DeRidder History

1897 - 1966 Marks Growth

DeRidder — DeRidder is located in Beauregard Parish in Southwestern Louisiana, 50 miles north of the port of Lake Charles and 16 miles east of the Sabine River. DeRidder is served by the Santa Fe, Kansas City Southern and Southern Pacific Railroads. U.S. 171 (north-south) and 190 (east-west) are the major highways.

It was established in 1897, incorporated in 1903 and became the parish seat in 1912. The city is administered by a City manager-council form of government, the first city in Louisiana to establish this form of city management.

Economy

The economy of DeRidder is built upon its forests and petroleum resources and is the center of major reforestation efforts in Louisiana.

Fort Polk, a major army training center, is located 17 miles north of DeRidder and many of the Fort personnel make their home in DeRidder.

DeRidder is located in an area rich in petroleum and forest resources. Ninety percent of Beauregard Parish is classified as forest. Pines, oaks and other hardwoods are the