CROWLEY — “We’re doing everything but standing still.”

That was the comment of Joe GieLEN, Crowley camp seat of Acadia parish, when asked about the progress his town has made.

The visitor to this busy rice center can almost sense the readiness of the town to pro-
ject itself as a progressive and growing area. The average citizen of the Valley Chamber of Commerce in itself as he con-
fidently talks of the forward steps made here in recent years.

GieLEN, who has served as mayor for nearly 25 years, is one of the biggest “sparkplugs” in boosting the town. His old ald-
manic ambitions are usually ambitions for the town’s progress if past evidence of development and con-
struction can be used as a yard-
stick of forward movement.

The town’s development to the city begins at its very heart — the city hall. Here, a $51,000 re-
modeling plan was com-
pletely completed. After it was finished, the local citizen could hardly recognize the interior of the building which had for so many years served the com-
munity but had long been out-
dated and overcrowded.

Biggest step is the remodel-
ing and installation of a complete air conditioning and heating unit, the latter consisting of strip coils in the base-
boards. The ceilings were lowered and offices facing the main halls were glass enclosed.

The police department and the Chamber of Commerce were given enlarged offices.

Council Room

Pride of the renovation pro-
ject, however, was the council room. All the benches for the pub-
ic use at council meetings have been repaired and refinished. New lighting fixtures have been installed in the front of the room are individual seats for the aldermen, mayor and other officials. One outstanding feature is that each official will have his own micro-
phone and when an individual citizen wishes to address the gathering, he may approach the front where a microphone is also provided for this use.

A completely new project for the city was the addition to the sewage disposal plant. Originally scheduled to cost $200,000, the final figure reached $300,000. As the govern-
ment increased its first grant to the town in order that the remainder could make the most efficient and modern equipment.

Another feature of the new plant is the addition of two “oil-gusters” which burn off the sewage gases in the system.

Formerly, the plant had to rely on the sludge from the plant out onto drying beds but under the new system, the sludge can run under a hopper, be loaded with the sludge and move it to any field in the area.

new welfare office, a new
bank building and new quar-
ters for CLEG have been finished.

This month, the city council heard bids on a $2,000,000 pro-
ject for street improvements, which will be financed by sales tax bonds. The group also plans to receive bids on a sewerage extension at the in-
dustrial park site.

For the citizenry as a whole, a new 12-inch well was finished to supplement the present water system. The area has ample water and the local system is provided with efficient filtra-
tion processes.

Crowley has three banks, with total deposits of $4,244,614; two savings and loan associa-
tions with assets of $13,287,794; a daily newspaper; a radio station; eight hotels and motels with a total of 280 rooms; 27 churches representing all the major denominations; five public and three parochial schools; and a vocational technical school.

It continues to grow and is facing the future with assurance that it is doing its best to further the stand in the area’s economy.

PLANNING — Mayor Joe GieLEN, sitting beside the Crowley City Hall, point to many steps taken by his town in recent years to further its progress. (Advertiser Staff Photo)

where it provides excellent for-
ticulture.

A new fire sub-station was opened in Decem-
ber in northeast Crowley, thus mak-
ing the third fire station for the town. The fire station area is in the United States firemen plus 34 volunteers and one of the most effi-
cient run headquarters in the area. Low insurance rates in town prove it.

Another building project which has graced the town is a youth center for Negroes. An imposing structure of modern design, the building cost $147,000 with the federal govern-
ment providing $38,000 of the construction costs. A fully qual-
ified director is serving as coach and counselor to the area’s colored youth.

A new baseball field.

The council plans to buy 8.76 acres of land adjoining the recreation center. The area has already a large pool with a playground and au-
thority, swimming pools and a baseball field. The new area, when acquired, will be used for adult softball and baseball games. In the “talking stage” is a new gymnasium.

To attract industry to the area, an Industrial Develop-
ment Foundation has been formed. Already, it has brought the town a new garment fac-

tory, a fertilizer plant and a pipe company but it faces the challenge that every other new community in town has in attracting industry — competition.

While new industries and con-

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While new industries and continued progress are the watch-
words, Crowley doesn’t forget its principal asset — the grow-
ing and processing of rice. It is in the center of the largest rice in the United States, with 9 rice mills or drying plants. A small mill brings in immense revenue to help fill the coffers of its citizens. Approximately $4,000 of cattle are sold in the Crowley area each year.