



March 15th is Cameron's 150th Birthday

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

Excitement is building as Cameron Parish's 150th anniversary nears. The Cameron Parish Police Jury on Tuesday adopted a proclamation recognizing the Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary of the Mar. 15, 1870 creation of Cameron Parish.

A celebration featuring the Time Capsule which was sealed at the Parish's Centennial on Mar. 15, 1970 will be held Sunday, Mar. 15, at the Cameron Multipurpose Building, located at 122 Recreation Center Lane, behind the Cameron Courthouse.

The exact schedule is still being finalized, but speakers who were part of the original Time Capsule dedication in 1970 are being recruited. "We want this celebration to be about the people of Cameron Parish and its history," said Cameron Parish Administrator Katie Armentor.

A complimentary meal will be served beginning at 12 noon on Sunday, followed by the ceremony at 1 p.m. While waiting, guests may view a historical display by the "Rice and Roux" team of John Rice and Roland Roux, visit with friends from the old days, and pick up souvenirs provided by various sources.



LOUISIANA'S BALD eagles are building more nests and having more babies after nearly dying out in the 1970's. Louisiana's bald eagle population is showing strong signs of a comeback. The bald eagle became the National emblem in 1782 when the great seal of the United States was adopted. (Photo by Daniel Doga.)

AN AGREEMENT was signed Tuesday with Tommy's Seafood to operate the Cameron fishery facility. Pictured with the Cameron Parish Police Jury are: Parish Asst. Administrator Darrell Williams, building project manager, Cameron Parish Port Director Clair Marceaux, Tommy, Chalin, and Daniel Delaune, and Parish Administrator Katie Armentor. Jurors in back row: Curtis Fountain, Kirk Quinn, Sonny McGee, Scott Trahan, Butch Guidry, Lee Faulk and Thomas McDaniel.

(Photo submitted by Cyndi Sellers.)

Cameron fishing facility to open with Tommy's Seafood

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

After years of construction and equipping, the Cameron fisheries facility is finally about to begin operations. On Tuesday, an operator agreement was executed between the Cameron Parish Port, Harbor and Terminal District by Tommy's Seafood, a family-owned seafood company based in St. Bernard Parish. The company plans to be in operation in Cameron by the start of the inland shrimp season.

Port Director Clair Marceaux announced the agreement to the Cameron Parish Police Jury at their agenda meeting Tuesday morning, saying it took the efforts of many people from the Police Jury, Port Board,

District Attorney's Office and others to make this outcome possible.

District Attorney Jennifer Jones, who helped work out the details of the operating agreement, said Tommy's Seafood is a successful business with Gulf coast experience, which is what the Port Board was looking for. She said the Henry family, as landowner, has also worked with the agencies and the result will be "something great here for the Parish."

Marceaux introduced Chalin Delaune, Executive Vice-president of Tommy's Seafood, his father Tommy, founder and CEO, and his brother Daniel who also works for the company. Chalin is currently pursuing his master's

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School Board has clean Audit

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

The Cameron Parish School Board had a clean, unmodified audit for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2019. Coy Vincent, of independent auditing firm Gragson, Casiday and Guillory, gave the report at the School Board's regular monthly meeting on Monday, Mar. 9. He said there were no findings and no reportable conditions.

Vincent noted that the School Board's available funds had decreased by about \$5.7 million over the year, an improvement over the previous year's \$8 million loss. However, the decrease was largely due to the sale of the Educational Conference Center to the Cameron Parish Library, a one time income boost.

The School Board still had about \$43.7 million as of June 30, which is 200 percent of its annual budget, so the Board's financial position is still strong, he said.

Project Manager James Hoffpaur reported that the Hackberry High School ADA upgrades will soon be complete, and those will be the last FEMA projects to be con

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History of Grand Lake as told by Annette Norman

By **ANNETTE NORMAN**

The community called "Grand Lake" is actually made up of three parts: Big Lake - west of the Intracoastal canal, also called "the Island" or "Big Pasture"; Sweetlake - on the east end; and Grand Lake - in the center near the current Grand Lake High School.

LEGENDS

According to legends handed down from early settlers, the first inhabitants of Grand Lake may have been Attakapas Indians. Artifacts and shell mounds have been found on the shores of Big Lake to give evidence of these Native Americans. Some of the first white settlers came to Grand Lake in the early to

middle 1800's.

Big Lake was said to have residents before the Civil War. Some sources say members of the Pujol family came to Big Lake. One of the early settlers, Eloi Hebert came to Big Lake around 1860-62 from Abbeville and the Lake Arthur area. Eloi Hebert and his sons moved his family to Big Lake for safety, because during the Civil War there were Yankee soldiers, Jayhawkers and freed slaves who raided the farms and threatened the lives of women and children. The Big Lake area was a wilderness and possibly free land for anyone who would fence in and claim the prairie land.

In 1870, Cameron Parish was organized from parts of

Cont. on Page A10



God Bless America Centennial Time capsule to be opened

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

The opening of the Centennial Time Capsule on Sunday, Mar. 15, will kick off the rest of the Cameron Parish Sesquicentennial Year.

Plans are being made to add to and re-seal the time capsule sometime near the end of this year, to be opened on the Parish's 200th Anniversary in 2070. This will allow time for further historical research and participation by the schools and community organizations.

The *Cameron Pilot* will continue to print historical features through the rest of the year, including histories of each community and milestones for the past 50 years. These issues will become part of that historical record.

(EDITOR'S NOTE -- If you would like to share any information that was not included in this issue and would like it published, please send email to dequincynews@centurytel.net.)

Endangered birds recover in Cameron Parish

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

Cameron Parish holds some of the best birding opportunities in the country, and birders come from all over to enjoy the spectacle. But Cameron Parish has also been instrumental in the recovery of several endangered bird species over the past decades.

A signature breeding bird in the marshes of Cameron Parish, the Roseate Spoonbill delights viewers with its intense pink and rose plumage every spring, duller pink year-round. Yet this brilliant plumage nearly caused its demise. Hunted for its feathers, greatly desired for ladies' hats, the Louisiana population had nearly disappeared in 1952 when Dr. George Lowry wrote his landmark book "Louisiana Birds."

"At one time these magnificent creatures lent their beauty to much of Louisiana's marshland, but now only a dozen or so occasionally breed in the extreme southwestern part of the state," he wrote. "One site recently occupied is Shell Hill, a hummock in the marsh on the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, where a few Roseate Spoonbills share a rookery.... From time to time, during the nonbreeding season, one or two individuals appear outside of Cameron Parish, and fortunate indeed is the person who chances to be on hand to see them."

Thanks to protection and isolation, today, the Roseate Spoonbill is a major birding attraction for Cameron Parish.

Louisiana's state bird, the Brown Pelican, had completely disappeared from the state by 1966, due to the effects of the pesticide DDT on eggs.

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History of Grand Chenier as McEvers remembers it

By **LOSTON MCEVERS**

Storms and hurricanes did damage and lots of people left. But, Grand Chenier and the Creole area is still a great place to live.

I lost everything in Hurricane Audrey, but being in the U. S. Army, I came back to help pick up dead bodies and to see what was destroyed. It was sad!

FAMILY NAMES

Some of the families of Grand Chenier were the LaRanso, Aldoph and the Henry Swire families. There was the Miller, Theriot, Duprees, Bonsalls, Sturleses, Sweeneys, Dysons, Booths, Vincents, Mhires, Nunezes, Monties, Guidrys, Pitmans, Hollisters, Conners, Dowds, McCalls, Jones, Welshes, Harrisons, Monks, Barties,

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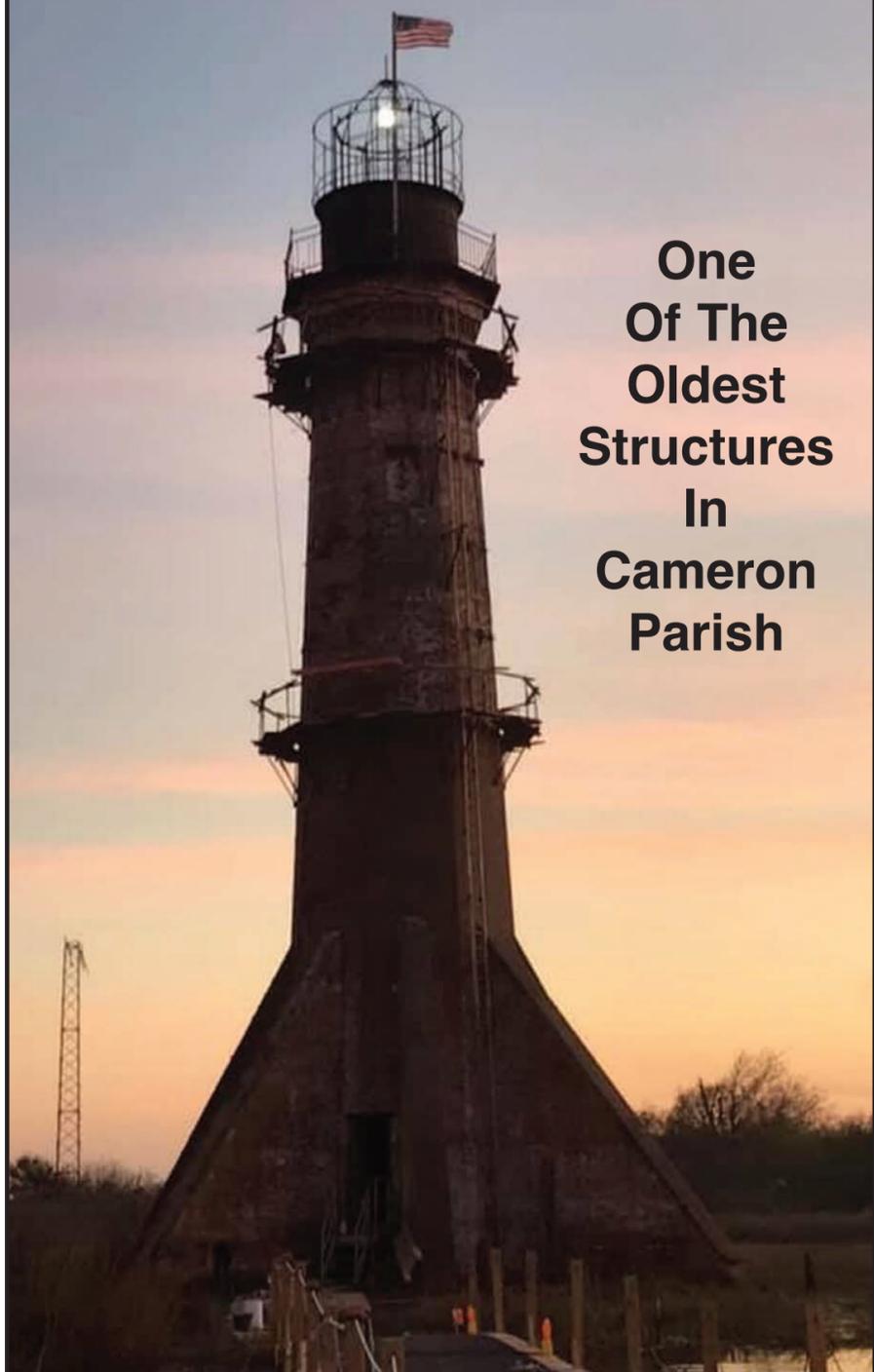


THE VENTURE GLOBAL Vendor Fair was held on Wednesday, Mar. 4 at the Creole Fire Station. The fair had over 70 participants. It was a great opportunity for local contractors and vendors to network with the team building the Cameron Amenities Facility and get information on the bidding procedures and timelines. (Photo by Katie Armentor.)



CAMERON PARISH is getting worldwide attention since the sighting of "Pinky". On June 24, 2007, Captain Erik Rue was the first to report and photograph the extremely rare pink dolphin. There are only about 15 albino dolphins reported worldwide over the years. Recent reports hint at Pinkie being a mom, with sightings of a pink calf swimming alongside her.

The Sabine Pass Lighthouse



One
Of The
Oldest
Structures
In
Cameron
Parish

THE SABINE PASS Lighthouse was lighted for two nights on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 13-14, 2019, using a 13,000 lumen LED lamp placed temporarily in what was the lantern room. Mariners reported that it could be seen 12 miles offshore. The lantern has been removed to make way for a installation of a wooden roof to keep rain out of the structure and prevent further water damage.

Facts about the Sabine Pass Lighthouse

The lighthouse was the site of a Civil War skirmish and battle on April 18, 1863. One Confederate soldier and five Union sailors were killed.

On Sept. 8, 1863, Union gunboats near the lighthouse opened fire on Confederate Fort Griffin on the Texas side of the river. In the Battle of Sabine Pass, Confederate forces stopped a Union invasion of Texas.

Construction of the lighthouse began in 1856 with brick from New Jersey. The first lighthouse keeper, Benjamin F. Granger, lit a whale-oil light.

The light was extinguished in 1861, and the lantern and clockworks dismantled by Granger in 1862 to thwart their use by the Union Navy.

It was repaired in 1865 and began operation on Dec. 23 of that year.

During the hurricane of Oct. 12, 1886, between 50 and 110 people were drowned in nearby Johnson Bayou, which had a population of 1,200. The hurricane also swept away the lighthouse keeper's wood-frame house. It was rebuilt.

Electricity and a radio beacon were installed in 1929 and black bands painted onto the white tower in 1932 to make it more visible.

On May 21, 1952, lighthouse keeper Steve Purgley turned off the light. In December of 2019, the light was lit briefly in December by the Cameron Preservation Alliance.

A marsh fire destroyed the keeper's wood-frame house and walkway were destroyed in 1976. Only the brick tower and generator building survived.

Over the years, ownership of the property was transferred by the federal government to Lamar University, P.G. Grenader and W.C. Pielop Jr. and, in 2001, to its current owner, Cameron Preservation Alliance.

Architects Randy and Lauren Broussard did a detailed study of the structure in 2002. They found that the foundation of the lighthouse is 50 feet square, probably of layered timbers and concrete. The foundation is three feet above sea level.

The base, with its distinctive masonry buttresses, is 36 feet in diameter. The walls of the lighthouse are 18 inches thick.

Two 15-foot cracks on the walls have been there since the 1880s.

The copper sheathing on the lighthouse dome was stolen in the 1970s.

The Calcasieu River Lighthouse Gone But Not Forgotten



THE CALCASIEU RIVER Lighthouse was a beacon to ships entering the river for more than 60 years. It had to be torn down to make way for the Calcasieu Ship Channel.

History of Lighthouse told to La. Historical Association

(Editors Note: This story was reprinted from the July 27, 2000 edition of the Cameron Parish Pilot.)

By **TRUMAN STACY**

The growing timber industry in Southwest Louisiana, along with sulphur and other products, not only attracted workers to the area in the 19th century, it also caused the installation of the Calcasieu River Lighthouse to protect the shipping that took the area's merchandise to the world.

Mrs. Kathie Bordelon, McNeese State University Archivist, outlined the story of the lighthouse for members of the Louisiana Historical Association at the Association's summer meeting.

A lighthouse for the mouth of the river was first

proposed in 1854, but not until 1876 was a lighthouse finally built. Bureaucrats moved slowly then too.

The lighthouse itself was a "lightweight, hollow, cast iron screw pile structure." This type of structure offered the stability to withstand sudden tides and storms which raked the area from time to time.

The lighthouse itself was elevated 15 feet off the ground, and the light itself stood 50 feet above the marshes. It was built on the west side of the river, about two miles from the mouth.

The lighthouse was put into operation on Dec. 9, 1876, and the New Orleans Picayune reported that the light could be seen 13 miles into the Gulf of Mexico.

Three lighthouse keepers are known to have operated the lighthouse: Charles F.

Crossman (1876 - 1913); William Hill, employed until 1929; and A. E. Malone, until 1939.

Major problems with insects in the summer, which were attracted to the light and plastered it. Migrating ducks and geese often hit the light during the winter months.

The lighthouse endured at least three major hurricanes, and sustained only minor damage. During the hurricane of 1877, 25 men, women, and children from the area were sheltered in the lighthouse while all of their possessions were swept away.

"Few people of the current generation are aware of the history of the lighthouse, but it was a comforting beacon to mariners along our coast for 60 years.



PLAQUES HONORING Cameron Parish Veterans line the walkway to the entrance of the Cameron Parish Courthouse. Names date back to the Civil War.

Lighthouse is 164 years old

The Sabine Pass Lighthouse, located on the Louisiana side of the Sabine River, across from Sabine Pass, Texas, was built in 1856 at a cost of \$22,258.

It was lit by a whale-oil light. The brick was from New Jersey. The first light-

house keeper was Benjamin F. Granger.

The lighthouse went into operation in 1857 and remained lit for 95 years, with the exception of a brief period during the U.S. Civil War. The light was permanently extinguished by the U.S. Coast Guard in 1952.

The wharfs, keeper's house and wooden outbuilding were all destroyed by a marsh fire in the early

1970s. The original copper lantern housing was stolen in 1979. Road access has been cut off since 2005.

The lighthouse stood unlit for over 60 years, but thanks to effort made by the Cameron Preservation Alliance, the light briefly shined once again in December of 2019.

It was the first location in Cameron Parish listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



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Act 168 to Create the Parish of Cameron in 1870

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No. 102. AN ACT

To create the parish of Cameron and providing for the organization thereof.

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened,* That a new parish in the State of Louisiana be and the same is hereby created out of the southern portion of the parish of Calcasieu and the southwestern portion of the parish of Vermilion, to be called and known by the name of the parish of Cameron.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted, etc.,* That the following shall be the boundaries of the parish of Cameron, viz: Commencing at a point on the Sabine river, on the township line dividing townships eleven and twelve (11 and 12) south, thence east on said township line to the range line between ranges numbers two and three (2 and 3) west, thence south on said range line to the Gulf of Mexico, thence along the coast to the mouth of the Sabine river, thence up the Sabine river to the point of starting.

Sec. 3. *Be it further enacted, etc.,* That it shall be the duty of the Governor, immediately after the passage of this act, to nominate and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint for said parish of Cameron, a judge, sheriff, clerk, recorder, assessor, six justices of the peace and six constables, and all other officers that may be necessary therefor, whose power and duties and pay shall be the same as other judges, sheriffs, clerks, recorders, assessors, and like officers throughout the State.

Sec. 4. *Be it further enacted, etc.,* That it shall be the duty of the parish judge of said parish of Cameron, immediately after he receives his commission, to convene the several justices of the peace to meet at a convenient time and place, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum, for the purpose of laying off six (6) police jury districts in said parish.

Sec. 5. *Be it further enacted, etc.,* That the parish judge of the parish of Cameron, as soon as the police districts shall have been formed, as required by the foregoing section of this act, and after giving regular notice of time and place, shall cause an election to be held by a justice of the peace in each police district for the election of one member from each district to the police jury.

Sec. 6. *Be it further enacted, etc.,* That the parish seat of said parish shall be near the Calcasieu river, between the mouth of said river and Calcasieu lake, and that the parish judge shall convene the members of the police jury immediately after the election, at the place as designated in this section for the purpose of causing to be erected suitable public buildings.

Sec. 7. *Be it further enacted, etc.,* That the parish judge of said parish shall keep his office at the parish seat of said parish, and that the said parish shall form part of the Eighth Judicial District of the State, and the times of holding the terms of the district court in the parish of Cameron, shall be the fourth Mondays of May and November, and the parish shall be attached to the twentieth (20th) Senatorial District.

Sec. 8. *Be it further enacted, etc.,* That it shall be the duty of the clerks of the district courts of the parishes of Calcasieu and Vermilion, immediately after the passage of this act, to transmit to the clerk of the district court of the parish of Cameron all petitions,



HUNDREDS STOOD on the courthouse square in 1970 for the invocation which opened the parish centennial observance Sunday afternoon. This photo was taken from the courthouse roof.

168

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1970: Hundreds turn out for parish Centennial celebration

(EDITOR'S NOTE--Article reprinted from Centennial Edition of the Cameron Parish Pilot on Mar. 19, 1970.)

Several hundred citizens of Cameron Parish and visitors turned out for Cameron Parish's 100th birthday party on the courthouse lawn Sunday afternoon.

Sealing of a time capsule containing historical information and items highlighted the afternoon. The steel capsule was placed in a marble container in the foyer of the courthouse and is to be re-opened 50 years from now.

John H. Meaux, 81, of Oak Grove, a former state representative from Cameron Parish, and Mrs. Raymie Broussard, 83, of Creole, were recognized as the oldest persons present.

The new Cameron Parish flag was unveiled and will fly in front of the courthouse. It was designed by Michael McCail and made by Mrs. Roy Hebert. A replica was placed in the capsule. The flag was presented by Mrs. J. D. Fruge, president of the Cameron Home Demonstration Council.

Many residents were dressed in Centennial costumes and heard a talk about the parish's early history by Mrs. Bernice Stewart, a native of Grand Chenier and resident of Lake Arthur. She is a retired teacher and historian.

The call to order was by Joe G. Boudoin, president of the Cameron Parish Development Association which sponsored the time capsule project. Assisting in the project were the Parish Police Jury and the Louisiana Fur & Wildlife Festival Association. The capsule was designed by U. E. Hackett, Jr.

Roy R. Theriot, state comptroller, served as master of

ceremonies. He was introduced by J. Bertin Daigle, parish clerk of court. J. B. Jones was recognized as the president of the festival association.

Other celebrities on hand included Cherie Kay Griffith, 1970 Miss Cameron Parish, and Alvin Dyson, 1970 King Fur II.

W. F. "Frankie" Henry, Jr., Police Jury president, was also on the program. A number of local, area and state officials made talks to the people of Cameron Parish who will receive their greetings in the year 2020.

The last thing that went into the capsule was a recording of the Sunday ceremonies.

Other items in the capsule include histories and memberships of parish organizations, a telephone directory, roster of students and teachers in all Cameron schools, Centennial and other newspaper editions, history of parish churches, movies of the Fur and Wildlife Festival and various communities.

Also old and new coins, histories of public bodies, histories of eight parish industries, messages to descendants and miscellaneous items.

Boy Scout troop 210 set up the chairs on the lawn for the visitors.

Mrs. Joy Kelley played the organ for the ceremony.

Ash trays, hand painted with the parish emblem by Mrs. Gladys McCall, were placed in the capsule as gifts to the 2020 police jury.

A poem on Cameron Parish was read by its author, Mrs. Nell Colligan.

The marble container for the capsule was donated by Solari Marble Works of Lake Charles.

You are cordially invited to the . . .

TIME CAPSULE CEREMONY

Celebrating The

SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

OF CAMERON PARISH

The Ceremony will be held at the:

CAMERON MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING

122 RECREATION LANE - CAMERON, LA

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

A complimentary meal will be served beginning at 12 p.m. with the ceremony following at 1 p.m.

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR PARISH!

It Is With Great
Pride That I Salute
The Legacy Of
Cameron Parish!!

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Scenes from Cameron Parish Centennial Celebration 1970



Cameron Parish named for Union Soldier

Cameron Centennial

(EDITOR'S NOTE--The following is one of the articles which was inserted in the Cameron Centennial capsule to be opened 50 years from now.)

(The following information, taken from the Dictionary of American Biography III, tells of the life of Robert Alexander Cameron after whom Cameron Parish was named.

Robert Alexander Cameron was a Union soldier, born February 22, 1828 and died March 15, 1894. He was born in Brooklyn, New York. About the time he was fourteen years old his parents moved to Valparaiso, Ind. After finishing at the public schools, he entered the Indiana Medical College, graduated in 1849 and later attended Rush Medical College in Chicago.

In 1857 he bought the Valparaiso Republican, which he conducted for several years. He was a delegate to the Republican national convention, where he voted for the nomination of Lincoln, and in the fall of the year he was elected to the lower house of the legislature.

On the news of the firing on Fort Sumter he began at once to organize a company of three-months' men. Two days later he telegraphed Governor Morton that his company was ready and on April 23 he was mustered in as captain of the 9th Indiana Volunteers. His first service was in the West Virginia campaign under McClellan.

In July he re-enlisted and on the 29th was commissioned a lieutenant-colonel and transferred to the 34th Indiana, of which he was made colonel on June 15. He served at Island No. 10, New Madrid and at the capture of Memphis.

For gallant conduct during the siege of Vicksburg he was recommended by Grant, with five other colonels, for promotion, and on August 11, 1863, was commissioned a brigadier-general. He commanded one of the two divisions (the third) of the 13th Corps that took part in the Red River expedition in the fore part of 1864, and on the wounding of Ransom, at Sabine Cross Roads, April 8, assumed command of the corps.

With the defeat and return of the army to the Mississippi and the transfer of the corps to Grant in Virginia, he was placed in command of the Lafource district of the Department of the Gulf with headquarters at Thibodaux, where he remained till the closing of the war. In the

omnibus promotions dated March 13, 1865, he was brevetted a major-general.

He resigned from the army June 22 and went to New York. Here he formed the acquaintance of Nathan C. Meeker (q.v.), agricultural editor of the Tribune, and became greatly interested in the movement for planting farm colonies in the West.

On the organization, in Cooner Union, December 23, 1869, of the Union Colony, he was made vice president, and in the following year, with Meeker and A.C. Fisk, went to Colorado and selected the site now occupied by Greeley. He took a leading part in the founding of the colony and at the first election, May 1871, was chosen one of the town trustees and subsequently was made president. Three months later, however, he resigned to take the superintendency of the Fountain Colony, which established Colorado Springs.

At the end of the year he returned to Greeley, but in the spring of 1873 took part in the founding of Fort Collins, a venture that proved personally disastrous. After an attempt to recoup his fortunes in San Francisco, he returned to Colorado and settled in Denver. For several years he was inspector of mail service in that city, a post in which he is credited with doing efficient work.

In 1885 he was appointed warden of the penitentiary at Cannon City, but a change in the state administration two years later caused him to lose the place before he had time to introduce the reforms he had planned. In 1888 he was engaged as immigration agent of the Fort Worth & Denver City Railway. In the outskirts of Canon City he developed a fruit farm and continued to reside there until death.

Cameron married a daughter of J. B. Flower, one of the founders of Greeley Colony and at one time his partner. He was a large man, somewhat above six feet in height and weighing more than 200 pounds.

The Denver News, on his death, said of him that "as a citizen" none was more highly esteemed." Boyd, one of the Union Colonists, though acknowledging that he had a certain kind of ability, speaks of him as one who "was a fertile in expedients," who was "a man of policy rather than a devotee of principle" and finds fault with him for taking for himself and his partner Flower the best location in Greeley.

ABOVE ARE some scenes from the Cameron Parish Centennial celebration held in 1970. 1.) Some of the speakers on the program. 2.) Michael McCall and Mrs. Roy Hebert display the Cameron Parish flag which he designed and she made. 3.) Left: A view of some of the spectators. 4.) Mrs. Bernice Stewart gives a history of the parish. 5.) Mrs. Hazel Dronet and Mrs. Audrey Daigle register guests. 6.) Mrs. Geneva Griffith prepares to place messages from today's citizens in time capsule. 7.) Elora Montie and Ray Nunez put in histories of parish's industries. 8.) Johnny Meaux and Mrs. Raymie Broussard, oldest residents present, blow out the candles on the parish's birthday cake. 9.) Floyd Saltzman and Sing Faulk get ready to seal capsule. 10.) Mrs. Freman Theriot puts in histories of parish churches. 11.) Mrs. Terry Clement and Mrs. Harold Savoie light birthday cake candles.

1970: Time capsule to be sealed

The Cameron Parish Time Capsule will be sealed Sunday afternoon after numerous mementos of 1970 are placed in it and will not be re-opened again until 50 years hence on March 15, 2020.

The capsule, a project of the Cameron Parish Development Association with the cooperation of the Cameron Police Jury, is a stainless steel capsule that will be sealed and placed in a marble container in the foyer of the courthouse.

Designed by U. E. Hackett, Jr., Lake Charles architect, the container was built by Solari Marble Works of Lake Charles and is a gift to Cameron Parish citizens from the firm. The marble was imported from Italy.

The parish centennial emblem carved in marble, sits atop the container and is covered with a plastic bubble given by C. M. Long of Lake Charles.

One of the most interesting items that will go into the capsule will be a large book containing hand written messages from hundreds of parish citizens to their descendants.

Other items to be placed in the capsule and the persons who will place them there are: History and membership lists of parish organizations, Clifford Myers.

Current Telephone Directory, Larry Henning.

Roster of students and teachers of all Cameron Parish Schools, Mrs. Paula Wagner.

Centennial and other important newspaper editions: Cameron Parish Resource Book and Colored

Brochure, J. Berton Daigle and Jerry Wise.

History and listing of all Cameron Parish Churches, Mrs. Fredman Theriot.

Movie Film of 1970 Fur & Wildlife and Centennial Parade, Henry H. Ratcliff.

Movie Film (narrated) of the various parish communities, Terry Clement.

Old and new coins and currency, Mrs. Joe G. Boudoin.

Histories of parish public bodies, J. A. Lowery and Ernest Hamilton.

History of eight Cameron Parish Industries, Ray Nunez and Elora Montie.

"Messages to Descendants" book and pictures, E. J. Dronet (book), and Mrs. Geneva Griffith (pictures).

Other miscellaneous articles and items, Mrs. Norma Blake.

E. J. Dronet will read a prayer card. Ed Prendergast and Ed Kelley will tape the ceremony and place the tape in the capsule.

PROGRAM

In addition to the capsule activities, there will be a special program in observing the 100th anniversary of the parish.

Special entertainment will be provided by Ward Fontenot and Terry Clement preceding the ceremonies.

Following the call to order by Joe G. Boudoin, Development Assoc. president, Mrs. J. D. Fruge, president of the Cameron Parish Home Demonstration Council, will present the new Cameron Parish flag; and the American flag, will be raised.

Parish members of the American Legion and VFW will lead in the pledge of alle-

1970: Distinguished Guests

Among the out-of-town guests participating in the Cameron Parish Centennial time capsule ceremony, Sunday, Mar. 15 were: Appeals Judge Albert Tate of Ville Platte, Appeals Judge John T. Hood, Jr., of Lake Charles;

giance to the flag and the Star Spangled Banner will be played by high school bands.

Invocation will be given by Rev. Alcide Sonnier, pastor of Our Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

J. B. Jones, Jr., president of the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival and chairman of the Centennial Celebration will be introduced.

Master of ceremonies, Roy Theriot, state comptroller, will be introduced by J. Berton Daigle, clerk of court.

Also introduced will be Miss Cheri Kay Griffith, 1970 Miss Cameron Parish, and Alvin Dyson, 1970 King Fur.

All other public officials present, including senators, representatives, police jurors, school board members, and parish officers, will be invited to make short talks.

Mrs. Nell Colligan will read a poem that she wrote on Cameron Parish.

The principle talk of the ceremony will be given by Mrs. Bernice Stewart, Lake Arthur teacher, who with her brother, the late Archie Hollister, have collected and written much of the history of Cameron Parish.

Following the capsule ceremony, the benediction will be given by the Rev. A. W. Coody, pastor of the United Methodist Church of Cameron and Grand Chenier.





CAMERON PARISH Library Administrator Dede Sanders and Cameron Main Branch Manager Angel Baccigalopi scan some elementary school yearbooks into the Cameron Parish Digital Archive. Old yearbooks, Cameron Pilots, Fur Festival Cookbooks, and more are being preserved digitally for easy public access via the library's website. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Library has been collecting & digitizing historical materials

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

Since 2018, the Cameron Parish Library has been collecting and digitizing historical materials to create a Cameron Parish Digital Archive. Materials already scanned and available on the Library website, www.cameron.lib.la.us, include Fur Festival cookbooks, Cameron Parish Pilot newspapers, Veterans Wall names, and school yearbooks.

Historical photos and non-copyrighted materials are being scanned into a "digital vertical file," available for research at any library branch. These include old Mosquito Control road maps, 1970 Home Demonstration Club community history tour guides, Attakapas Tribe information, Dr. S. O. Carter clinic records, pogy boat photos, W. T. Block histories, Geneva

Griffith news stories, John B. Gremillion's parish history, and more. New items are always being added as people bring them in.

The Library encourages anyone having old yearbooks or other historical materials to bring them in to any branch to be scanned. It can be done while waiting or left with the staff for a short time. The digital materials are kept on a secure server, backed up at a remote site for extra safety. Actual documents and other materials can also be donated to the collection.

As Cameron Parish enters its 150th year, Library Administrator Dede Sanders and her staff hope to create a very complete and useful set of research materials, preserving the parish's unique history for future generations.



THREATENED BY over-hunting and habitat loss, the American alligator was removed from the endangered species list in 1987. They are now listed in the "Least Concern" category, indicating a profound comeback.

Rice farming in Cameron Parish

The Civil War had a great impact on rice farming. States like South Carolina and Georgia lacked capital and with the abolishment of slavery, had no workforce.

There was an abundance of the availability of cheap land and abundant water in the prairies of southwest Louisiana.

Acadians who were fleeing persecution and traveled to the state from more northern areas found the hot humid coastal plains of Cameron Parish ideal for growing rice.

Louisiana is America's third-largest rice producing state. Most rice production takes place in the state's coastal prairies which are located in the southwestern

Sweet Lake Land & Oil is one of the state of Louisiana's largest suppliers of rice products.

Cameron Port important to our economy

(EDITOR'S NOTE--This information is currently available on the website: <http://www.cameronparish-port.com>)

The Cameron Port is a major support contributor with a direct link to the oil and gas exploration and service industry. It is also home to several fleets of shrimp, crab, and other seafood harvesting operations. Two major LNG interests are currently located on waterways within the port with others in permitting stage.

Primary cargo that flows through the port, much of which arrives or departs from the port's territorial jurisdiction are: Baroid, Coal, Sweet and Sour Crude, LNG

The Cameron Parish Port port is situated as the port of entry to the Calcasieu Ship Channel in Southwest Louisiana. It is located on the Gulf of Mexico with the Calcasieu Ship Channel, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway



RICE FARMING is embedded in the heritage of Southwest Louisiana. In the early 1900s the reaping machine played an integral part in the annual harvest of this important crop. Pictured here, the cut rice is stacked carefully and left to dry in the fields until threshing time. This print by Elton Louviere was featured as the cover of Cameron Telephone Company in 1982.

(GIWW), the Mermentau River and the Cameron Loop all located within its territorial limits. The territorial limits encompass Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

The port allows for product transport for industrial companies of all sizes, to anywhere in the world and an integral role in commercial fisheries, shallow-draft manufacturing and oilfield service industry.

With convenient access to multiple ports and the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Cameron Parish is uniquely positioned to provide product transport for industrial companies of all sizes, to anywhere in the world. It is also quickly earning the reputation as the LNG capital of the world.

The Cameron Port Facilities are driving the economic growth in Cameron Parish and Southwest

Louisiana overall is the increasing global demand for LNG. Cameron is quickly earning the well-deserved reputation as the international LNG capital.



Chalkley family continues their legacy in Cameron Parish

- 17 years 7 months 26 days following Cameron Parish becoming officially a Parish of the State of Louisiana, North American Land & Timber Company, Limited of London England represented by its Directors acquired vast acreage in said parish.

- In 1893, Henry George Chalkley, then 22 years old, boarded the SS Britannic in Liverpool, England, emigrated to America, and later took his oath as a U.S. citizen in ceremonies in New York.

- Henry George Chalkley's father was one of the sons in the Chalkley syndicate.

- In 1896, Chalkley was named chief engineer of North American Land and Timber Co., which then owned more than a million acres of land in Southwest Louisiana.

- Chalkley immediately turned his attention toward developing the company's huge land holdings in Southwest Louisiana.

- From the beginning, his attention was drawn to the potential of rice.

- Educated in mechanical engineering at Leeds University in England, he apprenticed, after college, for five years in a steam plow factory. Because of Chalkley's knowledge of steam engines, he was able to make steam dredges to build irrigation canals. He also built steam tractors which were used to pull plows.

- Meanwhile, he decided that the Sweet Lake area was ideal rice land. He had already studied the area, and looked upon Sweet Lake as his personal Mecca. During the next 39 years, he spent most of his time – and his considerable energy – in developing the Sweet Lake area.

- By 1908, Henry George Chalkley, second generation Chalkley family, became the chief operating officer for the company. Five generations later the company is still being operated by Chalkley heirs, mainly Claude Alexander Leach.

