Alexandria

The "Handiest Place" in Louisiana

Alexandria, on the north bank of Red River, is in the geographic center of the state in the midst of rich agricultural and forest lands, and is often referred to as the Hub City. Fifth in size in Louisiana, it boasts of a population well over 23,000.

The dominant characteristic of Alexandria, as well as all of Rapides Parish, is its luxuriant vegetation. Flowers bloom throughout the year, and the fame of local gardens extends over the Southwest. Lining the streets and providing shade and color on lawns and parks are found magnolia, camellia, japonica, cape jasmine, hydrangea, azalea, yaupon, wistaria and crepe myrtlet. Transplanted to the city and native in the surrounding pine forests is an abundance of redbud.

The buildings in Alexandria are, with few exceptions, modern in architecture, as the town was almost completely destroyed by fire during the War Between the States. One business house on Second street, however, retains the iron grillwork of an antebellum structure, and a number of homes of the city have incorporated similar grillwork from the remains of houses deteriorated from age.

Life in Alexandria is united in civic and com-
tion queen, at the keynote luncheon, and a Mayo Furniture Company chair to Retiring President and Mrs. Selden F. Waldo).

Among reports made by the various national committees in session was that of the Extension Committee, showing that during the past year there had been an increase of 14,646 new members and a total of 360 new organizations. It was revealed that the greatest increase of any month in Jaycee history was April, 1947, which was Clayton W. Frost Month, during which time 82 charters were issued. Louisiana won first prize in membership, having had the greatest percent in increase of any state organization in the country.

Delegates had the opportunity to advance in Jaycee education at the various panel forums and meetings at which fine programs were planned. At the keynote luncheon Wm. D. Saltiel of Chicago called on young men to solve world problems by means other than combat, pointing out the fact that "atomic warfare, bacteriological warfare and biological warfare mean the end of the American way of life, because preparation for such warfare means total regimentation and fascism in America." Raymond E. (Tex) Roberts, editor of FUTURE, in interview stated "inertia in this country is the main obstacle to the assumption of this vital work (civic)." Another inspiring speech was made by Grant Thorn, former National Vice President from Utah, at the Memorial Service.

Arizona Jaycees at the convention pointed out their need of more water from the Colorado River. In pleading their cause, they begged their fellows when passing through their state on their way back home to stick their heads out the window and "spit" a few times. Their main cry was "water" and "how would you like to have your water cut off??" The result was that the convention passed a resolution favoring the stand of the Arizona boys. (The Southern California congressmen have always fought any such action).

Entertainment for visiting delegates could not have been more enticing. Cocktail parties, banquets, fashion shows and teas grossed the wives while Jaycees visited Hollywood and the beach. (W. H. (Buster) Armstead seemed to think he was in paradise when he arrived at the beach on Catalina). Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Pasadena and Warner Bros. Studios were included on the tour.

Other types of fun included the NBC broadcast of the Chesterfield Supper Club, featuring Jo Stafford and Paul Weston's Band, a show with Jack Carson as MC, champagne parties, dinners and luncheons, one of which was served on the lawn near a lagoon and at which an abundant supply of Georgia fried chicken was served. Here also a fine speech was given by Robert Lee Hummer on International Relations. The Utah party, an annual event, was held as usual the last night of the convention and was presided over by hosts with several weeks' beard (grown in honor of Utah's 100th anniversary).

Delegates parted from the convention determined to attend the 1948 conclave to be held in Philadelphia.
munity spirit with that of Pineville on the opposite bank of the river, though the two towns operate under separate governments. Here the law of supply and demand interlock. There are few retail or wholesale stores in Pineville, since those of Alexandria take care of local needs. On the other hand, Alexandria has no cemeteries, but uses those laid out in Pineville.

In the early eighteenth century the site of Alexandria-Pineville was first called Les Rapides by the French and El Rapido by visiting Spanish Franciscans because of the rapids in Red River. A trading settlement began to develop here after the founding of Natchitoches (1714), at which time the Red River became an important trade route necessitating the establishment of a military post at Les Rapides.

