

JEFFERSON PARISH

Yearly Review



1940

JEFFERSON PARISH

Yearly Review

(Official Publication of the Police Jury)

DEDICATED
TO THE PROGRESS
OF
JEFFERSON PARISH

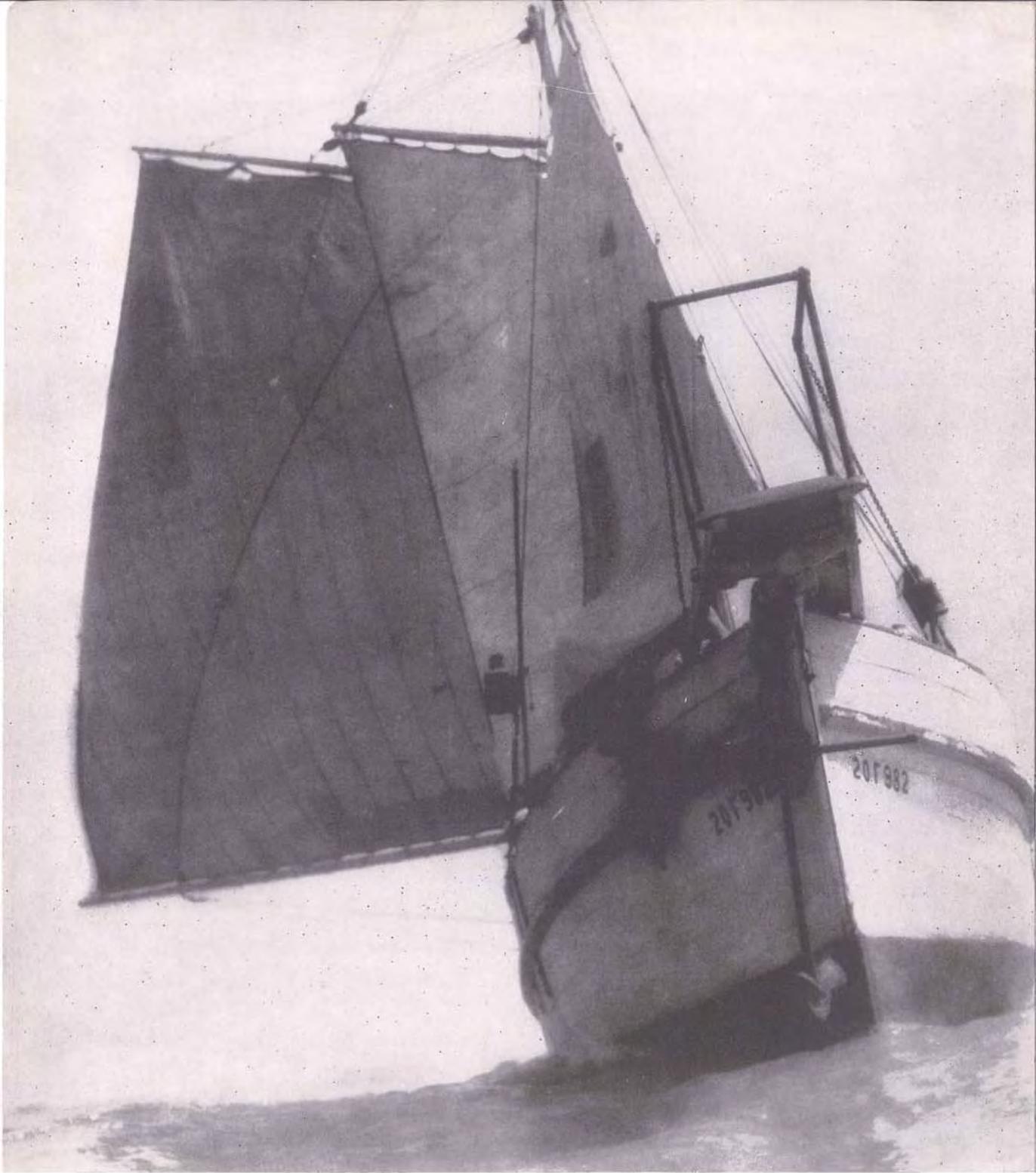
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"Like a stately ship
Of Tarsus, bound for th' isles
Of Javan or Gadire,
With all her bravery on, and tackle trim,
Sails fill'd, and streamers waving,
Court'd by all the winds that hold them play,
An amber scent of odorous perfume
Her harbinger."—Milton's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

"FLYING DUTCHMAN" OFF THE COAST OF GRAND ISLE.

—Fonville Winans, Photo.

Foreword

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

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

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

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

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

THE EDITOR.

JEFFERSON BUILDS

W. R. TOLEDANO

President, Jefferson Parish Police Jury

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

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

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

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





JEFFERSON PARISH POLICE JURY—MEMBERS AND OFFICERS
 Seated, left to right: Ed. E. Feitel, Ward 4, Harvey; Clem Perrin, Ward 6, Ladite; Wm. E. Strehle, Ward 2, Gretna; Ernest M. Conzelmann, Assistant District Attorney and Legal Adviser; W. R. Toledano, President, Ward 9, Kenner; John E. Fleury, District Attorney and Legal Adviser; Mrs. Jeanne Smith, Office Clerk; Wm. Hepfing, Secretary; Joseph Petit, Ward 5, Waggaman, and Albert J. Cantrelle, President Pro-Tem., Ward 4, Marrero.
 Standing, left to right: Harold Heard, Ward 1, Gretna (McDonoghville); Hirsch Meyer, Ward 4, Marrero; Leon Gendron, Ward 3, Harvey; Alvin E. Hotard, Parish Engineer; W. Richard White, Ward 3, Gretna; Clyde V. Bourgeois, Parish Treasurer; D. H. Roussel, West Bank Road Superintendent; Russel Ledoux, East Bank Road Superintendent; Ernest Riviere, Ward 8, Metairie; E. M. Gordon, Ward 4, Westwego; J. J. Hollgreve, Ward 8, Metairie, and Robert Ottermann, Ward 7, Southport.

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

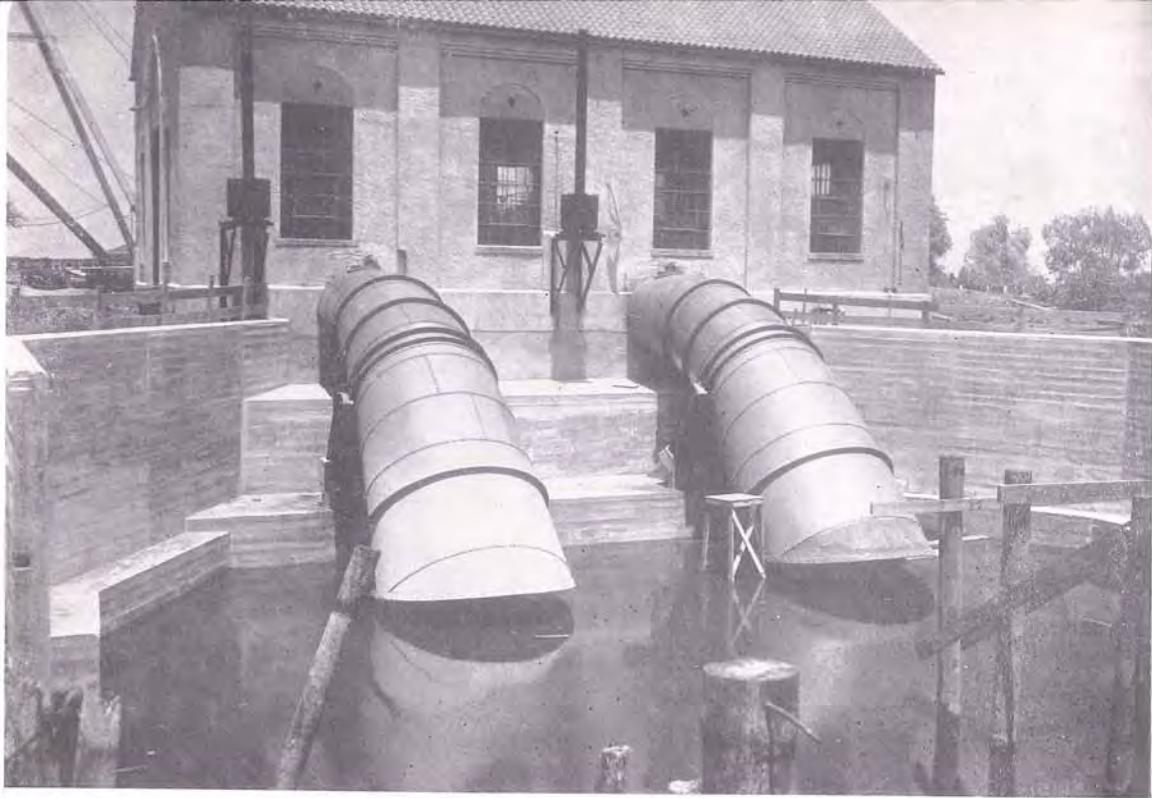
Romance abounds also here along the Gulf and among the bayous. Here Jean Lafitte and his pirates had their headquarters from which to raid merchantmen, and here at the upper end of the bayou country he sold his wares to the willing ladies and gentlemen of New Orleans, and posted his impertinent price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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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



— THE —
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MANUFACTURERS OF
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THE RISING TIDE OF BLACK GOLD

THOMAS EWING DABNEY

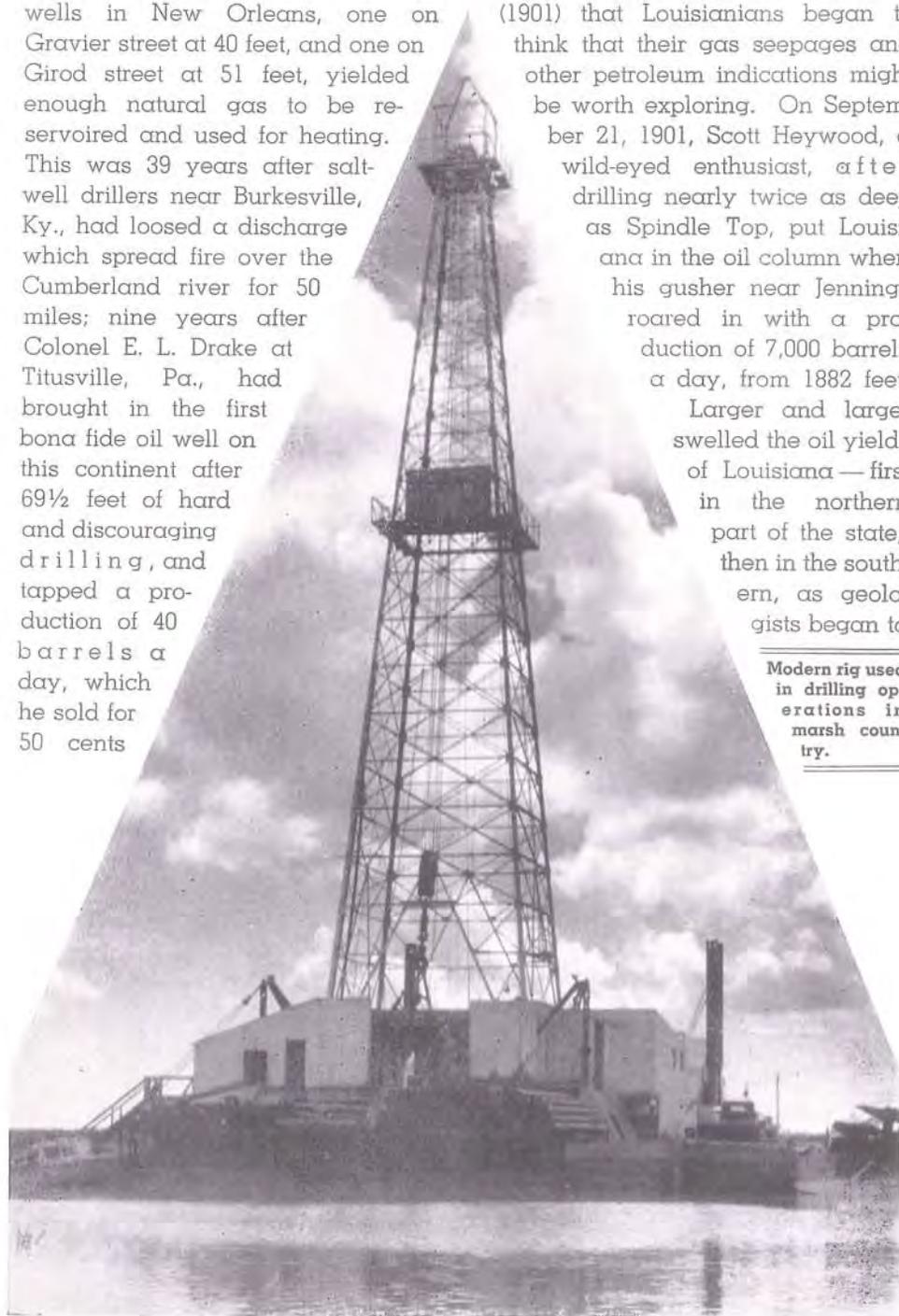
Metropolitan Press Feature Writer

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

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

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

Modern rig used in drilling operations in marsh country.



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

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

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

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

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

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

When In
METAIRIE

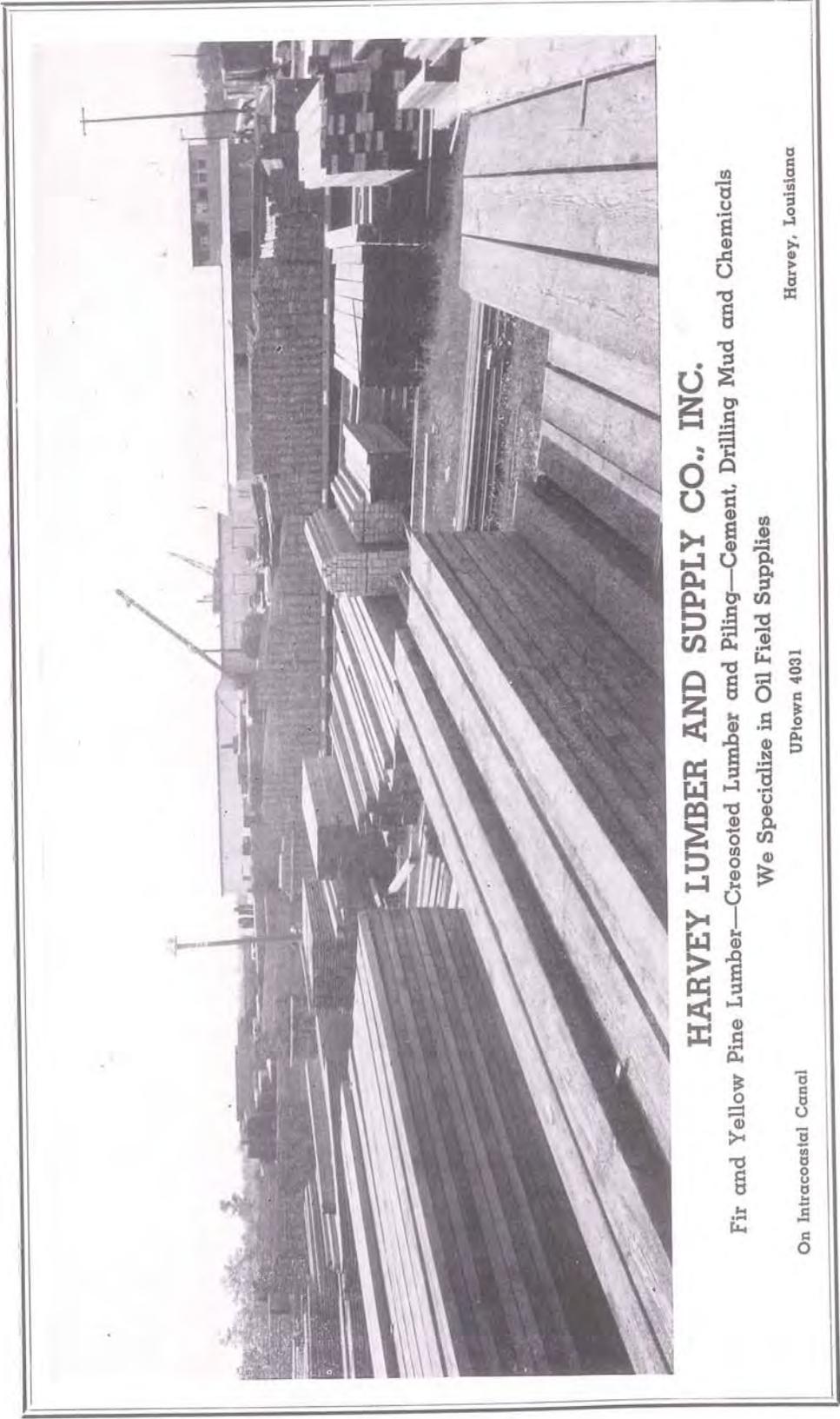
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Louis E. Gruber



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

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

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



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On Intracoastal Canal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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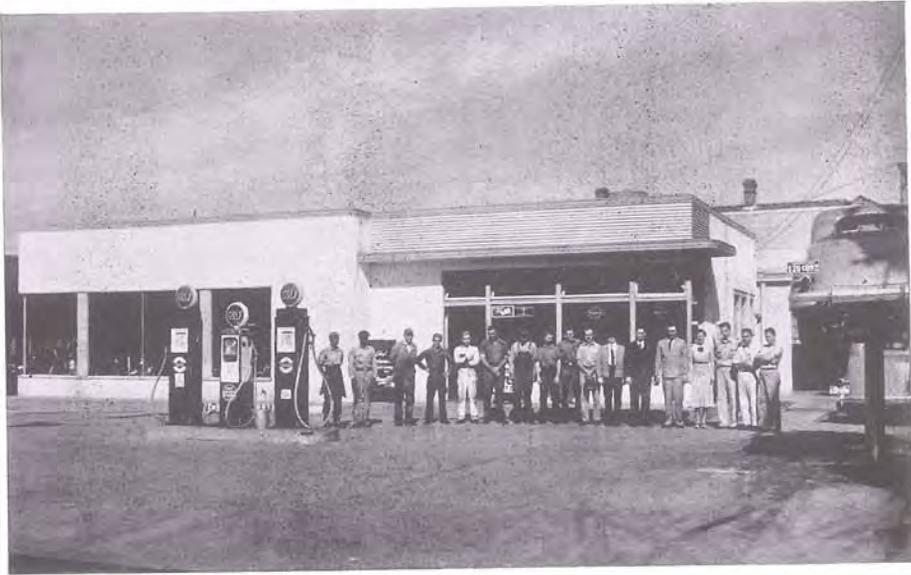
Every well that the Lafitte field has yielded is still producing. The operation of the dome calls for the employment of 150 men, for whom the company has built quarters with modern comforts and sanitation in mind. The men work 12 days and spend four days with their families. The oil is pipe-lined to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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

