I hope your visit to our State Capitol has been pleasant and interesting. Thousands come each year—native Louisianians and visitors—and we are naturally very happy to have them as guests. Our capitol is an impressive building and does hold a strong attraction for young and old, from wherever they come.

I further hope your schedule permits you to enjoy Louisiana's many other features and attractions. If your time is limited, the Tourist Reception Center, located on the first floor of the Capitol, can be of much help. You will discover these experienced employees to be sincerely interested in assisting you to make the most of your visit, and that they are fully qualified to offer thoughtful, practical advice.

Louisiana has much to offer, regardless of the direction in which you travel—rolling hills and piney woods in the north, the charm and atmosphere of South Louisiana's Acadiana, our lively modern cities both north and south, and a wealth of friendliness everywhere.

All of us hope you will visit us again. Our sincerest wish is that you will enjoy your stay in Louisiana so much that happy memories will bring you back in the future. And, if you choose to make Louisiana your home (as many visitors have) you'll find that you are certainly welcome.

A TOWER
Rising in dignity 450 feet above the world's most productive great river valley, the Louisiana State Capitol is a reminder, both beautiful and useful, that the state is a standard-bearer for a thriving, purposeful New South . . . a state that knows where it's going.

The capitol was completed in March, 1932, on a 27-acre tract steeped in history. Indian, Spaniard, Frenchman, Englishman, and American fought for it (and sometimes on it). From this place Zachary Taylor was called to serve as President of the United States. For more than half a century, until construction of the capitol was begun, Louisiana State University was located on this site.

The architects wished “to express in stone and granite, bronze and marble, and other enduring materials, the history of the state . . . recounting alike the trials and triumphs of its people.” This they have done.

SYMBOLISM
Visible signs of things invisible are generously used in the capitol. A broad base contains working space for fundamental functions of government: legislative chambers, executive headquarters and offices. Forty-nine granite steps lead to the main entrance, each bearing the name
MEMORIAL
This is the striking main lobby of the capitol. 124 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 37 feet high. The fine vaulted marble court is flanked by rows of large columns, all in harmony with nature. The sculptured reliefs of famous men and events can be seen here. The building is the finest example of Italian Renaissance style in the United States.

THE GROUNDS
The grounds are extensive and well tended. There are numerous gardens and fountains, and the building itself is surrounded by a beautiful plantings. The grounds are open to the public and are a popular spot for visitors to walk and relax.

Ride up with us, THE hipor and higher, to the OBSERVATION TOWER grounds sprawl out below some 300 feet down, from the twenty-seventh floor. A circular design in well-tended poplars, flowering plants, and hedges encloses the fountain garden, the grave and statue of United States Senator and former Governor Haas P. Long, with only great, ancient, mossy oaks to interrupt—pleasantly—the precise geometry.

To the east, on a triangular point of land, are formal rose gardens and a well-preserved Eighteenth Century Spanish arsenal. The broad Mississippi flows solemnly toward the Gulf on the west. To the north, spectators see in the distance the massive industrial complex of the Baton Rouge petrochemical establishment. To the south, see the business district and strain your eyes a little in hopes of getting a preview of your visit to the L.S.U. campus.

Make sure your visit to Louisiana's State Capitol includes a trip to the observation tower. You'll enjoy the view . . . and you'll tell your friends about it.

LANDMARKS
In clear contrast with the present capitol is the former Old Capito, known as the Baton Rouge at the corner of North Boulevard and St. Philip Street. It was designed by James H. Dole, a prominent architect of his day.

Representing an unusual blend of Norman, Gothic, and Moorish styles, complete with stained glass, curving stairway and crystalline battlements, it was much admired or severely criticized as soon as it was completed in 1897. Mark Twain, noting a streamer down the river, recommended its use and called it the "Monsorony of the Mississippi." The very uniqueness Twain deplored, however, has made the Old Capito a fondly preserved, carefully restored landmark. At lower right is the Governor's Mansion, across the lake from the Capitol building, east side. It was completed in 1903 and is designed in traditional Southern Colonial style. It is open to tourists except on special occasions.
THE CAPITAL CITY

The Indians called it Istrouma—a tall cypress, stripped of bark and adorned with freshly killed game. It marked the boundary between the Houma and Bayougoula tribal hunting grounds. In 1699 someone in the party of the French explorer Pierre Le Moyne, sieur l'Iberville, marked his map to show the red pole on the bluff: le baton rouge.

It isn't surprising that the name stuck. Iberville and his brother, Jean Baptiste le Moyne, sieur le Bienville, were sturdy types with a good eye for likely settlement sites (and never mind your Spaniards and their "cities of gold").

In its early days as a settlement and prior to the Civil War, Baton Rouge, within a span of 103 years, was administered or explored by four sovereign governments. Originally the first white discoverers were the French. Thereafter le baton rouge was fortified (by the British), attacked and captured by the Spanish, ruled by the short-lived republic of West Florida and finally passed into the hands of the United States.

Today Baton Rouge and its environs have created their own empire. From the observation tower of the capitol building, look north and you'll see a spectacular panorama: Baton Rouge, in addition to being the seat of Louisiana government, is many things to many citizens—a university center, a retail and wholesale trade center and communications hub, the site of a mammoth petrochemical complex, seventh port U. S. A.

Here is one of the world's great oil refineries, major rubber and chemicals and plastic plants, processing installations that reduce ore for aluminum, cement and concrete products plants, manufacturers of pipe and tanks and fabricated steel structures—the company names alone would fill this page.

And when you look, remember Jefferson, Iberville, all the others—they were unaired of heights and distant horizons.

THE LEGEND LIVES ON

Unorthodox, colorful, unpredictable orator—

 Huey P. Long

once explained jokingly that he was sui generis: in a class by himself. Neither friend nor enemy (he had plenty of both) disagreed. He was Kingfish.

Born at Winnfield, Winn Parish, in 1893, Huey Long had a flash and flair that was backed up by an exceptionally quick mind—he completed an exacting three-year law course in eight months. More than any other man, he must be credited with introduction of badly needed improvements such as a system of paved roads and free schoolbooks in Louisiana.

The capitol was built while he was governor. Ironically, it was in this building, while he was a United States Senator, that he was fatally wounded on Sunday, September 8, 1935. He died two days later in the nearby Our Lady of the Lake Sanitarium.

He was buried on the capitol grounds, and a bronze statue of him stands at the head of his grave, facing the capitol.