I hope your visit to our State Capitol has been pleasant and interesting. Thousands come each year, and we are naturally very happy to have them as guests—even though many are Louisianians and, of course, we are as much their guests as they are ours. The capitol nevertheless does hold a strong attraction for young and old, from places near and far.

And I further hope your schedule permits you to enjoy our state's many other features. If your time is limited, the Tourist Information Center, located on the first floor of the capitol, can be of much help. You will discover that these experienced employees are sincerely interested in assisting you to make the most of your visit, and that they are fully qualified to offer thoughtful, practical advice.

Louisiana has a lot to offer, regardless of the direction in which you travel—rolling hills and piney woods in the north, the charm and atmosphere of South Louisiana's Acadian Country, our lively modern cities both north and south, and a wealth of friendliness everywhere.

All of us hope you will visit us again; our sincerest wish is that you will enjoy your stay in Louisiana so much that happy memories will bring you back in the future—and if you choose to make Louisiana your home (as many visitors have) you'll find that you are certainly welcome.

John F. Keitt
Governor
State of Louisiana

A TOWER

Rising in dignity 450 feet above the world's most productive great river valley, the Louisiana State Capitol is a reminder, both beautiful and useful, that the state is a standard-bearer for a thriving, purposeful New South... a state that knows where it's going.

The capitol was completed in March, 1932, on a 27-acre tract steeped in history. Indian, Spaniard, Frenchman, Englishman, and American fought for it (and sometimes on it). From this place Zachary Taylor was called to serve as President of the United States. For more than half a century, until construction of the capitol was begun, Louisiana State University was located on this site.

The architects wished "to express in stone and granite, bronze and marble, and other enduring materials, the history of the state... recounting alike the trials and triumphs of its people." This they have done.

SYMBOLISM

Visible signs of things invisible are generously used in the capitol. A broad base contains working space for fundamental functions of government: legislative chambers, executive headquarters, and judicial courts and offices. Forty-nine granite steps lead to the main entrance, each bearing the name...
of a state, with "Alaska" and "Hawaii" cut into the topmost step on each side of the Parnassus Unus. Burrettes flank the steps, decorated with the pelican (symbol of Louisiana's dedication towards posterity) and the lily-flower (symbol of fertility). Above the burrettes, statuary modeled by Lorado Taft and carved by C. M. Dodd depicts The Patriot on the east and The Pioneer on the west. The east group is dominated by an armored soldier and the motif of a warrior-clad in battle. The west burrett shows men and women of vision who created a state out of a hostile wilderness.

Bas-relief portraits of 22 great men in Louisiana history are sculpted over the large windows of the Senate and House of Representatives. They are works by New Orleans artists Albert Rieker, John Lachin, Rudolph Paravicini, Jeanne Gonzales and Angela Gregory. Above these, an Ulric Ellerhusen frieze depicts Louisiana's early struggles and admission to the Union, the state at war, Louisiana jurisdiction, and peace.

Each legislative hall is lavishly decorated and equipped with electric voting machines that tabulate the outcome of every measure on which a vote is taken. Red and green lights signal "for" or "against" buttons on their desks. From the gallery, spectators see legislative decisions almost at a glance (as the governor does, if he chooses, because a duplicate, inter-connected panel in his office permits him to see the outcome of the balloting without interrupting other work).

Fashions constantly change in architecture and decoration. Beside contemporary structures of glass and metal, the capitol seems ornate and stuffy in the opinion of some, but such is the price of modernism. Most people, however, fully understand and appreciate the effort that went into the building during the grim days of the Depression—the equitute French, German, Spanish, Italian, Belgian, and native contributions to the visitors' knowledge of Louisiana. The east group is in a traditional Southern Colonial style. The west group it is designed in the capitol annex, once housed troops of the States, and before that the Arsenal, the Pentagon building is the center of one of the most complete social service systems of any state in the nation.

The Louisiana State Library is a repository of valuable official and semi-official materials constantly in demand by state government and private citizens who use it in the capitol annex, once housed troops of the States, and before that the Arsenal, the Pentagon building is the center of one of the most complete social service systems of any state in the nation.

In clear contrast with the present capitol is the Louisiana State Library is a repository of valuable official and semi-official materials constantly in demand by state government and private citizens who use it in the capitol annex, once housed troops of the States, and before that the Arsenal, the Pentagon building is the center of one of the most complete social service systems of any state in the nation.
THE CAPITAL CITY

The Indians called it *lstrouma*—a tall cypress, stripped of bark and adorned with freshly killed game. It marked the boundary between the Houma and Bayougoula tribal hunting grounds. In 1699 someone in the party of the French explorer Pierre Le Moyne, sieur l'Iberville, marked his map to show the red pole on the bluff: *le baton rouge*.

It isn't surprising that the name stuck. Iberville and his brother, Jean Baptiste le Moyne, sieur le Bienville, were sturdy types with a good eye for likely settlement sites (and never mind your Spaniards and their "cities of gold").

In its early days as a settlement and prior to the Civil War, Baton Rouge, within a span of 103 years, was administered or explored by four sovereign governments. Originally the first white discoverers were the French. Thereafter *le baton rouge* was fortified (by the British), attacked and captured by the Spanish, ruled by the short-lived republic of West Florida and finally passed into the hands of the United States.

Today Baton Rouge and its environs have created their own empire. From the observation tower of the capitol building, look north and you'll see a spectacular panorama: Baton Rouge, in addition to being the seat of Louisiana government, is many things to many citizens—a university center, a retail and wholesale trade center and communications hub, the site of a mammoth petrochemical complex, seventh port U.S.A.

Here is one of the world's great oil refineries, major rubber and chemicals and plastic plants, processing installations that reduce ore for aluminum, cement and concrete products plants, manufacturers of pipe and tanks and fabricated steel structures—the company names alone would fill this page.

And when you look, remember Jefferson, Iberville, all the others—they were unafraid of heights and distant horizons.

THE LEGEND  

Unorthodox, colorful, unpredictable debater—Huey P. Long once explained jokingly that he was *sui generis*: in a class by himself. Neither friend nor enemy (he had plenty of both) disagreed. He was Kingfish.

Born at Winnfield, Winn Parish, in 1893, Huey Long had a flash and flair that was backed up by an exceptionally quick mind—he completed an exacting three-year law course in eight months. More than any other man, he must be credited with introduction of badly needed improvements such as a system of paved roads and free schoolbooks in Louisiana.

The capitol was built while he was governor. Ironically, it was in this building, while he was a United States Senator, that he was fatally wounded on Sunday, September 8, 1935. He died two days later in the nearby Our Lady of the Lake Sanitarium.

He was buried on the capitol grounds, and a bronze statue of him stands at the head of his grave, facing the capitol.