- Industrious Chalkley, interested in cultivating the idle prairie land, successfully prevailed upon the company to conduct an experiment in growing rice on high, well-drained land, irrigated by lifting water from the bayou to field-level, a system now known as "artificial" irrigation.

- The experiment was a success. So successful in fact, that the irrigation system conceived and placed in use at that time is still serving today with a few added refinements. The rice industry, heretofore struggling in an arrested infancy, suddenly found itself and, with the tremendous influx of farmers, even from as far away as the state of Iowa, to Southwest Louisiana, it rapidly gained impetus.

- The first three irrigation canals dug by the company are still in use.

- Later, Sweet Lake Land and Oil Company built a large number of homes for farmers and employees in the Sweet Lake area, and also built a commissary near the pumping station.

- A highway to cross the marsh from Sweet Lake to the Creole area was one of the most needed projects for this area. Most of the residents of the area spoke only French, a language that Chalkley had not mastered. So Charles Eagleson, who spoke fluent French, joined Henry George Chalkley, Sr. and a company official, Thomas Cox, and the three traveled together over the surrounding area and got enough signatures on a petition to get the ball rolling for the Creole Highway, which soon became a reality.

- Chalkley then formed two new companies – North American Land Company and Sweet Lake Land and Oil Company – and these companies bought large tracts of land and some of the other assets from the initial owners

- In 1908, Chalkley helped support the building of a Methodist Church which was being built in Sweet Lake. The Company had previously given a one-room school building to the community. The Company also donated the land for St. Patrick's Chapel, and recently the Company donated land for a parish cemetery.

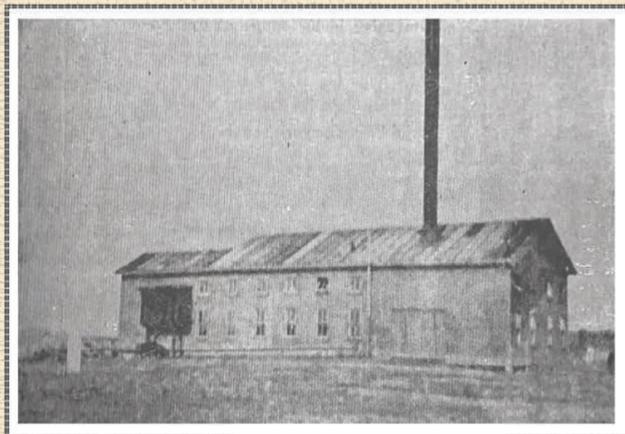
- In April of 1939, Henry George Chalkley, Sr. died, leaving a long list of credits and honors he'd accomplished in his adopted land.

- His son, Henry G. "Harry" Chalkley Jr., followed his father's path, and although he did not have a role in the "steam" era of his father, he is remembered for the many civic projects and work he did in bringing new vitality to the area.

- Whenever it came to the 4H Kids of Southwest Louisiana, Mr. Henry G. "Harry" Chalkley, Jr. made sure they had the facilities and support needed. He was always willing to help. Mr. Chalkley worked actively to acquire the land for Burton Coliseum and served on the Commission that enabled the approval of the tax millage that funded the building of the Coliseum.

- Both of the companies formed by Henry George Chalkley operate today from their present and new office at 7777 Nelson Road, Lake Charles, Louisiana. The companies are active today in land, rice, irrigation and oil and gas production. Also included are: raising beef cattle; hunting and fishing, operating a commercial lodge for that purpose, Grosse Savanne; NALMAR, a small boat marina and fueling station and commercial real estate.

- Through the years, the Chalkley family has grown. Now in its 6th generation of leadership, the seventh is waiting in the wings.



SWEET LAKE PLANT - The pumping plant located near Sweet Lake, 18 miles southeast of Lake Charles, was built by the North American Land and Timber Co. The company was the largest land owner in Southwest Louisiana at the turn of century. This station could pump 40,000 gallons of irrigation water per minute.



THIS PHOTO, taken many years ago, shows a group of lower Cameron residents enjoying a picnic at Little Pecan Island. Left to right: Euphie Theriot Richard, (unknown lady), Mr. Albert Theriot, Amy Bell Richard LeDoux, Zulmo Theriot, Margaret Zampana Theriot, ??? Theriot Turner, Alex Theriot Broussard, Vian Theriot and Numa Theriot on horse.

Johnson Bayou first area of parish to be settled

By GENEVA GRIFFITH
Cameron Pilot
Sept. 9 1993

This following prediction for Cameron Parish was written by the Commissioner of Immigration of Louisiana in a pamphlet in the 1800s: "Cameron has not yet had her day. She must await the future and abide her time in patience. She will doubtless, at some near day, be a busy place in canning fish, oysters and shrimp. "Her parish seat, Leesburg, is right on the Gulf of Mexico, at the mouth of the Calcasieu River. If deep water ever comes to the mouth of the river, Leesburg will be a great place by reason of that alone. (Leesburg was changed to Cameron in the 1920s). "When the immigrant takes hold of the coast marsh

as he will before the next quarter of a century, with its prodigiously fertile soil, then Cameron Parish will come to the front. "Great will be the crops of sugar cane, rice, sea-island cotton, oranges and vegetables, while the Gulf will afford cheap and delicious food for the agriculturist. "So the sea and the land will both pour out their bounteous treasures to this, thus far, disregarded parish." What he predicted did come true - Cameron has prospered but tragically it only became a familiar name to the rest of the world when Hurricane Audrey struck on June 27, 1957. Prior to 1870, the region that is now Cameron Parish had been a part of varied political divisions.

THE NEUTRAL STRIP
During the 17th and 18th centuries the territory lying between the Sabine and Calcasieu rivers, called by the Spaniards "The Rio Hondo", was known as the Neutral Strip. France claimed the Calcasieu River as the boundary and Spain, the Sabine. When the United States bought the Louisiana territory in 1803, the question again arose between the U. S. government and that of Mexico, and in 1819 a final settlement placed the boundary at the Sabine. The land east of Mermentau River has been a part of five different parishes: St. Martin in 1807; Lafayette in 1818; Vermilion in 1844; and finally Cameron in 1870. The earliest inhabitants were the Attakapas Indians, and it is believed that the Spanish explorers under Cabeza DeVaca touched at coastal points as well as DeSoto's survivors on their voyage from the mouth of the Mississippi to the Spanish

colonies in Mexico. The pirate brothers, Jean and Pierre Lafitte, frequented the rivers and bayous of this remote parish that was accessible only by water. **FIRST WHITE SETTLERS**
Probably the first white settlers came into the western end of the parish when Benjamin Johnson looked across the Sabine River from his home in Sabine Pass, Texas and saw the lush marsh grass and brought his range cattle over to graze on the seas of marsh-hay cordgrass that grew profusely. He named the area Johnson Bayou and moved his family there, probably in the late 1700's or early 1800's. His son-in-law, Henry Griffith, later joined him and established a vast cattle operation, moving his herds from his sections of land locally to his land in Texas, being joined in many of these cattle drives by his friend McFadden for whom McFadden Beach, west of Sabine, was named.



Old Rogers Hotel once served weary travelers

(EDITOR'S NOTE--This was another in the series of historical articles that ran in the Cameron Parish Pilot during Cameron Parish's Centennial year.)
The Rogers Hotel came into existence Oct. 14, 1918, when Jessie J. (son of Captain Milford and Louisa Rogers) and his wife acquired one acre of land and a two-story building from Albert T. Richard of Mamou for \$850.

It was located across the river from Leesburg (Cameron) where the mouth of the Calcasieu River met the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Being inaccessible except by water and therefore having to furnish transportation for guests, a third story was added and used as a look-out. From this vantage point one could survey the Gulf for schooners or the river, and forewarn Mrs. Rogers, nee Theresa Dulaney, of approaching visitors and guests so someone could be on the wharf to greet them. The first floor contained eight guest rooms, a large kitchen and dining room. The guests could stroll or sit on the railed porch which bordered all four sides of the hotel's first floor. The second floor was reserved for living quarters for the large Rogers family; they had eight children. Sloping downward to the river was a long, wide boardwalk. Near it was the dock where R. Rogers kept several skiffs with oars ready to transport supplies and hotel guests back and forth to the mainland. The river water was clear and similar to the Gulf in that the sandy bottom sloped outward from the shore. The children played on the beautiful white sandy beach while their mothers swam in the shallow water area which M. Rogers marked off with post for them. This mild form of pleasure held no fascination for the Rogers children and their cousins. They preferred climbing the ladder to the old range light and diving from it, into the deep water. The range light was easy to get to from the boardwalk, which had been extended southward to accommodate the lighthouse attendants in their duties. Some of the first oleanders in the parish were planted in their yard along with a few other shrubs, China and Hackberry trees. North of the hotel was a small fruit orchard containing mostly peach trees. Business men, duck hunters and summer vacations came from all over Louisiana to enjoy the pretty beach and the Rogers' kind of good food and southern hospitality. Grandchildren too welcomed a vacation at the hotel and asked to be served meals, especially breakfast, "just like the boarders." The end came when the proposed ship channel route cut through the hotel property. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers sold to Elmer E. Shutts on March 31, 1939. Mr. Shutts sold to the United States of America for the use in construction, improving and maintaining the Lake Charles ship channel from the docks at Lake Charles to the Gulf of Mexico in accordance with a project duly authorized by Congress.

Cont. on Page A14

CELEBRATING THE JOYS OF TODAY,
THE MEMORIES OF YESTERDAY &
THE HOPES OF TOMORROW. . .

150th YEARS ANNIVERSARY

Grand Lake Elderly Apartments

Grand Lake Elderly Apartments opened its doors in August 2009. It reflects the leadership of Dinah Landry, Executive Director of the Cameron Council on Aging and the hard work of her team. Grand Lake Elderly Apartments is a beautifully designed housing complex with thirty (30) one (1) and two (2) bedroom apartments and is located in Grand Lake at 10104 Gulf Highway, Grand Lake, La. 70607. The complex is professionally managed by Gemini Real Estate Holdings, Inc.

Offering a peaceful environment and apartments designed with all the latest amenities, which make for a wonderful high quality living environment. On-site activities range from Bingo to Arts and Crafts.

For anyone who may want to tour Grand Lake or fill out an application, we are located at 10104 Gulf Hwy., Grand Lake, La. 70607. Our telephone number is 337-905-0381. We would love for Grand Lake Elderly Apartments to be your new home!!

Sybil Wolfe, Apartment Manager
337-905-0381 • Grand Lake

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WE HAVE REACHED A
NOTEWORTHY MILESTONE AND
CAMERON PARISH IS LOOKING
FORWARD TO ANOTHER
150 YEARS!!!

Stock up at Kelley's Mart in Grand Chenier!

We sell gas, groceries, ice, beer, package liquor, snacks, bait, ammo and more.

Owned and operated by Mitchel and Pam Kelley, we are open from 5:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday and 5:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday.

If you're hungry we serve hot links, boudin, tasso, BBQ beef, hot dogs and nachos.

Kelley's Mart

Grand Chenier, LA
538-2604 or 538-2175
3261 Grand Chenier Hwy. Grand Chenier, La

Funeral

POLICE JURY

Cont. from Page A1

degree in business at Tulane University. His primary responsibilities include product procurement, sales and marketing. He is chairman of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board and Vice-chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Crab Task Force.

Chalin said the collaboration of government agencies and community support over the past several months has made this milestone possible. "Our roots are not from here, but we are proud to be planted here," he said. With capital investment in equipment already in the works and a local management team selected, he fully expects to be in operation this spring "buying anything that swims in that water."

Fishermen will be the key to the success of this venture, he said, and he has talked to many to hear their concerns and will take them to heart in building a business strategy. Terry and Kay Picou have been selected to manage day-to-day operations. A dock day will be scheduled with LSU Sea Grant, and a Grand Opening will be set for late April or early May.

The fisheries facility was built with a Hurricane Rita Community Development Block Grant for disaster recovery program grant, and some additional Parish funds. It is located at the site of the former Steed's Shrimp House in Cameron, and includes the iconic ice house which displayed the "Welcome to Cameron" mural by Shorty the Sign Painter. Original plans were to restore the mural, which may still happen.

FOOD TRUCK AMENDMENT PASSES

The long debated amendment to Cameron Parish's Temporary Food Service Ordinance was adopted Tuesday, but not without further debate. Juror Lee Faulk said several of his Grand Lake constituents were worried that temporary food trucks will proliferate throughout the parish as a result of this ordinance change. Even though he assured them that the amendment will only allow four food trucks to operate in the Holly Beach area, they remained concerned. He was the lone vote against the amendment.

The changes include allowing four temporary food trucks to be permitted for the Holly Beach area per year. They will have to meet Louisiana Dept. of Health guidelines including being attached to a commissary and returning to that location each night. A Cameron Parish permit will cost \$100 and last until Dec. 31. Ice cream, frozen novelty and snow cone trucks are not included in the four permit limit.

Food trucks operated by or on behalf of a non-profit organization can sell food or drink in any location, provided they meet all the provision of the Louisiana Sanitary Code and purchase a permit.

Temporary food service vendors may operate at any of the six designated parish fairs and festivals without a food service permit or occupational license. They must still comply with the Louisiana Sanitary Code. The six events are: Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival, St. Mary of the Lake Fall Festival, Grand Chenier Alligator Festival, Summer Bayou Bash Festival, Hackberry Duck-Off, and Cameron Saltwater Fishing Festival.

Juror Curtis Fountain said some of his constituents would like Hackberry to be included in the temporary food service area, but other jurors said making a change now would cause at least a two month delay in passing the amendment. They said if this change works out, the matter can be addressed later.

Parish Administrator Katie Armentor proposed moving the administration of the Parish occupational tax from the Sheriff's tax office to the Police Jury's permit office. She said it would make the process easier for people trying to get a license and permit, and her staff can handle the extra work. The change cannot be made until after June 30, when the Sheriff's new term starts, so there is time for discussion and public input, she said.

BREAKWATER PROJECTS MOVE FORWARD

A group of Long Beach property owners asked to speak about the condition of their road, which has been impassable for three years. They said the Parish started to repair the road, which is next to the beach, as a FEMA project after Hurricane Ike. According to FEMA guidelines, the road was excavated to three or four feet below its previous level. A new base and surface were to be installed, but before the project could be completed a winter storm washed out a lot of the work. The Parish then decided to stop work on the road until protection measures could be installed.

At Tuesday's meeting, four bids were opened for rock breakwaters at Long Beach. Rigid Construction was the low bidder at \$2,987,750. Armentor said that the



OWNERS OF Tommy's Seafood, Tommy, Chalin and Daniel Delaune sign the operators agreement for the Cameron fishery facility on Tuesday as District Attorney Jennifer Jones and Cameron Parish Port Director look on. (Photo submitted by Cyndi Sellers.)

Network at the next business luncheon

By CYNDI SELLERS

A Business Social and Luncheon will be hosted by the Cameron Parish Port, Harbor and Terminal District and the Cameron Lions Club on Friday, Apr. 24, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Cameron Multipurpose Building, located at 122 Recreation Center Lane, Cameron.

Networking will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon. The event will feature an Alliance for Positive Growth membership drive. Interested businesses are asked to RSVP by Wednesday, Apr. 15, by calling the Port office at 337-739-1098.

Rutherford Beach breakwater contractor has been given notice to proceed with 4500 feet of rocks, and should be completed by Oct. 1. The same timeline should have the Long Beach rocks in place by Nov. 15 or so.

In the meantime, Juror Sonny McGee asked the public works department to look into an easement to allow the property owners access to their lots and houses.

Three bids were also opened for the Rockefeller Shoreline Protection Project extension. Rigid Construction was also the low bidder for this project, at \$6,744,300.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jurors voted to advertise to amend the Parish ordinance defining the size of the Library Board to correspond with the Louisiana Revised Statute, which allows up to seven members. The Cameron Parish ordinance only allows five.

They also voted to advertise to reduce the speed limit on Parish Road 225 (Miller Ave.) in Grand Chenier from 25 to 15 mph, and to abandon the northern 120 feet of PR 3135 (C Street) in Cameron.

They agreed to sign resolutions authorizing Rural Public Transit to file for its annual grant, and in support of a Rail Feasibility Study being sponsored by the Cameron Parish Port. They also appropriated \$12,000 for the Cameron Council on Aging Meal Program.

All advertised permit applications passed, including an after-the-fact permit for filling in property at Holly Beach that was damaged in Hurricanes and became defined as wetlands with 400 yards of hauled-in sand.

CenterPoint Energy received permits to install gas lines to the Cameron Restaurant and Marina and Cameron Lodgings RV Park, parts of the Cameron Amenities project being constructed by Venture Global LNG on Davis Road in Cameron.

Three new board appointments were made: Wendy Harrington - Lower Cameron Hospital District #2; Marsha Delaney - Gravity Drainage District #8; and Shirley Gray - Gravity Drainage District #3, replacing Oren DeBarge who resigned.

Cameron library programs are set for March 12-21

The Cameron Parish Library programs are listed below by branch:

CAMERON
Phone 337-775-5421
Friday, Mar. 13, 1 p.m., Children's Craft Activity: Make St. Patrick's Day Shaker Craft.
Saturday, Mar. 14, 11 a.m., Children's Craft Activity: Shamrock Craft.
Wednesday, Mar. 18, 4:30 p.m., Adult/Teen Exercise Class.
Friday, Mar. 20, 1 p.m., Children's Craft Activity: Baby Chick Craft.

GRAND CHENIER
Phone 337-538-2214
Friday, Mar. 13, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Children's Craft Activity: Paper Plate Rainbow Tambourines.
Saturday, Mar. 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Children's Craft Activity: Shamrock Wands.
Saturday, Mar. 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Children's Craft Activity: Crazy Easter Glasses.

GRAND LAKE
Phone 337-598-5950
Thursday, Mar. 12, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Children's Craft Activity: Mardi Gras Slime.
Wednesday, Mar. 18, 9:30 a.m., Adult Bingo.

HACKBERRY
Phone 337-762-3978
Friday, Mar. 13, 1-3 p.m., Children's Program: Read "How to Catch a Leprechaun" and Make a Clay pot Leprechaun.
Wednesday, Mar. 18, 12-2 p.m., Adult Activity: Saint Patrick's Day Candle.
Friday, Mar. 20, 1-3 p.m., Children's Program: Minute to Win It Game.

LOWRY
Phone 337-774-3030
Thursday, Mar. 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Children's Program: Read "The Night Before St. Patrick's Day" and Make St. Patrick's Day Leprechaun hats.
Tuesday, Mar. 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Adult Craft: Make mason jar beach rocks; Teen Craft: Paper plate flower.
Thursday, Mar. 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Children's Program: Read "Weslandia" and make Flowers.



CREEDON KEITH CORMIER

Creedon Keith Cormier died peacefully in his Momma's arms surrounded by his family Thursday, Mar. 5, 2020 at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas.

Creedon was born on Dec. 10, 2014 in Jennings to Haylee B. Pelt and Kevin C. Cormier.

Creedon never met a stranger; everyone was his friend. He loved to sing, preach, dance and worship his Jesus. Creedon's smile and laughter could light up any room. Creedon loved his school, KC Academy and all his friends and teachers there. He loved to play his guitar and sing his favorite song, "I'll Fly Away" to anyone who would listen.

Creedon is survived by his parents: his mother, Haylee B. Pelt and Jacob Wilkerson; and his Dad, Kevin C. Cormier. He is also survived by his Lolly, Mandi Pelt White and his Pop, Raymond Cormier; his Mom, Jeanita Cormier and his Pop, Keith Cormier, his Nana Barbara Wilkerson and his PawPaw Wendell Wilkerson; two brothers, Landon and Graydon Cormier.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Mar. 11, 2020 at 11 a.m. in the Miguez Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Arlen Smith officiating. Burial followed in Sweetlake/Grand Lake Cemetery under the direction of Miguez Funeral Home.



-The CAMERON PILOT-
(USPS 086980)
Telephones: (337)786-8004 or (337)786-2870

Jeffra Wise DeViney, Publisher & Advertising Manager; Shirley Johnson, Production Manager; Crystal Nix, Office Manager; Evalin Hester, Dawn Spears, Karen Griffin, Lauren Cooper, and Dustin Royer, Staff Members.

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Presidential Preference Primary/Municipal Primary Election April 4, 2020

Presidential Nominee Democratic Party Presidential Nominee Republican Party

- The deadline to register to vote in person or make changes to your registration by mail was Wednesday, **March 4, 2020**
- The deadline to register to vote or make changes to your registration through the GeauxVote online registration system is **March 14, 2020**
- The deadline to request an absentee by mail ballot is **March 31, 2020** by 4:30 p.m. You can request an absentee by mail ballot online www.geauxvote.com or in writing through your Registrar of Voters Office
- The deadline for a registrar of voters to receive a voted mail ballot is April 3 by 4:30 p.m.

Early Voting will be conducted at our main office Saturday March 21, 2020 to March 28, 2020 (except Sunday)
From 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Cameron Parish Police Jury West Annex
148 Smith Circle, Cameron La. 70631

(PLEASE NOTE 3 Days in Grand Lake Location)
Early voting in **Grand Lake will be Monday March 23, Tuesday March 24, and Wednesday March 25, 2020**

At the Grand Lake Library
10200 Gulf Hwy., Grand Lake, La. 70607
8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

(PLEASE NOTE 1 day in Hackberry location)
Early Voting in **Hackberry will be Friday, March 27, 2020**

At the Hackberry Community Center
980 Main St., Hackberry, La. 70645
8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

(Bring picture ID with you)

Cameron Parish Registrar of Voters
Physical address is 148 Smith Circle, Cameron, La. 70631
Mailing address is P.O. Box 1, Cameron, La. 70631
337-775-5493 (O) 337-775-8014 (F)



The Cameron Pilot

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News Media celebrating Sunshine Week nationally

Louisiana Press Association

Each year in March, news media organizations across the country celebrate Sunshine Week.

We take this time to highlight the importance of transparency in our government, and we underscore the vital work our journalists do to fight for access to records that shed light on government activity.

The LPA continues to advocate for more access to essential information from all levels of government.

We remain focused on three key transparency issues - for public agencies to record executive sessions, for requiring agencies to provide agendas in advance of meetings so the public can attend and participate in issues that matter to them and for keeping public notices in newspapers.

Presidential Preference Primary set Sat., April 4

The Presidential Preference Primary/Municipal Primary Election will be held on Saturday, Apr. 4.

The deadline to register to vote or make changes to your registration through the Geaux Vote online registration system is Saturday, Mar. 14.

The deadline to register an absentee by mail ballot is Tuesday, Mar. 31, by 4:30 p.m. You can request an absentee by mail ballot online www.geauxvote.com or in writing through your Registrar of Voters Office.

The deadline for a registrar of voters to receive a voted mail ballot is Friday, Apr. 3, by 4:30 p.m.

EARLY VOTING

Cameron early voting will be conducted on Saturday, Mar. 21 to Mar. 28 (except Sunday) from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Cameron Parish Police Jury West Annex, located at 148 Smith Circle, Cameron.

Grand Lake early voting will be held Monday through Wednesday, Mar. 23-25, from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Grand Lake Library, located at 10200 Gulf Hwy.

Hackberry early voting will be held on Friday, Mar. 27, from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Hackberry Community Center, located at 980 Main St. *Bring picture ID with you.

First jury trial is held in newly renovated courtroom

Submitted by LISA STEWART

Judge Penelope Richard recently presided over the first jury trial held in the newly renovated courtroom. David Standley, formerly a resident of Port Arthur, Texas, was convicted of two felonies, Possession of Methamphetamine and Resisting an Officer by Force or Violence.

The charges arose out of an incident which occurred in the Johnson Bayou community in September of 2019, when Deputy Joshua Craddock stopped to assist Standley, who was having car trouble. Deputy Craddock dis-

covered illegal drugs in the vehicle and an altercation ensued between the deputy and Standley. Standley was eventually apprehended by Deputy Craddock with the assistance of Constable Tim Trahan.

The jury deliberated only 22 minutes before finding the defendant guilty as charged. The case was prosecuted by District Attorney Jennifer Jones, who was assisted by Assistant District Attorneys Glenn Alexander and Max Guthrie. Robert Sheffield of the Public Defender's Office represented Standley. Sentencing will occur on Tuesday, Apr. 28.

trapping, and oil and gas leasing, he said.

The Board approved contracts for the new Johnson Bayou High School Principal Lisa Liburd and Assistant Principal Valerie Murphy. It also approved a resolution in support of House Bill 8, which would allow retired teachers in low population parishes to go back to work without a limit on earnings.



FEBRUARY S.T.A.R winner Jolie G. Viator, Hackberry elementary student, pictured with School Supt. Charley Lemons, was recognized at the Cameron Parish School Board meeting Monday. Other winners not present were: Middle School - Reagan Veronie, South Cameron High School; High School - Claire Zaunbrecher, Grand Lake High School; and Faculty/Staff - Travis Merritt, South Cameron High School coach.

(Photo submitted by Cyndi Sellers)

BIRDS

Cont. from Pg. 1

In 1968 the state began importing brown Pelican fledglings from Florida to three sites in southeastern Louisiana. The Brown Pelican was declared an Endangered Species in 1970, and DDT was banned in 1972.

A total of 1,276 young pelicans were transported over a 13 year period. These birds began to multiply, and by the 1990's had spread to the Cameron Coast. They established a rookery on Rabbit Island in Calcasieu Lake, and numbers grew quickly. The Brown Pelican was removed from the Endangered Species list in 2009.

Then, in 2010, BP oil spill threatened the southeast Louisiana breeding grounds and the lives of countless pelicans. Many were captured, cleaned and transported to Florida, but some were brought to Cameron Parish with the help of Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge staff, and released on Rabbit Island, where they made themselves at home. A project is set to begin this summer to restore the breeding grounds on Rabbit Island, which have eroded over the years.

Rockefeller Refuge has also had a part in bringing back the Bald Eagle and most recently the Whooping Crane. The late Tom Hess, Jr. was the biologist manager for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Refuge Division at Rockefeller. He was placed in charge of the bald eagle nesting survey program in 1992. In 2000 he wrote an article for the Louisiana Conservationist magazine in which he stated that "the

recovery of the bald eagle in Louisiana has been tremendous." In the last few years Bald Eagles have reappeared in Cameron Parish, and may be nesting.

In 1918 twelve Whooping Cranes were shot north of Sweet Lake, the last official record of whooping cranes on the Louisiana prairies. In May of 1939, biologist John J. Lynch sighted two young-of-the-year cranes near White Lake. It was the last record of the species breeding in the United States. The last whooping crane in Louisiana was captured in 1950 at White Lake and transferred to Aransas NWR in Texas.

Sixty-one years later, in 2011, Whooping Cranes were re-introduced at the White Lake Wetlands Conservation area in Vermilion Parish, near the Cameron Parish border, by the LDWF. More young cranes have been released each year since. They have ventured out of the White Lake area, even into Cameron Parish. And as they mature, some have begun to breed.

Last year a cohort of young birds was released at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. As the young birds adjust to their new surroundings, they eventually fly out of their enclosure and begin a life in the wild. Unfortunately, several have been shot, mostly in Jeff Davis Parish, including a breeding female. It is to be hoped that the Cameron Parish birds remain here and stay safe. These majestic birds deserve a place in our marshes and on our prairies.



FOUR GENERATIONS are shown above. Pictured are Coty Stephenson holding Weston, Delaine Theriot, and Mona Theriot.

Six possible coronavirus cases reported in State

By CYNDI SELLERS

The Louisiana Department of Health has reported six presumptive positive cases of COVID-19, commonly referred to as coronavirus, in the state. The first case was reported on Monday, a Jefferson Parish resident, hospitalized in New Orleans. The second and third cases were reported on Tuesday, also hospitalized in New Orleans. On Wednesday three more presumptive positive cases were reported in Orleans Parish.

As of 8 p.m. Wednesday, the Department had completed over 35 tests for COVID-19, with six presumptive positive and the rest negative. The tests have been sent on to the Center for Disease Control

(CDC) for confirmation. No impact is begin seen in the SWLA area at this time. All public events are going forward as scheduled.

No changes are being made by the Cameron Parish School Board at this time to procedures or travel, according to Supt. Charley Lemons, who said schools are following CDC and DHH guidelines.

"The safety of our students and staff is our top responsibility. Cameron Parish Schools is in communication with the Louisiana Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) about COVID-19, also known as coronavirus," reads the statement from Cameron Parish School Board website.

Lunch menus announced

Cameron Parish School breakfast and lunch menus are as follows:

Thursday, Mar. 12 - (B) French Toast Sticks, Fruit Juice, Cantaloupe, Milk; (L) Pork Rib Patty on Bun with Barbecue Sauce, Oven Fries, Tomato Wedges, Fruit Cup, Milk.

Friday, Mar. 13 - (B) Blueberry Pancakes, Peach Slices, Fruit Juice, Goldfish Crackers, Milk; (L) Tuna Salad, Tossed Salad, Corn, Fruit Cocktail, Sliced Bread, Milk.

Monday, Mar. 16 - (B) Cinnamon Toast, Pineapple

Tidbits, Fruit Juice, Graham Crackers, Milk; (L) Barbecue Burger, Sweet Potato Fries, Green Beans, Pear Halves, Milk.

Tuesday, Mar. 17 - (B) Cereal, Buttered Toast, Pear Halves, Fruit Juice, Milk; (L) Chicken Fajitas, Fixing Cup, Fresh Baby Carrots, Fruit Cocktail, Taco Sauce, Sliced Bread, Milk.

Wednesday, Mar. 18 - (B) Breakfast Burrito, Orange Wedges, Fruit Juice, Milk; (L) Beef Finger Steaks, White Sauce, Baked Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Pear Halves, Yeast Roll, Milk.

West Cal-Cam to host a community health fair

West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital will hold a community health fair, open to the public on Tuesday, Apr. 7 from 6-9 a.m. at Dynamic Dimensions Fitness Center, located at 545 Cypress Street in Sulphur.

A variety of health screenings will be offered at no cost. Screenings include: lipid panel (triglyceride, total cholesterol, LDL and HDL cholesterol), blood pressure,

blood glucose, and prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test for men over 40.

Representatives from WCCH, Dynamic Dimensions, and the Calcasieu Council on Aging will be on hand to provide information on living a healthy lifestyle and answering Medicare questions.

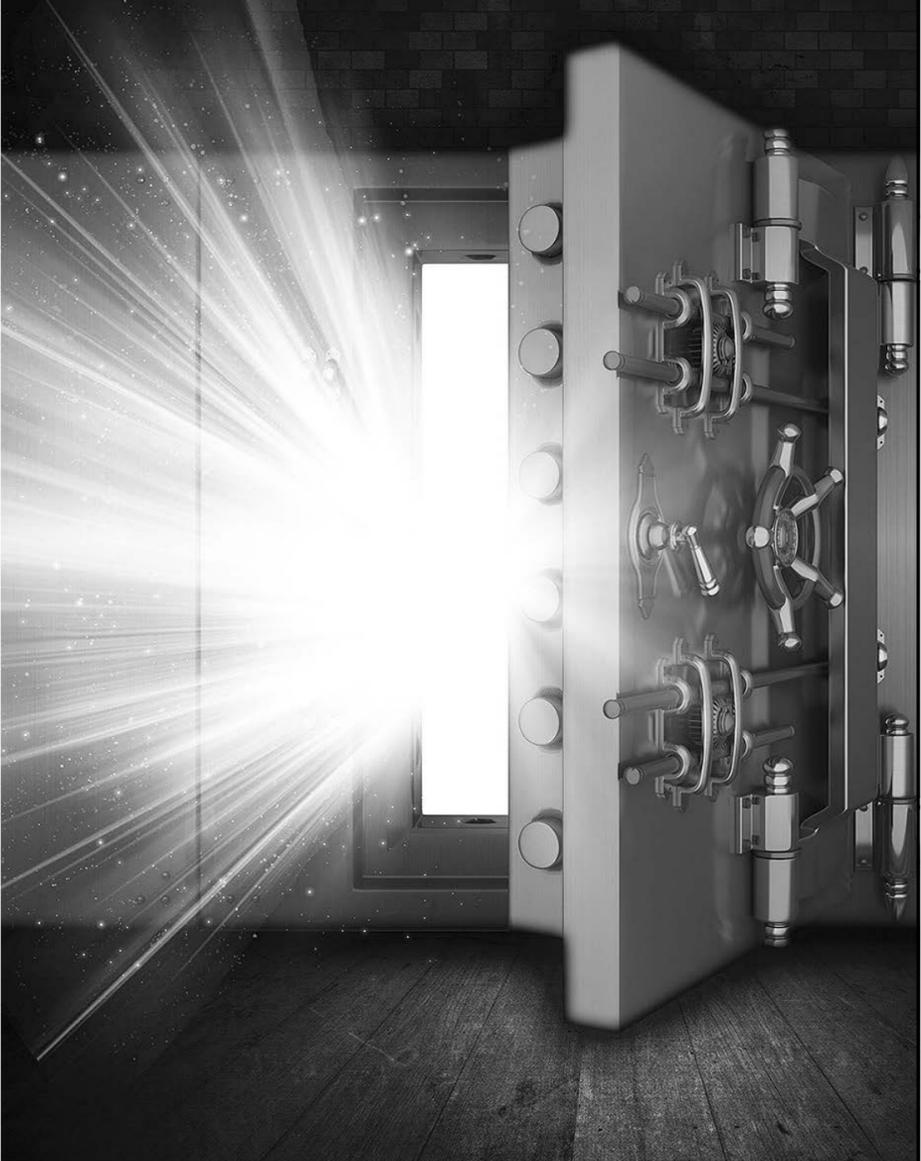
For additional information, call 337-528-4735.

THEIR SECRETS ARE NOT SAFE WITH US.

We believe government functions best when it operates in the open.

We have a responsibility to you, our readers. It is our job to question authority, expose wrong-doings, fight injustice and get to the heart of the issues that matter most. We are watchdogs who advocate for accountability and transparency.

As we observe Sunshine Week, we celebrate why freedom of information through an open government is a bedrock of democracy. Information belongs in the hands of the people, and officials of government should never shield the public from this constitutional right. You deserve no less.



Cameron Outdoors

By LOSTON MCEVERS



In Louisiana the recreational creel limit for flounder is 10 per person per day and there is no size minimum lengths, and you are allowed to fish for them year round in Louisiana waters. Possession limits on flounder are the same as the daily bag limits. Recreational anglers in our Calcasieu/Big Lake/Sabine Lake area catch more flounders than those in other parts of the state.

Fall in our area is good fishing months for flounder, in Big Lake and the Calcasieu Ship Channel, where flounders migrate to and from the Gulf of Mexico. Now, the commercial limit for flounders is 10 daily, no size limit, per licensed commercial fisherman.

Commercial fishing for flounders is allowed year round. Now commercial shrimping vessels may keep and sell all flounders harvested, as "by catch", on a shrimping trip. Now as we've seen the decrease in supposedly in our "spotted sea trout," as well as different ways to correct this from happening.

Now the Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries has sad news for our southern flounder stock in our Louisiana coastal waters, about a drop in flounder stock business. It is estimated that Louisiana has had a little less than a half million pounds of flounder business since 1980. Ten years ago it was 1.7 million pounds. A report for 2017-2018 recreational and commercial harvest of southern flounder were also the lowest on record.

Now they say flounder stock is not undergoing overfishing, and that the mortality rate is within limits, then they said it was overfished. Over the past 30 years populations have been in decline, and the flounder is at near record low.

Flounder sex depends on temperature of the water and at most 50 percent females, but while warm and cold temperatures outside of the sweet spot will produce 94 percent males.

Southern flounder females are sexually mature by two years (roughly 15-17 inches in length, and can live 7-8 years, which is a short life span. Male flounders have even shorter lives, topping out at three years of age. Some reach 17 inches in length but rarely reach length longer than 14 inches.

Spawning stock has decreased 73.2 percent from 1983 to 2018. The most recent change for southern flounder, was in 2014, when the state moved to extend the Nov. 2 fish bag limit, through Dec. 14, 2014.

The Dept. of Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries is again looking at possible management changes to increase overall stock, as well as considering a seasonal closure, increasing the minimum size to 15 inches and to tighten up the under reporting of commercial catches.