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



TRY A
TEXACO
DEALER
NEXT TIME



====The====
Texas Company

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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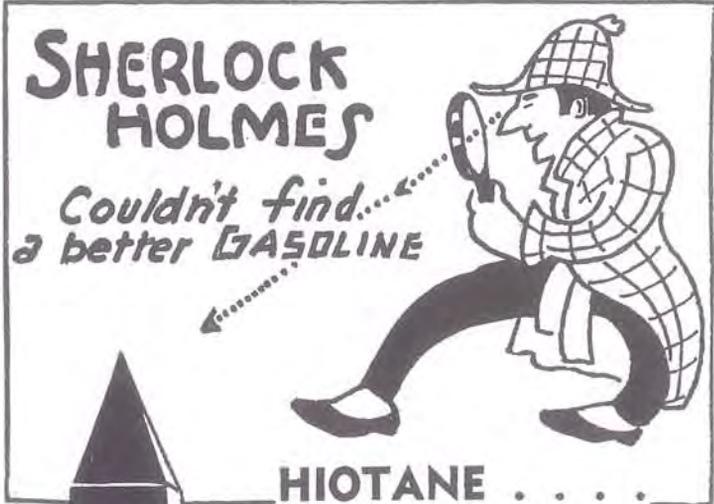
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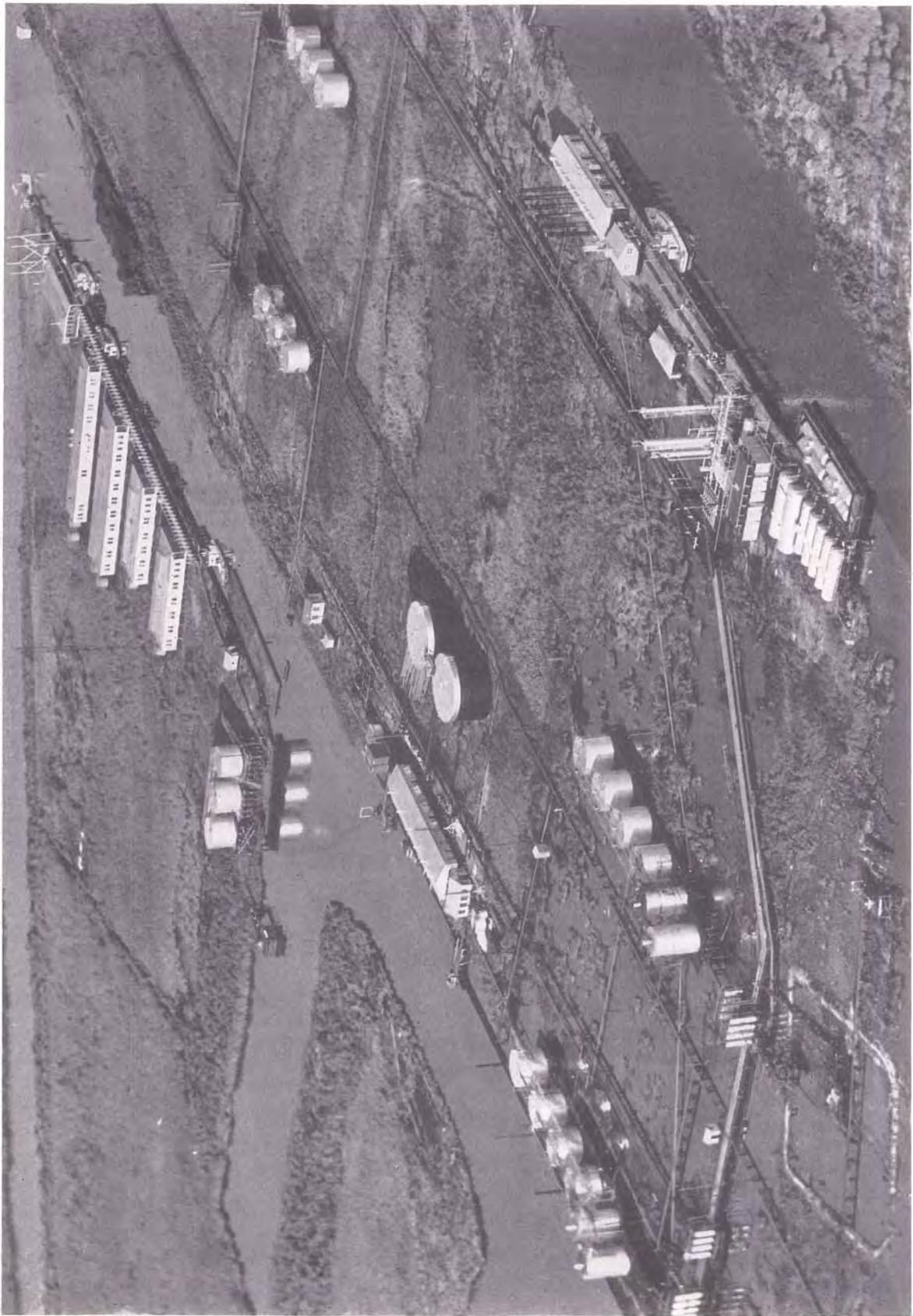
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Air View of the Texas Company's operations in Lafitte Field, 22 miles south of New Orleans.

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

THEIR FACES TELL THE STORY

LYLE SAXON

Internationally Famous Author

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

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

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

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





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

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

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



JEFFERSON DEMOCRAT

Official Journal of the

PARISH

OF

JEFFERSON

SINCE 1896

Gretna, Louisiana



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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MARRERO, LOUISIANA



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

BARATARIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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OAK STREET



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

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

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

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

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

Jefferson Inn

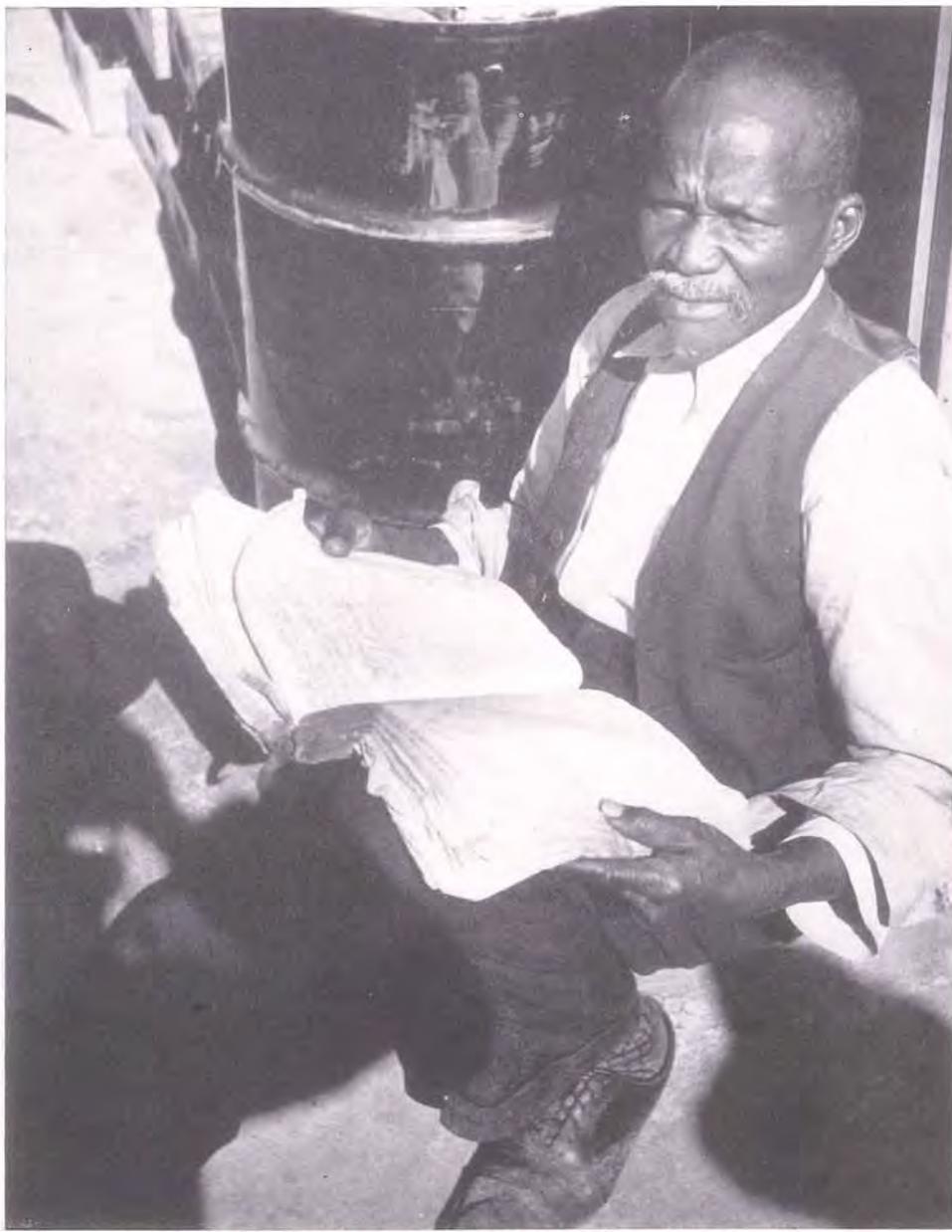
SOUTHPORT,
JEFFERSON PARISH,
LOUISIANA

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

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

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

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



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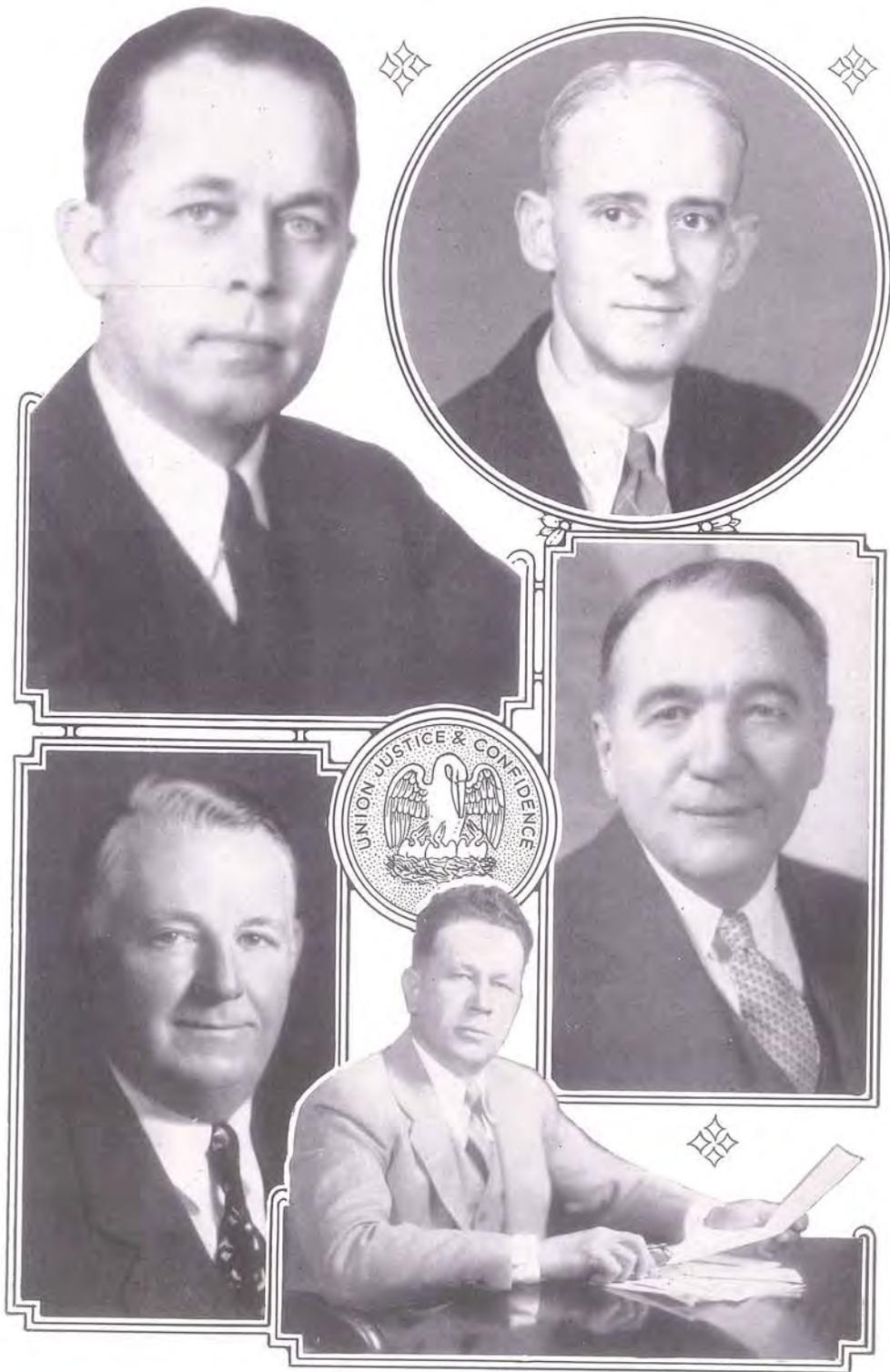
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 Right Center—Hon. John H. Overton, United States Senator from Louisiana.
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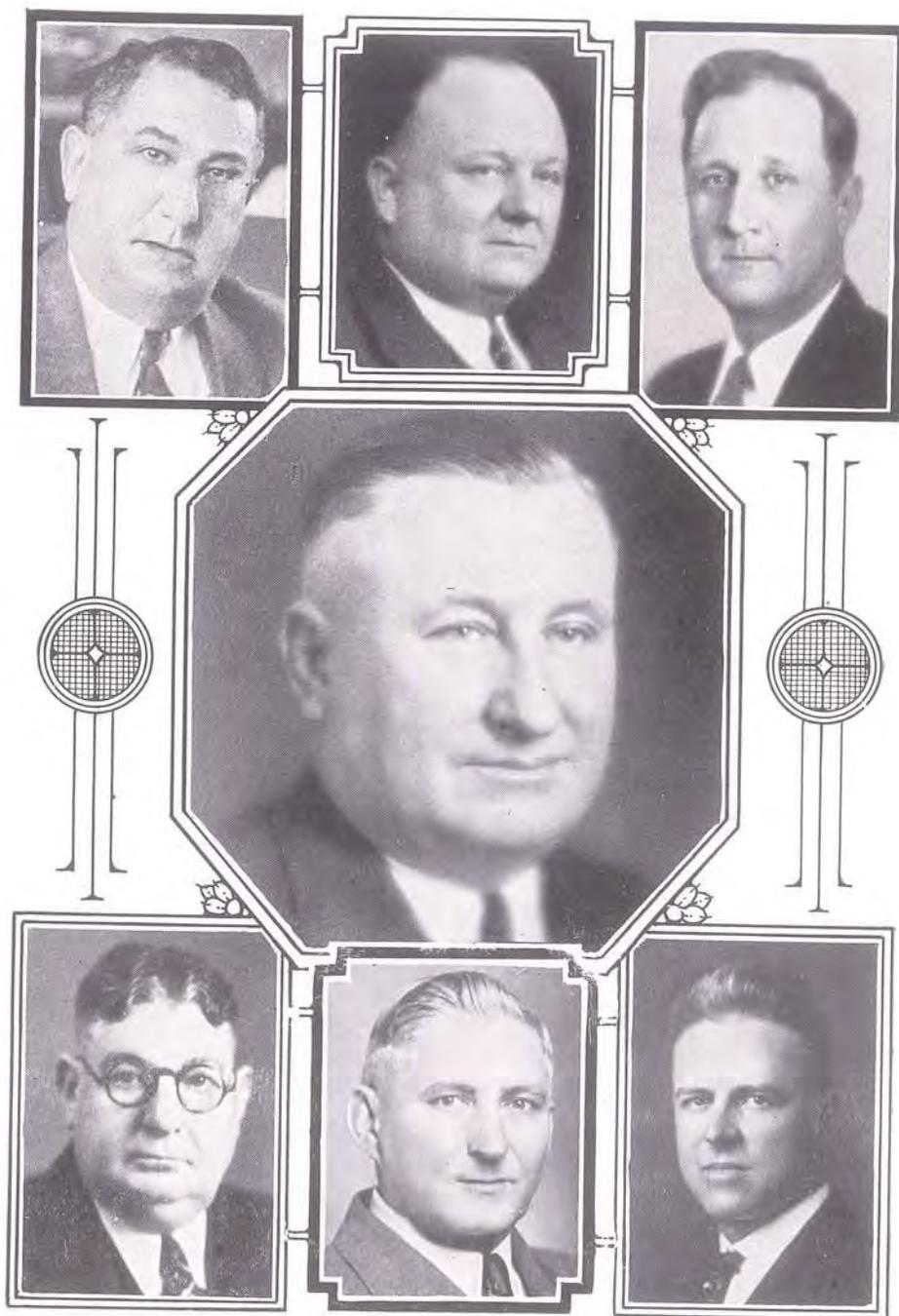
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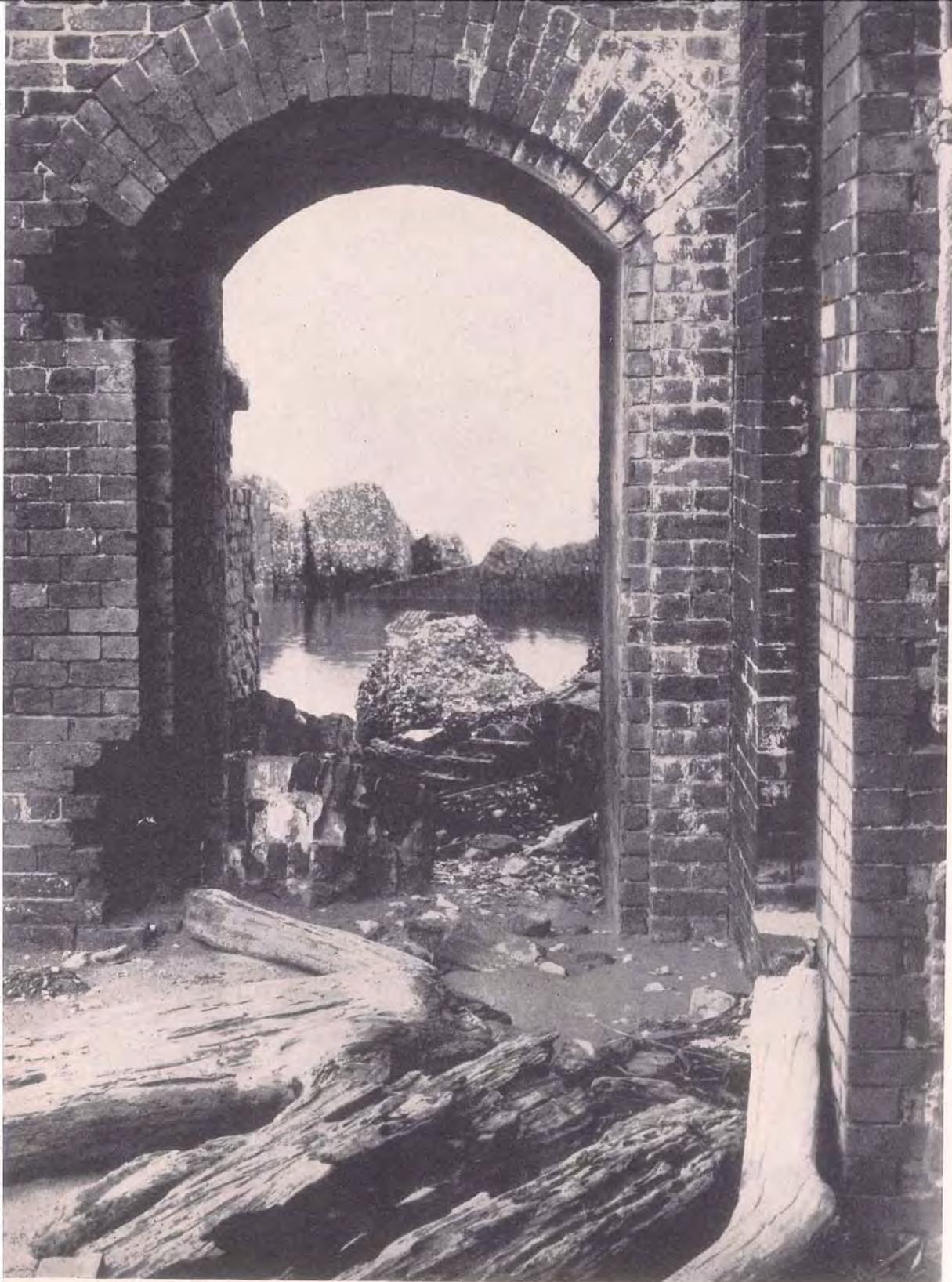
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100 Huey P. Long Ave.