By 1760 the settlement began to represent a melting pot of racial strains. French soldiers from Canada had taken small land grants. Acadian exiles had begun to arrive. After the transfer of Louisiana from French to Spanish rule, many Spanish traders and officials set themselves up at the post. Planters had imported large numbers of negro slaves, and a group of Acadian Indians had moved in from land near Mobile to escape British rule. Superimposing themselves on this complex settlement, the Anglo-Saxon homesteaders streamed in from the Atlantic seaboard after the Louisiana Purchase. Today, traces of this varied background show in subtle ways. Although English is spoken, it is modified by French and Spanish mannerisms, the plantation drawl, and the crispness of Anglo-Saxon talk.

In 1810 the town of Alexandria was formally laid out by Alexander Fulton and named for his daughter. It was in the following decade that the town developed into a busy shipping and trading center, furnishing timber for the rapidly-growing city of New Orleans and supplying the demands of increased river traffic.

During the French and Spanish rule, all religious faiths other than Roman Catholic had been banned. By 1814 Protestant churches began to appear, and today there exist churches of all denominations admirably housed.

The College of Rapides was established in 1819 upon land donated by John Casson, and when the first bank appeared in 1824 Alexandria began to take on the characteristics of a metropolis. Today there are nine public and parochial schools in the city. Noteworthy is Bolton High School with its campus of 15 acres, and enrollment of 1,276 pupils. Louisiana College, in the midst of a beautiful 45-acre campus in Pineville, attracts several hundred students with its liberal arts courses. Three modern banks with total resources amounting to nearly $42,000,000 afford the community a sound financial structure.

Ralph Smith-Smith, a wealthy planter, is said to have begun the first railroad west of the Mississippi River in 1837. This road was approximately 40 miles long and ran from Alexandria to Bayou Hauffpauer and transported cotton and sugar cane from plantations to the steamboats on the Red River.

Both Alexandria and Pineville were at the height (Continued on Next Page)
of their antebellum prosperity at the outbreak of the War Between the States. During General Banks’ first invasion of the Red River Valley in 1864 these towns were occupied by Federal troops, practically without bloodshed. Within a few weeks the Federal troops pushed on to Natchitoches and Mansfield, suffered defeat at the Battle of Mansfield, and in their retreat set fire to Alexandria, completely destroying the business district and part of the residential sections.

Alexandria first depended on shipping and largescale lumbering for its industrial life. Today, agricultural and related activities form its chief economic background. Cotton remains the chief crop, with production ranging from a bale to a bale and a half to the acre. Less acreage of this staple can be handled by one person than in the dry section of the South due to the grass growth, but the production per acre is greater. The one-variety program is being rapidly developed.

Thousands of acres in this section are ideal for growing pecans of the paper-shell varieties. Louisiana-grown nursery stock may be purchased at reasonable prices while the native trees can be successfully budded and grafted to the paper-shell varieties.

Strawberries, dewberries and blackberries grow well in the Alexandria area. Peaches, plums and pears produce heavy crops and are consumed in local markets.

In the surrounding hill land trucking is profitable and the crops most usually planted are cotton, corn, oats, peanuts, sweet potatoes, velvet beans and soy beans. In the alluvial land two and sometimes three crops on a single tract can be grown in a year. Corn, alfalfa and hay are grown in abundance, making dairying, as well as the raising of livestock and poultry, more profitable.

A $2,000,000 fresh-water fishing industry has grown up in the Alexandria-Pineville area. Buffalo and cat are the most important catches, followed in importance by the drum and paddlefish. Domestic caviar is made from the roe of the spoonbill cat and is very popular among Louisianans.

Eyes of America’s oil fraternity are focused upon the Alexandria area where recent oil field development is impressive. The Olla, Eola, Urania, Cheneyville and Catahoula fields are drawing numerous business men into Alexandria, their natural headquarters. New fields are being opened up and others are expected, compelling constant supervision by major oil company executives as well as independent operators.

Pine and hardwood are cut in abundance from the surrounding forests, as well as hickory, from which skis are made. A mill in Alexandria turns out ski billets for 35,000,000 pairs each year. Another mill handles dogwood and persimmon timber, most of which is made into textile mill spindles and kitchen woodenware.

