson Parish.

- Participation in a study involving community social services and the public attitudes toward them in Jefferson Parish.

Weekly meetings of department directors are held in the office of the planning director with representatives of the parish school board attending.

### Parish Attorney



The Legal Department headed by Parish Attorney Louis G. DeSonier, Jr., now occupies larger and more functional offices to house the department's newly created Property Sales and Acquisition Division.

Purpose of the division is to survey all parish owned property and evaluate present and future needs according to a master plan. Unnecessary property will be disposed of according to established procedures.

Land acquisition requirements, as determined by the parish council, will be coordinated by the division.

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Detailed results of the exhaustive survey are fed into the parish central computer system. This gives the parish of Jefferson maximum speed, accuracy and economy in determining land requirements.

The division is staffed initially by an attorney-notary, two property coordinators, five abstractors and secretarial personnel.

Daily control is vested in the parish attorney assisted by a five man steering committee which meets monthly. This committee includes the parish attorney, finance director and the directors of the roads and bridges, water and sanitation departments where the greatest need for land acquisition exists.

During 1970, the Legal Department was actively engaged in either the prosecution or defense of 124 suits. The suits involved every facet of Parish activity from expropriation to personnel appeals. Many have been concluded in the District Court and are presently on appeal to the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. Most have been tried and are awaiting decisions from the local court.

The Parish attorney spent much time developing with the Departments of Finance, Roads & Bridges, Water and Sewerage a standard form for engineering and architectural contracts. This form has been adopted by the Council and is presently in use and should prove beneficial.

Research was done during 1970 in the area of the Lake Front Reclamation, assessment practices, interstate commerce problems, liquor permit problems and in preparation for the legislative sessions.

Leases and their renewals, as well as contracts with engineers, architects and contractors, were handled and because of standardization, were more expeditiously processed.

The Parish attorney continued to supply research and legal information to the administration and council, as well as answering any legal problems of a public nature which may have been brought to the department's attention by individuals, civic or fraternal organizations.

Last year, clear and concise guidelines were prepared to assure uniform bidding by contractors and as a pre-requirement for engineering and architectural contracts.

Bid procedure has been improved and costly delays averted by requiring the parish attorney's approval of the wording of all bid proposals before they are released.

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The Parish attorney also approves the wording of contracts, agreements, abstracts, leases and real estate purchases and clears resolutions and ordinances before they are submitted to the council.

Contracts must also be approved by the director of the department involved and the finance director.

The Parish Attorney is official counsel in civil matters to the Parish President and Council and legal advisor to department directors. His staff includes eight assistant attorneys, five title researchers, a part-time research assistant, two secretaries and one steno-clerk.

He confers daily with his assistants and maintains liaison between the municipal governments and the parish. Monthly staff meetings are held to receive and review progress reports.

The parish law library is kept current with updated volumes added as soon as they become available, particularly those dealing with federal legislation.

### Mosquito Control



1969 was a year of outstanding achievements by the Department of Mosquito Control. There was no mosquito-borne encephalitis in horses or humans in the Parish during the year. And the Department was able to successfully minimize the nuisance from mosquitoes throughout the year.

Many indices of the value of the Department's work can be cited. For example, collections of mosquitoes in light traps have steadily declined over the years. Veterinarians practicing in Jefferson Parish are treating fewer dogs for dog heartworm each year. The volume of insecticide and repellent sales to Parish residents for mosquitoes have steadily declined. And there are fewer service request for adult mosquito control from the public.

The Mosquito Control Department is one of the youngest in the Parish, it will be five (5) years old in March, 1970.

Progress of the Mosquito Control Department since it was established has been outstanding.