Gretna, La.

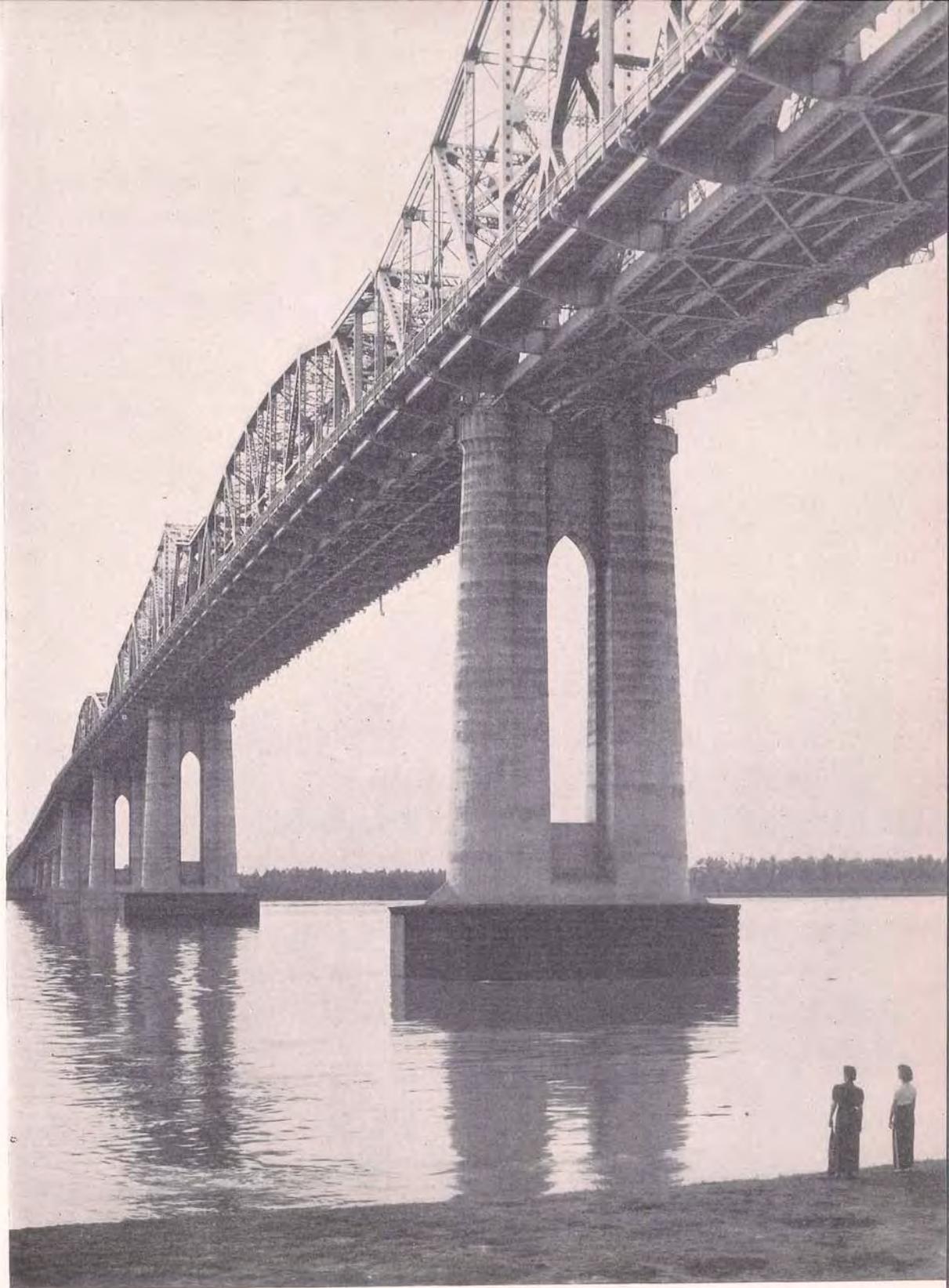
Pictorial Section

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



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

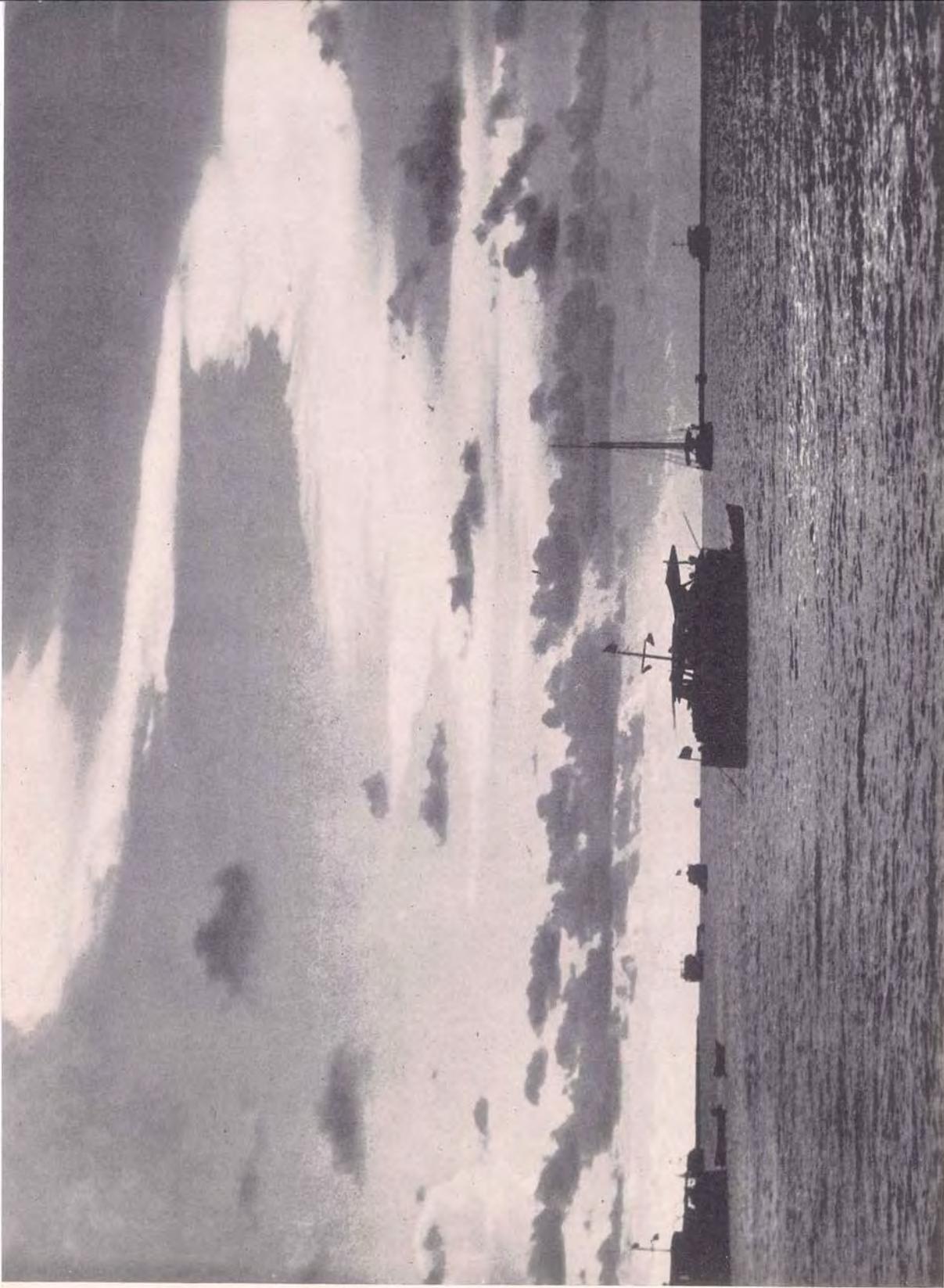
—Fonville Winans, Photo.



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

—F. A. McDaniels, Photo.

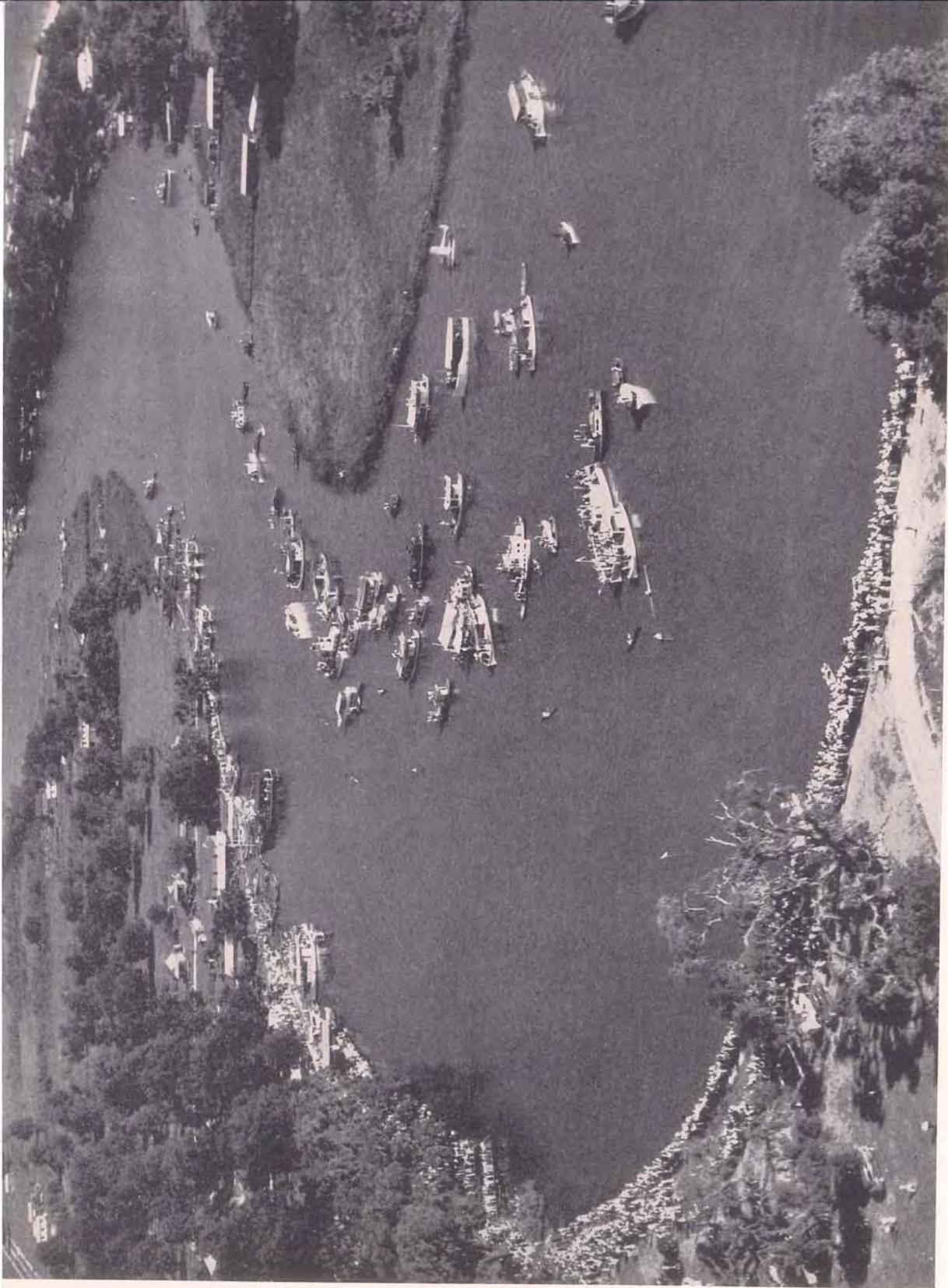
The tarpon fleet at anchor at Grand Isle. The annual tarpon rodeo, held at Grand Isle is one of the high spots of the anglers season, bringing together numbers of local and visiting sportsmen who thrill at the sight of a mighty Silver King "walking the water on his tail".



—Fonville Winans, Photo.



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



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

—Fonville Winans, Photo.

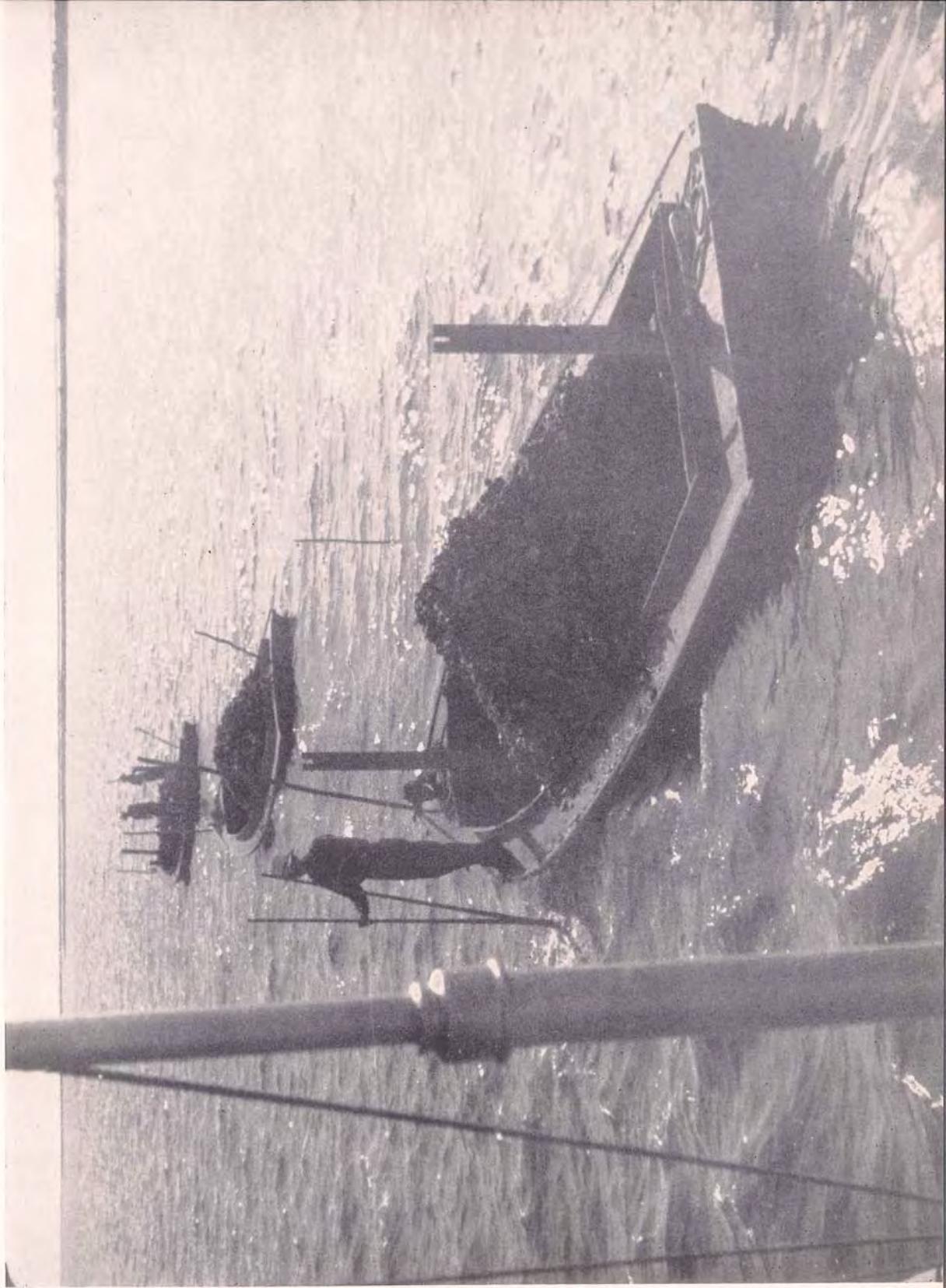
Big blue-clawed crabs abound throughout the waterways of Jefferson. In this picturesque setting at Berthoud's Cove, at the intersection of three bayous, Big Bayou Barataria, Little Bayou Barataria, and Bayou Villars, the late evening sun sees picnickers trying their luck at providing the main ingredient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



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



—Fonville Winans, Photo.



