ACADIA PARISH

I. POPULATION - There are 50,100 persons residing in Acadia Parish according to the latest U. S. Census.

II. AGRICULTURE - The economy of Acadia Parish is largely agricultural. Below is the approximate income derived from the major agricultural crops.

RICE - There were 83,743.9 acres of rice planted in Acadia Parish in 1961. The estimated value of the 1961 rice crop was $11,703,353. There are 34 rice driers and 20 rice mills for the handling of the crop.

COTTON - In 1961, there were 10,364 acres of cotton planted with a cash value of $1,409,420. There are four cotton gins located within the parish.

SWEET POTATOES - There were 5,381 acres of sweet potatoes planted last year. The crop was valued at $1,076,200. There are 12 commercial storage kilns in Acadia Parish.

SOYBEANS - Approximately 3,000 acres of soybeans are planted yearly, with a value of $1,192,000.

III. LIVESTOCK - It is estimated that Acadia Parish has 55,163 head of beef cattle, 10,209 head of swine and 4,444 head of sheep.

Acadia livestock producers received approximately $2,043,504 from sale of livestock in 1961.

IV. COMMERCE & INDUSTRY - There are 66 wholesale establishments with combined annual sales of $49,896,000.

There are 829 retail trade establishments with combined annual sales of $49,895,953.

There are 161 industrial establishments in Acadia Parish.

V. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM - There are thirty schools with 12,666 students enrolled for the session 1961-62.

The Acadia Parish School Board was first organized on July 11, 1887.

VI. HISTORY - In March, 1886, a committee was formed to discuss the division of St. Landry and establishing a separate parish. In May, 1886, Legislature Representative Lyons of St. Landry introduced a bill and the name of Acadia was suggested.

The Parish inhabitants were approximately seventy percent descendants of the Acadians exiled from Nova Scotia in 1755.

Crowley is the parish seat of Acadia Parish.