John Edward Fletcher served 16 years as Chief of Police

In Perry, Louisiana, John Edward Fletcher was born July 29, 1899 and attended school there. With parents, John Albert Fletcher and Grace Stansbury Fletcher, he moved to Kaplan in February, 1906, to operate the Kaplan Cotton Gin.

Having been trained in steam engineering at the Rose Hill Sugar Refinery in Perry, John Edward Fletcher had the distinction of operating the first electric light plant in Vermilion Parish. In 1910, Mr. Fletcher purchased his father's livery business. Later, Mr. Fletcher established a record for the state collector for four consecutive terms, serving 16 years. As tax collector, he was elected Chief of Police and tax board member for approximately 20 years. When the Kaplan, remained active in the business for over 50 years as president.

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Mr. Fletcher's paternal grandfather, Towson Fletcher, George Fletcher, John Albert Fletcher, and his father, John Albert, who died an accidental death in 1933 while riding a Shetland pony. His political life involved serving in the House of Representatives.

During 1970, through the efforts of his son Brian H. Kaplan, the facility was expanded and modern machinery and a new irrigation system were installed. In 1986, Jack Kaplan who had served for over 50 years in government, died on Jan. 4, 1946. John Edward Fletcher died and is buried in Greenland Cemetery in Abbeville.