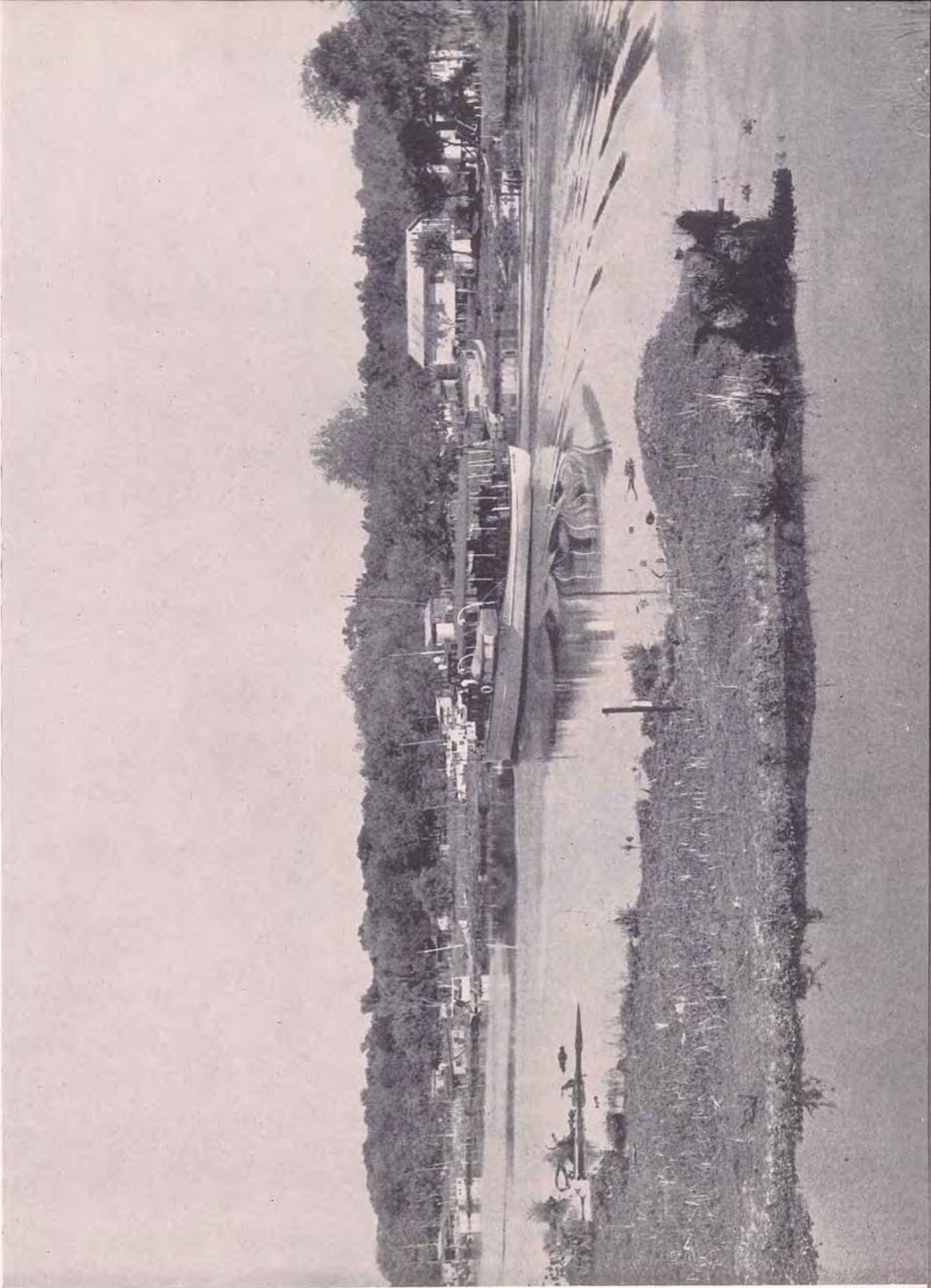
Bows-on to the tide, each of these three "skiffs" are loaded by oyster fishermen with one hundred and fifty sacks of oysters longed from the shallows of Barataria Bay. The oysters are culled in the skiffs. Small ones are dumped on the spot and the larger ones are rebedded in salt water areas where they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

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



—Fonville Winans, Photo.

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

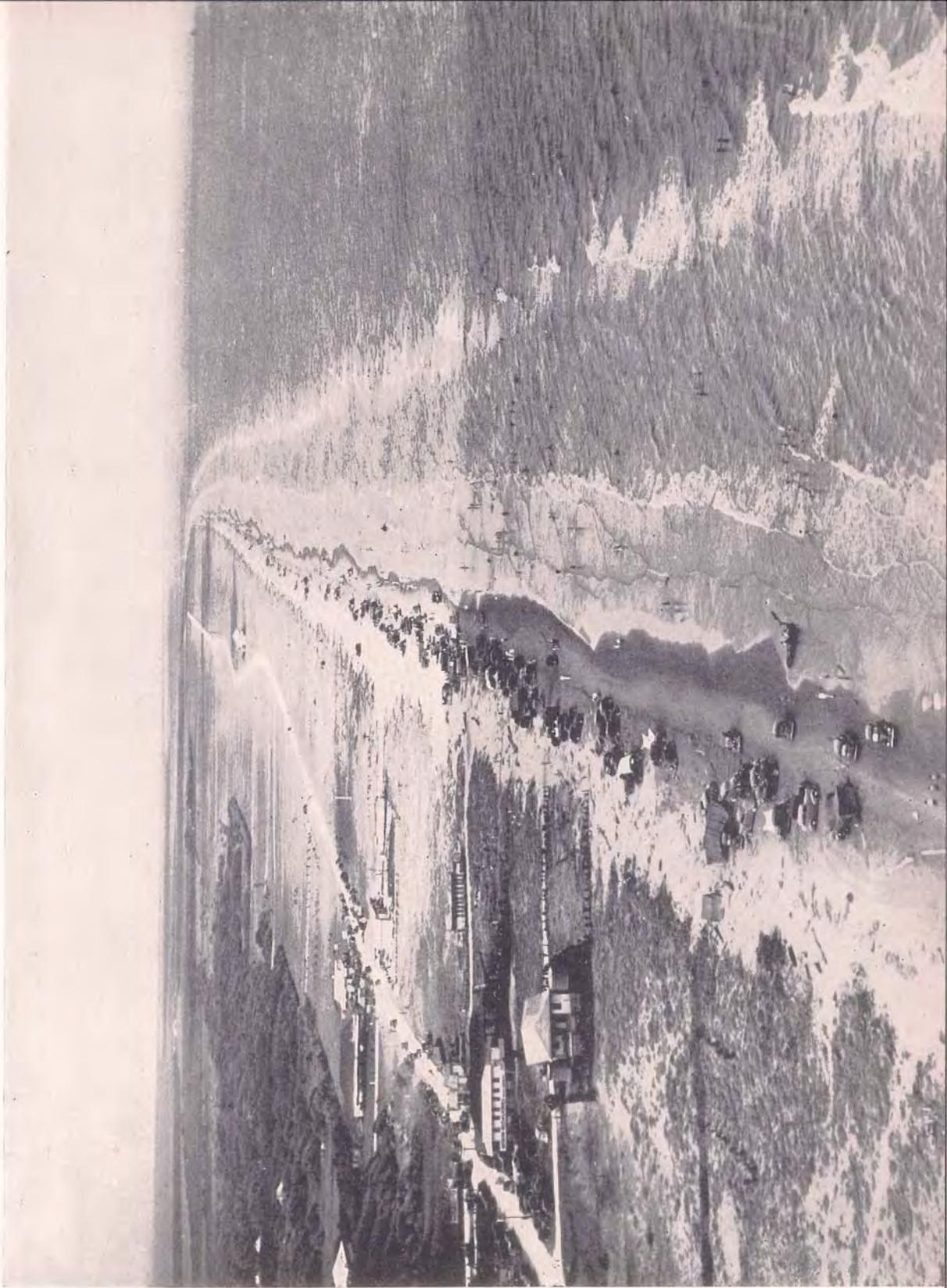


Sail-ho! Sail boats, speed boats, fishing sloops, and pleasure craft of all descriptions are a part of the life of Jefferson Parish, which is bounded on the north by Lake Pontchartrain, and on the South by the Gulf of Mexico, with beautiful waterways thickly scattered in between. This group is all set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



—L. L. Martin, Photo.

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





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

L. L. Martin, Photo.



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

—L. L. Martin, Photo.



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

F. A. McDaniels, Photo.



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

INDUSTRY KEEPS PACE WITH JEFFERSON PROGRESS

JOHN M. TAYLOR

Regional Vice President, Johns-Manville Sales Corporation

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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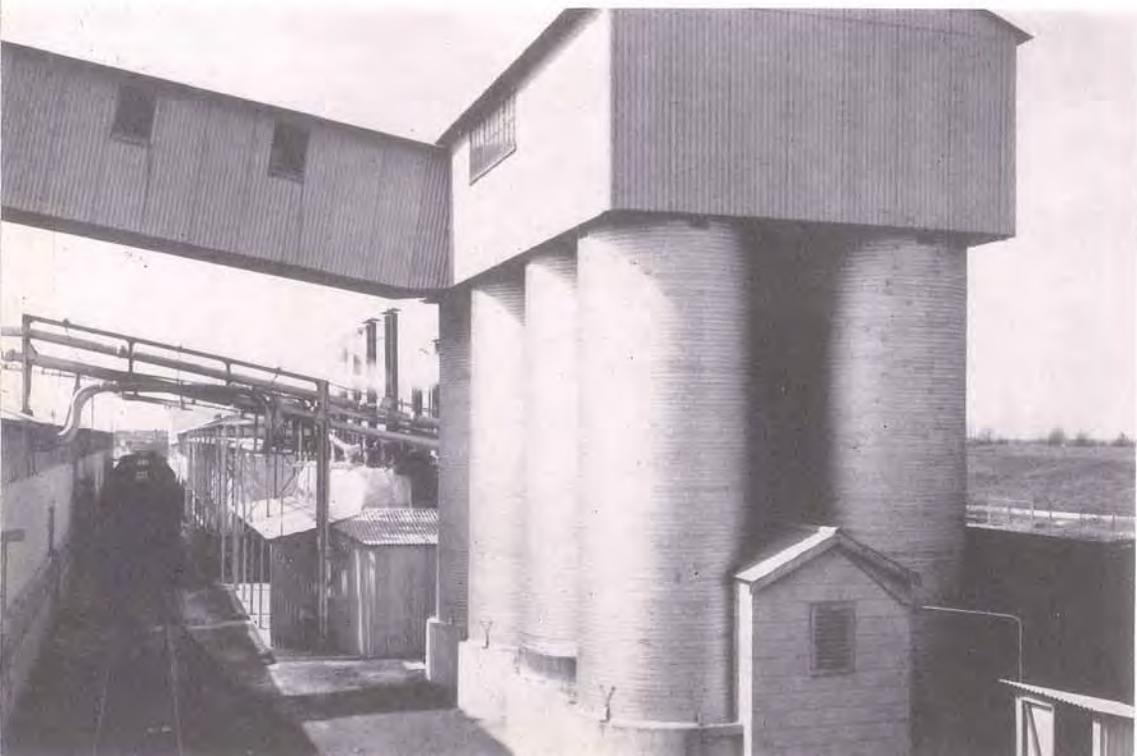
Five Stores In Jefferson Parish



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Freeport Sulphur Company

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New Orleans

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

EXPANSION IS KEYNOTE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

In Collaboration with Edward M. Comiskey

President of the School Board

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

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

The Department of Administration took a census in order to determine

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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





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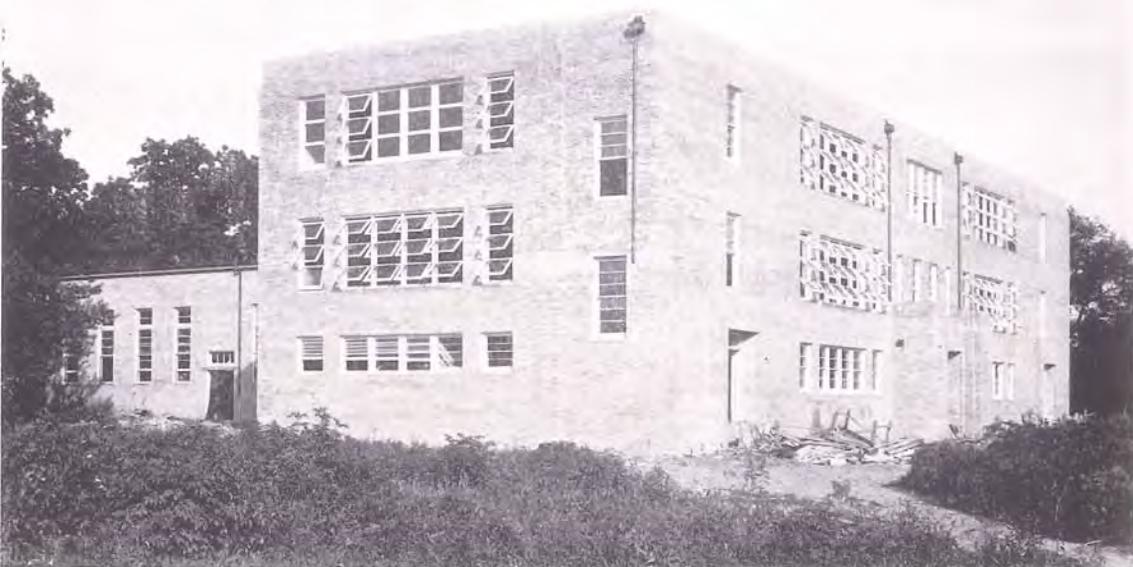
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Metairie Elementary School. At the present time, elementary classes are held in the Metairie High School. By removing most of these classes to this new and modern building, Metairie High School will have an imperatively needed increased space.

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD—MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Seated, left to right: Mrs. Julia Reynaud, Office Secretary; Edward M. Comiskey, President, Ward 7, Suburban Acres; Mrs. A. C. Alexander, Vice-President, Ward 4, Westwego.
 Standing, left to right: J. B. Geiger, Ward 3, Gretna; Patrick Clancy, Office Clerk; Lem Higgins, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; J. C. Ellis, Superintendent of Schools; John C. Brunning, Ward 8, East End; Louis E. Breaux, Ward 8, Metairie; Evert R. Schieffler, Ward 6, Lafitte; Frank De Salvo, Ward 4, Harvey; Julius F. Hotard, Ward 2, Gretna, and Ursin Roux, Ward 5, Waggaman.

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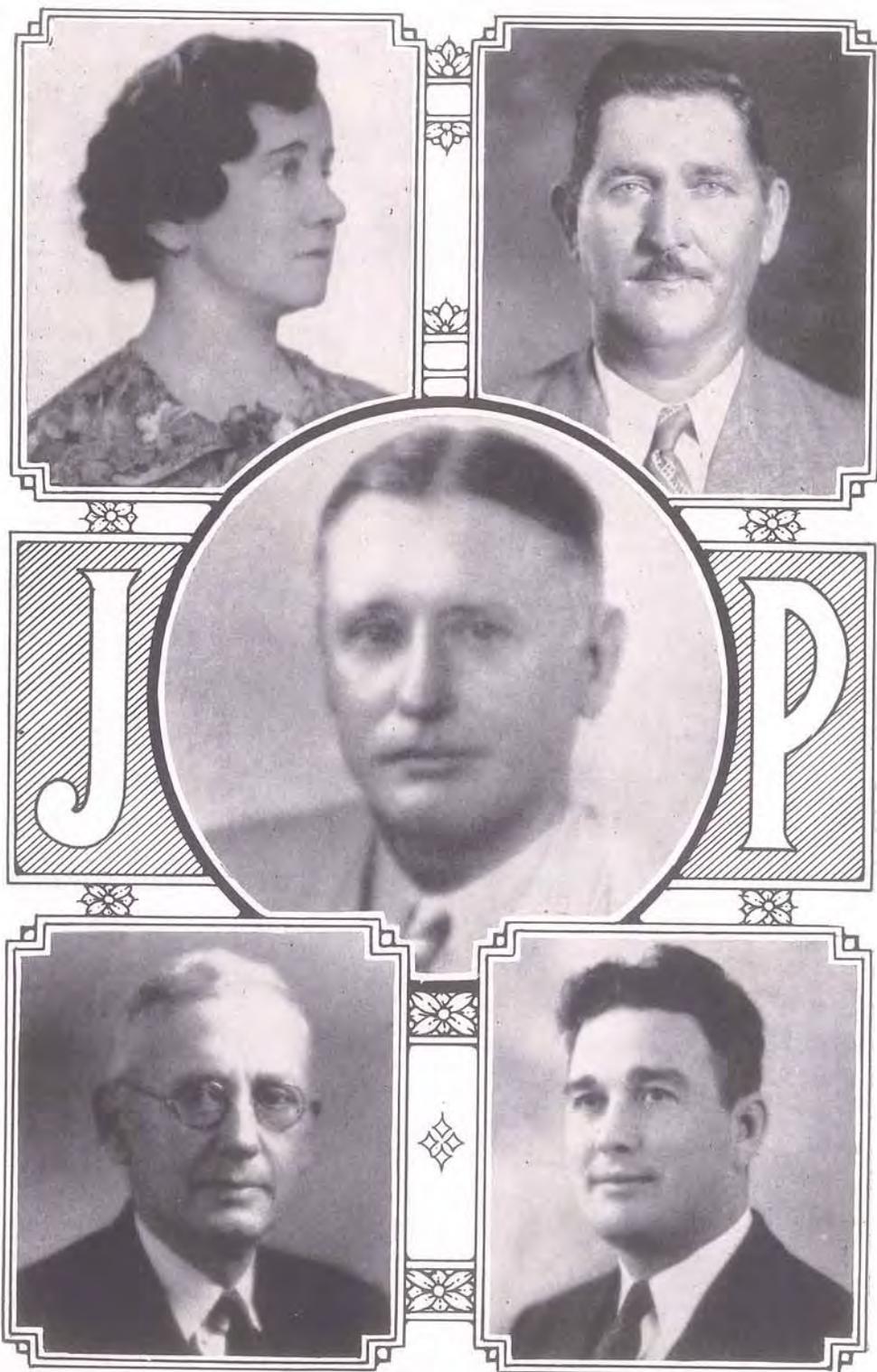
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SCHOOL BOARD OFFICIALS

Upper left—Mrs. A. C. Alexander, Vice-President of the School Board. Upper right—Hon. Leon Dufour, Chairman Finance Committee, School Board. Center—Hon. Edward M. Comiskey, President of the School Board. Lower left—J. C. Ellis, Superintendent of Schools. Lower right—Lem Higgins, Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

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OYSTERS A LA JEFFERSON

J. OLIN CHAMBERLAIN,

Publisher, Weekly Bulletin, Port Of New Orleans

In Collaboration With James N. McConnell,

Engineer And Director, Division Of Oysters,

Louisiana Department of Conservation

Ask the average Louisianian what he knows about oysters and he'll probably begin by telling you what the whole country knows: Louisiana oysters are the finest of all. Then he's likely to talk prices at his favorite oyster counter. He knows a place, he will say, that really is a place. On the half shell—with lemon—Man, oh, man. He'll go on from there into expert descriptions of methods of preparing Louisiana's luscious and succulent bivalves, all the way from the corner restaurant's stew through Antoine's famous oysters a la Rockefeller. In short, he'll make your mouth water, but will show very little knowledge of oysters.