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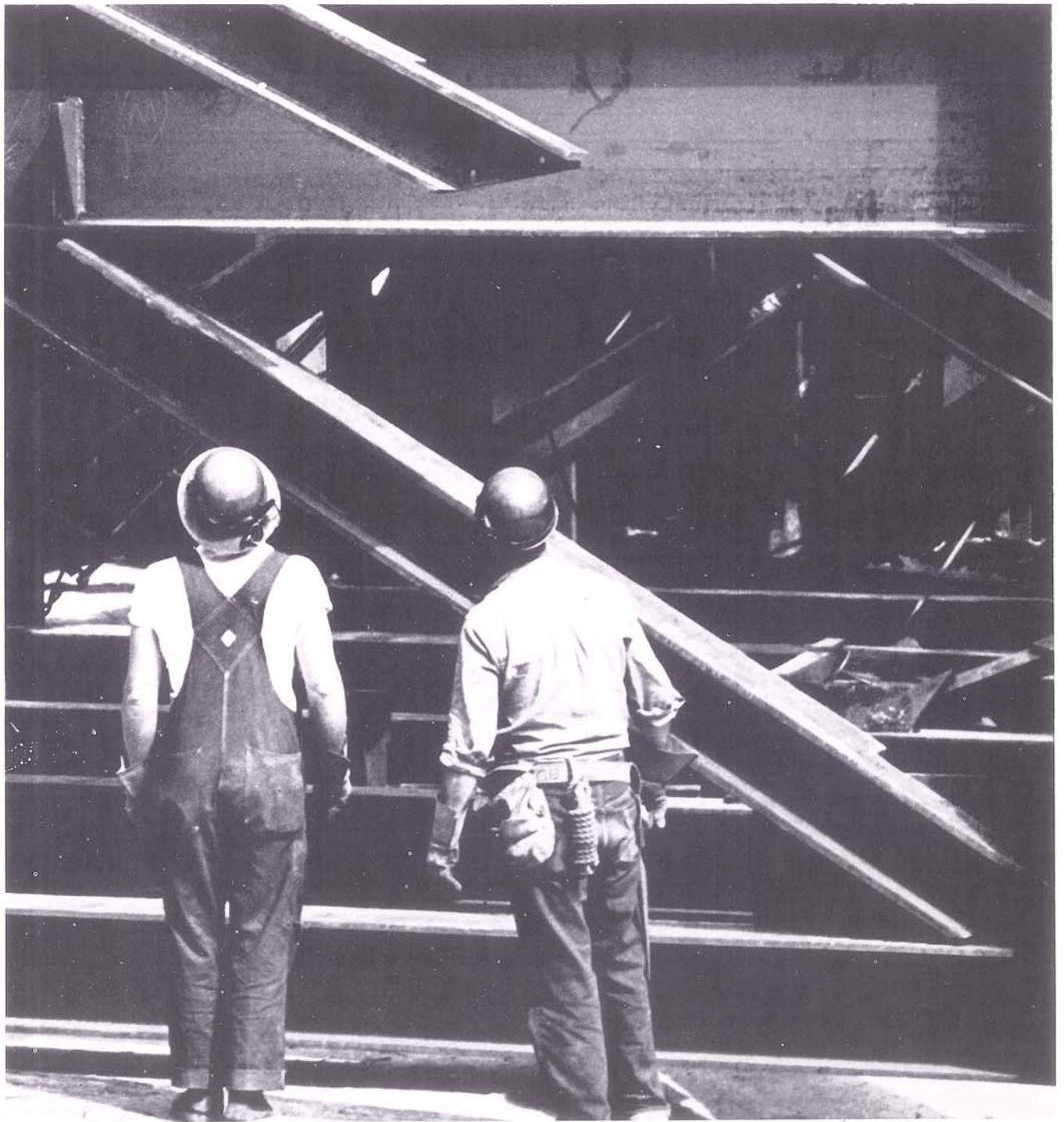
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Breeding sites for the saltmarsh mosquito have been eliminated in East Jefferson and substantial progress has been made in West Jefferson. Extensive marsh areas, which produced hordes of mosquitoes in the past, have been eliminated through a permanent control program of drainage.

However, most of the West Jefferson production sites which remain are accessible only by helicopter. Marshbuggy draglines provide the only possible means of eliminating the mosquito breeding potential of these areas.

Construction activities in the huge 3400-acre tract of East Jefferson aggravated the mosquito problem.