The Atlantic coast has also seen overfishing of the southern flounder for 20 years and they plan change. Louisiana

Wildlife & Fisheries needs to find out why the decline in population. One thing about our neighbors in the state of Texas, the Texas Park & Wildlife (TPW) Commission met in January 2020 and discussed the southern flounder problem. They already have their proposals. Closed Nov. 1 to Dec. 15 to all flounder fishing. Increase minimum size to 15 inches. Strengthen language regarding who is required to report under commercial finfish licenses. They will vote on the Mar. 25-26 meetings.

BIG LAKE

Lots of strong winds, dirty waters on Calcasieu and Big Lake. It's sunshine, rain, strong winds and cold spell seems week after week. A few good size trout caught in the west cove area, as well as Turner Bay area, and anglers are catching some good flounders.

Redfish are at the Cameron jetties, but strong winds and waves makes it tough fishing. It's cracked crabs for redfish, beatles under the cork for trouts and flounder around the oyster Bayou area, and swimming mullets in chartreuse/shad colors works well.

TOLEDO BEND

Lake level was 171.18, two generators running, no gates open at spillway and water temp is 56-58. Lots of stained water to the north but south mostly clear. Good areas to catch bass was in the six mile creek areas and a few good bass reported in the Housen Bay area. Anglers are using squarebill crank baits in the shad colors, Texas rig worms in baby bass and pumpkin colors, as well as drop shots in June and redbug on 1/4 oz. Bullet sinkers as well as wacky worms in watermelon/red or candy.

It's been cold and rainy as well as windy. It's okay for anglers to catch fish to eat, but keep the smaller fish and release the big ones. Some of the over 10 pound bass caught since January 2020 on Toledo Bend Lunker Program.

In January, Matthew Kahrs 10.9 pounds; #12, Stephen Johnston, 10.7 pounds #13; Roger Johnson, 10.1, #14; Justin Glover, 10.44, #15; and #16 was Dayton Trichel with a 11.16 pounder. The Toledo Bend Lake Association (TBLA) reported that all the fishing regulations/Luncker bass program signs, have been installed on both sides of Toledo Bend Lake (Texas and Louisiana), which completes all currently planned work on this project. 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the TBLA.

STAR TOURNAMENT

The 2020 CCA Louisiana statewide tournament and anglers rodeo marks the 26th year of the tournament, with competition once again, spanning the coast of Louisiana, and running from May 23 through Labor Day, Sept. 7.

S.T.A.R. early bird prize drawing occur every Friday for three months leading up to

Hunter Safety Ed Program

The Cameron Parish Sheriff's Department will host a Hunter Education program on Friday, Mar. 27, from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday, Mar. 28, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Grand Lake Fireman Center, located at 963 Hwy. 384, Lake Charles. A meal will be provided on Saturday.

The class is free to the public. You must be at least 10 years of age or older at the date of the class to become certified.

To register go to: www.wlf.louisiana.gov/education. Look for the date/class and fill out the registration. This is the only way to attend.

For more information contact Detective Ty Alexander at 337-526-4363.

REMEMBERS

Cont. from Page A1

LeBlancs, Baccigalopis, Griffins, Carters, Mr. Charlie Nelson, Boudions, Boudreauxs, Broussards, Roberts, Picous, LeBoufs, Morales, Michons, Johnsons, LaBoves, Primeauxs, Kings, Duhons, Benois, Trahans, Corials, Daniels, Thibodeauxs, Domingues, Roys, Richards, P-Shick, Conners, Landrys, Melacons, Murpheys, Morris, Juettes, Dimases, Bertrands, Olivers, Gaspards, Savoies, Kershaws, Carrolls, Harpers, Trosciairs, Hesses, Bascos, Joanens, Leforts, Crochets, Manuels, Eaglestons, Porties, Wickes, Clarks, Easts, Cohens, Menards, McNeeses, Coreils, Menards, Kellys, and Perrys.

BUSINESSES

Businesses in Grand Chenier were: Shelton Miller

the start of the tournament, and will begin on Mar. 13. The tagged redfish division will once again see 100 tagged redfish, release in the water prior to the beginning.

Divisions are: speckletrout, offshore fish division, Mangrove snapper, red snapper, dorado, and cobia, kayak division, fly and ladies division and youth division. 17 years old and younger fish for free, with their current CCA membership. They can register a speckle trout or flounder, over 14 inches at participating weigh station or by emailing a picture of child, with fish, on a ruler, to CCA for instant entry.

Four - boat, motor and trailer packages will be given away. Tournament registration is \$35 and you must be a CCA member to participate. Visit CCASTAR.com for registration, rules and weigh stations.

MARCH

March is named for the Roman god of war, "Mars". This was the time of the year to resume military campaigns that had to be interrupted by winter. When March rolls around, you think of fishing, crabbing, shrimping and planting your garden!

The Rabbit Festival is Mar. 19-21, at the Burton Coliseum Complex in Lake Charles. There will be a cook-off, plenty of food, live music and a good time! We're now in the Daylight Savings Time, with more light in the afternoon, so we can fish longer!

Duck stamps became law in the U.S. on Mar. 16, 1934. The competition for the Federal Duck Painting takes place each year and this year 2020-21, the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting & Conservation Stamp winner was Eddie Leroy of Eufaula, Ala. That will go on sale in June 2020, now \$25. The stamp will have a couple of "black-bellied" whistling ducks featured on the stamp.



GOD'S GIFT, a shrimp boat in Cameron, is seen here at the docks. Was she just in from trawling for some of the best tasting Gulf seafood or on her way out? (Photo by Jo Dee Roberts.)

Boys playoffs continue

By WARREN ARCENEUX
American Press

Hamilton Christian will be looking to extend its streak of semifinals appearances while Grand Lake will be looking to make its first as a football playing school when the boys teams from each school hit the hardwood tonight.

The No. 2 Warriors (25-7) will host No. 7 Metairie Park Country Day (13-12) in a Division IV semifinal at 7 p.m. while No. 2 Grand Lake (30-1) will host No. 10 Arcadia (18-10) in a Class 1A semifinal at 6:30 p.m.

Arcadia beat the Hornets by a point in Grand Lake two

parish were: Miami Corporation Hunt N Club, Big Lake Guide Service, Hackberry Rod & Gun Club, Cameron Wildlife, Black Lake Lodge, Black Lake Marsh Hunting Club, Doug's Hunting Club, Lu Lu's Hunting Lodge, Wheelers Hunting Club, Shot's Hunting Club, Marsh Club, Johnson Bayou Club, Domingue Hunting, Calcasieu Hunt N Club, Coastal Guide Services, (Vince Theriot) Offshore, Inshore Fishing, Bluewater Expeditions Fish'N, South Charters Cameron, Cedar Edge Lodge Johnson Bayou, Inland Charters Fish'N & Hunt'N Johnson Bayou.

Edwin Mhire also had a bar, cafe and dance hall in Grand Chenier. Barber shops, hair cutters, were Vern's Creole, Gary Billideaux Creole, Willie Hook, Dallas in Cameron. Hebert and Oscar Sturlese in Grand Chenier.

Cont. on Page A11

years ago to end the Hornets season.

"A lot of our kids played in that game as sophomores," said Hornets head coach Mark Caldwell. "They were young and just didn't have the experience they have now. They've matured mentally and physically. You can't put a price on big-game experience. I think our battles with Hamilton for the district title were those type of games. I think in the past two years we have figured out what we do as a team and as a program."

Caldwell said Arcadia is talented and has intangibles.

"They have lots of team speed and quickness," Caldwell said. They have a winning culture and program. They won't come in here and be scared; they will show up ready to beat us."

Country Day is no stranger to big games, having won four state championships this decade, including one in Division III before moving down in classification.

"This is our toughest quarterfinal game," Hamilton head coach Dexter Washington said. "They are well coached by Mike McGuire. We will have to stop their motion offense and play faster than normal. We will have to use our speed."



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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF THE 2020 MEETING OF SLEMCO'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR SLEMCO'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A Committee on Nominations has been appointed by the SLEMCO Board of Directors to nominate certain candidates for election to SLEMCO's Board of Directors at its annual meeting on June 6, 2020.

The Nominating Committee meeting is scheduled for and will meet on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., at the SLEMCO office, 2727 SE Evangeline Thruway, Lafayette, Louisiana 70508.

Bryan G. Leonard, Sr.
BRYAN G. LEONARDS, SR.
SLEMCO Board Secretary
RUN: Mar. 12, 19 (M ?)

LEGAL NOTICE
This is to advise that the Cameron Parish Police Jury meeting in regular session convened on the 7th day of February 2020 accepted as complete and satisfactory the work performed under Project Number 19-130, the Cameron Parish Road Project pursuant to the certain contract between Prairie Contractors, LLC and said Cameron Parish Police Jury recorded under File No. 346224, in the Book of Mortgages, Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any person or persons having claims arising out of the furnishing of labor, supplies, material, etc., in the construction of the said work should file said claim with the Clerk of Court of Cameron Parish, Louisiana on or before forty-five (45) days after the first publication hereof, all in the manner and form as prescribed by law. After the elapse of said time, the Cameron Parish Police Jury will pay all sums due in the absence of any such claims or liens.
BY: Mary Carroll, Secretary
RUN: Feb. 13, 20, 27, Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26 (F 16)

NOTICE
The Johnson Bayou Recreation Center will be accepting applications for the following summer positions: Lifeguard Supervisor - Applicant must be at least 18 yrs. of age; Lifeguards - Applicant must be at least 15 yrs of age by end of certification class. Applications may be picked up at the recreation center during our normal operating hours. For more information, please contact Heather Trahan at 337-324-5161.
RUN: Feb. 27, Mar. 5, 12 (F 32)

PROCEEDINGS
GRAVITY DRAINAGE
DISTRICT NO 4
January 20, 2020
Gravity Drainage District No. 4 held a regular meeting at the Creole Fire Station in Creole, Louisiana at 5:30 p.m., Monday, January 20, 2020.

PRESENT: Todd Morales, Mike Semien and Dan Nunez
ABSENT: Shane Broussard and Leslie Griffith

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Dan Nunez.

Mr. Mitch Thomas with Lonnie Harper and Associates was present for the public comment period. The group discussed the upcoming projects and timelines.

On motion of Mr. Semien, seconded by Mr. Morales and carried, the minutes of the December 16, 2019 meeting were approved.

On motion of Mr. Morales, seconded by Mr. Semien and carried, the Board sent in a work request to have grass cleaned out of Creole Canal and Kings Bayou flood gates. And, to check on culvert on Creole Canal that may be stopped up.

On motion of Mr. Semien, seconded by Mr. Morales and carried, the Board granted Chairman to sign NAWCA Grant for Creole Marsh II.

On motion of Mr. Morales, seconded by Mr. Semien and carried, the Board held over the Election of Officers for February meeting.

On motion of Mr. Semien, seconded by Mr. Morales and carried, the financial report was approved.

On motion of Mr. Morales, seconded by Mr. Semien and carried, the following bills were approved for payment.

Jeff Davis Electric \$55.99
Cameron Pilot \$108.00
Savoie Lumber & Hardware \$7.38

Seabreeze Culvert Inc \$37,830.00

On motion of Mr. Semien, seconded by Mr. Morales and carried, the following permit was approved and signed: LCUP#200101 - Rodrick C. McGee - Creole, 179 Calcasieu Drive, Lots 4 and 5, Section 7, T15S, R7W (proposed to erect a 44' x 31' camp, install 65' x 12' driveway and unauthorized hauled in fill material of portion of property that resulted in approximately 650 cubic yards), Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Semien, seconded by Mr. Morales and carried, the meeting was declared adjourned.

APPROVED:
Shane Broussard,
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:
Leslie Griffith,
SECRETARY

In accordance with R.S. 44:33.1, this is to notify the public that Kristie Richard, Bookkeeper, is the Custodian of Public Records for the Cameron Parish Gravity Drainage District No. Four. Any document request or public information request should be made in writing or by email to kristie_richard@yahoo.com.
RUN: Mar. 12 (M 12)

PROCEEDINGS
GRAVITY DRAINAGE
DISTRICT NO 4
February 17, 2020
Gravity Drainage District No. 4 held a regular meeting at the

Grand Lake punched ticket to 2020 state tournament

By JAMES SIMPSON
American Press

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Grand Lake will play Lincoln Prep Thursday, Mar. 12, at 6:15 p.m. at Burton Coliseum. Winner will play the victor of North Central and Tensas on Saturday, Mar. 14, at 6 p.m.)

Grand Lake punched its ticket to the state tournament with a 61-49 Class 1A quarterfinal win over Arcadia Friday night.

No. 2 Grand Lake (32-1) advanced to face No. 3 Lincoln Prep in the semifinals next week at the Louisiana High School Athletic Association Marsh Madness state basketball tournament Burton Coliseum.

Lincoln Prep, formerly Grambling Lab, advanced with a 70-62 win over East Iberville.

Grand Lake took control with a 15-4 outburst in the second quarter and never trailed over the final three quarters. Brayden Richard scored a team-high 19 points. Kael Delcambre added 17 while Luke McCardle and Elijah Fountain scored nine each.

Grand Lake head coach Mark Caldwell said the balanced scoring attack has been a strength of his team.

"It's been like this all year, when you get two guys with double digits and the other two are usual double digit scorers that are threats," he said. "I think we're difficult to guard for other teams because we have six or seven guys that can score and shoot the ball. We were playing really mentally and physically tough.

"Arcadia is a very good team. We can't even stand on the court with them unless we play mentally tough, but we went toe to toe with them. From here on out, we need to take it game by game."

Grand Lake has won 11 consecutive games.

DeMarrion Richardson led Arcadia (18-11) with 14 points while Tyler Jefferson

added 10. The win avenged a 2018 second-round game in which Arcadia won in Grand Lake by a point. Grand Lake lost in the second round last season by five points to eventual state runner-up Booker T. Washington-New Orleans. Caldwell said it took a while for his team to settle down. "We made some careless passes, we got kinda lazy," he said. "It was the most people I've seen in a high school gym in a long time," Caldwell continued. "Nerves got to us a little bit, but we had a lot of senior leadership and we made some crucial buckets. We've been reading and watching video on (Arcadia) for weeks, so now for Lincoln Prep we're going to have to study what they like to do and try to take that away the best we can. I know they have one very good player so we're going to try not to let him go crazy on us."

G. L. HISTORY

Cont. from Page A1

Calcasieu and Vermilion Parishes. The northern portion of the parish is known as Grand Lake, and it is geographically separated from the southern portion by hundreds of acres of marsh.

TRANSPORTATION

In the beginning, there were no roads in Grand Lake. Before 1908 traveling was done by boat, horseback, or by wagon drawn by oxen on trails through brush and marsh. Water travel was used heavily, and the Borealis Rex riverboat came from Lake Charles to Big Lake once a week carrying mail, passengers, cattle and freight. Many people gathered eagerly waiting for the Rex to arrive. It became a meeting place for visiting, getting the news and enjoying dances. When the highway from Lake Charles to Cameron was completed around 1916, there was no need for the Rex to deliver mail anymore and it stopped its weekly runs to and from Cameron Parish. Later, the parish was able to start grading and overlaying dirt roads with shell which was dredged up from Calcasieu Lake or other waterways. These shell roads made it possible to travel by car to Lake Charles and surrounding areas. Later, the parish passed taxes which provided for paving the main roads, and fewer shell roads can be found today.

INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY

In the early 1920's Congress authorized and appropriated money to build the Intracoastal Canal Waterway through Louisiana and Texas. This canal divided Grand Lake and the new part to the west became known as "Big Lake" or "the Island". The first method of crossing this canal was a ferry, which operated from the 1920's through the late 1950's. The ferry could hold around 6 cars, or the school bus on one side and three cars on the other side. Many children had to ride this ferry to and from school.

SCHOOLS

There were originally six separate schools in this community: The oldest school was in operation before 1900 and it was the original Big Lake School located across the road from St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church. It became a high school in 1934.

The Granger School operated from 1915 to 1918. It was located in the Granger Community (the "Cove"), near the Calcasieu-Cameron parish line. This school was destroyed in the 1918 hurricane.

The Duhon School, located in Big Pasture, was destroyed by fire in 1926; the students were then sent to the Big Lake School.

The Demarest School was located just a few yards from the present Grand Lake School and was also destroyed in the 1918 hurricane.

The Sweetlake School was erected in 1913 on a two-acre site privately owned by Mr. H. G. Chalkley. At that time there were only six grades and 33 pupils enrolled.

The Liberty Farm School opened in 1922. It was located where Mr. Dupree Guidry had his orange grove. In 1927 it was consolidated with Sweet Lake Elementary School.

Present GL High School: In the mid-term of the 1954-55 school session, the new Grand Lake High School was completed and became a consolidated school for the Sweet Lake And Grand Lake area. This was the time when the Big Lake and Sweetlake schools were closed.



THE HACKBERRY RURAL Health Clinic was opened 25 years ago in February 1995. It is on Hwy. 27 across from the Sheriff's substation. It is a service of West Cal-Cam Hospital.

Hackberry Rural Health Clinic opened its doors 25 years ago

Cameron Pilot
Feb. 2, 1995

The Hackberry Rural Health Clinic was opened last month by the West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital of Sulphur and now is bring quality medical services to residents of the Hackberry area.

Since the retirement of long time physician, Dr. J. B. Colligan, a few years ago, Hackberry has been without local medical services, with doctors and hospitals in Cameron, Sulphur and Lake Charles being their closest choices.

However, Ward 6 of Cameron Parish, which includes Hackberry, has been a part of the West Calcasieu-Cameron Hospital Service District for over 40 years with the Sulphur hospital serving the district. Hackberry residents asked for closer hospital services from the hospital board and got it.

(The hospital district also

opened a rural health clinic in Vinton, taking over an existing physician office there.)

The Hackberry Rural Health Clinic was constructed just across Hwy. 27 from the Cameron Parish Sheriff Sub-Station and was opened in December. It contains a large lobby, office space, four treatment rooms, laboratory and an office for the local dentist.

Peg Quinton, Registered Nurse/Nurse Practitioner, heads up the staff providing mid-level practitioner services in collaboration with two members of the hospital staff in Sulphur, Dr. J. W. Crookshank and Dr. Alan LeBato.

With her training, she is qualified to see patients with minor ailments such as earache, sore throats, colds etc. and consult as needed with the two doctors on treatment needed. She also is able to provide preventive health assistance to patients.

The two other members of the Hackberry staff are Debra

Rentrop, registered nurse, and Cheryl Landry, receptionist.

The clinic is now open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and this will be increased as needed. About five or six patients are being seen a day now but the number is growing.

In addition, Dr. Thomas Cates has relocated his Hackberry dental office to the new clinic and is there on Tuesdays and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ms. Quinton said the rural health clinic should prove valuable to elderly residents who may have found it difficult in the past to go out of town to see a doctor.

Randy Davis, vice president of human resources for the Sulphur hospital, said the hospital's board member from Hackberry, Doug Gray, was largely responsible for convincing the board to provide the citizens of Hackberry with a facility of their own that would provide quality patient care.

An open house will be held at a later date at the clinic at which time all Hackberry citizens will be invited to inspect their new medical facility.

History of Cameron - Part 1

By CYNDI SELLERS

The land that is now Cameron Parish has been governed by three countries. In 1519 Spanish explorer Alonso Alvarez de Pineda discovered the mouth of a great river, likely the Mississippi, while exploring the northern Gulf coast. Being more interested in finding gold in Mexico and central America, the Spanish moved on.

Then in 1682 French explorer Sieur de LaSalle traveled down the Mississippi River to its mouth, claiming the entire watershed for France. He named the territory Louisiana, after King Louis XIV. In a secret treaty in 1762, France ceded the territory west of the Mississippi to Spain.

None of this affected the southwest Louisiana coastal area, though. At that time the only inhabitants were the native Attakapas tribe. In the 1700's French fur traders visited the area to trade with the tribe, but no settlements were made. Contact with westerners probably caused the demise of the native population, as they brought smallpox and other diseases to the previously unexposed inhabitants.

The first European settlers arrived in the 1790's. Daniel Johnson and his wife moved into the extreme southwest corner of what is now Cameron Parish. Madam Johnson's Bayou, Madam Johnson Lake and Johnson's Bayou were named after them. Junius Green settled on what is now called Smith Ridge around 1790 and lived there with his Indian wife.

In 1800, Spain returned Louisiana to the French, but the exact western boundary of the territory had been in contention for decades. The French claimed the Sabine River as the boundary, and the Spanish claimed it was the Calcasieu River. The land in between became a neutral territory, or "no-man's land," subject to neither jurisdiction and therefore lawless. It became a haven for pirates like Jean Lafitte.

In 1803, the United States, under President Thomas Jefferson, purchased the territory from France for \$15 million, more than doubling the size of the country. The western boundary was not settled at the Sabine River until 1819,

During the early years of GL High School, it included only First through 12th grades. It was a Class C school with enrollment around 300. Gradually the school population was increasing, and in 2005, Hurricane Rita caused the population of the parish to shift toward the north. Now the school has more than doubled in size and it is rated as a Class 1A school for all sports. In the school year 2019-20 there are over 800 students from Pre-K through 12th grade.

(To be continued next week)

though, after negotiations with Spain. In 1812, Louisiana became the 18th state of the Union.

With the Louisiana Purchase came settlers to the eastern part of the parish. Demosthene LaBauve settled in Oak Grove, near what is now the Creole Canal, in 1803. In the early 1820's, the Phillips family were the first to settle in Grand Chenier. They died in a hurricane in 1824.

In the earliest days of federal ownership, the live oak-covered cheniers were set aside as a naval reserve. Live oak timber was highly prized for ship building. Later, oaks of the same quality were found much closer to the eastern shipyards, so the land was freed up for settlement.

Soldiers who fought in the War of 1812 and later Indian encounters were given land grants. Historian Archie Hollister said that none of the recipients took advantage of the grants to move here. Instead they sold them to land agents who were able to find people willing to move to the cheniers.

The early settlers were mostly of English and Scots-Irish descent, with a few Acadians mixed in as they migrated west from Acadiana. Historian John Gremillion lists some of the early settlers' names: McCall, Armstrong, Smith, Lindstrom, Harrison, Carter, Wetherill, Root, Hall, Sweeney, Bonsall, Tanner, Graves, Broussard, Miller, Durr, Doxey, Stafford, MacDonald, Rutherford, Wakefield, Donahoe, Erbeling, Eagleston, Nunez, Welch, Griffith, Henry, Gordon, Stewart, Calhoun, and others. French arrivals included the LaBauves, Baudouins, Dupres, Vincents, Dysons, Swires, Richards, Mhires, Landrys, Trahans, Billeauds, Boudreaux, LeBeoufs, Theriots, and Monties, to name a few. Some of these early settlers were slaveholders, and brought their slaves with them to help with the farming.

Cotton and oranges were important cash crops. Fredrick Schmidt, a German who sailed under Galveston to Johnson Bayou in 1835 built a cotton gin on the bank of Deep Bayou. Smith Ridge is named for him. Michael Peveto, Sr., who fought in the War of 1812 at the age of 16, raised his family on Middle Ridge from the 1840's to the 1880's. Subsistence farming provided most of what people needed. The cheniers were full of game, and the land was rich.

George Wakefield and his wife Emily arrived by sailing sloop in Leesburg (later Cameron) in 1844. He built homes with lumber rafted down the Calcasieu River.

In all the coastal communities, settlers quickly set up businesses, stores, blacksmith shops, churches and schools. Connection with the outside world was by water, with steamboats and schooners taking crops to market and bringing in supplies and mail.

For government administration, Louisiana was at first divided into parishes, which were vaguely defined. What is now Cameron Parish was part of two districts, the Opelousas District in the west and the Attakapas district in east, divided by the Mermentau River. The Attakapas district became St. Martin Parish. The lower portion was organized in 1828 as Lafayette Parish, and in 1844 Vermilion Parish was created from the southern portion of Lafayette Parish.

The area west of the Mermentau River, in the Opelousas district, became St. Landry Parish. The southeastern portion later became Calcasieu Parish, also known as Imperial Calcasieu.

After the Civil War, further division was desired. On March 15, 1870, the Louisiana Legislature created Cameron Parish out of the extreme southern part of Calcasieu Parish and the extreme southwestern part of Vermilion.

The new parish was named either for Robert Alexander Cameron, a Confederate soldier who took part in Bank's Red River Campaign and was prominent in Louisiana politics at the time, or for Simon Cameron, U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, who served along with Samuel P. Henry, who later became the Parish Judge of Cameron Parish.

Besides the need to move government services closer to the people of the coast than Lake Charles or Abbeville, one impetus seems to have been the desire of Gov. Henry Clay Warmouth to allow a political friend to get into the legislature. Gremillion quotes Warmouth's memoirs as follows:

"I signed the bill creating the Parish of Cameron on March 16, 1870, and sent Colonel Carter down there as a Parish Judge with a salary of \$2000 per annum. I gave him blank commissions for the Sheriff, Justices of the Peace, Police Jurors, Registers of Voters, Constables, etc., with the instructions to fill all the offices with the best people he could find in the Parish.

"The reader will not be surprised that with all this power Colonel Carter was able to fulfill his ambition and my wishes by being elected a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives from Cameron Parish. He was unanimously elected, and when he returned to the city boasted that 'he had been elected to the legislature as a republican on his Confederate record.'

"A remarkable fact was that Carter, who represented Cameron Parish, was never in that Parish sixty days. The fact was that I signed the bill creating the Parish of Cameron and sent Carter down there to organize it and to get himself returned to the House."

Carter was elected Speaker of the House, and later S.P. Henry became the Cameron Representative, also becoming Speaker of the House in time. Cameron Parish was on the map.



CAMERON MAIN Library celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by children making Cat in the Hat Masks.



CHILDREN AT the Hackberry Library enjoyed the story "Popcorn" and made a popcorn craft.



THE JOHNSON BAYOU Branch Beach Treasures Club crafted Coastal Crosses using driftwood, seashells, wood slats and other embellishments. The next Beach Treasures Club program is Monday, April 13. (Photo submitted by Julie Carlson.)

Sheriff's Dept. arrests told for March 3-10

The Cameron Parish Sheriff's Dept. arrests for the week of Mar. 3-10 were:

Jermaine Artis, DOB 12-12-77, 944 Louisiana Dr., Sulphur; Bench Warrant.

Joseph Swire, DOB 9-15-81, 185 Ellender Ln., Hackberry; Theft of Firearm; Simple Burglary of Inhabited Dwelling; Unauthorized Entry of Inhabited Dwelling; Theft.

Jack Garrison, III, DOB 11-6-72, 4023 W. Walton St., Lake Charles; Bench Warrant.

Grant Vanfairchild, DOB 8-25-85, 6720 Big Lake Rd., Grand Lake; Bench Warrant.

Jamie Andrews, DOB 12-29-82, 158 Peshoff St., Cameron; Fugitive Warrant.

Matthew LaFleur, DOB 8-27-86, 11051 Hwy. 384, Big Lake; Telephone Harassment.

Joshua Ozuna, DOB 6-5-96, 3833 Burton Ln., Lake Charles; Probation Violation.

Leslie Neagle, DOB 5-9-79, 6057 Campground Rd., Munford, Tenn.; Poss. of CDS II; Poss. Drug Paraphernalia; Illegal Use of CDS in Presence of Minor; Contributing to Delinquency of Juvenile.

Dejuana Fontenot, DOB 10-15-86, 3930 Delaware Dr., Port Arthur, Tx.; Fugitive Warrant.

Joseph Simien, DOB 5-3-80, 1828 7th St., Lake Charles; Disturbing the Peace-Intoxication.

SBDC Day celebration to be held at McNeese State

The Louisiana Small Business Development Center at McNeese State University will hold a special SBDC Day celebration from 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Mar. 18, in the SEED Center.

National SBDC Day recognizes the contribution that Small Business Development Centers make to the small business community and local economies. Attendees will have the opportunity to network with other small business owners, local officials and the team at the LSBDC, as well as have the chance to win door prizes.

RSVP by calling 337-475-5529 or emailing lsbdc.msu@lsbdc.org.

Persons needing accommodations as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the ADA Coordinator at 337-475-5428, voice; 337-475-5960, fax; 337-562-4227, TDD/TTY, hearing impaired; or by email at cdo@mcneese.edu.

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RECOLLECTIONS

Cont. from Pg. A9

RECOLLECTIONS

During World War II, there was a Coast Station in Grand Chenier, which paroled the Gulf of Mexico shores for invasion. There was also one on Sabine Pass at the channel, where the lighthouse is today.

I slept in that nice camp and went up the lighthouse when I was five years old.

In Grand Chenier there was a cyprus tree over 70 feet high and the Coast Guard put a flag up there so that the men on patrol could see this to find their way, as there were no radar etc. back then.

Folks on Grand Chenier, Creole, Little Chenier, Chenier Perdue made their living as trappers of muskrats, minks, racoons, otters and when the nutria rats came along, they trapped nutria.

Lots of folks were farmers and ranchers, raising cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, horses and farmed cotton, corn, hay and other farm products. Almost all had a garden or two for fresh vegetables, as well as fig trees and fruit trees.

We also had rabbits, wild game, plus ducks, coots, geese and other wild birds for food. We worked the land, lived off the land, and yes, we had hand pumps to pump us water.

We also had a 16 foot well boarded up 4 x 4 square for fresh water from the rains, which we brought up with a bucket. We stored gallons of milk in it to keep it cool and from souring. Yes, we churned a bottle of cream to make butter.

We made sausage and bacon from our hog butcher, smoked it and hung it in a cool place. My mom canned cooked vegetables, fruits and meat in quart jars and put in a pressure cooker. When through and cooled, stored in pantry for future eating. We canned our figs, peaches, pears, etc as well for future eating.

We washed our clothes on a scrub board, rinsed and hung them out on a clothes line to dry. Mom starched and ironed our shirts and clothes.

Our money was limited back then so I picked cotton at 2¢ a pound. I bought my first bicycle for \$17.95 cash. Fact is, I lost that bike in Hurricane Audrey.

There's so much to be said about the east end of our parish, but we've seen things pick up, as the oil companies came along, leasing land and make oil and gas wells.

Our church that had been lost to Hurricane Audrey was rebuilt. The Grand Chenier school, Creole school, which had been closed in 1956 was gone. But, South Cameron High School was rebuilt for our children, as well as the elementary school on Oak Grove. We later lost the elementary school to another hurricane, but combined the South Cameron High School and added on for elementary classes for Creole, Grand Chenier, and Cameron students.

Our people of Cameron Parish have all had a hard time with the hurricanes that have hit since Hurricane Audrey. In the early years, the Mermentau River in Grand Chenier was a blessing for the east Cameron folks, to get stuff in and out, as well as for fishing and shrimping.

Today it is way more uptown than it was back then, and I cannot think of how hard folks had it to begin with in 1870, 150 years ago.

(To be continued next week)

Classified Ads

Cameron Pilot

FOR SALE

METAL OUTLET: Metal Roofing~Carports~Metal Buildings~Patio Cover Kits~C's & Z's~Custom Trim~RV & Equipment Covers~ 337-625-2778. 2241 E. Napoleon, Sulphur, Open Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Temporarily closed on Saturdays. tfnc

RV FOR SALE

2012 JAYCO FIFTH Wheel Eagle Super Lite 34', 2 slide-outs, sleeps 9, Helen Street, Grand Chenier, Asking \$20,000. Call for appointment at (337) 652-1369 or (337) 523-9495. 03/12

FOR RENT

FOR RENT: 2/Br; 2/Ba; also 2/Br;3/Ba campers/trailers short drive to Cameron/Grand Chenier; bring your clothes! Fully furnished. Call (337) 499-6693 for more information. 2/13-03/12p

CLEANING SERVICE

LAKE AREA Janitorial Service, (337) 287-4813. You've already put in your day's work at the office, now allow us to come in and do ours.03/12f

HELP WANTED

GROUND MAINTENANCE: Looking for ground maintenance at K&D RV Park. Address: 151 Louise St., Cameron, LA 70631. Cut grass and weed eat 3 times a month. Please send bids to RDDES-ONIER@GMAIL.COM. 03/12

MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR: Join Venture Global LNG in Cameron, Louisiana to be responsible for the management of the day-to-day maintenance/manintenance engineering activities at the liquefied natural gas (LNG) export plant. Direct the planning scheduling and management of all maintenance activities related to plant facilities (gas turbines, boilers, compressors, furances, safety systems, instrumentation, pumps, piping process control, etc). Position requires Bachelor's degree, or its foreign equivalent, in industrial, Mechanical, Chemical or Electrical Engineering or a related engineering field; and ten (10) years of progressive experience in maintenance and plant engineering for LNG terminal and/or petrochemical/gas facilities including at least: (i) 4 years of experience developing predictive maintenance programs for plant equipment; and (ii) 2 years of experience managing equipment warranty terms and contracts. Send resume with cover letter to: Jeanna Baer, Venture Global LNG, 1401 McKinney Street, Suite 2600, Houston TX 77010. 03/12-19

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E-PAPER: DID you know that you can enjoy reading your Cameron Pilot online for \$27.81 a year?

VITA sites offer free tax filing to residents

Residents across Southwest Louisiana can begin filing their taxes at no charge beginning now through Apr. 17 through United Way of Southwest Louisiana's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA).

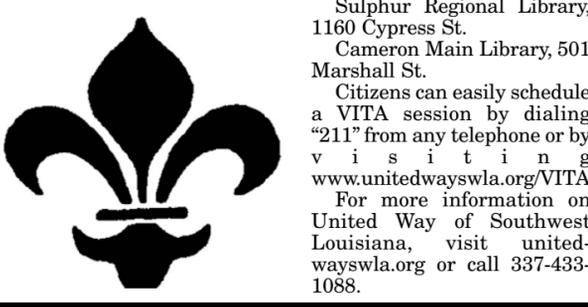
VITA sites offer free income tax preparation for individuals who, generally, make less than \$56,000 annually or are disabled, elderly or limited English speaking. Taxes are prepared by IRS certified volunteers at sites in Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jeff Davis parish.

Locations include:

- Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, 2000 Moeling St., Lake Charles.
- Foreman-Reynaud Community Center, 215 Albert St., Lake Charles.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Center, 2009 N. Simmons St., Lake Charles.
- McNeese State University, Burton Business Center, 450 Lawton Dr., Lake Charles.
- SWLA Law Center, 1011 Lakeshore Dr., Ste. 402, Lake Charles.
- Sulphur Regional Library, 1160 Cypress St.
- Cameron Main Library, 501 Marshall St.

Citizens can easily schedule a VITA session by dialing "211" from any telephone or by [visiting www.unitedwayswla.org/VITA](http://www.unitedwayswla.org/VITA)

For more information on United Way of Southwest Louisiana, visit unitedwayswla.org or call 337-433-1088.



RESTORATION CONTRACTOR FOR LARGE LOSS TURN KEY PROJECTS

The Cameron Parish School Board is issuing a Request for Qualifications for a Large Loss, Turn Key Emergency Restoration Contractor to be pre-qualified to do restoration work, if needed, at any or all Cameron Parish School facilities in the event of an unplanned disaster/hurricane occurring through July 2023.

The Contractor would need to have a work crew and available equipment capable of handling multiple, large loss clean ups at the same time. The Contractor should have at least three years of experience in the field of Emergency Restoration. The Contractor must be able to provide, but not limited to, the following: drying and temperature control, mold remediation, mucking-out of buildings, smoke and fire clean up, and emergency construction if needed. The Contractor must provide published rates for drying equipment, labor cost, consumables, and materials. The Contractor must show proof of license and insurance. The Contractor must provide three references of like kind projects.

Contractors wishing to be considered for Emergency Restoration services should send above information to: Superintendent Charley Lemons, Cameron Parish School Board, 510 Marshall Street, Cameron, LA 70631.

Express mailing or hand deliver to: Superintendent Charley Lemons, Cameron Parish School Board, 510 Marshall Street, Cameron, LA 70631.

Any questions should be e-mailed to: charley_lemons@camsch.org

Solicitation deadline is April 21, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

Run: Mar, 12, 19, 26 & Apr. 2 (M-11)



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Pictured left to right, back row: Jamie Thomas, Shelly Trahan, Julie Thibodeaux, Charlene Swier, Alice Leger, James Swire, Charlene Constance, Dawn Abshire, Betsy Welch; front row Chris Brown, Nancy Trahan, Sandra Ford, Dinah Vidrine, Effie Wright, & Alexis Ravia



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Celebrating 150 Years

Dear Cameron Parish Friends,

I thought for a long time about what message I would like to send to you from Jones Law Firm on the occasion of the Cameron Parish Sesquicentennial. I am sure that in the course of the extended celebration of this event we will hear many positive and uplifting forecasts for the future of Cameron. So perhaps I can be the one to remind us all not just to look forward, but also to take a look back to the past, and learn from our own history.