Ask your question of almost any one of the inhabitants of the southern coasts of Jefferson Parish and the chances are that before he is finished talking you'll hear an accurate and complete family history of *Ostrea virginica*, which is science's name for the Louisiana oyster. Your informant, by the way, will



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pronounce it as spelled. Oyster. Not "erster"; nor "awster"; nor even "oishter"; nor, finally, "ershter". These amazing pronunciations are traceable to long usage in certain localities. Each has its little following and each is, of course, incorrect.

In the course of your conversation with this practical expert of the Jefferson Parish marsh country, for whose wisdom and experience your respect will increase abundantly, you will come by some surprising information. Your amazement at the fact that during a part of each year oysters "have milk" will amuse him. He will patiently explain that oysters are milky during practically the whole of the month of May and the first half or so of June. He will have little patience with you, however, for believing that oysters are not fit to eat during the months whose names contain no "R". He will convince you that such talk is pure superstition, besides being harmful to the oyster industry. Thus he will gain indirectly the thanks of every fisherman,

Raking oysters by hand. Where water over the oyster beds is shallow, as along this coastline, oysters are detached from the reef with these long handled rakes.





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Dredging. In deep water, oysters are raked from the bottom with these mesh drags, attached to a winch aboard the oyster lugger.

wholesaler and bar-man throughout the nation who would like to have the oyster "season" a twelve-month one.

You will be quickly disabused of the idea that gathering oysters from Jefferson Parish's waters is a simple matter of raking them up from the shallow depths. Indeed, you will discover that the Jefferson Parish oyster cultivator, who calls himself a fisherman, is a rare combination of navigator, getting about the tortuously winding channels of Louisiana's lower coast with the same easy certainty that accompanies a city dweller's trip to Canal street; farmer, sowing his seed on concrete fragments, stone reefs, oyster shells and other hard substances, under water, and finally, practical biologist-obstetrician-wet nurse, who provides embryonic care for his charges, attends their birth and then hand raises them until marketing time. His incidental accomplishments include an ability to speak languages other than English, because he is an employer whose workers may be "Frenchmen" from one side of Grand Lake or "Dalmatians" from the other side of the lake. They understand better their respective "mother" tongues. Most of them have lived in south Jefferson Parish for generations.

Modest "capitalist" and employer though he is, the oyster fisherman follows implicitly the Biblical injunction to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. He is a laborer whose working day is the old "kin to cain't" of the Deep South. During the "season" his headquarters is the "mother" ship of his fleet. This is a widebelted lugger sometimes as long as 60 feet or so over-all. She is powered by a heavy duty gasoline engine, needed to haul the take of the three or more two-ton scows, called "skiffs", over which she watches. These skiffs have a capacity of 100 to 150 sacks of oysters.



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The oyster fisherman uses his skiffs for sowing the seed of his marine crop, for transplanting three or more times a season and for harvesting.

Sometimes on the oyster waters near the Gulf there may be two or three mother ships with their attendant skiffs. Dawn finds everybody aboard already at work. Dark comes, and they're still at it. Plant, transplant. Load and unload. Cull and select. This is no Isaac Walton routine.

As a sample of the care and labor attendant on oyster culture, not only in Jefferson Parish, but throughout Louisiana's tremendous water acreage, James N. McConnell, engineer and director of the division of oysters and water bottoms of the Louisiana Conservation Department, says in the Department's Fourteenth biennial report that each individual counter oyster (the highly cultivated type) grown in Louisiana is handled from nine to 18 times from planting to consumer. Most of it is done by the fisherman.

It includes: (1) The fisherman buys his shells from either a raw shop or factory and loads them on his lugger. (2) The lugger transports them to a bedding ground in a locality where the correct mixture of salt and fresh water is found (the fisherman finds it) making it possible for the young oyster "spat" to "set" and live. (3) Here the shells are transferred to a skiff. (4) From the skiff, they are scattered on the bedding ground in a careful manner to prevent over-crowding. (5) After two years or so, during which they acquire the set of two seasons, they are tonged up from the bedding ground, either by hand, into a skiff or where the water is deep enough, by a steel mesh grappling net

Culling. Before oysters are moved from their first bedding ground, they must be culled, and the small oysters returned to the original beds for further growth.





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used as a dredge. (6) The oysters are now carefully culled, or "weeded" by the fisherman, who separates the various sizes with a small hatchet used for that purpose, the small oysters being re-bedded. (7) The large oysters from this lot are carried to a bedding ground nearer the sea where the water is much saltier and where they obtain the delicious flavor for which the Louisiana oyster is famous. (8) Here they are again shoveled from the lugger to the skiff. (9) From the skiff they are scattered on the new bedding ground, care being taken to give them a proper spread, and are allowed to remain from one week to two months, depending on conditions. (10) As shipping time draws near, oysters for market are tonged once more into a skiff and taken to the "clean" bedding ground, usually near the fisherman's camp. (11) These carefully selected oysters are rebedded here very thickly so as to permit rapid loading for shipment. (12) Several hours before the freight boat arrives, they are tonged again into a skiff. (13) They are now carefully measured into standard metal baskets containing one and one-half bushels and from these baskets are dumped into sacks. (14) These sacks are carried to the freight boat and transported to the city. (15) From the freight boat the sacks are carried onto the wharf. (16) Sacks are loaded on trucks, (17) unloaded at counters, and restaurants where they are, (18) shucked and delivered to the ultimate consumer after eighteen handlings.

Oyster culture is a comparatively recent refinement of an industry known to Louisiana for about two hundred years. Today there are three separate phases of the oyster industry in this state. They produce three distinct types of oyster: the highly cultivated counter oyster, the less cultivated raw shop oyster and the natural or "wild" reef oyster used by the canning factories for steaming and processing. The counter oyster takes its name from the places where it is sold in greatest quantity: the oyster bars. Oysters used by the

Bedding. This operation is engaged in several times during the cultivation of the oyster. Shells are first scattered, then the small oysters which are raked up are rebedded, the large ones being moved from brackish water where they first grow to salt water, and bedded there to acquire flavor. Finally, they are bedded, prior to shipment, near camp, so that they may be easily accessible.



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so-called raw shops are shucked, washed, canned in their fresh state, packed in ice and shipped all over the country. These oysters are shipped raw. Reef oysters are used almost exclusively as "steam stock" because of their cheapness. They are processed and shipped for use in soup, gumbo and other dishes.

Jefferson Parish stands third from the top of the oyster producing parishes of the state. Fishermen of the parish explain this by pointing out that the quality of Jefferson-grown oysters is second to none in the world. They base this statement on repeated findings of representatives of the U. S. bureau of fisheries. Certain it is that the oysters of the Grand Lake region of the parish have been the delight of gourmets for years.

The oyster division of the department of conservation supervises the state's oyster production. It is older than the department itself. It was originally called the oyster commission, and came into being as a result of the need for the protection of Louisiana's oyster beds against encroachment of fishermen from other states. Forty years or so ago an oyster fisherman was pretty much on his own. The protection of his beds was his own grief. Fending off piratical marauders was all part of the day's or the night's work. But battles between individuals are one thing and state policing is another. So the oyster commission came into being some thirty-five years ago. The yacht "Louisiana" was assigned to the commission, with Captain Victor Sandras in command. Today, this boat patrols coastal waters for the conservation department. Captain Sandras is still in command.

At the present time the duties of Captain Sandras, so far as the oyster fishermen are concerned, are more advisory than those of a policeman. True, he checks on leases and patrols the coast from Mississippi to Texas. But it's a far cry from the stormy period of the oyster commission's fights with

Captain Victor Sandras, for thirty-five years master of the Louisiana Conservation Commission's yacht "Louisiana," attached to the oyster division. Captain Sandras has been with the Commission since its organization, and has spent his life on the waterways of Jefferson Parish.





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Louisiana Conservation Commission yacht "Louisiana," detailed to the oyster division, with the duty of patrolling the oyster territory, helping oystermen, and assisting in other work of the division, which is varied.

outside fisherman poachers to the routine checking of licenses and lugger capacities of the present.

Captain Sandras, a Jefferson parishioner, is the oldest employee in point of service of the Conservation Department. The "Louisiana" has never had another commanding officer. A modest man, though he admits having made numerous arrests in the "old days", he makes it clear in a mildly emphatic fashion that he was "never much of a bully".

The department he represents is, he says, the land-lord of the oyster fishermen. Their beds, on State owned water-bottoms, are leased from the department on an acreage basis, usually at \$1.00 per year. Fishermen of Jefferson Parish point out that they are friendly with the department, not policed by it. They know intimately of the work which the oyster division is doing, for instance, to prevent any detrimental effect on Jefferson's oyster beds resulting from recent large oil development in the parish. As a matter of fact, the oyster division, in cooperation with the minerals division, has established and is now enforcing regulations for the protection of oyster growers in areas where geophysical operations are being carried on.

Then there is the division's new Port of Entry at Grand Pass, La., with its modern field laboratory and accommodations for as many men as the work may require. Careful and exact research goes on in the laboratory day after day under the supervision of Lawrence D. Kavanagh, the oyster division's biologist. Experiments in bedding locations, with emphasis on the production of better "sets" are conducted from the laboratory under the direct supervision of both Mr. Kavanagh and Mr. McConnell. A preliminary report on an

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experiment in oyster hybridization has just been issued by Mr. Kavanagh. The purpose of the experiment is to develop an oyster combining the rapid rate of growth and large size of the Japanese oyster with the pest resisting qualities and superior flavor of the Louisiana oyster. The production of the "Pacific" oyster resulted from the importation, as early as 1902, of Japanese oyster "seed" to the west coast of the United States. So successful has been the development that today the Pacific oyster is a strong competitor with our own industry.

Control of oyster pests is also an important work of the laboratory. In fact, practically everything done at Grand Pass is designed to help Louisiana's oyster navy.

While the hybridization experiment is by no means complete and has encountered certain obstacles, Mr. Kavanagh has produced, through cross-fertilization, "oysters (though embryonic) which were of a new type". These oysters were cultured through the embryo stage and into the larval stage, over a total period of two or three days. At that time the oysters would be well-formed larvae.

"Yet," Mr. Kavanagh's report explains, "through some imperfection in the culture technique, the oysters were never brought to the final, attached or adult age.

"The factors in the culture which made it impossible to produce adult oysters are still under investigation, the end being, of course, a refinement in the technique which will make possible the production of attached oysters."

The oyster division has recommended to the state engineers that a survey be made to determine the feasibility and expense involved in securing

Enthusiastic customers at a local oyster counter demonstrate the fallacy of the belief that oysters are only good during the R months.



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additional fresh water for the oyster beds of Jefferson and upper Plaquemines parishes. These areas suffer, it was said, from lack of fresh water at certain periods of the year. Growing oysters need fresh water and plenty of it. It combats parasites and provides fresh water diatoms, a principal oyster food. It is only after they are two years or more old that they are moved out into salt water beds to give the famous "Louisiana flavor" to counter oysters.

These are some of the facts which will sort themselves out for you after your talks with oyster fishermen of Jefferson Parish and officials of the oyster division of the Department of Conservation. They are all doing excellent work in developing a little known but very important industry of the state's lower parishes. Louisiana oysters are widely and favorably known in this country. But, their fame has spread mainly because of recent tremendous increases in New Orleans' tourist traffic. Our visitors have come to the oyster far oftener than the oyster has gone to them. It is of record that the season's "crop" moves fast in all three classifications, with very little surplus stocks left between times. However, the state has available a greater area suitable for oyster cultivation than any other oyster producing state: 500,000 acres, on which two crops can be raised in the time that it takes to grow one in competitive northern states.

Louisiana's oyster industry is not over-crowded. It offers opportunity to men of some intelligence and an infinite capacity for work. Approximately fifty thousand acres of natural reefs covered with wild oysters can be leased from the state for a period of fifteen years with the privilege of renewal, at the surprisingly low figure of \$1.00 per acre per year. Open winters make it possible for oyster fishing to be carried on during the entire season. An abundance of experienced labor can be obtained for reasonable wages. The configuration of the Louisiana coast with its broad frontage of marshes, far from population centers, renders the oyster grounds of the state immune from sewage pollution.

The oyster division of the conservation department stands constantly ready to share the benefits of its research and experience with the oyster fisherman for the asking. The division is now sponsoring a project whereby approximately 300,000 barrels of oysters will be removed from those natural reefs where an excessive amount of seed stock is now growing, and planted on reefs on which at this time there is a scarcity of oysters. The result of this operation, it is said, will not only produce a better grade of oysters in the newly planted areas, but will also increase the value of the reefs from which the oysters are taken. Breaking up the clusters and removing the excess stock makes an increased food supply available on the old reefs.

Jefferson Parish authorities, as well as those of other oyster growing parishes, are anxious to cooperate with producers already in the field, and willing to assist as far as possible others who contemplate entry into it.

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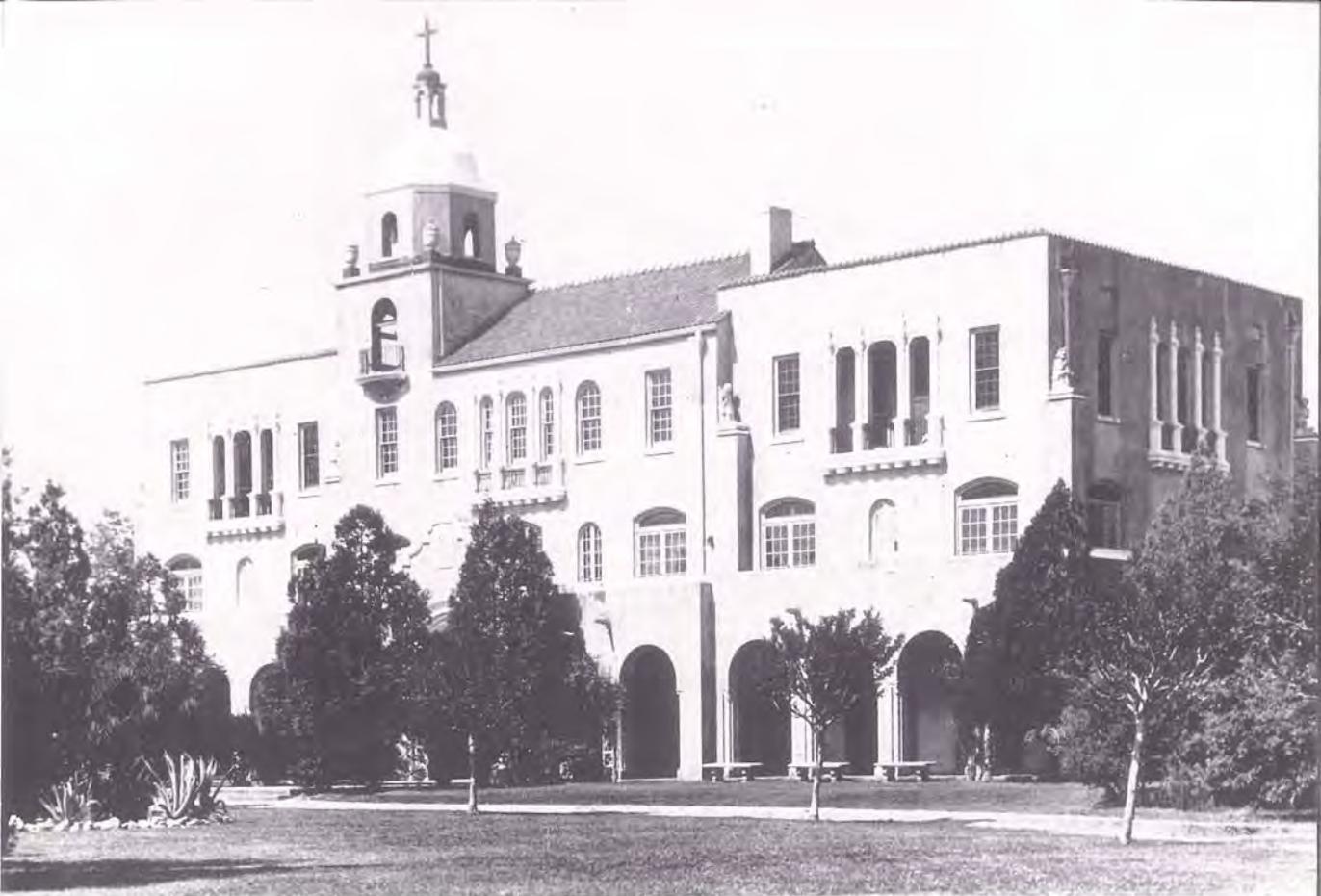
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The Heart of Jefferson's Boy's Town, the administration building at Hope Haven.

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ROGER BAUDIER
Catholic Historian of Louisiana

(Editor's Note: Mr. Baudier, Associate Editor of "Catholic Action of the South," has recently published a 600-page volume, the first complete history of the Catholic Church in the State of Louisiana.)

The movies, Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney have publicized widely the fame of Father Flanagan's Boys' Town, but Jefferson Parish boasts of a million-dollar institution that rivals the famous Nebraska community and has become the pride not only of Jefferson Parish, but of the whole state of Louisiana. So it is with particular pleasure that we introduce Hope Haven, Madonna Manor and the Deaf-Mute Institute that nestle in the bosom of Jefferson like tots in the arms of their mother.

