Children of Black Bayou Oil
Camp Go to School by Boat

Lots of children go to school by bus, but the youngest of the Shell Oil company's village on an island in the Black bayou swamps of Cameron parish, Louisiana, travel by boat to their classes in Orange schools.

The Four Brothers, a cabin cruiser which is the island's "school boat," is shown at top left, while below is an inside view of the cabin as the children play games or rest on their way to school. No studying is noticeable in the picture.
Top right, a view of the beautiful playground on the island, where the boys and girls gather on Saturdays, Sundays and during vacations.

Ready to go home after classes, the children, in the picture at lower right, have just left the bus which brought them from school and are going down the footbridge to the Shell docks in Orange where they will board the Four Brothers for the 45-minute trip back to the island. (Pictures by Shell Oil Company, Inc.)
ORANGE, Texas, April 17. (Spl) The village has a fleet of 20 boats which make numerous trips to Orange and to the oil operations through the natural bayous and more than 16 miles of man-made canals.

The oil workers at Black Bayou are carried on by marine operation; the children come to school in Orange by boat; the fishing and hunting families go to church by boat.

Six heavy work boats take the crews to and from the operations; the speed boats do errands; six speed boats are used for errands; another speed boat carries the mail; a grocery store is located on the Orange public schools.

Life upon the island is much more interesting than it sounds, for the population of 1,000 is made up largely of young petroleum engineers and their families. About 80 percent of the adult residents are college graduates.

The first well was drilled in 1929. Six heavy work boats take the men to the wells; six speed boats during the daily round trips. Groups often board the Four Brothers or another boat for a trip to Orange for dinner and perhaps a movie or visit with friends there. Many of the residents keep their automobiles in Orange and have no use for a car on the island.

Sunday morning and again in the late afternoon, the largest boat is used for the girls to attend church services or seek diversion in Orange.

The island is covered with grass and the ground is covered with luxuriant grass. The house is small, neat, well-kept cottages, most of which are surrounded with flowers; another speed boat for another boat for a trip to Orange for dinner and perhaps a movie or visit with friends there. Many of the residents keep their automobiles in Orange and have no use for a car on the island.

Not that they are greatly handicapped by this restriction, for the boat makes the run to Orange three times a week; the church boat goes twice on Sundays and the schoolboat, of course, makes trips five days a week; the church boat goes twice on Sundays and the school.