Alexandria boasts of a large number of manufacturing plants which turn out the following varied products: Brick, road machinery, sash, doors and cabinets, baking, candy, bedding, talcum powders, ice and ice cream, butter and dairy products, turpentine and pine tar products, sheet metal, sales books and bookbinding, meat packing house products, brooms, oil refinery products, cotton products, insecticides, shingles, shuttle blocks, barrel staves, tile roofing, concrete culverts, beverages, coffee and spices, cane syrup and signs.

Trade possibilities in this town are exceptional, considering the fact that within a radius of 50 miles there is a population of over 500,000, and that Rapides Parish alone contains 100,000 people, all of whom look to Alexandria as their main source of supply. In 1942, for instance, Louisiana Business Review states that the retail sales for Alexandria totaled $18,595,000, and for Rapides Parish $22,439,000, while the wholesalers for Alexandria did $15,126,000, and for Rapides Parish $16,602,300 worth of business. The entire area is well served by an
evening newspaper, ALEXANDRIA DAILY TOWN TALK, and a radio broadcasting station, KALB.

Five trunk line railroads serve Alexandria—the C. R. I. & P., L. & A. (K. C. S.), Mo. Pac., So. Pac., and the 'T. & P., thus providing it with unexcelled rail facilities. The community being the focal point of the entire state, the highway system is provided with excellent motor carrier service. It is the home of Interurban Transportation Company, which affords extensive motor coach service over Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and connects at many points with national systems. The Bordelon Lines and the Butler Lines also operate service out of Alexandria. Red River affords transportation opportunities for many commodities. Scheduled commercial aid service, passenger, mail and express, is furnished by the Delta Air Lines. The airport is only five miles from the city, and speedy air service is available to all points in the United States through convenient connections at Delta terminals.

One-tenth of the nation’s people live within a 400-mile radius ... just an overnight trip from Alexandria. This area embraces three entire states, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. In addition, 70.4 per cent of all Texans are within the area and produce therein 82.8 per cent of their state’s manufactured products. Similarly, 50.5 per cent of Oklahomans produce 39.8 per cent of Oklahoma’s manufactured products; 24.5 per cent of Tennesseans produce 29.4 per cent of Tennessee’s manufactured products, and 55.1 per cent of Alabamans produce 62 per cent of Alabama’s manufactured goods. Value of all these manufactured products exceeds three billion dollars per annum.

In the immediate vicinity of Alexandria during the war was probably the greatest concentration of military personnel in the country. No community in America had a more important part in the national defense program. The greatest army maneuvers of the War Department were held in this area, with more than 472,000 troops participating, and over sixty million dollars were expended to provide within the immediate vicinity of Alexandria several of the finest military establishments in the nation, including Camp Beauregard, Camp Livingston, Camp Claiborne, Alexandria Army Air Base, Pollock Air Base and Camp Polk.

The Rapides Parish Junior Chamber of Commerce can boast that it was the first Jaycee chapter organized in the state of Louisiana. Since their organization, they have built up an enviable record of achievement in their community. Currently outstanding among their successful projects is Hot Wells, health and recreation spot of the South. Through the Jaycees’ vision, hard work and determination, a mecca for ailing humans has been built. With pride, Louisiana salutes the Rapides Parish Junior Chamber of Commerce.
FOX HUNTING IN LOUISIANA

By Ben Joyner

Many of the inhabitants of Louisiana are descendants of fox hunters. This Anglo-Saxon blood brands us, and frequently, a fox hunter is born. Indeed, one is endowed with the love for fox hunting, just as he inherits his racial characteristics. There is no other explanation, and to the outsider, we are a "crazy lot," a term that the unthinking masses commonly use when referring to genius.

The heart of the ancient man thrilled as hounds, running by scent, chased and caught food for their master. Thus the records, as traced through history, reveal the sport of hunting with hounds as far back as the records go. As time passed the hunter gradually ceased to kill, becoming more humane, but his heart still throbbed with excitement as he watched and listened to his hounds match their wits against the pursued. It soon became evident that the only existing animal strong enough in body and intelligent enough to provide this sport was the famous Sir Reynard.

