Beauregard Parish

DE RIDDER

lovely Louisiana
Life in DeRidder and Beauregard Parish—where vast reaches of green forests combine with the clean sweeps of grassy uplands—can be exciting.

Once the home of the South's thickest stands of virgin timber, the area has been largely reforested since the boom and bust days of the giant steam sawmills and the great second generation woodlands of today make for excellent sport.

Lakes and streams in all directions offer consistently good fishing. There's Sabine River, Anacoco Creek, Longville Lake, Bundick's Lake; Hickory, Beckwith, Bearhead and Whisky Chitto Creeks; numerous feeder streams, and more than 250 well-stocked farm ponds in the parish. They're all familiar to the local folks and they'll be glad to direct you. Most places have been heavily restocked in the last few years with bass, perch and bream.

Hunting is good, especially for quail, in just about any part of the parish. But it is along the river bottoms and creek beds that hunters report their best luck with rabbits, doves, geese, squirrel and duck. Deer are common along the Sabine River on the west side of Beauregard, and the east side has been stocked with some deer and wild turkey.

Nature hasn't forgotten the boat fancier and the water skier around DeRidder, either: They can cut loose for long reaches of splashing speed on Bundick's and Longville Lake.

Any place where the common tree stump is worth more than a million dollars a year to the economy is bound to be unusual—and that's the way it is in DeRidder.

From the lush forests of this area come pulpwood, cross ties, piling, and the all-important pine stumps—which are rooted out of the earth by the millions each year and used as raw materials for a dozen different kinds of naval stores produced by the giant Crosby Chemical Plant of DeRidder.

But the forestry is only part of the economy of this progressive area. The rolling hills and range-lands of Beauregard Parish host sleek herds of fat beef cattle. The parish has the state's biggest concentration of sheep, and leads Louisiana in the production of wool. And, with over 250 producing wells in the parish, Beauregard lays claim to a bustling oil and gas industry.
COVERED GRAVES

The custom of building shelters over graves began in the days of the earliest settlers of the area around Sugartown and other places in the Southland. This custom had its inception because of the need to protect the graves in unfenced areas on the edge of wooded lands. This practice is not to be confused with the building of tombs where the body was interred above the ground because of the water level so close to the surface. There shelters were built over graves to go to the customary depths in the ground, and their purpose was to protect these graves from the many animals in abundance in the forest. Cemeteries in the early days were unfenced as a normal rule in the country areas.

Some of the earliest of these shelters in some cemeteries have disappeared with the encroachments of time and elements, but cemeteries such as the Pine Grove Methodist still remain as a picturesque reminder of the hardships of the labors of the early settlers.

MUSEUM

The Beauregard Museum, officially opened on Sunday, March 28, 1955, 119 North Pine Street, has many valuable and precious treasures to help preserve the history and heritage of the forefathers of Beauregard Parish.

SMALLEST POST OFFICE

All mail leaving Sugartown from the 8 by 10-foot building has stamped on it, "Mailed at the Smallest Post Office in the United States."

There are 24 boxes for its citizens and the building is so small that they receive their mail from a window that opens on the porch. There are 98 families, including those for several miles around, that receive their mail there.
Location—Southwest Louisiana, bounded on the west by the Sabine River, and joined by Vernon, Allen, and Calcasieu Parishes on the other sides.

Area—Beauregard Parish, 1172 square miles.


Parks—Parks providing picnicking, swimming, water skiing, and versatile facilities on Bundick's Lake and Longville Lake. West Park in DeRidder provides swimming pool, tennis, picnicking. Several lighted baseball diamonds around the parish. Beauregard Museum located in DeRidder.

Banks—Two banks in DeRidder and one Savings & Loan. They are First National Bank and City Savings Bank & Trust Co.

Newspapers—There are two weekly newspapers, Beauregard News and DeRidder Enterprise.

Railroads—Kansas City Southern, Santa Fe, and Southern Pacific.

Highways—U. S. Highways 190, and 171.

Libraries—Public library system serves Beauregard Parish with locations in DeRidder and Merryville, with bookmobile service throughout the parish.

Hospitals—Three General Hospitals, one Clinic, and two Nursing Homes.

Agriculture—Major agricultural endeavors include timber production (90% of the Parish is considered forestland). The raising of cattle, sheep, and poultry. Dairy herds are an important factor in the area economy and some land is devoted to row crops and rice farming.

Pine Tree Plantations—Over 300,000 acres.

Lakes—Bundick's Lake, 1,840 acres of spring-fed water. Stocked with bream, white perch, trout, and catfish. Lake has two public parks, skiing areas, boat launching ramps, camping areas, and privately owned camps.

For additional information contact the DeRidder Chamber of Commerce, P. O. Box 309, DeRidder, Louisiana.