The area could not be properly drained by the Department and was inaccessible to most ground vehicles for fogging and spraying. The helicopter was the only means of dealing with this special problem.

Many favorable phone calls and letters have been received from private citizens, industries, health agencies and physicians.

One typical "thank you" letter came from a veterinarian who said the department had done a "magnificent job."

He pointed out that "before the mosquito eradication program was



started we treated a great number of dogs for heartworms, which was transmitted by mosquitoes, and the number was increasing. Now, we are seeing less than ten percent of that number."

The doctor concluded by saying "as a believer in preventive medicine I am eternally grateful for your help."

The mosquito control department continued its efforts to assist the council, parish health officer, municipalities and state health officials in rodent control and air pollution control programs.

## Construction Activity

Construction activity in Jefferson Parish in 1969 remained at a high level despite restrictions placed on building activities by tight money. The table below supplied by the Department of Safety, Division of

Regulatory Inspections tells the impressive story of construction-type investments in the Parish for the first 11 months of 1969. These figures are restricted to the unincorporated areas of the parish plus Harahan. Should the figures for the incorporated communities be included the year's figures would be substantially higher.

Number of Building Permits in 1969		Estimated Value
2276	One Family.....	\$42,048,129
72	Two Family.....	1,766,030
70	Three or Four Family.....	2,724,000
25	Five or More Family.....	7,311,000
4	Motels.....	280,000
1	Amusement & Recreational.....	50,300
8	Churches & Other Religious.....	457,000
269	Residential Garages & Carports.....	228,471
8	Service Stations.....	251,000
3	Hospitals.....	462,000
14	Office, Bank & Professional.....	1,412,300
11	Schools & Educational.....	2,799,000
207	Stores & Other Mercantile.....	12,882,119
2	Non-Residential.....	5,000
330	Structures Other Than Bldg.....	701,106
1825	Additions & Alterations to Res.....	2,559,634
263	Additions & Alterations to Others.....	1,968,751
41	Relocates.....	104,500
5429		\$78,010,340

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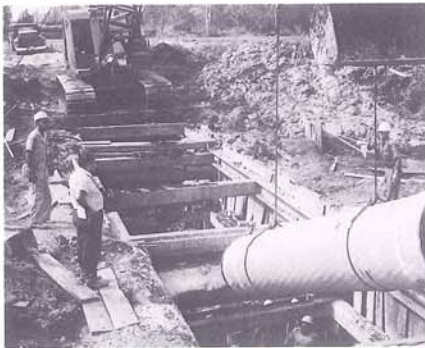


## Roads and Bridges

The year 1969 brought the completion of many street and roadway improvements on both the East and West Banks of the Parish.

Two needed traffic arteries in the Terrytown area were completed recently: Holmes Blvd. from Terry Parkway to Behrman Hwy, and Carol Sue Avenue from Whitney Avenue to Farmington Place. A bridge over Wright Avenue Canal was part of this project. Construction of Gretna Blvd. from Manhattan Blvd. to Heebe Canal was also completed and now provides an additional access route from the Harvey area to the Belle Chasse Hwy.

The first phase of the Lapalco Blvd. project, two north lanes between Peters Road and Belle Chasse Hwy., is completed and the roadway is in use. Wall Blvd., a feeder artery, from Belle Chasse Hwy. to Lapalco, is also handling a considerable amount of vehicular traffic.



On the East Bank a number of major streets have been completed or are under construction as follows:

**COMPLETED** • David Drive from Airline Hwy. to Veterans Memorial Blvd. • W. Esplanade (South side) from Melody Dr. to Hudson St.

• Cleary Ave. from Veterans Memorial Blvd. to West Esplanade • W. Esplanade (South side) from Williams Blvd. to Roosevelt Blvd.

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION** • Clearview Drive between W. Metairie Ave. and West Napoleon Ave.

• Also, on the East Bank, a contract has been let on Severn Avenue between W. Napoleon Avenue and West Esplanade Avenue. Construction will begin shortly.