The early settlers of Louisiana brought with them the long-eared black-and-tan hound. He was the offspring of the Virginia Blue Tick hound and the bloodhound. These were used as deer hounds. Each settlement maintained its small pack of Black and Tans, and during the entire year, neighbors would band together and make a drive, as the deer hunt was usually called, thereby providing venison for the families.

Man's strong urge to kill, depleted the deer supply, much the same as it destroyed the buffalo from our western plains. Too late he discovered his error. As deer hunting faded from the picture, the hounds and hunters turned to the fox for satisfaction. However, a lesson had been learned. The game must be protected throughout the state, or there would cease to be anything to provide the chase.

As fox hunting in Louisiana grew in popularity, thrilling accounts of the Kentucky Walker foxhound found their way to our state. The late John W. Walker and Wash Maupin of Madison County, Kentucky, had crossed the native Virginia hound with imported English foxhounds, and produced in some instances a better foxhound than the native breed. This offspring crossed with Tennessee Lead, a stolen Black-and-Tan hound from Tennessee, produced a superlative foxhound, and established the now famous Walker breed of foxhounds.

Uncle Pete Colvin, a former sheriff of Lincoln Parish, and now deceased, was among the first to bring pure bred Walker foxhounds to Louisiana. The fame of his hounds spread far away, promoting a general desire for better "stock."

Usually, each hunter believed his hounds were better than the ones his fellow-hunters owned. This brought about many challenges. When a challenge was accepted, every hunter was invited to attend and bring the best hounds he had. A camp site was agreed upon. Fox hunters from near and far gathered, spread lunch together and drank black coffee. Friendliness prevailed, and many life-long friendships were born on the hunts. When the shades of the night announced that our friend, the fox, was stirring, hounds were released and the hunt was on in earnest, usually continuing throughout the night. At day break hunters and hounds turned homeward. No champion had been crowned, and all shortcomings of the weaker hounds were well plastered over with justifiable excuses.

It was from this practice that the organized foxhunts of today sprang.

In late summer of 1937, a small group of Red River Parish foxhunters, promoted a fox hunt and fish fry. Nearly every foxhunter in Louisiana was invited to attend this "get-together." During this hunt, it was decided that the foxhunters must form an organization to be known as the "Louisiana Foxhunters' Association." Dr. W. L. Davis, Coushatta, La., was elected as president, and Ben Joyner, Coushatta, La., was selected as secretary-treasurer.

The first Field Trial and Bench
Show was held at Camp Mary Mims, near Goldonna, La., and was a grand success. The following year, the hunt again went to Camp Mims. Through the succeeding years its history has been made on the rocky slopes of Old Driskill Mountain, near Arcadia, La., where it is now established as a permanent fixture. The Louisiana State Foxhunters' Association is one of the fastest growing and most popular organizations in the state.

The date for the annual Field Trial is generally in late October. At this season the woods and hills are richly decorated with the red, yellow and gold of fall. The geese and ducks are winging their way to the Gulf, and Jack Frost steals forth to bite the persimmon. Then it is that the hunter's horn can be heard, while the eager hounds tug at their leashes. In the glimmering light of the camp fires, hunters are shaking hands and laughing merrily. Another Louisiana Foxhunt is on.

The Hunt is opened with a Bench Show. A competent judge selects the Bench Champion. This championship is awarded solely on the type that said hound exhibits, in comparison with the standard for judging American-bred foxhounds.

At dawn on the following morning, all competing hounds, well marked by numbers painted on their sides, are cast into the woods and fields. Hard-riding judges, mounted on seasoned horses, and under direction of a Master of Hounds, ride to the hounds and score them according to set rules. This is continued for three days, with scores posted at the end of each day's hunt. The finals are averaged and posted after the third daily cast. The hound showing the highest general average in the four classes—hunting, trailing, speed, and endurance—is declared the Field Champion.

No finer, cleaner recreation is known to man than the chase. Nothing so composes the "inner man," nor relieves the mind of sordid human experiences more quickly and completely than the music of a crying pack of foxhounds.