In 1970, Cameron was a booming fishing village. There were multiple menhaden plants and hundreds of commercial shrimping vessels, as well as seafood processing facilities. On our main street, there were real grocery stores, not just "convenience" stores, but places to buy meat and fresh fruit and vegetables. Cameron had a dry-cleaning business, a lumber yard, a pharmacy, a dry goods store, a clothing store, several gas stations, even a movie theater where we could all see a movie for the bargain price of ten cents! At the drug store, you could not only get your prescriptions filled, but take a seat at the counter and enjoy a strawberry soda. And if you went inside any of these retail establishments, you would know everyone there.

Both the "Old River" and Davis Road were lined with a variety of businesses catering to the oil field. Many men worked "seven and seven" offshore, and many cars and pickup trucks were proudly embellished with bumper stickers reading "Oil feeds my family."

There were several bars along Marshall Street, as well as some really good restaurants (Fred's, Manual Peshoff's Chicken Shack, the B & B, just to name a few). I was a junior in high school. On Friday nights in the fall we went to football games and then to the dance at the Cypress Inn. On Saturdays we went to the record hop at the recreation center behind the Court House. On Sunday mornings, everyone went to church.

And in 1970, the Joneses had been practicing law on the Court House Square since 1949.

All of these places I remember so fondly are gone, but I'm still on the Court House Square. I have learned so much from those I have practiced with through the years - my father, J. B. Jones, Jr., my uncle Jerry G. Jones, my cousin-in-law Glenn Alexander, and my son Patrick Hebert. My father was the first attorney to practice full-time in Cameron, and right now I am the only one left. I believe that the Jones Law Firm is the oldest business in the town of Cameron.

I salute my dear friend "T-Mae" Booth, who was also in business in 1970 and is still at it today. On the other side of the River, the Devall family's business still prospers. South Cameron Hospital has been open since the 1960s. I know there are others, but I think what we all share, and the thing that keeps us here, is a LOVE FOR THIS PARISH THAT EXTENDS THROUGH THE GENERATIONS. I wouldn't trade my years in Cameron for a million cases in Lake Charles, or anywhere else. My prayer is that the young people of today will come home after finishing their education and make sure that Cameron remains the wonderful place it has always been. May God bless us all.

Jennifer R. Jones
Jennifer Jones

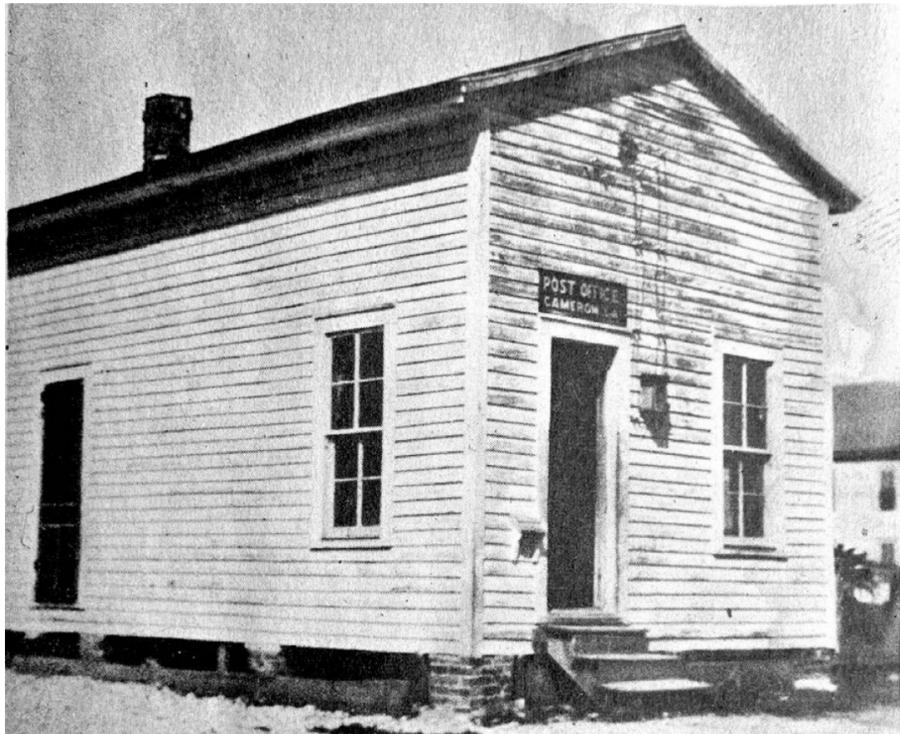
Cameron Parish... Home Sweet Home!

Jones Law Firm

Established 1949

128 Smith Circle





REMEMBER THE Old Cameron Post Office? This picture was taken about 1935 by Mr. Tausin, who was county agent here.

History of Post Office is told by community

By CYNDI SELLERS

CAMERON P. O.

Postal service has always been essential to a society, even in the frontier days of Cameron Parish. The U. S. Postal Service went to great lengths to get mail to citizens, no matter how remote. As Norma Jean Blake wrote in "Leesburg 1870 - Cameron 1970": "In 1887 the schooner "Ontario" furnished the only way to get to and from Cameron. It came down one day and went back the next, carrying the mail, passengers and freight. In those days one could address a letter to 'Mr. Boy, Creole' and Edras Nunez would receive it without any delay, or one to 'Uncle Sol, Grand Chenier' and Andrew Doney would receive it. A letter addressed to 'Captain Billy, Calcasieu (now Carlyss)' would be received by John Drost. E. R. Henry once received a communication addressed to 'Mr. Lee Boy, Cameron.'"

The Cameron Post Office was established on Nov. 24, 1871, under Postmaster J. D. McCall. He was followed by Samuel P. Henry on Jan. 31, 1873. The Post Office was located in the old Red Store, which Henry purchased in 1872. Curiously, a separate Leesburg Post Office was established on June 9, 1873 under the direction of Postmaster James. M. Lacy, but it was discontinued on Dec. 15, of that same year.

On Jan. 16, 1880, Harriet J. Henry replaced Samuel P. Henry as Postmaster, serving for 17 years. Several more Postmasters of short tenure followed: John C. Stockton - Aug. 21, 1897, William W. Newton - May 28, 1898, Arthur McDonald Henry - Jan. 6 1901, Andrew Laurents - June 13, 1903, and Sallie M. Clark - June 1, 1906. At some time in the early 1900s a new Post Office building was constructed on Court House Square.

Sallie M. Kennedy was

appointed Postmaster on Nov. 29, 1911 and served until June 20, 1932. Frank B. Kennedy then served until Apr. 30 1956. Mrs. Olga LeBoeuf served as Acting Postmaster until Aug. 22, 1958, when Hugh D. Wagner took over, serving 21 years. Levene M. Harmon filled in as Acting Postmaster from Aug. 22 to Nov. 3, 1979, when Lawrence J. McNeely was appointed. After eight or nine years, the date is not given, Verian A. Theriot was appointed Officer-In-Charge until Dorothy M. Theriot was named Postmaster on Oct. 25, 1986, serving until July 7, 2000. Cynthia T. Williams and Amy Bourgeois served as Officers-In-Charge for a few months each until Guy W. Broussard was appointed Postmaster on Feb. 24, 2001. He served over six years, until September 2007, weathering the impact of Hurricane Rita in 2005, when the Post Office was set up in Lake Charles for several months due to the destruction of Hurricane Rita.

Cont. on Page A14



Wakefield Home

Wakefield Home was on 1970 tour

(Cameron Pilot Archives)

(EDITOR'S NOTE--The Wakefield Home was demolished after Hurricane Rita in 2005.)

The George Wakefield home in Cameron, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Davis, is one of the old homes that will be toured by Cameron Parish HD members Tuesday. The home is 94 years old and one of the oldest in the parish.

A history of the home follows:

A raft carried George Washington Wakefield from Ohio to New Orleans. There, Mr. Wakefield acquired a more sophisticated craft, a sailboat, and made his way to Cameron to join his brother-in-law.

Among the possessions of this pioneer, were a host of plants: peach trees, plum trees, quince, cherokee, apple trees, and pecan trees. Mr. Wakefield's brother-in-law left to join the California Gold Rush, but George remained to plant his trees and begin an orange grove.

His first wife died, and he later remarried. To house his growing family, he resolved to build a new home. To obtain lumber in those days was quite an undertaking. The usual way was with the cooperation of several families. These families would travel to Lake Charles or another town where a sawmill was located. The lumber would be purchased and then fashioned

into one huge raft.

Upon these rafts some sort of make-shift stove was placed as well as a "water barrel" and other necessary supplies. Also attached were the skiff with which the families had reached the sawmill. Then these hardy men and women would float, pole, and push their raft, and future homes, through the river back to Cameron. There the raft would be dismantled and the lumber divided.

J. Austin Davis, Mr. Wakefield's grandson, is our source of information, and recalls having seen this himself. At the time, he explained, there was nothing unusual about the sight of a 40 foot raft.

George Wakefield's home took nearly a year to build. The studs in the home are mortared and reach from the ground to the ceiling. There are no butts, no nails and no splices. The home once contained a double fireplace and boasted three chimneys. As for its sturdiness, one need only glance at the date, written above the windows across the front of the house, which proudly proclaim the year of its birth - 1876!

This means, of course, that it has survived the force of many hurricanes over the years, including Hurricane Audrey. In that 1957 disaster, Mr. Davis informs us that 152 people found sanctuary there.

These people were both black and white, from all parts of Louisiana and even one person from California! Some of these people had been staying at the motel, and were invited by the family to spend the storm in the old home.

One must have needed some special determination in those days to make a marshy little coastal settlement his home, and George Wakefield was no exception. He was an educated, inventive man, interested especially in tree husbandry. He planned to dry fruit and sell them. He designed what he called an "evaporator" which had shelves for the fruit and some sort of coal heat, or stove at the bottom. His attempts were not successful, and the "evaporator" became a toy for little Austin Davis.

The fruit trees he brought with him were planted, and bore fruit successfully. An orange grove which he planted survived until 1920, according to his grandson. The cherokee we see growing so abundantly were probably the results of Mr. Wakefield's original shrubs. The oak trees standing in a row from the house west to the Methodist Church were planted by George and his little girl one sunny day.

It has been said of George that "whenever he planted a tree, it grew." Cameron is fortunate it did, and indebted to at least one Yankee.

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JACK PRIMEAUX and Lynex Richard are shown heading up the cattle during a drive to greener pastures.

POST OFFICE

Cont. from Page A13

After 2007, leadership changed often, with tenures averaging a year or less. Officer-In-Charge James B. Craddock (9-7-2007) and Patricia C. Chenevert (12-13-2008) were followed by Tammy L. Peshoff, who served as Officer-In-Charge five times over the next seven years. Postmasters who served in between were Shelby L. Fruge (3-27-2010 to 1-21-2011), Trudy W. Guillory (12-28-2013 to 3-8-2014), Dewayne E. Paul (8-9-2014 to 8-21-2015), and Todd P. Melancon (10-31-2015 to unknown date). Lisa G. Short has served as Cameron's Postmaster since Mar. 4, 2017.

GRAND CHENIER P. O.

The Grand Chenier Post Office was established in Vermilion Parish on Sept. 3, 1858, under Postmaster Abel A. Alexander. Miss Doxia A. Wood succeeded him on July 10, 1866, followed by Lorenzo Sturlese on April 13, 1869 and James B. Rogers on March 1, 1871. The Parish was changed to Cameron in 1870.

Emanuel Sturlese took over the post on June 2, 1879, followed by Alcide Miller on December 1890. Mrs. Lola Jones then served as Postmaster for almost 42 years, from June 2, 1898 to Jan. 1940.

Jennings B. Jones served as Acting Postmaster from Feb. 1, 1940 until Mrs. Emma C. Nunez took over on Nov. 8 of that year. She served for 37 years, until November 30, 1977. Adele M. Flash was named Officer-in-Charge, serving until Lawrence J. McNeely was named Postmaster on April 8, 1978. Ms. Flash again served as Officer-in-Charge from Nov. 3, 1979 until Mrs. Dorothy M. Theriot was named Postmaster on March 22, 1980, transferring from the Creole Post Office.

Ellen M. Case served as Officer-in-Charge for 10 days, beginning Nov. 7, 1980, followed by Nina T. LeBleu who served until Jan. 31, 1987, when Leroy P. LaPoint was named Postmaster. He left in Nov. 1991, and Benjamin McDaniel Jr. served as Officer-in-Charge until the appointment of Paul A. Savoit as Postmaster on March 21, 1992.

Beginning on Jan. 16, 1997, a series of Officer-in-Charge ran the Grand Chenier Post Office, each for only a few months at a time: Cynthia Williams, Joel Vandever, Linda Ballard, Jo'lene Huse, Nina Jones, Christine Theriot, Grayson Benoit, Linda Ballard (this time for two years, 1998-2000), Antonette Faye Colquitt, Martha "Missy" McClelland, and Linda Ballard (for a third time). Jeanie E. Johnson was named Postmaster on June 15, 2002 and served until April 23, 2011 when delivery service was transferred to Cameron.

CREOLE P. O.

The Creole Post Office was established on March 24, 1890, with Norbert LeBoeuf as Postmaster. Mail service was returned to Cameron from January 9, until June 19, 1891, when Benoni Weber was named as Creole Postmaster. Service was

again discontinued from July 1, 1895 to November 24, 1896.

Francois Chevalier served as Postmaster from that date until Sept. 14, 1907, followed by Noel Bellenine, Alvan Nunez, appointed on Jan. 10, 1911, and Edras Nunez, Jr., who served from Jan. 13, 1915 until April 30, 1954.

Dalton Richard served as Officer-in-Charge and then Postmaster until April 8, 1957. Wynita M. Nunez then served as Officer-in-Charge until Dec. 24, 1976. Mrs. Dorothy M. Theriot served as Postmaster until March 31, 1977, followed by Mrs. Geneva M. Dyson, who served as Office-in-Charge and Postmaster until Dec. 9, 1999.

Tammy Peshoff served as Office-in-Charge until Lisa Espree Deculus was named Postmaster on Aug. 26, 2000, serving until delivery service was discontinued on April 23, 2011 and transferred to Cameron.

HACKBERRY P. O.

The Hackberry Post Office was established Jan. 28, 1888, under Postmaster Jacob A. Elander, who was quickly followed by Mary A. Elander on Oct. 10, 1888. She served until John Portie was appointed on Jan. 2, 1899.

Hackberry Post Office was discontinued from July 15, 1924 until June 7, 1928, and service was delegated to Sulphur. When service resumed, Asa Forman Roux served as Postmaster until Jan. 1, 1934. Mrs. Ethel Mae Portie then served as acting Postmaster and Postmaster until Oct. 9, 1939. Followed by Mrs. Inez McDaniel who served until July 21, 1945.

Alon M. Terral served as Acting Postmaster and Postmaster until August 23, 1948, when Mrs. Neva Sheffield became acting Postmaster. Mrs. Edna Ducote was appointed Postmaster on Dec. 21, 1950, serving until December 1965.

Audrye Mickelwait (12-21-1965) and Mrs. Neomi B. Penny (3-25-1966), served as Acting Postmasters until Mrs. Marie D. Johnson was appointed Postmaster on May 8, 1967. She served until May 9, 1973 when Mrs. Velta Berwick was appointed Officer-in-Charge, becoming Postmaster on Aug. 4, 1973 and serving until September 30, 1982.

Carol B. Landry then served as Officer-in-Charge for a few weeks until Faye E. Vincent was appointed Postmaster on Nov. 13, 1982, serving until January 3, 2012. Pamela A. East was named Officer-in-Charge at that time. A year later, on Feb. 23, 2013, the Hackberry Post Office was converted to a Level B (6-hour) Remotely Managed Post Office under the direction of the Postmaster of the Sulphur Post Office. Pamela East was named Postmaster at Hackberry on Sept. 7, 2013 and remained until ultimately vacated.

(Names and dates provided by Steve Kochersperger, Senior Research Analyst in Postal History, USPS.)

JOHNSON BAYOU P. O.

Johnson Bayou's Post Office was established in 1877, but four "lost communities" in the area had postal service long before, whether they were all official U.S. Post Offices is sometimes in question, but people needed mail,

Old West Cattle Drive in Creole-Oak Grove area

A little bit of the old west will come to Cameron Parish again Monday when cattlemen of the Creole-Oak Grove area hold their big semi-annual cattle drive with more than a thousand head expected to be in the herd.

The cattlemen will be driving their cattle from the winter range at Johnson Bayou to their summer range around Creole.

Most of the drive will be along the beach. The most spectacular phase of the drive is when the cattle are swum across the ship channel south of the ferry crossing at Cameron. The cattle swim the quarter mile channel with ease and it is rare, if ever, that any drown.

The drive has been made for many years and is one of the last big cattle drives in Louisiana and the nation.

and someone had to make sure they got it.

Historian W. T. Block relates how in 1853 Augustine and Sophie Pavell established a cotton trading post and wharf on a high shell bank on an island in the Sabine Lake near Black Bayou. Along with flatboatmen who floated their cotton down stream to sell, steamboats and schooners would stop to pick up or deliver mail. Even though nearby Louisiana and Texas residents could only reach the place by boat, it became a post office. "And for 40 years Shellbank remained the nearest post office for all the farm families living on Black Bayou or in southeastern Orange County, Texas."

Mr. Block, while serving as Officer-in-Charge at the Orange Texas, Post Office in 1972 found the old metal hand postmarking stamp of the Shellbank post office. He said it was later destroyed by a postal inspector.

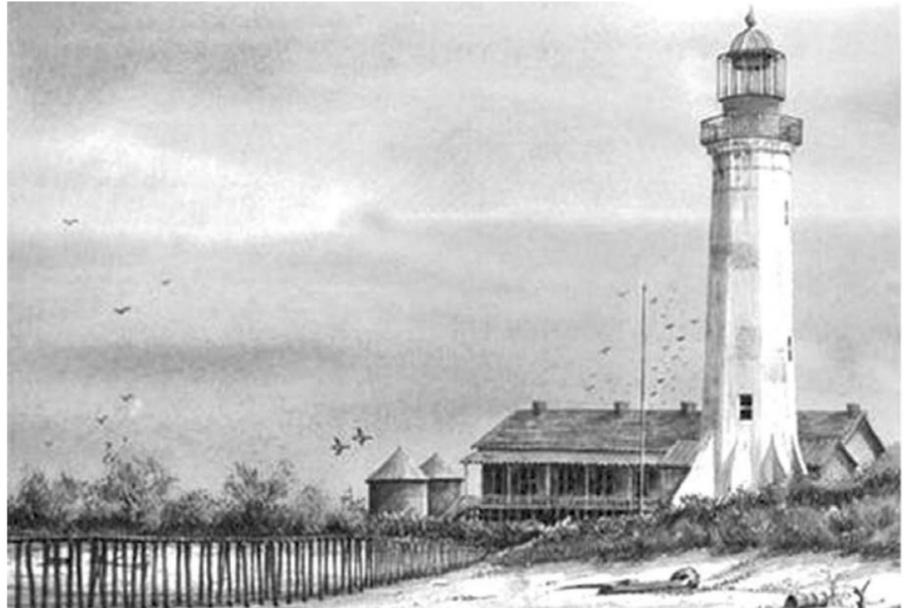
The Shellbank Post Office was discontinued in 1915 when another August Pavell closed the trading post due to lack of business.

The town of Radford, near the Sabine Lake, had an established Post Office from 1865 until 1887. The short life span was due to the devastating hurricane which virtually wiped out the community on Oct. 12, 1886. William H. Eddleman was the first Postmaster.

The other community on Johnson's Bayou (the waterway) was called Johnson. It also appears to have had a post office and also was wiped out by that hurricane.

The community of Berry was located around Deep Bayou. Local history states that it had a school, church, store, post office and graveyard. It was also home to the first Masonic Lodge in Cameron Parish, Blue Buck Lodge. Berry has also disappeared into the mists of time.

(Taken for various sources, including Glyn Farber's "Louisiana Ghost Towns and Small Towns," W. T. Block's "Two Old Ghost Towns of Cameron Parish," and a tour guide script for a Johnson Bayou historical tour, author unknown.)



THIS WATERCOLOR by Marty Busch was featured on the 1987 edition of the Cameron Telephone book. Long before the Intracoastal Canal bisected Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas, herds of Longhorn cattle would roam the vast prairies and marshlands. This hardy breed proved to be the strongest to endure the hostile swamp environment with its deep bayous, cheniers and uncharted marshes. Cowboys could only count on their horse, an oil riding coat and their weapons to deal with the daily struggles while out on the range.

JOHNSON BAYOU

Cont. from Page A6

The first real surge of settlers came as a result of the government's policy of rewarding veterans with tracts of virgin land. Grants in Cameron were first awarded to soldiers of the War of 1812 and subsequent Indian encounters.

Contrary to its accustomed policy of making its lands available to individual citizens, either by purchase or homestead, the Federal Government had set aside the live oak covered cheniers of the lower part of Cameron Parish as a naval reserve for the use in building wooden naval vessels, and the superb oaks of this region were ideal for this purpose. This policy was later rescinded because timber of equal quality was found much nearer to the eastern coast shipyards.

The soliders sold their land grants to speculators or land agents for cash, and the agents sold the land to men who were looking for new opportunities to establish their homes on the cheniers.

Those first settlers were mostly from older eastern states, largely of Scotch-Irish descent.

They came down the rivers: the Sabine, Calcasieu, and Mermentau, bearing their possessions on flatboats and other means to settle their lands.

EARLY FAMILIES

Early records bear such names as McCall, Armstrong, Smith, Lindstrom, Harrison, Carter, Wetherill, Root, Howe, Hall, Sweeney, Bonsall, Tanner, Graves, Broussard, Miller, Durr, Doxey, Stafford, MacDonald, Rutherford, Wakefield, Donahoo, Erbeling, Eagelson, Nunez, Welch, Griffith, Henry, Gordon, Stewart, Calhoun and others.

Later arrivals came mostly from the French of Louisiana, and they were the LaBaues, Boudoins, Dupres, Vincents, Dysons, Swires, Richards, Mhires, Landrys, Trahans, Billeauds, Boudreauxs, LeBoeufs, Monties, to mention a few.

Villiar Theriot was the first settler on Little Chenier, who came to bring his cattle her to the new, virgin land.

Once cleared of timber and brush, the land generously repaid the farmers, and enormous yields were secured.

It was a subsistence economy, with each family producing on their farms practically all of the commodities the households required.

Corn, pumpkins, potatoes, and vegetable gardens were most important. Sugar cane was grown to furnish syrup and refined sugar, and fruit trees were cultivated.

In fact, vast orange groves were established on the cheniers and became a very important source of income and were sent to market in Galveston, Tex., by the schooners.

Life on this frontier was hard and primitive with practically all of the luxuries we consider a necessity today lacking, money was seldom seen, and most trade was by barter.

COTTON PLANTATIONS

Later, sea-island cotton plantations were established and remained a principal source of income until the boll weevil insects forced the cotton farmers to abandon their fields.

Cattle thrived on the rich marshlands and at first mostly roamed, co-mingling before fences were erected, with each family branding and earmarking their stock.

The annual round-ups and

brandings became a very important social event, along with the work, for everyone helped one another to work their cattle and moving them from range to range.

These early settlers were progressive people, interested alike in religion and education, and as soon as they had built their homes, turned their attention to schools and churches. Usually one building would serve both purposes.

EARLY SCHOOL

Organized schools existed as early as 1838, and education has been a dominant feature ever since.

One of these early educators running a school on Grand Chenier was familiarly known as "Grandpa Wetherill", who came from Philadelphia, a man with a brilliant mind and college education, who had married Martha McCall, the daughter of one of the earliest settlers.

Families living in what are now Calcasieu and Jefferson Davis parishes sent their children to him for their educations, since at that time those parishes had no schools of their own.

HACKBERRY HISTORY

Hackberry, in the northwestern part of Cameron Parish, was actually an island rising out of the marsh, and only accessible by boat to the higher ground.

It was first settled by a band of Indians who wintered on the banks of Black Lake, possibly because of the food source from the water, then traveled north for the summer.

Burrel Franks was supposedly the first land-owner with 640 acres on Hackberry Island. No one seems to know where it got the name of Hackberry.

From the first official government survey of 1834, families by the names of Hampshire, Kelso, Phelps, Elender, Breaux, Duhon and Hebert were some of the first settlers who obtained their land by homesteading, purchase, or land issued by the government for services rendered.

Alcendore St. German Elender is considered to be "the father of Hackberry" and eventually owned most of the land, amassing a large herd of cattle which grazed the marshes during the winter and on the island in the summer.

He had a very large family and recognized the importance of a good education for his children, so sent his children to Calcasieu Parish to be boarded with his brother-in-law, Thomas Rigmaiden, so they could attend the first public school in Calcasieu Parish.

HUNTING AND TRAPPING

The hunting and trapping industry has played a very important part in the history of all of these communities mentioned up until the present. Not only were the marshes teaming with wildlife, they were an important food source as well as a cash source, as the trappers could always sell their furs.

The Sweetlake area in the northern part of the parish derived its name from Sweet Lake, so named because its water was so sweet. Salt water had not seeped into the lake as it sometimes did in later years.

The first settler in the area was Bellonie Granger, who moved to this vast prairie in 1875. He owned 1200 acres, partly homesteaded and by purchase from the state at 12 1/2 cents per acre, on which he established his vast cattle herd.

The Sweet Lake land and Oil Company's predecessors, the North American Land and Timber Company, who purchased vast acreage in this area, played a dominant role in the development of the community.

Their irrigation system, conceived and placed in use in the early 1900's, is still serving and with added refinements can now take care of 5,000 acres of rice.

The Klondike-Lowery area of Cameron Parish is located in the extreme northeastern corner of Cameron Parish, with rice the major agricultural crop in the area, followed by soybeans.

In addition, cattle and oil play a large part in the economy of the area, as well as hunting and fishing.

FIRST ROAD

The first road into Cameron Parish from Calcasieu was in 1935 and opened up the parish to the outside world which people had said was 50 years behind the times.

It also practically did away with the need to rely on the chief means of transportation of people, livestock, and supplies to Cameron by the steamship Rex, which left the dock on the Calcasieu Lake and traveled down the Calcasieu River to a dock in downtown Cameron.

The economy and lifestyle of this last Louisiana frontier might have continued much as it had for many more decades had it not been for technology-based industries and Hurricane Audrey.

The discovery of oil in Hackberry in 1927 and at Hog Bayou in 1947 brought immense new wealth to the economies of the cheniers, and also severely altered the frontier agricultural lifestyles of its people.

No longer tied to the soil, the chenier people toiled on the rigs, or in the pipeyards and warehouses.

They also worked in the shrimp and menhaden industries with newcomers to the area, and the fishing industry was to become the first in the nation.

World War II, with the Coast Guard's arrival, brought more strangers into the once culturally exclusive area.

At about this same time contact with the off-the-chenier world began to take a greater cultural toll, and by 1958 three roads linked the coast with civilization.

Cameron Parish is now under going a crushing economic blow with the decline in the oil patch and all of its support industries, the federal and state regulations that have just about destroyed the fishing industry; and the general depression that has affected the whole U. S. and its citizens.

wikipedia.org

The penny-farthing, also known as a high wheel, high wheeler and ordinary, was the first machine to be called a "bicycle". It was popular in the 1870s and 1880s, with its large front wheel providing high speeds (owing to it travelling a large distance for every rotation of the legs) and comfort (the large wheel provides greater shock absorption).



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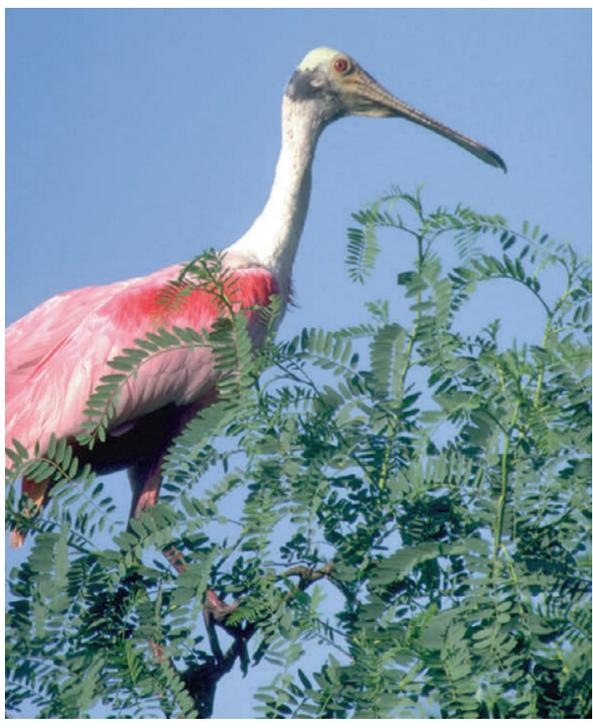


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CHENIERE

Sabine Pass Liquefaction Terminal





THE ROSEATE SPOONBILL is just one of many bird species to be found in Cameron Parish.

BLUE CRAB RECREATION AREA

Fishing and crabbing permitted year round. Cast netting allowed seasonally. Non-motorized watercraft may be hand launched into Impoundments 1A and 1B from this site for recreational paddling in freshwater marsh.

CAMERON PRAIRIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Engage in wildlife exploration at the Visitor Center featuring state-of-the-art dioramas as well as over-water boardwalk. Visit the 3-mile drive featuring a half mile accessible boardwalk with viewing scopes. It is a great place for waterfowl viewing during the winter.

Located at 1428 Hwy. 27, Sweetlake.

CAMERON PRAIRIE REFUGE/BANK FISHING ROAD

Boat launch with access to freshwater canals of Cameron Prairie Gibbstown Unit. Located at 1428 Hwy. 27, Bell City.

GRAND CHENIER RENTALS

Grand Chenier Rental Properties are situated in the heart of the of the Louisiana Marshes where some of the best fishing hot spots and ducking hunting leases exist. Cabin and camper/ trailer sites are the ideal accommodations for the many sportsmen and work crews visiting Grand Chenier and other coastal destinations in South Louisiana such as Joesph Harbor, Rollover Bayou, Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, and Cameron Birdwatching. Located at 224 Indian Point Rd. in Grand Chenier.



THE BROWN pelican became the state bird in 1966. Pesticide use caused pelicans to stop nesting along the Louisiana coast in 1961, and they completely disappeared by 1966. Restoring pelicans to the coast was a success.

GROSSE SAVANNE ECO-TOURS

Birding and nature enthusiasts who visit Grosse Savanne Eco-tours will experience why others have proclaimed Southwest Louisiana as one of the top 10 birding areas in the United States. Over 400 species of birds migrate to and through the area. Grosse Savanne's vast property of over 50,000 acres is nearly split in half by the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road, a nationally acclaimed "Louisiana Outback" wildlife and photography trail. Grosse Savanne Eco-tours has unlimited access to a multitude of various ecotypes including both fresh and salt water marshes, cypress swamps, native coastal prairies, pine forest plantations, and agricultural lands. We are ideally located in the transition from coastal prairies to chenier plain marshes, creating the ideal

environment for birding and wildlife/nature viewing. Whether your interest is spending the day leisurely exploring one of our private nature trails, taking a private boat tour in our secluded marshes, or spending the day in a blind waiting for that perfect photograph of a roseate spoonbill, we can provide various wildlife viewing and educational experiences. Located at 358 Chalkley Rd. in Bell City.

HOG ISLAND GULLY RECREATION AREA

Fishing & crabbing permitted year round; cast netting allowed seasonally.

Sabine National Wildlife Refuge in Hackberry.

LACASSINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Consisting of 35,000 acres of marsh and prairie, Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge is a great location for

birding and exploring. Open for freshwater fishing March 15th through October 15th each year. Four mile wildlife trail with observation tower within a freshwater marsh impoundment. Excellent year round wildlife observation and photography area. Multiple kiosks with interpretive information. Port-o-lets available at Lacassine Pool.

Located on 209 Nature Rd. in Lake Arthur.

PEVETO WOODS BIRD SANCTUARY

Multiple trails in a natural coastal chenier environment. Maintained for migratory birds, butterflies and other animals. 8.5 miles west of Holly Beach on LA 82.

Located at Hwy. 82, Johnson Bayou.

PINTAIL WILDLIFE DRIVE

Three mile driving loop through moist soil wetlands managed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service to provide feeding/resting habitat for wintering waterfowl. Excellent viewing of a variety of wildlife (lots of alligators!) as well as migratory birds year round. Huge waterfowl populations for viewing and photography opportunities in the fall and winter. There is a also a half mile accessible boardwalk with viewing scopes.

Located in Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Bell City.

ROCKEFELLER WILDLIFE REFUGE

Established in 1920, Rockefeller Refuge originally encompassed 86,000 acres of wilderness. Due to coastal erosion, less than 76,000 acres currently remain. The refuge boasts the highest alligator nesting densities in the United States. Visit Price Lake Nature Drive, a five-mile drive into Rockefeller Refuge where you can observe a wide variety of wildlife and birds from the road or from an observation tower. Other activities at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge include bird watching, shrimping, crabbing and fishing.

Located at 5476 Grand Chenier Hwy. in Grand Chenier.

SABINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Sabine is comprised of 125,000 acres of protected marshland, 61 miles of levees and eight major water-control structures and is the largest coastal marsh refuge on the Gulf of Mexico. Located 8 miles south of Hackberry on LA 27, Sabine NWR is great for birding, wildlife observation, fishing, crabbing and shrimping.

3000 Holly Beach Hwy., Hackberry.

SABINE PASS LIGHTHOUSE

Maritime Historic Lighthouse circa 1856. Listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. Exterior viewing only. La 82 (1 mile east of Causeway Bridge linking Louisiana and Texas); turn off LA 82 on Lighthouse Road in Johnson Bayou.

SABINE-BYWAY OBSERVATION AREA

Pull-off area for wildlife observation and photography opportunities. Located at 3000 Holly Beach Hwy. in Hackberry.

WETLAND WALKWAY

1.5 mile handicap accessible walk over impounded freshwater marsh. Includes boardwalks, trails, observation decks, signs and interpretive materials. Excellent site for nature photography. Port-O-lets available on site along with handicap accessible observation tower and five rest shelters along the trail.

Located in the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge.

Cameron Parish offers diverse tourist attractions

(EDITOR'S NOTE--The following information is reprinted from Cameron Parish Tourism Commission website: www.cameronparish-touristcommission.org)

Birding in Cameron Parish is truly extraordinary. In any given year, over 400 different species of birds can be spotted in this southeast corner of Sportsman's Paradise. The coastal marshlands and che-

nier ridges host migratory birds, waterfowl and wading birds. Keep your eye out for hawks and osprey in the fall and winter months and look for neo-tropical migrants, such as warblers, vireo and flycatchers, in the spring and fall. Whether you're an expert or novice, birding in Cameron Parish is an experience you can't miss.



INTRODUCING

GROSSE **Gs** SAVANNE

LAKESIDE

ON CALCASIEU LAKE

To enhance its venue of offerings, Grosse Savanne Lodge has acquired the Big Lake Guide Service lodge and wharf, formerly owned by the Poe family. The new addition has been named Grosse Savanne Lakeside. This waterfront lodge will be available for nightly rentals, along with fully guided saltwater fishing trips on Calcasieu Lake.



FOR MORE INFORMATION www.grossesavanne.com/lakeside-lodge | info@grossesavanne.com 337-598-2357



NEWS IN THIS ISSUE FROM:
Cameron, Creole, Grand Chenier,
Grand Lake, Hackberry, Holly-
beach, Johnson Bayou, Klondike,
Levee, Little Chenier, Oak
Grove, and Sweet Lake.

