Cameron Parish
In Chenier Country

Cameron — Few people knew of the existence of the unusual section of Louisiana known as Cameron parish prior to the advent of Hurricane Audrey on June 27, 1957. The names of affected communities, Cameron, Grand Chenier, Front Ridge, Little Chenier, Murier, and Chenier Perdue, were household words throughout the country. That hurricane left its scars on the surface of the land as well as upon the memories of the inhabitants, but fundamentally things remain as they were.

Because the parish suffers from a terrific physical blow it has taken many months to rebuild homes and businesses. There are now no substantial homes in the parish and new business structures are modern in every respect.

Cameron Parish, located in the chenier country of Southwest Louisiana, has the largest land area of any parish in the state (972,000 acres) and has the smallest population (11,900 at last census count in 1960).

Cameron was named in honor of Robert Alexander Cameron, a soldier of the Confederate Army who took part in Bank's Red River campaign. He was prominent in Louisiana politics during the immediate postwar period.

The word chenier derives from the French "chenes" meaning oak, and in that language chenier is literally an oak grove. Scientifically, the word chenier is applied to certain land formations whose origin and character are quite distinctive and unusual land formations in general.

They begin at the Sabine River and may be found as far east as Lafourche Parish although they are at their best in the area lying between Sabine Lake and Vermillion Bay. Grand Chenier and Pecan Island are in Vermillion Parish, and they have been at their best in the area lying between Sabine Lake and Vermillion Bay. Grand Chenier and Pecan Island are in Vermillion Parish.

In brief, they are former beaches that through the activities of natural forces have become isolated. What is now Cameron Parish has an unusual area of beaches a large part of which has been isolated by the formation of these chenier ridges.

About 70,000 acres of this area are in cropland, 50,000 acres in pasture and range and the balance is in marshes and reserves. Some of the marsh and refuge lands are used to a limited degree for cattle grazing.

Natural Resources Provide Income For Majority In Parish

under production are under lease to oil companies for 15 to 250 dollars per acre. State leases have brought as much as $460 per acre. There are proven oil fields in every section of the parish.

Rice is the principal money crop. Average yield has come up to 16 barrels per acre. Corn is not a cash crop, but is grown by the smaller and parttime farmers for feed for livestock and poultry.

At one time it is reported that some groves many years ago had progressed to the point of producing enough citrus fruit to ship oranges and satsuma by truck to larger areas. But because of severe freezes groves were destroyed. It has been seven years since a killing freeze has been experienced, so several orchards have seven-year-old trees that are producing four and five bushels per tree. Watermelons are grown commercially only on a small scale.

Livestock is the second ranking agricultural enterprise, moneymaking. Beef cattle production provides a very substantial source of income to rural Cameron.

Poultry

Commercial egg production enterprises have increased from a few hundred hens to several thousand over the last few years. There are at present 10 houses with capacities of 1000 or more laying hens and three of 600 capacity size. It is expected that this industry will continue to increase as the industrial production of this area.

Educational, Religious

Need Met In Cameron

Cameron — Four white high schools, one colored high school and two elementary schools serve the area. Grand Lake High School serves Grand Lake and Sweet Lake Communities and South Cameron High School serves the communities of Cameron, Creole and Grand Chenier.

Thibodaux High School serves Hackberry and Johnson Bayou. Audrey Memoro High School serves the colored population of Cameron, Creole and Grand Chenier. The Immaculate Conception School serves Hackberry and Johnson Bayou.

Cameron Parish serves the people of Cameron, Creole and Grand Chenier. The Immaculate Conception Church is a mission of St. Eugene.

Churches

Cameron Parish has several Catholic Churches, five Baptist, four Methodist, two Gospel Tabernacles and one United Pentecostal.

Sacred Heart

Father Anthony Broussard, M.S., is pastor of the Sacred Heart Church in Creole. Broussard is assisted by Father James O'Connell, M.S.

St. Eugene

Father John DeLeauw is assistant administrator of the St. Eugene Church in Grand Chenier. Broussard is assisted by Father James O'Connell, M.S.

Rose Altar Society, Mrs. Amos Miller; Mission Society (Immaculate Conception), Mrs. Roberta Babin; Knights of Columbus, John Sturlese and Stephen Brousard; Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Whitney Brousard; Ladies Altar Society, Mrs. Agnes Nash, Creole; and St. Rose Men's Club, Ell Bishop, Creole.

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Modern Medical Facilities Serve Cameron Parish

Cameron — The Calcasieu Cameron Hospital located in Sulphur serves the people of Hackberry, Sweet Lake and Grand Chenier residents use the Lake Charles Memorial and St. Patrick's Hospital.

Deputy Assessor

Ambrose Savoy, deputy tax assessor of Cameron Parish, discusses details of his work from his office in the parish courthouse. Savoy also is a member of the Knights of Columbus Council of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Creole.