As is true of all worthy causes, the foxhunters must combat their enemies who feed the public on ignorance and superstition. False propaganda is spread regarding the fox. He is pictured to the

(Continued on Page 26)
Housing for returned war veterans was one of the year's biggest problems, but Centenary College of Louisiana solved it for 248 of its 700 regularly enrolled ex-GI's with "Veterans' Villa," an all-veteran subdivision on the campus.

Under the auspices of the Federal Public Housing Authority, 40 ex-GI families have been accommodated in two bed-room duplexes with kitchen, bath and living room. Twenty-eight couples without children are occupying efficiency apartments of kitchen, bath and living-bedroom. Ninety-eight single veterans are housed in a three-wing dormitory complete with central baths, laboratories and a club room.

The housing units for the couples and families are furnished with cooking stoves, heating stoves and ice boxes. Cabinets are built in for convenience and beds and breakfast sets are available from the college. Dormitory furnishings include maple suites of furniture given by the government. All buildings and furnishings in the Vets' Villa not belonging to the inhabitants were given to Centenary by the government at no expense to the college. The materials are valued at over half a million dollars.

At first glance, Veterans' Villa appears to be a group of temporary housing facilities for army or defense workers. On closer inspection it is found to be a community of young couples who have found a place to create homes on their subsistence allowances during their college careers under the GI Bill. Some families have surrounded their small yards with white picket fences and set out shrubs and flowers. Sand piles for the youngsters and yard furniture for the adults mark other homes with an individual stamp. Paint brushes and hammers and saws are in constant use somewhere in the Villa as the residents adapt the uniform apartments to their own individualities.

Children form an important part of the population of the community. Of the 52 now living there, 12 have been born since their parents moved into the villa, and rumor has it that that will not be all.

Veterans' Villa has its own self-government to decide local questions. For voting purposes it is divided into three blocks, each of which elects a man and a woman representative to the Civic Council. These representatives together with the Council officers make up the governing body.

In comparison with other schools over the country, Veterans' Villa comes out high in the opinion of its inhabitants. As one of the Villa's young mothers says, "We consider ourselves fortunate in being able to live in Vets' Villa. Other such units we have seen in other schools are located miles from the colleges and are in ugly surroundings. The couples even have to pay their own bus fare to the college."

Home at Last.—Who seeks for heaven alone to save his soul may keep the path, but will not reach the goal; while he who walks in love may wander far, yet God will bring him where the blessed are.

—Henry Van Dyke.
Fox Hunting

(Continued from Page 21)

small child as a ruthless killer that must be destroyed on sight, notwithstanding the fact that the U. S. Government has spent thousands of dollars and years of careful study to discover that the fox is one of the most harmless creatures and one of the most beneficial to the farmer.

Louisiana, with her verdant undergrowth, extending from the northern parishes, with their steep sandstone hills and post oak flats, throughout the central section of the state, interlaced with natural and artificial lakes and bayous, bordered with waves of palmetto and yo-pon, on through the muddy rice fields and to the Gulf, is a Paradise to the foxhunter. These foxhunters stand to guard their land against the enemies of freedom, who would destroy our fair country, itself a debtor to General George Washington, an ardent foxhunter! This history of freedom will continue as long as the foxhunter's log heap burns, and he stands at peace with God and man, listening to the full cry of a pack of fox hounds in pursuit of the sly fox.

Notice

Mrs. Ida Stone, who has been on the staff of the PELICAN JAYCEE since its formation, has been promoted to the position of Advertising Director. A native of Shreveport, she attended Byrd High School and Northwestern State College at Natchitoches.

Mrs. Stone, who is the widow of the late Lt. James H. Stone, former Army Air Force pilot, has an excellent background in the field of writing. She is active also in various phases of public relations.

The duties of Advertising Manager have been assumed by Gale Dacus, who joined the staff of the PELICAN JAYCEE in June. He is well qualified for the position he holds, having more than 17 years' experience in this field of work. An active member of the AMVET's, he has performed outstanding services in this organization. He resides with his wife at 340 College street, Shreveport.

CHRIST is not valued at all, unless He is valued above all.

—Augustine.