THE CAMERON PARISH Pilot

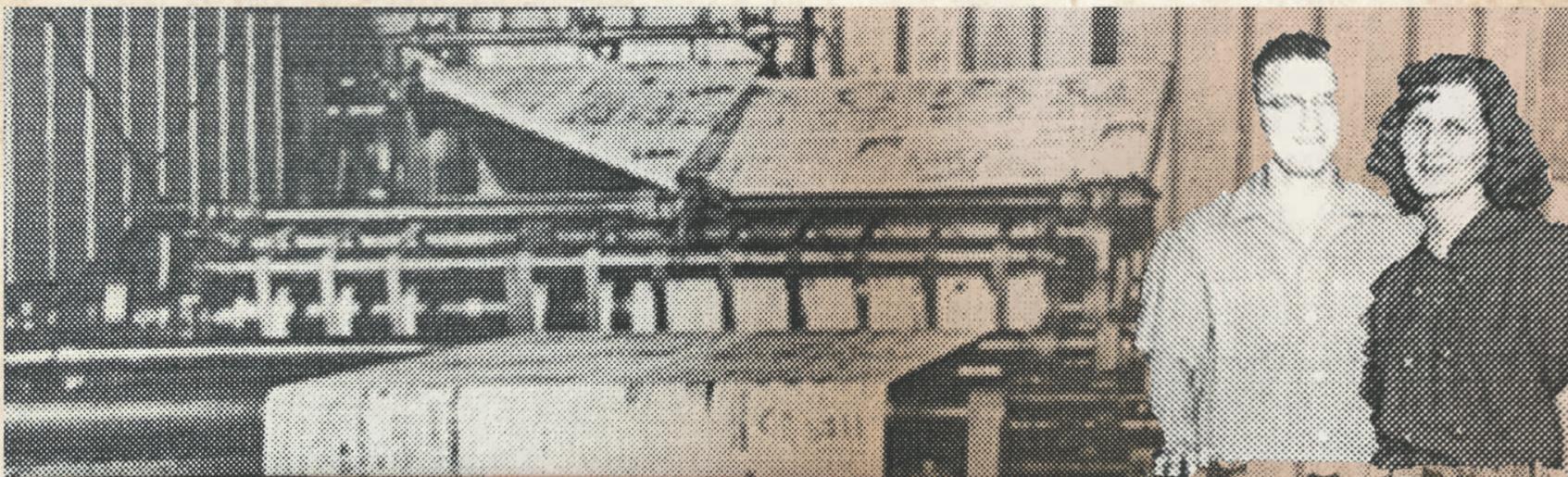
VOL. 1—NO. 1

Telephone PR 5-7585

CAMERON, LA. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1956

10¢ A COPY

The first mast head from the very first edition of the Cameron Parish Pilot.



Jerry and Joy Wise began the Cameron Parish Pilot in 1956 as a small family operated newspaper. They are shown here with the printing press in Sulphur where the Pilot was printed. The Pilot will be 64 years old this year on Oct. 5.

Cameron Parish Pilot has humble beginnings

Saluting
CAMERON PARISH
ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

1870



2020

150
YEARS
STRONG!!!



The late Jerry & Joy Wise
Owners/Publishers
1956 - 2016

The First edition of the Cameron Pilot came out on Oct. 5, 1956 and cost 10¢. The founding publishers of the Pilot were Jerry and Joy Wise and the newspaper has remained a family operation over the years. Their daughter, Jeffra Wise Deviney joined the staff as advertising director in 1981, and took over as publisher upon the death of her parents in 2016.

In 1956, Cameron Parish was the only newspaper in the state that didn't have its own newspaper. There had been a newspaper published by a Mrs. Nunemaker out of Lakeside, near Lake Arthur, in the 1920's, but it was no longer in business.

However, by coincidence, there had been another paper published in Cameron in the late 1800's and it was called the Cameron Pilot. (This was unknown to the Wise's when they named the Cameron Pilot.)

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Steed of Cameron had a copy of the first issue of the old Pilot, which was published in 1896 in Cameron which they loaned to us.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The president of Cameron Telephone Co., Billy Henning, was so supportive of the start of the newspaper, he advanced Mr. Wise \$300 on future advertising. This was about all the startup capital the newspaper had.

The Cameron Lions Club aided in the establishment of the second Cameron Pilot by endorsing the newspaper and sending members around the businesses securing promises of advertising. Lions Club members that gave their time for this purpose were Hadley Fontenot, president; E. J. Dronet, Lesley Richard, Rodney Guilbeau, Sr. and Ashburn Roux.

CORRESPONDENTS

The Pilot lined up a staff of country correspondents representing the parish. One of these, Mrs. Geneva Griffith of Oak Grove, was the unofficial "News Bureau" and photographer for the

Cameron Pilot for over 45 years. Her journalism received many awards over the years. Mrs. Griffith passed away in 2009.

Archie Hollister, the unofficial historian of Cameron Parish, and his sister, Bernice Stewart Denny, both residents of Lake Arthur, were two early feature writers for the Pilot. They were natives of Grand Chenier, and were both teachers at the Klondike School in Cameron Parish. Mr. Hollister wrote for the Pilot for around 20 years. Mr. Bernice Denny wrote for over 40 years.

When the Pilot was founded, Cameron Parish was in the midst of an oil and gas boom, both onshore and offshore, and the two large menhaden plants made Cameron the No. 1 fishing port in the nation. The Pilot, therefore, found an ample amount of advertising to support the newspaper and what had been started as a part time project turned into a full time endeavor in a short time.

CAMERON WILL RISE AGAIN!

The Wise's were overjoyed that their business was getting off to such a good start. Nine months later, came the great tragedy that was to nearly wipe out lower Cameron Parish and almost put them out of business...Hurricane Audrey. That week's Pilot had already been set in type and was scheduled to print that day. However, the Wise's chose not to print that edition, with so many citizens dead and the rest scattered to the wind, as well as most of the advertisers were out of business.

Joy and Jerry did what they could in Cameron over the next few days. They helped the survivors and aided with the cleanup. They made a decision to resume printing the next edition, because the parish was in such need of a newspaper.

The first issue after the storm was printed on Friday, July 5, 1957 and carried the largest headline that they had ever run: "Cameron Will Rise Again!" That headline was to be used again October 6, 2005 after Hurricane Rita ravaged the parish.

The office of the original Pilot was in Cameron, until Hurricane Audrey. The Wise's had purchased property in Cameron with the intention of building a home there. However, after seeing the destruction of Audrey, they decided to locate in DeQuincy. The main office was in DeQuincy, with a Pilot Office in Clipper Office Supply. However, after Hurricane Rita, Clipper Office Supply didn't reopen. Every edition of the Pilot is archived in bound files at the DeQuincy office, located at 203 E Harrison St., making the Pilot one of Cameron's greatest history archives.

PRINTING "REVOLUTIONS"

Over the years, the Pilot has gone through four different "revolutions" in printing methods. In 1956, the paper was printed with metal type set by Linotype machines, a method that had been used for nearly 100 years.

In 1958, offset printing was introduced. Under this method, type was set on typewriter type machines, pages were pasted up, photographed and then made into a metal plate, which was put on a printing press. The Pilot was one of the early papers using this method.

Around 1989, the third revolution, computers, were used to set the type, which was printed out, then cut and pasted onto the pages. Pages were still photographed and made into a metal plate for the press.



Jeffra Wise Deviney
Owner/Publisher
2016 - Present

PRESENT DAY

Today, the Pilot is produced entirely by computers. News stories and photographs are received from correspondents digitally, made up into digital pages at pre-press, sent to the printer digitally, who then prints turns them into metal plates. Subscribers have the choice of a print edition, which is mailed through the United States postal service or picked up at a newsstand; or they can receive a paperless edition, an e-paper via e-mail. Digital archives are available from the year 2005.

Recently, a collaborative effort with the Cameron Parish Pilot and Cameron Parish Library was made to provide electronic past issues of The Pilot available to the public. Jeffra Wise Deviney felt it was not only an asset, but a gift to the people of Cameron who have lost all of their precious photos, news clippings and memorabilia to so many storms. Publishers from other states have done the same same service, but the editions are behind a paywall. It is Cameron Pilot's pleasure to provide the service with the assistance of Cameron Parish Library.

Both
BUILDING
FOR A BETTER CAMERON —
The Cameron Parish Pilot
and
The Cameron Telephone Co.



We are happy to extend sincere congratulations to the Cameron Parish Pilot and to wish for it long, successful years of service here in Louisiana's most promising parish.

We know that the Pilot will join the Cameron Telephone Co., and other civic-minded firms, organizations and groups here in building a greater Cameron.

— WM. L. HENNING, President

Cameron Telephone Co.

Member of United States Independent Telephone Association

The Cameron Telephone placed the first advertisement in the Pilot.



WHOOPING CRANES were listed under the Endangered Species Act. In 2015, Cameron LNG became a corporate sponsor of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to help restore this magnificent species in the marshes of southwest Louisiana. Birders can now get a chance to spot these endangered birds in Cameron Parish.

Are these old sayings familiar to any of you?

By **BERNICE DENNY**

Webster's Dictionary defines folklore as "Traditional customs, beliefs, tales, or sayings preserved usually among a people..."

The words, tales and expressions, as they are handed down from generation to generation, reflect the living and the thinking of past generations.

The South of today, a blend of many cultures, is filled with numerous or picturesque sayings. Some may not be as familiar in some localities as in others. In this age of more or less televised community of expression many of these sayings are in danger of becoming lost. Even now many may not be understood by the younger generation.

For your recall or enjoyment we offer samplings of early Cameron words and phrases: Biggity, meaning vain, overbearing, haughty. Do-hickey -- a substitute name; Same as what-you-may-call-it or thing-a-ma-jig. Laid-up --ill, hurt, unable to work.

Middling -- between good and bad. Piddle -- waste time; doing something in particular. Razorback half-wild hog usually found in marshes or woods. Shenanigan -- secret or dishonest activity. Shindig -- dance or celebration. Shuckbroom -- scrub broom

made with cornshucks used to scrub wood floors. Shut-mouthed -- talk little about his or other's business. Snipe-hunting -- persons are duped and left holding the bag. Spring chicken -- young thing. Stomping ground -- place of one's birth or upbringing. Barking up the wrong tree - completely wrong. Fly off the handle -- become angry and lash out. In a coon's age -- quite a while.

Now for some graphic sentences: Either fish or cut bait - work or make room for those who will. Don't go hog wild -- don't act without restraint. Don't go back on your raisin' - don't deny your heritage.

He's grinning like a mule eating briars -- he's grinning as though pleased with himself. He's in high cotton -- he has come up in the world. He acts like he has a crib full of corn - he is feeling properous. She's got her feather ruffled - she is pouting or is offended. She's as mad as an old wet hen -- (if you have ever seen a wet hen, this is self-explanatory).

Years ago you may have heard something like this as a friend was leaving one's home: Well, I declare. So you must go? We are much obliged that you dropped in for a spell. You were a sight for sore eyes.



SANDHILL CRANES are spotted more frequently in the parish over the last few years.



IN THE EARLY 1900s, the paddlewheel steamer Borealis Rex traversed the Calcasieu River from Lake Charles to Cameron, the only communications and transportation between the two communities. The Borealis Rex stopped at landings along the river delivering mail, freight and passengers. This oil painting by James L. Kendrick was featured on the 1986 cover of the Cameron Telephone phone book.

Memories of the old Rex

By **ARCHIE HOLLISTER**
Feb. 26, 1960
Cameron Pilot

Anyone who deals with the history of Cameron must sooner or later mention the old stern-wheeled steamer, the Borealis Rex.

The resounding name is quite a mouthful, and as was to be expected, the full name was seldom used and the old boat was known simply as the Rex.

Nor was there any need for further identification; when you said "Rex" you were in immediate communication with your hearers. Everyone from Johnson Bayou to Cow Island knew what you were talking about.

The name, Borealis Rex, when translated from the sonorous Latin, comes out as King of the North. Few people, I would imagine, possessed this information, and none, I am sure, felt the lack of it.

To one accustomed to the wind driven schooners and the gasoline powered boats, a ride on the Rex was an enlightening experience.

Here was smooth, quiet, apparently effortless transportation. Here were spacious decks and comfortable seats and room for one to move about. A person could usually be sure of having friends and acquaintances as fellow passengers, and there was ample time for the exchange of news and reminiscences, for the trip was a leisurely one, taking five or six hours.

Coffee was usually available at all times, and the cook served dinner to those affluent persons who did not balk

at the high price of fifty cents for meals that could not have been surpassed in any of the Lake Charles restaurants at that time. (They can't do it either today for that matter.)

If I remember the schedule correctly, the Rex ran from Lake Charles to Cameron on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and returned on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

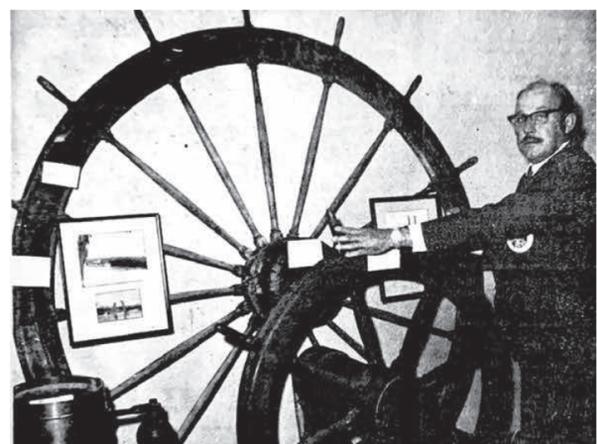
The old stern-wheeler had a contract to carry the U. S. Mail; in addition she transported passengers, freight, groceries, bales of cotton, cattle, firewood, building materials, and the thousand and one articles of commerce and trade which the community had to buy and sell.

Her passenger list was always large; on any one trip there were likely to be at least a dozen or two, and often seventy-five or a hundred people would engage passage. The river was the highway to the world, and the Rex that means whereby they came and went.

The old Rex carried a fair cross-sampling of all humanity on her broad decks and a student of human life and behavior would have been in his element there.

I would say that perhaps she was a hundred feet and more in length and possibly thirty in breadth. She was the typical old-time Mississippi stern-wheeler with multiple decks and tall smoke-stacks. In fact, it is my understanding that she was actively engaged on that river when the new owners acquired her for the run on the Calcasieu.

They had to bring her around through the Gulf-there no Intracoastal Canal



W. F. HENRY, past president of the Cameron police jury, here shows off the display loaned to Cameron for the Centennial observance by the Lake Charles museum. The big wheel in the background was the steering wheel off the old Borealis Rex, the paddle wheeler that operated between Lake Charles and Cameron for many years.

then. A framed picture of the Rex hung in my mother's living room for years. I searched in vain for it after Hurricane Audrey.

It would be impossible to estimate the influence that this one boat--and she had no rivals-- exerted upon the lives of the inhabitants of Cameron. She was their one link with the outside world, and her coming and departure were moments of importance.

It was the accepted order of the day for people to "go down to meet the Rex," as they expressed it. Some had legitimate business reasons for going, some were expecting friends or relatives, and others went for no reason at all, except perhaps through force of habit and the change to get

in on a little excitement. Even solid citizens, not otherwise given to foolishness, would saddle a horse and ride ten miles merely to be on hand when the boat docked.

Her day is gone, and she herself is gone, and with them went a goodly company of men. Oldsters do not need to be reminded. These pages in their book of memories are still as bright and clear as they were some sunny morning forty years ago when the tall plumes of black smoke stood above the stacks, the big paddle wheel turned lazily upon its axle, and a sudden puff of white steam shooting skyward was followed a moment later by the clear note of the department whistle.

The Str. Broealis Rex was sailing.

*Happy 150th Anniversary,
Cameron Parish!*

**TOM
BARRETT**

for **CAMERON PARISH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**





John S. Grunik Home

Grunik home built in 1895

(Cameron Pilot Archives)

(EDITOR'S NOTE--The Grunik Home was demolished after Hurricane Rita in 2005.)

The John S. Grunik home, which will be on the HD tour Tuesday, was built in 1895. The story of the house follows:

In 1890 John S. Grunik left his wife, Catherine Duris, and their four children in Rovna, Czechoslovakia to seek his fortune in America. A peddler by trade with his pack of tinware and hardware strapped to his back, he traveled on foot from St. Louis to New Orleans to Cameron to who-knows-where?

During the two or three years he did this, it was often necessary for him to sleep outdoors, being in between settlements. On these occasions he slept with one eye open because of the cut-throats roaming the countryside.

"Bootsie" Carter recalls being captivated by her grandfather's hair-raising tales of these nights he spent in the wilderness.

After deciding Cameron was where he wished to settle and make his home, Mr. Grunik sent for his wife and family. They lived in east Creole until their home was built in 1895. Four more children were born, so a large addition was made in 1908.

Several rooms were destroyed by Hurricane Audrey in 1957; however much of the house remains the same and it contains many pieces of furniture seventy-five years old or older.

Just east of the house, where the garden is today, Mr. Grunik planted a large orange grove in 1905 or 1906. The trees were planted in such a way that no matter from which

angle one looked, the trees were straight and in perfect line. To add to the beauty of the grove, the trunks were white-washed.

The orange trees were ruined for the first time in 1915, when a tidal wave brought the Gulf's salt water on the ridge. Mr. Grunik undauntedly replanted the grove, only to again see it devastated -- this time by the 1918 hurricane. He planted a third time; however Cameron experienced a severe winter and the trees were unable to withstand the low temperatures and froze. This ended the Grunik Orange Grove for all times. Cotton was later planted there.

In 1900 Mr. Grunik built a store west of the house and right on the road. General merchandise was sold here for many years. After Mr. Grunik's death in 1949, the store, having deteriorated from being closed, was torn down.

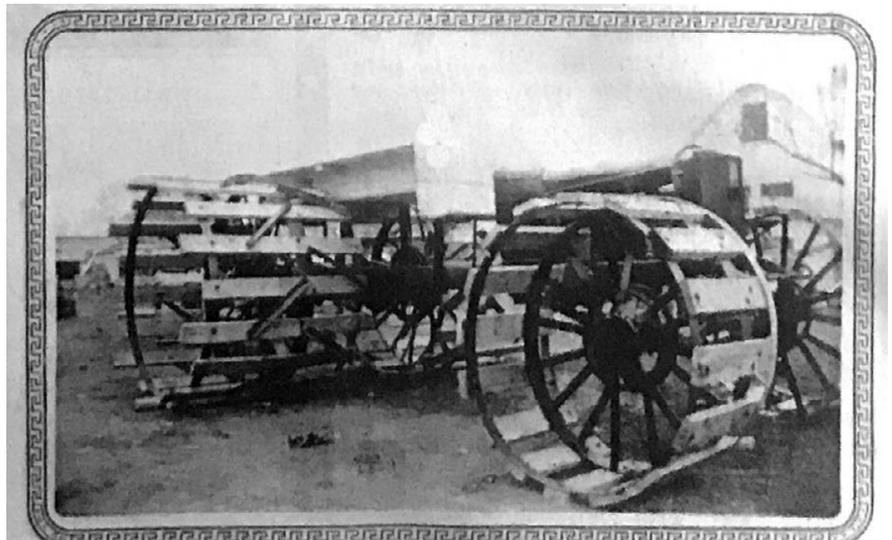
Lynn's Paint & Body
Sweeney's Club, Cameron
Cajun Club, Holly Beach
Cameron Beauty Salon,
Cameron
Diesel Marine Service,
Cameron
Dot's Flower & Gifts
Mason Istre Grocery,
Hackberry
O'Donnell Funeral Home
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Cameron Charter Boats,
Cameron
Calcasieu Savings & Loan,
Cameron
Sears & Roebuck Co. Catalog
Merchant, Cameron
Troclair Canning Co.
Sleed's Fish Co. Inc.
Cameron Fire Equipment Co.
Kornegay's Grocery
Cher-Ami Seafood
Wayne Foster Farm & Ranch,
Sweetlake
Adolf J. Murry, General
Dentistry, Cameron
Theriot Plumbing & Elec.
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Faby's Beauty Salon,
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C.A. Riggs General Mdse.,
Hackberry
Cameron Beauty Salon,
Cameron
Booth's Grocery, Grand
Chenier
Landry's Cafe, Creole
Cameron Construction Co.
Gayla Beauty Salon

Company, Cameron
Tarter's Grocery, Oak Grove
Western Auto Assoc. Store,
Cameron
Cameron Conoco Service
Station, Cameron
Cameron Office Supply,
Cameron
Cypress Inn, Rutherford
Beach
Irvin Thibodeaux's Store,
Holly Beach
Nunez Insurance Agency,
Grand Chenier
Dyson Lumber Supply,
Cameron
Cameron State Bank,
Cameron, Creole, Hackberry,
Grand Chenier
Cameron Insurance Agency,
Cameron
Creole Bargain Store, Creole
Cameron Telephone
Company
Jefferson Davis Electric
Cooperative
Calcasieu Marine Bank
South Cameron Memorial
Hospital, Creole
Kelly's Radio & TV Service,
Cameron
Loston's Shell Station, Creole
Loston's Auto & Diesel
Repairs, Creole
Hackett's Corner, Sweetlake
Riggs IG Store, Hackberry
Miller's Bros. Service Station

Pilot advertisers in 1970

Fifty years ago, the *Cameron Parish Pilot* newspaper had a roll of businesses that advertised in their pages.

The 1970 businesses are listed:
Bell's Appliance Service, Cameron
Roy Bailey Contractors, Inc., Creole
B&B Seafood & Steak House, Cameron.
Boudoin & Richard Esso Distributors, Cameron
Cameron Construction Co., Inc., Cameron
Cameron Marine Service, Cameron
Crain Bros. Inc., Grand Chenier
Creole Lumber Company, Creole
Cameron Clothing Store, Cameron
JW Doxey Jr. Gulf Oil Distributor, Cameron
East's Shell Service, Grand Chenier
Fred's Restaurant, Cameron
Savoie Lumber & Hardware, Creole
Grand Chenier Cafe, Grand Chenier
Gulf Appliance Sales, Creole
E. Nunez Store, Creole
Steets Ice Co., Inc., Cameron
Tanner's Furniture



THIS WAS the original marsh buggy built by John Paul Crain and others years ago. It was believed to be the second marsh buggy ever built, with the first being built by a man in the Kaplan area.

John Paul Crain & others built this Marsh Buggy

By GENEVA GRIFFITH
Cameron Pilot

One of the most important citizens of Cameron Parish of this century died and was buried this week.

John Paul Crain, businessman, conservationist, inventor, oilfield pioneer and civic leader, died Sunday morning, June 20, 1993 in a Lake Charles hospital.

Mr. Crain was 79 years old. Funeral service were held in the Grand Chenier Methodist Church on Tuesday, June 22, with burial in the McCall Cemetery.

Survivors are four sisters, "Girlie" Waldron and Mrs. Blanch Bourg, both of Lake Charles, Mrs. June Crain Harper of Grand Chenier and Mrs. Mary Johnson of Sour Lake, Texas; and one brother, Clayton Crain of Groves, Texas.

A member of a pioneer Cameron Parish family, Crain was a lifelong resident of Cameron Parish and co-owner of Crain Brothers Construction.

A veteran of World War II, he was a member of Grand Chenier Methodist Church, Cameron Masonic Lodge 439, the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association and the American Legion of Grand Chenier.

He had served on the board of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries and of Cameron State Bank and was a member of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.

The funeral was conducted by Rev. Jack Tanner, pastor of the Grand Chenier Baptist Church' Rev. Joe Rountree, pastor of the Cameron and Grand Chenier Methodist Churches; and Father Mark Broussard, pastor of the Grand Chenier Catholic Churches.

Larry Dyson led the united choirs of the Grand Chenier, Cameron and Oak Grove churches.

In his remarks Father Broussard said, "Here lies a legend, a man like no other, who was so concerned about his community and their relationship to God and their church."

It was indeed an ecumenical service.

Crain had touched so many lives and his acts of philanthropy could fill a book. His whole life was dedicated to conservation of the land and wildlife of his beloved Cameron Parish and his state.

He was reared on Little Pecan Island (now owned by the Nature Conservancy) which was owned at that time by his father, Duncan "Dunk" Crain, who served as the sheriff of Cameron Parish for years.

It was literally an island in the marsh, accessible only by boat, located in the eastern end of Cameron Parish near Little Chenier.

The marshes he tramped through as a boy were the home for the alligator, nutria, the duck and later the oil industry and they were to furnish him with a vocation, hunting and trapping alligators in the deep marshes.

In 1931, he and his brother, the late A. H. "Sono" Crain, built their first marsh buggy by taking an old Fortson tractor and adding wooden slats for its wheels, in effect giving it snow shoes. They added a shelter on top (sort of a duck blind) to fend off the sun and rain. It was one of the first marsh buggies ever to be built.

Crain was only 19 at the time and this was a way of getting their heavy alligators out of the marsh. The first summer the Crain brothers trapped using the marsh buggies, they averaged from \$50 to \$80 a day, working 5 days a week, which was "big money" in those days.

Then in 1934 the oil companies moved into the coastal areas with their shooting crews exploring for oil and needed a way to "criss-cross" the vast marsh areas.

The Crains furnished the marsh buggies, which were the answer, and a fleet of 40 resulted, servicing an area that covered Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Louisiana, and later the entire Gulf Coast, and foreign markets.

In spite of the very success-

ful oilfield service industry that grew from the marsh buggies, Crain Bros., Inc. hunting and trapping always remained close to his heart.

Mr. Crain later took over the trapping operation for the Cameron Meadows Company on an 18,500 acre tract at Johnson Bayou.

The conservation-minded Crain believed that the marshes and the wildlife they contained should remain just as they are, even though the wildlife must be controlled.

When Gov. Jimmy Davis became Louisiana governor he appointed Crain to the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission, where he served from 1960 to 1965.

It was through Crain's efforts that alligator hunting was closed for five years when it looked like the alligators were becoming extinct. This probably saved the very important trapping industry, which is now flourishing.

Mr. Crain was honored by the annual Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival in Cameron in 1972 as "King Fur IV" when the festival saluted the oil industry, but he could have also served as king when the hunting, trapping and alligator industries were saluted.

He was also deeply involved in the festival from when it was organized in 1956. He furnished the money for the prizes in the fur skinning contests.

He later purchased the oldest home on the Gulf, the Doxey house, from the Doxey heirs, at Grand Chenier.

Last year he erected a sign in front of the carefully preserved home designating it as "The Doxey Place, Established in 1842) printed on a replica of an ox yoke so everyone passing down La. 82 in Grand Chenier could be mindful of its heritage.

Crain was laid to rest in the oldest cemetery on Grand Chenier, the McCall Cemetery, established by the earliest settlers there, next to his late wife, Theda Roy Crain, and mother, Eugenia Sweeney Crain.

Graveside rites were conducted by the Cameron Masonic Lodge #439 F&AM of which he was a charter member.

As Sheriff Sono Savoie said, Cameron Parish lost its corner post, when John Paul died."

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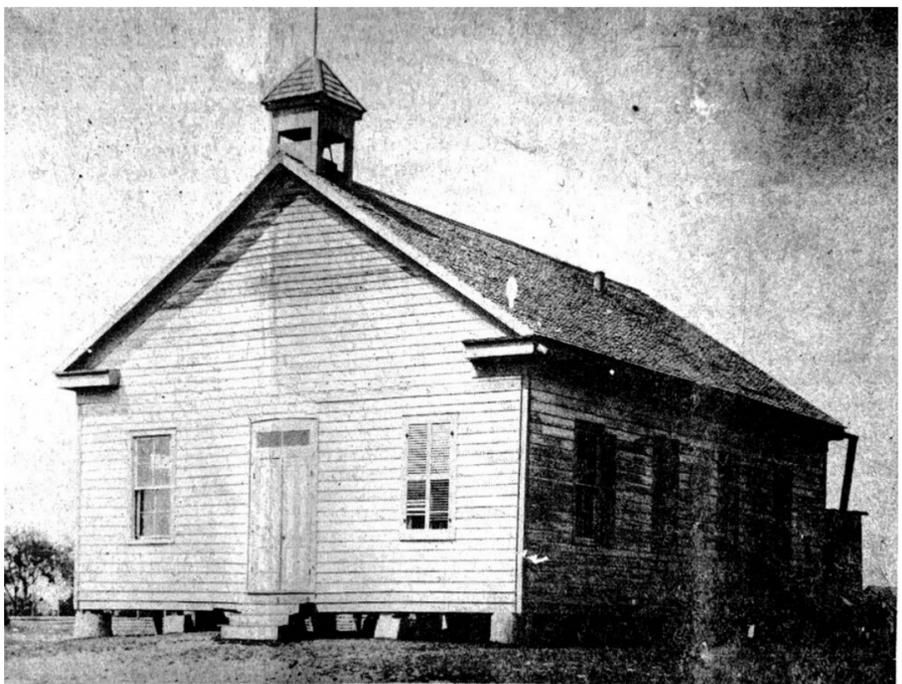
Celebrating Cameron Parish's **150 years**

2029 Brant Street
Holly Beach, La.

PickledPelicanBeachHouse

Owners: Ray Lee & Cathy Myers

COME ENJOY ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE!



THIS PHOTO of the Grand Chenier School, taken about 1900, was furnished the Pilot by Myrtle Doxey Peveto of Orange, Texas. The school was located on the main road not far from Dr. Miller's home (now Emily Theriot's home.) Miss Woodley was the teacher at that time.

Sweeneys were among first settlers of Grand Chenier

Contributed by
W. T. BLOCK

John William Sweeney was born at Pikesville, near Baltimore, Maryland, in 1807, the son of John W. Sweeney and Mary Owen. It is believed he was orphaned at an early age and may have been reared by grandparents. By 1830 he apparently was living at Roanoke, Virginia, where on June 14, 1832, he married Sarah Jane Hickok, daughter of John Hickok and Hannah Murray. Their oldest daughter, Mary Elizabeth, was born in Roanoke on August 14, 1833.

Soon afterward, the Sweeney couple moved to Hinds County, Mississippi, where son Henry Sidney was born on Feb. 29, 1836, and Syrenah Jane died in infancy. In late 1839 or early 1840, the Sweeney family followed their friends, the Milledge McCalls, to Grand Chenier, where they became the third or fourth white family to live there. It is difficult to understand why either family left Mississippi since the Federal government had just opened up one million acres of former Choctaw lands for settlement. Sweeney family traditions believed that Sarah Jane traded a gold watch and other items to an Attakapas chief for the lands that they would farm cotton on for the next 50 years.

During the next 20 years,

several other Sweeney children were born, namely, Harriet, born June 14, 1841; Sarah Ellen, born 1844; John W., born March 6, 1846; James Hill, born Sept. 25, 1849; George Carter, born Oct. 6, 1851; Andrew, born Aug. 18, 1856; Frank N., born May 5, 1859; and Virginia, born Feb. 25, 1854.

During the antebellum years, the Sweeney family raised 25-30 bales of cotton annually, which they shipped to Galveston. The Civil War dealt harshly with the Sweeney siblings. Isaac Bonsall, Sr., the husband of Mary Elizabeth Sweeney, was killed at the Battle of Mansfield, and William McCall, husband of Harriet Sweeney, also died in the Confederate service. "Lizzie" Bonsall's son, Isaac, Jr., was a pioneer physician at Cameron.

One story about John W. Sweeney occurred about 1870. He badly mangled his wrist in a cotton gin, and it had to be amputated "Grand Chenier style." John McCall, Harriet's brother-in-law, had amputated several limbs as a surgeon's assistant at the siege of Vicksburg. At first Sweeney had to be "anesthetized" with a quart or more of whiskey to kill the pain. Afterward McCall used a razor, hacksaw, needle and thread to remove and sew up the mangled forearm.

Sweeney lived on for about 16 years more until his death on Aug. 17, 1886.

After her husband was killed, Lizzie Bonsall married again and died at Grand Chenier in 1916. Henry S. lived out most of his life at Sulphur. Harriet also married again and lived out her life at Grand Chenier. Sarah Ellen married Jules Bouquet and died in Texas in 1889. After serving as Cameron Parish sheriff, John W. Jr. died at Sugarland, Texas, in 1931. James Hill (the writer's grandfather) raised cotton at Grand Chenier until he died in 1891. Dr. Carter Sweeney practiced medicine at Grand Chenier from 1875 until 1910, and died there in 1922. Rev. Frank Sweeney held several Methodist pastorates in South Louisiana until he died in 1936. Virginia married Jim Logan and died in Port Arthur in 1936.

The Sweeneys had one more tragedy to endure. Son Andrew ginned 15 bales of cotton in October 1881, when he was engaged to marry Margaret Doland. He loaded his cotton aboard the schooner *Two Sisters*, bound for Galveston, where Andrew planned to buy his wedding suit, furniture and kitchen utensils. During the night the *Two Sisters* filled with water and sank, and the five men aboard floated away on cotton bales. During the night

Grand Chenier home oldest on the coast

Cameron Pilot
May 7, 1992

By GENEVA GRIFFITH

Cameron Parish's existing oldest home is the Doxey home at Grand Chenier and after 150 years it now has a marker in front exclaiming it as "The Doxey Place, Established 1842", erected by the present owner, John Paul Crain.

In keeping with the times when the house was built, Crain had the sign made from iron in the shape of an ox-yolk, which was sandblasted down, met-coated and painted with layers of paint to look like wood, so it will last for centuries.

Crain purchased the home from Joe Doxey, who had bought the home from his father's estate when the older Doxey died.

It was listed in the book "Historic Plantation Homes of the South" which stated it to be the oldest home still standing on the Gulf Coast of Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas.

It was built in 1842 and was the first home built on Grand Chenier of dressed lumber. It is situated on the highest point of land on Grand Chenier some 11 feet above sea level, and set on brick piers more than three feet high. Even the waters of Hurricane Audrey in June, 1957, failed to wash into the Doxey home.

The house was built by William M. Doxey, one of the first settlers on Grand Chenier.

A bit of history handed down through generations of the Doxey family relates that when William Doxey and Milledge McCall came to the

island they found only one human here.

quite prosperous.

When General Sherman passed through using the "Scorch and Search" policy, he burned the tannery down.

Col. Durr was so devastated over the act he divided up his hundreds of acres of land among his slaves, giving them each 40 acre tracts, and left with his family for Louisiana.

Crain said Grandma Doxey was always so kind to the younger generation, holding dances for them in her living room with music furnished by a band consisting of a fiddle and a guitar.

The old house was also a shelter for generations of Grand Chenier and Cameron residents seeking refuge on higher ground during storms which came in from the Gulf. People also came from Oak Grove and other parts of the island to stay in the two story house until the storm had passed.

Thanks to careful and loving preservation and restoration, the house is as sturdy today as when it was built.

Crain said he is just sorry that he had not designated the history of the old house for everyone to see before the last of the Andrew family died.

Andrew drowned, but his body was never found.

After her husband's death, Sarah Jane Sweeney lived out her life in the household of her son James Hill, and she died at Grand Chenier on June 30, 1893. Most of the old Sweeneys are buried in McCall Cemetery, but tombstones don't survive for many of them.

SOURCE: Reprinted from Cameron Parish Pilot, July 22, 1999.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The SW LA Genealogical & Historical Library at 411 Pujos St., Lake Charles contains a large collection of J. W. Sweeney genealogy, which was donated by W. T. Block.)



THE OLD Doxey Place at Grand Chenier is 150 years old and is believed to be the oldest place on the Louisiana and Texas Gulf Coast.

(Photo by Geneva Griffith in 1992.)

island they found only one human here.

SHIPWRECKED SAILOR

He was a shipwrecked sailor named Bill Beazley, who had saved himself by clinging to a mahogany table from the wrecked schooner. Beazley had been spending each night in oak trees to keep away from wild bears in the area, it is related.

The table which served as a life raft for Beazley stood in the kitchen of the Doxey house and served four generations for 108 years. No one knows its whereabouts today.

The Doxey house was also occupied by a cigar factory, in addition to living quarters 20 years before the Civil War.

It was enlarged and remodeled in 1890, again in 1917 and once more in 1948 by the present owner, Crain. He has carefully preserved the historic house and restored it to its original look.

He moved the kitchen from the back of the house to the east side, adding a breezeway and garage also to that side.

When it was renovated in 1890, a team of carpenters from Abbeville did the work, using cypress throughout.

In 1917, the second floor was expanded with four bedrooms and a hall, the staircase from the ground floor entrance hall was revised, and two additional gables were added, making four gables facing south toward the Gulf of Mexico.

The last of the Doxey descendants to occupy the house was the Andrew Doxey family.