A major petitioned project on the East Bank, the 3400 Acre Project, comprising roughly 50 miles on concrete paving is nearly 100% complete. A number of streets in the Bridgedale Subdivision area between W. Metairie Ave. and W. Napoleon Ave. are also under contract. Start of construction could begin early in 1970.

The \$12 million asphalt bond program has progressed very well. Over 75% of the program, which is providing for the installation of subsurface drainage and hard surfacing of shell streets, has been let under contract. This program should be completed in 1970.

The Parkway Division has been successful in obtaining matching Federal funds for a beautification program. Planting of shrubs and trees is well under way along several neutral grounds on both sides of the river.

## Health Department



The Jefferson Parish Health Department remained active on many fronts to cope with the ever-broadening problems of health care, pollution, sanitation, immunization and to cooperate in vital educational processes with civic, educational and related health organizations.

Early in the year the department joined with other health, civic and voluntary to plan and conduct a parishwide Nutritional Survey to evaluate the prevalence and location of nutritional problems among Jefferson Parish families. It was part of an 8-state project.

Considerable work was done with Parish school officials to expand and improve on the immunization program. In October a Rubella (measles) immunization program was carried out in kindergarten, first and second grades of all private and parochial schools, as well as day nurseries. Close to 60% of all children in those age groups received the immunization. Plans are afoot to expand the program into the next two higher grades.

The Department also cooperated with the Diabetes Association and the Health Departments of Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes to conduct a Diabetes detection screening, during which over 3,000 Parish people were tested. Of that number 66 individuals tested out positive and were referred to their physicians. Most returned for further screening. The entire Department was placed on alert during and following Hurri-

cane Camille and nurses and sanitarians were dispatched to Plaquemines Parish to assist in disaster work. Two department sanitarians remained for a period after the storm.

Representatives of the Nursing Section underwent a variety of specialized training, during the year to improve the services and effectiveness of the Department. Nurses attended several seminars on Tuberculosis and underwent training in the use of several Titmus eye machines. This is a more comprehensive eye-testing apparatus for use in our school program. Departmental nurses were also active in family planning services, a seminar on mental retardation, a workshop on birth defects presented by Louisiana State University Medical School and in a broad program directed at some 1,000 pre-school children under Head Start. There were a number of personnel changes but at the end of the year the Nursing section was fully staffed with a competent and highly-skilled group of nurses.

The Sanitation section was particularly active during the year in rabies control, rodent eradication, pollution control, food inspection and neighborhood environmental control. The Annual Rabies Campaign was held in March and a total of 17,528 dogs were vaccinated. The program of baiting and dusting homes to eradicate rodents, fleas and ticks continued and individual homeowners received rodent bait and instructions on how to use it.

Activities in air and stream pollution were extremely varied. A number of new air sampling stations in different parts of the Parish were placed in operation. The Sanitation section gave special attention to Grand Isle following complaints on the unsanitary condition of the beach areas. Several residential areas were singled out for intensive work general sanitation and environmental conditions. The department's Food and Drug Sanitarian remained extremely active and a large amount of food products were destroyed due to improper refrigeration and rodent or insect contamination. A number of proceedings against private homeowners and commercial establishments for failure to meet minimum sanitation standards.

Throughout the year, representatives of the Department contributed their services to educate students and citizen groups on the importance of sanitation, pollution control, immunization and preventative health care.

## Medical Facilities

Jefferson Parish made impressive strides in 1969 in providing ultra-modern medical facilities for its ever-growing population. In addition to the growth of neighborhood medical clinics two major general hospital projects were undertaken during the year: (1) Construction of the new East Jefferson General Hospital in Metairie; and (2) Extensive improvements to the highly important West Jefferson Hospital.

Exterior construction has been completed on the first 250 bed phase of the East Jefferson General Hospital. Work on the interior is expected to be completed in September 1970, at which time the administrator and staff will move in and complete final preparations to receive patients in November.

Construction was begun on the hospital in July, 1968 with funds from a \$4 million bond issue and two Federal Hill-Burton grants totaling \$3,284,000.

