Abbeville Awaits
Freshwater Channel

ABBEVILLE — Interviewing
Mayor Young A. Broussard of
Abbeville is somewhat like
trying to memorize an encyclo-
dedia while leafing through its
pages — the facts are there
but it's pretty hard to keep up
with them.

What Broussard and his coun-
cill have done, are doing and
plan to do for Abbeville is
stunning, considering that the
1970 population of this progress-
ive town was only 10,414. The
mayor estimates the current
population at 11,299 and has
asked the government for a
new census to be taken this
year.

With the friendly and for-
ward outlook of the present
administration, however, it's
highly likely that Abbeville
will soon top that figure by
several thousand.

Consider the fact that with
the annexation of one subdivi-
sion, the population climbed
by almost 800 people. In ad-
dition, the recent construction
of a municipal plant is expected
to keep between two and four
million dollars into the area's
economy.

Abbeville is also seeing the
completion of the Vermilion
Freshwater Exou Channel two
years hence, which is expected
to attract many new industries
to locate here. "Everybody
will benefit from this channel.
there's no doubt about it," the
mayor points out, envisioning a
host of shipbuilding and sea-
food enterprises which probably
will be enticed here.

The town continues to move
ahead in other fields as well.
"We recently reconstructed
and resurfaced our streets,"
Broussard says. "It was a $3000
project and the work was
done without direct assessment
to the property owner. We fin-
anced the work through a bond
issue passed during the previ-
ous year."

A total of 14 miles of streets
was reconstructed last year, in-
cluding all of the old brick
roads constructed more than
30 years ago. "We now have
only about two miles of unpaved
streets in the city," the mayor
says.

The paving and resurfacing of
streets under this program
didn't include another street
improvement program. "We
have had a cent city sales
tax since 1969 that brings up
about $160,000 annual reve-

PROGRESSIVE MAYOR — Young A. Broussard, mayor of
Abbeville, pictured at City Hall with the map of Abbeville
in the background. Under his administration, the town has
moved steadily ahead in growth and improvement of public
facilities. (Adviser Staff Photo)

is described as good and the
mayor gives as evidence of this
the erection of a new shopping
center and the continued
increase in sales tax revenues.

Abbeville has a paid fire de-
partment of 33 men who are
supplemented by volunteers.
"To keep our department func-
tioning as well as possible, we
recently purchased two new fire
trucks at a cost of $12,000, us-
ing sales tax money.

"Also, we have built a new,
central fire station which cost
about $75,000. The new struc-
ture will be dedicated and open-
con this year," Broussard says.
The mayor notes that fire losses in
the city have been at a mini-
mum and, with the opening of
the new station, he expects the
fire rating bureau will lower
insurance rates in the city.

In addition to its modern fire
department, Abbeville can
boast of an efficiently run po-
lice department with auxiliary
members. The city is planning to
build a new police station toward
the end of the year at the site of
the old fire station.

Both firemen and policemen
are under civil service, as are
all city employees.

Abbeville doesn't face the
drainage problem that seems
to plague many area towns but
it did spend about $25,000 to
case that situation. With the
large street improvement pro-
gram, much of the drainage
problem was taken care of by
properly installed run-offs.

This month, the council planned
to receive bids for the
renovation and enlargement of
the city's sewerage plant, a pro-
ject earmarked for a cost of
$250,000.

Abbeville is well provided for
from an educational standpoint.
It has one public high school
and three elementary schools
for white pupils and a high
school and elementary school
for colored students. In addi-
tion, there is a parochial ele-
mentary and high school, Mt.
Carmel academy.

A new senior high school is
to be constructed this year in
the northeastern portion of
town.

The city recently acquired a
new hospital, which opened Feb-
uary 1. The 65-bed Abbeville
General Hospital is owned by
the taxpayers and replaces the
privately owned Palms Hospit-
l, which closed down this
month. Palms had a 45-bed ca-
cept.

From a municipal standpoint,
the town had a $50,000
500,000 city court building.
The structure is devoted entirely
to court purposes, thus eliminating
ever-crowding, a sight not
uncommon in many area munic-
pal courtrooms.

Abbeville is moving, there's no
doubt about it. The town can
boast, and justifiably, that
its movement is definitely for-
ward.