Grandma Doxey

Mrs. Doxey was known as "Grandma Doxey", a very civic minded person, and was famed for never letting a visitor leave without some gift, usually food that she had canned or preserved herself.

She was a Durr, whose father was a Colonel in the Civil War and owned a tannery in Mississippi and was

quite prosperous.

When General Sherman passed through using the "Scorch and Search" policy, he burned the tannery down.

Col. Durr was so devastated over the act he divided up his hundreds of acres of land among his slaves, giving them each 40 acre tracts, and left with his family for Louisiana.

Crain said Grandma Doxey was always so kind to the younger generation, holding dances for them in her living room with music furnished by a band consisting of a fiddle and a guitar.

The old house was also a shelter for generations of Grand Chenier and Cameron residents seeking refuge on higher ground during storms which came in from the Gulf. People also came from Oak Grove and other parts of the island to stay in the two story house until the storm had passed.

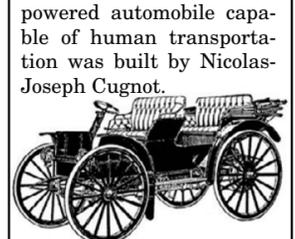
Thanks to careful and loving preservation and restoration, the house is as sturdy today as when it was built.

Crain said he is just sorry that he had not designated the history of the old house for everyone to see before the last of the Andrew family died.

wikipedia.org

The early history of the automobile can be divided into a number of eras, based on the prevalent means of propulsion. Later periods were defined by trends in exterior styling, size, and utility preferences.

In 1769 the first steam-powered automobile capable of human transportation was built by Nicolas-Joseph Cugnot.



CELEBRATING **150** YEARS Proud To Honor CAMERON PARISH During This Landmark Event!

Looking forward to a future of growth and prosperity as we begin another 150 Years!

Myrna M. Conner
AFLAC Agent - 20 Year Veteran
— IN THE AFLAC HALL OF FAME —

162 T-John Rd. - Grand Lake/Sweetlake And Lake Charles Regional Office Lake Charles, **Aflac** 905-4687 (Office) 794-3020 (Cell) • 905-4688 (Fax)

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We Are So Proud To Join Everyone In Honoring The Past And Continuing The Legacy of Cameron Parish!!

Susan Racca
Cameron Parish Clerk of Court & Staff
122 Recreation Lane, Cameron, LA • 775-5316

150th Anniversary Sesquicentennial

Cameron Parish Has The Distinction Of Being 150 Years Old!! This Is A Milestone That We CELEBRATE WITH PRIDE!!

CAMERON PARISH REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OFFICE
Michelle Richard, Registrar
Kristen Saltzman, Deputy Registrar
148 Smith Circle • Cameron, La. • 337-775-5493

GRAND LAKE/SWEET LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Salutes Cameron Parish On This Historic Occasion!!

Grand Lake/Sweet Lake Fire Department - Here To Serve You

Call 911 In Case Of Fire
PEACE OF MIND — KNOWING THAT YOUR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ARE ON DUTY

Toby Landry, Fire Chief; Troy Thomas, Assistant Chief; John Ogea, Captain; Paul Gay, Captain; Ricky Faulk, Captain, Kris Johnson, Maintenance Captain and Dinah Landry, Secretary. Board members include: Scott Creel, Chairman of the Board; Gene Reese, Sheriff Ron Johnson, C. S. Darbonne and Greg Manual.

THE CHILDREN OF TODAY WILL LEAD OUR PARISH TOWARDS OUR NEXT MILESTONE!!

CAMERON PARISH HEAD START

Head Start Facility — Brightening Young Lives

Cameron Parish Head Start was established in 1994 to provide educational opportunities for children 3-5 years old. Head Start's mission is to assist each child in developing academically, physically, mentally, emotionally and socially at their own rate to his/her fullest potential.

— Head Start Services —

- Free air conditioned transportation with child restraint seats for pick-up/drop-off accompanied by two certified staff
- Free nutritional breakfast, lunch and snack daily to all children
- Free off-site extracurricular activities
- Professionally qualified teacher and aide for each classroom

ALL DAY SERVICES AT TWO LOCATIONS:

Hackberry Head Start 7:45-3:45 Monday - Thursday 880 Main Street, Hackberry 337-762-3979 Phone • 337-762-3911 Fax	Grand Lake Head Start 7:45-3:00 Monday - Friday 10100 Gulf Hwy., Grand Lake 337-598-4413 Phone • 337-598-2645 Fax
--	--

Dinah Landry, Executive Director
JoAnn Daigle, Head Start Director — Shelia Authement, Assistant Head Start Director

Fuzz Town remembered

(Cameron Pilot Archives)

By MRS. JOHN PRESCOTT

Oil was first discovered at Johnson Bayou in the early thirties by alligator hunter Ben Romero. The Johnson Bayou Prospecting Company, headed by Ferd Pavel, drilled the first wells but did not find oil, just gas. Production for oil was not actually started until 1935 when Burton, Magnolia and Mobil started drilling.

The first equipment was brought in by wagons pulled by draft horses. A channel was dug so boats and barges could be used for moving equipment and transportation in general. Mr. and Mrs. Simmons ran a boarding house for the roughnecks on Cameron Meadows.

Mobil Oil Co. built homes for oil production employees in 1945. Twelve houses, 2 rows of 6 each and a generator for electricity made up the camp which was soon widely known as Fuzz Town. Named for the foreman Sanders (Fuzz) Spearing, Fuzz Town stayed fully occupied but seldom with the same tenants. Almost as fast as a family moved in, another moved out; unable to adjust to living in the marsh with mosquitoes, snakes, alligators and the isolation.

The first residents of Fuzz Town were: Sanders Spearing with 2 children; Richard McGuire, 3 children; Henry Daigle, 2 children; Elray Dunaway, 3 children; Fred McGuire; Tom Edge, 1 child; Pierre Savoie, 3 children; Herman Lutgring, 2 children; Nute Waters, 1 child; Hub Bell, 4 children; Murl Dodd, 1 child and Eddie Chesson.

In July and August 1945 when there first families moved in, the rent was \$2.50 a month. Rent was raised later to \$5 and in 1956 when all the houses were sold, rent had gone up to \$15 a month.

In 1952, six of the houses

were sold and in 1956 the other six were sold. The last residents of Fuzz Town were: Pierre Savoie, James Collins, Mason Istre, John Reon, Bill Sumpter and John Lambert.

The houses were sold locally and many are still in use today on Johnson Bayou. Some of the buyers were: Alvie Trahan, Joe Storm, Mr. Fontenot, Mayo Raggio, Murray Romero, Fred Erbeling, M. H. Badon, Leo Vincent, Crain Bros., Sullie Menard, Sr., and Alton Trahan.

This was the end of Fuzz Town but not company housing. As Mobil grew and production increased, a plant unit of automatic collecting and filtering systems for gas was constructed in 1950-51.

New company houses were built close to the plant for gas production employees. Four 2 bedroom duplexes and 2 three bedroom houses, plus a community house made up the new camp.

Early residents of the new housing area included: Harold Inmann, Howard Van Hook, H. S. Potters, W. R. Stevens, George Mackie, Raymond Thomas, the Riddles, Hathaways and Thorntons.

The last residents which will be moving soon are: Cecil Jones, Paul Jacobs, Stanley McComic and Charles Caudill.

Now, in 1970, after 25 years, comes the end of the company housing for Mobil Oil Co. For some time Mobil has gradually been "phasing out" the company owned houses. Johnson Bayou is the last housing area. July 1, 1970 marks the end of the era as these last houses are sold and moved from the company property.

Much is already just memories handed down from one generation to the next concerning the great oil boom at Johnson Bayou and another part now joins the gone but not forgotten with the end of company housing.

Intercoastal Canal completed in 1915

(EDITOR'S NOTE--The following is an article which appeared in the Lake Charles American Press on June 23, 1915.)

Down in Calcasieu Parish and in the country adjoining, the U.S. government is putting into concrete form what was looked upon for years as an "engineer's dream" - an inland canal, following the coast line from Boston to the Mexican border.

It will furnish inter-communications by water for a great section of country adjacent and a safe waterway for light craft vessels which could be used as an auxiliary to our coast defenses.

Except in spots, the Intercoastal Canal on the Atlantic Coast is still a vision but that section of it lying between the Mississippi River and the Rio Grande is fast becoming a concrete entity.

Especially is this true in Louisiana where a practicable waterway, though not the most desirable will be completed between the Mississippi and the Sabine Rivers by the time this reaches most of our readers.

The dredges which are excavating the canal from the Calcasieu River follow Lake Charles to the Sabine River near Orange, one from each end and are rapidly approaching each other.

On May 24, they were only 4,000 feet apart. The residents of the two principal towns affected, Orange and Lake Charles, are arranging to hold a joint celebration of the canal at the City of Lake Charles during the latter part of July.

The completion of this section will give the lumber, sulphur, oil, and rice produced in and near Lake Charles a water route to the ocean ports at Port Arthur and Sabine Pass, Tex.

It will also give local manufacturing and mining interests freight reductions that will repay the cost of constructing the canal four or five times over every year.

The section of the canal from the Calcasieu to the Sabine River is said by engineers to be the longest straight line canal in the world. It goes straight as an arrow from two miles west of the Calcasieu to the Sabine, a distance of 20 1/2 miles.

The Intercoastal Canal is the popular name for the projected and partly completed waterway to connect the Mississippi River with the Rio Grande.

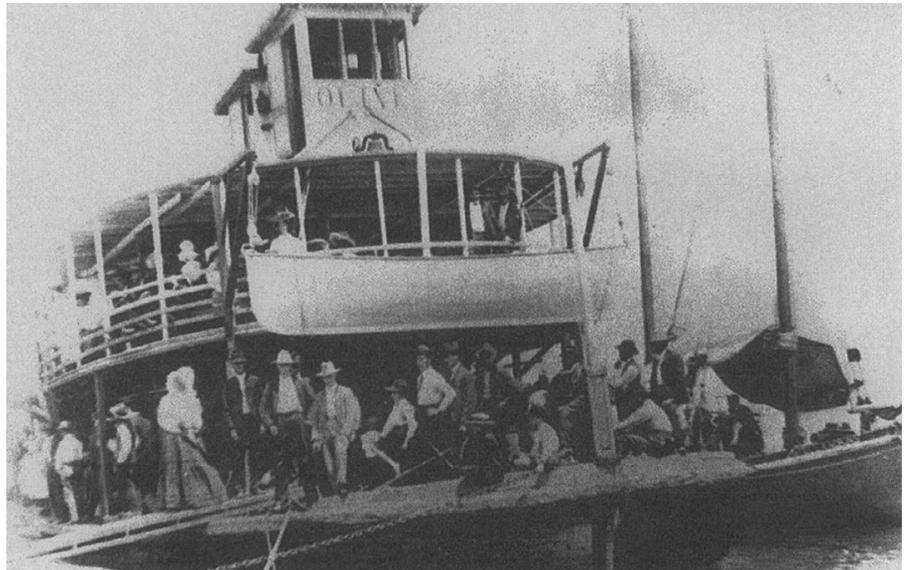
The project dates back to 1873 when the survey for the greater part of the route was authorized by Congress.

The report of Major Howell, who conducted the survey at the time was so complete in detail and so accurate that later examinations have verified in almost every particular his statements and conclusions, both as to soil and riverways.

Not until within the past few years, however, has any actual progress on the work been made. The project was revived in 1905, when through the efforts of C. S. E. Holland, of Victoria, Tex., a convention was called to meet in the city and the Interstate Inland Waterway League was organized and Holland was elected its president, which position he still holds.

The purpose of the league is to promote the canal and to urge the improvement of the contiguous and tributary riverways.

By the terms of the acts appropriating for this project, all rights-of-way, abstracts of title, etc., must be furnished



THE STEAMBOAT OLIVE, Owned by Capt. George W Caldwell of Mermentau, is shown discharging passengers at Grand Chenier in marsh bound Cameron Parish in this early 1900s photo.

[Reprinted from Images of America: Imperial Calcasieu; Robert Benoit, Southwest Louisiana Historical Association.]

Musing...

Names in SWLA

Cameron Pilot, July 15, 1971

By BERNICE STEWART

The geographical nomenclature of Southwest Louisiana runs true to that of other parts of the world. Some of the names are originally those of early settlers, Indian tribes, nations, famous persons, and saints. Others are based on particular physical features of the land.

Many are derived from names of animals, flowers, or trees. Some may be traced to Biblical, classical, or historical writings. A few feature the abstract and the whimsical. A number of the names are combinations of one or more words or are corruptions of the same.

Cameron, the name of our parish was discussed at length in the centennial editions of The Pilot last year. It seems certain that it was the surname of a man, but which particular man received the honor rests in obscurity.

There are two explanations for Mermentau, both of Indian origin. The first is that Mermentau is derived from both French and Indian--from the French, "mer," meaning ocean, sea, or a large body of water, and the Attakapas "Immanatu," name of an Indian chief.

However, Dr. William Alexander read in his book, Louisiana Place Names of Indian Origin, claims that Mermentau is a form of Mementou, name of an Attakapas chief in the last quarter of the 18th century. In 1784, Mementou sold a tract of land and subsequently was mentioned as the chief of the village by the river of the same name.

Through a clerical error, Nementou became Mementou. The latter was, in turn, corrupted by folk etymology into Mermentau through confusion

without cost to the government.

The Vermilion, Mermentau, Calcasieu, and Sabine are all deep rivers which pass through and serve a country more fertile and productive than any other river basin of their area on earth.

All these streams are by means of the Intercoastal Canal, placed in communication with the 16,000 miles of the Mississippi and its tributaries.

with French "mer," meaning sea, as we have noted.

From "The War of the Rebellion - Correspondence" we find that the correct spelling for the river in the 1860's was Mermentan.

Since the parish of Cameron was carved in part from old Imperial Calcasieu and since the river by that name flows through the parish, let us consider the name. Calcasieu is of Attakapas origin, from katkosh, meaning "eagle" and "yok," "to cry." This appellation, "Crying Eagle," was the war title of an Indian chief living along the river from which the parish later borrowed the name.

Subsequent spellings found on early maps or in land records have been Calkousiouk, 1807; Culkeshoe, 1816; Kelke-chute, 1817; Quelqueshoe, 1818; Calcasuit, still later.

Lacassine, the name of the bayou and a wildlife refuge within the parish derive their name from Chief Lacassine of the Comanche tribe. Each year during the hunting season in the early 1800's the Comanches migrated into Southwest Louisiana. When the season ended, they returned to their homes in the central part of the state. There came a day, however, when Lacassine and his squaw settled near what is now the village of Lacassine in Jefferson Davis Parish.

The settlement of Lowery bears the surname of a Terre Haute, Indiana man, a Capt. Lowery, who had purchased from Desire Hebert and who attempted large-scale rice-farming on it.

Such names as Lakeside, Grand Lake, North Island, Hackberry are easily conjectured. Since "cheniere" meant "a grove of oaks," and since oak trees were there in abundance, the term is a part of the name of any settlement -- Grand Chenier, Little Chenier, Cheniere Perdue (Lost Cheniere), Cheniere du Fond (a terrain of oak trees) then Oak Grove itself with its anglicized version.

Johnson's Bayou and Leesburg (old name for the town of Cameron) were named for early settlers.

Lataignier, which is one of the branches from the main ridge of Grand Chenier, may have been named for an early pioneer. It may also be a corruption of the word "latanier,"

Supplies come to Johnson Bayou by boat

According to old timers here, there was a settlement called Johnson Bayou prior to the Civil War.

In the settlement were homes, stores and even a hotel.

The only way in or out of the place was through the bayou to the Sabine River. This was undoubtedly the manner in which the community was first settled, probably by river boat captains.

When supplies were needed, settlers went by boat across the river to Texas communities.

The oldest families in the locality were not of French extraction - with the possible exception of the Pevetos.

There were the Schmitts, Calhouns, Donahues, Erbelings, Pavells and others who definitely were not from the old French colony of "Louisiane."

But whatever their origin, they were a rugged and daring group of settlers. They were farmers, cattlemen, trappers, small store keepers and just adventurers.

They settled on Hackberry Ridge, Blue Buck Ridge, Smith's Ridge and Lucius Ridge.

Several hurricanes devastated the community and many families moved away, never to return.

As late as 1928, when the LaSalette Fathers of Sulphur began to visit parishioners in Johnson Bayou, it was necessary for them to drive to Orange, Tex., leave the car there and then take the little mail boat down the Sabine to reach what was then known as the "Deep Bayou" landing.

meaning "palmetto." Cow Island, another branch, derived its name from the herds of wild cattle roaming the ridge when the white man explored it.

"What's in a name?" Shakespeare had one of his characters soliloquize. "That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Undoubtedly, but it is interesting and informative to learn why and by whom our towns and waterways were so called.



Cameron Council on Aging chartered in January 1976

By DINAH LANDRY

In January 1976, Governor Edwin Edwards chartered the Cameron Council on the Aging. I began my role with the agency in May as the part time bookkeeper and secretary. At the time Rev. Minns Robertson, the Cameron Methodist Preacher was the volunteer director. We were located in half an office in the Cameron Courthouse across from the courtroom. During that time we accumulated \$5,000 a year and serviced 15 to 20 people!

Shortly after, I became director and we moved into a small rent house where the 4-H office was located. We were able to begin a noon feeding program that took care of 25 people each day. We added recreation and homemaker to the program and were able to handle 25 more people in those programs. We were off and running.

In 1980, we built a new building that later became the Cameron Parish Head Start center. The building cost \$25,000 and resembled a house with large rooms. The meal program increased and we added eight other programs. Our data base consisted of 200 people.

Around 1990 we moved into the old Health Unit building where there was more room and located on Marshall Street where everyone could see us. By that time we had added the Cameron Community Action Agency, who is the sister program to the Council on Aging, and a separate agency. This program helps the needy, no matter what age.

Both agencies functioned well until the hurricane of 2005. The agencies both operated in the Grand Lake Fireman Center until a new building was built that houses all the agency staff.

We now have a service population of 1500 seniors and 1500 persons who live in poverty. We operate 18 programs just for the elderly and five programs for low income persons who are not elderly. Our combined budget is over a million dollars and growing.

We have a transportation program operating with seven vans, five are handicapped equipped. We are very proud to continue to grow and provide services to those persons in need in Cameron Parish.



HAPPY 150TH BIRTHDAY FROM THE!! CAMERON COUNCIL ON AGING



Home of the CCOA



Cameron Council On Aging serves the senior citizens of Cameron Parish with a wide variety of needed services. The CCOA was established in 1976 to provide services such as homemaker, home-delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, assisted transportation, information and referral, legal services, health-related services, and much more for the elderly of Cameron Parish. The office is located at 965 Hwy. 384 in Grand Lake. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Friday. Call 905-6000 or fax 905-6500.

Dinah Landry, Executive Director

Mary Johnson, Office Manager; Peggy Hebert, Receptionist;

Sherry LaVergne, Case Manager; Tammy Johnson, Clerical;

Sandra Racca, Data Processor; Tina Wolfe, Transit Manager;

Sue Brown, Homemaker; Gabby Gay and Kat Gay, Summer Aides



Cameron Community Action Agency, Inc.

"Reaching New Horizons"

WE TAKE PRIDE IN SALUTING CAMERON PARISH DURING THIS CELEBRATION OF THE . . .



Cameron Community Action Agency provides services to those residents at or below the poverty level in Cameron Parish. Services provided parishwide include:

- Energy Assistance • Emergency Energy Assistance
- Needy Family Commodities • Clothing Bank • Emergency Food
- Medical Bills • Transportation • Adult Education/GED Program
- Workforce Investment Act • Youth Action Program

965 Hwy. 384

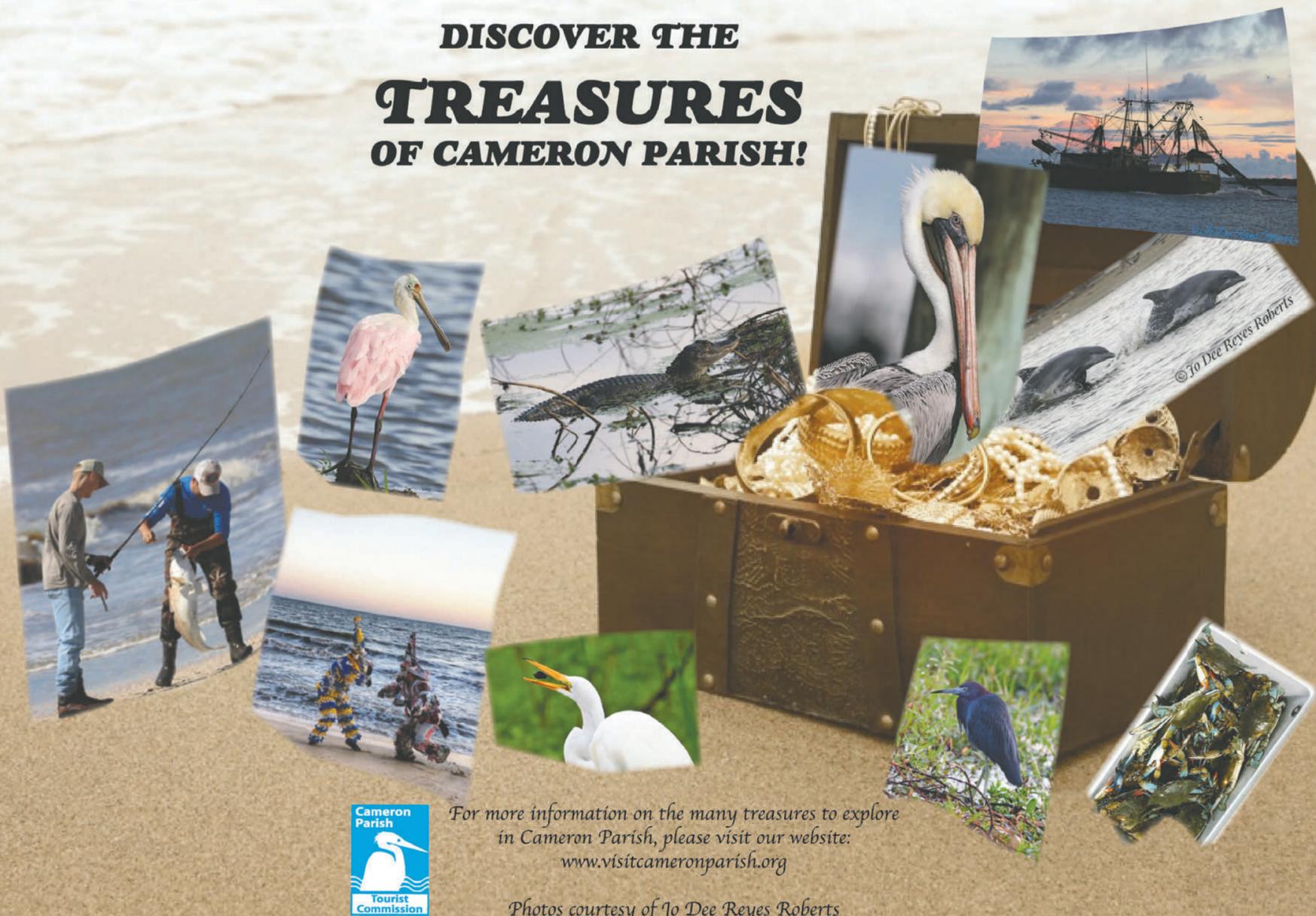
337-905-6000

Grand Lake

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Celebrating The Sesquicentennial of Cameron Parish!

**The Cameron Parish
Tourist Commission
Invites You To
DISCOVER THE
TREASURES
OF CAMERON PARISH!**



For more information on the many treasures to explore in Cameron Parish, please visit our website: www.visitcameronparish.org

Photos courtesy of Jo Dee Reyes Roberts



A Salute to Cameron Parish

Cameron Parish's history has included majestic oaks, bountiful marshes, iconic ridges, and generations of wonderful people. Calcasieu Pass joins Cameron Parish in celebrating 150 years of being a natural gem of the Gulf Coast. Here's to another 150 years with Calcasieu Pass energizing the world from right here in downtown Cameron.

The future is bright.

CALCASIEU PASS

TransCameron
PIPELINE

VENTURE GLOBAL LNG

Cameron Parish was and still is a "Sportsman's Paradise"

In 1970, Geneva Griffith wrote about Cameron's marshes and waterfowl, then and now. She made note that waterfowl hunting of the area wasn't as good as it once was.

In 1880, the duck population of North America was listed at some 400 million. World War I placed such a demand upon the production of food for this nation and for our allies, the move was on to drain wetlands. Swamps, pot-holes and marshes in the nesting grounds of Canada and the northern U.S. disappeared before the onslaught of the drainage programs, as the production of grain crops became the dominant concern.

As the breeding ground for waterfowl decreased, so did the duck and geese. By 1938 some estimates placed the total duck population of the continent at 28 million birds.

Market hunting for ducks flourished in Cameron Parish in the early years of the 20th century. From about 1900 until 1915 the kill by hunter-shooting for the market was almost unbelievable.

She noted that market hunters killed several hundred ducks in one day, on a regular basis. The bounty was shipping by boat up the Mermentau River three times a week, then iced down and sent by train to New Orleans, Mobile and other cities.

Despite the substantial kill of ducks by market hunters, it was not these "business men" who triggered the drastic decline of the duck population. Although the population eventually reached such a low point that market hunting could no longer be tolerated, it was the combination of wetlands drainage and drought on the nesting grounds which was responsible for the drop.

She noted that on the bright side, there are still several million acres of marsh, and the Cameron marshes are still the best portion of marsh in the nation.

In 1970, some of the finest duck and goose hunting was found in Cameron Parish. That still holds true today, 50 years later.

The following information was taken directly from *The Sabine National Wildlife Refuge* website: www.fws.gov/refuge/sabine. Great strides have been made in wetland management to preserve one of the greatest treasures of the nation...the Cameron marshes.

Sabine National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1937 and is one of more than 560 refuges within America's National Wildlife Refuge System.

The refuge is located eight miles south of Hackberry, on State Highway 27 in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. It occupies the marshes between Calcasieu and Sabine lakes in southwest Louisiana, and encompasses 125,790 acres, consisting of 40,403 acres of open water and 85,387 acres of marsh grassland. This area contains a diversity of habitat including freshwater impoundments, wooded ridges and levees, canals, ponds, lakes, and bayous. Some of the largest wetland management efforts in Louisiana occur at Sabine. The refuge is managed to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and other birds and to preserve and enhance coastal marshes for wildlife and fish.

The 14,927 acre East Cove Unit established in 1937 as part of Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, was administratively transferred to Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge in 1992. These marshes are managed as a nursery for brown and white shrimp, blue crab, and numerous fish species. Located in Cameron Parish in the southwest corner of Louisiana, the East Cove Unit is bordered on the west by Calcasieu Lake, and on the north, east, and south by privately owned marshes.

GENERAL WILDLIFE

Sabine hosts more than 250 bird species, 132 fish species, 36 reptile and amphibian species, and 28 mammal species. This diversity exists in spite of ongoing habitat changes on the refuge.

Sabine National Wildlife Refuge is one of the primary

wintering refuges for waterfowl in the Mississippi Flyway. Olivaceous cormorant, snowy egret and common egret rookeries occur regularly on the refuge. In the fall and spring many shorebird species can be found here. Numerous species of neotropical migrant songbirds pass through the refuge on their migration. Many species of fish and shrimp mature and grow in the "nursery" provided by the refuge's intermediate and brackish marshes.

Mammals At least 28 species of mammals can be found on the refuge. The most common rodents include muskrat, nutria, marsh rice rat, and hispid cotton rat. The swamp rabbit and eastern cottontail are the only two lagomorphs found on the refuge. Many carnivorous furbearers live on the refuge, including river otter, mink, coyote, and bobcat. Armadillo can frequently be seen on the levees. The only ungulate present is the white-tailed deer. Among the bats that have been documented to occur on the refuge are the red bat, Eastern pipistrelle, and Brazilian free-tailed bat.

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Sabine National Wildlife Refuge harbors at least 35 species of amphibians and reptiles. Species most commonly encountered include: the American alligator, snapping turtle, alligator snapping turtle, red-eared slider, Mississippi green water snake, broad-banded water snake, western ribbon snake, speckled kingsnake, western cottonmouth, green anole, ground skink, Gulf coast toad, green treefrog and southern leopard frog. Another species of note is the diamondback terrapin, a medium-size turtle that prefers open water in coastal salt marshes and estuaries.

AQUATIC SPECIES

Fish associated with the refuge marshes include Gulf menhaden, Atlantic croaker, gobies, pipefish, bay anchovy, inland silverside, western mosquitofish, pinfish, striped and white mullet, silver perch, bay whiff, bayou and rainwater killifish, speckled worm eel, sand sea trout, red drum, crappie, gar, sunfishes, largemouth bass, and catfish. Shellfish associated with these areas include blue and mud crab, and white, grass, and brown shrimp. Many of these fish spend time maturing in these marshes before they return to the ocean. The Refuge provides habitat for wintering waterfowl and other water birds and provide a winter home to about 24,000 ducks and 8,000 geese.

Waterfowl The refuge provides a winter home to thousands of ducks and geese including green-winged teal, mallards, northern pintail, ring-necked ducks, white-fronted and snow geese. The most abundant duck on the Refuge during the spring and summer is the mottled duck. This species is a year-round resident and frequently nests on the Refuge each spring. By May and June, young mottled duck broods can be observed using a variety of the Refuge's habitat types.

WADING BIRDS

Cameron Prairie boasts high wading bird diversity and abundance with a peak of 15,000 or more wading birds roosting on the Refuge. Common nesting and visiting wading birds on the refuge include white, white-faced, and glossy ibis; green, great blue, tri-colored, and little blue herons; yellow-crowned and black-crowned night herons; American and least bitterns; snowy, great, and cattle egrets; and roseate spoonbills.

The three most widespread birds of this group found on the refuge are the killdeer, black-necked stilt, and Forster's tern. Common snipe are also prevalent on the refuge during the winter. Yellowlegs and dowitchers are found on the refuge's shallow water areas during the fall and winter. Additionally woodcock have been sighted on the refuge as well.

RAPTORS

Cameron Prairie's raptors include red-tailed hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, merlins, kestrels, Cooper's hawks, northern harriers, and occasionally peregrine falcons, ospreys, and bald eagles. Few hawks winter on the refuge. The refuge recorded its first Crested Caracara during

March 2000. Since then Caracara's have become a common winter sighting. Other Migratory Birds One major attraction of Cameron Prairie Refuge is the considerable number of neotropical migratory birds that rest here each spring after their trans-Gulf flight. While the Refuge does not have many trees or shrubs for these species to use, those that are available are extremely important to the migrants. Mourning doves are commonly seen along fence rows, levees, roads, and disced fields at the Refuge. Blackbirds, including red-winged and grackles, are also common.

NORTHERN PINTAIL

Northern pintails spend the winter at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. They migrate south from northern Canada where they nest in the summer. On the refuge, they feed on grain, seeds of native and non-native plants, aquatic insects, crustaceans, and snails. Northern pintails are slim and long-necked and have a distinctive silhouette. The males are easy to identify by his striking markings and long tail. They have white necks, chests, and underparts; white stripes up their brown necks; and dark reddish brown heads. The females have tan faces and crowns, white chins, and brown rumps and backs. Their upper breasts are buff or tan and their lower breast and bellies are white.

Northern Pintail populations have declined throughout most of their range at a rate of 2.6 percent per year between 1966 and 2010, resulting in a cumulative decline of 69 percent, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. The 2014 State of the Birds listed them as a Common Bird in Steep Decline

Facts about northern pintail: 20 to 30 inches long and weigh 17 to 51 ounces. Feed on plants, insects, snails and crustaceans.

LISTED AS A COMMON BIRD IN STEEP DECLINE:

ROSEATE SPOONBILL

The Roseate Spoonbill is a sociable wading bird from the ibis family. Adults have a bare greenish head and a white neck, back and breast along with a grey bill. They can be seen with a tuft of pink feathers in the center when breeding, but are otherwise a deep pink. Like the American flamingo, their pink color is diet-derived and can range from pale pink to bright magenta, depending on age and location. Unlike herons, spoonbills fly with their necks outstretched. This species feeds in shallow fresh or coastal waters by swinging its bill from side to side as it steadily walks through the water, often in groups. The spoon-shaped bill allows it to sift easily through mud. It feeds on crustaceans, aquatic insects, frogs, newts and very small fish ignored by larger waders. Roseate spoonbills must compete for food with snowy egrets, great egrets, tricolored herons and American white pelicans.

The roseate spoonbill nests in shrubs or trees, often mangroves, laying two to five eggs, which are whitish with brown markings. Immature birds have white, feathered heads, and the pink of the plumage is paler. The bill is yellowish or pinkish.

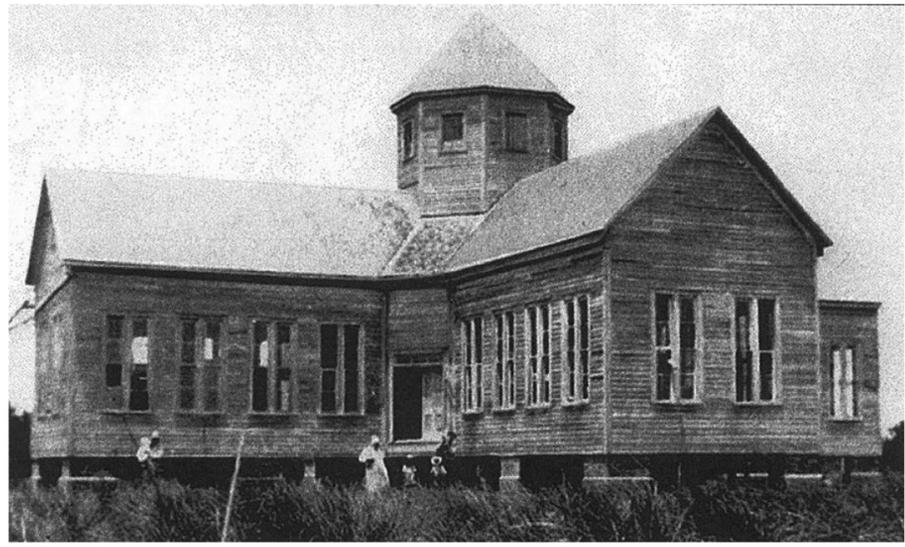
Facts About Roseate Spoonbill: 28-34 inches in length; 2.5-4 pounds; 47-52 inch wingspan. Oldest known spoonbill was 16 years old.

AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

The American alligator is the state reptile of Louisiana, Florida, and Mississippi.

The American alligator is an opportunistic scavenger and a top predator on the Refuge with virtually no enemies other than humans. Smaller alligators, less than 5 feet long, primarily feed on crustaceans, fish, and insects. Larger alligators feed on mammals, such as nutria and muskrat, birds, fish, reptiles, and crustaceans. In dense populations alligators will feed on other alligators. Alligators continue to grow throughout their lives and the oldest ones can reach up to 15 feet long and over 1,000 pounds.

American alligators have been documented using lures to hunt prey such as birds. This means they are among the first reptiles recorded to use tools. By balancing sticks and



THE OLD LABORATORY building of the Gulf Coast Biologic Station, the first marine research facility established on the entire Gulf Coast is the subject of this photo. Located on the east side of Calcasieu Pass, this station was operated by the State of Louisiana and the parishes of Cameron and Calcasieu in cooperation with the federal government and other agencies. The station was operated from 1903 until around 1910 for the purposes of researching and teaching about Louisiana fish, shell fish, and flora.

[Reprinted from Images of America: Imperial Calcasieu; Robert Benoit, Southwest Louisiana Historical Association.]

branches on their heads, American alligators are able to lure birds looking for suitable nesting material to kill and consume. This strategy is particularly effective during the nesting season, in which birds are more likely to gather appropriate nesting materials.

Throughout the year, but particularly during the breeding season, alligators bellow to declare territory and locate suitable mates with male alligators also using infrasound to attract females. Eggs are laid in a nest of vegetation, sticks, leaves, and mud in a sheltered spot in or near the water. Young are born with yellow bands around their bodies and are protected by their mother for up to one year.