Nearly two decades ago, the Right Reverend Monsignor Peter M. H. Wynhoven, Jefferson Parish's own Father Flanagan, was heavy-hearted over the plight of orphaned and abandoned children crowded in antiquated buildings and in walled-in yards of the city. He dreamed dreams of doing things for

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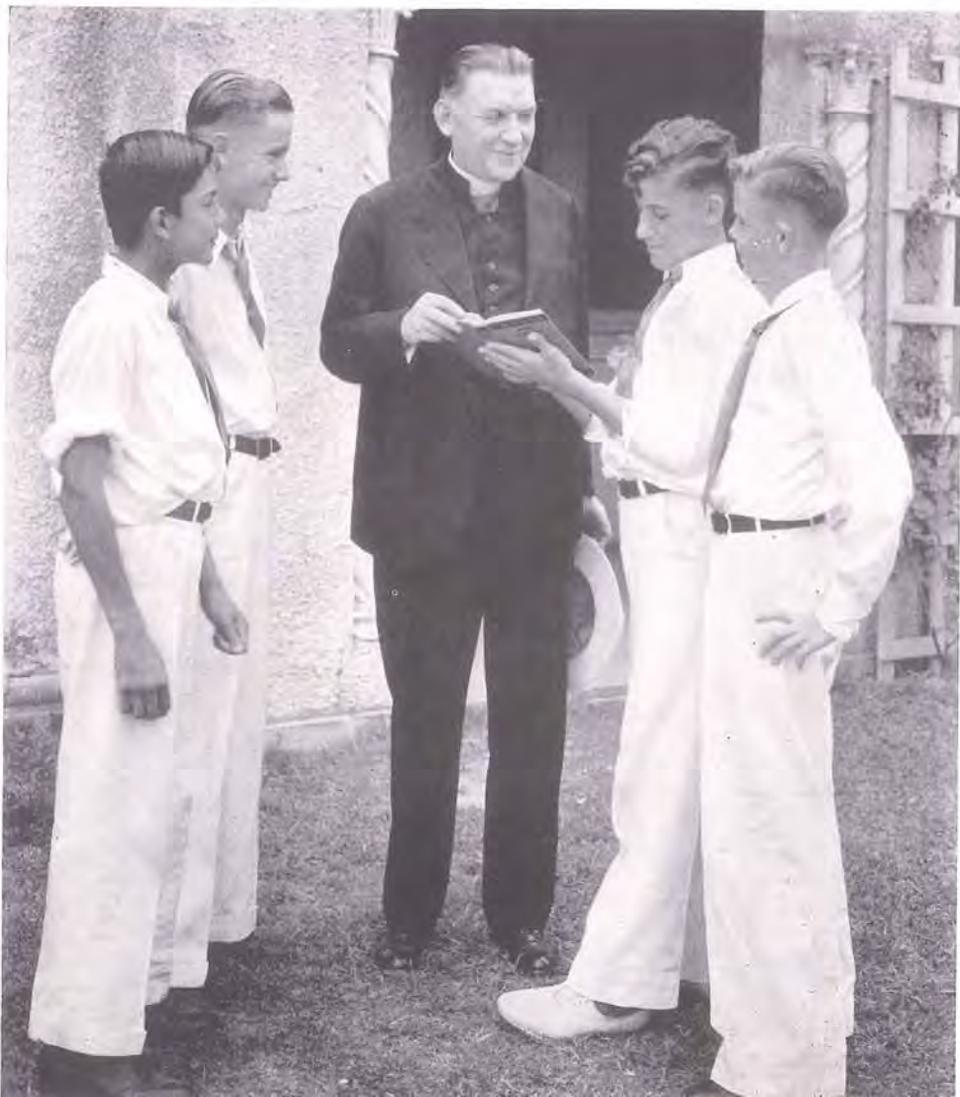
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them, a dream home, a real homelike place, where they could be trained before going out into the world, ready to earn their way, instead of being turned out helpless and unprepared to fight for survival. But above all, he wanted a place for them in the great wide open spaces, under the immensities of the blue sky, in the healthfulness of the country, yet close enough to the conveniences and advantages of the city; a place where they could have the blessing of the outdoors instead of the dingy confinement behind high brick walls, with only "a little patch of blue above that prisoners call the sky."

For a decade he had lived in Jefferson Parish, ministering to souls. He knew his staunch and loyal people of Jefferson. He knew as well that beautiful land that God had blessed so abundantly—the rich, grass-grown fields, the tree-dotted expanses where things grew as if by magic, the open spaces where the Gulf winds swept clean the deep blue sky, the healthful meadows and the homes that dotted them, so seldom marred by sickness—Jefferson Parish! That would be the spot for his miniature city of boys and girls and tiny tots whom the world had cast on doorsteps or the world forgot after dads and mothers had gone to the Great Beyond.

Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. H. Wynhoven, and four of his young men from Hope Haven. Father Wynhoven has given the better part of his life to this plant devoted to the manufacture of good citizens, and he has wonderful results to show for it.



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And so, as one writer has stated, he began the tremendous task of transforming those dreams into brick and mortar and buildings, and getting people interested in his dream. "He started with a shack and a shed and a silo in an abandoned field." People stopped to listen to him, to watch

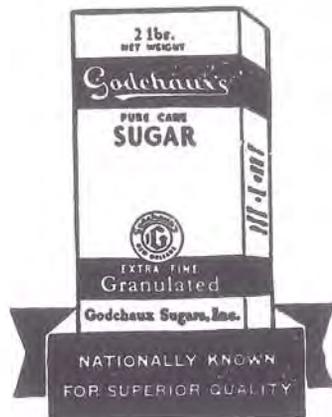
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his efforts, and quickly they understood the great work for humanity he had undertaken. The springs of better selves in men and women bubbled forth with the needed funds—from Jews, Protestants and Catholics the money came, amazingly and generously. That work in Jefferson Parish fields was a bond that brought together all creeds to help helpless tots.

Today, Hope Haven, Madonna Manor and the Chinchuba Deaf-Mute Institute, known the nation over, stand as Jefferson Parish's own famed Boys' Town, a unique institution, representing an investment of more than one million dollars, comprising almost a dozen substantial buildings in Spanish mission style, peering out of shrub and tree clusters, or standing out boldly in their warm stucco fronts with cool-shadowed arcades and red tile roofs in the bright sun, all more like a group of buildings at a Florida resort than an institution.

The first in the group of buildings to be erected on the Baratavia Road below Marrero was Hope Haven, begun in 1925. It was formally dedicated by the late Archbishop Shaw in 1930. Monsignor Wynhoven planned it as an industrial home and farm, where boys would be taught trades and prepared to take their place in the world as useful citizens. One of his principal thoughts was to make it a homelike place and to eliminate any semblance of old-time asylums and regimentation. And this was one of the reasons for its unusual name. Instead of concentrating all departments into the usual long, bare building with the customary huge dormitory, as asylums were always built for decades, he planned the institution in a number of buildings and wings to provide care for small groups.

The central structure in the entire plan is the Mrs. John Dibert administration building, funds for which were donated by the wealthy New Orleans

Swimming pool and Julian Saenger Gymnasium, Hope Haven. This spot is the center of life for the Hope Haven boys all during the long summer.



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Madonna Manor is beautifully set in the midst of enormous grounds.

philanthropist of another Faith. This striking building, with its patios, arcades and imposing mission tower, contain offices, parlors, and library and in the wings, class rooms, dining rooms, several dormitories and kitchen. On each side of this main structure are cottages to house the older boys who work on the premises.

To the left of the administration building is the Dr. Marcus Feingold Mechanical and Arts Building, which contains a print shop, a bookbindery, woodwork shop, laundry, garage and cobbler's shop.

At the opposite end of the administration building is the now famous Hope Haven Dairy, which has won high honors for its high grade milk and breed cattle, winners of many blue ribbons, running true to Jefferson Parish traditions in the cattle and dairy industries. Farther back on the same side are the barn and the Agricultural Building.

In the rear of the central building, at the far end of the campus, stands the spacious Julian Saenger Gymnasium, donated by the New Orleans theater magnate, to provide a recreation hall for the children and play quarters for the boys at all times, regardless of the season or the weather.

On the left side of the campus is the swimming pool and bath-house, where boys swim daily throughout the summer months. During the vacation days, the pool is used almost all day by the happy youngsters, according to Very Rev. Celestine Moskal, S.C., present director of the institution.

Hope Haven is now used for older boys between the ages of 13 and 16 years. There they receive besides regular schooling, training in some trade to prepare them with a means of livelihood for the future. Printing, type-

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Mother Philomene of Madonna Manor is a firm, kindly and loving foster-mother to the little boys in her charge. Asked if many of her charges were adopted, she says "nobody loves little boys, but we like them better than little girls".

setting, bookbinding, cabinet work, carpentering, wood-carving, dairying, farming and other trades are taught by the Salesians, a Catholic religious order of priests and Brothers who devote their life to this type of work exclusively. In addition to these trades, the boys have an opportunity to learn musical instruments, for Hope Haven boasts of a large, excellent band, with a replacement division, which frequently takes part in civic functions and parades in Jefferson Parish and in New Orleans.

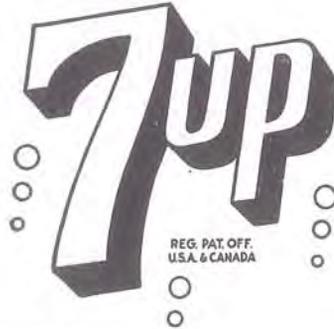
At the print shop of Hope Haven is produced weekly the "Catholic Action of the South," the official organ of the four dioceses in Louisiana and Mississippi, and the largest circulation Catholic paper in the South, a Jefferson Parish product.

Life in Hope Haven is happy and activities are endless. Besides plays produced periodically by the dramatic groups among the pupils, the boys attend affairs at Madonna Manor, are taken frequently to nearby towns and to the city for moving pictures, ball games, circuses, picnics and other events, and carry out an enthusiastic program of athletics.

Across the Barataria Road from Hope Haven is Madonna Manor, where in the imposing and beautiful buildings, smaller boys up to the age of 12 are cared for by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, an order of Nuns dedicated to the education of children. Few institutions can boast of such beautiful quarters as are provided by Madonna Manor or such a homelike atmosphere as prevails there. Life goes on just as at any highclass boarding school. Every attention is given to the children in the way of educational

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Chapel and school, Madonna Manor. A new chapel is being built, and upon its completion this portion of the school building will be converted into a gymnasium.

equipment and health protection, besides religious and character guidance by the 16 Sisters on the staff.

Since 1932 when Madonna Manor was founded by Monsignor Wynhoven as part of his plan for a Boys' Town in Jefferson Parish, Mother Philomene has guided the destinies of the home, becoming a true mother to many scores of homeless and parentless tots. So beloved has she become that annually a unique program is carried out there by the children, a Mother's Day celebration in honor of the only mother they know, Mother Philomene.

The main building of Madonna Manor is built in the form of a hollow square and in the central square or court is a spacious swimming pool surrounded by cool protected arcades. In this building, which is also designed throughout in Spanish mission style, are the offices, an auditorium, an infirmary, a dentist's office (completely equipped), a doctor's examination room, the kitchen, dining rooms, study rooms and a number of small dormitories, for here as at Hope Haven, the small-group-care program is carried out. Each dormitory accommodates 30 children.

Across the campus is a combination school and chapel, the latter being used jointly by the children of Hope Haven and Madonna Manor. When a separate chapel building is completed, the temporary one will be converted into a gymnasium. Regular classes are conducted and the same curriculum as in ordinary schools is followed.

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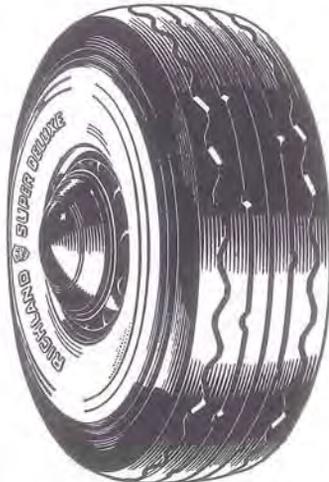
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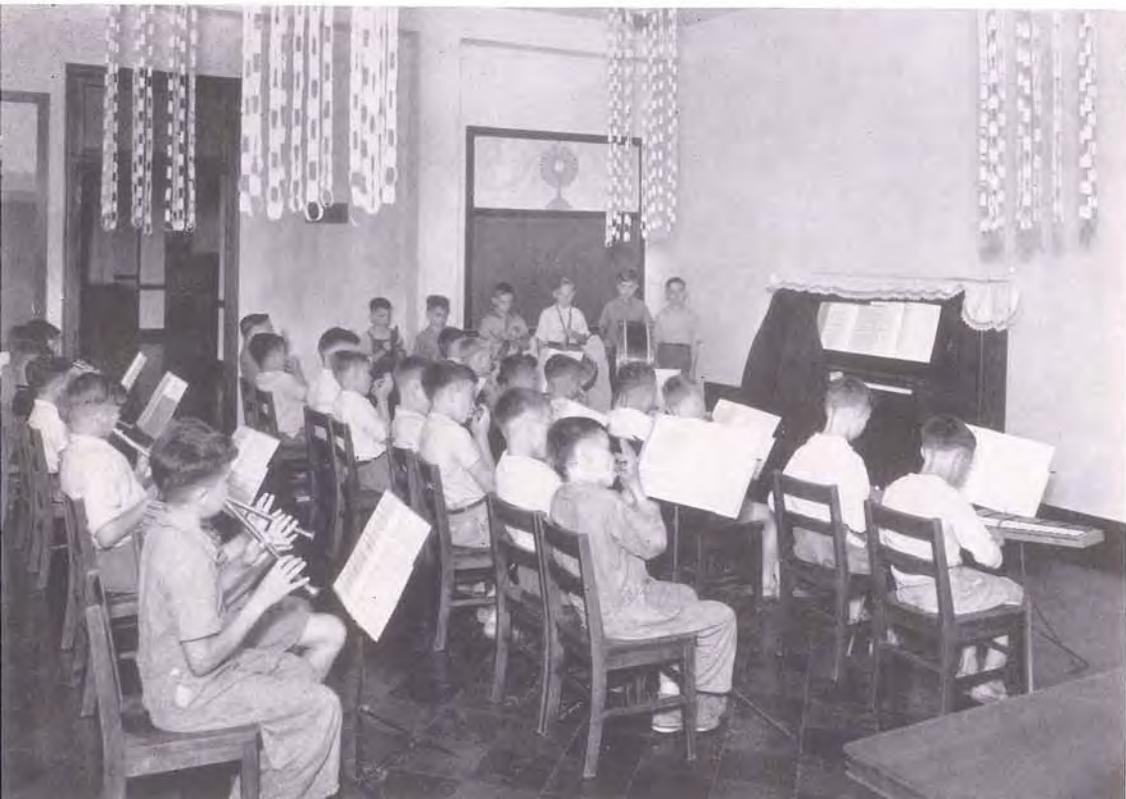
TIRES AND TUBES



Indoors at Madonna Manor, children have their own toys and treasures, and ample space to play with them.

Every child has a locker where it may save its belongings. In each dormitory are complete lavatories and showers. Extreme cleanliness is an inescapable feature of Madonna Manor, among the children as well as in every corner of the institution.

Madonna Manor has three bands: harmonica, rhythm, and instrumental.



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It's bedtime at Madonna Manor, and one of the sisters supervises such a tubbing, scrubbing and showering as you never saw before.

Once each month the children present a theatrical performance. Three times a year Madonna Manor offers musical and dramatic programs to which the boys of Hope Haven are invited, and three times during the year, the Hope Haven boys reciprocate. The institution has three bands—harmonica, rhythm and instrumental.

Madonna Manor has been adopted by members of Court Blanche of Castile No. 154, Catholic Daughters of America, as their special charity. Each child has a foster godmother, who provides a Christmas and birthday present and other gifts. The members also furnish each year a summer ice-cream party, a Hallowe'en party and an Easter-egg hunt. In addition, the Court has provided Madonna Manor with a complete set of playground equipment and a spacious refrigerator. At Hope Haven, the Don Bosco Circle, a woman's auxiliary, looks after the clothing of the boys.

The latest addition to this inspiring Boys' Town in Jefferson Parish is the Chinchuba Deaf-Mute Institute, a spacious, airy building with the most modern devices to help afflicted children to overcome the handicaps of deafness and muteness. This school also is directed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The present building was erected during the past year (1939) and occupied for the first time last February (1940).

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Here young boys and girls are trained by patient Sisters to formulate sounds to give expression to their thoughts by means of words (even though they do not hear their own speech), instead of relying only upon the sign language. Those who are deaf are taught lip-reading. The Sisters on the staff as well as attending teachers take special training in this work and the most unusual success has attended their work in this field.

The Chinchuba Institute dates back to the 1890s, when the late Very Rev. H. Canon Mignot, rector of the New Orleans Cathedral, devoted all his inheritance from his parents toward the establishment of an institution for the education of the deaf-mutes, a field that theretofore had been almost entirely neglected. The school was first established at Chinchuba, La., near Mandeville, but it burned down almost completely in November, 1934. For a time thereafter it was housed in the old St. Joseph's Orphanage building in New Orleans, and this year, it was moved to the Hope Haven-Madonna Manor group in Jefferson Parish, because of the advantages of the locality.

The health of the children in these three divisions of Monsignor Wynhoven's establishment rates high and it is constantly protected by watchful care and frequent examinations conducted by Tulane University medical students, a group of whom reside on the premises. In addition, there is a staff of regular visiting physicians, pediatricians, dentists, oculists and specialists. However, as to bodily ailments, there are extremely few. The insight and judgment of Monsignor Wynhoven have been proved eminently correct for years, as the salubrious atmosphere of Jefferson Parish has been the best protection for the hundreds of boys and girls who live in this famous Boys' Town of Jefferson. At Madonna Manor, for example, during the eight years of its existence, there have been but two deaths, and, as Mother Philomene testi-

The youngsters at Madonna Manor are taught to take care of themselves and their possessions, even to making their own beds. Each child has his own special duties for which he is responsible.



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Outdoors at Madonna Manor, there is a completely equipped playground, given by Court Blanche of Castile No. 154, Catholic Daughters of America.

fies, both children were ill before they were brought to the institution. Physicians' care has been restricted almost entirely to tonsil cases and colds, usual sicknesses of infancy and customary minor injuries from play.

Besides the robust health of the many children, another feature of Hope Haven, Madonna Manor and the Deaf-Mute Institute that strikes the visitor is that in all that vast expanse of grounds where the children gather to romp and play to their hearts' content, there is no wall, no fence. The spirit that is instilled and that prevails is that this is home and where there is a sense of home, there is no need for confining walls. It is the spirit that Monsignor Wynhoven planned should exist at all times.