First phase construction embodies built-in planning so that the second 500 bed phase and final 250 beds can be added without impeding operation of the hospital.

Additional construction funds for the ultimate 1000 bed complex are expected to be generated by hospital revenues and matching Hill-Burton Funds.

The first 250 beds will include intensive care (7), coronary (9), Maternity (20), with the remainder for acute medical, surgical and pediatric patients. Also planned is an 11-bed recovery room.

All rooms on the nine patient floors will have a view of the lake with complete sun control and no

exposed glass. They will be served from an 11-story service tower. An automated central kitchen will be equipped to supply a wide selection of patient meals and refreshments.

The hospital faces Lake Pontchartrain on a 20 acre tract bounded by Fairfield, Hudson, Ithaca and the Suburban Canal.

It is in the major population center of East Jefferson between Veterans Highway and West Esplanade. It is near Clearview, a major link between the river and the lake with access from the Interstate 10 interchange.

The hospital will operate under the supervision of a nine man board of civic and business leaders. Current board members are: Harry J. Collins, Chairman; Richard McCarthy, Jr., Vice Chairman; John McCloskey, Secretary; Joseph C. Domino, Treasurer; Joseph F. Bautsch, Jr.; Frank Cicero, Nicholas J. Gagliano, Harold P. Tassin, and Joseph S. Yenni.

The Board has appointed Mr. Mose Ellis as Hospital Administrator. Members of the Board and Mr. Ellis have been active during the construction of the hospital. The Board has done a great deal of work to develop a facility which will be among the best in the area and which is designed to run with efficient operating systems and automated equipment to offset fast rising hospital costs. This has characterized all equipment and operational planning over the past two years.

The hospital has received about 200 applications from physicians for appointment to the medical staff and the medical staff organization is expected to be completed by Summer of this year. Mr. Ellis is in the process of selecting equip-

ment for the hospital, recruiting department heads and other key personnel, and developing the operational procedures and systems for the hospital.

The enlargement of West Jefferson General Hospital to a 310 bed capacity which was begun late in 1968 has been completed, and the new facilities are completely occupied, according to Mr. David Smith, Hospital Administrator.

This was phase 4 in an overall development program. Phase 5, which is now underway, will double the size of the hospital's surgery department, including operating rooms, recovery rooms, and support facilities. The \$788,000 cost will be met from hospital revenues.

## Library Division



The Library Division of the Recreation Department completed 11 years with its parent department on September 10, 1969. On the thirtieth of November it celebrated its twentieth year of existence, having been established by the Louisiana State Library in 1949.

Dramatic progress was made as the library ended its second decade of service to Jeffersonians. Additional services, relocation of facilities, help to the unfortunate, and purchase of land are only some of the chapters included in the volume labeled "1969."

Recognition of long-term library service was given in January when six Library Division employees received 5-year service pins and four received 10-year pins.

Parking lots for Gretna Library and the library headquarters building were completed during the year. The latter permitted additional parking space for headquarters employees as well as the relocation of the bookmobile offices and their off-vehicle book collections to the headquarters building. One of the most dramatic innovations of the year occurred in early February when a TWX (teletype-



writer exchange) service was made available to the parish library under a grant administered by the Louisiana State Library. The service speeds requests for additional library materials by patrons.

Total circulation of books, periodicals, and documents in the year was 832,946—a daily average of 2814.

Only one other public library in the state furnishes motion pictures to its patrons. Jefferson's collection, far larger, represented 565 titles at year's end. Viewers of the library's 16mm films numbered 532,034 in 1969.

July saw the purchase of 10,226 sq. ft. of land in Terrytown for future use as a branch library site. At year's end, the Grand Isle branch library neared completion.

Jefferson Parish may have scored a first with "Exercise Homing Pigeon" during National Library Week in April. Overdue books from all types of libraries were received at branches and on bookmobiles for mailing to the issuing library, no matter where its location. The event was noted in the "Rotarian" magazine as well as in library trade journals.