FRESHWATER IMPOUNDMENTS HABITAT TYPE

Management Unit 3, which encompasses 26,400 acres, is the largest freshwater marsh in southwest Louisiana. Management units 1A and 1B comprise 5,138 acres and 1,800 acres respectively, and are utilized by a variety of wildlife, most notably ducks. Since hurricanes Rita and Ike in 2005 and 2008, respectively, these impoundments have been recovering from salt water inundation and further levee degradation.

These impoundments have changed throughout their 57-65 years in existence. Soils have built up from dead and decaying vegetation filling in some areas and ultimately changing plant communities. Degraded levees weakened by tree roots, burrowing wildlife, and hurricane damage no longer prevent water exchange from surrounding waterways and marshes. Saline water has caused large areas of plant die-offs creating large open lakes, which when impacted by wave action become turbulent and devoid of vegetation.

The water control structures on the northwest and east sides of Unit 3 have been permanently opened to share water flow with adjacent canals to help dilute the saline water left behind by the hurricanes. The southern structure blocked by mud and vegetative debris since 2005,

has been slowly reopening as vegetation decays and water flow moves mud.

Large open lakes in Unit 1A have been pumped with dredge material in recent years to restore marshes lost to salt water intrusion. This Unit is no longer managed as freshwater impoundment; instead it is being restored to tidal marsh. Unit 1B is where the ever popular 1.5 mile Wetland Walkway has resided since the mid-eighties. Life long trail goers have witnessed the vegetative changes to climax plant communities of dense stands of bullwhip and cattails in the wetlands and Roseau cane on elevated areas.

Facts about freshwater impoundments: Three rain-fed freshwater impoundments created in 1951 and 1959 provide habitat for numerous species of waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, mammals, reptiles and fish.

COASTAL MARSH

The refuge contains 91,173 acres of fresh, intermediate, and brackish marsh interspersed with low prairie ridges, man-made levees, meandering bayous, and canals. Traditionally, the area fluctuates from being a predominantly fresh marsh to a predominantly brackish marsh and reverts back from brackish to fresh, dependent upon weather cycles and precipitation.

Marshes also improve water quality by acting as a sink to filter pollutants and sediment from the water that flows through them. Marshes (and other wetlands) are able to absorb water during periods of heavy rainfall and slowly release it into waterways and therefore reduce the magnitude of flooding. The pH in marshes tends to be neutral to alkaline, as opposed to bogs, where peat accumulates under more acid conditions.

Facts about coastal marsh: Can change between fresh and brackish; helps filter the water

MARSH CREATION, RESTORATION, AND MITIGATION

Marsh restoration using material dredged from the Calcasieu Ship Channel and

linear terrace construction are current restoration methods used on the refuge. The basic principle behind both practices is to restore habitat lost when areas have converted from emergent marsh to open water. Shoreline protection is an important technique that is intended to prevent shoreline so marshes are protected and not lost as well.

DREDGE MATERIAL

The Calcasieu Ship Channel that borders Sabine Refuge to the east is dredged on a two-year cycle to allow for large ship passage to the Port of Lake Charles. Sabine was chosen for a demonstration site to use dredged material to restore marsh that had been lost. This use of dredge material allows managers to not only restore these marshes, but to connect the restored sites with the greater landscape, restoring hydrology, and improving habitat quality and diversity. To address concerns about dredge material contaminants, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) analyzes soil samples along the channel prior to using the material on the Refuge.

Through partnering with U.S. Corps of Engineers (COE), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LA DNR), Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), and our Ecological Services office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge staff has restored 3,200 acres of marsh on Sabine National Wildlife Refuge since 1993. An additional 600 acres is being planned.

In 1990, 'checker board' terraces were constructed in ponds along Calcasieu Lake in the West Cove Unit. These were followed in 2001 by the construction of 18,000 linear feet of planted, earthen terraces in Units 6 and 7 to mitigate for impacts due to oil and gas activities. The ACE and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) require compensatory mitigation for acreage loss due to dredge and fill activities in wetlands. Terraces are discontinuous

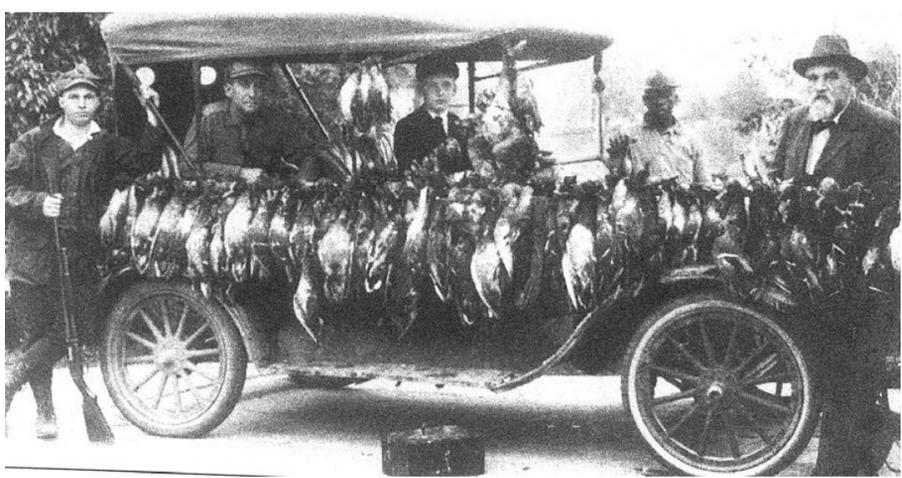
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Happy 150th Birthday, CAMERON PARISH!

Madalyn Grance Gordon
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THE MARSHES of Cameron and Calcasieu provided fantastic duck hunting back in the days when there were few hunters and millions of ducks. As shown in this 1910 King family photograph. Alvin O. King, on far left, would later become Governor in 1931. The gentleman on far right is George M. King, his father.

(Courtesy of Virginia King Pruitt.)
 [Reprinted from *Images of America: Imperial Calcasieu*; Robert Benoit, Southwest Louisiana Historical Association]

Cemetery records are listed here

(Kinfolk Vol. 25, Page 153)

Cemetery records are listed here by Cemetery name:

CORMIER FAMILY CEMETERY
 (located about 20 miles from Lake Charles on Hwy. 27, Big Lake Community) taken on Oct. 3, 1956
 CORMIER, Joseph, b. 1870, d. 11 Nov., 1934 (age 64)
 FARQUE, Louis Dorcille, b. 8 Apr. 1912, d. 7 June 1936 (age 24)
 SALLARD, Clifford
 SELLERS, J. C. b. 13 Dec. 1915, d. 3 Aug. 1931, s/o Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Sellers
 SELLERS, Mary Lou, b. 3 July 1890, d. 22 Mar. 1942

COW ISLAND CEMETERY
 (Grand Chenier, on Hwy. 82, 74 miles from Lake Charles) taken on Oct. 14, 1956
 BENOIT, Glenn A., b. 28 Feb. 1949, d. 18 Sept. 1950
 BENOID, Lisa
 BERTRAND, Mrs. Bess, b. 12 July 1835, d. 14 Jan. 1920, husband - Frozan Miller
 BERTRAND, Placide, b. 15 Oct. 1872, d. 2 Oct. 1947, wife - Celestine Miller
 BERTRAND, Raymond, b. 2 May 1905, d. 4 Apr. 1922, father - Placide Bertrand
 BONSALE, Vergie, b. 7 June 1914, d. 4 June 1937
 BROUSSARD, Anna L. b.

29 April 1911, d. 13 Aug. 1911
 BROUSSARD, Hubert W., b. 13 Dec. 1906, d. July 1917
 BROUSSARD, Joe, d. 16 Oct. 1913
 BROUSSARD, Polite R., b. 16 Nov. 1913, d. 24 Dec. 1915
 CONNER, Malillia Montie, b. 7 June 1903, d. 18 Apr. 1930 (age 27), wife - Olga Conner
 CONNER, Imogene B.
 CONNER, O. H., b. 1918, d. 1950
 CONNER, Mrs. P., d. 16 Jan. 1945 (age 72 yrs.)
 CONNER, Wallace, b. 6 Dec. 1916, d. 30 Oct. 1918
 CORMIER, Infant, parents - Lue Cormier & Myrtle Vallette
 CORMIER, Lue, b. 24 April 1896, d. 8 Jan. 1946
 DUHON, Joseph, b. 20 Apr. 1833, d. 21 May 1920
 DUHON, Manie, b. 4 Aug. 1858, d. 13 Mar. 1939
 DUPRE, Dora, b. 1896, d. 1944
 DUPRE, Lena, b. 3 Nov. 1861, d. 2 Aug. 1937
 DUPRE, Pierre, b. 5 July 1862, d. 10 Apr. 1944
 DUPRE, Azeibe, b. 1815, d. 1850
 DUPUY, Alyin, b. 24 Nov. 1923, d. 13 Sept. 1924
 DUPUY, Arline, b. 12 May 1899, d. 11 Sept. 1924, husband - Placide Miller
 DURAIS, Uranie, b. 18 Feb. 1892, d. 3 June 1929
 GALIN, Mrs. Elizabeth, b. 14 Mar. 1853, d. 12 Apr. 1938
 HENSHAW, Eva, b. 2 Apr. 1932, d. 1 Jan. 1933
 HENSHAW, Ivy Lee, b. 1 Mar. 1929, d. 16 Apr. 1954
 HENSHAW, Nola
 KOONCE, Leslie Lee, b. 3 May 1842, d. 16 Mar. 1943, s/o Mr. & Mrs. Felix Koonce
 LAGER, Emma Lou, b. 3 Dec. 1944, d. 27 Mar. 1951
 LOSUL, Mrs. Frand, husband - Frank Losul
 MCEVERS, Rufus J., b. 14 Aug. 1912, d. 6 July 1941, wife - Evgone M. Sturlese
 MALLET, Celestine, b. 25 Dec. 1858, d. 11 Apr. 1945, husband - Chas. A. Theriot
 MALLETE, Alcide, d. 14 Mar. 1937
 MAYNE, George, b. 15 Nov. 1905, d. 6 Feb. 1918
 MHIER, Adam, b. 12 Dec. 1924, Grand Chenier, La., d. 14 Dec. 1924, s/o Nelson Mhier & Angeline Miller
 MHIER, Apolinaire, b. 9 Aug. 1877, d. 29 Dec. 1952, wife - Alice Bonsall Mhier
 MHIER, Nelson, b. 8 Mar. 1904, d. 28 Nov. 1946, wife - Angeline Miller
 MHIER, Argonaut P., b. 3 Feb. 1926, Grand Chenier, La., d. 28 Apr. 1927, s/o Nelson Mhier & Angeline Miller
 MHIRE, Robert, b. 21 Oct. 1875, d. 5 Oct. 1925
 MILLER, Adam, b. & d. 9 Nov. 1913, s/o Mr. & Mrs. David Miller
 MHIER, Wilson, b. 13 June 1901, d. 11 Sept. 1955
 MHIRE, Marie Olga, b. 15 Aug. 1924, d. 3 Aug. 1934, d/o

Nelson Mhire & Angeline Miller

MHIRE, Owens N., b. 2 Sept. 1937, Grand Chenier, La., d. 15 Dec. 1937, s/o Nelson Mhire & Angeline Miller

MILLER, Adirne, b. 15 Feb. 1884, d. 17 Feb. 1941

CANIK, Harvey Walter, b. 27 Aug. 1922, d. 24 Dec. 1923, s/o Joseph Canik & Mrs. Joseph Canik

CLEMENT, Mammie P., b. 1 Apr. 1884, d. 7 Jan. 1955

CANIK, Paul, b. 10 Mar. 1868, Czechoslovakia, d. 29 Nov. 1933

CONNER, Alvinia, b. 7 July 1922, d. 8 Jan. 1928

MILLER, Alvinah, b. 16 Aug. 1897, d. 27 June 1910

MILLER, Andy, b. 1887, d. 1956

MILLER, August, b. 1863, d. 1939

MILLER, Belle Nunez, b. 29 July 1894, d. 18 Nov. 1924

MILLER, Celestine, b. 22 Aug. 1875, d. 16 Feb. 1948, husband - Placide Bertrand

MILLER, Mrs. Clementaine, b. 27 Dec. 1875, d. 27 May 1935

MILLER, Damond, b. 1 Aug. 1834, d. 1 Oct. 1919

MILLER, Domernige, b. 3 Apr. 1891, d. 23 Mar. 1912

MILLER, Eava, b. 13 Mar. 1919, d. 15 Aug. 1937

MILLER, Emma, b. 16 Dec. 1898, d. 3 July 1901, d/o Eugene Miller & Angeline Sturlese

MILLER, Domone, b. 13 Mar. 1901, d. 1 Sept. 1945

MILLER, Eugene, b. 2 Feb. 1858, d. 13 Dec. 1930, wife - Angeline Sturlese

MILLER, Emma, b. 4 Apr. 1883, d. 31 May 1951

MILLER, Eugene, b. 1 July 1930, d. 14 Mar. 1948

MILLER, Eugenie, b. 1836, d. 10 Aug. 1925, husband - Valsaint Montie

MILLER, Eve Matilda, b. 17 Jan. 1931, d. 13 Oct. 1936, d/o Laurent Miller & Elizabeth Miller

MILLER, Felona, b. 2 Dec. 1879, d. 24 July 1909

MILLER, Laurent O. (MD), b. 13 Jan. 1881, d. 18 Aug. 1949

MILLER, John F., b. 1 Aug. 1842, d. 1 Aug. 1912

MILLER, Lou, b. Grand Chenier, La., d. 6 Mar. 1924, parents - A. J. Miller & E. B. Miller

MILLER, Luma G., b. 28 July 1890, d. 30 Nov. 1924

MILLER, Nancy, b. 8 Feb. 1896, d. 10 May 1915

MILLER, Numa, b. 1868, d. 1944

MILLER, Mary Carmelit, d. 30 Dec. 1904 (age 53 yrs.)

Sabine Wildlife Refuge held Open House

(Cameron Pilot Archives)

Sabine National Wildlife Refuge will host an open house at the refuge headquarters on April 18 and 19, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Members of the refuge staff will be available to answer questions concerning the refuge, refuge system and its role in our society or matters relating to conservation and wildlife. The refuge headquarters is located south of Hackberry on state Highway 27.

Sabine Refuge established in 1937, is an important wintering area for blue and snow geese and many species of ducks. It is a primary link in the chain of refuges making up the National Wildlife Refuge System, and is a terminal point for wintering migratory waterfowl of both the Mississippi and Central Flyways.

Rare or endangered species on the refuge include the American alligator, peregrine falcon and red wolf. Since the alligator has been protected in Cameron Parish, live alligators well over 1,000 in number have been contributed to the State of Louisiana for restocking purposes.

All persons interested in wildlife, conservation and ecology are invited to visit the refuge.

MILLER, Oliver, b. 1 Nov. 1899, d. 8 May 1955, wife - Phelomise Clement

MILLER, Mrs. Onazia, b. 15 Sept. 1850, d. 15 Jan. 1922

MILLER, Philogne, b. 16 Sept. 1871, d. 24 Nov. 1933

MILLER, Rodolphe, b. 1903, d. 1911

MILLER, Polite, b. 16 Dec. 1887, d. 25 Aug. 1943

MILLER, Sidney, b. 1 Dec. 1915, d. 15 Sept. 1938

MILLER, Savlenia, b. 16 Feb. 1895, d. 24 Sept. 1935

MILLER, Sidney, b. 21 Feb. 1937, d. 11 June 1944, s/o Sevan Miller & Mrs. S. Miller

MILLER, Valsaint, b. 7 Nov. 1888, d. 5 Dec. 1912

MILLER, Simon, d. 16 June 1907, s/o Eugene Miller & Angeline Sturlese

MILLER, Ursula, b. 3 Jan. 1876, d. 21 Mar. 1943

MONTIE, Mary Nolia, b. 25 Aug. 1897, d. 10 June 1908

Cont. on Page B10

PARADISE

Cont. from Page B7

low ridges constructed with bottom sediments excavated from adjacent pond bottoms. They are designed to reduce wind related wave intensity, slow water movement allowing fine sediments to settle within the area, provide favorable conditions for submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) establishment, and increase abundance and habitat of fish and other aquatic species.

Ideal sites for terrace construction are areas where water bodies join or are threatening to join with another water body. No significant benefit to SAV has been found in two studies conducted on terraces at the refuge, but research on other terrace configurations is ongoing. An unexpected secondary benefit is they have provided nesting habitat for seabirds such as least terns, forster's terns, and black skimmers. Another secondary benefit is that terraces contribute to increased fish habitat quality as compared to sparsely vegetated open ponds. Terrace construction for 2002 exceeded 40,000 linear feet in Unit 6.

LIVING REEF SHORELINE PROTECTION BARRIER

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is partnering with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Coastal Protection Restoration Authority (CPRA), Shell Chevron, Citgo, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to complete a living reef shoreline protection project for Sabine NWR's eastern border within the West Cove of Calcasieu Lake just east of Highway 27. This project will use live propagating oysters to create a reef which will protect an eroding shoreline, which in turn will protect adjacent marshes, and preserve Highway 27 which serves as a hurricane evacuation route for lower Cameron Parish.

Facts about marsh creation, restoration, and mitigation. Over 3,200 acres of marsh restored since 1993. Allows new marsh to replace lost habitat



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Jimmy Brown	Kay Picou	Dwight Savoie
Tim Dupont	Ricky Poole	Wendell Wilkerson

Clair Marceaux, Port Director
 Tunie Dunaway, Assistant Port Director

The mission of the Cameron Parish Port, Harbor & Terminal District is to first actively promote Cameron Parish residents and businesses and enhance opportunities for them through every industry currently operating and planning to locate in Cameron Parish. The Port Commission, through the development of facilities, land, programs and services will strive to create sustainable growth while preserving our Cameron Parish culture and way of life.

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Cameron Centennial Logo



THIS PICTURE taken around 1900 looking north from Cameron's Main Street (LA 27/82) toward the old wooden courthouse (in back); Caleb "Cale" Jones Mercantile store on the left (where Ken Badon's law firm now stands); the old Picnic place on the right (where Cameron Abstract Company now stands); Grandma Eagleson's Confectionary Store to the extreme left.

You name it; it happened in Cameron Parish

(Cameron Pilot Archives)

Cameron Parish has the largest land area of any Parish in the state (924,160 acres). It had the smallest population 6,909 at last census count in 1960. About 75,000 acres are in cropland, 300,000 acres in pasture and range and the balance is in marshes and reserves. Some of the marsh and refuge lands are used to a limited degree for cattle grazing.

Income from natural resources provide an estimated 70% to 80% of all income in the Parish.

It is estimated that over 100,000 duck hunts are made during a 60 day duck season.

Three shrimp buyers in average year handle over 2 million pounds of shrimp. A large portion of these find their way to all parts of the United States as frozen and canned products.

Salt water fishing in the Gulf and Lakes also provide excellent fishing the year around.

Cameron Parish pays its way. Taxes derived from Severance Taxes collected on oil, fur and shell since 1948 has amounted to over 40 million dollars.

Area wide events and attractions held in Cameron:

Winter - Annual Fur and Wildlife Festival is generally held 2nd weekend in January. Among the many activities

include Muskrat and Nutria Skinning Contest, Oyster Shucking, Retriever Dog Trials, Duck and Goose Calling, Parade and Beauty Contest.

Summer - The Annual Southwest Louisiana Fishing Rodeo, an onshore celebration is held the closest weekend to July 4th. Fine saltwater fishing in the Gulf of Mexico at this season generally results in catches of tarpon, sail fish and the many others sought after. Three days of on-shore activities include Fish Fries, Shrimp Boils, Street Dances, Boat Races and the like.

Fall - The annual meeting of the Bird Watcher's Society is held at this time, usually the last weekend in November. There are more different kinds of birds and in greater quantity here than anywhere else in the United States at this time.

Cameron Parish is governed by the Cameron Parish Police Jury, composed of the following: W. F. Henry, Jr., President, Cameron; C. A. Riggs, Vice President, Hackberry; Archie Berwick, Member, J. B. Rt., Cameron; D. Y. Doland, Jr., Member, Grand Chenier; Horace Mhire, Member, Grand Chenier; Charles H. Precht, Member, Rt. 1, Box 74, Bell City; Jerry G. Jones, Secretary, Cameron; E. Garner Nunez, Treasurer, Cameron.

Cameron's History can be traced back to 1870

(Editor's Note: Reprinted from American Press 125th Anniversary Old Imperial Calcasieu, published Aug. 15, 1965.)

Cameron, Louisiana's largest parish, traces its history as a separate political unit back to 1870 but the unwritten history of its cheniers and rivers goes back much further into the now "murky" past.

Vast sea marshes, sluggish rivers, and long parallel ridges called cheniers are the three important geographical features of the parish, according to "Cameron Parish Resources and Facilities."

The word "chenier" is derived from the French word "chene" meaning oak. To the French "chenier" literally means "oak grove."

The chenier are the remains of old Gulf beaches.

Earliest inhabitants of the Southwest Louisiana chenier country are believed to have been Indians of the Attakapas tribe. The area was the home of a relatively large Indian population at one time.

Comparatively large concentrations of Indians were found around the shores of Grand Lake. Evidence of these Indians has been found in burial mounds and refuse heaps.

Burial mounds are also found on Little Chenier.

Artifacts such as potsherds and arrowheads have been found on all the cheniers in the parish.

The two chief rivers of the parish, the Calcasieu and the Mermentau, bear names derived from the names of two Attakapas chiefs, Calcasieu comes from "katosh yok" (Crying Eagle) and Mermentau from "Mementou."

Contrary to its usual police of making lands available by homestead or purchase, the federal government at first reserved the lands on the cheniers as a Naval reserve for ship building because of their supply of fine oaks.

The government later awarded these lands to men who fought in the War of 1812 and later Indian campaigns. However, these veterans were reluctant to settle on the far-away cheniers, and most of them sold their grants to land agents.

These agents sold the land to the people, mostly of Scotch-Irish descent, who were to become the parish's first settlers during the second quarter of the 19th century.

First settlers who were mostly from the older eastern states were followed by per-

sons of Louisiana French descent who arrived later.

Sabine, Calcasieu and Mermentau Rivers.

EARLY SETTLERS

The first permanent settlers are generally believed to have been the family of a man named Phillips who built a home near the western end of Grand Chenier. The family presumably drowned during a hurricane about 1824.

Early travelers and settlers found the only entrance into the area to be by boat down river or by schooner up from the Gulf.

Lower Cameron was settled earlier than the upper part primarily because of the abundance of timber on the cheniers although few of the pioneer settlers, if any, attempted to build their homes with lumber from the huge, twisted oaks.

A few early homes were built of mud-covered poles and the others were constructed of sawed lumber cut further inland and transported down river to the coast.

Prior to the Civil War there were no roads in the area and slides drawn by oxen were the principal means of transportation.

There is evidence that the first organized school existed in the Cameron area as early as 1838.

During the Civil War minor battles were fought at Leesburg and Sabine Pass. Also affecting commerce and communications to the coastal area were the federal gunboats that patrolled the

Most early homes on the oak topped ridges were built with a central hallway and one or more wide porches. These homes were constructed on the high, well drained south sides of the cheniers facing the cool breezes from the Gulf.

For protection at night against mosquitoes, residents used huge draperies of cheese cloth hung around their beds.

Oak was the principal fuel on the cheniers except in the sparsely timbered Creole area where cotton seed was used as a fuel substitute for oak.

Cameron became a separate political unit on March 16, 1870, when it was created from the extreme southern portion of Calcasieu Parish.

Land that is included in Cameron Parish was once included in both the Opelousas and Attakapas districts.



CAMERON PARISH SHERIFFS ROLL CALL

The complete list of Cameron Parish Sheriffs:

- James B. Kelley, 1870-1871
- John W. Sweeney, 1871-1873
- Norbert LeBoeuf, 1873

- C. M. Taylor, 1873-1874
- A. R. Carpenter, 1874-1876
- C. Pevotoe, 1876-1877
- Anthony Jones, 1877-1879
- John M. McCall, 1879
- E. D. Miller, 1879-1886
- Ira G. Harper, 1886-1890
- J. A. Wakefield, 1890-1904
- Charles Eagleson, 1904-1912
- Duncan R. Crain, 1912-1924
- Johnny Miller, 1924-1936

- Mark Richard, 1936-1948
- O. B. Carter, 1948-1964
- Claude Eagleson, 1964-1980
- James R. "Sono" Savoie, 1980-2004
- Theos Duhon, 2004-2012
- Ron Johnson, 2012-Present



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Sheriff Ron Johnson

Cameron Parish Sheriff's Office

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Administrative Office Hours: Monday - Friday -- 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

(337) 775-5111

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

GRAND LAKE SUBSTATION
10080 Gulf Highway
Grand Lake, LA
(337) 905-3255





LIVE OAKS are an important part of Cameron's history and are connected to the past of early settlers. Chenier Perdue, settled by Acadian French settlers, is one of the oldest ridges in Cameron Parish. There you will find the Chenier Perdue Oak, one of the most famous live oaks of Cameron Parish which is estimated to be over 800 years old. Live oaks are very resistant to wind damage and are less likely to lose limbs or blow over during hurricanes. There are many stories of people surviving Hurricane Audrey and other storms by clutching to the branches of these massive trees. The Chenier Perdue Oak has withstood countless hurricanes over the years.

Richard roots traced to Nova Scotia

Permission to print given
By NOLA MAE ROSS
Cameron Parish Pilot
March 15, 2012

The story of the RICHARD family from its roots in France and then in Canada, plus the years they struggled to fight their way down the east coast, to Louisiana, after being cast out of Nova Scotia, is a true example of nearly all of the French Acadians that immigrated to Cameron Parish.

The differences experienced by the other families came from the boats they were shipped out of Canada on, plus the path they took on their journey south, and also on the group of people that were on their boat.

For many years the horrible story of the French Acadian Exile was not known in Southwest Louisiana, because it took so long for those expelled from Canada to reach Louisiana, and even more years for the exiles to establish their new lives, plus the years it took to work their way into Cameron Parish.

FRENCH ACADIAN FAMILY STORIES ARE MUCH THE SAME

The hundred of RICHARDS scattered throughout Southwest Louisiana, all seem to have stemmed from one man, MICHAEL RICHARD, who was born in 1630 in the province of Santonge, France. He was a French soldier who first came to Acadie, Nova Scotia in about 1650, with a representative of a wealthy merchant named, EMMANUEL LeBORGNE. After making several more trips from France to Acadie, MICHAEL RICHARD, remained there and in 1658 married MADELEINE BLANCHARD.

The 1671 Roll of the inhabitants of the Coast of Acadie listed about 450 inhabitants, 659 cattle, 435 sheep, horses, pigs, etc., and over 400 arpents of land cleared and under cultivation.

MICHAEL was listed as follows in this census in Port Royal, Acadie:

MICHAEL RICHARD, age 41 years; his wife, MAGDELINE BLANCHARD, 28; twins ANNE and MAGDELINE, age 5 weeks; their horned animals were 15, with sheep 14. Their land, cleared and productive in two locations were 14 acres.

Of MICHAEL and MADELEINE RICHARD's nine children, one named CATHERINE RICHARD married JEAN FRANCOIS BROUSSARD and they are the immigrant ancestors of the Louisiana French Acadian BROUSSARDS.

Another child of MICHAEL's named PIERRE RICHARD married MARGUERITE LANDRY and they lived in a newly established parish known as Minas Basin and Grand Pre, on the Bay of Fundy in Canada. By 1714 Grand Pre's population had reached 150 families of nearly 1,000 inhabitants. HENRY W A D S W O R T H LONGFELLOW's poem, Evangeline, gives a beautiful description of the life of those pioneers of Grand Pre.

Out of PIERRE and MARGUERITE RICHARD's 10 children, one who was named RENE RICHARD married MARIE BABIN, and they were the direct line of ancestors leading to Cameron Parish.

EXPULSION OF THE FRENCH ACADIENS

"Out of Great Tragedy Come Great Human Beings."

Never has this statement been truer than during the tragic "Acadian Expulsion from Canada, in 1755." Louisiana is fortunate that so many of these "Great Human Beings" from that terrible tragedy in Canada, came south - families like the RICHARDS, BROUSSARDS, THERIOTS, NUNEZes, BOUDREAUXs, etc., who suffered excruciatingly long and hard during the Acadian Exile. Somehow many survived and made it to Louisiana, where they brought a strong Acadian heritage for our state.

During the 1500s the French began settling "Acadie", a peninsula on the eastern side of Canada, across the Bay of Fundy. The French colonists enjoyed a prosperous era of growth and expansion from 1671 to 1710.

They had beautiful farms, orchards, and livestock. Hunting, lumbering, and fishing were an important part of their lives. They spun cloth, tanned their own leather, made their own soap and candles, and built their own furniture. By 1755, the population was estimated to be 1,000.

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW gave a beautiful description of the tranquility and freedom of these Acadian pioneers of Grand Pre in his poem, Evangeline.

TROUBLE BREWING

The English won this Canadian land from France, but under the Treaty of Utrecht, the French were told that they still had the right to keep their arms, to practice their religion, and to retain their possessions.

But the English soon broke this treaty! They began to talk of expelling the French Acadians from the fertile and productive lands they had settled. This talk reached a hysterical level when CHARLES LAWRENCE, an Englishman, became governor. Even English citizens denounced Governor CHARLES LAWRENCE as a "lowly, crafty tyrant, with a wicked mind and perfidious attitude for oppression and tyranny."

It didn't take long before Gov. LAWRENCE came up with a plan forcing the Acadians to swear allegiance to the English. When the Acadians refused to take the oath, he sent out the following instruction:

"All Acadian lands, cattle and livestock are to be forfeited. The French inhabitants will be removed from Canada and prohibited from taking any of their possessions with them except what they can carry in their hands."

Before the stunned French Acadians could react to these instructions, the men were ordered to assemble in their churches. There they were told they were English prisoners and would be deported. They would not be allowed to go home to get their wives and children. They were to be shipped to various American Colonies and their women and children would be shipped to different destinations.

EXTERMINATE THE FRENCH RACE

"These French Acadians will be transported to some place where mingling with

our English will be prevented," stated Governor LAWRENCE, "and they will soon lose their language, their religion, and the remembrance of the past."

ACADIAN FAMILIES TORN ASUNDER

Another order from LAWRENCE said: "Mothers with babies will be separated, husbands from wives, and brothers from brother." Then the French Acadians were loaded into vessels, many of which were unsafe, with no provisions, and they were set out in different directions.

FIRST RICHARD TO BE DEPORTED

Among the first of the Louisiana RICHARDS to be deported from Canada was ARMAND RICHARD, who married MARIE BREAU. He managed to get to Maryland 12 years after they were cast out of Grand Pre. It was in Maryland, in 1767, that their son, JOSEPH RICHARD, was born in Portabaca, Md.

Thirty-two years after their Expulsion, the first RICHARD - JOSEPH - was in St. Martinville, where he married MARGUERITE PELAGIE BABIN in 1787. During the 32 years it took the RICHARDS to reach Louisiana, from Canada they traveled on foot most of the time facing natural disasters, diseases, illnesses and death.

Sometimes they were able to build or buy small sailboats, many of which were unsafe and didn't last long in the stormy Atlantic Ocean. Along the way they would stop, sometimes staying for years, if they happened to find some friendly American Colonists, where they would work for food and shelter.

However at many of the American Colonies they were unwelcome and literally chased off American soil. They often had to fight snow, ice, and drenching rains with only hastily built and very poor shelters.

Before being cast out of Canada the French Acadians had heard that the Louisiana Territory had a French Governor who would welcome them. So most of the exiles held a vision of reaching Louisiana where they could find other members of their families and rebuild their lives. However by the time most of them reached Louisiana they were surprised to find a Spanish Governor.

Much to their joy the Spanish governor welcomed them to Louisiana, which was seeking more colonists. The Spanish Governor gave the French Acadian immigrants land, tools to farm with, and supplies with which they were able to plant crops to keep from starving, and to build rough, crude shelters for their families to live in. Many of them settled around Opelousas and St. Martinville.

RICHARDS REACH LOUISIANA

Sixty-eight years after being exiled from Canada, the second JOSEPH RICHARD, was found living in St. Martinville, where he met and married MARGUERITE PELAGIE BABIN. They had nine children and their son, also named ARMAND RICHARD, married SCHOLASTIC POIRIER, nearly a century after being exiled from Canada.

SOSTHENE RICHARD, (named after a person in the Bible), was a member of the next generations of RICHARDS, and was well known as a Civil War Veteran. He served in the Confederate Guards of Louisiana and was awarded a



Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church

Our Lady planned/designed by Father Alcide Sonnier

Cameron Parish Archives

By GENEVA GRIFFITH

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church Parishioners of Cameron have hopes of being in their lovely new church on the outskirts of Cameron by Christmas.

The modern styled church, designed with Gothic arches to resemble the bow of a ship was planned and designed by Father Alcide Sonnier to blend with the beautiful shrine that stands in front. The shrine, a well know landmark in the parish was erected after Hurricane Audrey as a shrine to the Mother of God, protectress from storms. It bears the prayerful inscription "Do Not Harm My Children."

The church building was started on August 16, 1969 on property purchased from Mrs. Earl Mouton and her father, Valian J. Theriot and built where their home stood before Hurricane Audrey swept it away in 1957.

Father Sonnier, the affable, modest priest who studied engineering is a "builder of churches." He has helped build one other church, renovate another, and built a rectory since being ordained in 1956.

He is literally building his church with very little outside help. In addition to the carpentry work, he is installing the plumbing and electrical work, as well as all the other jobs required to build this large edifice.

He raised the giant church beams with the help of a dragline from Buster Roger's Cameron Construction Co. and a hydraulic hi-lift truck belonging to Alfred Leonpacker of Lafayette. When he ask the businessmen what he owed them, they replied it had been "charged to the Lord."

Father Sonnier holds 6:30

UCV Grave Marker for his grave in St. Charles Catholic Cemetery, Grand Coteau.

RICHARDS COME TO CAMERON PARISH

The second SOSTHENE RICHARD was already in Creole in 1855. Legend says he came there with VILEOR THERIOT, who established one of the first homesteads on Chenier Perdue. This SOSTHENE RICHARD married OLIVIA PRIMEAUX, daughter of URSIN and MARIE OZEMA PRIMEAUX.

The descendants of this RICHARD family married into other Cameron Parish families like the SAVOIEs, THERIOTS, NUNEZs, FAWVORS, LABOVEs, STURLESEs, and MILLERs, who are spread throughout Southwest Louisiana.

There are so many RICHARDS in Cameron Parish and Southwest Louisiana that it's impossible to name all of them. But a few must be listed because of the part they played in Cameron's history.

For instance there was GABRIEL RICHARD who is remembers for establishing St. Gabriel's Hospital in Creole, long before such health facilities were available. It was a building of about 12 rooms.

The GABRIEL RICHARD brought in Dr. GEORGE DIX who lived in Creole until he retired, and a Dr. CHASMAN

Mass every morning except Friday and Saturday when it is held at 6 p.m. After Mass he returns to the rectory and doffs his hassock for his working clothes and works on the church all day. He is quick to point out that this is all in a day's work. "The Lord gives us talents we must use for his Glory or we will be held accountable for them," he says.

Father Sonnier, who loves the very young and the very old, has designed his church with the whole community in mind. There are drive-through canopies on each side so families can be unloaded without getting wet in wet weather, and just one person will have to drive to the parking lot.

A conservative estimate of the value of the finished church is \$150,000 with the actual cost being about \$120,000. The church is using a "pay as you go" method of paying for the church.

For the last four years the church has been holding old fashioned bazaars to raise money for the church building fund along with special collections and donations. The fourth bazaar will be held this coming weekend when a whole weekend of activities are being planned at the Cameron Recreation Center.

Our Lady Star of the Sea Church has come a long way from the ting mission established under the Sacred Heart Church of Creole. It's first congregation consisted of 28 members, the old church is still on the Courthouse Square.

Father Sonnier, who is chaplain of the Louisiana Volunteer Firemen Dept., and an active member in the organization, points with pride to his new church and well he may, it is another addition to the growing number of beautiful church buildings in Cameron Parish.

who only stayed in Creole about five years before leaving Louisiana. The hospital building is believed to be the same building, which was blown out into the marsh and stranded there with many of those seeking shelter from Hurricane Audrey. This story is told in the book by NOLA MAE ROSS, titled *Hurricane Audrey*.