The institution is maintained through gifts and membership in the New Orleans Community Chest. Jefferson Parish also contributes for the care of orphan children that it places there. Intake and discharge of the children is directed by the Associated Catholic Charities, the official charity agency for the Archdiocese of New Orleans to which the institution belongs. Utmost care is used in the placement of children leaving the institution and constant contact is maintained with such placements. When a child is received, every precaution is taken to prevent the child from bringing in some communicable disease, so immediately a rigid medical examination is given. Any physical defects or ailments are promptly treated.

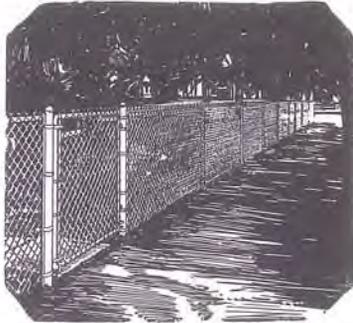
And so in this wonderful little city that rears its beautiful Spanish mission buildings along the Barataria Road of Jefferson Parish, the broken lives of little ones are taken up and mended by kindly and sympathetic workers who devote

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their own lives to this work. Boys and girls are prepared in the healthful outdoors of rural Jefferson to face the world with hearts and minds and hands ready to take their place among their fellowmen and women in society, just as Monsignor Wynhoven dreamed about and planned and struggled for some two decades ago.

Jefferson Parish is proud of its industries, proud of its resources, proud of its facilities and schools, and proud of its energetic and ambitious citizenry but it is especially proud of its Boys' Town, its unique Hope Haven, Madonna Manor and Deaf-Mute Institute, that make Jefferson truly unique among all the parishes of the Pelican State, because of the beautiful and inspiring humanitarian work that is being conducted within its confines, in such a beautiful and inspiring manner.



At the deaf-mute institute, especially trained nuns teach speech and lipreading. Here a small unfortunate is taught by mirror to enunciate words that she will never hear, but which will help her to get along in the outside world.



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Jefferson Parish may be regarded as one of the great gateways to the Southwest, for through it runs one of Louisiana's main arteries, the Airline Highway, which is part of a national highway system which extends from Jacksonville, Florida, to San Diego, California; from New Orleans to Madison, Wisconsin, and from New Orleans to the Canadian shores of Lake Superior.

It is natural therefore that Jefferson Parish should have enjoyed an expansion both in industry and in population, and that there has been a constant demand for new residential sections, streets and other projects, and the WPA is proud that it has been able to do its share in enabling the officials of Jefferson Parish to meet part of these demands during the past four and a half years.

During these four and a half years, cumulative through December 31, 1939, the Work Projects Administration and sponsors have spent more than \$2,000,000 in the Jefferson Parish area. Of these funds the major portion has been spent through the Operations Division of the WPA for construction work. A small percentage has been used in the operation of two sewing projects, adult education, and parish public records projects. All other Professional

This shining interior of the courtroom in the Gretna Courthouse is the result of the remodeling and refinishing work done by the WPA and the Police Jury. The entire courthouse is being done over, inside and out, and when completed will be a model for other parishes to emulate.



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and Service, or non-construction, projects in the parish have been operated through statewide allocations.

Evidences of the work done and now being carried on are to be seen everywhere. A large part of the funds expended have been used for parish-wide projects such as surface and subsurface drainage, concrete sidewalks, concrete, gravel and dirt roads and streets, concrete curbs and gutter bottoms, including excavation, fill, grading, concrete and gravel surfacing and paving; concrete pipe, manholes, catch basins and work incident to the general health and comfort of both those in transit and residents of the parish.

Adequate drainage in Jefferson Parish is effected through the maintenance of ditches, canals and pumping stations in the Lafourche Basin Levee District, the Jefferson-Plaquemines, Second Jefferson, Fourth Jefferson, Sixth Jefferson and Lafitte Drainage Districts, and the governing bodies of these organizations responsible for the maintenance and extension of drainage have been aided by the WPA in their work.

At present work is being completed at the Jefferson-Plaquemines Pumping Station, on Bayou Barataria which, when finished, will effect the drainage of more than 35,000 acres of land into the Intracoastal canal. Additional boilers, new machinery and a 135-foot brick smokestack have been installed to augment the facilities at the Jefferson-Plaquemines station which will increase the pumping capacity of the station to 284,360 gallons per minute. Maintenance of a low water level in the canals and ditches in this district has already aided residents of the City of Gretna and its environs in draining their streets during heavy rainfall.

In the Fourth Jefferson Drainage District \$176,806.44 has been spent by the WPA and Jefferson Parish on three projects. The first of these was begun in 1937, and consisted of reconstruction of drainage ditches in the district. The second, started in 1938 enlarged and deepened drainage canals and reconstructed Pumping Plant Station No. 1. The third project included surface

Hector Avenue, Metairie, showing concrete sidewalks, curbing and gutter bottoms laid by the WPA and parish sponsors. A great deal of this work has been done on various WPA projects throughout Jefferson by the WPA, in the interest of safety and better drainage.



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WPA repairs to the Jefferson-Plaquemines Drainage District Plant included the erection of this new brick smokestack. Such construction will last and be useful for generations.

drainage, cleaning and reconstructing main drainage ditches from their source to the main canal in the drainage district. This project, begun this year, is still in progress.

Sub-surface storm drainage is now being installed on the Metairie Road between the Shrewsbury Road and the Orleans parish line. This road, at times, has been rendered impassable in spots due to heavy rainfall. Adequate drainage of this main artery for traffic to the north which services 12,000 persons in the area will materially aid the parish and its residents.

During the past four and a half years the WPA and sponsors have paved, graveled, graded or generally improved 82.7 miles of highways, roads and streets. WPA workers have erected two bridges in the parish and installed 292 new culverts, totaling 8,808 feet and repaired 53 culverts totaling 715 feet. They have installed and dug 10.2 miles of roadside pipes and ditches, and reconstructed and improved 162.2 miles of ditches.

In aiding the safety and improvement of conditions in Jefferson Parish WPA workers have paved 89.3 miles of sidewalks and 17.2 miles of curbing. They have constructed one new playground, erected a new pumping station in the Westwego area with a pumping capacity of 41,361 gallons per minute,



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and have increased the pumping capacity of the previously mentioned Jefferson-Plaquemines pumping station to 284,360 gallons per minute. They have installed 89 miles of sewerage service connections, 97 manholes and catch basins and 1,434 sanitary privies in the parish.

During the four and a half year period WPA workers have constructed 10,560 linear feet of levees and improved and reconstructed 10,283 feet of levee. They have constructed 1,600 square feet of wharfage and improved 11 miles of artificial water channels in the parish.

On non-construction projects WPA workers in the Professional and Service project for literacy and naturalization taught 719 illiterates of the parish to read and write and enabled 29 persons to become United States citizens. Figures for January 10 through 24, 1940, showed 254 persons enrolled in literacy classes and 34 persons receiving naturalization instruction. During the four and a half year period workers renovated 986 public school library volumes on the bookbinding project and workers on the sewing project manufactured more than 82,000 men's, women's, children's, and infant's garments for distribution among the needy by welfare workers.

The Historical Records Survey has completed an inventory of Jefferson Parish and has transcribed three volumes of police jury minutes which date back to the beginning of the parish government.

Jefferson Parish is one of those governmental sub-divisions of the state of Louisiana which early realized the benefits that would be achieved through cooperation with the Federal government in its program of work for the unemployed. Consequently, Jefferson Parish and its own governmental sub-divisions are among our most cooperative sponsors who, through their sponsorship of WPA projects, not only have acquired work benefits for their unemployed but many useful public improvements.





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The New Orleans-Hammond Lakeshore link in U. S. route 33 from the Crescent City to Chicago is something more than a projected scenic strip over which north-south traffic from the top of the Mississippi Valley could be routed on its way to the gates of New Orleans. It is true, of course, that when and if this waterside highway is completed it will provide a beautiful drive of 25 miles along Lake Pontchartrain—cool, smooth and diverting.

Jefferson Parish, however, has a larger stake in the culmination of this 16-year old dream than appears at first glance. Parish authorities, represented by the Fourth Jefferson Drainage District Board, recognized the size of the stake and sought to protect it by contracting with the Reynolds Dredging Company on July 23, 1924, for the construction of a protection levee eight feet high above mean lake water level and extending along the shore of Lake Pontchartrain from the Orleans Parish line to the St. Charles Parish line. This levee, if built, would protect the lands of Jefferson Parish which border the lake from storm waters, or unusually high tides, and it was toward this end that the drainage board was working when it let the contract to the dredging company.

On August 31, 1926, two years following the action of the board, the Louisiana Highway Commission by resolution took over, in effect, the entire project of levee building and added to it the construction of the Lakeshore Highway Link to U. S. 33. The commission ordered the fill for the

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road to be built one hundred feet wide at an elevation of four feet above the mean lake water level. For the construction of this embankment, the contractor was to dig as a borrow pit a regular size canal, about fourteen feet deep. In this operation, the Highway Commission worked as far as LaBranch, in St. Charles parish. On completion of the levee-roadway, the contractor was required to refill the borrow pit by hydraulic dredging from Lake Pontchartrain, where a clay soil was obtained from the lake bottom. This was done, but due to the character of the soil in that area, the retaining walls of the borrow pit-canal were too soft to hold this pumped-in clay, and the result of this operation was a spreading over the adjacent area, which raised the general land level in that vicinity. At the present time this raised land is being used extensively for homesites, farms, dairys and other businesses.

Besides this fill for Route 33, the Louisiana Highway Commission constructed four bridges in Jefferson Parish, one over the outfall canal of each pumping plant of the Fourth Jefferson Drainage District along the proposed route.

Although the embankment extends to the St. Charles parish line, and is maintained as a part of the Lake protection levee for the drainage district, the Highway Commission was forced to abandon work on the route after shelling a roadway as far as Williams Boulevard. Williams Boulevard is in the rear of Kenner, in Jefferson Parish, and this shell road is being maintained at the present time by the Highway Commission.



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Abandonment of the proposed route by the Highway Commission occurred when its engineers realized that it would be impossible to properly build or maintain any such roadway without the protection of a seawall constructed along the lakefront. This seawall is a vital need not only for the protection of any roadway to be constructed, but also to protect property in Jefferson Parish on the east bank from damage from overflow water. A great deal of money is invested in this area, which includes the fast growing Metairie section, both in homes and in industrial building. As a matter of fact, since construction, the embankment has sunk approximately two feet, and during the high water of February, 1937, when the Bonnet Carre Spillway was flowing, raising the lake level, the Highway Commission and the WPA forces from New Orleans expended one hundred thousand dollars sand-bagging the embankment to prevent overflow into the Fourth Jefferson Drainage District, and thence into the city of New Orleans.

The original proposed Lakeshore Highway was to have been built with funds allocated from Highway Fund No. 2 which revenues are derived from auto license taxes from the several parishes abutting on the lake in this vicinity. However, when the Commission reached the conclusion that the highway was impractical without the protection of a seawall, it was also evident that no sufficient funds were available for its construction. During the life of the Public Works Administration an application was made by the Louisiana Highway Commission for the construction of a seawall from the Orleans Parish Line to the lower levee of the Bonnet Carre Spillway, at a cost of approximately \$6,900,000, but at the time the PWA was curtailing its activities, and the application was not approved.

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The War Department, which controls the Spillway, was appealed to under Flood Control Act Public No. 391 Sec. 4 of the 70th Congress, which allows reimbursement for damages caused by waters dispersed by the spillway, but liability was denied.

Hon. Paul H. Maloney, Representative of the Second District, introduced House Bill No. 7735 on January 8, 1940, in the 76th Congress, authorizing the War Department to survey and report on this area, but this has not as yet been acted on.

In spite of these disappointments, Jefferson will continue to work for this very vital factor in the upbuilding of the Parish. Should any further federal monies be spent in the Parish, this project is one of the utmost importance. It is the only protection between flood and storm waters of Lake Pontchartrain and the East Bank, as has been said before. Included in the private investments in this section is the fifty thousand watt WWL radio transmitting station, and among the public works on the East Bank that have been completed in the more recent past are a million dollar sewerage system; a one and one-half million dollar waterworks system; a two and one-half million dollar drainage system; and many paved highways. All of this more than deserves protection, and this protection can also give the Parish a beautiful scenic highway that can be enjoyed by all.



Another view of the tree shaded quiet of Forest Hills.





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STAGING A HUMAN DRAMA IN JEFFERSON

MARJORIE ARBOUR

Assistant Extension Editor, Louisiana State University

A human drama is being enacted in many communities in Jefferson parish, a drama that has as its moral the betterment of home and farm conditions, so that those participating may live fuller and happier lives. If all the world is a stage, and all the people actors, then it is fitting that these home demonstration "troupeurs" in Jefferson Parish communities are enacting this drama which is based on realism and idealism.

Realism is the underlying theme of this bit of acting, for it strips life of its glamour and its deception and it faces the economic and sociological problems with a realness of purpose. Meals are planned with the idea of feeding the family properly, not simply to give sustenance; home are re-decorated, and refurnished, not in an expensive or expansive manner, but in the most economical way possible; foods are conserved, not by an eeny-meenie-miny-mo, or even less accurate system, but the family needs are budgeted and the number of cans of various foods required to satisfy their dietary needs are conserved. This is a realism of the drama, the idealism is written between the lines. For back of all this great activity, the motivating force is to bring spiritual satisfaction to that great American institution—THE FAMILY.

Staging this splendid drama in the field of home demonstration in Jefferson is Mrs. Thelma P. Gray. For four years she has been an itinerant



Winners in the Home Demonstration Club contest proudly display their prize-winning entries. Front row, left to right: Mimes. Gertie DeSalvo, F. I. Faqot, Justin F. Bordenave, H. Barksdale and O. Brostrom. Back row: Mrs. S. J. Somerville.

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"trouper" going from community to community not only organizing groups of women but enlisting the young girls who are anxious to pattern their lives after the grown ups so that their economic future would likewise hold more promise. There are some two-hundred women and nearly 300 girls who are putting over this great program. They are putting on good acts that everyone in Barataria, Grand Isle, Harahan, Hanson City, McDonoghville, Met-



They not only wear clothes beautifully, but they make beautiful clothes. These dresses, worn by their makers, were judged best in the 4-H Clothing Contest at Achievement Day in Jefferson this year, and will compete in the statewide contest in Baton Rouge. Left to right the proud seamstresses are: Pearl Freeman, (school dress) junior girls; Marie Louise Odendahl, (party dress); and Muriel Schroeder, (school dress) senior girls.

airie, Westwego, Gretna, Marrero, Kenner and Jefferson Parish as a whole should observe.

Just recently eight 4-H club girls staged a Dress Revue which was a convincing illustration of what the clothing project means to young women still in their teens. Each girl wore the dress that she had made herself. Here was no display of gaudiness, opulence or extravagance, but rather a dem-

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onstration of the fact that attractive garments need not be expensive. Each girl told of the cost of her costume and the prices were amazingly small.

Running in close competition to the dress revue in interest was an all-day Achievement Day which was dramatically presented by five of the home demonstration clubs. On this occasion the women brought more than 100 jars of canned foods and they proudly displayed them as judges from Louisiana State University judged and appraised them. But the display of their products was just one phase of the day's program. Each club presented an original play in which they stressed some important phase of food preservation. These playlets were convincingly presented and many folks asserted that more people should be profiting from this program.

An innovation added to activities of the troupers has been the broadcasting that both the women and the girls have engaged in. Over WWL they have put on programs that have been heard by large audiences in all the southern states. In addition the women and girls have attended short courses at the Louisiana State University where they have given good accounts of themselves and where they have received new inspiration to carry on the home demonstration and club drama in Jefferson.

And so the curtain remains up as this continuous performance goes on, a performance which, in time, will continue to draw more and more folks of Jefferson as they become acquainted with it. This program is designed to attract all and the "old trouper," Mrs. Gray, says she wants to add to her already capable and efficient list of "actors."

It's great fun—this human drama, why not sign up?

OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF GRETNA

Seated, left to right: Frank Bessler, Alderman; Henry F. Bender, Alderman; Edward J. Strehle, Mayor; Beaugard Miller, Chief of Police; G. Ashton Cox, Alderman, and John T. Gegenheimer, Alderman.

Standing, left to right: Burt G. Strehle, Engineer; Julius F. Hotard, Clerk; Andrew H. Thalheim, Attorney; Eugene Gehring, Alderman; N. B. Knight, Treasurer, and Wm. E. Strehle, Tax Collector and Superintendent of Waterworks.



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August Beyers, welfare client, tends his garden. Mr. and Mrs. Beyers, who live in a homemade shack on the batture between Harahan and Kenner, have taken for their own to cultivate the fertile top of the old levee abandoned when a new levee was built by the Government, farther from the encroaching river. Thus do the energetic citizens find ways and means to help themselves, and Mr. Beyers' promising crop shows that he is not totally dependent on outside aid.

JEFFERSON MINISTERS TO HER NEEDY

MARGARET DUNLAP PELLEGRIN

Director Jefferson Parish Department of Public Welfare

The records of the welfare workers of any community are an infallible index to the true condition of that community, and when such records show that the percentage of assistance needed by the community is relatively low, then, inversely, the condition of that community is good.

It is not lightly or thoughtlessly that Jefferson Parish claims to be a progressive parish, with opportunity for all, in good sound economic condition. The latest figures released by the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare bear out this contention. Studying these statistics for the state as a whole, broken down into parishes, Jefferson may well be proud of her people, and the way in which they evidently are able to take care of themselves without outside aid. Percentage of aid given as compared to total population is presented in these Welfare tables in three classifications, namely: Families receiving public assistance grants; old age assistance grants; and aid to dependent children. In each of these Jefferson is below the state average, and in the first two is far below that average. As a matter of fact, for the months covered by the report Jefferson was tenth lowest in the general category of families receiving public assistance grants, 54 of the state's 64 parishes having a higher percentage of needy families.

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One of the State Welfare Department's fleet of dental trailers. These fully equipped dentist's offices cover the entire state, and one is here shown embarking on a ferry at the beginning of a trip into the marsh country. The trailer comes to the people by boat, and the people gather by boat from miles around for dental treatment.

The Louisiana State Board of Public Welfare, established by Legislative act, consists of five members appointed by the Governor. The Board selects the Commissioner of the Department, who is the executive and administrative officer of the State Department and serves as secretary of the Board. The Commissioner appoints State and Parish personnel necessary for the administration of the law. The law provides for the creation of bureaus deemed necessary by the Commissioner.