Bibliographies continued to be strong sales tools for books and motion pictures. Of particular note were "Eisenhower, 1890-1969," "D-Day, 25 Years After," "Overcoming Handicaps," and "Police!" Copies of the latter were requested from throughout the United States as well as Canada, England, and Holland.

An effort, limited to library staff members, to help Plaquemines Parish victims of Hurricane Camille by supplying clothing was an outstanding success.

Under the auspices of the parish personnel department and the parish vocational school, library employees participated in a course entitled "Meeting the Public" with the aim of sharpening their public relations abilities.

More than 4,000 additional patrons were added during the year for a total of 43,288 adult and 45,145 juvenile patrons.

The book collection at the end of the year amounted to 305,795. In this connection, use of headquarters storage in off-seasons for holiday books dealing with Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas proved an outstanding success. In sum, 1969 was a year of marked change for the Library Division and a year of intensive planning for the decade to come.



## Directory of Elected Parish Officials

(Four year term of office began June, 1968 except where indicated)

**PARISH PRESIDENT** — Thomas F. Donelon; **COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE** (and Council Chairman) Charles J. Eagan, Jr.; **EAST BANK COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE** (and Vice Chairman of Council) Jacob H. Sciambra (Wards 7, 8, 9, 10); **WEST BANK COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE** — Harold L. Molaison (Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11); **FIRST DISTRICT COUNCILMAN**—Beauregard H. Miller, Jr., (Wards 1, 2, 3); **SECOND DISTRICT COUNCILMAN**—Charles M. "Chuck" Miller (Wards 4, 5, 6, 11); **THIRD DISTRICT COUNCILMAN**—George J. Ackel (Wards 7, 9); **FOURTH DISTRICT COUNCILMAN** — Anton "Andy" Pilney (Wards 8, 10).

**ASSESSOR** (1/1/69-12/31/72) Lawrence A. Chehardy; **CLERK OF COURT** — William M. Justice, Jr.; **CORONER**—Dr. Charles B. Odom; **DISTRICT ATTORNEY** (1/1/67-12/31/72) Frank H. Langridge; **SHERIFF**—Alwynn J. Cronvich.

**JUDGES** (1/1/69-12/31/73) **24th DISTRICT COURT JUDGES:** Edward G. Stoulig (Div. A); Frank V. Zaccaria (Div. B); John C. Boutall (Div. C); Gordon B. Bynum (Div. D); Fred S. Bowes (Div. E); Floyd W. Newlin (Div. F); H. Charles Gaudin (Div. G). **JUVENILE COURT:** Leo W. McCune; **FIRST PARISH COURT:** Cyril J. Gracianette; **SECOND PARISH COURT:** John J. Molaison. (Note: An additional judgeship has been approved by the state legislature for the First Parish Court.)

**STATE SENATORS** (Wards 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) Jules G. Mollere, John G. Schwegmann; (Wards 1, 2, 3) Samuel B. Nunez, Jr.

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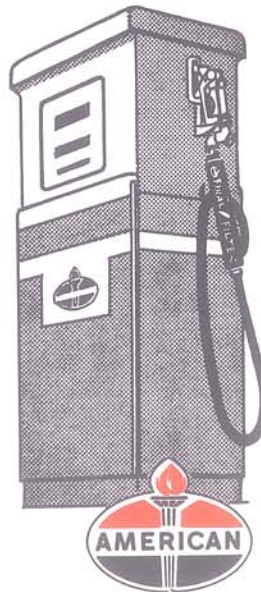
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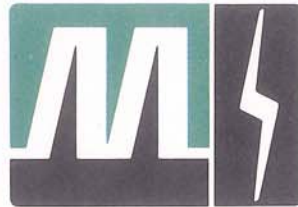
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The founders and owners of the Shopping Center are pictured here. Left: Senator Alvin T. Stumpf (retired), Right: Archie C. Stumpf, Ph.G. These men have been business and civic leaders in Gretna for half a century. The late Dr. John F. Stumpf (center) conceived the idea of the gigantic enterprise and with the aid, mature judgment and supervision of his uncle and father the Shopping Center—with many of the South's finest stores, became a reality.