Also there was JOHN RICHARD, GABRIEL's brother, who was a Cameron School Board member for 34 years, and who also worked in Dr. S. O. CARTER's Cotton Gin in Creole. Another brother, RAYMOND, operated a grocery store in Creole.

Then there was a cousin of these brothers, named MARK RICHARD, who was a Clerk of Court and also a sheriff of Cameron Parish and another cousin, LYNEX RICHARD who is remembered for being a leading cattleman who led many of the early Cattle Drives in Cameron Parish.

The RICHARDS of Cameron Parish, as well as those in Calcasieu Parish will always be remembered as a family who lived through and conquered the French Acadian Exile and brought their strong heritage to Southwest Louisiana.

(Thanks for the RICHARD's Genealogy supplied by BRENDA and JEFF BOUDREAUX, plus that from CAROLYN DANIELS).

CEMETERIES

Cont. from Page 8B

MONTIE, Mitchel, b. 13 Mar. 1874, d. 27 Sept. 1930

MONTIE, Oniel, d. 5 Aug. 1931 (age 55 yrs.)

MONTIE, Pierre, b. 29 Aug. 1879, d. 29 Apr. 1936

MONTIE, Pierre Christian, b. 9 Dec. 1901, d. 24 Aug. 1911 (age 10 yrs.)

MONTIE, Valsaint, b. 13 Dec. 1827, d. 12 Mar. 1904, wife - Dugene Miller

MYERS, Infant of Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Myers

NUNEZ, Infant, b. & d. 11 Sept. 1912, s/o Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Nunez

NUNEZ, Mrs. Frank, b. 20 July 1879, d. 24 Jan. 1945

NUNEZ, Horise, b. 28 Sept. 1860, d. 29 Dec. 1938

NUNEZ, Jessie J., b. 20 Feb. 1888, d. 2 Oct. 1944

NUNEZ, Margie Gertrude, d. 11 Oct. 1921, d/o Mr. & Mrs. Paul Nunez

NUNEZ, Ola J., b. 13 Aug. 1897, d. 1 May 1953

O'BRIEN, Mary Elizabeth, b. 4 Oct. 1869, d. 8 Aug. 1948

PEACE, Lou Anna, b. 22 Feb. 1926, d. 21 July 1945, d/o Roy Savan & Mrs. Savan

RICHARD, Marie Artimese, b. 10 Feb. 1859, d. 24 June 1931

ROBERTS, Clayton P., b. 12 April 1911, d. 8 Mar. 1946

ROY, Henry F., b. 1865, d. 1918

SAVOIE, Camellia, b. 6 Oct. 1900, d. 29 Nov. 1924, husband - Joseph Canik

ROY, Joseph Herb., b. 20 Nov. 1911, d. 1 Nov. 1918

STURLESE, A. Gooch, b. 21 July 1922, d. 12 Jan. 1945, s/o Joseph F. Sturlese & Dorothy Theriot

STURLESE, Angeline, b. 16 Sept. 1863, d. 1 July 1944, husband - Eugene Miller

STURLESE, Clarise, b. 17 Oct. 1838, d. 19 June 1926, husband - Joseph Sturlese

STURLESE, Ina Elizabeth, b. 19 Sept. 1911, d. 6 Jan. 1912, d/o Mr. & Mrs. Moise Sturlese

STURLESE, Joseph F., b. 19 Sept. 1891, d. 24 Jan. 1947, wife - Dorothy Theriot

STURLESE, Joseph Enos, b. 11 Apr. 1899, d. 30 Aug. 1918 (age - 19 yrs. 4 os. 18 days)

STURLESE, Lucien, b. Grand Chenier, La., d. 3 Nov. 1956 (age 84 yrs.), wife - Mrs. Azelia Sturlese

STURLESE, Mable A., b. 22 Oct. 1902, d. 24 Apr. 1929

STURLESE, Nicol, b. 6 Nov. 1860, d. 31 Dec. 1939

SWINE, Asa, b. 7 July 1928, d. 20 Mar. 1937

STURLESE, Mrs. Philomene, b. 25 Oct. 1864, d. 25 Oct. 1925, d/o of P. V. Miller & Amelia Broussard

SWINE, Bessie, b. 11 Mar. 1933, d. 16 Nov. 1933

TABAUCH, Anna G., b. 1867, d. 1927

THERIOT, Charles A., b. 10 July 1856 d. Feb. 1946, wife - Celestine Mallet

THERIOT, Cleveland, b. 14 May 1910, d. 7 Jan. 1950

THERIOT, Chas., b. 12 June 1886, d. 24 Feb. 1940

THERIOT, Edson John, b. 23 July 1905, d. 27 Mar. 1911

THERIOT, Grace, b. 23 Jan. 1850, d. 24 Feb. 1929

THERIOT, Granville J., b. 22 Mar. 1899, d. 18 Nov. 1932

THERIOT, Leona, b. 10 Mar. 1898, d. 12 Aug. 1922, husband - Alfred Portie

THERIOT, Lyda, b. 22 April 1908, d. 18 Jan. 1909

THERIOT, Mary Ophillir, b. 10 Nov. 1852, d. 19 July 1853

THERIOT, Pierre Dolze, b. 7 Nov. 1825, d. 7 July 1904, wife - Margarette A. Theriot

THERIOT, Pierre Telesmar, b. 8 Feb. 1851, d. 28 Dec. 1910

THIBEAUX, Ed. James, b. 23 Nov. 1955, d. 10 May 1956

THIBEAUX, Pierre, d. Aug. 1918

VINCENT, Retia, b. 14 Feb. 1914, d. 29 Dec. 1952



Congratulations

CAMERON PARISH ON 150 YEARS!

Cameron LNG *is proud*
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We look forward to a future fueled by further innovation, creativity and visionary leadership!

We honor the generations before us and we celebrate the present with our neighbors.



We're Looking Forward To Another 150 Years!

Our Parish is steadily moving forward with the times and we are expecting much more expansion during the next 150 Years!

So if you are ever in town, take a look at our beautiful Parish and you will truly understand why it is known as "A Sportsman's Paradise" and why you should choose your adventure in Cameron Parish.

The history of a people can never be separated from the geography of the land in which they dwell. Cameron Parish, the largest parish in Louisiana, is no exception. Located in the Southwestern corner of the state, it is a land of abundance, fertile in soil, rich in beauty, and a veritable storehouse of oil and gas, a repository for game and fish, fur-bearing animals, and cattle.



CAMERON PARISH POLICE JURORS

Left to Right, Scott Trahan, District 5; Thomas McDaniel, District 4; Curtis Fountain, District 2; Joe Dupont, District 6; McKinley "Butch" Guidry, District 7; Kirk Quinn, District 3; Magnus "Sonny" McGee, District 1 and Lawrence "Lee" Faulk, District 8





STEVEDORES ARE unloading Cameron Parish oranges from the schooner *Clara Ida* in this photo taken at a Lake Charles wharf.

(Photo courtesy of Anne Phillips.)
[Reprinted from *Images of America: Imperial Calcasieu*; Robert Benoit, Southwest Louisiana Historical Association]

Grand Chenier area was rich for citrus crops

(EDITOR'S NOTE--The following consists of excerpts of an article about the eastern part of Cameron Parish written by Herman J. Seiferth for the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. The article was reprinted in the June 23, 1915 edition of the *Lake Charles American Press*.)

Come from the Gulf by way of the Mermentau River and the first glimpse of Louisiana will also be the vision of the future of the state and of New Orleans, the metropolis of the state.

The green carpet that reaches to the sill of the sea is woven of salt grass and mangrove and sustains thousands of cattle. That one section alone could easily keep a big packing house in New

Orleans busy.

A little up the river is Grand Chenier.

One New Orleans fruit firm had a representative in the area a few days ago and the first realization of citrus possibilities there impressed him so that he inquired as to the prices of some of the groves.

They were not for sale.

He then offered \$100 an acre for the orange crop on the trees. Meeting only shoulder shrugs he threw up a few baits of \$125, but even that was shrugged down.

One of the farmers claimed to have harvested \$480 off his acre.

The only criticism the city buyer had to cover his disappointment was that the peo-

ple there did not know how to pack, dumping every size and variety of oranges into all sorts of sacks and demanding as much for them as for the most uniform and perfect package.

The ridge nearest to Chenier is close to the river, and is 18 miles long by a quarter to half a mile from the river bank.

The Chenier is the first of four islands lying abreast, and within a six miles stretch are North, Tiger, and Indian Point Islands, each with its ridge.

These ridges are all thickly settled by farmers, mostly small.

The section once satisfied itself with the single cotton crop system. Grand Chenier alone marketing 1,500 bales. The boll weevil paid a visit to the Gulf, and the farmers were forced into diversification and the results were surprising enough to stir enthusiasm.

Fruit and truck that brought good prices wherever offered made the ridges treasure hills. The natives do not attempt to analyze the mystery.

They have been told that there may be oil below and there is one family that is still burning gas from a shallow well it dug, but the inhabitants think that there are riches enough in the surface without gambling in greater wealth beneath.

The weevil has entirely disappeared, cotton is being grown again, but diversification has come to stay, with transportation the only remaining lack.

Fish, game and fur are other cargoes to countersign the invitation.

The ridges are sand-topped with a generous layer of black loam, and clay for sub-soil. It seems ideal for fruit, even lemon ponderosa thriving there.

J. W. Doxy has brought in a fine experimental crop of Bermuda onions, and there will be Irish and sweet potatoes ready for gathering early in the season.

There are no fertilizers used or required and an average of 35 bushels of corn to the acre is nevertheless secured.

Across the way from Chenier is the beginning of the immense reclamation project which E. C. Canning is conducting.

Dr. L. O. Miller is reclaiming 580 acres of his land close to the ridges and calculates that it will cost him \$7 an acre, pump and all.

The Canning tract, because of its size will only average half that cost, and the land snatched from the sea's embrace will not only mean a new cattle and farming era but will broaden the Louisiana paradise by banishing the mosquito, which is the only drawback.

The latter blessing will be a boon to the entire state, and the state should help and hail the day of complete deliverance.

First Masonic Lodge formed April 27, 1878

By GENEVA GRIFFITH

On April 27, 1878 fourteen men came together to organize a Masonic Lodge in Johnson Bayou which was chartered on Feb. 15, 1879 by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana.

The local men named their lodge Blue Buck Lodge No. 227 and set their meeting dates for "the Saturday before the full moon."

John Paul Crain a member of the Cameron lodge, explained that this was in the days that the men all rode horseback to the meetings, and they were better able to see where they were going in the full of the moon.

The lodge was located in the small hamlet of Berry which is no longer in existence. It is believed that it lasted only until around 1909 because that is when the Berry post office was discontinued, after having been established in 1898, employing only two post masters, August Pavell and John A. Peveto.

Berry was described as a small hamlet located four miles from Sabine Lake and six miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Located there were a school, church, store, cotton gin, post office and a grave yard.

It was named after an early family who lived there and had three daughters named after states - Mississippi, Virginia and Missouri.

Mrs. Berry and two of the daughters, Virginia and Missouri are said to have been victims of the 1886 hurricane, when most of the survivors left Johnson Bayou to move elsewhere, many to Orange, Texas.

Mr. Berry died a natural death and Mississippi married August Pavell.

Berry was located where the Crain Brothers have their trapping camp and hunting lodge.

George A. Smith was the first Worshipful Master of the Blue Buck Masonic Lodge; George W. McDuffie, Senior Warden; Joshua Griffith, Junior Warden; Joseph B. Peveto, treasurer; John P. Eddleman, secretary; Richard B. Harrison, Senior Deacon; Abraham P. Baker, Junior Deacon; and Charles C. Pietzing Tyler.

By the time the lodge disbanded in 1888, the membership had grown to 22.

The list of members were: James W. Anderson, Esau Chadwell, D. N. Donahue, J. D. Eddleman, W. H. Eddleman, Joshua Griffith, Henry H. Leo, John T. Lindsey, John M. McCall, G. W. McDuffie, Ed D. Miller, C. G. Pietzing, Calvit Peveto, Joseph Peveto, Caswell Peveto, John M. Smith, Thomas L. Smith, J. M. Sanders, J. B. Suttlers, Ben A. Stephens.

R. B. G. Harper, who signed the original petition for dispensation died before the chartering.

Other members who for some reason or another had dropped out of this lodge before it was disbanded were: John T. Saunders, W. H. Jett, John A. Doxy, Charles M. Thaire, James Saunders, Radford Berry, John R. Jett and R. B. Harrison.

Nothing remains of the small hamlet today, and no landmarks are visible. Also, very few of the family members descendants still live in the area.

Menhaden fish industry was big business in parish

Cameron Parish Archives

Roberts provided a historical perspective of landings of crabs, crawfish and freshwater finfish from which bait usage was calculated. In the next few months, potential markets and demands were identified throughout Louisiana and Texas. The demand for bait was enough to justify support of a large-scale bait fishing operation.

A bank in Abbeville agreed to lend the new venture the money, which was secured through the Small Business Administration. With the loan secured, construction on the dockside facility began in February of 1993.

Construction of an office building, storage freezer, loading dock and instant quick freezing vats provided the land infrastructure. The fishing got underway on a 140-foot steel hull purse seine vessel named *Sea Raider II*, equipped with an ammonia chilling apparatus with a holding capacity of 120,000 pounds. *Sea Raider's* trips range mainly between Sabine Pass and Freshwater Bayou.

Savoie says the fishing is the same as traditional menhaden purse seine harvesting. The fish are chilled aboard the vessel, then off-loaded to the land-based facility by conveyor, and dumped into large vats containing an 8 degrees F brine solution, where they are stored until shipped to buyers via refrigerated truck.

The crew aboard the vessel numbers 14 full-time employees, with 12 others employed on the land-based facility.

La-Tex holds a bait fishing permit through the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, which allows the company to fish menhaden off season. During the menhaden season, excess catch is sold to Zapata Haynie, the processing plant across the Calcasieu River west of Cameron.

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Darrell WILLIAMS
Cameron Parish Assessor - Elect

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Our roots are deep in the Parish and we are proud to be a part of this momentous event as we look forward to many more years of progress!

Cameron Parish NAACP

Cameron Parish Branch
Chapter President, LOUISE COLE

Hadley Fontenot's legacy in Cameron Parish recalled

Permission to print given by NOLA MAE ROSS
Cameron Parish Pilot
February 23, 2012

The first FONTENOT came to Louisiana in 1725 from Poitiers, France, as a Marine aboard a French War Ship, the *Dromadaire*. All the FONTENOTs in Louisiana descend from this single individual.

The first FONTENOT recorded in the census of Cameron Parish was in 1900 in Ward 5. He was named POLLAN FONTENOT, married to ELLA PEVETO, daughter of MICHEL PEVETO. Today there are very few FONTENOTs in Cameron Parish.

Then in 1948 came a FONTENOT family to Cameron Parish, who will always be remembered for making a significant difference in the Parish - HADLEY and WARDELLA FONTENOT.

COUNTY AGENT

"When HADLEY FONTENOT arrived in Cameron Parish he made it his business to get to know the Parish and the people," recalls his son, Judge WARD FONTENOT. "He began traveling around at random, dressed simply in khaki shirt and pants. One morning during hunting season he drove to JOE RUTHERFORD's hunting camp and when the owner appeared, HADLEY introduced himself as the new County Agent. JOE RUTHERFORD, who was sort of a prankster, told HADLEY not to say anything as they entered a room full of hunters. Then JOE RUTHERFORD announced to the group, 'I want you all to meet the new Federal Game Warden.'

"HADLEY said that the hunters and guides all blanched a little. Some, he noticed, quickly slipped away, jumped into boats, and headed out to some duck blinds, apparently to warn the hunters not to bring in any more than their limits."

As these FONTENOTs settled into life in Cameron Parish, they grew to love the people and making this their permanent home. They moved into a small home on 144 Dan Street, which had been built by ALVIN DYSON, and had been lived in by the previous Count Agent, CARROLL McCALL and his family.

BACKGROUND

Born July 24, 1914 in Duralde in Evangeline Parish, to JOSEPH PARFAIT and EDITH VIDRINE FONTENOT, HADLEY, went to school in Mamou and then to SLI in Lafayette, and finally to LSU for graduate studies. Sometime in amongst his educational process he also attended Vincent's Business School.

WARDELLA's daughter, LURCHEL FONTENOT WITTNER, recalled her mother saying, "A girlfriend and I went to check out the new boys who had just enrolled in the business school and HADLEY FONTENOT took my eye immediately." "Coming to Lake Charles to attend Vincent's Business School was the best decision I ever made," HADLEY always said, "because it was here that I met and fell in love with another student named WARDELLA MORGAN."

WARDELLA MORGAN

WARDELLA MORGAN, whose father, WARD MORGAN, died of small pox when she was 13 months old, was raised by her mother, IRENE MORGAN, who ran a boarding house on Cole Street (Bilbo St.) with help from IRENE's parents. Several of her family members worked for the railroad company and her grandmother, NELLIE PORTER, owned "The Iron Mountain Cafe" on the corner of Ryan and Clarence Street where the Missouri Pacific Railroad was headquartered in Lake Charles at that time.

WARDELLA and HADLEY were married in 1938. While HADLEY was finishing his education and working as an Ag teacher in Ville Platte, their first child, WARD FONTENOT, was born in Ville Platte in 1939. WARD recalls, "I have vague memories of the small house we lived in Ville Platte. During this time while my dad was finishing up his education, to be a County Agent, my mother and I lived for a short time with my grandmother, IRENE MORGAN OTT, at 1141 Cole Street, which is now Bilbo Street."

COUNTY AGENT JOB

HADLEY began his first job as County Agent in St. Mary Parish in 1946. Two years later he was offered a job in Cameron and while trying to decide whether to move there,

his wife, WARDELLA recalled, "On our first trip to check out Cameron, the ducks were flying everywhere, fish were jumping out of the water, and when HADLEY stopped and picked up a turtle, I knew we were transferring to Cameron."

Cameron brought out many character abilities in HADLEY. He worked diligently in creating professional 4-H clubs, which soon became noted as some of the best in the state. He did not confine his efforts at improvements for 4-H Clubs only but also worked with many Cameron cattlemen in improving their herds and in orchard growers to upgrade their trees.

"Every time our family took a trip," recalls HADLEY's daughter, LURCHEL FONTENOT, now Mrs. MIKE WITTNER, of Lake Charles, and who was born in Cameron, "I remember stopping along the way at several homes so my dad could advise someone about their gardens, their fruit trees, cattle herds, or other agriculture problems.

"He always had a project to benefit the community. One such project was forming the association to build a community wharf at Hebert's Camp in Grand Lake, which today is named in his honor.

KNACK FOR ORGANIZING

Not only did HADLEY FONTENOT adore Cameron, but also was always looking for ways to improve the life style of its citizens. He had a knack for organizing things. One of his proudest achievements was the Cameron Fire Department. The idea for a fire department came about one night as HADLEY was driving home from Lake Charles, down Highway 27. Looking out to the west he saw tongues of flames leaping 10 to 20 feet in the air. From his perspective it looked like the whole town of

Cameron was ablaze. But after arriving home he saw that it was marsh fires, and not Cameron. He was still shaken by the realization that without any fire department, the whole town could burn to the ground.

FIRE DEPT.

So HADLEY began building support for a volunteer group and was joined by ED SWINDELL, manager of a Menhaden Plant, who was also aware of how vulnerable the industrial waterfront of Cameron was without fire protection. He organized a volunteer department with SWINDELL as the first Fire Chief. It was not until 2008 that the fire department began to operate with paid employees.

FIRST FUR FEST

The first Fur and Wildlife Festival was organized in 1955, and HADLEY FONTENOT was on the planning board. He was also President of the Festival for the first 13 years and traveled to Cambridge, Md., several times to meet with the Fur Festival there.

On the 25th anniversary HADLEY was the Co-King of the festival, along with JENNINGS JONES.

WARD FONTENOT recalls his father's love for fishing and hunting and cooking the catch. "He and BERTON DAIGLE were always close friends and their fishing camp was the highlight of their lives. Before Hurricane Audrey their camp was an old, very small trapper's cabin. It had a wood stove which when lighted, would pour out an eye-burning smoke.

"After the camp was destroyed in Audrey they found the marshes full of damaged parts of damaged buildings which had been swept off the ridges. With this they had access to all the lumber they needed to build a bigger and better camp, which they did.

The new camp lasted 20 years until lost to a fire. Here he had hosted professional associates, politicians, doctors, lawyers, judges, etc. and it



THIS MODERN PHOTOGRAPH shows all that is left 94 years after the destruction of the Mermentau River Dam at Grand Chenier in Cameron Parish. In spite of oppositions from the residents of Grand Chenier, rice growers in the upper Mermentau River built the 440-foot-long wooden structure in 1904 to stop serious salt water intrusion. On October 3, 1905 someone dynamited a hole in the dam. The hole was repaired, but a year later the dam was completely wrecked by a second dynamite attack. These pilings on the north side of the river were part of the boat lock around the dam.

(Reprinted from Images of America: Imperial Calcasieu; Robert Benoit, Southwest Louisiana Historical Association.)

seemed that anyone who was ever a guest came away with memories and a few stories of their own.

HELPED START PILOT

Cameron Pilot publisher JERRY WISE recalls that HADLEY played a big part in helping to start the *Cameron Pilot*. He recalls:

"In 1956, I was working as the editor of the Sulphur newspaper. I discovered that Cameron Parish had no newspaper of its own and decided to start one.

"One of the first things that I did was to contact HADLEY, who was president of the Cameron Lions Club, and ask his and the club's help. They responded by helping me line up the advertising needed for the paper.

"Over the years HADLEY was a big supporter of the Pilot and at one point let us use his office as a contact point for news. HADLEY was one of the most organized and efficient persons that I have ever known."



PICTURED AT the ceremony in Cameron where a marker commemorating the Battle of Calcasieu Pass was unveiled were Shelby Hoffpauir, president of the Cameron Telephone Co., which commissioned the marker and a special painting on the battle, and Mike Jones, Lake Charles journalist and historian and a representative of a living history group.

(Cameron Pilot Archives.)

CELEBRATING

150 YEARS

★ History • Heritage • Tradition ★

CONGRATULATIONS CAMERON PARISH ON YOUR SESQUICENTENNIAL!!

We are proud of our home parish and its history, and we are excited about the great new prospects for the future.

Our heritage is one of public involvement and civic pride. These characteristics will provide a solid foundation for future growth.

Our family, having deep ancestral roots here, is proud to call Cameron Parish "home" and we want to thank you for the trust, and support that you have given us.

★ WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER ★

RYAN BOURRIAQUE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 47

HONORING OUR PAST
BUILDING OUR FUTURE





A COPY of the new Cameron Telephone Company telephone book, the cover of which features the Cameron Parish centennial emblem, is presented to W. F. Henry, Jr., president of the police jury, by Larry Henning of the telephone company.

Cameron Parish Library was dedicated in 1958

Cameron Pilot Archives

The Cameron Parish Library has grown in many ways since its dedication on June 27, 1958.

Donald Broussard graciously consented to serve as librarian for the young library for the months of July and August of 1958 during which time he was free from his position as school librarian at South Cameron High School.

Miss Lily McGehee assumed the duties of parish librarian from August until November 15, at which time Mrs. Mary Brand replaced Miss McGehee as the parish librarian. On August 11, 1969, Miss Coral Crain replaced Mrs. Mary Brand.

In 1964 the headquarters building was enlarged to include 3000 square feet more of storage and working space, with new furnishings throughout the building. 10,600 new books have been added to the library collection.

Patrons can now borrow recordings of their choice from the 310 available at the library. One of the most popular services added by the library is the loan of art reproductions for home use.

The library has started collecting important records available on micro-film. The

small collection includes micro-film copies of the Cameron Pilot donated by Jerry Wise and micro-rim copies of the Louisiana Census Records purchased by the library. These may be read by the patrons on the micro-film reader-printer.

Other equipment available is a record player, a 16 mm sound film projector and a small 3-M copy machine on which the public can have copies made for 25¢ a sheet.

In order to give better service to the people of the parish a new bookmobile was purchased in 1963 and new routes and stops have been added to the schedule.

The number of books checked out from the library has grown from 37,970 for the year 1959 to 57,738 for 1969. 269 recordings were borrowed for home use in 1969 as compared to 19 in 1964. In 1969 the 55 art reproductions were used 240 times.

The library has served as news headquarters for the Fur Festival and as a place for other community events for several years.

Young people and adults have been encouraged to read through participating in the Summer Reading Club and the State Library Adult Reading Project.

The library has served as a center of education, stimulation, inspiration, and as a source of comfort for the past twelve years. The library board and staff is looking forward to its continued growth and service.



ADMIRING THE new Cameron Telephone Company telephone book are Mrs. Harold Carter and Miss Patsy Granger, Home Demonstration Agent, who worked with the company in getting the parish centennial emblem placed on the book's cover.

Cameron Centennial Seal on cover of phone directory

Gracing the cover of the 1970 Cameron Telephone Company directory is the official seal of the Cameron Parish Centennial.

The seal, plus a short history inside the cover of the book, calls attention to the progress made by the parish during the past 100 years.

Selection of the seal for the cover was due mainly to the efforts of Mrs. Harold Carter of Creole who suggested the idea to the company's commercial manager, Larry Henning, at the March 15 Centennial Celebration in Cameron.

Mr. Henning readily accepted the idea and Mrs.

Carter worked out the project with the help of Dr. Cecil Clark who made the necessary photographs of the seal from a detailed drawing by Mrs. Gladys McCall of Grand Chenier.

The Centennial seal was designed by a committee of Home Demonstration Club women including Mrs. Charles F. Hebert, Cameron; Mrs. Harold Carter, Creole; Mrs. Lyle Crain, Grand Chenier; Mrs. John Prescott, Johnson Bayou; Mrs. Charles W. Hebert, Sweetlake; and Patsy Granger, Cameron Parish Home Demonstration Agent.

Cameron Census 2000

(Kinfolk Vol. 25, Page 139)

(EDITOR'S NOTE--Census 2020 is in the works. Be sure to participate. Many decisions are based on population of certain areas.)

According to the federal census for the year 2000 the population of southwest Louisiana recorded steady growth and now tops 300,000.

Census 1870

Ulysses S. Grant was President during the 1870 census.

The U.S. population increased by 26.6 percent from the 1860 census to the 1870 census.

The population of the entire state was 4,468,976, a 6% increase over 1990. The largest racial groups in the state were white, blacks and Hispanics. White comprised 64% of the state's population, while blacks made up 32% and Hispanics accounted for 2%.

The following information gives population statistics for the year 2000 for Cameron Parish.

Cameron Parish had a total population of 9,981 in 2000, an increase of 8% since 1990. They included 94% white; 4% black; .44% Asian; .37% American Indian, Aleut or Eskimo; .44% Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders; .94% other white non-native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders.



THIS 400-POUND shark won a first place for Dr. Lynn Daughenbaugh of Lake Charles in last year's deep sea fishing rodeo here. More big catches are expected at this year's rodeo this weekend.

4th of July Fishing Rodeo is always a blast for fishermen

Cameron Pilot Archives

It's all 'Go' for the upcoming, big July 4th weekend Southwest Louisiana Deep Sea and Inland Fishing Rodeo set to open at the crack of dawn Friday, July 3.

Headquartered in Cameron, the event will offer competitive fishing for a variety of species through 6 p.m. on the final day, Sunday, July 5.

Rodeo President Virgil Junk said Senior Judge L. Marshall Smith will open official rodeo headquarters in Cameron Thursday, July 2 at Pete Henry's pier. Registrations and official rodeo programs can be secured there, he added.

Additionally, registrations can be made at local and area sporting goods dealers.

Fishing prospects appear bright for the rodeo, Junk said.

Until recently, fishing had been off with few boats getting out due to poor weather conditions. However, true to form, when the weather

improved so did the fishing.

In the past two weeks, practically every variety of Gulf fish has been taken in numbers. Even the elusive silver tarpon, glamor girl of the rodeo, has made her appearance.

A fleet of boats fishing near the 1-A can buoy last Sunday spotted several large schools of tarpon rolling on top. Trying for some of the action was L.E. Hawsey's El Ease, David Willoughby's Miss Jannell and Walter Miller's Pirate. The El Ease reported one confirmed tarpon strike but the big fish made one jump and was away.

Russell Tritico, with a crew on his boat, the Kelson, reported excellent troll fishing taking ling, jackfish, bonito, Spanish and King Mackerel and bluefish.

Tebooy McCall, on his new 75-foot charter boat, Sunrise III, said snapper fishing is picking up fast and that his people have been doing well drift fishing for large king mackerel and ling.



Please join us as we celebrate 150 years of Cameron Parish history.

We have had to overcome many hardships on the journey, surviving and moving into the future with great anticipation.

We are proud to be part of this landmark occasion.

Cameron Parish Assessor
Orson Billings & Staff

Celebrating... **1870** **150** **YEARS** **2020**

Our Great Parish Has The Distinction Of Surviving And Prospering Regardless Of Adversity ... Our People Rise To Any Challenge And Grow Stronger In The Effort!

WE ARE VERY PROUD TO CALL CAMERON PARISH OUR HOME!

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Celebrating 150 Years & Moving Forward!

Levi and Stephenson

Stephenson Cattle Company was formed in Big Lake in 1987 by Buck Stephenson. For the past 33 years, Stephenson Cattle Company has bred and raised horses and cattle. For the past 23 years, we have concentrated on maintaining a herd of pure bred Brahman cattle for the sale of replacement heifers.

Since the beginning it has been a family operation. I have always felt that raising your family in an agricultural environment helps to teach them responsibility, marketing, work ethic and so much more.

I look forward to many more years as I pass the tradition on to my family.

Stephenson Cattle Company
10871 Highway 384 • Big Lake, Louisiana

Celebrating... **150** **YEARS**

“CONSIDERING THE PAST, ENJOYING THE PRESENT, AND LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE OF THIS SPECIAL PLACE WE ARE BLESSED TO CALL HOME!”

Please join us as we pay tribute to our great parish during this historic event!!

Penelope and Darren Richard

Proud To Salute Cameron Parish During This Memorable Event!

★ EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS
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Trophies, Certificates, Plaques, Special Engraved Gifts, Plastic Signs, Plastic Tags, Name Plates, Name Tags, Frames, Silver Trays, Silver Jewel Boxes, all engraved free with purchase! Road signs, bracelets, pet tags.... Just call on us! Free delivery.

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IN 1993, JOE Umble's painting was featured on the cover of Cameron Telephone. He captured with great authenticity the "Battle of Calcasieu Pass." The only Civil War battle fought in Southwest Louisiana took place on May 6, 1864 at the mouth of the Calcasieu River near Cameron, Louisiana. Because of its isolation, Cameron Parish (or Leesburg as it was known in those days) was neglected by the Confederacy and prized by the Union Navy as a supply source. The battle brought together two determined foes; Union gunboats bent on purchasing stolen livestock and a scrappy band of Confederates determined to expel the invaders.

Calcasieu Pass battle commemorated by plaque

ONLY BATTLE IN SWLA
The "Battle of Calcasieu Pass," the only Civil War battle fought in Southwest Louisiana took place on May 6, 1864 at the mouth of the Calcasieu River, off what is presently known as Monkey Island, near Cameron. Because of its isolation, Cameron Parish (or Leesburg as it was known in those days) was neglected by the Confederacy because of inaccessibility and prized by the Union Navy as a supply source. The battle brought together two determined foes - Union gunboats bent on "purchasing" stolen livestock and a "scrappy" band of Confederates determined to expel the invaders.

Two Union gunboats, the Wave and the Granite City, arrived at the Calcasieu Pass to purchase stolen horses and

cattle. The arrival of the gunboats abruptly reversed Confederate neglect of Southwest Louisiana. When Col. W. H. Griffin at Fort Manhasset in Sabine Pass received word of the landing, he was instructed to, "attack the small force at once, and disperse, defeat or capture the expedition."

Major Felix McReynolds, Commandant of Fort Manhasset, led two companies numbering about 300 to Calcasieu Pass during the night to avoid detection. The attack on the two gunboats began at daybreak. The brave Confederates made their stand in the salt grass marsh without any benefit of cover. In only two and a half hours, the Union gunboats had been knocked out by the crossfire of the Confederate muskets and cannon-fire. A total of 22 Union and Confederate soldiers gallantly died for their cause. Many were buried in simple graves marked with crosses from white fence pickets.



President Nixon sends greetings on the 100th

President Richard Nixon has sent the following message to the citizens of Cameron Parish:

To The People Of Cameron, Louisiana:

It is a pleasure for me to send warmest greetings and best wishes to you for a most memorable and happy observance of your community's one hundredth anniversary.

In the years ahead, I know that Cameron will record the same kind of determination that has characterized its

past history.

The role of local government is greater than ever. And never before have the contributions of your community been so vital to the progress and welfare of our country.

Encouraged by justifiable pride in your past achievements, may you extend your success into the 70s and my you help make this the decade of exceptional local participation in national life.

/s/ Richard Nixon



HISTORY WAS made when President Donald Trump visited the Cameron LNG plant on May 14, 2019. It was possibly the first official visit of a sitting U.S. President.



THE MOST popular and dominant mode of transportation in Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas during the 1800's was sailing area bayous, rivers and lakes. Schooners were the most numerous boats plying the waters as they brought supplies to the early settlers. They exported vast amounts of lumber and cotton. There were hundreds of schooners operating at one time, and they remained the life artery for communities until the coming of the railroads. "Schooner Trade" depicts one of the many schooners weighing anchor where a red flag was flying as the signal for the boat to stop. This painting by Suzy Lee Trahan was featured on the 1999 Cameron Telephone phonebook.

A Creole Pony

American Press
Dec. 23, 1921
By DAVID H. LEVINGSTON

In the olden days, when large schooners dotted our lake and long processions of stretched canvass sailed back and forth between Lake Charles and Galveston, there happened to be a dance given up the Calcasieu River at Hickory Flat, to which two of our schooner captains had been invited.

They talked it over as they sailed across the long swells from Galveston to Calcasieu Pass. At Leesburg (now Cameron) they slipped out into the country and bought a Creole pony right off the range, wild as a hyena. He had never seen a bridle nor had felt the touch of a saddle, but these seamen were determined to get him up the river during that week and ride him through the pines to the dance; he was their only means of conveyance.

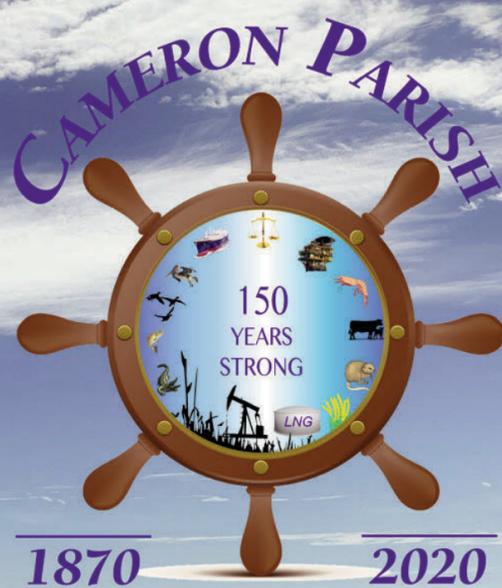
It took six sailors to get him aboard. They tied him aft

to the mast with a stout rope, but unfortunately, the pony stood higher than the massive boom. All went fairly well until Big Lake was reached. A heavy wind set in, the big boom swung from side to side and every time it did, the pony, not knowing the art of dodging, was knocked flat.

He would pick himself up, shake and stare at the deck and about the time he considered himself again set, the boom would take another swing and floor him, and he was thus floored and flayed and flattened all the journey through, until the two sturdy captains reached their destination.

Then they got the surprise of their lives. Their hyena no long snorted when they approached but led off the boat with al the grace an awkward horse can command. They saddled him then sprang on him and clinched. His back swayed, he started off sprawling sideways and knocked-kneed and very swift but delivered them to the dance hall.

Our Congratulations To...



Celebrating CAMERON PARISH

Congratulations on 150 Years STRONG!



It is our privilege to work alongside the people of Cameron Parish. We join you in celebrating 150 years of progress in building a rock-solid community.



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Happy 150th Birthday, Cameron Parish!

The Cameron Lions Club is proud to serve this great parish and looks forward to a continuation of our efforts to improve the quality of lives in Southwest Louisiana.

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