The Horse
Helped, Too!

During the decade of 1887 to 1897 and a few years thereafter, the Jesuit Fathers at Grand Coteau helped keep the faith alive in Southwest Louisiana. Near the end of each week, four or five of the Fathers would leave the college to visit their respective missions. The more remote were on horseback, the others in sulks or buggy. Nevertheless, the horse was indispensable in those days. Dances in our era of automobiles seem almost negligible, but in those pioneer times of horseback or gig and buggy traveling, the journeys for those missionary trips were interminable.

Not All Work — Students at Our Mother of Peace Catholic School in Church Point like nothing better than a game of football at recess, and here they find a willing new teammate in the person of Msgr. Curtis Vidrine, pastor. The school serves grades three through eight; Sister Yvette Lessard, S.S.J., is principal. Members of the Gray Nun are in charge of the school.

About That Doubloon...

A replica of the old church from which the Church Point community drew its name centers the front of the Centennial doubloon. The name Church Point, La.; the dates, 1873-1973; and the Sept. 29th date of the Centennial complete the design.

Back face of the doubloon is centered with a horse and buggy, denoting Church Point's long-time designation as the "Buggy Capital of the World." In the inner circle of the design the nationally famous "courir de Mardi Gras," traditional Acadian

AT OUR MOTHER OF PEACE PRIMARY — Our Mother of Peace Primary School in Church Point serves kindergarten through the second grade. Sister Mary Ann, S.S.J., in charge, is principal; Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament head the faculty. A total of 364 students are enrolled in kindergarten through the eighth grade.

OUR MOTHER OF MERCY CHURCH — Our Mother of Mercy parish, serving the Black Catholics of Church Point, was established in 1878. Prior to this they had attended Mass at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church. The Josephite Fathers who staffed Our Mother of Mercy parish, at first came from Bayeux, but in 1948 Father John Bernet, S.S.J., was named first resident pastor. The school was established in 1929 through the generosity of Mother Katherine Drexel of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, who established a number of rural schools throughout this section of southwest Louisiana. The school was at first taught by lay teachers. The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament came in 1949 to staff it. In 1971 Our Mother of Mercy and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart schools were paired and the name changed to Our Mother of Peace.

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