The Welfare Organization Act establishes a parish department of public welfare in each parish of the State. In each parish there is a parish board of public welfare, consisting of five members who serve overlapping terms. The present members of the Jefferson Parish Board are: L. C. Stenger, Chairman; Justin F. Bordenave, William Maus and Albert Riviere. There is one vacancy. There is a Parish director, who is the executive and administrative officer of the parish department, and other necessary employees.

There are four types of public assistance, namely, Old Age Assistance, Aid to Dependent Children, Aid to the Needy Blind, and Others Assistance. The first three are called Social Security categories because there is Federal participation of money. Others Assistance is the State category for those needy persons who do not qualify for aid under one of the Social Security categories but who are in need and sick, or otherwise handicapped. Public assistance includes more than financial aid, as each person is an individual with needs aside from those of food, clothing and shelter which are peculiar to his particular situation and which exist because of his life experiences. It is the responsibility of the parish department staff members to understand these needs and give helpful services. Sometimes service only is what a person

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may be seeking and so far as possible with resources which the department has, it is made available to him upon request.

After the Department of Public Welfare proved a success in Louisiana, the Commissioner, who is also Director of the State Hospital Board, took further steps in helping the destitute in the boundaries of Louisiana. These steps became a reality when on December 6, 1937, eight thoroughly equipped dental trailers wended their way into Baton Rouge for final inspection. Each of these dental trailers has a certain number of districts to cover. This includes every highway and byway of the State.

The rules for dental services are simple. There are no limitations on age; and parish residence will not be considered by a person desiring free dental care, but he must have resided in the State of Louisiana for at least one year. Those desiring this service must also be in need. Only persons receiving public assistance or who have applied for and will be eligible for public assistance are entitled to free dental service, or persons or members of families active with the Works Project Administration, and Farm Security Administration are eligible.

On December 20, 1937, Unit No. 1 of the traveling clinics came to Gretna. This visit proved a success and 59 patients were given treatment. On the last trip made by the dental clinic No. 9, manned by two dentists, 255 patients were treated within a period of 18 days. During the time the dental clinic has been available to Jefferson Parish, 1811 persons have been treated. When this trailer is in the parish it is stationed for one or more days in almost every community, thereby bringing the dental service almost to the doors of those who are in need of and eligible for free dental treatment.

OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN OF WESTWEGO

Seated, left to right: L. Guidry, Alderman; Eddie Bye, Alderman; Vic. A. Pitre, Mayor, and Jacob Gassenberger, Alderman.

Standing, left to right: Vincent St. Blanc, Treasurer; Joseph Marcombe, Alderman; Charles Taylor, Town Marshal; L. J. Bernard, Alderman; Mrs. Alice Bouvier, Secretary, and Leonard Hoorman, Accountant.



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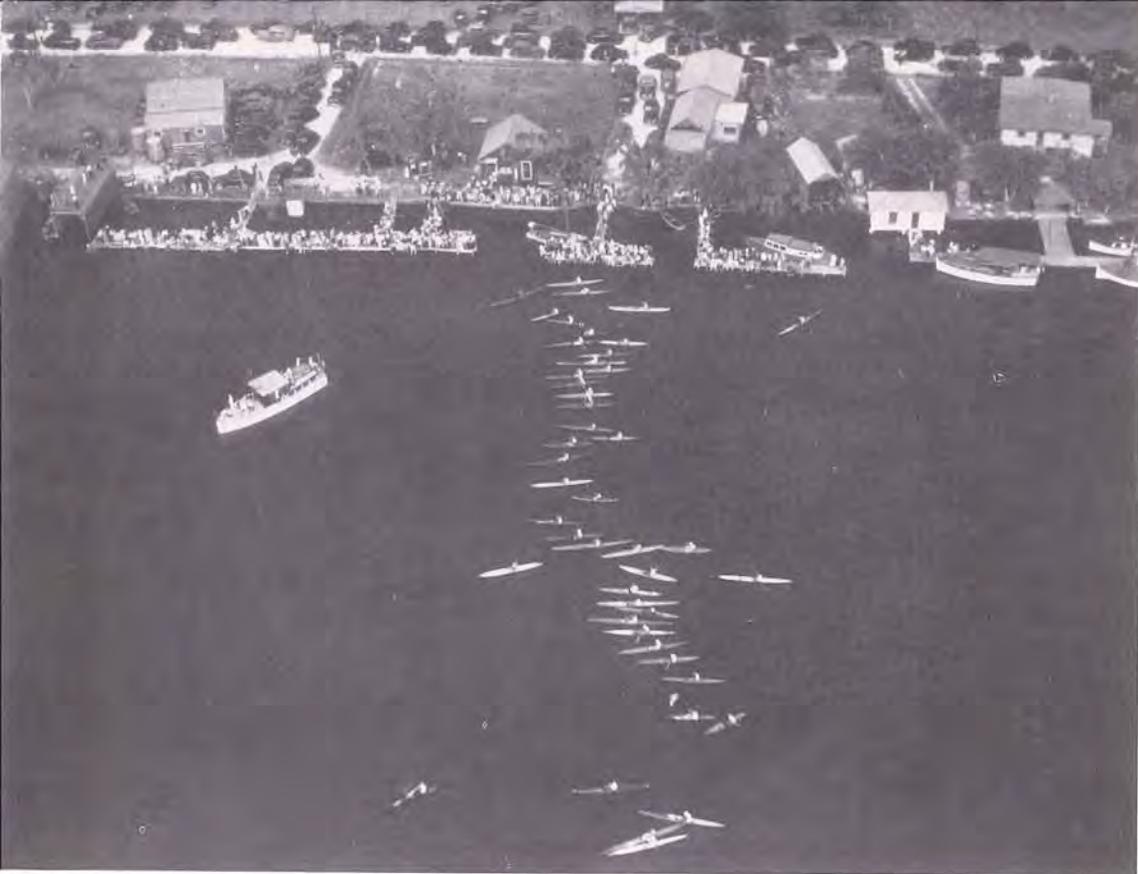
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Contestants line up for the start of the sixth annual pirogue race, held on Big Bayou Barataria. To the left is the yacht aboard which are officials of the Louisiana Pirogue Association, sponsors of the races. In the background may be seen Lafitte and a part of the crowd, estimated at 10,000 which witnessed the event, held May 12.

"ABOU BEN 'ADAM'"

H. D. CHAMBERLAIN
Associate Editor

Another Paul Bunyan has come out of the bayous. A man mightier than all the rest whose prowess has spread from the lowlying country of his birth, over the parish of Jefferson, over the state, and now over the Nation. He is Adam Vincent Billiot, past master of the pirogue, supreme paddler of the world.

It is necessary to go back a bit, and catch up on our story. First, to landsmen and outlanders not acquainted among the bayous, the pirogue is a cross between the dugout and the canoe, a trickier craft than which has never been built. It combines the best features of both of these other boats, and has of its own an amazing speed. Built of practically nothing, made to carry practically nothing, nothing on earth but supreme skill keeps it upright in the water. Many a hunter and fisherman, new to these shells, but familiar with canoes, have stepped confidently into pirogues, and swum ashore. It happens so fast there is no interval for thought—you either know about pirogues or you don't, and the answer is all too evident.

But every man, woman and child in the bayou country has been raised in pirogues. Where waterways are often the only means of communication,

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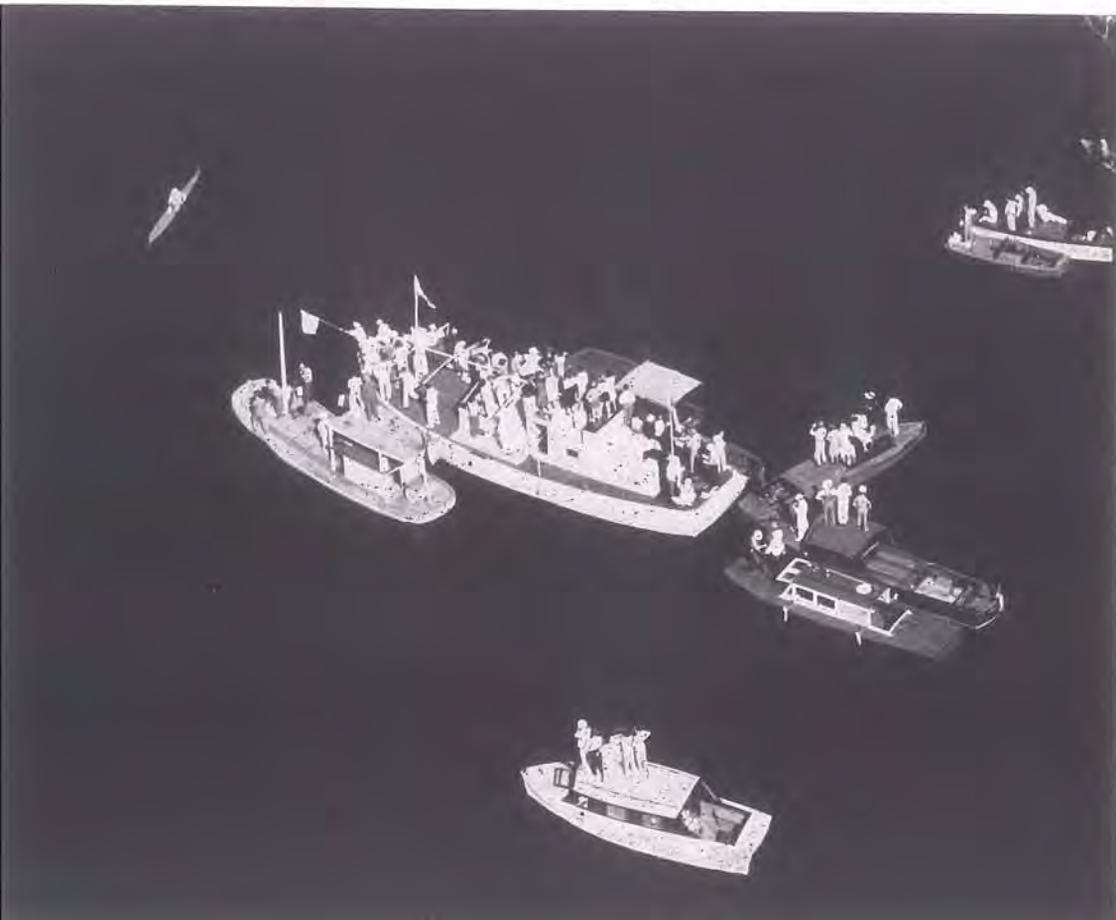
every family has one or more of these swift boats, and they are used constantly. So it begins to appear why Adam Billiot is a man among men, for he has demonstrated beyond any shadow of doubt that he is the champion paddler of this, and probably any generation.

For the past five years, in the annual pirogue races held over a 4.7 mile course on Big Bayou Barataria in Jefferson Parish, Adam Billiot has crossed the finish line first against all comers. Only four of these victories were official, it is true, for in 1938 there was a false start, and Adam and many others paddled the distance, only to find it must be done again. Very rightly he refused to compete with unwearied contestants. Even a Paul Bunyan is not twice as good as the rest of the bayou folk.

The race, now held annually by the Louisiana Pirogue Racing Association, was started in 1935 by the Barataria Women's club. In 1936 the present Association was organized. From a beginning of a handful of contestants competing before a small gathering of neighbors, the event has spread in popularity until the race this year was held before a crowd estimated at 10,000, which lined the banks of the Bayou or witnessed the race from yachts and watercraft of all description. The U. S. Coast Guard co-operates to insure safety and merchants offer prizes to all, in addition to the cash awards and trophy given by the association.

The 1940 race had other outstanding features besides the increased number of spectators. To win, Adam Billiot was forced to set a record over the four mile upstream course in the face of adverse winds and tide. Just 47 seconds behind him in second place was Herbert Creppel. Three seconds behind

Adam Vincent Billiot of Barataria crosses the finish line first for the fourth time, officially. The next three contestants, though not shown, are close behind.



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Adam Vincent Billiot.

Creppel was Herbert Ester, who nosed out Andrew Abadie by a paddle stroke to place third. Altogether the closest race on record.

Besides this near-photo finish, an outlander, Kenneth Kyte of New Jersey, now a resident of New Orleans, and familiar with the indian canoes used in Maine waters, entered the race in a borrowed pirogue. He was forty-fourth in the forty-four man race, but finished gamely, although utterly exhausted.

Jefferson's annual pirogue race has become one of the most exciting and colorful events in the country. The question from now on would seem to be, can Adam Vincent Billiot, bayou Bunyan, hold his title as best of all the paddlers? Starting at seventeen, from his present advanced age of 21 he would seem to have many more winning years before him.

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Standing, left to right: Dr. Louis Genella, Board of Health; Pierre Larroux, Alderman; John Maggione, Alderman; Joseph Viola, Alderman; Henry Polito, Fire Department; Vic J. Carona, Town Marshal, and Frank Peronne, Alderman.



OFFICIALS OF THE VILLAGE OF HARAHAN

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 Standing, left to right: Edward A. Miller, Plant Superintendent; M. R. Tucker, Maintenance Superintendent; Leo W. McCune, Attorney; A. J. Wegmann, Treasurer and General Manager, and F. V. Draube, Secretary.



COMMISSIONERS OF FOURTH JEFFERSON DRAINAGE DISTRICT
 Seated, left to right: Dan W. Eastman, Commissioner; John Bordes, President, and Robert Ottermann, Vice-President.
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The **JEFFERSON PARISH YEARLY REVIEW** announces a Jefferson Pictures Contest, winning pictures to be used in the 1941 edition of the Review. The rules are as follows:

1. A prize of \$25.00 will be awarded to the photograph adjudged the winner of all submitted. Additionally, \$3.50 will be paid for each picture which the judges consider worthy to be used in the Review. All pictures become the property of the Jefferson Parish Yearly Review and no prints will be returned. The decision of the judges selected by the Review will be final.
2. All scenes must be taken in Jefferson Parish.
3. All pictures must be taken later than July 1, 1940.
4. Contest closes at midnight, December 31, 1940, and no pictures submitted thereafter will be considered.
5. The contest is open to all, amateur or commercial photographers, residents or non-residents of Jefferson Parish. Entries should be submitted to Joseph H. Monies, Courthouse, Gretna, La. Telephone ALgiers 2116.

THE COVER

Kodakrome by F. A. McDaniels. This natural-color photograph was made from life, of wild iris growing along the banks of Bayou des Familles, in Jefferson Parish, on the property of Herman Deutsch, about two miles below Marrero. These lovely flowers, known also as flag lilies and fleur-de-lis, grow profusely throughout the bayou and marsh lands, and thousands of them have been transplanted to private gardens, where they do exceptionally well under cultivation. It is very fitting that this French flag flower should wave its head proudly throughout the French "Cajun" country of Louisiana.



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Editor and Publisher

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Associate Editor

JOSEPH H. MONIES
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F. A. McDANIELS

Information

of any kind regarding opportunities in Jefferson Parish may be obtained from the men whose names appear below. The establishment of industries is aided in every way by the Police Jury. To those interested in locating within its boundaries, Jefferson Parish offers every inducement. To industries it offers extremely low transportation costs, easy access to raw materials, an excellent point of distribution, and ten years' tax exemption. To farmers it offers rich, alluvial soil, mild climate and a close and ready market. To homeseekers it offers clean, pure air and sunshine, and the neighborly spirit not found in cities.

We invite all who are seeking a broader, better life and more and wider opportunities to make full use of Jefferson Parish's natural resources and spirit of friendly co-operation.

Weaver R. Toledano, President
Police Jury
Kenner, Louisiana
Kenner 2791

Justin F. Bordenave
Kenner, Louisiana
CEdar 1897
Kenner 2191

Wm. Hepting, Secretary
Police Jury, Courthouse
Gretna, Louisiana
ALgiers 2116



HANDS ACROSS THE PARISHES

The fortunes and futures of Jefferson Parish and the City of New Orleans are bound together . . . as one progresses so will the other. The city looks to the Parish for raw materials, agricultural produce, furs and fish . . . customers for its stores . . . markets for its manufacturers and distributors. Jefferson farmers, manufacturers and fishermen seek buyers in the City and outlets to markets throughout the world. A continued spirit of friendliness and co-operation is sure to further the prosperity of our friends (in Jefferson Parish) as well as we who live in the City.

This company, which furnishes the City of New Orleans with electrical, gas and transportation services, congratulates Jefferson Parish on its splendid progress of the last decade. We extend to you our best wishes for continued growth and development.

NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC SERVICE **INC.**



JEFFERSON PARISH GOES AHEAD

With Cheap Electricity from Louisiana Power & Light Company



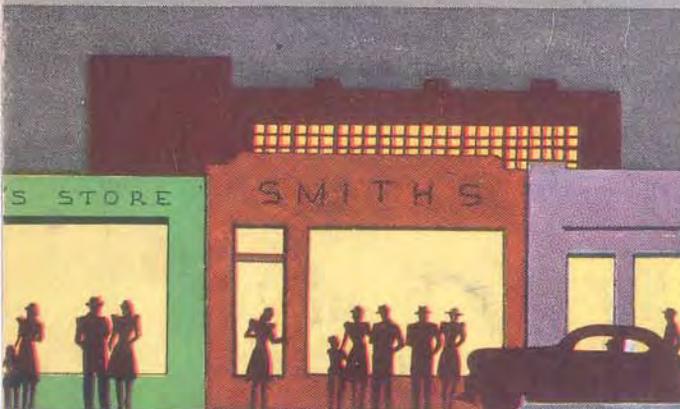
Living is more enjoyable with Cheap Electricity

Dreams of a happier life come true with Cheap Electricity! Electric refrigeration is a joy—and a proven money-saver. Electric cooling makes your home a summer resort. Electric servants take away hard work. And you enjoy the magic of radio and the priceless protection of Better Sight lamps. Every day Electricity contributes to a higher standard of living in Jefferson Parish.



Farms are more profitable with Cheap Electricity

Jefferson Parish agricultural activities are broadening all the time—and electricity adds to this progress. Electric irrigation means better crops. Hens lay more with electric light. Most dairy-men know the extra protection of electric dairy equipment. And electric motors and other appliances give farmers "extra hands" that work efficiently and surely, with Cheap Electricity.



Cheap Electricity is a direct business-builder for Jefferson Parish Stores

Electric cooling attracts customers in summer. Better Light sells merchandise all year round. And for manufacturers—electricity cuts costs, assures adequate power and builds profits. Industrial Engineers of our Company are constantly at work to bring new industries to Louisiana—for the greater prosperity of all.

LOUISIANA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

"Helping Build Louisiana"